**2023 EACU PATRICK RIBBANDS TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The sixteenth team championships which were held in Bury St Edmunds on Sunday 22 October attracted sixteen teams from Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire. Arranged in three tournaments, all were keenly contested with the results in doubt right until the end.

Surprisingly the Open Tournament saw just two teams battling to be the East Anglian champions and the first holders of the splendid Patrick Ribbands Memorial Shield. Patrick founded and organised the Championships for many years and his legacy funded the purchase of a fitting tribute to his many decades serving the chess community. Appropriately the two teams that competed this year were Linton Tigers and Broadland, whose names appear most frequently as previous winners. 12 terrific games of chess ensued, with Linton fighting back in the final round to level the scores at 6-6.

Five teams played in the rating-limited U7200 Championship, with Lowestoft emerging as narrow winners over Norwich-based St John’s Four Horsemen, closely followed by Peterborough’s Penguins. The U6400 tournament had a record nine teams. Bury St Edmunds and St John’s Drunken Knights shared the title with Linton Zebras cantering in half a point behind.

Four players won all three of their games: Adam Nawalaniec (Peterborough) and Matthew Cooper (St Ives) in the U7200, and Mark Webb (Bury) and John Nevin (Linton) in the U6400.

My thanks to our arbiter John Wickham and to Bob Jones who arranged the venue and refreshments.

Full team scores were as follows:

**OPEN** Broadland and Linton Tigers 6/12

**U7200 L**owestoft Titans 8/12, St John’s Four Horsemen 7.5, Peterborough Penguins 7, St Ives 5.5, Bedford 2

**U6400** Bury A and St John’s Drunken Knights 7.5/12, Linton Zebras 7, Peterborough Badgers and Peterborough Woodpushers 6.5, Rookswood 6, St John’s Phoenix Woodpushers 5.5, Bury B 4.5, Broadland B 3.

Paul Kemp