Manchester triumph in thrilling finale!



The Manchester University A team won the 2020 Chess North West qualifier for the second season in a row, but by the narrowest of margins with the nearby challengers putting up a hell of a fight right until the bitter end.

They started off with a convincing 4-0 thrashing over the Welsh debutants Bangor but came unstuck in the second round where they were held to an embarrassing 2-2 draw by their ‘B’ team who had already shown their credentials by impressively prevailing 3-1 over Liverpool A earlier on.

Durham Alumni initially took advantage of this slip up with wins in their first two matches, squeezing past rivals Sheffield 2.5-1.5 in the process with a draw claimed by Durham’s board three under the two-minute rule with just seconds on the clock left to seal victory.

However, they too became pegged back by Manchester B in the next round with a 2-2 tie which enabled Manchester A to regain the lead with a 3-1 win over Liverpool B.

Their penultimate match lined them up against Durham Alumni who took an early lead on board three, but Manchester A hit back with strong wins on boards one and four, but couldn’t hold on eventually drawing 2-2 overall which was a fair result with a very high standard of play on display.

Manchester B continued to punch above their weight defeating Sheffield 2.5-1.5 keeping them in contention for the title going into the final round. That result also meant that Bangor had a chance of qualifying in fourth place after bouncing back with wins against the two Liverpool sides.

In the final round Manchester B, Durham Alumni and Manchester A all won but the latter by the biggest margin (4-0 over Liverpool A) which gave them the title on game points, with all these teams finishing with three victories, two draws and no defeats demonstrating the competitive nature of these tournaments!

It was a straight shootout between Bangor and Sheffield to take the final qualifying spot, but Sheffield’s experience showed as they dominated proceedings and won 4-0 enabling them to take another team to the Grand Final in Birmingham next year.

We would like to thank Gregor Ciccarelli for booking the venue and Alexander Taylor for arbitrating so diligently, as well as our sponsors Chess and Bridge for providing the equipment/prizes along with Internet Chess Club and Chess Openings Wizard.

Round Results North West Qualifier 28th October 2017-18

Round 1:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Bangor | 0 – 4 | Manchester A |
| Sheffield | 3.5 – 0.5 | Liverpool B |
| Barbarians | 1 – 3 | Durham Alumni |
| Liverpool A | 1 – 3 | Manchester B |

Round 2:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Manchester A | 2 – 2 | Manchester B |
| Durham Alumni | 2.5 – 1.5 | Sheffield |
| Barbarians | 2.5 - 1.5 | Bangor |
| Liverpool B | 2.5 – 1.5 | Liverpool A |

Round 3:

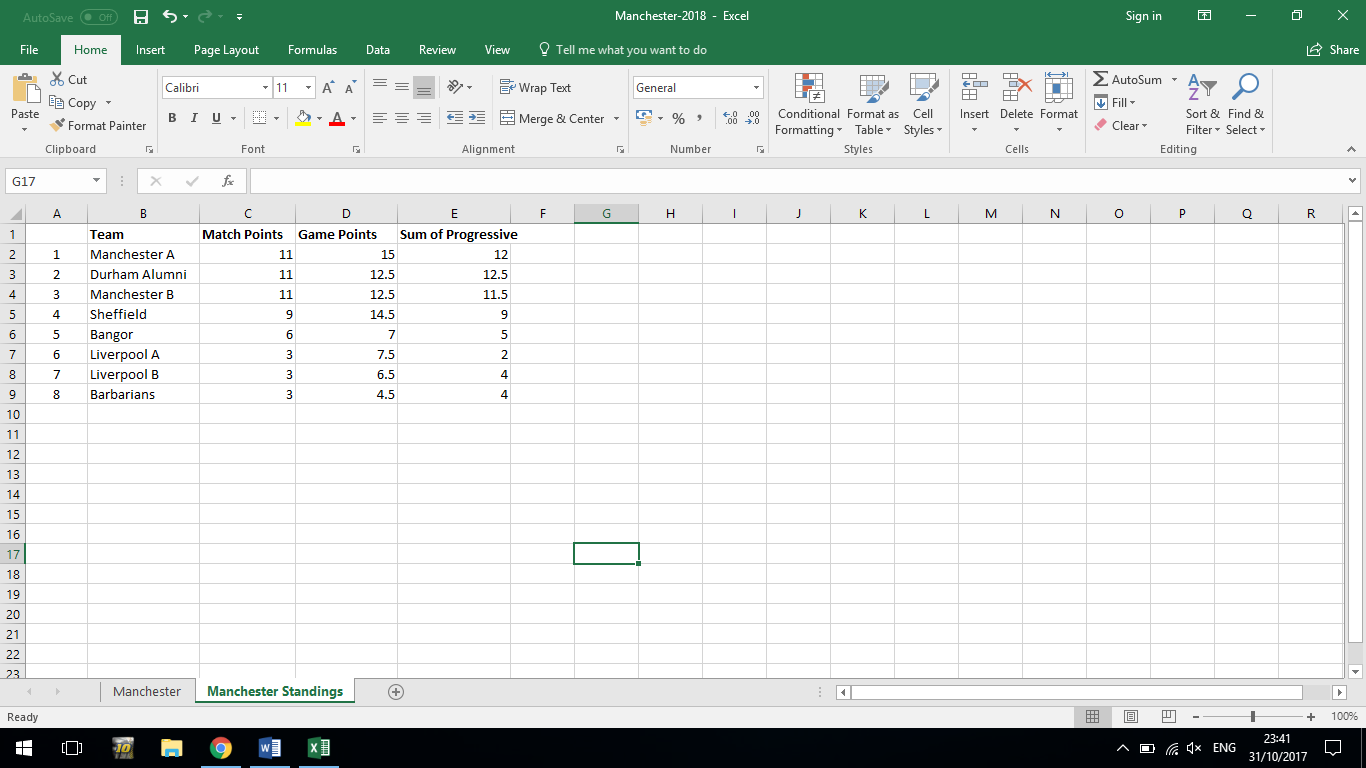
|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Manchester B | 2 – 2 | Durham Alumni |
| Liverpool B | 1 – 3 | Manchester A |
| Sheffield | 4 – 0 | Barbarians |
| Bangor | 3 – 1 | Liverpool A |

Round 4:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Durham Alumni | 2 – 2 | Manchester A |
| Manchester B | 2.5 – 1.5 | Sheffield |
| Bangor | 2.5 – 1.5 | Liverpool B |
| Liverpool A | 4 – 0 | Barbarians |

Round 5:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Manchester A | 4 – 0 | Liverpool A |
| Liverpool B | 1 – 3 | Durham Alumni |
| Barbarians | 1 – 3 | Manchester B |
| Sheffield | 4 – 0 | Bangor |



Congratulations to those who won medals for their individual performances!

5/5: Justin White-Eversley

4.5/5: Paulina Orejuela, Phil Purcell

4/5: Tjin Hui Hoh, Sazlee Hidayatullah, Gregor Ciccarelli, Dan Waller, Adam Tarrant

