

Speech Notes

Unsung heroes Nick, Paul and Hans, without whose help and advice and coaching of the children, the idea would not have been put together.

Neville has also helped with finding me some Juniors. He says that he has some others that I could field next year.

We all have one thing in common, **The kids at heart.**

The Hamilton school has been nominated for an ECF award. I really hope that it gets it, for all the good work of Brian Lacey with the juniors, that goes on there.

Talking about the school, I remember Frank playing a lad, from Oxon, that was giving him a hard time, at the first venue, He turned to me and shrugged his shoulders and said three words, which summed up the whole concept of the competition. They were “**He’s only ten**”. That’s when I got emotional about it all.

Mary, my wife, came to the second venue at New Hall, Winchester. The most beautiful place that I have played chess in. She was very impressed with the way that the children looked up to Hans. After their games, win or lose, Hans went over them on his portable board, giving advice etc.

At the moment Bucks has three Champions in their age groups. With eight or nine players playing for England and Britain.

Bucks hasn’t had a “Short” or “McShane”, to boast about, but the potential is there with the two fosters, Chantelle and James. Sam Walker and the two Saunders boys. Others are also in the running. William, Calum and the Chappell brothers. With Hans coaching them, who knows what the future holds.