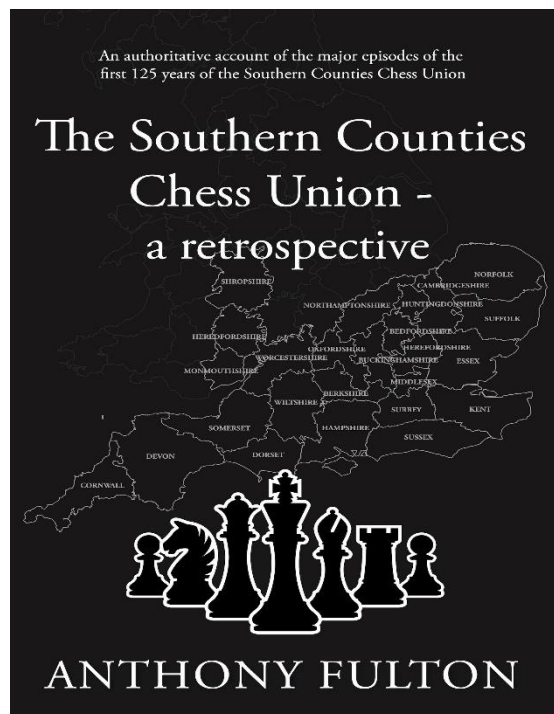


# The Southern Counties Chess Union – a retrospective



Available on Amazon and other online booksellers. Alternatively, contact Anthony directly at [fulton790@aol.com](mailto:fulton790@aol.com) to purchase.

*“Cambridgeshire Chess Association is a renowned one in the SCCU for various reasons, some positive and some not so positive. Their first claim to SCCU fame is that they are in the fortunate position to have two Union Secretaries help with their Association. Initially with the Assistance in 1896... [then in] 1930 with the assistance of R.M. Fleming.”*

*“[Cambridgeshire] first participate in the [Southern Counties Championship in 1897-98] and are crowned Champions, one of the quickest times a county wins the Championship title, their second claim to fame.”*

The above are extracts from the entry on Cambridgeshire Chess Association in Anthony (Tony) Fulton’s recent publication on the Southern Counties Chess Union, *[‘The Southern Counties Chess Union - a retrospective’](#)* (May 2022). The Southern Counties Chess Union is by far and away the oldest Union in England having formed in 1892 therefore pre-dates the ECF (1904). However, despite its longevity they have never produced a formal document about themselves, that is until now. Tony has written a comprehensive account covering key aspects of the Union’s 125year existence entitled, *‘The Southern Counties Chess Union - a retrospective’* (May 2022).

Some of the areas of the SCCU’s 125years history (1892-2017) covered includes:

- A) The rationale for a Union and how formed.
- B) Issues to be overcome during its time e.g., split with Western and Eastern counties to form WECU (1957) and EACU (1983) respectively, differences with BCF, etc.
- C) Explanation of all SCCU’s over-the-board competitions.
- D) Statistical data for all over-the-board competitions (1893 to 2018).

It must be noted that with respect to Cambridgeshire not only does Tony cover Cambridgeshire’s first and second incarnations, their affiliation with the SCCU, and their performance in the various SCCU competitions to 2003-04 when Cambridgeshire eventually leaves the SCCU to join the EACU, a body they were instrumental in forming, he also covers the SCCU’s bittersweet relationship with Huntingdonshire. We must remember that Huntingdonshire and Peterborough Chess Association was an

independent entity until it merged with Cambridgeshire.

In short, the book is a regional version of De Felice's chess histories, fills in a lot the gaps pertaining to chess in the south of England in Sergeant's *100 years of British Chess* and develops BCM Editor's Brown's attempts to collate county match records in 1915.

*"Anthony Fulton has done the English chess world a great service. His book is a testimony to the author's industry and dedication. Isaac Newton wrote in a letter: "If I have seen further it is by standing on the shoulders of Giants." Well, in the same vein, future chess historians researching not just the SCCU but also county chess generally will be indebted to Fulton for his authoritative account."* Danny Rosenbaum Chess Moves Editor