

# CHESS MOVES

THE NEWSLETTER of the ENGLISH CHESS FEDERATION | May/June 2011

## The London Team Rapidplay



The idea of a chess related event at Imperial College London isn't a new one: the last major open tournament held at ICL was the 1st Chessmaster British Blitz Championships back in 1999, which Hackney famously dominated en-route to a well deserved victory. Going back even further, Imperial is quite a famous venue for weekend congresses, as often as three times a year, spanning from the 70s to the 90s. The current students and indeed the organiser (!! ) had no idea of this when the thought of hosting a chess event crossed our minds, and once we had booked the beautiful activity rooms on the first floor of the Union, the pressure was on to live up to our reputation ...

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## From the desk of the President

There have been some remarkable individual and team performances by English players in recent weeks and, although I don't want to influence any votes or polls, I have my favourites, as I'm sure you do. Domestic chess is flourishing and I think we're seeing a few names coming to the fore who will no doubt represent the country in the near future.



However, I've been asked by several people whether our international abilities have stalled recently, as results and the pool of available players appears to have stagnated. Although it's certainly true that our performances at recent Olympiads have been disappointing, England currently has 17(!) players rated over 2500 with 5 over 2600 and a further one, Gawain Jones, only 4 points off this level. I am endeavouring to persuade Matthew Sadler to return to some limited international duties, as I think it's important not only for our prestige but also as an opportunity to attract sponsorship and to have a top-performing team bringing home medals. Imagine what a team of Adams, Short, McShane, Sadler and Howell could achieve - I owe it to English chess to at least try and provide the strongest possible team we can find and there won't be many stronger on the world stage!

There are many prominent events happening on the domestic calendar, including the British Championships, Nigel Short tour and British Rapidplay Championships, but we must also be proud of the huge number of weekend tournaments which have been the essential lifeblood of chess in this country for decades. I can't express my gratitude and admiration enough for all those who spend the thankless hours organising these, so that players of all abilities are kept off the streets.

We've had a thrilling few months and I hope we can all look forward to even more exciting times ahead.

- *CJ de Mooi, President, ECF*

## ECF News

### FINANCE COUNCIL MEETING REPORT

By Andrew Farthing, Chief Executive

The ECF Finance Council meeting took place on Saturday, 16 April 2011 at the Ibis Hotel, Birmingham. As the name suggests, the meeting was dominated by financial matters, made all the more significant this year by the ending of the ECF's longstanding Government grant. The following is a summary of the decisions made.

#### International Chess budget

More than 90% of this budget relates to a single item – the cost of sending a team to the European Team Championships. Of the £18,500 allocated to this, a large proportion relates to expenses (event fees, accommodation and travel costs). The budget did allow for payment of fees to the players, although the amount budgeted would not have allowed for the strongest possible team. The Director of International Chess had intended to seek external support to make up the difference and allow the strongest team to go; otherwise, the best team affordable within the budget would have been sent.

Council voted to make the full European Team Championships budget conditional upon additional financial support being found which would enable the strongest available team to be sent. If the additional funding could not be found, the ECF's spending should be restricted to the amount required to cover expenses only. In this case, a "development" team would be sent, which would not require players' fees.

#### 2011-12 Funding from Game Fee and Membership

The Board's proposal to Council was to leave Game Fee and Membership subscriptions unchanged for the coming year, with substantial increases the following year in accordance with the Funding Paper. The budget deficit in 2011-12 would have been funded by a transfer of £15,000 from the Permanent Investment Fund (PIF). Council's preference was to fund part of the deficit from increased player/member contributions as follows:

- **Game Fee** is to rise from 54p to **58p** for Standard Play League and Congress results (with proportionate increases in the other event categories);
- **Basic and Basic Junior memberships** will increase by £1 to **£13** and **£8.50** respectively;

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- **All other Direct membership subscriptions** (Full, Standard, Junior, etc.) will increase by **£2**;

- **The membership fee for organisations** (leagues, etc.) will increase from £54 to **£58**.

The effect of these changes will be to reduce the budget deficit for 2011-12. As a result, Council voted to limit the amount to be requested from the PIF to “up to £10,000?”.

### **Future Funding**

As expected, there was a lengthy discussion of the options set out in my paper on the future funding of the ECF. This is a subject on which many people hold strong views, and as a result the debate was lively and committed, without becoming heated. The resulting card vote was as follows:

- Option 1 (Membership scheme) – **91 votes**
- Option 2 (Membership/Game Fee combination) – **71 votes**
- Neither of the above – **7 votes**

Following this vote, one of my principal tasks over the coming weeks and months will be to draw up detailed implementation proposals for Option 1, along with the necessary amendments to the ECF’s Articles. The latter will need to be voted on at the AGM in October, with a 75% majority required in order to be passed.

Clearly, in view of the closeness of the vote on Saturday, a 75% majority cannot be assumed, and part of my brief is clearly to design the detailed proposals (including contingency plans) in such a way as to address as many of the concerns and objections of those who preferred Option 2 as possible. The debate at Council was very helpful in setting out a number of these.

It would be fair to describe the decision on Saturday as the start of a journey rather than its end. There is still a lot to do!

### **Charitable Status**

During the debate on future funding, I briefed Council on proposals to pursue the establishment of a charitable body to undertake the bulk of the ECF’s current activities. Not everything that the ECF does fits within the definition of “charitable aims” (basically, anything to do with professional chess is out), so a non-charitable organisation would also be required. Nevertheless, if a charity can be established for most of the ECF’s work, this should open the possibility of

membership subscriptions and other donations being eligible for Gift Aid. The effect of this would be to reduce the amount that members would have to pay in order to achieve the same total level of funding for the charity. (In addition, if the ECF were to be split into two separate organisations, there might be tax advantages if, say, the resulting non-charitable organisation fell below the VAT threshold.)

Again, there is plenty of work to do on this before we’ll know what is possible and whether the Charity Commission will accept the new charitable organisation (which the ECF Council will need to approve, of course), but I am both optimistic and enthusiastic about this potential change.

### **Multiple directorships held by one individual**

Lawrence Cooper’s proposal to allow a single individual to stand for and hold two directorships on the ECF Board (currently, the maximum is one) was overwhelmingly defeated.

### **Amendments to rules for the County Championship draw**

A couple of minor amendments were passed allowing a little more flexibility in the draw for this event. Currently, it has to be done by the end of January, which can cause practical problems if the weather is uncooperative and may require a journey specifically for this purpose. Giving room for the draw to happen as late as February may mean a cost saving, because those concerned may be meeting anyway at other events during that period.

For the first time in my experience, the meeting was completed within four hours(!), and I should like to record my thanks to our Non-Executive Chairman, Mike Gunn, for his expert stewardship in achieving this without stifling debate.

I should also like to express my appreciation to everyone who provided feedback on my original funding proposals, whether in person, by e-mail or on the English Chess Forum. Inevitably, not everyone will agree with the majority view as expressed by Council, but I do assure everyone who took the time and trouble to express their views that I have taken note of what was said and it will not simply be ignored. Whilst a complete consensus may be an impossible aim, it is in everyone’s interest for the ECF to deliver something which satisfies as many people as possible, and this will most definitely be my priority in the coming weeks.



## The London Team Rapidplay (cont)

Setting up on the Friday night was an interesting affair, particularly with the Union (despite being equipped with an awesome dining hall) seemingly only having ten tables in the entire building. The meeting rooms in the east wing basement were duly plundered, a process taking approximately four hours and ending in several hearty drinks on Friday evening. The end result, though, was spectacular: the well-lit event hall was set up and players would find themselves competing against each other in the shadow of the Royal Albert Hall the next day.

Saturday morning proved both productive and hectic, with everything being set up but chaos when it came to putting individuals into new teams. When the dust settled, the event started only twenty minutes late, with nineteen teams taking part. The fact that there was an odd number of teams was actually a blessing in disguise: teams with players departing during the day were able to ‘steal’ players to fill in during rounds – this meant no boards were defaulted, and even players receiving a bye could participate in a rated game!

Among the event’s guests included the esteemed kingscrusher (Tryfon Gavriel), famous for his chess videos and thousands of followers on YouTube. At a “measly” ECF rapidplay grading of 208 (for those unfamiliar with chess gradings, this is comfortably Master strength), he was playing as the lowest rated player in the daunting Team Barford, arriving as the team to beat with an average grade of 211!

Extra tables and analysis boards were available near the entrance of the room, which players used in the gaps between rounds but almost not at all during lunchtime, with most of the hall taking advantage of the longer break to get a proper meal in, in the many nearby restaurants and cafes.

The day was regularly interrupted with muffled screams and shouts of joy from the downstairs student bar, where a large number of cricket fans (mainly Sri Lankan) were congregating to watch the Cricket World Cup Final. After lunch (during India’s match winning innings: say that three times fast!) the attitude was somewhat more subdued and the chess was a tad quieter. For the record, this event organiser attempted to have the World Cup Final moved to another date to accommodate the chess, but they rather rudely never got back to my e-mail...

Tryfon Gavriel and Alan Luo (the day’s honorary French delegate) analysing after Barford’s close call against Cereal Imperial in Round 2

Rounds one and two started slightly late but with an awesome turnaround thanks to our guest arbiter Alex Holowczak, by the start of the third round after lunchtime (which was a generous hour, not common for a chess rapidplay event!) the day was looking like it could be back on schedule by the end of the day.



Crowding around the arbiter to see the next round’s pairings

Barford were sole leaders after second and third seeds Athenaeum A and Kings Head I drew their match in Round 3, but the afternoon got especially tense when Team Barford were spectacularly beaten by Athenaeum A in Round 4! Paul Thorainsson managed a victory against Venkat Tiruchirapalli and Charles McAleenan held Andrew Stone to a well deserved draw on bottom board despite being 46 points his junior, for the match to be decided 2.5-1.5 in Athenaeum’s favour. This resulted in Kings Head and Athenaeum having a joint-lead for the next round, with Barford a single point behind and ready to pounce.



The West London Knights face off against Athenaeum B

The final round saw Barford in prime position to pounce, playing Kings Head I and pulling off a victory. However, Athenaeum A won their match as well which clinched first place outright, so Barford had to

settle for second place after leapfrogging Kings Head I, who put in a great performance to finish 3rd overall.



Outgoing Imperial College Chess Club president Jamie “8 pints” Funnell played as a filler for Hammersmith in the last round to spectacular over-the-board effect. Jamie is also famous for winning congresses all over the country that start with the letter B...

Other notable mentions that won prizes include Cereal Imperial which won the best-academic-institution prize, as well as a storming tournament from juniors from Wilson’s School who deservedly pick up the best-average-U150 prize as well as keeping all the university teams on their toes! Finally, the best game prize (which was offered on-the-day) as judged by English IM Thomas Rendle went to the Round 3 encounter between Chris Tandy of the Mush-Vrooms who played against Tom Slater of the Southampton Cheetahs.



Event organiser John Sargent (fresh from a caffeine overdose) and arbiter Alex Holowczak (fresh from a competitive snooker match) oversaw proceedings on the day.

After packing up, the day ended with a lot of the Imperial crew celebrating at the event organiser’s residence, with special guests Postman Patzer (Kishan Pattni) and DJ Hippo (Justin Hadi) keeping the party

going into the early hours.

The event was an overwhelming success and thanks must be given to all parties involved in setting up before and after as well as all the team captains and players who made the day a fantastic one over-the-board as well.

Special thanks must be given to Adam Raoof and Sean Hewitt, who helped tremendously with the organisation of the event beforehand, as well as John and Christine Constable who generously offered to lend us top-quality equipment for the day’s proceedings. We look forward to seeing you at Imperial College’s events in the future, which will hopefully be soon and frequent!

*by John Sargent,*

*London Team Rapidplay Co-ordinator*

*<http://union.ic.ac.uk/rcc/chess/2011/04/the-london-team-rapidplay-report/>*

## British Chess Championships 2011

The 98th Championships of the British Isles

Organised by the English Chess Federation

Sunday 24 July to Saturday 6 August,

Ponds Forge, Sheffield, S1 2BP

An English Chess Federation Grand Prix Event



Website -

<http://www.britishchess2011.com/index.htm>

Schedule -

[http://www.britishchess2011.com/schedule\\_2011.htm](http://www.britishchess2011.com/schedule_2011.htm)



# Junior Chess

## Frydek Mistek 2011 – from Peter Purland

### Tuesday 19th April

With a very late Easter we were not able to depart on our usual Monday but did manage to get together a party of 14 boys for a truncated trip to what has become an annual event. There has been a slight change in format which we found out late on (we never enter in the conventional manner – to be fair there have been no changes for at least 15 years) but this made no difference to our team. There were the usual two parties, William Claridge-Hansen, William Foo, Shyamal Patel, Patrick Smith, Adam A Taylor, Adam C Taylor, Billy Twigge-Molecey and Ollie Willson accompanied by Victor from Heathrow and Tom Clements, Matthew Fergusson, Mark Kenyon, Harry Li, James Walsh and Matthew Walsh with Peter Purland travelling from Liverpool via Amsterdam. Despite efforts to arrest the leader for child kidnapping at Schipol and a delayed bag at Prague we met safely but late and got the slow train to Ostrava changing at Prerov. The branch train was far later than the one we had aimed for so we had to get Martin and Vashek to come down and were then transferred to the Empire for one night. It is a very nice hotel but a little more expensive than the Centrum and much further from the station. We settled in with a buffet supper and an early night whilst Victor, Vashek and I caught up over a drink. I then got the internet (eventually) and was in bed just after 2300.

### Wednesday 20th April

We had a slight lie in today as we did not have to have our cases downstairs before 0830. We then breakfasted and went out for our social day at 0930. First stop was the Anselm Mine and we had an English speaking guide this year. We went in the pithead baths which is rather spooky then down in to the underground workings and had the different methods explained to us. This included both wooden and metal props and hand and machine excavation. We went to the Mines Rescue Headquarters and saw an exhibition on Mines Rescue as well as having a go at the training area. Our final visit was to see where the coal measures reached the surface which is why this area was the first place where Neolithic man discovered the burning qualities of coal. We had dinner in the miners' canteen and then drove to the shopping mall where we had an hour to ourselves. We then moved on to the baths at Frydland na Ostrava and had two hours in pool, hot tub and

sauna. A great time was had by all although our U12s need to grow a bit before trying to duck the chairman! We then returned to the Centrum where we settled in and ate whilst I paid the entry fees and accommodation and also booked our train back to Prague. After dinner we had free time to relax and prepare.

### Thursday 21st April

We were down to breakfast at 0745 and at the National House by 0840 ready for the opening ceremony. This was not too long although inevitably things took some time to get started. The U15s and U12s had three one hour rounds today so Saturday afternoon can be used for other chess related events. The first round was the best we have ever had with 12 wins and two draws. Inevitably we could not keep this up but the day was still one of great achievement. In the Fide Rated Tom is on 2\2, in the U15s Patrick is on 3\3 and in the U12s Mark is our leading player on 2.5. Owing to the late start we only had time for the supermarket at lunch time and then it was in to two afternoon rounds. At the end we returned to the hotel for dinner and the customary meeting after which we had the usual rest and recuperation (usually over a chess board) until bedtime.

### Friday 22nd April

After the usual buffet breakfast we went to the National House and settled down to the chess. I was on my own for quite a time until Will CH came out with a brilliantly constructed win. As the morning advanced we got a mix of results with most of the games being analysed and by the end of the round the U15s had 4\8 and the U12s 1.5\4. This meant we were exactly on target. At lunch time there was a soccer competition. I could not quite follow exactly what was happening but our 4 plus a Czech guest defeated another Czech team 5-1 with goals from Will (3) and Billy and Mark one each. Meanwhile the older boys played a friendly game on the adjacent pitch. After cooling down we started the afternoon round and this time it was Billy who came out first, beaming. Will CH followed with his second win of the day and he proved to be our only 100% scorer today. The analysing session did lead to a few heartaches when wins and draws were shown but it is so easy to see things when you are not under pressure. By the end of play Will was our leading U12 with 3.5 (the others all having 2.5) whilst in the U15s Patrick and Adam A are on four followed by William and Adam C on 3.5. Our two "senior" players are on 2. We returned to the hotel for dinner and then Victor organized a pairs blitz

(which is going on as I write and sounds enjoyable!) There were three joint winners, Adam A and Harry, Adam C and William and Shyamal and Tom.

### **Saturday 23rd April**

Having eventually made it to breakfast in the one operating lift (the other is now repaired) we had our usual good repast and headed in. The weather remains very good (although the Belorussians tell me rain is forecast for tomorrow) and the walk to the venue gives us time to chat and take in fresh air. The morning round proved very successful with the FIDE pair scoring 1.5, the U15s 4\8 (have we heard that before) and the U12s getting an excellent 4\4. The leading players in the U15s are William on 4.5 followed by Patrick and the two Adams on 4. At U12 level the situation remains unchanged with Will a point ahead of the others but all now top 50%. The U12s had barely finished their chess when they were told the soccer final was about to be held. Ollie was heading for a 10.2 so I could not leave him but Tom had finished and took the manager-ship. Our Czech friend played again and when I arrived at half time we were 5-0 up. The final score was, I think, 10-1 with 5 goals from Mark, three from Billy and two from Will (although I know there was an own goal!). After lunch the U15s had a simultaneous display against IMs Oleg Kalikov (Rus) and Sergei Berezjuk (Cze) and GM Viktor Komliakov of Moldova. Matthew got a draw with Sergei whilst Adam C beat Viktor. However what was impressive was that Ollie played on, alone, against Viktor for a full hour after the official finish time. As GMs normally cannot be bothered going beyond their allotted time this was a great honour. Unfortunately Ollie did not understand a draw offer but still put up an excellent fight in front of a large crowd. Meanwhile Victor and I had had a meeting with certain officials and now have already three trips planned for 2012. Frydek at Easter, U12 trip to Prague in May and Poland (Ustron) in August. We are expecting to do Poland (Trzebinia) in February and could also take a trip to Gibraltar in the summer. The second simultaneous was given by two leading Czech players GM David Navara and WGM Katerina Nemcova. The U12s played in this but Adam C was offered a place as there had been a drop out and beat Katerina! Wins against a GM and a WGM in one day cannot be bad! The older players then had a friendly match against Belarus (who had a much older team) and we were beaten comfortably but did score two goals. The evening entertainment was Millionaire. As usual this was an entertaining evening and yet again the older boys fell at the last hurdle leaving Ollie and Patrick as winners.

### **Sunday 24th April**

This was a double round day and vital for our prospects. The usual morning arrangements occurred and we were all ready for start of play at 0900. As is always the case we had some pieces gifted to us (we are less than generous in return), some games went to the wire (especially the afternoon game between the two Adams); there were some excellent end games and some minor tactical errors that lost us points. However, when the dust had settled we had scored 9.5\14 in round seven and 8\14 in round eight. Our two FIDE Rated tournament players are guaranteed at least 50% whilst in the U12s William has 6.5 and good chances of being in the prize list whilst the two Adams (who fought to a standstill in the afternoon) are on 5.5 and could be in the prize list with a win. In the U12s Will and Billy are both on 5.5 and should get in the prizes if either win whilst the squad are second in the team competition. On the social side all 14 joined in a fun (but not skilful) game of soccer at lunch time whilst the evening was given over to final preparation for the last round.

### **Monday 25th April**

The final round started at 0800 which meant an 0700 breakfast (better than an 0600 departure tomorrow). We were there in plenty of time and before the round received our trophy for the soccer tournament along with a pen each. Unfortunately I did not get a photo of that ceremony. Our first game finished was William who accepted a draw in an ending that certainly was not won but in so doing gained second place. Adam C got a draw and we were all pleasantly surprised to hear that this had secured him sixth place. The last game in the whole junior tournament was Will's and he was certainly losing going in to the ending but in front of a good crowd he held his nerve and converted the ending to a win and took his place on the platform in fifth place. The team finished third and had our almost customary cake-eating ceremony after the prize giving. James Walsh was also lucky in the draw and received a small prize. As usual it has been a very strong tournament splendidly organised and the squad has acquitted itself really well. We then returned to our hotel, dumped our chess stuff and got changed before walking back to Mistek town square where we had a town trail. This was won by Adam and Harry with a decent score of 12\19. We then headed for the bowling where we met the Holusa family and had a good two hours enjoyment accompanied by drinks and chips. Our two best bowlers were – U12 Mark and O12 Shyamal. Then it was back to the hotel, a final meal, final meet-

ing and packing.

## Tuesday 26th April

We were up at 0530 (0430 BST) and got a packed breakfast before walking to the station in the only rain we had experienced when outside. The branch train was busy but we got seats and the pendolino had booked seats. We even got all but one case on the luggage racks! This arrived five minutes early in Prague after which we got the usual two metros and one bendy bus to Terminal 2 where we said our goodbyes. The London lot had an extra two hours to wait but at least they had a direct flight. The Liverpool group got their two flights with no problem and both groups arrived safely at their respective airports after an enjoyable and rewarding trip.

### IM title for Yang-Fan Zhou

Congratulations to 16-year-old Yang-Fan Zhou, who secured his third and final International Master norm at the Coulsdon Easter International with a score of 7/9. He has also satisfied the necessary rating requirement of 2400 so he should be awarded the IM title at FIDE's 2nd quarter Presidential Board Meeting 4-7 June 2011. His previous norms were gained at Coulsdon in 2008 and the Brighton e2e4 event in February 2011. He finished 1st= in the tournament with Russian Grandmaster Alexander Cherniaev.



[http://www.ccfworld.com/Chess/Results/2011-04-21\\_International.htm](http://www.ccfworld.com/Chess/Results/2011-04-21_International.htm)

### SCCU U18/U14 County Championships

A report by organiser Neill Cooper (for full results see the ECF website)

For the fifth year running the SCCU U18/U14 County Championships County Championships were held at Wilson's School, Wallington on Sunday 3rd April 2011. For the first time over 100 players took part, 40 in the

U18, 30 in the U18 minor and 32 in the newly resurrected U14 tournament. All events were 2 round Jamboree with the time limit of all moves in 60 minutes with an increment of 5 seconds per move.

As in previous years the U18 open was an 8 board event with the teams having an even spread of ability – Kent, Surrey and Sussex all had average grades in the range 170 to 159. After the first round the event was very close with Surrey just ahead on 5½/8 with Sussex and Kent close behind on 5. The second round was similarly close with the outcome depending on the last game in play between Rhys Cumming (Sussex) and Adam Taylor (Surrey). Adam was a piece up but was down to less than 20 seconds on the clock. At this stage Kent and Surrey both had 11 points and Sussex 10 points. If Sussex the final game won then the tie break (board count) would favour existing champions, Kent. However, with the benefit of the 5 second increment Adam safely saw his material advantage converted into a win and so Surrey regained the title they won in 2009, scoring 12/16. Kent were second with 11 and Sussex third with 10.

The U14 tournament was a much more one sided affair. The Kent team, clearly stronger on paper, built up a good lead after the first round, with 6½/8 ahead of Berks with 5/8. In the second round they swept all before them scoring a clean 8/8 for an impressive total of 14½/16. Berkshire came second with 9.

Surrey dominated the U18 minor tournament which was won by a team of six from Sutton Grammar School who scored 9½ out of 12, only dropping points to other Surrey teams. A Surrey mixed team came second with 8/12. Sussex came third with 6 points. This is the fourth year running that Surrey have won the U18 minor event.





## Win for KJCA U11 EPSCA team

Congratulations to the Kent U11 Team for scoring an unprecedented 51.5 out of 60 to take the National EPSCA title in style. This is the highest score achieved by any team in recorded history, since the competition began in 1967.

The triumphant team was - Rohan Shiatis (Team Captain), James Meredith (Dulwich College Prep School), Alexander Selway (Eltham Junior School), Arul Gupta (Eltham Junior School), Michael Gilbert (Mersham Primary School), Girinath Haridas (Dulwich College Junior School), Zara Hussain (The Granville School), Anantha Anilkumar (Cumnor House School), Jackson Wen (Bickley Park Prep School), Zakary Warsop (Dulwich College Prep School), Rohan Datta (Fosse Bank School), Peter Mant (Townsend Primary School), Francesco Bernardini (Bishop Challoner School), Sachin Balaji (Eltham College Junior School), Adam Fidler (Amherst School), James Elgar (Amherst School), Ryan Cherian (Dulwich College Junior School), Daniel Carstairs (Southborough Primary School), Hasan Rahij (Home Educated), Ammar Kisat (Amherst School), Ethan Staunton (Dulwich College Junior School), Zeeshan Kisat (Amherst School), Jesse Creasey (Dulwich College Prep School), Kiran Shiatis (Home Educated), with a special mention to Harry Chathli and Danyal Warsop who also helped the team to reach the finals.

It was a very exciting day and a pleasure seeing so many children representing counties from all around the country, having fun playing chess. The Kent team arrived in Northampton on time and raring to go. It was a solid and respectable start for many of the teams, which saw Wey Valley and Barnet leading the way after round 1 with a score of 16 out of 20. Kent were nicely tucked in third place just half a point behind.

After having missed out on the title for the last two years by just half a point, this result brought out the fighting

spirit in the Kent Juniors and the team put all their training and discipline into practice to secure an even better second round performance achieving a score of 17.5 out of 20. At this point, Wey Valley still led the way with 33.5 out of a possible 40, with Kent advancing into second place, although still half a point adrift on 33, closely followed by Barnet and Sussex both on 30.5 points.

A truly exceptional third round performance by the Kent juniors saw them score an awesome 18.5 out of a possible 20 to take the National EPSCA U11 title.

With this excellent, record result, the Kent Juniors have cemented their reputation for currently being one of the most consistent and formidable teams in the country.

Final scores were as follows:

1st	Kent	51.5
2nd	WeyValley	49
3rd	Sussex	45.5
4th	Barnet	44.5
5th	Berkshire	36.5
6th	Nottinghamshire	36.5
7th	Hertfordshire	34.5
8th	Richmond	33.5
9th	Essex	30
10th	Birmingham	29
11th	Cheshire and NW	23.5
12th	Northamptonshire	23
13th	Yorkshire	22.5
14th	Oldham	20
15th	Lancashire	18
16th	Manchester	17
17th	Lincolnshire	14
18th	Staffordshire	11.5

The venue was excellent and everything flowed smoothly. Many thanks to EPSCA, the organising team in Northampton for such a lovely day and to Chris Ward GM for presenting the trophies. Also, a very big thank you to all the children and parents who took part and helped out.

*- Krishna Shiatis and Michael Gilbert, U11 team managers*



# How did YOU spend the sunniest Easter for decades?

## **Bolton Easter Congress 2011**

Held 22nd – 24th April 2011 at the Bolton Ukrainian Sports & Social Club. 76 players competed in the main congress.

Don Mason who is a regular Bolton Easter entrant won the Open. Both he and Adam Ashton were on 3.5/4 after their 4th round draw. Don had a fortunate win in the 5th round when his opponent, David Hart, overlooked a checkmate, whereas Adam could only draw with 14yrs old Joseph McPhillips.

## **Bolton Open Championship**

1st Don Mason, Warwickshire Select 4.5pts/5

2nd Adam Aston, 3Cs 4pts

3rd Joseph McPhillips\*, Bolton 3.5pts

Under 185 Grading Prize:

David Hart, Southampton Univ. 3pts

(\* awarded the British Championship Qualifying place)

16 competitors - £450 prize fund

## **Bolton Major (under 170)**

1st Clive Davies, Rose Forgrove 5pts/5

2nd Martin Burns, Stockport 4.5pts

3rd Mick Connor, Great Lever 4pts

Under 155 Grading Prizes:

George Glover (Carlisle) & John Schofield

(Crusaders) 3.5pts

27 competitors - £370 prize fund

## **Bolton Knights (under 135)**

1st Lawrence Harold, Eccles 4.5pts/5

2nd= John Sutcliffe, Ronnie Whiteside, James Rothwell, Colin White, Ian Lamb, Andy Ross, Mark Rivlin 3.5pts

Under 120 grading (& 2nd=)

Gordon Glover 3.5pts

Under 100 grading

Jacob Boswell & Angelica Dean 2.5pts

33 competitors - £420 prize fund.

## **Busy Persons (10 minute blitz)**

1st Ali Jaunooby, Denton 7pts / 8

2nd= Mike Surtees, Bolton 6.5pts

166-185 Grading (& 2nd=)

Mitchell Burke, 3Cs & Rob Hearne 6.5pts

Grading prizes 146-165

Damian McCarthy, Stuart Bainbridge & Robert Frith 5pts

Grading 126-145 Doug Barnett 5.5pts

Grading 106-125 Tim Hilton 4.5pts

Grading 85-105 Brian Davies 4pts

Under 85 Grading Jacob Boswell 3pts

48 competitors - £221 prize fund

## **West of England Championship & Congress**

(from Keverel Chess - <http://www.keverelchess.com/>)

Eighty players enjoyed the most beautiful weather over the Easter weekend for the WECU Congress held on the Beacon, high above Exmouth's busy sea-front. The prizewinners were as follows:-

**Open Section:** 1st Stephen Berry (214) Wimbledon 6/7 pts. 2nd= Matthew Turner (233) Glastonbury & Dominic Mackle (194) Newton Abbot both 5. Grading prizes (188-170) Patryk Krzyzanowski (177) Yeovil 4. (U-170) 1st = David Stephenson (168) Hull & David Littlejohns (167) Taunton both 3½.

The West of England Championship was awarded jointly to M. Turner & D. Mackle, and the Qualifying Place for the British Championship in August was offered to Krzyzanowski.

**Major Section (U-175):** 1st Robert Thompson (173) Newton Abbot 6½. 2nd = Adam Clarke (164) Torquay & Brian Gosling (159) Exmouth both 5. Grading prizes (156-149) John Gorodi (150) Teignmouth 4. (U-149) Martin Worrall (138) Taunton 4.

**Minor Section (U-140):** 1st A. Wright (128) Plymouth 5½. 2nd= Dinah Norman (139) & Malcolm Roberts (138) both 5. Grading prizes (130–115): Roger Waters (124) Taunton & Paul Foster (121) both 4½. (U-115) Alan Fraser (113) 4.

Probably the best game of the tournament came in the final round when Mackle was drawn to play Turner who was joint leader. Notes based on those by the winner.

**White: D. Mackle (191). Black: M. Turner (233).  
Queen's Gambit – Slav Defence**

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 initiating a pawn sacrifice in order to gain space. 5.a4 is usual. 5...b5 6.e5 Nd5 7.a4 e6 8.axb5 Bb4 9.Bd2! possibly dubious as Black will be forced to lose this important bishop. 9...Bxc3 10.bxc3 cxb5 11.Ng5 White now launches an early attack – a critical decision. There now follows a mighty struggle. 11...Qd7 12.Qh5 Nc6 13.Be2 Bb7 14.0-0 Kf8 If 14...h6 15.Ne4 a6 16.Nd6+ the supreme position for any knight. 15.f4 f5 16.exf6 Nxf6 17.Qh3 Re8 18.f5 exf5 19.Rxf5 Bc8 20.Bg4 Qd6 21.Rxf6+ gxf6 Not 21...Qxf6 22.Rf1 Bxg4 23.Qxg4 Qxf1+ 24.Kxf1. 22.Qh6+ Kg8 23.Bh5 Rf8 24.Rf1 Qe7 25.Bf3! This bishop manoeuvre is the key to paralysing Black's defence. Qd7 26.Be4 Nd8 27.Rf3 Ne6 28.Nxe6 Qxe6 29.Rg3+ Kf7 30.Bxh7 Qd6 31.Bf4 Qd5 32.Qg7+ Ke8 33.Re3+? missing a mate in 2 e.g. 33.Bg6+ Kd8 34.Bc7# but the end is near anyway. 33...Be6 34.Bc7 Rhg8 35.Bg6+ 1-0

A fine game, enabling Mackle to catch his opponent on 5 points and thus share the Championship.

# The English Chess Federation

## Certificate of Merit



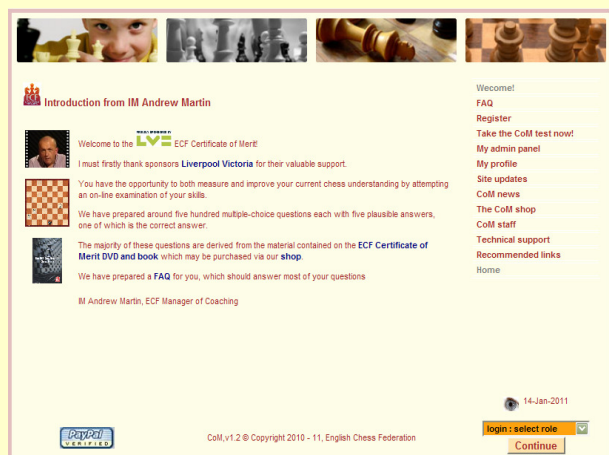
The Certificate of Merit (COM) is centred on a number of online tests, which enable chess students to measure their progress and to earn certificates and badges. The tests are taken entirely online, and payments for the credits can be made online or by cheque. Examinees can practice as many times as they wish before they take the CoM test. All questions are multiple-choice, and the result comes through automatically - the certificate is issued by email and the button badge for the particular level is sent out by the ECF Office shortly afterwards. Please see the shop on the ECF website [www.englishchess.org.uk](http://www.englishchess.org.uk) for details of purchase of the full package or individual items.

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## Grand Prix Leader Boards

Players shown here are counting the maximum number of events. These Leader Boards as at May 3rd 2011

### Junior Prix

Name	Club/Area	Pts
1 Zhou, Yang-Fan	Richmond Juniors	634
2 Clarke, Brandon GI	Littlethorpe	603
3 Fletcher, Michael JW	Nottingham HS	598
4 Haria, Ravi	Barnet Knights	596
5 Balaji, Ananthanarayanan	Harrow	593
6 Harvey, Marcus R	Bicester	586
7 Taylor, Adam C	Colchester *	566
8 Kuhendiran, Tharshan	New Malden *	559
9 Hilton, Tim	Three C's	558
10 Zhou, Yang-Jian	Coulsdon CF	556

### Graded Prix (160-179)

Name	Club/Area	Pts
1 Bryant, Richard BE	Oswestry	617
2 Jackson, Paul G	Coulsdon CF	574
3 Hayward, Alan	Streatham	535
4 Wells, Jonathan C	North Norfolk	510
5 Heaton, Paul	Writtle	503
6 Clegg, Robert	Huddersfield	499
7 Cutmore, Martin J	Wood Green	486
8 Bunn, Matthew	Snodland	484
9 Keogh, Edward	Preston	482
10 Patrick, David A	Courier Halifax	471

### Graded Prix (140-159)

Name	Club/Area	Pts
1 Hartley, Dean M	Amber Valley	619
2 Desmedt, Richard E	Netherton	606
3 O'Gorman, Brendan	DHSS	601
4 Paul, Nathanael	Coddon	538
5 Dean, Robert A	Pudsey	535
6 Connor, Michael I	Great Lever	530
7 Papier, Alan	Bristol & Clifton	510
8 Robinson, Thomas D	Redditch	506
9 Clegg, Chris RA	Kingston	505
10 Kreuzer, Christopher	Richmond & Twickenham	502

### Graded Prix (120-139)

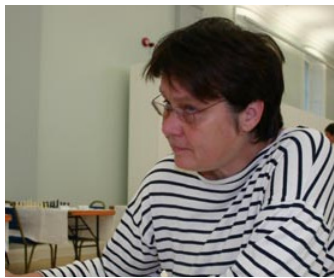
Name	Club/Area	Pts
1 Foley, Phil T	Upminster	615
2 Horman, Paul A	Morecambe	577
3 Egan, William J	Scunthorpe	561
4 Crouch, Timothy J	Kings Head	557
5 Watson, Darrell A	Bourne End	531
6 Stone, Mark R	Petts Wood & Orpington	527
7 Allen, Timothy S	Battersea	525
8 Gardiner, Colin J	Falmouth	516
9 Crockett, Stephen J	Birmingham *	506
10 Taylor, Jonathan	Wakefield	505

### Graded Prix (U120)

Name	Club/Area	Pts
1 Fraser, Alan R	Beckenham & Bromley	548
2 Trigg, Matt D	Solihull	545
3 Brent, Derek	Urmston	521
4 Miles, Barry S	South Norwood	493
5 Waddington, James	Bolton	490
6 Mahony, Jonathan	Leeds	478
7 Coleman, Patrick N	Lytham ex-Servicemen	476
8 Billett, Stephen J	Portsmouth	474
9 Wadsworth, James MF	Maidenhead	474
10 Broderick, Paul G	Shifnal & Telford	474



## International Round-Up



### European Women's Individual Chess

**Championship** 7-19th May Tbilisi, Georgia

<http://www.tbilisi2011.ge/index.php>

Jovanka Houska and Ingrid Lauterbach are both playing in this World Championship Qualifier. Jovanka is on 2/4 and Ingrid on 1.5.

### 10th European Senior Team Championship 3-11

May Thessaloniki, Greece

<http://gamesfestival.chessdom.com/european-senior-chess>

England 1 finished with 4 match wins, 1 draw and 4 losses so scored 9 points with Paul Byway scoring 4/9, Geoffrey James 5, Ken Norman 4 and Michael Singleton 6.

England 2 finished with 3 wins, 3 draws and 3 losses so also scored 9 match points with Michael MacDonald-Ross scoring 3/9, Anthony Ashby 4, Stewart Reuben 4.5 and James Scholes 5.5.

England 3 finished with 2 wins, 2 draws (plus 1 bye) and 4 losses so scored seven match points with Philip Stimpson scoring 3/8, Julian Farrand 5, Ray Edwards 3 and Peter Wood 2.

### 14th Malaga Open 29 Apr - 2 May 2011

<http://www.ajedrezmalaga.org/html/>

Gary Quillan scored 5.5/7 to finish 3rd=, Chris Duncan scored 5 and Peter Garrett 2.5.

### First Saturday IM A Tournament, Budapest,

Hungary 7-18 May 2011

<http://www.freeweb.hu/firstsaturday/1105/im.htm>

Mark Lyell is playing and is on 2/3.

### 46th Capablanca Memorial, Havana 10th - 21st May 2011

<http://www.capablanca.co.cu/>

David Gates will play in the Open B section.

I encourage players to send me details of events they or others are playing in abroad and I will do my best to include them in my round-up

*- Lawrence Cooper, Director of International Chess*

## Results Round-Up

### Midlands Junior Chess League 2011

The 4th Midlands Junior Chess League took place at Malvern College in Worcestershire who once again sponsored the tournament. This year's competition saw 6 clubs and 7 teams enter with Bloxwich Junior Chess Club entering 2 teams.

Magdalen School College from Oxfordshire and Hagley Chess Club (2010 winners) qualified for the Championship competition with the remaining teams fighting it out for the Jamboree plate.

Magdalen took a 2-0 lead but Hagley fought back to peg the deficit to 1. Board 1 tried to win the game but as time trouble set down on the game, Magdalen claimed victory in their first outing in the competition. Bristol League Junior Select took the jamboree plate with a thorough 4-0 victory. Magdalen won the Moore Dolan Championship trophy for 1 year and £50. Hagley won £25 and Bristol won the Jamboree plate and £20.

The tournament held every year on the 3rd weekend in March will be running in 2012. For more information contact Andrew Moore ([info@wjca.org.uk](mailto:info@wjca.org.uk))



The winning Oxford team - Jacob Trefethan, James Cole, Matthew Daggitt & Ben Thorne - with Ray Dolan (left)

### Frome Congress results – from Gerry Jepps

Results for Twenty Second Frome Congress May 6th-8th 2011, 170 players entered and winners were -

#### **Open**

First: (4.5/5) Chris Jenks (Southbourne)

Second equal: (4/5) David Buckley (Bath), Andrew Smith (Bourne End)

British Championship Qualifying Place Chris Jenks (Southbourne)

U175 Grading prize (3.5/5) William Foo (Reading)

## Major (U170)

First equal (4/5) Stephen Williams (Colchester),  
Russel Barlow (South Bristol), Paul Jackson  
(Coulsdon)  
U150 Grading prize (3.5/5) Paul Tew Bridgend

## Intermediate (U140)

First (4.5/5) Roger Walker (Belper)  
Second (4/5) John Symons (Salisbury)  
Paul Errington (Bournemouth)  
George Hollands (Sportsman Club Kent)  
Paul Brackner (Weymouth)  
Thomas Thorpe (Pete's Potentials)  
Mark Stone (Petts Wood & Orpington)  
U125 Grading prize (3.5/5) Simon Denney (Bristol  
University)

## Minor (U115)

First equal (4.5/5) Geoff Gammon (Downend &  
Fishponds), Phil Summers (Sportsman Club, Kent)  
Third equal (4/5) John Ariss (Teignmouth), Roger  
Fenton (Glastonbury), Michael Harby (Gillingham &  
Glastonbury)  
U90 Grading prize Reg Cox (Southampton)

## Somerset Trophies

Denys Bonner (Highest placed Somerset player in the  
Open): David Buckley (Bath)  
Leon York Memorial (Highest placed Somerset player  
in the Major): Stephen Williams (Colchester)  
Roy Hossell (Highest placed Somerset player in the  
Intermediate): Patrick Wojcik (Taunton)  
Cyril Chapman (Highest placed Somerset player in  
the Minor) Roger Fenton (Glastonbury)  
Jean Mackereth (Highest placed ungraded Somerset  
player in the Minor) Pawel Ploskonka (Weston-s-  
Mare)  
Cuprinol Trophy (Highest scoring West of England  
Junior in any section): Thomas Thorpe (Pete's  
Potentials)

## Team Competition

Sportsman Club (Kent)

## 3rd Chess Holiday – from Peter Cloudsdale

The 3rd Holiday was held at the Rothay Manor Hotel  
in Ambleside from 20th to 25th March 2011 and an  
enjoyable time was had by all. The weather was excel-  
lent, which helped us all see the wonderful scenery at  
its best, and the hotel was first class.

4 tutorial sessions outlined various chess tactics, and a  
7 round Swiss competition took place with 14  
entrants and the results were as follows -

1st Geoff Elliston, Downham Market, grade 138,  
6.5/7

2nd Rupert Guinness, Kings Lynn, grade 140, 6

3rd= Bruce Carter, Kings Lynn, grade 117; David  
Wilson, Billericay, grade 90, 4.5

5th= Gordon Pearce, Leeds, grade 129; Bob Wardle,  
Nottingham, ungraded, 4

7th Heinz Herschmann, London, grade 110, 3.5

8th= Sue Chadwick, Brighton, grade 107; Arthur  
Godwin, Chesham, grade 42; W Mark Northcutt,  
Leyland, grade 73; Reginald Hallwood, Carenarfon,  
ungraded, 3

12th Udo Rauch, Swadlincote, grade 65, 2

13th= Edwaed Vulliamy, London, ungraded and  
Patrick Bunting, Swadlincote, ungraded, 1

Here's hoping for another enjoyable experience in  
2012

- Peter Cloudsdale (Tel 01904-767177)





## County Durham Congress results

The event was held in the Welfare Hall, Houghton-le-Spring on April 15th-17th 2011

Open – 6 entries

1st = Graeme Oswald (Durham City), Malola Prasath (Hetton Lyons) – 4/5

Major – 26 entries

1st = David Armbruster (Peterlee), Richard Carter (Wandering Dragons), Ron Plater (Newcastle) – 4/5

Under 145 Grading Prize – Ken Boxall (Peterlee) – 3/5

Minor – 20 entries

1st David Lowcock (Hartlepool) – 4½/5

2nd = Colin Gilroy (Gateshead), Peter Harker (Hartlepool), Stan Johnson (South Shields), Steve Larkin (Tynedale), John Reddington (Peterlee) – 3½/5

Under 110 Grading Prize – Colin Forster (Peterlee) – 3/5

## Redmonds win Clough Trophy!

A team comprising all brothers finally clinched the BDCA Clough Trophy after beginning their assault in 2006.



Peter, Norman, John, Nigel (seated), Graham, Tony

Peter Redmond explains, 'Myself and Graham were the only two playing regularly in the family at that time but we knew with practice John, Tony and Nigel would eventually reach the standard required to challenge for honours'.

The team won the trophy with a fantastic win over Bradford Chess Club in the final round making them the best of the sixteen teams that competed in

the five round handicap competition. Team manager Nigel commented, 'It was a proud moment playing and winning with my brothers. Peter and Tony also play with me for Bradford College in Division 3 and have won the championship, so it's a double celebration'.

Father Norman looking on said, 'It was very tense but you could tell how much they wanted to win. A great night for the family'.

## York RI simultaneous

On 28th April a Simultaneous Display took place at the York Railway Institute.

Grandmaster Gawain Jones played 32 participants and beat 21 of them.

Gawain was defeated by Adam Ismail and Pierre Weller from York, and he drew with James Carpenter, Erdem Akbas, Milana Smolkina, Patrick Gower, Jean Luc Weller, Neville Pearce, Tim Turner, Peter Cloudsdale from York and Harry Li from Alwoodley.

Gawain was a previous member of the York RI Club and an enjoyable time was had by all. Thanks to various organisers including Richard Palliser, Neville Pearce, John Knowles and Tim Turner.

## **Brendan O'Gorman - Chess Images**



**Tom Thorpe at the 2011 Frome Congress**

See Brendan's work at -

<https://picasaweb.google.com/bpogorman>



## 4NCL - final weekend - from Lawrence Cooper

The final weekend saw all three divisions playing at one venue, the Northern League merged with Division Three and titles, promotion, relegation and European Club Cup places were up for grabs.

Team	P	W	D	L	GP	Pts
Pride & Prejudice	7	7	0	0	43½	14
Wood Green Hilsmark 1	7	6	0	1	37	12
White Rose 1	7	4	1	2	25	9
Cheddleton 1	7	3	0	4	28	6
Betsson.com	7	2	1	4	23	5
Barbican 4NCL 1	7	1	2	4	26	4
Guildford A&DC 1	7	2	0	5	23	4
e2e4.org.uk 1	7	1	0	6	18½	2

The destination of the title inevitably came down to the final round encounter between defending champions Wood Green Hilsmark Kingfisher 1 and Pride and Prejudice. P&P had the advantage on game points which meant as the teams both had 12 match points that a 4-4 draw would suffice.

The match was surprisingly one sided despite the teams appearing to be evenly matched. Board one saw a hard fought draw where Luke McShane had some initiative against Michael Adams but black was able to liquidate and hold. David Howell won on board 2 against Jon Ludvig Hammer after gaining a clear advantage in the early middle game due to black's exposed king and weakened pawn structure. Board 3 was a fifteen move draw as Emmanuel Berg fell an hour behind on the clock trying to find a plan against Sergei Tiviakov's 3...Qd6 Centre Counter. Gawain Jones easily converted a positional advantage into extra material after a seemingly quiet opening where black made a couple of questionable decisions. Board 5 saw an interesting tussle between Nick Pert and Glenn Flear where black had an extra pawn but white had some space. As someone who prefers to grab pawns and worry about compensation later I was more convinced by Glenn's position throughout the game. Mark Hebden had a nominal edge against Pia Cramling but black always looked secure on board 6. Board 7 started quietly but then exploded into life before the time control. John Emms, as black, was allowed a dangerous passed e pawn which Ketevan Arakhamia-Grant was unable to stop. Sophie Milliet played an enterprising gambit against Neil McDonald but he gave up material which allowed Sophie to play without risk having an extra pawn in a rook and opposite coloured bishop ending which Neil was able to hold. This meant that Pride and Prejudice won the match 6-2 and secured their first 4NCL Division One title. Congratulations to the team and to Claire Summerscale, their manager. Their team has changed a lot since they first set foot in the 4NCL. Initially a team that fielded mainly women, then juniors, they have now evolved to a team that regularly fields three of the England team and a number of other experienced English GMs with a foreign female player.

The earlier rounds of the weekend had seen WGHK1 win a tough match against Barbican with Luke McShane winning against Jonathan Parker on top board. This, combined with wins on boards 5 and 8, helped them to a 5-3 victory, despite Max Devereaux winning against Ketevan Arakhamia. Pride and Prejudice were able to overtake them on game points though as they scored heavily against White Rose and e2e4.org.uk.

White Rose clinched third place with an impressive win against Cheddleton by winning the bottom two boards (wins for Paul Townsend against Paul Wallace and Lateefah Messam-Sparks against the much higher rated WIM Fiona Steil-Antoni from Luxembourg) and showing great resilience in some of the other games with Colin McNab holding a knight and pawn ending against Danny Gormally in the last game to finish. This victory, coupled with their win against Betsson in round 8 ensured they clinched a European Club Cup place and they finished with a creditable 4-4 draw with Barbican. They have clearly had a great season and have managed to finish above teams with far bigger budgets and higher rated players.

Cheddleton finished their first season in the top flight in fourth place and Jonathan Hawkins secured his first GM norm after a great result on top board which included wins against Parker, Gordon and Conquest. He has made huge progress in the last couple of years and I won't be surprised to see him making more norms in the near future. The team also added Elisabeth Paehtz and Richard Pert to the team for the final weekend to ensure a good finish.

Of the other teams e2e4.org.uk had an outstanding first season in the initial group stage and Yang-Fan Zhou gained yet another IM norm which he can add to his collection. He should become a ratified IM at the next FIDE meeting in June and is likely to have a rating around 2450 in July. He is still only sixteen and is an outstanding talent who I hope can keep improving and fulfil his potential. He is also a great role model to the other juniors and I hope his results will help inspire them to keep playing. I should also thank David Howell for his work with Yang-Fan and hope this will continue. I was also pleased to see Ameet Ghasi return to international chess for the first time in five years and a draw with Elisabeth Paetz and a win against Richard Bates was a very encouraging comeback. His only loss came against Sergei Tiviakov.

Both Betsson and Barbican finished slightly lower than expected but were involved in a number of close matches which could have gone either way whilst Guildford had a good final weekend to avoid last place.

The top three teams qualify for the European Club Cup in 2011 although as WGHK have already turned down their place this means that P&P, White Rose and Cheddleton are currently the three teams able to take up places. At the time of writing only White Rose have confirmed their intentions so it is still possible that Betsson will get a chance to play and I am aware that e2e4 are also interested should enough teams turn down the opportunity.

Team	P	W	D	L	GP	Pts
Wood Green Hilsmark 2	7	6	1	0	37	13
Cambridge University 1	7	6	0	1	34½	12
The AD's	7	4	1	2	31	9
Barbican 4NCL 2	7	4	0	3	33	8
Oxford 1	7	3	1	3	27	7
Pandora's Box Grantham	7	1	1	5	19	3
Sambuca Sharks	7	1	0	6	23½	2
Warwickshire Select 1	7	1	0	6	19	2

The demotion pool was mostly about relegation but Wood Green Hilsmark Kingfisher 2 beat Cambridge to top the pool despite having to play their joker as I was asked to fill a vacant board leaving Brian Smith free to look after Pia Cramling's daughter. Congratulations also to Peter Sowray who secured an IM norm.

The crucial relegation battles were realistically between ADs, Barbican 2 and Oxford. Sophie Tidman continued her fine run of form for Oxford. She started the weekend on 4/6 and performing at 2293. She won on Saturday against Pandora's Box and drew a complicated game against IM Craig Hanley leaving her assured of a norm if she played anyone rated over 2235 or a draw against anyone lower. Sadly, she was unable to do this and lost to Jana Bellin. Her rating performance was still 2240 for the season and probably her best career result to date. I hope to see her playing more as she remains one of our strongest women. Sadly for Oxford their 4-4 draw in round 9 against Pandora's Box was followed by defeats to WGHK2 and in the vital eleventh round they were overpowered 6.5-1.5 by the ADs. So, not only did they miss out on norms for Sophie and David Zakarian but they also fell into the bottom four meaning they will play in Division 2 next season. Barbican 2 secured their escape by winning in rounds 10 and 11 and Chris Dorrington made his first IM norm whilst Kanwal Bhatia narrowly missed out on her first WIM norm.

Team	P	W	D	L	GP	Pts
Jutes of Kent	7	5	0	2	33½	10
Anglian Avengers 1	7	3	4	0	29½	10
Bristol 1	7	3	1	3	29½	7
Guildford A&DC 2	7	3	1	3	26	7
Poisoned Pawns 1	7	3	0	4	28½	6
Barbican Youth	7	3	0	4	26½	6
Wessex 1	7	2	2	3	26	6
Rhyfelwyr Essyllwg	7	1	2	4	24½	4

Jutes of Kent recruited GM Luis Galego from Portugal and IM Bjorn Thorfinnsson and this enabled them to win all three matches to move from fifth to top the division (albeit round 9 was only 4.5-3.5 against Poisoned Pawns). Bjorn lost to Andrew Dunn and Luis was held to a draw but wins by GM Simon Williams, WFM Aly Wilson and Alexis Harakis saw them home.

Barbican Youth were the team to slip out of the promotion places although, as Barbican 2 survived, they would not have been able to take promotion anyway. Anglian Avengers had a great season and finished second only on game points to Jutes. Their strength in depth enabled them to draw 4-4 with Bristol despite taking only 0.5 on the top four. Their last round 4-4 draw with Wessex also led to Wessex finishing seventh whereas a 4.5-3.5 victory to Wessex would have seen them finish fourth by half a game point! Guildford 2 therefore took fourth place ahead of Wessex whilst Bristol secured third by winning against Barbican Youth.

Both Jutes and Bristol look well equipped to establish themselves in Division 1 whilst it will be interesting to see how Anglian Avengers fare, they have certainly been one of the success stories of this season. Guildford 2's chances may largely depend on how strong their first team is.

Team	P	W	D	L	GP	Pts
South Wales Dragons	7	5	1	1	35	11
White Rose 2	7	4	2	1	30	10
AMCA Dragons	7	3	3	1	30	9
Kings Head	7	3	2	2	29½	8
Cambridge University 2	7	3	1	3	26	7
3Cs 1	7	2	1	4	29½	5
Sambuca Black Sheep	7	1	2	4	23	4
Poisoned Pawns 2	7	0	2	5	18½	2

The demotion pool saw AMCA Dragons, Kings Head and White Rose all win in round 9 to virtually secure their survival. AMCA won 5.5-2.5 against Cambridge 2 with James Holland amongst the winners on board 3, whilst White Rose 2 win against 3Cs, which left Cambridge and 3Cs with too much to do. Despite both winning in round 10, they finished with a 4-4 draw and were both relegated, along with Sambuca Black Sheep and Poisoned Pawns 2. South Wales Dragons topped the pool on 11 match points

Team	P	W	D	L	GP	Pts
Bradford DCA Knights A	11	9	1	1	42	19
Spirit of Atticus	11	9	1	1	40½	19
Brown Jack	11	8	1	2	44	17
FCA Solutions 1	11	7	2	2	41½	16
Celtic Tigers 1	11	7	2	2	41	16
e2e4.org.uk 2	11	6	4	1	38	16
Wessex 2	11	7	1	3	39	15
Braille Chess Assoc	11	7	0	4	39	14
Iceni	11	6	2	3	38	14
Oxford 2	11	5	4	2	35½	14
Anglian Avengers 2	11	6	1	4	39	13
Warwickshire Select 2	11	6	1	4	38	13
KJCA Kings	11	6	1	4	34	13
Sussex Smart Controls	11	6	1	4	30½	13
The Rookies	11	3	6	2	36½	12
Holmes Chapel	11	5	2	4	36	12
Cheddleton 2	11	6	0	5	34	12
FCA Solutions 2	11	5	2	4	33	12
AMCA Rhinos	11	4	3	4	33½	11
e2e4.org.uk 3	11	5	1	5	33½	11
Metropolitan	11	5	1	5	33	11
Guildford A&DC 3	11	5	1	5	32½	11
British Universities CA	11	5	1	5	31	11
Gloucestershire Gambits	11	5	1	5	31	11
Bristol 2	11	4	2	5	31½	10
Bradford DCA Knights B	11	5	0	6	28	10
The Full Ponty	11	3	3	5	32½	9
Hackney	11	2	5	4	30	9
3Cs 2	11	4	1	6	30	9
e2e4.org.uk 4	11	4	1	6	26½	9
Oxford 3	11	2	4	5	30½	8
Halesowen	11	4	0	7	28½	8
Jorvik	8	4	0	4	25	8



AMCA Hippos	10	3	1	6	28½	7
KJCA Knights	11	3	1	7	26½	7
Banbury Bulldogs	10	3	1	6	25	7
Celtic Tigers 2	9	3	1	5	22½	7
Manchester Manticores	11	3	1	7	22	7
Channel Isolani	8	2	2	4	21½	6
Guildford A&DC 4	8	2	1	5	17½	5
UCL	8	2	1	5	16½	5
Aigburth	11	2	0	9	26	4
Bristol 3	11	2	0	9	20	4
SCS	11	1	1	9	14	3

Division 3 saw the 8 northern teams joining up for the final weekend meaning Bradford DCA Knights and The Spirit of Atticus carried forward points from the first four weekends to head the table.

Brown Jack defeated Bradford 4-2 in round 9 whilst Atticus won 3.5-2.5 against Wessex 2 thanks to a win by John Carleton on top board. There were also wins for Celtic Tigers, Oxford 2, e2e4.org.uk 2 and the Braille.

Round 10 saw promotion for both Bradford & Atticus as Brown Jack were unable to make their rating advantage tell against Atticus and David Robertson secured the only decisive result on board 5. Bradford won 4-2 against Celtic Tigers with Ben Hague defeating Ryczard Maciol on top board and their were also wins for e2e4.org.uk 2, FCA Solutions and the Braille.

Round 11 saw Brown Jack join the top two northern sides in Division 2 next season as they overcame Warwickshire Select 2 thanks to wins from Mike Truran, Richard Haydon and Pablo Padilla Cabero. e2e4.org.uk 2 needed to win against Atticus but despite heavily outrating them on the bottom 5 and securing a draw on top board they were held to 3-3 with James Jackson the only winner. This enabled FCA Solutions who won 4-2 against Oxford 2 to claim the fourth remaining promotion place ahead of Celtic Tigers by half a game point! e2e4 also finished on 16 points but were 3 game points behind the Celts.

On behalf of the players and officials I would like to thank the Barcelo Hotel in Hinckley for hosting the weekend and enabling us to hold all three divisions at the same venue.



McShane vs Adams (background); Hammer vs Howell



Pia Cramling vs Mark Hebden



Neil McDonald vs. Sophie Milliet



Lateefah Messam-Sparks, Peter Sowray

## The ChEx Bookshelf

Each issue in this column, Chief Executive Andrew Farthing introduces a noteworthy book of interest to the average player

### CHESS IS HIS LIFE

On 23 March 2011, Viktor Korchnoi celebrated his 80th birthday. A legendary figure in the history of chess, Korchnoi has crossed swords with every world champion from Botvinnik to Anand and continues to take delight in showing grandmasters less than a quarter of his age that they just may still have a thing or two to learn from the maestro.

In honour of the great man, this double-length edition of the ChEx Bookshelf looks at a selection of his published works.

#### Part 1: Autobiography

Make no bones about it, Korchnoi's **Chess is my Life** (Batsford, 1977; updated, expanded edition published by Edition Olms, 2005), is the most absorbing chess autobiography ever written. The career it describes contains so many highlights that no summary could do it justice, but here are some headlines:

- 4-time Soviet Champion (1960, 1962, 1964/5 and 1970);
- 9-time Candidate (1962, 1968, 1971, 1974, 1977, 1980, 1983, 1988 and 1991);
- Twice World Championship Challenger to Karpov (losing 5-6 after 32 absorbing games in 1978, after fighting back from 2-5 to 5-5 over the course of just four games; losing 2-6 after 18 games in 1981);
- Won matches against Reshevsky, Tal, Geller, Mecking, Petrosian (3 times!), Polugayevsky, Hübner, Spassky among others;
- First place – alone or shared – in nearly 100 tournaments;
- In the years 1970-1978, played Karpov 65 times, achieving a score of +11 -13 = 41, notwithstanding the enormous combined resources of Soviet chess lined up against him and in support of his opponent;
- At the Tradewise Gibraltar International Open in 2011, just weeks before his 80th birthday, scored 6/10



for a tournament performance rating of 2632 – including a missed brilliancy in his final round game (which he went on to lose).

And that's just the chess! Throughout his playing career, Korchnoi has been a magnet for controversy and admiration in equal measure: from his days as a “rebel” in the Soviet Union, through his defection in 1976 (when he famously approached Tony Miles to ask how to pronounce the word “asylum”) the emotionally-charged matches against the cream of Soviet chess (while enduring a boycott by Eastern Bloc players in international tournaments) and his agreeing to play a candidates match against Kasparov in 1983 which he had originally won by default, to the current feisty octogenarian with the twinkle in his eye who grumpily lectures his young opponents on their chess ignorance.

This article is appearing in the newsletter of the English Chess Federation, so mention should be made of some of Korchnoi's memorable appearances in this country. They serve to give a flavour of both the man and the autobiography:

- 1955/56 – equal first at Hastings, including a short sparkling draw with Taimanov, which Korchnoi freely admits was arranged beforehand: “[Taimanov] was rather afraid of me and, since I had White, he persuaded me to ‘compose’ the game. It turned out to be quite brilliant. Later, in his book Chess Encounters, he went into raptures about how brilliantly we had played – but in fact the whole game had been worked out beforehand!”
- 1971-72 – equal first at Hastings, shared with Karpov (whom Korchnoi beat – a rare decisive result between Soviet players at the event). Another anecdote, concerning the last round, is typical: “Karpov [needing a win to tie with Korchnoi] adjourned his game in a slightly better ending. I sensed how important it was for me to be the sole winner of the tournament. I remembered Petrosian, and I remembered Suetin, who helped Silvino Garcia to analyse his game against me in the last round of the 1969 Havana tournament. But I decided that what was most important was my reputation. And besides, a young player needs to be educated, even if only indirectly. So at the time when Karpov was analysing his position, I, on the other side of the wall, deliberately moved about in my room, clearly letting him know that I was not interested in helping him.”
- 1973 – European Team Championships in Bath. A mediocre performance by Korchnoi, marked by the death of his intended roommate, Leonid Stein, who suffered a fatal heart attack (“the chess player's occupational disease”) on the eve of their departure.

- 1975-76 – A final appearance at Hastings and a superficially unimpressive 4th place. The book sets this in context: following his narrow defeat by Karpov in their 1974 Candidates Final match, Korchnoi had made some typically frank remarks in a published interview and had been effectively banned from playing for nearly a year. Hastings was one of his first events after what must have been an anxious time. It marked the point at which Korchnoi's break for freedom was decided: *"When I set off for Hastings, I took with me a number of chess books and photo-albums. All this I sent after the tournament to Sosonko, now a Dutch master, in Amsterdam. I played badly in the tournament, and took fourth place."*

- 1980 – A shared first place with Miles and Andersson in the Phillips & Drew Kings tournament in London. That Korchnoi came first was no surprise, but his inconsistent play was nowhere near as convincing as his performances of a year or two before, an indication that his chances for the World Championship were perhaps now behind him.

- 1983 – Korchnoi is in London to play a Candidates semi-final match against some young kid called Kasparov. A political dispute had led initially to Kasparov's default, but Korchnoi agreed to play anyway, in return for a payment and the cessation of the Soviet boycott against him in tournaments. Korchnoi won the first game but eventually lost 4-7. (*"As I soon learned, Karpov was very upset about me. It appeared, as Karpov and the people in his camp thought, that I had thrown the match! [...] I don't like to explain my failures as being due to inexplicable, secondary factors. But after the match the following point of view was expressed to me by many people. If I had got it into my head that I never wanted to play a match with Karpov again, subconsciously it would indeed have been hard for me to fight against Kasparov."*)

- 1984 – The Phillips & Drew in London again. Korchnoi's result was middling – equal 7th with 6½/13, but the tournament saw him competing with Karpov in the same tournament again. This was a welcome sign that the days of boycotts were over but also perhaps an indication that Korchnoi was no longer considered a "threat". (A quarter of a century later, of course, Korchnoi is still doing his best impression of a chess-playing Duracell bunny, while Karpov has been effectively retired for several years!)

- 2009 and 2010 – The London Chess Classic is seeking a figure of sufficient stature to be its guest of honour. Who're you going to call? You guessed it!

I have taken the liberty of quoting at length from *Chess is my Life* because there is no better way to convey the quality of Korchnoi's narrative. He is utterly unafraid to reveal what was going on behind the scenes of his games, even when it does not necessarily show him in a favourable light. Like no other chess autobiography, one comes away from this book believing that it is an honest account.

Of course, Korchnoi is only human, and there is undoubtedly some score-settling going on, particularly in the earlier Batsford edition, in which the wounds were still very much open and hurting. By 2005, age had brought about a more reflective state of mind, and the resulting tone is, if not exactly mellow, a little more conciliatory at times. That said, I am not convinced that this makes for a better book. The 1976 edition grips the reader by the throat and does not let go. I have read it several times and it continues to fascinate me. The 2005 edition is excellent (and comes with a CD of Korchnoi's complete games to that time – a staggering 4,280 in all), but to the first-time reader it may not have the same visceral impact as the original had on me when I first encountered it.

Both versions of the book open in the same way, with the tale of an encounter with a Russian aristocrat in the main square of Palma de Mallorca in 1968. The man was able to trace his ancestry to the 16th century, to the time of a peasants' uprising against Ivan the Terrible. Korchnoi comments, *"A person who can trace his family back for many centuries is to be envied. Such a man stands firmly on the earth. [...] In our times, when wars alternate with social upheavals, few can boast of an extensive genealogical past. I am especially unfortunate. I did not even know my grandfathers."* Korchnoi uses this story to introduce what he knows of his family background, but there is more to it than this. As the narrative unfolds, one sees the extent to which Korchnoi has to fight for whatever he achieves. He was not a child prodigy, and for many years he had to contend with the machinations of fellow Soviet grandmasters who were much more in tune with the powerful political machine which directed their lives. Korchnoi's description of his family background establishes him as a lone figure, struggling to survive and prosper, and as a result his achievements appear all the more extraordinary.

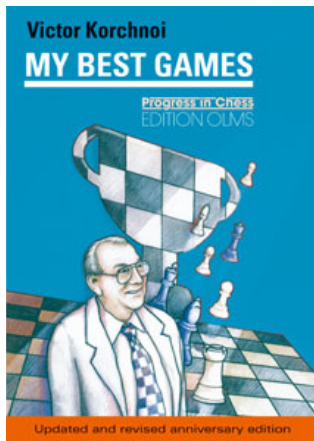
The 2005 edition of *Chess is my Life* includes eight annotated games, study of which will doubtless prove instructive. Far more inspiring, however, is the chance to spend a few hours reading the words of the most tenacious, energetic and youthful Grand Old Man of chess there has ever been and, I suspect, ever will be.



If you can read this book and NOT feel just a scintilla of new determination to succeed when next you sit at a chess board, there may well be no hope for you.

## Part 2: Annotated Games

For the second *Chess Moves* in a row, this column is dangerously close to topicality. Admittedly, Part 1 featured an autobiography that is at best six years old (and in its earlier edition, nearly 35 years old!), but Part 2 now considers a games collection which is hot off the press: Viktor Korchnoi's **My Best Games** (Edition Olms).



This is an updated and revised edition in one volume of two previous Olms

collections, *Volume 1: Games with White* and *Volume 2: Games with Black* (both published in 2001). Each volume contained 50 games, selected and annotated by Korchnoi, from the period 1951 to 2000. The new combined edition adds 10 new games, including several from the last decade.

With literally thousands of games to choose from, it comes as no surprise that this is a tremendously entertaining collection. Even restricting himself to games which he won left Korchnoi with over two thousand from which to choose! Korchnoi makes clear in his Foreword that the selection was based on a wish for variety. As a result, the games are well spread across his entire career and include a considerable diversity of opponents and openings. That the selection should also have been based on the quality and fighting nature of the chess was almost inevitable, given the nature of the man who played the games. Having explained his criteria, Korchnoi adds, *“And one more thing. Chess is my life, and these games are fragments of this life. And, naturally, I wanted to accompany each such fragment with a conversation with chess enthusiasts. If during the course of a game I found there was nothing to the readers, I rejected it, however good the game!”*

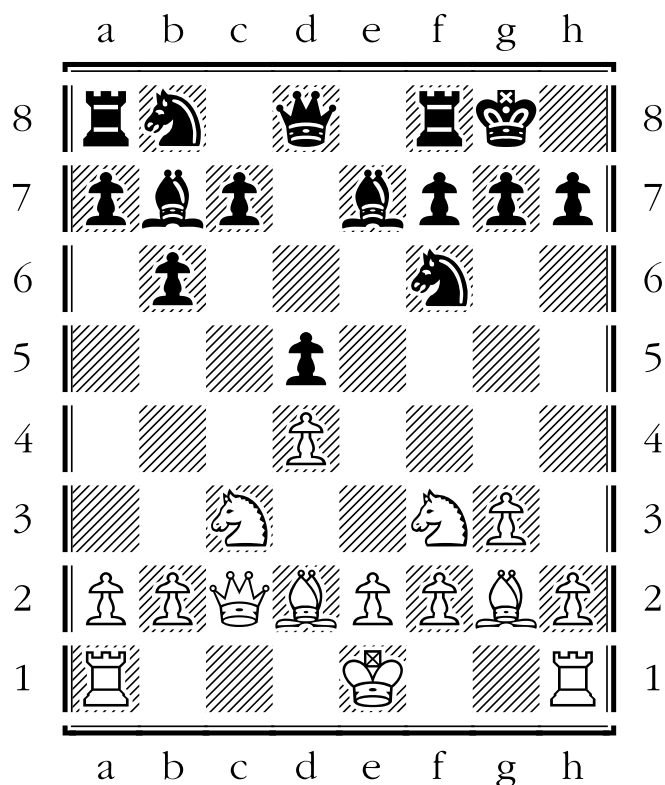
If you are anything like me, these words will have been like a neon sign above the book, saying “Buy me! Buy me!” Annotated games collections are a favourite type of chess book for me, but even I must admit that some of them can be dry. When an author signals so clearly that he wants to go beyond the moves and show something of the personality behind them, this is

always good news.

Korchnoi does not disappoint. Each game is fully, but not exhaustively, analysed, at an average of four pages per game. This is detailed enough to be of interest to players of many levels but not so detailed as to deter the average player with forests of variations. His notes feature verbal explanations of what is going on in the position and what the plans are for both sides as well as illustrative variations where necessary. Korchnoi's personality does indeed shine through, e.g. in the transparent delight he takes from showing that he can beat grandmasters much younger than himself and in his willingness to acknowledge his own errors as well as those of his opponent. There is a very real sense of the games being viewed through the prism of 50-60 years' experience, which imbues the notes with a wisdom and authority few authors could match. Any club player who studies this book is certain to benefit.

By way of illustration, here is a sample of some of the notes (in *italics*) to the game **Korchnoi – Hübner, Johannesburg 1981**. Let's pick up the story after the opening moves:

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.Nc3 Bb7 5.Bf4 Be7?! (*I would characterise this move as a display of nihilism, typical of Hübner's mentality in general!*) 6.Qc2 Nh5 7.Bd2 d5 8.cxd5 exd5 9.g3 0-0 10.Bg2 Nf6**



**11.0-0**



*This type of position occurs quite often in modern play. Omniscient theory asserts that White has the advantage. His plan is clear – pressure on the queenside. The black c-pawn will always be a target for attack - whether it stands at c7, c6 or c5. Sometimes, both in this last case, when ...c7-c5 has been played, or as in the present game, Black has problems with the defence of his d5 pawn. For a long time he is deprived of counterplay. In order to create an offensive on the kingside, he has to weaken the pawns in front of his king, which, with the centre half-open, may (and often does!) have unfortunate consequences.*

*Despite all that has been said, I have to admit that this type of position does not attract me either for White, or for Black. This is a dry, meticulous form of chess. The diverse forms of the chess struggle are replaced here by pressure on the c- and d-files. Such play demands of White neither imagination, nor the ability to take risks.*

*However, a top-class grandmaster should, in principle, be able to play any type of position. And equally strongly. Let us see how I cope with this...*

### 11...Re8?!

*In this position some grandmasters would have played 11...c5, not worrying about the creation of hanging pawns - after all, they are not only a weakness, but also in some cases a source of dangerous counterplay! Others might have played 11...Nbd7. But Hübner delays both one, and the other. Well-known, for example, is the plan with the manoeuvre ...Nb8-a6-c7(c5)-e6. There is no denying that freedom to manoeuvre determines the advantage of one of the sides in a chess game, just as freedom of movement determines the superiority of the democratic system over the totalitarian... But did not Hübner overestimate the virtues of his position? Did he really have such a free choice?*

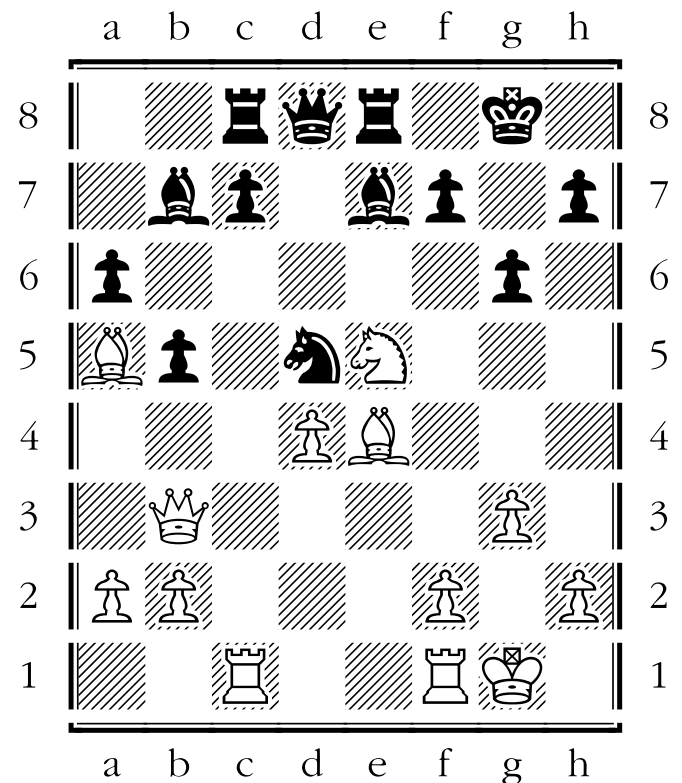
### 12.Ne5

*This is now one of several possible moves. In the event of 12...c5 13 dxc5 bxc5 14 Qb3 Qb6 15 Nc4! Black has serious difficulties over the defence of his d5 pawn, while if 12...Bd6, then 13 Nc4 is again unpleasant. And after the planned 12...Nbd7 there would have followed 13 Qa4 with the threats of Nc6 and Nxd7. After the forced 13...Nxe5 14 dxe5 Ne4 15 Nxe4 dxe4 16 Rfd1 White has a significant positional advantage in view of his superior mobilisation and the weakness of the e4 pawn.*

### 12...a6 13.Qb3 Nbd7 14.Rad1?!

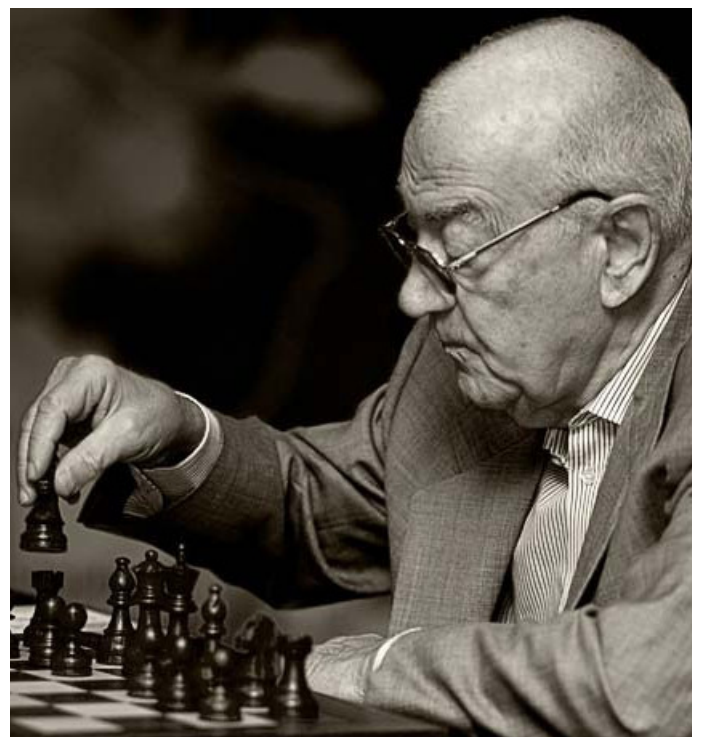
*In his note to White's 11th move, the commentator explained everything correctly - the rooks should stand at c1 and d1. But he himself places the wrong rook at d1! This mistake will cost White an important tempo...*

**14...b5 15.Nxd5?! Nxd5 16.Ba5 N7f6 17.e4 Rc8! 18.Rc1 Nxe4? (This move loses quickly. 18...Bd6 was correct.) 19.Bxe4 g6**



**20.Rc6!** (Finally destroying Black's defences on the light squares!) **20...Nf6 21.Nxf7 Qxd4 22.Ng5+ Kh8 23.Bc3** (After the queen moves, both 24 Rxf6 and 24 Qf7 are decisive.) **1-0**

Korchnoi's *My Best Games* is a delight from start to finish. Highly recommended.



## Book Reviews from Gary Lane

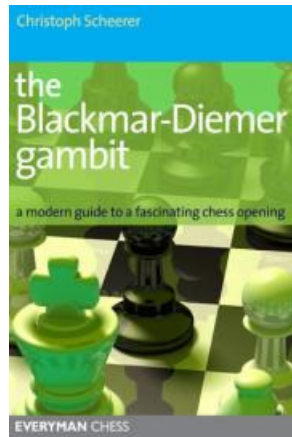
### **The Blackmar-Diemer Gambit**

by **Christopher Scheerer**

Published by Everyman Chess £16.99

This is one of the great gambit openings loved by amateurs but shunned by top players. I remember as a junior at my local club several enthusiasts playing the opening and being rewarded with spectacular looking victories. I was so impressed that I tried it in blitz numerous times and even wrote a book on the subject in the 1990s. The opening can arise from various move-orders but the usual ones are 1 d4 d5 2 e4 dxe4 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 f3 exf3 5 Nxf3 or 1 d4 Nf6 2 Nc3 d5 3 e4 fxe4 4 f3 exf3 5 Nxf3 and if you are really cheeky 1 e4 d5 and now 2 d4. The author admits he is new to the opening but with the benefit of computer analysis is able to revive some lines and destroy others. The basic truth is that you give up a pawn for a bit of play but the real reward is the chance to win an amazing game featuring an all out attack. I hasten to add that if you want to improve your level of play then stick to the Queen's Gambit but if you want fun on the board then this gambit is for you. I should mention that if you just want a celebration of spectacular games then look out for Englishman Alan Dommett's Emil Josef Diemer 1908-1990 – A Life Devoted to Chess. This hardback publication is published by the Book Guild in England although curiously not mentioned in Scheerer's bibliography. Even so Scheerer deserves a gold medal for managing to track down enough games to fill 335 pages but as it is an opening largely played by amateurs he is often struggling for decent games at international level. There are numerous Internet games where you have no idea the strength of the players such as on page 150 with an example played between BDG\_Girl against WhiteKnight. I also noticed that on page 148/9 an analysis against the BDG by James Rizzitano is knocked down by an improvement in the main illustrative game between M.Ly-A.Short, Adelaide 2004. Just by chance I witnessed that game so I realise it was between players rated 1646 and a 1482. Still, I have a fondness for the BDG where the pawn deficit will mean you lose a few games but occasionally will win like a superstar.

The best book available on the Blackmar-Diemer Gambit.



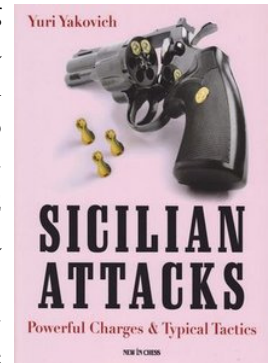
### **Sicilian Attacks**

by **Yuri Yakovich**

Published by New in Chess £16.99

This is a collection of games where the opening is the Sicilian and the play tends to be brilliant. It is not a repertoire book so opening enthusiasts can forget the idea that it is Beat the Sicilian 4 but an effort is made by the author to point out typical attacks, sacrifices and general ideas. The 32 games are well annotated with a nice mix of prose and analysis. There is enough supporting variations to make it appealing to the strong club player and the games are brilliant enough to appeal to those who just want to appreciate good chess.

An insight into attacking chess.

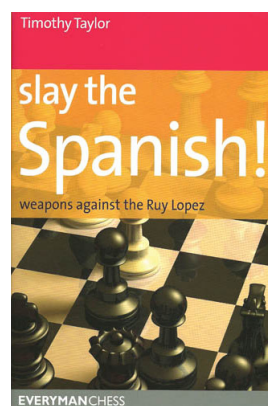


### **Slay the Spanish**

by **Timothy Taylor**

Published by Everyman £16.99

The American author wants Black to take on the Spanish (or Ruy Lopez as I like to call it) with lines that are a little bit different. The answer to the main line Spanish is apparently the Modern Steinitz (1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 4 Ba4 and now 4...d6) which would admittedly confuse a lot of club players who are used to the usual Chigorin or Marshall. I like Taylor's chatty approach and at one point he almost convinces me to take up his recommended opening. He also takes time



out to find a way to fight the Spanish Exchange (1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 4 Bxc6) which he generally thinks can lead to a hard fight in an ending. He suggests after 4...dxc6 5 0-0 to play 5...Bg4. I tried this in the last round of the British Championship 2009 against David Howell when the game continued 6 h3 h5 7 d3 Qf6 and now 8 Be3 which Taylor suggests is a good way of White obtaining an easy draw. I suspect White might try to win which is why sometimes the analysis from the Black point of view is rather optimistic. This is especially true when he encourages readers to take on the Spanish Exchange by taking back the bishop with 4...bxc6, which I think is rather hopeful, but does the job of making White think in the opening. A more than useful repertoire for the club player.



## LAKE DISTRICT CHESS HOLIDAYS

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## BATSFORD Chess Competition

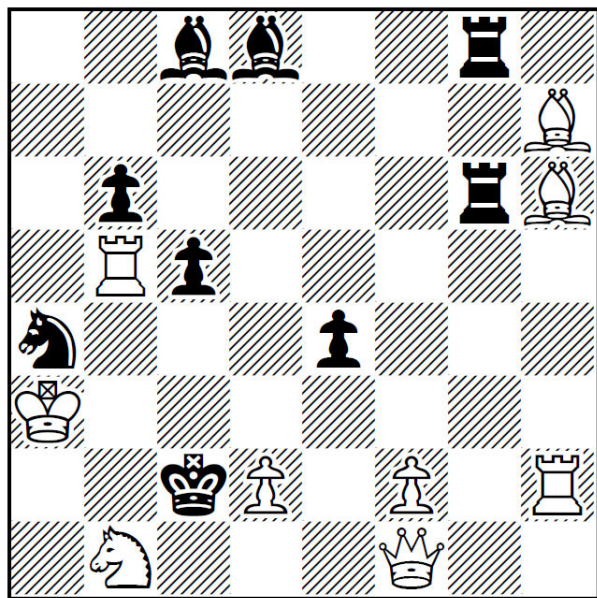
Well done to the March / April  
Batsford competition winner --

**R Mitchinson of York!**

The correct answer was - **1.Ke3**

Here's the next problem ...

**R L Wynne - The Problemist, 1937**



**White to play and mate in 2 ...**

Please send your answer (just the first move is sufficient) on a postcard to the ECF Office, The Watch Oak, Chain Lane, Battle, East Sussex TN33 0YD

The first correct entry drawn on 10th July 2011 will win a Batsford voucher for any book on their current list! Good luck

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# Tournament Calendar

## LEGEND –

- # British Championships qualifying tournament
- @ FIDE rated
- \* ECF Grand Prix
- ~ ECF graded event

All congresses graded by the ECF are part of the official Grand Prix

~ 13-15 May

**Rhyl Congress 2011**, Town Hall, Wellington Road, Rhyl Contact: Stuart Hamilton Tel: 01745 350367 Organiser's address: 20 Victoria Avenue, Rhyl, Denbighshire LL18 1ER

~ 14 May

**Chipping Sodbury Rapidplay**, Chipping Sodbury Town Hall, Broad St., Chipping Sodbury BS37 6AD Contact: Graham Mill-Wilson Email: tugmw@blueyonder.co.uk 3 Sections - Open, Major (U165), Minor (U130) - 6 rounds, 25 mins on the clock per round Organiser's address: 8 Lyndale Road, Yate, Bristol BS37 4DD

~ 14 May

**Golders Green Rapidplay**, Golders Green Parish Church Hall, West Heath Drive, Golders Green, London NW11 7QG Contact: Adam Raoof Website: <http://goldersgreengchess.blogspot.com/>

~ 15 May

**National Girls' Championships Southern Qualifier**, Ashdown House School, Forest Row, East Sussex RH15 5JY Contact: Sabrina Chevannes Email: [sabrinachevannes@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sabrinachevannes@hotmail.co.uk) - Southern qualifier for the National Girls' Chess Championships. There are four qualifiers and one final. The final is on Saturday 2nd July 2011 Website: [http://www.chevanneschessacademy.com/WC\\_nationalgirlschesschampionships.html](http://www.chevanneschessacademy.com/WC_nationalgirlschesschampionships.html)

15 May

**Junior Chess Championships**, Bootham Junior School, Rawcliffe Lane, York YO30 6NP Contact: Peter Cloudsdale Email: [cloudsdale\\_c@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:cloudsdale_c@hotmail.co.uk) Tel: 01904 767177 | Includes training from 2pm | For school ages 4-10 from the York area

# 20-22 May

**Sheffield Chess Congress**, Firth Park Community Arts College Contact: Paul Bailey Email: [congress2011@sheffieldanddistrictchess.org.uk](mailto:congress2011@sheffieldanddistrictchess.org.uk) Website: <http://www.sheffieldanddistrictchess.org.uk/congress2011> The winner of the Open qualifies for the 2011 British Championship

21 May

**Great Yarmouth & Lowestoft Junior Chess Congress**, Herman Primary School, Oriel Avenue, Gorleston, Norfolk NR31 7JL Contact: Arthur Sparkes Email: [arthursparkes@madasafish.com](mailto:arthursparkes@madasafish.com) Open to all Juniors (not restricted to Norfolk residents) of 16 years or under

~ 21 May

**Champions' League Infants Event**, 84-90 Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 3BA Contact: Scott Freeman Email: [chess@ccfworld.com](mailto:chess@ccfworld.com) Tel: 020 8645 0302 Fax: 020 8645 0412 Website: <http://www.ccfworld.com/Chess/>

~ 21 May

**Sussex Junior Worthing Rapidplay**, Thomas A Becket Middle School, Glebeside Avenue, Worthing, West Sussex BN14 7PR Contact: Paula Payne Email: [entrymanager@sussexjuniorchess.org](mailto:entrymanager@sussexjuniorchess.org) - 6 rounds rapidplay in 4 sections; U11 Minor & Major, U18 Minor & Major. Open to all aged under 18 on 31st August 2010 | Entry form - <http://www.sussexjuniorchess.org/Forms/GP6WorthingMay.pdf>

~\* 22 May

**Richmond Rapidplay 95**, The White House, The Avenue, Hampton, TW12 3RN Contact: James Coleman Website: <http://www.surreyrapidchess.org> Email: [rapidplay@aol.com](mailto:rapidplay@aol.com)

23 May

**Victoria Gardens Blitz Chess Club 10 Minute Tournament**, Victoria Hotel, 28 George Street, Leeds (behind Town hall) Contact: Tony Ibbitson or Eric Davies Tel: 07875553775 or 07736069393 Email: [tony@leedschess-](mailto:tony@leedschess-)



club.org

## **24 May**

**Greater London Chess Club Evening Blitz**, Greater London Chess Club, St Georges Bloomsbury, 6-7 Little Russell St, London WC1A 2HR Contact: Nigel Blades Email: [nigelblades@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:nigelblades@blueyonder.co.uk) - Single section Swiss tournament, starting 6.45pm, finishing by 10pm. Number of rounds dependent on entry - Entry form: [http://www.glcc.org.uk/GLCCEveningBlitz\\_24May.pdf](http://www.glcc.org.uk/GLCCEveningBlitz_24May.pdf) Website: <http://www.glcc.org.uk/>

## **@~#\* 27-30 May**

**e2e4 Sunningdale Congress**, De Veres Sunningdale Hotel, Sunningdale Park, Larch Avenue, Ascot, Berkshire SL5 0QE Contact: Sean Hewitt Email: [info@e2e4.org.uk](mailto:info@e2e4.org.uk) Website:

<http://www.e2e4.org.uk/sunningdale/May2011/index.htm> - Three Sections: FIDE Rated Open; FIDE Rated Major (Under 2000 / 170 ECF); Minor (Under 140) | Entry form - <http://www.e2e4.org.uk/sunningdale/May2011/Sunningdale2011.pdf>

## **\*~ 28 May**

**Poplar Rapid-Play Tournament**, Langley Hall, Saint Nicholas' Church Centre, Aberfeldy Street, Poplar, London E14 0QD Contact: Norman Went Email: [docklandschess@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:docklandschess@yahoo.co.uk) Website: [www.spanglefish.com/dockland-schessclub](http://www.spanglefish.com/dockland-schessclub)

## **~ 28-30 May**

**44th Cotswold Chess Congress**, St. Edward's School, Cheltenham Contact: Mike Powis Email: [mike.powis@which.net](mailto:mike.powis@which.net)

## **~\*# 28-30 May**

**Essex Chess Association Congress**, Abbs Cross School, Abbs Cross Lane, Hornchurch, Essex RM12 4YB Contact: David Brock Email: [davidbrock@trustgroup.me](mailto:davidbrock@trustgroup.me) Website: <http://www.spanglefish.com/essexchess-congress> Swiss Tournament of 6 Rounds of Chess (2 on each day) with an Open, Major and Minor Sections

## **29 May**

**Letchworth and Hitchin Rapidplay Chess Congress**, St Francis' College, Broadway, Letchworth Garden City, Herts SG6 3PJ Contact: David Heath Website: [www.lechworthchess.com](http://www.lechworthchess.com) E-mail: [lechworth.congress@lechworthchess.com](mailto:lechworth.congress@lechworthchess.com)

## **~ 30 May**

**CCF Junior County Championships & CCF Exchange Chess Club**, 84-90 Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 3BA Contact: Scott Freeman Email: [chess@ccfworld.com](mailto:chess@ccfworld.com) Tel: 020 8645 0302 Fax: 020 8645 0412 Website: <http://www.ccfworld.com/Chess/>

## **\*~ 4-5 Jun**

**2011 EACU Chess Congress**, Turner Hall, Church Lane, Newmarket CB8 0HL Contact: Richard Freeman Email: [richard@fcasolutions.co.uk](mailto:richard@fcasolutions.co.uk) Tel: 01908 234014 - Five-round Swiss tournament with three sections: Open; U170; U130

## **~ 5 Jun**

**National Girls' Championships Northern Qualifier**, Alwoodley Community Centre, The Avenue, Alwoodley, Leeds LS17 1QN Contact: Sabrina Chevannes Email: [sabrinachevannes@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sabrinachevannes@hotmail.co.uk) - Northern qualifier for the National Girls' Chess Championships. There are four qualifiers and one final. The final is on Saturday 2nd July Website: [http://www.chevanneschessacademy.com/WC\\_nationalgirlschesschampionships.html](http://www.chevanneschessacademy.com/WC_nationalgirlschesschampionships.html)

## **8-13 Jun**

**20th ICSC European Deaf Club Team Championship**, Merseyside Society for Deaf People, Liverpool L13 ODJ MAP Contact: Alasdair MacLeod Email: [englishdeafchess@aol.com](mailto:englishdeafchess@aol.com) Website: <http://www.edcc2011.co.uk/> | Spectators are welcome to watch some of the best deaf chess players in the world. Amongst them will be 2 Grand Masters and 2 International Masters.

## **\*~ 10-12 Jun**

**15th South Lakes Congress**, Cumbria Grand Hotel, Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria LA14 3AP Contact: Trevor Blower Email: [trevor.blower@talktalk.net](mailto:trevor.blower@talktalk.net) Website: <http://www.cumbriachess.org.uk/> Tel: 01229 472100

## **~ 11 Jun**

**Golders Green Rapidplay**, Golders Green Parish Church Hall, West Heath Drive, Golders Green, London NW11 7QG Contact: Adam Raoof Website: <http://goldersgreengreenchess.blogspot.com/>

## **~ 12 Jun**

**National Girls' Championships Midlands Qualifier**, Ockbrook School, The Settlement, Ockbrook, Derby DE72 3RJ Contact: Sabrina Chevannes Email: [sabrinachevannes@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sabrinachevannes@hotmail.co.uk) - Midlands qualifier for the

National Girls' Chess Championships. There are four qualifiers and one final. The final is on Saturday 2nd July 2011 Website: [http://www.chevanneschessacademy.com/WC\\_nationalgirlschesschampionships.html](http://www.chevanneschessacademy.com/WC_nationalgirlschesschampionships.html)

## **12 Jun**

**Simultaneous with Danny Gormally**, North Leeds Working Men's Club, 101 Lincoln Green Road, Leeds LS9 7SR Contact: Anthony Ibbitson Tel: 07875553775 Email: [tony@leedschessclub.org](mailto:tony@leedschessclub.org)

## **\*~@#17-19 Jun**

**e2e4 Gatwick Congress**, Crowne Plaza, London-Gatwick Airport, Langley Drive, Crawley, East Sussex, RH11 7SX Contact: Sean Hewitt Email: [info@e2e4.org.uk](mailto:info@e2e4.org.uk) | Three Sections: FIDE Rated Open; FIDE Rated Major (Under 2000 / 170 ECF); Minor (Under 140) Website: [www.e2e4.org.uk/gatwick](http://www.e2e4.org.uk/gatwick)

## **~\* 18 Jun**

**London Rapid Play**, Cardinal Hinsley Mathematics & Computing College, Harlesden Road, Willesden, London NW10 3RN Contact: Sainbayar Email: [londonrapidplay@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:londonrapidplay@yahoo.co.uk) - Junior ('2Get My First Grade' with 5 sections - U8, U10, U12, U14 & U18 with trophy), U130, U165 & open sections with prizes Website: [www.london-rapidplay.co.uk](http://www.london-rapidplay.co.uk)

## **~#@\* 24-26 Jun**

**Yeovil Summer Chess Congress**, Westfield School (LOWER SCHOOL), Yeovil, Somerset BA21 3DG MAP Contact: Jack Rudd Email: [jackkelshallrudd@aol.com](mailto:jackkelshallrudd@aol.com) | Entry forms not yet printed - email [adrianruston@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:adrianruston@yahoo.co.uk) for a form

## **\*~ 25 Jun**

**Poplar Rapid-Play Tournament**, Langley Hall, Saint Nicholas' Church Centre, Aberfeldy Street, Poplar, London E14 0QD Contact: Norman Went Email: [docklandschess@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:docklandschess@yahoo.co.uk) Website: [www.spanglefish.com/dockland-schessclub](http://www.spanglefish.com/dockland-schessclub)

## **@ 25 Jun- 3 Jul**

**2nd Big Slick International**, Big Slick Poker Club, Unit 10, Royal Oak Centre, Brighton Road, Purley, Surrey CR8 2BG Contact: Lawrence Cooper Email: [lozcooper@hotmail.com](mailto:lozcooper@hotmail.com)

## **\*~ 26 Jun**

**Leek Rapidplay**, St.Edwards School, Leek ST13 8DN Contact: Roger Edwards Email: [rogerjedwards@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rogerjedwards@yahoo.co.uk) 6 round Rapidplay using Fischer timings - 20 mins + 10secs per move. Two sections - under 200 and under 145 | Entry form: <http://www.nstaffsstamps.com/leekrp.doc>

## **~ 26 Jun**

**Victoria Gardens Blitz Chess Club Rapidplay**, Tiled Hall Cafe & Leeds Art Gallery, Leeds MAP Contact: Eric Davies Email: [vgbccleeds@gmail.com](mailto:vgbccleeds@gmail.com) Tel: 07736069393 Organiser's address: 2 Brodrick Courts, Headingley, Leeds LS6 2AJ

## **~ 26 Jun**

**ECF U18/U13 County Championships 2011**, Eton College, Windsor, Berkshire Contact: Keith Tunstall Email: [ecf\\_cc@thetunfamily.co.uk](mailto:ecf_cc@thetunfamily.co.uk) | This is the annual ECF U18/U13 County Championships. There will be a prize for best school team of 3 players taking part in Under 18 Open Championship

## **~ 1-3 Jul**

**2nd Harrogate Chess Congress**, Harrogate Chess Club, Apley Grange, Society of the Holy Child Jesus, 35 Oatlands Drive, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG2 8PU Contact: Noel Boustred Tel: 07903913786 after 6pm Email: [boustred@gmail.com](mailto:boustred@gmail.com)

## **~ 2 Jul**

**CCF Rapid Play**, 84-90 Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 3BA Contact: Scott Freeman Email: [chess@ccfworld.com](mailto:chess@ccfworld.com) Tel: 020 8645 0302 Fax: 020 8645 0412 Website: <http://www.ccfworld.com/Chess/>

## **~ 2 Jul**

**National Girls' Championships FINAL - Championship and Plate**, St. Paul's Girls School, Brook Green, Hammersmith, London W6 7BS Contact: Sabrina Chevannes Email: [sabrinachevannes@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sabrinachevannes@hotmail.co.uk) - Final of the National Girls' Chess Championships. Championship and plate sections - entry by qualification only. Website: [http://www.chevanneschessacademy.com/WC\\_nationalgirlschesschampionships.html](http://www.chevanneschessacademy.com/WC_nationalgirlschesschampionships.html)

## **~ 8-10 Jul**

**Middlesbrough Chess Congress**, Riverside Stadium, Middlesbrough Contact: Brian Whitaker Email: [whitaker.brian@sky.com](mailto:whitaker.brian@sky.com) Four sections - Open, Major, Intermediate and Minor Entry form: <http://www.clevelandchessassociation.org.uk/calendar/11/mbrocong.pdf>

~ 9 Jul

**Golders Green Rapidplay**, Golders Green Parish Church Hall, West Heath Drive, Golders Green, London NW11 7QG Contact: Adam Raoof Website: <http://goldersgreenschess.blogspot.com/>

~ 9 Jul

**CCF Junior Rapid Play CCF Junior Chess Championships 2011**, 84-90 Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 3BA Contact: Scott Freeman Email: [chess@ccfworld.com](mailto:chess@ccfworld.com) Tel: 020 8645 0302 Fax: 020 8645 0412 Website: <http://www.ccfworld.com/Chess/>

9-10 Jul

**UK Chess Challenge Southern Gigafinal**, Rivermead Leisure Centre, Reading Email: [ukchesschallenge@aol.com](mailto:ukchesschallenge@aol.com) Website: [www.ukchesschallenge.com](http://www.ukchesschallenge.com)

16-17 Jul

**UK Chess Challenge Northern Gigafinal**, Derby University Email: [ukchesschallenge@aol.com](mailto:ukchesschallenge@aol.com) Website: [www.ukchesschallenge.com](http://www.ukchesschallenge.com)

~\* 16-17 Jul

**The 5th Weald Congress**, The Sports Centre, Copthorne Prep School, Copthorne, Sussex RH10 3HR Contact: Paula Payne Email: [info@wealdchesscongress.org](mailto:info@wealdchesscongress.org) Tel: 01903 209415 Sections: Open, Major (U175), Intermediate (U140), Minor (U110) Website: <http://www.wealdchesscongress.org/>

~\* 17 Jul

**Richmond Rapidplay 96**, The White House, The Avenue, Hampton, TW12 3RN Contact: James Coleman Website: <http://www.surreyrapidchess.org> Email: [rapidplay@aol.com](mailto:rapidplay@aol.com)

\*~ 23 Jul

**Poplar Rapid-Play Tournament**, Langley Hall, Saint Nicholas' Church Centre, Aberfeldy Street, Poplar, London E14 0QD Contact: Norman Went Email: [docklandschess@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:docklandschess@yahoo.co.uk) Website: [www.spanglefish.com/docklandschessclub](http://www.spanglefish.com/docklandschessclub)

\*~ 23-24 Jul

**3rd Worcestershire Open Chess Congress**, University of Worcester, Cotswold Suite, St John's Campus, Henwick Grove, Worcester WR2 6AJ Contact: Andrew Farthing Email: [andrew.farthing@btinternet.com](mailto:andrew.farthing@btinternet.com) Website: <http://www.worcestershirechesscongress.org.uk/> Four sections: Open, U160, U135 and U115. Profits from the congress are donated to charity. This year's designated charity is Age Concern Sandwell

\*~ 24 Jul-6 Aug

**98th British Chess Championships**, Ponds Forge, Sheaf Street, Sheffield S1 2BP Contact: Alex McFarlane Email: [ahmcfarlane@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ahmcfarlane@yahoo.co.uk)

~\* 30-31 Jul

**Castle Chess 4th Potters Bar**, Potters Bar United Reformed Church Contact: Tony Corfe Email: [tony@tcs-chess.demon.co.uk](mailto:tony@tcs-chess.demon.co.uk) Organiser's address: 51 Borough Way, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 3HA Open, Major U160, Minor U120 Website: <http://www.castlechess.co.uk>