

CHESS MOVES

THE NEWSLETTER of the ENGLISH CHESS FEDERATION | May/Jun 2012

4NCL 2011-2012 final weekend - 5-7 May 2012, Hinckley Island



Mickey Adams & Jonathan Rowson ponder ... [pictures by Ray Morris-Hill]

The final weekend of the 2011-12 4NCL season was hosted by the Barcelo Hotel, Hinckley Island who provided good playing conditions and accommodation.

Wood Green Hilsmark Kingfisher 1 powered to the Division One Championship Pool title finishing with maximum points and five points clear of second place. Round 9 saw them demolish Jutes of Kent 7.5-0.5, Cheddleton only managed one game point in round 10 whilst Barbican managed a creditable five draws in round eleven but wins for Michael Adams, Nick Pert (who scored 8/9 overall) and Pia Cramling ensured their one hundred per cent record was maintained. Luke McShane, David Howell and Jonathan Rowson were among the many other grandmasters that contributed to the team's success.

Guildford 1 finished in second place with nine points from fourteen, White Rose were placed ahead of Cheddleton on game points both having eight match points. There followed Barbican 1 with seven, Jutes of Kent 5, Barbican 2 (IM norm for Sam Franklin) scored three and e2e4.org.uk two.

Notable results were White Rose defeating Guildford in round nine with wins for Richard Palliser (GM norm), Colin McNab, Iain Gourlay and Jean-Luc Weller against Antoaneta Stefanova, David Smerdon, Stuart Conquest and James Plaskett. Guildford recovered with a 5-3 victory over Barbican in round ten, there were six draws with Antoaneta Stefanova and Stuart Conquest securing victory.

Individually, Ingrid Lauterbach had a fine weekend, drawing with David Eggleston (2327), Marcos Camacho Collados (2422) and GM Alexander Baburin (2535).

The three European Club places went to White Rose, Jutes of Kent and e2e4.org.uk as the higher placed Championship Pool teams declined a place.

Cambridge University 1 topped the Demotion Pool with maximum points but Oxford 1 with seven points, The ADs six, Bristol 1 two and Anglian Avengers 1 one were all relegated. Blackthorne Russia survived on game points ahead of Oxford, largely due to their 7-1 victory in their match in round nine. Harriet Hunt scored two out of two to help them to safety. Michael White, of Oxford, made an IM norm.

Olivia Smith had draws with IMs Malcolm Pein (2382) and Gavin Wall (2330) and a win against Nicole Miranda Gonzalez (2027)

AMCA Dragons won the Division Two Promotion Pool with twelve points and were therefore promoted along with Warwickshire Select on ten and South Wales Dragons and Sambuca Sharks on nine. Pandora's Box narrowly missed out with eight points.

Significant results included South Wales Dragons 4-4 draw with Pandora's Box with John Cooper and Sven Zeidler defeating much higher rated IMs on the top two boards and Sambuca Sharks 4.5-3.5 win against Kings Head with wins for GM Robin Van Kampen on board one and Chris Russell on board eight in round nine. Sambuca then beat Pandora's Box 4.5-3.5 with wins for Tom Rendle, Peter Roberson and Sam Williams in round ten whilst in round eleven SW Dragons, Sambuca and Warwickshire all won meaning that Pandora's Box 5.5-2.5 win against AMCA was insufficient to secure them promotion.

Barbican Youth won the Division Two Demotion Pool with Cambridge University 2, Bradford DCA Knights A, Brown Jack and FCA Solutions all being relegated. Important results included Rhyfelwyr Essyllwg defeating Bradford 4.5-3.5 in round nine, Spirit of Atticus 6.5-1.5 win over Bradford in round ten and 3Cs victories over FCA Solutions and Bradford (4.5-3.5). Cambridge could only draw with Brown Jack in round eleven whereas an extra half point would have meant they stayed up by one game point ahead of 3Cs!

e2e4.org.uk 2 were champions of Division 3 with 18 match points and were promoted along with KJCA Kings and North East Eagles on seventeen and Wessex on sixteen. Three victories for e2e4, 5-1 against AMCA Rhinos followed by 3.5-2.5 against North East England and 4-2 against Wessex saw them take the title. KJCA Kings and North East England drew in round nine before round ten defeats meant they had to win in the last round, which they both did. Wessex won in round, nine and ten which proved sufficient for them to take fourth place. Hackney, AMCA Rhinos and Guildford 3 on fifteen points were among the many frustrated teams that missed out on the top four.

Various links to the results and league tables can be found as follows:

League tables: http://www.4ncl.co.uk/tbs_1112.htm

Results: <http://www.4ncl.co.uk/resdiv1.htm>

<http://www.4ncl.co.uk/resdiv2.htm>

<http://www.4ncl.co.uk/resdiv3s.htm>

Crosstable: http://www.4ncl.co.uk/fide_crosstables.htm

Games: <http://www.4ncl.co.uk/downloads.htm>

2012-13 dates:

http://www.4ncl.co.uk/2012_13_dates.htm

In closing I would like to thank the many people who help towards the continuing success of the league including Mike Truran, Claire Summerscale and all of the arbiters and game inputting team.

- Lawrence Cooper





© John Upham



© John Upham



Above - Anantha Anilkumar, Mark Hebden | Right - Stuart Conquest
Below (L-R) - Matt Carr & David Clayton, Nick Pert, Jack Rudd
Bottom (L-R) - Elizabeth Paecht, Bogdan Lalic/Brian Smith/Jon
Speelman & Sheila Jackson, Antoaneta Stefanova
Very bottom - Phil Ehr

Pictures on this page courtesy of Dr John Upham - <http://johnupham.smugmug.com/chess>



© John Upham



© John Upham



© John Upham



© John Upham



© John Upham



© John Upham



© John Upham

FINANCE COUNCIL MEETING

The ECF Finance Council met in London on Saturday, 14 April. Chief Executive Andrew Farthing offers his personal diary of the course of the meeting. Any views expressed are his own.

1.30 p.m. Start on time. It's a formidable, 24-item agenda, with a maximum available time of 5 hours (less a short tea break), i.e. about 12 minutes per item on average. Piece of cake...

1.34 p.m. Items 1-3 completed and Minutes approved.

1.35 p.m. Matters arising from the Minutes not otherwise on the agenda. Alex McFarlane, representing the Scarborough congress, read out a statement asserting that the President's Report approved at the previous Council meeting should be considered inaccurate in the light of subsequent information. Discussed for 25 minutes without clear conclusion.

2.02 p.m. Chief Executive's Report. Updated Council on the Board's decision regarding the online membership solution. This prompts 8 detailed questions from one person alone. Council not being asked to approve Board decision, but discussion continues regardless.

2.25 p.m. Still on my report. It mentions the CAS lawsuit against FIDE. Despite my pointing out that this is the following agenda item, discussed for 10 minutes, mainly regarding the non-reporting of the case to Council at the 2011 meetings.

2.35 p.m. Back to the events following the 2011 British Championships and, in particular, matters relating to a teleconference of the Board directors, referred to erroneously by me at the time as a Board meeting but technically not one. This leads to mild hilarity when Mike Gunn refers to his having been overseas and therefore "not present at the non-meeting".

2.52 p.m. A few delegates are starting to grow concerned at the slow progress and press the Chairman to move to next business. The Chief Exec's Report is approved, with – if memory serves – one vote against.

2.56 p.m. Update on lawsuit. Delegate comments are overwhelmingly disapproving of the Board's judgement in deciding to initiate the action and of its failure to brief Council on it. It is decided that the most appropriate way to express approval or disapproval is to vote on accept-

ance or rejection of the FIDE Delegate's report. On a hand vote, the score was 17-15 in favour of approval, but the closeness indicated the need for a card vote. This saw the report rejected, 73 to 103.

3.13 p.m. The first piece of finance business: item 7 (Report on ECF accounts for the year ended 30 April 2011). We've averaged 22 minutes per agenda item thus far, but this is a quickie. Approved with none against after four minutes.

3.17 p.m. Introduce the report of the Chairman of the Finance Committee, who is unavoidably absent. Discussion of the first half, concerning the annual accounts, takes just over five minutes. Questions stray onto the second half, which concerns the accounts of the 2011 British Championships. John Philpott explains to Council the work that he completed on these and talked through the figures. Council is satisfied with the corrected accounts as presented but concerns are expressed over lapses in the processing and approval of transactions, which are breaches of the ECF's Financial Bye Laws.

Connecting this to earlier discussions, a motion is proposed which, after debate, is modified to the following:

'Council considers that the conduct of the President brings his performance in the role into question and calls for a full review of his activities.'

After a close hand vote, the resulting card vote saw the motion defeated 84 – 93.

4.05 p.m. Just past halfway in terms of time; a third of the way down the agenda, with the most substantive topics still to come. With some relief, delegates welcome the Chairman's announcement of a ten-minute tea break.

4.20 p.m. The meeting resumes with item 9, a motion proposed by Sean Hewitt to move responsibility for international rating from Home Chess to International Chess. Despite the momentary absence of the proposer, the motion is overwhelmingly approved on a hand vote.

4.22 p.m. Council is invited to approve the Business Plan for 2012/13. This is approved with none against after the usual extensive discussion.

CONTENTS

4NCL - FC, 2-3
ECF News - 4-8
International - 9
Results Round-Up - 9
World Schools - 16-21

ChEx Bookshelf - 22
Book Reviews - 25
Grand Prix - 27
Batsford - 28
Calendar - 29

4.24 p.m. Next item – the report of the Finance Director, including the forecast for the 2011/12 financial year just concluding. There is a motion to insert item 21 - the consultation paper on a junior membership scheme – at this point, i.e. to discuss it before getting into the meat of the 2012/13 budget. There is insufficient support for this request. Slightly alarmed by the reason for opposing the suggestion given by one delegate, “If I had known that one of the consultation papers was going to be discussed as a concrete proposal, I would have read them,” but I understand what he means. The Director of Finance’s report is duly noted.

4.44 p.m. Finally into the meat of the Finance meeting. Item 12 is the proposal for Membership Fees from 1 September 2012. These are as presented to Council at the last AGM. A proposal from the floor to increase the recommended subscription rates for Bronze, Silver and Gold by £2 is defeated on a hand vote 11-21. A further proposal to remove the £1 discount for online payment is also defeated.

A proposal to increase the proposed 3-year rates so that they are simply three times the annual rate (i.e. no discount, but protection against price rises) was approved 22-8.

As amended by the above, the proposed membership fees were approved 28-3.

5.15 p.m. An hour and a quarter left, and the halfway point has been reached on the agenda, numerically if not necessarily in terms of substance. Not good.

Item 13 – the proposal to keep the minimum Membership Fee for Member Organisations at £58 – is quickly approved. Under the new arrangements, this will apply to very few organisations anyway.

5.17 p.m. Here’s where it became complicated. This was the proposal for the Game Fee rates to apply from 1 September 2012. Many different amendments were proposed from the floor. The final outcome was as follows:

Paragraph 4.6 of the Game Fee Bye Laws were amended in October 2011 to state:

“The payment of Game Fee is hereby waived with effect from 1st September 2012 in respect of games played by Direct Members in competitions organised by the Federation (including the British Championships, the National Club Championships and the National Stages of the Counties Championship) and competitions registered pursuant to 4.3 hereof (i.e. competitions run by Chess Leagues Congresses and Clubs which are registered by 31st October).”

So Game Fees will only be payable in respect of games (or half games) played by non Members:

The Board proposes the following level of Game Fee for results as from 1 September 2012: the alignment of all rates for standard graded games at £2 and for rapid-play graded games at £1 is consistent with the relative voting entitlements under Article 30 that will apply from 1 September 2012.

- (a) Standard graded games – £2;
- (b) Rapidplay graded games – £1;
- (c) Standard graded games submitted by clubs (for internal club competitions) – £2;
- (d) Rapidplay graded games submitted by clubs (for internal club competitions) – £1;

Provided that:

(1) for Congresses the respective rates shall be reduced to a total fee per event of £6 per adult player and £4 per junior player irrespective of the number of games played and where a Bronze Member takes part in a Congress such fee shall be effective to upgrade his or her membership for the year in question to a Silver Membership.

Rates for junior events

- (e) Standard graded games played between junior players under the age of 18 in solely junior events – 50p;
- (f) Rapidplay graded games played between junior players under the age of 18 in solely junior events – 25p;
- (g) Standard graded games submitted by clubs (for internal club competitions played between junior players under the age of 18 in solely junior events) – 50p;
- (h) Rapidplay graded games submitted by clubs (for internal club competitions played between junior players under the age of 18 in solely junior events) – 25p; where each graded game will comprise two results and Game Fee shall be payable for each result (all of which terms are defined in the Game Fee Bye Laws).

What’s the significance of this amended version? The answer is not straightforward and not necessarily predictable. This is my take on it:

- (1) Removal of complexity. In process terms, the removal of the different rates depending on the achievement of an 85% threshold of membership makes things clearer and easier.
- (2) Addition of new complexity. There are now different ‘pay to play’ fees (in non-junior only events) depending on whether the player is an adult or a junior. Also, the proposed simplified game fee structure has been “de-simplified” again.
- (3) Increased risk of discouraging new/ungraded players. With the passing of the 85% threshold also went the

clause relating to such players not being counted as non-members for the purposes of the threshold if they had not played more than three games.

(4) Increase in the cross-subsidy of junior chess activity by adult players. The game fee rates applicable to junior events are a quarter of the rates applicable to non-junior events. This is a bigger difference than now; currently, Game Fee for junior is half the comparable rate for non-junior events. On the other hand, some have argued that the changes may result in the avoidance of lost income (through juniors not participating in graded competitions under the arrangements as originally proposed) or an increase in junior chess activity. What is undoubtedly true is that the new situation requires completely new assumptions to be made.

(5) Increased polarisation. There is arguably a greater incentive to become an ECF member or remove oneself from the ECF framework entirely. The universal £2 game fee rate for standard play in all non-junior events, even where a high percentage of members exists, will undoubtedly lead to strong reactions. It's possible that it may lead to higher membership take-up in some parts of the country, where it will be considered that the balance of the financial arguments favours membership in a larger majority of cases. It is also possible that the universal £2 rate will lead to a fall in the number of graded games, and the assumptions about this will need to be reviewed urgently.

The amended version of the Board's proposals, as set out above, was duly passed. My sympathies were with Council delegates during this process; it can't have been easy to keep track of the various amendments, and the Chairman did an excellent job of navigating everyone through the process.

5.50 p.m. 10 items left on the agenda and only 40 minutes to go. Fatigue starting to show. By this stage, the Director of Finance had had to leave, due to another commitment. The impact on the 2012/13 budget of the decisions made above would clearly be significant and complex. The ramifications could not possibly be calculated on the hoof during the meeting. Consequently, I suggested that there was no point putting the original budget to Council for approval. This was accepted, and the Board was asked to prepare a revised budget for consideration by later special resolution. In the meantime, the Board was mandated to proceed on the basis of the proposed budget with regard to expenditure, pending approval of a revised budget.

Asked Council to indicate where we should look to make cuts in the expenditure budget if, as seems likely, the

impact of the Game Fee decisions is a reduction in budgeted income.

The answer: the International Chess budget.

6.10 p.m. With 20 minutes left, there was no prospect for serious discussion of any of the consultation papers published before the meeting. Can't deny my disappointment at this. Memory of ten 10-hour days in March battling to complete the various papers in time for the pre-Council deadline too strong to ignore. And so it goes, as Vonnegut would say.

Briefest of mentions of the Charitable Status paper before touching on the Codes of Conduct, which had been intended for a Council decision in the case of two out of the three draft documents. In the light of concerns expressed by some delegates, it was decided to treat all three draft codes as documents for consultation, with nothing to be implemented at once.

6.17 p.m. Item 22 – County Championship rules. With delegates visibly wilting, Alex Holowczak manfully soldiered on, seeking Council views on various suggested changes to the championship rules. He nearly made it, when his flag fell.

6.30 p.m. It's all over. The BCF extraordinary general meeting never made it to the surface. It had been planned to insert it in a break in the ECF meeting after the Financial Capital consultation paper, but that never made it either.



ENGLISH CHESS FEDERATION MEMBERSHIP SCHEME – a Quick Guide for Players

The ECF supports and develops chess in England by organising events, supporting organisations and individuals providing competitive chess at every level and through its grading, accreditation and information services. The ECF receives no Government funding. We rely entirely on the support of players and chess organisations through membership subscriptions and game fees.

What's changing?

Big changes are coming to the types of ECF membership available and the per-game fees for non-members. You can find out much more from the ECF website by following the link from the top of the Home page.

You are invited to join the ECF at one of four levels:

- BRONZE £13 a year (Juniors £9)
- SILVER £19 a year (Juniors £13)
- GOLD £28 a year (Juniors £22)
- PLATINUM £60 a year (Juniors £60)

There is a £1 discount on these rates if you join online, and you can protect yourself against future rises by opting for a 3-year membership (simply three times the annual subscription).

The membership year is fixed, running from 1 September to 31 August every year. You can join or renew your membership directly with the ECF: in some parts of the country there will be an alternative option of joining through the local County association or league.

What do I get for my membership?

BENEFIT		MEMBERSHIP LEVEL			
		BRONZE	SILVER	GOLD	PLATINUM
Free grading of results in:	Club competitions	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
	Leagues	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
	County championships	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
	Congresses (excl. FIDE-rated)		Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
	FIDE-rated events			Unlimited	Unlimited
Cost of annual FIDE rating registration fee (€1) included with membership				Yes	Yes
Cost of per-event FIDE rating fee (£1.50) for Swiss system events and leagues (i.e. excluding all-play-all events) included with membership				Yes	Yes
ECF Yearbook		Discounted price (£13.50)			Free
15-month ECF Diary		Discounted price (£2.50)			Free
Eligibility for inclusion in the ECF Grand Prix			Yes	Yes	Yes
Eligibility for ECF Master Points Scheme		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Access to online newsletter <i>ChessMoves</i> (six issues per annum)		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Discounted subscription to <i>British Chess Magazine</i>		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Discounted rates with HMCA Insurance		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

What if I don't want to be an ECF member?

We hope that you will, but it's up to you. If you play graded chess, depending on the local organisers' regulations, there is also the option of paying an amount per game in club, league and county events and per event in congresses. If you want to play in FIDE rated events, the ECF does require all English-registered players to be a Gold member or higher.

Which type of membership would suit me best?

The choice is yours, but the following scenarios may be a useful guide to the best fit for you. You can always upgrade

to a higher level at any time if your needs change.

- *“I don’t play tournaments, but I do like to play graded games in my local league and at my club.”*

Choose BRONZE membership. You’ll be able to play an unlimited number of graded games in league, club and county competitions.

- *“I don’t play tournaments either. I’m mostly a social player and hardly play any graded games at all, certainly not more than six in a year.”*

If you don’t expect to play more than 6 graded games a year, you may prefer to pay on a game-by-game basis. On the other hand, why not choose BRONZE membership and take advantage of the freedom to play lots more chess without worrying about any extra costs

- *“I’m a league and club player. I don’t normally play tournaments, but I might like to try one.”*

Choose BRONZE membership and, if you see a congress you fancy, upgrade to SILVER by paying an extra £6 (Juniors £4). Bronze members and non-members can play in graded congresses, but Silver members and above are usually able to claim a discount on their entry fee of up to £6 (Juniors £4). If you upgrade from Bronze to Silver, the price of the upgrade should be covered by the discount on your first tournament, and if you get a taste for congresses, your Silver membership will earn you a discount every time!

- *“I’m a league and club player, but I like to play at least one congress every year.”*

Choose SILVER membership. You’ll be able to play an unlimited number of graded games in league, club and county competitions AND enter as many graded congresses as you like at the discounted Silver (and above) member rate.

- *“I don’t play in a league or a club, but I do enter congresses from time to time.”*

If you only play one or two congresses a year, and this is your only graded chess, you might just want to enter congresses as a non-member and pay the full, undiscounted entry fee. If you play three or more congresses a year, choose SILVER membership – it’ll be better value.

- *“I play in FIDE-rated events.”*

Choose GOLD membership. If you’re registered as English for FIDE rating purposes, the ECF requires you to be a Gold member or above. In return, you can play as many games as you like in graded AND rated events and the ECF will pay for the FIDE rating fees (with the exception of all-play-all tournaments).

- *“I’d like to do a bit extra to support the work of the ECF.”*

Why not become a PLATINUM member? You’ll receive all the benefits of GOLD membership, plus we’ll send you an ECF 15-month diary and a copy of the ECF Yearbook. It’s a pricier option at £60 a year, but if you can afford it, your subscription will be providing the ECF with invaluable extra funds to develop chess in this country.

I’m already a member – how do the changes affect me?

If your membership expires after 31 August 2012, it’ll be converted to one of the new categories. Standard, Junior, Family and Life members will be GOLD; Full members will be PLATINUM. When your membership expires, the ECF office will contact you to explain your renewal options.

International Round-Up

from Lawrence Cooper

8th World School Individual Chess Championship Iasi, Romania 28 April – 6 May

English and Welsh scores were as follows:

Under 7s: Callaghan McCarty-Snead 5/9 Jeff Tomy 4.5

Under 9s: Joshua Altman 5.5/9 Tate Remus-Elliott 3.5

Under 11s: Luke Remus-Elliott 4/9, James Moreby 3.5,
Max Elliott 3, Samuel McConnell 2.5

Under 13s: Akito Oyama 5/9, Jake Liang & Richard Zhu
4, Joseph Dalton, Alexander Vanlint, Ananth Vijay Kumar
& Yang-Jian Zhou 3.5, Samuel Cobbald 2.5

Under 15s: Joseph Friar 4/9

Under 11 Girls: Imogen Camp 4 (Wales) and Meytal
Cohen 3/9

Under 13 Girls: Eleanor Hapeshi & Anna Purvis 4, Karina
Chan 3

Under 15 Girls: Jennifer Neil 4/9

Under 17 Girls: Phoebe Price 2.5/9

The coaches were Sabrina Chevannes, Lawrence Cooper,
Jim Friar, Adam Hunt, Neil McDonald and Sainbayar
Tserendorj

4NCL All Divisions Barcelo Hotel, Hinckley Island 5-7 May 2012

Congratulations to the following title winners:

Division One Championship Pool: Wood Green Hilsmark
Kingfisher 1

Division Two Demotion Pool: Cambridge University 1

Division One Promotion Pool: AMCA Dragons 1

Division Two Demotion Pool: Barbican Youth

Division Three: e2e4.org.uk 2

The promoted and relegated teams were as follows:

Relegated from Division One: Oxford 1, The ADs,
Bristol, Anglian Avengers

Promoted from Division Two: AMCA Dragons
(Champions), Warwickshire Select, South Wales Dragons,
Sambuca Sharks

Relegated from Division Two: Cambridge University 2,
Bradford DCA Knights A, Brown Jack, FCA Solutions

Promoted from Division Three: e2e4.org.uk 2
(Champions), KJCA Kings, North East England, Wessex

14th Salou Open Salou ESP Thu 3rd May 2012 – Fri 11th May 2012

Chris Evans is on 2.5/6.

FSFMB May 2012 Budapest HUN Sat 5th May 2012 – Thu 17th May 2012

Diana Mihajlova is on 1/3.

Future events:

e2e4 Amersham Congress 18th – 20th May 2012

There will be three sections, Masters, Challengers
(U2000/ECF 170) and Major (U1750/ECF 140) with an
England versus Wales women's match being held on
Saturday and Sunday.

e2e4 London Diamond Jubilee Congress 2nd – 6th June 2012

There will be three sections, Masters, Challengers
(U2050/ECF 175) and Major (U1800/ECF 145).

In addition to the individual websites the latest interna-
tional chess news can be found here and here

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. There is a list of interna-
tional tournaments at home and abroad listed here

Results Round-Up

Richmond Rapidplay

Results of Richmond on 11th March 2012 – 22 played

Open

1st=: Graeme Buckley, Peter Roberson and Richard Bates
5/6

U190 Grading Prize: Raghu Kamath and Dale Taylor
3.5/6

Major (U170)

1st: Rajasekhar Pentakota 5/6

2nd=: Victor Boy-Lazoni and Christopher Kreuzer 4.5/6

U150 Grading Prize: Ian Deswarte 4/6

Intermediate (U135)

1st: Mark Wieder 5.5/6

2nd: Frank Burnham 5/6

3rd=: David Grange, Graham Cole, Peter Morton and
Max French 4/6

U115 Grading Prize: Daniel Varney 4/6

Minor (U100)

1st: Yousuf Bin-Suhayl 5.5/6

2nd=: Felix Turner and Joe Benton 5/6;

4th=: Devdoot Barman and Joanitah Butindo 4.5/6;

U80 Grading Prize: Haolin Zhao and Iyesaa Bin-Suhayl
4/6;

Warwickshire Open Chess Championships 2012

The Warwickshire Open Chess Championships 2012 were held on the weekend of 3rd/4th March at Arden School, Knowle. For the second year running the Open Section produced a three-way tie, and so the Tucker Trophy was shared between Ameet Ghasi (from Birmingham), Tomasz Sygnowski (of West Bromwich) and Richard Weaving (of Solihull). This section was the largest entry within living memory, as well as being the strongest

Open

1st= £130 each – 4pts/5 – Joint Warwickshire Champions
Ameet Ghasi, [Birmingham]
Tomasz Sygnowski, West Bromwich
Richard Weaving, Solihull
Grading= Under 185 – £10 each – 2½pts/5
Richard Bryant, Chester
David Cooper, Bushbury
Peter Mercks, Gambit
British Championship Qualifying Place
Richard Weaving, Solihull (on a tie-break)

Under 170

1st £130 – 4½/5 pts
Wiatt Ropp, Stratford
2nd £70 – 4/5 pts
David Ireland, Coventry Chess
3rd= £10 each – 3½/5 pts
Leif Dixon, South Birmingham
Faraz Malik, South Birmingham
Thomas Robinson, Redditch
Kevin Yeomans, Olton
Grading= Under 85 – £10 each – 3/5 pts
Keith Jewsbury, Solihull
Andrew Price, Leamington

Under 145

1st= £48 each – 4/5 pts
Tim Allen, Battersea
Ray Collett, Worcester
Clive Pemberton, [Balsall Common]
Rick Weston, Witney
Andrew Wiggins, Redditch
Grading= Under 135 – £5 each – 2½/5 pts
William Egan, Scunthorpe
Athar Mehmood, Newport-Telford
Alan Riddoch, Maidstone
Colin Solloway, Milton Keynes

Under 120

1st £130 – 4½/5 pts

Stephen Crockett, Redditch
2nd= £55 each – 4/5 pts
Michele Clack, Redditch
Dominic Heining, [Leamington]
Grading= Under 110 – £3 each – 2½/5 pts
Sam Beardmore, Cheddleton & Leek
Andrew Ellis, Cambridge City
Steven Hotchkiss, [Birmingham]
Colin Mace, Wellington
Felicity Parker, KE VI Fiveways
Shivi Ravi, Solihull Checkmates
Robert Sutton, Worcester

Junior Prize

1st £20 – 3½/5 pts
Jacob Boswell, Cheddleton & Leek

Team Prize

1st £40 – 16/20 pts
Redditch Chess Club

36th Blackpool Chess Conference

In the spacious rooms of Barceló's Imperial Hotel, the 36th Blackpool Chess Conference took place over the weekend of 9, 10, 11 of March. 418 chess players from all over the UK gave battle over the chessboard.

The Barceló Open was, as always, a hard fought affair with IM Jonathan Hawkins (4/4) taking a ½ lead into the final round to play GM Keith Arkell

On board 2, with both players on 3 points, GM Alexander Cherniaev lost to Lancaster's own Jimmy Hanley

Barceló Open

1st GM Keith Arkell (Heywood) 4½/5, £800 (pic below)
2nd= IM Jonathan Hawkins (Cheddleton), Bredea Kvisvik (Norway), David Eggleston (Durham City), James Hanley (Lancaster) 4/5, £150

The Imperial Major was an even tighter battle with 7 players unable to score more than 4 points so sharing the £1050 prize money

The Imperial Major

1st= Andrew Horton (3Cs, pic above with Carrie Beaumont, Duty Manager), Phil Armstrong (Oldham), Philip Olbison (Chorlton), Chris Doran (Chester), Roger Jennings (Rose Forgrove), Adrian Archer-Lock (Maidenhead), Malcolm J Armstrong (Stafford)

The Median section was another epic struggle with 110 players (the largest section) fighting it out in the Victorian grandeur of the Washington suite

1st= Martin Coles (Runcorn), David Cork (Crawley), Andy Lake (Boldmere St Michaels) + Trophy, Brendan

Brown (Clitheroe)

Chess and the City 5 – Manchester Rapidplay from Mick Norris

The fifth New East Manchester Rapidplay Chess Tournament was held at the City of Manchester Stadium on Sunday 25th March, 2012. The event was organised by Sport4life on behalf of the Eagle Chess Club in association with the Manchester Chess Federation (MCF). We were delighted with the numbers, with our best ever entry of 121 playing, an increase of 39% on our previous best entry. Possibly the introduction of an online entry system, and the bulk discount available to MCF clubs (albeit this was only taken up by 3Cs), made the difference. The MCF would like to thank the sponsors, New East Manchester Ltd, Street Games and Equity Solutions; Chess Direct who supplied the bookstall; all the staff of Manchester City FC and the stadium who helped to make us welcome; and especially all the staff from Sport4Life.

With a number of photographers in attendance, look out for the post event publicity. Some photos will appear at <http://www.manchesterchessfederation.co.uk/>

The entry fees were again tiered to encourage early entry, £15 before end February and £20 in advance. Despite this, a few players turned up to pay £25 on the day. In each case, there was a £5 entry fee discount for juniors, but an extra £6 charged to non-ECF members, which obviously did not deter the players. My thanks go to controllers Fiona Green, Julian Clissold and Rod Middleton; and to Rod for grading the results.

In the U120 section (56 players), the Trophies were won by:

1. Yousuf Bin-Suhayl (Wisbech grade 98) with a score of 6/6 winning £100
2. George Parkin (3Cs grade 94) with a score of 5.5/6 winning £50

Third place prize money was split on 4.5/6 with Bajram Paskali (Eagles grade 100), Josh Pendlebury (Worsley grade 101), Alexander Cartlidge (Cheddleton & Leek grade 102), George Scattergood (Holmes Chapel grade 109) and Jonathan Mahoney (Leeds grade 118) each winning £5

The U100 grading prize was won by Lee Hindley (Eccles grade 83) with 4.5/6 winning £40

In the U160 section (40 players), the Trophies were won by:

1. Balvinder Grewal (Nottingham Univ) with a score of 5/6 winning £50
2. Jamie Horton (3Cs grade 153) with a score of 5/6 winning £100

Brendan Brown (Clitheroe grade 151) was joint first with

5/6 and also won £100

The U140 grading trophy was won with 4/6 by Chris Hodgson (Worsley grade 137) winning £20 with the prize shared by Phillip Cattermole (Macclesfield grade 139) also winning £20

In the Open section (25 players), the Trophies were won by:

1. CM Alan Walton (3Cs grade 204) with a score of 5.5/6 winning £150

2. IM Daniel Fernandez (Marple grade 230) with 5/6 winning £87:50

James Hanley (Lancaster) was joint second with 5/6 and also won £87:50

The U180 grading trophy was won with 3.5/6 by Nathan Taylor (3Cs), with the prize money shared with Daniel Abbas (3Cs) and Hope Mkhumba (Chorlton) each winning £13.67

The Junior (U16) Trophies were won by:

1. Alexander Cartlidge (Cheddleton & Leek)
2. Stephen Chung (Skelmersdale)

We hope to stage the event again next year, subject to stadium availability.

Chiltern League Under 125 – the Chris Stothert Trophy

It is with great pleasure, and pride, that I have to report that Buckinghamshire and Berkshire, last year's winners, will share the Chris Stothert Trophy in 2012. Without doubt Berkshire have been the strongest junior team for the last two years.

The two Counties faced each other in the final on Saturday the 24th March 2012 at Wellington College. Towards the end of the match, the board score was 5.5 – 2.5 in Berkshire's favour, with four games to be decided. I managed to win, and Andrew Challenger won his game to make the score 5.5 – 4.5. Peter Finn drew his game to make the score 6 – 5. Then Mark Cleary finally managed to win his game against Berkshire's top adult player, making the score 6 – 6.

I have nothing but praise for all the Juniors who played for Buckinghamshire in this 2011 – 2012 campaign. 'They were magnificent, they did themselves and Buckinghamshire proud over the course of the four games involved' is a quote from the team Captain, Frank Rich. The adults also excelled themselves with good results over some of the Chiltern League's strongest junior players from the other three Counties.

The first game against Hampshire resulted in a win for Buckinghamshire 7.5-3.5, with a double default on the

bottom board. The juniors scored 3.5 points. The second game against Berkshire resulted in a 6-6 draw, with the juniors scoring 2 points on both sides. The third game against Oxfordshire resulted in a 7.5-4.5 win for Buckinghamshire, with the juniors scoring 3.5 points. In all of these four matches, there were no easy games for the adults or the juniors. Congratulations to everyone involved in this competition. A special thank you to Hans Hanson and Frank Rich for organizing the juniors and adults. Maybe next year we may be able to win the Trophy outright - *Chris Stothert*

Tournament of Young Talents, Frydek Mistek

- from our man in Frydek Mistek, Peter Purland

On April 3rd, 16 players met Victor at Heathrow whilst a further 4 met Glynis and Peter at Manchester. We all met up at Prague Airport then got the bendy bus to Dejvika where we boarded the tube to Muzeum and a further one to Hlavni Nadrazi where we booked for our main line train. The three of us and many of the players had a meal en route and arrived at Ostrava within two minutes of time. We had a comfortable change then got the branch line to Frydek arriving dead on time where Vashek was waiting to meet us. We transferred to Hotel Centrum and, after dinner had a meeting then unpacked and turned in.

Wednesday was our free day and we made good use of it. Our first step was Anselm Mine at Landek which is under new ownership and has been much improved. We had a tour of both the surface and underground before lunch then had a play at the mammoth site. Next stop was Ostrava Town Hall where we went up the tower and took in the panorama of the city. We then had 100 minutes in the newest shopping mall before heading to the swimming pool. We were 30 minutes early so played soccer first then went in the pool where many played with the ball and others had a sauna or played in the whirlpool. We returned to the Centrum for dinner then the players joined Glynis and Victor for a walk in to Mistek whilst I booked us in for the tournament and got the tickets for the train.

Thursday we were at breakfast at 0800 and at the hall by 0845. This was the first two rounds of the competition and we are playing to a time limit of 90 minutes plus 30 seconds. This gives plenty of time for a well thought out game. There are over 300 players in the 6 sections representing 11 countries and after a mercifully short opening ceremony we started.

We had one player in the FIDE rated (Beskydy) Tournament and he was unlucky enough to have his opponent not arrive in the morning. However he made up for this with an excellent fighting draw against a 2100+ player in the afternoon. The U15s had a steady start scor-

ing 6 (out of 12) in the morning but gained a creditable 8.5 in the afternoon. Only Pavan Murali was on 2\2. The U12s however stole the show with 7 (out of 7) in the morning and 4 in the afternoon when we had two inter squad pairings. Our only loss was to the top seed. Jake Liang, Theo Slade, Brian Tarhon and Aditya Yanamandra were al on 2\2. I had spent the date chatting to Karel Jubala, Karel Holusa and various other friends from abroad. This was coupled with going over quite a few games. We then returned home. ate, had our meeting and had a pairs Blitz competition run by Victor and Glynis in the evening.

Friday we were at the National House by 0845 and this was another two round day with the U12s playing steadily scoring 4 points in each round to remain just ahead of their target whilst the U15s recovered from a poor morning (5 points) to reach their target of 6.5 in the afternoon. There were some dogged performances especially from the U15s in the afternoon and Victor is happy with the way things are going. Meanwhile in the Beskydy event Matthew met an old friend of ours Taddeus who has joined in with us for the last 6 years but his friendliness only showed itself in the post match analysis. In the afternoon, however, Matthew played an FM and gained his first titled scalp. The evening was split 50\50 with half going to the local Aquapark with Peter and the others playing exchange with Victor and Glynis. A good time was had by all, and two future trips were also arranged during the day.

As usual we were at the National House by 0845 and there was only one round today except for Matthew and he scored an excellent 1.5 to gain even more rating points. The U15s got 6.5 points whilst the U12s scored 4 for the fourth time in a row. Various of the players got good positions but were unable to convert them in to the extra half point. The afternoon was given over to social events and 16 of our players were lucky enough to be picked for one of the simultaneous displays. These were timed and even though our wins were on time a win against a gm is a win! Kumar Dixit beat Edouard Andreev (Ukraine) whilst Rohan Bansal beat Oleg Ivanov (Russia), Draws were gained by Theo Slade (Andreev), Alex Kitshoff and Aloysius Lip (Ivanov) and Romasn Mitra against Vlastimil Hort (Czech Republic). This was more than I could do as I lost to him in an evening event.

There were other activities which, although mostly for younger players, our lads entered in to the spirit of things and took part. We then watched the local talent show which did, perhaps, have too much audio this year. In the past it has been very visual. In the evening Victor and Glynis ran a consultation event whilst I took part in a simul and social event at the National House. Surprisingly

we were at the National House by 0845. There were two rounds and these could prove vital for potential prize winners. We were very proud of the effort put in by the group and this was reflected in a good all round performance. The results are shown below but for the first time for many years we are in with a chance of first prize in three sections (the girls prizes at U12 are separate). Obviously this depends on some good results tomorrow but the players are certainly “up for it”. In the evening we played Millionaire but did not have time for the tie break. The winners will be announced tomorrow. One winner from yesterday was Simon Leung who won a draw for a football.

Monday 9th April We were at the National House for 0745!! And for the final round we had 4 players on stage and 14 flags which is a record. We gained all our targets and, when the dust had settled we had three prize winners; Andrew Horton 3rd U15s, Eva Ressel 3rd in U 12 girls and Theo Slade 4th in U12s. There were only 5 prizes this year (less sponsorship) so we missed out on one more. After the prize giving we had the play off of millionaire and this was won by Theo and Harry.

We then moved to the Town Square where we had our Town Trail. This was won by Aloysius and Leo with a really good score of 17. Then it was on to the bowling where, again, a good time was had by all. The winners here were Toby Harris (older) and Harry Grieve (U12s). We then returned to the hotel where packing loomed and we spent the evening on that chore. On the final day we caught the 0827 train to Ostrava and, tired nit happy, retraced our steps back to England.

Final Scores

Beskydy Tournament:- Matthew Payne 5

Under 15s:- Rohan Bansal 4, Paul Calderon 4.5, Alexei Davis 5.5, Kumar Dixit 4.5, Toby Harris 3, Andrew Horton 6, Shyam Kalairajah 5, Alex Kitshoff 2.5, Simon Leung 3.5, Roman Mitra 5.5, Pavan Murali 4, Leo Tsoi 5
Under 12s:- Harry Grieve 5, Jake Liang 5.5, Aloysius Lip 6, Eva Ressel 5, Theo Slade 6, Brian Tarhon 5.5, Aditya Yanamandra 3.5

Players – Rohan Bansal, Paul Calderon, Alexei Davis, Kumar Dixit, Harry Grieve, Toby Harris, Andrew Horton, Shyam Kalairajah, Alex Kitshoff, Simon Leung, Jake Liang, Aloysius Lip, Roman Mitra, Pavan Murali, Matthew Payne, Eva Ressel, Theodore Slade, Brian Tarhon, Leo Tsoi, Aditya Yanamandra

Coaches – Victor Cross, Glynis Purland, Peter Purland

European Senior Team report – from Stewart Reuben

SLOVENIA, 27 March to 4 April

As you will see later, Michael Yeo was the big star of the whole congress. Despite the fact that he slipped on ice and broke his pelvis in Moscow in February, he made the biggest score of all at the event – 8/9, albeit including winning a game by default.

The event was held in a spa. There wasn't much there; just some hotels set in the hills and a very attractive park. All very pleasant and it was probably conducive to concentrating on the chess. Certainly Michael found it to be so. He was on crutches and never left his seat while in play. Several people pointed out this gave him an advantage! Five of the 13 members of our team hadn't taken part before. It is easiest to show the bare statistics and those of the Scottish and Welsh teams in order to explain our results. There were 46 teams in all in a 9 round Swiss, a far cry from the first year when there were just 7 ...

Final Place

Team	Match pts	Game pts	Orig. seeding
1 Russia 1	15/18	25/36	1
2 St Petersburg	15	22½	
3 Montenegro	14	23	
14 England 1	11	19	17
19 England 2	10	18½	22
24 Wales	9	18	28
27 Scotland 1	8	18	15
35 England 3	7	17	38
41 Scotland 2	6	14	42

As you will see all English teams did better than their original seeding. This is the only useful way to gauge the success of teams who aren't expected to win a medal. Scotland 1 had a disappointing time; they were seeded above England 1 and yet finished below them, England 2 and Wales. But chess is an individual sport and we need to look at the performances of our players.

England 1	Score	Rating change
Anthony Stebbings	4½/9	+8.6
Geoff James	3	-24.2
Ken Norman	3½/8	-6.6
Michael Yeo	8	+38.0

England 2	Score	Rating change
Tony Ashby	3½	-9.6
Paul Habershon	6	+15.3
John Quinn	6½	+9.2
Stewart Reuben	3	-48.9

England 3	Score	Rating change
James Scholes	4½	+2.7
Paul Kendall	4½/8	+8.0
Roger Scowen	2½/7	-4.5
Peter R Wood	5	+30.6
Dinah Norman	½/3	-11.3

As you can see, I had a dreadful result, actually 2/8 in rated games as one of my wins was against an unrated. Had we succeeded in passing England 1, it would have been totally unfair. They played far stronger opposition and even looked like contenders for medals at one point. Of course, this was due to Michael's result which should net him some votes for Player of the Year. We were concerned that Tony Stebbings would find it very hard going on board 1 in his first appearance in this event. But he held his own and even had a winner position against Korchnoi – for one move. Paul Habershon and John Quinn achieved very steady results. Another newcomer, Peter R Wood, also did very well.

Players were already talking of returning next year. Quite apart from Dinah, three wives brought our party up to 16. Some Scottish wives also came. It hasn't been decided where it will be yet. But, provided it is an attractive venue, we should be able to send a bigger party. My original idea in 2002 had been that we would play Bridge as well as chess. It is only now that Paul Habershon has joined us, and organised the Bridge, that this has come to pass.

- Stewart Reuben

Staffordshire Chess Congress

The Staffordshire Chess Congress was held over the weekend of 14/15 April 2012 at the Bloxwich Leisure Centre in Walsall and attracted an entry of 87 players in the three sections: Open (34 players); Major (31 players under 160 ECF Grade) and Minor (22 players under 120 ECF Grade).

The Open was won by Grandmaster Mark Hebden with 4.5/5 ahead of Ameet Ghasi, Oliver Jackson and Mike Townsend who tied for second place with 4 points.

The Open included the Staffordshire Closed Championship for which 10 players were qualified and Mike Townsend of Wolverhampton Chess Club won this and with it the Advertiser Trophy, ahead of Alex Richardson of Newcastle Under Lyme and David Cooper of Bushbury, both on 3.5 points. The Open also included the Staffordshire Under 21 title and this was retained by Craig Whitfield of Cheddleton & Leek with 3 points ahead of Manpreet Sangha of Rushall with 2 points.

A selection of games from the Open is attached which include the exciting last round game in which Mark Hebden with Black defeated Ameet Ghasi.

The Major was won by Wiott Ropp with 4.5/5 and the Minor was won by David Hull with 4.5/5

County Durham Congress

Held in the Welfare Hall, Houghton-le-Spring on March 16th-18th 2012

Open – 18 entries

1st= David Eggleston (Durham City); Jonathan Hawkins (Consett & Leam Lane) – 4/5 £135 each

3rd David Walker (-) – 3½/5 £45

U180 GP – P. Hempson (Sheffield); D. Henderson (Tynemouth) and Clive Waters (-) – all 3/5 £10 each

Major – 20 entries

1st= George Gazis (Durham City); Neil Jones (Cockermouth); Brian Robinson (Bishop Auckland) – 4/5 £75 each

Under 141 GP – Bill Metcalfe (Darlington) – 3/5 £15

Minor – 19 entries

1st Michael Harper (Nottingham Gambits) – 4/5 £130
2nd= Adam Eckersley (-); Stan Johnson (South Shields); Szymon Palucha (Durham City); Ron Ratter (Hebburn); Brian Whitaker (Thornaby Griffin) – 3½/5 £18 each

Under 110 GP – Joe Dalton (Jesmond) & Sri Sriharan (York R.I.) – 3/5 £7.50 each

IAPS National Chess Championships 2012

This year's competition was the 40th IAPS chess tournament and it proved to be one of the closest ever with 6 players tying for 1st place in the Championship. We had 136 players from 15 different schools and they all enjoyed the three days at Aldro School. The standard of chess was particularly good this year and there were also lots of other activities for the players to take part in. We ran a five a side football competition, a games evening and a trip to Thorpe Park.

We were very pleased to have Chris Ward (GM) to present the prizes and the Mr Johns chairman of IAPS said a few words at the prize giving.

Individual Results

Championship section (53 players)

1st= Taylor Pearson, Karam Sangha, Gwilym Price, Max French, Girinath Haridas and Isaac Stables 5½/6 Joint IAPS National Champions

U11 Section winner Christopher Albertyn 1st out of 11 players

U10 Section winner Will Harris, Jay Cronjaeger and Komal Singh 1st= out of 14 players

U9 Section winner Madeleine Liu 1st out of 33 players

U8 Section winner Zevon Rustom 1st out of 26 players
Girls Champion Bethan Plant

Team Cups

U13 age group(Hodgson Cup)

1st Nottingham High IAPS CHAMPIONS
2nd=Dulwich and Hawthorns

U11 age group(David Bull Cup)

1st Nottingham High IAPS CHAMPIONS
2nd Dulwich
3rd Hallfield

Girls Team Cup

Coworth- Flexlands IAPS CHAMPIONS

Congratulations to all the players and many thanks to all the teachers and parents who helped out at the tournament running the various sections and supervising all the activities.

- D.J.Archer (IAPS Chess Organiser)

Lady Herbert Trophy 2011-12

The Lady Herbert Trophy for the 2011-12 British Ladies Correspondence Chess Championship has been retained by Toni Halliwell of Keighley on 3½/4 from Valerie Craven of Leeds (2½) and Stephanie Lawrence of Cheslyn Hay (0). Toni also took on the men in the Candidates section of the British Correspondence Chess Championships, finishing 4= out of 13 with 7½/12. She has also scored 4½/7 so far in the Ladies World Correspondence Chess Championship semi-final.

Valerie Craven and Catherine Hiley of Rugeley have already entered for the 2012-13 BLCCC. Entries should reach the tournament director, Keith Escott at 43 Orchard Road, Erdington, Birmingham B24 9JB by the closing date of 30th September 2012 (Entry fee £7. Please make cheques payable to British Federation for Correspondence Chess).

Candidate sections will be organised if entries permit. Play is by post unless both players agree to play by email, which is the most popular method nowadays. Any woman or girl resident in the British Isles except the Irish Republic can enter.

- Keith Escott

The English Chess Federation Certificate of Merit



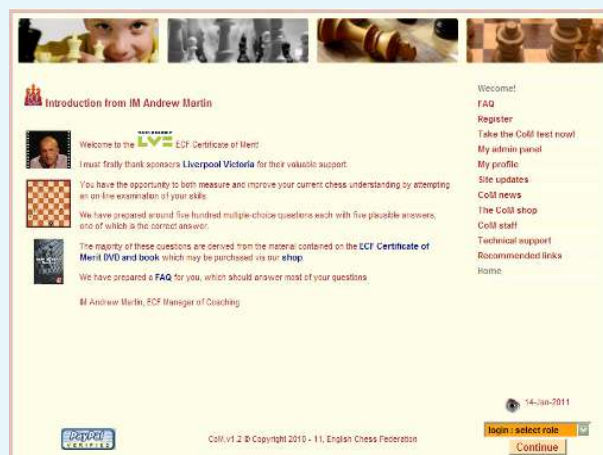
The Certificate of Merit (COM) is centred on a number of online tests, which enable chess students to measure their progress and to earn certificates and badges. The tests are taken entirely online, and payments for the credits can be made online or by cheque. Examinees can practice as many times as 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 for details of purchase of the full package or individual items.

Each credit costs £6 or £150 for 30. Once a student has paid for a credit, he or she can then take the test as many times as necessary until a pass is achieved.

Students can track each question answered wrongly and find out the correct answer.

The answers now have an explanation included (where appropriate)

There is also a package available of many goodies - for details, go to www.certificateofmerit.org.uk
For further information contact the ECF Office:
01424 775222 / com@englishchess.org.uk
www.certificateofmerit.org.uk



2012 World Schools Chess Championship, Iasi, Romania

(The ECF would like to thank Hillary Altman, chess parent and cub reporter, for the reports and photographs in this article. Hillary's articles are reprinted as received to try and get across the immediacy of the event as it unfolded)



The England team warms up (Round 1)

Here in Iasi, pronounced “Yahhj”, the former capital city of Romania, still boasting faded elegance, the voice of the President of the Romanian Chess Federation is booming across the sport hall. It signals that the World Schools Championships and Round 1 are about to begin. The parents’ applause (they are over 1000 in number) from the stands that overlook the playing floor is a vigorous kick-off to the many countries, languages and row upon row of children who are assembled. They are firmly tethered to their seats, as FIDE, the world chess organization, holds these serious young players to adult standards – those not seated when the clocks are released, will forfeit.

The players have made their journeys from home countries including Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Iran, Zimbabwe, Turkey, Israel and Russia, and many of these have been traveling to international tournaments and rigorously training with their teams and coaches as part of their everyday lives and education. Most already hold world rankings. For England’s talented junior champions, it is a first opportunity.

The playing floor is filled with the hum of curiosity, anticipation and a few raw nerves, and the stands are filled with hope and excitement. The stakes are high. Over the next 9 days, one round, lasting several hours, will be played each afternoon. World titles, trophies, and triumph are to be had by the winners from each category, boys and girls aged 5-18.

Round 1 pairs top seeded players against unrated ones. That places England in an early underdog position, with some surprising pairings. Under 7 Jeff Tomy is facing the top seed. Under 11 Meytal Cohen is matched against a Hungarian candidate master rated 1786. Max Elliott is facing the 6th seed, from Kazakhstan, rated 1855. Yang-Jian

Zhou is facing the 5th seed, a Romanian rated 1976.

The sudden sound of a loud clap from hundreds of clocks being slapped all at once by firm hands brings the hall to silence as first moves are made on the boards. Several seats are empty, and Luke Remus-Elliott and Richard Zhu prevail for England with two early wins by default.

Under 7 Callaghan McCarty-Snead earns a quick draw against a Turkish opponent. And, in one of the day’s most exciting wins, an injured player, under 9 Tai Remus-Elliott, cracks on to victory. He was playing with two broken fingers (the most critical kind of disability a chess player can face!) Having spent the earlier part of the day being transported via Romanian ambulance to hospital, he still managed to kick up a pawn storm, opening the kings file and queening a pawn to victory. Tai says of his attacking win, “It was a funny situation, he kept moving his rook back and forth, back and forth, back and forth, on and on!”

19 other heads-in-hands, held high, came in as defeats across the next four hours. The games were long and hard fought, and each an intense challenge against a stronger player, but there were no upsets. Post-game analysis went on into the night, as the team met to together with their coaches with strong camaraderie and quite a few hind-sights:

Under 9 Joshua Altman, against a Moldovan opponent, steadily reflects, “I should have trapped a bishop in the middle game, yeah, I should have done that.”

Under 13 Anna Purvis, facing a Turkish opponent rated 1638, was a pawn up, had 2 passed pawns, missed blockading with the knight on b6, and misplaced a knight on b8, costing the game. She deadpans with a quick smile, “I blame the coach!”

Under 11 Max Elliott misplaced a queen in middle game, costing him 5 tempo moves to equalise his position, and cost him the game. He declares, “I should have beaten him easily – he was only world #24!”

Under 13 Sam Cobbold, facing an Azerbaijanian rival rated 1711, declared him to have a “disturbing stare.” He shares, “It was pretty even through most of the game, I had to swap a passed pawn for a piece and it spiraled downward from there. I was felled by my scary opponent.”

Under 13 Ananth Vijayakumar, who faced an Azerbaijanian player rated 1711, got a knight, but his

opponent had two passed pawns and pushed it to a queen. Ananth says, “It was unstoppable!”

Finally, for the day, Under 13 Akito Oyama brought home a beautiful win against an unseeded Romanian opponent.

Finding our rhythm (Round 2)

After round 2 today, we have begun to settle in and rely on our talents. The round has just come to a close and as a quick update we have 8 wins and 5 draws to report today. A highlight was in the under 7s, both Callaghan McCarty-Snead and Jeff Tomy won their games.

Sam Cobbold won, too, against a Romanian graded 1764 – they were even throughout until he put his rook on a half-open file, used two rooks and a knight to slowly tear apart his defense, and forced his opponent to resign in the endgame – he was four pawns up. Ananth Vijayakumar won his game against an Indian opponent. He was even in the opening and the middle until his opponent swapped a knight for his bishop and he managed to capture the pawns, and Ananth managed to get a queen for the win. Alex van Lint prevailed against a Tunisian opponent – he was in a draw situation throughout the game against a stronger player, but in the end sacked his knight and it was check forking the king rook, forcing his opponent to take it and he resigned, basically (says Alex, “although he could have got out of it but didn’t”) and James Moreby defeated a Romanian. He reports, “I played the English opening, in middle game he accidentally trapped his own bishop, and I was a piece up for the whole game until the endgame where I had a passed pawn and then he sacrificed his knight for a pawn and I went on to win the endgame ... and that’s it!” Jake Liang and Karina Chan won their games strongly.

The best draw of the day was held by Richard Zhu, against the top seed from Ukraine, rated 2085. Max Elliott drew against a local “Yahhhj” – he says, “I was attacking for most of the game, but in the end I couldn’t keep my attack up, but after that we were still equal and therefore agreed a draw.” The girls brought in three solid draws – Eleanor Hapeshi against a Moldovan rated 1480, Jennifer Neil against a Moldovan rated 1420 and Imogen Camp

against an Indian opponent.

Joseph Friar, the last to finish, lost by a hair against an Azerbaijani player rated 1822.

A test of nerves (Round 3)

Today, round 3, is probably the most important turning point of the 9 rounds that the players will face. The board orders are starting to sort out into a top and a bottom. For those who have achieved wins so far, about half our team, the pressure is on as they have moved into the higher boards. For the others, today will determine if they’ve shaken off their arrival jitters – it turns out each of the earlier days’ games could have been won, but opportunities were overlooked.

So it’s clear while we have strong hope, raw talent and keen ability, there are many other factors at play – the hot climate, noisy room, strange city and opponents who speak different languages and transpose unknown notation symbols.

The first finish of the day is poignant for me – it’s Joshua Altman (the author’s son), a just-turned 8yr-old playing under 9s, who’s previous two rounds were best described as self-defeats. He managed to shrug off round 1, but yesterday’s game, round 2, went over 3 hours, and he was way off his game. In the replay, his coaches’ analysis sums it up best:

From Ray Keene, ” JUST SEEN JOSHS ROUND V THE RUSSIAN. THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT HE HAD THE RUSSIAN KID CRUSHED LIKE A BUG BUT KEPT ON NOT QUITE FINDING THE KILLER MOVE.”

... and from Lorin d’Costa, “did he just get tired or something?”

Sainbayar Tserendorj contributed a more forensic analysis, re-mastering the key downturns, and finally, Neil McDonald applied motivational tactics, guiding Joshua through games of the ages, a favorite match – Morphy vs Anderson. Joshua’s teammates offered many, many pats on the back, and James Moreby’s dad brought back a surprise happy meal from McDonalds!

It all worked. Josh settled in, putting it all behind him, and as black, maneuvered an easy tactical win today. He’s very pleased to be over his jitters.

Two other early wins have come in from Jeff Tomy and Joseph Dalton. More to come shortly as round 3 continues ...



Phoebe Price with her sister Olivia

Beware the Levenfish (Round 3 cont.)

Today's round 3 final results are in – we earned a total 9 wins for England, and one 4hr long, hard-won draw by Anna Purvis, the youngest girl playing under 13. Imogen Camp also earned her 1st win for Wales. She says "I set up a trap for my Romanian opponent and she fell for it. She thought it was a swap, but she lost a knight." Jeff Tomy and Callaghan McCarty-Snead both aced their under 7 games, giving Callaghan our team lead with 2½ out of 3. Other winners are Joshua Altman, Max Elliott ('My first international win!' – Max), Yang-Jian Zhou, Eleanor Hapeshi, Akito Oyama and Samuel McConnell.

Joseph Dalton also won – and was impromptu host to an ambassadorial exchange: his Pakistani competitor offered him a coin prior to the outset of their game, 1/100 of a rupee, for goodwill and perhaps a bit of a wink, and Joseph responded equivalently (he thinks) with 50 pence! Joseph went on to defeat and later befriend him!

James Moreby sadly fell afoul of the Levenfish trap, and we are wishing him and the unlucky "13? others, success tomorrow!

A way of life (Round 4)

We are accustomed to the power outages, sporadic hot water, stray dogs, crumbling sidewalks and buildings, and the scarcity of a fresh apple. At the same time, we've come to appreciate our abundance and freedoms, and the team have heightened awareness and appreciation of their privilege. Our notice of these differences is twofold – as we walk down a Romanian street and are permeated by Iasi's everyday life; and as we observe other teams' way of life, knowing that their team membership and performance is a core commodity of their country.

We are sharing accommodation with the Turkish delegation, and have learned their players have been rigorously coached by some of the most formidable names – Karpov, Kasparov – and are housed and supported by their governments. In contrast, the England team and coaches have arrived from different parts of the country, to travel and play together for the first time, in their first international venue. Still, the team spirit and support is remarkable. Bonds sure to last have already been formed among us – the parents, coaches and players.

We have settled by now into our routine. Breakfast is taken as a group. Mornings are spent with coaches, in small sessions individually reviewing games and strategies of our opponents – the pairings are posted for the following day just after rounds' end, and that sparks lively discussion over the evening meal. There is lunch – buffet style in the dining room, although a few of us have undertaken meal replacement strategies ranging from

McDonalds to KFC to Pizza Hut (there is one of each). Then we walk or take the 'FIDE' bus to the sport hall. We arrive en masse and then dash for the boards sets in. The rounds begin, and as the players complete their games hours later, they find their way out to the 'magic garden' – a patio hut among the adjoining buildings (some of which are in various states of unfinished or ongoing construction) where parents, players and Sainbayer Tserendorj, 'forensic' coach, gather to share the ups and downs of the games.

Round 4 does not quite mark the halfway point of the 9 rounds, but today the players' pairings reveal the intensity and quality of the anticipated games -

As two England players are set to face each other (Joseph Dalton and Jake Liang) the team gathers around to express their empathy for two friends forced to battle. Jennifer Neil, U15, will face an Azerbaijani opponent – she has been preparing by studying her rival's previous games, and can plan for the strategy and style she will likely use.

Jim Friar, a coach and dad of Joseph, plays through previous games and offers predictions to Jeff Tomy and Sam Cobbold. Sam's opponent plays the Dragon and e4, and they will look at 'slaying the dragon'. He abstains from coaching Joseph Dalton today, as he will face Jake.

Meytal Cohen, Phoebe Price and Joseph Friar are all hoping for first wins. Imogen, who had her first win yesterday, will now be facing a Woman Candidate Master, and Eleanor Hapeshi will face the under 14 top seed.

As we arrive, the air in the sport hall is stifling and dead still. The daily rumour that parents may be banned from the viewing stands that overlook the players is spreading, and fueling its cause of talking among those eagerly watching. Stern warnings are shouted in Romanian to the stands.

The afternoon unfolds as one might imagine – hot, anxious and slow, but the players, and strong results prevail ...

All good news – for first-time winners Meytal Cohen, Phoebe Price and Joseph Friar, and another win for Ananth Vijayakumar.

Jake Liang's win over team-mate and friend Joseph Dalton was bittersweet, as it was both a win and a loss for England.

Tai Remus-Elliott and Joshua Altman steadily won their under 9 games. Joshua was helped to an even quicker victory when his Moldovan opponent was caught snoozing as his clock expired!

Eleanor Hapeshi drew against the top seeded under14 girl, Imogen Camp drew against a WCM and Anna Purvis,

Jennifer Neil and Richard Zhu brought home three more draws for the day.

The final count in round 4: 7 wins and 5 draws!

Pairings (interval)

It's inevitable that friendships, once formed, will be tested. As the World Schools 2012 is an individual championship and the rules have been set, the team now faces some of the tournament's toughest hurdles – those which pit team-mates against each other and apply pressure to newly discovered friendships.

Yesterday's round 4 match between Jake Liang and Joseph Dalton was no oddity. 3 more England-England games are scheduled for today. Sam Cobbold will play Alex van Lint, Luke Remus-Elliot will face Samuel McConnell, and Tai Remus-Elliot will face his best buddy, Joshua Altman.

In the case of Sam vs Alex, they have different coaches and live in opposite parts of England. Says alex, "I think it's really bad, we came to play other people instead of our own team." Sam says, "I don't feel great because he's one of my friends, but in the end it's a game and we'll still be good friends."

From Luke, optimistically "At least he will speak English!" and from Samuel, a shrug and an "I'm not sure."

For Tai and Joshua, they are both 8 years old and chums. They share a coach in GM Neil McDonald. The three spent the morning preparing together by going through some of Bobby Fischer's best games, doing puzzles, and



trying to laugh it off, perhaps a bit too hard. The players chime together a response in earnest "I want to win" when asked about their feelings. Neil reflects, "This is a world championship, a hard fought draw would be everyone's best outcome – a nice, clean fight."

Sun Tzu states timelessly in *The Art of War*, "He who knows when he can fight and when he cannot, will be victorious." As the players all proudly sport their England t-

shirts, it is hard not to notice the resemblance of the England flag they wear abreast to the universal symbol for a draw (index fingers crossed into a +)!

... and on to Round 5

We are proud of our 5th round results today – 11 wins and 3 draws. The buzz has changed – no longer are sighs from 'blunders' being heard. Rather, the team have settled into a more sophisticated and analytical vocabulary of strategy, position and tactics.

Those winning today were Anna Purvis, Phoebe Price, Eleanor Hapeshi, Yang-Jian Zhou, Richard Zhu, Akito Oyama and Joseph Friar. Additional wins, hailed as ambivalent successes, were earned by Luke Remus-Elliot, Alex van Lint and Joshua Altman, who fought solidly against their own England team-mates, and a bye for Jennifer Neil. Meytal Cohen, Callaghan McCarty-Snead, and Karina Chan all held their own evenly, earning draws.

Eleanor Hapeshi, playing under 13 girls, earned a personal best against her Romanian opponent – she now boasts 3 points, exceeding her own early target of 2. Says Eleanor, "I calculated quite far but it took me longer than I thought to checkmate her." She credits her win to spot-on preparation and coaching she's received from IM Lawrence Cooper, and notes that he recapped her opponent's games, digging all the way back to 2009. Her mum agrees that the coaching has been critical in order to play at a world-class level.

Richard Zhu, competing in under 13s, who drew yesterday against the top seed, surpassed that today with a strong win against a Romanian opponent.

In the game (Round 6)

We are expecting our best efforts to prevail today. Round 6 has just begun, the 2/3 mark of the championships. Most noticeable among the 24 England team players is their self-assuredness and determination. Each has earned multiple wins or draws and is well-accustomed to the rigor (and danger of distraction) of the 4-hour round. The game is the focus, finally, as it should be, and each player has the stamina needed. The players and coaches have been working together, preparing for hours every morning and evening. There is a synergy and working style about approaches and a strong desire to achieve. Our hopes are high as this afternoon unfolds.

Chess is an endurance sport, no mistake, these players know their endgame is within reach ...

... well – all but two results are in. On our best day yet we can report 9 wins and 5 draws so far. That places Akito Oyama and Callaghan McCarty-Snead on 4 points and Joshua Altman on 3½.

Wins were earned by Akito, Callaghan, Jake Liang (in a quick tactical game), Luke Remus-Elliott, Tai Remus-Elliott, Imogen Camp, Anna Purvis, Jennifer Neil and Meytal Cohen, whose game will appear here soon – her coach, Sabrina Chevannes, said it was ‘really well played!’ Draws were achieved by Joshua Altman, Jeff Tomy, Ananth Vijayakumar, Max Elliott and Samuel McConnell.

In a candid moment, Callaghan gave a ‘celebrity radio interview’ to Romanian Kiss FM! When asked if he had had a chance to see the city, he answered an honest “No!” Pizza for everyone – we are all out, players, parents and coaches, for a special team treat this evening.

LATE NEWS – one more win for Joseph Friar, just arriving for his pizza ...

LATER NEWS – Yang-Jian Zhou earned a draw ...

Chess diplomacy (Round 7)

As round 7 gets underway today, something is different. Handshakes and smiles, usually saved for team-mates, are being offered eagerly across the aisle, to now familiar faces, former and future opponents.

Players are comfortable on this new world stage – many have exchanged small gifts, postcards and emails. Our team has befriended the Turkish, Mongolian, Pakistani and Zimbabwean players. The Romanian team, our local hosts, have been among the most eager to engage in new friendships. As the only team who has not traveled internationally for the event, they seem particularly aware of the faraway places that each visitor represents.

They have found a way to communicate, playing friendly chess games and football, where English is not understood. They are talking about when they will meet again – at the European championships, World Youth and beyond. It’s a display of both sportsmanship and respect, and a certain sign of future leadership – that these game players, the youth of many disparate countries, are open to exchange.

First five games in, all wins! Well played Jeff Tomy, Joshua Altman, James Moreby, Joseph Dalton and Sam Cobbold!

Two more straight wins just in – Akito Oyama and Yang-Jian Zhou ...

Quotes from the winners ...

Akito Oyama, who leads the team on 5 points, of his game against an Azerbaijani opponent -

“I played quite an aggressive opening, so I tried my best to crush his king and it worked.”

Joshua Altman, on 4½ points, of his game against Romanian Isfan Ioan-Marius –

“I feel like I played my best and I concentrated, and I deserved to win!”

Yang-Jian Zhou, now on 3½ points, earned his win today against Abdul al-Hamed from the United Arab Emirates, rated 1787 -

“Coach GM Neil McDonald prepared me well, and I attacked Abdul on the queen side, until he collapsed.”

Sam Cobbold, about his Zimbabwean opponent -

“I wiped the floor with him – slowly I whipped away pieces and pawns, until there was nothing. But we shook hands, played cola bottle cricket (an England team innovation) and I’ve made a new friend!”

Joseph Dalton, on his win against a Pakistani opponent, who is one of his new friends made here in Romania (and a cola bottle cricket player) -

“I was part of the one-point gang and I wanted it – today we all won, me, Sam and James. I feel great.”

James Moreby, who “caught the toad-in-the-hole,” as he faced a Romanian boy called Toader –

“I won in 39 moves because he swapped off all the pieces.”

... and of Jeff Tomy’s clean, tactical win, coach Jim Friar said -

“Jeff had never seen that opening, it was good preparation and he played as predicted. I met Jeff walking on the road after the game and he was well pleased! “

Underdogs – honourable mentions

Also worth noting – the girls’ losses over the last couple days have been amazing battles. Imogen & Eleanor’s games were 4hrs+, 80-90 move games, and Anna Purvis succumbed narrowly today to an U14 rated #80 in the world! Phoebe also held on, but was ultimately defeated by a ranked Russian opponent.

Deep into that darkness peering ...

It feels as if we are nearing the close – only two rounds to go, departure flights being posted and trophies now on display- and within reach for some. The players have settled right in, the FIDE arbiters have all but given up on trying to evict noisy parents from the hall. The parents are all a bit tightlipped as we know the final stakes – and the ticking clock against them.

As we are somewhere deep in Transylvania, and there is a thunderstorm overhead this afternoon, a bit of dark romanticism is in order – Edgar Allan Poe and the sentiment of his ‘tell-tale heart’ comes to mind. As in the poem, there is in this room a heightening of acute senses, a pounding becoming louder and louder in our heads as

the windows go dark and the intensity of the final games unfolds. My son's opponent has a 'vulture eye' and I can see him leaning far over the board, trying to stare him down, I am sure of it! Like Poe, I feel I will explode, I must jump up and scream!

Thankfully the other parents remind me to remain sane, and collectively we come up with a bit of Romanian relief. They remind me -

1 – There IS a Romanian word for 'Yes' ... CASH!

2 – We have successfully liberated the butter – butter for everyone!

3 – It's raining – we can shower outside instead of under the brown water that comes from the tap!

4 – It is the weekend, which means there will be a new wine offered to our group, as it quietly 'disappears' from the catered event being held on the premises. We speculate the bride and groom will not notice the double dipping, oops we mean double tipping!

5 – It's raining, the lone internet signal will surely be down everywhere – no need to all rush for the internet chair

6 – It's raining, the power will go out any moment – might as well head for the Moldova mall, as the Kalashnikov shop (located conveniently between the children's toy shop and the KFC) surely has its own generator!

7 – At least the dogs will get a bath, we can cross flea powder off our wish list!

8 – Ah-choo! sounds conveniently like "Ceaurescu!"

9 – Our children have learned the language. Who minds they are the words we never want them to repeat

10 – We won't need our own invisible ink if the roof begins leaking onto the players scoresheets – but we will still be wondering how those Romanian pgn files keep getting misplaced

Round 8 - brief report

7 wins – Jake Liang, Joseph Friar, Joseph Dalton, Samuel McConnell, James Moreby (his game is featured below), Karina Chan and Callaghan McCarty-Snead

5 draws – Jennifer Neil, Anna Purvis, Phoebe Price, Meytal Cohen, Ananth Vijayakumar

Coach GM Neil McDonald – "After four losses by my group today, I am feeling glum, but hoping for a strong finish tomorrow"

Thanks, coach

As the first moves of the last round are played across the sport hall, there is a quick rhythm and momentum to studied and anticipated sequences. D4, E4 ... and the lines evolve. No England player will be caught in an early trap or blunder – the standard of play is too high, and the preparation too thorough ...

"Fortune teller," "Psychic," and "Predictions came true" are heard most often when the players are asked to describe their coaches. They have prepared all 24 so thoroughly, in so little time, to compete on this world stage ... and as for the players, they are eager to be taught by such dedicated and attentive masters. They are transformed and confident.

As Ananth puts it, "It's a great thing being taught by a great mentor."

IM Lawrence Cooper [Head of Delegation], GM Neil McDonald, IM Adam Hunt, WFM Sabrina Chevannes, Sainbayar Tserendorj and James Friar are our laudable company

From the players and parents, "Thanks, coach!"

... and lastly, Round 9

8 wins – Joshua Altman, Imogen Camp, Max Elliott, Alex van Lint, Luke Remus-Elliott, Jeff Tomy, Eleanor Hapeshi, Richard Zhu

7 draws – Anna Purvis, Joseph Dalton, Ananth Vijayakumar, Sam Cobbold, James Moreby, Jennifer Neil, Tai Remus-Elliott



Still wishing for a pair of binoculars, but we're all laughing heartily (of course in quiet whispers) now, and the players, the reason we wouldn't trade a moment of this great adventure, are beginning to finish their games. And ... if the rain lets up, an international game of cola bottle cricket will be up next.



The ChEx Bookshelf - Andrew Farthing

THE GOLDEN DOZEN (2)

by Andrew Farthing

Last time, I covered the first six names in my “Golden Dozen” of the best chess writers for the medium-standard player seeking to improve:

1. John Nunn
2. Jan Timman
3. C.J.S. Purdy
4. Edmar Mednis
5. Jonathan Rowson
6. John Watson

In this continuation, I explain the remaining six choices, along with a bonus “Silver Half-Dozen” for those hungry for more.

7. DAVID BRONSTEIN

We come now to the first of a trio of players who knocked on the door of the world championship but didn't quite surmount the final obstacle. Each, however, is well worth the chess enthusiast's time and attention.

David Bronstein challenged for the world title in a match with Mikhail Botvinnik in 1951. The result was a 12-12 tie, which meant that Botvinnik, as reigning champion, retained his title. Bronstein was a staggeringly creative player: a very strong grandmaster of course, but also someone who was capable of the most stunning conceptions in his individual games. He clearly loved chess, and this was reflected in the various books that he published sporadically during his lifetime. Sadly, Bronstein was also not the most organised of people by all accounts, so his output was irregular at best, leaving us to speculate on what he could have produced had he had the opportunity and inclination to write more regularly.

Nevertheless, among his works are some of the most entertaining and instructive chess books ever written:

- **200 Open Games** (Batsford, 1974) – One of the first chess books I bought and still a favourite. This is a collection of 200 of Bronstein's games opening with the moves 1. e4 e5. Instead of traditional annotations, Bronstein provides introductory comments to each game (ranging from half a page to one-and-a-half pages), highlighting points of interest about the game itself, its circumstances or the opponent. Analytical variations are given, of course, but Bronstein's goal is to illustrate the range of games that may emerge from the same two opening moves rather than offer traditional chess instruc-

tion. A joy of a book.

- **Zurich International Chess Tournament 1953** (Dover, 1979; also issued in a different translation by Batsford under the title, **The Chess Struggle in Practice**, but the Dover edition is more readily available) – The 210 games from the 1953 Candidates Tournament, beautifully annotated so as to provide a feast of instruction to the average player. Bronstein's most famous book and an undisputed classic. Bronstein admitted in later years that this work was produced in collaboration with Boris Vainstein, but the question of who did what is relatively unimportant; what matters is what appears on the page, and in this case, it's wonderful.

Other works were produced in collaboration with others:

- **The Sorcerer's Apprentice** (Cadogan, 1995; with Tom Fürstenberg) – A collection of 220 games from Bronstein's career, presented with notes, introductions and other supporting material. Very readable.
- **David Bronstein – Chess Improviser** (Pergamon, 1983) – The author is listed as Boris Vainstein (a long-time friend and helper of Bronstein), but much of the content is pure Bronstein. There are 28 of Bronstein's best games, with good notes, followed by the 24 games of the 1951 Botvinnik match, with Bronstein's own detailed comments. The latter section is worth the price of the book on its own.
- **Secret Notes** (Edition Olms, 2007; with Sergey Voronkov) – A compendium of games and autobiographical writings from Bronstein's later years. A fascinating insight into a great player's personality.

8. VICTOR KORCHNOI

Famous for his titanic struggles with Karpov for the world title in 1978 and 1981 (and, in effect, 1974, since Fischer failed to defend his title against the winner), Korchnoi is a grandmaster of the top rank and one of the most fearsome fighters over the chessboard. Latterly, he has astonished the chess world with his vigour in continuing to play strong chess well into his seventies.

Dynamism and energy have always been a feature of Korchnoi's play, but they also define his character. Outspoken, controversial, humorous and crotchety (especially when he loses), he holds nothing back in his games or in his writings. Korchnoi has concentrated more on playing than writing, but what he has produced is pure gold:

- **My Best Games Volume 1: Games with White**

(Edition Olms, 2001) – 50 of Korchnoi’s best wins with the white pieces, from the years 1951 to 1999(!). The annotations are authoritative, clear and strikingly honest.

- **My Best Games Volume 2: Games with Black** (Edition Olms, 2001) – The mirror image of Volume 1, with 50 games from 1952 to 2000. Korchnoi is renowned as a player who fights as hard for a win with Black as with White, and these games are splendid examples.

- **Chess is my Life** (Edition Olms, 2005) – An updated, revised version of a book first published by Batsford in 1977, this is Korchnoi’s autobiography. You will not read a more gripping account of a grandmaster’s life.

The two-volume **My Best Games** was reissued in a single volume in 2011, with 10 additional games. This came highly recommended in a ChEx Bookshelf article a year ago, and if you have not yet purchased a copy, what’s keeping you?

For when you are feeling industrious, there is also **Practical Rook Endings** (Edition Olms, 1999), a slim volume of some of Korchnoi’s most mind-boggling struggles in rook endings. You’ll need to work hard to gain the benefit from this, but you will benefit!

9. ALEXEI SHIROV

Shirov is one of the most exciting players active today, albeit not quite of the same stature as Bronstein and Korchnoi. Lest we forget, he defeated Vladimir Kramnik in 1998 in the equivalent of a Candidates Final match to earn the right to challenge Kasparov for the PCC World Championship, only to be thwarted by an apparent absence of sponsors for the championship match itself.

Shirov has, however, produced two autobiographical games collections to date, both of exceptional quality:

- **Fire on Board** (Cadogan, 1997)
- **Fire on Board Part II: 1997-2004** (Everyman, 2005)

These are “just” collections of well-annotated games, but Shirov’s best games are so outstanding that they deserve a place on this list. Many modern games collections read as though they were written by computers as well as with the help of them. In the case of Shirov’s books, the author’s personality emerges strongly, which adds considerably to the text.

10. TIM HARDING

Nowadays, Tim Harding is best known as a passionate advocate of correspondence chess, and many of his books reflect this enthusiasm. My first encounter with this author, however, came in the form of a slim volume

called **Why You Lose at Chess** (Batsford, 1982). Given the standard of my chess, this was clearly the book for me! It packed a lot of practical advice and entertaining analysis into its 120 pages, and I still have a lot of affection for it. It has been reprinted recently by the American publisher Dover; you won’t regret tracking it down.

Around the same time, I also found and enjoyed Harding’s **Better Chess for Average Players** (Oxford University Press, 1979; reprinted by Dover, 1996). This is a well-written general instructional book that moves the reader on from the level of the standard beginner’s texts such as Golombek’s **The Game of Chess**. Recommended.

It is as a promoter of correspondence chess, however, that I have included Harding in my list. Through a series of books, he has consistently shown that the best games produced in this form of the game are at least as entertaining as their over-the-board counterparts. As you might expect, given the greater scope for deep analysis during the games, the annotations in turn tend to have great depth. All of the following are recommended, if you want to dip a toe in the waters of ‘chess at a distance’, as the Germans call it:

- **64 Great Chess Games** (Chess Mail, 2002) – Subtitled “Masterpieces of Postal and Email Chess”, this is 300 pages of great chess. The notes are thorough without being overwhelming for the club-player.
- **50 Golden Chess Games** (Chess Mail, 2004) – Similar to the previous work, with slightly more detailed notes.
- **The Write Move** (Chess Mail, 2005) – Edited by Harding, this is “an anthology of the best writing in Correspondence Chess”. The articles covers a wide range of subjects and are consistently well-written and entertaining.
- **Winning at Correspondence Chess** (Batsford, 1996) – If you are interested in trying correspondence chess for yourself, this is a good guide to the practicalities and quirks of this form of the game.

Harding’s most recent book is **Correspondence Chess in Britain and Ireland, 1824-1987** (McFarland, 2011). This is a well-produced large format paperback, full of fascinating material for those with a historical bent.

Finally, I should like to mention one other book, **Red Letters** (Chess Mail, 2003), written by Sergey Grodzensky in the main but with the collaboration of Tim Harding. This is a history of the correspondence chess championships of the Soviet Union and consists mostly of a number of well annotated games (very few of which you are likely to have seen before). As a bonus, the book comes with a CD-ROM including all traceable games from the events in question.

11. JACOB AAGAARD

During the course of just a few years, this Danish International Master (now resident in Scotland and 2007 British Champion!) has emerged as one of the most interesting writers for the player looking to improve active today.

Setting aside a couple of openings books, Aagaard came to notice as an author with a very individual volume called **Excelling at Chess** (Everyman, 2001). In this book, the author writes in a chatty style about various aspects of chess, such as:

- ‘Real chess players’, i.e. players “who know where the pieces belong”;
- ‘No Rules?’, a discussion of the applicability of general principles to good chess and an intriguing corollary to John Watson’s books on chess strategy (see above). The two authors disagree (although I suspect, having read both, that this is more a question of presentation than underlying argument);
- ‘Unforcing Play’
- ‘Why Study the Endgame?’ – a useful section, which includes a terrific section on Ulf Andersson, the Swedish GM whose mysterious ‘wins from nothing’ captivated me in the 1980s.

Excelling at Chess is not a systematic instruction manual by any means, but it conveys the author’s personality very well and distinguishes itself from the run-of-the-mill chess book as a result. I recommend it, as a reader-friendly introduction to Aagaard’s more structured efforts:

- **Excelling at Positional Chess** (Everyman, 2003)
- **Excelling at Technical Chess** (Everyman, 2004)
- **Excelling at Combinational Play** (Everyman, 2004)
- **Excelling at Chess Calculation** (Everyman, 2004)
- **Practical Chess Defence** (Quality Chess, 2006)

Each of these books puts into practice the theory espoused in **Excelling at Chess** that the way to improve at chess is to do concrete work on chess positions. Passive ‘reading’ is not sufficient. This is not an original approach, of course (see Purdy and Rowson, for example), but it is undoubtedly valid. If you work through Aagaard’s course in the various aspects of the game, and take it seriously, I have no doubt that you will improve your game. The tricky part is finding the commitment within yourself to take on this much work. Aagaard is an entertaining guide, however, and well worth persisting with.

The last of the books listed above, **Practical Chess Defence**, is based on a brilliant idea: fill a book with posi-

tions from a previous ‘authoritative’ source (the Chess Informant series) which purported to show winning combinations but which overlooked defensive resources. Using these resources as examples of defence at its best, Aagaard turns the material into a very testing examination of the reader’s own defensive skills. A great idea, well executed.

(This last book is published by a new firm, Quality Chess, in which Jacob Aagaard is a key stakeholder. On the evidence of their output so far, they are a firm to watch. Their book of the World Championship tournament, **San Luis 2005**, by Alik Gershon and Igor Nor, is a genuine masterpiece.)

In 2008 and 2010 respectively, Aagaard published volumes 1 and 2 of his **Attacking Manual** (Quality Chess). Much praised (and award-winning), these are an excellent investment for the average player willing to work on self-improvement.

Like Jonathan Rowson, in days gone by Aagaard frequently annotated games for the chess magazines (particularly Chess Monthly), and these articles are well worth tracking down.

12. MIHAIL MARIN

My final choice was a tough one. There are so many good chess writers around (as well as plenty of mediocre ones, of course) that limiting myself to just twelve names was very difficult. To give you an idea, I’ve listed some of the names I rejected at the end of this section.

So, why Mihail Marin?

Marin is a Romanian grandmaster and author of several works that are a notch above the norm.

The first two cover conventional territory but stand out through the clarity of the writing and the well-chosen examples:

- **Secrets of Chess Defence** (Gambit, 2003) – An excellent examination of a difficult subject. You might usefully read this before tackling the test positions in Jacob Aagaard’s **Practical Chess Defence**.
 - **Secrets of Attacking Chess** (Gambit, 2005) – A popular subject, which Marin covers well through very deep analysis of carefully selected sample games.
- The book that really elevates Marin into the elite of chess authors is the marvellous **Learn from the Legends** (Quality Chess, 2004). The concept here is to take eight specific “legends” of the game (world champions Alekhine, Botvinnik, Tal, Petrosian, Fischer and Karpov,

plus two equally great players, Rubinstein and Korchnoi) and devote one chapter to each, focusing on an aspect of the game in which the individual excelled. For example, Rubinstein's legendary technique in rook endgames is discussed, on the very reasonable basis that if we want to know how to play such positions better, who better could we choose to show us the way?

Learn from the Legends is a great idea, beautifully executed, and an appropriately high-quality offering with which to end my list.

Marin has also produced a two-volume repertoire for Black based on 1. e4 e5, **Beating the Open Games** and **A Spanish Repertoire for Black** (both Quality Chess, 2007). Based on a brief examination, I would say that the standard of the earlier books is maintained.

Finally, in conjunction with Yuri Garrett, Marin completed a tournament book, **Reggio Emilia 2007/2008**, which is a typically elegant product from the Quality Chess stable (2009). As a fan of traditional tournament books, this was particularly welcome in my eyes, and the text is a very readable combination of deep analysis and colour commentary.

THE SILVER HALF-DOZEN:

Here are six chess writers that came within an ace of making my Golden Dozen. If you have sampled my recommended authors and want to try someone else, these are a great place to look:

- **Andrew Soltis** – An American grandmaster who has produced some wonderfully readable books on chess miscellanea (Karl Marx Plays Chess, Chess to Enjoy), chess history (books on Soviet Chess, the U.S. Championship, Great Chess Tournaments and his biography of Frank Marshall spring to mind) and various interesting instructive works. His openings books do not achieve the same standard as his other works.
- **Jeremy Silman** – Another American author, whose mammoth Endgame Course is excellent value and whose How to Reassess Your Chess (now in a much-improved 4th edition) is a perennial favourite among club-standard players. Many people would consider him a Purdy for the modern generation and possibly a better choice. It is a matter of taste.
- **Valeri Beim** – An Austrian grandmaster, whose various instructional works, published by Gambit, are well worth studying.
- **Mark Dvoretsky** – The world's best chess trainer in the eyes of many, but his books are very advanced. Not the place for the average club-player to start, but perhaps a worthwhile goal to aim for.

• **Paul Keres** – Author of an excellent series of autobiographical games collections as well as instructional works. Keres's work is undoubtedly high quality but, in my opinion, somewhat lacking in character.

• **Yasser Seirawan** – A strong American grandmaster who has produced some good books for beginners/improving players (the Winning... series), including the enjoyable Winning Chess Brilliances. He is on the list here, however, as co-author of two outstanding match books: Five Crowns (on the 1990 Kasparov-Karpov world championship match) and No Regrets, a very detailed account of the 1992 Fischer-Spassky encounter. Many top-level matches are poorly served by quickly-produced, superficial match books that do little to convey the depths of the games. Seirawan's books are superb examples of how well these matches can be covered, if the author makes the effort. In 2010, Seirawan published the wonderful autobiographical games collection, Chess Duels – My Games with the World Champions, which should be on every chess player's bookshelf.

The list could go on. As soon as I finished writing the above, a small voice inside began suggesting additional names, such as Tibor Károlyi, whose recent two-volume collection of Karpov's strategic masterpieces is sensation-ally good.

The trouble is, there are so many good books and so little time. Happy hunting!

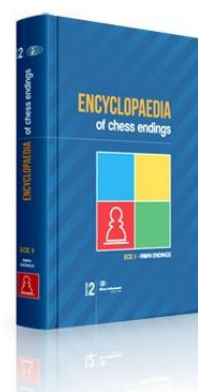
Book Reviews - Gary Lane

Encyclopedia of Chess Endings – Pawn Endings

Edited by Alexandar Matanovic

Published by Chess Informant at £26.95

In the good old days before portable computers it was a regular sight to see a master arrive at a weekend tournament with a large suitcase containing a pair of lucky socks and lot of Informant books. At the time this Yugoslav production was the cutting edge of theory and the only place where lots of star names annotated their games. Since then the New in chess yearbook has come to prominence while a good database can allow anyone to try and keep up to date with the latest endings. So why are people buying the 2nd edition of Encyclopedia of Chess Endings known to its friends as ECE I? I have actually asked a couple of people this question after they have parted with cash to buy the hardcover book bursting with 455 pages. The main answer seems to be they have little



interest in computers, let alone the famous Nalimov tablebases that plays endings with absolute perfection. The general consensus is that they prefer a good book and trust the Informant name. That is fair enough but the book is not just general endings but only king and pawn endings. Yes, no rooks, knights bishop or even those annoying queens so it really is a very specialist work. The positions are taken from previous Informants and collected together to form 1895 potential puzzles. It is not clear to me whether old choices have been computer checked to make sure the analysis is correct but I have a feeling that the readership is not too bothered and prefer lots of thought provoking positions. It can be read like a puzzle book but could be useful as reference point in correspondence play.

A book for connoisseurs of chess endings.

Vishy Anand: World Chess Champion, Life and Games

by Vishy Anand & John Nunn

Published by Gambit at £18.99



It could be that you have noticed the World Championship taking place and to reap the benefits of all the publicity there is a welcome new edition of Anand's best games. There will be some of you who have glimpsed the Indian star at the London Classic tournament, but some of the older generation of English chess players are likely to have had the opportunity to play him

at the British Championship or even the Lloyds Bank Masters in London. The one thing that almost all people remember are his impeccable good manners after he beats you. The original book was called Vishy Anand My Best Games of Chess but this recent edition has John Nunn added as an author. This apparently is because Anand chose the extra 30 games from the 2001 version with Dr Nunn annotating the games. This is a shame because the Indian star has written extensively in New in Chess magazine so those games are available unless copyright restrictions apply. The reader might also be puzzled why there is only one game from 2011 and even that is from a rapid match and presumably due to time constraints for printing there are none from 2012. Still, if you put all that to one side the games are excellent, the notes by Anand and Nunn insightful which makes it a winning combination. I did browse through my own copy of the first edition from 1998 and noticed a large pencil mark next to game 19 Anand versus Ivanchuk where it states "...the path to equality for Black had been more or less worked out after 14 Qb3 and 14 Bxg5...". Well, it can't be strictly true

because 14 Qb3 allows 14...Qxf1 checkmate. Of course, mistakes always crop up in chess books but it is rather curious the same piece of analysis is faithfully reprinted in 2012. I have a sneaking suspicion that the next edition will have the Gelfand match added and the one move checkmate subtracted.

A fantastic collection of games that is already a chess classic.

The Strategic Nimzo-Indian Vol. 1: A Complete Guide to the Rubinstein Variation

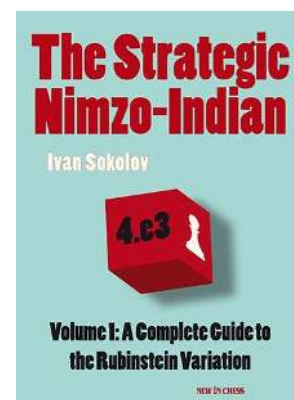
by Ivan Sokolov

Published by New In Chess at £23.95

The Bosnian grandmaster now resident in the Netherlands has had an impressive tournament career and has now settled comfortably into the role as author. In this book a reader might be concerned about trying to remember a whopping 410 pages about the Rubinstein Variation when frankly the entire Nimzo-Indian could be covered in a slimmer volume that would be suitable for the vast majority of weekend tournament players. It seems to be a theme for publishers to cover just about

everything so we have an exhaustive study of the line 1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 Nc3 Bb4 4 e3. Now some readers might now understand the line I am talking about but the intended readership for this book is obviously highly rated because I could find no reference to the exact first four moves until page 401 under the title Index of Variations. I am not kidding about that

because the contents and every chapter just start with Black's fourth move. Even in the introduction there is no reference to the crucial first four moves. A curious detail which could be an editing fault or another top grandmaster assuming an educated readership. Still, Sokolov has the great fortune to have beaten Garry Kasparov in this variation so there will be plenty of buyers delighted to hear what he has to say on the subject. I found it very readable, with clear, precise comments that would help to construct a repertoire around the annotated games. Apparently, the author had wanted to include analysis on the 4 a3 variation but decided it deserved a separate book that will appear in the beginning of 2013, so the readership will have to be patient if you want to play the Nimzo-Indian only with the help of tomes by the grandmaster. Sokolov reveals his secrets in the Rubinstein Variation so everyone can be a winner.



Grand Prix Leader Boards 5th March 2012

English Chess Federation Grand Prix 2011-12

Players in red are counting the maximum number of events. The tables will not be completely up to date, because recent events will still be in the pipeline.

Open Prix

Name	Club/Area	Pts
1 Hawkins, Jonathan	Consett	674
2 Arkell, Keith CC	4NCL Cheddleton	669
3 Hebden, Mark L	4NCL Pride and Prejudice	626
4 Jackson, Oliver A	Cheshire/N.Wales *	595
5 Batchelor, Peter J	Willesden & Brent	574
6 Prior, Stephen CV	Lincolnshire CA	570
7 Williams, Simon K	Sandhurst	567
8 Harvey, Marcus R	Bicester	563
9 Surtees, Mike J	Bolton	561
10 Jaunooby, Ali Reza	3Cs	557
11 White, Michael JR	4NCL Oxfordshire	554
12 Wadsworth, Matthew J	Maidenhead	552
13 Williams, Peter A jnr	Coulsdon CF	552
14 Lalic, Peter D	Sutton Grammar School	546
15 Combie, Alex B	Newark & Southwell	543

Graded Prix: 160-179

Name	Club/Area	Pts
1 Bryant, Richard BE	Chester	594
2 Goodfellow, Russell R	Tunbridge Wells	578
3 O'Gorman, Brendan	DHSS	569
4 Mulleady, Peter J	Atherton	531
5 Clegg, Robert	Huddersfield	526
6 Burke, Mitchell R	3Cs	508
7 Hjort, Helge	Hendon	505
8 Fenwick, Hugh F	Mushrooms	505
9 Gamble, Raymond J	Spondon	503
10 Hayward, Alan	Streatham	502
11 Burns, Martin J	Stockport	497
12 Jackson, Paul G	Coulsdon CF	495
13 Newton, Robert A	Heywood	495
14 Robinson, Thomas D	Redditch	493
15 Wells, Jonathan C	North Norfolk	491

Graded Prix: 140-159

Name	Club/Area	Pts
1 Desmond, Richard E	Wombwell	639
2 Hartley, Dean M	Amber Valley	601
3 Wilson, Matthew R	Wigston	592
4 Ropp, Wiatt D	Stratford	576
5 Greatorex, Roger	Llangollen	569
6 Gibbs, Daniel C	Ilford	552
7 Price, Andrew	Leamington	530
8 Connor, Michael I	Great Lever	512
9 Torrance, John	Metropolitan	504
10 Grobler, David	Stannington	499
11 Cawston, M John	Lady Anne Mdlton	498
12 Boustred, Noel J	Gosforth	498
13 Salisbury, Paul	Yorks Copper Works	495
14 Wood, Peter C	Hastings *	493
15 Cork, David J	Coulsdon CF	492

Graded Prix: 120-139

Name	Club/Area	Pts
1 Robson, Caroline J	Barnet Elizabeth	595
2 Foley, Phil T	Upminster	564
3 Egan, William J	Scunthorpe	557
4 Allen, Timothy S	Battersea	535
5 Crouch, Timothy J	Kings Head	530
6 Costeloe, C Andrew J	Muswell Hill	525
7 Gilbert, David J	DHSS	512
8 Horman, Paul A	Morecambe	499
9 Collins, Andrew	Leamington	496
10 Ross, Stuart	Shifnal & Telford	495
11 Wiggins, Andrew S	Greenlands	494
12 Gibbs, John	Wombwell	494
13 Dunne, David C	West Nottingham	493
14 McKeon, John E	Milton Keynes	488
15 Miles, Barry S	Coulsdon CF	479

Graded Prix: U120

Name	Club/Area	Pts
1 Crockett, Stephen J	Redditch	640

2 Fraser, Alan R	Beckenham & Bromley	624
3 Bullock, Lee	London *	575
4 Oyama, Harunobu	Cambridge City	573
5 Summerland, David	Leeds	537
6 Billett, Stephen J	Portsmouth	501
7 Waddington, James	Bolton	500
8 Brent, Derek	Urmston	488
9 Jackson, Paul Robert	Morecambe	485
10 Upton, WE Bill	Morley College	484
11 Redmond, Nigel	Bradford College	481
12 Mahony, Jonathan	Leeds	470
13 Everitt, David	St Francis & Haywards Heath	466
14 Welch, Hazel	Seaton	459
15 Constable, Christine F	Coulsdon CF	455

Women's Prix

Name	Club/Area	Pts
1 Robson, Caroline J	Barnet Elizabeth	595
2 Ressel, Eva	Chess Mates Northampton	521
3 Wei, Naomi	Essex *	513
4 Shepherd, Katherine M	Ashted	505
5 Ivanov, Elizabeth	Barnet Schools	489
6 Norman, Dinah M	Wokingham *	486
7 Steele, Beatrice H	Coulsdon CF	481
8 Keen, Cosima C	Sussex Juniors	471
9 Varney, Zoe	Cumnor	470
10 Kalaiyalahan, Akshaya	Richmond Juniors	464
11 Dean, Angelica	Shrewsbury	462
12 Head, Louise	Berkshire Junior	462
13 Welch, Hazel	Seaton	459
14 Sit, Victoria	Coulsdon CF	456
15 Constable, Christine F	Coulsdon CF	455

Junior Prix

Name	Club/Area	Pts
1 Kalavannan, Koby	Surbiton *	604
2 Batchelor, Peter J	Willesden & Brent	574
3 Harvey, Marcus R	Bicester	563
4 Oyama, Akito	Cambridge City	559
5 Anilkumar, Anantha P (Jnr)	Coulsdon CF	559
6 Nettleton, Charlie B	Hayes (Middlesex.)	558
7 Balaji, Ananthanarayanan	Harrow	554
8 Zhang, Anthony Y	Berkshire Junior	553
9 Boswell, Jacob Connor	Cheddleton & Leek	552
10 Wadsworth, Matthew J	Maidenhead	552
11 Williams, Peter A (Jnr)	Coulsdon CF	552
12 Taylor, Adam C	Colchester *	547
13 Lalic, Peter D	Sutton Grammar School	546
14 Higgs, Joshua	Sussex Juniors	546
15 Pein, Jonathan	Barnet Knights	545

Brendan O'Gorman - Chess Images

See Brendan's work at - <https://picasaweb.google.com/bpogorman>
 Norman Wragg, Secretary of the BCA and one of the ECF
 webmaster's most active and friendly correspondents





BATSFORD

Chess Competition

Well done to the March/April winner --

David Everitt from Haywards Heath

The correct answer was - **1.Nd7**

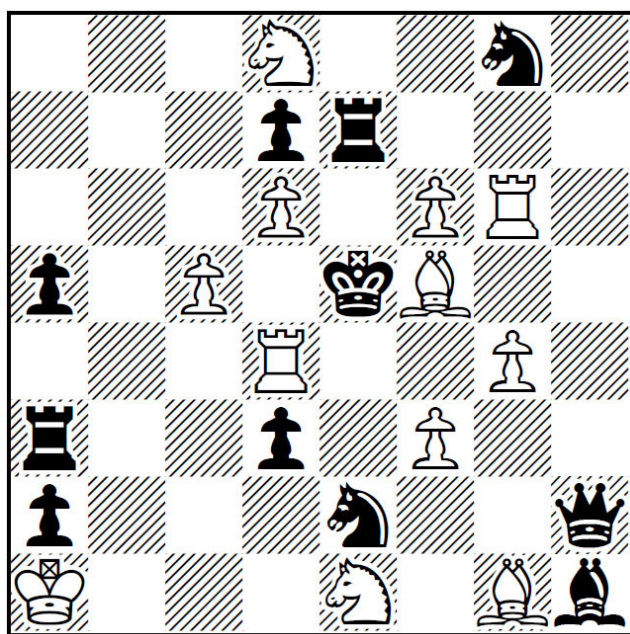
Here's the next problem ...

Arthur F Mackenzie

Lasker's Chess Magazine, 1904

White to play and mate in 2

Please send your answer (just the first move is sufficient) on a postcard or by email to the ECF Office, The Watch Oak, Chain Lane, Battle, East Sussex TN33 0YD (office@englishchess.org.uk). The first correct entry drawn on 10th July 2012 will win a Batsford voucher for any book on their current list!



CHESS HOLIDAYS in the Lake District

A relaxed, informal 5-night holiday at this well-known Country House hotel, including a 7-round Swiss competition and tutorials on chess tactics. Suitable for the inexperienced as well as local club players

Rothay Manor, Ambleside

Tel: 015394 33605

E-mail: hotel@rothaymanor.co.uk

Website: www.rothaymanor.co.uk/chess



British Chess Championships 2012

**From Sunday 22nd July until
Saturday 4th August**

**Parks Leisure Centre, North Shields
Tyne And Wear NE29 6TL**

**Incorporating the FIDE Rated British, British
Senior, British Under-16 Championships and
Major Open**

**The highest placed eligible player in all British
Isles FIDE Rated events will qualify for the right
to play in the 2012 Championships**

**Championships for Juniors
going down to Under 8**

**Graded Championships, Five-Day, Weekend
tournaments & Rapidplays on the two Sundays
... also an opening simultaneous display and
evening events!**

**Entry forms available now from
The ECF, The Watch Oak, Chain Lane, Battle,
East Sussex TN33 0YD
Tel: 01424 775222 Fax: 01424 775904
Email: office@englishchess.org.uk
ECF website: www.englishchess.org.uk**

Please include a SAE

**Congress website:
www.britishchesschampionships.co.uk**

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. For a more comprehensive calendar updated constantly, visit the ECF website - www.englishchess.org.uk

*~#@ 18-20 May

e2e4 Amersham Chess Congress, De Vere Latimer Place Hotel, Latimer, Chesham, Bucks. HP5 1UG Contact: Sean Hewitt Email: sean@e2e4.org.uk Website: www.e2e4.org.uk/amersham - A 5 round weekend congress with the three FIDE rated sections for players of all standards from beginner to GrandMaster!

~* 18-20 May

Rhyl Chess Congress 2012, Rhyl Town Hall, Wellington Road, Rhyl LL18 1AB Contact: Stuart Hamilton Email: shambrae20@talktalk.net - 5 round Swiss pairings tournament, rate of play 40 moves in 1 hour 40 minutes then a further 20 minutes to complete the game

20 May

Hull & District Chess Association 60th Anniversary Rapid Play, The Endsleigh Centre, 481 Beverley Road, Hull HU6 7LJ Website: <http://hullchess.com> Email: bhesler@bhesler.karoo.co.uk - 5 round Swiss, Open (to all grades) Major (U166) Intermediate (U141) Minor (U116)

20 May

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

~* 20 May

Richmond Rapidplay 101, The White House Community Association, The Avenue, Hampton TW12 3RN Contact: Sabrina Chevannes Email: sabrinachevannes@hotmail.co.uk Website: www.surreyrapidchess.org - the 101st Richmond Rapidplay. With new organisers, we hope the RR will be bigger and better! Now FIDE rated and offering extra prizes!

~* 25-27 May

Calderdale Chess Congress, Lee Mount Club, Lee Mount Road, Halifax HX3 5EQ Contact: Noel Boustred Email: noelboustred@yahoo.co.uk - four sections: Minor under 119, Intermediate under 149, Major under 169 and Open

~* 26 May

Sussex Junior Worthing Rapidplay, Thomas A Becket Middle School, Glebeside Avenue, Worthing, West Sussex BN14 7PR Contact: Paula Payne Email: entrymanager@sussexjuniorchess.org - 6 rounds in 4 sections: U11 Minor, U11 Major, U18 Minor, U18 Major. Open to all aged under 18 on 31st August 2011 Website: <http://www.sussexjuniorchess.org/>

26 May

Docklands (Poplar) Rapid-Play, Langley Hall, St.Nicholas' Church Centre, Ettrick Street, Poplar, London E14 0QD Contact: Norman Went Email: DocklandsChess@yahoo.co.uk Website: www.spanglefish.com/docklandschess-club – 6 round Swiss Rapidplay tournament, below 205 rating only

~ 26 May

Chipping Sodbury Rapidplay, Chipping Sodbury Town Hall, Broad Street, Chipping Sodbury, South Glos. BS37 6AD Contact: Graham Mill-Wilson Email: tugmw@blueyonder.co.uk Website: www.chessit.co.uk - 6 round rapidplay (25 mins. on the clock) in 3 sections - Open, U165, U130. Guaranteed 1st prizes of: Open £60, U165 £50, U130 £40

27 May

Simultaneous with GM Aaron Summerscale, Harrogate Conservative Club, East Parade, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG1 5LQ Contact: Richard White Email: richardwhite484@hotmail.com - Harrogate Chess Club are hosting a simultaneous exhibition with GM Aaron Summerscale on Sunday 27th May 2012 starting at 2pm. We are expecting around 30 entries. Places will be offered on a first come first served basis and the entry fee is £10. To

reserve a place or for further details please email richardwhite484@hotmail.com

***~@#2-6 Jun**

e2e4 Diamond Jubilee Congress, Crowne Plaza, London-Gatwick Airport, Langley Drive, Crawley, RH11 7SX

Contact: Sean Hewitt Email: sean@e2e4.org.uk Website: www.e2e4.org.uk/gatwick - A 9 round FIDE rated

International with sections from players of all strengths. GM norms available

***~ 3 Jun**

KJCA Sutton Valence Junior Rapidplay, Sutton Valence School, North Street, Sutton Valence, ME17 3HL Contact:

Sue Maguire Email: sue.maguire@rocketmail.com - 7th tournament of the KJCA Grand Prix. Entries can be made

via our website: www.kjca.org

4 Jun

CCF County Championships & Training Day, 84-90 Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 3BA Contact:

Scott Freeman Email: chess@ccfworld.com Tel: 020 8645 0302 Fax: 020 8645 0412 Website:

<http://www.ccfworld.com/Chess/>

4 Jun

CCF Exchange Chess Blitz Evening, 84-90 Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 3BA Contact: Scott

Freeman Email: chess@ccfworld.com Tel: 020 8645 0302 Fax: 020 8645 0412 Website:

<http://www.ccfworld.com/Chess/>

***~ 8-10 Jun**

16th South Lakes Open Chess Congress, Cumbria Grand Hotel, Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria Contact: Dave Cole

Email: dave.cole@baesystems.com Tel: 01229 811914

~ 9 Jun

Golders Green Rapidplay, Golders Green Parish Church Hall, West Heath Drive, Golders Green, London NW11

7QG Contact: Adam Raoof Website: <http://goldersgreenschess.blogspot.com/>

10 Jun

1st UKI Girls' Chess Championship, Hinchley Wood School, Claygate Lane, Hinchley Wood, Surrey KT10 0AQ

Contact: Marie Gledhill Tel: 07963 660177 Email: marie.gledhill@tesco.net - Sections: U7, U8, U9, U10, U11, U12,

U14, U18 plus Adult Intellectual

~ 15-17 Jun

Rochester Queen's Diamond Jubilee Chess Congress, 99b Warren Wood Road, Rochester, Kent ME1 2XA

Contact: Tyrone Jefferies Email: tyronejefferies@hotmail.com - Open including U180; Major U160 including U140;

Minor U120 including U100 Week-end chess tournament of 5 rounds in each section

16 Jun

Scottish Blitz Championship, Surgeons' Hall, Nicolson Street, Edinburgh EH8 9DW Contact: Jonathan Edwards

Email: scottishblitz@gmail.com Website: <http://www.scottishblitz.com> Entry form:

<http://www.scottishblitz.com/entry.html> - 11 rounds, time control 3 minutes + 2 seconds increment (as used at the World Blitz)

16 Jun

Docklands (Poplar) Rapid-Play, Langley Hall, St.Nicholas' Church Centre, Ettrick Street, Poplar, London E14

0QD Contact: Norman Went Email: DocklandsChess@yahoo.co.uk Website: [www.spanglefish.com/docklandschess-](http://www.spanglefish.com/docklandschess-club)

club – 6 round Swiss Rapidplay tournament, below 205 rating only

***~ 17 Jun**

Leek Rapidplay Chess Congress, St.Edward's Junior High School, Westwood Road, Leek ST13 8DN Contact:

Roger Edwards Email: rogerjedwards@yahoo.co.uk - 2 sections, U200 and U145, each of 6 rounds starting at 10.00

using Fischer timings of 20mins+10secs per move

19 Jun 13th Sam Black Memorial Blitz, Wanstead House, 21 The Green, Wanstead, London E11 2NT Contact: Gary

Cook Email: ncclsecretary@yahoo.co.uk - Open and U151 Challengers. 5 double game rounds. £420 prize fund.

Website: <http://www.users.globalnet.co.uk/%7Ecernunos/nccl/samblack/entry.html>

~@ 23 Jun

London FIDE Rapid Play, Newman Catholic College, Harlesden Road, Willesden NW10 3RN Contact: Sainbayar

Tserendorj Email: londonrapidplay@yahoo.co.uk - sections U1700, U2000 and Open Website: [www.londonrapid-](http://www.londonrapid-play.co.uk)

play.co.uk

~@ 23 Jun

London Junior FIDE Rapid Play, Newman Catholic College, Harlesden Road, Willesden NW10 3RN Contact:

Sainbayar Tserendorj Email: londonrapidplay@yahoo.co.uk - sections U8, U10, U12, U14 and U18 Website:

www.londonrapidplay.co.uk

~* 23-24 Jun

Heywood Congress (including the Van Leeuwen Wheeler Open), Heywood Civic Centre, Heywood, Lancashire OL10 1LW Tel: 01706 368130 Contact: Bill O'Rourke Email: worchess@ntlworld - Open, U180, U160, U140 and U120 sections. Free car parking, less than 5 minutes from motorway, £2300 prize fund Website: <http://www.heywoodcongress.org.uk>

*~@# 29 Jun-1 Jul

e2e4 Buxton Congress, Barceló Buxton Palace Hotel, Palace Road, Buxton, Derbyshire SK17 6AG Contact: Sean Hewitt Email: sean@e2e4.org.uk Website <http://www.e2e4.org.uk/buxton> - 3 sections, FIDE rated Open, FIDE rated U2000 and Under 135 minor

30 Jun

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

~ 30 Jun

ECF U18 / U13 County Championships 2012, Eton College, Windsor, Berkshire SL4 6DW Contact: Chris Archer-Lock Email: chris@pafc.net - the annual ECF U18/U13 County Championships - more details to follow soon

~ 29 Jun-1 Jul

Sheffield Congress 2012, King Edward VII Upper School, Glossop Road, Sheffield S10 5PW Tel: 07812 494957 Contact: Paul Bailey (Congress Secretary) Email: sheffieldcongress@rocketmail.com Website: <http://www.sheffielddanddistrictchess.org.uk/congress2012> - Four sections: Open, Major U171, Intermediate U146, Minor U121. Best Game Prize for each section

~* 6-8 July

3rd 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 Email: noelboustred@yahoo.co.uk - 5 round Swiss tournament with 3 sections: Open, Major (u165) and Minor (u140). Enquiries to Noel after 6 pm on 07903 913786

~ 7 Jul

ECF Counties Championship Finals, Venue TBA Contact: Alex Holowczak Email: alexholowczak@gmail.com Web: http://www.englishchess.org.uk/?page_id=36

#~* 7-8 Jul

6th Weald Chess Congress, Worth School, Paddockhurst Road, Turners Hill, West Sussex RH10 4SD Contact: Paula Payne Email: entrymanager@wealdchesscongress.org - 5 round Swiss tournament open to all; Open, Intermediate, Major & Minor sections; £1400 prizefund Website: <http://www.wealdchesscongress.org/>

7-8 Jul

UK Chess Challenge Northern Gigafinal, Venue TBA Contact: Mike Basman Email: ukchesschallenge@aol.com - by qualification only event, 3rd stage of the UK Chess Challenge Website: <http://www.ukchesschallenge.com>

@ 7-15 Jul

Scottish Championships & International Open, The Trades Hall, 85 Glassford Street, GLASGOW G71 1UH Contact: Alex McFarlane Email: ScottishChamps@ChessScotland.com Website: www.chessscotland.com/scottishchampionship2012/ - International Open, U1750(U157 ECF) FIDE-rated, Senior U1750, U1500(U132)

8 Jul

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

~ 13-15 Jul

Leeds Chess Club Congress, Wellington Hill Residents Association Clubhouse, Ringwood Drive, Wellington Hill, Leeds LS14 1AR Contact: Jonathan Mahony Email: jonathan.mahony1@googlemail.com Website: www.leedschessclub.org/congress.htm - 5-round, Swiss-style tournament with 4 sections Entry form URL - <http://www.leedschessclub.org/-/%20New%20Folder/LeedsCongressInfo&EntryForm.pdf>

~ 14 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/>

14-15 Jul UK Chess Challenge Southern Gigafinal, Rivermead Leisure Centre, Reading, Berks Contact: Mike Basman Email: ukchesschallenge@aol.com - by qualification only event, 3rd stage of the UK Chess Challenge Website: <http://www.ukchesschallenge.com>

~ 21 Jul

5th Snodland Rapidplay Congress, The Wolfe Centre, Holmesdale School, Malling Road, Snodland, Kent ME6 5HS Contact: Robert Thompson Email: thompsonrg@gmail.com Website: www.snodlandcongress.blogspot.com - 6 round Rapid Play

*~ 21-22 Jul

4th Worcestershire Open Chess Congress, University of Worcester, Conference Centre, St John's Campus, Henwick Grove, Worcester WR2 6AJ Contact: Andrew Farthing Email: andrew.farthing@btinternet.com - Four sections: Open, U160, U135 and U115. Profits from the congress are donated to charity. This year's designated charity is the St Richard's Hospice, Worcester

*~ 22 Jul-4 Aug

99th British Chess Championships, Parks Leisure Centre, North Shields Contact: Alex McFarlane Email: ahmcfarlane@yahoo.co.uk