



84th Hastings International Chess Congress



In these tough economic times we feared a drop in numbers this year. So we were pleasantly surprised that each tournament had higher entries than last year. In fact we had to hire extra tables and chairs for the final weekend to accommodate over a hundred players in the Masters and nearly 200 players in the Weekend all playing in the same hall at the same time.

I do not need to dwell too much on the results. These are shown separately on page 6 and full details are given on our website (www.hastingschess.org.uk). Therefore on this occasion I should like to acknowledge the contributions of the various personnel from other

parts of the country who made this one of the smoothest Hastings congresses that we can remember. Stewart Reuben as always assembled a highly entertaining field of titled players for the Masters. David Welch (our chief arbiter) led an excellent control team. Alex McFarlane and Lara Barnes ran the Masters. David himself and Scott Freeman oversaw the Christmas morning and afternoon events. John Constable, Christine Constable, Daniel Gliddon and Priscilla Morris stepped in to help David Welch with the final few hectic days including the Weekend.

Steve Giddens is now an established part of the organisation, supplying daily reports and annotated games for the Congress website. Jonathan Tuck continued to keep the website up to date with daily pairings and results. We particularly welcomed David Clayton on his first visit to Hastings. He was in charge of producing up to 20 games shown live on the website each day throughout the Congress.

30 FIDE federations were represented at Hastings this year. We believe this to be our highest number to date.



Con Power

Photo: Russian grandmaster Igor Kursonov presented with Golombek trophy by Michael Foster (right) and Cllr. Peter Pragnell (left) Leader of Hastings Borough Council.

Editorial

I wish to add a few personal words to the citation for the President's Award presented to Bruce Holland. Bruce has for many years toiled down to the ECF Office (accompanied by David Thomas) whenever IT work has been required or hardware has needed to be replaced. Both have given up weekends and annual leave to do so, often burning the midnight oil.

It is not an easy job to ensure hardware is replaced whenever necessary and outside of office working hours, thus reducing the impact on office staff.

Their good humour and hard work is much appreciated, and we are all sad to see Bruce go.

Cynthia Gurney

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Copy Deadline
10th March 2009

ECF News

January (Half Year) Rapidplay Grades

These are now available on the Grading Database website (<http://grading.bcfservices.org.uk>) - bringing in Rapidplay games played up to the end of November 2008.

ECF Appointments and Vacancies

Manuel Weeks is the new Manager of British Chess Championships and Ray Ryan Foster has been appointed as the new International Rating Officer. However we are still seeking to appoint a number of officers as shown below. Reasonable expenses incurred in fulfilling the duties of the post will be reimbursed. Anyone wishing to discuss this post should contact the ECF Office by 28th February. office@englishchess.org.uk 01424 775222.

Director of Finance: Manages the preparation of the annual statement of Accounts of the Company and presents it on behalf of the Board, duly audited, to the Annual Meeting of Council. Oversees the records kept by the ECF Office, ensures they are accurate and adequate for accounting purposes and for the preparation of VAT and other statutory returns. Guides the work of the accounting staff in the Office. Prepares the Federation's annual budget, in liaison with the individual ECF Directors, the Board and the Finance Committee. Produces for the Board periodic management information and forecasts of income and expenditure; takes remedial action, as may be required, in consultation with the Chief Executive and the Board. Is responsible for the collection of Game Fee by the Manager of Finance and Management Services and office staff and provides forecasts of Game Fee income. Evaluates the various risks to which the ECF is exposed and proposes to the Board the appropriate course of action, including, as appropriate, insurance. Provides general advice to the Federation on financial matters, taxation, statutory accounts and reporting requirements. Must possess, and provide evidence of, an appropriate accounting qualification. Develops the ECF approach to membership (of all types), membership fees (including Game Fee) and benefits (including grading and representation) attaching to membership. Consults

Manager of ICT: Reports to the Chief Executive.

Provides advice to the Board on all ICT matters. Supports the Office to ensure that the Office ICT is maintained. ; Provides advice as necessary on upgrades to the Office ICT infrastructure.; Chairs the ECF IT Committee.

Manager of Congress Chess: Reports to the Director of Home Chess.

Organises all other ECF tournaments, other than those that are the specific responsibility of another Director. Organises the ECF Grand Prix and ensures the safe custody and maintenance of all playing equipment, including Internet equipment, belonging to or used by the Federation. Makes recommendations regarding the appointment of persons as ECF Arbiter, ECF Senior Arbiter and International Arbiter. Is responsible for the ECF Chess Calendar.



Stewart Reuben presenting Michael with his Honorary Life Membership.

ECF Awards 2008

Honorary Life Member

Michael Foster MP for Hastings and Rye: Michael Foster has been a great supporter of English chess for many years. He regularly attends the Hastings International Tournament and on occasion has stepped forward to sort out problems for the foreign players. The Hastings University Centre which now houses the National Chess Library benefited greatly from his efforts as did the Library itself. During the BCF Centenary celebrations a Match of the Generations tournament was hosted by Hastings and St Leonards Chess Club with Michael Foster playing the children throughout the day.

The Chess for Schools project would not have the high profile politically that it has without Michael's help, it is he that wrote to every MP in the House of Commons asking them to contact the schools in their constituency asking the schools to apply for the free chess sets donated by Holloid Plastics. When the first Chess sets were presented to Helenswood School Michael ensured media coverage by appearing at the presentation and once again playing chess with the children.



Chief Executive Chris Majer presenting Bruce with his award.

President's Award for Services to Chess

Congratulations to Bruce Holland, who was presented with his award at the January 2009 ECF Board Meeting.

Brought up in South-East London, Bruce Holland moved to the Midlands in the early 1970's, and in 1975 becoming a founder member of Kenilworth Chess Club. For some years this, and holding various positions with the Leamington League in which the club played, was the focus of his chess activities. In 1986 he was present at a meeting of the Warwickshire Chess Association at which a major financial crisis came to light. This had two immediate consequences: a resolution was passed containing a delayed threat to disaffiliate from the BCF unless an accommodation could be reached over the County Levy, and Bruce volunteered from the floor to accept nomination for the post of Treasurer, and was duly elected. The subsequent negotiations with the Federation both introduced Bruce to several of the BCF's senior officials and they to him.

As well as being Treasurer of Warwickshire Bruce was appointed one of the County's delegates to the MCCU. This led to making acquaintance with Roger Edwards, and a couple of years later to their being offered to the Federation as the MCCU's resident experts to sort out the National Grading system. The result of their joint work was the Patti system which successfully generated National Grading lists from 1988 to 2000, only being superseded when availability of more powerful cheap computers, and the ubiquity of e-mail, made further advance possible. Even then, Bruce was heavily involved in assisting Chris Howell to design the replacement system.

As Warwickshire delegate to the BCF Council Bruce was largely instrumental in the replacement of the County Levy with the Game Fee scheme, which subsequently led to the enfranchisement of the independent Leagues. At a regional level, on behalf of the MCCU he was for many years one of the principle organisers of the successful Midland Open Championships.

In 2003 he offered his services to the President of the BCF to sort out problems which had arisen with the IT equipment in the office at Battle. Before anything else could be done this involved taking an inventory of what was in use, and as a next panic measure installing anti-virus software, which the previous advisor had regarded as an unnecessary precaution. On a more measured time scale he was responsible for renewing the bulk of the equipment on an admirably small budget. This involved him, over the years, in a significant number of trips from the Midlands to Battle, and at least a few late nights slaving over hot computers. Unfortunately during this time he began to experience health problems. The major symptom was increased tiredness, which for someone who had regularly survived on as little sleep as he did was a particular trial. Eventually this led him to decide that he was simply no longer capable of carrying out the task of ECF Manager of IT as he felt it should be done, and he tendered his resignation.

British Chess Educational Trust Awards

With funds provided by the generosity of the late Sir George Thomas (now administered by the British Chess Educational Trust) the English Chess Federation annually awards shields to schools which have shown outstanding achievements or enthusiasm in chess. Commencing 1982 inscribed chess boards have been substituted for shields. Recommendations for awards should be forwarded (via the appropriate Union if in England, or via the national organisations for Scotland or Wales) to the ECF Office at Battle by 31st May each year.

Congratulations Knights United Chess Club (Old Blackburnians) and Queen Elizabeth's Boys School (Barnet) who received the 2008 award.

ECF Awards 2009

President's Awards for Services to Chess 2009

Nominations are invited for the ECF President's Awards. The awards are made annually for services to the game of chess. Previous winners include B H Wood, The BBC, the late IM Bob Wade and a host of players and organisers. The recipient of the award will receive a plaque.

Nominations, with a short citation, should be sent (by 18 April 2009) to: John Wickham, 55 Shakespeare Way, Taverham, Norwich, NR8 6SL or email j.r.wickham@btinternet.com Winners of the award will be announced on this website and at the ECF AGM in October.

Club of the Year & Small Club of the Year 2009

The ECF is looking for submissions from Chess clubs for these two awards. We are seeking details of clubs that stand out from the rest and clubs that their members feel proud to belong to. It's time to get recognition of your club by becoming recipients of the award from the ECF.

The submissions should detail the clubs participation in local leagues and competitions, but also cover such items as how the club encourages membership among groups under represented in the general chess population, the contribution made to chess locally and nationally, the activities organised for juniors and comment on how the club interacts with schools and the local community. The club(s) selected for the awards will receive a scroll, an engraved plaque and digital clock.

Send your submissions by 30 May 2009 to: John Wickham, 55 Shakespeare Way, Taverham, Norwich, NR8 6SL or email j.r.wickham@btinternet.com

Magazine of the Year 2009

Nominations are invited for the ECF Chess Magazine of the Year award. We are looking for nominations from either readers or editors of Chess magazines that are produced by volunteers. The editor of the magazine selected will receive a scroll and a copy of the ECF Chess Book of the Year (any alternative to this is at the discretion of the Awards committee). Send your nominations by 11 April 2009 to: John Wickham, 55 Shakespeare Way, Taverham, Norwich, NR8 6SL or email j.r.wickham@btinternet.com

Website of the Year 2009

ECF are seeking nominations for the ECF Chess Website of the Year award. We are looking for nominations from either users or the webmasters of Chess Websites that are run by volunteers.

The webmaster of the site selected will receive a scroll and a copy of the ECF Book of the Year (any alternative to this is at the discretion of the awards committee). Nominations with the website address should be sent by 30 April 2009 to: John Wickham at j.r.wickham@btinternet.com

Congress of the Year 2009

Open to Congresses/Events that are affiliated to the ECF, either individually or through another body, and held in the period 1st July 2008 to 30th June 2009.

The Judges will assess the Congress/Event over a range of factors to include accessibility to all groups, quality of the venue and facilities offered, type and range of events offered, the skill/ability of the organisers, the entry form and the publicising of the event, value for money etc.

In addition the judges may seek the views of the players who entered the Congress/Event.

The winners will receive a certificate and will be able to offer a free entry to the 2010 British Championships to those entering their Congress/Event, as well as the title of "ECF Congress of the Year 2009".

The Awards committee will contact the winners after the judging is completed and then will announce the winner on the ECF website as well as at the ECF AGM in October 2009.

Eligible Congresses/Events are asked to submit a citation, with copies of the entry forms, to John Wickham, 55 Shakespeare Way, Taverham, Norwich, NR8 6SL or email j.r.wickham@btinternet.com by 5 July 2009.

British Rapidplay 29-30 November 2008

The 2008 British Rapid play Chess took place in Halifax on November 29th and 30th. With nearly four hundred entries the weekend saw some fine chess. A summary of the main winners is given as follows. For more detailed information visit the website (www.british-rapidplay.org.uk).

Open Intermediate

1st David Howell GM 10½/11 = 1st Robert Hughes 9/11
= 2nd Mark Hebden GM 8½/11 Adrian Archer-Lock 9/11
Jonathan Hawkins FM 8½/11

Major Minor

= 1st Guy Batchelor 8½/11 1st Andrew Cowan 9/11
Mark Talbot 8½/11

England Under 11 Trial Junior Champions (Sunday)

= 1st James Walsh 5/6 Francesca Fozard U16 3½/5
Anna Wang 5/6 Alex Harris U12 4½/5
Alexei Davis 5/6 Joris Gerlagh U10 4½/5
Ravi Haria 5/6 Conor Murphy U10 4½/5

Coverage and all the top games from the Open are on www.british-rapidplay.org.uk. The top eight Open boards were transmitted live. Grandmasters David Howell (fresh from the Olympiad), Mark Hebden, Stewart Haslinger and Keith Arkell, to name but four, were all there. Pete Wells GM, the 2007 champion was unfortunately not present. Harriet Hunt WGM was also there. On the first day David Howell started to show commanding form. Despite the cold weather and fog, the chess was hot as David strode into the lead. Only Keith Arkell GM could hold the young grandmaster.

Meanwhile in the under 11 England Qualifier Ravi Haria was showing the form which won the event in 2007. Andrew Garside had a straight eight wins in the Minor event. By the evening David Howell GM led in The Open on 5.5 out of 6 points. Sunday saw that the fog had gone. Leeds United football team got beat 1-0 by Histon. Was this to be the day of the H's? But which one? Howell, Hebden, or Hawkins? In round eight Jonathan Hawkins FM made a strong but unsuccessful attempt to unseat David. David finished strongly with several wins, and before the final round, he knew he was home and dry. Mark Hebden GM grinded out the key final rounds and got joint second with Jonathon Hawkins FM.

This win by David Howell GM is significant as the highest score in the Tournaments modern era history. Only Nigel Short in 1986 with 11/11 has done better. The gracious new young champion had done it in style. Once again the weekend was dominated by many upcoming juniors, and many sections saw some real chess talent. My personal thanks to all the Controllers, Administrators, Helpers etc, and above all, the chess players who made this a successful weekend

B. Kitson Tournament Co-ordinator

County Championships 2008/9

Preliminary Round - 25 April
Quarter Finals - 16 May
Semi-Finals - 13 June
Finals - 4 July

County Championship Final Stages Draw Open

Prelim A MCCU 2 SCCU 3
Prelim B NCCU 2 MCCU 3
Quarter A NCCU 1 Prelim A
Quarter B EACU 1 SCCU 2
Quarter C Devon Prelim B
Quarter D SCCU 1 MCCU 1
Semi A Quarter C Quarter D
Semi B Quarter A Quarter B

Minor Counties

Quarter A EACU 1 Hampshire
Quarter B MCCU 1 EACU 2
Quarter C SCCU 1 MCCU 2
Quarter D Gloucester SCCU 2
Semi A Quarter B Quarter A
Semi B Quarter D Quarter C

U175

Quarter A EACU 1 NCCU 2
Quarter B MCCU 1 SCCU 3
Quarter C NCCU 1 SCCU 2
Quarter D SCCU 1 MCCU 2
Semi A Quarter C Quarter D
Semi B Quarter B Quarter A

U150

Prelim A SCCU 2 MCCU 3
Prelim B EACU 2 SCCU 3
Prelim C Devon MCCU 2
Quarter A EACU 1 NCCU 2
Quarter B SCCU 1 Prelim C
Quarter C MCCU 1 Prelim B
Quarter D NCCU 1 Prelim A
Semi A Quarter D Quarter A
Semi B Quarter B Quarter C

U125

Prelim A NCCU 2 MCCU 3
Prelim B EACU 1 SCCU 3
Prelim C Hampshire EACU 2
Quarter A MCCU 1 Prelim C
Quarter B SCCU 1 Prelim A
Quarter C SCCU 2 MCCU 2
Quarter D NCCU 1 Prelim B
Semi A Quarter C Quarter B
Semi B Quarter A Quarter D

U100

Prelim A SCCU 2 MCCU 3
Prelim B EACU 2 SCCU 3
Quarter A EACU 1 NCCU 2
Quarter B MCCU 1 Prelim B
Quarter C NCCU 1 Prelim A
Quarter D SCCU 1 MCCU 2
Semi A Quarter A Quarter C
Semi B Quarter B Quarter D

The qualifiers will be listed on the ECF website as soon as they are known.

Chess for Schools

Statement from Chris Majer ECF CEO

David Anderton and myself had a meeting with Henning von Spreckelsen (Executive Chairman) and Keith Elliott (Technical Sales Manager) of Holloid Plastics last week. Following the meeting, I received the following communication. I trust that this provides satisfactory clarification of the status of the Cfs project and, in particular, confirms the commitment of Holloid Plastics.

Dear Chris and David,

It was a pleasure meeting you both at the IET earlier this week to discuss the chess set project. This email is just to summarise the meeting.

Acquisition of Holloid

I bought majority control of Holloid late last year, following about 4 months of due diligence. As I mentioned on Monday, during this time the company had confidentiality obligations about the purchase process which has obviously affected what they were able to communicate to the outside world.

We appointed a PR firm to act for the company yesterday and they have confirmed that they will also work on this chess project for us. A formal press release for our customers, regarding the acquisition, will be issued next week and I will have a copy forwarded to you.

Personal Support for the Chess Project

This project offers me an ideal opportunity to "give something back" for the support I have had from others in the past and believe it is an ideal way to promote "brain games" in schools.

What Holloid Will Do

Holloid will arrange for the manufacture of the sets in our factory and work to arrange the relevant sponsorship and support to add to our considerable existing financial and non financial contributions to the project to date. Keith Elliott has been appointed as project coordinator on our side and this work has already started. Any potential sponsors should be directed to talk to him in the first instance.

The idea is that the sets would be produced free of charge to the ECF – to be handed over at our factory gate.

Design of the Sets

We have agreed this week that we will go for a roll up board, to allow for some text to go on the back covering: the history of chess, the project itself and sponsors' logos. This will not only allow for colour print to be used and more information to be given (compared to the previous idea of monochrome engraving of the squares on the front of a rigid board), but also provide a practical storage method for the schools, as

we can then use round tubes to store the entire board and pieces. Holloid has started the sourcing process of these tubes and look forward to your input on the board sourcing and guidance on some of the text that we put on the reverse of the boards, regarding the history of chess.

ECF Responsibilities

ECF will be responsible for arranging distribution of the sets from Holloid to the schools. We anticipate that this would start during the school summer term, most likely in May. Final confirmation of the number of pallets of sets to be delivered per week will depend on the way in which we package the sets. Once this is confirmed we can then work out the number of truck movements, etc. Phase 1 will be to deliver 100,000 sets to the first 10,000 schools who have signed up. We will then together review the process and work on Phase 2.

Launch Location

We agreed that the first school to receive its sets would be in Basingstoke and the first county to launch would be Hampshire. We can then also arrange some of the initial distribution using our own transport, which should make the launch organisation easier for ECF as we start the Phase 1 process.

ECF Sales

There may be demand from private individuals for these sets, over and above any sets sent directly to the schools. Holloid can arrange for the extra sets to be made for the ECF at cost, so that the ECF could sell them through their website or whatever method you deem appropriate. We can discuss the detail of this nearer the time. I look forward to our next meeting.

Yours sincerely,
Henning

ECF 2009 YEARBOOK

Now Available

To order your copy please go to
www.englishchess.org.uk
or ring 01424 775222



Masters Tournament

The Hastings Masters Tournament ended on Monday 5th January with a decisive game between Igor Kursonov (RUS) and Emanuel Berg (Swe). Kursonov won the game achieving 7.5/9.

The prize giving took place on Monday evening at Horntye Park and was attended by MP Michael Foster and Leader of Hastings Borough Council, Cllr Peter Pragnell. Igor Kurnosov was presented with the Golombek trophy and £2000. In joint second place were Emanuel Berg and last year's joint winner, Valerij Neverov. Former Hastings resident and current British Champion, Stuart Conquest tied in equal fourth place three other English Grandmasters, Mark Hebden, David Howell and Simon Williams



Final Standings: Hastings Masters Tournament 2008-09

- 1 Igor Kurnosov (Rus) 7.5/9
- 2= Emanuel Berg (Swe) 7/9
- Valerij Neverov (Ukr)
- 4= David Howell (Eng) 6.5/9
- Stuart Conquest(Eng)
- Mark Hebden (Eng)
- Simon Williams(Eng)
- 8= Gawain Jones(Eng) 6/9
- Milos Pavlovic (Srb)
- Stewart Haslinger (Eng)
- Jovanka Houska (Eng)
- Luc Bergeze (Fra)

English GM Simon Williams won the Horntye Park Brilliancy Prize and was presented with a trophy and £100 generously donated by the Trustees of Horntye Park Sports Complex. WGM Jovanka Houska (Eng) won the prize for best performance by a woman player. Mr Alan Hustwayte also presented a special prize of a silver chess set for performance against rating.

The Hastings International Chess Congress was once again sponsored by Hastings Borough Council with additional support from White Rock Hotel, KC Computers, Pig in Paradise and Gwalia Resources.

Christmas Morning Results

28 December 2008 – 1 January 2009

Section A:

- 1st Jurgen Brustkern (GER) 4/5
- 2= Christopher Howell (Redhill) 3.5
- Robert Elliston (Ticehurst)
- Grading Prize:
- Gerald Michaud (Crowborough)

Section B:

- 1= Helge Hjort (Hastings) 4/5
- Reinhard Schmerwitz(GER)
- Thomas Stonehouse (Gillingham)
- Grading Prize:
- Chris Heath (Horsham)

Section C:

- 1st Tristan Clayton(Epsom) 4/5
- 2= Richard Bedwell (Tunbridge Wells)
- Lawrence Rhodes (Eastbourne)
- Paul Smith (Hove)
- Grading Prize:
- Ian Brooke (Oxford)

Section D:

- 1st John Felton(Hastings) 4/5
- 2nd Peter Wilson (Insurance) 3.5/5
- 3= David Fowler (Snodland) 3/5
- David Langridge (Brighton)
- Grading Prize:
- Andrew de Santos(Preston)
- David Howes (Croydon)
- Rohan Shiatis (Crawley Down)
- Mark Stone (Orpington)
- Roy Webb (Hastings)

Section E:

- 1st Arthur de Silver (Brighton) 4.5/5
- 2nd Alan Fraser (Orpington) 4/5
- 3rd Ayse Karel (Surbiton) 3.5/5

Grading Prize:
Robin Cubbon (Sidmouth)
Caroline Robson (Enfield)

Christmas Afternoon Results

28 December 2008 – 1 January 2009

Section A:

1st Gary Senior (London)
2nd = Peter Ackley (Hayes)
L.Alan Edwards (Leicester)
Olivier LeRay (FRA)
Julien Shepley (Woking)

Grading Prize:

Thomas Stonehouse (Rainham)

Section B:

1st Paul Batchelor (Brighton)
2nd Mel Young (St.Leonards on Sea)
3rd= Livu Enciu (Hendon)
Helge Hjort (Hastings)

Grading Prize:

Russell Goodfellow (Tunbridge Wells)

Section D:

1st Helen Evans
2nd Derek Cosens (Bexhill)
3rd Ayse Karel (Surbiton)
U-100=

Henry Cove (Hawkhurst)
Aztlan Garcia Badillo (Mexico)

Section C:

1st John Brooke (Shipley)
2nd Christopher Brooker (FRA)
3rd Raymond Kearsley (Mitcham)

Grading Prize:

Carl Gartside (Gt.Yarmouth)

Section E:

1st Arthur De Silver (Brighton) 4.5/5
2nd= Faye Ainscow (London) 3.5/5
Andrew Davison (London)
Carlos Vargas (Mexico)

Grading Prize:

Martyn Shorrocks (Hastings)



26th Hastings Weekend Congress Results

The 26th Hastings Weekend Congress attracted 196 entries - almost reaching the record entry of 200 some years ago. In the Open Tournament in which 46 players participated, 10 countries were represented. Results were as follows:

Open Tournament

1st Alexey Slavin (Rus) 4.5/5
2nd= Alan Byron (Bosworth) 4/5
Julius Garnelis (LIT)
Andrew Mayhew
5th = Dominic Gibbs(London) 3.5/4
Christopher Gibson (Northants)
Simon Hood (Alsager)
John Waterfield (Hereford)

Major Tournament

1st Paul Batchelor (Brighton) 4.5/5
2nd Martin Costley(Salehurst) 4/5
Helge Hjort (Hastings)
Yao Yao Zhou (Hackney)
Grading Prize (145):
Laurence Butt(Eastbourne) 3.5/5
Paul Jackson (Coulsdon)
Stephen Rettie (Glasgow)

Minor Tournament

1st = Geoffrey Naldrett (Slough) 4.5/5
Robert Wallace (St. Leonards on Sea)
3rd= Marc Bryant (Hastings) 4/5
Paul Smith (Hove)
Matthew Bunn (Sevenoaks)
David Orr (Bexley)
Grading Prize (U115):
Kevin Henbest 3.5/5
Jeff Fleischer (Croydon)
Henry Cove (Hawkhurst)
Teddy Wickman (Hawkhurst)

Under-100

1st= Rohan Shiatis 5/5
Conor Murphy (Rye)
3rd= David Everett (Haywards Heath) 4/5
Kevin Gee(Hove)
Neil Lang (Bromley)
Matthew Wilson (Basingstoke)
Grading Prize (U85):
Mark Horner (Weald of Kent) 3.5/5
Donald Creasey (Maidstone)
Adrian Kernot (E. Grinstead)
Periasamy Subramaniam (Sutton)





Pairs at the Pig Results

29th December 2008

The Pairs at the Pig evening chessmoves without consulting one another – resulting in some entertaining games. The atmosphere somewhat different from the hushed environment of the main chess venue.

As well as prizes for the winners, there are also prizes for the best team name and the best team of mixed gender.

Twelve teams took part and winners were:

£100 1st prize: Jack Rudd (Bideford) / Einora Juciute (LIT) 5/5

Team name: I don't paint myself into Kaunas (reference to town in Lithuania). This team also won prize for best result byteam of mixed gender

£60 2nd prize: Alfredo Luaces (Hastings) / Nigel Donovan (Hove) 3.5/5
Team name: We won

£40 3rd prize: Matthew Lunn (Warlingham) / Hannah Dale (Lincoln) 3/5
Team Name: Beauty or the Beast.

£25 prize for best team name: Marc Bryant (Hastings) / Chris Howell 2/5
Topical team name: Credit Crunchers

Thanks go to the Pig in Paradise for their generous contribution – the pub has now become a focal point for visiting chess players.



Chess Olympiad

12-25 Nov 2008, Dresden

It was very pleasing that LV= decided, quite late in the day, to sponsor the English teams in the 38th Olympiads. These took place in Dresden 13-25 November 2008. With their help we were able to field the best available teams. The Open team consisted of Michael Adams, Nigel Short, David Howell, Gawain Jones, Stuart Conquest – captained by Peter Wells. The women's team was Jovanka Houska, Dagne Ciuksyte, Ingrid Lauterbach, Meri Grigoryan-Lyell, Kanwal Bhatia – captained by Glenn Flear.



Dresden is a very beautiful city and the conference centre where all play took place was just about able to cope with the large number of teams competing. 1270 players took part in the Olympiad with 722 in 146 teams in the open competition and 548 in the women's in 111 teams. The players came from 141 countries. It is not so many years ago that there were only two women playing in each team, then it rose to three and now it is four, just as in the open. In addition there were 257 team captains and 120 arbiters. Several hundred other people, such as organisers, journalists, medical staff, FIDE Officials and Delegates also attended the event. Chess is popular in Germany and there were large numbers of spectators. The FIDE Congress takes place alongside the Olympiad and there were also several other tournaments for 'ordinary' players. There were also a number of cultural activities, headed by the musical 'Chess'. It is true that the Olympic Games are on a much larger scale, but chess has more member federations than any sporting activity other than the Olympics.

Naturally the system for playing the Olympiads has undergone considerable change since the series started in London in 1927 as a round robin of 16 teams. Only 15 took part in Folkestone, the only other time the event has been held in Britain. Now they are two giant Swisses of 11 rounds. Match points are used, 2 for a win, 1 for a draw and 0 for a loss. The pairing system was highly complex this time and came in for a great deal of criticism, partly based on people not being able to work out for themselves who was leading.



Both our teams started very well indeed. David Howell was presented with a bouquet before the start of Round 2 as it was his 18th birthday. Peter Wells confiscated this and David wasn't put off, going on to win. After three rounds our open team had scored maximum points of 6/6. The women's team lost in the first round, but had made a good recovery to 4/6. Both of our teams won 4-0 in Round 3. We were to continue successfully in Round 4; the England Open Team drew with Norway and the women beat Canada. In Round 5 England Open resumed their winning ways, but the women beat Lithuania 4-0, although out rated on every board. Dagne Ciuksyte had won every game on board 2 and David Howell, making his debut and had just dropped half a point.

Round 6 we were unable to maintain our momentum against Russia and the women also lost against Bulgaria; both by 1-3. However, Jovanka beat past Women's World Champion, Antoaneta Stefanova for the first time. Drawing with Azerbaijan in round 7 was a satisfactory result, but the women losing to Ecuador was rather disappointing. Round 8 we had a fine win against Georgia, Nigel being the only winner in a fine aggressive display. The women had a fair draw against Montenegro, a team of similar strength. Round 9 our men put on a tremendous display, beating Vietnam 3-1 when they had drawn with the mighty Chinese team the previous round. This brought us up to 5th place. The women were less successful, losing 3-1 against Bosnia. Round 10 it was our turn to play China and we were less successful than the Vietnamese, losing 1½-2½. It was unsurprising that the women had a big win 3½-½ against Wales. Thus into the last round and England drew with Croatia. Nigel lost after having had an otherwise magnificent event. But David squared the match. The women had a disaster against Estonia, losing ½-3½. This had the inevitable result of condemning us to a poor place. Probably after Jovanka came unstuck earlier on the other players tried to hard to compensate.

Statistical Summary

England started ranked 15th and ended ranking in the same position. We won 6 matches, drew 3 and lost 2, scoring 26/44.

Captain Peter Wells

Michael Adams 2734 5½/10 RP 2668 -8 points

Nigel Short 2642 7/10 RP 2741 +16

David Howell 2593 7½/11 RP 2675 +15.1

Gawain Jones 2548 5/10 RP 2556 +0.7

Stuart Conquest 2526 1/3 RP 2288 -7.4

Clearly David Howell is developing very rapidly and celebrated his 18th birthday in style.

Nigel Short performed even better and gained even more rating points. Not bad for the veteran of the team.

The English women start ranking was 31 and end ranking 50. We scored 24½/44. Note, that is only 1½ points fewer than our open team.



Captain Glenn Flear

Jovanka Houska 2399 5½/10 RP 2329 -5.6 points
 Dagne Ciuksyte 2339 7½/10 RP 2369 +6.1
 Ingrid Lauterbach 2178 4½/10 RP 2104 -14.6
 Meri Grigoryan-Lyell 2076 3½/7 RP 1992 -6.6
 Kanwal Bhatia 2065 3½/7 RP 2037 -3.8

War is often described as long periods of boredom followed by a few moments of blind panic. Chess is only partly like that and perhaps the impotent spectator feels it more. Anyway, the rate of play: 40 moves in 90 minutes, all the moves in 30 minutes, adding on 30 seconds cumulatively from the first diminishes this effect.



The teams worked well together and were both well-supported by their respective captains. To perform really well in such an event, you need all the players to be in form and this was not to be. There is the possibility that some of our players ran out of steam later in the event. Perhaps we should again consider consulting sports physicians.

*Stewart Reuben, ECF Director of International Chess
 www.dresden2008.de*

European Senior Team Championships

This will take place 5-13 April. Round 1 at 2pm. All other rounds 9:30am. This covers the Easter weekend. I strongly advise players not to travel and play the same day.

It is taking place in Velden, Austria, which looks like a very pleasant place on a lake. By then the weather should be quite good. The website is www.velden-schach.at.

All male players must have had their 60th birthday before 1 January 2009. For female players it is the 50th.

In the past the ECF has paid the 40 Euro entry fee and ECF members also have free travel insurance for this event. It is essential to have travel insurance. Teams can come from more than one federation, provided no member of the team has a FIDE Rating 2200 or higher.

It is possible there will be fewer weaker teams in Austria than played in Germany in the past. I reckon a player should be rated over 1750, ECF 130 Grade to enjoy themselves. Players without FIDE Ratings should be able to gain a partial rating in the event.

The Ryan Air cost from Stanstead to Klagenfurt return is currently about £53. Hotels single bed and breakfast La Caravelle Euro 40 35 twin Gurua 47.

Assuming we have 20 players, neither of these hotels could take all of us. They are about an 8 minute walk. Sonenhotel Parkvillen 55. That is a 15 minute walk to the casino where the chess is taking place.

It seems unlikely we will wish to eat the evening meal in the hotel, it is not even quoted. This is different from Dresden where the weather was much colder and the hotel possibly more remote. Thus perhaps there is no great advantage to our all staying in the same hotel.

If you think of any other people who should be receiving this, please let them know.

In the past we have always been able to take everybody who wanted to go. Teams consist of four players, plus one optional reserve.

Please indicate: Whether you definitely intend playing; Think it quite likely; Will not be playing; Which hotel you would prefer; Whether you wish to share with another player.

*Stewart Reuben
 11 Bevan Court, Clevedon Road, Twickenham TW1 2TS
 Tel: 020 8892 6660, Email: StewartReuben@aol.co.uk*

England v South Africa

An English team visited South Africa 6-21 December. They played several 'friendly' matches against local teams.

The five team members were: Meri Grigoryan-Lyell, Mark Lyell, Maria Yourenok, Lawrence Cooper, Simon Ansell. In the photo



below you can see that they were ably supported by an elephant as the sixth team member. It is reliably reported that he forgot no opening theory at all.



Junior News

English Under 11 Rapidplay Championships 2009

These were held at Broadgreen International School, Liverpool on Saturday 17th January and were attended by 227 players aged 7-11 from all over the country. There were 7 sections for U11, U10, U9 and U8 with B sections in the three older age groups. The B sections are almost exclusively North West players but the championships attract players from the whole country with the U11 A (Open) section being part of the England U11 trial set up. The standard of play in this section was very high as was the participation (68 players) and it ended up in a five way tie between Yasmin Giles, Hector Huser, Raphael Kalid (all Kent), Charles Keen, (Sussex) and Vincent Lee (Herts) all on 5/6. The Under 10 Champion was Jordan Lewis of Lancashire with a perfect score, the Under 9 Champion was Dima Mihai-Tiberiu from Wirral with 5.5/6 and the U8 champion Marcus Lazenby of Liverpool, also with a perfect score. The B sections are competed for with equal determination and the winners here were:- Under 11 Damon Chow (Liverpool); Under 10 Tim Chatys (Tameside) and Under 9 Hannah Harrison (Liverpool) all with perfect scores. This is the 22nd time the tournament has been held in Liverpool and thanks are due to the caretaking staff of Broadgreen School, the local arbiters and stewards who do a marvellous job often under trying conditions due to the quick time control, the refreshment staff, those who set up the school, Gareth Ellis who provides the equipment and all the parents who bring their children along. Next year the school is booked for January 16th and the format will be the same. We hope even more young players will come along and enjoy themselves.

National Prep School Rapidplay 13 December 2008

Players from 10 schools took part this year, with 98 players in 5 age groups. The standard of play was generally very high as most of the players had previous experience of tournament chess. The individual winners were as follows:

- U.13 Champion Raunaq Cavet (Aldro) 3½\5
- U.12 Champion Harvey Kandhola (Twickenham Prep), Nathan Sames, Edward Noble (MCS) and Neil Deo (TPS) all scored 4\5
- U.11 Champions Robert Hewett (Aldro) and Cameron Hill (MCS) 4½\5
- U.10 Champion Alex Anderton (MCS) 5\5
- U.9 Champion Daniel O'Connell (TPS) 4½\5



The team competition was particularly close with Magdalen College School Oxford (17.5) retaining the cup, the 2nd and 3rd place shields were won by Twickenham Prep and Aldro who were both only 1 point behind on 16.5. 4th= were Bishopsgate and Parkside, 6th was Cleves who were an invitation team, 7th was Buckingham College Prep, 8th Homefield, 9th Quinton Prep and 10th Boundary Oak.

Many thanks to Mrs Pat Armstong from Wey Valley Chess for presenting all the trophies and medals and thanks to the Aldro parents for running the refreshments and raising just over £67 for the Surrey Care Trust.

D.J.Archer \c chess Aldro School

Yorkshire Girls Open 23 November 2008

The Yorkshire girls open took place last Sunday and again proved to be a very tough competition. Some of the best players from Yorkshire and Lancashire gathered again chasing a £100 first prize and the title of Yorkshire Girls Open Champion.

The top seeds were all on course until the fourth round where the heavyweight clashes began. Defending champion Amanda Hipshon played Evie Hollingworth and managed to beat her for the second year in a row. 2006 winner Kiruthika Rajeswaran looked in formidable form having beaten Isobel Cotogni in round 3. She defeated the 2005 winner Rachel Cass in round 4 to set up the meeting with Amanda in round 5. It was tense encounter but a clever middle game tactic gave Kiruthkia the advantage which she used to secure a victory. It guaranteed nothing, however, as she met Evie Hollingworth in round 6 but there was no stopping her and she won to take first place. Amanda defeated the vastly improving Francesca Fozard in round 6 to take second. Last match to finish was a gruelling affair between Isobel Cotogni and Rachel Cass, which finally ended in a draw – enough for Rachel to take 3rd and Isobel 4th with the consolation of the U14 trophy.

West Yorkshire Championships were also awarded – a good day for Wakefield Girls School who took three of these:

- U18 Kiruthika Rajeswaran
- U14 Francesca Fozard and Amy Greenhough
- U11 Abigail Arnold
- U9 Rachel Brown

The trophy for the West Yorkshire U14 Championship was awarded to Amy Greenhough, but after discovery that Francesca was also eligible for the trophy it was agreed by all parties that the title should be shared – both girls receive trophies and title. Well done to both and for being mature in resolving the error to the satisfaction of all parties.

- Other trophy winners:
- Under 12: Lara Buckley
 - Under 11: Anna Cunnigham
 - Under 10: Victoria Sung
 - Under 9: Jessica Priest
 - Under 8: Rachel Brown

The novice competition was contested by 9 girls playing in their first tournament. Worthy winner was Sydney Ropella who score 5½/6

and second was 8 year old Lucinda Thompson from Alcuin with 4½. Third was Zahra Ahmed from Wakefield also with 4½. Congratulations to all girls for taking part. Many thanks to Julie Fisher who assisted brilliantly on the day.

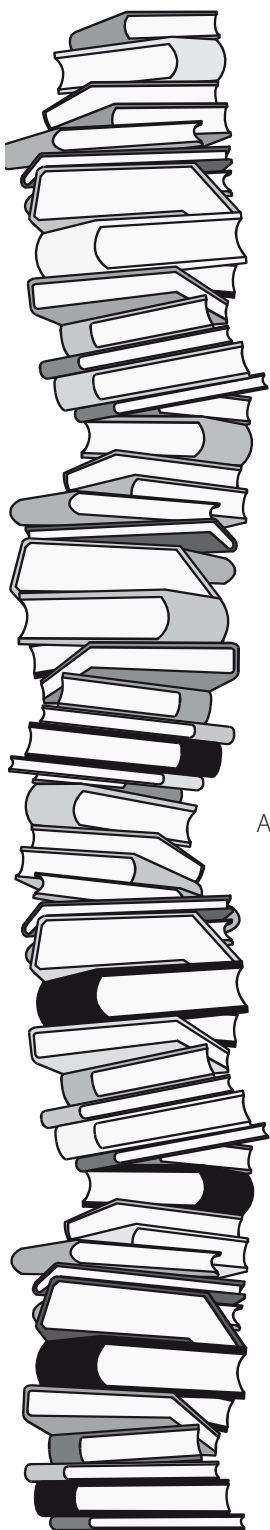
John Hipshon

Position Player name name Grade Section 1 2 3 4 5 6 Total SOP Prize money

1 1 Kiruthika Rajeswaran 114 U18 15+ 8+ 5+ 4+ 1+ 3+ 6 21 **Winner** £100
2 2 Amanda Hipshon 104 U18 17+ 9+ 7+ 3+ 2- 8+ 5 19 **2nd place** £50
3 4 Rachel Cass 91 U14 16+ 20+ 18+ 1- 12+ 5d 4½ 17½ **3rd place** £20
4 5 Isobel Cotogni 81 U14 19+ 21+ 1- 20+ 22+ 4d 4½ 16½ **U14 trophy** £20
* won on sum of opponents scores

Position Player name name Section 1 2 3 4 5 6 Total SOP Prize

1 32 Sydney Ropella Novice bye 35+ 41d 34+ 38+ 40+ 5½ 13 **winner**
2 41 Lucinda Thompson Novice 36+ 33+ 32d 40+ 35- 38+ 4½ 17 **2nd**
3 34 Zahra Ahmed Novice 39d 36+ 33+ 32- 40+ 35+ 4½ 15 **3rd**
4 35 Aoife Berwick Novice 40+ 32- 38+ 33d 41+ 34- 3½ 13½
5 33 Alexandra Henley Novice 38+ 41- 34- 35d 39+ bye 3½ 9½



Book Reviews by Gary Lane

The Chess Instructor 2009

edited by Jeroen Bosch and Steve Giddens
published by New In Chess £17.99

There are always conflicting views on the best way to coach children or to simply improve but now a compilation of sixteen articles aims to answer all the vital questions. The English influence is soon revealed in an interview with Mike Basman. Basically, the huge success of the chess in schools is rightly applauded. He also reveals what would spread a British chess boom "I want to have a World Champion from my country..." It might sound obvious but a reminder that you can do a lot of good at grassroots level but top level players are always needed as role models. The Englishman Steve Giddens adds his worthy contribution discussing how you can go from the opening to the ending with some classic Capablanca games. Richard James who examines the experience of being involved with Richmond Junior Chess Club. His comments are interesting, entertaining, user friendly and all the things the book sets out to be in order to be a useful coaching tome. It is just a real pity that he did not write much more because most of the other articles form a general debate and are of little use to a parent with limited chess experience. I was bemused that Willy Hendricks seems to have fallen out big time with Danish player Carsten Hansen because he has a rant against his book *Improve your Positional Chess*. It comes down to a matter of opinion but I can only imagine with horror what he has done to deserve "...this meaningless advice, delivered in a pedantic tone, makes the work indigestible." The reader is confused later when co-editor Bosch warmly recommends the same title and it makes you wonder why he has no comment on Hendricks's outburst. Still, despite some obvious faults it is interesting if you know a lot about the game and wonder how to pass on such information.

An instructive and thought provoking book of knowledge for experienced coaches.

The Greatest Ever Chess Tricks and Traps

by Gary Lane
published by Everyman £14.99

In response to a number of e-mails I have to give some information on my latest work. The aim is to provide something practical for improvers and trainers who want to know winning lines within 10 moves. I provide refutations for dubious openings, reveal the right way to win with the Fried Liver Attack and give traps that have worked wonders at events such as the World Junior Championships. I tend to go for lines that are playable even if the opponent side steps the traps and demonstrate how to win quickly throughout the 232 pages.

The chapters are sprinkled with chess trivia and now everyone will know the fee paid by the BBC for Bobby Fischer's radio appearance or that Michael Adams starred in an ITV documentary called *To Kill a King*.

Secrets of Spectacular Chess

by Jonathan Levitt and David Friedgood
published by Everyman £14.99

A friend suggested his New Year Resolution should be to read this book, which had been lying on his desk for ages. The authors manage to make obscure looking chess problems fun and it is full of interesting examples.

A serious player can learn a lot and an improving one can extend his imagination. An excellent choice for a gift to a chess loving friend.

Games

Chess Olympiad 2008

19 November 2008

Round 6

White: Jovanka Houska (2399) ENG

Black: Antoaneta Stefanova (2548) BUL

1. d4 d5 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. c4 c6 4. e3 Bf5 5. Nc3 e6 6. Nh4 Bg6 7. Bd2 Nbd7 8. Be2 Bd6 9. Nxc6 hxc6 10. Qc2 dxc4 11. Bxc4 Nb6 12. Be2 c5 13. dxc5 Bxc5 14. Na4 Nxa4 15. Qxa4+ Kf8 16. Bf3 Nd5 17. Rc1 Rh4 18. e4 Bd6 19. g3 Nb6 20. Qd4 e5 21. Qe3 Rh8 22. O-O Qe7 23. a3 Qe6 24. Rfd1 Nc4 25. Qc3 Nxd2 26. Qxd2 Ke7 27. Bg4 Qf6 28. Qd5 Rab8 29. Rd3 g5 30. Rf3 Qg6 31. Rc7+ Bxc7 32. Qd7+ Kf8 33. Be6 f6 34. Qxc7 Ra8 35. Rd3 Qe8 36. Qxb7 Rb8 37. Qxa7 Rh7 38. Rd7 Rc8 39. Rf7+ 1-0

Chess Olympiad 2008

25 November 2008

Round 11

White: Hrvoje Stevic (2588) CRO

Black: David Howell (2593) ENG

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 Nf6 4. O-O Nxe4 5. d4 Nd6 6. dxe5 Nxb5 7. a4 Nbd4 8. Nxd4 Nxd4 9. Qxd4 d5 10. Nc3 c6 11. Qd3 Be7 12. Qg3 Kf8 13. Ne2 h5 14. h3 h4 15. Qf3 g6 16. Nd4 Kg7 17. e6 Bf6 18. Re1 c5 19. Nb3 b6 20. exf7 Bf5 21. c3 Be4 22. Qd1 Kxf7 23. Nd2 Bf5 24. Nf3 Be4 25. Nd2 Bf5 26. Nf3 g5 27. Ne5+ Kg7 28. Ng4 d4 29. Nxf6 Qxf6 30. cxd4 cxd4 31. b4 Rac8 32. Bb2 Rhd8 33. Rc1 Rxc1 34. Qxc1 Kg6 35. Qc7 Rc8 36. Qb7 Rc2 37. Ba1 Bxh3 38. Qe4+ Bf5 39. Qxd4 Qxd4 40. Bxd4 Rc4 41. Be3 Rxb4 42. Ra1 g4 43. Kh2 Rb3 44. Bf4 Rb2 45. Kg1 Be4 46. a5 g3 47. f3 Bd3 48. axb6 axb6 49. Bd6 Be2 50. Be7 Kh5 51. Rc1 Rd2 52. Bb4 Rd7 53. Re1 Bc4 54. Re5+ Kg6 55. Re7 Rd4 56. Re4 Rd7 57. Re7 Rd3 58. Re1 Kf5 59. Be7 Rd4 60. Kh1 Bd5 61. Kg1 b5 62. Bc5 Rc4 63. Be7 b4 64. Kf1 b3 65. Bd6 b2 66. Ba3 Rc2 67. Rb1 Bc4+ 0-1

Kalamaria Open Greece

23 September 2008

White: David Eggleston (2372)

Black: Konstantinis Konstantodos (1942)

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Be3 Bg7 5.Qd2 c6 6.Bh6 Bxh6 7.Qxh6 Nbd7 [7...Qa5 8.Bd3 c5 9.Nge2 cxd4 10.Nxd4 is the normal continuation.] **8.0-0-0 e5 9.dxe5 dxe5 10.Nf3 Qe7 11.h3 b5 12.Qe3** 12.Bd3 followed by 13.g4 was more flexible as it is not yet clear that the queen wants to retreat. **12...Bb7 13.g4 Nb6 14.Bd3 Nfd7 15.Nd2 0-0-0 16.Nb3 a6?!** Playing for c5 is the wrong plan. 16...Kb8 followed by f6 and h5 looks a better way to proceed with a level game. **17.Be2 Kb8 18.g5 c5? 19.Na5!+/=** This is annoying, with ideas of Nd5,exd5 and Nc6+ as well as a4. **19...Ba8 20.a4! c4** [20...b4 21.Nd5 Nxd5 22.exd5 Nb6 23.Nc6+ Bxc6 24.dxc6+/= is unpleasant for black.] **21.axb5 axb5 22.Nxb5 Qb4 23.Rxd7!** I think he had missed this. **23...Qxb5** [23...Rxd7? 24.Qxb6+/- ; 23...Nxd7 24.Qa7+ Kc8 25.Qc7# ; 23...Qxa5 24.Rxd8+ Rxd8 25.Nc3 Qa1+ 26.Nb1 Na4 27.Qa3 Qxa3 28.Nxa3+/-]

24.Rxd8+ Rxd8 25.Qa3 Bxe4 26.Rd1! Bd5? [26...Rc8 27.Rd6 Bd5+/= was black's best chance.] **27.Qe7!+- Re8 28.Qd6+ Kc8** [28...Ka7 29.Rxd5! Qxd5 (29...Nxd5 30.Nc6+/-) 30.Qc7+ Ka6 (30...Ka8 31.Nc6) 31.Nxc4+/-] **29.Bg4+ Be6 30.Bxe6+ fxe6 31.Nc6 Kb7 32.Nd8+ Ka6 33.Nxe6 Kb7 34.Nc7 Qa4 35.Nxe8 Qxe8 36.Re1 e4 37.Qd4 1-0**

English Deaf Chess Association National Championship

18-19 October 2008

In the Premier, Chris Kreuzer sailed through the first 3 rounds with wins and comfortably drew the final 2 rounds to keep the Cedric White trophy. This was his 4th EDCA title in row which is a new record.

Lewis Martin tried out the 'Kreuzer Gambit' (so-called after Chris won last year despite losing in the first round) when he lost to Richard Dunn in the 1st round but this didn't work when he could only draw against Chris in the 4th round and eventually finished 3rd. Richard had an excellent weekend in finishing 2nd so showing he is still one of the best deaf chess players in England.

Frank Wood saw off the challenge of several Scottish players to win the John Brown trophy with John Christie 2nd and Mark Towler 3rd.

The EDCA are grateful to Deaf Action www.deafaction.org for use of their premises for the whole weekend.

Premier (5 rounds)

- 1st Christopher Kreuzer Whitton 4/5
- 2nd Richard Dunn West Hampstead 3½/5
- 3rd Lewis Martin Swindon 3/5 (SB: 8½)
- 4th Barry David Finchley 3/5 (SB: 7)
- 5th Alasdair MacLeod Worcester Park 2½/5 (SB: 8½)
- 6th Michael Freund Edgware 2½/5 (SB: 8)
- 7th James Kelberman Purley 2½/5 (SB: 7)
- 8th Ilan Dwek Cricklewood 2½/5 (SB: 6)
- 9th Robert Burnett Dundee 1½/5
- 10th David Whiston Sheffield 0/5

Major (5 rounds)

- 1st Frank Wood Liverpool 4/5 (SB: 11½)
- 2nd John Christie Fife 4/5 (SB: 11)
- 3rd Mark Towler Aberdeen 3½/5
- 4th John Dearie Glasgow 3/5 (SB: 11)
- 5th Andrew McLean Falkirk 3/5 (SB: 9)
- 6th Mick Simmons Sheffield 2½/5
- 7th Gerry Dillion Glasgow 2/5 (SB: 7)
- 8th James Bruce Liverpool 2/5 (SB: 4½)
- 9th Frank Thompson Scotland 1½/5
- 10th Clark Steven Scotland 1/5 (SB: 4)
- 11th Graham Duff Dundee 1/5 (SB: 3)

ECF EMAIL ALERT

Register your email address at

www.englishchess.org.uk

to receive news items as soon as they are known to us

Littlewood's Choice

□ Rafael A Vaganian

■ Albin Planinec

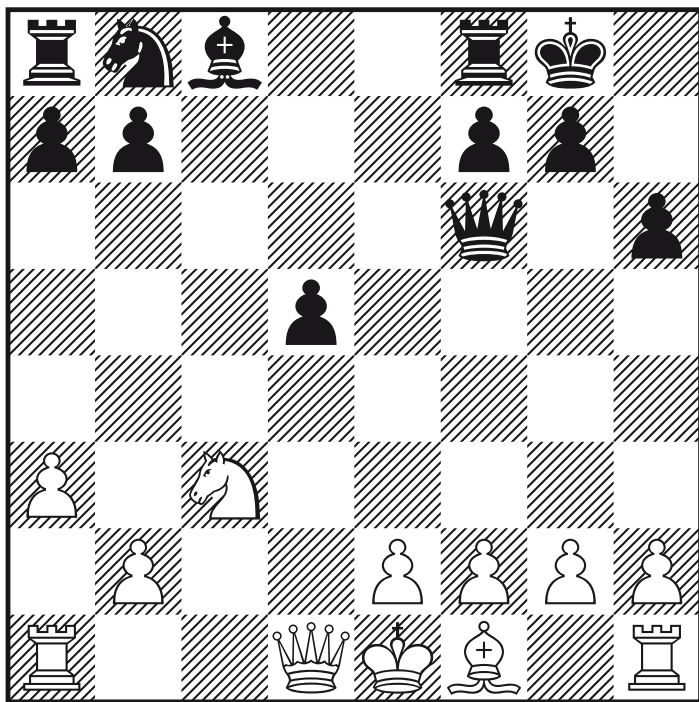
Hastings 1974/5

Along with the sad news of Bob Wade's death, there were also a number of other chess players who died last year. Here is a game by the Yugoslav player Planinec whose death, at 64, ironically occurred very near to the Hasting Congress at which he produced one of his most famous miniatures. His original style was summed up by a description of him as "like Don Quixote, he takes on giants, forgetting about lesser opponents; he simply does not know who to stand firmly on the ground, like Sancho Panza".

1.d4 Nf6 2. c4 c5 3.Nf3 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e6 5.Nc3 Bb4 6.Ndb5?!

In order to obtain the two bishops, Vaganian neglects his development, only to follow this rapidly with another time-wasting move.

6...0-0 7.a3 Bxc3+ 8.Nxc3 d5 9.Bg5 h6 10.Bxf6 Qxf6 11.cxd5 exd5



12.Qxd5?!

Far too risky a move in a position where White has lagged so far behind in development, even though the move had been played unsuccessfully before by Uhlmann (1964) and Kapinski (1974). He had to play 12.e3.

12...Rd8 13.Qf3 Qb6! 14.Rd1 Rxd1+ 15.Nxd1 Nc6 16.Qe3

16.Qc3 had to be tried, but after 16...Be6 followed by 17...Rc8 the pressure down the 'c' file would prove very strong.

16...Nd4!

A far-sighted move. Already, Black was almost certainly visualising the brilliant finish that follows.

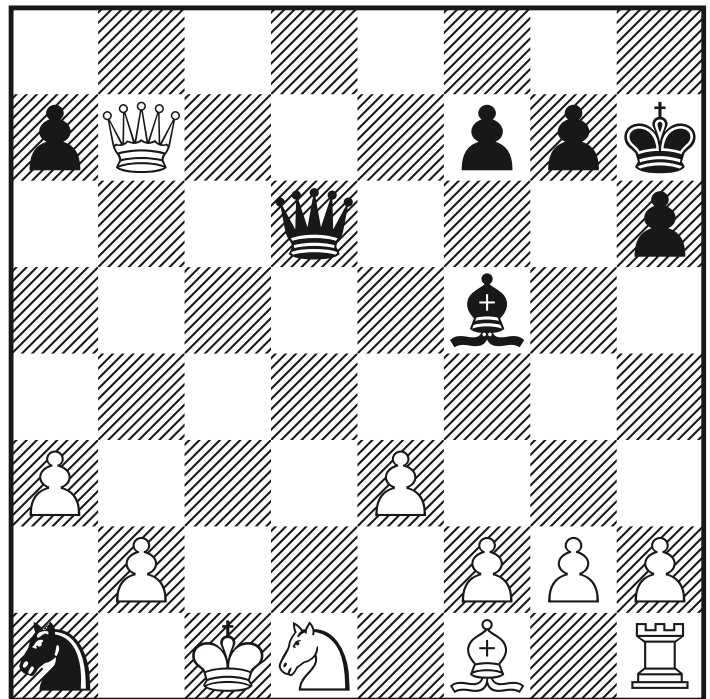
17.Qe8+ Kh7 18.e3

Or 18.Qxf7 Be6 winning.

18...Nc2+ 19.Kd2 Bf5! 20.Qxa8 Qd6+ 21.Kc1 Na1!!

The key move of Black's combination. If now 22.Bc4 then 22...Qc5 23.b3 Nxb3 wins.

22.Qxb7



22...Qc7+! 0 - 1

Deflecting the queen so that, after 23.Qxc7 Nb3 is mate. Such a miniature against a player of Vaganian's strength is rare indeed.

ECF BATSFORD COMPETITION

Congratulations to the

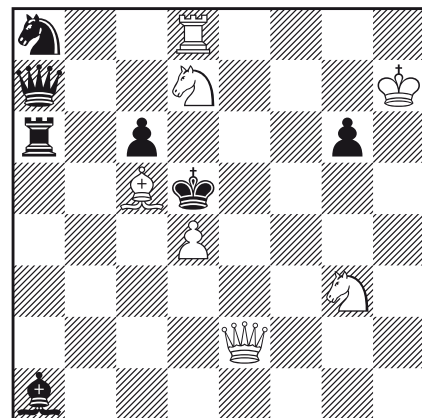
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER Winner

Raphael Kalid from Bromley

The correct answer is **1.Qg6!**

Comins Mansfield *Morning Post*, 1933

WHITE TO PLAY AND MATE IN 2



Please send your answer (just the first move is sufficient) on a postcard to the

ECF Office, The Watch Oak,

Chain Lane, Battle, East Sussex TN33 0YD

The first correct entry drawn on
10th March 2009 will win a
Batsford voucher for any book
on their current list.



B T BATSFORD

Obituaries



Robert G Wade, OBE, International Master

Bob, the name which he was invariably called, was born in Dunedin, New Zealand 10 April 1921 and died Saturday 29 November 2008 in hospital in London. He succumbed to a respiratory infection after having been admitted to hospital on Wednesday.

Many people reading this will have their own personal memories of Bob. Even those who do not have been affected by his influence on chess and the way in which it is played both in England and throughout the world. He was a chess life-force which flowed like a river for 60 years.

He was taught chess by his father, a farmer, but did not show much interest in the game until he went to high school, where he was awarded membership of the Athenaeum Institute where chess was part of the culture. It is interesting that New Zealand has three dedicated chess clubs, in Auckland, Christchurch and Dunedin. England has only one, Hastings. After leaving school, he entered the civil service and also worked in a laboratory during the Second World War. He could not serve as he had contracted TB, from which he made a full recovery.

He first won the New Zealand Chess Championship in 1944. After his second victory in that event (his last was in 1948) he played in the 1946 British Championship, but did not shine. But that year started him on a world chess tour which only concluded last week. Bob was never a great chess player; his IM title described him well. He could have accepted the title of Honorary Grandmaster from FIDE, but was always suspicious of such trappings of spurious grandeur. He won the British Championship in 1952, (having settled

here after his second visit) and 1970. Often invitations would come to the British Chess Federation for a representative to play in an international round robin. Since he was our only professional, he was often the only player we had available to play. Thus he had many opportunities to play against the World's best, particularly in Communist countries and collected many noticeable scalps, including Korchnoi and Uhlmann. ChessBase 9 has only 1130 of his games. But that would not include his many games played for Athenaeum Club in London, County matches primarily for Middlesex and a huge number of simultaneous displays.

He always played quite rapidly and was seldom in time trouble. He seemed to have experimented with playing every opening at one time or another. He introduced new ideas to many different openings.

He became involved with FIDE as early as 1949 at the early age of 28. Presumably this was because he was so widely travelled. He served under all the FIDE Presidents until 1994 and thus missed out on working with the current holder of the title, Kirsan Ilyumzhinov. But his relationship with the founder President, Dr Alexander Rueb must have been brief, as he ceased to hold office in 1949. Bob was a member of the committee that drew up the Official FIDE Laws of Chess in 1949 and remained interested in that subject throughout the next 55 years. FIDE introduced the grandmaster and international master titles in 1950 and Bob was a member of that committee. There was no way to quantify the awards at that time as the FIDE Rating System was not introduced until 1970. He was awarded the IM title in 1950, but that title was awarded by the General Assembly, not the committee. He chaired the Qualification Commission meeting at the FIDE Congress as recently as 1993. He officiated at several World Championship matches which were held in the Soviet Union. It is a little odd that he was not awarded the title of International arbiter until 1958.

Bob's influence on how arbiters work in this country goes far beyond the mere Laws. He greatly believed arbiters should be nice to the players and that commonsense played a far greater part in applying the rules than the strict letter of the law. This is a view that still permeates the work of British arbiters today. He used seeded Swiss Pairings, based on grades, long before this became common practice in England. It was he who had the idea of Draw Boards to make Swiss Pairings easier, although it was Peter Morrish who made the actual boards. This

'jigsaw puzzle' like way of doing the pairings is still popular today. It is one reason why computerised pairings have not taken hold to the same extent as elsewhere. It was also he who found a cheap supply of chess sets in Hong Kong and Peter Morrish who imported them. Thus we were ready for the chess explosion that took place following the Fischer-Spassky match.

The fact that he was a truly professional player had a great influence on the development of chess in England. He, like Leonard Barden, extensively researched the games of his opponents, but this did not become popular until much later. This meant that he needed access to chess literature, particularly games. Thus he built up a very large working chess library. This remains very strong in more arcane bulletins. Some of it was bought by David Anderton. The rest remains currently at his home in East London. He also himself wrote extensively on the game. His books include: *The Games of Bobby Fischer* (with Kevin O'Connell); *Soviet Chess*; *World Championship 1951*. He did unacknowledged about 2/3rds of an edition of *Modern Chess Openings* in the 1950s. I remember him telling me in the late 1960s he was coming to an agreement with a publisher to produce books on the openings in England. This might encourage our players to take their chess more seriously. This was Batsfords and this drive was another reason for the extraordinary development in English chess in the 1970s. One of his lasting legacies is the British cottage industry of publication of chess books.

Bob was a mainstay of the BBC Radio programme that ran for some years in the late 1950s. He was also a major part of the team that produced chess programmes on television featuring the magician David Nixon.

Bob was always interested in chess training and had experience at first hand of Soviet work in this field. He was chief coach of the BCF for many years and helped install in many of our aspiring players a love, not just of his chess books, but also of research into the game. He, like many others, felt thwarted by the lack of resources devoted to chess training and the lack of a concerted programme. The first time I met Bobby Fischer in 1963 he promptly demonstrated a game where he had beaten that English 'fish', Bob Wade. Later Bob drew with Bobby in a tournament in Havana and later still Bobby leant heavily on his huge collection (nowadays it would be called a database) to prepare for the 1972 match against Spassky. Bob did not

reveal this fact for many years, knowing it would offend the young American.

Bob's enjoyment of chess in all its aspects never flagged. He lived in Hastings for a bit after coming to England and told me he spent one Christmas Day at the club playing Kriegspiel. He was always approachable and was never pompous. It is not so much that you do what you like; it is that you like what you do. Chess was his life – and it was a life well spent.

Our condolences to his brother and sister and to the vastly greater chess family.

Stewart Reuben 1.12.2008

The funeral was held on Tuesday 16th December 2008 and in due course there will be a Memorial Service in central London. All will be most welcome.

Donations to the Bob Wade Memorial Fund, HSBC Bank plc, 122 Finchley Road, London NW3 5JD, 40-03-02 Acc # 71555863

This will in the first instance be used for the Funeral and Memorial Service and at the request of the family any remaining funds will be donated to a Junior Chess Charity to be determined.

Read: Bob Wade: Tribute to a Chess Master, compiled and edited by Ray Cannon. <http://www.bcmchess.co.uk/news/bcm1999-12wadeinterview.pdf> for an interview conducted some years ago by John Saunders.

Testimonials:

"I worked with Bob for many years. He could be scathing of bureaucracy, but he always gave everything to his projects, particularly those that related to training and young players. One of the true inspirations behind the rise of England as a chess nation."

*David Jarrett
Chief Executive of FIDE and
past President of the BCF*

"Bob was one of the people in chess I respect most. He knew everything about chess and was always willing to exchange thoughts about everything around chess. He had a great sense of humour. He was a great coach and probably he is one of the persons behind the unbelievable development in chess in England. England has lost a great person in chess."

*Mikko Markkula
Chairman of the FIDE Qualification Commission*

Bob lived in Ilford for several years after he left his native New Zealand some sixty years ago and was very much involved with junior chess in the county, both organising and coaching. I well remember playing for the Essex junior team and also in many other events that Bob organised. I also attended several of his coaching events prior to October 1958, when I started at Leicester University, that he held at the Durning Hall in Forest Gate.

After I returned from University in 1962 to take up a teaching post in Ilford, Bob, in his capacity as Essex Junior Organiser asked me to help him by organising the Essex Schools' League, which I did. At this time Bob was becoming more and more involved with junior activities at the national level so it was perhaps not surprising when he relinquished the Essex Junior Organiser post in 1964 - a role that I took on for the following ten years.

Bob continued to live in Ilford during the 1960s and, despite his commitments both nationally and internationally, found time to support some of the junior events that I was organising myself at that time. He retained great interest in the progress being made by the many talented junior players that, largely as the result of his efforts, we had at that time. I know he was particularly saddened by the death, at the age of 19, of one of his young stars, David Wood, who was London U18 champion in 1967.

In 1968 I helped Bob move to his new home in Blackheath and three years later he gave me a solid silver trophy that he had won in a tournament in Spain. He asked me to use it for an annual junior lightning tournament, sadly no longer running, that I had set up in David's memory. A typically kind gesture from an outstanding ambassador for the game of chess. It was a privilege for me to be a member of his England team at the European Senior Team Championships at Dresden in February of last year.

*Ivor B.N. Smith
Essex Chess Association*

Bob Wade was a pillar of the Kent Junior Chess Association for many years and I was lucky enough to meet him at virtually every Grand Prix Tournament over the past 3 years. The last of these was on November 9th 2008, at which Bob was larger than life and keen to analyse children's games, always with great encouragement and humour. The fact that my children's chess has flourished, is not least owing to the fact that Bob provided a source of immense inspiration to all Kent Juniors and was not just respected, but revered by juniors and parents alike. Bob brought along a bottle of wine to Kent Tournaments, which he always shared with all those who helped run the tournament over the course of the day. His generosity and enthusiasm knew no bounds. He will be sorely missed and all of at KJCA will, no doubt, take some time to come to terms with our loss, but memories of him will be fond and immensely treasured.

*Dr Tony Rao
Kent Under 11 Girls Team Manager
and Teams Director
Kent Junior Chess Association*

I first met Bob Wade in the early 1960s, along with Dave Mabbs and Dave Rumens. From him I had my first and only chess lesson, albeit an informal one. My lasting memory of Bob, whom I came across many times since, was of immense patience and kindness. Now that I work as a full-time coach myself I try to emulate those two virtues, so vital when teaching youngsters.

David Levens

When I was the team captain at the former Finchley chess club I asked Bob to visit us for a simultaneous. He beat all the boards except one. I should have lost mine but he kindly accepted my offer of a draw. He was a very generous man in all respects and I'll always keep him in my heart specially in the world of chess. He was the only professional to dedicate his time voluntary teaching the game of chess at Morley College, I don't really think nowadays we would find somebody to replace that great man. God bless you Bob, and many thanks for the pleasure you brought us. I'll miss you.

Fernando Villasevil

As well as his many other chess interests Bob had an abiding interest in, and enthusiasm for, chess composition. He was a regular attendee of lecture meetings of the British Chess Problem Society on Friday evenings in central London (on occasion indeed he was the lecturer), and also frequently took part in the finals of the Winton Capital British Chess Solving Championships at Oakham School.

Much more of a livewire in his 80s than I in my 50s, he was this year actively involved in trying to promote an interest in chess problems and studies amongst school chess clubs. His friends in the chess problem and study community will miss his positive and friendly interest.

*Christopher Jones
President, British Chess Problem Society*

I first came across Bob Wade in 1964, when as a twelve-year old, I started to play at the Southend and Ilford Congresses. Bob would often play a simultaneous on the last day and my two school friends and I would sit in a row determined to go home with at least a draw. He was always happy to come to our school to give a similar display, only wanting his return train fare to Ilford in payment. I loved his sense of humour, he was always pulling our legs.

I last met him at the Islington Congress in 1968. "Hello", he beamed as I arrived. "Coming to spectate?". Watching one of my games, he berated me for opening Nc3, claiming that I did it because I was too lazy to learn my openings. However after telling him of all the transposition possibilities that I had to learn, he relented and promised to play it himself.

At that stage in my life, bridge took over but I have often wondered whether he did ever play that opening and what the result was.

*Stephen Pierce
Chairman, Kent County Bridge Association*

David Anderton's address at Bob Wade's funeral *We celebrate today a life of selfless dedication to chess. Bob made his home in England some 60 years ago when the life of a chess professional was unremittingly hard. But he was in the thrall of our game which he served with distinction at every level. He won the British Championship twice in 1952 and 1970.*

He was our most active player at international level in the 50's, 60's and early 70's representing England in six Olympiads – the last in 1972 when I had the privilege of captaining him. He never was the easiest person to tell he was benched and indeed as recently as last year at the age of 86 he

was insisting on playing in every one of the nine rounds on consecutive days in the Euro Seniors Team Championship at Dresden – on pain of catching the next plane home!

He was an original player who invented three suitably obstinate opening variations which bear his name. He collected many famous scalps in the course of his playing career – five of them Candidates for the World Championship.

He was a leading member of the FIDE Rules Committee which promulgated the first official version of the laws of chess. He authored and co-authored a number of important books most notably his ground breaking Soviet Chess.

His lasting legacy is as father of modern English Chess – who through his editorship of Batsford's books revolutionised chess publishing and through his coaching provided information, support, encouragement and inspiration for successive generations of our players – a contribution recognised by his appointment as an OBE in 1979.

But it is Bob, the man, whom we most wish to remember today. He possessed a fierce will both over the board and in debate – undimmed by advancing years. There can be few in this congregation who have not felt the sharpness of his tongue – no matter the subject Bob always had a new angle or an exhortation to further effort.

"Never known a man be so unhelpfully helpful" was one tribute paid to him. But beneath that prickly exterior was a warm heart and unwavering positivity. He was held in great affection throughout the chess world. He will be greatly missed. We shall not see his like again.

Lester Millin

With sadness, we have to report that Lester Millin died on the evening of Thursday 27 November at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford. He was 71. He had been ill for some time with cancer, and in the last couple of weeks his condition deteriorated rapidly.

Lester was the Secretary, and a mainstay, of the Cowley Chess Club in Oxford for nearly thirty years. However, his major interest was in the coaching and encouragement of young players.

It is probably his encyclopaedic knowledge of end-games and puzzles (win-a-sweetie etc.) which gave an early advantage to so many of the Oxfordshire Juniors who have made their mark on the Chess scene over the years. He encouraged the youngsters to play against adults regularly in the local League and was always willing to take them to tournaments and go through their games. This extended to helping out the National Junior Squad in escorting groups to the Guernsey, Jersey and Isle of Man tournaments. For many years he helped Peter Purland and Alec Webster with the Young Masters Tournament at Millfield, where his quiet helpfulness and organized approach made the event run that much

more smoothly. As a retired Maths teacher, he developed a worksheet scheme for combining chess tuition and basic Maths skills (including coordinates, symmetry, magic square puzzles and Knight's tours) and used it at Chess clubs in local schools. Such material of course soon became widely available over the Internet, so his hardcopy was never properly published, but remains to us as a useful memorial of his training methods.

On top of this Lester represented Oxfordshire for many years on the SCCU Executive Committee, and in 2001 he was awarded the title of SCCU Honorary Life Vice-President, an honour he shared with only two others.

Lester had carefully been passing on his Chess duties over the last couple of years. He was to be seen in January collecting in the last minute entries at the Kidlington Congress, where he had formerly been a controller, and in May he was collecting in the results at our UK Chess Challenge Megafinal, of which he was a great supporter.

He had only just this summer given up the captaincy of one of the Cowley League teams and the position of Club Secretary.

His brother Geoffrey and sister-in-law Pauline were pleased and touched by the number of Chess friends who were visiting him over the last couple of months (although his interests in local affairs, politics, education, sports and puzzling were probably just as broad).

We will miss hearing Lester's strong views on local issues and experiencing his helpful, willing and generous nature. He will be remembered by many with much affection, gratitude, and respect.

*Gerard O'Reilly, Priscilla Morris
29/30 November 2008*

T Llew

On the 9th of January at the age of 93 T Llew, as he was universally known in Welsh chess circles, has passed away peacefully at his home in Pontgarreg near the coast of Ceredigion. This is a time of great sadness for all those privileged enough to have been acquainted with T Llew and our sympathies go out to his family, including his sons lolo, Wales' most frequent Olympiad team member, and Emyr, founder with his son Owain of the internet (and now over the board) chess club, www.gwyddbwyll.com.

T Llew was one of the small group of Welsh Chess Union members and officials who instigated and fought for the secession of

the WCU from the British Chess Federation (as it then was) in 1970 and our successful application to join the World Chess Federation (FIDE) as an independent member. As well as folding several posts in the WCU, T Llew founded and edited Y Ddraig which grew from the Dyfed Chess Association newsletter into the magazine of Welsh chess in the seventies. He managed the 1974 Men's Olympiad team in Nice which achieved our best-ever result and also the Women's team in the 1976 Olympiad in Israel. He was currently, and had been for many years, Vice-President of the WCU.

T Llew was heavily involved in Dyfed chess from the sixties onwards, in founding and running the Dyfed Chess Association, its league, Cardigan Chess Club and the highly successful Dyfed Open Congress, until recently held annually at the Cliff Hotel, Gwbert, just outside Cardigan. At his death he was Life President of the Dyfed Chess Association. Over the board T Llew was a keen and competitive player well into his eighties but achieved his best results at postal chess, representing Welsh international teams with distinction.

His great investment of time and energy in Welsh chess was the more remarkable because it was always a sideline for him. He was a teacher and headmaster by profession but also a towering and iconic figure in Welsh literature, as an author and poet. He won the chair at the National Eisteddfod for strict metre poetry in successive years in the fifties, in one of which he did the double, taking the crown for free-metre verse.

He was a prolific author of short stories and novels of all descriptions, including some which have been adapted for television on S4C, and an autobiography. But he will probably be best remembered as the Welsh language's master of children's stories, which have captivated many generations of readers. Altogether he had nearly eighty publications to his credit, including the only book on chess in Welsh, *A chwaraei di wyddbwyll?* an introduction to the game written jointly with lolo.

T Llew was always self-effacing about his massive literary accomplishments and few among his many chess acquaintances would have been aware of them.

But all will certainly remember with affection and admiration his friendship, wit and commitment to Welsh chess.

Amryddawn ei ymroddiad.

Results Round-Up

Wellington College International Open

7-23 November 2008

1 GM Keith Arkell 2521 7½/9; 2 GM Nick Pert 2532 7; 3-5 GM Alex Cherniaev 2438; FM Jovica Radovanovic 2345; Felix Jose Ynojosa 2145 6½; 6-7 IM Elect Jack Rudd 2344; Latefah Mesam-sparks 1907 6

English Champion Keith Arkell showed his class with another tournament victory, but the real news was the performance of 12 year old Felix Ynojosa, who played a strong field and came close to an IM norm. Also noteworthy was the performance of 16 year old Latefah Mesam-Sparks. She followed up her first round draw with GM Cherniaev by winning her last 4(!) games to finish high up. Sophia Rohde

KJCA West Kent Junior Rapidplay

9 November 2008

Under 18: William Jones, Lewisham CC, 153, 4½; Sheila Dines, West Wickham, 153, 4; Robert Maguire, Beckenham & Bromley CC, 117, 3½

Under 14: Victor Jones, Lewisham CC, 159, 5; Baven Balendran, Beckenham & Bromley CC, 96, 4; Alex Tse, Petts Wood, 3½

Under 12: Gautham Reddiar, Orpington, 90, 5½; Raunak Rao, Lewisham CC, 68, 5; Rohan Shiatis, Beckenham & Bromley CC, 88, 4½; Patrick Smith, Westerham CC, 53, 4½

Under 10: James Meredith, Dulwich, 33, 5; Rohan Rao, Orpington, 18, 5; Daniel Heraghty, Lewisham CC, 25, 4½; John-James Daley, Dulwich, 3, 4½; Chris Button, Weald of Kent CC, 15, 4; Ianto Jones, Dulwich, 6, 4; Zara Hussain, Westerham CC, 6, 4; Vittorio Codogno, Chislehurst, 4; Alexander Chalk, Cheam, 4; Hasan Rahij, Bexleyheath, 4

Under 8: Andrew Smailes, Weybridge, 5; Sachin Balaji, Orpington, 5; Francesco Bernardini, Bromley, 4½; Michael Petrick, Sevenoaks, 4; Alessandro Codogno, Chislehurst, 4

Milton Keynes Congress

14-16 November 2008

Open: GM Mark L Hebden, 5, £400; GM Simon K Williams, 4, £250; Paul Wallace,

3½, £25; Martin P Burrows, 3½, £25; Philip R Bonafont, 3½, £25; James P Jackson, 3½, £25

Major (U150): Brandon Clarke, Littlethorpe, 5, £300; Brendan O'Gorman, DHSS, 4, £150; Raymond Wynarczyk, Northumberland, 3½, £37.50; Russell Goodfellow, Tunbridge Wells, 3½, £37.50

U125: Jamie Adcock, Reading, 4, £130; Andrew Farthing, Worcester, 4, £130; Michael Dean, Eastbourne, 4, £130; Daniel Jazdewski, Northampton, 4, £130; Louis Plunkett, Ipswich, 3½; Francesco Poderico, Bicester, 3½; Graham Banda, Cowley, 3½; Andrew S Wiggins, Greenlands, 3; Murray Brown, Northampton, 3; Alan R Fraser, Beckenham & Bromley, 3, £50; Darrell Watson, Bourne End, 3

42nd Torbay League Congress

21-23 November 2008

Open: Michael J Yeo, Bristol, 4½/5; Steve P. Dilleigh, Horfield, Bristol, 4/5; Robert Eames, Hackney, London, 4/5

Major (U155): Nigel Livesley, Bourne End, Buckingham, 4/5; Ivor Annetts, Tiverton, Devon, 3½/5; Ronnie Burton, Weymouth, Dorset, 3½/5; M. J. Harris, Newcastle-U-Lyme, 3½/5; William H. Ingham, Teignmouth, Devon, 3½/5; Ian M. Jamieson, Exmouth, 3½/5; Brendan O'Gorman, DHSS, London, 3½/5; Yasser Tello, Wimbledon, London, 3½/5; Peter R. Wood, Lewisham, London, 3½/5

Intermediate (U125): Michael Stinton-Brownbridge, Plymouth, 4½/5; George Darling, Newton Abbot, Devon, 4/5; Nigel Dicker, Glastonbury, Somerset, 4/5; Toby Woodbridge, Devon, 4/5

Minor (U100): David J. Healey, Watford, Hertshire, 5/5; Andrew Costello, Exeter, Devon, 4/5; Kevin Hindom, Teignmouth, Devon, 4/5; Caroline J Robson, Middlesex, 4/5

Bury Rapidplay

14 December 2008

The fourteenth annual Rapidplay took place as usual at Bury Town Hall.

Firstly, a big thank you to our returning sponsors, Metcalfe & Co Accountants of Bury, and insurance group Winterthur Life.

We have used the Elizabethan Suite for ten years or so now, banking on players being attracted by the combination of good playing conditions. There are excellent spectator conditions; lots of parking available nearby and good public transport

with the Metrolink/Bus interchange only a couple of minutes walk away. We hope that chess players want to play chess in nice surroundings, and will attend in sufficient volume.

This year we were disappointed with the turnout, affected by the weather possibly, by illness certainly, by the volume of chess available in the North West this year probably. We lost our main sponsor to the economic squeeze, and combined with lower entries, we made our first serious loss.

So, unless Bury Council drop their £600 asking price for the venue, we will have to reluctantly look elsewhere.

In total, we had 85 playing for a total prize fund £750. It reminded me what chess provides that may be unique – competition between men and women, juniors and seniors, able-bodied and the disabled, all playing together in one event.

Competition was intense, and an amazing 22 players shared the prize money. I hope the winners, and those who went home empty handed, all enjoyed their day in Bury.

I would like to give the usual in depth report, but as I had to make up the numbers in the Open (taking my record to nine straight defeats when doing so, before I finally found a generous opponent), I have little to add to the results listed below.

In the Open, the absence of stars meant that the games were all very hard fought, with no-one emerging unbeaten. Marcial, having effectively beaten me twice in the first round, went on to play the top four graded players, and emerge a worthy winner to add to the list of GMs and IMs who have taken the title.

As always the hardest work is done by those not playing. Thanks to Chess Direct as always for the bookstall, to our controllers Julian Clissold, Rod Middleton, Bernard Sharples, Geoff Kerr, and particularly to Anthony Lee.

Open: Marcial Flores Eccles 157, 4½, £100; Richard Beach Stockport 185, 4, £30; Ali Jaunooby 3Cs 189, 4, £30; Alan Walton 3Cs 182, 4, £30; Martin Sheard Barnsley 155, 4, £30; U170 GP Dennis Owen Urmston 155, 3½, £30

U155: Mitchell Burke, 3Cs, 145J, 4½, £47.50; Robert Dean, Pudsey 131, 4½, £47.50; Bob Newton, Heywood, 153, 4½, £47.50; Simon Woodcock, Atherton 152, 4½, £47.50; U135 GP Mick Connor, Great Lever, 121, 4, £7.50; Neil Coward Blackpool 134, 4, £7.50; Thomas Fielding Preston 122, 4£7.50; David

Patrick Courier 132, 4, £7:50; U120 GP Steve Lloyd Chester 113, 3½, £15; Karl Lockett Altrincham 115, 3½, £15

U105: Brendan Newell Brooklands u/g, 6/6, £100; Brian Forrest Bury 86, 5, £60; 3rd= Brendan Brown Clitheroe 102, 4½, £30; Ian Mitchell Rochdale 79, 4½, £30; U65 GP David Fisher Bury area 64, 3, £15; Michael Quigley Worsley 63, 3, £15

The Lodwig Gruchlik Memorial Trophy, awarded to the highest scoring Bury Chess Club Member, was won by Brian Forrest

81st Richmond Rapidplay

11 January 2009

119 players took part in the 81st Richmond Rapidplay held on 11 January and prizes totalling over £700 were awarded for the following results:

Open: Alexey Slavin, 6/6; Alexander Chernaiev, 4½/6; U180 Grading Prize: Julian Way, 3/6

Major (U160): David Norton, 5/6; Paulus Du Buf, 5/6; U140 Grading Prize: Dave Cork, 4/6; James Holland, 4/6; Raul Lamorena 4/6

Intermediate (U120): Robert Fitzgerald, 5½/6; Nick Cornish, 5/6; U100 Grading Prize: Alexander Gordon Brown, 4½/6

Minor (U80): Benjamin Challen, 5½/6; William Foo, 5/6; Andrew Gillard, 5/6; Nicholas Sgaramella, 5/6; Richard Dulley, 4/5; Caspian Heeler, 4/5; Victor Litvin, 4/5; Rustico Pineda, 4/5

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English Chess Federation

Grand Prix 2008/9

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Leader Boards 19 January 2009

Bold indicates players who are counting the maximum number of events.

Junior Prix

- 1 **Clarke, Brandon GI, Littlethorpe 657**
- 2 **Haria, Ravi, Barnet Knights 587**
- 3 **Dines, Sheila J, Surrey Junior 542**
- 4 **Jain, Radha, Pinner 537**
- 5 **Jones, William EG, Kent Junior Congresses 525**
- 6 **Jain, Akash, Pinner 520**
- 7 Ynojosa, Felix Jose, Reading 519
- 8 **Shiatis, Rohan, Coulsdon CF 512**
- 9 Weller, Jean-Luc, York RI 512
- 10 **Lee, Lawrence, Haberdashers Askes Sch Herts 505**

Graded Prix (150-174)

- 1 **Bryant, Richard BE, Oswestry 587**
- 2 Evans, Paul A, AXA Lytham 472
- 3 **Cutmore, Martin J, Wood Green 469**
- 4 Hayward, Alan, Streatham 437
- 5 Combie, Alex B, Newark & Southwell 421
- 6 Shepley, Julien M, Guildford 381
- 7 **Garnett, John S, Elmwood 369**
- 8 **Cutmore, David A, Wood Green 363**
- 9 Wells, Daniel J, Newark & Southwell 363
- 10 Doran, Chris, Chester 360

Graded Prix (125-149)

- 1 **O'Gorman, Brendan, DHSS 577**
- 2 **Clegg, Robert, Huddersfield 497**
- 3 **Pride, Stephen C, Cambridge City 486**
- 4 **Desmedt, Richard E, Netherton 479**
- 5 **Goodfellow, Russell R, Tunbridge Wells 454**
- 6 **Price, Andrew, Leamington 448**
- 7 Batchelor, Guy J, Willesden & Brent 423
- 8 **Bishop, Geoffrey L, Chislehurst 400**
- 9 Lim, Mark, Highgate School 367
- 10 **Papier, Alan, Bristol & Clifton 362**

Graded Prix (100-124)

- 1 **Allen, Timothy S, Battersea 485**
- 2 **Gilbert, David J, DHSS 475**
- 3 **Costeloe, C Andrew AJ, Muswell Hill 474**
- 4 **Foley, Phil T, Upminster 434**
- 5 **Szabo, Peter L, Metropolitan 427**
- 6 **WalkerRoger WBelper 425**
- 7 **Crouch, Timothy J, Kings Head 415**
- 8 Wiggins, Andrew S, Greenlands 405
- 9 **Blencowe, Ian P, Gloucester 402**
- 10 Robson, Owen, York RI 352

Graded Prix (U100)

- 1 **Horman, Paul A, Morecambe 529**
- 2 **Miles, Barry S, Middlesex CCA 480**
- 3 **Robson, Caroline J, Barnet Elizabeth 470**
- 4 **Fraser, Alan R, Beckenham & Bromley 469**
- 5 Stratford, Chris J, Huddersfield 428
- 6 **Billett, Stephen J, Portsmouth 426**
- 7 Jackson, Paul Robert, Lancaster 401
- 8 **Stone, Mark R, Petts Wood & Orpington 387**
- 9 **Constable, Christine F, Coulsdon CF 385**
- 10 Broderick, Paul G, Shifnal & Telford 312

Calendar of Events

(For a more comprehensive list of events visit our website at www.englishchess.org.uk)

* denotes English Chess Federation Grand Prix @ denotes FIDE Rated Event # denotes British Championship Qualifying Tournament ~ denotes ECF Graded Event

~* 7 Feb **KJCA Gravesend Junior Rapidplay**

Gravesend Grammar School.
S Maguire (Tel: 020 8656 6420,
Email: sue.maguire@btinternet.com)

~ 7 Feb **Yateley Manor National Schools Championship - Last Chance Saloon (North)**

Nottingham High School.
R Haddrell (Tel: 01892 532361, Email: rjh@sccu.ndo.co.uk)

7 Feb **SJC Training Day**

Aldrington School, Hove.
M Burch (Tel: 01483 534061,
Email: ammjburch@hotmail.com)

~@ 7-8 Feb **4NCL**, Division 3

De Vere Venues, Staverton Park.
M Truran (Tel: 01993 708645,
Email: mike@mtruran.fsnet.co.uk)

~*# 7-8 Feb **Kidlington Congress**

Exeter Hall, Kidlington.
N Jones (Tel: 07860 700105,
Email: kidlingtonchess@btconnect.com)

~ 8 Feb **Leeds Junior Congress**

Alcuin School, 64 Woodland Lane.
J Hipshon (Tel: 0113 217 6296,
Email: jr.hipshon@ntlworld.com)

~* 13-15 Feb **Frodsham Congress**

Frodsham Community Centre.
P Ridley (Tel: 01928 719787,
Email: patrick.ridley@ntlworld.com)

~* 14 Feb **Golders Green Rapidplay**

St Alban's Church Hall, NW11 7QG.
A Raof (Tel: 07855 036537,
Email: adamraof+ecf@gmail.com)

14 Feb **KJCA ECF Certificate of Excellence Coaching Day**, Barming Primary, Belmont Drive.

S Maguire (Tel: 020 8656 6420,
Email: sue.maguire@btinternet.com)

~* 20-22 Feb **1st Castle Chess Portsmouth Congress**

Queen's Hotel.
Tony Corfe (Tel: 01707 659080,
Email: tony@tcs-chess.demon.co.uk)

~*#@ 20-22 Feb **Uxbridge Congress**

De Veres Denham Grove Hotel, Denham.
S Hewitt (Tel: 07845 518972, Email: info@e2e4.org.uk)

~* 21-22 Feb **Wiltshire & West of England Junior Open Championships**, New College, Swindon.

B Schofield (Tel: 01793 487575,
Email: bev@schofieldhall.co.uk)

~*# 27 Feb -1 Mar **Cumbria Open Individual Championships**

Austin Friars St Monica's School, Carlisle.
S Cassidy, Austin Friars School, Carlisle CA3 9PB.

~* 27 Feb - 1 Mar **17th Doncaster Congress**

Hall Cross School, Doncaster.
T Taylor (Tel: 01302 532629,
Email: trevortaylor43@yahoo.co.uk)

27 Feb - 1 Mar **38th DYFED CONGRESS**

Fishguard Bay Hotel, Goodwick.
R Spencer (Tel: 01239 682703)

~* 22 Feb **Leyland Congress**

Worden Arts Centre, Worden Park.
R Tinton (Tel: 01257 451046,
Email: LeylandRapidplay2009@googlemail.com)
Restricted for players graded 130 & under

~ 28 Feb **Champions' League Chess Qualifier - Kent - 2nd Leg**, Coulsdon.

H Curtis & S Freeman (Tel: 020 8645 0302 (day),
Email: chess@ccfworld.com)

~ 28 Feb **ECF U18 & U13 County Championship**

Heanor Gate Science College, Derbyshire.
S McIntosh (Tel: 01773 830027,
Email: smcintosh@heanorgate.derbyshire.sch.uk)

28 Feb **Yorkshire Chess Association Q E G S Chess Challenge**, Sponsored by ECF

Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Wakefield.
P Cloudsdale (Tel: 01904 767177)

~ 28 Feb-1 Mar **4NCL Junior**

Latimer Place, Buckinghamshire.
Claire Summerscale (Tel: 020 8874 0135,
Email: chessuk@btinternet.com)

~ 28 Feb - 1 Mar **25th Barnet Congress**

Queen Elizabeth's Boys' School, Queens Rd.
M Harding (Tel: 01788 561474,
Email: BarnetChess@yahoo.co.uk)

~* 28 Feb - 1 Mar **Spectrum Chess - 1st Purfleet Congress**, The Royal Hotel.

N Went (Tel: 01708 551617,
Email: spectrumchess@hotmail.com)

~ 1 Mar **Manchester Rapidplay**

City of Manchester Stadium.
Sport 4 Life (Email: info@mysport4life.co.uk)

1 Mar **SJC Training Day**

Little Common School, Bexhill.
M Burch (Tel: 01483 534061,
Email: ammjburch@hotmail.com)

~* 6-8 Mar **Braille Chess Association AGM & Congress**, Midland Hotel, Derby.

S Lovell (Tel: 01642 775668; Email: stan.lovell@tiscali.co.uk)

~* 6-8 Mar **East Devon Congress**

Corn Exchange, Exeter.
A Maynard (Email: a.maynard@tesco.net)

~ 7 Mar **Champions' League Chess Qualifier - Surrey east - 2nd Leg**, Coulsdon.

H Curtis & S Freeman (Tel: 020 8645 0302 (day),
Email: chess@ccfworld.com)

~* 7 Mar **Golders Green Rapidplay**

St Alban's Church Hall, NW11 7QG.
A Raof (Tel: 07855 036537,
Email: adamraof+ecf@gmail.com)

7 Mar **Richmond Junior CC - Kids Blitz Tournament**

ETNA Community Centre, Twickenham.
P Sowray (Tel: 07720 716336, Email: psowray@aol.com)

~* 7 Mar **SJC Junior Rapidplay**

Bishop's Bell School, Eastbourne.
M Burch (Tel: 01483 534061,
Email: ammjburch@hotmail.com)

~ 8 Mar **Champions' League Chess Qualifier - Surrey West & Middlesex - 2nd Leg**, Coulsdon.

H Curtis & S Freeman (Tel: 020 8645 0302 (day),
Email: chess@ccfworld.com)

~* 8 Mar **KJCA Dulwich Junior Rapidplay**

Dulwich College.
S Maguire (Tel: 020 8656 6420,
Email: sue.maguire@btinternet.com)

~* 8 Mar **82nd Richmond Rapidplay**

The White House Community Association, Hampton.
James Coleman (Tel: 020 8661 0722,
Email: rapidplay@aol.com)

~*#@ 13-15 Mar **33rd Blackpool chess conference**

Blackpool Football Club, Seasiders Way.
S Woodcock (Tel: 01942 682646,
Email: chesscongress2009-blackpool@yahoo.co.uk)

14 Mar **EPSCA u9 Team Championships Zones**

P Purland (Tel: 0151 639 1797,
Email: petepurland@btopenworld.com)

21 Mar **EPSCA u11 Team Championships Zones**

P Purland (Tel: 0151 639 1797,
Email: petepurland@btopenworld.com)

~@ 21-22 Mar **4NCL**, Divisions 1, 2 & 3

Barcelo Hotel, Hinckley Island.
M Truran (Tel: 01993 708645,
Email: mike@mtruran.fsnet.co.uk)

~ 22 Mar **Atherton Rapidplay**

Jubilee Hall, Crabtree Lane.
P Mulleady (Tel: 01942 878889, Email: peterm@f2s.com)

22 Mar **Midlands Junior Chess League**

Malvern College, Worcestershire.
A Moore (Tel: 07789 904835, Email: info@wjca.org.uk)

~ 22 Mar **Renaissance Academy Rapidplay**, (inc. the

Antonio Fattorini Grand Prix)
Latvian Welfare Club, Manningham.
C W Wood (Tel: 0845 400 2429,
Email: the_renaissance_academy@hotmail.com)
Open to players under 25.

22-27 Mar **Chess Holiday**

Rothay Manor Hotel & Restaurant, Ambleside, Cumbria.
N Nixon (Tel: 01539 433605,
Email: hotel@rothaymanor.co.uk)
10% discount for ECF members.

27-29 Mar **Cork Congress**

Gresham Metropole Hotel.
M Bradley (Tel: +353 (0)868 042710,
Email: corkchess@gmail.com)

~* 27-29 Mar **Huddersfield Congress**

Ukrainian Club.
N Hepworth (Tel: 07903 548675,
Email: congress2009@huddersfieldchessclub.co.uk)

28 Mar **EPSCA u11 Girls Team Championships Final**

P Purland (Tel: 0151 639 1797,
Email: petepurland@btopenworld.com)

~ 29 Mar **Cambridgeshire Rapidplay**

New England Club, Peterborough.
P Kemp (Tel: 01223 872081,
Email: paulkemp64@gmail.com)

~ 29 Mar **Joint SCCU U18 Jamboree & U180/U135**

Jamboree, Wilson's School, Wallington. U18 Jamboree:
N Cooper (Tel: 01883 624051, Email: nsc@cplusc.co.uk);
U180/U135 Jamboree: D Smith (Tel: 020 8530 2118, Email:
davidandjanesmith@ntlworld.com)

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