

Chess Moves

ENGLISH CHESS FEDERATION | MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER | July 2013 EDITION

In this issue ---

100 NOT OUT!

- *the British Chess Championships*
- European Schools 2013**
- *pictures and results*
- The Bunratty Chess Classic**
- *Nick Pert was there & annotates the best games!*

FEATURE ARTICLES ...

4NCL

- *the final weekend*

Great British Champions

- *The 'Absolute Champion' - a look back at Jonathan Penrose's championship career*

Minded to Succeed

Bookshelf looks at the REAL secrets of success

Pictured - 2012 BCC Champions Jovanka Houska and Gawain Jones

Photographs courtesy of Brendan O'Gorman [<https://picasaweb.google.com/105059642136123716017>]

CONTENTS

News	2	Chess Moves Bookshelf	30
100 NOT OUT!	4	Book Reviews - Gary Lane	35
Obits	9	Grand Prix Leader Boards	36
4NCL	11	Calendar	38
Great British Champions - Jonathan Penrose	13		
Junior Chess	18		
The Bunratty Classic - Nick Pert	22		
Batsford Competition	29		

News

GM Norm for Yang-Fang Zhou



Congratulations to 18-year-old Yang-Fan Zhou (far left), who won the 3rd Big Slick International (22-30 June) GM norm section with a score of 7/9 and recorded his first grandmaster norm. He finished 1½ points ahead of GMs Keith Arkell, Danny Gormally and Bogdan Lalic, who tied for second.

In the IM norm section, 16-year-old Alan Merry (left) achieved his first international master norm by winning the section with an impressive score of 7½ out of 9.

An Englishman Abroad



It has been a successful couple of months for England's (and the world's) most travelled grandmaster, Nigel Short.

In the Sigeman & Co. tournament in Malmö, Sweden at the end of May, he tied for first in an eight-player round robin, scoring 4½ out of 7 and finishing first on tie break.

In June, Nigel was to be found promoting chess in Tanzania, where the game had been more or less dormant for 15 years, and competing in the Spicenet Tanzania Open Chess Championship. The English GM rounded off a successful trip with a resounding 100% score from the six rounds.

What with his key role in his team's victory in the 4NCL, Nigel can feel proud of his last couple of months' work!

Teams for the European Senior Team Chess Championships

20-29 July Dresden 2013

1st team

Anthony Stebbings 1 | Geoffrey James 2 | Kenneth Norman 3 (captain)
Michael Yeo 4 | Paul Byway 5

2nd team

Jim Burnett 1 | Michael MacDonald-Ross 2 | Anthony Ashby 3 (captain)
John Quinn 4 | Ivan Myall 5

3rd team

Paul Habershon 1 | Stewart Reuben 2 (captain) | Peter Wood R 3
Trefor Thynne 4 | William Phillips 5

C & DCCC - Sussex are the Sinclair Champions!

Sussex have won the 2012/13 Sinclair division of the County & District Correspondence Chess Championship! Well done to Sussex! The full team crosstable can be seen at <http://www.bfcc-online.org.uk/cdccc/sinclair> and all the individual games can be seen at <http://www.iccf-webchess.com/EventCrossTable.aspx?id=31563>. There are still seven games remaining but Sussex cannot be caught and, subject to re-entry, will be promoted to play in the Ward-Higgs next season ...

MCCU - new CEO & Chairman

A well attended MCCU annual meeting saw changes at the top. Ray Dolan (Staffordshire) takes on the CEO role and Andrew Farthing (Worcestershire) is Chairman. Members paid tribute to the work, over many years, of CEO Julie Johnson and Events Director Cyril Johnson (both Leicestershire), who are retiring.

Laws of Chess

FIDE have recently made the following announcement -

“Proposed changes to the Laws of Chess will be further discussed at the [FIDE Executive Board Meeting] in Tallinn in October 2013 to be implemented in 2014. There will be no changed (sic) to the Laws of Chess at 1st July 2013.”

The original statement can be found at <http://www.fide.com/component/content/article/1-fide-news/7094-laws-of-chess.html>

- David Welch

ECF News

County Championships - Controller required

At the moment, there is no Controller for the Final Stage of the County Championship. In the absence of a Controller, I have covered the work this year, but I do not intend to do this next year.

The Final Stage will not run in the 2013/14 season unless a Controller is appointed. Click here for the responsibilities of the County Championship Controller. Volunteers who are interested should contact me via the e-mail address below.

- Alex Holowczak, Director of Home Chess Email: director.homechess@englishchess.org.uk

New appointment - Director of Membership & Marketing

The Board of the ECF is pleased to announce the appointment of Dave Thomas as Director of Membership & Marketing.



100 NOT OUT!

Our very own 'Statto' takes a look at some facts and figures from the history of the British Championships

Whisper it softly, but all is not quite what it seems with the “100th British Chess Championships”, taking place in the Riviera Centre, Torquay from 28 July to 10 August.

Anniversaries are a great excuse for a celebration, and what could be better than the 100th British Championships? To mark the occasion, your Editor donned his anorak and embarked on a trawl through the facts and figures of the Championships’ history.

Somewhat to my surprise, this quickly raised the question: Is Torquay 2013 **really** the 100th British Championship? More importantly, does raising this question make me the biggest party pooper in British Chess?

History or Prehistory?

The first fundamental question is: What is the “British Championship”?

The ‘official’ history has it that the British Championship was first contested in 1904 on the occasion of the First British Chess Federation (BCF) Congress. Appropriately enough, the venue was Hastings, already celebrated as the site for the famous 1895 congress and to become the host of a long series of Christmas/New Year tournaments.

There are, however, other contenders. In 1866, the British Chess Association (BCA) organised a championship cup, which was won by Cecil de Vere (real name Valentine Brown), regarded by many as the first “British Champion”. The *Oxford Companion to Chess*, for example, is in no doubt, describing de Vere as “winner of the first official British championship tournament”. The one biography of de Vere, “*The English Morphy?*” by Owen Hindle and Bob Jones, may place a question mark after the comparison with the mighty Paul, but it has no qualms about the subtitle, “The Life and Games of Cecil De Vere First British Chess Champion”.

The BCA organised the championship every two years, on the basis that the cup would be retained by anyone who won it twice in succession. John Wisker duly achieved this with wins in 1870 and 1872 (on both occasions, after a play-off), so that was the end of the sequence.

Speaking personally, my sympathies are with those who regard these four events as British Championships, not least because it gives Blackburne his due status as a British Champion (he won in 1868). Few would argue that he does not merit a place in the roll of honour.

A fresh version of what might be called a British Championship was started in 1886, running annually until 1895 and then every 2-3 years until 1902. In all, ten events were held. Their standing as British Championships is much less clear. The event was restricted to amateurs and excluded the best British players of the time.

My view is that the four BCA events in 1866, 1868, 1870 and 1872 should be included as British Championships, but not the series starting in 1886. However, this is not the party line, which considers only the sequence starting with the BCF’s involvement in 1904. For now, let us accept this version of events.

“Centenary”?

The entry form for Torquay 2013 describes the event as the “Centenary Championships of the British Isles”.

This may have come as a surprise to those who attended the 2004 event in Scarborough, billed as the ‘Centenary Championships of the British Chess Federation’ - as well as the 91st British Chess Championships - according to the official BCF Yearbook. 2004 was indeed one hundred years on from 1904, which might seem to be a clinching argument... unless one wanted to take the line that 1966 was the true 100-year landmark based on the inaugural event back in 1866. (Perhaps the British chess authorities at the time didn’t want to overshadow the football World Cup...)

One thing is quite certain: Torquay 2013 is NOT the Centenary Championships.

The Missing Years

Basic arithmetic tells us that there are more than 100 years from 1904 to 2013. We appear to have ten years too many. What accounts for the discrepancy?

At first sight, the solution seems simple. For very understandable reasons, there were no British Championships during the First and Second World Wars. This eliminates ten years, namely 1915-1918 and 1940-1945.

So that’s fine then: from 110 potential opportunities, 10 are eliminated due to war, leaving the magic figure of 100. Unfortunately, the complications are only just beginning...

A quick scan of the list of British Champions in the latest ECF Yearbook reveals the words “No contest” not only against the years 1915-18 and 1940-1945 but also on **five** other occasions: 1919, 1922, 1927, 1930 and 1939. What is going on?

A study of the records reveals that in the years in question a BCF congress did indeed take place, but on each occasion there was no “British Championship”. Let us examine why.

1919: Hastings Victory Congress

Following the conclusion of the World War, the Hastings Chess Club came up with the ambitious idea of holding an international chess tournament, to which players from the Allied countries would be invited. The BCF welcomed the notion and agreed that its 12th annual congress would be held at Hastings and that, instead of a British Championship, a “Victory Congress” would be convened. This was won by Capablanca with 10½/11. The top British players were George Thomas and Frederick Yates, who finished equal third on 7 points.

1922: London International Tournament

The 15th BCF Congress saw the organisation of an even more ambitious international tournament, featuring an array of overseas stars alongside the best of British. Capablanca triumphed again, with a dominating 13/15, ahead of Alekhine, Vidmar, Rubinstein and many other famous names. Yates was the top-scoring home player, his 8 points placing him two points clear of his closest British rival, Atkins.

1927: London Olympiad

The 20th BCF Congress omitted the British Championship for the very good reason that the BCF had taken on the organisation of the very first Chess Olympiad, to be run alongside the domestic congress. Naturally, the Olympiad demanded the presence of the top six home players, and it would have been inappropriate to hold a British Championship in their absence. England finished third out of sixteen teams, its highest Olympiad placing until the 1980s.

1930: Scarborough International Tournament

As in 1919 and 1922, it was decided to hold an international master tourney at the BCF annual congress. On this occasion, it was won by Edgard Colle, whose legacy to British chess can be seen over the board in countless weekend congresses. Mir Sultan Khan was the top-placed ‘home’ player, in equal 4th with 6½/11, two points behind Colle.

1939: Clash with Buenos Aires Olympiad

The 32nd BCF congress took place on 11-25 August 1939 in Bournemouth. It did not include a British Championship because the top players were committed to the Olympiad in Buenos Aires, starting on 21 August. (Clashes or near-clashes with the Olympiad were something of a recurring theme for the BCF on a number of occasions.) Ironically, the outbreak of war resulted in the English team's withdrawal from the Olympiad following completion of the preliminary group stage.

Counting up the Championships

The effect of these events is that 2013 will in fact be the **95th** occasion on which the British Championship has been organised by the BCF or (since 2005) the ECF. Adding the original BCA championship cup events would bring the total to 99 or, if one were feeling particularly inclusive and counted the 1886-1902 series, 109. There is no plausible combination of events which makes 2013 the "100th" British Championship.

What it is, in fact, is the 100th annual congress of the BCF/ECF, which in itself requires one to conflate the BCF and ECF congresses into a single series rather than treat them as separate entities.

No blame should be attached to the current organisers for the historical faux pas. The transition from references to the "Xth BCF Annual Congress" to the "Xth British Championship" dates back at least as far as the 2001 BCF Yearbook and may well occur earlier still. The passage of time makes the slip-up understandable, albeit mildly irritating to those of us of a pedantic bent.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Having prepared the ground for future celebrations of the "100th British Championship" - the case can be made for either 2014 or 2018, depending on one's view of the BCA series from 1866 to 1872 - it's time to take a look back at the history of the Championships in the BCF/ECF series.

Locations

One of the duties of the BCF / ECF is to ensure that the Championships take place across the British Isles. In practice, England has predominated:

	No. of British Championships
England	79
Wales	8
Scotland	7
Isle of Man	1

The British Championship has never been held in Northern Ireland or the Channel Islands.

Coastal towns have generally been preferred, accounting for nearly two thirds of the total (59 out of 95, by my count).

Some towns feature several times in the list:

No. of British Championships	Location
5	Brighton, Torquay
4	Blackpool, Chester, Edinburgh, Hastings*, Scarborough*, Swansea
3	Eastbourne, Nottingham, Plymouth, Southport
2	Aberystwyth, Great Yarmouth, London**, Morecambe, Oxford, Whitby

Ayr, Bath, Bournemouth*, Bristol, Buxton, Canterbury, Cheltenham, Clacton, Coventry, Crystal Palace, Dundee, Felixstowe, Glasgow, Harrogate, Hove, Isle of Man, Leamington Spa, Leicester, Liverpool, Malvern, North Shields, Norwich, Portsmouth, Ramsgate, Richmond, Sheffield, Shrewsbury, Southampton, Southsea, Stratford-upon-Avon, Street, Sunderland, Tenby, Tunbridge Wells, Worcester, York

* Also hosted the BCF Congress in a year in which no British Championship was held.

** Twice hosted the BCF Congress in a year in which no British Championship was held.

The factors determining location have evolved over the years as the congress has grown and, with it, the size of venue required.

The most obscure location: Obviously, any such judgement would be both subjective and vaguely insulting. However, it has long intrigued me that the ECF Yearbook consistently describes the venue of the 2000 Championships as “Street, Somerset” rather than just “Street”. There is a town called Street in the Republic of Ireland, but there is only one ‘Street’ in the UK as far as I can tell. What makes it so obscure as to merit the ignominy of needing its county specified?

Champions

By my count, 48 different people have held the title of British Champion:

No. of British Championships	Champion
10	Penrose
9	Atkins
6	Yates
4	Adams*, Hodgson,
3	Golombek, Mestel, Rowson, Short, Speelman, Sultan Khan
2	Alexander, Botterill, Broadbent, Hartston, Sadler*, Thomas, Wade, Winter
1	Aagaard, Barden*, Bellin, Combe, Conquest, Eley, Fairhurst, Fazekas, Gallagher, Griffith, Haygarth, Hennigan, Howell, Jones, Keene, Klein, Kunte, Lee, (Paul) Littlewood, Miles, Napier, Nunn, Phillips*, Plaskett, Ramesh, Scott, Ward, Watson, Yanofsky

* Includes one shared championship

The relative infrequency of shared championships stems from the requirement in the rules for a play-off to break any ties. In 1954, Leonard Barden and Alan Phillips duly played a match to break their tie, but after the score was level after ten standard play games (1-1 and eight draws) it was agreed that the title would be shared. On the only other occasion, in 1997, a 4-way tie for first led to a single-round all-play-all quickplay to determine the winner. Michael Adams and Matthew Sadler came equal first with 2/3 (ahead of Miles and Emms). It had been decided before the play-off that there would be no further tie-break, so the title was shared.

In the early years of the Championship, the records of Atkins and Yates are very striking. Atkins won in the years 1905-11 and again in 1924-25. With the exception of 1922, he did not compete in any of the championships between in the period 1912-23 inclusive (and, of course, the First World War prevented play in four of those years). How many more victories could he have chalked up if

he had played during this ‘missing’ decade? In the absence of Atkins, Yates was utterly dominant, with victories in 1913-14, 1921, 1926, 1928 and 1931. The war may well have cost him vital opportunities too.

A few record breakers:

- **Most victories:** Jonathan Penrose (10)
- **Most consecutive victories:** Henry Atkins (7)
- **Longest gap between victories:** C.H.O’D. Alexander (18 years - 1938 and 1956) and Robert Wade (18 years - 1952 and 1970)
- **Most years between first and last victory:** Michael Adams (22 - 1989 and 2011)
- **Highest winning score:** 10 points (Julian Hodgson, 1992)
- **Lowest winning score (tied):** 7 points (a 7-way tie for first in 1974)
- **Lowest winning score (sole winner):** 7½ points (Atkins, 1907)
- **Unluckiest losers:** Blackburne (scored 9½ points in 1914 but this was only enough to tie with Yates) and Parr (scored a magnificent 9 points in 1956 but did not even achieve a chance at a play-off, because Alexander won with 9½). Blackburne compounded his misfortune by being too unwell to contest the play-off in 1914.

The most common winning score has been 8½ from the 11 games. One final flurry of statistics to illustrate this:

Winning score	No. of occasions (no. of ties in brackets)
10	1
9½	8 (1)
9	17 (1)
8½	42 (8)
8	24 (8)
7½	1
7	1 (1)

Stephen Gordon’s performance in 2012 could be added to the roster of ‘unlucky losers’. He tied for first with Gawain Jones on 9 points, before losing the play-off. As the table shows, it is extremely unusual for 9 points not to be sufficient for sole victory.

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

The history of the British Championship is a rich and fascinating one. Since top-level chess became increasingly professional and the standard of British chess rose (starting in the mid-1970s), the significance of the Championship has fluctuated.

Sponsorship - or more accurately, its absence - has greatly affected the strength of the field. Moreover, the superior attractions of international competition have played a major part. The number of British Championships won by some of the giants of latter-day English chess - Short (3), Miles (1), Nunn (1), Howell (1) and McShane (none) - are less a reflection of their playing strength and more an indication of their frequent absences from the event. To note this is not to criticise the players concerned but simply to highlight one way in which the Championship has evolved.

Regardless, I find myself eagerly anticipating Torquay 2013, even if it is “only” number 95.

- Andrew Farthing

Obituaries

Ron Powis (1926 - 2013)

Ron Powis of Stroud, Gloucestershire, died peacefully on 11th June, aged 87.

In 1988 he was granted the President's Award for Services to Chess, in only its fifth year of existence of existence, alongside another two luminaries, P. E. Morrish and P. E. Gibbs. His citation is a good summary of his activities up to that time, although that was a quarter of a century ago, and several of the records quoted there were subsequently to be greatly exceeded.

It reads thus:- "Ron Powis has served chess at local, County, Union and National level for any years. Most players will know him as a Controller and organiser of Congress chess and he is a Senior Arbiter of the Federation. Events at which he has controlled include the B.C.F. Annual Congress ten times, from 1973 to 1983; the West of England Congress eight times and organised and controlled the Cotswold Congress since 1969. (2013 was the 1st year he had not officiated at this event)

"At Union level he has been Congress Secretary since 1983 and President of WECU in 1984 - 86, besides representing his county numerous occasions at their meetings. However, it is for the benefit of his county that Ron Powis has also used his administrative skill. He has been Secretary of the Gloucestershire County Chess Association since 1956 and the North Gloucestershire League Secretary since 1980. In addition, he has held various other posts on the County Executive, including President, and Correspondence Chess Secretary. He is a member and match captain of the Stroud Club and for 5 years has been President of the North Gloucestershire Primary Schools Association.

"Ron Powis is also the chess correspondent for the Gloucester Citizen and has written nearly 1,200 columns over the past 23 years.

"As a player, Ron Powis has been County Champion twice and North Gloucestershire Champion nine times. His best win was in a local league match against the late C. H. O'D Alexander. In the last 32 years he has only missed one game for his county team, a truly remarkable record, which only emphasises his loyalty to his county.

"Through his contribution as Arbiter and Administrator Ron Powis has enabled many to enjoy

playing chess and this award is in recognition of his efforts".

His son, Mike, adds that he had been Secretary of the North Gloucestershire Chess Association up to 1991, making 35 years in all. He had also arbitrated at many other events, such as the Stroud RapidPlay, Bristol Manor Tyres, Yeovil, Weymouth and Hereford.

Text courtesy of Bob Jones from his Keverel Chess website (<http://keverelchess.com>). Reproduced with permission.

John Edward Doidge (1935 - 2013)

John Doidge passed away recently at the age of 78, his funeral service being held at Torquay on 26th June.

He was born in Tavistock, the 3rd son of Edith and Charles Doidge, who themselves had been born in the town. The older brother died in infancy and John was brought up with his brother Bill. A fourth boy, David, appeared nine years later, about nine months after a family holiday to Falmouth.

John went to Tavistock Grammar School, where he won school colours at football, hockey, athletics, cricket (at which he was vice captain) and becoming school cross-country champion.

On leaving school he joined the South West Electricity Board as a junior clerk, and on subsequently being called up to do National Service he opted for the R.A.F. where he greatly enjoyed the opportunities this offered. At the end of the 2 years he was offered a commission by the R.A.F. but his parents could not afford the expenses involved, so he had to return to his job at SWEB.

At this time he became an expert at English country dancing and was recognised as a teacher of the art by the County Council.

At the age of 21, he was appointed Assistant Manager of a Tavistock firm of coal merchants. The manager was a keen chess player and introduced John to the game and the town club that met at Perraton's Café in The Square. The members included an extraordinary trio of elderly siblings originally from the West Midlands, George Hadgkiss and his two spinster sisters, all of whom were strong players and lived together. Tavistock teams at this time often consisted of the three Hadgkisses, John and

any one other. By 1960, John had succeeded D. H. Treloar, as club secretary.

In 1966 he left the coal business and returned to the Tavistock branch of SWEB, staying with them until his retirement in 1990. He had married for the first time in 1962 and a son, Stephen, was born the following year.

Alongside his chess, he continued to play cricket and was at times secretary, treasurer and chairman of the Whitchurch Wayfarers club, situated in the grounds of Whitchurch House, near Tavistock, and was secretary of the Tavistock Cricket Club from 1972 - 76. During this period he was largely responsible for getting the Gloucestershire team to play at the club. In one particular match, he was picked to play against a representative XI and, when the legendary Ken Barrington came in to bat, (131 innings for England at an average nearly 60), John dropped him first ball. He consoled himself with the knowledge that the crowd had come to see Barrington bat, not hole out in the deep.

John was made Manager of the Tavistock branch of SWEB and, such was the esteem in which he was held by the community, was invited to apply to become a magistrate. He was not selected but at the same time he was invited to join the Board of Visitors at Dartmoor Prison. This was an independent body reporting directly to the Home Secretary, and with a magisterial function within the prison. The prison had an almost legendary status in the national consciousness in general and the criminal fraternity in particular, although at this time it had been downgraded to a Category B institution, one level down from the very hardest regime. During his 13 years in this role, he became very involved not only in the magisterial side of the job, but also the parole side and other committees set up by the Home Office. In 1990 he was invited by Kenneth Baker, the then Home Secretary, to become Chairman of the Board, a position he held until he retired in 1993.

During his first week as Chairman, he was phoned by the prison governor to say prisoners were staging a sit-in in the exercise yard. John came in and prepared a report for the Home Office on how it was being dealt with. There is no suggestion that the protests were anything to do with John's appointment, but 8 weeks later a full scale riot broke out, and John and his colleagues spent many weeks monitoring the situation and making recommendations to the Government. Eventually, he was called to give evidence to the Lord Justice Wolfe Inquiry that was looking into the prison unrest of the time,

including those in Manchester Strangeways.

In 1984 his marriage broke up after 25 years, a period of great sadness, brought to a sudden end the following year when he met Elizabeth whom he married in 1986. Incidentally, Elizabeth was a twin, one of 5 sets of twins all on the roll at the small Kingsteignton Primary School, a fact that excited a certain amount of interest in the national press at the time. Another set was the identical Les and John Nicks, well-known to the writer.

After this marriage he was offered the managership at Paignton SWEB. In 1990 they made him a retirement offer he couldn't refuse, as it enabled him to take on the onerous Dartmoor job. Later in the 1990s he started to get heart problems, with a heart attack in 1997 and another in 1999. Even with a pacemaker fitted in 2000 he had to take it easy.

However, he couldn't stay inactive for long and in 2005 the Newton Abbot Chess Club was revived after many years and his former interest was rekindled. In no time at all he was elected the Club's Competition Secretary and Secretary of the Torbay League. He wrote a monthly chess column for the Torbay Herald, and when the British Championships came to Torquay in 2009, he cooperated with the events Publicity Officer in filing a daily article for the paper. In 2011 he became Competition Secretary of the Devon County Chess Association.

At this time he found he had developed cancer of the oesophagus, untreatable because of his other conditions, an illness bravely borne.

All his chess activities were characterised by his conscientiousness in wanting to do a thoroughly good job of the task in hand, and I suspect his many other roles were done to exactly the same level.

Text courtesy of Bob Jones from his Keverel Chess website (<http://keverelchess.com>). Reproduced with permission.



Guildford are 4NCL Champions

The final weekend of the 2012/13 4NCL on 4-6 May saw Guildford 1 emerge as champions after holding closest rivals Wood Green Hilsmark 1 to a 4-4 tie in the last round.

Details of the crucial match:

	GUILDFORD		WOOD GREEN
1	Gawain Jones	½-½	Alexei Shirov
2	Laurent Fressinet	0-1	Michael Adams
3	Romain Edouard	½-½	Luke McShane
4	Matthew Sadler	½-½	Vassily Ivanchuk
5	Nigel Short	½-½	David Howell
6	Mark Hebden	½-½	Jonathan Rowson
7	Robin Van Kampen	1-0	Pia Cramling
8	Antoaneta Stefanova	½-½	Nick Pert
		4-4	

Prior to the weekend, Wood Green's line-up had been a source of much speculation, following their captain's shock registration of 17 GMs rated 2700 or higher, including the entire top ten with the exception of Magnus Carlsen. The Guildford captain lodged a formal complaint against Wood Green for what he described as a "flagrant abuse of the spirit and letter of the rules." In the end, common sense prevailed and most of the registrations were withdrawn. As it turned out, "only" Ivanchuk and Shirov were added to the roster.

This strange incident aside, it was all about the chess, and once again the league did not disappoint. The last-round clash of the leading teams eventually boiled down to the Board 5 game between English GMs Short and Howell. In his always very readable *New in Chess* column ('Short Stories'), Nigel Short described how the other seven games finished, to leave the scores tied and "Guildford's destiny in the hands of your frail and aged scribe."

He continues: "Despite obtaining a pleasant opening advantage, I had been comprehensively outplayed by David Howell in the middlegame. With ignominious defeat looming, I abruptly switched to swindle-mode in my opponent's time-trouble, tossing pawns willy-nilly in search of activity. When the smoke cleared at move 40, it transpired that I was somehow only one pawn down, but with apparently sufficient counterplay to hold the balance."

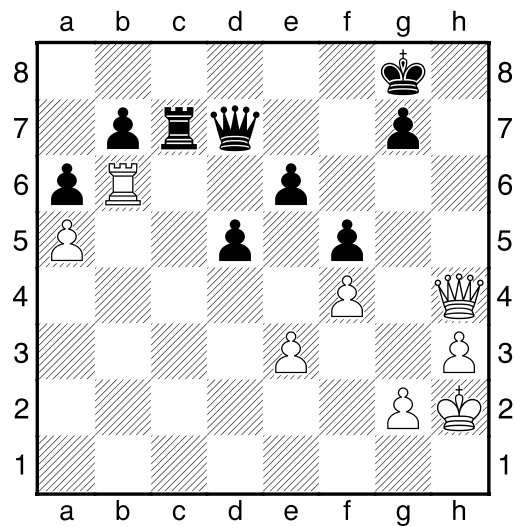
Howell tried for more than 30 moves to convert his material advantage, but in the end it was not enough. Short sealed the draw with a pseudo-sacrifice of his rook on move 74 to obtain perpetual check.

Here is the deciding game:

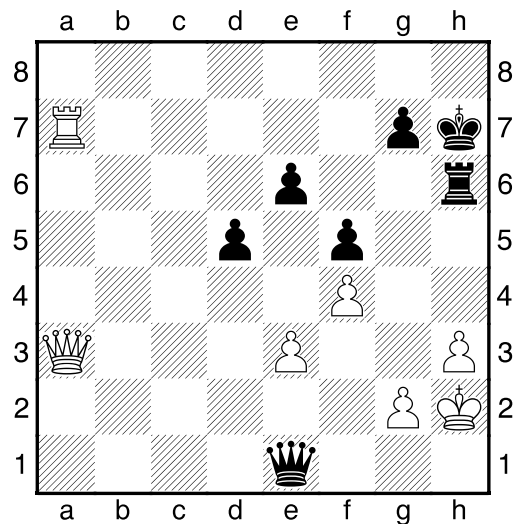
Nigel Short (2697) - David Howell (2638)

4NCL Division 1c, Hinckley Island EN, 6 May 2013

1.c4 c6 2.Nf3 d5 3.e3 Nf6 4.b3 Bf5 5.Bb2 e6 6.Nc3 h6 7.d4 Ne4 8.a3 Nd7 9.Bd3 Ndf6 10.0-0 Bd6 11.Ne2 0-0 12.cxd5 cxd5 13.Ne5 Nd7 14.f3 Nef6 15.Bxf5 exf5 16.Nf4 Re8 17.Nfd3 Qb6 18.Rc1 Rac8 19.Rxc8 Rxc8 20.Rf2 Qc7 21.a4 Nf8 22.h3 h5 23.b4 Ne6 24.Rd2 Nd7 25.a5 Nxe5 26.dxe5 Be7 27.f4 h4 28.Kh2 Qc4 29.Ba1 Qe4 30.Qf3 a6 31.Bb2 Qc4 32.Rd1 Qb3 33.Bd4 Rc2 34.Bc5 Bxc5 35.Nxc5 Nxc5 36.bxc5 Rxc5 37.e6 fxe6 38.Qh5 Qa4 39.Rb1 Rc7 40.Rb6 Qd7 41.Qxh4



41...Rc6 42.Rb2 Rc7 43.Qg5 Qe8 44.Rb6 Rd7 45.Kg3 Kf8 46.Kh4 Rf7 47.Qh5 Kg8 48.Kg3 Qe7 49.Kh2 Rf6 50.Qd1 Rg6 51.Kh1 Kh7 52.Qh5+ Rh6 53.Qd1 Qc7 54.Qd2 Rg6 55.Qf2 Qe7 56.Qe2 Qc7 57.Qf2 Kg8 58.Qb2 Qc5 59.Qd2 Qc7 60.Qb2 Kh8 61.Qf2 Kh7 62.Qh4+ Rh6 63.Qg3 Kg8 64.Qf2 Qc3 65.Rxb7 Qxa5 66.Qg3 Qc3 67.Ra7 a5 68.Kh2 Kh7 69.Qg5 a4 70.Qe7 Rg6 71.Qh4+ Rh6 72.Qe7 a3 73.Qxa3 Qe1



74.Rxg7+! ½-½

This left the final standings in the Division 1 Championship Pool:

1.	Guildford 1	13 match points (42 game points)
2.	Wood Green Hilsmark 1	12 (37½)
3.	Barbican 4NCL 1	8 (29½)
4.	Cheddleton 1	7 (25½)
5.	Jutes of Kent	7 (24½)
6.	White Rose 1	5 (24½)
7.	Barbican 4NCL 2	4 (21)
8.	Cambridge University 1	0 (19)

Guildford thoroughly deserved their overall victory. As their total of game points shows, they were more ruthless against the other teams and held strong when it mattered in the final round. Cheddleton1 turned out to be a key influence on events: their drawn match against Wood Green proved decisive in the end. (Remarkably, Guildford beat Cheddleton 8-0 in the penultimate round). As always, congratulations are due to Mike Truran OBE and everyone involved in the 4NCL for putting on such a season-long feast of chess.

Great British Champions (2) - Jonathan Penrose

In the second of an ongoing series, Andrew Farthing looks back on the career of the most successful player in British Championship history.

It was the summer of 1977. I was thirteen years old and barely a year into what one could, quite inaccurately, call my chess "career". My parents' choice of newspaper was the *Daily Telegraph*, the chess correspondent of which was B.H. Wood. To my delight but not surprise (little did I realise that these things were not the natural state of affairs), the news pages included a prominent story about the British Chess Championship. A 12-year-old boy had beaten a famous "champion" in convincing style:

Nigel Short - Jonathan Penrose

British Championship, Brighton 1977 (round 3)

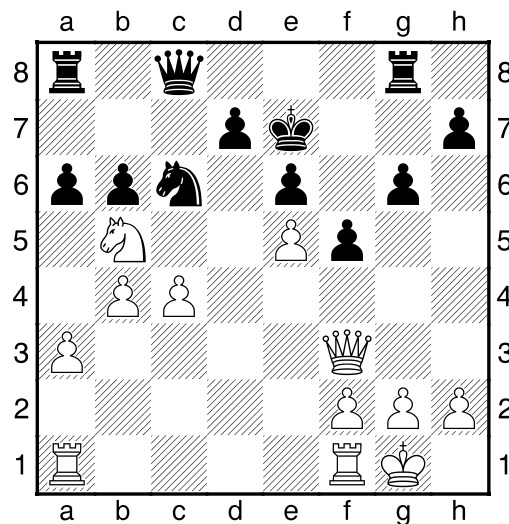
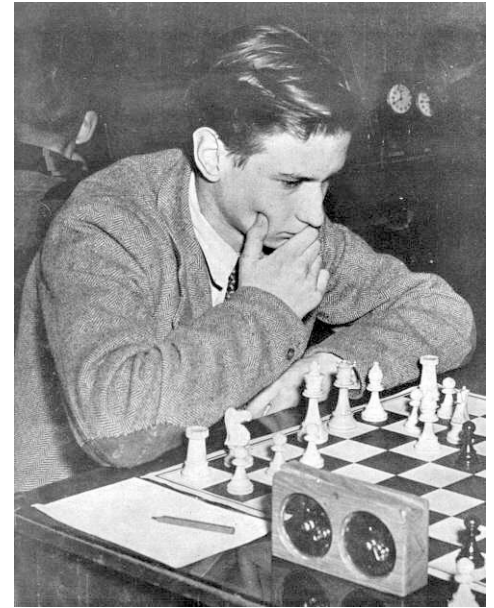
(Notes loosely based on George Botterill's in 'Nigel Short: Chess Prodigy' by David Short.)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.c3 Nf6 4.Bd3 b6 5.O-O Ba6 6.Bxa6 Nxa6 7.d4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Be7 9.e5 Nd5 10.Qg4 g6 11.Bh6 Nc5 11...f5 was better.

12.c4 f5? 13.Qf3?

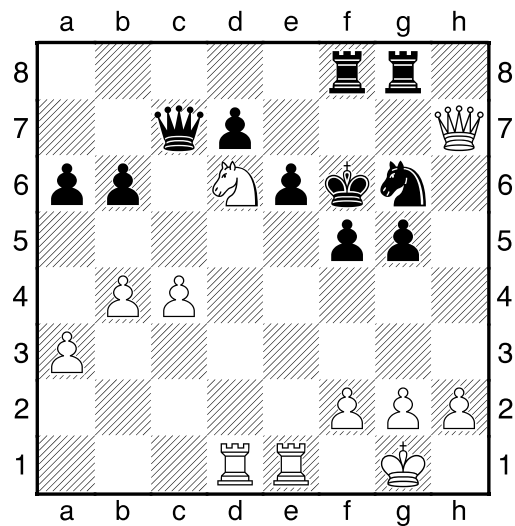
13.Qh3! with the double threats of 14.cxd5 and 14.Bg7 would have been decisive.

13...Nc7 14.Nc3 Qc8 15.b4 Nb7 16.a3 Nd8 17.Ndb5 Nxb5 18.Nxb5 Nc6 19.Bg7 Rg8 20.Bf6 a6 21.Bxe7 Kxe7?



Black offered a draw here. Short is quoted in 'Nigel Short: Chess Prodigy' to the effect that he would have accepted the offer had Black found 21...axb5. As it was, White judged that he was better and could not lose by playing on.

22.Nd6 Qc7 23.Qg3 g5 24.Qh3 Nxe5 25.Rad1 Raf8 26.Rfe1 Ng6 27.Qxh7+ Kf6



28.Ne8+!

A neat finish. Black's king is in imminent danger of being mated by a check on f7, so Penrose is forced to give up material.

28...Rxe8 29.Rxd7 Re7 30.Rxc7 Rxh7 31.Rxh7 Rc8 32.Ra7 Ne5 33.Rxa6 Nxc4 34.a4 Ke7 35.a5 Rb8 36.axb6 Nxb6 37.b5 Kd6 38.h3 Kd5 39.Raa1 Nc4 40.Rad1+ Kc5 41.Rxe6 1-0

It was a good story, one of many over the years along the lines of 'child prodigy defeats famous champion' that have graced the history of chess.

Nigel Short's victory created waves of excitement, in part because it took him to 2½ out of 3, leading to typical journalistic speculation that the championship title itself beckoned. The player of the black pieces was another factor in the excitement, however, for Jonathan Penrose was one of the great British champions, indeed in a sense the **supreme** British champion.

Absolute Champion

Born in Colchester on 7 October 1933, Jonathan Penrose OBE (he was awarded the honour in 1971) learned to play chess at the age of four and within eleven years was making his debut at the British Championship in Felixstowe (1949). At that time, the appearance of a 15-year-old in the British Championship was somewhat remarkable, although it should be said that this was the first occasion on which the British was held under the Swiss system, so the number of entrants (32) was a large increase on the usual twelve. By coincidence, Penrose's final score of 5/11 was identical to Short's 28 years later.

Over the next three decades, Penrose was to compete in the British Championship on 25 occasions, missing only 1952-54, 1956 and 1978 before making his championship swansong at Chester in 1979. His 1949 debut was the only occasion on which his score dropped (just!) below 50%.

Famously, Penrose holds the record for the most British Championship titles (10). At the time of his final victory in 1969, Peter Clarke wrote in the *British Chess Magazine*, "The question now arises whether there is any further point in his entering for the Championship in the coming years. He has demonstrated his absolute superiority (he could be awarded the title of Absolute Champion) and additional wins will not increase his stature."

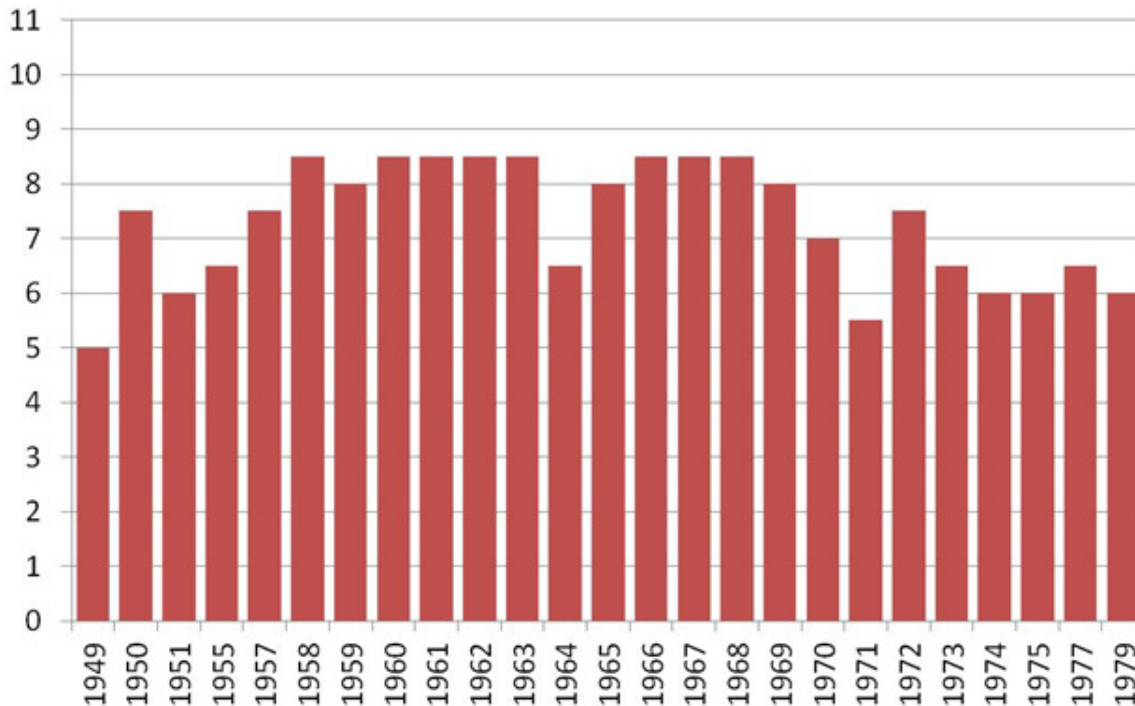
In all, his record over thirty years at the British was an impressive 66.2%:

Played: 275
Won: 121
Drew: 122
Lost: 32

In his peak period (1957-1969), his record was +75 =62 -6 (74.6%).

What stands out from Penrose's performances in the British is the sheer consistency, as the following graph shows:

Penrose's score (out of 11) in British Championships



His dominance notwithstanding, it is notable that Penrose never produced a score higher than 8½ points. This was largely because he did not need to. More often than not, Penrose was in the comfortable position of only needing to draw in the final round in order to secure the title. In Karpovian style, if a draw was all that was needed, a draw was what was obtained.

In the early rounds of a British Championship, it was not unusual to see opponents taken apart with ruthless efficiency. Below are two examples from the start of the 1969 event. Given that this was to be Penrose's final triumph in the British, one might have thought that he was already a little past his peak. Seeing these two demolition jobs, the mind boggles at the thought.

Jonathan Penrose - HD Holmes

British Championship, Rhyl 1969 (round 1)

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 c5 4.Ngf3 a6 5.dxc5 Bxc5 6.Bd3 Nc6 7.0-0 d4? [7...Nf6±] 8.e5 Ba7 9.Nc4 Bb8 10.Be4 Nge7 11.Bg5 h6 12.Bxc6+ bxc6 13.Bxe7 Kxe7 14.Nxd4 Qc7 15.Qg4 Rg8 16.Rad1 Bb7 17.Qh4+ f6 18.Rfe1 1-0

Jonathan Penrose - Michael Franklin

British Championship, Rhyl 1969 (round 2)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 a6 3.c4 Nc6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 e6 6.Nc3 Qc7 7.Be2 Nf6 8.a3 Nxd4 9.Qxd4 Bd6 10.Bg5 Be5 11.Qe3 h6 12.Bh4 Qc6 13.0-0 Bxc3? [13...0-0±] 14.Qxc3 Qxe4 15.Bxf6 Qxe2 16.Bxg7 Rg8 17.f3 d5 18.cxd5 Qb5 19.Rfe1 Qxd5 20.Bf6 Bd7 21.Qb4 1-0

Penrose was not a one-sided player, of course - no genuinely strong player can afford to be - but his greatest strengths lay in strategy and technique. The following game is a fine example of this:

Jonathan Penrose - Michael McDonald Ross

British Championship, Hastings 1965 (round 3)

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.c4 c6 4.d4 cxd5 5.Nc3 g6 6.Qb3 Bg7 7.cxd5 0-0 8.Be2 Na6 9.Bf3 Qb6 10.Qxb6 axb6 11.Nge2 Nb4 12.0-0 Rd8 13.d6 exd6 14.Rd1 Nc6 15.Bg5 Ne7 16.Nf4 h6 17.Bxf6 Bxf6 18.Nfd5 Nxd5 19.Nxd5 Bg7 20.Nxb6 Ra5 21.a4 Be6 22.b4 Ra7 23.a5 Bf6 24.Rac1 Rb8 25.d5 1-0

One recurring highlight of the British Championships in the 1960s was the rivalry between Penrose and the dashing attacking player Norman Littlewood. Littlewood was loved for his Tal-like sacrifices, and he was always prepared to launch an onslaught against the champion. The resulting games were never less than exciting, but it was Penrose whose cool defence came out on top:

Jonathan Penrose - Norman Littlewood

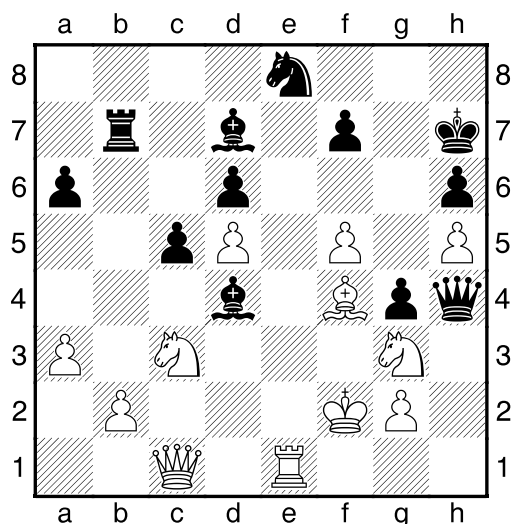
British Championship, Bath 1963 (round 3)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.c3 0-0 9.h3 Nb8 10.d4 Nbd7 11.c4 c5 12.dxe5 dxe5 13.Nc3 Bb7 14.cxb5 axb5 15.Nxb5 Nxe4 16.Qd3 Ra5 17.Na3 Nd6 18.Ng5 Bxg5 19.Qxd6 Ra6 20.Qd1 Bxc1 21.Rxc1 Qg5 22.Qg4 Qe7 23.Rcd1 Nb8 24.Bd5 Kh8 25.Nc4 f5 26.Qe2 e4 27.Bxb7 Qxb7 28.Qe3 Qb4 29.Nd6 Qxb2 30.Qxc5 Nd7 31.Nf7+ Kg8 32.Rxd7 e3 33.Qxe3 Rxa2 34.Ng5 h6 35.Nf3 Kh7 36.Qd4 1-0

Norman Littlewood - Jonathan Penrose

British Championship, Oxford 1967 (round 8)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Bg5 h6 6.Bh4 c5 7.d5 Qa5 8.Bd3 0-0 9.Nge2 e6 10.Qd2 exd5 11.exd5 Nbd7 12.f4 a6 13.0-0 b5 14.f5 bxc4 15.Bc2 g5 16.Bg3 Ne5 17.h4 g4 18.Bf4 Kh7 19.Ng3 Nd3 20.Bxd3 cxd3 21.Qxd3 Qb6 22.Qc2 Rb8 23.Rab1 Qd8 24.Rbd1 Re8 25.a3 Kh8 26.Rfe1 Rb7 27.Qc1 Kh7 28.Rxe8 Nxe8 29.Re1 Bd7 30.h5 Qh4 31.Kf2 Bd4+



32.Kf1? [32.Be3] 32...Ng7 33.Nce2 Bxb2 34.Qc2 Qf6 35.Rb1 Rb5 36.Bxd6 Bxa3 37.Rxb5 axb5 38.Bxc5 Bxc5 39.Qxc5 Nxf5 40.Qc2 Kg7 41.Kg1 Nxg3 42.Nxg3 Qd4+ 43.Kh2 Qxd5 44.Qc3+ Kg8 45.Qf6 Bc6 46.Qb2 b4 0-1

Place in chess history

In an article entitled 'What went wrong in the 1960s', included in his 1977 book *Becoming a Grandmaster*, Raymond Keene puts forward a detailed and cogent argument to the effect that

Jonathan Penrose's reluctance to give up the relatively soft challenge of accumulating British Championship titles in preference to tougher international competitions had an inhibiting effect on British chess success in the 1960s. Since invitations were generally issued to titled players or, failing that, national champions, the unwillingness of the then British champion to accept such invitations closed the door for others.

Earlier in this article, I quoted Peter Clarke's comments in the BCM at the time of Penrose's record-breaking tenth British Championship victory. He went on to offer the following opinion (cited by Keene): "As a colleague and close friend of his for over fifteen years, I would like to see him concentrate in future on international tournaments, where encounters with top grandmasters would really test his powers."

Keene writes of a "pseudo-Oedipal slaying of Penrose" as one of the preconditions for the English chess surge in the 1970s (although he acknowledges that it was one of several factors). Is this fair?

It is relatively easy as a chess enthusiast to side with this point of view. It would have been wonderful to see Jonathan Penrose stride out onto the world stage and repeat his domestic triumphs at the international level. That he was capable of it in pure chess terms is suggested by his record representing England in Olympiads. From 1952 to 1968, he achieved a score of +48 =42 -18 (64%), playing always on one of the top two boards.

In international tournaments, Penrose's record was sparse and generally unconvincing. Keene argues that persistence would have brought greater success, but of course one cannot know this for certain. For British players, the one recurring opportunity to play against overseas grandmasters (the Olympiads aside) was the annual Hastings tournament. Penrose took part in the Hastings Premier on seven occasions during the 1950s and 1960s with only modest results (highest score 5½/9, in a relatively weak event in 1952/3).

It has to be remembered that Penrose was a genuine amateur chess player throughout his career. In his professional life he was a university lecturer, and inevitably he had to be careful in rationing his chess activities to accommodate his work.

It must also be acknowledged that the stresses and strains of over-the-board competition did not sit comfortably with Penrose, whose physical stamina was sometimes suspect. At the 1970 Olympiad in Siegen, Penrose collapsed at the board and was subsequently forced to withdraw from the event. One has to wonder whether the additional pressure of attempting to match the record of H.E. Atkins (who won seven British Championships in a row) in 1964 played some part in Penrose's relatively poor performance that year. (Of course, it is equally possible that he was simply off form.)

Penrose's mastery of the game can be seen from his transition from over-the-board to correspondence chess in the 1980s. Awarded the Correspondence Grandmaster title in 1983, he led the England team to victory in the 9th Correspondence Chess Olympiad, and from 1987 to 1989 he was the top-rated correspondence chess player in the world.

Let there be no doubt: Penrose was **good**. Now officially recognised as an over-the-board Grandmaster for his performances in the 1960s - a time when English GMs were not in the more abundant supply we grew used to in the final quarter of the 20th century and opportunities for a professional chess career bordered on the non-existent - he beat Mikhail Tal in 1960 (during Tal's brief tenure as world champion) and Bent Larsen in 1967, when Larsen was having the best year of his chess-playing life.

Penrose stands out as one of the true greats of British chess history. He should not be forgotten.

Junior Chess

[visit the website at <http://englishchess.org.uk/Juniors/> for all the news ...]

SE England v Wales

Saturday 1st June - SE England v Wales at Monmouth

This annual fixture is one of several home internationals organised by the National Chess Junior Squad (NCJS) each year. The U14 and U12 teams compete over 12 boards, the U10 team over 10 boards and the U10 Girls over 6 boards. Players play 2 standard play games. As well as selecting qualified members of the England Squad, Peter Purland, Victor Cross and Glynis Purland also take the opportunity to select a number of other experienced national players who have just missed out on national selection or are close to the required standard.

Despite the long journey, and the desire to stop at every KFC en route, all of our players acquitted themselves very well on the day and posted the following scores :

U14s: England 18 Wales 6

U12s: England 17 Wales 7

U10s: England 18 Wales 2

U10 Girls: England 5 Wales 7

Thank you to IA Peter Purland and Team Managers Victor Cross and Glynis Purland for organising the day, and to Grange Prep for hosting the team in such an excellent venue, and thank you to all the families for supporting the fixture.

European Schools Chess Championships

Novi Sad, Serbia, 20-28 June



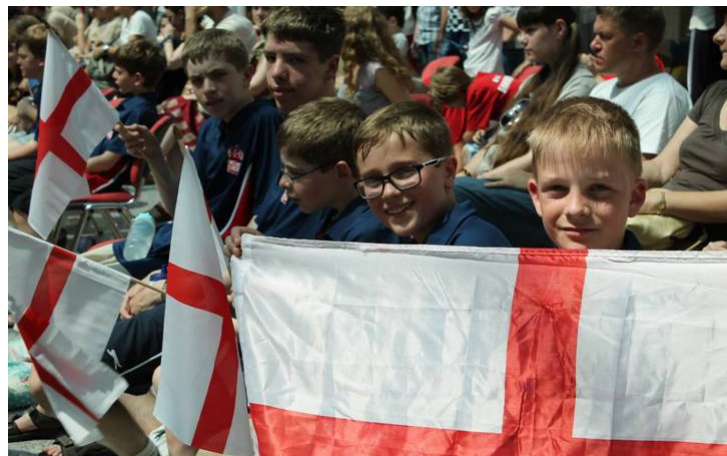
The first to arrive ...



Team England



Into battle



Fly the flag



About to begin



Russia meet England



Oliver (left) and Samir



Nick Pert coaches ...

Results

Name	FED	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Pts.	Group
Balouka-Myers Raphael	ENG	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	½	2.5	Open U9
Balouka-Myers Toby	ENG	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	½	3.5	Open U9
Covey Jason	ENG	1	0	0	1	1	½	½	0	1	5	Open U9
Jamieson Alexander	ENG	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	4	Open U9
Sanitt Leo	ENG	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	½	4.5	Open U9
Balouka Myers Reuben	ENG	1	0	1	0	0	½	1	0	1	4.5	Open U11
Balouka Myers Gabriel	ENG	1	0	1	0	1	½	0	½	0	4	Open U11
Sanitt Ethan	ENG	1	0	1	0	0	1	½	1	0	4.5	Open U11
Ahluwalia Amardip	ENG	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	5	Open U11
Coleman Frederick	ENG	0	1	½	0	0	1	1	1	½	5	Open U11
Finn Daniel	ENG	0	0	1	½	0	1	0	0	1	3.5	Open U11
Howell Oliver W	ENG	0	0	1	½	0	0	0	1	1	3.5	Open U11
Lee Jonathan	ENG	0	½	1	1	0	0	1	½	0	4	Open U11
Lewis Tim	ENG	½	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	3.5	Open U11
Mclaren Charlie	ENG	1	0	½	½	1	1	½	½	0	5	Open U11
Mclaren Thomas	ENG	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	5	Open U11
Samadov Samir	ENG	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	½	4.5	Open U11
Finn Thomas	ENG	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	½	3.5	Open U13
Forster Matthew	ENG	0	1	0	1	0	½	1	1	0	4.5	Open U13
Gallagher Daniel Gh	ENG	0	1	0	½	1	0	0	½	½	3.5	Open U13
Lee Vincent	ENG	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	5	Open U13
Finn Jonathan	ENG	1	0	0	0	1	1	½	1	0	4.5	Open U15
Lee Lawrence	ENG	½	0	0	1	½	½	1	0	1	4.5	Open U15
Davidson Laura	ENG	0	1	0	1	0	½	0	1	½	4	Girls U11
Raghavendra Mahima	ENG	½	1	0	0	½	1	½	1	0	4.5	Girls U11

ECF U13 / U18 report & results

- from Yogesh Jina

On Sunday 30th June 2013, the ECF National U13 / U18 Championships were hosted within the fantastic grounds and facilities of The Haberdasher's Aske's Boys' School in Elstree. Including reserves, 375 chess players participated, forming 44 teams from 17 counties. The day was a success helped by some glorious sunshine. A full report and photos will be submitted to the ECF website soon. Congratulations to the winners - please see summary of results below ...

Under 18 Open

- 1 Middlesex (19 pts)
 - 2 Berkshire (18)
 - 3 Kent (17)
 - 4 Buckinghamshire (16)
 - 5 Hertfordshire (15.5)
 - 6 Sussex (14)
 - 7 Greater Manchester (12)
 - 8 Oxfordshire (12)
 - 9 Surrey (11)
 - 10 Devon (7)
 - 11 Cambridgeshire (5.5)
 - 12 Suffolk (5.5)
 - 13 Lincolnshire (3.5)
- Best Game - Jonathan Pein

Under 13 Open

- 1 Sussex A (15pts)
 - 2 Essex (13)
 - 3 Surrey A (12)
 - 4 Sussex B (11)
 - 5 Kent (11)
 - 6 Middlesex A (11)
 - 7 Oxfordshire A (10.5)
 - 8 Hampshire (10)
 - 9 Middlesex B (6)
 - 10 Greater Manchester (5.5)
 - 11 Surrey B (5)
 - 12 Oxfordshire B (4)
 - 13 Hertfordshire (3)
- Best Game -
Billy Twigge Molecey

Under 13 Minor

- 1 Northamptonshire (15.5pts)
 - 2 Kent (13)
 - 3 Sussex (13)
 - 4 Berkshire (12)
 - 5 Hertfordshire A (12)
 - 6 Buckinghamshire A (11.5)
 - 7 Leicestershire A (11)
 - 8 Hampshire A (10.5)
 - 9 Essex B (9)
 - 10 Cambridgeshire A (8.5)
 - 11 Buckinghamshire B (8)
 - 12 Hertfordshire B (8)
 - 13 Essex A (8)
 - 14 Hertfordshire C (7.5)
 - 15 Lincolnshire (6)
 - 16 Oxfordshire (4.5)
 - 17 Leicestershire B (3)
 - 18 Cambridgeshire B (1)
- Best Game -
Robert Akeya-Price

Tie Break - 1 Most wins; 2 Elimination of lowest board scores

I would like to say a big thank you to all the players, managers and parents for taking the time to travel and play in the tournament. A big thank you also to Jamie and the team provided by Habs School, the HSCA Team, Roger Thetford, the Arbiters (Neville and David), ECF Office and Chess & Bridge who all worked hard on the day and/or behind the scenes before the event to ensure it was a success. Thank you also to Jon Barnes and Phil Ehr helping conduct the prize giving.



Sussex U13 winners



Middlesex U18 winners

National Schools Chess Championships

U19 winners - Manchester Grammar School

U19 Girls' winners - Guildford High

U11 winners - Heathside Prep

U11 Girls' winners - Bolton School

For more details visit the NSCC website -
<http://englishchess.org.uk/NSCC/>



CHESS HOLIDAYS in the Lake District

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



Rothay Manor, Ambleside

Tel: 015394 33605

E-mail: hotel@rothaymanor.co.uk

Website: www.rothaymanor.co.uk/chess



100th British Chess Championships 2013

from Sunday 28th July
until Saturday 10th August
Riviera International Centre,
Torquay



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

The highest placed eligible player in all British Isles FIDE-rated events will qualify for the right to play in the 2013 Championships.

Championships for Juniors
going down to Under 8

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

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

Congress website:
www.britishchesschampionships.co.uk

The Bunratty Chess Classic

- by GM Nick Pert - nationalheadcoach@englishchess.org.uk

The Bunratty Festival is always hugely popular.

A lot of hard work by organisers such as Gary O'Grady, Gerry Graham, Paul Carey, Brian Scully and Ted Jennings, not to mention the very generous sponsorship from Gary O'Grady and Blackthorne Transport made this gathering a success. As usual a weekend congress was played, and the Masters contained several titled players including super-grandmasters Michael Adams and Nigel Short. Bunratty is able to attract top players partly because it is not FIDE-rated, so top players do not have to risk their ratings. Much publicity has been given to this event in various press releases, but in reality the main event of the Congress was the Bunratty Classic, a 10-player Elo-rated all-play-all involving some of Ireland's leading players, who were aiming to achieve grandmaster norms.

The grandmasters in the Classic were Mark Hebden, Keith Arkell and myself. IMs Denis Rombaldoni, who is studying in Ireland, Vladimir Hametivici, who is based in England, and Stephen Burns-Mannion from Scotland were invited to make up the foreign contingent required for norms. The Irish players involved were IMs Sam Collins, who is close to the required 2500 level, Alex Lopez, who played excellently in the 2012 Olympiad, and Mark Quinn. Colm Daly, who is a very experienced and dangerous FM, completed the lineup. The most noticeable Irish absentees were Alex Baburin, who was playing in the Masters, IM Brian Kelly who seems to have been quite inactive recently and Ryan Rhys Griffiths, who will surely be an IM soon. The main aim of the tournament from the organisers' perspective was for one of their players to achieve a GM norm, as Ireland searched for its first home-grown grandmaster.

In round 1 I was paired with Hebden, who was one of my main rivals for the tournament. In this kind of event some players get 5 Whites and 4 Blacks, which is an advantage. Unfortunately, I got the extra Black whilst Mark had the extra White. This may have been one of the deciding factors in determining the eventual winner of the tournament, as I scored most of my wins with the White pieces, so an extra White would have been useful.

Mark Quinn would have been pleased to open his tournament with a victory over Stephen Burns-Mannion, but the most significant result of the first round was the victory of Sam Collins over Alex Lopez, as they represented Ireland's best two chances of a GM norm.

White A Aastaneh-Lopez

Black SE Collins

KID, Samisch E81

[Pert]

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 Bg7 4 e4 d6 5 f3 0-0 6 Be3 c5 7 d5 e6 8 Nge2 exd5 9 cxd5 Nbd7 10 a4 a6 11 Ng3 Ne5 12 Be2 Bd7 13 h3 b5 14 f4 Nc4 15 Bxc4 bxc4 16 0-0 Rb8 17 Qc2 Rb3

Ireland's top norm-seekers were both looking to start the competition with a win as they targeted the required 6.5/9 to gain a GM norm. In this complicated position White should probably have tried to advance with e5, instead he sacrificed his e-pawn; a decision he would come to regret.

18 Rf2

18 e5 Re8!? (18...Rxc3!? 19 bxc3 Nxd5 20 Rae1 is very unclear. Objectively it is equal but Black's position looks easier to play) 19 Qf2 (19 exf6? Rxe3 20 fxg7 Rxg3 is good for Collins) 19...dxe5 20 fxe5 Rxe5 21 Bxc5 with a complicated game.

18...Re8 19 e5

Now it is a pawn sacrifice.

19...dxe5 20 f5 e4 21 fxg6 hxg6 22 Raf1 Qb8!

A strong move, targeting the g3 knight and, potentially, the b2 pawn.

23 Nge2 Qd6

23...Rxb2 looked strong.

24 Qd2 Qe5 25 a5 Rb7

Black is manoeuvring around without doing any particular damage.

26 Qc1?!

26 Bf4 looks equal.

26...Bc8

26...Nxd5 Black should have probably gone for this pawn but was probably scared of something like:

27 Nxd5 Qxd5 28 Nc3 Bxc3 29 bxc3 Bf5 when the dark squares could become weak.

27 Bf4 Qh5 28 d6!

Now Black must keep an eye on the d-pawn.

28...Be6 29 Be3?!

29 Bg5 Nd7 30 Nxe4 leaves things quite unclear.

29...Nd5! 30 Nxd5 Qxd5 31 Nc3 Qc6 32 Rd1 Rd7 33 Rfd2

The White rooks have become passive, defending d6.

33...Be5 34 Nd5 Bxd5 35 Rxd5 Bd4!

A standard trap, picking up material.

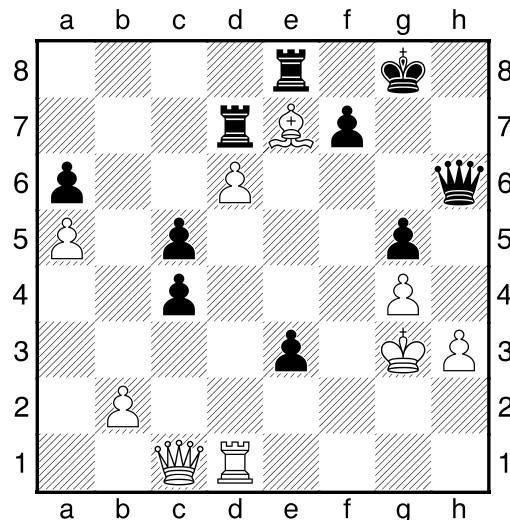
36 Bxd4 Qxd5 37 Bf6 Qh5

White cannot get in on the dark squares and now the e-pawn looks incredibly strong.

38 Kh2 e3! 39 g4 Qh6 40 Kg3 g5!

A precise finish.

41 Be7



41...Qh4+ 42 Kg2 Qf2+ 43 Kh1 Qf3+ 44 Kh2 Rxe7 45 dxe7 Qe2+!

Black will take the rook with check.

0-1

The second round saw many decisive results. Mark Hebden defeated number 3 seed which must have been a blow to Rombaldoni's norm aspirations. I managed my first win, against Colm Daly, with a very attractive finish. Alex Lopez bounced back from his round 1 defeat with a great win against Vladimir Hamitevici and Stephen Burns-Mannion beat Keith Arkell.

White N Pert

Black C Daly

King's Indian E62

[Pert]

1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 g6 3 c4 d6 4 g3 Bg7 5 Bg2 0-0 6 0-0 c6 7 Nc3 Bf5 8 Re1 Ne4 9 Qb3 Nxc3 10 bxc3 Bc8 11 e4 c5 12 e5 Nc6 13 exd6 exd6 14 Bg5 Qc7 15 dxc5 dxc5 16 Bf4 Qa5 17 Ne5 Nxe5 18 Bxe5 Bxe5 19 Rxe5 Be6 20 Rae1 Rad8 21 Bd5 Bxd5 22 cxd5 b5 23 c4 a6

White has a slight edge here with more active rooks and a passed d-pawn: however, any inaccuracy could easily see the position fizzle out to a draw.

24 h4! bxc4 25 Qxc4 Qb4 26 Qc1!

With the queens off, Black's defensive task becomes easier, 26 Qxa6? Rxd5=

26...c4 27 R1e4 Rc8 28 h5!

I had ideas of hxg6 and Qh6, Rh4 attacking down the h-file.

28...Qd6

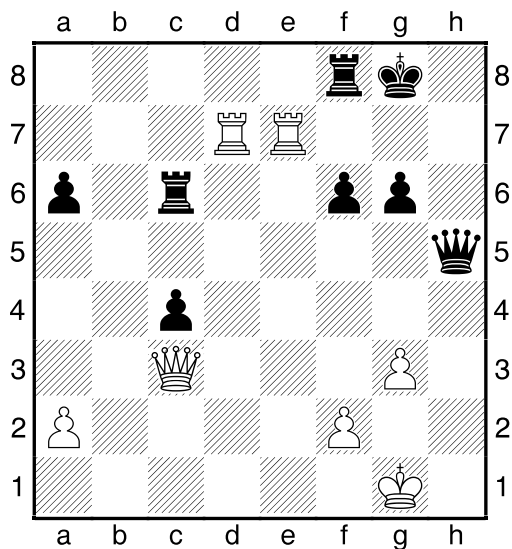
The Black queen heads towards g7 to stop that plan.

29 Qc3!

Both preventing his c-pawn from advancing and considering h6 with checkmating ideas on g7.

29...f6 30 Re7 Qxd5 31 hxg6 hxg6 32 Rd4 Qh5 33 Rdd7 Rc6

The White rooks are killing Black, and allow an attractive finish.



34 Qf3! Rfc8

34...Qxf3 35 Rg7+ Kh8 36 Rh7+ Kg8 37 Rdg7#

35 Qxc6!

35 Qxc6 Rxc6 36 Rd8# 1-0

There were some more key games in round 3 as the tournament started off in a very hard-fought fashion. Keith Arkell dented Sam Collins's GM norm chances in a very complicated Benoni, whilst Mark Hebden was able to turn around a very difficult position against Colm Daly.

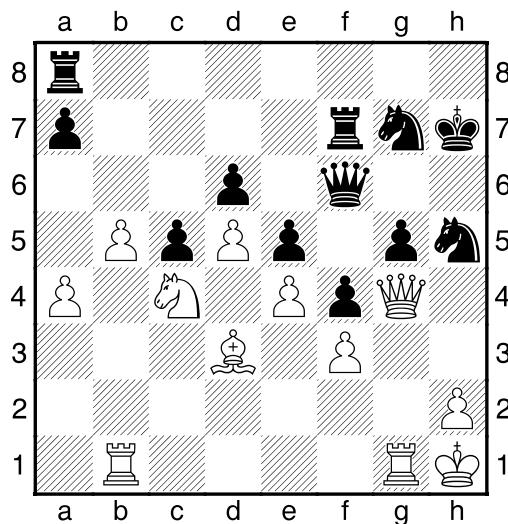
White C Daly

Black ML Hebden

King's Indian, Classical E97

[Pert]

1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 g6 3 c4 Bg7 4 Nc3 0-0 5 e4 d6 6 Be2 e5 7 0-0 Nc6 8 d5 Ne7 9 Bg5 Kh8 10 Nd2 c5 11 Rb1 Ne8 12 b4 b6 13 bxc5 bxc5 14 Qa4 Bf6 15 Be3 Bd7 16 Qa6 Ng8 17 Nb5 Bxb5 18 cxb5 Bg5 19 Bxg5 Qxg5 20 Nc4 Qd8 21 Qa5 Nc7 22 Qc3 Nf6 23 Bd3 Kg8 24 a4 Nh5 25 g3 f5 26 f3 Ne8 27 Qd2 f4 28 g4 Nhg7 29 Qg2 Rf7 30 Kh1 g5 31 Rg1 Nf6 32 Qf2 h5 33 gxh5 Nfxh5 34 Qg2 Qf6 35 Qg4 Kh7



In this position White is in complete control, although as with all King's Indian positions, the game is never over until it is over!

36 Rb2?!

36 b6! axb6 37 Rxb6 Rd8 38 a5 and the a-pawn is very dangerous; 36 a5 is logical too.

36...Qh6 37 Rbg2?

Allowing a trap. However, 37 a5! when 37...Ng3+ 38 Kg2! would have been good for White.

37...Rf6

37...Ng3+ 38 Rxc3 fxc3 39 Rxc3 Kg8 is unclear, although I would have a marginal preference for White.

38 Qxg5?

38 Rb1; it's not too late to anticipate Ng3+.

38...Ng3+! 39 Rxc3 fxc3 40 Qxh6+ Kxh6 41 Rxc3 Nh5

Now White must be very careful as Black is achieving good counterplay.

42 Rh3

42 Rg1 Rxf3 43 Be2 Rf2 44 Bxh5 Kxh5 45 Nxd6 looks like a stronger continuation.

42...Rg8 43 Ne3 Kg5 44 Be2

44 Nf5 is surely best?

44...Rfg6

Now White has checkmating ideas on g1 to worry about.

45 Kg1 Nf4 46 Rg3+ Kf6 47 Ng4+??

Short of time, Daly makes the final blunder.

47...Rxc4 48 Rxc4 Nxe2+ 49 Kf2 Rxc4 50 fxg4 Nc3 51 h4 Nxe4+ 0-1

Round 4 was a good round for the top seeds as Mark Hebden won his third game in a row with an important win over Alex Lopez, I was able to stay within half a point with a comfortable win over Mark Quinn, after his strong start to the tournament and Sam Collins kept his norm chances alive with a win over Burns-Mannion.

White N Pert

Black M Quinn

Tartakower's A41

[Pert]

1 d4 d6 2 g3 e5 3 dxe5 dxe5 4 Qxd8+ Kxd8 5 Nc3 c6 6 f4

This move is targeted against Black's thoughts of putting his king on c7.

6...Bb4 7 Bd2 Nf6 8 Nf3

8 fxe5 is a computer suggestion but I was not keen to ruin my pawn structure. Instead, I was striving for quick development.

8...exf4 9 gxf4 Re8 10 0-0-0 Na6?!

10...Nbd7, removing the discovered check, looks stronger.

11 Rg1!

The position felt easy for White to play as I just kept improving all my pieces.

11...Bf8

11...g6 was necessary but White is still better after e4!

12 e4! Bg4

12...Nxe4 13 Nxe4 Rxe4 14 Bxa6 bxa6 15 Ng5 is just crushing. Quinn's position is a shambles and he still has the king stuck opposite my rook on the d-file. White has ideas of Nxh7 followed by win-ning g7 after the bishop moves.

13 Be2!

Keeping control, and planning e5.

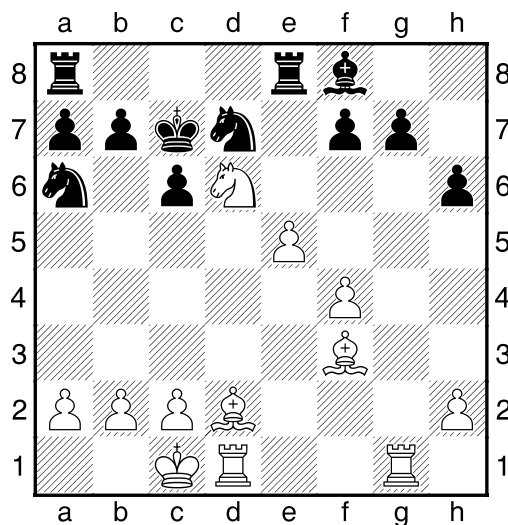
13...Kc7?

The decisive mistake. In the post mortem Mark found the right defence, ...Nc5. I'm not surprised that Black was keen to get the king off the d-file; 13...Nxe4 14 Rxg4 wins for White.

14 e5 Bxf3 15 Bxf3 Nd7 16 Ne4!

Now the White knight lands on the killer e4 square.

16...h6 17 Nd6



17...Rxe5

Desperation!

17...Bxd6 is no good as 18 exd6+ Kxd6 19 Ba5+ Ke7 20 Rge1+ wins the knight on d7.

18 fxe5 Nxe5 19 Nb5+!?

19 Nxf7 Nxf7 20 Bf4+ Kb6 21 Rd7 was my first intention but, after Ng5, I thought Black could fight on, although he is the exchange down there is compensation.

19...cxb5 20 Ba5+ b6

20...Kc8 21 Rd8#

21 Bxa8 bxa5 22 Rd5

The rest is relatively straightforward.

22...Nc4 23 Rxb5 Nd6 24 Rxa5 Kb6 25 Ra3 Nc5 26 Bd5 f5 27 Rg6 Nd7 28 Rc3 Ne5 29 Re6 1-0

Round 5 saw my first quick draw of the tournament as Black against Arkell. Hebden suffered a little versus Quinn but also drew, thus staying half-a-point ahead of me in the race for the title. Significantly Collins mustered up a great win against Rombaldoni to move into joint second.

White dominated in round 6. Mark Quinn handed Colm his first win by blundering a piece whilst Alex Lopez heaped more misery on Rombaldoni. Hebden was unable to grind down Arkell, which meant that I caught him up after playing a nice game against Stephen Burns-Mannion. That was his fourth loss in a row, and he must have been feeling as though he was caught in a rut. Sam Collins's tournament suffered a massive blow with defeat by Vladimir Hamitevici, who had started to find some form.

White N Pert

Black SR Burns-Mannion

QGA, Classical D27

[Pert]

1 d4 d5 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 c4 dxc4 4 e3 e6 5 Bxc4 c5 6 0-0 a6 7 Bb3 b5 8 a4 b4 9 Nbd2 Bb7 10 e4 Be7 11 e5 Nfd7 12 Nc4 0-0 13 Be3 Nc6 14 Rc1 cxd4 15 Nxd4 Ncxe5 16 Nxe5 Nxe5 17 f4 Ng6 18 f5 exf5 19 Nxf5 Bg5 20 Qxd8 Bxe3+ 21 Nxe3 Raxd8 22 Rc7 Be4 23 Bxf7+ Kh8 24 Bc4 a5 25 Rxf8+ Rxf8

In this endgame White holds the advantage because of his active rook.

The Black a-pawn, in particular, could prove to be vulnerable.

26 Rc5!

Making Black go passive.

26...Ra8 27 Bf1!

White is planning Nc4.

27 Bd5?! Bxd5 28 Rxd5 Nf4 29 Rf5 Ne2+ 30 Kf2 Nd4 is an example of how the Black knight can defend the queenside if White is not careful. Objectively, however, White still has a small plus.

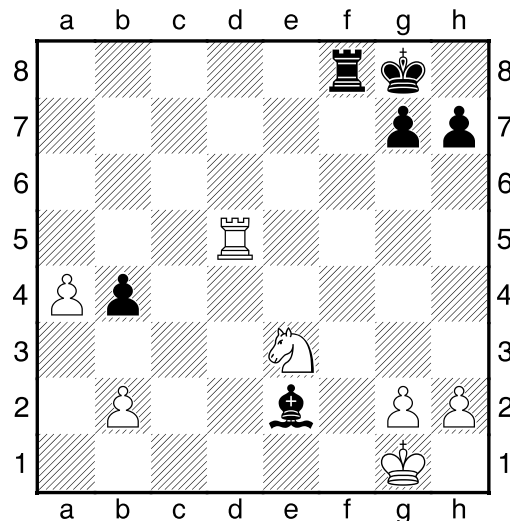
27...Nf4 28 Nc4 Nd3 29 Bxd3 Bxd3 30 Rxa5

If the rooks get exchanged here Black's position becomes hopeless. If there were no b-pawns Black's defensive chances would be much better, but now I wanted to win his b-pawn, as two connected passed pawns would be unstoppable.

30...Rf8

Threatening mate in one!

31 Ne3 Kg8 32 Rd5 Be2



It is interesting to note in this position that the Black bishop has very few squares.

33 b3!

This is a very important move to secure the win. Otherwise Black will play ...b3 himself and hope to swap his b-pawn for one of my queenside pawns.

33...Rf4 34 h3 h6 35 a5 Rf6 36 Rd2

There is simply nowhere good for the bishop to go.

36...Bb5

36...Ba6 37 Nd5 Rf1+ 38 Kh2 Rb1 39 Nxb4 hitting a6 and therefore winning the b-pawn for nothing; 36...Bh5 37 Nd5 Ra6 38 Ra2 Bf7 39 Nxb4 Ra8 40 Ra3 and White is two pawns up since Rb8 can be simply met by Nc6 and the White b-pawn is immune! 40...Rb8 41 Nc6 Rxb3 42 Rxb3 Bxb3 43 a6 Bd5 44 Ne7+.

37 Rd8+!

Once I found this the game was effectively over.

37...Kh7 38 Rb8 Bd7 39 Rxb4 Ra6 40 Rb7 Bc8 41 Rc7 1-0

If round 6 was good for the White players, round 7 was quite exceptional as Black dominated, in-form

Hamitevici defeated out-of-form Rombaldoni. Mark Hebden took advantage of Stephen's bad run by inflicting his fifth consecutive defeat. I had won most of my games in the mornings, and Mark had been able to follow up in the afternoons to get the win. This left him half a point ahead of me again after I drew with Sam Collins. Daly played a very instructive game against Arkell and Alex Lopez continued his fine form with another win.

With the tournament reaching its climax, there was a lot of jostling for position for the prizes. I was keen to challenge Hebden, but was also wary that Hamitevici had won 3 games in a row, and if he beat me I would drop down to third place. I did not particularly like my position from the opening, although objectively it was completely equal so I offered my opponent a draw. My opponent only had about 20 minutes left and needed 2/2 for a GM norm, so I thought he would have to decline, but it might put some doubt in his mind, and cost him a few minutes on the clock. In the end, he accepted! Mark Hebden had a quick draw with Sam, whilst Alex Lopez became a factor in the tournament after defeating Arkell. I think Keith was not in the best of form as, despite taking the tournament seriously in the early rounds, he had a late night following his defeat against Colm. Colm's IM norm chances took a massive blow as he lost to Stephen. This ended Stephen's losing run.

Going into the final round I had anticipated that Mark Hebden would make a quick draw against Hamitevici, so I decided to go for the win against Rombaldoni, especially considering that he was having such a bad tournament. In all-play-all events, it is normal to target the off form players for your wins. I managed to get an interesting win. Unfortunately for me, Hebden's draw offer was declined and Mark went on to win. Stephen continued his fantastic last-day recovery with a second straight win to stop Alex Lopez' great run.

White D Rombaldoni

Black N Pert

QGD, Exchange Slav D10

[Pert]

1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 3 cxd5 cxd5 4 Nc3 Nf6 5 Bf4 Nc6 6 e3 Bg4 7 Qb3 Na5 8 Qa4+ Bd7 9 Qc2 e6 10 Nf3 Rc8 11 Bd3 b5 12 a3 Nc4 13 Ne5 Nh5 14 Nxd7 Qxd7 15 Be5 f6 16 Qe2 g6 17 g4 fxe5 18 gxh5 e4 19 Bxc4 Rxc4 20 hxg6 hxg6 21 Qg4

This position is a complete mess.

Neither king has a particularly safe place to go. I realised here that the Black queen is most active on f7 whilst the b-pawn is not so important.

21...Qf7! 22 Nxb5 Rc2 23 0-0 a6!

23...Qf5 also crossed my mind as the queenless position should be fine for Black, but I thought ...a6 was more in the spirit of the position, hoping to place the bishop on d6.

24 Rac1?

I was surprised by this move. I expected Rombaldoni to sacrifice the knight, but was much more worried about 24 Qg3 Qf6! I would have to find this since: 24...axb5 25 Qb8+ Ke7 26 Rac1 Rc4 (26 Rxc1? 27 Rxc1 and Black is totally lost as the king cannot escape) 27 b3 would leave an uncomfortable feeling.

24...Rxc1 25 Rxc1 axb5 26 Qg3?!

26 Rc8+ Kd7 27 Ra8 is what I had expected when I knew I could force a draw at least, but suspected there was more: 27...Qf5! (27...Qf3 28 Ra7+ Kd8 29 Qxe6 Qd1+ 30 Kg2 Qf3+=) 28 Qg3 Ke7! and White is worse.

26...Qf6!

Now my king is escaping to g8. This was the first time in the game I stopped worrying about losing and felt confident I would win.

27 Qb8+ Kf7 28 Rc8 g5?!

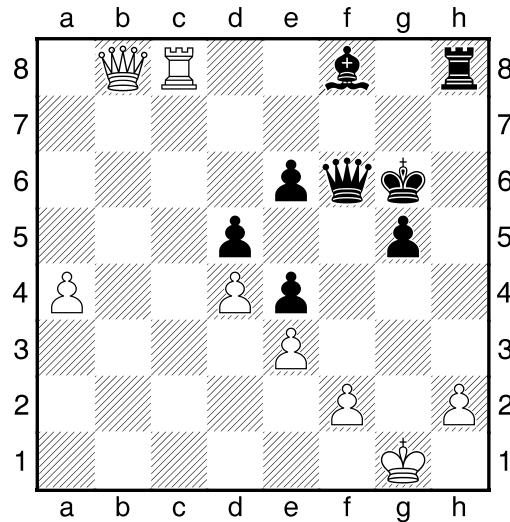
I realised soon after playing this move that I had completely misunderstood the position. I thought I wanted to swap pieces, but in reality he is going to win my b-pawn so actually I want to keep them on so that I can checkmate him!

29 b3?

It just wasn't his tournament.

29 Qxb5 Kg8 (29...Be7 was my original intention but I realised things were far from clear 30 Rxh8 Qxh8

31 a4 is unclear) 30 Qd7 Qf5 when Black can try to create an attack with moves like Rh4-g4.
 29...Kg6 30 a4 bxa4 31 bxa4



31...Bd6!

A nice tactic that helped me to complete my development and go for his king.

32 Rg8+

32 Qxd6 Rxc8; 32 Rxh8 Bxb8.

32...Kf5! 33 Qe8

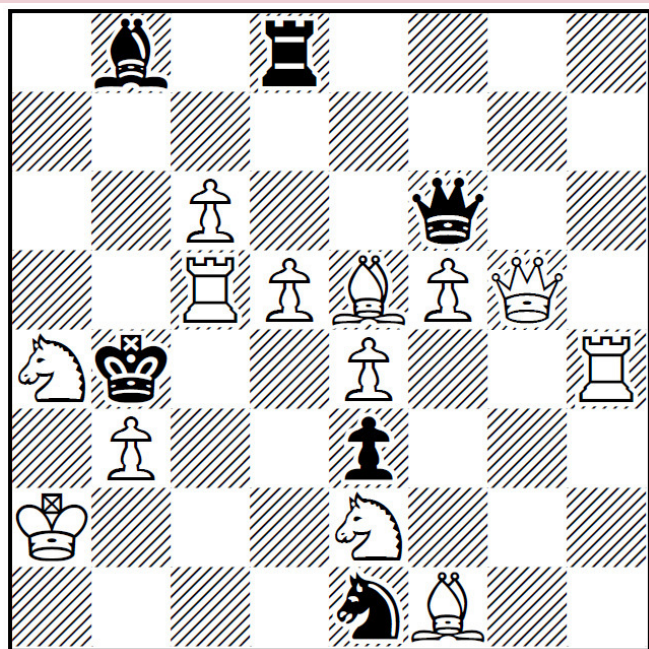
I thought for a while here and came to the conclusion that after Rxh2 he could not defend against threats like Qh6 or Kg4. In fact, my king is quite safe on g4.

33...Rxh2! 34 Qd8 Qh6

34...Qh6 35 Qxd6 Rh1+ 36 Kg2 Qh3#

0-1

BATSFORD Chess Competition



Well done to the May/June winner -

Dr Omar Jassim from London

The correct answer was - **1.Rc7**

Here's the next problem ...

Milan Velimirovic

3rd HM., The Problemist, 1975

White to play and mate in 2 --

Please send your answer (just the first move is sufficient) on a postcard or by email to the ECF Office, The Watch Oak, Chain Lane, Battle, East Sussex TN33 0YD (office@englishchess.org.uk). The first correct entry drawn on 10th Sept 2013 will win a Batsford voucher for any book on their current list!

Chess Moves Bookshelf

MINDED TO SUCCEED

by Andrew Farthing

This issue's Bookshelf column has taken an unusually tortuous route to its final form. It started with the intention to review a new book on chess psychology, expanding the topic to consider earlier attempts to tackle the subject and to pose the question, 'What does "psychology" really mean in the context of a game like chess?'

As it turned out, the new book in question turned out to be depressingly mediocre, prompting me to pursue a different path in search of inspiration. This took me on a literary journey through a general book on the subject of sporting talent, to a fascinating study of why some people are outstanding in their field, before ending up back with chess literature and a decade-old account of the early years of the highest rated chess player of all time.

Psychology at the chessboard

We begin, with something of a heavy heart, with a new book from Everyman: **Chess Psychology: The Will to Win!** by USCF National Master William Stewart. The author's introduction describes the book as "a comprehensive chess book designed to give you the tools you need to succeed in chess." He asserts, "The real truth to improvement in chess is very simple - *identify your long-term objectives and put together a short-term set of goals that will help you consistently get better.*"

So far, so good, but does the book deliver on its promise? Sadly, the answer is a resounding 'No'.

The first sentence of Chapter One set the tone for me: "The chess board represents a very accurate reflection of life." Really? Comparisons between chess and life (or chess and warfare) are a cliché of the game's culture, but Stewart takes this further with the claim that the board is a **very accurate** reflection of life. This is simplistic nonsense.

Another example of this carelessness occurs late in the book (Chapter 7, 'The Benefits of Playing Chess'), where we find a sub-heading, "Chess makes you organized." This struck me as a dubious claim, so it came as no surprise that the subsection continues, "Okay, so maybe chess itself doesn't make you organized, but if you want to improve you will become organized one way or another." In other words, becoming organised is NOT a benefit of playing chess; rather, being organised is something which will benefit your capacity to improve at chess. Stewart goes on to warn the reader against judging grandmasters by their appearance: just because they may appear unkempt, they must have worked hard in an organised way to develop their current strength!

Chapters 7 and 8 ('Chess and Business') have little or no bearing on the themes of chess psychology and improving chess performance. In a book of 200 pages, they come across as padding.

What about the chess content? I have a personal rule of thumb that any book published after 1970 which trots out Paul Morphy's 17-move win over the Duke of Brunswick and Count Isouard is not going to be good. Familiar to the point of cliché, the game's inclusion signifies nothing so much as an author unwilling to make his point with stimulating new examples. Stewart spends six pages and nine diagrams on the Morphy game.

The Index of Games might lead the reader to overestimate the chess content, listing as it does 20 different games. In reality, many of these are brief snippets only, e.g. Carlsen-Gelfand, Moscow 2012 ends after just the first fifteen moves.

The structure of the book is at odds with its own advice. In Chapter 5, 'How to Study Chess', the author suggests an outline study plan for beginners as follows:

- 30% Tactics
- 25% Positional play
- 20% Endgames
- 15% Openings
- 10% Psychology

The implication is that the percentages would change with experience and playing strength, but Stewart reinforces the point later that extensive opening preparation is not the right focus until players are much stronger. How, then, does one explain that the author fills more than half of the book (108 pages) with a chapter called 'Dominate the Opening', of which the vast bulk is devoted to a basic repertoire consisting of the Stonewall as White and the French and Slav as Black?

I would regard myself as an "intermediate" player and, therefore, part of the target readership for this book, but I found it thoroughly disappointing. It is not that the general advice is bad, as far as it goes, but that so much of the book fails to rise above mundane generalities.

For a book entitled *Chess Psychology: The Will to Win!* it is remarkable how little is concerned with the psychological aspects of chess. This is a shame, because it is a facet of the game rarely dealt with in literature (e.g. Nikolai Krogius's *Psychology in Chess* [RHM; 1976] and Angus Dunnington's *Chess Psychology* [Everyman; 2003]). Books which deal with subject **well** are very few and far between: Jonathan Rowson's *The Seven Deadly Chess Sins* and *Chess for Zebras* (Gambit; 2000 and 2005 respectively) are the outstanding examples that spring to mind.

The Hard Road to Success

It is possible that players will find the means to improve and inspiration to pursue them by reading William Stewart's book, but the odds must be against it. Where else should the aspiring improver look for a better source of inspiration?

One excellent option is Matthew Syed's **Bounce** (Fourth Estate; 2010). Subtitled 'The myth of talent and the power of practice', this is an elite British table tennis player's examination of how and why individuals reach the top of their sport. I thoroughly recommend all players interested in the subject of improvement to read this book. It may surprise you. If you are anything like me, it will also inspire you.

Syed persuasively argues that the notion of natural talent is largely a myth. Only in some sports, such as basketball, where there is a form of entry-level physical requirement for elite success (i.e. being over six feet tall), are the player's genes a significant factor. Even in these cases, other factors determine success once the entry-level requirement has been met.

At the risk of simplifying an engrossing and well-argued book, I shall attempt to summarise Syed's conclusions as to why top sportsmen reach the pinnacle of their sport:

(1) PRACTICE, AND LOTS OF IT: If you want to achieve outstanding excellence in a field, you need to put in about 10,000 hours of practice. Moreover, the practice must be **purposeful**. Those of us of a certain age may lay claim to 10,000 hours behind the wheel of a car, but without the focus of purposeful training, this will not make us world-class drivers.

(2) OPPORTUNITIES: The right circumstances are essential. Syed tells how his own development into a top table tennis player came about due to the happy combination of: his parents having purchased a table tennis table; having a brother who also loved the game; living in the catchment area of a

school with a teacher who loved table tennis and tested all pupils for their aptitude; and a club run by the teacher in question which was open for Syed to use 24 hours a day.

(3) SUPPORT: Hours of practice and opportunities to play are meaningless without the right kind of coaching and support. In particular, the evidence supports the view that the right kind of **praise** is necessary. It is positively harmful to praise someone's 'innate talent'. What works is to praise the level of effort. The latter stimulates more and more work, whereas focusing on innate talent tends to be self-limiting. Someone praised for effort meets setbacks with the determination to work harder and to overcome them. Someone praised as a natural talent regards setbacks as evidence of having reached a ceiling and the risk of being 'found out' as less gifted than people thought.

(4) THE ABILITY TO BELIEVE THE IMPROBABLE: The evidence indicates that the placebo effect can have a significant impact on performance. Sportsmen's superstitions may seem silly to the rational mind, but top players with the facility to believe in them with conviction can outperform their rivals. (Time to dig out that lucky pen, perhaps?)

(5) A CAPACITY FOR DOUBLETHINK: One effect of those 10,000 hours of practice is to 'automate' large parts of a sportsman's actions. Under severe pressure, sportsmen may start to focus consciously on what otherwise would be part of the 'implicit memory', with the result that what was natural and effective becomes conscious and ineffective. This is the phenomenon known as "choking". Top sportsmen need to develop a form of 'doublethink', so that they can be simultaneously concentrated and relaxed, i.e. "playing as if it means nothing when it means everything" (Steve Davis).

This can only give a flavour of the richness of Syed's book, but I hope that even this brief summary proves stimulating. As I read *Bounce*, I found myself reflecting on how its points crossed over to chess performance (Syed himself makes repeated reference to chess, including a section on the Polgar sisters as part of his arguments that "geniuses" are made, not born).

For example, Syed's discussion of 'implicit' and 'explicit' memory - the notion of how practice shifts more and more actions away from the conscious level, which increases the effectiveness of the actions enormously - led me to reflect on so-called chess "intuition" and the frequency with which the very first move considered by top players turns out to be the best one (and how they can play such high quality chess at blitz speeds).

In turn, this made me think about the kind of systematic routine recommended by the likes of Purdy and Silman for choosing a move. What emerges is the realisation of why such an approach is not only unnecessary among top players but actually **detrimental**, whereas for the improving player such routines may qualify as 'purposeful practice' and play a part in the process of developing an expert's intuition.

(Syed's book is wonderful in itself, but it has the additional virtue of suggesting further avenues to explore. In this instance, a passing mention by Syed led me to Malcolm Gladwell's book **Outliers** (Penguin). It has nothing at all to do with chess, but its examination of why some people turn out to be outstanding is exhilaratingly thought-provoking. Read it.)

Child prodigies - born or made?

In contrast to William Stewart's gung ho assertions, Syed attempts a genuinely evidence-based approach and positively encourages the search for exceptions to challenge the theories posited.

For example, one corollary to the '10,000 hours of practice' phenomenon is the observation that it requires ten years to achieve excellence. Child prodigies - so often cited as evidence of innate talent - tend upon closer examination to be consistent with the 10,000 hours principle. What had previously seemed remarkable - the standard of achievement at a young age - turns out to be 'simply'

the result of large quantities of purposeful practice begun at a very early age.

Syed examines instances across a range of fields (including the startling notion that Mozart was in fact a **late** developer). Bobby Fischer is cited as a possible challenge to the principle, in that it is argued that it took him only nine years from first exposure to chess to the grandmaster title. Whether this is true or not (there is room for argument in the definition of “excellence”), it hardly threatens the underlying contention of the power of practice. No one who is familiar with the Fischer story will doubt that he invested an enormous amount of time into studying the game from the moment he encountered it.

What of the other famous chess prodigies? Kasparov fits nicely into the 10-year schedule. Capablanca learned the game at the age of four but was reportedly discouraged from playing until he was eight. From then until his 1909 match with Marshall was about a dozen years. Morphy learned the game around the age of six and defeated Lowenthal in two casual games in 1850 at the age of just 13. Whether this constituted mastery at this age is debatable, and it is possible that chess understanding was at that time insufficiently advanced for the normal principles to apply.

This brings us back to the present day and to the end of my literary journey. Magnus Carlsen’s early chess life is chronicled in Simen Agdestein’s **Wonderboy** (New in Chess; 2004). This makes it clear that Carlsen learned the moves of chess at the age of five. As is well known, he became the world’s youngest grandmaster at the age of 13 years and just under five months. Carlsen seems, therefore, to threaten the 10-year ‘rule’, especially as he did not show any significant interest in chess for the first couple of years.

However, the book also describes how the young Magnus was absorbed in solving jigsaws at the age of two, built advanced Lego models at the age of four and developed his memory by learning the area and population of Norway’s 430 municipalities at the age of five. To my mind, there is considerable crossover between skills useful to the developing chess player and these early activities. Arguably, he was training his brain for chess albeit in the absence of specific chess study (a form of *Karate Kid* “Wax on, wax off”). Perhaps it is not so much of a surprise, then, that when Carlsen did focus on chess, his progress was so much faster than the ‘rule’. Alternatively, and intriguingly, perhaps it is an outcome of the computer information age that chess development can now be achieved at a faster level than before. Only the perspective of history will allow us truly to know.

The secret of success

So there you have it - if you are genuinely minded to succeed, read Matthew Syed’s book and feel justifiably inspired by the evidence that you **can** do it. You need no longer be worried that you lack the natural ‘talent’ for the game. Excellence comes from purposeful practice, motivation and the right support, not talent.

The path to excellence is not easy. There are no shortcuts. Nevertheless, if you can find it within yourself to make the effort **and** focus on going about it in the right way **and** you find the right opportunities and support, you can feel confident of success. I find this conclusion remarkably inspiring.



Brendan O’Gorman - Chess Images

See Brendan’s work at - <https://picasaweb.google.com/bpogorman>

Olufemi Adebajo (left) and Matthew Wadsworth (right) bring their concentrations to bear at e2e4 Sunningdale in July 2013



Book Reviews - by Gary Lane

Power Play 19: Attack with 1. e4 Part 2

by Daniel King
PC-DVD £26.95

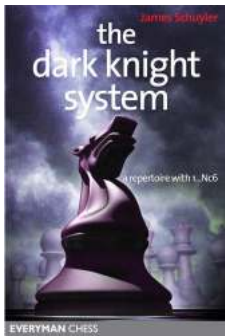
The burden of learning opening moves is just one of those things you have to do if improvement is your long-term goal. After all it is nice just to play the game for enjoyment but somehow at the local tournament/club the wins tend to be more memorable. The English grandmaster is a renowned presenter and once again his skills are in evidence for five hours and twenty-four minutes as he coaxes you to play and win in the opening. In this DVD the openings covered are Alekhine's Defence, The Scandinavian, The Petroff, The Philidor, The Pirc, and The Modern Defence. It can be quite instructive to be inspired while watching someone on the computer and there are plenty of strong players who have benefited from this technique. I should add to be complete in your repertoire you might also need Power Play 17: Attack with 1. e4 (£24.95) which deals with 1 e4 e5, the Sicilian, the French and the Caro Kann.

An investment in Powerplay will boost your chess level.



The Dark Knight System: A repertoire with 1...Nc6

by James Schuyler
Published by Everyman £15.99



It seems a rather good idea to avoid having to buy lots of different books about openings when you merely need to play 1...Nc6 against everything. I think it is fair to say the idea is not completely original especially because the same publisher produced "Play 1...Nc6! A complete repertoire for Black" by Christoph Wisniewski that was printed in 2007. It is maybe a sign of the times that a new version of the opening has appeared and a snappy title together with an impressive looking cover makes it a tempting purchase. The author James Schuyler has a chatty style and does an admirable attempt at promoting the opening. The only snag is that there is a good reason why the opening has not been adopted by all tournament campaigners because it transposes to various other openings such as the Scotch after 1 e4 Nc6 2 d4 e5 and

now 3 Nf3. The keen student will also have to become more familiar with lines of the Pirc and King's Indian Defence.

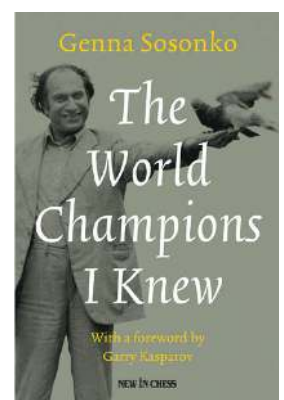
An interesting repertoire for the club player.

The World Champions I Knew

by Genna Sosonko
Published by New in Chess £21.95

The obvious thing to think when looking at the title is that this is a personal recollection of a bunch of chums who also happened to be World Champion. It is not quite that exact as there is plenty of material on Capablanca who died before Sosonko was born, so it is better to think of it as champions who have had an influence on the author. There are also entertaining chapters on Alekhine, Botvinnik, Euwe, Petrosian, Smyslov and Tal which seek to reveal the sort of person there were in everyday life. I should add Garry Kasparov gives it his seal of approval by adding the foreword.

A wonderful insight to the lives of the World Champions.



Grand Prix Leader Boards - 1st July 2013

The 2012-13 Grand Prix has closed. With effect from 1st July all congresses will count for the 2013-14 season. However, the 2012-13 leader boards will continue to be updated until all the June congresses have had time to report their results ...

180+

	Ref	Name	Club/Area	Grade	Mem No	Pts
1	112455K	Hebden, Mark L	Braunstone	243	G4157	672
2	174270L	Hawkins, Jonathan	Consett	249	G3165	662
3	105817E	Arkell, Keith CC	4NCL Cheddleton	238	G15972	658
4	242398E	Hjort, Helge	Hendon	188	G3467	640
5	241589G	Jaunooby, Ali Reza	Denton	202	G4139	625
6	119904D	Surtees, Mike J	Bolton	195	G17950	618
7	126824H	Willmoth, Robert F	Hendon	194	G6495	604
8	175386B	Ghasi, Ameet K	4NCL e2e4.org.uk	244	G6779	592
9	156101H	Burnett, Jim	Workshop	197	G9194	590
10	261299K	Sarakauskas, Gediminas	4NCL Guildford	217	B19655	575

160-179

	Ref	Name	Club/Area	Grade	Mem No	Pts
1	109622K	Desmedt, Richard E	Wombwell	162	G3411	605
2	270877C	Hayward, Alan	Streatham	176	G5803	563
3	266464B	Pink, Joshua	Colwyn Bay	169	G4601	559
4	162291C	Jackson, Paul G	Coulsdon CF	165	G4609	555
5	107574D	Bryant, Richard BE	Chester	174	P2289	546
6	111565A	Greatorex, Roger	Llangollen	166	G5701	539
7	116801A	Patrick, David A	Courier Halifax	168	G5137	529
8	247688F	Porter, Sam J	Trinity School	161	G21994	527
9	283870K	Othman, Mustapha	Brighton & Hove	165	B20498	520
10	139298A	Robson, Paul E	Eldon Leisure	162	G8386	519

140-159

	Ref	Name	Club/Area	Grade	Mem No	Pts
1	116382G	O'Gorman, Brendan	DHSS	155	G4320	563
2	283075K	Bovtramovic, Vladimir	Russia	156	G18255	535
3	247342C	Alexander, Ken RD	Tiverton	143	S6705	527
4	282176L	Hilton, Tim	3Cs	154	G18703	524
5	230106E	Clegg, Robert	Huddersfield	159	G3088	522
6	109533L	Dean, Robert A	Pudsey	151	G9164	520
7	128713J	Wilson, Matthew R	Wigston	154	G17805	518
8	234765K	McDonagh, Michael	Capenhurst	153	S18605	514
9	111388E	Goodfellow, Russell R	Tunbridge Wells	159	G5615	512
10	121781B	Sandercock, E Barry	Buckinghamshire *	150	G4167	511

120-139

	Ref	Name	Club/Area	Grade	Mem No	Pts
1	259148A	Foley, Phil T	Upminster	129	G4414	585
2	111052E	Gardiner, Colin J	Falmouth	120	S1469	581
3	264336E	Crouch, Timothy J	Kings Head	127	P5843	572

4	274379G	Macdonald, John R	Kings Head	130	G6972	561
5	187467G	Gibbs, John	Wombwell	129	S6234	561
6	114423G	Lim, Yu-Chin (Peter)	Harrow *	121	G23561	553
7	258940A	Allen, Timothy S	Battersea	135	G4415	542
8	154244J	McKeon, John E	Milton Keynes	127	G6326	501
9	276805H	Ngulube, Michael	Phoenix (Yorks)	127	G23204	495
10	276572L	Egan, William J	Scunthorpe	124	G6039	491

U120

	Ref	Name	Club/Area	Grade	Mem No	Pts
1	279615G	Crockett, Stephen J	Redditch	117	G6367	648
2	283350F	Bullock, Lee	London *	118	G18801	624
3	187281D	Summerland, David	Leeds	117	G9005	579
4	140257C	Fraser, Alan R	Beckenham & Br'ly	104	P2908	555
5	275787E	Oyama, Harunobu	Cambridge City	115	G17382	539
6	258473G	Rowan, Daniel	Banbury	115	G22083	532
7	113222C	Humphry, Phil S	Harrow	115	S17583	516
8	276212C	Mahony, Jonathan	Leeds	118	G18433	509
9	111361G	Goldsmith, Jennifer	Harrow	102	G6876	491
10	261765B	Waddington, James	Bolton	95	G6639	475

Women's Prix

	Ref	Name	Club/Area	Grade	Mem No	Pts
1	273523E	Dean, Angelica	3Cs	130	JG6742	558
2	291537G	Sucikova, Svetlana	Hertford	163	JS20260	552
3	268368E	Giles, Yasmin	Kent Junior	171	JG17490	508
4	263175B	Milson, Amy F	Louth	146	JG17148	505
5	290588H	Somton, Anita	Bury Knights	59	JG6955	499
6	284508J	Sheremetyeva, Elizaveta	Oxfordshire Jrs	99	JG6692	495
7	111361G	Goldsmith, Jennifer	Harrow	102	G6876	491
8	285553H	Davidson, Laura J	Sandhurst	99	JP6792	490
9	279461F	Wen, Jessica	Petts Wd & Orp'ton	127	JS23681	471
10	280020C	Kalaiyalahan, Akshaya	Richmond Juniors	167	JG6425	464

Junior Prix

	Ref	Name	Club/Area	Grade	Mem No	Pts
1	282399J	Kalavannan, Koby	Surbiton *	156	JG6614	615
2	277139B	Haridas, Girinath	Kent Junior	153	JG6693	614
3	283609K	Moreby, James E	RGS Newcastle	132	JG8495	603
4	273236B	Oyama, Akito	Cambridge City	183	JG17242	572
5	275719K	Klingher, Dominic	Barnet Schools	124	JG6722	570
6	282441D	Verma, Aditya	Essex *	134	JG6670	568
7	275426F	Anilkumar, Anantha P (jnr)	Coulsdon CF	150	JG17157	567
8	277163K	Boswell, Jacob Connor	Cheddleton & Leek	130	JG6421	567
9	284222B	Huang, Dion	Essex Jrs	143	JG6749	567
10	276548C	Zhang, Anthony Y	Crowthorne	178	JG6192	565

ECF English Tournament Calendar

LEGEND -

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

All congresses graded by the ECF are part of the official Grand Prix. For a more comprehensive calendar, updated constantly, visit the ECF website - www.englishchess.org.uk

#@ 14-19 Jul

South Wales International Open, Penarth Conservative Club, Penarth near Cardiff Contact: Kevin Staveley Email: kevin.staveley@btinternet.com Website: www.southwaleschess.co.uk/SWI/ - 9 round Swiss Open

~ 17 Jul

CCF Daytime FIDE Club - Summer Event Round 5, 84-90 Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 3BA Contact: Scott Freeman Email: chess@ccfworld.com Tel: 020 8645 0302 Website: <http://www.ccfworld.com/Chess/>

~ 19-21 Jul

Leeds Chess Congress, Wellington Hill Residents Association Clubhouse, 21-23 Ringwood Drive, LEEDS LS14 1AR Contact: Jonathan Mahony Email: leedschesscongress@gmail.com Website: www.leedschesscongress.org.uk - the Warm-Up Congress before the British Championships. Leaflet (printed and online) available from January 2013

~ 20 Jul

6th Snodland Rapidplay Chess Congress, The Wolfe Centre, Holmesdale School, Malling Road, Snodland, Kent ME6 5HS Contact: Rob Thompson Email: thompsonrg@gmail.com Website: www.snodlandcongress.blogspot.com - starts 10:00. Six round open rapidplay, 30 minutes per player, per game. All games played on DGT 2010 clocks. Title of Kent Rapidplay Champion to be awarded.

~* 20-21 Jul

Hampstead Under 2200 Weekend Congress, Henderson Court Resource Centre, 102 Fitzjohns Avenue (junction with Prince Arthur Road), London NW3 6NS (use NW3 6NS in your satnav) Contact: Adam Raoof Email: adamraoof@gmail.com Website: <http://www.hampsteadchess.blogspot.co.uk/> - five rounds, games are FIDE rated and graded by the ECF for the national grading database. Maximum 60 players, limited to players rated Under 2200. Unrated players should be Under 190 ECF, or the national equivalent. Swiss format tournaments. PRIZES - 1st £200, 2nd £100 plus a minimum of two rating prizes of £80.00. Rating bands to be announced before round two.

~* 20-21 Jul

5th Worcestershire Open Chess Congress, University of Worcester, Conference Centre, St John's Campus, Henwick Grove, Worcester WR2 6AJ Contact: Andrew Farthing Email: andrew.farthing@btinternet.com Website: <http://www.raycollett.net/congress/> - starts 10:00 ends 18:00. Four sections: Open, U160, U135 and U115. Profits from the congress are donated to charity. This year's designated charity is Leukaemia CARE, a national charity based in Worcester. Entry form available via congress website

21 Jul

Simultaneous Display by IM Thomas Rendle, Tiendas Del Sur Cafe, 91-95 Newington Butts, Southwark SE1 6SE Contact: Mark Jordan Email: mrkjordan61@gmail.com - Registration 1.30pm, games start 2pm. All games played to the finish. Thomas will judge and award a prize for the best game. £12 per board for participants and limited space, so don't delay! Spectators welcome!

~ 25-26 Jul

British Championship Training Mini Matches, PE Classrooms, Wellington College, Crowthorne, Berkshire RG45 7PU Contact: Nick Pert Email: nickpert@hotmail.com - starts 1.00pm. These mini matches are perfect training for the British Championships. In addition, coaching can be provided in the mornings of these matches, either privately or through Nick, or players can prepare them-

selves.

~ 27 Jul

5th Wellington College Elite Chess Training Day, Driver Rooms, Wellington College, Crowthorne, Berkshire RG45 7PU Contact: Nick Pert Email: nickpert@hotmail.com - starts 10.00am ends 4.00pm. Top Group, grade 150+ for adults and juniors / Second Group for juniors only, grade 100-150. Not suitable for beginners.

~* 27 Jul-10 Aug

100th British Chess Championships, Riviera Centre, Torquay Contact: Lara Barnes Email: manager.british@englishchess.org.uk

~* 6 Aug

PCC Birmingham Chess Congress, The Copthorne Hotel, Paradise Circus, Birmingham B3 3HJ Contact: Edwin Cooke Email: edwin@premierchesscongress.co.uk Website: <http://www.premierchesscongress.co.uk/birmingham> - starts 09:30 ends 17:30. 5 rounds, ECF rated weekend congress. 3 sections, prizes worth £1,680 including luxury chess sets. Between games: OHP Results, Chess Exhibition Display, Training Videos, Laminated Cards of Traps & Puzzles

~*@# 14-18 Aug

e2e4 Gatwick International, Crowne Plaza, London-Gatwick Airport, Langley Drive, Crawley RH11 7SX Contact: Sean Hewitt Email: sean@e2e4.org.uk Website: www.e2e4.org.uk/gatwick/Aug2013/index.htm

~*# 16-18 Aug

44th Thanet Chess Congress, Canterbury Christ Church University, Broadstairs Campus, Northwood Road, Broadstairs, Kent CT10 2WA Contact: Ian Hames Email: pheasantscroft@btinternet.com Website: www.thanetchess.org.uk - starts 19:00 ends 19:30. 5 round weekend Swiss tournament with Open, Major (U165), Intermediate (U140) & Minor (U115) sections.

~ 16-18 Aug

Chester le Street Summer Chess Congress, Park View School /Community Association, Church Chare, Chester Le Street, County Durham DH3 3PZ Contact: Paul Robson Email: paulewardrobson@hotmail.co.uk - starts 6.30pm, weekend Chess Congress, five round Swiss, three sections: Open, Major and Minor

~*@ 17-18 Aug

Delancey UK Schools Chess Challenge TERAFINAL, Loughborough Grammar School, 3 Burton Walks, Loughborough, Leicester LE11 2DU Contact: Michael Basman Email: ukchesschallenge@aol.com Website: <http://www.delanceyukschoolschesschallenge.com> - starts 9:30AM ends 6:30PM. FIDE rated - the final stage of UK Chess Challenge. Winner will get £2000 plus CUP & title of STRAT. Top Girl and Best Under 11 player £1000 each, Best Under 9 player will win £300. Scoring 3 points for win, 1 point for draw, 0 point for loss. Time control: 30 moves 1 hour & 15 min to finish. Entry by qualification only! Tel: 07715041320

~* 17-18 Aug

Delancey UK Schools CHESS CHALLENGE 2013 - CHALLENGERS, Loughborough Grammar School, 3 Burton Walks, Loughborough, Leicester LE11 2DU Contact: Michael Basman Email: ukchesschallenge@aol.com Website: <http://www.delanceyukschoolschesschallenge.com> - starts 9:30AM ends 6:30PM. 3 Challengers sections alongside TERAFINAL. ECF graded - The final stage of UK Chess Challenge. Winner of each section will win £500 plus Plate. Top Girl & Best Under 11 £100 each, Under 9 Best player £50 in each section. Time limit: 30 moves 1 hour & 15 min to finish. Scoring: 3 points for a win, 1 for a draw and 0 for a loss. Entry by qualification only! Tel: 07715041320

~ 17-20 Aug

Jessie Gilbert Celebration International Festival - Sections for All "A", 84-90 Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 3BA Contact: Scott Freeman Email: chess@ccfworld.com Tel: 020 8645 0302 Website: <http://www.ccfworld.com/Chess/>

~ 17-25 Aug

Jessie Gilbert Celebration International Festival - Open Norm, 84-90 Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 3BA Contact: Scott Freeman Email: chess@ccfworld.com Tel: 020 8645 0302 Website: <http://www.ccfworld.com/Chess/>

~ 19-23 Aug

Jessie Gilbert Celebration International Festival - Sections for All "B", 84-90 Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 3BA Contact: Scott Freeman Email: chess@ccfworld.com Tel: 020 8645 0302 Website: <http://www.ccfworld.com/Chess/>

~ 21 Aug

Jessie Gilbert Celebration International Festival - Junior Training Day, 84-90 Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 3BA Contact: Scott Freeman Email: chess@ccfworld.com Tel: 020 8645 0302 Website: <http://www.ccfworld.com/Chess/>

~*@ 21-25 Aug

London Chess Festival, Sports Centre, Hinchley Wood Senior School, Claygate Lane, Hinchley Wood, Surrey KT10 0AQ Contact: Sainbayar Tserendorj Email: ukchessacademy@gmail.com Website: <http://www.ukchessacademy.com> - starts 10:00AM ends 4:30PM. The UK Chess Academy is honoured to invite you to the very first London International Chess Festival, in support of the International School Chess Union, and involving all standards and ages of player! Events including 3 day FIDE open, 2 day FIDE U2100 & U1800, 2 day ECF U110, 1 day Junior Rapidplay, First ever U5, U6 & U7 Championship, UK Chess Challenge International, 1 day open Rapidplay. Tel: 07525038143

~ 22-25 Aug

Jessie Gilbert Celebration International Festival - Sections for All "C", 84-90 Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 3BA Contact: Scott Freeman Email: chess@ccfworld.com Tel: 020 8645 0302 Website: <http://www.ccfworld.com/Chess/>

~@#* 24-26 Aug

7th Leyland Chess Congress, Wellfield Business and Enterprise College, Yewlands Drive, Leyland PR25 2TP Contact: David Clayton Email: leylandchesscongress2013@hotmail.com Website: <http://www.leylandchess.org.uk/congress/index.htm> Three tournaments - FIDE Open, Major (U170) and Minor (U135)

~*@# 24-26 Aug

49th Berks & Bucks Chess Congress, Polehampton Church of England Junior School, Kibblewhite Crescent, Twyford, Berkshire RG10 9AX Contact: Liam Varnam Email: liamvarnam@yahoo.co.uk Website: <http://www.berksandbuckschess.com> - starts 10:00:00 AM. Six round Swiss. Sections of 12-16 allocated according to ECF grade. Usually 5-6 sections. Top two sections FIDE-rated, all sections ECF-graded

~*@ 24-26 Aug

Hampstead Three Day Open Weekend Congress, Henderson Court Resource Centre, 102 Fitzjohns Avenue (junction with Prince Arthur Road), London NW3 6NS (use NW3 6NS in your satnav) Contact: Adam Raoof Email: adamraoof@gmail.com Website: <http://www.hampsteadchess.blogspot.co.uk/> - six rounds, two sections (Open and Under 1900/160), games are FIDE rated and graded by the ECF for the national grading database. Maximum 60 players. Swiss format tournaments. PRIZES - 1st £200, 2nd £100 plus a minimum of two rating prizes of £80.00. Rating bands to be announced before round two.

~ 26 Aug

English Chess Challenge 2013 - Finals, 84-90 Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 3BA Contact: Scott Freeman Email: chess@ccfworld.com Tel: 020 8645 0302 Website: <http://www.ccfworld.com/Chess/>

~ 26 Aug

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

~ 27-29 Aug

4th Jorvik Chess Congress, The Holiday Inn, Tadcaster Rd., York YO24 1QF Contact: Peter Cloudsdale Email: cloudsdale_c@hotmail.co.uk - a six round Swiss competition with each player having 90 minutes on the clock

~* 30 Aug-1 Sep

The Manchester Congress, Manchester University, Woolton Hall, Owens Park, 293 Wilmslow Road, Manchester M14 6HD Contact: Harry Lamb Email: gmccacongress@yahoo.co.uk - starts 6:45pm. Traditional weekend tournament, five rounds. Three sections, £300 first prize in each section. Increment time limit. Free parking and on-site accommodation

~ 31st Aug

1st Chess Coaching Services London Junior Qualifier, John Keble Church Hall, Church Close, Edgware, Middlesex HA8 9NS Contact: Rob Willmoth Email: robwillmoth@hotmail.co.uk - a London Junior qualifying event. 6 rounds of 30 minutes per player.

~@ 31 Aug

FIDE London Rapidplay, Isleworth & Syon School, Ridgeway Road, Isleworth, Middlesex TW7 5LJ Contact: Sainbayer Tserendorj Email: londonrapidplay@gmail.com Website: www.londonrapidplay.co.uk

~ 31 Aug

Junior London Rapidplay, Isleworth & Syon School, Ridgeway Road, Isleworth, Middlesex TW7 5LJ Contact: Sainbayer Tserendorj Email: londonrapidplay@gmail.com Website: www.londonrapidplay.co.uk - designed for beginners and juniors graded U80. Sections: U8, U10, U12 and U14. Each section winner will win a trophy and in each section there is a Best Girl prize!

~*~ 1-7 Sep

63rd DCCA Paignton Congress, Livermead House Hotel, Torbay Contact: Alan Crickmore Email: plymouthchess@btinternet.com - details to follow

2 Sep

Autumn Wiltshire 5-Minute Championship, Brown Jack Public House, 1 Prior Hill, Wroughton, Wiltshire SN4 0RT Contact: Tony Ransom Email: chesssalsa@aol.com - starts 7:15PM ends 10:30PM. There will be one overall tournament with prizes determined by the entry level. All entry fees will be returned as prize money. There will be a chilli (free of charge). The entry fee is £3 adults / £1.50 juniors (cash only, NO CHEQUES). Entries will only be accepted on the night, so bring along a completed form. Please arrive between 7.15 and 7.30 to allow for a prompt start. It is expected that there will be 7 rounds, but this will depend on how promptly we can start.

6 Sep

Meri Grigoryan's Annual Charity Simul in Bournemouth Town Square Contact: Meri Grigoryan Email: meriko35@gmail.com Website: <http://www.justgiving.com/Meri-Grigoryan-simultaneous-chess-exhibition-Bournemouth2013> - starts 12.00pm ends 5.30pm. Please come and play chess against me on 6th September from 12pm to 5pm in Bournemouth Town Square and help me raise money for Cancer Research UK. There will be chess book prizes for best game, best junior and best lady.

~* 6-8 Sep

Leek Chess Congress, Westwood College, Leek, Staffs ST13 8NP Contact: Roger Edwards Email: rogerjedwards@yahoo.co.uk - there is a FIDE rated top section for players rated under 2350. For the non-FIDE rated event all entrants will be listed in descending grading order and then placed into sections with about 36 players in each section

~* 7 Sep

Golders Green FIDE Rapidplay Congress, Golders Green Parish Church Hall, West Heath Drive, London NW11 7QG Contact: Adam Raoof Email: adamraoof@gmail.com Website: <http://www.goldersgreenchess.blogspot.com>

~ 7-8 Sep

CCF Late Summer Congress (including FIDE Open), 84-90 Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 3BA Contact: Scott Freeman Email: chess@ccfworld.com Tel: 020 8645 0302 Website: <http://www.ccfworld.com/Chess/>

~* 13-15 Sep

Harrogate Chess Congress, Harrogate Chess Club, Apley Grange, Society of the Holy Child Jesus, 35 Oatlands Drive, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG2 8PU Contact: Noel Boustred Email: noelboustred@yahoo.co.uk - starts 19:00 ends 18:30. 3 sections based on January 2013 grades:- Minor limit is 150; Major limit is 175 ; Open has any grade. Minor Prizes £200 for 5 points (5 wins) with prizes down to a possible prize of 3.5 points. Major and Open prizes are 70% of entry fee in sections. £29 to enter unless Silver ECF membership or above then ONLY £23.

~ 14 Sep

Sussex Junior Crowborough Rapidplay, Crowborough Community Centre, Pine Grove, Crowborough, East Sussex TN6 1DP Contact: Sandra Manchester Email: entrymanager@sussexjuniorchess.org Website: <http://www.sussexjuniorchess.org> - starts 9:45:00 AM. 6 rounds rapidplay in 4 sections; U11 Minor, U11 Major, U18 Minor, U18 Major. Open to all aged under 18 on 31st August 2013