

CHESS MOVES

The newsletter of the English Chess Federation | 6 issues per year | Mar/Apr 2015



Hikaru Nakamura at the 2015 Gibraltar Masters, which he subsequently won. His last win was in 2009 [pic by John Saunders]

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Direct members' representatives

As there were less than two nominations for each category of direct members' representatives at the deadline for nominations last September, those duly nominated (HLVPs etc – Stewart Reuben and Chris Majer, Platinum – Peter Wilson, Gold – William Armstrong and Rob Thompson, Silver – John Wickham) were automatically appointed to serve from the conclusion of the 2014 AGM to the conclusion of the 2015 AGM.

There remained four vacancies: under the Articles, the power to fill vacancies rests with the Board.

At its meeting on 16 February 2015, the Board has appointed Angus French as a Bronze members' representative. There remains one vacancy each in the Platinum, Silver and Bronze categories: the Board would be delighted to learn of any member of these categories who would be willing to act as a representative – expressions of interest should be e-mailed to company.secretary@englishchess.org.uk. Further appointments can be made at the next Board meeting, scheduled for 20 March: anybody so appointed would be able to attend and vote at the Finance Council meeting in Birmingham on 18 April.

Under Article 15, all reasonable expenses incurred in acting as a Direct Members' representative will be reimbursed on written request to the Director of Finance.

County Championships – Draw 2015

The venue for the Finals Day on 4 July will be Trident College, Trident Park, Poseidon Way, Warwick, Warwickshire CV34 6SW. The draw was made on 13 February, and is as follows:

Open

Quarter-finals (A) S1 v bye; (B) N2 v S3; (C) N1 v bye; (D) M1 v S2;
Semi-finals S1 v winner of (B); N1 v winner of (D)

Minor Counties

Preliminary (1) E2 v M3; (2) E3 v W2

Quarter-finals (A) M1 v S2; (B) W1 v winner of Prelim 1; (C) E1 v M2; (D) S1 v winner of Prelim 2
Semi-finals winner of (A) v winner of (B); winner of (C) v winner of (D)

U180

Quarter-finals (A) N1 v S2; (B) W v M2; (C) S1 v bye; (D) M1 v S3
Semi-finals winner of (A) v winner of (B); S1 v winner of (D)

U160

Preliminary S3 v E2

Quarter-finals (A) E1 v S2; (B) N1 v M2; (C) S1 v N2; (D) M1 v winner of Prelim
Semi-finals winner of (A) v winner of (B); winner of (C) v winner of (D)

U140

Quarter-finals (A) W v S2; (B) M1 v bye; (C) S1 v M2; (D) N1 v S3
Semi-finals winner of (A) v M1; winner of (C) v winner of (D)

U120

Quarter-finals (A) N1 v bye (B) S1 v M2; (C) M1 v S3; (D) S2 v M3

Semi-finals N1 v winner of (B); winner of (C) v winner of (D)

U100

Quarter-finals (A) S1 v bye (B) N1 v M2; (C) M1 v S2; (D) E1 v bye

Semi-finals S1 v winner of (B); winner of (C) v E1

British Chess Educational Trust – application invitation

The British Chess Educational trust are inviting applications for grants for chess educational activities as well as our annual awards to schools and junior chess clubs/events (more here on the BCET page). All successful applicants for the awards will receive a wooden engraved board, a set of wooden pieces and a digital clock. This is a very valuable award.

Recommendations for awards should be forwarded (via the appropriate Union if in England, or via the national organisations for Scotland or Wales) to John Wickham, 55 Shakespeare Way, Taverham, Norwich, NR8 6SL Email: j.r.wickham@btinternet.com by 31st May



New ECF Office Manager

Gary Willson has started work as the new full time ECF Office Manager in Battle, taking over from John Philpott who has covered the position on an acting basis for the last 17 months. Gary, a member of the Hastings & St Leonards Chess Club, who describes himself as a keen but very amateur chess player, is looking forward to working with the chess community in his new role. He can be contacted during office hours at gary.willson@englishchess.org.uk

or on 01424 775222

Finance Council meeting

The 2015 Finance Council meeting will take place on 18 April in Birmingham. The prescribed business of the meeting includes presentation by the Board of the 2015/16 budget and the determination of membership fees and game fees for 2015/16. Other business can be included on the agenda if it is proposed by or on behalf of the Board or proposed by “the requisitionists” as defined in Article 1.1 of the ECF’s Articles of Association (see below). In respect of motions to be proposed by the requisitionists, please note that:

(a) the motion should be submitted to company.secretary@englishchess.org.uk by no later than 1.30 p.m. on Wednesday 11 March; and

(b) if the motion does not relate to the financial affairs of the ECF, it can only be included on the agenda with the consent of the President or the Chief Executive.

“The requisitionists” comprise any of the following full* members:

- (i) any Director;
- (ii) the FIDE Delegate;
- (iii) the Chairman of a Standing Committee;
- (iv) any two Trustees;
- (v) any Representative Member of a Constituent Unit;
- (vi) any two Representative Members of Counties;
- (vii) any two Direct Members’ Representatives;

- (viii) any two of a Trustee, a Representative Member of a County and a Direct Members' Representative; or
- (ix) any five Individual** Members or Representative Members.

* Full Members are Constituent Units, County Associations, Chess Leagues, Chess Congresses, Other Organisations, the Directors, the FIDE Delegate, the Chairmen of the Standing Committees, the Trustees (of the Permanent Invested Fund), Patrons, the Past President and the Past Chief Executive

** Individual Members are any of the Full Members listed above

Tournament Round-Up

Jorvik 15th Rapidplay

The above event was held on Saturday 31st January 2015 at Holiday Inn Tadcaster Road York. There were 54 entries in 2 sections with a 6 round Swiss, with each player having 20 minutes each game. A friendly atmosphere prevailed with a meeting of old friends.

Major – 31 entries

1st David Adams, York 5.5/6
 2nd Martin Brown, York 5/6
 3rd Jim Nicholson, York 4.5/6
 4th= James Adair, York; Peter Shaw, Wakefield; Richard Allis, York 4/6
 7th= Harry Li, Leeds; Brian Coop, Harrogate; Paul Fletcher, Sheffield; Mark Priest, Leeds; Paul Barber, York; Patrick Gower, York; Eric Key, York; Ben Rich, York 3.5/6
 15th= Ihor Lewyk, Bradford; Garry Hinchcliffe, Barnsley; Barry Marshall, York; Adam Ismail, York 3/6
 19th = Chris Wright, Otley; Rupert Jones, Leeds; Tim Turner, York; Noel Stewart, York; Peter Leonard, Hebden Bridge; Peter Braham, Leeds; Alastair Summers, Peterborough; Neil Coward, Blackpool; Kevin Winter, Bingley 2.5/6
 28th= Paul Johnson, York; Jim Davis Worksop 2/6
 30th Gerry Fletcher, Sheffield 1.5/6
 31st Veronica Garcia Costa, York 1/6

Minor – 23 entries

1st Jonathan Mahoney, Leeds 5.5/6
 2nd= Neville Pearce, York and Ashley Clayton, York 4.5/6
 4th= Robert Moneagle, York; Herbert Lockwood, York; Joanna Kromka, Hull 4/6
 7th= Graham Matthews, Hartlepool; Steve Burton, Leeds; James Dessent, York; Max Littlewood, Barnsley 3.5/6
 11th= Ewan Miller, York; Malcolm Hara, Hull; Gordon Pearce, Leeds; John Masiak, York 3/6
 15th= Paul May, Leeds; Stan Lovell, Scarborough; Alex Grice, Hull; Ralph Hewes and Paul Masiak both of York 2.5/6
 20th= Charles Clayton, Hull; Ashley Carr, York; Ranyl Hughes, Selbe 2/6
 23rd Sylvan Clark 1/6

Thanks to Controllers Charles Weller and David Baren

- Peter Cloudsdale

East Devon Chess Congress – prize list

Section	Position	Name	Club	Points	Prize (£)
Open	1=	Jack Rudd (IM)	Barnstaple	4.5	170.00
Open	1=	Dominic Mackle	Newton Abbot	4.5	170.00
Open	3	Lorenz Hartmann	Exeter	4	80.00

Open	Grading 169-181=	Alan Brusey	Teignmouth	3.5	14.00
Open	Grading 169-181=	David Littlejohns	Taunton	3.5	14.00
Open	Grading 169-181=	Mark Abbot	Exmouth	3.5	14.00
Open	Grading <169=	Robert Wright	Bridport	3	20.00
Open	Grading <169=	Jamie Morgan	Penwith	3	20.00
Major U155	1	John Nyman		4.5	160.00
Major U155	2=	Ben Franklin	Battersea	4	90.00
Major U155	2=	Neville Senior	Sedgemoor	4	90.00
Major U155	Grading 133-147=	John Morrison	Tiverton	3.5	20.00
Major U155	Grading 133-147=	Rob Wilby	Plymouth	3.5	20.00
Major U155	Grading <133	Lynne Fursman		3	40.00
Minor U125	1	Joy Fursman		4.5	160.00
Minor U125	2=	Reece Whittington	Exeter	4	45.00
Minor U125	2=	Nicky Bacon	Sidmouth	4	45.00
Minor U125	2=	Mark Cockerton	Torquay/Teignmouth	4	45.00
Minor U125	2=	Terence Greenaway	Torquay	4	45.00
Minor U125	Grading 102-110	James Wallman		4	40.00
Minor U125	Grading <102	Terry Dengler	Truro	3	40.00
Team Prize			Exeter A	14	40.00

39th Blackpool Chess Conference

Webb and Arkell share the spoils!

This year adds another new name to the trophy with Matthew WEBB from Bradford sharing first place with GM Keith ARKELL on 4.5pts. They drew their game in round 3, which gave the sole lead to GM Mark HEBDEN but in round 4, Matthew WEBB, with the black pieces, beat HEBDEN and held his nerve in round 5 to finish off a very impressive victory, in only his second visit to the Blackpool Open. 47 players took part.

In the under 181 Major section Richard BRYANT from Oswestry seemed to enjoy his time on the top board and held onto the lead sharing first place with Oleg CUKOV from Poulton Chess Club. 70 players took part.

In the big under 155 Median section we had our first outright winner with Darren LAWS from Tynemouth coming out on top with 5pts. 82 players in this section.

The under 135 Intermediate section was shared by 3 people, Ahmad DARYANTO a member of staff at Lancaster University in his first tournament was joined by Gary WHITE from Priorslee Lions and veteran Barry SANDERCOCK from Bucks who all finished on 4.5pts. 71 players took part.

In the under 115 Minor section we had another outright winner. John MACDONALD from the Kings Head Chess Club upheld his top seed position and finished on 5pts winning the section and the best Veteran prize in the process. 68 players took part.

The event was another success and was held in a very busy Imperial Hotel. The chess congress shared the weekend with the 1st Para's Regiment reunion, based in the usual function room that the chess uses, which meant the chess was played across 4 function rooms. The Open, Major and Minor sections played in the impressive Washington suite – it was still a little dim in places despite our best efforts to light the room. The use of this room is a work in progress and with the hotel management – the lighting will be improved for future events.

The Median and Intermediate sections had their own rooms on different floors of the hotel and after early problems directing players to their correct locations, the congress proceeded without any major hiccups.

I would like to thank the Arbiters and the rest of the control team for the fine work throughout the weekend. I am also grateful to Bill O'Rourke and the other members of Heywood Chess Club, who came along to set up and pack away – they also managed to get in some great games of chess. One Lancashire and Heywood player did get into the prize money, when Nugith JAYAWARNA scored 3.5pts to share a grading prize and the junior prize.

The event had 338 players this year. Next year the event is booked in for the 11th – 13th March 2016 at the Imperial Hotel in Blackpool ...

- Simon Woodcock

Junior Chess

Yes2Chess 2015 – CSC Schools Take-Up

Yes2Chess 2015 is underway! Brought to you by Chess in Schools and Communities and Barclaycard, Yes2Chess is a unique, free chess server that allows children of all ages and abilities to play chess games against each other in a safe, online environment. Each child is randomly assigned a username distributed only by a chess tutor or school teacher, and the server has no player chat function. As the server is web based there is no special software to download and it's easy to use.

In addition to friendly games, schools can register up to 20 teams of five to take part in the Yes2Chess International Challenge, an online team tournament for 7-11 year olds. This is open to primary schools from the UK, USA, Spain, Portugal, Germany, Denmark, Norway and Sweden. The closing date for entries is Tuesday 31st March 2015.

In July 2014 the best primary/elementary schools from the eight participating countries traveled to London to take part in the final of the inaugural Yes2Chess International Challenge, which was staged at Barclaycard Presents British Summer Time, in Hyde Park. The finalists also played in a simultaneous against the British Chess Champion GM David Howell, went on a London bus tour, attended a Parliamentary reception and visited Barclaycard's Head Office for a 'Mad Hatter's Tea Party'.

Reports on the Parliamentary reception and tea party, and the final itself, can be found [here](#) and [here](#)
Videos from the final, and of the Yes2Chess volunteering programme in action, can be found [here](#) and [here](#)

To sign up for Yes2Chess, or for further information, please go to www.yes2chess.org

UK Sign up: <http://yes2chess.org/uk/register/>

Poland February 2015

Tuesday 17th February saw 14 players and two leaders flying out to Katowice, where we were met and safely delivered to the hotel. The first evening was a relaxing one as we got ready for a blitz tournament and two rounds of the FIDE event on Wednesday. In the rapid play the players were in 4 teams and played 7 rounds. Our best team was London – Harry Grieve, Aloysius Lip, Karthik Saravanan and Oscar Idle who came 2nd with 20.5 points. In the FIDE Celebration Tournament (the school is 30 years old) a local lad was 1st on 4.5 There were 5 players on 4 including Aloysius Lip and Oscar Pollack (both winning prizes) whilst Elizabeth Ivanov scored 3.5 and was top girl overall.

Friday was our day out. We started day in Krakow being dropped off by Krak (a statue of the mythical dragon) then walked up through castle and cathedral to the market place. The players (and leaders) had a great time and many presents were bought. We then had a 3.5 hour trip down Wielizca Salt Mine and museum. In the evening we divided in to two teams and had quiz chess.

Saturday and Sunday saw the tournament in Trzebinia and the squad really had a good weekend. We have picked up a few seconds and thirds over the years but this time we excelled ourselves. We had 8 place prizes, 2 girls prizes and even 2 raffle prizes (both Yesudian brothers). Having already won three prizes in Chrzanow this brings our total for the trip to 15.

However the best thing was Rishul Karia who won the U16s with 8/9 getting a large cup and a tablet – his only rival being Aloysius Lip with 8. The next player was on 5.5! This is the first time we have had a winner in the many years we have been visiting here. In the U14s Harry Grieve was 4th, Thomas McLaren 7th, Oscar Pollack 8th, Oscar Idle 9th and Nikhil Kadambadi 10th. Rohan Yesudian was 11th but did get a raffle prize. Elizabeth Ivanov and Mahima Raghavendra won girls prizes. At U12 Mahima won 3rd prize.

The big problem Sunday evening was getting all the prizes in the suitcases.

- Peter Purland

The National U11 Championship: Sponsored once again by Heathside Prep School

Regional Finals

The final three regional zones have taken place over the last week, all in the London area. The results were as follows —

The Hall School, Belsize Park, London – Sunday 1st March 2015

- 1st – The Hall School A Team (Q)
- 2nd – The Hall School C Team (Q)
- 3rd – Pointer School
- 4th – The Hall School B Team
- 5th – The Hall School D Team
- 6th – New End School
- 7th – St Mary School A Team
- 8th – Frith Manor School
- 9th – St Mary School B Team

Thanks go to the school for hosting the event and to British Chess Champion GM Jonathan Hawkins for supporting the event and making the presentations.

Twickenham Preparatory School, Hampton, London - Wednesday 3rd March 2015

- 1st – Kings College Junior School (Q)
- 2nd – Sheen Mount School
- 3rd – Twickenham Prep School

Thanks go to Twickenham Prep School for hosting the event.

Heathside School, Hampstead, London – Sunday 8th March

- 1st – Heathside School A Team (Q)
- 2nd – St Pauls Primary School A Team (Q)
- 3rd – Martin's Primary School
- 4th – Heathside School B team
- 5th – Heathside School C Team
- 6th – St Paul's Primary School B Team

7th – Heathside School D Team

8th – Frith Manor Primary School

Thanks go to Heathside School for hosting the event and to Lateefah Messam-Sparks for organising the facilities. Thanks also go to Angela Eyton who has provided invaluable support to both the North London events.

(Q) Teams that have qualified for the final at Uppingham School on 2nd/3rd July.

Tradewise Gibraltar Chess Festival 2015

Round 10 (Final) Report: 5 February (abridged) - *courtesy of John Saunders*

THE RED BULLY AND THE SCARLET PIMPERNEL

It's over, and American number one Hikaru Nakamura has won the Tradewise Gibraltar Masters for the second time in his career. A draw against Pentala Harikrishna in the final game took him to 8½ points out of ten and secured him the £20,000 winner's cheque.

This is the first Masters which hasn't needed a play-off match since 2011, and I know the organisers and arbiters will be relieved about that, even if the rest of us quite enjoy witnessing an afternoon rapidplay shoot-out. This year has been quite similar to 2011, when two players, Vasil Ivanchuk and Nigel Short, shared the limelight with their fighting play and two-handed dominance of the tournament. This year there have also been two players in the spotlight, the second being England's David Howell. Ranked 60th in the world, number 15 in the tournament list and number three in England when the tournament started, he put in a great performance to secure the substantial second prize of £16,000 for himself, just half a point behind the champion. If Nakamura, with his trademark can of a well-known beverage at his elbow, was the 'Red Bully' of Gibraltar, then David Howell, with his remarkable string of back-to-the-wall half-point saves, was the Rock's very own Scarlet Pimpernel.

In the last round Hikaru Nakamura and Pentala Harikrishna seemed to reel off their moves at breakneck speed, reaching the move 40 time control in around two hours rather than the allotted four. Hikaru deliberately chose a fairly innocuous line rather than risking his neck, since he was half a point clear and he was probably banking on David Howell, playing Black, finding it hard to defeat Hou Yifan. Nevertheless, he wanted to keep the game going just in case he needed to play for a win. In the end he didn't need to do so and could have simply accepted a draw after the Hou-Howell game was drawn, although, just for the hell of it, Nakamura and Harikrishna swapped off down to the kings to conclude proceedings.

David Howell did his best to make something of his game against Hou Yifan. However, sometime after move 30 he went horribly wrong and it started to look as though, rather than vying for the winner's cheque, he would be handing over a good £10,000 of the second placed player's £16,000 prize to his opponent. But things then went awry for Hou Yifan on move 45 and she returned the compliment. Looking back, she may conclude ruefully that her inaccurate 45.g5 move cost her ten grand. But her £15,000 for being the best female finisher, plus whatever she gets for her share of third (£5,000+ by my reckoning) may be at least something of a consolation.

Hou Yifan (2673) - D.Howell (2670)

There's not too much happening here, apart from Howell's habitual time pressure. Hou Yifan decides to press a little herself. **31.d5 Bb7 32.f4 Ke7 33.d6+!? Kf6** 33...Rxd6 34.Rxd6 Kxd6 35.Bxf7 Be4 is probably OK but there's more than a hint of worry that the white king could make its way into play, e.g. 36.g4! hxg4 37.hxg4 and it's a bit tricky. **34.g4! hxg4 35.hxg4 g5?** That's too big a risk. **36.fxg5+ Kg6?** 36...Kxg5 37.Bxf7! Bf3 (37...Rxf7? 38.d7 Rf8 39.d8Q+ Rxd8 40.Rxd8 Kxg4 41.Rf8! cuts the king off and Black is lost) 38.Be6 Rd8 39.Rd4 Kf6 40.Kf2 Ke5 41.Ke3 Bc6 42.Bf5 is more than a bit scary but, ironically, turns out to be less lost than the game. **37.Bb1+ 37.Bd5! Bxd5 38.Rxd5** is also a very good way to proceed for White. **37...Kxg5 38.Bf5 Rd8 39.d7 Bf3 40.Rd4 Kf6 41.Rd3 Bb7 42.Kf2 Ke7 43.Re3+ Kd6 44.Re8 Kc7**



A £10,000 moment. **45.g5?** With this move Hou Yifan effectively hands over a cheque for the aforementioned money to her opponent. Instead, 45.Re7! Bd5 46.g5! Kd6 47.Re8 and White should eventually convert. **45...Bc6 46.Re7 Rg8!** ½ ½ Simple but effective, trading the f-pawn for the g-pawn. If 47.Rxf7 Rxg5 and White has nothing.

That left the dividing up of the remaining prizes by the third score group. Hou Yifan and Pentala Harikrishna earned their share via draws with the leaders, while Vitiugov and Bachmann drew fairly quietly with each other and took their share. Veselin Topalov beat Mateusz Bartel to claim his. Veselin's first open tournament in decades had not been successful by his high standards but chess of this form takes some getting used to and at least he finished well.

M.Bartel (2631) - V.Topalov (2800)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.Nbd2 d6 6.Bxc6+ bxc6 7.0 0 0 0 8.Nc4 The Berlin Defence but not strictly

speaking the Berlin Wall (as the line used by Vladimir Kramnik to shut out Garry Kasparov in the world championship match of 2000 has become known). **8...Be6 9.Qe2 a5 10.a4 Nd7 11.Bd2 Bxc4 12.dxc4 Qe7 13.Kh1 Bb6 14.Ra3 Nc5 15.Ng5 h6 16.Nh3** White's experimental opening doesn't look too impressive. Black takes the initiative. **16...f5 17.exf5 Rxf5 18.g4 Rff8 19.g5 h5!?** Black is prepared to shed a pawn to stop White opening up the kingside for his pieces. **20.Qxh5 Rf5 21.Ng1 Qf7 22.Qh4 Qg6 23.Rh3 Raf8** Black is not unduly frightened of what White is doing on the h-file. If the queen checks on h8, it has to go right back again. **24.Ne2** Houdini suggests the slightly weird **24.Nf3!?**, to overprotect the g5–pawn, since the knight may not be captured: **24...Rxf3?? 25.Qh8+ Kf7 26.Rxf3+**, etc. Instead Black probably plays **24...Ne6** and it's equal. **24...Ne6**



25.Qe4? White should attempt to hang in there with **25.f3 Nxg5 26.Qg4 Qf6 27.Bxg5 Rxb5 28.Qe4**, although Black would have a slight edge. After the text Topalov is close to winning. **25...d5! 26.cxd5 cxd5 27.Qg4 27.Qxd5** loses to **27...Rd8** and the bishop on d2 is skewered. **27...Bxf2 27...Rxf2 28.Rxf2 Rxf2** is also unpleasant. **28.c4 d4 29.Qe4 Rxb5 30.Qd5 30.Qxg6 Rxb5 31.Ng3 Nf4 32.Bxf4 Rxf4 33.Kg2 Be3** is a fairly straightforward win for Black. **30...Rg5 31.Qe4 R5f6 32.Qxg6 Rxb5 33.Ng3 Bxb5 34.Rxf8+ Kxf8 35.Rxb5 Rf6 36.Bxa5 e4 37.Rg4 e3 0-1**

NEXT YEAR - VISHY!

So, no play-off this year, which meant everyone could proceed to the prize-giving and gala dinner in a relatively relaxed fashion later in the evening. The event was replete with Gibraltar government ministers and sponsors, all of whom have done so much to make the tournament such a success, plus the organisers Brian Callaghan and Stuart Conquest and the hotel staff. As so often, Brian Callaghan kept a little surprise back for his closing speech. He sprung the surprise on us of a message from former world champion Vishy Anand, who is going to grace the Tradewise Gibraltar Chess Festival with his presence in 2016. And not just visiting – playing. That sent a frisson round the room. Of course, we'll all be thrilled to have Vishy amongst us - why wouldn't we be? He's a great player. We'd like to think Vishy will be thrilled to play in Gibraltar. In its 13th year the tournament is now an established, unique brand in the chess world and people want to be part of it and identify with it.

And we'd be just as thrilled to have you play here too, be you ever so humble in rating. Or with no rating at all. Or clueless as to what a rating is, even. Our tournament is open to all, remember, right down to the merest woodpusher. If you know the rules of chess, you're eligible. Beat the rush, book early and we'll be delighted to see you in Gibraltar next year.

SUMMARY OF TRADEWISE GIBRALTAR MASTERS' MAIN RESULTS

1st Nakamura (USA) 8½/10 (£20,000)

2nd Howell (England) 8 (£16,000)

3-11th Hou Yifan (China), Vitiugov (Russia), Topalov (Bulgaria), Wagner (Germany), Wei Yi (China), Adhiban (India), Harikrishna (India), Bachmann (Paraguay), Matlakov (Russia) 7½

12-21st Svidler (Russia), Yu Yangyi (China), Jakovenko (Russia), Naroditsky (USA), Rapport (Hungary), Nabaty (Israel), Sutovsky (Israel), Bok (Netherlands), Sengupta (India), Sandipan (India) 7

1st Women's Prize: Hou Yifan (China) 7½ (£15,000)

2-5th Women's Prizes: Ju Wenjun (China), Rout Padmini (India), Anna Muzychuk (Ukraine), Antoaneta Stefanova (Bulgaria) 6½

Junior Prizes: 1 Daniel Naroditsky (USA) 7, 2 Grigoriy Oparin (Russia) 6½.

Senior Prizes: 1 Kevin Spraggett (Canada) 6, 2 Juan Manuel Bellon Lopez (Spain) 5½.

GM Norms: Mariya Muzychuk (Ukraine), Dennis Wagner (Germany), Stefan Kuipers (Netherlands), Rout Padmini (India), Eylon Nakar (Israel).

IM Norms: Johan Salomon (Norway), Victor Plotkin (Canada), Badrakh Galmandakh (Mongolia), Valentin Dragnev (Austria).

WIM Norm: Josefine Heinemann (Germany)



Grand Prix Leader Boards - 2nd March 2015

180+

	Ref	Name	Club/Area	Grade	Mem No	Pts
1	282399J	Kalavannan, Koby	Coulsdon CF	186	JG6614	641
2	241589G	Jaunooby, Ali Reza	Denton	205	G4139	637
3	267990F	Landau, Jonathan	Hendon	182	G22677	616
4	242398E	Hjort, Helge	Hendon	185	G3467	589
5	105817E	Arkell, Keith CC	4NCL Cheddleton	234	G15972	584
6	258768D	Merry, Alan B	Bury St Edmunds	226	JG17393	565
7	119904D	Surtees, Mike J	Bolton	199	G17950	562
8	267851C	McPhillips, Joseph	Bolton	219	JG5762	556
9	283656H	Golding, Alex	Coulsdon CF	180	JG17052	545
10	112455K	Hebden, Mark L	4NCL Guildford	244	G4157	533
11	224790C	Villiers, Thomas	Muswell Hill	195	G17811	528
12	275879K	Gupta, Arul	Kent Junior Congresses	194	JG6154	525
13	245951G	Jones, Steven A	Surbiton	198	G6739	511
14	174940H	Bonafont, Philip R	Hemel Hempstead	187	G4017	483
15	277139B	Haridas, Girinath	Kent Junior Congresses	182	JG6693	468

160-179

	Ref	Name	Club/Area	Grade	Mem No	Pts
1	107035G	Boumphrey, Luke S	Atticus	172	G18517	554
2	113386L	Ireland, David J	Coventry Chess	166	G24784	548
3	104852B	Whitehead, Mark A	Rochdale	174	G15489	526
4	116801A	Patrick, David A	Courier Halifax	160	G5137	523
5	115575B	Millward, David J	Writtle	165	G299	515
6	107574D	Bryant, Richard BE	Chester	176	G2289	495
7	113478E	Jacob, Sydney J	Lewisham	166	G6237	480
8	106176J	Barasi, Paul DL	Wimbledon	168	G19033	477
9	162291C	Jackson, Paul G	Coulsdon CF	161	G4609	475
10	163643B	Coward, Neil	Blackpool	169	G4561	458
11	270505K	Miu, Marinell	Watford	160	S19995	450
12	270877C	Hayward, Alan	Streatham	178	G5803	449
13	111035E	Gamble, Raymond J	Spondon	160	G383	448
14	260784A	Allison, Conrad	Petts Wood & Orpington	179	G17006	445
15	152545B	Ashcroft, Graham J	Preston	161	S25273	443

140-159

	Ref	Name	Club/Area	Grade	Mem No	Pts
1	128713J	Wilson, Matthew R	Devon *	157	G17805	595
2	230106E	Clegg, Robert	Huddersfield	159	G3088	578
3	248245K	Wright, Jonathan	London *	152	G5722	554
4	122453A	Finnegan, Oliver	Loughton	158	G17636	514
5	247156F	Rubeck, Jonathan	Hendon	151	G25948	506
6	170919H	Williams, Stephen	Cwmbran	140	S25816	503
7	116382G	O'Gorman, Brendan	DHSS	152	G4320	501
8	109622K	Desmedt, Richard E	Wombwell	157	G3411	494
9	108722J	Connor, Michael I	Great Lever	152	S15540	491
10	283075K	Bovtramovics, Vladimirs	Russia	157	G18255	488
11	127076L	Woodward, Tim F	Trowbridge	150	G6434	485
12	114423G	Lim, Yu-Chin (Peter)	Harrow *	152	G23561	483
13	109533L	Dean, Robert A	Pudsey	157	G9164	482
14	112597H	Hibbitt, Arthur M	Bristol Grendel	150	G17515	481
15	144928L	Pepe, Salvatore	Hendon	147	G6894	472

120-139

	Ref	Name	Club/Area	Grade	Mem No	Pts
1	279615G	Crockett, Stephen J	Redditch	120	G6367	653
2	129445D	Sommerville, Gordon BR	Buckley/Mold	124	S26350	605
3	276572L	Egan, William J	Scunthorpe	133	G6039	576
4	123333G	Gilbert, David J	DHSS	133	G3430	561
5	273499A	Davis, John G	Ashtead	122	S20299	510
6	154244J	McKeon, John E	Milton Keynes	122	G6326	502
7	143011H	White, Gary M	Priorslee Lions	133	G6822	498
8	247342C	Alexander, Ken RD	Seaton	128	S6705	486
9	276212C	Mahony, Jonathan	Leeds	132	S18433	485

10	137558B	Smith, Paul	Hastings & St Leonards	136	G1546	482
11	264336E	Crouch, Timothy J	Kings Head	129	P5843	440
12	283350F	Bullock, Lee	London *	130	G18801	431
13	118502A	Sartain, Patrick P	Hanham Folk Centre	122	G20508	413
14	178103A	Blackburn, Jon EW	Holmes Chapel	135	G15025	411
15	116519H	Osborne, Keith C	Lewes	132	S17499	409

U120

	Ref	Name	Club/Area	Grade	Mem No	Pts
1	140257C	Fraser, Alan R	Beckenham & Bromley	107	G2908	571
2	274725L	Fraser, Chris A	West Bridgford	115	S19796	563
3	163954H	Miles, Barry S	Coulsdon CF	119	G4976	505
4	274379G	Macdonald, John R	Kings Head	114	G6972	501
5	111052E	Gardiner, Colin J	Newmarket	109	S1469	498
6	111361G	Goldsmith, Jennifer	Harrow	107	G6876	495
7	258940A	Allen, Timothy S	Battersea	117	G4415	493
8	180180G	De Santos, Andrew R	Preston	112	G15092	475
9	181078K	Robson, Caroline J	Barnet Elizabeth	112	G4002	452
10	269827E	Vernon, Colin G	Worcester	95	G17314	445
11	145125L	Howes, David J	South Norwood	107	G4995	441
12	104846G	Welch, Hazel	Seaton	105	G2831	428
13	251770L	Shaughnessy, Phillip J	Urmston	111	S24837	426
14	191456L	Maber, Martyn J	Taunton	100	G25858	412
15	178127D	Blackburn, Sandra G	Holmes Chapel	109	S15026	395

Women's Prix

	Ref	Name	Club/Area	Grade	Mem No	Pts
1	294266F	Sheikh, Anum	Middlesex Juniors	100	JG24565	542
2	111361G	Goldsmith, Jennifer	Harrow	107	G6876	495
3	291209A	Rahulan, Thivyaa	Cheddleton & Leek	129	JG17341	479
4	280882B	Varney, Zoe	Cumnor	160	JG17170	476
5	291801J	Desai, Nilomi	Surrey Juniors	114	JG22807	470
6	288605E	Raghavendra, Mahima G	Atherton	143	JG6900	463
7	291563H	Sawhney, Anisha	N. London Collegiate Sch.	90	JG23132	459
8	290588H	Somton, Anita	Bury Knights	138	JG6955	456
9	181078K	Robson, Caroline J	Barnet Elizabeth	112	G4002	452
10	284503K	Gelain-Sohn, Emmanuelle	Middlesex Juniors	115	JG20546	451
11	290059C	Ragavan, Soumiya	Surrey Juniors	115	JG21623	449
12	293599F	Volovich, Julia	Kings College CU	110	JS24317	440
13	104846G	Welch, Hazel	Seaton	105	G2831	428
14	275645G	Sit, Victoria	Coulsdon CF	146	JG6719	418
15	284508J	Sheremetyeva, Elizaveta	Oxfordshire Juniors	141	JG6692	417

Junior Prix

	Ref	Name	Club/Area	Grade	Mem No	Pts
1	282399J	Kalavannan, Koby	Coulsdon CF	186	JG6614	641
2	288604C	Munshi, Aditya	West Notting'm	163	JG18647	628
3	275426F	Anilkumar, Anantha (Jnr)	Coulsdon CF	172	G17157	605
4	294585L	Ratnesan, Ranesh	Kingston *	130	JG24219	595
5	258768D	Merry, Alan B	Bury St Edmunds	226	JG17393	565
6	294003G	Pramod Paleri, Adithya	Watford *	142	G23838	561
7	267851C	McPhillips, Joseph	Bolton	219	JG5762	556
8	287441G	Salmons, Calum	Sussex Juniors	140	JS23315	552
9	293311B	Northcott, Paul	Sussex Juniors	128	JS23701	549
10	287750J	Ahluwalia, Amardip	Sussex Juniors	152	JG17043	546
11	283656H	Golding, Alex	Coulsdon CF	180	JG17052	545
12	294266F	Sheikh, Anum	Middlesex Jrs	100	JG24565	542
13	284337H	Rushbrooke, Remy	Middlesex Jrs	137	JG26769	525
14	289729F	Cocks, Elliot	Essex Juniors	144	JG24214	525
15	275879K	Gupta, Arul	Kent Jr Congresses	194	JG6154	525

Please note - these are only top fifteens for each category. The full leader boards can be found online at ---
<http://www.englishchess.org.uk/competitions-plp/ecf-grand-prix/>

World Senior Teams Chess Championships 2015 - final round report

50+

England secure TWO gold, ONE silver and THREE bronze medals in their quest for glory in Dresden!

Slovakia 4 – 0 Schachgemeinschaft Leipzig

SV Lok Engelsdorf 0.5 – 3.5 Germany

Scotland 1 0.5 – 3.5 England 1

Colin McNab 0 – 1 Nigel Short

Steve Mannion 0 – 1 John Nunn

Roddy McKay 0 – 1 Jon Speelman

Douglas Bryson draw Keith Arkell

England 2 lost their last round match to the fifth seed Thuringen by the narrowest of margins.

Casper (2387) – Flear 0-1

Plaskett – Vökler (2335) ½-½

Pähtz (2365) – Tavares 1-0

Fegan – Brüggemann (2304) 0-1

Thüringen 2½-1½ England 2

On board one, Flear (playing Black) obtained pressure down the d-file and was able to force a double-rook endgame, where he had active rooks doubled on the second rank. Once he had obtained a passed pawn Casper couldn't defend against all the threats.

On board two, in a Najdorf Sicilian, Plaskett's opponent clearly knew the opening better, and Jim felt it impossible to refuse the draw offer.

Shawn Tavares played the French, but he was unable to obtain counterplay and found himself with passive pieces. An attempt to mix matters rebounded and hastened the end.

Chris Fegan played a rather unusual opening, where despite having a bad bishop had a very good knight. At one point he could have sought a repetition, but tried instead to advance on the kingside. Brüggemann hit back and White's position soon turned out to have too many soft spots.

I feel that Shawn and Chris both learned a great deal over the last nine days. Watch out for them in future 4NCL bouts, they'll be even tougher opponents from now on! - *Glenn Flear*

England 1st team: Overall Bronze; **Nigel Short 7 / 8 Board 1 Gold**

These individual awards are for the highest Tournament Performance Rating –

John Nunn 6.5 / 8 Board 2 Gold; **Jon Speelman** 5.5 / 7 Board 3 Bronze; **Keith Arkell** 4.5 / 8; **Terry Chapman** (captain) 2.5 / 5 Reserve Board Bronze

England 2nd team: Overall 8th

Glenn Flear (captain) 6 / 9; James Plaskett 7.5 / 9 Board 2 Silver; Shawn Tavares 2.5 / 9; Chris Fegan 5 / 9

65+

Sweden 4 vs England

Bernt Akerblum draw Geoff James

Per Johanson draw Ian Reynolds

Ako Sanklef 1-0 Roger Scowen

Lannart Forslund 0-1 Gareth Jones

Thus England 65+ finished 31st –

Geoff James 5.5 / 9; Ken Norman 3 / 6; Ian Reynolds 4 / 9; Roger Scowen (captain) 2.5 / 8; Gareth Jones 1.5 / 4

Gareth achieved a partial rating of 1875, quite good for a first international appearance. He must play at least one more rated game to have a FIDE Rating that affects his future opponents.

- *Stewart Reuben*



Play underway in Dresden



Nigel, John and Jon



Nigel, John and Jon



GM Jon Speelman



GM Glenn Flear



The awards ceremony

Chess Today

Edited by Alexander Baburin - 12 months subscription €45

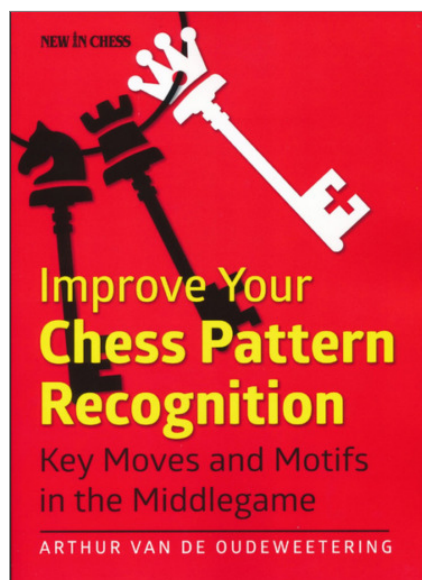
This is billed as a daily chess newspaper that is e-mailed to your home containing news about tournaments and is a firm favourite with the top players. The Irish grandmaster Alexander Baburin has been producing it since the year 2000 and his influence usually makes sure that the daily annotated game is either entertaining or demonstrates an important opening novelty. The e-mail that arrives on your computer can be read on PDF format (which is already loaded on most computers) or even printed out. The daily puzzle is from a recent tournament or to celebrate a master's birthday while other games are provided in Chessbase format and also as a PGN file to cover all chess programs. It is worth checking out samples at the website www.chesstoday.net. I think it is a useful help to anyone rated over 1400 who wants to improve thanks to the useful tips from Baburin, especially when it comes to modern examples of endgame play.

I believe this e-mail newspaper is a hugely entertaining and instructive way to find out the latest chess news.

Improve Your Chess Pattern Recognition

by Arthur Van de Oudeweetering

Published by New in Chess - 301 pages £18.95



A popular question by club players is how to improve the middlegame. It seems most of us have some idea of what to do in the opening but if we have a slight advantage what happens next? This is where books aimed at this stage of the game excel and there are surprisingly many of them but recommended book lists often only include golden oldies such as *My System* by Nimzowitsch or *Think Like A Grandmaster* by Kotov. In my experience it can be word of mouth that helps to promote some books to rise above the rest to good sales in the long-term. This offering by a Dutch International Master is proving particularly popular thanks to his use of relatively recent games aided by some classic examples and easy to read explanation. There are forty chapters detailing various standard themes and how to handle the position. I particularly like the author's choice of showing all the previous moves (without comment) before reaching the diagram position. This can be useful but other middlegame books don't do this, so if you think the position comes from your favourite Sicilian you are left with the dull task of looking up the game yourself. There are numerous examples with commentary so it is a pleasant read on a train or at home and something that can be dipped into every now and again.

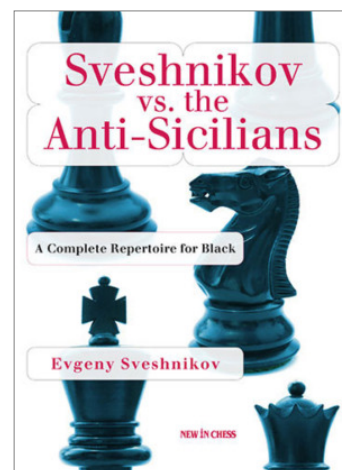
Every improving player will learn a lot from this book.

Sveshnikov vs. the Anti-Sicilians: A Repertoire for Black

by Evgeny Sveshnikov

Published by New in Chess - 251 pages £19.95

When you play the black pieces it is frustrating when people avoid the main line Sicilian and play minor lines. These openings such as the C3 Sicilian, Closed Sicilian and the Morra Gambit are generally known as Anti-Sicilian lines, which are increasing in popularity as even Magnus Carlsen was reluctant to take on the Najdorf or Dragon during his World Championship matches. A repertoire offers Black a set of recommended opening choices to play against the fourteen openings that the Russian grandmaster has identified as a major threat to the success of the Sicilian. There are plenty of black and white photos to illustrate the star players such as Luke McShane and Michael Adams which I always think makes it more interesting.



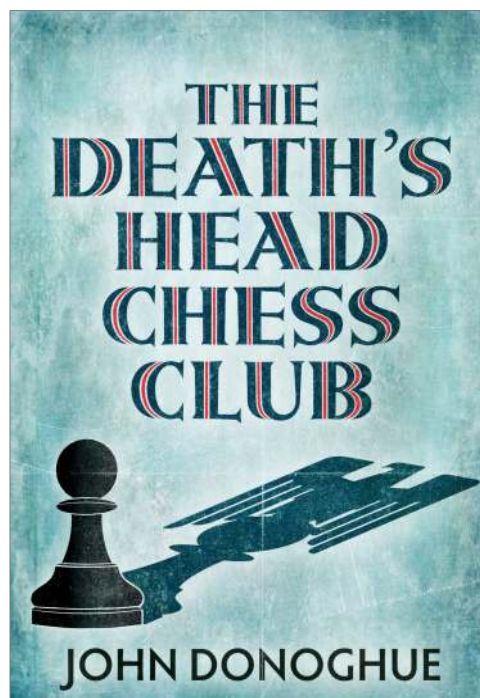
I would recommend this book to any player who wishes to update their opening repertoire.

- Gary Lane

The Death's Head Chess Club

by John Donoghue

Published by Atlantic Publishing



SS Obersturmführer Paul Meissner arrives in Auschwitz from the Russian front. After being badly wounded he is fit only for administrative duty and his first and most pressing task is to improve flagging camp morale. He sets up a chess club which thrives, as the officers and enlisted men are allowed to gamble on the results of the games. However, when Meissner learns from a chance remark that chess is also played by the prisoners he hears of a Jewish watchmaker who is 'unbeatable'. Meissner sets out to discover the truth behind this rumour and what he finds will haunt him to his death...

This book tells the story of an impossible friendship between a Nazi and a Jew with chess as the central theme. The book challenges us to consider what the limits of forgiveness could be and what the cost of a lifetime of bitterness might be.

There are too few fictional books written with chess as a central theme so I was very eager to read this book. As a passionate chess lover and someone who lived near Bergen-Belsen (another concentration camp) for several years at the turn of the Century I have a very keen interest in the subject matter.

Whilst this is technically a work of fiction, the setting is very real. Auschwitz - Birkenau was probably the most notorious of all the death camps where an estimated 1.1 million people died; the great majority were Jews from across Europe. This was a place where the worst ever crime against humanity was committed. Some of the character names are fictitious, others were real historical people. It is hard hitting and uncompromising and describes the horrific brutality of those times. It remains so difficult to comprehend what occurred there, and why so many people followed the Nazi ideology. To initiate the systematic genocide of a race, of a specific group of people is almost incomprehensible - but it happened, and it happened here as well as many other death camps. The only race we are members of is the Human Race, and we should be rightly shocked, appalled and ashamed at what mankind is capable of. Yet this is only part of the story...

I have no idea if the author is a chess player but he certainly had to possess at least a rudimentary understanding of the game to describe it as he does. The book is written in a most intelligent fashion, transporting the reader back and forth through time from the years around the Second World War to 'present day' 1960's in Amsterdam. It flows seamlessly and is very easy to follow indeed. I have always been interested in the role that chess plays in the lives of people incarcerated in the direst of situations. As the Manager of Chess in Prisons for England I meet many people who are in custody and chess is their great friend, chess is their intellectual escape. Yet to have chess as your hope in a truly hopeless place is testament to its attraction and value. It is certainly no mere game.

The Death Camp John Donohue is very descriptive in his account of what life must have been like at Auschwitz. The starvation, deprivation and torture tears strips off the readers soul. One is transported time and again to a world of grotesque evil; a life of pain and abject misery that has only one conclusion - the crematorium. Within this world reside characters; people. Some of these remain true to themselves, people who retain their honour even in the face of death. There are others who lie, cheat and steal in order to cling to life, to turn against their own and betray their people and their principles. Who can say what we would do in the same position? Am I referring only to the prisoners? One will be very surprised. The author writes in a vivid and lucid style that conjures the horrors of that place to the forefront of the mind. When reading it, I have to say that I felt in some way that I was there, witness as a fly on the wall to the humiliation, and I could almost smell the stench of decay and disease in

the barracks.

Donoghue writes 'Stürmbannführer Bär is adamant that I should have consulted him before pitting a Jew against a member of the SS in a game of chess'. One is compelled to read on and is confronted with the revelation that 'An idea cannot be defeated by shooting bullets at it'...how profound. Think about that. An idea cannot be defeated by shooting bullets at it. So what of the chess and how on earth can chess make any tangible difference in such a place?

The chess I was hugely impressed with the way that the author weaves chess into the story. When he describes a game in play the protagonist's moves are carefully written so that anyone with a basic grasp of the game can follow it. There are a couple of minor technical points that I take issue with. Here comes the chess geek bit - the Alekhine's Defence is referred to as a 'Gambit' after 1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6. The d6 move is not really a Gambit as it is not offered for free but any chess player will understand the point. Also the final game (which I shall refrain from elaborating upon) is a little tricky to follow in places unless you know what you are doing but that aside the narrative is excellent. I actually set up my own board to follow it and the chess players amongst you will be very impressed with the final flourish. For me (and many others) chess is a game of great beauty. It is art and sport and can be played anywhere; on a bus, in a café and yes, in a Death Camp. Donoghue writes about one of the characters that 'To him, chess is not a game or even an art - it is an act of worship. It is something to be lived'. Oh how this will resonate with pawn pushers across the globe.

I must not reveal too much about the chess or the story so as not to spoil it for readers. Any chess fan; any historian or indeed anyone who enjoys a gripping story will thoroughly enjoy this book. It will remain etched in my memory forever. I am so glad that John Donoghue wrote this book and that Atlantic had the foresight to publish it. It helps not only to better understand the power and magnetism of chess but that the best thing about the game and life itself is the opportunity to participate, to be a part of it.

The book has some 387 pages and contains 37 Chapters, most with the names of chess openings or chess terminology (Who knows what Zugswang is?) and is rounded off with a list of the actual ranks of the SS and historical notes, which complement the text very nicely.

I very rarely read fictional works. This is one exception I have been very happy to make. I eagerly devoured it in two sittings and suggest that you do the same. On an aesthetic note, the hardback book is printed on good quality paper, the font is kind on the eyes and it feels so much more satisfying than anything I could get in electronic format. I am über impressed.

I rate this book as ***** Highly Recommended - order it now!

- *Carl Portman*





Chess Editorial

By Executive Editor, IM Malcolm Pein

Follow me on Twitter: @TelegraphChess

New World Order

I have never been 'outed' on Twitter before. An interview with Veselin Topalov during the Gibraltar tournament gave the game away. For a couple of months now, plans have been laid to launch a new Grand Prix – we won't call it that – consisting of three existing tournaments and a fourth to come next year. The cycle will include Norway Chess in Stavanger, the Sinquefeld Cup in St. Louis, USA, and the London Chess Classic, as well as another event to be announced.

The world's top players have been invited and an announcement with dates should be out before we go to press. However, I can confirm the 7th London Chess Classic will be happening with the likely dates December 4th to 14th.

Tough at the Top

After his heroics at St Louis, Fabiano Caruana was widely thought to be the man who should be Magnus Carlsen's next challenger. I'd like to give a nod to our editor who said at the time he thought Caruana's astonishing score was not just a product of his enormous talent, but also his opponents'

relatively poor form. Since then we have had some evidence to suggest Caruana is human after all and in 2015 he has actually been supplanted as world number two by Alexander Grischuk, while two more players, Anish Giri and Hikaru Nakamura, have become members of the 2800 club.

At time of writing the top-10 looked like this:

1	Carlsen	2862.9
2	Grischuk	2812.6
3	Caruana	2803.1
4	Nakamura	2802.5
5	Giri	2802.5
6	Topalov	2798.1
7	So	2788.0
8	Anand	2786.7
9	Kramnik	2783.0
10	Vachier-Lagrave	2770.1

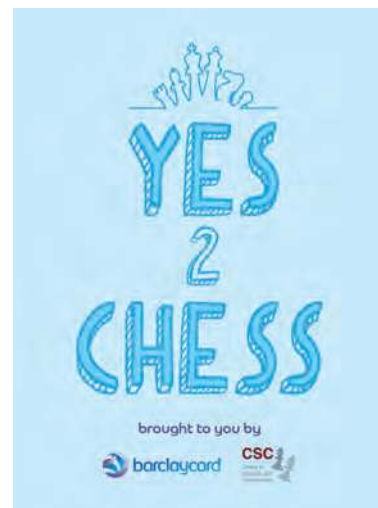
The only stable feature has been Carlsen way out in front. I suspect the recent rise of Wesley So has been a motivating factor for Hikaru Nakamura. So switched his allegiance to the USA and during Wijk aan Zee Nakamura even temporarily lost the US number one spot.

Say Yes2Chess

I am delighted to announce that *Chess in Schools and Communities* has renewed its

agreement with *Barclaycard* that secures free internet chess for UK schools. If you are a parent, teacher or chess tutor please go to Yes2Chess.org and register up to 100 players for friendly games or the *Yes2Chess International Challenge*, an international competition open to children in UK, USA, Germany, Spain, Portugal, Norway, Sweden and Denmark. We are also happy to accept registrations from other countries, but not for the competition.

Registration is free of charge and later this year I hope to have some online lessons available as well.



Loose lips sink ships... Veselin Topalov (pictured centre) let slip, during a press conference at the recent Tradewise Gibraltar Chess Festival, plans for a new "golden league" of tournaments due to start later this year.

Spain says Sí in School

Great news from Spain where a resolution to make chess a compulsory subject in Spanish schools was passed unanimously last week in the Spanish parliament. There was cross-party support to act on a recommendation from the Congressional Education Committee to: "Ask the government to implement the Chess in School program in the Spanish education system, following the recommendations of the European Parliament."

Congratulations go to IM Leontxo Garcia, Spain's 'Mr Chess', who has been lobbying for many years. Garry Kasparov also made representations.

The European Parliament vote referred to was in 2012, with the Spanish politicians acting after hearing of the results from scientific studies on the educational benefits of chess undertaken by the universities of



Leontxo Garcia (centre) chats with Jon Speelman and Nigel Short at the 2011 edition of Gibraltar. Garcia is not only Spain's leading chess journalist, but has also played a prominent role in convincing the Spanish Government to add chess to the curriculum in Spain.

Girona and Lleida that detected an improvement in maths and reading scores amongst the children who were taught to play. A third study is also underway in Spain and I await the results of the research undertaken by CSC with funding from the Education Endowment Foundation. Children in 50 UK schools have been taught to play chess with another 50 acting as a control group.

Rocky Relationship

The game received some less welcome publicity recently when two English club players had their dirty linen washed in public. I quote from the report in the *Daily Telegraph*: "A seven-year legal battle between two warring chess players has been brought to a halt after a judge ruled their row wasn't black and white.

"Judge Gordon Beech told the former friends he could not 'force them to be nice to each other' after they appeared in court to settle a dispute over a £160 loan.

"Kent County Court had heard Geoffrey

Bishop lent Russell Goodfellow the money during a trip to Gibraltar to take part in a chess competition in 2008.

"The court heard how there was no proof of the loan, but Mr Bishop showed bank statements from the time, showing the money coming out of his account – which he says he lent to Mr Goodfellow. Mr Goodfellow counter claimed that he did not owe the cash as he had 'made a bet' with Mr Bishop about the 'time difference between the UK and Gibraltar', which is one hour ahead of the UK, which covered the £160. Mr Bishop claimed the bet 'never took place'.

"The Judge Gordon Beech, called a halt to the civil proceedings saying: he could not tell the two men to 'be nice to each other'."

Dragons Blunder

Some readers might have noticed we have added some lovely sets to our range produced by Purling London which has set out to become a luxury brand. Just a couple

of weeks ago Purling's founder Simon Purkis appeared on the BBC programme *Dragons' Den*, pitching for finance. His project was at a very early stage and he didn't have much of a track record of sales when the programme was filmed in May 2014. The dragons gave him short shrift. I wonder what would have happened if Richard Farleigh, successful entrepreneur and internationally-rated player, had still been on the panel.

No One Should Have No One

The charity *Age UK* has recently begun a campaign highlighting the plight of over one million elderly people in the UK who live alone with no contact with friends or relatives. The chess community could certainly help by reaching out to elderly people who play chess for example. I spotted a heart warming story from New York recently where a boy came up with a novel project for his Bar Mitzvah – the Jewish ceremony that transitions a child into adulthood.

As part of the Bar Mitzvah or Bat Mitzvah, boys and girls are expected to perform some act of charity or other good works. Zachary Targoff had the idea to find an elderly New Yorker, who loves chess like he does, to play with once a week. DOROT, a communal organisation was able to pair Zachary and 90-year-old Holocaust survivor Herman Bomze together. The pair play on a hand-carved set given to Herman by his father, who unlike Herman was unable to leave Vienna after the Nazis took control and died in the Buchenwald concentration camp.

Zachary's 'mitzvah' – or worthy act, has inspired a regular inter-generational chess club where young and old meet to play regularly in NYC.



Excavations at Angel Street, Northampton have unearthed the site of a medieval antler workshop. Archaeologists from the Museum of London Archaeology even found two discarded chess pieces, with the game popular with the educated classes in the 12th Century.



Dragons' Den star Deborah Meaden wasn't too impressed by Purling London's beautiful sets, but subsequent sales have shown that the Dragons made a rare blunder.

As We Went to Press...

Hikaru Nakamura continued his good form from Gibraltar by taking an early lead in the Zurich Chess Challenge. The American no.1 reached 2½/3 after playing the memory game to defeat Sergey Karjakin.

H.Nakamura-S.Karjakin Zurich 2015 English Opening



1 Nf3 2 f6 3 c4 c5 4 Nc3 5 Nc6 6 d4 cxd4 7 Nxd4 e6 8 g3 9 Bb6 10 Ndb5

Intending Nd6+, forcing off Black's dark-squared bishop.

7...Nxe3 8 Nf4 9 Nfg4 10 Na4

White brazenly ignores the threat. 9 e3 Bc6 10 h3! a6 11 hxg4 axb5 12 Bb5 h5 Nf3+ 13 Ne2 Ng1+ is either a draw or White can march his king.

9...g5

White seems to be doing pretty well after 9...Nxf2+ 10 Nd2 Bc5 11 Ne4 and then 11...Bc6 12 Ng2 or 11...Bb4+ 12 Bxb4 Bxb4+ 13 Nc2 with a double threat.

10 Nxe5 Nxf2+ 11 Nd1 12 Nxe5 13 Nc7+ Nd8 14 Nxa8 Nd4+ 15 Nc2 Nxc4 16 e4!

White has an extra rook and can force a draw with 15 Bb3 Nd2+ 16 Nc2 Nc4, but rightly prefers to put Black to the test.

15...Nxe3+?

Karjakin was unable to remember his theory or calculate his way out of trouble. The path to the draw was long and complex: 15...Bd2+ 16 Bb3 Bxb2+ 17 Nxc4 Ng7 18 Na5+ (18 Ne2? b5+! 19 Nxb5 d5+ 20 exd5 Bc2+! 21 Bb4 Bf8+ 22 Na5 Bd2+ 23 Na4 Bd7 wins for Black) 18...b6 19 Nxc5+ f6. Now 20 Nxc7 allows 20...Na6+ 21 Nb5 Bxb5#, while 20 Bb5 Na6! 21 Bxa6 f5! saves the game. White is rook, bishop and knight ahead, but cannot win. Play might continue 22 Bb1 Bxc3+ 23 Bb5 Bc5+ 24 Na4 Bc2+ 25 Bb3 Bxa2+ 26 Bb4 Bf8+ 27 Nc3 Ng7+ 28 Bb4 Bf8+.

16 Bb3 Bd2 17 a3! Bc2+ 18 Na2 Bxa4 19 Nxa4 Nxf1 20 Bhxf1 b5

Of course Black would be doing very well if all his remaining pieces were not on the back rank.

21 N4b6! axb6 22 Nxb6 Bb7 23 Nxf7 Bc6 24 Nd1 Ne7

White wins too after 24...Ne8 25 Nxd7 Bxd7 26 Nxd7.

25 Nf3 Nc7



Now Nakamura found a crisp finish: **26 Nxd7! Bxd8** Alternatively, 26...Nxd7 27 Nc3+ Bc6 28 Bdc1 and wins. **27 Nc3 1-0**

Finally, our apologies to Sophia Rohde, whose name we misspelt last month. Indeed, the photo on page 4 should have had the caption: 'John Foley was the driving force behind the second education conference at the London Chess Classic. He is flanked by Lili Hahn of Edinburgh University and Sophia Rohde, a teacher of chess in the curriculum and a leading organiser in New York for over 20 years.'

LIFE ON THE BACK RANK by Tristan

[@BackRankTristan](#) #LOTBR





NEW!

Mihail Marin: Tactic Toolbox Benoni

The razor-sharp Benoni Defence is a fascinating opening and an ideal choice for players with a love for tense, tactical positions. Both sides have a multitude of tactical shots and ideas at their disposal thanks to the asymmetrical pawn structure, with Black's play generally focusing on the queenside while White tends to combine play in the centre and on the kingside. On this DVD, Mihail Marin presents the major tactical themes and options available for both sides in the Benoni. Based on an interactive format, which prompts users to solve a range of training questions by inputting moves, the well-known theoretician and Grandmaster invites you to take part and challenge yourself with a training course aimed at delivering a structured, intensive and systematic approach to learning the key positions in the Benoni as well as knowledge of a number of the defence's tactical finessees. In addition to the interactive tactics course, the DVD also includes a database with a large number of (mostly annotated) sample games - meaning that you also have plenty of material to reinforce the tactical motives covered in the videos.

RRP £23.99 / Subs' £21.59

Rustam Kasimdzhanov: The new McCutcheon Variation

Playing the McCutcheon Variation of the French Defence (3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Bb4) immediately sharpens up the game, but quite frequently what soon arises is a

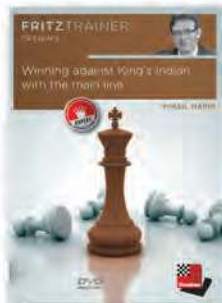


positional struggle. Until recently the whole opening system was considered to be double-edged, if not downright notorious - White only had to have good knowledge about the main line. But nowadays the McCutcheon has been developing in an entirely new direction. Rustam Kasimdzhanov now calls 5.e5 h6 6.Bd2 the old main variation - since, as he demonstrates, Black can remarkably easily obtain a pleasant game. The alternatives 6.Bc1 and 6.Bh4 shouldn't give White any advantage either, but the former FIDE world champion shows how these lines can be used as a surprise weapon. On the other hand, 6.Be3 has turned into the new main variation. Here the author has undertaken some extremely deep analysis in order to be able to come up with the correct evaluations for the individual sub-variations. In many variations Kasimdzhanov provides analyses, evaluations and recommendations which go far beyond the present state of theory.

RRP £23.99 / Subscribers' £21.59

Mihail Marin: Winning against the King's Indian with the main line

In the classical system of the King's Indian White develops naturally and refrains from chasing ghosts looking for a refutation of Black's set-up. White instead relies on the fact that natural play should yield him a small but lasting advantage. The main question is whether White can retain the harmony of his pieces in the blocked position of the Mar del Plata attack (7...Nc6 8.d5 Ne7) when both sides attack on opposite wings. The best answer to that question is given by the classical system with 9.Nd2, in which White's knights and bishops cooperate



harmoniously. Many great players of the past and the present have used and use this system successfully. Until play becomes very concrete, usually around moves 18-20, positional understanding is far more useful than computer assistance. At first, engines are sceptical about many objectively best white moves, and the author has seen this as a challenge to prove that in certain positions human understanding is still more valuable than the calculating powers of the computer. The videos explaining the Mar del Plata Attack (which form the main part of this DVD) offer strategic guidance and show typical tactical ideas, while presenting a detailed, solid and aggressive repertoire.

RRP £23.99 / Subscribers' £21.59

Lorin D'Costa/Nick Murphy: A repertoire against the Sicilian

For years the only correct way to play against the Sicilian was to tackle it head-on with the Open Sicilian (i.e. when white plays an early d4). However, the amount of theory required is colossal and not to everyone's taste. In recent years, some of the world's best players have started to essay some dangerous anti-Sicilian lines, with great success. New ideas have been found which immediately put black on the back-foot, without the need to learn reams of theory. In this Master & Amateur DVD, International Master Lorin D'Costa and chess software expert Nick Murphy outline the various "anti-Sicilians". These openings can give you a potential advantage, whilst avoiding your opponent's favourite Sicilian line. DVD includes: A complete repertoire for white after 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 and the following continuations: 2...d6 3.Bb5, 2...e6 3.g3/b3, 2...Nc6 3.Bb5 and 2...g6 3.d4.



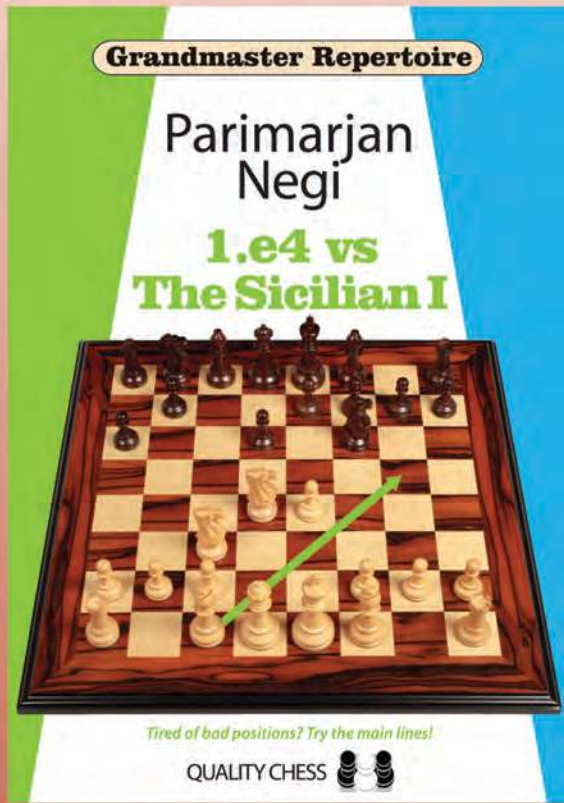
harmoniously. Many great players of the past and the present have used and use this system successfully. Until play becomes very concrete, usually around moves 18-20, positional understanding is far more useful than computer assistance. At first, engines are sceptical about many objectively best white moves, and the author has seen this as a challenge to prove that in certain positions human understanding is still more valuable than the calculating powers of the computer. The videos explaining the Mar del Plata Attack (which form the main part of this DVD) offer strategic guidance and show typical tactical ideas, while presenting a detailed, solid and aggressive repertoire.

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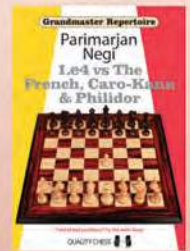
2015 starts with a bang!

1.e4 vs. the Sicilian I



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**Reaction to 1.e4 vs The French,
Caro-Kann & Philidor:**



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GM Matthew Sadler, New in Chess

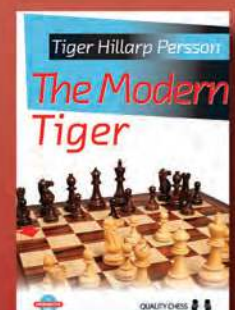
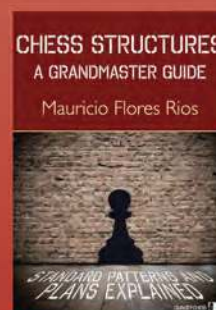
The day after the book was on sale I won a nice game at the Olympiad with White against a French Defence in a topical variation, following one of his recommendations. No, it was not a coincidence! And yes, I am a quick reader.

GM Anish Giri, World No. 6

Every now and then, every once-in-a-FIDE-cycle, a book comes along that seriously impresses me. And recently, I received another of these rare, pleasant shocks. Indian GM Parimarjan Negi's first book of his 1.e4 repertoire series is a real stand-out, an excellent piece of chess authorship. And it even kept me engaged!

GM David Smerdon

Also out right now!



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Home News

BIRMINGHAM – The 4NCL showed off its new venue, the Holiday Inn at Birmingham Airport, by putting on a strong congress (30 January – 1 February). Six GMs were invited and when the dust had settled, the young Uzbek Grandmaster Jahongir Vakhidov emerged victorious. So competitive was the event that despite conceding two draws, Mark Hebden took second outright.

Open: 1 Jahongir Vakhidov (UZB) 4½/5, 2 Mark Hebden (Leicester) 4, 3–11 Danny Gormally (Alnwick), Tamas Fodor (HUN), Matthew Turner (Glastonbury), Peter Wells (Swindon), Gediminas Sarakasas (Guildford), Alan Merry (Bury St Edmunds), James Jackson (Northampton), Andrew Horton (Manchester), Neil Bridge (Camberley) 3½.

U2000: 1–3 Maurice Lawson (Reading), Shane McCabe (London), Vincent Homolka (Dulwich) 4.

U135: 1–5 Adrian Walker (Stroud), David Gilbert (Sidcup), Parin Suchak (Syston), Stephen Crockett (Redditch), Kurt Moreby (Gosforth) 4.

Danny Gormally unfortunately suffered a third round defeat at the hands of the Hungarian GM Tamas Fodor, but had earlier finished well. Fodor in turn lost to Vakhidov, although the winner's most notable moment was arguably an inability to convert a winning endgame when deep in the incremental phase.

D.Gormally–J.Menadue Birmingham 2015



A Geller Gambit (1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 3 ♖f3 ♕f6 4 ♕c3 dxc4 5 e4!?) had led to this unbalanced situation. As is common in this line, White has long had the black king in his sights and now struck:

29 ♖xe6! ♕xa4

White's diagonal-moving pieces will prove too strong after this, but if 29...fxe6 30 ♖xg6+ ♖f8 31 ♖xe6 and Black is almost in

zugzwang, as shown by 31...♗d8 32 a5.

30 ♖c7!

A deadly blow on the light squares.

30...♙xh4 31 ♖xh4!?

Continuing to play for the attack, rather than bag an extra piece with 31 ♕xa8 ♙xg3 32 ♙xa4.

31...♕xc7 32 ♖e7 ♕e6 33 ♙xe6 fxe6

34 ♖xe6+ ♖h8 35 ♖f6+ ♖h7 36 ♖f7+

♖h8

Of course, White has many ways to win, but the grandmaster chooses the neatest and most clinical path.

37 e6! ♕xb2 38 e7 1–0

L.Martin–J.Vakhidov Birmingham 2015



The bishops have just come off on f5 and, of course, Black should win so long as he can avoid landing up with just bishop and wrong-coloured rook's pawn.

47 ♖g2 ♖e4

Hardly terrible, but he should have restricted the white king with 47...h5! 48 ♖h3 (or 48 h3 ♖e4 49 g4 fxf4 50 hxf4 51 ♖g3 ♖f5) 48...♙f6 and after 49 ♖g2 ♙d8 50 h3 ♖e4 51 ♖f2 ♙b6+ 52 ♖e2 ♙e3 the win becomes clear.

48 ♖h3 ♖f3 49 ♖h4 ♙f6+?

Even grandmasters can panic. Now White is OK as he will win one of Black's remaining pawns. Instead, 49...♙g1! would still have won, as after 50 ♖g5 (or 50 h3 ♙f2 51 ♖g5 ♙xg3 52 ♖xf5 ♙xf4) 50...♙xh2 51 ♖xf5 ♙xg3 52 ♖g5 ♙xf4+ 53 ♖h4 ♖g2 the white king won't make it back to the corner.

50 ♖h5 ♙e7 51 ♖h6

Suddenly there's nothing for Vakhidov even to try. He must maintain his f-pawn, but can't do so and eliminate White's kingside.

51...♙c5 52 ♖xh7 ♙f2 53 ♖g6 ♖e4
54 ♖g5 ♙e1 55 g4 fxf4 ½–½



GM Jahongir Vakhidov of Uzbekistan took the top prize in the recent 4NCL FIDE-Rated Congress ahead of British Grandmasters Gormally, Hebden, Turner and Wells, as well as the Hungarian GM Tamas Fodor.

GIBRALTAR – Like the British Championships and Hastings, the Tradewise Gibraltar Chess Festival (26 January – 5 February) isn't just about the top section, but also attracts a couple of hundred amateur players to its various subsidiary sections.

Challenger A: 1–5 Luis Sanchez Botella, Juan Urbina Perez (both ESP), Javier Longa Yauca (PER), Badrakh Galmandakh (MGL), Klara Varga (HUN) 4½/5.

Challenger B: 1–4 Pavel Janev (BUL), Badrakh Galmandakh (MGL), Hector Fiori (ARG), Inna Agrest 4½.

Amateur A: 1 Yasser Saber (MAR) 5, 2–6 Wim D'Haluin (BEL), Klaus Kuenitz (GER), Jonathan Wright (Richmond), Rafael Lopez Diaz, Luis Iglesias Fernandez (both ESP) 4.

Amateur B: 1 Erekosima George Lolomari (NGR) 4½, 2–6 Klaus Kuenitz (GER), Joshua Pink (Coventry), Jonathan Wright (Richmond), Jes Knudsen (DEN), Jorge Boabaid (BRA) 4.

LONDON – The indefatigable Adam Raoof's latest event was the 5th Golders Green Congress (17–18 January).

Open: 1 Adam Taylor (Colchester) 4½/5, 2 Steven Jones (Surbiton) 4.

U-1900: 1–3 Ciprian Matei (Romania), Marinel Miu (Watford), George Ivanov (Ealing) 4½.

U-120: 1 Mohammad Jaufaraly (Colchester)

4, 2 John MacDonald (Kings Head) 3½.

A fortnight later the 3rd Muswell Hill Rapidplay saw a grandmaster have to settle for a share of first after a loss to Philipp Orgler, who was rewarded with a special book prize.

Open: 1-2 Alexander Cherniaev (Hackney), Tony Niccoli (Hendon) 5, 3 Alistair Hill (Battersea) 4½.

Major: 1 Jonathan Rubeck (Hendon) 5, 2-3 Sabrina Needham (Pimlico), Hugh Fenwick (Crystal Palace) 4½.

Minor: 1 Martin Isaac 5½, 2-3 Panicos Koureas, David Dobbs (all London) 5.



Regular on the weekend circuit, GM Alexander Cherniaev was the favourite for the Open section at the Muswell Hill Rapidplay, but a shock loss in round 1 to a player graded 40 points below him meant he had to settle for only a share of first.

NOTTINGHAM – Last year Mark Hebden had to settle for second behind Ameet Ghasi at the Nottingham Rapidplay, but he went one better this year on 25th January.

Open: 1 Mark Hebden (Leicester) 6/6, 2 Ankush Khandelwal (Nottingham) 5, 3-5 Jim Burnett (Doncaster), Alexander Combie (Retford), Paul Fletcher (Sheffield) 4.

Major: 1 Nathanael Paul (Newport) 5, 2-5 Daniel Broughton (West Bridgford), Andrew Garside (West Nottingham), Lewis Turner (Kirby Castlers), Alex Webster (Amber Valley) 4½.

Intermediate: 1 Matthew Wilson (Wigston) 5½, 2 Richard Wiltshire (Nottingham) 5, 3-6 Sam Beardmore, Jack Healings (both Cheddleton & Leek), Michael Harper (Nottingham), Kim Gilbert (Shirley) 4.

Minor: 1 Stephen Crockett (Redditch) 6, 2-3 Max Miller (Northamptonshire Juniors), Samuel Smith-McGloin (West Nottingham) 5.

OXFORD – The 38th Kidlington Congress took place over the weekend of 7-8 February and resulted in success for a young local star in the top section.

U225: 1 Marcus Harvey (Bicester) 5/5, 2 Russell White (Writtle) 4, 3-4 Pavel Asenov (Witney), William Claridge-Hansen (Aylesbury) 3½.

U180: 1-2 Martin Cutmore (Wood Green), Tim Woodward 4½, 3-4 Mark Leonard (both Trowbridge), Hajane Anbukumar (Coulsdon) 4.

U145: 1 Colin Solloway (Milton Keynes) 4½, 2-6 Jon Asbury (Shirley), Karin Bayona (Meadhurst), Peter Rawcliffe (Milton Keynes), Sara Sengenberger (Cowley), John Yates (Oxford) 4.

U120: 1 Marek Pielak 5, 2-6 Alastair Drummond (Bristol), Mike Duck (Didcot), Alan Fraser (Beckenham), John Harris (Stroud), Peter Housden (Bedford) 4.

STOCKPORT – The Stockport Rapidplay attracted an impressive 150 players to the Alma Lodge Hotel on 25th January. The Open saw Adam Ashton fight off a number of young talents to emerge with a fine perfect score, while Stephen Crockett was once again in the prizes in the Minor.

Open: 1 Adam Ashton (Urmston) 6/6, 2-3 Joseph McPhillips (Bolton), Andrew Horton (3Cs) 4½.

Major: 1 Joao Rita (3Cs) 5½, 2 Harry Lamb (Bolton) 5, 3-5 Dean Hartley (Amber Valley), George Kolbusz (Denton), Mark Whitehead (Rochdale) 4½.

Intermediate: 1 Geraint George (Wrexham) 5½, 2 Jixin Yang (Chester) 5, 3-5 Robert McClean (3Cs) Chris Tham, Kevin Ye (3Cs) 4½.

Minor: 1 Stephen Crockett (Redditch) 6/6, 2-3 Judd Bennett (Lancaster), Gerry Whitehead (Eccles) 5.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS – The 2015 edition of Gibraltar has just concluded, but for two former friends a battle over a £160 loan from the 2008 tournament has ended in stalemate due to a lack of evidence. Presiding at Tunbridge Wells County Court, judge Gordon Beech told claimant Geoffrey Bishop and defendant Russell Goodfellow that he could not “force them to be nice to each other”. Goodfellow, a regular participant on the weekend circuit, claimed that he did not need to repay the loan as he had won a bet with Bishop for the same amount over the time difference between London and Gibraltar.

YORK – There must be something about Holiday Inns and chess for the 15th Jorvik Rapidplay also took place at one on 31st January. Quickplay expert David Adams proved too strong for the likes of IM James Adair and smoothly won the top section.

Major: 1 David Adams (Totley) 5½/6, 2 Martin Brown (York University) 5, 3 Jim Nicholson (Whixley) 4½, 4-6 James Adair, Richard Allis (both York), Peter Shaw (Wakefield) 4.

Minor: 1 Jonathan Mahoney (Leeds) 5½, 2-3 Neville Pearce, Ashley Clayton (both York) 4½, 4-6 Robert Moneagle, Herbert Lockwood (both York), Joanna Kromka (Hull) 4.



A little bird just told me

A round-up of what the top players and chess personalities have been saying on Twitter

Anish Giri – @anishgiri

With all the Dutch losing, I am actually glad I held this endgame. #TataSteelChess

Garry Kasparov – @Kasparov63

Is a young field overall of course, but the top five in Wijk aan Zee standings ages with one round to go are 24, 20, 21, 24, 22. Amazing.

Tarjei Svensen – @TarjeiJS

Yifan Hou says she finished her university the day before Wijk. No preparation at all, then broke Polgar's 26 year old record. #GibChess

Magnus Carlsen – @MagnusCarlsen

First tournament win since April, first gain of rating since February, and my longest winning streak ever @tatasteelchess #cheerupyomoron

Nigel Short – @nigelshortchess

Great to see Richard Rapport playing a Nc6 Dutch after @MagnusCarlsen was so scathing of my former espousal of this line! #GibChess

Daniel Gormally – @elgransenor1

Looking forward to watching the games from Gib. Fancy Chinese sensation Yi Wei to win it. Shame I'm not there enjoying the sunshine...

Hikaru Nakamura – @GMHikaru

Very weird game today, but that's what the fans want! I can't recall ever winning a game without moving a central pawn (e7 pawn today).

Gawain Jones – @GMGawain

Followed a game of @WIM_Maroroa for 16 moves when opponent deviated. She won in 23, took me 24. Thanks darling! #GibChess

Silvio Danailov – @SilvioDanailov

Lovely dinner hosted by the Governor of Gibraltar Sir James Dutton on his residence tonight. Connecting people. #chess

Viswanathan Anand – @vishy64theking

At Baden. Snowing outside. Lovely weather for walks. Few hours for the drawing of lots. By tomorrow chess will be 100% of mindspace.

Simon Williams

the killer Dutch



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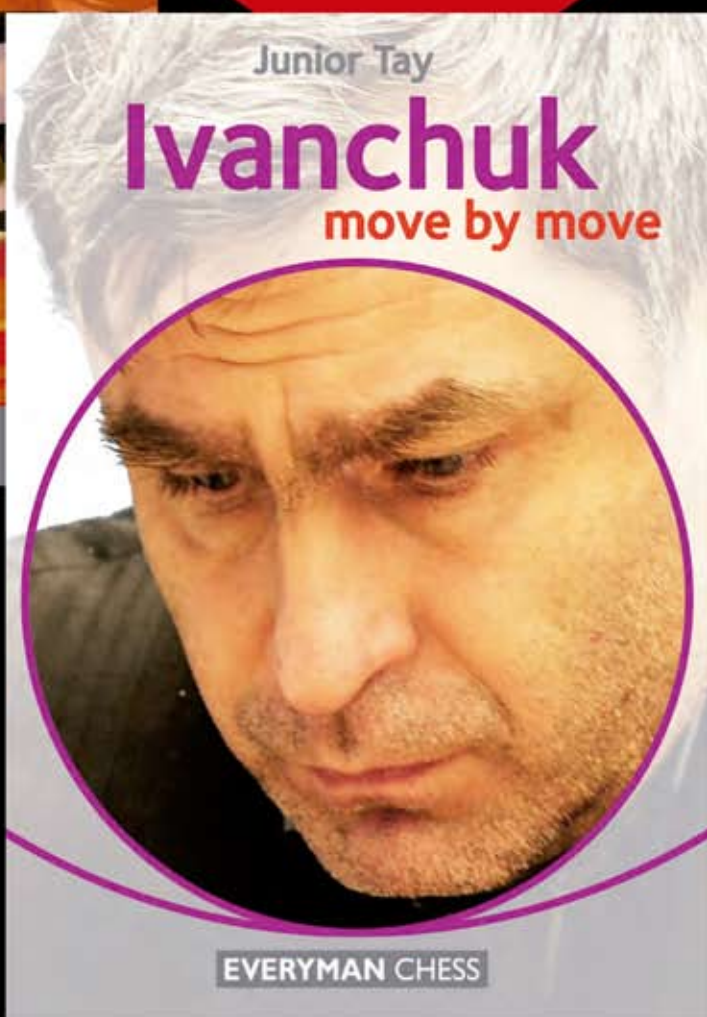
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