

CHESS MOVES

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Hikaru Nakamura wins the 2016 Tradewise Gibraltar Masters

Congratulations were in order for Hikaru Nakamura (USA), winner of the Tradewise Gibraltar Masters for a second consecutive year. He defeated Frenchman Maxime Vachier-Lagrave 3-2 after a tense five game speed playoff. Anna Muzychuk from Ukraine won the women's award ...



New Chief Executive

At its meeting today [January 15th], the ECF Board has appointed Mike Truran to fill the post of Chief Executive, which had been vacant since the AGM. Mike vacates the post of Chairman of the Finance Committee which he has hitherto held; the Board will now be taking steps to make an appointment to this position.



Chairman of the Governance Committee

The ECF Board has appointed Robert Stern to fill the vacant position of Chairman of the Governance Committee. Robert has worked for Slaughter and May since 1984, spending the last 22 years as a partner in the Corporate Department. An active chess player in the 1970s as a junior, he has returned to chess in the last few years, and plays club chess for Albany and Pimlico and is a regular participant in tournaments.



Chairman of the Finance Committee

The ECF Board has appointed Tim Herring to fill the vacant position of Chairman of the Finance Committee. Tim has worked for Moody's Corporation since 1996 and his current role is as Senior Vice-President – International Financial Strategy & Analysis. He is a qualified Chartered Accountant and has a broad and extensive financial background.

Tim says — *I am a member of the ECF, and have played chess rather badly since my youth. I am a club standard player, and have been to the annual BCC for the last few years ...*

County Championship draw

The skeleton draw for the National Stages of the County Championship has been made and can be viewed at <http://www.englishchess.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/2016-County-Championship-Draw.xlsx>

Grand Prix Controller – update

Stephen Crockett has confirmed his intention to stand down from his role as Controller of the Tradewise Grand Prix with immediate effect, and has also asked that he not be considered eligible for any Grand Prix prizes. We would like to thank Stephen for his hard work as a volunteer on the ECF's behalf.

John Morland Brew - died 20 September 2015 aged 84.

My profound apologies that his passing has only just come to my attention. John Brew was the first to be appointed an Honorary Life Member of the British Chess Federation. His principal contribution was as Managing Partner of Grieveson, Grant, which company sponsored the British Chess Championship from 1978 for over 10 years. Prior to that stockbrokers hadn't been allowed to advertise. This was the first time any had undertaken business sponsorship. The day following the announcement, John appeared on TV, that in itself being sufficient to justify the initial cost of the sponsorship. Grieveson, Grant were later taken over by Kleinwort Benson, but the very generous sponsorship continued. In that time, the strength of English chess at the top was transformed, due substantially to their support. The company also helped in other ways, making a computer available for grading and supporting Nigel Short's first entry into the World Championship cycle.

Eventually John retired and, as often happens, Kleinwort Benson lost interest.

Our condolences to his family, including his widow, Hilda.

Sir Christopher Jeremy Morse - born 10 December 1928, passed away peacefully Thursday 4 February 2016.

He was a banker, highly expert in cryptic crosswords and a chess problemist, specialising particularly in those with very long solutions. He was author of 'Chess Problems, Tasks and Records'. He was also Chancellor of the

University of Bristol 1989-2003. The fictional detective working in Oxford was named after him by the author Colin Dexter.

He became Chairman of Lloyds Bank in 1977 and remained in office until 1993. At that time the bank started supporting junior chess. The Lloyds Bank Masters started in 1977 and ran until 1994. It was the first event in the world to demonstrate that it was possible to gain title norms in open Swisses. There are now events all over the world organised in this format. He presented the prizes there every year and many chess players will remember him.

It is apposite that he died on the last day of the Tradewise 14th Gibraltar Chess Festival. Our condolences to his family.

— *Stewart Reuben*

Coaches for International Junior Chess Events

The ECF still needs coaches for International Junior Chess events like the World Youth Chess Championships and the European Schools Chess Championships. If you are an experienced, highly-graded/rated coach and would like to express interest, please complete the short form at <http://englishchess.org.uk/Juniors/play-for-england/junior-selection-policy/coaches-expression-of-interest-form/>

2016 Finance Council meeting

The 2016 Finance Council meeting will take place on the afternoon of 16 April in London. 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 2016/17. Other business can be included on the agenda if it is proposed by or on behalf of the Board (which is intending, inter alia, to bring force proposals to implement some of the recommendations of the Independent Constitutional & Governance Review Commission) 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 9 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: individual Direct Members do NOT qualify as requisitionists.

Tournament Round-Up

Tradewise Gibraltar Chess Festival 2016 - from the full report by John Saunders

Another Tradewise Gibraltar Masters tournament (the 14th) is over and I can't help feeling a little bit sad, as you do at the end of a really fantastic party spent with all your friends. That's exactly what this tournament is, actually. An amazing two-week-long party thrown by the sponsors and organisers and people of Gibraltar for anyone who cares to show up, play some chess and have a good time. And, the miraculous thing is, in the midst of all that fun and jollity and socialising, there is a world-class chess tournament taking place. For all of us feeling a bit flat after the excitement of the last round and the celebrations, there is some good news: we're going to do it all again next year. I can't wait. Neither should you, readers. Next year's dates are 23 January to 2 February 2017. Put it in your diary now. You too could be part of the greatest chess party on earth.

In the end the tournament was won by the ratings favourite, Hikaru Nakamura. But it was a very different victory from that of 2015. Last year he ploughed straight through the field, starting with 6/6 and maintaining cruise control to reach 8½/10. This year he took a more circuitous route around the rock. He started well (2/2) and finished well (3/3) but there was an uncertain period in the middle part of the tournament (3/5), leading to a tie with Maxime Vachier-Lagrave on 8/10. Two series of two-game tie-breakers were all drawn, necessitating the drama of an Armageddon game, where White has six minutes, Black has five (and one-second increments from move 60) but White must win and Black only needs to draw to decide the tie. Hikaru had a slice of luck here - a toss-up gave him choice of colour. He chose Black, as is usual in these circumstances. Maxime had to press for the win but in the process pressed too hard and lost. Hikaru thus took the winner's cheque of £20,000 and Maxime picked up the second prize of £16,000.

I asked Hikaru how the 2016 victory compared with that of 2015 and he didn't hesitate in saying that there was no comparison: 2015 was the more decisive and satisfying victory, whereas he still didn't quite believe he had won in 2016. It had been a hard fight. But in my view it had been testament to his matchless determination to come back from being a point behind the leaders only three rounds before the end and still win. Hikaru never gives up: the strain is etched on his face sometimes but he never stops fighting if there is still a sliver of a chance to be exploited.

For Maxime it must have been a considerable disappointment, having been edged out by an even more arbitrary tie-break system in London only a month or so before. But he accepted it with his customary equanimity. I've never seen Maxime employ the Gallic shrug but his usually deadpan expression, with the occasional flicker of good humour, conveys his calm demeanour and gracious acceptance of the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune. Lady Luck (is she known as 'Madame Chance' in French?) will surely favour him one day in some of these elite tournaments. Hikaru paid him the compliment of saying that only Magnus Carlsen could have given him as much trouble in a rapid shoot-out. This claim accords well with the official FIDE blitz rating list, which currently shows Carlsen top on 2890, Nakamura second on 2884 and Vachier-Lagrave third on 2871. MVL is a real asset to the game of chess, both as a player and as a man.

Earlier in the day, at 11am, the players sat down for the tenth and final round. A play-off seemed likely at the start, given that there were eight players on 7/9 and so it proved. Nakamura, having only got back into contention in the previous, having been a full point off the speed in round seven, made no mistake against David Antón Guijarro when the young Spaniard finally weakened after his splendid front-running tournament. Hikaru on his best form makes winning look almost routine.



Hikaru in Round 10 playing David Antón Guijarro (Spain)

Winton Capital Solving Championships 2016

The Winton Capital Solving Championships 2016, organised by the British Chess Problem Society (BCPS), took place on Saturday, 20 February at Eton College, Berkshire.

At the awards ceremony, Grandmaster of Composition, John Rice, paid tribute to Sir Jeremy Morse who died recently. He was Chair of Lloyds Bank during the period when they sponsored the innovative Masters events in London in the late 70s to early 80s and had himself been a keen chess player in his youth, a published problem composer in his maturity and a crossword compiler of note. It is rumoured that Colin Dexter's fictional detective, Inspector Morse, was named after Sir Jeremy.



Awards, prizes and cheques were presented by James Brilliant on behalf of the sponsors, Winton Capital. The connection between sponsor and event seems particularly apt in this case as Winton Capital are an investment company employing physicists and mathematicians to bring their theoretical skills to bear on creating models to predict movements in the shares market and, therefore, aim to solve problems of a different but perhaps related kind!

Prizes awarded were as follows —

Closed Championship

1st Prize – John Nunn; 2nd Prize – Jonathan Mestel; 3rd Prize – Colin McNab
4th Prize – David Friedgood; 5th Prize – Dafydd Johnston
Prize for highest placed finalist rated under 2100 – Les Blackstock

Open Championship

1st Prize – Eddy van Beers (BEL); 2nd Prize – Piotr Murdzia (POL)
3rd Prize – Dolf Wissmann (NED); 4th Prize – Marek Kolcak (SVK)

In addition, three specially invited juniors, Theodore Diaz, Daniel Southern and Jia Feng, were all awarded small prizes.

Images from the event may be found at <https://johnupham.smugmug.com/Chess/BCPS/Winton-2016/> [courtesy of John Upham]

Bristol Spring Congress

The Bristol Spring Congress 2016 was held at Bristol Grammar School (BGS) on February 26th – 28th. There were 76 players in total. There were a couple of unusual features about this congress – we had very equal distribution between our 3 sections, all between 22 – 27, and for the first time www.chess-results.com was used. This allowed all pairings to be available in advance, as well as displaying results and grading performance. The next congress

runs from June 10th to the 12th, followed by the Steve Boniface Memorial on August 26th – 28th.

FIDE rated Open (table below)

This section ended in a tie for first place between our regular GM Keith Arkell and FM Ezra Kirk, teammates in the 4NCL, both with 4½. Sole third place was won by Steven Meek on 3½.

GM Arkell displayed to the watching crowd in the last round why he is considered a world class endgame specialist. With just a few minutes each left (plus increment) he won a dramatic game in the last round. As Keith said afterwards, “I went from being lost, to worse, to equal, to better, to won.”

Third place Steven Meek won a 16 move miniature against the third seed, trapping his queen in the middle of the board, and 14 year old Max French upset American Daniel Malkiel to overcome 300 points grading difference. All games from the open can be found (shortly) on www.chessit.co.uk

Major

The Major was won by top seed Chris Purry with 4 points, despite taking a first round bye. Chris has consistently played in the Open in recent years, but his grade has now allowed him to play in the Major. He is also an experienced arbiter at the Frome Congress in mid-May.

2nd place was shared by two local players – James Hennefeld and Howard Millbank. James is an occasional congress player and said this was his best result in 10 years. Howard was one of the lowest seeds, but he has been at 160 in his prime.

Minor

The Minor was won by last-minute entry Jason Blaxill, a local Bristol player. 2nd place was shared by Geoff Ainsley and David McGeeney. Interesting to note that the top 5 players were all within the top 6 seeds.

FIDE rated Open - table

1	1	GM	Arkell Keith C	ENG	2457	4NCL Cheddleton	4.5
	2	FM	Kirk Ezra G	ENG	2306	4NCL Cheddleton	4.5
3	11		Meek Stephen J	ENG	2012	South Bristol	3.5
4	4		Hill Alistair	ENG	2164	Battersea	3.0
	7		Dilleigh Stephen P	ENG	2072	Horfield & Redland	3.0
	8		Payne Matthew J	ENG	2029		3.0
	9	CM	Kirby Peter J	GCI	2015	Thornbury Bristol	3.0
	10		Mcdougall William M	SCO	2013	Chichester	3.0
	20		French Max	ENG	1839		3.0
	22		Ramprasad Cherupalli	IND	1615		3.0
11	3		Bicknell Carl	ENG	2208	Horfield & Redland	2.5
	6		Martin Lewis	ENG	2080	Bristol University	2.5
	12		Hatchett Paul D	WLS	1983	4NCL Rhyfelwyr Essylwg	2.5
	13		Hearne Rob	ENG	1981	Bath	2.5
	23		Pergantis Ilias-Nikolaos	GRE	1528		2.5
16	14		Appleby Stephen	ENG	1953	Burnley	2.0
	15		Perrin Brent	ENG	1923	Horfield & Redland	2.0
18	5		Malkiel Daniel Em	USA	2162	United States	1.5
	16		Sierra Jimenez Manuel	ESP	1895		1.5
	18		Price Andrew	ENG	1867		1.5
	21		Timmins Chris P	ENG	1773		1.5
22	17		Turner Joseph David	WLS	1894		0.5
23	19		Kramaley David	ENG	1844		0.0

The ECF Chess Academy - Traci Whitfield



The ECF Chess Academy is a national academy which was launched at the British Championships in July 2015 and the first programme (the International Programme) was launched in Runcorn at the Holiday Inn at the beginning of January 2016. The 30 students were selected from the many applicants and we had 11 students selected for the "Academy Plus" programme from those who narrowly missed selection for the other programme.

The International Programme is a 3 year programme with applicants signing up to attend all sessions over the 3 years so it's a big commitment for them. This particular programme is aimed at ambitious, talented juniors with potential, many of whom are likely at the end of the 3 years to move up to the "Elite" Tier (there are 4 tiers in the academy) and begin seeking their FIDE title norms. The Academy Plus

programmes follows the same FIDE syllabus as the International Programme but is taught in a slightly more relaxed way. Students do not have to attend all the study weekends but those that do are in an ideal position to move up to the International Programme if they show exceptional progress and a place becomes available.

The Academy study weekends move around the country each time so that everyone gets their share of travel and "local" events. Guest coaches with FIDE titles are invited to teach 4 subjects during the weekend and set homework to be completed before the next weekend.

You can find the ECF Academy prospectus on the ECF junior website - it explains about the endurance training tournaments, the study weekends, the Titled Players Panel, the online resources, the syllabus, the level of study, the titled coaches, hours of coaching, the homework and the parental and student support which includes "compulsory" lessons for parents of juniors on the International programme.

The Academy study weekend began with juniors arriving on New Year's Day from all over England. At the opening event, following a welcome by the ECF Director of Junior Chess and Education and an address by ECF President Dominic Lawson (which was read out as unfortunately he could not be present), each student was presented with a comprehensive welcome pack, which included their set text book, by their coach. During this weekend our 4 titled coaches taught 38 juniors in small groups. Their brief was simple – teach the FIDE Syllabus at an advanced level and ensure that every junior finds it interesting, challenging and useful. Andrew Martin (who is also our academy Head of Programmes), Graeme Buckley, Ravi Kumar and Charlie Storey worked hard to make the sessions fit the bill exactly. When not in sessions, the juniors were expected to follow the ethos of the study weekend by following 3 simple rules: healthy eating, plenty of sleep and absolutely no electronic games (though we did make an exception for chess!) The parents also had lessons in the mornings for 2½ hours followed by 15 minute one to one and group networking sessions in the afternoons. Parental sessions focussed on helping their children to develop their ability and resilience and to maximise concentration in games.

One of the most important objectives of the first study weekend was to encourage the players to get to know each other and to make friends as a strong supportive network often makes chess a more successful, social and enjoyable activity. You can see from the photograph that the group had made good progress in this area by the end of the weekend. We are all looking forward to the next weekend which is in the Midlands in April.

The ECF Academy could not have done any of this without support from many groups and individuals. We would like to thank everyone and for this particular weekend special thanks go to the ECF and JRT for financial and practical support, to the 4NCL for arranging the venue and donating their commission, to Chess and Bridge as well as Gareth Ellis for helping us with the equipment and welcome packs and especially to Gareth for giving up his time to help us during the weekend itself.

- Traci Whitfield, Director of Junior Chess and Education

South of England Junior Championships

— Andrew Martin, via the EC Forum

Full results can be found at <http://results.tournamentdirector.co.uk/index.asp>

288 played, a new record and a fitting tribute to Joe French. The event ran like clockwork and I could not have wished for a better team —

Amy Grieve (Secretary); Chris Howell, Sue Howell, Mike Forster (Closed Championship controllers); Peter Purland (Closed Championships selector); Catherine and Peter Finn (U15/U13 controllers, grading and results); Victor Cross (U11 controller); Chris Archer-Lock, Helen Archer Lock (U10/U9 controllers)
Ken Coates, Christine Coates (U7/U8 controllers); Tristan Morris, Julie Callan (Yateley Manor facilities staff); the Yateley Manor maintenance and kitchen staff.

Thanks to all who came along for making this such a memorable weekend.

W&WoE Junior Championship – pictures [top to bottom, left to right]

The Mayor makes the first move; beginners; Major; Minor; U14; U12 Champs; U12 Challengers; Under 10; Under 9; Under 8; Sat. Inter; Sun. Inter; the Trophies!





Tradewise Grand Prix Leader Boards - 1st March 2016

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/>

Open 180+

	Ref	Name	Club/Area	Grade	Mem No	Pts
1	112455K	Hebden, Mark L	4NCL Guildford	241	G4157	627
2	105817E	Arkell, Keith C	4NCL Cheddleton	243	G15972	600
3	154721F	Cherniaev, Alexander	Hackney	237	S25369	589
4	273236B	Oyama, Akito	Cambridge City	197	JG17242	586
5	119904D	Surtees, Mike J	Bolton	197	G17950	584
6	282399J	Kalavannan, Koby	Coulsdon CF	202	JG6614	570
7	156101H	Burnett, Jim	Mansfield	197	G9194	559
8	283656H	Golding, Alex	Coulsdon CF	194	JG17052	551
9	118171D	Rogers, Tim L	Hendon	184	G6485	530
10	113054H	House, Glenn L	Morecambe	209	G3368	529
11	121366A	Wells, Jonathan C	North Norfolk	185	G14103	526
12	250022L	Gaudeau, Valentin	Richmond Juniors	197	G24514	515
13	241589G	Jaunooby, Ali Reza	Denton	196	G4139	512
14	103545K	Gormally, Daniel W	4NCL Blackthorne Russia	245	G3659	512
15	107574D	Bryant, Richard BE	Chester	181	G2289	501

Women 180+

	Ref	Name	Club/Area	Grade	Mem No	Pts
1	268368E	Giles, Yasmin	4NCL KJCA Kings	189	JG17490	299
2	280020C	Kalaiyalahan, Akshaya	Coulsdon CF	201	JG6425	294
3	123515B	Houska, Jovanka	Wood Green, Hilsmark Kingfisher	228	G4245	205
4	291537G	Sucikova, Svetlana	Hertford	201	JG20260	171
5	263500J	Ciuksyte, Dagne	4NCL Guildford	223	G5675	138
6	222273F	Norinkeviciute, Rasa	Hastings & St Leonards	190	S19204	113
7	185204J	Hegarty, Sarah N	Marple	195	G3108	107
8	263196K	Shepherd, Katherine M	Ashted	180	JG4441	64
9	182900C	Chevannes, Sabrina L	4NCL Cambridge Uni	191	G4363	49
10	142397G	Bhatia, Kanwal K	4NCL Barbican	195	G1303	32
11	277113F	Maroroa, Sue Y	4NCL White Rose	213	G20434	30
12	262210F	Hoare, Amy B	4NCL Sussex Martlets	187	JG5602	19

Open 160-179

	Ref	Name	Club/Area	Grade	Mem No	Pts
1	162291C	Jackson, Paul G	Coulsdon CF	172	G4609	572
2	116382G	O'Gorman, Brendan	DHSS	160	G4320	555
3	242398E	Hjort, Helge	Hendon	177	G3467	534
4	181426G	Burns, Martin J	Stockport	171	G6185	485
5	119124L	Slinger, AJ (Tony)	Undercliffe	167	G6481	484
6	115269F	McDonnell, James J	Streatham	173	S19848	472
7	174940H	Bonafont, Philip R	Hemel Hempstead	179	G4017	464
8	163643B	Coward, Neil	Blackpool	164	G4561	449
9	130537C	Kelly, Paul J	Hastings & St Leonards	171	G4335	443
10	234765K	McDonagh, Michael	Chester	168	G18605	436
11	266464B	Pink, Joshua	Coventry Chess	178	G4601	427
12	248245K	Wright, Jonathan	London *	177	G5722	415
13	106176J	Barasi, Paul DL	Wimbledon	162	G19033	411
14	104852B	Whitehead, Mark A	Rochdale	170	G15489	407
15	271868G	Sagues, Vincent	Albany	168	G19153	398

Women 160-179

	Ref	Name	Club/Area	Grade	Mem No	Pts
1	117791G	Regan, Natasha K	4NCL Barbican	179	G23698	364
2	298915D	Matta, Francesca	Bicester	170	S27491	143

3	240315J	Grigoryan, Meri	Cavendish	175	G2304	90
4	240411E	Messam-Sparks, Lateefah	Newcastle University	166	G17961	55
5	269274A	Zhu, Yao Yao	Urmston	169	G17024	41
6	154790C	Atkins, Rita	Cambridgeshire *	175	G24474	22

Open 140-159

	Ref	Name	Club/Area	Grade	Mem No	Pts
1	111388E	Goodfellow, Russell R	Tunbridge Wells	152	G5615	596
2	122453A	Finnegan, Oliver	Loughton	151	G17636	583
3	114423G	Lim, Yu-Chin (Peter)	Harrow *	141	G23561	569
4	300350E	Wiltshir, Rich	Rushall	142	G28232	556
5	259148A	Foley, Phil T	Upminster	147	G4414	541
6	230106E	Clegg, Robert	Huddersfield	158	G3088	533
7	104806F	Cawston, M John	Lady Anne Mdlton	153	G9196	524
8	128713J	Wilson, Matthew R	Devon *	155	G17805	520
9	140662A	Pride, Stephen C	Cambridge City	146	G3453	515
10	109622K	Desmedt, Richard E	Wombwell	152	G3411	509
11	220688C	Papier, Alan R	Bristol & Clifton	148	G6187	502
12	127076L	Woodward, Tim F	Trowbridge	156	G6434	492
13	108722J	Connor, Michael I	Great Lever	151	S15540	484
14	247156F	Rubeck, Jonathan	Hendon	155	G25948	483
15	112597H	Hibbitt, Arthur M	Bristol Grendel	156	G17515	480

Women 140-159

	Ref	Name	Club/Area	Grade	Mem No	Pts
1	252646D	Mate, Maria	Cowley	158	S19405	99
2	263175B	Milson, Amy F	Louth	141	G17148	91
3	108565H	Headlong, Fenella	4NCL Brown Jack	141	G6024	56
4	290173A	Milewska, Agnieszka	West London	151	S22605	55
5	281559L	Roberts, Lynda	Thornbury Bristol	148	S17779	54
6	121303K	Green, Fiona	Chorlton-cum-Hardy	147	G17190	29
7	272105D	York-Andersen, Anna	Cambridge University	141	G26242	16

Open 120-139

	Ref	Name	Club/Area	Grade	Mem No	Pts
1	274725L	Fraser, Chris A	West Bridgford	127	S19796	600
2	108147A	Chadaway, Stephen M	Olton	136	G17617	529
3	283350F	Bullock, Lee	London *	130	G18801	526
4	118502A	Sartain, Patrick P	Hanham Folk Centre	124	G20508	509
5	283243E	Mitchell, Robert S	New Zealand	127	G17014	504
6	258940A	Allen, Timothy S	Battersea	126	G4415	502
7	123333G	Gilbert, David J	DHSS	138	G3430	501
8	170919H	Williams, Stephen	Cwmbran	139	S25816	472
9	293495E	Fisher, Neal	Peterborough	122	G23435	470
10	276572L	Egan, William J	Scunthorpe	124	G6039	466
11	264336E	Crouch, Timothy J	Kings Head	128	P5843	462
12	106888L	Blencowe, Ian P	Gloucester	133	G2910	411
=13	125922C	Gelder, Paul	Alwoodley	125	S22564	402
=13	284700A	Ross, Stuart	Newport (Shropshire)	130	G6695	402
15	139649D	Harper, Michael J	Gambit	121	S17834	388

Women 120-139

	Ref	Name	Club/Area	Grade	Mem No	Pts
1	179055K	Boztas, Lana	Coulsdon CF	123	G1809	253
2	105540K	Ainscow, Faye	Kings Head	127	S18122	234
3	281105E	Heffer, Judith	Bishops Stortford	132	S19372	210
4	240374C	Moore, Gillian A	Southampton	139	G4997	180
5	120714D	Camp, Syringa Lyn	Colwyn Bay	124	G6100	179
6	295211H	Pacion, Dorota	South Bristol	129	S27306	170
7	285525C	O'Brien, Megan E	Plymouth	133	S21545	157
=8	103414F	Fraser, Susan A	Darlington	120	G2267	130

=8	253266K	Mountford, Corinne	Hertford	137	G5771	130
=10	247136L	Denning, Julie L	Horsham	129	P6531	65
=10	257469L	Hiley, Catherine	Rugeley	136	S21438	65
12	116277K	Norman, Dinah M	Wokingham *	131	G17233	54
13	287733J	Orsagova, Erika	Greater London Chess Club	135	S21509	44
=14	254183L	Rutherford, Kathy	Metropolitan	135	S27375	29
=14	293684H	Georgiou, Georgia	Warrington *	129	S29053	29

Open U120

	Ref	Name	Club/Area	Grade	Mem No	Pts
1	140257C	Fraser, Alan R	Beckenham & Bromley	106	G2908	583
2	111361G	Goldsmith, Jennifer	Harrow	107	G6876	564
3	191456L	Maber, Martyn J	Taunton	104	G25858	518
4	111052E	Gardiner, Colin J	Newmarket	108	S1469	492
5	292592J	Hawthorne, Julian NH	Kidsgrove	118	S18820	486
6	275787E	Oyama, Harunobu	Cambridge City	118	G17382	478
7	163954H	Miles, Barry S	Coulsdon CF	115	G4976	464
8	274379G	Macdonald, John R	Kings Head	110	G6972	464
9	180180G	De Santos, Andrew R	Preston	111	G15092	448
10	107186F	Bramley, Douglas	Spondon	109	S18495	439
11	107845J	Bynnersley, AG (Tony)	West London	119	G6916	432
12	181078K	Robson, Caroline J	Barnet Elizabeth	99	G4002	420
13	182309H	Share, Stan RS	Willesden & Brent	114	G3394	414
14	111696E	Gretton, Margaret L	Gambit	106	S21042	413
15	154123H	Daly, Grant	Downend & Fishponds	100	G24519	405

Women U120

	Ref	Name	Club/Area	Grade	Mem No	Pts
1	111361G	Goldsmith, Jennifer	Harrow	107	G6876	564
2	181078K	Robson, Caroline J	Barnet Elizabeth	99	G4002	420
3	111696E	Gretton, Margaret L	Gambit	106	S21042	413
4	104846G	Welch, Hazel	Seaton	99	G2831	375
5	176063E	Chadwick, Susan E	Brighton & Hove	107	G2429	279
6	178127D	Blackburn, Sandra G	Cheddleton & Leek	118	S15026	245
7	287646C	Woollard, Josephine	Sheffield Nomads	82	S17016	199
8	297321C	Carr, Wendy	Havant *	47	G26347	134
9	115894G	Mosse, Denise M	Gateshead	119	P8579	129
10	110326L	Evans, Helen I	Essex *	112	G4198	116
11	122659K	Cox, Marian	Southampton *	84	G17114	111
12	296558G	Gardiner, Rebecca LG	Newmarket	64	S25949	86
13	259525E	Petrie, Morven	Scotland	110	JS21586	85
14	186045J	Constable, Christine F	Bude	98	S6207	75
15	285392K	Walker, Kate	Telepost (Shrewsbury)	119	S18463	65

Junior Prix

	Ref	Name	Club/Area	Grade	Mem No	Pts
1	294993D	Yoon, Jacob D	Middlesex Juniors	140	JG24229	636
2	273236B	Oyama, Akito	Cambridge City	197	JG17242	586
3	282399J	Kalavannan, Koby	Coulsdon CF	202	JG6614	570
4	300010C	Saidmurodov, Shahjahon	Kent Junior Congresses	133	JG28149	560
5	287750J	Ahluwalia, Amardip	Sussex Juniors	166	JG17043	556
6	295006G	Dias, Savin	Herts Juniors	136	JG24485	554
7	297586F	Jaufarally, Nadia	Essex Juniors	120	JG26513	553
8	295162K	Kolani, Arjun	Sussex Juniors	134	JG26760	553
9	287441G	Salmons, Calum	Sussex Juniors	141	JG23315	553
10	283656H	Golding, Alex	Coulsdon CF	194	JG17052	551
11	290756C	Tombolis, Christopher	London *	144	JG17005	546
12	282441D	Verma, Aditya	Ilford	166	JG6670	540
13	295477B	Metcalfe, Charlie P	Kent Juniors	120	JP25223	536
14	280882B	Varney, Zoe	Cumnor	175	JG17170	533
15	294295B	Ratnesan, Rajeiv	Surrey Juniors	128	JS24218	527

Junior Prix – Women

	Ref	Name	Club/Area	Grade	Mem No	Pts
1	297586F	Jaufarally, Nadia	Essex Juniors	120	JG26513	553
2	280882B	Varney, Zoe	Cumnor	175	JG17170	533
3	284928J	Ramaiya, Arushi	Surrey Juniors	125	JG6987	520
4	290588H	Somton, Anita	Bury Knights	150	JG6955	507
5	294266F	Sheikh, Anum	Middlesex Juniors	127	JG24565	504
6	296859K	Ratnesan, Radha	Surrey Juniors	100	JG26025	470
7	291801J	Desai, Nilomi	Surrey Juniors	132	JG22807	468
8	286240C	Bennet-Stevens, Lucy	Sussex Juniors	141	JG28065	440
9	284548K	Willow, Hambel M	West Nottingham	136	JS21060	438
10	298508B	Shchepinova, Polina	Sussex Juniors	95	JS26881	433
11	276682G	Graham, Cassie M	Sussex Juniors	160	JG17228	432
12	291209A	Rahulan, Thivyaa	Cheddleton & Leek	124	JG17341	429
13	295494B	Vanguelova, Ralitza	North London Collegiate School	96	JG25357	423
14	290444F	Finn, Elizabeth	Sussex Juniors	91	JS24591	410
15	291563H	Sawhney, Anisha	North London Collegiate School	122	JG23132	408

Tradewise Most Improved Players Leader Boards - 1st March 2016**Adults U180**

Ref	Name	Club/Area	Grade	Mem No	Increase	Weighted Increase
1 266464B	Pink, Joshua	Coventry Chess	171	G4601	17	95.54
2 116382G	O’Gorman, Brendan	DHSS	153	G4320	12	90.84
3 118171D	Rogers, Tim L	Hendon	174	G6485	17	83.64
4 166299F	Round, R Michael	Rose Forgrove	171	G18322	18	78.66
5 108682A	Comley, Ian S	Horsham	151	G19772	22	77.44
6 278255J	Ho, Marco	South Birmingham	145	S24523	18	75.24
7 259148A	Foley, Phil T	Upminster	142	G4414	11	71.50
8 285763H	Staniforth, Matthew	Bath	162	G26200	19	69.92
9 162803D	Milnes, John DH	Bradford Central	151	S18989	18	67.14
10 115193K	McAllan, Ian	Dartford & Swanley	159	S6153	18	65.34
11 111388E	Goodfellow, Russell R	Tunbridge Wells	148	G5615	13	64.35
12 157248K	Walker, Nicholas A	West Bromwich	168	G4755	18	63.90
13 171243D	Burrows, Nick	Cowley	163	G18367	17	60.52
14 127472H	Kennelly, Paul	Hammersmith	157	G17337	14	59.08
15 263915E	Gazes, Matthew	Snodland	163	S17946	23	58.65

Adults U140

Ref	Name	Club/Area	Grade	Mem No	Increase	Weighted Increase
1 152877E	Walters, Philip J	Carlisle Austin Friars	125	G26084	32	142.72
2 295199L	Snook-Lumb, Chris	Swindon	139	G24885	20	130.00
3 174167G	Macarthur, Duncan M	Keynsham	126	S17407	23	98.44
4 288768L	Musgrove, Peter	Swindon	135	G26817	22	88.66
5 172394H	Jelliss, George P	Hastings & St Leonards	81	S17602	18	84.60
6 284700A	Ross, Stuart	Newport (Shropshire)	127	G6695	12	78.72
7 293495E	Fisher, Neal	Peterborough	112	G23435	14	77.00
8 274725L	Fraser, Chris A	West Bridgford	120	S19796	11	75.90
9 223622K	Metcalfe, William G	Darlington	102	S11196	20	73.60
10 111859G	Hadfield, Roy	Leamington	116	G6439	20	71.20
11 156363E	Greenaway, TV	Torquay	130	S17343	17	68.51
12 292645D	Taylor, Phil	Liverpool	69	B21289	21	67.41
13 279777L	Walker, Adrian N	Stroud	136	G6516	14	66.78
14 264948C	Stebbings, Dave B	Gosforth	132	S8170	18	64.80
15 297490D	Gissi, Alberto	Newcastle-under-Lyme	101	S27062	21	64.26

Juniors Over 140

Ref	Name	Club/Area	Grade	Mem No	Increase	Weighted Increase
1 290588H	Somton, Anita	Bury Knights	142	JG6955	21	126.42
2 291743K	Miller, Dominic	Sussex Juniors	146	JG18220	29	124.99

3 283609K	Moreby, James E	Jesmond	178	JG8495	23	121.67
4 288744H	Jayawarna, Nugith	Heywood	170	JG17257	19	114.38
5 286725E	Yesudian, Rohan	Chester Juniors	155	JS16244	26	111.02
6 277163K	Boswell, Jacob Connor	Cheddleton & Leek	145	JG6421	16	109.12
7 283656H	Golding, Alex	Coulsdon CF	181	JG17052	17	107.44
8 287750J	Ahluwalia, Amardip	Sussex Juniors	159	JG17043	16	97.44
9 284572G	Herring, Sam AC	Oundle School	166	JG6928	18	89.28
10 272621L	Jina, Taran	Herts Juniors	157	JG17150	25	87.00
11 276340A	Zhang, Zheming	Jesmond	166	JG8379	20	85.80
12 279873G	Gallagher, Daniel GH	Maldon	178	JG17251	15	84.60
13 282399J	Kalavannan, Koby	Coulsdon CF	192	JG6614	11	83.49
14 280020C	Kalaiyalahan, Akshaya	Coulsdon CF	196	JG6425	15	80.10
15 263810B	Wadsworth, Matthew J	Maidenhead	207	JG4383	16	79.52

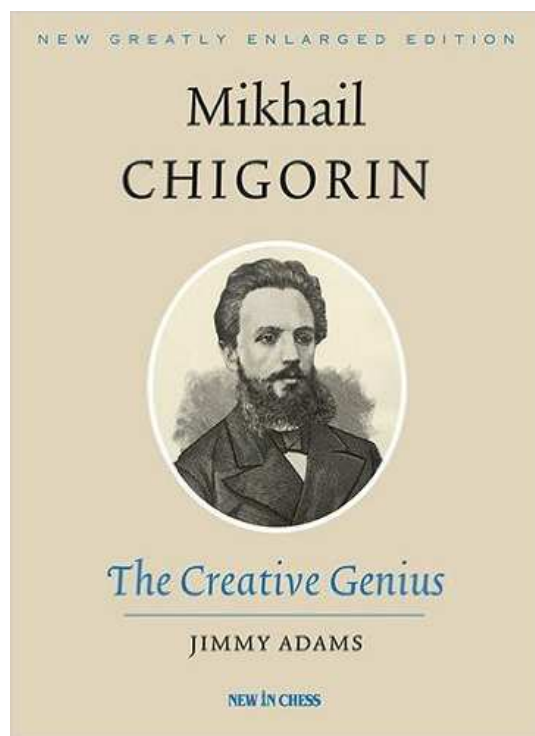
Juniors Over 100

Ref	Name	Club/Area	Grade	Mem No	Increase	Weighted Increase
1 283983A	Nayak, Aurideep	Coulsdon CF	105	JG25677	31	192.82
2 292972H	Modi, Shyam Jagdish	Leicestershire Juniors	127	JG23605	41	180.40
3 295006G	Dias, Savin	Herts Juniors	117	JG24485	31	177.01
4 291904H	Saravanan, Aadarsh	Kent Junior Congresses	100	JG22795	32	165.44
5 294993D	Yoon, Jacob D	Middlesex Juniors	119	JG24229	29	161.24
6 290658C	Kumaresan, Darshan	Surrey Juniors	133	JG23385	24	142.56
7 295162K	Kolani, Arjun	Sussex Juniors	117	JG26760	30	137.70
8 287441G	Salmons, Calum	Sussex Juniors	134	JG23315	28	127.68
9 298946D	Graham, Frazer	Fareham	117	JS27495	35	127.40
10 289559G	Davies, Sam	Southport *	118	JG16395	28	121.24
11 294295B	Ratnesan, Rajeiv	Surrey Juniors	116	JS24218	20	119.40
12 272323C	Howell, Oliver W	Sussex Juniors	134	JG17225	21	114.45
13 284147C	Samworth-Calvier, J	Sussex Juniors	118	JG23685	26	114.40
14 293755E	Modi, Kishan J	Leicestershire Juniors	112	JG23606	24	109.68
15 291419A	Hodge, Nicholas A	Plymouth	131	JG17427	25	109.50



Mikhail Chigorin: The Creative Genius by Jimmy Adams

Published by New In Chess, Hardback, 750 pages, £32.50



The Russian Chess Champion has his games and life examined by the celebrated English writer allowing you to know more than you ever wanted to know about a leading figure in chess history.

I should quickly point out to a younger audience that you will not hear tales about Carlsen and Kasparov here because Chigorin (1850-1908) lived in another era where life for a chess player was hard. The reason was the author was attracted to the subject is because Chigorin is acclaimed in Russia as a great player for his creative style and his determination to win.

A large number of old Soviet sources are used to provide background to his life and insight to his games which flows in an agreeable manner. I like the fact that New In Chess go to the effort of providing numerous photos of old masters, so when games featuring characters like Adolf Anderssen and Rudolf Spielmann appear, you have some idea of what they looked like, which makes it more interesting.

It is a compelling read because Chigorin's story is so amazing with links to poverty, glory and fame. If the title sounds familiar then that is

because Adams produced a different version which came out in 1987 with a mere 292 pages, so this is a vastly improved product.

A perfect gift for anyone who appreciates the history of chess.

Spassky: Move by Move by Zenón Franco

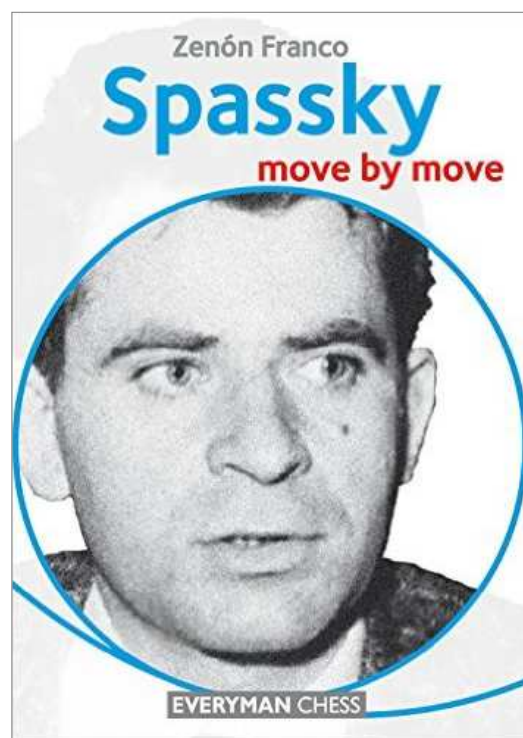
Published by Everyman Chess, 464 pages £19.99

Boris Spassky is the former World Champion who made chess headline news around the world after his match against Bobby Fischer in 1972. Well, if that all sounds familiar to some it is worth repeating, because younger players do not always pursue chess history. Indeed, I have been lucky enough to coach juniors at the European and World juniors and not everyone knows the difference between Bob Jones and David Bronstein.

However, in any interview with the elite players they always quote games played by the old stars, so looking at games collections can help you improve. The Paraguay grandmaster Franco does a good job of demonstrating some of Spassky's finest games and then adds a twist by pointing out supplementary games that have followed the same opening.

The only thing that Everyman could improve is the number of photos because there is only one of the living legend on the cover but there is room enough for a large colour photo of the author. A few more pictures would help the presentation and provide a bit of background to chess in another era.

A great tribute and insight to an iconic player.



ECF Event Calendar

Y 20 Mar Champions' League Chess (Middlesex), Edward Woods Community Centre, 60-70 Norland Road, London W11 4TX Contact: Scott Freeman Email: chess@ccfworld.com Tel: 020 8645 9586 Web: http://www.ccfworld.com/Chess/Results/2016-03-20_CLC_M.htm - starts 1:30PM ends 6:00PM. 2nd leg of qualification for a Summer term final

~ 20 Mar Bourne End (Rapid Play) One Day Chess Congress, Bourne End Community Centre, Wakeman Road, Bourne End, Buckinghamshire SL8 5SX Contact: David Langford Email: langford@thamesinternet.com Tel: 01628520065 Web: <http://www.bucksvoice.net/bourneendchess> - starts 10:00AM ends 7:10PM. Now in its 41st year, this is a rapid play tournament with 45 minutes on each clock. A cafe and a bar will be open for refreshments. Prize giving is at approximately 7.30 p.m. Entry forms will be on the Bourne End Chess Club web site from late January.

~*#@ 25-26 Mar CCF Easter LP Congress, 84-90 Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 3BA Contact: Scott Freeman Email: chess@ccfworld.com Tel: 020 8645 9586 Web: http://www.ccfworld.com/Chess/Adult%20Competitions/Longplays_Easter.htm - starts 9:30AM ends 10:00PM. 4 sections (incl. British Championship Qualifier) - 5 rounds, all FIDE-rated

~*#@ 25-27 Mar Bolton Easter Congress and Busy Persons Blitz, Ukrainian Social Club, 99 Castle St, BOLTON BL2 1JP Contact: Rod Middleton Email: roderickmiddleton@yahoo.co.uk Tel: 01204 383634 - starts 12:00AM ends 7:00PM. Five round Congress. Three sections with the Open section FIDE rated. Busy persons Blitz on Saturday afternoon (26th March)

~*#@ 25-28 Mar WECU 69th Open Easter Congress, The Royal Beacon Hotel, Exmouth, Devon EX8 2AG Contact: Meyrick Shaw Email: wecu@hotmail.co.uk Tel: 01395 275494 Web: <http://www.chessdevon> - starts 9:45AM ends 2:30PM. Three sections: FIDE rated Open (incl. West of England Championship); FIDE rated Major u1950 or ECF u170; Minor u135. Also included is the WECU Ladies Championship - The Elizabeth Walker Cup. Free entry for GMs & IMs

~*#@ 25-28 Mar 60th Southend Chess Congress, Southend Adult Community College, Ambleside Drive, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS1 2UN Contact: Gavin Strachan Email: gavinstrachan@hotmail.com Tel: 07557301926 Web: <http://www.essex-chess.org.uk> - starts 10:30AM ends 7:00PM. Incorporating the Essex and Essex Junior Chess Championships, the 60th Southend Chess Congress follows on from the success of last year with the traditional FIDE 7 round Open with a British Championship Place up for grabs and a 5 round weekenders all with NEW time controls

~*@ 28 Mar CCF Easter Rapid Play, 84-90 Chipstead Valley, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 3BA Contact: Scott Freeman Email: chess@ccfworld.com Tel: 020 8645 9586 Web: http://www.ccfworld.com/Chess/Adult%20Competitions/Rapidplay_Easter.html - starts 10:15AM ends 6:00PM. 7 round FIDE Rapidplay. Open section plus as many others as numbers allow

~Y 28 Mar 39th Surrey Junior Easter Chess Championships, Nonsuch High School, Ewell Road, Cheam, Sutton SM3 8AB Contact: Mrs Marda Dixon Email: mardadixon@btinternet.com Tel: 0208 644 4134 - starts 9:45AM ends 5:00PM. An annual one day event for Juniors aged 7 to 13 yrs. Made up of 5 one hour rounds. Results for U11-13 will be sent for ECF grading. Parents will be responsible for their children between the rounds

***@ 28 Mar CCF Easter Open FIDE Rated Blitz**, 84-90 Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 3BA Contact: Scott Freeman Email: chess@ccfworld.com Tel: 020 8645 9586 Web: http://www.ccfworld.com/Chess/Adult%20Competitions/Blitz_info.html - starts 7:30PM ends 10:15PM. Open 7 round FIDE rated Blitz (8 mins + 2 seconds Fischer)

~*@ 2 Apr Golders Green Rapidplay Congress, Golders Green Church Hall, W Heath Dr, London NW11 7QG Contact: Adam Raoof Email: adamraoof@gmail.com Web: www.goldersgreengreenchess.blogspot.co.uk/ - Open, Under 170, Under 145 and Under 120 sections, 6 round Swiss open, £500.00 prize fund

~Y+ 2-3 Apr National Chess Junior Squad Championships, Daventry Court Hotel, Sedgmoor Way, Daventry NN11 0SG Contact: Peter Purland Email: petepurland@btopenworld.com Web: <http://www.ncjs.co.uk> - starts 10:00AM ends 5:30PM. 5 round Swiss.

@ 2-12 Apr FIRST SATURDAY GM-IM-FM tournament, Budapest, Hungary, MEDOSZ hotel, district No.6. Jokai square 9. 1006 Contact: IO Nagy Laszlo Email: firstsat@hu.inter.net Tel: +36-30-2301914 Web: <http://www.firstsaturday.hu> - International all-play-all tournaments for the GM-IM-norms and FIDE ELO ratings

~Y 6-7 Apr 42nd Maidenhead Junior Congress, Claires Court Junior Boys School, Cannon Lane, Maidenhead, Berkshire Postcode of entrance drive SL6 4QQ Contact: Nigel Dennis Email: nigelwdennis@btinternet.com Tel: 01491 576052 Web: http://www.met.rdg.ac.uk/~brugge/maidenhead_junior_congress.html - starts 10:00AM ends 5:30PM. Two day junior congress in the school holidays with one day U12, U11, U10 & U9 sections and two day Under 18 championship

@ 7 Apr Hendon 'First Thursday' Blitz Chess Tournament, Golders Green Unitarians Church, 31½ Hoop Lane, Golders Green, London NW11 8BS Email: adamraoof@gmail.com Tel: 07855 036 537 Web: <http://www.hendonchessclub.com/blitz/> - starts 7:30PM ends 10:00PM. One section, Swiss system tournament. 1st prize £20, 2nd Prize £10 and £10 prize for the highest Hendon Chess Club member.

~@ 8-10 Apr 4NCL FIDE Rated Congress, Cedar Court Hotel, Denby Dale Road, Calder Grove, Wakefield WF4 3QZ FIDE Open, ECF U175, ECF U135. Five rounds Friday 7pm – Sunday 7pm. For entry forms, information – www.4ncl.co.uk/fide/information.htm

~*@ 8-11 Apr Edinburgh Congress, St Thomas of Aquin's High School, 2-20 Chalmers Street, Edinburgh EH3 9ES Contact: David Stewart Email: davidstewartgm@hotmail.co.uk Tel: 01875 616637 Web: <http://chessscotland.com> - starts 6:30PM ends 7:00PM. The largest annual Chess Congress in Scotland in which the Premier Event is FIDE rated with live games via the internet. The city centre venue with a car park has easy access for all disabled players, including wheelchair users. A Chess Bookstall will be provided by Jim Fisher of Chess & Bridge Ltd, London

~ 9 Apr Teignmouth Rapidplay Congress, The Salle, Trinity School, Buckeridge Road, Teignmouth, Devon TQ14 8LY Contact: Mr Norman Tidy Email: bloke795@gmail.com Tel: 07972699535 Web: <http://www.chessdevon.co.uk/> - starts 9:45AM ends 6:00PM. One day Rapidplay Swiss event. Two sections: Open (over 140) and Graded (under 140). Jan 2015 ECF Grading list will be used

Y 9 Apr English Chess Challenge Qualifier, 84-90 Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 3BA Contact: Scott Freeman Email: chess@ccfworld.com Tel: 020 8645 9586 Web: http://www.ccfworld.com/Chess/Junior%20Home%20Page/ECC_Qual_info.htm - starts 10:45AM ends 6:00PM. Qualification event for the English Chess Challenge semi-finals/final

~* 9-10 Apr 34th St. Albans Congress, St. Columba's College, King Harry Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 Contact: Terry Douse Email: stalbanscongress@yahoo.co.uk Website: <http://www.stalbanscongress.com> - Prize fund £3000.00 - 5 sections – Minor U120, Intermediate U140, Major U160, Challengers U180, Open no grade limits. Spacious playing hall, separate large dining room and very large, free car park.

~*#@ 10-16 Apr The Polar Capital Jersey International Chess Tournament, Hotel Ambassadeur, St Clement Bay, Jersey, Channel Islands JE2 6SB Contact: Paul Wojciechowski Email: Paulmwoj@gmail.com Web: <http://jerseychessclub.com> - 9 and 7 Round Fide Rated Tournament + The Nautilus Jersey Blitz Championship

12 Apr Training with GM Bogdan Lalic, 84-90 Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 3BA Contact: Scott Freeman Email: chess@ccfworld.com Tel: 020 8645 9586 Web: <http://www.ccfworld.com/Chess/Adult%20Competitions/Lalic%20Coaching.htm> - starts 7:30AM ends 9:30PM. A series of 5 two hour sessions, repeating the very successful sessions held in the early part of last year

~ 15-17 Apr Durham County Chess Association Congress, Houghton Sports Centre, Station Road, Houghton le Spring, TYNE and WEAR DH4 5EF Contact: Fred Stobbart Email: fred.stobbart1@gmail.co Tel: 01915263159 - starts 6:30PM ends 5:45PM. 5 round annual Swiss tournament, 3 levels: Open, Major and Minor. Good transport links plentiful free parking. 16 Apr EPSCA Girls' Final Contact: Nigel Dennis

~* 16 Apr Poplar Rapid-Play, Langley Hall, St.Nicholas Church Centre, Ettrick Street, Poplar, London E14 0QD Contact: Norman Went Email: DocklandsChess@yahoo.co.uk Tel: 07905 360659 Web: <http://www.spanglefish.com/docklandschessclub> - starts 10:30AM ends 6:00PM. 6 round Swiss seeded rapid-play tournament with two grade banded sections; Minor Under 130 and Major Under 171

~*# 16-17 Apr 41st Nottingham Congress, Nottingham High School, Waverley Mount, Nottingham NG7 4ED Contact: Robert Richmond Email: Robrchmnd@aol.com Tel: 0115 9455908 Website: <http://Nottschess.org> - starts 9:30AM ends 5:30PM. OPEN / U165 / U135 / U110. Entry form and on-line entry available on Notts chess website

17 Apr Michael Uriely's 10th Birthday - Chess Memorial Tournament, Westminster Under School, 27 Vincent Square, London SW1P 2NN Contact: Roy Uriely Email: urielyroy@gmail.com Tel: 07734 495777 - the Tournament is in memory of our beloved Michael who passed away in August 2015. Further details about the format and exact timing to follow.

~@ 20 Apr - 20 Jul CCF Daytime Chess - Summer Event, 84-90 Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 3BA Contact: Scott Freeman Email: chess@ccfworld.com Tel: 020 8645 9586 Web: <http://www.ccfworld.com/Chess/ChessClubHome/ChessClubSeniorsIndex.htm> - starts 2:00PM ends 6:00PM. Wednesday afternoons aimed at senior players (but allowing others who happen to be available). Players have a minimum of 5 matches (recently 7-8) during each tournament cycle (there are 3 per year)

23 Apr EPSCA Under 9 Final Contact: Nigel Dennis

~*# 23-24 Apr The Great Yarmouth Chess Congress, Town Hall, Hall Plain, Great Yarmouth NR30 2QF Contact: John Charman Email: jaygcee@ntlworld.com Tel: 01603 460513 - starts 9:30AM ends 6:30PM. 5 round Swiss - Open, U170, U145, U120

~@ 23-24 Apr 38th Hampstead Congress U1900/U2200/U135, Henderson Court Day Centre, 102 Fitzjohn's Avenue, London NW3 6NS Contact: Adam Raoof Email: adamraoof@gmail.com - an Under 2200 (ECF 200) / Under 1900 (ECF 160) / Under 135 (ECF graded not FIDE rated) congress every month! NOW IN SECTIONS. All moves in 60 minutes each PLUS 30 seconds a move throughout. £150 1st, £75 2nd in each section PLUS rating prizes. Space STRICTLY limited space, so enter early! <http://www.hampsteadchess.blogspot.co.uk> for details of times and fees (ECF Gold Membership required for ENGLISH players)

~*Y 24 Apr Barnet Junior Chess Individual Championships, Highgate Junior School, Bishopswood Road, London N6 4PL Contact: Tony Niccoli Email: tony1n@yahoo.com Tel: 07734816436 Web: <http://www.barnetjuniorchess.com> - starts 9:00AM ends 6:00PM. Barnet Junior Chess annual Championships. Under 7, 9, 11, 12, 14, 16, 19 sections. 6 rounds, 30 mins rapidplay. £300 guaranteed prize money and Approx 200 competitors

~Y 24 Apr 17th Chess Coaching Services Tournament and Training Day, John Keble Church, Church Close Edgware HA8 9NS Contact: Rob Willmoth Email: robwillmoth@hotmail.co.uk Tel: 07956297329 Web: <http://www.chesscoachingservices.co.uk> - starts 12:30PM ends 6:00PM. The only event of its kind in the UK that offers training split into ability groups

with pre-advertised training sessions, with numerous professional junior chess coaches. There is also an ECF graded rapid player event in between the training sessions. Please apply early as this event is very popular

~* 28 May Poplar Rapid-Play, Langley Hall, St.Nicholas Church Centre, Ettrick Street, Poplar, London E14 0QD Contact: Norman Went Email: DocklandsChess@yahoo.co.uk Tel: 07905 360659 Web: <http://www.spanglefish.com/dockland-schessclub> - starts 10:30AM ends 6:00PM. 6 round Swiss seeded rapid-play tournament with two grade banded sections; Minor Under 130 and Major Under 171

~@ 30 Apr-2 May 4NCL Rounds 9, 10 and 11 / Weekend 5, Holiday Inn Birmingham Airport (Divisions 1 and 2), Park Inn Telford (Division 3 South, Division 4 South), Cedar Court Hotel (Division 3 North) Contact: Mike Truran Email: mike@truranfamily.co.uk

~Y 1 May Barnet Junior Chess Tournament and Training Day, St Paul's C of E Primary School, The Ridgeway, Mill Hill, LONDON NW7 1QU Contact: Laurie Winston Email: training@barnetjuniorchess.com Tel: 07804 047647 Web: <http://www.barnetjuniorchess.com> - starts 12:00PM ends 5:00PM. ECF graded games and training from professional coaches in small groups. Age group prizes, certificates, medals and cash awards. Children are fully supervised - parents do not need to stay

***@ 2 May CCF Bank Holiday Blitz**, 84-90 Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 3BA Contact: Scott Freeman Email: chess@ccfworld.com Tel: 020 8645 9586 Web: <http://www.ccfworld.com/Chess/Adult%20Competitions> - starts 7:30PM ends 10:15PM. 12 round blitz with 3 minutes each per game + 2 second Fischer increments from round 1

Y 2 May Champions' League Chess Final, 84-90 Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 3BA Contact: Scott Freeman Email: chess@ccfworld.com Tel: 020 8645 9586 Web: http://www.ccfworld.com/Chess/Results/2016-05-02_CLC_Final.htm - starts 10:30AM ends 6:00PM. The Final of Champions' League Chess

@ 5 May Hendon 'First Thursday' Blitz Chess Tournament, Golders Green Unitarians Church, 31½ Hoop Lane, Golders Green, London NW11 8BS Email: adamraoof@gmail.com Tel: 07855 036 537 Web: <http://www.hendonchessclub.com/blitz/> - starts 7:30PM ends 10:00PM. One section, Swiss system tournament. 1st prize £20, 2nd Prize £10 and £10 prize for the highest Hendon Chess Club member.

~* 6-8 May Calderdale Chess Congress, Lee Mount Social Club, Lee Mount Road, Halifax, Yorkshire HX3 5EQ Contact: N. Boustred Email: nboustred@yahoo.co.uk Tel: 079039137856 Web: <http://noelschess.weebly.com> - starts 7:00PM ends 6:00PM. 3 sections - Open, Major (under 159) and Minor (under 119) using AUG 2015 Grades. 1st Prize in Open = £160; 1st Prize in Major = £160. You can also win £160 in Minor which is only £20 to enter if Silver Member or above. Massive room in venue with excellent facilities (sandwiches, tea etc. or bar drinks). Beautiful Yorkshire countryside with excellent town so bring camera and catch train or come by car.

7 May EPSCA Under 11 Final Contact: Nigel Dennis

~*@ 7 May Golders Green Rapidplay Congress, Golders Green Church Hall, W Heath Dr, London NW11 7QG Contact: Adam Raoof Email: adamraoof@gmail.com Web: www.goldersgreengchess.blogspot.co.uk/ - Open, Under 170, Under 145 and Under 120 sections, 6 round Swiss open, £500.00 prize fund

~ 7-8 May 3rd Hastings and St Leonards Weekend Chess Tournament, Pelton House 2 Cornwallis Terrace Hastings East Sussex TN34 1EB Contact: Marc Bryant Email: bryant8830@yahoo.co.uk Tel: 01424 436313 Web: <http://www.hastingschess.club/> - starts 9:30AM ends 8:30PM. Any chess player graded under 195 – one section only. Only the first 30 entries will be accepted. Entry fee Standard=£25, Hastings Chess Club member=£20, Under 18=£15. Prizes guaranteed. Total £265 as follows - 1st £100 2nd £60 3rd £30 with three grading prizes - U175 U155 U135 of £25 each. Rate of play is 90 minutes +10 second increment per move

10 May Training with GM Bogdan Lalic, 84-90 Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 3BA Contact: Scott Freeman Email: chess@ccfworld.com Tel: 020 8645 9586 Web: <http://www.ccfworld.com/Chess/Adult%20Competitions/Lalic%20Coaching.htm> - starts 7:30AM ends 9:30PM. A series of 5 two hour sessions, repeating the very successful sessions held in the early part of last year

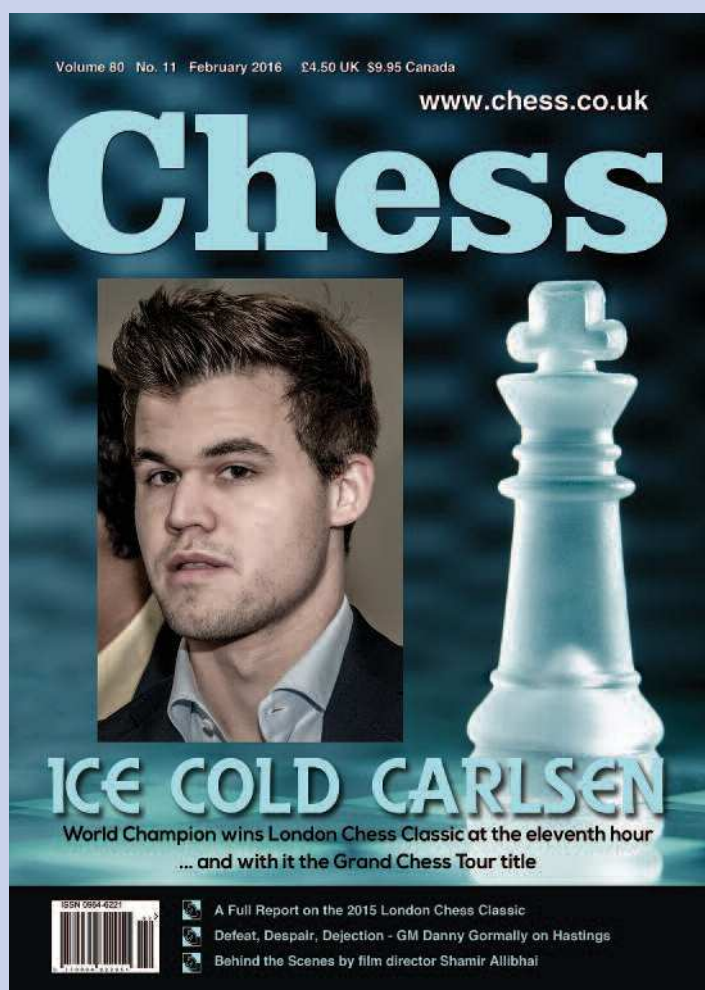
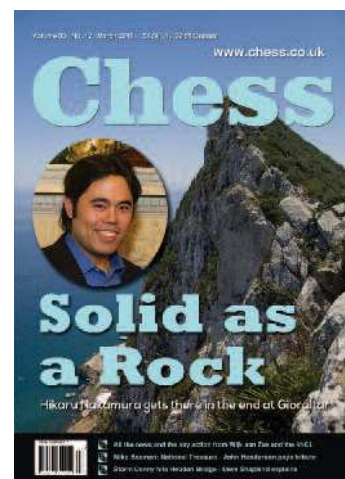
~* 13-15 May Rhyl Chess Congress - 50th Jubilee, Town Hall, Wellington Road, Rhyl, Denbighshire, North Wales LL18 1AB Contact: Mr S Hamilton Email: hamilstu62@outlook.com Tel: 07444355871 - starts 7:00PM ends 6:00PM. The 50th Jubilee year of the Rhyl Chess Congress. Entry fee remains at £26 for platinum, gold and silver members. Any players who are a member of a national federation the standard fee is applicable. Bronze or unregistered players please add an extra £6 for grading fees. There is an increase in the prize fund from the reserve. The format is a Swiss style 5 round event - 2 hours to complete the game - 3 sections - Open for all - Major players below 170 and a Minor players below 125. All games subject to ECF grading - The Arbiters decision is final. Entry forms can be requested

~@ 14-15 May 39th Hampstead Congress U1900/U2200/U135, Henderson Court Day Centre, 102 Fitzjohn's Avenue, London NW3 6NS Contact: Adam Raoof Email: adamraoof@gmail.com - an Under 2200 (ECF 200) / Under 1900 (ECF 160) / Under 135 (ECF graded not FIDE rated) congress every month! NOW IN SECTIONS. All moves in 60 minutes each PLUS 30 seconds a move throughout. £150 1st, £75 2nd in each section PLUS rating prizes. Space STRICTLY limited space, so enter early! <http://www.hampsteadchess.blogspot.co.uk> for details of times and fees (ECF Gold Membership required for ENGLISH players)

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60 Seconds with...

The English Chess Federation's new Chief Executive,

Mike Truran



Born: 16th March 1956, Liskeard, Cornwall.

Place of residence: Witney, Oxfordshire.

Occupation: Director (part time), consultant (part time), pensioner (much too soon).

Enjoyable? The variety of my work (combined with my various chess endeavours) is great, and keeps me very busy. It's nice to be able to combine non-chess and chess activities in the way I do. The jury is still out though on how much time the ECF work is going to take – it's certainly been fairly time-consuming so far!

And home life? Excellent. I'm not too sure though that Faith is always entirely impressed with the gradually increasing amount of time I spend at home annoying her and generally getting under her feet!

But sometimes good to escape to: New Zealand, where we have a house which we don't spend enough time in.

Sports played or followed: Sports played? At my age?! I do like watching rugby union when I get the chance, particularly the southern hemisphere sides, who sometimes seem to be playing a different game to the one we have up here. I do seem though to have an unfortunate habit of arranging 4NCL weekends to coincide with the Six Nations.

A favourite novel? I'm going to cheat a little bit and go for the Gormenghast trilogy by Mervyn Peake.

Piece of music? This changes regularly over time, but at the moment unquestionably *Shiverman* by Lyall Bay Wellington's finest, Fat Freddy's Drop.

Film or TV series? This one doesn't change over time: *The Shawshank Redemption*.

What's the best thing about playing chess? Still being able to play the occasional good game, and of course meeting up with old friends and colleagues.

And the worst? Being conscious of my waning playing strength as I get older.

Your best move? I did enjoy 26...♖xd4 in my game against Nigel Davies in a National Club Championship quarter-final way back in 1991. But perhaps my memory over the intervening years has added a gloss to the move which it doesn't deserve.

But less memorable than your worst move? I'm afraid my good moves are so few, and my bad moves so many, that the former are remembered in a golden haze of nostalgia while the latter are instantly excised from my memory banks.

And a highly memorable opponent? Nigel Short in a simultaneous display he gave at Eagle Star (I believe as part of the sponsorship deal he had with them), more years ago than I care to remember. I managed to win after his somewhat exuberant kingside attack hit the buffers, but I still remember his graciousness after the game.

Favourite game of all time? Pillsbury-Tarrasch, Hastings 1895.

The best three chess books: Fischer's *My 60 Memorable Games*, Bronstein's *Zurich International Chess Tournament 1953*, Tiller's *Chess Treasury of the Air*.

Is FIDE doing a good job? I plead the Fifth.

Or your National Federation? Given my recent appointment, this one feels a bit like a 'When did you stop beating your wife?' question! Suffice it to say that we can always (and I hope will) do better.

Any advice for either? Try to remember that your colleagues, however exasperating they may be on occasion, are doing their best according to their lights. Nobody deliberately sets out to do a bad job.

Can chess make one happy? Who am I to argue with the Praeceptor Germaniae? "Schach hat wie die Liebe, wie die Musik die Fähigkeit, den Menschen glücklich zu machen."

A tip please for the club player: Win or lose, try to be nice to your opponent.

N.Davies-M.Truran

Atticus v Bristol & Clifton,
Sutton Coldfield 1991

Bird's Opening

1 g3 ♘f6 2 ♙g2 e6 3 f4 d5 4 ♘f3 c5 5 0-0 ♘c6 6 d3 g6 7 c3 ♙g7 8 a4 0-0 9 ♘a3 a6 10 ♖b1 ♖b8 11 b4 cxb4 12 cxb4 b5 13 axb5 ♗b6+ 14 e3 axb5 15 ♘c2 ♖a8 16 ♘fd4 ♘xd4 17 ♘xd4 ♖a4 18 ♙d2 ♘d7 19 ♙c3 ♙b7 20 ♖a1 ♖c8 21 ♗b3 e5 22 fxe5 ♘xe5 23 ♙b2 ♘g4 24 ♙xd5 ♘xe3 25 ♙xf7+ ♘h8 26 ♗e6



26...♗xd4!! 27 ♙xd4 ♙xd4 28 ♖fc1 ♘f5+ 29 ♘f1 ♖xa1 30 ♖xa1 ♙xa1 31 ♗d7 ♖c1+ 32 ♙e2 ♖c2+ 33 ♙e1 ♙c3+ 34 ♘f1 ♙g2+ 35 ♙g1 ♙d4+ 0-1

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Michael J. Basman: National Treasure

John Henderson pays tribute to the tireless creative genius that is IM Mike Basman as he prepares to celebrate his 70th birthday this month

We have no shortage of wonderful characters who the media have tagged as being national treasures; men and women who make us proud to be British. Explorers, actors, philosophers, entertainers, sportsmen, entrepreneurs, politicians, authors, artists, chefs... and the list goes on. Sadly you won't find a chess player on the list – but I'd like to make a case for one.

This month (16th March, to be precise), a certain Michael John Basman reaches his biblical threescore and ten as he celebrates his 70th birthday. And I believe that for everything he's done for the game – particularly for school kids – he right royally deserves to be regarded as a 'national treasure' of the British chess scene.

"I was just a boy from the back streets of Claygate," he once described himself in an interview about the background to his first invitation to play at Hastings, 1966/67, where along with Ray Keene, Bill Hartston and Andrew Whiteley, he was among a new generation of talented young English players who were on the rise and beginning to supplant the old guard. Aged just 20, Mike was one of England's top three players, but the selectors thought he would be too erratic for the Premier, and didn't think he would do very well at all.

But Mike defied those doubters and then some. Mikhail Botvinnik, then fifty-five, won what he himself described as his luckiest tournament after some escapes which would have astounded even Houdini – one being against Basman, who had the former world champion on the ropes for 76 moves before he was able to escape with a draw. Despite the disappointment, Basman took the honours of being the highest-placed British player, placed third on tie-break behind Botvinnik and Wolfgang Uhlmann.

Botvinnik recognised this was a new breed of talent making his breakthrough, as he singled out his performance in an interview, stating that: "Basman is the only English player who strives to create original positions. He must become British Champion soon." But alas the Soviet patriarch's prophecy wasn't to be, because Basman never quite achieved the British title. His best British Championship performance proved to be 1973 when he shared first place with rival Bill Hartston, but disappointingly lost the play-off.



Microphone in hand, the modern-day Mike Basman prepares to announce the start of play at the Gigafinal, the concluding stage of the hugely popular UK Chess Challenge. Millions of school children owe an immense debt to Mike for founding and running the event, but just how many of them realise quite how strong as well as highly creative the IM was at his peak?

His bitter defeat at the hands of Hartston probably marks the point when he went "off the grid" by opting out of the opening theory rat-race to generate his own offbeat – and often weirdly bizarre – systems. The name 'Basman' would from then on be associated with the more eccentric side of chess openings. He became the only player of master strength to persist with the St. George Defence (1...a6 and 2...b5), and particularly the Grob and the Borg (1 g4 and as Black 1...g5) – and in Basman's book *The Killer Grob*, the Grobmeister himself proudly stated: "There was a ninety-minute tape containing my eleven games from the British Championship 1982, where I used the Grob in every round."

Ah, now cassette tapes... that also reminds me – and will no doubt probably confuse the

millennials to what exactly a cassette tape is – that Mike was the brainchild behind the wonderful, innovative idea of Audio Chess, a concept that probably at the time all coffee-house players of the world thanked Basman for creating. There were many great tapes in the series, and ones that stood out personally for me were *The Basman Sicilian with 4...♗c5*, *English Defence*, *Pioneering Play in the English Defence*, *The Aggressive Caro-Kann*, *John Nunn At the Chess Board*, *Basman's Best Games 1976*, and *Tony Miles – Grandmaster*, to name but a few of those classics. And the wonderful thing about them was that they had been recorded by such famous players of the day as Tony Miles, Ray Keene, Jon Speelman, Nigel Short et al.

And let's not also forget that back in 1974,

long before the Sofia Rules came to being, this chess maverick had the foresight to see the damage the so-called 'grandmaster draw' was having on the game. Indeed, Basman was one of the prime movers of adopting a 'Premiership' scoring system, only for it to be, at least temporarily, buried. Nowadays many top tournaments adopt the principle of 3 points for a win and 1 point for a draw.

For many years now Basman has moved away from the British chess circuit and devoted his energies to promoting schools chess, being the creator and organiser of the famous UK Chess Challenge – the world's biggest chess tournament – with wonderfully exciting titles of 'Megafinals', 'Terafinal' and 'Gigafinal' that see thousands upon thousands of British school kids being introduced to chess lessons and fun, competitive play.

Yet despite all this sterling work with school kids the length and breadth of the country, Michael J. Basman's enduring legacy will be his pioneering work of a type of chess that has been referred to as "Basmaniac" on several occasions – and some of this is clearly evident in the three games I have selected for this tribute to our new, national treasure. Michael J. Basman, Happy 70th Birthday from all of us!

D. Levy – M. Basman

Glasgow International 1968
Alekhine's Defence

This game was to be the first time I came across Michael J. Basman. Not long after I began to take chess seriously, after Fischer-Spassky 1972, I almost immediately took a lifelong addiction to the Alekhine's Defence (self-inflicted, no sympathy), and in those pre-database days when you had to physically trawl for material, I found this exciting Four Pawns Attack in an old tournament bulletin from the Glasgow International of 1968 at Langside Halls someone had given me.

I have since discovered that this wonderful scrap Mike had with David Levy was fought out in front of a large audience that immediately (so I'm told) took him to their hearts – and there were even rumours of a 'Basman Fan Club' being formed by a large group of Glasgow juniors, who had become enthralled as they watched this game unfold with its many twists. And like the other two games I give in our birthday tribute to Mike, its not perfect, but it showed he had a never-say-die attitude at the board.

1 e4 ♟f6 2 e5 ♟d5 3 d4 d6 4 c4 ♟b6 5 f4 ♟f5 6 ♟e3 e6 7 ♟c3 g5?!

Typical Basman! We're entering uncharted waters here, but Basman's approach is very similar to the 'Cambridge Gambit' with 5...g5 that was honed around the same period by leading lights of the Cambridge University Chess Club, such as Richard Eales (who along with Howard Williams, co-authored the wonderful Batsford book on Alekhine's Defence), and was analysed in-depth in *Dragon*, the club's magazine.

8 fxg5 dxe5 9 dxe5 ♟c6 10 ♟f3 ♟b4 11 ♟d4 ♟e7 12 a3



12... ♟xd4

Only Basman could contrive to play like this in a serious time-control game. Admittedly, he was likely seduced by the fact that any knight retreat would leave White with an easy game.

13 ♟xd4 ♟c2+ 14 ♟f2 0-0-0

Of course, Black is quite lost here – but it doesn't spoil our hero from having some fun with the position.

15 ♟xb6 axb6

Taking the queen would have eased White's win.

16 ♟c1 h6! 17 g4!

The best move, as taking the pawn was asking for trouble: 17 gxh6 ♟c5+ 18 ♟f3 ♟d4+ 19 ♟f4 (not 19 ♟g3? ♟dg8+ and suddenly Black has serious chances here) 19...♟f8! with enormous complications.

17... ♟h7 18 h4 hxg5 19 h5 ♟c5+ 20 ♟f3 f5

You would have thought that 20...f5 would be impossible; but Levy is coming under a great deal of pressure here, what with Basman's pieces swarming around his king – and, indeed, I was told that a large crowd had started to take an interest in the game by now which only heaped further pressure on Levy.

21 gxf5 ♟xf5 22 ♟h2 ♟d4+ 23 ♟g3 ♟b3 24 ♟e1



24... ♟d4

Basman could also have played 24...♟xa1 25 ♟xa1 ♟e3, but he probably figured (rightly) that keeping the current 'mess' with his pieces on the board was his only chance of getting a result.

25 ♟e2 ♟d2 26 ♟d1!

And, as we would say in Glasgow, "The gemme's a bogey" – but that doesn't stop Basman.

26... ♟xb2 27 ♟f3

Instead, 27 ♟a4 and the game was indeed a bogey. But now Levy gets into time-pressure that allows Basman's imagination to run wild and covert this lost position into an entertaining win.

27... ♟xh2 28 ♟xh2 g4!

Things are slightly awkward now for Levy – and I am sure Mike would tell us that he had this all planned.

29 ♟g2?

By this time, I'm reliably told that the crowds trying to see the board and the demo-board had increased further. And with that added pressure in mind, Levy failed to play 29 ♟e4 to give his king an escape route.

29... ♟xh5+ 30 ♟g3 ♟e7!



Totally missed by Levy – and here, he should really have played 31 ♟e2 allowing the repetition with 31...♟h4+ and 32...♟g5+, etc.

31 ♟h1? ♟xh1 32 ♟xh1 ♟xa3

Now the dust has cleared, Basman has (somehow) emerged from the mayhem with two wonderful bishops and three pawns for the exchange.

33 ♟h8+ ♟d7 34 ♟xb7?

Time-trouble, but White is losing anyway after the correct 34 ♟e4 ♟b2 35 ♟f6+ ♟e7 36 ♟f4 ♟c5! and e5 will fall, and with it White's game.

34... ♟b2! 35 ♟c8+ ♟e7 36 ♟h1 ♟xc3 37 ♟f4 ♟c5 38 ♟d1 ♟d3+ 0-1

The next time I took an interest in a Mike Basman game was to come a couple of years later, as I rushed down to my local library on a Saturday morning in mid-January to read Leonard Barden's column in *The Guardian*, and see the Hastings 1974/75 encounter between Ulf Andersson and our hero. Ironically, it turned out to be Basman giving his opponent a taste of his own medicine, as Ulf would play this way himself (usually in his favourite Hedgehog formation) with endless manoeuvrings, where nothing seemed to be happening, waiting to offer/accept a draw. And the reverse psychology works, as Ulf cracks when he has to make a commitment to a plan after a series of non-committal moves from Mike. Now you know how it feels, Ulf!

U.Andersson-M.Basman

Hastings 1974/75

Queen's Indian Defence

1 $\text{d}f3$ b6 2 g3 $\text{d}b7$ 3 $\text{d}g2$ e6 4 0-0 d5
5 c4 $\text{d}f6$ 6 d4 $\text{d}e7$ 7 $\text{d}c3$ 0-0 8 $\text{d}e5$ h6
9 $\text{d}f4$ a6 10 $\text{d}c1$ $\text{d}a7$ 11 cxd5 exd5
12 $\text{d}b3$ $\text{d}a8!$?



There now starts the beginning of an amazing sequence of moves from Basman, as he 'gifts' his esteemed opponent eight moves to improve his position. Only Basman – or perhaps Tony Miles – would have the chutzpah to do this.

13 $\text{d}f1$ $\text{d}h7$ 14 h3 $\text{d}g8$ 15 $\text{d}h2$ $\text{d}h7$
16 g4 $\text{d}g8$ 17 $\text{d}g3$ $\text{d}b7$ 18 e3 $\text{d}a8$ 19
a3 $\text{d}b7$ 20 f4 $\text{d}a8$ 21 $\text{d}d2$ $\text{d}d6$ 22 f5
 $\text{d}d8$ 23 $\text{d}f4$ $\text{d}b7$ 24 $\text{d}g1$ c6 25 $\text{d}f3$
 $\text{d}h7$ 26 $\text{d}c1$ $\text{d}d6$ 27 $\text{d}a4$ $\text{d}c7$ 28 $\text{d}g3$
 $\text{d}f6$ 29 h4



Ulf has been lured into loosening his position – now Basman strikes.

29... $\text{d}f7!$ 30 $\text{d}xd7$ $\text{d}xd7$ 31 $\text{d}e2$ $\text{d}e8$
32 $\text{d}h3$

Better was 32 $\text{d}xc7$ $\text{d}xc7+$ 33 $\text{d}g2$, but after 33... $\text{d}d8$ White has dark-square weaknesses around his king, and Black also ideas of ... $\text{d}f6$ -e4 looming large. 32... $\text{d}xf4$
33 exf4 $\text{d}xe2$ 34 $\text{d}xe2$ $\text{d}e7$ 35 $\text{d}f3$ b5
36 $\text{d}c5$ $\text{d}c8$ 37 $\text{d}d3$ h5!

Exposing all the flaws in White's structure. 38 gxf5?

This only further weakens the white structure. The lesser evil looked like 38 g5 g6!.
38... $\text{d}f6$ 39 $\text{d}g3$ $\text{d}xc5$ 40 $\text{d}xc5$ $\text{d}xf5$
41 $\text{d}c3$ $\text{d}d7$ 42 $\text{d}d3$ $\text{d}a8$

Now the rook comes back into the game to dominate the open e-file.

43 $\text{d}c1$ $\text{d}e8$ 44 $\text{d}c3$ c5

The immediate 44... $\text{d}f5!$ was stronger.

45 $\text{d}xc5$

A radical solution, but 45 dxc5 d4 46 $\text{d}d2$
 $\text{d}e3!$ is strong.

45... $\text{d}f5!$



Much stronger than 45... $\text{d}c8?$! 46
 $\text{d}xc8+$! $\text{d}xc8$ 47 $\text{d}xc8+$ $\text{d}h7$ 48 $\text{d}xd5$
where Ulf has realistic drawing chances.

46 $\text{d}xd5$ $\text{d}h3+$ 47 $\text{d}f2$ $\text{d}h2+$ 48 $\text{d}g2$
 $\text{d}xf4+$ 49 $\text{d}f3$ $\text{d}g4!$

Also stronger than taking the rook, as the White king now gets bombarded.

50 $\text{d}c3$ $\text{d}h2+$ 51 $\text{d}g2$ $\text{d}xh4+$ 52 $\text{d}g1$
 $\text{d}e1+$ 53 $\text{d}f1$ $\text{d}h3$ 0-1

This time not an old tournament bulletin or one of Leonard Barden's columns, but a game I viewed first hand (OK, mainly in-between my opponent's moves in the U-21 Championship – but I could see the demo-board from where we were at the back of the playing hall) at the British Championship in 1980 at Brighton – and I can tell you that there was a big buzz going around the playing hall as this highly-original encounter unfolded.



Back in the day – Mike Basman in action from the 1979 Ribnica International. The pictured game with Bukal ended in defeat, but then Mike did meet 1 c4 with 1...e5, and not 1...g5 as he was to later prefer.

J.Speelman-M.Basman

British Ch., Brighton 1980

Borg Defence

1 e4 g5

The Borg; the suitably named Grob Reversed – and one from the stable (or should that be 'unstable?') of pure 'Basmanic' openings.

2 d4 h6 3 h4

Spess, for his sins, also has a vivid chess imagination – and here, in this encounter, he chooses, perhaps unwisely, to battle Basman on his own turf.

3...gxh4 4 $\text{d}xh4$ d5

"This is to bust the position open and tear his king limb from limb," said Basman later.

5 exd5 e6 6 $\text{d}h5$ $\text{d}f6$ 7 dxe6 $\text{d}xe6!$



Not 7... $\text{d}xh5?$ as 8 exf7+ looks extremely promising for White.

8 $\text{d}c3?$

It was almost as if Spess had convinced himself here that he had to 'sac' the exchange on principle. At the time, I didn't see what was wrong with 8 $\text{d}e5$ $\text{d}d6$ (if 8... $\text{d}c6?$? 9 $\text{d}b5!$) 9 $\text{d}e3$ where I thought Spess had the sort of original position he normally enjoys playing.

8... $\text{d}xh5$ 9 $\text{d}xh5$ $\text{d}b4!$ 10 $\text{d}ge2$

White is in deep trouble already, as Black just steams ahead with developing his pieces. And note that after the obvious 10 $\text{d}b5+$ $\text{d}c6!$ 11 $\text{d}xb7$ $\text{d}xd4!$ 12 $\text{d}b5+$ $\text{d}e7$ 13 $\text{d}d3$ a5! White is almost at resignation point.

10... $\text{d}c6$

It's clear now that Spess's plan has backfired completely; and from here he's fighting to try to just stay in the game.

11 $\text{d}e3$ $\text{d}d7$ 12 a3 $\text{d}g4$ 13 $\text{d}b5$ a6 14 $\text{d}d3$

Not 14 $\text{d}xb7?$ as this time 14... $\text{d}a7$ wins the errant queen.

14... $\text{d}xc3+$ 15 $\text{d}xc3$ 0-0-0 16 f3 $\text{d}e6$
17 0-0-0 $\text{d}e7$ 18 $\text{d}f4$ $\text{d}d5$ 19 $\text{d}xd5$
 $\text{d}xd5$ 20 $\text{d}d2$ $\text{d}c6$ 21 $\text{d}b1$ h5 22 $\text{d}g5$
 $\text{d}de8$ 23 $\text{d}f4$ $\text{d}c4$ 24 $\text{d}e5$ $\text{d}hg8$ 25 d5
 $\text{d}xd5!$ 26 $\text{d}d4$

There will be more from Mike Basman himself in our April issue.



The bishop is immune, as 26 ♖xd5 ♜d8 wins quickly.

26...♙b3?

An amazing misstep from Basman in a totally won position – and the ever-decreasing old grey cells can't help me in recollecting if both players were in time trouble by this stage. I did ask Spess as I was writing this article, but he said his grey cells were just as shot as mine! However he did think it was likely both players were indeed in time trouble already, with a lot of time taken up in the opening. Basman has the right idea here, but alas the wrong execution. The win was 26...♙e4!

27 ♙d3?

One blunder begets another, and remarkably Spess could win now by simply taking the bishop with 27 cxb3! ♜d8 28 ♙c1! and the tables have been turned, with White emerging with two very good bishops for the rook. Perhaps if it was a mutual time scramble, Spess had simply missed that after 28...♙xd4 29 ♙xc6 ♜d1+ 30 ♙c1 he defends the bishop on f1? But don't let a mutual blunder stop our enjoyment of this battle at the British.

27...♜d8 28 ♙e3 ♙c4 29 ♙a7 ♙xd3



30 cxd3

No better is 30 ♙a8+ ♙d7 31 ♙xd3+ ♙e7 32 ♙a7 ♙xg2 and Black will easily convert his material advantage.

30...♙b6 31 ♙xb6 cxb6 32 g3 ♙d7

Black is easily winning; the big push now is the race to the time control.

33 ♙f4 ♙c6 34 ♙c1+ ♙b5 35 ♙c7 ♙xd3 36 ♙xf7 ♙xf3 37 ♙f5+ ♙c4 38 ♙xh5 ♙b3 39 ♙h1 ♙f2 40 ♙c1 ♙xg3 41 ♙h7 b5 42 ♙c7 b6 43 ♙c6 ♙h3 44 ♙g6 ♙c2 45 ♙g1 a5 46 ♙g6 ♙c5 0-1

Chess & Murder

by Rex Makin

In Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's *The Adventure of the Retired Colourman* (published in 1926), Sherlock Holmes says "Amberley excelled at chess – one mark, Watson, of a scheming mind." Was there then a perception that chess players were fiendishly clever and capable of devising a cunning murder plan?

Julia Wallace was brutally murdered at her Anfield home in January 1931. With no one else to suspect, the police charged her chess enthusiast husband, William Herbert Wallace. Detective Superintendent Hubert Rory Moore considered that Wallace "had planned the murder and carried it out with the same skill and foresight he would use in playing a chess game with moves being perfectly timed".

The trial judge, Mr Justice Wright, commented that the case "must be almost unexampled in the annals of crime" and he summed-up for an acquittal. There was general surprise when, after little more than an hour, the jury returned a guilty verdict. The judge had to sentence Wallace to death and he was not pleased to have to do so. He did not thank the jury for their 'service'. Many years later the *Echo* reported the judge as saying "Never forget that Wallace was a chess player [...] any man with common sense would have said that Wallace's alibi was too good to be true, but that is not an argument you can hang a man on."



William Herbert Wallace (middle) leaves the Court of Appeal – photograph from 'The Killing of Julia Wallace' by John Gannon

Hector Munro, a county standard chess player was a member of the same Liverpool Central Chess Club as Wallace. As Wallace's solicitor he fulfilled a temporary post of 'life-saver'. The jury's verdict was quashed by the Court of Appeal as being "unreasonable, or cannot be supported, having regard to the evidence". Wallace was freed, but died less than two years later.

Hector wrote to the magazine *CHESS* about the case. In 1949 he said in his opinion Wallace was innocent and he always held that view. In 1974 he confirmed that whilst Wallace loved chess he was "not breaking any professional confidence to reveal that Wallace was the reverse of a strong player. With him, any opening he played could be described as 'a closing'."

Hector's son Donald, who like his father was a very fine solicitor, died earlier this month. Donald retired to France. He made periodic visits to Liverpool and would visit me to reminisce. Wallace's chess playing prowess was mistaken!

This article first appeared in the 'Liverpool Echo' on January 29th and is reproduced with kind permission of the newspaper.



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