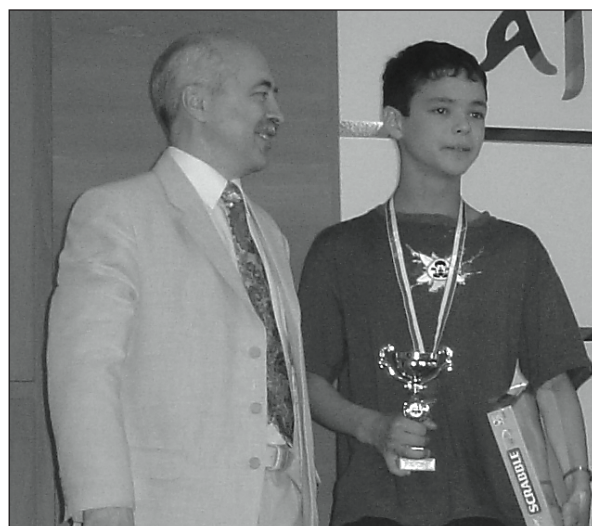


3rd World School Chess Championship



400 players were registered for the World School Championship 2007, coming from 40 countries representing Asia, Africa, the Americas and Europe. This was a significant increase on last year and included 100 from Greece, 50 from South Africa, 33 from Russia, 15 from India, 20 from Colombia, 20 from Turkey, 14 from Romania, 12 from the Virgin Islands and 12 from England!

The status of this tournament is well established and the number of highly rated players - and not just from Eastern Europe! - demonstrated the strength at the top of each section, so I was pleased to again be asked to organise an England team as an extra event to the 'normal' junior funded schedule. As well as ECF, our sincere thanks go to Winton Capital Management for financial assistance.

Continued on page 8

Editorial

I attended the ECF Meetings in Birmingham on 28th April and as per usual custom arrived at the venue the evening before. Only a hour after arrival there was a knock on my bedroom door, thinking that it was my colleague from the office, Gemma, I opened the door to find two police officers standing there, one of whom stepped into the room, looked around, retreated and said 'sorry wrong room'. After another hour came another knock, this time three policemen, one armed, plus the hotel manager, the policemen stepped into my room and looked around despite the assurances of the hotel manager that I was ok. I still don't know what this was all about, if anybody else knows please let me know. the petty cash was just not worth it!

Further news on the National Chess Library. A professional cataloguer with a high level of experience and a very good understanding of several languages has now been appointed by the University Centre Hastings.

Pictured below is a photograph taken from the World Schools' collection and featuring our most promising player yet.

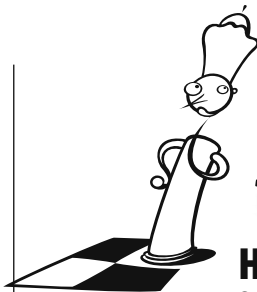
Cynthia Gurney, Editor



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Copy Deadline 10th June 2007



ECF News

Honorary Life Vice Presidents

On April 28th at a meeting of ECF Council, John Dunleavy, Roy Heppinstall, Cyril Johnson and John Philpott were each awarded the title of Honorary Life Vice President of the English Chess Federation, the highest award that the federation can bestow.

President Gerry Walsh paid tribute to the four men who he said had given considerable and substantial service to both the ECF and English Chess.

"Volunteers are the lifeblood of chess in this country and many of them give up considerable amounts of time to help other chess players. I am sure every player will welcome the recognition that has been given to Messrs Dunleavy, Heppinstall, Johnson and Philpott for their quite outstanding services to chess over many years."

Direct Member Representatives

Nominations are invited for Direct Member Representatives to take office for a period of one year after the end of the Annual General Meeting to be held on 20 October 2007.

For the purpose of the election of Representatives, Direct members are grouped into the following four categories:

- (a) Honorary life Vice Presidents, Vice Presidents, Corporate Vice Presidents, Honorary Life Members and Life Members.
- (b) Full Direct Members, Family Members, Veteran Members, Student Members, Special Members and Members with Disabilities.
- (c) Standard Members and Junior Members.
- (d) Basic Members and Basic Junior Members.

Each of these four categories is entitled to elect two Representatives.

Nominations are sought among the four categories. If there are more than two nominations in any category, a first two past the post election will be held in that category in accordance with instructions to be issued by the Board.

Representatives are members of Council and must be and remain Direct members in the category for which they are elected throughout their period of office.

There are five existing Representatives, who are eligible to stand for re-election if they so wish. New nominations need to be made by a Direct Member who is in the same group of members as the nominee and accepted by the latter. To be eligible, signed nominations and acceptances must be received at the ECF office by noon on Friday, 15 June 2007.

ECF Vacancies

NATIONAL CLUB HANDICAP (RAPIDPLAY) CHAMPIONSHIPS

The National Club Handicap (Rapidplay) is an established inter-club event for teams of four held annually in about April.

JOB DESCRIPTION FOR NATIONAL CLUB HANDICAP (RAPIDPLAY) CONTROLLER

Reports to Director of Home Chess

The Jobholder is required to:

1. Ensure the smooth running of the National Club Handicap (Rapidplay) Championship.
2. This requires the jobholder to
 - Prepare entry forms and liaise with the ECF Office to arrange circulation of the same.
 - Assist with publicizing the event as required.
 - Accept entries from and liaise with clubs.
 - Organize a venue
 - Ensure the smooth running of the event on the day including arranging for equipment, a control team and an ECF Arbiter to be present.
 - Provide a report of the event for the ECF website.
 - Ensure that individual results are available for grading.
 - Keep the Director of Home Chess informed of the progress on organizing the event.
 - Review the format of the event from time to time in consultation with the Home Chess Director.

Notes:

- a. The organization of the final is the responsibility of the Home Chess Director.
- b. Financial matters for the event, e.g. the budget for prize money, are the responsibility of the Home Chess Director.

NATIONAL CLUB OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

The National Club Open is an established inter-club event for teams of six running from September to July.

JOB DESCRIPTION FOR NATIONAL CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP OPEN CONTROLLER

Reports to Director of Home Chess

The Jobholder is required to:

1. Ensure the smooth running of the National Club Open Championship. If numbers improve this will involve both a main and a plate competition.
2. This requires the jobholder to
 - Prepare entry forms and liaise with the ECF Office to arrange circulation of the same.
 - Assist with publicizing the event as required.
 - Accept entries from and liaise with clubs.
 - Do the draw for each round and inform clubs of pairings.
 - Deal with any disputes from clubs.
 - Provide a report of each round for the ECF website.
 - Ensure that individual results are available for grading.
 - Keep the Director of Home Chess informed of the progress on organizing the event.
 - Review the format of the event from time to time in consultation with the Home Chess Director.

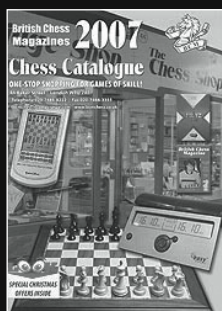
Notes:

- a. The organization of the final is the responsibility of the Home Chess Director.
- b. Financial matters for the event, e.g. the budget for prize money, are the responsibility of the Home Chess Director.

ECF Book of the Year

We are delighted to announce that the new ECF Book of the Year judge is David Friedgood, he will join Ray Edwards (Chairman) and Julian Farrand on the panel. Thank you to John Toothill who has now retired after many years as a judge on the panel and to all the unsuccessful applicants who applied for the position vacated by John.

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2007 CHESS CATALOGUE**
Contact the BCM Chess Shop for
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or email bcmchess@compuserve.com



The Playing Hall

National Counties Rapidplay Competition

This year's competition was hosted by Hertfordshire Chess association at Onslow St Audrey's school Hatfield on 21st April. Only four teams entered and so the event was run as an all-play all. The event included simultaneously both the main title and a handicap event. The main event being determined on game points; whereas the handicap event was determined on the difference between the actual score and the expected score based on the average grades of the teams.

Kent certainly brought a strong team with the intention of winning which they did comprehensively, winning each round convincingly and even showing off in the last round by beating Cambs 12-0. They even outperformed their expected score based on grading. However, in the handicap event Beds performed even better scoring averaging 1½ points per round better than their expected score. Cross tables for the event are shown below.

Counties Rapidplay Main Event

Position	Average Grade	Kent	Herts	Beds	Cambs	Total Points
1 Kent	190		9½	8½	12	30
2 Hertfordshire	173	2½		6½	7½	16½
3 Bedfordshire	154	3½	5½		6½	15½
4 Cambridgeshire	159	0	4½	5½		10

Counties Rapidplay Handicap Event

Position	Average Grade	Beds	Kent	Herts	Cambs	Total Points
1 Bedfordshire	154		2	+1½	+1	+4½
2 Kent	190	-2		+1½	+2½	2
3 Hertfordshire	173	-1½	-1½		0	-3
4 Cambridgeshire	159	-1	-2½	0		-3½



Captain of Beds (winners of handicap event), Kevin Williamson with Director of Home Chess Chris Majer



Winning Kent Captain Chris Rice with Director of Home Chess Chris Majer



National Club Handicap (Rapidplay) Event

This year's competition was held once again at Magdalen College School, Oxford on Sunday 22nd April. There were 5 rounds, with each player having 20 minutes to complete the game.

The previous handicapping scheme, devised by Cyril Johnson, had the drawback that the handicap points were not added until the completion of the event. This year, round by round adjustments were made by adding game points to the lower graded team's score according to the scheme shown below. The teams were then paired according to game scores after adjustment.

Grade difference in individual match	Games points added to lower graded team
0-9	0
10-19	0.5
20-29	1
30-39	1.5
40-49	2
50-59	2.5
60+	3

11 teams of 4 entered, so unfortunately a bye was needed. A score of three points was chosen for this. The results were as follows:

1 Cowley 1 (ave 102) 18; 2 Mushrooms (ave 184) 16; 3 Oxford City (ave 105) 15; 4-5 Gloucester (ave 159), Kings Head (ave 183) 14½; 6 Magdalen College School Blackbirds B (ave 110) 14; 7 Cowley 2 (ave 129) 13½; 8 Cowley 3 (ave 140) 13; 9 Magdalen College School Blackbirds A (ave 150) 12½; 10-11 Syston (ave 96), Wanstead & Woodford (ave 130) 11½

Mike Flatt controlled, Tim Thurstan was the arbiter. I expect the event will be run again next year at the same venue.

Chris Majer, Director of Home Chess



Winning Team Cowley



British Visually Impaired Championship

At Easter at Bournemouth the Visually Impaired championship welcomed its first international master, Colin Crouch. With sight affected by a recent illness, Colin became eligible to compete and showed that his disability has not reduced his formidable attacking powers. He scored a perfect 7 from 7 and defeated three former champions in the process. The most difficult win was against the defending champion Chris Ross. Bill Armstrong came third and all three with four others British entries will compete in the European Individual Visually Impaired Championship this summer in Durham.

The vital game from round three.

Ross v Crouch.

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 b6 3. Bg5 Bb7 4. Nbd2 c5 5. e3 e6 6. Bd3 Nc6 7. c3 Be7 8. O-O O-O 9. Qe2 cxd4 10. exd4 Nd5 11. Bxe7 Qxe7 12. g3 f5 the start of a king-side pawn storm. 13. Ne5 Nxe5 14. dxe5 g5 15. a3 (too slow, Nc4 is better) Qg7 16. f3 h5 17. Rf2 h4 18. Re1 Qh6 19. Nc4 g4 20. Qd2 Qxd2 21. Nxd2 hxg3 22. hxg3 gxf3 23. Nxf3 Kf7 24. c4 Ne7 25. Re3 Rg8 26. Nd4 Rh8 27. Kf1 Kg7 28. Ne4 fxg4 29. Rg3 Rh4 30. Be2 Rh1+ 31. Rg1 Rxd1+ 32. Kxg1 Ng6 33. Bxg4 Nxe5 34. Be2 Rh8 35. Rh2 Rxh2 36. Kxh2 Kf6 37. Nb5 a6 38. b3 Nb6 39. Kg3 Nd7 40. Kf4 e5+ 41. Ke3 Ke7 42. b4 Kd8 43. Bg4 Nf6 44. Be2 Kc7 45. Kd3 Bg2 46. Ke3 Kc6 47. Kf2 Ne4+ 48. Nxe4 Bxe4 49. Ke3 Bh1 50. Kd2 b5 51. Kc3 Kb6 52. Bf1 bxc4 53. Kxc4 Bc6 54. Kc3 d5 55. Bh3 Kc7 56. Bf5 d4+ 57. Kd3 Bb5+ 58. Ke4 Kd6 59. Bc8 Bc6+ 60. Kd3 Bb5+ 61. Ke4 Bf1 62. Kf3 Bd3 63. Bb7 Ke6 64. Bc6 Bb5 65. Bb7 Kd7 66. Kf2 Kd6 67. Be4 Bc6 68. Bd3 Bb7 69. Bc4 e4 70. Ke2 Ke5 71. a4 Bc8 72. b5 axb5 73. axb5 Kd6 74. Ba2 Kc5 75. Bb1 Bb7 76. Ba2 Kxb5 77. Be6 Kb4 78. Bf5 Kc3 79. Kd1 d3 80. Bg6 e3 81. Bf5 Bf3+ 82. 0-1

A fine display of aggressive play with the Black pieces followed by patient endgame strategy searching for the mistakes that inevitably arise. Colin is a worthy champion.

Bill Armstrong

8th European Individual Chess Championships in Dresden

In early April, ten of the top English players set off to Dresden to compete in the European Individual Championships. 'Team England' was faced with a daunting challenge! – the Open tournament of about 400 players included 40 of the World's top 100, and the Women's tournament was even stronger. Perhaps the strength of the events was unsurprising given their status as qualification competitions for the next World Championship cycle.

You can find full daily reports on Team England's efforts on the ECF website here [www.englishchess.org.uk/national/2007/euro-ind_jan07.htm]. There were several excellent individual performances, but in the end nobody managed to secure one of the coveted qualifying places. Still, it was an extremely valuable experience for all concerned. Particular mention should go to Gawain Jones and Stephen Gordon, who were both pushing hard for qualification until the final rounds, and to Nick Pert and Peter Wells, who both gained rating points against very strong fields. David Howell got off to a flying start with some excellent wins, but unfortunately faded. In the Women's tournament, Jovanka Houska narrowly missed out on qualification – an additional half point would have put her into a playoff for one of the places.



A view of the playing hall – you can see flags of the 44 countries represented in the centre of the hall and live games being displayed on the left of the photo. The River Elbe is in the background.

Team England scores: Open championship

Gawain Jones, Peter Wells – 6.5, Stephen Gordon, David Howell, Nick Pert, Simon Williams – 6, Adam Hunt, Richard Pert – 5

Women's championship

Jovanka Houska – 7, Heather Richards – 4

Dresden will, I'm sure, prove to be a magnificent venue for next year's Olympiad. It is a wonderful setting to play your game in a modern purpose built conference hall, with the River Elbe just a few yards away!

Team England was supported by the ECF, with valuable assistance from the John Robinson Trust and the Friends of Chess.



Dresden is a beautiful city ... it has been reconstructed in keeping with its historic past.

Peter Wells – Andrei Kharlov, Round 6

Notes by Peter

1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 c6 4. e4!

I used to play this – the somewhat less celebrated of Frank Marshall's gambits – enthusiastically, but have neglected it for some years. One good thing about returning to an opening after so long is that surprise value may yield a dividend which can be tapped into for a second time.

4...dxe4 5. Nxe4 Bb4+ 6. Bd2 Qxd4 7. Bxb4 Qxe4+ 8. Be2

White almost automatically enjoys good prospects on the dark squares in this line. The risks of playing ...c6, ...e6 and then parting with the dark-squared bishop hardly need spelling out. However, in addition to netting a pawn, Black does pose the dilemma of how to meet this check. I used to play 8. Ne2 here and had a good deal of fun with it. If White can get to castle quickly on the queen-side and then play Nc3, he can be extremely well coordinated. However, I have never found an antidote to the striking line 8...Na6 9. Bf8! Ne7 10. Bxg7 Nb4! 11. Qd6 Nd3!+ 12. Kd2 Nf5 13. Qxd3 Qxd3+ 14. Kxd3 Nxd3 which just looks equal (and rather dull) to me. Hence 8 Be2, although after this White needs to keep a constant eye on the possibility of ...Qxg2.

8...Na6 9. Bd6!

It looks a bit odd to block the d-file and take a potentially crunchy square away from the white queen. But none of the squares is perfect here. 9. Bc3 used to be the main line, but 9. Ba5 was also fashionable too and was doing well when Black used to drive the piece back with 9...b6, but rather remarkably, allowing the check on d8 with the super-calm 9...f6! has proved quite a tough nut to crack.

9...Qxg2!

At this point I realised I had fallen for the trap of too exclusively concentrating on one line in preparation and forgetting properly to prepare others. I have for so long regarded 9...e5 as the main drawback to White's 9th, that I was quite excited on the morning of the game to discover that in the critical line 10. Nf3 Bg4 11. 0-0 0-0, White has stopped playing the rather dull 12. Bd3 Qf4 13. Bxe5 Qxe5 14. Nxe5 Bxd1 etc and instead been creating mayhem with the marvellously random 12 b4! The more I looked at this the more I liked it, but, faced with a number of possible openings to prepare, I kind of forgot to round things off by checking that I am not losing a rook after the text!

10. Qd2! Ne7?

There were actually a couple of things I knew for sure about this position. One was that 10...Qxh1? should lose. A bit of bluff is OK but this must qualify as essential knowledge – although in fact I did have to do a bit of calculation to assist the ailing memory. White plays 11. 0-0-0 Qe4 (11...Nf6 12. Bf3) 12 Be7! when even 12...f6 13 Bh5+! still ends in rapid checkmate. However, I also knew that 10...Nf6! was the best try. Quite how fast theory is developing after that I was only to discover the next day when the Slovene Grandmaster Dusko Pavasovic hit Luke Van Wely with some superb preparation viz: 10...Nf6 11. Bf3 Qg6 12. 0-0-0 e5! 13. Ne2 Bg4 14. Rhg1 0-0-0 15. Qe3 h5 16. h3 Rxd6! 17. Rxd6 Nb4 18. Qb3 Qh6+ 19. Kd1 Bxf3 20. Qxf3 Qh7! with a ferocious attack for Black. Most extraordinary of all, he was to get it again (!) just two rounds later and claim another top class victim. So maybe it is back to the drawing board for White again? Time will tell.

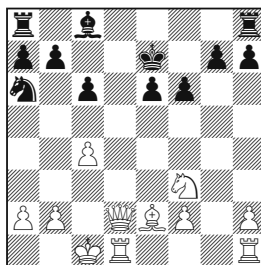
So Kharlov's mistake might be explained by the surprise value of 4 e4? Perhaps, but if there was a third thing I knew about this position it was that this move must be bad!

11. Bxe7

This is pretty strong, but in fact there is no need to rush. 11 0-0-0! was perhaps even stronger.

11...Kxe7 12. 0-0-0 f6 13. Nf3 Qh3??

Again I was pleased to sense immediately that this must be wrong and indeed it took me only a minute or so to see precisely why. I guess Kharlov wanted to take the queen off the g-file to avoid losing still more time. Nonetheless, 13...Qg6! was strictly compulsory. Since 14. Rhg1?! is met with 14...Qh6, it is better to play 14. Qd6+ Kf7 15 c5! threatening to capture on a6 and invade on the 7th rank. Black is in serious trouble, but can still struggle on.



14. Ng5! fxd5 15. Qxg5+ Kf7 16. Bg4!

At first I had seen 16. Bh5+ g6 17. Bg4 which also wins, but then I realised that since 16...Qh6 now is still answerable with 17 Bh5+, the text is both technically stronger and more aesthetic. Only now did I really sense that Black understood that this was really not his day.

17...Qxg4 17. Qxg4 Rf8

As Malcolm Pein wrote in the Daily Telegraph, resigns might have been a better reaction here. Not only is Black woefully behind materially, he also faces a continued attack.

18. Rhg1 g6 19. Qh4 Kg7 20. Rd8! Rf7 21. Rxg6+!

No element of risk in sacrificing here. It is mate in 7, and well within the capacity of flesh and blood to calculate.

21...Kxg6 22. Rg8+ Kf5 23. Rg5+ Kf6 24. Rh5+ 1-0

Grandmaster Peter Wells played several attractive games during the tournament.



Denis Khismatullin – Peter Wells, Round 11

Notes by Peter

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. Qc2 0-0 5. a3 Bxc3+ 6. Qxc3 b6 7. Bg5 Bb7 8. Nf3 d6 9. Nd2 Nbd7 10. f3 Rc8!?

I had a very nasty reversal last year in the 4NCL against Leif Johansson in this system playing the more thematic 10...d5. Since 8. Nf3 was not my opponent's usual system I guessed he might have seen this and decided to head for this set-up. I was also under the impression that the text was a lot more mainstream than it turns out to be.

11. e4 c5 12. dxc5 Rxc5

This was my idea. I have avoided ...h6 so that this recapture would attack the bishop and all but force White's next move. Still, I was under few illusions. Black needs to strike back against the centre very quickly, otherwise he will lack space as well as fighting against the bishop pair.

13. Be3 Rc8 14. Be2 Qc7

Black has two possible pawn breaks which can make a dent in his opponent's centre – either ...d5 or ...b5. However for the moment 14...d5? is well met by 15. e5!, while 14...b5 15. Qb4 did not look especially promising either. Now, however, 15...d5 is threatened and hence White's reply all but forced.

15. Bd4 Qb8

This time threatening 16...e5 followed by 17...d5!

16. Qe3

Again, White's moves are all but forced, but at the end of it a pleasant plus beckons if Black cannot continue to make trouble.

16...e5 17. Bc3 Nc5! 18. a4

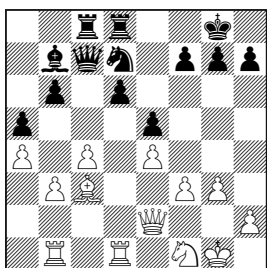
This didn't look like a serious try for an advantage. Once Black can secure the c5 square I have a lot more faith in the efficacy of the knight pair. However, allowing ...Na4 also promises nothing, while 18. b3 can be met with 18...b5! 19. cxb5 d5. I was not totally sure that this is theoretically watertight after say 20. Bb4, but 20...d4 21. Qf2 Rfd8 seemed to me to represent a degree of randomness which would not fit well with my opponent's plans for the game.

18...a5! 19. 0-0 Qc7 20. Rfd1 Rfd8

Around here I offered what I believed to be a pretty fair draw offer. Fortunately, in defiance of his body language, he decided to play on a bit.

21. b3 Nfd7 22. Rab1 Ne6 23. Nf1 Nf4! 24. g3?!

This just seems a bit rushed. I know that this is his 'bad bishop' but it does defend the pawns that blocks it in. There is often some case for removing the bishop pair in any case.



24...Nxe2+ 25. Qxe2

25...f5!

A mirror image of the pawn sacrifice which he avoided earlier! Black will get in his d5 pawn break and at least the drawback to the hasty 24. g3 will be quite apparent.

26. exf5 d5! 27. Nd2 Qc5+!

A dual purpose check, hoping to entice White's king to the long diagonal and also to prevent Ba3. It is for this reason that Black's knight better contests e4 from f6 than c5.

28. Kg2?!

28 Qf2 would have been better. Although 28...d4 still looks like full compensation.

28...d4 29. Bb2 Nf6 30. Re1 e4!? 31. fxe4?!

Understandable in that the d2 knight plays a valuable role blockading the d-pawn. However, 31. Nxe4! was a better defence since 31...Nxe4 32. dxe4 d3? is premature in view of 33 Qg5. Still, 32...Qxf5! instead would retain a fair initiative.

31...Qxf5 32. Rf1 Qg6 33. Rbe1 Re8 34. Rf4 Nxe4! 35. Nxe4 Rxe4 36. Qxe4!?

An understandable reaction in mutual time-trouble. 36. Rxe4 Re8 looks terminal,

but in fact after 37. Kf1 Bxe4 38. Kg1! Black stands better, but has nothing immediate.

36...Bxe4+ 37. Rxe4 Re8 38. Rxe8?!+ Qxe8 39. Bxd4? g5! 0-1

An unpleasant surprise. Black wins more material in view of 40. Rg4 Qe2+ 41. Kh3 Qf1 mate or 40. Rf3 Qe4! with ...g4 to come. My hunch that my opponent was keen to avoid a random tactical mess proved well justified. A nice way to end a tournament in which I had scored heavily with White but tended to suffer with the Black pieces.

Stephen Gordon was in the running for the highest played English player in the open event, until his spectacular last round loss.



Tigran Petrosian –

Stephen Gordon, Round 11

Notes by Stephen

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 a6 3.f4

2...a6 is used to try and steer the game back into an Open Sicilian Najdorf variation after 3.Nf3 d6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Nf6.

3...b5 4.Nf3 Bb7 5.d3 e6 6.g4!?

Tigran's pet line. There's nothing immediately wrong with the move and if Black plays too casually he could easily end up worse.

6...d5 7.Bg2 b4 8.Ne2 Nf6

8...dxe4 9.Ne5 Nd7 sets more problems for White than the move order chosen in the game.

9.Ne5 Nbd7 10.Nxd7 Nxd7 11.Ng3 dxe4 12.0-0 Qb6 13.dxe4 c4+ 14.Kh1 Bc5

So the position has settled down and I felt I had a very comfortable game here. The only problem piece is my Knight, which at the moment is lacking a decent square but that problem will be solved when I have completed development.

15.Qe2

15.Nh5 0-0 and the knight is untouchable 16.Qxd7?? Rad8

15...0-0 16.c3

16.Qxc4 Taking this pawn hands the initiative over to Black. 16...a5 17.Rd1 Rfd8 18.Qe2 e5 – it's much easier to play the Black position here.

16...a5 17.Bd2 Rfc8?!

It's not clear what my rook is achieving on this square. In hindsight there's a clearly more appropriate move here, which may have saved a tempo on the game continuation 17...Rfd8. Already I feel Black is better, as White has very little going on the Kingside.

18.g5 Bf8

Making room for the Knight to hop into the White position.

19.Be3 Bc5 20.Bd2 Bf8

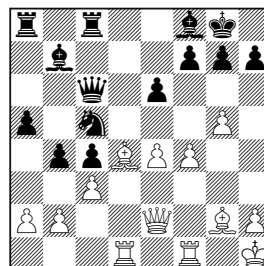
Already I was slightly short on time so decided to repeat a couple of moves.

21.Rad1

Tigran avoids the possible repetition. After 21.Be3 I was going to play 21...Nc5 anyway, which may well have transposed, but White has other options here.

21...Nc5 22.Be3 Qc6

This move is questionable. 22...Qa6 23.Bxc5 Bxc5 24.e5 Bxg2+ 25.Kxg2 a4 26.Ne4 a3 27.Nxc5 Rxc5 28.cxb4 Rcc8 seems fairly level.



23.Bd4

In a way I was pleased to see this, but at the same time I have to be very careful over the next few moves, as suddenly my kingside comes under some pressure. After playing 22... Qc6 I was slightly worried I'd let things slip, as White can simplify the game, when his knight will have a clear role 23.Bxc5 Bxc5 (23...Qxc5 might have been stronger, but after 24.e5 Bxg2+ 25.Kxg2 I did feel as though I was probably OK, but I've been left with a worse minor piece, as the knight will be very well placed on e4) 24.e5 Qxg2+ 25.Qxg2 Bxg2+ 26.Kxg2

23...Nd3 24.Nh5 a4 25.a3 bxa3 26.bxa3 Ra5

So after some natural enough looking moves, a fixed weakness has been created on a3, which in the long term could prove terminal. Black has activated the a8 rook, which will either help support an eventual ...e5 or swing to the b-file.

27.Qg4

White however has gained some rather serious pressure on the kingside. I can't push the pieces back with my pawns, so maybe its time for an exchange sack to reduce the pressure.

27...Rd8!?

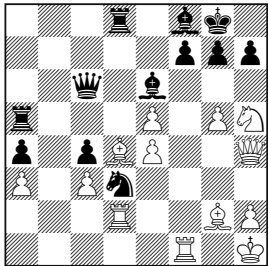
This is the reason I felt that 17...Rfd8 may have been a better move, but I failed to see its use at that time.

28.Rd2 e5?

An awful oversight occurs in the next few moves. 28...Rb5 29.Rg1 Rxd4! 30.cxd4 Qxe4 is something I was trying to calculate in the very little time I had, but could not come to a conclusion. There is only 1 move for White, but unfortunately it is very strong. (30...Bxa3! is probably how the game should have continued. 31.Nf6+ gxf6 32.gxf6+ Kf8 33.d5 is extremely complicated, but may be in Black's favour after 33...Qb6; if instead 33.Bf3 Ke8 is looking good for Black.) 31.Nf6+! (31.Bxe4 Bxe4+ 32.Qg2 neither rook can block (32.Rgg2 Rb1+ 33.Rd1 Rxd1+ 34.Qxd1 Nf2+; 32.Rdg2 Nf2#) 32...Bxg2+) 31...gxf6 32.gxf6+ Kh8 33.Qg8+!! White throws the queen away to remove all the pressure on the h1-a8 diagonal 33...Kxg8 34.Bxe4+ Kh8 35.Bxb7 Rxb7 36.Rdg2 and Black has to give back material.

29.fxe5 Bc8?! 30.Qh4 Be6??

And now my opponent had a 20 minute think. I was, for the first 18 minutes of thought, quite satisfied with my miniplan over the last few moves. I had blocked out both of the White Bishops and felt in the next couple of moves my a-pawn might be a passer. Unfortunately however, I realised just before Tirgan moved that my d8 Rook is hanging, and so now I am totally lost. 30...Re8 was the move.



31.Nxg7!!

Stunningly accurate. 31.g6 hxg6 32.Nxg7 Raa8 is still better for white, but slightly less clear.

31...Bxg7

31...Kxg7 32.g6 hxg6 33.Qxd8 Ra8 34.Qf6+ Kg8 and the game is pretty much over.

32.g6 Rd7 33.Qxh7+ Kf8 34.gxf7 Rxf7 34...Bxf7 35.e6

35.Rxf7+ Kxf7

35...Bxf7 36.e6

36.Rd1!

The Rook joins the action on f1.

36...Qd7 37.Rf1+ Ke8 38.Bh3! Bxe5

38...Nxe5 39.Bxe6 Qxe6 40.Qxg7

39.Qh6

39.Qg6+ Ke7 40.Qg5+ Kd6 41.Bxe6 Qxe6 42.Qd8+ Kc6 43.Qxa5 Bxd4 44.Qa8+! also ends the game.

39...Nf4 40.Rxf4 Bxf4 41.Qh8+ Ke7 42.Qf6+ Ke8

42...Kd6 43.Qxf4+ Kc6 44.Qf6 Kd6 45.e5+

43.Bxe6 Qc7 44.Qg6+ Ke7 45.Qf6+ Ke8 46.Bb6 Qxb6 47.Qf7+ Kd8 48.Qd7# 1-0

Adam Hunt seemed to be engaged in a one-man effort to refute the Sicilian – practically all his games as White started with this opening.



Adam Hunt – Mikhailo Oleksienko, Round 8 Notes by Adam

This was probably the most interesting game I played in Dresden.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.Bd3 Ne7

A slightly unusual idea. Black's plan is to overprotect e5

6.0-0 Nbc6 7.Nb3

7.Nxc6 Nxc6 8.c3; 7.Be3; 7.c3 have all been tried here.

7...Ng6

7...g6 is another way to play, e.g 8.Nc3 Bg7 9.Bf4 Ne5

8.Nc3 Be7 9.f4 d6 10.Qh5 b5 11.Be3 Bf6 12.Rad1 Qc7 13.a3 Rb8 14.f5! Nge5 15.fxe6 Bxe6 16.Nd5 Bxd5 17.exd5 Ne7 18.Be4 g6 19.Qh3 Bg7 20.Bh6 0-0 21.Bxg7 Kxg7 22.Nd4

I was quite happy with the white position here. Black's e7 knight is passive, and there may be a sacrifice happening on f7 quite soon.

22...Ng8 23.Rf4

23.c3!? might be a useful move, securing the knight and preventing b4.

23...b4 24.Kh1 bxa3 25.Qxa3 Nf6

25...Qc5! 26.Qxc5 dxc5 27.Nc6 Nxc6 28.dxc6 Rxb2 is unclear, but my young opponent thought White is just doing very well here, and he may well be right!

26.Rd1 Nh5?!

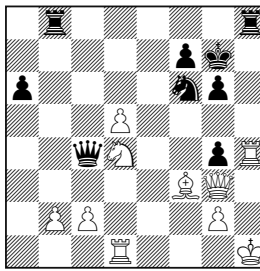
Black misplaces his knight in order to break up the white rooks. 26...Nxe4 27.Rxe4 Qc5 is slightly better for White.

27.Rh4 Qc4 28.Rd1 Nf6 29.Qxd6

29.Bxg6! also looks possible - 29...hxg6 30.Nf5+ gxf5 31.Rxc4 Nxc4 32.Qg3+ Ng4 33.h3 Nce5 34.hxg4 fxg4 with excellent winning chances for White.

29...Neg4

29...Nfg4 30.Bf3!



30.Bf3! Rfe8 31.Qg3 h5 32.h3 Rh8 33.hxg4 hxg4

34.Be2?

I make a mistake at a critical stage under time pressure. Better is 34.Kg1! Rxh4 35.Qxh4 Rh8 36.Nf5+ gxf5 37.Qg5+ Kf8 38.Qxf6 winning.

34...Rxh4+ 35.Qxh4 Qxd5 36.Kg1 Rh8 37.Qg3 Qh5 38.Ne6+

Bailing out for the draw. 38.Qf4 Qh1+ 39.Kf2 Qh4+ 40.g3 Qh2+ 41.Ke1 Re8 gives Black compensation. In our analysis after the game this position was not easy at all for White to play.

38...fxe6 39.Qc7+ Kh6 40.Qf4+ Kg7 41.Qc7+ Kh6 42.Qf4+ 1/2-1/2

David Howell.



Howell D (2511) – Meinhardt, Ma, Round 8 Notes by David

This game, much to my delight, won the best game prize for round 8 in Dresden. It was a welcome surprise after I had fallen ill and lost three games in a row earlier in the tournament, spoiling a promising start.

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5

3. Nd2 Nc6

hardly a main line, but nowadays is a worthy alternative to the more well-known moves such as 3...c5 or 3...Nf6.

4. Ngf3 Nf6 5. e5 Nd7 6. Nb3 a5 7. a4 b6 8. h4

a move that took aback my well-prepared opponent as it allows the exchange of light-squared bishops, but in this case the fight for space is the more pressing issue. [8. Bb5 Na7?! (8...Ncb8 is better, with the push of the c-pawn to follow) 9. Be2 Bb7 10.0-0 Qc8 11.Ng5! h6 12.Nh3 (12.Nxe6?!) Ba6 13.f4 g6 14.g4 led to a big advantage for white in the Howell-Contin, Gibraltar 2004]. 8...Ba6

9. Bxa6 Rxa6 10. Bf4 h6 11. h5 Ra7

re-deploying the misplaced rook, e.g. [11...f6? 12. Qd3 Ra8 13.Qg6+ Ke7 14. exf6+ gxf6 15. Qg3 with the idea of Nf3-h4-g6 with a fantastic position for white].

12. Kf1 Qc8 13. Rh3 Ne7 14. Nh4 c5 15. c3 Qc6 16. Kg1 Kd8?!

The last few moves have been devoted to quiet manoeuvring by both sides, slowly improving the positioning of each piece. However, with this King move, black is stuck between plans. [the energetic 16...c4! 17. Nd2 b5 at least gives black some counterplay and a chance to muddy the waters]. White now embarks on an ambitious plan to secure the b5 outpost for his knight.

17. Nd2! Rc7

18. Nb1 g5?!

trying to break free of white's bind on the position, but this creates various weaknesses in the black camp. [18...cxd4 19. cxd4 Qc2 20. Nc3 Qd1+ 21. Rxd1 Nc8 was probably black's best try, although the b5 square and the backward kingside pawns mean that he faces a tough defensive task].

19. hxg6 fxg6

20. Nf3 Bg7

21. Na3!

now white's knight penetrates black's position. 21...Nf8 [21...g5 is met strongly by 22.Bxg5! hxg5 23. Rxh8+ Bxh8 24. Nxg5 when suddenly the white knights are swarming towards the black king. Black will find it hard to fend off threats such as Nf7, Nb5 and Qh5].

22. Nb5 Rd7 23. Be3 g5 24. Nh2 Nf5 25. Nf1 Ng6 26. Qh5 Nge7

[26...Nf4 27. Bxf4 gxf4 28. Rf3 wins a pawn and black is still without counterplay].

27. Bxg5!

I was pleased with the move, although it is not too hard to find, what follows shows that black is absolutely paralysed 27...hxg5

28. Qxh8+ Bxh8 29. Rxh8+ Ng8 30. Rxc8+ Ke7

31. Ne3

black's knight needs to be removed 31...Nh6?! [31...Nxe3 32. fxe3 Rd8 33. Rg7+ Kf8 34. Rxc8 Rd7 35. Nd6 Rg7 must be black's last chance, although with accurate play for white the win should still be only a matter of technique].

32. Rg6 Nf7 33. Nf5+ Kf8

34. g4! Black is helpless as white brings his final pieces into the fray.

34...Nh8

35. Rh6 Kg8 36. Kg2 Nf7 37. Rg6+ Kf8 38. Rh1 Rd8

39. Rf6

I must here utter a word or two of thanks to my opponent, who very graciously suggested that I enter this game for the day's best game award. 1-0

As well as the members of the Team England party, a number of other English players also competed in Dresden. Scores as follows:

Open championship

Peter Sowray – 5, Mark Lyell, Alan Chapman – 4, Richard Almond, Meri Grigoryan-Lyell – 3.5, Norman Hutchinson – 3

Women's championship

Ingrid Lauterbach – 4, Sophie Seeber – 1.5

I am grateful to Melanie Buckley for the photos used in this report.

Peter Sowray, ECF International Director

International Selection

I am pleased to announce that the composition of the International Selection Panel has been revised. I am grateful to the following for agreeing to serve on the Panel:

Allan Beardsworth; Jana Bellin; Ray Edwards; Glenn Flear; Harriet Hunt; Jonathan Parker; Richard Palliser

As International Director, I will chair meetings of the Panel.

The ECF is fortunate to have assembled this group of strong players with a good knowledge of the English and International chess scene. The Panel will be responsible for selecting the Olympiad and European Championship teams but will not be involved in selection for junior events.

Peter Sowray, ECF International Director

England's Latest Grandmaster

Congratulations to Gawain Jones, who became England's latest Grandmaster, when he achieved his final Grandmaster Norm at the season finale of the 4 Nations Chess League this weekend.

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01424 775222

Junior News

3rd World School Chess Championship

Kallithea, Halkidiki 28th April – 5th May 2006



England Team, with coaches and Gerry Walsh

Continued from front page...

The party consisted of 12 players, 3 coaches, 22 "Assorted Hangers On" (parents!) and 2 managers although everyone ended up getting involved in the logistics (including our "water negotiator" who achieved a record low price of

just EURO.2 per bottle per round per player). We had an overnight flight from Gatwick which was not ideal: watching four Emergency Rescue personnel climb aboard the plane complete with helmets did not raise spirits or make sleeping any easier - but at least the flight and subsequent coach ride passed relatively uneventfully!

Arriving at Pallini Beach Hotel at 05:00am may have been a familiar sight for some (as we have competed on 3 previous occasions in Halkidiki) but for most it was just too early. Almost as if to compensate, Pallini Beach had organised super-fast booking-in, so within minutes most players were asleep in their rooms, and the most (fool)hardy parents retired to the bar to await breakfast. At least we were to have a full day to recover before the tournament starts!

As in previous years, we quickly established a team base on the patio by the pool-side café and the team soon settled to the coaching, preparation, relaxing & eating routine. Tennis, chess, table tennis, chess, bouncy balls, chess, pool, chess, skimming and of course chess are favourite leisure activities. Some seriously good tennis from the Quinn family, Gideon Franklin, Adam Hunt & Ed V-R began to attract quite a crowd, until the tennis professional arrives. Catastrophe: it's EUR5 per person per hour from here on in. An adverse commercial change from last year's "For England it is free", but we thought we would cope.

Now if you have got this far you are perhaps thinking, "What about the chess ...?" I have a very important message. Go to www.englishchess.org.uk and follow the links from the home page to the 'World Schools Chess Championship'. You may not enjoy reading Matt Hunt's 'wacky' reports, but there are lots of photographs, all the chess results, game highlights and links to the official tournament site to make it worthwhile! In the meantime, here are the chess highlights:

The tournament was split by age and, where the number of girls in an age group exceeded 20 players, into Boys and Girls categories. As a result England had 4 players in the U15 Boys, 2 in the U15 Girls and 6 in the U13 Boys. The competition was strong, with Russia, Eastern European and Asian countries well represented. The top 5 seeds in the U13 Boys comprised 2 Russians, 2 Indians and an Armenian; The top 5 seeds in the U15 Boys comprised a Russian, an Indian, a Turk, a Greek

and our own Callum Kilpatrick. The top two seeds in the Girls U15 were WFM's from Moldova and Russia. It was a real test of the England players' mettle, and a good opportunity to score some FIDE points!



The Playing Hall

With the Swiss pairing system, the draw was always going to be a bit of a lottery until the later rounds. In the U13s, Charlie Hierons on his first international trip drew both seeded Indians in the first three rounds. Having lost to the first he came back with patience and skill to draw with the other. Alongside him in the U13s Samuel scored 100% in his first three rounds. Samuel went on to play both the seeded Russians, scoring an impressive win over the top seed. Daniel Hunt also got drawn against both the seeded Russians on his way to 4 points from the first 6 rounds: the two Russians accounting for the dropped points.



Chess never stops, even at lunch!

Saravanan Sathyanandha played the top seed Russian and the highest rated Indian on his way to a total 6 out of 9. Joseph Quinn and Patrick

Stevens both ended on 4 out of 9: Joseph's score including a draw against the 2nd seed Indian.

In the U15 Girls, Lateefah Messam-Sparks matched Samuel Franklin's score in the first 3 rounds with a 100% score, including having to play team-mate Jessica Thiliganathan in round 2. There followed three really tough games for Lateefah, including both the top seeded WFM's, where she scored just a draw before she picked up in the last three rounds to get another 2½ points. Jessica proved how tough she is to beat with just the one loss: she secured a draw against her WFM opponent in round 4 and was unlucky not to get a win.

The U15 Boys section had some remarkable games. George O'Toole played the top seed Russian in Round 2 in a game that lasted nearly 5½ hours.

With both players down to just the 30 seconds per move on their clocks it ended with the Russian being able to drive home a slight advantage to win. Our top rated player, Callum Kilpatrick, played some excellent games, the highlight being his demolition of his unrated but outstanding Russian opponent in Round 8 - check out the website for the annotated game. David Grant and Edward Venmore-Rowland both played well, David also having a marathon 5+ hour game and holding his own against the highly rated 2nd seed from Turkey before losing in the end game.

Most of you may well know this but I commend to you all the players for the sheer effort and concentration that they apply over the course of a tournament like this. In total, 9 matches of typically 3-4 hours in length over 8 days, with an hour of coaching and at least the same again of individual preparation - trust me, it's no cakewalk! Charlie takes the record this time for over 9 hours of match play on the double round day - and he had coaching and preparation inbetween too!



The 'Greek Evening'

The Players' final set of results and standings:

Section	The Player	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Rd 8	Rd 9	Total	Position
U15 B	Callum Kilpatrick	1	0	1	1	0	1	½	1	½	6	5th =
	George O'Toole	1	0	1	0	1	1	½	0	1	5½	13th =
	David Grant	0	1	0	1	1	½	0	0	1	4½	26th =
	Ed Venmore-Rowland	1	0	1	0	½	½	1	0	1	5	16th =
U15 G	Jessica Thiliganathan	1	0	½	½	½	1	½	½	½	5	8th =
	Lateefah Messam-Sparks	1	1	1	0	½	0	1	1	½	6	3rd
U13 B	Samuel Franklin	1	1	1	0	1	½	½	½	1	6½	3rd
	Saravanan Sathyanandha	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	6	9th =
	Daniel Hunt	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	5	18th =
	Charlie Hierons	0	1	½	0	1	1	0	1	½	5	18th =
	Joseph Quinn	0	½	0	1	1	0	1	½	0	4	36th =
	Patrick Stevens	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	4	36th =
	TOTAL	8	4½	8	5½	7½	8½	7	4½	9	62½	

The coaches also deserve every credit: 4 hours of preparation with individual players in the mornings, 2-3 hours reviewing games once the matches were over and then research on opponents once the next round draw came out. Just to watch is all so exhausting for us mere mortals!

The total points achieved exceeds last year's total and must represent one of our best overall result in international competition - well done everyone! Of special note is: Lateefah 3rd in the Girls Under 15, Sam Franklin 3rd in the Boys Under 13 and George O'Toole 3rd=U14 in the Boys Under 15. It was just fantastic stuff. Many thanks to all the competitors, parents, coaches, organisers and ECF Office for processing reports so quickly (Sophie yet again working over the bank holiday weekend - much appreciated), together we made this a most successful and enjoyable occasion.

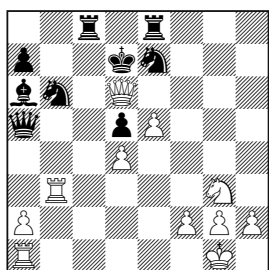
P.S. In case you were wondering: Partridge Tunneller is an anagram of the trip organisers' names, and our dedicated coaches were Neil McDonald (GM), Adam Hunt (IM) and Thomas Rendle (IM).

Peter 'Partridge Tunneller' Turner, ECF Honorary Life Vice-President & Head of Delegation

Game from Round 8

Messam-Sparks, Lateefah (1824) - Chan Wei-Yi, Victoria (1891)
World Schools Chess Championship, U15G, Kallithea, Greece 2007
[Annotated by Thomas Rendle]

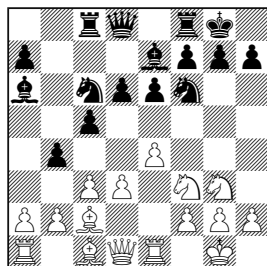
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bc4 This is a more positional approach than the more common 3.d4, and has been played at the top level by players such as Michael Adams. **3...e6 4.d3 Nc6 5.c3** [5.0-0!? was also worthy of consideration.] **5...Nf6 6.Bb3 Be7 7.0-0 0-0 8.Re1!** This move facilitates the standard plan of Nb1-d2-f1 where the knight has the choice of both e3 and g3, where it can assist future kingside play. **8...b5!** Black wisely seeks active play on the queenside. **9.Nbd2 b4 10.Nf1 Ba6 11.Ng3 Rc8 12.Bc2!** The bishop has its eye on h7 should the b1-h7 diagonal become open after d4 and e5.



12...d5 13.e5 Nd7 14.d4 bxc3! Opening up lines for Black's pieces on the queenside. **15.bxc3 cxd4 16.cxd4 Nb4 17.Bb1 Qc7 18.Ba3!?** Pinning the Black knight to the bishop on e7, which, as we will soon discover, is a key defender to the kingside. [18.Bg5!?² leads to interesting play] **18...Qa5 19.Re3** Another aggressive move, typical of Lateefah's play in this tournament. **19...Nb6 20.Rb3** Thus far

both players have played an excellent game, but here Black makes her first real mistake, and it is not one that goes unpunished. **20...Nc6?** [20...h6 21.Qe1 Nc6 With roughly level chances.] **21.Bxe7** The bishop has been removed and immediately its presence is missed. **21...Nxe7 22.Bxh7+!** Lateefah's second 'Greek Gift' sacrifice is no less devastating as her first. Although Black doesn't accept the piece this time the result is the same. **22...Kxh7** [22...Kxh7 This leads to a forced mate in 10(!) moves. 23.Ng5+ Kg8 (23...Kg6 24.Qh5#) 24.Qh5 Rfe8 25.Qxf7+ Kh8 26.Qh5+ Kg8 27.Qh7+ Kf8 28.Nxe6+ Kf7 29.Qxg7+ Kxe6 30.Qf6+ Kd7 31.Qd6# A nice variation - see position!]

23.Ng5 g6 24.Qg4 Qxa2!? A good practical try, the queen cannot be taken. **25.Rbb1** [25.Rxa2?? Rc1+ with mate to follow] **25...Qc2 26.Qh3 Kg7 27.Nh5+** Easily winning, although a bystander who wishes to remain anonymous (P.T.) said he thought Bg8 would lead to a forced mate. [27.Bg8! Rxc7 28.Qh7+ Kf8 29.Qxf7#] **27...Kh8 28.Bxg6** A crushing win. 1-0



ECF National Girls' Team Chess Championship

Saturday, 9 June 2007

Are you and your friends the best chess team in Britain? Well now you can find out!

This prestigious team tournament is open to female chess players up to the age of 18.

County sides, school teams or just groups of chess-friends, all are welcome. Special prizes for school sides and for the best team member ensure that everyone will enjoy the day.

The event is more than a competition; it is a Festival of Chess that showcases the talent of our young female chess players.

The event is being held in the historic grounds of Claremont Fan Court School. Set in 97 acres of rolling parkland, this is a wonderful venue for playing chess.

All day refreshments, picnic facilities, tours of the house and grounds, live video matches and a parallel chess competition for parents and siblings, will all ensure this is a great day out for all of the family.

About 50% of entries into this tournament are from individuals. Simply send in your completed entry form and we will put you into a suitable team. This also applies if you are unable to field a full team.

An online entry form can be found on chessuk.com - the website for women and girls' chess.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further details. Claire Summerscale (020 8874 0135, Email: director.juniorchess@englishchess.org.uk)

International Junior Selections

Congratulations to the Juniors representing England at this year's World and European Championships:

World Youth Championships

Under 8 - Anna Wang, Matthew Wadsworth; Under 10 - Adam Taylor; Under 12 - Radha Jain, Maria Wang, Daniel Hunt; Under 14 - Sheila Dines, Yang-Fan Zhou; Under 16 - Selina Khoo, Ankush Khandelwal; Under 18 - Chantal Siresina, David Howell

European Youth Championships

Under 10 - Roy Zhang; Under 12 - Craig Whitfield, Peter Williams; Under 14 - Anjali Lakhani, Subin Sen; Under 16 - Amisha Parmar, Callum Kilpatrick; Under 18 - Katie Martin, Peter Roberson

The selection committee would like to highly commend the following candidates:

Peter Andreev; Kavitha Appulingam; James Bowler; Henry Broadley; Brandon Clarke; Eugene Daley; Ravi Haria; Dana Hawrami; Jude Lenier; George O'Toole; Otto Pyper; Jessica Thilaganathan; Li Wu

There may be some late changes to those representing England at the above events.

You can see the English Chess Federation International Selection Policy and Grading Targets by going to www.englishchess.org.uk/junior

Claire Summerscale, Director of Junior Chess & Education

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ECF Under 18 and Under 13 County Championships 2007

A small but perfectly formed tournament, held on the 21st April at Onslow St. Audrey's School, Hertfordshire. Thank you to the school for providing such a great venue, to all who helped on the day and Stewart Reuben for his assistance with the jamboree pairings.

Congratulations to the County Champions!

Under 13 Championships 1st Berkshire, 2nd Hertfordshire, 3rd Essex

Under 13 girls Championships 1st Hertfordshire, 2nd Essex

Under 18 Championships 1st Kent, 2nd Derbyshire, 3rd Lincolnshire



Middlesex County Chess Association Press Release

In this centenary year of Middlesex CCA we are pleased to announce a Scheveningen match tournament over nine rounds between teams representing "Middlesex" and "Young England" to be played this summer in the Strand, Central London. Nine juniors will, individually, in successive rounds, play a different member of the Middlesex team.

The tournament will start on Monday 9th July 2007, rounds being played at the rate of one per day, through to Friday 13th, resuming on Monday 16th and ending on Thursday 19th July. The rate of play will be forty moves in two hours, followed by two in one, ending with a thirty minute quickplay finish. Rounds will begin at 1 pm.

On behalf of the County we would like to thank our sponsors, Edexcel, Popularis, the English Chess Federation (via its John Robinson Trust) and the several individuals who have generously donated funds.

The members of the "Young England" team will be leading English juniors with a realistic chance of obtaining an International Master norm in this competition. The "Middlesex" team will be a mixture of titled players and strong amateurs, many of whom are registered with non-English federations to comply with norm requirements.

Edexcel is a subsidiary of Pearson PLC, a FTSE-100 company. Edexcel is a provider of examination and course services in the education sector for more than two million individuals. Further information can be obtained from the Edexcel website on www.edexcel.org.uk.

Popularis is a small company based in Leicester that conducts the management of ballots and elections. Further information can be obtained from the Popularis Ltd. Website on www.popularis.org.

The John Robinson trust has been set up as a result of a bequest from the late John Robinson, a much missed organiser and arbiter of many chess competitions within the United Kingdom. It is a registered charity devoted to the promotion of junior chess in England. It is closely associated with the English Chess Federation.

The Middlesex County Chess Association is a territorial affiliate of the English Chess Federation. It is devoted to the promotion of chess within the historic county of Middlesex. The county runs several teams, as well as leagues and tournaments. Middlesex, despite entering the County Championship less often than other Home Counties, has won the County Championship more times than any other county.

Chris Fewtrell, President Middlesex CCA and member of the Centenary organising sub-committee, Middlesex CCA.

Simon S.Y. Spivack, Member of the Centenary organising sub-committee, Middlesex CCA.

Littlewood's Choice

The Monte Carlo Amber Blindfold Tournament, played alongside the Rapidplay Tournament involving the same group of players, is now practically our only opportunity of witnessing this bizarre mode of play, of which Kramnik has proved to be the most successful exponent. Of course, a number of blunders are made in such a tournament and also players become tired and take quick draws, but the overall standard is incredibly high.

This month, I offer you an attractive game which I saw annotated in Malcolm Pein's Telegraph column and also include two unannotated 'blindfold' games to confirm my statement about the level of play.

Amber Blindfold Monte Carlo 2007

□ Boris Gelfand

■ Teimour Radjabov

1 d4 Nf6

After 1...f5 the game Radjabov-Vallejo Pons went 2 c4 Nf6 3 Nc3 g6 4 h4!? d6 5 h5 Nxh5 6 Rxh5 gxh5 7 e4 Be6 8 Be2 Bg7 9 Bxh5+ Kd7 10 d5 Bg8 11 exf5 Qf8 12 Bg4 Bf6 13 Nge2 Na6 14 Be3 Bf7 15 Ne4 Rg8 16 Bh3 Kc8 17 Qd2 Be8 18 Rc1 c5 19 Nf4 Bd7 20 Ne6 Qf7 21 a3 b6 22 b4 Nc7 23 bxc5 bxc5 24 Nxc7 Kxc7 25 Qa5+ Kc8 26 Nxc5 a6 27 Nxa6 Rxa6 28 Qxa6+ Kd8 29 Bb6+ 1-0

2 Nf3

The game Carlsen -Ivanchuk went 2 c4 e6 3 Nf3 b6 4 g3 Ba6 5 Qc2 c5 6 d5!? exd5 7 cxd5 Bb7 8 Bg2 Nxd5 9 0-0 Be7 10 Rd1 Nc6 11 Qf5 Nf6 12 e4 g6 13 Qf4 0-0 14 e5 Nh5 15 Qg4 d5 16 exd6 Bf6 17 Nc3 Nd4 18 Nxd4 Bxg2 19 Nf5! Bc6 20 d7! Qc7 21 Nd5 Bxd5 22 Rxd5 Rfd8 23 Be3 Bxb2 24 Nh6+ Kf8 25 Rad1 Bg7 26 Rxh5 gxh5 27 Qf5 1-0

2...g6 3 Bg5

This Torre Attack proves to be an excellent choice against such a dangerous tactician as Radjabov. Its apparent simplicity reminds me of the famous Smyslov system against the K Indian, but without the commitment of playing the pawn to c4. This gives a 'blindfold' player the basis for a quiet development of his pieces without giving his opponent much to bite on.

3...Bg7 4 Nbd2 d6 5 e4 h6 6 Bh4 g5 7 Bg3 Nh5 8 c3 e6

Having committed himself to driving the bishop back, Radjabov has difficulty in forming an effective plan, a situation that is quite common against other 'quiet' openings such as the London or Colle systems.

9 Ng1!

"Make your mind up!"

9...Nxg3

The alternative 9... Nf4 cannot be much worse; at least Gelfand is given the chance of allowing 10 Ne2?? Nd3 mate ...

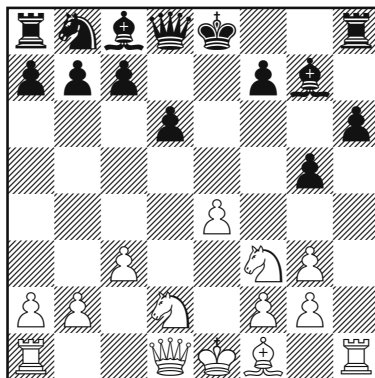
10 hxg3 e5

Not only wasting an important tempo but also allowing the f5 square to become a potential weakness.

11 dxe5!

Yet another irritating move for Black who can hardly block the long diagonal by recapturing with the pawn and so suffers a further loss of time.

11...Bxe5 12 Ngf3 Bg7



13 Bb5+! c6

Exchanging bishops would only highlight the weakness of f5 and of Radjabov's light squares in general, but now his d6 pawn becomes vulnerable.

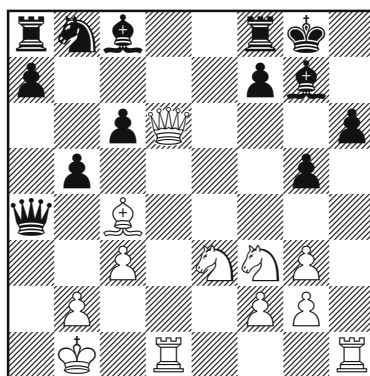
14 Be2 0-0 15 Nc4 Qe7 16 Qxd6 Qxe4 17 Ne3! Qe6

Perhaps a tacit offer of a draw but Gelfand is quite happy with his position. If instead 17...Nd7 Malcolm gives the nice line 18 Bd3 Qe6 19 Bh7+! Kh8 20 Qxe6 fxe6 21 Bc2 Kg8 22 Ng4 winning a pawn.

18 0-0-0! Qxa2?!

Faced with the unpleasant choice of exchanging queens with a most unenviable endgame and going in for a wild tactical adventure which is surely doomed to failure, Radjabov, perhaps out of sheer frustration, chooses the latter.

19 Bc4 Qa1+ 20 Kc2 Qa4+ 21 Kb1 b5



Black may have been relying on this move but a rude shock awaits him ...

22 Rxh6!

Capablanca would have been proud of this thematic combination which logically exploits the perfect placing of Gelfand's pieces. The variations are interesting.

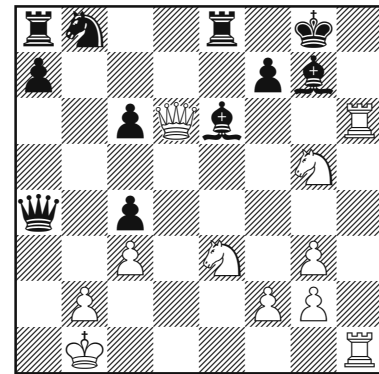
22...bxc4

If 22...Bxh6 23 Qg6+ Bg7 24 Rh1 mates. If 22... Qxd1+ 23 Nxd1 Bxh6 24 Qg6+ Bg7 25 Nxg5 mates. Finally, if 22...Re8 23 Bxf7+ Kxf7 24 Nxg5+ Kg8 25 Qg6 mates

23 Rdh1 Re8

Or 23...Nd7 24 Rh8+ Bxh8 25 Qh6 mates. Or 23... f6 24 Rh8+ Bxh8 25 Rxh8+ Kxh8 26 Qxf8+ Kh7 27 Qf7+ Kh8 28 Qxf6+ Kg8 29 Ng5 mates.

24 Nxg5 Be6



Or 24 ...Bxh6 25 Qxh6 mating, but not of course 25 Rxh6?? Bf5+! turning the tables after 26 Nxf5 Re1+ mating, or 26 Kc1 Qa1+ 27 Kd2 Qxb2+ 28 Ke1 Qd1+ 29 Qd1 Rxe3+ winning, a variation that could well be missed in a blindfold game!

25 Rxe6! fxe6

Or 25...Rxe6 26 Qd8+ Bf8 27 Rh8+ Kxh8 28 Qxf8 mate. If instead, in desperation, Black tries 25...Na6 White's simplest is 26 Rxe8+ Rxe8 27 Qd7 Rf8 28 Qf5 mating.

26 Qc7! 1-0

The game could end 26...Rf8 27 Rh7 Bxc3 28 Rh8+! followed by mate.

Clare's 50km Challenge!

This summer I will be taking part in the following events to raise money for the Motor Neurone Disease Association:

Great Manchester Run - May 20th

(I made it and I'm still standing! 1:06:19)

Brussels Run - May 27th (...raring to go!)

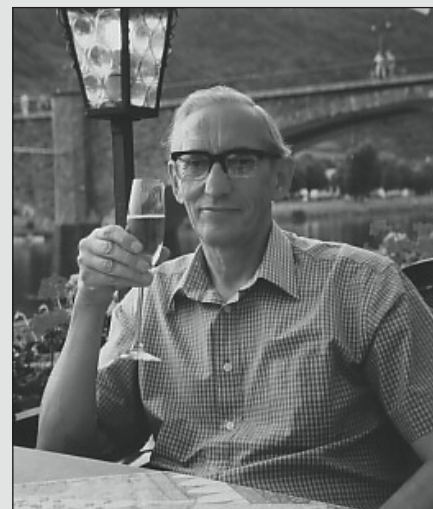
Great North Run - Sep 30th

If you would like to support me it's very easy to make a donation by credit/debit card on my web page at:

www.justgiving.com/claress50km

Many thanks for your support.

Clare Furness



Note from the Editor: Clare is the daughter of our own Richard Furness (pictured above), who suffered from Motor Neurone Disease and sadly passed away in April 2004.

Auction of Chess Sets

at Christie's

2 May 2007

Dr. Jean-Claude Cholet Collection of Chess Sets

Christie's South Kensington sale of *The Dr. Jean-Claude Cholet Collection of Chess Sets* on Wednesday, 02 May 2007 totalled £847,686 and was 99% sold by value, 98% sold by lot.

The top lot was lot 32, A fine and rare German carved ivory animalier chess set, retailed by Walter Thornhill, circa 1870 which realised £150,000 and establishes a **new world record for a 19th century chess set at auction**.

Please find the top three below:

[All sold prices include buyer's premium]

Sold: £847,686; \$1,690,286; €1,242,708; Sale No: 5320

Lots Sold: 172; Lots Offered: 176; Sold by Lot: 98%; Sold by £: 99%

£: \$1.994; £: €1.466

Lot	Price	Estimate	Buyer
32	£ 150,000 (\$299,100; €219,900)	£20,000-30,000	UK Private
<i>A fine and rare German carved ivory animalier chess set, retailed by Walter Thornhill, circa 1870</i>			

NEW WORLD AUCTION RECORD FOR A 19TH CENTURY CHESS SET

45	£ 33,600 (\$66,998; €49,258)	£5,000-8,000	UK Private
<i>A German turned ivory chess set, after Michael Edel, mid 19th century</i>			
82	£28,800 (\$57,427; €42,221)	£6,000-10,000	UK Private
<i>A French polychrome carved ivory figural chess set, Paris school, second half 19th century</i>			

110	£28,800 (\$57,427; €42,221)	£8,000-12,000	European Private
<i>An Italian carved coral and lava lust type chess set, first quarter 19th century</i>			

111	£28,800 (\$57,427; €42,221)	£5,000-8,000	UK Private
<i>A French carved ivory figural chess set, late 19th century.</i>			

"The Dr Jean-Claude Cholet Collection exceeded both the vendor's and Christie's expectations, with many lots selling significantly higher than expected. The top lot, a wonderful German set from circa 1870, carved to represent owls versus mice, achieved a new world record for a 19th century set, selling for five times the price realized in 1997. The success of the sale is testimony to Dr. Cholet's judgment as a discerning collector, which was recognized by fellow collectors and new buyers alike", said Pippa Green, Specialist and Head of Sale.

ECF EMAIL ALERT

Register your email
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www.englishchess.org.uk

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

Book Reviews

by Gary Lane

Revolution on the 70s

by Garry Kasparov published by Everyman £30.00

The idea is to examine how chess openings have changed since the 1970s due to players thinking differently about popular positions. After the huge success of the series "My Great Predecessors" it makes good publishing sense to find another book. This is welcome because it is always interesting to read of Kasparov's views and he romps through various lines, giving some background information before examining how the opening has changed. Now the games included are fairly well known, so you will not discover a hidden gem to win your game at a weekend tournament, but the explanation of the line will help you understand how to create a reasonable plan. Kasparov tends to demand excellence but unfortunately Everyman's editing has had a blip because there are various mistakes in the text. For instance three games in the Caro-Kann have the wrong move order 1 e4 and then 1...e6, while another diagram with a position under discussion by Adorjan has three black knights. There is a whopping 64 pages of the book devoted to the opinions of top players about openings. Now I don't suppose anyone would buy a separate book on such a topic, so is it just a ploy to bump up the price? I am inclined to think it is a bonus to include such material because the players respond positively with astute comments mainly because of Kasparov's involvement in the project. The British players Keene, Hartston Nunn, and Speelman all provide worthwhile views. An excellent insight into famous chess openings.

Silman's Complete Endgame Course

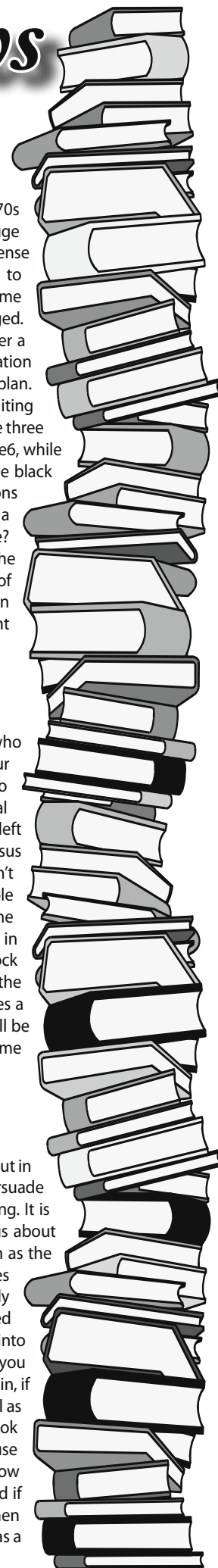
by Jeremy Silman published by Siles Press £16.99.

The author is a specialist in producing useful books for club players who wish to improve. Perhaps his best known title is "How to Reassess Your Chess" which can still be warmly recommended. In this case the aim to provide a book to cover the practical side of endings by including material which he thinks will be useful. This means that he has controversially left out the basic lesson of how to checkmate with bishop and knight versus king. He helpfully points that the combination can mate but then doesn't bother to show how to do it because it "...might never occur in your whole chess lifetime and is far too difficult to waste your precious study time on..." An interesting argument but there is plenty of obscure material in this 530 page book that also might never occur. I think it is a building block that is important but then again the author is excellent in other areas of the endgame. There are lots of diagrams making it easy on the eye and uses a well spaced writing style which is not intimidating, meaning players will be happy to invest in an addition to their library. Silman makes the endgame easier to understand.

Secrets of Practical Chess

by John Nunn published by Gambit £14.99.

John Nunn has a reputation for producing fine books for strong players but in this case he is aiming to educate club players. The intention is to try to persuade the reader to use his time more efficiently and to stop muddled thinking. It is to be expected that such an experienced grandmaster is rather serious about which openings to play. He advocates tried and tested main lines such as the Ruy Lopez and the Orthodox Queen's Gambit. However, this involves learning lots of theory and you really have to be keen. This is especially true nowadays when you can trot out 18 moves and feel rather pleased until your teenage opponent later complains that you had not taken into account last week's crucial game in Armenia. Still, he has a point that if you stick to the main lines you are going to do well in the long run. Then again, if you play the Latvian Gambit as Black and like to play something unusual as White then the author will not be pleased. This is an update of a 1998 book and the extra 57 pages are very interesting. He demonstrates how to use a computer to improve your openings and has excellent advice about how to make the most of Fritz. There is also a feature about chess books and if you have bought 'Rapid Chess Improvement' by Michael de la Maza then the conclusion is basically to ask for your money back. With John Nunn as a guide the only way is up.



Results Round-Up

KJCA Dulwich Junior

Rapidplay

4 March 2007

Under 18: William Jones, Lewisham CC, 127, 4½/5; Victor Jones, Lewisham CC, 119, 3½/5; Dunstan Rodrigues, Lewisham CC, 102, 3½/5; Matt Lunn, Coulsdon CC, 101, 3½/5; Lyall Bayliss, Crowborough CC, 142, 3; Joe Kidson, Dulwich, 100, 3; Sunil Parthiban, Beckenham & Bromley CC, 69, 3; Roger Baxter, Buxton, 3

Under 14: Sheila Dines, Sanderstead, 130, 4½/5; Eugene Daley, Dulwich, 72, 4½/5; Will Glover, Lewisham CC, 88, 4; Viktor Szabad, Greenwich CC, 4; Jasdeep Gahir, Lewisham CC, 81, 3½/5; Duncan Bell, Beckenham, 76, 3½/5; Dominic Heslin-Rees, Charlton CC, 65, 3½/5; Georgiana Philippou, West Wickham, 58, 3½/5; Charles Black, Dulwich, 49, 3½/5

Under 11: Nicholas Clanchy, Balham, 54, 5½/6; Peter Andreev, Dulwich, 81, 5; Joshua Cavendish, Barnet CC, 46, 4½/5; Raunak Rao, Beckenham, 25, 4½/5; Orlando Devoy, Clapham, 0, 4½/5

Under 9: Alexei Davis, Mottingham, 23, 6/6; Mano Sathyamurthy, Herne Bay CC, 10, 5; Rohan Bansal, Dulwich, 0, 5; Luxmie Muhunthakumar, New Malden, 0, 5; Hector Huser, Balham, 0, 5; Oliver Black, Dulwich, 10, 4½/5; Alexander Selway, Bromley, 0, 4½/5

70th Richmond Rapidplay

11 March 2007

92 played in the 70th Richmond Rapidplay held on 11 March and prizes totalling £678 were awarded for the following results. Full details can be found here on the Surrey Rapid Chess website www.surreyrapidchess.org.

Open: Graeme Buckley, 5/6; Edgar Flacker, 4½/6; Mark Lyell, 4½/6; Mark Lyell, 4½/6; Mark Josse, 4½/6; James Sherwin, 4½/6; Meri Lyell, 4½/6; Yang-Fan Zhou, 3½/6

Major (U160): Sainbayor Tserendorj, 5½/6; Prasad Bangalore, 5/6; Graham Alcock, 3½/6; Jude Lenier, 3½/6; Ronnie Cohen, 3½/6; Peter Morton, 3½/6

Intermediate (U120): Victor Jones, 5½/6; Avinoam Baruch, 4½/6; James McCallion, 4½/6; Joshua Pineda, 4½/6; Jasper Tambini, 3½/6; Athman Sivakumar, 3½/6

Minor (U80): Timothy Powell, 5/6; David Buckley, 4½/6; Ayse Karel, 4½/6; Michael Adams, 4½/6; Aneesh Aggarwal, 4½/6

31st Kings Head Rapidplay

24 March 2007

Over 110 players took part in the 31st Kings Head Rapidplay tournament at the Porchester Hall, Bayswater London W2, on Saturday 24th March 2007. First prize was won by Graeme Buckley with a perfect score of 6 out of 6.

There were 114 players, 17 prize winners and a total prize fund of £704. Visit the Kings Head website (www.khcc.org.uk) for further information, games, and photographs from the tournament including the complete tournament table.

Thank you The Kings Head Chess Club would like to thank all players for taking part in the tournament and also all Kings Head members and hangers-on who helped to organise and run the event.

Main Prizes: Graeme Buckley, 6, £250; James Sherwin, 5, £22; Jovanka Houska, 5, £22; Alexander Cherniaev, 5, £22; Venkataramanan Tiruchirapalli, 5, £22; Colin Crouch, 5, £22; Jovica Radovanovic, 5, £22; Adrian Aciepa, 5, £22

Grading Prizes: 199-175 James Sherwin, 5, £60; 174-150 Dominic Allen, 4, £60; =149-125 Liviu Enciu, 4, £60; Naseem Syed, 4, £60; 124-100 Peter Lord, 3½, £60; U100 Adrian Pay, 4

Junior Prizes (books kindly donated by Cadogan): 14-15 Anuk Sirisena, 2½; 12-13 Akash Jain, 4; 10-11 Felix Ynojosa, 3; U10 Ravi Haria, 2

KJCA Caterham Congress

31 March - 1 April 2007

Open: Ian Snape, Beckenham & Bromley CC, 190, 4½/5; David Cutmore, Wood Green CC, 167, 3½/5; Martin Cutmore, Folkestone CC, 170, 3; Victor Jones, Lewisham CC, 116, 3

Major (Under 160): Gasper Jubani, Coulsdon CC, 146, 4½/5; Rufo Suarez Prendes, Crawley CC, 142, 3; George Salimbeni, Crowborough CC, 128, 3; Jude Lenier, Crowborough CC, 115, 3; Robert Thompson, Newton Abbot CC, 114, 3; Paul Jackson, Coulsdon CC, 145, 2½; Daniel Hunt, Guildford, 124, 2½; Matt Lunn, Coulsdon CC, 123, 2½

Intermediate (Under 130): Adrian Waldock (Winner), Ashted CC, 126, 4/5; Ronald Hale, Beckenham & Bromley CC, 110, 4; Robert Fisher, East Grinstead CC, 121, 3½/5; Malcolm Maurant, Beckenham & Bromley CC, 115, 3½

Minor (Under 100): Ben Silverstein, Crowborough CC, 82, 5/5; Keith Barker, Coulsdon CC, 74, 4; Nicholas Clanchy, Balham, 54, 3½

Club Team Prizes: 1st: £100, Beckenham & Bromley CC, 12/15; 2nd: £50, Coulsdon CC, 11½; 3rd: £25, Crowborough CC, 11

Surrey Easter Congress

6-9 April 2007

There were 160 competitors with a total prize fund of over £2,500. More details are available at www.surreychesscongress.co.uk.

Open: GM Alexander Cherniaev, 6½/7, £500; Chris Briscoe, 5/7; Graeme N Buckley, 5/7; Ralf Gruettner, 5/7

Major (U160): Samuel Franklin, 6/7, £250 & SCCA U14 Title; Liviu Enciu, 5/7; Victor G L Jones, 5/7; Eric A Key, 5/7

Intermediate A (U130): James Adair, 5½/6, £180; Edward J Farrington, 4½/6; Edward Tandi, 4½/6; David J Howes, 4/6; Laurence A G Jones, 4/6; Geoff W Naldrett, 4/6; Adrian D P Waldock, 4/6; James Worthen, 4/6

Intermediate B (U130): Laurence A G Jones, 4½/5, £150; Finlo Rohrer, 4/5; Robert R White, 4/5; Peter Buckley, 3½/5; Michael C Price, 3½/5

Minor (U100): Mohsen Abedian, 5½/6, £180; Peter Buckley, 4½/6; Graham A Mill-Wilson, 4/6; Peter Saunders, 4/6

Novice (U80) & U10s: Sagara T Bogoda, 4½/5, £50; Nishant Bommayya, 3½/5; Robert Cftzgerald, 3½/5; Adam A Taylor, 3½/5

U12: Shyam Mohan, 5½/6, £50; Eugene Daley, 4½/6; Jasdeep Gahir, 4½/6; Ramsay Pyper, 4½/6

National Chess Junior Squad

13-15 April 2007

Under 16: James Adair, 116, 5; Jac Thomas, 154, 5; Sheila J Dines, 139, 4½/5; William E G Jones, 123, 4½/5; Liam F Rabbitt, 132, 4½/5; Saravanan Sathyanandha, 136, 4½/5; Martin Brown, 107, 4; Rhys Cumming, 119, 4; Harry T Mann, 111, 4; Lewis Martin, 146, 4; George S Tunstall, 112, 4

Under 12: Victor G L Jones, 116, 6½/5; Charlie J Hierons, 109, 5½/5; Joseph R Quinn, 98, 5½/5; Aneesh Aggarwal, 65, 5; James P Bowler, 70, 5; David Bradbury, 50, 5; Jasdeep Gahir, 75, 5; James P Holland, 89, 5; Ram Mohan, 84, 5; Shyam Mohan, 86, 5; Joshua Pineda, 84, 5; Dominic Pozzo, 54, 5

Under 10: Aidan McGiff, 57, 6; Robert C Fitzgerald, 58, 5½/5; Alexander Harris, 50, 5½/5; Philip R Knott, 43, 5; Aditya Mavinkurve, 50, 5; Leo Tsoi, 38, 5; Matthew J Wadsworth, 43, 5

Under 8: David Redman, 54, 6½/5; Rohan Shiatis, 50, 5½/5; Cosima C Keen, 50, 5; Luxmie Muhunthakumar, 50, 5

28th Durham Congress

14-15 April 2007

Open: Jonathan, Hawkins, Consett, 195, 4; David, Eggleston, Durham, 200, 3½/5; Graham, Oswald, Durham City, 200, 3½/5; Clive, Waters, Tynemouth, 170, 3½/5; Paul, Dargan, Tynemouth, 185, 3; Dean, Graham, Kings, 178, 3; Andrew, Lawson, Kings, 175, 3; David, Armbruster, Peterlee, 166, 3

Major: Anthony, Higgs, Horsham, 146, 4½/5; Kyril, Fomin, Gateshead, 143, 4; Mike, Lally, Sheffield, 143, 4; Roger, Ditchburn, Kings, 148, 3½/5; Brendan, O'Gorman, DHSS, 144, 3½/5; David, Stephenson, St Andrews, 144, 3½/5

Minor: Kenneth, Boxall, Peterlee, 97, 4½/5; Ben, O'rouke, Worsley, 103, 4; Alan, Hiatt, Austin Friars, 97, 4; David, Buckell, Nelson, 109, 3½/5; David, Walshaw, Jesmond, 78, 3½/5; John, Eddershaw, Dormer, 70, 3½/5

Letchworth One Day

Congress

15 April 2007

Premier (Open): Michael Basman, Surbiton, 4/5; David Haydon, Shell, 4/5; Ben Morgan, Royston, 3½/5

Challengers (U160): Kazi Azizar Rahman, Ilford, 4½/5; John Daugman, Cambridge University, 4/5; Alex Galliano, Coulsdon, 3½/5

Major (U130): Ron Adams, Bishops Stortford, 4½/5; Jimmy Jiang, Waltham Forest, 4/5;

Ken Groce, Roding & Loughton, 4/5; Phillip Gardner, Letchworth, 4/5

Minor (U100): Joe Farrell, Metropolitan, 4/5; Christine Constable, Coulsdon, 4/5; John Constable, Coulsdon, 4/5

Bishops (U14): Joseph Levene, Barnet Knights, 4½/6; Thomas Chaplin, Bedford juniors, 3½/6; Guy Balaam, Harpenden, 3/6; Matthew Davey, Bishops Stortford, 3/6; James Hutt, Bedford juniors, 3/6

Pawns (U11): George Galliano, Coulsdon, 5½/6; Alvin Gardner, Cambridge Chess & Go, 4½/6; Kristopher Davey, Bishops Stortford, 3/6

Brighton Rapidplay

21 April 2007

Open: Chris Briscoe, 167, 4½

Chris Jones, 180, 4½; David A Cutmore, 155, 4; Peter P Taylor, 191, 4; Gary Senior, 169, 3½

Major U160: K Azizur Rahman, 137, 5; Ronnie Cohen, 125, 4½; Martin J Cutmore, 158, 4½; David J Cork, 130, 4

Intermediate U125: Jaimie Wilson, 100, 5½; Graham P Alcock, 123, 4½; Simon Redmill, 107, 4½; Ben JC Silverstein, 96, 4; Roy E Webb, 72, 4; Peter H Benson, 108, 4

Minor U90: Colin Dailley, e109, 5; Tamal K Matilal, 75, 4½; Ian George, 69, 4; John Smuts, e94, 4

CSSC Eastern Region:

Northern Zone

23 April 2007

HM Revenue & Customs Office, Churchgate, Peterborough.

155 Francis Bowers 4/5 Progressive Score 11 1/2 Winner Peterborough;

153 Kevin Greenacre 4/5 Progressive Score 10 1/2 Second Ipswich;

142 Andrew Brocklehurst 3/5 Progressive Score 9 Third Bedford;

121 Mark Ashkettle 2/5 Progressive Score 6 Fourth Peterborough;

140 Graham Lawrence 1 1/2/5 Progressive Score 6 Fifth Bishop Stortford;

105 Crumpton Clarke 1/2/5 Progressive Score 2 Sixth Norwich

Frome Congress

11-13 May 2007

Open: Chris Beaumont, Bristol & Clifton, 4.5/5; Mark Lyell, West London, 4/5; Jim Sherwin, Bath, 4/5

Major (U155): Carl Bicknell, London, 4.5/5; Paul Stephenson, Merseyside, 4.5/5; Raymond Gamble, Spondon, 4

Intermediate (U125): James Galloway, Andover, 4.5/5; John Latham, Weston-super-Mare, 4/5; David Weston, Trowbridge, 4/5; Mike Redman, Wiltshire, 4/5

Minor (U100): Cameron Lange, Frome & Trowbridge, 4.5/5; Phil Foley, Upminster, 4.5/5; John Constable, Coulsdon, 4; Patrick Sartain, Keynsham, 4

Obituary

Walter Sebley

It is with great sadness that we report the death, following an unfortunate accident, of Wally Sebley, aged 78 years.

Wally organised and ran the London Legal Chess League. In the North Essex Chess League he was for many years secretary of Chelmsford chess club, and then a founder member - on his move to that village - of Kelvedon & Feering chess club; besides regularly attending administrative meetings of the League.

He served BCF Veteran Members as their representative on BCF Council for ten years and more, often attending personally.

Wally will be remembered by his many friends and colleagues for his kindness - particularly to younger, less experienced players; his wisdom in chess matters; his sense of humour; his lifetime support for Fulham football club; but most of all for being a warm and generous human being.

Wally and his wife Shirley had 2 daughters and 2 granddaughters.

Shirley died 5 years ago and Wally was due when he had his accident to marry Terry.

Peter O'Malley

ECF BATSFORD COMPETITION

Congratulations to the Mar/April Winner

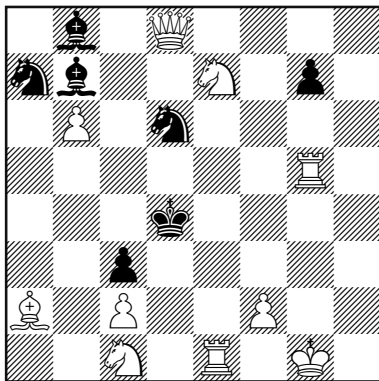
Rodney Mitchinson from York

The Correct Answers is: 1.Kh3

Julius Buchwald

1st Prize, West Virginia Chess Bulletin, 1946

White to play and mate in 2



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

**ECF Office, The Watch Oak,
Chain Lane, Battle, East Sussex TN33 0YD**

The first correct entry drawn on 10th June 2007 will win a Batsford voucher for any book on their current list.



B T BATSFORD

English Chess Federation

Grand Prix 2006/7

Leader Boards 11 May 2007

Bold indicates players who are counting the maximum number of events. If they add a new event, their worst event will be discarded.

Junior Prix

1	Gahir, Jasdeep, Kent Junior Congresses,	607
2	Jain, Radha, Pinner,	606
3	Zhou, Yang-Fan, Richmond Juniors,	589
4	Jain, Akash, Pinner,	587
5	Mohan, Shyam, Sussex Junior,	586
6	Taylor, Adam A, Sutton/Chea*,	584
7	Jones, Victor GL, Kent Junior Congresses,	571
8	Cleeves, Megan, Thamesdown Juniors,	563
9	Franklin, Samuel GA, Dulwich College,	561
10	Rigby, Nick T, QEGS Wakefield,	559

Graded Prix (150-174)

1	Hjort, Helge, Hendon,	569
2	Cutmore, Martin J, Wood Green,	544
3	Jameson, David, Colwyn Bay / Llandudno,	491
4	Cutmore, David A, Wood Green,	469
5	Evans, Paul A, AXA Lytham,	412
6	Lilley, Graham, Prescot & Knotty Ash,	392
7	Bryant, Richard BE, Oswestry,	390
8	Ponter, Ian, Downend & Fishpond,	377
9	Waterfield, John W, Hereford,	375
10	Ilett, Raymond, Peterborough,	373

Graded Prix (125-149)

1	Coward, Neil, AXA Lytham,	583
2	O'Gorman, Brendan, DHSS,	572
3	Gamble, Raymond J, Spondon,	557
4	Sandercrook, E Barry, Buckinghamshire,	528
5	Clegg, Robert, Huddersfield,	518
6	Pride, Stephen C, Cambridge City,	505
7	Patrick, David A, Courier Halifax,	489
8	Waldock, Adrian DP, Guildford,	463
9	Hughes, Peter, London SW,	429
10	Jackson, Paul G, Coulsdon CF,	422

Graded Prix (100-124)

1	Desmedt, Richard E, Netherton,	596
2	Allen, Timothy S, Battersea,	571
3	Gilbert, David J, DHSS,	499
4	Rixon, Tom J, Hemel Hempstead,	491
5	Fleischer, Jeff H, Coulsdon CF,	488
6	Robson, Caroline J, Barnet Elizabeth,	464
7	Walker, Roger W, Belper,	463
8	Gardiner, Colin J, Falmouth,	458
9	Gartside, Carl, High Peak,	451
10	Jones, Laurence AG, Lewisham,	445

Graded Prix (U100)

1	Foley, Phil T, Upminster,	609
2	Stone, Mark, Petts Wood & Orpington,	540
3	Constable, Christine F, Coulsdon CF,	516
4	Constable, John, Coulsdon CF,	493
5	Everitt, David, Haywards Heath,	476
6	Fraser, Alan R, Beckenham & Bromley,	473
7	Burroughs, Rod C, Essex,	410
8	Eddershaw, John HT, Sheffield,	404
9	Billett, Stephen J, Portsmouth,	394
10	Johnson, Stanley, South Shields,	394

Calendar of Events

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

* denotes English Chess Federation Grand Prix

@ denotes FIDE Rated Event

denotes British Championship Qualifying Tournament

~ denotes ECF Graded Event

~* 1-3 Jun: 11th South Lakes Open

Congress Grange-Over-Sands.

T Blower (Tel: 01229 472100,

Email: trevor.blower@tesco.net)

2 Jun: Chipping Sodbury Rapidplay

Stanshawe Court Hotel.

G Mill-Wilson (Tel: 01454 880162,

Email: tugmw@blueyonder.co.uk)

~* 3 Jun: KJCA Cranbrook Junior

Rapidplay Dulwich College Prep School.

Sue Maguire (Tel: 020 8656 6420,

Email: sue.maguire@btinternet.com)

~ 9 Jun: CCF Champions' League Chess

Finals' Day Coulsdon.

Howard Curtis & Scott Freeman

(Tel: 020 8645 0302,

Email: chess@ccfworld.com)

~ 9 Jun: COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS – SEMI

FINAL

Andrew Moore (Tel: 07789 904835,

Email: p.andrew.moore@gmail.com)

~* 9 Jun: Golders Green Rapidplay

St Alban's Church Hall, NW11 7QG.

Adam Raoof (Tel/Fax: 020 8202 0982;

Email: adamraoof@yahoo.com)

~ 9 Jun: National Girls' Team

Championships

Claire Summerscale (Tel: 020 8874 0135,

Email: director.juniorchess@englishchess.org.uk)

9 Jun: SJC U7 Closed Tournament & junior

Training Day

The Meads School, East Grinstead.

Margaret Burch (Tel: 01483 534061,

Email: ammjburch@hotmail.com)

~* 10 Jun: Leek Rapidplay Congress

St Edward's CE(A) Middle School.

R Milner (Tel: 01782 550112)

10 Jun: Stewarton Allegro

The Stewarton Annick Youth & Community

Centre. J Montgomery (Tel: 01294 221486,

Email: John.Montgomery@btinternet.com)

~* 15-17 Jun: 6th Yeovil Summer

Congress, Parcroft School.

J Rudd (Tel: 07973 887123,

Email: jackkelshallrudd@aol.com)

~*#16-17 Jun: East Anglian Chess Union

Congress, Turner Hall, Newmarket.

V Rumsey (Tel: 01908 568332,

Email: vicrums@hotmail.com)

~# 16-17 Jun: HEYWOOD CONGRESS

Civic Centre, Wood Street.

Bill O'Rourke (Tel: 01706 627874,

Email: worchessnu1@ntlworld.com)

22 Jun: York R.I. JCC parliament street u9

& u11 open air championship

P Cloudsdale (Tel: 01904 767177,

Email: cloudsdale_c@hotmail.co.uk)

22-24 Jun: Hawick Congress

Town Hall, Hawick.

A Armstrong (Tel: 01450 374423,

Email: bazy96@aol.com)

23 Jun: Chingford Junior Tournament

Chingford CE Junior School.

D Hawkins (Tel: 020 8531 5066,

Email: davehawkins@bmcloose.ndo.co.uk)

23 Jun: York R.I. JCC parliament street u13

& u17 open air championship

P Cloudsdale (Tel: 01904 767177,

Email: cloudsdale_c@hotmail.co.uk)

~ 23 Jun: CCF English Chess Challenge

Finals, Coulsdon.

Howard Curtis & Scott Freeman

(Tel: 020 8645 0302,

Email: chess@ccfworld.com)

~ 24 Jun: Huddersfield Rapidplay,

Ukrainian Club.

N Hepworth (Tel: 07903 548675,

Email: rapidplay@huddersfieldchessclub.co.uk)

~ 30 Jun: All England Girls' chess

Championships – national gold finals

Nottingham.

Claire Summerscale (Tel: 020 8874 0135,

Email: director.juniorchess@englishchess.org.uk)

~ 30 Jun: Basingstoke Open

Championship Sherfield School.

Joe French (Tel: 01256 472537,

Email: joefrench33@msn.com)

~* 30 Jun: CCF Rapidplay, Coulsdon.

Howard Curtis & Scott Freeman

(Tel: 020 8645 0302,

Email: chess@ccfworld.com)

~ 30 Jun - 1 Jul: 4NCL Team Rapidplay

Tournament Harben House Conference

Centre, Newport Pagnell.

Mike Truran (Tel: 01993 708645,

Email: mike@mtruran.fsnet.co.uk)

~* 30 Jun - 1 Jul: 2nd Chester Congress,

The Cheshire View, Christleton.

J McPhillips

(Email: J.McPhillips@btinternet.com)

~* 1 Jul: KJCA Grand Prix Final

Rose Hill School, Tunbridge Wells.

Sue Maguire (Tel: 020 8656 6420,

Email: sue.maguire@btinternet.com)

5-6 Jul: National Schools Championship

- Final, Uppingham School, Rutland.

Claire Summerscale (Tel: 020 8874 0135,

Email: director.juniorchess@englishchess.org.uk)

6 Jul: National Schools Championship

Rapidplay, Uppingham School, Rutland.

Claire Summerscale (as above)

~ 7 Jul: CCF Kent (& Middlesex) Junior

Grand Prix 3

The Final Showdown, Coulsdon.

Howard Curtis & Scott Freeman

(Tel: 020 8645 0302,

Email: chess@ccfworld.com)

~ 7 Jul: COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS – FINAL

Andrew Moore (Tel: 07789 904835,

Email: p.andrew.moore@gmail.com)

7-8 Jul: UK Chess Challenge Southern

Gigafinal

Michael Basman (Tel: 07715 041320,

Email: ukchesschallenge@aol.com)

~* 8 Jul: Walsall Kipping Rapidplay

King Edward VI School, Lichfield.

D Anderton (Tel: 07970 986373,

Email: davidanderton@blueyonder.co.uk)

~ 13-15 Jul: Manchester Chess Federation

Summer Congress, Allen Hall.

Harry Lamb (Tel: 01204 63374,

Email: gmccacongress@yahoo.co.uk)

~ 14 Jul: CCF Surrey (& Sussex) Junior

Grand Prix 3

The Final Showdown, Coulsdon.

Howard Curtis & Scott Freeman

(Tel: 020 8645 0302,

Email: chess@ccfworld.com)

~* 14 Jul: Golders Green Rapidplay

St Alban's Church Hall, NW11 7QG.

Adam Raoof (Tel/Fax: 020 8202 0982;

Email: adamraoof@yahoo.com)

14-15 Jul: UK Chess Challenge Northern

Gigafinal

Michael Basman (Tel: 07715 041320,

Email: ukchesschallenge@aol.com)

~* 14-15 Jul: 2nd Weald Congress

Copthorne Prep School, Crawley.

Margaret Burch (Tel: 01483 534061,

Email: ammjburch@hotmail.com)

~ 15 Jul: NATIONAL CLUB FINALS

Chris Majer (Tel: 01438 812781,

Email: director.homechess@englishchess.org.uk)

~* 15 Jul: 72nd Richmond Rapidplay

White House Community Association,

Hampton.

P Dupré (Tel: 07768 066237,

Email: rapidplay@aol.com)

~@#17-22 Jul: NATIONAL CHESS JUNIOR

SQUAD YOUNG MASTERS (for players up to

age 23), Millfield School, Street.

A Webster (Tel: 020 8642 2605,

Email: alecwebster50@hotmail.com)

~ 21-22 Jul: NCJS WEEKEND EVENT (for

players U16), Millfield School, Street.

A Webster (as above)

~* 21-22 Jul: Spectrum Chess - 1st

Bideford Congress, Tantons Hotel.

Norman Went (Tel: 01708 551617,

Email: spectrumchess@hotmail.com)

~*#@ 29 Jul: - 11 Aug

BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIPS

Great Yarmouth College,

Great Yarmouth (Tel: 01424 775222,

Email: office@englishchess.org.uk

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