



# CHESS MOVES

The newsletter of the English Chess Federation | November 2016

## World Youth Chess Championships 2015





### New ECF Publicity Manager

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Mark Jordan as our new Publicity Manager. Mark is an active club and county player, and a regular contributor to BCM.

Mark will try to increase awareness of the game by placing items of chess news in the media on a regular basis. He will work closely with the organisers of junior, league, county and congress events. In time we hope to increase the coverage of our international events ...

Mark can be contacted at [manager.publicity@englishchess.org.uk](mailto:manager.publicity@englishchess.org.uk)

### Direct members' representatives

The current state of play in respect of direct members' representatives for 2015/16 is as follows (NB these appointments take effect immediately following the conclusion of the 2015 AGM, which the 2014/15 representatives are eligible to attend).

For four of the five categories there were two or fewer nominations, and the following appointments can therefore be confirmed:

(a) Honorary Life Vice Presidents, Vice Presidents, Corporate Vice Presidents, Honorary Life Members and Life Members: Stewart Reuben and John Wickham.

(b) Gold Members and Gold Concessionary Members: William Armstrong and Robert Thompson.

(c) Silver Members and Silver Concessionary Members: Michael Farthing and John Reyes.

(d) Bronze Members and Bronze Concessionary Members: Angus French.

In the case of the Platinum Members representatives there were more than two nominations, and a ballot among the Platinum Members is currently in progress. The result of this will be known by the date of the AGM.

The appointment of a second representative for Bronze Members and Bronze Concessionary Members now reverts to the ECF Board. Any volunteer should email [company.secretary@englishchess.org.uk](mailto:company.secretary@englishchess.org.uk)

- John Philpott, ECF Company Secretary

### ADDENDUM - Platinum members' representatives

*Following the ballot of Platinum members, **David Fryer** and **David Smith** have been elected to serve as representatives for the class for 2015/16. These appointments take effect from the conclusion of today's ECF Annual General Meeting.*

### ECF Book of the Year 2015

The judges this year had considerable difficulty in making their choice between three volumes. Liquidation on the Chess Board by Joel Benjamin, New in Chess, is a very entertaining book despite a technical title. The lively writing and application to practical chess playing made this an above average book. Gary Kasparov Part 111 : 1993- 2005 by Gary Kasparov, Everyman, is the last book of Kasparov's best games and brings to an end a long sequence which raised the standards of chess writing (infused with Kasparov's unique authority and insights into chess) to new levels. As books from Kasparov's series have previously won the Book of the Year award, it seemed more appropriate to recognise Kasparov's achievement with a Lifetime Achievement Award. Which brings us to the Book of the Year which is:

#### ***Positional Decision Making in Chess by Boris Gelfand, Quality Chess***

This book was written in a collaborative process by Gelfand, a world class player for the last 20 years, working with Chess Moves 2

GM Jacob Aagaard, an award winning chess author. The idea was that Aagaard would “ask the right questions and obtain insights from Gelfand”. What was obvious to Gelfand “might not be apparent to many others”. The combination has worked very well.

The result is a fascinating insight into how the chess mind of a great player works, in this volume, of positional games. Much of Gelfand’s approach is intuitive and instinctive rather than hard calculation, though there is some of that too. He relies on maintaining his position and preventing opponent’s counter play. To some extent the book’s title is misleading as the content is less about decisions in particular positions than the overall approach, which Gelfand first learned as a boy from the games of Akiba Rubinstein a legendary player in the first 30 years of the last century. The first chapter is titled “Playing in the style of Akiba Rubinstein”. Many of Rubinstein’s games are given and it is fascinating reading Gelfand’s contemporary comments on play at that time.

Gelfand comes over as modest but confident in his abilities, with tremendous ability, experience and knowledge. But despite all this, even he sometimes finds chess a difficult game, which gives comfort to us all.

*- Ray Edwards, Julian Farrand, Sean Marsh – 4th October 2015*

## **RIP John Charman**

John Charman, one of the mainstays of Norfolk Chess for over 30 years, sadly took his own life on the 10th October 2015. After settling in Norfolk following his time in the RAF, John joined the Fakenham Chess Club, where he has remained a member. While just an average chess player, John excelled in chess administration. He had been involved in running and organising chess events in Norfolk for 30 years. He made the League Controller’s position his own, and will be difficult to replace. These few words do not do justice to all the hard work and devotion John put into Chess.

As we always worked as a team, I shall miss his support and great friendship. John will also be missed by his many chess friends based not just in Norfolk but worldwide, his wife Gloria, his children and grandchildren. The funeral will be at the Earlham Crematorium in Norwich at 3pm on the 29th October 2015. It has been requested that there should be no flowers but donations to the SSAFA.

*- John Wickham*

## **RIP Peter JB Wilson**



Born July 1943, died 16th October 2015 - Peter was a Midlander, lived in London, but resided much of his later life in Guernsey. He was an International Arbiter, Organiser and Candidate Master. He had been Chairman of the FIDE Computer Chess Committee and also the Commonwealth Chess Association from 1998-2002. He represented Guernsey 6 times in the Olympiad. After he switched allegiance back to England, although continuing to reside in Guernsey, he became ECF Director of Marketing for some years. He received the President’s Award for Services to Chess in 2014.

Peter excelled at being a match captain and that will be his major chess legacy. He was co-founder of the very highly regarded Mushrooms Club which won the ECF Club of the Year Award in 2008. He represented England in the European Senior Team Championship from 2004 to 2010, captaining one of the teams each time. For a couple of years, when I wasn’t team leader of the whole group, he took over that responsibility, and when he died he was still a Senior Selector.

He contracted cancer five years ago and thus his health deteriorated sharply – that sadly spelt the end of his playing career. Our condolences to his wife, Mary, herself also an International Arbiter.

*- Stewart Reuben / picture by John Upham*

## **The ECF Junior Directorate needs you!**

The junior section of the ECF, just like the rest of the Federation, depends on volunteers committing their time and expertise. Right now we have two key roles coming vacant following the 'retirement' of the incumbent, a Junior Directorate Business Manager and a Head of Junior International Events. We are also looking for a Manager of Girls Chess. Details of the roles and the required skills and how to apply can be found here - <http://www.englishchess.org.uk/about/vacancies/>. All three roles report to Traci Whitfield, the ECF's Director of Junior Chess and Education. She is particularly interested in hearing from people who have enthusiasm and commitment to junior chess and who are reliable.

## **ECF AGM October 2015**

On Saturday 17th October 2015, the Annual General Meeting of the ECF was held at the Euston Square Hotel between 1.30pm and 6.30pm. A full draft of the minutes of the meeting will be published in due course. In the meantime, a summary of the key discussion and decisions is as follows:

The meeting was chaired by Julian Clissold (Non-Executive Director).

The minutes of the Finance Council meeting, held on 18th April 2015 were agreed as an accurate record of that meeting. Tellers were agreed by Council as John Wickham and Andrew Leadbetter. The following reports were all formally discussed, agreed and approved by Council:

President's report, a large show of hands in favour, 1 against  
Chief Executive's report, 13 votes in favour, 7 against on a show of hands  
Finance Director's report, a large show of hands in favour, 1 against  
Home Director's report, a large show of hands in favour, 1 against  
Junior Chess & Education Director's report, a large show of hands in favour, 1 against  
International Director's report, a large show of hands in favour, 1 against  
Membership Director's report, a large show of hands in favour, 1 against  
Commercial Director's report, a large show of hands in favour, 1 against  
Non-Executive Directors' report, a large show of hands in favour, 1 against  
FIDE Delegate's report, a large show of hands in favour, 1 against  
Governance Committee Chairman's report, a large show of hands in favour, 1 against  
Finance Committee Chairman's report, a large show of hands in favour, 1 against  
Representative of the Sport & Recreation Alliance's report, a large show of hands in favour, 1 against

As has been reported in an earlier post, there was a recount in the International Director election on the day after the meeting leading to the result on the day being overturned. All votes have now been recounted, and the definitive voting figures are as follows:

President: Dominic Lawson – 293 in favour, 16 abstentions  
Chief Executive: Phil Ehr – 121 in favour, 173 not this candidate, 15 abstentions  
Finance Director: David Eustace – 285 in favour, 17 not this candidate, 7 abstentions  
Two Non-Executive Directors: 280 Julian Clissold, 292 Julie Denning, 23 Jack Rudd, 1 none of these candidates, 21 abstentions  
Director of Home Chess: 49 John Foley, 247 Alex Holowczak, 3 neither of these candidates, 10 abstentions  
Director of International Chess: 142 David Openshaw, 164 Malcolm Pein, 3 abstentions  
Director of Junior Chess & Education: 295 Traci Whitfield, 14 abstentions  
Director of Membership: 296 David Thomas, 1 Not this candidate. 12 abstentions  
Commercial Director: 68 Bob Kane, 214 not this candidate, 27 abstentions  
FIDE Delegate: 271 Malcolm Pein, 22 not this candidate, 16 abstentions  
Chairman of the Finance Committee: 290 Mike Truran, 2 not this candidate, 17 abstentions  
Member of the Finance Committee: 301 Ray Clark, 8 abstentions  
Member of the Finance Committee: 301 Ian Reynolds, 8 abstentions

Chairman of the Governance Committee: 221 Chris Majer, 63 not this candidate, 25 abstentions  
Member of the Governance Committee: 295 Mike Gunn, 1 not this candidate, 13 abstentions  
Member of the Governance Committee: 243 Richard Haddrell, 33 not this candidate, 33 abstentions  
Member of the Governance Committee: 261 Andrew Leadbetter, 11 not this candidate, 37 abstentions  
Member of the Governance Committee: 260 David Robertson, 36 not this candidate, 13 abstentions

Council formally received the report from the Chair of the Independent Governance and Constitutional Review Commission. Council thanked the members for their thorough review, and accepted they had fulfilled their role (a large show of hands in favour, 3 against). Council was strongly in favour of the report, but because the changes are so wide ranging, decided to task the Board with suggesting a timetable for implementing the different recommendations no later than the AGM to be held in October 2016 (a large show of hands in favour, 2 against).

Council thanked the outgoing officers for their hard work during the year.

The dates of the 2016 meetings will be Saturday 16th April (London) and Saturday 15th October (Birmingham).

In addition, the AGM of the British Chess Federation voted nem con to appoint Dr John Higgs as a trustee of the John Robinson Youth Chess Trust.

- Gary Willson (*Minutes Secretary*) and John Philpott (*Company Secretary*)

## **Chris Majer**

Chris Majer has resigned as Chairman of the Governance Committee and provided the following statement

During the recent Council meeting, I expanded on my report and spoke out against the Chief Executive. I then went beyond what was appropriate by stating that if Phil Ehr were re-elected I would resign. It now seems that a significant number of the key Officers of the Federation have lost confidence in my tenure of the independent role which the Chairman of Governance has to play. Consequently, I have decided that it is in the best interests of the Federation for me to resign.

I would like to acknowledge the advice and support I have received from our hard-working under-appreciated Company Secretary John Philpott, and thank my fellow members of the Governance Committee for their work and support over the last three years. Finally, I wish the new Board well in the challenges they face in moving English chess forward.

## **The ECF Board has made the following statement -**

Following detailed discussions and deliberations the Chair of the Governance Committee has decided to stand down.

For its part the Board wishes to recognise Chris' long and honourable contribution to English chess in general and to the ECF in particular. The Board, on behalf of ECF members, wants to thank Chris for his work. He has held almost every role, and contributed in every field of activity. He has done this over a very long period. Furthermore he has served with distinction and with commitment. The ECF Board and Chris' many friends and supporters in the ECF will hope that he continues to play some role in the future of the ECF.

## **Board statement regarding new roles with the ECF**

The Board is very happy to announce that two former Board Members have agreed to continue in important roles for the ECF.

**David Openshaw** formerly Director of International Chess, has agreed to continue to play a role in International Chess, assisting the new Director, Malcolm Pein.

**Bob Kane** formerly Commercial Director has agreed to take up the role of Tradewise Relationship Manager. Bob will handle the ECF's interests with Tradewise and the current sponsorship deal.

# The World Youth Chess Championships 2015 - days 11 - 13 ...

## Day 11 – WYCC (Round 9)

Another beautiful day here in Porto Carras – the hottest day so far, it's hard to believe it's actually November! Several of the England Delegation took the opportunity to visit the beach adjacent to the hotel for a short break between morning coaching and the games/evening analysis – all come back refreshed and energised.

With some tough draws for our players today, there is no let-up in the on-going daily pressures. However all 6 of our coaches are preparing for their team's opponents the evening before which means that their students get the full benefit of their hour coaching session the next day – an excellent approach which has been welcomed by parents and players alike.

Today the official ECF England drops to 23 as Louise (U18 Girls) due to University commitments, has had to return home early. Today the Team scored 11.5/23 which almost unbelievably is yet another 50% score!

For the boys there were individual wins for Michael, Nugith, Aditya (his 5th in a row!) Alex, Ilya and Dhruv. For the girls, there were wins for Laura and Nilomi.

Aditya (U12 boys) now joins Akshaya as leading points scorers on 6/9 with Dhruv close behind on 5.5/9.

The penultimate round starts tomorrow (4/11/15) at 3pm local time.

## Day 12 – WYCC (Round 10)

It is the penultimate round today. Participants (from all delegations) are starting to show signs of fatigue given we are now on Round 10. The schedule is tough, especially for the youngsters – some of whom are not yet acclimatised to such gruelling, long competitions. However the atmosphere within our team remains positive and the players (and parents) continue to show both commitment and determination.

Today saw our first inter-team pairing – always unwelcome, however we have been somewhat lucky that this was the first occurrence for the England Team. Our maximum score therefore could only be 22. The Team scored 10 points today which is a slight dip on previous rounds (45%).

For the boys there were individual wins for Adam, Nugith, Anantha, Nikolai, Sacha, Ranesh and Savin; for the girls, Nilomi. Akshaya is now on 6.5/10 with Nugith, Aditya and Nilomi now on 6. England has a further 7 players on 5.5 points.

As the last round starts tomorrow at 10am, coaching for 4 players in the morning is not really practical. The coaches worked on into the evening preparing some of their students after dinner to leave space in the morning for others – a big thank you to Glenn, John, Neil, Sarah, Ravi and Lorin for your efforts!

The message to our players is – one final big effort for Round 11. Give your very best!

## Day 13 – WYCC (Round 11)

Today is an early start for the whole England Team. The weather remains fine and for the older players, it is a final stroll/mini-train ride to the venue. Inside the atmosphere is buzzing with parents and loved ones taking last minute photos. Our players are easily spotted wearing their smart team shirts for one last game. Good luck messages are conveyed and then once everyone has left the hall, the final games commence on time, at 10am.

Today saw another inter-team pairing – and so once again our maximum score is 22. Despite being the last round, the majority of England players had long games showing determination till the end. This commitment paid off, with the official ECF Team scoring 12 points; over half marks (55%).

For the boys there were individual wins for Adam, Michael, Koby, Girinath, Ilya, Dhruv and Savin; for the girls, Thivyaa and Nilomi.

Our top scorers of the tournament were Akshaya and Nilomi on 7/11 with Adam, Aditya, Dhruv and Savin close behind on 6.5/11. England had a further 8 players on 50% or more. Overall for the 11 rounds we scored 51% which considering we had a number of players new to International tournaments, was a significant achievement.

Well done to all the players, parents and coaches for making this such a fantastic trip – we hope to emulate such success in the future!

A safe trip home to all concerned. The full (summarised) table of results is shown below —

Section	Title	Name	Grade	Start Rank	Points	Final Position
Open U18	FM	Taylor Adam C	2292	47	6.5	34
Girls U18		Head Louise	1955	40	4.0 *	64
Open U16	FM	Haria Ravi	2445	7	6	58
Open U16		Ashworth Michael	1936	113	4.5	120
Girls U16		Weaver Lauren	1521	84	3.5	93
Open U14		Moreby James	2108	62	6	61
Open U14		Kalavannan Koby	2063	67	6	71
Open U14		Jayawarna Nugith	1984	90	6	76
Open U14		Grieve Harry	1971	93	6	72
Open U14		Haridas Girinath	1903	108	5.5	98
Open U14		Anilkumar Anantha P	1747	136	5	108
Open U14		Hinterreither Nikolai	1565	165	5	126
Girls U14		Kalaiyalahan Akshaya	2233	2	7	17
Open U12		Golding Alex	2088	31	5	123
Open U12		Brozel Sacha	1933	67	4.5	140
Open U12		Misyura Ilya	1751	112	6	87
Open U12		Munshi Aditya	1621	137	6.5	56
Girls U12		Davidson Laura	1448	82	4.5	93
Girls U12		Rahulan Thivyaa	1342	93	4.5	86
Open U10		Ratnesan Ranesh	1613	78	6	75
Girls U10		Desai Nilomi	1420	39	7	26
Open U08		Radhakrishnan Dhruv	1442	26	6.5	39
Open U08		Dias Savin	1357	39	6.5	42
Girls U08		Ratnesan Radha	0	74	4.5	62

\* Louise played 8 games only









## Tournament Round-Up

### 6th IBCA Individual Championship

Chris Ross from the UK finished fourth in the 6th IBCA European Championships held in Lyon from 24 July to 2nd August. This was a magnificent achievement in this highly prestigious event. Chris finished with 6.5 out of 9 and an ELO of 2334 for the tournament. He lost out by half a point in the tie-break to be placed fourth.

Despite losing to the top two, Chris drew with the third cede and beat the fourth. 64 players from 21 countries took part in the event.

### Jorvik Chess Congress

This event was held at Holiday Inn York from 1st to 3rd September. A 6 round Swiss with 90 minutes each. Results in 2 sections as follows —

#### Section A – 22 entries

1st Chris Ross, Braille 5/6

2nd= Daniel Staples, York; John Gallagher, Leeds; Eric Gardiner, Hull; Brian Coop, Harrogate 4/6

6th= Arron Barker, York; Steve Benn, Carlisle; Brendan O’Gorman, DHSS; Stephen Pride, Cambridge; Tim Turner, York 3.5/6

11th= Alex Billings, York; Eric Key, York; Steven Potter, St Helens; Joel Wagg, York; Mark Whitehead, Rochdale 3/6

16th= Adam Ismail, York; John Cawston, York 2.5/6

18th= Alexander Combie, Newark; Siegrun MacGilchrist, Glasgow; Rich Wiltshir, Walsall 2/6

21st= Colin Robers, Bury St Edmunds and David Tate, Sheffield 1.5/6

#### Section B – 20 entries

1st = Stephen Greep, Hull; Paul Gelder, Leeds and Norman Andrews, York 4.5/6

4th= Ashley Clayton, York; Charles Clayton, Hull; Ralph Hewes, York 4/6

7th = Howard Brears, York and Neville Pearce, York 3.5/6

9th= William Egan, Scunthorpe; Stan Lovell, Scarborough; Athol MacGilchrist, Glasgow; Angus Ruthven, Edinburgh 3/6

13th= Steve Burton, Leeds; Ashley Carr, York; Kevin Markey, Gloucester 2.5/6

16th= John Light, Leeds; Robert Wardle, Nottingham 2/6

18th= Ranyl Hughes, Harrogate; Oliver McCoan, Norwich 1.5/6

20th Phil Higgins, Leeds 1/6

As usual, an enjoyable event in pleasant surroundings. There were some very good games played. All games will be graded by ECF and YCA ...

— *Peter Cloudsdale, Organiser*

### Hull Chess Congress – report

This year’s Hull Congress (our 52nd) was forced to find a new home – its venue for a number of years, the Endsleigh Centre, closed its doors earlier this year. Hull University came to the rescue, providing excellent, spacious and comfortable surroundings, local catering and an excellent analysis room, together with a bookshop courtesy of Chess Direct. A good location, plus plenty of parking meant that this (and future) years venue represented a significant improvement on our previous venue. The only minus was that we had to change the weekend; this seems to have affected the number of players, with the congress diary locally now becoming very crowded. Next year we expect to be back to our normal, early October slot.

As usual a 5 round Swiss was supported by local players, but it was good to meet up with both new and old as the congress got off to a sombre start. Sombre by the means of the Friday evenings lighting which could have

been better, but at short notice the organisers were cornered into submission, and chose comfort and space over one night of dusk!

It was nice to see the likes of FM Richard Britton back in Hull, and also Mike Surtees, both challenging for a place, but from the start some feisty games ensued, especially in the Open where the likes of Grandmaster Mark Hebden & IM James Adair were pushing hard to meet each other in the final round – and they did! Hebden defending a mate in one, scurrying to check Adairs open King, finally as Hebden promoted to a second queen the drama increased as the public stood round to watch until Adair blundered in time pressure to give Hebden first prize!

Congress stalwart Tony Slinger was fighting hard for a place in the Major, as was Hulls John Thackray, while Hull could only spot Alec Grice a third place in the Intermediate.

Hulls top seed in the Minor, Malcolm Hara must have been favourite, but the regulars were having none of that and held him to several draws, but new player on the Hull block Scott Nicholson did come through with a final round win against Joanna Kromka, giving him outright first prize and £450!

The new venue for the congress seemed easy enough to find for out of town players, and it was well publicised with banners and directions. The Hull & District Chess Association are now in negotiation to move into an even better room next year at the University (same building) which provides full room lighting and fully carpeted flooring, giving even better playing conditions than this year! With one of the best venues around, and prize money just short of £4,000, we hope this will attract back this year's players as well as a new crop to Hull next time.

Many thanks to all those who supported the congress from both players and University staff, and we hope to see you all and more back next year for an even better congress!

Final placings were:



### **Open**

1st Mark Hebden (Guildford); 2nd James Adair (York) & Richard Britten

### **Major**

1st John Thackray (Hull) & N Holroyd (Peterborough); 3rd Tony Slinger (Leeds), Mick Connor (Great Lever) and Saman Koshnow (Hull)

### **Intermediate**

1st Randhir Koli (Penrith); 2nd Siefaldin Holi ; 3rd Stephen Williams (Torfaen), Shane Frith (Sheffield), Alec Grice (Hull) and Noal Boustred (Newcastle)

### **Minor**

1st Scott Nicholson (Hull); 2nd Gary Clark (Newcastle); 3rd Arya Parnian (Grimsby), Robert Batten (Tynemouth), Eric Lesnik (Denton), Kevin Randle (Sheffield) and Ted Stamp (Hull)

## Junior Chess

### Godalming Chess Club Open Junior Tournament

On 5th Sept 2015, just over 80 players travelled to Aldro School in Shackleford to play in this annual tournament. There were 5 age groups and the standard of play was excellent with several really strong players in each section. Godalming club members were on hand to supervise the games and parents from Aldro School provided refreshments, with the proceeds going to our chosen charity.

#### Top prize winners ---

##### Under 18 section - 5 players

1st Gwilym Price (164) Winchester College 4.5/5

2nd James Cole (171) MCS 4/5

3rd= Laura Davidson (123) and Elizaveta Sheremetyeva(133) 2.5/5

##### Under 13 section - 17 players

1st Lucy Bennet –Stevens (139) Millais 4.5/5

2nd=Anthony Fox (124) MCS and Tom Shepherd (122) MCS 4/5

##### Under 11 section - 20 players

1st =Toby Cox (49) Bedford Modern and Adam Winn(64) MCS 4.5/5

3rd Matthew Gillow(76) Wolvercote 4/5

##### Under 10 section - 19 players

1st= Logan Fear (99) Homefield, Samir Khan (97) Widcomb and Hugo Rayner (79) William Fletcher 4/5

##### Under 9 section - 20 players

1st Hari Stewart (88) Shrewsbury House 5/5 2nd= Idhant Loha (46), Suyash Prasad Laurel Lane and Rizwan Sharma (77) Twickenham Prep 4/5

Many thanks to Peter Horlock, Mike Lord and Mark Fulleylove from Godalming Chess Club for their help running the tournament. Godalming will be fielding 4 teams in the Borders League this year and any adults or juniors wishing to play for one of the teams or join the club, should contact David Archer at [archerd@aldro.org](mailto:archerd@aldro.org)

- DJ Archer





# TRADEWISE

## Tradewise Grand Prix Leaderboards 2015/16 as at 6 November 2015

### Open 180+

	Ref	Name	Club/Area	Grade	Mem No	Pts
1	119904D	Surtees, Mike J	Bolton	194	G17950	584
2	282399J	Kalavannan, Koby	Coulsdon CF	192	JG6614	557
3	112455K	Hebden, Mark L	4NCL Guildford	242	G4157	517
4	109494E	de Coverly, Roger D	Bourne End	186	G1489	403
5	245535D	Iyengar, Ilya	Wycombe & Hazlemere	192	G3986	397
6	113054H	House, Glenn L	Morecambe	210	G3368	387
7	283303H	Willow, Jonah B	West Nottingham	181	JG21061	383
8	121366A	Wells, Jonathan C	North Norfolk	182	G14103	366
9	105817E	Arkell, Keith CC	4NCL Cheddleton	241	G15972	361
10	241589G	Jaunooby, Ali Reza	Denton	202	G4139	348

### Women 180+

	Ref	Name	Club/Area	Grade	Mem No	Pts
1	264085F	Head, Louise	Crowthorne	183	JG6409	189
2	263500J	Ciuksyte, Dagne	4NCL Guildford	216	G5675	138
3	280020C	Kalaiyalahan, Akshaya	Coulsdon CF	196	JG6425	135
4	123515B	Houska, Jovanka	Wood Green	227	G4245	70
5	185204J	Hegarty, Sarah N	Marple	186	G3108	56
6	222273F	Norinkeviciute, Rasa	Hastings & St Leonards	186	S19204	36
7	262210F	Hoare, Amy B	4NCL Sussex Smart Controls	187	JG5602	19

### Open 160-179

	Ref	Name	Club/Area	Grade	Mem No	Pts
1	118171D	Rogers, Tim L	Hendon	174	G6485	512
2	260370G	Davison, Chris	Cambridge City	179	G4613	489
3	107574D	Bryant, Richard BE	Chester	178	G2289	417
4	119124L	Slinger, AJ (Tony)	Undercliffe	164	G6481	409
5	117410B	Price, Andrew	Leamington	160	G2613	407
6	234765K	McDonagh, Michael	Capenhurst	164	G18605	381
7	104852B	Whitehead, Mark A	Rochdale	172	G15489	374
8	162291C	Jackson, Paul G	Coulsdon CF	165	G4609	344
9	242398E	Hjort, Helge	Hendon	179	G3467	319
10	212761B	Nicholson, Jim WR	York RI	174	G4662	286

### Women 160-179

	Ref	Name	Club/Area	Grade	Mem No	Pts
1	117791G	Regan, Natasha K	4NCL Barbican	169	G23698	186
2	298915D	Matta, Francesca	4NCL Oxfordshire	176	S27491	143
3	269274A	Zhu, Yao Yao	Urmston	175	G17024	41

4	252646D	Mate, Maria	Cowley	164	S19405	23
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## Open 140-159

	Ref	Name	Club/Area	Grade	Mem No	Pts
1	116382G	O’Gorman, Brendan	DHSS	153	G4320	525
2	220688C	Papier, Alan R	Bristol & Clifton	151	G6187	482
3	122453A	Finnegan, Oliver	Loughton	154	G17636	477
4	140662A	Pride, Stephen C	Cambridge City	145	G3453	463
5	230106E	Clegg, Robert	Huddersfield	157	G3088	440
6	109622K	Desmedt, Richard E	Wombwell	152	G3411	406
7	116801A	Patrick, David A	Courier Halifax	158	G5137	369
8	128713J	Wilson, Matthew R	Devon *	159	G17805	368
9	108722J	Connor, Michael I	Great Lever	153	S15540	355
10	104806F	Cawston, M John	Lady Anne Mdlton	152	G9196	352

## Women 140-159

	Ref	Name	Club/Area	Grade	Mem No	Pts
1	108565H	Headlong, Fenella	4NCL Brown Jack	148	G6024	56
2	281559L	Roberts, Lynda	Thornbury Bristol	153	S17779	54

## Open 120-139

	Ref	Name	Club/Area	Grade	Mem No	Pts
1	274725L	Fraser, Chris A	West Bridgford	120	S19796	556
2	300350E	Wiltshir, Rich	Rushall	138	G28232	515
3	258940A	Allen, Timothy S	Battersea	121	G4415	481
4	118502A	Sartain, Patrick P	Hanham Folk Centre	126	G20508	478
5	279615G	Crockett, Stephen J	Redditch	128	G6367	467
6	170919H	Williams, Stephen	Cwmbran	136	S25816	419
7	276572L	Egan, William J	Scunthorpe	130	G6039	408
8	264336E	Crouch, Timothy J	Kings Head	127	P5843	406
9	108147A	Chadaway, Stephen	Olton	133	G17617	404
10	123333G	Gilbert, David J	DHSS	137	G3430	398

## Women 120-139

	Ref	Name	Club/Area	Grade	Mem No	Pts
1	105540K	Ainscow, Faye	Kings Head	131	S18122	166
2	285525C	O’Brien, Megan E	Plymouth	126	S21545	129
3	281105E	Heffer, Judith	Bishops Stortford	135	S19372	119
4	240374C	Moore, Gillian A	Southampton	139	G4997	101
5	263175B	Milson, Amy F	Louth	137	G17148	91
6	120714D	Camp, Syringa Lyn	Colwyn Bay	133	S6100	80
=7	247136L	Denning, Julie L	Horsham	137	P6531	65
=7	253266K	Mountford, Corinne	Hertford	134	G5771	65
9	116277K	Norman, Dinah M	Wokingham *	131	G17233	54
10	287733J	Orsagova, Erika	Greater London Chess Club	136	S21509	44

## Open U120

	Ref	Name	Club/Area	Grade	Mem No	Pts
1	140257C	Fraser, Alan R	Beckenham & Bromley Chess Moves 13	107	G2908	498

2	111361G	Goldsmith, Jennifer	Harrow	108	G6876	469
3	111052E	Gardiner, Colin J	Newmarket	107	S1469	437
4	191456L	Maber, Martyn J	Taunton	103	G25858	386
5	163954H	Miles, Barry S	Coulsdon CF	117	G4976	376
6	180180G	De Santos, Andrew R	Preston	113	G15092	294
7	142748K	Coleman, Patrick N	Lytham ex-Servicemen	99	S21332	281
8	269827E	Vernon, Colin G	Worcester	101	G17314	275
9	130453H	Johnson, Stanley	South Shields	106	S8254	271
10	106946K	Bolan, Michael T	Ashtead	98	P163	263

## Women U120

	Ref	Name	Club/Area	Grade	Mem No	Pts
1	111361G	Goldsmith, Jennifer	Harrow	108	G6876	469
2	111696E	Gretton, Margaret L	Gambit	102	S21042	254
3	178127D	Blackburn, Sandra G	Holmes Chapel	113	S15026	216
4	181078K	Robson, Caroline J	Barnet Elizabeth	107	G4002	165
5	179055K	Boztas, Lana	Coulsdon CF	115	G1809	159
6	104846G	Welch, Hazel	Seaton	107	G2831	150
7	176063E	Chadwick, Susan E	Brighton & Hove	105	G2429	144
8	103414F	Fraser, Susan A	Darlington	107	G2267	130
9	287646C	Woollard, Josephine	Sheffield Nomads	74	S17016	125
10	297321C	Carr, Wendy	Havant *	45	G26347	93

## Junior Prix

	Ref	Name	Club/Area	Grade	Mem No	Pts
1	282399J	Kalavannan, Koby	Coulsdon CF	192	JG6614	557
2	294993D	Yoon, Jacob D	Middlesex Juniors	116	JG24229	529
3	295006G	Dias, Savin	Herts Juniors	117	JG24485	499
4	283657K	Golding, James	Ashtead	170	JG17053	454
5	279873G	Gallagher, Daniel GH	Maldon	178	JG17251	451
6	279727G	Balouka-Myers, Gabriel	Garden Suburb S	148	JG17131	446
7	282441D	Verma, Aditya	Ilford	159	JG6670	424
8	283704D	Rocco, Federico	Garden Suburb S	162	JG18859	423
9	287093K	Akeya-Price, Robert	Coulsdon CF	129	JG17030	419
10	284548K	Willow, Hambel M	West Nottingham	127	JS21060	415

Please note - these are only top tens in each category - the full leader boards can be found at <http://www.englishchess.org.uk/competitions-plp/tradewise-grand-prix/>

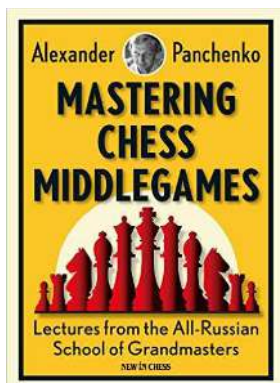




### Mastering Chess Middlegames: Lectures from the All-Russian School of Grandmasters

by Alexander Panchenko

Published by New In Chess, 272 pages £16.99



This publication is widely acclaimed to be a tribute to Russian coach Alexander Panchenko (1953-2009) who inspired numerous players. It is a reprint of an old book and translated by Englishman Steve Giddins.

The curious thing to find in chapter one is a game played after the author's death but his star pupil Artyom Timofeev explains that he wanted to add some extra material on attacking, so based it around a lecture by his coach. This makes more sense when you then come across a game by Peter Clarke from 1958. This is where the book has a noticeable weakness in that there are a lot of classic examples and the rest of the chapters do show their age.

However, the modern computer generation seemed to have forgotten older masters, so it can seem quite daring to learn lessons from Bogoljubow, Furman and Toloush. It reminds me of *Think Like A Grandmaster* by Kotov because the author uses examples where there is no obvious way to think of the right move. A glorious queen sacrifice followed by checkmate in two is not available but a sly pawn or king move is often the answer which makes you think. The 1980s/90s are well represented and the games are always interesting with clever manoeuvres soon becoming obvious by the use of similar examples. I also like the way he discusses how to defend which can be quite an art if you are under pressure.

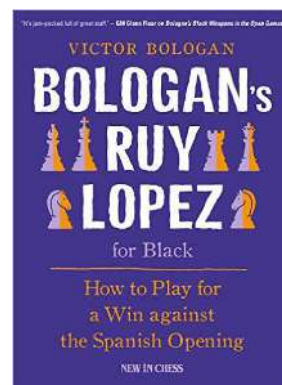
It is never easy to recommend a good middlegame book but in the future I can happily endorse Panchenko.

### Bologan's Ruy Lopez for Black by Victor Bologan: How to Play for a Win against the Spanish Opening

Published by New In Chess, 544 pages £22.99

The first thing I noticed when picking up this hefty book is a curious quote on the back cover. Britain's Sean Marsh has a fragment of his review displayed saying nice things about a previous Bologan book but what is prominent are words of praise for the design team who of course create the cover!

In this tome, the Moldavian grandmaster turns his attention to how Black should respond to the Ruy Lopez. Basically, he recommends the main lines, the Marshall Attack (8...d5) and the Breyer Variation (9...Nb8) which requires serious study and a good memory. It is aimed at club players but there is a lot to learn and I would suggest it more likely to be used as a reference book because it is packed with variations. Of course, there are numerous ways for White to play something different before you play the proposed opening line which is why there are over 500 pages.



The coverage of the side lines is great with sound advice although a reader should be aware that just because a position is deemed to be equal a draw will not soon follow. There is not enough room to go on about to handle the middlegame of all the lines so there is no guarantee of success but it will help.

The astute player now has a shortcut to success against the Ruy Lopez.

## ECF Event Calendar

**KEY --- @ FIDE rated; # British Championships qualifying tournament; \* English Chess Federation Grand Prix; ~ ECF Graded Event; Y Juniors only; + English Youth Grand Prix**

**~Y 14-15 Nov 15th Claires Court PTA Chess Festival**, Claires Court Junior Boys School, Sports Hall, The Thicket, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 4QQ Contact: Susan Payne Email: sep@clairescourt.net Tel: 01628 623732 Website: <http://www.maidenheadchess.btik.com/15thClairesCourtPTAChessFestival14112015> - starts 10:45AM ends 6:00PM. Sections U12, U10 and U8 all qualifying for the London Junior Championships; U12 and U10 sections graded ECF rapidplay; Trophies for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and best 3 combined scores from one school

**~Y 15 Nov KJCA GP 3**, Gravesend Grammar School, The Rectory, Church Walk, Gravesend, Kent DA12 2PR Contact: Krishna Shiatis Email: webmaster@kjca.org Website: <http://www.kjca.org/event/116> - starts 9:00AM ends 5:30PM. ECF graded rapidplay - all juniors welcome

**~ 15 Nov Basildon Rapidplay Chess Congress**, Kingswood PS, Clay Hill Road, Basildon SS16 5DE Contact: Nathanael Lutton Email: chessorganiser@gmail.com Tel: 0788 538 1768 - starts 9:45AM ends 5:30PM. This long running event has moved to a new venue which is a short walk from Basildon Station. Rate of play is all moves in 20 minutes with 10 seconds per move added. The entry fee is £20 with ECF members (Silver and above) able to claim £7 discount. There is a cheap entry fee of £10 for those who do not wish to compete for prizes. Under 18 competitors pay £18 and can claim £6 discount if they are ECF members (Silver and above) First prize will be £100 and the top Under 18 is guaranteed £70

**~\*Y 15 Nov Basildon Junior Chess Congress**, Kingswood Primary School, Clay Hill Road, Basildon SS16 5DE Contact: Nathanael Lutton Email: chessorganiser@gmail.com Tel: 0788 538 1768 - starts 9:45AM ends 5:30PM. Now in its 22nd year this popular event includes sections for Under 6, Under 8, Under 10, Under 12, Under 14 and Under 18. The Under 18 section plays in the Basildon Rapidplay which takes place at the same time. We are in a new venue which is a short walk from Basildon Rail Station. This is an official qualifying event for the London Junior Chess Championships to be held in December

**~ 20-22 Nov 5th Castle Chess Dudley**, Quality Hotel, Birmingham Road, Dudley DY1 4RN Contact: Tony Corfe Email enquiries@castlechess.co.uk Website [www.castlechess.co.uk](http://www.castlechess.co.uk) - starts 7:00PM ends 6:00PM. 6 round event - Open including Premier U180, Major U160 including Intermediate U140, Minor U120 including Challengers U100

**~\* 21 Nov Southampton Rapidplay 2015**, St Denys Community Centre, Priory Road, Southampton SO17 2JZ Contact: Robin Williams Email: williams.rj8@gmail.com Website: <http://southamptonchess.org.uk/rapidplay/> - starts 10:00AM ends 6:00PM. 6 round Swiss Rapidplay tournament; 30 minutes each. Normally two sections with prizes in each

**~Y+ 21 Nov Junior 4NCL**, Holiday Inn Birmingham Airport, Coventry Road B26 Contact: Mike Truran Email: mike@truranfamily.co.uk

**~\* 21 Nov Poplar Rapid-Play**, St. Nicholas Church Centre, Ettrick Street, Poplar, London E14 0QD Contact: Norman Went Email: DocklandsChess@yahoo.co.uk Tel: 07905 360659 Website: <http://www.spanglefish.com/docklandschessclub> - starts 10:30AM ends 6:00PM. Six round Swiss rapid-play events with two grade band sections. Major Under 171 and Minor Under 130. All moves in 30 minutes per player per game

**~\*Y 22 Nov 5th SHENLEY JUNIOR CHESS CONGRESS**, Manor Lodge School Rectory Lane, Ridge Hill Shenley Herts. WD7 9BG Contact: Tony Niccoli Email: tony1n@yahoo.com Tel: 07734816436 - starts 9:00AM ends 6:00PM. London Junior Chess Championship Qualifying event. Under 8, Under 10 and Under 12 sections. 6 rounds, 30 min rapid play event.

**~Y 22 Nov Sussex Junior Horsham Rapidplay**, Farlington School, Strood Park Farmhouse, Strood Ln, Warnham, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 3PN Contact: Sandra Manchester Email: entrymanager@sussexjuniorchess.org Website: <http://www.sussexjuniorchess.org> - 6 round Swiss rapidplay in 4 sections - U18 Major, U18 Minor, U11 Major, U11 Minor. Open to all aged under 18 on 31st August 2015

**26 Nov IM Thomas Rendle: Chess Lecture on 'Secrets of Chess Calculation'**, Metropolitan Chess Club, Middlesex Community Centre (Gravel Lane Entrance - dial 101), Petticoat Square, Gravel Lane Entrance, London EC17 8EA Contact: George Robinson Email: grobinson105@gmail.com Tel: 07809156294 Web: <http://www.metchess.org/> - starts 6:30PM ends 8:00PM

**~\* 27-29 Nov Preston Chess Congress**, Harrington Refectory, University of Central Lancashire, Fylde Road, Preston, Lancashire PR1 2HE Contact: Malcolm Peacock Email: malcolm@mpeacock.demon.co.uk Website: <http://chess.popmalc.org.uk/congress> - 5 round Swiss

~\***@ 27-29 Nov Bristol Winter Congress**, Bristol Grammar School, University Road, Clifton, Bristol BS8 1SR  
Contact: Alan Papier Email: chinadoc@chinadoc.force9.co.uk Tel: 07899826515 Website: <http://www.chessit.co.uk> - starts 6:45PM ends 7:00PM. 3 Sections - Open (FIDE rated), Major (U155), Minor (U125). Good venue, excellent catering, free parking

~\***@ 28-29 Nov 34th Hampstead Congress U2200/U1900/U135**, Henderson Court Day Centre, 102 Fitzjohn's Ave, London, Greater London NW3 6NS Contact: Adam Raoof Email [adamraoof@gmail.com](mailto:adamraoof@gmail.com) Website <http://www.hampsteadchess.blogspot.co.uk/> - starts 10:30AM ends 5:30PM

~ **28-29 Nov Cambridgeshire County Chess Championship**, Peterborough Bridge Club, Unit 1 New England Complex, Lincoln Road, Peterborough PE1 2PE Contact: Francis Bowers Email: [info@premierengravinguk.com](mailto:info@premierengravinguk.com) Tel: 01733 575544 Website: <http://www.premierengravinguk.com> - starts 9:30AM ends 9:30PM. Closed Championship to find the Cambridgeshire County Champion - you must live in Cambridgeshire or be a member of a chess club in the local league. 5 rounds Swiss graded event - prizes 1st 2nd 3rd, U140 prize, junior prize

~ **29 Nov Wiltshire Team-Rapidplay Tournament 2015**, Nationwide Head Office, Pipers Way, Swindon Contact: Tony Ransom Email: [chesssalsa@aol.com](mailto:chesssalsa@aol.com)

~**Y 29 Nov Woodbridge Junior Open**, Woodbridge School, Burkitt Road, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP12 4JH Contact: Adam Hunt Email: [hunt@woodbridge.suffolk.sch.uk](mailto:hunt@woodbridge.suffolk.sch.uk) Tel: 01394615000 Web: <http://www.woodbridgechess.wordpress.com> - starts 9:00AM ends 5:15PM. A junior rapidplay, now in its 15th year. This event is a qualifier for the London Junior Chess Championships to be held nearer to Christmas.

**29 Nov Simultaneous with IM James Adair**, Harrogate Conservative Club, 61B East Parade, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG1 5LQ Contact: Richard White Email: [richardwhite484@hotmail.com](mailto:richardwhite484@hotmail.com) Tel: 07858 939941 Web: <https://sites.google.com/site/harrogatechessclub/home> - starts 1:00PM ends 5:00PM. Simultaneous with IM James Adair at Harrogate Chess Club (5 minute walk from Harrogate bus and railway stations) We are expecting up to 21 entries. Places will be offered on a first come first served basis. To reserve a place or for further details please email [richardwhite484@hotmail.com](mailto:richardwhite484@hotmail.com) or call 07858 939941

**@3 Dec Hendon 'First Thursday' FIDE Blitz**, Golders Green Unitarians Church, Hoop Lane, Golders Green, London NW11 8BS Contact: Adam Raoof Email: [adamraoof@gmail.com](mailto:adamraoof@gmail.com) - One section, 10 minutes per player per game, six rounds, FIDE rated

~\***#@ 4-13 Dec London Chess Classic Festival 2015**, Olympia Conference Centre, Hammersmith Road, Kensington, London W14 8UX Contact: Tao Bhokanandh Email: [info@londonchessclassic.com](mailto:info@londonchessclassic.com) Tel: 02079353445 Web: <http://www.londonchessclassic.com> - the UK's largest chess festival, with £32,000+ prize fund. FIDE Open with norm opportunities, 4th-11th; 4-section Weekend Classic, 4th-6th; 2-section Weekday Classic, 7th-11th December; Super Rapidplay Open, 12th-13th December.

**@ 5-15 Dec 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](mailto: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

~ **6 Dec 2nd Plymouth Rapidplay Chess Congress**, Plymouth Bridge & Chess Club, 1 Moor View Terrace, Mutley Plain, Plymouth PL4 7EB Contact: Tony Tatam Email: [tony.tatam@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:tony.tatam@blueyonder.co.uk) Tel: 01752 300620 Web: <http://www.plymouthchess.co.uk/> - 6 round Swiss rapidplay rate of play: 30 minutes each.

~**Y 6 Dec 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](mailto: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

~**Y 6 Dec 2015 English Junior Rapidplay**, Olympia Conference Centre, Hammersmith Road, Kensington, London W14 8UX Contact: Tao Bhokanandh Email: [info@londonchessclassic.com](mailto:info@londonchessclassic.com) Tel: 02079353445 Web: <http://www.londonchessclassic.com> - starts 10:30AM ends 5:40PM. A 5-round rapidplay tournament for players of all ages under 18. Prizes in U18, U16, U14, U12, U10 and U8 categories. Held alongside the London Chess Classic Festival in Olympia

~**Y 12 Dec Maidenhead Junior Club Tournament**, Claires Court Junior Boys School, Cannon Lane, Maidenhead, Berkshire Entrance Drive SL6 4QQ Contact: Nigel Dennis Email: [nigelwdennis@btinternet.com](mailto:nigelwdennis@btinternet.com) Tel: 01491 576052 Web: <http://www.maidenheadchess.btik.com> - starts 9:30AM ends 12:00PM. Two sections - one U90 rapid play graded, the other for beginners not graded.

~\* **12-13 Dec 9th Northwick Park Five Round Chess Congress**, University of Westminster, Harrow Campus, Northwick Park, Harrow HA1 3TP Email: Nathanael Lutton Email: [entry@ljcc.co.uk](mailto:entry@ljcc.co.uk) Tel: 0771 409 8342 Website:



<http://www.ljcc.co.uk> - annual five round event with three sections, Open, Major (U155) and Minor (U115). Incremental timing. All sections have 90 minutes for all moves plus 15 seconds added per move. The Minor section is using incremental timing for the first time this year. Easy access by underground, mainline, bus or car  
~\***Y+ 12-13 Dec London Junior Chess Championships 2015**, University of Westminster, Harrow Campus, Northwick Park, Harrow HA1 3TP Contact: Nathanael Lutton Email: [entry@ljcc.co.uk](mailto:entry@ljcc.co.uk) Tel: 0771 409 8342 Website: <http://www.ljcc.co.uk> - starts 9:45AM ends 7:40PM. This event has been running since 1924 and is not restricted to residents of London. Under 10 and Under 14 sections are on 12th and 13th December. Qualification is necessary for the Under 10 section. See [www.ljcc.co.uk](http://www.ljcc.co.uk) for details. Other age sections are on 28, 29, 30 December. Enter Online at [www.ljcc.co.uk](http://www.ljcc.co.uk)

~\***Y 19 Dec Chess in Schools and Communities Manchester Congress**, Broadoak & Smallshaw Community Centre, Broadoak Road, Ashton-under-Lyne OL6 8RS Contact: David Hardy Email: [david@ashtonccc.co.uk](mailto:david@ashtonccc.co.uk) Tel: 07974 952252 Web: <http://www.chessinschools.co.uk> • ECF graded event - starts 10:00AM ends 2:30. Year 2-6 and Year 7-11 (graded) 6 round Swiss events. The younger event is most suitable for those who are fairly new to competitive chess. If in doubt email or telephone. Entry fee £3

@ **19-20 Dec 35th Hampstead Congress U2200/U1900/U135**, Henderson Court Day Centre, 102 Fitzjohn's Ave, London, Greater London NW3 6NS Contact: Adam Raoof Email [adamraoof@gmail.com](mailto:adamraoof@gmail.com) Website <http://www.hampsteadchess.blogspot.co.uk/> - starts 10:30AM ends 5:30PM

~\***@ 19-20 Dec CCF Christmas LP Congress**, 84-90 Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 3BA Contact: Scott Freeman Email: [chess@ccfworld.com](mailto:chess@ccfworld.com) Tel: 020 8645 586 Website: [http://www.ccfworld.com/Chess/Adult%20Competitions/Longplays\\_Christmas.htm](http://www.ccfworld.com/Chess/Adult%20Competitions/Longplays_Christmas.htm) - starts 9:30AM ends 9:00PM. Christmas longplay Congress across 5 rounds. Open, U2000/U174, U1750/U140, U1500/U107. Players must be below both limits to be eligible

~\***#@+ 28-29 Dec London Christmas Chess Congress**, University of Westminster, Harrow Campus, Northwick Park, Harrow HA1 3TP Contact: Nathanael Lutton Email: [entry@ljcc.co.uk](mailto:entry@ljcc.co.uk) Tel: 0771 409 8342 Web: <http://www.ljcc.co.uk> - starts 9:45AM. Annual six round event with three sections, Open, Major (U155) and Minor (U115) organised by London Junior Chess Championships Charitable Trust. Incremental timing. Open section play all moves in 2 hours plus 30 seconds per move added. Major and Minor have 90 minutes for all moves plus 30 seconds added per move. The Minor section is using incremental timing for the first time this year. Enter online at [www.ljcc.co.uk](http://www.ljcc.co.uk). Easy access by underground, mainline, bus or car

~\***#@+ 28-30 Dec London Junior Chess Championships**, University of Westminster, Harrow Campus, Northwick Park, Harrow HA1 3TP Contact: Nathanael Lutton Email: [entry@ljcc.co.uk](mailto:entry@ljcc.co.uk) Tel: 0771 409 8342 Web: <http://www.ljcc.co.uk> - starts 9:45AM ends 8:30PM. This event has been running since 1924 and is not restricted to residents of London. Under 8 is on 29, 30 December and is rapidplay, finishing by 4 pm on Wednesday. All other sections use all three days and finish at different times. See our website for details. Under 16 and Under 18/21 are FIDE rated events and the Under 18/21 is run jointly with the Open section of the London Christmas Congress. Enter Online at [www.ljcc.co.uk](http://www.ljcc.co.uk)

## 2016 ...

~\***Y 3 Jan Sussex Junior Hastings Rapidplay**, St Mary Star of the Sea School, Magdalen Road, St. Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex TN37 6EU Contact: Sandra Manchester Email: [entrymanager@sussexjuniorchess.org](mailto:entrymanager@sussexjuniorchess.org) Website: <http://www.sussexjuniorchess.org> - 6 round Swiss in 4 sections - U18 Major, U18 Minor, U11 Major, U11 Minor. Open to all aged under-18 on 31st August 2015

~\***#@ 8-10 Jan Shropshire Chess Congress**, Wrekin Housing Trust, Colliers Way, Telford TF3 4AW Contact: Steve Rooney Email: [steve.rooney@busandcoach.com](mailto:steve.rooney@busandcoach.com) Tel: 07530 649195 Web: <http://www.shropshirechess.org> - a friendly and professionally-run congress. FIDE-rated Open, Major U160 and Minor U125. Substantial prize fund, great facilities

~\***8-10 Jan Castle Chess Congress - 4th Winchester**, Holiday Inn, Telegraph Way, Winchester SO21 1HZ Contact: Tony Corfe / Marc Shaw Email: [tony@castlechess.co.uk](mailto:tony@castlechess.co.uk) Tel: 07973 516718 Website: <http://castlechess.co.uk> - starts 7:00PM ends 5:15PM. OPEN incl Premier U180, MAJOR U160 incl Intermediate U140, MINOR U120 incl Challenger U100. Guaranteed Prize Fund £150 per event. This congress is played in a modern 4star Holiday Inn Hotel situated three miles from Winchester town centre. Junction 9 or 10 on M3. We shall be running a Draughts Tournament alongside the Castle Chess Event. Everyone welcome

~\***9 Jan Shropshire Chess Congress 2016**, Wrekin Housing Trust, Colliers Way, Telford TF3 Contact: Steve Rooney Email: [steve.rooney@busandcoach.com](mailto:steve.rooney@busandcoach.com) Website: <http://www.shropshirechess.org/> - a friendly and

professionally-run tournament with three sections: Open, Major U160 and Minor U125

**~Y+ 9-10 Jan Junior 4NCL**, Holiday Inn Birmingham Airport, Coventry Road B26 Contact: Mike Truran Email: [mike@truranfamily.co.uk](mailto:mike@truranfamily.co.uk)

**~ 9-10 Jan Castle Chess Training and Tournament**, Holiday Inn Hotel, Telegraph Way, Winchester SO21 1HZ Contact: Tony Corfe Email: [tony@mrcorfe.com](mailto:tony@mrcorfe.com) Tel: 07973 516718 Web: <http://www.castlechess.co.uk> - starts 9:30AM ends 5:30PM. Learn and play in a fun and exhilarating atmosphere. Master Coaching and rapid chess tournament open to all players.

**Y 10 Jan KJCA Coaching Day 3**, Belmont Close, Barming, Maidstone, Kent ME16 9DY Contact: Krishna Shiat's Email: [webmaster@kjca.org](mailto:webmaster@kjca.org) Website: <http://www.kjca.org/event/126> - starts 9:30AM ends 4:15PM. KJCA training day - all juniors welcome! These coaching days have been designed for beginners all the way to advanced level by GM Chris Ward who is Head coach. Please see KJCA website for more details.

Tim Harding's recent work, *Joseph Henry Blackburne – A Chess Biography* (MacFarland), weighs in at a massive 582 (near A4 size) pages and some 1.5 kg. It traces the life of one of the world's greatest players in the late-nineteenth century in painstakingly researched, year by year detail and includes almost 1200 of his most significant games. The author has annotated all of these games, some lightly, but most with helpful reference to the more illuminating comments of Blackburne's peers, more recent commentators and judicious engine insights.

Anyone who wants to comment seriously on Blackburne's life and games will have to consult this book from now on. The book's detailed Chapter Notes and Bibliography themselves take up some 24 pages, providing an invaluable resource for any future investigation in their own right. There's enough to keep an interested chess player going for ages in this huge, celebratory compilation, which is both impressively authoritative and readable. So you want to know the locations, dates, results of all of Blackburne's numerous Blindfold Exhibitions (1861-1912)? See Appendix V.

Inspired by the exploits of Paul Morphy (1837-1884) in the late 1850s, Blackburne (1841-1924) took up chess only in his late-teens, but was soon good enough to be matched in some friendly games with the German master, Louis Paulsen (1833-1891), who paid a visit to Blackburne's home town (Manchester), in 1861. Paulsen's blindfold simul at Manchester (Blackburne lost to him in this) then inspired the young Mancunian to develop this skill in his own armoury, thenceforth enabling him to earn a useful source of income from this branch of the game for decades to come.

Blackburne was never happier, on what were to become his signature, highly popular annual tours of the UK's leading chess clubs, than when indulging his flair for combinations in his countless chess simuls, including the blindfold games. He fondly called such ingenious sacrifices as the following, played in his most celebrated blindfold simultaneous game, against W.R. Ballard at Bishopsgate 1872, "a bit of Morphy".



Blackburne, who had been angling to play this spectacular, speculative queen sacrifice, continued: **17 ♖xg4!!? hxg4?!**

# Joseph Henry Blackburne

**Craig Pritchett takes a look at a detailed new work on the man who dominated British chess during the latter part of the 19th century**

Harding points out the refutation 17...♞e5+!, and if 18 ♞f4 h4+ 19 ♜h3 ♞xf4 20 ♞xf4 ♜xc1 21 ♞f1 ♜xg5 22 ♜b3 dxc2, with an extra pawn.

**18 ♜xe3 ♞e5+ 19 ♜f4 ♞xb2 20 ♜d2 dxc2 21 ♜c4 ♞c3+ 22 ♜e3 ♜d7 23 ♜xg4 ♜a4?! 24 ♜d5 ♞d3 25 ♜g6 ♞h6?**

Black had to try 25...♜g8, or earlier 23...♜b5. **26 ♜e6+ ♜g8 27 ♜e7+ ♜h8 28 ♞h1 ♞d1+ 29 ♞axd1 cxd1♞+ 30 ♞xd1 ♜xd1+ 31 ♜g3 ♞h1 32 ♜d2!**

An impressive switch to the long diagonal – blindfold and against 10 opponents, too!

**32...♜h5 33 ♜c3 ♞g8 34 f6 ♜xg6 35 ♜xg6+ ♜h7 36 f7 1-0**

According to Harding, following a 'Slow Rise' based largely in 1860s' London, Blackburne joined 'The Élite' in the early 1870s and became a 'Mature Grandmaster' by 1874. He had most recently finished shared third, at Baden-Baden 1870, behind the veteran champion, Adolf Anderssen (1818-1879) and Wilhelm Steinitz (1836-1900), who finished respectively first and second, and first equal with Steinitz (who won a two game tie-break), at Vienna 1873, the two greatest international tournaments held in those years.

It was at Vienna 1873 that Blackburne earned the sobriquet, 'The Black Death', a pun on his name and a fair reflection of his predilection for razor-sharp attacking play. Blackburne certainly belonged to the world's best five or six players from that point and throughout most of the 1880s. His career high point probably came around 1880-1881, following further successes, at Paris 1878 (second behind Zukertort), shared first at Wiesbaden 1880, and outright first at Berlin 1881. He could, as a result, briefly claim to be 'Tournament World Champion' at that time.

Match play, however, proved to be Blackburne's Achilles heel, especially two matches against his greatest rivals, Steinitz and Zukertort, who were eventually to move ahead of the rest and slug it out in the first ever formal world championship match, at New York, St. Louis and New Orleans 1886. Although flattered by an outcome that owed as much to his opponent's unusually dismal form as to his relative superiority, Steinitz absolutely crushed Blackburne, +7-0 (with no draws), at London 1876. Five years later, Zukertort scored an even more significant, +7-2=5, victory, which cemented Zukertort's credibility as the sole real

threat to Steinitz's then reputational primacy.

Following a period of poor health in 1884-85, Blackburne recovered his form and continued to compete at the highest tournament levels throughout the remaining years of the 19th century and even into the first decade of the 1900s. He defeated all the greatest players of his age, including the acknowledged 'champions', Adolf Anderssen, Steinitz and Emanuel Lasker (1868-1940). Aged 72, he even took the 45 years younger Aaron Nimzowitsch's scalp in his last great outing, at St. Petersburg 1914.

Yet Blackburne was never quite at any time even fleetingly regarded as the world's true 'champion'. Briefly tournament champion in 1880-81, perhaps, but never really quite on the same level as Steinitz or (certainly after 1881) Steinitz's greatest early 1880s' rival, Zukertort. Perhaps he enjoyed himself too much and in this regard I am glad to hear that that hoary old story about Blackburne downing an opponent's dram as he scuttled round the boards at one of his chess board simuls may really have some truth to it.

Blackburne was by all accounts an amiable chap, who accompanied most of his exhibitions with unflagging bonhomie and humorous throwaway lines. The whisky incident, indeed, seems all of a piece with his personable, showman-like character. At any rate, a book on the history of the Dundee Chess Club claims the bragging rights. Blackburne (reputedly) insisted that his cheeky capture of the enticing amber nectar had, of course, been entirely within the rules of the game: "He left it en prise and I took it en passant". There was no answer to that!

Here's a bit of enjoyable rough and tumble on the chessboard, not one of Showalter's great days but a hoot:

## J.Blackburne-J.Showalter

6th US Champ. Congress, New York 1889  
*Queen's Gambit Declined*

**1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 ♜f3 ♜f6 4 ♜c3 c5 5 ♜g5 cxd4 6 ♞xd4 ♜c6 7 ♞h4 d4?**

This is a doubtful line, but with this and his next few moves Black invites oblivion on f6 and on the e-file.

**8 0-0-0 e5 9 e3 ♜c5 10 exd4 exd4 11 ♜d5 ♞a5 12 ♜xf6 gxf6 13 ♜xf6+ ♜f8 14 ♞e1 ♜e6**





**15 ♖xe6** Ouch! It's soon mate.

**15...fxe6 16 ♖h6+ ♕f7 17 ♘g5+ ♖e7 18 ♖g7+ ♕d6 19 ♖d7+**

As Steinitz observed, Blackburne had probably calculated this 'finish' some moves ago and rushed to achieve a pretty mate, missing the immediate 19 ♘fe4 mate!

**19...♖e5 20 ♖xe6+ ♕f4 21 ♘h3# 1-0**

From the same tournament, here is something of an entirely different order. In one of the more startling statements made by Emanuel Lasker in his justly famous essay on the 'Theory of Steinitz' (in *Lasker's Manual of Chess*) that sets out to explain why he thought Steinitz such a revolutionary giant, Lasker drops the thought that Blackburne and Zukertort were nevertheless "easily superior in [their] talent for over-the-board play." Although it is true that Zukertort and Blackburne could at least match Steinitz in that respect, at their very best, that's challengeable.

Against Amos Burn, at New York, however, let Blackburne speak up for both of them (and Lasker)!



With Black a little more active, Burn incautiously courts trouble on the kingside dark squares that he hadn't anticipated:

**20 f3?! ♘e5 21 ♖f1 d5!**

Blackburne justifiably opens up the play. Black's considerable activity ensures a continuing plus after 22 exd5 ♘xd5, and if 23 ♘xd5 ♖xd5 24 ♘c3 ♘c6 – Steinitz. White's natural-seeming reply walks into a fine combination:

**22 ♖ad1 dxe4! 23 ♘xg5!?**

23 fxe4 ♖d4+, and if 24 ♘e3 ♖b4, is also much better for Black.

**23...exf3 24 ♘h1!?**

Or if 24 ♖xd7 fxg2 25 ♖xe7 (or 25 ♖f2?

♘f3+) 25...gxf1 ♖+ 26 ♘xf1 hxg5, with a likely win; or 24 ♘h3? f2+ 25 ♖xf2 ♘f3+.

**24...♘d3!**

Black's bishop now reaches d4 with extreme force.

**25 ♖xe7 ♘d4+ 26 ♘e3 ♖xe7 27 ♖xd3 ♖xe3 28 ♖xd4 ♖e1+**

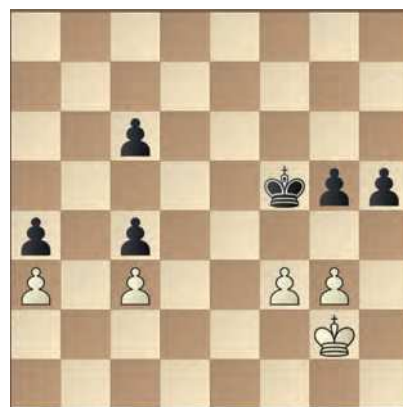
Black's final point, winning a pawn and almost certainly the game, although White cuts matters short with a final error on his 32nd move.

**29 ♘f2 ♖xd4+ 30 ♖xd4 ♖xh1 31 h4 ♖c1 32 ♘e4? ♖xc2+ 33 ♘xf3 f5 0-1**

Returning to Lasker, what he conceded on one hand, however, he retracted immediately with the other. Steinitz defeated Zukertort and Blackburne "decisively because he was a profound thinker and his adversaries were not." That assertion, I would suggest, is less challengeable, although no one should run away with the naïve idea that Zukertort and Blackburne lacked brain power. Steinitz, however, was certainly the greater, all-round virtuoso. No one could match his restlessly scientific, systematic, questing, analytically concrete and deeply innovative chess spirit. He also simply fought much harder than almost all of his peers!

One must beware of overly pigeon-holing. We are all complex and we all change. As is clear from the Burn game, Blackburne had a sophisticated grasp of position and the game's outcome can be appreciated not just as a triumph of beauty, but as an example of a fine, textbook combination that flows seamlessly from the logic of Black's classically accumulated array of small advantages – to use Steinitzian terms. Blackburne was undoubtedly a great player, just not the absolute best, in an era in which Steinitz unquestionably 'dominated'.

Here is a further example of Blackburne's more delicate side, played as Black at Berlin 1897, against Richard Teichmann, in a deceptively complex king and pawn endgame that requires some exceptionally fine play to garner the win.



**57 ♘h2 ♘f6**

After the incautious 57...h4? 58 ♘g2!, and if 58...♖e5 (or if 58...hxg3 59 ♘xg3 ♖e5 60 ♘g4 ♘f6 61 f4) 59 f4+! ♘f5 60 fxg5 hxg3 61 ♘xg3 ♘xg5, White's king plays to and from the f3- and e3-squares, keeping Black's king at bay.

**58 ♘g2!?**

After White's most testing option 58 ♘h3!, Black should reply 58...♖e6! (Averbakh and Maizelis), and if:

a) 59 ♘g2 ♖e5! 60 ♘h3 h4! 61 ♘g2 (Black wins queen and pawn endgames after 61 gxh4 gxh4 62 ♘g4 c5! 63 f4+ ♖e4 64 f5 h3 or 61 f4+ gxf4 62 gxh4 ♖e4! 63 ♘g2 ♘d3!!, threatening ...♖e2, and if 64 ♘f3 ♘xc3 65 h5 ♖b3) 61...hxg3 62 ♘xg3 ♘f5!, reaching the critical winning position after Black's 61st move in the actual game. Due to the availability of ...c5, Black also wins all king and pawn endgames after 60 ♘f2 h4! 61 f4+ ♘f5! 62 fxg5 h3!!, and if 63 g6 ♘xg6 64 g4 ♘g5 65 ♘g3 h2!.

b) 59 g4 h4 60 f4 gxf4 61 ♘xh4 ♖e5 62 g5 ♖e4! 63 g6 f3 64 g7 f2 65 g8 ♖f1 ♖, when Black's king decisively reaches d3 and his c6-pawn cannot be captured, such as after 66 ♖g6+ ♖e3 67 ♖xc6 ♖f4+ 68 ♘h5 ♖f3+.

**58...♘g6 59 ♘h2**

Or if 59 ♘h3 ♘f5 60 ♘g2 ♖e5!, reaching variation 'a' in the previous note.

**59...h4 60 ♘h3 hxg3 61 ♘xg3 ♘f5!**



Black reaches the critical, winning position, with White to move (and ...c5 still available). Black can now penetrate behind White's f-pawn to win in all variations.

The cleverest line runs 62 ♘g2 ♘f4 63 ♘f2 c5!. By gaining the opposition, Black wins, such as after 64 ♖e2 ♘g3 65 ♖e3 ♘h3! (although not without this further fine move) 66 ♖e2 ♘g2 67 ♖e3 ♘f1! (with this fine follow-up in mind) 68 ♖e4 ♖e2. Black wins more mundanely after 62 ♘h3 ♘f4 63 ♘g2 ♖e3 64 ♘g3 ♘d3 65 ♘g4 ♘xc3 66 ♘xg5 ♘d3.

**62 ♘f2 ♘f4 63 ♖e2 ♘g3 64 ♖e3 c5 65 ♖e2 ♘g2 0-1**

In view of 66 ♖e3 ♘f1 67 ♖e4 ♖e2.

Finally I feel as if I've hardly scratched the surface of much else that is in this vast book, which, amongst other things, builds a fascinating picture of chess in the Victorian and Edwardian worlds and how hard it was to make a living from chess in that era. A family man, Blackburne faced many financial challenges in his long, but ultimately (I think) quite fulfilled life. Read the book for yourselves and discuss!

♔ ♔ ♔ ♔ ♔ ♔ ♔ ♔ ♔ ♔ ♔

'Joseph Henry Blackburne: A Chess Biography' by Tim Harding is out now and available from Chess & Bridge, retailing at £49.95 or £45 for subscribers.



# A Meaty Game in Sandwich

by James Essinger



This summer, my good friend IM Andrew Greet, a native of St Austell, Cornwall, who has for some years been resident in Glasgow and is currently Scotland's highest-rated player, spent a week in Kent staying at my home in Canterbury and combining downtime with chess. He played in the Thanet Open, held in Broadstairs from August 21st to 23rd, duly winning first prize with 4½/5, as readers may have spotted last month.

Then, on the following Wednesday, August 26th, he gave a simultaneous display at Sandwich's Guildhall as part of the Sandwich Festival. I was one of his opponents, and was determined not to become one of his victims.

I'd played in the Thanet Open myself, and ended up with 2/5 (though that included a half-point bye on the Sunday morning), achieving a rating for the event of 176, which was a nice improvement on my usual rating of 154. But while I had the pleasure of playing next to Andrew on board two in the second round, having won my first-round game, I didn't do well enough in the Open to get paired against him. So I was keen to do my best in the simul.

Andrew and I have known each other for more than a decade, and he has an involvement with my literary agency, the Canterbury

Literary Agency. While we are good friends, when we play chess we are completely merciless and both try very hard to win. Of course, Andrew's a much better player than me and on the one occasion when I played him in a graded game, he beat me easily. However, I managed to beat him in an offhand ten-minute game at the 4NCL a year or so ago. Moreover, I wanted to do my best in the simul and not be cowed by his ECF grading of 237.

As things turned out, we had a truly thrilling game which was one of the most nail-biting I've ever played against anyone. Andrew had 19 opponents including me, but as he finished off most of them pretty quickly, during the second half or so of the game he was only playing four people, and by the time we played the last few moves it was just him and me.

## A.Greet-J.Essinger

Sandwich (simul) 2015

*Pirc Defence*

**1 e4 d6 2 d4 ♟f6 3 ♟c3 g6 4 ♟g5 ♟g7 5 ♟d2 h6**

I often play the Modern Defence, though until this game I hadn't played its sister opening the Pirc in a serious game (which I took this to be) for many years. I never see why Black should meekly accept his lovely bishop on g7 being exchanged off early, or at all, and so I like the text move.

**6 ♟h4 O-O 7 O-O c6 8 ♟f3 a5**

There's no point wasting time. I want to launch a queenside pawn storm if he lets me.

**9 e5!**



I'd never seen this move before, but think

it's a good one. White is slightly ahead in development and can be confident of having good chances in the queenless ending.

**9...dxe5**

I don't have much choice, as retreating my horse is going to leave me with an uninspiring position that would be about as much fun to play as drinking flat Coca-Cola.

**10 dxe5 ♟xd2+ 11 ♟xd2 ♟g4**

Only now I could see that I was going to lose a pawn, but I felt I would probably be able to get it back somehow, and I never mind losing a pawn if I can keep my position active.

**12 ♟xe7 ♟e8 13 ♟d6 ♟d7 14 e6 ♟xe6 15 ♟c4 ♟e8 16 ♟hd1 b5**

I was counting on this move to liberate my position, because of course White cannot retreat the bishop to b3 as then ...a4 traps it.

**17 ♟f1 ♟h7 18 ♟d4 ♟b7 19 h3 ♟gf6 20 f3 ♟b6**



I felt I was doing OK. My potential queenside attack has serious possibilities even with both Her Majesties sunning themselves off the board, and all my pieces are on good squares.

**21 ♟b3 b4 22 ♟e4**

22 ♟e2 might be safer, but is obviously more passive.

**22...♟xe4 23 ♟xe4 ♟a4**

Not 23...♟xe4?? 24 ♟c5 winning a whole piece. But now Black has a nasty threat.

**24 e5 h5!**

With another threat. I did know, however, that Andrew is rather partial to sacrificing the exchange, and I could see that if I did win the exchange, his bishop on d6 would become an unchallenged monster. But all the same, I decided I would be happy to win the exchange if Andrew were to let me.



A colourful Andrew Greet playing in the colourful recent PokerStars event, a month or so after his successful trip to Kent.





## 25 ♙c4

Which he does. After the game, I asked Andrew if he'd overlooked the loss of the exchange. "No, I saw it," he said, "but I was happy to give up the exchange if I gained the two bishops. I like playing those kind of positions." And, of course, he gets the f-pawn too.

## 25...♙h6 26 ♙xf7 ♗ed8

I wasn't in any rush to take the rook, as the fact of it being pinned not only means it will be lost, but also that White's position remains slightly more cramped than if I were to take the rook at once.

## 27 ♖d4 c5 28 ♖f3

I was expecting 28 ♖e6 and was very happy to see the text move instead. Only now, analysing the game *without* the assistance of *Fritz* (I think not using *Fritz* when writing for *CHESS* makes for greater spontaneity and allows the human factor, even if complete with errors, to shine through), I see that 28 ♖e6? ♗d7! wins material for Black. Would I have seen this in Sandwich's Guildhall if Andrew had played the move? I hope so.

## 28...♙xd2+ 29 ♗xd2 ♙xf3 30 gxf3 ♙g7

It seemed to me on the night, and still does, that I absolutely needed to exchange off the knight on f3, as otherwise it is heading for g5 and then e6. I was less confident about my position now.

The annoying thing about playing really strong players like Andrew is that it is horribly easy to get into a passive and soon hopeless position even if you don't seem to have done anything especially bad. Yes, Black has removed the threat posed by White's remaining knight, which is now available to be either of the queens' showjumping champion, but Black's own knight is at present about as relevant to the position as a horse steak at a vegan lunch. Moreover, White has two great bishops and the pawn he has for the exchange is a passed one. I imagine Andrew, who had by now finished off most of his other opponents, having shown them all the mercy of a velociraptor, was expecting that I would soon succumb.

## 31 ♙b3

31 ♙d5 may be better, but after 31...♗a6 (better than the timid 31...♗ac8), White can't immediately advance the e-pawn. The text move wins a second pawn for the exchange.

## 31...♙b6 32 ♙xc5 ♗xd2

An important principle, if you are the exchange up and have two rooks, is to

exchange one pair of rooks if you can. The point is that when your opponent doesn't have a rook left on the board and you do, he has no rook to resist the mischief your own marauding rook can get up to.

## 33 ♙xd2 ♖d7 34 ♙d4 ♗e8



## 35 f4?

Of course, I saw the obvious threat of 35 e6+, but after 35...♖f6, White's passed pawn is stymied. Despite White having two pawns for the exchange, Black's rook, knight and king are suddenly working together very nicely in a tripartite alliance which is making the two prelates look much less clerically authoritative than you might expect them to be.

After writing up these notes, I thought it would be wise to check things with Andrew. Here he commented: "You may want to rewrite as 35 e6+ ♖f6 is actually winning for White. The point is that after 36 f4! (or 36 h4!), the unpinning plan of ...g5 and ...♙g6 is prevented, so Black is virtually paralysed."

I've decided, though, not to rewrite my sentence as Andrew's comment, while admittedly going deeper into the position than I do, shows how two players can see the same position radically differently. Of course, a cynic might add, yes, especially if one player is an IM and the other one is graded 154.

## 35...♙h6 36 h4 ♖f8

I want to get my knight to the fine f5-square.

## 37 ♙e3 ♖e6 38 ♙b6

Andrew doesn't want to give up his lovely light-squared bishop for my knight (yet), but doing so was probably a safer continuation. I could see I was going to lose another pawn, but I also saw that once my knight reached f5 (with check), the white h-pawn was going to fall.

## 38...♖g7 39 ♙xa5 ♖f5+



Andrew and I both love the movie *V for Vendetta*, and as I played this move I thought of what V says near the end after he's been shot many times by the police working for the evil government, and is still alive. He looks at them and says, calmly, "My turn."

## 40 ♙e4?

Retreating to f2 would have put the king in a much better position to intercept the h-pawn, as Andrew later pointed out.

## 40...♖xh4 41 ♙xb4

White's three passed pawns on the queenside look very scary and are, but time is everything in chess, as in life, and right now they're all on the second rank and the bishops are actually in their way, which will slow them down. Meanwhile, Black's soldier on h5 is anxious to reach h1 and undergo a sex-change.

## 41...♖f5

Still the best square for the knight.

## 42 a4 h4 43 ♙f3 ♙h5

Not 43...♖d4+? Just yet because after 44 ♙g4 the pawn on h4 falls and Black can't expect to do anything more than draw. But now 44...♖d4+ is a very unpleasant threat.

## 44 c3 h3



I must admit that I did offer a draw at this point, which was a bit cowardly really considering that I am doing pretty well now.

## 45 ♙c2 ♙h4?

Missing a likely win. The correct move is surely 45...♗d8, threatening to come in at d2 or, after the bishop exchanges itself for the knight, at d3. I can't see a defence for White that will prevent the h-pawn from queening, as 46 c4?? loses, of course, to 46...♖d4+. The problem with the text move is that somehow I'd overlooked that the king can be driven back by White's dark-squared bishop.

Andrew adds: "45...♗d8 46 ♙xf5 gxf5 47 e6 h2 48 ♙g2 ♗d2+ 49 ♙h1 ♙g4 50 e7 ♙h3 51 e8 ♗d1+ was a winning line I spotted while you were thinking."

So, yes, on this occasion I was right. 45...♗d8 would most likely have won. But at the time I didn't spot the winning line Andrew mentions, so I don't know if I'd have seen it in the eventuality that I'd actually played 45...♗d8.

## 46 ♙xf5 gxf5 47 ♙c5

Of course.

## 47...♗g8

Trying at least to prevent the white king from reaching the g-file. Another drawback of 45...♙h4



is that 47...♖d8? now loses to 48 ♖e7+.  
**48 ♖e7+ ♖h5 49 ♖g5 ♖b8 50 ♖g3 ♖xb2 51 e6**

Andrew obviously felt that as my h-pawn could not be saved, he could create some threats of his own.

**51...♖b8 52 ♖xh3 ♖g6 53 e7 ♖f7 54 ♖h4 ♖c8 55 a5 ♖xc3**



**56 ♖f6!**

Nice. This allows the king to advance more speedily to g5 and secure the draw, though Black most likely can't win by now anyway.

**56...♖a3 57 ♖g5 ♖xa5 58 ♖e5 ♖xe7 59 ♖xf5 ½-½**

Andrew now offered a draw, which I accepted. A fascinating and hard-fought game. His total score in the simul was an impressive

18½ out of 19. Combined with winning the Thanet Open, this must have been a very successful summer chess week in Kent for him.

As they say in Cornish, *tereba nessa, Andrew!* Until next time!



*Outgraded by 83 points many players would go into grovel mode even in a simul, but James Essinger showed that a 'never say die attitude' is a better approach.*



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