

## 13th I.B.C.A. Olympiad, Heraklion 2008



The International Braille Chess Association (I.B.C.A.) 13th chess Olympiad for blind and visually impaired players took place from 18th – 29th October 2008 in the beautiful city of Heraklion on the Greek island of Crete. The tournament consisted of 9 rounds, with a rest day on Friday 24th. The final round occurred on Tuesday 28th with a wonderful closing ceremony on the evening.

32 countries participated in this Olympiad and the United Kingdom team were seeded 8th. The UK team consisted of: 1. IM Colin Crouch (2359), 2. Chris Ross (2172) [captain], 3. Graham Lilley (2115), 4. Stephen Hilton (1907) and 5. Bill Armstrong (1964) [reserve].

Grandmaster Neil McDonald and International Master Chris Beaumont accompanied the UK team and provided magnificent and salient assistance during the tournament, providing indepth constructive pre-match preparation and instructive post-mortem analysis.

Naturally, Russia played former World champions Sergey Krylov and Sergei Smirnov, as well as the current Champion Vladimir Berlinksky and were seeded number 1. Ukraine came a very close 2nd seed with the current women's World Champion Lubov Zsiltzova-Lisenko. Other strong competitors were Poland, Germany, Spain, Serbia and Lithuania.

United Kingdom got off to a flying start with 2 excellent wins over The Netherlands in round 1 and Finland in round 2. Having bagged 2 wins out of two (the tournament was ran on match-points, not game points), we were already in the lead, joint 1st with a few other countries.

Round 3 saw us pitted against Serbia, who were seeded number 3 in the tournament. After a long and tense match, Hilton lost on board 4 and Lilley got a credible draw on board 3. It was therefore up to the top two boards to pull something out. Ross had an excellent attacking game (see p18) and left it up to his top board to bring the bacon home for the team, which he duly did with some excellent positional play.

*Photograph – Colin Crouch with his silver medal.*



## Editorial

I attended the AGM in Birmingham in October and received with great pleasure the President's award. Thank you all for the warm reception this presentation received. Last time I attended a meeting in Birmingham I had armed police visiting my hotel room (nothing to do with me I hasten to add), this time on leaving Charing Cross station for the return journey to Hastings a fight broke out in the next carriage, police were called and eventually the combatants were led away in handcuffs, who says chess meetings are boring or perhaps I should just stay at home.

The National Chess Library continues to thrive and I thank all of those who have donated their books to our collection.

This is the final issue of ChessMoves before Christmas and I would like to extend seasons greetings and to wish you a happy and prosperous New Year with a personal thank you to all ECF Members and subscribers who keep us going.

**Cynthia Gurney, Editor**



Gerry Walsh presenting me with my award.

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**Copy Deadline**  
**10th January 2009**

# ECF News

## ECF Vacancies

The English Chess Federation (ECF) is seeking to appoint a number of officers as shown below. Reasonable expenses incurred in fulfilling the duties of the post will be reimbursed.

Anyone wishing to discuss this post should contact the ECF Office by 15th December at [office@englishchess.org.uk](mailto:office@englishchess.org.uk) or 01424 775222.

### Director of Finance

Manages the preparation of the annual statement of Accounts of the Company and presents it on behalf of the Board, duly audited, to the Annual Meeting of Council. Oversees the records kept by the ECF Office, ensures they are accurate and adequate for accounting purposes and for the preparation of VAT and other statutory returns. Guides the work of the accounting staff in the Office.

Prepares the Federation's annual budget, in liaison with the individual ECF Directors, the Board and the Finance Committee. Produces for the Board periodic management information and forecasts of income and expenditure; takes remedial action, as may be required, in consultation with the Chief Executive and the Board. Is responsible for the collection of Game Fee by the Manager of Finance and Management Services and office staff and provides forecasts of Game Fee income. Evaluates the various risks to which the ECF is exposed and proposes to the Board the appropriate course of action, including, as appropriate, insurance.

Provides general advice to the Federation on financial matters, taxation, statutory accounts and reporting requirements. Must possess, and provide evidence of, an appropriate accounting qualification.

Develops the ECF approach to membership (of all types), membership fees (including Game Fee) and benefits (including grading and representation) attaching to membership.

### Manager of ICT

*Reports to the Chief Executive.*

Provides advice to the Board on all ICT matters.

Supports the Office to ensure that the Office ICT is maintained.

Provides advice as necessary on upgrades to the Office ICT infrastructure.

Chairs the ECF IT Committee.

### Manager of British Chess Championships

*Reports to the International Director.*

Organises the British Chess Championships and associated annual Congress.

Immediate jobs include

\* *Finding a venue for the 2010 Championships.*

\* *Resolving the budget for the 2009 Championships in Torquay.*

Producing the entry form for the same for distribution in February.

An honorarium will be considered for a suitably qualified candidate.



# Manager of Congress Chess

*Reports to the Director of Home Chess.*

Organises all other ECF tournaments, other than those that are the specific responsibility of another Director.

Organises the ECF Grand Prix and ensures the safe custody and maintenance of all playing equipment, including Internet equipment, belonging to or used by the Federation.

Makes recommendations regarding the appointment of persons as ECF Arbiter, ECF Senior Arbiter and International Arbiter. Is responsible for the ECF Chess Calendar.

## Strategic Planning Officer

*Reports to the Chief Executive*

Provide advices on the identification of corporate strategies and prepare the following documents on an annual basis according to the following schedule:

\* Long-term Strategic Plan

\* Annual Business Plan

\* Report against previous year's business Plan

Liaises with the ECF Directors and Managers to obtain inputs to the Strategic Planning documents in a timely fashion. Provides a report for each Board meeting on progress.

The SPO will be invited to attend the Board meeting at which Strategic Planning is a priority.

# List of 2008 Appointments

### President:

G F Walsh

### Chief Executive:

C E Majer

### Non-Executive Directors:

A C Martin; J R Wickham

### Director of Home Chess:

C F W Johnson

### Director of Junior Chess & Education:

P W Purland

### Director of International Chess:

S Reuben

### Director of Marketing:

P J B Wilson

**FIDE Delegate:** G F Walsh

### Chairman of the Finance Committee:

M J Adams

### Members of the Finance Committee:

R A Clark; J A Philpott FCA, D I W Reynolds; A C Martin

### Chairman of the Governance Committee:

J A Philpott

### Members of the Governance Committee:

R J Haddrell, A T Leadbetter, J L Paines

### Auditor:

Goatcher Chandler

Reporting to:	Post	
<b>President:</b>	Award Committee	John Wickham, Stan Goodall, Bob Jones
	Personnel Committee <sup>1</sup>	Robert Richmond, John Wickham, David Anderton, Susan McFarland
<b>Chief Executive:</b>	Company Secretary <sup>2</sup>	Geoff Steele
	Manager of Women's Chess	Meri Lyell
	Manager of ICT <sup>3</sup>	To be advertised
	IT Committee	Appointment of a committee left for new Manager of ICT
	Strategic Planning Officer	Vacant to be advertised
<b>Home Chess</b>	Delegate to CCPR	David Sedgwick
	Minutes Secretary	Julie Johnson
	Manager of Congress Chess <sup>4</sup>	New post to be advertised
	Manager of Grading & Rating	Dave Thomas
	Manager of Arbiters	Geoff Jones
	Chief Arbiter	Dave Welch
	Curator of Equipment	Dave Welch
	Committee for County Champ. National stage draw	Cyril Johnson, Julie Johnson, David Welch
	Curator of Equipment	Dave Welch
	<b>Junior Chess</b>	
	Manager of Coaching	Andrew Martin
	Junior Selection Committee <sup>5</sup>	Discontinued
<b>International Chess</b>	Alternate Director	Lawrence Cooper
	Manager of British Championships <sup>4,7</sup>	To be advertised
	British Championships Publicity Officer	Bob Jones
	International Selection Committee	Stewart Reuben (Chair), Alan Beardsworth, Jana Bellin, Ray Edwards, Glen Flear, Harriet Hunt, Jonathan Parker, Richard Palliser
	International Senior Selection Committee	Stewart Reuben (Chair), David Anderton, Ray Edwards (replaces John Littlewood)
<b>Chess For Schools</b>	Manager of CFS <sup>6</sup>	Action deferred
<b>Marketing</b>	Publicity Officer	To be advertised

1) It was agreed that Personnel subcommittee should be a balance of board directors and others. The Finance Director is a member of the PSC ex officio.

2) CM/JAP to liaise with Geoff to ensure that he is able to continue in the post.

3) The incumbent Bruce Holland is standing down on grounds of ill health. Consequently, the post will be advertised.

4) Posts to be advertised in ChessMoves and other chess magazines.

5) In his report submitted by email, PP had expressed a reluctance to have a selection committee, and his wishes were deferred to.

6) The Manager of CFS post will be advertised when the Holloid situation has clarified.

7) SR indicated his wish to stand down as Manager of the British Championships.





# ECF Book of the Year 2008



The judges this year had no difficulty choosing a book which gives a remarkable inside view of match play chess at the highest level.

## **From London to Elista Evgeny Bareev and Ilya Levitov New in Chess pp398 £21.95**

This volume, which is in three parts, covers in sequence the three world title matches Kramnik has played. The first part "Overthrow of a Colossus" was his defeat of Kasparov in London 2000; the second "Photo finish in Brissago" was the 2004 drawn match against Leko where Kramnik held onto his title by winning the last game. Lastly, "Big Brother in Elista" refers to the controversy-ridden match with Topalov in 2006 which Kramnik won on the tie break.

Grandmaster Bareev was one of Kramnik's seconds for the first two matches and a closely involved spectator in the match with Topalov. Levitov is a journalist and an enthusiastic amateur chess player. There are also contributions from Smyslov, and two of Kramnik's other seconds Lautier and Svidler.

The basis of the book is a dialogue between Levitov and Bareev. Levitov, a spectator and outsider to the professional chess world, seeks to understand the complex inner workings of world championship chess matches. Bareev as the professional insider explains what is going on. Bareev also annotates all the games in depth concentrating on the critical moments of play in the openings and the interface between the contestants.

Well written and translated the quality of the book resides in the open and frank way Bareev answers the questions. Amongst the many subjects discussed (and we can only list a few here) are stress, opening preparation, team working, relations with Kramnik, the opponents, fatigue and exhaustion of players and seconds. But above all the narrative captures very well the psychological issues behind the drama of the matches. When will Kasparov's fight back take place? How to keep an ailing Kramnik going when behind in his match with Leko? And last but not least can Kramnik keep his composure after being defaulted a game against Topalov?

London to Elista gives a unique insight into world championship chess. Without doubt this is one of the most original and interesting books to have won the Book of the Year award.

*Ray Edwards Julian Farrand David Friedgood*

## ECF Award Winners 2008



### **President's Awards for Services to Chess 2008**

**David Ingram Dickson**

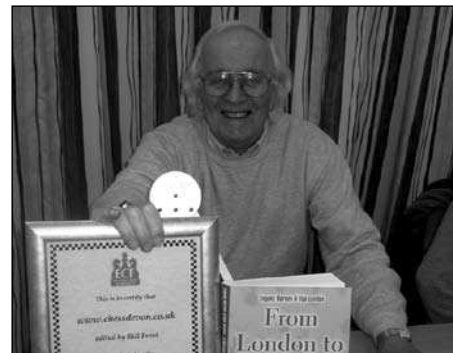
Peter Purland (ECF Director of Junior Chess) presenting David Dickson with his award.



### **Magazine of the Year 2008**

#### **Correspondence Chess, edited by Neil Limbert**

Neil Limbert receiving his award from ECF Director of Home Chess Cyril Johnson. Special thanks to New in Chess for donating the prize 'From London to Elista' - ECF Book of the Year 2008.



### **Website of the Year 2008**

**www.chessdevon.co.uk**

Bill Frost with his certificate and prize. Special thanks to New in Chess for donating the prize 'From London to Elista' - ECF Book of the Year 2008.

## ECF BATSFORD COMPETITION

### **Congratulations to the SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER Winner**

#### **Omar Jassim from Coventry**

The correct answer is **1. Qa5!**

Philip H Williams

BCF Solving Ty. (Scarborough), 1909

#### **WHITE TO PLAY AND MATE IN 2**

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

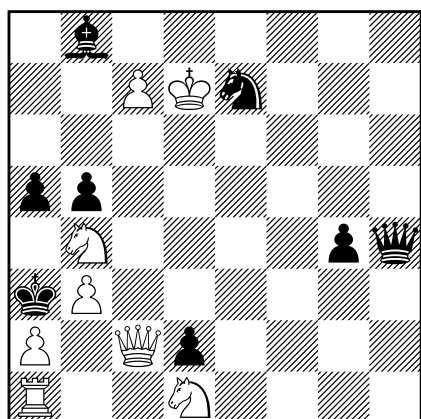
**ECF Office, The Watch Oak,**

**Chain Lane, Battle, East Sussex TN33 0YD**

The first correct entry drawn on 10th January 2009 will win a Batsford voucher for any book on their current list.



**B T BATSFORD**



# Report on Grading Anomalies

## – Why are they Needed

Grading has been around for about half a century. The idea behind the BCF/ECF system is that a player graded (say) 10 points higher than his opponent would be expected to score 6/10 against that opponent. (Expected percentage score = 50 plus the difference in grades.)

The original lists were quite small, comprising only the strongest players in the country, but within a very few years it was noticed that grades, for no identifiable reason, were gradually slipping. Sir Richard Clarke, who introduced the system, realised that it should be monitored carefully and felt it ought to be corrected if necessary every 4 years. Unfortunately he had not today's means of analysing data. The number of players has increased enormously since his day, but the basic system has been largely untouched.

One difficulty was that results, even after the overhaul of the system in 1998-1999, were often submitted or stored in a "bundled" form (Player X, Games Y, Points Z) which did not lend itself to detailed analysis. By 2002 the incidence of bundles was much reduced in favour of actual game results (which are now the norm), and by 2005 we had sufficient information to permit analysis over a four-year period. It was then apparent that results did not match the theoretical expectations. Players who outgraded their opponents by 10 points were scoring approximately 58% rather than the expected 60%. The system had become "stretched".

There may be several separate reasons for grades to inflate, deflate or stretch out, but the main one is very simple: if we don't play lots of games against opponents who also play lots of games, the list is bound to become gradually stretched. This has been demonstrated by mathematical modelling, but the results cannot easily be summarised in a meaningful way. We are looking at ways of making this information available to those who are interested.

We have now been able to review the system and restore the old standard that a 10 point grade difference gives an expectation of 6/10 and so on. The review has covered much ground. Most grades have changed quite a lot, because the stretching goes back a long way. The effect of the review is the same as would have been achieved by gentle corrections every few years.

Old Grades remain official in 2008-9, with New Grades published only for reference. Starting with the 2009 list, Old Grades will no longer be produced. Old Grades (even 2008) will have no effect on future New Grades.

The process of review will continue so that any future drifting can be corrected. Some further work is needed to find out how Junior grades change. In the past, we have assumed that increasing age is the only factor; but this needs to be validated.

### How Have the New Grades Been Calculated

The initial calculations were on games played from 2002 to 2006. They were not performed season by season, but on the whole four-year period in a single operation.

#### Standardplay

First it was necessary to establish a pool of sufficiently active players, and to eliminate distorting effects from improving juniors. So all games of players who were juniors in all or part of the period were removed. Players with less than 40 games remaining were then also removed.

The elimination process was repeated till no one had less than 40 games, leaving a core of players who were active enough to give reliable results.

Grades were then calculated iteratively for these players. Using the resulting grades as a starting point, calculations were done for all games in the four-year period to produce 2006 grades for everybody.

#### Rapidplay

Rapidplay grades were calculated in the same way, except that no player met the 40-game requirement so 30 games were used instead. The 2006 Rapidplay grades were then adjusted so that, on average, players with at least 30 games at both rates of play had the same grade in both.

#### 2007 and 2008 grades

With the 2006 grades established, Standard and Rapid grades were calculated for 2007 and 2008 in the usual way.

#### 2009 grades

Will simply continue the process, using as their starting point the 2008 New Grades already calculated.

#### Junior increments

The increments used have been suggested by an analysis of results, and they are different for Standard and Rapid. (But less so than appears, because the Rapid increments are applied twice a year on a compound basis.)

Age	Standard	Rapid
0-11	15	3
12-14	10	2
15-17	5	1

#### What is the Effect

Standardplay grades around 210 - 219 will, on average, remain the same. Below this, grades will go up; and the lower the grade, the more it will go up. Rapidplay grades, on average, will go up more than Standard because they start from a lower base.

Changes can be roughly broken down as follows:

#### Standard

Adult New Grade =  $0.79 \times \text{Old Grade} + 45$

Junior New Grade =  $0.76 \times \text{Old Grade} + 64$

#### Rapid

Adult New Grade =  $0.76 \times \text{Old Grade} + 49$

Junior New Grade =  $0.93 \times \text{Old Grade} + 40$

Note that these "formulae" are true on average only, and cannot be applied to individual players. Different players are affected differently.

FIDE conversion:  $\text{FIDE} = \text{New ECF} \times 8 + 650$

#### Negative grades

A beneficial side-effect of the switch to New Grades is that it much reduces the number of negative grades (which are actually published as 0).

Negative grades 2008, A - E:

	Old Grades	New Grades
Standard	34	1
Rapid	537	171



## Distribution of grades

In these tables, the columns are cumulative. Thus in the first table:

40% of A grades are at least 136; of A and B grades together, 131; of A - C grades, 127 ... The bottom row thus represents all published grades.

### Standardplay

Old Grades

	10%	20%	30%	40%	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%
Cat A	177	160	147	136	127	117	107	94	79
Cat A or B	172	155	142	131	121	111	101	90	75
Cat A to C	168	150	137	127	116	107	97	86	70
Cat A to D	169	149	135	123	113	102	91	79	62
Cat A to E	168	148	133	121	110	99	87	74	56

New Grades

	10%	20%	30%	40%	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%
Cat A	187	174	164	156	149	141	133	124	111
Cat A or B	183	169	159	151	144	136	128	120	107
Cat A to C	179	165	156	148	140	132	125	116	103
Cat A to D	179	164	154	145	136	129	121	111	97
Cat A to E	179	163	152	143	135	126	118	107	92

### Rapidplay

Old Grades

	10%	20%	30%	40%	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%
Cat X or A	148	126	113	98	84	71	57	42	30
Cat X to B	152	129	117	101	89	74	62	45	32
Cat X to C	156	135	121	108	93	81	68	53	37
Cat X to D	158	137	121	106	91	77	62	44	27
Cat X to E	153	129	110	93	75	57	38	16	0

New Grades

	10%	20%	30%	40%	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%
Cat X or A	165	152	142	131	122	110	95	78	62
Cat X to B	169	154	144	134	124	113	101	83	69
Cat X to C	171	157	148	139	128	119	107	93	76
Cat X to D	173	158	147	136	126	115	102	85	65
Cat X to E	168	152	139	126	113	97	77	53	24

## Obituary: David Malcolm

David Malcolm died suddenly on 6th October 2008 aged 76.

He was a strong chess player all his life and a gentleman in every sense of the word.

He rose to be General Manager of Royal Insurance and he was a pillar of the Insurance Chess Club for nearly 50 years with 10 years as chairman and 24 years as President. He was club champion 7 times.

He joined Cavendish Chess Club in the 1970s and was a regular for 30 years including many years as a very successful treasurer.

David was one of the first people we all turned to for advice. His wisdom and guidance were particularly valued by all of us who served with him on Committees. His manner was one of quiet-spoken resolve, laced with Lancashire grit and a dash of dry wit. Both over-the-board and around the Committee table, he led by example.

It was typical of David that despite commuting from Reigate in deepest Surrey he was always there before the start of play helping to set up the room and the pieces. He would never let his captain down and was happy to travel long distances as a player or reserve without complaint.

Only four days before he died, he had played in the annual Cavendish 1 v Cavendish 2 match and he seemed on his usual excellent form.

Apart from his passion for chess, David was treasurer of his church and a school governor and an active beneficiary of his Cambridge college.

In his youth, he had been a strong tennis player and had played at Junior Wimbledon.

He will be sadly missed by his wife and family and by all his many friends at Insurance and Cavendish and in the local community.

There is a very good obit and picture on the Insurance Chess website. I have taken a para from this. ([http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/ins.chess/obit\\_dm.htm](http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/ins.chess/obit_dm.htm))

**Barry Green**

## 2<sup>nd</sup> English Senior Chess Championships



at the Izaak Walton Hotel

## 26-30 January 2009

*please see the calendar & entry form for more details*





# International News

## 13th I.B.C.A. Olympiad, Heraklion 2008

*continued from front cover ...*

Round 4 placed us against the number 2 seed, Ukraine, who heavily outgraded us on all boards apart from 1. Lilley dropped a pawn in the opening and was slowly ground out by Zsoltzova on board 3. Hilton achieved a credible draw on board 4 and Crouch played another excellent positional game on board 1 to clinch the win.

The match therefore turned to board 2, where the UK's captain was in trouble, an exchange down playing a much stronger player.

But with a tactical flourish, great piece activity and with time pressure becoming a vital factor, Chris Ross pulled out the win of the tournament for the UK and a famous victory was incredibly accomplished.

This astounding result meant the UK were in joint lead of the Olympiad with Russia, both having 8 match points. The clash was inevitable and round 5 saw the crunch tie.

Once again, the UK were seriously outgraded and although each individual put up a stubborn and hard-fought game, Russia came home with 3-1 winners.

After this, the rest day slowed the UK's momentum and the following 2 rounds saw us pitted against Germany and Spain, who were also favourites for a top 3 place. Our loss against Germany was slightly unfortunate, as Crouch was unexpectedly outplayed, suffering his one and only loss of the tournament. His opponent, Oliver Müller, eventually won the gold medal for board 1.

In round 7 we came across Spain and again two excellent wins on the first two boards saw us secure a deserved 2-2 draw. Another 2-2 draw against Lithuania was the conclusion of round 8, although Crouch was pushing, with the exchange up for most of the game.

The final round saw us against the Czech Republic and once again, another hard-fought draw was attained.

In total, the United Kingdom got 11 match points, 4 wins, 3 draws and 2 losses.

This placed us in 6th place, two places better than our ranking and equalling our ever-best achievements at a top international event.

The top 16 teams of the tournament qualify for the I.B.C.A. World cup, which is projected to take place in Azerbaijan in 2009. The United Kingdom's principal objective was to qualify for this prestigious event. As you can tell, we are categorically delighted to have procured such an illustrious achievement. All members of the squad, coaching staff and travelling support all aided spectacularly in making this one of the most meritorious accomplishments an UK team has acquired.

### Standings

- 1st Russia 17.
- 2nd Ukraine 13.
- 3rd Spain 13.
- 4th Poland 13.
- 5th Germany 12.
- 6th UK 11.

### Individual scores of the UK team:

- 1. IM Colin Crouch 6.5/9 (silver medal)
- 2. Chris Ross 6/9 (7th place).
- 3. Graham Lilley 2.5/8 .
- 4. Stephen Hilton 2.5/6.
- 5. Bill Armstrong 1.5/4.

Many congratulations to IM Colin Crouch for obtaining 6.5/9 and winning the silver medal for board 1! With his 72% performance and Ross' 66% performance, the UK team had an excellent pair of leaders.

Crouch's attainment of the silver medal must be regarded in the highest esteem. Individuals have won medals before for the United Kingdom, but achieving this on board 1 is an outstanding accomplishment and rivalled by no other UK player.

### UK Results

- Round 1. United Kingdom 3-1 Netherlands.
- Round 2. Finland 1.5 - 2.5 United Kingdom.

- Round 3. Serbia 1.5 - 2.5 United Kingdom.
- Round 4. United Kingdom 2.5 - 1.5 Ukraine.
- Round 5. Russia 3 - 1 United Kingdom.
- Round 6. Germany 2.5 - 1.5 United Kingdom.
- Round 7. United Kingdom 2 - 2 Spain.
- Round 8. Lithuania 2 - 2 United Kingdom.
- Round 9. United Kingdom 2 - 2 Czech Republic.

### Sponsors

The Braille Chess Association would like to extend their grateful thanks to Winton Capital Management and to The Geoff and Fiona Squire Foundation, who gave the UK team generous support. Without such generosity from our sponsors, the team would have not have been so well prepared and assisted during the event.



*"Winton" is spelt out in Braille on the shirt.*

For any further information, to view individual results and for game downloads, please visit the B.C.A. website at: [www.braillechess.org.uk](http://www.braillechess.org.uk)

## Chess Olympiad

12-25 Nov 2008, Dresden



At the time of going to print the Olympiad had just begun, however results and reports can be found on the official website [www.dresden2008.de](http://www.dresden2008.de) and here [www.englishchess.org.uk/events/olympiad\\_nov08.htm](http://www.englishchess.org.uk/events/olympiad_nov08.htm)



*The photographs above show the English men playing Malta and the English women playing Canada.*

© Cathy Rogers.



# 1st World Mind Sport Games

3-18 October 2008



The World Mind Sports Games were a truly amazing event to be part of. Following on from the Olympics in Beijing Chess, Go, Chinese Chess, Draughts and Bridge were hosted and as at the Olympics, gold, silver and bronze medals were up for grabs as countries competed against each other. Familiar faces to the chess world could be found in both the Draughts and Go with Rawle Allicock and Natasha Regan both competing. Both would have made the chess teams based on rating!

The chess part of the games was divided into individual blitz and rapid tournaments (men and women), Pairs blitz and rapid (1 man and 1 woman) and Team blitz and rapid (male and female teams). The blitz was 3 minutes and 2 seconds per move each per game and the rapid was 25 minutes and 5 seconds per move per player per game.

England (and not Team GB) were represented by Jovanka Houska in the female individual, Jovanka and Andrew Greet in the pairs and the teams consisted of Andrew, Lawrence Cooper, Rafe Martyn, Mark Lyell and reserve Stewart Reuben in the mens and Jovanka, Meri Lyell, Kanwal Bhatia and Hannah Dale in the ladies.

I stress men and women as unlike many events there were strict rules that prevented ladies from playing in the open or mens event.

It's worth providing some explanation for the team selection. Although flights, accommodation and meals were provided free of charge by the organising committee the publicity in England was not all it could have been. Aside from an e-mail sent in the early part of the year few players were aware of the existence of the event and even fewer that all expenses were being covered. Once I was made aware of this I contacted as many players as I could in the hope of securing the services of as many top English players as I could. As I was

working against a 24 hour deadline in July it was impossible to speak personally to all players and hence a round robin e-mail was sent to practically every player I had contact details for.

Although the final line up of the mens team is unlikely to constitute the backbone of many Olympiad teams in the future, I think the very strong message that should be learnt by the ECF is that regardless of who is available we should never decline to send teams and individuals to tournaments because the strongest players are unavailable. The experience was invaluable to all those who played and no one disgraced themselves. In fact, Andrew scored 8/11 in the blitz which was a magnificent achievement whilst both Rafe and I managed 50% or more in both events. Mark also played an important part in many of the close matches and team spirit was good throughout.

The women's team had a more familiar look. Jovanka has been our leading active female player for some years and both Meri and Kanwal will be representing England at the Olympiad and so this was a useful warm up, albeit at vastly different time limits. Although Hannah was making her full England debut, her amazing scores at the Faber Cup over the last three or four years meant the 4th board was in capable hands and it proved that we have promising younger female players who can play a part in future England teams if they get the chance.



There are rather too many games to go through and dissect so forgive me for resorting to a certain amount of result journalism. Jovanka performed extremely well in both the blitz and rapid events, finishing 8th with a rating performance of 2526 in the blitz and performing at 2578 to qualify for the semi finals of the rapid. Unfortunately she lost to Antoaneta Stefanova (GM and former world champion) with black after drawing with white in the semis and then lost a sudden death play off to Huang Qian for the bronze medal after winning the first game with white but losing the second with black in the two game mini match. Her character to

finish with 3 wins after a 4/4 start followed by 4 losses in the blitz deserves mention, as does her victories against Xu Yuhua (2478) (another former world champion) Gaponenko (2430), Li Ruofan (2426) and Socko (2434), all higher rated opponents. Her victories in the rapid included games against Hou Yifan (2578) and Hoang Thanh Trang (2483) and she can consider herself very unlucky not to win the bronze medal. Sadly, this was the nearest an English chess player came to winning a medal.



The pairs' event was a tough event. The matches consisted of 1 game with the men playing and 1 game with the women playing. Andrew played tough GM opponents throughout scoring 3.5/10 in the blitz and 5/9 in the rapid. It's not easy to fly to China and start playing almost straight away but the experience gained here by Andrew was to help him greatly when playing board 1 for the England team later on and he can be proud of his overall performance. Jovanka scored 6/10 in the blitz and 5.5/9 in the rapid and again deserves a mention not only for her results but for standing up to such a gruelling schedule.

I only played in the team events and so I feel in a better position to comment on the matches, albeit I didn't get to see a lot of the womens games. I was immensely proud to represent England as I'm sure the rest of the team were and the men achieved respectable finishes in both events; 50% in the blitz and -1 in the rapid. Individually, in the blitz, Andrew scored 8/11 on top board against a predominantly GM field, a magnificent performance whilst myself and Rafe had up and down games which both ended in a 50% score. Mark also contributed hugely to the team and we even played our "joker" by allowing Stewart a game! The rapid was equally tough and Andrew scored 50% on top board whilst I managed +1, Rafe 50% and Mark -3. The highlights in terms of team results were a 3.5-0.5 demolition of a highly rated Slovakian team and opening round 2.5-1.5 victory against Iceland in the blitz.







The ladies team was inevitably led by big scores from Jovanka who scored 7.5/10 in the blitz and an amazing 8/9 in the rapid. After three weeks blitz and rapid she coped well with the fatigue and despite her preference for playing the top players, one or two kinder pairings in the closing rounds may not have been a bad thing. The highlight for the team had to be the victory of the USA in the rapid, especially after I overheard their board 1 confidently predicting they'd win the bottom 3 boards. I wasn't able to pass this onto the team until after the match but it made victory even sweeter. I think it's fair to summarise the blitz by saying Kanwal was very happy to score 6/10, Hannah had a great debut with 4.5/10 and Meri had many good positions which she failed to convert in scoring 3. In the rapid, Jovanka posted a superb score whilst Kanwal scored a good 50%, Meri -1 and Hannah -3. As with the men all the team can be proud of their performances even though it's natural to rue the points that got away.

In closing this was a superb event to be part of and every England player can be proud of their contribution both on the board and off it. Inevitably there were one or two small problems but we coped with them as best we could. We were fortunate to have 4 free days at the end which enabled us to visit The Great Wall of China, Tiananmen Square, The Forbidden City, Summer Place and other attractions.



One can hope that the ECF are able to host the event in 2012 after the Olympics although I have not heard anything to this effect yet.

All results can be found here: [www.2008wmsg.org/en](http://www.2008wmsg.org/en)

*IM Lawrence Cooper*

## Results:

Jovanka finished in 8th place in the ladies blitz tournament with a performance of 2526. She also finished in 4th place of the ladies rapid tournament and qualified for the semi finals of the rapid chess with a performance of 2578, eventually finishing in 4th place after losing in a sudden death play off for the bronze medal.

### Blitz Pairs:

Germany	1½	England	½
England	0	Philippines	2
Denmark	0	England	2
England	2	Turkmenistan	0
England	1½	Hungary	½

USA	1	England	1
England	½	Greece	1½
England	0	Vietnam	2
Mexico	1	England	1
Indonesia	1	England	1
Bye in round 10			
Andrew	3½/10	Jovanka	6/10

### Rapid Pairs:

Japan	½	England	1½
England	1	Netherlands	1
China	2	England	0
England	1½	Luxembourg	½
USA	1½	England	½
England	½	Slovakia	1½
England	1½	S Africa	½
Philippines	1	England	1
England	½	Poland	1½
Andrew	2½/9	Jovanka	5½/9

### Men Team Blitz:

England	2½	Iceland	1½
Singapore	3½	England	½
England	0	Estonia	4
Iraq	2	England	2
England	3½	Slovakia	½
England	2	Italy	2
Mexico	2	England	2
Austria	1	England	3
England	½	Mongolia	3½
Macau	0	England	4
England	3	Israel	1
Andrew 8/11, Lawrence 5½, Rafe 5½ Mark 3/10, Stewart 0/1			

### Men Team Rapid:

England	0	Latvia	4
Korea	0	England	4
England	1	Estonia	3
Lithuania	3	England	1
England	3½	Israel	½
Tunisia	1½	England	2½
England	½	Singapore	3½
Slovakia	3½	England	½
England	4	Macau	0
Andrew 4½/9, Lawrence 5, Rafe 4½, Mark 3			

### Women's Team Blitz:

Iran	3	England	1
England	0	Sweden	4
Bye in round 3 (1 match point only)			
Iraq	0	England	4
Australia	2½	England	1½
England	1½	Mexico	2½
England	3	Turkmenistan	1
Norway	1	England	3
England	2	Slovakia	2
Mongolia	3	England	1
England	4	Austria	0
Jovanka 7½/10, Meri 3, Kanwal 6, Hannah 4½			

### Women's Team Rapid:

USA	1½	England	2½
England	1	Holland	3
Estonia	3	England	1
England	2	Italy	2
Norway	1	England	3
Denmark	2	England	2
England	4	Turkmenistan	0
England	1½	Turkey	2½
Austria	1½	England	2½
Jovanka 8/9, Meri 4, Kanwal 4½, Hannah 3			



## European Club Cup

16-24 Oct 2008, Kallithea, Greece

Betsson finished 22nd with 3 wins, 2 draws and 2 losses. Thus 8 points and 23 game points. Barbican finished 33rd with 3 wins, 1 draw and 3 losses. Thus 7 points and 21.5 game points.

High scorers from England included: Board 1 Gawain Jones 3.5/5 for his club Ennis TPR 2375. Board 4 Mark Ferguson 4/6 for Barbican TPR 2318.

Board 4 Robert Eames 4.5/7 for Betsson TPR 2468. I don't have the information to

determine whether this was an IM norm, the level for this being 2450.

In any case, an excellent result for Robert.

Board 5 Chris Duncan 4/6 Betsson TPR 2498. Another excellent result. This cannot have been an IM norm as it was only over 6 games.

Board 5 Dave Ledger 4/6 Betsson 2290. There must be an error, they cannot have played Board 5 for the same team.

The official site for this event is <http://ecc2008.chessdom.com>.

Lorin D'Costa reported from the event via his website [www.lorinsworld.com/europeanclubcup.htm](http://www.lorinsworld.com/europeanclubcup.htm)

*Stewart Reuben*

## The 2008 Commonwealth Championship

These were held in Nagpur (India) attracted 260 entries - mostly from India. Nigel Short was outright winner with 9.5/11, followed by GM Surya Ganguly half a point behind. More details are on the official website [www.commonwealth-chess.com](http://www.commonwealth-chess.com)

# Junior News

## World Youth Championships

19-31 Oct 2008, Vietnam



**Chess Players:** Radha Jain, Abigail Pritchard, Amisha Parmar, Jessica Thilaganathan, Chantal Sirisena, Thilagini Anandajeyarajah, Matthew Wadsworth, Ravi Haria, Isaac Sanders, Felix Jose Ynojosa, Nicholas Clanchy, Yang-Fan Zhou, Samuel Franklin, Saravanan Sathyananda, Callum Kilpatrick, Akash Jain, GM David Howell, Liam Rabbitte

**Chess Parents:** Manu Jain, Amanda & Martin Pritchard, Krishna Parmar, Vicki Thilaganathan, Jim Anandajeyarajah, Sara Wadsworth, Sonal Haria, Paul Sanders, Felix Ynojosa, Kate & James Clanchy, Chun-Ping Yang and Yang-Jian Zhou (brother), Gideon Franklin, Sathy Sathyananda, Maggy Kilpatrick, Paul Rabbitte

**Chess Coaches:** Andrew Martin, Mark Hebden, Adam Hunt, Thomas Rendle



Everyone surfaced at different times of the day as we recovered from jet lag and some of us tried out the hotel swimming pool (which is really lovely!).

We had dinner early at 5 and were collected at 6 pm to go to the official Opening Ceremony. We were quite overwhelmed when we arrived and were welcomed with music, costumed entertainers. A long line of volunteers in national dress greeted us as we walked towards the entrance on a red carpet! This was all filmed by cameramen and we felt like stars.

The opening did not start until 8:30 and was televised live on Vietnamese TV. It began with an amazing chess dance in beautiful "chess costumes" and we were also treated to a show with acrobatics, singers, dancers and musicians as well as the usual speeches. The opening finished at 10:00 with fireworks and a laser show and we returned to the hotel by trying to clamber onto crowded coaches in heavy traffic mainly because of hundreds of motorbikes all trying to get through at once!

Coaching slots started at 9 am and all 4 coaches were hard at work with their designated students, who rested or swam as well as preparing for the first game.

We left for the playing hall at 2:00 pm as games were starting at 3:00.

The hall was very chaotic on the first day with the arbiters trying frantically to organise the children and parents. We had a reasonable start with 8 wins and 10 losses. Everyone did well and had challenging games. The evening was spent going through all the games and relaxing!



Best game of the day was awarded by Andrew Martin, to Chantal.

Coaching started at 9:00 as usual. As well as preparing for the next game, some of the team enjoyed a relaxing break in the swimming pool – a great way to cool down!

There is a new fide rule that a player will default the game if they have not arrived at the board one minute before the start of the game, at 3 pm. Although the venue is only 10 minutes away, we leave an hour before, just in case!

Players started arriving back from about 5:00 and immediately went through their game with their coach. Today we achieved 5 wins, 5 draws and 8 losses.





After dinner, we had a presentation for the best game of the day prize, which was awarded to Callum. The prize for this is 10,000 .00 dong. Before you gasp, please note that this is equivalent to the valuable sum of 30 pence.

We also enjoyed an extra special celebration with a cake, for Adam Hunt's birthday! The cake was delicious. The hotel had also realised it was Adam's birthday from his passport and left wine and flowers in his room.

Tomorrow there are 2 rounds, at 10 and 5:30 so everyone was keen to get a good night's rest after some preparation.

Everyone had to wake up early today for rounds 3 & 4, at 10:00 and 5:30. We all managed, without looking too bleary eyed at breakfast!

The time control in the games is 40 moves in 90 minutes and then 30 minutes to finish, with a 30 second increment per move from move one. This means any game can go on for a very long time! This could have been an issue today as there are two rounds.

Today it is very hot and humid and to add to this, the air conditioning has broken down in the playing hall. The chess players were playing in difficult conditions.

Some games were long but by 3 pm everyone had managed to return to the hotel for lunch.

Great results in round 3, with 9 wins, 4 draws and 5 losses.

In round 4 we had 4 wins, 7 draws and 7 losses, with some very tough games. In Round 5 our score was 6 wins, 5 draws and 7 valiant losses and it did not rain!

Some of us woke at night to the sound of very loud thunder, while others slept through this! It absolutely poured and it has continued during the day. I mean torrential rain.

Just before we left at 2:00, we had presentations by Andrew for best game of the day prizes for rounds 3, 4 and 5. These were awarded to:-

Abigail, Yang-Fan and Jessica, each of who were awarded 10,000.00 dong by their coaches.

In the chess hall you can hear this crashing down on the roof as it gets heavier and then stops for a while before it starts again. It is really nice and cool today, though and more comfortable for playing and watching chess.

I am sitting in the chess hall writing this report and the lights have suddenly gone

out and the hall is in darkness. Within seconds torches and emergency portable lights have appeared and the arbiters are shouting to stop all the clocks. Everyone is laughing and many people are taking photos!!! What a thing to happen! This happened at 5:40 pm and lasted for only 10 minutes, then the players continued to play! Rain did not stop play.....but the lights did. There were a few leaks in the roof and some boards had to be re-arranged!

Today we achieved 6 wins, 3 draws and 9 losses.

We had a well-earned rest day today (Saturday). There was a wide choice of things to do: catch up on sleep, spend time in the pool, go to the beach, shopping, beauty parlours and sightseeing. We did as many of these as possible!

There were also many chess games going on in the lobby throughout the day, as many of the players found this relaxing and fun. Some gambling also took place, over chess games against the Peruvian team, who are staying in our hotel. They lost a few thousand dong to our players.



As for sightseeing, Jim and Sara organised a couple of electric mini buses and taxis and many of us visited a Buddhist temple as well as a Jesus Statue, on a hill which we reached by climbing approximately 2,000 steps. That was hard work. Once we reached the top, we had another climb inside the statue to the arms of Jesus where there was a fabulous view of Vung Tau.

By evening, the holiday mood was shifting back to reality as everyone started to prepare for round 7.

Coaching resumed as usual at 9:00. The free day was very refreshing for everyone, players, coaches and parents. We are now truly in our various routines of coaching, lots of preparation, swimming (for some), lunch and then our short journey to the tournament.

In round 7 we had our best result so far, with 14 wins, 2 draws and only 2 losses. Best game prizes were awarded to Felix for



round 6 and Saravanan for round 7.(10,000 dong each).

*Felix Ynojosa receiving his best game prize.*



In the chess hall the lights failed again during the heavy downpour but it was just about light enough to see the boards. The clocks were stopped but a few sneaky players continued to think about their position! After the lights came back (in less than 10 minutes), the players continued but without air-conditioning so it was hot and stuffy.

Compared to yesterday, we really suffered today, with only 3 wins, 6 draws and 9 losses. The mood was low in the evening while we recovered from our day, but we are a very resilient team and we will fight back – tomorrow!

We did pretty well in Round 9, with 10 wins, 4 draws and 4 losses. In round 10 we achieved 6 wins, 4 draws and 8 losses.



*Akash & David with the Vietnamese volunteers*

We had to wake early for the last round and everyone managed, easily. The players were all busy with last minute preparation and some early morning coaching as well.

The atmosphere in the playing hall was of excitement. The organisers made some important announcements including news that after the closing ceremony there will be a party for everyone.

One by one the players finished and returned to the hotel for last game analysis and lunch, followed by.....even more chess games in the lobby. The younger players enjoyed relaxing with blitz chess, which had been banned during the tournament.

The results for the last round are 8 wins, 5 draws and 5 losses.

At 4 o'clock we all met in the lobby to celebrate Nicholas Clanchy's birthday with a delicious cake.

We then presented our three Heads of Delegation, Maggy, Jim and Vicki with beautiful Vietnamese oil paintings, from all the players.





Next, each coaching group presented their coach with thank you presents – shirts and polo shirts from the finest stores in Vung Tau.

Then, the coaches announced best game of the day prize for round 10 to Sam Franklin and for round 11 to Felix Hose Ynojosa.

And the best game of the tournament prize went to Jessica Thilaganathan, for a fantastic game in round 5 (see games section on page ???).

Isaac Sanders is our flag bearer tonight and he will leave at 4:30 for a practice run in the tournament venue.

David and Felix will leave at 5:30 to practise for the prize giving ceremony for Top Ten player awards.

The rest of us will leave at 6:30 and attend the closing ceremony and enjoy the party later.

**Report by Sonal Haria, photographs by Sara Wadsworth**

More detailed reports, games and photos are available on [www.englishchess.org.uk/events/world-youth08/](http://www.englishchess.org.uk/events/world-youth08/)

The official website is <http://wycc2008.vietnamchess.com/index.php> and you can also view the WYCC blog at <http://2008wycc.blogspot.com/>

## Final Points Table

	Players	Age	Rating	Points out of 11
1	David Howell	U18	2593	7½
2	Liam Rabbitte	U18	2012	4½
3	Calum Kilpatrick	U16	2184	7
4	Akash Jain	U16	2010	4½
5	Yang Fan Zhou	U14	2276	6
6	Sam Franklin	U14	2156	5½
7	Saravanan Sathyanandha	U14	1951	6
8	Felix Ynojosa	U12	2145	8
9	Nicholas Clanchy	U12		4½
10	Ravi Haria	U10	1794	5½
11	Isaac Sanders	U10		4½
12	Matthew Wadsworth	U 8		7
	Players	Age	Rating	Points out of 11
1	Chantal Sirisena	U18G	1935	5½
2	Thilagini Anandajeyarajah	U18G	1735	4
3	Amisha Parmar	U16G	1974	5
4	Jessica Thilaganathan	U16G	1891	5½
5	Abigail Pritchard	U14G	1612	4½
6	Radha Jain	U12G	1806	6

## European Youth Championship

14-25 Sep 2008, Montenegro



The England Team with Kevin Lyne, British Ambassador to Montenegro, who visited the European Youth Chess Championship.

The European Youth Chess Championships and the England Delegation, settled in at last to the Centar Igalo Hotel on the bonnie banks of the bay of Topla in Montenegro. At least we are assured it is a bay and yesterday when the rain briefly stopped and the clouds lifted to over 50 feet above ground level someone did report seeing the sea!

u18 James Hanley

u16 Subin Sen

Lateefah Messam-Sparks

u14 Daniel Hunt

Danae Kokossis

u12 Peter Williams

Maria Wang

u10 Peter Andreev,

Robert Fitzgerald

Anna Wang

The coaches are GM Neil McDonald, IM Andrew Greet and IM Thomas Rendle and the reprobate (*excellent collective noun - Claire*) of accompanying parents includes: Matt Hunt, Peter Williams, Alexey Andreev, Neil Fitzgerald, Antonis Kokossis and Hui Wang.

We arrived on Sunday in three tranches, assuming people can be split into tranches without breaking any international or local laws? Sixteen of the party flew Gatwick to Dubrovnik (in Croatia) where the group was immediately split evenly asunder with half the group heading straight to the hotel and the other half having to wait 45 minutes for a flight from Barcelona (I know naaaathing). During this wait the heavens opened and have proceeded to remain that way. The final tranche was the three-fold Wangs who had to fly direct to Tivat and got to the hotel an hour or so later. So everyone arrived pretty well unscathed and settled in to the sound of monsoon.

The early hours of this morning were memorable for the density of the downpour, the sight of rivers cascading down the steep roads through the village, and the rumble and crack of thunder and lightening. Lexie would have been petrified. I tell you I was pretty spooked and I'm no dog! The hotel, in the grey morning light, looks no better and no worse than it appeared last night, but remains indescribable – I will have to let your imaginations work their own magic – and I am sure that one day, many years from now, we'll be able to smile about the experience.

**Round 1:** Coaching routines start in the morning, with one hour slots from 09:30 to 12:30. Then lunch, relaxation and last minute preparation, then we all gather at 14:30 to march en masse to the playing hall (or paddle, depending on the rain).

Over lunch everyone gets to know who they are playing in the first round. Some real tough opponents, but there's nothing to lose so the players remain in high spirits. And then suddenly it grows dark, very dark. The clouds are thick, almost black and slide down the mountains into the water. The hills around Igalo mysteriously grow hazy then disappear altogether. And then the heavens open – if we thought yesterday was bad, it proceeds to rain like none of us have seen since – well, since we left England. At this point, I truly wonder if we will be able to get to the venue. I'd hire a boat except the playing hall is over the hill and there's no way any boat could get up what are now frightening rapids coming down the roads and hillsides between us, never mind taxis or buses. Just as it looks hopeless and I draft an apologetic communiqué to the ECF explaining the default from Round 1 of the entire England Squad, the rain stops, the clouds vanish and the mountains re-appear – all in the blink of an eye. And the sun comes out! So smiles all round, we're back in business!

The venue is unusual – the playing area is out of bounds to all bar the arbiters and Heads of Delegations once the games have been underway for 15 minutes. However, one side of the hall is a massive grandstand, so spectators retire to watch their players from above. And Hui (Mr. Wang) has binoculars, which makes some of the board positions readily analysable from the stands.

A tough first round draw but some good results. Robert was first out with a win – what a start to his maiden international competition! Danae started the tournament exceptionally well, beating the 5th seed, a Russian WFM, a great result. Maria also showed her class,



beating a much higher rated player. Congratulations to Subin, fresh from his impressive performance at the World Youth Under 16 Olympiad, he held the 2294 Gerogian 19th seed to a draw from an endgame in which he was a pawn down.



**Round 2:** After the excitement of clear skies all afternoon and evening of Day 1 we are awoken on Day 2 before 6am by the sound of thunder and more torrential rain. This time however it stops before breakfast time and the sun comes out – it looks like it'll be a dry day. And when we come downstairs for breakfast, we find the pairings for Round 2 are posted on the wall in reception – fantastic!

The coaching regime is in place now and the players are ready to settle in to the routine. First up though, we have to find a chess set or two and then a room big enough to fianchetto in - that's slightly less than swing-a-cat-in size, but bigger than what is obviously the Centar Igalo's standard "Chess Coach's Room". After that is all sorted, the coaching is resumed.

The clocks start bang on time! And very quickly (in fact instantly in chess terms, although an hour in human terms) Danny is out with a win! Not long afterwards Peter Andreev is out with a win too – so two of the 5 with zero points get straight off the mark. Then comes Anna, rescuing a draw at the last minute and Robert also securing a safe draw. Subin is next with, by his own admission, a disappointing loss from a drawn position. Meanwhile Peter Williams has slipped out unnoticed (except by dad Peter!) also with a win. So only Lateefah and James, both still playing, both waiting to get off the mark. Suddenly Danae is out – she's lost, and then Maria comes out, she's won. Then Lateefah... but she has lost too. Everyone heads back to the hotel – well, if James wants to play long games all the time then he can do it on his own... but seriously, he is left playing and by the time the CoD gets back to the venue he's just finished. Having gone into the end game a pawn down (again!) it is no surprise to hear he's lost. Except I didn't, because he secured a draw! Result! And this means the total for the team today is 5.5 points from 10. Added to the 4.5 from yesterday and we have 10 points from a possible 20 so far – exactly on our 50% minimum target. Well done the Players!

**Round 3:** Day 3 dawns, bright and clear and dry. So everything remains looking up. And the pairings were posted in our Hotel reception just after 9pm last night, very efficient of the tournament organisers!

There is excited chat over breakfast – everyone is really into the tournament now and sorting out their daily routines. At Neil's instigation we decide to learn a few words of Montenegrin – this morning it is "Please" and "Thank you".



The coaching routine is settled and already it "just happens" each morning. The Players are all buzzing with ideas, the coaches are kept fully occupied and the local shops are doing a roaring trade in bottled water and Milka chocolate. And from 17:00 onwards the coaches are again on duty, to go through the games with each player as they finish or, depending on timing, after they have had some dinner. And then after dinner? Guess what – more chess (oh, and a little schoolwork for some)!

With Lateefah's win today, the whole squad is now off the mark. Well done.

**Round 4:** Time passes. Games are played. Results come in. Sunbathing opportunities go begging. Lots of chat between countries. And at the end of the day, England come out with 5.5 points in total – and it was so close to being even better! Peter Andreev leads the England field with 3 out of 4 so far, with Robert Fitzgerald and Anna Wang also doing extremely well on 2.5 out of 4. Come on, England!

**Round 5:** Friday, the half-way point of the tournament. It seems like only yesterday that we arrived, but already today we will mark the turning point, it being the 5th round in the 9 round tournament.

It was a very tough day, and very few points were scored. Danny was first out with a win which seemed to bode well but then our top scoring u10 Peter Andreev lost. Anna Wang who was also doing so well in the Girls u10 made a mistake in the opening from which she could not recover. Then came Peter Williams – another loss. James finishes quite quickly with a draw so a second score for England Players at least. Then Danae comes out with another good win. Things start to look up, but then Lateefah, Maria and Robert all lose after marathon 4 hour games. Just Subin left in, and after 5 hours and a tense end game – a theoretical draw – in which Subin threw everything and his King at his opponent to try to secure victory, he has to settle for a draw. Subin is somewhat disappointed but even I could see that he had tried everything possible to snatch victory from an excellent defensive opponent.

So a difficult day for all. It just needs pizzas to cheer everyone up so a large group makes an impromptu adjournment to a local sea front Pizzeria and Gelati specialists for a really nice pick-me-up. Much fun was had by all in the knowledge that tomorrow is a day off.

**Round 6:** With the rest day behind us, the competition for real resumes today, Sunday, with Round 6. Although it seems like several weeks since Round 5 the routine quickly resumes, with the breakfast "new words" being Good and Excellent (the latter being "excellent" so I think I'll remember that one). Coaching commences on time – and in fact I hear that some happened yesterday too! That just shows the diligence and commitment of the Players. If you have any notion that this is a bit of a holiday, extra time off school, please think again and quickly. I cannot exaggerate the effort that the Players put in over the course of the 10 days: not just coaching, individual preparation and game de-briefing (which in total comes to at least 3 hours per day) but then the game itself which is 3, 4 or even 5 hours in length during which time the Players are having to work extremely hard mentally. And they do this on 9 days out of 10 in a row! I often compare this feat of concentration and mental focus with the finals exams for my degree: I am sure the papers I sat equated to fewer games over a longer period! Back to Round 6, and the rest day seems to have paid off certainly as we gather before the march up to the playing hall, with fresher looking faces all round the Players.





Well, the games are over, the dust has settled and it has been another tough day. Not for nothing do they say that the Europeans can be as difficult as the Worlds. But it is not all doom and gloom, thanks to the Under 10s who all won: Peter A, Robert F and Anna W – well done to them all! Maria and Subin get draws to bring the total to 4 out of 10 – but that's it for the day.

**Round 8:** The sun has come out again and seems to be shining on the England Players with a record day of 6.5 out of 10 points. Peter Andreev continues his winning streak to go into the final round on an exciting 6 out of 8.

Tomorrow is the final day, and the last round is earlier than usual at 13:00 local time, 12:00 noon in the UK. So coaching starts tonight as soon as the pairings are out, with the oldest player in each group having an hour and the two younger ones in each group going at slightly earlier slots in the morning. This should give everyone time for a late brunch or early lunch after coaching so that the Players are not going into their last round on a sleep-inducing full stomach. And for the Coaches and Reprobates, it means there is less time for chewing nails...

Official website <http://euroyouth2008.com> and you can read the full reports on [www.chessuk.com/european.html](http://www.chessuk.com/european.html)

Thank you to Matt Hunt for such excellent photos and comprehensive reports. Well done to the coaches for their extremely hard work.

Section	Colour	Player	Opposition	Opp rating	Result	Points/9	Final Position	Start rank
18	b	James Hanley	Bojchev Marian (bul)	2406	D	4.5	33rd=	45th
16	b	Subin Sen	Balokas Dimitrios (gre)	1779	W	4.0	69th=	75th
16	w	Lateefah Messam Sparks	Lisac Tihana (cro)	1773	W	4.0	45th=	38th
14	b	Danny Hunt	Tomin Nenad (srb)	1883	W	3.0	93rd=	76th
14	w	Danae Kokossis	Kralova Klaudia (svk)	0	W	4.0	49th=	46th
12	w	Peter Williams	Andias Joao Pedro Menezes (por)	1672	D	4.5	54th=	51st
12	w	Maria Wang	Garcia-Castany Musellas Gal La (esp)	1631	W	5.0	27th=	79th
10	b	Peter Andreev	Vorontsov Pavlo (ukr)	0	L	6.0	13th=	31st
10	b	Robert Fitzgerald	Ladopoulos Dimitrios (gre)	0	L	4.0	70th=	43rd
10	b	Anna Wang	Sidorova Anna (rus)	0	L	4.5	32nd=	71st

A last round win for Peter Andreev would have taken him to 3rd=. I'm gutted for him but also so proud that in his 1st international tournament he performed so well. Well done Peter. A good last round rally for many of our players. Well done to everyone.

*Claire Summerscale*

## Millfield International

19-20 October 2008

Millfield School in Somerset hosted the Millfield International, an event for School Teams which is now in its 25th year. The event which began at Marlwood School has seen illustrious competitors such as Mickey Adams, Sam Collins, Mark Quinn and Mark Ferguson winning the Stephen Joseph Memorial trophy, which goes to the best individual performance.

The International is unique in British chess, because it is played over 12 boards, so schools have to be strong in depth to compete for the title. The event is supported by Lloyds TSB and all competitors receive a commemorative T-shirt. The winning team also take away the 'Black Horse' trophy, the sponsors' symbol and a very fitting award for a chess event.



Pictured is the winning St. Olave's team with Team Manager, Hannah Cooley proudly holding the Black Horse aloft.

## Final Scores in the Championships

1st St. Olaves 46/60

2nd Queen Elizabeth's, Barnet 37

3rd Torquay Boys Grammar 30

Thirteen teams took part with four joining us from the Irish Republic. The Irish teams always provide spice to the event with their boundless enthusiasm and the prize-giving witnessed a number of 'group hugs' as the Gonzaga 'B' team won the Challengers' Section.

This year's Stephen Joseph Memorial Trophy winner was St. Olave's Captain and board 1, Jia Shen Lee.



Jia Shen is pictured receiving his trophies from tournament organiser, GM Matthew Turner and Irish number 1, GM Alexander Baburin.

Next year's event will be on the 24th and 25th October 2009 and will for the first time feature a six player team event to showcase the event. Further details can be obtained from Matthew Turner. Email: [matthewturner@millfieldprep.com](mailto:matthewturner@millfieldprep.com)







# 4 Nations Chess League

## – Junior Championship Results

If the juniors, parents and venue all work in harmony together, organising junior chess tournaments is one of life's true pleasures. The first weekend of the 4 Nations Chess League Junior Championships proved to be one such occasion.



The Championships were hosted by De Vere Venues at Wokefield Park. An excellent venue for the event, reasonably priced accommodation, free wireless internet throughout, spa and golf course for the parents and ample extremely well laid-out tournament space. "Why can't all chess tournaments be held in such a great venue?" was a comment that I heard on a number of occasions over the weekend.



We hope to return to Wokefield for next season's Junior 4NCL Championships.

The tournament was open to all competitors under the age of 18. Teams of 4 players including school and club sides and groups of chess friends, battled it out over the course of the weekend. 96 children aged 7-17 attended and the strength and experience of competitors varied from those attending their first tournament to seasoned international players.



The second weekend of the Junior 4NCL will take place at Latimer Place, Buckinghamshire on 28th February – 1st March 2009. Teams that were not able to attend the first weekend are extremely welcome to enter a team into the Latimer weekend. Please contact me for further information: [chessuk@btinternet.com](mailto:chessuk@btinternet.com)



Competitors played two tournament games on Saturday and one on Sunday. The time control for all games was 90 minutes for 30 moves and then a 15 minute quick-play finish. There were some extremely exciting games that went right down to the wire.

Professional chess coaching was provided throughout the day to all entrants and included structured lectures and coaches constantly on hand to analyse games and give advice. Thank you to Rosalind Kieran, Thomas Rendle and Nick Pert.



Some teams were able to bring their own coaches, including the valuable services of Peter Sowray of Richmond Junior Chess Club and Adam Hunt of Woodbridge School, who are pictured here, along with a coaching lecture from Nick and Ros.



We closed Saturday's action with an exciting evening Exchange tournament, which included some junior/parent teams.

For those without my misspent youth, you play exchange sitting next to your partner. When they capture a piece, you may add it to your board. It's fast, furious and massive amounts of fun.

In addition to the 1st and 2nd prizes, slightly more unusual bonus prizes were awarded, including a Best Jumper prize!



## After 3 Rounds, the tournament positions are as below:

### Under 18

Position	Team	Match Points/6	Game Points		
1st	Wellington College	6	10.5	Felix Ynojosa	Alex Galliano
2nd =	AMCA Vipers	4	7.0	Akash Jain	Lateefah Messam-Sparks
				Matthew Ward	John Dickin
	North London Knights	4	7.0	Louis Payne	Tarun Malhotra
4th				Tibor Jones	Aidan McGiff
				Joseph Levene	Morris Stranger
	Cardiff 1	4	6.0	Yinglun Teng	Danny Gottschalk
5th				Adrian Delpont	Varun Varma
	Perfect Pawns	4	5.0	Peter Williams	Eugene Daley
				Maria Wang	Anna Wang
6th				Henrik Stepanyan	Astghik Stepanyan
	Chess Heroes	3	7.5	Marcus Harvey	Kyle Reed
				Alex Freeland	Alex Bullen
7th	Cardiff 2	3	7.0	Alex Wills	Matthew Bold
				E Venmore Rowland	Patrick Stevens
				Anna Egorova	Sam Gaffney
9th				Theodore Dias	Harvey Khandohla
	Richmond Bishops	2	5.5	T Rajaratnam	Neil Deo
				Jasper Tambini	Alex Boitier
10th	Richmond Knights	0	3.0	Michael Pettit	Charlie Nettleton
				Edward Ko	Robin Bjalon
	Richmond All Stars	0	1.0	M Wood-Robinson	Young Deok Park

### Under 11

Position	Team	Match Points/6	Game Points		
1st	Killer Kings	6	12	Ravi Haria	George Lawrence
2nd =	Richmond A	4	8.0	Lawrence Lee	Vincent Lee
				Jaek Simms	Alexandre Blanc
	Richmond B	4	8.0	Paul Calderon	James Adshead
4th				Jonathan Pein	Lorenz Lehmann
				Paul Waddingham	Leila Sackur
	Basingstoke JCC	4	5.0	Alex Cross	Edward Howard-Jones
5th				James Butler	
	Notting Hill & Ealing	2	6.0	Emma Claxton	Elena Colato
				Ella Sowerbutts	Rachel East
6th =	Bute House Prep Sch	2	4.0	Clover Godsall	Aia Nishio
				Victoria Paines	Alexa Woodhouse
	King's College School	2	4.0	Jack Hagger	Alex Burrell
				A Kozhevnikov	Kristian Prosser

### Under 9

Position	Team	Match Points/6	Game Points		
1st	Chess Nuts	6	11.0	William Claridge	James Colebourn
2nd				Sebastian Larsson	Oliver Larsson
	Basingstoke JCC	4	6.0	Liam Vandamme	Tom Payne
				Harry Grieve	Jacob Fay
3rd				Hugo Williams	Francis Thompson
	King's College & Fulham	3	7.0	George Dickin	Stefano Richardson
				Skye McCullagh	Susannah Boyle
4th	Bute House Prep Sch	3	6.0	Asha Sandhu	Amrita Sandhu
				J Pothalingam	Freddie Whitehead
	Charterhouse Square	2	4.0	Matthew Smith	Sabrina Ossman

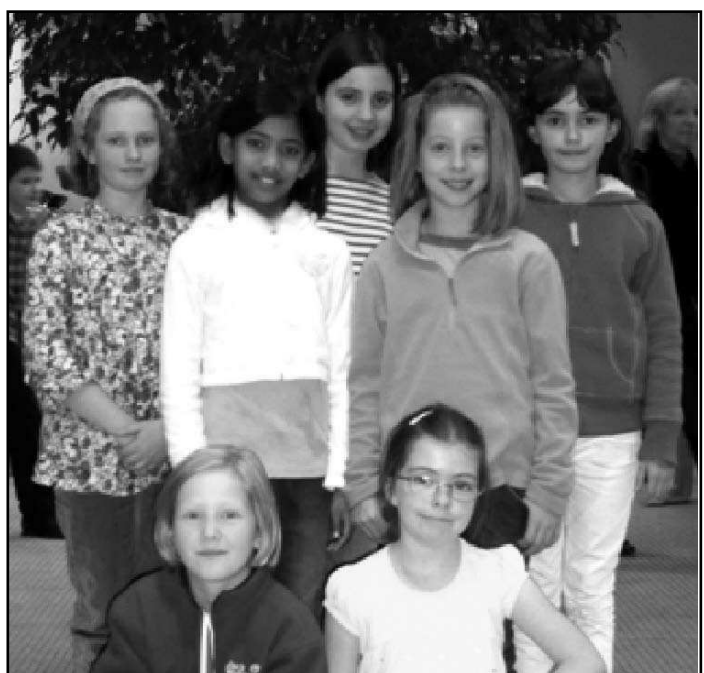






The Killer Kings, after their successful weekend.

A couple of the new teams that we are delighted to welcome to competitive chess. Well done to the girls from Bute House Preparatory School and Notting Hill & Ealing High School.



Congratulations to those who scored 100% in their tournament games over the weekend:

William Claridge  
James Colebourn  
Alex Galliano  
Ravi Haria  
Marcus Harvey  
Sebastian Larsson  
George Lawrence

Lawrence Lee  
Vincent Lee  
Tarun Malhotra  
Aidan McGiff  
Lateefah Messam-Sparks  
Kristian Prosser  
Paul Waddington



Pictured just after their final round on Sunday, some of the under 9s and 11s. And below, Lateefah from Wellington and Jack from King's College.



You can find some of the tournament games here: [http://www.4ncl.co.uk/0809\\_junior.pgn](http://www.4ncl.co.uk/0809_junior.pgn)

Please contact me if you would like to enter a team into the 2nd Junior 4NCL weekend or have any questions about the Junior 4NCL.

Claire Summerscale, 4NCL Chairman: [chessuk@btinternet.com](mailto:chessuk@btinternet.com)





## 13th IBCA Olympiad 2008

White: **Ross, Chris**

Black: **Avram, Sretko**

White Elo: 2172

Black Elo: 2320

Annotator: Chris Ross

PlyCount: 63

White Team: United Kingdom

Black Team: Serbia

D11: Slav Defence

**1. d4 d5 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. c4 c6 4. e3 e6 5. Bd3 Nbd7 6. O-O dxc4**

Black concedes the centre very quickly. He is trying to transpose into variations of the Queen's Gambit, but there is a subtle difference in that the white queen's knight is still at home and has the option of hopping into d2 and not c3, where it is likely to be kicked with b7-b5-b4 ideas. This is actually quite an important difference, that will come back to haunt black. he should continue in true Slav fashion and play Bd6, o-o and attempt to get e6-e5 in as soon as possible.

**7. Bxc4 b5 8. Bd3 a6 9. a4 Bb7 10. Qe2 Be7**

Black is now starting to realise that his position is actually very passive. Unless he can break with c6-c5, the black set-up is completely pointless. Since the white knight has remained at home for the moment, tempo-gaining b5-b4 moves aren't on. The b5 pawn is therefore left en prise and black can't equalise with c6-c5 without dropping an important pawn on b5.

**11. Nbd2 b4**

An ugly positional move, but what else is black meant to do if he is to get developed and make that bishop on b7 have any purpose at all? Taking on a4 is another ugly option but if black is to get c5 in, then the state of the b5 pawn must be resolved. Pushing it though frees up the c4 square (another additional asset to the knight's development on d2) and the light-squares become even weaker.

**12. e4**

In true classical style, white reacts in the centre to a flank advance. The white attack now begins in earnest as the bishops become open and the white pieces are headed dangerously towards the black king-side.

**12... c5**

Black must react. If there is no counter-play, then he will simply get squished and murdered on the king-side in short shrift.

**13. e5 Nd5 14. Nc4**

Deciding that the critical line of 14. Ne4 cxd4 15. Neg5 was a bit risky, but in fact, it's probably white's best try. Naturally, taking back on d4 is an option, but white is not pushing black as he ought to be doing so. The idea of bringing the knight into c4, was to pressure e5 and over protect it, and have an eye out on the queen-side, trying to play on all sides of the board.

White's set-up is aimed at the king-side and for that reason alone, 14. Ne4 must be the strategically correct move. 14. Ne4 cxd4 15. Neg5 Nc5 16. Nxe7 Nb3 17. Bd2 Nxa1 18. Rxa1 Qb6 19. Nfg5 Bxg5 20. Nxe5 Rc8 21. Qg4 Qc6 22. h4 Ne7 23. Nf3 Qd5 24. Re1 Qb3 25. Be4 Bxe4 26. Rxe4 Qxb2 27. Rxd4 Qa1+ 28. Kh2 b3 Dzhakaev,D (2415)-Gorkavij,V (2290)/Krasnodar 1998/EXT 2000/1-0 (34)

**14... cxd4 15. Nxd4 Nc5 16. Bc2 O-O**

Castling into the attack, but where else is the black king meant to hide? White now gathers forces and lashes out with an attack which black will find difficult to hold off.

**17. Rd1 Qc7 18. Qg4**

Bringing the queen into the attack. The pawn on e5 carves the black defence in two and the pawn structure in front of the black king must be breeched soon. Threats of Bh6 or Qh3 and attacks on h7 must force a pawn weakness in the next few moves.

**18... g6**

A passive breach of the pawn barrier. If black feels it necessary to weaken himself and is unable to maintain complete pawn coverage, he should break it actively. 18... f5 19. exf6 Nxf6 and black may have something along the open D and F files.

**19. Bh6 Rfc8 20. Rac1**

Mobilising the last white piece. Now, all of the white pieces are beautifully centralised, active and on their best squares. The a4 pawn is of no consequence and the bishop and knight on the C file are no longer left hanging (due to Bxg6 tactics). Black is now struggling for any active plan. The black queen is finding it difficult to find a secure square and the king-side is poised to erupt. Perhaps black is already in a critical position?

**20... Qd7 21. Na5**

Demonstrating that white has control across the board. The immediate tactics prevent black from stealing the A4 pawn, as the bishop on b7 would be left hanging. Also, the positional idea of Nxb7 is on and b4-b3 pawn sacks just simply allow white to recapture with the knight now, thereby not deflecting the bishop on c2.

**21... Rab8 22. h4**

Now the attack comes. White clears the back rank and threatens to loosen the king's pawn chain shelter with h4-h5. it's very hard now to find an adequate defence. The attack is simply coming too quick.

**22... Bf8 23. Bxf8 Kxf8 24. h5 Ba8**

Black hasn't got time for luxuries such as this. Yes, he wants to keep the bishop pair and that wonderful bishop, but he just hasn't got the time. 24... b3 had to be played, even if it does give up a pawn. Rb4 could be annoying for white then at some point.

**25. Qg5**

With the dark-squared bishops having been exchanged, the queen naturally belongs on a dark-square. The dark-squares around the king-side are particularly sensitive and the h7 pawn is especially vulnerable to attack.

**25... Kg7 26. Nc4**

Bringing the knight back into the attack. This quiet regrouping demonstrates perfectly that black is completely tied down and can do nothing about his inevitable demise. This knight is now headed for d6 or if needbe, to e3, to remove the defender of the f6 square. Simple deflection of a defender is it's simple objective.

**26... Qe7 27. Qg3**

White has many ways to play this. He can exchange queens and get a wonderful end-game. He can retreat to g4 and maintain a steady plus. But the positional aspect of keeping the queen on the same coloured square to that of the exchanged bishop makes sense. The king-side attack is still prolific.

**27... Nd7?**

Naturally, the final blunder by black. The tension of the game and the match-score (UK were 1.5-0.5 up at this point), and the task of having to defend during the whole game came to bear on my opponent.

**28. Nd6**

With the threat of either knight to f5 winning the black queen. Black can not meet all of the threats.

**27... Qf8 29. hxc6 Rxc2**

As good as resigning. Obviously, 29... hxc6 30. nxe6+! fxe6 31. Qxc6+ Kh8 32. Qh7# is rather aesthetical.

**30. N4f5+ exf5 31. Nxf5+ Kg8 32. g7 1-0**

## 13th IBCA Olympiad 2008

White: **Couwenberg, Pietr**

Black: **Hilton, Stephen**

Annotator: Steve Hilton

Round: 1.4; PlyCount: 68

White Team: The Netherlands;

Black Team: United Kingdom

B97: Sicilian Najdorf: Poisoned Pawn

**1. e4 c5**

It is very difficult to prepare for an opponent where you have no information about the player. My opponent was unrated and we found no previous games by him to prepare extensively for the match.

**2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 a6 6. Bg5 e6 7. f4 Qb6**

Oddly enough my coach and I had only discussed very briefly what my opponent would play and therefore we had decided that I would play the Sicilian. I wanted to play this line but we were never sure what to expect.

**8. Qd2 Qxb2 9. Rb1 Qa3 10. Rb3?!**

The critical lines for black to face are lines with 10. e5 and 10. f5. 10. Rb3 simply does not seem right to me in this line as it allows black to go back to a5 with the queen. 10. f5 was played by Radjabov against Ye in the 36th Chess Olympiad 2006 in Calvia Spain. The game went on 10 ...Nc6 11. fxe6 fxe6 12. Nxc6 bxc6 13. e5 dxe5 14. Bxf6 gxf6 15. Ne4 Be7 16. Be2 h5 17. Rf1 Qxa2 18. Rd1 Qd5 19. Qe3 Qa5+ 20. c3 f5 21.



Qg3 Kf8 22. Qg6 Qa4 23. Rf3 Ra7 24. Rg3 Bh4 25. Ng5 Bxg3+ 26. hxg3 Qa5 27. Qf6+ Kg8 28. Rd8+ Qxd8 29. Qxd8+ Kg7 30. Qd6 1-0

### 10... Qa5 11. Be2 Nc6 12. Bxf6?!

Needlessly giving up the bishop pair to shatter the black pawn structure. But the black king is perfectly safe in the centre and may even run across to the queen-side if his own king-side attack comes quickly enough. However, by exchanging this bishop, the black squares in the white camp are fatally weak and especially the a7-g1 diagonal. 12. nxc6 or 12. nf3 had to be preferred. In either case, it looks as though black has successfully stolen the B2 pawn and is destined to keep it without white getting any significant compensation for the invested material.

### 12...gxf6 13. 0-0?!

An inexplicable blunder. Having given up the dark-squared bishop, white had to be especially careful of tactics along any exposed diagonal. Castling and placing the king on the open a7-g1 diagonal was bound to stumble into tactics. 12. Nf3 was probably his best effort, but finding an adequate defence is difficult now.

### 12... Qc5

Winning the pinned knight on d4 and effectively the game. White could resign now with a clear conscience.

14. Kh1 Qxd4 15. Rd1 Qxd2 16. Rxd2 Be7 17. f5 Ne5 18. Na4 b5 19. Nb2 Bb7 20. fxe6 fxe6 21. Bh5+ Kf8 22. Re2 Rg8 23. c4 Rg5 24. Bf3 Bc6 25. cxb5 axb5 26. h4 Rg6 27. Nd3 Nxf3 28. gxf3 Rg3 29. Nf4 Kf7 30. Kh2 Rgg8 31. Rbe3 e5 32. Nd5 Bxd5 33. exd5 Ra4 34. Kh3 f5 0-1

## 13th IBCA Olympiad 2008

White: **Sereda, Josef**

Black: **Armstrong, William**

Annotator: Bill Armstrong

Round: 9.4; PlyCount: 60

White Team: Czech Republic;

Black Team: United Kingdom

B34: *Sicilian Dragon*

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Nc3 g6 4. d4 cXd4 5. Nxd4 Bg7 6. Be3 d6 7. Qd2 Nf6 8. Bd3 Ng4 9. Nde2 Nxe3 10. Qxe3 0-0 11. 0-0 Nb4 12. a3 Nxd3 13. cxd3

Having exchanged his knights for white's bishops, Black now has good chances. I needed to play aggressively but with some care to deny White counter play. This is easier from the sidelines than from a seat at the table. Especially if, as here, the team's final placing is at stake!

13 ...f5 14. Rac1 f4 16. Qd2 f3 17. Ng3 fXg2 18. Kxg2

Choosing the right option here was a bit tricky.

18 ...Qd7 19. Nd5 Qh3+ 20. Kg1 Bh6 21. f4 e5 22. Rc7 Be6 23. Ne7+ Kh8 24. Qc3 Rxf4 25. Rxf4 Bxf4 26. d4 Rf8 27. Qd3 exd4 28. Qxd4+ Be5 29. Qd3 Bg4

30. Rc2 Bf3 31 0-1

31. nf1 Qg4+ 32. Kf2 Be2+ is curtains for white.

## European Youth Championships

14-25 September 2008

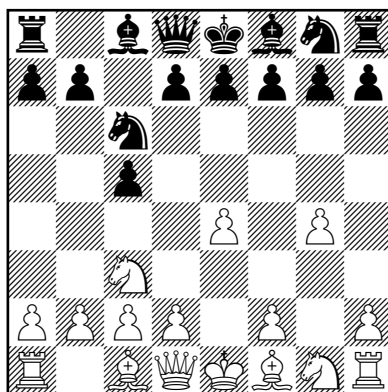
Andreev, Peter -

Toma, Radu-Cristian (1893)

Round 8, 23/09/2008

Peter Andreev's excellent win in Round 8 annotated by IM Andrew Greet.

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.g4!?



Peter and I had prepared this rarely played and ambitious idea before the game. The usual continuation of the Closed Sicilian would be 3.g3, e.g. 3...g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.d3 d6 6.f4 when White intends Nf3, 0-0 and later g4 with a kingside attack. The point of the text is to try and save a tempo by playing g4 in one move instead of two.

3...e5!?

An ambitious move, clamping down on the potentially sensitive f4-square.

4.d3 d6

4...Nge7 also deserves consideration, intending ...Ng6.

5.h3 g6 6.Be3

Perhaps a slight inaccuracy, as following the almost inevitable f2-f4 White may lose a tempo with the bishop. After the game I suggested 6.Bg2 Bg7 7.f4! Qh4+ 8.Kf1 followed by Nf3 when White's misplaced king is of little relevance.

6...Bg7 7.Bg2 Nge7 8.f4 exf4 9.Bxf4 Be6 10.Nge2 Qd7

Perhaps Black intends long castling?

11.0-0 0-0

No, he decides to go short after all. Having been presented with a clear target, Peter wastes no time in building an attack.

12.Qd2 Ne5 13.Ng3 b5 14.Bh6 b4 15.Nd5!

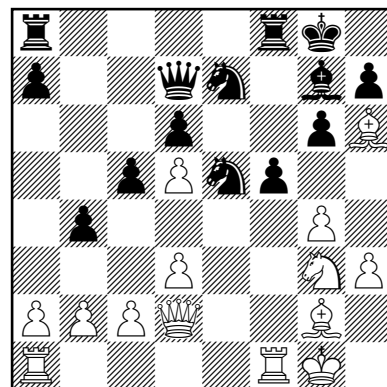
I was especially pleased with Peter for playing this move. Earlier in the tournament he had displayed some reluctance to accept a doubling of his pawns. I explained that there are many different factors which contribute to

the overall evaluation of a chess position, and that sometimes a player is required to sacrifice one thing in order to gain something else. When I saw this move, I could tell that he had been paying attention!

15...Bxd5

Black decides to eliminate the dangerous knight. Obviously 15...Nxd5 was unplayable because after 16.exd5 the bishop on e6 is trapped.

16.exd5 f5!?



This looks like a good attempt to defend the kingside. Can you find a way to maintain White's initiative?

17.Bxg7 Kxg7 18.Qg5!?

With the dangerous threat of Nh5+. There was another strong continuation in 18.g5! intending Ne2-f4 and targeting the weak e6-square.

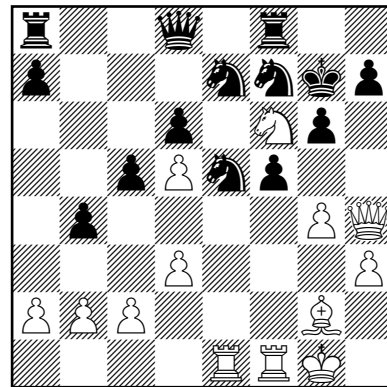
18...Nf7?

Under pressure, Toma makes a fatal error. 18...Kh8 was necessary.

19.Nh5+ Kg8 20.Nf6+ Kg7 21.Qh4!?

White could have won an exchange with 21.Nxd7 Nxd5 22.Nxf8, but Peter prefers to play for mate!

21...Qd8 22.Rae1!



I love this move which brings White's last undeveloped piece into the attack.

22...h6?

Missing the principal threat, although the alternatives were also hopeless:

a) 22...Ng8 allows 23.Qxh7+ Kxf6 24.Re6+ Kg5 25.Rxg6 mate.

b) 22...Ne5 is slightly more resilient, but White can still clinch the victory in fine style with 23.Qxh7+ Kxf6 24.h4! g5 (The only move to avoid imminent mate.) 25.Qh6+ Kf7 26.gxf5 with overwhelming threats.

23.Rxe7! g5



**23...Qxe7 24.Nh5+ wins the queen.**

**24.Nh5+ Kh8 25.Qe1!**

Perhaps Black had overlooked this clever retreat, with which White defends his rook and secures the victory.

**25...Ne5 26.Rxe5 1-0**

## World Youth Championships

**19-31 Oct 2008, Vietnam**

**Jessica Thilaganathan (1891)**

**- Katrine Tjolsen (2110)**

**Round 5**

**Best Game of the Day &**

**Best Game of the Tournament !**

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 e6 5.Bg5 dxc4 6.e4 b5 7.e5 h6 8.Bh4 g5 9.Nxg5 hxg5 10.Bxg5 Nbd7 11.g3 Rg8 12.h4 Rg5 13.hxg5 Nd5 14.g6 fxg6 15.Qg4 Qe7 16.Qxg6+ Qf7 17.Qxf7+ [RR 17.Qe4 Bb4 18.Rc1 Nf8 19.Be2 Qf5 20.Qh4 Kd7 21.Qh6 Kc7 22.Kf1 Bxc3 23.bxc3 Bd7 24.Rh5 Qf7 25.a4 Ng6 26.Qh7 Rf8 27.Qxf7 Rxf7 28.Ke1 Nge7 29.Rh8 Nb6 30.Bh5 Rg7 31.axb5 cxb5 Sasata,R (2235)-Shabalov,A (2604)/Edmonton 2006/CBM 113 ext/0-1 (40)] 17...Kxf7 18.Ne4 Bb4+ 19.Kd1N [RR 19.Ke2 c3 20.bxc3 Nxc3+ 21.Nxc3 Bxc3 22.Rd1 b4 23.Bg2 Ba6+ 24.Ke3 Rg8 25.Bxc6 Nb6 26.Rh6 Bc4 27.Rdh1 Nd5+ 28.Ke4 Bxa2 29.Bd7 Nc7 30.Rf6+ Ke7 31.Bc6 b3 32.d5 exd5+ 33.Bxd5 Nxd5 Lobron,E (2575)-Shirov,A (2685)/Germany 1993/GER-cht/0-1 (41)] 19...Be7 20.Bg2 Bb7 21.Kd2 Kg7 22.Rh2 Rh8 23.Rxh8 Kxh8 24.Bh3 Nc7 25.Nd6 Ba8 26.a4 a6 27.Bg2 Nb6 28.axb5 cxb5 29.Bxa8 Nbx8 30.f4 Kg7 31.g4 Kg6 32.f5+ Kg5 33.f6 Bf8 34.Rh1 Nb6 35.Rh8 Nd7 36.Rh7 Nxf6 37.Rxc7 Bxd6 38.Rg7+ Kf4 39.exd6 b4 40.Rg8! 40...b3 41.Kc3 1-0

### LAKE DISTRICT CHESS HOLIDAYS March 2009

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## Littlewood's Choice

□ **Balogh, Csaba (2616)**

■ **Azmaiparashvili, Zurab (2226)**

**World MindSports Rapidplay  
Beijing 2008**

I've always avoided rapidplay chess in this column, mainly because I view chess as a thinking man's game which usually requires enough time to make plans and calculate deep tactics. However, I do accept that sometimes gut reactions to moves can help coaches not only to diagnose mistakes but also to give advice on how to play when time-trouble rears its ugly head. This month's game is from a recent rapidplay event and shows Black conducting his game with the insouciance of a natural player.

**1 e4 d6 2 d4 Nf6 3 Nc3 e5 4 Nf3 Nbd7**

This is the modern way of reaching the standard closed set-up of Philidor's defence. Over the years I have had tremendous results with the highly risky open Philidor after 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 exd4! But would not recommend it to anyone who is unaware of the dangers involved in 'giving up the centre'!

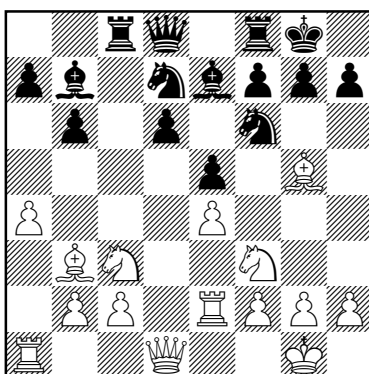
**5 Bc4 Be7 6 0-0 0-0 7 Re1 c6**

By playing this defensive set-up, Black hopes to give himself various options in response to White's choice of moves. In this game Black follows a standard plan to develop his QB on b7 before beginning any counter action, but White must never forget the latent threat of ...exd4 with central counterplay à la Nimzowitsch.

**8 a4 b6 9 d5**

White commits himself without waiting for ...Bb7, ...a6 and ...b5, hoping to exploit the white-square weakness of Black's Q side. We saw an example of the normal plan in a game five days before in the Spanish Championship: 9 h3 a6 10 Ba2 Rb8 11 Qd3 b5 12 axb5 axb5 13 Ne2 c5 14 c3 cxd4 15 cxd4 but now Black opened up the centre prematurely and play continued 15... exd4 16 Qxd4 Ne5 17 Nxe5 dxe5 18 Qxe5 Bd6 19 Qg5 Nxe4 20 Bxf7+! after which White's extra pawn won him the game (Martinez v Alvarez)

**9...Bb7 10 dxc6 Bxc6 11 Bg5 Rc8 12 Bb3 Bb7 13 Re2?**

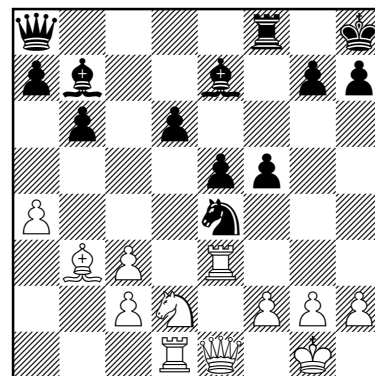


Presumably, White ignores Black's next interesting possibility of giving up the exchange for a central pawn whilst producing weak doubled pawns on the open 'c' file. This 'gut reaction' by Black seems perfectly sound and he soon has his opponent in deep trouble.

**13...Rxc3!! 14 Bxf6 Nxf6 15 bxc3 Nxe4 16 Re3 Qa8!**

Guarding d5 whilst putting pressure down the long white diagonal. Already Black has an excellent game, since he has also acquired the two bishops by preventing 17 Bd5.

**17 Qe1 Kh8 18 Rd1 f5! 19 Nd2?**

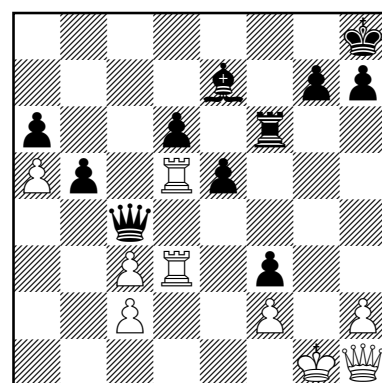


A mistake in a difficult position. Perhaps White had been relying on 19 Red3 threatening 20 Bd5 then saw that 19...Nc5! was a very strong reply.

**19...Nxd2 20 Rxd2 f4 21 Red3 Bxg2**

Now White finally achieves his plan of playing his bishop to d5 but it is far too late to save him.

**22 Bd5 Bxd5 23 Rxd5 f3! 24 Kh1 Qc6 25 Qa1 Qc4 26 R2d3 Rf6! 27 a5 b5 28 Qd1 a6 29 Qg1**



**29...Rg6 30 Qf1 Rg2! 0-1**

There is no answer to 31 ...Qh4 mating. Isn't chess simple?! Attractive play by the talented Azmaiparashvili, a name as long as half the moves in the game!

## ECF EMAIL ALERT

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# *Book Reviews*

by Gary Lane

## **Play 1 b4!**

by Yury Lapshun and Nick Conticello

published by Everyman £14.99

And now for something completely different. The Sokolsky which is also fondly known as the Orangutan has always been seen at weekend tournaments by those who want to avoid the main lines. It is easy to dismiss it but there are various modern gambit lines to inject some life into forgotten variations and 1 b4 addict Lapshun does his best to inspire anyone who plays White.

He has even tracked down some Bobby Fischer simultaneous games to demonstrate that the maestro also gave it a whirl when in the mood. Lapshun is cheerfully very biased in his approach and it seems that the title should be 'White to move and win' but it would be harsh to moan because the games are fun. The analysis is limited but big on prose in an effort to appeal to weekend tournament players. A fun second opening for people who want to spring a surprise from move one.

## **The wisest things ever said about chess**

by Andrew Soltis published

by Batsford £15.99

There are some books that are destined to be presents at Christmas and this would be top of many lists. A pleasant way to spend an hour or two every now and again by looking up some famous chess quotes and then seeing how the author imaginatively found a game to fit the famous line. A quip from England's Tony Miles "When you have eliminated all the plausible moves, you'd better play what you have left quickly before you lose on time." is then given life by including an example of a player wasting 25 minutes thinking before playing the only move to avoid checkmate. Soltis manages to trawl through his scrapbooks to uncover 288 sayings and make a reasonable effort to complement them with decent examples. Of course, it can be a bit hit and miss sometimes but that is part of the fun to be mildly controversial. Andrew Soltis has produced a thought-provoking volume, full of good examples and research.

## **Play the Slav**

by James Vigus

published by Everyman £14.99

The Anand-Kramnik World Championship Match saw the Slav being played a couple of times and here is a good opportunity to investigate further. This book was originally released as an e-book on the web and has since delighted numerous experienced players seeking to understand the fashionable opening. The repertoire is loosely based on grandmaster Ivan Sokolov's own use of the opening, so you know that it will be solid and reliable. The really tricky lines are avoided by the author on the understandable reasoning that you don't want to lose a game just because you do not have time to find out the latest moves. A good guide to the Slav for club players.

## **Starting Out: d-pawn attacks**

by Richard Palliser

published by Everyman £14.99

The proposal is to offer White a basic opening repertoire starting with 1 d4. It is worth pointing out that the opening called The Barry after a remark by grandmaster Julian Hodgson is reached after the moves: 1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 g6 3 Nc3 d5 4 Bf4. This is partnered by a section on the 150 Pirc because if Black responds with a King's Indian set-up by playing 3...d6 rather than 3...d5 then it can transpose to that opening. This repertoire is worth investigating and I also recommended it in my 2002 book *Ideas Behind the Modern Openings*. Palliser does a good job expanding on the idea and using recent games. The other opening that gets a significant treatment is the Colle which is reached after 1 d4 d5 2 Nf3 Nf6 e3. As usual Palliser is good value for money and prefers a detailed approach. This will help you to improve your chess openings.



# Results Round-Up

## Leamington Rapidplay 14 September 2008

**U200:** Antony Hynes, Warwickshire Select, 4½/6; Russell James, South Birmingham, 4½/6; David Cutmore, Wood Green, 4½/6; Martin Cutmore, Wood Green, 4/6; Alex Galliano, Coulsden, 4/6

**U160:** Richard Edwards, Battersea, 5/6; David Pritchard, Walsall, 5/6; Simon Hughes, Oswestry, 5/6; Sharan Soni, Millfield School, 4/6

**U120:** Richard Weaving, Solihull Checkmates, 5½/6; Jamie Adcock, Reading, 5/6; Clive Pemberton, 5/6; Neil Staples, Banbury, 5/6; Tom Rixon, Berkhamstead, 4/6; Megan Owens, Millfield School, 4/6

**U90:** Alex Raison, Durham, 5½/6; Athar Mehmood, Newport, 5/6; Vincent Lee, Barnet Knights, 4½/6; Trevor Dickerson, 4½/6; Luke Emanuel, Checkmate, 4½/6

## Brighton Rapidplay 28 September 2008

**Open:** 1st Simon Williams GM, £100; 2nd = Donald MacFarlane, Francis Rayner, Luke Rutherford, £23.33 each

**Major (100 - 140):** 1st Paul Kelly, £80; 2nd Amogh Sarpotdar, £40; 3rd = Matthew Lenton, Robin Shaw, Paul Smith, Dona Strauss, £5 each

**Minor (U100):** 1st Trevor Dickerson, £60; 2nd = Julien Frank, Felix Haxby, Matt Kelly, Sue Chadwick, £12.50 each

## KJCA South-East London Junior Rapidplay

28 September 2008

**Under 18:** William Jones, Lewisham CC, 153, 4½; Peter Andreev, Dulwich,

120, 4; Sheila Dines, West Wickham, 153, 3½; Tim Weaver, Maidstone CC, 97, 3½; Eugene Daley, Dulwich, 96, 3½; Naoki Koguchi, Greater London CC, 3½

**Under 14:** Victor Jones, Lewisham CC, 159, 5; Nicholas Clanchy, Lewisham CC, 107, 4; Christopher Stern, Dulwich, 43, 3½

**Under 12:** Amy Hoare, Horsham CC, 67, 5; Ravi Haria, Barnet CC, 91, 4½; Alexei Davis, Mottingham, 77, 4½; Raphael Kalid, Anerley, 77, 4½; Gautham Reddiar, Orpington, 90, 4; Adam Taylor, Ashted CC, 85, 4; Raunak Rao, Lewisham CC, 68, 4; Mano Sathyamurthy, Herne Bay CC, 38, 4; Elizabeth Elgar, Westerham CC, 22, 4

**Under 10:** Yasmin Giles, Lewisham CC, 49, 6; Daniel Muir, Coulsdon CC, 52, 5; James Meredith, Dulwich, 33, 5; Alexander Selway, Bromley, 31, 4½; Thomas Morton, Lewisham CC, 23, 4½; Owen Messere, Lewisham CC, 18, 4½; Joe Saddler, Snodland CC, 11, 4½; Vittorio Codogno, Chislehurst, 0, 4½

**Under 8 (combined with Under 10):** Sachin Balaji, Orpington, 3; Arul Gupta, Bromley, 3; Michael Petrick, Sevenoaks, 0, 2

## Metropolitan CC Congress

4-5 October 2008

**Open Section:** J Radovanovic, 4½/5; M Piper, Cavendish, 4/5; G Senior, Hendon, 4/5; D Haydon, Thurrock, 4/5; M Stone, Streatham/Watford, 3½/5; P Georghiu, 3½/5

**Major Section:** A Hayward, Streatham & Brixton, 4½/5; P J Kelly, Hastings, 4/5; L Enciu, Hendon, 4/5; C Atako, Redhill, 4/5; Mark Lim, 4/5; H Hjort, Hendon, 4/5; Y Zhu, 4/5; J CHannot, Hammersmith, 4/5; S Jacob, Lewisham, 3½/5; Peter Doye, 3½/5

**Minor Section:** J Adcock, Reading, 4½/5; Shyamal Patel, Pinner, 4½/5; Pepe Vives, Hackney, 4½/5; N Clanchy,

Lewisham, 4/5; Tim Hynes, Hitchin, 4/5; Alexander Harris, Camb. Juniors, 3½/5

## 34th Fortis Guernsey Festival

19-25 October

Naturally there were a large number of English players in this event. 67 players in the 7 round Open. Daniel Bisby, Mark Burrows 5/7 4-9=. Robert Bellin, Ian Heppell, Kevin Thurlow 4.5 10-16=. Oliver Jackson 4 17-24=. David Collier 3.5 25-40=. K Gouter, J Hickman, Ken Norman, Tim Spanton, M Taylor, Jim Vickery, C Wismayer, R Burton, D Guttridge 3. N Dennis 2.5. C Vagner 2. J Glover, J Heath 1.5. David Newell score 5.5/7 to finish 1-3= in the Holiday Tournament.

*Stewart Reuben*

## KJCA Caterham Congress

24-26 October 2008

**Open Section (FIDE rated):** GM Simon Williams, 2494, Athenaeum CC, 4½/5; John Sugden, 2173, Hastings & St. Leonard's CC, 3½; Gavin Lock, 2252, Horsham CC, 3½; Ian Snape, 2219, Beckenham & Bromley CC, 3½; William Jones, 2010, Lewisham CC, 3½; Julien Shepley, 2115, Guildford CC, 3; Laurence Ball, ECF 175, Dartford & Swanley CC, 3; Majid Jeffries, 2019, Maidenhead CC, 3; Andrew Mayhew, 2016, Rochester, 3; Victor Jones, 1991, Lewisham CC, 3

**Major Section (U160):** Bob Everson, 146, Dartford & Swanley CC, 4/5; Alan Hayward, 157, Streatham & Brixton CC, 4/5; Helge Hjort, 157, Hendon CC, 4/5; Paul Batchelor, 149, Brighton & Hove CC, 3½; Rupert Dickens, 159, BBC CC, 3; Finlo Rohrer, 147, BBC CC, 3; Nigel Livesey, 143, Bourne End CC, 3; Dave Cork, 136, Crawley CC, 3

Rufo Suarez-Prendes, 131, Crawley CC, 3; Robert Maguire, 129, Beckenham & Bromley CC, 3; Tristan Clayton, 125, Epsom, 3; Matt Bunn, 118, Snodland CC, 3

**Intermediate Section (U130):** Mark Stone, 90, Petts Wood & Orpington CC, 4/5; Aditya Gupta, 120, Castles CC, 3½; Bob Lanzer, 112, Crawley CC, 3½; Sebastian Galer, 93, Guildford CC, 3½; David Orr, 107, Dartford & Swanley CC, 3; David Howes, 101, Coulsdon CC, 3;

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Joshua Cavendish , 77, Barnet CC, 3  
**Minor Section (U100):** Jonathan Burch, 73, Guildford CC, 4½/5; Patrick Smith, 53R, Westerham CC, 3½; Conor Murphy, 46R, Charlton CC, 3½; Balaji Musiri Lakshminarayanan, Harrow CC, 3½; Caroline Foster, 72, Beckenham & Bromley CC, 3

**Clubs Prizes:** Guildford CC, 11/15 £100; Dartford & Swanley CC, 10 £50; Beckenham & Bromley CC, 9½ £13; Crawley CC, 9½ £13

## Hampshire Chess Association Congress

7-9 November 2008

Moses Kawuma of Southampton has succeeded his brother Steven as the Hampshire County Champion.

Moses won his first four games in a row to achieve a full point lead in this year's Eastleigh Congress.

But he then lost in round 5 to Gavin Lock, who had incidentally also beaten Steven in an earlier round.

This set up an interesting final round where Moses Kawuma (4pts) played Steven Kawuma (3½), and Gavin Lock (4) played former champion Dominic Tunks (3½).

The controller had tried throughout the tournament to avoid pairing the Kawuma brothers against each other, but there was no alternative in the last round. And a draw was no good for either of them.

In the event, Steven launched an attack against his opponent's king, but when it was repulsed, he found himself fatally weakened. He did not surrender his title easily.

The other game ended in a win for Gavin Lock, when his opponent's attack came to grief in the face of solid defence.

John Wheeler, Sec, Hampshire C.A.

**Open:** Moses Kawuma, 5 pts; Gavin Lock, 5 pts; David Fowler, 4 pts; Mark Abbott, 3 pts; Joe Coburn, 3 pts; Richard McMaster, 3 pts

**Under 125:** Peter Dallas, 5½ pts; Andrew Farthing, 4½ pts; Bob Lanzer, 4½ pts; Phil Foley, 4½ pts; Phil Foley, 4½ pts; Steve Billett, 3 pts; John Kooner, 3 pts

## Hull Congress

7-9 November 2008

**R. P. Ross Trophy:** Roelof D Westra, 163, Hull Chess Club, 4.0; Craig Whitfield, 151, Cheddleton & Leek, 4.0; Michael Hubbard, 157, Tynemouth, 3.0; Jim A Hawksley\*, 154, Hull Chess Club, 3.0; Richard L Britton (FM), 193, London, 3.0; Mike J Surtees, 189, Bolton, 3.0; Peter W Anderson, 170, Unaffiliated, 3.0; Andrew D Bettley, 141, St Andrews, 3.0; Oliver Gill, 167, Maidstone CC, 2½; Eric Gardiner, 163, Hull Chess Club, 2½; Dave W Stephenson, 135, St Andrews, 2½

**J. P. Lawson Tournament:** Shaun J Culkin, 148, Hull Chess Club, 5.0; David Siddal, 134, Penrith, 3½; Tony Slinger, 148, Lady Anne Middleton, 3½; Tim M Turner, 143, Lady Anne Middleton, 3.0; Richard Mounce, 135, York, 3.0; Robert Clegg, 132, Huddersfield, 3.0; Costin Constantinescu, 130 e, St Andrews, 3.0

### E. Starkey Tournament U126:

Colin Cartlidge, 110, West Leeds, 4½; Daniel Broughton, 112, West Bridgeford, 4.0; Malcolm R Hara, 110, Walkington, 3½; Kevin R Marshall\*, 110, Sheffield Nomads, 3½; Eric Winn, 117, Unaffiliated, 3½

**E. W. Fisher Tournament U96:** Dave Dunne, 91, Navigation. W.Notts, 5.0; David M Scorer, 89, Pendle, 4.0; Robert Stokes, 83, Scunthorpe, 4.0; J. P. Wynne, York R. I., 3½

## 80th Richmond

### Rapidplay

9 November 2008

There were 88 participants at Richmond Rapidplay 80. Prizes totalling £700 were awarded to the following contestants:

**Open:** Graeme Buckley, 4/6; Mike Basman, 4/6; Jude Lenier, 4/6; Marko Krivokapic, 4/6; Ian Snape, 4/6

**Major (U160):** Mark Webley, 5/6; Tserendorj Sainbayar, 5/6; Raul Lomorena, 4½/6; Raghu Kamath, 4½/6  
**Intermediate (U120):** Stephen Moss, 5½/6; Chris Dunne, 5/6; Adam Taylor, 4½/6

**Minor (U80):** Elliot Briery, 5/6; Victor Litvin, 5/6; Kyle Reed, 4½/6; Chantelle Foster, 4½/6; John Davis, 4½/6

## English Chess Federation

### Grand Prix 2008/9

Sponsored by CCF MindGames Ltd

### Leader Boards 17 November 2008

Bold indicates players who are counting the maximum number of events.

#### Junior Prix

1	<b>Haria, Ravi, Barnet Knights, .....</b>	<b>560</b>
2	<b>Dines, Sheila J, Surrey Junior, .....</b>	<b>532</b>
3	Clarke, Brandon GI, Littlethorpe, .....	502
4	<b>Jain, Akash, Pinner, .....</b>	<b>487</b>
5	<b>Jain, Radha, Pinner, .....</b>	<b>475</b>
6	<b>Shiatis, Rohan, Coulsdon CF, .....</b>	<b>464</b>
7	<b>Lobo, Richard A, Petts Wood &amp; Orpington, .....</b>	<b>432</b>
8	Harris, Alexander, Perse School, .....	413
9	<b>Andreev, Peter, Richmond Juniors, .....</b>	<b>412</b>
10	Rao, Raunak, Kent Junior Congresses, .....	406

#### Graded Prix (150-174)

1	<b>Bryant, Richard BE, Oswestry, .....</b>	<b>537</b>
2	Evans, Paul A, AXA Lytham, .....	367
3	Garnett, John S, Elmwood, .....	279
4	Shepley, Julien M, Guildford, .....	268
5	Cutmore, Martin J, Wood Green, .....	258
6	Doran, Chris, Chester, .....	251
7	Guo, Xi-Yang, Rotherham Junior, .....	250
8	Combie, Alex B, Newark & Southwell, .....	249
9	Wells, Daniel J, Newark & Southwell, .....	243
10	Newton, Robert A, Morecambe, .....	215

#### Graded Prix (125-149)

1	<b>O'Gorman, Brendan, DHSS, .....</b>	<b>551</b>
2	<b>Clegg, Robert, Huddersfield, .....</b>	<b>492</b>
3	<b>Pride, Stephen C, Cambridge City, .....</b>	<b>445</b>
4	<b>Desmedt, Richard E, Netherton, .....</b>	<b>416</b>
5	Price, Andrew, Leamington, .....	348
6	Connor, Michael I, Great Lever, .....	319
7	<b>Papier, Alan, Bristol &amp; Clifton, .....</b>	<b>318</b>
8	Siddall, Dave, Penrith, .....	286
9	Goodfellow, Russell R, Tunbridge Wells, .....	279
10	Goldberg, Nathan, Horsham, .....	257

#### Graded Prix (100-124)

1	<b>Allen, Timothy S, Battersea, .....</b>	<b>484</b>
2	<b>Szabo, Peter L, Metropolitan, .....</b>	<b>369</b>
3	Gartside, Carl, High Peak, .....	325
4	Walker, Roger W, Belper, .....	320
5	<b>Crouch, Timothy J, Kings Head, .....</b>	<b>306</b>
6	Gilbert, David J, DHSS, .....	306
7	Foley, Phil T, Upminster, .....	304
8	Rush, Steven J, Rhyl, .....	286
9	Jain, Dinesh, Pinner, .....	281
10	Lloyd, Stephen M, Chester, .....	276

#### Graded Prix (U100)

1	<b>Miles, Barry S, Middlesex CCA, .....</b>	<b>408</b>
2	<b>Fraser, Alan R, Beckenham &amp; Bromley, ...</b>	<b>379</b>
3	Billett, Stephen J, Portsmouth, .....	334
4	Constable, Christine F, Coulsdon CF, .....	312
5	Horman, Paul A, Morecambe, .....	284
6	De Santos, Andrew R, Preston, .....	266
7	Jackson, Paul Robert, Lancaster, .....	261
8	Smith, Mark J, Scotland, .....	255
9	Everitt, David, Haywards Heath, .....	246
10	Dilworth, Joe W, English Electric, .....	245





# Calendar of Events

(For a more comprehensive list of events visit our website at [www.englishchess.org.uk](http://www.englishchess.org.uk))

\* denotes English Chess Federation Grand Prix @ denotes FIDE Rated Event # denotes British Championship Qualifying Tournament ~ denotes ECF Graded Event

## ~\* 6 Dec **GOLDERS GREEN RAPIDPLAY**

St Alban's Church Hall, NW11 7QG.

Adam Raoof (Tel: 07855 036537,  
Email: [adamraoof@yahoo.com](mailto:adamraoof@yahoo.com))

## ~@ 6-7 Dec **4NCL**

Divisions 1, 2 & 3, Barcelo Hotel, Hinckley Island.

Mike Truran (Tel: 01993 708645,  
Email: [mike@mtruran.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:mike@mtruran.fsnet.co.uk))

## 7 Dec **SJC TRAINING DAY, SUSSEX GIRLS TOURNAMENT & XMAS PARTY**

The Meads School, East Grinstead.  
Margaret Burch (Tel: 01483 534061,  
Email: [ammjburch@hotmail.com](mailto:ammjburch@hotmail.com))

## ~\*#12-14 Dec **BRISTOL WINTER CONGRESS**

Cotham School.

G Mill-Wilson (Tel: 07765 139540,  
Email: [Tugmw@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:Tugmw@blueyonder.co.uk))

## ~ 13 Dec **NATIONAL PREP SCHOOLS RAPIDPLAY**

Aldro School.

D Archer (Tel: 01483 810266,  
Email: [archerd@aldro.org](mailto:archerd@aldro.org))

## ~ 13 Dec **NORTHWICK PARK LJCC QUALIFIER (U12 & U8)**

University of Westminster, Harrow.  
Marc Shaw (Tel: 07947 813303,  
Email: [2008@ljcc.co.uk](mailto:2008@ljcc.co.uk))

## 13 Dec **RICHMOND JUNIOR CC - KIDS BLITZ TOURNAMENT**

ETNA Community Centre, Twickenham.  
P Sowray (Tel: 07720 716336,  
Email: [psowray@aol.com](mailto:psowray@aol.com))

## ~\* 13-14 Dec **78th LONDON JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP (U10 & U14)**

University of Westminster, Harrow.  
Marc Shaw (Tel: 07947 813303,  
Email: [2008@ljcc.co.uk](mailto:2008@ljcc.co.uk))

## ~\* 13-14 Dec **3rd NORTHWICK PARK CONGRESS** (Open, U140, U90)

University of Westminster, Harrow.  
Marc Shaw (Tel: 07947 813303,  
Email: [2008@ljcc.co.uk](mailto:2008@ljcc.co.uk))

## ~\* 13-14 Dec **NORTHWICK PARK JUNIOR CONGRESS**

University of Westminster, Harrow.  
Marc Shaw (Tel: 07947 813303,  
Email: [2008@ljcc.co.uk](mailto:2008@ljcc.co.uk))

## ~\* 14 Dec **BURY (MANCHESTER) RAPIDPLAY**

Elizabethan Suite, Town Hall.  
A Lee (Tel: 0161 764 2243,  
Email: [burychess2008@btinternet.com](mailto:burychess2008@btinternet.com))

## ~ 14 Dec **HULL JUNIOR CONGRESS**

KC Stadium Sports Bar, Hull.  
J Hipshon (Tel: 0113 217 6296,  
Email: [jr.hipshon@ntlworld.com](mailto:jr.hipshon@ntlworld.com))

## ~@ 15-19 Dec **CCF CHRISTMAS INTERNATIONAL & CHALLENGERS**

Coulsdon.

H Curtis & S Freeman (Tel: 020 8645 0302 (day),  
Email: [chess@ccfworld.com](mailto:chess@ccfworld.com))

## ~\* 20 Dec **CCF RAPID PLAY**

Coulsdon.

H Curtis & S Freeman (Tel: 020 8645 0302 (day),  
Email: [chess@ccfworld.com](mailto:chess@ccfworld.com))

## ~\*# 28-30 Dec **78th LONDON JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP (U8, U12, U16 & U21)**

University of Westminster, Harrow.

Marc Shaw (Tel: 07947 813303,  
Email: [2008@ljcc.co.uk](mailto:2008@ljcc.co.uk))

## ~\*# 28-30 Dec **LONDON CHRISTMAS CONGRESS** (FIDE Rated Open, U150, U100)

University of Westminster, Harrow. Marc Shaw  
(Tel: 07947 813303, Email: [2008@ljcc.co.uk](mailto:2008@ljcc.co.uk))

## ~\*# 28 Dec- **HASTINGS INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS**

Hornbye Park Sports

5 Jan 2009 Complex, Hastings. Con Power  
(Tel/Fax: 01424 431970,  
Email: [conpowr@aol.com](mailto:conpowr@aol.com))

## 2009

## ~\*#2-4 Jan **FULPRINT 22nd YORK CONGRESS**

Oaklands Sports Centre, Cornlands Rd.  
J Griffith (Tel: 01904 705752)

## ~\*#2-4 Jan **HASTINGS INTERNATIONAL WEEKEND CONGRESS**

Hornbye Park Sports Complex, Hastings. Con Power  
(Tel/Fax: 01424 431970,  
Email: [conpowr@aol.com](mailto:conpowr@aol.com))

## ~\* 3 Jan **SJC JUNIOR RAPIDPLAY**

St Mary's Star of the Sea, Hastings.  
Margaret Burch (Tel: 01483 534061,  
Email: [ammjburch@hotmail.com](mailto:ammjburch@hotmail.com))

## ~\* 3-4 Jan **WREKIN CONGRESS**

Madeley Court Sports Centre, Telford.  
C Roberts  
(Email: [colinroberts@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:colinroberts@blueyonder.co.uk))

## ~\* 10 Jan **GOLDERS GREEN RAPIDPLAY**

St Alban's Church Hall, NW11 7QG.  
Adam Raoof (Tel: 07855 036537,  
Email: [adamraoof@yahoo.com](mailto:adamraoof@yahoo.com))

## ~\* 10-11 Jan **CCF NEW YEAR CONGRESS**

Coulsdon.

H Curtis & S Freeman (Tel: 020 8645 0302 (day),  
Email: [chess@ccfworld.com](mailto:chess@ccfworld.com))

## 11 Jan **KJCA ECF CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE COACHING DAY**

Eltham Coll Jnr, London.  
Sue Maguire (Tel: 020 8656 6420,  
Email: [sue.maguire@btinternet.com](mailto:sue.maguire@btinternet.com))

## ~\* 11 Jan **81st RICHMOND RAPIDPLAY**

The White House Community Association,  
TW12 3RN.  
James Coleman (Tel: 020 8661 0722, 07941  
252609, Email: [rapidplay@aol.com](mailto:rapidplay@aol.com))

## 17 Jan **EPSCA RAPIDPLAY**

Broadgreen Comprehensive School, Liverpool.  
P Purland (Tel: 0151 639 1797,  
Email: [petepurland@btopenworld.com](mailto:petepurland@btopenworld.com))

## ~ 17 Jan **OXFORD RAPIDPLAY TOURNAMENT**

Brookes University Headington Campus.  
J Kelly (Tel: 01494 462468, 07952 840140,  
Email: [oxford.chess@btinternet.com](mailto:oxford.chess@btinternet.com))

## 17 Jan **SJC TRAINING DAY**

Holy Trinity School, Cuckfield.

Margaret Burch (Tel: 01483 534061,  
Email: [ammjburch@hotmail.com](mailto:ammjburch@hotmail.com))

## ~@ 17-18 Jan **4NCL**

Divisions 1 & 2, De Vere Venues, Sunningdale.  
Mike Truran (Tel: 01993 708645,  
Email: [mike@mtruran.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:mike@mtruran.fsnet.co.uk))

## ~\* 24 Jan **KJCA ORPINGTON JUNIOR RAPIDPLAY**

St. Olave's Grammar, Orpington.

Sue Maguire (Tel: 020 8656 6420,  
Email: [sue.maguire@btinternet.com](mailto:sue.maguire@btinternet.com))

## ~\* 24-25 Jan **SPECTRUM CHESS - 13th DUDLEY CONGRESS**

The Quality Inn Hotel, Dudley.

Norman Went (Tel: 01708 551617, 07905  
360659, Email: [spectrumchess@hotmail.com](mailto:spectrumchess@hotmail.com))

## ~ 25 Jan **ENGLISH CHESS CHALLENGE QUALIFICATION EVENT**

Coulsdon.

H Curtis & S Freeman (Tel: 020 8645 0302 (day),  
Email: [chess@ccfworld.com](mailto:chess@ccfworld.com))

## ~ 25 Jan **20th NOTTINGHAM RAPIDPLAY**

Nottingham High School.

R Richmond (Tel: 0115 945 5908,  
Email: [Robrchmnd@aol.com](mailto:Robrchmnd@aol.com))

## ~\*#26-30 Jan **2nd ENGLISH SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Izaak Walton Hotel, Dovedale DE6 2AY.

N Graham (Tel: 01623 483731,  
Email: [neil.graham@englishchess.org.uk](mailto:neil.graham@englishchess.org.uk))

## ~\*#27 Jan - 5 Feb **GIBTELECOM CHESS FESTIVAL**

Caleta Hotel, Gibraltar.

Manuel Weeks

(Email: [manuelw@ozemail.com.au](mailto:manuelw@ozemail.com.au))

## 31 Jan **RICHMOND JUNIOR CC - KIDS BLITZ TOURNAMENT**

ETNA Community Centre, Twickenham.

P Sowray (Tel: 07720 716336,  
Email: [psowray@aol.com](mailto:psowray@aol.com))

## 31 Jan **1st YORK RAPIDPLAY**

Wheatlands Lodge Hotel.

P Cloudsdale (Tel: 01904 767177,  
Email: [cloudsdale\\_c@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:cloudsdale_c@hotmail.co.uk))

## ~\* 31 Jan - 1 Feb **U16, 14, 12, 10 CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Yateley Manor School, near Camberley. P

Purland (Tel: 0151 639 1797,

Email: [petepurland@btopenworld.com](mailto:petepurland@btopenworld.com))

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