

CHESS MOVES

The newsletter of the English Chess Federation | 6 issues per year | Sept 2014



YORKSHIRE - County Champs 2014

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ECF membership cards

With the introduction of the new membership scheme in 2012 the ECF moved to administering the scheme primarily through electronic communication. As a result we no longer communicate with the majority of our members via the traditional postal service, although this year members for whom we do not have an e-mail address will receive a subscription reminder by post. A further consequence is that we no longer issue membership cards to players.

Members who wish to have an ECF Membership card may print one by logging in to their ECF Membership account on the PaySubsOnline system here. This facility is available even if your subscription was not paid on-line, provided we have a record of your e-mail address. The instructions are on our website here

- *Dave Thomas, Director of Membership*

A brand-new WCM



Congratulations to Akshaya Kalaiyalahan of Nonsuch School in Surrey who has qualified for the WCM title at the 2014 Olympiad in Tromsø by virtue of her 50% score for the England team. Ironically, she had also recently qualified for the title when her rating went over 2000 for the first time.

Akshaya was the 2013 joint British Womens Champion as well as the 2013 British Under 12 and 2011 British Under 10 Champion, not to mention winning British Girls titles in the U11, U12 and U14 age groups. She will be representing England at the European Youth Championship in Batumi, Georgia from 18th-29th October 2014 in the Under 14 girls section.

[picture by John Upham]

Nominations for the elections - update

The nominations for the elections to be held at the AGM on 11 October 2014 that were received by the Company Secretary by the deadline of 1.30 p.m. on Wednesday 3 September were as follows.

President

Dominic Lawson, nominated by the ECF Board and by David Sedgwick (Chess in Schools and Communities)

Chief Executive

Phil Ehr (retiring Director standing for election to the same post)

Director of Finance

David Eustace (retiring Director standing for election to the same post)

Director of Home Chess

Alex Holowczak (retiring Director standing for election to the same post)

Director of International Chess

David Openshaw (retiring Director standing for election to the same post)

Director of Junior Chess & Education

David Levens, nominated by Andrew Farthing (Midland Counties Chess Union) and Simon Gilmore (Derbyshire Chess Association)

Traci Whitfield, nominated by Lawrence Cooper (Director), Phil Ehr (Director) and David Sedgwick (Chess in Schools and Communities)

Director of Membership

David Thomas (retiring Director standing for election to the same post)

Commercial Director

Bob Kane (retiring Director standing for election to the same post)

Two Non-Executive Directors

Laurence Ball, nominated by Lawrence Cooper (Director) and Phil Ehr (Director)

Julian Clissold (retiring Director standing for election to the same post)

John Foley, nominated by Bob Kane (Director) and David Sedgwick (Chess in Schools and Communities)

FIDE Delegate

Lara Barnes, nominated by Lawrence Cooper (Director), Angus French (Director), William Armstrong (Direct Members representative) and Roger Edwards (Leek Congress)

Malcolm Pein, nominated by Phil Ehr (Director) and Nigel Short (FIDE Delegate)

Stewart Reuben, nominated by David Eustace (Director), Brian Smith (London Chess League), Peter Wilson (Direct Members' representative) and Adam Raoof (Middlesex Chess Association, Golders Green Congresses, Hampstead Congresses, Bexhill Congresses and King's Place Chess Festival)

Chairman of the Finance Committee

Mike Truran (retiring Chairman standing for election to the same post)

Members of the Finance Committee

Ray Clark, nominated by Mike Truran (Chairman of a Standing Committee)

Ian Reynolds, nominated by Mike Truran (Chairman of a Standing Committee)

Chairman of the Governance Committee

Chris Majer (retiring Chairman standing for election to the same post)

Members of the Governance Committee

Mike Gunn nominated by Chris Majer (Chairman of a Standing Committee)

Richard Haddrell nominated by Chris Majer (Chairman of a Standing Committee)

Andrew Leadbetter nominated by Chris Majer (Chairman of a Standing Committee)

David Robertson nominated by Chris Majer (Chairman of a Standing Committee) and Phil Ehr (Director)

Book of the Year 2014 - shortlist from Ray Edwards & Julian Farrand

ECF members visit <http://shop.chess.co.uk/ECF-Book-of-the-Year-Shortlist-s/2031.htm> and enter the code **BOTY25** to get a 25% discount

This year the choice is between three books which reflect different aspects of historic giants of the game, offset by a vibrant collection of attacking games by a master of the genre.

Aron Nimzowitsch 1928 - 1935 Annotated Games and Essays

Rudolf Reinhardt (Ed) New in Chess £29.95

Nimzowitsch is remembered not only as a great player but the author of two of the most influential chess books ever written "My System" and "Chess Praxis" (see Petrosian below). Reinhardt collected over many years all the games, annotations and articles played or written by Nimzowitsch during the last seven years of his life that he could find. The blurb describes the contents well "The unauthorized sequel to My System and Chess Praxis" A historically valuable book, which also contains much stimulating and opinionated writing that is worth reading today.

Mikhail Botvinnik The Life and Games of a World Chess Champion

Andrew Soltis McFarland £29.99

The "Father of Russian Chess" was a man of many contradictions who lived (and survived) through the turbulent history of Russia in the last century as well as the poisonous politics of the Stalin decades. How he did this and became world champion is the subject of Soltis's book rather than deep analysis of Botvinnik's games. Soltis who speaks Russian has undertaken much research to try to understand the background and has written a fascinating biography of one of the greatest chess players of all time.

Petrosian Move by Move

Thomas Engqvist Everyman Chess £19.99

According to Kasparov, Petrosian had a very distinctive style, the key to which even the greatest players could not locate. Engqvist has made a determined effort to find it in this excellent selection of 60 best games of a much underrated world champion. Detailed annotations provide clues, but one of the answers might be that the first chess book Petrosian read was Nimzowitsch's Chess Praxis.

Sacrifice and the Initiative in Chess

Ivan Sokolov New in Chess £21.95

The author states in the preface "that this is a book I have wanted to write for a long time". He spent a long time selecting and refining his material to reflect his true subject, the intuitive sacrifice. Sokolov writes fluently and as an attacking GM himself he understands both the technical and human aspects of playing this way. A delightful book that both instructs and entertains at the same time.

Tournament Round-up

2014 County Championships finals

The 2014 ECF County Championship Finals Day was played on Saturday, 12th July at the Trident Centre in Warwick. 7 matches were played, involving over 200 players. You can download the complete PGN [here](#)

Essex won four out of four Under 100 Championships, but failed to qualify for the Final Stage this year. In their absence, Warwickshire and Kent qualified for the Final and were convincing 8 - 3 winners.

Nottinghamshire made it to three Finals, the most of any county. The Under 120 Championship was their only successful Final, as they beat Hertfordshire 7 - 5.

When the Under 140 section was created in 2010, Hampshire won the first two competitions, and made it back to the Final this year to play Nottinghamshire. The two teams were very evenly matched, but Hampshire prevailed 9 - 7.

Yorkshire and Middlesex met in both the Under 160 Championship Final and the Open Final. The Under 160 Final was a 10 - 6 win for Yorkshire, who were victorious on 6 of the bottom 7 boards.

Warwickshire had home advantage in the Under 180 Championship, but were nevertheless outgraded against Essex. The match was live with two boards remaining, but Warwickshire won both to secure a 9 - 6 win.

Nottinghamshire's route to the Final of the Minor Counties saw them beat Leicestershire three times before meeting Suffolk. Suffolk fielded three juniors on the top three boards, and Alan Merry and Justin Tan on boards 1 and 2 hold the FIDE Master title. They won their games as part of a 9 - 6 win for Suffolk.

The Open was a comfortable win for Yorkshire, 11 - 4. Yorkshire outgraded their opponents, but the result was unexpectedly one-sided. It was their first win since 2009. All boards of the Final were broadcast live on the Internet via the ECF website for the first time.

I would like to thank Andrew Zigmond, the Controller this year in his first year in the role; as well as the team of David Sedgwick, Sean Hewitt, Thomas Thorpe, Matthew Carr, Bruce Holland and John Philpott for providing assistance in various capacities on Finals Day. I would particularly like to thank all of the captains, whose endeavour over the course of the season has enabled over 1000 people to participate in these Championships at the Union Stage, and I hope they all return to the competition next season.

- Alex Holowczak, ECF Director of Home Chess





... from the top, left then right ...

the trophies | Kent: Under 100 Champions | Nottinghamshire: Under 120 Champions | Hampshire: Under 140 Champions | Yorkshire: Under 160 Champions | Warwickshire: Under 180 Champions | Suffolk: Minor Champions | Mark Birkin (Yorkshire) with the Lowenthal Trophy (and a very happy Home Chess Director) | Yorkshire: County Champions 2013/14

1st Bristol Summer Congress

The 1st Bristol Summer Congress was held August 22nd - 24th at our new venue at Bristol Grammar School. There were 73 competitors in 3 sections, though space would have been comfortable for 120.

The winners were -

Open - Steve Dilleigh, despite being outgraded by 30-35 points by the top 2 seeds.

Major - Alan Papier there was no cry of foul play that the organizer actually won his section.

Minor - Nikhil Hakeem 9-year-old Nikhil also won the Minor at Kidlington in February, and is one to watch for the future!

<http://bristolchesscongress.blogspot.co.uk/> - for a full report and crosstables

5th Jorvik Chess Congress

The 5th Jorvik Chess Congress was held at the Holiday Inn Tadcaster Road York from 26th to 28th August. It was a 6 round Swiss in 2 sections with 90 minutes each on the clock.

Results are as follows -

Section A

1st John Gallagher, Leeds 5/6 4 wins 2 draws

2nd= Miles Edwards-Wright, Sheffield and Alexander Combie, Newark 4.5/6

4th Brian Coop, Harrogate 4/6

5th= Mike Hankinson, Sheffield; MJ Cawston, York; Alastair Summers, Peterborough 3.5/6

8th= Stephen Pride, Cambridge; T Noel Stewart, York; Shaun Taylor, Hull; Alec Grice, Beverley 3/6

12th= Eric Key, York; Steve Potter, St Helens; Kevin Winter, Bingley; Neville Pearce, York 2.5/6

16th= Richard Desmedt, Wombwell; Adam Ismail, York and Derek Sheppard, Hull 2/6

19th Norman Andrews, York 1.5/6

Section B

1st Bill Egan, Scunthorpe 5/6

2nd Jonathan Martin, Daventry 4.5/6

3rd = Steve Benn, Carlisle; Ewan Miller, York and Ralph Hewes, York 4/6

6th Stephen Greep, Hull 3.5/6

7th= Bob Wardle, Nottingham; James Dessent, York; Ashley Carr, York; Ashley Clayton, Hull; Sri Sriharan, York; Stan Lovell, Scarborough; Steve Clare, Wallasey 3/6

14th= Steve Thacker, Nottingham; Ranyl Hughes, Selby; Graham Marshall, York 2.5/6

17th = Daniel Martin, Daventry; Nicholas Clayton, Hull; Gordon Pearce, Leeds 2/6

20th Max Littlewood, Barnsley 1.5/6

The event was held at an excellent venue and enjoyed by all. It is planned to hold one again next year at the same time. Thanks to the hotel and all for taking part





MICHAEL ADAMS
(ENGLAND)
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A Tale of Two Halves

Jonathan Hawkins made the early running in the British, but he was caught after a late spurt from the defending champion, David Howell

Jonathan Hawkins is a player whom you might not have heard too much about since the publication of his acclaimed *Amateur to IM*. Indeed, it feels like quite some time since 'the Hawk' made his second GM norm and established himself firmly in the 2500+ ranks. However, Hawkins's strength most certainly hasn't diminished, as shown by his performances on top board for Cheddleton in the 4NCL, even if his ambition may have waned a little after moving to London.

It was no surprise to see Hawkins as the early club house leader in Aberystwyth; ruthlessly demolishing sub-2400 opposition with close to a 100% success rate has long been one of his main assets. In Wales he displayed his intent as early as the opening round, employing the Geller Gambit (1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 3 ♖f3 ♖f6 4 ♘c3 dxc4 5 e4). That has a slightly dubious reputation these days, but was clearly designed to make his 2100-rated opponent uncomfortable and, indeed, Hawkins won in just 23 moves. More good practical and aggressive chess followed as Hawkins outcalculated Ravia Haria (see this month's *Find the Winning Moves*) before he had to face three more rising stars.

Bicester's Marcus Harvey is never intimidated, plays quickly himself to try and create some pressure, and has a fine tactical eye, but he found Hawkins in grandmaster-like positional mode and never really saw a tactical chance. Next up on top board was the 16-year-old Australian FM Justin Tan, who studies at Woodbridge School, where he is taught chess by Adam Hunt, and made an IM norm in the 4NCL. Hawkins's opening may have been offbeat, but he reached the desired unbalanced middlegame and then attacked with some verve.

J.Tan-J.Hawkins

Round 4

Ruy Lopez

1 e4 e5 2 ♖f3 ♘c6 3 ♙b5 ♖ge7

The Cozio Defence. One wonders if Hawkins had picked up a copy of Alexey Dreev's latest book for the long journey to Aberystwyth.

4 c3 a6 5 ♙a4 d6 6 d4 ♙d7 7 0-0 ♖g6 8 ♙e3 ♙e7 9 d5

This all feels very logical from Tan.

White accepts the loss of tempo with his c-pawn, but takes play into an Indian structure where the absence of light-squared bishops should be in his favour.

9...♗b8 10 ♙xd7+ ♗xd7 11 c4 0-0 12 ♗c3 f5



Black's main break, but also one which gives White control of the e4-square. The alternative is 12...h6 13 b4 ♖f6 14 h3 ♗h7, heading for g5, as in Melia-Harikrishna, Gibraltar 2011.



The six third-place finishers receive their prizes: (from r-l): Ravia Haria, Mark Hebden, Nick Pert, John Emms, Richard Pert & Keith Arkell.

13 exf5 ♖xf5 14 ♘e4 ♜f4!?

Hawkins attempts to stir up some trouble on the kingside, but Tan is able to drive the knight away while retaining control.

15 g3 ♘g6



16 ♘g2

This can hardly be terrible, but one has to wonder what Hawkins would have done after the logical 16 ♘fd2 followed by arranging the c4-c5 break. The position simply looks like an ideal King's Indian for White.

16...♞f8 17 ♘fg5?!

Once consulted, several engines want to play this move, but why allow Black to swap off his bad bishop? Once again, 17 ♘fd2 was indicated.

17...♙xg5 18 ♘xg5 ♞f6 19 ♘e6?

This invasion was presumably Tan's point, but he should have retreated to e4, which would still have retained an edge.

19...♜df8! 20 ♘xc7

It turns out that Black has more than enough resources to deal with the pesky knight. One might criticise Tan's next, but even after 20 ♘xf8 ♞xf8 Black is in control, being ready to invade on f3 and meet 21 f3 with 21...e4!

20...♞c8 21 ♘e6 ♜xe6 22 dxe6 ♞xe6 23 b3 e4!

Black's early play may have been risky, but it did allow White to suffer a rush of blood to the head and self destruct. Now the initiative belongs to Hawkins and he must have been enjoying himself, being able to bring a knight to e5, if needed, while going after the white king.

24 ♞d4?

White's position was most unpleasant, but he had to try something like 24 ♞c1, keeping his queen in touch with h5.

24...♞h5 25 ♞h1 ♞h3+ 26 ♘g1 ♞e8!

Black can even afford to give up his d-pawn. Hawkins has realised that he has more than enough attacking power in the key sector of the board.

27 ♞xd6 ♘h8

Fine prophylaxis which prepares ...♘e5 without dropping the e-pawn to a check on d5.

28 ♘d4 ♞g5

Calm, and deadly.

29 ♘xg7+

Desperation, but 29...♘h4 was a winning threat. White has been outplayed.

29...♙xg7 30 ♞d4+ ♘h6 31 ♞d1 ♘h4 0-1

In the fifth round it was back to keeping

control as White as Hawkins outmanoeuvred the young Singaporean IM and north-west resident Daniel Fernandez. Three impressive victories over dangerous opposition, but despite being on 5/5 Hawkins was yet to play a grandmaster (it really is high time the ECF stopped running the British Championship as a money-making exercise), a situation which came to an end when he was paired with Simon Williams. Trailing by half a point, the Ginger GM refused to allow peace to break out in what had been quite a balanced manoeuvring struggle, but his typical desire to play for more turned out to be somewhat flawed.

S. Williams-J. Hawkins Round 6



A draw would have been likely after 37



Commentators Vaidyanathan Ravikumar and Andrew Martin entertained the crowds at the venue and several thousand more online.

♙c2 ♘b5 38 ♙ff2 since it's not easy for either side to make progress. Williams, however, must have tired of all the back-and-forth manoeuvring and was determined to do what he does best – attack.

37 ♙c1? ♙xf4 38 d6

The point of White's play, although it transpires that both captures are more than fine for Black.

38...cxd6 39 ♙c7?

39 ♙d1 would still have offered a few chances to hold, but Williams continues down the planned path...

39...♙eg7 40 ♙a7 ♙e5!

...only to find that Hawkins has seen further. White has jettisoned two pawns and it turns out that bishop is taboo.

41 ♙xd7 ♙a1+ 0-1

It is Black's attack which decides, in view of 42 ♘h2 ♙xh3+! followed by mate on g1 or h1.

Not even in the days of Julian Hodgson did we see someone reach 6/6, although Jonathan Mestel did achieve that fine start en route to victory at Portsmouth in 1976. Before Aberystwyth one might have thought that only David Howell could pull off such a feat, since on paper the gap between a player of his top-100 strength and the rest of the field appeared rather large. However, Howell had just completed his degree at Cardiff University and was initially a little rusty. He had to defend a pawn down to draw when his favourite Grünfeld Defence went wrong against Richard Pert in

round 3 before, in a bid to catch up, he pushed the boat too far against Simon Williams, himself no stranger to complex and highly unusual positions.

D.Howell-S.Williams Round 4



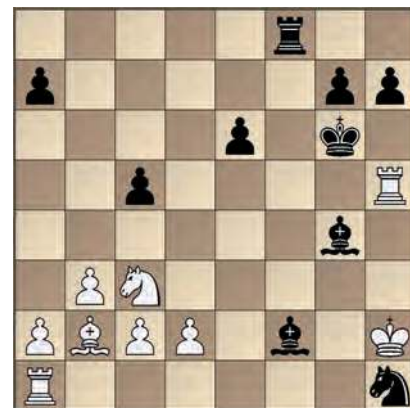
In this rather crazy position the players have been repeating (24 ♙f2 ♘h1 25 ♙f1 ♘g3 26 ♙f2 ♘g3), but now Howell showed that he is nothing if not brave.

27 ♙h2!? ♙d6 28 f4 ♙xf4 29 ♙h5 ♙f3+ 30 ♙e1 ♙g3+ 31 ♙f1 ♙g6 32 ♘c3

Finally developing his queenside, but allowing Black to bring his final piece into the attack. The silicon monster maintains that 32 ♙h3!? is good for White, but few hu-

mans would feel comfortable here and even less comfortable with Simon Williams sitting opposite. Perhaps, though, 32...♙f8 (or 32...♘g5 33 ♘g1 ♘xg4 34 ♙xh1 ♙xh1 35 ♘xh1 ♙f8 36 ♘c3) 33 ♘g1 ♙f2+ 34 ♙h2 ♙xg4 35 ♙d3 is more than tenable, largely due to the strangely-placed knight on h1.

32...♙f8 33 ♘g1 ♙f2+ 34 ♙h2 ♙xg4



Now 35 ♙h3 ♙xh3 36 ♙xh3 ♘g3 37 ♙g2, and if 37...♘h5 38 ♙f1 would still be very sharp and by no means bad for White, but with move 40 looming Howell miscalculated.

35 ♙xh7? ♙xh7 36 ♙xh1 ♙f3 37 ♙f1 ♙c6 38 ♘d1

The point of White's combination, but after...

38...♙g3+! 39 ♙xg3 ♙xf1

...an exchange had fallen. Howell resisted desperately, but eventually had to



Jonathan Hawkins was able to hold his nerve against Richard Pert in the final round and so secure at least a share of first place.

throw in the towel after 83 moves.

It would, however, be wrong to criticise Howell's decision to play on. It wasn't an objective mistake and such a desire to fight, even quite often with a hanging flag, has won the 2013 British Champion many, many games over the years. More champion-like qualities were evident as Howell ruthlessly dispatched Martin Brown, Jack Rudd and Chris Ward to reach the rest day on 5½/7, a point behind Hawkins, whose winning run came to an end when he couldn't break down Yang-Fan Zhou.

Incidentally, it should be pointed out that while the British Championship is normally played over eleven days Monday-Friday, with a rest day on the middle Sunday, this year's event kicked off on a Saturday. Then a week later came the rest day before the event concluded on a Wednesday, giving any Olympiad players present, of whom David Howell was the only one, the chance to turn up on time for England duty in Tromsø.

Commentators Andrew Martin and Vaidyanathan Ravikumar unsurprisingly found a large audience, both in Aberystwyth and online, ready for the round 8 clash between the defending champion and the tournament leader. However, as is often the case, a classic game failed to materialise. Howell was outprepared in a Ragozin Defence, failed to obtain full compensation with a Catalan-like pawn sacrifice and eventually, still a pawn down, had to offer a draw. Perhaps Hawkins should have played on, but both sides had passed pawns and he was a point clear...

Nick Pert tried his hardest with the Dutch to unsettle Hawkins in the ninth round, but the leader held tight, just as his Lasker Defence did in the tenth against Mark Hebden.

A further draw followed against Richard Pert, which meant that Hawkins finished on an unbeaten 8½/11 while completing his GM title, but was that going to be enough for sole first with Howell still in pursuit?

The ninth round also saw a determined Howell eventually overcome Daniel Fernandez, albeit not without a little fortune, but he was unable to fully close the gap to Hawkins in his penultimate game, as Nick Pert's defences remained typically tight. That left the defending champion reliant on Hawkins not winning his final game, while he himself had to defeat Mark Hebden, who was by no means out of the running himself, also being on '+5' after a typically gutsy display.

D.Howell-M.Hebden

Round 11



Howell had exploited an early pull (stemming from 1 e4 e5 2 ♖f3 ♘c6 3 ♙c4 ♙e7 4 d4 d6 5 dxe5 dxe5 6 ♘bd2) to saddle Hebden with a number of weak pawns.

It's safe to say that the Leicester-based Grandmaster had been outplayed without ever managing to create any real counter-play. The manner in which Howell concluded proceedings was, however, still impressive.

40 ♙c1!

The bishop returns home to cover b2 and so allow White to pick off e4.

40...♙g8 41 ♙xe4 ♗xe4 42 ♗xe4 ♙xe4 43 ♗xe4 a4 44 ♙f1 ♙f7 45 ♙e2 a3

This was Black's only real try, but now White will enjoy an outside passed pawn.

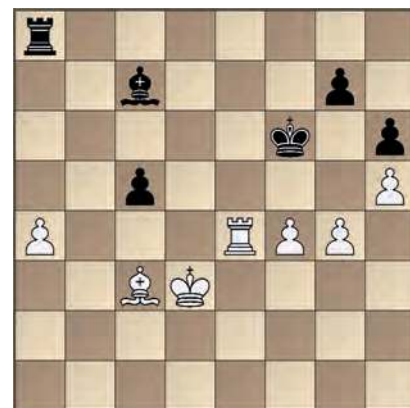
46 bxa3 ♙xc3 47 ♙d3 ♙f6 48 a4 c5 49 ♙e3

The a-pawn can't advance for now, but this ties Black down to the defence of c5 after which White can switch his attention to a second front on the kingside.

49...♙e7 50 g4 ♙d6 51 ♙d2 ♙c7 52 ♙e3 ♙d6 53 h4! ♙f8 54 h5 ♙d6 55 ♙d2 ♙c7 56 ♙e3

Howell continues to repeat, gaining time on the clock and emphasising just who is in control.

56...♙d6 57 f4 ♙f6 58 ♙d2 ♙c7 59 ♙c3+!



In the final round Mark Hebden and David Howell both had to win if they were to have any chance of catching Hawkins.

Finally the bishop finds a better diagonal.
59...♟f7 60 g5 1-0

The finish might have been 60...♟f8 61 g6 ♟d8 62 f5 ♟a6 63 ♟c4 ♟e7 64 a5 when ♟c2-b3-a4-b5 is one winning plan.

Elsewhere there were plenty of impressive performances in Aberystwyth. 14-year-old Ravia Haria of Haberdashers' Aske's School did well to recover from 1/3, concluding an amazing comeback by defeating Simon Williams in the final round to finish in a tie for third. Elsewhere Daniel Fernandez only lost to the two winners whilst making a 2500+ performance, although that was arguably overshadowed by his younger brother Michael. Belying a 2029 rating, Fernandez junior made an incredible 6½/11 for a 2336 performance. Meanwhile Amy Hoare gained rating points whilst finishing on 4½, which was enough to take the British and English ladies' titles as top talent and defending champion Akshaya Kalaiyalahan collapsed to just 3½.

Older and not so old readers may have enjoyed seeing Mark Hebden, Chris Ward and John Emms up on the top boards throughout and I'm delighted that the last of those has kindly annotated an important early clash for us.

J.Emms-C.Ward

Round 4

Catalan Opening (Notes by John Emms)

It's never easy playing someone who's both a long-time friend and training partner. At least when Chris and I do play, it usually means we're both doing well in a tournament. In this case Chris was joint leader with 3/3, having just defeated Mark Hebden in what was later awarded game of the tournament, and I was half a point behind.



British Ladies' Champion Amy Hoare.

1 c4

I've recently realised (better late than never!) that there's more to life than 1 e4.

1...e6 2 g3 d5 3 ♟g2 ♟f6 4 ♟f3 ♟e7 5 d4 0-0 6 ♟c2 c6

This move surprised me a little. The Closed Catalan is hardly a rare choice; it's just that I was expecting either 6...dxc4 or 6...c5.

7 0-0 b5

And now I really was on my own, even though I'd seen the idea of ...b5 in similar positions. Black normally starts developing the queenside with ...♟bd7, ...b6 and ...♟b7 or ...♟a6.

8 c5

Keeping the tension with 8 b3 must also be possible here, but blocking the queenside and then going for the e2-e4 pawn break seemed like a more straightforward option.

8...a5

Another move I wasn't expecting, at least not straightaway. In fact ...a5 is simply a part of Black's expansion plan on the queenside. As Chris mentioned after the game, if Black delays this move, White might play a2-a4 and meet ...b5 with a4-a5, isolating Black's pawn on b4.

9 ♟g5

White can play 9 ♟bd2 ♟bd7 10 e4, but I assumed that Black doesn't want to take the pawn when it reaches e4 and I didn't want to block in my dark-squared bishop. There's also 9 ♟f4 ♟bd7 10 ♟bd2 and here 10...♟h5 11 ♟d6 looks nice for White and much more appetising now than it looked during the game.

9...♟bd7 10 ♟bd2 h6 11 ♟xf6

11 ♟f4 is still possible even here, but I was happy to continue with the intended plan: take on f6, e2-e4, ♟fe1, ♟(d2)-f1-e3, and then have another think.

11...♟xf6 12 e4 b4 13 ♟fe1 a4

It's not an easy choice between this move and 13...♟a6. Black will certainly gain some possibilities based on either ...b3 or ...a3. On the other hand, there's no going back and the b4-pawn turns out to be a weakness later on.

14 ♟f1 ♟a6 15 exd5

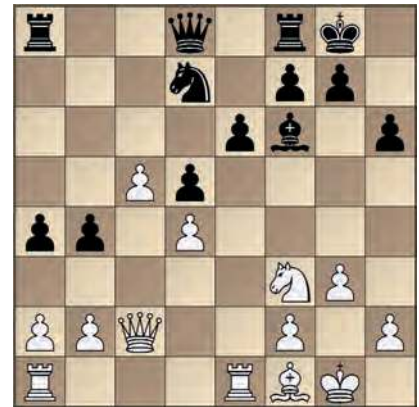
Ideally I would have preferred to keep the tension in the centre a little longer, but I was concerned by the possibility of 15 ♟e3 b3, deflecting the queen from her defence of the e4-pawn.

15...♟xf1

15...cxd5 (or 15...exd5) 16 ♟e3 ♟b5 17 ♟g4 was the type of position I had been aiming for. It feels like White's kingside play comes naturally here. The bishop on b5 looks quite impressive, but actually doesn't do a great deal and is probably not as good as the g4-knight, which is why Chris decided to swap it off while he had the chance.

16 ♟xf1 cxd5

Against 16...exd5 I was planning 17 ♟h3 ♟e8 18 ♟d2 and White keeps some advantage.



This is a critical moment. If Black could grab one extra move here it would be ...♟a5. This is followed by the key manoeuvre ...♟b8-c6 and Black's position would make complete sense. So my next move was vital:

17 ♟b5

White now has a straightforward plan to gain a big advantage:

- Keep the queenside blocked;
- Swap off on d7;
- Plonk a knight on e5; and
- Aim for the f4-f5 pawn break.

Chris chose to avoid the exchange and hoped to get rid of the bishop later on, in some cases even at the cost of a rook.

17...a3 18 b3 ♟b8 19 ♟e5 ♟a5

After the game we agreed that 19...♟a5 is a much stronger option for Black and would justify the decision to play 18...♟b8. The point is that in some positions Black can sacrifice the exchange to get his knight to the vital c6-square. For example, 20 ♟d3 (if 20 ♟a4 Black can play 20...♟xe5 21 ♟xe5 ♟xa4 22 bxa4 ♟c6) 20...♟xe5 21 ♟xe5 ♟c7 22 ♟ae1 ♟xb5 23 ♟xb5 ♟c6, attacking e5 and d4. Even here White keeps some advantage, but Black is much better placed than in the game.

20 ♟d3

The bishop is secure on b5 and Black's queen gets in the way of the rook. Now Chris could find nothing better than swapping off all the minor pieces and I gained an even better version of what I was originally aiming for. 20 ♟a4 ♟c7 was Chris's idea, when the idea of ...♟xe5, ...♟xa4 and ...♟c6 comes into play.

20...♟xe5 21 ♟xe5 ♟c7 22 ♟ae1 ♟c6 23 ♟xc6 ♟xc6 24 f4 ♟a6

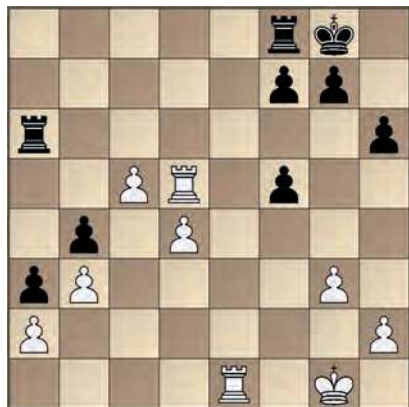
24...g6 runs into 25 ♟xe6, but 24...♟ae8 is more resilient.

25 ♟xa6 ♟xa6 26 f5 exf5

If 26...♟e8 27 ♟xd5 wins a pawn.

27 ♟xd5

With two connected passed pawns in the centre, I was absolutely positive this double-rook ending was winning for White. However, Chris, despite having virtually no time on his clock, found some 'only moves' to keep the game going and it almost paid dividends...



**27...♖e6 28 ♔f2 ♜fe8 29 ♜xe6 fxe6
30 ♔d7 ♜c8 31 ♜e7 ♜c6 32 ♔e3**

The exchange on e6 means it's down to just one passed pawn, but even so this is still completely winning for White.

32...g5

The only chance. Black's king is cut off on the back rank, but he needs to get going on the kingside at any cost.

33 ♜b7

I was also considering 33 ♔d3 ♔f8 34 ♜b7, which is also good, as ...f4 no longer comes with check. For example, 34...e5 35 ♜xb4 exd4 36 ♔xd4 f4 37 gxf4 gxf4 38 ♜b6 and White wins.

33...e5

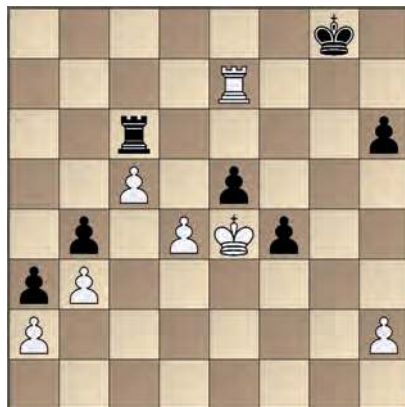
Again, the only move.

34 ♜e7

Up to this point I'd handled the endgame pretty well, but this move – played quickly after rejecting better options, which is never a good idea – is a really bad choice. In trying to keep control of everything, I nearly end up losing all control.

My original intention had been 34 ♜b6 ♜c8 35 ♜xh6, which is fine, but I suddenly thought why should I allow the black king off the back rank? However, 34 ♜xb4 f4+ 35 gxf4 gxf4+ 36 ♔e4 exd4 and now the star move 37 ♜c4, as pointed out by Andy Martin in the commentary room, is the cleanest win.

34...f4+ 35 gxf4 gxf4+ 36 ♔e4



36...♜f6?

Luckily for me it just wasn't Chris's day – he overlooks a final tactic and loses a vital pawn. After 36...exd4 37 ♔xd4 (I'd even been considering 37 ♔d5, but 37...f3 38 ♜e1 ♜f6 39 c6 d3 40 c7 ♜f8 is a ridiculous position for White to get into considering where we started) 37...f3 38 ♜e1 f2 39 ♜f1 ♜f6 40 ♔c4 ♔f7 41 ♔xb4 ♔e6 the game is very much alive and Black definitely has drawing chances here.

37 ♔xe5

White can safely take the pawn. After 37...f3 38 ♔xf6 f2 Black promotes, but Chris had missed that White has 39 ♔g6 f1♖ 40 ♜e8+ when Black has to give back the queen.

37...♜f8 38 ♔d5 f3 39 ♜e1 1-0

The two connected pawns beat the lone passed pawn. After 39...♔f7 the simplest is 40 ♜f1 ♔e7 41 ♔e4 picking up the f-pawn.

Leading Scores:

1-2 Jonathan Hawkins (London), David Howell (Seaford) 8½/11

3-8 Keith Arkell (Paignton), John Emms (Hildenborough), Ravia Haria (Barnet), Mark Hebden (Leicester), Nicholas Pert (Fleet), Richard Pert (London) 7½.

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www.londonrapidplay.co.uk

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Sept 12–14 Harrogate Congress

email: noelboustred@yahoo.co.uk or call 07903 913786

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www.mindsportsacademy.com/chess

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To Aberystwyth!

Andrew Zigmond made his now annual pilgrimage to the British Championships

As a club player of little ability it didn't occur to me to visit the British Championships until a couple of years ago. I knew that there was a bit more to it than the actual championship, but I still didn't think there was anything for me there except the chance to watch some of the country's finest at work – which didn't quite justify the train fare.

It was a day trip to North Shields 2012 that suggested I might have been missing out on a treat and my first British – Torquay 2013 – confirmed it. Aberystwyth 2014 couldn't come soon enough after that.

If you're a club/congress player and you haven't checked out what's available at the British then you might be surprised. There are morning and afternoon weekday tournaments for players of all standards, as well as an increased number of senior tournaments. There is also a rapidplay on the rest day of the championship itself (you'd be surprised how many players can't manage a day without any chess), and a weekend tournament following the traditional Friday evening/Saturday/Sunday format. It was this latter tournament that I opted for.

It's always good to have a change of scenery, even if you intend to spend most of the time hunched over a chessboard, and the British is designed with the chess tourist in mind. The Welsh coast was as scenic as the brochures made it look and I managed to find myself a hotel right on the sea front, which meant five nights sleeping with the waves constantly in the background.

Which takes me on to the championship itself. No two British Championships are quite the same as the exact logistics are dictated by the playing area. In Torquay the principal events took place in a large central hall with the weekender played on a balcony upstairs and the junior events hosted in rooms elsewhere. Aberystwyth 2014 was held on the University campus (halfway up a fairly relentless slope – so good exercise), with the event split across several buildings as a result.

Many players were staying on campus and with the event a little apart from the town centre, there was almost a chess village atmosphere. Your first sight of the main playing hall was of players analysing and playing blitz games while enjoying a drink and a bite to eat. I even recognised the current junior director working with a young player.

Space in the main hall was limited and as a result lacked the theatre of Torquay and

North Shields, where the top boards were cordoned off and chairs provided so the games could be followed on the display boards. Instead spectators were able to gather around the top boards in true weekend congress fashion which might have been a little off putting for the players. Obviously the championship itself had precedence in the playing hall with the other events being forced to the margins and even to another building if lack of space dictated. You'll see the relevance of this shortly.

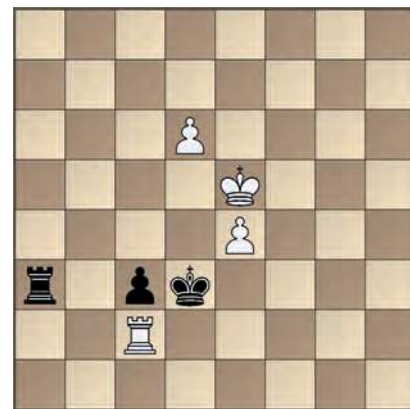
I arrived on the Wednesday which allowed one day for sightseeing/relaxing before getting a piece of the action. As usual I didn't bother with sunscreen and after one and half days of exploring the town and beaches in glorious sunshine, I turned up for the weekender with sunburn and the will to win.

I'll mention here that I had brought a chess set and several books with me. Indeed, my evenings had been spent trying to get my head around the Accelerated Dragon and the Grünfeld which I was convinced would come up in my black games.

The first round of the weekender began at six thirty, held at the far end of the playing hall with the championship itself already in progress. This meant that players had to take their seats in silence with none of the hustle and buzz that normally characterises weekend events. Obviously the silence applied to the arbiters too; the start of the round had to be signalled rather than announced. But the order was still the same: 'Start the white clock on all boards'. I was playing white and thus I advanced my king pawn two squares praying, as I always do, that I wasn't about to make a fool of myself.

Earlier I'd discovered that I was just in the bottom half of the draw, which meant the swiss pairings put me against the second highest-rated player in the section. Two hours later I was reasonably happy with the outcome; having got a terrific attack early on followed by a heart-stopping moment when I thought everything was going to go wrong, the game settled into a drawn position.

Knowing I was at least spared the ignominy of a zero from five-round tournament I took a wander around the hall to see what was going on. Most of the games were finished, but Richard Pert and Charlie Storey were still playing and (I think) they had just reached this position.



Play continued **62 d7! ♖a5+ 63 ♔e6 ♜xc2 64 d8♚**. One can now say, in an academic kind of way, that White should win, but how many players of my standard would want to have to play this position? As Pert sank into a deep think I was tempted to return to the hotel for a beer and an earlyish night, but decided that it wasn't very often I got to watch players of this calibre at work – I decided to stay and see how they did it (which Pert did with **64...♗a4 65 e5 ♜b3 66 ♗d3 ♜b4 67 ♜d5 ♜b2 68 ♜c5 ♜b8 69 ♗d4 ♜c8+ 70 ♜b6 ♜b8+ 71 ♜c7 ♜b3 72 e6 ♜a2 73 ♜c4 ♜b2 74 ♗d4 ♜a2 75 ♜c4 ♜b2 76 e7 c2 77 e8♚ c1♚ 78 ♜e5+ ♜c3 79 ♜b8 ♜c2 80 ♜b4+ ♜b3 81 ♜exc3+ 1-0**).

The next morning the weekender had the playing hall to themselves, which meant that we got to play on the touch sensitive boards that the top players use. At the very least this meant a pleasant change from plastic pieces and roll up boards, and during the game I wondered if the games were being broadcast live. I've since discovered that they weren't; possibly a good thing as my second game saw my hopes of victory (yes, I had some) dashed. Playing a slightly lower-graded player I made a few positional missteps on the black side of the English (an opening I struggle against), and was ground down. You win some...

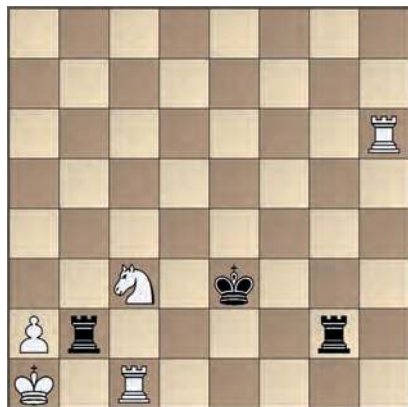
For round three, the seniors tournament pushed the weekender back to the other end of the hall and playing white again, I was determined to come back fighting and duly did.

A.Zigmond-T.Crouch
Aberystwyth 2014



I felt quite smug about **13 ♖e6?! at the time**, but closer inspection proves just how amateurish it was. The bishop looks as if it cannot be taken because after the knight recaptures the queen and g7-bishop are forked. However, the move may set up a threat but it doesn't force anything and as I waited for my opponent's reply it occurred to me that he can just move the rook. However, *Fritz* notes that after 13...fxe6 14 ♜xe6, 14...♜c4 solves all of Black's problems (in the event he played **13...♜c4** and after **14 ♖e2** and an exchange on e3 the bishop threat stayed on for a few more moves).

After what felt like a hard fought tactical battle (when I showed *Fritz* later he shouted some quite nasty abuse at both sides), we reached the following position.



I banged down **42 ♜d1+** thinking that it was winning, which it is, but after **42...♜d2** I made my worst move of the event. Thinking that it was a simple exchange of rooks, I played **43 ♜xb2?? ♜xc1** and (fortunately) I eventually won seven moves later. It simply did not occur to me that I could have captured with the king instead.

I've never, ever finished a congress on less than one and a half points and my third round win meant that I'd achieved this with two rounds to spare. Unfortunately that was as good as it got. My fourth round game saw me try a tactical idea that looked good, but didn't quite work. With the championship proper starting again after the rest day, the Soanes and Yates weekenders were relegated to the Student Union which in

itself felt like a comedown after the excellent playing conditions in the main hall. In the final round I thought I was getting on top, but I underestimated my opponent's attacking chances and got shot down while trying to defend my kingside.

So thus ended my Aberystwyth adventure, but the long return train journey to Harrogate gave me plenty of opportunity to reflect on the experience. Some people have criticised the current format without ever giving a coherent idea of what should replace it. It is true that an all-play-all of the top players would be a more attractive model for sponsors and it is a shame that sponsorship can't be found to entice the country's elite to the British. However, it is vital to retain all the side events, including the weekender, that make the British something of a chess carnival.

I'm sure a few people will have criticisms (it's true that silence could have been more strictly enforced outside the playing hall). However, I have to end by noting that the team (and as an ECF official myself I do have to declare my interest) were putting in 12-hour unpaid days to deliver the event, which they are hardly obliged to do. That's something too many players – including myself on occasion – take for granted.

And the Grünfeld and the Accelerated Dragon – neither came up. So much for preparation. On that note, let the countdown to Warwick 2015 begin!



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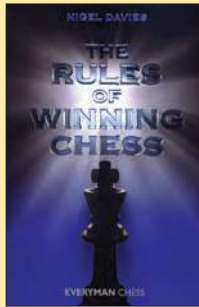
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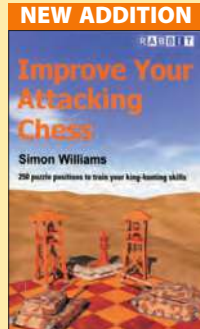
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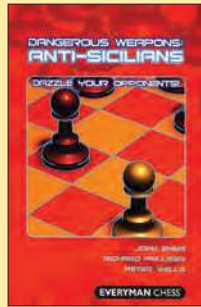
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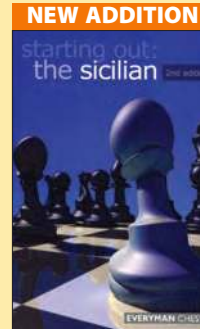
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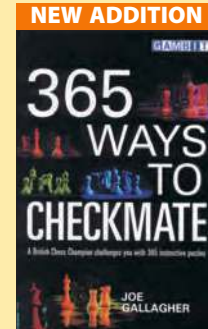
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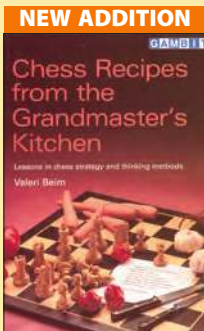
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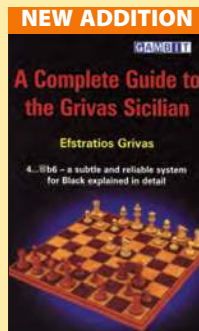
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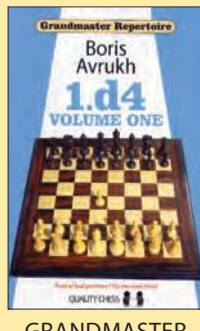
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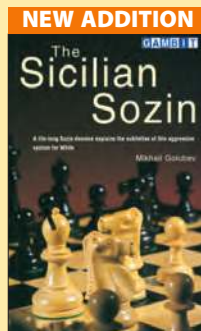
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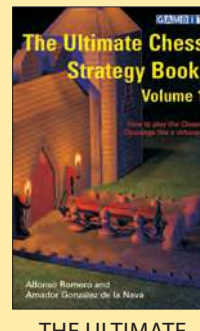
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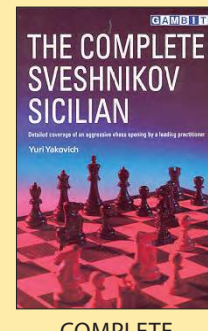
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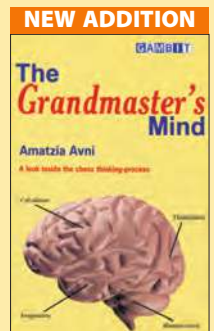
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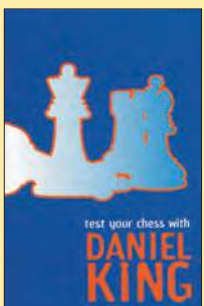
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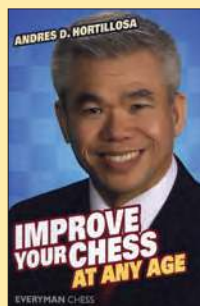
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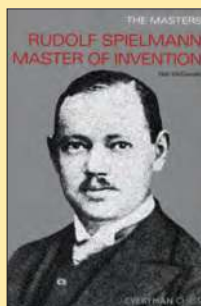
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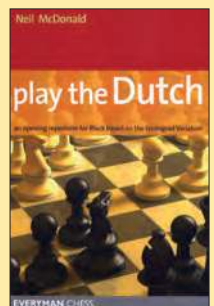
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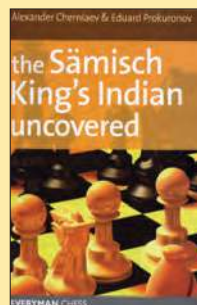
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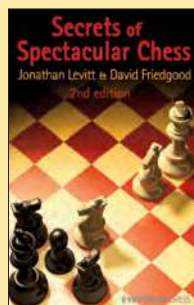
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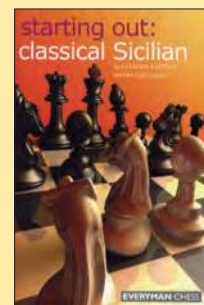
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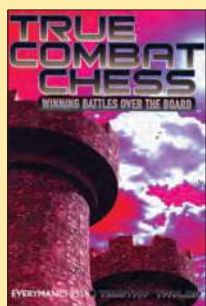
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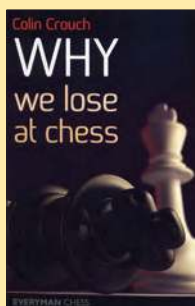
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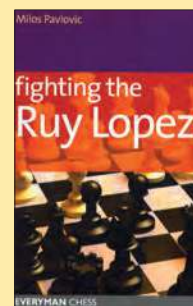
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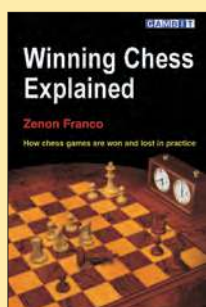
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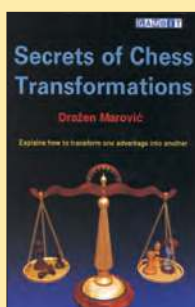
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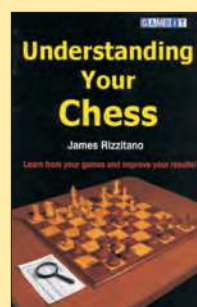
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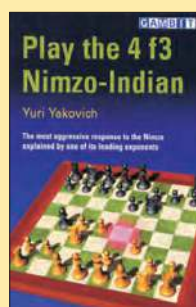
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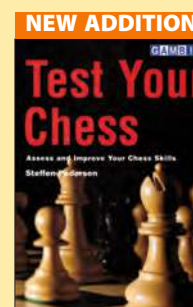
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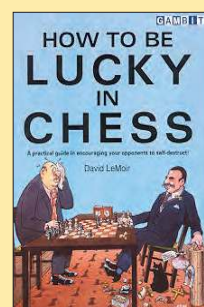
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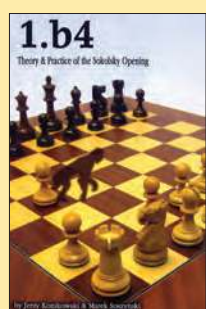
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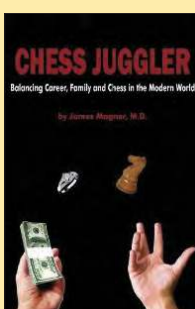
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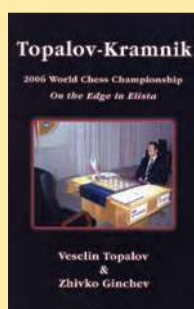
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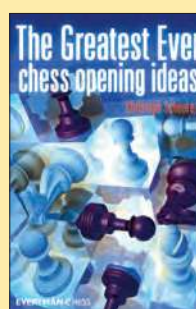
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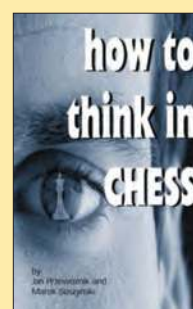
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Nikolay Mineev
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Reports from the 2014 Olympiad in Tromso - David Openshaw

The Olympiad starts today in Tromso, the major town in Northern Norway with a population of around 60,000. It is less than 2,000 km from the North Pole and it's still light here for 24 hours. As you would expect, the Olympiad is big news here and throughout Norway [see photos]. The Norwegian Government have spent around £9m to hold this event. The Opening Ceremony was shown live on TV. 174 Teams are competing in the Opens section and 137 teams in the Women's section. It's the fourth largest sporting event in the world [measured by the number of participating countries]. Round One starts today, and our Opens team play Wales, with our Women's team playing Malta.

Rounds 1 and 2

The event is an eleven round Swiss with each round over 4 boards. Most teams have five players of whom any four can play in a particular round. The pairings by team are available by 10 pm on the day before the match and the individual pairings are made known by 10 am on the day of the match. The event is based on Match Points. So if you win the 4 board match we get 2 points and if it's a 2-2 draw then both sides get 1 point.

Both our teams had good wins in the first round. In Round 1 our Opens team beat Wales 4-0. On board 1 Jones beat Jones or more precisely Gawain beat Richard. Nigel Short, David Howell and Matthew Sadler all won.

Our Women's team beat Malta 4-0 with wins for Sue Maroroa, Sabrina Chevannes, Akshaya Kalaiyalahan and Ann-Marie James.

In Round 2 our Opens team played Singapore – one of the few teams with a woman in their team. Gawain Jones and Nigel Short drew on the top two boards, David Howell beat the Women's International Master Qiayan Gong on board three and Matthew Sadler won on board 4.

Our Women's team played Bosnia and Herzegovina. We made a good start to the match and, after two hours play, looked to have a slight edge. After that however things did not go our way, and only Jovanka Houska on Board 1 scored for us with a draw giving a final score of 0.5-3.5 to Bosnia.

Today in the third round we play Germany in the Opens and our Women's team face the Dominican Republic.

Rounds 3 and 4

In the Open section three countries are on 100% after 4 rounds: Azerbaijan, Serbia and Bulgaria. In round 3 we drew 2-2 against Germany and in round 4 we beat Latvia 3-1 so we are in a group of 14 countries including Russia, China, Ukraine and the Netherlands with 3 wins and a draw (7 match points).

Our match against a similar rated German side was closely fought. It seemed appropriate that both Michael Adams and David Howell used the Berlin Defence as black to thwart their opponents and drew their games. Matthew Sadler won with a strongly played game eventually winning by trapping his opponent's Knight in the endgame. Gawain Jones gradually found his isolated queen's pawn caused too many problems and lost in a rook and pawn endgame.

In Round 4 against Latvia, Michael Adams had a very good win against Shirov. David Howell and Matthew Sadler both won well. Nigel Short got into difficulties early on but fought hard and near the end had a chance for perpetual check but eventually lost. Final score 3-1 to England.

Today we are drawn to play Vietnam in Round 5.

In the Women's section five teams have a 100% record after Round 4. The top two seeds China and Russia, Hungary, Iran and Indonesia. In Round 3 we beat the Dominican Republic 3.5 to 0.5 with wins for Jovanka Houska, Sue Maroroa and Sabrina Chevannes and a draw for Ann-Marie James.

In Round 4 we had a difficult day and went down 0.5-3.5 against Belarus. So after 4 rounds we have two wins and two losses (4 match points). Today we play Algeria.

Rounds 5 - 7

After 7 rounds Azerbaijan lead the Open Section with 13 match points (6 wins and one draw) and Russia lead the Women's section with a perfect 14 match points (7 wins).

In the Open Section we have 10 match points after a draw with Vietnam 2-2, a loss to Armenia 1.5 -2.5 and a win against Canada 3-1. The teams just behind the leaders Azerbaijan are Czech Republic (who beat Russia 3-1) in round 7, Bulgaria and Romania. Russia are on the same points as us.

Against Vietnam in Round 5 Michael Adams won after being slightly worse when he saw a tactical threat which his opponent did not deal with. David Howell and Matthew Sadler drew. But Gawain Jones lost after being was slightly better early on.

Result England 2 Vietnam 2.

In round 6 we played the very strong Armenian side and current holders. Michael Adams drew with Aronian, and Matthew Sadler drew. But Nigel Short had a poor position early on. On board two Gawain Jones went in for complications to try to create the winning chances we needed to draw the match. He had an advantage of Queen against Rook and Knight but with few pawns it was not easy to find any kind of winning plan and the rook and knight together covered the key squares. The game reached completely drawn position despite the computer evaluation of +2!

Result England 1.5 Armenia 2.5.

In round 7 we played Canada and won 3-1. Adams drew and Jones won with the other two games continuing with uncertain outcomes. Howell was definitely worse at one stage, Sadler drew and Howell fought back to win. You can see the analysis of the final few moves on

<http://en.chessbase.com/post/tromso-07-russia-wins-russia-falls>

Final score England 3 Canada 1

In the Women's section Russia lead after beating China in round 7 when both had 100% records. World Champion Hou Yifan (China) lost and Russia won the match 3-1. Incidentally it was a bad round for both World Champions as Magnus Carlsen also lost (to Naiditsch of Germany). So Russia lead with 14 points followed by China and Hungary 12 points.

Our results have been mixed with a draw against Algeria, a win against Peru 3-1 and a loss against Australia 1.5-2.5.

Sabrina Chevannes and Ann-Marie James won against Peru and Sue Maroroa had a good quick win against Australia.

This leaves us in mid table with 3 wins 3 losses and a draw.

Round 8

In the Open section China beat Azerbaijan 3-1 to take sole lead with 14 match points. France, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Czech Republic and Romania are all one point behind on 13 match points. We missed a good opportunity to join teams on 12 match points when we lost to Serbia 1-3. Russia, the pre-tournament favourites, are on 11 points after a 2-2 with Spain in which Kramnik lost.

David Howell and Matthew Sadler both lost, and we were left to fight for a draw. Michael Adams won his game but despite pushing for the equalising point Gawain Jones also lost. We therefore remain on 10 match points.

In the women's section Russia continued their unbeaten record with a 3.5-0.5 win against Hungary. China also won but the two point difference at the top remains with Russia on 16 points.

We had a good win against Jordan 2.5-1.5 with wins from Jovanka Houska and Akshaya Kalaiyalahan. Sue Maroroa drew on board 2 and Sabrina Chevannes lost. We now have 9 match points.

Rounds 9 & 10

In the Open Section, with one round to go, China leads by one point with Hungary in second place. In third place, two points behind, are eight teams, including Russia, USA, France and Ukraine. We are on 14 points, three behind China.

In rounds 9 and 10 we scored two good wins 3-1 against Denmark and 3-1 against Sweden. David Howell had wins in both matches. In the final round we play Cuba.

In the Women's section Russia failed to win for the first time going down to Ukraine. They still lead

with 18 points, one ahead of China and Ukraine. We have 11 points. In rounds 9 and 10 we had two draws against Sweden and Brazil, with Ann-Marie James winning in both matches. In the final round we play Wales.

Final Round

The final round of the Olympiad was overshadowed by the deaths on the final day of two players. I'm sure all chess players around the world will join in sending condolences to the families and friends of Kurt Meier (Seychelles) and Alisher Anarkulov (Uzbekistan).

Kurt Meier collapsed at the board late on in the round after most games had finished and died later. Alisher Anarkulov was found in the evening in his hotel room. Both were said by the organisers to have died from natural causes.

In the Open Section China continued to dominate beating Poland 3-1 to take the gold medal. They won 8 and drew 3 of their 11 matches to give them a final result of 19 match points. Of the 44 individual matches they played they lost only one – a remarkable record. 20 year old GM Yu Yangyi on board 3 had great performance with 9.5 out of 11 and a performance of 2912.

Hungary drew with second seeds Ukraine and that proved enough for them to take the silver medal on tie break with 17 match points. Judit Polgar who announced her retirement from professional chess scored 4.5 out of 6.

India (without Anand) were the surprise winners of the bronze medal. They beat Uzbekistan 3.5-0.5 in the final round.

Our win in round 10 against Sweden had put us in a good position for a high placing if we could beat Cuba in the last round. It proved a very close match which we narrowly lost 1.5 -2.5. We thus finished on 14 match points.

On an individual basis many congratulations to Michael Adams who won a silver medal in the Best Board 1 performance with a rating of 2839. Topalov (Bulgaria) won the gold and Anish Giri (Netherlands) won the bronze, all ahead of Carlsen, Aronian and Kramnik. Also many congratulations to David Howell for his 2709 performance.

In the Women's section Russia dominated the event and a last round win against Bulgaria gave them 20 match points. They clearly benefitted from the late transfer of federation of board 1 Kateryna Lagno previously of the Ukraine Federation for fees of 25,000 Euros.

China and Ukraine both had 18 match points with China winning the silver medal on tie break.

We finished strongly winning 3-1 against Wales with wins for Jovanka Houska and Sabrina Chevannes and draws for Akshaya Kalaiyalahan and Ann-Marie James. This gave us 13 match points with 5 wins 3 draws and 3 losses.

Detailed final rankings, scores and individual performances can be viewed at <http://www.chess-results.com/tnr140380.aspx?lan=-1> and the games can be seen on the Tromsø Olympiad website at <https://chess24.com/en/olympiad2014>



JUNIOR CHESS



Sharon Daniel - congratulations

Congratulations to eleven-year-old Sharon Daniel of Bolton Girls' School who won the 2014 Child Genius show broadcast on Channel 4. Sharon was the British Under 11 Girls Chess Champion in 2013 and represented England at the 2013 World Youth in the United Arab Emirates. She is also part of the Manchester A team in the Junior Four Nations Chess League.



Congratulations - Louise Head

Congratulations to Louise Head who took the silver medal, finishing as the second highest woman in the 2014 European Amateur in Eretria, Greece. She also won a cash prize and has been invited to the World Amateur Championships 2015 with free board and accommodation.

Glorney International - the final day

- from Chris Howell

Incongruous as it seems to write of English triumphs over the Scots (not to mention the Welsh and Irish) in the shadow of the magnificent William Wallace Memorial close to Bannockburn, this was another excellent day for the English chess teams in Stirling. England retained the Glorney Cup with a round to spare with a 4.5-0.5 morning win over the Irish, and the England Girls built a clear lead in the Gilbert Cup with an excellent 3-0 win. The Robertson team were a little more restrained with a 3.5-2.5 win over the Irish, but maybe performance of the day was from the under-pressure Stokes team who reversed their opening morning 4.5-1.5 loss to the Irish U12s with 3 great wins on the top 3 boards including an extraordinary winning positional whole-rook sacrifice from board 2 James Moreby against his 1884-rated opponent who had 4/4 to that point. A very determined performance from the bottom 3 boards too, with 3 solid draws against their strong Irish opposite numbers who had been on fire up to that point! Alex Golding has been imperious on top board for the Stokes team and took his score to 5/5, as did William Claridge-Hansen on board 2 in the Glorney.

So England went into the 4 afternoon matches against the Welsh as strong favourites to win all 3 remaining trophies, and duly swept to victory in all three, although the Welsh girls put up particularly stiff resistance in the Gilbert. Alex and William completed their 6/6 scores, but every member of each team made a significant contribution to the overall English success. A sincere thank you to Debbie Taylor who was a fantastic Head of Delegation and to coaches Mark Hebden, Adam Hunt and Loz Cooper for their brilliant support for the teams.

Glorney

1 Taylor, Adam C	0	0	1	1	1	1	4	Board Prize
2 Claridge-Hansen, William	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	
3 Willson, Ollie	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0.5	1	3	
4 Fraser, John	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	1	0.5	4	
5 Sutton, Daniel	0.5	1	1	1	1	1	5.5	
	3	3	4	3.5	4.5	4.5	22.5	1st

Gilbert/Faber

1 Head, Louise	0.5	1	1	1	1	0.5	5	Board Prize
2 Wei, Naomi	0	0.5	0.5	0.5	1	1	3.5	

3 Wen, Jessica	0.5	1	1	1	1	0	4.5	
	1	2.5	2.5	2.5	3	1.5	13	1st

Robinson

1 Higgs, Joshua	1	1	1	0	1	1	5	
2 Grieve, Harry	1	0	1	0	0.5	1	3.5	
3 Huang, Dion	0	0	1	1	1	1	4	
4 Dalton, Joseph	1	1	1	0.5	0.5	1	5	
5 Golding, James	1	1	1	1	0.5	1	5.5	Board Prize
6 Sheerin, Alex	0	1	1	0.5	0	1	3.5	
	4	4	6	3	3.5	6	26.5	1st

Stokes

1 Golding, Alex	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	Board Prize
2 Moreby, James	0	1	1	1	1	1	5	
3 Willow, Jonah	0.5	1	1	1	1	1	5.5	
4 Ahluwalia, Amardip	0	1	1	1	0.5	0.5	4	
5 Davies, Alexander	0	1	1	1	0.5	1	4.5	
6 Howell, Oliver	0	1	1	1	0.5	1	4.5	
	1.5	6	6	6	4.5	5.5	29.5	1st

Total	9.5	15.5	18.5	15	15.5	17.5	91.5	
Percentage Score	48%	78%	93%	75%	78%	88%	76%	



Godalming Chess Club Open Junior Tournament 30th August

Almost ninety players from all over the south of England travelled to Aldro School in Shackleford to play in this annual tournament. The standard of play was outstanding with many of the players having played in tournaments during the summer. There were 5 age group sections. Godalming club members were on hand to supervise the games and parents from Aldro School provided refreshments.

Under 18 (7 players)

1st= Gwilym Price (Winchester College) and Harry Grieve (Yateley Manor)

3rd= Alex Golding (Downsend) and Daniel D'Souza-Eva (Magdalen College School)

Under 13 section (15 players)

1st Anshu Ramaiya (Kings College)

2nd= Paul Northcott (Bourne)

2nd= James Golding (RGS Guildford)

Under 11 section (25 players)

1st Rajiev Ratnesan

2nd= Batuhan Kaya (St Andrews)

2nd= William Slatter (Magdalen Coll)

Under 10 section (19 players)

1st William Golding (Downsend)

2nd= Kenneth Greenshields (Stoberry Park)

2nd= Robert Akeya Price

Under 9 section (21 players)

1st Oliver White (Ogbourne St G)

2nd = Hugo Rayner (William Fletcher)

2nd= Giulio Sahinoz (Friends)

Many thanks to Pat Armstrong from Wey Valley Chess for presenting the prizes. Godalming will be fielding 4 teams in the Borders League this year and any adults or juniors wishing to play for one of the teams or join the club, should contact David Archer at archerd@aldro.org

- D.J. Archer

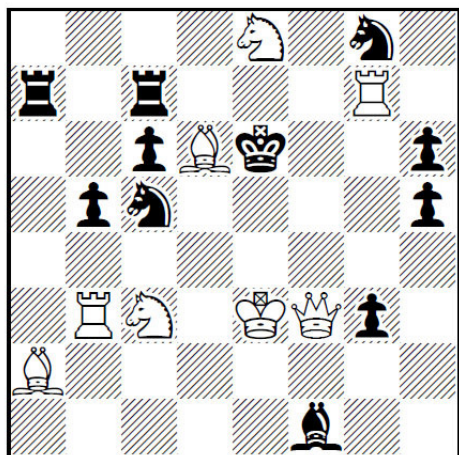


The BATSFORD CHESS Competition

Congratulations to the last issue's winner - **Barry Sandercock of Buckinghamshire!**

The solution was ---1. Rh1

The next problem ---



Brian Harley
The Field, 1913

White to play and mate in 2 --

Please send your answer (just the first move is sufficient) on a postcard or by email to the ECF Office, The Watch Oak, Chain Lane, Battle, East Sussex TN33 0YD

Email: office@englishchess.org.uk

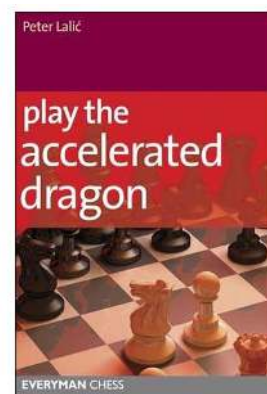
The first correct entry drawn on 10th November 2014 will win a Batsford voucher for any book on their current list!

BOOK REVIEW - Gary Lane

Play the Accelerated Dragon by Peter Lalić

Published by Everyman Chess - 176 pages, £15.99

The idea of learning the Sicilian sounds quite a task considering the number of games played by masters so English author Lalić provides an easy to learn repertoire for the player of the Black pieces. The Accelerated Dragon (1e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 g6 5 Nc3 Bg7) has been popular with top players for some time, so it has that merit of approval but crucially this entertaining book provides fifty games to provide model examples of how to handle the common positions arising from the opening. The book is perfectly suited to improving players or those who want to have a choice of a different opening because it assumes you have little knowledge of the line and sets about providing useful pointers on how to learn about the new set-up and standard positional ideas. Lalić provides a friendly, chatty style to guide the reader although sometimes I wonder if everyone will welcome such a matey conversation. For example: 'The isolated c-pawn certainly isn't pretty, but it does a useful job- a bit like the maid in the sitcom Two and a Half Men.' I know that a decade ago an editor would have crossed out a popular culture reference but now it is all the rage and in particular the successful American chess author Cyrus Lakdawala often uses them. The author plays the opening himself so his enthusiasm is obvious and his own games are also a useful guide on what to expect White to do at the next weekend tournament. There are a lot of tricks and traps associated with the opening and every possible mistake by White is gleefully demonstrated. This is what you really want when starting out with an opening as it could be a shortcut to success and Lalić does a good job of pointing out Black to play and win scenarios. Anyone keen to understand the Accelerated Dragon will be well rewarded.



ECF TOURNAMENT CALENDAR

LEGEND

- # British Championships qualifying tournament
- @ FIDE rated
- * ECF Grand Prix
- ECF graded event
- Y Youth event (junior only)
- + English Youth Grand Prix

-19-21 Sep - Isle of Man Chess Congress, Cherry Orchard Aparthotel, Bridson Street, Port Erin, Isle Of Man IM9 6AN Contact: Alan Robertson Email: alanbruce@manx.net Website:

<http://www.iomchess.com/congress2014.html> - starts 6:45PM ends 11:45PM. 5 rounds Swiss

-19-21 Sep - Bradford Chess Congress, Latvian Welfare Club, Clifton Villas, Manningham, Bradford BD8 7BY Contact: Mr S. Swire Email: bradfordchess@blueyonder.co.uk Website: <http://www.bradfordchess.co.uk/> - OPEN; MAJOR U170; MINOR U135

-* 20 Sep - Streatham Library Rapidplay 2, Mark Bennett Streatham Centre, Streatham Library, 63 Streatham High Road SW6 1PN Contact: Angus French Email: angusmisc@angusf.myzen.co.uk Website: <https://sites.google.com/site/streathamrapid/> - starts 10:30AM ends 6:30PM. Six-round Swiss rapidplay with Open and U140 sections at the newly-refurbished Streatham Library

-* 20 Sep - 25th Anniversary John R W Harradence Memorial Tournament, Langley Hall, St.Nicholas Church Centre, Ettrick Street, Poplar, London E14 0QD Contact: Norman Went Email DocklandsChess@yahoo.co.uk Website www.spanglefish.com/docklandschessclub - starts 10:30AM ends 6:00PM. 6 round Swiss pairing rapid-play tournament with two sections: Minor Under130 and Major/Open

-Y 21 Sep - 47th Barnet Knights London Junior Qualifier, Garden Suburb School, Childs Way, London NW1 6XU Contact: Rob Willmoth Email: robwillmoth@hotmail.co.uk Website: <http://www.barnetknights.com> - 10:30AM ends 5:30PM. This is a London Junior Finals qualification event. The tournament is split into age categories of U8, U10 & U12. The tournament last six rounds. Each round will have 30 mins for each player on the clock.

-#@ 26-28 Sep - 50th Northumberland Congress, The Parks Leisure Centre, Howdon Road, Royal Quays, North Shields, North Tyneside NE29 6TL Contact: Lara Barnes IA, David Watson Email: davidmwatson@blueyonder.co.uk - starts 7:00PM. The Tyne & Wear Open FIDE RATED. Incorporating the 1st NCCU Senior Championship (The John Littlewood Trophy) Prizes: £500, £250, £100 + 2 grading prizes. 3 Other sections including a 'Foundation' event - 5 double rounds (10 graded games)

-* 26-28 Sep - Castle Chess 6th Portsmouth Congress, The Lysses House Hotel, 51 High Street, Fareham, Hampshire PO16 7BQ Contact: Tony Corfe Email: enquiries@castlechess.co.uk Website: <http://www.castlechess.co.uk> - starts 10:00AM ends 10:30PM. 6 round event, Open including Premier U180, Major U160 including Intermediate U140, Minor U120 including Challengers U100

-* 27 Sep - 1st Bude Rapidplay Chess Congress, Bude New Life Centre, 35 The Strand, Bude, Cornwall EX23 8RA Contact: John & Chris Constable Email: chess@budechess.co.uk Website: <http://www.budechess.co.uk> - starts 10:15AM ends 6:00PM. A 6 round Swiss, 30 mins each, Open and U140 sections. Round 1 of the Cornwall CCA Grand Prix. You may pay by Paypal at <http://www.budechess.co.uk>

-*@ 27 Sep - CCF FIDE Rapid Play, 84-90 Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 3BA Contact: CCF Email chess@ccfworld.com Website www.ccfworld.com/Chess/Adult%20Competitions/Rapidplay_Autumn.html - starts 10:15AM ends 6:30PM. FIDE Open Section + FIDE U1600 (ECF U120) section - 7 round events

-*@ 27 Sep - London Rapidplay, Millennium Hall, Parish Centre, St. Mary's Church, Osterley Road, Isleworth T W7 4PW Contact: Sainbayar Tserendorj Email: londonrapidplay@gmail.com Website: <http://www.londonrapidplay.co.uk> - starts 1:30pm ends 5:30pm. 6 round Swiss, 15 mins each, FIDE rated sections: Open, U2000/U170, U1700/U130, prize fund £450

-*Y+ 27 Sep - Get Your First Chess Grade, Millennium Hall, Parish Centre, St. Mary's Church, Osterley Road, Isleworth T W7 4PW Contact: Amu Sainbayar Email: londonrapidplay@gmail.com Website: <http://www.londonrapidplay.co.uk> - starts 10.00am ends 5.10pm. 6 round Swiss, sections: U7, U8, U9, U10, U11 & U14. Players graded under 80 ECF. Winner will receive a trophy in each age category, Best Girl medal in each section. Special prize for players scoring 4.5 or more

- 28 Sep - Cambridgeshire Rapidplay, Whittlesford Memorial Hall, Mill Lane, Whittlesford, Cambridge CB22 7PN Contact: Paul Kemp Email: paulkemp64@gmail.com - starts 10:00AM ends 5:30PM. Three Rapidplay tournaments - Open, Under 160 grade and Under 120. Five rounds, £730 prize fund

-Y 28 Sep - NYCA Under 18 (teams of 8) and Under 14 (teams of 12), Malcolm Arnold Academy, Trinity Avenue, Northampton NN2 6JW Contact: Kevin Staveley Email: kevin.staveley@btinternet.com

@ 2 Oct - Hendon 'First Thursday' Blitz, Golders Green Unitarians Church, 31 Hoop Lane, London NW11 8BS Contact: Adam Raoof Email: adamraoof@gmail.com Website: www.hendonchessclub.com - Swiss 6 rounds Open

- 3-5 Oct - 51st Hull Chess Congress, Endsleigh Centre, 481 Beverley Road, Hull HU6 7LH Contact: Steve King Email: president@hullchess.com Website: <http://www.hullchess.com> - starts 12:00PM ends 12:00PM - 1st prize all sections £450, 2nd prize £250, 3rd prize £150 2x£50 grading prizes

-Y+ 4-5 Oct - Junior 4NCL, Puma Daventry Court Hotel Contact: Mike Truran Tel: 01993 708645 Email: mike@truranfamily.co.uk

-@ 4-5 Oct - 4NCL Rapidplay, Daventry Court Hotel Contact: Mike Truran Tel: 01993 708645 Email: mike@truranfamily.co.uk

-*Y 5 Oct - Enfield Junior Chess Congress (JCC), Hazelwood Schools, Hazelwood Lane, Palmers Green N13 5HE Contact: Nathanael Lutton Email: chessorganiser@gmail.com - starts 9:30AM ends 5:30PM. An official London Junior Chess Championship qualifying event. Rapidplay with 20 minutes each plus 10 seconds added per move. Under 8, Under 10, Under 12, Under 14 and Under 18 Sections. Now in its eighth year

#@ 4-12 Oct - PokerStars Isle of Man International Masters, Villa Marina, Harris Promenade, Douglas, Isle of Man IM1 2HP Contact: Alan Ormsby Email: masters@iominternationalchess.com Website: <http://iominternationalchess.com> - starts 1:30PM ends 9:00PM. Open tournament, 9 round Swiss. £8,000 prize money. 1st £6,000; 2nd £3,000; 3rd £2,000; 4th £1,500; 5th £1,000; 6th £700. Ladies' prizes: 1st £2,000; 2nd £1,000. Rating prizes £800 - see website for details.

- 6 Oct-14 Apr - 2014/2015 Wiltshire Chess Championship, Brown Jack, 1 Prior Hill, Wroughton, Wiltshire - North / West Wiltshire Conservative Club, Lovemead House, 25 Roundstone Street, Trowbridge, Wiltshire - South Contact: Tony Ransom Email: chesssalsa@aol.com - starts 7:30PM ends 10:30PM. 35 moves in 1 hours + 15 minutes quickplay finish. Entry fee is £12 adults / £6 juniors

- 6-12 Oct - PokerStars Isle of Man International Chess Tournament - Major, Villa Marina, Harris Promenade, Douglas, Isle of Man IM1 2HP Contact: Brian Woodard Email: major@iominternationalchess.com Website: <http://iominternationalchess.com> - starts 1:30PM ends 8:00PM. 7 round Swiss, open to players with ECF grade of 185 and below. £1,500 prize money. 1st £600; 2nd £400; 3rd £200. Grading prizes £300 - see website for details. Entry fee £36. Deduct £6 if at least ECF Silver member.

- 6-12 Oct - PokerStars Isle of Man International Chess Tournament - Minor, Villa Marina, Harris Promenade, Douglas, Isle of Man IM1 2HP Contact: Brian Woodard Email: minor@iominternationalchess.com Website: <http://iominternationalchess.com> - starts 1:30PM ends 8:00PM. 7 round Swiss, open to players with ECF grade of 140 and below. £1,500 prize money. 1st £600; 2nd £400; 3rd £200. Grading prizes £300 - see website for details. Entry fee £36. Deduct £6 if at least ECF Silver member.

@ 11 Oct - Golders Green Rapidplay Congress, Golders Green Church Hall, West Heath Drive, London NW11 7QG Contact: Adam Raoof Email: adamraoof@gmail.com Website: www.goldersgreengreenchess.blogspot.co.uk - 6 round Swiss open, £500.00 prize fund

-Y 11-12 Oct - English U11 Closed Championships, Nottingham Junior Boys High School, Waverley Mount off Waverley Street, Nottingham NG7 4ED Contact: David Levens Email: davidlevens@chesscoach.co.uk Website: <http://www.chesscoach.co.uk> - starts 9:30AM ends 4:00PM. An EPSCA qualifying event for the Under 11 team trial the following April

-* 12 Oct - 19th Birmingham League Rapidplay, Quinborne Community Centre, Ridgacre Road, Quinton, Birmingham B32 2TW Contact: Alex Holowczak Email: alexholowczak@gmail.com Website: <http://birminghamchess.org.uk/rapidplay/> - four ECF-graded sections: Open, Max 170, Max 140 and Max 110. £1000 prize fund. Online entry here: http://birminghamchess.org.uk/rapidplay/bdcl_rapid-

play_2014_entry.htm

-Y12 Oct -12th Chess Coaching Services Tournament and Training Day, John Keble Church , Church Close Edgware , Middlesex HA8 9NS Contact: Rob Willmoth Email: robwillmoth@hotmail.co.uk Website: <http://www.chesscoachingservices.co.uk> - starts 12:30PM ends 6:00PM. The only tournament in the UK that provides specific training and a graded tournament organised by Rob Willmoth and International Master Lorin D'Costa. The subjects being taught are displayed on the entry form beforehand, so you can decide if the training categories are suitable for your child. Children are split into groups according to ability and allocated a professional coach

-Y18 Oct - Sussex Junior Rapidplay, Worth School, Paddockhurst Road, Turners Hill, West Sussex RH10 4SD Contact: Sandra Manchester Email: entrymanager@sussexjuniorchess.org Website: <http://www.sussexjuniorchess.org> - starts 10:00AM. Rapidplay in 4 sections: U8, U10, U12, U18. 25 mins plus 5 sec increment. UCC qualifying event. Open to all aged U18 on 31st August 2014

-18-19 Oct - Second Witney Weekend Congress, Cokethorpe School, Witney, Oxfordshire OX29 7PU Contact: Mike Truran Email: mike@truranfamily.co.uk Website: www.witneychess.co.uk Sponsored by Cokethorpe School

19 Oct - 12th Chess Coaching Services Tournament and Training Day, John Keble Church, Church Close, Edgware HA8 9NS Contact: Rob Willmoth Email: robwillmoth@hotmail.co.uk Website: <http://chesscoachingservices.co.uk> - starts 12:30AM ends 6:00PM. The only junior event of its kind in the UK. Training split into 4 different ability groups. Training plan determined beforehand so that parents can see what their child will be taught before the event. This is supplemented by an ECF rapid-play tournament in between the 4 training sessions.

-19 Oct - 8th Wellington College Training Day, Wellington College, Crowthorne, Berkshire RG45 7PU Contact: Nick Pert Email: nickpert@hotmail.com GRANDMASTER TRAINING in groups for players of all levels. Starts 10.00am ends 4.00pm. Hot lunches can be ordered in advance

-Y19 Oct - Barnet Junior Chess Autumn Tournament, Highgate Junior School, Bishopswood Road, London N6 4PL Contact: Tony Niccoli Email tonyln@yahoo.com Website <http://www.barnetjuniorchess.com> - starts 9:00AM ends 6:00PM. Junior only rapidplay event. Age groups Under 8, U10, U12 U14 and U18. 6 rounds, 30 mins each. Entries capped at 200 so please apply early. A qualifier for the UCC finals.

#@19-25 Oct - 40th Guernsey International Chess Festival, The Peninsula Hotel, Les Dicqs, Vale, Guernsey GY6 8JP Contact: Fred Hamperl Email: hamperlfred@hotmail.com Website: <http://www.guernseychessclub.org.gg/> - starts 2:00PM ends 2:00PM. The venue remains at the Peninsula Hotel on Guernsey's sandy west coast. Subsidised social events will be organised during the tournament week.

-# 24-26 Oct - 38th Scarborough Chess Congress, The Ocean Room, Spa Complex, Scarborough, North Yorkshire YO11 2HD Contact: Lara Barnes Email: scarboroughchess@gmail.com Website: <http://www.scarboroughchesscongress.org.uk> - starts 7:00PM ends 6:15PM. A five round Swiss tournament with five sections and over £5500 prize money. Hot and cold food & drinks available at the venue. Contact: Maggie Butterworth 01709 889854 (before 9pm). Online entries now accepted at the congress web site

- 24-26 Oct - Dorset Open Chess Congress, Elstead Hotel, 12-14 Knyveton Road, Bournemouth BH1 3QP Contact: Ian Clark - starts 7:00PM. 4 sections

- 25 Oct - Mind Sports International Rapidplay Grand Prix, London Contact: Adam Raoof Email: adam-raoof@gmail.com Website: www.mindsportsacademy.com/chess Swiss 6 rounds, open to all, total prize fund £300

-* 25 Oct - Chipping Sodbury Rapidplay, The Old Grammar School, Broad St, Chipping Sodbury BS37 6AD Contact: Graham Mill-Wilson Email: tugmw@blueyonder.co.uk - starts 10:30AM ends 5:50PM. 6 round rapidplay with 25 mins. on the clock. 3 sections - Open, Major (U155), Minor (U125)

-*# 25-26 Oct - 32nd Bury St Edmunds Congress, The Apex, Charter Square, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 3FD Contact: Bob Jones Email: bjoneschess@btinternet.com Website: <http://www.bsecongress.org.uk> - starts 9:30 ends 6:00PM. A five-round Swiss Tournament with Open, Major (U170), Intermediate (U145) and Minor (U120) sections. Free entry for GMs and IMs. Prize fund in excess of £2,000. This is organiser Bob Jones' 16th and final Bury St Edmunds Congress

-@1 Nov - 2nd Muswell Hill Rapidplay, The Clissold Arms, 105 Fortis Green, East Finchley, London N2 9HR Contact: Adam Raoof Email adamraoof@gmail.com Website

www.muswellhillchess.blogspot.co.uk/ - Swiss 6 rounds Open/Major U160/Amateur U120 Total prize fund: £500

-*@ 1 Nov - London Rapidplay, Millennium Hall, Parish Centre, St. Mary's Church, Osterley Road, Isleworth T W7 4PW Contact: Sainbayar Tserendorj Email: londonrapidplay@gmail.com Website: <http://www.londonrapidplay.co.uk> - starts 10:00am ends 5:10pm. 6 round Swiss, FIDE rated sections: Open, U2000/U170, U1700/U130, prize fund £450

-*Y+1 Nov - Get Your First Chess Grade, Millennium Hall, Parish Centre, St. Mary's Church, Osterley Road, Isleworth T W7 4PW Contact: Amu Sainbayar Email: londonrapidplay@gmail.com Website: <http://www.londonrapidplay.co.uk> - starts 10.00am ends 5:10pm. 6 round Swiss, sections: U7, U8, U9, U10, U11 & U14. Players graded under 80 ECF. Winner will receive a trophy in each age category, Best Girl medal in each section. Special prize for players scoring 4.5 or more

-*1-2 Nov - British Rapidplay Chess 2014, Leeds Metropolitan University, LS6 3DP Contact: Brent Kitson Email: kitson453@btinternet.com Website: <http://british-rapidplay.org.uk> - starts 12:00 ends 9:00PM

-* 3-7 Nov - 15th Royal Beacon Seniors' Congress, Royal Beacon Hotel, The Beacon, Exmouth, Devon EX8 Contact: R. H. Jones Email: jones_r53@sky.com Website: <http://keverelchess.com> - starts 1:00PM ends 7:00PM. 2 sections as follows: "Juniors" (50- 64); Seniors (65+). Age on 1st Nov. 2014. 40 moves in 2 hrs + 1 hr to finish per player.

@ 6 Nov - Hendon 'First Thursday' Blitz, Golders Green Unitarians Church, 31 Hoop Lane, London NW1 8BS Contact: Adam Raoof Email: adamraoof@gmail.com Website: www.hendonchessclub.com - Swiss 6 rounds Open

-* 7-9 Nov - Hampshire C A Congress, Eastleigh College, Cherbourg Road, Eastleigh SO50 5EJ Contact: Gillian Moore Email: gam2012@btinternet.com Website: <http://www.hampshirechess.co.uk> - starts 7:00PM ends 6:00PM. Open, Under 160, Under 125, 6 rounds

@ 8 Nov - Golders Green Rapidplay Congress, Golders Green Church Hall, West Heath Drive, London NW1 7QG Contact: Adam Raoof Email: adamraoof@gmail.com Website: www.goldersgreenchess.blogspot.co.uk - 6 round Swiss open, £500.00 prize fund

-* 8-9 Nov - Herts Chess Association 63rd Congress, County Suite County Hall, Hertford SG13 8DN Contact: Kidge Elder & Michael Platt Email: organiser@hertschesscongress.com Website: <http://www.hertschesscongress.com/> - starts 10:00AM ends 7:30PM. A very long standing four-tournament congress, Open; U170; U140 & U110. 5 rounds, prizes totalling £2000 including two grading prizes in each tournament

-Y 8th Nov - NYCA Under 16 (teams of 8) and Under 12 (teams of 12), Abraham Darby Academy, Ironbridge, Madeley, Telford, Shropshire TF7 5HX Contact: Kevin Staveley Email: kevin.staveley@btinternet.com

- 9 Nov - 33rd Bolton Rapidplay, Ukrainian Social Club, 99 Castle Street, Bolton BL2 1JP Contact: Rod Middleton Email: gmccacongrass@yahoo.co.uk Tel: 01204 383634 - starts 10:10AM ends 7:00PM. Open, Major and Knights sections

-*# 14-16 Nov - 48th Torbay Chess Congress, The Toorak Hotel, Chestnut Avenue, Torquay TQ2 5JS Contact: Ray Chubb Email: ray.chubb@care4free.net Website: <http://www.chessdevon.co.uk> - starts 7:00PM ends 8:00PM - graded tournaments for Major, Intermediate and Minor - along with the usual Open Tournament - book early to avoid disappointment.

-@ 15-16 Nov - 4NCL Rounds 1 and 2 / Weekend 1, Hinckley Island (Divisions 1 and 2), Daventry Court (Division 3 South), Redworth Hall (Division 3 North) Contact: Mike Truran Tel: 01993 708645 Email: mike@truranfamily.co.uk