

CHESS MOVES

THE NEWSLETTER of the ENGLISH CHESS FEDERATION | Jan/Feb 2013

4th London Chess Classic



Luke McShane enjoys the 4th London Chess Classic - pictures by John Upham

The 4th London Chess Classic - a report from John Philpott

The fourth London Chess Classic took place at Olympia from 1st to 10th December 2012, with Malcolm Pein heading the organising team as Tournament Director. The nine-player line up of the previous year was repeated. Current and past world champions Vishy Anand and Vladimir Kramnik were joined by Magnus Carlsen and Levon Aronian, currently the two current highest rated players in the world, Judith Polgar, the world's strongest ever women player who was making her first appearance and US star Hikaru Nakamura who has appeared in all four Classics. The home contingent included regulars Mickey Adams and Luke McShane, together with British Champion Gawain Jones who was making his first appearance, with Nigel Short opting to stand down and join the commentary team. Nigel also gave two simultaneous displays to raise funds for Chess in Schools and Communities.

The tournament was a triumph for Magnus Carlsen, winner also of the first and second Classics, who led throughout and finished with 18 points from his eight games (the scoring system of 3 points for a win was again adopted) and a tournament performance rating of 2991. As a result of his round 4 victory against Gawain Jones, Magnus reached the highest ever live rating of 2857.4, but Gawain did not make it at all easy.

Carlsen, Magnus (2848) - Jones, Gawain (2644) [B53]

4th London Chess Classic London, 04.12.2012

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Qxd4 a6 5.h3 Nc6 6.Qe3 g6 7.c4 Bg7 8.Be2 Nf6 9.Nc3 0-0 10.0-0 Nd7 11.Rb1 a5 12.b3 Nc5 13.Bb2 f5 14.exf5 Bxf5 15.Rbd1 a4 16.Ba3 Qa5 17.Nb5 axb3 18.axb3 Qxa3 19.Nxa3 Rxa3 20.Nd2 Bd4 21.Qg3 Be5 22.f4 Bf6 23.Bg4 Nd4 24.Kh1 Bc2 25.Rde1 Kh8 26.Re3 h5 27.b4 h4 28.Qf2 Nd3 29.Qg1 Nf5 30.Bxf5 gxf5 31.Nf3 Rc3 32.c5 Bb3 33.Ne1 Bd4 34.Nxd3 dxc5 35.Qf2 Rf7 36.Rc1 cxb4 37.Rxc3 bxc3 38.Qe1 1-0

Vladimir Kramnik, who had won the 3rd Classic, also went through unbeaten to finish a clear second on 16 points.

Kramnik, Vladimir (2795) - McShane, Luke (2713) [D15]

4th London Chess Classic London, 06.12.2012

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1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 a6 5.g3 dxc4 6.a4 e6 7.Bg2 c5 8.0-0 cxd4 9.Nxd4 Nbd7 10.Nc2 Qc7 11.Bf4 e5 12.Bd2 Nc5 13.Bg5 Be6 14.Bxf6 gxf6 15.Nd5 Qd8 16.Nce3 Nb3 17.a5 Rc8 18.Ra4 Nd4 19.Nb6 Rc7 20.Rxc4 Bxc4 21.Nexc4 Nb5 22.Qb1 Qd4 23.Rd1 Qc5 24.e3 Be7 25.Qf5 Kf8 26.Bd5 Kg7 27.Qg4+ Kh6 28.e4 Nd4 29.Ne3 f5 30.Qh3+ Kg7 31.Rxd4 exd4 32.Nxf5+ Kf8 33.Qh6+ Ke8 34.Bxf7+ Kd8 35.Qg7 Rf8 36.Nxd4 Rc6 37.Nxc6+ bxc6 38.Qg4 Kc7 39.Qd7+ Kb8 40.Qd2 Kc7 41.Qd7+ Kb8 42.Kg2 Bd6 43.b4 Qd4 44.Qxc6 Ka7 45.Kh3 Qd1 46.Nc8+ Rxc8 47.Qxc8 Qf1+ 48.Kg4 h5+ 49.Kxh5 1-0

Hikaru Nakamura played enterprising chess, taking third place ahead of Michael Adams on tie-break. He made a fast start to the event as Black in round 1 against Aronian.

Aronian, Levon (2815) - Nakamura, Hikaru (2760) [A30]

4th London Chess Classic London, 01.12.2012

1.c4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.g3 e5 6.Nb5 Bb4+ 7.Bd2 a6 8.N5c3 d5 9.cxd5 Nxd5 10.Bg2 Be6 11.0-0 Nb6 12.Be3 Nc4 13.Qc1 0-0 14.Rd1 Qc7 15.a3 Nxe3 16.Qxe3 Ba5 17.Nd2 Bb6 18.Qf3 Rad8 19.Na4 Ba7 20.Qc3 Rd4 21.Qc2 f5 22.e3 Rdd8 23.b4 e4 24.Nb3 Qf7 25.Nbc5 Bd5 26.Rd2 b6 27.Rxd5 Rxd5 28.Nxa6 Ne5 29.Rd1 Rfd8 30.Rxd5 Qxd5 31.Nb2 Qd2 32.Qc7 Ng4 0-1

Mickey Adams, who had endured a torrid time in 2011, had a much more successful event which could have been even better if he had not let his game slip against Carlsen in round 5. He capitalised on a mistake by the current world champion in round 6.

Anand, Viswanathan (2775) - Adams, Michael (2710) [A29]

4th London Chess Classic London, 07.12.2012

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.g3 g6 5.d4 exd4 6.Nxd4 Bg7 7.Bg2 0-0 8.0-0 Re8 9.Nc2 d6 10.Bd2 a6 11.Rc1 Ne5 12.b3 c6 13.Be3 Nfg4

14.Bd4 c5 15.Bxe5 Bxe5 16.Nd5 Rb8 17.h3 Nf6 18.Nce3 Nxd5 19.Nxd5 Qa5 20.Rc2 Bf5 21.Qd2 Qd8 22.Rcc1 b5 23.cxb5 axb5 24.Rfd1 h5 25.h4 Bg4 26.Ne3 Bd7 27.Bf3 Bd4 28.Nd5 b4 29.Rc4 Be5 30.Kg2 Ra8 31.Ne3 Ra7 32.Rcc1 Qe7 33.Nc4 Be6 34.Rc2 Bf5 35.e4 Be6 36.Nxe5 dxe5 37.Qe3 Ra5 38.Be2 Rd8 39.Rxd8+ Qxd8 40.Rxc5 Rxa2 41.Bc4 Qd1 42.Qh6 Bh3+ 0-1

Final crosstable

Nr.	Title	Name	Fed.	Rating
1	GM	Magnus Carlsen	NOR	2848
2	GM	Vladimir Kramnik	RUS	2795
3	GM	Hikaru Nakamura	USA	2760
4	GM	Michael Adams	ENG	2710
5	GM	Viswanathan Anand	IND	2775
6	GM	Levon Aronian	ARM	2815
7	GM	Judit Polgar	HUN	2705
8	GM	Luke McShane	ENG	2713
9	GM	Gawain Jones	ENG	2644

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	tot	TPR
1		1	1	3	1	3	3	3	3	18	2991
2	1		3	1	1	1	3	3	3	16	2939
3	1	0		1	1	3	3	3	1	13	2846
4	0	1	1		3	1	3	1	3	13	2852
5	1	1	1	0		1	1	1	3	9	2749
6	0	1	0	1	1		1	3	1	8	2701
7	0	0	0	0	1	1		3	1	6	2617
8	0	0	0	1	1	0	0		3	5	2564
9	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0		3	2514



Top row, left - Judit Polgar in the Commentary Room; top row, right - Levon Aronian; bottom row - Viswanathan Anand gets some advice regarding his first move [pictures by John Upham]

CHESS HOLIDAYS in the Lake District

A relaxed, informal 5-night holiday at this well-known Country House hotel, including a 7-round Swiss competition and tutorials on chess tactics. Suitable for the inexperienced as well as

local club players

Rothay Manor, Ambleside

Tel: 015394 33605

E-mail: hotel@rothaymanor.co.uk

Website: www.rothaymanor.co.uk/chess



ECF News

New International Director



At its Skype meeting on 20 November, the ECF Board appointed David Openshaw to the vacant position of International Director. You can read David's profile on the ECF website.

David can be contacted at director.international@englishchess.org.uk

The Board is grateful to Sean Hewitt for covering the International Director's responsibilities for the period since the AGM

Report on ECF Board Meeting 13/11/2012 and 20/11/2012

(Note - because of the length of the agenda the meeting started on 13/11/2012 and was adjourned. It continued on 20/11/2012)

The following directors and officers attended: Roger Edwards, Mike Gunn, Chris Mattos, Alex Holowczak, Phil Ehr (13/11/2012 only), Sean Hewitt, Nigel Short, John Philpott (part only) and Chris Majer. Lara Barnes was present for the item on the British Championships.

The following appointments were made:

Director of International Chess - David Openshaw

Grading Website Officer - Jon Griffith

Personnel Committee Member - Debbie Taylor

Junior Ratings Officer - FA Neville Belinfante

Manager of Coaches - David Levens

Manager, Qualified Coaches Implementation - David Eustace

Manager, Certificate of Merit - John Upham

Manager of School Chess - IM Andrew Martin

The budget and membership requirements for the British Championships were discussed. It was agreed that for this year there would be no play-off or tiebreak to determine the British Champion - if more than one player finishes on the highest score the title will be shared.

The 2011/2012 accounts are close to completion. A system of management accounts is being introduced so that all Directors will be better informed about ECF finances in the future.

It was agreed that ECF EGM scheduled for January or February 2013 will now not take place. Instead a BCF EGM is to be held with the purpose of

extending the BCF Permanent Invested Fund Trust (a separate statement will be issued to give the reasons for this decision).

The Board considered a report on the duties carried out and expenses claimed by our ex-President CJ de Mooi in Istanbul. In summary the Board agreed that CJ did not carry out all the duties that it would have expected him to. Further it disagreed with the decision of the previous Board in paying all the expenses he had claimed but could see no prospect of recovering any monies now (a more detailed statement will be issued on this decision.)

The Board agreed that in future a charge of £50 (including VAT) would be made to organisations who wish to advertise their events in the ECF calendar if they were not to be graded. No charge would be made in respect of events that are graded.

The Board agreed that the full minutes of Board meetings which had been placed on the website in error (and then removed) should be reinstated. In future we would publish full minutes and if the minutes contained items of a sensitive personal or commercial nature the relevant passages would be redacted.

Because of the continuing vacancies for Chief Executive and Director of Membership and Marketing, Mike Gunn would continue to cover the duties of the former post and Sean Hewitt would cover the duties of the latter.

Chess Endgame Study Circle

The Chess Endgame Study Circle has now been wound up. Endgame studies fall within the remit of the British Chess Problem Society, and anyone interested should contact the Society - www.theproblemist.org/

International Seniors Selection Committee

- from David Openshaw

Ray Edwards had decided to retire from the International Seniors Selection Committee and the Board thanks him for his work on this committee. Stewart Reuben, Chairman of the committee, and I agreed to ask Ken Norman to join the committee, and I'm pleased to say he has agreed.

LCC Open - Jovanka and Yang-Fan

Congratulations to Jovanka Houska and Yang-Fan Zhou on their joint third place finish in the London Classic FIDE Open. They both scored 7/9. Jovanka won five and drew four while Yang-Fan won seven and lost two - a terrific result from both. Full details can be seen on <http://www.londonchessclassic.com> - click on Pairings & Results or PGN/Replays for their games



[pictures courtesy of Ray Morris Hill - <http://raymorris-hill.smugmug.com/Sports/Chess>]

BCF Extraordinary Council Meeting

An Extraordinary Council Meeting of the BCF was held at the Daventry Court Hotel on Saturday 12 January 2013. Council approved two resolutions:

(1) The extension of the Permanent Invested Fund trust deed, which was due to expire in February 2013, by a period of fifteen months while further consideration is being given to charitable status and the potential splitting of the present ECF into two organisations.

(2) An amendment to the BCF Constitution to enable Council to take decisions by means of a written resolution. The ECF is already able to do this.

The Board would like to express its gratitude to those who made the effort to attend and enable a quorate meeting to take place, and thanks the 4NCL for organising the meeting room.



The English Chess Federation Certificate of Merit

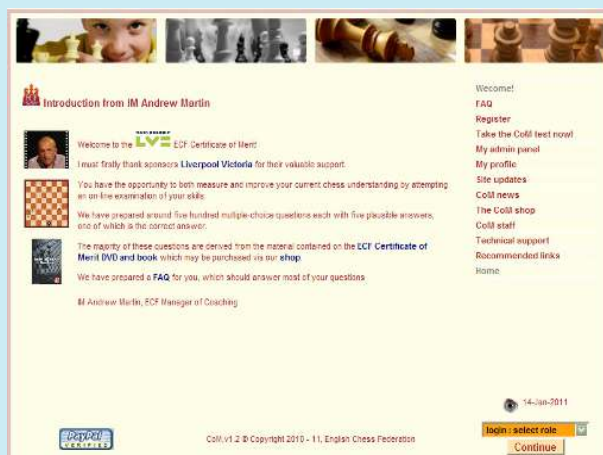
The Certificate of Merit (COM) is centred on a number of online tests, which enable chess students to measure their progress and to earn certificates and badges. The tests are taken entirely online, and payments for the credits can be made online or by cheque. Examinees can practice as many times as they wish before they take the CoM test. All questions are multiple-choice, and the result comes through automatically - the certificate is issued by email and the button badge for the particular level is sent out by the ECF Office shortly afterwards. Please see the shop on the ECF website www.englishchess.org.uk for details of purchase of the full package or individual items.

Each credit costs £6 or £150 for 30. Once a student has paid for a credit, he or she can then take the test as many times as necessary until a pass is achieved.

Students can track each question answered wrongly and find out the correct answer.

The answers now have an explanation included (where appropriate)

There is also a package available of many goodies - for details, go to www.certificateofmerit.org.uk
For further information contact the ECF Office:
01424 775222 / com@englishchess.org.uk
www.certificateofmerit.org.uk



Results Round-Up

13th Beacon Seniors Congress - prizewinners

Seniors Section

(all scores out of 5)

1st= R. J. Everson 165 Dartford 4; I. McAllan 175 Sidcup 4; K. I. Norman 189 Wokingham 4; N. F. Stephenson 190; Middlesbrough 4; M. J. Yeo 203 Ringwood 4 - £40 each

Grading Prizes 154 - 119

1st= I. S. Annetts 152 Tiverton 3½; J. G. Gorodi 148 Newton Abbot 3½; T. J. Holt 146 Birmingham 3½ - £20 each

U-119

1st= A. R. Fraser 113 Beckenham 2½; P. L. Gordon 116 Isle of Wight 2½ - £25 each

Slow Starter

1st W. H. Ingham 158 Teignmouth 3 £25

“Juniors” Section

1st= S. Bartlett 165 Newquay 3½; J. C. Wells 184 N. Norfolk 3½; D. Wise 188 Middlesbrough 3½ - £40 each

Grading Prize U-160

1st C. Sellwood 130 Camborne 3 £50

Bury (Greater Manchester) Rapidplay 2012

This year's Bury Rapidplay on Sunday 2nd December at Elton Vale Sports Club was a great success. Despite the recent weather problems and other conflicting congresses, around eighty competitors contested three separate sections over six rounds in pursuit of more than £900 in prize money.

The JonSimon Open Championship was won by Adam Ashton of Urmston & 3Cs (Oldham), with Simon Woodcock (Atherton) taking second. Grade prizes were won by Joe McPhillips (Bolton), Mitchell Burke and Jamie Horton (both of 3Cs).

The Major (under 170 grade) Section first prize was shared by Brendan Brown (Clitheroe), Dominic Rabbitte (Heywood) & Neil Coward (Blackpool) with six players including Bury's Mick Norris sharing grading prizes.

The Minor (under 130 grade) Section was won by Evan Wood (Chorlton), who beat Dennis Davies (Lytham) into second place after a dingdong bat-

tle, with Howard Hughes (Chorlton) and Jennifer Neil (Bolton) winning grading prizes.

The President's Junior Prize was won by Brandon Hall (3Cs), and the Ludwig Gruchlik trophy for the best score by a Bury member went to Mick Norris. Particular thanks go to sponsors JonSimon Estate Agents for their support of the event. Crosstables can be viewed here

- *Bernard Sharples, President, Bury Chess Club*

Shropshire Chess Congress report

Many thanks to everyone who took part in a very successful congress. We had 140 entrants with 136 starters, and the strongest Open in the county that anyone can remember.

The Shropshire Open went to form with GM Stephen Gordon taking 1st prize, although he had to work hard throughout the weekend including taking on two fellow 3Cs members. The final round saw him paired against IM John Cox, a regular at the Shropshire event, who came joint second with Iolo Jones. Gavyn Cooper won the inaugural Top Shropshire player in the Open award with an unbeaten 3.5 and tournament performance of 205. Congratulations to all the prize winners. Full results link on the website [www.shropshirechess.org]

OPEN

1st Stephen Gordon GM 4.5 | 2nd John Cox IM 4, Iolo Jones 4

Grading U185 Nick Walker 3.5

Grading U170 John Footner 3

Top Shropshire player in Open Gavyn Cooper 3.5

MAJOR

1st Nigel Holroyd 4, Ashwin Kalyana 4, Toby Neal 4

Grading U150 Graham Shepherd 3.5

Grading U135 Ivor Salter 3.5

MINOR

1st Matthew Best 4.5, George Viszokai 4.5

3rd Roger Brown 4, Jonathan Newey 4, Chris Paul 4, Francis Rooney 4, Adrian Zdanowski 4

Grading U115 Jonathan Newey 4

Francis Rooney 4

Grading U100 John Davies 3.5

Junior prize Jonathan Newey 4, Francis Rooney 4

- *Steve Rooney*

4NCL Weekend 2 - from Lawrence Cooper

The second weekend was split over three venues, Divisions One and Two took place at De Vere Venue Staverton Park in Daventry, Division Three South at Daventry Court Hotel and Division Three North at Redworth Hall Hotel in County Durham.

Division 1A

Wood Green had a surprisingly tough first weekend, their first team who are the current Champions had been held 4-4 by e2e4.org.uk without winning a game in round 2 whilst their second team had suffered two losses. The second weekend however was much more successful. Having said that, the first team had a narrow victory over Cambridge in round 3, David Howell and Jonathan Rowson won on the top two boards but a defeat for Robert Fontaine against Adam Eckersley-Waites and draws on the bottom three boards including Ketevan Arakhamia-Grant being held by England international Sabrina Chevannes on board eight made for a closer match than expected. They faced another tough match on Sunday; Barbican 1 are always tough opponents for even the strongest teams but wins for Jonathan Rowson with black against Jonathan Parker on board 2 and John Emms on board seven against Simon Knott saw them home. They ended the weekend on seven match points whilst Barbican are now a point behind.

Cheddleton also finished the weekend on six match points after two big victories including a 7-1 dismantling of a strong Guildford 2 team in round 3 and a 6.5-1.5 victory against e2e4.org.uk in round 4. Their round three winners included Jonathan Hawkins and Keith Arkell who ground down GM Alexander Cherniaev and IM Gediminas Sarakas while David Eggleston beat IM Nigel Povah. On Sunday they scored 4/4 with white in addition to three draws and a win for Stephen Burns-Mannion on board five.

The battle for the remaining qualifying place in Division 1A is wide open with Cambridge University well placed on four points but with Guildford 2 and e2e4.org.uk (both on 3) still to play. Sambuca Sharks secured their first victory by beating e2e4.org.uk 5.5-2.5 whilst BCM Dragons remain on one. One other point worth mentioning is that if e2e4.org.uk don't finish in the top four then their draw with Wood Green won't carry forward thus meaning Wood Green may have a one hundred per cent record in the

Championship Pool after round seven. This could leave Guildford 2 in the bizarre situation of not wanting to finish above e2e4 if these two teams end up in fourth and fifth.

Division 1B

Guildford 1 lost their one hundred per cent record (despite fielding six grandmasters and two international masters) to Wood Green 2 who secured a 4-4 draw when Richard Pert was able to hold a difficult ending against IM Rui Gao. Malcolm Pein's win against IM Jose Cuenca Jimenez had cancelled out Nigel Short's victory on top board against Wood Green captain Andrew Greet. Sarah Hegarty had a fine result on board eight, drawing with grandmaster Tony Kosten. If Wood Green 2 are able to qualify for the Championship Pool then this result will carry forward and could impact on the destination of the league. Guildford did at least power to a 6-2 victory against Jutes of Kent on Sunday, although Tony Kosten was defeated by one of England's highest rated juniors, Ezra Kirk.

White Rose also lost their one hundred per cent record with a surprise 2.5-5.5 loss to Barbican 2 but their 5-3 victory against Blackthorn Russia means they remain very likely to qualify for the Championship Pool. Barbican 2 also beat South Wales Dragons and are now well placed to qualify with five match points. Highlights of their weekend included a win with black for Terry Chapman against Richard Palliser and Natasha Regan over Paul Townsend in the White Rose match and a win for Chris Dorrington against IM John Cooper in the SW match.

South Wales Dragons had an important victory against Blackthorne Russia to finish the weekend on four match points level with Jutes of Kent who had a somewhat eventful weekend losing their top board before the games had even started but they did manage a victory against Warwickshire Select which keeps their hopes of qualification and a potential European Club Cup place alive. Wood Green 2 have three points but having drawn with Guildford 1 they are likely to field very strong sides for their next three rounds to boost their first team's title chances. Warwickshire on 2 and Blackthorne Russia on 1 now face a difficult task to qualify and may have to settle for a relegation battle unless they can score heavily in the next three rounds.

Division 2A

Two teams had maximum points from the first weekend, Pandora's Box and Wessex. Pandora's had a convincing 7-1 victory against e2e4.org.uk 2 whilst Wessex defeated Poisoned Pawns 2 by 5.5-2.5 in round three. In round four Pandora's faced Oxford who are likely to be one of their main rivals for promotion. Despite fielding two IMs and outrating Oxford on six boards they suffered a 5.5-2.5 defeat with Oxford winning the top four boards! FM David Zakarian rated 2374 beat IM Jerzy Slaby on board one and Matthew Rose beat IM Colin Crouch on board two. Wessex were beaten 5.5-2.5 by Rhyfelwyr Essyllwg 1 with IM Richard Jones amongst the winners for the Welsh team.

Pandora's, Oxford and Wessex top the table with six match points each, the former two also being level on game points. Anglian Avengers won both their matches to join Rhyfelwyr Essyllwg 1 on four match points whilst Spirit of Atticus, e2e4.org.uk and Poisoned Pawns all have two points.

Division 2B

Kings Head maintained their one hundred per cent record with 5-3 victories over North East England and Bristol. They seem to have a good blend of youth and experience with IM Andrew Whiteley and other experienced players on the high boards and two of our most promising juniors, Ravi Haria and Ananth Balaji playing lower down.

White Rose 2 remain well placed to join them in the Promotion Pool after victories over KJCA Kings and The ADs. 3Cs fielded Sophie Milliet on top board and had a convincing 6-2 win against Bristol followed by a 4.5-3.5 victory against North East England. Having had to drop out of the league some years ago it is good to see them working their way back up the divisions and they would seem to have the necessary strength to have a good chance of promotion this year.

Barbican Youth and The Ads finished the weekend on four points, Barbican had a narrow defeat to the ADs followed by a convincing victory over KJCA Kings whilst The ADs defeat to White Rose 2 leave their chances of making the promotion pool in the balance. Bristol 1 suffered defeats to Kings Head and 3Cs but remain in contention and with IMs Chris Beaumont and Jack Rudd in their team and their two rivals for fourth place still to play.

Sadly North East England and KJCA Kings have yet to score a match point and so are likely to need to win their next three chances to have any chance of reaching the promotion pool. Both teams were missing key players including their top board; David Walker and Victor Jones.

Division Three South

Anglian Avengers top the table with maximum match points. They beat FCA Solutions 1 (who fielded Tarun Malhotra on top board) 4.5-1.5 and Rhyfelwyr Essyllwg 2 5-1 with David LeMoir and Michael Cook both scoring 2/2. Oxford 2 and BCM Rhinos 2 are both on seven match points, Oxford had 4-2 victories against Celtic Tigers 1 and Guildford 3 whilst BCM recorded a 3-3 draw with Fermented Sharks and then beat Cambridge 4-2 including a win for Matthew Wadsworth on top board.

There are currently seven teams on six match points including Brown Jack who had 3-3 draws in both matches, of those matches between the chasing pack Cambridge Uni 2 beat Leeds Uni Old Boys 3.5-2.5 on Saturday. They are joined by Hackney, The Full Ponty, Sussex Smart Survivors, Brown Jack and The Rookies.

With thirty-nine teams in the division, competition for the four promotion places will be fierce, especially with the likelihood of at least one team from the Northern League likely to have a large match point tally carried forward when the North and South leagues merge after round seven.

Division Three North

Bradford DCA Knights A maintained maximum points to lead the division after wins against second placed Cheddleton 2 by 4.5-1.5 and a narrow 3.5-2.5 victory against Aigburth in round four. Oskar Hackner (who played in the U16 Olympiad and World Youth) played on top board and beat Paul Wallace in the top of the table clash but was then beaten by Aigburth top board Roger Williamson on Sunday. Cheddleton bounced back with a 4.5-1.5 win against Atticus in round four.

Holmes Chapel are in third place on five points after a 4-2 win against Atticus and a 3-3 draw with Jorvik. Aigburth, Atticus and Bradford B all have three points whilst Jorvik and Manchester Manticores have two. The league remains very competitive with three of the eight matches ending in draws whilst no team scored more than 4.5 in any of the matches.

In closing, I would like to thank the three hotels for their hospitality and accommodation and the arbiters and game inputters at each of the three venues. I would also like to thank the players for continuing to make the league as competitive but friendly as possible and look forward to the

remaining three weekends. Weekend three takes place on the 23rd and 24th February with Divisions One and Two again taking place at Staverton Park and Division Three South at Daventry Court Hotel whilst the northern section will be held at De Vere Wychwood Park near Crewe.

Rochester Mid-Winter Chess Congress

Results Table

FP, Surname, First Name	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	Total
1 MAYHEW, Andrew	Bye=	168 (3) +	168 (8) +	168 (4) +	168 (2) +	4.5
2 MARSHALL, Chris	119 (5) +	95 (7) +	110 (6) +	113 (8) +	181 (1) -	4
3 HAMES, Ian	113 (8) +	190 (3) -	114 (4) =	119 (5) -	100 (7) +	2.5
4 GARDINER, Colin	95 (7) =	119 (5) =	150 (3) =	154 (1) -	113 (8) +	2.5
5 ARNOLD, Paul	141 (2) -	114 (4) =	95 (7) -	150 (3) +	110 (6) =	2
6 JEFFERIES, Tyrone	Bye=	113 (8) -	141 (2) -	95 (7) +	119 (5) =	2
7 BROCKWELL, Lee	114 (4) =	141 (2) -	119 (5) +	110 (6) -	150 (3) -	1.5
8 FRASER, Alan	150 (3) -	110 (6) +	153 (1) -	141 (2) -	114 (4) -	1

Tony Paish - President's Award for Services to Chess

The ECF President's Award for Services to Chess was presented to Tony Paish on Friday 7th December at the London Chess Classic. The accompanying photograph shows GM Nigel Short, ECF FIDE Delegate, making the presentation to Tony

[picture courtesy of Ray Morris Hill]



© Ray Morris-Hill



BATSFORD

Chess Competition

Well done to the Nov/Dec winner

Mr Guy Gibson from Kew

The correct answer was - **1.Re8!**

Here's the next problem ...

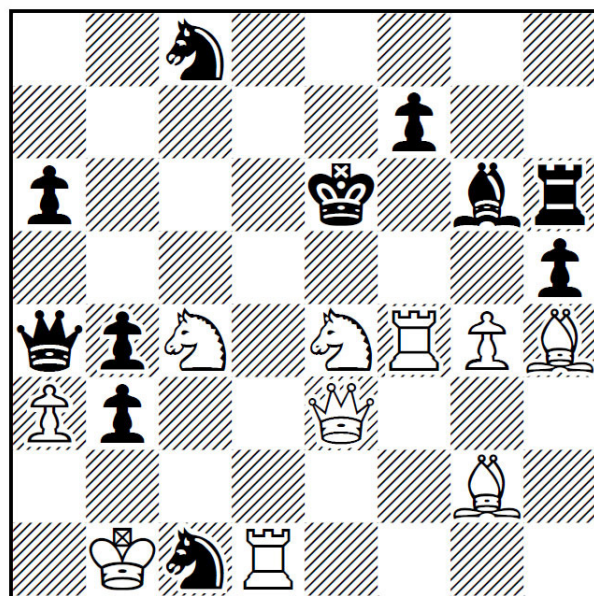
Christopher Reeves

Europe-Echecs, 1963

-- 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 (office@englishchess.org.uk).

The first correct entry drawn on 10th March 2013 will win a Batsford voucher for any book on their current list!



Secondary School Team Chess in England

- Dr Neill Cooper,

ECF Manager of Secondary School Chess

1. The past

I started playing chess when I was in the fourth form (now called year 10) at Maidenhead Grammar School. I joined an enthusiastic group of players and my first experiences of playing team chess were for the school second team. My memory is of lots of fixtures against all sorts of schools in East Berkshire including other grammar schools, independent schools and comprehensive schools.

Travelling to away league matches was often interesting. There was no teacher in charge of chess so we went by public transport, often on circuitous routes by bus to Windsor or train to Reading. We would then normally get a lift home from parents. When we became successful in the Sunday Times National School Chess Tournament the Headmaster would take us to distant away matches (such as Whitgift, Croydon and Dulwich College) in the recently acquired school minibus.

I think this pattern was repeated up and down the country, with most counties having their own inter-school competition. In the 1970s over 750 teams entered the Sunday Times National Tournament every year, peaking with almost 1000 in 1973. Most of the entries were secondary school first teams and chess was highly popular at many secondary schools

But over the following decades numbers have fallen dramatically. In 2005 only 93 teams entered the National School Chess Championships. What is more secondary school chess leagues closed in many counties. Those still running only had two or three entries, and many match results were very one sided. The only vibrant secondary school chess league was that in Surrey.

Various causes have been thought to have contributed to the demise in secondary school chess matches, including:

- 1) The rise of computer and other electronic games;
- 2) The greater pressure on pupils to succeed in exams;
- 3) The pressure on schools to achieve academically;

- 4) The replacement of most grammar schools with comprehensives;
- 5) State school teachers being less willing to give time to extracurricular activities;
- 6) Child protection policies making it much more difficult to arrange away matches;
- 7) The rise in primary school chess having put teenagers off chess and
- 8) Too many matches were very one sided - which neither team enjoys

The list, of course, can be extended. I think that all these have contributed to the decline in secondary school chess. However, diagnosing the cause is not important - finding a way forward is the vital task.

2. The present

By 2010 only Surrey had the traditional county secondary school league with an active open section. A few counties (Oxon, Sussex, Suffolk) ran U14/U13/U12 inter-school tournaments but failed in their attempts to run an open (U19) schools event. Birmingham still had a schools league, whilst they only had two teams in their top division it did have more in lower divisions.

Without having a local secondary school league to play in, some schools who were keen to play chess had to look elsewhere. The National Schools tournament had increased in size from the nadir of 2005, and by 2010 had about 150 entries. Birmingham Schools continued to annually host 2 one day rapidplay events, though entries here had also fallen to low numbers. The Millfield International weekend tournament in October attracts a select group of elite schools and the U18/U16/U14/U12 tournaments held at Pontins in early July has a similar entry. For prep schools there are also weekend National Preparatory Schools Tournaments run by Aldro School. Some secondary schools found that the only way to get matches was to play in the local adult league.

But most secondary schools just stopped playing chess matches, even though they might still have a chess club.

Here and there local initiatives provide chess for schools: Cumbria had a termly Wednesday afternoon event that a few schools enter, the Bournemouth Mayor hosted an annual event to which two local secondary schools regularly entered. Birmingham also ran an afternoon 5

minute chess event which attracted half a dozen local schools.

It was in this context that I agreed to become ECF Manager of Secondary school chess in early 2012. Others were already undertaking local initiatives - in Spring 2012 Sussex Junior Chess restarted their Open section for secondary schools, which two schools entered and they played one match. In autumn 2012 Barnet Junior Chess extended their successful primary school league, played in a central venue, to also include a secondary school event to which five teams from four schools entered.

3. Learning from Cricket

As has been described above, Secondary school chess has been rapidly shrinking in England. With the exception of the National Schools Championship (which itself has also seen a dramatic fall in secondary school entries) there were very few secondary school fixtures outside Surrey in 2010.

Whilst the Briant Poulter (Surrey Schools) league, which now has 6 divisions and 35 teams from 14 schools, shows how secondary school chess might have developed in other counties it is not a model that can now be emulated. Instead we must seek to arrange chess events that more secondary schools wish to take part in.

There are three forms of cricket: First class cricket (test matches and county fixtures); One day games and Twenty20 cricket. It is the quicker forms that are most popular with most players and spectators. Most inter-school cricket is based on the Twenty20 version.

Similarly we have three forms of chess: Long play, rapidplay and blitz. I think that most secondary school leagues, when they existed, just used long play. In the past few years the Surrey Schools (Briant Poulter) league has introduced the use of rapidplay in its lowest two divisions. In those fixtures players now play two rapidplay games rather than one long play game. Many of the local initiatives referred to in Section 2 are blitz events (though chess clocks are only used in some of the games).

As ECF Manager of Secondary School chess I have started three initiatives to encourage more secondary school chess:

- an ECF secondary school chess newsletter
- one day tournaments
- afternoon chess tournaments.

In both tournaments teams play a Swiss tournament rather than the traditional inter-school fixture. One day events can have five rounds when played at 25 mins each whilst afternoon events can have four rounds when played at 12 mins each. Also, as the afternoon event is entry level I have also found that many of the inexperienced players prefer not to use chess clocks.

Feedback from the schools who have taken parts has shown both types of events to be popular. The reasons for their popularity include:

1. There is a buzz from being in a large event, and seeing lots of other chess players.
2. Multiple games mean that most players, and teams, win at least one game (A reason for using a Swiss approach rather than Jamboree pairings)
3. Schools have some matches against teams of a similar ability to themselves
4. Players get lots of games, most of which are not too one sided.
5. Teams still play as teams, and so can easily watch each others games
6. Schools meet lots of other schools, school chess organisers also have a chance to mix and chat
7. The events have a relaxed atmosphere
8. One day rapidplay events are graded
9. Schools only need to do the administration for travel once, not for every fixture. In some schools this is quite onerous (parental permission, safety assessments etc).

I'm pleased to report that some schools have already shown interested in hosting such events in the future. Therefore I expect to see in 2013 more such events and more schools running chess teams. Hopefully in due course this will lead to more schools wanting to take part in the National Schools Championships



The Chess Moves Bookshelf

IMPROVING WITH AGE (REVISITED)

by Andrew Farthing

Time trouble has been a factor this month, and I have had little opportunity for chess reading. I regret, therefore, that there will be no specific book review this time around.

Instead, influenced by the unprecedented level of feedback generated by my previous column - OK, two people at the Shropshire congress spoke to me about it, but that was two more than I have ever had before - I am going to take some time to report back on my experience of the Artur Yusupov chess improvement course published by Quality Chess.

As announced last time, I have embarked on the complete programme, beginning with the first volume, Build Up Your Chess 1: The Fundamentals. Progress has been slower than I had hoped, due to a series of competing distractions such as the London Chess Classic and the festive season.

Intellectually, I grasp the value of establishing a routine, with (say) a couple of hours dedicated to my studies every day. Accepting this and putting it into practice are two very different things, and I can see that persistence and determination are going to be critical success factors. ChessMoves readers may have a part to play, since making this experiment in self-improvement public was intended to introduce an element of external pressure to give my efforts greater 'backbone'. So, please, keep asking me about my progress if you see me at chess congresses!

My impression of Yusupov's course remains very favourable. The explanations in the first half of each lesson are remarkably clear and are something of a master class in concision. The student is encouraged to treat each diagram position in the 'lesson' part as a position for analysis, i.e. trying to identify the best move before reading the text. Rather cleverly, Yusupov appears to have chosen more difficult examples on many occasions than are used in the dozen test positions at the end of each lesson. This means that the reader has to work actively to grasp the ideas and motifs initially and, handily, tends to feel

positively motivated when translating this effort into success in the tests.

This should not be taken to mean that the tests are trivially easy; they are not. Each is graded with one to three stars, indicating the number of points available, and the three-star problems in particular usually require quite deep and thorough analysis. As mentioned last time, the first three volumes of the course are aimed at players rated below 1500 (about ECF 110). I am graded about 30 points above this, so my judgement would be that the course is quite demanding for its 'target' market. In this context, however, "demanding" is good - the harder you have to work, the greater the benefit.

Yusupov insists that all of the positions are tackled by setting them up on a physical board but NOT moving the pieces until reviewing the solutions. I have always felt that this was the most effective approach to this type of study - after all, it emulates what one does in a game - so this helps me feel confident that Yusupov's approach is sound.

There is always a concern with books like this, which select a specific theme in each chapter and focus exclusively on it in the examples to be solved. When the subject is (say) Basic opening principles or Simple pawn endings, it does not matter that the student's attention is directed to a specific theme. When the subject of the lesson, however, is Double check (to cite an early example from the course), knowing this does make a difference. I cannot be sure that I would have been so quick to solve the various positions had I not been alerted to look for a double check, especially in the more challenging positions when some moves were needed to establish the possibility. Over the board, there are no helpful chapter headings to direct one's thinking.

On the other hand, the structure of the course does help to diagnose strengths and weaknesses. I have always tended to be a lazy player when it came to calculation, preferring all too often to make moves on general principles rather than knuckling down to working out the lines. This became immediately obvious in the results of the tests following each lesson. Generally, I scored very well, with the exception of the 'simple' pawn endings. Here, there were a couple of cases when I spotted the right idea but failed to identify the one and only necessary sequence of

moves to execute it correctly. This lesson, underlining the need to work on my calculation of concrete variations, has made a strong impact on me. Is it working?

A couple of months in, are there signs of improvement? The answer appears to be yes.

The first half of 2012 was a horrible period for me over the board. I was not playing much and not studying chess at all. Ironically, my grade for the six months rose from 143 to 148, thanks to the fortuitous use of about a dozen of my best results (in fact, about my only good results) from the second half of 2011 to top up my games to the required thirty for grading purposes. Taking just my results from 2012A, I would have received a grade of 132, which would have been a much better reflection of the standard of my play.

Apart from one filler game at a congress I was helping to organise in July, I played no chess at all in the second half of 2012 until October, just before I relinquished my responsibilities as ECF Chief Executive. Since then, I have played 18 games, with an average grading performance of 159, i.e. about 27 grading points better than in the first half of 2012. (Ironically, my grade for 2012B is likely to drop again to 142, due to the effect of 2012A games being used to top up the 30 results needed.)

Some of this, I am convinced, is due to the work on Yusupov's chess course. Simply setting aside time to work on chess positions, along with the discipline of solving them without moving the pieces, has undoubtedly been useful.

Inevitably, I cannot isolate the effect of my studies from other factors. Undeniably, ceasing to be Chief Executive removed a major drain on my time and energy. I feel fresher when I sit at the board, and this is helping my concentration (as well as deterring me from offering quite so many draws).

Chess is a difficult game, and improvement is notoriously elusive once past the first flush of youth. For now, I live in hope...

BONUS FEATURE!

When the British Turned Swiss

*Next year will see the 100th British Championships in Torquay. Inspired by this milestone, **Andrew Farthing** takes a trip back in time to a momentous Championship from the middle of the last century.*

It was in August 1949 that the Swiss took over the British Championship, through the unlikely route of Felixstowe in Suffolk, now home to the UK's largest container port. I refer, of course, to the introduction of the Swiss system to the event, an innovation which has lasted to the present day.

From 1904 to 1949, the British had taken the form of an all-play-all tournament of twelve players, selected by a committee established by the British Chess Federation (BCF). Recognising the benefits for the development of British chess of allowing a greater number of players to take part, the BCF adopted the Swiss system and increased the number of participants at a stroke to 32.

For this first year, the BCF retained the method of selection by committee, and the mind boggles at the potential for arguments that this must have created, particularly at a time long before grades and ratings. How long must the meeting(s) have lasted before the final selection was confirmed (and how much blood was spilt in the process)?

There was a plan for change, however. From 1950 on, the number of players directly selected was to revert to 12, with the remainder emerging from a series of zonal knockout competitions. These regional events were to be financed through an entry fee of 10s. 6d. (52½p in decimal currency) and the qualifiers would then have to come up with an extra 31s. 6d. (£1.57½) in order to make up the two guineas entrance fee for the British Championship proper. To put this in context, a year's subscription to the British Chess Magazine in 1949 would have cost you 15s. (75p) compared to £45 now. Playing in the British has never been cheap, it seems.

Nowadays, selection committees are - thank heavens - a thing of the past, and the zonal knockouts have largely given way to weekend congresses, the chosen method in most regions of applying their historical allocation of qualifying places.

The Players

Few of the names in the tournament table may mean much to the modern generation of English players, although several will be familiar to those of us whose chess library is of a certain vintage:

- **Harry Golombek** - The eventual winner on 8½ points, picking up the second of his three British Champion titles in Felixstowe, and probably at or very near his peak during this period. Golombek was one of several British chess players engaged in code-breaking at Bletchley Park during WWII, after which he was appointed chess correspondent for The Times, a post he was to hold for decades. His books on Capablanca, Reti and the 1948 World Championship (to name but three from many) are still read today.

- **Sir George Thomas** - One of chess's great all-rounders, who excelled in badminton, tennis and hockey as well as chess. Sir George had won the British in 1923 and 1934. At the age of 68, he was very much a veteran in Felixstowe, so his score of 7 points and unshared 4th place does him considerable credit.

- **Gerald Abrahams** - An attacking player who went on to write such stimulating books as *The Chess Mind*, *Not Only Chess* and *Technique in Chess*. Abrahams had a disastrous tournament in Felixstowe, finishing dead last with 2½ points.

- **Reginald Broadbent** - An unfamiliar name to many perhaps, but Broadbent competed at Felixstowe as defending champion and, although he only managed to share 5th-11th places with 6½ points, he went on to become British Champion for a second time the following year.

- **Leonard Barden** - Very much still a figure on the English chess scene thanks to his long-running columns in the *Guardian*, *Financial Times* and *Evening Standard*, Barden already enjoyed a reputation as a formidable openings theorist, "a walking compendium of MCO and Bilguer," according to the *British Chess Magazine* at the time.

Of the other names, one leaps out to the modern reader: **Penrose**. One of the reasons that it leaps out is that it appears twice in the tournament table, at 13th and 22nd place. The 1949 selection committee had made the excellent decision to include the 15-year-old British Boys Champion,

Jonathan Penrose, making Felixstowe his first appearance in the British Championship proper, a modest first step on the path which was to lead him to a record TEN championship titles during the 12-year period 1958-1969. Back in 1949, however, such feats were still beyond the young Jonathan, and he suffered from a tough draw: champion-to-be Golombek in round 1 and defending champion Broadbent in round 2. He lost to both, added a third loss in round 3, before recovering to a final score of 5 points.

Some may be surprised to learn that the Penrose success story of Felixstowe was Oliver Penrose, Jonathan's elder brother, who shared 12th/13th places with Barden on 6 points.

New traditions - Plus ça change...?

Most obviously, Felixstowe 1949 saw the start of the 11-round Swiss format which has survived to the present day and will apply to the 100th Championships in Torquay.

At the time, its success was by no means taken for granted. After nearly half a century of 12-man all-play-alls, it cannot have been easy to make such a radical change. The weight of tradition is hard to shake. The arrival of a promising new generation - Barden, Penrose (x 2!), Fuller, etc. - was undoubtedly a factor, but there was clearly a broader appetite for change, driven by - guess what? - the BCF's financial worries.

Before the Second World War, the BCF had relied upon income from capital funds, amounting to about £150 a year. In an article in the September 1949 BCM, immediately following the report on the British Championship, Philip Stuart Milner-Barry notes that this "goes about half as far as it did before the war." He goes on to say that "the lowest estimate of what we need" to raise the standard of British chess to the level of (say) Holland was £1500 a year, i.e. ten times what the BCF was raising.

The solution has echoes with more recent times. The BCF introduced a "capitation scheme", under which every member of every affiliated club paid a shilling towards the expenses of the federation. In addition, the BCF introduced new categories of membership - Vice President (5 guineas p.a.), Full members (2 guineas) - and sought to encourage many more to become Associate members at the "modest" subscription of 10 shillings a year.

Milner-Barry went on to comment: *“The success or failure of this drive will depend almost entirely on the energy that is put into the propaganda and a continuing Appeals Committee has been set up to take general charge of the campaign. But the most important part of the work, [...], will have to be done by the ‘panel’ of strong players who will (at least fifty of them we hope) be prepared to visit chess clubs in their part of the world, to give displays and lectures, and to arouse in the work of the Federation.”*

Having been actively involved in very similar challenges over the last few years, I find this insight into the challenges of the post-war BCF fascinating. Milner-Barry’s next sentence gives further sobering food for thought: *“It is this concerted propaganda that has been so lamentably lacking in our efforts so far. One cannot say that the support cannot be obtained, because no serious effort has so far been made to win it, and we have not deserved to succeed.”*

It is a cliché to say that history repeats itself, but this neither lessens its truth nor makes the realisation any more cheering.

Another proud tradition

It will come as no surprise that the introduction of a larger field and of Swiss pairings saw the emergence of another proud tradition, the first-round miniature. Witness the following:

J A Fuller - L Derby

British Ch (Felixstowe) (1), 08.08.1949

B02: Alekhine's Defence: Chase Variation and lines with early Nc3

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.c4 Nb6 4.c5 Nd5 5.Nc3 Nxc3

I am vague, to say the least, on the theory of this sideline of the Alekhine. 5...e6 looks a decent alternative.

6.dxc3 d6

In the BCM at the time, König suggests that 6...d5 would be safer.

7.Qb3 dxe5 8.Bg5 Be6

8...Qd7!? is another possibility, but Black’s position already feels awkward. Developing his pieces is clearly not going to be easy.

9.Qxb7± Nd7 10.0-0-0 Qc8?!

10...Rb8!? 11.Qc6 g6± looks like a better try, but Black is badly tied down.

11.Qc6+-

Black is already lost, but his next move does not help.

11...a6? 12.Nf3 Ra7 13.Nxe5 f6 14.Bc4 1-0

If 14...Bxc4, 15.Rxd7 Bb5 16.Rd8+ Kxd8 17.Nf7 checkmate is a suitably drastic finish.

And the winner is...

The leading scores:

1 H. Golombek 8½

2-3 D.M. Horne; Dr. S. Fazekas 8

4 Sir G. Thomas 7

5-11 A.W. Bowen; R.J. Broadbent; W.A. Fairhurst; J.A. Fuller; D.V. Hooper; A.R.B. Thomas; T.H. Tylor 6½

12-13 L. Barden; O. Penrose 6

32 competed

A game by the winner:

Frank Parr - Harry Golombek

British Championship (Felixstowe) (4), 11.08.1949

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 b6 3.g3 Bb7 4.Bg2 c5 5.dxc5 bxc5 6.c4 g6 7.0-0 Bg7 8.Nc3 0-0 9.Qc2 Nc6 10.e4 Nd4 11.Nxd4 cxd4 12.Ne2 e5 13.b3 Qc7 14.Ba3 Rfc8 15.Qd3 d6 16.Rae1 Nd7 17.Nc1 Nc5 18.Qe2 f5 19.Bxc5 dxc5 20.Nd3 Re8 21.Qd2 Re7 22.Re2 Rf8 23.Qb2 Qa5 24.Rfe1 f4 25.gxf4 exf4 26.f3 Bc8 27.Kf2 g5 28.Rg1 g4 29.Qd2 Qb6 30.Ke1 Qh6

Although the attack on the K-side proves successful in the end, this may not be the best plan. An alternative approach would be to push the a-pawn.

31.Bh1 Qh3 32.Rf2 Kh8 33.Nxc5?

In his contemporary notes in the BCM, Golombek considers this to be the losing move. 33.fxc4 Qh4 34.Kd1 is an improvement, intending to seek safety on the Q-side. Golombek suggests that the white king would still not be entirely safe, with ...a7-a5 likely to be the start of a fresh assault, but White is not without practical chances.

33...Qh4 34.Kd1 d3 35.Rgf1 Bd4?

35...g3, intending 36.Rg2 Bh3 37.Nxd3 Bxg2 38.hxg3 Bxf3+ 39.Bxf3 fxc3 40.Kc2 Rxe4.

36.Nxd3 Bxf2 37.Rxf2 Rd8 38.Qc3+ Kg8 39.Kc2?? Golombek does not criticise this move and gives the variation 39.Rd2 Red7 40.Kc2 g3! without comment, implying that it is also winning for White. I am not so sure. I think that White is still in the game, albeit a little worse.

39...Rxd3 0-1

Book Reviews - Gary Lane

Break the Rules! - A Modern Look at Chess Strategy

by Neil McDonald, Everyman Chess £15.99



There comes a time when you have read the basic books, played a few weekend minor events and eager to make progress you hear contradicting advice. A magazine article about a Magnus Carlsen game suddenly declares that in this position doubled pawns are good when everyone else has said avoid them while confusion is further notched up a level when in the King's

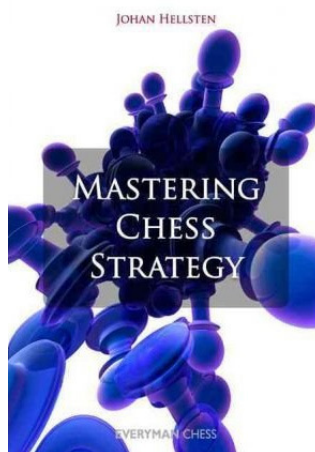
Gambit you sometimes move the king rather than castle. The Englishman Neil McDonald has the knack of explaining things in a precise manner for the improving player and here points out numerous contradictions which experienced players take for granted. This is often done by presenting diagrams late in the game where the action hots up but interestingly he adds the entire game without notes so the reader can see how the situation occurred. I think this is a good idea so that who wish to play though games such as Keene-Miles, British Championship 1982, can do so before examining the critical position. McDonald studied English literature at university so astute fans can normally spot an educated quote or two and I am pleased to report that no other chess author that I know has ever mentioned the Jacobean play known as The Changeling in connection with "Using split pawns to impede the opponent's pieces". There is plenty of good advice on how to know when to play something different and the examples are first class.

The perfect guide to improving your chess ability.

Mastering Opening Strategy

by Johan Hellsten, Everyman Chess £19.99

The serious chess player who is already competing in open tournaments will welcome the Swedish grandmaster's latest hefty instalment on how to be good. It is difficult to think up something new about the openings when it comes to offering a general approach so it should be no surprise that he deals with standard principles and rules. These focus on lack of development, dubious actions in the opening such as moving the same piece twice, or grabbing material. The more difficult chapters are devoted to fighting for the centre and the concept of restriction. All these strategies are then examined within



365 pages by going through numerous games and he does well to avoid it being too boring by occasionally not giving the remainder of the game until later in the chapter so it can be described as a puzzle. At the end of the book there is a page on "Openings with structural similarities" where he points out various white or black openings

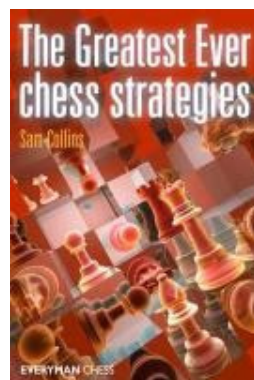
that have similar pawn structures. This looks to be quite useful but probably needs a chapter on its own to fully explain how such ideas can help form an opening repertoire and the brief guide to "Openings with general "style" similarities" is also intriguing as a reference but needs to be expanded. Overall, I like the easy to read approach and the modern examples are entertaining and thought provoking.

Hellsten helps to understand the ideas behind the openings.

The Greatest Ever Chess Strategies

by Sam Collins, Everyman Chess £15.99

A friend received this book as a gift during Christmas and recommended it to me as an ideal for club players rated about 1600+. I can see why he likes it so much because the style of writing is friendly and there is lots of prose to describe what is going on. The title may seem familiar but that is because Everyman have already produced three books in the series and I should know having written The Greatest Ever Chess Tricks and Traps. It is of course impossible to cover every strategy in chess so it is more of a celebration of the game. There are naturally numerous interesting examples and the aim is to demonstrate such themes as when to attack or defend and when you can sacrifice the exchange. The games tend to be recent and there is a welcome sprinkling of the Irishman's own encounters where obviously he has a deeper insight and few anecdotes to relate.



It is highly recommended as sound advice for the practical player.

88th Hastings International Chess Congress

Tournament pictures by John Upham
<http://johnupham.smugmug.com/Chess>

The 88th Hastings International Chess Congress ended yesterday, Sunday 6th January 2013. The ten day event, which took place at Horntye Park Sports Complex in Hastings, was again sponsored by Hastings Borough Council whose continuing support is greatly appreciated by the organisers and competitors alike.

The closing reception and prize-giving ceremony, hosted by the Trustees of Horntye Park, was attended by Cllr. Alan Roberts, Rt. Worshipful the Mayor of Hastings and Amber Rudd, MP for Hastings and Rye. They jointly presented the Golombek Trophy.

The internationally renowned Chess Congress was attended by players from over 20 countries from Indonesia to Iceland. Moldova was represented for the first time at Hastings. China was once again represented following last year's win by Yue Wang. Local players also feature in the winners lists and Hastings resident IM Francis Rayner put in a remarkable performance which gives him a FIDE IM norm and qualifying place in the British Championships 2013.

Players not only battled over the chess boards but also against the monsoon-like rain which blighted the first few days and also against the winter viruses which were affecting the public in general. Several competitors had to withdraw from the event or lose a day's play at best. At the start of final round 10 there was a tightly knit group leading the field and this situation did not change greatly.

The Masters Tournament was won outright by the current British Champion, grandmaster Gawain Jones (ENG) with 7.5 points. He holds the Golombek Trophy for one year and won first prize of £2,000. Gawain was also awarded the Glenroy Trophy plus £100 as Southern Counties Chess Union (SCCU) Individual Champion.

Eight players tied in joint second place with 7/10 points.

HorntyePark also presented a Brilliancy Prize and their trophy + £100 went to Chinese Woman IM Xiobing Gu.

Mr. Alan Hustwayte, Congress Secretary, also presented a special prize for performance against rating to Norwegian grandmaster Johannes Kvisla.

Four players achieved FIDE Norms which count towards their international titles: Rui Gao (CHI) - GM, Francis Rayner (WLS), Johannes Kvisla (NOR) and Xiobing Gu (CHI).

As well as Francis Rayner, four other players qualify for the British Championships 2013: Clement Sreeves, Ali Janouby, Matthew Wadsworth, John Anderson.

Although the funding situation for the future is not yet secure, all those involved with the Congress sincerely hope they will be once again be putting the pieces in place for an 89th Congress at the end of this year.

RESULTS

Masters:

1 GM Gawain Jones (ENG) 7.5/10
2= GM Andrey Sumets(UKR); GM Kaido Kulaots(EST); GM Andrey Vovk (UKR); GM Sarunas Sulskis (LTU); GM Daniele Vocaturo (ITA); IM Hjorvar Gretarsson (ENG); IM Jonathan Hawkins(ENG);IM Rui Gao (CHI) 7

Christmas Tournament - five rounds

A Section:

1 Alfredo Luaces (Hastings) 4
2= David Cutmore; Martin Cutmore; Barry Morris 3.5

B Section

1 Robin Goodfellow(Tunbridge Wells) 4
2= M.Bryant (Hastings); Mark Murrell 3.5

C Section

1= Omer Namouk (Hastings); Timothy Crouch; Hugh Tassell 4

D Section

1 Colin Gardner 4.5
2 Susan Chadwick 4
3= Lee Bullock; H Anbukumar; Mason Woodhams (Hastings) 3.5

New Year Morning Tournament - five rounds

Section A

1= Christopher Howell (Redhill); VaughanGriffiths (Northampton) 4

3 Matthew Bunn (Snodland) 3.5
Grading Prize: David Patrick (Halifax) 3

Section B

1 Joshua Pink (Coventry) 5
2 Christopher Heath (Horsham) 3.5
3= Marc Bryant (Hastings); Michael Reddie (Eastbourne) 3
Grading Prize - Tony Bynnersersley (West London) 3

Section C

1 Peter Horlock (Godalming) 4
2= Colin Fell (Reading); David Fowler (Snodland); Lawrence Rhodes (Eastbourne); Mark Stone (Petts Wood Orpington) 3.5
Grading Prize - David Wallis (Worthing) 3

Section D

1 John Moore (Eastbourne) 4 points
2= Lee Bullock (Coulsdon); Hajane Anbukumar (Caterham) 3.5
Grading Prize - James Robertson (Tonbridge); Mason Woodhams (Hastings) 2.5

New Year Afternoon Tournament - 5 rounds

Section A

1 Benedict Hasenohr (Switzerland) 4.5
2 David Patrick (Halifax) 4
3= David Onley (Wimborne); Paul Batchelor (Brighton) 3.5
Grading Prize - Simon Leung (Beckenham) 3.5

Section B

1= David Fowler (Snodland); Derek Cosens (Hastings) 4

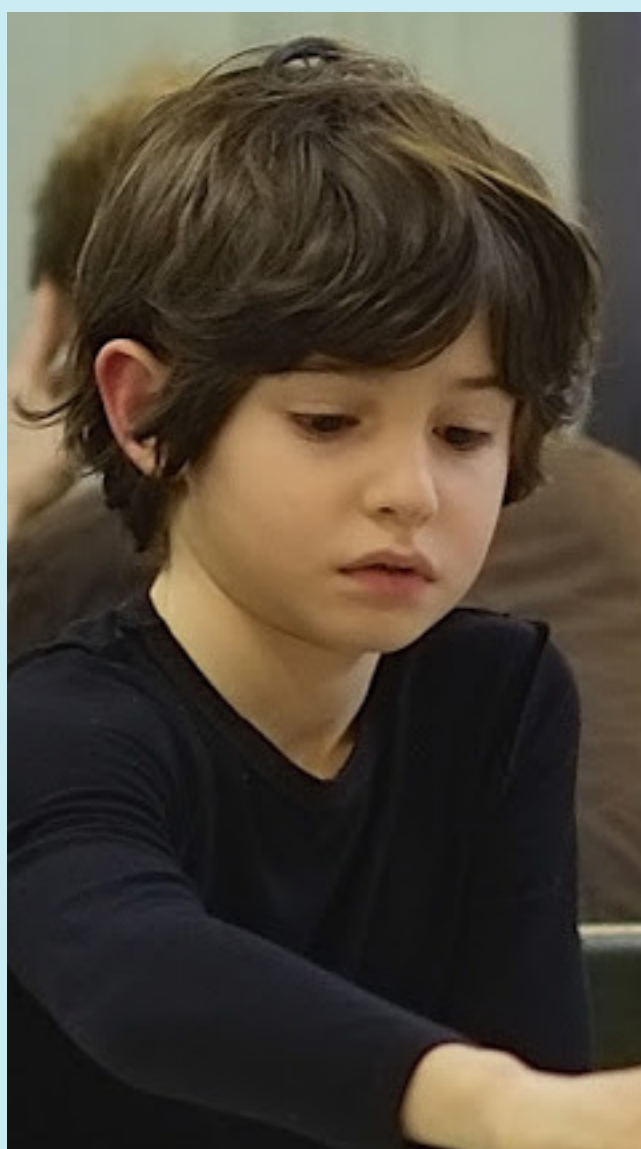
John Upham - Chess Images

See John's work at - <http://johnupham.smugmug.com/Chess>
Yang-Fan Zhou at Hastings



Brendan O'Gorman - Chess Images

See Brendan's work at - <https://picasaweb.google.com/bpogorman>
Joshua Altman at Hampstead



3= Peter Wood (Hastings); Peter Horlock (Godalming) 3.5
Grading Prize - Prize: Phil Foley 3

Section C

1 Anthony Stanton 4.5
2 Stephen Billett (Portsmouth) 4
3 Matthew Howell (Hastings) 3.5
Grading Prize - Alan Ticehurst (Hastings); John Calvert (Notts Mechanics) 3

WEEKEND CONGRESS

Major - 5 rounds

1= Martin Fogg (Ipswich); Helge Hjort (Hastings); Christopher (Sherwood) 4
Grading Prize - Paul Jackson (Coulsdon); Mel Young (Hastings) 3

Minor

1 Duncan Badham (Brighton) 4.5
2= Charles Costeloe (Muswell Hill); William Drennan (Battersea) 4
Grading Prize: David Gilbert (DHSS); Keith Woodcock (Ipswich)

U120

1 Mason Woodhams (Hastings) 4.5
2= Frederick Coleman (Sussex Juniors); Steve Larkin (Tynedale) 4
4= Lee Brockwell (Sidcup); Alan Fraser (Beckenham); John Sowerby (Beckenham); Gary Willson (Hastings) 3.5
Grading Prize - Laura Davidson (Sandhurst); William Jackson 2



Con Power, Tournament Director



Pam Thomas handles the press



GM Gawain Jones



GM Chris Ward dispenses live commentary

Tournament Calendar

LEGEND -

#	British Championships qualifying tournament
@	FIDE rated
*	ECF Grand Prix
~	ECF graded event

All congresses graded by the ECF are part of the official Grand Prix. For a more comprehensive calendar updated constantly, visit the ECF website - www.englishchess.org.uk

~@ 20 Jan

Oxfordshire Sunday League, Ducklington Village Hall OX29 7UX Contact: Mike Truran Tel: 01993 708645 Email: mike@truranfamily.co.uk Website: <http://www.witneychess.co.uk> - FIDE rated and ECF graded, entries welcome from Oxfordshire clubs and clubs close to Oxfordshire

~ 20 Jan

The Leys School Junior Chess Tournament, The Leys School, Cambridge CB2 7AD Contact: Matt Taylor/Bob Jones Email: mmt@theleys.net - a one day 3-section 6-round swiss tournament with U10, U12 and U14 sections. Prize money awarded to the top finishers in each section (depending on size of entry) with trophies for section winners.

~@* 20 Jan

105th Richmond Rapidplay, White House Community Association, The Avenue, Hampton TW12 3RN Contact: Sabrina Chevannes Email: richmondrapidplay@chevanneschessacademy.com Website: <http://www.chevanneschessacademy.com/chevannes-chess-academy/richmond-rapidplay/> - popular one-day rapidplay event in Hampton. Four sections and a guaranteed prize fund of £720

~* 20 Jan

Barnet Junior Chess Individual Championships 2013, Woodhouse College, Woodhouse Road, London N12 9EY Contact: Tony Niccoli Email: tony1n@yahoo.com Website: www.barnetjuniorchess.com - our largest tournament of the year with over 200 players expected. Age groups include Under 7, U9, U11, U12, U14, U16 and U19. 6 round Rapidplay event. 30mins each on the clock

~*@# 25-27 Jan

West Bromwich Congress, Park Inn West Bromwich, Europa Avenue, Birmingham Road, West Bromwich B70 6RS Contact: Sean Hewitt Email: sean@e2e4.org.uk Website: www.e2e4.org.uk/west_brom/Jan2013/index.htm

~ 26 Jan

Jorvik One-Day Rapidplay, Holiday Inn York, Tadcaster Road, York YO24 1QF Contact: Peter Cloudsdale Email: cloudsdale_c@hotmail.co.uk Tel: 01904-767177 - A one day rapidplay event on a six-round Swiss basis with 25 minutes each. Two sections will be run dependent on grading

~@ 26 Jan

FIDE London Rapidplay, Newman Catholic College, Harlesden Road, Willesden, London NW10 3RN Contact: Sainbayar Tserendorj Email: londonrapidplay@gmail.com Website: www.londonrapidplay.co.uk

~ 26 Jan

Junior London Rapidplay, Newman Catholic College, Harlesden Road, Willesden, London NW10 3RN Contact: Sainbayar Tserendorj Email: londonrapidplay@gmail.com Website: www.londonrapidplay.co.uk - designed for beginners and juniors graded U80. Sections: U8, U10, U12 and U14. Each section winner will win a trophy and in each section there is a Best Girl prize!

*~ 27 Jan

Stockport Rapidplay, The Alma Lodge Hotel, 149 Buxton Road (A6), Stockport SK2 6EL Contact: Peter Taylor Email: pht@rover12.wanadoo.co.uk - 6 round Swiss 30 minutes all moves. 4 sections - Open, U170, U140, U110

~ 27 Jan

CCF Junior Rapid Play - English Chess Challenge Qualifier, 84-90 Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon,

Surrey CR5 3BA Contact: Scott Freeman Email: chess@ccfworld.com Tel: 020 8645 0302 Website: <http://www.ccfworld.com/Chess/>

~ 30 Jan

CCF Daytime FIDE Club - Spring Event Round 2, 84-90 Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 3BA Contact: Scott Freeman Email: chess@ccfworld.com Tel: 020 8645 0302 Website: <http://www.ccfworld.com/Chess/>

~@# 1-3 Feb

Imperial College (Central London) Chess Congress, Imperial College Union, Beit Quad, Prince Consort Road, London SW7 2BB (next to the Royal Albert Hall) Contact: John Sargent Email: johnsargent@gmail.com Website: <http://union.ic.ac.uk/rcc/chess> - 5-round congress in Zone 1 of Central London in a fantastic location next to the Royal Albert Hall, with Open / Major / Minor sections to cater for players of all abilities

~* 2 Feb

Sussex Junior Eastbourne Rapidplay, Bishop Bell School, Priory Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN23 7BE Contact: Paula Payne Email: entrymanager@sussexjuniorchess.org - 6 rounds rapidplay in 4 sections; U11 Major and Minor, U18 Major and Minor. Open to all aged under 18 on 31st August 2012

~*# 2-3 Feb

36th Kidlington Chess Congress, Exeter Hall, Oxford Road, Kidlington OX5 1AB Contact: Gerard O'Reilly Email: gerard@fianchetto.co.uk Website: <http://www.kidlingtonchess.org.uk/> - 4 sections: U225, U180, U145, and U120

~ 2-3 Feb

Hertfordshire Chess Association 61st Congress, County Suite, County Hall, Pegs Lane, Hertford SG13 8DQ Contact: Alan Brewis Email: organiser@hertschesscongress.com Website: www.hertschesscongress.com - 4 sections: Open, Challengers (U175), Major (150), Minor (U120)

~ 3 Feb

Hertfordshire Junior Chess Championships, Oakwood Primary School, Oakwood Drive, St.Albans, Hertfordshire AL4 0XA Contact: Yogesh Jina Email: hsca@live.co.uk Website: <http://www.hertfordshireschoolschessassociation.com/> - U9 and U11 sections from 9am to 5pm. For regular players this is an opportunity to compete for a place in the county squad and possibly walk away with a prize. Additionally we will also host our popular 'Stars Barred' tournament (1.45pm to 5pm) which provides an opportunity of tournament play for beginners or less regular players. These events are opened to non-Hertfordshire Juniors as well

~ 3 Feb

Leeds Junior Chess Congress, Fountain Primary School, Fountain Street, Leeds LS27 0AW Contact: John Hipshon Email: jr.hipshon@ntlworld.com Website: www.leedsjuniorchess.org.uk - part of the Yorkshire Junior Chess Grand Prix. Major section (open to all), Intermediate section (below grade 115), Minor Section (below 40 grade) and Novice section (inexperienced players). Excellent prizes and trophies in each section, with at least £50 cash for the major winner.

~* 8-10 Feb

Frodsham Weekend Congress, Frodsham Community Centre, Fluin Lane, Frodsham, Cheshire WA6 7QN Contact: Pat Ridley Email: patrick.ridley@ntlworld.com Website: <http://www.kisekigo.com/frodsham13.html> - 5-round standard play tournament with Minor, Intermediate and Major sections. There is special arrangement for those wishing to play in the parallel Go tournament (The Cheshire) on the Saturday

~*@# 8-10 Feb

Torquay Congress, Puma Imperial Hotel, Park Hill Road, Torquay, Devon TQ1 2DG Contact: Sean Hewitt Email: sean@e2e4.org.uk Website: www.e2e4.org.uk/torquay/Feb2013/index.htm

~ 9 Feb

Peterborough Junior Rapidplay, Iqra Academy, Enterprise Way (off Bretton Way), Peterborough PE3 8YQ Contact: The Admin Team Email: peterboroughrapidplay@hotmail.com Website: peterboroughrapidplay.moonfruit.com - for under 16s as at 1st September 2012, whose grade or estimated grade is under 85 ECF. Trophies for 1st, 2nd & 3rd. £9 entry fee for ECF Silver Members. Non-ECF Members (including Bronze Members) pay an extra £1.50

~ 9 Feb

Peterborough Rapidplay, Iqra Academy, Enterprise Way (off Bretton Way), Peterborough PE3 8YQ

Contact: The Admin Team Email: peterboroughrapidplay@hotmail.com Website: www.peterboroughrapidplay.moonfruit.com - three sections: U130, U170, Open. Cash prizes in all sections: 1st £90, 2nd £55, 3rd £30, Grading £15. Entry Fee £15 (£12 Junior/OAP) for ECF Silver Members or above. Non-ECF Members (including Bronze Members) must pay extra £6 (£4 Juniors)

~* 9 Feb

Golders Green FIDE Rapidplay Congress, Golders Green Parish Church Hall, West Heath Drive, London NW11 7QG Contact: Adam Raoof Email: adamraoof@gmail.com Website: <http://www.goldersgreenchess.blogspot.com>

~* 9-10 Feb

UK Chess Academy 1st FIDE Congress, Hinchley Wood School, Claygate Lane, Surrey KT10 0QA Contact: Sainbayar Tserendorj & Mike Basman Email: ukchessacademy@gmail.com Website: www.ukchessacademy.com - 5 round FIDE rated Major U160/U1900 - prizes: 1st £100; 2nd £60; 7 round ECF graded Minor section U110 ECF - prizes: 1st £80; 2nd £40

~ 10 Feb

Norfolk Rapidplay 2013, Thorpe House Langley Preparatory School, 7 Yarmouth Road, Norwich NR7 0EA Contact: John Charman Email: jaygcee@ntlworld.com Website: www.norfolkchess.org - 6 round Swiss, 2 sections - Championships and Challengers. Part of the EACU Grand Prix

~ 10 Feb

National Schools Championship 'Last Chance Saloon' and 'Elite Team Rapidplay', Eton College, Berks. Contact: Neill Cooper Email: manager.secondary@englishchess.org.uk

~ 16 Feb

FIDE London Rapidplay, Newman Catholic College, Harlesden Road, Willesden, London NW10 3RN Contact: Sainbayar Tserendorj Email: londonrapidplay@gmail.com Website: www.londonrapidplay.co.uk

~ 16 Feb

Junior London Rapidplay, Newman Catholic College, Harlesden Road, Willesden, London NW10 3RN Contact: Sainbayar Tserendorj Email: londonrapidplay@gmail.com Website: www.londonrapidplay.co.uk - designed for beginners and juniors graded U80. Sections: U8, U10, U12 and U14. Each section winner will win a trophy and in each section there is a Best Girl prize!

~* 16-17 Feb

Hampstead Under 2200 Weekend Congress, Henderson Court Resource Centre, 102 Fitzjohns Avenue (junction with Prince Arthur Road), London NW3 6NS (use NW3 6NS in your satnav) Contact: Adam Raoof Email: adamraoof@gmail.com Website: <http://www.hampsteadchess.blogspot.co.uk/> - five rounds, games are FIDE rated and graded by the ECF for the national grading database. Maximum 60 players, limited to players rated Under 2200. Unrated players should be Under 190 ECF, or the national equivalent. Swiss format tournaments. PRIZES - 1st £200, 2nd £100 plus a minimum of two rating prizes of £80.00. Rating bands to be announced before round two.

~* 16-17 Feb

2013 Wiltshire & West of England Junior Open Championships, St Joseph's Catholic College, Ocotal Way, Swindon, Wiltshire SN3 3LR Contact: Bev Schofield Email: bev@schofieldhall.co.uk Website: <http://www.wiltshirejuniorchess.co.uk> - Although this 27th Junior Open Congress is organised by Wiltshire Junior Chess, it is open to ANY chess player aged under 18 on the 31st August 2012

~* 16-17 Feb

2013 BUCA Team Championship, De Veres Uplands House, Four Ashes Road, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire HP15 6LB Contact: Alex Holowczak Email: admin@buca.org.uk Website: <http://www.buca.org.uk> - a championship for teams of four for British Universities

~* 16-20 Feb

Brighton International, Puma Brighton Old Ship Hotel, Kings Road, Brighton, East Sussex BN1 1NR Contact: Sean Hewitt Email: sean@e2e4.org.uk Website: www.e2e4.org.uk/brighton/Feb2013/index.htm

~ 17 Feb

Oxfordshire Sunday League, Ducklington Village Hall OX29 7UX Contact: Mike Truran Tel: 01993 708645 Email: mike@truranfamily.co.uk Website: <http://www.witneychess.co.uk> - FIDE rated and ECF graded, entries welcome from Oxfordshire clubs and clubs close to Oxfordshire

~ 17 Feb

Leyland Rapidplay Chess Congress, Wellfield Business and Enterprise College, Yewlands Drive, Leyland PR25 2TP Contact: R Tinton Email: leylandrapidplay2013@gmail.com Tel: 07866 944563 - Major, Intermediate and Minor sections

~ 20 Feb

CCF Daytime FIDE Club - Spring Event Round 3, 84-90 Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 3BA Contact: Scott Freeman Email: chess@ccfworld.com Tel: 020 8645 0302 Website: <http://www.ccfworld.com/Chess/>

*~ 23 Feb

Docklands (Poplar) Rapid-Play, 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 - 6 round Swiss Rapidplay tournament with Open, Major and Minor sections (entries permitting)

~* 22-24 Feb

Castle Chess: 5th Portsmouth Congress, The Royal Beach Hotel, St Helen's Parade, Southsea, Portsmouth PO4 0RN Contact: Tony Corfe Email: tony@tcs-chess.demon.co.uk Website: www.castlechess.co.uk - OPEN (including Premier U180), Major U160 (including Intermediate U140), Minor U120 (including Challengers U100)

~@ 23-24 Feb

4NCL Rounds 5 and 6 (Divisions 1 and 2), De Vere Venues, Staverton Park Contact: Mike Truran Tel: 01993 708645 Contact address: The Old Farmhouse, 7 Church Street, Ducklington, Witney OX29 7UA

~@ 23-24 Feb

4NCL Rounds 5 and 6 (Division 3 South), Barcelo Hotel, Daventry Contact: Mike Truran Tel: 01993 708645 Contact address: The Old Farmhouse, 7 Church Street, Ducklington, Witney OX29 7UA

~@ 23-24 Feb

4NCL Rounds 5 and 6 (Division 3 North), De Vere Wychwood Park (nr. Crewe) Contact: Mike Truran Tel: 01993 708645 Contact address: The Old Farmhouse, 7 Church Street, Ducklington, Witney OX29 7UA

~ 24 Feb

Leyland Rapidplay Chess Congress, Wellfield Business and Enterprise College, Yewlands Drive, Leyland PR25 2TP Contact: R Tinton Email: leylandrapidplay2013@gmail.com Tel: 07866 944563 - Major, Intermediate and Minor sections

~ 24 Feb

Bury St Edmunds Junior Congress, Moreton Hall Community Centre, Symonds Road, Bury St Edmunds IP32 7EE Contact: Bob Jones Email: bobjoneschess@btinternet.com - five age-group sections: U8, U10, U12, U14, U18 + a free entry section for parents

~* 1-3 Mar

The Twenty First Doncaster Chess Congress, Hall Cross School, Thorne Road, Doncaster DN1 2HY Contact: Steve Mann Email: sjmann@supanet.com - five round standard play weekend Congress. Hot and cold refreshments and bookstall available throughout the congress. Free car parking in school grounds.

~* 1-3 Mar

East Devon Chess Congress, Exeter Corn Exchange, Market Street, Exeter EX1 1BW Contact: Sean Pope Email: sean.pope1@blueyonder.co.uk Website: chessdevon.co.uk - five round Swiss tournament with 4 hour sessions

~ 2 Mar

Champions' League Chess - Kent Zonal, 84-90 Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 3BA Contact: Scott Freeman Email: chess@ccfworld.com Tel: 020 8645 0302 Website: <http://www.ccfworld.com/Chess/>

~*@ 2 Mar

Golders Green FIDE Rapidplay Congress, Golders Green Parish Church Hall, West Heath Drive, London NW11 7QG Contact: Adam Raoof Email: adamraoof@gmail.com Website: <http://www.goldersgreenchess.blogspot.com>

~*# 2-3 Mar

Warwickshire Open Chess Congress, Trident Centre, Warwick CV34 6SW Contact: Guy Greenland

Email: warks.ccc@gmail.com Website: <http://tinyurl.com/bqxd2av> - 5 rounds / 4 Sections : Open, U170, U145, U120 - online entry available . List of entrants: <http://tinyurl.com/cbr96j9> Tel: 07854 709168

~ 3 Mar

Champions' League Chess - Surrey West Zonal, 84-90 Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 3BA Contact: Scott Freeman Email: chess@ccfworld.com Tel: 020 8645 0302 Website: <http://www.ccfworld.com/Chess/>

~ 3 Mar

5th Chess Coaching Services Tournament and Training Day, John Keble Church Hall, Church Close, Edgware, Middlesex HA8 9NS Contact: Rob Willmoth Email: robwillmoth@hotmail.co.uk - coaching by International master Lorin D'Costa and British master Rob Willmoth plus other recognised coaches. The only event of its kind in the UK

~@ 6-10 Mar

Jersey International, Hotel Ambassadeur, St Clement Bay, Jersey JE2 6SB Contact: Tito Kahn Email: tito@jerseychessclub.com Website: www.jerseychessclub.com - 9 round FIDE rated tournament with sections for players of all standards

~*#@# 8-10 Mar

e2e4 High Wycombe Chess Congress, De Veres Uplands House, Four Ashes Road, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire HP15 6LB Contact: Sean Hewitt Email: sean@e2e4.org.uk Website: www.e2e4.org.uk/high_wycombe - A 5 round FIDE rated weekend congress with sections for players of all standards

~*# 8-10 Mar

Blackpool Chess Conference, Imperial Hotel, Blackpool FY1 2HB Contact: Geoff Jones Email: blackpoolchess@gmail.com Website: www.blackpoolchess.org.uk - £8000 in prizes, 5 sections - Open, Under 181, Under 151, Under 131, Under 111

~*#@# 8-10 Mar

High Wycombe Chess Congress, De Veres Uplands House, Four Ashes Road, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire HP15 6LB Contact: Sean Hewitt Email: sean@e2e4.org.uk Website: www.e2e4.org.uk/high_wycombe/Mar2013/index.htm

~ 9 Mar

Champions' League Chess - Coulsdon & Purley Zonal, 84-90 Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 3BA Contact: Scott Freeman Email: chess@ccfworld.com Tel: 020 8645 0302 Website: <http://www.ccfworld.com/Chess/>

*~ 9 Mar

Docklands (Poplar) Rapid-Play, 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 - 6 round Swiss Rapidplay tournament with Open, Major and Minor sections (entries permitting)

~ 10 Mar

Champions' League Chess - Middlesex Zonal, 84-90 Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 3BA Contact: Scott Freeman Email: chess@ccfworld.com Tel: 020 8645 0302 Website: <http://www.ccfworld.com/Chess/>

~ 13 Mar

CCF Daytime FIDE Club - Spring Event Round 4, 84-90 Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 3BA Contact: Scott Freeman Email: chess@ccfworld.com Tel: 020 8645 0302 Website: <http://www.ccfworld.com/Chess/>