

Chess Moves

The Newsletter of the English Chess Federation | May 2014 edition



German prisoners playing chess, Querrieu, October 1916 - picture courtesy of the Imperial War Museum

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From the Editor

This will be the last edition of Chess Moves under my editorship. For personal reasons, I am stepping down.

I should like to thank everyone who has contributed articles and annotated games to the magazine. I am grateful, too, to those readers who took the trouble to comment on Chess Moves; their encouragement always provided a welcome boost of energy as deadlines loomed. Above all, I should like to express my appreciation for the hard work of the indefatigable Andrew Walker from the ECF office, who takes on the technical challenge of transforming a mass of material into a cohesive whole and unfailingly delivers a high quality product with every issue.

- Andrew Farthing

ECF NEWS

Calm reigns at ECF Finance Council meeting

Report by Andrew Farthing, Editor of Chess Moves, previous ECF Chief Executive, and representative of the Midland Counties Chess Union, Worcestershire Chess Association and Worcester & District League (a typically hydra-headed attendee!)

Over the past several years, three things could reliably be said of ECF Council meetings: (1) the meeting would overrun its scheduled 6 p.m. finish; (2) important items appearing late on the agenda would be rushed through at breakneck speed; and (3) substantive debates would be sidetracked by more personal squabbles and bad feeling.

It is with some relief, therefore, to be able to report that at the latest Finance Council meeting on Saturday, 12th April the meeting finished 25 minutes early, the agenda was completed without undue haste and the participants by and large resisted the urge to rise to the bait of any contentious comments. A large slice of the credit for this must be given to the meeting's chairman, Mike Gunn, who steered a course through potentially choppy waters with calm authority.

Mike was helped in this endeavour by the Board's decision not to debate the Chief Executive's papers on Strategy and Transformation at the meeting but simply to use the occasion to open a consultation upon them, inviting written comments from members. Similarly, the proposal to establish a chess charity and to transfer all but £1,000 of the Permanent Invested Fund to it was withdrawn and replaced by a holding motion to extend the current trust deed for a further two years while consultations were heard. More on these matters later.

Outstanding business from the AGM

In the past, discussion of matters arising from the previous meeting has sometimes been protracted. On this occasion, the principal issue raised related to the vacancy in the role of President created by Andrew Paulson's resignation. Andrew Leadbetter proposed that the Board be instructed to appoint his predecessor, Roger Edwards to the role (seconded by Alex McFarlane). The Board's preference was to assess potential candidates

for this and the vacant Non-Executive Director position created by Sean Hewitt's resignation in accordance with due process and make an appointment only when this had been done. After some debate, the proposal was defeated on a show of hands by 11-20.

Following this, Julie Denning read a brief statement from the Sussex Chess Association (SCA) concerning the archive of SCA papers which went missing while in the ECF's care (as managers of the National Chess Library). The statement expressed gratitude for the Chief Executive's intervention in allowing access to a storage area not previously searched but added that the search had proved fruitless and, with deep regret, the archive is considered lost. The SCA's distress at this situation was entirely understandable and undoubtedly shared by all present, who must have appreciated the dignified statement accepting that all that could be done to find the missing documents had been done. The loss of these historical documents is sad indeed.

ECF representation at the European Chess Union (ECU) General Assembly

Online discussions prior to Council had largely focused on the resignation of the ECF President and the agreement reached between him and the Board that a proposal be put to Council to the effect that Andrew Paulson be designated the ECF's official delegate to the ECU General Assembly, at which he would be standing for election to the position of Deputy President (nominated by the ECF Board).

There was considerable anticipation to the effect that this could be a heated discussion, and it would be fair to say that many delegates' minds were focused on it. Sensibly, therefore, the relevant item was moved from 17th position on the agenda to early in the meeting. Opening the discussion, the Board restated its sincerity in making the proposal. The Federation's FIDE Delegate, Nigel Short, responded by referring to the "unprecedented" proposal to disenfranchise the elected delegate. He commented that passing the motion would, in practice, be a vote in favour of Zurab Azmaiparashvili for ECU President and noted that the deadline for nominations for the ECU roles was still several weeks away (9 May) and that it was inappropriate to decide upon the ECF's voting intentions before all of the candidates were known.

The debate which followed remained civil and indeed rather subdued in tone. One sensed that Ray Edwards spoke for many in the room in suggesting that the proposal to send Andrew Paulson as its delegate to the ECU General Assembly was difficult to reconcile with the Board's having passed a vote of no confidence in its President. The majority of speakers expressed concern over the proposal, creating the impression that the vote would result in its defeat. Perhaps recognising this, in closing the debate, Andrew Paulson chose to concentrate on matters related to the confidence motion and the leaked draft agreement between himself and the FIDE President concerning the rights to the world championship and associated events, rather than make the case for being nominated delegate to the ECU General Assembly.

The proposal passed to a card vote without prior show of hands. It was comfortably defeated: 79 votes in favour, 153 against, with 30 abstentions.

Financial matters

The core purpose of the Finance Council meeting, as opposed to the AGM, is to consider the ECF's financial position and to agree the budget for the coming year, setting membership and game fee rates en route.

This year, thanks to the hard work of Chris Mattos, John Philpott and David Eustace (Director of Finance), comprehensive financial reports had been prepared and circulated in advance, which greatly aided efficient discussion and provided reassurance that the Board was on top of the numbers.

To summarise a plethora of information in a few short words:

- The ECF achieved a surplus of about £11,000 for the 16-month 2012/13 financial year;
- The current (2013/14) financial year is projected to achieve a surplus of £21,000, despite the fact that it includes the expense of both an Olympiad and a European Team Championships (normally, they would feature in alternate financial years);

- The 2014/15 budget produces a further surplus of £21,000, adding to the health of the ECF's reserves.

Some one-off factors influenced the outcomes in 2012/13 and 2013/14:

The ECF benefitted in 2012/13 from receipt of £12,000 from the pension fund trustees of the late Martin Hawley. It had been expected that more than half of this might have been required to cover the venue costs of the Riviera Centre for the 2013 British Championships in Torquay, but in the event, the entry to the championships was so good that none of the £7,500 earmarked to cover these costs was required.

In the current year, the departure of the ECF office manager and the covering of the vacated role by an official on an unpaid, voluntary basis created a better-than-expected performance on the cost side. Council was told that this would not be repeated in 2014/15, as a new (paid) office manager would be recruited to restore the office staff to budgeted levels.

These one-off factors notwithstanding, the Director of Finance stated that the good financial results were in large part a reflection of the success of the membership scheme, which had stabilised the Federation's finances after years of uneven performances and deficits. This conclusion was echoed by the Chairman of the Finance Committee, among others.

Financial decisions taken

Moving to the meat of the agenda and the matters perhaps of most interest to members, Council decided the following:

- Individual members' subscriptions are unchanged;
- The minimum membership fee for organisations is unchanged;
- Game Fee rates are unchanged;
- An additional £5,500 was made available in the current financial year to supplement the International Chess budget, in order to allow the strongest possible teams – Open and Women's – to be sent to the 2014 Olympiad (in the event that funds raised from external sources fall short).

The decision to freeze Game Fee rates for a further year represented a rejection of a proposal initiated by the Hastings & St Leonards Chess Club to reduce rates for graded internal club games. There was little support for this at the meeting (Sean Hewitt pointed out that only 54 people played only internal club games and that half of these were from Hastings & St Leonards), and the proposal was defeated by 9 votes to 29 on a show of hands.

The Game Fee decision also represented a rejection of the Board's proposal of a 12.5% increase (i.e. for standard play, from £2.00 to £2.25 per result). The Director of Finance stated openly that this increase had been proposed in order to encourage a still greater switch to individual ECF membership and that the additional monies raised were modest (less than £2,000). My own comment at the meeting was that the increase was largely meaningless in its financial impact and too small to have a significant effect in accelerating the trend towards membership. As such, it appeared to fall between two stools.

On this basis, the budget for 2014/15 was adopted with none against.

Looking further ahead

As well as a budget for 2014/15, the Director of Finance had prepared projections for the following two years, reflecting a number of different scenarios. These centred on the policy with regard to support for the ECF's international chess activities and its intended timetable for achievement of a reserves target of £100,000.

There was limited discussion of these scenarios. In conjunction with the plans for the establishment of a chess charity and the transfer of monies currently held in the Permanent Invested Fund (within the British Chess Federation), I suggested to the Board that consideration be given to splitting the transfer so that sufficient monies were passed to the ECF to meet its reserves target at the earliest opportunity. The rationale for this suggestion

was that it would liberate the ECF from the need to budget surpluses for the next few years, allowing room for investment in activities to develop and support English chess.

As it was, by the time the Council meeting was briefly suspended to allow for an Extraordinary Meeting of the **British Chess Federation** (BCF), the proposal to set up a new charity had been qualified by the announcement that approval for the transfer of funds from the Permanent Invested Fund would not now be sought. On this basis, it had been passed, since it was clear that without the switching of funds the establishment of a new charity was unobjectionable.

The BCF meeting was noteworthy for the fact that up-to-date financial statements had been provided for all of its constituent parts, a significant improvement on previous years. A proposal to renew the Permanent Invested Fund until May 2035 was modified by the Board to a renewal until May 2016, to allow time for consultation over matters raised in the ECF Council paper on the establishment of a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. As stated previously, the proposal to transfer all but £1,000 of the BCF Permanent Invested Fund monies to the new charity was withdrawn, so the status quo prevails for a couple more years.

Returning to the ECF Finance Council ...

In advance of the meeting, Chief Executive Phil Ehr had prepared and circulated two papers for discussion and noting, on Strategy and 'Transformation'. In the event, attendees were told that the intention was now to open these up for consultation, and written comments over the coming weeks were invited (no deadline was specified). The papers are still available on the ECF website at <http://www.englishchess.org.uk/about-2/ecf-council-and-board/>.

In brief, the Strategy paper proposes the following initiatives:

- *Initiative 1:* Improve financial management and office performance;
- *Initiative 2:* Compete in the Olympiad, European Team Championships and Youth Olympiad with the best teams that funds allow;
- *Initiative 3:* Correct shortfalls in secondary schools, women's and seniors' chess;
- *Initiative 4a:* Transform and improve governance to enable charity funding of charitable activities;
- *Initiative 4b:* Improve governance and transform to enable commercial practices and major sponsorship of English Chess;
- *Initiative 4c:* Transform and improve governance to enable access to funds dedicated to promoting sport.

There is more detail in the paper, which interested members are encouraged to read. The final initiative reflects the assertion that the current ECF organisation is not "fit for purpose" and that a 'transformation' is required. This is set out in the Transformation White Paper, which includes the following suggested measures (intended for discussion purposes only):

1. Rebalance representation at Council among players, arbiters, organisers, coaches and reporters.
2. Permit directors and managers to be paid as a means to recruit and manage relationships with corporate sponsors and to raise standards for delivery of ECF-run championships and member services.
3. Increase terms of office for Board members.
4. Require conflict of interest certification for candidate Board members. Use registered charity standards for directors designated as ex officio charity trustees. Use company standards for other directors. Consider extending conflict of interest certification for other officials involved with selection of players, coaches, arbiters and organisers.
5. Merge the Awards Committee and the Personnel Committee in to a single Recognition Committee.

Expand their combined task to include human resource support and oversight for paid staff and volunteers.

6. Establish an Ethics Committee or expand the Governance Committee's remit to include complaints.

7. Maintain restrictions on the size of the Board but realign executive director responsibilities by function, such as below. Note in this structure the mutual support required, as distinct from the current structure that is sometimes regarded as three largely independent business units (home, international, junior) operating autonomously.

- President
 - o ambassador-at-large;
- Chief Executive (ex officio charity trustee)
 - o strategic and operational guidance, relations with higher echelon domestic bodies such as the All Party Parliamentary Group, Sport and Recreation Alliance, Sport England, British Olympic Association;
- Finance Director (ex officio charity trustee)
 - o budget and finance;
- Player Development Director
 - o training programmes and international selection of professional players, amateurs, youth, women, seniors, clubs, schools, prisoners, armed forces, veterans; and their supporting trainers and coaches; junior bursary fund;
- Education, Qualifications and Culture Director
 - o Laws of Chess, training and qualification for arbiters, trainers and coaches, general ECF policies, coordination with unions, congresses, independent associations, school associations, charities and chess variant bodies;
- International Affairs Director
 - o international delegate, FIDE commissions, coordination with other federations, BICC;
- Commercial Director (paid)
 - o sponsor and donor relations, all ECF-run and outsourced tournaments, Grand Prix, logistics planning for all events including training events, equipment, public communications, website, library, merchandise;
- Member Services Director (paid)
 - o grading, FIDE ratings and titles, future anti-cheating services, community calendar, official travel for teams, awards, personnel, content for the yearbook and newsletters, office management, complaints management, membership drive;
- Two Non-executive Directors
 - o at least one from outside the chess community.

All ECF member organisations and individual members are invited to provide comments on these papers, which should be directed to the ECF office for the Chief Executive's attention.

The meeting closed with an expression of appreciation for the Chairman's sterling efforts, a sentiment that I am delighted to endorse.

- *Andrew Farthing*

All-conquering Guildford win 4NCL again

Chess Moves reports on the conclusion to the 2013/14 competition, which took place over the May Bank Holiday weekend.

The final weekend of the Four Nations Chess League (4NCL) saw Guildford 1 continue their vein of dominating form, winning the Division 1 title with a maximum 14/14 match points and an impressive 45½/56 game points. Guildford's performance surpassed their own high standards set the previous year, when they conceded a tied match to Wood Green Hilsmark 1.

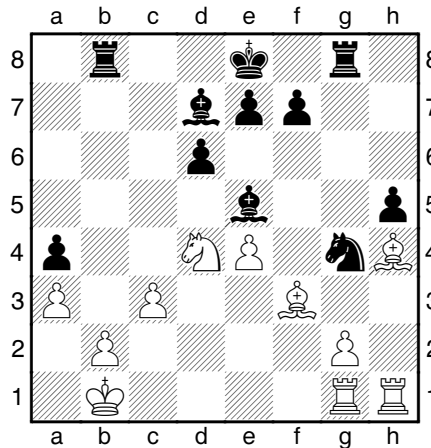
Wood Green were Guildford's main rivals again this season, but they were ultimately unable to match the favourites in their final round encounter. Guildford's 6-2 winning margin was very convincing in the end, although the match proved to be a tough struggle.

Since the match proved to be at the heart of the battle for the title, let us examine how it unfolded, starting with a heavyweight clash on top board. Michael Adams is a tough nut to crack, and Maxime Vachier-Lagrave's slow but steady accumulation of advantages in this game is impressive:

Michael Adams (Wood Green HK 1) - Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (Guildford 1)

4NCL Division 1c (round 11), 05.05.2014

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 Ng4 7.Bg5 h6 8.Bh4 g5 9.Bg3 Bg7 10.Qd2 Nc6 11.Nb3 b5 12.h4 b4 13.Na4 gxh4 14.Bxh4 Bd7 15.f3 Nce5 16.fxg4 Bxa4 17.0-0-0 Bd7 18.Be2 Nxc4 19.Qxb4 a5 20.Qb7 Rb8 21.Qa7 Ra8 22.Qb7 Qb8 23.Qxb8+ Rxb8 24.c3 a4 25.Nd4 Ne3 26.Rdg1 Rg8 27.Bf2 Ng4 28.Be1 Be5 29.Kb1 Nf6 30.Bf3 h5 31.Bh4 Ng4 32.a3?!



The light square weaknesses around the white king do not create a strong impression. 32.Re1, keeping the knight out of e3 for the time being, looks more solid.

32...Ne3

Black's tiny edge is starting to grow into something more promising.

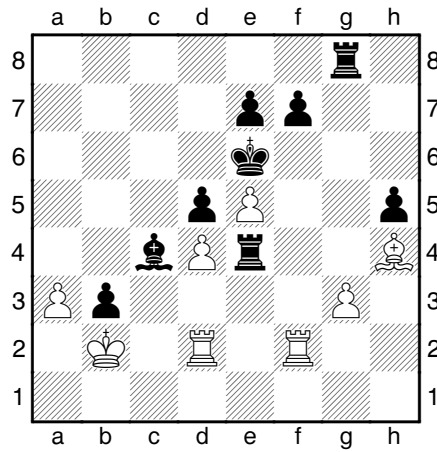
33.Be2 Bxd4 34.cxd4 Bb5 35.Rh3 Bxe2 36.Rxe3 Ba6 37.e5 Rg4 38.g3?!

Protecting the bishop, of course, but blocking off one of its paths back into the game. 38.Rg3 was better (not 38...Rxh4, 39.Rg8+ winning the exchange).

38...d5 39.Rd1 Kd7 40.Rd2 Bc4 41.b4?

It's never easy to hold the line in the face of nagging pressure, but this looks reckless. Shifting a rook to the f-file was a better try.

41...axb3 42.Kb2 Ke6 43.Rf3 Rbg8 44.Rff2 Re4



Black's pieces are much more active than White's now, and the writing is on the wall.

45.Rd1 Rgg4 46.Kc3 Re3+ 47.Kb2 Rge4 48.Rdd2 Re1 49.Rh2 Rg1 50.Rhf2 Ree1 51.Kc3 Ra1 52.Kb4 Ra2 0-1

Board 2 witnessed another hard battle, which for much of its length seemed to be favouring Luke McShane if anyone. However, Anish Giri showed his class and achieved a gradual reversal of fortunes:

Anish Giri (Guildford 1) - Luke McShane (Wood Green HK 1)

4NCL Division 1c (round 11), 05.05.2014

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 a6 5.a4 e6 6.g3 a5 7.Bg2 Na6 8.0-0 Be7 9.Nd2 0-0 10.e4 Nb4 11.e5 Ne8 12.b3 b6 13.Ba3 Nc7 14.Re1 Bb7 15.cxd5?!

It's not clear that this line-opening helps White. A move like 15.Nf3 would have been solid and safe. Black has fully equalised.

15...cxd5 16.Bf1 Ba6 17.Bxa6 Ncxa6 18.Ndb1?!

I may be demonstrating no more than my own lack of imagination, but I again favour the solid 18.Nf3. Giri's manoeuvring fails to convince here.

18...Rc8 19.Bb2 Rc6 20.Na3 Qd7 21.Qd2 Rfc8 22.Rec1 Nc7 23.Qe2 Qe8 24.Kg2 f6 25.exf6 Bxf6 26.Nd1 Nca6 27.Rxc6 Rxc6 28.Ne3 Qg6 29.Rd1 Nc7 30.Kg1 h5

From this point on, McShane's position starts to drift and his advantage, albeit small, evaporates.

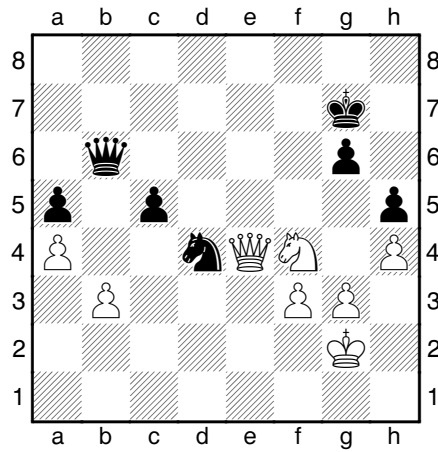
31.Ng2 Bg5 32.h4 Bh6 33.Ne1 Bf4 34.Ng2 Bd6 35.Ne1 Ne8 36.Rc1 Rxc1 37.Bxc1 Qe4 38.Be3 Nf6 39.Nb5 Bf8 40.Nc3 Qf5 41.Bf4 Nc6 42.Nb5 Qe4 43.Qd1 e5 44.f3 Qf5 45.dxe5 Nxe5 46.Nd4 Bc5 47.Kg2 Bxd4 48.Qxd4 Ned7 49.Nd3 Qe6 50.Qe3 Qc6 51.Qc1 Nc5

I would have been tempted to exchange queens here, although White would have enough of an edge to want to keep trying for the win.

52.Be3 Nfd7 53.Nf4 Qd6 54.Qc3 g6?!

54...Ne6 55.Nxe6 Qxe6 56.Qc8+ Kf7 57.Kf2 leaves White with a small plus, but Black should hold.

55.Qc2 Kf7 56.Bd4 Nb8 57.Bxc5 bxc5 58.Qd2 Nc6 59.Nxd5 Nd4 60.Nf4 Qb6 61.Qd3 Kg7 62.Qe4



62...Kf7?

62...Qf6 was better. Now the queen penetrates into the enemy half and Black's game crumbles.

63.Qd5+ Kg7 64.Qd7+ Kg8?

Hastening the end.

65.Qe8+ Kg7 66.Qe7+ Kh8 67.Qf8+ Kh7 68.Nd5 1-0

On Board 3, Sadler and Shirov conducted a steady game which never threatened seriously to be anything other than a draw:

Alexei Shirov (Wood Green HK 1) - Matthew Sadler (Guildford 1)

4NCL Division 1c (round 11), 05.05.2014

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.f4 c5 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Be3 a6 8.Qd2 b5 9.a3 Qa5 10.Ra2 Qb6 11.Nd1 cxd4 12.Nxd4 Nxd4 13.Bxd4 Bc5 14.c3 0-0 15.b4 Bxd4 16.cxd4 f6 17.Bd3 a5 18.Nc3 Nb8 19.exf6 Rxf6 20.bxa5 Rxa5 21.Bxb5 Ba6 22.a4 Bxb5 23.Nxb5 Qa6 24.0-0 Rxa4 25.Rxa4 Qxa4 26.Qb2 Nc6 27.g3 Ne7?!

27...Qa6 gives Black more options. Now, Shirov's pieces become more active than Sadler's, but no serious harm is done.

28.Ra1 Qc4 29.Ra8+ Rf8 30.Nd6 Qc7 31.Rxf8+ Kxf8 32.Qa3 Qb8 33.Kg2 Kg8 34.Qa6 h6 35.Nb5 Qc8 36.Qxc8+ Nxc8 37.g4 Kf7 38.Kf3 Ke7 39.f5 exf5 40.gxf5 Kf6 41.Kf4 Ne7 42.Nc7 Nxf5 43.Nxd5+ Kg6 44.Ke4 ½-½

One of the best games of the match was played on Board 4. Enterprising opening play by Gawain Jones on the white side of a Classical Caro-Kann saw him sacrifice two pawns for a king-side attack. This was repelled, but at a heavy positional price in the resulting endgame. The conversion to victory was very efficient.

Gawain Jones (Guildford 1) - Viktor Laznicka (Wood Green HK 1)

4NCL Division 1c (round 11), 05.05.2014

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bf5 5.Ng3 Bg6 6.Nf3 Nd7 7.h4 h6 8.h5 Bh7 9.Bd3 Bxd3 10.Qxd3 e6 11.Bd2 Nxf6 12.0-0-0 Be7 13.Kb1 0-0 14.Ne4 c5 15.g4

A sharp pawn sacrifice to stir up the normally tranquil Caro-Kann waters. White opens up a line of attack against the black king along the g-file.

15...Nxc4 16.Qe2 Qb6 17.Ne5 Ndx5

Past experience in this line suggests that the other recapture 17...Ngxe5 is too dangerous for Black.

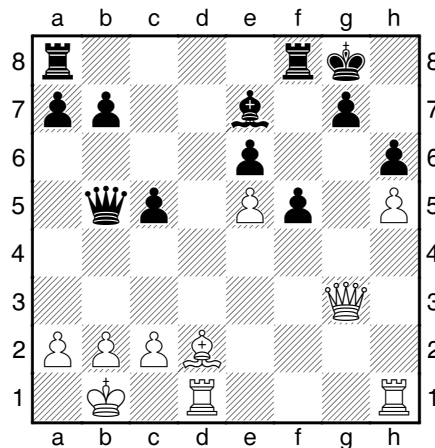
18.dxe5 f5 19.Nc3

A new move according to John Saunders, in his notes to the game on the 4NCL website. Previously, White has always played 19.exf6 Nxf6 20.Rdg1 Nxe4 21.Qxe4 Bf6, with a balanced position.

19...Qa6 20.Nb5

Another pawn is added to the fire. In return, Jones sees the removal of the irritating black knight from the g-file, which he hopes will facilitate his attack.

20...Nxf2 21.Qxf2 Qxb5 22.Qg3!



Clever. Black was threatening to push his pawn to f4 and then place his bishop securely on g5, once more blocking the crucial g-file.

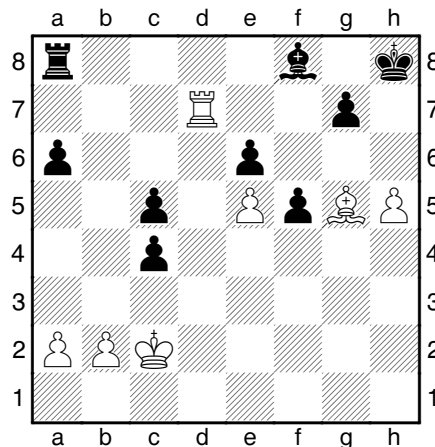
22...Kh8 23.Rhg1 Rf7 24.Qg6 Qe8 25.Bf4 Bf8

The position is fiendishly difficult (and way beyond my pay grade). 25...Bh4 26.Rd6 Rd8 (26...Rc7 27.Rxe6 Qxg6 28.Rexg6) 27.Rxe6 Re7 28.Rd6 Rxd6 29.Qxe8+ Rxe8 30.exd6 Re4 seems to be Black's most promising defence. Now, after 25...Bf8? he is in serious trouble.

26.Bxh6 Rd7 27.Rxd7 Qxd7 28.Bg5 Qe8 29.c4

White limits the scope of the bishop on f8.

29...a6 30.Rd1 b5 31.Qxe8 Rxe8 32.Rd7 bxc4 33.Kc2 Ra8



Saunders reports that Laznicka was down to 8 minutes on the clock, compared to White's 48. For the moment,

Black is two pawns up, but his pieces are much less well placed, and the doubled isolated c-pawns make this irrelevant. It is White who is exerting the pressure here.

34.a4 Kg8 35.Rb7 f4 36.Bxf4 Rd8 37.a5 Rd4 38.Bd2 Rh4 39.Rb6 Rxh5 40.Rxa6 g5

40...Rxe5 is a tougher defence, but after 41.Ra8 Rf5 42.a6 Rf7 43.a7 Kh7 44.Kc3 Black's cause is hopeless. The bishop is stuck in place, because if it moves, Rh8+ follows and the a-pawn queens.

41.Rxe6 g4 42.a6 Rh1 43.Re8 c3 44.Kxc3 Rh7 45.e6 g3 1–0

Wood Green's worst defeat came on Board 5, where Guildford's Romain Edouard put on a striking display of enterprising chess:

Jon Ludvig Hammer (Wood Green HK 1) - Romain Edouard (Guildford 1)

4NCL Division 1c (round 11), 05.05.2014

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.e4 b5

A refreshing change from the apparently endless Slav Defences seen at GM level. This takes me right back to my schooldays, when the Queen's Gambit Accepted was seen as an enterprising and easy-to-learn option for Black.

4.a4 c6 5.axb5 cxb5 6.Nc3 a6!?

After six moves, Edouard decides that he has had enough of grabbing material and returns the pawn with interest. The pin on the a-file means that the b-pawn is not really defended.

7.Nxb5 axb5 8.Rxa8 Bb7 9.Ra1 e6 10.Be2

10.f3, bolstering the e4 pawn, is the materialistic way to go, but one can understand Hammer's wish to develop some pieces.

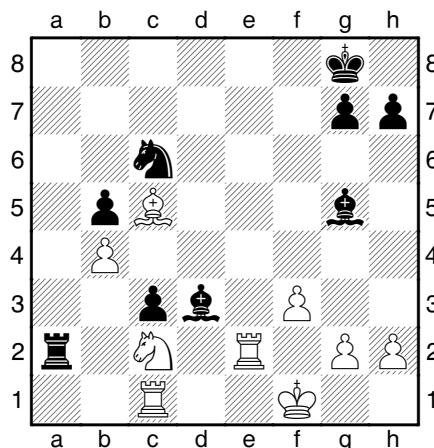
10...Nf6 11.Nf3 Nxe4 12.0–0 Qd5 13.Ne1 Nc6 14.Nc2 Bd6 15.Bf3 Bb8 16.Re1 f5 17.Bxe4 fxe4 18.Qg4 0–0 19.Qxe4 Qxe4 20.Rxe4 e5 21.dxe5 Bxe5 22.Rb1 Bf6 23.Re2 Bc8 24.b3 Bg4 25.Kf1

I confess that I do not understand this move at all. What was wrong with the natural 25.f3?

25...c3 26.Be3 Ra8 27.Bc5 Ra2 28.f3?

Having eschewed this move on multiple occasions (it would have been a good choice even on the previous move), White finally plays it, and it's a blunder! So much in life is the art of timing...

28...Bf5 29.Rc1 Bd3 30.b4 Bg5



White's position collapses under the onslaught of pins and direct piece attacks. Time to resign... **0-1**

Two of England's finest were paired against each other on Board 6. The result was a solid draw, which rarely strayed far from equality during its fifty moves:

Nigel Short (Guildford 1) - David Howell (Wood Green HK 1)

4NCL Division 1c (round 11), 05.05.2014

1.c4 c6 2.Nf3 d5 3.e3 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6 5.b3 Bd6 6.Bb2 0-0 7.Be2 e5 8.cxd5 cxd5 9.Nb5 e4 10.Ne5 Ne8 11.f4 f6 12.Ng4 Bxg4 13.Bxg4 f5 14.Be2 Nc6 15.0-0 Bc5 16.Rc1 Qe7 17.Qc2 Bb6 18.Ba3 Nb4 19.Qc3 a5 20.Kh1 Rf7 21.Qe5 Qd7 22.h3 Rd8 23.Bxb4 axb4 24.g4 fxg4 25.hxg4 Nc7 [25...Ra8!?] 26.Nxc7 Bxc7 27.Qh5 g6 28.Qh4 Qd6 29.g5 Kh8 30.Bg4 Rdf8 31.Qh3 Re7 32.Kg2 Bb6 33.Rc2 d4 34.Rfc1 Rd8 35.Qg3 Bc7 36.Qe1 Kg7 37.Qh1 Kh8 38.Qf1 Kg7 39.Qf2 Bb6 40.Rc8 Ree8 41.R1c4 Rf8 42.Qe2 h6 43.gxh6+ Kxh6 44.Rxd8 Rxd8 45.Rc8 Rxc8 46.Bxc8 dxe3 47.dxe3 Qd5 48.Kf1 Kg7 49.Bh3 Qc5 50.Bg2 Qxe3 ½-½

The bottom two boards were also drawn:

Jonathan Rowson (Wood Green HK 1) - Robin Van Kampen (Guildford 1)

4NCL Division 1c (round 11), 05.05.2014

1.d4 d6 2.e4 Nf6 3.f3 c5 4.d5 e6 5.c4 exd5 6.cxd5 g6 7.Bd3 Bg7 8.Ne2 0-0 9.Nbc3 a6 10.Bg5 h6 11.Be3 Nbd7 12.Rc1 b5 13.b3 Ne5 14.Bb1 Bd7 15.Qd2 b4 16.Nd1 Bb5 17.Nf2 Re8 18.Bxh6 Bxh6 19.Qxh6 Nxd5 20.Rd1 Nf6 21.Ng3 Re6 22.h4 Qf8 23.Qxf8+ Rxf8 24.Nh3 Rd8 25.Kf2 Re7 26.Nf4 a5 27.h5 a4 28.Rh3 axb3 29.axb3 c4 30.hxg6 fxg6 31.Rdh1 Rh7 32.Rxh7 Nxh7 33.Ne6 Rc8 34.f4 Ng4+ 35.Kf3 Bd7 36.Kxg4 Bxe6+ 37.f5 gxf5+ 38.exf5 Bf7 39.bxc4 Rxc4+ 40.Kf3 Nf6 41.Ne2 b3 42.Ke3 Kg7 43.g3 Bd5 44.Rh4 ½-½

Antoaneta Stefanova (Guildford 1) - Pia Cramling (Wood Green HK 1)

4NCL Division 1c (round 11), 05.05.2014

1.d4 e6 2.c4 Nf6 3.Nf3 Bb4+ 4.Nbd2 b6 5.a3 Bxd2+ 6.Bxd2 Bb7 7.Bg5 h6 8.Bh4 d6 9.e3 Nbd7 10.Qc2 Qe7 11.Rd1 0-0 12.h3 Rfc8 13.b4 c5 14.Qb2 cxd4 15.Rxd4 e5 16.Rd1 Qe6 17.Nd2 a5 18.Bxf6 Qxf6 19.Qb1 [19.Nb1 axb4 20.axb4 Qe6 21.Nc3 Nf6 22.Qb3 looks a little better than the line chosen by White, although Black retains a plus.] 19...axb4 20.axb4 d5 [20...b5] 21.Ne4 Qe6 22.cxd5 Bxd5 23.Bb5 Bxe4 24.Qxe4 Nf6 25.Qd3 e4 26.Qd4 Ra2 27.0-0 Rcc2 28.Bd7 Nxd7 29.Qxd7 Qxd7 30.Rxd7 Rc4 31.Rb1 Rcc2 32.Rf1 Rc4 33.Rb1 Rcc2 ½-½

FINAL STANDINGS:

Division 1 Championship Pool

Place	Team	Game points	Match points
1	Guildford 1	45½	14
2	Wood Green HK 1	40½	12
3	White Rose 1	28½	9
4	Cheddleton 1	26½	7
5	Guildford 2	26½	6
6	Grantham Sharks 1	24	5
7	e2e4.org.uk 1	15½	3
8	Barbican 4NCL 2	16	0

Division 1 Demotion Pool

Place	Team	Game points	Match points
1	Wood Green HK 2	33½	12

2	Blackthorne Russia	35	10
3	Barbican 4NCL 1	34	10
4	Cambridge University 1	29½	8
5	Oxford 1	26	8
6	3Cs 1	32	6
7	Kings Head 1	15	2
8	Grantham Sharks 2	15½	0

The relegated teams are: Oxford 1, 3Cs 1 (despite their strikingly high game points total), Kings Head 1 and Grantham Sharks 2.

Division 2 Promotion Pool

Place	Team	Game points	Match points
1	The ADs	28½	9
2	Hackney	32	8
3	Warwickshire Select 1	28	7
4	South Wales Dragons	28	7
5	Cambridge University 2	26	7
6	BCM Dragons (1)	28	6
7	Anglian Avengers 1	28	6
8	Bristol 1	24½	6

The promoted teams are: The ADs, Hackney, Warwickshire Select 1 and South Wales Dragons.

Division 2 Demotion Pool

Place	Team	Game points	Match points
1	White Rose 2	33½	11
2	Rhyfelwyr Essyllwyg	31	10
3	Barbican 4NCL Youth	29½	7
4	KJCA Kings	27	7
5	Brown Jack	27	7
6	Wessex	26½	7
7	Bradford DCA Knights A	25	4
8	Poisoned Pawns	24½	3

The relegated teams are: Brown Jack, Wessex, Bradford DCA Knights A and Poisoned Pawns.

Division 3

The leading teams were:

Place	Team	Game points	Match points
1	Guildford 3	49	21
2	Spirit of Atticus A	40½	16
3	MK Phoenix 1	39	16
4	Sussex Smart Survivors 1	39½	16
5	Anglian Avengers 2	39½	15
6	North East England 1	38½	15
7	e2e4.org.uk 2	39½	15
8	West is Best 1	36	15

The promoted teams are: Guildford 3, Spirit of Atticus A, MK Phoenix 1 and Sussex Smart Survivors 1.

NORMS ACHIEVED

Subject to the usual confirmation, the following title norms were achieved during the 4NCL season:

- Peter Roberson - Final IM norm
- Guillaume Camus de Solliers - IM norm
- James Adair Final - IM norm
- Justin Tan - IM norm
- Alberto Suarez Real - IM norm
- Adam Ashton - IM norm

- *Andrew Farthing*

CONGRESS ROUND-UP

Rothay Manor Chess Holiday, 16-23 March

(7 round Swiss, with 1 hour each on the clock)

1st= Neville Pearce (York RI); Peter Simpson (Canberra) 6/7; 3rd John Webb, Fareham 4.5/7

1st Bexhill FIDE Congress, 22-23 March

U2200: 1st Jeffrey Boardman 4/5

U1900: 1st Brendan O’Gorman 4.5/5

English Rapidplay Championships, 29-30 March

The inaugural English Rapidplay Championships were held at De Vere Uplands House, High Wycombe:

OPEN

1st GM Daniel Gormally (Blackthorn Russia) 9/11;

2nd= IM Ameet Ghasi (Warwickshire), FM Alexander Longson (Marple) 8.5;

4th FM Alan Merry (Anglian Avenger) 7.5

U190 Matthew Lunn, £50.00 Drunken Knights 6

MAJOR

1st Peter Tart (Camberley) 10/11;

2nd= Harry Grieve, (Yateley Manor), Charlie McLaren (Wotton Hall) 7.5;

4th= Brocklehurst, Andrew, Shane McCabe 7.0;

145-155= Joshua Pink (Coventry), James Robinson (GLCC), Gary Jackson (Banbury) 6.5

U144= Jagdeep Dhemrait, (Harrow), Christopher Lewis (Newport) 7;

MINOR

1st David Grange (Drunken Knights) 9.5/11;

2nd Peter Finn (Wycombe & Hazle) 9;

3rd= Daniel Rowan (Banbury), David Fowler (Snodland), Robert Mitchell (Sidcup) 7

39th Nottingham chess congress, 29-30 March

There was an increased entry of 160 players for this long-running congress.

OPEN: 1st= Mark Hebden (4NCL Guildford), Alex Posazhennikov (West Notts), Michael Barnes (Gambit) 4/5

MAJOR (U165): 1st= Brendan O’Gorman (DHSS), Sam Herring (Oundle School), Richard Desmedt (Wombwell),

Hari Solomonides (West Bridgford), Robert Clegg (Huddersfield) 4/5

INTERMEDIATE (U135): 1st= Stephen Foster (Central), Robert Wallace (Melton Mowbray), Peter Gorecka-Marshall (Gambit) 4/5

MINOR (U110): 1st Shah Hussain 4.5/5; 2nd= Stephen Crockett (Redditch), Christopher Fraser (West Bridgford) 4

32nd St Albans Chess Congress, 5-6 April

165 entries

OPEN: 1st Richard Bates 4.5/5; 2nd Jeremy Ward 4; 3rd John Briggs 3.5

CHALLENGERS (U181): 1st= Helge Hjort, Peter Lane, Shane McCabe 4/5

MAJOR (U161): 1st Michael Botteley 4.5/5; 2nd Nigel Norman 4; 3rd= Dean Hartley, Alan Prince, Robert Dean, Neil Dunlop 3.5

INTERMEDIATE (U141): 1st Samir Vora 5/5; 2nd Dennis Wright 4.5; seven players tied for 3rd place with 3.5

MINOR (U121): 1st= Douglas Forbes, Sanjay Kumar 4.5/5; 3rd= Colin Gardiner, John MacDonald, Philip Humphry 4

Bristol League Congress, 11-13 April

OPEN: 1st= James Cobb (Clifton), Chris Beaumont (Clifton) 4/5

MAJOR (U155): 1st Matthew Wilson (Downend) 4.5/5; 2nd= Alex Rossiter (Bristol Cabot), Adrian Champion (Bristol Cabot) 4

MINOR (U125): 1st= Richard Porter (Bristol University), Lee Bullock (London), Amol Telang (Clifton) 4/5

17th Hampstead U2200 Congress, 12-13 April

1st Ali Jaunooby 4.5/5; 2nd= Matthew Dignam, Thomas Villiers, Tim Rogers, Valentin Gaudeau, Kanan Farzaliyev, Koby Kalavannan 4

Staffordshire Chess Congress, 12-13 April

PREMIER: 1st= IM Geoffrey Lawton (Checkmate), Malcolm Armstrong (Stafford) and Tomasz Sygnowski (Wolverhampton)

MAJOR: 1st Jonathan Hunt (Wolverhampton); 2nd Shabir Okhai (Syston);
3rd= Michael Connor (Great Lever), Martyn Harris (Newcastle-under-Lyme), Steve Rooney (Church Stretton)

MINOR: 1st= Bill Egan (Scunthorpe), Francis Rooney (Church Stretton), Marco Ho

e2e4 Sunningdale Easter Congress, 17-21 April

OPEN: 1st GM Nick Pert (Sandhurst) 7/9; 2nd= IM Jonathan Hawkins (4NCL Cheddleton), GM Daniel Gormally (Blackthorn Russia), GM Simon Williams (Drunken Knights), GM Keith Arkell (4NCL Cheddleton) 6.5

U2000: 1st= Daniel Staples (Battersea), Chino Nwachukwu (Latimer) 5.5/7; 3rd Freddie Hand (Kent) 5

U1800: 1st Matthew Wilson (Wigston) 6/7; 2nd= John Nicholson (Lagan), James Golding (Ashted) 5.5

U125: 1st Patrick Sartain (Hanham) 6/7; 2nd Lee Bullock (Hackney) 5.5; 3rd= Jake Bains-Gillespie (Berkshire

Juniors), John MacDonald (Kings Head), Derek Brent (Urmston), Robin Nettleton (Hayes) 5

Also held during this event was the **English Seniors Championship**:

1st Stephen Berry (Wimbledon) 4/5; 2nd Paul Habershon (Bedford) 3.5; 3rd= Geoffrey James (Brighton & Hove), Ivan Myall (Chelmsford), Roger de Coverly (Bourne End) 3

CCF Easter Congress, 18-19 April

OPEN: 1st= Sam Porter, Chris Ross 3.5/5; 3rd Alan Hayward 3

U2000: 1st William Drennan 4/5; 2nd Paul Smith 3.5; 3rd= David Cork, Ilan Dwek, Yang-Jian Zhou 3



Southend Easter Congress, 18-21 April

OPEN: 1st= Mark Hebden, Ameet Ghasi 6/7; 3rd= Richard Pert, Paul Talsma 5

MAJOR: 1st Howard Grist 4/5; 2nd Ian McAllan 3.5; 3rd Christopher Hampton 3

INTERMEDIATE: 1st Tony Cox 5/5; 2nd Graham West 3.5; 3rd= Phil Foley, Robin Oakley, Kevin Shaw, John Wright, Rudi Van Litsenborgh 3

MINOR: 1st Nicholas Stout 5/5; 2nd= Niall Ali, Ken Byrne, Nathalie Taylor 3.5

JUNIOR: 1st Kit-Long Siu 5/5; 2nd= Temi Aderogba, Scott Deakin 4

WECU 68th Open Chess Congress (Exmouth), 18-21 April

OPEN: 1st Richard McMichael (Kings Head) 5.5/7; 2nd Andrew Boyne (Exeter) 5; 3rd David Regis (Exeter) 4.5

MAJOR (U175): 1st= William Ingham (Teignmouth), John Bass (Richmond & Twickenham), Ivor Annetts (Tiverton) 5/7

MINOR (U140): 1st Norman Tidy (Teignmouth) 5.5/7; 2nd= Paul Jackson (Bournemouth), Robert Wilby (Plymouth), Ken Alexander (Tiverton) 5

2nd Golders Green Weekend Congress, 19-21 April

OPEN: 1st= Tomer Eden, Phil Makepeace, Tim Rogers 4.5/6

U1900: 1st Shane McCabe 5.5/6; 2nd= Simon Healeas, Milosz Kazmierczak, Jacques Parry 4.5

35th County Durham Open Chess Congress, 25-27 April

OPEN: 1st Clive Waters 4.5/5; 2nd David Henderson 4; 3rd= John Garnett, Malola Prasath, Ken Neat 3

MAJOR: 1st Colin Smith 4.5/5; 2nd= Stephen Hall, Andy Corbyn, Szymon Palucha, Antons Bukels, Bernie Price 3.5

MINOR: 1st Richard Beagarie 5/5; 2nd Joe Chan 4.5; 3rd William Egan 4

3rd Golders Green Weekend Congress, 3-5 May

OPEN: 1st Paul Georghiou 5/6; 2nd Matthew Dignam 4.5; 3rd= Phil Makepeace, Tom Villiers, Matthias Steiner, Philip Bonafont, Tim Rogers 4

U1900: 1st= Tim Joslin, Oliver Finnegan, Gautam Jain, David Erhabor 5/6

U1600: 1st Alan Fraser 5.5/6; 2nd Adah Simon Ogah 5; 3rd Caroline Robson 4

e2e4 High Wycombe Congress, 9-11 May

OPEN: 1st James Jackson (Chess Mates) 4/5; 2nd= GM Keith Arkell (4NCL Cheddleton), IM Gediminas Sarakauskas 3.5

CHALLENGERS: 1st= Meyrick Shaw (Exmouth), Charlie Nettleton (Hayes), Billy Twigge-Molecey 4/5

MAJOR: 1st Vladimirs Bovtramovics (Woking) 4.5/5; 2nd= Gary White (Priorslee Lions), Peter Horlock (Godalming) 3.5

MINOR: 1st Derek Brent 4/5; 2nd= Paul Broderick (Newport, Shropshire), Robin Morris-Weston, Jennifer Goldsmith (Harrow), Robin Nettleton (Hayes) 3

25th Frome Chess Congress, 9-11 May

OPEN: 1st Paul Byway (Hertford) 4.5/5; 2nd= Carl Bicknell (Horfield and Redland), Barry Morris (Bath) 3.5

MAJOR (U170): 1st Tim Woodward (Trowbridge) 4.5/5; 2nd= Paul Jackson (Coulsdon), Karl Biswas (Oxford City), Mark Littleton (Wimborne), Ivor (Annetts (Tiverton) 3.5

INTERMEDIATE (U140): 1st Jamie Macdonald (Wimborne) 5/5; 2nd= Thomas Cooper (Trowbridge), Max French (Frome), Keith Bateman (Salisbury) 4

MINOR (U115): 1st= Stephen Crockett (Redditch), Matthew Hutt (Wiltshire), Frank Cheeseman (Sportsman Kent) 4.5/5

Q&A – COLIN GARDINER

In the 1982 black-and-white *film noir* spoof *Dead Men Don't Wear Plaid*, Steve Martin's detective hero comes across a mysterious list, headed the 'Friends of Carlotta' or sometimes just 'FOC'. On the English weekend congress circuit, it sometimes seems as if a comparable list of the 'Friends of Colin' would encompass practically the entire circuit. Colin Gardiner seems to know everyone, and everyone knows Colin. There can be few of us in the lower sections of the congress circuit unfamiliar with the sight of Colin facing us at the board, popping the mints many believe to be the source of his over-the-board inspiration. He is what Malcolm Gladwell describes in his excellent book *The Tipping Point* as a "connector", someone who knows large numbers of people and likes to make introductions between his friends and acquaintances.

A regular towards the top of his section of the ECF Grand Prix, Colin clearly loves to play, as shown by the 147 standard play games that he clocked up during the last year. He took time out recently to complete the *Chess Moves* questionnaire.



Tell us a little about your background.

I grew up in Reading, Grammar School Education. I left school at 16 and joined Lloyds Bank, for whom I worked for 40 years, ending up in the delightful village of Goring-on-Thames.

How long have you been playing chess?

About 40 years. I played friendly chess with my uncle for 25 years and did not join a chess club until 1973 when I worked at Bracknell. I later played for Lloyds in the London Banks chess league where I was captain for 7 years.

What attracts you to the game?

I enjoyed a social evening with my uncle firstly playing draughts and then progressing to the game of chess.

How important to you is improving your chess, and how do you go about it?

I think the most important part of chess is to enjoy yourself and enjoy the social side with your friends on the circuit.

What is your favourite chess book and/or DVD, and why?

I have always enjoyed reading *Beating the Anti-Sicilians* by Joe Gallagher, one of the few books written from Black's point of view.

Who is your favourite player, and why?

I have always admired my friend Michael Franklin, who has given me help along the way. Of players currently playing, it has to be Richard Desmedt - a lovely guy, a good friend and a very successful chess player. Richard is a good ambassador for chess.

What are you looking for in a chess congress, and do you have a favourite?

Good playing conditions, seaside locations. I especially liked the Paignton Congress when it was held at Oldway. I also enjoy Scarborough.

Do you have a most memorable or favourite game?

I don't normally keep my game scores. Here is a recent game, however, where I was on the rack for most of the game and hung in there and was fortunate that my opponent went for a spectacular finish which proved unsound.

Gert De Block (131) - Colin Gardiner (116)

Newmarket v Cambridge, 18.03.2014

(Notes by the editor)

1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 cxd4 5.cxd4 Nc6 6.Nf3 e6 7.Nc3 Bb4 8.Be2 Nf6 9.0-0 Bxc3 10.bxc3 0-0 11.c4 Qa5 12.Bd2 Qd8 13.Bg5 h6 14.Bh4 Re8 15.Re1 a5

Black is already worse. Possibly the best option is to exchange the dark-squared bishop, albeit at the cost of loosening the kingside: 15...g5 16.Bg3 Nh5 17.Bd3 Nxc3 18.hxc3 f5.

16.d5?

16.h3 to preserve the bishop pair or 16.Bd3 intending Be4 and Bxc6 were much better for White.

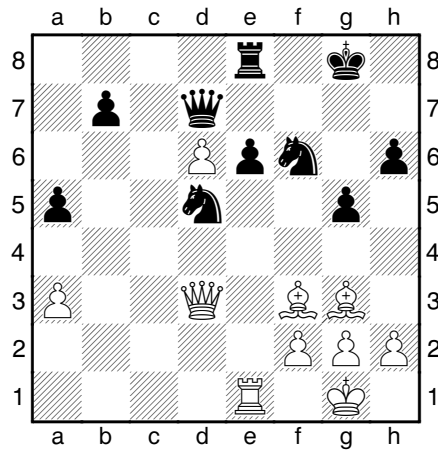
16...exd5 17.cxd5 Nb4?!

Unnecessary. 17...Qxd5 was possible, when Black has a pawn in compensation for his positional shortcomings.

18.d6 Bf5 19.Nd4 Bd7 20.a3 Nbd5 21.Bf3 g5 22.Bg3 Rxe1+ 23.Qxe1 Qe8?!

The queen is not well-placed here, being vulnerable to a later Re1 chasing it off the file (or, as in the game, pinning a piece in front of the queen). 23...Qb6 would have left White with a plus, but Black would still be in the game.

24.Qd2 Be6 25.Re1 Qd7 26.Nxe6 fxe6 27.Qd3 Re8



28.Be5?

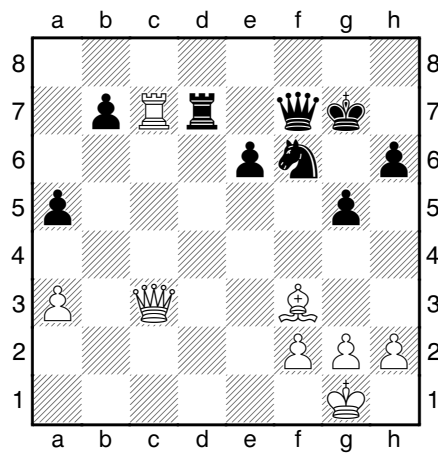
28.Bxd5! Nxd5 29.Qg6+ Kf8 30.Be5 is devastating, so Black has to let the piece go with 28...Qf7, when it is all over. **28...Qf7 29.Rc1 Rd8 30.Bxf6 Nxf6 31.Rc7 Rd7 32.Rc8+?!**

Starting to go astray. 32.Qc2 would be a more convincing path to victory.

32...Kg7 33.Qc3?!

White's winning chances are starting to reduce. 33.Qd4! was the right move.

33...Rxd6 34.Rc7 Rd7



Having been on the back foot for 20 moves, Colin has secured equality through his campaign of gritty resistance. Perhaps searching for a win that was no longer there, White thinks he sees a winning tactic...

35.Bh5??

...which turns out to be a tragic blunder. He must only have reckoned with 35...Qxh5, 36.Rxd7+ winning. Unfortunately for White, Colin has an alternative:

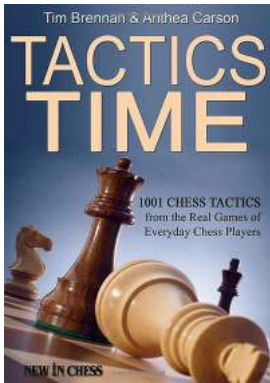
35...Rxc7 36.Qe3 Qxh5 37.h3 Qd1+ 38.Kh2 Qd6+ 39.g3 Rc2 40.Qf3 Qd5 0-1

BOOK REVIEWS - Gary Lane

Tactics Time

by Tim Brennan and Andrea Carson

Published by New In Chess, 142 pages £12.95



This is a very basic book of 1001 puzzles that contains no instruction but just presents the diagrams.

There is always a debate on how best to write a puzzle book, as Fred Reinfeld had numerous bestsellers such as *1001 Brilliant Checkmates* and in the past respected authors like Leonard Barden have also responded to the challenge. In his classic *Batsford Chess Puzzles*, Barden succeeded in adding value with interesting anecdotes about the game or players. I have to confess to have written three puzzles books and tried in my own way to emulate such work with the latest one being *Gary Lane's Chess Puzzles* (www.epluschess.com), where, thanks to the electronic iPad app, numerous photos can be added to spice up the stories behind the game and in the next edition speech will be included.

One of the reasons why *Tactics Time* has emerged is that its unique selling point is, and I quote, "Real amateur games are usually won by rather primitive means, compared to the cool and fancy moves that masters need in order to gain victory." This is frankly nonsense when we are discussing one or two move checkmates/winning material. There are plenty of books out there with games from all levels, but I do like the fact that it is easy to photocopy if you are a coach. I personally do not care for the fact that the authors have not bothered to add names, year or origin for the games, but lots of juniors don't mind either, so that is fine. At the end of the book solutions are given to the puzzles. Frankly, it just looks to me that one could press a button or two on Chessbase and generate a similar 1001 puzzles, and it might explain some odd selections such as game 179 which has major pieces all over the place and only in the solution do we find out it is not a typo but a Fischer Random game. One might argue it is good that improving players are not given a hint whether you should be looking to win material or forcing checkmate so it is just a matter of taste. A nice way of presenting the puzzles is done when it is Black to play and win as the board is flipped so we can see the position clearly from Black's point of view.

A collection of simple puzzles that will prove useful to chess coaches.

The Extreme Caro-Kann

by Alexey Bezgodov

Published by New In Chess, 271 pages £21.95

The publisher New In Chess seems to have ambitious people working in their marketing office, because the titles for their books are becoming more outlandish. I assume it must add to sales, so *The Diamond Dutch*, *Steamrolling the Sicilian* and *Sabotage the Grünfeld* have helped set a trend and one would imagine *Punish the Petroff* is coming out soon.

In this instance the former Russian champion has done a good job on promoting the Fantasy Variation, which is 1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 and now 3 f3. I have always liked this line and often advised improving players at the European or World Junior to take it up with excellent results. The thing is that the main line of the Caro is well-known to players of the Black pieces, while 3 f3 still retains a certain surprise value. There are plenty of variations where the author is obliged to admit that White won't win in 20 moves and accept that the position is equal according to the computer, but usually White has all the aggressive chances while Black tends to defend.



If you play the Caro-Kann and you might want to save your money, then 3...e6 is arguably the best reply, but Bezgodov has lots of interesting ideas to create something out of nothing in seemingly quiet positions. The theme of the book is to present 68 illustrative games and analyse them in depth, featuring lots of famous names and a few English ones such as the encounter Taulbut-Chandler, Hastings 1981/2.

An excellent guide to beating the Caro-Kann.

BOOKSHELF

Not All Over by Christmas

by Andrew Farthing

The pleasure of reading comes not just from the qualities of the specific book to hand but also from the fact that any individual's reading forms part of a chain of connections, both deliberate and accidental. The experience of one book colours the choice of the next, whether it be the quest for more of the same (of late, for example, I have been basking in the sunny atmosphere of Andrea Camilleri's wonderful series of Inspector Montalbano novels) or the need for variety or for something more (or less) serious.

On my last visit to London in April, I found myself seeking spiritual strength for the upcoming endurance test which is the ECF Council meeting by indulging in some retail therapy at the Chess & Bridge shop on Baker Street. Tucked away on the bottom shelf of the secondhand section I spotted a pale blue hardback in the unmistakable style of the Moravian Press facsimile reprint series. Closer inspection revealed the book to be the British Chess Federation's *Year-Book of Chess, 1914*. Having only recently received my copy of the latest ECF *Yearbook* (the processes of grammatical erosion having eliminated the hyphen), I was curious to see how the publication had evolved over the course of a century.

Flicking through the 300-plus pages, my eye was caught by the inclusion of the 1913 BCF Congress (including British Championships) in Cheltenham, my home town. Another connection made, I no longer hesitated, and took my purchase to the till. It turned out to be a fascinating read, which I should like to share with *Chess Moves* readers.

*

The overwhelming first impression from the 1914 Year-Book is the sheer quantity of chess contained within its pages. There are over 220 games, almost all annotated, plus tournament reports, endgame studies, problems, book reviews (including a lengthy review of Edward Lasker's classic *Chess Strategy* by ... Edward Lasker!), an article on the history of the Ponziani opening (something of an odd choice – it was hardly a mainstream opening even in 1914) and, odder still, a feature on Kriegspiel.

Ironically, the element of today's Yearbook most often mentioned by club officials nowadays, the directory of clubs and associations, is not to be found. The editor, M.W. Stevens (avoidance of first names was the custom of the time, so I shall respect it) commented in his Preface as follows:

“There is another matter over which we know we shall get into trouble with certain of our readers, viz., the omission of the Club Directory. We ask, however, those incensed to consider whether the relatively small changes that take place in one year are sufficient to balance the gain of space (in alternate years) due to the alternate omission of this feature?”

In the internet age, this relaxed attitude to out-of-date information is refreshing or horrifying, depending on your point of view. Rest assured, readers of the Year-Book were given a solution to satisfy their more urgent cravings for data:

“The Chess News Agency has undertaken to keep the data under this heading up-to-date so far as possible and will furnish the latest particulars of any club upon receipt of a stamped post-card.”

(All well and good, but this prompts another intriguing question: what was this London-based 'Chess News Agency', and what happened to it? Is there any connection to the organisation of that name now based on Park Avenue in New York?)

If the absence of a club directory is a change from now, another traditional element of the chess editor's armoury is very prominently on display: the apology for lateness. The Preface begins with a reference to the fact that the preface is longer than usual:

“We are not giving our readers quite such a considerable amount to skip under the above heading [i.e. Preface] this year! Unfortunately, the apologetic note has to be struck as heavily as ever. The Editor presents this issue in a garb of sack-cloth heavily sprinkled with ashes. He can only plead for indulgence and urge the incidence of heavy official duties, resulting from the unfortunate state of war, as his excuse.”

The war alluded to is of course what we now know as the First World War and which at the time of publication was already referred to as the Great War (first used in October 1914). The *Year-Book of Chess, 1914* was published in Spring, 1915, by which time any optimistic expectations that it would “all be over by Christmas” had already been dashed by cold reality, and uncertainty was the order of the day.

Reading old books offers the opportunity to contrast the writer’s foresight with the reader’s hindsight, adding a new layer of significance to the text. When dealing with day-to-day matters, the effect can be comically ironic: a recent discovery at the charity bookshop where I volunteer was a respected scientist’s book of predictions about the world of the 21st century and beyond. Every page contained a gem of unintentional comedy.

When the events of the time were of deadly seriousness and still unresolved, the effect is quite different, and there is a genuine poignancy to the comments scattered throughout the Year-book. Whether the contributors shared the initial optimism of a swift conclusion to the conflict or not is unclear, but by the time of writing one senses the profound anxiety that prevailed, along with doubt that the world would ever be the same again:

“The period covered by the present issue of the Year Book of Chess will be for ever notable in the annals of the game as the last year in which International Contests were possible under the conditions which have prevailed since the London Tournament of 1851. That Tournament, associated as it was with the holding of the Great Exhibition which was hailed as the precursor of the reign of universal peace, marks the beginning of an epoch whose close is as clearly defined by the Mannheim Tournament of 1914, whose mimic contests were brought to an untimely end by the thunder of distant guns. No matter what may be the precise result of the European war, it is certain that for years to come it will be impossible to enrol in friendly strife chess-players whose blood-brothers are now grappling in the more terrific struggle of all time.” (Opening paragraph of A.W. Foster’s ‘General Review of the Period, June 1913 to August 1914’)

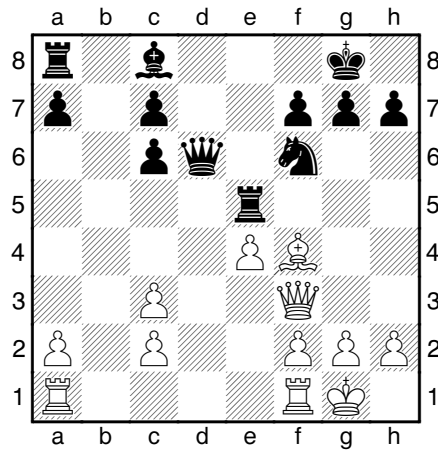
Foster goes on to discuss the great 1914 tournament in St Petersburg, or rather Petrograd – “*we have almost forgotten, so quickly do we move in these stirring times, that we used to call it St Petersburg.*”

Incidentally, Foster makes a curious error in his description of the final stages of the St Petersburg event:

“[Discussing the battle for first place between Capablanca and Lasker] Still it appeared that he [Capablanca] was safe, but the catastrophe of Capablanca and Tarrasch, unforeseen and unaccountable, wrecked his chances. Losing a piece by what appears to have been a physical rather an intellectual error, Capablanca fought on for over eighty moves before admitting defeat, but, mentally wearied and psychologically depressed, succumbed to Lasker in his next game...”

What is odd about this account is that it is simply wrong. The famous Lasker-Capablanca game (an Exchange Spanish) took place **before** the Capablanca-Tarrasch encounter. Indeed, it is widely assumed that the shock of the loss to Lasker was a factor in the Cuban’s defeat against Tarrasch.

The description of the Capablanca-Tarrasch game is also strange. The error to which Foster referred appears to be in this position:



In this position, Capablanca (White) played **13.Rfd1?** According to the *Year-Book* notes, drawing heavily in this instance on those of Amos Burn in *The Field*, this is an “extraordinary blunder”, which “cost not only a piece, but the game and with it the first prize” (these words are not, in fact, a quotation from Burn, but seem to be original to the *Year-Book* – they are, however, based on variations from *The Field* quoted in the notes). Whilst 13.Rad1 would undoubtedly have been better, the fatal damage is actually done by Capablanca’s next move.

13...Bg4 14.Qg3??

14.Rxd6 Bxf3 15.Rxf6 gxf6 16.Bxe5 Bxg2 17.Kxg2 fxe5 is equal.

The game continued **14...Bxd1 15.Bxe5 Qd2!**

This is the crucial difference caused by the choice of the wrong rook on move 13. The queen threatens mate, leaving White no time to recover the piece.

After **16.f3 Nh5 17.Qf2 Qxf2+ 18.Kxf2 Bxc2** Tarrasch was a whole piece up and duly won after 82(!) moves.

Contemporary accounts offer the explanation that Capablanca had prepared this line and meant to play 13.Rad1 but suffered a lapse of memory. This may be the “physical rather than intellectual error” mentioned by Foster. True or not, it makes for a strange version of events, which serves to downplay Lasker’s achievement in the previous round (turning him into the fortunate beneficiary of a tired and shocked opponent) and, ultimately, in the tournament as a whole.

Setting aside this aberration, Foster returns to the sad impact of the wider hostilities, namely the likelihood that it would prevent the chess world from witnessing a match between its two superstars, Lasker and Capablanca:

“The relative strength of the two protagonists is still undecided, and probably things being as they are it will never come to a test.”

In this, at least, the writer proved pessimistic. The match did happen, in 1921, albeit at a time when Lasker was arguably not at his best (post-war economic troubles had taken their toll).

The war colours other comments in surprising ways. Looking back, it seems hard to attribute the same significance to Blackburne’s reception in St Petersburg as does Foster:

“A great personal success was scored by the veteran English master, J.H. Blackburne, whose welcome from the Russians seems to have been an intelligent anticipation of the alliance in thought and deed which was so soon to be cemented in blood.”

The *Year-Book*’s report on the St Petersburg tournament more sensibly attributes the special presentation made to Blackburne to the fact that he was the event’s elder statesman.

Unsurprisingly, the greatest impact of the war on British events recorded in the Year-Book is the second of the two BCF congresses covered, the 1914 event in Chester:

“The Chester Congress of the British Chess Federation opened in circumstances more inauspicious than those of any previous Congress. The war was scarcely a week old, and occupied the minds of even chess-players to the exhaustion of nearly all else.

“As was to be expected, quite a number of competitors who had entered found it impossible to attend, there being over 40 absentees. The large proportion of absentees necessitated very considerable rearrangement of the pairing lists at the very last moment. [...] To fill the vacancies in the British Championship, a selection of the Major Open players were promoted.”

[...]

“During the following fortnight the Congress followed exactly the course of all previous meetings, except for the fact that there was no Congress Excursion. This was, no doubt, partly due to the reduced number of competitors and visitors, but we think no Congress has been more thoroughly enjoyed by those taking part, and, if it was possible to forget the War temporarily, it was during this fortnight at Chester. Unfortunately, the number of visitors was small, and this must have caused a falling off in receipts to the Federation, but this was to be expected. The Federation Committee are to be congratulated on their patriotic decision to hold the Congress and everyone connected with its organisation and conduct on the satisfactory results of their work, which were fully appreciated by everyone present.”

I find this account of carrying on regardless rather touching, and the sly use of the word “even” in the first paragraph quoted is a nice moment of humour at such a grim time.

Like the players at Chester in 1914, let us turn from thoughts of war to its more benign counterpart on the chess-board.

The period covered by the *Year-Book* was marked, for British chess, by the emergence of “well-known Yorkshireman” F.D. Yates, one of this country’s great champions. He romped to victory in the 1913 championship in Cheltenham with a then record score of 9 points (Blackburn was third with 7). A year later, at Chester, he went half a point better, scoring 9½, although this was sufficient in the war-weakened field only for a tie of first place with the evergreen Blackburne. The “tie match” between the two was due, according to the *Year-Book*, to be played “early in the new year” (presumably 1915). This was never to be. Blackburne fell ill, and the match was not played.

Here are some examples of Yates’s play from these two events:

FD Yates – W Gibson

British Championship, Cheltenham, 1913

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0–0 d6 6.Re1 Bg4 7.c3 Be7 8.d3 0–0 9.Nbd2 Qd7 10.Nf1 b5 11.Bb3 d5 12.Qe2 dxe4 13.dxe4 h6 14.Ne3 Be6 15.Rd1 Bd6 16.Nd5 Nh7 17.Be3 Rae8 18.Rd2 Bxd5 19.Bxd5 Nd8? [19...Nf6] 20.Nh4 Nf6 21.Ng6 Nxd5 22.Nxf8 Rxf8 23.Rxd5 f5 24.f3 Ne6 25.Rad1 Qf7 26.Qd3 f4 27.Bf2 g5 28.a4 h5 29.axb5 axb5 30.Qxb5 g4 31.Rxd6 cxd6 32.Rxd6 gxf3 33.Qxe5 Ra8 34.Bd4 Nxd4 35.Qg5+ Kf8 36.Rf6 1–0

FD Yates - FE Hamond

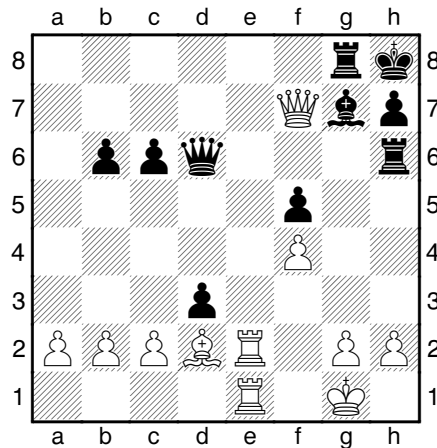
British Championship, Cheltenham, 1913

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nf6 5.Nxf6+ gxf6 6.Nf3 Nd7 7.Be3 Nb6 8.Qd2 Be6 9.b3 Nd5 10.c4 Nxe3 11.fxe3 Bh6 12.Bd3 Qd7 13.Qf2 Qc7 14.0–0 0–0 15.Kh1 Kb8 16.b4 f5 17.Rab1 Rhg8 18.Rfc1 f4 19.e4 Rg4 [19...Bg4] 20.Rc2 [20.c5] 20...Rdg8 21.Bf1 Bg5? [21...Bg7] 22.b5 cxb5 23.d5 Bc8 24.cxb5 Qd6 25.b6 a6 26.Qd4 Bh6 27.Rbc1 R4g6 28.Ne5 f3 29.Rxc8+ Rxc8 30.Rxc8+ Kxc8 31.Nxg6 fvg2+ 32.Bxg2 1–0

FD Yates - A Louis

British Championship, Chester, 1914

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nd4 4.Nxd4 exd4 5.0-0 c6 6.Be2 g6 7.d3 Bg7 8.f4 d5 9.Nd2 Ne7 10.Qe1 Qc7 11.Nf3 Be6 12.Nh4 dxe4 13.dxe4 f5 (Otherwise, White will push on with f4-f5-f6.) 14.exf5 Bxf5 15.Nxf5 Nxf5 16.Bd3+ Qe7 17.Bxf5 gxf5 18.Qa5 0-0 19.Bd2 b6 20.Qa4 Qd6 21.Rae1 Rf6 22.Re2 Kh8 23.Rfe1 Rg8 24.Qxa7 Rh6 [24...Rg6] 25.Qf7 d3??

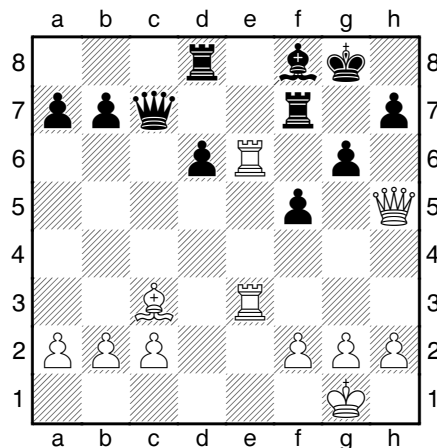


26.Re8! Bd4+ 27.Kf1 Rhg6 28.R1e7 Qxe7 29.Rxg8+ Rxg8 30.Qxe7 dxc2 31.Qb4 1-0

FD Yates - RE Lean [B00]

British Championship, Chester, 1914

1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 f5? (Not a move one sees every day!) 3.e5?! (Taking the pawn was perfectly safe.) 3...d6 4.exd6 cxd6 5.d4 e5 6.dxe5 Nxe5? "By means of his futurist opening Black has already spoiled his game hopelessly." (BCM) 7.Be2 Nf6 8.Nc3 Be7 9.0-0 0-0 10.Be3 Bd7 11.Bd4 Qc7 12.Re1 Kh8 13.Bb5 Ne4 14.Bxe5 Nxc3 15.Bxc3 Bxb5 16.Nd4 Bc4 17.Ne6 Bxe6 18.Rxe6 Rad8 19.Qe2 Rf7 20.Re1 Bf8 21.Qh5 Kg8 22.R1e3 (Intending either Rg3 or Rh3.) 22...g6??



22...d5 had to be played.

23.Rxg6+ Bg7 24.Rxg7+ Rxg7 25.Re8+ Rxe8 26.Qxe8# 1-0

The annotations in the Year-Book fail, it must be said, to withstand the merciless scrutiny of today's analysis engines, but even so, what a treat this volume must have been for British chess enthusiasts in 1915. Set aside your worries about that tricky line in the Najdorf after move 32; seek out this intriguing piece of history and wallow...

Envoi

In all likelihood, this will be my last article in the *Bookshelf* series. Regular readers will be unsurprised by the stubborn lack of topicality on show. This has never been, nor has it attempted to be, a review of the latest book releases.

Chess has an immensely rich history, captured in its equally splendid literature, and these columns have been, if anything, a sustained love letter to the world of chess books and to reading in general. Tempting as it is to dwell exclusively on the latest games available online, there are always enjoyable discoveries to be made by looking back to our past.

By way of a farewell, here is a final quotation from AW Foster's 'General Review' in the 1914 *Year-Book of Chess*, expressing a sentiment which could have been written yesterday:

"The fascination of chess is never-ending, its resources of amusement and instruction are inexhaustible: it is as entrancing to the novice as to the expert, and if one-hundredth part of the money which is lavished on football were forthcoming for the support of chess, the mental powers of the rising generation would be infinitely strengthened and enhanced."

Time Trouble Tales (3) - Jan Timman at the 1979 Rio Interzonal

In this issue's look at some of history's (in)famous time scrambles, Chess Moves examines one of those moments when the smooth changing of the generations suffered an unexpected hiccup.

In 1979, Dutch grandmaster Jan Timman was the coming thing. After two successive world championship battles between older and younger generations (Karpov-Korchnoi in 1974 and 1978), chess fans were anticipating the passing of the baton to the new wave of players such as Timman, Ulf Andersson, Robert Hübner, Ljubomir Ljubojević and even our very own Tony Miles. Of all of these, however, 27-year-old Timman seemed the most promising, having shot to prominence with an impressive third place – behind Karpov and Spassky – in an ultra-strong GM tournament in Bugojno in 1978.

Against this background, the Rio de Janeiro Interzonal tournament – one of two qualifying events to determine the participants in the 1980 Candidates matches – seemed set to mark the Dutchman's triumphant progression to the chess elite. Accustomed as we now are at the top of world chess to relatively small tournaments restricted to only the very strongest players (plus local interest), the 1979 Interzonal tournaments may look strange. Rio featured 19 players, competing in a single round robin tournament lasting nearly an entire month, from 23 September to 21 October.

The Interzonals were often fascinating events, and Rio proved no exception. It began with a huge disappointment for the local chess fans, when Brazilian chess superstar Henrique Mecking, qualifier in both of the previous Interzonals in 1973 and 1976, dropped out due to illness after just a couple of rounds. This led to a complicated schedule, in which an even number of players (18) were operating on a timetable devised for an odd number (19). Only right towards the end did the race for the three Candidates places become clear.

At the start of the final round, the battle had crystallised into a contest between four big names:

- Robert Hübner was in first place 11½ points, but he had the bye in the last round and could only sit around and watch from the sidelines. In fact, he found an alternative to this by taking an early flight home, sparing himself the tension of seeing events unfurl.
- Experienced Hungarian super-GM Lajos Portisch held clear second place with 11 points and needed only a draw to guarantee himself at least a tie for the qualifying places. On paper, his last-round game against Shamkovich offered good chances to play for a win and unshared first place in the tournament, but he had just lost to the player in last place and his nerves must have been in shreds. Perhaps as a consequence, he drew quickly in 16

moves against Shamkovich and waited to see who else, if anyone, would join him and Hübner on 11½ points.

- Tied in third place on 10½ points going into the final round were former world champion Tigran Petrosian and Jan Timman. The former was producing an appropriately 'Petrosian-esque' performance, undefeated with five wins and eleven draws. Surprisingly, Timman had almost matched him for solidity, with six wins, nine draws and a single loss.

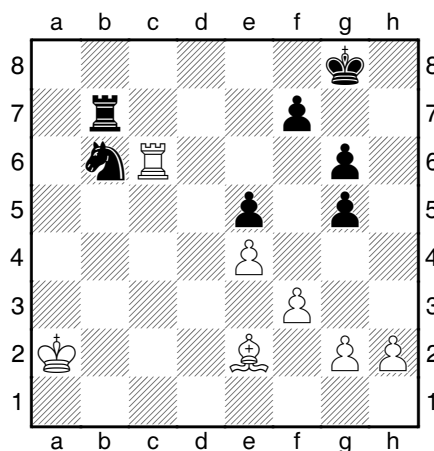
Timman and Petrosian both needed to win in the final round to guarantee at least a tie for the qualifying places. Timman's had the white pieces against Cuban Guillermo Garcia, who was languishing towards the foot of the table. Petrosian, on the other hand, faced the prospect of black against experienced Yugoslavian GM Borislav Ivkov, who had achieved an impressive 9½ points.

On the face of it, all was looking good for Timman. Those looking for nagging doubts, however, did not have to look far: Garcia had been picking up most of his points in the last few rounds so showed signs of a man finding his form, while Ivkov had suffered a mysterious illness mid-tournament which showed signs of having been a mild stroke (his right arm's movement was affected).

Strong nerves would be needed, and seen-it-all-before Petrosian might be expected to cope well with this. (In fact, he had suggested to Timman before the final round that they should both draw their games – meaning that they would need to contest a play-off match – but Timman had declined.)

Towards the end of the first session, the situation remained tense (of course), but Timman had grounds for optimism.

After 30 moves, Ivkov (White) had reached the following position against Petrosian:



At first glance, it is difficult to see how White could lose. Modern analysis engines suggest that the position is dead level. However, with ten moves still to make, time trouble is looming for Ivkov.

What follows is the familiar sight of a player short of time and drifting into trouble through not having time to find the best moves and every now and then picking a dubious one. There are no gross blunders in the time scramble, but the impact is the same.

31.Ba6 Rb8 32.Kb1?!

Starting down a slippery slope? It's hard to see how Black could achieve any play if White had simply played something like 32.h3. Ivkov's choice gives Petrosian a free move to activate his knight.

32...Nd5+ 33.Kc1 Nf4 34.g3

34.Bc4 looks better, but in fact White is still absolutely fine here.

34...Ne6 35.Bc4 Nd4 36.Rc7

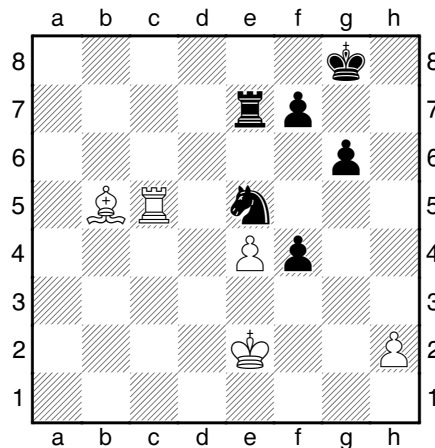
36.Rxg6+ Kf8 37.Bxf7 Kxf7 38.Rxg5 Re8 39.h4 leaves White in a position from which it would be very difficult in practice to lose.

36...Rf8 37.f4?!

37.Kd2 Nxf3+ 38.Ke2 g4 39.h4 should hold.

37...gxf4 38.gxf4 exf4 39.Kd1 Nf3 40.Ke2 Ne5 41.Rc5 Re8 42.Bb5

Petrosian now sealed his move. 42...Re7

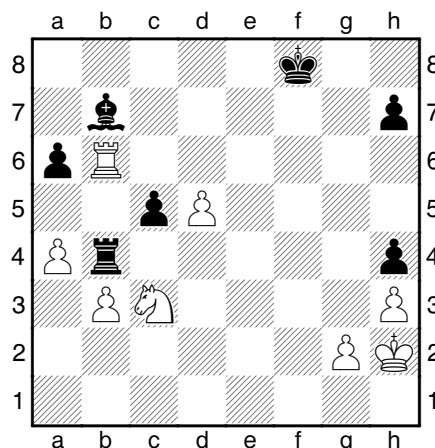


White resigned (0–1) White's resignation (after the revealing of the sealed move) seems premature, but Ivkov must have convinced himself during the adjournment that this was not a position he could hold against the Armenian maestro.

While this was going on, Timman had been playing strongly against Garcia:

Jan Timman - Guillermo Garcia

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.Nc3 exd5 5.cxd5 g6 6.e4 d6 7.Nf3 Bg7 8.Be2 0–0 9.0–0 Re8 10.Nd2 a6 11.a4 Nbd7 12.Qc2 Rb8 13.Ra3 b6 14.Kh1 Ne5 15.b3 Rf8 16.Bb2 Nh5 17.Bxh5 gxh5 18.Nd1 f5 19.f4 Ng4 20.Bxg7 Kxg7 21.Qc3+ Kg8 22.Ra1 Rb7 23.Ne3 Nxe3 24.Qxe3 Rg7 25.Rae1 h4 26.h3 Bb7 27.Qd3 Qa8 28.Rd1 fxe4 29.Nxe4 Rf5 30.Nc3 Qf8 31.Rde1 Rgf7 32.Re6 Rxf4 33.Rxf4 Rxf4 34.Qe3 Rf1+ 35.Kh2 Qf4+ [35...Qg7!] 36.Qxf4 Rxf4 37.Rxd6 Kf8 38.Rxb6 Rb4



White's position seems very strong, and contemporary commentators took the line that Timman blundered away

a win with his next couple of moves. With the benefit of our stubborn friends, the analysis engines, it does not seem so clear now. Nevertheless, Timman was in time trouble at this stage and began to miss the most challenging moves.

39.a5?!

39.Rf6+ gives Black more chances to go wrong.

39...Ke7 40.Kg1?!

40.g3 hxg3+ 41.Kxg3 again gives Black scope to get himself into trouble, although 41...Kd7! may just hold. 41...Kd8? 42.Na4 loses.

40...Kd8

The time control has been reached, but the win is not there. Timman tries manfully, but in the end has to accede to the inevitable.

41.Na4 Rxb6 42.axb6 Bxd5 43.Nxc5 a5 44.Kf1 Kc8 45.Kf2 Kb8 46.g3 hxg3+ 47.Kxg3 Bxb3 48.Nxb3 a4 49.Nc1 Kb7 50.Kf4 Kxb6 51.Ke5 a3 52.Kd6 Kb5 53.Kd5 Kb6 54.h4 Kc7 55.Na2 Kd7 56.h5 Ke7 57.Ke5 Kf7 58.Kf5 Kg7 59.Kg5 Kf7 60.Kh6 Kg8 61.Nc3 Kh8 62.Kg5 Kg7 63.h6+ Kf7 64.Kf5 Ke7 65.Na2 Kf7 66.Nb4 Ke7 67.Nc2 ½–½

Without their respective time scrambles, these games could easily have seen their results reversed, with Petrosian having to accept a draw and Timman converting his pressure into a win.

The effect was clear: Petrosian joined Hübner and Portisch in first place on 11½ points and qualified for the Candidates without the need for a play-off; Timman would have to wait for another opportunity.

How Timman might have fared in the 1980 Candidates matches is a matter for mere speculation. Youth and ambition would have been on his side, but the somewhat venerable set of candidates could offer decades of experience to counter this. It would have been interesting to witness.

At the time, Timman's missed opportunity did not seem particularly significant: a pity, yes, but his time would come. The tide of history is unforgiving, however, and by the time the next series of Interzonals took place, Timman had become a player of extreme ups and downs, and his particular Interzonal turned out to be a "down". He failed to qualify again, while elsewhere a certain G.Kasparov was blazing a trail through the Candidates matches and, ultimately, to his titanic series of matches with Karpov.

This tale does not diminish Jan Timman's stature as one of the great players of the final quarter of the twentieth century. His many tournament victories were achieved through an attractive and varied style of play which continues to repay study. He remains, however, one of chess history's 'might-have-beens'.

QUOTE UNQUOTE

From Michael Herr's engaging memoir of film director and chess enthusiast Stanley Kubrick:

"[Kubrick] disliked the usual references to his having been a 'chess hustler' in his Greenwich Village days, as though this impugned the gravity and beauty of the exercise, the suggestion that his game wasn't *pour le sport*, or, more correctly, *pour l'art*. To win the game was important, of course, to win the money was irresistible, but it was nothing compared to his game, to the searching, endless action of working on his game. But *of course* he was hustling, he was always hustling; as he grew older and moved beyond still photography, chess became movies, and movies became chess by other means. I doubt that he ever thought of chess as just a game, or even as a game at all. I *do* imagine that a lot of people sitting across the board from him got melted, fried, and fragmented, when Stanley let that cool

ray come streaming down out of his eyes – talk about penetrating looks and piercing intelligence; here they'd sat down to a nice game of chess, and all of a sudden he was doing the thinking for both of them."

(*Kubrick* by Michael Herr, published by Picador; 2000)

Junior Chess

Manchester Juniors Chess Easter Tour 2014 to Ireland

A party of children from Manchester Junior Chess travelled to Ballinasloe, County Galway, for the Irish Junior Championships. A huge thank you to John McKenna the controller from all the Manchester children. Full details of the event can be found at <http://www.icu.ie/articles/display.php?id=432>

Under 12s

Jonny Shine, Bolton Chess Club 7th | Matthew Cavaliere, Bolton Chess Club 9th | George Harman, Worsley Chess Club 14th | Kevin Ye, Three C's Chess Club 15th

Under 16s

Tom Green, Chorlton Chess Club 11th

The Manchester team also played matches against teams from Dublin, Ulster and Leinster. A very big thank you to James and Maura Osborne who organised this event.



Team Chess Challenge Final

... at Imperial College London, from John Swain, Nottingham High School [*pictures courtesy of John Upham*]

The day, Wednesday 23rd April, 2014, began at 11.00 a.m. in fine style with current British Champion GM David Howell taking on ten teams of four secondary school players, with all concerned having 30 minutes on the clock. Speed was of the essence – in two senses for David who demonstrated gazelle-like velocity from board to board. Players could consult, so few games were likely to be determined by blunders. David impressively defeated nine of the teams and credit must go to Eltham College who secured a draw and Wilson's for holding out until the end.

Tournament play began at 12.30 p.m. after an excellent buffet lunch provided by Imperial College. The format of the tournament has a lot to recommend it: ten minutes per player and two seconds increment per move, which guaranteed exciting and, in some cases, nail-biting finishes. The six round event was to be decided on game points too, which meant that every game counted.

The top seeds, Manchester GS (average grade 191) started a little slowly, only winning their first two matches 3-1, but soon moved into top gear, winning three encounters 4-0 and finished with a hugely impressive score of 21 points (out of a possible 24), winners with a round to spare. Congratulations especially to them, but also to Wilson's and Eltham, who finished on 15 points in Silver and Bronze positions respectively, separated on tie-

break. All of the twelve teams clearly enjoyed themselves and the Swiss format resulted in each team winning at least one match, which always creates a feel-good factor.

Many thanks must go to Neill Cooper who created and organised the tournament; those who hosted the regional qualifying events from which the participating teams had emerged as winners; the sponsors Quintessa Ltd, Castles Chess Club and Imperial College; Prof Jonathan Mestel GM, three-times British Champion, who teaches maths at Imperial and who presented the prizes; Chris Howell as Arbiter; those who provided the equipment; not least, GM David Howell, whose clock simultaneous display started the event in such style.

Results

1st – Manchester Grammar School 21/24 || 2nd – Wilson’s School 15 (on tiebreak) || 3rd – Eltham College 15
4th – Hampton School 14 || 5th – Nottingham High School 12.5 || 6th – RGS Newcastle 12
7th= Queen Elizabeth Boys School, Barnet 11.5 || 7th= Magdalen College School 11.5
9th – Queen Mary’s GS, Walsall 10 || 10th – University College School, London 9 || 11th – Reserves 7
12th – Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Bristol 5.5

Entries are now being accepted for 2014/15 – please visit www.TeamChessChallenge.org.uk



Frydek Mistek 2014

- from Peter Purland

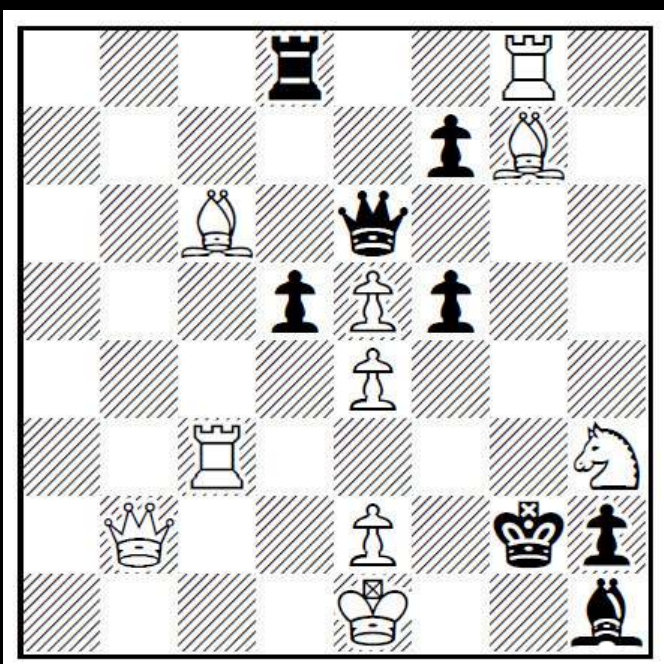
We had 18 players and two leaders on our annual trip to the Tournament of Young Talents this year. These were: Daniel Abbas, Gautam Jain, Dylan Hung, Hector Huser, John Croasdale, Harry Croasdale, Dominic Klingher, James Moreby, Nugith Jayawarna, David Xu, Jamie MacDonald, Prashast Vir, Micahel Ashworth, Robert Ashworth, Joesph Dalton, Thomas Finn, Saaras Mehan, Pavel Asenov). We flew Ryan Air to Ostrava, which proved far easier than going via Prague. On our arrival in Ostrava we were met by our English speaking guide Vasekand settled in.

Wednesday was a social day. We set off for the Landek Coalmine just outside of Ostrava. The boys found this very interesting, and were a credit to us, as they listened very well to Daniel, our English speaking tour guide. We then went to the New City Hall in Moravska, Ostrava, this has a tower constructed of glassed steel with a copper plate. We went up to the viewing platform which on a good day you can see the Beskydy and Jeseniky mountains from the 73 metres high terrace. There is a fountain with a statue of Icarus in front of City Hall, which is the third biggest bronze statue in the Czech Republic. We then managed to fit in shopping at the Avion shopping centre. 13 of the boys then went swimming, we had the sole use of the swimming pool, which also had a whirl pool. We then had a late evening meal, team talk, and then early night. The chess took place from Thursday to Monday with Saturday afternoon off and, as well as getting some very creditable scores in the chess we drew with Belarus at soccer (their ref!), visited the old square at Frydek and played more soccer with some Russians we had befriended.

Saturday afternoon there were chess related activities going on, and 6 of us played in the simultaneous against GM Sergej Movsesjan and WGM Julia Kochetkova. Daniel, Joseph and Gautam had wins against the GM. We then watched a cultural show on the stage with 4 men showing us their experiences of using swords made of bamboo, this was called 'Kendo', and a laser lighting display, which was very good.

We were all prepared for the last round, (computers etc had been in use during the evenings) and at 10.50 Dominic was the first out of his game, beaming all over his face “I’ve won the tournament” he said, with a fantastic score of 7/8, the U15s had their best overall score of the tournament of 8½, and the Under 12s – 4. The boys really had done extremely well, with all of the U12s reaching, and most exceeding their personal target, and nearly all of the U15s reaching their personal target. Prize giving was at 13.00, with Dominic winning the U12s and won a tablet, Nugith came 3rd and won a chess set and book, Daniel came 3rd in the U15s and also won a chess set and a book, with Prashast also winning a suitcase (how were going to get that one home?), and Thomas winning a watch and jigsaw in the draw. Overall our ‘team 2’ came 3rd and won a cake that Dawn carried very carefully back to the hotel and all shared. After all this excitement, we then met with Vasek and Kate, and went ten pin bowling. The bowling alley opened especially for us as it was Bank Holiday Monday, and usually they are closed, so we had the whole 4 lanes to use between us. A good time was had by everyone, they even managed to order some chips while we were there, first chips in a week, you should have seen their faces.

After our evening meal, Victor took us on a walk to Mistek Square, and we had a small history lesson. We then returned to the hotel to pack. We had a lie-in on the last day as we were not having breakfast until 08.30! After breakfast we met with Vasek again and were taken by coach to the Tatra factory. We saw Stalin’s car that he was given for his 70th birthday, and Hitler’s snowmobile. We then had lunch and then visited the Zbrasov Aragnite Caves, they are the only show caves of hydrothermal origin in Czech Republic, we saw stalagmites and stalactites, little shrublets of aragonite and ‘doughnuts’ covering the walls. Near the caves is the deepest abyss in the Czech Republic (The Hranice Abyss, 289,5 m). We then had time for shopping for some food before heading for the airport and home.



Grand Prix 2013/14 Leader Boards 6th May 2014

180+

	Ref	Name	Club/Area	Grade	Mem No	Pts
1	241589G	Jaunooby, Ali Reza	Denton	202	G4139	687
2	112455K	Hebden, Mark L	4NCL Guildford	249	G4157	655
3	252763H	Harvey, Marcus R	Witney	235	JG4440	615
4	154721F	Cherniaev, Alexander	Hackney	244	S25369	611
5	224790C	Villiers, Thomas	Muswell Hill	195	G17811	599
6	282399J	Kalavannan, Koby	Coulsdon CF	182	JG6614	597
7	103545K	Gormally, Daniel W	4NCL Cheddleton	235	G3659	580
8	105817E	Arkell, Keith CC	4NCL Cheddleton	234	G15972	576
9	263507A	Prior, Stephen CV	Grantham	187	G6569	575
10	119904D	Surtees, Mike J	Bolton	197	G17950	574

160-179

	Ref	Name	Club/Area	Grade	Mem No	Pts
1	116382G	O'Gorman, Brendan	DHSS	164	G4320	608
2	267990F	Landau, Jonathan	Hendon	171	G22677	585
3	242398E	Hjort, Helge	Hendon	175	G3467	584
4	270877C	Hayward, Alan	Streatham	176	G5803	540
5	104852B	Whitehead, Mark A	Rochdale	170	G15489	539
6	113949G	Joslin, Tim M	Lloyds TSB	161	G23798	531
7	185941K	Olbison, Philip J	Chorlton-cum-Hardy	162	G6757	531
8	247688F	Porter, Sam J	Trinity School	174	G21994	526
9	162291C	Jackson, Paul G	Coulsdon CF	164	G4609	517
10	181426G	Burns, Martin J	Stockport	166	G6185	499

140-159

	Ref	Name	Club/Area	Grade	Mem No	Pts
1	114423G	Lim, Yu-Chin (Peter)	Harrow *	155	G23561	617
2	109622K	Desmedt, Richard E	Wombwell	153	G3411	571
3	108722J	Connor, Michael I	Great Lever	158	S15540	564
4	112248E	Hartley, Dean M	Amber Valley	150	G4789	557
5	283075K	Bovtramovic, Vladimir	Russia	149	G18255	554
6	128713J	Wilson, Matthew R	Wigston	148	G17805	548
7	278381C	Hewitt, Rob	Southampton University	142	G6958	548
8	140662A	Pride, Stephen C	Cambridge City	149	G3453	535
9	118873C	Shepherd, Graham C	Church Stretton	144	P6197	530
10	288301G	Sloan, Cecil	Watford	149	S6981	529

120-139

	Ref	Name	Club/Area	Grade	Mem No	Pts
1	283350F	Bullock, Lee	London *	121	G18801	614
2	259148A	Foley, Phil T	Upminster	136	G4414	594
3	178214K	Watts, Peter J	Middlesex Congresses	138	S22770	594
4	258940A	Allen, Timothy S	Battersea	127	G4415	589
5	121226G	Watson, Roy G	Kenilworth	122	B17370	564
6	123333G	Gilbert, David J	DHSS	138	G3430	545

7	230106E	Clegg, Robert	Huddersfield	139	G3088	543
8	264336E	Crouch, Timothy J	Kings Head	131	P5843	524
9	170919H	Williams, Stephen	Cwmbran	122	S25816	496
10	120413A	Tidy, Norman F	Teignmouth	124	S17892	495

U120

	Ref	Name	Club/Area	Grade	Mem No	Pts
1	279615G	Crockett, Stephen J	Redditch	107	G6367	676
2	140257C	Fraser, Alan R	Beckenham & Bromley	112	G2908	619
3	276572L	Egan, William J	Scunthorpe	119	G6039	544
4	111052E	Gardiner, Colin J	Newmarket	116	G1469	542
5	274725L	Fraser, Chris A	West Bridgford	102	S19796	530
6	111361G	Goldsmith, Jennifer	Harrow	106	G6876	526
7	136890E	Broderick, Paul G	Shifnal & Telford	112	G20480	525
8	274379G	Macdonald, John R	Kings Head	112	G6972	510
9	251770L	Shaughnessy, Phillip	Urmston	118	S24837	508
10	181078K	Robson, Caroline J	Barnet Elizabeth	113	G4002	505

Women's Prix

	Ref	Name	Club/Area	Grade	Mem No	Pts
1	284508J	Sheremetyeva, Elizaveta	Oxfordshire Juniors	123	JG6692	541
2	111361G	Goldsmith, Jennifer	Harrow	106	G6876	526
3	280882B	Varney, Zoe	Cumnor	150	JG17170	506
4	181078K	Robson, Caroline J	Barnet Elizabeth	113	G4002	505
5	291209A	Rahulan, Thivyaa	Cheddleton & Leek	88	JS17341	492
6	290588H	Somton, Anita	Bury Knights	123	JG6955	487
7	253359F	Karel, Ayse	Surbiton	120	G26362	482
8	288605E	Raghavendra, Mahima G	Atherton	130	JG6900	473
9	284928J	Ramaiya, Arushi	Surrey Juniors	110	JG6987	472
10	291359J	Johnson, Elizabeth	Surrey Congresses	97	JG17874	463

Junior Prix

	Ref	Name	Club/Area	Grade	Mem No	Pts
1	291106B	Misyura, Ilya	Middlesex Juniors	164	JG18705	623
2	287750J	Ahluwalia, Amardip	Sussex Juniors	131	JG17043	617
3	252763H	Harvey, Marcus R	Witney	235	JG4440	615
4	282399J	Kalavannan, Koby	Coulsdon CF	182	JG6614	597
5	279888J	Zhu, Richard	Camberley	166	JG6638	582
6	291902D	Hand, Freddie	Tonbridge *	155	JG23159	577
7	282398G	Liang, Jake Z	Surbiton	185	JG6416	565
8	272685D	Taylor, Adam C	Colchester	201	JG6408	559
9	294003G	Pramod Paleri, Adithya P	Watford *	113	G23838	558
10	283609K	Moreby, James E	Jesmond	164	JG8495	555



ECF English Tournament Calendar

LEGEND

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

~Y 25 May East Midlands Chess Academy Junior Training Tournament, Risley Village Hall, 18 Derby Road, Risley, Derbys DE72 3SU Contact: Christopher Dunworth / David Levens Email: eastmidlandschess@gmail.com Website: www.eastmidlandschess.co.uk - 6 round Swiss

~* 26-27 May Delancey U110 ECF, Richmond Park Academy, Park Avenue, London SW14 8RG Contact: Michael Basman & Sainbayar Tserendorj Email: ukchessacademy@gmail.com Website: <http://www.ukchessacademy.com> - starts 9:30AM ends 5:00PM. 2 day U110 ECF, 6 round Swiss. Prizes: 1st £120; 2nd £80; 3rd £60. Trophies: U7, U8, U9, U10, U11 and Best Girl. Mon: Round 1: 9.30 Round 2: 12.00 Round 3: 15.00 Tue: Round 4: 9.30 Round 5: 12.00 Round 6: 15.00

~*#@+ 26-30 May Delancey International Open, Richmond Park Academy, Park Avenue, London SW14 8RG Contact: Michael Basman & Sainbayar Tserendorj Email: ukchessacademy@gmail.com Website: <http://www.ukchessacademy.com> - starts 9:30AM ends 5:50PM. 9 round Swiss. UKCA will invite 10 GMs. Concurrent events - 3 day U2000 FIDE 5 round and 2 day U110 ECF 6 round. Total prize fund £7500. Winner £1000. Also last day 7 round Blitz.

~*+ 27 May One-Day Delancey U110 ECF, Richmond Park Academy, Park Avenue, London SW14 8RG Contact: Sainbayar Tserendorj Email: ukchessacademy@gmail.com Website: <http://www.ukchessacademy.com> - starts 10:00AM ends 3:00PM. Players graded below 100 ECF. 5 round Swiss Prize: 1st £80; 2nd £50 3rd £30. Trophies: U7, U8, U9, U10, U11, U12 and Best Girl. Time Control: All moves in 20 minutes per player.

Y 28-29 May 6th Grand Master Junior Training Camp, St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Westgate Road, Beckenham, Kent BR3 5DE Contact: Luca Bernardini Email: luca@plantz.uk.com - starts 9:30AM ends 4:00PM. Academy for Chess Excellence and Skills (ACES) presents a Junior training day with Grand Masters Chris Ward and John Emms – from beginners to experienced county and international players, the children will be divided in four groups according to their skill. Groups of 10 or less per coach so that each child is guaranteed individual attention. Only 40 places available per day

~*#@+ 28-30 May Delancey International U2000, Richmond Park Academy, Park Avenue, London SW14 8RG Contact: Michael Basman & Sainbayar Tserendorj Email: ukchessacademy@gmail.com Website: <http://www.ukchessacademy.com> - starts 9:30AM ends 1:30PM. U2000 FIDE rated, prize fund: £750. 3 day 5 round Swiss. Winner: £200

~* 29 May-26 Jun 4th Pimlico Summer Chess Tournament, The Church Hall, St Saviour's Church, St George's Square, Lupus Street, London SW1 Contact: James Toon Email: jtoon@ml1.net Website: <http://pcc1.net/4psct.html> - starts 6:30PM ends 9:30PM. Four Thursday evenings, one Tuesday evening. Three sections: Open, Major (Under-150) and Minor (Under-120). Open to all, but incorporates three Civil Service individual competitions: Barstow Cup, Star Trophy and James Curtis Trophy

~@ 30 May Delancey International BLITZ, Richmond Park Academy, Park Avenue, London SW14 8RG Contact: Sainbayar Tserendorj Email: ukchessacademy@gmail.com Website: <http://www.ukchessacademy.com> - starts 2:00PM ends 5:30PM. 7 round Swiss, open to all players, 10 minutes each. TOTAL PRIZE FUND: £1100. Prize: 1st £300, 2nd £200, 3rd 100, 4th £80. Grading : U2200, U2000, U1800 1st £80 2nd £60

~ 30 May-1 Jun Huddersfield Congress, Huddersfield Ukrainian Club, 7 Edgerton Road, Huddersfield HD1 5RA Contact: Nigel Hepworth Email: nigel@huddersfieldchessclub.co.uk Website: <http://www.huddersfieldchessclub.co.uk> - 5 round Swiss with 4 sections.

~*@ 31 May London Rapidplay, Millennium Hall, Parish Centre, St. Mary's Church, Osterley Road, Isleworth TW7 4PW Contact: Sainbayar Tserendorj Email: londonrapidplay@gmail.com Website: <http://www.london-rapidplay.co.uk> - starts 10:00am ends 5:10pm. 6 round Swiss, FIDE rated sections: Open, U2000/U170, U1700/U130, prize fund £450

@ 31 May Scottish Blitz Open Championship 2014, Surgeons' Hall, Edinburgh EH8 9DW Contact: Jonathan

Edwards Email: scottishblitz@gmail.com Website: <http://www.scottishblitz.org> - starts 10:00AM ends 5:00PM.

3rd Scottish Blitz Open Championship - £1400 prize fund

~*Y 31 May Get Your First Chess Grade, Millennium Hall, Parish Centre, St. Mary's Church, Osterley Road, Isleworth TW7 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 Jun The Graeme Thomson Memorial Rapidplay Tournament, Holiday Inn, Bond St, Bristol BS1 3LE Contact: Graham Mill-Wilson Email: tugmw@blueyonder.co.uk - starts 11:00AM. One day rapidplay (6 rounds, 25 minutes on the clock per round). Open & Major (U145) Sections. There will be cash prizes for 1st (Open = £100) and 2nd in each section, plus grading prizes if enough entries. Entry £17, including £2 discretionary donation to Macmillan Cancer Support

3 Jun 15th Sam Black Memorial Open Blitz, Wanstead House, 21 The Green, Wanstead, London E11 2NT Contact: Gary Cook Email: nclsecretary@yahoo.co.uk Website: <http://www.northcircularchess.co.uk> starts 7:30PM ends 10:30PM. Open Blitz - 6 double rounds / 12 5-minute games. 7 prizes paid 1st £100, 2nd £50, 3rd £40, 3 grading prizes £30 each and a slow starter (0/4) £20

@ 5 Jun Hendon 'First Thursday' Blitz, Golders Green Unitarians Church, 31½ Hoop Lane, London NW11 8BS Contact: Adam Raof Email: adamraof@gmail.com Website: www.hendonchessclub.com - Swiss 6 rounds Open

~* 6-8 Jun 18th South Lakes Chess Congress, The Cumbria Grand Hotel, Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria LA11 6EN Contact: Trevor Blower Email: trevor.blower@talktalk.net - starts 7:00PM ends 6:30PM. 5 round Swiss event with 5 graded sections, £300 first prize in each section.

~* 6-8 Jun 8th Steve Boniface Memorial Congress, Holiday Inn (city centre), Bond St., Bristol BS1 3LE Contact: Graham Mill-Wilson Email: tugmw@blueyonder.co.uk - starts 7:00PM ends 7:00PM. Five round Swiss congress in 3 sections: Open, Major (U155), Minor (U125)

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

~ 7 Jun Mind Sports International Rapidplay Grand Prix, Liverpool Contact: Adam Raof Email: adamraof@gmail.com Website: www.mindsportsacademy.com/chess – Swiss 6 rounds, open to all. Total prize fund £300

~*# 7-8 Jun EACU Congress, The Turner Hall, Church Lane, Newmarket CB8 0HL Contact: Richard Freeman Email: richard@fcasolutions.co.uk - starts 9:30AM ends 6:30PM. A 5 round Swiss tournament with 3 sections - Open, Under 170 and Under 130. The Open section incorporates a British Championship qualifying place, and also features the final leg of the EACU Individual Championship, which itself includes a British Championship qualifying place.

~ 8 Jun Mind Sports International Rapidplay Grand Prix, Liverpool Contact: Adam Raof Email: adamraof@gmail.com Website: www.mindsportsacademy.com/chess – Swiss 6 rounds, Open / Major Under 160 / Amateur Under 120. All in 30 minutes per player, per game. Total prize fund £500. The winner of each section gets a free entry worth £150 to the MSI World Championship

~Y 8 Jun East Midlands Chess Academy Junior Training Tournament, Risley Village Hall, 18 Derby Road, Risley, Derbys DE72 3SU Contact: Christopher Dunworth / David Levens Email: eastmidlandschess@gmail.com Website: www.eastmidlandschess.co.uk - 6 round Swiss

~# 13-15 Jun 3rd Bournemouth 'Grand' Chess Congress, The Carrington House Hotel, Knyveton Road, Bournemouth BH1 3QQ Contact: M Simons Email: grand@bournemouthchesscongress.org.uk Website: <http://www.bournemouthchesscongress.org.uk> - sections: Open, Challengers, Intermediate, Minor – also Individual Handicap Rapidplay | Guaranteed 1st prize in each of the four main sections – £1,000 in the Open section, £300 in the Challengers, £250 in the Intermediate and £200 in the Minor

~* 15 Jun Leek Rapidplay Congress, St. Edward's Junior High School, Westwood Road, Leek, Staffs ST13 8DN Contact: Robert Milner Email: rogerjedwards@yahoo.co.uk - starts 10:00AM. 6 round rapidplay for players graded under 210, using Fischer timings.

~ 21-22 Jun Heywood Congress (including the Van Leeuwen Open), Heywood Civic Centre, Heywood, Lancashire OL10 1LW Contact: Bill O'Rourke Email: worchess@ntlworld.com Website: <http://www.heywoodcongress.org.uk> - online entry available. Open, U180, U160, U140 and U120 sections. Free car parking, less than 5 minutes from motorway, £2300 prize fund

~@ **21-22 Jun 18th Hampstead U2200 Weekend Congress**, Henderson Court Day Centre, 102 Fitzjohn's Avenue, London NW3 6NS MAP Contact: Adam Raoof Email: adamraoof@gmail.com Website: www.hampsteadchess.blogspot.co.uk – total prize fund £500

~ **27-29 Jun Sheffield Chess Congress 2014**, King Edward VII Upper School, Glossop Road, Sheffield S10 2PW Contact: Steve Mann Email: sjmann@supanet.com Website: <http://www.sjmann.supanet.com/SheffCong14.htm> - starts 6:45PM ends 5:15PM. Entries by post or e-mail to Brian Stephenson, Congress Secretary, 9 Roydfield Drive, Sheffield, S20 7ND Email: stephen@gmx.co.uk

~* **28-29 Jun Castle Chess 10th Potter Bar Congress**, Potters Bar United Reformed Church, Darkes Lane, Potters Bar, Hertfordshire EN6 1BZ Contact: Tony Corfe Email: enquiries@castlechess.co.uk Website: <http://www.castlechess.co.uk> - starts 10:00AM ends 10:30PM. 5 round event, Open including Premier U180, Major U160 including Intermediate U140, Minor U120 including Challengers U100

~@ **28-29 Jun 2nd Bexhill-on-Sea Weekend Chess Congress**, Parkhurst Hall, Parkhurst Road, Bexhill on Sea TN39 3JA Contact: Adam Raoof Email: adamraoof@gmail.com Website: <http://www.sussexweekendchess.blogspot.co.uk/> - Swiss, two sections Under 2200 & Under 1900 plus an Under 120 ECF section. Total prize fund £800.

~ **29 Jun 11th 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 rapidplay tournament in between the 4 training sessions.

~Y **29 Jun East Midlands Chess Academy Junior Training Tournament**, Memorial Hall, Church Street, Bramcote, Nottingham NG9 3HD Contact: Christopher Dunworth / David Levens Email: eastmidlandschess@gmail.com Website: www.eastmidlandschess.co.uk - 6 round Swiss

~Y **29 Jun ECF U18 County Championships**, Wilson's School, Mollison Drive, Wallington, Surrey SM6 9JW Contact: Jim Wadsworth Email: junior.business@englishchess.org.uk - the annual national competition for junior county teams. U18 Open event (12 boards) and U18 Minor (6 boards).

@ **3 Jul Hendon 'First Thursday' Blitz**, Golders Green Unitarians Church, 31½ Hoop Lane, London NW11 8BS Contact: Adam Raoof Email: adamraoof@gmail.com Website: www.hendonchessclub.com - Swiss 6 rounds Open

~ **4-6 Jul Colwyn Bay Chess Congress**, The Ferguson Centre, Rydal Penrhos School, Combermere Road, Colwyn Bay LL29 6DR Contact: Andrew R. Camp Email: arcamp1971@aol.com - starts 7:00:00 PM ends 6:30:00 PM. Open, Under 160 Intermediate event and Under 125 Minor event. Five rounds - forty moves in one hundred minutes plus an extra twenty minutes quick-play to finish. Any money left over after decent prizes and other costs are paid will be donated to the North Wales Junior Chess Association. Entry fees: £28 all sections. £22 ECF Silver, Gold and Platinum Members and Welsh Chess Union Members. Entries received after 30th June, 2014 will be subject to a £5 surcharge

~ **5 Jul Greater London Chess Club Summer Rapidplay Tournament**, Upper Vestry House, St George's Bloomsbury, 6 Little Russell Street, London WC1A 2HR Contact: Nigel Blades Email: tournaments@glcc.org.uk Website: <http://www.glcc.org.uk> - starts 10:30AM ends 5:30PM. Five round rapidplay tournament with Open, Major and Minor sections. 30 minutes per player per game.

~ **5 Jul Mind Sports International Rapidplay Grand Prix**, Peterborough Contact: Adam Raoof Email: adamraoof@gmail.com Website: www.mindsportsacademy.com/chess – Swiss 6 rounds, open to all. Total prize fund £300

~# **5-6 Jul Weald Chess Congress**, Worth School, Paddockhurst Rd, Turners Hill, Crawley, Sussex RH10 4SB Contact: Mrs S Howell Email: info@wealdchesscongress.org Website: <http://www.wealdchesscongress.org> - starts 9:45AM. 5 round Swiss; 4 sections - Open, U175, U140, U110; £1500 prize fund; British Championships qualifying place

~@ **5-6 Jul 19th Hampstead U2200 Weekend Congress**, Henderson Court Day Centre, 102 Fitzjohn's Avenue, London NW3 6NS MAP Contact: Adam Raoof Email: adamraoof@gmail.com Website: www.hampsteadchess.blogspot.co.uk – total prize fund £500

~ **6 Jul Mind Sports International Rapidplay Grand Prix**, Peterborough Contact: Adam Raoof Email: adamraoof@gmail.com Website: www.mindsportsacademy.com/chess – Swiss 6 rounds, Open / Major Under 160 / Amateur Under 120. All in 30 minutes per player, per game. Total prize fund £500. The winner of each section gets a free entry worth £150 to the MSI World Championship