

The European Team Chess Championships 2011



Mickey Adams, front, and Nigel Short in full flow at the tournament - pictures courtesy of Chessdom

Round 1 of the 2011 European Team Championship took place on 3rd November at the Porto Carras resort in Halkidiki, Greece. The English men's team had a narrow 2.5-1.5 win against Latvia with wins for Mickey Adams and Nigel Short on the top two boards and a draw for Gawain Jones on board 4.

The women (captained by Glenn Flear) lost 3-1 to a strong Bulgaria team with Dagne Ciuksyte and Maria Yurenok (making her England debut) drawing on boards 2 and 3.

In round 2 the men played Greece and the women faced Israel ...

Report on Annual General Meeting

- Andrew Farthing, Chief Executive

The ECF's Annual General Meeting took place at the Euston Square Hotel, London on Saturday, 15 October. What follows is a summary of the main decisions taken.

Extended sentence

To begin on a personal note, I was re-elected as Chief Executive with no votes against. Although there was no candidate opposing me, I did not take my re-election for granted, and I am grateful for the support shown. I'm sure that I made mistakes during my first year, and doubtless there will be things I get wrong in the months ahead as well. I do promise, however, that I shall give of my best and follow my conscience and my judgement in trying to do what's right for the ECF and English chess.

Achievement Report and Long Term Strategic Plan

Both papers were approved nem con [none against] and without any questions posed or comments made. As the author of the papers, I confess that I was ambivalent about this. I may be in a tiny minority in believing this, but I genuinely do think that these documents are an important part of the ECF's health as an organisation.

It's a common enough reaction among chess players to question the value of the ECF and to ask what it actually does, so the Achievement Report has to be tested against whatever benchmarks members wish to apply to see if the reported actions are adequate. Similarly, when a planned action was not completed, is the explanation satisfactory?

With regard to the Strategic Plan, I acknowledged during the meeting that this was something of a holding document, as the ECF makes a transition from its current form to something (or rather, two somethings) different. I did try to set out some indication of how a split into a charity and a non-charitable body would

affect the goals and nature of the organisations, and this is something on which members need to be reflecting.

The "glass half empty" part of my nature causes me to worry about the absence of challenge. Members' time is limited, of course, and I'm sure that the issues relating to funding had a greater immediacy and prominence in the minds of many, but we do need to be looking further ahead as well.

I should very much welcome feedback on either document if readers want to contact me in the usual way.

Directors' reports

All of the directors' reports were received and approved.

The Director of Finance's report led to lengthy discussion of the draft ECF annual statement of accounts, which showed a deficit for 2010-11 of £5.6k. This was a disappointing outcome, to put it mildly, given the expectations of a significant surplus during the bulk of the year. An unexpectedly heavy workload in the Director of Finance's day job meant that there had been very little time to delve into the reasons for the deficit or to finalise the accounts. Unfortunately, this left the Board and Council without definitive answers to their questions, and approval of the accounts had to be postponed. It will take place as soon as practicable by mail and e-mail.

One sentence in the Director of Marketing's report proved controversial. Referring to the incident prior to the British Championships prizegiving, Stewart Reuben stated, "Had the Marketing Director been consulted initially there would have been no problem." Many felt that this assertion was questionable, and a statement to this effect from Alex McFarlane was read by the Chairman. Council members reiterated their support for British Championship organisers, and I took the opportunity to repeat the Board's view that the regrettable accusations made by some following the incident were entirely without foundation. A proposal to note (rather than approve) the Director of Marketing's report was overwhelmingly defeated; Council members appeared to accept that the statement was the expression of an opinion which, whilst they might not agree with it, was within the director's right to express. The report was approved on a show of hands, with 3 votes against.

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Directors and Officers Responsibilities

A number of changes were approved, removing out-dated references (to a Manager of Chess for Schools and to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport) and bringing responsibility for the Voting Register Officer under the Non-Executive Chairman, a more natural home.

The age limit for the players covered by the Director of Junior Chess & Education was lowered from 21 to 18. This brought the regulations into line with existing practice, whereby the Director of International Chess has dealt with the World Junior Championships (for U21s) rather than the Director of Junior Chess.

Elections and Appointments

Every year at the AGM, the members of the Board are elected, along with the FIDE Delegate and the Chairmen and members of the Finance and Governance Committees.

The results of the Board elections were as follows:

- President – CJ de Mooi was re-elected on a hand vote, with 1 vote against;
- Chief Executive – Andrew Farthing was re-elected on a hand vote, nem con;
- Non-Executive Chairman – Mike Gunn was re-elected on a hand vote, nem con;
- Director of Finance – Gareth Caller was re-elected on a hand vote, nem con;
- Non-Executive Directors – John Wickham and Jack Rudd were re-elected on a hand vote, nem con;
- Director of Home Chess – Adam Raoof was re-elected on a hand vote, with 1 vote against;
- Director of Junior Chess & Education – Phil Ehr was elected in a poll, defeating Sabrina Chevannes by 107 votes to 91 (with 4 votes for “Neither of the above”, 1 spoiled ballot paper and 3 abstentions);
- Director of International Chess – Lawrence Cooper was re-elected on a hand vote, nem con;
- Director of Marketing – Tim Woolgar was elected in a poll, receiving 95 votes in favour against 89 votes for “Not this candidate” (6 abstentions).

Nigel Short was re-elected as the ECF’s FIDE Delegate on a hand vote nem con.

John Philpott was re-elected as Chairman of the Governance Committee on a hand vote nem con. Richard Haddrell and Andrew Leadbetter were likewise re-elected to the committee (with 1 vote against in the case of the latter).

There was no candidate nominated in time for Chairman of the Finance Committee. However, Mike Truran has offered his services, and the Board expressed its intention to appoint him and sought Council’s views. None of the members present objected. Ray Clark, John Philpott and Ian Reynolds were all elected to the Finance Committee on a hand vote, nem con.

Goatcher Chandler was reappointed as Auditor.

The Future Funding of the ECF

It will be recalled that the Finance Council in April 2011 voted in favour of moving to a membership scheme as its future funding model. Following a period of consultation, the AGM was presented with a paper setting out the final version of the membership proposals and a set of detailed changes to the Articles and Byelaws for approval.

Following considerable discussion, the results of the polls were as follows:

- The amendments to Articles 1.1 and 5.14, removing the need for individual Direct Members to sign the £1 guarantee, were approved by 184 votes to 22, a majority of 89%;
- The amendment to Article 30(1), concerning the allocation of voting rights based on actual or deemed Game Fee, was approved by 156 votes to 23, a majority of 87%;
- The changes to Byelaw No.1 (Direct Members) were passed by 137 votes to 57, a majority of 71%;
- The changes to Byelaw No. 2 (Game Fee) were passed by 134 votes to 61, a majority of 69%.

An amendment to Byelaw No.2, seeking to exempt members of national federations other than the ECF from payment of the “Pay to Play” fee for congresses was defeated in a hand vote 19-8.

It should be stressed that Council did NOT set the membership or game fee rates at this time. The ECF’s rules require that this is done by the Finance Council (i.e. in April 2012). The meeting was asked to note a paper setting out the rates which the Board proposes to present to Finance Council next April, which it did on a hand vote, with 2 votes against in the room and 10 directed proxies against.

County Championship rules

An amendment granting the Director of Home Chess discretion to nominate a central venue for the Final of

each Championship, subject to Board agreement. This amendment, from the SCCU, was intended to give flexibility to the Director of Home Chess, so that, if the finalists are from the same geographical region, it would not be mandatory to insist that both travel to a central venue when a more local solution might be preferable.

Comments

For most people, the decision over the funding proposals will be the dominant feature of this year's AGM. Some members expressed deep reservations and questioned whether they would continue within the ECF if the changes were implemented. Others were clearly anxious about specific aspects.

I am extremely conscious of these concerns. I recognise the scale of the challenge in the months ahead, not least to communicate effectively with players and organisations across the country to explain what is happening and to try to persuade as many people as possible of the benefits and value of supporting the national federation.

There are anxieties about the implementation of this project, particularly the IT solution for online membership. I understand these concerns and the reasons for them. I shall be committing as much time as possible to ensuring that the project is carried out in as professional a manner as possible. For many, this statement may be a cause for scepticism, and I understand this. However, I have experience of implementing projects on a much larger scale and of greater complexity in the past, and I am optimistic that this can be done in a satisfactory way.

I shall report progress over the coming months. For now, I would ask for patience. I know that people have many questions about the practical details of the scheme but would respectfully ask that the Federation be given some space to work at this time.

Vote of thanks

by Andrew Farthing, Chief Executive

The Annual General Meeting on 15 October included a unanimous vote of thanks to a number of ECF officials who were stepping down from their roles after years of dedicated service.

Among these were two members of the Board:

- Peter Purland, Director of Junior Chess & Education
- Stewart Reuben, Director of Marketing



Peter Purland and Stewart Reuben

I should like to express my appreciation to both Peter and Stewart for their unflagging support for the ECF. As a relative newcomer to the Board, I was particularly fortunate to be able to call upon two such experienced directors for their counsel.

Peter's dedication to the cause of junior chess is well known, and many young players and their parents can testify to his contribution in this area. Junior chess is commonly considered a difficult area in which to serve, but Peter was always careful to insist on the warmth and friendliness of the vast majority of those with whom he came into contact, and the pleasure which he took in giving young players the opportunity to develop consistently shone through in our conversations. It is good news indeed that Peter has confirmed that he will continue to support junior chess activity in various ways, his departure from the ECF Board notwithstanding.

Stewart's service to the ECF – and before that, the British Chess Federation – has taken many forms and will be well known to all, I am sure. I first encountered Stewart's name in the 1970s, in the pages of B.H. Wood's Chess magazine, where he was prominent as organiser of huge events in London. As I started to accumulate back issues of the magazine from the 1960s, I was able to enjoy Stewart's "Letters from America", in which the startling exploits of a certain Robert J. Fischer were beginning to rock the foundations of the chess world. I shall miss Stewart's anecdotes as much as I shall miss his sage advice, and I am sure that he shall continue to be a loyal friend to the Federation.

In addition to the above, the ECF expressed its grateful appreciation to the following departing officials:

- Steve Connor – Webmaster for the consistently excellent British Championship website, through which many of us will have enjoyed live coverage of the top games;
- Carl Hibbard – responsible for the ECF's online

grading database, the indispensable reference source for grading information;

- Andrew Martin – Manager of Coaching, well known to hundreds of players through his chess DVDs and unfailingly entertaining commentaries at the British Championships;

- John Paines – a former Board member (Non-Executive Chairman) and member of the ECF's Governance Committee;

- Bob Veitch – for many years, the custodian of the ECF's voting register, ensuring that each member's voting rights were correctly reflected at Council meetings;

- David Welch – Alternate to the Director of Junior Chess & Education and joint Manager of the British Championships, David has made a long and notable contribution to English chess, and the Federation will greatly miss his services.

On behalf of the ECF and everyone involved in English chess, whether as player or organiser, I should like to offer my sincere thanks to all of the above for their commitment of time and energy in service of our game. The Federation, in common with English chess as a whole, places enormous reliance on an army of dedicated volunteers to keep the game alive and thriving. We owe all of the above individuals a huge debt, and they will be much missed.



European Team Chess Championships 2011 (continued)

Round 1 results:

Latvia (seeded 27) - England (8) 1½ : 2½

8.1 GM Miezis Normunds 2547 – GM Adams Michael 2734 0 – 1

8.2 GM Sveshnikov Evgeny 2514 – GM Short Nigel D 2698 0 – 1

8.3 IM Neiksans Arturs 2502 – GM Howell David W L 2633 1 – 0

8.4 GM Starostits Ilmars 2456 – GM Jones Gawain C B 2635 ½ – ½

England (22) – Bulgaria (8) 1 : 3

8.1 IM Houska Jovanka 2415 – WGM Videnova Iva 2297 0 – 1

8.2 IM Ciuksyte Dagne 2327 – WGM Voiska Margarita 2328 ½ – ½

8.3 WFM Yurenok Maria S 2106 – WGM Djingarova Emilia 2309 ½ – ½

8.4 WFM Bhatia Kanwal K 2087 – WGM Nikolova Adriana 2286 0 – 1

Round 2 pairings:

England (8) - Greece (19)

5.1 GM Adams Michael 2734 – GM Banikas Hristos 2620

5.2 GM Short Nigel D 2698 – GM Mastrovasilis Dimitrios 2621

5.3 GM Howell David W L 2633 – GM Papaioannou Ioannis 2600

5.4 GM Jones Gawain C B 2635 – GM Halkias Stelios 2593

Israel (15) – England (22)

10.1 IM Klinova Masha 2316 – IM Houska Jovanka 2415

10.2 WIM Porat Maya 2299 – IM Ciuksyte Dagne 2327

10.3 WIM Efroimski Marsel 2230 – WFM Yurenok Maria S 2106

10.4 WIM Vasiliev Olga 2305 – WFM Bhatia Kanwal K 2087

Open section:

Round 2:

England (8) – Greece (19) 1½ : 2½

5.1 GM Adams Michael 2734 – GM Banikas Hristos 2620 ½ – ½

5.2 GM Short Nigel D 2698 – GM Mastrovasilis Dimitrios 2621 0 – 1

5.3 GM Howell David W L 2633 – GM Papaioannou Ioannis 2600 0 – 1

5.4 GM Jones Gawain C B 2635 – GM Halkias Stelios 2593 1 – 0

Round 3:

England (8) – Armenia (4) 2 : 2

8.1 GM Adams Michael 2734 – GM Aronian Levon 2802 ½ – ½

8.2 GM Short Nigel D 2698 – GM Movsesian Sergei 2710 ½ – ½

8.3 GM Jones Gawain C B 2635 – GM Akopian Vladimir 2681 1 – 0

8.4 GM Pert Nicholas 2563 – GM Sargissian Gabriel 2671 0 – 1

Round 4:

Israel (11) – England (8) 2½ : 1½

10.1 GM Sutovsky Emil 2696 – GM Adams Michael 2734 ½ – ½

10.2 GM Roiz Michael 2651 – GM Short Nigel D 2698 ½ – ½

10.3 GM Smirin Ilia 2670 – GM Howell David W L 2633 ½ – ½

10.4 GM Postny Evgeny 2640 – GM Jones Gawain C B 2635 1 – 0

Women's section:**Round 2:**

Israel (15) – England (22) 3 : 1

10.1 IM Klinova Masha 2316 – IM Houska Jovanka 2415 ½ – ½

10.2 WIM Porat Maya 2299 – IM Ciuksyte Dagne 2327 ½ – ½

10.3 WIM Efroimski Marsel 2230 – WFM Yurenok Maria S 2106 1 – 0

10.4 WIM Vasiliev Olga 2305 – WFM Bhatia Kanwal K 2087 1 – 0

Round 3:

Italy (23) – England (22) 1 : 3

14.1 IM Zimina Olga 2338 – IM Houska Jovanka 2415 0 – 1

14.2 WIM Brunello Marina 2221 – IM Ciuksyte Dagne 2327 0 – 1

14.3 Messina Roberta 1964 – WFM Yurenok Maria S 2106 ½ – ½

14.4 Panella Fiammetta 2014 – WFM Bhatia Kanwal K 2087 ½ – ½

Round 4:

England (22) – Germany (7) 1 : 3

9.1 IM Houska Jovanka 2415 – IM Paehtz Elisabeth 2457 ½ – ½

9.2 IM Ciuksyte Dagne 2327 – WGM Michna Marta 2382 ½ – ½

9.3 WFM Yurenok Maria S 2106 – WIM Ohme Melanie 2361 0 – 1

9.4 WFM Hegarty Sarah N 2060 – WIM Hooft Sarah 2286 0 – 1

The men narrowly lost to the host team in round 2 despite Gawain winning with black and Mickey pressing on top board. The team recovered well in round 3 against the powerful Armenian side and could easily have won the match. Gawain won again and Nigel had an extra pawn whilst Nick fought very hard before finally losing in the sixth hour. Sadly another tough pairing in round 4 saw us lose to Israel 2.5-1.5 with draws on the top three boards. Unfortunately, the final

game, for the third day running went against us.

The women lost to a tough Israel team in round 2 but recovered well to beat the Italians in round 3 with wins from both Jovanka and Dagne on the top two boards. They then lost to a very strong German team in round 4 although Jovanka and Dagne drew with higher rated opposition and we had chances on boards 3 and 4 to have even won the match.

Open section:**Round 5:**

England (8) – Lithuania (33) 3 : 1

13.1 GM Adams Michael 2734 – GM Sulskis Sarunas 2577 1 – 0

13.2 GM Howell David W L 2633 – IM Zagorskis Darius 2497 0 – 1

13.3 GM Jones Gawain C B 2635 – IM Labeckas Kestutis 2410 1 – 0

13.4 GM Pert Nicholas 2563 – Klabis Rokas 2100 1 – 0

Round 6:

Czech Rep. (12) – England (8) 2 : 2

10.1 GM Navara David 2724 – GM Adams Michael 2734 0 – 1

10.2 GM Laznicka Viktor 2703 – GM Short Nigel D 2698 1 – 0

10.3 GM Hracek Zbynek 2628 – GM Jones Gawain C B 2635 ½ – ½

10.4 GM Stoeck Jiri 2600 – GM Pert Nicholas 2563 ½ – ½

Women's section:**Round 5:**

England (22) – Croatia (19) 1½ : 2½

12.1 IM Houska Jovanka 2415 – WGM Golubenko Valentina 2293 ½ – ½

12.2 IM Ciuksyte Dagne 2327 – WIM Franciskovic Borka 2280 ½ – ½

12.3 WFM Bhatia Kanwal K 2087 – WGM Medic Mirjana 2236 ½ – ½

12.4 WFM Hegarty Sarah N 2060 – WIM Jelica Mara 2234 0 – 1

Round 6:

Norway (28) – England (22) 0 : 4

14.1 WFM Johnsen Sylvia 2028 – IM Ciuksyte Dagne 2327 0 – 1

14.2 Reppen Ellisiv 1949 – WFM Yurenok Maria S 2106 0 – 1

14.3 Carlsen Ellen Oen 1931 – WFM Bhatia Kanwal K 2087 0 – 1

14.4 Hansen Erle Andrea Marki 1762 – WFM Hegarty

The open team got back to winning ways with a 3-1 victory over Lithuania in round 5 and then had a hard fought draw with the Czech Republic. Mickey took his score to 4.5/6 and a performance of 2854 which is currently the highest rating performance of any board 1. Gawain is also doing very well and has a performance of 2693 and a score of 4 out of 6. Nigel is on 2/5, Nick 1.5/3 and David 0.5/4. Round 7 sees the team play Poland with black.

The women lost a hard fought match to Croatia in round 5 before a comfortable 4-0 win against Norway which saw Maria, Kanwal and Sarah score their first wins. Dagne has 4/6, Jovanka 2.5/5, Maria & Kanwal 2/5 and Sarah 1.0/3.

Open section:

Round 7:

Poland 3 England 1

9.1 GM Wojtaszek Radoslaw 2705 – GM Adams Michael 2734 $\frac{1}{2}$ – $\frac{1}{2}$

9.2 GM Socko Bartosz 2635 – GM Howell David W L 2633 1-0

9.3 GM Bartel Mateusz 2653 – GM Jones Gawain C B 2635 $\frac{1}{2}$ – $\frac{1}{2}$

9.4 GM Miton Kamil 2622 – GM Pert Nicholas 2563 1-0

Round 8:

England 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ Finland $\frac{1}{2}$

15.1 GM Adams Michael 2734 – GM Nyback Tomi 2631 $\frac{1}{2}$ – $\frac{1}{2}$

15.2 GM Short Nigel D 2698 – IM Sammalvuo Tapani 2492 1-0

15.3 GM Jones Gawain C B 2635 – IM Agopov Mikael 2450 1-0

15.4 GM Pert Nicholas 2563 – IM Karttunen Mika 2434 1-0

Women's section:

Round 7:

England 2 Greece 2

12.1 IM Houska Jovanka 2415 – IM Dembo Yelena 2468 0-1

12.2 IM Ciuksyte Dagne 2327 – WGM Botsari Anna-Maria 2313 1-0

12.3 WFM Yurenok Maria S 2106 – WGM Makropoulou Marina 2201 1-0

12.4 WFM Hegarty Sarah N 2060 – WIM Fakhiridou Ekaterini 2180 0-1

Round 8:

Montenegro 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ England 2 $\frac{1}{2}$

12.1 WGM Vojinovic Jovana 2346 – IM Houska Jovanka 2415 1-0

12.2 WFM Milovic Aleksandra 2171 – IM Ciuksyte Dagne 2327 0-1

12.3 WFM Stojanovic Marija R 2095 – WFM Yurenok Maria S 2106 $\frac{1}{2}$ – $\frac{1}{2}$

12.4 Blagojevic Tijana 1925 – WFM Bhatia Kanwal K 2087 0-1

The open team suffered a severe setback with a 3-1 defeat to Poland in round 7. As captain I take full responsibility for the team selected and it was a calculated gamble that didn't pay off. Mickey showed great tenacity to hold an unpleasant ending with black whilst Gawain also drew with black in a complicated game. Sadly we lost both white games, albeit board 4 was somewhat overshadowed by a controversy with the absence of an arbiter at the time meaning that the Polish player did not have to comply with "touch move".

Round 8 was more successful with a comfortable 3.5-0.5 victory against Finland. Nigel, Gawain and Nick all won within a matter of minutes of each other. Scores after eight rounds: Mickey 5.5/8, Nigel 3/6, David 0.5/5, Gawain 5.5/8, Nick 2.5/5. Both Mickey and Gawain remain in contention for a board prize.

We face second seeds Ukraine in the final round that will be my last match as England captain. I would like to thank the nine players (this year's team plus Luke McShane in 2009/10, Stuart Conquest, Simon Williams and Stephen Gordon in 2009) who have played under my captaincy and been a pleasure to work with and I wish my replacement every success in the future.

In round 7 the women had a hard fought draw with Greece thanks to wins from Dagne and Maria whilst in round 8 against Montenegro both Dagne and Kanwal won with white whilst Maria drew with black. The individual scores are as follows: Jovanka 2.5/7, Dagne 6/8, Maria 3.5/7, Kanwal 3/6, Sarah 1.0/4.

Open section:

Round 9:

England 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ Ukraine 2 $\frac{1}{2}$

9.1 GM Adams Michael 2734 – GM Ivanchuk Vassily 2775 1 – 0

9.2 GM Short Nigel D 2698 – GM Eljanov Pavel 2691 0 – 1

9.3 GM Jones Gawain C B 2635 – GM Moiseenko

Alexander 2715 $\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}$

9.4 GM Pert Nicholas 2563 – GM Efimenko Zahar
2702 0 – 1

Womens section:

Round 9:

Netherlands 3 England 1

9.1 GM Peng Zhaoqin 2379 – IM Houska Jovanka
2415 1 – 0

9.2 IM Lanchava Tea 2320 – WFM Yurenok Maria S
2106 1 – 0

9.3 WIM Bensdorp Marlies 2242 – WFM Bhatia
Kanwal K 2087 1 – 0

9.4 WIM Haast Anne 2268 – WFM Hegarty Sarah N
2060 0 – 1

The final round of the open section brought more frustration for the open team. Michael Adams rounded off a great performance with a win against Vassily Ivanchuk which earned him a performance of 2841, a score of 6.5/9 and the gold medal on board 1. Gawain Jones finished with a draw (which was partly influenced by his flight being brought forward by 90 minutes by Ryanair!) a score of 6/9 and a rating performance of 2705 which left him narrowly outside the medals. Sadly we were unable to hold on to our lead and lost the remaining two games. Nigel finished with 3/7, Nick with 2.5/6 and David 0.5/5.

I would like to thank the players for their efforts and their conduct throughout the event. As previously indicated, this will be my last year as captain as I think it's time for someone who can offer more to the team in terms of opening preparation and playing strength which will hopefully boost the team's results, albeit in these uncertain times of ECF finance it will be an extra burden on the budget.

The women's team rested Dagne in round 9 due to uncertainty over finishing in time for her Ryanair flight (see above!). They faced a strong Dutch team and despite Sarah's win against a 2268 opponent they lost the remaining three boards despite the last games going close to the sixth hour.

Dagne finished with 6/8 and a 2446 performance which represents a fine comeback after very little rated chess since her last England appearance in 2008. The European Team is a very tough women's event with virtually no easy matches and no rest days. Maria had a very promising debut, finishing with 3.5/8 and performing above her rating. Kanwal and Sarah finished with 3/7 and 2/5 respectively and performed approximately to their rating whilst Jovanka had a tough fin-

ish to slip to 2.5/8 but remained a fine role model for the team and played every match except for Norway facing 1 GM, 4 IMs and 3 WGMs.

In closing I would like to thank the following for their financial contributions to the team: English Chess Federation, Ian Reynolds, John Robinson Trust and a large anonymous donation which was secured thanks to Malcolm Pein. I hope that we are able to have such strong support at the 2012 Olympiad in Istanbul next August.



Sarah Hegarty



From back to front - Gawain Jones, David Howell, Nigel Short



Jovanka Houska



Dagne Ciuksyte



Kanwal Bhatia



Maria Yurenok



Front to back - Mickey Adams, Nigel Short, Gawain Jones and Nick Pert



Round One - front to back, Mickey Adams, Nigel Short, David Howell, Gawain Jones



20th Aldro Inter Schools Chess Tournament October 22nd 2011

30 teams took part in the tournament this year.

The U13 competition was keenly contested by Magdalen College, Twickenham Prep, Reigate Grammar, Hawthorns and Aldro. All the teams had some excellent players and the four board matches were all close. After the 3 rounds Magdalen College came out on top with Hawthorns 2nd and Twickenham and Aldro 3rd=.

The U11 Major section was won by Homefield A with Twickenham and Magdalen College 2nd =.

The U11 Minor section was won by Aldro with Homefield B 2nd and Hawthorns B and Twickenham B 3rd=.

Many of the U9 players were playing for their schools

for the first time and it was good to see some good matches in both the Major and Minor sections. The Major section was won by Homefield A with Reigate Grammar 2nd and Aldro A 3rd.

The Minor was won by the Hawthorns, with Aldro B 2nd and St James B 3rd.

The next tournament at Aldro is the National Prep School Rapidplay on Saturday 17th December with U13,U12,U11,U10 and U9 age groups.

Please contact me at Aldro School if you are interested in playing (archerd@aldro.org)

- D. J. Archer

European Youth

The players arrived in Albena, Bulgaria on 10th September late at night and hours after expected due to our flight from London Luton to Bourgas being delayed by nearly 4 hours.

After this there was a 3 hour bus trip through the country to Hotel Mura, one of the hotels in the Albena holiday resort on the eastern coast of Bulgaria. However, with the first round being at 3pm on the 11th there was just enough time for the players and coaches to get enough sleep beforehand.



Amazingly the draw was up around 1pm meaning coaches had a bit of time to prepare their charges. Two of my pupils, Asha Jina (girls under 10) and Ananth Balaji (boys under 14) were making their debuts and had tough pairings to ease them into international competition.

Round 1

Name	Result
Asha Jina vs Kharim Balajeyeva (AZE)	Loss
Ananth Balaji vs Radu Christian Toma (ROM)	Loss
Chantelle Foster vs Elisa Chiarion (ITA)	Win
Henry Broadley vs Titas Stremavicius (LTU)	Draw
Team score:	1.5/4

A good score considering all four players played against far higher opposition, often around 300 points difference. Chantelle and Henry played well to get off the mark; Chantelle winning on the black side of a Yugoslav Attack Sicilian Dragon where she tricked her opponent in the late middlegame. Henry was very close to winning his endgame but couldn't quite finish off against a stubborn opponent after a five hour struggle. Ananth and Asha (both making their debuts in international competition) acquitted themselves well but found themselves up against high level opposition. Both will have learned a lot from this game which hopefully they will carry on into their remaining games.

Round 2

Name	Result
Asha Jina vs Margarita Strateva (BUL)	Win
Ananth Balaji vs Julio Suarez Gomez (ESP)	Win
Chantelle Foster vs Tsveta Galunova (BUL)	Win
Henry Broadley vs Balasz Csonka (HUN)	Draw
Team score:	3.5/4

An excellent return from my pupils today. Chantelle and Ananth both won in double quick time (16 and 18 moves respectively). Both however would have been prolonged with more stubborn defences, but both took their chances when presented with them. Asha got off the mark which

was very welcome, comprehensively beating the local Bulgarian star with sensible chess and some nice tactics to finish off. Henry got his preparation but, playing the 7th seed, faced stiff resistance in the semi slav that occurred. He claimed he was 'lucky' to draw, but so far he has performed excellently in his two games against far higher rated opposition.

Round 3

Name	Result
Asha Jina vs Blanka Kurucz (HUN)	Loss
Ananth Balaji vs Vladislav Bahmatsiy	Loss
Chantelle Foster vs Maria Leks (POL)	Draw
Henry Broadley vs Elkhan Bayramov	Loss
Team score:	0.5 /4

The team were generally unlucky today. Asha played an excellent opening and then unfortunately missed a winning combination on move 13 (which she spotted herself right after the game) which allowed her opponent to carry on and take full advantage. Ananth got short of time in a theoretical guico piano where although he was two pawns up, in this quick time limit the complications were hard to work out. Henry was better, then worse, then better again only to spoil a good position by playing a combination in the wrong move order. Chantelle on the other hand continued her excellent run with a draw against an opponent nearly 400 points above her. She grabbed a pawn in an advanced caro kann and even got a passed pawn on the queenside, but her resourceful opponent managed to mix things and the game ended in a complicated draw by perpetual check in a time scramble after nearly 4 hours play.

Round 4

Name	Result
Asha Jina vs Ayan Bengu Sena	Loss
Ananth Balaji vs Emanuele Vesce (ITA)	Draw
Chantelle Foster vs Maria Cerrato Torrijos (ESP)	Loss
Henry Broadley vs Ivo Dias Rodrigues (POR)	Draw
Team score:	1 /4



A bit of a rollercoaster day-Henry had a clear advantage out of the opening but his opponent managed to escape by sacrificing his queen. He still had the edge but then both players missed that Henry could lose his queen in one move! Eventually a drawn bishop ending resulted. High flying Chantelle was 'monster prepped' (the words of IM Tom

Rendle) in her favourite Dragon Sicilian, it turns out a Spanish IM had played a new move and clearly this had been told to her Spanish opponent. In the quick time limit she couldn't hold on in the complications. Ananth's game ended in a draw just as both players were in time trouble and the fireworks were about to be lit. Asha fell victim to some home prep in her Kings Indian which left her in a passive position. She wriggled hard and nearly escaped but then fell for a tactic. Hoping the players can score well in round 5 before the rest day now.

Round 5

Name	Result
Asha Jina vs Uliya Heydarova	Win
Ananth Balaji vs Ben Tuerlinckx	Win
Chantelle Foster vs Anastasia Tkachova	Loss
Henry Broadley vs Richard Harvan	Loss
Team score: 2 / 4	

An average day for my players. Asha and Ananth had good wins, Asha checkmating her opponent in 21 moves following a nicely played kingside attack whilst Ananth played for me his game of the tournament with a comprehensive win ending with a queen sacrifice against a player over 300 points higher rated than him. Chantelle was hit with an opening surprise and went down in an endgame. Still, her



first half of the tournament has been a resounding success and she can be very pleased with how things have gone so far. Henry went down in a time scramble after a fluctuating game where he was worse for most of it but then had a chance to win a piece in the time trouble before allowing his opponent to crash through.

Now there is a rest day on 16th September. Round 6 resumes on the 17th.

Rest day activities included playing cricket (Messrs Malhotra and Croasdale turned out to be pretty handy with the bat!), swimming and an evening blitz tournament for the English players, with Marcus Harvey triumphing.

Round 6

Name	Result
Asha Jina vs Anna Vitova (CZE)	Win
Ananth Balaji vs Tarun Malhotra (ENG)	Draw
Chantelle Foster vs Laura Storer (SUI)	Loss
Henry Broadley vs Emanuele Vesce (ITA)	Win

Team score: 2.5/4

Asha won with black against her Czech opponent in the endgame, however the key moment was in the middlegame when Asha sacrificed her rook for what appeared to her to be a forced mate. Her opponent believed this also and lost an exchange in the tactical melee, however in analysis it turned out the rook could have been taken after all. She won comprehensively once ahead though. Ananth drew with fellow countryman Tarun after a tight game resulted in Ananth winning a pawn but he couldn't make any progress and a draw was eventually agreed. Henry was in attack mode seeking his first win, which he duly got after blitzing his opponent with a double pawn sac followed by an exchange sac. Chantelle unfortunately was hit by another piece of prep against yet another highly rated opponent, and was ground down throughout the middlegame without any counterplay. Still, she is doing very well this tournament despite only being on 2.5/6.

Round 7

Name	Result
Asha Jina vs Ece Ozbay (TUR)	Win
Ananth Balaji vs Premyslaw Piotrowski (POL)	Loss
Chantelle Foster vs Kardelen Cemhan (TUR)	Loss
Henry Broadley vs Lazar Lekic (MNE)	Win
Team score: 2/4	

A mixed score for my players. Asha played excellently to checkmate her opponent in relatively short order-she has really got the hang of playing in this tournament now and we are all pleased she is doing well on her debut. Ananth was unlucky as once again he belied his low rating to equalise without difficulty against his Polish opponent. However he showed nerves to play for a win instead of going for the easy draw, this made things complicated and in his own time trouble he allowed his opponent a tactic he



didn't really deserve to have. Chantelle had yet another tough game and once she made one small slip in the opening, she was outplayed in the endgame without any real chances. Henry played the exciting game of the round, we had prepped his Dragon at one point to move 30 but on around move 20 his opponent tried something new and Henry gained material with a tactic. However he overlooked his opponent could get a dangerous outside passed pawn, however he found a very nice idea to queen a pawn himself and wrap things up in short order.

Round 8

Name	Result
Asha Jina vs Mireya Represa Perez (ESP)	Loss
Ananth Balaji vs Egor Procop (MDA)	Draw
Chantelle Foster vs Seda Alev Gonulden (TUR)	Win
Henry Broadley vs Gor Vatinyan (UKR)	Win
Team score: 2.5/4	

Henry won his third straight game after not winning at all in his first 5 games! The game was over after 12 moves when his Ukrainian opponent grabbed a hot pawn and was crushed mercilessly. Chantelle got back to winning ways, her trusty Sicilian Dragon coming up trumps again. Ananth showed just how much he has improved, coming out extremely disappointed to only draw with someone 270 points higher rated. Analysis showed if he had continued his pawn storm on his opponents king with more vigour he could well have been rewarded with a win. However a draw was still an excellent result. Its been hard to predict the openings in the girls under 10 section but Asha was well prepared in her Kings Indian and she met a well coached Spanish girl who immediately whipped out one of the main lines. Both sides started attacking on opposite sides in typical Kings Indian fashion, but unfortunately for Asha her opponent got there first. However she is still on 50% going into the last round which is very good for her debut.

Round 9

Name	Result
Asha Jina vs Yuliya Baiburina (RUS)	Loss
Ananth Balaji vs Lazar Lekic (MNE)	Win
Chantelle Foster vs Maria Nevioselaya (BLR)	Draw
Henry Broadley vs Philipp Lerch (GER)	Win
Team score: 2.5/4	

Another excellent score for my players to finish off proceedings. Ananth defeated an opponent nearly 350 points higher than him, a smooth Ruy Lopez as black where the tactics that kicked off in the time scramble all worked in Ananth's favour. Henry, not to be outdone, won his fourth straight game against someone over 200 points above him. He told me he was in the mood to attack and he kept his word, throwing everything at his opponent and finally exchanging off into an endgame 4 pawn ahead. Chantelle also produced a very positive result to end her excellent tournament, drawing a long 5 hour game with a Belarussian 250 points above her. Unfortunately for Asha she finished with a loss, but against a Russian girl where she stood well but got tricked in the middlegame. However Asha can be positive about her European tournament debut. The hope is she, and all the players who played, take their experience back to England where we hope their chess development can be continued.

- Lorin D'Costa

World Under-16 Chess Olympiad

Preview and Opening Ceremony

The English team has arrived in the Kocaeli province of Turkey, and more specifically Ismit (the capital) for the 2011 World Youth Under 16 Olympiad. We are staying and playing at the luxurious Green Park Kartepe resort, 1200metres above sea level. The link to the hotel is here: <http://www.karteperesort.com/homepage> (though I think it's all in Turkish!) Having arrived yesterday we are now suitably acclimatised and have taken part in the traditional Turkish parade through the city waving our English flags!

The English team for this event is James Holland, Craig Whitfield, Henrik Stepanyan and Peter Batchelor, ably assisted (I hope) by me. They seem excited and ready to go.

Round 1: Azerbaijan vs England

- 1.GM Nijat ABBASOV 2470 1-0 James HOLLAND 2204
2. IM Ulvi BAJARANI 2434 0-1 Craig WHITFIELD 2010
- 3.FM Kanan IZZAT 2238 1-0 Henrik STEPANYAN 1956
- 4.Misratdin ISKANDAROV 2300 1-0 Peter BATCHELOR

It couldn't have been a much more difficult start (no really it couldn't – Azerbaijan are seeded 2nd) with 3 titled players and their full strength team taking us on. James played into a Tarrasch defence to 1.d4. His 10...d4 looked a little premature, and he quickly found himself under pressure, and eventually lost a bishop and pawn endgame

Craig faced a French defence (despite preparing for a Najdorf!) but quickly obtained a promising position. His opponent grovelled around for some time, and Craig's clock ran dangerously low. However, after turning down a draw offer the Azeri IM erred and Craig's queenside pawns decided the game. An absolutely fantastic result!

Henrik found himself worse in an endgame after playing a passive line. Despite his best efforts he was not able to extract himself and a neat tactic allowed his higher rated opponent to win.

Peter played a good opening, and found himself a little better in a fianchetto variation of the Benko gambit. However he sadly failed to find the correct plan in the middlegame, and overlooked a tactic which allowed his opponent to win the exchange, and later the game.

Round 2: England vs Turkey 'Turkuaz'

1. James HOLLAND 2204 1-0 Fatma Ayca DURMAZ 1816
2. Craig WHITFIELD 2010 1-0 Busra SOYDA 1747
3. Henrik STEPANYAN 1956 1-0 Aleya YIGIT 1729
4. Peter BATCHELOR 0-1 Nisan ULUSOY 1646

This was obviously going to be an easier match on paper, but

the Turkish girls team had taken a point off a strong Czech Republic side in the previous round, and from past experiences the Turkish teams are always well dangerous and well prepared. Peter played down a main line Caro-Kann, and through a sequence of good moves obtained an advantage. However, he overpressed, and allowed a dangerous passed pawn which eventually decided the game in white's favour. James played what seemed like a very smooth game. He sacrificed a pawn in a Sicilian Najdorf, leading to some pressure which black was unable to extract herself from. A nice tactical shot at the end brought home the point.

Craig was out next, again playing a nice game against a grand prix attack. He closed the kingside and started counterplay on the queenside, which white was unable to cope with.

Henrik finished things off with a funny looking English, which I never got even close to understanding. He sank a bishop deep into his opponent's position on d6, and after cementing it there in a strange middlegame opened up lines to effectively attack the black king and win.

Round 3: England vs Syria

1. James HOLLAND 0.5-0.5 Ismael KHABBOUR
2. Craig WHITFIELD 2010 0.5-0.5 K.A. Adm CHEKH 1891
3. Henrik STEPANYAN 1956 0-1 Basher IYTI 2225
4. Peter BATCHELOR 0.5-0.5 FM Wade AL-TARBOUSH 2251

The second of the rounds for the day, and a funny looking board order from Syria, but a match we really should have won based on situation in the games. James got a large advantage against his opponents Taimanov Sicilian, and missed a couple of clear wins before his opponent sacrificed his queen to obtain a fortress like position which James was unable to break down.

Craig played a premature central break (also in a Taimanov Sicilian) and missed a strong attacking idea on the the kingside. However his opponent let him off the hook, and through a series of excellent moves Craig turned the game to his advantage. In the final position Craig was better, but couldn't see a way to take advantage of this and the players agreed a draw. Peter played a superb game to neutralise his FM opponents attacking chances. Peter grabbed a pawn before playing like Fritz to get a really good position. However his opponent always had some chances, and eventually managed to force a perpetual check with both kings wide open.

Henrik played a good game, where he was always slightly better. His higher rated player however refused to take a repetition, and Henrik went into a king, bishop and pawn ending. Tragically, one move before the end Henrik went astray missing an intermediate check which cost him the game.

So the first double round day is over, and another is just around the corner (tomorrow!) The players didn't seem too tired however, and were in good spirits, spending most of the

evening playing blitz and exchange with the Scottish team who are also here.

Round 4: Turkey 'Kocaeli' vs England

1. Sergen ATAY 1685 0-1 James HOLLAND 2204
2. Oguzhan ERTEKIN 1599 0.5-0.5 Craig WHITFIELD 2010
3. Samet Burak CILDIR 0-1 Henrik STEPANYAN 1956
4. Mert Efe KILIC 1606 0.5-0.5 Peter BATCHELOR

Our second match against a Turkish team, and another 3-1 victory. This time we were playing the local 'Kocaeli' province side, and we were disappointed not to score the full 4 points. Henrik was out first, having played a nice attacking game where his opponent went wrong straight out of the opening and Henrik capitalised nicely.

James chalked up a second win soon afterwards. His young opponent also made a lot of passive moves in the middlegame, and our board 1 collected an exchange before finishing the game nicely.

Craig was really disappointed not to win. He played another strong attacking game against his opponents Pirc, but when on the brink of victory he hesitated with his attack and Mr Ertekin managed to survive, and possibly could have played on for the win.

Peter got nothing out of the opening with white. In fact for a lot of the game he was a bit worse. The advantage wasn't significant however and the game was drawn.

Round 5: Kazakhstan vs England

1. Alibek IGAMBERGENOV 2259 0.5-0.5 James HOLLAND 2204
2. Ayan AKHMETOV 2158 0.5-0.5 Craig WHITFIELD 2010
3. Dinara SADUAKASSOVA 2193 1-0 Henrik STEPANYAN 1956
4. Adilet ZAURENBEEK 1973 0.5-0.5 Peter BATCHELOR

Amongst the young chess talents here at the Olympiad you also find the stray grandmaster, helping to coach their side. There are at least three here this tournament (I suspect the Azeri coach is also quite useful). Legendary GM Artur Jussupow at his peak was number 3 in the world (behind Kasparov and Karpov). Also a legend of the game, GM Mikhail Gurevich is the national trainer of Turkey. The third super GM present, and the highest rated player at the event is GM Mikhail Kobalia (current elo 2674) who is training Russia. The fifth round was a really good effort from the boys. James and his opponent blitzed out about 20 moves of Tarrasch theory, before arriving at an equal looking middlegame position. Fireworks then ensued, with James winning a pawn with a neat tactic. However the situation wasn't as clear as first thought, and in the complications James' opponent missed what looked like a winning move. The game ended in a per-

petual.

Craig played an enterprising game on board 2, choosing the same line against the French which served him so well in round 1. His opponent snatched what looked like a hot pawn (actually it turned out to be a good decision), and Craig went 'all in' sacrificing a knight to open up the opponents king. In the end more fuel went on the fire in the shape of a rook, which ensured a perpetual check.

Henrik got the opening he wanted, and managed to equalise fairly comfortably. However his opponent, an experienced WFM then started to outplay him. In the end Henrik got a knight trapped which finished the game.

Peter also got the opening he wanted, a Fianchetto Kings Indian, which we had looked at earlier. He played the position well, and it looked at one stage as though he had a clear advantage. His opponent managed to steer the game into an endgame with opposite coloured bishops a pawn down, which Peter couldn't convert.

Round 6: England vs Kyrgyzstan

1. James HOLLAND 2204 0.5-0.5 Bakai Uulu ESENBEEK
2. Craig WHITFIELD 2010 1-0 Talia TAILAIBEKOV
3. Henrik STEPANYAN 1956 0.5-0.5 Aidar KENENBAEV
4. Peter BATCHELOR 0.5-0.5 Kelsinbek ISAKZHANOV

We were lucky to beat Kyrgyzstan today, but will happily take the win! About halfway through the session, 3 of the 4 games looked like losses, with James seemingly coasting to the solitary point. What never ceases to surprise me about these events, no matter how many times you come to them is that trying to make predictions about the results based on the positions is completely pointless.

James was out first, but not with the result we had predicted. Having played another smooth attacking game with white against the Sicilian (this time a Scheveningen) his advantage at one stage was in the region of +11 on the computer (that's a lot!!) However as he missed his opportunities, and his clock started running down things got more and more complicated and in the end had to sacrifice a rook for a perpetual check 'Craig Whitfield style'.

The man himself was finding life tough going on board 2. Playing against another grand prix attack against his Sicilian, Craig gave himself a weakened queenside pawn structure, and was somewhere between worse and clearly worse for almost the entire game. What was very impressive was the way that he held on, refusing to panic and offering an exchange sacrifice for some compensation towards the end. Rather than take it, his opponent rather generously left a piece 'en prise' to a simple tactic and promptly resigned!

Henrik was out next, having been taught a lesson in how not to play the white side of the Kings Indian (he was white :-)). After allowing black to unleash his 'Kings Indian' bishop free of charge, and finding nowhere to put his king I feared for his position. Once again though our player showed his tenacity

and somehow managed to push his opponent into a drawn opposite coloured bishop and rook ending a pawn down which Henrik held.

Peter's game was the last to finish in the entire playing hall. He played down a well known line of the Queens Gambit declined. In fact the whole game was of a high quality, with White possessing a miniscule advantage for a lot of it. Seemingly having had enough of draws Peter bravely sacrificed a piece for some pawns (soundly), but a slip in concentration allowed his opponent a decisive advantage. The favour was returned later on in the endgame, and Peter secured a hard fought draw.

So, tomorrow is a rest day! The organised trip involves a visit to a local museum, followed by some shopping. Not quite as dramatic as the 'journey to hell and paradise' we were offered on my last visit to Turkey for this event. Plus it also involves getting down and up the mountain, which will cut into the trip by a good couple of hours. So we will see- it may be blitz with the Scottish (again) and some preparation for a difficult looking 7th round pairing against the Czech Republic.

The team weren't too keen on the idea of the organised trip on the rest day, which the majority of the teams went on so we spent the day instead preparing for the Czech Republic and playing in the games room. I am delighted to (smugly) inform you that England's finest players were no match for England's finest coach on the table tennis table where I held off the challenge from James Holland and Peter Batchelor convincingly.

Round 7: Czech Republic vs England

With the rest day behind us, the England team came alive in Round 7, outplaying the Czech Republic and scoring a convincing 3-1 victory. Perhaps they should have spent the day preparing too?!

1. Tadaes BALACEK 2245 0.5-0.5 James HOLLAND 2204
2. Tomas KRAUS 2197 0-1 Craig WHITFIELD 2010
3. Petr CIZINSKY 2178 0.5-0.5 Henrik STEPANYAN 1956
4. Stepan SEIDL 2144 0-1 Peter BATCHELOR

Draw with black, win with white! Boards 1 and 3 amazingly followed each other for 15 moves after our players introduced a James Holland novelty in the Tarrasch defence on move 13. The Czech board three eventually erred and seemed to play the incorrect 16.Nfd4 which allowed Henrik the advantage. He always seemed in control of the position after that, but dropped his extra pawn and sensibly offered a draw with little time remaining.

James also comfortably held on board 1. His opponent played the stronger 16.g4, and seemed to obtain the slightly better chances. James though thought differently, turning down a draw only to offer one a couple of moves later with the position balanced.

Craig played the White side of a 6.g3 Sicilian Najdorf. A com-

plex middlegame ensued, with a bad light squared bishop being compensated for by his pressure down the d-file. Somewhere under time pressure Craig's position became really difficult, but yet again he was up to the task of defending well. In mutual time trouble black overpressed for the win, and Craig mopped up his opponents pawns and won the endgame.

Peter played a prepared line of the Anti-Grünfeld, which I had an unpleasant experience with recently at a tournament in Madrid. This idea seemed to work, as black used up a large amount of thinking time. Peter won a pawn in the early middlegame, before having to weather a little bit of black pressure. Eventually Peter traded down to a double rook and pawn ending a pawn up, which he converted expertly for his first win!

Round 8: England vs Armenia

1. James HOLLAND 2204 0-1 Karen GRIGORYAN IM 2473
2. Craig WHITFIELD 2010 0-1 Hovhannes GABUZYAN FM 2404
3. Henrik STEPANYAN 1956 0-1 Arman MIKAELYAN 2214
4. Peter BATCHELOR 0-1 Zohrak APRESYAN 2185

What to say about Round 8? Well, firstly that we were unfortunate to get a 4 point upfloat to play the Armenian team on board 2. But actually I was pleased with the draw, even if the players weren't. Much better to test yourself against the best than not I told them. And test them we did.

Well, most of them! Craig, who was been playing absolutely tremendously, and before the round was leading the overall standings for board 2 went down quite easily to his nearest rival, the strong Armenian board 2. After being surprised in the opening, Craig gave away a pawn, and his position collapsed quite quickly after that.

The other three games were very tense, and at one stage it looked like we were going to win 2.5-1.5. James was surprised by his opponents 'North Sea Defence' (1.e4 g6 2.d4 Nf6 3.e5 Nh5?!) using up a fair bit of time, and getting a slightly worse position. However a clever pawn sacrifice turned the tables in his favour. At a critical moment in the middlegame James missed an opportunity (28.Bxe6!) to enter an endgame 1, or more likely 2 pawns up. Amazingly the Armenian player wriggled out of trouble, and with James running out of time won a king and pawn ending.

Peter played his Caro-Kann main line again, and got a perfectly acceptable position from the opening. His opponent played a neat tactic which seemed to win (24.Rxg4!). But as is the English way this tournament Peter defended superbly, finding a series of only moves up until a critical moment on move 30, where a slip allowed his opponent to consolidate his extra kingside passed pawn and convert the endgame.

Henrik was the last out, again losing but missing his chances during the game. Having chosen to surprise his opponent with

1.d4! his opponent responded in turn with 1...c5!?. Henrik closed the position, before launching an attack on his opponent's king on the dark squares. He sacrificed an exchange and had his Armenian opponent on the ropes, missing a series of knockout blows. Mr Apresyan defended very well, managing to co-ordinate his rooks and with it the game.

So the team is a little deflated, but only because we had excellent chances to get something from the match. Tomorrow we face the young Slovakian team, which promises to be a close match.

Round 9: Slovakia vs England

1. Christopher REPKA 2129 0.5-0.5 James HOLLAND 2204
2. Jergus PECHAC 1960 1-0 Craig WHITFIELD 2010
3. Oliver SPACEK 1907 0.5-0.5 Henrik STEPANYAN 1956
4. Viktor HARING 1964 0-1 Peter BATCHELOR

Round 9 of 10 against a young Slovakian side promised to be a difficult match. Henrik was the first to finish, having played an interesting Tarrasch defence against the Slovak board 3. Actually, as he has done for most of the tournament Henrik got himself into a very nice position from the opening, but was overly worried about three white pieces circling around his king. Using up a lot of time, Henrik exchanged queens into an uncomfortable endgame which he drew using a three-fold repetition.

Craig suffered a bad defeat. Having prepared a main line Sveshnikov his opponent surprised him in the opening and Craig didn't react in the best way. Having blocked his main source of play (the d5 square) it was left for his young (10 year old!) opponent to try to open the game up. White gave up a pawn to try and keep the position closed, but this extra pawn sadly trundled up the board and gave black the win.

Peter has grown in confidence through the course of the tournament, and played another fine positional game today. Having learnt all he knows from a Kasparov DVD a few days previously, he was happy to enter into a so called 'Carlsbad' structure, where he outplayed his opponent convincingly.

James tried something new against his opponent's solid London System and clearly surprised him, quickly gaining a good position. However somewhere in the early middlegame James misplayed things, and his opponent managed to force black into a passive defensive position. James gave up a pawn to try and free himself, and in the end managed to hold what looked like a very difficult endgame.

So this draw leaves us in 17th place before the last round, tied with the Scottish on game points! We were hoping for a final round clash, but instead we have a downfloat to the UAE 'B' team. A good victory should push up towards the top 10. Let's hope the boys can do it.

Round 10 England vs UAE 'B'

1. James Holland 2204 1-0 Ali ABDULLA 1701

2. Craig WHITFIELD 2010 1-0 WFM Amna NOUMAN 1710

3. Henrik STEPANYAN 1956 1-0 Fared AHMED 1711

4. Peter BATCHELOR 1-0 Ali Abdouli MAJED 1506

They did it! An absolutely superb effort in the final round saw us secure a 4-0 win. It didn't look like happening though. Peter managed to win a nervy first game for us, but got his move order mixed up just out of the opening and could have lost a piece. Fortunately his opponent was playing too fast and missed it. Peter managed then to win a piece, only to expose his own king to a series of checks. Eventually they ran out and Peter mated his opponent.

Henrik was out shortly afterwards, having played what on the surface looked like a very good positional game. However further investigation revealed a sequence of errors up to the end of the match. His opponent capitulated towards the end, eventually making the last mistake which allowed a nice tactical shot.

James played against a French Rubenstein variation, and his opponent seemed to allow James a pleasant advantage, with weakened black kingside pawns. Our board 1 remained patient, shuffling his pieces about but ceding the initiative to his opponent. Fortunately for us black decided in time trouble to blunder a rook and immediately resigned! I think James earnt a bit of luck for the way he played this tournament.

And that leaves us Craig, who, having obtained a small edge from the opening, almost immediately went into a complex ending. He probed away for what seemed like eternity before winning a pawn. However, in mutual time trouble he missed the opportunity to liquidate into a winning king and pawn endgame, leaving a (theoretically) drawn rook and pawn vs rook. But he continued to play, a good half an hour after every one else in the hall had finished. We missed lunch, but on he went! Eventually, on the 109th move his opponent resigned having missed a saving resource just a few moves earlier.

So this tremendous effort saw us finish 9th overall. Winners were Mr Kobalia and Russia, followed by Armenia and Iran, who edged out Azerbaijan on tie break for 3rd. The tournament, as ever was excellently run by the Turkish Chess Federation, and the boys seemed to enjoy themselves immensely (a good last round win helps!) Craig was very close to a board prize and picked up some valuable rating points, and the whole team chipped in at crucial moments with wins and draws. All that is left is for me to go and bring our players down a peg or two with some table tennis lessons.

- all of the U16 reports and pictures have been sent by IM Adam Hunt, to whom the editor is most grateful



England ready to go in Round 1



The English team in pensive mood before Round 2



Henrik played the game of Round 4



The scene of the mauling from Round 8



Green Park resort Kartepe, from the outside

Grand Prix Leader Boards

English Chess Federation Grand Prix 2011-12 Leader Boards 3rd November 2011

Players in red are counting the maximum number of events. The tables will not be completely up to date, because recent events will still be in the pipeline.

Open Prix

Name	Club/Area	Pts
1 Hebden, Mark L	4NCL Pride and Prejudice	605
2 Bonafont, Philip R	Hemel Hempstead	500
3 Hawkins, Jonathan	Consett	492
4 Surtees, Mike J	Bolton	481
5 Williams, Simon K	Sandhurst	477
6 Holland, James P	Berkshire Junior	471
7 O'Toole, George E	4NCL Barbican	470
8 Newton, Robert A	Heywood	458
9 Milson, Samuel A	Louth	453
10 Cutmore, David A	Wood Green	424
11 Merry, Alan B	Bury St Edmunds	416
12 Haria, Ravi	Barnet Knights	391
13 Burnett, Jim	Workshop	372
14 Combie, Alex B	Newark & Southwell	371
15 Gormally, Daniel W	4NCL Cheddleton	358

Graded Prix: 160-179

Name	Club/Area	Pts
1 Bryant, Richard BE	Oswestry	551
2 Burke, Mitchell R	Three C's	454
3 Jones, Steven A	Grappenhall	430
4 Jackson, Paul G	Coulsdon CF	424
5 Mulleady, Peter J	Atherton	420
5 Prior, Stephen CV	Sheffield University	420
7 Kennedy, Craig	East Ham	404
8 Cutmore, Martin J	Wood Green	390
9 Patrick, David A	Courier Halifax	390
10 Reynolds, Mark A	Consett	370
11 Mercs, Peter J	Gambit	366
12 Davison, Chris	Cambridge City	342
13 Ilett, Raymond J	Peterborough	341
14 Hankinson, Mike	Sheffield	334
15 Lally, Mike E	Sheffield	329

Graded Prix: 140-159

Name	Club/Area	Pts
1 O'Gorman, Brendan	DHSS	561
2 Desmedt, Richard E	Wombwell	555
3 Hartley, Dean M	Amber Valley	528
4 Clegg, Robert	Huddersfield	499
5 Norman, Dinah M	Wokingham *	479
6 Wood, Peter C	Hastings *	470
7 Pride, Stephen C	Cambridge City	458
8 Connor, Michael I	Great Lever	441
9 Price, Andrew	Leamington	437
10 Grobler, David	Netherton	420
11 Smith, Paul	Hastings & St Leonards	413
12 Coward, Neil	AXA Lytham	412
13 Wiggins, Andrew S	Greenlands	369
14 Horlock, Peter J	Godalming	358
15 Sandercock, E Barry	Buckinghamshire *	356

Graded Prix: 120-139

Name	Club/Area	Pts
1 Allen, Timothy S	Battersea	499
2 Crouch, Timothy J	Kings Head	476
3 Wilson, Matthew R	Wigston	461
4 McKeon, John E	Milton Keynes	447
5 Egan, William J	Scunthorpe	446
6 Gardiner, Colin J	Falmouth	439
7 Brace, Peter	Spondon	431
8 Foley, Phil T	Upminster	429
9 Andrews, Norman G	York RI	427
10 Ross, Stuart	Shifnal & Telford	425
11 Horman, Paul A	Morecambe	411
12 Torrance, John	Metropolitan	409
13 Stone, Mark R	Petts Wood & Orpington	406
14 Dunne, David C	West Nottingham	402
15 Gilbert, David J	DHSS	398

Graded Prix: U120

Name	Club/Area	Pts
1 Fraser, Alan R	Beckenham & Bromley	544
2 Oyama, Harunobu	Cambridge City	486
3 Waddington, James	Bolton	478
4 Billett, Stephen J	Portsmouth	416
5 Bullock, Lee	London *	375
6 Boztas, Lana	Coulsdon CF	320
7 Mahony, Jonathan	Leeds	305
8 Miles, Barry S	Coulsdon CF	304
9 Summerland, David	Leeds	302
10 Parkin, Kenneth W	Pendle	272
11 Everitt, David	St Francis & Haywards Heath	268
12 Camp, Andrew R	Colwyn Bay	266
13 Welch, Hazel	Seaton	253
14 Milson, Neil	Louth	243
15 Fairbairn, William G	Exeter	235

Women's Prix

Name	Club/Area	Pts
1 Shepherd, Katherine M	Ashted	485
2 Norman, Dinah M	Wokingham *	479
3 Keen, Cosima C	Sussex Juniors	380
4 Ivanov, Elizabeth	Barnet Schools	357
5 Head, Louise	Berkshire Junior	355
6 Kalaiyalahan, Akshaya	Richmond Juniors	344
7 Dean, Angelica	Shrewsbury	331
8 Boztas, Lana	Coulsdon CF	320
9 Sit, Victoria	Coulsdon CF	297
10 Purvis, Anna	Surrey Juniors	294
11 Wei, Naomi	Essex *	284
12 Ressel, Eva	Chess Mates Northampton	275
13 Varney, Zoe	Cumnor	259
14 Hoare, Amy B	Sussex Juniors	257
15 Welch, Hazel	Seaton	253

Junior Prix

Name	Club/Area	Pts
1 Shepherd, Katherine M	Ashted	485
2 Holland, James P	Berkshire Junior	471
3 Kalavannan, Koby	Surbiton *	466
4 Milson, Samuel A	Louth	453
5 Oyama, Akito	Cambridge City	445
6 Zhou, Yang-Jian	Coulsdon CF	442
7 Hackner, Oskar A	Rotherham Junior	439
8 Boswell, Jacob Connor	Cheddleton & Leek	435
9 Merry, Alan B	Bury St Edmunds	416
10 Wadsworth, Matthew J	Maidenhead	410
11 Ivanov, George	Middlesex Juniors	407
12 Dixit, Kumar	Camberley	401
13 Haria, Ravi	Barnet Knights	391
14 Balaji, Ananthanarayanan	Harrow	388
15 Keen, Cosima C	Sussex Juniors	380

Brendan O'Gorman - Chess Images

See Brendan's work at -
<https://picasaweb.google.com/bpogorman>
 GM Keith Arkell, Paignton 2011



International Round-Up

First Saturday Budapest Hungary

November 5-15 2011

Adam Hunt is on 2.5/4 in the GM section whilst Mark Lyell is on 0.5/2 in the IM event and Diana Mihajlova is on 0.5/3 in the FM B event.

Luzerner Open

Sat 29th Oct 2011 Tue 1st Nov 2011

John Cox and Mark Ferguson scored 5/7 to finish second equal.

Melbourne Weekender Melbourne AUS

Fri 28th Oct 2011 – Tue 1st Nov 2011

David Garner finished on 5.5/9.

4NCL Rounds 1 and 2

12-13 November 2011

The first weekend of the 2011-12 season takes place at the following venues:

De Vere Venues, Staverton Park Divisions 1 and 2

Barcelo Hotel, Daventry Division 3 South

Barcelo Redworth Hall Division 3 North

Results Round-Up

Manchester Autumn Congress 2011

Open

Player	Club	Pts
Pitcher, John	South Birmingham	4
Jones, Steven A	Padgate	4
Ashton, Adam G	Three C's	3.5
Stephenson, John	Undercliffe	3.5
Hulmes, David I	Stockport	3
Surtees, Mike J	Bolton	3
Garnett, John S	Elmwood	3
Onley, EJ David	Milton Keynes	3
Burgin, Ryan	Stannington	3
Shaw, Robert	High Peak	3
Mkhumba, Hope	Chorlton-cum-Hardy	3
Isherwood, Paul	Widnes	3
Jaunooby, Ali Reza	Denton	3
Horton, Jamie A	Three C's	2.5
Horner, John E	Chorlton-cum-Hardy	2.5
Newton, Robert A	Heywood	2.5
Burke, Mitchell R	Three C's	2.5
Blackmore, Graham	Scarborough	2
Slinger, AJ (Tony)	Lady Anne Mdlton	2
Vassiliou, Chris	Chorlton-cum-Hardy	2

Major

Player	Club	Pts
Clegg, Robert	Huddersfield	4.5
Crowley, Simon J	Stockport	4.5
Cawston, M John	Lady Anne Mdlton	4
Ruffle, Alan P	Birmingham *	3.5

Gavin, Richard A	Oldham	3.5
Taylor, Mark	Rochdale	3.5
Gittens, Nathan L	Three C's	3.5
Jamieson, Ian M	Newcastle-under-Lyme	3.5
Birchall, T Brian	Alsager	3
Chatys, Tim	Ashton-under-Lyne	3
Stokes, Alan	East Cheshire	3
Jouannet, Marc	Macclesfield	3
Nicolson, Jim R	Greater Manchester *	3
Connor, Michael I	Great Lever	3
Grobler, David	Netherton	3
Payne, Colin R	Norwich Dons	3
Pride, Stephen C	Cambridge City	3
Simpson, Peter	Australia	3
Rush, Steven J	Rhyl	2.5
Lamb, Ian D	Bolton	2.5
Ibbitson, Anthony	Leeds	2.5
Hilton, Tim	Three C's	2.5
McDonagh, Michael	Capenhurst	2.5
Burns, Martin J	Stockport	2.5
Holroyd, Nigel P	Peterborough	2.5
Pilich, Lee	Doncaster *	2.5
Ross, Stuart	Shifnal & Telford	2
Harold, Lawrence	Eccles	2
Jinks, Anthony	Heywood	2
Roberts, Anthony J	Wallasey	2
Boulden, David	Denton	2
Shah, Dipak K	Harrow	2
Ahmadi, Kamran	Denton	2
Cole, Tristram C	Sheffield University	2

Knights

Player	Club	Pts
Smith, Catherine	Ecclesall	4.5
Lau, Jason	Three C's	4
Logan, Vincent	Greater Manchester *	4
Pendlebury, Josh	Worsley	3.5
Merry, John D	Salford	3.5
Edge, Kevin	Oldham	3.5
Kearns, Peter	Warley Quinborne	3
McHugh, Malcolm J	Harrogate	3
Hepworth, Peter	Huddersfield	3
Egan, William J	Scunthorpe	3
Paterson, Alec	Bolton	3
Hindley, Lee	Eccles	2.5
Green, Phillip T	Littlewoods	2.5
Watson, Dave	Scotland	2.5
Kirkham, Mark	Sheffield University	2.5
Boswell, Jacob Connor	Cheddleton & Leek	2.5
Coleman, Patrick N	Lytham ex-Servicemen	2.5
Waddington, James	Bolton	2.5
Barnett, James	Salisbury	2.5
Mahony, Jonathan	Leeds	2.5
Fordham, Elliot	Altrincham & Hale	2.5
Chatys, Natalia	Ashton-under-Lyne	2
Riddle, Alan	Leeds	2
Summerland, David	Leeds	2

Golders Green Rapidplay results

Many thanks to all who played in the 10 September event – a record-breaking entry of 118! Thanks to

photographer Robert Konieczny we have a record of the event (and previous tournaments) here – <http://www.robert-konieczny.com/golders-green10092011/index.html> and he would be happy to permit his photographs to be used, with credit, on your web page.

OPEN

Andrew Stone 5.5/6 £60

John Richardson, Alan Merry, Robert Willmoth and Ravi Haria 4.5/6 £10 each

Under 175 grading prize to Ashley Stewart (172) 4/6
Ravi Haria also wins a £30 voucher from Charlie's Restaurant in Golders Green for his performance.

MAJOR

K Azizur Rahman 5/6 £60

Joseph Levene and Robert Konieczny 4.5/6 and £15 each

The Under 155 grading prize went to Chris Clegg (148), Tristram Cole (150) and Joshua Cavendish (146) 3.5/6 and £10 each

MINOR

Tim Shallice (136) 5.5/6 £60

David McNish (133) 5/6 £30

Under 130 grading prize to Katherine Shepherd (126) and Genga Somupillai (128), 4/6 and £10 each
David and Katherine Shepherd also win a £30 voucher for a meal in Charlie's Restaurant!

AMATEUR

Tony Bynnersley (111) 5/6 £60

= 2nd Victor Litvin (109) with 4.5/6 and also on 4.5/6, sharing the U105 grading prize – Robin Clarke (92), Marco Falasca (86) and Zoltan Kosma (58) 4.5/6 £10 each

ECF Counties Rapidplay Championship 2011-12

The ECF Counties Rapidplay Championship 2011-12 was held on Saturday 24th September 2011 at Wanstead House, London E11. Four teams took part: Essex 1, Essex 2, Middlesex and Surrey.

Essex 1 won the main competition and Essex 2 the handicap event. Four rounds were played: a three round all-play-all and a fourth round using jamboree pairings.

Main Competition

Round 1:

Surrey: 5½; Middlesex: 6½; Essex 1: 9; Essex 2: 3

Round 2:

Middlesex: 7; Essex 1: 5; Surrey: 11; Essex 2: 1

Round 3:

Essex 2: 3½; Middlesex: 8½; Essex 1: 9½; Surrey: 2½

Round 4:

Essex 1: 8½; Essex 2: 3; Middlesex: 5½; Surrey: 7 (Jamboree Format)

Totals: 1st Essex 1: 32; 2nd Middlesex: 27½; 3rd

Surrey: 26; 4th Essex 2: 10½

Handicap Competition

Actual minus Expected Scores

Round 1:

Essex 1: -2.26; Essex 2: 2.26; Middlesex: -0.61;

Surrey: 0.61

Round 2:

Essex 1: -2.34; Essex 2: -1.57; Middlesex: 2.34;

Surrey: 1.57

Round 3:

Essex 1: 0.81; Essex 2: 2.12; Middlesex: -2.12; Surrey: -0.81

Round 4:

Essex 1: -1.01; Essex 2: 1.57; Middlesex: -1.49;

Surrey: 0.93 (Jamboree Format)

Totals: 1st Essex 2: 4.38; 2nd Surrey: 2.30; 3rd

Middlesex: -1.88; 4th Essex: 1 -4.80

- David Sedgwick

1st Coastal Congress – from Peter Cloudsdale

This first event was held at the excellent venue of the Mount Hotel, Scarborough from 4th-6th October, with eight players and run on a 6-round Swiss System. The results are as follows -

1st Gary Hinchcliffe, Barnsley, 4½

2nd Martin Sheard, Barnsley, 4

3rd=

Bill Ward, Sheffield and Malcolm Peart Scarborough, 3½

5th Matthew Wilson, Leicester, 3

6th=

Derek Sheppard, Hull and Stan Lovell, Scarborough, 2

8th Norman Andrews, Scarborough, 1½

Thanks to all who took part – Peter Cloudsdale (Tel 01904 767177)

Hull Congress

– Cooper retains the Championship!

There was an excellent turnout for the 48th Hull Chess Congress at the Endsleigh Centre. In all 99 players competed in the four sections. Once again, the regulars from other parts of the country returned to this popular event.

Much of the success of the event was the usual excellent organisation by Bryan Hesler and his Controlling team of Colin Hailstone and John Bycroft. Sponsorship of the Congress was provided by Haworth Computers of Hull which is run by Steve King, the current HDCA President.

The main event, the R P Ross Open attracted 22 players and produced a 3 way tie for first place. Congratulations to John Cooper on being the highest placed HDCA player and taking the title of HDCA Champion again.

Top scorers in each tournament out of 5 rounds were -

R. P. ROSS OPEN

4 – Mike Surtees (Bolton); John Cooper (Hull) (HDCA CHAMPION); Jos Woolley (York R I)
3 – Steven Jones (Bradford); Jean-Luc Weller (York R I); Jim Hawksley (Hull); Oliver Gill (Southampton); Pierre Weller (York R I); Sam Milson (Louth)

JOHN LAWSON MAJOR (24 players)

4 – Richard Cowan (York Univ); Jan Van-de Grient (Holland); Robert Clegg (Huddersfield); Anastasios Nezis (York R I)
3.5 – Stanley Cranmer (Ashfield); Paul Dearey (Hull)

HAWORTH COMPUTERS INTERMEDIATE (28 players)

5 – Alan Ruffle (Birmingham)
3.5 – Dave Stohard (Hull); Bruce Oliver (Bridlington); Peter Owst (Hull)

EDWARD STARKEY MINOR (25 players)

4 – P May (Amber Valley); Wesley McGough (Yorks Copperworks)
3.5 – Charles Clayton (Hull)

HCA 2011 Congress

– from John Wheeler
Eastleigh, 4-6 Nov 2011

Peter Williams (16) is the new Hampshire County Champion, and will hold the Silver Rook for one year. The defending champion Mike Yeo could not defend his title because of illness, and is happy to 'lend' the silver rook for a year, but he intends to reclaim it next time.

Craig Hanley won the Open, with Peter Williams in second place and Paul Hackman third. The top two met in round 4, where Peter succumbed surprisingly quickly to the IM.

The grading prize was won by Rohan Shiatis (12)

The major section becomes more popular every year, and was won outright this time by Ian Matthew. In clear second place was Matt Chapman, but third place was shared by Gillian Moore, Alec Samuels and Peter Dallas. The grading prize was shared by Paul Hurn and Mark Stone.

There was another clear winner in the Minor – Gunnar Mallon. Second place was shared by James Farrant, Kevin Sawers and Alex Dore, and the grading prize went to Robert Hewitt.

Here are the full results:

Open

1. Craig Hanley (Wood Green) (5½ pts)
2. Peter A. Williams (Alton) (5 pts)
3. Paul Hackman (Andover) (4 pts)
Under-175 Grading Prize: Rohan Shiatis (Coulsdon)

(3½ pts)

Major (Under-160)

1. Ian Matthew (Portsmouth) (5 pts)
2. Matt Chapman (So'ton University) (4½ pts)
3= Gillian Moore (So'ton), Alec Samuels (So'ton) and Peter Dallas (Cosham) (4 pts)
Under-140 Grading Prize: Paul Hurn (So'ton) and Mark Stone (Orpington) (3½ pts)

Minor (Under-125)

1. Gunnar Mallon (So'ton University) (5 pts)
2= James Farrant, Kevin Sawers and Alex Dore (all Southampton) (4½ pts)
Under-100 Grading Prize: Robert Hewitt (So'ton University) (4 pts)

Bury St Edmunds Congress

– from Bob Jones

The 29th Bury St Edmunds Congress took place over the weekend 29/30 October. 151 entrants were attracted to the splendid Apex venue in the heart of the town. The largest entry was in the Open, where there were 42 competitors, including GM Stephen Gordon and five (!) IMs. The Congress was sponsored by the Music Sales Charitable Trust.

Main prizewinners included:

Open (42 played):

1 GM Stephen Gordon (Woodbridge School) – 4½
2= Paul Talsma (Maidstone); IM Dagne Ciuksyte (4NCL Guildford); IM Richard Tozer (Cambridge City) – 4

Major (u170 – 31 played):

1 Richard Lamont (Bury St Edmunds) – 4½
2= Sam Brennan (Ipswich); David Brady (Chingford); David Brady (Chingford) – 4

Intermediate (u145 – 38 played):

1= Matthew Wilson (Wigston); Marcus Connolly (Peterborough); John Lambert (Atticus) – 4

Minor (u120 – 40 played):

1= Eugene Husband (Newmarket); James Briginshaw (Cambridge) – 4½

A total of 38 entrants won prizes totalling £2,560, which included fourth places, junior, ladies, grading and best wins against grade. Full cross-tables can be seen at www.buryleaguechess.org.uk/congress2011. Next year's Congress (the 30th) will be held at the same venue on 3/4 November 2012



4NCL Team rapidplay - 16 October 2011

Report by Jonathan Rogers, pictures by John Manley

Much as it pains me to speak of another's team's success, I thought I'd be a good sport and report briefly on the victory of Sons of Anarchy at the Team Rapidplay yesterday.

As you might guess from the team name, they were captained by Ben Purton, and headed by Tom Rendle and Peter Roberson (both around 230 at rapidplay) with Sam Williams, Liam Varnam and Ben alternating



GMs Gormally (red top) and Arkell

between boards 3 and 4. Tom and Peter played to form and, I think, made a plus score against the 4 GMs at the venue (Watson, Parker, Arkell and Gormally; not to mention Matt Piper, who made a monster 2850 performance last year and 5½/6 in his other games this year). SoA also started to rack up the points on boards 3 and 4 at the end of the event, enabling them to finish with two 4-0 wins and to overtake Barbican 1 on gamepoints in the last round.

You might spare a thought for Barbican 1, averaging around 225 (Parker, Piper, Cox and myself) who won every match, and only lost three games over the boards during the day, and who probably played up to their



WFM Maria Yurenok (left!)

average grade. However, my late arrival led to a default loss in the first round, an unfortunate event which always hung over us (given that gamepoints would decide the outcome) and without a reserve we also started to drop a bit on the bottom board at the end of the day, thus allowing ourselves to be overtaken. I don't actually know of any other example of a team having 100% on matchpoints and still losing out on gamepoints - does anyone else?! But it is true that using gamepoints does make the event more exciting, and by only losing 1½-2½ to Barbican 1 in round 3, SoA ensured that they were always in striking distance - and in the end they duly struck.

In case you are wondering, Watson played for the Metropolitan Police, and Arkell and Gormally for Drunken Knights. But unless I have forgotten someone, there was not any other GM or even IM than the players mentioned above, so the competition was much weaker than last year. It is well known that entries were down, but perhaps surprisingly, it was mostly the stronger teams of last year who did not play this year: Lawrence's team of GMs, and Claire's P&P team of even more GMs were absent, as were the IMs from last year's Bristol, Cambridge and the Youth team.



Harvey vs Parker

I hope the event goes ahead again - it was impeccably organised this year - but we shall have to see; one cannot expect anyone to run a loss-making event.

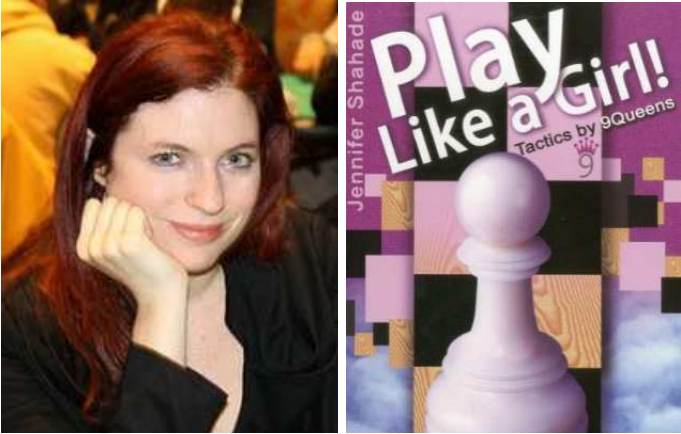
In the individual championship (played on the Sunday) Keith Arkell won with 6/7, with John Richardson in second place on tie-break with 5.5/7



The ChEx Bookshelf

Each issue in this column, Chief Executive Andrew Farthing introduces a noteworthy book (or books) of interest to the average player

PLAY LIKE A GIRL?



Jennifer Shahade and her new book, 'Play Like a Girl!'

With a sense of taking my life into my hands, I have chosen for this issue's column one of the eternal mysteries of life: women. More specifically, I want to consider the subject of female chess players, seen through the lens of the books that they have written.

Anyone who competes in weekend congresses in England will have noticed that the players are overwhelmingly male. If 1 in 20 of the competitors is female, this is probably higher than average. In junior chess, girls represent a greater proportion, but still they are outnumbered by the boys. At the elite international level, only one player – Judit Polgar, needless to say – has broken into the overall top 10, albeit briefly, and any female presence nowadays in the top 20 is entirely dependent upon the fluctuations in Judit’s rating.

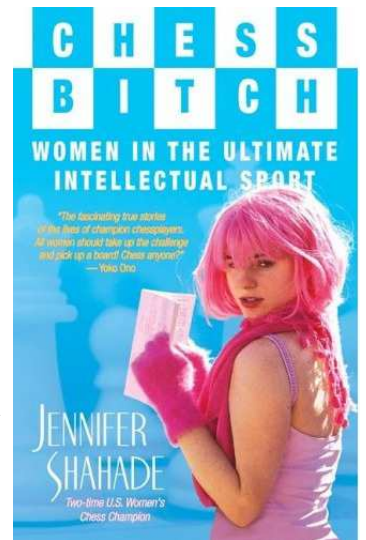
Why should this be so? On the face of it, there is nothing inherent in the game itself to explain the imbalance, and it is clearly in the interests of all of us who love chess and want it to thrive to tap into the half of the population so woefully underrepresented in clubs, leagues and tournaments. What's more, with no disrespect to my predominantly male fellow congress competitors, surely all of us would accept that events could only be improved by a more diverse and representative pool of players?

The title of this article is inspired by the recent publication of **Play Like a Girl!** by two-time US Women's Chess Champion, Jennifer Shahade. This is a puzzle book, containing player profiles and tactical exercises from nine outstanding female players. To learn more,

try the smartly produced trailer, Lipstick Checkmate, at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w-zuITi0CGA&feature=player_embedded.

In many sports, the phrase “play like a girl” tends to be used in a pejorative sense (by boys, principally). I am certain that Shahade does not mean it like this, and the choice of title is a way of challenging prejudice and turning it into something positive, even inspirational. The book suggests that “playing like a girl” in chess terms means to play aggressive, attacking chess.

In Jennifer Shahade's earlier book, the provocatively titled **Chess Bitch: Women in the Ultimate Intellectual Sport** (Siles Press, 2005), she takes on stereotypes in a no-holds-barred way. She points out that, in fact, the notion of



Chess Bitch

opponent off the board. Shahade quotes a Russian coach who, upon seeing one of her games, commented, "I see women's chess hasn't changed. Women have no patience; they always want to attack immediately."

As Shahade points out, such views are rarely based on statistical analysis of games. They may be influenced by the style of the dominant players – Judith Polgar is one of the scariest attacking players of our time, and before her Nona Gaprindashvili was in a similar mould – but what matters is that “playing like a girl” is usually meant as an insult. Quite understandably, Shahade is angered by this.

The truth is that female players have a wide range of styles, just like male players, and Shahade's book is a useful corrective to anyone whose attitudes are based on shallow assumptions and silly prejudices.

Chess Bitch is a fascinating book, and I strongly recommend it to anyone interested in the game. It presents a history of the development of the women's

game through a survey of its leading figures, which for many readers will be unexplored territory. How much do you know, for example, about Sonja Graf, the eternal runner-up to world champion Vera Menchik in the years before World War Two? In addition to this chronological account, Shahade tackles a wide range of questions about women and chess in a direct way which is not always comfortable to read but which ultimately comes across as persuasive.

One of the qualities which make the book's arguments convincing is that the author is not afraid to admit when her views are mixed or have changed. For example, on the subject of women-only events she writes:

"My own occasional participation in women's tournaments used to make me feel uncomfortable, even embarrassed. I enjoyed the competitions, the travelling, and the prize money, yet I could not reconcile playing in women's events with my feminist views. As I have become involved in writing this book, my attitude has changed. I have stopped thinking about such events as less than the events with men and started to think of them as a way to meet and compete with female colleagues. I reframed the question that I am often confronted with: 'If women are as strong as men, why would they ever play separately?' to 'Why might women enjoy playing against other women?'"

"Separate tournaments offer women space to compete in a positive way – opportunity for intellectual competition and camaraderie among women that is sadly lacking in our society and not often portrayed by the media." (Chess Bitch, pp. 110-11)

I have quoted this passage at length because it is a good example of Jennifer Shahade's style of discourse and because it raises an important issue. It shows a person thinking seriously about difficult questions and acknowledging that the answers may be neither straightforward nor comfortable.

In terms of chess literature, women's chess suffered for many decades from a lack of interest in the subject, doubtless reflecting in turn a lack of respect for the top female players. It is depressing to note that there has never been a book in the English language on the great Vera Menchik, who won the women's world championship tournament seven times from 1927 to 1939 (usually with an astonishingly dominating score – 100% on three occasions) and defeated Graf in two matches as well.

I imagine also that for the vast majority of us the names of the women's world champions between Menchik and Gaprindashvili (who won the title in 1962 and held it until 1978) are quite unfamiliar:

Ludmila Rudenko, Elisaveta Bikova, Olga Rubtsova (who then lost the title again to Bikova).

The arrival of the Polgar sisters marked a change. Suddenly, we had three young girls who competed almost exclusively in mixed (i.e. open) tournaments and did so with considerable success. This has had an undeniable impact on the chess world, but it remains to be seen how far this will go and how long it will last.

Chess literature has reflected the changing times. In addition to books about the Polgars, the best of which is almost certainly Tibor Karolyi's Judit Polgar: The Princess of Chess, several women players have published games collections or autobiographies:

- **Queen of the Kings Game** (Zsuzsa Polgar & Jacob Shutzman; CompChess Publishing, 1997)
- **Chess Champion from China** (Xie Jun; Gambit, 1998)
- **How I Became Grandmaster at Age 14** (Alexandra Kosteniuk; 2001)
- **Silver Queen** (Maria Ivanka; 2002)
- **Breaking Through** (Susan Polgar & Paul Truong; Everyman Chess, 2005)
- **Diary of a Chess Queen** (Alexandra Kosteniuk; Mongoose Press, 2009)

The first two books make for an interesting comparison, not least because they both cover the world championship match between the two players in 1996. This was marred by the controversial intervention of Luis Rentero, who issued a letter to both Polgar and Xie Jun



Zsuzsa Polgar and Xie Jun

after a short draw in the third game, "fining" them \$25,000 from their prize money for lack of sporting effort. The contrasting accounts of the players' reactions are quite striking.

The style of the two books is very different. The Polgar/Shutzman work includes 200-odd pages of biographical narrative, packed with photos, followed

by tournament tables and a selection of 49 annotated games and positions (120 pages). Xie Jun's book, by contrast, is a rather conventional games collection, consisting of 40 annotated games, linked by a brief autobiographical narrative.

Of the two, I much preferred the Chinese player's book. Xie Jun comes over very sympathetically, and her narrative has considerable charm. The games are very attractive – she plays attacking chess, with plenty of sacrifices – and annotated in a style which is informative and readable without being offputtingly detailed.

What comes across most in retrospect is how “normal” a chess book Chess Champion from China is. There are no photographs (apart from the front cover), and the contents are consistent with many other games collections from male grandmasters. It's refreshing to see Xie Jun's gender being taken so much for granted, and the book stands or falls as a chess book, plain and simple.

Perhaps revealingly, it is the Polgar/Shutzman book, however, which appears to have become the model for other books by women players. Certain features recur consistently: photos by the bucket load and an extensive autobiographical narrative.

This is not necessarily a bad thing, nor are the books particularly poor (apart from **How I Became Grandmaster at Age 14**, which is an unsatisfactory blend of basic instruction and biographical games collection).

Susan Polgar's **Breaking Through** is a slightly strange book, at times pitched at experienced players (e.g. when including a number of unannotated or very lightly annotated games in the narrative sections) and at others written as if for relatively weak players (the main games are annotated move-by-move in the Irving Chernev manner). As a consequence, the book fails to satisfy entirely.

Maria Ivanka's **Silver Queen** is much more autobiography than games collection. There are plenty of games, but the annotations are sparse. The life story, however, reads well. Ivanka comes from the generation of Gaprindashvili and so predates the Polgar era. The picture of women's chess is therefore less familiar to the present-day reader and gains from this. Intriguingly, the book offers a non-Polgar perspective on Hungarian women's chess when the Polgar sisters were on the rise. The resentments stirred by Polgar père at the time are all too clear. Overall, Maria Ivanka



Maria Ivanka and Alexandra Kosteniuk

shows herself to be a true chess player in her capacity to remember every slight and injustice suffered over a long career and to make sure that scores are settled, decades later. It's not edifying at times, but that's chess!

Finally, we have Alexandra Kosteniuk's **Diary of a Chess Queen**. This is a book of notable charm, if one can tolerate the saccharin of adolescent poetry and youthful diary entries, including an excruciating extract inspired by the death of a pet cat on p.169. (I'm sorry, my heart is of stone when it comes to cats.)

The chess content is good – 61 well annotated games from throughout Kosteniuk's career to date – and the book is nicely put together. Given Kosteniuk's somewhat unfair image as the Anna Kournikova of chess, it will come as no surprise to find that there is a very generous selection of photographs, colour and black and white, of the book's subject.

Kosteniuk is perfectly willing to take the 'Kournikova of chess' charge head on. For a start, her results are more than good enough for its fundamental unfairness to be evident to any objective observer. In addition, she openly admits that her modelling activities are fun for her, and she understands the value of the Kosteniuk brand both for her as an individual and for the game of chess itself.

In the end, Kosteniuk comes across as an extremely well-balanced person, whose contribution to the game can only be positive. Despite the apparent disparity between their respective books, my impression is that she and Jennifer Shahade have come to similar conclusions about the game and the future of women in it. Both are excellent role models, it seems to me, and one can only hope that they, and others like them, will succeed in knocking down the barriers deterring women from entering the world of chess.

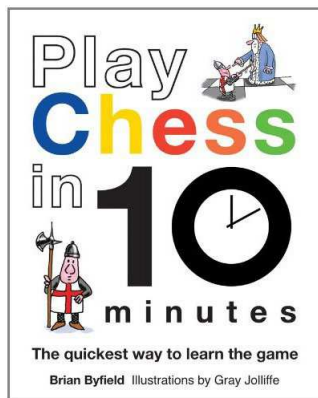
- Andrew Farthing

Book Reviews from Gary Lane

Play Chess in 10 minutes

by Brian Byfield with illustrations by Gray Joliffe

Published by Batsford, £6.99



The big question is will you be able to play chess in 10 minutes after reading this book? The short answer is no and the long answer is no, but it is an entertaining read. This is designed to be an amusing present for Christmas/special occasions to someone who has an interest in chess but needs a nudge in the right

direction. This small hardback fits into your hand but is slightly too bulky for your pocket. Gray Joliffe did the amusing cartoons that give a little light relief and people of a certain age will remember his Wicked Willie series, which was big in the 1980s. Naturally, the title is there to impress impulse buyers but I can't complain having written *Improve your Chess in 7 Days* and purchased Ken Whyld's *Learn Chess in a Weekend* so perhaps it is just a natural progression. I should point out that if you already have the Batsford book *Learn Chess Quick* by the same authors you will rapidly understand the marketing trick of taking illustrations and words from one book to form another. In other words it is a cut down version but to be fair that is quite common in the book world.

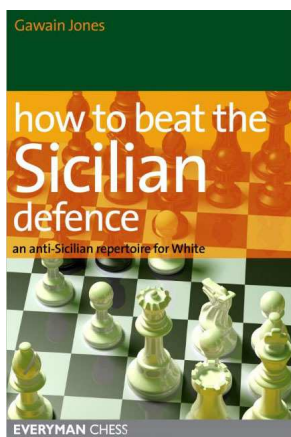
There are no prizes for guessing there are 64 pages just like the squares on a chessboard and I think it is suitable for teenagers and adults.

A fun way of inspiring someone to play chess.

How to Beat the Sicilian Defence

by Gawain Jones

Published by Everyman, £19.99



This is an anti-Sicilian repertoire for White, which avoids all those pesky open Sicilians such as the Dragon and the Najdorf by playing something different on move three. After 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 there is analysis of 3 Bb5+, which is known as the Moscow Variation. He follows this up by examining 1

e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 followed by quickly exchanging the knight on c6 to force doubled c-pawns known as the Rossolimo Variation. The ploy of moving the bishop is not so effective against 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 e6 so the author goes for one of his favourite responses from his younger days which is 3 d3 to enter a King's Indian Attack. These are the details of the book and I think the recommended lines are good and well explained. It is probably necessary to remind everyone that it is not a reference book that you can look up all the different variations because Jones dictates what you should play. The idea being that you save time from looking at a lot of nonsense and concentrate on the good stuff. Now you can never please everyone with repertoire books because some players highly regard huge amounts of theory and never-ending analysis. I am pleased to report that the English Olympiad player has a different policy and has targeted his audience at about club level (1800 and above) so it is easy to read and follow. Instead of printing off Fritz and Rybka's opinion on every possibility he relies more on instruction and explanation which is a welcome change. There are seventy-eight illustrative games contained within the 350 pages and I think there is enough there to allow you to play with confidence at any weekend open.

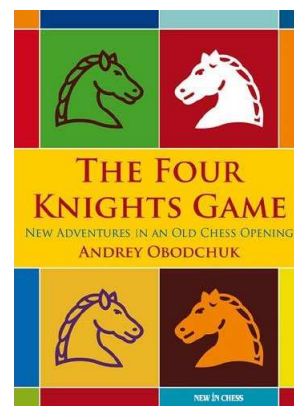
The perfect repertoire book for the serious tournament player.

The Four Knights Game

by Andrey Obodchuk

Published by New In Chess, £17.99

"The best thing about the Four Knights is that it is not the Ruy Lopez". This is the sort of perceptive comment I hear in cafes when talking to professional chess players. The Ruy Lopez has many defences so it is hard work to keep up with the latest developments which explains why attention has turned to others openings to spice things up. After all it is very common to hear people boasting that they have a pet line against the Ruy Lopez such as the Marshall but it is rare to hear the *The Four Knights Game* even being discussed which means you will have a big surprise factor against club players. The Russian author is firmly in the school of thought that the focus should be on the opening moves of the illustrative games after 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 Bb5. He then uses a lot of variations to prove his point



and then sometimes just gives the moves to the rest of the game without barely a comment. I would quite like more discussion of the middlegame and ending if only to see the plans that can arise from the opening. The Four Knights has a reputation for solid play but with potential for attack and has over the years attracted a stellar list of players such as Adams, Shirov and Short. Obodchuk does a good job of analysing the critical lines with an understandable bias for White but the emphasis is certainly on the detail and not explanation of general plans. Almost as an afterthought there is a chapter on the Belgrade Gambit: 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 d4 exd4 5 Nd5. It is immediately made clear by Obodchuk that Black can easily achieve equality and the games go on to justify his view. As usual with New In Chess the production values are high but strangely for them there is no sprinkling of photos to bring some of the games to life.

An experts guide to the Four Knights Game.

The English Chess Federation Certificate of Merit



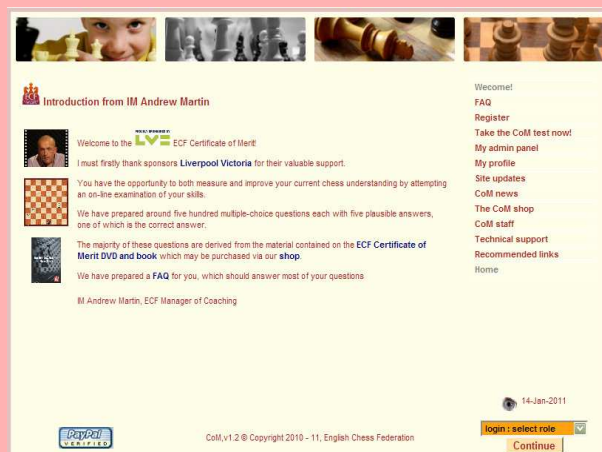
The Certificate of Merit (COM) is centred on a number of online tests, which enable chess students to measure their progress and to earn certificates and badges. The tests are taken entirely online, and payments for the credits can be made online or by cheque. Examinees can practice as many times as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

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

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

The answers now have an explanation included (where appropriate)

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



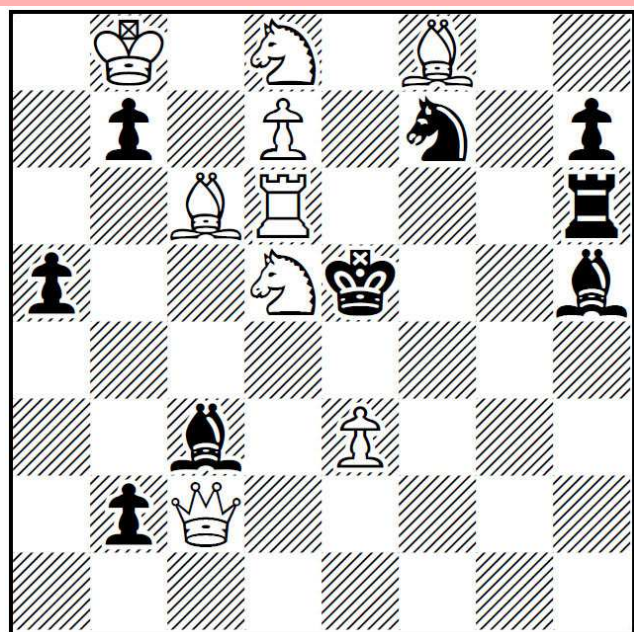
BATSFORD Chess Competition

Well done to the July / August winner
-- **James R Nicolson of Manchester!**

The correct answer was - **1. Qg6**

Here's the next problem ...

Henry F. W. Lane, 2nd Prize
Reading Observer, 1899



White to play and mate in 2 ...

Please send your answer (just the first move is sufficient) on a postcard or by email to the ECF Office, The Watch Oak, Chain Lane, Battle, East Sussex TN33 0YD (office@englishchess.org.uk). The first correct entry drawn on 10th January 2012 will win a Batsford voucher for any book on their current list!

Tournament Calendar

LEGEND –

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

All congresses graded by the ECF are part of the official Grand Prix

***~# 25-27 Nov**

e2e4 Brighton Congress, Barceló Brighton Old Ship Hotel, Kings Road, Brighton, East Sussex BN1 1NR
Contact: Sean Hewitt Email: info@e2e4.org.uk Tel: 0845 463 9798 Website: www.e2e4.org.uk/brighton - A 5-round Swiss including a FIDE rated Open, FIDE rated Major and ECF graded Minor held in the great seaside destination of Brighton

~* 26 Nov

London Rapid Play, Cardinal Hinsley Mathematics & Computing College, Harlesden Road, Willesden, London NW10 3RN Contact: Sainbayar Email: londonrapidplay@yahoo.co.uk - Junior ('2Get My First Grade' with 5 sections - U8, U10, U12, U14 & U18 with trophy), U130, U165 & open sections with prizes Website: www.london-rapidplay.co.uk

~ 26 Nov

The 2nd London Team Rapidplay, Beit Quad, Imperial College Union, South Kensington, London SW7 2BB
Contact: John Sargent Email: johnsargent@gmail.com Website/entry form: <http://union.ic.ac.uk/chess> - the 2nd London Team Rapidplay - pre-registered teams of four battle it out over six rounds to become London Team Rapidplay Champions

~ 26 Nov

2011 Warwickshire Junior Championship, Arden School Station Road, Knowle, Solihull, West Midlands B93 0PT Contact: Alex Holowczak Email: alexholowczak@gmail.com Website: <http://www.warwickshirechess.org.uk/> - sections for U8, U10, U12, U14, U16, U18. U14-18. ECF rapidplay graded

26-27 Nov

Junior 4NCL Weekend 1, Barcelo Hotel, Hinckley Island Contact: Claire Summerscale Tel: 07807 806055

~* 26-27 Nov

4th Clacton Congress, The Laxfield Hotel, Beach Road, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex CO15 1UG Contact: Norman Went Email: spectrumchess@hotmail.com Website: www.spectrumchess.com - Major Under 165 and Minor Under 125 sections only, 5 Round Swiss

~ 27 Nov

11th Woodbridge Junior Chess Open, Woodbridge School, Burkitt Road, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP12 4JH
Contact: Stephen Gordon Email: sgordon@woodbridge.suffolk.sch.uk Website: www.woodbridgechess.com - 6 round Rapidplay Event, LJCC Qualifier, sections for all age groups and adults

~ 27 Nov

2011 Wiltshire Team Rapidplay Tournament, Nationwide, Swindon, Wiltshire Contact: Tony Ransom Email: chesssalsa@aol.com Entries to be received by Tuesday 21st November 2011. Entry form - please send to: Tony Ransom, 4 Pound Farm Close, Hilperton, Trowbridge, Wiltshire, BA14 7PZ Tel: (01225) 774538 or email to chesssalsa@aol.com If you would like to play but haven't got a team, please contact Tony

27 Nov

2nd Girls Individual Chess Championships, St Pauls C of E Primary School, The Ridgeway, Mill Hill, London NW7 1QU Contact: Jason Bennett Email: jason@barnetegirlschess.com - Girls only chess tournament organised by Barnet Schools Chess Association. Open to any girls players in the country. Prizes for Best County, Best School Team, Best Age Individual

***~ 2-4 Dec**

Bristol Winter Congress, Filton Sports & Leisure Centre, Elm Park, Filton, Bristol BS34 7PS Contact: Graham Mill-Wilson Email: tugmw@blueyonder.co.uk - 5 round Swiss congress in 3 sections - Open, Major (U165), Minor (U130) Website: www.chessit.co.uk

3-4 Dec

LCC Weekend Classic A, Olympia Conference Centre, Kensington, W14 8UX Contact: Chess & Bridge Email: info@chess.co.uk Tel: 0207 486 7015 Website: <http://www.londonchessclassic.com>

3-11 Dec

LCC Blitz Tournaments, Olympia Conference Centre, Kensington, W14 8UX Contact: Chess & Bridge Email: info@chess.co.uk Tel: 0207 486 7015 Website: <http://www.londonchessclassic.com>

3-11 Dec

LCC FIDE Rated Open, Olympia Conference Centre, Kensington, W14 8UX Contact: Chess & Bridge Email: info@chess.co.uk Tel: 0207 486 7015 Website: <http://www.londonchessclassic.com>

3-12 Dec

3rd London Chess Classic, Olympia Conference Centre, Kensington, W14 8UX Contact: Chess & Bridge Email: info@chess.co.uk Tel: 0207 486 7015 Website: <http://www.londonchessclassic.com> - Strongest tournament ever in the UK! Magnus Carlsen, Vishy Anand, Levon Aronian, Vladimir Kramnik, Hikaru Nakamura, Michael Adams, Nigel Short, Luke McShane, David Howell - 9-player all-play-all.

4 Dec

LCC Classic Rapidplay A, Olympia Conference Centre, Kensington, W14 8UX Contact: Chess & Bridge Email: info@chess.co.uk Tel: 0207 486 7015 Website: <http://www.londonchessclassic.com>

~ 4 Dec

Sheffield Junior Chess Congress, 231 Handsworth Road, Handsworth, Sheffield, South Yorkshire S13 9BJ Contact: John Hipshon Email: jr.hipshon@ntlworld.com Website: www.leedsjuniorchess.org.uk - Four sections: Major open to any player, Intermediate open to grade below 115, Minor below 40 and Novice open to inexperienced players

5 Dec

Introductory Chess Coaching Course for Teachers, Olympia Conference Centre, Kensington W14 0UX Contact: Sabrina Chevannes Email: chessinschools@gmail.com This course is open to anyone, regardless of teaching/playing experience. It will help you learn the benefits of chess, techniques for teaching chess, running a school chess club and provide you with resources and materials to use for chess teaching Website: www.chessinschools.co.uk

5-9 Dec

The London Classic Amateur Challenge, Olympia Conference Centre, Kensington W14 8UX Contact: Chess & Bridge Email: info@chess.co.uk Tel: 0207 486 7015 Website: http://www.londonchessclassic.com/pr.classic_amateur_challenge.htm

5-12 Dec

FREE Junior Coaching at the London Chess Classic, Olympia Conference Centre, Kensington W14 0UX Contact: Sabrina Chevannes Email: chessinschools@gmail.com The coaching will run from 10.30am-12.30pm on Monday 5th, Tuesday 6th, Thursday 8th, Friday 9th and Monday 12th December. After this will be an opportunity for this children to meet and watch the Grandmasters. Note: There is also a tournament on Tuesday 6th, which follows the coaching Website: www.chessinschools.co.uk

6 Dec

Skills Development Course for Chess Tutors, Olympia Conference Centre, Kensington W14 0UX Contact: Sabrina Chevannes Email: chessinschools@gmail.com This course is aimed at those who have already had some chess teaching experience and want to further develop their skills. It would also assist anyone planning on becoming a professional chess trainer Website: www.chessinschools.co.uk

~ 10 Dec

2nd English Junior Rapidplay, Olympia Conference Centre, Kensington, W14 8UX MAP Contact: Sabrina Chevannes Email: chessinschools@gmail.com

Running alongside the London Chess Classic 2011, Chess in Schools and Communities bring back the English Junior Rapidplay. Cash prizes, trophies AND national titles are up for grabs

10-11 Dec

LCC Weekend Classic B, Olympia Conference Centre, Kensington, W14 8UX Contact: Chess & Bridge Email: info@chess.co.uk Tel: 0207 486 7015 Website: <http://www.londonchessclassic.com>

11 Dec

LCC Classic Rapidplay B, Olympia Conference Centre, Kensington, W14 8UX Contact: Chess & Bridge Email: info@chess.co.uk Tel: 0207 486 7015 Website: <http://www.londonchessclassic.com>

***~ 4 Dec**

Bury Rapidplay, Elton Vale Sports Club, Elton Vale Road, Bury BL8 2RZ Contact: Anthony Lee Email: antho-nymlee@btinternet.com - 6 Round Rapidplay, commencing 10.00am

10 Dec

CCF Open Rapid Play, 84-90 Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 3BA Contact: Scott Freeman Email: chess@ccfworld.com Tel: 020 8645 0302 Fax: 020 8645 0412 Website: <http://www.ccfworld.com/Chess/>

***~ 17 Dec**

Poplar Rapid-Play Tournament, Langley Hall, Saint Nicholas' Church Centre, Aberfeldy Street, Poplar, London E14 0QD Contact: Norman Went Email: docklandschess@yahoo.co.uk Website: www.spanglefish.com/dockland-schessclub

~ 17 Dec

National Prep Schools Rapidplay, Aldro School, Shackleford, Godalming, Surrey GU8 6AS Contact: David Archer Email: archerd@aldro.org 5 round Swiss tournament open to all juniors who attend a prep school. U13, U12, U11, U10 and U9 sections. Team and individual prizes available

~* 17-18 Dec

London Junior Chess Championship, University of Westminster Contact: Marc Shaw Email: 2011@ljcc.co.uk Website: www.ljcc.co.uk - Under 10 and Under 14 Major Championship and Minor events. Qualification required for Under 10 events

~* 17-18 Dec

Northwick Park Congress, University of Westminster Contact: Marc Shaw Email: 2011@ljcc.co.uk Website: www.ljcc.co.uk - Open, Major and Minor Sections

~ 28 Dec-5 Jan

87th Hastings International Chess Congress, Horntye Park Sports Complex, Bohemia Road, Hastings, East Sussex TN34 1EX Contact: Con Power Email: conpowr@aol.com | Website – www.hastingschess.com

~ 30 Dec-1 Jan

Hastings Weekend Congress, Horntye Park Sports Complex, Bohemia Road, Hastings, East Sussex TN34 1EX Contact: Con Power Email: conpowr@aol.com | Website – www.hastingschess.com

#@~* 28-30 Dec

London Junior Chess Championship, University of Westminster Contact: Marc Shaw Email: 2011@ljcc.co.uk Website: www.ljcc.co.uk - Under 8, Under 12, Under 16 and Under 18/21. Qualification required for Under 8 and Under 12

#@~* 28-30 Dec

London Christmas Congress, University of Westminster Contact: Marc Shaw Email: 2011@ljcc.co.uk Website: www.ljcc.co.uk - Minor, Major and FIDE rated Open events

2012

~* 2 Jan

Sussex Junior Hastings Rapidplay, St. Mary Star of the Sea School, Magdalen Road, St. Leonards on Sea, East Sussex TN37 6EU Contact: Paula Payne Email: entrymanager@sussexjuniorchess.org - 6 rounds in 4 sections: U11 Minor, U11 Major, U18 Minor, U18 Major. Open to all aged under 18 on 31st August 2011 Website: <http://www.sussexjuniorchess.org/>

6-8 Jan

Fulprint 25th York Congress, Energise (formerly Oaklands Sports Centre), Cornlands Road, Acomb, York YO24 3DX Contact: Richard Hardy Tel: 01904 764963

~ 7 Jan

Golders Green Rapidplay, Golders Green Parish Church Hall, West Heath Drive, Golders Green, London NW11 7QG MAP Contact: Adam Raoof Website: <http://goldersgreenschess.blogspot.com/>

@ 7-8 Jan

CCF New Year LP Congress (inc. FIDE Open), 84-90 Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 3BA Contact: Scott Freeman Email: chess@ccfworld.com Tel: 020 8645 0302 Fax: 020 8645 0412 Website: <http://www.ccfworld.com/Chess/>

14-15 Jan

4NCL Rounds 3 and 4, Barcelo Hotel, Hinckley Island (Divisions 1, 2 and 3) Contact: Mike Truran Tel: 01993 708645 Contact address: The Old Farmhouse, 7 Church Street, Ducklington, Witney OX29 7UA

14-15 Jan

4NCL Northern League, De Vere Wychwood Park (near Crewe) Contact: Mike Truran Tel: 01993 708645 Contact address: The Old Farmhouse, 7 Church Street, Ducklington, Witney OX29 7UA

***~ 15 Jan**

Richmond Rapidplay 99, The White House Community Association, The Avenue, Hampton TW12 3RN Contact: James Coleman Email: rapidplay@aol.com Website: www.surreyrapidchess.org

The screenshot shows the English Chess Federation website in a Mozilla Firefox browser window. The page title is "December 2011 | The English Chess Federation". The main header features the ECF logo and navigation links. A sidebar on the left lists various ECF services and news. The central content area displays the "Opening moves - Home » Tournament Calendar » December 2011" section. This section includes a monthly calendar grid for December 2011, with specific tournament details for each date. The right sidebar contains links to chess videos, user details, and upcoming events.

The ECF

- ECF Home Page
- About the ECF / BCF
- Membership
- Game Fees
- ECF Grading / FIDE
- Arbiters and Coaches
- ECF International
- ECF Junior
- ECF Media
- ECF Competitions and Awards
- British Chess Championships
- British Rapidplay 2012**
- County Championships
- National Club Championships
- ECF Grand Prix
- ECF John Robinson Junior Grand Prix 2011/12
- ECF Centres of Excellence
- British / ECF Title Events
- Tournament Calendar
- Submit your tournament
- ECF Certificate of Merit
- ECF Shop

Blogs

- ChEx – the Chief Executive's
- English Chess

Opening moves - Home » Tournament Calendar » December 2011

December 2011

2011 – Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec

~	3 Dec	Golders Green Rapidplay , Golders Green Parish Church Hall, West Heath Drive, Golders Green, London NW11 7QG MAP Contact: Adam Raouf Website: http://goldersgreengchess.blogspot.com/
	3-12 Dec	3rd London Chess Classic , Olympia Conference Centre, Kensington, London Contact: Malcolm Pein Email: info@chess.co.uk Telephone: 020 7388 2404 Website: www.londonchessclassic.com Press release (PDF)
*~	4 Dec	Bury Rapidplay , Elton Vale Sports Club, Elton Vale Road, Bury BL8 2RZ MAP Contact: Anthony Lee Email: anthonymlee@btinternet.com – 6 Round Rapidplay, commencing 10.00am
	10 Dec	CCF Open Rapid Play , 84-90 Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 3BA MAP Contact: Scott Freeman Email: chess@ccfworld.com Tel: 020 8645 0302 Fax: 020 8645 0412 Website: http://www.ccfworld.com/Chess/
*~	17 Dec	Poplar Rapid-Play Tournament , Langley Hall, Saint Nicholas' Church Centre, Aberfeldy Street, Poplar, London E14 0QD MAP Contact: Norman Went Email: docklandschess@yahoo.co.uk Website: www.spanglefish.com/docklandschessclub Entry form
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~	28 Dec-5 Jan 2012	87th Hastings International Chess Congress , Horntye Park Sports Complex, Bohemia Road, Hastings, East Sussex TN34 1EX MAP Contact: Con Power Email: conpowr@aol.com Website & entry form – www.hastingschess.com
*~	28-30	London Junior Chess Championship , University of Westminster MAP Contact: Marc Shaw Email: 2011@ljcc.co.uk

Chess videos

Click [here](#) to watch chess videos from ECF Manager of Coaching Andrew Martin

Click [here](#) to watch videos from 'Kingscrusher' Tryfon Gavriel

Click [here](#) to watch videos from Tony Ibbotson at Leeds Chess Club

Your details

We've created a page of handy forms - whether your Union has changed its President, your League its name or your Club its venue - we'd like to know. [Click here](#)

Upcoming events

[Go to the calendar](#)

16-18 Sep

e2e4 Sunningdale Congress, Ascot Contact: Sean Hewitt [Email](#)

16-18 Sep

Bradford 2011 Congress, Manningham, Bradford Contact: S Swire Tel: 01274 411817 [Email](#)

17 Sep

Poplar Rapid-Play Tournament, London Contact: Norman Went [Email](#)

18 Sep

Sussex Junior Crowborough Rapidplay, East Sussex Contact: [Email](#)

For a more comprehensive calendar updated constantly, visit the ECF website - www.englishchess.org.uk

NEW! ECF Junior Donations page

Financial Support for Junior Performance

Your generous donations will enhance coaching, preparation and in-tournament support for England's representatives in international youth championship tournaments. Surplus funds will benefit junior training and future teams representing England in international youth championships.

Simply visit the ECF website using this address - http://www.englishchess.org.uk/?page_id=14479, where you'll find easy-to-use 'Donate' buttons for the World Youth Chess Championships in Brazil, the World Youth Under-16 Olympiad in Turkey, the European Youth Chess Championships in Bulgaria and the Glorney/Faber Cup in Ireland.

More up-to-date tournaments will be added as they occur, but in the meantime it's simple to donate and help England's junior chess maestros in representing their country at international level!