

CHESS MOVES

THE NEWSLETTER of the ENGLISH CHESS FEDERATION | Jan/Feb 2012

Hastings International Chess Congress



Hastings Masters winner Wang Yue, with Amber Rudd MP (left) and Cllr. Maureen Charlesworth

Chess Moves presents - in chronological order - a series of reports from Stewart Reuben on the Hastings International Chess Congress. It all begins with ... Round 1. Where games are referenced in Stewart's text, many of them may be found at the Hastings Congress website -

www.hastingschess.com

Wang Yue (CHN) 2697 is the first Chinese player to have taken part in Hastings for some years. He is also the highest rated player ever to have participated in the Masters. In Britain we don't believe in absurd first round clashes with a difference of over 400 rating points. But with such a high rated player as Wang Yue it is impossible to avoid very nearly such a difference in rating. There are other reasons for using Accelerated Pairings: it is more likely players will be able to achieve a GM norm; the disconcerting and unfair bouncing effect for players just below the top

(Continued on Page 3)

ECF News

ECF Awards 2012

President's Awards for Services to Chess

Nominations are invited for the ECF President's Awards. The awards are made annually for services to the game of chess. Previous winners include B H Wood, The BBC, the late IM Bob Wade and a host of players and organisers. The recipient of the award will receive a plaque.

Nominations, with a short citation, should be sent (by 20 April 2012) to:

John Wickham, 55 Shakespeare Way, Taverham,
Norwich, NR8 6SL or email
j.r.wickham@btinternet.com

Winners of the award will be announced on the ECF website and at the ECF AGM in October

Club of the Year and Small Club of the Year 2012

The ECF is looking for submissions from chess clubs for these two awards. We are seeking details of clubs that stand out from the rest and clubs to which their members feel proud to belong. It's time to get recognition of your club by becoming recipients of the award from the ECF.

The submissions should detail the club's participation in local leagues and competitions, but also cover such items as how the club encourages membership among groups under-represented in the general chess population, the contribution made to chess locally and nationally, the activities organised for juniors and comment on how the club interacts with schools and the local community.

The club(s) selected for the awards will receive a scroll, an engraved plaque and digital clock.

Send your submissions by 31st May 2012 to:

John Wickham, 55 Shakespeare Way, Taverham,
Norwich, NR8 6SL or email j.r.wickham@btinternet.com

Chess Publication of the Year 2012

Nominations are invited for the ECF Chess Publication of the Year award. We are looking for nominations from either readers or editors of Chess

Publications that are produced by volunteers.

We have expanded this award category so that it encompasses everything that the modern age has to offer in respect of publications and media (e.g. magazine (printed or on line), newspaper, website, blog etc.)

The editor of the publication selected will receive a scroll and a copy of the ECF Chess Book of the Year (any alternative to this is at the discretion of the Awards committee).

Send your nominations by 16 April 2012 to:

John Wickham, 55 Shakespeare Way, Taverham,
Norwich, NR8 6SL or email, j.r.wickham@btinternet.com

Website of the Year 2012

ECF are seeking nominations for the ECF Chess Website of the Year award. We are looking for nominations from either users or the webmasters of chess websites that are run by volunteers.

The webmaster of the site selected will receive a scroll and a copy of the ECF Book of the Year (any alternative to this is at the discretion of the awards committee).

Nominations with the website address should be sent by 30 April 2012 to:

John Wickham at j.r.wickham@btinternet.com

ECF Congress of the Year 2012 Award

Open to Congresses/Events that are affiliated to the ECF, either individually or through another body, and held in the period 1st July 2011 to 30th June 2012.

The Judges will assess the Congress/Event over a range of factors to include accessibility to all groups, quality of the venue and facilities offered, type and range of events offered, the skill/ability of the organisers, the entry form and the publicising of the event, value for money etc. In addition the judges may seek the views of the players who entered the Congress/Event.

The winners will receive a certificate and will be able to offer a free entry to the 2013 British Championships to those entering their Congress/Event, as well as the title of "ECF Congress of the Year 2012". The Awards committee will contact the winners after the judging is completed and then will announce the winner on the ECF website as well as at the ECF AGM in October 2012.

Eligible congresses/events are asked to submit a citation, with copies of the entry forms, to John Wickham, 55 Shakespeare Way, Taverham, Norwich, NR8 6SL or email j.r.wickham@btinternet.com by 6 July 2012

CONTENTS

Hastings - FC, 3	Results Round-Up - 17
ECF News - 2	Grand Prix - 24
Batsford - 8	ChEx Bookshelf - 25
London Chess Classic - 9	Book Reviews - 28
Junior - 12	Calendar - 30
International - 16	

British Chess Educational Trust

With funds provided by the generosity of the late Sir George Thomas (now administered by the British Chess Educational Trust) the English Chess Federation annually awards shields to schools which have shown outstanding achievements or enthusiasm in chess. Commencing 1982 inscribed chess boards have been substituted for shields.

Recommendations for awards should be forwarded (via the appropriate Union if in England, or via the national organisations for Scotland or Wales) to: John Wickham, 55 Shakespeare Way, Taverham, Norwich, NR8 6SL Email: j.r.wickham@btinternet.com by 31st March

Hastings ... continued

of the second half is reduced. It is quite likely that mismatches will occur later in the event. But by then, the lower rated players will have earned their right to a place in the sun, and their higher rated opponents won't be doing so well and will welcome the chance to recharge their batteries.

That the congress starts as soon after Christmas as possible enables many people to take part using their holiday time efficiently. Ambitious players, who travel from a long distance, should arrive at least two days in advance. But travelling in England on 26 December is a nightmare. Thus many arrive on the 27th. You can expect an unusual number of upsets in the first round.



That was written before the first round and thus without the benefit of hindsight. The real upset was only on board 5 where Michael Massoni beat the older Vovk brother Yuri. Both Wang Yue and Andrei Istratescu put in very smooth performances with the Black pieces, David Haydon played well to gain an advantage against GM Nicholas Pert, but then copped out and agreed a draw against Nick while he still stood better in a murky position. Later in the evening Nick told me about a very special ambitious rapidplay/training weekend he is running on a weekend in 2012. Only 10 of the GMs won their first round games. Two drew and of course one lost. Would you have preferred to see more blood spilt in the first round or more competitive chess? It

is a matter of taste. Round 2 will see GM Arkell against GM Edouard. There are 22 players left with 1/1 from the top fraction and 19 due to be chopped down by the acceleration.

Round 2

Wang Yue v Pavel Simacek – surely 22...e4 allowing Nxd4 made things too comfortable for the Chinese player. The resignation by the Czech – here with two of his pupils the sisters Olsarova – just a few moves later was perhaps a little premature.

Adrien Demuth v David Howell – on the other hand, the resignation by the young Frenchman against our own David Howell was well justified.

Andrei Istratescu v Jovanka Houska – Jovanka got really short of time and went down in flames against Istratescu who now flies under the French flag. She blundered on move 29 in a truly awful position. If you are going to lose, you might as well lose on time trying to get out of a dreadful mess.

Keith Arkell v Romain Edouard – another young Frenchman was featured on board 4. His bishop on b7 became a monster. Once Keith's passed pawns became separated it was very difficult for the experienced Englishman, but he put up a struggle which went on until move 50. Since the French spent some time analysing the 3 pawns v pawn and knight endgame, it seems Keith's resignation was premature. On the other hand Fritz 10 decided Black had a 6 point advantage and that's pretty convincing.

The whole matter of when you should resign became a major talking point of Chris Ward's excellent commentary this afternoon. The late Bent Larsen once said, 'You should never resign until all the spectators understand why you are doing so.' Does this mean each player thinking of resigning should consult the audience in the hall, that in the commentary room and the viewers online? As an arbiter I might regard that as seeking advice?

Deep Sengupta and Arghyadip Das also won, thus keeping their challenge for first place for the second year in a row going. Babu Lalith and Sahiti Lakshmi from the team of young Indians sent here by the All Indian Chess Federation joined the leaders, as did Mark Hebden. Sahiti is the only person from the second fraction to make it to 2/2. Her reward is a pairing with white against the Ukrainian Yuri Vovk. He has only 1/2, but is being used as a chopper in the Accelerated Pairing System.

Hopefully more games will be seen live on the internet tomorrow. The problem has been beyond our control. The whole area around the Horntye Sports Centre is, in a sense, shrouded in darkness ...

Round 3

By round 3 we can expect clashes between leading players



and we were not to be disappointed. The top 4 boards all featured strong players on 2/2 and Sahiti Lakshmi was the only player from the second fraction to come through to 100%.

Deep Sengupta v Wang Yue was, we must admit, somewhat boring. But even then there was a brief flurry in the early middlegame that looked as if it might lead to something.

David Howell v Mark Hebden had a very interesting innovation in 12 0-0-0. Most of us would not have thought of castling into a position where the king was so short of cover. But David had analysed this line when coaching Felix Ynojosa, a youngster who has now returned to Venezuela. The most testing response would have been 13...Rb8, but 13...c5 didn't seem to be at all adequate. To again play 16...c5 lost and Black could have resigned shortly afterwards. We should try not to repeat our mistakes and to play pawn c5 twice in 4 moves not tempting but embracing fate.

Babu Lalith v Andrei Istratescu – do you really want Siamese twins after only 8 moves? See the game to understand what I mean by this. 18 b3 resulted in White's position being riddled with holes. 26 Bf1 was essential, but white would only have been clinging on. A master class by the older Romanian-Frenchman against an Indian junior.

Romain Edouard v Das Arghyadip was the type of game to stir your blood and possibly cause a heart-attack. 14 Nc3 might have tempted Black to play Nxd4, but White would have regained the pawn and had a strong attack. 18 Qf5 was a star move and 18...Nd4 a star response. 28 Bc3 was probably best, e.g. Rxa3 29 Nb8. Romain ran absurdly short of time, but he had assumed it wouldn't matter. He would win long before move 40. Both players were eventually down to 30 seconds a move. Suddenly it was Black who had the upper hand with two queenside passed pawns. Surely 47...a4 would have won? Instead the dancing stopped and it petered out into a draw. Well, at some stage each player deserved to win and at another to lose. There is a Best Game Prize donated by Horntye Park each year, but I have never heard of one for the most exciting.

Sahiti Lakshmi v Yuri Vovk was an accelerated pairing with the young Indian woman having White against the Ukrainian Vovk brother who lost in the first round. White

started well enough and 23 Bh6 looked like a star move, but 23...b3, 24...Rf6 and 27...Rxe5 were very calm. Ultimately White ran out of counter-play.

I objected in the Commentary Room that the players should have slowed down as Chris Ward could not keep up. But it was pointed out that the rate of play is pretty ferocious. Eventually both David Howell and Andrei Istratescu joined us in the Commentary Room. Chris Howell (no relation) had gone home with his family having failed to be awarded another Ukrainian chocolate for his suggestions. His young son Oliver had delighted the commentary room with his win utilising his king to mate his opponent.

Finally the biggest upset of the day had to be 17 year old Samuel Franklin (2179) beating GM Glenn Flear (2472) with the black pieces to reach 2.5/3. We now have 10 digital boards working, but that was not enough to get us to board 12, so I will have to wait until New Year's Eve to see the game.



Round 4

As you can imagine, reports written on New Year's Eve, in all honesty three hours into 2012, can be a bit disjointed. Anyway, here goes.

I asked Glenn Flear after his fourth round win about his loss to 17-year-old Samuel Franklin in round 3. He said he got swindled in rather a nice way.

Andrei Istratescu (3) v David Howell (3) was a very neat and tidy game. David said perhaps 19...h5 and h4 would have been more ambitious.

Wang Yue (2½) v Nikil Shyam (2½) was an elegant, clinical win for the Chinese GM.

Maxence Godard (2½) v Romain Edouard (2½) had a rather odd opening. White seems to be given too free a range in the centre. But it does seem fine. Romain tried very hard to wriggle his way to victory, but it was a fair draw. According to his friend Andrei Istratescu, Romain isn't playing very well and is thus making a lot of moves.

Arghyadip Das (2½) v Deep Sengupta – it seemed unlikely this would end in anything other than a draw. They travelled

together and are roommates.

Samuel Franklin (2½) v Simon Williams (2½) – the Commentary Room audience voted to concentrate on this game and they were absolutely correct. The opening was very normal development. The game exploded later. I suggested 29 Ra7 but it would be a brave man, or a computer, who would claim that would have been a better continuation. After move 31 White's pawns looked like space invaders. The audience was on tenterhooks as to whether Simon would see the wonderful 36...Nc3ch. Oh thou of little faith. I discussed with Chris Ward, what percentage of games were 'good'. We agreed it is about 25% and this compares favourably with many artistic, literary or sporting activities. Samuel lost the game, but he has good reason to be proud of his part in this artistic endeavour.

Paul Talsma (2) v Nick Pert (2) – White had a very reasonable game, but 27 Bxc6 looks to be an easier and more sensible way for White to continue. After Rxc6, in the resulting game, black's two rooks dominated the white queen.

Amy Hoare (1) v Jack Rudd (1) – Jack often comes into the Commentary Room and then goes over his game. Both players played Space Invaders on opposite wings. Jack had a nice, fluent win. Are pawns, rushing down one wing, or in the centre, becoming a theme of this event?



Mark Hebden (2) v Robert Eames (2) – I would have needed the input of Chris Ward and/or a chess computer to be able to make intelligent comments on this game. But one matter is clear, it was of high quality.

Round 5

As you would expect, many poker players are extremely superstitious. Thus they hate to lose their first pot of the year, or have a losing session. I have never before thought

to discuss this with chessplayers. If they felt the same way here you would expect them to shut up shop and have a high percentage of draws. The very reverse was true; there were just 10 draws from 55 games.

David Howell (3½) v Wang Yue (3½) – the rare opening variation they played had been seen just twice before, 8 Be3 being played on both occasions. Then 8...dxe3? runs into Bxf7ch winning the queen. Instead David innovated with 8 Kf1, an unnatural position for his king. Whether he should have drawn is unclear; he put up rearguard defence for many moves before succumbing in the endgame a pawn down. The final position where David resigned is a text book instructive example of counting moves and knowing basic queen v pawn technique.

Simon Williams (3½) v Andrei Istratescu (3½) travelled an early new highway and byway. I was puzzled by Andrei's game plan as I thought he was an extremely rational player. But Simon has this effect on opponents, which is why his games are so popular. He achieved an extra pawn and we felt he had a winning endgame had he played 41 Rd4 b3 42 Rb4. In the final position 44...b2 would draw. Simon popped into the commentary room, but Chris Ward didn't notice as he was engrossed in another game. A pity, it was a lost opportunity to explore another exciting game by one of England's most entertaining players.

Romain Edouard (3) v Padmini Rout (3) 15 f4 was a novelty and seems rather odd. The natural reaction would have been 15...exf4 16 Bxf4 Ne5. Padmini perhaps showed her inexperience not playing this line. I first came across this idea in 1957 of allowing an isolated backward d pawn in exchange for a strong outpost for the knight. Chris found 15...f5 very ugly and after this Romain wrapped things up pretty quickly.

Jovanka Houska (3) v Yuri Vovk (3) – 8 Bxf6 gxf6 (not Qxf6 9 axb5 axb5?? 10 Qe4) looks better. 8e4 looks a little like an anti-Meran, but inferior. 13 e5 looks like a blunder. Jovanka struggled on for many moves, but the result was never in doubt. Thus Yuri has won 4 games in a row after his first round loss. Therein lies the pride and sorrow of a Swiss. A player can recover from a poor start, but is it fair that a player can stage such a come-back?

Thomas Rendle (2½) v Alfredo Luaces Rubio (2½) – one of the joys of this event is that players often come into the Commentary Room and provide pearls of wisdom about their games. Black, a long-term resident of England, wasted too much time in the opening and paid the price. 20 Bf6! Ouch.

BT seems finally to have got their act together and we should have 18 boards live tomorrow. Perhaps they should ask us to take over Hastings' telephone system? It has placed a considerable burden on our staff. Lara Barnes has not only been an arbiter, but she has also coordinated the efforts of many people in inputting the games. Tomorrow

she returns home to work, i.e. to have a rest!

Round 6

I nearly had to play in the Masters again today. There was an odd number and we hate to disappoint players who have come to play chess, not get a point by default. Fortunately, Bill Penfold stepped into the breach.

Wang Yue (4½) v Nick Pert (4) Why did the Englishman give up a pawn with 12...Bd7? White did not really become weak on the white squares to compensate. After this it was all downhill and the young Chinese player cemented his position at the top.

Andrei Istratescu (4) v Deep Sengupta (4) The current co-champion was justifiably proud of this game, turned up in the Commentary Room to discuss it and has entered it for the Horntye Park Best Game Prize. Apparently this is a well-known variation and 18...Be7 was the first innovation. Black's bishops and passed pawns made it very difficult for White. 32 fxe4 would have been better. But it was 33...Bh3ch that set the board on fire.

Frank Holzke (4) v Romain Edouard (4) This was a fair enough, albeit rather boring, draw. This happens in chess games and I don't see that insisting on play continuing to king against king adds to the gaiety of nations.

Simon Knott (4) v David Howell (4) The game became very complex. David had a lot of pressure, but there was nothing certain except Black inevitably getting into time trouble.

Yuri Vovk (4) v Sundar Shyam (4) Chris Ward didn't have time to commentate on this game. Thus I only played through it very late at night. The Ukrainian played with a fine disregard for material, but it is difficult to see what he had in compensation.

Arghyadip Das (4) v Babu Lalith (4) This game again escaped Chris's attention. I felt the play of the other co-champion of 2010-11 lacked finesse. The final combination will make it into the anthologies.

Thus a Chinese player leads and, hot on his heels, are three Indians, two of them members of the junior group that have been sent here for the second year in a row. I believe it was Nigel Short who first referred to the new tiger economies emerging in chess.

Round 7

Babu Lalith (5) v Wang Yue (5½) was not the most exciting of games, but extremely professional. The young Indian didn't seem particularly ambitious in his play and the Chinese player could make no progress.

Deep Sengupta (5) v Sundar Shyam (5) – an all-Indian derby. Deep again came into the Commentary Room to discuss his game. 10 N3h2 is an interesting concept. 12 g4 would perhaps have been better. 14 Bxh6 might have been

the way to go. It seems odd to sacrifice a piece and immediately offer a draw, but Deep felt Black stood better. To draw in 16 moves in such a lively position seems utterly absurd.

Romain Edouard (4½) v David Haydon (4½) – Chris feels that playing a Isolated Queen's Pawn game a tempo behind is unwise. White achieved dream positions for his knights and Black's position became untenable.

Jovica Radovanovic (4) v Yuri Vovk (4) – Yuri was proud of this encounter and has entered it for the Best Game Prize. It escaped Chris's eye, but I spent some time in the Travelodge late at night discussing it and other matters with the brothers. One interesting story will have to suffice. Their father worked in Israel as part of the Peace-keeping Force of the time. Their mother and 6- month-old Andre



(Clockwise from top left) Arbiters all ... Alex McFarlane, Lara Barnes, Sainbayar Tserendorj, Dave Welch

joined him. But Yuri refused to go and had forgotten his baby brother when they returned nearly two years later. Yuri was 4 years old(!) and stayed with his grandparents. 14...b5 was very provocative. 15 Ncxb5 Qb6 16 Nxd6 Qxd4 17 Nxe8 Nxe8 and 2 pieces are often better than a rook and 2 pawns. 17 Nb3 followed by Na5 was dubious because, as we all know, a knight on the rim is dim. 21...Nh6 would have given Black a greater advantage than the text 21...Nxf2, but this was more fun. 24 Rh1 led to a poor position for Black. 28...Rxe4 would have been an easy win for Black. Later allowing White to promote with check is unusual. Black couldn't be prevented promoting later.

Andrey Vovk (4½) v Frank Holzke (4½) – it would have been an imposition to analyse the younger brother's game as well. Also I hadn't realised how interesting it was. I think White should have been able to draw quite late into the game. I will leave you to write your own notes.

Simon Williams (4½) v Mark Hebden (4½) – these two met

twice the previous evening in the blitz. A fascinating encounter that was only agreed a draw on move 97. Black sacked a pawn as early as move 18. 22 fxc4 felt unusual. 28 h3 instead of Bc4 may have been better. 28...Nxd5 runs into Bc4. 43 Ne5ch looked inviting, but bxa6 would have been better. After that it was a fair draw.

Jack Rudd (3) v Paul Helbig (3) – Jack came in to show us his good, clear game.

Glenn Flear (4) v Alexander Longson (4) – this caught Chris's eye as a swashbuckling encounter. Unfortunately the wireless board played up and we couldn't follow the game. 15 Nxf7 was an engrossing sacrifice. The Black king never reached safety. The closing sacrifice was unnecessary – but fun.

Round 8

With an event being played over the New Year it is hardly surprising that there are always a few withdrawals. This year there have only been about 5, possibly due to the very mild weather.

Most of the top games were wins. This contrasts sharply with the 'good old days' when there would be many draw games. Of course I may be writing too soon; we still have the ninth round to come. But we have a hidden weapon. Unlike most events the last round starts at the same time as all the others. Seville which starts on Saturday has rounds 1-8 at 5pm and the last round at 9.30am. Of course we have other events on in the morning. Here the Prizegiving will take place at approximately 9.30pm of course in Horntye Park.

Wang Yue (6) v Andrey Vovk (5½) – the younger Ukrainian brother felt his position was fine. We didn't discuss it for long; one doesn't with somebody who lost. It was only tonight that I realised they were unaware of the nature of the Commentary Room. My apologies for that. 10...d5 would not have been to my taste before completing his development, but what do I know? Chris criticised 16...Bf5, but Black disagreed. Andrey felt 23...Re7 was incorrect and 23...b6 should have been played.

Sundar Shyam (5½) v Romain Edouard (5½) – it is likely that there was a theoretical novelty as soon as 7 h3; certainly both players played slowly at this juncture. Perhaps 9...Nd7 was better than the text. Surely 13...h5 was too slow. Sundar joined us in the Commentary Room and he felt that after 14 Bd1 he had the game in the bag. 16 Ne6! is certainly very convincing and he had wrapped up the game by move 21.

Babu Lalith (5½) v Deep Sengupta (5½) – 31...Re6 was a terrible blunder in a difficult position.

Andrei Istratescu (5) v Glenn Flear (5) was an engrossing game. Andrei secured the bishop pair and a big centre. The pressure enabled Andrei to win a pawn, but we thought

39...f5 might have presented him with more problems. It is difficult in a Commentary Room to come to definitive conclusions. After that Andrei wrapped it up clinically.

Yuri Vovk (5) v Simon Williams (5) – perhaps Simon went wrong on move 1! After all, he could have played the Dutch. The older brother again played well after a poor start to the tournament.



Dave Clayton, the Live Games wizard

The English do not play together as a formal team. Nonetheless they generally have very good personal relationships. Usually this works out to their benefit. But this year in Hastings perhaps the relatively poor results have had a domino effect. Still, the year is young.

Round 9

The last round of any Swiss is always somewhat artificial, but here there were few bloodless draws. Instead we had the unusual statistic of several Bf5 Caro Kan games on the top boards. But White went down different routes in each case.

Sundar Shyam (6½) v Wang Yue (7) – the young Indian needed a draw for his GM norm. Perhaps Wang took advantage of this, taking some liberties with knight manoeuvres in the middlegame, assuming he could always bail out with a draw offer if things went wrong. But White wasn't having any shenanigans.

Thus three members of the Indian youth team secured norms as N Krithika Pon gained a WIM norm on a lower board. This probably means we can expect an invasion next year as well.

Yuri Vovk (6) v Babu Lalith (6½) – in this case the Indian had already secured his GM norm irrespective of the result of the last round game. 15 Ng6 looks sparkling, but only leads to equality. It was disappointing that a draw was agreed just as the position began to look exciting. It is quite common that a player has a let-down after securing a norm, especially the final one. Otherwise, why not play on with the black pieces? Surely the value of winning the Hastings Masters outweighs the risk of losing some money? Anyway, this meant Wang Yue had secured a well-deserved first place outright. He led from start to finish and never looked in serious trouble.

Gudmundur Kjartansson (6) v Andrei Istratescu (6) – the Icelandic player needed to win to secure a GM norm. Perhaps this affected his objectivity. There is no doubt he stood significantly better, but got his pawns on the wrong

squares and lost trying to win.

Deep Sengupta (5½) v David Haydon (5½) – there was considerable interest in the Commentary Room as David needed only a draw for his first IM norm. Fritz preferred 20...f6. I wouldn't even have thought of that, creating a weakness on g6. White always had nagging pressure, but 31...e5 or Kf7 would have been better than the text Kh7. As Chris pointed out, getting all his pieces in a line on the h file did not help Black's cause. Even so, it seems 40...Kg6 would have been fine. After 40...Nxb5 41 Ne6 White was winning. But it wasn't time trouble. Black just didn't think long enough at critical moments.

All in all it was a disappointing event for the English players. We only won two prizes. Gorak Rajesh scored 3½/9 and won the Best Improvement Prize. That is usually easier to do if you are 10 years old. His rating went from 1400 to 1485.8. He clearly became a stronger player in the course of the tournament. Simon Williams v Sam Franklin won the Best Game Prize. Simon won, but Sam had a winning position at one time and it was decided to split this prize. But everybody was a winner, having spent 9 days in Hastings playing chess. The players clearly enjoyed themselves. We have a high expectancy that the event will be able to take place next year. So make a note in your diaries for 28 December 2012 to 5 January 2013 and join us in Hastings, or on the web for another veritable feast of chess.

-Stewart Reuben

The English Chess Federation Certificate of Merit



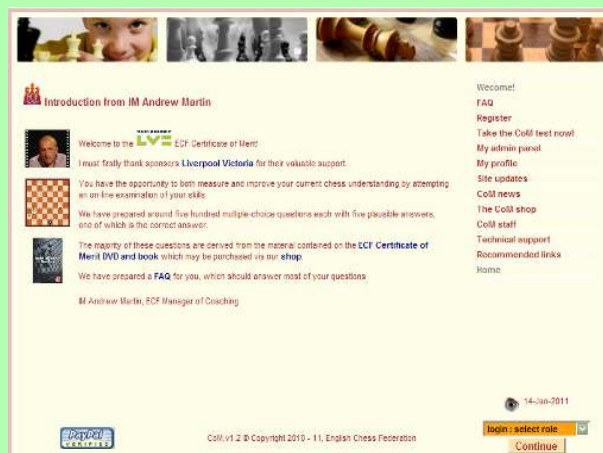
The Certificate of Merit (COM) is centred on a number of online tests, which enable chess students to measure their progress and to earn certificates and badges. The tests are taken entirely online, and payments for the credits can be made online or by cheque. Examinees can practice as many times as 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

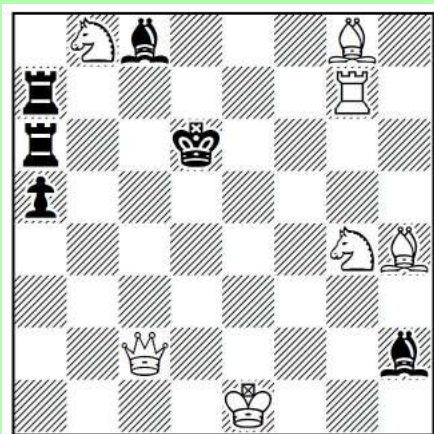
Well done to the November/December winner -- **Barry Sandercock of Chalfont St Giles ...** The correct answer was - **1.Ne7**

Here's the next problem ...

Thomas R Dawson - 1st Prize, Western Daily Mercury, 1912-1913 - White to play and mate in 2

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

drawn on 10th March 2012 will win a Batsford voucher for any book on their current list!



The London Chess Classic

- John Philpott

3rd London Chess Classic

The third London Chess Classic took place at the Olympia Conference Centre from 3 to 12 December 2011. The eight participants from the second Classic were joined by the Armenian grandmaster Levon Aronian, meaning that all three players with a current rating over 2800 (Magnus Carlsen and Vishy Anand were the others) were playing in the event. The nine player format meant that one player had a bye each day, and assisted with the commentary.

With the scoring system of 3 points for a win and 1 point for draw the lead changed hands regularly, but in the end it was former world champion Vladimir Kramnik who came out on top by virtue of beating the four English players and drawing with the rest, with his win in round 8 as Black against Luke McShane proving decisive.

McShane,Luke (2671) - Kramnik,Vladimir (2800) [C65]

3rd London Chess Classic London ENG (8), 11.12.2011

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.Bxc6 dxc6 6.b3 Bg4 7.Nbd2 Nd7 8.Bb2 f6 9.Nf1 Nf8 10.h3 Bxf3 11.Qxf3 Ne6 12.Ne3 Qd7 13.h4 a5 14.a4 0-0 15.h5 Bxe3 16.Qxe3 c5 17.Qh3 Qc6 18.0-0 Nf4 19.Qh2 Qe8 20.h6 g5 21.g3 Ne6 22.f4 gxf4 23.gxf4 Nxf4 24.Rxf4 exf4 25.Kf2 Rf7 26.Qh5 Qe6 27.Qxc5 Kh8 28.Qc4 Re8 29.Rh1 Qd7 30.Qb5 Re6 31.Qxd7 Rxd7 32.Rg1 Rc6 33.Kf3 Rd8 34.Rg5 Rf8 35.Rg2 Rg8 36.Rh2 Rg1 37.d4 Rf1+ 38.Kg4 f3 39.d5 Rd6 40.c4 Kg8 41.c5 f5+ 42.Kxf5 Rg6 43.Bd4 Rd1 44.Be3 Rg2 45.Rh3 f2 46.Bxf2 Rxf2+ 47.Ke6 Rf7 48.d6 c6 49.Ke5 Kf8 50.Rh2 Rg1 51.b4 axb4 52.Rb2 Rg5+ 53.Ke6 Rg6+ 54.Ke5 Rxh6 55.a5 Rh5+ 56.Ke6 Rh6+ 57.Ke5 Rh5+ 58.Ke6 Ke8 59.a6 Rh6+ 60.Ke5 bxa6 61.Rxb4 Ra7 62.Rb8+ Kf7 63.Rc8 Re6+ 64.Kf5 a5 65.Rh8 Rf6+ 66.Ke5 Kg7 67.Rc8 a4 68.Rxc6 a3 69.d7 a2 0-1

Second just one point behind was the American Hikaru Nakamura who also scored four wins, but lost to Magnus Carlsen. Hikaru had the distinction of beating world champion Vishy Anand with the Black pieces in round 4.

Anand,Vishy (2811) - Nakamura,Hikaru (2758) [E97]

3rd London Chess Classic London ENG (4), 06.12.2011

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2 e5 7.0-0 Nc6 8.d5 Ne7 9.b4 Ne8 10.c5 f5 11.Nd2 Nf6 12.a4 g5 13.Nc4 h6 14.f3 f4 15.Ba3 Ng6 16.b5 dxc5 17.Bxc5 Rf7 18.a5 h5 19.b6 g4 20.Nb5 cxb6 21.axb6 g3 22.Kh1 Bf8 23.d6 a6 24.Nc7 Rb8 25.Na5 Kh8 26.Bc4 Rg7 27.Ne6 Bxe6 28.Bxe6 gxh2 29.Nc4 Qe8 30.Bd5 h4 31.Rf2 h3 32.gxh3 Rc8 33.Ra5 Nh4 34.Kxh2 Nd7 35.Bb4 Rg3 36.Qf1 Qh5 37.Ra3 a5 38.Be1 Rxc4 39.Bxc4 Bxd6 40.Rxa5 Bc5 41.Be2 Bxb6 42.Rb5 Bd4 43.Bd1 Bxf2 44.Bxf2 Nxf3+ 45.Bxf3 Qxf3 46.Rb1 Rg6 47.Rxb7 Nf6 48.Rb8+ Kh7 49.Rb7+ Kh6 0-1

World no. 1 Magnus Carlsen had won the first two Classics, but on this occasion had to settle for third place despite going through the event unbeaten.

Luke McShane was by far the most successful of the English contingent, and was in the lead after seven rounds before losing to Kramnik. He had achieved that positions as a result of wins with the Black pieces against all of Michael Adams, David Howell and Nigel Short, and would have taken third place but for Nakamura's win against Adams in the last round.

Short,Nigel (2698) - McShane,Luke (2671) [C34]

3rd London Chess Classic London ENG (7), 10.12.2011

1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.Nf3 h6 4.d4 g5 5.Nc3 d6 6.g3 fxg3 7.hxg3 Bg7 8.Be3 Nf6 9.Qd3 Ng4 10.0-0-0 c6 11.Re1 Nd7 12.e5 dxe5 13.Bh3 Nxe3 14.Rxe3 0-0 15.Ne4 Nf6 16.Bxc8 exd4 17.Bxb7 dxe3 18.Bxa8 Nxe4 19.Qxe4 Qb6 20.Ne5 Rxa8 21.Qxc6 Qxc6 22.Nxc6 Re8 23.c3 Re6 24.Nxa7 Be5 25.Nb5 e2 26.Kd2 Bxg3 27.Re1 Bxe1+ 28.Kxe1 h5 29.Nd4 Ra6 30.a3 h4 31.Kxe2 g4 32.c4 h3 33.Kf2 h2 34.Kg2 Rh6 35.Kh1 g3 36.Nf5 g2+ 0-1

Final Standings

No	Name	Win	Draw	Loss	Score	Tie break	Rating	TPR
1	Kramnik, Vladimir	4	4	0	16.0		2800	2935
2	Nakamura, Hikaru	4	3	1	15.0		2758	2888
3	Carlsen, Magnus	3	5	0	14.0		2826	2879
4	McShane, Luke J	3	4	1	13.0		2671	2853
5	Anand, Viswanathan	1	6	1	9.0	black win	2811	2740
6	Aronian, Levon	1	6	1	9.0	white win	2802	2741

7	Short, Nigel D	1	3	4	6.0	2698	2613
8	Howell, David W L	0	4	4	4.0	2633	2570
9	Adams, Michael	0	3	5	3.0	2734	2499

Final Crosstable

Name		Rating									Points/games Perf		
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9			
1	Kramnik	2800	X	1	1	3	1	1	3	3	3	16.0 / 8	2935
2	Nakamura	2758	1	X	0	1	3	3	1	3	3	15.0 / 8	2888
3	Carlsen	2826	1	3	X	1	1	1	1	3	3	14.0 / 8	2879
4	McShane	2671	0	1	1	X	1	1	3	3	3	13.0 / 8	2853
5	Anand	2811	1	0	1	1	X	1	3	1	1	9.0 / 8	2740
6	Aronian	2802	1	0	1	1	1	X	3	1	1	9.0 / 8	2741
7	Short	2698	0	1	1	0	0	0	X	1	3	6.0 / 8	2613
8	Howell	2633	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	X	1	4.0 / 8	2570
9	Adams	2734	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	X	3.0 / 8	2499

There was a full range of supporting events, making the ten days a real festival of chess.

FIDE rated Open (231 entered)

1st Abhijeet Gupta (India) 8/9, 2nd Sahaj Grover (India) 7½, 3rd – 7th Gawain Jones (England), Tiger Hillarp Persson (Denmark), Arghyadip Das (India), Aaron Summerscale (England) and Lorin D’Costa (England) 7.

Weekender Classic A Open (32 entered)

1st Richard Tozer 5/5, 2nd – 3rd Peter Batchelor and Oliver Gill 4

U170 (34 entered)

1st Paul Kelly 5/5, 2nd Emyr Jones 4, 3rd – 8th Hugh Fenwick, Liviu Enciu, Azizur Rahman, Brendan O’Gorman, Simon Wilks and Morris Stranger 3½

U145 (32 entered)

1st Jonathan Pein 4/5, 2nd – 3rd Jamie Adcock and Reagan Pinto 5. U120 (34 entered) 1st Cesar Diaz 4½/5, 2nd – 4th Andrew Davison, Andrew Curran and Koby Kalavannan 4

Weekender Classic B Open (46 entered)

1st Simon Roe 4½/5, 2nd – 3rd Gavan Peiris and Ken Wei Tan 4. U170 (45 entered) 1st – 5th Finlo Rohrer, Hristo Kolov, Sydney Jacob, Soumen Roy and Akashaya Kalaiyalahan 4/5

U145 (41 entered)

1st – 2nd Andrew Recalde and Regan Pinto 4½/5, 3rd Adrian Waldock 4. U120 (38 entered) 1st – 2nd Ronald Hale and Caroline Robson 4½/5, 3rd – 4th Justin Brown and Eren Can Guler 4

Amateur Challenge (27 entered)

1st – 2nd Frank Kebbedies and David Openshaw 4/5, 3rd – 7th David Lawrence, John McKenna, Brendan O’Gorman, John Sargent and Joseph Skielnik 3½

Rapidplay A Open (20 entered)

1st Bertil Svendsen 5/6, 2nd – 3rd Peter Roberson and Ian Upson 4½

U170 (23 entered)

1st – 2nd Jonathan Landau and Akito Oyama 5/6, 3rd Shane McCabe 4½. U145 (11 entered) 1st Philip Bartram 5/6, 2nd – 4th David McNish, Salvatore Pepe and Sebouh Takvorian 4. U120 (20 entered) 1st Kenneth Burns 6/6, 2nd – 3rd Ajay Induchudan and Atul Shetty 4½

Rapidplay B Open (28 entered)

1st – 2nd Jose Antonio Lacasa Diaz and Ali Mortazavi 5/6, 3rd – 5th Clive Frostick, Giulio Lagumina and Peter Williams 4½/6.

U170 (32 entered)

1st Edward Farrington 5/6, 2nd – 5th Nick Burton, Chris Carr, Ian Deswarte and Jelizaveta Potazova 4½

U145 (19 entered)

1st Charlie Nettleton 6/6, 2nd – 3rd Mark Rivlin and Richard Stokes 4½

U120 (25 entered)

1st Kenneth Burns 5½/6, 2nd Alister Smith 5, 3rd – 5th Tony Bynnersley, Charlie Keen and Mukunth Raveendram 4½

Women's Invitational (10 player all play all)

1st – 2nd Dagne Ciukstye (England) and Gulishkan Nakhbayeva (Kazakhstan) 7½/9, 3rd Deimante Daulyte (Lithuania) 5½

England Junior Rapidplay (75 entered)

1st Ravi Haria 5½/6, 2nd – 6th Peter Batchelor, Girinas Haridath, Marcus Harvey, Peter Lalic and Guy Moss 5.

Veteran Victor Korchnoi gave two simultaneous displays

- John Philpott

The pictures below are by Ray Morris-Hill. Ray's excellent photography can be appreciated fully on his website at - [http:// raymorris-hill.smugmug.com/](http://raymorris-hill.smugmug.com/)



Clockwise from the top left -
the Classic stage | Michael Adams starts his simul
session | Luke McShane, Vishy Anand, Lawrence
Trent and Stuart Conquest | Nigel Short and
Magnus Carlsen, unable to escape the press attention
| an excellent b&w of Meri Grigoryan | Garry
Kasparov and the LCC winner - Vladimir Kramnik



Junior Chess

World Youth Chess Championships 2011

- Reports by Sonal Haria

Pre-Tournament Training

We all gathered at Wellington College on 5th and 6th November for training, organised by Andrew Martin. Andrew took the group on Saturday and Simon did the coaching on Sunday. Jovanka was unable to join us as she was playing at the European Team Championship. All nine players were present and it was obvious from the start that the group bonded well and team spirit was already high. Parents took the opportunity to discuss the trip in detail and to get to know our new Director of Junior Chess, Phil Ehr

Head of Delegation – Phil Ehr

Coaches: Andrew Martin, Simon Williams, Jovanka Houska

Age and section, player and accompanying parent

Under 10 Open, Anthony Zhang, Ying Zi

Under 10 Girls, Akshaya Kalaiyalahan, Sasi

Under 12 Open, Ravi Haria, Sonal

Under 12 Girls, Cosima Keen, Isabel

Under 14 Open, William Foo, Sherrie

Under 14 Girls, Katherine Shepherd, David

Under 16 Open, Brandon Clarke, Dionne

Under 16 Girls, Jennifer Ehr, Phil

Under 18 Open, Yang-Fan Zhou IM, Ping



Day One – Our journey

Our group of 21 met at Heathrow Airport on Wednesday 16th November, for a late BA flight to Sao Paulo. The players all wore their England polo shirts and hoodies. The players felt proud representing England and were clearly united as a team. We gathered quite a lot of interest from BA staff and people in general.

The flight to Sao Paulo was approximately 11 hours 40 minutes so we tried to get some rest. On reaching Sao Paulo we checked in for our internal transfer to Goiana. On arrival, we found our coach was delayed due to a possible flat tyre. We waited patiently for the situation to be resolved. After a long delay we finally set off and arrived at Villas di Roma tired and hungry.

On checking in we found that the rooms were small and not at all well equipped for chess players (no table or chair). There was not much that could be done. The reception staff do not speak much English. We had no choice but to accept any difficulties and we started to adjust to the environment. A team meeting followed with dinner in our new home.

It was an early bedtime for everyone except our leader, Phil Ehr, who attended a technical meeting at the chess venue at 10 pm.

Day Three – Round 2

All players are settled now and used to the daily routine. Each morning this involves coaching, preparing, swimming, resting. The weather is hot and sunny. There is tremendous support among the group and we are definitely enjoying each other's company. This is very important when you are so far from home.

Before heading to the tournament hall, we met for a team meeting to encourage the players and ensure there were no issues or concerns. The best game of the day prize, for Round One was presented to Brandon, who won 10 Reais (£4.00)

The team score today was 5/9

Day Four – Rounds 3 & 4

Today was the double round day with games at 10:00 and 17:00. The players were up preparing, consulting with coaches and eating breakfast in a hurry. Everyone got to the hall in plenty of time to settle down. There was a possibility that long games would mean players may miss lunch and/or dinner as the hotel were not willing to adjust the times – the organisers had obviously not bothered with making the necessary arrangements. Luckily, everyone managed to finish in good time.

It was a tiring day for the players, coaches and parents. Fortunately, Monday is the rest day and the round 5 is on Tuesday. Coaching slots have already been organised for the morning and then we are all looking forward to relaxing. Some of us will visit the water park which is only across the road. No one seems keen on sightseeing as this is a pretty remote location!

Team scores - Round 3: 5/9, Round 4: 5/9

Day Five – the rest day

The Water Park we had all been looking forward to visiting (across the road from the hotel) was closed today! This was a disappointment for the group. Determined to enjoy the rest day, we soon put this aside and spent the day in other nearby hotel swimming pools, on the football court (the boys, Simon and Phil), playing blitz, shopping etc. The players also spent some serious time preparing for Round 5 games. The coaches were available and helped the players

prepare.

Day Six – Round 5

Coaching resumed early, with the players focussed and in good spirits. The losses were tough with players in good positions against strong opponents. An interesting theme today was either wins or losses, with no drawn games!

Team score: 5/9

Day Seven – Round 6

Team spirit is extremely high. The players are working hard and all motivated to win. There is a warm and friendly atmosphere among the team and the players are all encouraging each other. Thank you to all who are watching and supporting us at home!

Team score: 5½ / 9

Day Eight – Round 7

The players are all working hard and genuinely enjoying their games. Each evening they show their games with pride to the coaches and spectators with a real sense of achievement, whatever the outcome. There is excitement when the next day's pairings are due. Internet is almost impossible at this time so we are relying on messages from home to get the pairings so players and coaches can start to think about the next day.

After the games today, we had a team meeting. Ravi, Yang-Fan and Jennifer were presented with best game prizes of 10 Reais each.

Two more rounds left now! Team score: 4½ / 9

Day Nine – Round 8

Only one more round to go – starts at 10:00 am tomorrow and the closing ceremony is in the evening. Then we start our journey back on Sunday morning. About 2 and half hours to Goiânia by coach, followed by a flight to Sao Paulo, then an 11 hour stopover and a 12 hour flight back home. We will arrive around midday on Monday – total travel time of 31 hours and then getting home from the airport.

Team score: 4½ / 9

Results in full

Round 1

Board	Player	Fide	Result	Opponent	Fide	Fed
11	Akshaya (w)	1668	1 – 0	Penafiel Mendoza, Josselyne	0	ECU
58	Anthony (b)	0	½ – ½	Wong Wang Tat	0	MAC
28	Cosima (b)	1718	½ – ½	Jacobsen, Elise Sjøttem	0	NOR
11	Ravi (w)	2045	1 – 0	Baterdene, Tsogbayar	1647	MGL
38	Katherine (w)	1777	1 – 0	Hou, Louisa Qianqian	0	CAN
64	William (b)	1925	1 – 0	Rosa, Paulo Esteveao	0	BRA
24	Jennifer (w)	1509	0 – 1	Hakimifard, Raana	2016	IRI
41	Brandon (w)	2140	1 – 0	Chalabi, Max	1573	LUX
4	Yang-Fan (b)	2436	1 – 0	Abarca Gonzalez, Nicolas	2098	CHI

Day Ten – Round 9

There was great excitement for the final round. We were excited because Ravi was playing to win a silver medal if he won his game. His game was long and he drew against a highly rated Indian player. All players had tough opponents and prepared for one more battle. We did not score as highly as we had hoped in this final round.

Team score: 3½ / 9

Ravi and Yang-Fan both received medals for 6th place, on tie break, in their sections and finished with excellent scores – Ravi 7/9 (joint 3rd) and Yang-Fan 6 ½ / 9 (joint 5th)



After the games, many of us went to the Water Park. Unfortunately, it was raining heavily, but it did not stop us having fun! In the evening, we had dinner together and celebrated Katherine's 14th birthday. Isabel organised a delicious cake and we presented Katherine with gifts.

After this we attended the closing ceremony and prize giving. Ravi and Yang-Fan were cheered by the team when they went on the stage to collect their medals. It was a great event.

The tournament is over and we have really enjoyed being in Brazil. This has been a fantastic group of juniors, parents and of course coaches.

Thank you to all at home who have supported us for the last 12 days.

Round 2

Board	Player	Fide	Result	Opponent	Fide	Fed
9	Akshaya (b)	1668	1 – 0	Lopez Sanchez, Anastacia	0	MEX
35	Anthony (w)	0	1 – 0	Alargon, G. Alejandro	0	PER
22	Cosima (w)	1718	1 – 0	Wang, Alyssa	0	WLS
11	Ravi (b)	2045	½ – ½	He, Tommy O, FM	1844	USA
12	Katherine (b)	1777	½ – ½	Srija, Seshadri, WFM	1926	IND
28	William (w)	1925	0 – 1	Sadikhov, Ulvi	2140	AZE
26	Jennifer (b)	1509	½ – ½	Durmaz, Ayca Fatma	1840	TUR
11	Brandon (b)	2140	0 – 1	Mons, Leon	2311	GER
4	Yang-Fan (w)	2436	½ – ½	Rosen, Eric S	2305	USA

Round 3

Board	Player	Fide	Result	Opponent	Fide	Fed
2	Akshaya (w)	1668	½ – ½	WFM Caballero Q M Mishel	1770	PER
14	Anthony (b)	0	0 – 1	FM Mitrabha Guha	1931	IND
14	Cosima (b)	1718	1 – 0	Brandl Lea Maria	1556	GER
14	Ravi (w)	2045	1 – 0	Goncalves Leonardo Y Po	1834	BRA
13	Katherine (b)	1777	0 – 1	Amrayeva Aytan	1932	AZE
43	William (b)	1925	1 – 0	Guo Hong-Wei Bill W	1746	RSA
33	Jennifer (w)	1509	1 – 0	Bernal Hurtado Constanza	0	CHI
28	Brandon (b)	2140	0 – 1	Arias Juan Cruz	1826	ARG
9	Yang-Fan (w)	2436	½ – ½	FM Hartl Daniel	2272	AUT

Round 4

Board	Player	Fide	Result	Opponent	Fide	Fed
4	Akshaya (b)	1668	0 -1	Badelka Olga	0	BLR
26	Anthony (w)	0	0 – 1	Lu Albert	2043	USA
8	Cosima (w)	1718	0 – 1	WFM Ivana Maria Furtado	2092	IND
9	Ravi (b)	2045	1 – 0	Winiarski Mikolaj	1888	POL
19	Katherine (b)	1777	½ – ½	Valyi Adel	1904	HUN
20	William (w)	1925	1 – 0	Akhmetov Ayan	2158	KAZ
23	Jennifer (b)	1509	1 – 0	Loaiza Yurani	1936	COL
32	Brandon (b)	2140	1 – 0	Puppi Lazo Jorge Luis	1877	PER
7	Yang-Fan (w)	2436	½ – ½	Kozganbay Erken	2249	KAZ

Round 5

Board	Player	Fide	Result	Opponent	Fide	Fed
11	Akshaya (w)	1668	1 – 0	Valdez Carlita	1487	BOL
48	Anthony (b)	0	1 – 0	Aguerre Valentin	0	URU
11	Cosima (b)	1718	1 – 0	Rodriguez Sofia	1870	COL
2	Ravi (w)	2045	0 – 1	Gledura Benjamin	2230	HUN
26	Katherine (b)	1777	1 – 0	Bermudez Veliz Josselyn	1624	ECU
16	William (b)	1925	0 – 1	IM Oparin Grigoriy	2476	RUS
16	Jennifer (w)	1509	0 – 1	WFM Nguyen Thi Thuy Trien	1928	VIE
27	Brandon (b)	2140	0 – 1	Alarcon Careaga Gustavo	1907	CHI
11	Yang-Fan (w)	2436	1 – 0	Gusain Himal	2226	IND

Round 6

Board	Player	Fide	Result	Opponent	Fide	Fed
5	Akshaya (b)	1668	0 – 1	Bansi Prathima M	1681	IND
35	Anthony (w)	0	1 – 0	Jaramillo David	1452	ECU
9	Cosima (w)	1718	1 – 0	Patino Garcia Corals	1829	VEN
11	Ravi (b)	2045	1 – 0	Costachi Mihnea	1912	ROU
13	Katherine (w)	1777	0 – 1	Menzi Nezihe Ezgi	1911	TUR
22	William (w)	1925	½ – ½	Black James A	2132	USA
20	Jennifer (w)	1509	0 – 1	Rodrigues Fernanda D Santos	1953	BRA
32	Brandon (b)	2140	1 – 0	Mcdonald Ian	1858	SCO
6	Yang-Fan (w)	2436	1 – 0	Torres Juan Camilo	2267	COL

Round 7

Board	Player	Fide	Result	Opponent	Fide	Fed
10	Akshaya (w)	1668	½ – ½	Davis Katherine	0	USA
23	Anthony (b)	0	0 – 1	Liu Bovey	0	USA
4	Cosima (b)	1718	0 – 1	Gazikova Veronika	1925	SVK
7	Ravi (w)	2045	1 – 0	Morozov Nikita	1931	MDA
25	Katherine (b)	1777	½ – ½	Olaya Sandra	1634	ECU
27	William (b)	1925	0 – 1	Krishnan Varun	2108	USA
30	Jennifer (b)	1509	½ – ½	Orbezo Rosales Ximena Lucia	1789	PER
24	Brandon (b)	2140	1 – 0	Barcarce Cristian	1944	ARG
3	Yang-Fan (w)	2436	1 – 0	FM Vlasak Lukas	2319	CZE

Round 8

Board	Player	Fide	Result	Opponent	Fide	Fed
10	Akshaya (b)	1668	½ – ½	Du Toit Stephanie	0	WLS
33	Anthony (b)	0	1 – 0	Miller Matute Marlon Eduardo	0	HON
7	Cosima (b)	1718	0 – 1	Ding Kimberly	1976	USA
5	Ravi (b)	2045	1 – 0	Martinez Alcantara Jose E	1995	PER
18	Katherine (b)	1777	0 – 1	Clavijo Indira	1668	PER
39	William (w)	1925	1 – 0	Saetre Mathias	1754	NOR
28	Jennifer (w)	1509	0 – 1	Leonardi Caterina	1795	SLO
23	Brandon (b)	2140	1 – 0	Vizzoto Bernado	2009	BRA
3	Yang-Fan (w)	2436	0 – 1	Stany G A	2395	IND

Round 9

Board	Player	Fide	Result	Opponent	Fide	Fed
9	Akshaya (w)	1668	½ – ½	Devagharan Devina	0	USA
23	Anthony (w)	0	½ – ½	Sandoval Mercado Carlos	1791	MEX
16	Cosima (w)	1718	0 – 1	Waechter Nathalie	1655	GER
2	Ravi (w)	2045	½ – ½	Karthikeyan Murali	2154	IND
28	Katherine (w)	1777	½ – ½	Correa Lucila	1612	ARG
23	William (b)	1925	½ – ½	Tomici Stefan	2160	ROU
33	Jennifer (b)	1509	0 – 1	Huber Elke Carola	1724	AUT
15	Brandon (w)	2140	0 – 1	IM Andersen Mads	2384	DEN
3	Yang-Fan (b)	2436	1 – 0	WGM Cori T. Deysi	2414	PER

National Prep Schools Rapidplay

Aldro School hosted the Championships again this year and there was an excellent turn-out with 125 children playing in 5 different age groups. Everyone enjoyed the tournament and there were some high quality games.

Individual results

U13 Champion – Daniel d'Souza -Eva (Magdalen College School) 122 grade 5/5

Runners-up – Oliver Harvey Piper, Sam James and Evan Wang 3/5

U12 Champion – Beatrice Steele (Guildford High) 115 grade 5/5

Runners-up – Henry Phillips and Gwilym Price 4/5

U11 Champion – Aditya Yanamanadra (Homefield) 112 grade 5/5

Runners-up – Joel Malam, Ross Milverton and David Phillips 4/5

U10 Champion – Rahul Desai (Homefield) 5/5

Runners-up – Adam Choudhury, Aaran Suriyakumaran and Archie Woodhouse 4/5

U9 Champion – Kiren Lee (Homefield) 5/5

Runners-up – Amardip Ahluwalia 4.5/5; Alex Blake-Martin, Jack Daly, Luca Fooks, Justin Lu, Humza Rafi and Danyal Warsop 4/5



Team results

The best 4 players from each of the 19 schools contributed to the team scores

1st – Homefield (20 points) National Champions Cup

2nd – Magdalen College School (17 points) 2nd Place

Trophy

3rd – Twickenham Prep (15.5) 3rd Place Trophy

4th Aldro (15)

5th Copthorne (13.5)

Mrs Pat Armstrong (Wey Valley Chess organiser) kindly presented trophies to all the players scoring 4 points or more and medals to all the children scoring 3 or 3.5 points. The Aldro parents organised the refreshments and raised £168.65 for our local charity, Change of Scene

- D.J.Archer i/c chess at Aldro School

Quadrangular vs Wales & Scotland

This annual event was held over the weekend 10-11 December at Liverpool College. It was a very hard fought contest and, for the first time, the English regions won all three sections. The four teams are: Scotland, Wales, North of England and English Midlands. The U16 section has 6 boards and the other two sections 10 boards. This year there were even a few reserves on site so the total playing exceeded 106.

The Under 16 section was full of some very good chess which went on for the full 150 minutes allowed. Although the North team had the edge there was very little to choose between the other three teams and the results were still in doubt with 30 minutes to go. In the end the North triumphed followed by Scotland, Wales and the Midlands.

At U14 level the North (in fact the North West) are incredibly strong and, even without their top two boards, only dropped 5½ points. The tussle for second place went right up to the final game when Scotland managed to win a rook and pawn ending in an exciting game which showed the strength of the tournament as it was the bottom board! This put the Midlands third with Wales fourth.

The U12s was entirely different. Scotland and the Midlands both won their first two games and thus played for top spot in the final round whilst Wales and the North battled for third and fourth. The Scotland-Midlands match was again decided on the last game, in this case board eight, and the Midlands got their revenge to win 5½ – 4½.

Wales v the North was also nip and tuck with Wales gaining the vital point in the second last game to finish. All in all this was an excellent weekend with a lot of good, fighting chess and some exciting finishes. We will meet again in December 2012

Wilson's School wins the British Chess Educational Trust Award 2011

Chess at the Wilson's School in Surrey is truly impressive. During a visit in November to present the British Chess Educational Trust's award, I was awestruck by the enthusi-

asm of lunchtime activities.

In one of the classrooms, more than a dozen chess sets hosted a variety of blitz and more thoughtful games for players from Year 7 and upwards. One of the students operated the club's ladder, moving players up and down in a projected spreadsheet according to game results. The teacher in charge, Neill Cooper, was called to adjudicate one dispute in which a player was defaulted, suffering the consequence by dropping a place in the ladder. The proceedings were lively, serious and fun. Team lists and standings in the local Briant Poulter League highlighted other useful information on a notice board.

As the lunch hour progressed, a steady stream of players arrived to attack the chess equipment with a sense of alacrity, zeal and purpose. A neighbouring classroom was opened to accommodate the overflow. Meanwhile, downstairs in the comfortable Sixth Form common room, one game drew the attention of no fewer than ten boys who offered advice to their favourites reminiscent of prize-fight banter, as an intense middle game position rapidly melted into a flurry of endgame tactics. These lunchtime activities alone convinced me that there is no finer example of secondary school chess.

The Wilson's School's tradition of excellent results with opposing schools speaks for itself. The school's weekly newsletter almost always carries chess updates. Students here are fortunate to have wonderful opportunities to simply play and have fun with their chess, proving the old adage, "If you ain't havin' fun, you ain't doing it right."

- Phil Ebr, Director of Junior Chess and Education



Old Wilsonian and Honorary GM Harry Golombek, OBE (1911-95) gazes upon Wilson's School chess players Ryan Shankar, Kirishoth Sivalogarajah, Pavan Murali, Michael Banh and Keith Barker

International Round-Up

Hastings International Chess Congress

28 Dec 2011 – 5 Jan 2012

The highest placed English players were grandmasters Glenn Flear, Mark Hebden, David Howell, Nick Pert and Simon Williams who all scored 6/9.

David Haydon drew with Nick Pert and beat IMs Pavel Simacek and Jovanka Houska but a last round loss meant he missed an IM norm by half a point. He had a 2421 performance though and gained over twenty rating points. Other notable English results included Sam Franklin beating Glenn Flear with black in round 3 and Bob Eames beating Keith Arkell with black in round 6. Amy Hoare drew with one player 200 points above her and two players 250 points higher.

37th Seville Open

7th-15th January 2012

Stewart Haslinger is on 3/3 whilst his brother Gareth is on 2.5 and his father Mike 1.

XXII Krakow Open, Poland

27 Dec – 4 Jan

Ian Thompson finished on 4.5/9.

14th Schachfestival Basel

1-5 Jan 2012

David Garner scored 4/7 and Nathan Alfred 4.

Northern California International

Jan 2-8 2012

Adam Hunt scored 4.5/9, Richard Lobo 3/8 and Sabrina Chevannes 0.5/2. Sam Collins, from Ireland, scored 5/9.

CCF New Year LP Congress (inc. FIDE Open)

7-8 Jan 2012

Francis Fields, 13 year old Matthew Grattage and Michael White shared first with 4/5.

Future events -

4NCL Hinckley Island & Wychwood Park

14-15 Jan 2012

The weekend's fixtures include the clash of the two highest rated teams; Wood Green and Guildford on the Sunday.

74th Tata Steel Chess Tournament

13 – 29 January 2012

Matthew Sadler will play in Group C. Sadly Luke McShane was unable to take his place in Group A because of work commitments.

Golden State Open California

13-16 Jan 2012

Adam Hunt will play.

2012 Queenstown Chess Classic, Queenstown, New Zealand

15th-23rd January 2012

Gawain Jones, Ingrid Lauterbach and Malcolm Armstrong are all playing.

Tradewise Gibraltar Chess Festival

24 Jan – 2 Feb 2012

Michael Adams, Nigel Short and David Howell are playing along with Adam Hunt, Craig Hanley and Jovanka Houska.

I encourage players to send me details of events they or others are playing in abroad and I will do my best to include them in my round-up - director.international@englishchess.org.uk

- *Lawrence Cooper, Director of International Chess*

Results Round-Up

4NCL First Weekend

- *from Lawrence Cooper*

The first weekend of the 2011-12 season was split between three venues, Divisions 1 and 2 were played at Staverton Park, Division 3 South was played at the Barcelo in Daventry and the Northern League took place at the Barcelo, Redworth Hall.

I would like to start with a big thank you to the three hotels for accommodating the 4NCL again this season. It is a mutually beneficial arrangement where the league gets good quality rooms and playing space at good prices whilst the hotels are guaranteed to be fully booked and I think its fair to say that bar takings will always be healthy!

Section A of Division One features last year's runners up Wood Green Hilsmark Kingfisher 1. With Pride & Prejudice dropping out of the league WGHK have added Michael Adams, David Howell, John Emms and Chris Ward to their already impressive squad and they will be favourites to top the section. A much stronger Guildford squad and Blackthorne Russia (formerly Betsson) appear to be their closest challengers.

Guildford head the section after the first two rounds by virtue of a 6.5-1.5 win against The ADs and a 5.5-2.5 win over Blackthorne. Romain Edouard, Jim Plaskett and Gavin Wall all scored 2/2.

WGHK 1 also won both matches but were restricted to a

5-3 victory against promoted Anglian Avengers in round 1 with Stephen Gordon and Neil McDonald suffering surprise defeats to David Spence and Alan Merry (aged 14). They beat e2e4.org.uk 5.5-2.5 in round 2 although Jon Speelman and Ketevan Arakhamia lost to Daniel Fernandez (aged 16) and Alexander Longson respectively.

Blackthorne Russia and e2e4.org.uk both won their other match to end the weekend on 2 match points, and are joined by Barbican 2 who defeated Anglian Avengers. The ADs and Bristol are on one match point whilst Anglian Avengers are on 0.

Section B features the strong Cheddleton line up which has been further strengthened by Mark Hebden (who has an uncanny knack of joining teams who subsequently win the league) with Barbican 1 and White Rose likely to be their nearest challengers.

Both Cheddleton and Barbican had comfortable wins in round one but Cheddleton then defeated Barbican 4.5-3.5 with wins for Jonathan Hawkins as black against Matthew Turner, David Eggleston against John Cox and Robert Bellin against Jonathan Rogers. The Barbican wins came for Lorin D'Costa and Ingrid Lauterbach against Arlette van Weersel and Jason McKenna.

White Rose beat both Jutes of Kent and WGHK2 with Gawain Jones beating both Simon Williams and Bogdan Lalic to continue his excellent form from the European Team Championship. James Adair also started with 2/2, including a win against Malcolm Pein.

Cambridge, Oxford and Jutes of Kent all joined Barbican on two match points whilst Guildford 2 and WGHK 2 have yet to get off the mark, albeit the latter defaulted board 8 in round 1 and Brian Smith was pressed into action on both days as the clash with the European Team Championship reduced their selection options. One notable result was that Marcus Harvey (aged 15) defeated Simon Williams on top board in the Oxford-Jutes of Kent match in round 2.

In Section A of Division 2 Kings Head and Poisoned Pawns started with two match wins whilst Pandora's Box and White Rose 2 are on three match points after they drew in round 2. Bradford secured their first points against Cambridge 2 whilst Barbican Youth, Cambridge 2 and FCA Solutions are yet to get off the mark, albeit Barbican Youth defaulted two boards on both days and actually scored 4 points on the 6 boards played against Poisoned Pawns 2 but were deducted 1.5 points for the defaults meaning they lost by the unlikely score of 4-2.5.

In Section B both AMCA Dragons and South Wales Dragons started with two match wins, 3Cs, Brown Jack, Sambuca Sharks and Warwickshire Select are on two whilst Rhyfelwyr Essyllwg and Spirit of Atticus are yet to get off the mark.

North East England, led by FM David Walker and Andrew Dunn, made a strong start to Division 3 North with two wins, including a narrow win against Cheddleton who were the second highest rated team at the first weekend. Bradford B also recorded two 3.5-2.5 victories. Cheddleton 2 and Jorvik both won one match whilst Holmes Chapel and Manchester Manticores are yet to open their account.

Division 3 South looks as wide open as ever with 37 teams of which Celtic Tigers and e2e4.org.uk 2 fielded teams with an average in excess of 2100. Whilst e2e4 started with two match wins, Celtic Tigers lost 1.5-4.5 to British Universities in round 2.

There were also 4NCL debuts for three players under 12; Eva Ressel (FCA Solutions), Theo Slade (Bristol 3) and Harry Grieve (AMCA Cheetahs).

League leaders after 2 rounds on four match points:

Division One Section A: Guildford 1 & WGHK 1.

Division One Section B: Cheddleton 1 & White Rose 1.

Division Two Section A: Kings Head & Poisoned Pawns.

Division Two Section B: AMCA Dragons & South Wales Dragons.

Division Three North: North West England & Bradford DCA Knights B.

Division Three South: KJCA Kings, British Universities CA, Oxford 2, The Rookies, Wessex, Anglian Avengers 2, Leeds University Old Boys, Gloucestershire Gambits, Cambridge University 3 & e2e4.org.uk 2.

The second weekend takes place on the 14th and 15th January 2012 with Divisions 1, 2 and 3 South taking place at the Barcelo Hotel, Hinckley Island with Division 3 North being held at De Vere, Wychwood Park, Crewe.

British Rapidplay 2011



This year's 25th Anniversary British Rapidplay Chess Champion - GM Gawain Jones ...

... with 10.5/11! GM Matthew Turner came second with 9/11. Gawain commented after the event -

'Yes I was tired after 11 rounds, and after being pipped by David Howell in 2010, it was good to win it'

With his fiancée WIM Sue Maroroa by his side, Gawain said he'd appreciated the hall and campus facilities, and looked forward to returning, and hopefully defending his title, in 2012. For more visit www.british-rapidplay.org.uk

98th Richmond Rapidplay results

70 played in the 98th Richmond Rapidplay held on 20th November 2011, and prizes totalling £720 were awarded for the following results:

Open

1st: Richard Bates 5/6

2nd=: Graeme Buckley, Jovica Radovanovic 4.5/6

U190 Grading Prize (and also 2nd=): Robin Haldane 4.5/6

Major (U170)

1st: Max Wood-Robinson 5/6

2nd=: Chris Bellers and Jon Freeman 4.5/6

U150 Grading Prize: Chris Clegg, Akito Oyama and Jake Liang 4/6;

Intermediate (U135)

1st: Richard Meikle-Briggs 5/6

2nd=: Jake Ruse and Peter Watts 4.5/6

U115 Grading Prize (and also 2nd=): Harunobu Oyama 4.5/6

Minor (U100)

1st=: Lee Bullock and James Kerr 5/6

2nd=: Jenisan Kulendiran, Zoe Varney and Delroy Bennett 4/6;

U80 Grading Prize (and also 2nd=): Daniel Varney 4/6

45th Torbay League Congress report

Held at the Riviera International Conference Center, Torquay from the 18th to 20th November 2011

The Congress was held in the Rosetor Suite, which is very popular with the players. Trefor Thynne, President of the Torbay Chess League, opened the Congress welcoming the players to the 45th Torbay Congress.

The Congress is run on the basis of four sections, Swiss pairing system with a very experience Control Team of Ewart Smith (Senior Arbiter), Open; Raymond Chubb, Major; Victor Cross, Intermediate; John Ariss, Minor.

The results of the Open, Major (under 170), Intermediate (under 150) and Minor (under 120) are given below. The full Progress Charts can be also be viewed on the ChessDevon website

OPEN

The Open was closely contested going into the last round, with Keith Arkell G.M. and Dominic Mackle both on 3.5 points with three other players close behind on 3 points.

The following top score pairings for the final round:

Keith Arkell GM (w) Grade 226 on 3.5 points against Dominic Mackle (b) Grade 197 on 3.5 points

Michael Waddington (w) Grade 187 on 3 points against Richard Webster (b) Grade 172 on 3 points

Adrian Archer-Lock (w) Grade 179 on 3 points against Niel

Carr (b) Grade 190 est. on 2.5 points

First Place

The Open was won jointly by Keith Arkell GM (Chaddleton), Dominic Mackle (Newton Abbot) and Richard Webster (West Bridgeford), each on 4/5 and winning £130 each.

180 to 174 Inclusive Grading Prize: won jointly by Adrian Archer-Lock (Maidenhead) Grade 179 and David Littlejohns (Taunton) Grade 174 winning £15 each

Under 174 Grading Prize: won by John Stephenson (Exmouth) Grade 173 winning £30

W.E.C.U. Nominated Qualifying Place for the British Championships in 2012 – Dominic Mackle

MAJOR (grade under 170)

The Major was closely contested into the last round with Paul Jackson leading on 3.5, with three other players on 3. Following top score pairings for the final round:

Ivor Annetts (w) Grade 152 against Paul Jackson (b) Grade 166

Richard Desmedt (w) Grade 155 against Roger Greatorrex (b) Grade 154

A number of players on 2.5 had a chance of coming in the three top prizes

First Place

The Major was won jointly by Paul Jackson (Coulsdon) and Richard Desmedt (Wombell) on 4/5, winning £90 each

Third Place

Ronnie Burton (Weymouth) on 3.5/5 Grade 160 winning £40

Ivor Annetts (Tiverton) on 3.5/5 Grade 152 – choosing to take Under 152 Grading Prize

156 to 153 inclusive Grading Prize: won by Roger Greatorrex (Llangollen) Grade 154, on 3/5 points winning £30

152 and under Grading Prize: won by Ivor Annetts (Tiverton) Grade 152 on 3.5 points and winning £30

INTERMEDIATE (grade under 150)

The Intermediate had a clear leader on 4 points into the last round with four players on 3.5 points, with the following top score pairings for the final round:

Nigel Dicker (w) Grade 139 against Peter Dimond (b) Grade 135

Mathew Wilson (w) Grade 136 against Ben Wilkinson (b) Grade 137

David Buttell (w) Grade 146 con. against Timothy Crouch (b) Grade 134

Equal First Place

The final result ended in a 2-way tie for first place Nigel Dicker (Glastonbury) and Mathew Wilson (Wigston) on 4.5 points, each winning £90

Third Place

Alan Papier (Bristol and Clifton) Grade 140 on 4 points

139 to 134 inclusive Grading Prize: jointly won by Peter Dimond (Bath); Timothy Crouch (Kings Head); David Gilbert (DHSS)

133 to 126 inclusive Grading Prize: won by Michael Cuggy (Brixham) Grade 133 on 4 points

Under 125 Grading Prize: won jointly by Theo Slade (Barnstaple), David Jenkins (Camborne) and Stuart Ross (Shifnal and Telford)

MINOR (grade under 120)

The Minor had a clear leader on 4 points into the last round with one player on 3.5 points, with 6 players on 3 points. The following were the top score pairings for the final round:

Jacque Barber-Lafon (w) Grade 113 on 4 points against Tony Tatam (b) Grade 116 on 3.5 points

Hazel Welch (w) Grade 115 against Marian Cox (b) Grade 105

Alan Fraser (w) Grade 110 against David Healy Grade 116
Philip Spargo (w) Grade 114 against Ian Bowman Grade 103

First Place

Winner of the Minor was by Tony Tatam (Plymouth) scoring 4.5 / 5 points and winning £110

Equal Third Place

Jacque Barber-Lafon (Newton Abbot); Hazel Welch (Seaton); Alan Fraser (Beckham and Bromley) scoring 4 / 5 and winning £37 each

Under 110 Grading Prize: won by Ian Bowman (Liskeard) on 3.5 points, winning £30

Under 96 Grading Prize: shared between Brian Aldwin (Exeter) and Geoffrey Jenkins (Exeter), each on 3 points and winning £15 each

Best Score by a Junior – John Whitfield Cup, awarded to the best junior score across all 4 sections. The winner was Theodore Slade in the Intermediate Section scoring 3 from 5 at the age of 11 years, Grade 122

Bury Rapidplay report

- report from Bernard Sharples, President Bury Chess Club

The Bury Rapidplay Congress at Elton Vale Sports Club on Sunday 4th December was a tremendous success. A total of 95 competitors, in three sections, battled for a share of £675 in prizes. Sponsored by Bury Accountants Metcalfes, the congress also forms part of the ECF and the Midlands U150 Rapidplay Chess Grand Prix.

Six games over one day, at a time limit of 30 minutes each per game, represents serious concentration, but the prize winners returned impressive scores. Winner of the Open Section was Don Mason from Shirley Chess Club with a score of 5/6, and joint runners-up were Mike Surtees and Nathan Taylor, both of Bolton, with 4.5/6. The U170 section joint winners were Martin Burns (Stockport) and Brendan Kane (Aigburth) with 5/6, runners-up Geoff Laurence (Macclesfield) and Tom Robinson (Redditch) scored 4.5. The U130 section was won by Tim Hilton (3C's) with 5.5, chased by four on 5 points.

Entries included a phalanx of juniors from 3C's (Oldham), and a special Junior (U14) Prize was won by Becky Kerton with an impressive 4.5 points in the Minor, leaving most of

the adults in her wake!

The best score by a Bury member, to win the Lodwig Gruchlik Trophy, was shared by Sheraz Khalil, who won a grade prize in the Major, and Sam Hedges in the Minor, with 3.5.

Controllers Rod Middleton, Julian Clissold and Anthony Lee ran the show cheerfully and efficiently, and the Sports Club staff provided a warm welcome, and refreshments

1st Rochester Chess Congress report

– from Tyrone Jeffries

Due to the number of entries, the Tournament became an all play all event and was won by Reagan Pinto of Ilford Chess Club. Reagan overcame a long and time-consuming journey to the three day event (and was a worthy winner) by scoring 5.5 from six games played. All of us enjoyed the post-mortem analysis given by Reagan after each game

Golders Green Rapidplay **7th January results**

OPEN

Peter Sowray (214) and Alan Merry (189) 5/6 £45 each
Martin Cutmore (173, 2.5/6) won the Under 175 grading prize of £20

MAJOR Under 170

David Sedgwick (150) and Morris Stranger (161) 4.5/6 and £45 each
Colin Lyne (153) won the Under 155 grading prize of £20 with his score of 4/6

MINOR Under 145

Charlie Nettleton (143) 5.5/6 and £60
John Macdonald (131) 5/6 £30
Under 130 grading prize Chris Fewtrell (121) 4.5/6 £20

AMATEUR Under 120

1st – Jacob Cheyette (101) 5/6 £45
2nd – Jeremy Hodgson (UNG) 5/6 £30
3rd – Tony Bynnersley (111) 4.5/6 £15
Under 105 grading prize to Stephen Burt (54) with 4/6 and £20

The ECF Grading Database can be found at a new address, effective immediately – please update your bookmarks!



The new URL is – <http://ecfgrading.org.uk/>

The 87th Hastings International Chess Congress
The Masters Tournament
Places 1 - 100

Rank/Name	Score	Fed.	M/F	Rating	TPR	W-We	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1/2
1 GM Wang, Yue		7.5	CHN	M	2697	2774	0.81	1	1	1/2	1	1	1	1/2	1	
2 GM Istratescu, Andrei	7	FRA	M	2627	2672	0.54	1	1	1	1/2	1/2	0	1	1	1	
3 IM Lalith, Babu M.R.	7	IND	M	2484	2657	2.01	1	1	0	1	1	1	1/2	1	1/2	
4 IM Shyam, Sundar M.	7	IND	M	2462	2604	1.73	0	1	1	1	1	1	1/2	1	1/2	
5 GM Vovk, Yuri	6.5	UKR	M	2571	2511	-0.39	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1/2	
6 GM Sengupta, Deep	6.5	IND	M	2562	2616	0.72	1	1	1/2	1/2	1	1	1/2	0	1	
7 IM Das, Arghyadip	6.5	IND	M	2470	2568	1.31	1	1	1/2	1/2	1	0	1	1/2	1	
8 GM Howell, David W L	6	ENG	M	2633	2547	-0.7	1	1	1	1/2	0	1/2	0	1	1	
9 GM Edouard, Romain	6	FRA	M	2621	2528	-0.93	1	1	1/2	1/2	1	1/2	1	0	1/2	
10 GM Pert, Nicholas	6	ENG	M	2563	2518	-0.32	1/2	1	1/2	1	1	0	1	1/2	1/2	
11 GM Hebden, Mark L	6	ENG	M	2515	2490	-0.17	1	1	0	1	1/2	1	1/2	0	1	
12 GM Williams, Simon K	6	ENG	M	2513	2516	0.15	1	1/2	1	1	1/2	1/2	1/2	0	1	
13 GM Holzke, Frank	6	GER	M	2506	2514	0.21	1	1/2	1/2	1	1	1/2	0	1	1/2	
14 IM Shyam, Nikil P.	6	IND	M	2482	2412	-0.63	1/2	1	1	0	1/2	1	1/2	1/2	1	
15 GM Flear, Glenn C	6	ENG	M	2472	2372	-0.89	1/2	1/2	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	
16 IM Simacek, Pavel	6	CZE	M	2448	2445	0.08	1	0	1	1/2	1	0	1	1	1/2	
17 IM Anwesh, Upadhyaya	6	IND	M	2413	2394	-0.09	1	1/2	1/2	0	1	1	1/2	1/2	1	
18 IM Roy Chowdhury, Saptarshi	6	IND	M	2411	2360	-0.37	1/2	1/2	1	1	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1	
19 WGM Padmini, Rout	6	IND	F	2392	2356	-0.22	=	1/2	1	1	0	1/2	1	1/2	1	
20 IM Kjartansson, Gudmundur	6	ISL	M	2326	2499	1.96	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	
21 GM Vovk, Andrey	5.5	UKR	M	2551	2455	-0.88	1	1/2	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	
22 IM Demuth, Adrien	5.5	FRA	M	2442	2309	-1.29	1	0	1/2	1	0	1	1	1/2	1/2	
23 IM Vuilleumier, Alexandre	5.5	SUI	M	2356	2364	0.18	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1/2	
24 IM Godard, Maxence	5.5	FRA	M	2333	2454	1.43	1	1/2	1	1/2	0	0	1	1	1/2	
25 IM Knott, Simon J B	5.5	ENG	M	2332	2366	0.43	1/2	1	0	1	1	1/2	0	1/2	1	
26 FM Haydon, David L	5.5	ENG	M	2296	2421	1.43	1/2	1/2	1/2	1	1	1	0	1	0	
27 MacQueen, Calum	5.5	SCO	M	2219	2312	1.2	0	1/2	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	
28 WIM Olsarova, Karolina	5.5	CZE	F	2167	2437	2.62	1	0	1	1	0	1/2	1	1/2	1/2	
29 Karthikeyan, Murali	5.5	IND	M	2154	2359	2.12	1/2	1/2	1	0	1	1	1/2	1/2	1/2	
30 IM Houska, Jovanka	5	ENG	F	2415	2336	-0.86	1	0	1	1	0	1	1/2	0	1/2	
31 IM Rendle, Thomas E	5	ENG	M	2389	2284	-1.03	1	0	1	1/2	1	0	1	0	1/2	
32 FM Griffiths, Ryan Rhys	5	IRL	M	2310	2369	0.66	0	1	1	1	0	1	1/2	1/2	0	

33	FM	Radovanovic, Jovica	5	SRB	M	2309	2219	-1.05	1/2	1/2	1	1/2	1/2	1	0	0	1	1/2
34	FM	Massoni, Michael	5	FRA	M	2304	2424	1.36	1	1/2	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1/2
35	FM	Stewart, Neil	5	GER	M	2299	2249	-0.61	0	1/2	0	1	1	1	1/2	1	0	0
36	IM	Rudd, Jack	5	ENG	M	2290	2226	-0.71	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0
37	Longson,	Alexander	5	ENG	M	2281	2274	-0.1	0	1/2	1	1	1/2	1	0	1	0	0
38	FM	Furman, Boris	5	RUS	M	2280	2315	0.36	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0
39	IM	Prosviriakov, Vladimir	5	USA	M	2274	2334	0.71	0	1/2	1/2	1	1	1	1/2	1/2	0	0
40	Sreeves,	Clement	5	SCO	M	2247	2079	-1.58	0	0	1	1	1/2	0	1/2	1	+	0
41	FM	Eames, Robert S	5	ENG	M	2241	2377	1.52	1/2	1	1/2	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
42	FM	Ledger, Dave J	5	ENG	M	2228	2251	0.26	1/2	1/2	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
43	Kewes,	Gerd	5	GER	M	2222	2161	-0.74	0	1/2	1	1/2	0	1/2	1	1/2	1	1
44	CM	Briscoe, Chris	5	ENG	M	2220	2149	-0.69	0	0	1	1	1	0	1/2	0	1	1
45	FM	Britton, Richard L	5	ENG	M	2219	2221	-0.02	1/2	1/2	1/2	1	0	1	0	1	1/2	0
46	Bremner,	Adam	5	SCO	M	2195	2296	1.1	1/2	1	1/2	0	1	0	1	1/2	1/2	0
47	Maciol,	Ryszard	5	POL	M	2185	2263	0.96	1/2	1/2	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0
48	Waddington,	Mike P	5	ENG	M	2114	2201	0.9	0	1/2	0	1	1	1	1/2	0	1	1
49	WFM	Pon, NKrithika	5	IND	F	2091	2324	2.58	1	0	1	0	1	1	1/2	1/2	0	0
50	GM	Arkell, Keith C	4.5	ENG	M	2418	2281	-1.52	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1/2	0
51	FM	Eggleston, David J	4.5	ENG	M	2367	2106	-2.70	1/2	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0
52	Krishna,	C.r.g.	4.5	IND	M	2305	2139	-1.79	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1/2	0
53	Repplinger,	Marc	4.5	GER	M	2241	2100	-1.44	1/2	1/2	1/2	0	0	1	1/2	1	1/2	0
54	Surendran,	N.	4.5	IND	M	2207	2178	-0.31	0	1/2	1	1	1/2	1/2	0	1	0	0
55	Grant,	Alan G	4.5	SCO	M	2186	2121	-0.62	0	1/2	1	1	0	1/2	1/2	0	1	1
56	Lock,	Gavin R	4.5	ENG	M	2157	2235	+0.65	1	0	1	0	1	0	1/2	1	0	0
57	Hagesaether,	Arne	4.5	NOR	M	2152	2126	-0.26	0	1	1	1/2	1/2	0	0	1/2	1	1
58	Jaunooby,	Ali R	4.5	ENG	M	2144	2275	+1.42	1	0	1/2	1	0	0	1	1/2	1/2	0
59	Burnett,	Jim	4.5	ENG	M	2137	2110	-0.33	1/2	0	1	1/2	1/2	1	0	1/2	1/2	0
60	Almond,	Richard J	4.5	ENG	M	2115	2213	+0.92	1	1/2	1/2	0	1/2	0	1/2	1/2	1	1
61	Edwards,	Jonathan	4.5	SCO	M	1825 *	2156	2156	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	1/2	0
62	Talsma,	Paul	4.0	NED	M	2246	2228	-0.40	0	1	1	0	1/2	1	1/2	0	0	0
63	WIM	Olsarova, Tereza	4.0	CZE	F	2232	2057	-2.05	0	1	1/2	1/2	0	0	1	0	1	1
64	Snape,	Ian L	4.0	ENG	M	2231	2225	-0.12	1	0	1	1/2	0	1	0	0	1/2	0
65	IM	Marusenko, Petr	4.0	UKR	M	2198	2120	-0.84	+	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
66	Sugden,	John N	4.0	ENG	M	2180	2052	-1.43	1/2	0	1	0	0	1/2	1	1/2	1/2	0
67	Franklin,	Samuel G A	4.0	ENG	M	2179	2235	+0.53	1/2	1	1	0	0	1/2	0	1/2	1/2	0
68	Martinsen,	Stig K	4.0	NOR	M	2145	2143	-0.18	1	1/2	0	1/2	0	1/2	0	1	1/2	0
69	Helbig,	Paul D	4.0	ENG	M	2128	2072	-0.67	1/2	1/2	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0
70	Gregory,	Stephen J	4.0	ENG	M	2124	2129	+0.19	1/2	0	1/2	1	1	0	1	0	0	0
71	FM	Lasinskas, Povilas	4.0	LTU	M	2122	2142	+0.12	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	-	0
72	WIM	Lakshmi, Sahiti P.	4.0	IND	F	2110	2111	-0.16	1	1	0	0	0	1/2	1/2	0	1	1

73 McKenna, Jason P	4.0	ENG	M	2110	2178	+0.44	1	1/2	0	0	1	1/2	1/2	0	1/2
74 De Andres Gonolons, Fernan	4.0	ESP	M	2091	2035	-0.62	1	0	1/2	0	1	0	0	1/2	1
75 Duff, Rufus	4.0	ENG	M	2088	2168	+0.94	1/2	1	0	0	1	0	1/2	1	0
76 Roubaud, Alexandre	4.0	FRA	M	2086	2183	+1.13	1	1/2	0	1	1/2	0	1	0	0
77 Barton, R Alan	4.0	ENG	M	2073	2093	+0.24	1	1/2	0	1/2	0	0	1	0	1
78 WFM Saranya, J	4.0	IND	F	2069	2112	+0.31	1	1/2	0	0	1/2	1	1	0	1/2
79 Drogou, Gerard	4.0	FRA	M	2063	2055	-0.23	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1
80 Luaces Rubio, Alfredo	4.0	ESP	M	2020	2143	+1.13	1	1/2	=	1/2	0	0	1/2	0	1
81 Pickersgill, Adrian O	4.0	ENG	M	2162	+1.92	1	1/2	0	1/2	1	0	0	1/2	1/2	
82 Olson, Hamish	4.0	SCO	M	1965	2087	+1.10	0	1	1/2	0	1	0	1/2	1/2	1/2
83 Green, Andrew D	3.5	SCO	M	2145	1994	-1.52	1	0	0	1	0	0	1/2	0	1
84 FM Cafferty, Bernard	3.5	ENG	M	2127	2000	-1.20	1/2	0	0	1/2	=	1	1/2	0	1/2
85 WFM Bharathi, R.	3.5	IND	F	2094	1966	-1.17	0	0	1	1/2	1	0	1/2	0	1/2
86 Kurka, Dieter	3.5	GER	M	2058	2060	+0.02	1	1/2	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
87 Haria, Ravi	3.5	ENG	M	2045	2009	-0.29	1/2	0	0	1/2	0	1	1	1/2	-
88 Armstrong, Malcolm J	3.5	ENG	M	2016	2042	+0.24	0	1	1/2	0	0	1	1/2	1/2	0
89 Wallis, Ian J	3.5	ENG	M	2041	+0.29	1/2	1	0	0	0	1/2	0	1	1/2	
90 Spanton, Tim R	3.5	ENG	M	1978	1756	-1.68	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1/2	1
91 Calvert, D Ian	3.5	ENG	M	1947	1891	-0.54	1/2	1/2	0	0	=	0	1/2	1/2	1
92 Taylor, Adam C	3.5	ENG	M	1772	2011	+1.93	0	1/2	0	1/2	1	0	1/2	1/2	1/2
93 Rajesh, Gorak	3.5	ENG	M	1401	1758	+2.86	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1/2	1
94 IM Pert, Richard G	3.0	ENG	M	2455	2283	-1.00	1/2	1	1/2	1	0	-	-	-	-
95 Anderson, John	3.0	ENG	M	2202	2158	-0.48	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	-	-
96 Rolvag, Mikael	3.0	NOR	M	2201	2004	-2.36	1/2	1/2	1	0	0	1/2	0	1/2	0
97 Canonne, Antoine	3.0	FRA	M	2023	1990	-0.35	1/2	1/2	0	0	1	0	1/2	1/2	0
98 Hoare, Amy B	3.0	ENG	F	1930	2016	+0.71	1/2	1/2	0	0	=	1/2	0	1	0
99 Bourached, Anthony	3.0	IRL	M	1895	1881	-0.18	0	1	0	1/2	0	0	1/2	0	1
100 O'Grady, Gary P.	3.0	IRL	M	1880	1931	+0.47	0	1/2	0	1/2	1/2	0	1/2	0	1

Grand Prix Leader Boards

English Chess Federation Grand Prix 2011-12 Leader Boards 23rd December 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 Arkell, Keith CC	Long Eaton	635
2 Hebden, Mark L	4NCL Pride and Prejudice	606
3 Surtees, Mike J	Bolton	527
4 Bonafont, Philip R	Hemel Hempstead	523
5 O'Toole, George E	4NCL Barbican	500
6 Hawkins, Jonathan	Consett	492
7 Jaunooby, Ali Reza	Three C's	481
8 Williams, Simon K	Sandhurst	477
9 Newton, Robert A	Heywood	473
10 Cutmore, David A	Wood Green	473
11 Holland, James P	Berkshire Junior	471
12 Merry, Alan B	Bury St Edmunds	464
13 Milson, Samuel A	Louth	464
14 Jackson, Oliver A	Cheshire/N.Wales *	449
14 Tozer, Philip AA	Athenaeum	449

Graded Prix: 160-179

Name	Club/Area	Pts
1 Bryant, Richard BE	Oswestry	565
2 Prior, Stephen CV	Sheffield University	495
3 Jones, Steven A	Grappenhall	493
4 Jackson, Paul G	Coulsdon CF	484
5 Burke, Mitchell R	Three C's	464
6 Muleady, Peter J	Atherton	456
7 Cutmore, Martin J	Wood Green	450
8 Kennedy, Craig	East Ham	445
9 Hjort, Helge	Hendon	444
10 Thompson, Robert	Newton Abbot	442
11 Davison, Chris	Cambridge City	422
12 Hayward, Alan	Streatham	421
13 Stewart, Ashley	Cambridge City	420
14 Patrick, David A	Courier Halifax	418
15 Burns, Martin J	Stockport	403

Graded Prix: 140-159

Name	Club/Area	Pts
1 Desmedt, Richard E	Wombwell	575
2 O'Gorman, Brendan	DHSS	565
3 Hartley, Dean M	Amber Valley	558
4 Clegg, Robert	Huddersfield	499
5 Grobler, David	Netherton	499
6 Wood, Peter C	Hastings *	491
7 Pride, Stephen C	Cambridge City	488
8 Connor, Michael I	Great Lever	487
9 Norman, Dinah M	Wokingham *	486
10 Price, Andrew	Leamington	485
11 Wright, Jonathan	London *	445
12 Smith, Paul	Hastings & St Leonards	444
13 Greatorex, Roger	Llangollen	435
14 Wiggins, Andrew S	Greenlands	435
15 Coward, Neil	AXA Lytham	434

Graded Prix: 120-139

Name	Club/Area	Pts
1 Wilson, Matthew R	Wigston	578
2 Crouch, Timothy J	Kings Head	505
3 Allen, Timothy S	Battersea	499
4 Gilbert, David J	DHSS	471
5 Ross, Stuart	Shifnal & Telford	465
6 Foley, Phil T	Upminster	463
7 Torrance, John	Metropolitan	461
8 Stone, Mark R	Petts Wood & Orpington	461
9 McKeon, John E	Milton Keynes	457
10 Egan, William J	Scunthorpe	456
11 Gardiner, Colin J	Falmouth	449
12 Brace, Peter	Spondon	431
13 Andrews, Norman G	York RI	427
14 Dunne, David C	West Nottingham	425
15 Crockett, Stephen J	Redditch	416

Graded Prix: U120

Name	Club/Area	Pts
1 Fraser, Alan R	Beckenham & Bromley	565
2 Oyama, Harunobu	Cambridge City	539
3 Waddington, James	Bolton	478
4 Summerland, David	Leeds	469
5 Miles, Barry S	South Norwood	432
6 Billett, Stephen J	Portsmouth	424
7 Bullock, Lee	London *	417
8 Mahony, Jonathan	Leeds	407
9 Glover, Gordon L	Crusaders	360
10 Jackson, Paul Robert	Morecambe	350
11 Boztas, Lana	Coulsdon CF	345
12 Parkin, Kenneth W	Pendle	339
13 Welch, Hazel	Seaton	338
13 Hall, James W	East Grinstead	338
15 De Santos, Andrew R	Preston	322

Women's Prix

Name	Club/Area	Pts
1 Shepherd, Katherine M	Ashtead	495
2 Norman, Dinah M	Wokingham *	486
3 Keen, Cosima C	Sussex Juniors	447
4 Dean, Angelica	Shrewsbury	441
5 Ivanov, Elizabeth	Barnet Schools	422
6 Kalaiyalahan, Akshaya	Richmond Juniors	400
7 Wei, Naomi	Essex *	375
8 Head, Louise	Berkshire Junior	355
9 Boztas, Lana	Coulsdon CF	345
10 Welch, Hazel	Seaton	338
11 Varney, Zoe	Cumnor	331
12 Ressel, Eva	Chess Mates Northampton	329
13 Sit, Victoria	Coulsdon CF	325
14 Hoare, Amy B	Sussex Juniors	323
15 Jina, Asha	Harpden Junior CC	298

Junior Prix

Name	Club/Area	Pts
1 Kalavannan, Koby	Surbiton *	536
2 Oyama, Akito	Cambridge City	514
3 Tarhon, Brian	Sussex Juniors	497
4 Ivanov, George	Middlesex Juniors	496
5 Shepherd, Katherine M	Ashtead	495
6 Taylor, Adam C	Colchester *	492
7 Boswell, Jacob Connor	Cheddleton & Leek	491
8 Wadsworth, Matthew J	Maidenhead	491
9 Balaji, Ananthanarayanan	Harrow	474
10 Holland, James P	Berkshire Junior	471
11 Merry, Alan B	Bury St Edmunds	464
12 Milson, Samuel A	Louth	464
13 Hackner, Oskar A	Rotherham Junior	458
14 Zhou, Yang-Jian	Coulsdon CF	451
15 Keen, Cosima C	Sussex Juniors	447

Brendan O'Gorman - Chess Images

See Brendan's work at -

<https://picasaweb.google.com/bpogorman>

'A man alone' - Dave Clayton at the controls of the live game boards at Hastings



The ChEx Bookshelf

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

LEADING WITH THE LEFT

When I first began this series of articles, it was not my intention to include books on chess openings. These are extremely popular, of course, and many players take it for granted that in practice they are the most useful category of chess literature. It's a tremendously seductive notion to think that chess success is up for grabs simply by memorising the path to victory (or at least advantage) from the opening move.

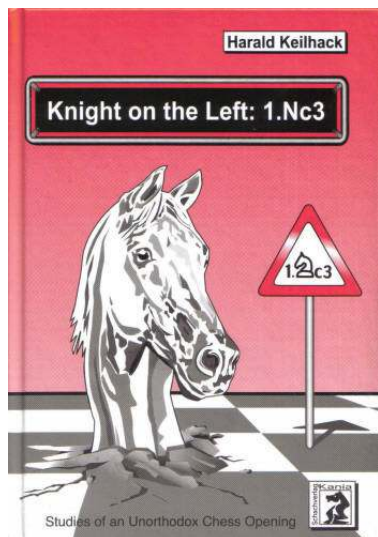
Very few of us are immune to this belief, no matter how often we hear the arguments about the importance of understanding (or calculation, or pattern recognition, or concentration, or any number of other factors). The feeling that opening knowledge puts the better prepared player in control is very powerful, and there is no denying that at the very highest levels thorough preparation is one of the prerequisites to success.

For the average player, however, it's a very small part of the game. At my level (grade in the 140s), few games are decided in the opening. There are just too many tempting mistakes still waiting to be made later in the game.

In terms of chess literature, my taste is for books which combine chess with the human dimension – the stories and personalities which bring the game to life. I accept that this is undoubtedly a limiting factor on the practical benefits which I derive from chess books, but I'm equally sure that my enjoyment of the game would be a tiny fraction of what it is now if I confined myself to the databases.

Nevertheless, openings literature is a fact of chess life, so this time I want to write about a book which has been a regular companion to me for several years. It's called **Knight on the Left: 1.Nc3** by Harald Keilhack (Schachverlag Kania; 2005) and in many ways it is a model of its genre.

The book is subtitled "Studies of an Unorthodox Chess Opening", but as the author acknowledges in his Preface, even the word "opening" presents a challenge here: *"Many consider 1.Nc3 to be just a move, which might be playable, but 'hardly has any*



independent value', rather transposing to 1.e4 systems." It is not even clear whether this "opening" has a name: the most common one that I encounter is the Dunst Opening, but the author has reservations about this, opting finally for a neutral description, 'Knight on the Left' or, in German, the *Linksspringer*.

Since a straightforward review of the book might be of only marginal interest – how many people will want to venture into this particular branch of opening theory? – let me indulge myself in a discussion of my personal experiences with 1.Nc3 and why this particular opening found its way into my repertoire.

CHOOSING AN OPENING

Amateur players – myself included – like to play irregular openings or offbeat variations of mainstream openings. Fear of the opponent's preparation may be a factor, but predominantly it's a question of control. It feels good to set the direction of the game and, we hope, steer it onto territory which is familiar to us and not to our opponent.

Ideally, an opening should be a blend of several characteristics:

1. THE OPENING SHOULD BE SOUND

From this perspective, the 'Knight on the Left' is unimpeachable. It cannot possibly be unsound to develop a piece to an excellent square while creating no pawn weaknesses.

On the other hand, 1.Nc3 is not the scariest move to face as Black. I am reminded of David Bronstein's description of the Vienna Game (1.e4 e5 2. Nc3) in his wonderful book **200 Open Games**: *"[It] is an opening for quiet chess players – not necessarily phlegmatic, but thoughtful. Such players wish to eliminate the weaknesses in their own camp before trying to assail their enemy's redoubts. They have seen that their [e-pawn] has lost its mobility and is momentarily undefended – and they quickly strengthen it with their cavalry reserves."*

For 1.Nc3 players, the prospect of pushing a central pawn is daringly committal – much better to develop first and see what Black does. It is the opening Ned Flanders would play.

Appearances can be deceptive, however, which leads us to the second criterion for choosing an opening. In our quest for the Rosetta Stone of chess, we want an opening which is not only sound but which also offers good chances of a quick and crushing victory. So...

2. THE OPENING SHOULD LEAD TO WINS

Let's face it, when I say "wins", we all understand that what I mean is easy wins. 1.Nc3 has a reputation for quietness (to the extent that it has a reputation at all – it is remarkably invisible as openings go), and some lines can tend that way.

However, Keilhack's book soon reveals a quite different tendency, namely for catastrophic losses for Black within a handful of moves. Of course, plenty of authors of openings books like to include miniatures as part of the process of seduction between opening and reader – "Read me," the book seems to say, "and you too could be winning before your opponent knows what's hit him." Keilhack is actually very restrained in the claims that he makes for the opening, but there is more than enough material in the first couple of chapters alone (on 1.Nc3 e5 2.Nf3 and 1.Nc3 d5 2.e4 d4) to encourage the sceptical reader.

As a rule, I am as sceptical as they come, and my speciality in chess has tended to be record-breaking drawing sequences rather than lightning-fast victories, but consider the following two games which I won not long after starting to lead with my left:

White: AF Black: Player graded 110
Hampshire Congress (U125), 2008
1.Nc3 d5 2.e4 d4 3.Nce2 c5 4.Ng3 Qc7 5.Bc4 Nc6 6.Nf3 Bg4?? 7.Bxf7+ 1-0

I began the above game torn between the wish to make an early start on the drive home and the need to win in order to secure a share of second prize. Twenty minutes later, I was in my car. Last rounds don't come much better than this.

Three weeks later, the following happened:

White: AF Black: Player graded 132
Royston Congress (U140), 2008
1.Nc3 d5 2.e4 d4 3.Nce2 e5 4.Ng3 Nf6 5.Bc4 h6? 6.Nf3 Bg4?? 7.Nxe5 Bxd1?? 8.Bxf7+ 1-0 (8...Ke7 9.Nf5 mate)

These two games are based on familiar tactical motifs, but one has to wonder whether the unfamiliarity of the opening was a factor in Black's oversight.

Occasionally, the "left-handedness" of the opening seems to mesmerise Black. After the following game, my opponent admitted that he had suffered a massive delusion, effectively inverting right and left and playing something on move 2 which he had not intended at all. This proved so disturbing that his game fell completely apart just three moves later:

White: AF Black: Player graded 95
Wheatley Cup (Worcester Team KO), 2011
1.Nc3 e5 2.e4 f5?! 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 d6 5.Bg5 Qe7?? 6.Nd5 Qd7 7.Nxf6+ gxf6 8.Qh5+ Ke7 1-0 (9.Qf7+ Kd8 10.Qxf6+ Be7 11.Qxh8+ is just horrible)

These are very poor games, of course – perhaps the worst ever published in ChessMoves (fame at last!) – and it would be foolish to draw any conclusions from them other than that Black had a bad day at the office, but winning like this from time to time does wonders for one's liking for an

opening.

3. THE OPENING SHOULD BE INTERESTING

Pleasant as inflicting Legal's Mate in 9 moves might be, it would make for a dull chess life if every game followed the same course. One of the key criteria for me in choosing an opening repertoire is that it should be varied enough to hold my interest over a number of years.

There are opening systems which can be played in much the same way almost regardless of the opponent's replies. Such universal openings are fine as far as they go, and they can lead to considerable practical success as the player gains a deeper familiarity with the opening and the resulting middlegames. In my experience, there is a downside to this way of playing. Ignoring the limiting effect it may have on the player's development (although this is important), boredom and complacency become real dangers. Playing the London System or the Stonewall, for example, might produce decent practical results, but I'm not sure that I could cope with the same type of set-ups in game after game for years on end.

One of the attractions of 1.Nc3 is its flexibility, which some might call amorphousness. Keilhack evidently believes that 1.Nc3 is as much an attitude of mind as it is an opening, and I can see what he means by this. There are a few unique 1.Nc3 lines:

- 1.Nc3 e5 2.Nf3 (usually followed by 3.d4 and a strange kind of Scotch Game without e4);
- 1.Nc3 d5 2.e4 d4 3.Nce2 and 4.Ng3 (in which Black often develops an impressive-looking central pawn phalanx but proves vulnerable to White's piece play in the spaces behind the pawns);
- 1.Nc3 d5 2.e4 dxe4 3.Nxe4 (a quiet but safe way for Black to play).

Otherwise, transpositional possibilities abound. In the last of the above lines, transpositions to the Caro-Kann (3...c6) and the French (3...e6) are often seen, and White generally does not have anything better than falling into line with d2-d4.

If Black responds to 1.Nc3 with moves such as 1...c5, 1...g6, 1...d6 or 1...Nf6, transpositions to standard e-pawn openings are White's usual (and best) option. 1.Nc3 players tend, however, to select something off the most familiar paths, but this is largely a matter of taste. For example, 1...c5 can be met with Grand Prix Attack, the Closed Sicilian or even the Tiviakov Grand Prix (1.Nc3 c5 2.e4 Nc6 3.Bb5). Keilhack does offer some genuinely irregular alternatives in these pseudo-e4 lines, but they are less persuasive than the rest of the book.

Moreover, if boredom starts to occur in certain lines, additional transpositions are often on hand. For example, after 1.Nc3 e5, 2.e4 turns the game into a Vienna, while after 1.Nc3 d5, 2.d4 takes the game into Veresov channels.

4. THE OPENING SHOULD BE UNKNOWN BUT ANALYSED IN DEPTH

This paradoxical requirement is at the heart of the amateur player's choice of opening. We believe that the secret of success is to find an opening which is sound and interesting, offers winning chances and – crucially – will be unfamiliar to our opponents while at the same time being conveniently mapped out in detail for us in a reliable openings book.

Seen in this light, Keilhack's *Knight on the Left* is close to ideal. It covers an opening which is almost entirely ignored by most books and which can be relied on to be encountered only rarely by most of the purchaser's opponents. (I typically play over 100 games a year, and 1.Nc3 has been played against me just once in the last six years.)

1.Nc3 is almost unknown in top-level grandmaster chess. Keilhack's book includes a few games by famous names, but these tend to be instances of a transposition when the GM reached a "Nc3" line by playing something quite different, such as 1.e4. It is much more common in correspondence chess, and the 14th World Correspondence Chess Championship came within an ace of being won by the Dane, Ove Ekebjærg, who opened his games with White exclusively with 1.Nc3, scoring 6/7 in the process.

There is, therefore, sufficient "theory" to fill a substantial book, and Keilhack's work is an impressive 380 double-columned pages long. The author includes original analysis, but there is a bedrock of sufficient substance to reassure the reader and give him scope to study the opening in depth.

5. THE BOOK ON THE OPENING SHOULD BE RELIABLE

Harald Keilhack does an excellent job with **Knight on the Left: 1.Nc3**. Let me explain:

(i) The basis of the book is complete games, annotated using not only detailed variations (especially in the opening phase) but with reader-friendly verbal explanations. The book is structured around 99 annotated games, with many other complete games included in the notes.

(ii) As well as the annotated games, there are sections explaining the tactical and strategic motifs which commonly occur. This is most notably the case in the chapter on Van Geet's Attack (1.Nc3 d5 2.e4 d4), where there are 24 pages outlining and illustrating the major themes. In the rest of the book, such explanations generally take the form of a digression within the notes to a game, but the effect is equally beneficial. It means that the reader has a better chance of improvising successfully when his memory fails during a game or his opponent has the temerity to play something not in the book.

(iii) The coverage is balanced. Although he is self-evidently an enthusiast for the opening, Keilhack is not afraid to include draws and wins for Black alongside an encouraging

selection of White wins. Readers should always beware books which give too one-sided an impression.

Moreover, Keilhack is conspicuously modest in the claims that he makes for the opening. At the start of the opening chapter (on 1.Nc3 e5 2.Nf3), he writes:

"The answer 1...e5 in the spirit of the open games is pretty much the best the 1.Nc3 player can hope for. With 2.Nf3!, White preserves at the very least the advantage of the first move, and in many cases he can hope for much more."

Stirring stuff, but Keilhack is careful not to go too far. His analysis is sober, and he makes it clear that, provided Black is careful, the outcome will be an evaluation of, at best, "plus over equals". Later on, for example, one encounters lines in which White exchanges bishop for knight in order to damage Black's pawn structure. Keilhack quotes a comment by Moser, an earlier 1.Nc3 advocate (*"For a player acquainted with Nimzowitsch's ideas, the diagram position is very favourable"*) and then goes out of his way to correct this assumption by arguing that, realistically, White has only a small edge. While some readers may find this discouraging (see Criterion #2!), I took heart from the author's insistence on placing objectivity above marketing.

(iv) The author should play the opening himself. Keilhack includes a number of his own games with 1.Nc3, and it is obvious from the text that he is a practising chess southpaw.

No book is perfect, however, and this includes **Knight on the Left**. The abundance of content is presented in a rather dense format, which makes navigating the text trickier than I'd like. There is a serviceable 3-page index of variations at the back, but I still find, after years of use, that finding my way around the book is not always an easy experience.

However, if this article has inspired you to give 1.Nc3 a try, this book is the best source on the market by a country mile, and it is highly recommended.

By way of encouragement, here is another last-round win for your amusement:

White: AF

Black: Player graded 153

Soanes weekend, British Championships, Torquay, 2009

1.Nc3 d5 2.e4 d4 3.Nce2 e5 4.Ng3 Be6 5.Nf3 f6 6.c3 d3 7.Nxe5! (a recurring motif in lines with ...f6) 7...fxe5 8.Qh5+ Kd7 9.Qxe5 Nc6 10.Qb5 Bd6 11.Qxd3 Qf6 12.Qc2 Rf8 13.d4 Nxd4! (tricky) 14.cxd4 Bb4+ 15.Bd2 Qxf2+ 16.Kd1 Bg4+ 17.Kc1 Qxd4?? 18.Qa4+ Kc8 19.Qxb4 Qd7?? 1-0 Black resigned before I could play 20.Qxf8+

Objectively, White may have been in trouble before move 17, but the unorthodox course of the game caused Black to expend an hour's thinking time by move 15 (I had used less than 20 minutes) and he was clearly feeling the pressure. The final blunder on move 19 seemed like shellshock as

much as anything else.

A cautionary note with which to finish:

One of my most recent games with 1.Nc3 was against a player graded 181, a mere 39 points above me. After a typical (for me) 1.Nc3 e5 2.Nf3 start, I emerged from the opening with no real advantage over the board but an opponent who by move 20 had consumed all but 16 minutes of his allotted time to reach move 35. Perhaps affected by this, he blundered first one pawn and then another, allowing me to reach a “winning” rook and pawn ending.. which I promptly misplayed and managed only to draw.

As I said at the start, it's not the opening which determines the result of the game. Chess is a game with almost infinite scope for mistakes, and there is usually plenty of time left to find them!

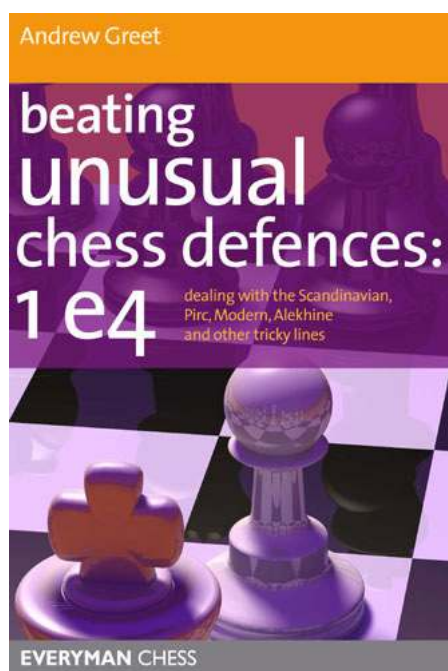
Book Reviews - Gary Lane

Beating Unusual Chess Defences: 1 e4 by Andrew Greet

Published by Everyman Chess £16.99

After playing 1 e4 on the board I always think it is just a matter of time before Black resigns and we can discuss where he or she went wrong in the Sicilian. Well, it does not always end up like that especially when Black plays the Scandinavian, Modern Defence, Pirc Defence, Philidor and Czech Pirc and even the Alekhine, so it is lucky that Greet has suggested a repertoire to combat them. There are 304 pages to educate the club player on how to cope with Black not joining in the fun and giving up as soon as possible. His suggestions are reliable and he presents a nice mix of aggression and scope for solid play, which are demonstrated with complete games. I prefer this method because then you can observe typical middlegames that can arise from your chosen variation. It is worth

noting that there is a short chapter dealing with “Other Defences” which often crop up at weekend tournaments. The Nimzowitsch Defence (1e4 Nc6) receives excellent treatment, the Owens Defence (1 e4 b6) is briefly mentioned while the infamous St George (1 e4 a6) is soon dis-



missed. Of course, there are limitations with repertoire books because every single line is not considered otherwise it would be over a thousand pages. Still, Greet has done an excellent job in providing the reader with the right tools to improve their play.

A great guidebook for players with limited time to study.

Chess Secrets: Giants of Innovation: Learn from Steinitz, Lasker, Botvinnik, Korchnoi and Ivanchuk

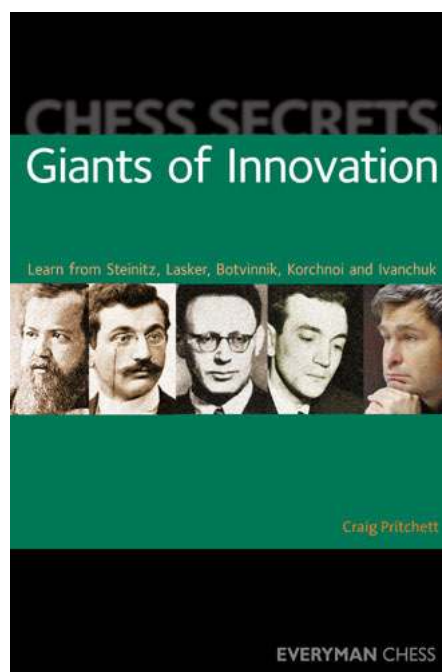
by Craig Pritchett

Published by Everyman Chess £16.99

This is a book for connoisseurs of chess who want to be treated to a variety of entertaining games by the elite players. The Scottish international has strived to create a theme of innovation and the development of chess ideas by examining key games over the years. Indeed, in this computer database era you do not often read the line “All of this was very “hot” theory in 1914...” when discussing a game by Lasker. There are plenty of snippets about opening ideas

and players to make it an enjoyable read even if you don't have a chessboard in front of you. The complete games have plenty of prose to explain the moves and I think it is aimed at players from 1200 upwards who want to learn new things while being entertained.

The perfect book for a train journey.



The Nimzo-Indian: Move by Move by Jon Emms

Published by Everyman Chess £19.99

There might be some people who have two weeks booked on a Greek island in the summer so take this book along to revel in all its 368 pages. As usual Jon Emms has done tremendous work on one of his favourite openings and he has written extensively on this line in the past so is well equipped to guide the reader on how to handle the various replies. The opening occurs after the moves 1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 Nc3 and now 3...Bb4 which, with a huge amount of theory associated with it, can baffle even the strongest players let alone those new to the opening. The latter is the target audience with the move by move series aimed at providing basic answers in the opening. Indeed Emms describes it

as trying to replicate "...lessons between chess teachers and students, and encourages the practising of skills just as much as the assimilation of knowledge." That sounds rather difficult but the solution is to offer up questions at different stages of the games and then answer them. The Englishman has the knack of understanding that not everyone is aware of things that experienced players take for granted so patiently explains familiar opening ideas as he goes along.

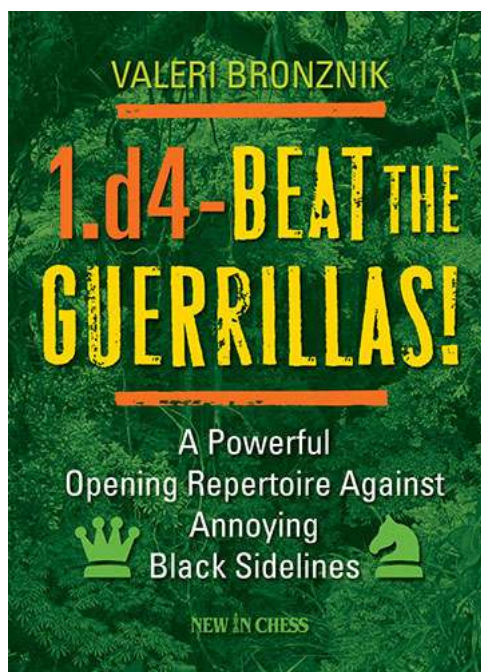
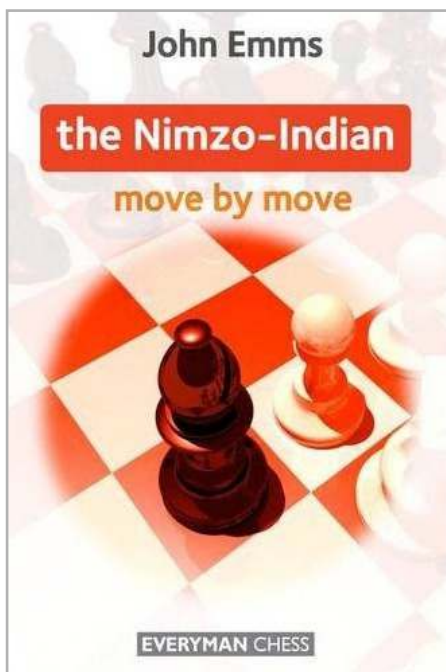
An excellent addition to any chess library.

1.d4 - Beat the Guerrillas! A Powerful Opening Repertoire Against Annoying Black Sidelines

by Valeri Bronznik

Published by New in Chess £19.95

Yes, it has a snappy title, which is the trend nowadays to make the book stand out in a crowded market. Of course, authors do not always have much say on such matters so I won't worry that there is no line against the Guerrilla Attack. It is basically a repertoire book for players rated 1800 and above who like plenty of variations to back up their opening choice. If you want to know what to do against the big main line openings such as the King's Indian Defence or Nimzo-Indian then forget it because this work is aimed at the lesser known openings which are admittedly popular at every chess club. Here there are replies to old favourite such as the Dutch Benoni (1d4 c5 2 d5 f5) which is curiously better known in the United Kingdom as the Clarendon Court which was named by English grandmaster Jon Levitt after the block of flats where he resided. The book was originally written and published in German during 2010 but there have been a few additions but arguably not enough. After 1 d4 d5 he opts for 2 c4 and investigates all the minor lines such as the Baltic Defence (2...Bf5), The Austrian Defence (2...c5) and Albin Counter Gambit amongst others. The English Defence (1 d4 e6 2 c4 b6) is the biggest chapter with 40 pages devoted to a couple of replies. The author is always striving for what is right for the master to play but it is tricky to choose a practical repertoire for the tournament player. The intensity to assessing positions in general is summed up on page 163 when a complicated line, with numerous variations that would test the



memory of Anand is concluded with the line "and according to Rybka, in this remarkable position Black's compensation for the piece is not quite sufficient." A sign of the times but I still think a repertoire book should propose variations that are relatively easy

to follow because the whole point is that such readers need shortcuts to success because they are busy at school or work.

I admire Bronznik's enthusiasm to seeking the truth in variations and the serious student will welcome his contributions.

A high-level repertoire book.



From the library's postcard collection - a postcard ad for the Mephisto chess computer, featuring (and autographed by) the Polgar sisters

Tournament Calendar

LEGEND –

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

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

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

21-22 Jan

Junior 4NCL Weekend 2, Barcelo Hotel, Hinckley Island Contact: Claire Summerscale Tel: 07807 806055

~ 22 Jan

Barnet Schools Chess Association, Queen Elizabeth's School, Queen's Road, Barnet, Hertfordshire EN5 4DQ Contact: Tony Niccoli Email: tony1n@yahoo.com - Junior Tournament, age groups from Under 7 up to Under 19

~*@# 23 Jan - 2 Feb

Tradewise Gibraltar Chess Festival, Caleta Hotel, Gibraltar Email: chess@caletahotel.gi - Masters Open 24/1-2/2, 10 round Swiss Challengers U2250 23/1-27/1 and 28/1-1/2 Amateur U1800 23/1-27/1 and 28/1-1/2 - the world's strongest open tournament £155,000 prize fund - live games during Masters Website: www.gibraltarchesscongress.com

~* 25 Jan

Sussex Junior Eastbourne Rapidplay, Bishop Bell School, Priory Road, Eastbourne BN23 7EJ 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/>

27-29 Jan

Mulcahy Cup 2012, University College Cork, Cork, Ireland Contact: Cork Chess Club Email: corkchess@gmail.com Website: www.corkchess.com - 6 round weekend tournament, open draw, typically 50-60 entrants annually. Entry fee €35, 90 minutes all moves. Prize fund estimated €1,000 - depending on entry level

~@ 28 Jan

London FIDE Rapid Play, Newman Catholic College, Harlesden Road, Willesden NW10 3RN Contact: Sainbayar Tserendorj Email: londonrapidplay@yahoo.co.uk - sections U1700, U2000 and Open Website: www.londonrapidplay.co.uk

~@ 28 Jan

London Junior FIDE Rapid Play, Newman Catholic College, Harlesden Road, Willesden NW10 3RN Contact: Sainbayar Tserendorj Email: londonrapidplay@yahoo.co.uk - sections U8, U10, U12, U14 and U18 Website: www.londonrapidplay.co.uk

*~ 28-29 Jan

16th Dudley Congress, The Quality Hotel, Birmingham Street, Dudley, West Midlands DY1 4RN Contact: Norman Went Email: spectrumchess@hotmail.com Website: www.spectrumchess.com - 3 tournament sections, Swiss pairings, Premier Under 205, Major Under 165 and Minor Under 125

29 Jan

5th Millfield Open, Millfield School, Street, Somerset BA16 0YD Contact: Matthew Turner Email: mjt@millfieldschool.com - One-day rapidplay

29 Jan

Jorvik One-Day Rapidplay, Wheatlands Lodge Hotel, 75-85 Scarcroft Road, York YO24 1DB Contact: Peter Cloudsdale Tel: 01904 767177 Email: cloudsdale_c@hotmail.co.uk

29 Jan

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

4-5 Feb

4NCL Northern League, Barcelo Majestic Hotel, Harrogate Contact: Mike Truran Tel: 01993 708645 Contact address: The Old Farmhouse, 7 Church Street, Ducklington, Witney OX29 7UA

~*# 4-5 Feb

35th Kidlington Chess Tournament, Exeter Hall, Oxford Road, Kidlington OX5 1AB Contact: Gerard O'Reilly Email: gerard@fianchetto.co.uk - 4 sections: U225, U180, U145, and (new in 2012) U120. Increased prize fund Website: <http://home.btconnect.com/OCA/>

4-5 Feb

Wellington College Rapidplay & Training Weekend, Wellington College, Crowthorne, Berkshire RG45 7PU MAP Open to adults and juniors - Saturday will be a 6 round rapidplay, and Sunday will be small group training with a titled chess instructor. There will be 3 sections - Open, U170 and U110, and the prize fund is expected to be £900. In addition to this £300 of coaching prizes will be distributed between U21s who attend the Sunday training. Contact Nick Pert at nick-pert@hotmail.com or on 07786986489 for further details | Website: <http://intranet.wellingtoncollege.org.uk/chess/wellington-college-rapidplay>

~ 5 Feb

Stockport Rapidplay, The Guildhall, 169 Wellington Road South, Stockport SK1 3UA Contact: Peter Taylor Email: pht@rover12.wanadoo.co.uk Tel: 0161 4400733

~ 5 Feb

Leeds Junior Chess Congress, Fountain Primary School, Fountain Street, Morley, Leeds LS27 0AW Contact: John Hipshon Email: jr.hipshon@ntlworld.com Website: www.leedsjuniorchess.org.uk - Entries in 4 sections: Major (any player), Intermediate (below 115), Minor (below 40) and Novice (little or no experience). This is part of the Yorkshire Junior Grand Prix and you don't need to have entered any other events to attend this one. Great prizes in all sections

~ 11 Feb

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

11-12 Feb

4NCL Rounds 5 and 6, De Vere Venues, Sunningdale (Divisions 1 and 2) De Vere Venues, Latimer Place (Division 3) Contact: Mike Truran Tel: 01993 708645 Contact address: The Old Farmhouse, 7 Church Street, Ducklington, Witney OX29 7UA

~* 10-12 Feb

Frodsham Congress, Frodsham Community Centre Contact: P Ridley, Lee Brook, Wood Lane, Sutton Weaver, Runcorn WA7 3EN Tel: 01928 719787 Email: patrick.ridley@ntlworld.com

***~# 15-19 Feb**

e2e4 Brighton International, 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/international/2012/Brighton_Feb/index.htm - A series of 10 player all-play-all open to all players including IM norm events, Challengers and Major for all strengths of player

~* 17-19 Feb

Castle Chess - 4th Portsmouth, The Royal Beach Hotel, St Helen's Parade, Southsea, Portsmouth PO4 0RN Contact: Tony Corfe Email: tony@tcs-chess.demon.co.uk - Open (incl U180), Major U160 (incl U140), Minor U120 (incl U100) Enquiries: Marc Shaw 07947 813303 Website: www.castlechess.co.uk

~* 18-19 Feb

Wiltshire & West of England Junior Open Championships, St Joseph's Catholic College, Ocotal Way, Swindon SN3 3LR Contact: Bev Schofield Email: bev@schofieldhall.co.uk Website: <http://www.wiltshirejuniorchess.co.uk> - Although this 26th Junior Open Congress is organised by Wiltshire Junior Chess, it is open to ANY chess player aged under 18 on the 31st August 2011

~ 19 Feb

Leyland Rapidplay Chess Congress, Wellfield Business and Enterprise College, Yewlands Drive, Leyland PR25 2TP Contact: R Tinton Email: leylandrapidplay2012@gmail.com Tel: 07866 944563 - Major, Intermediate and Minor sections

~* 24-26 Feb

The Twentieth Doncaster Chess Congress, Hall Cross School, Thorne Road, Doncaster DN1 2HY Contact: Trevor Taylor Email: trevortaylor43@yahoo.co.uk - Weekend congress with five rounds and four sections - Open, Major, Intermediate

~ 24-26 Feb

Open Cumbria Individual Championships 2012, St Mary's Centre, Walney Island, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria Contact: Trevor Blower Email: trevor.blower@talktalk.net - A 5-round Swiss event with 3 sections - Open, Major, Minor

~@ 25 Feb

London FIDE Rapid Play, Newman Catholic College, Harlesden Road, Willesden NW10 3RN Contact: Sainbayar Tserendorj Email: londonrapidplay@yahoo.co.uk - sections U1700, U2000 and Open Website: www.londonrapidplay.co.uk

~@ 25 Feb

London Junior FIDE Rapid Play, Newman Catholic College, Harlesden Road, Willesden NW10 3RN Contact: Sainbayar Tserendorj Email: londonrapidplay@yahoo.co.uk - sections U8, U10, U12, U14 and U18 Website: www.londonrapidplay.co.uk

~ 25-26 Feb

2012 BUCA Championship, De Vere Uplands House, Four Ashes Road, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire HP15 6LB Contact: Alex Holowczak Email: alexholowczak@gmail.com - 3rd British Universities' Chess Championship. All BUCA

members are entitled to enter teams of 4 players Website: <http://www.buca.org.uk>

~* 2-4 Mar

37th East Devon Chess Congress, Corn Exchange, Market Street, Exeter EX1 1BW Contact: A.Maynard Email: a.maynard@tesco.net Tel: 01363 773313

~ 3 Mar

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

3-4 Mar

Warwickshire Open Chess Congress, Arden School, Solihull Contact: Ben Graff Email: bengraff@bulldoghome.com

3-4 Mar

Junior 4NCL Weekend 3, Barcelo Hotel, Hinckley Island Contact: Claire Summerscale Tel: 07807 806055

#~* 9-11 Mar

Blackpool Chess Conference, Imperial Hotel, Blackpool Contact: Geoff Jones Email: blackpoolchess@gmail.com | 6 Sections Open, U185, U155, U135, U115, U90 Live games and online entry available | Website/entry form - www.blackpoolchess.org.uk

10 Mar

ESPCA Under 9 Zones - three zones Contact: Nigel Dennis Email: nigelwdennis@btinternet.com

*~ 11 Mar

Richmond Rapidplay 100, The White House Community Association, The Avenue, Hampton TW12 3RN Contact: James Coleman Email: rapidplay@aol.com Website: www.surreyrapidchess.org - a special event to mark the 100th Richmond Rapidplay event

17 Mar

ESPCA Under 11 Zones - three zones Contact: Nigel Dennis Email: nigelwdennis@btinternet.com

17-18 Mar

Wellington College Rapidplay & Training Weekend, Wellington College, Crowthorne, Berkshire RG45 7PU MAP Open to adults and juniors – Saturday will be a 6 round rapidplay, and Sunday will be small group training with a titled chess instructor. There will be 3 sections – Open, U170 and U110. Tournament details and entry form to be made available after completion of the previous Wellington College weekend | Website: <http://intranet.wellingtoncollege.org.uk/chess/wellington-college-rapidplay>

~ 18 Mar

19th Atherton Rapidplay, St Richards Jubilee Hall, Crabtree Lane, Atherton, Manchester M46 0AQ Contact: Simon Woodcock Email: blitzchess2001@yahoo.co.uk - 3 sections: Major/Intermediate/Minor 30mins Rapidplay, 6 rounds - Website: www.athertonchess.org.uk/

18-23 Mar

Chess Holiday, Rothay Manor Hotel, Ambleside, Cumbria Contact: Peter Cloudsdale Tel: 01904-767177 Email: cloudsdale_c@hotmail.co.uk

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!