



English Chess Federation eNewsletter Number 4

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ECF NEWS

ENGLISH TEAMS FOR THE BAKU OLYMPIAD ANNOUNCED



The FIDE Chess Olympiad starts on September 2nd in Baku, Azerbaijan. England have teams in both sections – the Open event and the Women's event. The Open team comprises Michael Adams [far left], David Howell, Nigel Short, Luke McShane, and Gawain Jones. The non-playing captain will be Malcolm Pein. The Women's team comprises Jovanka Houska [left], Dagne Ciuksyte, Akshaya Kalaiyalahan, Sarah Longson, and Kanwal Bhatia. The captain and trainer will be Jon Speelman.

Further information on the Chess Olympiad can be found at the official website at www.bakuchessolympiad.com [pictures by Ray Morris-Hill]



TRADEWISE GRAND PRIX

The yearly battle of the tournament players continues! In the 180+ section, GM Mark Hebden [left] leads with GM Keith Arkell hot on his tail! For further information go to www.englishchess.org.uk/competitions-plp/tradewise-grand-prix

TWO IMPORTANT VACANCIES AT THE ENGLISH CHESS FEDERATION

The ECF is looking for suitable candidates to fill the Roles of Company Secretary and Financial Controller. Both roles are currently occupied by the estimable John Philpott, who has announced he intends to retire in April 2017. For further details go to <http://www.englishchess.org.uk/ecf-vacancies/#more-37131>

ENGLISH CHESS FEDERATION AWARDS FOR 2016

Stewart Reuben has asked that people vote for, and nominate for, the various categories for which the ECF presents awards. Since the deadline for this is 30th June, the advice of this eNewsletter is to act promptly! Further details can be found at <http://www.englishchess.org.uk/english-chess-federation-awards-for-2016/>

CHESS MASTER @ THE LOCAL



The first Chess Master @ The Local event was held at the George and Dragon in Thames Ditton and featured GM Keith Arkell [left]. The landlord, Mick Pearson, really entered into the spirit of the event with lots of local publicity and even strategically placed notices attached to trees along the route to the venue.

Despite appalling weather, and the Ireland v Italy, match the event was quite well attended, with a very respectable turn-out from Surbiton CC. IM Mike Basman was also to be seen playing blitz against Chris Briscoe. The flexible format of the event soon settled down into a very informal simul which certainly interested a number of the locals, many of whom could be

heard discussing chess, checking out progress on the boards and even engaging in repartee with Keith and Publicity Manager, Mark Jordan.

More Chess Master @ The Local events will soon be announced, are intended to take place across the country, and a number of venues have already been earmarked. Publicity Manager, Mark Jordan, would however be interested to hear of any suggestions for venues to hold such an event, particularly in the north of the country. The venue could be a pub or shopping mall, be attached to some local event such as a fair, or take place in any number of settings provided there is open access to the public. Chess Master @ The Local is being funded by ECF so there are no cost implications if you'd like to see organised such an event locally to your club. Keep the suggestions rolling in!

RECENT EVENTS

BRISTOL SUMMER CONGRESS

The Bristol Summer Congress 2016 was held at the Bristol Grammar School June 10th-12th. 93 players participated, the first time we have had more than 90 at the current venue. We are hoping to reach 100 for our next congress on Aug 26th-28th.

FIDE-rated OPEN (20 players)

Once again, the top seed in the Open was GM Keith Arkell. And not surprisingly, he finished first. His second round draw vs Steve Dilleigh prevented him from winning this year's Grand Prix outright. His third round victory over IM Chris Beaumont, the second seed, was compensation for Chris' victory two weeks earlier at the Cotswold Congress. And Keith's final round win over Javier Ruano Marco attracted quite a crowd. There was a buzz of anticipation in the crowd when Javier advanced his pawn to the 7th rank and a major upset was on the cards. But Keith, the end game specialist, proved it was not to be.

All games in the Open can be viewed at

http://www.chessit.co.uk/Congresses/Bristol%20Summer%202016/Bristol_Summer_Open_Games_2016.html

Other notable performances — Carl Bicknell finished second, having previously qualified for this year's British Championship with 5/5 in a previous Bristol Congress. John Waterfield, graded only 1956, finished equal 3rd. R Cherupalli from Swindon, ungraded, finished with a respectable 50%, and Luke Scott flew over from Dublin for his weekend of chess. For more go to <http://www.englishchess.org.uk/bristol-summer-congress-2016-report/>

NEWHAM COMMUNITY CHESS TOURNAMENT

The 1st Newham Community Chess Tournament, sponsored by Newham Council and CSC, took place in the plush surroundings Newham Old Town Hall and was very well attended.

Divided into 4 sections, this was a very unusual tournament in that the emphasis was very much on the participation of school children who, for the most part, had never taken part in competitive chess before. Adults were welcome too, and also serious juniors, and there was even free entry for Newham residents. The tournament has grown out of the very successful collaboration between Newham and CSC which has seen thousands of children up to the age of 11 exposed to chess in their school environment.

Councillor Ken Clark, who was present to announce the prize winners, was fulsome in his praise of CSC and the benefits that introducing chess has given to many children in an area of London which, until recently, mostly notable for its deprivation and under-achievement. It seems the introduction of chess, musical instrument tuition for all, and theatre opportunities in junior schools has been something of a game-changer with the whole community clearly being energised with new confidence given these opportunities and this is being reflected in the performance indicators against which all councils and education authorities are judged.

It was very obvious during the tournament that not only were the children engaged and enthusiastic but so were their parents who stayed all day armed with pack lunches, rooted for the participants and wiped away the occasional tears after particularly painful losses.

Newham Council and CSC have already agreed to organise more such events as part of their broader strategy and it is hoped that, given the obvious success of the Newham initiative, other councils will be inspired to become involved in similar programmes.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

KINGS PLACE RAPID CHESS TOURNAMENT

The good news is that the 4th DeMontford Bell King's Place FIDE Rapid Chess Tournament takes place on Saturday 9th July. There are 5 sections including a section for first timers (My First Tournament Under 85) and £3,000 in prizes.

The great news is that we have received a very welcome anonymous donation which has enabled us to award £600 in extra prizes - for top junior and female competitors. Qualifying ages as of the 9th July.

- £100 for the best Under 16 in the Open
- £100 for the best Under 14 in the Major
- £100 for the best Under 12 in the Minor
- £100 for the best female Under 14
- £100 for the best female aged 14 and over
- £100 for the most promising Junior relative to age, these prizes to be judged by a leading Grandmaster.

Entry form and further details - <http://www.kingsplace.co.uk/whats-on/interact/the-demontford-bell-kings-place-chess-festival#.V21NXtIrlCs>

THE 9TH 4NCL FIDE RATED CONGRESS

The 9th 4NCL FIDE Rated Congress will be held over the weekend of Friday 8 - Sunday 10 July 2016 at the Park Inn, Birmingham West, West Bromwich, B70 6RS.

Entry is open to three sections; FIDE Open, FIDE U2000 (ECF U175) and U135.

4NCL TEAM AND INDIVIDUAL RAPIDPLAY CHAMPIONSHIPS

This will take place over the weekend of Saturday 1 - Sunday 2 Oct 2016 at De Vere Wokefield Park. Further details for the 4NCL events at <http://www.4ncl.co.uk/>

For more opportunities for competitive chess go to <http://www.englishchess.org.uk/event-calendar/>

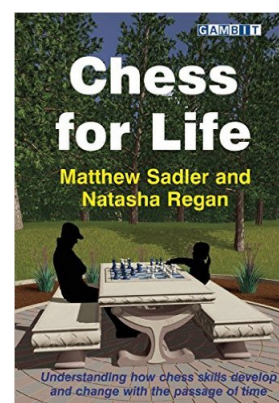
BOOK REVIEWS BY IM GARY LANE



Chess for Life

by Matthew Sadler & Natasha Regan, published by Gambit, 224 pages, £15.99

A wise person said to me "It is a nice book without too much chess". This sounded at first a strange recommendation but the English authors have cleverly avoided games swamped by computer generated analysis. Instead, they have combined thought provoking interviews with leading players and good advice on how you can improve. The idea of interviewing players to gain their insight is not new as one example is *Interview with a Grandmaster* by Aaron and Claire Summerscale. Indeed one of the eight people bombarded with questions also featured in the earlier book and that is Nigel Short. In the latest question and answer session he deals with the topics much more deeply and



repeats that his early chess hero was Paul Morphy. I was particularly interested why he is happy to play open tournaments and what changes he has made to his approach to the game that enables him to beat top grandmasters or others more modest in stature. I would also heartily recommend everyone to remind him of his epic king march against Timman, as surely he might have forgotten it by now. The theme of the book is how to adapt your chess game as you get older which is done in various ways such as commenting on the need to prepare with a computer and also why a change of opening repertoire might be needed. I think a big issue why players drop out of the chess scene is quite simple, but not really discussed, and that is because they have children. It is not so easy to spend your spare time learning the Black side of a Queen's Gambit Declined when you have to help with homework and be a taxi driver to football or dance lessons. A welcome addition to any weekend tournament is Keith Arkell who still valiantly travels up and down the country doing his best to take 1st place with impressive results. There are plenty of top players who rightly complain that lots of tournaments have similar prizes to twenty years ago but Keith is driven by his love of chess. Once again his interview is revealing with his tips on how to maintain a certain level as you age and particularly on seeking a style you love. The entertaining games selection certainly complement the eight interviews and the tips for the top are worth remembering. It is a grown-up book about how to adapt your game as you grow older and wiser.

Teignmouth Chess Club 1901-2016 A History

70 pages by Bill Frost £15.00 including postage [contact billfrost@hotmail.co.uk]

How to write a book on your local chess club? This question has been posed countless times but the vast majority of players realise it will be hard work and lots of archive investigation in the local library. Bill Frost has come up with a template of how to do it by writing a short history of his local club in Devon. It is nothing fancy with 70 pages of A4 with colour photographs and mainly double column text. However, the trick is that when his knowledge for a certain era is inadequate he does his best and skips on to the next decade. This is a necessary course of action for future authors who might want to make a contribution to the history of chess but do not have the time and resources to find out the exact names of the 1924 winning team. A neat way of making it more entertaining is by highlighting the chess stars who participated in simultaneous displays, which gives an excuse to print newspaper reports, photographs and any giant killing games. I also like the anecdotes of the rank and file players which illuminate typical club nights. For instance Peter Halmkin recalls "Bill remarked the resulting King and Pawn ending looked 'drawish'. After I pointed out to him I still had a Rook tucked away on g1 the assessment changed to an immediate resignation!" His other story about a young Michael Adams's dramatic reaction to a three-fold repetition is also illuminating.

A slice of chess history for a keen player or a highly recommended step by step guide on how to honour a local club.

BITS & PIECES - DAVID MABBS REMINISCES

THE CURSE OF THE MIDDLE SUNDAY

In the "old days", there were only a few congresses to choose among at weekends, mainly at Bank Holidays. So, if you were serious about tournament chess, you had to enter a longer event. Paignton, 7 days; Hastings and Bognor, 10 days; or two-week tournaments such as Whitby, Eastbourne, and the British.

The middle Sundays were always billed as free days. Many competitors used the time to prepare for next week's opponents, but I was much more naïve, believing that one should take genuine time out, rather in the manner of a "Famous Five" adventure - except that mine tended to end in disaster.

Take Royal Leamington Spa, 1958. Eight of us Juniors walked 20 km to Stratford-upon-Avon. That went quite well. But then - bad decision - we decided to hire a punt. Next scene, we were heading fast towards a weir. Philip Meade, standing at the front, saved us all by pushing with alhis might against the final bridge, and sure enough the punt shot backwards - with his feet still on board. It looked an impressive dive, fully-clothed complete with spectacles and a pac-a-mac. We scrambled to safety, and found a boiler-house where he could dry out. Humanity led us to go back by bus, with Philip once again at the front on the top deck. Still rather shocked, he came out with the immortal question:

"What time did the cat's-eyes light up ?"

Eastbourne, 1961, took a different course. Eight of us – including ostensibly sensible people such as David (DE) Lloyd – travelled by bus to see the Long Man of Wilmington, a 70-metre chalk figure. We would walk 12 km across the downs back to Eastbourne by line of sight. We hadn't factored in all the private property and natural barriers, and our trip was not so much as the crow flies, but more akin to running a maze, and we must have walked at least 20 km. We avoided falling off Beachy Head, and came to the outskirts of Eastbourne, whereupon Dave Rumens said, "Give me ten shillings, and I'll jump off the end of the pier." This was too good an opportunity to miss, and we had a successful whip-round, and quickened our pace enthusiastically. As we approached the pier, Dave ran ahead, and jumped off THIS end of the pier onto the beach below ! He had out-witted us all, and we were bound to pay up. It was some consolation, that he blew the ten shillings within the hour, playing table hockey against IM Francisco Perez.

Whitby, around 1962, saw my biggest single disaster. Nowadays on the internet there are many walks that take you along the cliff-path between Whitby and Runswick Bay, and not one of them suggests that you descend the cliffs. The cliffs are 100 metres high, they are steep, they are strewn with alum shale, and near the foot of the cliffs are sheer drops to the foreshore – which consists of platform slabs of ironstone and mudstone dotted with occasional patches of sand. Nobody told me this in 1962, and commonsense has never been my strongest card. Stan Wallace and I climbed the fence, and almost immediately were swept downwards on scree. We lunged at a small bush and hung on. What to do next ? "I wouldn't start from here." After a while, we ventured further, and the same thing happened. Scary stuff – once again we were lucky to find a hold. We were gradually realizing our predicament. We did this once more, and happened on another small haven, a surprisingly comfortable knoll. Now we could see the sheer edge, and in the distance the hard platforms – likely certain death. We stayed at our refuge, calm but disconsolate. Then Stan remembered that he was a Catholic. He offered several prayers, then said with feigned confidence "I'll go and fetch help". Moments later he plummeted over the sheer edge and disappeared from sight. It felt like hours before he came back into view, having miraculously landed in six square metres of sand. Stan found policeman and a mountaineer who was on holiday, and they abseiled down the cliff to rescue me, saying that I had done the right thing in staying put. But my story became front page news in the Daily Telegraph under the headline "Man loses nerve on cliff." I would have preferred it to say "Idiot gets stuck on cliff-face"!

Young players today, with your myriad quick tournaments to choose from – how lucky you are !

DON'T MISS THIS

103rd BRITISH CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS, BOURNEMOUTH

Saturday 23rd July - Saturday 6th August 2016

With the welcome participation of Michael Adams and the 2016 Championships looking, at least at the top, set to be the strongest for some time, we are in for an interesting event. Adams is unlikely to have it all his own way with David Howell, Gawain Jones and several other very dangerous GMs snapping at his heels. Favourite to win the British Women's Championship is Jovanka Houska.

There is still the issue that even with additional strength at the top this is not reflected in strength in depth with a sharp drop in rating below 2400. It is hoped that the new format for 2017 will go some way to remedying this issue.

There are also lots of other events at the Championships for the tournament player and, with the Swiss System format just about guaranteeing some exciting encounters, a visit simply as a spectator will be well worth the trip - <http://www.britishchesschampionships.co.uk/>

THE ENGLISH WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIPS

The English Women's Championship will be held this summer in Birmingham between 15-17 July. Details can be found at <http://www.englishchess.org.uk/competitions-plp/english-womens-championship/>

There is a £1,000 prize fund, with £500 for the winner. There is an additional prize for the winner of qualifying for the women's team at the 2017 European Team Championships in Halkidiki, Greece. This prize is normally awarded as part of the British Championships, and as a result, the British Women's Champion prize has been increased from £500 to £1,000.

Additionally, some money is available by application for participation in FIDE title-norm events. Grants of up to £250 may be awarded. Women who wish to apply for this should e-mail the ECF Office at office@englishchess.org.uk in advance of participation in the event. Priority will be awarded to players who wish to participate in events under the auspices of the ECF