



Chess Moves

January / February 2008

NEWSLETTER OF THE ENGLISH CHESS FEDERATION

£1.50

Celebration 83rd Hastings International Chess Congress

www.hastingschess.org.uk



The Mayor (Cllr. Maureen Charlesworth) and Hastings MP (Michael Foster) make the opening move for Vladimir Georgiev against Florian Dinger



Cllr Maureen Charlesworth Mayor of Hastings presenting Golombek Trophy winners V. Malakhatkova (Bel) N.Mamedev (Aze) V.Neverov(Ukr)

It was Stewart Reuben's concept of having an event to celebrate the lives of the many people who have died within the past four years and who have enriched the chess scene with their work. What was surprising was that there were over 40 such people, whose brief obituaries (written by Stewart) appeared in the Congress programme.

The Masters tournament has been reported in detail in the national press and particularly in the daily reports by Steve Giddins on the Congress website. So it remains to me to express appreciation to the arbiters. They worked a 12-hour day for 10 days, with no days off and with no proper meal break. So thanks to David Welch (our chief arbiter), Alex McFarlane, Lara Barnes, our Swedish arbiter Jan Berglund, John and Christine Constable.

I should also mention the fringe events which provided the players with something to do every evening. We had master classes at Horntye Park given by GMs aimed at the junior players, Stewart Reuben's Pairs Tournament at the Pig in Paradise Pub, the Chess Quiz (questions set mainly by Steve Giddins) also at the Pig in Paradise Pub, the two blitz tournaments run by Paul Buswell and Marc Bryant at the Carlisle Pub and the Chess Variants evening run by Mike Adams and Mike Gunn at the White Rock Hotel. We even had a grandmaster snooker tournament hosted by ex-professional Steve Rush (a regular participant in the minor tournaments at Hastings), who was challenged by such illustrious names as Mark Hebden, Danny Gormally and Gawain Jones.

Con Power, Congress Director

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Gawain Jones receiving 4th prize from Hastings & Rye MP Michael Foster

At the time of going to press we had just been informed that Bobby Fischer had died aged 64

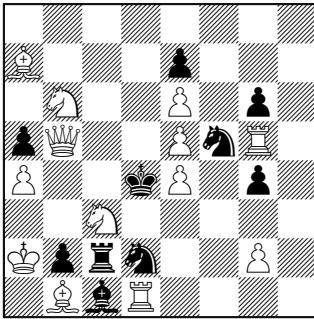
ECF BATSFORD COMPETITION

Congratulations to the Nov/Dec Winner
Barry Sandercock from Chalfont St Giles

The Correct Answers is: 1. Qc7

Emile L Pradignat 1st Prize Set, Paris Ty, 1878

WHITE TO PLAY AND MATE IN 2



Please send your answer (just the first move is sufficient) on a postcard to the

**ECF Office, The Watch Oak,
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The first correct entry drawn on
10th March 2008 will win a Batsford voucher
for any book on their current list.



B T BATSFORD

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**Copy Deadline
10th March 2008**

Editorial

2007 finished with the Junior Event Chess in The House. This was a gathering in the House of Commons of Junior Players who had represented England in 2007 in World, European, European Union and Commonwealth Championships, giving them a chance to meet The Minister for Sport and other MP's and visit our historic Houses of Parliament. The event was such a huge success with so many players and their parents wishing to take part. At the last moment we were able to switch to a much larger and more spectacular room, the Grand Committee Room, Westminster Hall, with refreshments available in the adjoining Jubilee room. I was asked why we had opted for a date in school term time, unfortunately we had no choice in the matter as this was dictated by availability of MPs and available accommodation in The House. I cannot believe that so much was achieved in such a short time and apologise to any who thought that notice of the event was too little, we only had the same time scale to arrange it all. Our young players were a credit to the ECF and it was plain to see that our hosts were impressed with them.

Cynthia Gurney, Editor



Happy New Year to all our readers from the ECF Office staff, Tina, Sophie, Gerry (for one day only!), Cynthia and Gemma.

Monday in Parliament

Monday 17th December was a fantastic day for all concerned and a pivotal occasion for ECF. My MP Vera Baird had sent out an invitation to our young stars to visit her in Parliament. Our party probably about one hundred, heard some historical facts about Parliament and in particular about the room we were using, Vera also touched on the manner of decision making in Government and how every MP has a responsibility to their constituency.

The second speaker was Dennis Skinner who promised his support to ensure that when our young people represent England in World and European events they should not have to pay such a large share of the costs.

The third speaker was Minister for Sport Gerry Sutcliffe who was presented with the first pieces of our promised 250,000 chess sets by Fergus Christie. Peter Wilson I am sure will agree that this ceremony went off very well indeed and was appreciated by the Company. The Minister expressed his thanks for the sponsorship and went on to speak about his hopes for the future of ECF and the talented players who had come to The House.

The fourth speaker was Charles Clarke who confirmed his view that Chess and indeed all other Mind Sports should receive full recognition from HM Government. He also agreed to attend the Official opening of our Library in Hastings next Year.

The fifth speaker was Dr Evan Harris who has been a committed supporter of our campaign for many years, he repeated his call to Government that recognition should be granted as soon as possible.



The sixth was Michael Foster from Hastings who promised to E Mail every MP in Parliament to ask them to find out from the schools in their constituency if they would need any chess sets.

Gerry Walsh

Michael Foster MP and ECF President Gerry Walsh at the House of Commons. Photograph © 2007 Peter Wilson

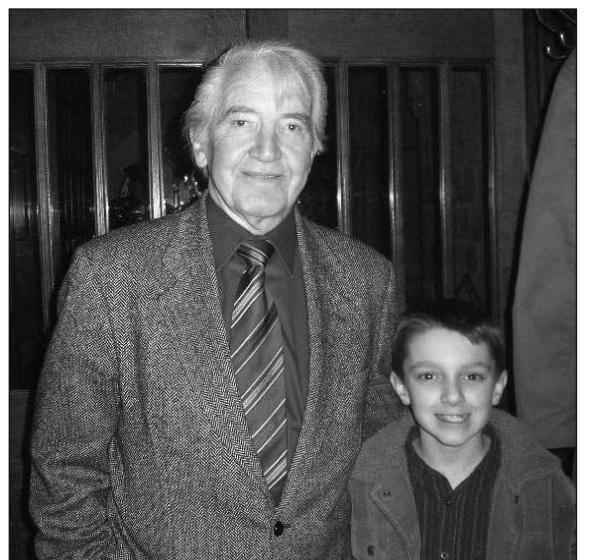
**Thank you to the
Abrams, Bentley and Williams families for supplying the following photographs:**



ECF President Gerry Walsh, Charles Clarke MP (former Home Secretary), Fergus Christie (chess sets sponsor), Vera Baird QC MP (Solicitor General) with the young chess players.



Dr Evan Harris MP and ECF President Gerry Walsh with the young chess players.



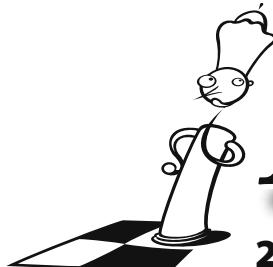
Dennis Skinner MP (left).



Gerry Sutcliffe MP (Minister for Sport).



Playing chess in the 'House'.



ECF News

250,000 Free Chess Sets

for Schools in England

Just once in a lifetime, if you are very fortunate, something happens which is bigger than anything you ever imagined. To say that I am delighted to be actively involved with a chess opportunity which has arisen over the past 7 months or so would be an understatement.

It was back in May 2007 that I first heard from Fergus Christie, Sales Director of Holloid Plastics Ltd. in Basingstoke. His son, Duncan, had been learning to play chess at school but they had only a handful of chess sets. Fergus contacted me with the preliminary information that they were looking at a marketing opportunity which would see them manufacturing chess sets completely free of charge which could be distributed to schools throughout England. I have lost count of the number of e-mails and telephone calls between us since this began - all of them constructive and all of them moving the project forward..

The gathering, at the House of Commons on Monday 17th December, of many juniors who had recently represented England at various World events provided us with the opportunity to make a formal announcement that the "Chess sets in schools" project would be under way in early 2008 with some 250,000 sets and boards being produced during 2008. Gerry Walsh master-minded the whole event and it was good to see him on first-name terms with so many MPs. The Minister for Sport was presented with a set of prototype pieces by Holloid Plastics Limited.

We owe thanks to Gerry Walsh's Member of Parliament, Vera Baird MP, for making the facilities available and for giving her time to both support the project and meet many English Juniors face-to-face. The juniors attending are certainly a credit to themselves, their parents, schools and Country.

I am still somewhat shell-shocked at the extent of this project - and I thought I had seen everything having played chess from the age of 4. It is the most exciting chess project I have ever had the pleasure of being connected with and potentially could change the face of English chess for ever. It will provide the opportunity for very many tens of thousands more children to take up chess. Those MPs who attended cannot have been anything other than impressed by the juniors they met. We wanted a good advertisement for chess and chess-players and we certainly had just that !

The Member of Parliament for Hastings and Rye - Michael Foster - himself no stranger to the world of chess - has agreed to write to every Member of Parliament to tell them of the project and to seek their active support for chess. Other Members of Parliament who attended and voiced support for chess included Charles Clarke, Dennis Skinner and Dr. Evan Harris (who revealed that at one time he had been Liverpool Under 18 Champion).

Arrangements are being made for a number of haulage contractors to collect the sets in batches from the Basingstoke factory and transport them to various Counties throughout England - again at no cost to the ECF. Charles Wood will be co-ordinating this from his base in Bradford.

We plan to actively involve MPs at the time sets are delivered to schools in their constituencies and also to actively involve existing England junior players from those schools. What we, the ECF, do require is a contact in each and every County who can work with us to get the sets into the schools in each County.

I would ask each County to advise the ECF Office of the name and contact details of a County Official who will be our point of reference once the sets start to roll off the production line.

We owe a very great vote of thanks to Holloid Limited's Sales Director Fergus Christie, Technical Director Keith Eliot (who designed the sets) and also their colleagues and suppliers who have worked with me for many months to make this project a reality. With plastic chess sets and boards retailing at around £8 each what we have is an injection of some £2 Million into chess. I am not aware of anything of this scale being attempted anywhere and I take this opportunity to thank everyone involved with this exciting project.

Peter JB Wilson
ECF Director of Marketing

Report on ECF Board Meeting No. 18

The 18th meeting of the ECF Board took place on December 5th 2007, via Conference Call. This report is a digest and summation of the decisions taken. It is not an official ECF document.

The CEO outlined the relationship between the ECF and the South African company Chess Cube and the development of an ECF online presence. ECF Head of Coaching Andrew Martin was hoping to develop premium content for the ECF site, which it was hoped would produce revenue and also allow the ECF to give discounts to members. The board urges all chess players to sign up - it is free!

A sponsor has been found for the 2008/9 National Schools Championship.

There was a discussion of the future management of both the PIF and Chess Centre Ltd. There was discussion about new management charges that had been introduced.

There was also discussion about Chess Centre Ltd (CCL) and its assets.

This is a separate company to the ECF and mainly contains the money from the sale of the British Chess Magazines. The ECF directors agreed to arrange a meeting with the PIF Trustees and CCL directors.

There was some discussion about whether the JRT Trust could be counted as ECF money in discussing reserves - given the fact that the Federation had put it into trust. The board could not agree.

The managers, committees and officers remained the same as last year with the following additions/changes: Geoff Jones: Manager of Arbiters., Andrew Moore: Manager of Home Services., David Sedgwick: CCPR Representative.

A new Congress Award is to be launched, the prize being a free entry to "the following year's" British Championship. Further, where the winning congress is FIDE rated, it would be entered by the ECF into the FIDE President's Awards.

The FIDE Delegate made a number of points: FIDE was planning a tough new regime against "cheating". And FIDE had removed Beta blockers from the list of banned substances.

ECF Awards 2008



2007 President's Award recipients David Welch (left) and Robert Milner (far right)

Presidents Awards for Services to Chess

Nominations are invited for the ECF Presidents Awards. The awards are made annually for services to the game of chess.

Previous winners include B H Wood, The BBC, Veteran 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 18 April 2008) to John Wickham (address below). Winners of the award will be announced on this website and at the ECF AGM in October.

Club of the Year & Small Club of the Year 2008

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

ones that their members feel proud to belong to. It's time to get recognition of your club by becoming recipients of the award from the ECF.

The submissions should detail the clubs 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 30 May 2008 to John Wickham (address below).

Magazine of the Year 2008

Nominations are invited for the ECF Chess Magazine of the Year award. We are looking for nominations from either readers or editors of Chess magazines that are produced by volunteers.

The editor of the magazine 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 11 April 2008 to John Wickham (address below).

Website of the Year 2008

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 2008 to John Wickham (address below).

ECF Congress of the Year 2008 Award

ECF launch a new award this year for Chess Congresses or Chess Events. Open to Congresses/Events that are affiliated to the ECF, either individually or through another body, and held in the period 1st July 2007 to 30th June 2008.

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 2009 British Championships to those entering their Congress/Event, as well as the title of "ECF Congress of the Year 2008". 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 2008.

Eligible Congresses/Events are asked to submit a citation, with copies of the entry forms to John Wickham.

**Please send all nominations/citations to
John Wickham, 55 Shakespeare Way,
Taverham, Norwich, NR8 6SL or email
j.r.wickham@btinternet.com**

ECF & Chess Cube Online Chess Club

The English Chess Federation is delighted to announce that in partnership with the South African company Chess Cube it is to launch a bespoke online ECF chess club.

From Monday 3rd December players were able to register and play at the new ECF online chess

club, membership of which is completely free.

This exciting new development has arisen out of discussions between Andrew Martin and Chess Cube, Membership has now soared over the 550 mark and is rising steadily. Thanks to all who have joined. Please encourage your friends to join us.

Many, many improvements will be introduced over the coming months and it will not be long before we have a premium membership which will include online coaching and live broadcasts from big tournaments as well as regular radio shows from prominent players. All existing basic members will be receiving a free online chess club monthly newsletter pdf from February onwards.

The front page at ecfclub.chesscube.com now includes regular news items with up to the minute game annotations from Andrew Martin as an additional free service.

ECF Chief Executive Martin Regan said: "We are delighted to be offering such an online service, as not only will it give chess players free access to what will be a fantastic chess site, it also has obvious potential for delivering revenues and membership benefits in the medium to long-term.

Mark Levitt, Chief Executive of Chess Cube, said: "Working with a body such as the English Chess Federation can only strengthen www.chesscube.com which is rapidly being recognised as one of the most exciting places for chess players worldwide to play online."

International Master Andrew Martin, the ECF Head of Coaching, will be developing a number of exciting initiatives at the new ECF Club.

"We are currently building a premium service menu which will be the equal of or better than any other chess site worldwide!" he said.

"So please join us and enjoy chess with the ECF!

Hastings International Chess Congress

continued from front page and overleaf



Final Round 10 Mamedov v Malakhatko and Chatelbashev v Neverov



Glenn Flear receiving =4th prize from MP Hastings & Rye Michael Foster



M. Bryant (Hastings) receiving prize for New Year "C" from Gerry Walsh Chairman ECF



Alan Hustwayte presenting prize for performance against rating to Martyn Goodger



Simon Williams achieved GM title subject to FIDE ratification v. Vadim Malakhatko



Cllr. P. Smith Chairman Hastings International Chess Congress presenting prize to J. Brustkern winner Christmas AM "A"

CHRISTMAS MORNING 'A' (18 players)

Jurgen Brustkern (Germany) 4½/5. Alfredo Luaces (Hastings), John Waterfield (Hereford) 3½

Grading prize: Ronnie Cohen (Leytonstone), Paul Kelly (Hastings).

CHRISTMAS MORNING 'B' (17 players)

George Murphy (Dumbarton) 4½/5. Marc Bryant (Hastings), David Guttridge (Gt.Yarmouth), Paul Smith (Hove) 3½

Grading prize: Richard Bedwell (Tonbridge), Adrian Waldock (Walton-on-Thames).

CHRISTMAS MORNING 'C' (16 players)

Geoffrey Naldrett (Slough), Omer Namouk (Hastings) 4/5. John Brooke (Ilkley), Timothy Chapman (Guildford), Lawrence Rhodes (Bexhill) 3½

Grading prize: David Fowler (Snodland), James Hall (East Grinstead), David Howes (South Croydon), Mark Stone (Orpington).

CHRISTMAS MORNING 'D' (20 players)

Timothy Allen (Earlsfield), Douglas Forbes (Wooburn Green) 4/5. Ran Mohan (Hastings), Steven Rush (Prestatyn) 3½

Grading prize: David Everitt (Haywards Heath).

CHRISTMAS AFTERNOON 'A' (16 players)

John Dodgson (Rye) 4/5. Richard Almond (St. Leonards-on-Sea), David Cutmore (Woodford Green), Gary Senior (London) 3½

Grading prize: Paul Kelly (Hastings).

CHRISTMAS AFTERNOON 'B' (20 players)

Russell Goodfellow (Tunbridge Wells), Thomas Rixon (Herts), Paul Smith (Hove) 4/5.

Grading prize: David Fowler (Snodland), Thomas Senior (London).

CHRISTMAS AFTERNOON 'C' (18 players)

Andrew Adair (Reading) 4½. Henry Cove (Hawkhurst) 4/5. Faye Ainscow (London), Steven Rush (Prestatyn) 3½.

Grading prize: Jia Ping Lee (London).

NEW YEAR 'A' (17 players)

Nigel Povah (Guildford) 5/5. Richard Almond (St. Leonards-on-Sea) 3½

3rd place and grading prizes: Stephen Blewitt (Hastings), Philip Bonafont (Hemel Hempstead), Paul Kelly (Hastings), Gerald Michaud (Crowborough).



Playing Hall

NEW YEAR 'B' (18 players)

Sheila Dines (Surrey Juniors), Russell Goodfellow (Tunbridge Wells) 4/5. E. Barry Sandercock (Chalfont St. Giles), David Twitchell (Gt.Yarmouth) 3½

Grading prize: James Abrams (Hitchin).

NEW YEAR 'C' (22 players)

Mahathir Mohamed Chan (Edinburgh University/ Malaysia) 4½. Marc Bryant (Hastings), Hannah Dale (Lincoln) 4/5.

Grading prize: Timothy Chapman (Guildford), Allan Collins (Oxford), Simon Sellick (Bracknell).

NEW YEAR 'D' (16 players)

Steven Rush (Prestatyn) 4/5. Alan Bloom (St. Leonards-on-Sea), John Constable (Coulson), Barnaby Paul (Billingshurst) 3½.

Grading prize: Andrew Adair (Reading), Christine Constable (Coulson).

WEEKEND OPEN (FIDE-rated) 18 players

Raymond Kaufman (USA) 4½/5. Alexander Cherniaev (Russia) 4. Philip Bonafont (England), Andrew Stone (England) 3½.

Grading prize: Giampiero Amato (Italy), William Jones (England).

WEEKEND MAJOR (45 players)

Victor Jones (London) 4½/5. James Essinger (Canterbury), Helge Hjort (London), Eliot Hoving (Stamford), Paul Kelly (Hastings) 4.

Grading prize: Selwyn Hamilton (Birmingham), Radha Jain (Northwood).



Glenn Flear giving speech on behalf of players with Stewart Reuben, Gerry Walsh and Michael Foster MP

WEEKEND MINOR (47 players)

Greg Breed (Harrow), Marc Bryant (Hastings), Tyrone Jefferies (Beckenham), John Linney (Halesworth), Nigel Norman (Sidcup), Matthew Payne (Worthing) 4/5.

Grading prize: Emma Bentley (Chesterfield), Timothy Chapman (Guildford), David Howes (South Croydon).

WEEKEND UNDER-100

Thomas Fitzgerald (Lindfield), Phil Foley (Rainham) 4½/5.

3rd place and grading prizes: Alan Bloom (St. Leonards-on-Sea), Amy Hoare (Billingshurst), Mikhail Lavrentiev (Oxford), Barry Miles (Uxbridge), Caroline Robson (Enfield).

MASTERS TOURNAMENT

The Hastings International Chess Congress Masters Tournament ended on 6th January evening at 20:45 when Mark Hebden and Sam Collins game was drawn. Results as follows: 1= Nidjat Mamedov (AZE), Vadim Malakhatko (BEL), Valerij Neverov (UKR) 7.5/10. They share £5,000 4= Gawain Jones (Eng), Nicholas Pert (Eng), Milos Pavlovic (SRB), Falko Binrich (Ger), Bogdan Lalic (Cro), Glenn Flear (Eng) 7/10 They share £2,400

Valerij Neverov has now been in first place for three consecutive years. Highest place female player was WGM Jovanka Houska (Eng) 6.5/10

Highest place non GM/IM Robert Eames 6.5/10 Best performance relative to FIDE rating: Martyn Goodger who receives trophy presented by Alan Hustwayte.

Best relative to FIDE under 2200: Martyn Goodger +3.27

Qualifiers for British Championship Robert Eames 6.5/Gavin Lock 6/10 (if either has already qualified then all eligible players on 5.5 to be tie-broken

Brilliancy Prize: presented by Trustees of Horntye Park (trophy plus £100) won by Jack Rudd (Eng) for his game against Evangelos Kakkanas (GRE)

A TRAGEDY AVERTED

By Stewart Reuben

17 year old Erkin Gurbanzade of Azerbaijan entered the Masters rather late. He was to be accompanied by his father and he was issued with a visa by the British Embassy with that notation. Later his father decided not to come due to pressure of business. Erkin now arrived at Gatwick airport, only to be told that his visa was invalid. It stated that he was a minor, accompanied by his father, whereas in fact he was travelling alone. The Immigration Department contacted me at home and were unfailingly polite, but would not budge, Erkin would be returned home after being interviewed. "Why bother," I asked, "since you have made up your minds?" "That's the procedure," was the reply. "What if that causes him to miss the next flight?" "Well, then an exception would be made." "Where will the boy be held if he cannot travel today?" "In a remand centre". I became rather concerned about this, although they assured me it is not at all like a prison.

That was 26 December. You note, I did not write Boxing Day, this is unknown outside the Commonwealth. On the 27th I travelled to Hastings. I met up with the two Azerbaijani grandmasters at the White Rock Hotel. Now they promptly told me that Erkin was there. But it was not all well that ends well. It turned out that he had been let into England because there was no flight home until the 29th. Erkin now told me that his father was willing to travel on the 28th and to stay in Hastings during the tournament, provided it could be guaranteed he

would be allowed to stay. It was time again to contact the Immigration Department at Gatwick. This was remarkably easy to do, with no pressing buttons until you gave up. I managed to speak to the Chief Immigration Officer and explained the situation. I pointed out that Erkin could travel to Gatwick and meet up with his father. "Well, you are making a very good case and it is very likely he will be allowed to stay. But I cannot guarantee it." Obviously the father could not be asked to travel under such circumstances. There the matter had to rest, but there still remained one possibility.

28th December we had the Opening Ceremony of the Congress and Michael Foster, the local MP attended as usual. I explained the situation to him. He was on the telephone immediately to Immigration at Gatwick and was able to persuade them that, provided the father arrived in Gatwick, then Erkin would be allowed to stay. What is more, he would not have to travel to Gatwick to meet his father. Erkin began to smile. I drank a little champagne to toast the success of the whole enterprise. By now it was 3pm and the round had started at 2:15pm. I asked the lad, "Do you want to play the first round?" How is that possible? "I am a very experienced arbiter". It was off to the tournament hall to consult Alex McFarlane and Lara Barnes the two arbiters for the Masters. There was an even number and nobody standing by. There was only one solution, I would have to play as a filler and duly did so. He played very well, but it was a bit hard to take the game fully seriously and I went down rather quickly. Let us hope he gets his first IM norm here.

International News

European Team Championships, Crete 2007

A quick glance at the outcome of the 2007 European Team Championships might suggest that there is no particularly interesting story to be told. On the one hand there is nothing obviously startling about the Russians dominating such an event. As for the English team, it ultimately ended in 16th place, exactly in line with its seeding.

In fact, so far as the Russian performance was concerned, their team was boosted by an extraordinary 'tour de force' from the popular Peter Svidler on first board, and the ease of their victory far outstripped any of their recent results in this event. There was nothing mundane or predictable about the manner of this victory. This was a performance more reminiscent of the zenith of Soviet domination than the much tighter contests of the last 15 years, as the Russian side conceded only one match point (against Spain) and finished 3.5 game points ahead of silver medallists Armenia - themselves the winners of the last Olympiad in Turin.

Similarly, I think there was a good deal more to the English result than meets the eye. Sadly, some journalists have indeed rather simplistically viewed it as just a below-par English side performing to its diminished seeding. Whilst it is true that the absence of Nigel Short somewhat weakened the side, it is not obvious to me that there were other stronger players missing who can reasonably be expected to be available in the near future. Perhaps there is some understandable disappointment that ten years after England registered the astonishing achievement of winning the gold medal in the equivalent event in Pula, the current team found itself seeded 16th. However, the reasons for this



The England team in action (left - right Mickey Adams, Gawain Jones, Nick Pert & Mark Hebden)

lie much deeper with the state of professional chess in England and the financial rewards it is able to offer. There may well be the promise of further young players breaking through in the near future, but pending that it seems to me that the selectors did an excellent job, providing a wealth of valuable experience in the form of Mark Hebden and Stuart Conquest which nicely complemented the debut of the talented young hope Gawain Jones.

The simple fact is that England fell victim to the iron law of the Swiss system – nearly always magnified in team competitions – that a loss in the last round pretty much guarantees

an unflattering final placing. But this was no ordinary last round loss either, rather a 4th board encounter with the Ukraine, the second seeds. Courtesy of a superb win by Michael Adams against the recently very in-form Vassily Ivanchuk, it was also a match which we lost by only a narrow margin.



Discussing team tactics in the traditional manner

None of this is to claim that everything went smoothly for the England team. There were justified feelings of missed opportunity after both our second round loss against the Czech Republic and the 2-2 draw with Sweden a couple of rounds later. Poland in particular was the beneficiary of a sad off-day when the team seemed to collapse almost in unison. However, each of these disappointments was followed by a tremendous show of character. The first of these saw a 3.5-0.5 thrashing of Finland, while the two wins against Germany and Georgia in rounds 7 and 8 dispelled any doubts that this team was quite capable of dispatching quality opposition. These were results of which any England side could have been proud.

In the midst of this fine collective effort were some notable individual achievements. First and foremost was Michael Adams, whose unbeaten 5.5/8, capped with excellent wins in the final two rounds was enough to secure a 2800 performance and the bronze medal on board 1. Mark Hebden, who has on occasion struggled to find his best form when playing for England, also set a tremendous pace and incidentally showed great team spirit by accepting without complaint a string of outings with the black pieces. When he did finally get a white he put it to very convincing use!



Mark Hebden - in great form

Mark Hebden – Miguel Illescas Cordoba, European Team Championships, Crete 2007, Round 5 England – Spain.

1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 d5 3 c4 e6 4 Bg5 dxc4 5 Qa4+!? Nbd7 6 e4!

Mark is a player noted for his dedication and loyalty to his opening set-ups. This position I have myself

had against him on at least 5 occasions. I am far from giving up the Black cause, but I have certainly developed a good deal of respect for the sting in White's unusual set-up. In particular I will not be rushing to imitate Black's play here. His development problems prove rather persistent.

6...c5 7 Bxc4 cxd4 8 0–0 Be7 9 Nbd2 0–0 10 e5 Nd5 11 Bxe7 Nxe7

For all his attacking abilities, Mark's preference these days is for clear cut strategic solutions. I can well understand Illescas avoiding 11...Qxe7 12 Bxd5 exd5 13 Qxd4 which he could be sure would suit his opponent's tastes.

12 Bd3 Nc6 13 Rfe1 Qe7 14 Rac1 Rd8 15 Qd1 h6 16 a3!

The most impressive feature of this game for me is the unhurried manner with which White marshals his forces. Cutting out potentially useful squares for the opponent accentuates the very development difficulties which enabled this leisurely build-up in the first place.

16...Nf8 17 Ne4 Bd7 18 Qd2 Ng6 19 Ng3 Be8

20 Re4 b6 21 Rce1 Na5?!

A needless waste of time, undoubtedly the product of a growing frustration. But even without this indiscretion, it is not easy to suggest a plan for Black, while his opponent's gradual transfer of his rooks to the king-side will create very concrete threats.

22 b4 Nc6 23 h4 a5 24 h5 Nf8 25 Rg4 Kh8 26 Ree4

26...f5?

The remedy here proves worse than the disease. Still, White threatened 27 Rxg7! followed by 28 Rg4+ and there is no pain-free way to prevent this.

27 exf6 Qxf6 28 b5 Nb8 29 Qe2 Nbd7 30 Ref4 Qe7 31 Nf5 Qxa3 32 Nxe7 1–0

A patient and tremendously effective attack against a very experienced and respected opponent.

When Mark's chess is in full flow it is an impressive sight and in the end I was probably guilty of trying to get one game too many out of a player who was becoming tired. Still, even after a couple of losses at the end this was still a fine performance with a clear rating gain.

Stuart Conquest also put in a creditable result, remaining unbeaten (albeit with a measure of good fortune in the last round) and looking increasingly assured against formidable opposition in the later rounds. Nick Pert may have been a little disappointed with his form, but it made a major contribution to England's achievement that nobody slipped into the kind of seriously below par performance which has marred some recent England results. As captain my problem was always that I had too many deserving and enthusiastic players rather than too few.

Finally a word is due about Gawain Jones, for whilst he can certainly play better than he did in Crete, there was much to applaud in the manner with which he acquitted himself on such a high board. Moreover since the first round pairing against a Scottish side without its Grandmaster stars afforded me the opportunity to rest Mickey Adams, Gawain was able to debut on Board 1. One for the historians - it must be a long time since a player was able to do this! By the end, Gawain's Black repertoire

started to look a little wobbly, but his White systems, not least his f4 Sicilian again came through with flying colours against quality opposition. The following massacre of a 2600+ opponent was little short of shocking.

Gawain Jones, - Tamaz Gelashvili, European Team Championship, Crete 2007, Round 8.

1 e4 c5 2 Nc3 Nc6 3 f4 g6 4 Nf3 Bg7 5 Bb5 Nd4 6 0–0 e6?! 7 e5 a6 8 Bd3 d5?!

9 Nxd4 cxd4 10 Ne2

The d4 pawn is already seriously weak and it will not be easy to activate the g7 bishop either. Black's response to an opening which he might reasonably have predicted has not inspired much confidence. Perhaps most curious of all, Gelashvili has been known to play the f4 Sicilian himself! Still, this is not the first time that a very strong player has failed to handle Gawain's anti-Sicilian weapon. Loek Van Wely was another notable victim at this year's Staunton Memorial. In both cases, White was merciless in his exploitation of his opponent's misdemeanours.

10...Qb6 11 Qe1 Ne7 12 b3 Nc6 13 Bb2 0–0 14 Nxd4!

Oops! 14...Nxd4 15 Qe3 is a simple tactic leaving Black with nothing to show for a pawn. So Black tries to by-pass the knight, but it remains a very healthy presence on a virtually unassailable central square.

14...Nb4 15 Qe3 Nxd3 16 Qxd3 Bd7 17 Qe3 a5 18 Ba3 Rfc8 19 Be7 a4 20 b4 a3 21 c3 Rc4 22 Rf3 Bf8 23 Bf6!

White already has his sights set higher than an extra pawn with a positional advantage. To recoup the material, Black must desert his king-side and Gawain does not need to be asked twice to attack the king!

23...Bxb4 24 Rh3 h5?! 25 f5! Rxd4 26 Qh6! 1–0

As for my debut as the non-playing captain, it feels overall rather gentle. There was not only a very good team spirit throughout, but also the pleasure of playing in excellent conditions with a level of efficient organisation which always inspired confidence.

I am very pleased that the ECF was able to provide the necessary support to send the strongest available team. I am particularly grateful to Peter Sowray, our tireless International Director. His commitment to top level chess in England and to ensuring that we are well represented at these important team events is a great asset and it is nice to have the chance to thank him for his tremendous work.

Peter Wells

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European Women's Team Championship

27th October-7th November 2007

Reflections from John Emms, England women's team manager

The 2007 European Team Championship was hosted by Greece and held at the luxurious Creta Maris Conference Hotel, not far from Heraklion, the largest city and the capital of Crete. The hotel, playing venue and organisation have all been widely praised, and I'd like to add my name to the long list of admirers. I can't think of a single controversial moment, which is usually a sign of a forward-thinking and efficient organisation. The Greek Chess Federation and the team headed by George Mastrokoukos deserve great credit for their smooth running of the event.

Just like the Open section, the Women's Team Championship was very strong, with many of the top players who were eligible being present, including two former World Champions. Top seeds were Russia, who looked quite formidable with their five 'Ks': Kosteniuk, the Kosintseva sisters, Kovalevskaya and Korbut. But Ukraine, spearheaded by Katerina Lahno, and Georgia, with Maia Chiburdanidze, also looked strong, and the defending champions Poland could certainly not be discounted.

In the end it was the Russians who deservedly triumphed, thanks in no small part to Kosteniuk's excellent performance on board one, plus some good support from Tatiana and Nadezhda Kosintseva. Russia were the only team to remain undefeated, and a crucial seventh-round victory over Georgia, decided by a single decisive result on board four, was perhaps the pivotal point of the tournament.

Poland couldn't quite match their heroics of Gothenburg two years earlier, but they were still mightily impressive, especially given the strength of opposition they faced. They pushed the Russians very hard, and with two rounds to go they were neck and neck with them. But an eighth round defeat to bronze medallists Armenia followed by a draw in the final round with Romania meant that Poland had to be satisfied with Silver, still an admirable achievement.

Out of the top seeds, perhaps the ones to leave most disappointed were Ukraine, who were victims of a first-round giant-killing at the hands of the young Azerbaijani team. With tournament standings being decided on match points rather than game points (a welcome move in my opinion because it makes it much more of a team game), it's harder to reclaim lost ground after such a defeat, whereas with game points a couple of convincing wins against lower seeds usually puts you back in the mix. Ukraine did manage to stage a recovery, but then a seventh-round loss to Poland put paid to any hopes of winning the event, and in the end they missed out completely on medals.

Now onto how the English team fared. Our line-up of Jovanka Houska, Dagne Ciukyte, Ingrid Lauterbach, Sabrina Chevannes and Meri Grigoryan-Lyell was less experienced than teams we've sent to recent events – in fact three of the five players were making their debuts! Seeded 20th out of 30 teams, we endured a particularly tough start when we lost to Poland, and were then shocked to find ourselves facing the reigning Olympic Champions... Ukraine! Once the tournament settled down and we were playing teams who were considerably closer in strength to us, we recovered well, and I think four wins from the seven remaining matches demonstrates this.

The team bonded really well, and everyone showed great determination to fight to the end in every game, and to put team interests above everything else. The competition faced was high-quality, and I'm sure every player gained valuable experience that can only come from sampling the pressures associated with this type of event.

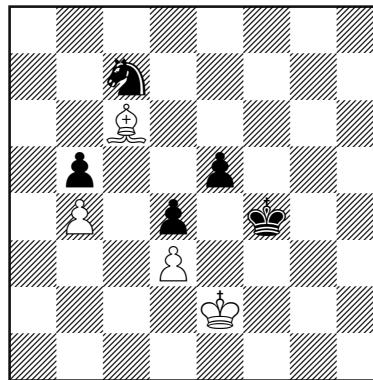
Some highs: Ingrid playing really well and performing 100 points above her rating; a 3-1 victory over Lithuania, with Jovanka beating Viktorija Cmilyte, with Dagne also winning in what must have been a difficult experience facing the country which until recently she represented, and with Sabrina scoring her first win for England; Ingrid playing a brilliant endgame to secure a match victory against Austria (that's why match points are more fun, or more nerve-wracking, depending on whether you are a spectator or captain); and Meri taking a short break from the Schliemann and Albin

Gambits to win a positional masterpiece in the Catalan (okay, she did sneak in a sacrifice at the end). And disappointments: losing to Azerbaijan in round six when we didn't make the most of our chances; and coming off second best in a close last-round match with Croatia, when a win would have pushed us up into the top half of the table.

Finally, I'd like to express my thanks to Cynthia Gurney, Peter Sowray and the ECF team for all their hard work in organising the trip; and also to the ECF for their continued support of the English teams at these major championships.

There were many games of interest, and it's almost unfair to single any out. But if I was pushed to choose just a couple of moments from the tournament, it would be these.

The first is Ingrid's crucial win to ensure victory over Austria in round three:



White: Katharina

Newrkla (Austria)

Black: Ingrid

Lauterbach (England)

Round 3

Ingrid had been pressing for quite a while, but upon seeing this position I must confess I thought Black's winning chances were slim. Her opponent must have thought they were even less than that, because after...

46...Kg5!! 47 Kf3 Kf6 48 Ke4

...she rather cheekily offered a draw! Despite appearances to the contrary, retreating the king is the decisive idea. Viewing from afar, I initially underestimated the strength of this plan.

48...Ke6 49 Bb7 Kd6

White is actually in zugzwang here – every move worsens her position. More specifically, Black can force through ...Nd5, when the knight both attacks the b-pawn and eyes the ideal c3-square. At this stage I began to have high hopes.

50 Bc8

I think that 50 Kf5 is more resilient, but Black is still winning as far as I can see:

50...Nd5 51 Ba6 Nc3 52 Bb7 (52 Kg4 e4!) 52...e4! (giving up the e-pawn in order to win the b-pawn) 53 dxe4? (53 Bxe4 Na2! and the b-pawn ought to win for Black, e.g. 54 Bf3 Nxb4 55 Ke4 Kc5 56 Bh5 Na2 57 Bf7 Nc1 followed by 58...b4 and 59...b3) 53...Kc7! 54 Ba8 d3 55 e5 d2 56 Bf3 d1Q 57 Bxd1 Nxd1 and Black's lone b-pawn should be sufficient.

50...Nd5 51 Ba6 Nc3+!

52 Kf3

52 Kf5 can be met by 52...e4!, and after 53 dxe4 d3 54 e5+ Kc7 there is no way of stopping the d-pawn from queening.

52...Kc7!

White's bishop is not a happy piece! Now Ingrid wins the b-pawn and polishes the game off very effectively.

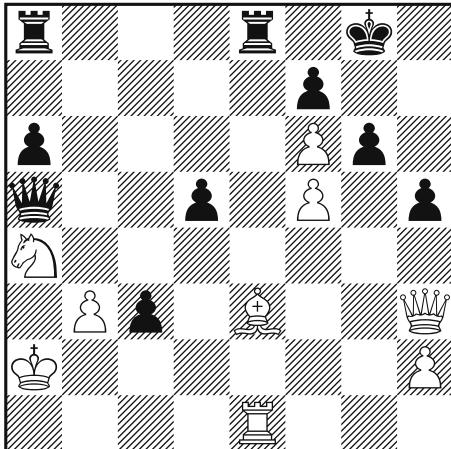
53 Kf2 Kb6 54 Bc8 Nd5 55 Kf3 Nxb4 56 Ke4 Nc6 57 Be6 Kc5 58 Bb3 Kd6 59 Kf5 Na5 60 Ba2 0-1

Ingrid's opponent didn't want to wait for ...b4-b3 etc.

Dagne's first win for England was a memorable one, ending with her opponent's king being forced to walk all the way up the board.

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White: Carmen Voicu (Romania)
Black: Dagne Ciuksys (England)
Round 5



Both sides seem to have high hopes of landing a knockout blow against their opponents' kings, but Dagne had prepared a killer move to White's 31 f5:

31...Re4!

When I saw Dagne playing this move I knew it was game over. White can't set up a defence of any kind against ...Rxa4+. This is all the more decisive now that Qd7 is no longer available as a resource for White.

32 fxg6 Rxa4+! 33 Kb1

After 33 bxa4 Qxa4+ 34 Kb1 Black has at least two ways to win: 34...Qb3+ 35 Kc1 Qb2+ 36 Kd1 c2+ 37 Ke2 c1Q+ is good enough; but obviously computers prefer checkmate with, for example, 34...Rb8+ 35 Kc1 Qa1+ 36 Kc2 Qa2+ 37 Kd3 Qc4+ 38 Kc2 Qe4+ 39 Kxc3 Qc4+ 40 Kd2 Rb2+ 41 Kd1 Qc2.

Not that declining the rook on a4 is any better.

33...Ra1+ 34 Kc2 Ra2+ 35 Kd3 Qb5+ 36 Kd4

Or 36 Kxc3 Qc6+ 37 Kd4 Qxf6+, and Black wins.

36...Qb4+ 37 Ke5 Re8+ 38 Kxd5 Rd8+ 39 Kc6

39 Ke5 Ra5+ sees all the major pieces joining in. White could easily resign at any point here, but Dagne's opponent – perhaps influenced by time trouble – plays on almost to checkmate.

39...Qd6+ 40 Kb7 Rb8+ 0-1

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Junior News

Commonwealth Championships

2-10 December, New Delhi

At very short notice the ECF, with the brilliant work and effort of Claire Summerscale, Director of Junior Chess, have managed to put together a team of enthusiastic juniors to compete in the Commonwealth Tournament in Delhi from 2nd to 10th December 2007. GM Mark Hebden is the official coach in charge of the group.

Under 8 – Ravi Haria

Under 12 – Jude Lenie, Joseph Quinn

Under 14 – Samuel Walker, Anand Krishnan

Under 16 Girl – Thilagini Anandajeyarajah

Under 16 – Yaroslav Voropayev, Elliott Auckland, Matthew Daggitt, David Lawrence, Roland Johnson, Sharan Soni

Under 18 – Daniel Wells

Under 20 – GM Gawain Jones

Accompanying Parents: James Anandajeyarajah (Group Leader), Sonal Haria, Susan Lenier, Susan Quinn, Cally Auckland, Roger Wells, Sabina Soni

The group met at Heathrow on Saturday 1st December at 5:30 and after being presented with their official polo shirts, checked in quite quickly and smoothly for an overnight flight to Delhi. Everyone was in extremely good spirits and excited about the trip. At the departure gate, Mark Hebden was already quizzing some of the juniors about their opening strategies and promising them a very hard week of games and coaching! Mark will be looking after all 13 players for the duration of the tournament!

On arrival at Delhi, on Sunday morning, we were met by one of the organisers, Mr A K Verma and his team. After being presented with fresh flower garlands, we were taken by luxury coach to our hotel, in an old and built up part of Delhi, with lots of people, traffic and constant car horns!



ECF squad & parents wearing their polo shirts

After quickly settling into our rooms, we met at Lal Bagh Restaurant in the hotel, for lunch, which was delicious. After that some squad members disappeared off to play cards, snooze or chat.

We met up at 6:00 and were taken through the Delhi rush hour to the Russian Cultural Centre for the opening ceremony and official dinner for the Commonwealth Chess Centre, hosted by the Delhi Chess Association. Speeches were almost 2 hours long, followed by a delicious vegetarian dinner and music. We returned to our hotel at 10:30.

Everyone managed to wake up on time and after a delicious breakfast we set off at 8:30 for Round One, at 9:30. However, the driver of one of the cars did not know where the venue was so some of us were quite late. Luckily the chess organisers realised and waited for us before beginning the games. However, some of our players did not have clocks, as there were not enough! This was a shame.



The England team with Mark Hebden, outside the tournament hall. 'Grand Master Mark', as the Indians call him, was presented with a lovely pink Indian dress by the chess organisers



We finished with Bronze Medals for Ravi Haria (U8) and GM Gawain Jones (U20). They were both the only foreign players to get medals. All other medals in each age section were won by Indian players.

U20 Prize Winners

Rank	SNo.	Name	Rtg	Typ	Pts	Fide
3	15	IM Gupta Abhijeet	IND 2470	U20	8	43
13	25	IM Arun Prasad S	IND 2423	U20	7	43½
16	2	GM Jones Gawain C B	ENG 2567	U20	7	41

U8 Prize Winners

Rank	SNo.	Name	Rtg	Typ	Pts	Fide
227	247	Meghna C H	IND f	U8	4	15½
230	248	Harshal Shahi	IND	U8	4	14
242	275	Ravi Haria	ENG	U8	3½	18

Final Ranking

Rank	SNo.	Name	Rtg	FED	Pts	Fide
1	13	GM Ramesh R B	2473	IND	8½/1047	
2	1	GM Ganguly Surya Shekhar	2585	IND	8½	46
3	15	IM Gupta Abhijeet	2470	IND	8	43
4	32	IM Himanshu Sharma	2408	IND	7½	47½
5	23	IM Rathnakaran K	2433	IND	7½	46½
6	40	IM Kamble Vikramaditya	2374	IND	7½	45½
7	11	IM Harika Dronavalli	2480	IND	7½	43½
8	18	IM Sriram Jha	2459	IND	7½	43
9	5	GM Abdulla Al-Rakib	2506	BAN	7½	43
10	3	GM Kunte Abhijit	2547	IND	7½	41
16	2	GM Jones Gawain C B	2567	ENG	7	41
176	158	Wells Daniel J	2024	ENG	4½	25½
182	204	Auckland Elliott	1910	ENG	4½	24
206	282	Yaroslav Voropayev	0	ENG	4	23½
217	243	Soni Sharan	1744	ENG	4	19
235	264	Daggitt Matthew	0	ENG	3½	20
242	275	Ravi Haria	0	ENG	3½	18
247	241	Quinn Joseph R	1758	ENG	3½	16
250	231	Lenier Jude	1819	ENG	3½	14½
254	246	Anandajeyarajah Thilagini	1720	ENG	3½	11
255	281	Walker Samuel	0	ENG	3	22½
259	265	David Lawrence	0	ENG	3	18
265	272	Krishnan Anand J	0	ENG	3	14
267	268	Johnson Roland E S	0	ENG	3	13½

National Schools Entries Increase

The English Chess Federation is delighted to announce that entries to its 2007/8 National Schools Championships have risen by around 45 per cent compared with last year.

In total, some 135 schools have entered the competition, compared with 93 in 2006/7 and 93 in 2005/6.

The increase has been achieved following a marketing exercise carried out by the ECF's junior directorate.

ECF junior director Claire Summerscale said: "It's great to be able to reverse some of the decline that this flagship junior competition has suffered in recent years.

"Although I am very pleased at the rise in entries there is still a long way to go before it can be returned to the position it was in when it was sponsored by The Times and attracted well over 150 entries. We are still actively looking for a sponsor, as it really does represent a fabulous marketing opportunity for any company."

For more information on the National Schools Championships please visit www.ecfchess.com.



Richmond Junior Chess Club Open Day

The Richmond Junior Chess Club held an Open Day on Saturday November 24th, with a Blitz Tournament followed by a Simultaneous Display by International Master (and ECF Junior Coaching supremo) Andrew Martin.

In the blitz tournament, the U18 section resulted in a four-way tie between Edward Ko, Nishant Jogkelar, Michael Pettit and Jasper Tambini. Alfred Drinkwater triumphed in the U11 and Theodore Dias scored 100% in the U9.

The juniors had less success in the simultaneous, where Andrew scored a massive 36 wins out of 36 in a little short of three hours. However he graciously admitted that he'd had to give many of the games his 100% concentration. Just as well, because unbeknown to Andrew, Jamie Jones of Trafalgar School (see photo) is the 6 year old nephew of Grandmaster Joe Gallagher.

It has been a busy time for the Richmond Juniors. The BBC recently held an audition involving some of the club members and we expect to see 6 of them on TV in the New Year, competing in a mental martial arts competition!

The Richmond Junior Chess Club runs every Saturday during term time from 2 to 5 p.m. Contact Peter Sowray for more information (07720 716 336, psowray@aol.com or visit the web site www.rjcc.org.uk).

5th Yorkshire Girls Open Championships

The 5th Yorkshire Girls Open Championships produced the highest standards so far seen. This year's entry of 33 was a little down on last year but as usual all the old rivals from Yorkshire and Lancashire lined up to chase the £100 first prize and the title of Yorkshire Girls Open Champion. Last Year's winner Kiruthika Rajeswaran came to defend her title, but she knew it was going to be tough with Evie Hollingworth in good form, great friend and rival Amanda Hipshon fresh from her England Girls U18 joint title, Lancashire maestro Rachel Cass and the ever dangerous and also in hot form Jade Stirrup. There were also several dark horses snapping at their heels as well as the age group trophies to contest. For the first time this year a novice section was introduced for girls playing their first tournament and this proved very enjoyable for the little newcomers taking part.



There was some fantastic attacking play all round and the first of the heavy weight contests started in round 3 as Evie Hollingworth defeated Jade Stirrup. In round 4 Amanda scored her first ever victory over

Rachel Cass and Evie defeated last year's winner Kiruthika to set up a meeting with Amanda in round 5. Again, Amanda scored her first ever win over Evie to at least secure the trophy, and then went on to beat Jade in the final round to claim first place outright.



In the Novices little Hepzhi Leatherbarrow put a marker down for the future with 5½/6. Runner-up in the championship was Evie with Kiruthika 3rd. The Under 18 trophy was awarded to Jade Stirrup, the Under 14 to Rachel Cass, the Under 12 to Isobel Cotogni, the Under 11 to Phoebe Price, the Under 10 to Lara Buckley, Under 9 to Lucy Towse and Under 8 to Hannah Harrison.

West Yorkshire County trophies were also awarded in three categories:

Under 18 Amanda Hipshon
Under 14 Amy Greenhough
Under 11 Eleanor Westwood



The best game prize was awarded to Natalie Cass and Yasmin Niksaz for their final round draw which had seen Yasmin attack with her usual 'caution to the wind' approach and Natalie hang on for grim death to almost grab the win at the end.

A very big well done to all girls for taking part in a great day of chess. Let's hope we can try to attract even more new faces next year.

National Prep School Rapidplay 15 December 2007

About 120 players took part this year with 12 schools competing over 5 age groups, the team competition and individual competitions were all very close. The standard of play at the top of each age group was particularly good with Magdalen College School, Dulwich College Prep, Twickenham Prep, Homefield and Aldro all having won National titles over the past few years. A lot of credit must go to the players who battled over 5 rounds with hardly a dispute for the controllers to sort out.

U13 Champions

Guy Dixon (MCS) and Charles Black (DCPS) 3.5½
3rd Dominic Pozzo (Homefield) 3½

U12 Champions

Clifford Carr (MCS) and Baven Balendran (DCPS)
4½ 3rd Eamon Devaney (MCS) 3½

U11 Champion

Nicholas Clancy (DCPS) 5½ 2nd= Gautham Reddar (Eltham College), Nathan Sames (MCS), Harvey Kandohla (Twickenham Prep) and Adam Taylor (Homefield) 4½

U10 Champion

James Whitton (Aldro) 4.5½ 2nd= Angus Hattrick (Aldro), Robert Hewett (Aldro) and Elliott Ghent (Aldro) 4½

U9 Champions

Alex Anderton (MCS) and Palden Ball (MCS)
5½ 3rd= Henry Phillips (MCS), Richard Woods-Rogan (MCS), Conor Murphy and Alexander Selway (Eltham College), Daniel Muir (Reigate St Marys) and Michael Banh (Homefield) 4½



The team competition consisted of the best four scores from each school and it was Magdalen College School with 18 points who managed to retain the cup they won last year. Their under nines were outstanding.

Aldro (16.5) did particularly well in the under ten age group and came a close 2nd. Dulwich College Prep and Eltham College (15.5) came 3rd=, Homefield and Reigate St Mary's (14) joint 5th, Twickenham Prep (13.5) 7th, Bishopsgate 8th, Buckingham College Prep 9th, Oakwood 10th, Reddiford 11th and Quainton 12th.

Next year there will be trophies for the top 3 schools. Well done to all the players and many thanks to Dr John Nunn (GM) for presenting the medals and trophies.

DJ Archer in chess Aldro School

English Junior Rapidplay 3 November 2007

The English Junior Rapidplay was held at the International Students House in Central London and was organised by the London Chess Centre on behalf of the ECF. The tournament was held in memory of Abba Rivlin a strong chess player from Leeds who competed in the Hastings Challengers. His family's generous contribution enabled the event to take place.

There were some outstanding performances, most notably from Matthew Wadsworth, an U-8 who scored 5/6 and Helen Mazalon who very nearly upset one of the leading U-12s in the last round and could have won the U-10 title. The Breindel brothers from Radlett were both prize winners, with Jake winning the U-10.

The overall winner and English Rapidplay champion was Raushan Khamroev a new arrival from Uzbekistan who scored 5.5/6. Having started with five straight wins, he had a superior tie-break to Akash Jain and James Adair. Raushan's crucial victory was over Yang Fan Zhou as Black in a Scandinavian, as he coolly defended a difficult position and then took his chance with a tactical shot that won the exchange.

Nearly 150 players took part and thanks to all who volunteered in setting out the pieces and the chairs and special thanks to arbiter Adam Raoof who kept the tournament running to time and to Claire Summerscale for her support from the event's inception until the very last chess set was packed up.

Open

1st = Raushan Khamroev, Akash Jain, James Adair 5.5/6 Khamroev winner on tie-break

U16

1st = Raushan Khamroev, James Adair 5.5/6 Khamroev winner on tie-break.

3rd = Elliot Aukland 5

U14

1st Akash Jain 5.5; 2nd Dashiell Shaw 4.5
3rd = Patrick Stevens, Tibor Jones, Samuel Waller, Lloyd Clarke 4

U13

1st Gordon Scott 5
2nd = Yang-Fan Zhou, Alexander Hardwick, Aashna Mahajan, Saravanan Sathyinandha 4

U12

1st = Marcus Harvey, Brandon Clark 5
3rd Frank Sabin 4.5

U11

1st Radha Jain 4
2nd = Peter Batchelor, Adam Taylor, Joseph Levene, Philip Knott, Nicholas Clancy, Mihir Matvani 3.5

U10

1st Jake Breindel 3.5/6
2nd = Tibo Rushbrooke Jonathan Pein, Helen Mazalon, Marcus Rose, George Chantry, Henry Mitchell 3

U9

1st = Peter Andreev, Ravi Haria, David Redman 4 Peter Andreev winner on tie break

U8

1st Matthew Wadsworth 5/6
2nd Rohan Shiatis 4
3rd = James Colebourn, Carl Breindel 3

Chess Clock Repairs

We have been asked whether we know of anyone who can carry out repairs to chess clocks. Can anyone help by providing details of someone willing to carry out such repairs - especially if they have personal experience of having work carried out. If so, then would they please advise the ECF Office (Tel: 01424 775222, Email: office@englishchess.org.uk) in the first instance. Many thanks.

Peter Wilson, ECF Director of Marketing

Littlewood's Choice

A Happy New Year to all my readers! 2007 has been a year packed with exciting games along with dramatic rivalries, but this month I am picking out a player of whom, in my ignorance, I had never heard before. He first came to my knowledge via his startling 'taming' of the Spanish Torture in the line 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 4 Ba4 Nf6 5 0-0 Be7 6 Re1 b5 7 Bb3 d6 8 c30-0 9 h3Na5 10 Bc2 and now the seemingly incomprehensible 10...d5!? (the delayed Marshall?) with which he won a fascinating game. This led me to the following which I consider a marvellous attacking game in the style of the 3M's (Mestel, Miles and Morozevich). See if you agree with me ...

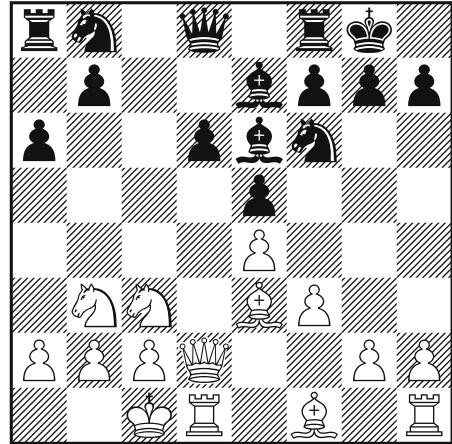
ETCC Crete 06.11.2007

□ Nedev,T (2528)

■ Gajewski,G (2573)

Ruy Lopez B90

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Be3 e5 7 Nb3 Be7 8 Qd2 Be6 9 f3 0-0 10 0-0-0



So far we are in the realm of scores of games where Black plays ...Nbd7 and ...b5 whilst White attacks with g4 etc., but once again our hero goes his own way with an aggressive attack which seemingly baffles an opponent faced with problems he did not expect.

In the course of the following aggression by Gajewski he moves his KN six (!) times via e8, c7, e8, d6, c4 and finally a3 with check, an unbelievable journey which entails using up 25% of his total moves on this piece !?

10...a5!? 11 Qe1 Qc8

Stopping Nc5.

12 a4!?

With hindsight we can pinpoint this natural move as being unnecessarily weakening although it is hard to believe it at this stage.

12...Na6 13 g4 Nb4!

Already aiming at c2, a tactical point echoed throughout the rest of the game.

14 Kb1 d5!?

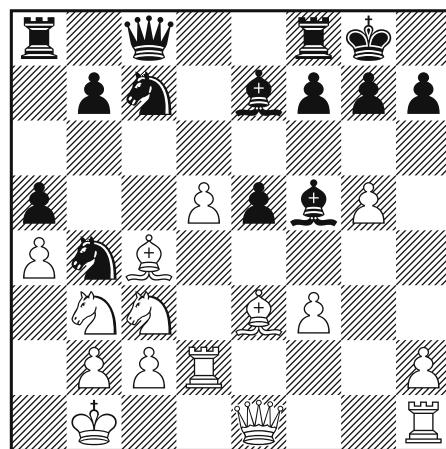
The second shock for White who presumably thought

this move unplayable. Black's boldness and originality now continue in the same vein to the very end.

15 g5 Ne8 16 exd5 Bf5 17 Rd2 Nc7!

Note that the obvious 17...Nd6 allows 18 Bc5.

18 Bc4



Black was threatening the d5 pawn and if 18 d6 Bxd6 19 Rxd6 Bxc2+ etc.

18...b5!! 19 axb5

Or if White wishes to get rid of Black's knight we have 19 Bxb5 Nxb5 20 axb5 a4 21 Na1 a3 22 d6 Bxd6! 23 Rxd6 Bxc2+ 24 Nxc2 a2+ 25 Kc1 a1=Q+ winning material.

19...Ne8!!

The key move which gains valuable time for the final attack.

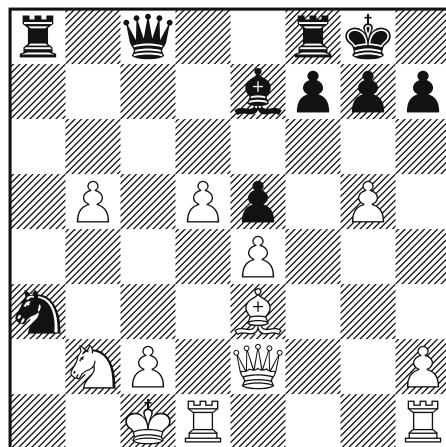
20 Qe2 a4 21 Nc1

21 Na1 seems the natural defensive move, guarding c2, but then Black has 21...Nd6 22 Bd3 a3 23 Nb3 (or 23 Bxf5 axb2 24 Kxb2 Nc4+) 23...Nxd3 24 cxd3 Qc4! 25 Kc2 axb2 26 Kxb2 Qb4 27 Bc5 Nc4+ 28 dxc4 Bxc5 winning.

21...Nd6 22 Bd3 Nxd3 23 Nxd3

Or 23 cxd3 a3 24 N1a2 Nc4 winning.

23...Nc4 24 Rdd1 a3 25 Ne4 Bxe4 26 fxe4 axb2 27 Nxb2 Na3+ 28 Kc1



28...Qc3!! 0-1

An aesthetically pleasing finish after which there is no defence to ...Nc4 followed by mate.

ECF EMAIL ALERT
Register your email address at
www.englishchess.org.uk
to receive news items as soon as they are known to us

English Chess Federation

Grand Prix 2007/8

Leader Boards 14 January 2008

Bold indicates players who are counting the maximum number of events.

Junior Prix

1	Jones, Victor GL, Kent Junior Congresses	649
2	Jones, William EG, Kent Junior Congresses.....	559
3	Clanchy, Nicholas, Kent Junior Congresses.....	543
4	Davison, Chris, Cambridge City	542
5	Jain, Radha, Pinner	539
6	Sathyanaandha, Saravanan, Haberdashers Askes Sch Herts.....	535
7	Thompson, Robert, St Marychurch	528
8	Scott, Gordon W, Norwich Juniors	516
9	Daley, Eugene, Kent Junior Congresses.....	514
10	Haria, Ravi, Barnet Knights	501

Graded Prix (150-174)

1	Hjort, Helge, Hendon	535
2	Bryant, Richard BE, Oswestry.....	470
3	Evans, Paul A, AXA Lytham.....	364
4	Fallowfield, Nicholas K, Stourbridge.....	344
5	Gibbs, Dominic V, Cambridge University.....	331
6	Hutchinson, Norman A, Royston.....	328
7	Cutmore, David A, Wood Green	323
8	Shepley, Julien M, Guildford.....	319
9	Cutmore, Martin J, Wood Green	305
10	Rabbite, Dominic M, Heywood.....	301

Graded Prix (125-149)

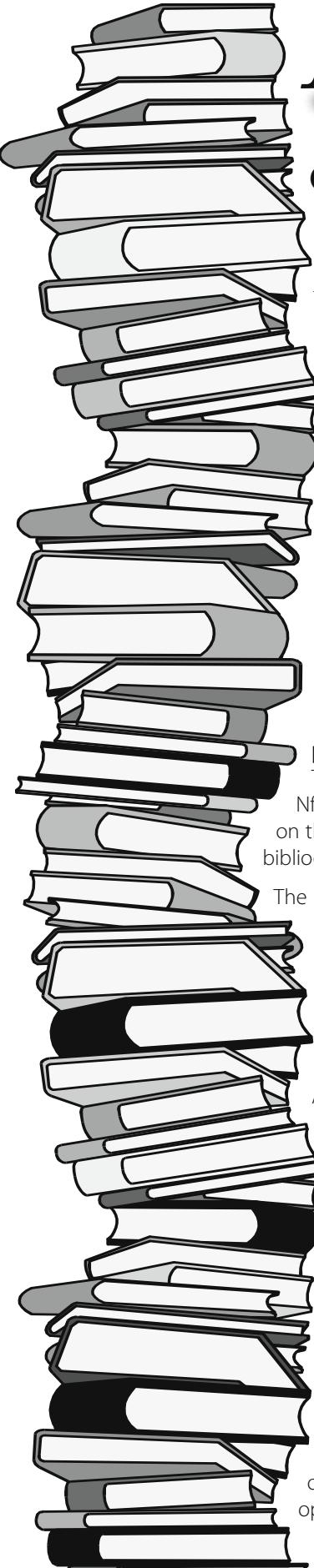
1	Desmedt, Richard E, Netherton.....	551
2	Goodfellow, Russell R, Tunbridge Wells.....	538
3	O'Gorman, Brendan, DHSS	528
4	Clegg, Robert, Huddersfield	522
5	Price, Andrew, Leamington	486
6	Pride, Stephen C, Cambridge City.....	460
7	Combie, Alex B, Newark & Southwell	452
8	Jackson, Paul G, Coulsdon CF	437
9	Bishop, Geoffrey L, Chislehurst	402
10	Ribbands, Patrick C, Cambridge City	395

Graded Prix (100-124)

1	Walker, Roger W, Belper	477
2	Barnell, Terry, London E *	471
3	Gartside, Carl, High Peak	467
4	Jones, Laurence AG, Lewisham.....	465
5	Allen, Timothy S, Battersea	455
6	Constable, John, Coulsdon CF	399
7	Farthing, Andrew P, Worcester.....	385
8	Sutcliffe, John, Chester	377
9	Gilbert, David J, DHSS	365
10	Gardiner, Colin J, Falmouth.....	357

Graded Prix (U100)

1	Foley, Phil T, Upminster	542
2	Fraser, Alan R, Beckenham & Bromley	532
3	Miles, Barry S, Middlesex CCA.....	485
4	Stone, Mark R, Petts Wood & Orpington	415
5	Robson, Caroline J, Barnet Elizabeth.....	400
6	Jain, Dinesh, Pinner.....	361
7	Billett, Stephen J, Portsmouth	355
8	Everitt, David, Haywards Heath	355
9	Constable, Christine F, Coulsdon CF	302
10	Smith, Phil, Rolls Royce Derby.....	289



Book Reviews

by Gary Lane

Grandmaster Secrets: The Caro-Kann

by Peter Wells

published by Gambit £15.99

The opening has a solid reputation and is renowned on the weekend circuit as being rather dull. This might be unfair but Wells admits in the introduction "Still, the charge that the Caro-Kann is a drawish, unambitious opening remains to be answered." He is convinced that recent changes in the opening have made it more dynamic and makes a convincing case for Black. After the excellent *Play the Caro-Kann* by Jovanka Houska interest in the opening has been heightened. She chose to offer Black a practical repertoire and Well's book complements it well by giving background information on all the main variations. It has emerged that the modern handling of the opening can be quite creative and controversial. The chapter on the advance Caro is particularly illuminating because he examines Keith Arkell's pet lines with 3...c5 that have been imitated by many club players and is recommended by Houska. The 25 annotated games cannot cover every possible line in the opening but all the well known variations are examined and explained in a pleasing style.

It is time to learn the Caro-Kann and Peter Wells is an excellent teacher.

Fighting the Anti-Sicilians

by Richard Palliser

published by Everyman £14.99

This is a vast subject because White often avoids the main lines of the Sicilian starting with 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 by doing something else on move 2. I have a particular interest in this having written two books on the Closed Sicilian and others on the C3 Sicilian and The Grand Prix Attack. However, according to the bibliography the author has never seen them and instead seems to be reading lots of Everyman titles.

The chapters contain plenty of analysis and many examples of Palliser's own games so he can use his experience in the lines to illuminate the recommendations. The Morra Gambit and Wing Gambit might deserve a chapter of their own due to their popularity but he finds a way to avoid the vast majority of the complications and they can be found in the chapter entitled "Gambits". It is interesting and surely right that the author advocates grabbing the pawn and then trying to hang on. One has to admire the desire to think of everything because he even spends time looking at 2 a3 where the solution is apparently 2...g6 which is given an exclamation mark.

A detailed study of the anti-Sicilians by an authority on the opening.

How to Play the English Opening

by Anatoly Karpov

published by Anatoly Karpov £14.99

This a collection of 30 annotated games with over half played by the former World Champion. If you are looking for the latest moves and fashions in the lines then forget it but if you want to understand how to play the English then it is essential reading. A game against Karpov is given where playing Black he is crushed by Kramnik but it is presented as an opportunity to learn from his mistakes. Of course, with every great player the question is how much did he contribute? After all even Garry Kasparov failed to do enough work on his first Predecessors book because he missed a checkmate in 3 amongst various inaccuracies while his latest work *How Life Imitates Chess* was apparently written entirely by the co-author Mig Greengard. In this case, Evgeny Gik is the compiler of Karpov's notes on the games and they are presented in a clear style. It is aimed at players who have some idea of the opening but want to improve.

The perfect opportunity to learn the English Opening from a chess legend.

ECF YEARBOOK 2008 OUT SOON

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Results Round-Up

Royal Beacon Seniors Congress

19-23 November 2007

Seniors Section: A Footner, 159, Yeovil, 4½/5; J A Dodgson, 177, Sussex, 4½/5; GP U136: I S Annetts, 135, Tiverton, 4; GP U110: M Kaye, 97, Dorchester, 2½; Hazel Welch, 96, Seaton, 2½; R Waters, 100, Taunton, 2½

Junior Section: M Yeo, 186, Lymington, 5/5; I Heppell, 162, Wimbledon, 3½; GP U150: S W Schofield, 136, Newton Abbot, 2½; D R Rogers, 127, Exmouth, 2½

13th Bury Rapidplay

9 December 2007

Bury & Rochdale League Team Competition:

Bury, 14; 3Cs A, 13.5; 3Cs B, 9

M W Homes Open: Ali Jaunooby, 3Cs Oldham, 5/6; Nigel Davies, Southport, 5/6; Roger Williamson, Aigburth, 4.5/6; GP: Jonathan Arnott, Sheffield University, 3.5/6; David Jameson, Colwyn Bay, 3.5/6

Major: Philip Armstrong, Oldham, 5/6; Richard Gavin, Oldham, 5/6; Mark Birkin, Alwoodley, 5/6; Robert Clegg, Huddersfield, 5/6; GP: Chris Booth, Huddersfield; Mitchell Burke, 3Cs Oldham

Minor: Will Heyes, Skelmersdale, 5.5/6; James Wei, Bramhall, 5; Keith Johnson, Urmston, 5; Jade Stirrup, 3Cs Oldham, 5; GP (U80): Philip Cohen, Salford; Anthony Carroll, Salford; Harry Brookes, Great Lever; James Waddington, Bolton; GP (U65): Lee Baron, Bury

Bury Players: Lee Baron; Brian Forrest and Jeremy Peach shared the Lodwig Gruchlik Memorial Trophy, which is awarded annually for the best score from a Bury Chess Club member, with a score of 4/6 in the Minor.

Next year's event is on Sunday 14th December 2008, www.burycchessclub.co.uk.

Fulprint 21st York

Chess Congress

4-6 January 2008

The 21st edition of the Fulprint York Chess Congress saw the event move venue for the first time to the spacious and well-equipped Oaklands Sports Centre. However this did not dampen enthusiasm for this popular tournament, as numbers were only slightly down on previous years.

The story of the event was that of local success, with York players coming equal first or better in every section. In a strong Open; Tim Wall and David Adams came equal first, with the latter gaining the British Championship qualifying place.

There was a three-way tie on 4½ points in a tough Major, but the main story was the double success of brothers Jean-Luc and Pierre Weller

who won the Intermediate and Minor sections respectively with perfect scores. These are names to watch out for in the future.

Total 4 sections, 38 prizes, £2570 prizes

Open Section: David Adams, York R.I., 4½; Tim Wall, Moscow, 4½; Richard Palliser, Minster Inn, 4; Paul Townsend, York R.I., 4; Eric Gardiner, Hull, 3

Major (U161) Section: Paul Bielby, Jesmond, 4½; Patrick Gower, York R.I., 4½; Dean Hartley, Amber Valley, 4½; Alex Combie, Newark, 4; Tony Slinger, Lady Anne, 4; Andrew Price, Leamington, 3½

Intermediate (U131) Section: Jean-Luc Weller, York R.I., 5; Gary Corcoran, Bradford, 4; Karl Potter, Spinney Hill, 4; Dave Stotard, Hull, 4; Ian Thackray, St. Albans, 4; Kevin Wilson, Darlington, 4; Jack Duckworth, Harrogate, 3½

Minor (U101) Section: Pierre Weller, York R.I., 5; Philip Pickering, Nomads, 4½; Ian Strickland, West Leeds, 4½; Paul Masiak, York R.I., 4; David Scorer, Pendle, 4; Andrew Zigmund, Harrogate, 4; Junior: Amy Milson, Louth, Jade Stirrup, Oldham, Colin White, Chester

Selected Games

[Round "5"]

[White "Wall, Tim"]

[Black "Palliser, Richard"]

1. b3 e5 2. Bb2 Nc6 3. e3 Nf6 4. Bb5 Bd6 5. Nf3 e4 6. Nh4 Be5 7. Bxe5 Nxe5 8. f4 Ng6 9. Nf5 Kf8 10. Qc1 d5 11. Qa3+ Kg8 12. Nd4 a6 13. Be2 b6 14. b4 Bb7 15. O-O Ne7 16. Nc3 Qd6 17. Qb2 Bc8 18. Rab1 Nf5 19. Nd1 h5 20. a4 Nxd4 21. Qxd4 Bg4 22. Nc3 Rh6 23. b5 a5 24. f5 Rd8 25. Rf4 Bxe2 26. Nxe2 Nd7 27. Rbf1 Qe5 28. h3 c5 29. bxc6 Rxc6 30. Qxe5 Nxe5 31. Nd4 Rc4 32. Ra1 Nd7 33. d3 exd3 34. cxd3 Rc3 35. Rb1 Rxd3 36. Rb5 Nf6 37. Rxb6 Rxe3 38. Ra6 Re4 39. Rxe4 dxe4 40. Nc6 Rd1+ 41. Kf2 Nd5 42. Ra8+ Kh7 43. Re8 e3+ 44. Kg3 Rf1 45. Nxa5 Rxf5 46. Nc4 h4+ 47. Kh2 Rf4 48. Nxe3 Nxe3 49. Rxe3 Rxa4 50. Re2 Kg6 51. Kg1 Rf4 52. Re5 Kf6 53. Ra5 g6 54. Rb5 Rf5 55.

Rb4 Kg5 56. Rg4+ Kh5 57. Rb4 Ra5 58. Kf2 f5 59. Kf3 Kg5 60. Rc4 Rb5 61. Rc3 Rb4 62. Rd3 Rf4+ 63. Ke2 Ra4 64. Kf3 Kh5 65. Rb3 g5 66. Rb5...and eventually 1/2-1/2

[Round "5"]

[White "Adams, David"]

[Black "Blades, Nigel"]

1. e4 e5 2. Bc4 Nf6 3. d4 Nxe4 4. dxe5 Qe7 5. Qe2 f5 6. Nf3 d6 7. Nc3 Nxc3 8. bxc3 h6 9. Ba3 Nd7 10. O-O-O Nxe5 11. Rxe1 Qf6 12. Nxe5 1-0

[Round "5"]

[White "Townsend, Paul"]

[Black "Le, Tuan"]

1. c4 c6 2. Nf3 d5 3. d4 Nf6 4. Nc3 dxc4 5. a4 Bf5 6. e3 e6 7. Bxc4 Nbd7 8. O-O Bb4 9. Qe2 Bg6 10. e4 Bxc3 11. bxc3 Nxe4 12. Ba3 Qc7 13. Ne5 Nxc3 14. Qe3 Nxa4 15. Nxf7 Bxf7 16. Bxe6 O-O-O 17. Bxf7 Nab6 18. Be7 Kb8 19. Bh4 Nf6 20. Bg3 Rd6 21. Qa3 Nc8 22. Be6 Rhd8 23. Bxc8 Kxc8 24. Qxa7 Qe7 25. Rfb1 1-0

[Round "3"]

[White "Watson, Phil"]

[Black "Gardiner, Eric"]

1. d4 d5 2. c4 Nc6 3. cxd5 Qxd5 4. e3 e5 5. Nc3 Bb4 6. Bd2 Bxc3 7. Bxc3 exd4 8. Ne2 Nf6 9. Nxd4 O-O 10. Nb5 Qg5 11. Nxc7 Bg4 12. Qb3 Rad8 13. Qxb7 Rd6 14. Qb5 Qg6 15. f3 Rc8 16. Qc5 Nd7 17. Qc4 Nce5 18. Qf4 Rxc7 19. Bxe5 Nxe5 20. Qxe5 Bd7 21. Be2 Qxg2 22. Qxd6 Rc2 23. Bf1 Qf2+ 24. Kd1 Rxb2 25. Qxd7 Qc2+ 26. Ke1 Qf2+ 27. Kd1 1/2-1/2

[Round "5"]

[White "Carpenter, Martin"]

[Black "Maulin, R."] [

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. e5 c5 5. a3 Bxc3+ 6. bxc3 Qc7 7. Qg4 f6 8. Bb5+ Kf7 9. a4 cxd4 10. Ne2 dxc3 11. Ra3 Nc6 12. Rxc3 Bd7 13. Rg3 g6 14. exf6 a6 15. Bxc6 bxc6 16. Qg5 e5 17. f4 exf4 18. Bxf4 Qb6 19. Rb3 Qa7 20. Be3 Qc7 21. O-O Re8 22. Ng3 h5 23. h4 Nh6 24. Qf4 Qxf4 25. Bxf4 Bc8 26. Bd6 Nf5 27. Nxf5 Bxf5 28. Be7 Rb8 29. Rc3 1/2-1/2

David Howell wins £2000 at the first Lexmark 20 Seconds Chess Tournament

On Saturday 19th January David Howell beat Keith Arkell in a tense and fascinating final of the first ever Lexmark 20 Seconds Chess Tournament. David overcame Laurence Trent in his semi-final and Keith beat Aaron Summerscale in the other semi-final. The Event in London was attended by several Grand Masters and proved to be an exciting and enjoyable day for both players and spectators. The Open format created some interesting matches and gave all comers an opportunity to play Grand Masters in the knockout stages.

This exciting and new format proved to be a huge success and Organisers 20 Second Sports are planning the second event for mid-march. Keep an eye on www.20secondschess.com for details.

The players that made it through to the last 32

Gordon Meyer, Saravanan Sathyinandha, Daniel Gormally, Thomas Rendle, V Tiruchirapalli, Charlie Storey, Gavin Wall, Craig Hanley, Adriana Gillen, Simon Ansell, Jovanka Houska, Stephen Gillen, Gawain Jones, Michael Healey, Daniel Johnson, Koichi Nicholas, Ian Parsonage, Alvin Kissoon, Christopher Briscoe, Paul Georgiou, Ankush Khandelral, Nigel Fleming, Aaron Summerscale (4th), Lawrence Trent (3rd), Martin Walker, Richard Cannon, Arne Hagesaether, Meri Grigoryan-Lyell, Daniel Hunt, Cengiz Hasman, David Howell (1st), Keith Arkell (2nd).

Calendar of Events

(For a more comprehensive list of events visit our website at www.englishchess.org.uk)

* denotes English Chess Federation Grand Prix

@ denotes FIDE Rated Event

denotes British Championship Qualifying Tournament

~ denotes ECF Graded Event

~# 2-3 Feb

31st KIDLINGTON CONGRESS, Exeter Hall, Oxford Rd.
N Jones (Tel: 07860 700105,
Email: pekkakroef@btconnect.com)

~ 3 Feb

LEEDS JUNIOR CONGRESS

Alcuin School.
J Hipshon (Tel: 0113 217 6296,
Email: jr.hipshon@ntlworld.com) *Entry limit strictly 70. No entries on the day.*

~* 3 Feb

STOCKPORT RAPIDPLAY

The Guildhall, Wellington Rd South.
P Taylor (Tel: 0161 440 0733,
Email: pht@rover12.wanadoo.co.uk)

3 Feb

SUFFOLK JUNIOR OPEN, Woodbridge School.

A Hunt (Tel: 01394 615000,
Email: ahunt@woodbridge.suffolk.sch.uk) *Junior tournament with a strong open section for older players & adults.*

~* 8-10 Feb

FRODSHAM CONGRESS,

Frodsham Community Centre, Fluin Lane.
J McPhillips (Tel: 01829 770762,
Email: j.mcphillips@btinternet.com)

~* 9 Feb

GOLDERS GREEN RAPIDPLAY,

St Albans Church Hall, NW11 7QG.
Adam Raoof (Tel: 07855 036537,
Email: adamraoof@yahoo.com)

~* 9 Feb

KJCA GRAVESEND JUNIOR RAPIDPLAY,

Gravesend Grammar School, Church Walk.
Sue Maguire (Tel: 020 8656 6420, Email: sue.maguire@btinternet.com)

~@ 9-10 Feb

4NCL, Division 4,

Staverton Park, Daventry.
Mike Truran, The Old Farmhouse (Tel: 01993 708645,
Email: mike@mtruran.fsnet.co.uk)

~* 9-10 Feb

BWCA NATIONAL GIRLS' CHAMPIONSHIPS,

The Elmbank Hotel, The Mount, York.
C Emms (Tel: 01732 835323)

~* 10 Feb

BWCA WOMEN'S RAPIDPLAY,

The Elmbank Hotel, The Mount, York.
C Emms (Tel: 01732 835323)

~* 15-17 Feb

SPECTRUM CHESS - 2nd PORTSMOUTH CONGRESS,

The Hilton Hotel, Farlington.
Norman Went (Tel: 01708 551617,
Email: spectrumchess@hotmail.com)

16 Feb

KJCA ECF CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE COACHING DAY,

Barming Primary, Maidstone.
Sue Maguire (Tel: 020 8656 6420,
Email: sue.maguire@btinternet.com)

~* 16 Feb

SJC EASTBOURNE JUNIOR

RAPIDPLAY, Bishops Bell, Priory Rd.
Margaret Burch (Tel: 01483 534061, Email: ammjburch@hotmail.com)

~* 16-17 Feb

2nd BRENTWOOD INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS,

Brentwood School Sports Hall, Middleton Hall Lane.

G Strachan (Tel: 07876 550685,
Email: webmaster@brentwoodchessclub.org)

~* 16-17 Feb

BRENTWOOD JUNIOR TOURNAMENTS, (U14, U12, U10),

Brentwood School Sports Hall.
G Strachan (Tel: 07876 550685,
Email: webmaster@brentwoodchessclub.org)

~ 17 Feb

LEYLAND RAPIDPLAY,

Worden Arts Centre, Worden Park. R Tinton (Tel: 01257 451046,
Email: rapidplay@bobandjanet.worldonline.co.uk)
For players graded 130 & under

~* 22-24 Feb

16th DONCASTER CONGRESS,

Hall Cross School, Thorne Rd.
T Taylor (Tel: 01302 532629,
Email: trevortaylor43@yahoo.co.uk)

22-24 Feb

37th DYFED CONGRESS,

Fishguard Bay Hotel, Goodwick.
R Spencer (Tel: 01239 682703)

~ 23 Feb

CCF CHAMPIONS' LEAGUE CHESS - KENT, Coulsdon.

Howard Curtis & Scott Freeman (Tel: 020 8645 0302 (day),
Email: chess@ccfworld.com)

~ 23 Feb

24th BARNET CONGRESS,

Queen Elizabeth's Boys' School, Queens Rd.
M Harding (Tel: 01788 561474,
Email: BarnetChess@yahoo.co.uk)

~* 23-24 Feb

WILTSHIRE & WEST OF ENGLAND JUNIOR OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS,

New College, Swindon.
Bev Schofield (Tel: 01793 487575,
Email: bev@schofieldhall.co.uk)

~* 24 Feb

EAST ACTON U175 RAPIDPLAY,

The Gold Smith Arms, London W3 7ER.
S Tszerendorj (Tel: 07887 790934,
Email: londonrapidplay@yahoo.co.uk)

~* 29 Feb - 2 Mar

EAST DEVON CONGRESS,

The Corn Exchange, Exeter.
A Maynard (Tel: 01363 773313,
Email: a.maynard@tesco.net)

~ 1 Mar

CCF CHAMPIONS' LEAGUE CHESS - SURREY EAST, Coulsdon.

Howard Curtis & Scott Freeman (Tel: 020 8645 0302 (day),
Email: chess@ccfworld.com)

1 Mar

EPSCA INTER ASSOCIATION GIRLS FINAL,

Oxford.
Peter W Purland (Tel: 0151 733 4854,
Email: petepurland@btopenworld.com)

~@ 1-2 Mar

4NCL, Divisions 1, 2 & 3,

Wakefield Park, Berkshire.
Mike Truran, The Old Farmhouse (Tel: 01993 708645,
Email: mike@mtruran.fsnet.co.uk)

~ 2 Mar

CCF CHAMPIONS' LEAGUE CHESS - SURREY WEST/MIDDLESEX,

Coulsdon.
Howard Curtis & Scott Freeman (Tel: 020 8645 0302 (day),
Email: chess@ccfworld.com)

~ 2 Mar

MANCHESTER RAPIDPLAY,

City of Manchester Stadium, Alun Turing Way. Sport 4 Life (Tel: 0845 1300 849)

~*# @ 7-9 Mar **32nd BLACKPOOL CHESS CONFERENCE**,

Blackpool Winter Gardens.
S Woodcock (Tel: 01942 682646,
Email: blackpoolchessconference@yahoo.co.uk)

8 Mar

4th "CHESS KINGS" TOURNAMENT & SIMULTANEOUS EXHIBITION,

St Mark's C of E Primary School, Basingstoke.
GM N Pert (Tel: 07786 986489,
Email: nickpert@hotmail.com)

8 Mar

EPSCA INTER ASSOCIATION U9 ZONES,

Peter W Purland (Tel: 0151 733 4854,
Email: petepurland@btopenworld.com)

~* 8 Mar

GOLDERS GREEN RAPIDPLAY,

St Albans Church Hall, NW11 7QG.
Adam Raoof (Tel: 07855 036537,
Email: adamraoof@yahoo.com)

~* 9 Mar

KJCA DULWICH JUNIOR RAPIDPLAY,

Dulwich College.
Sue Maguire (Tel: 020 8656 6420,
Email: sue.maguire@btinternet.com)

14-16 Mar

SPECTRUM CHESS - 3rd GUERNSEY CONGRESS,

The Peninsula Hotel.
Norman Went (Tel: 01708 551617,
Email: spectrumchess@hotmail.com)

15 Mar

EPSCA INTER ASSOCIATION U11 ZONES,

Peter W Purland (Tel: 0151 733 4854,
Email: petepurland@btopenworld.com)

~@ 15-16 Mar

4NCL, Division 4,

De Vere Venues, Sunningdale.
Mike Truran, The Old Farmhouse (Tel: 01993 708645,
Email: mike@mtruran.fsnet.co.uk)

~ 16 Mar

ATHERTON RAPIDPLAY,

Jubilee Hall, Crabtree Lane.
P Mulleady (Tel: 01942 878889,
Email: peterm@f25.com)

~ 16 Mar

33rd BOURNE END ONE DAY CONGRESS,

Bourne End Community Centre, Wakeman Rd.
D Langford (Tel: 01628 520065,
Email: bebchess@yahoo.co.uk)

16 Mar

MIDLANDS JUNIOR CHESS LEAGUE FINALS DAY,

Malvern College, Worcs.
Andrew Moore (Tel: 07789 904835,
Email: p.andrew.moore@gmail.com)

~* 21-22 Mar

CCF EASTER CONGRESS,

Coulsdon.
Howard Curtis & Scott Freeman (Tel: 020 8645 0302 (day),
Email: chess@ccfworld.com)

~* 21-23 Mar

52nd SOUTHEND EASTER CONGRESS

Civic Centre, Victoria Avenue.
I Gilbert (Tel: 01702 339765,
Email: iandgilbert@hotmail.com)

~*# @ 21-24 Mar

31st SURREY CONGRESS,

Nonsuch High School.
R Jones (Tel: 01372 813487,
Email: jrichard4@aol.com)

~* 21-24 Mar

61st WECU CONGRESS,

Royal Beacon Hotel, Exmouth.
Linda Crickmore, 550 Budleigh Road, Whitleigh, Plymouth PL5 4DG (Tel: 01752 768206 before 10 pm,
Email: plymouthchess@btinternet.com)

24 Mar

CCF OPEN BLITZ,

Coulsdon.
Howard Curtis & Scott Freeman (Tel: 020 8645 0302 (day),
Email: chess@ccfworld.com)

~* 24 Mar

CCF RAPIDPLAY,

Coulsdon.
Howard Curtis & Scott Freeman (Tel: 020 8645 0302 (day),
Email: chess@ccfworld.com)

28-30 Mar

CORK CONGRESS,

The Ballroom Suite, Gresham Metropole Hotel.
M Bradley (Tel: +353 (0)868 042710,
Email: corkchess@gmail.com)

@ 28-30 Mar

EDINBURGH CONGRESS,

George Heriot's School, Lauriston Place.
J Wallace (Tel: 01383 722572,
Email: james.wallace@talk21.com)

~* 28-30 Mar

HUDDERSFIELD CONGRESS,

Ukrainian Club.
N Hepworth (Tel: 07903 548675,
Email: congress2008@huddersfieldchessclub.co.uk)