

Chess Moves

ENGLISH CHESS FEDERATION | MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER | March 2013 EDITION

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Interview with Harry Golombek

This fascinating interview with Harry Golombek by the Wilson's chess captain of 1970 has recently been found by Wilson's Alumni Officer, Sacha Marsac. It features some interesting insights into school chess in the 1920s, Golombek's views on the impact of computers and a discussion as to whether Russia dominated chess in the era leading up to the Fischer-Spassky match.

Taken from the December 1970 edition of 'The Wilsonian'. The original is available at http://wilsonsalumni.org.uk/page/the_wilsonian_1970
An interview by I. Tibbles

What was chess like at Wilson's in your day?

In the 1920s the school was one of the leading teams in the London Schools' Chess League. When I first came to Wilson's, Owen's was the best school and we were about the second or third best. Later the school became its top school in the League.

How did you learn to play chess?

I learnt to play before I came to Wilson's; my elder brother who was a keen player taught me to play. We both eventually played for London University.

What were your main achievements as a chess player?

Well, I was London Schools' Champion, London Boy Champion, London University Champion, and Surrey Champion five times. I was British Champion three times. In 1948 the World Chess Federation conferred on me the title of 'International Chess Master'. I have represented England in nine Olympiads and have been a judge at the World Championships six times.

What are the qualities of a chess player?

I think that anyone with an average intelligence and a lot of time can become a very good player. Then there is a gulf between the very good player and the international master as there is between the international master and the World Champion. To become a really first-rate player one must have a flair for chess which enables one to be really good.

Computers have often been connected with chess, in the sense of the computer playing the perfect game. Do you think a computer would defeat a chess master?

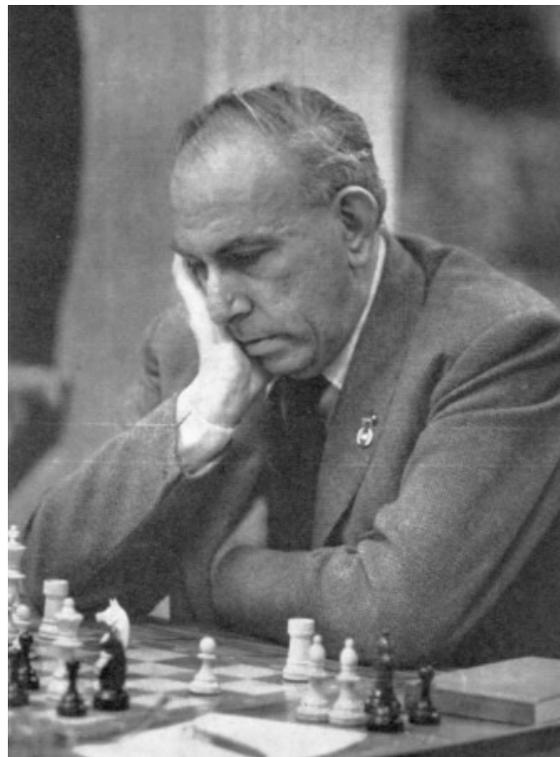
At the moment the player would run rings round the computer. The computer can only do what it is programmed to do, the key thing that a player can do is to use his positional judgement. When I look at a position I only consider various possibilities which I select using my experience, a computer cannot do this and would consider every variation.

What are the main attributes of a good player?

Powers of concentration are very important and visual imagination as well as positional judgement.

Are chess players very intelligent?

As a rule a good chess player is intelligent. Many great players have also been very intelligent people.



Why are the Russians so dominant in chess? Is it because they place such heavy emphasis on it as being good for the mind?

The Russians do place a great emphasis on chess though not all that much more than in the West. It is partly due to the much larger numbers of people giving them a firm backing. The national game in Russia is football, not chess, though I do remember on one occasion when I was judge at the World Championships in Moscow that one day I got into a taxi and the taxi driver recognised me and asked how the game was going. On the whole they have the means rather than the secret.

Why do Spassky and Petrosian dominate world chess?

I would disagree with you. I don't think that they do dominate. The American Fischer and the Dane Larsen have much better tournament records. The World Championship is different from the tournament however. Fischer is not willing to submit himself to the discipline necessary in a World Championship. Larsen is a good tournament player but not so good in a match. The psychological influence is much greater in a match. Also Larsen is not such a good all-round player. I was a judge in the series between Larsen and Spassky, and Spassky was much the better player.

I would like to ask your thoughts on two players who interest me very much, Anderssen and Reshevsky.

Well of course these players come from very different eras in chess. Anderssen was playing in the middle of the last century before chess had been properly analysed. He was a very good combinative player though not so good positionally.

How would he fare today?

If he was given no time to adapt he would be quite lost, however given time he would certainly rank among the very top players. Reshevsky was at his best in the pre-war period. He was never, I think, quite among the top players. Fischer arrived when he was old for a chess player. He even outdid Reshevsky as a child prodigy, winning the US championship at 15. Good players tend to develop quickly. Great players who start playing chess very late tend to be prone to blundering. Rubinstein is a great example of this.

What is it you like about chess?

It is a training for the mind and it teaches one to think logically, but even now I play chess because it's good fun. I enjoy a game most when it is a harmonious whole and works out as I plan it.

What is chess like now?

The style of play is continually changing and the likelihood is it always will.

Does White have a definite advantage?

Yes, I think so; White has that half a move lead, Black has to fight to gain the initiative. Nearly all the top players prefer White, Larsen certainly plays better with White.

What is the state of the game in the country today?

It is difficult to judge, but I think that the top players in the country sides are no better than in my day. Where I do think change has occurred is in the strengthening of the middle order players. There are some very promising young players. The mystery which has never been explained is the lack of good players in the immediate post-war period. Penrose is the best player, possibly the best player this country has ever had.

What are your personal ideas on the game?

When I was younger I preferred to defend then counter attack, though it is easier to attack. I have specialised in the English and Catalan openings.

Have you any advice for the young players?

Yes, first, start by learning the principles of openings, then the ideas on the middle and end game tactics. I would say that there is an idea that I find completely fallacious, that one is all right if one knows the opening. I would say that the end-game is even more vital.

English Girls in Norway!

- article by IM Jovanka Houska, pictures by Doug Neil / Alan Price

It was way back in November when a father of one of my students approached me to ask whether some English girls would like to play in the Norwegian Girls championships - he told me that traditionally foreign girls were invited and this year they wanted English Girls to play....So that's how it came to pass that on the 1st February, five girls (along with their parents) came to visit Bergen for the weekend to lock chess horns with the best Norway has to offer! Those five girls were: Phoebe Price, Jennifer Neil, Eleanor Hapeshi, Anna Purvis and Eva Ressel and they were supported by group leaders: Sabrina Chevannes and Lawrence Cooper.

Bergen is famous for two things: it's the gateway to the majestic fjords (in fact the city is surrounded by seven mountains) and that it never stops raining! So after arriving to the airport on Friday morning, the group found time to enjoy the sights the: crooked Hanseatic houses on the Bryggen wharf and a trip on the Funicular to see the most spectacular view in Bergen.

The Norwegian Championships for Girls were held in the newly built Fauskanger School in Askøy, an island located forty minutes outside of Bergen. Even getting to the school was an outdoor adventure, as the group (minus Sabrina, Anita and Anna Purvis who safely took the bus directly from the centre) decided to get into the Norwegian Spirit and take the local boat and then catch the bus to the school. However our intrepid explorers suffered a minor setback when they discovered that the bus did not stop at the boat terminal during peak hours! However they made it to the school just on time to play the first game of chess.

The Chess

The tournament atmosphere was cosy small but great fun, the girls all had a great time socialising with their Norwegian counterparts who luckily are all rather fluent in English. In Scandinavia, a big emphasis is also put on the social aspect so as well as the chess, the girls are encouraged to form friendships and to do everything together from sleeping in the same room, eating meals, playing in the gym of course play chess!



Jennifer Neil analysing her game with IMs Lawrence Cooper and Jovanka Houska

Group A (Kadett and Ungdom merged)

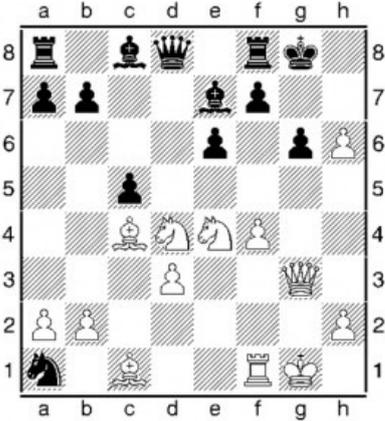
Eleanor, Jennifer and Phoebe competed in the top FIDE rated section which saw two sections merged together Ungdom (Under 26)/Kadett (13-17). Nearly all of the Norwegian girls in this section are seasoned internationals having competed in several World and European Junior Events and two of them - Line Jin Jorgensen and Erle Hansen have represented Norway at the Chess Olympiad! With the star of Magnus Carlsen in the ascent, chess is becoming more and more popular - Magnus is a big idol and is seen on the front page of the newspapers nearly every week. Now, with the Tromso chess Olympiad 2014 within sight, many of the young girls are in serious training to be able to get in the National teams and compete on home territory!

In light of this, the competition for the girls was very strong. Jennifer played very calmly and actively impressing local IM and trainer Kjetil Stokke with her mature style. She only lost to the top two seeds Olympiad internationals- Erle and Line Jin. With a few tweaks here and there, Jennifer could easily have scored much more, something that is very promising for the future!

At thirteen years old, Eleanor was the youngest participant and raced to 2/2 defeating two of Norway's young hopes Edit Machlik and Maud Roedsmoen quite spectacularly (with the English spe-

ciality the Grand Prix attack of course!). Eleanor plays with a pleasing raw energy

here is a position from Eleanor playing white in the second round against Maud Roedsmoen:



Eleanor has rather speculatively sacrificed a rook for a menacing

and most probably unsound attack however her older opponent Maud does not sense the danger and carelessly recaptures the white knight with 16...cxd4 (16....Qxd4 was essential and the Queen can be used along the a1-h8 diagonal to protect its king) Can you guess what followed?



The youngest participant in the top Group, Eleanor, getting ready to unleash the Grand Prix attack!

17.f5! a devastating blow! Now Blacks position is hopeless

17..Kh8 18.fxg6! Rg8

at too late a stage her opponent realises that 18..fxg6 is not possible because of 19.Qe5+ winning; from now on Eleanor is relentless.

19.Rxf7 Rg7 20.Qe5 Bf8 21.hxg7+ Kg8 22.Nf6+ Qxf6 23.Qxf6 Bd6 24.Rf8+ Bxf8 25.Qxf8#

1-0

Phoebe had a tough time and came 4th in the highest category; however she actually played a lot of girls who are very experienced competitors - which made the event a fun but valuable chess lesson.

Final scores from our girls in Section A were:

Jennifer : 3.5/6 (fourth in the Kaddett)
Eleanor: 3/6 (seventh in the Kadett section)
Phoebe on 2.5/6 (fourth in the Ungdom section)

Lilleputt section

We had two girls competing in the Lilleputt section (girls under 13) Anna Purivs and Eva Ressel who were ranked third and fourth respectively. Favourite and top seed was Ingrid Greibrokk, who had defeated Eva at the U12 World Youth Girls and also held England's Akshaya to a draw. However, the event despite promising to be quite closely fought quickly descended into the Eva show. When I first walked into the tournament hall on a late Saturday morning the first person I saw was Eva, rosy cheeked



Phoebe (second left) receiving her 4th prize



Eva winning first place on the podium, Anna is on the far right

with a big smile on her face dashing around, “How did you get on?” “Oh I won” she replied before she continued on her travels. In the words of my room-mate Victoria (who is an incredibly strong player) a happy relaxed chess player makes a successful player!

Having trained Eva at the World Youth, I gave her the nickname “Endgame Queen” as she won most of her games in the endgame. In Norway, endgame or middle game, it didn’t matter, Eva won them all and finished with six points out of six! Eva’s regular coach Sabrina Chevannes has

worked incredibly hard with Eva these last few months and their work together is paying off in dividends. I look forward to following her progress.

Eva won second prize in the beauty prize for the following game -

Ressel,Eva (1462) - Lorem,Helene (1044)

Norgesmesterskapet for jenter Fauskanger - Askøy (2), 01.02.2013

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Be7 5.e5 Nfd7 6.Bxe7 Qxe7 7.f4 0-0 8.Nf3 a6 9.Qd2 9.Bd3 is more commonly played forcing Black to do something about his king 9...f6 (as 9...c5 loses to 10.Bxh7+ Kxh7 11.Ng5+ Kg6 12.0-0 with the idea of playing Rf1-f3-g3 embarrassing the king further 12...f6) 10.exf6 Nxf6 11.Qd2 c5 12.dxc5 Qxc5 13.0-0-0 Nc6 14.Kb1 b5 15.Ne2 b4 16.Ned4 Nxd4 17.Nxd4 Bd7 18.Rde1 Rfe8 19.Rhg1 a5 20.g4 Kh8 21.Qe3 a4 22.g5 Ne4 23.Bxe4 dxe4 24.Qxe4 a3 25.Rg3 Kg8 26.Rh3 g6 27.Qe5 Qb6 28.Rxh7 1-0 (28) Ibragimov,I (2565)-Murthy,P (2165) 10th Open, King’s Island USA 2001

9...c5 10.0-0-0 Nc6 11.Qf2 Nb4?! interesting but I don't think its quite good enough starting the pawns rolling is more to the point. In these positions with opposite side castling, the person who gets going more often than not is the person who wins! 11...b5 something like the following could be a plausible continuation 12.h4 b4 13.Na4 c4 14.h5 c3 15.h6! (15.bxc3 would be a bad positional move as suddenly the black Queen has access to the White king. Only computers are allowed to get away with moves like this! ; if 15.b3 the typical French pawn break looks quite good. 15...f6 16.h6 g6 17.Qe3 f5) 15...cxb2+ 16.Nxb2 g6 17.g4 Nb6 18.Bd3 Na5 19.f5 Nac4 20.Rdf1 with a complicated position

12.a3 Nc6 13.Bd3 h6 13...b5 loses to 14.Bxh7+ Kxh7 15.Ng5+ Kg6 16.Qh4 and black loses

14.dxc5 Nxc5 15.g4!? Nxd3+ 16.Rxd3 f6! 17.Qe3 17.Re1 is more accurate. Black will not get to exchange queens and will instead have to suffer uncomfortable pressure in the centre. 17...fxe5 18.Nxe5 Nxe5 19.Rxe5 Qf6 20.Rf3 Bd7 21.h4 looks very pleasant and harmonious

17...Bd7 18.h4 fxe5 19.Nxe5 Nxe5 20.Qxe5 Rf7?? not a good move, Black hands the initiative on a plate to White] [20...Qf6! the best defensive try, a good defensive rule is to exchange off the attacking pieces. Since Black’s king is beginning to look a little hot under the collar, black would be well advised to seek refuge in the endgame 21.Qxf6 Rxf6 22.f5 exf5 23.Nxd5 Rf7 24.g5 still looks more comfortable for white as after 24...h5 (24...Bc6 25.gxh6 gxh6 26.Rg1+ Kh7 27.Nf4) 25.g6 wins

21.g5! 21...Raf8 if 21...h5 Eva has the absolutely stunning 22.Nxd5 exd5 23.g6! Rff8 24.Qxh5 mating; 21...Rf5 also fails to the tactic 22.Nxd5 Rxe5 23.Nxe7+ Kf7 24.fxe5 winning

22.Rf3? missing 22.Nxd5 exd5 23.g6 and black loses the exchange

22...hxg5?? handing White a ready made attack down the h-file 22...Rf5 and black is back in the game

23.hxg5 Bc6?? the final mistake 23...Rf5 24.Qe2 (24.Rfh3 does not work because after 24...Rxe5 25.g6 black has the desperate 25...Re1+ winning) 24...Qd6 25.Qh2 Kf7 and black can still grovel on

24.Rfh3 Rf5 25.g6 and it's mate

25...Rxe5 26.Rh8# 1-0

Anna scored 3.5 points and finished in fourth place - it was a useful learning experience for Anna and one of her personal highlights was defeating the top seed Ingrid A.Greibrokk, in a well-played endgame. If one thing she learnt my chess motto - "Mrs Safe and then push those pawns!"

Final scores:

1. Eva Ressel 6/6
2. Sara Naess 4/6
3. Regina Forsaa 3.5/6
4. Anna Purvis 3.5/6
5. Elise S. Jacobsen 3.5/6

Anna and her opponent Regina Forsaa won third place in the beauty prize for their encounter.

I consider this tournament an outstanding success for our girls, not only did the group really act as a team supporting each other and making valuable new friendships and experiences. From swinging on the ropes with their new-found Norwegian friends, hunting the Northern lights to standing on a podium with a huge chess trophy. Very importantly in chess terms it also gave them valuable international experience something that they can use to arm themselves when they all go on to play in the World and European events. I would also like to give my deepest thanks to the organisers who so very kindly allowed our girls to grab this opportunity and also to the John Robinson Trust Fund who made this trip affordable for the girls. Finally, I would like to mention the efforts of Sabrina and Lawrence who not only are amazing chess coaches but who also were of invaluable help on my very first role as an Organiser!

- Jovanka Houska



World Schools 2013

Meet the team!

Porto Carras, Halkidiki in Greece from the 6th May to 15th of May, 2013. Playing for England and the English Chess Federation - 48 players and 12 coaches ...



U17 Open - John Fraser

I started playing chess competitively when I was 12, and have enjoyed playing ever since. I currently play for Newton Abbot and Devon, and am looking forward to playing tough, international opposition - as well as the chance to represent England!



U15 Open - Taran Jina

I was introduced to chess by my dad when I was 7 and soon started beating him. I then joined Harpenden Junior Chess Club which was set up and run by Jon Freeman. Soon after, I began to play tournaments and qualified for London Juniors (U8). As I improved, I started to play for Hertfordshire Juniors. Now, I am coached by IM Lorin D'Costa and helped by my parents. My main achievements include representing England U12s with the NCJS in Prague in June last year. I also won the national U11 Grand Prix, and was part of the Herts team who were crowned U18 champions last year.

U15 Open - Billy Twigge-Molecey



U15 Open - Akito Oyama

Akito was born in the USA in 1999. He moved to Cambridge in 2004 and started playing chess at Cambridge Junior Chess and Go Club in 2007. Akito is currently playing chess in Cambridge City Chess Club and Tough Chess, which is a junior chess club organized by Nick Jackson. He is looking forward to playing chess with strong players from other countries.

U15 Girls - Becky Kerton



U15 Girls - Zoe Strong

Zoe first played chess with her brother and sister at the age of 3 while they were playing for Somerset U9s. She quickly grasped the basics and won her first Megafinal at the age of 5 and has continued this every year since, losing only two games in eight years. The gigafinals have not been so kind and she has qualified for the Terafinal only twice. Zoe did not get the chance to play for Somerset U9s and went straight into the U11s, eventually playing on board 3. In 2009 she travelled to York and came second in the British Girls U11 tournament. She also plays for Clevedon in the Bristol League in Div 2 and, so far this season, has won all her games.



U15 Girls - Isabel Hauer

Izzie only really started chess in Year 6 through the UK Chess Challenge, and got through as far as the Gigafinal. Left with no chance to play chess at secondary school she joined Witney Chess Club the following year.

She was Oxfordshire Suprema in 2011 and 2012 and qualified for the Terafinal in 2011 (then was unable to attend.) Izzie prefers standard to rapid chess, and plays in the local league. Playing for England is a big challenge, but a great opportunity to learn.



U15 Girls - Eleanor Hapeshi

I first got into chess when I was three when my Dad taught me the moves. When I was seven I joined my school chess club and was the only girl for some time. I started to play competitively in the UK Chess challenge when I was seven and have qualified for the Gigafinal each year ever since, although I haven't always been able to play. I have qualified for the Terafinal (or the challengers) each year that I have played. I play for a local team, Wotton Hall, where I play against adults. I was part of the England Team at the World Schools' tournament in Romania last year and am really looking forward to this year's tournament in Greece.



U13 Open - Theo Slade

Theo started playing chess at the age of 6 and immediately fell in love with the game. He won his first trophy when he was 7 and finished runner up in the British U8 Championships in 2009. He made his debut for the Cornwall senior team when he was 10, the youngest player to do so since GM Michael Adams, more than 30 years ago. He qualified for the National Chess Junior Squad whilst an U10 which has enabled him to play in Holland, the Czech Republic and Belgium. He has also represented the ECF in Austria and captained the England U12 team to victory in the Stokes Cup. In 2012 he travelled to Guernsey with GM Nick Pert and, despite being the youngest and lowest ranked player in the Open, he scored 3.5/7 and won the "Most Brilliant Game" trophy for his last round win.

U13 Open - Joseph Dalton

Joseph learned the basic rules of chess from his grandfather Terry and got seriously interested in chess on moving schools to Newcastle Royal Grammar School in Year 3, where he came under the inspirational influence of his coach, Paul Bielby. Joseph is very aware that without Paul's guidance and his grandfather's influence, he wouldn't have gotten anywhere with his chess, particularly since his parents don't play!



U13 Open - Callum Brewer

Callum began playing chess just before his 9th birthday, inspired by his grandad, who was a Junior British Champion in the fifties. He plays for Sussex Junior Chess, the Brighton and Hove Chess Club and he is a member of the National Junior Squad.



U13 Open - Jakob Holton

I am 11 years old and live in Oxfordshire. My Dad taught me to play chess when I was about 8 and I've been going to Witney Chess Club for a few years now. I've had recent successes in the UK chess challenge Megafinal and the Silver Plate South 2012. I am really enjoying chess at the moment and looking forward to playing in the WSCC.



U13 Open - Dion Huang

Dion is 12 years old, and he attends Westminster Under School in London. Dion learned to play chess when he was 7, from the nearby Redbridge Chess Academy. After two years, he won the Essex Under 10

Championship and soon became Board 1 both for his school and Essex U11 chess teams. He won the 2012 UK Chess Challenge Southern Gigafinal U11 Ultimo.



U13 Open - Joshua Higgs

Josh was taught to play chess by his older brother Sam when he was 5 years old. He discovered Sussex Junior Chess when he was seven years old and played regularly ever since in their excellent Grand Prix series and

in their strong county teams. He qualified for the National Chess Junior Squad at the Under 11 trial in 2011 and has since travelled widely competing in Gibraltar (twice), the Czech Republic, Scotland, Wales, Flanders, and Holland and the WYCC in Slovenia. Highlights include coming 2nd in the British U11 in 2011; 2nd in the British U12 in 2012; 1st= in the 2012 John Robinson Junior Grand Prix; 1st= in the 2012 U12 National Junior Squad Championship. Josh is the current Sussex Prep School individual champion in 2011 and 2012.

U13 Open - Ananth Vijayakumar

Ananth has been playing chess since he was 7 years of age. He has participated in many tournaments and he was in the England team at the World Schools Championship in Romania 2012

U13 Open - Max Elliott

U13 Open - Karam Sangha



U13 Open - James Golding

James is 11 years old and the eldest of three brothers representing England. He started playing chess when he was 8 years old after being given a chess set for Christmas. James plays for the Ashtead, Ealing Juniors, Surrey and Wey Valley teams. He is an experienced competitor in numerous junior chess tournaments, including the Delancey UK Schools Chess Challenge, and has received many trophies, medals and rosettes. James takes part in many other sporting activities including badminton and tennis and is a keen saxophone player. He attends Downsend School in Leatherhead, Surrey and is a member of Ashtead Junior Chess Club.

U13 Open - Luke Remus-Elliott

Luke attends Heathside Prep School in London



U13 Open - Harry Grieve

Harry started playing chess at the age of 6 and quickly became hooked, winning the London Junior U8 title just a year later. He attends Yateley Manor school, where he is lucky enough to have Andrew Martin as coach.

Qualifying for the England Junior Squad just two weeks before his tenth birthday, Harry has had the opportunity to travel to Belgium and the Czech Republic, but this is his first major international event. Harry plays for Hampshire, Yateley Manor school and the Fleet &

Farnborough Chess Club.



U13 Open - Liam Reed

Liam attends North Bridge House Prep School in North London and began playing chess at his school's chess club when he was 8 years old. His first taste of competition was the UK Chess Challenge at age 9, where he came

2nd at the Southern Gigafinal and qualified for the Terafinal Challengers. Liam plays for Barnet Knights Chess Club and the Middlesex U14 team.

U13 Open - Richard Zhu

Richard started to play chess when he was nine. Five months afterwards he was selected by the Berkshire Junior Chess Team and in 2011 he qualified for the England U11 Squad. Richard is fortunate to have received a lot of support and guidance from many people, especially those at Camberley Chess club. Richard also loves playing badminton and started representing Berkshire when he was 9 years old.

Richard attends Lambrook School, Ascot



U13 Open - Yang-Jian Zhou

Yang-Jian attends the Whitgift School, South Croydon. He'd like to thank the Whitgift School.



U13 Girls - Anna Purvis

Anna started playing and loving chess when she was 6. She has played for her U11 county team in Surrey in 2010 and 2011 Surrey were the national champions. In 2011 Anna won the Southern of England national girls qualifier and finished first jointly in the U10 national girls championships. She also won leading girl at the prestigious London Junior Chess Championship in December 2010 and at the end of 2011 won the U12 Surrey London Junior qualifier when she was still 10. In 2012, Anna won the u11 UK and Ireland girls championships. She also won the All Girls Surrey championships. Anna represented England for the first time in early 2012 when she was selected to play in the World Schools championships in Romania. In 2013 Anna came 4th in the Norwegian Girls Open and narrowly missed out on 2nd place due to progressives. She has also achieved 3rd place twice in the last 2 international E2E4 Fide congresses.



U13 Girls - Marianne Hauer

I am 12 years old and I go to Bartholomew School in Oxfordshire. I began to really get into chess when I qualified for the UK Chess Challenge in Year 3. In 2011 I just missed out on the Terafinal, even though I came 3rd and the same happened in the 2012 Gigafinal. However I won the U13 girls Silver Plate South. I am really excited and enthusiastic about going to Greece I am glad I was given a great opportunity.



U13 Girls - Asha Jina

I was taught to play chess by my dad at the age of 5 and I then joined the Harpenden Junior Chess Club where Jon Freeman helped me to improve. Soon I began to play in tour-

naments and for the Hertfordshire county team. I have previously represented England at the European Youth Chess Championships 2011 in Bulgaria which helped me develop my chess further. I am coached by IM Lorin D'Costa.



U11 Open - Harrison Willmoth

Harrison Willmoth started chess when he was 7 years old. He is a member of Barnet Knights Chess club and Hendon chess club. In his short chess career Harrison has won the London Junior U9 Minor title in 2011 and the UK Terafinal U9 in 2012 as well as many London Junior qualifying events. Harrison can tell you the name of every Lego Ninja character as well as their full life story.



U11 Open - Dominic Klingher

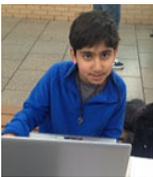
I was taught chess at the age of 4 mainly to keep me away from my brothers at homework time. Since then I have never looked back and developed a strong love for the game. I won my first tournament at the age of 6 which was the Christopher Stone Memorial Trophy. The same year I won the London Finals Under 7. Other achievements include winning the British Rapidplay Under 10 and helping Barnet win the Inter-area Under 9 Championship.



U11 Open - James Moreby

James lives in Newcastle upon Tyne and attends the Royal Grammar School (RGS). It was at RGS that his love of chess developed. He now plays for school, club (Jesmond Chess Club) and county (Northumberland). James has competed in the UK Chess Challenge for the last 2 years, on both occasions winning the title of Ultimo. He is keen to return to the World Schools Championship after being part of the England team that competed in Romania in 2012.

James has made a successful start to 2013, achieving wins at several chess congresses. His objective is to continue to work hard, improve all areas of his game and, most importantly, to continue to enjoy playing chess.



U11 Open - Omeet Atara

Omeet started to play chess at the age of six and it soon became an obsession! He has won a number of tournaments including the South of England. He attends Yateley Manor School and is coached by Andrew Martin IM. Omeet regularly plays for the school team, Hampshire and Sandhurst Chess Club. He has represented England South West against Wales and also represented Rushmoor Borough in a tournament in Germany.



U11 Open - Alex Golding

Alex is 9 years old and the middle of three brothers representing England. He started playing chess against his brother James when he was 6 years old. He has competed in many chess tournaments since that time gaining many trophies, medals and rosettes. His successes include winning the U11 title and £1,000 at the Terafinal of the Delancey UK Schools Chess Challenge in 2012 when he was only 8 years old by scoring 4 out of 6 against opponents with an average age of 15 years old. Alex plays for the Ashtead, CCF, Ealing Juniors, Surrey and Wey Valley

teams.



U11 Open - David Xu

David learnt to play chess at the age of 6, and has been competing regularly since his first tournament at 7. He has been playing in Barnet Knights chess club since he started playing chess. He also played board one for the Barnet Junior U9 team when they win the English Primary schools trophy in 2012. David won U10 major in the London Junior Chess Championship in December 2012. David attends the Aylward School in Harrow and other interest includes playing the clarinet in their orchestra.



U11 Open - Samuel McConnell

Samuel first learnt the rules of chess when he was four and has been playing ever since. He was fortunate to receive a strong chess foundation by joining Mike Basman's 'tough chess' club in Surrey. Samuel lives in central London where he also enjoys football and bridge.

U11 Open - Tai Remus-Elliott

Tai attends Heathside Prep School in London



U11 Girls - Meytel Cohen

Meytal was taught to play chess by her grandmother when she was nearly 7. She soon competed in her first tournament where she lost a tooth, but won first prize. She has since lost several more teeth and accumulated a large collection of trophies. She also loves drawing, dancing and reading.



U11 Girls - Lara Mallin

I am nine years old and I live in London. My dad taught me to play chess and I have been playing competitively for eighteen months. I have won lots of medals and trophies during that time and I am the current Middlesex Under 10 Girls Champion. I would like to thank my dad Max, the coaches at Barnet Knights, John Paul Wallace and everyone at Barnet Junior Chess for helping me to progress.



U9 Open - Kenneth Greenshields

Ken started playing chess just over a year ago and had won his first junior tournament just 2 months later. He loves going to tournaments and making new friends, finding team events especially rewarding .



U9 Open - Benjamin Headlong

Benjamin was 4 years old when his parents showed him how to play chess. He qualified for his first (of 3) Gigafinals when he was 6, has been U7 and U8 Supremo, and played in the Terafinal Challengers twice, winning an U9 Prize in 2012. He has been West of England U8 and U9 Champion.



U9 Open - Aditya Verma

Aditya is the current British U8 champion and as per FIDE age, is the highest rated under 8 and 9 chess player in UK. He started playing chess at the age of six and within a year had

already won the British Chess Championship and qualified twice for the UK Chess Challenge Terafinal. Aditya already has a few adult championships under his belt and is all geared up to compete on the world stage.



U9 Open - Joshua Altman

Candidate Master Joshua Altman has been playing internationally for England since the age of 7. He is the youngest titled player in the history of Britain, having earned his CM prefix along with a Bronze medal at the age of 8 in the 2012 European Youth Championships. Fearless, Joshua blazed on to topple GM Luke McShane and London Mayor Boris Johnson in “not-so-friendly” games! A tenacious wildcard known more for his deadpan cool style than for his patience (and with little to lose over such a short career).



U9 Open - Tristian See

Tristian started to play chess at the age of 5, after asking his dad to show him some moves. After 3 months he went on to play competitively and has since been very keen to improve his game. He won the UKCC U7 Ultimo the following year and is looking forward to exploring further challenges in chess.



U9 Open - William Golding

William is 7 years old and the youngest of three brothers representing England. He started playing chess against his brothers Alex and James when he was just 4 years old. Despite his young age, he has competed in almost as many chess tournaments as his older brothers and has achieved many successes. He plays for the Ealing Juniors, Surrey and Wey Valley teams.



U9 Open - Robert Akeya-Price

I am 7 years old in Year 2 at Cumnor House School in South Croydon. I learnt chess at the age of 4 and started playing in tournaments when I was 5 yrs old. In addition to chess, I like diving, ballroom dancing, singing and piano, and I am in the swimming squad at my school. I would like to say thank you to my chess club both in school and Coulsdon Chess Club, and all my teachers and coaches for supporting me.

U9 Open - Cheuk Nam Wong

Chess has played a special part of my life for the last two years. I enjoy the challenge in tournaments and making new friends. I also enjoy swimming, tennis and playing the piano.



U9 Girls - Elizabeth Johnson

Elizabeth is in the Top 2 Rapid Under 8 girls in the UK. She learnt chess when she was 7 at the school chess club. She won the Megafinal and Gigafinal the same year. Since then she has played in many tournaments across the country and won lots of trophies and medals. Elizabeth loves music.

U9 Girls - Anita Somton

Anita was taught to play chess by her father when she was 7. Now, just sixteen months later, she has an impressive



tournament record behind her. Her attitude is invariably positive and her enthusiasm for chess is extraordinary. Anita is the current UKI Under 8 Girls Champion, Northern Gigafinal Under 8 Ultima and SCCU Under 9 Girls Champion at the prestigious London Junior Under 10 Major Chess Championships in December 2012.

U7 Open - Haolin Zhao

Haolin attends Robin Hood Infant School in Sutton. He learnt chess when he was four and qualified for LJCC U8 that year. He enjoys playing in chess tournaments and has won a large collection of trophies, medals and rosettes. He plays for Surrey Wey Valley U9 and U11 teams. He is the current top rated under 8 chess player in England.



U7 Open - Jeff Tomy

Jeff learned chess from his father at the age of three. He started playing tournaments the very next year and his first success was at the Hertfordshire School U8 championship in 2011. He was the youngest participant in the World School Chess Championship held in Romania 2012. Jeff is a year one student at Laurance Haines School, Watford.

For fuller biographies and details of the team of dedicated coaches, visit the ECF Juniors website -- <http://englishchess.org.uk/Juniors/>

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Annotated Games

Magnus Carlsen vs Hikaru Nakamura

Annotated by GM Danny Gormally

Among the most keenly awaited clashes in the chess world these days are the quite regular battles between the Norwegian Wunderkind Magnus Carlsen, and the controversial, explosive American player Hikaru Nakamura. The only problem is, from Nakamura's point of view, these clashes have become worryingly one-sided. For all Nakamura's incredible talent, he has yet to beat Carlsen in a classical game - a fact that must frustrate the American, who has defeated pretty much everyone else at the top of the world's elite at some time or another. So you may ask, why is this clash so interesting? Well I think Nakamura brings out the best in Carlsen, as the American's ultra-aggressive style tends to force Magnus into full combat from an early stage of the game, when most of the time he is happy to grind away, aiming quickly for an endgame, before the seemingly inevitable victory because of his impeccable technique. Because he favours this approach, don't be fooled into thinking Carlsen is just a grinder. Their Round 12 clash in Wijk aan Zee was a good example of this - Nakamura played an adventurous opening, but Carlsen soon clamped down on his aggressive ideas, before quickly turning to his own deadly notions.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e5 5.Nb5 d6 Probably not the opening Carlsen was expecting, but Nakamura is very similar to Ivanchuk- he can play pretty much anything, and play it pretty well. **6.g3!** Very typical of Carlsen's style - he is not actively trying to refute openings, like a Kasparov, but rather just building up a slight advantage, before viciously outplaying the opposition in the mid-game and endgame. But beware of drawing him into a battle - just because his natural style is to grind, doesn't mean he can't mix it with the best of them. Aware of the dangers of being ground down in 80 moves, Nakamura now lashes out with a spiky lunge on the kingside- however this is a risky strategy, as his king will never now be completely safe in any part of the board.

6...h5!? I used to play some guy on the Internet chess club, in the one minute pool, who would thrust his h-pawn down the board at any opportunity. In fact he rarely waited this long, he would invariably start with 1..h5! (I think his name was something like Soong Loong, and he would gleefully mock me every time he beat me with one of his horrible openings.) Funnily enough his strategy was far more dangerous than seemed at first glance- particularly when you only have 1 minute on your clock! In this particular example though you could argue that Nakamura's advance makes perfect sense- with White already committed to an early fianchetto- he is looking to soften up Carlsen's kingside and get some action going down the h-file.

7.N1c3 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Nd5 White now has ideas of playing Be3 and c4 softening up the black queenside, a very typical strategy for White in these sort of systems. By contrast, what aggressive plan can Black muster? Nakamura doesn't seem to provide an convincing answer.

9...Nge7 10.Bg2 Bg4?! Carlsen expected **10...Nxd5 11.exd5 Ne7** which he seemed to think was fairly acceptable for Black. **12.c4 Bd7** and with ideas like **..h4** and also **..Nf5-d4** coming, Black is more than ok, although of course the game remains very sharp. Instead of this, Naka seems to "drift"

11.f3 Be6 12.c3 h4 13.Nc2 Magnus is building up slowly, ignoring Black's aggressive intentions on the kingside - he doesn't believe that it's going to go anywhere. Before he commits to any actions on the queenside, he first takes the d4 square under control- now a4 is in the air.

13...Bxd5?! This exchange is only risky for black, as the light-square weaknesses in his position now become appreciable. [Black could of course exchange rooks on the h-file, but that would only work out in White's favour- **13...hxg3 14.hxg3 Rxh1+ 15.Bxh1** And now while White has ideas of playing a4, or even f4, Black really lacks a plan; it looks unpleasant, but perhaps **13...f6** with the idea of putting the king on f7 would have been the safest, as then **14.f4** is not particularly dangerous, as f5 will lead nowhere and the e5 square is solidly defended.]

14.exd5 Na5 15.f4! Of course! Carlsen now switches to Kasparov mode, flicking power move after power move at his opponent.

15...Nf5?! Carlsen felt that **15...hxg3 16.hxg3 Rxh1+ 17.Bxh1 Qd7** was more accurate, with the idea of **..Qh3. 18.Bg2 exf4 19.Bxf4 Ng6** seems ok for Black.

16.g4! h3 17.Be4 Nh4 Kasparov commenting on the game, seemed to allude to the idea that this was the decisive error, suggesting that Black needed to play **17...Qh4+** **18.Kf1 Ne7** (The misguided attempt to "attack" with **18...Nh6 19.g5 Ng4** only backfires on Black; after **20.Qe2** White is already threatening **Bf5**, trapping the errant knight) However after the calm reply **19.Qe2** it is not obvious what Black's follow-up is. In fact Black has not stepped over the line just yet.

18.0-0 g6 19.Kh1 A useful prophylactic move. Just in case, White tidies his king away.

19...Bg7 Carlsen was not afraid of **19...f5**, indicating that after **20.Bd3 e4 21.Be2** Black's "initiative" has come to a halt and the weakness incurred on **e6** is likely to become significant, with **Nd4** coming.

20.f5!? I admit that this probably wouldn't have been my choice, but then I'm not the world number one! White had a number of useful options, including the immediate

20.Nb4 20...gxf5 21.gxf5 Ng2? Only this sends Black plummeting over the precipice. Nakamura tries to increase his control over the dark squares, but this turns out to be far too slow. The game would have remained reasonably unclear after either **21...Bf6** or **21...Bh6**.

22.f6! Probably the single greatest reason why Carlsen has risen to such record heights lately, and now holds an unshakeable grip over the world number one spot. Unlike other "elite" grandmasters, who occasionally let tactical mistakes by their opponents go by, Carlsen seems to have a shark like ability to smell the blood in the water- and subsequently he will ruthlessly pounce on the slightest slip. The impetuous pawn wanders deep into the black kingside, forcing the ignominious retreat of the black bishop.

22...Bf8 A sorry retreat, but there was little better. Black loses material after **22...Bxf6 23.Qf3 Rh4 24.Bg5!** and **22...Bh6** is no longer possible - White wins on the spot with **23.Qh5** as **..Qf6** is clearly no longer possible.

23.Qf3 Looking at Black's useless knights on **g2** and **a5**, the phrase "knights on the rim are dim" never seemed more pertinent. All Black can do now is thrash around uselessly waiting for the killer blow.

23...Qc7 24.Nb4 Nb7 25.Nc6 The final nail in Black's coffin. The knight on **c6** and pawn on **f6** form an unbreakable cage around the black king.

25...Nc5 26.Bf5 Nd7 27.Bg5 Rg8 28.Qh5 Nb6 29.Be6 Rxc5 30.Qxc5 fxe6 31.dxe6 1-0

James Plaskett vs Azer Mirzoev

Roquetas de Mar Open, España, January 2013

Annotated by GM James Plaskett

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 Nf6 4 0-0 Nxe4 5 d4

Against Miles in the 1998 Spielberg Memorial match/tournament in Southend I played Lyuboyevic's inferior idea of **5 Re1 Nd6 6 Nxe5 Be7 7 Qh5?!** after which simply **7...g6!** would have left black better.

5...Nd6

Almost exclusively played.

But the move with the best theoretical reputation is hardly ever seen; it is **5...a6!** after which white has nothing better than to go into an Open Spanish with **6 Ba4**

6 Bxc6...

Romanishin has tried **6 dxe5 Nxb5 7 a4** but it promises little.

6...dxc6

Smyslov used **6...bxc6 7 dxe5 Nb7** but few other GMs liked it.

7 dxe5 Nf5 8 Qxd8+ Kxd8 9 Rd1+ Ke8

The forfeiture of castling rights is a significant factor in White's favour when we make our overall assessments of the position.

10 Nc3 h6 11 h3 ...

I have little experience in this line. Another encounter with Miles of the late 1990s, this time in the 4NCL, saw me reach a won rook ending before letting him off the hook.

11...Ne7

11...Be6 is more customary.

12 Nd4 ...

Thinking about **b5**.

12...Bd7 13 Bf4 Ng6

On 13...Nd5 I intended 14 Nxd5 cxd5 15 e6 fxe6 16 Bxc7. But perhaps that's not so much for white.
14 Bg3 ...

I looked at 14 e6 Nxf4 15 exd7+ but it seemed to lead nowhere.

14...Rd8?!

An inaccuracy.

15 e6 ...

Now white has something as he transforms his structural advantage and simultaneously strips black of his bishop pair whilst also retaining a development lead.

15...Bxe6 16 Bxc7 Rd7 17 Nxe6 fxe6 18 Bb8 a6 19 Rxd7 Kxd7 20 Rd1+ ..

Upon reflection I concluded that the escapade with 20 Na4 b5 21 Nb6+ Ke8 22 a4 did not really lead me anywhere.

20...Kc8 21 Bg3 Be7.

Criticised by my opponent afterwards. He advocated 21...e5, which the computer also prefers.

22 Re1! ...

Just to keep rooks on the board. I reasoned that defence would be harder if he had to cope with potential rook probes.

22... Nf8

On 22...Kd7 23 Na4 is bothersome.

23 Ne4 g5?!

Unwise. The kingside pawns become more vulnerable than they would have been following 23...Nd7.

24 Nd6+ ...

As at move twenty I contented myself with simple continuations.

Khalifman assured me that "Knight can never be better than bishop" and the study of Fischer's games shows that, perhaps even before the rest of the world had cottoned on, he was already appreciating that the minor pieces are not worth 3 points apiece but that the value of the bishop is more like 3.17. In this regard I find his win over Taimanov from the 1970 interzonal, the sixth and penultimate games of his Candidates match with Petrosian and the sixth game from the match that made him World Champion to be particularly instructive.

24...Bxd6 25 Bxd6 Kd7 26 Rd1 Kc8 27 Re1 Kd7 28 Rd1 Kc8

Having gained time, and rubbed it in, we proceed to attempting to prosecute the structural and minor piece superiority.

29 Be7 ...

29 c4 was also strong.

29...Ng6 30 Bf6 Re8

On 31 ...Rg8 32 Rd6. And maybe 32 g3, maintaining control, taking away f4 from the knight and preparing the king's activation would be a strong option, too. That the black king is cut off from the kingside scene of the action is also a point in white's favour.

31 Bg7.. First fruits: a pawn falls.

31...h5 32 Bh6 g4 33 hxg4 hxg4 34 Rd4 g3

On 34...Rh8 35 Bg5 Ne5 36 Bf6.

35 fxg3... Again the simplest continuation. pawn ahead, superior minor piece... don't trouble yourself too much with deep calculation. Just a natural move, push the clock and let him sweat.

35...e5 36 Rd6 Rg8 37 g4...

Looked practical to me.

37...Nf4!?

Canny resistance. Waiting a move or two would allow my king up and then it would be all over.

38 Kf2? ...

Fischer would have gone 38 g5.

Again, I was aiming for the simplest realisation of advantage. But just hanging on to the extra pawn (he greatly valued material) would have been more in the style of the great man, and after 38...Kc7 39 Rf6 defence would not be comfortable for black.

38... Rxc4 39 Kf3 Rg8?!

Of course after 39...Rxc2 40 Bxf4 Rxc2 41 Bxe5 white wins.

I follow his reluctance to go into the minor piece ending that results from 39...Rg6 40 Rxc4 Nxc4 41

Ke4 Kd7 when defence, with the white king the more active, the bishop superior to the knight, the e5 pawn vulnerable and white possessing the outside passed pawn, looks very difficult, e.g. 42 Bg7 Kd6 43 g3, to take away h4 and threaten the incursive Kf5.

It looks like there are better practical chances of resistance in the more complex ending with rooks.

40 Bxf4 exf4 41 Rd2 Kc7

The defender's king is a long way from the extra outside passed pawn.

But black still has the chance to hope to create a disturbance before the g pawn costs him the game.

GM Mirzoev did, of course, not just sit back and wait for it.

Of course the pawn would have fallen also after 41...Rf8 42 Rd4.

42 Kxf4 Rf8+ 43 Kg5 Rg8+ 44 Kf5 Rf8+ 45 Ke4 Re8+ 46 Kf3 Rf8+ 47 Ke2 Rg8 48 Kf2 Rf8+ 49 Kg1 Rg8

Forced back to the back rank. The significance of the wandering my king just took was principally to gain time, as we were playing with increment. Also to take a deeper look at what was going on.

Also, he might have stopped the bombardment. And then the g pawn races home.

But no such luck.

50 Rd3 ...

Extra outside passed pawn in a rook ending. A familiar setting for us all, but each case will contain its particular nuances.

In this instance the most salient features are surely that the defending king is cut off by many files. Then the white king finds himself already over with his passed pawn. The black rook maintains a good checking distance. Then there is the pawn's unadvanced state and the white rook's relatively active positioning, i.e. it is not poorly placed in front of the g pawn.

The proper arrangement of the queenside pawns is critical for the correct conduct of this ending. I'm not sure if I handled it properly.

50...b5 51 g3...

"A journey of a thousand miles has to begin with a single step," I thought.

I might also have tried to stop his activity via 51 b4. Yet it seemed to me that 51...Rg4 52 a3 Rc4 53 c3 c5 and 54...a5 would see him start a counter demonstration effective enough to hold.

Simply 51 Kf2 was probably best.

51...a5

He has to have his pawns somehow engage with mine, otherwise lack of counterplay will mean that the g pawn will cost him the game.

I was braced for the advancement of the b and/or c pawns too, although not 100% certain how to counter. There are quite critical details in each case.

Crowing over the black king's remoteness from the g pawn is one thing. But it cannot be forgotten that, for the sake of generating active counterplay, it may prove very well placed next to the clump of white pawns.

52 Kf2 Kb6 53 Rd2...

Now that it has served to get the g pawn up to the third rank, I wanted to have it ready to keep an eye on the queenside.

53...a4

Very committal. And very rational.

54 a3 c5 55 Rd6+ ...

An intrusive check, which would not have been possible had he played an earlier ... c5 and his king gone to c6..

55...Kc7 56 Re6 b4

Contact....

57 Re4 Rb8 58 Ke3 ...

Another 'practical move', adhering to the rule of activating the king in the ending.

But another well known rule is that 'passed pawns must be pushed', and there was a lot to be said here for 58 g4.

58...Kc6 59 g4 Kd5

Dvoretsky teaches that the usual value of the passed pawn in an ending is not that it will cost the defender a piece to cope with it but rather that it serves as a distractor.

Its distractor value is increased by shoving it!

60 g5 c4 61 Rd4+! ...

A most important detail.

61...Kc5 62 g6 c3

A critical alternative was 62...Re8+ when white can reach a won queen ending after 63 Re4 Rxe4+ 64 Kxe4 c3 65 axb4+ Kd6 66 g7 axb2 68 g8=Q b1=Q 69 Qd8+ and the a pawn drops off.

Note in this line white should avoid the smartarse trick of an x-ray check after 65...Rxb4 66 Rxb4 Kxb4 67 g7?? since after 67...cxb2 68 g8=Q b1=Q 69 Qb8+ black has the dastardly resource of 69...Ka3! 70 Qxb1 and stalemate!

Instead 67 bxc3+ of course wins easily.

63 cxb4+ Kb6 64 bxc3 a3 65 Rd6+ Kb7 66 Rd1 Kb6 67 Ra1 Rg8 68 Rxa3 Rxd6 69 Kd3 1-0

The black resistance was not quite adequate. But he nearly held that ending.

ECF National Schools Chess Championships 2013

Results and pictures

Girls Southern Semi-Final

Three teams from each section qualify for a final of six teams, to be held at Uppingham School 4th/5th July.

U19

1st North London Collegiate A (NLC) 13 (qualifying for finals)

2nd = Millfield , Guildford High 11 (both teams qualify for finals)

4th= Surbiton High, Yateley Manor, St Catherine's Bramley B (St Cats) 10.5

7th Burnt Mill Academy 10

8th NLC B 9.5

9th St Cats A 6.5

10th Haygrove 6

11th NLC C 5.5

U11

1st Wimbledon High A 13 (qualifying for finals)

2nd Inglefield Monmouth 12 (qualifying for finals)

3rd St Dunstan's A 11

4th Newcastle Prep 10.5 (qualifying for finals, as St Dunstan's are unable to take up the place)

5th Putney A 9.5

6th Wimbledon C 8.5

7th = NLC A , Wimbledon B 8

9th = St Dunstan's B, Putney B 7.5

11th = Putney C, St Cats A 7

13th Notre Dame A 6.5

14th = NLC B , Notre Dame B 6

16th = NLC C , St Mary's Cambridge 5.5

18th Yateley Manor 4.5

19th St Cats B 3.5

20th St Cats C 3

Girls Northern Semi-Final

Cheadle Hulme School - Saturday 16th February 2013

Under 19

1st - Kings School, Chester

2nd - Withington High School A team

3rd - Withington High School B team

Under 11

1st - Aughton St Michaels School

2nd - Bolton Girls School

3rd - St Edwards, Leek

4th - Sacred Heart, Liverpool A team

5th= St Edwards, Leek B Team; Kings, Chester; Aughton St Michaels B team

8th - Sacred Heart, Liverpool B team

9th - St Edwards, Leek C team

Top three teams to qualify for the finals.

Parents, teachers and girls had a thoroughly enjoyable day. The quality of chess was excellent and the whole event was played in a competitive but friendly spirit. Thanks go to Cheadle Hulme School for hosting the event and Manchester Junior Chess for controlling and organising.

U19 Last Chance Saloon

Eton College on Sunday 10th February 2013

The Last Chance Saloon was open to all school teams that had been knocked out of their Zone without qualifying for the national stage; and also to teams that had not played at the Zonal stage. A total of 28 teams from 20 schools had initially entered this event. Even after some late withdrawals there were still 19 teams from 14 schools, making this the largest ever 'Last Chance Saloon'. With a total of over 110 school chess players a large room was required. As is shown in the photographs, Eton College provided a fantastic and spacious playing hall.

With four places in the national stages of the National Schools Tournament at stake, competition for all places was fierce. Going into the last round half the teams still had a chance of qualifying. Even with the new provision to allow drawn matches, the qualifiers for the National Plate had to be decided on tie break. With a strong team, Eton College were worthy winners winning all their matches.

Richard Haddrell smoothly ran the tournament whilst the use of digital clocks with Fischer timings eliminated the need for claims under the '2 minute rule'. The tournament was enjoyed by players of all abilities and teams did not mind losing most or all of their games as they had positive individual results. With 19 teams playing there would have been byes so Wilson's School split their 4 teams in to 5.

We are very grateful to Eton College for the provision of such a great playing area and also the team rooms. The ambiance of the college adds to the enjoyment of the occasion.

1 Eton College A 5/5: qualify for Championship place

2 K Edward's School Birmingham 4/5: qualify for Championship place

3= Hampton School B 3½: qualify (on tie-break) for Plate place; **Abingdon School 3½:** qualify (on tie-break) for Plate place; Dr Challoner's GS 3½; Wellington College 3½

7= Westminster Under School 3; Hawthorns School 3; Kings Grantham A 3

10= Langley GS 2½; Wilson's C 2½;

12= Kings Grantham B 2; Reigate GS 2; Wilson's B 2; Worth School 2

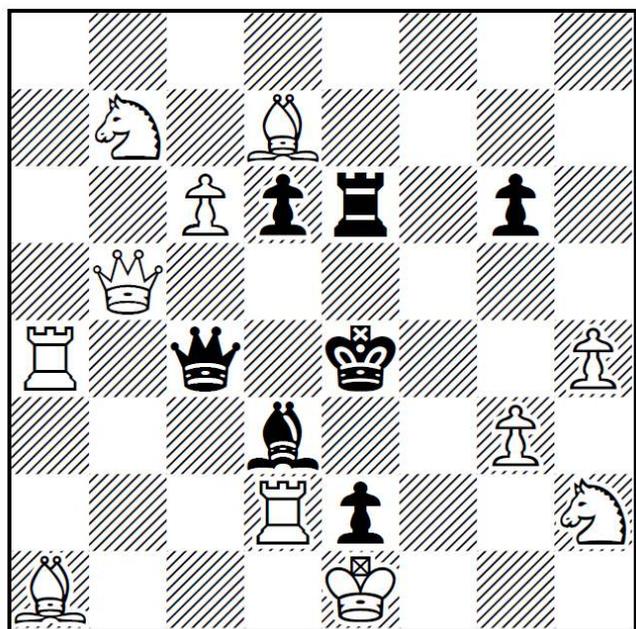
16= Eton College B 1½; Wilson's E 1½

18= Wilson's D 1; Wilson's F 1

20 Meden School 0



BATSFORD Chess Competition



Well done to the Jan/Feb winner -
Barry Sandercock from Bucks!
 The correct answer was - 1. Qa7

Here's the next problem ...

Marcel Segers

Gazette de Liège, 1930

White to play and mate in 2 --

Please send your answer (just the first move is sufficient) on a postcard or by email to the ECF Office, The Watch Oak, Chain Lane, Battle, East Sussex TN33 0YD (office@englishchess.org.uk). The first correct entry drawn on 10th May 2013 will win a Batsford voucher for any book on their current list!

Chess Moves Bookshelf

VITAMIN K2 by Andrew Farthing



The title of this month's article is an affectionate nod to an old book called **K is for Karpov!** by Jimmy Adams (1974). By happy accident, I rediscovered my copy in a box in my garage while clearing out some of the detritus of my university years.

Bizarre as it may seem to say this of a man who was to become world champion within a year, but back in 1974, Karpov was something of a mystery to much of the chess-playing public. Adams was one of the first in the English-speaking world to attempt a portrait of Karpov as an individual and to explain the new star's way of playing the game. Under the heading, 'Vitamin K', he wrote:

"Karpov's great strength is a superb intuitive feel for knowing on which square each and every one of his men must be placed in order to achieve maximum working efficiency. More than any other grandmaster, he can achieve victory against the highest calibre of opposition solely by a slightly more purposeful placement of pieces." (p.49, K is for Karpov!)

Identifying **what** Karpov did well was only part of the puzzle; more crucial was understanding **how** he did it. This was an enigma in 1974 and, I would suggest, to some extent remains mysterious nearly forty years later.

K Squared

If anyone should have penetrated the secrets of Karpov's extraordinary success, it would be the man who played a staggering 167 standard play games against him over a period of twenty years: Garry Kasparov. The vast majority of these games were played during the period 1984-1990, when the two Ks contested five intense world championship matches (144 games!). To a younger generation for whom a world championship match is no more than a dozen games, followed by a rapid play tiebreaker, perhaps a moment's pause to reflect on this is required.

The five matches were:

1. **10 Sept 1984 - 15 Feb 1985** (the date on which the match was declared finished 'without result' by then FIDE President Florencio Campomanes; the last game was concluded on 9 Feb). The score at the time was 5-3 in Karpov's favour, with 40 draws. This was an unlimited match, to be won by the first player to reach six wins.
2. **3 Sept 1985 - 9 Nov 1985**. As would be the case with all of the remaining K-K matches, this was limited to 24 games, with the winner being the first to reach 12½ points. In the event of a 12-12 tie, the world champion retained his title. Winner: Kasparov 13-11 (+5 -3 = 16).
3. **28 July 1986 - 8 Oct 1986**. Under the rules at the time, the defeated champion was entitled to a return match (harking back to the Botvinnik era). Winner: Kasparov 12½-11½ (+5 -4 = 15).
4. **12 Oct 1987 - 19 Dec 1987**. Result: 12-12 (+4 -4 = 16). As champion, Kasparov retained the title.
5. **8 Oct 1990 - 31 Dec 1990**. Winner: Kasparov 12½-11½ (+4 -3 = 17).

Altogether, this amounts to over 15 months spent facing the same opponent over the board in com-

petition for the game's highest title, excluding the months of preparation invested on each occasion in preparation. It is impossible, I suspect, for amateur players such as you and me to conceive of the psychological stresses of such a rivalry or the toll it must have taken on both players.

By the end of the fifth and final match, the score from the 144 world championship games totalled 73-71 in Kasparov's favour:

Kasparov wins:	21
Karpov wins:	19
Draws:	104

Only the rivalries of Botvinnik - Smyslov (1954-58) and Karpov-Korchnoi (1974-81) are remotely comparable, each racking up a modest three matches (if one counts the 24-game Candidates Final in 1974, which turned out to be, in effect, the world championship decider when Fischer failed to defend his title the following year).

Adding all standard play tournament games between Kasparov and Karpov into the mix produces an overall total of 167 games, of which Kasparov won 28 and Karpov 20. Broken down by colour, the results were:

Kasparov as White:	23-4 with 56 draws
Karpov as White:	16-5 with 65 draws

Both players proved virtually unbeatable with White after their 1987 match (the only exception being a win with Black by Kasparov at Linares 1993). After the 1990 match, however, Karpov was unable to chalk up any further wins, while suffering four losses and two draws as Black. It would be reasonable to argue that the effects of age and diminishing energy and motivation were major factors in Karpov's poor results after 1990.

Finally! Back to the bookshelf...

The reader will, I hope, forgive my dwelling on the facts and figures of the second great K-K rivalry (i.e. Korchnoi-Karpov being the first). It was a story which gripped the chess world for years, for all kinds of reasons, and, for me, personifies all that was so magnificent about the golden era of chess from the 1970s to the early 1990s.

The books which have prompted this nostalgic reverie are the parts 2-4 of Garry Kasparov on Modern Chess:

- **Kasparov vs Karpov 1975-1985** (Everyman Chess; 2008; 424 pages)
- **Kasparov vs Karpov 1986-1987** (Everyman Chess; 2009; 432 pages)
- **Kasparov vs Karpov 1975-1985** (Everyman Chess; 2010; 432 pages)

During the course of these nearly 1300 pages, Garry Kasparov tells the story of his rivalry with Anatoly Karpov, annotating in detail every single game played between the two titans, including their debut encounter (a simultaneous display by Karpov in 1975) and various rapid and blitz games.

To the surprise of no one, the game notes are superb. Kasparov (with the assistance of his various collaborators) has combined the output of computer analysis with his own insights to produce almost certainly the highest quality account of a series of world championship matches the game has ever seen. The annotations are deep but (mostly) accessible to players of medium strength and above. At times, the depth of analysis extends well beyond the threshold of this reader's tastes - the notes to the 16th game of the 1986 match fill 25 large pages, a performance on a Hübnerian scale - but to say this is to highlight the quality and ambition of the book rather than to criticise it.

The accompanying narrative conveys something of Kasparov's feelings during these encounters, as

well as describing the background and preparations for each event. For me, such accounts considerably enhance the attractiveness of any chess book, so Kasparov's approach is very welcome.

At £30 a volume, these books represent a considerable investment on the reader's part, but I have no hesitation in recommending them.

A place in history

Substantial as they are, these three books merely form part of a much larger edifice still under construction.

Kasparov began his monumental (the word is particularly apt) project with the five volumes on 'My Great Predecessors' (a.k.a. "the red ones"). Each volume was highly praised, although Volume 1 in particular, which deals with the world champions from Steinitz to Alekhine, did come in for criticism for its sometime casual approach to chess history and even for the quality of its analysis. One's impression is that Kasparov felt less engaged in what - to him - must have seemed almost prehistoric chess, and that his interest was only really piqued with the arrival of Botvinnik, with whom he worked as a junior.

My own reaction to the 'Great Predecessors' books was mixed. They look magnificent on the shelf, and I have no doubt that the analysis is usually better than any comparable historical overview in my collection. Nevertheless, the series is let down by the occasional typo - not something I should expect in books clearly intended to occupy a lasting place in chess literature - and the selection of games and historical narrative lack originality. There is no sense of the author's having searched for lesser known games which might say something new about the player's style.

I also found myself reacting negatively to the abundant quotation of other sources, i.e. reproducing earlier notes and commenting upon them. When combined with the seemingly endless references to the computer used to analyse the games, one is left with the doubtless grossly unfair impression that Kasparov is not as personally engaged in the text as one would like. I don't mean by this that he did not write the books - collaborators and assistants are listed, but this is commonplace in chess literature - but that Kasparov's approach comes across as somewhat impersonal, even cold. This is much less evident in the three later volumes on his rivalry with Karpov, where the rawness of the personal battles comes through.

Having completed the 'Great Predecessors' series, Kasparov embarked on the four volumes of 'Garry Kasparov on Modern Chess' (a.k.a. "the white ones"). Three of these have been discussed already. In addition, Volume 1, **Revolution in the 70s**, undertakes a survey of the development of a number of key opening lines, such as the Hedgehog, Sicilian Sveshnikov (called the Chelyabinsk variation by Kasparov) and the 6.Be3 line against the Najdorf, which characterised the flowering of analysis during the period in question.

Kasparov's thesis is that modern chess underwent a step change following Fischer's rise to the world title, in the form of the "openings revolution" and associated "information and research explosion", which made the game more "dynamic and deep", "demanding complete dedication and highly professional preparation". His argument goes:

"This openings revolution was conclusively established in my matches with Karpov (1984-1990), which, in turn, made the game more accurate and specific, and became a kind of prologue to the computer era." (p.6, Revolution in the 70s)

In this regard, Kasparov sees the encounters with Karpov as central to the evolution of modern chess. History will judge whether this is fully justified or perhaps just one more step in the advancement of the game which has so often come off the back of battles between the top players at world championship level.

The culmination of this narrative of the creation of modern chess turns out to be the series of books called 'Garry Kasparov on Garry Kasparov' (a.k.a. "the blue ones"), of which only **Part 1: 1973-1985** has appeared to date. It is a collection of Kasparov's best games, very thoroughly annotated. Readers of the 'Kasparov on Modern Chess' series will possibly be irritated to find that nine of the games against Karpov are reprinted here with identical annotations. Perhaps I am wrong to assume that most purchasers of the 'blue' series will already own the 'white' books, but I suspect not.

Enough carping. Truth be told, I'm delighted that Kasparov has produced ten volumes (to date) of such depth and quality, and I am sincerely grateful to him for devoting his time and energy in this direction.

'What if...?' - A Look Back at the Karpov-Kasparov Rivalry

The three volumes on the K-K encounters offer the perfect excuse to revisit the controversies of the time and ask that question beloved of every sports fan in every pub across the land, "What would have happened if...?"

THE FIRST MATCH

For much of its length, the first match was horribly dull, with short draw after short draw as Kasparov decided grimly to dig in after going 0-4 down after only nine games. In the early stages, Karpov's greater match experience was added to what I believe was a clear chess superiority at that time to produce a one-sided encounter. Karpov was not flattered by the 4-0 score line, and chess fans at the time were simultaneously impressed by his play and disappointed in the apparent ease with which Kasparov was being dismissed. As had been the case in 1966, when Spassky challenged the unpopular Petrosian, popular opinion tended to favour the player with the more conventionally 'dynamic' style.

Most people seem to accept that the answer to the first "What if..." ("What if Karpov had continued to press for wins after the 9th game, rather than acquiesce in his opponent's strategy of racking up draw after draw?") is that Karpov would have won relatively easily. Kasparov appears to accept this.

The explanation given for Karpov's approach - at the time and since - is that he wanted a "shut-out", i.e. a 6-0 victory, as this would have removed Kasparov as a threat for the medium to long term. I have always struggled with this. At the time, Karpov's strategy was considered reasonable when he won game 27 to reach five wins and came close to winning game 31 for the magic 6-0. However, would a "shut-out" that included 25 draws really have been such a devastating blow, particularly given that Kasparov was hardly making any winning attempts during the period from game 10 to game 31. (Indeed, Kasparov himself records that it was his saving of game 31 which spurred him on with renewed energy.) Had Kasparov lost game 31 and gone down 6-0, I imagine that he would have convinced himself in due course that inexperience cost him too heavy a price in the early phase, and thereafter stopped trying to win. Failing to win a single game under these circumstances would not necessarily have been the psychological death blow everyone seems to have assumed.

Karpov's strategy seems all the stranger because it is not as if he did not already have the reputation for a lack of stamina in long matches. The encounters with Korchnoi in 1974 and 1978 had suggested this, so it seems almost bizarre that he should have willingly acceded to an approach which dragged out the match for such a long time.

Many words have already been written on the (non-)conclusion of the match. Kasparov's account has not changed materially, as far as I could see, from what he wrote in his autobiographies. For a more balanced view, I invite the reader to visit Edward Winter's excellent Chess Notes website and read his analysis of 'The Termination' (<http://www.chesshistory.com/winter/extra/termination.html>).

THE SECOND MATCH

This was an excellent contest, with a splendidly exciting finish. Kasparov wrote an account of it at the time, and the 'Modern Chess' volume builds on these notes to produce a gripping account. His conclusions at the end of the match are broadly the same, with the minor differences that in the later book Kasparov adds the Sicilian to the Nimzo-Indian when highlighting the key over-the-board "disputes" and he includes the interesting new observation:

"Sensing that he was inferior to me in opening preparation, he [Karpov] often overestimated the quality of my novelties." (p.418; Kasparov vs Karpov: 1975-1985)

Kasparov implies that Karpov's greatest error in approaching the second match was to misinterpret the reasons for his failure to find a sixth win in the 1984/85 encounter as being solely to do with stamina. In other words, he underestimated the extent to which Kasparov had learned from the match and had developed as a player. The implication is that Karpov did not take the task of preparing for the second match as seriously as he should.

In his analysis of the third match, Kasparov returns to this theme, stating explicitly:

"There is no doubt that in the period between the second and third matches Karpov worked incredibly hard and prepared a mobile opening repertoire, aiming for sharp theoretical debates during the course of the match. With the intention of upholding his rights in all critical disputes, he seriously expanded his range of playing methods. I am convinced that all this would have been quite sufficient to give him victory in 1985..." (p.236; Kasparov vs Karpov: 1986-1987; emphasis mine)

Based on this impressively objective assessment, another "What if..." suggests itself!

THE THIRD MATCH

It has always seemed to me that the third K-K match - London/Leningrad 1986 - represented the heart of the rivalry between the two players. Kasparov played superbly and Karpov, already a great player, raised his game to a new level.

Kasparov's account, published by Pergamon in 1987, was hailed at the time as a masterpiece. The 2009 volume takes the earlier annotations and uses them as a base, much as Kasparov did in his early collection, **The Test of Time**. On this occasion, he chooses to integrate any updates or amendments into the text, rather than adding them as comments in italics.

Overall, I prefer the 2009 account. Ken Neat's translation is much smoother - if you doubt this, try comparing the summaries of the match on pp. 139-141 of the 1987 book with the analysis on pp.236-7 of the later work. There are some differences of substance, but clearly much of the original Russian text was left unchanged. Neat's translation reads much better in the later version; the older version is pure "translationese" - overly literal and therefore stilted.

The one new element I could have done without was the expanded conspiracy theory. In the 2009 account, Kasparov details at length his belief that one of his team, Vladimirov, was passing information about Team Kasparov's opening preparations to Karpov's team. Kasparov referred to this in the earlier account, but comments that, *"I cannot assert anything, and I have no grounds for accusing him, but equally I cannot trust Vladimirov as I used to."* He is much less restrained in the later version, although I remained unpersuaded. Sources are quoted, but evidence is lacking. The internal evidence of the games seems questionable. For example, Kasparov reads into Karpov's decision to postpone game 20 (after three consecutive wins to draw level again) the effect of Vladimirov's departure from Kasparov's team, implying that a postponement would make no sense otherwise. A review of Karpov's match record, however, shows that he was not averse to taking postponements after a

victory, as part of the process of re-establishing psychological stability. In the case of the 1986 match, I can therefore believe that achieving parity after a run of three consecutive victories was cause for regrouping.

It is a pity that Kasparov gives such prominence to the “conspiracy”. It comes over as sour grapes in response to what otherwise would have appeared as superb match preparation by Karpov. In the 1987 book, Kasparov acknowledged that his adoption of the Grünfeld was inherently very risky:

“There was a danger that the new opening might well show signs of crumbling, on encountering a fundamentally changed approach by the opponent to the solving of opening problems.”

This comment is omitted in 2009, thereby removing what had been (I believe) justifiable praise for Karpov’s preparations and self-development.

It is also interesting that Kasparov drops the following comment, which appeared in the 1987 book:

“In addition, a far from minor role was probably played by the purely age-related ability to assimilate the new...”

The absence of this comment in 2009 could be taken by a reader of a cynical disposition to suggest that Kasparov felt that it made his victory seem more impressive not to raise the subject of Karpov’s age as a possible factor. This may be harsh, but perhaps the questioning reader is driven to think along these lines by the climate of suspicion created by Kasparov’s account of events.

FOURTH AND FIFTH MATCHES AND THEIR AFTERMATH

Space precludes a lengthy discussion of the 1987 and 1990 matches and the later K-K games. Suffice it to say that the overriding impression is a very human one: the man who has good grounds to believe himself the strongest player of all time and who has no doubts as to his clear superiority over his “eternal” opponent nevertheless cannot shake him off. In 1987, Kasparov came within a whisker of losing his title, and in 1990 he found himself bewildered by the failure of his attempt to blast Karpov off the board in the early stages.

In the end, of course, Kasparov held onto his title, but I cannot help but be lost in admiration over Anatoly Karpov’s extraordinary reserves of willpower and chess strength in clinging on to his opponent despite the defeats he had suffered and the inevitable sense that time was not on his side.

The final sting in the tail came in 1994. The breakaway by Kasparov and Short the previous year had led to FIDE stripping Kasparov of his world champion’s title and the holding of a match between Karpov and Timman, which the former won. “Officially” therefore, if not in the eyes of many chess enthusiasts, Karpov was once again world champion. Kasparov, naturally, considered himself comfortably the stronger player and pointed to results such as the Linares tournament (the “Wimbledon of chess”) in 1993 to illustrate this clear superiority.

It must have been unbearable, therefore, for Kasparov to endure Karpov’s miraculous performance at Linares in 1994: Clear first, with 11/13 and a record-breaking Elo performance. Kasparov must have been thinking, “Will I **never** be rid of this man?”

Unsurprisingly, Karpov could not sustain this level. Kasparov’s reputation was restored and life went on. Ultimately, Karpov’s stunning performance changed nothing.

It is sad, therefore, to see Kasparov emphasise how ‘lucky’ Karpov had been. At best, such comments are unsporting. I wonder, moreover, whether the response points to the contrast between the maximalist who believes in seeking the best moves on the board and the pragmatist who simply concerns himself with what works. Karpov was, to my mind, the supreme chess pragmatist, and acknowledg-

ing this in no way diminishes his greatness as a player.

In the end, perhaps all that needs to be said is that Kasparov's bad-tempered dismissal of Karpov's 1994 triumph is that it serves to underline what a marvellous rivalry these two giants 'enjoyed'. When decades later it still matters to you to score a point over your rival, it just shows how deep the battle scars are.

The President vs Bloxwich Juniors (Feb 2013)

After 2 hours and 18 moves, the games were adjudicated. ECF President Roger Edwards won 9, drew 4 and lost 4 (including a great result for him in a draw against Manpreet Sangha, graded 169).

Winners - Karthik Selvan, Alex Jarvis, Luke Berenbaum and Dominic Holmes

Draws - Aaron Cowley, Manpreet Sangha, Jay Sanga and Gurpreet Khangura

All winners received a chess book donated by the ECF President, which were presented by local councillor Julie Fitzpatrick.



The Games begin ...

'He's not bad ...'



'... but I think we can take him!'

Gibraltar - in pictures

Sadly, an almost complete lack of apes this time around ... nonetheless, some great shots from the tournament by the evergreen John Saunders!





Top to bottom, left then right ...

Previous page - Stefanova vs Wojtaszek; Battle of the Sexes (men); the playing room; Nigel Short; Battle of the Sexes (women); Gawain Jones; Iturrizaga vs Le-Quang Liem; giant chess in progress

This page - Zhao-Xue vs Ivanchuk; Stuart Conquest, Michael Adams and Miss Gibraltar

Chess around the internet

Stephen Jones, founder of ChessCreator.com, with snippets of high-tech chess news ...

🐎 This month, ECF member and YouTube legend Tryfon Gavriel surpassed another, amazing Internet milestone. His Kingscrusher channel has topped 20,000 subscribers and 14 million views (see: <http://www.youtube.com/Kingscrusher>)

🐎 The global, online chess community united to support IM Melia Salome, a member of the Georgian women's chess team, who is raising funds for her daughter's operation. The article was featured on dozens of prominent chess websites; for details, just search: 'IM Melia Salome'

🐎 Chessville.com - a pioneering chess website - has, it seems, drifted offline into silicon heaven. It's not clear if its demise is permanent; for the moment we bid them farewell. The content, including dozens of freebies, remains accessible via the Wayback Machine (see: http://web.archive.org/web/*/http://chessville.com)

🐎 Established chess retailer ChessBaron.co.uk has published a free, print-n-play digital chess set. It's available in PDF, in UK and US paper sizes; a fun little freebie, to brighten these cold March mornings. This is available to download, for free (see: <http://www.chesscreator.com/downloads>, search: 'chessbaron PDF digital' or download from the ECF website, Chess Moves page)

🐎 To some people, chess is just a game - to others, it's sport, art, science, or even a way of life - but - were you aware chess has its own computer language? CQL -Chess Query Language - allows researchers, authors, and players to search PGN databases (see: <http://www.rbnn.com/cql/>). To use CQL does require a basic gasp of computer programming, though, as the documentation is cryptic

🐎 Peter Lalic is an ECF member, England junior international and a professional chess coach. In a recent Facebook post, he modestly revealed to his friends he's been working on a book - featuring one of his favourite openings; the Accelerated Dragon (note: released Jun-13)

Grand Prix Leader Boards

... as at 14th February 2013

Graded Prix (180+)

Name	Club/Area	Pts
1 Hawkins, Jonathan	Consett	602
2 Arkell, Keith CC	4NCL Chedd.	566
3 Burnett, Jim	Worksop	540
4 Surtees, Mike J	Bolton	539
5 Besedin, Pavel	Worcester	505
6 Jaunooby, Ali Reza	Denton	504
7 Taylor, Adam C	Colchester	496
8 Bryant, Richard BE	Chester	488
9 Malhotra, Tarun	N'thwood Prep	483
10 Willmoth, Robert F	Hendon	462

Graded Prix (160-179)

Name	Club/Area	Pts
1 Hjort, Helge	Hendon	602
2 Desmedt, Richard E	Wombwell	561
3 Jackson, Paul G	Coulsdon CF	525
4 Patrick, David A	Courier Halifax	517
5 O'Gorman, Brendan	DHSS	500
6 Hayward, Alan	Streatham	493
7 Jones, Steven A	Padgate	466
8 Olbison, Philip J	Chorlton C/H	453
9 Burke, Mitchell R	3Cs	426
10 Mulleady, Peter J	Atherton	401

Graded Prix (140-159)

Name	Club/Area	Pts
1 Price, Andrew	Leamington	524
2 Kane, Robert (Bob)	West London	501
3 Greatorex, Roger	Llangollen	499
4 Pride, Stephen C	Cambridge C.	487
5 Wilson, Matthew RD	Wigston	486
6 Clegg, Robert	Huddersfield	481
7 Pink, Joshua	Colwyn Bay	481
8 Papier, Alan	Bristol & Clifton	455
9 Cawston, M John	Lady Anne Mdl.	442
10 Connor, Michael I	Great Lever	441

Graded Prix (120-139)

Name	Club/Area	Pts
1 Crockett, Stephen J	Redditch	613
2 Allen, Timothy S	Battersea	522
3 Crouch, Timothy J	Kings Head	497
4 Foley, Phil T	Upminster	494
5 Egan, William J	Scunthorpe	480
6 Namouk, Omer A	Hastings & St L.	474
7 Gilbert, David J	DHSS	443
8 Alexander, Ken RD	Tiverton	422
9 Wiggins, Andrew S	Redditch	382
10 Sandercock, E Barry	Bucks*	378

Graded Prix (U120)

Name	Club/Area	Pts
1 Bullock, Lee	London *	587
2 Gardiner, Colin J	Falmouth	577

3 Fraser, Alan R	Becken'm & Bly	515
4 Goldsmith, Jennifer	Harrow	430
5 Everitt, David	St Francis & HH	419
6 Mitchell, Robert S	New Zealand	415
7 Billett, Stephen J	Portsmouth	412
8 McKeon, John E	Milton Keynes	402
9 Watson, Roy G	Kenilworth	389
10 Waddington, James	Bolton	377

Women's Prix

Name	Club/Area	Pts
1 Dean, Angelica	3Cs	450
2 Davidson, Laura J	Sandhurst	436
3 Goldsmith, Jennifer	Harrow	430
4 Milson, Amy F	Louth	413
5 Jina, Asha	Harpend'n Jr.	409
6 Kalaiyalahan, Akshaya	Richmond Jrs	405
7 Giles, Yasmin	Kent Jr. Css.	401
8 Sheremetyeva, Elizaveta	Oxfordshire Jrs.	362
9 Wei, Naomi	Essex Juniors	361
10 Robson, Caroline J	Barnet Eliz'th	340

Junior Prix

Name	Club/Area	Pts
1 Kalavannan, Koby	Surbiton *	569
2 Golding, Alex	Coulsdon CF	550
3 Anilkumar, Anantha P (jnr)	Coulsdon CF	542
4 Howell, Oliver W	Sussex Juniors	526
5 Boswell, Jacob Connor	Chedd'n & Leek	523
6 Oyama, Akito	Cambridge C.	521
7 Balouka-Myers, Gabriel	Garden Suburb	516
8 Haridas, Girinath	Kent Jr. Css.	515
9 Brozel, Sacha	Barnet Knights	504
10 Taylor, Adam C	Colchester	496



Brendan O'Gorman - Chess Images

See Brendan's work at - <https://picasaweb.google.com/bpogorman>

Mick Renshaw at Buxton 2013

Book Reviews - Gary Lane

Gary Lane's Chess Puzzles

by Gary Lane

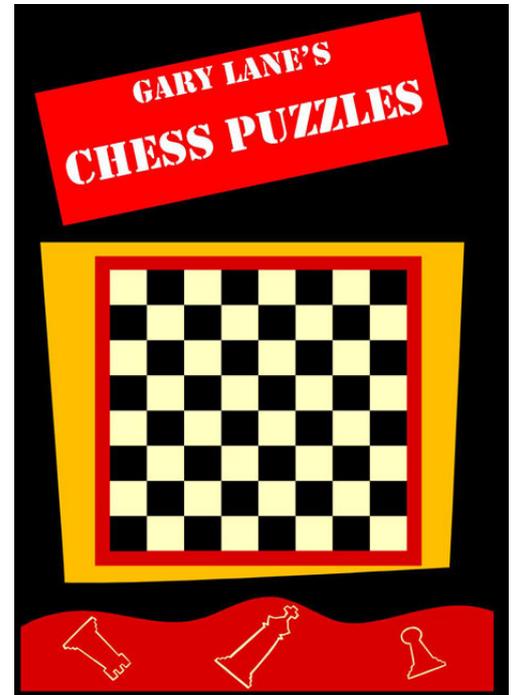
Published for the i-pad by eplusbooks.com, US\$9.99

This is my latest project and the one that seems to have caused the most interest. The first thing to declare is that it is a new puzzle book with over 200 examples of winning play leading to checkmate.

I tend to start each of the ten chapters with an introduction and tips on how to improve before moving on to the puzzles. I have managed at times to make it a chess trivia book because I did lots of research by reading up on interviews with players to find out which books or films they like and of course their favourite chess player. If like me you only got an i-pad recently then you go to www.eplusbooks.com and download the app then you instantly get Capablanca's Chess Fundamentals for free. Basically, you read it like a book but the difference is that when you put your finger on a move it is suddenly displayed on a chessboard so you can look at different variations without the need of a real set. This works well for puzzles where the hint and solution are hidden but you just press on them to reveal the answer. I also added over 50 photos from my personal collection, which seems to have led to a lot of comment.

Therefore, I can reveal it really is Peter Wells from 1989 in Malta, Miss Harris is a genuine Australian chess player and not a supermodel while the old pics of Keith Arkell and Mark Hebden prove they never seem to age.

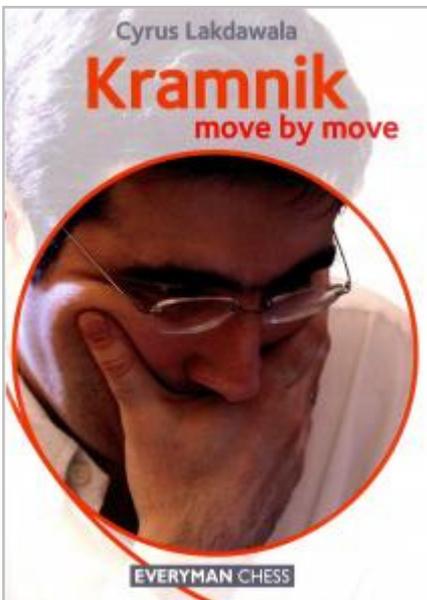
This might well be the future of chess publishing and I should add it is already possible to download books from eplus by English author Simon Williams.



Kramnik: Move by Move

by Cyrus Lakdawala

Published by Everyman Chess, £19.99



I like the idea of going over the games of famous masters in a way which is understandable to improving players and juniors. There will be some of you who will instantly think of the classic book Logical chess: move by move by Irving Chernev but the new tome is not exactly in the same style as in reality every move does not have a comment.

The prolific American author came under fire from some quarters for his previous work on Capablanca where it was alleged he relied on innuendo and gossip rather than historical fact to boost his anecdotes. Therefore, in the first few pages I was looking for clues whether he had changed his style, which I can understand you either love or hate. The short answer is that he continues to write in a robust manner as we are told of Kramnik's match victory over Kasparov from 2000 in tabloid style "... one of the most shocking world championship match upsets since Max Euwe took down the alcoholic Aleander Alekhine.."

We later move on to 'King Kram' defending his title against 'Topa' and I think by now one can realise that he has a very chatty style. Basically, he is like a showman and while telling the tale of the chess world he

thinks it is necessary to use nicknames and slang words to make it more interesting. After all few others would discuss an exchange sacrifice in the game Short-Kramnik, London 2011 by saying something is not quite right "... like the college student who texts his mum to wish her a happy Mother's Day, rather than take the effort to call." The answer about the sacrifice reads as follows "To a very small child money is just paper and nothing more. Kramnik sac'ed the exchange - he didn't drop it."

I can add that another Englishman makes an appearance in the game Kramnik-Adams, Linares 1999. After Mickey apparently plays a dubious move Lakdawala comments "At last some motion. The spoon stirs the sedentary sugar at the bottom of the cup of tea." I would not want David Howell to feel left out because he is featured in a blitz game from 2002, although I think it is fair to say his position is not good after move 46 because it is described in detail "The slaughterhouse gutters cloy and overflow with the warm, cloying blood of the newly dead, as White's pawns hang from their hooks in eviscerated ruin."

Well, Lakdawala certainly has a vivid imagination suitable for a novelist but I can't help feeling just writing that Black is better might be more suitable. The purists will find it hard to follow but as his books sell well there is a strong following who like his individual way of writing.

The games are well chosen and expertly analysed with lots of prose to help understand the plans and tactics.

The Powerful Catalan: A Complete Repertoire for White

by Victor Bologan

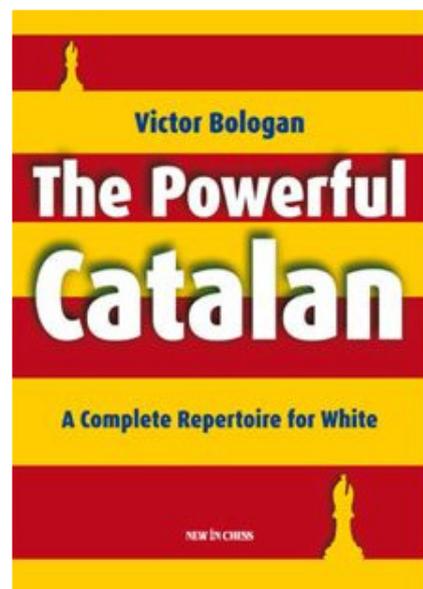
Published by New in Chess, £21.95

There are some old timers who dismiss the modern masters as memory experts who have no appreciation of the past but just focus on the latest computer move. I am not sure what they would think of Victor Bologan who at least makes an effort to present some history of the opening but then lifts it from the Internet.

The translator is Englishman Steve Giddins but I can't work out if the author is being serious or ironic when he writes "To start my story, I will jump to that contemporary, all-knowing oracle that is Wikipedia". Anyway, the opening moves are 1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 g3 d5 4 Bg2 which have found favour with numerous top players such as Kramnik and Anand.

The book is divided into ten chapters and the idea is to present a strong player 2000+ with enough material to play the opening with White and be ready to counter whatever has been prepared. The writer is of course a high-level grandmaster and is happy to analyse lots of different lines from for example move 14 so you can hardly learn it all in a weekend. The keen student will certainly benefit from study of this excellent book.

A guide to good chess by playing the Catalan.



ECF English Tournament Calendar

~* 23 Mar

Middlesex Hundreds Chess Championship, Isleworth & Syon School, Ridgeway Road, Isleworth TW7 5LJ Contact: Sainbayar Tserendorj Email: ukchessacademy@gmail.com Website: www.ukchessacademy.com - starts 10:30 ends 17:00. Qualifying event for the MEGA FINALS of the Delancey UK Schools Chess Challenge. Sections: U7, U8, U9, U10, U11, U12 & Open. Open to all players. 7 rounds Swiss. All moves 20 min per player. 6 Absolute Champion Trophy & 42 Hundreds champions

~* 23 Mar

Rochester Rapidplay Chess Congress, Warren Wood Social Club, 99b Warren Wood Road, Rochester, Kent ME1 2XA Contact: Tyrone Jefferies Email: tyronejefferies@hotmail.com - one day Swiss rapid-play tournament, 4 sections - Open, Major U170, Intermediate U145, Minor U120 x 6 rounds of 30 minute games

~@ 23-24 Mar

4NCL Rounds 7 and 8, Barcelo Hotel, Hinckley Island (Divisions 1, 2 and 3 South and North) Contact: Mike Truran Tel: 01993 708645 Contact address: The Old Farmhouse, 7 Church Street, Ducklington, Witney OX29 7UA

24 Mar

UK Chess Challenge - Last Chance Saloon, Wood End School, Yeomans Ave, Harpenden, Herts AL5 3EH Contact: Chess Masters Email: info@chess-masters.co.uk Website: www.chess-masters.co.uk - starts 12:30 ends 18:00. A qualifying event for the Delancey UK Schools Chess Challenge Megafinal

~ 24 Mar

39th Bourne End One Day Chess Congress, Bourne End Community Centre, Wakeman Road, Bourne End SL8 5SX Contact: David Langford Email: bebchess@yahoo.co.uk Website: www.bucksvoice.net/bourneendchess - Rapid play tournament, divided into sections by rapid play grade of approx. 16-20 players. Comprises 5 rounds, each player having 45 minutes to complete moves.

~*#@# 28 Mar-1 Apr

e2e4 Dublin Easter International, Brennan Green Isle Hotel, Naas Road, Newlands Cross, Dublin 22, Ireland Contact: Sean Hewitt Email: sean@e2e4.org.uk Website: www.e2e4.org.uk/dublin/Apr2013/ - starts 15.00, three sections: FIDE Open for GM and IM norms, FIDE Challengers U2000 and Minor U1750. Discounted hotel rooms for players. This event will be ECF graded!

~ 29-30 Mar

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

~*@ 29-31 Mar

UK Chess Academy Easter Congress, Hinchley Wood School, Claygate Lane, Surrey KT10 0QA Contact: Mike Basman, IM & Sainbayar Tserendorj, IA Email: ukchessacademy@gmail.com Website: www.ukchessacademy.com - sections: 3 day 5 round FIDE rated Open, 2 day 5 Round FIDE rated Major U170, 2 day 6 round ECF graded U120. Prize money plus a special trophy for best juniors

~*# 29-31 Mar

Bolton Easter Congress and Busy Persons Blitz, Bolton Ukrainian Club, 99 Castle Street, Bolton BL2 1JP Contact: Rod Middleton Email: gmccacongress@yahoo.co.uk - Open, Major U170, Knights U135. Busy Persons Blitz on Saturday afternoon.

~*# 29 Mar-1 Apr

WECU 65th Open Easter Congress, Royal Beacon Hotel, Exmouth, Devon EX8 2AF Contact: Alan Crickmore Email: plymouthchess@btinternet.com - four sections: Open (inc. the West of England Championship); Major; Minor; Ladies' Championship (Elizabeth Walker Cup)

~*#@# 29 Mar-1 Apr

Southend Easter Chess Congress 2013, Civic Centre, Victoria Avenue, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS2 6EN Contact: Nigel Cook Email: nigelcook26@hotmail.com Website: <http://southendchess.award-space.biz/club/index.html> - FIDE Rated Open, Major, Intermediate & Minor Sections. Total Prize fund over £6000

~ 1 Apr

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

~ 1 Apr

Surrey Chess Congress Rapidplay, Nonsuch High School, Ewell Road, Cheam, Surrey SM3 8AB Contact: Mike Adams Email: mike@guildfordchess.fsnet.co.uk Website: www.surreychesscongress.co.uk - starts 10.15 ends 6.15pm. 6 rounds, £300 minimum prize fund guaranteed.

~ 1 Apr

Surrey Chess Congress Junior Championships, Nonsuch High School (Sports Hall), Ewell Road Rd, Cheam, Surrey SM3 8AB Contact: Marda Dixon Email: mardadixon@btinternet.com Website: www.surreychesscongress.co.uk - starts 9:45 ends 5.00pm. Age groups: U7, U8, U9, U10, U11, U12, U13. 5 rounds. Top three sections are ECF graded. Trophy for each age group and medals for all children scoring 3/5

~ 1 Apr

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

~ 3 Apr

CCF Daytime FIDE Club - Spring Event Round 5, 84-90 Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 3BA Contact: Scott Freeman Email: chess@ccfworld.com Tel: 020 8645 0302 Website: <http://www.ccfworld.com/Chess/>

~*# 5-7 Apr

34th County Durham Open Chess Congress, Houghton Sports Centre, Station Road, Houghton le Spring, DH4 5EF Contact: Fred Stobbart Email: fred.stobbart1@gmail.com - open, major and minor sections

~*#@# 5-7 Apr

Gatwick Chess Congress, Crowne Plaza, London-Gatwick Airport, Langley Drive, Crawley RH11 7SX Contact: Sean Hewitt Email: sean@e2e4.org.uk Website: www.e2e4.org.uk/gatwick/Apr2013/index.htm

~* 5-7 Apr

Bristol Spring Congress, Holiday Inn (Academy), Bond St., Bristol BS1 3LE MAP Email: tugmw@blueyonder.co.uk - excellent venue, three sections - Open, Under 155, Under 125. Special rates at the hotel for players!

~*@ 6 Apr

Golders Green FIDE Rapidplay Congress, Golders Green Parish Church Hall, West Heath Drive, London NW11 7QG Contact: Adam Raoof Email: adamraoof@gmail.com Website: <http://www.golder-sgreenchess.blogspot.com>

6 Apr

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

~ 6-7 Apr

Junior 4NCL Weekend 3, Barcelo Hotel, Daventry Court Contact: Claire Summerscale Email: ches-suk@btinternet.com or Mike Truran Email: mike@truranfamily.co.uk Entry guidelines: http://www.4ncl.co.uk/jn_entry_form.htm

~ 10-11 Apr

Maidenhead Junior Chess Congress, Claires Court Schools, Ridgeway, Cannon Lane, Maidenhead, Berkshire Contact: Nigel Dennis Email: nigelwdennis@btinternet.com

@ 12-14 Apr

2013 Edinburgh Chess Congress, George Heriot's School, Lauriston Place, Edinburgh EH3 9EQ
Contact: Jim Wallace Email: james.wallace@talk21.com Website: www.chessedinburgh.co.uk - starts 18:30. 5 sections; Premier, U172/1900, U152/1700, U132/1500 and U152/1300

~ 13 Apr

32nd Teignmouth Rapidplay, Trinity School, Teignmouth, Devon Contact: Raymond W Chubb Email: ray.chubb@care4free.net Website: www.chessdevon.co.uk

~ 13 Apr

EPSCA Rapidplay, Broadgreen School, Liverpool L13 5UQ Contact: Julian Clissold Email: j_clissold@btinternet.com Website: <http://www.epsca.org.uk/> - starts 11.00am, ends 6.00pm. The congress includes sections for Under 8, under 9, under 10, and under 11. Results from the under 11 section will count towards selection for the England Under 11 team trial.

~* 13-14 Apr

Staffordshire Chess Congress, Bloxwich Leisure Centre, High Street, Bloxwich, Walsall WS3 2DA
Contact: David Anderton Email: davidanderton@blueyonder.co.uk Website: staffordshirechess.org.uk - Premier Open; Major Under 160; Minor Under 120

~* 13-14 Apr

31st St. Albans South Herts Congress, St.Columba's College, King Harry Lane, St. Albans, Herts AL3 4AW
Contact: Ray Claret Email: ray11@inbox.com Website: www.stalbanscongress.com - 5 round Swiss with 5 sections Minor - 120 and below, Intermediate - 140 and below, Major - 160 and below Challengers - 180 and below Open - no grade limits

~ 14 Apr

The Schools at Somerhill Kent Junior Chess Association (KJCA) GP 6, The Schools at Somerhill, Somerhill, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 0NJ
Contact: Sue Maguire Email: sue.maguire@btinternet.com Website: <http://www.kjca.org/event/50> - starts 9.00am. A beautiful venue set in the heart of the Kent countryside. This is a junior rapidplay and is the sixth in a series of eight rapidplays organised by the KJCA

~@ 20 Apr

FIDE London Rapidplay, Isleworth & Syon School, Ridgeway Road, Isleworth, Middlesex TW7 5LJ
Contact: Sainbayar Tserendorj Email: londonrapidplay@gmail.com Website: www.londonrapidplay.co.uk

~* 20 Apr

Kings Head Rapidplay, Westbourne Grove Church, Westbourne Grove, London, W11 2RW
Contact: Colin Mackenzie Email: rapidplay@khcc.org.uk Website: www.khcc.org.uk - a six-round Swiss tournament with a guaranteed £700 prize fund. First prize is £250, second £100, third £50 and there are also five grading prizes of £60 each

@ 20 Apr

2013 British Blitz Championship, Quinborne Community Centre, Ridgacre Road, Quinton Birmingham, West Midlands B32 2TW
Contact: Alex Holowczak Email: alexholowczak@gmail.com

~ 20 Apr

Junior London Rapidplay, Isleworth & Syon School, Ridgeway Road, Isleworth, Middlesex TW7 5LJ
Contact: Sainbayar Tserendorj Email: londonrapidplay@gmail.com Website: www.londonrapidplay.co.uk - designed for beginners and juniors graded U80. Sections: U8, U10, U12 and U14. Each section winner will win a trophy and in each section there is a Best Girl prize!

20 Apr

EPSCA Girls Under 11 Final, Barnet Contact: Nigel Dennis Email: nigelwdennis@btinternet.com

~*@ 20-21 Apr

Hampstead Under 2200 Weekend Congress, Henderson Court Resource Centre, 102 Fitzjohns Avenue (junction with Prince Arthur Road), London NW3 6NS (use NW3 6NS in your satnav) Contact: Adam Raof Email: adamraof@gmail.com Website: <http://www.hampsteadchess.blogspot.co.uk/> - five rounds, games are FIDE rated and graded by the ECF for the national grading database. Maximum 60 players, limited to players rated Under 2200. Unrated players should be Under 190 ECF, or the national equivalent. Swiss format tournaments. PRIZES - 1st £200, 2nd £100 plus a minimum of two rating prizes of £80.00. Rating bands to be announced before round two.

~*# 20-21 Apr

38th Nottingham Congress, Nottingham High School, Waveney Mount, Nottingham NG7 4ED
Contact: Robert Richmond Email: robrchmnd@aol.com Website: <http://nottsches.org/> - sections are Open, U165, U135, U110. Entry form & additional information will follow on the Notts CA website.

~* 21 Apr

Cambridgeshire Rapidplay, Paston & Gunthorpe Community Centre, Hallfields Lane, Gunthorpe, Peterborough PE4 7YH Contact: Paul Kemp Email: paulkemp64@gmail.com - three tournaments: Open, Major (U160 grade) and Challengers (U120). Five rounds, £730 prize fund

~ 24 Apr

CCF Daytime FIDE Club - Summer Event Round 1, 84-90 Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 3BA Contact: Scott Freeman Email: chess@ccfworld.com Tel: 020 8645 0302 Website: <http://www.ccfworld.com/Chess/>

26 Apr

EPSCA Inter-Association Under 9 Final, Nottinghamshire Contact: Nigel Dennis Email: nigelwdennis@btinternet.com

~# 26-28 Apr

2nd Bournemouth Grand Chess Congress (ECF Congress of the Year 2012), The Carrington House Hotel, Knyveton Road, Bournemouth BH1 3QQ Contact: M Simons Email: grand@bournemouthchess-congress.org.uk Sections: Open, Challengers, Intermediate, Minor - also Individual Handicap Rapidplay | Guaranteed 1st prize in each of the four main sections - £1,000 in the Open section, £300 in the Challengers, £250 in the Intermediate and £200 in the Minor

~*#@# 26-28 Apr

Solihull Chess Congress, Principal Hayley St. Johns Hotel, 651 Warwick Road, Solihull B91 1AT Contact: Sean Hewitt Email: sean@e2e4.org.uk Website: www.e2e4.org.uk/solihull/Apr2013/index.htm

~ 27 Apr

2nd Doncaster Rapidplay Chess Congress, New Hall, 103 Station Road, Bawtry DN10 6PU Contact: Jim Burnett Email: office@chessdirect.co.uk - starts 09:30 ends 17:30. 6 round Swiss system rapidplay, 30 minutes per player per game. Hot & cold drinks and bookstall available at the event. Food outlets within 5 minutes walk of the venue. Enquiries to Jim Burnett Tel. 01302 710730

27 Apr

EPSCA Under 9 Final, Bucks Contact: Nigel Dennis Email: nigelwdennis@btinternet.com

27-28 Apr

EPSCA U11 Trials, Liverpool - INVITATION ONLY

~# 27-28 Apr

The Great Yarmouth Chess Congress, Great Yarmouth Hippodrome, 5 St Georges Road, Great Yarmouth NR30 2EU Contact: John Charman Email: jaygcee@ntlworld.com Website: www.norfolkchess.org - 5 round Swiss, the only event to take place in a circus ring!

~@ 28 Apr

Oxfordshire Sunday League, Ducklington Village Hall OX29 7UX Contact: Mike Truran Tel: 01993 708645 Email: mike@truranfamily.co.uk Website: <http://www.witneychess.co.uk> - FIDE rated and ECF graded, entries welcome from Oxfordshire clubs and clubs close to Oxfordshire

~ 28 Apr

6th Chess Coaching Services Tournament and Training Day, John Keble Church Hall, Church Close, Edgware, Middlesex HA8 9NS Contact: Rob Willmoth Email: robwillmoth@hotmail.co.uk - coaching by International master Lorin D'Costa and British master Rob Willmoth plus other recognised coaches. The only event of its kind in the UK

2 May

ECF 4 Board afternoon event, Vandyke Upper School, Leighton Buzzard - starts 4.00pm ends 6.30pm Contact: Adam Hall Email: halla@vandyke.cbeds.co.uk

~@ 4-6 May

4NCL Rounds 9, 10 and 11, Barcelo Hotel, Hinckley Island (Divisions 1, 2 and 3 South and North) Contact: Mike Truran Tel: 01993 708645 Contact address: The Old Farmhouse, 7 Church Street, Ducklington, Witney OX29 7UA

~ 6 May

Champions' League Chess Finals, 84-90 Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 3BA Contact: Scott Freeman Email: chess@ccfworld.com Tel: 020 8645 0302 Website: <http://www.ccfworld.com/Chess/>

~ 6 May

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

10 May

EPSCA Inter-Association Under 11 Final, Northamptonshire Contact: Nigel Dennis Email: nigelw-dennis@btinternet.com

~*# 11 May

Golders Green FIDE Rapidplay Congress, Golders Green Parish Church Hall, West Heath Drive, London NW11 7QG Contact: Adam Raoof Email: adamraoof@gmail.com Website: <http://www.golder-sgreenchess.blogspot.com>

11 May

EPSCA Under 11 Final, Midlands Contact: Nigel Dennis Email: nigelwdennis@btinternet.com

~*# 10-12 May

24th Frome Chess Congress, Selwood Academy, Berkley Road, Frome, Somerset BA11 2EF Contact: Gerry Jepps Email: gnjepps@btinternet.com Website: <http://www.somersetchess.org/>

~*# 10-12 May

e2e4 Nottingham Congress, Park Inn by Radisson, Mansfield Road, Nottingham NG5 2BT Contact: Sean Hewitt Email: info@e2e4.org.uk Website: <http://www.e2e4.org.uk/nottingham> - starts 19:00 ends 19:00. Three sections are available: FIDE rated Open; FIDE rated Major (for players rated under 1900 or graded below 165 if unrated); and the Minor for players under 135

~ 15 May

CCF Daytime FIDE Club - Summer Event Round 2, 84-90 Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 3BA Contact: Scott Freeman Email: chess@ccfworld.com Tel: 020 8645 0302 Website: <http://www.ccfworld.com/Chess/>