

# CHESS MOVES

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Jonathan Hawkins at the Pokerstars IOM Chess Congress

## England's Newest Grandmaster - JONATHAN HAWKINS

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## ECF Book of the Year 2014

There are many chess biographies which concentrate on the games and chess personality of a player, but very few which focus on the player's life and the historical circumstances in which he or she played. This year's winner is a notable addition to this rare genre and features one of the most influential players of all time.

Andrew Soltis in his preface states his ambition in his book *Mikhail Botvinnik The Life and Games of a World Chess Champion* McFarland £29.99 -

"Botvinnik was a mystery to many of his contemporaries. This book is an attempt to explain him in the context of today".

Botvinnik's achievements are too well known to be recounted here, perhaps best summed up by his later informal title of "The Patriarch"(of Russian chess).

As Soltis points out Botvinnik lived and prospered in the most difficult circumstances imaginable. He survived the Russian civil war, collectivization and famine, the Terror and second world war (in which many of his friends and contacts were executed or killed), Stalin and the cold war, the malaise of the 1960s and 1970s and the collapse of communism and the Soviet Union. How did he achieve so much?

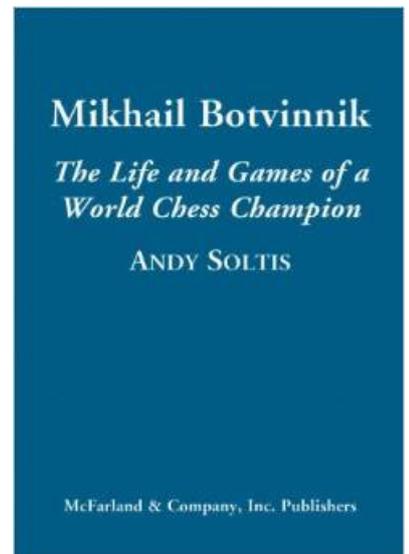
Soltis provides several reasons. First Botvinnik was an excellent politician (not a common characteristic amongst chess players). Soltis provides much detail on the intrigues which he survived and sometimes started. Botvinnik created much resentment and jealousy from some of his colleagues but he always won through in the end. Secondly Botvinnik's huge public reputation arising from his victories in the late 1930s and 1940s culminating in winning the World Championship in 1948 always counted in his favour.

Self confident, tough, suspicious, uncompromising, dogmatic and not least incredibly hard working, Botvinnik often came over as a ruthless, self-obsessed loner. But Botvinnik had major interests outside chess, notably in the field of electrical engineering which he pursued with the same degree of determination as in chess to the extent of abandoning the game for several years. He was very happily married to Gayane Davidovna, a Kirov ballerina; he enjoyed the theatre and the arts – and football. Loyal to his friends, he was ready to use his influence to help colleagues in need.

Soltis rightly gives less attention to the games as they have been extensively analysed elsewhere not least by Botvinnik himself, which enables him to explore the many aspects – environment, opponents, contributions to chess theory – of his enigmatic subject.

Soltis has written a fascinating and readable biography of a very great chess player who was also a complex man of many contradictions.

- Ray Edwards Julian Farrand 1 September 2014



## Jonathan Hawkins GM



Congratulations to Jonathan Hawkins on becoming a Grandmaster!

Jonathan (pictured, right) was a relatively slow starter in the world of chess, learning the game at the age of eight. He was a keen junior who won a number of local tournaments. He started to study chess very seriously in his late teens and achieved a rapid rise through the ranks. He became a FIDE Master in 2008 and earned the title of International Master in 2010. 2011 brought him two Grandmaster norms – one of them was earned at the super-strong British Championships, in which he outscored numerous Grandmasters to share third place.

The IOM website press release said –

‘On board four there was some more fantastic news for English chess as Jonathan Hawkins, who had already secured his GM norm before the last round, easily drew his game against Gabriel Sargissian. His title should be confirmed at the next FIDE Congress. I was especially pleased for Jonathan, as being his captain for Cheddleton in the 4NCL, I know how hard he has worked for this achievement.’

Jonathan has been supported by the friends of chess –

<http://friendsofchess.wordpress.com/2012/11/22/jonathan-hawkins/>

Jonathan is also the current joint British Chess Champion and the author of a best selling book, ‘Amateur to IM’. Clearly the title now needs updating.

- Bob Kane, Commercial Director

## Film – Algorithms

Algorithms | India | 2012 | B&W | 96 mins  
English, Hindi, Tamil, Odiya with English subtitles  
Dir: Ian McDonald | Prod: Geetha J

In India, a group of boys dream of becoming Chess Masters, driven by a man with a vision. But this is no ordinary chess and these are no ordinary players. Algorithms is a documentary on the thriving but little known world of Blind Chess in India.



Filmed over three years from just before the World Junior Blind Chess Championship in Sweden in 2009 to just after the next championship in Greece in 2011, it follows three talented boys from different parts of India and a totally blind player turned pioneer who not only aims to situate India on a global stage but wants all blind children to play chess.

Algorithms travels with the boys to competitive tournaments and visits them in their home milieu where they reveal their struggles, anxieties and hopes. It moves through the algorithms of the blind chess world challenging the sighted of what it means to see. Going beyond sight and story, this

observational sport doc with a difference elicits hidden realms of subjectivity. It allows for the tactile and thoughtful journey that explores foresight, sight and vision to continue long after the moving image ends.

Algorithms is the first ever feature documentary on Blind Chess. It has screened at 20 international film festivals and won six awards.

Algorithms is a contender for the Oscars, for the Academy Award for Best Documentary 2014.

Algorithms nominated for the Griersons, the prestigious British Documentary Awards 2014.

Algorithms in competition at Al Jazeera Documentary Film Festival, Oct 2014

## 50th Annual Northumberland County Congress

Played at the Parks Leisure Centre, North Shields, 26th-28th September

### OPEN (FIDE-rated) TOURNAMENT

1. Ali Jaunooby (Denton) 4½

2= GM Keith Arkell (Cheddleton); FM David Walker (Leam Lane) 4

David retains the Tyne-Wear Trophy for the highest placed NE Player.

The inaugural NCCU Senior Championship for the new John Littlewood Cup was incorporated within the Open.

1. Paul Bielby (Jesmond) 3½

2= Paul Kendall (Beverley); Jim Burnett (Doncaster); JohnTurnock (Jesmond) 2½

Grading Prize : Nicholas Arkell (Stourbridge)

Junior Prize : Zheming Zhang (Jesmond)

### MAJOR TOURNAMENT

1. Max Turner (Berwick-upon-Tweed) 4½

2= James Turner (Morpeth); Bob Mitcheson (Barrow-in-Furness) 4

11-year old Max wins the Ian Lambie Trophy

Senior Prize : Ron Plater (Jesmond)

Grading Prize : Ron Stather (Middlesbrough)

### MINOR TOURNAMENT

1. Dave Stewartson (Leam Lane) 4½

2= David Gilbert (DHSS); Tim Allen (Battersea); Eddie Czestochowski (South Shields) 4

Grading Prizes : Bill Penny (Tynemouth); Geoff Ainslie (Calderdale)

## World Senior Chess Championship 2014 - final rounds

### Round 8

#### 50+

Evgeny Sveshnikov 5 John Nunn 5.5 1-0. John went wrong early on and, despite valiant resistance, eventually lost.

Jans Kristensen 5 Zurab Sturua 5.5 0-1. Thus the Georgian has taken the sole lead.

Keith Arkell 5 Mark Hebden 5 1-0. They have played over 130 games against each other, spread over many years. They even once had a six game match. Keith gained an advantage from the opening and didn't relax his grip.

Arkaly Shavelin 4 Terry Chapman 4 draw. Terry was pressing in his game.

#### Round 9 Pairings

1. Sturua (GEO) 6.5 Janez Barle (SLO) 5.5
2. Klaus Bischoff (GER) 5.5 Evgeny Sveshnikov (LAT) 6
3. Hur Yasin (TUR) 5.5 Keith Arkell (ENG) 6
4. John Nunn (ENG) 5.5 Evgenij Kargin (RUS) 5
5. Mark Hebden (ENG) 5 Slim Bouaziz (TUN) 5
10. Terry Chapman 4.5 Nikolaidis Konstantinos (GRE) 4.5.

#### Women 50+/65+

Elena Fatalibekovic 4.5 Ingrid Lauterbach (ENG) 5 1-0. The English hope blundered in a difficult position.

She has white in Round 9 against Tisala Kasoshvili (GEO) who also has 5 points.

Thus our two leading players went down in Round 8. Keith is now our leading hope and is down-floated to a significantly lower rated opponent. Colour history precluded his playing a higher rated opponent this round. But there are still three rounds to go.

#### 65+

Ian Reynolds 4 Marcoio Baath 4 draw A fair draw.

John Robison 3 Benan Lachlon 3 1-0 John gained R, B and N for Q and then it was easy, but slow.

Stewart Reuben 3 Mariano Acosta 3.5 1-0 I managed to win a double-edged game.

Joseph Rozewicz 2 Elhabib Hamida 2.5 draw. Joseph had a good draw and is gaining rating points.

#### Round 9 Pairings

13. Klaus Klundt (GER) 4.5 Ian Reynolds 4.5
24. Rober Danielssen (SWE) John Robison 4
27. Boris Blaushtein (ISR) Stewart Reuben 4
42. Mark Rubinstein (ISR) 2.5 Joseph Rozewicz 2.5

You will have noticed I have not been reporting the top boards results. It is as if we are playing in a separate tournament.

Gain/loss in Rating points for our players so far.

The 3 above 2400 have a k factor of 10. The next 5 20 and Joseph 40.

Nunn -0.35, Hebden -0.2, Arkell +1.75, Chapman -0.64, Lauterbach +1.07, Reuben -0.57, Reynolds +1.86, Robison +0.88, Rozewicz +0.26.

### Round 9

Our three GMs all won very smoothly today. Keith Arkell was the first to finish against a much lower rated opponent, but with black. I had to ask Mark and his opponent why he had resigned while he still had a material plus. Slim Bouaziz (Tunisia) said, 'I don't like bad positions.' It was true it was pretty wretched. But sad to say, my opponents don't acquiesce so readily. John Nunn had a complex endgame which he won with considerable skill.

#### 50+

Hu Yasin vs Keith Arkell 0-1

John Nunn vs Evgenij Kargin 1-0

Mark Hebden vs Slim Bouaziz 1-0

Terry Chapman vs Kostas Nikolaidis 0-1

The two top pairings were both rapidly agreed drawn. It is no good trying to coast to victory when English players of that era are involved. Thus Keith is now joint first with 7/9 with Zurab Sturua (GEO). John Nunn and Evgenij Sveshnikov have 6½/9. Janez Barle, Klaus Bischoff and Mark Hebden 6/9.

### Round 10 Pairings

Sveshnikov – Arkell

Hebden – Sturua

Nunn – Bischoff

Barle – Vladimir Depovij 5½

Dr Wolfram Heinig 5 Terry Chapman 4½

It is wonderful to see three English players on the top three boards of a World Championship. I doubt that has ever happened before.

### Women's 50+/65+

Ingrid Lauterbach 5 – Tsiala Kasoshvili 5 — 0-1.

Sadly this second loss in a row probably puts Ingrid out of the running for a major prize.

### Round 10 Pairing

Nino Melashvili 6 – Ingrid Lauterbach 5. Well, maybe not. A double upfloat must mean many of the pairings have taken place.

### 65+

Klaus Kundt vs Ian Reynolds 1-0

John Robinson vs Robert Danielssen draw

Boris Blushtein vs Stewart Reuben draw

Mark Rubinstein vs Joseph Rozewicz 1-0

This was a disappointing round for the English, just 1/4. Ian thought he saw a way to equalise, but it was a flawed concept. He is still gaining a large number of rating points.

### Round 10 Pairings

Reynolds 4½ – Robert Danielssen 4½

Reuben 4½ – Janis Lelis 4½

Robinson 4½ – Marcia Netto Baetz 4½

Rozewicz 2½ – Abazy Draup Zamahari 2½

### World Senior Blitz

This took place this morning. Mark Hebden won with 6½/7. Evgenij Kalegin came second with 6/7. 35 played.

Mark said he played because he hadn't won in the main event for four rounds. It seems to have done the trick as he creamed his Tunisian opponent in the afternoon.

### Round 10

#### 50+

KEITH ARKELL PULLS A HOUDINI! He was quite lost against the very experienced Russian GM, Evgeny Sveshnikov. But then the Russian went badly wrong with the white pieces and lost. His friend, GM elect Jonathan Hawkins gave Keith some good advice from afar. Sveshnikov had recently played a 6 game match against Shirov, had good positions in most games and went badly wrong in most of them late in the game. Thus Keith has 8/10 as does Zurab Sturua (below right) GM from Georgia. They drew their individual game and, if they finish with the same score, it will come down to how well their opponents' performed. I have believed that is absurd for about 50 years.

#### Round 10 Results

Sveshnikov 6.5 vs Arkell 7 0-1

Hebden 6 vs Sturua 7 0-1 – Mark perhaps overpressed quite early on and lost quite quickly.

Nunn 6.5 vs Bischoff 6 draw, a solid, fair result.

Barle 6 vs Stepovif 5.5 draw

Heinig 5 vs Chapman 4.5 draw

### Round 11 Pairings

Sturua 8 vs Bischoff 6.5  
Arkell 8 vs Barle 6.5  
Yasin Hur 6.5 vs Nunn 7  
Bruno 6.5 vs Kalegin 6  
Stepovoj 6 vs Hebden 6  
Chapman 5 vs Kempen 5

### Women's 50+/65+

Melshvili 6 vs Lauterbach 5 1-0 – Ingrid started off so well, but has now lost three in a row.

Round 11 Pairing

Lauterbach 5 vs Pelias 4

### 65+

Reynolds 4.5 vs Danielssen 4.5 1-0

Reuben 4.5 vs Lelis 4.5 draw

Robinson 4.5 vs Netto Baeta 4.5 1-0

Rozewicz 2.5 vs Zamahari 4.5 1-0

Thus I let the side down, only drawing.

### Round 11 Pairings

Guzman 5.5 vs Reynolds 5.5

Titz 5.5 vs Robinson 5.5

Kayaman 5 vs Reuben 5

El Gheidi 3.5 vs Rozewicz 3.5

## Round 11

### 50+

Keith Arkell (above left) drew his 11th and last game with Janez Barle. Zurab Sturua (GEO) also drew his last game with Klaus Bischoff (GER). Thus they finished first equal with 8½/11. Then came the agonising wait for the other games to finish which would decide the tiebreak for the World title. In the very last game to finish, Fabio Bruno (6½) managed to beat Evgenij Kaligin and this meant that Zurab had won the title. Thus Keith had to make do with the silver medal, but shared the first prize receiving €1750. John Nunn (above right) won an elegant game to finish lone third and thus secure the bronze medal. Thus England are disappointed only to have achieved silver and bronze in this new event.

Sturua 8 vs Bischoff 6½ draw

Arkell 8 vs Barle 6½ draw

Hur 6½ vs Nunn 7 0-1

Bruno 6½ vs Kaligin 6 1-0

Stepovoj 6 vs Hebden 6 0-1

Chapman 5 vs Kempen 5 draw

Mark played The Two Knights Defence and suffered greatly before eventually landing the win. He won €400. Terry Chapman apparently missed a winning combination at one moment.

### 65+

Guzman 5½ vs Reynolds 5½ draw

Hermo 5½ vs Robinson 5½ 1-0

Kayaman 5 vs Reuben 5 draw

Ghenadi 3½ vs Rozewicz 3½ 0-1

The winners in this section were, all with 8 points were:

Anatoly Vaisser (FRA); Yuri Balashov (RUS); Viktor Kupreichik (BLR); Herman van Riemsdyk (BRA). I was pleased to see Herman was awarded an additional medal, although he only finished fourth on tiebreaks.

## Women 50+/65+

Lauterbach 5 vs Pelias 4 1-0

Svetlana Mednikova (RUS) 8½ 50+ Champion.

Nona Gaprindashvili (GEO) 8 65+ Champion; Nino Melashvili (GEO) 8; Yelena Ankudinova (KAZ) 8.

## STATISTICS ON ALL 9 ENGLISH PLAYERS

Last name	Forename	Section	Rating	Score	Place	Rating performance	Rating gain
Arkell	Keith	50+	2450	8½	silver	2598	+23
Nunn	John	50+	2602	8	bronze	2573	-1
Hebden	Mark	50+		7	8	2511	-3
Chapman	Terry	50+	2304	5½	26		-24
Lauterbach	Ingrid	Women	2095	6	8	2037	+6
Reynolds	Ian	65+	2006	6	27	2202	+54
Robinson	John	65+	1983	5½	47	2080	+28
Reuben	Stewart	65+	2089	5½	51	1976	-25
Rozewicz	Joseph	65+	1576	4½ *	79	1757	+64

\*Joseph actually scored 3½/10 + the bye. The 3 GMs all have a k factor of 10, making Keith's Rating gain even more impressive. The next four players have k=20 and Joseph k=40. The rating improvements that Keith, Ian, John and Joseph made are all very impressive.

Both Keith and Mark received support for their entry fees and travel from The Friends of Chess. Mark in addition received support for his accommodation and food from Brambles Administration Limited.

The next Senior event is the World Senior 50+ and 65+ Championships in Dresden 24 February to 4 March 2015.

- Stewart Reuben



Keith Arkell (third left) and John Nunn (on Keith's left) at the prizegiving ceremony

## Junior Chess

### ECF Secondary School Rapidplay Chess Tournament

Sunday 14th September 2014, Eton College, Berks ...

Eton College hosted the third annual Secondary School Rapidplay Chess Tournament in their magnificent school hall. 227 players made up 38 teams representing 29 schools from fourteen counties, from Lincolnshire to Somerset, Warwickshire to Kent. Over 500 games rapidplay games were played across the five rounds.

Schools featured include past winners Haberdashers' Askes and Hampton Schools, National Schools Champions Reading School and past national champions Millfield School. Along with some very strong teams, there were many others of a range of strengths seeking to do their best. Whilst the top players were graded over 200, the median grade was closer to 100.

Play went remarkably smoothly with any issues being quickly resolved by arbiters Chris and Matthew Howell. The draw for each round and scores were clear for all to see on an enormous screen at the end of the hall.

The scoring system was based on games points (so every game counted towards the total) rather than match points. This proved popular with the weaker teams who found that their scores were increasing even when they were losing matches. Also the Swiss system led to many close matches – half the results being 4–2 or closer, even though the first round matches were all more one sided than this.

The average team grading implied that it should be a close contest between the top three teams from Haberdashers' Askes (ECF 175), Reading School (170) and Hampton (168). However round 3 was pivotal as Haberdashers' convincingly beat Reading. Haberdasher's duly went on to win all their matches to amass 27 out of a maximum of 30 game points to win the event. RGS Guildford came second with 22 game points and Hampton and Reading joint 3rd with 21 points.

We are very grateful to Eton College for providing their facilities free of charge

It was a privilege to have British Chess Champion Jonathan Hawkins present the trophies to Haberdashers' Askes', whose captain was British U18 Champion Ravi Haria.

Place	Name	County	Score
1	Haberdashers' Askes' School	Herts	27
2	RGS Guildford A	Surrey	22
3-4	Hampton School A	Surrey	21
	Reading School	Berks	21
5	Wilson's School A	Surrey	19
6-8	King Edwards School	Warks	18
	Mill Hill County High School	Middx	18
	Millfield	Somerset	18
9-11	Hampton School B	Surrey	17.5
	King Edward VI Grammar School A	Essex	17.5
	Sevenoaks School	Kent	17.5
12	RGS Guildford B	Surrey	17
13-15	King's School, Grantham A	Lincs	16.5
	Sir Thomas Rich's	Gloucs	16.5
	Wilson's School B	Surrey	16.5
16	Westminster Under School	Middx	16
17	Winchester College	Hants	15.5
18-19	Claremont High School Academy	Middx	15
	The Hall	Middx	15

Place	Name	County	Score
20-21	Eton College	Berks	14
	Simon Langton GSB A	Kent	14
22	Vandyke Upper B	Beds	13.5
23-24	Hampton School C	Surrey	13
	The King's School, Canterbury	Kent	13
25-28	Dame Alice Owen's School	Herts	12.5
	Dulwich College	Kent	12.5
	The Abbey School, Reading	Berks	12.5
	Wilson's School C	Surrey	12.5
29-32	Cumnor House	Surrey	11.5
	Simon Langton GSB B	Kent	11.5
	St Paul's Girls' School	Middx	11.5
	Vandyke Upper A	Beds	11.5
33-35	Bedaes School	Hants	11
	Bristol Grammar School	Avon	11
	Harewood College	Dorset	11
36	King Edward VI Grammar School B	Essex	10
37	King's School, Grantham B	Lincs	8
38	Piggott School	Berks	6



## World Youth Championships, Durban – final rounds

### Round 8

Name	Age	Rating	Colour	Opponent	Rating	Result
Josh Altman	U10B	1704	B	Yuhao Cai (CHN)	1772	L
Ilya Misyura	U10B	0	B	Tiresh Bedesi Tahil (RSA)	0	W
Nugith Jayawarna	U12B	1687	W	Ethan Joule (RSA)	0	W
Dion Huang	U14B	1796	B	Tou Ip Seng (MAD)	1417	W
Adam C Taylor	U16B	2023	W	Chris Kolver (RSA)	0	D
Stephen Whatley	U16B	1881	B	Pavlo Vorontsov FM (UKR)	2397	L
Harry Li	U16B	0	B	Chingys Isaev (KGZ)	1957	L
Oskar Hackner	U18B	2102	W	Sayantan Das IM (IND)	2456	D
Amy Hoare	U18G	1981	W	Andreea Cosman (ROU)	2018	D
Chantelle Foster	U18G	1840	B	Areta Jaksunaite (LTU)	1499	W

Today was a day of what could have been. Stephen completely outplayed his highly rated opponent with black, only to be tricked right at the end. Oskar also outplayed an Indian IM and took a draw in a clearly better position. Still, a good result and he moves to 4.5. Nugith won his second game in a row which is always good to see!

So far all the English scores are on par, Amy leads the way on 5.5 but everyone is bunched between 3.5 and 4.5 points.

Scores:

Amy 5.5/8

Josh, Oskar 4.5

Chantelle, Ilya, Dion 4

Stephen, Harry, Adam, Nugith 3.5

### Round 9

Name	Age	Rating	Colour	Opponent	Rating	Result
Josh Altman	U10B	1704	W	Chin Chon Li (MAC)	1478	W
Ilya Misyura	U10B	0	W	Markus Kirchner (GER)	1487	W
Nugith Jayawarna	U12B	1687	B	Kai Yi Gong (MAC)	1283	W
Dion Huang	U14B	1796	B	Guha Mitrabha FM (IND)	2056	L
Adam C Taylor	U16B	2023	B	Shreyes Subramaniam (MAS)	1813	W
Stephen Whatley	U16B	1881	W	Sachin Modi CM (RSA)	1676	W
Harry Li	U16B	0	W	Chen Junhong (CHN)	1846	D
Oskar Hackner	U18B	2102	B	Grzegorz Nasuta FM (POL)	2361	L
Amy Hoare	U18G	1981	B	Filiz Osmanodja (GER)	2310	L
Chantelle Foster	U18G	1840	B	Dina Abdi Zined WIM (ALG)	1911	L

Amy finds herself on board 2 which is excellent so late in the tournament, though she has an upfloat with black against the German ranked in second place. Unfortunately in time trouble she was unable to hold her position but she still remains on a good score. Josh joined Amy on 5.5 after his win, and Ilya continued his excellent first international tournament by moving to 5/9 with his win today. Nugith won his third game in a row to move to a 50% score.

Scores:

Amy, Josh 5.5/9

Ilya 5

Stephen, Oskar, Nugith, Adam 4.5

Chantelle, Dion, Harry 4

### Round 10

Name	Age	Rating	Colour	Opponent	Rating	Result
Josh Altman	U10B	1704	B	Theo Ciccoli (FRA)	1923	D
Ilya Misyura	U10B	0	B	Maciej Czopor (POL)	1799	L
Nugith Jayawarna	U12B	1687	W	Raveen Askey (SRI)	1485	D
Dion Huang	U14B	1796	W	Javier Gonzalez Carillo (MEX)	1723	W
Adam C Taylor	U16B	2023	W	Elias Musonda (ZAM)	0	W
Stephen Whatley	U16B	1881	B	Mohamed Zayan FM (EGY)	2125	W
Harry Li	U16B	0	B	Hishaam Essop (RSA)	1752	L
Oskar Hackner	U18B	2102	W	Lars Rindlisbacher FM (SUI)	2336	W
Amy Hoare	U18G	1981	B	Andreea-Christiana Navrotescu (FRA)	2208	L
Chantelle Foster	U18G	1840	W	Jesse February (RSA)	1688	W

Some great individual results today in the penultimate round, with Oskar beating a 2336 FM in style and Stephen beating a 2125 FM with an excellent attacking Sicilian. 5 of the 10 strong team already have an 11 round 50% score or higher, with a number within touching distance of this going into the final round. Rating wise, with the new K factor of 40 for juniors under 18 having kicked in since July 1st, a number of the English players have made quite significant gains this tournament.

CM Josh Altman leads the English score with 6/10 but with the whole squad just behind, who will come out with the leading score after all 11 rounds?

Scores:

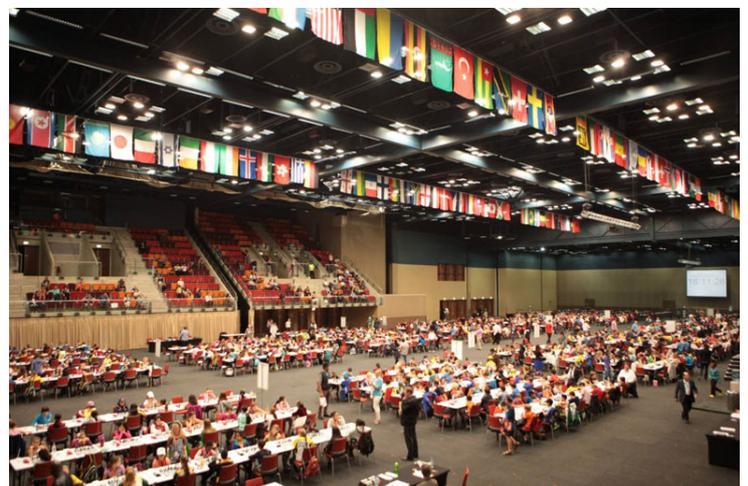
Josh 6/10

Amy, Stephen, Oskar, Adam 5.5

Ilya, Nugith, Dion, Chantelle 5

Harry 4

The last round begins at 10am so coaching will commence at 7am bright and early! [report to follow when we get it!]



## European Youth Chess Championships – final round and summary

Yesterday's final round started at 1pm so coaching and preparation started early. Results were again mixed with the team scoring 11½ points which included 11 draws! Special mention must go to Navi who scored her fifth win in a row.

Looking at our results overall some of our players have had excellent tournaments; Alex Golding scored 6½ points (as an U11) in the U12 to finish 9th, Haolin and Navi both scored 6 in the U8's and finished 14th and 13th respectively. However, for some the performances have been slightly disappointing and the tournament challenging. Not an excuse but the strength of the opposition should not be underestimated with the "tail" consisting of the local unrated or lowly rated Georgians many of whom have been capable of scoring 4-5 points in most sections. All players will now come home having learnt more about themselves and their chess and hopefully identified the areas for development and improvement.

The new K factor of 40 for juniors is obviously going to make junior ratings very volatile. Our top player rating wise was James Moreby who gained 158.6 rating points while others have lost over 100 points.

The tournament was excellently run with no problems and the Sheraton Hotel proved a very good playing venue. Our hotel, the Intourist was good and the Georgian red wine excellent!

What of Batumi? After the last ECF junior trip here some 4 years ago both Head of Delegation, Jim Wadsworth, and Coach, Andrew Martin left the City vowing never to return. They both returned on this trip and have been pleasantly surprised at the progress that has been made.

It's an interesting place and with snow capped mountains visible from the beaches, many Western Hotels now on the seafront and numerous casinos. The influence of the old communist era are still evident with blocks of tatty flats a few streets from the sea front, staff unable to smile and an abundance of police and leather clad heavies on street corners. However, the area is progressing.

Finally a big thanks to Jim Wadsworth for organising the trip and for selecting the best vintages in the hotels "wine cellar", he really did do an excellent job, and to all the coaches and players for their hard work and sustained efforts.

I leave you with this famous quote from Winston Churchill.

*"Success is not final, failure is not fatal, it is the courage to continue that counts"*

*[below are some pictures from the informal blitz held on the rest day]*



FUN & EASY

# Mind Sports



At Potters Resort Norfolk: the UK's first 5\* Holiday Village

MIND SPORT SESSIONS INCLUDE:

**Chess • Backgammon • Scrabble • Draughts • Cribbage  
Dominoes Uno • Go • Whist Drive**

Sessions are offered throughout the day and are suitable for all abilities; for those with a little more experience, fun tournaments can be arranged. A great opportunity for those who have always wanted to have a go, or those who would like to enhance their game.

**MON 4TH MAY 2015\* 5 DAYS – 4 NIGHTS – ONLY £279 PER PERSON**

**MON 22ND JUNE 2015 5 DAYS – 4 NIGHTS – ONLY £329 PER PERSON**

**Break Includes:**

- Comfortable accommodation
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# Comebacks



## Chess made a welcome return to the Isle of Man, where Nigel Short put a below-par 2014 behind him as he finished a point clear of a strong field to re-enter the Top-100

International chess returned to the Isle of Man in early October, courtesy of PokerStars who sponsored a strong Open in Douglas at the Villa Marina. Unsurprisingly, considering the sponsor, the event began with an unusual combined chess and poker competition, in which Mark Hebden did tremendously well and was the last to be knocked out, at the hands of PokerStars's own Baard Dahl. And neither did it appear that the chess would be any less bloodthirsty, with the leading French players, Maxime Vachier-Lagrave and Laurent Fressinet, set to tackle four of Britain's leading grandmasters, Mickey Adams, David Howell, Gawain Jones and Nigel Short, as well as a number of other 2650+ players.

The large British contingent made a good start, not least Danny Gormally who downed the fifth seed, the Peruvian no.1 Julio Granda Zuniga, and in some style at that.

### D.Gormally-J.Granda Zuniga

Round 2

*Queen's Gambit Accepted*

**1 d4 d5 2 c4 dxc4 3 ♖f3 ♜f6 4 ♜c3 a6 5 e4 b5 6 e5 ♜d5 7 a4 ♜xc3 8 bxc3 ♙b7?**

Openings have never been Granda's strong point and he now allows White to demonstrate one of the main points behind his aggressive and relatively unusual choice of line. Instead, 8...♙d5, taking control of some key light squares, is approved by theory.

**9 e6! f6**

9...fxe6 10 ♜g5 ♙d5 11 ♙g4 looks pretty grim for Black, but so frankly does the text.

**10 ♙e2 ♙d5 11 0-0 ♙xe6 12 ♜e1**



White is two pawns down, but enjoys tremendous compensation. Black is still three moves away from castling kingside and will come under heavy pressure right across the board.

**12...♙f7**

The queen won't enjoy her attempt to shore up the kingside holes, but likewise after 12...♙d7 13 ♜h4 g6 14 ♙g4! f5 15 ♙f3 ♜c6 16 ♙g5 White enjoyed a strong initiative in Beliavsky-Dlugy, Tunis Interzonal 1985.

**13 ♜h4!**

The key to success is to free White's light-squared bishop for action.

**13...b4**

A new move according to the database, but not one which dents the notion that Black is just in some trouble.

**14 ♜f5 a5?**

Trailing massively in development, Black can ill-afford to protect his advanced pawns. He had to develop with 14...♜c6, and if 15 ♜e3 go 15...e5 16 ♙xc4 ♙d7 no matter how open his position might then appear.

**15 ♙f3!**

It was possible to harass the queen without delay, but after 15 ♜h6 ♙d5 16 ♙f3 ♙xf3! 17 gxf3 gxh6 Black would have obtained more counterplay and chances to resist than he deserved.

**15...♜c6**

15...♙xf3 16 ♙xf3 ♜a7 would have avoided immediate defeat, but after 17 d5 Black is rather bound hand and foot.



**16 ♜h6! 1-0**

The queen is trapped and 17 ♙h5 will prove decisive.

Granda Zuniga is well known for his vast natural talent, but didn't enjoy the happiest of tournaments, also being dispatched by both Simon Ansell and Keith Arkell, with the latter concluding with a neat zugzwang.



*Maxime Vachier-Lagrave is France's number one player and was the tournament's second seed, behind Michael Adams. However, after being dispatched by David Howell, MVL was only able to make 6/9 to finish sixth equal.*

### K.Arkell-J.Granda Zuniga

Round 8



Black has been outplayed in what was once only a slightly worse endgame and after **45 a3!** found himself without a useful move and nothing better to do than resign (**1-0**). The a-pawn is immune due to the check on d6 and after 45...♙f7 46 ♖xd3 Black's pieces continue to lack anything good to do.

Unfortunately after his win in round 2 Gormally then suffered at the hands of Vachier-Lagrave, as did Hebden, and after six rounds MVL found himself in the lead along with Gabriel Sargissian and Gawain Jones on 5/6, with six players a half-point back, including David Howell and Nigel Short. The latter was yet to hit top form, but had just ground down the Israeli GM Avital Boruchovsky, while the former had made excellent use of his king to outmanoeuvre less an opponent than Mickey Adams.

## D.Howell-M.Adams

Round 6



White has a lovely post for his knight and control of the board.

**33 e5!**

Increasing White's space advantage and if the queens are retained, the knight will powerfully flow into d6 or White will go ♗e4 and f4-f5.

**33...♙xg2+ 34 ♖xg2! ♕f5**

Black does now have a good square for his own knight, but that's the end of the good news for him, as Howell had realised. The rook on g2 helps to prevent any counterplay with ...h4 and so White is able to improve his king and then open the kingside on his own terms.

**35 ♖e2 ♕g7 36 ♕d3 ♕g6 37 ♖h1 f6!**

Black's only pawn break and real try. Had he waited with, say, 37...♖h8 then 38 h3 would have seen the kingside opening somewhat to White's advantage: for example, 38...♖ee8 39 ♖gh2 ♕h6 40 ♕d6 ♖d8 41 ♕c4 or 38...♖he8 39 ♖gh2 f6 40 hxg4 hxg4 41 ♕d6, and in both cases Black's defences are collapsing.

**38 ♖e1**

Giving up on the h3 lever, as White can now find play for his rooks in the centre, hoping to break in with his king at some stage.

**38...fxe5?**

It cannot be correct to open lines for White. With more time I suspect Adams would have

found 38...♖d8, hoping for 39 ♖ge2?! ♕e3!. Instead, after something like 39 ♖f2 ♖ee8 (and not 39...♕e3? 40 f5+! ♕xf5 41 ♖ef1 ♕e3 42 ♖xf6+) 40 ♖e4 the defence would have remained a grim one, but Black would have been holding on for the time being.

**39 ♖xe5 ♖xe5 40 fxe5**



Taking back with the knight would also have been strong. In either case Black's queenside weaknesses and the passed e-pawn are going to cost him.

**40...♕g5**

Passive defence rarely works in such positions and here, for instance, 40...♖e7?! 41 ♖f2 ♖e6 42 ♕e4 ♕e7 43 ♕d6 would have seen White dominating and breaking through, such as with 43...♕c6 44 ♕d5. However, Black will also be swiftly brushed aside after the text and, as such, 40...♕e3!? was likely the last try, and if 41 ♖e2 ♖f8 42 e6 ♖f6. Now 43 ♕xe3 ♖f3! isn't so clear, but White should be winning after the calm 43 ♕e5+ ♕g5 44 ♕d7 ♖xe6 45 ♕xc5.

**41 ♖f2 ♖d8 42 ♕e4**

In view of 42...♖f8 43 ♖f4, the knight must move and the game is almost up for Adams.

**42...♕e3 43 e6 ♕xc4 44 bxc4 d3**

A decent enough, last-ditch try, but Howell is able to maintain control.

**45 cxd3 ♖d4+ 46 ♕e5 ♖xd3 47 e7 ♖e3+ 48 ♕d6 b3 49 ♕d7 ♖d3+ 50 ♕e6 1-0**

Howell was somewhat more fortunate in the next round, quickly finding himself in trouble against Jones and had to rely on his opponent drifting and then overlooking a material-winning bishop retreat. Jones was never really in his next game against Fressinet as his dreams of tournament success went up in smoke, although he did bounce back with a long final round grind, culminating in an under-promotion for mate. In contrast Howell returned to having the white pieces and destroyed his second 2750+ opponent in a row with them, wiping out Vachier-Lagrave, as we saw in the Editorial.

Meanwhile Nigel Short had returned to an old favourite, the Closed Sicilian, to quickly bag a pawn before winning in 80 moves against another Israeli Grandmaster, Alon Greenfeld. One couldn't accuse Short's next opening choice, the Modern Benoni, of being played with a grind in mind, however.

## G.Sargissian-N.Short

Round 8

Modern Benoni

**1 d4 ♕f6 2 c4 e6 3 ♕f3 c5 4 d5 exd5 5 cxd5 d6 6 ♕c3 g6 7 ♕f4 a6 8 a4 ♕g7 9 h3 0-0 10 e3**

This unpretentious system has been quite popular and scored fairly well for White of late.

**10...♕e8 11 ♕e2 ♕d7 12 0-0 ♖b8 13 ♕d2 ♕e5 14 a5**

White's plan is to gradually squeeze and then break through on the queenside, while denying Black counterplay. Short can push his f-pawn, but there is no white pawn on e4 to trouble and the white kingside in general isn't trivial to lever open.

**14...f5**

The most natural move if you ask me, but also a novelty according to the oracle.

**15 ♕g3 ♕d7 16 ♖b3 b5!?**

Short rarely plays the Benoni, but when he does he displays great verve and understanding. Readers may recall his win a couple of years ago with the opening against Krishnan Sasikiran at Gibraltar and here he has realised that Black's best try is to counter actively, not meekly await his fate.

**17 axb6 ♖xb6 18 ♖c2 ♕b5**

An important follow-up, safeguarding the a-pawn and continuing Black's active stance. Unfortunately, though, White is still in charge of the position.

**19 ♕xb5! axb5 20 ♕b3**

The 2690-rated Sargissian has spied the hole on c6.

**20...g5!?**



**21 ♕a5?**

Heading for the outpost, but White should have first flicked in 21 ♕xe5! ♕xe5 22 ♕a5, reaching a position not entirely uncommon for this system. Black does have an unopposed Benoni bishop, but his attack isn't really going anywhere and after, say, 22...♖f6 23 ♕c6 f4? (Black should switch to defence with 23...♖b7 24 ♖a5 ♕c7, which doesn't seem too terrible for him) 24 ♖a7 ♕g7 25 ♖e4! it's White who finds himself doing the attacking.

**21...f4 22 ♕h2**

Suddenly White's bishop is entombed and his kingside vulnerable to ...f3 hits. As so

often, one small mistake in the Modern Benoni can let Black in.

**22...♟c7 23 ♚fd1 ♟h8 24 ♚e4**

White still has some good squares, but the text doesn't do much, as Black isn't in a hurry on the kingside. Instead, Short maintains the bridgehead on f4 and prepares to take over on the other flank.

**24...♚f6 25 exf4 gxf4 26 ♟b3**

A sign that things have gone wrong for Sargissian, but it's hard to suggest anything much better with Black's knight so dominant on e5.

**26...♟a6! 27 ♟d2 c4**

Thematically pressing ahead on the queenside. Already White is in some trouble.

**28 ♚b1 ♟c5**

28...♟b4!? 29 ♟e4 ♚g6 followed by invading on d3 would have been rather good too.

**29 ♟e4 ♟xe4 30 ♚xe4 ♚b7!**



Calmly improving his worst-placed piece. White is going to do very well to cope with the pressure against b2, down the e-file and soon along the g-file to boot.

**31 ♚a5 ♟d7 32 b4!?**

Desperation as 32 ♚a2 ♟c5 33 ♚f3 ♟e7 34 ♟f1 would have been extremely passive.

**32...cxb3 33 ♟d3 ♚h6 34 ♚b4 ♟c5 35 ♟b1 ♟e5!**

Black's pieces continue to flow to good, natural squares. Short now concludes this meisterschach-amateur affair with a brutal attack.

**36 ♚xb5 ♚g7 37 ♟e4 ♟xe4 38 ♚xe4 ♚xh3 39 ♟h1 ♚h5 0-1**

And that was that. 40 ♚f3 ♚xf3 41 gxf3 b2 is clearly hopeless, as is 40 f3 ♚g6.

That left Short on 6½/8, level with David Howell, and clear of Fressinet, Tiviakov and Popilski. Whilst the chasing pack made little impression in the final round (Tiviakov and Fressinet quickly halved out, and it was a case of Popilski having to hold Vachier-Lagrave), the same couldn't be said of the top board, as again Malcolm has shown.

Home success wasn't just limited to the very, very top of the tournament, though. Jonathan Hawkins was up with the leaders throughout and, no less impressively, went through the entire event without defeat, including comfortable draws with the likes of Adams and Short. That meant that the 2014 joint British Champion finished on '+3' for a 2657 performance and so made his final GM norm – a superb achievement.

## J.Hawkins-M.Marin Round 8 *Queen's Gambit Declined*

**1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 ♟c3 ♟f6 4 ♟f3 ♟bd7 5 ♟g5 h6 6 ♟h4 ♟e7 7 e3 0-0**

Rather an old-fashioned way to play the QGD, but Marin had used it before and play soon transposes into a line of the Tartakower.

**8 ♚c1 b6 9 cxd5 exd5 10 ♟d3 ♟b7 11 0-0 c5 12 ♚c2**

Hawkins is always well prepared, so even though there's no threat to h7 here, we may take it that this is best. Earlier this year, 12 ♟f5 ♚e8 13 ♚a4 ♟f8 14 ♚fd1 g6 15 ♟b1 ♟e6 16 ♚c2 ♚c8 17 ♟e5 ♟e4 had seen Black equalise with some thematic play in Ma-Marín, Benasque 2014.

**12...c4**

A first over-the-board outing for this move, although it has received a little bit of correspondence testing. Seizing space is always tempting and Marin may have been inspired by one of the all-time classic QGD games, but I can't say that I overly care for the early release of the tension. White will quickly gain pressure in the centre and on the kingside, as we will see.

**13 ♟f5 a6**

Continuing his space-gaining plan, but Black may do better to free his position slightly while focussing on defence for now with the 13...♟e8 14 ♟xe7 ♚xe7 of Kolpak-Petukhov, correspondence 2010.

**14 ♟e5!**

A thematic and strong leap. Black can exchange the knight off, but after 14...♟xe5 15 dxe5 ♟e8 (15...♟d7 16 e6 ♟c5 17 exf7+ ♚xf7 18 ♟g3 leaves Black's kingside and d-pawn rather exposed) 16 ♟xe7 ♚xe7 17 f4 White's pawns are already looking quite dangerous and ♟e2-d4 may follow.

**14...b5 15 f3**

Hawkins sensibly rules out any freeing ...♟e4 manoeuvre, so Marin is forced to switch to a different defensive regrouping.

**15...♚e8 16 ♟h1 ♟f8 17 g4!?**



**17...♟d6?**

Hawkins' last was rather ambitious, but after 17...g6 18 ♟xg6 fxxg6 19 ♟xg6 ♟xg6 20 ♚xg6+ ♟h8 21 ♚xh6+ ♟h7 22 ♟xe7

♚xe7 23 ♚ce1 White would have had three good pawns and full compensation for the piece. Marin's move, however, permits White a strong pin, something which 17...♟d6d7 (now that the h7-square is covered) wouldn't have done. Following, say, 18 ♟xe7 ♚xe7 19 f4 I quite like White's attacking chances, but matters are far from fully clear after 19...b4, since 20 ♟e2?! ♟xe5! 21 fxe5 g6 22 ♟g3 ♚g5 sees Black holding things together.

**18 f4 ♚c7**

Marin had clearly been relying on this pin-breaking move, with the point that 19 ♟xf6?! gxf6 20 ♟f3 ♚xe3 is not entirely what White wants to be doing, but Hawkins finds a powerful riposte.

**19 ♚g2!**

Suddenly g4-g5 will blow Black's kingside wide open and already the engines can suggest nothing better than the desperate 19...g5!?

**19...b4 20 g5 hxg5 21 ♟xg5 ♟6h7 22 ♟h6**

The threats just keep on coming. There's no need to deal with the attack on c3.

**22...♟e6 23 ♚g1 ♟f8 24 ♟xe6**

Hawkins chooses the human approach, maintaining full control of the board, but it seems that White might have grabbed with 24 ♟xd5.

**24...fxe6 25 ♟a4 ♚a7 26 ♟c5!**



Clearly the kingside pressure means that the knight cannot be captured. It won't take Hawkins long to increase that pressure to breaking point, while his esteemed opponent can but sit and watch.

**26...♟a8 27 ♚g6 ♚c8 28 ♚g3 ♚ee7 29 ♟g5 ♚e8?**

Allowing a rapid mate, not that one can really view 29...♚e8 30 ♟xe7 ♚xg6 31 ♚xg6 ♟xe7 32 ♚xe6 as an improvement.

**30 ♚h3 ♟xg5 31 fxxg5 ♟xc5 32 ♚f1! 1-0**

However, it wasn't just Hawkins who was after a norm. Alan Merry might only be 17, but had a real breakthrough in the PokerStars International thanks to a sensational late burst. The 2269-rated Merry was even fractionally losing rating points when on 2½/5, but he then held the Israeli IM Danny Raznikov before destroying his fellow IM and compatriot, Eylon Nakar.

## E.Nakar-A.Merry Round 7



White was earlier highly guilty of fiddling while Rome burned and has been totally outplayed. Merry's pieces dominate the key sector of the board and Black has various ways to win, but he undoubtedly chose the prettiest.

**26...♙xf3!**

Now recapturing with the knight would, of course, see g2 fall and taking back with the rook allows 27...♖xh4, so the queens must be removed...

**27 ♖xd8 ♙xg2!**

...except that, as he had to realise before taking on f3, Merry doesn't have to recapture. Nakar might be queen for knight ahead, but his king cannot escape the mating net.

**28 ♖f2 ♙f3+ 29 ♖g2**

Desperation, but there was precious little better. Those four attacking black pieces radiate far, far too much harmony and menace.

**29...♙xg2 30 ♖d2 ♙d5+ 31 ♖g2 ♙xg2 0-1**

By now Merry was well and truly in the groove, and he routed the Polish GM Radoslaw Jedynek before grinding down another Israeli opponent in Boruchovsky. That 90-move effort, much of it in a roughly level position, speaks volumes about Merry's determination and he was rewarded with a 2620 performance for his third IM and first GM norm.

### Leading Scores:

- 1 Nigel Short (ENG) 7½/9
- 2-5 Laurent Fressinet (FRA),  
Sergei Tiviakov (NED),  
David Howell (ENG),  
Gil Popilski (ISR) 6½/9
- 6-11 Michael Adams (ENG),  
Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (FRA),  
Gabriel Sargissian (ARM),  
Gawain Jones (ENG),  
Jonathan Hawkins (ENG),  
Alan Merry (ENG) 6/9



*After 9 days of hard-fought and thrilling chess, the 2014 PokerStars Isle of Man International Chess Tournament was won by Nigel Short, who had entered the tournament as ninth seed and finished on 7½/9, a full point ahead of the rest of the field. Nigel is pictured above celebrating with WGM Alina L'Ami who incidentally shares the same birthday as Nigel (1st June).*



*At just 17 years old, Alan Merry massively outperformed his 2269 rating to score 6/9, and in the process gained his third and final IM norm as well as his first GM norm.*



*2014 has been a successful year for Jonathan Hawkins. In August he became joint British champion with David Howell, and at the Isle of Man International he achieved his third and final GM norm to become England's latest grandmaster.*



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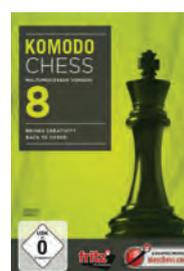
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# Checks & Chips

## Simon Ansell reports on an innovative chess and poker event in the Isle of Man

The recent PokerStars Isle of Man International overlapped with the UK and Ireland Poker Tour's fourth event of the season and even shared a venue: Douglas' Villa Marina.

Many chess players have an interest in poker and, as such, on the evening before the start of the incredibly strong main chess tournament, the sponsors saw fit to run an innovative combined discipline event – five blitz games of chess that would determine your starting stack size in a turbo-speed poker tournament. As an official UKIPT event, there was a trophy up for grabs, not to mention the first prize of close to £2,000.

I was myself invited to the Isle of Man by virtue of my PokerStars 'Supernova Elite' VIP status (their highest available VIP level), obtained by sheer volume of play over a calendar year. To give an idea of the dedication needed, the volume required is equivalent to paying \$180,000 in tournament fees or cash game rake; I've played over 1.5m hands of Pot-Limit Omaha this year. Whilst this might sound like, and is a lot of money, the rewards more than make up for it if you can hold your own at the tables. It's not an easy thing to do – the hardest parts are not losing your head through the inevitable downswings and simply having to keep playing regardless of how you are feeling – and I'd rate the achievement at least equivalent to obtaining the chess grandmaster title. Only 371 players globally made SNE status in 2013; many more fail trying.

Favourite for the combined event was probably the Polish Grandmaster Radoslaw Jedynak, another SNE who specialises in hyper-turbo (even faster!) poker tournaments, but any edges would be small due to the quick structure. In fact many other strong chess players participated, including Mickey Adams, Almira Skripchenko (herself a successful poker player), the French duo of Maxime Vachier-Lagrave and Laurent Fressinet, as well as many of the usual English suspects that are known for liking the occasional gamble. Specialist poker players were also in the field, thinking that their card skills would be more than sufficient to overcome any problems associated with playing their first 'serious' games of chess.

The aforementioned Frenchmen shared the chess half of the event, both scoring 4/5, enough to gain them an extra 4,000 poker chips. I limped to 3 points, beating PokerStars Mind Sports Ambassador WGM Jennifer Shahade, but losing to Radoslaw in the last round. Jen was heavily involved with the organisation of the combined event and did a great job promoting chess during her time in the Isle of Man.

On to the poker, and any illusions I had of simply picking off ill-timed bluffs by inexperienced grandmasters were quickly shattered. I'd given some thought as to how to play some of the chess players.

Me: "I'm going to assume your poker style is similar to your chess style and play accordingly".

Mickey: "I'm not sure I'm advanced enough to have a 'style' yet."

In any case, there was little chance of being able to exploit my superior hand-reading skills, as the random table draw pitted me against nine other serious poker players (at a table of ten, natch). Not a single grandmaster in sight, Almira excepted. By contrast, there were at least six grandmasters on one of the other tables – quite likely the highest-rated poker table in history, possibly excepting Team Carlsen's home games.

Still, on Table Poker Pro we went through the motions with no-one in particular gaining a significant advantage. I managed to stay intact, but without adding to my stack. Shortly after the tables broke and when we were reseated I managed to survive by winning a medium-sized all-in, taking out Jen in the process. However, my joy was short-lived as soon afterwards I shoved my ace-ten over a late position open and my 8.71% equity against his aces never materialised.

All was not lost, as it's common for tournament poker players to exchange 'pieces' (a percentage) of themselves and as two English grandmasters made it into the money, I still had a small stake in the event. Danny Gormally was somewhat fortunate to be there, having

earlier put a horrible beat on MVL (you probably could have played the hand slightly more optimally, Danny!), but Mark Hebden showed considerable nerve, not to mention skill, to finish second. Describing Mark to Jen, I used the term 'ultimate chess grinder', which I think is a good description. In poker, the term 'grinder' is used to describe a solid high-volume player, who is eternally effective but perhaps without the most interesting style (sorry Mark!).

The tournament was won by Baard Dahl,

PokerStars Sit 'n' Go manager (a 'Sit 'n' Go' is an unscheduled poker tournament that begins as soon as the required number of people enter). Baard was a strong junior chess player, one of the top in his native Norway, but hadn't played chess for many years, and was also a professional poker player before working for PokerStars.

The combined event was great fun to play, and there was certainly a more relaxed atmosphere than for a single serious chess or poker game. If I was being slightly critical, the structure could be improved. The chess should carry more weight, and the poker tournament shouldn't be so fast (in a poker tournament, the quicker the blinds increase, the more random it becomes). This would probably require a whole day though, and options were limited with just an evening to run the event. In any case, the main goals were for everyone to have fun and to generate some publicity, and they were certainly achieved.

There was good news at the prize giving of the chess tournament – it will run again next year either sponsored by Pokerstars or privately, so it looks likely that the format will be repeated. See you in Douglas next year?





Jennifer Shahade who is an ambassador for the PokerStars website, was a driving force behind the Chess & Poker tournament.



What's the collective noun for a group of chess players?  
Sitting at the poker table we have (from l to r): Simon Williams, Michael Adams, Maxime Vachier-Lagrave, Ali Hill, Danny Gormally and Mark Hebden.



Bard Dahl of Norway (right), pictured here with Michael Adams, was the winner of the first ever Chess and Poker tournament after narrowly beating Mark Hebden. Bard is not only a top poker player, but also quite a strong chess player.



GM Laurent Fressinet of France may not have been a winner at the poker table, but his equal second place in the chess event saw him collect £1,875 in prize money.



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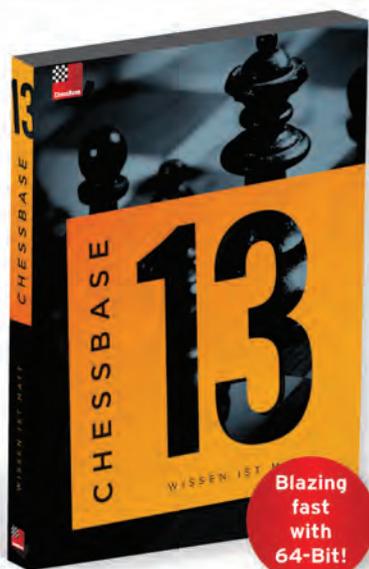
RRP £69.95  
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£62.95

**AS USED IN THE CARLSEN - ANAND - 2014 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH**



# INTRODUCING CHESSBASE 13

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### New in ChessBase 13:

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- Optimise the performance of your engines with analysis tasks. First of all define which positions are to be analysed one after the other. Like this your engine will over a long period of time



assemble independently and store for you in-depth analyses. For example, have your engines check an opening idea for you overnight and work things out in greater detail.

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  - Closing of board during live broadcasts with a single click, and much more.

**System requirements: Minimum:** Minimum: Pentium III 1 GHz, 1 GB RAM, Windows Vista, XP (Service Pack 3), DirectX9 graphics card with 256 MB RAM, DVD-ROM drive, Windows Media Player 9 and Internet access to activate the program, Playchess.com, Let's Check, Engine Cloud and updates.

**Recommended:** PC Intel Core i7, 2.8 GHz, 4 GB RAM, Windows 7 (64 Bit) or Windows 8 (64 Bit), DirectX10 graphics card (or compatible) with 512 MB RAM or more, 100% DirectX10 compatible sound card, Windows Media Player 11, DVD ROM drive and Internet access to activate the program, Playchess.com, Let's Check, Engine Cloud and updates.

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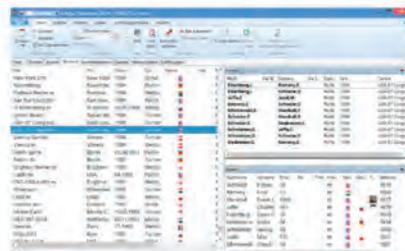
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\* Presumably available mid-november

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## The BATSFORD CHESS Competition

Congratulations to the last issue's winner - **James Nicolson of Manchester**

The solution was --- **1. Ne4**

This is sadly the last Batsford competition for the foreseeable future, due to the very low number of entries we have been receiving, despite throwing the competition open to email entries in recent months. Thank you to all of you who have taken part and the best of luck with your chess endeavours in the future ...



Barry Sandercock (picture by Brendan O'Gorman) - a regular entrant and oft-times winner of the Batsford competition

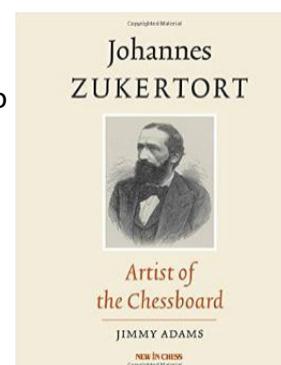
## BOOK REVIEWS - Gary Lane

### Johannes Zukertort: Artist of the Chessboard

by Jimmy Adams

Published by New In Chess, 541 pages, £29.95

I was once offered £150 by a collector if I found Adam's tome on Zukertort in a second hand bookshop. Imagine his surprise when I offered a couple of books and mentioned there were plenty more to come. The thing is that this book was first published in 1989 to great acclaim but published in limited quantities. The renowned publisher has made it available once again and made a fine effort to make it more reader friendly by adding plenty of diagrams and improved spacing of the games. There is also a new photo of Zukertort's grave in West London where several British chess personalities can be seen paying homage including Adams himself. I would have liked an extra chapter to present games or historic anecdotes discovered since the 80s but I can wait for the reprint. The question facing anyone who has never heard of Johannes Zukertort (1842-1888) is why bother knowing more about the man? Well, for those of you who enjoyed the recent Anand-Carlsen match it is the loser who can be quickly forgotten and this is the case here as Zukertort contested the first official World championship. His early lead soon elapsed along with his health and he lost out to Steinitz but his legacy in the chess world was significant. The former editor of Chess Magazine and Batsford, Jimmy Adams has done a high class job of sorting through old literature to allow a modern audience to see how the games were annotated by the players themselves. There are times when the comments about the openings are quaint but a reminder how things change over the years. The author has wisely resisted the urge to use modern computer software to point out mistakes in the games. This collection of best games whether it be from a tournament or a simultane-



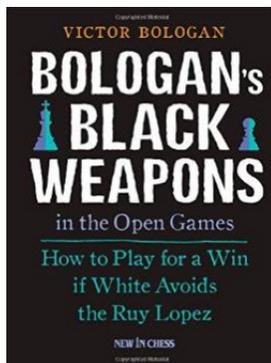
ous display manages to strike a good balance between entertainment and celebration of an influential figure. I also like the use of reports about the man by friends upon his passing so that we see into a window from the past and discover what he was really like.

A modern classic about a great player.

### **Bologan's Black Weapons in the Open Games**

by Victor Bologan

Published by New In Chess, 528 pages, £24.95



The idea of a book dedicated to answering 1 e4 with 1...e5 is a constant favourite of publishers and Victor Bologan is the latest author to add his name to the subject. The template has been set by other writers such as John Emms in his acclaimed title 'Play The Open Games as Black'. Sokolov duly follows the procedure of ignoring the Ruy Lopez to save space but being an elite player knows that theory changes so quickly he offers two alternatives to every opening in case one is quickly busted in tournament play. This hefty book ends up being a useful reference book because few could memorize the numerous variations despite his best intentions. There are times when I wish he had bought more books in the past because he complains at one point that 'Peter Wells didn't mention a single word about this variation...' in his 1998 book but trends change and references like this throughout the book are not particularly helpful. However, it is easy to endorse his

chosen lines which are practical and good.

A powerful book that provides an essential opening guide for Black.

## **ECF TOURNAMENT CALENDAR**

### **LEGEND**

- # British Championships qualifying tournament**
- @ FIDE rated**
- \* ECF Grand Prix**
- ~ ECF graded event**
- Y Youth event (junior only)**
- + English Youth Grand Prix**

**~Y 15 Nov - 14th Claires Court Chess Festival**, Claires Court Junior Boys School, Sports Hall, The Thicket, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 4QQ Contact: Susan Payne Email [sep@clairescourt.net](mailto:sep@clairescourt.net) - starts 11:00AM ends 6:00PM. Sections U16, U12, U10 & U8. London Qualifier. 30 minutes for all moves with trophies for 1st, 2nd & 3rd in each section

**\*\* 15 Nov - Poplar Rapid-Play**, The Langley Hall, St.Nicholas Church Centre, Ettrick Street, Poplar, London E14 0QD Contact: Norman Went Email [DocklandsChess@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:DocklandsChess@yahoo.co.uk) Website <http://www.spanglefish.com/DocklandsChessClub> - starts 10:30AM ends 6:00PM. 6 round Swiss pairing tournament. 30 minutes per player per game. Two sections; Minor Under 130. Major/Open 130 and above!

**~@ 15-16 Nov - 4NCL Rounds 1 and 2 / Weekend 1**, Hinckley Island (Divisions 1 and 2), Daventry Court (Division 3 South), Redworth Hall (Division 3 North) Contact: Mike Truran Tel: 01993 708645 Email: [mike@truranfamily.co.uk](mailto:mike@truranfamily.co.uk)

**\*\* 16 Nov - Basildon Rapidplay Chess Congress**, The Willows Primary School, Church Road, Basildon SS14 2EX Contact: Nathanael Lutton Email: [chessorganiser@gmail.com](mailto:chessorganiser@gmail.com) - starts 9:30AM ends 5:30PM. Rapidplay event with 20 minutes each plus 10 seconds added per move. Top prize is £100 and the top Under 18 will receive £70 if they are not the overall winner. This will be the 21st year running. Enter at a cheaper rate if you aren't interested in prizes.

**19-21 Nov - Mind Sports International Final: Weekday Congress Chess**, ExCeL London, Western Gateway, London, United Kingdom E16 1XL Contact: Adam Raof Email [adamraof@gmail.com](mailto:adamraof@gmail.com) Website [www.mindsport-sevents.com](http://www.mindsport-sevents.com) - Swiss 5 rounds Open/Major U160/Amateur U120

**~ 19-23 Nov - Mind Sports International Final: ECF Under 120 Chess**, ExCeL London, Western Gateway, London, United Kingdom E16 1XL Contact: Adam Raof Email [adamraof@gmail.com](mailto:adamraof@gmail.com) Website

www.mindsportsevents.com

**@ 19-23 Nov - Mind Sports International Final: FIDE OPEN Chess**, ExCeL London, Western Gateway, London, United Kingdom E16 1XL Contact: Adam Raof Email adamraof@gmail.com Website

www.mindsportsevents.com

**@ 19-23 Nov - Mind Sports International Final: FIDE Under 1900 Chess**, ExCeL London, Western Gateway, London, United Kingdom E16 1XL Contact: Adam Raof Email adamraof@gmail.com Website www.mindsportsevents.com

**21-23 Nov - Mind Sports International Final: Weekend Congress Chess**, ExCeL London, Western Gateway, London, United Kingdom E16 1XL Contact: Adam Raof Email adamraof@gmail.com Website www.mindsportsevents.com - Swiss 5 rounds Open/Major U160/Amateur U120

**\*\* 21-23 Nov - Preston Chess Congress**, University Of Central Lancashire PR12HE Contact: Malcolm Peacock Email: malcolm@mpeacock.demon.co.uk Website: <http://chess.popmalc.org.uk/congress> - starts 6:30. Open, Major, Minor and Standard sections

**\*\*@ 22 Nov - London Rapidplay**, Millennium Hall, Parish Centre, St. Mary's Church, Osterley Road, Isleworth TW7 4PW Contact: Sainbayer Tserendorj Email: londonrapidplay@gmail.com Website: <http://www.londonrapidplay.co.uk> - starts 1:30pm ends 5:30pm. 6 round Swiss, 15 mins each, FIDE rated sections: Open, U2000/U170, U1700/U130, prize fund £450

**\*\*Y+ 22 Nov - Get Your First Chess Grade**, Millennium Hall, Parish Centre, St. Mary's Church, Osterley Road, Isleworth TW7 4PW Contact: Amu Sainbayer Email: londonrapidplay@gmail.com Website: <http://www.londonrapidplay.co.uk> - starts 10.00am ends 5:10pm. 6 round Swiss, sections: U7, U8, U9, U10, U11 & U14. Players graded under 80 ECF. Winner will receive a trophy in each age category, Best Girl medal in each section. Special prize for players scoring 4.5 or more

**~ 22 Nov - Southampton Rapidplay 2014**, St Denys Community Centre, Priory Road, Southampton SO17 2JZ Contact: Robin Williams Email: williams.rj8@gmail.com

Website: <http://southamptonchess.org.uk/rapidplay/rapidplay.htm> - starts 10:00AM ends 6:00PM. Six-round ECF graded Rapidplay tournament, with a time control of 30 minutes per player

**@ 22 Nov - Mind Sports International Final: FIDE RAPID Chess**, ExCeL London, Western Gateway, London, United Kingdom E16 1XL Contact: Adam Raof Email adamraof@gmail.com Website

www.mindsportsevents.com - Swiss 6 rounds Open/Major U170/Minor Under 145/Amateur U120

**@ 22 Nov - Mind Sports International Final: FIDE Youth Chess Championship**, ExCeL London, Western Gateway, London, United Kingdom E16 1XL Contact: Adam Raof Email adamraof@gmail.com Website

www.mindsportsevents.com - Swiss 6 rounds

**~Y+ 22-23 Nov - Junior 4NCL**, Puma Hinckley Island Hotel Contact: Mike Truran Tel: 01993 708645 Email: mike@truranfamily.co.uk

**23 Nov - Official British Blitz Championships**, ExCeL London, Western Gateway, London, United Kingdom E16 1XL Contact: Adam Raof Email adamraof@gmail.com Website www.mindsportsevents.com - 11 rounds FIDE rated 1st prize £600 2nd prize £300 + grading prizes

**~Y 23 Nov - Sussex Junior Horsham Rapidplay**, Farlington School, Strood Park Farmhouse, Strood Ln, Warnham, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 3PN Contact: Sandra Manchester Email entrymanager@sussexjuniorchess.org Website www.sussexjuniorchess.org - 6 round Swiss rapidplay in 4 sections: U18 major, U18 minor, U11 major, U11 minor. Open to all aged under 18 on 31 August 2014.

**~ 23 Nov - Woodbridge Junior Chess Open**, Woodbridge School, Burkitt Road, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP12 4JH Contact: Adam Hunt Email: ahunt@woodbridge.suffolk.sch.uk Website: <http://www.woodbridgechess.com> - starts 9:15AM ends 5:30PM. London Junior Qualifying event, with a strong open section for adults. Sections will be Under 8, 10, 12, 14 and Open.

**~ 23 Nov - 2014 Wiltshire Team Rapidplay Tournament**, Pipers Way, Swindon, Wiltshire SN1 4RT Contact: Tony Ransom Email: chesssalsa@aol.com - starts 10:00AM ends 5:00PM

**28 Nov - Bad Bishop Blitz Tournament**, The Large Hall, Wanstead House, 21 The Green, Wanstead, London E11 2NT Contact: Gary Cook Email nccsecretary@yahoo.co.uk Website [www.users.globalnet.co.uk/~cernunos/bad-bishopblitz.html](http://www.users.globalnet.co.uk/~cernunos/bad-bishopblitz.html) - starts 7:30PM ends 10:45PM. 10 round open blitz (5 minute) tournament. £230 prize fund - full details on the website

**\*\*#@ 28-30 Nov - Leicester Chess Congress (H. E. Atkins Memorial)**, Regent College, Regent Road, Leicester LE1 7LW Contact: Sean Hewitt Email: info@leicesterchess.co.uk Website: <http://www.leicesterchess.co.uk> - starts 7:00PM ends 7:00PM. Three sections - FIDE Open ; U160 ; U130. £250 first prize in each section

**~Y 30 Nov - 2nd Garden Suburb London Junior Qualifier**, Garden Suburb School, Childs Way NW11 6XU

Contact: Rob Willmoth Email [robwillmoth@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:robwillmoth@hotmail.co.uk) Website [www.chesscoachingservices.co.uk](http://www.chesscoachingservices.co.uk) - starts 9:00AM ends 6:00PM. A London Junior qualifying event. Each child will play all six rounds. There are U8, U10 and U12 qualifying sections as well as an U14 section

**@ 4 Dec - Hendon 'First Thursday' Blitz**, Golders Green Unitarians Church, 31½ Hoop Lane, London NW11 8BS Contact: Adam Raof Email: [adamraof@gmail.com](mailto:adamraof@gmail.com) Website: [www.hendonchessclub.com](http://www.hendonchessclub.com) - Swiss 6 rounds Open

**~Y 6 Dec - Sheffield Junior Congress**, Ecclesall Church of England Junior School, Ringinglow Road, Sheffield S11 7PQ Contact: John Hipshon Email [jr.hipshon@ntlworld.com](mailto:jr.hipshon@ntlworld.com) Website <http://www.yorkshirejuniorchess.org> - starts 10:00AM ends 4:30AM. Major, Intermediate, Minor and Novice sections

**~\*#@ 6-14 Dec - The 6th London Chess Classic**, Olympia London, Hammersmith Road, Kensington, London W14 8UX Contact: Malcolm Pein Email [info@londonchessclassic.com](mailto:info@londonchessclassic.com) Website [www.londonchessclassic.com](http://www.londonchessclassic.com) - the London Chess Classic is the UK's largest chess festival, consisting of competitive tournaments for all ages and abilities, schools events, and a five round classical chess tournament featuring six of the World's Top 15 players (Caruana, Anand, Giri, Nakamura, Kramnik, Adams). These players will also take part in the Pro-Biz Cup, a double round all-play-all blitz tournament, and the 'Super Rapidplay', a 10 round Rapidplay event which is open to everyone

**~Y 7 Dec - Under 11 National Schools Chess Championships South Midlands Region Final**, Magdalen College School, Oxford Contact: Julian Clissold Email: [julian.clissold@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:julian.clissold@hotmail.co.uk)

**~ 7 Dec - 1st Plymouth Rapidplay Chess Congress**, Plymouth Bridge Club, 1 Moor View Terrace, Mutley Plain, Plymouth PL4 7EB Contact: Tony Tatam Email [tony.tatam@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:tony.tatam@blueyonder.co.uk) Website <http://www.plymouthchess.co.uk> - starts 10:00AM ends 6:00PM. 6 Round Swiss tournament 30 mins each on the clock. Entries will be limited to 40 therefore book early to avoid disappointment.

**~Y 13 Dec - National Prep School Rapidplay, Aldro School**, Lombard St, Shackleford, Godalming, Surrey GU8 6AS Contact: David Archer Email: [archerd@aldro.org](mailto:archerd@aldro.org) - starts 10:00AM ends 5:00PM. 5 round Swiss tournament 30 min each on the clocks. Team and individual prizes, trophies for the top 3 schools and medals or trophies for all players scoring 3 points or more. All games will be graded. Age group sections for U9, U10, U11, U12 and U13 ages taken from Sept 1st 2014

**~\*Y+ 13-14 Dec - London Junior Chess Championships**, University of Westminster, Harrow Campus, Northwick Park, Harrow HA1 3TP Contact: Nathanael Lutton Email: [entry@ljcc.co.uk](mailto:entry@ljcc.co.uk) Website: <http://www.ljcc.co.uk> - starts 9:45AM ends 7:45PM. Under 10 and Under 14 Major Championship and Minor events. Qualification required for Under 10 events.

**~\* 13-14 Dec - 6th Northwick Park Chess Congress**, University of Westminster, Harrow Campus, Northwick Park, Harrow HA1 3TP Contact: Nathanael Lutton Email: [entry@ljcc.co.uk](mailto:entry@ljcc.co.uk) Website: <http://www.ljcc.co.uk> - 9:45AM ends 7:00PM. Open and Major U155 all moves in 90 minutes plus 15 seconds added per move. Minor U115 sections 30 moves in 90 minutes plus an extra 15 minutes to finish. Quickplay finish rules apply.

**~ 15-23 Dec - Brambles Administration Hampstead Grandmasters 2200+**, Hampstead, London NW3 Contact: Adam Raof Email Website - Swiss 9 rounds

**~\*Y 16 Dec - Basildon Junior Chess Congress (LJCC)**, The Willows Primary School, Church Road, Basildon SS14 2EX Contact: Nathanael Lutton Email: [chessorganiser@gmail.com](mailto:chessorganiser@gmail.com) - starts 9:45AM ends 5:30PM. An official London Junior Chess Championship qualifying event. Junior rapidplay event with 20 minutes each plus 10 seconds added per move – Under 6, Under 8, Under 10, Under 12, Under 14 and Under 18 Sections. This will be the 21st year running.

**~\*#@Y+ 28-30 Dec - London Junior Chess Championships**, University of Westminster, Harrow Campus, Northwick Park, Harrow HA1 3TP Contact: Nathanael Lutton Email: [entry@gmail.com](mailto:entry@gmail.com) Website: <http://www.ljcc.co.uk> - starts 9:45AM ends 8:00PM. Under 8 all moves in 30 minutes each plus 10 seconds added per move. Under 12 all moves in 70 minutes each plus 10 seconds added per move. FIDE Rated Under 16 all moves in 90 minutes each plus 30 seconds added per move. FIDE Rated Under 18/21 all moves in 120 minutes each plus 30 seconds added per move. Qualification required for Under 8 and Under 12.

**~\*#@ 28-30 Dec - London Christmas Chess Congress**, University of Westminster, Harrow Campus, Northwick Park, Harrow HA1 3TP Contact: Nathanael Lutton Email: [entry@ljcc.co.uk](mailto:entry@ljcc.co.uk) Website: <http://www.ljcc.co.uk> - starts 9:45AM ends 8:30PM. FIDE rated Open all moves in 120 minutes plus 30 seconds added per move. Major Under 165 all moves in 90 minutes plus 30 seconds added per move. Minor Under 125 30 moves in 90 minutes plus 30 minutes to finish. Quickplay finish rules apply.

**~\*#@ 29 Dec-6 Jan - Hastings International Chess Congress**, Horntye Park Sports Complex, Hastings, East Sussex TN34 1EX Contact: Con Power Email [conpowr@aol.com](mailto:conpowr@aol.com) Website <http://www.hastingschess.com>. The

Congress caters for all standards of player from international grandmaster down to players who are playing their first tournament

## 2015 ...

~\***@ 2-4 Jan - Hastings International Weekend Chess Congress**, Horntye Park Sports Complex, Hastings, East Sussex TN34 1EX Contact: Con Power Email [conpowr@aol.com](mailto:conpowr@aol.com) Website <http://www.hastingschess.com>. There will be three sections - Major, Minor and Under-120. The Major section will be a FIDE rated event

~\* **3-4 Jan - Shropshire Chess Congress 2015**, Wrekin Housing Trust, Colliers Way, Telford, Shropshire TF3 4AW Contact: Steve Rooney Email: [steve.rooney@busandcoach.com](mailto:steve.rooney@busandcoach.com) Website: <http://www.shropshirechess.org> - starts 9:30AM ends 5:30PM. A friendly and professionally-run tournament with three sections: Open, Major U160 and Minor U125

~Y **4 Jan - 13th Chess Coaching Services Tournament and Training Day**, John Keble Church, Church Close Edgware, Middlesex HA8 9NS Contact: Rob Willmoth Email: [robwillmoth@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:robwillmoth@hotmail.co.uk) Website: <http://www.chesscoachingservices.co.uk> - starts 12:30PM ends 6:00PM. The only tournament in the UK that provides specific training and a graded tournament organised by Rob Willmoth and International Master Lorin D'Costa. The subjects being taught are displayed on the entry form beforehand, so you can decide if the training categories are suitable for your child. Children are split into groups according to ability and allocated a professional coach

~Y **4 Jan - Sussex Junior Hastings Rapidplay**, St. Mary Star of The Sea School, Magdalen Road, St Leonards on Sea, Hastings TN37 6EU Contact: Sandra Manchester Email [entrymanager@sussexjuniorchess.org](mailto:entrymanager@sussexjuniorchess.org) Website [www.sussexjuniorchess.org](http://www.sussexjuniorchess.org) - 6 round Swiss rapidplay in 4 sections: U18 major, U18 minor, U11 major, U11 minor. Open to all aged under 18 on 31st August 2014.

~\***@ 10 Jan - CCF FIDE Rapid Play**, 84-90 Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 3BA Contact: CCF Email [chess@ccfworld.com](mailto:chess@ccfworld.com) Website [www.ccfworld.com/Chess/Adult%20Competitions/Rapidplay\\_New%20Year.html](http://www.ccfworld.com/Chess/Adult%20Competitions/Rapidplay_New%20Year.html) - starts 9:30AM ends 6:30AM. Open & U1600/U120 events - both FIDE rated. 7 round Swiss tournaments

~**@ 10-11 Jan 4NCL Rounds 3 and 4 / Weekend 2**, Hinckley Island (Divisions 1 and 2), Daventry Court (Division 3 South), Shrigley Hall (Division 3 North) Contact: Mike Truran Tel: 01993 708645 Email: [mike@truranfamily.co.uk](mailto:mike@truranfamily.co.uk)

**PLEASE NOTE** - a much more comprehensive version of the ECF Chess Events Calendar may be found online at <http://www.englishchess.org.uk/calendars-rd/events-calendar/>