

95th British Chess Championship 2008



*Standing l-r: Gerry Walsh President of the English Chess Federation and Stewart Reuben Congress Manager.
Seated l-r: Angela Eagle MP and Lord Mayor of Liverpool Councillor Steve Rotheram.
Photograph by Stephen Connor*



GM Stuart Conquest British Champion 2008



*IM Jovanka Houska British & English Ladies Champion
Photographs by Bob Jones*



GM Keith Arkell joint English Champion

The lead-up to Liverpool stuttered somewhat as the Manager of Congress Chess, David Welch, was forced to stand down in May due to continuing ill health, and it was good fortune that the highly experienced Stewart Reuben was able to step in at relatively short notice to keep the show on the road.

The venue itself, the renovated St. George's Hall, was unequivocally the most splendid ever for this event, and lent the proceedings a certain grandeur, making a suitable arena for the 12 GMs, 13 IMs and others in which to contest the title. In spite of this overall strength, there were no previous holders involved, so there was bound to be a new name on the trophy, and all the top players must have fancied their chances of it being theirs.

The Opening ceremony was graced by the Lord Mayor, Cllr Steve Rotheram and local MP Angela Eagle, a former British Girls Champion. ECF President Gerry Walsh presented the 2nd John Robinson bursary to Gawain Jones, before everyone got down to the main business.

Andrew Martin's Game of the Day has been a regular feature of recent years, but the addition of an immediate £100 cash award in addition to the traditional pat on the back, focussed the minds greatly. Certainly, the response of each GM as their name was called out often seemed more appropriate to a large lottery win. The extra funding was generously provided by Liverpool John Moores University, arranged by Professor David Robertson.

Editorial

I was gratefully surprised at being the recipient of The President's Award for 2008, this award was made principally for my work on establishing the National Chess Library and I thank all of the board members for bestowing this honour on me. The setting up of the library has been a real challenge but with such a satisfying outcome and a bright future. This of course depends in part on you our membership and all chess lovers who would care to donate their chess books to the library. If every member of the Federation donated at least one book we would soon have a library to rival USA and Netherlands.

On this theme I would like to express on behalf of ECF my gratitude to Mr Victor Rumsey (very well known for his work in the London chess league) from Folkestone who donated not one but approx 500 books to the library. Also for his hospitality when I arrived to collect the books and for loading up my car with them, because I had broken my wrist.

The catalogue for the collection is constantly being updated and can be viewed via the ECF website.

The irreplaceable British Trophy has become rather frail in its old age and rather than allow this work of art to deteriorate further it has been decided that it will have a permanent home at the Hastings Library and will be on display there.

Finally this ChessMoves is a bumper issue because of the British Championships and the level of reporting received from the many tournaments in the past 2 months and I hope you enjoy it.

Cynthia Gurney, Editor

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Copy Deadline 10th November 2008

ECF News

Nominations for Election at the ECF AGM 2008

The following candidates have been nominated. Elections will take place at the Annual General Meeting on 18 October in Birmingham.

Post	Nominee	Nominator
President	Gerry F Walsh	Peter J B Wilson (Director of Marketing)
Chief Executive	Chris E Majer	Himself as incumbent
Director of Finance	No nomination	-
Director of International Chess	Stewart Reuben	Himself as incumbent
Director of International Chess	Peter J B Wilson	Cyril F W Johnson (Director of Home Chess)
Director of Junior Chess & Education	Peter W Purland	Himself as incumbent
Director of Marketing	Peter J B Wilson	Francis Bowers (Representative Member of a County), Robert Gurney (Direct Members Representative)
Director of Home Chess	Cyril F W Johnson	Himself as incumbent
Non-Executive Director	Alan C Martin	Himself as incumbent
Non-Executive Director	John R Wickham	Himself as incumbent
FIDE Delegate	Gerry F Walsh	Himself as incumbent
Chairman of the Finance Committee	Mike J Adams	John Philpott (Chairman of Governance Committee)
Chairman of the Governance Committee	John A Philpott	Mike Adams (Chairman of the Finance Committee)
Finance Committee Member	Ray A Clark	Mike Adams (Chairman of the Finance Committee)
Finance Committee Member	Alan C Martin	Gerry F Walsh (President)
Finance Committee Member	John A Philpott	Mike Adams (Chairman of the Finance Committee)
Finance Committee Member	Ian W Reynolds	Mike Adams (Chairman of the Finance Committee)
Governance Committee Member	Richard J Haddrell	John Philpott (Chairman of Governance Committee)
Governance Committee Member	Andrew T Leadbetter	John Philpott (Chairman of Governance Committee)
Governance Committee Member	John L Paines	John Philpott (Chairman of Governance Committee)

ECF BATSFORD COMPETITION

**Congratulations to the
JULY/AUGUST Winner**

**Richard Putman from
Middlesbrough**

**The correct answer is
1. Rd4!**

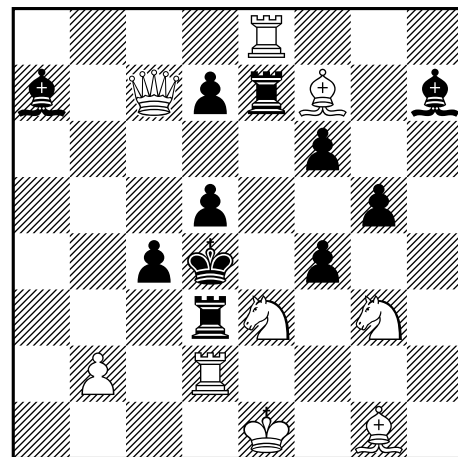
Touw Hian Bwee, v. Star Weekly, 1959

**WHITE TO PLAY
AND MATE IN 2**

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

ECF Office, The Watch Oak, Chain Lane, Battle, East Sussex TN33 0YD

The first correct entry drawn on 10th November 2008 will win a Batsford voucher for any book on their current list.



B T BATSFORD

ECF Award Winners 2008

President's Awards for Services to Chess 2008

Four awards this year and congratulations to all four worthy recipients.

Cynthia Gurney

Most chess-players are probably unaware of the tremendous amount of work that is done by the staff in the ECF Office. They may also not appreciate the hard work and dedication shown by all of the office staff. In many respects they are as much the unsung heroes of the English Chess Federation as are those that have been the recipients of the Presidents Award for Services to Chess.

Cynthia Gurney, the Manager of Finance & Management Services, was nominated for the award not just to recognise her contribution to both the BCF & the ECF but mainly for her work in establishing the English Chess Library at UCH in Hastings. It was Cynthia's drive and enthusiasm for this project that lead to the ECFs' dream of a national chess library being realised in 2008. She took charge of the project and in doing so her input was over and above the work she normally performs for the ECF. Much of this work was undertaken in her own time and she is still working towards the aim of England having one of the best Chess libraries. It is fair to say that without Cynthia's efforts we would not have the excellent facilities that we now have.

The Awards committee and the ECF Board are all delighted to make this award to Cynthia.

University Centre Hastings

University Centre Hastings is a Division of Brighton University. We first made contact in October 2005 after we had sent out a general request via ChessMoves for a new home for the Library which was languishing in boxes. This was followed by a meeting in November 2005 which really set the ball rolling. Apart from giving us such a wonderful new home for the Library the team from UCH backed by the faculty of Brighton University have supported the venture wholeheartedly from the outset. A great deal of work has been put in by the Hastings team, from unpacking the books to designing and providing bookplates for each book and providing shelving etc. Each book has been security tagged even the cataloguer has been provided free of charge from the university budget. UCH have hosted an

open evening and welcomed visitors and researchers from the outset. It has taken three years of work for this library project to be up and running and expansion is already catered for. On 10th June 2008 a very well attended official opening took place with UCH once again providing the reception. Apart from the Library project UCH are developing a degree course on Chess and there are plans in the pipeline for tournaments and other events. None of these projects could have taken place without the dedication of UCH staff.

Alex Niedzwiedzki



Alex's presentation was made at Fakenham Chess Club by ECF Director John Wickham and was followed by a five round rapidplay tournament. It is a measure of Alex's popularity that Fred Day, an old friend from his Buckinghamshire days, travelled up just for the occasion.

Photograph by John Charman

Alex was born in 1924, in what was part of Poland, that is now Ukraine, and after a chequered young life during World War 2 years. Escaping from the Germans, then being recaptured and made to work in a large railway marshalling yard in Austria which became a target for the Allied Bombing raids. After a period of time here, he was captured by the advancing American troops and interned; then on being processed joined the Free Polish Army, stationed in Northern Italy. Now classed as a stateless person he was offered U.S.A. or U.K. as a place to move too; Alex chose the latter.

He settled in Buckinghamshire and joined the Amersham Chess Club, there his enthusiasm and playing strength, resulted in becoming their Club's Captain. (Tribute should also be given to his knack of making friends plus his organizational skills) Amersham under his captaincy

began to flourish and during this period won the County League Championship four times.

Alex's presence and achievements did not go unnoticed and in 1976 he was voted in as the First Team Captain. In the following five year period the County's playing strength rose to a point that it registered two wins against Middlesex (which prior to this was unheard of) and held its own quite comfortably in the first division of the S.C.C.U. intercounty competition. His influence continued and in 1981 Bucks won the Minor Counties Championship of the B.C.F. (as it was called then) and in 1983 the county was narrowly defeated in this competition. According to reports of this period, the improvement in the team's performance was due to Alex's Captaincy in two ways.

A) He was able to persuade most of the county's strong players to turn out regularly.

B) By his own personality he developed a team spirit which brought the best out of the team, individually and collectively.

Not content with that, Alex in conjunction with other members of the Bucks, and Berks. Association organized the Marlow and Amersham Chess Congresses. Under his guidance he was involved from 1964 right through to 1983. It is acknowledge that a vast amount of work was contributed to Alex and to observers it appeared that Alex never went to bed during the congress!

In 1981/82, Alex masterminded the organization that went into the Bucks Chess Association Golden Jubilee Celebrations; which included chess matches against teams from Kent and Bedfordshire, a simulation match against juniors, a team lightning tournament, plus a one day congress. The culmination was a formal Dinner in Amersham.

Turning to his playing ability, Alex was twice joint winner of the County Individual Championship and many times champion of both High Wycombe and Amersham Chess Clubs. He was top board for many years for the County Correspondence Chess Team, and in 1962/63 season was awarded the Boyd Prize for the best played game in that year's season.

In recognition Buckinghamshire County Chess Association made Alex a Life Honorary Member.

On his retirement Alex and Mary his wife, moved to Little Walsingham, Norfolk, and Alex joined Fakenham Chess Club. He also from this time supported Norfolk County Chess Teams and until recently played in all of the County's Tournament. During this time he underwent a heart bypass operation at Papworth Hospital but as soon as his health allowed, he was back playing for County and Club.

Alex is still a shining example to young players on how to conduct themselves whether winning or losing and Buckinghamshire loss has been Norfolk's gain.

David Ingram Dickson

Ask who has done more for chess in Chester and North Wales and look no further than one of chess's great visionaries, ex-constable David Ingram Dickson. Whilst in Wallasey he single-handedly set up the Wirral League and the Wallasey Chess Congress, which he ran for 9 years.

Not content with that he retired to North Wales setting up, in a local tavern, the Caergwrle Chess Club, the team which won the Chester and District League last season by a handsome margin, and is the only village chess club in Wales playing competitive chess.

Three years ago he had a vision of a new Chester Chess Congress, organised a team of chess buffs, and raised over £2200 for charity for the first event in 2006. The congress has become a permanent feature on the chess landscape.

Having been retired for many years and some time president of the CNWCA, he is now organising a junior, one day event for the same weekend as the main congress, believing that rejuvenation of our sport is vital for its long term health. So the next time you see him crouched over the board at one of the many congresses he so avidly attends, including the Isle of Man and RAF competitions down south, think on these great works and be impressed by this gentle giant of a man.

Club of the Year

Congratulations to Mushrooms Chess Club

Mushrooms was founded in 1961, though it didn't play its first match till late 1962. It was formed of strong juniors who could not break into the local club sides on account of the hidebound attitude of the older players. A few of the original members are still with us, and several more who joined early on in the 60s. That means that a good proportion of the team are now in or approaching their sixties. Despite that and a lack of 'stars' we have maintained (with the occasional hiccup) a position in Division I of the London

League, the strongest regional league in the country. We do have younger players too, but only one junior - largely because we have no club night, meeting only for matches. The lack of a club night allows us to draw players from all over the London area, but means we have no contacts in the local community (we have no local community!)

We have always supported the National Club Open Championship (one of the few, now!) and have won the Plate competition 4 times (1979, 2000, 2001 and 2003), twice winning the final 6-0 (1979 and 2003). We have also supported - with a gap when we disagreed with the handicapping system - the National Club Handicap Rapidplay, in which we have come second the last 2 years. Of the 17 players in the 4 England Seniors teams in Dresden earlier this year, 5 were Mushrooms members (including our Life President Bob Wade) and 2 former members.

In nearly 50 years we have had only 2 first team captains: Peter Wilson from the start to 1973, and for the last 35 years, me, Bill Linton.

Small Club of the Year

Congratulations to Snodland for winning this award two years running.

Since winning ECF Small Club of the Year in 2007, Snodland Chess Club has continued to expand and succeed.

In September 2007, the club expanded from one team playing in Kent County Chess Association competitions (the Harvey Cup, for a team of 6 players averaging under 100 grade) to four teams. The four teams played in the Harvey Cup again, and also in the Tom Fuller Cup (for teams averaging under 80) and with two teams in the Intro Cup (for teams averaging under 60). We tried to field as many junior players as possible, particularly in the lower teams, with one junior player scoring an incredible 10 wins and 1 draw in his first 11 games for the club. The teams have been remarkably successful and reached the Semi-Finals in both the Tom Fuller Cup and Intro Cup. The more experienced team actually managed to win the Harvey Cup this year, our first ever silverware! In addition, we also have a team that has reached the Final of the National Club Championship (U100 section). Next year we intend to field a team in the KCCA U120 competition as we continue to grow in strength and gain more players.

Club members still run regular weekly chess clubs at a local primary school and a local secondary school. In addition, we have run occasional coaching sessions at three other local primary schools. The club also holds free junior coaching sessions twice a month and we regularly get between 8 and 12 juniors, aged 4 to 10 attending, along with their parents.

The club also continues to engage the community by holding stalls at local events and organising high profile events. During the past three years, we have run a "Have A Go" stall at the Snodland Carnival, Town Malling Day and Wouldham School Fayre. We also ran an open to all lecture with IM Jovanka Houska as part of the Snodland Festival.

This year, we ran a simultaneous display with FM Steve Giddins. Two of our junior players actually managed to beat Steve.

This year, we have obtained funds to purchase a multi-media projector which we have begun to use for coaching and watching chess DVDs.

In March 2007, we launched a website: www.snodlandchessclub.

HAMPSHIRE CHESS ASSOCIATION **2008 CONGRESS**

Venue:- Eastleigh College, Eastleigh, Hants.
Friday 7th November 2008 to Sunday 9th November 2008

Open Tournament with U-160 and U140 Prizes
U-125 Tournament with U-100 and U-80 Prizes

Details/Entry Forms from M. Clarke, 9, Cherry Tree Court,
Leigh Road, Eastleigh, Hants, SO50 9SN

Tel 02380 615903

www.hampshirechess.co.uk

blogspot.com which so far has attracted 3 new members (including our strongest player!).

This year we have launched a Rapidplay Congress, which is due to take place on Saturday 19th July. There is an associated website: www.snodlandcongress.blogspot.com

We have attracted sponsorship from two local companies, Smurfit Kappa and Tangerine UK, and have also received donations from Aylesford Newsprint and Kent County Council. This has enabled us to attract four titled players already and offer a prize fund of over £700. Kent County Chess Association recently agreed that the congress could award the title of Kent Individual Rapidplay Champion.

Magazine of the Year 2008

Correspondence Chess

We again had some excellent submissions and selected "Correspondence Chess" the magazine of the British Correspondence Chess Association (www.bcca.info). The editor is Neil Limbert.

Website of the Year 2008

Chess Devon

This award again attracted considerable interest and the standard of the websites improves each year. This year we chose www.chessdevon.co.uk the Chess Devon website. The webmaster is Bill Frost.

One of the pleasant duties an ECF Director may be called upon to carry out is the presentation of one of the ECF's Annual Awards. Peter Wilson, ECF Director of Marketing, is a regular competitor at Paignton's Congress. At the opening ceremony of this year's event, the 58th and all of them held at Oldway Mansion,



Photo courtesy of Bob Jones.

Peter presented the ECF Website of the Year Award to Bill Frost. Peter commented that these awards are an example of something the ECF does rather well. Bill responded by thanking the ECF for the award and by giving credit to the whole team behind the ChessDevon Website. He described them as providing the bricks from which he builds the website's articles.

Congress of the Year 2008

The first winner of this award is the South Lakes Congress.

The 12th South Lakes Chess Congress (SLC) took place at the Grand Hotel in Grange-over-Sands on the weekend of 6-8th June 2008. The congress is an annual event and the 9th time it has been held in the Ballroom at the Grand Hotel. 189 Chess players from all over the country played in the five round Swiss, making it the best attended event ever. 70 players attended in 1997 when the SLC was first held and its popularity has grown every single year. The setting of the Grand, in Grange, overlooking Morecambe Bay with acres of grounds and woodland, plus the fine summer weather are making it a Mecca for chess players and is growing in popularity, with many players bringing their families to enjoy the weekend. Players as far a field as Guernsey and the Orkneys attended this year. Given the demand, if players who had originally entered had not withdrawn (due to other commitments) we would have reached over 200 players.

Many players commented that it is the best chess event in the country, which is an accolade indeed given the amount of congresses held every weekend in all areas of the UK. Indeed, an impromptu cricket match on the lawns took place last year with Jeff Horner and a number of other chess players taking part on the balmy summer evening after the chess. This year was too hot for such energetic activity, but many players and families were to be found relaxing on the lawns with a cool drink, whilst peacocks strolled by unfurling their plumage into dazzling arrays.

The fact that the Grand hotel has 128 rooms and is almost exclusively taken over for the weekend chess and that most players are staying at the chess venue, is an added bonus for many; it is always pleasant to rise, have breakfast and saunter a few steps down to the Ballroom to play, without leaving the building and with a 9.30am start, not too early! Refreshments are available in one of the hotels bars alongside the ballroom next to Andrew

Butterworth's 'Chess Direct' book stall, so players and spectators alike do not have to go far. The congress and hotel also cater for dogs, which is ideal for blind players who have a guide dog and there is a lift to the Ballroom for disabled players.

The number of sections has been increased over the years with now 5 sections (Open, U161, U131, U111, U90) recognising the importance of players in the lower sections by equalising the prize money and entry fees. The Congress tries to be as informal and friendly as possible with a lack of bureaucracy and tries to help all players with their queries and problems. In terms of prizes, the Congress increased prize money this year (totalling over £3000) with each section having two grading prizes as well as the main prize money. Junior prizes were given (a trophy and three chess sets) and also 'best' Cumbria player prizes.

Nearly 1000 entry forms go out to clubs, players and Congresses, along with publicising on various websites. Most publicity however, we are reliably informed, is by word of mouth from players who have been to the congress before. It is indicative of the events' popularity that for the past two years a 'notional' limit has been set on the number of entrants; although in practice we have always surpassed it. The organisers, Dave Cole, Trevor and Janet Blower are continually amazed by the amount of interest shown in the congress. For future events, the Congress is looking to expand and utilise other rooms in the hotel, but only if the playing conditions are good and where players will not feel cramped. At the end of the day, the aim is to provide a weekend congress which has superb playing conditions at a reasonable cost and above all make the event and weekend enjoyable.

ECF Director Finds His Mate!

On Friday 12th September ECF Non-Executive Director Alan Martin married Ms Dinah Bisdee at a civil ceremony in Guildford. Congratulations to the newly weds and best wishes for a very happy future together.



British Championships 2008

continued from front cover



All sections proceeded smoothly throughout the two weeks. On the afternoon of the first Tuesday, every board on every table throughout the entire hall was occupied by a game in progress, which made a spectacular sight.

Toward the end of the fortnight, it looked as if there would be a multiple tie for the Championship, known as "the controllers' nightmare", but with Arkell beating the top seed Jones in the final round, thus catching up Conquest, the play-off was at least limited to just two players. In the end, Conquest proved too aggressive for Arkell to hold off and he proved a worthy and popular winner, after many previous attempts. Keith's consolation was to share with Stuart the English Championship in the shape of a new trophy, the Tony Miles Cup. This took place after the official prizegiving which was graced again by the Lord Mayor and another local MP, this time Maria Eagle, Angela's sister, both government ministers.

The backroom team functioned well throughout, although there were some changes to individual duties. Neville Belinfante was awarded the Richard Boxall Plate for his role as Entry Secretary. Steve Connor worked tirelessly as the new webmaster, leaving Dave Clayton free to concentrate on the smooth functioning of an ever-increasing number of electronic boards. Nick Nixon's second year as on-the-spot junior coach was also much appreciated.

Publicity included a live radio interview on the steps outside the hall at 8 a.m. on Day 1 and a lengthy visit by a BBC cameraman who put together a 10 minute video that went onto the BBC website. It was suggested I should do a blog for the website, which left me free to pick up on any unusual or off-beat stories that came to light around the hall. Like the juniors who had come all the way from

Gibraltar to play; the world's youngest arbiter in action, 11 year old Maya Haria who controlled the U-9 championship; the breaking news of Meri-Grigoyan-Lyell's appointment as Manager of Ladies Chess (acting until ratified by the Board); Jack Rudd as the only title-winner this year; the first champion from Ireland for many years; the new kid on the block, Venezuelan-born Felix Ynojosa - and so on.

All these stories and all the details of every section can be seen in full on the event's excellent website www.britishchess08.com

Next year the event moves south to the popular resort of Torquay, where the Riviera Centre has already twice proved equal to the demands of this large event. Up to 1,000 entries can be expected, so don't leave your entry to the last minute.

R. H. Jones, Publicity Officer

British Championships Winners 2008

British Champion: Stuart Conquest (4NCL Guildford)

British Lady Champion: Jovanka Houska (4NCL Hillsmark Kingfisher)

English Champion: Keith Arkell (Long Eaton); Stuart Conquest (4NCL Guildford)

English Lady Champion: Jovanka Houska (4NCL Hillsmark Kingfisher)

British Senior Champion: John Littlewood (Liverpool), George Dickson (Metropolitan)

Under 175: Paul Evans (Lancs), Derek Horseman (Southport)

Under 150: David Pearcey (Aigburth), Keith Palmer (Louth)

Under 125: Stephen Lloyd (Chester)

Under 100: Richard Fox (Bolton), Stanley Johnson (South Shields)

Under 21: Stephen Gordon (3C's)

Under 18: James Hanley (Lancaster RGS), Yang-Fan Zhou (Richmond Juniors)

Under 18 Girl: Sheila Dines (Surrey)

Under 16: Sam Osborne (Ireland)

Under 16 Girl: Lateefah Messam-Sparks (West Nottingham)

Under 15: James Foster (Cowley)

Under 15 Girl: Sheila Dines (Surrey)

Under 14: Saravanan Sathyanandha (Haberdashers), Sam Walker (Wycombe & Hazelmere)

Under 14 Girl's: Astghik Stepanyan (Sutton Coldfield),

Under 13: Felix Ynojosa (Reading)

Under 13 Girl's: Jennifer Ehr (Barnet Knights), Ali Roy (Scotland)

Under 12: Felix Ynojosa (Reading)

Under 12 Girl: Radha Jain (Pinner)

Under 11: James Bowler (Copperworks), Megan Cleeves (Thamesdown), Isaac Sanders (The Hall)

Under 11 Girl: Megan Cleeves (Thamesdown)

Under 10: Joseph McPhillips (Bolton)

Under 10 Girl's: Katherine Shepherd (Ashtead)

Under 9: Ravi Haria (Barnet Knights)

Under 9 Girl: Yasmin Giles (Kent)

Under 8: William Claridge-Hansen (Aylesbury), Mark Kenyon (Nottingham), Rohan Shiatis (Kent)

Under 8 Girl: Rebecca Swetsun (Essex)

Major Open: John Sugden (Hastings & St Leonards)

5 Day Open Morning (Week 1): David Pearcey (Merseyside)

5 Day Open Morning (Week 2): Richard Lobo (Petts Wood & Orpington)

5 Day Open Afternoon (Week 1): Anthony Hynes (Birmingham), Stephen

Mulligan (Penketh)

5 Day Open Afternoon (Week 2): Richard Bryant (Oswestry), John Quinn (Ealing)

5 Day Open Junior (Week 1): Mihai-Tiberiu Dima (Birkenhead)

5 Day Open Junior (Week 2): Florence Mitchell (Berkshire)

Weekender - Atkins: John Merriman (Cavendish), Robert Newton (Heywood), Stephen Orton (Norfolk & Norwich), Darryl Wolstencroft (Blackpool)

Weekender - Soanes: Robert Clegg (Huddersfield), Robert Frith (Prescot), Matthew Shaw (Southend)

Weekender - Yates: Timothy Allen (Battersea), Andrew Costello (Muswell Hill), Barry Miles (South Norwood)

Rapidplay 27th July: Keith Arkell (Long Eaton)

Rapidplay 3rd August: Keith Arkell (Long Eaton), Bogdan Lalic (Sutton)

Photographs from the British Championships in Liverpool

by Bob Jones and Stephen Connor



Last round tension in the U150 final round on top board: David Bryan v Keith Palmer.



Playing Hall



GM Stuart Conquest v GM Keith Arkell



Claire Ehr (left) v Jamie Stone



Young players concentrating in the U9's



George Dickson & David Anderton on top board, starting their last round game.



Sheila Dines U18 & U15 Girl's Champion



Angela Eagle MP & Gerry Walsh presenting Gawain Jones with a £2000 cheque from the John Robinson Trust (Fellowship Award)



Felix Ynojosa U13 & U12 Champion with Stewart Reuben

National Club Championships 2008/9

Message from Julie Johnson Chief Controller

You could be a member of a club that's entered before, or you could just have read this sentence out of curiosity and know nothing about the tournament. Whichever the case, please read on.

If your club hasn't entered any of these events before, why not give it a whirl? We will do our best to minimize the travelling in the early rounds if that is your preference, or give you a trip outside your area if you would like to visit "foreign parts". We will also look to avoid pairing clubs that play in the same local league. Whilst games are usually played at the weekend, there is still time to fit matches in around county games and congresses. Usually clubs have 6 to 8 weeks in which to play each round, so there isn't a commitment to play frequently.

There have been a number of changes in personnel this season. I have taken over as Chief Controller and will be the "court of appeal" for any decisions made by section controllers on the competition rules and Geoff Jones has been appointed Event Arbiter and will deal with any issues regarding the Laws. Mike McNaughton has "retired" from the Major section (many thanks Mike for your sterling work running sections for several years); that said, we haven't lost Mike completely, he will be taking entries for the Rapidplay. Welcome on board to Alan Jex, who will be running the Major. Guy Greening & Geoff Jones, who took over the Minor & Open respectively last year, have decided they are mad enough to continue.

A review of the existing rules has been undertaken; this hasn't resulted in any major changes. However, as an experiment, aimed at assisting small clubs who may have problems fulfilling the grading criteria due to the grading spread of their members, teams made up of players from more than 1 club will be accepted in the U100 section.

The enclosed entry form for the event contains the main rules in a condensed version. The full rules may be found on the ECF website www.englishchess.org.uk/events/bcfnatteam/club2009/

The format of the Rapidplay will change, with 2 sets of prizes. In addition to the existing "Handicap" concept, there will also be prizes for the teams achieving the best outright scores before taking any Handicap into account. This will hopefully address the comment made by a number of clubs/players that they do not feel it is worthwhile entering highly graded teams in the event. The entry form for this will be published nearer the event.

**If anyone has any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me – Email – juliedjohnson@yahoo.com Tel – 0116 2609012
Snail Mail – 105 Central Avenue, Syston, Leics LE7 2EG**



ECF Book of the Year 2008 Short List

The short list this year features four books which illustrate very differing aspects of the chess world.

From London to Elista

Bareev and Levitov New in Chess pp 400 £21.95

This remarkable book features Kramnik's three world title matches between Kasparov, Leko and Topalov. Grandmaster Bareev was one of Kramnik's seconds in the first two matches and an interested spectator in the third against Topalov. Levitov is a professional journalist and keen amateur chess player who questions Bareev not only about the matches, but a wide range of chess matters. Together they have provided a remarkable insight into the drama, stress and hard work involved in world championship clashes. An exceptional book in every respect.

222 Opening Traps

Muller and Knaak Edition Olms pp 472 £14.99 each

This is in fact a two volume work split between 1e4 and 1d4. The content is much better organised than previous works of this type as the authors endeavour, not only to show the nasty accidents that can arise, but to set them in a strategic and tactical context so that the reader improves his opening knowledge as he goes along. The two volumes are nicely produced by Olms

Secret Notes

Bronstein and Voronkov Edition Olms pp 232 £19.99

With the relaxation of Soviet society, David Bronstein was able once again to travel out side Russia. This volume is a collection of his travels with many anecdotes about the people he met and the places he visited. Written in conjunction with the journalist Sergey Voronkov, it is an affectionate account of Bronstein's last years with many flashbacks to his earlier great playing career. Garry Kasparov provides a foreward.

True Lies in Chess c

Comas Quality Chess pp160 £14.99

Lluis Comas Fabrego is a Spanish grandmaster who discusses in this book the human approach to chess playing. He argues humans cannot play like computers but must use our judgement to simplify the practical task of playing chess. Whether the reader agrees with his thesis or not there is much interesting writing and analysis as Comas is a true contrarian who likes nothing better than challenging accepted wisdom.

Ray Edwards Julian Farrand David Friedgood

International News

**LIVERPOOL
VICTORIA**

ECF Announces Team Line Up & Sponsorship for Chess Olympiads 2008

The ECF is pleased to announce that mutual insurance and investment group LV= will be sponsoring the English teams at the 2008 Chess Olympiads in Dresden.

The Championships take place 12 to 25 November in Dresden, Germany.

The English teams will consist of:

Open: Michael Adams, Nigel Short, David Howell, Gawain Jones, Stuart Conquest.

Captain Peter Wells

Women's: Jovanka Houska, Dagne Ciuksyte, Ingrid Lauterbach, Meri Grigoryan-Lyell,

Kanwal Bhatia.

Captain Glenn Flear

Stewart Reuben, English Chess Federation Director of International Chess, said "This is excellent news. This will enable us to field our best teams for the event which is the most prestigious team event in the chess calendar. Each team is an interesting mix of players who are highly experienced and youngsters who have a great deal of potential."

For further information contact:

**Stewart Reuben, ECF Director of International Chess, 020 8892 6660,
director.international@englishchess.org.uk, www.englishchess.org.uk**

**Katherine Hart, Sponsorship Manager LV=, 01202 502 346,
katherine.hart@lv.com, www.LV.com**

European Club Cup 2008

Our teams representing England in the European Club Cup 16-24 October are:

Betsson - IM Richard Pert, IM Andrew Ledger, IM Simon Ansell, FM Laurence Webb, FM Robert Eames, FM Christopher Duncan, FM David Ledger, Stephen Ledger. Barbican - GM Jonathan Parker, IMe Lorin D'Costa, IM Maxim Devereux, IM Mark Ferguson, IM John Cox, Peter Taylor.

		Parker, Jonathan F	g	ENG	2538	1976
2	2501198	Collins, Sam E	m	IRL	2412	1982
3	409219	D'Costa, Lorin A R	f	ENG	2414	1984
4	408280	Devereaux, Maxim L	m	ENG	2415	1976
5	403547	Ferguson, Mark	m	ENG	2398	1977
6	401064	Cox, John J	m	ENG	2381	1962
7	402478	Taylor, Peter P		ENG	2254	1961

World Chess Solving Championship

2-3 September 2008

Jurmala, Latvia

Having completed a hat trick of wins in this competition in 2007, the British team (GM Jonathan Mestel, GM John Nunn and IM Colin McNab) were working hard for a fourth successive win. FM Michael McDowell was also taking part as an individual solver. (Titles are solving titles, not otb.)

The event is a team and individual competition combined and is just like an exam. It consists of six timed rounds, each made up of three examples of a particular problem type for solving. Competitors may hand in their solutions before time is called and time taken is used as a tiebreaker where scores are equal in both the team and individual competitions. In each round the two best scores within each team of three are added to the team score.

The event turned out to be one of the highest scoring ever and at the end of the first day, the British team were in second place, a point behind Germany, and John Nunn was the leading solver, on maximum points and ten minutes ahead of his nearest rival. At the end of five rounds, GB were one of five teams on maximum points, though they had fallen back to fifth place because of their slower time. Things were looking good, but the last round was the Selfmates, which traditionally are our weakest round, and this year proved no exception. Low scoring didn't shift us from fifth position after this final round, but we were 10 points behind the eventual winner, Russia.

British places and scores were – 7th Mestel 84 points/292 minutes, 15th Nunn 80/226, 19th McDowell 79½/292 and 43rd McNab 71½/332. Maximum score was 90. Detailed results can be found on the web at <http://www.saunalahti.fi/~stniekat/pccc/wcsc08.htm>

Despite this disappointment there was some good news. Individual solver Michael McDowell managed his second, and final, IM norm and now only needs to achieve the minimum rating requirement to gain his title.

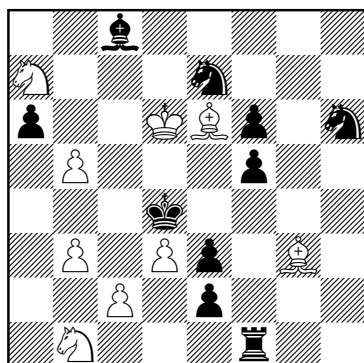
Josef Halumbirek

Suddeutsche Schachzeitung, 1954

White to play and mate in 6
Here's an example problem from round 5.

If it weren't for the four guards on f5, white could mate in two by 1.c3+

Kxd3 2.Bxf5#, so White decoys the guards!



1.Bh4! (2.Bxf6#) Sg4 2.Be1 (3.Bc3#) Rxe1 3.bxa6 (4.Sb5#) 3...Bxa6 4.Sc6+ Sxc6 5.c3+ Kxd3 6.Bxf5# 3...Bd7 4.Bxd7 (5.Sb5#) Sc8+ 5.Bxc8 (6.Sc6#) 6.Sb5#

Other Black moves are met by mate before White's 6th move.

ICSC World Individual Championship

19 July - 1 August 2008

St. Gallen (Switzerland)

In the Men's event, England's Chris Kreuzer finished 17th out of 24 participants with 5/11, slightly below expectation and the 50% mark but he was unlucky in having to face so many strong players in the top half of the seeding table. However, Chris did have the satisfaction of winning a few notable games especially against Jentsch (ELO 2200). In the end, IM Georgiev (Bulgaria) won his 3rd World title with Anarkulov (Uzbekistan) 2nd and Klasan (Serbia) 3rd.



Photo: from left to right: Silver - Ovcharov (Ukraine), Gold - Zaynidinov (Uzbekistan), Bronze - Lewis Martin (England)

In the Junior event, it was turned into a 11 round all-play-all event for both boys and girls. This was tough on them as they were all expecting to play 9 rounds beforehand. England's Lewis Martin won the bronze medal so congratulations to him! He is only the second English player to win an individual medal after Tony Boyce's bronze in the men's event back in 1984. Lewis held the 2 most experienced juniors in ICSC events, Zaynidinov and Ovcharov to draws but could not take advantage of some decent positions in the drawn games against lower rated boys. Zaynidinov (Uzbekistan) won the event with Ovcharov (Ukraine) 2nd.

In the Open event, which turned out to be a strong tournament with many ELO rated players taking part. Phillip Gardner finished 9th out of 26 players with 5/9, Barry David 15th with 4.5/9 including a win against Muratov (ELO 2152), Neil Dunlop 19th 4/9 a performance he can be proud of which included draws against strong players like Muratov and a win against Pushkarev. Richard Dunn was 21st with 4/9.

See www.chess08.com for full results, games and photos.

The English Deaf Chess Association would like to thank all of our sponsors for their support which ensured that travel and accommodation expenses for both Chris and Lewis were met;

English Chess Federation www.englishchess.org.uk; **ECF John Robinson Trust** www.englishchess.org.uk/junior/jr-trust-pr_jul07.htm; **Friends of Chess** www.johnphilpott.freemove.co.uk/friends.htm; **Mary Hare School** www.maryhare.org.uk; **London Deaf Chess Club** www.londondeafchessclub.com; **Sheffield Deaf Chess Club**

And many individual donations from our loyal supporters.

Alasdair MacLeod, Secretary, English Deaf Chess Association

Report by Chris Kreuzer

In November 2007, I won the qualifying tournament to represent England at the ICSC (International Committee of Silent Chess) World Deaf Chess Championships 2008. The following is a brief report on the ICSC tournament and my results.

The tournament was held in St Gallen, Switzerland, from 20th to 31st July 2008. The venue was the SAS Radisson hotel, which was where I stayed along with several of the other competitors. As well as the main event (the World Individual Championships), for which I had qualified, there were also championship events for women, juniors (boys and girls), and deafblind players, as well as an Open tournament running alongside the Championship sections.

Other players from England, Wales and Scotland were: Robert Burnett (Scotland, Individual), David Guy (Wales, Individual), Lewis Martin (England, Junior), John Dearie (Scotland, Deafblind). There were also four players from England in the Open (Phil Gardner, Barry David, Neil Dunlop, and Richard Dunn), and one from Scotland (John Christie). I don't have room here to mention the results of all the other tournaments, but mention must be made of Lewis Martin's performance: he scored 7/11 to take fourth place in the Juniors and bronze medal in the Boys section.

The World Individual Championships was played over 11 rounds, with a total of 24 players (all men) from 22 countries, including representatives from Wales and Scotland, and countries such as Russia, Uzbekistan, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Romania, Portugal, Moldova, and the host nation Switzerland.

The tournament was played at a rate of one round a day, with ten of the eleven games being played in the afternoon, and the last round in the morning. There was a rest day after round seven. The timing used was 90 minutes for 40 moves, and then 30 minutes added on for the rest of the game, with Fischer timing (30s/move) for all the moves. It was the first time I had used this time control, and although it seemed OK at first, it turned out to be harder to handle time trouble than I had thought it would be.

Over the first seven rounds, I made a good score of 4/7. Unfortunately, after the rest day my results were not so good. Three straight losses were followed by a win in the final round to reach 5/11. That was 5 wins, no draws and 6 losses. This left me joint 16th of 24 (with three other players), but 17th on tie-break. I had been seeded

14th, so I didn't quite manage to get the position or the score I was hoping for, but I was pleased with the five wins, even if I should have managed to draw some of the games I lost. David Guy, the Wales representative, finished in 13th place on 5.5 points, while Robert Burnett (for Scotland) finished in 22nd place on 2.5 points. Of my eleven games, 5 were with White and 6 with Black; I scored 4/5 with White, but only 1/6 with Black.

My round-by-round results were:

R1) B Loss - Vladimir Klasan (Serbia) [2330]; R2) W Win - Serik Baizhanov (Kazakhstan) [no rating]; R3) B Loss - Jerzy Strzelecki (Poland) [2125]; R4) W Win - Darko Svec (Croatia) [1942]; R5) B Win - Dieter Jentsch (Germany) [2220]; R6) B Loss - Rainer Hoffmann (Germany) [2121]; R7) W Win - Jonas Patackas (Lithuania) [no rating]; R8) W Loss - Maros Zajac (Slovakia) [1860]; R9) B Loss - Volodymyr Kovalenko (Ukraine) [2167]; R10) B Loss - Mirko Pasquotto (Italy) [1900]; R11) W Win - Asgar Muradov (Azerbaijan) [no rating]

The highlights, for me, were my wins against Svec and Jentsch in rounds 4 and 5, along with the study-like finish to my game in round 7. The low points were making a horrendous blunder in round 8, mishandling the clock in round 9, and losing in round 10 against a player I expected to beat. My longest game was 101 moves in round 6, and my shortest game was 18 moves in the last round.

Here is my round 4 game against Svec, with notes and analysis:

Kreuzer, C - Svec, D [C10]

14th ICSC World Deaf Men CC (4), 23.07.2008

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 The Tarrasch Variation of the French Defence. **3... dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nd7 5.Bd3 Ngf6 6.Nf3 Nxe4 7.Bxe4 Nf6** Up to this point, I had been following a game my opponent had played earlier in the tournament, but here he deviated with Nf6 instead of c5. **8.Bd3 c5 9.0-0 cxd4 10.Nxd4 Be7** The knight is immune due to the bishop check on b5 winning the queen. **11.c3 0-0 12.Bf4 a6 13.Bc2** Preparing to attack Black's kingside with Qd3. **13...Re8 14.Be5** Keeping Black pinned down and putting more pressure on the kingside. **14...Qd5 15.Re1 g6 16.Bb3** Switching the bishop to a better diagonal with gain of tempo, and putting the question to Black's queen. **16...Qd8 17.Qf3** Putting pressure on f6 and b7. **17...Nh5** [Before playing Qf3, I had calculated the following variation up to 21...Rf8 and assessed it as winning for White. 17...Nd7 18.Nxe6 Nxe5 19.Nxd8 Nxf3+ 20.gxf3 Rxd8

21.Rxe7 Rf8 22.Bd5 Kg7 23.Rae1 Rb8 24.Rc7 b5 25.Ree7+-] **18.Rad1** Forcing the Black queen to move again. **18...Qb6 19.g4 Ng7** Black has a horrible knight on g7, and his queenside bishop and rook are not yet developed, so I now tried to find a way to break through on the kingside. **20.Qf4 a5 21.a4** [After the game, Fritz found the following nice line 21.Bc7 Qa7 22.Nb5 Qc5 23.Nd6 Rf8 24.Ne4 Qa7 25.Bd6 b5 26.Bxe7 Qxe7 27.Nf6+ Kh8 28.Rd3 Ne8 29.Nxh7 Kxh7 30.Rh3+ Kg8 31.Qh6 f6 32.Qh8+ Kf7 33.Rh7+ Ng7 34.Qxg7+ Ke8 35.Qxe7#] **21...g5 22.Qe4 f6 23.Bc2** With minutes left on my clock, I offer a bishop sacrifice. If my opponent had taken it, I might not have found the best line, so luckily for me, he declined the sacrifice. **23...f5** [23...fxe5 24.Qxh7+ Kf8 25.Rd3 Bf6 26.Rf3 Ke7 27.Rxf6 Kxf6 28.Qg6+ Ke7 29.Qxg7+ Kd8 30.Qf6+ Kc7 31.Nb5+ Kc6 32.Be4+ Kc5 33.Qxe5+ Kc4 34.b3+ Kxb3 35.Bc2+ Ka2 36.Ra1+ Kxa1 37.Qe1+ Kb2 38.Qb1# a rather nice king hunt, if a bit silly at the end] **24.gxf5 exf5** [Another Fritz line 24...Nxf5 25.Bc7 Qxc7 26.Nxe6 Bxe6 27.Qxe6+ Kh8 28.Rd7 Qc5 29.Bxf5 Rf8 30.Re5 Ra6 31.Qxe7 Qxe7 32.Rxe7+-] **25.Qd5+ Be6 26.Nxe6 Qxe6** [26...Nxe6 27.Bxf5 Bc5 28.Bd4+-] **27.Bxg7** Here, short of time, I bailed out into what I thought was a winning endgame. As the following variation shows, Qxb7 was much stronger. [27.Qxb7 threatening Bb3 27...Qg6 28.Bb3+ Kh8 29.Bxg7+ Qxg7 30.Rd7+-] **27...Qxd5 28.Rxd5 Kxg7 29.Rde5 Kf7** Luckily for me, my opponent blunders straightaway. This just loses. The variations given below are still winning for White, but I would have had to work a lot harder to get the full point. [29... Kf8 30.Rxf5+ Kg7 31.Rfe5 Kf8 32.Bxh7 (32. Rb5 Bf6 33.Rxe8+ Rxe8 34.Bxh7+-) 32...Bf6 33.Re6+-] **30.Bb3+ The bishop on e7 is lost. Black resigned 1 - 0**

The tournament was won by the favourite, two-times World Champion, and FIDE International Master, Veselin Georgiev, from Bulgaria, with a score of 9.5/11. This was Georgiev's third World title in a row, following his wins in 2000 and 2004.

In addition to the chess, there was an opening and closing ceremony, an excursion on the rest day (to the mountain Hoher Kasten, and the town of Appenzell), and a blitz tournament. The arbiters and organisers did a superb job of keeping things running smoothly, and there were few problems with the accommodation and food.

Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed myself. It was an honour to represent England, and I'd like to thank the EDCA (English Deaf Chess Association) for arranging the funding and organising the details of my entry.

Report by Lewis Martin

It was a tough competition, with 12 people in the Junior section who were all good players, some better than others, but each one of them were tough for me except against someone from Azerbaijan who scored nothing. I felt I played very well in each of the games, but in some of them I could not quite find the final attack, and some mistakes have cost me a few points. I had 7/11 points, with 4 wins (including a Russian!), 6 draws, and 1 loss.

At least these were not too costly as I managed to come third and the top two would probably have stayed like that anyway. I have not played in a two week competition before, so I was mentally tired in the middle stages, before the day break on Sunday.

The hotel/venue was very nice, and I enjoyed myself as everyone was friendly and I got to know some deaf people from around the world. It was a memorable experience, and I thank my sponsors who gave me this opportunity, which made me a better player, and in some ways, a better person.

Annotated game by Lewis Martin;

ICSC World Junior, Round 11 Martin, L (ENG) – Ovcharov, T (UKR)

1. e4 d5 Scandinavian Defence. **2. exd5 Nf6 3. Nf3 Qxd5 4. Nc3 Qd6** The queen is probably on the wrong square, it is open to potential attacks on the queen via Nb5 also eyeing the c7 square. Qd8 or Qa5 are ideal **5. d4** A strong central position for white already after 5 moves **5.... Bg4 6. Be2 e6 7. O-O Be7 8. Nb5 Qd8 9. c4 c6 10. Nc3 O-O 11. h3 Bh5 12. Bf4 Bd6 13. Qd2** 13. Ne5 would command the centre and hard for black to break through. **13.... Qc7 14. Bxd6 Qxd6 15. Rad1 Rd8 16. Qe3 Nbd7 17. Rfe1 Re8 18. g4 Bg6 19. Ne5 Rad8 20. g5** Forces the knight to be on a weak square **20.... Nh5 21. Ne4 Qc7 22. Nxg6 hxg6 23. c5** Making a very strong home for the knight on the d6 square **23... Nf4 24. Nd6 Nxe2+** The stronger black knight was going to contribute more to the game than the bishop. So I was happy to exchange them off due to a dominant knight on d6 **25. Rxe2 Re7 26. b4** 26. Qa3 was better, piling the pressure on black's queenside **26.... Nb8** Nb6 would mean Nd5 is strong. 27. cxb6 is responded by 27... Qxd6, and my advantage has gone. **27. Qg3 a5 28. bxa5** Opening the b-file, which brings my rooks into play, with the b7-pawn a target. **28... Qxa5 29. Rb2 Qa4 30. Rdd2** 30. Qb3 was better as if: 30... Qxb3, 31. Rxb3 b5 32. Ra3 and the open a-file welcomes the white rook. Black's rooks are useless with no ambition. If the black queen retreats, it is on an awful square, for example: 30.

..Qa6 it is not doing a great deal. Surely 31. Qb4, with the follow up of 32. Rb3, 33. Ra3 will prove too much for black? **30.... b5 31. cxb6 Red7 32. Ne4 Rxd4 33. Qc7** Chris Kreuzer suggested 33.Qh4 instead of the (still very strong) 33.Qc7. The idea was right, but it was the wrong square. 33.Qf4! was the move (still keeping an eye on b8) **33... Na6 34. Qxd8+** A very strong move, where the two white rooks will be stronger than the black queen and not much can be said about the knight on a6 as its only aim is to prevent the strong b-pawn to promote as a queen. **34... Rxd8 35. Rxd8+ Kh7 36. Nd6** Unfortunately, the wrong move. It does threaten Nx7 with the surely unstoppable Rh8++, but it opens up the kingside for the black queen to roam. There were several other possible moves, but due to not much time left on the clock I had to move quick. (36. Rbd2 Qxe4 37.R2d4 The rook is planning to go on h4 which would win the game. Qxd4 38. Rxd4 The knight must go and the position is won.) (36. Ng3 Qf4 37. Rb1 Preventing Qc1+, grabbing the rook on b2. Qxg5 38. Ra8 Nc5 39. Ra5 The knight is under threat and the b-pawn must be able to promote, or white is a rook up, as black loses the queen, and the a-pawn is free to move.) **36.... Qf4 37. h4 Qg4+** I did not see the perpetual check which enabled black to salvage a draw from a lost position. **38. Kf1** The king cannot go on the h-file, as 38... Qxh4+ followed by Qxg5+, capturing the rook on d8 **38 Qd1+ Draw agreed ½ - ½**

European Union Championship 9-18 September 2008 World Museum, Liverpool

This was the climax to the wonderful series of chess events that have taken place there for the last two years. There were 141 entries for this hugely strong event. You have to go back to the Lloyds Bank Masters in 1994 to find any Swiss of remotely comparable strength and the tail was much longer then. The Phillips & Drew/GLC 1984 was a round robin as was Nottingham 1936.

However it is possible this is the first time (well, at least for a long time) that the entire English team has competed in an event. Lloyds Bank regularly attracted 5 of the 6 open team, but never the whole lot. Moreover, all the leading contenders for a spot in the team were also there.

Full details on www.liverpoolchessinternational.co.uk including John Saunders, editor of BCM, excellent daily reports.

7.5/10 2-4 Michael Adams Rating change -0.3; Nigel Short +0.6. 7 5-15= David Howell +5.2. 6.5 16-22= Lorin D'Costa +18.7. An excellent result for Lorin who is taking a year off after graduating to play chess. 6 23-45= Stuart Conquest 3.1; Peter Wells +0.1; Gawain Jones -1.6; Mark Hebden -3.3; Stewart Haslinger -0.8; Stephen Gordon -10; Keith Arkell -4.8; Jovanka Houska -3; Simon Williams -1.3. 5.5 46-67= Dany Gormally -5; Lawrence Trent 3.7; Nigel Davies -3.6; David Eggleston 10.8; John Carleton -1.5; Michael white 6.9; Jeff Horner -1.4.

Professor David Robertson was the leading figure behind all mounting all the events. But he also found time to play in this here and scored 4.5/10, much the highest placed unrated player. He also played in the Major Open at the British Championships. The two events combined should give him a FIDE Rating of 2072 in the 1 October list.

ECF Chief Executive Chris Majer scored 3.5/10 113-123= losing 2 rating points. It is always good to see administrators playing chess. An understanding of the pressures of competitive play is a highly desirable qualification for anybody who is an organiser.

*Stewart Reuben
Director of International Chess*

European Amateur Championships 19-27 July 2008 Pardubice, Czech Republic

The full report by Richard Almond can be found on www.englishchess.org.uk/national.

Dominic Pozzo and I were the only English players in the Amateur Championship events and both took part in the highest section. Unrated Dominic scored 3/9 with a rating performance of 1670, and as all his opponents were rated regardless of any other events he is playing in will have gained a FIDE rating. I scored a slightly below par 6/9 in terms of rating performance. Perhaps I can put this down to playing seven opponents under 25 years, who quite often under-rated. I was just off the lead with 5/6 but losses in the next 2 games ended my chances.

The tournament winner and Women European Champion at Under 2200 with 8/9 was WFM Natasha Berdychevskaya (2187, Russia) and Men's European Champion at Under 2200 was Roman Grib (2033, Belarus) who is an under 16 junior.

Junior News

World Junior Championship 2008

Thank you to International Master Lawrence Cooper, who reported as English squad coach from the Championships in Turkey.



The World Junior was held in Gaziantep in Southern Turkey. England was represented by David Howell and Peter Constantinou in the open section and Sarah Hegarty in the ladies. Also playing was Karl McPhillips of Ireland. There were 108 players in the open and the strength can be measured by the fact that David, rated 2561, is only 14th seed!

Round 1 3rd August

Sahaj Grover FM 2306	0-1	David Howell
Peter Constantinou	0-1	Manuel Leon Hoyos GM 2543
Sarah Hegarty	0-1	Miranda Mikadze 2258
Arik Braun	1-0	Karl McPhillips

Although the four games all went according to rating this doesn't of course tell the full story. David won a long hard fought game where he comfortably equalised but a comfortable middle game led to nothing better than a complex ending with very little time for both players. Initially I thought David may have been worse in a rook and minor piece ending but whatever the assessment he handled the blitz phase of the game much better and by calculating a tactical line further than his opponent he won a piece for two pawns and his opponent soon resigned.

Peter's game was most unfortunate. From an equal English he outplayed his opponent, breaking through on the b file and winning a pawn. However, a combination of tiredness, time trouble and perhaps the pressure of playing a GM led to a couple of inaccuracies which led to black gaining counterplay and eventually breaking through as Peter's time ran out.

Sarah faced the Centre Counter and her opponent equalised and a couple of inaccuracies by Sarah then led to her position becoming worse and then critical.



Unfortunately, after a long day travelling the day before and tough opening round games a lengthy opening ceremony was held in the evening, following the end of round 1 and the joys of two rounds the next day was soon upon us. Oh and did I mention the temperatures of almost 40 degrees centigrade?

Round 2 4th August

David Howell	1-0	Roeland Pruijssers 2452 IM
Metelian Gokcek	0-1	Peter Constantinou
Perinisa Ozmut	0-1	Sarah Hegarty
Karl McPhillips	1-0	Cinar Oztosun

A clean sweep in round 2.

Round 3 4th August

Arik Braun IM 2533	0.5-0.5	David Howell
Peter Constantinou	0-1	Tomczak Jacek IM 2451
Sarah Hegarty	0-1	Preethi Rajkumar 2183
Pavel Potapov IM 2418	1-0	Karl McPhillips

After the whitewash in the morning this round was ultimately disappointing, albeit against much stronger opposition. The pairings for this round were only published 20 minutes before the bus left for the venue so whilst this was the same for all players, I think it played a crucial part in our games.

Round 4 5th August

David Howell	1-0	Hrant Melkumyan IM 2507
Ahmet Turan (unrated)	0-1	Peter Constantinou
Yulduz Hamrakulova WIM 2145	0-1	Sarah Hegarty
Karl McPhillips	0.5-0.5	Vasif Durarbeyli

This turned out to be a hugely successful round against tough opposition. Not for the first time David had a long game but this was a marathon that lasted 5 and a quarter hours which with the FIDE time limit meant he was playing a move every 30 seconds for the last 30 or so moves of the game.

Sarah produced her best game of the tournament and convincingly outplayed her 2145 rated opponent. Possibly wary of Sarah's recent results her opponent played an innocuous opening against the Grunfeld (5 e3) and Sarah comfortably equalised and then proceeded to outplay her opponent apart from one slip in time trouble. No sooner had her opponent got back in to the game than it was over, courtesy of a well-calculated tactic by Sarah.

Round 5 6th August

David Howell	1-0	Eltaj Safarli 2527
Peter Constantinou	0.5-0.5	Ivajlo Enchev 2367
Sarah Hegarty	0.5-0.5	Silvia-Raluca Sgircea 2167
Amar Salihovic	0.5-0.5	Karl McPhillips

Another undefeated round.

Round 6 7th August

Yifan Hou 2557	0.5-0.5	David Howell
Pandian Karthikeyan 2402	0.5-0.5	Peter Constantinou
Anna Gasik 2211	0.5-0.5	Sarah Hegarty
Viacheslav Kulakov	1-0	Karl McPhillips

Another good round. Three blacks and Peter and Sarah again out graded by a large amount whilst David was facing the number three female player in the world who is still only 15.

Round 7 8th August

David Howell	1-0	Alejandro Ramirez 2531
Peter Constantinou	1-0	Israel Caspi 2412
Sarah Hegarty	0-1	Anya Corke
Karl McPhillips	1-0	Ataman Aydogdu 2050

David continued his run of smooth victories with white by grinding down another GM. After a successful first week David stood 1st= with his third round opponent on 6/7.

Peter finally managed a win with white and stood at this point with a fine score of 4/7.

It was a shame that Sarah ended the first week with a loss but having played six players rated between 2145-2258 she has played well above her rating. She actually had 2.5/3 with black and 0.5/4 with white although this does not tell the full story, especially as she had played 4 strong players with white and came close to victory in her round 5 game as well as having chances in round 3. All in all, a good week, I was especially impressed with her hard work preparing and her fighting spirit during the games.

Round 8 10th August

Chao Li 2590	1-0	David Howell
Denes Boros 2472	1-0	Peter Constantinou
Akter Shamima 2099	0.5-0.5	Sarah Hegarty
Karl McPhillips	0.5-0.5	Akshayraj Kore 2392

Round 8 proved to be a tragedy for David. His opponent surprised him by playing 1 d4 and a theoretical debate in the Grunfeld Exchange with 7 Bc4 ensued. By move 21 a middle/endgame with Q, R and minor piece each was reached where black had a queenside majority against to balance white's isolated e4 pawn. The game lasted six and quarter hours and both players were clearly exhausted. I hoped that David could find the energy to bounce back in round 9 in what was a key moment for his chances of winning the tournament. He was a half point off the lead but with five rounds to go and hopefully three whites to come there was clearly all to play for.

John Saunders of the British Chess Magazine comments on David's game on the Atticus Chess Forum "*I watched the second half of this epic game and was hugely impressed by both players...*"

Chao Li (2590) – D Howell (2561)

World Junior Chess Championship Gaziantep (8.1), 10.08.2008

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 d5 4 cxd5 Nxd5 5 e4 Nxc3 6 bxc3 Bg7 7 Bc4 c5 8 Ne2 Nc6 9 Be3 0-0 10 0-0 Na5 11 Bd3 b6 12 Qd2 e5 13 Bh6 f6 14 Bxg7 Kxg7 15 f4 cxd4 16 cxd4 Bg4 17 dxe5 Bxe2 18 exf6+ Rxf6 19 Qxe2 Qd4+ 20 Kh1 Rxf4 21 Rxf4 Qxa1+ 22 Rf1 Qe5 23 Qf2 Kh8 24 Ba6 Re8 25 h3 Qg7 26 Bb5 Rd8 27 e5 Qxe5 28 Qh4 g5 29 Qb4 Qc5 30 Qb1 Qe7 31 Re1 Qf6 32 Qe4 Rf8 33 Rd1 Qg6 34 Qe5+ Qg7 35 Qe1 Qf6 36 Qg3 Qf4 37 Qa3 Rf7 38 Be2 Kg7 39 Qd3 Qe5 40 Bh5 Rc7 41 Rf1 Kh6 42 Bd1 Kg7 43 Bc2 Kh6 44 Qd8 Qe7 45 Qd4 Rc6 46 h4 gxh4 47 Qd3 Rg6 48 Qd2+ Rg5 49 Rf4 Kg7 50 Qd4+ Re5 51 Rxh4

Kf8 52 Rf4+ Kg8 53 Rg4+ Kf8 54 Qf4+ Ke8 55 Rg8+ Kd7 56 Bf5+ Kc7 57 Rh8 Kc6 58 Qf3+ Kb5 59 Bd3+ Kb4 60 Rxh7 Re1+ 61 Kh2 Qe5+ 62 g3 Re3 63 Qg4+ Ka3 64 Bf1 Rc3 65 Rh4 Rc2+ 66 Kh3 Kb2 67 Rh5 Qf6 68 Rb5+ Kc1 69 Bd3 Rb2 70 Rf5 Qh6+ 71 Rh5 Qd2 72 Qc8+ Kd1 73 Qg4+ Kc1 74 Qf3 Rxa2 75 Re5 Qh6+ 76 Rh5 Qd2 77 Rh7 Qh2+ 78 Kg4 Ra4+ 79 Kg5 Qd2+ 80 Kg6 Kb2 81 Re7 Qc3 82 Re2+ Ka3 83 Re3 Nb3 84 Bf5 Qb2 85 Be6 Rb4 86 Qf8 Qc2+ 87 Kg7 Qc5 88 Qf3 Qc2 89 g4 a5 90 g5 Qc7+ 91 Bf7 a4 92 g6 Qd6 93 Kg8 Kb2 94 Qe2+ Ka3 95 g7 Rh4 96 Qf3 Qb8+ 97 Re8 Qd6 98 Ra8 Kb4 99 Be8 Nc5 100 Qg2 Rh2 101 Qg4+ Ka3 102 Bf7 Qd3 103 Qf4 Rh1 104 Kf8 Nd7+ 105 Ke7 Re1+ 106 Be6 Nc5 107 Rxa4+ Nxa4 108 g8Q Re3 109 Qh8 Rxe6+ 110 Kxe6 Nc5+ 111 Kf7 Qd5+ 112 Kg6 Qg2+ 113 Qg5 Qe4+ 114 Qf5 Qg2+ 115 Kh6 Qh2+ 116 Kg7 Qg3+ 117 Kf7 Qc7+ 118 Kg6 Qg3+ 119 Qg5 Qd3+ 120 Kf7 Qc4+ 121 Kg6 Qd3+ 122 Kh5 Qh3+ 123 Qh4 Qf3+ 124 Kg6 Qd3+ 125 Kg7 Qd7+ 126 Kg6 Qd3+ 127 Kh5 Qf3+ 128 Kh6 Qe3+ 129 Kg7 Qe5+ 130 Kg6 Qd6+ 131 Q8f6 Qd3+ 132 Qf5 Qd6+ 133 Kh5 b5 134 Qhf2 Ne6 135 Qa7+ Kb4 136 Qe4+ Kb3 137 Qae3+ 1-0

David's king makes one of the most amazing escapes I have ever seen, crossing to the other side of the board under heavy attack from White's major pieces. Clearly White missed wins along the way but, by about move 80, David seemed to have shored up his position. If you look through the game with Fritz at this stage, you will find that the two players mostly play accurate moves despite only having the 30-second increments on which to survive and a very complex position on the board. For the last 70-80 moves of the game, neither of them ever had more than 2½ minutes left on their clocks, and usually significantly less than that. As I watched, I was filled with admiration for the courage and tenacity of both players.

David's best chance to salvage a draw was probably on move 106 when he could have played Rxe6+ but of course it is easy for me to say that having watched with Fritz. In real life and in such a position it would have been unbelievably hard to keep finding the right move. As it was, he wasn't very far from getting a perpetual, even after his opponent had two queens on the board.

He will obviously be shattered after this result but it is still not the end of his championship hopes. Last year Ahmed Adly lost two consecutive games in the middle of this tournament but came back to win the title. David needs to put this game behind him and concentrate on the final run-in. In Swisses it is all about finishing strongly. Come on, David - think of Rebecca Adlington!

Round 9 11th August

David Howell	1-0	Ivan Popov 2549
Niccolo Ronchetti 2434	1-0	Peter Constantinou
Sarah Hegarty	1-0	Ana Berke 2100
Tiberiu Georgescu 2442	1-0	Karl McPhillips

Another mammoth round for David. A game lasting 127 moves, in which the last 34 demonstrated Grandmaster technique Queen and King vs Rook and King. View the game here. After such a tough round yesterday, this stamina is incredible. Well done David. This victory takes him back into 2nd=, just half a point behind the leader.

	Points/9	Position
David Howell	7.0	2nd =
Peter Constantinou	4.0	66th =
Karl McPhillips	3.5	84th =
Sarah Hegarty	4.5	32nd =

Peter emerged from the opening with a passive but solid position. His opponent gradually managed to open up the position but by sacrificing a piece for three pawns Peter seemed to have obtained

decent chances. However, he allowed his opponent to get too active and he broke through on the kingside with a knight sacrifice that led to a mating attack. A disappointing end but at least a far better showing than yesterday's one-sided game. Hopefully, he'll be able to bounce back with white pieces tomorrow.

Sarah won in slightly uncertain style, mixing up her moves in the opening and instead of a comfortable position she found herself having to work hard to keep her opponent's advantage to a minimum. Having seemingly accomplished this she lost her h pawn but then, somewhat unexpectedly, her opponent made a couple of errors and Sarah was able to win back her pawn and then proceeded to exploit her opponent's shaky play to eventually end four pawns up in an ending! A much-needed win to get her back to 50% and her first win with white.

Karl slipped to defeat against another high rated IM after obtaining a reasonable looking opening.

Round 10 12th August

Wesley So 2577	1-0	David Howell
Peter Constantinou	0.5-0.5	Viacheslav Kulakov 2360
Betul Cemre Yildiz 2236	1-0	Sarah Hegarty
Ricardo Sousa 2133	0.5-0.5	Karl McPhillips

A desperately disappointing day for David. After playing 300+ moves in the last two days fatigue may have been a factor. It's no coincidence that David's opponents in those two marathon games then lost their next game. David stand in fourth place on 7/10, but was still performing at over 2650

Round 11 13th August

David Howell	1-0	Ante Brkic 2530 GM
Peter Constantinou	0-1	Tiberiu Georgescu 2442 FM
Sarah Hegarty	1-0	Maria Ikonomopoulou 2074
Karl McPhillips	1-0	Kobayashi Atsuhiko 1936

A ridiculously exciting round in what was shaping up to be a thrilling finish in the World Junior Championships. In my experience, it's so rare to see so many decisive results. In fact, the top 6 boards all recorded decisive games. The lead changed again, Arik Braun was 1st with 8.5 points and the chasing pack of 6 with 8.0 included David.

	Points/11	Position
David Howell	8.0	2nd =
Peter Constantinou	4.5	81st =
Karl McPhillips	5.0	68th =
Sarah Hegarty	5.5	31st =

Once again David showed his character by bouncing back from a disappointing defeat the day before to win his sixth successive game with white. For once a relatively short game and some much needed rest time ahead of the twelve round. David was now 2nd= half a point behind the new leader Arik Braun who defeated Wesley So as the previous leader was defeated on top board.

Peter tried a new opening, the Old Benoni, due to concerns over facing the Averbach against his modern defence. Unfortunately his opening went very badly and his position was quickly critical if not totally lost. As coach I have to take some responsibility for this, openings that look okay in preparation aren't always as successful in reality.

Sarah's revival with white continued as she won against the Dragon. She avoided the most theoretical lines with an early Nxc6 which although is considered harmless did at least take her opponent out of theory who reacted too passively and slowly.

Round 12 14th August

Maxim Rodshtein 2605	0-1	David Howell
Peter Constantinou	1-0	Ataman Aydogdu 2050
Jacek Tomczak 2451	1-0	Karl McPhillips
Inna Ivakhinova 2248	1-0	Sarah Hegarty

I could hardly contain my excitement. With this win as black over a 2605 Grandmaster, David moved into joint 1st place, with everything to play for in round 13.

The lead had changed hands again and by the end of the round David and the two Indians, Negi & Gupta were clear on 9/11, half a point clear of Braun & Sarfarli.

Peter finally recovered from a very tough second week by beating only the third lower rated player he has faced all tournament. Sarah had another tough pairing and was unfortunately not able to hold against her opponent's accurate play.

Junior:

David, Negi & Gupta 9.0/12; Braun & Sarfarli 8.5; Peter 5.5; Karl 5.0

Ladies:

Haraki 10.0; Muzychuk 9.0; Mikadze 8.5; Sarah 5.5.

Round 13 15th August

David Howell (9)	0-1	Abhijeet Gupta 2551 (9)
Arik Braun (8.5)	0.5-0.5	Parimerjan Negi (9)
Teodor Anton 2353	0-1	Peter Constantinou
Karl McPhillips	1-0	Can Ertan 2149
Sarah Hegarty	1-0	Madina Davletbayeva 2155

It was a desperately disappointing end to what had been a memorable tournament. David's play was unrecognisable from the earlier rounds and only he will know if it was fatigue, exhaustion, nerves etc He still showed his customary fighting spirit but it wasn't enough to save him. All I can do is look back on a tremendous tournament where he faced all his toughest opponents with black, Braun, Hou Yifan, Li Chao, So, Rodhstein and still managed to be in the joint lead going into the last round having won all six games with white, five of which were rated over 2520. His performance in the first twelve rounds was 2715 and he played far more moves than anyone else in the tournament. He has also been a great ambassador for his country, modest in victory and gracious in defeat and a big help to the other two English juniors Sarah and Peter. Whilst I feel totally gutted for him, I am also proud of his performance and look forward to see him reaching 2600 in the near future when he recovers from his disappointment here. After such disappointment, David was 3rd equal.

In Closing: I can report that David, Sarah and Peter were great ambassadors for their country; they responded well to setbacks and played with great heart throughout. I have never been to a tournament with so few quick draws and to play 13 games in 13 days at this level without being tempted to halve out is great credit not only to them but to also the other competitors.

On a personal level I would like to thank all the players for being a joy to be with and to Claire Summerscale for all her support, before, during and after the tournament. I should also thank Sarah for her facebook appeal for a coach as without it I might never have had the opportunity to coach at a World Junior, which is an experience I will never forget. I also need to thank Karl McPhillips for being the first person to locate alcohol in Gaziantep, believe me it was needed after watching a couple of David's marathon games! Thanks to all.

IM Lawrence Cooper

World Youth Under 16 Olympiad

The World Under 16 Olympiad was held in the Turkish city of Mersin (I know I'd never heard of it before either). Mersin is in South East Turkey, on the shores of the Mediterranean and is one of Turkey's major ports. It has a population of nearly 600,000 people and is the capital of the province of Icel. Its situation means that it is sunny for 300 days a year.

Our excellent squad was: Callum Kilpatrick, Yang-Fan Zhou, Felix Ynojosa, Subin Sen and Elliott Auckland. Their coach who worked his socks off was Adam Hunt and the majority of these words are from the reports that he sent back from Mersin – *Claire Summerscale*

Round 1: England 4 – Albania 0

The 1st round was a great start. It sounds like a too good to be true World Cup Qualifying football score, but we did indeed beat the Albanians 4-0. Seeded 9th out of 27 teams this victory over the 22nd seeds was very efficient.

Round 2: Georgia 3 – England 1

A round that promised so much ended ultimately with a feeling of disappointment. 3-1 on paper sounds about right, but three of the four matches could have gone either way.



Photo: Felix playing FIDE Honorary president Florencio Camponanes

Round 3: Slovakia 2 – England 2

A decent result against a good Slovak side who out-rated us on every board. Unfortunately Elliott's first junior international game didn't turn out as planned, with a premature kingside attack leading to a weakened king's position, which his opponent exploited nicely.

Round 4: England 1 – Azerbaijan 3

This was always going to be a difficult match. Azerbaijan had their strongest team out and outrated us by 150-200 points on all boards. Their team included GM Eltaj Safarli, the second highest rated player in the event behind Wesley So.

However, we had Yang-Fan Zhou, who is proving a match for the top players in the tournament at the moment. In an epic game Yang-Fan gave up the exchange for a couple of hugely dangerous passed c and d pawns. Most people, including yours truly and the arbiters (!) thought he was going to win, but Safarli somehow kept himself alive and escaped with a draw. It's an ending well worth playing through.

Callum also played a really good game, comfortably holding an IM with black on board 2. In fact there was a stage in the game where he was better, but a combination of time pressure and good play by the opponent meant that the balance was held.

Felix came back in on board 3, and played a French exchange where he left his king in the centre of the board to win a pawn.



In hindsight this was probably incorrect, as his kingside rook never got in the game. Time pressure also played a part, as his opponent broke through in the centre.

Elliott battled away on the black side of a Fianchetto Grunfeld. When he failed to find the correct plan in the middlegame his opponent took advantage and built a clear advantage. Despite a queen sacrifice Elliott couldn't hold the position.

Round 5: Switzerland B 0.5 – England 3.5

A match that we hoped we would win well, and that turned out to be the case. Perhaps the most important result of the match was Elliott's first win, playing a risky opening but eventually winning a pawn and converting the endgame advantage.

Round 6: England 4 – Turkey C 0

If Round 5 was relatively easy, Round 6 was an incredible round of chess. Playing Turkey C (sounds a lot easier than it was) we brought back Callum in place of Subin 'g5' Sen. Although we out-rated these guys comfortably on every board we knew the match was going to be tough (their board 1 had beaten a 2425 Indian IM in the previous round).

Elliott Auckland started the ball rolling. Playing what his coach thought was a ludicrously risky pawn grab in a Taimanov Sicilian, Elliott left his king in the centre of the board but managed to gradually neutralise his opponents attacking ideas. In what he later pronounced one of his best ever games, he trundled his extra pawn up the board to victory. Here is the masterpiece, annotated by the man himself.

Arat - Auckland

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nxc6 bxc6 6.Bd3 d5 7.0-0 Nf6 8.Nd2 Be7 9.c4 Bb7!? I was already out of my theory book, I decided to play Bb7 instead of castling because I wanted to attack on the kingside and keep my king in the centre. Also I was worried about him taking on d5 and leaving my position a bit exposed. [9...0-0 Is the main move] 10.Qc2 h6 This was to prepare g7-g5 and also to allow 0-0 as a possibility as after e5 Nd7 I won't lose the h7 pawn. 11.b3 [11.c5 Nd7 12.b4 (12.Nb3 a5 13.a4 Qc7 14.exd5 cxd5=) 12...a5 13.exd5 exd5 14.Bb2 0-0 15.a3 Bf6 16.Rfe1 axb4 17.axb4 Rxa1 18.Rxa1 Ne5 the c5 blockade fails to gain any advantage for white.] 11...Qb6 12.Bb2 d4 13.e5 Nd7 14.f4 g5! 15.f5 [15.c5! Qxc5 16.Nc4 Ba6 17.Qf2 Bxc4 18.bxc4 0-0-0 19.Bxd4 Qxd4 20.Qxd4 Bc5 21.Qxc5 Nxc5 22.Be2 Results in a drawish ending where the weakened black kingside is compensated by his powerful knight and dark square control. However, black has to play fairly accurately to get to this position.] 15...Nxe5 16.fxe6 fxe6 17.Bg6+?! [17.Rae1 Nxd3 18.Qxd3 c5 19.Nf3 0-0-0 with some compensation for white] 17...Kd7 18.Qe4 Nxe6 19.Qxg6 this all looks very alluring for white but I had already realised the attack is in vain 19...c5 20.Nf3 Bxf3 21.Rxf3 Rf8! After this white is essentially lost 22.Raf1 [22.Rxf8 Rxf8 23.Qxh6 Qa5! and Qd2 is impossible to meet] 22...Rxf3 23.Rxf3 Rf8-+ Again the same ideas if takes on f8, Black also has the reassurance of playing e5 and playing the won ending 24.Rd3 Qc6 25.Rd1 e5 26.Qc2 e4 27.Re1 e3 28.b4 Rf2 0-1

Round 7: Armenia 4 – England 0

Oh dear Oh dear Oh dear. A desperately disappointing result for all concerned. I blame the coach! In truth the Armenians were just better than us on the day, on all boards.

Round 8: England 1 – Philippines 3

After the disappointment of yesterday, there wasn't much time to feel down as we had another tough draw against the Philippines.

Round 9: England 3.5 – Greece 0.5

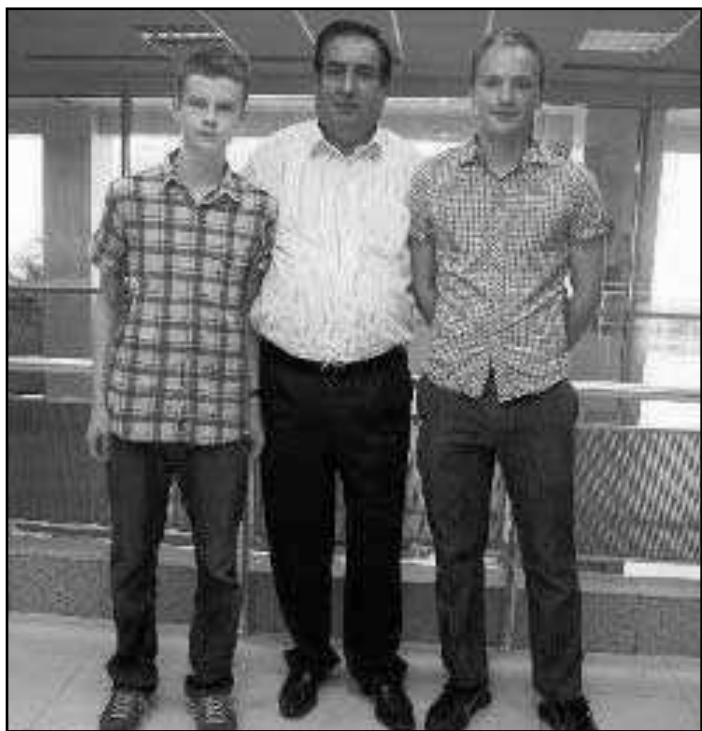
Finally Yang-Fan 'where are Callum and Elliott hiding today' Zhou had a rest. After putting in such a sterling effort on board 1 it was time for the others to step up and be counted. And they did. Callum had rather a tame draw on board 1, failing to make any progress against his opponents Slav defence. Felix on board 2 got his normal slightly dubious opening position before outplaying his opponent. He finished with a nice combination to secure the win. Subin reverted back to his steady style, grinding his opponent down in a long ending. Elliott played a nice game. Our preparation payed off and he quickly found himself in a comfortable position. His opponent then gave away a pawn whilst under pressure, and this quickly became two pawns. Even the presence of opposite coloured bishops in the ending didn't save white.

So, with one round to go, we were standing 8th in the table, one place higher than our ranking. As you can see a tough end to tournament, a final round against the Indian team, who stood 2nd. - *Claire*

Round 10: India 3.5 – England 0.5

A disappointing final result against the eventual winners of the tournament. The boys tried their hearts out, but alas we came up short in the end.

So our final position is below our seeding, but that doesn't tell the whole story. We beat everyone below us seeding-wise and lost to everyone above us (and had a cheeky draw with the Slovaks in the middle). The boys have been an absolute credit to their country and federation, behaving brilliantly and having a great team spirit (and time I hope) throughout. I think that some of the defeats have come as a result of trying too hard if anything, too many pawn storms and long thinks in positions that haven't required them. But hey, they're young.



Callum and Adam with the mayor of Mersin

So my job as reporter and coach is nearly over but I hope you have enjoyed the tournament from afar as much as we have enjoyed it here. The organisation and website in particular has been very good. It has also been very interesting to see how seriously the Turkish take their chess – *Adam Hunt*

After such a tough final round, our ranking was 13th. Congratulations to the boys who played fantastically – *Claire Summerscale*

6th European European Union Youth Chess Championship

5-14 August, 2008, Mureck, Austria

This was the 6th EU Youth Chess Championship held in Austria. In 2002 I was delighted to receive an invitation from the organiser Erick Gigerl to compete with a team from England. The tournament has proved to be both an ideal first international experience for our players and also a 'warm-up' event for youngsters competing later in the year at European & World Championships. I was not able to organise and travel with the England team this year but fortunately Cath & Andy Bowler agreed to be Team Managers on this occasion. My sincere thanks go to them for a job well done.

My grateful thanks also go to Winton Capital Management, BCF Youth Chess Trust and the Certificate of Excellence for supporting junior activities which enabled the England Team to be accompanied by GM Neil McDonald & Tom Eckersley-Waites.

From Peter Turner – ECF Honorary life Vice-President



Brandon Clarke



Isaac Sanders



Henry Broadley

A team of 6 players travelled to the European Union Youth Championships. In the under 14's we had Joe Quinn, Brandon Clarke and Robert Bowler, for the under 12's we had James Bowler and Henry Broadley, and for the under 10's we had Isaac Sanders. Completing the party were various parents and siblings, and of course the all important coaches GM Neil Mc Donald and Tom Eckersley-Waites.

The party set off for Mureck – a small town in south east Austria – from Stansted. The team, as in previous years, stayed in the friendly

Fabiani guest house in Mureck which we shared with a team from Wales. The guest house is in a beautiful quiet spot near a lake and with loads to keep the players amused when they're not playing chess. The table-tennis, badminton and darts become almost as competitive as the chess!

The nine day tournament started well with brilliant sunshine. The rather voracious mosquitoes were an annoyance at times but not enough to dampen spirits. A routine for the players was quickly established with coaching sessions in the morning followed by lunch, then a combination of cycling and taxi trips down to the venue where battle commenced at 3pm. Depending on the length of the game there was usually time for each player to have a quick review with their coach and then on to the popular outdoor swimming pool which provided a very welcome cool down for all. Various techniques were developed on the water slide to achieve maximum velocity on entry to the pool – the most effective appeared to be going down on your knees !

We got off to a good start with 4 wins out of 6 on day 1. Day 2 not quite so good but many games were running well into 3 hours+ so the results didn't always show the closeness of the games. Many parents were already getting stressed so were forced to go to a local hostelry to 'chill'!

We heard from home that England was getting nothing but rain and floods and we too joined in when the 30 degree heat was briefly broken by an almighty storm – lightening, thunder and flash flooding – the full works !

Considering that 5 of the 6 players were a year under their age group and they were playing some of the best players in Europe the results were very creditable. Their final results out of 9 were: Brandon – 5 ½; Henry – 5; Isaac – 6; James – 5; Joe – 3 ½; Robert – 2 ½

A full daily report can be found at www.englishchess.org.uk/events/eu-youth08/ for anyone interested in the day to day goings-on.

Cath & Andy Bowler

Glorney Tournaments 2008

The ECF were proud to host the Glorney tournaments this year in Liverpool. We were thrilled to welcome teams from England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

Congratulations to the members of all teams for representing their country at such a high level.

Thank you to all those who helped with the organisation, to Ian Hughes and other local chess organisers who put together some excellent local teams who competed as the England Knights and Bishops.

Under 12 John Robinson Cup

		Points/30
1st	England	26.5
2nd	Ireland	19.0
3rd	Scotland	16.0
4th	England Knights	12.0
5th	Wales	9.5
6th	England Bishops	8.0

England

Marcus Harvey
Henry Broadley
Roy Zhang
James Bowler
Eugene Daley
Conrad Green

Ireland

Ronan Magee
Oissine Murphy
John Cormican
Michael Sheehan
Billy McKenna
Richard Flynn

Wales

Philippe Rogers
Harsith Maruthireddy
Daniel Wilmot
Jerry Zhou
Richard Warrington
Eva Los



England Bishops

James Walsh
Matthew Walsh
Aidan Shard
Sean Hackett
Mollie Hesketh
Victoria Sung

Scotland

Daniel Thomas
Peter Rainey
Peter Sanders
Kiron Roy
Ben He
Robert Childs

England Knights

Allan Truman
Aaron Rogers
Lance Fox
Andrew Guy
Sean Weston
Damon Chow

Under 14 Bernadette Stokes Cup

		Points/30
1st	England	26.0
2nd	Ireland	20.0
3rd	Wales	14.5
4th	England Bishops	14.0
5th	Scotland	13.0
6th	England Knights	2.5

England

Samuel Walker
Brandon Clarke
Henrik Stepanyan
Joseph Quinn
Dunstan Rodrigues
Richard Weaving

Ireland

Hugh Doyle
Mark Berney
Shane Manning
Christopher Young
Danny Cashin
Kieran O'Riordan

Wales

Jac Thomas
Ying Teng
Roshan Daniel
Alex Wills
Adam Howell
Sam Pritchard

England Bishops

Thomas Clements
Nathan Gittens
Jamie Horton
Nathan Taylor
Jake Manton
Kyle Saunders

Scotland

Jonathan Wright
David Gillespie
Shivan Murdochy
Peter Devenny
Jamie Scott
Callum Dickson

England Knights

Sikander Ali
Jordan Lewis
Isobel Cotogni
Judd Bennett
Lothian Innes
John Ball



Under 18 Glorney Cup

Thank you to Professor David Robertson who generously organised for cash prizes to be presented to the 1st and 2nd place teams and the highest scoring players in the Glorney and Jessie Gilbert Cups.

	points/25
1st England	16.0
2nd = Scotland	15.5
Ireland	
4th Wales	3.0

England

Thomas Pym
Martin Brown
Mark Talbot
Kishan Lakhani
Daniel Hall
George Salimbeni

Scotland

Connor Woods
In MacGregor
Clement Sreeves
Adam Bremner
Daniel Rocks

Ireland

David Fitzsimons
Ryan-Rhys Griffiths
Sam Osbourne
Jan Mueller
Liam Normoyle

Wales

Jac Thomas
Carl Davies
David Cleverley
Alan Xiao
Michael Hosseini

Congratulations to the highest scoring players in this section who received a cash prize: Sam Osbourne and Liam Normoyle (Ireland).



Under 18 girls, Jessie Gilbert Cup

	Points/15
1st England A	10.5
2nd = Ireland	7.5
Scotland	
4th = England B	6.5
England C	
Wales	

England teams

Sheila Dines
Hannah Dale
Evie Hollingworth
Anjali Lakhani
Astghik Stepanyan
Emma Bentley
Phoebe Price
Victoria Sung
Abigail Pritchard
Natalie Cass
Rachel Cass

Ireland

Sarah Cormican
Ruth Cormican
Sarah-Jane Hearne

Scotland

Ali Roy
Caitlin McCulloch
Shona Jordan

Wales

Megan Owens
Lorna Allix
Sioned Rees

Congratulations to the highest scoring players in this section who received a cash prize: Hannah Dale and Sheila Dines (England).

You can find more photos from the event www.chessuk.com/glorney1.html

Claire Summerscale

Czech Open, World U20s and Jessie Gilbert Celebration Tournament

By Sarah Hegarty



At the beginning of July I travelled with a group of English players to Pardubice, Czech Republic for the Czech Open, the world's largest chess festival. The venue was lovely and it was nice to see players from so many different countries. I gained 5/9 against players from Germany, Czech Republic, Holland, Russia, and Moldova. This meant I got 35 rating points so I was very pleased.

At the start of August I travelled with the English squad to Gaziantep, Turkey for the World U20 Girls Championships. As it was my last year I was determined to play well. It was a tough event with 13 rounds which was extremely tiring. I managed to score 6.5/13 against players from Turkey, Uzbekistan, Georgia, Romania, Kazakhstan, Croatia, Greece, Bangladesh, Hong Kong, Russia and Poland. The tournament was very well organised and very competitive. I gained 40 rating points and was very pleased with my performance.

Immediately after I finished the world Championships I played in Jessie Gilbert's Celebration Tournament. Jessie was a good friend of mine and it was a great tournament in her memory. I gained 4.5/10 winning the U2000 prize and the Ladies Prize. I also gained 28 rating points and had some very good games of chess.



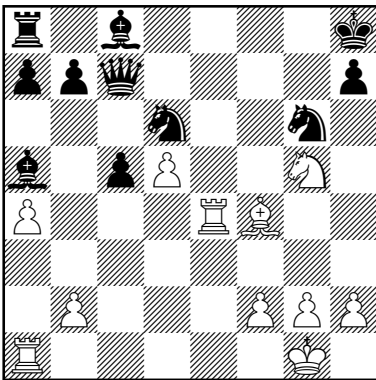
S Hegarty (1966)

– S Fowler (2256)

Jessie Gilbert Celebration

Tournament, 27 August 2008

1.e4 e6 2.d3 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.Ng3 Bc5 5.e5 Nfd7 6.d4 Bb6 7.Bd3 c5 8.c3 Nc6 9.Qa4 f6 10.Bb5 Moving the bishop again but I think this move is quite awkward for black to meet. **10...Qc7 11.exf6 gxf6 12.0-0-0** Risky for black as his king is very exposed and most of his pieces are on the queenside. **13.Re1 Kh8 14.Nf1** [14.Rxe6 Nde5 15.Nxe5 Bxe6 16.Nxc6 bxc6 17.Bxc6 Rac8 is about equal so I decided not to capture the pawn.] **14...e5 15.dxe5 fxe5 16.Qh4 e4 17.Ng5 Nde5 18.Ne3** It is difficult for black to defend the d5 pawn. **18...Ng6 19.Qh6 Rd8 20.c4 Nd4 21.Nxd5 Rxd5 22.cxd5 Nxb5 23.a4 Ba5** [If... 23...Nd6 24.a5 Bxa5 25.Rxa5 Wins a piece!] **24.Rxe4 Nd6 25.Bf4**



Threatening Bxd6 which black can't defend. **25...Nxf4 26.Qf8# 1-0**

European Youth Championship

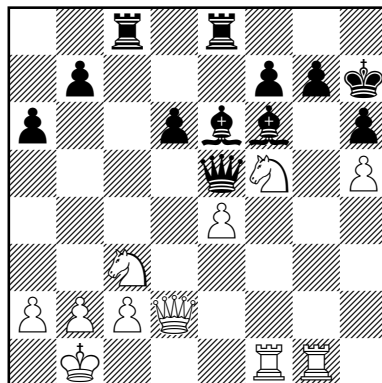
14-25 Sep 2008, Montenegro

At the time of going to print the England team of Anna Wang, Peter Andreev, Robert Fitzgerald, Maria Wang, Peter Williams, Danae Kokossis, Lateefah Messam-Sparks, Subin Sen, James Hanley and Daniel Hunt had just started competing in the European Youth championships. You can find out how they did via the official website (<http://euroyouth2008.com>) and read the reports on www.chessuk.com/european.html

GAMES

GM Stewart Haslinger (2511) - FM David Eggleston, (2372) South Wales International Open, 2008

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 e5 7.Nb3 Be6 8.f4 exf4 9.Bxf4 Nc6 10.Qe2 Be7 11.h3 Nd7 12.0-0-0 Nce5 13.g4 [13.Nd5 Bxd5 14.Rxd5 0-0 is interesting; 13.Nd4 Rc8 14.Nd5 Bxd5 15.exd5 0-0 with level chances] **13...0-0 14.Kb1 Rc8 15.Qe1 Qb6?! [15... Qc7! is probably best 16.Nd4 b5 looks right (16...Rfe8 17.Nf5+/- ; 16...Nc4 17.Bxc4! (17.Nxe6?! aiming to win the d6 pawn allows 17...Na3+! 18.bxa3 fxe6 19.Bd2 Bf6 when black wins the piece back with a better position.) 17...Qxc4 18.Nxe6 Qxe6 19.Nd5 is better for white) 17.Qg3 with an unclear game ahead (17.Nf5?! Bxf5 18.exf5 now allows 18...b4)] 16.Be3?! [16.Nd4 looks best 16...Nc4 17.Bxc4 Rxc4 18.Qe3! intending Nf5 with a better position (18.Be3 Qc7 19.Rf1! when white is also preferable) and 18...Rb4 doesn't help eg. 19.b3 Bf6 20.Nxe6 fxe6 21.Rxd6 Qxe3 22.Bxe3 Bxc3 23.Rxd7 Rxe4 24.Bc5+/-] 16...Qc7** now the position is as if I had played Qc7 immediately but his bishop was on e3, so after. **17.Nd4 Nc4** I don't have problems with the d6 pawn. **18.Bxc4 Qxc4 19.g5** stopping Bf6 **19...Rfe8** giving the bishop a square on f8 and preventing the immediate Nf5 because of Bxf5 exf5 Bxg5. **20.Qd2 Bf8 21.Nf5 Nc5** [21...d5 is possible but after 22.Ng3 dxe4 23.Ngxe4 Bf5 24.Ng3 Bg6 25.h4 Bb4 26.Bd4 white is fine] **22.Bxc5 Qxc5 23.Ne3?** Just blundering the g5 pawn. He might have missed I could take it because his knight blocks his queen's defence of it and unblocks my queen's attack on it. [23.Nd5? isn't a good idea 23...Bxd5 24.exd5 g6 25.Nh6+ otherwise Bg7 comes with a better position. 25...Bxh6 26.gxh6 f5 and black can counter h4 with Qc4 and Re2 and is better here; 23.Nd4 an unambitious move like this with a level position was the way to proceed.] **23...Qxg5 -/+ 24.h4 Qe5 25.h5 h6 26.Rdf1 Be7 27.Nf5 Bf6 28.Rhg1 Kh7**



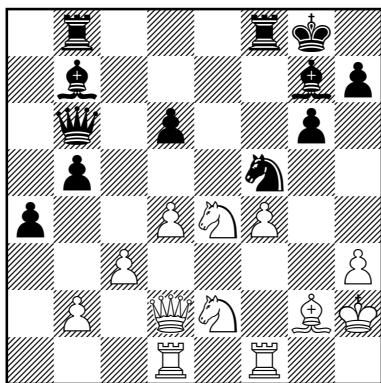
Now I am just winning as my position improves even further and he can't do anything. **29.Rf3?** [29.Qxd6 is hopeless because after 29...Bxf5 30.Qxe5 Bxe5 31.Rxf5 Bxc3 32.bxc3 f6 I have a winning endgame] **29...d5!** White's position falls apart. **30.Nxg7** desperation **30...Bxg7 31.exd5** white has no tricks **31...Rcd8 32.Re3 Qf6 33.Reg3 Bh8 34.Re1 Rxd5! 35.Qg2 Rg5 36.Qe4+ Kg8 37.Rxg5+ hxg5 38.Qxb7 Bxa2+ 39.Kxa2 Rxe1 40.Qb8+** White makes the time control with 1 second to spare. **40...Kh7** and resigns. This win gave me 5/6 and I was able to draw my way to the IM norm. Final results: 1st= GM Stewart Haslinger, GM Normunds Miezis 7.5/9 3rd= FM David Eggleston, FM James Cobb 6.5/9. **0-1**

D Cleverley -

Mark Talbot (1824)

Glorney Cup, Liverpool 2008

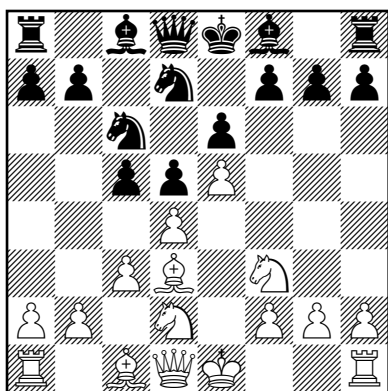
1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.Nge2 Unusual but playable. [5.d3] **5... d6 6.0-0 e6** [6...e5 ; 6...Nf6 ; 6...Rb8 planning ..b5-b4.] **7.d3 Nge7** This system is brilliant for preventing White's favourite attacking manoeuvre f4-f5, but later on Black often has to be careful about his weaknesses on the dark squares. **8.f4 0-0 9.Rb1** [9.g4 f5] **9...Rb8 10.Qe1 b5 11.Nd1** White's position is a bit cramped. With 11 Nd1 he wants to play Ne3 and maybe c3. **11... Nb4!** Attacking two pawns. **12.Ne3 Nxa2 13.Bd2 Nb4!?** Black immediately offers the pawn back, since the price White will pay is a high one. [13...Nc6 14.e5 Nab4] **14.Bxb4 cxb4 15.Qxb4** White has regained the pawn but has had to give up his dark-squared bishop. He must try to use his central pawn majority to offset this. **15...Qb6 16.Qd2 Nc6** [16...b4 ; 16...a5 ; 16...f5] **17.Kh1** [17.b4!? ; 17.c3!? b4 18.d4 bxc3 (18...Ba6=+/+) 19.bxc3 Qxb1 20.Rxb1 Rxb1+ 21.Kf2 is hard to assess.] **17...Bb7** [17...Re8 ; 17...a5 18.f5!?] **18.Ng4** [18.f5 Bh6 19.Nf4~~] **18...Rfe8** [>=18...f5] **19.c3** [19.f5! exf5 20.exf5 gxf5 21.Rxf5 (21.Nh6+ Bxh6 22.Qxh6 Rxe2) 21...Rxe2 (21...Ne5) 22.Qxe2 Nd4 23.Qf1 Nxf5 24.Qxf5 Bxg2+ 25.Kxg2 Qc6+ 26.Kh3 Qxc2 27.Rf1 Qb3 28.Qg5! when White has pressure on the kingside to compensate for the pawn.] **19...f5!** Finally ruling out f4-f5. [19...b4] **20.Nf2** [20.Ne3] **20...Ne7** [20...b4 -/+] **21.Rbd1 a5 22.h3 a4** [22...b4 23.c4 a4] **23.g4 Rf8** [23...Ra8 ; 23...Rbc8] **24.gxf5 exf5 25.d4 fxe4 26.Nxe4 Nf5 27.Kh2**



Both sides have pawn weaknesses, but Black has the safer king. **27...Rbe8** [27...Nh4 ; 27...b4] **28.N2g3 Nxg3** [28...Nh4] **29.Nxg3 Bh6 30.Ne2 Bxg2** [30...Rf5] **31.Kxg2 Qc6+ 32.Kh2** [32.d5 Qc4] **32...Qe4** [32...Re7 ; 32...Re4] **33.Rde1** [33.Rf2] **33...Qf5?** White is short of time, so Black tries not to clarify the position, but this is not a good move. [33...Qe3-/+ ; 33...d5] **34.Kg3?** [With more time, White have realized that the obvious 34.Ng3 is not only playable (and therefore better) but sets a trap: Now 34...Bxf4?? would be a bad blunder: (34...Qf7=/+) 35.Rxf4! Qxf4 36.Qxf4 Rxf4 37.Rxe8+] **34...Re4 35.h4?** [35.Kg2] **35...Rfe8 36.Rf3 Qe6** [36...Bg7 i/\ Bf6] **37.Rf2** [37.Kf2 Qg4] **37...Re3+** [After 37...Re3+ Black is clearly winning, e.g. 38.Kh2 Qg4!] **0-1**

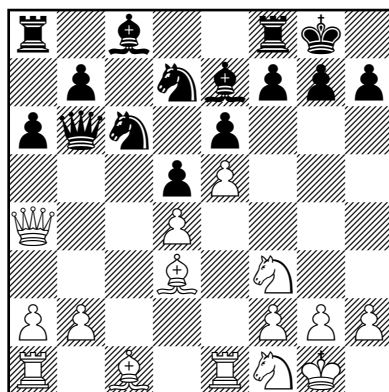
Akash Jain (167) - Nathan Talbot (139) British Championships U16's, Liverpool 2008

A win with Black against the 2007 ECF U14 champion. **1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2** Tarrasch variation **3...Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.Bd3 c5 6.c3 Nc6 7.Ng3**



Quite popular with some English juniors. It invites Black to win a poisoned pawn. [7.Ne2 is the main line. 7...Qb6 8.Nf3 cxd4 9.cxd4 f6 10.exf6 Nxf6 11.0-0 Bd6] **7...Qb6 8.Qa4?!** [The main idea in this line is to offer to sacrifice a pawn by 8.0-0 when many games have shown that White has plenty of compensation after 8...cxd4 9.cxd4 Nxd4 10.Nxd4 Qxd4 11.Nf3 - that is not to say that Black must lose, but White gets a lasting initiative and Black is on the

defensive for a long time and this is not to everyone's taste; After 8.0-0 Black has tried other moves, trying to leave the knight clumsily placed on d3. e.g. 8...g6 (8...Be7 ; 8...a5)] **8...Be7** [A natural plan would be 8...cxd4 9.cxd4 f6] **9.0-0 0-0 10.Re1 a6 11.Nf1 cxd4 12.cxd4**



12...Bb4 [12...f6! 13.Qc2 fxe5! 14.Bxh7+ Kh8 15.Qg6 Rxf3! 16.gxf3 (16.Qh5 Nf6 17.Qxf3 Nxd4 18.Qh3 Nxh7 19.Rxe5 Kg8 20.Rh5 e5-+)] **13.Rd1** [13.Bd2] **13...f6 14.exf6 Nxf6 15.Ng3 Bd7 16.Qc2 Rac8** [16...Bd6 i/\ ...Nb4] **17.Qe2 Bd6** By a devious route we have reached a fairly normal-looking Tarrasch 3...Nf6 position. **18.a3 Rce8** [18...Na5!] **19.Be3 Qd8 20.Qc2 Qe7 21.Rdc1** [21.Bg5] **21...Rc8 22.Qd2 Bc7 23.Rd1 Ng4! 24.Bg5 Qf7** [24...Qd6=/+] **25.h3 Nf6** [25...Nxd4! 26.hxg4 (i/\ 26.Nxd4 Qxf2+ 27.Qxf2 Nxf2-/+) 26...Nxf3+ 27.gxf3 Qxf3 28.Qe2 Bxg3 29.Qxf3 Rxf3 30.fxg3 Rxg3+ 31.Kf2 Rxg4=/+] **26.Bb1?** The a1 rook is left out of play. [26.Rac1] **26...Na5 27.Ne5 Nc4** [27...Bxe5 28.dxe5 Nb3 29.Qd3 Nxa1 30.exf6 gxf6 31.Bh6 Ba4 32.Bxf8 Kxf8 33.Re1 Nb3=/+] **28.Qd3??** [28.Nxf7 Nxd2 29.Nh6+ gxh6 30.Bxd2 Kg7=] **28...Nxe5** [28...Bxe5 29.dxe5 Nxe5-/+ (29...Nxb2!)] **29.dxe5 Bb5! 30.Qd2 Nd7?!** White is very short of time and Black starts rushing. [30...Bxe5-/+] **31.f4?** [31.a4] **31...Bb6+** [31...h6 ; 31...Nc5] **32.Kh2 h6 33.Bh4 Qxf4 34.Be7 Qxd2 35.Rxd2 Rf2 36.Rd1 Bc5** [36...Nxe5] **37.Bxc5 Rxc5 38.b4 Rc3 39.Ne2??** A final blunder in extreme time pressure, but White is losing in any case, since he is already a pawn down and e5 is dropping. **39...Rxe2** White resigned. An interesting game, requiring lots of patient manoeuvring. **0-1**

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Do you have an FIDE rating?

Dr. Robert Howard of the University of New South Wales in Australia is carrying out a study of chess skill in internationally rated players. The study looks at effects of amount of practice, coaching and age of starting chess on chess skill and at chess players' views about chess skill. The study involves a short online survey. The survey is for anyone who has, or who ever has had, an FIDE rating.

The survey takes only about 5-10 minutes to complete. All responses are completely confidential. The survey is available in English, Spanish, Russian, and German.

To take part, you must know your exact FIDE ID number, which will be something like "14200887". ID numbers are posted on the FIDE website at www.fide.com

A summary and analysis of the study findings will be posted here when it is complete and will be emailed to any participant who requests it.

If you would like to participate, please go to this website: <http://education.arts.unsw.edu.au/fidestudy/>

For any queries, please contact Dr Robert Howard, University of New South Wales, on rwh@unsw.edu.au

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Littlewood's Choice

□ Karolyi, Tibor Jr (2410)
 ■ Romanishin, Oleg M (2560)
Tbilisi 1986

Browsing recently through Plaskett's book on tactics, I was so stunned by a brilliant tactical sequence, played by Oleg Romanishin in a game I had never seen before, that I just have to make it this month's choice. For those readers who wish to experience the same enjoyment, I recommend that they cover up the moves after the second diagram, imagine they are Black and think about the position for at least half-an-hour before reading on!?

1.c4 e5 2.Nf3 e4

Risky Alekhine's Reverse strategy but giving both players unusual problems to solve

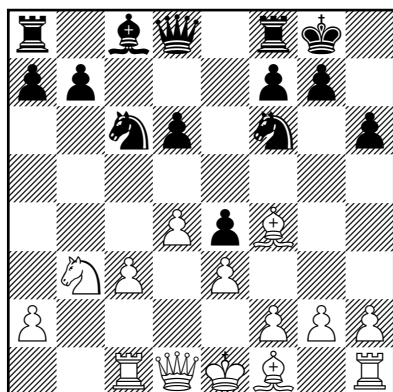
3.Nd4 Nf6 4.Nc3 Bc5 5.Nb3 Bb4 6.d4 Bxc3+

It is important to control the centre, even if it means giving up a bishop.

7.bxc3 h6 8.Bf4 d6 9.e3 Nc6 10.c5

Before launching this operation it would be simpler to play Be2 followed by 0-0. White will later regret leaving his king too long in the centre

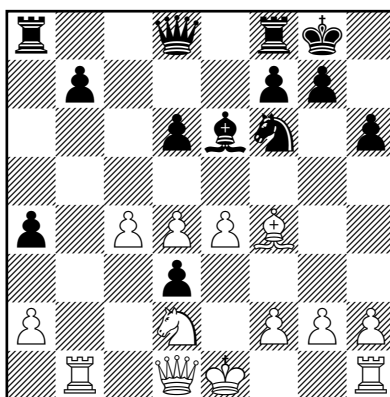
10...0-0 11.cxd6 cxd6 12.Rc1



A move I simply do not understand. From here on Romanishin begins an original plan that, with White's cooperation, works out very well

12...a5! 13.Be2 Be6 14.c4 a4 15.Nd2 Nb4!? 16.Rb1 Nd3+ 17.Bxd3 exd3 18.e4?

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At first sight this move, preventing ...d5 and preparing to pick up the d3 pawn, seems ideal except for the fact that it leaves White's king in the centre one move too long, as we shall see

18...b5!!

What's this? It's clear that both 19 cxb5 Bxa2 20 Ra1 Bb3! 21 Nxb3 axb3 22 Rxa8 Qxa8 and 19 d5 bxc4! 20 Nxc4 Nxe4 21 dxe6 fxe6 give Black the better game, but how about capturing with the rook? All will be revealed

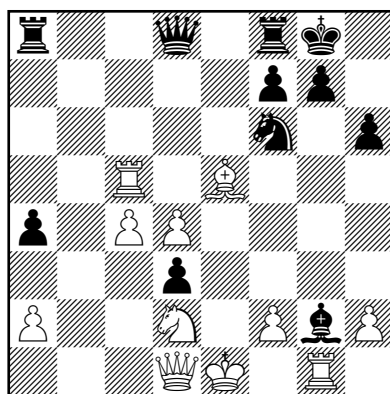
19.Rxb5 d5! 20.exd5 Bxd5!

Finally Black's plan is clear: if White captures the bishop with the pawn, Black has 21... Qe8+ winning the rook, and if instead 21 Rxd5 Nxd5 22 cxd5 Black has 22...Qxd5 23 0-0 Qxa2 creating a dangerous passed pawn. Suddenly, White's uncastled king is suffering!

21.Be5 Bc6!

A cunning zwischenzug

22.Rc5 Bxg2 23.Rg1



23...Re8!

The final point

24.Rxg2 Qxd4 25.Kf1 Rxe5 26.Rxe5 Qxe5 27.Rg3 Rd8

And White resigned because not only is he a pawn down but this pawn will rapidly lead to other losses and completely restrict White's game. If you yourself would never resign in such a position, try working out a reasonable defensive plan, bearing in mind that you have just been demoralised by Black's vicious sequence of moves Splendid play by Romanishin! **0-1**

Herts CA Win Shannon Trophy



This photograph shows Jeremy Fraser-Mitchell who is the Herts Chess Association county (open) match captain holding the Shannon trophy

This is the trophy for the winner of the SCCU county Championships Open section which Herts won in 2007/8 for the first time in the history of the event which began in 1893/4!

Tim Thurstan
 President Herts Chess Association

LAKE DISTRICT CHESS HOLIDAYS March 2009

Relaxed, informal 5-night holiday at this well-known Country House hotel. An 8-round Swiss competition and tutorials on Chess tactics & Blitz Chess. Suitable for the inexperienced as well as local club players.

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Book Reviews by Gary Lane

The Best of the Best 1000

published by Chess Informant £29.99

It is probably best to remind people what exactly Chess Informant is because in this internet age the sales of the books have dwindled over the years. It was 42 years ago that Aleksandar Matanović and Milivoje Molerović had the bright idea of publishing a book twice a year with games by the leading players and where possible annotated by them as well. At a time when access to games played in the Soviet Union was limited it became the chess bible for serious players prompting Garry Kasparov to remark later that "We are all Children of Informant". It seems incredible nowadays to imagine life before the laptop when a keen player would pack a dozen informants for a weekend tournament and of course a trusty copy of *Modern Chess Openings*. This era is over thanks to a number of commercial disasters that included the US bombing the printing works in Belgrade after Yugoslavia broke up, to deliberately stopping consumers from adding the informant software to Chessbase. Also *New in Chess* year books initially copied the format in the 1980s but soon realised paying hundreds of contributors was not economical. They opted to have instead a few dozen original games followed by database print out of games from the same opening and their overnight success took everyone by surprise. This book is a tribute to the good old days where each issue would have a top ten chosen by a panel of experts. The thing is that doesn't mean they were the best games but were sometimes selected because of an opening novelty. This might have looked great in 1974 but is now just a curiosity. Admittedly there is a healthy English presence and the games are annotated by the famous names.

A hefty price for 560 pages in the usual language less notation is a nostalgic reminder of another era. A book for connoisseurs of the game.

Kasparov-Karpov 1975-1985

by Garry Kasparov published by Everyman £30.00

Garry Kasparov is a marvellous ambassador for chess with globe trotting promotions, mega matches against computers and a grasp of English that makes him a favourite on the US chat show circuit. He is also so busy with Russian politics that you wonder if he really has any time to actually write a book? It might be true that his name is on a variety of projects but he has assistants to help out. After all his autobiography was the result of talking into a tape recorder for a few hours and you could tell the difference, while puzzle books are understandably just the rewards of being World Champion. His first really big splash came with *My Great Predecessors Volume 1* which won a host of awards. It took a while for all the historic mistakes to emerge while the analysis was puzzling because it lacked his high level of accuracy with various odd pieces of analysis and a checkmate in three missed amidst a maze of variations. It did not help the literary awards when it was pointed out the whole variation had been lifted from another book. It is to his credit that Kasparov responded to the criticisms in a positive manner and took more control over the project. He invited opinion and via his website accepted Raymond Keene's various suggestions amongst others on how to improve the series and the rest of the books were magnificent. The only blip on the horizon was the business tome *How Life Imitates Chess* because it did not exactly help when Mig Greengard revealed in an interview he had written the book. Still, this is a return to form with an analysis of the first two encounters from his mammoth five match World Championship marathon with Anatoly Karpov. The hardback book is well produced and Kasparov's stamp of approval is everywhere in the contents. A terrific read and one that will keep you at the chess board into the small hours.

Results Round-Up

39th Thanet Congress 15-17 August 2008

Open: Martin Cutmore, Folkestone, 4½/5; Cliff Chandler, Phoenix, 4/5; Martin Taylor, Rainham (Kent); Steve Barrett, Athenaeum; Andrew Mayhew, Bristol Univ; Martin Cutmore, Folkestone

Major (U160): John Atherton, Folkestone, 4/5; Paul Jackson, Coulsdon; Peter Wood, Lewisham; Alan Sands, Beckenham; John Atherton, Folkestone

Intermediate (U125): P Childs, Dartford, 4½/5; Tom Rixon, Hemel Hempstead; Bob Lanzer, Crawley, 4/5; James W Hall, East Grinstead; P Childs, Dartford

Minor (U100): David Howdle, Ramsgate, 4½/5; Robert Woolcott, Ashford; Kit Nelson, Canterbury, 4/5; R Melhuish, Loughton; David Howdle, Ramsgate

44th Berks & Bucks Congress

23-25 August 2008

Polehampton C.of E. Junior School, Twyford, Berkshire

Championship: Shaun Taulbut, 5; Tony Cullen, Kingston, 4; Daniel Hall, Brown Jack,

Wilts, 4; Peter Poobalasingam, Richmond, 4

Challengers: Philip Stimpson, Guildford, 4½

Christopher Archer-Lock, Maidenhead, 4; Simon McCullough, Sandhurst, 4; Stephen Mitchell, Slough, 4

Reserves "A": Edward Tandi, West London, 4½; James Holland, Maidenhead, 4; Mark Wallace, Crowthorne, 4

Reserves "B": Andrew Marley, Crowthorne, 4½; Graham Banda, Cowley, 4; Radha Jain, Pinner, 4; Tom Rixon Hemel, Hempstead, 4; Roy Zhang, Crowthorne, 4

Reserves "C": Cyril Winter, Crowthorne, 5½; Andrew Adair, Reading, 4; Pierre Davis, Ealing, 3½; Phil Foley, Upminster, 3½; Joan

Gardner, Berkhamstead, 3½; Mark Silman, 3½; Matthew Wilson, Basingstoke, 3½

Reserves "D": Philip Archer-Lock, Maidenhead, 5; Andrew English, Oxford City, 4; Raunak Rao, Lewisham, 4; Anuurai Sainbayer, Ealing, 4

Lightning Tournament: Liam Varnam, Maidenhead, 5; Stephen Cairns, Reading, 5

Cup presented by Mrs Stean in 1976 for the best performance by a player age under 14 on the date of the congress, Joint Winners Joseph Quinn Horsham, James Holland Maidenhead

79th Richmond Rapidplay 7 September 2008

127 played in the 79th Richmond Rapidplay held on 7 September and prizes totalling over £700 were awarded for the following results:

Open: GM Simon Williams, 5/6; IM Gavin Wall, 5/6; Alex Galliano, 4/6; Tom Chivers, 4/6

Major (U160): Alexandra Wilson, 6/6; Selina Khoo, 4½/6; Raul Lamorena, 4½/6; Raghu Kamath, 4/6; Reenen Du Toit, 4/6

Intermediate (U120): Adrian Archer-Lock, 5½/6; James Palmer, 5/6; Adam Taylor, 5/6; Alexander Harris, 4½/6

Minor (U80): Raphael Kalid, 5½/6; Elliot Briery, 5/6; Jamie Tilston, 5/6; John Davis, 4½/6; Vincent Lee, 4½/6; Chantelle Foster, 4½/6; Zhihan Li, 4½/6; Benjamin Challen, 4½/6

Godalming Open Tournament 2008

60 players from all over the south east competed in this years tournament. There were adults and juniors in the Under 100 grade section and three age group sections for the juniors.

The standard of play in the U100 section was particularly good this year and amazingly it was one of the youngest players who became this years champion. Raunaq Rao from St Olaves School in Kent was 1st with 4½ out of 5. In 2nd place was Charlie Nettleton from Abbotsfield and 3rd was Christopher Hinchcliffe from Weydon School in Farnham. They all won cash prizes.

The age group winners were as follows:

U11 section: Alex Anderton, Magdalen Colleges School Oxford; Robert Hewett, Aldro; Daniel D'Souza-Eva, MCS; Elliott Ghent, Aldro

U10 section: Palden Ball, MCS; Ethan Kelly, Auriol; Raveena Rao, Bromley High

U9 section: Prashast Vir, Homefield; Joel Malam, Twickenham Prep; Michael Banh, Homefield

The tournament was held at Aldro School and run by members of Godalming Chess Club. New members are always welcome and this year we will be putting 5 teams into the local Borders League.

For information about joining the club please contact me on archerd@aldro.org. D.J.Archer i\c chess at Aldro School

Paignton Congress

The Paignton Open resulted in two players sharing first and second prizes - each with 6.5/7. They win £300 each. They were Gawain Jones and Keith Arkell

Bradford Schools Championship

After many hard fought rounds in the Bradford Schools Championship three schools had won the regional's and had earned the right to play for the "Tack McGrath Trophy"; Southmere Primary had won the Bradford West title, Park Primary PRU had won Bradford South and Lower Fields Primary won Bradford North (Bradford City is only split into 3 regions). The three Regional Champions met in three school 10 players each final. Each school had picked teams from the different groups and ages all with contrasting skills. Gerry Walsh watched over the event as a volunteer Arbiter. As this was the first time a PRU (Pupil Referral Unit) had hosted an event with other mainstream schools in attendance it was understandably a tense affair. After the rounds had past Park Primary PRU edged out on top with 28 points to become the Bradford Schools Champions, with Southmere Primary in second on 25.5 points just ahead of Lower Fields Primary on 24 points. The event was such a success another district of Bradford has joined the event for next year making the entrants for the 2009 championship 42 schools which includes 10 Secondries. The individual winner was Hanif Hussain (9), Myles Smith (9) came second, both from Park Primary PRU, and in third came Adam Henderson (9). I would like to thank all the Schools for taking part, especially the kids who made the event a most memorable and enjoyable day. Click here to read the article (www.thetelegraphandargus.co.uk/news/3211324.Chess_has_staggering_effect_on_pupils_education/) and watch the video (www.thetelegraphandargus.co.uk/videoandpictures/videonews/37962/) Charles W Wood, Renaissance Academy Director

English Chess Federation

Grand Prix 2008/9

Sponsored by CCF MindGames Ltd

Leader Boards 16 September 2008

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

Junior Prix

1	Dines, Sheila J, Surrey Junior,	510
2	Jain, Akash, Pinner,	468
3	Jain, Radha, Pinner,	441
4	Haria, Ravi, Barnet Knights,	428
5	Shatis, Rohan, Coulsdon CF,	419
6	Lobo, Richard A, Petts Wood & Orpington, ...	411
7	Clarke, Brandon, Littlethorpe,	407
8	Andreev, Peter, Richmond Juniors,	383
9	Burke, Mitchell R, Three C's,	377
10	Clements, Thomas, Three C's,	371

Graded Prix (174-150)

1	Bryant, Richard BE, Oswestry,	537
2	Evans, Paul A, AXA Lytham,	367
3	Guo, Xi-Yang, Rotherham Junior,	250
4	Shepley, Julien M, Guildford,	236
5	Newton, Robert A, Morecambe,	215
6	Jowett, Peter E, Lytham ex-Servicemen,	187
7	Combie, Alex B, Newark & Southwell,	174
8	Bielby, Paul R, Jesmond,	170
9	Mulligan, Stephen, Penketh & Sankey,	161
10	Taylor, Robert K, Preston,	160

Graded Prix (149-125)

1	O'Gorman, Brendan, DHSS,	538
2	Clegg, Robert, Huddersfield,	483
3	Pride, Stephen C, Cambridge City,	439
4	Desmedt, Richard, Netherton,	376
5	Connor, Michael I, Great Lever,	319
6	Price, Andrew, Leamington,	225
7	Siddall, Dave, Penrith,	217
8	Taylor, Mark, Rochdale,	207
9	Mitchell, Stephen, Slough,	206
10	Nicolson, Jim R, Grtr Manchester CCA,	200

Graded Prix (124-100)

1	Allen, Timothy S, Battersea, 464	
2	Gartside, Carl, High Peak,	296
3	Walker, Roger W, Belper,	291
4	Rush, Steven J, Rhyl,	286
5	Jain, Dinesh, Pinner,	281
6	Lloyd, Stephen M, Chester,	276
7	Buckell, David J, Pendle,	269
8	Gilbert, David J, DHSS,	265
9	Ridgway, J Stuart, Greater Manchester *,	252
10	Szabo, Peter L, Metropolitan,	231

Graded Prix (U100)

1	Miles, Barry S, Middlesex CCA,	302
2	Horman, Paul A, Morecambe,	284
3	De Santos, Andrew R, Preston,	266
4	Jackson, Paul Robert, Lancaster,	261
5	Smith, Mark J, Scotland,	255
6	Dilworth, Joe W, English Electric,	245
7	Forbes, Douglas M, Gerrards Cross,	244
8	Stratford, Chris J, Huddersfield,	240
9	Billlett, Stephen J, Portsmouth,	220
10	Scorer, David M, Pendle,	212