

Chess Moves

ENGLISH CHESS FEDERATION | MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER | Sept 2013 EDITION

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Picture of Michael Adams by Ray Morris-Hill

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Brits Abroad - Recent English successes



Congratulations to **Sabrina Chevannes** who made her third and final WIM norm, took her rating over 2200, which means she has qualified for the WIM title, and made her first WGM norm in the US Masters --

http://www.ncchess.org/live/us_masters_rd_9_standings.html



Congratulations to **IM/WGM Jovanka Houska** on becoming the Commonwealth Ladies Champion. This event was held in South Africa as the Commonwealth and South African Open Chess Championships. For results --

<http://chess-results.com/tnr92675.aspx?art=1&rd=11&lan=1&turdet=YES&flag=30&wi=984>



Congratulations to **Nigel Short**, who won the Canadian Open in Ottawa, edging out Eric Hansen on tiebreak. The two grandmasters scored 7.5/9 and finished half a point ahead of a group of five players that included Ivan Sokolov and Lazaro Bruzon. The Canadian Open took place July 13th-20th, 2013 in the National Hotel and Suites in Ottawa, Canada. It was a 9-round Swiss played on eight days; rounds 2 and 3 were both played on Sunday the 14th. The time control was 90 minutes for the whole and 30 seconds increment per move [source - chessvibes].

Other English successes -

Jonathan Hawkins sharing first place in the Vienna Open with 7.5/9!

<http://chess-results.com/tnr89387.aspx?art=1&rd=9&lan=1&fedb=ENG&flag=30&wi=821>

Andrew Stone, equal first at the Faaker See Open in Austria

<http://chess-results.com/tnr79327.aspx?art=1&rd=9&lan=1&turdet=YES&flag=30&wi=984>

Early start for ECF Annual General Meeting

The Board has decided that in order to allow sufficient time for the business of the meeting to be completed, given the number of contested elections and resolutions, the AGM on 12 October will begin at 12.30 pm rather than the normal 1.30 pm.

For the information of members, the following resolutions have been duly proposed by requisitionists and will be included on the agenda.

1. Proposal by Sean Hewitt (Director) on the definition of “the requisitionists”.

That the requisitionists should be defined as:

(i) the Board

(ii) any three of a Trustee, a Representative Member of a Constituent Unit or a County, a Direct Members' Representative, the FIDE Delegate or the Chairman of a Standing Committee

(iii) any five Full Individual or Representative Members, as defined above in this Article;

(iv) any number of Full Individual or Representative members who collectively exercise sufficient voting power to convene an Extraordinary General Meeting.

2. Proposal by Sean Hewitt (Director)

That the board investigate the viability with a view to bringing proposals before Council in April 2014 to allow Directors to be elected directly by individual members of the Federation.

3. Proposal on cheating by the Southern Counties Chess Union and Chess in Schools and Communities

That Council notes the increasing problem of players cheating using electronic devices and instructs the Board to establish procedures for the imposition of sanctions in proven cases. Such sanctions shall include an automatic period of suspension from all events under ECF auspices

4. Proposal on County Championship rules by the Southern Counties Chess Union

That E2.3 of the County Championship rules be deleted, and E4.1 be amended to read:

Before the time fixed for the start of play the captains shall exchange team lists, with players arranged in descending order of known current playing strength. ECF grades shall not be taken as indicating the order of current playing strength. Any known defaults shall be placed on the lowest boards. The names of the players, their ECF membership numbers, their ECF grading reference numbers and their grades must be included on the Result Sheet.

5. Proposal on ECF membership by the Southern Counties Chess Union

That the Board's decision 17.3.2013 requiring ECF Membership of all players in events organised and graded by the ECF be RESCINDED in respect of school team competitions.

6. Proposal by Stewart Reuben (direct members' representative) and Jack Rudd (Director)

That a Manager of Senior Chess be introduced, and this Officer reports to the Director of International Chess.

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Erratum

In the last issue of Chess Moves, in the obituary of Ron Powis, Peter Gibbs was incorrectly referred to as 'P.E. Gibbs'. This should have read 'P.C. Gibbs.' We apologise to Peter for the error.



Adams triumphs in Dortmund

Any disappointment English chess fans may have felt at the absence of Mickey Adams from the 2013 British Championships was swept away by the news of the English No.1's stunning performance in this year's international tournament in Dortmund.

Year in, year out, Dortmund has tended to witness the steady progression of former world champion Vladimir Kramnik to yet another first place. Kramnik was the main challenge again in 2013, but this time he was unable to match Adams, who was in the form of his life. Unbeaten with five wins and four draws, Adams achieved a tournament performance rating of 2923 and, with it, one of the best results by an Englishman in chess history.

FINAL RESULTS:

1.	Adams	7 (out of 9)
2.	Kramnik	6½
3-4.	Leko; Naiditsch	4½
5-8.	Andreikin; Meier; Caruana; Wang Hao	4
9.	Khenkin	3½
10.	Fridman	3

As the scores show, the event was dominated by Adams and Kramnik; no one else exceeded the 50% mark. After six rounds, the two leaders were tied for first. Round 7 proved to be decisive, as Adams chalked up his fifth win to move to 6/7, while Kramnik succumbed to Andreikin in the only defeat to be suffered by either of the top two players.

So, how did Mickey do it? To answer this question, let us examine each of his games, round by round.

Round 1 gave little indication of what was to follow. Black against the eventual tail-ender, Adams pressed hard but to no avail. The opening phase was, frankly, rather dull (a Four Knights) and material was rapidly exchanged on a grand scale. Black was able to reach a pawn-up rook and pawn ending, but it never seemed to offer realistic winning prospects. The game was played to the bitter end, with stalemate on the 54th move.

Daniel Fridman (2629) - Michael Adams (2740) [C47]

41st GM Dortmund (1), 26.07.2013

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.d4 exd4 5.Nxd4 Bb4 6.Nxc6 bxc6 7.Bd3 0-0 8.0-0 d5 9.exd5 cxd5 10.h3 Rb8 11.Qf3 c6 12.Bf4 Bd6 13.b3 Rb4 14.Bxd6 Qxd6 15.Rfe1 Be6 16.Ne2 Re8 17.c3 Rb6 18.Ng3 Rbb8 19.Re2 Bd7 20.Rae1 Rxe2 21.Rxe2 g6 22.Nf1 a5 23.Qg3 Qxg3 24.Nxg3 a4 25.bxa4 Ra8 26.Bc2 c5 27.Nf1 Bxa4 28.Bxa4 Rxa4 29.Ne3 h5 30.f3 Ra3 31.Nd1 h4 32.Kf2 Kf8 33.Rb2 Nh5 34.Rd2 Nf4 35.Ne3 Rxc3 36.Nxd5 Nxd5 37.Rxd5 Rc2+ 38.Ke3 Rxa2 39.Rxc5 Rxc2 40.Rc4 g5 41.Rg4 Rg3 42.Kf2 Rxc4 43.fxg4 Ke7 44.Ke3 Kd6 45.Ke4 f6 46.Kf5 Ke7 47.Ke4 Ke6 48.Kd4 f5 49.gxf5+ Kxf5 50.Ke3 g4 51.hxg4+ Kxg4 52.Kf2 h3 53.Kg1 Kg3 54.Kh1 h2 ½-½

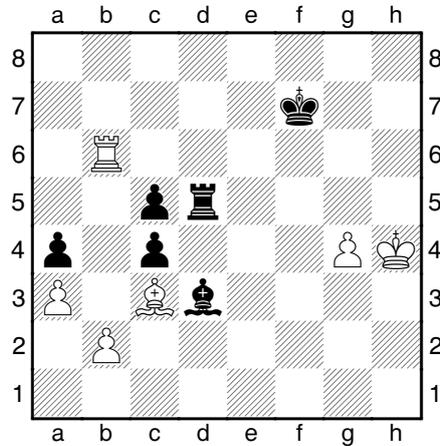
Round 2 saw a masterful technical display by Adams. In an ending with rook and opposite coloured bishops, he patiently manoeuvred in an effort to make something of his one advantage, a passed pawn on the kingside.

Adams - Dmitri Andreikin, (2727) [C67]

41st GM Dortmund (2), 27.07.2013

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.0-0 Nxe4 5.d4 Nd6 6.Bxc6 dxc6 7.dxe5 Nf5 8.Qxd8+ Kxd8 9.h3 Ke8 10.Nc3 h5 11.Bf4 Be7 12.Rad1 Nh4 13.Nxh4 Bxh4 14.Ne2 Bd7 15.Rfe1 Rd8 16.Nd4 Bc8

17.c3 Rd5 18.e6 Bf6 19.exf7+ Kxf7 20.Bxc7 g5 21.Nf3 Rxd1 22.Rxd1 Re8 23.Nd2 b5 24.f3 Bf5 25.Kf2 Re7 26.Bd8 Rd7 27.Bxf6! (The only move to maintain equality. It forces Black to find an equally accurate reply, as 27...Kxf6 leaves him worse after 28. Ne4+.) 27...Bc2 28.Rg1 Rxd2+ 29.Ke3 Rd5 30.Bh8 Kg8 31.c4 bxc4 32.Bc3 Kf7 33.Rc1 Bd3 34.h4 gxh4 35.Rh1 Rg5 36.Kf2 Rd5 37.Rxh4 Ke6 38.Rh2 a5 39.Kg3 a4 40.a3 Rg5+ 41.Kh4 Rd5 42.Rh1 Kf7 43.Re1 Bg6 44.Re3 Bd3 45.Be5 Kg6 46.Re1 Bc2 47.Bc3 Kf7 48.Re2 Bd3 49.Re3 Bg6 50.g4 c5 51.Re1 hxg4 52.fxg4 Bc2 53.Rf1+ Ke7 54.Rf4 Bd3 55.Bg7 Ke6 56.Rf6+ Ke7 57.Rb6 Kf7 58.Bc3



58...Bc2? (It seems astonishing that Black can lose this ending, but this turns out to be an error. 58...Ke7, intending to meet 59. g5 with 59...Rd6 would have been a tougher nut to crack.) 59.g5 Rd1 60.g6+ Ke7 61.g7 Rg1 62.Rb7+ Ke6 63.Rb8 Bh7 64.Kh3 Kd5 1-0 Black resigned before White could play 65. Rh8.

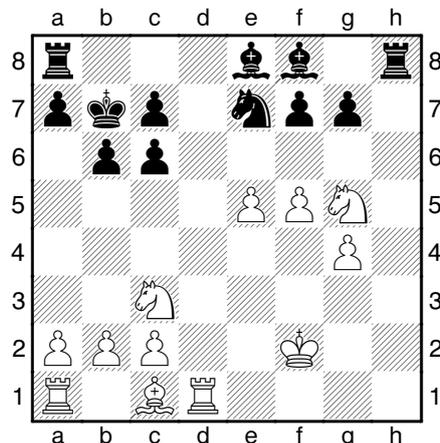
In Round 3, Adams produced a quite beautiful game. With Black against super-GM Fabiano Caruana, he found a superbly judged positional sacrifice on move 17 to unbalance the game. His opponent failed to cope with the changed nature of the position and was comprehensively outplayed.

Fabiano Caruana (2796) - Adams [C67]
41st GM Dortmund (3), 28.07.2013

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.0-0 Nxe4 5.d4 Nd6 6.Bxc6 dxc6 7.dxe5 Nf5 8.Qxd8+ Kxd8 9.h3 Bd7

Varying from Andreikin's 9...Ke8 in the previous round.

10.Rd1 Kc8 11.g4 Ne7 12.Ng5 Be8 13.f4 h5 14.Kf2 b6 15.f5 Kb7 16.Nc3 hxg4 17.hxg4



If we take stock of the position, it's clear that Caruana has more space thanks to his advanced king-side pawns. His knight on g5 looks very active, and he controls the d file. Two of his pieces are on

their original squares, but Black is no better off from this perspective.

For his part, Adams can boast control of the h file and a splendidly active rook on that side of the board. He sees an opportunity to use this advantage to win the undefended pawn on c2. Caruana has foreseen this and thinks that it is tactically flawed...

17...Rh2+! 18.Kg3 Rxc2 19.Nh7

Embarrassing Black's bishop on f8, which cannot move and cannot be defended. When playing 17...Rh2+, Adams realised that his pieces would be much more active than White's, judging that this would give him adequate compensation for the lost piece.

19...c5 20.Nxf8 Bc6

Black's pieces have sprung to life, while White has to deal with the problem of extricating his knight from f8 and completing his development.

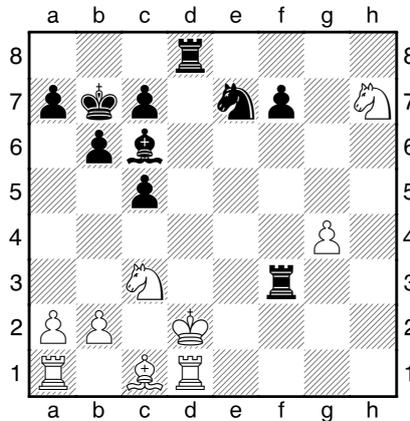
21.f6?!

21. Nd7 and 21.Bg5 were probably better, with dynamic equality in both cases.

21...Rg2+ 22.Kf4 gxf6 23.exf6 Rf2+ 24.Ke3

White is mated after 24.Kg5?? Rxf8 25.fxe7 Rg8+ 26.Kh4 Rg2.

24...Rxf6 25.Nh7 Rf3+ 26.Kd2 Rd8+



Completing his development with tempo. It is conspicuous that White's QB and QR are still stuck on their original squares. By contrast, Black's rooks are controlling whole swathes of the board.

27.Kc2 Rxc3+!

A neat way to simplify to an easily winning endgame.

28.bxc3 Ba4+ 29.Kb2 Rxd1 30.Bg5

Finally! Unfortunately for Caruana, he is already lost.

30...Nc6 31.Rxd1 Bxd1 32.Bf4 Bxg4 33.Nf6 Bf3 34.Ne8 Na5 35.Nxc7 Bc6 36.Kc2 Kc8 37.Kd3 Kd7 38.Kc2 Nc4 39.Na6 Bb7 40.Nb8+ Kc8 41.Kd3 b5 0-1

Few would have bet against a drawn result in the **Round 4** game between the ultra-solid Hungarian GM Peter Leko and Adams, so the outcome came as no surprise. In a Queen's Gambit, Exchange

Variation, Leko slowly built pressure on the queenside. Adams found counterplay on the opposite wing and sealed the draw with a pseudo-sacrifice on move 23, leading quickly to perpetual check.

Peter Leko (2737) - Adams [D36]
41st GM Dortmund (4), 29.07.2013

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Bg5 c6 6.Qc2 Be7 7.e3 Nbd7 8.Bd3 h6 9.Bh4 Nh5
10.Bxe7 Qxe7 11.Nge2 Nb6 12.0-0 0-0 13.Rab1 a5 14.Qb3 Qd8 15.Na4 Nxa4 16.Qxa4 Bg4
17.Nc3 Re8 18.Qc2 Qg5 19.Kh1 Nf6 20.a3 Qh5 21.b4 axb4 22.axb4 Bf3! 23.gxf3 Qxf3+ 24.Kg1
Qg4+ 25.Kh1 Qf3+ 26.Kg1 Qg4+ 27.Kh1 Qf3+ ½-½

Adams was back on the winning trail in **Round 5**. His opponent, Chinese GM Wang Hao, equalised comfortably before succumbing to something of a rush of blood to the head.

Adams - Wang Hao (2752) [A39]
41st GM Dortmund (5), 30.07.2013

1.c4 Nf6 2.g3 c5 3.Bg2 g6 4.Nc3 Bg7 5.Nf3 0-0 6.d4 cxd4 7.Nxd4 Nc6 8.0-0 Qa5 9.Nb3 Qh5
10.Nd5 d6 11.Nf4 Qe5 12.Re1 a5 13.a4 Be6 14.Nd2 Bf5 15.Nd5 Nxd5 16.cxd5 Nb4 17.e4

17.Nf3 is a valid alternative, since after 17...Qxd5? 18.Qxd5 Nxd5 19.e4 White is clearly better.

17...Bd7 18.Nc4 Qd4 19.Qxd4 Bxd4 20.Be3 Rfc8 21.Bf1 Rxc4 22.Bxc4 Bxb2?!

Black has played very solidly to this point and obtained an equal position. He could have continued in this vein with 22...Bxe3 23.Rxe3 Nc2, when he regains the exchange with full equality.

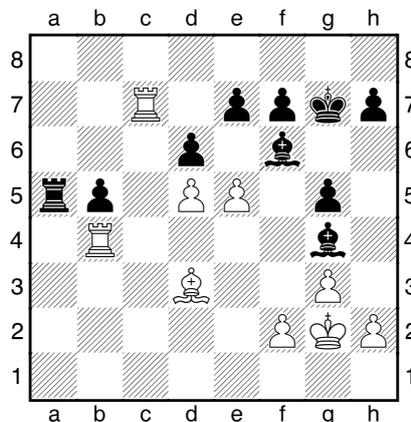
23.Rab1 Bf6 24.Rec1 Bxa4 25.Bb6!

The only move to maintain the advantage. The a-pawn is going to drop, leaving Black with just the one pawn for the exchange and an uphill struggle to survive.

25...Bd7 26.Bxa5 Rxa5 27.Rxb4 b5 28.Bd3 Kg7 29.Kg2 g5 30.Rc7 Bg4?

A blunder in a lost position. Something like 30...Ra3 had to be tried.

31.e5!



The e-pawn uncovers an attack on the g4 bishop while itself attacking the other bishop on f6. Black resigned. (1-0)

It is a sign of top form to beat a 2700+ GM (and a former winner at Dortmund) with the black pieces in just 26 moves, especially from such a solid opening as the Orthodox Queen's Gambit Declined. **Round 6** witnessed Adams achieve precisely this.

Arkady Naiditsch (2710) - Adams [D53]
41st GM Dortmund (6), 01.08.2013

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Bg5 Be7 5.Nf3 Nbd7 6.e3 h6 7.Bh4 0-0 8.Bd3 dxc4 9.Bxc4 a6
10.a4 c5 11.0-0 cxd4 12.exd4 Nb6 13.Bd3 Nbd5 14.Ne5 Nb4 15.Bb1 Bd7 16.Ra3

Intending to swing the rook across to the kingside. Over the next few moves, Naiditsch manages to point all of his pieces at Black's king, but Adams correctly judges that there is no real danger and calmly rounds up White's central pawn.

16...Bc6 17.Ne2 Nd7 18.Bxe7 Qxe7 19.Rg3 Rfd8 20.Qc1 Kf8 21.Bh7?!

A strange-looking move, which does not turn out well for White. 21.Nf4 looks a more natural way to build, after which White has whatever edge there may be in the position.

21...Nf6 22.Nf4 Be8

22...Nhx7?? 23.Neg6+ fxxg6 24.Nxg6+ loses horribly for Black, of course, but was this really all that Naiditsch was playing for with 21.Bh7?

23.Rf3?

White seems to be focused only on his attack and neglects his d-pawn. With his next move, Adams threatens the pawn for a second time.

23...Nc6 24.Rd1?!

24.Bb1 or 24.Nxc6 had to be tried, but both moves leave White a pawn down for inadequate compensation.

24...Rxd4 25.Rxd4 Nxd4 26.Rd3 Nc6

The dust has settled and White discovers to his embarrassment that his h7 bishop has no retreat squares.

White resigned. (0-1)

With three rounds to go, Kramnik and Adams were tied for first with 5/6, two points ahead of the field. The battle for first prize was clearly going to be between these two, and people were already looking ahead to the final round, when the leaders were scheduled to meet.

In the event, **Round 7** proved to be the critical moment. Adams proceeded serenely to another impressive win in just 31 moves from the white side of a Classical Caro-Kann.

Adams - Igor Khenkin (2605) [B19]
41st GM Dortmund (7), 02.08.2013

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bf5 5.Ng3 Bg6 6.h4 h6 7.Nf3 Nf6 8.Ne5 Bh7 9.Bd3 Nbd7
10.Bxh7 Nxe5 11.dxe5 Qa5+ 12.Kf1 Nxh7 13.e6 Qd5 14.exf7+ Qxf7 15.Ne4 Nf6 16.Nxf6+ Qxf6
17.Rh3 e6?!

Black understandably wants to free his bishop, but this may be an inaccuracy. 17...Rd8 18.Qe2 e5, with 19...Bd6 to follow, looks a little better, although White's position is still marginally preferable.

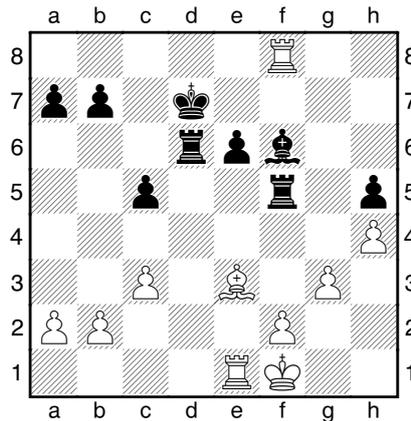
18.Be3 Be7 19.Bd4 Qg6?! [19...Qf7] 20.Rg3 Qf5 21.Rxg7 Rf8?!

21...0-0-0 22.Rxe7 Qb5+ 23.Kg1 Qb4 was a better try, although White would still be clearly better. Now, Black is losing.

22.Qg4 Rd8 23.Re1 Rd6 24.c3 h5 25.Qg6+ Kd8 26.Qxf5

26.Qg3 may have been better. Adams seems to drift a little over the next few moves.

26...Rxf5 27.Rg8+ Kd7 28.g3 c5 29.Be3 Bf6 30.Rf8 [30.Rb8!]



30...a6?

30...Ke7! looks a better try, one possible continuation being 31.Ra8! a6 32.Rc8 b6 33.Ra8 a5 34.Ra7+ Rd7 35.Rxd7+ Kxd7 36.a4.

31.Rf7+

If 31...Kc8, 32.Bxc5 Rxc5 33.Rxf6 leaves White a clear two pawns up. If 31...Kc6, 32.Bf4 forces Black to sacrifice with 32...Rxf4 33.gxf4 Bxh4 34.Re5, when the result is not in doubt. Black resigned. (1-0)

While this was going on, Vladimir Kramnik was doing that rarest of things for him in Dortmund... losing.

Andreikin - Kramnik [D30]

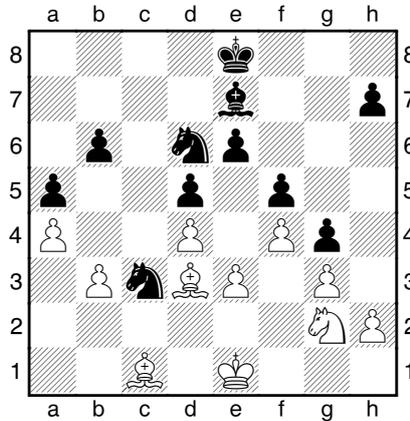
41st GM Dortmund (7), 02.08.2013

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Bg5 h6 5.Bxf6 Qxf6 6.Nbd2 g6 7.Qb3 dxc4 8.Qxc4 Qe7 9.Rc1 c6 10.e4 Bg7 11.e5 0-0 12.Bd3 b6 13.0-0 Rd8 14.Qb3 Bb7 15.Be4 Rd7 16.Rfd1 c5 17.dxc5 bxc5 18.Qa4 Rd8 19.Nb3 Na6 20.Rd6 Bxe4 21.Qxe4 Rxd6 22.exd6 Qf8 23.Qb7 Nb4 24.d7 Nd3 25.Rd1 c4 26.Na5 Rd8 27.Nc6 Qc5 28.Nxd8 Qxf2+ 29.Kh1 Bd4 30.h3 Qe3 31.Nxf7 Bb6 32.N7e5 Nf2+ 33.Kh2 Nxd1 1-0

In Round 8, Adams consolidated with a draw against Meier in a game in which the Englishman had what pressure there was until the 36th move, when 36...Nde4 may have been better than the move played.

Georg Meier (2610) - Adams [E00]
41st GM Dortmund (8), 03.08.2013

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.Nf3 Bb4+ 5.Bd2 Be7 6.Bg2 c6 7.O-O Nbd7 8.Qc2 b6 9.Bf4 Bb7
10.Rd1 O-O 11.Ne5 Nh5 12.Bd2 Nhf6 13.cxd5 cxd5 14.Nc6 Bxc6 15.Qxc6 Rc8 16.Qb5 Ne8
17.Qa4 Nd6 18.Na3 Nf6 19.Rac1 Qd7 20.Qxd7 Nxd7 21.Bf1 a6 22.e3 Nb8 23.f3 f5 24.Rc2 Rxc2
25.Nxc2 Rc8 26.Ne1 a5 27.Kf2 g5 28.Bd3 Nd7 29.Ng2 Nf6 30.Ke2 Kf7 31.Rc1 Rxc1 32.Bxc1 g4
33.f4 Nfe4 34.a4 Ke8 35.b3 Nc3+ 36.Ke1



36...Nce4?! 37.Ke2 Nc3+ 38.Ke1 Nce4 39.Ke2 Nc3+ ½-½

Kramnik beat Caruana to keep up the pressure on Adams, who needed “just” a draw against the former world champion in the final round.

What ensued in **Round 9** was unexpected, albeit excellent from an English perspective. Kramnik opted for the 2...g6 (Hyper-accelerated Dragon) variation of the Sicilian before acquiescing to a repetition of moves starting at move 10:

Adams - Vladimir Kramnik (2784) [B27]
41st GM Dortmund GER (9), 04.08.2013

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 g6 3.c3 Nf6 4.e5 Nd5 5.d4 cxd4 6.cxd4 Bg7 7.Qb3 Nb6 8.a4 d6 9.a5 Be6 10.Qb5+ Bd7
11.Qb3 Be6 12.Qb5+ Bd7 13.Qb3 Be6 14.Qb5+ Bd7 ½-½

This was a puzzling note on which to end what had been an enthralling tussle between the two players over the duration of the tournament, and objectively it would have been good to see a full-blooded battle in the final round in which Kramnik would have fought to the last pawn to gain the win he needed to tie for first.

However, it was not to be and it scarcely diminishes the scale of Michael Adams’ fantastic achievement, in what may well have been the tournament of his life.

At a time when we have a world champion at the ripe old age of 43 (and a challenger in Boris Gelfand who was eighteen months his senior), how wonderful for all of us on the “wrong” side of forty to see 41-year-old Adams on form like this. Long may it continue.

- Andrew Farthing



David Howell - British Champion again

The 95th British Championship, which took place at the Riviera Centre in Torquay, as part of the 100th annual congress of the BCF/ECF was won in quietly emphatic style by GM David Howell. It was Howell's second title, the first being in 2009, on the previous occasion when the British was held in Torquay. At the prize-giving ceremony, he dedicated his victory to his late father, Martin, who died just months before the event.

Under the circumstances, it cannot have been easy for Howell to play at Torquay, let alone play well. The champion's score of 9½ points gave him an impressive margin of 1½ points over his nearest rivals, Mark Hebden, Stephen Gordon and defending champion Gawain Jones. Rising star Yang-Fan Zhou continued his impressive run of results with 7½ points, making him one of six players tied in 5th place.

Howell's margin of victory meant that there was less of a close battle at the top of the table than spectators would have liked. Indeed, the champion was assured of unshared first place before the final round. Appropriately, perhaps, his "lap of honour" proved to be against his immediate predecessor, Gawain Jones, and ended in a draw after a long struggle:

David Howell (2639) - Gawain Jones (2643) [A37]

British Championship, Torquay 2013 (round 11)

1.c4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 e5 4.g3 g6 5.Bg2 Bg7 6.0-0 Nge7 7.a3 0-0 8.Rb1 a5 9.Ne1 d6 10.Nc2 Be6 11.Ne3 Rb8 12.d3 Nd4 13.Ned5 Nxd5 14.cxd5 Bd7 15.a4 b5 16.e3 b4 17.Ne4 Nf5 18.b3 Bc8 19.Nd2 Ba6 20.Qc2 Nh6 21.Bb2 f5 22.Rbe1 Ng4 23.Nc4 Qc7 24.f3 Nf6 25.e4 Nh5 26.Bh3 f4 27.Qg2 Kh8 28.Re2 Bxc4 29.dxc4 Qe7 30.Bg4 Nf6 31.Be6 Bh6 32.Kf2 Nh5 33.Bg4 Nf6 34.Be6 Nh5 35.Ke1 Bg5 36.Kd1 Ng7 37.Bg4 Rf7 38.Kc2 Kg8 39.Rh1 Kf8 40.Kb1 Qf6 41.h4 Bh6 42.Bc1 Ke7 43.h5 Bg5 44.hxg6 ½-½

Jones himself must have been disappointed in his tournament. After a win in the first round, he became bogged down in a run of draws against players he would normally expect to beat (i.e. 300-400 rating points below him). By the time he began winning again, in round 5, he had already conceded too much ground to have a realistic chance of successfully defending his title.

For Jones, the British was doubling as a warm-up for the FIDE World Cup in Tromsø immediately after the championship. One side-effect of his slow start was that he was not drawn against a fellow grandmaster until his encounter with Howell in the last round - hardly the tough preparation he would have been hoping for.

Your correspondent was present for the last three rounds, by which stage the struggle for first place had been largely decided. Watching the games nevertheless proved a fascinating experience: there is nothing quite like seeing a game unfold live for conveying the reality of the first-class game. I found myself continually surprised by the ability of the top players to create pressure in positions which I in my ignorance would have given up as dead drawn.

The rounds started at 2 p.m. each day, but Howell-watchers were well advised not to bother too much about the early stages. For a start, Howell is one of several players whose habit appears to be to arrive five or ten minutes late for the game (to the frustration of the photographers, who only had a limited period in which they were allowed to take their pictures). More seriously, David Howell is a s-l-o-w player - ideal for dramatic time scrambles a few hours into the playing session, but hard work for spectators in the early stages.

The *longueurs* of the first couple of hours provided the perfect excuse to visit the commentary room, where Andrew Martin and Ravi Kumar were putting on their entertaining double act. Andrew at least had the option of switching between various different games, although even then he would occasion-

ally express disbelief at how some players could take so long over standard opening moves.

One game which seemed to impress in the commentary room was the following nice win by Jonathan Hawkins over Charlie Storey. It featured Storey's trademark 'Sniper' opening, which has been appearing with increasing frequency on the weekend circuit. Players of the white pieces might wish to study carefully how Hawkins tackled this game:

Jonathan Hawkins (2517) - Charles Storey (2214) [B06]

British Championship, Torquay 2013 (round 9)

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 c5 4.dxc5 Bxc3+ 5.bxc3 (Standard in this line. Black gives up the bishop pair and a pawn in exchange for landing White with tripled isolated pawns.) 5...Qa5 6.Qd4 Nf6 7.Qb4 Nc6 8.Qxa5 Nxa5 9.Bd3 b6 10.Ba3 Bb7 11.f3 bxc5 12.Bxc5 d6 13.Be3 (Black's compensation is already starting to look rather nebulous.) 13...0-0 14.Ne2 Rfc8 15.Rb1 Bc6 16.0-0 e5?! (It's hard to believe that Black can get away with this, and nothing in what follows suggests that he is anything other than lost in this position.) 17.Ba6 Rc7 18.c4 Ba4 19.c5 dxc5 20.Nc3 Bc6 (20...Bxc2?! 21.Rbc1 does not help.) 21.Rfd1 Nd7 22.Nd5 Bxd5 23.exd5 Nb6 24.d6! (Stopping this pawn is going to cost Black the exchange. It's all over.) 24...Rd7 25.Bb5 Rc8 26.Bxd7 Nxd7 27.Rb5 Nc4 28.Kf2 Ncb6 29.a4 Nxa4 30.Rb7 Nab6 31.Rxa7 Kf8 32.Rc7 Ke8 33.Ra1 Kd8 34.Rxc8+ Nxc8 35.Ra8 Ndb6 36.Ra6 Kd7 37.Bxc5 Nc4 38.Ke2 f5 39.Kd3 N4xd6 40.Bxd6 Nxd6 41.Ra7+ Ke6 42.Rxh7 e4+ 43.fxe4 fxe4+ 44.Kd4 Kf5 45.Kd5 Ne8 46.Rf7+ Kg4 47.Rf8 1-0

Here are two examples of the new champion's play, from the early rounds. In both cases, the opponents seem to be doing fine, but Howell plays sensibly and patiently, before ruthlessly punishing the mistakes when they come:

David Howell - Jack Rudd (2280) [A40]

British Championship, Torquay 2013 (round 2)

1.d4 e6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 exd5 4.cxd5 d6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Nf3 Bg7 7.Bf4 Ne7 8.e3 0-0 9.Be2 h6 10.h3 a6 11.a4 g5 12.Bh2 f5 13.Nd2 Ng6 14.Qc2 Ne5 15.Bxe5 Bxe5 16.Nc4 Nd7 17.a5 Qe7 18.0-0 Bg7 19.Rae1 Rb8 20.Na4 Ne5 21.f4 Nxc4 22.Bxc4 b5 23.axb6 g4 24.Nxc5 Rxb6 25.b3 gxh3 26.g3 Qc7 27.Ne6 Bxe6 28.dxe6 d5 29.e7 Qxe7 30.Bxd5+ Kh8 31.Kh2 h5 32.Qe2 h4 33.Rg1 Rd8 34.Bc4 Rbd6 35.Qf3 hxg3+ 36.Rxg3 Rd2+ 37.Kh1 R8d6 38.Qa8+ Bf8 39.Rg8+ 1-0

Chris Ward (2432) - David Howell [E32]

British Championship, Torquay 2013 (round 3)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 0-0 5.e4 d6 6.e5 dxe5 7.dxe5 Ng4 8.a3 Bxc3+ 9.Qxc3 Nc6 10.Nf3 f6 11.exf6 Nxf6 12.Be3 e5 13.Rd1 Qe8 14.Be2 Bg4 15.h3 Bxf3 16.Bxf3 Nd4 17.Rxd4 exd4 18.Qxd4 c6 19.0-0 Qe7 20.b4 Rfd8 21.Qc5 Qxc5 22.Bxc5 Rd3 23.b5 Nd7 24.Bb4 a5 25.bxa6 Rxa6 26.c5 Rdx3 27.Be2 R3a4 28.Bc3 Ra8 29.Rd1 Nxc5 0-1

*

The title of British Women's Champion was shared between Sarah Hegarty and Akshaya Kalaiyalahan, both of whom scored 5½ points. 2012 Champion Jovanka Houska, now resident in Norway, did not defend her title, having focused on winning the Commonwealth Championship shortly before Torquay began.

*

As always, the fortnight featured a festival of chess events, details of which can be found on the British Championship website. The 1190 entries were a new record for the event and helped to make it a tremendous success.

None of this happened, of course, without the dedicated efforts of Lara Barnes and her team of arbiters and special event organisers, the webmaster and the staff of the ECF office (not to forget the operator of surely the longest book stall in chess history!). To these people and everyone else who helped make Torquay 2013 such a pleasurable experience, a huge thank you!

- Andrew Farthing

GM Keith Arkell annotates ...

Peter Wells (2479) - Keith Arkell (2444) [E42]
British Championship, Torquay 2013 (7), 03.08.2013



Here is my round 7 game against GM Peter Wells. My favourite game from the Championship was the double R+P ending I won against the talented IM Daniel Fernandez from the previous round, but I'll stick with the Wells game as it won the 'Best Game Prize', and is more the sort of game chess audiences prefer.

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. e3 c5

Peter has a deep understanding of chess and is theoretically very strong. These are some of the reasons why such players as Mickey Adams and Luke McShane have found him to be an excellent second. From a practical point of view, however, he often damages his prospects when a lack of confidence leads to his using up too much time on the clock. I'm not really one for opening theory or preparation, and so, with Black versus Wells, I always consider it a major triumph when I escape from the opening with a playable position. I don't like to use engines when I annotate games, and so will again simply try to recall my thoughts at the time. Here, my only concern was that he would most likely have something nasty ready for 4...b6, which I have often played here.

5. Nge2 cxd4 6. exd4 d5 7. c5 Ne4

Even at this early stage I was making it up as I went along. It isn't difficult to decide that this is the best move though.

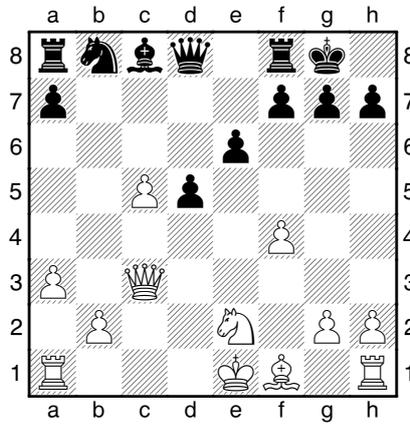
8. Bd2 Nxd2 9. Qxd2 b6

Without my head being cluttered full of opening variations, again this felt like the best move. Around here I was dimly aware of a Korchnoi - Karpov game in which Black played ...a5 and responded to a3 with the capture on c3 followed by ...a4 fixing the pawn on b2. However, I had no idea whether it was exactly in this position.

10. a3 Bxc3 11. Qxc3 bxc5 12. dxc5

I think he is committed to this unbalancing move by now, as taking with the Queen leads to a good game for Black after...12...Ba6.

12...0-0 13. f4?!

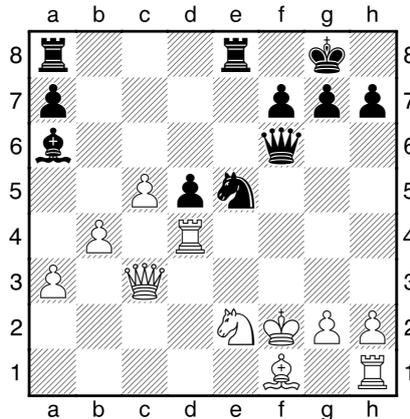


Peter played this after a very long think. On arriving back at the board my first impression was that it didn't look right, almost a panic reaction to my threats of expanding in the centre. I had expected 13. b4 or perhaps 13. Ng3 to get his pieces out. In any case, I thought I had fairly good prospects whatever he played.

13...Nc6 14. b4 Ba6 15. Rd1 e5!

On playing this move I was already confident that White would have a difficult defensive task ahead.

16. fxe5 Re8 17. Kf2 Nxe5 18. Rd4 Qf6+



For the first time in the game I began calculating many different variations. It quickly became clear to me that his reply was forced, after which I would be able to choose between a number of promising Queen moves.

19. Rf4

It wasn't difficult to see that 19. Kg3 and 19. Kg1 lose to 19...Bxe2 followed by 20...Nc6, while both 19. Ke1 and 19. Nf4 get overwhelmed by 19...Ng4.

19...Qe7

I first examined 19...Qh6, which I decided forced him to put the Rook back on d4, but then couldn't see anything better than repeating with 20...Qf6+. I had no intention in giving away all of my advantage with 19...Nd3+ 20. Qxd3 Bxd3?? (20...Rxe2+ keeping the attack going is stronger) 21. Rxf6 gxf6 when White has great compensation for the exchange after 22. Nc3 or Nd4. My move makes it very awkward for White to deal with the threat of 20...Nd3+, for example 20. Nd4 succumbs to 20...Nd3+ 21. Bxd3 Qe3 #.

20. Kg1

This seemed to me to be his only move, and I saw that I would at least be able to pick off a pawn while continuing with the initiative.

20...Nd3 21. Rf3 Nxc5 22. bxc5

I had visions of entering my 4th consecutive R+P ending if he had instead played 22. Qxc5 Qxc5 23. bxc5 Bxe2, followed by the exchange of Bishops when I'll have an extra pawn and the initiative. This may in any case have been his best chance of surviving, and certainly the game continuation gives White no hope whatsoever.

22...Bxe2 23. Rg3 g6 24. Kf2 Bc4 25. Bxc4 Qxc5+ White Resigns (0-1)

Editor's note: For those who share Keith's taste for rook and pawn endings, here are the moves of his excellent Round 6 win against Daniel Fernandez, mentioned in the introduction to the above game.

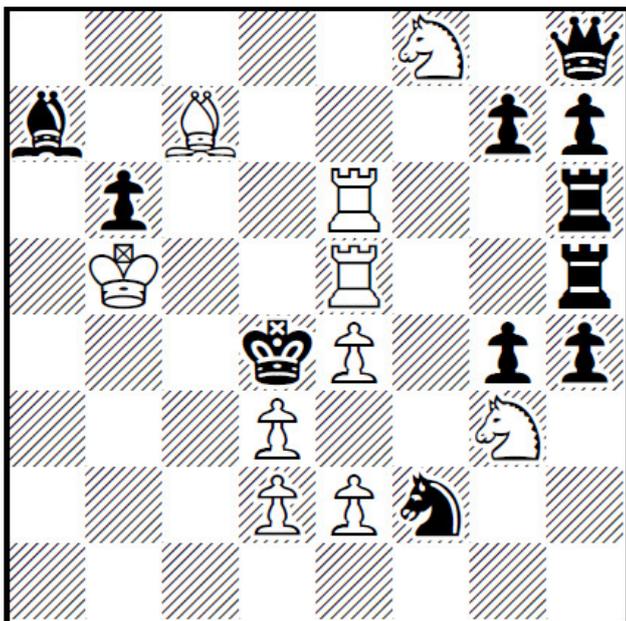
Keith Arkell - Daniel Fernandez (2346) [E60]

British Championship, Torquay 2013 (6), 03.08.2013

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.c4 Bg7 4.Nc3 0-0 5.g3 d5 6.cxd5 Nxd5 7.Bg2 Nb6 8.0-0 Nc6 9.e3 Re8 10.b3 e5 11.Nxe5 Nxe5 12.dxe5 Bxe5 13.Bb2 c6 14.Qc2 Qe7 15.Rfe1 a5 16.f4 Bg7 17.Ne4 Bf5 18.Bxg7 Bxe4 19.Qb2 Bxg2 20.Kxg2 Nd7 21.Bd4 Nc5 22.Qc2 Qe4+ 23.Qxe4 Nxe4 24.Rac1 Rad8 25.Rc2 Rd5 26.Rec1 c5 27.Bxc5 Nxc5 28.Rxc5 Rd2+ 29.Kf3 Rxa2 30.Rc7 b5 31.Rb7 b4 32.Rcc7 Rf8 33.Rc5 Re8 34.e4 Ra3 35.Kg4 Rxb3 36.Rxa5 Re3 37.e5 Re4 38.Kf3 Re1 39.Raa7 Rf8 40.Rxb4 h5 41.Rbb7 g5 42.h3 Kg7 43.Re7 gxf4 44.gxf4 Kg8 45.Kf2 Re4 46.Kg3 Re3+ 47.Kh4 Rf3 48.Kg5 Rg3+ 49.Kf5 Rxh3 50.Kf6 Rf3 51.f5 Rf1 52.Ra2 Rg1 53.Rh2 Rg7 54.Rxh5 Ra8 55.Rd7 Rf8 56.Rg5 Rxg5 57.Kxg5 f6+ 58.Kg6 fxe5 59.f6 Ra8 60.Rg7+ Kf8 61.Rh7 1-0



BATSFORD Chess Competition



Well done to the July/August winner -

Roland Kensdale from Aberdeen

The correct answer was - 1.Nc1

Here's the next problem ...

Thomas R Dawson

London Opinion, 1909

White to play and mate in 2 --

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

Great British Champions (3) - Tony Miles

In the third of an ongoing series, Chess Moves looks back at the career of one of the greatest English players in chess history, yet one who was curiously unsuccessful when it came to the British Championships.



The Best Tournament Report Ever Written?

The Dutch-produced (but English language) *New in Chess* is probably the best chess magazine in the world. Back in the mid-1980s, when it was still a newcomer on the scene and trying to build its readership, it used to offer a free sample copy in advertisements in other chess magazines. It was to one of these that I responded in 1986. Whether by chance or through the workings of a canny marketing brain, what landed on my doormat was the November 1985 issue, with a large colour picture of English grandmaster Tony Miles on the front cover.

Appropriately for a chess publication, the magazine consisted of 64 pages, of which almost half (pages 6 to 36 inclusive) were devoted to a single article by Tony Miles, called “The Impossible Challenge”. In it, Miles told the story of his extraordinary victory in the 1985 Tilburg super-tournament, half of which he was forced to play while lying on a massage table due to severe back problems.

The article (reproduced in an abridged version in Geoff Lawton’s book, *Tony Miles: ‘It’s Only Me’*, published by Batsford in 2003) was not your typical tournament report. In fact, Miles began the article with the words, *“I rarely write tournament reports. I don’t find them interesting. Also I find it difficult to annotate other players’ games to my satisfaction. So whatever this is, it is certainly not a tournament report. It is more a personal diary of what started off for me as a chess tournament and developed into one of the most traumatic months of my life.”*

Miles proceeded to tell the story of his tournament in great detail, in a way which was both funny and utterly gripping. I’ve been reading *New in Chess* ever since, and it remains in my opinion one of the best pieces they have ever published. As an advertisement for their product, the editors could hardly have done better.

Why was it so good? To my mind, the answer is simple: It successfully conveyed the character of one of the great personalities of late 20th century chess, writing about an event which tested his fighting qualities to the limit. The very writing of the article reflected the pugnacious spirit of its author, who felt stung by suggestions that his unique situation - playing chess from a prone position on a massage table - was a tactic to distract his opponents and that his back trouble was not as bad as he had made out.

The Fighter

For an introduction to Tony Miles, what better way than to quote the man himself (from the Tilburg 1985 article), describing the opening ceremony with trademark humour:

“The drawing of lots was presided over, in the absence of any ‘grandmaster of honour’ - or horror - by Alexander Münninhof. He introduced the players, giving me the sort of build up usually reserved for poor quality boxing promotions: ‘...the streetfighter, the reigning Interpolis champion, the beast of Birmingham (Good God, I’ve never heard that one before)...Tony Miles.’ Resisting the temptation to bite his leg I drew a number Two.”

For much of his career, Miles lived with the label, the “street-fighter”. It was a term he once used to describe himself, reflecting his development through the tough school of weekend Swisses, although he came to prefer simply “fighter” as a description of his approach to the game.

Born on St George’s Day in 1955, Tony Miles learned the moves at the age of five, played for a year before getting “bored”, only to start again at school when he was nine. His first major victory was in an international tournament in Birmingham in 1973, where he scored an International Master norm. The following year saw Miles winning the World Junior Championship - needless to say, the first time a Briton had won the event - and in 1975 he chalked up the first of the norms needed for the Grandmaster title.

The significance of this last achievement was increased by the incentive announced at the 1972/73 Hastings tournament by financier Jim Slater, who offered £5,000 to the first British player to become a grandmaster. Geoff Lawton states in his book on Miles that this was the equivalent of “something approaching £100,000 today”. This is exaggerated - the true figure would be nearer £50,000 - but it was still a huge carrot for the aspiring players of the time.

Miles won the race to the title in February 1976, when he scored 9/15 in a strong tournament in Dubna in the (then) Soviet Union. It speaks volumes for the way modern chess has changed that at the age of 19 Miles was the world’s youngest grandmaster (this was still the case when he was 20) - an unthinkably venerable age in this era of database-fed child stars.

It is beyond the scope of this article to give more than the briefest flavour of Miles’s career as a whole. For the decade following his obtaining the GM title, he flew the flag for the ‘English chess explosion’ with a string of tournament victories, most notably at the first Phillips & Drew event at London in 1980, the televised tournament in Bath 1983 (where he beat Karpov in the final), Tilburg in 1984 (his best performance - a record-equalling 8/11 against top-class opposition) and, as already mentioned, again at Tilburg in 1985.

Throughout his career, Miles simply loved to play chess. For example, in 1984, he played an astonishing 159 competitive games, ranging from the afore-mentioned triumph in Tilburg, through an Olympiad (at which England won the silver medals) to weekend tournaments back in the UK.

A 5½-½ thrashing at the hands of a ruthless and determined Garry Kasparov in 1986 is often seen as a turning-point for Miles, and it is true that he was never quite the force after this defeat that he had been before. The following year, he lost his spot as England’s number 1 to Nigel Short, who had already achieved something which eluded Miles by qualifying for the world championship Candidates.

According to my database, Miles achieved his peak rating, 2635, at the age of 40 in January 1996. This is misleading, and a symptom of ratings inflation; clearly, he had been at his peak over a decade before.

British Champion... once

Looking back over the chess magazines of the time, there can be no doubt that Tony Miles was considered the best player in England for most of the decade from 1976. There were rivals for the honour, of course, such as Nunn, Speelman and the much younger Short, but Miles's status as number one was accepted by most.

Given this, it may come as a surprise that Miles only once won the title of British Champion (in 1982). In fact, taking into account his evident strength, his record bordered on the dismal, particularly after he gained the GM title.

To begin with, Miles seemed to be building slowly but steadily towards the title, just as he was approaching the number one spot:

- **1972** - Scored a creditable 5½/11 (16th equal) on his debut at the age of seventeen.
- **1973** - Equal 4th with 7/11. Basman and Hartston tied for first.
- **1975** - 7/11 again, good enough this time for equal 2nd behind Hartston. By this point, expectations were rising, and Chess noted with disappointment that Miles "never really got going."

The following year, everything seemed set for a straightforward Miles victory. He was the nation's newly anointed first grandmaster and overwhelming favourite. To make matters even simpler, the 1976 British Championship was relatively weak. Inflation had eroded the value of the prize fund, and few of the top names were attracted to Portsmouth to play for the title. Among the missing names were Hartston, Keene, Penrose, Lee, Nunn, Littlewood, Basman and Stean. What happened was a genuine shock.

Miles started well with 100% from the first three rounds, matched only by Jonathan Mestel (himself a grandmaster-to-be). They met in round 4, and Miles looked the likely winner when he found himself rook for knight and pawn ahead. Mestel hung on, and Miles struggled to find a promising plan. In the end, Miles blundered and lost, and Mestel went on to win the next five games as well, drew in round 10 before finally losing in the final round. Mestel's winning 9½ points was a record-equalling score. Miles went on to lose two further games and could do no better than 6½ points and a share of 7th(!) place.

B.H. Wood commented in Chess as follows:

"The manner of Miles's defeat [against Mestel in round 4] recalled his debacle at Keene's hands at Hastings last Christmas. He seems more dangerous to foreigners than his country men. Also the British Championship has a flavour of its own difficult to describe. Play is more fearless with more enterprise and innovation in the opening and maybe more psychological and analytical study of the opposition than in many international tournaments; and of course the Swiss system has an inescapable tinge of the lottery."

Here is the fateful game against Mestel:

Jonathan Mestel (2390) - Tony Miles (2510) [C77]
British Championship, Portsmouth (round 4), 1976

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.Qe2 b5 6.Bb3 d6 7.a4 Rb8 8.axb5 axb5 9.Nc3 Be7
10.Nxb5 0-0 11.Na7? (Simply 11.0-0 looks better, when White seems to be doing well.) 11...Ra8
12.Nxc6 Rxa1 13.0-0 Qe8 14.Nb4 Be6 15.Bxe6 fxe6 16.c3 Ra4 17.b3 Ra8 18.Nc2 Qc6?!
(18...Qg6 would have retained Black's advantage.) 19.Ng5 Qd7 20.d4 h6 21.Nf3 exd4 22.Ncxd4 c5
23.Nb5 Ne8 (Black is clearly making no progress, and his advantage has almost vanished.) 24.Rd1
Nc7 25.Nxc7 Qxc7 26.Qc4 Qc8 27.Be3 Kh8 28.h3 e5 29.Nd2 Qa6 30.Qe6 Qe2 31.Rf1 Bg5
32.Bxg5 hxg5 33.Nf3 Rf6 34.Qg4 Raf8? 34...Rf4! was the right move. 35.Nxe5! (Now it is Mestel
who has the advantage.) 35...Qxg4 36.Nxg4 R6f7 37.e5 d5 38.Rd1 Rd8 39.e6 Rb7 40.Ne5 Re8??
(40...Kg8 had to be played.) 41.Nf7+ Kg8 42.Nd6 1-0

This experience cannot have endeared the British Championship to Miles, and he was an infrequent participant in the years that followed.

He was a late entry in 1979, when the championship was held in Chester. It was said at the time that most people only became aware that Miles was participating when they arrived on the opening day (this was the pre-internet age, remember!). Miles later stated (in an interview with Stephen Gordon in 1980) that he felt a sense of obligation, because there had been an appeal to raise funds for Miles's second in the 1979 Interzonal tournament: "*So I felt I should make an appearance, sort of show my face, a little show of appreciation.*"

It was not a success. Miles scored 7½ points, which was only good enough for fourth place. A conspicuous element in this performance was a loss in round 8 to 14-year-old Nigel Short, one of a string of poor results against his young rival during this period.

In the 1980 interview with Stephen Gordon mentioned above, Miles attempts to analyse the reasons for his underperformance at the British Championship:

Miles: I think I am generally accepted as English number one and staying there unless Short maybe improves a bit in ten years.

Gordon: But, you have had troubles at the British Championship.

Miles: Yes, I told you, the thing playing close to home, it's the complex, I play badly. Also the thing about the British is I don't want to win it, I want to smash it flat. I want to score 11-0 there and I play for that. And that's why I don't win. I think if I just played to win it, I'd win it. But, what do I prove if I win that?

The question posed by Miles at the end of this extract is a revealing one. Tony Miles was a chess professional to his core. Whilst his enjoyment of the game was not in doubt, he played chess to make a living, and he considered it only natural to focus on events which would serve this goal. As his country's acknowledged number one, he had little to gain in reputational terms by winning the British (he was already obtaining plenty of opportunities overseas). Sponsorship from Grieson Grant starting in 1978 made the British financially viable for the players, but it would still have been a marginal proposition for a player like Miles.

Finally, in 1982, Miles felt moved to have another go at the British, which was being held in Torquay. The effects of the improvement in the standard of English chess and of five years of generous sponsorship were evident in a tough field ("generally held to be the strongest British Championship ever" - Chess). Despite this, Miles never looked like finishing anywhere other than first, eventually scoring a convincing 9 points, with some impressive wins along the way:

Craig Pritchett - Tony Miles [B78]

British Championship, Torquay (4), 1982

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 0-0 8.Qd2 Nc6 9.Bc4 Bd7 10.h4 Rc8
11.Bb3 h5 12.0-0-0 Ne5 13.Kb1 Nc4 14.Qd3 Nxe3 15.Qxe3 Rc5 16.Rhe1 b5 17.Ndxb5 Qb6 18.Nd4 Rb8
19.Qd3 Qb7 20.Nde2 Bc6 21.Ka1 Nd7 22.f4 a5 23.Nd4 a4 24.Nxc6 Qxc6 25.Nxa4 Ra5 26.Nc3 Nc5
27.Qc4 Nxb3+ 28.cxb3 Rc5 29.Qd3 Bxc3 30.bxc3 Rxc3 31.Qd5 Qc7 32.Re2 Rc1+ 33.Kb2 Qc3+ 0-1

Raymond Keene, - Tony Miles [E15]

British Championship, Torquay (6), 1982

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.g3 Bb4+ 5.Bd2 Bxd2+ 6.Qxd2 Ba6 7.Na3 0-0 8.Bg2 c6 9.0-0 d5 10.Ne5
Nfd7 11.Nxd7 Nxd7 12.Rac1 Rc8 13.cxd5 cxd5 14.Rxc8 Qxc8 15.Rc1 Qb8 16.e3 Nf6 17.Bf1 Ne4
18.Qc2 Rc8 19.Bxa6 Rxc2 20.Rxc2 Nd6 21.Nb5 Nxb5 22.Rc8+ Qxc8 23.Bxc8 Nd6 24.Ba6 b5 25.b3 Kf8
26.a4 Ke7 27.axb5 Ne4 28.b6 axb6 29.Bd3 Nd2 30.b4 Nf3+ 31.Kh1 h6 32.Be2 Nd2 33.Kg2 Kd6 34.b5
e5 35.Bd1 Ke6 36.f3 Nc4 37.Kf2 Nd6 38.dxe5 Kxe5 39.f4+ Ke6 40.Bb3 Ne4+ 41.Kg2 0-1

I can recall how delighted I was at the time by this result. Like many young English chess fans, I saw Miles as something of a hero, taking on the top GMs around the world and giving as good as he got. Miles may not have thought it a priority to become British champion, but for the rest of us it was a missing piece in the jigsaw which needed to be added.

Was this to be the start of a series of British Championship titles? Sadly, no...

- **1984** - Another “strongest ever” championship, according to Chess, and also the “fiercest fought”. By his own high standards (bearing in mind that this was the year of his greatest tournament success, in Tilburg), Miles had a disaster: 6½ points and equal 6th place. He lost three games, including another to Nigel Short (Chess was openly talking of a “hoodoo” by this point).
- **1985** - Miles came a clear second with 8/11, unbeaten. This might have been a good enough score to win in some years, but 1985 was the year in which Jonathan Speelman stormed to victory with 9 points, including a 5/5 start. Miles was never in contention.
- **1997** - Yes, it really was another twelve years before Miles entered the British again. In the interim, he had had health problems and a falling-out with the British Chess Federation over its handling of serious allegations concerning Raymond Keene, which led to his transferring allegiance temporarily to the United States. He rejoined the BCF in 1991, but it was not until Smith & Williamson stepped forward with sponsorship totalling £25,000 for the 1997 British Championships (the first prize alone was £10,000) that Miles, ever the professional, decided to play again. He came close: equal 1st with three others on a score of 8/11, but only equal 3rd in the subsequent play-off. Given the strength of the event, this ranks as one of Miles’s best results of the 1990s.
- **1998** - Another good result: 3rd place with 8/11, just half a point behind Nigel Short and Matthew Sadler. Miles commented in Chess at the time: “The British Championship was a strange event for me - somehow I never really got interested in it until it was over.” Part of the reason, he went on to write, may have been a mix-up over accommodation which left him “scouring the streets of Torquay for something suitable.”

The final round provided what must have been a very satisfying win over the event leader:

Tony Miles (2595) - Nigel Short (2660) [A14]

British Championship, Torquay (11), 1998

1.Nf3 d5 2.c4 e6 3.g3 Nf6 4.Bg2 Be7 5.b3 0-0 6.0-0 c5 7.Bb2 Nc6 8.e3 b6 9.Nc3 Bb7 10.cxd5 Nxd5 11.Nxd5 Qxd5 12.d4 Na5 13.dxc5 Bxc5 14.Qxd5 Bxd5 15.Rfd1 Rfd8 16.Rac1 Nc6 17.Nd4 Bxg2 18.Kxg2 Bxd4 19.Bxd4 Nxd4 20.Rxd4 Rxd4 21.exd4 g5 22.Rc7 Rd8 23.Rxa7 Rxd4 24.Rb7 Rd6 25.a4 Kg7 26.Kf1 g4 27.Ke2 h5 28.b4 e5 29.a5 bxa5 30.bxa5 Rd4 31.a6 Ra4 32.a7 Kg6 33.Kd3 f6 34.Kc3 Kf5 35.Kb3 Ra1 36.Rc7 Ke6 37.Kc4 Kd6 38.Rf7 Ke6 39.Rh7 Kf5 40.Kd5 Ra5+ 41.Kc6 Ke4 42.Kb6 Ra2 43.Rh8 Rxa7 44.Kxa7 Kf3 45.Kb6 Kxf2 46.Kc5 e4 47.Rxh5 e3 48.Rf5+ Kg2 49.Rxf6 Kxh2 50.Kd4 e2 51.Re6 Kxg3 52.Kd3 1-0

- **2000** - In common with many of the other top Britons, Miles missed the 1999 British because it clashed with the potentially very lucrative FIDE World Championship (knockout) in Las Vegas. He returned to the British in 2000, however, finishing equal 7th with 7 points.

Miles's final appearance in the British Championship came in **2001**. In his preview of the event in Chess, John Henderson highlighted the fact that 2001 marked the 25th anniversary of Miles's obtaining of the grandmaster title, describing him as *"about the most active GM on the circuit"*. He went on to pick up the now-familiar theme of Miles's travails at his national championship:

"But the British? Ah, that's never been fair to him. Despite being by far the top player in the country from the middle 1970s through the 1980s, this is a tournament that, by his own standards, he's failed to perform at his best [...]."

The event proved to be Miles's worst performance at a British Championship, due in large part to a problem with his medication (he had been diagnosed with diabetes two years earlier). He started with two wins but then could only muster seven draws and a loss before withdrawing on health grounds after the tenth round.

The greatest shock was still to come. In November 2001, the chess world heard the awful news that Tony Miles had been found dead of heart failure (linked to his diabetes). He had been an active and treasured part of the chess community, particularly in his native Birmingham, right up to the end, and his loss was deeply felt.

A secure place in chess history

His appallingly premature death notwithstanding, Tony Miles's place in the history of English chess is secure. As the first English-born player to be awarded the over-the-board Grandmaster title, he blazed a trail which led to a surge in English chess from the 1970s to the 1990s. He had a personality to match his status, and his writings on the game - well worth seeking out - are a joy.

It would have been a travesty not to include Miles in any series on 'Great British Champions', so, whilst it may never have been a major priority for the man himself to add his name to the roster of champions, I for one am thankful that - on one occasion at least - he was able to set past disappointments aside.

- Andrew Farthing



Remembering ‘The Master Game’

GM Nigel Short, who at the age of 15 memorably won the sixth series of the BBC televised tournament ahead of a field of strong grandmasters, shares his recollections of the programme in an exclusive interview with Chess Moves. Andrew Farthing asks the questions.



AF: How did you cope with the unusual triple process of playing, recording your ‘thoughts’ and finally being filmed ‘playing’ the game?

NS: It was very artificial, but I think that the series worked quite well. My first experience [in Series 2] was tough. I was taking part as a 10- or 11-year-old and resigned ridiculously prematurely. [See game in the May/June issue of Chess Moves - Editor’s note.] I saw that I was dropping a piece but forgot that I had a few pawns for it. I did have a bad position, but I should have played on. I was overawed by the occasion and by the fact that I was playing a strong International Master, William Hartston.

AF: Let’s move on to a happier experience. You next appeared in 1981, in Series 6.

NS: It actually took place in 1980, although it was shown in 1981.

It was great. It was one of my early achievements, and I played a couple of good games, such as the win against Gligoriæ.

I remember the last game in the qualifying group against Vlastimil [Hort]. I was under terrible pressure. To be quite honest, he behaved pretty badly in that game. I was defending the ending of rook against rook and bishop. In those days, we didn’t have increments, and it’s a very difficult ending to defend with just a limited amount of time. Either he wins over the board by mating me or winning the rook or he flags me. He could have claimed a draw at any time. He tried to win on time, but his flag fell first.

This was a win for me, but Vlastimil started to make this huge protest. I was a young lad at the time and found it all deeply embarrassing. In the end, I just wanted it to stop and said, “OK, I offer a draw.” It didn’t make any difference to me, because a draw was enough for me to qualify for the final, but for Hort the extra half-point meant more money - £250, I think, which was good money in 1980.

After the game, the producer jokingly said to me, “You cost us an extra £250,” although it clearly didn’t bother him. It did leave me with a sour impression, though, even after all these years.

AF: This brought you to the final, where you were up against Tony Miles, the British number one at the time.

NS: Yes, I played a pretty good game. I got absolutely nothing out of the opening, but in the middlegame I proceeded to outplay him. I missed a fairly elementary win when I played my rook to the wrong square, forcing me to win the game all over again. It worked out OK in the end, but I do feel I botched an otherwise nicely played game.

AF: How did Miles take the result? Your relationship in later years was somewhat difficult.

NS: Yes, but that was later. Miles was OK. He wasn’t happy to lose, obviously, but he behaved with decorum. He was absolutely fine.

AF: Do you think that it was difficult for your opponents to find themselves faced with such a young player, particularly in a game which would be very widely seen (i.e. by a national TV audience)?

NS: These days, there are a lot of young players, and it's just part of the routine. For example, in the recent Sigeman tournament, I was playing [*teenage Hungarian GM*] Richard Rapport, and it was only really after the game that I noticed how young he was. Back in 1980, it was more unusual, so it may have been tricky for the grandmasters. That said, they were grandmasters, at a time when the title was much more valuable than now.

AF: *I suppose we ought to touch on the following year, Series 7, when it didn't go so well for you.*

NS: I really was in very poor form at that time. The quality of my chess was terrible. I remember that I lost to Hecht and I think I swindled Christiansen.

AF: *Yes, I've just watched the programme. If it's any consolation, you obviously ruined his tournament! You did draw with Adorjan.*

NS: Wow, I'd completely forgotten he was playing. It can't have been much of a game!

AF: *Going back to the process of making the programmes, how easy did you find it to act out your thoughts and reactions?*

NS: I didn't have a problem with it. I'm pretty sure I'd do it a lot better these days, as I'd be much more aware of the entertainment factor.

Of course, the players used the recordings to hide their oversights. Sometimes, they'd miss things in the game but, when it came to recreating their thought processes on tape, they would disguise it in the way they presented their analysis. Players didn't want their mistakes shown up on television.

Nowadays, computers reveal all the horrible blunders I make, and there's no sense trying to hide it. It's just part of life. That said, I've just been annotating a game and the computer showed a two-move sequence which would have given me a big advantage, and missing that sort of thing can be a bit hard to take.

AF: *As a very well-travelled grandmaster, have you often come across chess on television in other countries?*

NS: Oh yes, it's on TV in lots of countries. For example, I played a match in Tehran earlier this year [*against GM Ehsan Ghaem Maghami*] which was televised. What I don't understand is why in this day and age, when there are so many channels in the UK, there is no chess at all. OK, it's a minority sport, but it's a pretty substantial minority sport. You'd think there would be a reasonable audience for a chess programme, although they'd need to change the approach for modern times.

AF: *Computer evaluations would be an obvious enhancement, and the chessboard graphics would be a lot easier to produce than back in the 1980s.*

That said, I've been watching the two 'Master Game' series released on DVD and the format still works amazingly well. You really do buy into the illusion of 'hearing' the players' thoughts.

NS: One of the things I didn't like was the way they would sometimes jump along to the position fifteen moves later, and you'd be left asking, 'How the hell did they get there?' I don't think you'd get away with that now, although I understand that time constraints were a factor. Overall, though, I agree, it was very effective.

AF: *Nigel Short, thank you very much.*

DVD Review: The Master Game Series 6 & 7

News of the forthcoming release of Series 6 and 7 of the BBC chess tournament The Master Game on DVD was announced in the May issue of Chess Moves. The 2-DVD sets are now available from Odeon Entertainment.

Each has a stated running time of about 390 minutes, although in fact the Series 7 runs 30 minutes longer, thanks to the inclusion of a BBC documentary called 'The Master of the Game', concerning 14-year-old Matthew Sadler.

Filmed in 1980 and 1981, the two series have transferred well to DVD. The images and sound are very clear.

The programmes themselves are a delight. For this viewer, the veil of years dropped from the first playing of the rather dated theme music and the appearance of presenter Jeremy James in a light grey suit. It was frankly astonishing how fresh the memories turned out to be after a gap of more than three decades.

The style in which the games are presented is calm and civilised, entirely lacking in 'hype' and showbiz pizzazz and largely the better for it. The producers evidently decided that the chess could speak for itself and did not need to jazz up proceedings to generate artificial excitement. It is entirely possible that the internet chess generation will find the programmes a little slow, of course, but somehow I suspect that the format will work, even in the second decade of the 21st century.

In an earlier Bookshelf article, I outlined the technicalities behind the presentation of the games, so I shall not repeat myself here. What matters is the on-screen effect, which is straightforward and engaging. The chessboard display fills the left hand side of the screen, with variations and threats illustrated by the illumination of the outlines of the relevant squares. On the right hand side of the screen, the film of the players is displayed, White at the bottom, Black at the top. When White is to move and is 'thinking', only his image appears, and similarly for Black. If the soundtrack cuts to discussion between Jeremy James and resident expert, William Hartston, both players' images are shown.

The genius of the presentation comes from the

merging of the film of the players (who are, it should be noted, acting out the process of reflection after the conclusion of the game) and the playing of their spoken commentary, recorded immediately after the game. In the most effective instances, where the players are adept at recreating their thoughts and feelings as if 'live' and are not averse to 'performing' their reactions visually, the result really is as if the viewer is listening to the players thinking as they play. It is an illusion, but a remarkably effective one.

Series 6 includes a strong line-up of (at the time) four World Championship candidates - Bent Larsen, Svetozar Gligoriæ, Robert Byrne and Vlastimil Hort - plus three other grandmasters (Tony Miles, Lothar Schmid and Jan Hein Donner) and one non-GM but future World Championship challenger, Nigel Short. It is sobering to realise that, following the recent deaths of Schmid and Byrne, only the rhyming duo of Short and Hort are still alive today.

All of the eight players are articulate and clear. For my money, the best performers are Vlastimil Hort, whose Eeyore-like pronouncements on his position never fail to entertain, and Robert Byrne, who of all the players is most adept at sounding as though his reactions are genuinely in response to events on the board. Tony Miles is also good value, but there is just a slight unnaturalness in his tone which threatens the illusion of actuality.

For Series 7, only Nigel Short returned from the previous series, complete with a new look (shoulder-length hair and a central parting) which was not to last long. The viewer, if not necessarily Nigel, can be grateful that this important moment in history has been preserved on DVD. The remaining participants were American GMs Walter Browne and Larry Christiansen, recent Candidate Andras Adorjan, GMs Raymond Keene, Miguel Quinteros and Hans-Joachim Hecht, plus a second German, soon-to-be GM Eric Lobron.

I can recall being slightly less gripped by this series at the time than its predecessors, but I wonder now whether this was more a sign of my shorter teenage attention span and the absence of Tony Miles, of whom I was a keen fan.

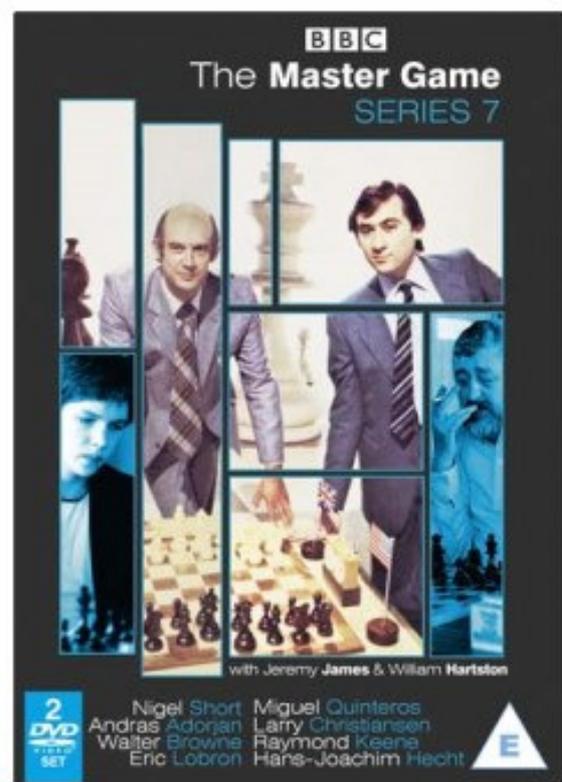
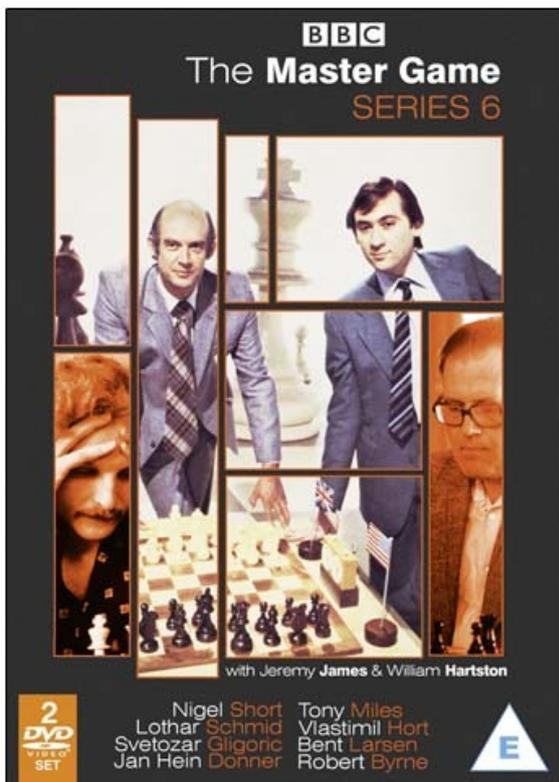
Watching the programmes now, the games are interesting and the players' comments are

informative and entertaining. The two Americans in particular provide lively performances, and Adorjan shows an entertaining propensity for letting his mind wander all over the place as a substitute for thinking about the game.

A particular highlight of Series 7 is the encounter between Miguel Quinteros and Walter Browne. So exciting and full of content was this game that the producers opted to spread it over two programmes, including something of a cliff-hanger in the middle, rather than squeeze it into a single half-hour slot.

Thirty years on, these programmes have lost none of their charm. On the contrary, the passage of time adds a nostalgic quality which, if anything, enhances the viewer's pleasure.

Strongly recommended.



CHESS HOLIDAYS in the Lake District

A relaxed, informal 5-night holiday at this well-known Country House hotel, including a 7-round Swiss competition and tutorials on chess tactics. Suitable for the inexperienced as well as local club players ...

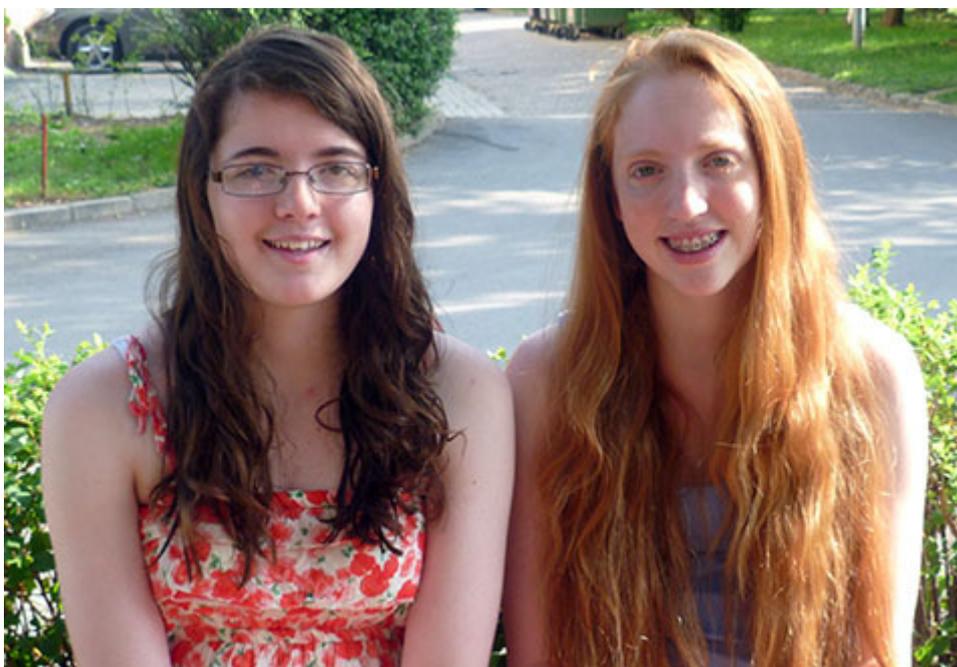
Rothay Manor, Ambleside
Tel: 015394 33605 / E-mail: hotel@rothaymanor.co.uk
Website: www.rothaymanor.co.uk/chess



European Youth Team Championships 2013 - Amy Hoare and Chantelle Foster

Amy Hoare

Amy learnt to play chess when she was 5 years old, winning the under 8 prize at her first tournament. She qualified for the National Chess Junior Squad at the Under 11 trial and has since travelled widely with her chess, competing in Guernsey, the Czech Republic, Holland, Poland and Italy. Highlights include: competing in the 2008 European Youth Championships and the 2010 London Chess Classic (Women's Invitational), and qualifying for the British Championships at the Women's International Masters Tournament in Uxbridge. Over the



last year she has helped to coach the Sussex Girls under 11 Team, accompanying them to the National Final in Nottingham where they won the 2012 National Title. Amy is a pupil at Farlington School in Horsham. She is passionate about all sports and represents her school in netball, tennis and rounders, and plays hockey for the county. She would like to thank everyone who has supported and encouraged her with chess, in particular: Jonathan Tuck, Lawrence Cooper, Sussex Junior Chess, Horsham Chess Club and Farlington School.

Chantelle Foster

Following qualification at the England U11 trials, Chantelle joined the National Chess Junior Squad and has participated in chess trips to Flanders, Wales, Poland, Germany, the Czech Republic, and Dubai. She has represented England previously in the European Youth Chess Championships in Georgia in 2010 (U14 girls), Bulgaria in 2011 and Prague in 2012 (U16 girls) and competed for the Faber-Gilbert Cup (U18 girls) in Dublin in 2011 and Daventry in 2012. Chantelle plays in The British junior championships each year and is the British U16 Girls Champion. She is a black belt in karate and enjoys training on the dojo several times a week and teaching lower graded juniors and adults alike. She plays netball and badminton regularly for Aylesbury High School. Chantelle would like to thank everyone who has helped her to improve as a chess player.

Day 2, 6th July - Round 1

After a morning of preparation, we were ready for Round 1. Unfortunately just as we were about to walk to the playing hall, a thunderstorm struck! We were soaked but arrived in good time for Round 1 against Hungary, the top seeds. We battled on for almost 5 hours and were the last two games left playing. Amy drew her game against Melinda Varga, 2216 and Chantelle unfortunately lost to WFM Barbara Juhasz, 2130

In **Round 2** England were paired against Slovenia 1. Amy was first to finish and won against Veronika Franca, rated 1940, using a clever bishop sacrifice to open up her opponent's king and finishing in style, checkmating with a knight [see Amy's annotated game]. Chantelle fought hard but was unlucky against Laura Unuk, rated 2000. We drew the match and therefore scored 1 match point.

Day 4 - Round 3

Today we were playing Russia 1, who seemed to have a very strict coach. Chantelle was worse out of the opening against Anna Akopova (2048), but managed to convert the position. It became a fairly level endgame that resulted in a draw - a good result! Amy had a doubled edged game and although better, made an unsound sacrifice allowing her opponent, WCM Anastasya Paramzina (2060) to win.

Day 5 - Round 4

It was a tough round against Poland today but Amy managed to beat WIM Anna Iwanow, rated 2227! Chantelle's opponent, Maria Leks, WCM played a different move order than expected, and the 2109 played consistently well to win, making the match a draw overall. England has moved up to 6th place just behind Slovenia 2.

Day 6 - Round 5

In Round 5 we played Austria and were hoping for a good result. Chantelle ran into time trouble and lost to Denise Trippold (1794), whereas Amy secured a draw against WCM Anna-Lena Schnegg (2104) after an exciting time scramble.

Day 7 - England beats Russia 2!

England faced Russia 2 in the 6th round and we were determined to win! Amy finished in 20 minutes with a 10 move win against WFM Alexandra Obolentseva, rated 1994. Her opponent seemed unfamiliar with the opening, and missed a tactic which allowed Amy to win a piece (see game below). Five hours and 77 moves later Chantelle returned with a win against Elena Badzgaradze, 1614. With a 2 nil victory England are back in 6th place!

Day 8, 12th July, round 7- England moves up to 5th place

The final round was against Slovenia 2. We knew this team had been playing well but we wanted a strong finish!

Chantelle was out first with a good win against Teja Vidic, 1892 (see the annotated game below). She had a strong attack out of the opening and finished with a nice tactic. Amy fought hard against Caterina Leonardi, 1880 but unfortunately lost.

With the match drawn and another match point gained, England moved up to 5th place. We were happy with this final ranking given our 7th place seeding.

It was pleasing to see all participants at the Closing Ceremony and the top seeds from Hungary were well deserved gold medal winners.

Final report

The European U18 Team Championships was a well organised competition and our hosts and arbiters were very friendly. It was fun to make new friends and meet up with girls who we'd played before in other European/World youth championships. Being able to walk from our accommodation to the chess venue was very convenient, and the playing hall itself was spacious.

Some of the teams were extremely focused on the chess and were made up of very strong players, even one GM in the open section. Most teams had coaches accompanying them, and in general the coaches were positive and friendly.

We enjoyed being members of the England team and the team part of the event made it more enjoyable. Team competitions like this evoke a special kind of team spirit and it's a change from playing individually. We would definitely recommend this tournament for older juniors, both girls and boys, who enjoy playing in international events.

Thanks go to GM David Howell and IM Lorin D'Costa for their excellent coaching and to Nicole Foster, our captain, for her support throughout this tournament. Also, to those at home who have encouraged and motivated us to do well.

U16 Olympiad 2013

The opening ceremony was quite impressive, there was much entertainment. There were a lot of speeches and plays. We watched the martial arts and a face-changing play using masks. Having gone to many tournaments I think that this one has the best organisation and format. Every team had allocated seats and volunteers to help us had there been any problems. Everyone could see and hear what was going on. It was an excellent opening ceremony. Although the weather is very hot the accommodation has very good air conditioning and free Wi-Fi which is of excellent quality.

- Yang-Jian Zhou

Round 1 - from Yang-Jian Zhou - vs CQJKYBS EXPERIMENTAL SCHOOL

Team B played against a Chinese team from a Chongqing primary school for Round 1. Anthony Zhang won first on board one. Jake Liang managed a draw in a difficult situation on board two. Both Zheming Zhang and I had long games and won. The team is delighted to get 3.5 for the first round. Round 2 is going to be very tough. Our team is facing the Australian team 1. They have 2 IMs and 1 FM.

Round 2 - from Yang-Jian Zhou - vs CQ GaoXin Yucai School

Today we had a tough day, with a double round. Round 2, we played against Australia's 1st team and lost 0-4. Although we didn't win any points, we played very good games. We played for quite a long time. Zheming Zhang and I both had opportunities but our instincts and experience let us down. The coach was satisfied with our play. He thought that although these results were bad, we had great fighting spirit and we learnt a lot from these games. I think that we should not be scared of their titles.

Round 3 - from Yang-Jian Zhou - vs Indonesia

We played the Chinese Taipei team and scored 3/4. Our strength was slightly better than theirs. I lost - I was a little tired after playing an IM from Australia, and I was also dwelling on round 2 so I made a silly blunder. I hope that in the future I can eliminate these excuses. The rest played very well, especially Zheming Zhang who was very lucky, where his opponent collapsed and made a big blunder. Jake Liang and Anthony Zhang also played very well, getting us the winning points. All in all, everyone is very happy and is satisfied with our results.

Overview of the WCYO - Rohan Bansal

The Under 16 World Youth Chess Olympiad has so far been an entertaining tournament for all. The rooms have been very convenient for us and so far we have enjoyed our stay at the venue. The volunteers have been very useful and have tended to our every need. We have enjoyed some very good games of chess and so far both teams stand at a good position in the competition. The food, generally, has a lot of variety to choose from and thus is very convenient for the whole squad. Overall, a very enjoyable trip and will surely continue.

Round 4 - from Adam Hunt - vs CQNKQR MIDDLE SCHOOL TEAM

Easily the most disappointing result of the tournament so far, especially after such a close match with Indonesia.

Rohan was surprised in the opening with the Cambridge Springs variation and consumed a lot of time dealing with it. He then won an exchange for no compensation, but continues to struggle to deal with the time control. Under pressure he gave back the exchange before shedding some pawns to reach a lost rook endgame.

Pavan played a good opening with black in the Closed Sicilian, reaching a very promising position. However in the middlegame he played some passive moves which firstly let his advantage slip, then giving his opponent the initiative. The game was wrapped up in favour of the Chinese player in quick time.

Roy played a complicated game where his opponent sacrificed a pawn on the queenside for some kingside play. Roy defended well, before his opponent sacrificed his queen for two rooks. The game ended in a perpetual check with the Chinese team only needing a draw to secure the match.

Kumar played a solid Caro-Kann on board 2 and never looked in any trouble. In fact he had a couple of opportunities to gain the initiative going into the endgame. A draw was the logical outcome of the game, in a match that had already been lost.

Round 5 - from Adam Hunt - vs CQQL CHESS CLUB

The first round of another double day and we needed a strong result to regain confidence. The draw gave us the opportunity to rest Roy for the first time and I am pleased to report that the rest of the team did the business without him.

Theo came back into the team and his young opponent quickly blundered a piece, after which the game was fairly elementary (see below). Rohan misplayed the opening and quickly found himself in a difficult position. However I was delighted by his fighting qualities and he fought back to reach a drawn rook and pawn endgame. Pavan scored his first win in another English opening. He traded down to a slightly better endgame before applying concerted pressure. His opponent cracked and Pavan brought home the full point. Kumar was excellent again, this time on board 1, trapping his opponent's queen in a tactical middlegame.

Round 6 - from Adam Hunt - vs CDSL CHESS CLUB

This promised to be a close game against yet another Chinese team and so it turned out. It didn't start out so well. Roy won a pawn in a Sicilian Kalashnikov, but then consecutive blunders turned the game in the Chinese players favour. Pavan also finished quickly, playing an exchange Kings Indian which he never really looked like winning (or losing). This left Theo and Kumar. Theo played a lovely game, crushing his opponent in a Colle system. I hope he can annotate it for us but at the moment he is involved in a simul against former womens world champion Zhu Chen. And so Kumar yet again came up with the goods. He had won an exchange earlier in the game, but everyone was nervous as his opponent has some counterplay for it. However Kumar kept his cool through the tactics to win nicely.

This leaves us on 7 points from a possible 12 with a very difficult looking pairing against a team that beat England 2 3.5-0.5 after the rest day. We shall do precisely that, rest, prepare and hope that the boys can turn in a strong last four rounds to finish well.

Round 7 - from Adam Hunt - vs BJHD CHESS TRAINING SCHOOL

After the rest day the boys were in good spirits and were refreshed. Sadly the quality of the chess was not good enough in a match we should have won easily. Theo completely outplayed his female opponent in a French MacCutcheon, which it seemed she hadn't seen before. He won a queenside pawn, before calmly pushing it to promotion.

Rohan continued the recovery from his shaky start with a solid draw, but the real drama unfolded on the top two boards. Both Roy and Kumar got overwhelming advantages. Kumar picked up a rook in a Caro-Kann, but had to sacrifice a piece back in order to castle. An exchange to the good, everything was looking rosy until he blundered a rook to a queen fork and shortly after resigned.

Roy played another nicely controlled game on board 1 against the Benoni, slowly squeezing the life out of the black position. With his opponent facing crisis and a huge time pressure Roy started to speed up, missing his opponents tactical shots which confused matters. With a dangerous queen and bishop combination and an open white king, it wasn't long before Roy couldn't resist any further and had to resign.

Round 8 - from Adam Hunt - vs QD EXPERIMENTAL JUNIOR SCHOOL TEAM

Roy was back on form in Round 8, with a good win against a higher rated player. He picked up pawn

after pawn before comfortably winning the endgame. Kumar got outplayed on board 2 by his young opponent as did Theo on board 4. Pavan played the game of the round however and we were all delighted for him with a fine win. He made a beautiful positional pawn sacrifice to put pressure on his opponent before finishing him off.

Round 9 - from Adam Hunt - vs CD CHESS TEAM

Back to winning ways and a well deserved rest for Kumar! Pavan had a fairly quick draw, despite his coach thinking he had the better chances at the end. Time pressure meant that he had to take a perpetual check, which actually turned out to be a sensible decision for the team. Theo continued his excellent form with another win, this time in the Trompovsky. Rohan played a line we looked at before the game and got an excellent position against his rated opponent. However time pressure again became a factor and a hard fought draw was a good result. Roy played a fine game, pressing on the white side of a Kings Indian before allowing his opponent back into the game in an opposite colour bishop ending. Fortunately his opponent was short of time though and blundered.

Round 10 - from Adam Hunt - vs BJJM CHESS CLUB

And so to the final round and a slight anti-climax, against a strong team. Kumar never really got out of the opening on the white side of a Kings Indian. His underrated opponent punished him fully and won fairly quickly. We were all delighted for Rohan who recorded his first win of the event in a Closed Sicilian. He played some fine moves in a complex middlegame position and his game is annotated below.

Theo also encountered a difficult opponent and got an unbalanced position with a weak king but active pieces. Unfortunately King safety, as so often is the case proved the decisive factor. Roy got a very promising position against an in form opponent on the black side of a Kings Indian. However he allowed a dangerous piece sacrifice which turned the game in whites favour.

Thus we finished with 8 points from a possible 20, and I guess approximately where we were seeded taking into account all the strong unrated Chinese teams. It has been a superb event which the boys have thoroughly enjoyed. The organisation has on the whole been fantastic, with the only real negative being the lack of PGN games, so preparation has been extremely hard for the Chinese teams. Thankyou to all those who have helped us here, including our fabulous volunteer helper Kristy. We fly home later tonight, but what do the kids do once the chess has finished? Have a mass exchange tournament of course!

Team B report - 'In the top half!' - from Jake Liang and Yang-Jian Zhou

There were 8 long hard days with ten excruciating rounds. We won 5 rounds and played hard teams - for instance Australia, who ended up on rank 10, and against BJHD Chess Training School, which ended up on rank 12. We also played the Czech Republic, who ended up on rank 14, and Kyrgyzstan, who ended up on rank 24.

Our final rank is 36/72. We worked very hard and we had great fighting spirit, especially Zheming, who always tried to win for the team.

Our Coach was very helpful. He worked day and night for us and gave us much inspirational influence. He has improved our play forever and has inspired us to learn more. Throughout these games we have benefited a lot, both in terms of experience and motivation. We have built close relationships with each other in the team and have become closer in our friendship.

We would like to thank the parents for their great help and for making us more organised as well as giving us the best support.

Chess Moves Bookshelf

Chess in Fiction

by Andrew Farthing

Due to the editor's holiday, there is no 'Bookshelf' article this month. Normal service will resume with the November/December issue. As the following short article shows, the editor's beach reading turned out not to be entirely devoid of chess...

If you are looking for an entertaining light read, you could do a lot worse than **Edge** (2010) by best-selling thriller writer, Jeffery Deaver. The narrator, Corte, is a serious games enthusiast, who uses his passion to help him in his job of protecting individuals against villains equally skilled in fiendishly complex strategies.

Unsurprisingly, chess receives more than one mention, including the following:

“Naturally I prefer the more challenging games. My present favourite is Arimaa, a recent invention and a variation on chess but so elegant and challenging that the creator's prize to anybody who can write a program so a computer can play is as yet unclaimed. Chess itself is certainly a good game and I enjoy it. It has, though, been so written about and studied and deconstructed that when I sit down across from an experienced player I sometimes feel that I'm not playing against him but against a crowd of stuffy, eccentric ghosts.”

(Chapter 10)

Arimaa is new to me, but I understand that it was devised as a response to Garry Kasparov's defeat to Deep Blue. Its inventor, Omar Syed, wanted to create a game which could be played with a standard chess set but which would be hard for computers to master.

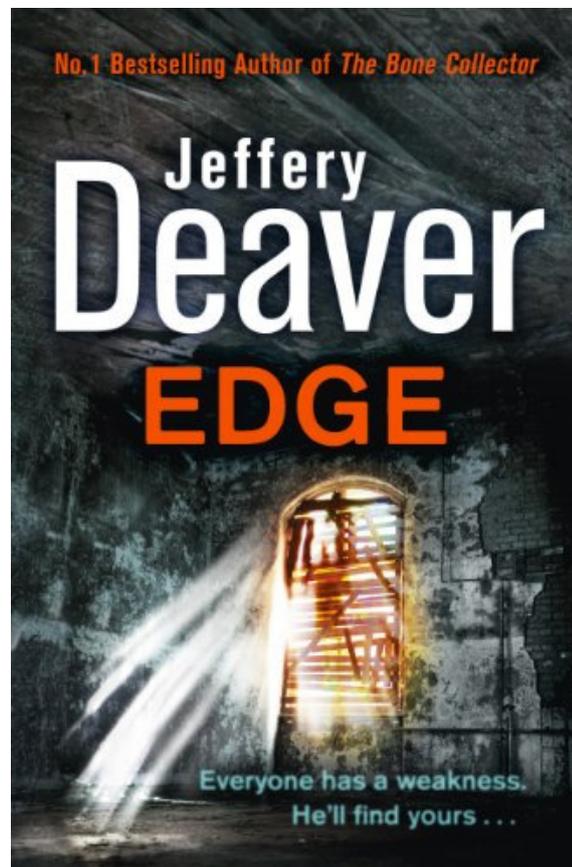
Later in the novel, as events approach their climax, Corte reflects on the endgame:

“As I read it I was thinking of the phenomenon of endgame.

“Although the concept can apply to many games, it is most common in chess, which is where I study the subject, exhaustively.

“As the middle game draws to a close and the endgame approaches, a fundamental change occurs in the players' attitudes, and I swear, a macabre eeriness descends over the board. The surviving pieces take on different roles and importance. For instance, pawns become vital; not only can they move to the opponent's first line and become queens but they provide vital defensive barriers that limit the other player's moves. Similarly the king spends most of the game in hiding, protected by his minions. But in endgame, he often must go on the offensive himself.

“Each move is intensified. The odds of a single error leading to defeat rise dramatically as the match draws to a close.



“Endgame is rife with improvisation, desperation, flashes of brilliance and instances of fatal panic.”

(Chapter 68)

This passage offers subtle hints that the author may not himself be a chess player. The use of “endgame” (rather than “the endgame”) and that old favourite of “match” instead of “game” when a single encounter is implied suggest that the text is the product of research rather than close personal acquaintance. The overall thrust of the text, however, is not unreasonable, and the novel as a whole is a good example of its genre. Certainly for this reader at least, the 500 pages flew by.



Brendan O’Gorman - Chess Images

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

Mr and Mrs Cloudsdale rule the Jorvik 2013 Congress with an iron fist (in a velvet glove)



Book Reviews - by Gary Lane

En Prise Chess Cards

£4.99, available at www.enprisecards.com

These chess cards proved to be a surprise hit when they went on display at the British Championships in Torquay. A number of enthusiastic card players soon mastered the rules to the approval of onlookers who seemed fascinated by the expanding number of cards on the table and wondering who exactly was winning. Of course, it is not the first time that entrepreneurs have tried their luck at putting a version of chess on to



cards but this option appears a cut above the rest. I should add that according to the website there is a new feature called The Battleplan so it continues to evolve.

A perfect novelty present for those keen on chess.

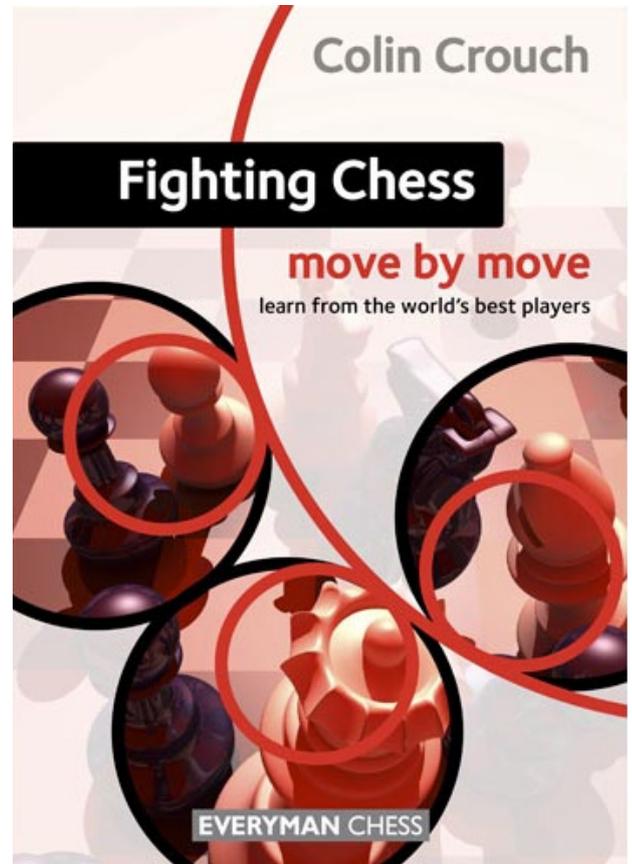
Fighting Chess - move by move

by Colin Crouch

Published by Everyman Chess £18.99

The English author examines key games from 2012 and shows how analysing them can help your chess skills and knowledge. One might assume that there are a whopping 303 pages because every move is giving an annotation but it is not quite the case as it is not written in exactly the same style as the old classic *Logical Chess: Move by Move* by Irving Chernev. Crouch does a good job of explaining what is going on in an easy to understand language as he explores the match between Kramnik and Aronian, the World Championship between Anand and Gelfand while finishing off with key games from the Tal Memorial tournament. At first I felt that this might limit the outlook of the book but I have to say I was very impressed at the way the games are analysed in a simple but effective style aimed at the improving club player.

A fine way to test your chess.

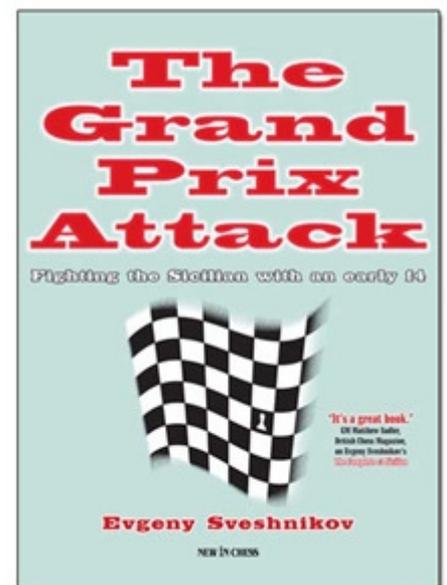


The Grand Prix Attack

by Evgeny Sveshnikov

Published by New In Chess £21.95

The Grand Prix Attack is an opening for White that opposes the Sicilian which is a British favourite having been popularised by Dave Rumens in the 1970s and then being tweaked by stars such as Julian Hodgson and Mark Hebden in the 1980s. It then went into a lull when it was discovered that after 1 e4 c5 2 f4 that Black could equalise comfortably with 2...d5. A few players experimented with 2 Nc3 before playing 3 f4 including English International Master Angus Dunnington whom showed it to a small boy he was training with called Gawain Jones. Obviously, the latter has gone on to great success and the grandmaster published a well received primer on the Sicilian Grand Prix Attack in 2008 for Everyman Chess. This latest venture tries a different approach with Sveshnikov promoting the old line 2 f4. He then devotes the first 189 pages to people avoiding the key line, which includes a useful chapter on 2 Nc3 and then has to confront reality. In the chapter on 2...d5 it emerges that White has a few tricks and traps after 3 exd5 Nf6 but basically Black should have equal chances. Still, this book has lots of Sveshnikov's own games to help inspire players of the White pieces and the 256 pages will serve as an excellent reference tome. As usual the New In Chess production values are of a high quality and the sprinkling of player photos make it a more interesting read.



A must for those who play the Grand Prix Attack.

The French Winawer: move by move

by Steve Giddins

Published by Everyman Chess £17.99

There are thousands of games on the computer databases featuring the French Winawer but which lines are good for Black? This is the standard problem for people playing the French and help is at hand with the aid of Englishman Steve Giddins who presents twenty-five games to give an overall impression of the opening and they are heavily analysed. After 1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 Bb4 White has a variety of responses and the book aims at giving straightforward answers on how to handle the positions that might arise. The emphasis is not on long variations but the 285 pages linger on lots of prose describing plans and key motifs that might appear.

An important guide on the French Winawer for improving players.



ECF English Tournament Calendar

LEGEND -

British Championships qualifying tournament

@ FIDE rated

* ECF Grand Prix

~ ECF graded event

Y Juniors only event

All congresses graded by the ECF are part of the official Grand Prix. For a more comprehensive calendar, updated constantly, visit the ECF website - www.englishchess.org.uk

~# **20-22 Sep Isle of Man Chess Congress**, Cherry Orchard Aparthotel, Port Erin, Isle of Man

Contact: Alan Robertson Email: alanbruce@manx.net Website:

www.iomchess.com/congress2012.html - £1600 Prize Fund Major-Minor 5 Round Swiss

~ **20-22 Sep 49th Northumberland County Chess Congress**, The Parks Leisure Centre, Howdon Road, Royal Quays, North Shields NE29 6TL Contact: Lara Barnes Email: larabarnes@btinternet.com

- Open, Ian Lambie Major, Nora Hunter Minor and Foundation

~*#@ **20-22 Sep e2e4 Bedford Congress**, Park Inn Hotel, 2 St Marys' Street, Bedford MK42 0AR

Contact: Sean Hewitt Email: info@e2e4.org.uk Website:

<http://www.e2e4.org.uk/bedford/Sep2013/index.htm> - start 6:50PM ends 7:00PM. There are 3 sections; the Open and U2000 are both FIDE rated and ECF graded, with the U140 section ECF graded. Each section has a first prize of £500!

~* **21-22 Sep Castle Chess: 2nd Dudley Congress**, The Quality Hotel Dudley, Birmingham Rd,

Dudley, West Midlands DY1 4RN Contact: Tony Corfe Email: tony@tcs-chess.demon.co.uk Website: www.castlechess.co.uk - Open (including Premier U180), Major U160 (including Intermediate U140), Minor U120 (including Challengers U100)

22 Sep National Youth Chess Association U18 and U14 Championships, venue TBA Contact: K. Staveley Email: kevin.staveley@btinternet.com - team event

~ **22 Sep Harambee Quickplay**, Malcolm X Centre, 141 City Road, St. Paul's, Bristol BS2 8YH

Contact: Kwame Benin Email: harambeechess@hotmail.co.uk Website: <http://www.chessit.co.uk> - starts 10:30AM ends 6:00PM. 6 round Swiss rapidplay - 25 mins. on the clock per round. 3 sections - Open, Major (U165), Minor (U130)

Y **22 Sep East Midlands Chess Junior Training Tournament**, Risley Village Hall, 18 Derby Road, Risley, Derby DE72 3SU Contact: Christopher Dunworth & David Levens Email:

eastmidlandschess@gmail.com <http://www.eastmidlandschess.co.uk> - starts 11:00AM ends 6:00PM.

Junior Training Tournament (Individual & Schools) open to all children U13 & U130 grade (i.e. Year 8 and under). 6 round Swiss. Schools Event - Best 4 scores per school are counted, to determine School Champions. £20 entry fee per child. A first round bye is available, if needed.

~ **22 Sep 45th Barnet Knights London Junior Qualifier**, Garden Suburb School, Childs Way, London

NW11 6XU Contact: Rob Willmoth Email: robwillmoth@hotmail.co.uk Website: <http://www.barnetknights.com> - starts 9:00AM ends 6:00PM. London Junior Qualifier. 6 rounds, 30 minutes per player, tournament split into Under 8, Under 10, Under 12 and Under 14

~ **22 Sep Yorkshire Junior Chess Association Championship**, Grammar School at Leeds, Alwoodley

Gates, Harrogate Road, Leeds LS17 8GS Contact: John Hipshon Email: jr.hipshon@ntlworld.com

Website: <http://www.yorkshirejuniorchess.org> - starts 10:00AM ends 4:30PM. Open event - Under 18, Under 14, Under 12, Under 11, Under 10, Under 9 and Under 8 (ages as of 1st September 2013)

~ **28 Sep CCF Open FIDE Rapid Play**, 84-90 Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 3BA

Contact: Scott Freeman Email: chess@ccfworld.com Tel: 020 8645 0302 Website: <http://www.ccf-world.com/Chess/>

~ **28 Sep English Chess Challenge 2013 - Champion of Champions' Event**, 84-90 Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 3BA Contact: Scott Freeman Email: chess@ccfworld.com Tel: 020 8645 0302 Website: <http://www.ccfworld.com/Chess/>

~***@ 28-29 Sep Hampstead Under 2200 Weekend Congress**, Henderson Court Resource Centre, 102 Fitzjohns Avenue (junction with Prince Arthur Road), London NW3 6NS (use NW3 6NS in your satnav) Contact: Adam Raoof Email: adamraoof@gmail.com Website: <http://www.hampsteadchess.blogspot.co.uk/> - five rounds, games are FIDE rated and graded by the ECF for the national grading database. Maximum 60 players, limited to players rated Under 2200. Unrated players should be Under 190 ECF, or the national equivalent. Swiss format tournaments. PRIZES - 1st £200, 2nd £100 plus a minimum of two rating prizes of £80.00. Rating bands to be announced before round two.

~**Y 29 Sep HSCA - LJQ - Tournament (Juniors)**, Skyswood Primary School, Chandlers Road, St Albans AL4 9RS Contact: Yogesh Jina Email: hsca@live.co.uk - starts 9:30AM ends 5:30PM. 6 round Rapidplay tournament with U8, U10, U12, U14 and U18 sections - a qualifier for the London Junior Chess Championships

@ 3 Oct Hendon 'First Thursday' Blitz, Golders Green Unitarians Church, 31½ Hoop Lane, Golders Green, London NW11 8BS Contact: Adam Raoof Email: adamraoof@gmail.com Website: www.hendonchessclub.com - a six round Swiss open

~ **4-6 Oct Hull Chess Congress 50th**, The Endsleigh Mercy Centre, 481 Beverley Road, Hull HU6 7LJ Contact: Steve King Email: president@hullchess.com Website: <http://www.hullchess.com/> - starts 19:00 ends 23:00. This is the 50th Hull Chess Congress - 1st prize all sections £400, 2nd prize £250 3rd prize £150 + 2 Grading prizes of £50

~ **5 Oct Chipping Sodbury Rapidplay**, The Old Grammar School, Broad St., Chipping Sodbury, Bristol BS37 6AD Contact: Graham Mill-Wilson Email: tugmw@blueyonder.co.uk Website: <http://www.chessit.co.uk> - starts 10:30AM ends 5:50PM. 6 x 25 mins. rounds. Sections - Open, Major (U155), Minor (U125)

~***# 5-6 Oct 31st Bury St Edmunds Congress**, The Apex, Charter Square, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 3FD Contact: Bob Jones Email: bobjoneschess@btinternet.com Website: www.bsecongress.org.uk - four sections: Open, U170, U145 and U120. Prize fund in excess of £2,000.00

~**@ 5-6 Oct 4NCL Rapidplay**, Puma Daventry Court Hotel

~**@ 5-6 Oct Junior 4NCL**, Puma Daventry Court Hotel Contact: Mike Truran Tel: 01993 708645 Email: mike@truranfamily.co.uk

~**# 6 Oct Enfield Junior Chess Congress (LJCC)**, Hazelwood Junior School, Hazelwood Lane, Palmers Green N13 5HE Contact: Nathanael Lutton Email: chessorganiser@gmail.com Website: www.twokingschess.org - starts 9:30 ends 17:30. An official London Junior Chess Championship qualifying event. Rapidplay with 30 minutes each. Under 8, Under 10, Under 12, Under 14 and Under 18 Sections. Now in its seventh year.

~ **8 Oct-4 Mar 2013/2014 Wiltshire Chess Championship**, Langley Burrell Village Hall, Manor Farm Lane, Langley Burrell, Chippenham, Wiltshire SN15 4LL Contact: Tony Ransom Email: chesssalsa@aol.com - starts 7:15PM ends 10:30PM. One overall tournament with 2 sections: Above-145 and Under-146. The winner of the Above-145 section will be the 2013/14 Wiltshire Champion, the winner of the Under-146 will be the 2013/14 Wiltshire Minor Champion. Prize money will be awarded to the 2013/2014 Champions and runners-up. If the winners are Wiltshire players they will be awarded trophies to hold for 1 year.

@ 10 Oct Highgate FIDE Blitz, Corks & Forks Cafe, 7a-9 Swains Lane, Highgate N6 6QX Contact: Adam Raoof Email: adamraoof@gmail.com Website: <http://www.highgatechess.blogspot.co.uk/> - starts 19:30 ends 22:00. A six round Swiss format tournament (all players will get six games, this is not a knockout). Each round will be played with a time control of 10 minutes each for the whole game. The entry fee is £10.00.

~***@# 11-13 Oct e2e4 High Wycombe Chess Congress**, De Veres Uplands House, Four Ashes Road, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire HP15 6LB Contact: Sean Hewitt Email: sean@e2e4.org.uk Website: www.e2e4.org.uk/high_wycombe/Oct2013/index.htm

~ **11-13 Oct 46th West Wales Congress**, The Mercure Swansea Hotel, Phoenix Way, Llansamlet, Swansea SA7 9EG Contact: Les Philpin Email: newsilure@hotmail.com - starts 18:30. West Wales open congress with Open, Major and Minor sections. This year staged at our new lakeside venue

~**@ 13 Oct 17th Birmingham Rapidplay**, Quinborne Community Centre, Ridgacre Rd, Birmingham B32 2TW Contact: Alex Holowczak Email: alexholowczak@gmail.com Website: [37](http://birmingham-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

chess.org.uk/rapidplay/ - starts 10:00AM ends 6:30PM. Four ECF-graded and FIDE-rated sections, with a prize fund of £1,000.

~* **12 Oct Golders Green FIDE Rapidplay Congress**, Golders Green Parish Church Hall, West Heath Drive, London NW11 7QG Contact: Adam Raoof Email: adamraoof@gmail.com Website: <http://www.goldersgreenchess.blogspot.com>

12-13 Oct Millfield International, Millfield School Contact: Matthew Turner Email: mjt@millfield-school.com

~ **13 Oct York Junior Chess Congress**, Scarcroft Primary School, Moss Street, York YO23 1BS Contact: John Hipshon Email: jr.hipshon@ntlworld.com Website:

<http://www.yorkshirejuniorchess.org> - starts 10:00AM ends 4:30PM. Major, Intermediate, Minor and Novice sections

~***Y 13 Oct Barnet Junior Chess 2013 Autumn Tournament**, Channing Junior School, 1 Highgate Hill, London N6 5JR Contact: Tony Niccoli Email: tony1n@yahoo.com Website: <http://www.barnetjuniorchess.com> - starts 9:30AM ends 6:00PM. 6 round Rapidplay with Under 18/14/12/10/8 sections. This tournament is also an LJCC Qualifier event at Under 12/10/8 level. We expect over 150 entries so please enter early!

~**# 18-20 Oct Imperial College Chess Congress**, Imperial College Union, Union Dining Hall, 1st Floor Union Building, Beit Quad, Prince Consort Road, London SW7 2BB Contact: John Sargent Email: johnsargent@gmail.com Website: <http://union.ic.ac.uk/rcc/chess> - starts 18:00. An enjoyable weekend of 5 rounds of FIDE rated / ECF graded chess played in the shadow of the Royal Albert Hall.

~ **19 Oct 6th Wellington College Elite Chess Training Day**, Driver Rooms, Wellington College, Crowthorne, Berkshire RG45 7PU Contact: Nick Pert Email: nickpert@hotmail.com - starts 10.00am ends 4.00pm. Top Group, grade 150+ for adults and juniors / Second Group for juniors only, grade 100-150. Not suitable for beginners.

Y 19 Oct Bucks Junior Chess Congress, Wycombe High School, Marlow Road, High Wycombe HP11 1TB Contact: Hans Hansen Email: hapehansen@aol.com - starts 9:45AM ends 5:30PM. A qualifying event for the London Junior Chess Championships (LJCC). Sections: U8, U10, U12, , U14, U18. 6 round Swiss, 30 minutes per player per game. Parking and refreshments available. Entry fee £10 by 16th October and £15 thereafter/on the day.

~**Y 19 Oct Northumbria Junior Chess Association Congress and AGM** at Newcastle Prep School, Clayton Sports Hall, Lambton Road, Jesmond NE2 4RX Email: njcamail@gmail.com Website: <http://www.njca.org.uk> - starts 10:00AM ends 4:00PM. Entry fee £8. This competition will be split into U9, U11, U13 and U18 sections. Soft drinks and confectionary are usually available at NJCA events but it is recommended that competitors bring a packed lunch. Please see the website for further details.

~ **19-20 Oct First Witney Weekend Congress**, Cokethorpe School, Witney, Oxfordshire OX29 7PU Contact: Mike Truran Email: mike@truranfamily.co.uk Website: www.witneychess.co.uk - Sponsored by Cokethorpe School

~ **20 Oct 8th Chess Coaching Services Tournament and Training Day**, John Keble Church Hall, Church Close, Edgware, Middlesex HA8 9NS Contact: Rob Willmoth Email: robwillmoth@hotmail.co.uk - coaching by International master Lorin D'Costa and British master Rob Willmoth plus other recognised coaches. The only event of its kind in the UK

~* **20 Oct Cambridgeshire Rapidplay**, Whittlesford Memorial Hall, Mill Lane, Whittlesford, Cambridge CB22 4NE Contact: Paul Kemp Email: paulkemp64@gmail.com - starts 10:00 ends 17:10. Three 5 round rapidplay tournaments: Open, Under-160 and Under-120. £730 prize fund

~* **20 Oct 46th Berkshire Junior Championships**, The Downs School, Manor Crescent, Compton, Berkshire RG20 6NU Contact: Nigel Dennis Email: nigelwdennis@btinternet.com Website: <http://www.bjca.org.uk> - starts 10:00AM ends 5:30PM. U/10 and U/12 sections qualifying for the London Junior Championships, and U/14 and U/18 sections.

~ **20 Oct 7th Chess Coaching Services Tournament and Training Day**, John Keble Church, Church Close, Edgware HA8 9NS Contact: Rob Willmoth Email: robwillmoth@hotmail.co.uk Website: <http://chesscoachingservices.co.uk> - starts 12:30AM ends 6:00PM. The only junior event of its kind in the UK. Training split into 4 different ability groups. Training plan determined beforehand so that parents can see what their child will be taught before the event. This is supplemented by an ECF

rapidplay tournament in between the 4 training sessions.

~@# **20-26 Oct 39th Guernsey International Chess Festival**, Peninsula Hotel, Grand Havre Bay, Guernsey Contact: Fred Hamperl Email: hamperlfred@hotmail.com Website: <http://www.guernsey-chessclub.org.gg/festival/festival.htm> - there are 2 tournaments: the Holiday, for players graded below ECF 150 (Elo 1800) and the Open

~ **25-27 Oct 37th Scarborough Chess Congress**, The Ocean Room, Spa Complex, South Bay, Scarborough YO11 2HD Contact: Lara Barnes Email: scarboroughchess@gmail.com Website: <http://www.scarboroughchesscongress.org.uk/> - starts 19.00 ends 18.15. 5 rounds standard play event with over £5500 in prize money. Hot and cold refreshments throughout from the Spa or local outlets. Scenic venue in the historic Scarborough Spa on the sea front.

~@ **26 Oct FIDE London Rapidplay**, Isleworth & Syon School, Ridgeway Road, Isleworth, Middlesex TW7 5LJ Contact: Sainbayar Tserendorj Email: londonrapidplay@gmail.com Website: www.london-rapidplay.co.uk

~ **26 Oct Junior London Rapidplay**, Isleworth & Syon School, Ridgeway Road, Isleworth, Middlesex TW7 5LJ Contact: Sainbayar Tserendorj Email: londonrapidplay@gmail.com Website: www.london-rapidplay.co.uk - designed for beginners and juniors graded U80. Sections: U8, U10, U12 and U14. Each section winner will win a trophy and in each section there is a Best Girl prize!

~ **26 Oct Sussex Junior Worth Rapidplay**, Worth School, Paddockhurst Road, Turners Hill RH10 4SD Contact: Sandra Manchester Email: entrymanager@sussexjuniorchess.org Website: <http://www.sussexjuniorchess.org> - starts 9:45:00 AM. 6 rounds rapidplay in 4 sections; U8, U10, U12, U18. LJCC qualifying tournament. Open to all aged under 18 on 31st August 2013

~***@ 26-27 Oct Hampstead Under 2200 Weekend Congress**, Henderson Court Resource Centre, 102 Fitzjohns Avenue (junction with Prince Arthur Road), London NW3 6NS (use NW3 6NS in your satnav) Contact: Adam Raooof Email: adamraoof@gmail.com Website:

<http://www.hampsteadchess.blogspot.co.uk/> - five rounds, games are FIDE rated and graded by the ECF for the national grading database. Maximum 60 players, limited to players rated Under 2200. Unrated players should be Under 190 ECF, or the national equivalent. Swiss format tournaments. PRIZES - 1st £200, 2nd £100 plus a minimum of two rating prizes of £80.00. Rating bands to be announced before round two.

~***@ 26-28 Oct 3rd FIDE Congress**, Hinchley Wood School, Claygate Lane, Esher, Surrey KT10 0AQ Contact: Sainbayar Tserendorj Email: ukchessacademy@gmail.com Website: <http://www.ukchessacademy.com> - starts 10:30AM ends 7:15PM. 3rd FIDE Congress will have a 3 day FIDE Open, 2 day FIDE U2100, 2 day U110 ECF and 1 day Rapidplay. Total prize fund of £1250. GMs & IMs free.

~* **1-3 Nov 48th Dorset Open Congress**, Elstead Hotel, Kniverton Road, Bournemouth Contact: Norman Mackie Email: dorset@bournemouthchesscongress.org.uk Website: www.bournemouthchesscongresses.org.uk - a new venue for this tournament this year. 4 sections, and open to any chess player. Entry forms will be available soon.

~ **2-3 Nov Cambridgeshire County Chess Championships**, Fenstanton Church Centre, School Lane, Fenstanton, Cambridgeshire PE28 9JR Contact: Francis Bowers Email: chessbower@aol.com Website: www.cambschess.co.uk - starts 09:00 ends 21:30. Open to all players born in Cambridgeshire, or a member of a club in the Cambridgeshire League, or school, or college or university in Cambridgeshire. Closed event limited to the first 40 players to enter. There will be an Open section and an Under 140 section and junior prizes. 3 games on Saturday and 2 on Sunday.

~* **4-8 Nov 14th Royal Beacon Seniors Chess Congress**, Royal Beacon Hotel, Exmouth Contact: Bob Jones Email: jones_r53@sky.com - starts 1.00pm ends 4.00pm. Open to all players aged 60+ on 4/11/2013 Entry fee £24.00 (discount for ECF members)

~ **3 Nov Bolton Rapidplay**, Ukrainian Social Club, 99 Castle St, Bolton BL2 1JP Contact: Rod Middleton Email: gmccacongress@yahoo.co.uk - starts 10:00 ends 18:00. Open, Major & Minor sections. 6 rounds

@ 7 Nov Hendon 'First Thursday' Blitz, Golders Green Unitarians Church, 31½ Hoop Lane, Golders Green, London NW11 8BS Contact: Adam Raooof Email: adamraoof@gmail.com Website: www.hendonchessclub.com - a six round Swiss open

~ **8-10 Nov Hampshire Congress**, Eastleigh College, Chestnut Avenue, Eastleigh SO50 5FS Contact: John F. Wheeler Email: john.wheeler@care4free.net - starts 7.00pm. Open, Major (Under 160) and Minor (Under 125)

~* **8-10 Nov Preston Chess Congress**, University of Central Lancashire - Harrington Refectory, Contact: Malcolm Peacock Email: malcolm@mpeacock.demon.co.uk Website: <http://chess.pop-malc.org.uk/>

9 Nov National Youth Chess Championships U16/U12 Championships, venue TBA Contact: K. Staveley Email: kevin.staveley@btinternet.com - team tournament

~* **9 Nov Golders Green FIDE Rapidplay Congress**, Golders Green Parish Church Hall, West Heath Drive, London NW11 7QG Contact: Adam Raof Email: adamraof@gmail.com Website: <http://www.goldersgreenchess.blogspot.com>

~* **9-10 Nov Hertfordshire Chess Association 62nd Congress**, County Suite, County Hall, Pegs Lane, Hertford SG13 8DQ Contact: Alan Brewis / Kidge Elder Email: organiser@hertschesscongress.com Website: www.hertschesscongress.com - starts 10:00 ends 18:00. At least 4 tournaments: Minor, Major, Challengers and Open

~ **9-10 Nov Lowestoft Open**, Parkhill Hotel, Oulton, Lowestoft NR32 5DX Contact: Dr Mark Nettleton Email: mark.nettleton@btinternet.com Website: <http://www.thelowestoftopen.co.uk> - starts 9:30AM ends 6:00PM. The inaugural Lowestoft Open. 3 sections - Open, U170 & U130. 5 round Swiss. Tournament Organiser is Warren Kingston

~@ **10 Nov Oxfordshire Sunday League R1**, Ducklington Village Hall, Standlake Road, Ducklington OX29 7UX Contact: Mike Truran Email: mike@truranfamily.co.uk Website: <http://www.witneychess.co.uk/>