

CHESS MOVES

THE NEWSLETTER of the ENGLISH CHESS FEDERATION | Mar/Apr 2012

Junior Four Nations League - a report by Mike Truran



This season's competition was bigger and better than ever, with teams of all ages competing over three weekends in two separate divisions. Like its senior equivalent, the Junior Four Nations Chess League (J4NCL) has the advantage of taking place in excellent quality playing conditions in premier hotels across the UK.

This season's competition took place at Barcelo UK's flagship Hinckley Island Hotel, so parents could also have a relaxing weekend away at a top four-star hotel while their children locked horns over the chess board. And with bedrooms and meals at the usual discounted 4NCL rates it meant that a family weekend away wasn't going to break the bank either.

As well as the high quality playing conditions, the J4NCL differentiates itself from most other junior events in offering free structured coaching between rounds for all the children, and the coaches also go through games on a one-to-one basis with any juniors who finish their games early. This season's coaches (GM Nick Pert, IM Andrew Martin and WFM Sabrina Chevannes) did a fine job; on occasion the job seemed (to this observer at least) to be as much an exercise in riot control as anything else, but the coaches all came through in grand style and we had lots of compliments from parents about the quality of the coaching. Another difference from many other junior (and senior) events is that teams can enter either for the whole season or for individual weekends. Moreover, we have no rules as to who can or can't be in a team (they can be school-based, club-based, family-based, or just a collection of friends who like playing together); even individual children without a team will be found a home somewhere. Nor do we have any age-restricted sections or age handicap rules, on the basis that (as they say in football) 'If you're good enough you're old enough'. So long as they're juniors, the more the merrier!



Winning Team: Cumnor and Witney at the prizegiving ceremony

When the dust settled at the end of the final weekend Cumnor and Witney finished just ahead of Yateley Manor by a single match point in Division 1. One match point behind them at the start of the penultimate round, they edged a 2½:1½ win, with your correspondent's son 'taking one for the team' in the last game to finish, agreeing a draw to secure the match in a winning position but where he was short of time. Andrew Martin said after the game "You both played like old men", which I take to be a compliment about the maturity of their playing styles rather than a comment on the geriatric nature of their play!

Division 2 was just as exciting, with Northampton Juniors just edging out another of Yateley Manor's teams, again by a single match point. Yateley Manor and Northampton Juniors deserve a particular mention for their fantastic support for the J4NCL, fielding no fewer than six and four teams respectively at the final weekend. In addition to the cash prizes on offer, the prize-giving ceremony on Sunday afternoon saw all players receive a certificate and a badge, with the top individual scorers receiving medals

and winning team members being presented with medals and a trophy. So everyone got something to take home as a memento.

The standard of the chess was generally excellent, and various parents commented on how much better many of the juniors were playing by the third weekend compared with the first. Children do of course improve fast at this age, but we like to think that the J4NCL coaching had something to do with it as well! Nonetheless, in any event with a range of chess playing ability some memorable moments are bound to occur:

Children to arbiter: "Is this position stalemate?"

Arbiter to children: "Well, let me see. Whose move is it?"

Children to arbiter: "We don't know!"

Arthur's opponent to arbiter: "Arthur has just put his king on that square (pointing to b7) after moving it to that square (pointing to b5)".

Arthur (getting tearful): "No I didn't!"

Arthur's opponent: "I hate you!"

(Arthur dissolves in tears.)

Arbiter (tactfully) to two juniors who have played out well over a hundred moves at lightning speed since the start of a Q and K vs K ending (the player with the Q having forgotten about his own K, making things a touch tricky): "I think it's time for lunch now."



Cumnor and Witney vs Yateley Manor match in progress

All part of the thrills and spills in the lower reaches of the J4NCL, and a salutary lesson for any arbiters who think they have seen it all!

It only remains for me to thank the parents and children for supporting the J4NCL, the organisers, arbiters and coaches for ensuring an enjoyable and stress-free experience for the players (although their own stress levels were on occasion sorely tested!), the John Robinson Trust for their generous sponsorship of the J4NCL, and Barcelo UK for their continuing support of both the 4NCL and the J4NCL. And now it's on to planning for the 2012/13 season!

FINAL STANDINGS

Division 1

	Match Pts	Game Pts
1st Cumnor and Witney	23	36½
2nd Yateley Manor A	22	41
3rd Yateley Manor B	10	23½

Division 2

	Match Pts	Game Pts
1st Northampton Junior B	29	104½
2nd Yateley Manor A	28	104
3rd Northampton Jr. Girls	19	80½

Pictures reproduced courtesy of Ray Morris-Hill. Many more photos from this event are available in Ray's galleries - http://raymorris-hill.smugmug.com/Sports/Chess/Junior-4NCL-Weekend-3-4-March/21750859_Q5KwPt#li=1736884861&k=wJrrxXj

ECF News

Finance Council Meeting

This year's Finance Council Meeting takes place in the Euston Square Hotel, 152-156 North Gower Street, London NW1 2LU Tel: 020 7388 0099 on the 14th April 2012 starting at 1.30pm

The Chief Executive writes ...

At time of going to press, the agenda for Finance Council was still being finalised and papers completed and agreed by the Board. In addition to the standard agenda items - approval of the coming year's Budget and Business Plan, along with the setting of membership subscriptions and game fee rates for the period from 1 September - it is the Board's intention to present the following:

- A paper on Charitable Status for discussion and later consultation, including a detailed presentation of proposals which, subject to responses from Council members, will be put before the AGM in October;

- A paper on Codes of Conduct, including proposals for the adoption of a formal ECF Complaints Procedure and Standards of Conduct for ECF Officials, along with a draft general Code of Conduct intended as a basis for discussion and consultation to assess members' appetite for such a code;

- A consultation paper on Governance, setting out a number of options for the future running of the ECF in the light of the new membership scheme, alongside consideration of the Sport and Recreation Alliance's Voluntary Code of Good Governance for the Sport and Recreation Sector and the potential benefits of its adoption by the ECF;

- A consultation paper on Allocation of Capital, which will also be included on the agenda of the British Chess Federation meeting on the same day, prompted by the approaching expiry (in February 2013) of the trust deeds governing the investments funds held in the BCF and the implications of the potential reorganisation under an ECF change to charitable status;

- A paper arguing for a future change in the ECF's accounting year to synchronise with the fixed membership year of 1 September to 31 August.

Consideration is also being given to proposals for a new Junior membership scheme, although there is still some uncertainty over whether these will be presented at this time.

One additional item of business has been submitted for inclusion, a proposal to transfer responsibility for FIDE rating from Home to International Chess.

In addition, Council will be brought up to date by the Chief Executive, who will provide a progress report, and there will be a report from the Finance Committee on various matters and from the FIDE Delegate on the ECF's action against FIDE in the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

All of the above is subject to confirmation by the publication of the formal Agenda, scheduled for 21 March.

This is a time of great change, ongoing and potential, for the ECF, which is reflected in the packed agenda outlined above. By introducing a number of important topics at the Finance Council, in anticipation of presenting formal proposals at the AGM six months later, the ECF is endeavouring to maximise the opportunities for discussion, consultation and informed debate. It is hoped that as many people as possible will take the chance to have their say, either directly at the meeting or via their delegate.

All of the meeting papers will be published on the ECF website at http://www.englishchess.org.uk/?page_id=897 in the usual way.

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International Round-Up

from Lawrence Cooper

4th Batavia Chess Tournament, Amsterdam

24th Feb – 4 Mar 2012

Keith Arkell finished third with 5.5/9, whilst Mark Hebden scored 5 in the ten player all-play-all.

Cappelle La Grande International Open

3-10 March 2012

Sam Franklin & George O'Toole are on 3/4, Gerald Parfett 2.5, Neil McDonald 2 & Andrew Whiteley 1.5.

First Saturday Budapest Hungary

3-13 March 2012

Mark Lyell is on 0/3.

Reykjavik Open

6-13 March 2012

Round 1 starts today (Tuesday) at 16:30. Gawain Jones, Simon Williams, Adam Hunt, Ian Thompson, Andrew Dunn, Martin Goodger and Chris Smith are all registered.

Future events:

e2e4 High Wycombe Congress

16-18 March 2012

http://e2e4.org.uk/high_wycombe/Mar2012/index.htm

Mark Hebden, Peter Wells and Keith Arkell are amongst those playing in the FIDE rated open. The congress also comprises a FIDE rated Major (under 2050 FIDE or 175 ECF) and Intermediate (under 1850 FIDE or 150 ECF) and the Minor section (under 120 ECF).

European Individual Championship Plovdiv, Bulgaria

19th March – 1st April 2012

<http://www.eicc2012.eu/>

Gawain Jones, David Howell, Adam Hunt and Andrew Ledger have all been registered.

Cork Congress

23-25 March 2012

<http://www.corkchess.com/index.php?page=cork-congress-2>

British Blitz Championship

Saturday 24th March, 2012

at the Quinborne Community Centre, Ridgacre Road, Quinton, West Midlands B32 2TW

http://www.englishchess.org.uk/?page_id=15530

Chief Organiser: Alex Holowczak –
alexholowczak@gmail.com

Results Round-Up

Junior 4NCL 2nd weekend results

Division 2

1st Yateley Manor A 7/10 (13 game points)

2nd Cumnor & Witney 6/10 (11)

3rd Northampton 5/10 (9.5)

4th Manchester 5/10 (9)

5th Yateley Manor B 3 (7.5)

Top Scorers - Harry Grieve 5/5, Daniel Varney & Joost Hoppe 4/5

Division 3

1st Great Houghton & ChessPoint 12/14 (37.5 Game Points)

2nd Yateley Manor Tigers 11/14 (37.5)

3rd Yateley Manor Lions 10/14 (36)

4th Northampton Junior B 10/14 (33.5)

5th Dulwich Prep London 7/14 (28.5)

6th Northampton Junior Girls 6/14 (26.5)

7th Northampton Junior C 6/14 (24.5)

8th Yateley Manor Cheetahs 4/14 (22)

9th Yateley Manor Pumas 4/14 (20)

10th Yateley Manor Jaguars 2/14 (21.5)

11th Yateley Manor Leopards 0/14 (16)

Top Scorers - 1st Samantha Perryman 12/14, 2nd David Collyer 11.5/14, 3rd= Daniel Warsop, Nehan Radia, Thomas Dexter, Max Miller 10/14

13th York Rapidplay

This event was held on Saturday 28th January at Wheatlands Lodge Hotel, York. 6-round Swiss, 20 minutes each on the clock. This year there were 2 sections and results as follows:

Section A – above Grade 140

1st – Martin Brown, York University 5/6

2nd = Peter Shaw, Wakefield; Jean-Luc Weller, York; Pierre Weller, York 4.5/6

5th = David Adams, York; Jim Nicholson, York; Jim Burnett, Doncaster; Fashad Ai, Sheffield; Oscar Hackner, Sheffield; David Patrick, Halifax 4/6

Grading book prizes to Oscar and David Patrick; Mike Taylor, Stockport

Section B – under 140

1st = Joe O'Donnell, York; Ewan Miller, York 5/6 (both junior players)

3rd = Ian Strickland, Leeds; Chris Bak, York University 4.5/6

Book prizes to James Dessent, York; Louis Romer, Leeds
Achievement Award – Louis Romer

Thanks to the three controllers – Charlie Weller, Rodney Mitchinson and David Baren. A friendly event, well contested. The President of YCA, Ihor Lewyk, also announced, during an interval, information about the new exciting website. A handout on forthcoming county matches was also passed out and contacts made

- *Peter Cloudsdale*

1st London FIDE Rapidplay

Played on the 28th January, 55 players entered
CONGRATULATIONS to our first champions of the London Junior FIDE Rapidplay!

U8 Champion – Iyesaa BIN-SUHAYL

U10 Champion – Dominic KLINGHER

U12 Champion – Dion HUANG

U14 Champion – Yousuf BIN-SUHAYL

CONGRATULATIONS to our first champions of the London FIDE Rapidplay!

Open Section joint Champions were:

David OKIKE and Michael WHITE – 4 out 5

U2000 Section joint Champions were:

Helge HJORT and Imanol SEGURA – 4.5 out 5

U1700 Champion – Phani JONNALAGADDA – 4.5 out 5

Cross table: <http://www.londonrapidplay.co.uk/london-rp/LRP%20FIDE%2001.txt>

- *Sainbayar Tserendorj, Organiser*

1st Wellington College Rapidplay and Training Weekend – from Nick Pert

On 4th and 5th February Wellington College played host to the 1st Wellington College Rapidplay and Training Weekend. The Rapidplay took place on Saturday 4th February. Wellington College had generously allowed us to hold it in one of their grand halls, a big upgrade on most rapidplay events! Just down the corridor was a large refreshments area with comfortable couches and flat screen TVs where parents could wait between rounds, and watch the rugby! In the afternoon there was also a bookstall and complimentary tea and coffee.

Approximately 50 players entered the event, and were fairly evenly split between 3 sections, Open, U170 and U110. Ken Coates did an excellent job of running the tournament, assisted by his wife Christine, and to a lesser extent myself. The time control was 25 minutes per player with a 5 second increment.

The Open attracted a strong field including 1 GM and 2 IMs, and 8 of the 16 players were graded over 200. It was also pleasing to see many top juniors participating, Brandon Clarke, Alan Merry, James Holland, Akash Jain,

Alex Galliano and Matthew Wadsworth all competed in the Open.

The U170 section also boasted some rising stars of the game, mixed in with more experienced chess players whilst the U110 section was a mix of adult players who had not played many events before and top younger junior players.

There was a slight delay in round 1 as we were trying to get everything set up, and deal with registrations, but by round 2 we were back on time, mainly thanks to Ken's organisational ability. I remember being slightly caught out by this and arrived 3 minutes late for round 2 myself!

Lunch was held after round 2, and it was absolutely fantastic. The College offered a choice of meals, deserts and hot or cold drinks in a buffet style. A far higher quality than most school lunches! Lunch was included in the price for players, and could be ordered at a cost of £3 per head for parents.

As for the chess itself, it could not have gone better for me as I managed 6/6 against James Sherwin, Alan Merry, Brandon Clarke, Malcolm Pein, Matthew Wadsworth and Peter Roberson. Malcolm played a very strong tournament too and was pleased with his outright 2nd place on 4.5/6.

Alex Freeland of Wellington College looked to be running away with the U170, before losing his last game to top seed Carl Boni, who subsequently caught him up. Carl's only loss came in round 1 to one of Crowthorne's brightest young players, Louise Head. Both Alex and Carl won £75 each for joint first.

The U110 section was very closely contested and ended in a 3 way tie for first on 4.5/6 between promising junior Daniel Gallagher, Crowthorne player David Hemmings and Porferio Sorino, who I believe was playing his first tournament.

On the Sunday, approximately 20 people battled through the snow to make the training. On top of the chess talks, we were extremely lucky to have talks from David Openshaw on the psychology of becoming a strong chess player, and from ECF Junior Director Phil Ehr. The day was finished off with me giving a clock simul.

In addition to this the John Robinson Trust has agreed to sponsor the first 4 events with £300 of coaching money. This meant that the 9 U21s who attended the training day received £33 each towards individual chess lessons.

A big thank you should go to Wellington College and their teacher, John Rawlinson for making the event possible and for everyone who attended. Also thanks to the JRT for their sponsorship and to Phil Ehr and David Openshaw for giving up their time to give excellent talks on Sunday.

The next event is planned for 17/18 March 2012, and the format is likely to be much the same as last time. I hope that there is a strong turnout again!

To convince you, please see below some reports that I have been emailed since the weekend:

From Tim Lawson's blog:

The whole tournament was well organised and played in good spirits. This is the first of a series of rapidplay/training weekends organised by Nick Pert (GM). Food was provided and the venue was nothing short of excellent.

Nick proved himself to be a worthy teacher, mixing humour with some absolute super sharp analysis, without having to refer to his notes despite the hundreds of "useful move" suggestions being fired at him.

All in all, this was an excellent weekend and for £50 for the two days (included the rapidplay with prize money plus the training day plus being fed and watered) represented fantastic value. I probably shouldn't be blogging this because these weekends could otherwise become a well guarded secret!

From Anna Gallagher, Daniel Gallagher's mother:

"Thank you for organising a great chess tournament and training session last weekend at Wellington College. Daniel really enjoyed the training (and the tournament!)"

From Lynn Davidson, Laura Davidson's mother:

"Thank you for a well organised chess tournament. Laura enjoyed it and I'm sure it has improved her game. Your efforts are much appreciated."

From Lucy Head, Louise Head's mother:

Thanks for organising the tournament this weekend. Louise had a great time."

Leading Scores:

Open:

1st GM N Pert 6/6 (£150). 2nd IM M Pein 4.5/6 (£70)
3rd= IM J Sherwin, B Clarke 4/6 (£20 each).

Major:

1st = A Freeland, C Boni (£75 each) 5/6 3rd Phanikanth

4.5/6 (£20).

Minor:

1st= D Gallagher, P Sorino, D Hemmings 4.5/6 (£57 each).

Frodsham Congress report from Pat Ridley

There were 101 players at this year's Frodsham Congress, which took place on 10th-12th February. The Major was won by Andrej Stancak (Atticus), conceding just one draw, half a point ahead of Oliver Jackson. There was a three-way tie for first place in the Intermediate, Carl Gartside (Buxton), Ian Stephens (Liverpool) and Ray Williams (Chester) sharing the honours. Brian Crompton (Pensby) was the outright winner of the Minor, with four players sharing second place

Major (U210, 24 players)

1st Andrej Stancak (Atticus) 4.5/5
2nd Oliver Jackson (No Club) 4
3= Peter Jowett (Preston), Silvio Ueti (Brazil) 3.5
Grading prize (U160): Brendan Kane (Aigburth) 3
Others on 3: Steve Jones (Padgate), John Reed (East Cheshire), Mike Surtees (Bolton).

Intermediate (U150, 32 players)

1= Carl Gartside (Buxton), Ian Stephens (Liverpool), Ray Williams (Chester) 4
Grading prizes (U135): Ben Scattergood (Holmes Chapel) 3.5
Others on 3.5: Martin Coles (Runcorn), Graham Shepherd (Church Stretton)
On 3: David Buckell (Pendle), Nick Darlington (Frodsham), Conrad Green (Newcastle-under-Lyme), Joe Nemcek (Chester), Tony Roberts (Wallasey), Ben Roberts (Rhyl & Prestatyn)

Minor (U125, 45 players)

1st Brian Crompton (Pensby) 4.5
2= Andrew De Santos (Preston), Bill Egan (Scunthorpe), Mike Lee (Colwyn Bay), Richard Szwajkun (Shifnal & Telford) 4
Grading prizes (U106): Chris Fraser (West Bridgford), David Price (Holmes Chapel) 3.5
Others on 3.5: Paul Jackson (Morecambe)
On 3: Jacob Boswell (Cheddleton & Leek), Derek Brent (Urmston), Alex Cartlidge (Cheddleton & Leek), Conrad Jowett (No Club), Eliot Green (Newcastle-under-Lyme), Jeremy Hunt (Prescot & Knotty Ash), David Scorer (Pendle), Jim Waddington (Bolton)

The Team Prize (a digital clock) was won by Chester (9.5/15) for the fourth year running, ahead of Cheddleton & Leek, Holmes Chapel and Priorslee Lions (8.5)

The Congress was again expertly controlled by Roger Edwards, Robert Milner and Jim McPhillips. The Congress in 2013 will take place 8th-10th February

Golders Green RP - 11/02/12

94 players took part, despite the snowy weather and the clash with the 4NCL (Four Nations Chess League) over the same weekend - indeed many players took part in round 6 of the 4NCL on the Sunday. Golders Green is one of the first UK events to take advantage of FIDE, the World Chess Federation's offer to rate events for their rapidplay list, to be published for the first time in July. This appeared to attract many new players to the tournament. As one of the conditions of participation in this prestigious event, players in the Open and Major sections are expected to become members of the national governing body, the English Chess Federation.

OPEN

1st FIDE Master Peter Sowray (211) 5.5/6 £60
Sainbayar Tserendorj 4.5/6 £15, Yaroslav Orishko 4.5/6
Under 175 grading prize Ronnie Cohen (160) 3/6 £20

MAJOR Under 170

1st Kumar Dixit (152) 5.5/6 £60
Ayhan Anil (155) and Ostap Orishko 4.5/6 and £15 each
Under 155 grading prize of £20 went to David Openshaw (145) on 4/6

MINOR Under 145

John Macdonald (130) 5.5/6 £60
Salvatore Pepe (142) 5/6 £30
Under 130 grading prize was shared by Genga Somupilla (129), Elizabeth Ivanov (124) and Joel Fishel (118) on 3.5/6 with £10 each

AMATEUR Under 120

John Francis Kelly 6/6 £60
Federico Rocco (99) and Pranay Chauhan (117) 4.5/6 and £15 each
Under 105 grading prize of £20 was won by David Healey (102) with 4.5/6

Next event at Golders Green is on Saturday 3rd March 2012

Wiltshire & West of England Junior Open Congress

18th & 19th February 2012 – St Joseph's College, Swindon

Prize Winners

Best Overall Girl – Radha Jain (Glos)

Major

1st= Marcus Harvey (Oxon) 4/5
1st= Peter Batchelor (London) 4/5
3= Radha Jain (Glos) 3½/5
3= Kumar Dixit (Hants) 3½/5
British Championship Place – Peter Batchelor (London)
West of England U18 Champion – Radha Jain (Glos), Kumar Dixit (Hants)
West of England U18 Girls' – Radha Jain (Glos)
West of England U16 Champion – Radha Jain (Glos), Kumar Dixit (Hants)
West of England U16 Girls' – Radha Jain (Glos)
Wiltshire U18 Champion – Adam Burroughs
Wiltshire U16 Champion – Adam Burroughs
Controller's Prize – Louise Head

U14 Championship

1st= Ananthanarayan Balaji (Mddx) 4/6
1st= Adam Taylor (Essex) 4/6
1st= Akito Oyama (Cambs) 4/6
1st= Roman Mitra (Herts) 4/6
West of England U14 Champion – Jamie MacDonald (Wilts)
Wiltshire U14 Champion – Jamie MacDonald
U140 Grading Prize – Jamie MacDonald
U120 Grading Prize – Jake Hung (London)
Best Game – Leo Tsoi (Birmingham)

Minor

1st Michael Green (Kent) 5/6
2nd Tim Foster (Surrey) 4½/6
Wiltshire Minor Champion – Luke Burroughs, Jordan Isgin
Best Girl – Isabel Hauer (Oxon)
Controller's Prize – Matthew Howell (Surrey)

U12 Championships

1st Vincent Lee (Herts) 5½/6
2nd= Matthew Fergusson (B'ham) 5/6
2nd= Joshua Higgs (Sussex) 5/6
2nd= Richard Meikle-Briggs (Surrey) 5/6
2nd= Ryan Wong (Berks) 5/6
Best U11 Zheming Zhang (Newcastle)
Best U11 Theo Slade (Cornwall)
West of England U12 Champion – Theo Slade (Cornwall), Alex Vanlint (Hants)*
West of England U12 Girls' – Eleanor Hapeshi (Glos)
Wiltshire U12 Champion – Pranav Satish
Wiltshire U11 Champion – Sascha Lee Sekulic
Best Girl – Eva Ressel (Northants)
*Please note we omitted to include Alex in the presentation – apologies to Alex

U12 Challengers

1st James Evans (Swansea) 5/6

2nd Daniel Varney (Oxon) 4½/6
Best Girl – Marianne Hauer (Oxon)
Controllers Prize – Marianne Hauer (Oxon), Alex
Goodhead (Glos)

U10 Championship

1st= Koby Kalavannan (Surrey) 5/6
1st= Francesco Bernadini (Kent) 5/6
3rd= Charlie McLaren (Wilts) 4½/6
3rd= Anthony Zhang (Berks) 4½ /6
3rd= Anantha Anilkumar (Kent) 4½/6
West of England U10 Champion – Charlie McLaren
(Wilts)
Wiltshire U10 Champion – Charlie McLaren (Wilts)
West of England U10 Girls’ – Emily Vaughan (Wilts)
Best Girl – Chloe D’Souza-Eva (Oxon)

U9 Championship

1st Will Cleeves (Wilts) 5½/6
2nd= Oliver Howell (Surrey) 5/6
2nd= Benjamin Perryman (Hants) 5/6
4th Omeet Atara 4½/6
West of England U9 Champion – Will Cleeves
Wiltshire U9 Champion – Will Cleeves
Best Girl – Shayanna Sivarajasingam (Cardiff)
Controller’s Prize – Jeff Tomy (Watford), Daniel Finn
(Sussex)

U8 Championships

1st= Anish Kalyana (B’ham) 5/6
1st= Eva Wang (Oxon) 5/6
1st= Callaghan McCarty-Snead (Oxon) 5/6
4th William Golding (Surrey) 4½/6
West of England U8 Champion – Ben Surtees (Hants),
Edward Bence (Hants), Ben Headlong (Wilts)
West of England U8 Girls’ – Megan Tub (Dorset)
Wiltshire U8 Champion – Ben Headlong
Controller’s Prize – Aditya Krishna (Yorks), Harvey
Zhang (Berks), Emily Wang (Cardiff)

Saturday Intermediate

1st= Jonathan Finn (Sussex) 5½/6
1st= Luke Barry (London) 5½/6
3rd Harry McLaren (Glos) 5/6
Best U13= Ray Ren (Oxon)
Best U13= Arthur Copping (Wilts)
Best U10 – Ayush Bose (Hants)
Best Girl – Bethan Plant (Somerset)
Controller’s Prize – Henry Parkinson (Wilts), Henry
Kassulke (Wilts)

Sunday Intermediate

1st Jonathan Finn (Sussex) 5½/6
2nd= Harry McLaren (Glos) 4½/6
2nd= Aditya Shah (Bristol) 4½/6

4th Arthur Copping (Wilts) 4/6
Best U12 Medal – Jack Batchelor (London)
Controller’s Prize – Matthew Smith (Wilts)

Beginners

1st Jake Bains-Gillespie (Berks) 6/6
2nd= William Vanlint (Hants) 5/6
2nd= Isaac Powell (Glos) 5/6
Best Girl= Ayesha Pearson (Notts)
Best Girl= Paige Mansell (Glos)

London Junior FIDE Rapidplay

25th February saw the second London FIDE Rapidplay
– 70 players entered

CONGRATULATIONS to the junior winners -
U8 Champion Arjan-Singh TUCKER | U10 Champion
Dominic KLINGHER
U12 Champion Maraj MOBEEN | U14 Champion Max
ELLIOTT
Best Girl: Lily PURVIS

Open Section joint Champions were:
David OKIKE and Peter SOWRAY – 4 out 5
Grading prize: Patrick DUNCAN, David WHITE-
HEAD and Ian PARSONAGE

U2000 Section joint Champions were:
Vincent SAGUES, Myroslav SEMAN and Imanol
SEGURA – 4 out 5
Grading prize: Salvatore PEPE

U1700 Champion Nikunj SINHA 5 out 5
Grading: Max ELLIOTT, Yousuf BIN-SUHAYL and
Daniel COHEN

- *Sainbayar Tserendorj*
075 2503 8143 | www.londonrapidplay.co.uk



Warwickshire Open Chess Championships 2012

The Warwickshire Open Chess Championships 2012 were held on the weekend of 3rd/4th March at Arden School, Knowle. For the second year running the Open Section produced a three-way tie, and so the Tucker Trophy was shared between Ameet Ghasi (from Birmingham), Tomasz Sygnowski (of West Bromwich) and Richard Weaving (of Solihull). This section was the largest entry within living memory, as well as being the strongest

Open

1st= £130 each – 4pts/5 – Joint Warwickshire Champions

Ameet Ghasi, [Birmingham]

Tomasz Sygnowski, West Bromwich

Richard Weaving, Solihull

Grading= Under 185 – £10 each – 2½pts/5

Richard Bryant, Chester

David Cooper, Bushbury

Peter Mercs, Gambit

British Championship Qualifying Place

Richard Weaving, Solihull (on a tie-break)

Under 170

1st £130 – 4½/5 pts

Wiatt Ropp, Stratford

2nd £70 – 4/5 pts

David Ireland, Coventry Chess

3rd= £10 each – 3½/5 pts

Leif Dixon, South Birmingham

Faraz Malik, South Birmingham

Thomas Robinson, Redditch

Kevin Yeomans, Olton

Grading= Under 85 – £10 each – 3/5 pts

Keith Jewsbury, Solihull

Andrew Price, Leamington

Under 145

1st= £48 each – 4/5 pts

Tim Allen, Battersea

Ray Collett, Worcester

Clive Pemberton, [Balsall Common]

Rick Weston, Witney

Andrew Wiggins, Redditch

Grading= Under 135 – £5 each – 2½/5 pts

William Egan, Scunthorpe

Athar Mehmood, Newport-Telford

Alan Riddoch, Maidstone

Colin Solloway, Milton Keynes

Under 120

1st £130 – 4½/5 pts

Stephen Crockett, Redditch

2nd= £55 each – 4/5 pts

Michele Clack, Redditch

Dominic Heining, [Leamington]

Grading= Under 110 – £3 each – 2½/5 pts

Sam Beardmore, Cheddleton & Leek

Andrew Ellis, Cambridge City

Steven Hotchkiss, [Birmingham]

Colin Mace, Wellington

Felicity Parker, KE VI Fiveways

Shivi Ravi, Solihull Checkmates

Robert Sutton, Worcester

Junior Prize

1st £20 – 3½/5 pts

Jacob Boswell, Cheddleton & Leek

Team Prize

1st £40 – 16/20 pts

Redditch Chess Club

Richmond Rapidplay

Results of Richmond on 11th March 2012 – 22 played

Open

1st=: Graeme Buckley, Peter Roberson and Richard Bates 5/6

U190 Grading Prize: Raghu Kamath and Dale Taylor 3.5/6

Major (U170)

1st: Rajasekhar Pentakota 5/6

2nd=: Victor Boy-Lazoni and Christopher Kreuzer 4.5/6

U150 Grading Prize: Ian Deswarte 4/6;

Intermediate (U135)

1st: Mark Wieder 5.5/6

2nd: Frank Burnham 5/6

3rd=: David Grange, Graham Cole, Peter Morton and Max French 4/6

U115 Grading Prize: Daniel Varney 4/6

Minor (U100)

1st: Yousuf Bin-Suhayl 5.5/6

2nd=: Felix Turner and Joe Benton 5/6;

4th=: Devdoot Barman and Joanitah Butindo 4.5/6;

U80 Grading Prize: Haolin Zhao and Iyesaa Bin-Suhayl 4/6;



37th East Devon Chess Congress

Section	Position	Name	Club	Points	Prize (£)
Open	1=	David Littlejohns	Taunton	4	140
Open	1=	Oliver Wensley	Exmouth	4	140
Open	1=	Graham Bolt	Exeter	4	140
Open	Grading 165-179	John Wheeler	Cosham	3.5	15
Open	Grading 165-179	John Stephens	Exmouth	3.5	15
Open	Grading <165	Steve Dean	Seaton	2.5	15
Open	Grading <165	Brian Gosling	Exmouth	2.5	15
Major	1=	Roger Greatorex	Llangollen	4	68
Major	1=	Michael H Stinton-Brownbridge	Plymouth	4	68
Major	1=	Jamie Morgan		4	68
Major	1=	Theo Slade	Barnstaple	4	68
Major	1=	Andrew Frangleton	Exeter	4	68
Major	Grading 133-145	David J Lawrence	Kingshead	3.5	30
Major	Grading <133	David J Cornes	Wimborne	3	15
Major	Grading <133	William E Upton	South Norwood	3	15
Minor	1	Christine Constable	Coulsdon	4.5	160
Minor	2	James O'Grady	Newton Abbot	4	110
Minor	3=	Joy Fursman		3.5	12
Minor	3=	Graham Mill-Wilson	Yate and Sodbury	3.5	12
Minor	3=	Raymond Hood	Isca	3.5	12
Minor	3=	Alan Fraser	Beckenham & Bromley	3.5	12
Minor	3=	Peter Saunders	Patchway	3.5	12
Minor	3=	Arthur Rinvolucrici	Barnstaple	3.5	12
Minor	Grading 100-110	Marian Cox		3.5	15
Minor	Grading 100-110	Ian Bowman	Liskeard	3.5	15
Minor	Grading <100	Graham Jones	Barnstaple	2.5	30
	Best Team *	Exmouth		13.5	20
	TOTAL				1302

* Team prize was chess equipment

20th Doncaster Chess Congress

The 20th Doncaster Chess Congress had a record number of 204 entrants. The event was contested over five rounds and the prize winners are listed below -

OPEN	NAME	TOWN/CLUB	POINTS	PRIZE £
1st	Jonathan Hawkins	Cheddleton	4½	250.00
2nd	O A Jackson	Poynton, Cheshire	4	150.00
	P Cumbers	Sheffield Nomads	3½	20.00
	Bret Addison	Hartlepool	3½	20.00
3rd =	Michael Round	Rose Forgrove, Leeds	3½	20.00
	R Jennings	Rose Forgrove, Leeds	3½	20.00
	D Sullivan	Sheffield Nomads	3½	20.00
Grading Prize (180-173)	Michael Round	Rose Forgrove, Leeds	3½	25.00
	R Jennings	Rose Forgrove, Leeds	3½	25.00
Grading Prize (U173)	D Sullivan	Sheffield Nomads	3½	50.00
		TOTAL PRIZE MONEY		600.00

MAJOR	NAME	TOWN/CLUB	POINTS	PRIZE £
1st =	Farshad Ai	Phoenix, Sheffield	4½	200.00
	Peter Mulleady	Rossendale	4½	200.00
3rd	Raymond Gamble	Spondon, Derby	4	100.00
Grading Prize (152-159)	John Cawston	Lady Anne Middleton, York	3½	25.00
	Philip Griffiths	Worksop	3½	25.00
Grading Prize (U152)	Alan McIntosh	Ecclesall, Sheffield	3	50.00
		TOTAL PRIZE MONEY		600.00

INTERMEDIATE	NAME	TOWN/CLUB	POINTS	PRIZE £
1st =	Andy Ross	Rose Forgrove, Leeds	4½	200.00
	Ian Stephens	Liverpool	4½	200.00
3rd =	Noel Boustred	Gosforth	4	33.33
	Daniel Jazdzewski	Chessmates Northampton	4	33.33
	Roger Walker	Belper, Derbyshire	4	33.33
Grading Prize (U140)	Daniel Jazdzewski	Chessmates Northampton	4	50.00
Grading Prize (U130)	Roger Walker	Belper, Derbyshire	4	50.00
		TOTAL PRIZE MONEY		599.99

MINOR	NAME	TOWN / CLUB	POINTS	PRIZE £
1st =	Andrew James Smith	Worksop	4½	166.66
	Peter Locking	Stannington, Sheffield	4½	166.66
	John Smart	Bentley, Doncaster	4½	166.66
Grading Prize (113-101)	Robert Stokes	Scunthorpe	3½	16.66
	Alan R Fraser	Beckenham & Bromley	3½	16.66
	Alan Gardner	Bentley, Doncaster	3½	16.66
Grading Prize 100 & below	Chris Fraser	West Bridgford	3½	50.00
		TOTAL PRIZE MONEY		599.96

DISABLED PLAYERS

Inter	Norman Wragg	Ecclesall, Sheffield	2½
Minor	Mark Kirkham	Sheffield University	2½

Tradewise Gibraltar Chess Festival 2012 - reports by Stewart Reuben

24 January

Monday evening there was the usual very pleasant ceremony to start the congress fully. The Minister for Sports, Leisure, Culture and Heritage Steven Linares was introduced by Stuart Conquest and then made a short speech. Miss Gibraltar, Michelle Pedersen, then did the Drawing of Lots for the first round in the Masters. This is a somewhat more elaborate affair than in most other countries. There then followed a buffet laid on by the Caleta Hotel with their customary hospitality. The highlight of the subsequent evening in the bar was Maria Jose Rescaglio Yarur, who plays in the Amateur, singing, accompanying herself on a stringed instrument.

Continuing on that theme, Tuesday evening there was a dinner at the official residence – the Convent – of His Excellency, the Governor of Gibraltar to mark the 10th anniversary of the festival. It became clear why he is referred to as His Excellency, when he gave a most polished speech.

Tuesday morning I found myself in the not-unusual role as filler in the second round of the Challengers. This was the first time I had ever played in a rating restricted tournament. We believe people mostly come to the event to play chess, not to secure a win by default. You may have noticed one of our arbiters, Priscilla Morris, has already played two games in Amateur A.

Several people over the years have come to the congress despite being in very poor health. Daniel Yarur of Chile suffered an extremely bad skiing accident one year. He said one of the most important things that gave him the will to get better was that he couldn't miss the Gibraltar Congress. One of the players this year had pneumonia. He said that he felt he had to come as he couldn't let Brian Callaghan down. Eric Schiller is in very poor physical health. That he has come from California is a triumph of will.

This year there are 256 in the Masters. 59 people played in

the first event in 2003 and 232 last year. There are 60 federations represented, including Gibraltar, which is regarded as part of England in FIDE. Thus more federations than there were players at the inaugural event.

Due to the Accelerated Pairings, many of the top players had to face opponents over 2400 in the first round. As Nigel Short said, 'it is hardly surprising that we didn't find it easy'. Tennis legend Pat Cash made an interesting comment concerning this very subject and the Australian Open. He said seeding 32 players out of 128 protects the stronger players too much and leads to uninteresting first rounds.

It is tempting to look only at the big upsets in the first round. I have been bribed by the Swedes to say that Alexei Shirov LAT 2710 was under siege in his game against Patrik Lyrberg 2435. Emil Sutovsky ISR 2703 played rather wildly against air-traffic controller Craig Hanley ENG 2421. Jovanka Houska ENG 2414 defended well against Peter Svidler RUS 2749. **17...Nc4** was a star move. But she eventually buckled under pressure.

25 January

The life-blood of publicity for chess tournaments is the games of the players. The better the games, the more they will be circulated. Since there were so many clashes at the top, there were a very large number of entertaining games considering it is only the second round. Some of the games will be anthologised and played over for many years to come in many different countries.

However the game between **Artur Jussupov GER 2569 and Peter Svidler RUS 2749** was not one of them. The game was a very fair draw after 30 moves, but there should be a Chessbase symbol for such games. Virtually all the other games were in complete contrast and provide a very enjoyable experience when played through.

Shakhriyar Mamedyarov AZE 2747 v Tamir Nabaty ISR 2563 had just one flaw. Tamir resigned before the spectators understood why. There should be a law against it. But Black played a splendid concept with **14...Ng4**. Whether it was sound is quite another matter.

Emanuel Berg SWE 2550 v Michael Adams ENG 2724 was possibly the Game of the Day. But no doubt there are a lot of contenders that I have yet to see. Michael is much better prepared these days than years ago.

We had problems understanding why the Israeli resigned. The late, great Danish grandmaster, Bent Larsen, once said, "You should never resign until all the audience understands why."

Even the commentator Simon Williams was puzzled. Basically **27 Re7! Qxe7 28 Ne6ch Qxe6 29 fxe6 Bxe6 30 Rg1 ch** forces **Ng4** and Black's position is in ruins.

The game of Judit Polgar 2710 (HUN) v Vyacheslav Ikonnikov 2531 (RUS) exploded into tactics in a manner we have grown accustomed to for the great Hungarian woman. Maxime Vachier-Lagrave 2699 (FRA) v Anna Zatonskih 2506 (USA) fizzled out into a draw.

There isn't time in the commentary room to look at all the jewels on display. Should we ask the players to slow down so that we can keep up?

Alexei Shirov delighted us in the Commentary Room by joining us after he beat the English IM/poker player Simon Ansell with the Black pieces. Thus we had two Master Classes in one day. The young English grandmaster David Howell went over his first two games Wednesday evening, much to the delight of a packed audience. You can see this on <http://www.gibraltarchess-congress.com/videos.htm>

26 January

Participation of female players in this congress is very important to the whole ethos of this congress. Our webmaster, Steve Connor, reminded me I intended to comment on the passing of Elaine Pritchard, who died very recently and whose career spanned a major period in women's chess. In a way, it is fortuitous that the Tradewise Gibraltar Chess Festival can be regarded as a memorial to her. She was a child prodigy in the late 1930s (which must have been very unusual for a girl in that period). She remembered sitting on Vera Menchik's knee. Vera was the first-ever Women's World Champion and won the World Girls title the same year. Elaine won the World Girls in 1936 at the age of 10 and again in 1937. She was British Ladies Champion in 1939, 1946, 1955 and 1965. Her last FIDE Rating was 2150. In her period, women mainly played separately from men. For more, see <http://www.englishchess.org.uk/?p=16227>

Nigel Short ENG v Shakhriyar Mamedyarov AZE

Nigel won a very nice, easy game. It was predicted he would reach the Commentary Room by 6.15pm, but he made it by 6.01pm

Michael Adams ENG v Daniel Fridman GER

It is heart-warming to see the two leading English players on the top two boards in the Masters. Even better, they both won. What could be more appropriate in this extremely patriotic setting? Michael sacrificed a pawn in return for weakening Black's kingside, a very long-term plan indeed. His handling of the delicate endgame put Black under so much pressure that he eventually won. 53

move games don't usually win the £1000 Best Game Prize, but this could be the exception.

Hou Yifan CHN v Zoltan Almasi HUN

Another elegant game played by Hou Yifan, the 17 year old Women's World Chess Champion. The Berlin Wall is regarded as virtually impregnable, but she chipped away at its foundations.

Le Quang Liem VIE v Mircea-Emilian Parligras ROU

Basically they shuffled around until the music stopped. But doing nothing extremely well is a characteristic of very strong players.

Alexei Shirov LAT v Mariya Muzychuk UKR

Alexei again came to the Commentary Room as did Emanuel Berg. Thus we got three master classes that afternoon. He was very surprised by **24...Kf8**. It was a nice positional crush.

Peter Svidler RUS v Anna Muzychuk SLO

She took the fight to the Russian, sacking a pawn early on. This was returned and it then came down to a drawn endgame.

David Howell ENG v Judit Polgar HUN

Black seemed better initially, but not after the mutual time scramble. The fortunes of the game ebbed and waned and it concluded after 82 moves with only kings on the board.

Gabriel Sargissian ARM v Sabino Brunello ITA

100 rated points difference isn't all that much, so Black's win was not a shocking surprise. The Armenian went wrong with 38 bxa6 and after this was unable to recover.

BLITZ TEAMS OF FOUR CHAMPIONSHIP

This traditional event attracted 20 teams of 4 players in 6 rounds. They played at the rate of 4 minutes per game plus 4 seconds cumulatively for each move. That works out at about 8 minutes for the whole game for each player, or an average of 8 seconds per move. This is considered quite leisurely for such an event.

The team USSR Mixed Team were red hot favourites. It consisted of Peter Svidler 2749 RUS, Viktor Bologan 2680 Moldova, Nadezhda Kosintseva woman 2537 RUS, Natalia Zhukova 2426 UKR.

USSR Mixed – 20½ game points, 12 match points
Arabic Dragon – 15½ game points, 8 match points
Linares Team – 15 game points, 9 match points

In addition to the 3 hours of this event some people also played 4 hours in the morning and 5 hours in the evening.

27 January

One of the glories of the congress is the ambience at the Caleta Hotel of an evening. Grandmasters and patzers (that means a weak player in chess) mingle together socially at the bar. Where else can you expect to hear some people discussing the latest wrinkles in opening theory while elsewhere Maria Yarur is accompanying herself singing on the ukulele? She and I even danced a little. The applause was... err, polite for me. Moreover this evening Judit Polgar, the strongest female player in history, gave a well-attended master class. She showed her R2 game v Vyacheslav Ikonnikov, and then chatted for at least another



er half hour on various aspects of her career. She provided entertainment and education for players of all strengths and took questions from the audience.

Tonight the weather has changed. After beamish weather this year it finally started to rain and, as I write, I can hear the waves dashing against the rocks – which personally I enjoy.

Both Challengers A and Amateur A concluded today. Some people went home happier, richer and wiser. There are higher prize funds in rating restricted tournaments in the US, but very few elsewhere. Indeed many events have only the one big open section. The Amateur events are being FIDE Rated for the first time. In due course this will mean there will be far fewer unrated players in the event. This will make it easier to assign players to the correct section.

The story of the game on Board 28 is interesting. GM Emanuel Berg SWE played against IM Melia Salome GEO. The game went on and on and eventually she claimed a draw on the 50 move rule. But she was wrong; they had only played 49 moves without a capture or pawn move. Thus the arbiter quite correctly awarded Emanuel three extra minutes. The Swede played a pawn move h4 and the game continued. Eventually it was agreed drawn on move 161. The average length of a game of chess is about 40 moves. But 161 is not a record for Gibraltar, an earlier encounter lasted 167 moves. It is necessary to have

a rule in any sport where there can be an unlimited number of moves. Thus tennis has its tiebreaks.

The top two board games were drawn today. Ignorant people assume this means the games must have been boring. What nonsense! A well-played draw can be just as entertaining as a win; in fact possibly more so as there may be fewer gross errors. Anyway this means that now there is nobody with 100% and 11 players with 3½/4.

Hou Yifan CHN v Michael Adams ENG

This was an accurately played draw where neither player made a major error.

Sabino Brunello ITA v Nigel Short ENG

This was another very accurate game with repetition after 28 moves.

Judit Polgar HUN v Humpy Koneru IND

I believe this was the first time the women's World Number 1 and Number 3 have ever met. The only all female event Judit has ever played in is the Women's Olympiad. This is her first open tournament for many years. One would have liked to have seen more fireworks, but you can't legislate for these things.

Alberto David LUX v Alexei Shirov LAT

Alexei joined in the Commentary Room as usual. When asked why he played the seemingly provocative 15...Kf6, he said, 'It was the only move to give me chances'. Someone in the audience said it was mentioned as a footnote in Fischer's 'My 60 Memorable Games', first published in the 1960s. Of course it is impossible to remember all opening theory.

28 January

They are off and running. But wait a moment; is not the event halfway over? Well, that is perfectly true, but Challengers B and Amateur B started today. There are 83 players in Challengers B, 3 less than the first half and 38 in Amateur B which is 8 more. Several players had entered for two morning events and the Masters, but withdrew from the B tournament. They found 20 games in 11 days too much

29 January

Today there were several games which were really exciting. They aren't necessarily going to win the Best Game Prize as usually there were many errors on both sides. Personally I like chess which is full of action in which nobody knows what is going on until months or years later.

GN Gopal IND v Michael Adams ENG

This was a very fair and very correct game which ended in a draw. There have been many Ruy Lopez games in this

event which ended similarly.

Nana Dzagnidze GEO v Krishnan Sasikiran IND

White went seriously wrong in the opening and got no compensation for the c4 pawn lost. It was surprising that the experienced Indian player was unable to capitalise on his good fortune. But we must admire the Georgian's ability to defend for many hours.

Viktor Erdos HUN v Shakhriyar Mamedyarov AZE

There was an abrupt reverse of fortune in this game, so I won't include a spoiler to ruin your enjoyment of this sporting encounter.

Varuzhan Akobian USA v Liem Le Quang VIE

If White is not too ambitious in this opening it tends to head inevitably towards a draw.

Judit Polgar HUN v Ruben Felgaer ARG

Black could have tried to nick a pawn with **13...Qxa2**, but **14 Qb4** would be fine. Both players played dynamically in the endgame and it was a hard, well-fought, draw.

Alberto David LUX v Viktor Bologan MDA

This was another draw where both players strived for something more. I have noticed that people think 100 points difference in rating means a great deal. In one particular game it is very little, especially when the lower rated player has the white pieces.

Humpy Koneru IND v Nigel Short ENG

I wonder if either player was aware that this game might have considerable impact on the Queen's Diamond Jubilee £5000 Commonwealth prize? Nigel tends to play a number of more off-beat openings these days, presumably to avoid intensive opening theory. Thus **1 d4 Nc6**.

Parimarjan Negi IND v Richard Rapport HUN

A battle between two former child prodigies. I don't know how much of this was theory, but surely **23...Rxc4** was essential? However, even then White stands much better.

Viktor Laznicka CZE v El Debs Felipe De Cresce BRA

The Brazilian is rated over 200 points below the Czech and had the Black pieces. Yet he never seemed to be in trouble.

So we now have 8 players tied with 5/7. Mamedyarov has made a fine comeback after losing to Nigel Short. Only(!) 3 of the 8 players are rated over 2700.

BLITZ PAIRS

This has been one of the traditional events of the festival since the very start. The pairs are not allowed to have a total rating higher than 4600. The effect of this is that

high rated players and lower rated ones often pair up. Thus Simon Williams 2504 and Sebastian Mihajlov 1974. The delight on the lad's face when I suggested the team name of 'Simon Says' or, if he preferred, 'Simon Sebs' was a joy to see. That didn't win the Best Team Name prize of £25 which went to 'Scandelicious', Jovanka Houska plus Mikael Helin. Usually the winning team is one, not of a 2600+ GM paired with a 1900 player, but two players closer together in strength.

I am a bit disappointed that this event has not been copied more widely elsewhere.

1-2 Vigo Masters (Martin Boado Rodriguez 2164/Alex Lopez Astaneh 2414); Kalhona (Adel Choukri 2115/Mokhliss Abnanai 2386) with 9 match points from 5 games. Each pair received £175.

3-5 Sweden Badass, Johan and Rick, Knight 8/10 £25 each.

Best score by a team of mixed gender – Give us the Money, Stefaraaiiser 7/10 £12.50 each



Sergei Movsesian, Jovana Vojinovic, Mariya Muzychuk and Husein Aziz Nezad

30th January

HISTORICAL MOMENTS

Today the 17 year-old Chinese Women's World Champion Hou Yifan played against the highest rated woman player of all time, Judit Polgar, from Hungary. They had never played against each other before, indeed not even taken part in the same section of a tournament.

Today there was a visit to the congress by His Excellency, the Governor of Gibraltar, Sir Adrian Johns. He has been other years, but this visit in particular celebrates the 10th Gibraltar Chess Festival.

Today, of the 8 players in the lead there were 6 from the British Commonwealth, 3 English and 3 Indian. Thus this could be the round that decides the destination of the £5000 special prize being awarded to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Today, for the first time in 10 years I was persuaded this evening to go for dinner to Spain. When I returned to the Caleta Hotel, three games were still in progress. In fact 4 games exceeded 100 moves. Should we really be subjecting people to such exquisite torture? The alternatives are often even less palatable; such as adjournments, quickplay finishes or time controls that don't give a player time to think.

Shakhriyar Mamedyarov AZE v Parimarjan Negi IND

Although this game rapidly petered out into a draw, it had a great deal of chess in its brief life.

Michael Adams ENG v David Howell ENG

A mere 115 moves, for much of which David had a theoretically drawn position. But he was in time trouble for what must have seemed like a lifetime. Michael is a specialist at eking out small pluses. **110...Bb3** rather than **110...Be8** was the losing blunder.

Krishnan Sasikiran IND v G N Gopal IND

Initially this was a quiet game without much going on. It then erupted into a most unusual unbalanced position where White had Queen and 2 Pawns for Bishop, Knight and Rook. Both players said they didn't know what was going on. But Fritz initially felt the position was equal and later that White had about a one pawn advantage. Heterogeneous positions are notoriously difficult to assess.

Nigel Short ENG v Nana Dzagnidze GEO

The game suddenly erupted into one that was hard to evaluate, although White seemed to stand better. Although White was a pawn up late in the game, this was a negligible advantage in the bishops of opposite colour endgame.

Liem Le Quang VIE v Tamir Nabaty ISR

Black got himself in a tangle on the queenside and never recovered.

Hou Yifan CHN v Judit Polgar HUN

This game was moved to Board 3 to cope better with the throng of spectators and media people. I don't know whether either player felt under particular pressure. Nor did the other pundits, who nonetheless waxed lyrically about the dramatic encounter.

Ruben Felgaer ARG Sergei Movsesian CZE

White went wrong in the early middlegame and never recovered.

El Debs Felipe De Cresce BRA v Viktor Bogan MLD

Neither player seemed to play with much ambition until

late in the game which is well worthy of inspection.

Saleh Salem UAE v Varuzhan Akobian USA

This seemed a well-fought game where both sides played accurately.

Thus Michael Adams became the lone leader with 6/7 and is the only person who can score as much as 9/10. Nigel Short commented that last year Vassily Ivanchuk scored 9/10 and he 8½/10. But we were aware then of what extraordinary results these were.

31st January

THRILLS AND SPILLS

Today there were many interesting games, naturally some of them not from the top six games. It was amazing to see Simon Williams conduct virtually a simultaneous display during the time scrambles, flitting rapidly from one game to another. There were 2700+ GMs on each of the first 9 boards, with two being paired together on board 1.

Michael Adams ENG v Shakhriyar Mamedyarov AZE

This came down to a bishops of opposite colour endgame with Michael having an outside passed pawn. We had visions of history repeating itself as he won a similar game yesterday after over 100 moves. But it was not to be, Shakhriyar set up an impenetrable barrier by move 42.

Nigel Short ENG v Zoltan Almasi HUN

Nigel didn't try for much in the opening, starting off with **1 b3** and he didn't achieve much either. Eventually it came down to yet another bishops of opposite colour endgame that was completely drawn.

Sergei Movsesian CZE v G N Gopal IND

This was a rather dull draw.

Parimarjan Negi IND v Krishnan Sasikiran IND

This reached yet another bishops of opposite colour endgame. Both players made attempts to win to no avail.

Nana Dzagnidze GEO v Peter Svidler RUS

White's pawns became very weak and eventually the problems became insurmountable. A nice game by the highest rated player in the tournament which brought him back into contention.

Thus the British Champion Michael Adams and the Women's World Champion Hou Yifan are tied for first with 6½/8. They met and drew in round 4.

Artur Jussupow GER v Alexei Shirov LAT

We expected Alexei to visit the commentary room after

this wonderful win. Thus we got two master classes in quick succession. Artur seemed rejuvenated – he doesn't play that much competitive chess anymore. A game where it seems a pity there had to be a result. We would have liked it to go on and on. A win for either player would disadvantage the other. Alexei said that, should it win the £1000 Best Game Prize, Artur would deserve a portion.

Viktor Laznicka CZE v David Howell ENG

One would have thought David would be shattered today after the bitter disappointment of his loss to Mickey Adams. Instead he gritted his teeth and won against a member of the 2700 club. This will have raised the stock considerably of the young Cardiff University student.

1st February



The 17 year-old Chinese Women's World Champion Hou Yifan is assured of the top Woman's Award of £10,000, irrespective of what happens in the last round. She is also lone leader on 7½/9. She is also assured of some sort of open prize. There is also the U18 prize. That's what you get when you win against three 2700+ players in three consecutive rounds.

The day saw the conclusion of the Challengers B and the Amateur B. It was clear these events were enjoyed hugely by the participants and were just as competitive as the Masters. Of course the international interest is far lower. No doubt a number of good games were played that never found their way into this bulletin.

Once again it was quite impossible for Simon Williams to keep up with the moves in all the leading games. There was simply too much going on. But of course chess has the advantage that the games can be played through for all time, not just the moment.

Zoltan Almasi HUN v Michael Adams ENG

Although this was a very long game, it was by no means boring. The endgame was fascinating. It was said that

Zoltan was very upset when he only drew.

Alexei Shirov LAT v Hou Yifan CHN

They played that most uncompromising of openings, the Poison Pawn variation in the Sicilian Najdorf. One might think that, after all these years, everything is understood about this ferociously complex tactical variation. With the growth of computer chess that is far from true. Using computers has changed people's conception of what positions are defensible. Thus players are stronger. That is one reason so many people are rated over 2700, not inflation in the numbers.

Peter Svidler RUS v Parimarjan Negi IND

White never generated enough energy from the opening to warrant playing on.



Shakhriyar Mamedyarov AZE v Varuzhan Akobian USA

Another 100+ move game. White always had a small edge and it is more difficult to defend than attack. Whether black could have held the queen and pawn endgame I don't know.

David Howell ENG v Sergei Movsesian CZE

White had a very promising position. First he had an initiative on the kingside and then play against Black's weakened queenside. But it all came to nothing due to the Czech's tenacious defence.

Round 10 Report by John Saunders (excerpt)

The 10th Tradewise Gibraltar Festival ended yesterday at the Caleta Hotel with England's Nigel Short winning the tournament for a record third time after tying for first with tournament sensation Hou Yifan of China and then winning a pulsating rapidplay play-off by 1½-½. Short and Hou Yifan had finished on 8/10, with Michael Adams (England), Shakhriyar Mamedyarov (Azerbaijan), Viktor Bologan (Moldova), Emil Sutovsky (Israel) tying for third place on 7½ points.

Gibraltar pictures courtesy of Zeljka Malobabic



British Chess Championships 2012

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The ChEx Bookshelf - Andrew Farthing

THE GOLDEN DOZEN (1)

Introduction

How do you choose a really good chess book?

Many people have offered their own lists in the past; for this article I've borrowed the title of one such list, by the late American author and enthusiast, Irving Chernev. Some lists have dated, and some follow too slavishly in the tracks of their predecessors, with a mix of traditional beginners' books and games collections by the world champions.

There are literally tens of thousands of chess books, varying wildly in quality. Recommending just a handful of individual books is a daunting challenge, and I'm reluctant to try (at least for now!). Instead, I want to offer a list of twelve recommended chess writers, whose books strike me as consistently entertaining and instructive.

My perspective is that of a middling club player. I don't play well, but I do enjoy the game tremendously and I have an interest both in its players and history and in trying to improve. I do own a LOT of chess books, but I can't claim an encyclopaedic knowledge of chess literature. In my opinion, each of my recommended authors has a much higher than average success rate in producing good quality work, likely to appeal to the club player. Not everything they've written is perfect, but you have a much better chance of striking gold if you pick a book by one of these writers than with most of the rest.

A couple of ground rules:

(i) *No world champions*. This is not because I believe that they don't deserve to be here, but I shall be dealing with them separately in another article.

(ii) *Nothing too old*. My recommended authors are either active in the age of algebraic notation (i.e. post-1980) or have been republished recently. Again, this is not because I believe that older books are not worthwhile, but this is territory that others have covered in the past, and I want this list to provide new directions for club players to explore.

The selected authors provide excellent study material for players looking to improve their chess and gain a rounded appreciation of the game. I have omitted some personal favourites who specialise in chess history – most notably Edward Winter, whose books are invariably superb – but would urge anyone with an interest in chess beyond

results over the board to explore this area for themselves.

For reasons of length, this article is split into two parts, with the first six authors this time around and the conclusion (plus a bonus “Silver Half-Dozen”) in the next issue.

The “Golden Dozen” Chess Writers

In no particular order:

1. John Nunn
2. Jan Timman
3. C.J.S. Purdy
4. Edmar Mednis
5. Jonathan Rowson
6. John Watson
7. David Bronstein
8. Viktor Korchnoi
9. Alexei Shirov
10. Tim Harding
11. Jacob Aagaard
12. Mihail Marin

1. JOHN NUNN

I can't think of a bad John Nunn book. Some of his works are more to my taste than others, but they all display a rigorous, diligent approach that both entertains and instructs. Having gained a reputation for top-quality openings manuals (on, for example, the Pirc, Sicilian and King's Indian), Nunn has since produced a string of superb games collections and other works. It's clear from recent Nunn efforts that the less he has played, the more his focus has been on addressing the needs of the amateur player, so the proportion of explanation has risen while the analysis has become less mind-boggling!

I particularly recommend his autobiographical collections:

- **John Nunn's Best Games (Batsford, 1995)**
- **Secrets of Grandmaster Chess (Batsford, 1997)**
- **Grandmaster Chess Move by Move (Gambit, 2005)**

Taken together, these encompass Nunn's entire career as a player. In addition to the thorough game annotations, the author provides a linking autobiographical narrative which help to give a flavour of his personality and the life of an active grandmaster just below the very top rank. (NB. There is an earlier edition of the second book called **Secrets of Grandmaster Play** (Batsford, 1987; co-authored with Peter Griffiths), which provides much lengthier notes – from the club-player's perspective, too

lengthy – and no autobiographical narrative. I strongly recommend the 1997 version.)

Certain themes dominate his other books: Tactics and Endgames (including endgame studies, where the two connect).

In the area of tactics, I particularly enjoyed **Learn Chess Tactics** (Gambit, 2004) and **John Nunn's Chess Puzzle Book** (Gambit, 1999). The former includes dozens of positions to solve, worthwhile but not too difficult; the latter is much more testing and is a good next step after reading the 2004 book. The 'Puzzle Book' provides an excellent example of how Nunn takes familiar ideas and adds new interest to them: in a section called The Test of Time, he tries to compare modern playing standards with the early 20th century, using mistakes from the tournament in Karlsbad, 1911 (or its slipshod tournament book) as the source for the puzzles that follow. Stimulating and fun.

Endgames are the part of chess that we know we ought to study, but usually don't. Some of Nunn's books don't help to overcome the club player's traditional reluctance; he published three volumes on endings with very few pieces, based on the findings of definitive computer databases, that I found worthy but completely off-putting. Others, in particular **Tactical Chess Endings** (George Allen & Unwin, 1981; reissued Batsford, 1988), introduce the reader to the world of endgame studies and are definitely worth experimenting with.

More recently, Nunn has produced a highly-praised trilogy of endgame books:

- **Understanding Chess Endgames (Gambit, 2009)**
- **Nunn's Chess Endings, Volume 1 (Gambit, 2010)**
- **Nunn's Chess Endings, Volume 2 (Gambit, 2010)**

These are still sitting on my "to read" pile – there's that reluctance again – but I know that the rewards will be great when I do find the time.

I also recommend **Secrets of Practical Chess** (Gambit, 1998; expanded edition 2007), which offers a range of general advice on practical play, from calculation to computers.

Critics of John Nunn tend to argue that his undoubted intelligence can sometimes make the books less instructive than you might expect for weak or middle-level club players. The reasoning is that what is self-evident to Nunn needs more careful explanation to lesser mortals. As someone who has not (yet!) exceeded a grade of 150, I can only say that I find myself opening Nunn's books

perhaps more than anyone else's on my shelves.

Nunn has also applied his skills as editor to a number of classic reprints, taking the opportunity to use computer-backed analysis to identify and correct errors. These appear either as seamless amendments to the main text or, when the correction is more substantial, in a footnote. (The importance of some of these footnotes is a salutary reminder of why you should not take analysis on trust!) In a few cases, such as Max Euwe's **The Development of Chess Style** (a personal favourite) or Paul Keres's collection of games, Nunn adds even greater value by including his own chapters to bring the story up to date. Nunn's name as editor is more or less a guarantee of quality, although he did suffer one misfire early on with an algebraic Batsford edition of Bobby Fischer's classic, **My 60 Memorable Games**, when the original text was edited to such an extent that some of its original flavour was lost. In this instance, stick to the original.

If you want a guarantee of quality when buying a chess book, John Nunn's name on the front cover is about as close as you can get.

2. JAN TIMMAN

The Dutch Grandmaster and multiple world title candidate, Jan Timman, is not as prolific as John Nunn but is similar in many ways, including the quality of his output. Like Nunn, Timman has an interest in endgame studies and a gift for thorough but readable game analyses. Again, like Nunn, the trend in his recent output is for less detailed analysis and more explanation, which is only to the benefit of the club-player.

Recommended works include:

- **The Art of Chess Analysis** (latest edition Cadogan, 1997) – A collection of 24 games by Timman and others, each with a context-setting introduction and deep notes.
- **Chess the Adventurous Way** (New in Chess, 1994) – 80 of Timman's best games from 1983 to 1994, annotated with a greater emphasis on explanation than complex variations than the preceding book. This makes it ideal material for the club player. I loved it, although the absence of any autobiographical commentary to set the games in context was a shame.
- **On the Attack** (New in Chess, 2006) – A collection of 33 annotated games by 11 of the best attacking players of modern times. Again, the notes are thorough without being off-putting to the club player.
- **Power Chess with Pieces** (New in Chess, 2004) – Subtitled 'The Ultimate Guide to the Bishop Pair & Strong Knights', this is a collection of 24 deeply annotated games by various players focusing on these particular

middlegame themes.

- **Fischer – World Champion!** (with Max Euwe; New in Chess, 2002) – A new edition of a 1972 book analysing the games of the classic Fischer-Spassky world title match. The quality of the notes is very high, and you will gain a much better appreciation of the games of this classic match than from most of the quickly-produced volumes available at the time.

- **Studies and Games** (Cadogan, 1996) – A belated translation of a work first published in Dutch in 1983. It is essentially a collection of 21 endgame studies composed by Timman, plus a selection of 10 of his games from the years 1979-1982, deeply annotated. On the plus side, Timman includes plenty of text between the games and studies in what is in effect an autobiography for the four years covered. The endgame studies, on the other hand, did not appeal as much to me, but this is a matter of taste.

- **Curaçao 1962** (New in Chess, 2005) – A book presenting all of the games of the 1962 Candidates Tournament that saw Tigran Petrosian qualify for his successful match with Mikhail Botvinnik with a cold-blooded score of 8 wins and 19 draws. An odd choice of subject perhaps, 43 years on, but an excellent book!

His most recent book in English is **The Art of the Endgame** (New in Chess, 2011).

Timman is also editor-in-chief of the best English language chess magazine, **New in Chess** (published eight times a year in the Netherlands), and provides an article for each issue. These are invariably worth reading.

3. C.J.S. PURDY

The oldest works in my list, but they are all available in well-produced algebraic editions thanks to an American publisher, Thinkers' Press.

Cecil Purdy was an Australian player – national champion and the first Correspondence World Champion – and prolific chess writer and magazine editor. His goal was to teach chess to generations of club-level players, and he succeeded brilliantly. More than most writers, he understood the perspective of the beginning or improving player and offered advice that would do the most good for this target audience. He was a rigorous analyst and fully appreciated that each position should be judged on its specific characteristics, but he was always willing to offer more generalised 'rules' which might not always be true but which would help club-level players to understand and progress.

Two themes stand out:

- *The "Purdy System"* – a method of choosing a chess move based on simple questions to ask yourself when it is your turn to move and when it is your opponent's. It does work, although Purdy himself acknowledged the difficulty of applying it consistently. It requires a degree of self-discipline that few possess (to use the system methodically), but using it just some of the time will help anyone to play decent chess.

- *The value of playing through annotated games* – in particular, the value of taking one side (usually the winner), covering up the next move and working out what you would play in each position. This idea is commonplace today in the 'How Good is Your Chess?' articles in Chess Monthly and 'Test Your Chess' in British Chess Magazine (at least in the past); in America, the idea is called 'solitaire chess'. Purdy's point was that the best form of coaching was for you to work through games with the help of a stronger player, and annotated games offer a free source of this coaching provided you are willing to work at it. For it to succeed, you must be prepared to think about the games, and this is where the lazy tend to slip up.

Purdy's writings are an excellent source of well-annotated games, which provide guidance without swamping the reader in variations. I would particularly recommend the following, all published by Thinkers' Press:

- **C.J.S. Purdy's Fine Art of Chess Annotation and Other Thoughts** – in total, about 430 games and a couple of dozen instructional articles, spread over four volumes:

- **Volume One** (ed. Ralph J. Tykodi; 1992)
- **Volume Two** (ed. Ralph J. Tykodi; 2001)
- **Volume Three** (ed. Ralph J. Tykodi; 2002)
- **Volume Four** (ed. Ralph J. Tykodi; 2006)

- **On the Endgame** (ed. Ralph J. Tykodi et al.; 2003) – one of the best practical guides to endgame play that I've ever seen.

- **The Search for Chess Perfection** (compiled by John Hammond and Robert Jamieson; rev. edition 2006) – a huge collection of biographical material, annotated games and, especially, instructional articles. One of the great chess books for the club player.

- **Extreme Chess** (1999) – an omnibus edition of three previously issued Purdy books on the 1935 and 1937 World Championship matches between Alekhine and Euwe and the 1972 Fischer-Spassky encounter.

- **How Purdy Won** (ed. Frank Hutchings; 1998) – a collection of Purdy's correspondence games, almost all thoroughly annotated.

Although I've not read it, Purdy's **Guide to Good Chess**

is highly recommended by discerning critics as one of the best books on the game for beginners.

If you want to improve, there is hardly anything better than studying Purdy's books.

4. EDMAR MEDNIS

We should study the endgame more. You know it, I know it, but we still don't do it! If you can force yourself to face this topic – and your chess results will benefit far more than you might expect – then Edmar Mednis is the man to lead you through it.

Mednis was an American Grandmaster and endgame specialist. He wrote extensively on the subject, always with the emphasis on teaching what the practical player needed to know in order to win 'won' games, save 'lost' positions and extract the maximum from 'drawn' positions.

The titles of his books reflect this:

- **Practical Knight Endings** (Chess Enterprises, 1993)
- **Practical Bishop Endings** (Chess Enterprises, 1990)
- **Practical Rook Endings** (Chess Enterprises, 1982)
- **Questions and Answers on Practical Endgame Play** (Chess Enterprises, 1987)
- **Rate Your Endgame** (Cadogan, 1992) – a revised edition of *Practical Endgame Lessons* (Batsford, 1978) and one of Mednis's best books
- **From the Middlegame into the Endgame** (Pergamon Press, 1987)
- **Practical Endgame Tips** (Cadogan, 1998)
- **King Power in Chess** (McKay, 1982)

Although the endgame was his forte, Mednis also produced worthwhile guides on other subjects:

- **Practical Opening Tips** (Cadogan, 1997)
- **Practical Middlegame Tips** (Cadogan, 1998)
- **How to be a Complete Tournament Player** (Maxwell Macmillan Chess, 1991)
- **How to Play Good Opening Moves** (McKay, 1982)

Finally, he also produced several excellent games collections, on specific themes:

- **How to Defeat a Superior Opponent** (Summit, 1989) – previously issued in 1977 as 'How to Beat the Russians', when "Russian" was more or less synonymous with "superior opponent".
- **Strategic Chess** (Summit, 1993) – subtitled 'Mastering the Closed Game'
- **How Karpov Wins** (Dover, 1993) – an analysis of all

the games that Karpov won between gaining the Grandmaster title and becoming World Champion.

- **How to Beat Bobby Fischer** (Bantam, 1975) – a collection of all the games that the great American champion lost between 1958 and 1972, plus some advice on how to do what it says in the title ... just in case the opportunity ever arises!

As you can see, Mednis was prolific (and there are plenty of other titles not listed here). Not all of these books are in print, but they are well worth seeking out in the specialist stores and on the internet. Reading anything by Mednis will prove an education.

5. JONATHAN ROWSON

Compared to the previous authors on my list, Scottish Grandmaster Rowson is relatively parsimonious when it comes to chess literature, but everything he produces is worth reading. The basis for my recommendation is two books:

- **The Seven Deadly Chess Sins** (Gambit, 2000)
- **Chess for Zebras** (Gambit, 2005)

Rowson likes to think about the process of playing chess: What is going on in your mind when you're choosing a move? Why do you make mistakes? Why is it so difficult to improve? His annotations to games (as seen, for example, in *Chess Monthly* and the *British Chess Magazine* from time to time) and his book reviews in *New in Chess* magazine some years ago reveal an extremely thoughtful individual who wants to understand himself as a chess player and as a person and who takes pleasure in sharing his insights with the rest of us. His notes include detailed chess analysis, of course, but they also tell the story of what Rowson was thinking and feeling during the game, which is relatively rare from grandmaster annotators and therefore doubly valuable.

I'm not sure that either of these books will lead to major improvements in your chess, but they make for fascinating, entertaining reading. If your interest in chess extends beyond the simple business of winning or losing and you want to get beneath the skin of the game, Rowson's books offer real food for thought.

6. JOHN WATSON

Although not as strong a player as many on my list of recommended authors, International Master Watson has a reputation as a thoroughly dependable writer. His openings books (most notably his repertoire book, **Play the**

French) reflect enormous work, in terms of both research and original analysis, and continue to be highly valued by players of the openings covered.

Manuals on the openings are not my focus in this review, however, so I should like to concentrate on two outstanding books about the way modern chess is played:

- **Secrets of Modern Chess Strategy** (Gambit, 1998)
- **Chess Strategy in Action** (Gambit, 2003)

These are not books for the beginner by any means. Watson takes as his starting-point a classic work on the middle game (Nimzowitsch's *My System*) and attempts to show how modern chess has evolved over the subsequent three quarters of a century. In particular, he highlights a shift from the search for rules and principles to guide players in finding the right move to what he describes as "rule independence". This means, simplistically, calculating the best move in the specific position at hand rather than deducing the move from the application of rules and guidelines.

This is very thought-provoking material and gives a real insight into the way modern chess is played, even if you don't buy into Watson's thesis completely. The books are not intended as instructional works for the club player, but anyone who has studied, say, Purdy and gained the benefit during their improving stage of generally useful guidelines and principles will find these large volumes a stimulus for further growth.

Not as ground-breaking, but good all the same, are the four volumes called **Mastering the Chess Openings** (Gambit; 2006-2010). These offer explanations of most major openings and the modern approach to them. Again, not for the beginner, but potentially useful for the ambitious improving player looking for more than a simple overview and willing to step outside the pragmatism of studying a narrow repertoire for over-the-board use.

(Continued next issue)



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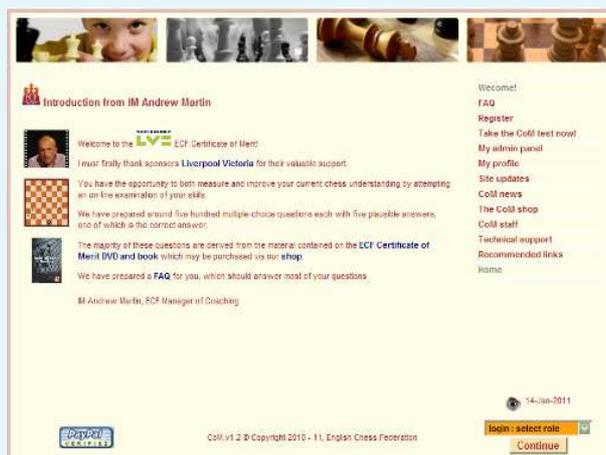
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Book Reviews - Gary Lane

The Amazing Chess Adventures of Baron Munchausen

by Amatzia Avni

Published by Mongoose Press £14.99

This is a collection of brilliant games and puzzles where the winning player tends to be Baron Munchausen. The author uses the fictional Baron as an excuse to include banter, and provide a background story to some incredible chess. It is written in the form of short articles and this is no coincidence because the majority of the material originally appeared in the British magazine Chess Monthly. Avni has done the right thing by adding new material just in case some readers have their magazines bound neatly in their library. The stories are occasionally enhanced by the excellent illustrator Elite Avni-Sharon and I know from my own experience how difficult it is to employ someone to do chess cartoons. However, he did not have to cast his eye around the chess world for inspiration because it turns out to be his niece. This is the sort of book that you can read for ten minutes get hooked by the puzzles and still be there an hour later. I should point out that the author does the right thing and reveals the real names of the participants in a fantastic game or acknowledges who composed the spectacular problem as a footnote for future reference.



An entertaining guide to fantastic chess.

The Kaufman Repertoire for Black and White

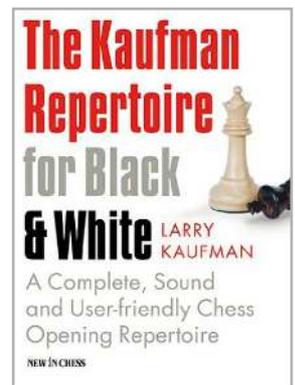
by Larry Kaufman

Published by New in Chess £23.95

The short review would be that he recommends 1 d4 with White while Black should answer 1 e4 with 1...e5 and 1 d4 is met by the Grunfeld.

In 1993 Kaufman had success with his book The Chess Advantage in Black and White and this is a vastly updated version. It is a repertoire book which I think is really useful for practical players who enjoy playing weekend tournaments but don't have the memory of a World Champion to keep up with all the latest on various chess openings. This is where Kaufman comes in by recommending lines that help to achieve a small plus or at least avoid getting wiped out within ten moves. He is quick to mention Carlsen in the introduction because against the Ruy Lopez he recommends the Breyer, which I have to

say seems like a tough task for an improving player because White has numerous options. Therefore, you will require time to wade through over 450 pages but as a reference book it will be very useful. The New In Chess publisher has produced a well produced book and watch out for its unique selling point of a different cover on the front and back. The idea is that one side promotes the opening from the White point of view and you can guess the rest. However, the tag line promoting the product is "two for the price of one" which has confused some booksellers because I observed one accept the money for the book and then hand over two copies oblivious to the fact it was the same product but with different covers.



Kaufman provides an interesting repertoire for the aspiring master.

The Slav: Move by Move

by Cyrus Lakdawala

Published by Everyman Chess £15.99

I often hear the line 'there are no good books on the Slav.' Well, yes apart from a couple by Dreev but potential readers say they are for top players so I guide them to Starting out: Slav and Semi-Slav by Glenn Flear but what everyone really wants is the latest book! The US author Lakdawala has delivered a 414 page tome that aims to explain the Slav (1d4 d5 2 c4 and now 2...c6) to improving players. My first instinct is that the book is far too big because you would need considerable time to absorb everything but it works well as a reference book. An astute reader can also construct their own repertoire and just cherry pick the lines that interest them the most. The title is slightly misleading because not every move is discussed in the style of the classic book Logical Chess Move by Move by Irving Chernev but instead is written with numerous question and answer sessions. It is easy to read thanks to plenty of diagrams and prose as it examines complete games to illustrate the opening and how it is reflected in the middle game and ending.



An excellent introduction to the Slav.

Grand Prix Leader Boards 5th March 2012

English Chess Federation Grand Prix 2011-12

Players in red are counting the maximum number of events. The tables will not be completely up to date, because recent events will still be in the pipeline.

Open Prix

Name	Club/Area	Pts
1 Arkell, Keith CC	4NCL Cheddleton	635
2 Hebden, Mark L	4NCL Pride and Prejudice	606
3 Hawkins, Jonathan	Consett	587
4 Jackson, Oliver A	Cheshire/N.Wales *	575
5 Prior, Stephen CV	Lincolnshire CA	570
6 Jaunooby, Ali Reza	3Cs	557
7 Wadsworth, Matthew J	Maidenhead	552
8 Williams, Simon K	Sandhurst	552
9 Combie, Alex B	Newark & Southwell	537
10 Surtees, Mike J	Bolton	534
11 Jones, Steven A	Grappenhall	529
12 Batchelor, Peter J	Willesden & Brent	526
13 Tambini, Jasper	Southampton University	524
14 Bonafont, Philip R	Hemel Hempstead	523
15 Hackner, Oskar A	Rotherham Junior	503

Graded Prix: 160-179

Name	Club/Area	Pts
1 Bryant, Richard BE	Chester	584
2 Goodfellow, Russell R	Tunbridge Wells	574
3 O'Gorman, Brendan	DHSS	569
4 Clegg, Robert	Huddersfield	524
5 Burke, Mitchell R	3Cs	503
6 Mulleady, Peter J	Atherton	500
7 Jackson, Paul G	Coulsdon CF	495
8 Newton, Robert A	Heywood	474
9 Gamble, Raymond J	Spondon	474
10 Cutmore, Martin J	Wood Green	470
11 Wells, Jonathan C	North Norfolk	470
12 Kennedy, Craig	East Ham	468
13 Hayward, Alan	Streatham	463
14 Hjort, Helge	Hendon	457
15 Whitehead, Mark A	Rochdale	457

Graded Prix: 140-159

Name	Club/Area	Pts
1 Desmedt, Richard E	Wombwell	606
2 Wilson, Matthew R	Wigston	592
3 Hartley, Dean M	Amber Valley	588
4 Gibbs, Daniel C	Iford	542
5 Price, Andrew	Leamington	517
6 Torrance, John	Metropolitan	504
7 Grobler, David	Stannington	499
8 Connor, Michael I	Great Lever	498
9 Boustred, Noel J	Gosforth	498
10 Wood, Peter C	Hastings *	493
11 Pride, Stephen C	Cambridge City	490
12 Norman, Dinah M	Wokingham *	486
13 Stone, Mark R	Petts Wood & Orpington	479
14 Andrews, Norman G	York RI	477
15 Patrick, David A	Courier Halifax	475

Graded Prix: 120-139

Name	Club/Area	Pts
1 Robson, Caroline J	Barnet Elizabeth	595
2 Egan, William J	Scunthorpe	557
3 Foley, Phil T	Upminster	534
4 Crouch, Timothy J	Kings Head	530
5 Allen, Timothy S	Battersea	499
6 Collins, Andrew	Leamington	484
7 Gilbert, David J	DHSS	471
8 McKeon, John E	Milton Keynes	468
9 Miles, Barry S	Coulsdon CF	468
10 Costeloe, C Andrew J	Muswell Hill	467
11 Ross, Stuart	Shifnal & Telford	465
12 Brace, Peter	Spondon	463
13 Gardiner, Colin J	Falmouth	449
14 Horman, Paul A	Morecambe	449
15 Forbes, Douglas M	Gerrards Cross	442

Graded Prix: U120

Name	Club/Area	Pts
1 Fraser, Alan R	Beckenham & Bromley	624
2 Oyama, Harunobu	Cambridge City	566

3 Bullock, Lee	London *	527
4 Crockett, Stephen J	Redditch	508
5 Summerland, David	Leeds	507
6 Waddington, James	Bolton	500
7 Billett, Stephen J	Portsmouth	480
8 Everitt, David	St Francis & Haywards Heath	461
9 Mahony, Jonathan	Leeds	458
10 Jackson, Paul Robert	Morecambe	455
11 Brent, Derek	Urmston	412
12 De Santos, Andrew R	Preston	398
13 Welch, Hazel	Seaton	393
14 Hall, James W	East Grinstead	385
15 Parkin, Kenneth W	Pendle	385

Women's Prix

Name	Club/Area	Pts
1 Robson, Caroline J	Barnet Elizabeth	595
2 Shepherd, Katherine M	Ashtead	505
3 Ressel, Eva	Chess Mates Northampton	494
4 Norman, Dinah M	Wokingham *	486
5 Ivanov, Elizabeth	Barnet Schools	470
6 Kalaiyalaan, Akshaya	Richmond Juniors	464
7 Head, Louise	Berkshire Junior	458
8 Wei, Naomi	Essex *	455
9 Graham, Cassie M	Sussex Juniors	453
10 Dean, Angelica	Shrewsbury	453
11 Keen, Cosima C	Sussex Juniors	447
12 Steele, Beatrice H	Coulsdon CF	402
13 Houska, Jovanka	Wood Green, Hilsmark Kingfisher	396
14 Jina, Asha	Harpenden Junior CC	394
15 Welch, Hazel	Seaton	393

Junior Prix

Name	Club/Area	Pts
1 Kalavannan, Koby	Surbiton *	593
2 Wadsworth, Matthew J	Maidenhead	552
3 Ivanov, George	Middlesex Juniors	536
4 Batchelor, Peter J	Willesden & Brent	526
5 Anilkumar, Anantha P (jnr)	Coulsdon CF	525
6 Oyama, Akito	Cambridge City	523
7 Taylor, Adam C	Colchester *	522
8 Zhou, Yang-Jian	Coulsdon CF	516
9 Boswell, Jacob Connor	Cheddleton & Leek	514
10 Balaji, Ananthanarayanan	Harrow	512
11 Shepherd, Katherine M	Ashtead	505
12 Hackner, Oskar A	Rotherham Junior	503
13 Pein, Jonathan	Barnet Knights	500
14 Wu, Haotian	Richmond Juniors	499
15 Tarhon, Brian	Sussex Juniors	498

Brendan O'Gorman - Chess Images

See Brendan's work at -
<https://picasaweb.google.com/bpogorman>
 In Oban (2011) - dwarfed by his opponent, a modern day
 'David' readies his sling





BATSFORD

Chess Competition

Well done to the January/February winner

-- **Richard J Nash of Barnstaple**

The correct answer was - **1.Nd7**

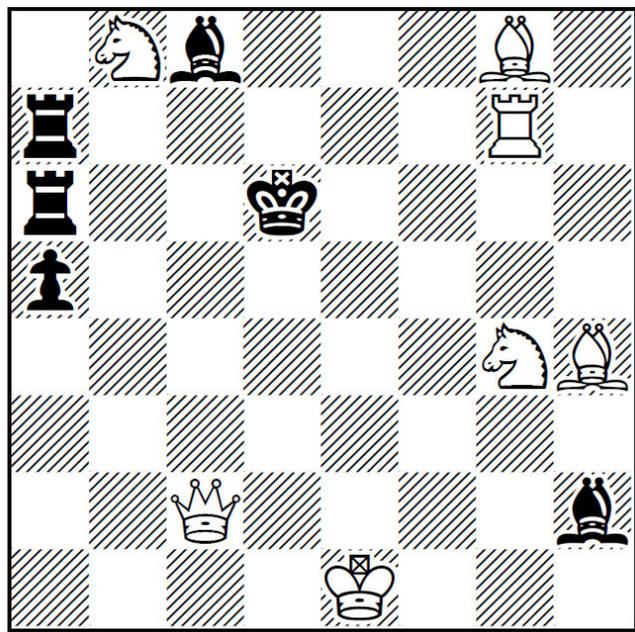
Here's the next problem ...

Arthur M Sparke

2nd HM., Brisbane Courier, 1916

White to play and mate in 2

Please send your answer (just the first move is sufficient) on a postcard or by email to the ECF Office, The Watch Oak, Chain Lane, Battle, East Sussex TN33 0YD (office@englishchess.org.uk). The first correct entry drawn on 10th May 2012 will win a Batsford voucher for any book on their current list!



In Memoriam

Elaine Zelia Pritchard RIP

Elaine Zelia Pritchard (nee Saunders) was born 7 January 1926 and died on her 86th birthday 7 January 2012. Her death marks the passing of an era.

She was a child prodigy (unusual for the era), learning the moves from her father at five, beating 'good' players at an early age and playing blindfold chess. She won the World Girls at 10 in 1936 and again in 1937. She told me she could remember sitting on Vera Menchik's knee as a child. You can find enchanting photos of her on <http://www.chesshistory.com/winter/extra/prodigies.html> under her maiden name. She won the British Ladies Championship in 1939 (that was probably her most impressive result of the time), 1946 and, under her married name, in 1956 and 1965.

She married David Brine Pritchard in 1952. He died in 2005. He was a somewhat stronger player.

She was a Woman International Master and her last FIDE Rating was 2150, although she wasn't active this century. She played Board 3 for the English Women's Team that won the silver medals at the 1976 Chess Olympiads in Haifa. She was author of two chess books: 'Chess for Pleasure', 'The Young Chess Player', and an Honorary Life Member of the English Chess Federation.

Elaine was an amateur chessplayer in the best sense of that word. Both she and David were delightful people. They contributed greatly to the chess scene of the day. Their daughter Wanda also became quite a strong player. We celebrate a life well led in chess.

Norman Young RIP

Norman Young learned chess at Paisley Grammar School and also played at Glasgow University. He met Ilse at the Glasgow Hospital where they both worked and they were married in 1951. After his National Service they moved to Walsall in 1953 and Norman practised as a Doctor in Leamore until he retired in 1990.

He joined Walsall Kipping Chess Club in 1953 and was a leading and active member of the Club until a few weeks before his death on 16th January. He was particularly proud of having been the Captain of most club teams (35) from 1961 onwards; and during his continuous time as President from 1977, the club became Birmingham League First Division Champions of 2003, 2004 & 2005. He also served as President of Staffordshire Chess Association for the 25 years, 1973-98.

He was a strong player and represented the County on many occasions. He had a notable collection of "scalps" of the leading Midland Players collected mainly in the 1960s and 1970s.

Norman and Ilse were always generous hosts to the chess community, opening their beautiful house and manicured gardens not only for matches and committee meetings but also putting up international players who competed in the major events staged by the Club and the County to mark their respective 50th (1992) and 100th (1997) anniversaries. For the former he played host to GM Alexey Suetin of Russia and was fond of recounting anecdotes of the visit and his subsequent exchanges of correspondence with him.

His other passions were sailing, to which he brought his same competitive spirit as for chess, fly fishing and gardening. He will be fondly remembered and sorely missed by all of his friends in the Chess World.

Tournament Calendar

LEGEND –

- # **British Championships qualifying tournament**
- @ **FIDE rated**
- * **ECF Grand Prix**
- ~ **ECF graded 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

10 Mar

ESPCA Under 9 Zones - three zones Contact: Nigel Dennis Email: nigelwdennis@btinternet.com

~ 10 Mar

National Girls' Chess Championships - Midlands Qualifier, Quinbourne Community Centre, Ridgacre Road, Birmingham B32 2TW Contact: Sabrina Chevannes Email: sabrinachevannes@hotmail.co.uk Website: www.chevanneschessacademy.com - the Midlands Qualifier of the National Girls' Chess Championships. There will be a minimum of 4 qualifiers in total

10 Mar

Champions' League Chess - Qualification 2nd Leg - Surrey (Croydon Borough)

http://www.ccfworld.com/Chess/Results/2012-03-10_CLC_SC.htm

10 Mar

International Chessboxing Russia vs England, Scala, 275 Pentonville Road, Kings Cross, London N1 Contact: Tim Woolgar Email: tim.woolgar@gbcbo.co.uk - strongest ever chessboxing tournament featuring world champion Nikolay Sazhin (Siberia) vs Andy Costello (England) plus full undercard. Commentary from IM Malcom Pein, special guests, live cabaret and DJs Website: <http://www.londonchessboxing.com/>

11 Mar

Champions' League Chess - Qualification 2nd Leg - Surrey South & Sussex

http://www.ccfworld.com/Chess/Results/2012-03-11_CLC_SS.htm

~ 11 Mar

SCCU U18 & U14 Jamboree, London Meed School, Burgess Hill, Sussex RH15 9YQ Contact: Carol Graham Email: info@sussexjuniorchess.org Website: <http://www.sussexjuniorchess.org/SCCUJamborees2012.html> - 10:45 start; 3 rounds; U18 Open (8 boards), U18 Minor (6 boards), U14 Open (8 boards), U14 Minor (6 boards)

*~ 11 Mar

Richmond Rapidplay 100, The White House Community Association, The Avenue, Hampton TW12 3RN Contact: James Coleman Email: rapidplay@aol.com Website: www.surreyrapidchess.org - a special event to mark the 100th Richmond Rapidplay event

~*# 16-18 Mar

33rd County Durham Open Chess Congress, Houghton Sports Centre, Station Road, Houghton-le-Spring DH4 5EF Contact: Fred Stobbart Email: fred.stobbart1@gmail.com Website: <http://www.dcca.org.uk> - 5 Round Swiss Competition, Open, Major (under 165) and Minor (under 125), incorporating: NCCU Senior Individual Championship & NCCU Junior Individual Championship under 18)

*~@#16-18 Mar

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 - A 5 round FIDE rated weekend congress with sections for players of all standards

17 Mar

Docklands (Poplar) Rapid-Play, Langley Hall, St.Nicholas' Church Centre, Ettrick Street, Poplar, London E14 0QD Contact: Norman Went Email: DocklandsChess@yahoo.co.uk Website: www.spanglefish.com/docklandschess-club – 6 round Swiss Rapidplay tournament, below 205 rating only

17 Mar

ESPCA Under 11 Zones - three zones Contact: Nigel Dennis Email: nigelwdennis@btinternet.com

17-18 Mar

Wellington College Training Day, Wellington College, Crowthorne, Berkshire RG45 7PU Open to adults and juniors – Sunday will be small group training with a titled chess instructor. Please note that the rapidplay on 17 March has been cancelled due to Wellington College double booking the tournament hall. The organisers offer their sincere apologies for any inconvenience caused by this. The next Wellington College rapidplay will take place on 28 April, with a training day on 29 April. The venue has been confirmed for 28 April. Please email nickpert@hotmail.com or call 07786986489 for more details

18 Mar

Graeme Thomson Memorial, The Polish Ex-Servicemens Club, 50 St Pauls Road, Clifton, Bristol BS8 1LP
Contact: Graham Mill-Wilson Email: tugmw@blueyonder.co.uk Website: www.chessit.co.uk - 6 round rapidplay in two sections - Open / U145 1st and 2nd prizes in each section, plus grading prizes if entries permit. £100 first prize in the Open. Chess clock for winner in the U145, in addition to cash prize

~ 18 Mar

19th Atherton Rapidplay, St Richards Jubilee Hall, Crabtree Lane, Atherton, Manchester M46 0AQ Contact: Simon Woodcock Email: blitzchess2001@yahoo.co.uk - 3 sections: Major/Intermediate/Minor 30mins Rapidplay, 6 rounds - Website: www.athertonchess.org.uk/

18-23 Mar

Chess Holiday, Rothay Manor Hotel, Ambleside, Cumbria Contact: Peter Cloudsdale Tel: 01904-767177 Email: cloudsdale_c@hotmail.co.uk

23-24 Mar

Cork Congress, Metropole Hotel, Cork MAP Contact: Steve Short Email: corkchess@gmail.com
Website: <http://www.corkchess.com/index.php?page=cork-congress-2>

*~ 24 Mar

Kings Head Rapidplay, Westbourne Grove Church, Westbourne Grove, London W11 2RW Contact: Colin Mackenzie Email: colin.mackenzie@atos.net - Prestigious venue in Notting Hill Gate, £700 total prize money including 5 x £60 grading prizes - Website: www.khcc.org.uk

24 Mar

ESPCA Girls' Under 11 Final, Notts Contact: Nigel Dennis Email: nigelwdennis@btinternet.com

@ 24 Mar

2011 British Blitz Championship, Quinborne Community Centre, Ridgacre Road, Quinton Birmingham, West Midlands B32 2TW Contact: Alex Holowczak Email: alexholowczak@gmail.com

~* 24-25 Mar

Castle Chess - 4th Hereford, The Green Dragon Hotel, Broad Street, Hereford HR4 9BG Contact: Tony Corfe Email: tony@tcs-chess.demon.co.uk - Open (incl U180), Major U160 (incl U140), Minor U120 (incl U100)
Enquiries: Marc Shaw 07947 813303 Website: www.castlechess.co.uk

25 Mar

Manchester Rapidplay, City of Manchester Stadium Contact: Mick Norris Email: mick@pcfp.co.uk Tel: 0845 1300 849 Website: www.mysport4life.co.uk **Details to be confirmed**

~*@ 25 Mar

16th Birmingham & District Chess League Rapidplay, Quinborne Community Centre, Ridgacre Road, Quinton Birmingham, West Midlands B32 2TW Contact: Alex Holowczak Email: alexholowczak@gmail.com - New: FIDE-rated Open section, with sections for Under 170, 140 and 110. Prize fund £1,000

26 Mar

2012 Wiltshire 5 Minute Championship, Brown Jack Public House, 1 Prior Hill, Wroughton, Wiltshire SN4 0RT Contact: Tony Ransom Email: chesssalsa@aol.com - There will be one overall tournament with prizes determined by the entry level. All entry fees will be returned as prize money

@ 30 Mar-1 Apr

Edinburgh Chess Congress, George Heriot's School, Lauriston Place, Edinburgh EH39EQ Contact: James Wallace Email: james.wallace@talk21.com - 5 sections: Premier, U172/1900, U152/1700, U132/1500, U112/1300. Online entry available - <http://www.chessedinburgh.co.uk/edincongressentry.htm>

~ 31 Mar

31st Teignmouth Rapidplay, Trinity School, Teignmouth, Devon Contact: Raymond W Chubb Email: ray.chubb@care4free.net Website: www.chessdevon.co.uk

31 Mar

CCF Junior Rapid Play - English Chess Challenge Qualifier, 84-90 Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5

3BA Contact: Scott Freeman Email: chess@ccfworld.com Tel: 020 8645 0302 Fax: 020 8645 0412 Website:
<http://www.ccfworld.com/Chess>

~* 31 Mar-1 Apr

St Albans & South Herts Congress, St Columba's College, King Harry Lane, St Albans AL3 4AW Contact: Ray Claret Email: ray11@inbox.com Website: www.stalbanschessclub.org.uk

31 Mar-1 Apr

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

31 Mar-1 Apr

4NCL Northern League, De Vere Wychwood Park (near Crewe) Contact: Mike Truran Tel: 01993 708645 Contact address: The Old Farmhouse, 7 Church Street, Ducklington, Witney OX29 7UA

~ 1 Apr

38th Bourne End One Day Chess Congress, Community Centre, Wakeman Road, Bourne End, Bucks. SL8 5SX Contact: David Langford Email: bebchess@yahoo.co.uk - Five games played, 45 min. per game for each player. Divided into sections according to grading, ECF Swiss system, results published on Bourne End Chess Club website

@# 5-9 Apr

e2e4 Dublin Easter International, Brennan Green Isle Hotel, Naas Road, Newlands Cross, Dublin 22 Contact: Sean Hewitt Email: sean@e2e4.org.uk Website: www.e2e4.org.uk/dublin - A 9 round FIDE rated International with sections from players of all strengths. GM norms available

@ 6-7 Apr

CCF Easter Congress (inc. FIDE Open), 84-90 Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 3BA Contact: Scott Freeman Email: chess@ccfworld.com Tel: 020 8645 0302 Fax: 020 8645 0412 Website: <http://www.ccfworld.com/Chess/>

~* 6-8 Apr

Bolton Easter and Busy Persons Blitz, Ukrainian Social Club, 99 Castle St, Bolton BL2 1JP Contact: Rod Middleton Email: gmccacongress@yahoo.co.uk - a five round tournament, Open, Major & Knights sections. Busy Persons Blitz on Saturday afternoon 7th April. An entry form will be available to download when prepared.

@~## 6-8 Apr

35th Surrey Chess Congress, Nonsuch High School Sports Hall, Ewell Rd, Sutton SM3 8AB Contact: Mike Adams Email: mike@guildfordchess.fsnet.co.uk Website: www.surreychesscongress.co.uk - Open, Major u180, Intermediate u150, Challengers u120. Six rounds (2 rounds / day)

~#@ 6-9 Apr

Southend Chess Club Easter Congress, Civic Centre, Victoria Avenue, Southend on Sea SS2 6EN Contact: Nigel Cook Tel: 01702 218926 Email: nigelcook26@hotmail.com Website: <http://southendchess.awardspace.biz/club/9999/Congress.html>

*~# 6-9 Apr

WECU 65th Open Congress (incorporating the West of England Championship), The Royal Beacon Hotel, Exmouth, Devon EX8 2AF Contact: Andrew Footner Email: andrew.footner@gmail.com Website: <http://www.chessdevon.co.uk/>

6-9 Apr

Tom Weston Memorial & John Bishop Memorial Championships, Park Inn, Cardiff North, Circle Way East, Llanedeyrn, Cardiff CF23 9XF Contact: Andrew Trickey Email: andrew.trickey@email.com

9 Apr

CCF Easter Rapid Play, 84-90 Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 3BA Contact: Scott Freeman Email: chess@ccfworld.com Tel: 020 8645 0302 Fax: 020 8645 0412 Website: <http://www.ccfworld.com/Chess/>

9 Apr

CCF Easter Open Blitz, 84-90 Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 3BA Contact: Scott Freeman Email: chess@ccfworld.com Tel: 020 8645 0302 Fax: 020 8645 0412 Website: <http://www.ccfworld.com/Chess/>

*~ 9 Apr

Surrey Rapidplay, Nonsuch High School, Ewell Rd, Sutton SM3 8AB Contact: Mike Adams Email: mike@guildfordchess.fsnet.co.uk Website: www.surreychesscongress.co.uk - 6 rounds

~ 9 Apr

Surrey Junior Championships 2012, Nonsuch High School, Ewell Rd, Sutton SM3 8AB Contact: Marda Dixon Email: mardadixon@btinternet.com Website: www.surreychesscongress.co.uk - 5 rounds, U7-U13 age groups, top three age events will be ECF graded

~ 11-12 Apr

Maidenhead Junior Congress, Ridgeway School, Cannon Lane, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 4QQ Contact: Nigel Dennis Email: nigelwdennis@btinternet.com Website:

www.met.rdg.ac.uk/~brugge/maidenhead_junior_congress.html - two day junior congress during the Easter holidays

~ 14 Apr

Championship of Middlesex Hundreds, Isleworth & Syon School, Ridgeway Road, Isleworth TW7 5LJ Contact: Sainbayar Tserendorj Email: londonrapidplay@yahoo.co.uk - Sections: U7, U8, U9, U10, U11, U12, U14, U18 - a qualifying event for the Delancey UK Schools Chess Challenge - Website: <http://www.londonrapidplay.co.uk/londonrp/middlesex%20hundreds.html>

~ 14 Apr

Golders Green Rapidplay, Golders Green Parish Church Hall, West Heath Drive, Golders Green, London NW11 7QG Contact: Adam Raof Website: <http://goldersgreenschess.blogspot.com/>

*~ 14-15 Apr

Staffordshire Chess Congress, Bloxwich Leisure Centre, High St, Bloxwich, Walsall WS3 2DA Contact: David Anderton Tel: 01922 453947 (6-10pm) - Open, Major and Minor | Entry form

~ 16-18 Apr

IAPS National Chess Championships, Aldro School, Shackleford, Godalming, Surrey GU8 6AS Contact: David Archer Email: archerd@aldro.org - individual and team cups awarded, all IAPS affiliated schools welcome. Boarding places available. 40th anniversary of the event this year

~ 20-22 Apr

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

~@ 21 Apr

London FIDE Rapid Play, Newman Catholic College, Harlesden Road, Willesden NW10 3RN Contact: Sainbayar Tserendorj Email: londonrapidplay@yahoo.co.uk - sections U1700, U2000 and Open Website: www.londonrapidplay.co.uk

~@ 21 Apr

London Junior FIDE Rapid Play, Newman Catholic College, Harlesden Road, Willesden NW10 3RN Contact: Sainbayar Tserendorj Email: londonrapidplay@yahoo.co.uk - sections U8, U10, U12, U14 and U18 Website: www.londonrapidplay.co.uk

#~ 21-22 Apr

37th Nottingham Congress, Nottingham High School Contact: Robert Richmond Email: Robrchmnd@aol.com | Additional information, including accommodation, available on the Nottinghamshire CA website

~* 27-29 Apr

Bristol Spring Congress, Filton Sports & Social Centre, Elm Park, Filton, Bristol BS34 7PS Contact: Graham Mill-Wilson Email: tugmw@blueyonder.co.uk Website: www.chessit.co.uk - incorporating the Bristol League Championships. 3 Sections - Open, Major (U165), Minor (U130)

28 Apr

Docklands (Poplar) Rapid-Play, Langley Hall, St.Nicholas' Church Centre, Ettrick Street, Poplar, London E14 0QD Contact: Norman Went Email: DocklandsChess@yahoo.co.uk Website: www.spanglefish.com/docklandschess-club - 6 round Swiss Rapidplay tournament, below 205 rating only

~@ 28 Apr

The London Team Rapidplay, Imperial College Union, South Kensington, London SW7 Contact: John Sargent Email: johnsargent@gmail.com Website: <http://union.ic.ac.uk/rcc/chess/london-team-rapidplay-2/> - 4 person team event in a great Central London location! 6-round rapidplay team event (25min + 10sec/move) - please enter early as spaces are limited!

28 Apr

ESPCA Under 9 Final, Northants Contact: Nigel Dennis Email: nigelwdennis@btinternet.com

~# 28-29 Apr

The Great Yarmouth Chess Congress, Great Yarmouth Hippodrome, St Georges Road, Great Yarmouth NR30 2EU Contact: John Charman Email: jaygcee@ntlworld.com - 5 round Swiss, 3 Sections (Open, U165, U130). A unique event, probably the first event held in a Circus Ring

28-29 Apr

Wellington College Rapidplay & Training Weekend, Wellington College, Crowthorne, Berkshire RG45 7PU

Open to adults and juniors – Saturday will be a 6 round rapidplay, and Sunday will be small group training with a titled chess instructor. There will be 3 sections – Open, U170 and U110, and the prize fund is expected to be £420. In addition to this £300 of coaching prizes will be distributed between U21s who attend the Sunday training. Contact Nick Pert at nickpert@hotmail.com or on 07786986489 for further details

~ 29 Apr

Huddersfield Grosvenor Rapidplay, Huddersfield Grosvenor Casino Contact: Nigel Hepworth Email: nigel@huddersfieldchessclub.co.uk Website: www.huddersfieldchessclub.co.uk - £1000 guaranteed first prize in a single section, 6 round, accelerated Swiss rapidplay tournament with £100 grading prizes for every 20 entries - £10 entry fee. Celebrating 160 years of the Huddersfield Chess Club (established 1852). Entries may be limited

~ 29 Apr

Cambridgeshire Rapidplay, PSL Club, 659 Lincoln Road, New England, Peterborough PE1 3HA Contact: Paul Kemp Email: paulkemp64@gmail.com - Three 5-round Swiss tournaments: Open, Under-160 and Under-120 grades with a £600 prize fund

4-6 May

2nd Prestwick Airport Chess Congress, Aviator Suite, Glasgow Prestwick International Airport, Prestwick, Ayrshire KA9 2PL Contact: David Congalton Email: davidcongalton@ayrshirechesscongress.co.uk - Open, Major, Minor and Saturday Junior Events. Total prize fund of £1400. Easily accessible venue from all parts of the United Kingdom. Live games from across the sections on the internet. Junior and family friendly - Website: www.ayrshirechesscongress.co.uk

5-7 May

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

7 May

Champions' League Chess Finals, 84-90 Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 3BA Contact: Scott Freeman Email: chess@ccfworld.com Tel: 020 8645 0302 Fax: 020 8645 0412 Website: <http://www.ccfworld.com/Chess/>

7 May

CCF Open Blitz, 84-90 Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 3BA Contact: Scott Freeman Email: chess@ccfworld.com Tel: 020 8645 0302 Fax: 020 8645 0412 Website: <http://www.ccfworld.com/Chess/>

