



English Chess Federation eNewsletter Number 5



Included this time is an article on the British Championships, a personal account of the World Team Seniors by GM Keith Arkell and, as usual, book reviews by IM Gary Lane. Also lots of the latest from the ECF and the latest news of events in English chess. Also, at the end of the newsletter, an interesting article on Victor Korchnoi from the July issue of 'Chess', which we have been kindly allowed to re-publish ... visit them at <http://www.chess.co.uk/chess-magazine/>

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If you have any chess news you think we should know about or if you have any comments you would like to make on this newsletter, do contact us at manager.publicity@englishchess.org.uk

The deadline for the newsletter will normally be on the 18th of each month so don't send us the info too late!

--- Mark Jordan Publicity Manager: manager.publicity@englishchess.org.uk

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ECF NEWS

The ECF YEARBOOK

ECF office manager Gary Willson writes ---

A brief note to update members on the ECF 2016 Yearbook - we are sorry but due to some internal processing issues, we have not been able to get this out to members as soon as we would have wished. I am pleased to report, however, that it is now with the printers and we would hope to receive the copies and post them on by early September.



DAVID WELCH RECEIVES FIDE ARBITER'S AWARD

The ECF is pleased to announce that David Welch is to receive a FIDE Arbiters' Award for his long service as an International Arbitrator. The award will be presented to David at the FIDE Congress being held in September in Baku, Azerbaijan, alongside the Olympiad at which David will be officiating.

David is the third English arbiter to receive the honour, following Stewart Reuben and Gerry Walsh in 2014.

ECF ANNOUNCE FINANCIAL AWARDS FOR PROMISING JUNIORS

Grants are available for promising English junior players - to find out more and apply, go to --- <http://englishchess.org.uk/Juniors/chess-academy/elite-junior-player-programmes/>

GRADING DATABASE ADMINISTRATOR - TENDERS REQUESTED

Go to <http://www.englishchess.org.uk/tender-invitation-grading-database-administrator/> for details.

ARBITER REGULATIONS UNDER REVIEW

Changes to arbiter regulations are being considered and the ECF would like the views of the chess community. Go to <http://www.englishchess.org.uk/arbiter-regulations-consultation/> to see the consultation documents.

ECF STRATEGY AND BUSINESS PLAN

ECF is looking to the future and have developed a draft Strategy and Business Plan. This can be found at <http://www.englishchess.org.uk/english-chess-federation-draft-strategy/> . The Federation is very keen to receive your input.

ASK the DIRECTOR

The 'Ask the Director' button is located in the left sidebar of the website. On clicking on the button you will find a form with a drop-down menu of directors which ensures your question goes to the director best placed to answer your question. We undertake to reply to your question within 5 working days. If it is not possible to provide a full answer within this time-frame, perhaps because the question is complex or all the required information is not readily available, you will receive a reply explaining this within the time frame which will include an indication as to when you can expect to receive a full answer.

Ask the Director has been receiving a growing, but not unmanageable, number of questions and these are being answered within our self-imposed time-frame. Both questions and answers are being monitored and we think that some will be of general interest. You can expect to begin to see these appearing on the website during the next few weeks.

We hope everyone will find this useful.

ENGLISH CHESS NEWS



THE TRADEWISE GRAND PRIX AND MOST IMPROVED PLAYER

GM Mark Hebden has won the 180+ Grand Prix after a close battle through-out the year with GM Keith Arkell. Akshaya Kalaiyalahan, who is mentioned rather a lot in this newsletter, won the Women's Grand Prix. Marco Ho was the most improved player U180 having improved over the year for 145 to 171.

Full stats can be found at ---

<http://www.englishchess.org.uk/competitions-plp/tradewise-grand-prix/>

ECF JULY GRADING LIST PUBLISHED

The latest grading list has been published on the website and can be found at ---

<http://www.ecfgrading.org.uk/new/menu.php>



Heading the overall list is Matthew Sadler [left], probably the strongest amateur player in the world who, with a decidedly impressive grade of 282, is a full 13 points ahead of second placed Michael Adams on 269. Adams remains in top spot for England on the Elo rating list of course. His ECF grade remains the same as on the January

list when he was placed 4th and he owes his elevation to a drop from 270 to 266 on the part of David Howell and 277 to 266 in the case of Nigel Short who now lie in 3rd and 4th places. Jonathan Hawkins and Gawain Jones have seen respective rises of 5 and 12 points since January and stand at 5 and 6 spots on 264 and the strong GM prospect James Adair comes in at 7th, his grade having increased from 250 to 258.

The top woman player is Harriet Hunt [above, middle] who has seen her grade rise a point from 228 to 229 with Jovanka Houska remaining on 228, as in January, and securing 2nd spot by a 10-point margin over Dagne Ciuksyte (218). 15-year-old Akshaya Kalaiyalahan is now fourth after a significant grade increase from 201 to 214 and has established herself as a very fine prospect for the future.

Isaac Sanders (18) [above, right] leads the U20 list with 234 with the next 3 places taken by Alan Merry 232, Ezra Kirk 231 and 17-year-old Ravi Haria 228, all of whom have seen their grades rising. It seems they are in for a concerted challenge from Matthew Wadsworth, however, who has seen his grade jump from 215 to 225 since January and is now 4th in the list having overhauled a number of his other rivals. Another name to watch is

Brian Tarhon who at the age of 13 and with a highly impressive but not spectacular grade of 188, moved with his family to America in 2013. He has clearly not been neglecting his chess in the interim as, now 15, he has returned to the ECF with a grade of 220 which makes him the number 8 U20 and the number 1 U16.

Photos: Matthew Sadler & Isaac Sanders: John Saunders | Harriet Hunt: photographer unknown

103rd BRITISH CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS, BOURNEMOUTH

Saturday 23rd July - Saturday 6th August 2016

The British Chess Championships is already underway as the eNewsletter goes to press and with the inclusion of Michael Adams [below, left] is the strongest for a while. Whilst Adams is most certainly the favourite to win



he will have to work hard to secure the title as he faces a number of very strong GMs including David Howell, Gawain Jones and Nick Pert. The Championships has also attracted some overseas talent, qualifying for a place on the basis of at least a year in full residence, and leading among these is GM Tamas Fodor from Hungary and the strong and improving Australian IM, Justin Tan, who recently shared 1st with Luke McShane ahead of David Howell at the recent very strong De-Montford Bell Kings Place Rapidplay.

Jovi Houska [above, right] is favourite to win the Women's British Champion title but may be looking over her shoulder at the rapidly improving Akshaya Kalaiyalahan.

The British Championship Open Rapidplay took place during the opening weekend with IM Richard Pert coming in as the convincing winner on 9.5/11.

The games can be followed live with commentary on ---

<https://chess24.com/en/watch/live-tournaments/british-chess-championships-2016#live>

IM Andrew Martin is providing regular video analysis of the games on the ECF YouTube channel at ---

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRazaRwvrCej7HDCNr2SSLw>

Photos: Michael Adams by Brendan O'Gorman, Jovanka Houska by Ray Morris Hill

2016 ENGLISH WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP

The Championship was held from the 15-17 of July and with 6 contestants, took the form of a 5-round round-robin. Up until 2 years ago the English Women's Champion was the highest placed qualifying player in the British



Championships, which was not really ideal as the usually small number of woman competing in the event lessened its prestige. In consequence ECF decided to hold a separate championship of which this is the first. An attempt had been made to organise the event last year but, for various reasons, it had to be cancelled.

Whilst the top 4 English women did not compete in this year's inaugural event, 4 of the top 10 were present – WIM Sarakausiene 2132, WFM Longson 2117, WIM Lauterbach 2107, WFM Bhatia 2099. They were joined by WFM Grigoryan and the very promising junior player, Cosima Keen 1918. Whilst Zivile Sarakausienne was the favourite on the basis

of ELO rating the tight bunching of the ratings of the top 4 promised a close tournament with lots of hard fought games.

As things turned out the winner was Kanwal Bhatia [pictured] who, with 4.5 points, secured the title a clear point ahead of the field having drawn with 2nd placed Ingrid Lauterbach in the first round and then winning the rest of her games. The crucial encounter was in round 4 at the beginning of which Bhatia and Longson shared the lead on 2.5/3, and the former's victory, whilst not guaranteeing the title as Lauterbach could still catch her, put her right on the threshold. However, a win against Meri Grigoryan in the final round secured her first place. Ingrid Lauterbach also came through the tournament undefeated and finished on 3.5/5 to claim 2nd place.

Photo: Ray Morris-Hill

WORLD TEAM SENIORS

England were represented at the recent World Team Seniors by three teams, the first of which was significantly strengthened by support this time from the ECF. They again did very well, securing more game points than any of their rivals and enough match points to secure another 3rd place. Every player also won a medal for their individual performances. The second team also did well, the highlight of their performance being the victory of Jim Plaskett over the formidable Rafael Vaganian. GM Keith Arkell has kindly provided us with his own account of the event --- now read on ...

GM KEITH ARKELL: A PERSONAL ACCOUNT OF THE WORLD SENIORS

The 3rd World Senior Team Championship was held in Dresden, and 16 Months later we returned there, this time in Radebeul, a town in the suburbs.

Last year an Independent team consisting of Nigel Short, John Nunn, Jon Speelman, Terry Chapman and myself were the strongest team from England. We had hopes of winning Gold but had to settle for the Bronze medal. This time the team officially represented, and was selected by the ECF with Mark Hebden and Glenn Flear (captain) joining forces with John Nunn, John Speelman and myself from the previous year's team.



Iceland were top seeds fielding a team which was identical to their full Olympiad side not so many years ago. There were a further 5 or 6 teams which also had strong line ups. For example, Yusupov led a German team and Vaganian headed the Armenian challenge.

Our first real test came in round 3. We were paired with Slovakia, who had upset us last year and then gone on to become World Champions. This was a personal test for me too. Just like in 2015 the score reached 1.5:1.5 with the destiny of the match in my hands, Last year I froze and turned a won position into a zero after playing one of my worst games ever. I felt like Stuart Pearce stepping forward to take his penalty kick for England against Spain in the Euro '96 quarter finals having missed in the World cup semi-final against Germany. Like Pearce I managed to put the ball in the net this time and a big weight fell off my shoulders. We then lost a tough match against Germany in round 4. It just seemed like all the little things that could go wrong did go wrong.

Germany and Armenia (who we drew all 4 games against) ended up tying for first place, with the former taking Gold on tie- break. England were a single match point behind, with 7 wins, one drawn and one lost match. We did, however, avenge the Euro Soccer result by beating the top seeds Iceland in the penultimate round.

Had the tiebreak been game points instead of match points then England would have earned Gold instead of Bronze. Our compensation was that all 5 of us won board prizes (rating performance rather than points scored)

1. John Nunn 6.5/8 - 2610 performance - Silver medal
2. Jon Speelman 6/8 - 2536 performance - Bronze medal
3. Mark Hebden 6.5/8 - 2581 performance - Gold medal.
4. Keith Arkell 6/7 - 2565 performance - Silver medal.
5. Glenn Flear 2.5/5 - 2297 performance - Silver medal.

Team spirit was excellent, and I can't wait for the next one!

THE GLORNEY CUP

The traditional international junior team tournament was something of a triumph for Ireland this year who won the U18 Glorney Cup Event, convincingly defeating second-placed France along the way, with England coming in third. England were, however, able to draw with the top two teams by whom they were substantially out-graded. The England 2 team came fourth.

The Gilbert Cup (named in memory of Jessie Gilbert and open to girl's teams) was a great success for England who came first.

Full results can be found at ---

<http://chess-results.com/tnr230979.aspx?lan=1&art=1&flag=30&wi=821>

NATIONAL SCHOOLS CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2015-2016

This annual event, held since 1957 but now played in a different format, took place on 20 April. Reading School won the U19 Open event and the Hall School, London the U11 Open, while Howells School Cardiff won both girls' events (U19 AND U11)! To find out more go to --- <http://englishchess.org.uk/NSCC/>

THE DeMONTFORD BELL KINGS PLACE RAPIDPLAY

Easily the strongest rapidplay in the UK, Kings Place is now being sponsored by DeMontford Bell enabling a much increased prize fund with £1000 for 1st prize in the open. GMs Luke McShane and David Howell were the clear favourites for first place but in a rapidplay anything can happen!

The favourites won their first 3 games and then Howell drew with IM Jovi Houska in round 4 whilst McShane defeated IM Gavin Wall. This left David Howell in a must-win situation with Black in round 5 when he faced McShane: not a comfortable situation. McShane won and faced young Australian IM, Justin Tan, in the last round. This ended in a draw and a share of 1st place. With a draw and loss, Howell ended up out of the prizes.

The full results can be found at <http://chess-results.com/tnr227117.aspx?lan=1>

OBITUARY - JOHN DAVIS

John Davis, who died on 9th July 2016, had a very active role in Merseyside chess for over 40 years, ending only with his death.

He arrived in Liverpool in the early seventies to work at Royal Insurance. It was not long before he took on team captaincy, first of the second of its two chess teams and then of its sole team. By the mid-eighties he was the club secretary and he continued in these roles until the demise of that club in 2005. He then continued to play competitive chess in the Hoylake team in the same Merseyside league.

He also became involved in the Merseyside Chess Association (MCA) itself becoming a lower divisional controller in 1987 and controller of Division 1 for 1991. He then became Secretary of the MCA in 1991 and continued in this post until his death. His last duty was the organisation of the AGM in late May 2016. He was without doubt the steadying and positive influence in taking the MCA forward during a 25 year period of changing officers and committees and will be sorely missed and, even more so, hard to replace.

— Mike Barrett (*Formby Chess Club and current MCA President*)

BOOK REVIEWS BY IM GARY LANE



What it Takes to Become a Grandmaster

by Andrew Soltis, published by Batsford, 318 pages £15.99



What is the secret of becoming a grandmaster? It is a good way to lure customers to buy your book in the hope of another insight into high level chess. The American Andy Soltis has a knack of presenting his material in an easy to read style that would encourage any club player to improve. There is no spiralling out of control analysis provided by Fritz 15 because he keeps things simple aided by three or four diagram every couple of pages. I once read an interview with the author where he revealed he kept clippings from newspapers and magazines of interesting positions, which appears to be a policy he is maintaining. For example, on page seventy-nine he quotes Chess Life and has a tendency to use some standard positions from over fifty years ago. I am always eager to see how Petrosian handled certain openings from the 1950s but there are others who prefer something new having seen such games before.

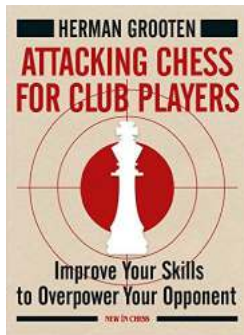
It is a difficult balance to maintain but probably more examples from the last couple of decades might be an improvement. The chapters are illuminating and I particularly liked the sage advice on rook endgames.

This will definitely raise your chess IQ.

Attacking Chess for Club Players

by Herman Grooten, published by New in Chess 351 pages, £22.50

How do you follow up a best-selling chess book? In the film world it is easy to name a sequel such as Jaws 2, Ghostbusters 2 or even Transporter 2. The Dutch author was responsible for Chess Strategy for Club Players hence the slight name change to encourage his core followers. This is basically a guide on attacking chess and



he does a good job of informing the reader and providing thought provoking examples. The games tend to be of the recent variety allowing Magnus Carlsen and the younger generation to be included on numerous occasions. There is quite a lot of analysis to allow the keen player to see all the nuances of a particular theme and once you think you have mastered it there are a few more games to reinforce the idea, There are other books on the subject but *Attacking Chess for Club Players* is a highly readable account of a bamboozling art but vital if you want to raise your rating.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

If you'd like your event to appear in this newsletter then contact manager.publicity@englishchess.org.uk to be considered for inclusion. You should also place your event on the ECF calendar which can be found at <http://www.englishchess.org.uk/event-calendar/> and lists many more events, both domestic and international.

4NCL TEAM AND INDIVIDUAL RAPIDPLAY CHAMPIONSHIPS

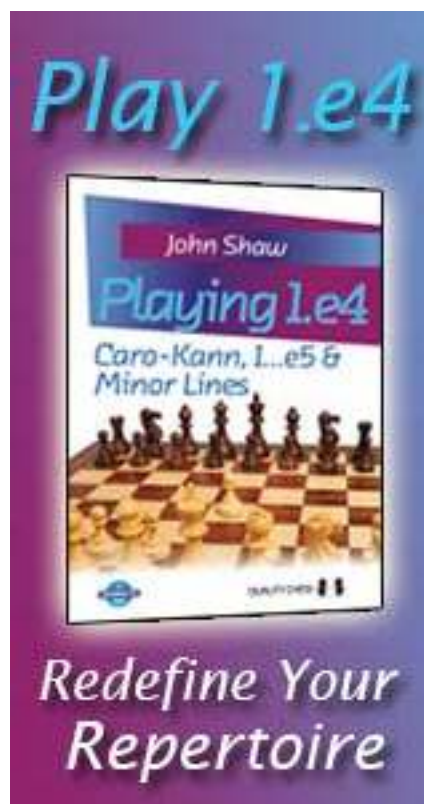
This will take place over the weekend of Saturday 1 - Sunday 2 Oct 2016 at De Vere Wokefield Park. Further details for the 4NCL events at <http://www.4ncl.co.uk/>

FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH HENDON BLITZ

Open section 10 Minutes each - www.hendonchessclub.com/blitz

GOLDERS GREEN MONTHLY RAPIDPLAY

Open, U170, U145, U120 25 minutes + 5 secs a move - www.goldersgreenchess.blogspot.co.uk

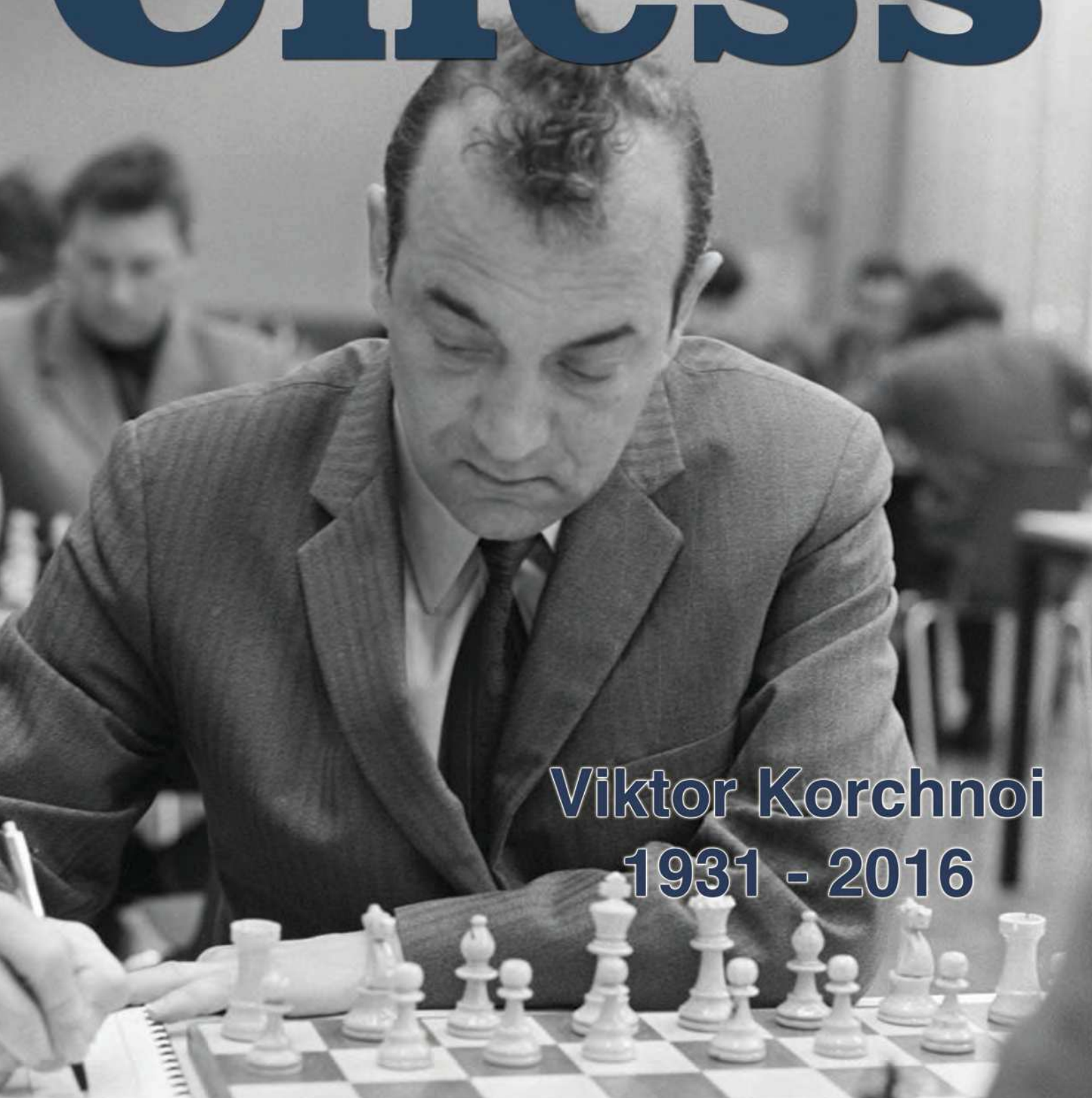


<http://shop.chess.co.uk/Playing-1-e4-Caro-Kann-1-e5-Minor-Lines-p/cb06428.htm>

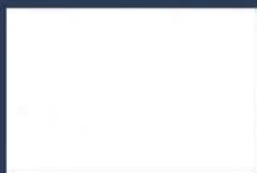
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www.chess.co.uk

Chess



Viktor Korchnoi
1931 - 2016



GM Timur Gareyev: The Brain of the Blindfold King



The Indian Summer of Sultan Khan - by John Henderson



A successful Shak Attack - Mamedyarov wins Gashimov Memorial

Chess

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Viktor Korchnoi

1931 - 2016

Jonathan Speelman pays tribute to arguably the strongest player never to become world champion

The death last month of the great Viktor Korchnoi marked the end of an era and of a super-grandmaster who was one of a kind. In 1953, the young Korchnoi twice played Grigory Levenfish, making a win and a loss apiece – Levenfish was born in 1889. Fully five decades later, Korchnoi played and defeated the 14-year-old Magnus Carlsen at a tournament in Norway in 2004. Overall he did battle by his own reckoning with six generations of chess players!

Victor Lvovich Korchnoi was born in the then Leningrad on March 23rd 1931 to a Jewish father and a Catholic mother. His father taught him chess at the age of five, he joined the local Pioneers Palace in 1943, and by 1947 he had already won the USSR Junior Championship with a massive score.

But the defining events of his youth were the horrors of the years under Stalin preceding the war and, above all, the 872-day Siege of Leningrad. With his parents divorced, his father dead after one of the early battles of the war, and his grandmother and her brother, whom he helped to bury, both gone, Korchnoi survived it with his stepmother of whom he was clearly very fond as the first chapter of *Chess is My Life* shows.

After the terrible privations of his childhood, Korchnoi was always a difficult man, but he used it to become one of the (arguably the) strongest chess players ever not to become world champion: with a lifelong devotion to chess and a unique career.

In the weeks since Korchnoi's death the details of that career have been rehearsed endlessly elsewhere, but I will briefly summarise.

Korchnoi began his international chess career in the 1950s with his first tournament abroad in Bucharest 1954 where he was first ahead of Rashid Nezhmetdinov (and Bob Wade was somewhere near the bottom). At that time, the USSR Championship was the world's strongest annual event and Korchnoi had already made his debut at the end of 1952 when he was sixth and been second equal in the following championship (there wasn't one in 1953), at the very beginning of 1954. He went on to compete many times and won four in Leningrad 1960, Yerevan 1962, Kiev 1964-65 and Riga 1970.

Despite these huge successes, numerous further victories in international tournaments and successful appearances for the USSR in the Olympiad and the European Team





Korchnoi playing for the USSR against the Netherlands, The Hague, 1962. The two interested spectators are the soon-to-be world champion, Tigran Petrosian, and the top Dutch player, the GM Jan Hein Donner.



Taking on a young Garry Kasparov in a clock simul held in Viktor's hometown of Leningrad in 1975. This game, the first of many between Korchnoi and Kasparov, ended in a draw.

Championship, Korchnoi was never considered fully 'reliable' by the Soviet authorities and in the early to mid 1970s found it almost impossible to travel abroad.

In 1976, however, he was allowed to play in a tournament in Amsterdam and after sharing first place with Tony Miles, asked Miles at the closing ceremony how to spell 'political asylum'. He defected to the West, living first in Holland, then Germany, and from 1978, Switzerland. His wife Bella and son Igor were eventually also able to leave the Soviet Union, though only after Igor had served two and a half years in a labour camp for 'evading military service'. However, Korchnoi subsequently divorced and married Petra Leeuwerik who was with him till the end.

Korchnoi's defection led after he defeated Boris Spassky in the final of the Candidates cycle in 1977 to one of the hardest fought and bitterest matches of all time both on and off the board: the world championship against Anatoly Karpov in Baguio City in the Philippines in 1978. Karpov's team included Dr. Zukhar, a well-known hypnotist and 'parapsychologist', whose presence in the audience greatly worried Korchnoi, who had him sent back several rows, and no fewer than 17 KGB agents! Korchnoi countered with two members of an Indian religious sect, the Ananda Marga, then on bail for murder.

On the board, Karpov took an early lead, but Korchnoi fought back wonderfully, winning three out of four consecutive games to equalise before Karpov got him in the decisive 32nd game. They also played a second world championship match in Merano 1981, but it was so one-sided that it's sometimes been termed the 'massacre in Merano'.

Ray Keene and Michael Stean were Korchnoi's seconds in Baguio and I also briefly

occupied that position. It happened at the 1985 Montpellier Candidates tournament, which I went to as first reserve. When nobody had the good grace to fail to appear or fall sufficiently ill, I worked for Victor for several rounds. But disappointed not to be playing myself, I doubt I was much use and he soon fired me, though we maintained perfectly reasonable relations thereafter.

I first played Victor in the Phillips and Drew Kings tournament in London 1980 – a draw – and went on to face him about 18 times in total with a smallish but respectable minus score. He was famous, of course, for the tirades he would unleash after losing – some I later learned apparently rehearsed in advance depending on the result! – but I don't remember anything exceptional the few times I did win.

In any case 'Viktor the Terrible' needed fury to play his best. Sometimes, as against Karpov, it was surely real, but other times more artificial. And I would urge readers who haven't seen it before to Google and watch his wonderful self parody in an advertisement for the Swiss Milk Marketing Board, in which he starred opposite Lovely the cow. After a sequence of agonised facial expressions, he resigns dramatically to a screaming chord and storms from the board to the message "Milk works wonders each and every day". She swishes her tail, turns to the ecstatic audience and appears to wink.

Korchnoi actually effectively played three world championship matches against Karpov since the final of the Candidates in 1975 produced the next world champion when Bobby Fischer refused to defend his title. Korchnoi never regained the absolute heights after Merano, but he still had a huge part to play when in 1984 he was paired against Garry Kasparov in the Candidates.

This match was originally scheduled to be in

Pasadena in California, but after fractious negotiations with the Soviet Chess Federation broke down, Korchnoi was declared the winner. Very nobly, he refused to accept this and they later played in London. Korchnoi won the first game, but in the end Kasparov was too strong for him and went on to face Karpov in the first of their many matches, the 'Moscow Marathon'.

In his later years, Korchnoi softened somewhat and he was an energetic and amusing presence in the VIP room at the first few editions of the London Classic where, with myself and John Nunn as chief sub-barrackers, he punctuated Julian Hodgson's commentary, reserving particular opprobrium for those who chose to defend the King's Indian. He loved the space advantage that White gets in such lines and aimed for total control. In defence he was a lion (living up to his name of 'lion's son'), and in the endgame at his best, tremendous.

Playing chess was Victor's life and at the age of 79 he ventured forth in London from the VIP room to face the public in a simultaneous display which lasted more than five hours. Wheelchair-bound at the beginning of last year, he nevertheless played a four-game rapidplay match against Wolfgang Uhlmann in Zurich which they drew 2-2, and when he was invited back to Zurich at the beginning of this year, he complained when they only wanted him as a guest of honour rather than in battle. He was a truly great warrior.

I've chosen a crucial and beautifully played endgame to finish. It comes from what turned out to be the penultimate game in Baguio, as Korchnoi, who had trailed 2-5 in the race to six wins, hauled himself back to 5-5 only to lose everything in game 32.

To help me, I dug out Ray Keene's book of the match, and apart from concentrating on this game, reread the introduction and the



Viktor takes a break for a spot of table tennis during the 30th Hoogovens Chess Tournament held in Wijk aan Zee, January 1968. After an amazing run of ten wins from his first eleven games, Korchnoi was the runaway winner, some 3 points ahead of Portisch, Tal and Hort.



A smiling Viktor pictured in February 1978 with the head of FIDE and former world champion, Max Euwe. Eagle-eyed readers will note the blackboard in the background which shows the bids received to host the 1978 world championship match between Karpov and Korchnoi. Of the seven bids received, Karpov's first choice was Hamburg as it was "the nearest to Leningrad", while Korchnoi chose Graz. The Philippine bid of Baguio City was accepted as a compromise.

appendix at the end with selected documents. These comprise Korchnoi's open letter to President Brezhnev requesting that his family to be allowed to leave the Soviet Union and then a succession of protests from the two camps during the match. They brought back sharply the vitriol of the proceedings and the extreme level of enmity at the time.

V. Korchnoi-A. Karpov
World Championship (Game 31),
Baguio City 1978
Queen's Gambit Declined

1 c4 e6 2 d3 c3 d5 3 d4 d6 4 cxd5 exd5 5 g5 e7 6 e3 0-0 7 d3 bd7 8 d3 e8 9 c2 c6 10 0-0 f8 11 e4xf6

This allows White to start the minority attack immediately. Instead, 11 h3, as Karpov subsequently played a number of times, is most common nowadays, while White has also often gone 11 ab1 and at least a dozen other moves, most notably 11 ae1 which leads to 11...de4 12 xe7 xe7 13 xe4 dxe4 14 d2 f5 15 f3 exf3 16 dxf3 ee6. **11...e4xf6 12 b4 g4 13 d2 c3 14 e5 e4xf6 15 xf5 fd7 16 xd7 dx7 17 a4 e7 18 fb1 d6 19 a5**

Allowing the queenside to be blocked, but in return White gets a stable square on c5 for his knight and can slowly play towards e4, mobilising his centre.

19...a6 20 a4 f8 21 c5 e7 22 f1 de8 23 e2 d6 24 d3 ce8 25 e1 g6

Keene writes: "Hereabouts the Russians, Tal, Vasiukov, Zaitsev, etc, were claiming an advantage for Black. Euwe was very scathing about this and took great delight in making his point by repeatedly slaughtering Baturinsky from this position in the press room."



26 e2 f6

26...f5 would have weakened e5, but forced White to exchange if he wants to get in e4.

27 ae1 h6 28 db3 f8 29 d2 h6 30 h3 f7 31 g4 f8 32 f3 d8 33 db3 db5 34 f1 h6 35 f4 f8 36 d2 d6 37 fe1 h6 38 f1 b8 39 a1 be8 40 ae1 b8



41 e4

Korchnoi had waited until after the time

control before making his break.

41...dxe4 42 ddx4 db5 43 c3 xe2 44 xe2 ex5

Having passed move 40, Karpov could have adjourned at any point, but he carried on, making a natural looking if committal exchange.

45 bxc5 d8 46 db5 axb5 47 f5



Karpov now decided to adjourn, taking twenty minutes on his sealed move. Although the white pawns on d4 and especially a5 are vulnerable, the most important point here is that White has more space with his pawns further advanced. This means that in the event of a race he should be ahead and there is also the prospect of sacrificing pawn(s) to get the king in. It presumably ought to be defensible for Black, but was most unpleasant for Karpov.

47...gxf5 48 gxf5 g8

If 48...e8 Korchnoi intended 49 a2, but not 49 d5? d8! (49...xe2?? 50 xe2 and then 50...cxd5 51 c6 or 50...e7 51 dxc6 bxc6 52 a6 wins) 50 d6 e8, which is drawn because 51 xe8 (if 51 a2 e5 the rook is much too active and White should admit his error with 52 e2!) 51...xe8 is completely dead.

49 c3 e8



To give a pictorial context to Korchnoi's longevity at the top of the chess ladder, here is a picture of a smiling Viktor (pictured second from right on the first row) from Kiev in 1954 where he was playing in his second USSR Championship. In this typically hugely strong event, Korchnoi finished tied for second with Mark Taimanov, a point and a half behind Yuri Averbakh, who is pictured to Viktor's left.



And at the other extreme, here is Viktor in Gibraltar in 2011 nearly sixty years later about to do battle with Fabiano Caruana. Korchnoi was Black and was giving away nearly 200 Elo points to the young pretender, but won in 46 moves for surely the shock of the tournament. The quote attributed to Wilhelm Steinitz seems particularly apt about this and many of Viktor's later games: "I may be an old lion, but I can still bite someone's hand off if he puts it in my mouth."

Instead, 51...♖c1+ is what they were concerned about, but after 52 ♖b2! (not 52 ♖c2 ♖a1!) 52...♗xc5 53 dxc6 ♗xc6 54 ♗d7+ ♖f8 55 ♗xb7 White has very good winning chances.

51 ♖b4 ♖e8 52 a6 bxa6 53 ♖a5 ♖d7 54 ♖b6 b4 55 d5 cxd5 56 ♗xd5+

Certainly not 56 c6+? ♖d6 57 c7 ♗c4. **56...♖c8 57 ♗d3**



The first impression of a position like this is that Black should simply be lost. However, the b-pawn is advancing and it seems that Karpov still had a perfectly adequate defence with 57...♗c4!, impeding the c-pawn's advance from behind: 58 c6 (58 ♗g3 ♗c3 59 ♗g8+ ♖d7 60 ♗g7+ ♖e8 61 ♗b7 b3 62 ♖c6 a5 is okay) 58...♗c3 59 ♗d2 b3 60 ♗g2 ♗d3 61 ♗g8+ ♗d8 62 ♗g7 b2 and White must take the draw.

57...a5? 58 ♗g3 b3?

A panicky move after which White's advantage is obvious.

58...♗d4 was correct first because if 59 c6 b3 the king can't now hide on c6 and White must play 60 ♗g8+ ♗d8 61 ♗g7, which should lead to a draw, and not, of course, 60 ♗xb3?? ♗b4+.

59 ♖c6! ♖b8

59...♗d4 60 ♗xb3 a4 61 ♗g3 ♖b8 62 ♗a3 ♖c8 63 ♖b5 ♗f4 64 ♗xa4 ♗xf5 65 ♖c6 also looks lost.

60 ♗xb3+ ♖a7 61 ♗b7+ ♖a6 62 ♗b6+ ♖a7 63 ♖b5



Now White is completely winning.

63...a4 64 ♗xf6 ♗f4 65 ♗xh6 a3 66 ♗a6+ ♖b8 67 ♗xa3 ♗xf5 68 ♗g3 ♗f6 69 ♗g8+ ♖c7 70 ♗g7+ ♖c8 71 ♗h7 1-0



If, instead, 49...♗g1 Korchnoi intended 50 a6 bxa6 51 ♗e6 a5 52 ♗xc6 ♗g3+ 53 ♖d2 with a race which would be incredibly hard to

calculate accurately. They must have had quite a night of it looking at lines like this, but nowadays with computer assistance it would be possible to come to a clear verdict with enough effort.

Given that Black was actually OK until several moves further on Karpov's decision was also fine.

50 ♗d2 ♗e4

Keene says that they had not considered this and thought that 50...♗e1 was stronger, but 51 d5 cxd5 52 ♗b2 ♗c1+ 53 ♖b4 is most unpleasant: for example, 53...♖e7 (53...d4 54 ♖xb5 d3 55 ♗d2 ♗b1+ 56 ♖c4 ♗c1+ 57 ♖d5 ♖e7 – not 57...♗c3? 58 ♖d4 – 58 ♗xd3 ♖d7 is a better defence, but still very grim) 54 ♖xb5 ♖d7 55 ♖b6 ♖c8 56 a6 bxa6 57 c6 d4 58 ♗g2 ♗b1+ 59 ♖c5 d3 60 ♖d6 ♖b8 61 c7+ ♖b7 62 ♖d7 wins.