

# *English Chess Federation*



# *Official Chess Yearbook 2018*



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## Preface / Welcome ...

*... and where has all the archived information gone?*

*Until its final edition in the old format in January 2018, the BCF/ECF Yearbook was an attempt to publish a one-stop resource for chess players, chess organisers and interested parties alike to turn to for the people, the achievements, the organisation details and the year's reports and results for chess events in Britain, and latterly in England. The yearbook was first published sometime between 1904 and 1913 (confirmation of this is welcomed), and a new edition came out every year, as close to the start of the year as possible.*



*A website (left) has now been set up that takes elements of the first and last thirds of the yearbook and brings them together in one resource, which should make the information contained available to more people than ever before, and increase the accuracy of this information, as corrections and additions need only happen once - on the site - and can be accomplished at any time of the year, rather than just the beginning.*

*The material that was covered in the Yearbook and has now moved to this website (<http://ecfresource.co.uk>) comprises ---*

*Presidents, Chairmen, Chief Executives, HLVPs and HLMs of the BCF/ECF; FIDE Titles and Honours (Administrative, Team and Individual); British Champions, Junior Champions, Junior Girl Champions and Grand Prix Winners; ECF Awards; Results (including County Champions, U18 and U13 County Champions and National Club Champions); and basic contact details for Constituent Units, English Counties, Leagues and Other Associations, Other Organisations, Junior Organisations, Clubs and Junior Clubs*

*The material that was covered in the Yearbook and duplicated on the main ECF website, and that now defaults to the main ECF website (<http://englishchess.org.uk>) comprises ---*

*Board and Officers; Chess Service Providers (Arbiters, Coaches, Chess Journalists)*

*Whilst the ECF understands what a departure this is from previous practice, we sincerely hope that the improvements in accuracy, the avoidance of duplications and the ease of access that the new, constantly updated resource website provides represents a substantial improvement.*

*Finally, in addition, you're holding in your hands the new, slimline, full-colour ECF Yearbook for 2018, where the news and events of 2017 have been freed of the clutter of the ages and can thus be represented in an attractive and worthwhile publication, containing articles and photography not seen before, written by those who were there and saw it happen ...*

*--- English Chess Federation*

# Review of the Year / Board Report



CEO Mike Truran

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The board, thrashing things out

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## *Board Report October 2017 - approved by the Board September 2017*

*This report has, as last year, been prepared in accordance with the recommendation of the Independent Constitutional and Governance Review Commission that “instead of individual Directors reporting to Council, there should be a single report of the Board, approved by it beforehand”.*

*The report, which is somewhat shorter than last year’s, focuses on what has been achieved during 2016/2017. The Strategy and Business Plan document, also included in the papers to Council following Council’s referral back to the Board at the last AGM, sets out the Board’s proposed direction of travel over the coming years and the objectives that the Board has set itself for 2017/2018 and beyond.*

### *2016/2017 Achievements*

*The ECF Board has:*

- Worked hard to establish a cohesive and stable Board.*
- Proposed voting reforms to Council and (following the vote at April’s Finance Council meeting which failed to achieve the requisite 75% majority for implementation) put forward revised voting reform proposals for Council’s consideration.*
- Completed the implementation of the Pearce Commission recommendations (“Independent Constitutional and Governance Review Commission Report to the Council, Board and Governance Committee of the English Chess Federation”). The few remaining recommendations that have not been actioned have been thoroughly reviewed by the Governance Committee, which is content that there are good reasons not to action them.*
- Overhauled and updated various bye-laws and regulations such as the Directors and Officers Responsibilities Regulations.*
- Professionalised the ECF’s accounting processes by outsourcing core accounting services to a third-party provider. A third-party company secretary has also been appointed.*
- Recovered the game fee billing backlog which had built up over the previous couple of years.*
- Rationalised game fee procedures.*
- Relocated the ECF’s office staff to more suitable accommodation on the first floor of The Watch Oak, at the same time solving the problem of the ECF library’s location for at least the foreseeable future.*
- Established the principle that membership fees should be used to support ongoing operational expenditure, with sponsorship, donations and legacies being used to fund new initiatives and developments.*
- Established the Chess Trust on a firm footing with the receipt of the proceeds of the late Richard Haddrell’s estate and which is an appropriate vehicle for other bequests and donations should they be received. The principle that there should be no restriction on the use of capital should the trustees deem that to be appropriate has also been established.*
- Submitted a request to the trustees of the John Robinson Youth Trust on behalf of the BCF Council that consideration should be given to the release of capital as well as income in appropriate circumstances.*
- Continued the development and expansion of the ECF Chess Academy.*
- Overhauled and modernised the format of the British Chess Championships, National Club Championships and English Women’s Championships.*
- Commissioned a new League Management System which is close to being completed (phase 1 has*

already been launched) and will be available to local leagues for the 2017/2018 season on a free to use basis.

- Updated the ECF website, introduced a monthly eNewsletter to all members by direct email (and to non-members via the ECF website) and put in place a process for press releases for important announcements.
- Found our second biggest ever sponsor for the British Chess Championships, found a new sponsor for the forthcoming English Rapidplay Championships, maintained the existing relationship with Tradewise and secured a one-year sponsor (Jupiter Asset Management) for our international teams.
- Provided support to our senior international players, with our men's international team achieving an excellent performance at the Chess Olympiad Open in Baku (beating China in the process), David Howell achieving a 2700+ FIDE rating and both David Howell and Gawain Jones reaching the World Cup (giving us, we believe, three English players in the draw for the first time).
- Strengthened relationships with other chess and non-chess organisations. Examples include re-energising the BICC, opening discussions with the Chess Arbiters Association about stronger links between our two organisations, putting in place a memorandum of understanding with the 4NCL on areas of mutual interest, working with the English Bridge Union and other organisations on sports recognition, working with the British Go Association on the concept of a possible London Mindsports Centre, supporting the UKCC in its transition to new organisers, and developing stronger links with the Yorkshire Chess Association and leagues.
- Implemented new arbiter regulations (and we are on track to meet arbiter attendee and number of courses targets).
- Presided over a highly successful County Championships Finals day.

## Conclusion

The pace of change has been rapid, at times almost frenetic. Much has been accomplished, but much remains to be done. The Board would like to take this opportunity to thank the many unsung volunteers of the ECF who do so much for English chess, at times with precious little recognition. The Strategy and Business document gives a good idea both of where we hope the ECF is heading and of what is needed to take us towards that aspiration.



Under 8s at the British Chess Championships (picture by Arnold Lutton)

## *Report from the Manager of Chess in Prisons*



*Carl Portman (left) - on the inside looking out*

*My job specification is 'to foster the pursuit of chess in prisons'. It is a small line with a lot of scope. The work is done on a voluntary basis (with reasonable expenses paid) and it gives me the flexibility to do what I can when I can in addition to my normal work (the day job). Prisons have been in the news a lot – and not favourably. The chief inspector of prisons described them as being 'unsafe' and the shadow Justice Secretary Richard Burgon said they were 'a stain on the nation'. Nevertheless, in every dark sky one can find stars to shine and chess has its own way of shedding light on the world.*

*It has been a busy year. I admit that a chunk of it was taken up finishing and publishing my book on chess in prisons, but I found time also to continue to write my chess column for the prison newspaper 'Inside Time' which potentially reaches over 80,000 inmates. I have received plenty of correspondence from inmates telling me about their love of chess and the way it changes lives for the better on the inside. Chess clubs continue to run, inmates have begun correspondence chess and more people are helping other inmates to*

*take up the game.*

*On 22 August I visited HMP Buckley Hall and had a wonderful session with inmates there. I was due to visit two more prisons in the summer but unannounced 'shakedowns' meant they had to be postponed. I am at the mercy of the prison system in such matters. I mentioned my book 'Chess Behind Bars' (published by Quality Chess) which was launched at the British Chess Championships in Llandudno. I gave a short lecture on chess in prisons and thank everyone who attended - and also Kevin Staveley for his support.*

*I met twice with my local MP and I hope to speak to a select committee about chess in prisons and the positive impact that it has. I have given prison radio interviews with inmates and staff, and helped the Wall Street Journal, providing background information and advice for their visit to the prison on Rikers Island in New York.*

*It does not help when there is a changeover of Secretary of State for Justice, and what with Brexit and the General Election we have seen four people at the top in two years. It certainly does not make for continuity, and each time I have to go back to default and try to establish a rapport with the new people.*

*At the time of writing I am due the following visits ---*

*November 24th HMP Drake (women's prison); December 5th HMP Leicester*

*There is more to do and more to come. I shall promote, visit and lobby wherever I can. I want to visit more prisons, and work to ensure that chess is on the agenda. Whilst it sometimes feels like I am fighting against the world it is very rewarding work and as one inmate wrote – 'without chess my life would be nothing'.*

*I want to thank Alex Holowczak, Gary Willson and all at the ECF for supporting me in this very important work.*

*--- Carl Portman*

The 104th British Chess Championships in Llandudno – results

Rank	Title	Name	Rtg	Club/City	Points
1	GM	Jones Gawain Cb	2660	4NCL Guildford	7.0
2	GM	Howell David Wl	2702	4NCL Cheddleton	7.0
	GM	Mcshane Luke J	2644	None	7.0
	IM	Hanley Craig A	2441	None	7.0
5	GM	Emms John M	2468	Wood Green	6.5
	IM	Ghasi Ameet K	2467	4NCL Grantham Sharks	6.5
	IM	Palliser Richard Jd	2408	4NCL White Rose	6.5
8	GM	Hawkins Jonathan	2582	4NCL Cheddleton	6.0
	GM	Pert Nicholas	2558	4NCL Guildford	6.0
	IM	Adair James R	2481	4NCL White Rose	6.0
	GM	Hebden Mark L	2477	4NCL Guildford	6.0
	IM	Zhou Yang-Fan	2468	4NCL Guildford	6.0
	GM	Gormally Daniel W	2462	4NCL Blackthorne Russia	6.0
	IM	Trent Lawrence	2445	None	6.0
	GM	Wells Peter K	2434	4NCL White Rose	6.0
	FM	Haria Ravi	2417	Wood Green HK	6.0
	IM	Eggleston David J	2394	4NCL Cheddleton	6.0
	FM	Horton Andrew P	2324	3Cs	6.0
19	GM	Williams Simon K	2442	4NCL Cheddleton	5.5
	IM	Merry Alan B	2427	Barbican 4NCL	5.5
	GM	Arkell Keith C	2424	4NCL Cheddleton	5.5
	IM	Hunt Adam C	2424	Woodbridge School	5.5
	IM	Houska Jovanka	2402	None	5.5
	FM	Mcphillips Joseph	2400	None	5.5
	FM	Longson Alexander	2323	None	5.5
	FM	Batchelor Peter J	2309	None	5.5
	IM	Kolbus Dietmar	2306	Isle of Man	5.5
	FM	Claridge-Hansen William	2267	4NCL Oxford	5.5
		Moore Graham J	2155	Ipswich	5.5
		Murphy Conor E	2154	Cambs University	5.5
31	GM	Ward Chris G	2441	4NCL KJCA Kings	5.0
	FM	Zakarian David	2360	4NCL Oxford	5.0
	FM	Jackson James P	2286	Banbury	5.0
	WGM	Toma Katarzyna	2252	West Is Best	5.0
	FM	Richardson John R	2237	Hendon	5.0
		Golding Alex	2222	RGS Guildford	5.0
	CM	Willmoth Robert F	2211	Hendon	5.0
		Shaw Peter	2103	Wakefield	5.0
	WFM	Longson Sarah N	2074	None	5.0
		Jina Taran	1777	Chess Masters	5.0
41	GM	Arakhamia-Grant Ketevan E	2364	None	4.5
	FM	Fitzsimons David	2352	Wood Green HK	4.5
	IM	Pritchett Craig W	2326	Dunbar	4.5
		Dineley Richard Dp	2269	Wrexham	4.5
	IM	Rudd Jack	2252	Barnstaple	4.5
		Grant Jonathan Im	2187	Edinburgh West	4.5
		Horton Jamie A	2178	None	4.5

		<i>Kalavannan Koby</i>	2175	<i>Surbiton</i>	4.5
		<i>Jones Steven A</i>	2171	<i>Widnes</i>	4.5
		<i>Gaudeau Valentin</i>	2170	<i>None</i>	4.5
		<i>Gayson Peter M</i>	2160	<i>White Rose</i>	4.5
		<i>Moreby James E</i>	2149	<i>Gosforth</i>	4.5
		<i>Gallagher Daniel Gh</i>	2147	<i>Maldon</i>	4.5
		<i>Ogunshola Olugbemiga</i>	2133	<i>Camberley</i>	4.5
	WFM	<i>Sun Xinyue</i>	2132	<i>None</i>	4.5
		<i>Lam Paul Gm</i>	2111	<i>Coventry CA</i>	4.5
		<i>Willow Jonah B</i>	2077	<i>West Nottingham</i>	4.5
		<i>Byron Alan M</i>	2064	<i>Wigston</i>	4.5
59		<i>Merriman John</i>	2221	<i>Drunken Knights</i>	4.0
	FM	<i>Storey Charles H</i>	2214	<i>None</i>	4.0
		<i>Graham David B</i>	2201	<i>Worthing</i>	4.0
		<i>Taylor Adam A</i>	2165	<i>Imperial College London</i>	4.0
		<i>Richardson Alex</i>	2147	<i>Newcastle Under Lyme</i>	4.0
	FM	<i>Smith Andrew P</i>	2146	<i>Bourne End</i>	4.0
	CM	<i>Coleman David J</i>	2135	<i>Barbican 4NCL</i>	4.0
	WGM	<i>Jackson Sheila</i>	2125	<i>4NCL Spirit of Atticus</i>	4.0
		<i>Pleasants Allan J</i>	2103	<i>Weymouth</i>	4.0
		<i>Brozel Sacha</i>	2097	<i>None</i>	4.0
		<i>Verma Aditya</i>	2071	<i>KJCA</i>	4.0
		<i>Lentzos Ioannis</i>	2038	<i>Warwick University</i>	4.0
		<i>Golding James</i>	1942	<i>RGS Guildford</i>	4.0
72		<i>Coathup Roger H</i>	2151	<i>Morpeth</i>	3.5
	FM	<i>Kalaiyalahan Akshaya</i>	2127	<i>Nonsuch</i>	3.5
	WIM	<i>Maroroa Sue Y</i>	2116	<i>Hillsborough</i>	3.5
		<i>Burrows Martin P</i>	2115	<i>Wigston</i>	3.5
		<i>Stewart Ashley</i>	2111	<i>Royston</i>	3.5
	FM	<i>Waddington Mike P</i>	2070	<i>Dorchester</i>	3.5
		<i>Taylor William J</i>	2048	<i>West Is Best</i>	3.5
		<i>Humphreys Jerry G</i>	2041	<i>Downend &amp; Fishponds</i>	3.5
		<i>Cocks Elliot</i>	2036	<i>Chelmsford</i>	3.5
		<i>Zhu Richard</i>	2036	<i>Wellington College</i>	3.5
		<i>Willson Ollie</i>	2032	<i>Hastings &amp; St Leonards</i>	3.5
		<i>Moore Geoffrey R</i>	2023	<i>Norwich Dons</i>	3.5
		<i>Ahluwalia Amardip</i>	1995	<i>Crowborough</i>	3.5
85		<i>Abrahams Daniel</i>	2162	<i>None</i>	3.0
		<i>Okhai Shabir</i>	2111	<i>Syston</i>	3.0
		<i>Haridas Girinath</i>	1977	<i>Wimbledon</i>	3.0
		<i>Ashworth Michael J</i>	1946	<i>Wotton Hall</i>	3.0
		<i>Shepherd Katherine M</i>	1929	<i>None</i>	3.0
		<i>Fathallah Joe</i>	1919	<i>Cardiff</i>	3.0
		<i>Munshi Aditya</i>	1901	<i>West Nottingham</i>	3.0
		<i>Rush Stephen</i>	0	<i>Queens Uni - Belfast</i>	3.0
93	FM	<i>Wall Tim P</i>	2242	<i>Forest Hall</i>	2.5
		<i>Hewson Brian Wr</i>	2023	<i>Tiverton</i>	2.5
		<i>Brewer Callum D</i>	2015	<i>Sussex Juniors</i>	2.5
		<i>Cole James</i>	1950	<i>MCS Blackbirds</i>	2.5
		<i>Anilkumar Anantha P (jnr)</i>	1932	<i>KJCA Kings</i>	2.5
		<i>Modi Shyam Jagdish</i>	1908	<i>Leicestershire Juniors</i>	2.5

99	Jayawarna Nugith	2054	Heywood	2.0
	Davis Lee	1952	Barry	2.0
	Howell Oliver W	1701	Sussex Juniors	2.0
102	Garnett John S	2005	The Buffs	1.0
	Arkeell Nicholas D	1998	Halesowen	1.0



## 104th British Chess Championships - report

Gawain Jones is British Champion; Jovanka Houska takes the women's title



Gawain Jones (left) and Jovanka Houska (pictures by Arnold Lutton)

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GM Mark Hebden (picture by Arnold Lutton)

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WIM Sue Maroroa (picture by Arnold Lutton)

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Shlok Verma (left) readies himself (picture by Arnold Lutton)



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Prizes galore! (picture by Arnold Lutton)

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## 104th British Chess Championships 2017 - prizewinners list

### Championship

1st: GM Gawain CB Jones (4NCL Guildford)

2nd= GM Luke J McShane, GM David WL Howell (4NCL Cheddleton), IM Craig A Hanley 7

5th: IM Ameet K Ghasi (4NCL Grantham Sharks) 6½

Richard Palliser and John Emms tied for 5th place but were awarded rating prizes of greater value

6th= GM Jonathan Hawkins (4NCL Cheddleton), GM Nicholas Pert (4NCL Guildford), GM Mark L Hebden (4NCL Guildford), IM Yang-Fan Zhou (4NCL Guildford), IM Lawrence Trent, FM Ravi Haria (Wood Green HK), FM Andrew P Horton (3Cs) 6

James Adair, Daniel Gormally, Peter Wells, and David Eggleston also tied for 6th place but were awarded rating prizes of greater value

Women's Prize:

1st: IM Jovanka Houska 5½

2nd= WGM Katarzyna Toma (West Is Best), WFM Sarah N Longson 5

Under 21 Prize:

1st= FM Ravi Haria (Wood Green HK), FM Andrew P Horton (3C's) 6

3rd= FM Joseph McPhillips, FM Peter J Batchelor, FM William Claridge-Hansen (4NCL Oxford), Conor E Murphy (Cambs Uni), IM Alan B Merry (Barbican 4NCL) 5½

Under 18 Prize:

FM Ravi Haria (Wood Green HK)

Over 50 Prize:

1st: GM John M Emms (Wood Green) 6½

2nd= GM Mark L Hebden (4NCL Guildford), GM Peter K Wells (4NCL White Rose) 6

Rating Prize 2451-2550:

1st: GM John M Emms (Wood Green)

2nd: GM Daniel W Gormally (4NCL Blackthorne Russia)

3rd: IM James R Adair (4NCL White Rose)

Rating Prize 2351-2450:

1st: IM David J Eggleston (4NCL Cheddleton)

2nd: IM Richard JD Palliser (4NCL White Rose)

3rd: GM Peter K Wells (4NCL White Rose)

Rating Prize 2201-2350: FM James P Jackson (Banbury) 5

Rating Prize 2051-2200: Peter Shaw (Wakefield) 5

English Champion:

1st= GM Gawain CB Jones (4NCL Guildford), GM Luke J McShane, GM David WL Howell (4NCL Cheddleton), IM Craig A Hanley 7

Alexander Best Game Prize:

John Emms, for his round 7 win against Jonathan Hawkins

### Major Open

1st: Tom Brown (Cardiff) 7

2nd= Philip AA Tozer (Athenaeum), Dominic Miller (Worthing), Philip J Crocker (Chester), John N Sugden (Hastings & St Leonards), J Morgan Blake (Warwick Uni) 6½

Rating Prize (U1900) Ranesh Ratnesan (Surbiton), Gwilym T Price (Godalming) 5½

Over 50

1st: John DM Nunn 6

2nd= Cliff R Chandler (Maidstone), Andrew P Lewis (Manningtree), Phil J Brooks (Ashtead) 5

Over 65

1st: Stephen H Berry (Wimbledon), Roger Emerson (Guildford) 5½

3rd= Chris CW Shephard (Sheffield Nomads), Oliver A Jackson, Anthony CP Milnes (Cavendish), Rudy Van Kemenade 5

## AM Open

1st: Richard Bryant (Oswestry) 4½/5

2nd= Stephen Orton (Norfolk), Philipp Orgler (Hendon), Taken Alkhateeb (KMSA), Mikhail Sedykh 4/5  
Grading Prize (U1925): Nicholas Clanchy (Cambridge Uni) 2½/5

## Under 180

1st: Otgonbayar Chinguun 4½/5

2nd= Chris I Howell (Sussex Martlets), Damian McCarthy (Culcheth) 4/5  
Rating Prize (U1800): Vishnu Kirupakan (Harrow)

## Under 160

1st= Geoffrey Brown (Folkestone), Otgonbayar Chinguun 4½/5

3rd= David Patrick (Todmorden), Nathanael Paul (Newport), Ron Plater (Forest Hall), Carl Gartside (Clay Cross), Anthony Kent (Borehamwood) 4/5  
Rating Prize (U1700): Mike O'Mahoney (Wallasey) 3/5

## Under 140

1st= Robert Clegg (Huddersfield), Robert M Ashworth (Wootton Hall), Mike J O'Mahony (Wallasey), Oliver Stubbs (Downend & Fishponds), Timothy Lewis (Barnet Knights), Thomas McLaren (Wootton Hall), Garry J Hewitt (Darlington), Kennan Kesterson (Westminster Under), Graeme McCormick (Belfast South) 4/5  
Rating Prize (U1600): Amaan Gogia (West Notts)

## Under 120

1st: Chris Fraser (West Bridgford) 4½/5

2nd= Susan Fraser (Darlington), William Upton (DHSS), Les Hall (Crewe), Louis Khoo-Thwe (Oslo), Jeremy Lewis 4/5  
Rating Prize (U100): Kyle Pelling (Tameside) 3½/5

## Under 100

1st: Yuvraj Kumar (Bath) 5/5

2nd: Kyle Pelling (Tameside) 4½/5

3rd: Levi Weston (GLCC) 4/5

Grading Prize (U80): James Lindquist 3½/5

## Under 16

1st: Koby Kalavannan (Surbiton) 6½

2nd= Dominic Miller (Worthing), Oscar Pollack (Hendon) 5

Best Girl: Shayanna Sivarajasingam (Cardiff) 4

## Under 14

1st: Viktor Stoyanov (Sandhurst) 6

2nd: Aditya Verma 5½

3rd= Remy Rushbrooke, Chirag Guha (Sutton Coldfield), Armaan Gogia (West Notts) 5

Best Girl: Nadia Jaufarally (St Albans) 4½

## Under 12

1st: Christopher Tombolis (Richmond) 7

2nd: Shahjahon Saidmurodov (Stratford) 5½

3rd= Adithya Pramod Paleri (Watford)

3rd= Robert A Akeya-Price (CCF) 5

Best Girl: Venetia Sivarajasingam (Cardiff), Hiya Ray (St John's College Cardiff), Julia Volovich 4½

## Under 11

1st: Yichen Han (Forest Hall) 7/7

2nd: Logan Fear (Homefield Prep) 5½/7

3rd= Adam Hussein (Carrick), Andrew Kirby (Crowthorne) 5/7

3rd= and best girl Anum Sheikh (Ilford), Hiya Ray (St John's College Cardiff) 5/7

## *Under 10*

*1st: Ethan Chung (WCU) 6*

*2nd: Yichen Han (Forest Hall) 5½*

*3rd= Shlok Verma (KJCA), James Merriman (Orpington), Stakhey Sedykh (Pointer School), Kian Dharmasena (Tough Chess) 5*

*Best Girl: Tarini Jayawarna (Heywood) 3½*

*Neil Carr Scholarship: Stakhey Sedykh (Pointer School)*

## *Under 9*

*1st= Joe Birks, George Clarkson (Arnold House) 5½/6*

*3rd= Alexander Richards, Idhant Lodha (Homefield), Dimitrios Levon Zakarian (Oxford Juniors) 5/6*

*Best Girl: Nina Pert (Essex Juniors), Zoha Ashraf (Wilts Juniors), Tanvi Gatne (Maidenhead Juniors) 4/6*

## *Under 8*

*1st= Shlok Verma (KJCA), Sohun Lohia (Wetherby) 5½/6*

*3rd= Harry Zheng (Chelmsford Juniors), Denis Dupuis, Louis Khoo-Thwe (Oslo Sjakk Selskap) 5/6*

*Best Girl: Clemence Pham (Sandhurst), Siena Gurjar 4½/6*

## *Atkins (Weekend Open)*

*1st: John Pitcher (South Birmingham) 4½/5*

*2nd= Thomas Villiers (Muswell Hill), Paul Dargan (Tynemouth) 4/5*

*Rating Prize (U1910): Mark Littleton (Wimborne) 3/5*

## *Soanes (Weekend U150)*

*1st: Nicholas Clanchy (Cambridge Uni) 5/5*

*2nd= Richard Burton (Colwyn Bay), Dr Tran Hai (Bangor, Gwynedd), Robert Clegg (Huddersfield), Jamie Macdonald (Wimborne) 4/5*

*Rating Prize (U1680): Andrew Di-Vetta (Bridgend)*

*Rating Prize (U1600): Steven Watson*

## *Yates (Weekend U120)*

*1st= Tim Crouch (Kings Head / Pimlico), Sarah Weersing (Essex Juniors) 4½/5*

*3rd= Dewi Jones (Treffynnon), Philip Owen (Chippenham) 4/5*

*Grading Prize: Roshan Gurjar 4/5; Paul Taylor (Holywell) 3/5*

## *Rapidplay*

*1st: Ben J Purton (Grantham Sharks 4NCL) 7½*

*2nd= Mark A Talbot (Wigan Knights), Jonathan C Wells (North Norfolk) 7*

*Rating Prize (U2000) Nicholas Clanchy (Cambs Uni) 6½*

*Rating Prize (U1750) Thomas Carroll (Hoylelake) 6½*

*Rating Prize (U1500) Kevin Ye (3cs) 5*

*Rating Prize (U1250) Raina Jithendra (Tormead Junior School) 3*

*Roy Clues Cup (best performance in congress by a Welsh player)  
shared by Tom Brown and Ethan Chung*

*Best game prize in junior sections (U16 – U10) – Raghav Nayak (U16)*

*Boxall Plate for Services to the Congress – IM Andrew Martin*

# 105th British Chess Championships 2018

Hull City Hall, Queen Victoria Square, Carr Lane, Hull HU1 3RQ  
July 27th to August 5th, 2018



Incorporating the FIDE-rated British; British Over 50/Over 65; British U180, U160 and U140; British Under 16/14/12/10; Major Open; 5 Day AM Open; Open Rapidplay; Open and U150 Weekenders

The highest-placed eligible player in all British Isles FIDE-rated events will qualify for the right to play in the 2017 Championships. There are also championships for junior players at Under 11, Under 9 and Under 8; graded championships for U120 and U100; Weekend U120 and an opening simultaneous display, as well as evening events ...

Entry forms available January 2018 from the ECF Office, The Watch Oak, Chain Lane, Battle, East Sussex TN33 0YD Tel: 01424 775222 Email: [office@englishchess.org.uk](mailto:office@englishchess.org.uk)

ECF: [www.englishchess.org.uk](http://www.englishchess.org.uk) | BCC: [www.britishchesschampionships.co.uk](http://www.britishchesschampionships.co.uk)

## ECF Master Points - 2017

Regional Master - Graham Bolt [9th February 2017]; Roman Ismailov [1st March 2017]

Team Master - Niamh Bridgeman [9th February 2017]; Joshua John [2nd February 2017]; Shreyas Royal [1st February 2017]; Charlton Siddo [13th November 2017]

Chess Maestro - Umar Syed [13th November 2017]

## No longer with us ... 2017

Geoff Harris; Sandy Cordon; Dave Flower; Dave Flower; Keith Richardson; Martin Regan; David Rumens; Andrew Paulson; Simon Woodcock; Peter Poobalasingam; John Toothill

## Membership Rates

Annual subscription for the year to 31st August 2018

Adult Bronze one year (expires 31/8/18) – £16.00; Junior Bronze one year (expires 31/8/18) – £9.50

Adult Silver one year (expires 31/8/18) – £23.50; Junior Silver\* one year (expires 31/8/18) – £17.00

Adult Gold one year (expires 31/8/18) – £34.00; Junior Gold one year (expires 31/8/18) – £27.50

Adult / Junior Platinum one year (expires 31/8/18) – £70.00

\* Junior Silver membership is available FREE to players who have not previously been members of the Federation in any category ... [click here](#)

## Tournaments & Events

*County Championships, National Club Championships, League results and more ...*

### *Hastings International Chess Congress - final round up from Pam Thomas*

*Hastings Congress final day provided entertainment up until the bitter end with several of the prizes unable to be determined until not too long before the closing reception. After a surprising setback at the start of the Masters, Indian grandmaster Deep Sengupta shared first prize with Chinese International Master Yiping Lou, each having a final score of 7 points. Sengupta had a win against Daniel Gormally and Lou drew against Arghyadip Das.*



*Left to right - Yiping Lou, Deep Sengupta, Cllr. Judy Rogers, ECF President Dominic Lawson and Arbiter Lara Barnes (picture by Pam Thomas)*

*The winners shared the first prize – each receiving £1,600 and being jointly awarded the Golombek Trophy by Cllr. Judy Rogers, Mayor of Hastings and Dominic Lawson, President of the English Chess Federation. Deep's name already appears twice on the trophy, having won outright in 2016 and jointly with Arghyadip Das in 2010. Yiping Lou is the following in the footsteps of Chinese winner Yue Wang in 2011.*

*Third prize was shared between Uzbek GM Jahongir Vakhidov and Indian IMs Stany and Das on 6.5 points.*

*Sixth prize was shared between English grandmasters Daniel Gormally, Mark Hebden and Keith Arkell, English IM Stephen Mannion, Iranian FM Borna Derakhshani and Norwegian Pal Royset all on 6 points.*

*The Horntye Prize of £100 and trophy was won by GM Danny Gormally for his game against Alexandr Fier in Round 6 which was presented by Horntye Trustee, Graham Deaves.*

*The prize for highest placed female player was shared by WGM Nino Maisuradze and WFM Xinyue Sun*

*Prize for the highest non-IM/GM was shared between FM Borna Derakhshani and Pal Royset (NOR)*

*The rating performance for a player aged over 65 was won by Bexhill player John Sugden, and the Under 18 rating performance prize went to 14-year-old Calum Salmons from Brighton, the latter prize being awarded as a lasting contribution by Con Power.*

*Alan Hustwayte's prize for Best Performance Against Rating went to Portugese player Claudio Boino.*

*As well as the prizes in kind, Hastings once again proved to be a fertile ground for norm achievement possibilities. In the end Yiping Lou achieved a GM norm and Adam Taylor achieved an IM norm. Adam started well here won his first game against a GM in the first round.*

*FIDE International Arbiter norms were achieved by Tom Thorpe and Alan Atkinson – Alan had a dual role at the Congress acting as arbiter and photographer.*

*Congress Director, Alan Hustwayte, achieved his International Organiser title.*

*Congress Chairman, Paul Smith thanked the sponsors, Tradewise Insurance Services Ltd and Hastings Borough Council and also thanked the players, organisers and the staff of Horntye Park for their contributions. He wished everyone a safe return home and hoped that they would be back again at the end of this year for the next Congress.*

*As well as those mentioned above the Congress would like to thank the John Robinson Youth Chess Trust for their generous award enabling the congress to give bursaries to a number of entrants under 21. Thanks also go to The White Rock Hotel, The Lansdowne Hotel and KC Computers for their continuing support.*

*The Weekend Congress began this morning with 97 entries. The Open is FIDE rated and the "live" games are available on the Hastings website – <http://www.hastingschess.com>*

*At the present time, the sponsorships have not been confirmed, but the organisers are hopeful that they will be able to welcome as many players as possible back to Hastings in December.*

Final Ranking crosstable after 9 rounds (top 50)														
	Title	Name	Rtg	FED	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	TB1
1	GM	SENGUPTA Deep	2586	IND	20b0	52w1	11b1	22w0	32w1	28b1	14b1	4w1	6w1	7,0
2	IM	LOU Yiping	2462	CHN	11w1	9b1	3w1	6b½	12b½	4w½	20w1	8b1	5w½	7,0
3	IM	STANY G.A.	2502	IND	22b1	24w½	2b0	35w1	16b1	39w1	8w½	9b1	4b½	6,5
4	GM	VAKHIDOV Jakhongir	2500	UZB	23w1	16b1	8w½	17b1	5w1	2b½	6w1	1b0	3w½	6,5
5	IM	DAS Arghyadip	2451	IND	49b1	10w1	12b½	8w½	4b0	11w1	31b1	18w1	2b½	6,5
6	GM	GORMALLY Daniel W	2477	ENG	76b½	38w1	24b1	2w½	22b1	12w1	4b0	7w1	1b0	6,0
7	GM	HEBDEN Mark L	2445	ENG	32w½	37b1	17w0	36b1	19w1	8b½	15w1	6b0	16w1	6,0
8	GM	ARKELL Keith C	2416	ENG	51b1	35w1	4b½	5b½	29w1	7w½	3b½	2w0	25b1	6,0
9	FM	DERAKHSHANI Borna	2298	FID	71b1	2w0	33b1	39w1	14b½	44w1	12b½	3w0	28b1	6,0
10	IM	MANNION Stephen R	2285	SCO	36b1	5b0	28w½	41w½	30b1	26w½	44b½	55w1	29b1	6,0
11		ROYSET Pal	2208	NOR	2b0	43w1	1w0	40b1	46w1	5b0	37w1	54b1	24w1	6,0
12	GM	FIER Alexandr	2576	BRA	21w1	15b1	5w½	13b1	2w½	6b0	9w½	20b½	19w½	5,5
13	GM	CHERNIAEV Alexander	2436	RUS	50b1	20w½	76b1	12w0	25b½	14w½	26b½	30w1	23b½	5,5
14	IM	WEGERLE Joerg	2421	GER	26w1	29b½	20w½	21b1	9w½	13b½	1w0	32b½	39b1	5,5
15	GM	LALIC Bogdan	2415	CRO	33b1	12w0	26b1	29b½	17w½	49w1	7b0	41w1	20b½	5,5
16	FM	RADOVANOVIC Jovica	2320	SRB	77b1	4w0	51b1	20b½	3w0	40w1	35b1	39w1	7b0	5,5
17	FM	MURPHY Conor E	2313	ENG	34w½	27b1	7b1	4w0	15b½	41w½	39b0	64w1	33b1	5,5
18	IM	MUIR Andrew J	2297	SCO	29w0	34b½	39w0	58b1	43w1	67b1	46w1	5b0	32w1	5,5
19	FM	PITSCHKA Claus	2249	GER	38b½	76w0	55b1	69w1	7b0	61w1	30b½	26w1	12b½	5,5
20	FM	TAYLOR Adam C	2242	ENG	1w1	13b½	14b½	16w½	24b1	48w1	2b0	12w½	15w½	5,5
21	FM	BRITTON Richard L	2239	ENG	12b0	41w1	34b1	14w0	55w½	42b1	29w0	43b1	46w1	5,5
22	FM	BUCHENAU Frank	2236	GER	3w0	54b1	37w1	1b1	6w0	55b1	24w0	29b½	48w1	5,5
23	FM	WALL Tim P	2236	ENG	4b0	61w1	35b½	63w½	41b½	70w1	48b½	44w1	13w½	5,5
24	IM	BATES Richard A	2378	ENG	28w1	3b½	6w0	67b1	20w0	53b1	22b1	25w½	11b0	5,0
25	WGM	MAISURADZE Nino	2256	FRA	37w0	40b½	62w1	54b1	13w½	29b½	56w1	24b½	8w0	5,0
26	FM	EAMES Robert S	2159	ENG	14b0	69w1	15w0	42b1	56w1	10b½	13w½	19b0	54w1	5,0
27		WILLOW Jonah B	2152	ENG	31b½	17w0	63b½	43w½	69b1	64w0	45b½	70w1	55b1	5,0
28	WFM	SUN Xinyue	2146	CHN	24b0	70w1	10b½	48w½	63b1	1w0	34b1	31w1	9w0	5,0
29		BOINO Claudio	2123	POR	18b1	14w½	31b1	15w½	8b0	25w½	21b1	22w½	10w0	5,0
30	CM	COLEMAN David J	2076	ENG	78b0	60w1	70b1	31w½	10w0	47b1	19w½	13b0	56w1	5,0
31	GM	KRISTIANSEN Jens	2415	DEN	27w½	32b1	29w0	30b½	61w1	54b1	5w0	28b0	41w½	4,5
32		OYAMA Akito	2185	ENG	7b½	31w0	38b1	64w1	1b0	63w1	41b½	14w½	18b0	4,5
33		STANISZ Patryk	2150	POL	15w0	45b1	9w0	62b½	66w1	46b0	57w1	58b1	17w0	4,5
34	CM	WOONG William	2137	SGP	17b½	18w½	21w0	57b0	85w1	65b1	28w0	62b1	47w½	4,5
35		VILLIERS Thomas	2136	ENG	53w1	8b0	23w½	3b0	62w1	57b1	16w0	66b1	0	4,5
36		ROLVAG Mikael	2113	NOR	10w0	56b½	44w1	7w0	70b½	66b½	47w½	60b1	42w½	4,5
37		WHITE Stuart A	2112	SCO	25b1	7w0	22b0	72w1	48b0	73w1	11b0	69w1	44b½	4,5
38		COOTE Trevor D	2104	ENG	19w½	6b0	32w0	59b½	65w½	58b0	80w1	63w1	64b1	4,5
39		BYRON Alan M	2099	ENG	-½	78w1	18b1	9b0	47w1	3b0	17w1	16b0	14w0	4,5
40		TER STEEG Marcus Dr.	2066	GER	47w1	25w½	49b0	11w0	45b1	16b0	58w0	71w1	59b1	4,5
41		SUGDEN John N	2059	ENG	58w1	21b0	78w1	10b½	23w½	17b½	32w½	15b0	31b½	4,5

42		BERGER Konstantin	2041	GER	72b½	63w0	60b1	26w0	71b1	21w0	70b½	49w1	36b½	4,5
43		AHLUWALIA Amardip	2004	ENG	59w1	11b0	47w½	27b½	18b0	86w1	50b½	21w0	65w1	4,5
44	WFM	NORINKEVICIUTE Rasa	1993	LTU	74w1	50w½	36b0	77w1	76b1	9b0	10w½	23b0	37w½	4,5
45		RAMSTAD Havard	1965	NOR	75w1	33w0	48b0	65b½	40w0	79b1	27w½	52b½	66w1	4,5
46		ROGACEWICZ Mikolaj	1961	POL	73b1	77w½	50b½	76w½	11b0	33w1	18b0	51w1	21b0	4,5
47	CM	DEV Shah	1877	IND	40b0	65w1	43b½	52w1	39b0	30w0	36b½	67w1	34b½	4,5
48		SALMONS Calum	1756	ENG	62w0	53b1	45w1	28b½	37w1	20b0	23w½	-½	22b0	4,5
49		GRAHAM David B	2204	ENG	5w0	62b½	40w1	56b½	57w1	15b0	54w0	42b0	70w1	4,0
50		ANDERSON John	2184	ENG	13w0	44b½	46w½	61b0	68w1	62b1	43w½	56b½	0	4,0



Top to bottom – the Hastings commentary room with GM Chris Ward presiding; GM Keith Arkell; Alexandr Fier; Nino Maisuradze

## British Rapidplay Chess Championship – final rankings after 10 rounds (Open)

Rank	Start Rank	Title	Name	Fed.	Rating	Club/City	Points
1	1	GM	ALSINA LEAL Daniel	ESP	2508		8.0
2	6	AGM	KLINGER Dominic	ENG	2143		7.5
	11		JONES Steven A	ENG	2088		7.5
4	5		DONG Bao Nghia	VIE	2183		7.0
	13		GRATTAGE Matthew	ENG	2077		7.0
6	4	FM	STOREY Charles H	ENG	2225		6.0
	12		SHAW Peter	ENG	2079		6.0
	32		HAN Yichen	NED	1790		6.0
9	3	IM	SARAKAUSKAS Gediminas	LTU	2311		5.5
	8		WESTWOOD Richard D	ENG	2129		5.5
	9		SURTEES Mike J	ENG	2123		5.5
	19		BURKE Mitchell R	ENG	2009		5.5
	21	AGM	VAN KEMENADE Rudy	WLS	1972		5.5
	28		GOLIMOWSKI Pawel	POL	1877		5.5
15	10		BURNETT Jim	ENG	2119		5.0
	20		COMBIE Alex B	ENG	1976		5.0
	25		GARNETT John S	ENG	1951		5.0
	27		ANSARI Athar	ENG	1880		5.0
19	15		HARVEY Alan	ENG	2050		4.5
	22		KEELY Leo A	ENG	1968		4.5
	33		MUNSHI Aditya	ENG	1775		4.5
	34		BOWMAN Richard L	ENG	1765		4.5
23	14		MILSON Samuel A	ENG	2076		4.0
	16		KEELY Roger	ENG	2040		4.0
	18		CHADWICK Chris	ENG	2028		4.0
	24		HEPWORTH Peter	ENG	1958		4.0
27	23		MIDDLETON Tom	ENG	1968		3.5
	29		TER-GEVORKIAN Aram	GRE	1866		3.5
29	2	GM	DAVIES Nigel R	WLS	2477	Wales	3.0
	30		JOHNSON Paul A	ENG	1859		3.0
31	35		GAJDOSZ Marek	POL	1750		2.5
32	36		TANGRI Mark	ENG	1450		1.0
33	7		PARSONS Matthew	ENG	2140		0.0
	17		BOZTAS Kenan	ENG	2028		0.0
	26		MCLAUGHLIN Noel S	IRL	1947		0.0
	31		HUGHES Peter	ENG	1803	Calderdale	0.0
	37		BECKETT Perry	ENG	0		0.0

## 5th 4NCL Weekend 2016 - a report by Rhys Cumming



### Division 1 Championship Pool

The two top teams in the 4NCL this year, Guildford 1 and Cheddleton 1, had both won all 8 of their matches before the final weekend and so it all looked as though the two would face off in a winner takes all match for the title in round 11. Before they were able to get that far however, Cheddleton lost their round 9 game to a strong White Rose 1 side, led by James Adair who achieved his final GM norm with a draw against David Howell. Guildford 1 meanwhile easily dealt with Barbican 1 despite Nigel Short losing to a queen sacrifice from Sam Collins in 18 moves (see below). Round 10 saw each of the top 2 teams win albeit not by large margins. New recruit Lauren Fressinet lost on board 1 to Jon Speelman in Guildford's 5-3 win over Wood Green, while Cheddleton scraped past Barbican 2. This all meant that in the final round Guildford only required 2.5 points to be champions, although they no doubt wanted to make it 11 wins for the season. There was certainly a French feel to the Guildford team in the last round, who supplemented Fressinet, Edouard and Le Roux with current world number 5 MVL. Despite a 4:30am fire alarm, Guildford faced no real trouble as they ran out 5.5-2.5 victors. Barbican 1 secured third place thanks to a final round victory over White Rose 1 who, despite taking points off Cheddleton, were overtaken into fourth by Wood Green.

### Division 1 Demotion Pool

Going into the weekend it was clear that there was one team sitting in the relegation places that didn't belong. Along with newly promoted sides Spirit of Atticus A, Sussex Martlets 1 and White Rose 2 were Grantham Sharks 1 on just three points having unexpectedly lost to both Atticus and the Martlets. Grantham strengthened their team significantly in the final weekend however they still needed to win their remaining matches including against the two best sides in the pool in Oxford 1 and 3Cs in order to guarantee survival. They did just that, with a 4.5-3.5 win over 3Cs the crucial result. Both White Rose 2 and Sussex Martlets 1 never really looked like survival and their final round clash proved to be White Rose's only points of the season. Spirit of Atticus meanwhile put up somewhat more of a fight as after beating

Sussex on the Sunday played Cambridge University 1 in the last round with both teams on 6 points. Against the odds, they won the match 4.5-3.5, however despite getting 4 wins out of 7, they lost out on game points to South Wales Dragons. That result also relegated Cambridge University 1 who needed to win that final match to stay up and ended up as the only side to go down that were not newly-promoted.

### Division 2 Promotion

Going into the weekend just 2 points separated 1st from 8th, however by the end of the weekend that gap had severely widened. Celtic Tigers certainly showed their intentions for the title with the addition of Matthieu Cornette (2581) on top board and his 3/3 proved vital in Celtic Tigers winning all three matches, earning them the title and their second straight promotion. The second promotion spot went to Anglian Avengers 1 after wins over Barbican Youth and Grantham Sharks 2. The third and fourth promotion spots were a much tighter affair however. KJCA Kings had a poor weekend so never really looked in with a chance, while Barbican Youth were ineligible for promotion meaning that going into the final round, 2 of

North East England, Downend & Fishponds, Grantham Sharks 2 and Kings Head would go up. These teams met in head to head matches with the winners very likely going up. Kings Head pipped Downend & Fishponds 4.5-3.5 while North East England won 5.5-2.5 against Grantham Sharks, meaning that Kings Head and North East England will join Celtic Tigers and Anglian Avengers next year.

### Division 2 Demotion Pool

Which sides would go down in the demotion pool was all but decided by the end of round 10 with MK Phoenix, Hackney, Brown Jack Witney and Cambridge University 2 all going down. MK Phoenix had been languishing at the bottom of the table for some time and their fate was sealed after losing to Cambridge University 2 in round 9. Cambridge did not fare much better as despite beating MK Phoenix, a narrow loss to Guildford 3, who would have been disappointed to be in the demotion pool in the first place, put to bed their hopes of survival. The other teams to go down were Hackney and Brown Jack whose shared 4-4 draw in round 9 was what neither team really needed.

## The London Chess Classic 2017

*Fabiano takes the Tournament and Magnus wins the Tour – from John Saunders*



*Malcolm Pein (left) and Fabiano Caruana (picture by Lennart Ootes)*

The ninth and final round of the 9th London Chess Classic, played on Monday 11 December 2017 at the Olympia Conference Centre, concluded with two of the players lifting trophies. Fabiano Caruana needed a tie-breaker against Ian Nepomniachtchi to win the first prize in the tournament itself, while Magnus Carlsen clinched the first prize in the overall Grand Chess Tour. A pulsating final day's play saw three decisive games as the gruelling event took its toll in errors, but the fans were also treated to a display of top-notch technique.

As things stood overnight, Ian Nepomniachtchi was half a point clear of Fabiano Caruana in the running for the first prize in the tournament. Maxime Vachier-Lagrave, a further half point back, also had an interest in the trophy but would have to win with Black against the leader to finish

level with him and hope that Caruana would do no better than draw for a three-way tie. The Grand Prix leader board was more complicated with Carlsen leading and Vachier-Lagrave and various permutations of their results and those of others determining the destination of the year's big-money prizes.

The first issue to be resolved (or at least partially resolved) came with a quick-ish draw between Nepo and MVL. It lasted just 17 moves and resulted in a repetition but still had an element of interest when Nepo played 9.Ndb5 followed by a pawn sacrifice. It was probably all planned in advance by White as it occurred in a pet line of MVL's. The basis of the plan was to open up the d-file against the black queen, and also exploit a pin on a knight, and it was hard to see how Black was expected to continue without running the risk of having a much worse position.

No better exploitation of his positional advantages was available to White than the repetition, which had probably been his game plan ("I'm not really happy with what I did today... and I think no-one really liked it, me neither" said Nepo with a rueful smile at the post-game interview). So the game was over in just 35 minutes. That cut MVL out of the running for first prize in the tournament and meant that Nepo would have to wait to see how Caruana fared with White against Adams.



*Carlsen (left) vs Aronian (picture by John Saunders)*

In fact, Nepo had to wait another 5+ hours to see whether he would have to play a tie-breaker as Caruana-Adams went the distance. It was, as soccer commentators like to say, "a game of two halves". An imbalanced middlegame seemed to favour Adams around move 30-33, with Caruana admitting later that he had been prepared to repeat position in lieu of anything better to do. But some inaccuracies from the Englishman (Adams himself thought 33...Ra5 could have been a key mistake) saw his position disintegrate markedly and by the time control it had resolved itself into a queen and rook endgame with Caruana having an extra pawn. Mickey may have

been able to do better in the endgame but in practice the defence was tough and Fabi relentless.

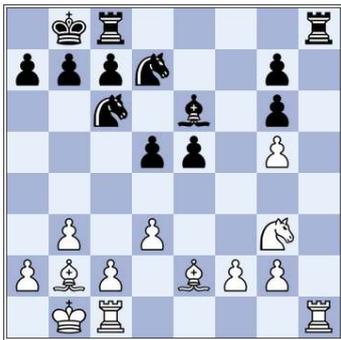
Beating Mickey Adams is never easy, and this was a fine way for the US player to conclude his tournament.

England's number one said of his own performance, "I gave away too many early Christmas presents". The other major issue was the outcome of the Grand Chess Tour and here much depended on the outcome of Aronian versus Carlsen. They say that a common military mistake made by generals is to fight a war based on their experiences of a previous campaign. There was an element of this about Aronian's play against Carlsen. After a cagy start, in which neither of them was willing to commit to mainstream theory, the Armenian super-GM gained a small positional edge but pushed his luck a little too far, perhaps too conscious of Carlsen's dismal showing in round eight effort and too trusting in Carlsen's comment after that game about having 'zero interest' in their current encounter. Unluckily for Aronian, the Monday Carlsen, cold or no cold, was a very different proposition from that of the day before. He may still have been suffering from the head cold but, as opening morphed into middlegame, it became clear that he was back at full functionality on the chessboard. Aronian gave up a piece for pawns and an attack but he was thwarted at every turn by some relentlessly accurate, active defence from the world champion.

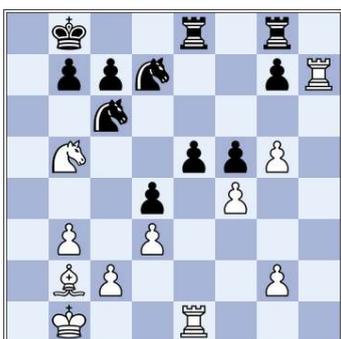
London Classic Round 9, 11.12.2017 - Levon Aronian, Magnus Carlsen

#### QP Opening A40

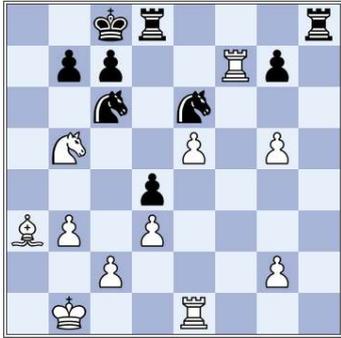
1.d4 e6 2.Nf3 c5 3.g3 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Qb6 Both players are complicit in avoiding mainstream theory here and it would be hard to put a name to this unsystematic system. Let's call it the 'Opening with No Name'. That said, quite a few other theory-dodgers have been this way before. 5.Bg2 Bc5 6.e3 I notice that English IM Richard Bates has three games on the white side in this position on the database, while GM Nigel Short has three times had the black side, including one against each other. How about the Bates-Short opening? 6...d5 7.Qg4 Bf8 8.0-0 Nf6 9.Qe2 e5 New territory. 9...Bd7 was played in a game in 2013. 10.Qb5+ Bd7 Black is relatively happy to have doubled pawns on the b-file than tolerate a white knight causing trouble on b5 after a queen exchange. 11.Qxb6 axb6 12.Nb3 Nc6 13.Bd2 Bd6 14.Nc3 Ne7 15.a4 0-0 16.Nb5 Bxb5 17.axb5



Quite a few engines started to prefer White hereabouts but perhaps that was because they usually prefer bishops to knights. 17...Rac8 18.Bc3 h5 19.Rfd1 Perhaps the engines were right up to a point, since White has some pressure against the black centre, and scope to invade via a7. But it doesn't look like enough to worry Carlsen on a good day. 19...Rfd8 20.Nd2 h4 21.Nf3 21.gxh4 would give White an inconsequential extra pawn on the side of the board, and also invite the possibility of 21...d4!? 22.exd4 exd4 23.Bxd4 Bxh2+ 24.Kxh2 Rxd4 which looks unclear. 21...hxg3 22.hxg3 e4 23.Ng5 23.Nd4 looks a more patient option, though it is still hard to see how White could seek to exploit his slight positional edge. 23...Ng6 24.Ra7 Rb8 25.Bd4 Bc5 26.Bxc5 26.c4 immediately looks like a useful option, when Black can try to stay active with 26...Bxd4 27.Rxd4 Rdc8!? allowing 28.cxd5 Rc1+ 29.Bf1 Ne5 which looks quite tricky. It would be hard to predict how two such inventive players would handle such a line. 26...bxc5 27.c4 Ne7



It's clear that Black's big pawn centre is being undermined by the c-pawn and subsequent attacks on the e4-pawn should the d5-pawn move or disappear. Lesser Black players would be in danger of crumbling but Carlsen comes up with an active plan and doesn't become too worried about maintaining a material balance. 28.cxd5 Nc8 29.Ra4 Nb6 30.Ra3 Nc4 31.Rc3 Nd6 Setting up a classic Nimzowitschian blockade but it is only a temporary solution and needs to be followed up with great accuracy. 32.Rxc5 I suspect most players foreseeing this position a few moves before would have concluded that they would be two pawns down with only sketchy counterplay on the horizon, but Carlsen calculates that it is a bit better than that. 32...Ra8 33.Bh3 Chatting in the VIP room, Jon Speelman quickly identified the slight flaw in this plan as exemplified by Carlsen's accurate reply. 33...Re8 This threatens Re5 and the knight on g5 has had its retreat square on h3 taken away by the bishop. 34.Rc7 White continues with the aggression. 34.Bf1 is also logical, though it involves moving the same piece twice in succession in different directions. 34...Kf8



35.b6? Perhaps 35.Bf1 was obligatory now, since White's coming sacrificial attack proves too speculative and meets with some vintage Carlsen defence. 35...Re5 Now White has to sacrifice his knight one way or another since it cannot be defended. 36.Ne6+ 36.f4? avoids losing the knight but after 36...exf3 37.Nxf3 Rxe3 leaves White's position severely weakened. 36.Nxf7 Nxf7 37.Rxb7 Nd8 38.Rc7 Rxd5 39.Rxd5 Nxd5 40.Rc4 Nxb6 41.Rxe4 and Black has a piece for three pawns, and probably the better chances of winning. 36...fxe6 37.dxe6 Nfe8 Black's position is precarious but it hangs together. As is often the problem with sacrificing material, you have to hit hard and early to exploit a sacrifice and now White's plan keeps running into snags. Consequently, Black gradually takes the upper hand. 38.Rd7 Raa5 39.b4?! A waste of tempo in an increasingly problematic position. 39.R1xd6 Nxd6 40.Rxd6 Rad5 exchanges off White's remaining rook and probably favours Black in the endgame. 39...Rad5 40.Ra1 Rb5! A simple move to mop up the weak white pawns. White can't generate enough counterplay to counter this plan and his position starts crumbling. 41.Ra8 Rxb6 42.Bg4 Rd5 An accurate move, preparing the ground for Rxb4 and then a possible double rook assault on the white king. 43.Kg2 White could defend the b4-pawn with 43.Ra4 but then 43...Rc6 and Black proceeds with his counterattack against the king, having first lured the white rook to a passive post. 43...Rxb4 44.Ra1 Rbb5 44...Rb2 seems to work well but the text is an equally good counter to White swinging his a1 rook over to the kingside. After 44...Rb2 45.Rh1 Kg8 46.Bh5 Rf5! wins as it defends an invasion on f7 as well as setting up an unstoppable attack on the f2-pawn. 45.Be2 45.Rh1 would force 45...Kg8 but the king move would stop White's plans in their tracks as 44...Rbb5 had prevented the possibility of bringing the bishop into the attack via h5. 45...Rb2 46.Bg4 46.Rh1 Kg8 47.Bh5 Rf5 wins for Black as in the note after Black's 44th move. 46...Rdd2 47.Kh3 If White goes passive with 47.Rf1 the win becomes quite simple with 47...Nf6, etc. 47...Rxf2 48.Kh4 Rh2+ 49.Bh3 g5+ 50.Kh5 50.Kg4 Nf6+ 51.Kxg5 Nxd7 and the rook is perfectly edible since 52.exd7 Nf7+ and the d7-pawn is not dangerous. 50...Rxh3+ 51.Kg6 Rf2 This involves giving back some material but Black already has a sufficiency to win. 52.e7+ Kg8 53.Rxd6 Rh7 0-1 The previous day had seen a glut of Carlsen blunders but it would have had to be a very bad day indeed for him to fall for 53...Nxd6?? 54.Ra8+ with mate to follow in two moves. After seeing Carlsen's accurate reply, Aronian could find no further cheapo chances and resigned.

Round nine coincided with Vishy Anand's 48th birthday but it proved an unlucky one at the chessboard. Perhaps a birthday becomes something of a burden to an active professional chess player in their 40s as it provides an unwelcome excuse for writers, pundits and wiseacres in general to hint that maybe it's time for the old boy to retire. Losing a game on the same day can make the chorus of unsolicited retirement advice all the louder. So I'll try to buck the trend by expressing the hope that Vishy carries on playing indefinitely and wishing that we see him at the Classic again next year. However, though not Vishy's finest hour, the game itself is worth seeing as it showcased Wesley So at his best. Good to see him back on song.

Nakamura completed a sweep of nine draws in the tournament with his game against Sergey Karjakin and

commentator Maurice Ashley suggested he should expect some Twitter banter from Anish Giri who has been known to tease rivals who emulate his own pacific tendencies. Hikaru took this with a smile and expressed positive thoughts about his play in London. He thought his game with Sergey was the only one where he was in some trouble during the course of the tournament though it didn't prove terminal. Sergey had welcomed Hikaru's 15...g5 after which he had gained an edge, but he had not ultimately seen a good way to exploit it. "I was worse, but I don't think I was ever losing," commented Hikaru.

### The Playoff

"After six hours of playing against Mickey, I was too tired to feel any pressure" was Fabiano Caruana's insightful comment after winning a four-game blitz play-off against Ian Nepomniachtchi. He had had only 30 minutes' respite after a long endgame before returning to the board for two 10m+5s rapid/blitzes, and then two more games at 5m+3s, compared to Nepomniachtchi's luxurious 5+ hours' rest after the briefest of classical games but it underlines the paradoxical psychology that often plays out in such situations. It is not always the tired, harassed competitor who succumbs, and there is such a thing as being too relaxed for a key encounter. Remember Fabi's comment, readers, the next time you play off for the London Chess Classic title, or perhaps, more realistically, your local club championship.

## LONDON CHESS LEAGUE – 2016-2017 League Tables

2016-17 has been a memorable year for LCL, with over 1000 players in its 70 teams. Not only the number of players, but also the quality. Possibly the oldest Chess League in the World, LCL's 130-year Division 1 record of 22 Championship wins (held by the Hampstead Club of the Penrose brothers in the 1950's/60's) has been broken this year by Wood Green CC with 23 Championships. A great season indeed for celebration!

Division 1	Won	Drawn	Lost	PenMP	Games	Points
Wood Green 1	11	0	0	0	110	11
Cavendish 1	8	2	1	0	88.5	9
Drunken Knights 1	9	0	2	0	84	9
Wimbledon 1	6	1	4	0	62	6.5
Hackney 1	5	1	5	0	61	5.5
Streatham & Brixton 1	5	0	6	0	65	5
Richmond & Twickenham 1	5	0	6	0	57	5
Kings Head 1	3	1	7	0	55.5	3.5
Athenaeum 1	3	1	7	0	48	3.5
Battersea 1	3	0	8	0	59.5	3
Mushrooms 1	3	0	8	0	47	3
Drunken Knights 2	2	0	9	0	49.5	2

Division 2	Won	Drawn	Lost	Pen MP	Games	Points
Cavendish 2	9	1	1	0	74	9.5
Wanstead & Woodford 1	9	1	1	0	65.5	9.5
Beckenham & Charlton 1	6	2	3	0	58.5	7
Metropolitan 1	6	1	4	0	61.5	6.5
Dulwich 1	6	1	4	0	57.5	6.5
Ilford 1	4	4	3	0	61	6
Drunken Knights 3	5	0	6	0	50	5
Lewisham 1	3	1	7	0	50.5	3.5
Hackney 2	3	1	7	0	47	3.5
Imperial College 1	3	0	8	0	46	3
Streatham & Brixton 2	3	0	8	0	46	3
Athenaeum 2	3	0	8	0	41.5	3

<i>Division 3</i>	<i>Won</i>	<i>Drawn</i>	<i>Lost</i>	<i>Pen MP</i>	<i>Games</i>	<i>Points</i>
<i>East Ham 1</i>	10	2	0	0	73	11
<i>Mushrooms 2</i>	7	5	0	0	79.5	9.5
<i>Wimbledon 2</i>	7	2	3	0	69.5	8
<i>Greater London 1</i>	7	2	3	-0.5	69	7.5
<i>Albany 1</i>	5	4	3	0	64.5	7
<i>Battersea 2</i>	5	2	5	0	59.5	6
<i>Cavendish 3</i>	4	3	5	0	53	5.5
<i>Kings Head 2</i>	5	1	6	-0.5	54.5	5
<i>Metropolitan 2</i>	5	0	7	-0.5	58	4.5
<i>Hackney 3</i>	3	3	6	0	54	4.5
<i>Hammersmith 1</i>	4	1	7	-0.5	61.5	4
<i>DHSS 1</i>	2	3	7	0	57.5	3.5
<i>Kings Head 3</i>	0	0	12	0	26.5	0

<i>Division 4</i>	<i>Won</i>	<i>Drawn</i>	<i>Lost</i>	<i>Pen MP</i>	<i>Games</i>	<i>Points</i>
<i>Wanstead &amp; Woodford 2</i>	10	2	0	0	69	11
<i>Battersea 3</i>	10	0	2	0	60.5	10
<i>Streatham &amp; Brixton 3</i>	9	1	2	0	61.5	9.5
<i>Lewisham 2</i>	8	2	2	0	61	9
<i>Athenaeum 3</i>	8	1	3	0	58.5	8.5
<i>Metropolitan 3</i>	3	4	5	0	46.5	5
<i>Wanstead &amp; Woodford 3</i>	3	4	5	-0.5	44.5	4.5
<i>Newham 1</i>	3	3	6	-0.5	45.5	4
<i>Hammersmith 2</i>	2	4	6	0	44.5	4
<i>Metropolitan 4</i>	3	1	8	-0.5	34	3
<i>Greater London 2</i>	3	0	9	0	32	3
<i>Alfil 1</i>	2	1	9	0	32	2.5
<i>Morley College 1</i>	2	1	9	0	34.5	2

<i>Major</i>	<i>Won</i>	<i>Drawn</i>	<i>Lost</i>	<i>Pen MP</i>	<i>Games</i>	<i>Points</i>
<i>Streatham &amp; Brixton</i>	10	3	1	0	36	11.5
<i>Kings Head</i>	8	2	4	0	35	9
<i>Hackney</i>	6	4	4	0	32	8
<i>Hammersmith</i>	5	4	5	0	29.5	7
<i>Greater London</i>	5	2	7	0	24.5	6
<i>Pimlico</i>	4	4	6	0	23.5	6
<i>Battersea</i>	3	5	6	0	25.5	5.5
<i>West London</i>	2	2	10	-1	16	2

<i>Minor</i>	<i>Won</i>	<i>Drawn</i>	<i>Lost</i>	<i>Pen MP</i>	<i>Games</i>	<i>Points</i>
<i>Battersea</i>	9	2	1	0	31.5	10
<i>DHSS</i>	7	3	2	0	29.5	8.5
<i>Metropolitan GNOMES</i>	6	4	2	0	28.5	8
<i>Morley College</i>	5	4	3	0	25.5	7
<i>Cavendish</i>	3	7	2	0	25.5	6.5
<i>Wanstead &amp; Woodford</i>	6	0	6	0	23	6
<i>Greater London</i>	4	3	5	0	21.5	5.5
<i>Hammersmith HEDGER</i>	4	2	6	0	24	5
<i>Metropolitan</i>	4	2	6	0	22	5

Hackney	4	2	6	0	21.5	5
Hackney GORKI	3	3	6	0	20	4.5
Hammersmith	2	3	7	0	20	3.5
Athenaeum	2	3	7	0	19.5	3.5

### ECF/Tradewise Grand Prix 2016/17 (Top 20s)

Open 180+						
	Ref	Name	Club/Area	Grade	Mem No	Pts
1	258768D	Merry, Alan B	4NCL Barbican	240	G17393	615
2	112455K	Hebden, Mark L	4NCL Guildford	242	G4157	568
3	101997B	Bates, Richard A	Hackney	232	G17106	557
4	119904D	Surtees, Mike J	Great Lever	197	G31143	514
5	224790C	Villiers, Thomas	Barnet Elizabeth	203	G34785	512
6	282399J	Kalavannan, Koby	Hampton School	213	JG6614	497
7	283303H	Willow, Jonah B	West Nottingham	200	G21061	493
8	263507A	Prior, Stephen CV	Grantham	192	G6569	482
9	258609F	Stewart, Ashley	Royston	208	G4043	470
10	121366A	Wells, Jonathan C	North Norfolk	188	G14103	450
11	272996K	Grieve, Harry	RGS Guildford	196	JG5895	442
12	105817E	Arkell, Keith C	4NCL Cheddleton	237	G15972	432
13	263594L	Bansal, Rohan	Dulwich College	182	JG5919	423
14	241589G	Jaunooby, Ali Reza	Denton	200	G4139	419
15	153139G	Waddington, Mike P	Dorchester	191	G17524	412
16	282441D	Verma, Aditya	Coulsdon CF	187	JG6670	405
17	283788C	Pollack, Oscar	Hendon	181	JG17007	404
18	267851C	McPhillips, Joseph	Bolton	230	JG5762	398
19	230044J	Jamroz, Krzysztof	Petts Wood & Orpington	183	G21319	374
20	283609K	Moreby, James E	Jesmond	206	JG8495	366

Women 180+						
	Ref	Name	Club/Area	Grade	Mem No	Pts
1	264085F	Head, Louise	Crowthorne	186	G31098	245
2	280882B	Varney, Zoe	Millfield School	180	JG17170	241
3	185204J	Longson, Sarah N	Marple	197	G3108	206
=4	142397G	Bhatia, Kanwal K	4NCL Barbican	195	G1303	159
=4	277113F	Maroroa, Sue Y	4NCL White Rose	213	G20434	159
6	111099J	Richmond, Jane	4NCL Brown Jack	203	S18291	129
7	123515B	Houska, Jovanka	Bridge	230	G4245	123
8	240315J	Grigoryan, Meri	West London	180	G2304	122
9	117791G	Regan, Natasha K	4NCL Barbican	182	G23698	92
10	240148E	Smith, Olivia	Solihull	186	G25744	65
11	305272C	Toma, Katarzyna	4NCL South Wales Dragons	224	G33465	64

12	113450E	Jackson, Sheila	4NCL Spirit of Atticus	192	G4204	53
13	280020C	Kalaiyalahan, Akshaya	4NCL Guildford	198	JG6425	47
=14	163004A	Lauterbach, Ingrid	4NCL Barbican	191	G4150	45
=14	284845E	Charpidou, Anna	Brighton & Hove	180	S31784	45
16	222273F	Norinkeviciute, Rasa	Hastings & St Leonards	180	S19204	36

#### Open 160-179

	Ref	Name	Club/Area	Grade	Mem No	Pts
1	104852B	Whitehead, Mark A	Rochdale	170	G15489	510
2	107574D	Bryant, Richard BE	Oswestry	178	G2289	487
3	267990F	Landau, Jonathan	Chislehurst	177	G22677	444
4	181426G	Burns, Martin J	Stockport	166	G6185	430
5	282176L	Hilton, Tim	Denton	169	G16265	428
6	245834C	Paul, Nathanael	Newport (Shropshire)	173	G6494	394
7	163142B	Bennett, Dominic L	Bristol & Clifton	167	G5829	386
8	109494E	de Coverly, Roger D	Bourne End	176	G1489	370
9	162291C	Jackson, Paul G	Coulsdon CF	162	G4609	365
10	264465E	Ansari, Athar	Newport (Shropshire)	170	G4587	357
11	247156F	Rubeck, Jonathan	Hendon	163	G25948	339
12	113386L	Ireland, David J	Coventry Chess	175	G24784	334
13	171243D	Burrows, Nick	Cowley	177	G18367	329
14	120211L	Tello, Yasser	Wimbledon	162	G20233	319
15	268599B	Foster, Timothy	Oxford University	168	G4860	309
16	125474B	Newton, Robert A	Rochdale	177	G5917	305
17	115269F	McDonnell, James J	Streatham	164	S19848	300
18	113301K	Hutchings, Roger M	Woodpushers (Sussex)	174	G29001	299
19	271868G	Sagues, Vincent	Albany	168	G19153	295
20	178373H	Bussmann, John	Surbiton	166	G33460	292

#### Women 160-179

	Ref	Name	Club/Area	Grade	Mem No	Pts
1	263196K	Shepherd, Katherine M	Ashtead	173	G4441	261
2	275645G	Sit, Victoria	Nonsuch High School for Girls	160	JG6719	36
3	281559L	Smith, Lynda	Thornbury Bristol	169	S17779	29

#### Open 140-159

	Ref	Name	Club/Area	Grade	Mem No	Pts
1	230106E	Clegg, Robert	Huddersfield	156	G3088	614
2	302092H	Brown, Geoffrey M	Folkestone	153	G28530	575
3	116382G	O'Gorman, Brendan	DHSS	151	G4320	496
4	116801A	Patrick, David A	Courier Halifax	158	G5137	493
5	122453A	Finnegan, Oliver	Loughton *	158	G17636	443
6	108722J	Connor, Michael I	Great Lever	147	S15540	437

7	111035E	Gamble, Raymond J	Spondon	153	G383	411
8	144928L	Pepe, Salvatore	Hendon	152	G6894	390
9	111388E	Goodfellow, Russell R	Tunbridge Wells	159	G5615	388
10	271951E	Sheikh, Nasarullah	Ilford *	147	G6946	356
11	109533L	Dean, Robert A	Pudsey	158	G9164	355
12	140662A	Pride, Stephen C	Cambridge City	144	G3453	349
13	170919H	Williams, Stephen	Cwmbran	140	S25816	349
14	112597H	Hibbitt, Arthur M	Banbury	152	G17515	348
15	156824D	Lloyd, Stephen M	Chester	146	G18300	345
16	300350E	Wiltshir, Rich	Rushall	144	G28232	338
17	109622K	Desmedt, Richard E	Wombwell	149	G3411	329
18	259148A	Foley, Phil T	Upminster	142	G4414	326
=19	170309C	Dunkley, Michael	Peterborough	148	G22474	323
=19	178103A	Blackburn, Jon EW	Cheddleton & Leek	141	G15025	323

Women 140-159						
	Ref	Name	Club/Area	Grade	Mem No	Pts
1	240374C	Moore, Gillian A	Southampton	141	G4997	129
2	108565H	Headlong, Fenella	Wiltshire CCA	140	G6024	124
3	285525C	O'Brien, Megan E	Plymouth	159	S21545	92
4	152328E	Nunn, Petra	Chertsey *	150	G27823	69

Open 120-139						
	Ref	Name	Club/Area	Grade	Mem No	Pts
1	302953A	Doherty, Paul D	Bolton	126	G29809	566
2	274725L	Fraser, Chris A	West Bridgford	121	S19796	515
3	231804A	Morris, Nigel W	Leamington	123	G29263	474
4	268139A	Abedian, Mohsen	London W *	133	G30205	453
5	253169A	Fowler, David J	Kent *	134	G3273	401
6	293495E	Fisher, Neal	Peterborough	127	S23435	379
7	118034E	Roberts, Malcolm A	Holmes Chapel	136	G16030	372
8	268163J	Denney, Simon C	Colchester	126	G17611	358
9	283350F	Bullock, Lee	Hackney	134	G18801	350
10	107845J	Bynnersley, AG (Tony)	West London	122	G6916	342
11	114423G	Lim, Yu-Chin (Peter)	Harrow *	137	G23561	342
12	123333G	Gilbert, David J	DHSS	133	G3430	322
13	305592K	Brockes, Jeremy P	Hampstead	121	G30768	311
14	123783E	Oliver, Bruce R	Hull DCA	135	G3990	308
=15	106888L	Blencowe, Ian P	Gloucester	131	G2910	300
=15	275780B	Fernando, Manel	4NCL The Pitstop	125	G24622	300
17	113241G	Hunt, Ray K	Sidmouth	123	G24827	297
18	105750K	Andrews, Norman G	York RI	128	G3502	294
19	118154D	Rogers, David R	Exmouth	130	S17987	277

20	296553H	Czestochowski, Eddie	South Shields	134	G25975	274
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Women 120-139						
	Ref	Name	Club/Area	Grade	Mem No	Pts
1	275780B	Fernando, Manel	4NCL The Pitstop	125	G24622	300
2	116277K	Norman, Dinah M	Berkshire CA	133	G17233	237
3	284548K	Willow, Hambel M	West Nottingham	136	S21060	230
4	281105E	Heffer, Judith	Bishops Stortford	139	S19372	131
5	253266K	Mountford, Corinne	Hertford	134	G5771	100
6	120714D	Camp, Syringa Lyn	Colwyn Bay	130	G6100	96
7	110994H	Fursman, Lynne J	Tewkesbury	127	S31280	90
8	290768K	Mountford, Caroline L	Cheddleton & Leek	120	S20650	54
9	286409F	Kerton, Becky	3Cs	126	S21603	45
10	257469L	Hiley, Catherine	Rugeley	138	B21438	25
11	115894G	Mosse, Denise M	Gateshead	135	S8579	15

Open U120						
	Ref	Name	Club/Area	Grade	Mem No	Pts
1	264336E	Crouch, Timothy J	Kings Head	116	P5843	541
2	292592J	Hawthorne, Julian N	Kidsgrove	116	S18820	514
3	258940A	Allen, Timothy S	Battersea	112	G4415	486
4	188252B	Madden, Jason D	Leamington	111	G18156	486
5	120998L	Walker, Roger W	Belper	117	P2845	452
6	111052E	Gardiner, Colin J	Barnstaple	89	S1469	429
7	246658C	Jackson, Paul Robert	Lancashire *	109	G3338	427
8	305312L	Wilson, Jeff	Oldham	100	S30698	422
9	302343G	Ashworth, Steven M	Ely	119	G29334	405
10	145151A	Upton, WEB (Bill)	South Norwood	109	G6857	394
11	140257C	Fraser, Alan R	Beckenham & Bromley	104	G2908	387
12	163954H	Miles, Barry S	Coulsdon CF	115	G4976	379
13	153516L	Carr, John W	Portsmouth	91	G3441	350
14	289304G	Hall, Les	Crewe	84	S19091	346
15	142748K	Coleman, Patrick N	Lytham St Annes	106	S21332	322
16	305128G	Dehghan-Affi, Sajjad	Sale	104	S30642	319
=17	172176J	Schroeder, Marek AS	Birmingham	118	S31821	314
=17	267739J	Wallman, James	Dorset CCA	105	G16504	314
=17	295791H	White, Nigel	Wanstead	96	G25535	314
20	180180G	De Santos, Andrew R	Preston	100	G15092	303

Women U120						
	Ref	Name	Club/Area	Grade	Mem No	Pts
1	176063E	Chadwick, Susan E	Brighton & Hove	114	G2429	275
2	186045J	Constable, Christine F	Bude	98	S6207	214

3	104846G	Welch, Hazel	Seaton	90	S2831	184
4	111361G	Goldsmith, Jennifer	Harrow	104	G6876	175
5	178127D	Blackburn, Sandra G	Cheddleton & Leek	118	G15026	169
6	286763B	Hastilow, Sarah	Coulsdon CF	74	G25687	149
7	105540K	Ainscow, Faye	Kings Head	112	S18122	144
8	103414F	Fraser, Susan A	Darlington	111	G2267	140
9	152293A	Fursman, Joy P	Clevedon	104	S31281	130
10	287646C	Woollard, Josephine	Sheffield Nomads	91	S17016	128
=11	118287A	Rowles, Sarah	4NCL Icen	113	G27126	115
=11	296558G	Gardiner, Rebecca LG	Barnstaple	69	S25949	115
13	283131E	Roberts, Christine A	Poole	95	S6835	85
14	297321C	Carr, Wendy	Havant *	34	G26347	84
15	141743F	Anderton, Doreen	Walsall Kipping	107	G3589	82
16	179055K	Boztas, Lana	Coulsdon CF	119	G1809	75
17	181078K	Robson, Caroline J	4NCL Blackthorne Russia	105	G4002	71
18	267611E	Deshpande, Apurva	Imperial College London	111	G26021	55
19	122659K	Cox, Marian	Southampton *	90	G17114	46

Junior Prix						
	Ref	Name	Club/Area	Grade	Mem No	Pts
1	306442G	Han, Yichen	Forest Hall	178	JG31056	569
2	296499F	Clarkson, George	London NW *	140	JG25922	545
3	300907F	Zhu, Hou Ning	Maidenhead Junior	92	JG31733	528
4	295589B	Verma, Shlok	Coulsdon CF	130	JG25936	524
5	301310J	Zheng, Harry Z	Northumberland Juniors	75	G30227	506
6	282399J	Kalavannan, Koby	Hampton School	213	JG6614	497
7	299313C	Stoyanov, Viktor	Sandhurst	177	G27852	494
8	283303H	Willow, Jonah B	West Nottingham	200	G21061	493
9	306071J	Pelling, Kyle	Greater Manchester *	95	JG30891	487
10	277163K	Boswell, Jacob Connor	Cheddleton & Leek	177	JG6421	484
11	299732A	Zheng, Jerry Z	Forest Hall	105	G30226	481
12	297597L	Merriman, James	Kent Junior Congresses	130	JG28833	480
13	297586F	Jaufarally, Nadia	Essex Juniors	156	G26513	479
14	295663K	Stubbs, Oliver	Downend & Fishponds	145	JG25843	479
15	300121A	Royal, Shreyas	Kent Junior Congresses	150	G28166	478
16	305124K	Dupuis, Denis K	London SW *	98	JG30878	473
17	306450F	Khoo-Thwe, Louis	Norway	146	JG31031	464
18	302472G	Hirst, Joe	Newcastle-under-Lyme	93	JG29462	460
19	294266F	Sheikh, Anum	Middlesex Juniors	137	JG24565	456
20	306887A	Sandhu, Manvith	Warwickshire Juniors	97	G31481	451

<i>Junior Prix - Women</i>						
	<i>Ref</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Club/Area</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>Mem No</i>	<i>Pts</i>
1	297586F	Jaufarally, Nadia	Essex Juniors	156	G26513	479
2	294266F	Sheikh, Anum	Middlesex Juniors	137	JG24565	456
3	293599F	Volovich, Julia	Kings College CU	139	JS24317	418
4	290588H	Somton, Anita	West Nottingham	169	JG6955	407
5	304535D	Mellor, Jessica	Surrey Juniors	74	JG30492	397
6	295496F	Weersing, Abigail W	RA Butler School	108	G27222	392
7	299031D	Thatte, Nandinee	Ealing	95	JG27565	379
8	300682H	Modhura, Urbi M	Essex Juniors	101	JS28921	378
9	300650F	Jayawarna, Tarini	Tameside	100	JG28864	327
10	275554D	Camp, Imogen AL	Colwyn Bay	165	JG17236	326
11	289274B	Weersing, Sarah W	Essex Juniors	128	G17801	322
12	304661J	Szasz, Anna K	Yorkshire Juniors	110	G30435	315
13	302699B	Chaban, Roxolana	Kent Junior Congresses	44	JG30885	312
14	291209A	Rahulan, Thivyaa	Newcastle-under-Lyme	146	JG17341	284
=15	284928J	Ramaiya, Arushi	Surrey Juniors	138	JG6987	276
=15	290444F	Finn, Elizabeth	Sussex Juniors	101	JG24591	276
17	300681F	Audhora, Purba A	Essex Juniors	90	JS29752	271
18	307103A	Arora, Tashika	Wiltshire Juniors	72	G31558	267
19	285553H	Davidson, Laura J	Sandhurst	143	JP6792	253
20	305511F	Gurjar, Siena	Watford	46	JG30924	246

## County Championships 2017 – results

<i>Open</i>						
<i>Yorkshire</i>				<i>Lancashire</i>		
1	Palliser, Richard JD (232,238) ECF	0.5	-	0.5	Horton, Andrew P (218,221) ECF	
2	Ledger, Andrew J (223,225) ECF	0.5	-	0.5	Macklin, Paul (222,223) ECF	
3	Gantner, Matthias (215,209) ECF	0	-	1	Morrison, Graham ( , ) ECF	
4	Weller, JeanLuc (217,217) ECF	0.5	-	0.5	Lund, D Brett (213,213) ECF	
5	Townsend, Michael P (205,209) ECF	0	-	1	Mitchell, Martin (202,205) ECF	
6	Adams, David M (200,198) ECF	0.5	-	0.5	Ivell, Nicholas W (193,193) ECF	
7	Walton, Alan J (197,202) ECF	0.5	-	0.5	Hughes, Howard R ( , )	
8	Nelson, Jonathan P (202,208) ECF	0.5	-	0.5	Williamson, Roger G (208,209) ECF	
9	Gayson, Peter (186,194) ECF	0.5	-	0.5	Horton, Jamie A (199,204) ECF	
10	Watson, Phil R (202,197) ECF	1	-	0	Jowett, Peter E (183,192) ECF	
11	Hackner, Oskar (201,199) ECF	0.5	-	0.5	Timson, Paul F (182,182) ECF	
12	Burnett, Jim (197,195) ECF	0.5	-	0.5	Jayawarna, Nugith (190,194) ECF	
13	Shaw, Peter (201,200) ECF	1	-	0	Hamer, Martyn (184,180) ECF	
14	Ackley, Peter JE (184,186) ECF	0.5	-	0.5	Clarkson, Andrew A ( , ) ECF	
15	Li, Harry (195,193) ECF	1	-	0	Mulleady, Peter (186,184) ECF	

16	<i>Sullivan, Daniel JS (168,164) ECF</i>	0	-	1	<i>Newton, Robert A (174,178) ECF</i>
	<i>(ave grade 202)</i>	8	-	8	<i>(ave grade 198) away win</i>

<b>Minor Counties</b>					
<b>Suffolk</b>			<b>Lincolnshire</b>		
1	<i>Merry, Alan B (232,232) ECF</i>	0	-	1	<i>Dorrington, Chris J (228,227) ECF</i>
2	<i>Taylor, Adam C (206,208) ECF</i>	0.5	-	0.5	<i>Stead, Nick P (199,199) ECF</i>
3	<i>Spence, David J (207,203) ECF</i>	0	-	1	<i>Milson, Samuel A (198,202) ECF</i>
4	<i>Player, Edmund C (201,205) ECF</i>	1	-	0	<i>Cumbers, Paul (197,200) ECF</i>
5	<i>Moore, Graham J (195,193) ECF</i>	1	-	0	<i>Birtwistle, Nigel (189,196) ECF</i>
6	<i>Munson, Shaun D (195,193) ECF</i>	1	-	0	<i>Dilley, Jason (185,185) ECF</i>
7	<i>Wallis, Ian J (187,188) ECF</i>	0	-	1	<i>Russell, Harry (182,185) ECF</i>
8	<i>Savage, Nicholas W (180,186) ECF</i>	0.5	-	0.5	<i>Williams, J Stuart (180,181) ECF</i>
9	<i>Peck, Silas (176,186) ECF</i>	0.5	-	0.5	<i>Prior, Stephen CV (176,190) ECF</i>
10	<i>Peters, John A (177,175) ECF</i>	0.5	-	0.5	<i>Smith, Murray ( ) ECF</i>
11	<i>Burnett, Leon (171,174) ECF</i>	0.5	-	0.5	<i>Cusick, Peter W (179,171) ECF</i>
12	<i>Lunn, Timothy (174,165) ECF</i>	0.5	-	0.5	<i>Kilshaw, Joe (168,170) ECF</i>
13	<i>Feavyour, John A (166,164) ECF</i>	0	-	1	<i>David, Ivan (164,171) ECF</i>
14	<i>Shephard, Andrew (153,152) ECF</i>	1	-	0	<i>Palmer, Keith J (163,162) ECF</i>
15	<i>Kirkham, Ed (150,146) ECF</i>	0	-	1	<i>Holt, Chris M (156,160) ECF</i>
16	<i>Jermy, Jaden (110,123) ECF</i>	0.5	-	0.5	<i>Parnian, Arya (136,135) ECF</i>
	<i>(ave grade 181)</i>	7.5	-	8.5	<i>(ave grade 182) away win</i>

<b>Under 180</b>					
<b>Devon</b>			<b>Middlesex</b>		
1	<i>Fraser, John (178,178) ECF</i>	1	-	0	<i>Kelmendi, Bajrush (179,184) ECF</i>
2	<i>Wheeler, John F (174,176) ECF</i>	0.5	-	0.5	<i>Coles, Steven F (176,180) ECF</i>
3	<i>Abbott, Mark V (172,176) ECF</i>	1	-	0	<i>Grigoryan, Meri (175,181) ECF</i>
4	<i>Bellers, Chris (173, ) ECF</i>	0.5	-	0.5	<i>Calvert, D Ian (177,172) ECF</i>
5	<i>Cowley, Dennis (169,171) ECF</i>	0.5	-	0.5	<i>Batchelor, Guy J (174,172) ECF</i>
6	<i>Regis, David (175,169) ECF</i>	0	-	1	<i>Hayler, Andrew (170,168) ECF</i>
7	<i>Hampton, Paul (161,166) ECF</i>	0.5	-	0.5	<i>Dydak, Mateusz (169,167) ECF</i>
8	<i>Wensley, Oliver E (168,168) ECF</i>	0	-	1	<i>Fulton, Anthony R (173,171) ECF</i>
9	<i>Haynes, Jos (, ) ECF</i>	0.5	-	0.5	<i>Campbell, Russell (168,164) ECF</i>
10	<i>Brusey, Alan W (166,161) ECF</i>	0.5	-	0.5	<i>Walczak, Rafal (173,163) ECF</i>
11	<i>Taylor, Alex B (165,165) ECF</i>	0	-	1	<i>White, Jonathan PJ (171,162) ECF</i>
12	<i>Brooks, Paul (161,163) ECF</i>	0.5	-	0.5	<i>Kennelly, Paul (167,162) ECF</i>
13	<i>Ingham, H William (162,165) ECF</i>	1	-	0	<i>Dhemrait, Jagdeep (161,163) ECF</i>
14	<i>Shaw, Meyrick (163,159) ECF</i>	1	-	0	<i>Hudson, Julian (154,166) ECF</i>
15	<i>Dean, Steve K (160,159) ECF</i>	0	-	1	<i>Rubeck, Jonathan (161,158) ECF</i>
16	<i>Gosling, Brian GE (159,159) ECF</i>	0.5	-	0.5	<i>Thursby, Richard C (154, ) ECF</i>
	<i>(ave grade 167) home win</i>	8	-	8	<i>(ave grade 169)</i>

Under 160					
Lancashire					Yorkshire
1	Whitfield, John (159,157) ECF	0.5	-	0.5	Barker, Arron (156,159) ECF
2	Dobson, Graham W ( ,157) ECF	0.5	-	0.5	Johnson, Paul A (157,160) ECF
3	Leah, Tom (157,160) ECF	0.5	-	0.5	Hughes, Peter (141,151) ECF
4	Pennington, Geoff (153,155) ECF	0	-	1	Patrick, David A (159,159) ECF
5	Seery, Phillip T (153,153) ECF	0	-	1	Dean, Robert A (154,157) ECF
6	Quinn, Kenny (152,152) ECF	1	-	0	Stephenson, David W (156,156) ECF
7	Ashcroft, Ray (151,149) ECF	0	-	1	McFadden, Alastair ( , ) ECF
8	Taylor, Derrick (151,146) ECF	0	-	1	Quereshi, Younis (147,145) ECF
9	Jameson, Nick (151,151) ECF	1	-	0	Mahoney, Nicholas (147,153) ECF
10	Nyahwo, M Thomas (149,144) ECF	0	-	1	Donahue, Randolph E (156,154) ECF
11	Sosinski, Jakub (149,153) ECF	1	-	0	Westmoreland, Steve ( ) ECF
12	Fisher, Colin (148,146) ECF	0.5	-	0.5	Mason, Peter F (150,152) ECF
13	Tokeley, Rob (146,146) ECF	0.5	-	0.5	Bowman, Richard (149,143) ECF
14	Raynor, Philip N (144,144) ECF	0	-	1	Braham, Peter (144,144) ECF
15	ORourke, William (142,144) ECF	0	-	1	Khan, Karim (144,145) ECF
16	Aspinall, Dave (140,141) ECF	1	-	0	Day, Paul (149,142) ECF
	(ave grade 150)	6.5	-	9.5	(ave grade 151) away win

Under 140					
Nottinghamshire					Lancashire
1	Bhayat, Shane (134,150) ECF	0.5	-	0.5	Dobson, Emlyn DG (137,137) ECF
2	Radford, Mark SR (138,143) ECF	0.5	-	0.5	Addison, John (126,141) ECF
3	Gogia, Armaan (119,135) ECF	0.5	-	0.5	Muirhead, William (133,141) ECF
4	Poyser, Alex (136,133) ECF	1	-	0	Dickinson, Peter ( ) ECF
5	Cranmer, Stanley EE (138,133) ECF	0.5	-	0.5	Tillotson, Carl A (135,135) ECF
6	Nailard, Michael J (133,132) ECF	0	-	1	Morris, Robert (135,136) ECF
7	Griffiths, David (131,132) ECF	0	-	1	Almond, Dave S (139,133) ECF
8	Wright, Nigel (134,134) ECF	0.5	-	0.5	Stanfield, David snr (134,136) ECF
9	Budd, Chris (130,133) ECF	0	-	1	O'Mara, Paul (126,131) ECF
10	Taylor, Marcel V (127,130) ECF	1	-	0	Widdup, Jason (134,138) ECF
11	Gorecka-Marshall, Peter W (130,131) ECF	0	-	1	Horne, Michael (132,132) ECF
12	Roper, Keith W (137,125) ECF	0.5	-	0.5	Weedall, Raymond (135,128) ECF
13	Luland, Steve (134,128) ECF	0.5	-	0.5	Flaherty, Steven M (126,124) ECF
14	Willoughby, Robert H (133,127) ECF	0.5	-	0.5	Farthing, Michael (124,127) ECF
15	Fraser, Chris A (127,119) ECF	0.5	-	0.5	Glover, Gordon L (120,125) ECF
16	Neil, Graham (122,117) ECF	0.5	-	0.5	Carey, Cornelius (127,118) ECF
	(ave grade 131)	7	-	9	(ave grade 132) away win

Under 120					
Middlesex					Essex
1	Pooler, James (116,114) ECF	0	-	1	Lister, Findlay (90,125) ECF

2	<i>Dhemrait, Surjit (114,121) ECF</i>	1	-	0	<i>Yunis, Umar (118,124) ECF</i>
3	<i>Bulochnik, Alexander (118,118) ECF</i>	1	-	0	<i>Van Litsenborgh, Rudi (119,123) ECF</i>
4	<i>Bonn, Doug M (118,118) ECF</i>	0	-	1	<i>Ainkaran, Lavanan (103,120) ECF</i>
5	<i>Harvey, John T (116,114) ECF</i>	0	-	1	<i>Bui, Kyan ( ) ECF</i>
6	<i>Mehta, S Harshil (117,113) ECF</i>	0.5	-	0.5	<i>Pelling, Nicholas (117,116) ECF</i>
7	<i>Pickering, Peter E (115,111) ECF</i>	0.5	-	0.5	<i>Jardine, Ken (108,107) ECF</i>
8	<i>Lekic, Dejan (111,110) ECF</i>	0.5	-	0.5	<i>Fisher, Russell (120,113) ECF</i>
9	<i>Fraser, Barry (108,106) ECF</i>	0	-	1	<i>Nice, Nigel (112,111) ECF</i>
10	<i>Wray, David (117,105) ECF</i>	0	-	1	<i>Reynolds, Derek (108,107) ECF</i>
11	<i>Goldsmith, Jennifer (105,104) ECF</i>	1	-	0	<i>Ball, Richard (101,104) ECF</i>
12	<i>Humphry, Phil (98,100) ECF</i>	1	-	0	<i>Sealey, Frank A (101,99) ECF</i>
	<i>(ave grade 111)</i>	5.5	-	6.5	<i>(ave grade 114) away win</i>

<i>Under 100</i>					
<i>Leicestershire</i>			<i>Warwickshire</i>		
1	<i>Ward-Langman, Joseph (91,112) ECF</i>	1	-	0	<i>Stiff, Peter (93,101) ECF</i>
2	<i>Worrow-Goodin, George (97,102) ECF</i>	0	-	1	<i>Wickett, Gary (91,97) ECF</i>
3	<i>Hollingworth, Stuart (97,95) ECF</i>	0.5	-	0.5	<i>Grimes, Adrian (98,96) ECF</i>
4	<i>Mckiernan, John (99,97) ECF</i>	1	-	0	<i>Leggett, Peter AW (96,92) ECF</i>
5	<i>Adams, Michael David Mick (96,98) ECF</i>	0.5	-	0.5	<i>Donovan, John P (92,91) ECF</i>
6	<i>Matts, Stephen (89,103) ECF</i>	1	-	0	<i>Evans, Tom (86,85) ECF</i>
7	<i>Khare, Anika (76,90) ECF</i>	0.5	-	0.5	<i>Fox, Chris (85,84) ECF</i>
8	<i>Martin, Paul (87,90) ECF</i>	0.5	-	0.5	<i>Buxton, Richard (82,79) ECF</i>
9	<i>Syed, Umar (75,91) ECF</i>	1	-	0	<i>Jones, Malcolm (77) ECF</i>
10	<i>Kerbel, Sasha ( , ) ECF</i>	1	-	0	<i>Shearsby, Jude ( ) ECF</i>
11	<i>Haywood, Rory (55,57) ECF</i>	1	-	0	<i>default (-)</i>
12	<i>Lv, Jason ( ,55) ECF</i>	0.5	-	0.5	<i>Green, Des J (51,51) ECF</i>
	<i>(ave grade 90) home win</i>	8.5	-	3.5	<i>(ave grade 85)</i>

## National Club Championships 2017 – results

<i>Major</i>							
		1	2	3	4	GP	Pts
1	<i>GLCC 1</i>		2-2	2½-1½	2½-1½	7	5
2	<i>Wanstead &amp; Woodford 1</i>	2-2		1-3	3-1	6	3
3	<i>Solihull 1</i>	1½-2½	3-1		1½-2½	6	2
4	<i>Penyffordd</i>	1½-2½	1-3	2½-1½		5	2

<i>Intermediate</i>									
		1	2	3	4	5	6	GP	Pts
1	<i>Newcastle-under-Lyme</i>		2½-1½	2-2	3½-½	3-1		11	7
2	<i>DHSS 1</i>	1½-2½		3-1	2-2		3½-½	10	5
3	<i>Solihull 2</i>	2-2	1-3			2½-1½	2½-1½	8	5

4	Sutton Coldfield	½-3½	2-2					3-1	1½-2½	7	3
5	Braille CA	1-3		1½-2½	1-3				2½-1½	6	2
6	Warley Quinborne		½-3½	1½-2½	2½-1½	1½-2½				6	2

Minor														
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	GP	Pts
1	DHSS 2			3-1			2½-1½	3-1			3½-½		12	8
2	Forest of Dean				3-1			2-2	2½-1½	2-2			9½	6
3	Olton	1-3			2-2	2½-1½					3½-½		9	5
4	Redditch		1-3	2-2							2½-1½	2½-1½	8	5
5	GLCC 2			1½-2½						3-1	1½-2½	3-1	9	4
6	Downend & Fishponds	1½-2½							2½-1½	1-3		3½-½	8½	4
7	Solihull 3	1-3	2-2						2-2			3-1	8	4
8	Wanstead & Woodford 2		1½-2½				1½-2½	2-2		3½-½			8½	3
9	Leamington		2-2			1-3	3-1		½-3½				6½	3
10	Solihull 4	½-3½		½-3½	1½-2½	2½-1½							5	2
11	Coventry Chess Academy				1½-2½	1-3	½-3½	1-3					4	0

## English Rapidplay

September 2017 saw Liverpool Chess Club hosting the first English Rapidplay Championship in the fabulous Liverpool Cunard Building, with over 260 participants challenging for the various titles available and a share of the £10,000 prize fund, donated to the tournament by main sponsors Signature Living. The glamorous Three Graces of Liverpool waterfront proved to be a fantastic location for a major chess event, which not only provided a wonderful venue but a city for all the weekend's participants to explore, with something for everybody to enjoy – the historic Albert Dock, museums, galleries, bars and restaurants, and of course, the home of Beatlemania – Matthew Street – just around the corner. The event was opened by the Lord Mayor Liverpool, Malcolm Kennedy, and attracted visitors from all over the world, including many Grandmasters and International Masters, making it a tensely fought competition.



GM Danny Gormally took the top prize, being crowned the English Rapidplay Champion in the Open section. Danny can be seen [left] being presented with his award by the Liverpool Chess Club President, Jim Gallagher. Danny had many strong competitors for the title.

2nd Ameet Ghazi; 3rd Lorin D'Costa; 4th Nigel Davies; 5th Mark Hebden; Best Junior Dominic Klinger

## Major Tournament

English Champion Jonathan Pein; 2nd Tony Wells; 3rd Piotr Lipka; 4th Barry Hymer; 5th Noel McLaughlin; Best Junior Kevin Ye

### Intermediate Tournament

*English Champion Peter Garrett; 2nd Steve Lloyd; 3rd Kenny Quinn; 4th Geoffrey Burn; 5th Alan Ruffle; Best Junior Sam Davies*

### Standard Tournament

*English Champion Oliver Stubbs; 2nd Sanjoy Banerjee; 3rd Denis Dupuis; 4th Ian Mackay; 5th Viktor Nagy; Best Junior Kyle Pelling*

### Sunday One-Day Tournament

*English Champion Gerald Cohen; 2nd Mark Taylor; 3rd Joe Ormrod; 4th Chris Doran; Best Junior Nikolas Korsinskij*



*The centrepiece of the event was the recently restored Liverpool Chess Club table (pictured left) which bears the names of all the winners of the club's internal tournament dating back to James Cairns in 1892 and Amos Burn in 1896 right through to last year's winner James Friar, who took part in the Congress this weekend. The Lord Mayor of Liverpool, Malcolm Kennedy, once played chess in the Merseyside League for Aigburth Chess Club.*

### Juniors Section

#### Under 12s

*Marek Korsinskij of Liverpool was crowned 2017 English Rapidplay Champion for the Under 12s section with Weston Levi of London in 2nd place and Samir Khan of Bath in joint 3rd place with Tarini Jayawarna of Tameside and Liverpools Nickolas Korsinskij, Joshua Roque, Bashar Rovezi and Luke Maher all close behind the leaders.*

#### Under 10s

*Tengwen Zhao from Sale was declared 2017 English Rapidplay Champion for the Under 10s section with Rebecca Correa of 3Cs in 2nd place and Shivam Agrawal of Kings College in 3rd place.*

#### Under 8s

*Thisumi Jayawarna of Tameside triumphed as 2017 English Rapidplay Champion for the Under 8s section, with David Richards of Northampton in 2nd place and Edward Correa of 3Cs in 3rd Place, with Liverpool's Sashar Korsinskij in 6th place*



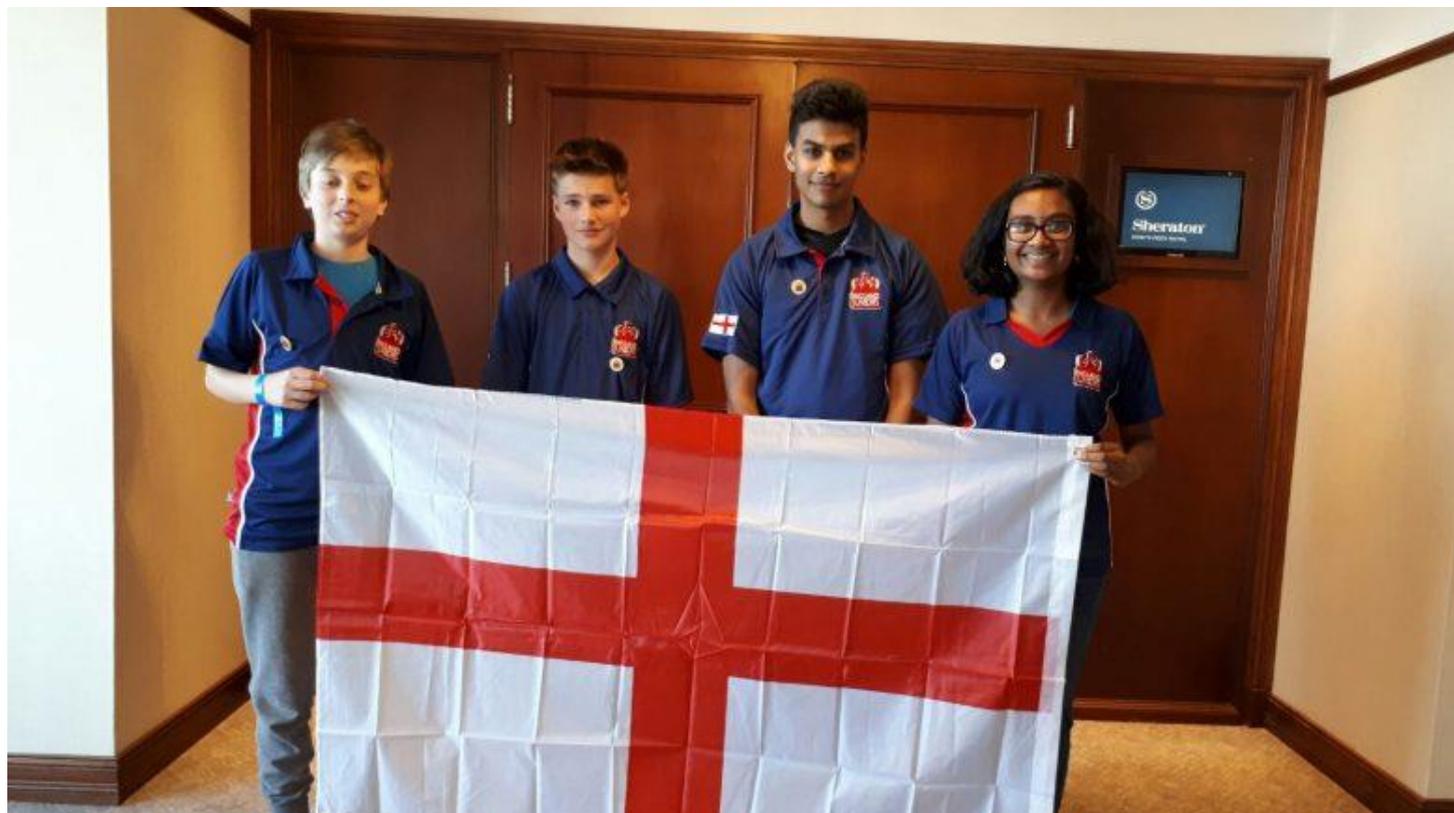
### Friday Night Simultaneous event

*To kick the congress off in style, on the Friday before the Congress GM Daniel Gormally took on fifteen chess players and was victorious in every game – this was obviously an excellent warm up for the main event for him! The event was a major success and hopefully we will all be back again next year for an even bigger tournament ...*

## Junior Events

*From the end of the world to your town*

### *World Youth Chess Championship 2017*



#### *Round 1 (all reports by Christelle Hafstad)*

*Good morning from Montevideo! The small England delegation arrived very tired on Saturday at the hotel with an average of 20h of flying time and additional connection time. We have been afforded a team room which we share with the Uruguayan team. This arrangement has been OK as the mornings in the team room have been very quiet so far. We all suffer from a bit of jetlag and it was a real challenge to stay up for the opening ceremony where we had a well know Uruguayan guitarist played some wonderful soothing music. In our first round, England managed to secure 2.5 out 4. Monday will be a tough day with 2 rounds ...*

#### *Rounds 2 & 3*

*It was a challenging second day at the WYCC17 with a double round. We are still fighting a bit of jetlag, making the 3rd round at 5pm local time a real challenge for all of our England players. England scored 3 points.*

*Sacha won in good form in the second round after his first round, where his fierce attack concluded with a neat combination to win the queen for a rook and bishop. This so demoralised his opponent that he resigned after 17 moves rather than fight on in a bad position. In Round 2, Sacha's positional pressure culminated in a neat mating finale. Leif also managed to win in a topsy-turvy battle in round two, and followed this up in round three, with a fighting draw against a much higher rated player. The England player spent some time after the game discussing with his opponent and the Argentina coach whether he could have won the game.*

#### *Round 4*

*There were some hard struggles against the South American representatives. Ravi's tournament came to life*

when he gradually outplayed Dotta Gian Franco of Uruguay, clinching the game in a rook and pawn endgame. Meanwhile Sacha exploited an inaccuracy in the opening to achieve a total bind on the position against the Argentine, Ricardo Garcia. His opponent's desperate bid for freedom was easily crushed, leaving Sacha with two pieces against a rook and an easily won endgame. However, all in all, a good result on Round 4 for Team England ... 2.5 points.

#### Round 5 [and rest day]

Round five resulted in one point for England. Some difficult battles were fought. Sacha on a live board showed resilience and was close to achieving a draw with a much higher rated player.

Ravi had a hard-fought game against his Indian opponent. He gained the initiative as Black and pressed for the win, but Kaustuv held on and even had the advantage before Ravi found a clever way to force perpetual check. This exciting struggle was the subject of a long post-mortem with Ravi, Neil and the Norwegian coach, Nicolai Getz. Meanwhile Thivyaa built up her game expertly and looked to have a big attack against the South African WFM Staal. Somehow her opponent survived and offered a draw when she reached a favourable endgame, which Thivyaa was sensible to accept.

Our pizza social with the Norwegian and Irish teams in the England team room proved successful. Exchange chess and "mafia" card games were played and were a great distraction.

During the rest day, some members of the team went to visit a local winery, others went on the local bus tour. Heavy rains during the rest day made outdoor activities less attractive.

The team is in good spirits and well rested to start the second half of the tournament with a double round.

#### Round 6 & 7

The England team was well rested to take on the double round day. England scored 5 points.

Ravi was involved in a double-edged battle in round six, but he pulled through thanks to his fighting spirit and registered an important win against his Swiss opponent Dill. In the same round Leif surprised Araoz with some enterprising play in the opening. The Peruvian was provoked into some over aggressive play which was convincingly refuted. Sacha had a good day, beating both Tarlabasi (Turkey) and Morozli (Latvia). The latter opponent was outplayed in fine strategic style. After some near-wins in earlier games, Thivyaa was finally rewarded in round seven for her strong positional play versus the Latvian Golsta, who never recovered from a premature foray with her knight.

#### Round 8

A fantastic performance for team England in Round 8, a perfect score! (4/4)!

Sacha had a complex game on a live board. First of all, he outwitted his US opponent in a theoretical struggle, which prompted Turgut to sacrifice a knight to muddy the waters. This met with a deeply calculated refutation. Thivyaa played some tough positional chess as Black to neutralise Podesta's opening advantage. She then wore down the Uruguayan opponent's resistance in a well-played middlegame. In another England versus Uruguay matchup Leif seized the initiative as Black. He began a big attack on Oviedo's king which had recklessly castled queenside. White's piece sacrifice to gain counterplay proved inadequate in the face of Leif's precise defence. Ravi playing White built up a strong attack right from the opening against Kutsanyan. His Croatian opponent wilted under the pressure and suffered a quick defeat.

We finished the day with a social with the Australian team in our team room which yielded a lot of laughter and relaxation after a tense but exciting day.

After scoring 44 in round 8, England hosts Australia for some relaxing exchange chess

#### Round 9

An impressive performance from Sacha on live board 4! England 2 points. Sacha's German opponent Kopylov was soon struggling after he made an unsound pawn offer. He was efficiently despatched by a queen sacrifice in only 21 moves. Thivyaa also won a pawn for not too much in the opening against Radikovic of Croatia. Her advantage dissipated in a complex middlegame and a draw was eventually agreed.

*Having seized a lot of space Leif attempted to batter through the defences of Chang (Surinam), but there was no obvious continuation. A postmortem involving the whole of the England team concluded that a draw was a fair result.*

### *Round 10*

*In the penultimate round, England scored 1.5. A number of tough battles were fought....*

*Sacha spurned an early draw offer by the top seed in order to make a bid to win the tournament. He soon had Teclaf on the ropes and could have capped his fine play by grabbing a centre pawn. Alas, he missed his chance and in time pressure succumbed to his Polish opponent's counterattack. Meanwhile Ravi played his best game of the tournament so far against the Georgian representative. In a textbook example of how to exploit a space advantage, Kokaia was gradually suffocated without being given the ghost of counterplay. Thivyaa played aggressively from the start of her game as Black versus Ramona Golsta, whose sister Madara she had beaten earlier in the event. This time however her opponent was able to liquidate into an endgame where she held the draw.*

### *Round 11*

*England finished the World Youth Chess Championships with 22.5 points. Sacha is now ranked 10th in the World in the U14s! Well done to the team and for the great support amongst the team members through the highs and the lows!*

*Thivyaa clinched one final point for England in Round 11. Qi of the United States decided to repeat a variation that Thivyaa had faced a couple of times earlier game in the tournament. The England player proved better prepared and demonstrated a good grasp of chess strategy to clinch the point.*

*Goodbye from Montivideo!*



[below, clockwise from top left - Ravi v Xaver Dill (SUI) in round 6 of U18 boys; Sacha on a live board v CM Pawel Teclaf (POL) in round 10 of U14 boys; Thivya v Divya Pandey (USA) in round 4 of U14 girls; Leif v Theo Stijve (SUI) in round 10 of U16 boys; After scoring 4/4 in round 8, England hosts Australia for some relaxing exchange chess]



## Glorney-Gilbert

### Round 1

For England Knights, Nia and her opponent played very quickly to draw with the French. In the same team Lavanya won next after fighting back with some nice tactics after being several pawns down in a heavy piece ending. Shahjahon followed up with a good win as Black in a double-rook ending. With Thomas achieving a draw in a very unclear position the knights went to a fantastic 3 – 1 lead at 14:00 pm and were the source of much happiness in the England room! Finally, in the Stokes, Alex had one of the longest games of the round

with a 63-move draw after a long hard-fought rook and pawn ending. Despite a reverse for our top board our Knights finished with a superb 3.5 – 2.5 win to get our first win onto the scoreboard.

In the Stokes Bishops' team, Samuel was the first to win against the French. He missed none of the tactics and scored a quick win. Next to win was Nishchal (with a superb positional grip as black where white almost ran out of moves in the middle game) and then Charlie won quickly after his opponent missed a threat while Charlie strengthened his position. In the Bishops Tristan won with some tactics in a heavy piece endgame, and with a win for Ranesh on board 1 (following an exciting opening gambit) we scored a fantastic 5 – 1 win in the first round against the French.

In the Glorney, Daniel was next to finish after a hard fight where he was very close to achieving a winning position but ran out of time in complications and grabbed the draw. The pattern was to continue at the end of the four-hour session with both Dominic and Matthew a pawn up each in their endgames but running out of time and having to take the half points with the clocks setting the agenda. The final score a 3.5 – 1.5 victory for France – but England somewhat unlucky not to convert any of their better positions as white.

In the Gilbert, Lauren was first to finish with a nice queen sacrifice and mate combination. Cassie achieved a tense draw in a complex position with a final result of 1.5 each to England and France.

In the Robinson, there was a nice win for Mikey with central control and strong positional pressure leading to an attack that overcame a significantly higher opponent. With careful draws from Nadia and Thivyaa on boards 5 and 6 our final result was England 2 – France 4

— Mike Forster

## Round 2

### Stokes (Under 12) A Team

After the first round the A team had 5 points.

1. Ranesh (B) – nice attack with a tactical finish won the day
2. Jacob (W) – in a complex middle game position, took advantage of opponent's blunder to win
3. Tristan (B) – punished his opponent's mistake in the ending with a checkmate
4. Charlie (W) – another great win
5. Samuel (B) – after a dodgy opening, fought back well to draw
6. Nischal (W) – a vicious attack won a pawn, then a Rook with a pin and the game soon after

So, the A team now have a whopping 10.5 points, 1st place, 3 clear of the B team!

### B Team

After the first round the B team had 3.5 points.

1. Ezra (W) – brilliant sacrificial attack brought home the bacon
2. Shahjahan (B) – capitalised nicely on his opponents blunder to bring home the point
5. Lavanya (W) – first back in the team room and rewarded for an aggressive approach with another win
6. Niamh (B) – cleverly swapped into a Knight ending where, despite the level material, a passed pawn was decisive for her

So, the B team now have 7.5 points, 2nd place, what a day for them

### Robinson (Under 14)

After the first round the team had 2 points.

1. Calum (B) – a nice tactic gave a strategic advantage and Calum never let his grip loosen, finishing with more fireworks
2. Nadia (B) – capitalised on an endgame blunder by her opponent
3. Thivyaa (W) – tried hard to win but good defence by the opponent held the draw

So, the team now have 4.5 points, 5th place

### Gilbert (Under 18 Girls)

After the first round the team had 1.5 points. Cassie was playing the Scotland board 1 for Gilbert points

whilst tough rated friendlies had been set-up for Emily and Lauren.

1. Cassie (B) – took advantage of pawn weaknesses to win a pawn and the game with good endgame technique
2. Emily (W) – in an unfamiliar opening, played well in a fantastically complex game to draw
3. Lauren (B) – another beautiful win, full of strategic skill and brilliant tactics

So, the team now have 2.5 points and are well placed

### Glorney (Under 18)

After the first round the team had 1.5 points.

1. Dan (B) – a masterpiece, surely Game of the Day, brilliant
2. Callum (W) – the hanging pawns gave a long-term edge and he converted with a couple of neat tactics
3. Dominic (B) – a wild, topsy-turvy game ended in a hard-earned draw
4. Elliot (W) – outplayed opponent in the opening and then picked off pawn after pawn to win efficiently
5. Matthew (B) – did well to hold a draw under pressure

So, the team now have 5.5 points, 2nd place

— Dave Graham

### Round 3

First player to finish his game was Daniel Gallagher, Daniel played on board 1 against Irish top board. He played a very aggressive middle game attack which his opponent found hard to handle, he came crashing through with a very good miniature and mated in 13 moves!

Next to win was Forster Matthew with a tactic which won the exchange. He soon simplified into a win.

Another win by Callum Brewer featured a great tactic that created two threats. He threatened a Rook and a pin on the queen. Cocks Elliot drew his game with a fortress which led to a draw. England's Glorney team stands second after round 3 just 1 and half point behind French team.

In the Gilbert, Cassie Graham won her game by squeezing the black pieces; the rooks in particular. Then white weakened black's king's side pawns. She then exchanged queens and attacked the pawns. Notice that the e7 pawn stopped the black rooks from leaving the 8th rank. The black rooks were helpless to prevent the e and a pawns from Queening as they were soon swapped off. What a crushing defeat!

Emily Green and Lauren Weaver both drew their game against Welsh team. England's Gilbert team stands 2nd after round 3 just with half point behind Irish team.

In the Robinson Cup Calum was the first to finish his game with win. Interesting win in Omeet Atara game. Andrew Martin describes it as on the bizarre game of today's round. Omeet describes his game as a roller-coaster. England's Robinson team stands 3rd after round 3 with 9 points.

In the Stoke Cup England's Stoke Bishops played against Stoke Knights on round 3. First who finished their game were See Tristan and Alex Leslie winning point for Stoke Bishops.

Followed up with Nishchal and Niamh drew their games. Next to win was Bishops team Yoon Jacob with an extra rook. It was quite complicated in the beginning. Then Shahjahon made mistake after move 19 and it turned a winning position for black. Ranesh Ratnesan was next to win his game with great control over the centre. Finally, in the Stokes Lavanya and Samuel had one of the longest games of the round in which Samuel won with an extra exchange and a few pawns.

England's Stoke's Bishop Team stands 1st with 16 points ahead of strong French team by 6 points while Stoke's Knight team with 8 points on 3rd position after 3rd round.

— Gulbahor Hamdamova



#### Round 4

Round four on the Thursday afternoon saw lots of determination from our England players keen to improve on their scores and put the teams into contending positions.

#### Glorney

It proved to be a very quick round for Elliot who came out of the playing hall in around forty-five minutes. He took advantage of an opening error, launched a strong attack and secured the win. This was soon followed by Callum who also scored an early advantage to gain the win.

Matthew's game involved some strong tactics in the middlegame which won him the exchange and led to another win for the team. A draw for Dominic followed and a final win for Daniel after a longer game which had some good sacrifices to win the opponents Queen.

All in all, a very strong round for the England Glorney team against their Welsh opponents with a England  $4\frac{1}{2}$  – Wales  $\frac{1}{2}$  victory. This put the Glorney team still in contention and gives the boys all to play for going into the last round.

#### Gilbert

Round four proved to be a little more challenging for the girls. Cassie's game started well with some strong opening play and a slight advantage, however as the game developed this levelled out to an equal position

and she ended with a draw.

Lauren's game was similar with good placement of pieces and an advantageous position in the middlegame, however it then developed into a drawn king and pawn endgame. Emily played a long game against her Welsh opponent and secured advantage out of the opening but struggled to keep the pace.

The final score for this round for our Gilbert term was England 1 – Wales 2

### Robinson

The Robinson team were determined to get some good results in this round and build up the points.

First to finish was Omeet who secured a victory in 20 moves by utilising all his prior knowledge and preparation. On board one, Calum had a difficult yet very close game against a strong Welsh player which didn't go his way this time.

Next out was Mikey, who played a tactical game in order to win the exchange and a strong positional advantage. Nadia also secured a comfortable win. Thivyaa played a long game which was close and could have gone either way. She had some strong placement of pieces out of the opening, however her Welsh opponent continued the fight and managed to create a drawn position. Oliver also came away with a draw.

Overall a good round for the Robinson team with a score of England 4 v Wales 2

### Stokes – England Bishops

The England Bishops have been having a great tournament so far, with some quality chess and strong performances, and round 4 was no exception with no losses for the team.

First out was Samuel with a great win. He played a very impressive game and utilised his preparation and the work he had been doing with his coach through the event. Tristan and Charlie also secured more points for the team by winning their games. This was quickly followed by draws from Ranesh and Jacob on the top two boards.

The last to finish his game with Nishal who also won. A great round for the whole team with a score of England Bishops 5 v Wales 1

### Stokes – England Knights

The England Knights team have been developing good chess skills throughout the tournament and demonstrated some quality chess and lots of potential.

In round 4 they played the French team and it proved to be a very closely matched competition. The first England player back to the team room was Niamh who reported her win with a big smile. She played a strong game and managed to successfully use her prepared tactics.

Lavanya also came back with a good win and Sharjahon managed a well-deserved draw. Both Thomas and Alex played very close games but didn't get the points in this round.

Ezra was the last to come out of the playing hall after a long and complicated game. He fought valiantly but a few miscalculations went against him. The final result was very close with England Knights 2½ v France 3½

— Jo Wildman

## Round 5

The last round of the tournament started with all the English teams in contention for first or second place in their sections and the glorious England Bishops team having already clinched the Stokes Cup! Four of the five faced the strong Irish teams, with the Stokes Knights needing a big score against Scotland to push for second place behind their compatriots.

Here's how they all got on ...

### Stokes Knights

- Ezra Brass (b) – Nimzo-Indian defence led to a powerful counter-attack on the white king which won the day.
- Shajahon Saidmurodov – The 1.e3 opening strikes again, with a long game eventually turning in

*white's favour.*

- *Alex Leslie – Nimzo-Indian led to a passive white position and a deep positional pawn sacrifice by Alex led to an unstoppable kingside attack and a double-rook mate.*
- *Thomas Ng – Reti Opening against d5 with black grabbing the c4 pawn Drawn*
- *Lavanya Maladkar – King's Indian with classic pawn-storm in the centre forcing an excellent quick win.*
- *Niamh Bridgeman – First winner of the day – won a piece in 14 moves and converted smoothly.*
- *A final score of 5.5 – 0.5 gets the Knights second equal position overall!*

### Stokes Bishops

- *Ranesh Ratnesan (w) – Old Indian saw black on the attack first but after some tenacious defence the tables turned and white crashed through for victory. 4.5/5 for Ranesh overall!*
- *Jacob Yoon – Maroczy Bind Sicilian where black quickly forced weaknesses in white's position and won smoothly.*
- *Tristian See – Charged to 5/5 with a sharp theoretical opening giving a small advantage in a rook endgame where the pressure led to his opponent blundering.*
- *Charlie Metcalfe – Gained two pieces for a rook, with a nice position but later lost after an unfortunate blunder.*
- *Samuel Gilmore – Lined up Qa1 and Bb2 and play against black's centre led to material gain and a nice win*
- *Nishchal Thatte – Highly theoretical French Winawer with white's marauding passed h-pawn balanced by black's strong centre and then piece play against the white king eventually leading to a spectacular mate for Nishchal.*
- *Final score 5-1 to the Bishops – Stokes Champions by a huge 10-point margin!*

### Robinson

- *Calum Salmons (w) – Sicilian f4 led to a passive position for white, and black eventually converted to a pawn-up rook endgame balanced between win and draw which black eventually won.*
- *Oliver Howell – Technical Dutch with black's king-side chances not coming to fruition and then having to defend a slightly-worse ending, finally losing it in time-trouble.*
- *Mikey Watson – Catalan led to a level middle game and a draw eventually ensued.*
- *Omeet Atara – Sound opening play in the Owens led to a won position but an unlucky blunder turned the game.*
- *Nadia Jaufarally – London System headed to a fairly level ending, but black's central pawns eventually proved decisive.*
- *Thyviaa Rahulan – Tarrasch French with g3 for white, solidly played by black who agreed a draw in even a slightly better position.*

### Gilbert

- *Cassie Graham (w) – Grand Prix Attack led to an ending advantage for black with better structure and BB v BN which eventually proved decisive.*
- *Emily Green (b). Unusual Modern Benoni with no Bg7 – black won Q for R&B and duly got her queen in against the white king for a nice win just as the white pieces started to threaten.*
- *Lauren Weaver (w) – Colle-type system came under quick kingside attack and white's king never quite made it to safety.*
- *Final score 1-2 defeat but a creditable third place overall*

### Glorney

- Daniel Gallagher – French Wing Gambit, and another tour-de-force in what has been a magnificent tournament for Dan, as in an incredibly complicated game he once again breaks through against his opponent's king in spectacular style with Rf8+!! destroying black's counter-attack with mate following soon after. 4.5/5 for the tournament for a 2388 rating performance!
- Callum Brewer – Standard Caro, came under pressure but cleverly bailed out by offering his opponent the dangerous looking Qxa7 with a forced drawn line to follow, draw offer accepted.
- Dominic Miller – Sharp Najdorf Sicilian, a new line for Dom who varied from theory on move 16 sacing a pawn but kept enough pressure for a draw. 5 draws in the tournament, very unusual for Dom!
- Elliot Cocks – English with black e5&d5. Nice solid opening led to an attempt to smash white's pawn structure which didn't quite come off so draw offer accepted with perpetuals in the air.
- Matthew Forster – Reti v d5. Mass exchanges leading to drawn Bishop endgame – Draw in 28.
- Final score – 3-2 to England and a comfortable 2<sup>nd</sup> place behind the powerful (and older!) French team.

— Chris Howell

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## European Youth Chess Championships

### Round 1 - all reports from Simon Metcalfe (Head of Delegation)

We are underway and team England have had a great start. Our thoughts were obviously with Zoe Varney who sadly couldn't join us; we all wish her a speedy recovery.

Shreyas was first to appear without the slightest hint of jet lag having not long returned from his superb performance in Brazil. Shlok Verma was out minutes later with a smile that told you everything. Both of them had secured strong positions from the beginning which they quickly converted into wins. Since both are highly seeded they were on live boards. Judging by the way they are playing, I am sure we will be watching many of their games.

Savin Dias was next to appear having secured win number three with some sharp play from the beginning against his Lithuanian opponent. Charlie Metcalfe notched up our win number four against a home player before Kian Shah appeared having secured a great draw against a higher rated French player. A great start to his first England outing.

Our England v England pairing saw Alex Golding come out on top in well fought game against Shyam Modi. Ravi Haria continued his great form from the British Championships and we were up to 6 wins, but it was Lavanya Maladkar who had the best result of the day having battled for over 5 hours before triumphing in an epic endgame.

At the end of a long and dramatic day, team England had 7 wins and 1 draw – a great start to the competition!

### Round 2

Round 2 was another good day and this time it was Shlok Verma out first with that infectious smile. His game was straightforward from an early advantage; it was great watching Shlok's game on the live board. Similarly, we had been following Shreyas Royal. He had a comparatively comfortable position from the start and eased through the middle game into an endgame where his 'storming central pawns' led to his opponent's resignation.

Lavanya Maladkar's second game was shorter but no less entertaining. Although giving up a1-h8 diagonal she did have a Bishop guarding g7 and her King. However, the position looked 'quite scary' as she looked to have a d6 weak pawn. Her opponent, the U12 Armenian Champion, started a direct attack on d6 but Lavanya used her a, b, and c semi-open files for a counter-attack and won a piece by threatening a checkmate and a fork. From then on it was solid play to win number two.

It isn't so unusual to see the younger players finish after an hour or so but Akito Oyama (U18 boys) was out

so quickly we almost missed him. He executed his plan perfectly, quickly establishing a strong position which he carried through the game to comfortably win his first point.

Alex Golding was up against a player who had beaten the top seed in the first round. Although Alex went an exchange up, the position was double-edged and so after careful consideration of the risks and benefits, Alex forced a draw. His Armenian opponent played well and is clearly resourceful in tricky positions, as his previous day's result also showed.

A strong German player awaited Charlie Metcalfe. Although falling for a tactic early on to drop a pawn, Charlie fought back swapping off to opposite coloured bishops in the end game and subsequently to a drawn position.

It was another tough pairing for Elliott Cocks who had narrowly missed out to a FM in round 1. Elliott was clearly in a determined mood and playing black, started well. From this solid base he was secure for the remainder of the game. Despite the efforts of both players to gain advantage, the game was eventually drawn. A satisfying day's work for Elliot to set himself up for day 3.

Shyam Modi was content with his play. The game had ebbed and flowed and throughout he felt he had opportunities for the win but in the end with an outcome increasingly unclear, settled for a draw to open his account.

In Ravi Haria's game, he had an established an advantage out of the opening which looked promising. Unfortunately, a small error let his Slovakian opponent back in, who then defended well to half the game.

Spirits are high with day 2. Our England Flag was now hanging from the playing hall second floor balcony and team England had finished on 4 wins and 5 draws.

### Round 3

Day 3 and the strength and depth of the chess was on the up! Ravi and Elliott both had wins in time scrambles. These were difficult games; in Ravi's game his opponent succumbed to the pressure as both clocks counted down allowing a breakthrough on the kingside. Elliot had played well through the game gaining the upper hand against a higher graded opponent. In the end game he kept his cool to press home his advantage.

Savin Dias was back to winning ways when his opponent made a fatal error which Savin quickly punished. Shyam Modi emerged with a smile chatting with his opponent. They had clearly had a good game, played in a fine spirit. Shyam was happy with his win but had clearly enjoyed the contest. Younger brother Kisham Modi has been battling away without much luck. He is undeterred and is confident about his next match.

Akito's opponent looked as if he was about to play the Benoni which was not expected but Akito found a novelty pawn sacrifice which then confused his opponent. Akito took control in a pawn up endgame but unfortunately could not convert with the time remaining and ended in a draw.

Kian had a great game. Both players played excellent moves each cancelling out the other. A draw was a fair result, but the coaches were struck by the quality of the game by both players.

The Shlok and Shreyas juggernaut just keeps going. Both won again to keep their perfect scores going. Finally, Alex had a fine win to bring his tally to 2.5/3 with his opponent playing into one of his strengths.



[above, left to right – Akito looks forward to his first-round game; Charlie vs Maxim Tsaruk (BLR) in round three; Lavanya vs Daria Bondareva in round three]

Overall, a great day with 6 wins and 3 draws.

#### Round 4

Round 4 and for Shlok and Shrez two great wins. The standard of chess is amazing, it's easy to forget they are under 8s! Shreyas had another comfortable opening where his opponent created a weak 'e' pawn and failed to deliver it. He then launched an attack on the 7th rank and won the game. In Shlok's game, having won back two pawns the game began to swing in his favour before his opponent's seemingly routine took move allowed Shlok to pounce and go a rook up whilst swapping off the Queens. From then on, he played solid chess and patiently moved to a comfortable win.

Akito is now in his stride and recorded back to back wins. He felt he had been out prepared and so found himself defending from middle game onwards. In the endgame, his opponent got into time trouble and over pushed allowing Akito's passed pawns to break through for the win.

Kashim's perseverance paid off as he recorded his first win. He has remained positive at all times which is to his credit. It was a game that he commanded from the start and felt comfortable throughout.

Alex was a little under the weather which was reflected in an uncharacteristic game from him. In such a competitive field it was a reminder of how even marginal differences can have a big effect upon performance. Hopefully he will be back to feeling his best in round 5.

Savin was in fine form. He as well prepared for his opponent and looked confident from the beginning. From then on he outplayed his opponent with some neat tactics to land point number three.

Ravi had an extraordinary game where he quickly found himself on the back foot. He defended well against an opponent who saw an opportunity to win on time. This may have been unwise with Ravi turning the tables to a winning position. Regrettably time was still a factor, and Ravi was unable to execute in the time remaining. The draw was probably a fair result in what Ravi later described as a 'crazy game'.

Finally, Shyam played another fine game to draw with his Romanian opponent. Despite his best efforts he couldn't gain an advantage before he received an unexpected draw offer. With an uncertain outcome Shyam happily accepted and enjoyed an early dinner.

Another good day, 5 wins, 2 draws and plenty to look forward to.

#### Round 5

Round 5 saw Lavanya, Kian and Charlie bounce back. Lavanya had another strong opponent who quickly gained advantage in the opening and won a pawn on the Queens-side. However, this was not followed up with a suitable strategy resulting in some misplaced pieces. Lavanya launched a King-side offensive and delivered a beautiful checkmate on the 'H file' by sacrificing her Queen!

Kian had a painful wait for his victory as his opponent spent what must have felt like an eternity pouring over the board trying to find a way out of a mate in two. Eventually, having explored the possibilities, he admitted defeat and allowed Kian to play out the winning moves.

Charlie had a closed position where all 8 pawns were still on the board. He came up with a good middle game strategy but, at some point, lost tempo. Fortunately, his opponent did not take advantage and having outpost squares Charlie slowly ground his Azerbaijani opponent down in the endgame and delivered a checkmate through a mating net by his Rook and Knight.

An interesting game for Ravi. He misplayed the opening giving his opponent had a slight edge. In his words 'a dubious attack on his King almost worked' but Ravi admitted to missing a tactical win and eventually this all led to a drawn ending.

Elliot was playing black against a very cautious opponent and came out of the opening with a slight advantage. His opponent played solidly thereafter giving Elliott few opportunities to attack. Reflecting on the game he had hoped his opponent would have been more ambitious but nonetheless solid play to take into round 6 and another half point.

Alex had a slightly frustrating day. He was feeling better but having been ahead out of the opening, he allowed a strong position to slip which allowed his opponent the opportunity to defend and force a draw.

Shyam's opponent surprised him in the opening. The position became tricky but Shyam managed to win a pawn in the complications and maintained this small advantage in the end game to win.

Finally, the Shrez and Shlok keep coming up with the goods. Shreyas played an excellent game, as those watching on line have already observed. He started comfortably using well prepared opening theory, continued to progress before easily converted the Rook endgame by storming his passed pawns. His 5/5 has him leading the event with four to play.

Shlok also executed his preparation perfectly and showed great tenacity against the top seed. Shlok slowly outplayed his strong Ukrainian opponent, one of the world's best under 8s, to edge an advantage. Although a pawn up in the end game, Shlok just couldn't find a way through and he had to settle for a draw but nonetheless he had played a great game.

Another good tally from Team England; 5 wins and 4 draws. A rest day on Sunday (all the players and the coaches have worked very hard) and then the last 4 games with plenty to play for.

## Round 6

Round 6 was a tough day; a few games were lost from promising positions leaving a few players frustrated but a respectable team score nonetheless.

We had some great wins; Kian was first to emerge. He played well from the beginning and quickly established a strong position and with his confidence rising, quickly pushed on for the win.

Shreyas was playing top board and for most of the game the outcome hung in the balance. Facing a tricky end game, Shreyas showed great tenacity to promote and win. 6/6 is great achievement and a board 1 encounter against the top seed awaits.

Within two hours Savin appeared with a broad grin. He was on the back foot to begin with but recovered in the middle game before playing the end game strongly and his forth point.

In Kishan's game his opponent made a serious mistake in the opening but unfortunately Kishan could not capitalize on it. In the middlegame his opponent sacrificed 2 pawns for an attack that shouldn't have worked but in time pressure Kishan decided to give back the material to subdue the attack. The game ended in a draw.

Charlie had an equal position out of the opening but an error in the middle game put him on the back foot. He fought back but time was becoming a factor for both players. With the time control several moves away both players were happy with a draw.

Elliott clearly enjoyed his game today. Not only a win but some satisfying play. He had a small advantage from the opening but with black's king stuck in the centre, Elliot's attack was overwhelming.

4 wins and 2 draws, team England is looking to bounce back tomorrow. As Tigger says, '... it's not how fast you run or how high you climb, it's how far you bounce!'

## Round 7

The sun is still shining and so are our players.

Kian was our first result of the day: he out manoeuvred his opponent in opening and achieved a slight advantage in middle game with a better position. In response, his Romanian opponent played a neat tactic to equalise the position and follow up to win an exchange for a pawn. Kian dug in deep and in the endgame held off his opponent to force a draw following 50 moves without capture or pawn move.

Kishan surprised his opponent in the opening but unfortunately still achieved a worse position with some inaccuracies in the opening. However, Kishan was able to capitalize on his opponent's poor time management and entered a knight end game a pawn up to secure the win.

Shlok has played extremely well in the tournament and was unlucky in round 6 when he let the game slip from his grasp. In round 7 he again played well against a strong defence and was always in control. Despite his best efforts, he was unable to break through and had to settle for the draw. A good tally and still plenty to play for in rounds 8 and 9 (last round).

Savin was playing black and came out of the opening with a small advantage. He opened up his opponent's

king and won a pawn with a nice tactic. He won a second pawn in the end game and with that, the win.

Alex played a tactical game today sacrificing two pawns in the middle game to gain a small advantage. He ended a pawn up in an endgame. His opponent tried for a checkmate to salvage the position but lost a piece in the process giving Alex a decisive advantage and a straightforward win.

Charlie came out of the opening with a slight advantage following some inaccuracies by his opponent. He contained his opponent who became cramped. Charlie evaded his opponent's tactics and entered end game 4 pawns up for an inevitable win.

Elliot sacrificed 3 pawns for positional compensation and an initiative. He had a strong attack, but his opponent was perhaps fortunate to escape to a drawn rook and knight ending. He played well against a strong French player so overall, a satisfying draw.

Shreyas powers on having had a great game against one of world's top U8s. When he needed to defend, he defended well but was able to gain the initiative to put his opponent on the back foot. The end game required accurate play but Shreyas was well in control. He had held a time advantage and patiently played out the win to finish the round 7/7.

In summary, a great day, 5 wins and 3 draws with two days to play.

Even in some of our losses we saw some good play, offering plenty of encouragement for the last two rounds.

### Round 8

Round 8 was certainly our toughest day. They say the last three rounds can be the toughest and we felt it today.

The highlights of the day were two very satisfactory wins for Shlok and Alex and well fought draws by Savin, Elliott, Akito and Ravi. In Shlok's game he was ready for his opponent's gambit opening. After some great play he entered the end game a pawn up. The win was far from guaranteed but Shlok maintained his fine play to seal point number 6.

Alex had an long game. He showed great patience to wear down his opponent by slowly gaining advantage throughout the game. Alex as always was extremely modest about his play but had clearly demonstrated the flexibility in his approach to match the demands of the game.

Savin was up against a higher-grade player. This was his longest game by some margin. In a tight game the draw was a fair result with both player showing some excellent play.

Elliott was playing a Spanish FM. His play has improved as the tournament progressed. Such was Elliott's confidence he was initially a bit disappointed with the draw but on reflection and analysis he realised he had played a great game.

Akito and Ravi both drew their games. Both players have been exemplary examples to the younger players. In some respects, it has been easy to overlook their efforts since they describe their games with great humility showing the utmost respect for their opponents.

A tough day but all are in good spirits and are looking forward to the final round.

### Round 9

The last round was simply remarkable!

The U8 section has been exciting all through the tournament. Shreyas and Shlok have played so well and going into the last round Shreyas was vying for the top spots. He won his final game in style finishing tied for the lead on points and second overall on tie break. This was a wonderful performance so soon after his trip to Brazil. Well done Shreyas!

We had wins from Shlok (finishing on 7/9 and just outside the medals) Savin, Kian, Charlie, Elliott, Akito and Ravi. There were draws from Shyam, Kishan and Alex.

Just Lavanya's result to come; after 5 hours of play she emerged triumphant. This brought to close the England teams account finishing with 9 wins, 3 draws and no losses. On any day this is a great achievement

but especially satisfying in the final round.

It just remains to say well done again to all the players and heartfelt thanks to our coaches Dagne Ciuksyte, Meri Grigoryan and Charles Storey for all their support and encouragement.

Thanks also to Traci, Gary and Andrew of the ECF for their support prior and during the event.

Finally, we wish Ravi Haria all the best in the World Youth Chess Championship in Uruguay. Ravi is back in England for just 4 hours before catching his flight to Montevideo – good luck Ravi ...

So ...

Congratulations to the entire squad at the EYCC2017 for their sterling performances. In particular, Shreyas Royal [below, left] and Shlok Verma [below, right] who came second and seventh respectively in the Under 8s!



Eight-year-old English chess prodigy Shreyas Royal finished second to Hungary's Giang Tran Nam with both players finishing on 8 out of 9 points but the Hungarian achieved first place on tiebreak. In August he also gained an excellent fourth-place finish in the World Cadets Chess Championships Under 8s tournament in Pocos de Caldas Brazil. He is already the youngest ever English titled player having gained the Candidate Master (CM) title in 2016 when seven years old and his current FIDE (world chess governing body) rating is 1700. Shlok continued his form from British Championship where he had won the U8 section and had come third in U10 section to give a splendid performance in EYCC.. Shlok ended up with an impressive score of 7/9 making him joint 3rd (7th on tie break) in the tough competition.

## European Youth Team Chess Championships



Left to right - Koby, Peter, Zoe and Conor

## Round 1

*This is not only the strongest junior chess tournament that I have attended with Zoe, it is also in my opinion the best organised and most friendly. The Polish hosts have really gone out of their way to make the visiting teams welcome and to make the tournament a success. The England team gelled from the first day, and while the matches are tough and there have been some ups and downs already, the players are in good spirits and are working hard.*

*Getting match points in Round 1 was a great start, especially against the strongest of the home teams. Unfortunately, Zoe on board 4 was lost out of the opening, but on board 3 Koby kept things level until his opponent blundered under time pressure, when he took full advantage of it. On board 3, Stephen managed to salvage a draw from a lost bishop and pawn endgame by playing a lot more accurately than his opponent.*

*Conor's game against Poland's 2420-rated board 1 was an interesting struggle, enough to attract a crowd of spectators not only from among the Polish delegation but also some of the top teams' coaches. Conor's advantage grew through the middlegame as he gradually outplayed his opponent showing great technique in a series of different types of position. A tactical trick finally saved Poland a half point. The match was thus a draw.*

— all reports by Andrew Varney

## Round 2

*Disappointment was the flavour of the round 2 day (Friday) for the England team at EYTCC in Poland. We were playing Slovakia 2, a team with a mean rating of 2273, still below average for this strong junior tournament, but out-rating us by 100-200 FIDE points on all but board 3. Why disappointment then at losing 3-1? Because we were clearly winning each of the games.*

*Both boards 1 and 2 featured complicated positions, but with Conor and Stephen having a clear advantage from fairly early on. Board 3 was quite even, and on board 4 Zoe found a nice tactic towards the end of the middle game to go 2 pawns up. Unfortunately, Zeitnot turned everything around! Suddenly Conor was lost due to trying to make too much of his opponent's time trouble. Stephen changed his mind on a key move under time pressure, as did Zoe on her second time scramble. This was after losing much of her advantage playing on increment approaching the move 40 time control. Meanwhile Koby calmly converted when his opponent started to struggle under time trouble. Another disappointment followed in the evening when the pairings came out and we saw we had unexpectedly received a second down float.*

## Round 3

*England were paired against Poland 5 for round 3. The Poland 5 team was put together after the technical meeting when it was pointed out that the ECU regulations for the tournament required there to be an even number of teams. The original 21 teams would have meant 7 byes during the tournament for which some people had travelled a long way to play strong international chess. Although Poland 5 are (not surprisingly) the lowest rated team in the tournament, the mean of 1543 FIDE is far from representative of their true playing strength. The Polish board 1 for the match (13-year-old Maciej Czopor) has had some recent very good results including a draw against Peter Wells in the London Chess Classic. Chess-DB's 'URS' ratings also suggest that lower board players in the team are probably under-rated by around 400 ELO points.*

*Conor's task on board 1 was therefore similar to the previous rounds, whereas the other team members had a different challenge. The young, rapidly improving Polish players had virtually no games to look through for preparation, so there was a danger of a big surprise in the opening, especially as they are on home turf with a lot of strong coaching available. Yet a loss or draw by an England player to any of them would result in a tumble in rating.*

*Fortunately, the games went in our favour on boards 2 to 4, with all the opposing players losing because of inaccuracies and blunders while the England players stuck more accurately to their plans. Stephen's board 2 game featured a queen sac in the opening, which although all theory, provided a moment of concern for those watching! Conor's game was hard to call as he was an exchange up but against two well advanced connected pawns. A draw was the result in that game, and 3.5-0.5 in the match. Overall it was a much earlier*

finish for the team than in the previous two rounds.

#### Round 4

We made it to the carpet! Not the red carpet, but nonetheless a milestone. Up until this point the highest team table that we had played on was number 7 in the first round, but for round 4 we were playing on table 6. The room is carpeted from that point towards the higher tables.

At the beginning of the round, the England players were looking quite relaxed. It was good to be in this position playing a much higher rated team again (Denmark, sixth seed). Koby was on 3/3, one of only two players in the whole tournament, and gaining a significant number of rating points. The team win the previous day probably also helped morale.

All boards fought hard for a result. Koby's winning streak had a bump in the road this round after a long struggle, and Conor's and Stephen's games were also played right to the last. Zoe was once again two pawns up, and although she lost her advantage as before, on this occasion she managed to draw when her opponent allowed her to sac her bishop against the pawn that mattered after also allowing her king in to deal with his other pawns. Despite being heavily out-rated (mostly 200-300 ELO rating difference) on all boards and the harsh final score of 3.5-0.5, this did not represent the quality of the games, as all players succeeded in pushing their titled opponents to the limit.

#### Rounds 5-7 report

Rounds 5 to 7 featured two more matches against Polish teams (we 'collected' all but one during the tournament) and one against another Slovakian team. All of the games were shown on live boards on chess24 and the PGNs can also be downloaded from the tournament website. The round 5 match we narrowly lost  $2\frac{1}{2} - 1\frac{1}{2}$  to Poland 2. The board 1 game was very well defended by Conor to hold the draw against his FM opponent by aiming for, and playing accurately in, a final position with bishop against 3 pawns. After the match, the Polish board 1 player joined the England team over dinner and afterwards for table football (if it hadn't been malfunctioning). In my view that's what chess should be like – whatever the battle over the board, the opponents can be best of friends off the board. As was typical for this tournament, the England team played more chess together afterwards.

The final score in the round 6 match vs Slovakia 3 was a very comfortable 4 – 0. However, even the results in this match were not as straightforwardly obtained as the score line might suggest. Zoe had decided to experiment with 1.d4 rather than her usual 1.e4 as she was interested in playing against the Benoni, but did not end up with the comfortable position she was aiming for. It was good for the whole team to get wins under their belts this round: Conor's first win of the tournament, Stephen back to winning after a few long struggles that did not go his way, and Koby back on track for a possible board prize.

The last round pairings saw the team awarded a third down float, disappointing as they would have preferred to have played stronger players. Despite the ratings of the Poland 3 players, not all the games were easy, however, and the team ended with a 3-1 win.

#### Andrew's final report

The England team came to Poland with the intention to play chess against strong opponents, to work as a team and learn from each other. We were significantly lower rated than most of the other teams, seeded 17 out of 21 teams. Most, possibly all, of the other teams had brought a team coach with them. Within the England team, amongst other things, one or more of the players had to cope with missed transfers, several days of lost luggage, worry about exam results, sickness and the disappointment of multiple down floats to play lower-rated players. The players overcame these obstacles to ensure the team ended in the rankings placed higher than our seeding (equal 11th on match points, 14th place on tie break). While it varied from player to player, the team overall gained rating points.

The tournament was very well organised and played to a high standard. The Polish hosts were always polite, welcoming and accommodating. I would certainly recommend that stronger England players consider entering this tournament in the future, and personally I hope that I will be able to return to Poland for junior chess in the future to experience the host nation's hospitality once again.

# National Schools Chess Championships

## Under 19 Open

Sixteen teams travelled to the Finals at Uppingham School where they played four games over two days, with an hour on the clock, plus 10 seconds increment per move. Drawn matches were not allowed, so boardcount was used as a tie-break in three matches. There were some particularly strong players in evidence, including IM (elect) Ravi Haria (234 – see Ravi's game against Michael Ashworth above) and FM Matthew Wadsworth (220) top boards for Haberdashers' Aske's and last year's Champions, Reading School respectively. Four other players were graded over 200, nine were 180s or 190s and a further twenty-nine were graded between 150 and 179. The top seeds were Royal Grammar School Guildford (average grade 176), Reading School (174), Hampton School (172) and Haberdashers' Aske's (168). The Judd School (163) attending the Finals for the first time was also expected to put in a strong challenge, which they duly did.

The first round in the end produced wins for all top eight seeds, but Haberdashers' had a big scare against Wilson's, eventually prevailing 4-2. In the second round, Haberdashers' lost on boardcount to Judd with other matches largely going as the seeding predicted. At the end of the first day, the top three seeds, RGS Guildford, Reading and Hampton had won both matches, together with Judd.

In the evening, Neill Cooper masterminded, for the first time at the Finals, a very enjoyable optional seven-round Blitz where players had three minutes and a two second increment for their moves. It attracted 60 players, including five members of staff. The Blitz was won by Matthew Wadsworth with 6.5/7 ahead of Ananth Balaji (Queen Elizabeth's Barnet) and Koby Kalavannan (Hampton) both of whom scored 6/7 and Michael Ashworth (Sir Thomas Rich's) on 5.5/7. Sir Thomas Rich's also had the best team score, aided by a strong performance from one of their teachers, Ian Robson. This format is well worth pursuing in schools – it is fast, furious and fun and it is hoped that more schools will enter the second Individual and Team Blitz at The King's School Grantham next March.

The Championship resumed the next morning and saw a re-run of last year's Final between Reading and Hampton, won last year by Reading on boardcount. This match did not disappoint and also went down to the wire, but Hampton gained revenge for last year's defeat and won 3.5-2.5. Meanwhile, RGS Guildford looked in menacing form as they despatched Judd 5-1. The Final therefore saw RGS play Hampton. Hampton fought valiantly but had to settle again for second place, losing 2-4 to RGS Guildford, who became Champions for the



first time, collecting the impressive silver cup first donated by The Sunday Times in 1957. Hampton won The Richard Haddrell Memorial Trophy which is new this year; Richard was a dedicated Chief Conductor of the Championship for fifteen years (see separate report). King Edward's Birmingham won the Plate for the best performance by first round losers. The players whose teams finished in the top five positions received engraved plaques, together with the Plate winners, and players in the remaining ten teams were presented with engraved medals. All the players are to be congratulated on their excellent sporting behaviour; very little arbiter intervention was required.

We are very grateful to the sponsors Winchester College for their continued generosity in supporting this event. Many thanks are also due to the hospitality provided again by Uppingham School, to Mike Truran, CEO of the ECF, for presenting the prizes and to Richard Haddrell's sisters, Margaret Haddrell and Judy Stone, who presented The Richard Haddrell Memorial Trophy. I should also like to thank those who ran qualifying events; Neill Cooper for his repechage tournaments; Phill Beckett, Michael Burn, Neill Cooper, David Matthews and Alan Thorn who administered the regions; certainly not least, Chief Arbiter David Welch, assisted by Phill Beckett (who also took the photos) and Julian Clissold who acted as arbiters at the Finals.

The results were —

*Champions – Royal Grammar School Guildford – won 4 matches*

*2nd – Hampton School – won 3 matches*

*3rd= Reading School – The Haberdashers’ Aske’s Boys’ School; Queen Elizabeth’s School Barnet – won 3 matches*

*6th= King Edward’s School Birmingham (Plate winners); The Judd School; Nottingham High School; City of London School; King Edward VI Grammar School Chelmsford; Wilson’s School – won 2 matches*

*12th= Sir Thomas Rich’s School; Eltham College; Wirral Grammar School; Queen Elizabeth’s Hospital – won 1 match*

*16th Yarm School – won 0 matches*

### U19 Girls

*1st Howell’s A, Cardiff 17/21*

*2nd North London Collegiate 16.5*

*3rd St Paul’s GS 12*

*4th Howell’s B 10*

*5th Fernwood A 10 (tie-breaking applies)*

*6th Nonsuch 9.5*

*7th Fernwood B 6.5*

*8th Bartholomew Hall 2.5*

*A worthy final. Sincere thanks must be offered to the sponsors, who are generous to our young female players. Thanks also to Traci Whitfield and Julian Clissold for immaculate arbiting. A successful weekend!*

### U11 Open



*Congratulations to King’s College School, winners of the ECF Under 11 Schools. The national final was hotly contested, and the outcome was unclear until the final few boards. Heathside School and Pointers came second and third respectively. This year the tournament was enriched by the attendance of schools from both Scotland and Wales.*

### U11 Girls

*1st North London Collegiate 19/21*

*2nd Tormead School 16*

*3rd Guildford High 14*

*4th St Edward’s Academy, Leek 12*

*5th Nottingham High 9.5*

*6th Devonshire Prep 7*

*7th Castleview School 3.5*

*8th St Catherine’s, Bramley 3*

# Senior Events

*Stately but never staid ...*

## European Senior Chess Championship

August 11th – 20th 2017 – Sabadell (quite near Barcelona)

*It was rather worrying that the chess took place so close to the terrorist attack. It was comforting that play in the tournament was scheduled to be at the same time as the attack. I haven't heard from any of the players, so below are the bare results from the website. Rating changes are often inadequate here.*

50+

Karen Movsiszian 7/9

Neil Crickmore 5/9 with a Rating Performance 2266, gaining 25.4 Rating Points.

The best result by an English player in either section at this event.

Peter Gayson 5/9 RP 2123 - 6.8 RP

65+

Nils-Gustaf Renman 7.5/9

Brian Hewson 5/9 +14.2 RP

Norman Hutchinson 4/9 23.4

Ivan Myall 4 -11.4

Mick Stokes 3.5 -66

*The last two international senior events of the year are the Royal Beacon Senior Congress, Exmouth 6th-10th November; and the World Senior Individual in Acqui Terme, Italy 6th-19th November. Throughout the year, there are a number of senior international events, particularly in Germany, but no English Senior Championship has been scheduled for 2017 ...*

--- Stewart Reuben

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## World Senior Chess Championship

18 November to 1 December in Marienske Lazne, Czech Republic

*These 11 round Swisses for players 50+ and 65+ took place at the same time as the rather smaller World Chess Championship in New York. In all, 468 players competed in the four championships, including 11 English players.*

World 50+ Championship – 162 players

1 Giorgi Bagaturov GER 9½/11

2 Alexander Reprintsev RUS 8½

3 Zurab Sturua GEO 8½

Keith Arkell 6½ / Rating 2450 / Performance 2399

Terry Chapman 6½ / 2220 / 2215

Peter Gayson 5½ / 2127 / 2189

Meyrick Shaw 5½ / 1947 / 1871

Brian Hewson 5 / 2083 / 1941

World 65+ Championship – 265 players

1 Anatoly Vaisser FRA 8½ won on tiebreak

2 Vlastimil Jansa CZE 8½

3 Vladimir Zhelnin RUS 8½

4 Clemence Wieren GER 8½

Anthony Stebbings 6½ / 2293 / 2286

Anthony Ashby 6 / 2076 / 2093  
Norman Hutchinson 6 / 2062 / 2103  
Ian Reynolds 6 / 2042 / 1960  
Ivan Myall 5½ / 2040 / 1986  
William Ingham 4½ / 1814 / 1944

Women's World 50+ Championship – 25 players  
Tatiana Bogumil RUS 8/11 first on tiebreak – she was only a WFM!  
Elvira Beried LUX 8

Women's World 65+ Championship – 18 players  
Nona Gaprindashvili GEO 8/9  
Elena Fatalibekova RUS 7½  
Tamar Khmiadashvili GEO 6½

— Stewart Reuben

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### World Senior Teams Chess Championship



Above — at the airport on the way home, we took a team photo ... left to right: Pat Scowen, Bea & Hugh Fenwick, Roger Scowen, Peter Wood, Mary & Gareth Jones, Brian Ewart

The team was seeded 20th of the 22 teams, so we had no expectations of any prizes. It was therefore satisfying for us to finish 17th, with every member of the team winning at least two games. It was a great experience, from both a chess-playing and touristic point of view.

Gareth Jones won four games. His second-round game included repeated sacrifices (glimpses of which gave me, as team captain, some unfounded concern)

White: Johan Sterner (Sweden IV) – Black: Gareth Jones (England III)  
1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 d5 4 Bg5 Ne4 5 Bh4 Nxc3 6 bxc3 Bg7 7 cxd Qxd5 8 e3 O-O  
9 Bxe7 Re8 10 Ba3 Na6 11 Nf3 Qa5 12 Qc1 Bg4 13 Be2 Bxf3 14 gxf3 c5 15 Bxa6 cxd  
16 Be2 dxe 17 Bb4 exf+ 18 Kxf2 Rxe2+ 19 Kxe2 Re8+ 20 Kd1 Qd5+ 21 Kc2 Re2+ Resigns  
(mate is inevitable)

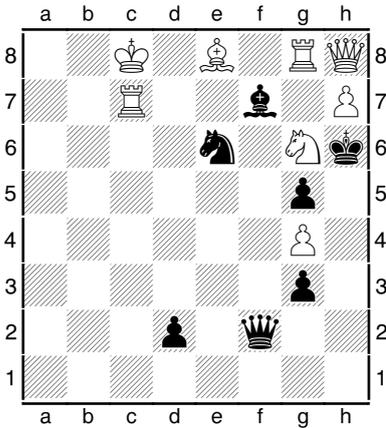
--- Roger Scowen

## Chess Problem News

--- by Ian Watson

The chess problem world is both about solving problems and about composing them. Solving in the UK is focused on the annual British Chess Solving Championship, whose Final is held in the splendid venue of the School Hall at Eton College, thanks to generous sponsorship from Winton Capital. The competition has two qualifying stages, held by e-mail/post. The first stage is a single two-mover, and if you send in the correct solution, you receive the second stage problems which are a selection of direct mates, helpmates, selfmates and studies. Those who score best in the second round are invited to the Final. The first stage problem will be published in chess magazines and national newspapers in May/June 2018, so when you see it, why not have a go? Here is the first stage problem from 2017, so you can test your skill!

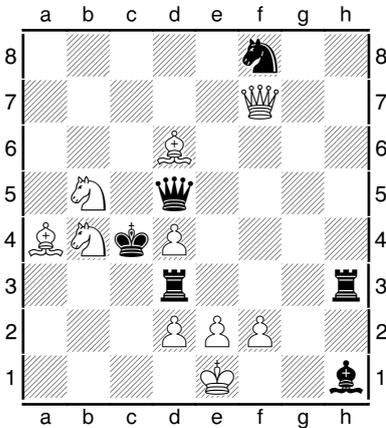
J Rice – 2017



Mate in 2

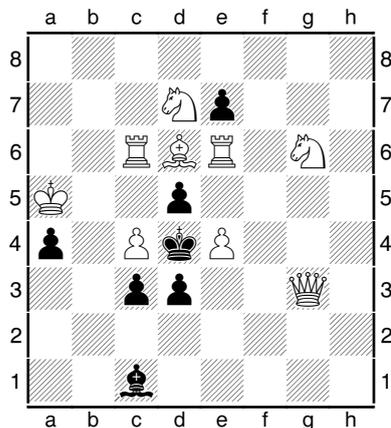
John Rice is a Grandmaster of Chess Composition, particularly known for his two-move problems. The UK has a good many skilled composers of chess problems. Here are two-movers by the expert composers Michael Lipton and David Shire; both problems were published in 2017. The Lipton is based on the Nowotny theme – in the solutions at the end of this article, I'll explain that! The Shire has four tries – first moves by White which nearly solve the problem, failing only to a single Black reply – so be careful!

M Lipton - The Problemist 2017



Mate in 2

## D Shire - The Problemist 2017

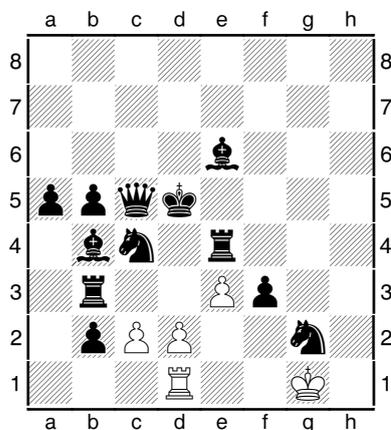


### Mate in 2

The UK is strong at chess solving. We have two former World Chess Solving Champions, Jonathan Mestel and John Nunn, and we regularly send teams to international solving championships, such as the World Chess Solving Championship and the European Chess Solving Championship. In 2017, our team of McNab, Mestel and Nunn gained the Silver medal in the team event of the WCSC. In the individual World Championship, our solvers came just outside the medals, but John Nunn did become Senior Champion. John also won a major event earlier in the year, the International Solving Contest; this is a competition held simultaneously in numerous venues across the globe, with the competitors solving the same set of problems, so the top scorer is the winner of a worldwide event.

Here are two helpmates that were used in those events: one in the World Championship and one in the International Solving Contest. Both were original compositions by Christopher Jones, Grandmaster of Chess Composition, who is best-known for his helpmates. In helpmates, White and Black cooperate to achieve the mate of the Black king. In the three-mover, Black moves first and the move sequence is BWBWBW. This is a 'twin' problem, meaning there are two slightly different problems to solve; once you've found the solution to the diagram position, you set it up again, but this time with the Black queen on c6 instead of c5. In the 6.5-mover, White moves first and last, so White makes a total of 7 moves and Black six. This is also a twin, this time with the change being to shift the Black king from d6 to c5. A three-mover might not seem too hard, but Christopher knows how to fool good solvers and of the 89 competitors in the World Championship, all skilful chess solvers, 76 failed to find the solution. Can you do better? Perhaps surprisingly, the 6.5-mover isn't extra-tough, because the play is elegantly geometric.

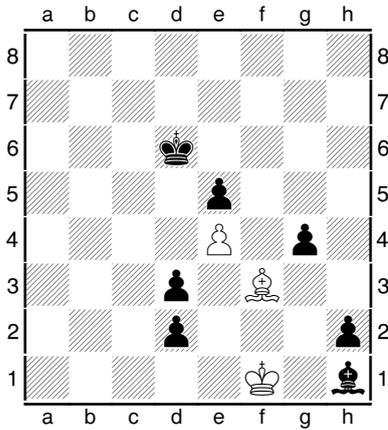
## C Jones - WCSC 2017



a) Diagram: Helpmate in 3

b) Black queen c5 to c6: Helpmate in 3

C Jones - ISC 2017

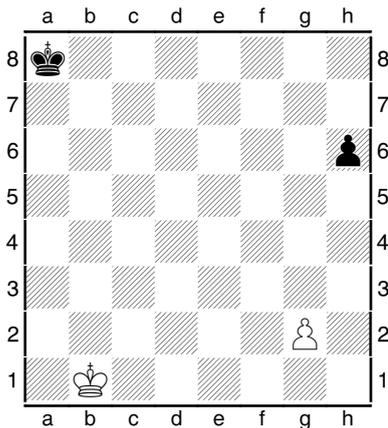


a) Diagram: Helpmate in 6½

b) Black king d6 to c5: Helpmate in 6½

Endgame studies are also part of the chess problem universe. There are still discoveries to be made in the simplest of chess positions: the following study, by Paul Byway, only has K&P v K&P. It's two studies in one, a twin, because after solving the diagram position, you should set it up again but with the Black pawn h6 placed instead on h5.

P Byway - BCM 2017



a) Diagram: Win

b) Black pawn h6 to h5: Win

To see more chess problems, visit the newly-revamped British Chess Problem Society website at [www.theproblemist.org](http://www.theproblemist.org)

Solutions

(Rice) 1 Qa1

This vacates the h8 square, to threaten 2 h8Q mate. I'm sure you can work out the ways White responds to Black's defences, but of particular note are why the White queen had to go to a1 (to have the move 2 Qh1 if Black uses his queen to defend the h8 square), and the 'switchback' move 2 Qh8 in reply to 1...Kxh7. Specially attractive is that in the 1...Kxh7 line the White queen twice plays its longest possible move (from corner to corner).

(Lipton) 1 f3 (which threatens 2 Qxd5 and 2 exd3)

1...Rxd4 2 Na3 and 1...Qe6 2 Qc7. A 'Nowotny' is an interference move, in which White sacrifices on the critical square – in this case, 1 f3 interferes with the action of the Black rook and bishop. Nowotny was a Czech composer who first used this theme in 1854.

(Shire) 1 N7e5 (which threatens 2 Qxd3)

1...dxe4 2 Bc5; 1...dxc4 2 Rxc4; 1...Be3 2 Nf3; 1...Kxe4 2 Qxd3. The tries are 1 exd5?, 1 Nf4?, 1 Nc5?, 1 N6e5?, defeated only by 1...exd6!, 1...Bxf4!, 1...Be3!, 1...Kxe4! respectively. To fully appreciate this problem, you should examine how the White tries would work against all other Black moves than the ones given.

(Jones, WCSC) (a) 1 Nf4 d4 2 Rd3 exf4 3 Kxd4 Rxd3 and (b) 1 Rc3 dxc3+ 2 Rd4 cxb4 3 Ne5 Rxd4 (In case you're wondering about the notation, for some odd historic reason it's the custom in helpmates to write the move number and then Black's move not White's.)

(Jones, ISC) (a) 1...Bxg4 2 d1B Be6 3 Bg4 Bg8 4 Bf5 exf5 5 Bc6 f6 6 Bd7 f7 7 Ke6 f8Q and (b) 1...Bxh1 2 Kd4 Kg2 3 Kxe4 Kg3+ 4 Ke3 Kxg4 5 Kf2 Be4 6 Kg1 Kf3 7 Kh1 Kf2.

(Byway)

(a) 1 Kc2 Kb7 2 Kd3 Kc6 3 Ke4 Kc5 4 g3 Kc4 5 g4 wins

Attractive tempo play by the White pawn, which also occurs in: 3...Kd6 4 Kf5 Kd5 5 g4. Similarly, 4...Kd6 5 Kf5 Kd5 6 g4

(b) 1 Kc2 Kb7 2 Kd3 Kc6 3 Ke4 h4 4 Kf5 Kd6 5 Kg4 h3 6 Kxh3

In this twin, Black is of course trying to convert the White g-pawn into an h-pawn.

--- Ian Watson Email: [ian@irwatson.demon.co.uk](mailto:ian@irwatson.demon.co.uk)

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## News and Views

... from inside and outside the ECF



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