

NCA BULLETIN 161



Magazine of the Year
2019

**Produced BY and FOR
NORTHUMBERLAND CHESS PLAYERS
(and Friends!)**



**TYNEMOUTH CHAMPIONS
HAN and MOREBY ACHIEVE FM titles
LEAGUE and CHAMPIONSHIPS SUSPENDED
- BUT CHESS FIGHTS BACK!**

Northumberland Chess Association
April 2020

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WELCOME TO BULLETIN 161

Plenty to report and it's heartening to see the amount of activity going on across the chess world despite Covid-19, which has caused remaining NCA league fixtures and individual championships to be suspended. Headliners this time have to be Tynemouth Chess club – NCA Division 1 winners, and the dynamic duo of Han and Moreby, both of who achieved FM norms since our last issue.

Most importantly on behalf of the NCA Exec we hope Bulletin 161 finds you well. And happy reading – Mick

NORTHUMBERLAND CHESS LEAGUE

And they've done it!!! Our very own Leicester City in the form of Tynemouth Chess Club are the 2019/20 NCA Champions – their first title win since 2004. . And well done them. The title went up to the last round and will be reported on in MOTD1 – needless to say it was a thriller.

Cross tables of results, showing positions as at suspension of the league.

Division 1	TA	GE	FHA	SSA	MA	DC	LLA	J	FHB	TB	MP	GP
Tynemouth A		2.5	3	3	4	3	3.5	3	2.5	4	16	28.5
Gosforth Empire	2.5		2.5	3.5	2.5	3	3	4	5	4	15	30
Forest Hall A	2	2.5		3	3	3.5	1.5	4.5	4	4.5	13	28.5
South Shields A	2	1.5	2		3	3.5	4.5	2.5	1.5	5	9	25.5
Morpeth A	1	2.5	2	2		4	1	3.5	3	4	9	23
Durham City	2	2	1.5	1.5	1		5	4.5	4	3.5	8	25
Leam Lane Aces	1.5	2	3.5	.5	4	0		3		4.5	8	19
Jesmond	2	1	0.5	2.5	1.5	.5	2		4.5	3.5	5	18
Forest Hall B	2.5	0	1	3.5	2	1		.5		3.5	5	14
Tynemouth B	1	1	.5	0	1	1.5	.5	1.5	1.5		0	8.5

Gosforth Ivy completed a clean sweep of Division 2, with the second promotion spot still undecided between Tynemouth C and Morpeth B. A crucial match between the Ivy and 'Peth' B features in MOTD 2.

Division 2	GI	MB	SSB	TC	FHC	T	FHD	G	SSC	NU	MP	GP
Gosforth Ivy		4	3	3	4	4	4	3.5	4	3.5	18	33
Morpeth B	1		3	4.5	4	2.5	3		4	4.5	13	26.5
South Shields B	2	2		2	2	4	2.5	3.5	3.5	4	11	25.5
Tynemouth C	2	.5	3		3.5	3.5	3			4	10	19.5
Forest Hall C	1	1	3	1.5		4	2.5	2.5	2.5	3.5	9	21.5
Tynedale	1	2.5	1	1.5	1		2.5	3.5	5d	3	8	21
Forest Hall D	1	2	2.5	2	2.5	2.5		1	2.5	2.5	5	18.5
Gateshead	1.5		1.5		2.5	1.5	4		1	4	5	16
South Shields C	1	1	1.5		2.5	0d	2.5	4		1	4	14.5
Newcastle Uni	1.5	.5	1	1	1.5	2	2.5	1	4		3	15

Tynemouth D are assured of the Division 3 title but second spot is still up for grabs between Gosforth Centurions, Gosforth Salters, South Shields D and Leam Lane Bullets. Can't wait for the argument should 'the season ends here' prevail!

Division 3	TD	GC	GS	SSD	A	LLB	FHE	MC	GW	FHF	MP	GP
Tynemouth D		3.5		3	3	2.5	3.5	3	3.5	2.5	14	24.5
G Centurions	1.5		4	2.5		3.5	4	3.5	2	4	11	25
Gosforth Salters		1		1	4	4.5	4	1.5	3.5	3.5	10	23
South Shields D	2	2.5	4		4		2	4	4		9	22.5
Alnwick	2		1	1		4		3.5	3.5	4.5	8	19.5
LLane Bullets	2.5	1.5	.5		1		2.5	2.5	3	3	7	16.5
Forest Hall E	1.5	1	1	3		2.5		3		3	7	15
Morpeth C	2	1.5	3.5	1	1.5	2.5	2		3		5	17
G Woodbines	1.5	3	1.5	1	1.5	2		2			2	12.5
Forest Hall F	2.5	1	1.5		.5	2	2				1	9.5

Chris Goodall has produced some individual performance stats and appropriate 'awards' (thanks Chris) which make happy and/or interesting reading.....

Division Leaderboards

D1: Paul Dargan 5½/6. Most wins: Robin Nandi and Tim Wall 6

D2: Jack Erskine-Pereira 5½/6. Most wins: John Horton 7

D3: And overall leader: Bede Porter 6/6, plus 1/1 in D2. Most wins: Kristian Mills 7

Most Valuable Player: Dennis White. Had he lost every game he played, Tynemouth D would have been 7 points worse off, and in the bottom half of Division 3 instead of winning it.

Endurance Award: Mohammed Alsharif and Dave Jarema. Both these guys scored a high percentage of losses, which based on appearances did not affect their availability throughout the season – good spirit lads.

Eligibility Rule Expert: Stuart Skelsey, 17 games played.

Most Played Game: Martin Seeber vs. Ian Maughan, Simon Matthews vs. Morgan French, and Brian Towers vs. Phil Eastlake all happened twice with the same colours. No-one managed a 2-0 win.

Talisman Award: Joe Chan. Won 5 and lost 3. In all 8 matches, his team's result was the same as his.

Pacifist Award: Paul Costello, 5 draws out of 5.

Symmetry Award: Roger Coathup. 3 wins, 3 draws, 3 defeats. And four of his nine opponents were named David.

And finally, an astonishing list of 24 games that had the result gone another way e.g. draw instead of win, loss instead of draw, Tynemouth would not have been champions – but they didn't and they are!

vs. Forest Hall A

1. Paul Dargan 1-0 Tim Wall
2. Gary Cornwall 1-0 Caveh Madjdpour
3. Darren Laws 1-0 Ciaran Macdonald

vs. South Shields A

4. Paul Dargan 1-0 Yaroslav Kolodiy
5. John Clarke 1-0 Ian Maughan
6. Steve Burnell 1-0 Chris Sayers

vs. Forest Hall B

7. Paul Dargan ½-½ Ravi Wariyar
8. Clive Waters 1-0 Stuart Skelsey
9. John Clarke ½-½ Mike Smith
10. Darren Laws ½-½ Ciaran Macdonald

vs. Durham City

11. David Henderson ½-½ Thomas Eggleston
12. Clive Waters 1-0 Ken Neat
13. Gary Cornwall ½-½ Douglas Smith
14. Darren Laws 1-0 George Gazis

vs. Gosforth Empire

15. David Henderson ½-½ James Moreby
16. Clive Waters 1-0 Andy Lawson
17. Gary Cornwall ½-½ Jonathan King
18. John Clarke ½-½ John Wheeler

vs. Leam Lane Aces

19. Darren Laws 1-0 Kirill Gara
20. John Clarke 1-0 John Marsh
21. Paul Edwards 1-0 Dave Stewardson

vs. Jesmond

22. Paul Dargan 1-0 Chris Izod
23. Clive Waters 1-0 Andy Trevelyan
24. Gary Cornwall 1-0 John Turnock

Well there you go! And now you might rightly ask – where are the games?

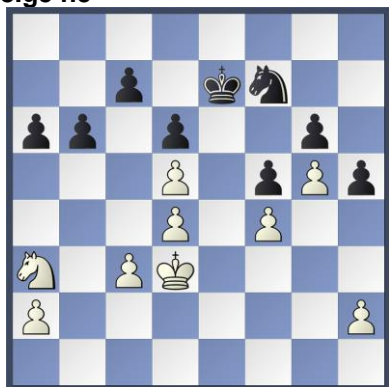
MOTD1 – TYNEMOUTH A v JESMOND

Photo feature on our front cover. This is it then. Last match of the season for Tynemouth A. A win gives them their first championship since 2004, anything else and who remembers runners up? First to finish was Board 4. Comments by Gary unless noted MR.

**Gary Cornwall (Tynemouth) –
John Turnock Turnock**
1.d4 f5 2.e4 The Staunton
Gambit. I've been looking at this
line for a while as there is so much

theory in the main lines **2...fxe4**
3.Nc3 Nf6 Black can't hold onto
the Pawn. If 3 ... d5 then 4 Qh5
wins the pawn back **4.Bg5 Nc6**
Again Black can't hold onto this

Pawn. If 4... d5 after 5 Bxf6 and 6 Qh5+ Black his d pawn and more
5.d5 Ne5 6.Qd4 Nf7 7.Bxf6 exf6 8.Qxe4+ Qe7 9.Qxe7+ Bxe7 10.0-0 0-0 11.f4 to restrict the Black Knight on f7 **11...Bc5 12.g3 d6 13.Re1 Bf5 14.Nf3 Rfe8 15.Bb5 Rxe1+ 16.Rxe1 a6 17.Bd3** Seems a strange move allowing the doubling of Pawns, however these central d Pawns control a lot of important squares and keep Black badly cramped. Soon White will play d4 shutting the Black Bishop out. The extra space also allows White to freely move his King up the board **17...Bxd3** So in view of the previous comment, it's probably better not to allow the Bishop exchange by playing 17 ... Bg4 **18.cxd3 Kf8** Black needs to play 18 ... Nh6 **19.d4 Bb6 20.g4** This is why Black needed to play 18 ... Nh6. Now the Black knight is badly restricted MR - Maybe Gary but this is really = unless you're Magnus! **20...Re8 21.Rxe8+ Kxe8 22.Kd2 g6 23.Kd3 Ke7 24.Nd2 Ba5 25.Nc4 Bxc3 26.bxc3 b6 27.Na3 f5 28.g5 h5**



After 28 ... h5 I formulated a three stage plan 1. Induce Black to play a5 to weaken the Queenside White squares for the king to penetrate 2. Manoeuvre my Knight to h4 to tie Black's Knight to the defence of the g6 Pawn 3. Penetrate to c6 with the White King MR - h5 is weakening and unnecessary. N or K move is just holding, but it's easy to say afterwards **29.Nc2 Nd8 30.Nb4 a5 31.Nc2 Kd7 32.Ne3 Ke7** MR - Black has to play b5. White has done a good job building on his edge since move 28 **33.Kc4 Nf7 34.Kb5 Kd7 35.Ng2 Nh8 36.Nh4 Kd8 37.Kc6** Now I've got the position I was aiming for with my King on c6, I need to advance my queen-side Pawns to break through **37...Kc8 38.c4 Kd8 39.c5 dxc5 40.dxc5 bxc5 41.Kxc5 Kc8 If Kd7 then White plays a4 42.a4 Kd8 43.Kc6 Kc8 1-0 MR** - Well played Gary. A great squeeze, 1-0 Tynemouth, champagne on ice! Meanwhile on Board 5, comments by John Clarke unless 'MR'

Jesus Urresti – John Clarke (Tynemouth)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 0-0 5.Bd2 Rather tame. The Bishop normally goes to g5 **5...c5 6.e3 Nc6 7.Nf3 d5 8.a3 cxd4 9.exd4 Bxc3 10.bxc3** MR - The point of Bd2 must be to make this capture with the Bishop **10...Re8 11.Ne5 Nxe5 12.dxe5 Nd7 13.f4 Nf8** A bit passive. Better was 13...dxc4 with the idea 15.Bxc4 Nxe5 16.fxe5 Qh4+ **14.Be2 dxc4 15.Qe4 Bxc4** is quite safe

15...Qd5 16.Bf3 Rd8 A safe Pawn up Black should exchange Queens
17.Qe2 Qb5 18.0-0 Rb8 19.Rfb1 Qa6 20.Be3 Bd7 21.Rb4 Rdc8 22.Qf2 b6 23.Be2 Rc7 24.Bd4 Ng6 25.g4 Ne7 26.Qg3 b5 Nc6 was better



27.f5 Clever but after Nc6 Black is fine when say 28.f6 Nxb4 29.cxb4 g6 30.Qh4 Qc5 (heading for f8) However..... **27...exf5 28.e6 Qxe6 29.Qxc7** And there goes the game. **29...Rc8 30.Qe5 Qxe5 31.Bxe5 Nc6 32.Bd4 Nxb4 33.axb4 fxg4 34.Rxa7 Bc6 35.Bxg4 Rd8 36.Rc7** and **0-1**. The match is all square and looking around the other boards Jesmond are edging it....To the top board now with comments from Ed Dodds.....

Edward Dodds – David Henderson (Tynemouth)

1.b3 e5 2.Bb2 d6 3.c4 g6 4.d4 f6 5.e4 Bg7 Black's early g6 was an error MR - not really mate! - I don't like f6 mind and white makes a positive start. However, instead of steady development such as 6. Nf3 or Nc3, the rook's pawn goes on the

march. The inspiration was AlphaZero, but the similarities in play end there! **6.h4 Nh6** MR - And here f5 looks fine **7.f3** Too late for caution. 7.h5 is much livelier. MR - Or some piece development! **7...f5 8.dxe5 Nc6 9.h5** This should have been better played on move 7. Now is a little late, and black's Queen swings into the action, with white's pawn structure resembling Swiss cheese. **9...Qg5** MR - He should prefer fxe4 but this looks so tempting **10.Ne2 Be6** Better is probably fe... white would be unwise to recapture due to the threat of using the g4 square for the Knight. Instead, some reverse bishop development results in a playable position... **11.Bc1 Qe7** [diagram] **12.Bxh6 Bxh6** A bad choice of exchange on h6, and black now has the potential to terrorise white's open defences! **13.exd6 Qg7 14.Nbc3 0-0-0 15.Nb5 fxe4 16.fxe4 Nxc7** is better **16...Rh8 17.hxg6 Be3 18.Rxh7** Down to the last 5 minutes and in despair at being overrun on the black squares, white has a last throw of the dice. Black is now spoilt for choice to finish the win. Qf6, Qb2 and Bf2+ are all great (MR - winning) options. See diagram next page. **18...Rxf1+** MR - Still winning but much more complicated now **19.Kxf1 Qf6+ Rf8+** then Qf6 is better. This line allows a scrambled defence by white and some time to get his own attack in motion. **20.Nf4 Qxf4+** Bxf4 is better, to lend a hand to the defence. MR - Unbelievably the

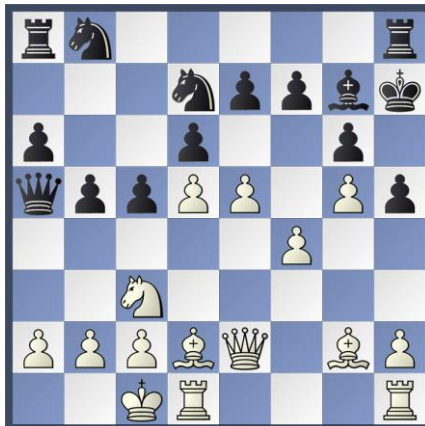


Position after White's 18.Rxh7

tables have turned. **21.Qf3 Qg5** cd would be playable, but black is rattled that white hasn't been mated already. Next comes a nice move... **22.dxc7** If the rook moves off the d-file, Nd6++ is checkmate. If the rook moves down the board, Rh8+ looks very good **22...Bb6 23.cxd8Q+ Nxd8 24.Rd1 a6 25.Nd6+ e5** better, with the threats of Rxd8 and a finish by the queen on b7 or f8. **25...Kb8 26.e5 Bc7 27.Rxc7** Some exchanges follow to proceed to the endgame with a winning advantage. **27...Kxc7 28.Ne8+ Kc8 29.Qf6 1-0** An exciting game, to give Jesmond the lead 2-1, but our luck ended there! MR - We know how good (and solid) David Henderson is. This must have been a terrible moment for him. Two games left, Jesmond are winning one, drawing the other and only two wins will give Tynemouth the title! Nerves are jangling on Board 3, notes from Andy Trevelyan

Andrew Trevelyan - Clive Waters (Tynemouth)

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.Nc30-0 5.e4 d6 6.d4 Nc6 7.d5 Nb8 8.Bg5 h6 9.Be3 Bg4 10.Qd2 Bxf3 11.Bxf3 Kh7 12.g4 Nfd7 13.g5 h5 14.0-0-0 c5 15.Qe2 Rh8 16.Bg2 Qa5 17.Bd2 a6 18.f4 b5 19.e5



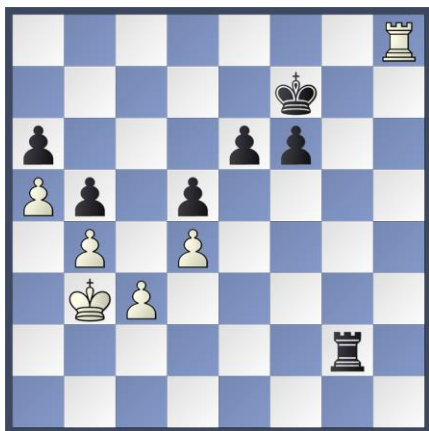
Nb6 MR - A mistake that should lose. b4 keeps Black's edge **20.Kb1** 20 e6 turns out to be very strong - I was rather preoccupied with its defensive role blocking the black square bishop, so hadn't considered this. One (perhaps slightly daft) line is 20 e6 Nc4 21 ef Qb4 threatening mate next move, but ... 22 Qxh4 gh 23 Be4# **20...Nc4 21.Bc1 Ra7 22.Be4 dxe5 23.Qxh5+** MR - Looks good but isn't really. After 23.f5 gxf5 24.Bxf5+ Kg8 25.g6 f6 26.Be6+ Kf8 27.Ne4 Black is completely tied up] **23...Kg8 24.Qg4 exf4 25.Rd3 Nd6 26.Bxf4 Nd7 27.Bxg6** MR - And now Black is back in the soup **27...Qb4 28.Bf5** 28. a3 either wins the queen (Qc4 29 b3), or if it

retreats to a5, the attack is crushing
 MR - Sample line being 28.a3 Qc4
 29.b3 Ne5 30.Qg3 Qxf4 31.Qxf4
 Nxg6 **28...Be5** I was expecting
 28.... Ne5, which is much better for
 black - retaining the defensive utility
 of the black square bishop **29.Rf3**
Nxf5 30.Qxf5 Bxc3 31.Rxc3 Qd4
32.Rd3 MR - Rf3 looks killing
32...Qf2 33.Rd2 Ok but all but g6
 finishes it **33...Qf3 34.Rdd1 Rxh2**
35.Rhf1 35. g6 Rxh1 36 Qxf7 with
 mate to follow - in fact g6 was the
 best move also on moves 33 and
 36. I had a big blind spot, which
 was daft because the entire prior
 aim was about breaking up the
 king's pawn defences, and I just
 kept missing the coup de grace. In
 fairness, I had less than a minute
 on the clock by that stage. **35...Rf2**
36.Rh1 Nf8 37.Qe5 Ng6 38.Qb8+
Kg7 39.Qxa7 39 Be5+ Nxe5 40.
 Qxe5 is killing at the end **39...Qxf4**
 MR - At which point I believe Andy -
 still winning comfortably - intended
 Qxc5 but instead.... **40.Qxe7** and
 there's no need to wait for Black's
 reply. A cruel game to lose **0-1** So
 2-2 and down to Board 2. Both
 players a little short on the clock as
 this game finished and the position
 was deadlocked. Notes from Paul
 Dargan – who has recreated the
 game from move 32 – at which
 point both players were under 5
 minutes.

Paul Dargan (Tynemouth) –
Chris Izod

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 dxe4
4.Nxe4 Bd7 5.Nf3 Bc6 6.Bd3 Nd7
7.0-0 Ngf6 8.Ng3 Be7 9.Re1 0-0
10.c3 Bxf3 11.Qxf3 c6 12.Bg5 Re8

13.Rad1?! Better a3 13...Qa5
14.Bxf6 Nxf6 15.a3 Qd5 16.Qe2
Bd6 17.Bc4 Qg5 18.Qf3 Bxg3
19.Qxg3 19.hxg3 e5 19...Qxg3 MR
 – The rock solid Fort Knox variation
 in the hands of Chris Izod is a no
 fun experience for White. This is
 dead level **20.hxg3 Rad8 21.Bb3**
Rd6 22.Re2 Red8 23.Rde1 g6
24.Bc2 Kf8 25.f3 h5 26.Kf2 Ke7
27.Be4 Kd7 28.f4 Re8 29.Bf3 Kc7
30.Rh1 Kb6 31.Ree1 Rd7 32.Re5
Rc8 This is where I stopped
 recording MR - And at which point I
 ordered the bus for Gosforth's
 celebration tour. If anything Black
 has a tiny edge. This game is going
 nowhere. **33.Ree1 a6 34.Rc1 Ka7**
35.Rhe1 b5 36.b4 Kb6 37.a4 Ra7
38.Re5 Rc8 Paul has attempted to
 recreate the moves from memory
 so these might not be 100%
 accurate. But in this position a5+,
 c4 and Rc5 start to open a little
 window for White **39.Ra1 Nd5**
40.a5+ Kb7 41.Re2 Ne7...Nxc3
 42.Bxc6+ Kxc6 43.Rc1 is fine for
 Black – but 10 seconds a move!
42.Rea2 Nd5 43.Bxd5 cxd5
44.Ke2 Kc8 45.Kd2 Kc7 46.Rh1
Kd6 47.Rh4 Ke7 48.g4 hxg4
49.Rxg4 Rg8 50.Kd3 f6 MR - No
 Pawn moves required! **51.Re2 Kf7**
52.Re3 Rh8 53.Reg3 Rg8 54.Kd2
Rg7 55.Kd3 Ra8 56.Ke2 Rag8
57.Rh3 g5 58.fxg5 Rxg5 59.Rh7+
R5g7 60.Rgh4 Rc8 61.Kd2 Rcg8
62.Kc2 Rxh7 63.Rxh7+ Rg7
64.Rh8 Rxg2+ MR - It's still very
 much in Draw territory. But for sure,
 White isn't winning **65.Kb3**



65....e5 65...f5! 66.Ra8 f4 67.Rxa6 f3 68.Ra7+ Kf6 69.Ra8 f2 (69...Kg7; 69...Rg7 70.Rf8+ Rf7 71.Rxf7+

Kxf7 72.a6 f2 73.a7 f1Q 74.a8Q Qb1+) 70.Rf8+ Ke7 **66.dxe5 fxe5 67.Ra8 e4 68.Rxa6 Rg6? 68...e3 69.Rh6 e2 70.Rh1 69.Rxg6 Kxg6 70.Kc2** And that, ladies and gentlemen, is how Championships are won and lost. I understand Chris believed he had to win this game (and match) given Jesmond's precarious position in the league. And indeed - 65....f5 would have given him every chance. But that's life. Well done Paul Dargan, well done Tynemouth. **1-0**

MOTD2 – MORPETH B v GOSFORTH IVY

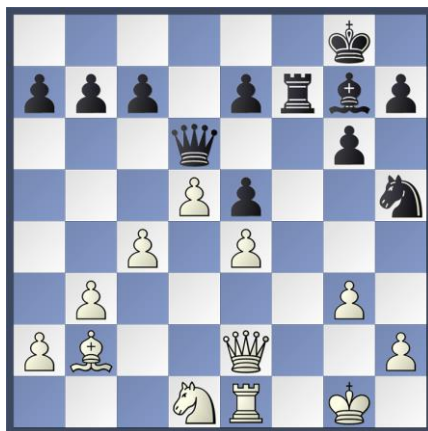
At the time this match was played the Division 2 title was still very much up for grabs. Whilst the Ivy had chalked up seven consecutive wins Morpeth B maintained their challenge only dropping one match point to Tynedale. A win would put 'Peth in pole position, both teams fielded strong sides.

Board 3 was a fairly quiet affair.

look to grind 'Cornwall style' ½-½

Ray Devenney, Ray – Bob Mitcheson (Morpeth)

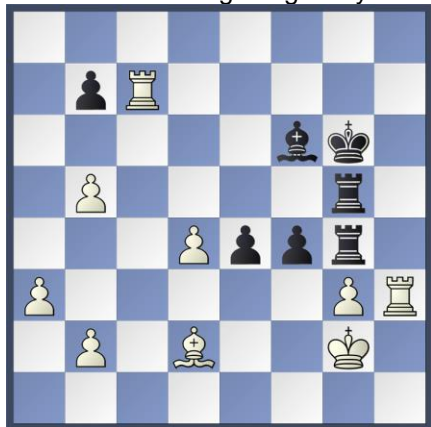
1.d4 f5 2.c4 Nf6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.Nf3 0-0 6.0-0 d6 7.Nc3 Nc6 8.d5 Ne5 9.Nxe5 dxe5 10.e4 f4 11.b3 fxc3 12.fxc3 Bg4 13.Qc2 Qd7 14.Ba3 Rf7 15.Rae1 Raf8 16.Nd1 Bh3 17.Bb2 Bxg2 18.Qxg2 Qd6 19.Qe2 Nh5 20.Rxf7 Rxf7 Diagram opposite **21.Rf1** I think White has to go Kxg2 and avoid exchanging all Rooks if he's looking for a win **Rxf1+ 22.Qxf1 Qf6** And a draw was agreed. Only White can play on for a win here, say with Nf2 then Qa1 and



The deadlock was broken on Board 4....

Alan Welsh (Morpeth) – Mark McKay

1.d4 d5 2.e3 Nc6 3.f4 Nf6 4.Nf3 g6
5.c3 a6 6.Bd3 Bg7 7.Qe2 0-0
8.Nbd2 Bg4 9.0-0 Qd7 10.Qe1 e4
looks necessary to give White some
play 10...Bf5 11.Ne5 Nxe5 12.Bxf5
gxf5 Nf3+ then Qxf5 looks better
13.fxe5 Ne4 14.Rf3 f6 15.exf6 Bxf6
16.Qf1 e6 17.Nxe4 dxe4 18.Rg3+
Kh8 19.Bd2 Rg8 20.Rh3 Not bad
but White could try Bc1 and look to
get his Bishop into the game
20...Rg4 21.Qe2 Rag8 22.g3 R8g5
23.Rf1 h5 keeps White cramped
23...e5 24.Kg2 Kg7 25.a3 Qb5
26.Qxb5 axb5 27.Rc1 h5 28.c4 h4
Better ed then f4 29.cxb5 hxg3
30.Rxc7+ Kg6 31.hxg3 f4 32.exf4
And now for White de is better
32...exf4 33.Rc5 Kf1 offers more
resistance but it's getting tricky now



33...Rxc7+ 34.Rxc7 Rxc7+ 35.Kh2
e3 36.Be1 Rg4 37.Rc8 f3 38.Rg8+
Kf5 39.Rxg4 Kxg4 40.Kg1 Bxd4
41.b3 e2+ And 0-1. A well played

middle/endgame by Black 0-1

Pressure was now building on
Morpeth. Stalwart Phil Eastlake was
striving to pull things back on Board
2.

Phil Eastlake (Morpeth) – John Liddle

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4
4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 d6 6.f3 e6 7.Be3
Be7 8.Qd2 0-0 9.0-0-0 a6 10.Be2
Qc7 11.g4 b6 He should prefer b5,
this loses a tempo in the K v
Queenside pawn rush 12.Rdg1 Or
does it? g5 is more appealing
12...Nxd4 13.Bxd4 Bb7 14.h4 Rac8
This move (prefer b5) was
accompanied by a draw offer -
turned down because of the match
situation 15.Nb1 Better Kb1.
Advantage Black 15...b5 Which
would be consolidated with e5
followed by d5 16.b3 e5 17.Bb2
Rfd8 18.Bd3 d5 19.exd5



19....Bxd5 Although Black is well
on top, Nxd5 is virtually winning e.g.
19...Nxd5 20.Re1 Bb4 21.c3 Nf4
22.Re3 Qb6 23.Rhe1 Bc5] 20.Rh3
e4 21.fxe4 Bxe4 Here Nxe4 and

Qf4+ look better. Either way, White is having a tough time here **22.Qe2 Bxd3 23.Rxd3 Rxd3 24.Qxd3 Qh2** Still on top but Nd5 takes advantage of White's cramped position [24...Nd5 25.Na3 Rd8 26.Qf3 Qa5 27.Rf1 f6 28.Nb1 Bc5] **25.Re1 Qf4+ 26.Qe3 Qxe3+ 27.Rxe3 Kf8** After this it's just about level. Bc5 pushes for the win. [27...Bc5 28.Rg3 Bd6 29.Rg1 Bh2 30.Rg2 Bf4+ 31.Kd1 Nd5] **28.g5** And now a draw was agreed. Phil must have been exhausted! $\frac{1}{2}$ – $\frac{1}{2}$ So 2-1 Gosforth and two remaining. Realistically Morpeth needed both, at worse they mustn't lose the match. Onto top Board where the visitors Chris Goodall was going his own merry way in the opening.

Chris Goodall – Martin Seeber (Morpeth)

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.f3 Nf6 5.Bg5 Enterprising but fe seems simple and obvious **5...e3** And pays off as h6 is more direct **6.Bc4 e6 7.Qe2 Be7 8.Bxe3 Nbd7 9.Nh3 Nb6 10.Bb3 Nbd5 11.g4 Nxe3 12.Qxe3 Bd7 13.Nf4 Nd5 14.Nfxd5 cxd5** Here taking with the e pawn looks better. White can hardly castle Kingside and if he castles long Black is ready with a pawn storm **15.0–0 0–0 16.h4 b5 17.Ne2 b4 18.c3 bxc3 19.Nxc3 a5 20.Bc2 Bb4 Rb8, Qb6** and charge seems more like **21.Qd3 g6 22.h5 Be8 Qg5+**, connecting Rooks and threatening Rfc8 perhaps **23.f4 f5 24.gxf5 Rxf5 25.Qg3**



25...Bxc3 It's hard to see compensation for this sac **26.Bxf5 Bxb2+ 27.Kxb2 Rb8+ 28.Ka1 exf5 29.Qe3 Qf6 30.h6 Ba4 31.Rb1 Re8 32.Qd2 Bd7 33.Rb7 Qd6 34.Qxa5 Bc8 35.Rg7+ Kh8 36.Qa7** Quite a struggle and one of those games where its easy to say after what should/shouldn't happen, but a bit harder in the here and now! **1–0** And that was that as far as the match was concerned. But Board 5 saw Ivy round off a great night.

Jack Erskine-Pereira – John Horton

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 e6 3.e3 b6 4.Nf3 Bb7 5.Bd3 d5 6.c3 Nbd7 7.Nbd2 Bd6 8.Bg3 Ne4 9.Qc2 f5 10.Bxd6 Nxd6 cxd6 is better. Covering e5 and opening up the c file **11.c4 Ne4 12.cxd5 Nxd2 13.Qxd2 Bxd5 14.Qe2 Qe7 15.a3** I prefer **0–0** or **Rc1 15...Bxf3 16.Qxf3 0–0 17.0–0 c5 18.Bc4 Rac8** Perhaps b8 is a better square **19.Qb7 Kh8** And here **Kf7** improves. White is doing well now **20.Bb5 Rfd8 21.Rad1 c4 22.d5 e5 23.d6 Qe6 24.Rc1 A**

mistake. The simple Qxa7 starts the beginning of the end **24...Nc5** **25.Qe7** And again. Now Black is okay after Qxd6 but.....



25...f4 26.Bxc4 Nope, Rxc4
26...Qg4 And again Qxd6 might yet save Black. But in real life time and other pressures play their part
27.h3 Qf5 28.b4 fxe3 29.f3 There's no reason not to play fxe3 **29...Nd7**
 And **1-0** A resounding win by Gosforth Ivy which confirmed them as Division 2 Champions with a game to spare.

Before moving on to our individual championships Paul Richardson has kindly produced a summary of what's going on across the patch to mitigate the impact of Coronavirus on the local chess community

CHESS v CORONAVIRUS

We are living in unusual and difficult times when there are clearly far more important things to worry

about than chess. However, in an effort to maintain some element of 'normality' during the present lockdown, a number of clubs have moved fully online. Two main platforms – chess.com and lichess.org – provide the main means by which local clubs can safely continue to enjoy regular gatherings and some social chess.

Thus far, Durham City, Forest Hall, Gosforth, Morpeth, South Shields and Tynemouth have established active online clubs. Although the majority have set up a single camp on lichess.org, Durham City, Forest Hall and Morpeth have established a second presence on chess.com. Regardless of which site is chosen, there is no charge to join and chess can be enjoyed any time against both known and unknown competitors.

There is very little restriction on what can be done online. Individual and team matches or tournaments can be arranged (indeed Tim Wall has entered a Northumbria Vikings team in the new Four Nations Online League, which we'll look at in issue 162), and time limits can go from seconds per contest to days per move. Over at chess.com, teams can even work together in 'vote chess' matches against other local, national or international teams. This type of fixture is especially useful in offering opportunities for members to share

ideas and to do some collaborative learning.

Most of the mentioned clubs are holding online weekly meetings and tournaments in line with their established nights and times. Gosforth meets every Monday beginning at 4 p.m. with its regular session for juniors followed by some 15-minute games for senior members. Tynemouth has a get-together every Tuesday from 7.30 p.m. with a rapidplay tournament, likewise Morpeth on Wednesday. South Shields hosts its own club competitions for a couple of hours every Thursday evening. Forest Hall, which has plans in place to start a regular junior session on chesskids.com, meets every Friday night at chess.com.

By extension, a Saturday night inter-club competition is organised on lichess.org and, with 35 people from six clubs taking part in the first event, this promises to be very popular in the weeks (and possibly months) ahead. The aim is to involve not only all the teams belonging to the Northumberland Chess Association, but also our friends and neighbours in County Durham.

The main message is that, if you have the technology, there are ample opportunities for you to continue playing chess and – perhaps more importantly – to remain in contact with other

members of the local chess community. If your club is not currently represented on either chess.com or lichess.org, then reach out to your team-mates and establish your own group or join one of the existing clubs.

Here is one final idea to consider. For those of you who prefer ‘proper’ chess and want to have visual contact with an opponent, you also have the option of arranging to play matches using Skype or FaceTime. All you each need is a chess set and, if you want to make things a little more realistic, a timer.

Keep safe and carry on playing chess!

A great round up – thank you Paul. Darlington also hold Monday and Thursday sessions online. A summary of what’s on is included under Forthcoming Events later in this bulletin.

And now David Walker reports on our individual championships.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS 2019-20

The county championships are currently suspended until 12 June due to the coronavirus outbreak. If it has not been possible to resume by

that date, then the suspension will be reviewed again.

Yichen Han is in a strong position in the **Zollner**. He leads his closest rival James Moreby by half a point, and James has already played and lost his round 6 game. Scores after 5 rounds are -

Yichen Han 4½, James Moreby 4, Max Turner 3 David Henderson, Roger Coathup, Andrew Lawson, John Boyd, Chris Izod 2½, Andy Trevelyan, Paul Dargan 2 Paul Bielby 1½. Tim Wall has withdrawn. In the following game from **round 4**, **Paul Dargan** playing White sacrifices a rook and a piece to lure **James Moreby's** king into the middle of the board, but James beats back the attack with cool defence.

1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.Bc4 Nb6 7.Bb3 d6 8.exd6 Qxd6 9.0-0 Be6 10.Na3 a6 11.Bxe6 Qxe6 12.Nxd4 Nxd4 13.Qxd4 Rd8 14.Qh4 Qc6 15.Re1 e6 16.Bg5 Rd5 17.Nc2 h6 18.Nd4 Qc8 19.Rxe6+!? Black has a nice structure, so white tries to take advantage of his lead in development before black catches up. 19...fxe6 20.Qh5+ Kd7 21.Qf7+ Kd6 22.Bf4+ e5 23.Re1 These moves have been forced since white's rook sacrifice, but now the computer prefers 23... Qd7 which is complicated but apparently slightly better for black. **23...exf4** see diagram next column **24.Re6+?! Trying to win, but objectively white should play 24.Qxf4+ which leads**



Position after Black's 23...exf4

to a draw 24...Kd7 (if 24...Kc5?? 25.b4+ Kc4 26.Nc6+ Kxc3 27.Qc1+ Kd3 28.Re3#) 25.Qf7+ Kd6 26.Qf4+ with with perpetual check. **24...Kc5** Looks risky, but if black is careful the king is safe. **25.b4+ Kc4 26.Qxf4 Bd6?! Black is willing to give back a piece to stop the attack, but white need not take it! Apparently 26...Qd7 is best, with an idea to play Rxd4 when black is better. 27.Qe3? Now white is lost. 27.Qe4 keeps him in the game. 27...Re5! 28.Rxe5 Bxe5 29.Nc2 If 29.Qxe5 then 29...Re8! 29...Bxc3 30.Qe4+ Kb5 31.Qd3+ Ka4 32.Ne3 Bxb4 33.Nc2 Qc4 0-1**

Onto the **Sell** where Darren Laws and Martin Seeber share the lead. Scores after 5 rounds are - Martin Seeber, Darren Laws 4, Bob Mitcheson, Ciaran Macdonald, John Clarke, John Little 2½, John Marsh, Steve Burnell 2, Andrew Robinson, Stuart Skelsey 1½

Here is a game from **Round 5** in which the Sell joint leader **Darren Laws** (Black) crashes through with a queenside attack against **John Clarke**.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.f4 Unusual in this position, 6. Ndb5 and 6. Nxc6 are much more common. **6...Bb4 7.Nxc6 bxc6 8.Bd3 d5 9.Bd2 Qb6 10.Qe2 dxe4 11.Bxe4 Ba6 12.Bd3 Bxd3 13.Qxd3 Rd8 14.Qf3 Nd5 15.0-0-0 Rb8 16.Na4?! This** allows black to gain time for his attack. The computer prefers the scary-looking **16.Kb1 0-0 17.b3** but I think most human players would prefer black here. **16...Bxd2+ 17.Rxd2 Qb4 18.b3 0-0 19.c4 Qa3+ 20.Rb2 Nb4 21.Kb1**



Nxa2! 22.Nc5? Now white is lost. He had to try **22.Rd1**; If **22.Rxa2? Rxb3+ 23.Ka1 Rxf3** winning. **22...Qxc5 23.Rxa2 Qxc4 24.Rb2 Qd5 25.Qe3 a5 26.Rc1 Rfd8 27.g3 g6 28.Rc5 Qd1+ 29.Rc1 Qd3+ 30.Qxd3 Rxd3 31.Rxc6 Rdx6 32.Rxb3 Rxb3+ 33.Kc2 Rf3 4.Ra6 Rf2+ 35.Kc3 Rxh2 36.Rxa5 Rg2**

0-1

After 5 rounds in the **Gilroy**, Jeff Baird is the sole leader by half a point from Mark McKay. Scores are - Jeff Baird 4½ Mark McKay 4 Eddie Czeszochowski, Weiming Xu, Morgan French, Kevin Cox, David Peardon 3½, Ray Li, Asa Bayram, Arun Mohindra 3, Ian Rook, Bob Heyman, Paul Richardson, Bill Noble, Asanga Gunasekera, James McKay 2½, Stan Johnson, Colin McGarty 2 Joe Miller, Brendan Glasper 1½ Peter Wells 1. Jack Erskine-Pereira, Sophie Atkinson, Matthew Jepson and Rob Appleby have withdrawn.

From the Gilroy, here is **Asa Bayram** (Black) in **Round 5**, winning with a nice piece sacrifice against former Gilroy winner **Bill Noble**.

1.d4 d5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Bf4 c5 4.dxc5?! 4.e3 is more usual here. **4...e6 4...d4! 5.Nb1 Nc6** gives black a slight edge. **5.e3 a6 6.Nf3 Bxc5 7.Bd3 Nc6 8.a3 Bd6 9.Bg3 e5 10.Be2 e4 11.Nd4 0-0 12.Na4 Be6 13.Nxe6 fxe6 14.c4 Rc8 15.0-0 Bxg3 16.hxg3 Ne5 17.c5?** Taking the pressure off black's centre gives him a free hand on the kingside. **17.cxd5 exd5 18.Nc3** is about equal. **17...Qe8** Now Qg6 followed by either N to g4 and Qh5 is a big threat. **18.f4 exf3 19.gxf3 Qg6 20.Kg2 Rc7** The computer finds **20...Ne4!! 21.fxe4 Rxf1 22.Bxf1 Qxe4+ 23.Kg1 Rf8** with a winning attack. **21.Rh1 21.Qd4!** keeps white in the game. **21...Rcf7**

22.Qd4 Too late!

22...Nxf3! Very nice.

23.Bxf3 Ne4 24.Rh3 If 24.Bxe4

then 24...Rf2+ 25.Kg1 Qxg3+

26.Bg2 Rxg2#

24...Rxf3 25.Qe5 Ng5 26.Rh2 Rf2+ 0-1

AFTER LOCKDOWN



NORTH EAST CHESS LEAGUE

With just one Sunday of fixtures to complete the inaugural season of Tim Wall's North East League, it fell victim to the Coronavirus. More so a shame when you see how tight the table is. Newcastle Magpies 2-3 reversal against Durham Bishops – who only fielded 3 players, might have opened the door for the chasing pack.

North East League	NM	DB	FHW	FS	EHG	FHV	BP	TOT
Newcastle Magpies		2	3	3	4		2	14
Durham Bishops	3			2	3.5	3.5	1	13
Forest Hall Wizards	2			2	3	2.5	2.5	12
Fewster's Shipmates	2	3	3			3.5	0	11.5
Emperor Hadrian's Gladiators	1	1.5	2			3	3.5	11
Forest Hall Vikings		1.5	2.5	1.5	2		2.5	10

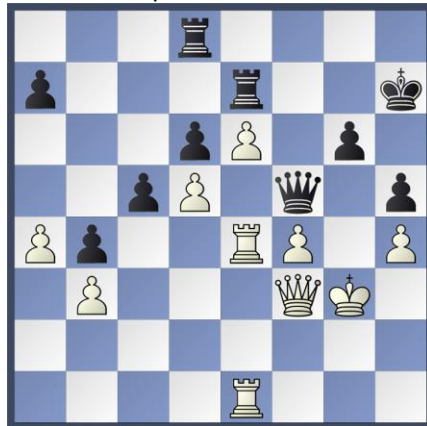
In the Bishops v Magpies match on Board 2, Ken Neat (White) had already missed an opportunity against Paul Dargan before the following position arose – after 32.f4....



And after **32...exf4** Ken needed no second invitation. To be fair, in the diagram position there's no good continuation for Black. Bxc4 or Nxd5 and he's still on the back foot. The game finished....**33 Qh8 Nxd5 34 Qxh7+ Kf8 35 Qh8+ Kf7 36 Qxc8 Qxc8 37 Nxd6+ Ke6 38 Nxc8 Bxf1 39 Kxf1 fxc3 40 hxc3 Kd7 41 Na7 Nc3 42 Kf2 Kc7 43 Ke3 Kb8 44 Kd3 1-0** Ken is still nobody's fool. The Round 4 top board game between Vikings Daniel Gormally and Gladiators Chris Izod saw the latter put up a typically stoic resistance. Chris provides notes.....

Chris Izod – Daniel Gormally
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.g3 Ba6 5.Qc2 c5 6.d5 exd5 7.cxd5 d6 8.Bg2 Be7 9.0-0 0-0 10.Re1 b5 11.a4 b4 12.b3 Nbd7 12...Nxd5 13.Ng5 Bxg5 14.Bxd5 13.e4 Ng4

14.Bb2 Bf6 15.Bxf6 Qxf6 16.Nbd2 Nde5 17.h3 Nxf3+ 18.Nxf3 Ne5 19.Nxe5 Qxe5 20.Rad1 Rac8 21.f4 Qe7 22.Bf1 Fritz prefers e5 with complications. The exchange of bishops does take the sting out of black's c4 ideas for now. **22...Bxf1 23.Kxf1 f6 24.Kg2 Qf7 25.Re3 Kh8 26.Qe2 Rfe8 27.h4 Rcd8 28.g4 Re7 29.Kg3 Rde8 30.Re1 g6 31.Qa6 31.g5 f5 32.Qa6 31...Rd8 32.g5 h5 33.gxf6 Qxf6 34.e5 Qf5 35.Qe2 Kh7 36.Qf3 Rf7 37.e6 Re7 38.Re4** the Pawn is poisoned



38...Rf8 38...Qxd5 39.f5 Qxf5 (39...gxf5?? 40.Qxh5+ Kg8 41.Rg4+!!) 40.Rf4 Qc2 41.Rf7+ Rxf7 42.Qxf7+ and there is a perpetual 39.R4e3 39.Rc4 sets up a fortress type position where it is hard to see how black can make progress. 39...Kg7 40.Rf1 Rf6 41.Re2 Kf8 lost on time – bother 0-1

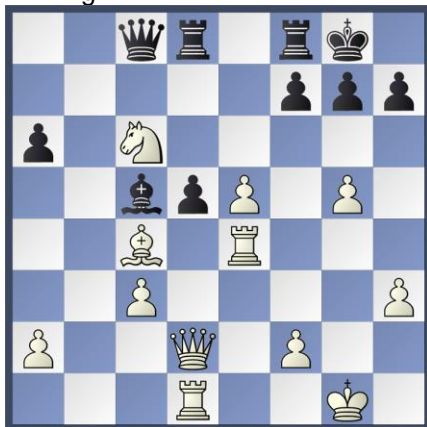
FM TITLES FOR NORTH EAST STARS

Next up we look at how two of the countries finest juniors – James Moreby and Yichen Han - achieved their FM titles in quick succession. The title is awarded as the moment you achieve a live (that very moment) FIDE 2300 rating – and it's for life. Drop below 2300 (by losing your next game say), you are still an FM. First up was Yichen and here is the actual game that took him to the magic number, Round 3 of the 4NCL weekend, January, Harrogate.....

Yichen Han – Robert Starley

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 d5 3.Bf4 c5 4.e3 Nc6 5.Nbd2 Bg4 6.c3 e6 7.Qb3 Qc8 8.Bb5 Nd7 9.h3 Bh5 10.0-0 a6 11.Be2 c4 12.Qd1 Be7 13.e4 0-0 14.Re1 b5 15.g4 Looks a bit loose and maybe exchanging on d5 then Nf1 – e3 is more precise **15...Bg6 16.exd5 exd5 17.Ne5 Ncxe5 18.Bxe5 Nxe5 19.dxe5 Qc5** At this point Yichen must have been a bit nervous. Black is fine and can even improve with Qc7 **20.Nf3 Rad8 21.Qd4 Qc6** f6 looks a good move here. If White pushes you'd expect the isolated pawn to drop eventually. And if he takes then the open f file is a worry. **22.Qf4 Bc5 23.Nd4 Qb6 24.Rad1 . Be4 25.g5 25...b4** Again f6 throws the game open. White's King is more exposed **26.Bxc4** With a slight edge **27.bxc3 Qb2 28.Qd2 28...Qb8 29.Nc6 Qc8**

30.Rxe4 or **30.Nxd8 Qxh3 31.Rxe4 Qg3+ (31...dxe4) 32.Kf1 Qh3+ 33.Ke2 Qh5+ 34.Ke1 (34.Kd3 Qf3+) 34...Qh1+ 35.Bf1 Qxe4+ 36.Qe2 Qxe2+ 37.Kxe2 Rxd8 38.f4** White is ahead but the game still needs winning



30...Qxc6 And finally he cracks.

30...dxe4 31.Nxd8 Qxh3 32.Bf1 Qg4+ 33.Bg2 e3 is behind but offering far more resistance **31.Bxd5 Qg6 32.e6 Bxf2+ 33.Qxf2 Rxd5 34.exf7+ Kh8 35.Rxd5 Qxe4 36.Rd8 Qe7 37.Rxf8+ Qxf8 38.c4 h6 39.g6 a5 40.Qe3 a4 41.Qe8 a3 42.Qxf8#** So at the age of 12 years and 2 months Yichen became the youngest Dutch player in history to achieve the FM title. A great performance at the Irish New Year Norm events put him within touching distance..

Yichen Han – Gavin Melaugh

1.d4 f5 2.Nf3 e6 3.Bf4 Nf6 4.e3 b6 5.Nbd2 Bb7 6.Bd3 Be7 7.h3 0-0 8.c3 Ne4 9.Rg1 c5 10.g4 d5 11.gxf5 exf5 12.Ne5 Nd7 And with this natural looking piece development goes the game, **cxd4.**

and the weird looking Bh4 are better. **13.Bxe4 dxe4** If fxe4 then 15.Qg4 threatens mate and the Knight on d7 **14.Qb3+ Kh8 15.Nf7+ Rxf7 16.Qxf7 Bf6 17.Nc4 cxd4 18.exd4 Nc5 19.dxc5 Bd5**



Is Black escaping? **20.Nd6 1-0** No! 20...Qxd6 21.Qxg7+ Bxg7 22.cxd6 and White is way ahead. In round 8 **Yichen** (White) faced **George Freewis**

1.d4 e6 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Bf4 Be7 4.e3 Nh5 5.Bg3 Nxg3 6.hxg3 d6 7.Bd3 h6 8.c4 Nd7 9.Nc3 c6 10.Qc2 d5 11.0-0 dxc4 12.Bxc4 b5 13.Bd3 Bb7 14.Rfd1 Qb6 15.a4 a6 16.axb5 16...cxb5 17.Be4 0-0 18.d5 f5 19.d6 Bxe4 19...Bf6 is better here when after say 20.Bxb7 Qxb7 21.Nd4 Black is slightly behind but nothing awful **20.Nxe4 Bd8 21.Nc3 Rc8** And again Bf6. White's edge is building **22.Qb3 Rf6 22...Nc5 23.Rac1 Rc4 24.Ne2 Nc5 25.Qa2 Ra4** This Rook is heading for bother **26.Qb1 Nd7 27.b3 Rb4 28.Qc2 e5** And here Qb7 is a necessity but Black is close to lost say after 29.Nfd4 Bb6

30. Qd2 a5 31.Nc6 the a Pawn is dropping off **29.Qc8 Rf7 30.Rc6 1-0** 30...Qb8 (Qa5 31.Rc7) 31.Qxb8 Nxb8 32. Rc8



The final position doesn't tell the full story. If you have a chess program run this game through it and look at the evaluation move by move. See how White cranks the pressure up little by little, culminating in the crushing end.

BBC Inside Out followed up on Yichen's progress since his first feature last year. He was invited to play one of the production team, Simon Pride – they are pictured here about to get down to business.



It's a short piece about 26 minutes in on
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000gyv1/inside-out-north-east-and-cumbria-30032020>

James Moreby is a talent we have enjoyed for many years now and it's very easy to forget he is still a very young man. In February, downtown Noisiel (France) he was making his own charge toward the FM title. Round 1 saw a relatively straightforward win – but the manner of it is quite educational...

James Moreby – Carl Brehaut

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e6 3.e4 d6 4.d4 Nbd7 5.Nf3 e5 6.Be2 c6 7.0-0 Qc7 8.h3 g6 Black's opening play looks a little disjointed to me. 8 moves and he seems very cramped **9.Be3 exd4 10.Qxd4 Ne5 11.Rfd1 Be6 12.c5** Here we go. Stuff starts dropping off **12...Rd8 12...0-0-0 13.Na4 Be7 14.cxd6 Nxf3+ 15.Bxf3 Rxd6 16.Qxa7 13.Bf4 Bg7 14.cxd6 Nxf3+ 15.Bxf3 Qd7 Qb6** better, but this is not good **16.Be5 c5 17.Qxc5 0-0 18.Qd4 Ne8 19.Bxg7 Nxb7 20.Qxa7** That's 3 pawns! **20...Ra8 21.Qb6 Ra6 22.Qb4 Rc8 23.e5 b6 24.Ne4 Ne8 25.Nf6+ Nxf6 26.exf6 Ra4 27.Qd2** then Qh6 and checkmate so... **Rh4 28.Qg5 Rcc4** See diagram next column **29.Bg4 Rhxg4 30.Qh6 Rxg2+ Desperate and pointless 31.Kxg2 Qc6+ 32.Kg1** James made that look simple **1-0**



Moreby v Brehaut Position after Black's 28th Rcc4

In Round 4 James faced the 2403 rated Viani D'cunha

Viani D'cunha – James Moreby

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.f4 c5 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Ne2 Be7 7 moves and you'd prefer Black! **8.c3 0-0! 9.g3 cxd4 10.cxd4 Qb6 11.Bh3 Kh8 12.Rf1** Odd. Why didn't he castle? **12...f6 13.Nc3 fxe5 14.dxe5 Nc5**



The King should be running to g2.
 The discovered check after Kf2 isn't

too much to worry about. After Rf2 though..... **15.Rf2 d4 16.Nb1 Nb4 17.Bf1 d3** Or Ne4 - Black is winning **18.Nc3 Nc2+ Bd7** or Rd8 - there is no rush **19.Rxc2 dxc2 20.Qxc2 Rd8 21.Bd2 Bd7 22.b4 Na6 23.b5 Nc5 24.a4 Be8 25.g4 Bg6 26.f5 exf5 27.gxf5 Bh5 28.Bg5** Of course not good but what else? **28...Bxg5 29.Nxg5 Nd3+ 30.Bxd3 Qg1+ 31.Bf1 Qxg5 32.Qf2 Rac8 0-1** And finally onto Round 9, a win is required to crack that magic 2300.....

James Moreby - S Dharja Parnali

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e6 3.e4 d5 4.e5 Nfd7 5.f4 c5 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Be3 Qb6 8.Na4 Qa5+ 9.c3 cxd4 10.b4 Qc7 11.Nxd4 a6 12.Qd2 Be7 13.Be2 b5 14.Nb2 Bb7 15.a4 bxa4 Castles looks better. White is sneaking ahead **16.Nxa4 0-0 17.0-0 Rfc8** Probably time for exchanging on d4 and looking to plonk the d7 Knight on c4 via b6 **18.Nb3 f6** Too loosening and why? Her pieces are on the other side of the board

19.exf6 Nxf6



White is now winning. The difference between these guys and us though is a) They win and b) It looks easy! **20.Nb6 Ne4 21.Qd3 Bf6 22.Nxa8 Rxa8 23.Rac1 Qf7 24.Bf3 e5 25.Qb1 exf4 26.Bxe4 dxe4 27.Bxf4 Ne7 28.Nc5 Nd5 29.Nxb7 Qxb7 30.Qxe4 Qb6+ 31.Kh1 Rd8 32.Rcd1 Nxc3 33.Qc4+ Kh8 34.Bc7 1-0** Very well done James, Yichen and your very supportive families.

WHO's BEHIND THE PIECES?

Our guest contributor this edition is **Eddie Czystochowski**. Started one man business – now employs 30, beat cancer, supports various charity and local chess initiatives and one of our own – easy choice I think. So.....

I suppose I could be described as a Born Again Chess Player , having played chess incessantly from the age of 13 to 19 in the Bradford Area for both my school and Shipley , I got to a reasonable level of ability but then life took over and I moved to Manchester to go to college and stopped playing completely . I then spent the next 30 years doing all those other things that get in the way of a good game of chess, like raising a family, work and everything else. What I hadn't appreciated was that it was those early years of playing chess as a child, that had moulded my mind and my attitude to life. Those lessons in persistence, concentration, planning, strategy, tactics, winning from lost

positions, the confidence gained by playing against people from all age groups and abilities. I subconsciously must have used those skills whilst building my own business.

21 years ago, I decided to set up my own business, utilising the knowledge and experience gained from my career in the Battery Industry. I set up a company specialising in the production and assembly of customised battery packs. Taking it slowly and surely, with the odd calculated risk here and then took it from a one-man band to where we are today, a 30 strong successful and stable business based in South Shields.

About 8 years ago I built my own factory and without going into all the details this highest point in my career also eventually led me to a low point in my health. It led me into a point in my life where the all the stresses around at that time put me into a deep depression, with solid headaches for weeks on end. I was visiting the doctors on a regular basis and being tested for all sorts of things. I was put on statins and high blood pressure tablets, but nothing improved. Then one day around 18 months after this all began, I was sitting in a Seminar about mental health and it eventually dawned on me that what I was suffering was severe stress. I decided to speak with the person who delivered the talk and who turned out to be a Professional Hypnotherapist. After a couple of sessions, she made me realise that I had spent so many years concentrating on other people, family, building a business and employees that I didn't really do anything that was purely for myself. That's the point I found chess again. As all chess players know it is a sport or mind game that pits you against your opponent and you can only depend on your own ability. In business you need a team around you and no matter how good the team is you can lose a big contract if someone lets you down.

As luck would have it, I discovered that South Shields Chess Club played at the pub literally 10 minutes' walk from my house. Incredible really but having lived there for more than 20 years I had never come across them before. I went along one Thursday night and met with Stan Johnson and Ian Maughan and others and after a few weeks I had been bitten by the Chess bug again. I also met Simon McGuinness, who I had known as my optician for more 25 years, I had no idea that he was such a good chess player. I realised that to kick start the club again we would need to raise its profile. Over the next few years with the help of the club we have now grown substantially.

Chess came to rescue a second time after the Blackpool Congress in 2018. I returned home and became ill from what I had self-diagnosed as food poisoning from a dodgy fish on the Promenade and a few pints of Guinness. A reluctant visit to the Doctors led to a visit to A and E and then 7 days in

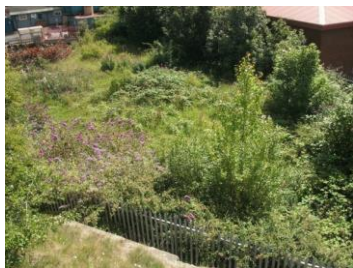
Hospital. Shortly after I had been diagnosed with Stomach Cancer. The whole thing was like a whirlwind and within 3 months I was sat at home starting a new life following a total Gastrectomy. Nothing will convince me that if I hadn't been playing chess that weekend the Cancer would have spread beyond repair.

Chess remains my passion , my ambition in to break the 150 ECF mark but the reality is that my concentration and focus often wavers and like many players we strive to get better but our consistency to win doesn't match our desire to win .

With the help of the indefatigable Paul Bielby and stalwarts Roy and Stan I have been running a Library Chess Initiative at The Word each Saturday afternoon. It is a joy to teach Chess to the youngsters that come along. It has proved very successful and has now spawned an after-school Club at Westoe Crown Infants that has been looked after by Mick Riding and a second was due to start at St Gregory's Infants after Easter.

The Corona Pandemic put paid to many things, over the board chess has totally disappeared to be replaced temporarily one hopes with the online versions. One thing is for sure we have to continue to raise the profile and get it back into the public eye, do things a bit different. How about doing something wacky like arranging the next big local congress for the benefit of the NHS and maybe do it in fancy dress.

Well – loved it Eddie thank you. It's not everybody's cup of tea, baring themselves like this. But it's refreshing and a nice change to game after game I hope. So if you know somebody who has a little bit more to tell than we might guess, please post me a nomination. Now some pictures – and a little addendum featuring Eddie's latest venture.



First up – the wasteland Eddie bought as the site for CellPack Solutions home base. And then the finished product, complete with ECO friendly solar panels.



Next up is Eddie with Lewis Self, promoting the South Shields chess initiative at the town's library, The Word. Next at the top of Kala Patthar after visiting Everest Base Camp. Wow! And finally....



This year Eddie had planned to attempt the Camino de Santiago .The Pandemic has put all of that on the back burner for a year and instead he is doing it in his back garden and factory. He will walk the 280km over 28 days, commencing 13th of April at 5000 steps per day.

Wonderful – and if you wish you can sponsor Eddie on <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/eddie-czestochowski1> - all proceeds are going to the NHS.

AND 50 YEARS AGO

John Turnock, pictured on our front cover, first up on the right, reminisces.

Fifty years ago, in 1970, I won the Zollner for the first time. I probably didn't deserve to win as I could easily have lost in Rounds 3,6 and 7 but I rode my luck and somehow came out on top. The general standard of play in those days was certainly lower than that today, but some of the games were surprisingly sharp and therefore of some interest.

With 2/2 I was paired with Black against John Tiplady in Round 3. John at that time a strong player at the Newcastle YMCA club. The 1969-70 was my first season at this club, having played for Newcastle University since 1963. It was often said at this time, with justification, that the Newcastle YMCA Club

Championship was as strong as the Zollner, as many of the same people were involved.

Tiplady J - Turnock J

1.d4 f5 2.g3 g6 3.h4 Bg7 4.h5 c5
5.Nf3 cxd4 6.Nxd4 Nc6 7.Nxc6
bxc6 8.e4!? Qa5+ 9.Bd2 Qa4
9...Qe5! 10.Nc3 fxe4 11.Bf4 Qa5
12.Bd2 d5 13.Nxe4 Qb6 is better
for Black. 10.Bg2!? Bxb2 11.Nc3
Qd4 12.Ne2 Qc5 13.hxg6 hxg6
14.Rxh8 Bxh8 15.Rb1 Ba6 16.Nf4
Bd4 17.Qf3 Qxc2 18.Rc1 Qxe4+?
Understandable simplification, but
Fritz prefers a more attacking
option 18...Qxa2! 19.Nxg6 Nf6
20.Qxf5 Rb8 21.e5 Bc3!! 22.Rxc3
(22.Bxc3?? Qe2#) 22...Rb1+
winning 19.Qxe4 fxe4 20.Bxe4 g5?



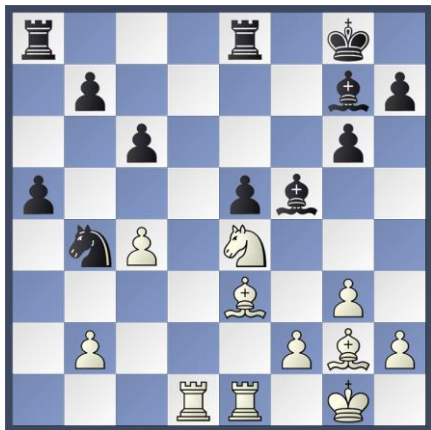
21.Nh5 21.Rxc6 dxc6 22.Bxc6+ Kf7
23.Bxa8 gxf4 should win for Black,
but; 21.Ne6!! is a terrific move,
threatening Bg6#, Nc7 with a family
fork, threatening the bishop on d4
and of course the knight cannot be
taken because of Bxc6+. 21...Bd3!
Fritz suggests this move, though I
doubt whether I would have found
this over the board. 22.Bxd3
(22.Bg2 Bb6 23.Rxc6 Rb8 24.Rc3

roughly equal) 22...dxe6 23.Rxc6±
21...Rb8 22.Bxg5 Rb2 23.Rc2
Rxc2 24.Bxc2 Bc4 25.a4 Nf6
finally the knight is developed. The
rest of the game is spent in careful
consolidation. 26.Ng7+ Kd8 27.Nf5
Bc3+ 28.Kd1 d5 29.Ne3 Ba6
30.Nf5 Bb4 31.Nd4 Kc7 32.Ne6+
Kb6 33.Bf4 c5 34.Bc7+ Kc6
35.Bb8 Kb7 36.Be5 Ng4 37.Nd8+
Kb6 38.f4 Nxe5 39.fxe5 Bc8
40.Nf7 Bc3 41.Ke2 Be6 42.Bg6
Kc6 43.Nd8+ Kd7 44.Nb7 Bd4
45.Kd3 Kc7 46.Na5 Bxe5 0-1

I maintained my 100% record with a
Rook and Pawn endgame win
against Harry Mathews, another
Newcastle YMCA player. In Round
5 I had Black against Tom Bennett,
who was around for a few years as
a student at Newcastle University.

Bennett T - Turnock J

1.d4 f5 2.c4 Nf6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2
Bg7 5.Nf3 0-0 6.0-0 d6 7.Nc3 Nc6
8.Re1 e5 9.dxe5 dxe5 10.Qxd8
Rxd8 11.e4 fxe4 12.Nxe4 Nxe4
13.Rxe4 Bf5 14.Re1 Nb4 15.Bg5
Re8 16.Rad1 Nxa2 better [16...Nd3
17.Re2 e4!] 17.Be3 a5 18.Nd2 c6?
[18...e4!] 19.Ne4 Nb4 ½ - ½
Perhaps I should have played on.
Maybe being on 4/4 made me
cautious. Black has nothing to fear
from 20.Nd6 Nd3 21.Nxf5 Nxe1
22.Nxg7 Nxg2 23.Bh6 Red8
24.Rxd8+ [24.Rc1 Rd7 25.Kxg2
Rxg7 26.Bxg7 Kxg7 with winning
chances] 24...Rxd8 25.Kxg2 Kf7!
and the knight is trapped.



Final position of Bennett v Turnock
– would John regret not playing on?

In Round 6 I drew Black again, this time against Maurice McCarthy, a school student from Gateshead, and the defending champion. It is remarkable that the Northumberland Championship was won two years in a row by Gateshead students, as the 1968 champion was 16 year old Frank Moon.

M McCarthy – John Turnock

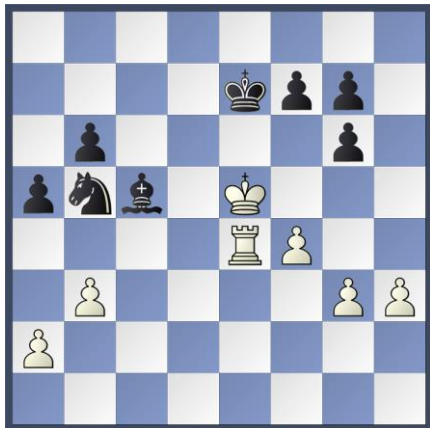
1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.c4 Nb6 4.d4 d6 5.f4 dxe5 6.fxe5 Nc6 7.Be3 Bf5 8.Nc3 e6 9.Nf3 Be7 9...Bg4 is preferable 10.Be2 Bxf3 11.gxf3 Qh4+ 12.Bf2 Qh3 10.d5 exd5 11.cxd5 Nb4 12.Nd4 Qd7?! 13.Bb5 there are better lines although the position remains double edged e.g. 13.Qf3 Bg4 14.e6 Bxf3 15.exd7+ Kxd7 16.gxf3 N4xd5; 13.a3 N4xd5 14.Nxd5 Bh4+ 15.g3 Qxd5 16.Nxf5 Qxh1 17.Nxg7+ Kf8 (17...Ke7?? 18.Bc5#) 18.Nh5 13...c6 14.0-0 N4xd5 15.Nxd5



15...Qxd5?? This should lose; better is 15...Nxd5 16.Nxf5 Nxe3 17.Qxd7+ Kxd7 18.Nxe3 cxb5 19.Rxf7 Ke6 20.Rxg7 Rag8 21.Rxg8 Rxg8= **16.Rxf5?** 16.Nxf5! Qxd1 17.Raxd1 cxb5 18.Nxg7+ Kf8 19.Ne6+ Kg8 20.Bh6 fxe6 21.Rd3! and it's all over for Black **16...g6 17.Bxc6+ bxc6 18.Rf3 0-0 19.b3 Rfd8 20.Qe1 Bc5 21.Rd1 Bxd4 22.Rxd4 Qxe5 23.Qd2 Rxd4 24.Bxd4 Rd8 0-1** White resigned here, but this is surely premature. Black still has a lot of work to do to win the endgame after 25.Bxe5 Rxd2 26.Rc3 Nd7 27.Bf4 Rxa2 28.Rxc6. So two rounds in a row were decided by premature decisions.

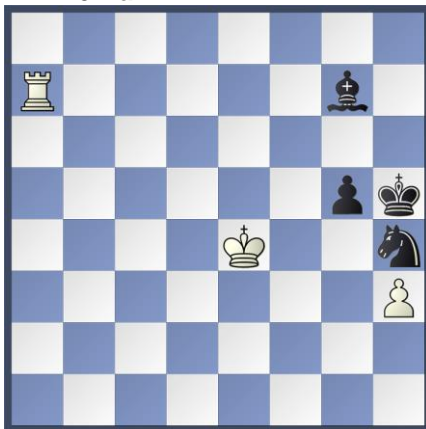
In the final round (7) I was White against Robin Shrubsall, a strong player from Newcastle Chess Club and a great servant of the Association as League Conductor and later Secretary. I needed just a draw to win the tournament, (which was just as well) but drifted into a completely lost position. This was

the situation after Black's 37th



The position is theoretically lost for White. The next move gives Black a huge advantage **38.Re1** **38.Rc4** is better **38...Nc3!** threat f6#. So White must lose material preventing the mate. **39.f5 Bf2 40.Rf1 Bxg3+ 41.Kd4 Nxa2** Black should now win easily. I play on more in hope than expectation. **42.fxg6 fxg6 43.Kc4 Bd6 44.Kb5 Bc5 45.Rf3 Nb4 46.Rg3 Kf6 47.Rf3+ Kg5 48.Kc4 Nc6 49.Kd5 Ne7+ 50.Ke6 Nf5 50...Kh4! 51.Kf7 g5 52.Kxg7 Nd5 53.Kg6 Nf4+ 54.Kf6 Nxb3—** is perhaps the simplest way to win. **51.Kf7 b5 52.Rc3 Bb4 53.Rc6 Nd6+ 54.Kxg7 a4 55.bxa4 bxa4 56.Rb6 Nf5+ 57.Kf7 Bd6 58.Ra6 a3 59.Ke6 Be7 60.Kf7** My strategy here is to keep harrying the bishop, hopefully tying the knight down and also putting pressure on his g pawn. There is also the elephant in the room of a possibility of a K, B & N v K ending which Robin might be uncomfortable with! **60...Bd6 61.Ke6 Kh4 62.Kf6 Kh5 63.Ke6 Be7 64.Ra4 Bc5 65.Kd5 Bf8**

66.Ra8 a2? Robin decides to ditch the a pawn - a big positive for me
67.Rxa2 g5 68.Ra4 Bg7 69.Ke4 Nh4 70.Ra7



70...Bb2? I'm not sure that Black can win any longer, but the text move gives me the opportunity to force the draw. Maybe one of the readers can find a winning line for Black from the diagram. Here are a couple of drawing variations.
70...Bh6 71.Rb7 Ng2 72.Kf5 Nf4 73.Rb6 Nxb3 74.Rb2! g4 75.Rg2=;
70...Kg6 71.Ra6+ Bf6 72.Rb6 Ng2 73.Kf3 Nf4 74.h4= 71.Rh7+ Kg6 72.Rxb4! gxh4 73.Kf3 A well known draw, even without the h3 pawn. The bishop cannot control the queening square. ½–½

So I had won the Zollner! In the words of Disraeli when he first became PM I had "climbed to the top of the greasy pole." My play in the later wins of 1976 and 1977 was a little more circumspect.

PUZZLE TIME

Each puzzle has two solutions - whoever is to play wins. Solutions on P36.
Good luck!

1



4



2



5



3



6



KNOW THE RULES - Recording Moves

Alex McFarlane addresses a query from one of our readers, following an experience at this year's Blackpool weekender.

Your Editor asked me a question about recording moves which has prompted this article. So, blame him and not the messenger!!

When you have to record is quite straightforward. You must record every move until you have less than 5 minutes. If you have an increment of 30 seconds (or more) with every move then you must record even if below 5 minutes.

So, in events like the Northumberland League or Congress where there is no increment or an increment of 10 seconds you can stop recording when you have less than 5 minutes. In events like the 4NCL League and Congress where there are 30 second increments you must record every move. And now for the BUT you were all waiting on. If the time, having gone below 5 minutes, then goes back above – either through your opponent playing an illegal move or a number of fast moves meaning that you get enough additional time – then you do not have to resume recording.

If you are playing in one of those increasingly rare events where there is a second session, e.g. the 4NCL League, then you must get your scoresheet up to date after the first time control is reached.

Perhaps the most contentious issue involving recording is when to write down the move. The Laws state that you must write down your previous move before making your next. It does not say that you must write down the opponent's move before making your own.

It is, therefore, perfectly acceptable to have the following; Opponent moves, you reply, opponent moves again and, now, before you move you must write the opponents original move and your reply. There is no need to write down the opponent's last move unless you want to.

What is not allowed, unless it is necessary to claim a draw, is to write a move down before playing it. This is regarded as analysis and is illegal. A player who does this regularly, especially if the move written is changed, runs a serious risk of being forfeited.

One final point on recording, it is possible for a player who has not been recording legitimately to claim a draw by repetition or under the 50 move rule by using the opponent's scoresheet to check the claim.

Penalties for infringements vary.

A series of captures often result in a player not recording and then catching up immediately. If I see this I try to speak to the player after the game but don't always manage. Usually the player doesn't realise (hence the number of missed moves in games).

If a player frequently does it then as an arbiter I give a warning, then extra time to his opponent, and then a default. I often have to tap a scoresheet to remind a player to record. That is usually enough (and counts as a warning if it comes to it).

Lara and I had a run in with a player over not recording so he started just making scribbles which we pulled him up on, especially since the squiggles were not even in the space for the moves. He claimed he could read them. To disprove this statement I presented him with the bottom half of one of his scoresheets from an earlier round and asked him to read out the moves. He asked "Which game is this?". I told him that didn't matter (having already worked out that he would be able to calculate the moves if he knew the game). He then had to admit that he couldn't read it. He was actually within one move of being forfeited. So concerned were we that it was likely to go that far that we had alerted other arbiters to stay away if anything happened so that they would be available for an Appeals Committee.

So there you go folks. Thank you again Alex. Worth remembering no arbiters oversee our league games so captains need to work together to ensure fair play and no silly fall outs over stuff like this when we resume.

And now David Walker writes.....

MORE ZOLLNER MEMORIES

In bulletins 159 and 160 John Wheeler annotates a number of games from his four Zollner-winning campaigns. At the end of the article, your editor notes the gap of 28 years between John's first and last wins and asks if this is a record. However, the answer is ... no! I won my first Zollner title in 1982-83 aged 19, then waited a mere 35 years until 2017-18 before winning a second time.

As mentioned by John in his article, the Zollner was very popular in the early eighties, and there were 40 competitors at the start of the 82-83 competition. Pairings were sent out by post and games were adjourned with a sealed move if they didn't finish in the first session. Four out of my seven games featured a sealed move, but fortunately I only had to play one additional session. In 82-83, I finished on $5\frac{1}{2}/7$, tied with John Foulger and Peter Oakley. There was a three-way playoff where I managed to win both games and claim the title. Back in those days, I played 1. e4 and had a slightly more combative style. To show that I didn't always play boring positional chess, here is the playoff game against John Foulger featuring a very sharp variation of the Sicilian Defence.

David Walker – John Foulger

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4

4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6

7.f4 b5 This is the ultra-sharp

Polugayevsky variation which Lyev Polugayevsky analysed in detail in his book "Grandmaster Preparation". At the time, I had a

copy of this book (won at a junior training weekend) and as a keen junior I had a good knowledge of the theory as it was then.

8.e5 dxe5 9.fxe5 Qc7 10.Qe2 Nfd7

11.0–0–0 Bb7 12.Qg4 Qb6

13.Be2 Nxe5 14.Qh3Nbd7

15.Rhe1 Bb4? All theory so far, but now black should play 15...h6 leading to a position that Polugayevsky himself had on at least 2 occasions against Lubomir Kavalek.



16.Nxe6! Bxc3 17. bxc3 fxe6 If

17...Qxe6 then 18.Bg4 etc.

18.Bh5+ Kf8 if 18...g6 19.Bxg6+ wins

19.Rf1+ Kg8 20.Rxd7! Nxd7

21.Bf7+ Kf8 22.Bxe6+ Nf6

23.Rxf6+ gxf6 24.Qh6+ Ke7

25.Qxf6+ Kd6 26.Bg4+ 1–0

That was 37 years ago. Only a couple of months back I witnessed the 2020 version of David Walker drawing comfortably with a GM. Awesome. Now get a full set out and a pocket set as Next Ken Neat posts from.....

ACROSS THE WATER

Having shown one of my losses in the last issue, I hope that readers won't mind if this time I give one of my wins. It is from Chester-le-Street 2013 against a pleasant young man from Edinburgh – no relation to Graeme!

Ken Neat – David Oswald

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 c5 3 d5 b5 4 cxb5

a6 My first thought was 'why did I allow a sharp defence like the Benko by a young and presumably well-prepared opponent?' So I decided to avoid the main lines after 5 bxa6 with **5 b6** but **e6** was

quickly played by Black – and I realised that I knew nothing about the position. Apparently the critical line is considered to be 6 Nc3 exd5 7 Nxd5 Nxd5 8 Qxd5 Nc6 9 Nf3 Rb8. But after some 15 minutes' thought I came up with a move which, as I discovered later, doesn't appear in any of my databases.

However, as I will explain shortly, I don't think my 'novelty' will attract many followers. **6 Bg5 Qxb6**

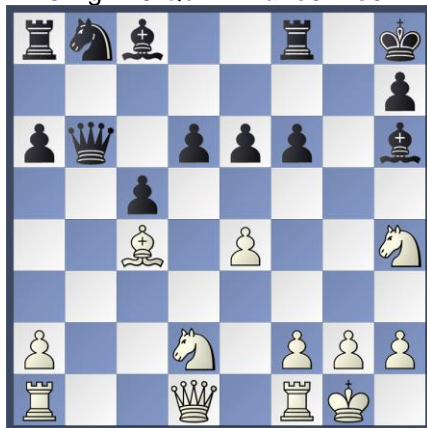
Quickly played, but possibly not the best. After the natural 6...exd5 I had vague hopes of quickly opening the centre with 7 e4 and combining threats along the a2-g8 diagonal with the pushing of the b-pawn.

However, this really doesn't work – one important point is that, now that the pawn is no longer on e6, Black can capture the b6-pawn and still recapture on f6 with his queen.

Therefore I would have had to be satisfied with 7 Nc3, when after 7...Bb7 8 Nxd5 Bxd5 9 Bxf6 Qxf6 10 Qxd5 Qxb2 11 Rd1 (not 11 Qxa8, as after 11...Qxa1+ Black picks up the a2-pawn with checks and then also the b6-pawn) 11...Qb4+ 12 Rd2 the natural outcome would be a draw by perpetual check. Had this happened, the game would have concluded almost as soon as it began.

7 Bxf6 gxf6 8 e4 Qxb2 9 Nd2 Bh6 10 Ngf3 Here I felt quite happy with my improvisation. I can quickly complete my development, whereas it is very hard for Black to bring his queenside pieces into play. A pawn is a small price to pay for this. **10...0-0** I was rather

expecting 10...Rg8, when I was intending to continue my plan after 11 g3. Then Black can win another pawn by 11...exd5 12 exd5 Bxd2+ 13 Nxd2 Qe5+ 14 Be2 Qxd5 15 0-0, but his position remains seriously under-developed. However, 11 Rb1 is even stronger, when if 11...Qxa2 12 Nc4 the queen is curiously trapped, and White is intending to win it next move with Ra1. **11 Bc4 Qb6 12 0-0 d6 13 Nh4 Kh8** If 13...Qb4 I was intending 14 f4, when the black queen could be amusingly caught in the middle of the board after 14...e5 15 Rb1 Qc3 16 Rb3 Qd4+? 17 Kh1 Bxf4 18 Nh3 Bg4 19 Qc2. **14 dxe6 fxe6**



Seeing no easy way to swing a rook across to the kingside (if 15 Rb1 Qa5), I decided on a speculative sacrificial continuation. **15 Qh5!? Bxd2 16 Ng6+ Kg7 17 Nxf8 Kxf8 18 Qxh7 Nc6** When I reached this position in my preliminary calculations, I assumed that the black king would be in dire straits. But it all turned out to be not so simple. **19 Qh8+ Kf7 20 Be2 Ke7**

21 Rab1 Carried away by the idea of infiltrating with my rooks on the flanks, I forgot about the idea of a frontal assault. At first sight 21 Rfd1 looks very strong, as 21...Bc3? allows a quick mate and 21...Bf4? loses the bishop to a couple of checks after 22 Qg7+. Therefore 21...Qa5 is forced, when after 22 Bh5 d5 23 exd5 exd5 24 Qh7+ Kd6 25 Qd3 White wins the bishop. But to do this after 25...c4 or 25...Ne5 he has to allow the queen swap, and then Black's two connected passed pawns in the centre give him powerful compensation for the exchange, especially since his previously hunted king is now perfectly placed to support them! **21...Qa5 22 Rb3** Aiming to swing the rook over to the kingside, but 22 Qg7+ Kd8 23 Qxf6+, picking up another pawn, was probably better. **22...Nd4 23 Bh5** Threatening mate on e8. **23...Kd7?** 23...d5, giving the king an escape square on d6, was the only way to defend. **24 Rg3?** I saw that 24 Qe8+ didn't achieve anything after 24...Kc7, but I didn't have the sense to consider the bishop check on the same square. In fact 24 Be8+ would have forced mate after 24...Kd8 25 Ba4+, 24...Ke7 25 Qg7+ Kxe8 26 Rh3, or 24...Kc7 25 Qg7+ Kd8 26 Rb7! (26 Rh3 is also good enough). The simple 24 Qh7+ Kd8 25 Rg3 would also have won quickly... **24...Bb7 25 Qh7+ Kc6 26 Rb1 Nb5** Black blocks the b-file with his knight, since 26...Bb4 would have been met by 27 a3. Here, concerned that the black king was slipping away, I

found a tricky move to create more problems for my opponent. **27 e5!? fxe5?** The reply I was hoping for. After the correct move 27...Qxa2 28 Rd1 (for the moment the rook is defended, but the white queen is in danger of being overloaded, e.g. 28 exf6 Rh8) a sample line would be 28...Kb6 29 exf6 Bf4 30 Rg7 Bd5 31 f7 Nc3, when the white pieces are dangerously off-side. **28 Bf3+ d5 29 Bxd5+** Now White's attack crashes through. I was hoping for the pretty mate after 29...exd5 30 Rg6+ Nd6 31 Qxb7.....but of course my opponent saw this. **29...Kxd5 30 Qxb7+ Kc4 31 Rg4+ Kc3** After 31...Bf4 I would have had to take the rook before resuming the pursuit of the king. But my opponent sportingly advanced his king with the clear intention of allowing it to be checkmated. **32 Rb3+ Kc2 33 Qe4+ Kd1 34 Qb1+ Bc1 35 Rd3+ Qd2 36 Qb3+ Ke1 37 Re4+ Qe2 38 Qd1 mate** See diagram overleaf I felt that I should have finished the game more quickly, and indeed straight after the game an immediate mate by 32 Qf3+ Kc2 33 Qb3 was pointed out. However, I don't regret missing this, as I don't remember ever checkmating a black king on e1! Diagram back page.

Thank you Ken. 3 pages for 1 game is not an easy call. But the notes and thought process are so educational it seemed wrong to cut it back



Neat v D Oswald – checkmate on e1!!.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sep 25-27 56th Northumberland Weekender. The Parks. Contact mickriding@hotmail.co.uk or go to <https://northumberlandchesscongress.webs.com/>

And remember, Monday Gosforth and Darlington, Tuesday Tynemouth, Wednesday Morpeth and Durham, Thursday South Shields, Friday Forest Hall, Saturday Inter Club. We will produce a fly-sheet for online activity and post to club secretaries soon.

Meanwhile contact mickriding@hotmail.co.uk if you require any immediate assistance

SOLUTIONS TO PUZZLES

- 1 – For White 1.Qxa8+ Nxa8
2.Rd8+ Re8 3.Rxe8+ Kh7 4.Bf5#
and for Black 1...Rxh2+ 2.Kxh2
Qg1+ 3.Kh3 Qh1#
- 2 – For White 1.Rxf6 Qxb2+
2.Kxb2 Bxf6+ and for Black
1...Qxb2+ 2.Kxb2 Nxc4+ 3.c3
Nxc2
- 3 – For White 1.Re4 Bxe4 If Rxe4
2.Qc8+ 2.Qxf6 and for Black
1...Qxd4 2.Qxd4 Re1#
- 4 - For White 1.Ng5 Qh4 If...Nxc5
2.Qg7# 2.Qxe6+ wins and for Black
1...Qxc2 2.Nh6+ Rxc2 Ra1+ Kh8
3.Qxf8+ Rxf8 4.Rxc2 Rxf6 with a
winning advantage
- 5 – For White 1.Rxh6+ Bxh6
2.Qxe5+ Bg7 3.Qh2+ and for Black
1...Qa1+ 2.Kxa1 Rc1+ 3.Ka2 Ra8+
- 6 – For White 1.Rh8+ Bxh8 2.Qh1
For Black 1.Rh8+ Bxh8 2.Qh1

BYE FOR NOW



Hope you've enjoyed, stay safe and see you soon.