



Zoe Varney and Shreyas Royal report on the European Individual Chess Championship

GM Matthew Sadler on how to maintain your chess strength

**Introducing our new book review column by Ben Graff
Plus ... GMs Adams, Arkell and Wells, IMs Littlewood
and Povah, and a whole lot more!**

EDITORIAL



A federation like the ECF should look inwards and outwards. It should be aware of the past, but also look to the future. Busy itself internationally, nationally, and locally.

The return from lockdown has seen a renaissance in English chess. I'm not going to get hubristic, but I am going to get hopeful. It feels like we may have seen off the new ball and are now starting to play some shots!

The ECF has secured significant sponsorship from Chessable. This has enabled us to establish the Chessable English Championships, enhance the Chessable British Championships, and relaunch the Chessable ECF Grand Prix.

You can read all about it at <https://www.englishchess.org.uk/chessable-support-for-the-ecf-and-english-chess/>
Many thanks indeed to Chessable for their generous support.

Internationally, it was great to see young talents like Zoe Varney and Shreyas Royal thriving in such a strong event as the European Individual Chess Championship.

Whilst we were going to press the Reykjavik Open had just finished with 12 year-old Sohum Lohia getting terrific draws against GM Mats Andersen and GM Bragi Thorfinnsson.

Whilst on the subject of young talent, we are looking for feedback on the Junior Development Pathway consultation document reported elsewhere in this issue. This is an exciting new framework for developing junior chess. Please be sure to email your thoughts.

That's the home front, but the ECF has also looked outwards recently.

A big thank you to all those involved in our chess marathon which raised £18,000 for the DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal. Elsewhere in this issue you will see my report on the event; however, let me use this editorial to highlight the incredibly hard work and selfless diligence of Natasha Regan and Nigel Towers in making the event such a success.

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COVER STORY - Shreyas Royal and Zoe Varney shine at the European Individual Chess Championship

The EICC 2022 proved a great success for rising English stars Zoe Varney and Shreyas Royal. Later, Shreyas analyses his game with Baadur Jobava, but first, over to Zoe ...

Report by Zoe Varney

In an effort to play against the highest calibre opponents Europe can offer and, in the process, improve my chess, I flew out to Slovenia for the European Individual Chess Championships. I started the tournament seeded 296th out of 317 players so was excited at the prospect of playing mainly against players significantly higher rated than myself.

In round 1, I was paired against GM Andrea Stella from Italy. After a long fight I emerged with a draw and achieved my first ever result against a grandmaster! After a couple of one-sided losses against very strong opposition I was once again outplaying my higher rated opponents in rounds 4 and 5 but unfortunately poor decision-making led to me losing those promising positions. This marked the halfway point of my tournament and my close friend and chess coach GM Danny Gormally gave me some great advice to improve my play – I had to try and think positionally, instead of recklessly trying to win every game from the start.

Round 6 marked the start of a new month and I was determined “April Zoe” would be a stronger player than “March Zoe”! The second half of the tournament was significantly improved with me achieving two convincing wins against lower rated players as well as defending hard fought draws against two higher rated opponents. Overall, I finished on a respectable 3.5/10, gaining buckets of experience along the way.



Zoe Varney (aka HorseyChess online) invoking the help of the horseys!

Aside from the actual chess I had great fun making new friends, enjoying the wide variety of food available in the hotel buffet, and racing others down the extensive collection of water slides the hotel swimming pool complex had to offer! This was such an incredible experience for my first ever international event travelling solo and I would highly recommend that anyone else interested in the future just take a leap of faith and go for it!

Varney, Zoe (1998) - Stella, Andrea (2444) [C54]

European Individual Championships 2022,
27.03.2022

Annotated by Zoe Varney

1.e4 e5 My grandmaster opponent had always played the Sicilian so I was surprised by this.

2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d3



I normally play 5.d4 but wanted to avoid my opponent's preparation. I had looked at a few lines in 5.d3 before so decided to give it a go.

5...d6 6.0-0 a5 7.a4 h6 8.h3 g5!? 9.d4 If White continues with typical developing moves then Black's idea is to open the g-file, castle queenside, and attack White's king, e.g. 9.Nbd2 g4 10.hxg4 Bxg4 11.Re1 Qe7 12.Nf1 0-0-0

9...Ba7 9...exd4? The opening of the e-file is disastrous for Black: 10.cxd4 Ba7 11.Re1 g4 12.e5 dxe5 13.Nxe5 Nxe5 14.Rxe5+ Kf8+-

10.dxe5 Nxe5 11.Nxe5 dxe5 12.Qb3 Qe7 13.Be3 Nxe4



14.Qb5+ I missed a tactical idea here which the all-knowing Stockfish pointed out immediately: 14.Bxa7 Rxa7 15.Bxf7+! Qxf7 16.Qb5+ Kf8 17.Qxe5 Qh7 18.Re1 Nd6 19.Qf6+ Nf7 20.Re7 Ra6 21.Rxf7+ Qxf7 22.Qxh8+ Qg8 23.Qxg8+ Kxg8 and White emerges from the complications a pawn up.

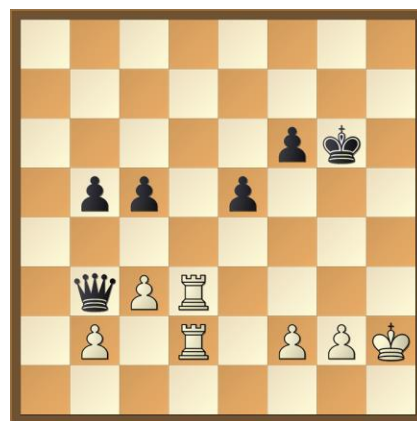
14...Kf8 15.Qxa5 Nd6 16.Ba2 Kg7 17.Re1 17.Bxa7 doesn't win a piece due to 17...b6 18.Qb4 Rxa7

17...Bxe3 18.Qxa8 Bb6 19.a5 Bd7 Best is 19...Bxh3 20.Qxh8+ Kxh8 21.axb6 Bc8 22.bxc7 when Black doesn't need to recapture the pawn on c7 yet 22...Kg7 (22...Qxc7? 23.Rxe5)

20.Qxh8+ Kxh8 21.axb6 cxb6 22.Nd2 Bc6 23.Nc4 Nxc4 24.Bxc4 Kg7 25.Rad1 Qc5 26.Bd3 b5 27.Be4 Forcing the trade of the bishops removes any future winning chances Black may have..

27...h5 28.Rd3 g4?! In the time scramble to reach move 40, Black blunders a pawn.

29.hxg4 hxg4 30.Rde3 f6 31.Bxc6 bxc6 32.Re4 Qd5 33.Rxg4+ Kf7 34.Rge4 Qd2 35.R4e2 Qd3 36.Re3 Qd2 37.R1e2 Qd1+ 38.Kh2 Qb3 39.Rd2 c5 40.Red3 Kg6

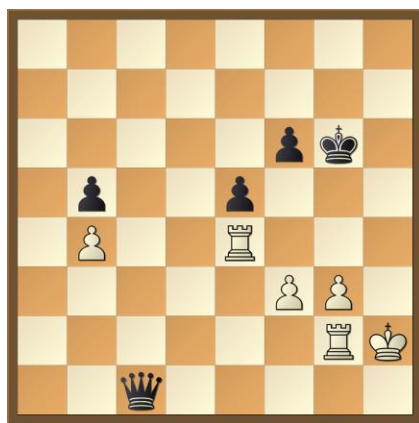


At this point we each received an additional thirty minutes on the clock. Now that we had an equal number of pawns I attempted to play for a win as if I could capture a pawn Black would be unable to sacrifice the queen back for both rooks due to reaching a losing king and pawn endgame.

41.Rg3+ Kf5 42.Rf3+ Ke6 43.Re3 Kf7 44.Re4 Kg6 45.g3 45.f4 I had realised that I had to try and play f4 to win as then I could go after the f6 pawn whilst keeping one of my rooks on the second rank to defend the b2 pawn but the immediate f4 doesn't work: 45...Kf5 46.Re3 exf4 47.Rf2 Qa4 48.Ref3 Ke5

45...Kf5 46.Rh4 Qa2 47.f3 Qa1 48.Re4 Qf1 49.Re3 49.Ree2 Whilst low on time I missed White's last chance to maintain a slight advantage: 49...Kg6 (49...Qxf3?? 50.Rf2) 50.Rf2 forcing the queen away from my exposed king.

49...Kg5 50.b3 Kg6 51.Rg2 Qd1 52.b4 Qc1 53.Rge2 cxb4 54.cxb4 Qf1 55.Rg2 Qc1 56.Re4 Qh6+ 57.Kg1 Qc1+ 58.Kh2 Qh6+ 59.Kg1 Qc1+ 60.Kh2



Neither side can make any progress, so a draw was agreed and with it I achieved my first ever result against a grandmaster!

1½-1½

FM Shreyas Royal annotates his game against GM Baadur Jobava



This game was against former super-GM Jobava, who is known and loved for his creativity and attacking skills. In this game, he goes for a rook sacrifice, which was not so great, but put me under pressure for the whole game even though he was losing!

Baadur, Jobava (2588) - Royal, Shreyas (2296) [C54]

EICC 2022, 27.03.2022

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d4 exd4 6.e5 d5 7.Be2!? I had not expected an Italian, but a super-GM has a variety of openings they can play. It turns out this is a bit of a pet line for him; he used it to beat Mickey Adams last November.

7...Ne4 8.cxd4 Bb6 9.Nc3 0-0 10.Be3 Bg4 10...f5 and **10...f6** are more popular and perhaps are a bit better.

11.h3 Bh5 12.Rc1 Ne7 rerouting the knight to f5 to put pressure on his centre, followed by f6

13.g4!? Jobava starts his aggression.

13...Bg6 14.Ng5?! This allows me the strong square on e4 for the bishop, and in a way he has lost a tempo; however Jobava was in no mood for retreating.

14.h4 I feel the more conventional way of attacking would be better: **14...h6 15.h5 Bh7 16.Rg1 Kh8 17.Bd3**

14...Nxc3 15.Rxc3?



I had a feeling he knew this idea was not going to turn out well, and after the game he confirmed that by saying 'It was a very interesting game, I just wanted to have fun'.

15.bxc3 h6 16.Nf3 Be4= was what I had anticipated.

15...h6 16.h4 hxg5 17.hxg5 Ba5 18.Qc1 So, to put this sacrifice into perspective; he gives me a rook for a pawn, but in return leaves me with an extremely weak king.

18...f6 19.gxf6 gxf6 20.Bd2! This forces me to take on c3, meaning he will take back with the bishop, but

he will be able to play moves like Qh6 and Qf4 to cause hassle to my king.

20...Bxc3 21.Bxc3 Kf7 22.Qf4 Ke6!? I decide to have a fun king walk, but it does have some sense to it; it gets my king to the safer side, where all the major pieces are defending and where his pieces cannot get to so easily.

23.Rh6 a5!



This has a strong prophylactic idea behind it. I threaten now take on e5, and if he takes back with the queen, I simply retreat to d7 and he cannot win any material with a nasty Bb4!

24.Rxg6! I had a long think after a5 because of this move, but had calculated well.

24...Nxg6 25.Qf5+ Kf7 26.Bd3 Rg8 27.g5 Nf8!



Knights are the best blockaders and defenders of the king!

28.Bd2! Even in such a position where the eye normally only sees sharp forcing moves, Jobava plays a quiet move improving his bishop.

28.gxf6 Rg1+! was the clever zwischenzug I had planned (28...Qd7?? 29.Qh5+!+-) 29.Ke2 Qd7! 30.Qh5+ Kg8-- and now the king is safe, and we will

eventually win by sacrificing our rooks for one of his bishops.

28...Qe7 29.Qf3! Another quiet move threatening an annoying Qh5+

29.gxf6 Rg1+ 30.Ke2 Qd7 31.Qh5+ Kg8 my idea was to transpose, the only difference being his bishop on d2.

29...f5! Not allowing him to get some strong connected passed pawns

30.Qh5+ Ng6 31.Bxf5 Ra6! The more long-term benefit of 23... a5

32.Bd3 Kf8! I am such material up that the main aim now is to counterattack against his king at the cost of sacrificing material; time is very important in these types of positions!

33.f4 c5! 34.Qh6+ Qg7 35.Qh3! Rc6 36.Bxg6 Qxg6 37.f5 Qg7 38.g6



38 ...Rxg6? Two moves before the time-control with about 10 mins left, I trust my instinct and calculate one line which wins material, only to come back and find out my rook is placed on a poor square, and he has one way to draw this!

38...Ke8-- A more patient approach is recommended by the engine.

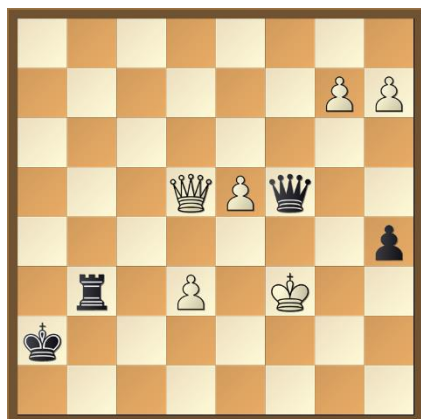
39.fxg6 Qxg6 40.Qc8+ Kg7 41.Qxb7+ Kh8 42.Qxd5 Qg1+ 43.Ke2 Rg2+ 44.Kd3 Qf1+ 45.Kc2! 45.Kc3?? Rg3+! 46.Kc2 Qd3+ 47.Kd1 Rg1#

45...Qf5+ 46.Kc3 Qh3+ 47.Kc2 Qf5+ 48.Kc3 Rg3+ 49.Kc4 Qd3+ 50.Kxc5 Qxd2 This was the line I had seen on move 38, but calculating so far caused me to miss that after Qd8+ Kh7?? there is Qh4+!

51.Qd8+ Rg8 [51...Kh7 52.Qh4+! (52.Qe7+ Anything else would still give me pretty good winning chances: 52...Kg6 53.Qf6+ Kh5)]

52.Qh4+ Kg7 53.Qg4+ Kh7 54.Qe4+ Rg6 55.e6 Qb4+ 56.Kc6 Qc4+ 57.Kd6 Qb4+ It can start to get dangerous once again for black with only twenty minutes on the clock and no extra time in a drawn position; therefore I repeat moves!

58.Kc6 Qc4+



1/2-1/2

It was a very interesting game that ended well for me. Credit to GM Jobava for his creativity and putting me under a lot of pressure as well. He is also a nice guy and after the game he said, 'It was fun and interesting' and was impressed by my level of play. We also discussed some moves and positions in our minds after the game.

AROUND THE COUNTRY

Nigel Towers, ECF Director of Home Chess, writes ...

Chessable Sponsorship and ECF Events



As announced in last month's *ChessMoves* we are delighted to have received generous sponsorship from Chessable for a number of upcoming ECF events.

The Chessable English Championships are scheduled to take place in May, with the English Seniors on 4-8 May and the English and English Women's Championships on 19-22 May 2022.

All events will take place at the Holiday Inn in Kenilworth with what is looking like a very strong field competing for the various English titles.

Chessable English Seniors Championships - 4-8 May 2022

The English Seniors is back as the first of the Championship events with the first Seniors Championship since 2019 including separate sections for players aged 50+ and 65+.

We already have the makings of an outstanding event based on entries to date including GM Mark Hebden and GM Keith Arkell as well as several IMs including IM Paul Littlewood, IM Andrew Ledger and WIM Natasha Regan.



IM Paul Littlewood and Kevin Bowmer (pictured top, left and right) will be defending their titles in the two sections. GMs Hebden and Arkell (bottom, left and right) are amongst the others competing. There will also be a trophy and title award for the top performing female player in each section.

The congress will be ECF and FIDE rated with a total of seven rounds over the five days.

Further details, entry form and entries to date at <https://www.englishchess.org.uk/english-seniors-championships-2022/>

Chessable English Championships and English Women's Championship - May 2022



The seniors' events will be followed two weeks later by the Chessable English Championships and Chessable English Women's Championships which will take place on 19-22 May 2022 at the same venue in Kenilworth.

The **Open Championships** will be first English Championships since Duncan Lawrie sponsored the first and, so far only. English Chess Championship competition in December 1991 in Hammersmith. The first English Championship was an eight-player knockout won by GM Nigel Short.

We have a very strong event planned with top seed GM Gawain Jones and a number of English GMs and IMs scheduled to play.



GM Gawain Jones, IM Marcus Harvey and GM Mark Hebden are amongst those playing in the Open

The **Women's Championship** will be the next in the series of highly successful events from the first event in 2016 to the previous Championships in 2019 in Hull, won on tie-break by WGM Katarzyna Toma with Louise Head coming second. Katarzyna and Louise will be playing again this year as will WIM Lan Yao.

You can find a full list of entries to date for the two Championships (English Open and English Women's) here -

<https://www.englishchess.org.uk/english-championships-entrants-list/>



WFM Louise Head, WIM Lan Yao and WGM Katarzyna Toma amongst those playing (photos - Marcus Harvey - Brendan O'Gorman; Louise Head - Abbey School; Lan Yao - FIDE)

The two Championships will be played as seven-round Swiss tournaments.

Full details and entry forms for both events can be found at <https://www.englishchess.org.uk/english-championships-2022/>

The Chessable British Championships - August 2022



The 108th British Championships are scheduled for 8-21 August 2022 at the Riviera International Centre in Torquay - further details and entry form are on the web site at

<https://www.britishchesschampionships.co.uk/>

The dates and schedules for the various competitions are now all confirmed. This will be a full British Championships over two weeks with the Junior Championships in Week 1, the Seniors Championships running across the two weeks, and the main British Championships running over nine rounds from 13-21 August. There will also be a full programme of supporting events including the Major Open in week 2 and rating limited congresses in weeks 1 and 2 together with rapidplay and blitz events.

The Chessable ECF Grand Prix - from July 2022 to June 2023

This year also sees a very welcome return for the ECF Grand Prix, which is also sponsored by Chessable and will run as an individual competition based on ECF open congresses played between July 2022 and June 2023. As with the British Championships, the ECF Grand Prix has a long history going back to 1974 when the first ECF Grand Prix competition was established by Stewart Reuben and Leonard Barden.

The Grand Prix is a year-long individual competition based on performance across ECF rated congresses by ECF members. Grand Prix points are scored based on results in each event played in, with separate prizes for Open, Women's, Junior and rating limited categories. You can find further details on the Grand Prix at <https://www.englishchess.org.uk/ecf-chessable-grand-prix/>

The English Counties Championships – 2021/ 2022

In addition to the upcoming Chessable sponsored events above we can look forward to the final stages of the 2021/ 2022 Counties Championships, where defending champions Yorkshire will be looking to protect their 2019 title in the Open competition.

The English Counties Championships are the longest running team competition in the ECF chess calendar. The Counties Championships have been running since 1908 when the first Championships were competed in by three union champions over a minimum of twelve boards, with Middlesex becoming the first Championships winners. The format remained largely unchanged until 1981 when the Open, Minor and rating limited competitions were introduced. You can find results from around 2009 on the ECF resources page at <https://www.ecfresource.co.uk/county-championships-archive/>

The Championships are organized by ECF Counties Controller Mark Murrell, and further details are at <https://www.englishchess.org.uk/counties-championship-2022/> with a comprehensive history here - <https://www.englishchess.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/100-Years-of-the-Counties-Championship-1.pdf>

You can find details of the 2021/ 2022 regional stages on the web pages covering four of the five ECF Unions - [EACU](#) | [MCCU](#) | [NCCU](#) | [SCCU](#)

The regional stages are now complete. The national stage will run from May to July 2022. It will be played as a knockout with pairings as below in the various sections leading up to the finals day on 2 July at a midlands venue to be confirmed.

Open, Minor and U2050

Counties Championships 2021-22 ECF National Stages Draw					
The first named county is the national home team. Away teams may elect to play at an intermediate venue they arrange.					
Def. date	23/04/22	14/05/22	21/05/22	11/06/22	02/07/22
Section	Preliminaries	Quarter Finals	Quarter Finals	Semi Finals	Finals
OPEN					
	Kent		Kent		
	Bye				
	Northumberland		Northumberland		
	Bye				
	Greater Manchester		Greater Manchester		
	Bye				
	Yorkshire				
	Middlesex				
MINOR					
	Warwickshire		Warwickshire		
	Bye				
	Norfolk		Norfolk		
	Bye				
	Devon		Devon		
	Bye				
	Worcestershire				
	Cambridgeshire				
U2050					
	Nottinghamshire		Nottinghamshire		
	Bye				
	Essex				
	Yorkshire				
	Lancashire		Lancashire		
	Bye				
	Surrey		Surrey		
	Bye				

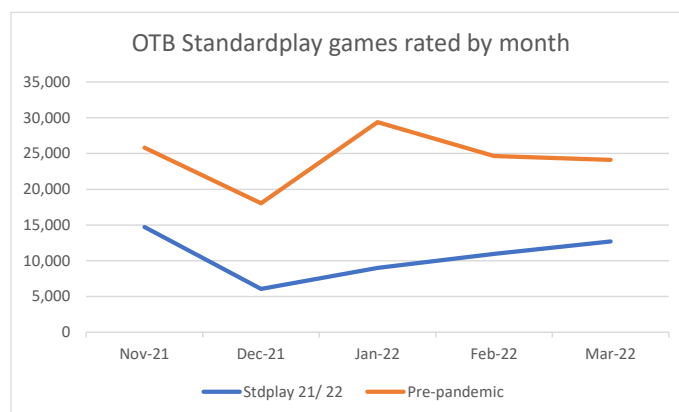
U1850, U1650, U1450

Def. date	23/04/22	14/05/22	21/05/22	11/06/22	02/07/22
Section	Preliminaries	Quarter Finals	Quarter Finals	Semi Finals	Finals
U1850					
	Essex				
	Hampshire				
	Norfolk				
	Yorkshire				
	Devon				
	Lancashire				
	Greater Manchester				
	Middlesex				
	Suffolk				
U1650					
		Lancs or Yorks			
		Worcestershire			
		Surrey			
		Bye	Surrey		
		Warwickshire			
		Essex			
		Lancs or Yorks			
		Bye			
U1450					
	Yorkshire				
	Essex				
	Nottinghamshire				
	Notts Juniors				
	Surrey				
	Leicestershire				
	Kent				
	Lancashire				

Return to Over the Board (OTB)

Returning in Numbers

The graph shows standard, rapid and blitz half-games played and rated by month in English events from autumn 2021 to date.



OTB chess activity levels have continued to increase steadily during March and April, and we are now at over half the pre-pandemic numbers per month. There were 12,704 half-games rated for March 2022 (compared with a pre-pandemic figure of 24,114 for March 2019) and 8,678 rapidplay half-games (compared with 16,308 for April 2019). There were only 66 blitz half-games sent in for rating, but that number is likely to increase soon with a number of blitz events planned and at least one OTB blitz league scheduled to start shortly in the Midlands.

Congress and Events Roundup – March to April 2022

March and April events are shown below including the 4NCL weekend at the end of March, the regular series of Golders Green and Muswell Hill FIDE rapids, various standardplay, rapid and blitz congresses, and the nine-round women's norm tournaments. We have a report elsewhere in *ChessMoves* on the highly successful women's norm events run by the ECF and She Plays to Win.

15 March	Muswell Hill FIDE Rapid	London N2
19 March	YJCA Grand Prix Event 3	Holmfirth
19 March	Poplar Rapid Tournament	London E14
18–20 March	Castle Chess 18th Fareham Congress	Fareham
20 March	30th Birmingham Rapidplay Open	Birmingham
26 March	Merseyside Junior Rapidplay	Liverpool
25–27 March	2nd Ribble FIDE Congress	Leyland
26 March	Mill Hill FIDE Congress	London NW7
26–27 March	4NCL League 2021/22 Weekend 3 Div 1 & 2	Daventry
26–27 March	4NCL League 2021/22 Weekend 3 Div 3 Central	Leamington Spa
26–27 March	4NCL League 2021/22 Weekend 3 Div 3 South	Milton Keynes
29 March	Muswell Hill FIDE Rapid	London N2
30 March	8th Jurassic Blitz Chess Tournament	Seaton
31 March	MIND Sports Centre FIDE Blitz	London W6
02 April	3rd Bristol League Open Blitz Champs	Bristol
03 April	Hampshire Open Junior Blitz	Winchester
06 April	Coulsdon Daytime Chess (weekly event)	Coulsdon
07 April	ECF Women's Norm Event 2022	London W6
08 April	Harrow Megafinal	Harrow
09 April	Golders Green FIDE Rapidplay	London NW3

09 April	Maidenhead Junior Tournament	Maidenhead
09 April	Great Yarmouth Chess Congress	Great Yarmouth
10 April	Bourne End One Day Congress	Bourne End
	Burgh House FIDE Rapid	London NW3
09 April	4NCL Junior League 2021/22 Weekend 3	Daventry
12 April	Muswell Hill FIDE Rapid	London
14 April	2nd Southend FIDE Rapid	Southend

ECF ONLINE

The number of online ECF chess club members and competitive events continues to grow alongside the return to OTB chess. This month saw an increase of around 400 new members in the open club mostly as a result of the chess marathon for Ukraine.

Current membership levels as follows -

Chess.com ECF open club - 5,448

Chess.com ECF members club - 1,731

Lichess English Chess Players club - 1,485

We continue with three tournaments per week in the Lichess English Chess Players club and four per week in the Chess.com ECF members club. All the club tournaments are ECF online rated with events submitted for rating on the 14th and 28th of each month.



ECF Chess.com International Leagues

The ECF online clubs also take part in the three major international leagues.

Chess.com Nations League



Season four of the Nations League finished this month with a loss against Canada followed by a convincing win against Team Argentina for us to finish in fourth place in the top division. The table below shows the final standings for the season.

Round 6 (Final) Standings								
#	Name	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	Total
1	USA	W3	W4	W2	W5	W7	W6	6.0
2	Romania	H-	W7	L1	W3	W^	W5	4.5
3	Canada	L1	W9	W8	L2	W4	W7	4.0
4	England	W6	L1	D5	D7	L3	W8	3.0
5	Jamaica	B-	H-	D4	L1	W8	L2	3.0
6	Greece	L4	W8	L7	X9	L2	L1	2.0
7	Uruguay	D8	L2	W6	D4	L1	L3	2.0
8	Argentina	D7	L6	L3	B-	L5	L4	1.5
9	Tahiti	U-	L3	B-	F6	U-	U-	1.0

Chess.com Live Chess World League Season 9



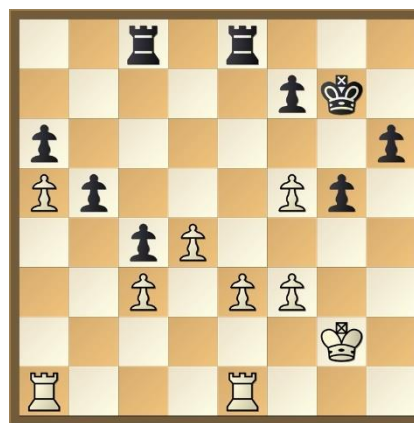
England are in Division 3 of the LWCL with each round consisting of a blitz (5|2) and a rapid (10|2) Chess.com match with two games per board against the opposing team.

After an initial loss against Canada in February, we managed clear wins against Team Chile and Team India in March. We then lost both legs of our match against Team Uruguay on 19 March. We took a half point off Team Brazil on 3 April including a tied match in the blitz which went down to the last game.

Here is a game from the England v Brazil online rapid match won by Chris Davison.

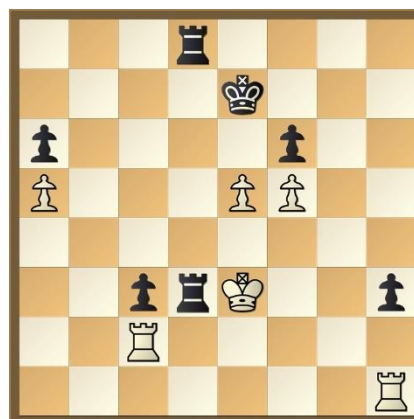
ReiWgt07 (Wellington Francisco) (2169) - ChrisD24991 (2212) [D38]
 Chess.com, 03.04.2022

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Nf3 d5 5.Bg5 0-0 6.e3 c5 7.cxd5 exd5 8.Be2 Be6 9.0-0 Nbd7 10.Rc1 c4 11.Ne5 Bxc3 12.bxc3 h6 13.Nxd7 Bxd7 14.Bh4 g5 15.Bg3 Ne4 16.Bf3 Nxc3 17.hxc3 Bf5 18.Re1 Re8 19.Qa4 a6 20.g4 Bg6 21.Qb4 b6 22.a4 Rb8 23.Ra1 Kg7 24.a5 b5 25.Qc5 Be4 26.Bxe4 dxe4 27.f3 exf3 28.gxf3 Qf6 29.Kg2 Rbc8 30.Qf5 Qxf5 31.gxf5



We have reached an objectively equal double rook ending with black to move. Chris demonstrates some great maneuvering technique with the rooks to produce two passed pawns which is enough for his opponent to go wrong in the time scramble.

31...Rb8 32.Rab1 Kf6 33.e4 h5 34.Kg3 Rh8 35.Rh1 Ke7 36.e5 h4+ 37.Kg4 b4 38.cxb4 Rhd8 39.Rhd1 f6 40.f4 gxf4 41.Kxf4 c3 42.Rbc1 Rxb4 43.Ke4 Rc4 44.Rc2 h3 45.Rh1 Rcx4+ 46.Ke3 Rd3+



ChrisD24991 won on time

0-1

Chess.com Live Chess European League Season 5



Our other matches this month have been in the Live Chess European League where we are in Division 1 with matches played over three legs (bullet **2min + 1sec**, blitz **5min + 2sec**, rapid **10min + 2sec**)

We lost our match to Kazakhstan on 21 March with losses in all three legs. Our next LCEL match is on 15 April when we will be playing against Turkey.

LCEL matches are open to all members of the ECF Open club on Chess.com -

<https://www.chess.com/club/english-chess-federation>



Lichess Internationals and Events

We continue to field an England team in the very popular Lichess team battles including the Bundesliga, Liga Ibero, and Champions League.

Bundesliga

The Liga team battles take place on Thursday and Sunday Evenings at 7-00 pm. The team battles include 10 teams playing in Arena format for 100 minutes with the top three going up and bottom three going down. This month we have moved between divisions 3 and 5 in some very well supported matches.

You can follow WIM Natasha Regan's excellent commentary series on the events on our Twitch and YouTube commentary channels including guest appearances this month from GMs John Emms, Danny Gormally and Peter Wells ---

ECF Twitch commentary -

https://www.twitch.tv/ecf_commentary

ECF YouTube commentary -

<https://www.youtube.com/c/EnglishChessFederation/videos>

Liga Ibero

This is a Spanish organised league with three divisions of around fourteen teams each on Sunday afternoons. The league is played at multiple time controls and is highly competitive with the English Chess Players team playing in divisions 1 and 2.

<https://lichess.org/team/liga-ibero>

Champions League

This is an international league with team battles at 5-30 pm on Tuesdays with around twenty teams and fifteen leaders at 3|0 blitz time control.

Other Leagues, Marathons, Bullet Events and Fischer Random

We also participate in the regular Mega A Team Battles every other week on Friday afternoons.

The Mega Team Battles are the largest of the Lichess Team Battles, with up to 200 teams and 20

leaders per team participating in two-hour Arena format team battles at blitz time control. We also took part in a number of the bullet leagues and the Fischer Random leagues.

ECF Online Grand Prix – 2022

The ECF Online Grand Prix runs for ten months from January until October 2022. We are following the same format as the 2021 series with the blitz events on the first Sunday of each month and the rapid on the third Sunday. A top six result counts towards the leaderboard with ECF trophies and signed books for the winners, i.e. highest aggregate scores on the leaderboard at the end of October. You can find further details and an entry form at <https://www.englishchess.org.uk/2022-online-grand-prix-series/>

The 2022 series continues with March rapid and April blitz events. The winners were Chris Davison for the rapid and Mike Harris for the blitz with the leader-boards as in the link below after four out of ten Sunday blitz events and three out of ten Sunday rapids.

Rapid Event Three (20 March)



<https://www.englishchess.org.uk/2022-online-grand-prix-series-rapid-leaderboards/>

Blitz Event Four





ECF Daily Chess

Daily Chess is a form of correspondence chess played on Chess.com at a day per move or three days per move. The ECF members club has a number of keen correspondence players and we have been running an ECF Daily Championship on Chess.com for a couple of years.

Andrew Caswell, the ECF's Daily Chess Manager, reports on the last two years' events ...

2020 Daily Championships

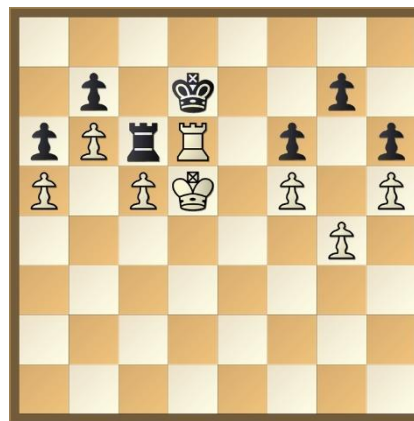
The 2020 Championship has now reached its climax, with three players contesting the final round to determine the placings for the tournament. Although one game remains to be completed, @Robbo125 is set to win the competition, having achieved an unassailable score of 3/4 in the final group. Second place will be determined by the result of that final game with @it-bites taking on @Ed143, their other game having been drawn. These are the two wins that secured the title for Ian Robson.

<https://www.chess.com/game/daily/360694705>

Robbo125 (2253) - it-bites (2253) [B11]

ECF Members 2020 Daily Tournament - Chess.com, 06.10.2021

1.e4 c6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Nf3 Bg4 4.h3 Bxf3 5.Qxf3 e6 6.g3 Bb4 7.Bg2 Nd7 8.a3 Ne5 9.Qe2 Bxc3 10.dxc3 dxe4 11.Qxe4 Qd5 12.0-0 Qxe4 13.Bxe4 Nf6 14.Bg2 0-0 15.Re1 Nc4 16.b3 Nb6 17.c4 Rfd8 18.Be3 Rd7 19.a4 Nc8 20.Bc5 Ne7 21.Red1 Kf8 22.Kf1 Ke8 23.Rd3 Rxd3 24.cxd3 Nd7 25.Bxe7 Kxe7 26.d4 Nf6 27.Ke2 Kd6 28.b4 a6 29.Kd3 h6 30.a5 Nh5 31.Bf3 Nf6 32.Re1 Nd7 33.Bg4 Nf6 34.Bd1 Nd7 35.h4 Nf6 36.Bf3 Nd7 37.Bd1 Nf6 38.g4 Nd7 39.f4 Nf8 40.h5 Nh7 41.Bf3 f6 42.Kc3 Nf8 43.Rg1 Nd7 44.Be4 Rf8 45.b5 Kc7 46.b6+ Kd6 47.Re1 Nb8 48.c5+ Kd7 49.Bg6 Ke7 50.Bf5 Rd8 51.Bxe6 Nd7 52.Bxd7+ Kxd7 53.Kc4 Rg8 54.d5 cxd5+ 55.Kxd5 Rf8 56.f5 Rc8 57.Re6 Rc6 58.Rd6+



ECF Red Cross Charity Marathon for Ukraine

by *Danny Rosenbaum*

The English Chess Federation's 24-hour charity marathon for Ukraine on 2-3 April was a great success.

The event raised £18,000 for the Red Cross DEC appeal in support of Ukraine.

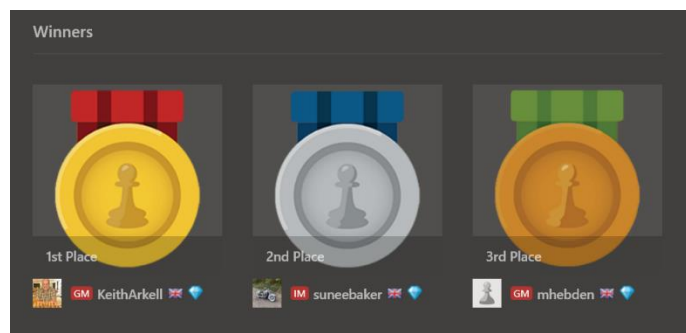
It was wonderful to see so many Ukrainians taking part. Appropriately for a chess marathon, there were 64 Ukrainian players.

Like last year when we held Checkmate Covid – The Rematch this year's marathon was won by GM Keith Arkell.

Keith played 248 games in 24 hours, which is an average of less than six minutes per game despite it being five minute a side chess. He explained: "I managed this by a policy of moving instantly nearly all the time. I won 204 games, lost 21 and drew 23."

Keith's secret? "I'm just lucky that I have good stamina - it's probably the good air down here in Paignton, and the tempting coastal walks!"

He scored 728 points, streets ahead of the field. IM Chris Baker was second with 399 points and GM Mark Hebden third with 386 points.



Of the 6367 games in the tournament, one game that gained a lot of attention on Twitter was Ali Mortazavi v Lawrence Trent. You can play back the Jackson Pollockesque melee at

<https://www.chess.com/game/live/42671926319>

The action was sufficient for Levon Aronian to comment -



BigAl (2515) - LawrenceTrent (2371) [B00]

Live Chess Chess.com, 02.04.2022

1.e4 b6 2.Nc3 Bb7 3.g3 An unusual line against Owen's defence countering the light squared bishop on the diagonal.



e6 4.Bg2 d5 5.exd5 Nf6 Taking advantage of the pin on the long diagonal. **6.Nf3 Nxd5 7.0-0 Be7 8.a4 a6 9.Re1 0-0 10.d4 Nd7 11.Ne4 N7f6 12.Ne5 Qc8 13.c4**



13...Nb4? 13...Nxe4 A safer move allowing the N back to f6 if white recaptures on e4.

14.d5

Better is **14.Nxf6+ Bxf6 15.Bxb7 Qxb7 16.Nd7** and White is now in control. If the rook moves then **Nxf6** followed by **Qg4+** with a big attack on the black king.

14...exd5 15.Ng5 Bc5 16.Bh3 Qd8



The position is about equal at this point. Black has some pressure on the white king with the bishops on the diagonals but white has a surprise in store.

17.Nxf7?! A nice sacrifice which is probably unsound but kicks off a tactical struggle with chances for both sides.

17...Rxf7 18.Be6



18...Ne4 18...Bxf2+ is better setting up a discovered check - 19.Kxf2 Ne4+ With Black taking the initiative.

19.Bxf7+ Kh8 20.Rxe4. Returning the exchange to protect the f-pawn and remove one of black's best pieces. **dxe4**



The position is about equal. Neither king is safe and both sides go for the attack with queen and minor pieces.

21.Qh5 Threatening mate on h7. Black can now sacrifice on f2 with a series of tactical strikes against the white king. The rest of the game is a series of forcing moves for both sides, with both players short of time and some missed wins on both sides.

21...Bxf2+? 22.Kg2? 22.Kxf2 h6 23.Be3 And black has nothing much for the sacrificed piece.

22...e3+ Shutting out the bishop on c1 with check and Black is now in control.

23.Kh3 Qd3?! A nice idea which is probably unsound but kicks off a tactical struggle with chances for both sides.

24.Ra3? Developing the rooks but handing the initiative back and Black is now winning.

The best move was 24.Be6 with a big threat of Nf7+ and various checkmating threats.

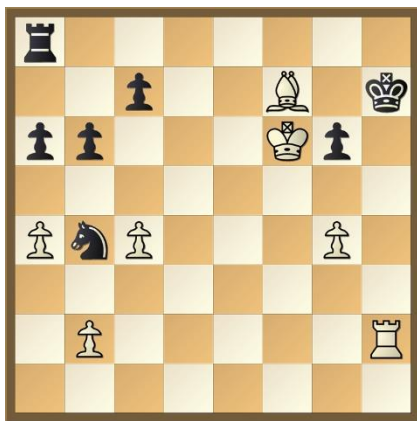
24...Qf1+ 25.Kh4 Bxg3+! 26.hxg3 Qh1+ 27.Nh3 Qe4+ Black protects h7 again and looks to push the e-pawn but missing a win with 27...Bc8 which wins on the spot.

28.g4 e2 29.Bd2 e1Q+ 30.Bxe1 Qxe1+ 31.Rg3 Qe7+ 32.Ng5 h6 33.Qg6 Qxg5+? 33...hxg5+ 34.Kh3 Qf6 Stops the mate and Black wins with the extra piece

34.Qxg5 hxg5+ 35.Kxg5 g6? It's now mate in three.

35...Be4 Black must return the extra piece to stop mate on the h-file.

36.Kf6 Bg2 37.Rxg2 Kh7 38.Rh2#



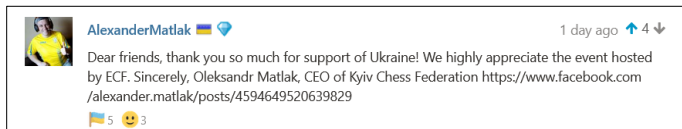
BigAl won by checkmate

An impressive tactical struggle with the initiative changing hands several times before White settles things with mate on the h-file.

1-0

Thank you to Natasha Regan, in particular. but to all the commentators who gave their valuable time so that we had 24 hour coverage. Most of them were on the ECF's Twitch channel at https://www.twitch.tv/ecf_commentary but Titas aka the Duke of Bebington deserves huge credit for streaming through the night on his own channel and raising £1170.

We had very heartening feedback from the Ukrainian players, including this post below on the ECF's Open Club's noticeboard on Chess.com:



A full list of standings and games can be found at <https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/arena/ecf-charity-marathon-for-ukraine-1792555>

The ECF are very grateful to Chess.com, Chessable, Forward Chess and Elk and Ruby for their generous support.

ECF Memberships - Ukraine

The ECF Directors at their recent Board meeting agreed that the ECF will until further notice offer free ECF membership to all Ukrainians with a FIDE UKR registration, whether they come to this country as refugees from Russia's invasion or are already in England (in the latter case, if they are already ECF members, when they renew their membership).

We also encourage clubs and congress organisers to offer free membership and free congress entry respectively to any Ukrainian refugees.

Hosting Ukrainian Refugees

The ECF is working with the Ukrainian Chess Federation to help Ukrainian refugees who wish to come to the UK. Any ECF members who are applying to host Ukrainian refugees under the UK government's Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme (also called the 'Homes for Ukraine' scheme) can be put in touch with refugee families through these contacts.

To register your interest, please email office@englishchess.org.uk giving your full name, address, ECF membership number and telephone contacts.

NEWS AND VIEWS

ECF

The ECF Yearbook 2022 is now available! 278 action-packed pages with contents as follows ...

- Report of the Board to Council
- Strategy and Business
- Home News 2021 – from Chess Magazine
- Chess in the Time of Coronavirus
- Ravi Haria - England's Newest GM
- The British Chess Championships
- Women's Chess – round-up
- Junior Chess – round-up
- International Chess – round-up
- Online Chess – round-up
- Guildford's 25 Years in the 4NCL
- The Chess Trust
- John Robinson Youth Chess
- Chess in Prisons
- ECF and Other Awards
- Best of ... Game of the Month from GM Michael
- Best of ... Arkell's Endings from GM Keith Arkell
- Best of ... GM Peter Wells' ChessMoves Articles
- Best of ... Littlewood's Choice by Paul Littlewood
- Best of ... The Interviews by Mark Rivlin
- Endgame Studies / Chess Problem News Remembering Jonathan Penrose – from British Chess News

ECF members can order printed copies for just £17.85 including P&P (non-members £19.85 including P&P) here - <https://britchess.wufoo.com/forms/ecf-yearbook-2022-order-form/> or follow this link to read or download a PDF version - <https://www.englishchess.org.uk/wp->

[content/uploads/2022/04/Yearbook-2022-complete-II-compressed.pdf](https://www.englishchess.org.uk/content/uploads/2022/04/Yearbook-2022-complete-II-compressed.pdf)

4NCL

Rounds five and six of the top divisions of the 4NCL have been completed and at this stage Wood Green are top of the table. You can see the Division 1 & 2 standings at http://www.4nclresults.co.uk/2021-22/media/4ncl/prog-div1_2.html

One of the highlights of round 6 was Fiona Steil-Antoni's win over Lan Yao. You can replay it at <https://www.chess.com/events/2022-4ncl-main-league/06/Steil-Antoni-Fiona-Yao-Lan>

To replay any of the games played so far go to <https://www.4ncl.co.uk/replay/2122/otb/div1-2.htm> and select the game(s) using the drop-down box.

Junior 4NCL

Congratulations to Ojays A for winning Division 1 of the Junior 4NCL – see the table at <http://www.4nclresults.co.uk/2021-22/media/jncl/we3/prog-div1.html>

Congratulations also to Colchester Juniors who won Division 2 – see the table at <http://www.4nclresults.co.uk/2021-22/media/jncl/we3/prog-div2.html>



Delighted Colchester juniors!

Reykjavik Open

GM Pragganandhaa was the winner of the 2022 Reykjavik Open. There was an extensive list of English players taking part. Several strong performances included IM Brandon Clarke on 6.5/9 and FM Jonah Willow on 6/9. In the words of Leonard Barden in [The Guardian](https://www.theguardian.com), "England's

outstanding success came in the senior over-65 category, where the Surrey IMs Peter Large, 66, and Nigel Povah, 69, tied for first on 5.5/9 with the six-time European team gold and USSR championship silver medallist Oleg Romanishin, 70. Romanishin, who now represents Ukraine, was placed first on tie-break with Large second and Povah third." Perhaps the most notable performance was by Sohum Lohia (below, after winning the British Championships Under 10 and Under 11), whose games included draws with two GMs.



Schachbundesliga

England's latest grandmaster Ravia Haria achieved a terrific draw against super-GM Maxime Vachier-Lagrave. You can replay the game at <https://chess24.com/en/watch/live-tournaments/schachbundesliga-2021-2022/4/3/1>

ECF Women's Norm Events

Two WIM invitational women's norm tournaments took place in London on 7-11 April 2022. The ECF women's norm event was organised by Agnieszka Milewska, the ECF's Director of Women's Chess. The first She Plays To Win international was organised by Lorin D'Costa.

The tournaments both took place at the London Mindsports Centre and had the same format: ten players each, all-play-all.

WIM Lan Yao won the ECF norm event and Machteld van Foreest won the SPTW norm event, achieving a WIM norm.



You can find the final tables and play through the games at <https://chess24.com/en/watch/live-tournaments/ecf-womens-norm-event-2022/9/1/1> and <https://chess24.com/en/watch/live-tournaments/1st-she-plays-to-win-international-2022/5/1/1>

A funny thing happened on the way to the forum

For a little light relief, readers might fancy reading the beautifully crafted poem by John Clarke in amongst a thread on Stanley Holloway and chess at <https://www.ecforum.org.uk/viewtopic.php?f=27&t=12602>

CHESS Magazine taster



Click here for this month's taster -

<https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/0478/2876/2775/files/chess-magazine-april-2022-sample.pdf?v=1648557270>

Click here to purchase / subscribe -

<https://chess.co.uk/collections/chess-magazine/products/chess-magazine-april-2022>

RIP David Anderton

Obituary of David William Anderton OBE (born 2 August 1941, died 1 April 2022) by Stewart Reuben



Awarded the OBE for services to chess in 1977; President of the BCF 1979-82 (at that time the post included Chief Executive); ECF FIDE Delegate for many years, then member of the FIDE Executive Board 1989-93; captained the English chess team for 20 years; BCF/then ECF Honorary Life Vice President; received the ECF President's Award for Services to Chess in 2009 when he stepped down as the ECF legal expert (he stood down from all his roles in the ECF in 2015); International Candidate Master; International Correspondence Master; FIDE Rating 1986 – 2265; 2006 – 2267; 2011 – 2172; 2019 – 2067.

David was born in Walsall, Staffordshire, and lived and worked in the immediate vicinity all his life.

He had a colossal positive influence on chess administration in England. This was because he wasn't just a chess organiser, but also a very active chess player in club and county chess, 4NCL and even English seniors international team chess.

His expertise in the law was also invaluable. He played about fifty competitive games a year. He played for years every Thursday at Pleck Working Men's Club, along with his schoolteacher second wife, Doreen. One site recorded 330 of his games. Most of his club and county games may be lost forever, but he was an assiduous collector and had a huge chess library.

He won the British 60+ Championship five times, tying three times (once with me). David was taught chess by his father as a five year old. In due course he became School Champion of Tettenhall College. In 1972 he became non-playing English team captain and held that position for twenty years. In 1979 he was Midlands champion. He was the BCF International Director 1982-1990.

He was a key member of various committees that ran several important events, often particularly helping with the negotiations with business sponsors. For example: Phillips & Drew/GLC Kings 1980, 1982, 1984; Acorn Computers World Championship Semi-finals 1983; London Docklands USSR v Rest of the World match 1984; GLC (Greater London Council) World Championship Match 1986; Leigh Interests Grand Prix for some years. Stuart Conquest tells that David played in an open tournament in Tuscany in 1996. I didn't know that he spent much time playing in long international tournaments.

But what did he do with the rest of his time? He was a solicitor who started as an articled clerk, as was the practice in those days. He worked for Anson's law firm and was head of regulatory law there. From 1977 he also served as a deputy district judge. The combination of his competitive chess and understanding of the law was hugely valuable to chess. He was consulted by many chess people, not always just about chess matters. His personal contacts helped him secure several business sponsors for chess and he was in the top four of English people who were successful in this field.

We will miss David Anderton greatly.

Attention all Seniors!

It is appropriate to mention at this point that the ECF teams' participation in the **World Senior Teams Chess Championships 2022** has been dedicated to the memory of **David William Anderton OBE**.

The World Senior Teams Chess Championships will take place 19-30 June 2022 in Acqui Terme, Italy.

For more information on how to register please visit <https://www.englishchess.org.uk/Seniors/the-world-senior-teams-chess-championships-2022/>

Please register your interest ASAP.

The **24th European Senior Team Chess Championship** will take place on 26 October-4 November 2022 in Dresden.

For more information please visit <https://www.englishchess.org.uk/Seniors/european-senior-teams-championships-2022/>

As mentioned elsewhere the **Chessable English Seniors Championships** run on 4-8 May 2022 at the

Holiday Inn Kenilworth-Warwick. **No entries will be taken after Wednesday 29th April.** Please find information and the registration form at <https://www.englishchess.org.uk/english-seniors-championships/>

Attention all Seniors' Partners!

Pat Scowen has written a terrific opinion piece on accompanying her husband, Roger Scowen, who has been playing in senior chess tournaments for over ten years. To read the entertaining article visit <https://www.englishchess.org.uk/Seniors/a-partners-view-of-attending-senior-chess-events/>

The English Chess Federation Library and Archive

at De Montfort University Special Collections

Katharine Short writes ...

DMU Special Collections is delighted to have accepted the library and archive of the English Chess Federation on a long-term loan basis.

Special Collections is the archive of De Montfort University, Leicester (DMU). Founded as the Leicester School of Art in 1870, the institution became a polytechnic in 1969 and a university in 1992. The archive is part of the Directorate of Library and Learning Services, and contributes to the support of learning, teaching and research across the university. As well as the institutional archive, we also collect materials that relate to the specialisms of research centres at the University. Special Collections is open to staff, students, researchers and the public and has well-established teaching and volunteering programmes. Our website - <https://library.dmu.ac.uk/specialcollections> - includes online exhibitions, articles, blog posts, useful links and contact information.

Our sport-related collections have grown significantly in recent years, partly due to the excellent working relationship between Special Collections and the International Centre for Sports

History and Culture (ICSHC), and partly because there are so few archives actively and visibly collecting sporting materials. Existing collections include papers of sports organisations including the Leicester Tigers Rugby Club; the Ski Club of Great Britain; England Boxing (the Amateur Boxing Association); the Leicester Riders Basketball Club; and the Alpine Ski Club.

Back in 2019, a student of the ICSHC was the first to connect us with the ECF and suggest we could be a suitable repository for their collections. Following an introductory visit to our research and storage facilities in Leicester, we were pleased that ECF staff agreed! Paperwork and the pandemic held up matters but finally, in July 2021, the collection was carefully packed up in Hastings and driven up to Leicester by a removals company. Nearly 200 crates of books, papers and artefacts had to be unpacked and shelved!

Before



After



The extensive library contains 19th and 20th century books, journals, pamphlets and tournament programmes relating to every aspect of chess, from 'how to play' manuals, match and tournament books, player biographies and general histories, to the art

of the chess piece and the rise of chess computer games. The archive papers include files on the administration and management of the ECF and there are also artefacts including tournament banners, chess sets, timer clocks, badges and even a panel of chess-themed stained glass from Harry Golombek's front door! Various chess luminaries have donated their libraries to the ECF and these contributions are marked by bookplates in the volumes.

Next steps for the collection will include cataloguing. As the collection is a mixture of books and papers, this will involve multiple staff across the library. The archival papers will be listed by the Special Collections team on our site (we have a brief outline here already -

<https://specialcollections.catalogue.dmu.ac.uk/records/S/012>)

- while a librarian will work on the books and journals, adding them to the Library catalogue. They will be easily identifiable with their own classification number. We plan to provide frequent updates on this process both in this magazine and on our own media, so do look out for these.

Meanwhile the collection is open for researchers, although as it isn't catalogued yet readers will have to browse the shelves to find the books they want to consult. Anyone can visit by emailing archives@dmu.ac.uk to make an appointment - you don't need to be affiliated with DMU. We are also able to provide a simple remote research and reprographics service. For example, if you knew that you wanted a copy of a specific article in a specific journal, we could find it and copy it for you. We cannot undertake time-consuming or complex research though! At the moment our reprographics service is free due to the pandemic; this will be reviewed in due course.

In order to promote the collections, we've introduced a weekly #ChessTuesday feature on our Twitter feed @DMUSpecialColls, sharing highlights and treasures from the collection - essentially whatever catches our eye when we browse the shelves! We've also been using the chess materials in teaching sessions. While we show them primarily to students of sports history, the extensive range of the library means that we can often use the materials in wider classes - photographic history or graphic design for example. The collection is being used by a

student who is designing a chess-themed exhibition for their museum design course. We've also found that the range of foreign-language publications has delighted some homesick international students!

As the loan of the ECF collection has become more widely known, we have been offered complementary materials by chess enthusiasts. While we're hesitant to take many more books as the ECF Library is so extensive and we don't want to duplicate existing holdings, collections of papers that relate to chess are welcome. For example, we now hold the collection of Stewart Reuben relating to his extensive chess career including minutes and papers from numerous FIDE Congresses, papers relating to the management and administration of the British Chess Federation and English Chess Federation, bulletins, newsletters, and photographs.

In addition, as readers of last month's *ChessMoves* will already be aware, we recently accepted a painting by Xavier White which will be displayed alongside the ECF Library. *Robert Walks Through Water (3,4)* is a portrait of chess player and writer Robert (Bob) Wade, who lived near White and struck up a friendship with him over crosswords in a cafe. White wanted the portrait to be united with Wade's books, which have been assimilated into the ECF Library.

If you are interested in learning more about the English Chess Federation library and archive please do not hesitate to contact us at archives@dmu.ac.uk. We look forward to welcoming new readers to this wonderful collection!

Katharine Short, Special Collections Manager
De Montfort University, Leicester

TWEET OF THE MONTH



Chess Problems of a Different Kind

Ask the ECF's own agony aunt, Dr Kibbitzer

Q) I have problems with one of my pawns feeling isolated. Can you help?

A) See if you can't get some of your heavy pieces to come alongside it and keep it company and the pawn should be fine.

Q) My king is feeling exposed. Is there anything I can do?

A) This is a common problem particularly when the queen has gone for a wander. It is no use asking any pawns to come back; they never do. Any chance you can persuade a knight to help out? I assume of course that you have already made a castle. If not, you must endeavour to do so as soon as possible.

Q) My bishops are feeling cramped. How can I help them feel liberated?

A) You could ask your pawns to advance. Of course their path may well be blocked, in which case I am afraid you may have to ask one or two of them to sacrifice themselves for the greater good and toddle off to the great chessboard in the sky.

Q) One of my rooks has been skewered. Is there anything I can do?

A) If the X-ray looks bad then it's highly likely the prognosis is also bad. It sounds like the rook's a goner.

Q) My queen is overloaded with too much to do. What do you suggest?

A) She must be persuaded to delegate before it's too late. Ask her to focus on what's most important and see if there are any other pieces around who can help out with the other jobs

Q) All of my chaps are feeling that they are stuck and can't improve. If anything, they can only make the situation worse. Please help; we are at a loss.

A) I'm afraid it may be that you are suffering from a terrible malady called zugzwang. Unless one of your pieces can snap out of it I'm afraid the game is up. Are they all sure there's nothing they can do? Often there's some hidden resource one can deploy if one only struggles hard enough to find it.

Q) My rook is feeling that our situation is almost hopeless and is intent upon a desperado sacrifice. Should I try to talk it out of it?

A) Not necessarily! If, for example, time is a factor and when flags are falling who knows? It may buy the crucial second or two needed to win. Either way, your rook should be praised for its selflessness.

Do you have a problem for Dr Kibbitzer? If so, please email our editor at danny.rosenbaum@englishchess.org.uk

FEATURES

Matthew Sadler on How to Maintain Your Chess Strength



Chatting with Mike Truran during the lovely dinner at the RAC club after another thrilling Varsity Match, we got onto the topic of playing chess and maintaining your strength as an amateur player and Mike suggested I write an article

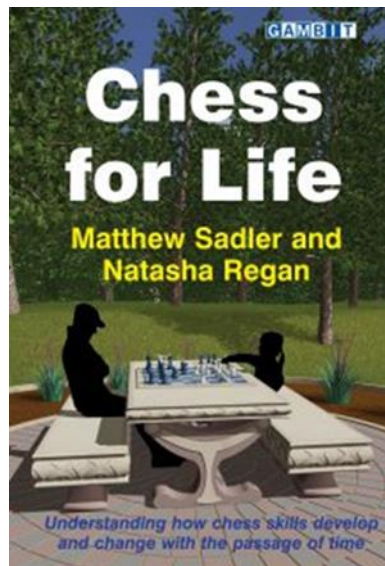
for *ChessMoves* about it! It's perhaps a little odd for me to be writing about this after having just dropped off the FIDE list due to inactivity 😊

However, it has been a topic that's interested me ever since I came back to chess as an amateur after a 10-year break. Interested *us* I should say of course, as I really got into the topic when Natasha Regan and I collaborated on the lovely book "Chess for Life" in which we interviewed older players (male and female, professional and amateur) who had successfully maintained their strength into later life in order to understand their strategies.

Perhaps the abiding impression of those interviews – and the part that made it so much fun to do at the time – was the enormous sense of enjoyment in chess that all of our interviewees still displayed. We interviewed Nigel Short via Skype from his home in Athens and it was hilarious to see him continually triggered by the course of the interview into fetching another chess book from his library! For example, touching on Nimzowitsch, Nigel ran out to fetch his copy of "My System" in Latvian ("the best language in which to read it" he joked 😊)

Of course, enthusiasm for chess in general and enthusiasm for playing chess are not always exactly the same thing. The key takeaway from our interviews was that as you get older, you need to think carefully about how you ensure that a chess

tournament never becomes a grind. Nigel Short pursued his love of travel by playing chess in exotic locations which motivated him to give his utmost at the board, while Keith Arkell spoke of playing better with only minimal preparation before the game, conserving his energy for the long struggle ahead! Each of the players we talked to had a different strategy, but it was clear that – consciously or intuitively – they all had a good idea of how to approach a chess game – and endure a whole tournament - with the most positive feelings. And that often wasn't how you thought someone *should* do it, but it worked for them!



Another facet of chess to tournament play is preparation. This is definitely something that players find difficult to maintain as they get older, and I'm no exception. I wondered why that was for a long time, but I decided eventually that it was because chess

preparation is all about repetition. You prepare and learn your lines for a specific game, but within a week you've forgotten some key details and you need to revise and relearn them. I didn't think twice about that as a professional, but when chess is your hobby, playing through an interesting game and analysing some key moments from it may fit the concept of fun – and improvement - much better than trying to stamp reams of variations into your unwilling memory again and again!

Perhaps the most important thing I did in general was to set myself the discipline of at least 15 minutes of chess every day. When I first started playing again in 2010, I tended to have little bursts of activity in chess, followed by a period of inactivity when I wouldn't touch a chessboard for a couple of weeks (I was doing quite a few works exams at the time). Every time I wanted to pick up chess again, I felt as if I hadn't seen a chessboard in six months. It really felt quite distressing getting the chess brain in gear again! I decided that there's only a limited amount of space in your head, and there

are many things from “real life” competing to fill that space; look away and chess simply gets squeezed out. So I set myself the task of doing at least 15 minutes of chess every day to make sure that I never lost sight of chess completely. Obviously, more was better, but I would always try and fit something in however busy the day became.

I also made a good decision (after some trial and error) for the type of work I would do by default in those 15 minutes. I decided that the most important part of the playing mindset is to be critical of your opponent’s moves: don’t accept or believe what they play, make up your own mind! In order to stimulate that, I started to re-read some of the older books I had such as a collection of Alekhine’s Best Games. While reading, I put aside my normal respectful approach to books and questioned every annotation, every variation and every move! It will amaze you how many discoveries you make when you do this! I felt this was really valuable work, both for my practical attitude and for my general chess culture. This work eventually became a series of articles on my blog

(<https://matthewsadler.me.uk/matthew-sadler-blog/>) not just on Alekhine’s games, but also on those of players such as Efim Bogolyubow, Frank Marshall, Fred Yates and HE Atkins. The reason I chose historical books for this work is that modern books tend to be blunder-checked by engines so the chance of spotting tactical mistakes is much smaller... that’s much less satisfying!



Alexander Alekhine photo: George Grantham Bain Collection (Library of Congress)

When it came to playing tournaments or league games, the amount of work I did on chess tended to increase in the period just before the event. From that point of view, I feel very much akin to another

“Chess For Life” interviewee Terry Chapman who spoke about how much he enjoyed the whole process of preparing for a game, and how much getting openings ready for a game filled him with anticipation and pleasure for the struggle! I’m exactly the same; if I just turn up to a game without any ideas at all, then I really wonder why I’m there. If I make the effort to spend a weekend playing chess, then I’d like to give everything I have to it, not just play on autopilot!

Perhaps the best thing I discovered from the preparation point of view was to start using self-generated engine matches to put together my openings. I describe the idea in detail in “The Silicon Road to Chess Improvement”. The idea was to pick an opening I wanted to play, enriched with a couple of my own ideas / thoughts. Then I’d pick out 20 or 30 interesting positions from that opening, put them in a file and let my engines play matches from those positions. After those matches were played, I’d have maybe 50 or 60 really interesting games in that opening... games that no one else had ever seen or would ever see 😊 I’d then play through those games picking out 10 or 11 that I thought were really typical and instructive, which took about half an hour. I might repeat that process a few more times if I had fresh thoughts or I saw something that wasn’t clear to me. And after a few iterations, I had a set of computer-checked lines based on some fascinating, evocative games that no one else had ever seen before! And all the effort I had made was to let my creativity run free a bit to generate some initial ideas, and then afterwards play through some spectacular games to put together some lines! Easy and fun! Nowadays, I do all my analysis that way – I can’t imagine doing anything else!

Whichever method you use to prepare however, the key takeaway from chess as an amateur must be pleasure. You might be driven by a love for the chess scene, by the love of the game itself or by the love of competition, or even a mixture of all three, but you should be able to look back on a weekend spent playing chess with the feeling that you have done something worthwhile. I guess I always have that feeling... If I played a good or exciting game, I got a lot of pleasure afterwards thinking about it and analysing in my head as I walked to my train. If I played a bad game, then it was sure to wake me in the middle of the night for a few weeks after 😊 Come to think of it, I still have some games from the

90s that give me nightmares! But well, those sorts of intense experiences are what makes chess special – I’ve had ups and downs during my work as an IT consultant, with successful projects and ghastly “all-nighters” to solve critical problems, but I don’t think I’ve ever felt quite as alive as after a well-played game based on good preparation! Long may it continue!

GM MICHAEL ADAMS’ GAME OF THE MONTH



Match play brings different pressures to tournament action; the unique challenges of facing the same opponent day after day often lead to intriguing games between well matched adversaries. This was certainly the case in the England - Sweden

Challenge match. This game was instrumental in David emerging ahead by the narrowest of margins 5.5 - 4.5. The previous day he had suffered a tough defeat as Nils showed his attacking prowess, but in this game, he exerts controlled pressure which eventually pays dividends as his opponent overplays his hand.

D. Howell – N. Grandelius

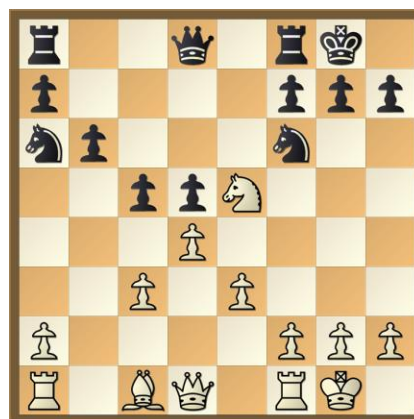
ENG-SWE Challenge Match London 2022

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Nf3 b6 5.e3 Move orders make a difference here. David returns to e3 systems, but only now that Nils has committed to plans to fianchetto his bishop.

5...0-0 6.Bd3 d5 7.cxd5 exd5 8.0-0 c5 A rare continuation - it's tempting to challenge in the centre, but the queenside pieces remain at home.

9.Ne5 9.dxc5 bxc5 10.Ne2, or **10.Bd2** hoping to prove the hanging pawns and the bishop on b4 might become a liability later would have taken the game in another direction.

9...Bxc3 10.bxc3 Ba6 11.Bxa6 Nxa6 Nils decides to make some exchanges, giving up both bishops, but importantly swapping the strong opposing one on d3. The bishop on c1 is blocked in at the moment, but it might prosper later after a future c4 or e4 break.



12.Qa4 I wasn't expecting White's queen to move in this direction, particularly as Black will have to recycle the knight on the edge in any case.

12...Nc7 13.f3 a6 Typically Nils plays aggressively, planning to advance the queenside pawns and drive White's queen backwards. However, as the pawns move forward they will require more support; the flexible **13...Re8** was also good.

14.Bd2 Nb5 Another point of Black's last move is that the knight will land on d6, eyeing c4 and covering the e4 advance, but this consumes more time.

15.Qb3 Nd6 16.Be1! An excellent redeployment; the bishop could be an inconvenience on h4 or g3, or support the centre from f2.

16...c4 16...Re8 17.Bh4 Nf5 18.Bf2 Qc7 was still quite possible. This move has the drawback of easing the pressure in the centre.



17.Qb4 a5 18.Qb1 Nfe8 This move doesn't work out well, as the knight becomes stranded on the back rank, never emerging. 18...Qc7 looks natural as 19.a4 b5 20.axb5 Rfb8 would suit Black well. Instead 19.Bg3 Nh5 also looks all right; 19.Bh4! is more of a problem, but 19...Nh5 is certainly playable as 20.g4 Nf6 21.Bxf6? gxf6 leaves White's knight rather embarrassed.

19.a4! Now the b5 advance will compromise Black's structure and activate White's rook against the a-pawn.

19...f6 20.Ng4 b5 21.axb5 Rb8



22.Bg3 White could have used tactics to force through 22.e4 Rxb5 23.Qa2 but David is happy to continue improving his pieces first.

22...Rxb5 23.Qc2 Qe7 Black had to keep going forward to justify his ambitious approach with 23...Rb3! 24.e4 f5 25.exf5 Nxf5 26.Rfe1 Ned6. This queen manoeuvre is not a success as Nils loses the thread, and his next few moves make little ground.

24.Rfe1 Qb7 25.Ra2! Covering the second rank; now Black's pieces are awkwardly placed and the chain of knights is paralysed.



25...Rb3 26.Rea1 Stronger than 26.Rxa5 Nb5.

26...Qe7 The queen heads back to base again, but 26...Nb5 27.Be1 secures c3, before snaffling the pawn on a5 in any case.

27.Rxa5 h5? 27...Nb5! still gives good chances to fight; the main point of the move is to cover the a7 square, and it also targets c3.



28.Ra7! This insertion breaks Black's shaky co-ordination.

28...Nb7 The rook must be blocked, as 28...Qe6 29.Bxd6 Nxd6 30.Qg6! Nf7 31.Nh6+! brings down the curtain.

29.Nf2 Qxe3 30.Qf5!



30...Rxc3 The d-pawn is dropping off, as 30...Rb5 31.Qd7! decides.

31.Qxd5+ Rf7 32.h4 Not 32.Rxb7 Rc1+, but White's king will be totally secure on h2.

32...Qe7



33.Ne4! Rb3 34.Nc5! Rb2 35.Re1!

A forcing sequence, mobilising all White's forces ends the game as material is going west. Black resigned.

GM Peter Wells: Reflections on the European Individual Championships



I have always had something of a soft spot for the European Individual Championships. A creature of the new millennium, it was established by the European Chess Union (ECU) in 2000 and was held every year without fail until Covid caused a postponement in 2020. A large part of its appeal has always been that, as well as supplying a European Champion, the tournament typically acts as a qualifying event, formerly for the knock-out FIDE World Championship and more recently for the World Cup. This, it seemed to me, represented a welcome extension of opportunity to take a shot at competing for the highest honours. Once upon a

time, players had to be selected by their federations to go through the zonal/interzonal cycle and there would usually be some who missed out by a tiny margin - even for those fortunate enough that their federations boasted processes which were at least crystal clear. With this new event, essentially, everyone could have a go.

Another part of the appeal arising from this was that the tournaments showcased incredible strength in depth - perhaps not offering the conditions which could attract the elite, but with immense appeal to the next 'tier'. I remember my shock when I played in Silivri (just outside Istanbul) in 2003 at being seeded 163(!) with a rating just shy of 2500. Two years later, on the outskirts of Warsaw, I must have found myself in the second half of the draw - despite a healthier rating of 2525 - since a first round pairing against Loek Van Wely set me on my way to encountering seven players over 2600 in 13 rounds. Yes, I had harboured hopes of qualification, but the primary goal was to play stronger opposition and sometimes the event served this purpose to perfection.

I played in eight of these tournaments between 2001 and 2011 and one of the salient variables on a personal level has been the extent of English participation, not infrequently influenced by varying degrees of financial support being available from the ECF for what can be extremely expensive ventures. For my first event in Ohrid 2001, I was joined by Nigel Short, Tony Miles and Stuart Conquest, a small but impressive delegation which threw together two elite players who endured famously frosty relations, but an experience which I actually remember for a number of convivial and irreverently amusing 'team' meals. Another highlight was 2007, for which the then International Director Peter Sowray offered some financial support to (and then headed) a large English delegation which seemed to me to enjoy a team spirit and solidarity which has scarcely been recaptured since. I also have great memories of 2011, played in the attractive French town of Aix-Les-Bains, where I was fortunate to share a flat with Luke McShane and Gawain Jones and to watch at first hand Luke in great form, battling for the highest honours.

Despite not having played since 2011, I was very tempted to make a comeback this year. Slovenia has for a long time been among my favourite countries - a feeling which goes well beyond the affection for

Lake Bled which initially triggered it in the mid-1990s – and I definitely felt overdue a visit there. However, I also understood that, particularly for a player of my advanced years, such an event should only be undertaken after a period of substantial preparation and some time in February the reality kicked in that I was too far from ready.

In the event, only two English players participated this year: Shreyas Royal and Zoe Varney. They have both analysed games elsewhere in this issue. Shreyas began superbly by drawing with two very strong grandmasters, then faded for some rounds as he struggled with one of the tough challenges of these events – adjusting to playing players of vastly differing levels in successive days. Once he came to terms with this, he finished strongly and added a further pile of rating points, bringing himself very close to 2400 and consolidating his greatly accelerated progress of the last few months. Zoe also began in fine style, taking her first half point from a GM over-the board, but then found the going tough for some rounds. My general feeling is that she is improving fast, acquiring a lot of knowledge, and just needs a little more self-confidence in order to put this to good effect more consistently. Her stamina is certainly not in doubt. Taking a bye in the final round she flew back to London and immediately resumed struggles at the first 'She Plays to Win' International. There too when in Round 3 she utilised an excellent position to force a draw against the eventual winner Machteld Van Forrest, it seemed that the main thing holding Zoe back is probably just a little extra self-belief.

The new 2022 European Champion is 24 year-old Matthias Bluebaum of Germany. He is a player whom I generally perceive as quite solid and positional, which renders the impressive streak of six wins which he conjured from round 2 onwards all the more remarkable. This left him almost unassailable in tie-break terms, although he did look very nervy in the final round playing as White against Ivan Saric, resorting to a variation against the King's Indian which he described himself as 'horrible'. In attempting to avert losing chances, he left himself clearly on the defensive, but ultimately he held his nerve.

On the same points as Bluebaum, but behind him on tie-break, came another positional titan, Gabriel Sargissian, whose success at 38 years old represents something of an encouragement to those past their

first flush of youth. In fact, this was by no means an isolated achievement – Zdenko Kozul's qualification even struck an unlikely blow for my generation of players – but there is at the same time no doubt that a quick perusal of the qualifiers reveals the coming of a new generation. Some of these were well known to me such as Norway's Aryan Tari or Spain's Anton Gujerro David, but some of them are quite a revelation, with antagonistic neighbours Azerbaijan and Armenia both strikingly well represented amongst them.

Having discussed my fondness for this tournament, I should also admit its flaws. First among these is probably that whilst the incentive of qualification produces a very strong field, there is a sense in which the stakes are almost too high. The latter stages of the event have developed some notoriety, both for very nervy encounters and, even more, for mass peace agreements amongst those for whom draws are likely to secure qualification. I will never forget Stuart Conquest's plight in the final round in 2001. Surrounded on all sides by players happily agreeing draws and heading off to celebrate, he was paired with the black pieces against the legendary Alexander Beliavsky who - presumably reinforced by something of a 'been there, done that' mentality - was absolutely determined to fight for the full point. There was a happy ending when Stuart emerged unscathed, fully 60 moves later, but he had certainly been put through his paces and could feel very satisfied to have earned his placing the hard way.

My feeling this year was that there were rather more fluctuating tussles than smooth victories, although the following game rather appealed to me. Sympathy with Black's rough treatment here can also be tempered by the fact that both players eventually qualified!

Haik Martirosyan - Arseniy Nesterov

European Individual Championship 2022, Terme Catez, Slovenia
Round 9.

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6 5.Bg5 dxc4
6.a4 Bb4 7.e4 c5 8.Bxc4 h6 9.Bxf6 Qxf6 10.0-0
cxd4 11.e5 Qd8 12.Ne4 Nc6**



13.Qc1!?

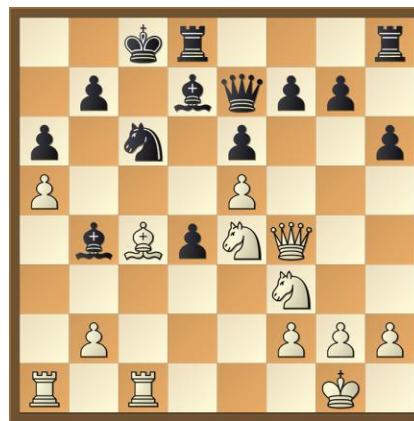
The structure of this position feels very similar to the one which I played against Jonah Willow at Harrogate in January. I understood at least that White should 'play around' the d-pawn and play e5 to make a strong square for the knight on e4. However, I wasted a lot of time trying to find the optimal deployment of the major pieces. I am not sure that putting the queen on f4 is White's best, but it sets a lot of challenges and I like the way in which White denies his opponent's king any attractive options.

13...Bd7 14.Qf4 Qe7?!

To the extent that this presages long castling, it could be marked more severely. Black seriously underestimates the danger to his king if White keeps a rook on the a-file. Instead, he has to work to make the kingside safe to inhabit and to this end 14...Be7! is strongly indicated and probably solid enough.

15.Rfc1! 0-0-0 16.a5 a6?

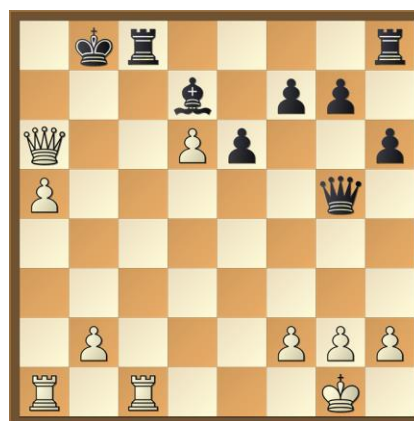
Tempting to stop the march of the a-pawn, especially when grabbing it looks dangerous. In fact, Black has to bite that bullet although after, for example, 16...g5 17.Qg3 Bxa5 18.Nd6+ Kb8 19.Nxd4 Bb6! 20.N(4)b5! it is difficult for Black to unravel without creating further targets for the attack.



17.Bxa6!

Not that difficult to see that this sacrifice is promising, once the coming invasion on b6 is spotted and of course the perpetual always offers a 'safety net' in such positions. Still, this is a crisp sacrifice and White's route to victory is in fact narrower than I thought it would be as I watched this live.

17...bxa6 18.Nxd4 Kb7 19.Qe3! Nxd4 20.Qxd4 Rc8 21.Nd6+ Bxd6 22.Qb6+ Ka8 23.Qxa6+ Kb8 24.Qb6+ Ka8 25.exd6 Qg5 26.Qa6+ Kb8



27.Rc7!

Slightly strangely this fine invasion is the only clear win, since Black's queen is otherwise ready to swing to the defence via b5. 27 Rc7! definitely qualifies as a 'removal of the defender' motif, but with Black's queen defending c1, the point is not in the first place to make way for access to the c-file, but rather to send the king away to make way for pushing the a-pawn.

27...Rxc7 28.dxc7+ Kxc7 29.Qb6+ Kc8 30.a6 1-0

One more aspect of this tournament is well worth a mention; despite a European Women's Individual coming up in August in Prague, an encouraging number of Europe's young female stars nonetheless

decided to play in Terme Catez, something which I think bodes well for the future of the women's game. I applaud and greatly enjoyed commentating on the two excellent norm events for women which were organised in London in early April. These are a great innovation and I hope they will be repeated. However, I believe that promoting women's chess needs be on the levels both of participation and attainment, and I find it strange that the idea that the end goal should be to have women competing at a high level in open events appears even to be controversial. I remain convinced that the greatest danger faced by the leading young female players is in the dampening of their ambitions and that in avoiding this scenario Judit Polgar remains the great exemplar. So it is great to see the young elite looking to play at the highest level possible.

19.Bc4!

19... b5 20.Bxb4 Nxb4 21.Bxf7+!

21...Kxf7 22.h5 Bg7 23.hxg6+ hxg6 24.Ng5+ Kg8

25.a3!

Again, there was a great turnout of players who have greatly impressed me in the past such as Eline Roebbers, Zsoka Gaal, Ellie Milikow, Zala Uhr (who has so impressed on the English circuit in recent months) and Ireland's Trisha Kanyamarala. However, it was two young players of whom I was hitherto much less aware who produced the most extraordinary results. Both Beydullayeva Govhar from Azerbaijan and Nurgyul Salimova of Bulgaria (playing here under the ECU flag) finished on an outstanding 7/11, each dispatching a couple of grandmasters along the way.

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.Nbd2 d5 4.e3 Bg7 5.b4 0-0
6.c4 a5 7.b5 a4 8.Ba3 c6 9.Rc1 Bg4 10.cxd5 cxb5
11.d6 exd6 12.Bxb5 Qa5 13.Bd3 Bxf3 14.gxf3
Rd8 15.Kf1 Nc6 16.h4 Bf8 17.Kg2 Nd5 18.Ne4
Ncb4

25...Rdc8

This looks a bit abject, but if, for example, 25...Nd5 26.Qc2 Ne7 it is easy to see that keeping the queen out of g6 does not stop her invading after 27.Qe4! and mate will follow shortly.

26.Rxc8+ Rxc8 27.axb4 Qd8 28.f4 Qd7 29.Kg3! Qc6 30.Qg4 Re8 31.Qh3

White is a pawn up and the attack is still raging. There are many routes to victory here, but the one Salimova chooses is particularly efficient.

31...Kf8 32.f5 Qc2 33.Ne6+ Kf7 34.Nxg7 Rg8 35.f6 Qe4 36.Qd7+ Kxf6 37.Rh4 Rxg7 38.Qxg7+ Kxg7 39.Rxe4 Kf7 40.Rh4 1-0

ARKELL'S ENDINGS

The importance of pawn structure



Pawns: they are the soul of this game, they alone form the attack and defence

- *François-André Danican Philidor*

Pawn endings are to chess what putting is to golf
- *Cecil Purdy*

I had intended to devote this month's column to a selection of my games from the ECF marathon in aid of Ukraine, but on reflection I decided that they lacked depth and quality.

I was able to rack up a big score by keeping it simple and playing instantaneously in order both to maximise the number of games and conserve energy. The result was that I completed 248 games, scoring 87% against a field which included a surprisingly large number of strong opponents.

Such an approach is only possible if you play according to a set of well-defined principles, in my

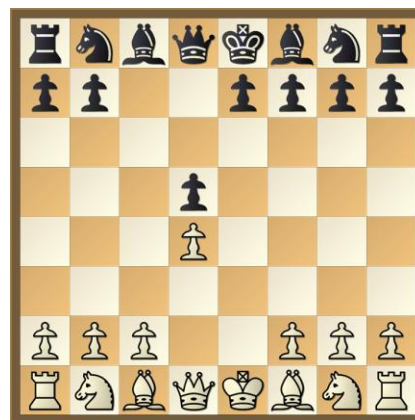
case a superficial form of my normal style - namely, play for the better pawn structure and make favourable exchanges wherever possible, heading for endgames which hopefully I would understand well enough to reel in the points.

Instead of offering you a bunch of those games I have selected one which I played 35 years ago where that same policy of maintaining the better pawn structure into the endgame enabled me to win against the then second-best player in India, after Vishy Anand. Today it is difficult to imagine that at the time of this game, played in Calicut in 1987, India had no grandmasters at all! This soon changed though when first Vishy and then Barua himself obtained the title.

Dibiendu Barua v Keith Arkell

Calicut International, 06.03.1987

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5



I am as happy to see this position as I am to play the QGD Exchange variation because in both cases I have made a significant gain according to my 'Hierarchy of Pawns', in which they increase in value as you work your way from the a - pawn across to the g-pawn. I explain this in some detail in my book.

4.Bd3 Nc6 5.c3 g6 6.Nf3 Nh6 7.0-0 Bf5 8.Re1 Bxd3 9.Qxd3 Bg7 10.Nbd2 0-0 11.Nf1 Nf5 12.Bf4 e6 13.Re2 a6 14.g4



Certainly a principled move as White typically looks to operate on the kingside while Black concentrates on the other flank with a minority attack.

14...Nd6 15.Ng3 b5 16.h4 b4 17.h5 bxc3 18.bxc3 Qd7 19.Kg2 Rfc8 20.hxg6 hxg6 21.Ng5



I put a lot of trust in long-term advantages, but it is still a bit scary when your opponent aims their pieces at your king!

21...Nc4 22.Rae1 Re8 23.Nf3 Rac8 24.Qb1 Na7 25.Qc1 Nb5 26.Bh6 Qe7 27.a4 Nbd6 28.Rh1 Qf8 29.Bf4 f6



Ideally, I would like to leave myself with a rock-solid pawn structure while banging away against

the weakness on c3, but I need to give my king a bit of luft against White's plan of Qg1 to h2.

30.g5 f5 31.Qg1 Ne4 32.Qh2 Kf7 33.Nh4 Qh8 34.Rb1 Re7



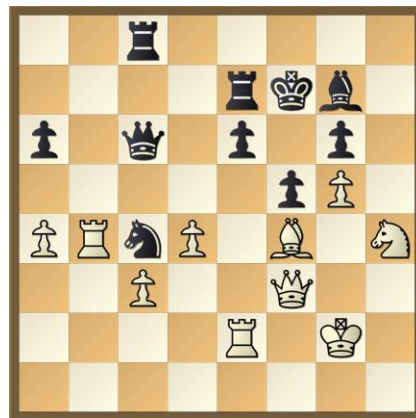
35.Nxe4

Defending with 35 Rc1 would be too passive and allow me all sorts of options, perhaps the best of which is 35...e5!

35...dxe4

If in doubt the rules of my pawn hierarchy dictate that I capture towards the opponent's king. I find this to be a very handy maxim.

36.Qg3 Qe8 37.Rb4 Qc6 38.f3 exf3+ 39.Qxf3



39...e5?

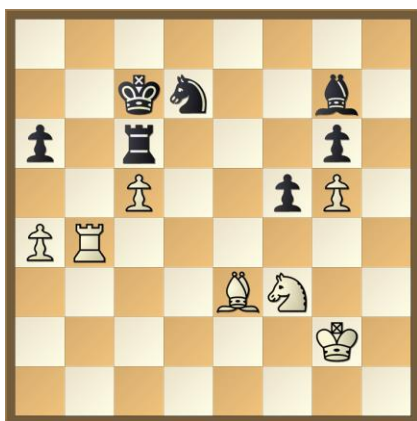
Although Black still maintains a slight plus in the endgame after this, I could more profitably have redeployed my knight to d5 via b6 when Barua would have been firmly on the ropes.

40.Qxc6 Rxc6 41.dxe5 Nxe5



Despite the error on move 39 I have at least maintained the better pawn structure. Look at the difference in quality between the one on c3 and that on f5! Objectively though I have let him off the hook as his pieces are sufficiently active.

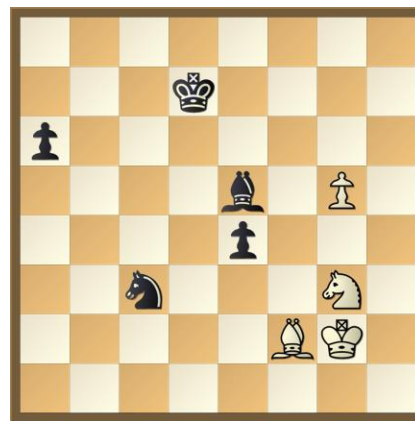
42.Re3 Nd7 43.c4 Nc5 44.Rxe7+ Kxe7 45.Be3 Nd7 46.c5 Kd8 47.Nf3 Kc7



48.Rc4

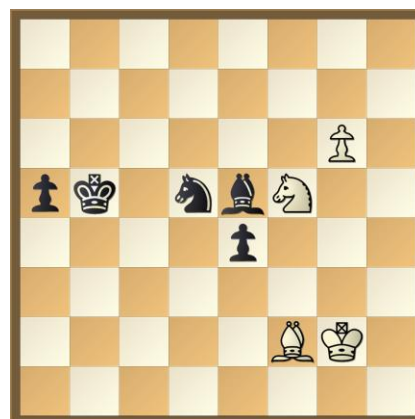
48 Bf4+ would most likely have led to a draw, but this momentary opportunity doesn't hide the fact that for most of the game White has been facing an uphill battle.

48...Re6 49.Bf2 Kc6 50.Rb4 Re4 51.Rxe4 fxe4 52.Nh4 Nxc5 53.Nxg6 Nxa4 54.Ne7+ Kd7 55.Nf5 Be5 56.Ng3 Nc3



There are not enough pawns left to force a win, but White must continue playing accurately to hold the draw.

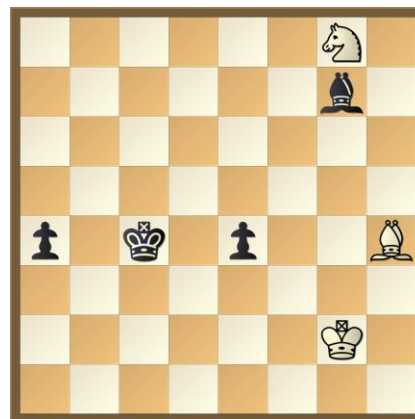
57.Be1 Ke6 58.g6 Kd5 59.Nf5 a5 60.Ne7+ Kc5 61.Bf2+ Kb5 62.Nf5 Nd5



63.Nd4+?

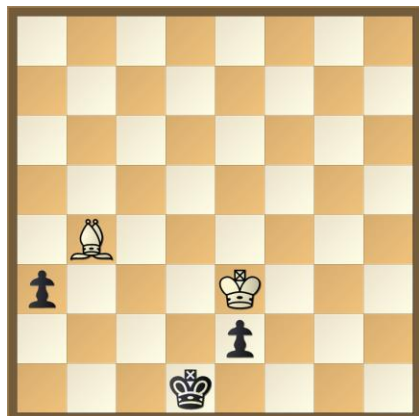
After defending very accurately for the previous ten moves White at last goes wrong. Barua would have hung on after 63 Bg3! Bh8 64 g7 Bxg7 65 Nxg7 a4 66 Nf5 Kc4 67 Bd6

63...Kc4 64.Nc6 Bc3 65.g7 Nf6 66.Ne7 a4 67.Bh4 Ng8 68.Nxg8 Bxg7



The point being that although I am a piece down I am well enough coordinated to ease one of the pawns home.

69.Be7 Kd3 70.Nf6 Bxf6 71.Bxf6 e3 72.Be7 Kd2 73.Kf3 e2 74.Bb4+ Kd1 75.Ke3 a3



0-1

No Kidding

by Mark Rivlin



It's another wet 4NCL Saturday and I'm ferrying three proper chess players to the venue in my old but trusted Mazda 3. Sometimes I think the team invite me to play because I have a car. If

my bank balance was like my Saturday 4NCL tally, I'd be on skid row. It doesn't matter what Division you are in, you'll still find a European titled player across the board. Surely, I think, my luck will change today.

Then the grim reality sinks in as mum wheels in a buggy and out steps a three-year-old CM. At least I'll be finished early enough to see how the Mighty Os (Leyton Orient, the uncrowned kings of Europe) are faring in League Two. Sitting on at least ten cushions, the lad extracts my finger and toe nails with the precision of a Harley Street podiatrist. Then comes the ultimate humiliation as the urchin invites me to the analysis room and gives me a post mortem without the need to refer to the scoresheet. He's pointing out moves that were way beyond my pay scale – I feel like getting into his buggy and throwing his chess books out of the cot.

When I came second in the Leeds Junior Chess Championships at the age of 16, I was beating

youngsters of all ages, but of course in those days the word computer wasn't in a chess player's lexicon. After a 10-year break from the board, I became a paid-up member of the journeyman player club, occasionally flirting with a 130 grade in old currency. But there was an issue that gave me recurring nightmares – getting thrashed by a junior followed by a pathetic limp handshake.

The worst experiences were when mum and dad were lurking. They could see the fear in my eyes (the kids were unable to crank their heads high enough to notice the gallons of sweat on my shirt). Occasionally, a coach watching their prodigy would give me a smile and run a finger across his throat before checking on how the rest of their engine-fuelled cohort were performing.

I had every book thrown at me by the Brady Bunch – being thrashed in the opening, sacrificing pieces for positional advantage, wiping up a mess I'd regularly leave in the endgame, and the worst humiliation possible when at three pawns to the good in a rapidplay event I apparently made an illegal knight move (or so the young lad told the arbiter) who politely sent me packing to the nearest bus stop. In a 2019 blitz tournament a young girl with great potential parked a protected bishop on the sixth rank and annihilated me.

And then from nowhere, my luck changed. In another rapidplay event, a promising junior (I wish a clubmate had not told me that) was all over me like a cheap suit. The only thing to do was to set up a mate-in-two trap and pray that he would take a poisoned bishop. Imagine my unconfined joy when I saw him casually take the piece – it was one of the happiest moments of my life.

From that moment I looked at juniors as regular opponents rather than ninjas and the points started to accumulate. I now take a draw against a junior as a win, telling myself that his or her grade is at least 200 points fewer than as presented. My confidence has grown, winning from a bad positions and benefiting from naivety, the one chink in a junior's armour. I even beat Shreyas Royal in a competitive two-game-per-round blitz after he pummelled me in the first round. And while I'm on the subject of Shreyas, he is the most courteous junior I have encountered on the circuit.

We should be proud of our excellent junior players and their coaches and I wish them all success in their

chess. They are taking advantage of the phenomenal rise of engines. What used to take hours of setting up positions from books and magazines can now be done in a click. I wonder what kind of juniors today's generation will be confronting when they reach adulthood. Will we need an under 5 section? Will Cow & Gate products be on sale at venues? And most importantly, will ECF branded pacifiers be available for adults?

Book Review of the Month by Ben Graff

in association with Forward Chess

Time for a good book! The best new writing and the greatest classics, under one roof ...

I have always found the bookstall at a chess congress irresistible. No matter what has happened in my games, browsing through the chess books, with their smell of fresh paper and untapped possibility is invariably enough to restore my sense of equanimity. The truth is, I am as hooked on reading about chess as actually playing it. So when Danny asked me if I might write a monthly review column for *ChessMoves*, I jumped at the chance.

From next month, I will be reviewing both a classic and a contemporary chess book. In this edition, I will start by looking back at one of my favourites, Leonard Barden's *Play Better Chess*. But first a word on what to expect from this feature in the future.

It only took me about thirty years to come to terms with my own limitations at the chess board, but having done so, I will focus these articles on books that club players might enjoy. While I would love to be the right reviewer for titles of the: "*How to put the finishing touches to your successful world title challenge*" variety, I will leave such offerings to the real experts.

This will not be a place for deep technical analysis, but the aim is to give readers of *ChessMoves* a sense of whether a book might be right for them. From chess history and memoir, through to more literary offerings and practical improvement guides, I am hoping to cover an eclectic mix of titles. Where possible I will be using the Forward Chess app to review the titles.

The chances are that these reviews will tend to be positive. I want to share with readers books that I

have enjoyed, in the hope that you may too. If I really disliked something, why waste the ink? Having written chess books of my own, I know how many hundreds of hours an author puts into their work. The financial rewards for writers are generally meagre, yet every publication stands as something new and something that will endure. Nearly all books are worth writing, and most will find their audience in the end. I will be challenging on occasion, but the very fact that I chose to cover a book in this column means I see it as worth reading.

As I type these words in my office, I can't help but stare at the bookshelf in front of me. It is filled with volumes in reds, greens, whites, blacks, and every colour in between. Some look a little too new, with spines unbent. Like many a purchaser I would confess to not reading *everything* that I buy. But certain others have the worn covers and the familiar look of an old friend. Books offer all of us a private world, a place of sanctuary. A way of leaving the world behind, if only for a little while.

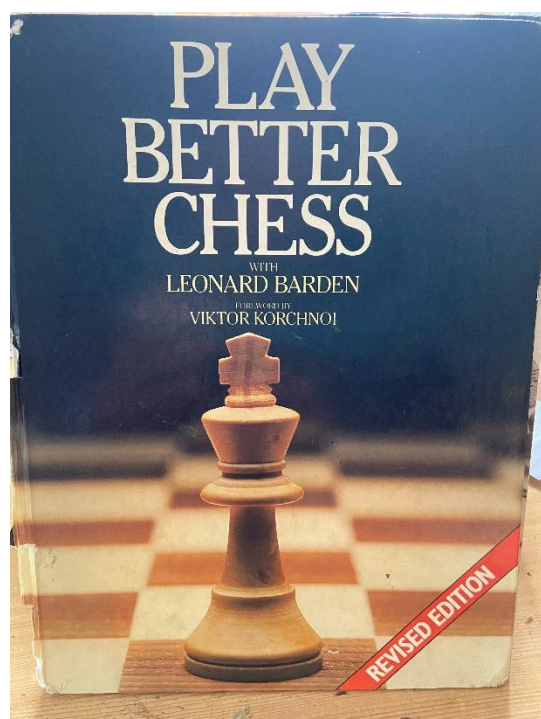
The novelist Jane Smiley was certainly on to something when she wrote: "Many people, myself among them, feel better at the mere sight of a book." I very much hope that this column will help chess players discover new titles and reacquaint themselves with some of the classics. A way of making new friends and remembering old ones, so to speak. There really is nothing quite like a good book...

Play Better Chess, by Leonard Barden (Treasure Press, 1980)

I still remember the Christmas morning when I peeled back the silver wrapping paper to reveal a copy of Leonard Barden's *Play Better Chess*. I must have been ten or eleven, and this was the moment when chess changed for me from being just another game into something else.

I was hooked from the foreword, in which Victor Korchnoi wrote about the challenges he had faced in trying to teach his son, saying: "For a ten-year-old like him, chess was a game, like an electric train, but for me it is my profession, my work. I could not understand his attitude to chess and he could not understand mine." Yet Korchnoi also hinted that ability was not everything, something even back then I subconsciously seized on with a degree of (ultimately dashed) hope. Korchnoi said that Botvinnik had "...no specific talent for chess...To

compensate... he possessed an exceptional capacity for work and an iron will.”



Exquisitely written and beautifully illustrated with many excellent photographs and helpful diagrams, *Play Better Chess* is both the perfect introduction to the game, and yet somehow more than this. From “Novice Pitfalls,” to “Opening Traps”, “Checkmate Attacks,” “Endgames,” and “Attacking Plans” for either colour, Leonard Barden provides a comprehensive and crystal-clear guide which would benefit many a newer player and act as a helpful revision aid for the more experienced. Korchnoi was right to note that teaching does not come easily to many, so we are fortunate to be in the hands of such a natural as Leonard Barden.

Building on an excellent grounding in the basics, *Play Better Chess* has as its even greater strength an ability to let the reader feel that they are entering the world of our champions. The chapters “Learn from the Champions,” “Pro Techniques for Amateurs,” and “Chess for Champions,” all give this book an extra dimension. They certainly made me see chess for the first time not so much as a game but as a club. A society. A community that all of us can be a part of. If you know anyone out there who is on the cusp of the chess world, there would be no better way to welcome them in than through a copy of this book.

Leonard Barden’s pen portraits on a range of great players from Paul Morphy through to Nigel Short must rank among the best of their genre, as Barden

has an eye for the memorable detail. I still remember the shock of reading for the first time about Pillsbury’s struggles when acting as the hidden human within the Ajeeb automaton. Barden writes: “But he was six feet tall, and his muscles suffered badly in the machine’s interior. It is said that Pillsbury drank up to a quart of whisky a day and that the alcohol relieved the physical pain.”

His assessment of Spassky is one of many examples of Barden’s astuteness: “It sounds paradoxical to speak of a world champion as a wasted talent, but Spassky’s natural gifts for chess were such that he should have won the title earlier in his life and kept it for a longer period. There is a touch of laziness and a touch of indecision in his intellectual make-up; with the dedication to chess of Alekhine or Tal, for example, Spassky could have been one of the greatest champions.”

Barden’s “Pro Techniques for Amateurs,” might have been written in the pre-internet era, at a time when adjudications were still the norm and time increments unheard of, but most of his practical advice on playing in congresses and suggested steps to improve your tournament play are as timely now as when he first wrote them. From basic “dos and don’ts” through to methods to avoid time trouble, and tips on technique, this chapter would need only minor tweaks to be the stand-out offering in any modern coaching manual.

In his chapter on “Chess for Champions,” Barden writes: “There are ultimately no barriers except ability and results to becoming the heir to Bobby Fischer and Nigel Short and proving yourself the best player of the US or Britain.” His lowdown on what it really takes to progress and a host of further practical tips have the capacity to both inform and excite the reader. They certainly still make my spine tingle, much as they did on first reading them thirty-five years ago.

In terms of *Play Better Chess*’s many interesting and historically significant photographs, my favourite is of world champion Karpov taking on England’s ten best juniors in a 1977 simul, with Julian Hodgson in the foreground. Closely followed by a shot of a young Nigel Short with an enigmatic Israel Zilber in chalk stripe suit sat at the board behind him. Much of the photography acts as an important contemporary record of a generation in British chess that many will remember with a lot of fondness.

Anyone who wants to brush up on their technique, or to enjoy stepping back through chess history, will enjoy this book. Even very strong players will derive a lot of pleasure from the clarity of Barden's writing and the way in which he brings chess to life and makes it feel like it matters.

Leonard Barden is a masterful writer. Today, at the age of ninety-two, his journalism still ranks with the very best. The clarity of his prose is as lucid now as it always was. In *Play Better Chess* he was truly at the top of his game, and the chess world should be thankful for that. This book would still make an excellent gift for anyone, whether wrapped in silver paper or not.

Ben Graff is a writer and chess journalist. He is a regular contributor to Chess, The Chess Circuit and Authors Publish. He is the author of The Greenbecker Gambit and Find Another Place. He is not a grandmaster but did draw with one once.

JUNIOR MOVES

This month we feature two games by Kushal Jakhria - one analysed by Alex Longson and one by Paul Littlewood (in **Littlewood's Choice**)

Junior Game Analysis

First off, **FM Alex Longson** on Kushal Jakhria vs Naavya Parikh. The following game was played at the recent Junior 4NCL on 9 April 2022. The 'J4NCL' has become established as one of the premier junior chess events in the UK and provides excellent opportunities for young junior players to gain experience in a fun team environment.

Despite being different ages (the player handling the white pieces has just turned seven and his opponent is almost twelve), both players are improving rapidly, and this game was a long and tough affair. Remarkably for a junior game, it featured very few tactical opportunities or big swings in the evaluation. In fact, the sharpest part of the game was the endgame by which time the players were no doubt dealing with the dreaded double-header of fatigue and time trouble.

Having to play sharp endgames with little time has become a regular feature in tournament praxis with modern time controls. Well, what to do - we just need to get on with it. A firm grasp of endgame

fundamentals, good stamina and nerves, a keen tactical eye and fierce determination will all play their part in this phase.

So, what can a young player learn from studying their games? According to Artur Yusupov, formerly ranked third in the world and author of a brilliant training anthology published by Quality Chess, analysing your own games is the best way to improve at chess. I would also add that a good coach will speed up and enrich the process considerably. Of course, there is more to chess improvement than the study of your own games. I would add for example -

- Tactical training - solving lots of exercises of varying difficulty;
- Study of well annotated games (a good game anthology book is a very useful asset);
- Development of a sound opening repertoire with a good understanding of the positional and tactical features;
- Study of the endgame - again a good reference book is invaluable.

From the following game alone there is a wealth of information and insight to be gained.

Opening / Positional Ideas

- Black's fight to develop the light square bishop
- Undermining the pawn chain (...b6, ...a5)
- Striking whilst the iron is hot (16.e4)
- Trade-off between quality and time. White's Na2/Nc1/Nd3 manoeuvre is logical but time consuming
- Unnecessary weakening moves (39.f3?!, f6?!)

Tactical ideas

- Look for pieces with limited mobility (even in the endgame)

Endgame Ideas

- Be VERY careful when liquidating to pawn endgames
- In pawn endgames calculate forcing variations carefully
- The more active king and spare tempi are dangerous weapons

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 e6 5.g3 An interesting pawn sacrifice. These Catalan style gambits are certainly in vogue these days.



5...Nbd7 5...dxc4 is critical

6.Bg2 Be7 7.0-0 0-0 8.b3 Nb6?! Black is perhaps unfamiliar with the typical plans here. The knight looks badly placed on b6 and isn't contributing to a plan to develop the c8 bishop.

8...b6 is completely normal.

9.c5 9.Qd3 was also reasonable maintaining the tension.

9...Nbd7 10.b4 b6 11.a4?! Too ambitious.

11.a3 a5 12.Bf4 keeps a small advantage.

11...a6?

11...a5 is the classical way to blow apart the white bind.

12.Rb1

12.a5! maintains the integrity of White's queenside bind.

12...b5

12...a5 was still the best 13.b5 Bb7 It can feel difficult to maintain the tension as there are so many captures to calculate - however sometimes it is the best way as to capture prematurely can bring your opponent's pieces into play more quickly.



13.a5 An interesting decision to lock the queenside - now the play will take place in the centre and on the kingside. Who has the better prospects of a central break? It seems to me White's bishops have more influence over the centre and are better placed to exploit the opening of the position.

13...Re8 14.Bf4 Nh5 15.Bd2 g6 Apparently planning ...Bf6 (to achieve e5) whilst giving the knight on g7 a retreat square.

16.Na2? White plans to re-route the knight to d3 where it controls e5. This is perfectly logical, but is too slow.

16.e4! Now was the right time to strike - White would have a very nice game. If Black maintains the tension White would likely play e5 grabbing more space before switching attention to the kingside. After 16...dxe4 17.Nxe4 Bb7 18.Re1 it is clear White is pressing.

16...Bf6 17.Nc1 White continues with his plan but this allows Black to achieve the freeing ...e5 break.

17.g4 Ng7 18.g5 Be7 19.Nc3 was best – but, by now, it is clear White was not aiming for e4 as otherwise the knight would never have left c3



very limited mobility. In this case the white rook is the prime suspect and funnily enough Black wins by force (55.Re3 Rd4 56.Rb3 White has gone very passive which can be decisive in rook endgames 56...Ke6 I doubt White can hold the position) 55...Kf6 it is virtually zugzwang 56.g4 Ke5 57.Kg3 h5! White will be forced to move the king and the rook will fall!

55.Rf4?! It looks dangerous to put the rook on a square with such limited movement.

55.Kg2

55...Rd1

55...h5!?!; 55...f5 isn't quite as effective here as White is in time to escape via the h-file - 56.h5! Kf6 57.hxg6 hxg6 58.Rh4 Rxf3 59.Rd4! intending Rd6 with counterplay.

56.Kg2

56.g4

56...Rd5?!

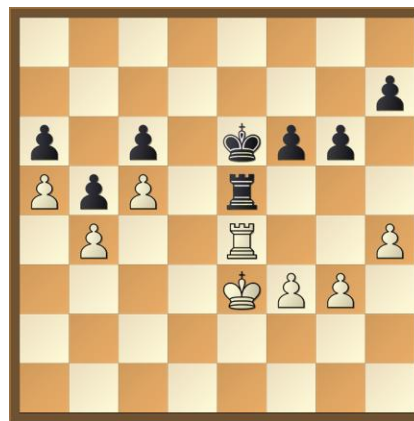
56...f5! - again this move puts White in mortal danger. 57.h5 is forced! 57...Ke6 58.hxg6 hxg6 59.Rh4 Kd5 60.Rh6 A race ensues 60...Rb1 The rook rather than king comes after the b-pawn and the king is left to defend c6 61.Rxg6 Rxb4 62.Rf6 Rd4 63.Rxf5+ Kc4 In such positions "quality" often beats "quantity". White is a pawn up but Black's b-pawn is clearly quicker than the f and g pair.

57.Kf2 Now the white king is centralised the danger has passed.

57...Ke6 58.Ke3 Re5+

59.Re4? We need to be so careful when liquidating into pawn endgames!

59.Kd3=



59...f5! 60.Rxe5+ Kxe5

DRAW AGREED! But the game was only getting started! Black's king is further advanced and there is the potential for a spare tempo with the h-pawn as it could move one or two spaces. This should be enough to start questioning whether there might be something in the position. The following analysis is detailed though by no means exhaustive. However, it shows the chances that Black has here.

61.Kd3

61.f4+? Kd5 62.Kd3 h5! and the black king will invade decisively; 61.g4! - this is probably the best practical move 61...fxg4 62.fxg4 h6 63.Kf3 - only move! 63...Kd4 64.Kf4 h5! - this sets the most challenges for White (64...Kc4 65.Ke5 Kxb4 66.Kd6! Kxa5 67.Kxc6 b4 68.Kd7 b3 69.c6 b2 70.c7 b1Q 71.c8Q and the computer claims a draw; 64...Kd5 65.h5! only move - White needs to be able to meet ...Kc4 with Ke5) 65.gxh5 (65.g5? Kd5 and the white king must step away from e5 losing a vital tempo) 65...gxh5 66.Kf5! (66.Kg5? Kc4 67.Kxh5 Kxb4 68.Kg5 Kxa5 69.h5 b4 70.h6 b3 71.h7 b2 72.h8Q b1Q and Black is winning according to tablebases!) 66...Kc4 67.Ke6 Kxb4 68.Kd6 Kxa5 69.Kxc6 b4 70.Kd6 (70.Kd7?? b3 71.c6 b2 72.c7 b1Q 73.c8Q Qf5+ Black wins) 70...b3 71.c6 b2 72.c7 b1Q 73.c8Q Tablebases confirm this is a draw but a practical game would continue.

61...h5

61...h6?! 62.Kc3! Black will not get to play ...f4 with check 62...f4 63.g4=

62.Ke3 f4+! This is the big idea and perhaps what both players missed - which is more than understandable as it had already been a long game and probably time trouble was an issue.

63.gxf4+ Kf5 The position is very dangerous for White though I believe he can still hold.

64.Kf2

64.Ke2 Kxf4 65.Kf2 Ke5!? - this is a very complicated position to analyse. All lines seem to lead to different permutations of both sides queening at the same time with the question then being which permutations offer Black best chances of converting the extra pawn (65...g5 66.hxg5 Kxg5 67.Kg3 h4+ 68.Kh3 Kf4 69.Kxh4 Kxf3 70.Kg5 Ke4 71.Kf6 Kd5 72.Ke7 Kc4 73.Kd6 Kxb4 74.Kxc6 Kxa5 75.Kd6 b4 76.c6 b3 77.c7 b2 78.c8Q b1Q leads to a draw) 66.Ke3 (66.Kg3) 66...Kf5 67.Kf2 (67.Ke2 g5 68.hxg5 Kxg5 69.Ke3 h4 70.Kf2 Kf4 71.Kg2 h3+ 72.Kxh3 Kxf3 73.Kh2 Ke3 74.Kg3 Kd4 75.Kf4 Kc4 76.Ke5 Kxb4 77.Kd6 Kxa5 78.Kxc6 b4 79.Kd6 b3 80.c6 b2 81.c7 b1Q 82.c8Q) 67...Kf4 68.Kg2 and we have reached a position analysed after 64.Kf2 Kxf4 65.Kg2]

64...Kxf4 65.Kg2

65.Ke2 Kg3-+

65...Ke5

65...g5 66.hxg5 Kxg5 Normally the outside passed pawn would guarantee a victory but because of the way the queenside pawns are positioned this is an exceptional case. 67.Kg3! (with White to play here Black would be winning!) 67...h4+ 68.Kh3 Kf4 69.Kxh4 Kxf3 70.Kg5 Ke4 71.Kf6 Kd5 72.Ke7 Kc4 73.Kd6 Kxb4 74.Kxc6 and although Black captured first the two sides will queen at the same time 74...Kxa5 75.Kd6 b4 76.c6 b3 77.c7 b2 78.c8Q b1Q Drawn if White is careful.

66.Kg3 White's king needs fast access to e5

66.Kf2 Kd4 67.Kg3 Kc4 etc.

66...Kd4 67.Kf4 Kc4 68.Ke5 Kxb4 69.Kd6 Kxa5 70.Kxc6 b4 71.Kd6

The only move!

71...b3 72.c6 b2 73.c7 b1Q 74.c8Q With practical chances for Black - but I can't say if it is winning.

LITTLEWOOD'S CHOICE



I was looking through some recent chess articles and I came across the following game which was played recently at the Blackpool Congress.

Kushal Jakhria vs Bob Kane

Blackpool U1850 Intermediate

Round 4 13/03/22

1.d4 e6 2.c4 f5 3. g3 Nf6 4.Bg2 d5 5.Nf3 c6 6.0-0 Bd6 7.b3 0-0 8. Ba3 Bxa3 9.Nxa3



White has played a classical set-up against the Stonewall Dutch, exchanging the black-squared bishops so that the e5 square can come under his control.

9...Qe7 10.Nc2 Bd7 11.c5 Be8 12.b4 Nbd7 13.Qd3?!

However, it is now logical to play Nce1 intending to bring this knight to d3 and e5. An alternative is to press on with his queenside expansion with a4 which is also quite strong.

13....Ne4 14.a4?! Rf6?

This is a poor move; better was simply 14...Bh5 bringing his white-squared bishop into action or even 14....f4 immediately.

15.h4?

However, White makes an immediate error in return. 15.Ne5 leaves him clearly better.

15.....Rh6?

Fortunately, Black carries on with his intended manoeuvre and misses the very strong 15...f4 which gives him a powerful attack as the natural 16.g4 can be met with the exchange sacrifice 16...Rg6 17.g5 h6 18.h5 Rxc5 19.Nxc5 Nxc5 when Black is clearly better.

16.b5 g5?! 17.Qe3 f4 18.gxf4 gxh4?!

Better was the pawn sacrifice 18...gxf4 19.Qxf4 Qg7 when Black can still fight. Whereas now White gets control of the whole board.

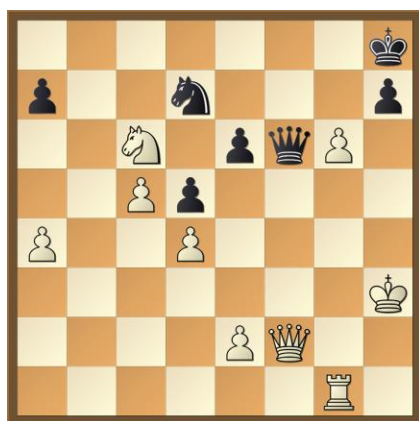
19.Bh3 Qf6 20.Kh2 Bg6 21.Nb4 Bf5 22.Rg1+ Rg6 23.bxc6 bxc6 24.Nxc6 Bxh3 25.Kxh3 Re8 26. Nxh4 Rxc6 27.Rxc6+ Kh8 28.f5?!

Stronger was 28.f3 which wins the black knight on e4. However, White's position is so good that even this slight error does not mess things up.

28....Rg8 29. Ng6+! Rxc6

Not 29....hxc6 30.Qh6 mate.

30.fxc6 Nxf2+ 31.Qxf2!



White finishes off in style with a queen sacrifice.

31....Qxf2 32.g7+ Kg8 33. Ne7+ Kf7 34.g8=Q+ Kxe7 35.Rg7+ Kf6 36.Qf7 mate.

The loser of this game, Bob Kane, was the 2021 winner of the Scarborough Major, so no slouch.

However, the winner was the remarkable junior Kushal Jakhria who is only six years old! He went on to tie for first place in the tournament with 4.5/5.

An incredible achievement and what a prospect for the future!

If you have played any exciting games as a youngster that you would like to have published in my column then please send them to me at plittl@hotmail.com. I cannot promise that they will appear but I will give them every consideration.

Junior Development Pathway Consultation

Junior chess remains extremely popular in England with a thriving educational and competitive scene. There are many organisations and service providers including for profits, charities and not for profit associations involved in teaching chess, running chess tournaments and organising training programmes. Indeed, many coaches and organisers derive their primary income from chess. The ECF also recognizes that many organisations are providing a needed service to parents and students that the ECF is not geared towards providing at present.

You can read the Junior Development Pathway consultation document on the ECF Juniors website at -

<https://www.englishchess.org.uk/Juniors/junior-development-pathway/>

The deadline for comments and observations is 3 May 2022. Please send your emails to director.juniorchess@englishchess.org.uk

The Harrogate Junior Chess Championships

After a break of two years because of the pandemic, the Championships recommenced on 9 April at St Robert's Club with Councillor Trevor Chapman, The Worshipful Mayor of the Borough of Harrogate in attendance with the Mayoress to present the prizes. The Championships were organised by the Harrogate and District Primary Schools Chess

Association and sponsored by the Manhattan Club Sports and Entertainment Venue.



The Year 6 champion was Billy Simpson of the Manhattan Junior Chess Club representing Oatlands Junior School, with Matthew Chan of St Peter's C of E Primary School in 2nd place. Eli Maunder of St Peter's tied with Francis Stoyles of Richard Taylor C of E Primary School for 3rd place. For Year 5, the winner was George Wen of Pannal Primary School with Jan Trzybinski of the Manhattan JCC representing St Peter's in second place and another tie for third position by David Baker of Oatlands and Pierre Gibson of St Robert's Catholic Primary School. Year 4's winner was Asher Knight of Oatlands with Aidan Ferguson of St Robert's in second place. Third place was shared by Albert Kempton and Archie Baxter, both from Richard Taylor. Year 3 and under produced a tie for first place between Lee Tak Yui of St Peter's and Henry Yallop of Oatlands. Esme Baudach of St Robert's won third prize. A special merit award was made to Samantha Lusted of Manhattan JCC representing Oatlands.

There were chess book prizes for the Best Boy Player which went to Billy Simpson, for the Best Girl Player which was won by Sanhita Kulkarni of Oatlands, for the Best Game which was awarded to Jan Trzybinski and for the Best Checkmate which was awarded to Asher Knight who delivered mate with a knight. The trophy for the school with the best results went to Oatlands Junior School with the runner-up trophy going to St Peter's C of E Primary School.



There was also participation by pupils from Saltergate Junior School and Bilton Grange Community Primary School with all players receiving a Certificate of Achievement. In the break whilst the results were being collated, Harrogate Chess Club first team players Paul Pritchard and Mate Ther entertained children and adults with a demonstration of Paul Morphy's most famous game. He was chess's first world superstar who in 1858 defeated the combined efforts of the Duke of Brunswick and Count Isouard in 17 moves in a match played at the Paris Opera House.



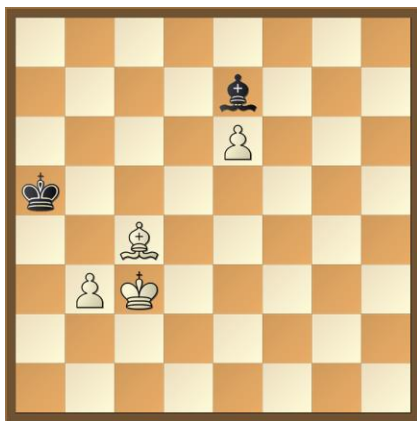
IMPROVERS

TECHNIQUE

by IM Nigel Povah

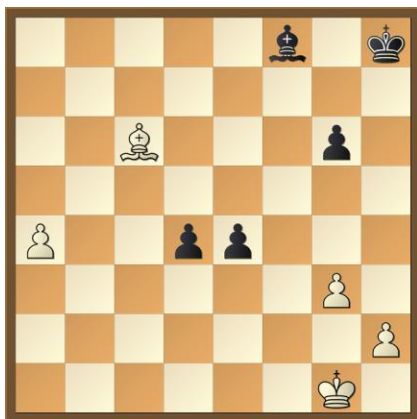
This is the fourth in a series of articles (originally written in 1978/79 but recently updated with input from engines) which attempt to make the reader more aware of certain important factors which are often overlooked or not adequately understood by many chess players.

At the end of the last article, I left you with the following diagram to study -



Full marks if you came to the conclusion White was stuck. His only hope is to run his king over to the black bishop, but Black's king goes across to support his bishop e.g. 1.Be2 Bf8 2.Kc4 Be7 3.Kd5 Kb6! (stopping Kc6-d7 which would win) 4.Ke5 Kc7 5.Kf5 Kd8 6.Kg6 Bb4 7.Kf7 Be7 and White has made no progress.

Lest these examples make you complacent about 'bishop of opposite colour' endings, I would like to show you a couple of my own experiences in these intriguing endings.



Fernandez, A. - Povah, N.

I reached this position in the Students Olympiad in Mexico 1977 in the England vs Venezuela match against A. Fernandez and naturally presumed it would be drawn. However, I lost it and losing it was dead easy too!!

36.Bc6 e3 I reluctantly put my pawns on black squares but nevertheless it should still be drawn.

37.Bb5 Bc5?! Playing for a cheap trick, which loses valuable time.

37...Bb4 immediately, preventing the advance of his a-pawn was sensible.

38.Kg2! My idea was that 38.a5? loses to 38...d3 39.Bxd3 e2+-+

38...Kg7? I had to stop the advance of his a-pawn with either 38...Bb6 or 38...Bb4 when the draw is still secured.

39.a5 Kf6 40.Kf3 Kf5 41.h4+- His sealed move. Adjournment analysis now confirmed that White's advanced a-pawn is so potent that the position is a forced win and Fernandez demonstrated this with great accuracy.

41...Bb4 42.a6 Bc5 43.Bd3+ Kf6 44.g4 Ba7 44...g5 45.h5 gives White two powerful passed pawns with the winning plan of Ke4-d5-c6-b7 followed by a7, when Black must give up his bishop, allowing the white king to return to mop up the black pawns. If 45...Ke5 trying to thwart White's plan 46.h6 Kf6 47.Ke4 Ba7 (47...Kg6 48.Kd5+-) 48.Kd5 e2 49.Bxe2 Kg6 50.Kc6 Kxh6 51.Kb7+-

45.g5+ This fixes the weak g6 pawn and ties the Black king down on the kingside, due to the constant threat of h5

45...Kf7 46.Kf4 Ke6 47.Bc4+ Ke7 48.Ke5 Bb6 Black is helpless against White's king invasion.

49.Kd5 Kd7 50.Bb5+ Ke7 50...Kc7 51.h5+-

51.Kc6 Ba7 52.Bc4! This zugzwangs the black king who must retreat, thus posing less of a threat to White's pawns.

52.Kb7?! Bc5 53.a7? Bxa7 54.Kxa7 Ke6 55.Kb6 Kf5 56.Kc5 (56.Be2 d3 57.Bxd3+ Kg4=) 56...Kg4 with a draw.

52...Kf8 52...Bb8?? 53.Kb7 sees the a-pawn promoting.

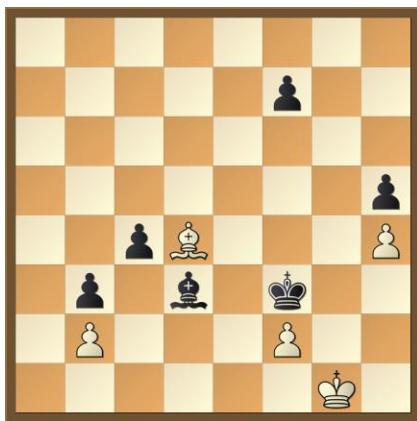
53.Kb7 Bc5 54.a7 Bxa7 55.Kxa7 Ke7 when thanks to 52.Bc4! the Black king is too slow.

56.Kb6 Kd6 57.Bd3 Resigns. As White wins by a single tempo e.g.

57...Ke5 58.Kc5 Kf4 59.Kxd4 Kg3 60.Kxe3 Kxh4 61.Kf4 Kh5 62.Be4 Kh4 63.Bxg6 with an easy win

1-0

The final example was a much more amusing and personally satisfying experience for me.



My opponent had played **60.Bd4** believing this was clearly drawn and as this was 1972, the game went for adjudication at this point and as expected was given a draw. However, after the game I immediately found the following line, which I used to win my appeal.

60...f5! 61.Kh2 White can do no more than shuffle his king between g1, h1 and h2 or shuffle his bishop between d4 and f6.

61...f4 62.Kh1 62.Kh3 Bf1+ 63.Kh2 Kg4 will transpose.

62...Kg4 63.Bf6 The bishop is now rooted to this square as any bishop move will either allow ...Kxh4 or ...c3, both with serious consequences.

63.Be5 Be4+ 64.Kg1 Kxh4 65.Bxf4 c3 66.Bc1 c2 67.Kf1 Kg4 68.Bh6 Kf3 69.Be3 h4 70.Bg5 Bd3+ 71.Kg1 Ke2 72.Kg2 Bf5 73.Be3 Kd1-+

63...Kh3! 64.Kg1 f3 Gradually the white king is being imprisoned.

65.Kh1 Bf1! 66.Kg1 Bg2 with zugzwang, as White must either allow...Kxh4 or the more fatal...c3

67.Be5 67.Bg5 c3 68.Bc1 cxb2 69.Bxb2 Kxh4 70.Kh2 Kg4 71.Bc3 h4-+ when the white king is imprisoned and his black counterpart can amble over to c2 to force White to give up bishop for the b-pawn before returning to finish the job on the kingside.

67...Kxh4 68.Kh2 Kg4 69.Bf6 h4 70.Kg1 Kf5 71.Bd4 71.Bxh4? c3-+

71...Ke4 72.Bf6 Kd3 73.Be5 Ke2 Black now goes after the f2 pawn.

74.Bd4 h3 75.Kh2 75.Be5 h2+ 76.Kxh2 Kxf2 77.Bd4+ Ke2 78.Kg3 f2 79.Bxf2 c3 80.bxc3 b2-+

75...Kf1! Zugzwang again. The bishop must prevent both ...c3 and ...Kxf2 and Kg3 is fatal.

76.Be5 76.Kg3 Kg1-+

76...Kxf2 When the Black pawns will easily break through.

0-1

The moral for this article is don't assume all opposite coloured bishop endings are simple draws, for such dogmatism can often be embarrassing!

TACTICS

by IM Paul Littlewood

Today I am going to look at the discovered attack. This is a more subtle form of aggression than the double attack, which we looked at last month, but it is equally as effective.

In this motif a piece or pawn moves off a line in order to "discover" (actually, uncover) an attack by another piece.

Consider the following game I played as a youngster.

B. Macadam vs P.E. Littlewood 1970

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e5 3.dxe5 Ne4 4.Nf3 d6 5.exd6 Bxd6 6.g3? Nxf2! 7.Kxf2



Black now wins by **7....Bxg3+!** This move checks the white king and at the same time uncovers an attack on the white queen by the black queen.

A discovered check is an even more powerful example of the discovered attack however its close relation, the double check, is even more deadly as in that case only the attacked king can move.

The following example from one of my own games illustrates the strength of the discovered and double check.

P.E.Littlewood vs J.Goldberg 1982



White has several ways to win but I chose the most aesthetically pleasing:

1.Rxc7!

Now if -

- (a) 1...Qxb3 then 2.Rc8+ is double-checkmate
- (b) 1...b6 2.Rd7+ discovered check wins the black queen
- (c) 1...Ka8 2.Qxd5 Rxd5 3.Rc8 mate
- (d) 1...a6 2.Rxb7+ double check Ka8 3.Rb8+ Rxb8 4.Qxb8 mate

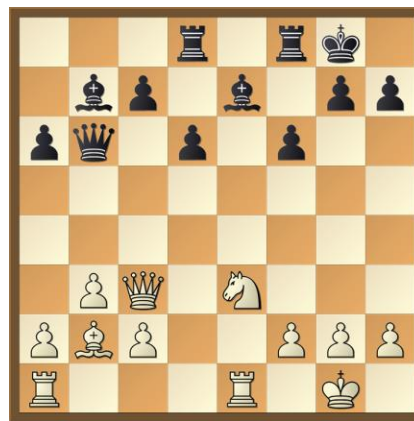
...so Black resigned.

Defending against a discovered check or a double check is very difficult but an ordinary discovered attack can be countered in various ways.

Consider the following two examples:



Black plays 1...Nf5 attacking the white bishop on e3 and discovering an attack by the black bishop on the white queen. However, White escapes by playing 2.Qc1 defending his attacked bishop whilst moving his queen.



White appears to be winning a piece after 1.Nc4 as he directly attacks the black queen whilst discovering an attack on the black bishop on e7 by his rook. However, Black escapes by 1...Qc6 as this threatens mate on g2 and so does not allow time for 2.Rxe7. Note, however, that in the original position White could have won by 1.Nf5! as this doubly attacks the Black Bishop on e7 and he has no escape.

Here are two examples involving discovered attacks to solve for yourself. The solutions will follow at the end of the article.

P.E. Littlewood vs E. Teichmann 1980



How did White win the exchange by discovered attack?



How did Black force checkmate?

Solutions

P.E. Littlewood vs E. Teichman

White wins by 1.Bg8+ Rxg8 2.Rxd6

Position 2

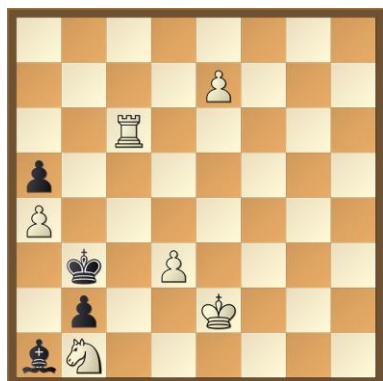
Black wins by 1...Qg2+! 2.Kxg2 Rxg3 double checkmate.

STUDIES AND PROBLEMS

PROBLEM CORNER

Christopher Jones with his monthly conundrum

In the last *ChessMoves* I left you this problem to solve:



Mate in four

Alexander W. Galitski

Schachmatnoje obosrenie 1892

As I said last time, 1.e8=Q is not the key! With a queen on the board, it wouldn't be possible to avoid stalemating Black in attempts to mate on the fourth move. Instead, we must play 1.e8=B! and the outcome is that White constructs two alternative batteries involving his rook and new bishop – 1...Ka2 2.Bf7+ Kxb1 3.Bc4! K any 4.Ba2; and 1...Kb4 2.Rc4+! Kb3 3.Bf7 Ka2 4.Rc1. It's one thing for people composing helpmate problems to set things up so as to lead to two such batteries; it is a higher level of achievement to arrange matters in a completely orthodox adversarial problem in such a way as to require the creation of these two batteries.

My referring to "helpmate composers" is a reminder that composers create a very wide variety of types of problem. I'm not taking this as a cue for quoting one of the fairy problems that show a

multiplicity of pieces with all manner of diverse qualities (a knight is a 2/1 leaper – composers explore the potential of 3/1 leapers, 4/1 leapers, 3/2 leapers – the possibilities are endless!), nor for demonstrating a helpmate (a problem in which White and Black collaborate to reach a checkmate position is perhaps too much of a stretch from the other contents of *ChessMoves*!); but what about selfmates? These problems are adversarial (that is, Black is trying to thwart White's intentions); it's just that what White intends is not that White mates Black, but that Black mates White, which is an interesting twist that gives rise to strategy that would not be possible in a completely orthodox problem.

Consider this position –



Selfmate in six

Stefan Schneider

3rd Prize, *Arbeiter-Zeitung* 1972

Black is extremely restricted, as is often the case in such problems. He has only one legal move, ...f5, and as matters stand that would be mate. But it is White to move. If he has a neutral move (a 'waiter') then this is in fact a selfmate in one! But he doesn't, and it's also the case that he doesn't have any way in which to put ...f5 mate 'on ice', as it were. (If he plays 1.Qc5 then not only could Black play 1... a3, he could, even better, play 1...f5+, because it is now only check, and it is White that is subject to an unwelcome compulsion: to play 2.Qxf5. And after moves like 1.Ra6 and 1.Qa1 the unpinned black pieces are free to move and White loses control.)

So we have to find a move that maintains constraints upon Black but finds a different (and much longer) way in which to set up mate by a black pawn. Probably, experienced solvers would examine the idea of getting the white king cramped in the southeast corner, where the power of the g7 rook (albeit pinned) can be felt. And it transpires

that this is indeed what happens. The solution runs 1.Ng1! (composers love the *depth* of moves like this that at first sight seem barmy) f5+ 2.Kf3 f4 3.Be2 fxe3 4.Rg4 hgx4+ 5.Kg2 g3 6.Kh1 g2#. (No escape square on g1!)

These forced sequences can be fun to solve – and also, I should imagine, to compose. Long selfmates (often more difficult than this one) are frequently the trickiest tasks confronting competitive solvers in solving tournaments. Often, in the finals of the British Solving Championships, what separates the top solvers is that only one of them finds the solution to a long selfmate!

Here is another selfmate by the same composer, which you may like to solve – the solution will be the next issue. I think that this one is rather easier than the previous one, especially when you observe that if it were not for the fact that he has a knight at b8 Black, on move, would have only the one, mating move ...Bc2. But White can't play 1.Rxb8? because then against 1...Bc2 he has 2.Rb1.



Selfmate in 5
Stefan Schneider
1st Prize, *Schach* 1961

If you are stymied in trying to solve this and want to know the solution before the next *ChessMoves* comes out, feel free to email me. Also, I'm always interested in reader reaction – would you prefer to see only closely game-related problems (in which White is trying to mate Black) or do you like to explore 'twists' upon this, such as the 'selfmate twist'?

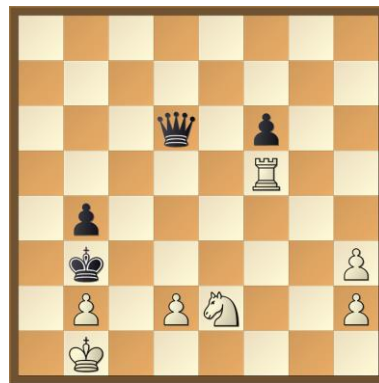
Christopher Jones Email: cjajones1@yahoo.co.uk

HOW TO SOLVE A STUDY

by Ian Watson

Anticipations, Busts, Cooks and Duals

The A to D of defective endgame studies. This topic was prompted by last month's first study in which our editor pointed out a fault. I'll explain below what those four types of defect are, but first let's return to that study by Richard Guy. I asked readers if they could suggest a way to correct it. I've had an e-mail from John Nunn (yes, that John Nunn – the double grandmaster, GM of both over-the-board play and of chess solving); John suggests the simple adjustment of adding a white pawn on h3 to the diagram position. That very slight change corrects the study. So here is the study again, but the corrected version:



White to play and win

The solution remains the same as before: **1.Nc1+ Kc4 2.b3+ Kd4 3.Ne2+ Ke4 4.Ng3+ Kd4 5.Rf4+ Ke5 6.Re4+ Kd5 7.Rd4+ Kxd4 8.Nf5+ Ke5 9.Nxd6** and **9...Kxd6 10.h4** wins. In the composer's position, **4...Qxg3 5.hxg3 Kxf5 6.Kc2 Ke4** enabled Black to draw, so the study was unsound; in the Nunn version, White is winning at the end of that variation, because he has an outside passed pawn that will distract the black king.

Now, what do those four words in this column's title mean?

Anticipations

Chess problems and chess endgame studies have to be original, they mustn't be copies of previously-published problems/studies. If they are, the earlier study is called an 'anticipation'. If a study resembles an earlier one, but isn't a copy of it, then we use the phrase 'partial anticipation'.

Busts

A composition is 'bust' if Black has a defence that defeats the stipulation; so the Guy study was bust – the requirement was that White wins, but **4...Qxg3** enabled Black to draw.

Cooks

If there is a second key move (an alternative White first move) that also enables White to succeed, then the composition is usually considered unsound, and is described as 'cooked'. However, there are study experts who tolerate some cooks.

Duals

These are similar to 'cooks' but occur later in the solution line. They are alternative white moves that also achieve the stipulation; they are normally considered significant defects. There is debate among study experts about how strictly to apply this.

Here are two studies that illustrate cooks. (With apologies to fans of Richard Reti, who composed them both, and who was, despite these two, an excellent analyst.) The first one is a corrected version, by Andre Cheron, of Reti's position.

R Reti (correction A Cheron 1955)



White to play and win

White's rook is en prise, so the first move is reasonably obvious: 1.Rd3+ which gains time by forcing Black to block his e-pawn, so we get 1.Rd3+ Ke1. Now what? You only need the rook to be able to checkmate, so you can afford to sac the bishop. It still takes an effort to find 2.Rf3 Kd2 3.Bf1 with the delightful 3...e1Q 4.Rd3 mate. The solution is **1.Rd3+ Ke1 2.Rf3 Kd2 3.Bf1 e1Q 4.Rd3 mate.**

Black's other defences are 3...e1N 4.Rxf4 wins or 3...exf1Q 4.Rxf1 Ke3 5.Kc2 f3 6.Re1+ Kf2 7.Kd2 wins. The sidelines are: 2...Kd1 3.Bg4 e1Q 4.Rd3 mate or here 3...Kd2 4.Rf2 wins.

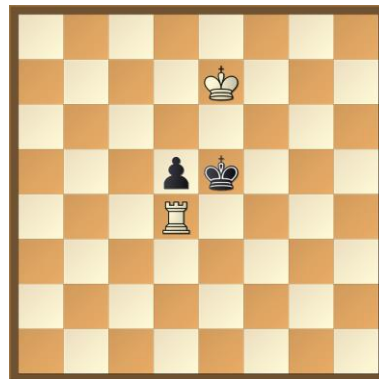
Now transfer the rook from g3 to a3 in the diagram position. That is the position Reti composed, and which was published in 1923 in *Bohemia*. The solution starting 1.Rd3+ works, and was Reti's intention, but see if you can find a completely

different solution. The second solution does not work in Cheron's version.

The next Reti study is for you to solve. There are two similar key moves that win, and, of course, I invite you to find them both. Reti was aware of the dual solution, but he did not consider it a major defect.

R Reti

Muenchner Neueste Nachrichten 1928



White to play and win

Ian Watson Email: ian@irwatson.uk

How to Solve a Study – solutions

Reti – Bohemia 1923

The unwanted solution goes 1.Bg4 Kd2 2.Bxe2 Kxe2 3.Kc1 f3 4.Ra2+ Ke1 5.Ra8 f2 6.Re8+ etc.

Reti – Muenchner Neueste Nachrichten 1928

1.Rd2 d4 2.Rd1 Kd5 3.Kd7 and e.g. 3...Kc4 4.Ke6 wins. White can also play 1.Rd3, and thereafter the solution is the same. Not, however, 1.Rd1? d4 2.Kd7 Kd5 3.Kc7 Kc5 4.Kb7 Kc4 5.Kc6 d3 draws.

There are rival viewpoints about the merits of this composition. The theme of delaying the rook's move to d1 is very attractive, but having two first moves is contentious, even though they transpose into each other. In 'The Chess Endgame Study', John Roycroft wrote that this is the classic example of alternatives not spoiling a study. I hesitate to disagree with an illustrious author, but to my mind having a dual so early, a cook, is a major drawback. A difficult issue.

Events Calendar

Find the complete calendar here - <https://www.englishchess.org.uk/event-calendar/>

Apr 21 - Hendon FIDE Blitz
Apr 22 - Central London Chess Congress
Apr 22 - 4NCL Online Congress
Apr 23 - County Championship Final Stage - Preliminary Quarter Finals Qualifiers
Apr 23 - First Warwickshire Junior Team League
Apr 23 - 38th St Albans Congress
Apr 23 - EJCOA Weekend Masterclass
Apr 23 - Nottingham Congress
Apr 23 - EPSCA Under 9 Final
Apr 24 - She Plays to Win Girls Starter Tournament
Apr 24 - Colindale Chess Tournament
Apr 24 - Smarticus Juniors Rapidplay
Apr 29 - 2nd Cornwall Spring Congress
Apr 29 - Sligo Spring Chess Tournament
Apr 30 - 4NCL Weekend 5 Rounds 9-11
Apr 30 - Surrey Megafinal Under 9s
Apr 30 - Poplar Rapid Tournament
May 1 - Surrey Megafinal U10-U18
May 1 - Teesside Megafinal
May 1 - Kensington FIDE Rapid Chess
May 4 - Chessable English Seniors Championships
May 5 - Mind Sports Centre FIDE Blitz
May 6 - Durham Chess Congress
May 7 - East Kent Megafinal
May 7 - 3rd Ribble FIDE Congress
May 7 - EPSCA Under 11 Final
May 7 - Golders Green FIDE Rapidplay
May 8 - World 20/20 Chess Championships
May 8 - Buckinghamshire Megafinal
May 8 - Bury St Edmunds Junior Chess Congress
May 8 - YJCA Grand Prix Event 4
May 8 - West London Chess Academy
May 10 - Muswell Hill FIDE Rapid
May 13 - 31st Frome Chess Congress
May 14 - County Championship Final Stage – Quarter Final
May 14 - Nottingham Megafinal
May 14 - 1st Desert Penguins Junior Chess Championships
May 14 - Junior Blitz Event by Organic Chess
May 15 - 2022 Warwickshire Megafinal
May 15 - EJCOA National Youth Championships - Hampshire Regional Final
May 17 - Muswell Hill FIDE Rapid
May 19 - Chessable English Women's Championships
May 19 - Chessable English Championships
May 19 - Hendon FIDE Blitz
May 21 - Sussex Junior Worthing Rapidplay
May 21 - County Championship Final Stage – Quarter Final
May 21 - West Anglia Megafinal
May 21 - Ilkley Grammar School Junior RapidPlay

May 22 - 3rd Crewe Rapidplay
May 22 - EJCOA National Youth Championships - West Midlands Regional Final
May 22 - EJCOA National Youth Championships - North West Regional Finals
May 22 - West London Chess Academy
May 27 - EACU 3rd FIDE-rated Congress
May 28 - Manchester U10 Megafinal
May 28 - EJCOA National Youth Championships - North East Regional Finals
May 28 - Poplar Rapid Tournament
May 29 - Manchester U11-U18 Megafinal
May 29 - Smarticus Juniors Rapidplay

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<https://www.englishchess.org.uk/ecf-membership-rates-and-joining-details/>

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