



Chess*Moves*

June 2023



**New English, European
and World Champions!**

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EDITORIAL



Welcome to the June Edition of *ChessMoves*!

Chess is thriving in England! We celebrate Mickey Adams' and Katarzyna Toma's successes in the English Championships and John Nunn's triumph in the European 65+ Championship - and three weekend congress reports and coverage of the County Championships reflect the enduring strength of grassroots chess in England. Lots of hard-fought games are included for your enjoyment!

The British Chess Championships, the ECF's flagship event, takes place from **20th to 30th July** at **The Venue, De Montfort University, Leicester LE2 7BU**. There are tournaments for all levels and a full schedule of side events to make sure that there is something for everyone. Entries will be accepted up to 48 hours before the various events, with a discount for entries received by 3rd July. You can find full details here: <https://www.britishchesschampionships.co.uk>

In July ChessFest are holding two free ChessFest open-air events in Nottingham and London. Do drop in if you can! Details here: <https://www.nottinghamshirechess.org/2023/06/15/nottingham-chessfest/> and <https://www.chess-fest.com/>

In addition, we have the usual batch of columns written by our specialist authors.

Finally, the congress calendar at the end of *ChessMoves* gives details of all the chess events you need to set you up for the coming month.

Enjoy!

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EVENTS

English and English Women's Championships 2023



The English Championships and English Women's Championships took place between Friday 26th May and Bank Holiday Monday 29th May 2023 at the Holiday Inn Kenilworth-Warwick, 212 Abbey End, Kenilworth CV8. The venue was excellent as always, with local facilities nearby in the historic town and Kenilworth Castle and Elizabethan Gardens a short walk away.



As with the Seniors we had an extremely strong field for this year's Championships, with GM Michael Adams as top seed in the Open English Championship with a total of 66 players, and Kamila Hryshenko as top seed in the English Women's Championship with a total of 22 players taking part. You can find a full list of entrants at the links here: <https://www.englishchess.org.uk/english-2023-entrants/> <https://www.englishchess.org.uk/english-womens-2023-entrants/>

Schedule

Both of the finals – English Championship and English Women's Championship - were played as FIDE and ECF rated Swiss tournaments, with a total of seven rounds over five days. The playing schedule was as follows for the two tournaments:

Friday Round 1 - 10:00 - 14:00; **Round 2** - 16:00 – 20:00;
Saturday Round 3 - 10.00 – 14:00; **Round 4** - 16:00 – 20:00;
Sunday Round 5 - 10:00 – 14:00; **Round 6** - 16:00 – 20:00;
Monday Round 7 - 10:00 – 14:00

The organising and control team comprised Organiser Nigel Towers and Chief Arbiter IA Adrian Elwin, supported by IA Matthew Carr and FA Jo Wildman. Photography was provided by Carl Portman and Denis Dicen.



The top games from each competition were played on live boards and broadcast on Chess.com, Lichess and Chess24 with commentary on the ECF's Twitch streaming channel: https://m.twitch.tv/ecf_streaming

Commentary was provided for the final rounds by FM Jonathan Blackburn, supported by fellow Welsh FM Ioan Rees for round 6 and WIM Natasha Regan for round 7. You can find a recording of the commentary streams on the ECF's YouTube channel at the link here: <https://www.youtube.com/c/EnglishChessFederation>

English Championship



English Championships – Warwick and Kenilworth Room, Holiday Inn

Mickey Adams was the top seed for the Championship and the favourite to win the Tony Miles trophy, with over 100 points between Mickey and second seed Ameet Ghasi. There were 66 players taking part, with the top 10 seeds as below with ratings based on the higher of ECF and FIDE.

1	GM	Michael Adams	2757	4NCL Guildford
2	IM	Ameet Ghasi	2619	Richmond
3	IM	Marcus Harvey	2539	4NCL Wood Green
4	GM	Mark Hebden	2504	Syston
5	GM	John Emms	2503	Tunbridge Wells
6	IM	Jonah Willow	2490	West Nottingham
7	GM	Danny Gormally	2470	4NCL Blackthorne
8	IM	Matthew Wadsworth	2469	Maidenhead
9	IM	Pert, Richard G	2461	Brentwood
10	IM	Jackson, James P	2441	Banbury

The first round games went mostly on seeding, but with some challenging games for the top players.

Mickey Adams was paired against fast-improving junior Stanley Badacsonyi. Stanley had the white pieces and played a Trompowsky opening to reach an equal middlegame with two pairs of knights exchanged in the centre and Black's queenside play producing an open h-file with an exchange of all four rooks.

Badacsonyi, Stanley (2002) - Adams, Michael (2666)

English Chess Championship 2023 (1), 26.05.2023

Trompowsky Attack



Stanley Badacsonyi - photo courtesy of Carl Portman

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 d5 3.Nd2 Nbd7 4.Ngf3 h6 5.Bf4 e6 6.h3 c5 7.c3 Qb6 8.Qb3 Qc6 9.e3 c4 10.Qc2 b5 11.Be2 Bb7 12.Ne5 Nxe5 13.Bxe5



13...Nd7 14.Bh2 Be7 15.Bf3 Nf6 16.0-0 0-0 17.Rfe1 Ne4 18.Nxe4 dxe4 19.Be2 Rfc8 20.Rec1 Qe8 21.a4 a6 22.axb5 axb5 23.b3 Bd5 24.b4 Qc6 25.Qb2 Qb7 26.Rxa8 Rxa8 27.Ra1 Ra6 28.Rxa6 Qxa6



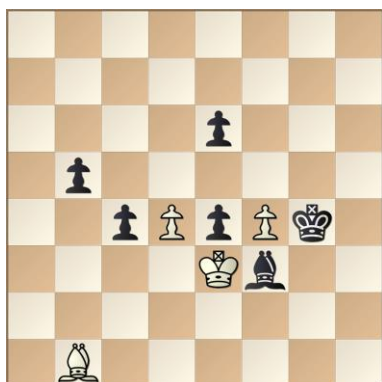
29.Bd1 Bd8 30.Bc2 h5 31.Bd1 h4 32.Bc2 Bc6 33.Kf1 Qa7
34.Kg1 f6 35.Bd1 Kf7 36.Bf4 Ke7 37.Bc2 Bb6 38.Qb1 g5
39.Bh2 Qa3 40.Bb8 Qa8 41.Bh2 Qa3 42.Bb8 f5 43.Qe1
Qb2 44.Qd2 Kd7 45.Be5 Bc7 46.Bf6 Bd8 47.Be5 Be7



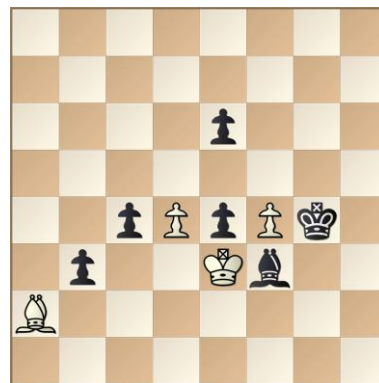
48.g4?! hxc3 49.fxc3 Bd6 50.Bxd6 Kxd6



51.h4?! Be8 Rerouting to the d1 to h5 diagonal 52.hxg5
Qa1+ 53.Kh2 Bh5 54.g4 Bxg4 55.Qf2 Bf3 56.Qg3+ Kd7
57.Qg1 Qxc3 58.Qf2 Qxb4 59.g6 Qd6+ 60.Kg1 Qe7 61.Qg3
Qg7 62.Qg5 Qh8 63.Qg3 f4 64.Qh2 Qxh2+ 65.Kxh2 Ke7
66.exf4 Kf6 67.Kg3 Kxg6 68.Kf2 Kf5 69.Ke3 Kg4 70.Bb1



70...b4 71.Ba2 b3



0–1

Mickey continued with a further win in round 2 against Adam Ashton, a draw in round 3 against defending champion Mark Hebden, and wins in round 4, 5 and 6 against Borna Derkashani, Marcus Harvey and second seed Ameet Ghazi. This meant that Mickey went into the last round on 5½ out of 6 and a full point clear of the chasing pack of Marcus Harvey, Matthew Wadsworth, Peter Finn, Jonah Willow and Peter Wells – all on 4½ points.

Michael's final round pairing was against IM Jonah Willow. Jonah played a Scotch opening, with a highly tactical battle leading to an exciting finish to the tournament.

Willow, Jonah B (2447) - Adams, Michael (2666)
English Chess Championship 2023 Chess.com (7),
29.05.2023

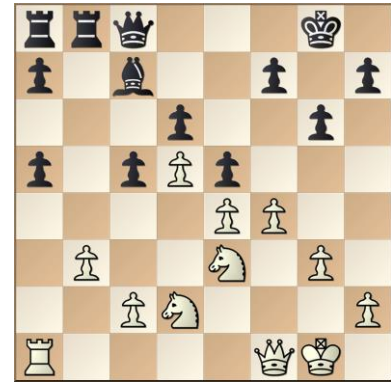


Jonah Willow vs Michael Adams – photo courtesy of Denis Dicen

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bb5 Nd4 5.0–0 Nxb5
6.Nxb5 c6 7.Nc3 d6 8.d4 Qc7



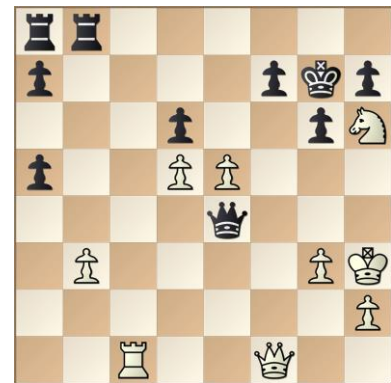
9.a4 Be7 10.a5 0-0 11.Bg5 Bg4 12.Bxf6 Bxf6 13.d5 c5
14.a6 Rfb8 15.Nb5 Qd8 16.b3 bxa6 17.Na3 Bd7 18.Nc4
Bb5



25...c4 26.Ndxc4 Bb6 27.fxe5 Bxe3+ 28.Nxe3 Qc3 29.Ng4
Qd4+?! 30.Kg2 Qxe4+ 31.Kh3 Qxc2 32.Nh6+ Kg7 33.Rc1
Qe4



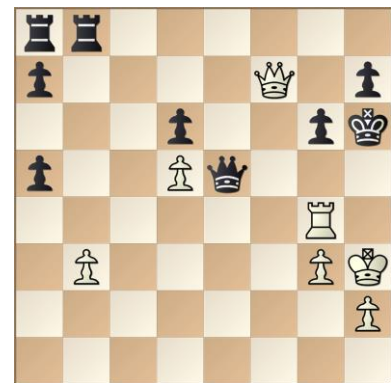
19.Na5 Qc8 20.Nd2 Bd8 21.Nac4 Bc7



34.Rc4? 34...Qxe5 35.Qxf7+ Kxh6 36.Rh4+ Kg5 37.Rg4+
Kh6 38.Rh4+ Kg5 39.Rg4+ Kh6



22.Ne3?! Bxf1 23.Qxf1 a5 24.g3 g6 25.f4



½-½

The final-round draw was enough for Mickey Adams to become the English Champion for 2023 with 6 points out of 7, a clear half-point ahead second placed IMs Marcus Harvey and Matthew Wadsworth, who both won their final round games to finish on 5½ points.

One of the features of the championship was the number of juniors and younger players challenging for the top positions.

English Chess Championships 2023 by Peter Finn

Here is a report from Peter Finn, who won the Under 2200 performance prize.



Peter Finn

(1) Derakhshani, Borna (2359) - Finn, Peter (2127) A06
English Open Championships 2023 Holiday Inn
Kenilworth-Warwick, 28.05.2023

Coming into this game I had won my first game then drawn my next three games against strong opposition. However, that doesn't tell the full story, as I was completely winning against IM Jonah Willow in round 2 and completely lost against IM James Jackson in round 3!

1.Nf3 d5 2.e3 I had expected 1.Nf3 but not 2.e3, so I took a bit of a think here deciding what set-up to go for, and eventually settled for a semi-Slav set-up.

2...Nf6 3.c4 c6 4.Nc3 e6 5.b3 Bd6 6.Bb2 e5?!

I knew it was important to play Bd6 instead of Nbd7, as in some positions Black plays an early e5; however, I misremembered the correct position.

6...0-0 is how I should have continued, only playing e5 after castling and if my opponent plays slowly with Qc2. 7.Qc2 e5! 8.cxd5 cxd5 9.Nb5 Nc6 10.Nxd6 Qxd6 and Black is better here.

7.cxd5 cxd5 8.Nb5 Nc6 9.Nxd6+ Qxd6 10.Bb5 e4 11.Nd4 0-0



Here my opponent has so far correctly exploited my opening mistake and has a clear advantage with superior minor pieces.

12.Nxc6?! Changing the structure in my favour. I have ideas of pushing my a-pawn and taking on b3 to create a weakness now. Additionally, my c6-pawn is surprisingly difficult to attack. Either 12.Rc1 or 12.Be2 would leave White with a clear edge. However, not 12.0-0? Nxd4 13.Bxd4 Ng4 14.g3 Nh6 when Black has successfully weakened White's light squares and will always have ideas to exploit them.

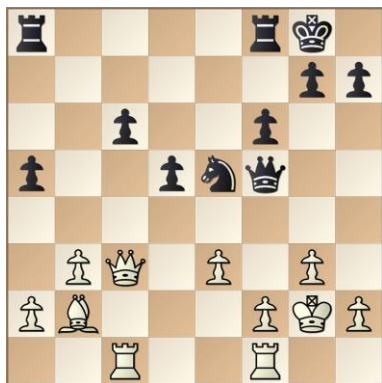
12...bxc6 13.Be2 a5 14.d3 exd3 15.Bxd3 Ba6 16.0-0 Bxd3 17.Qxd3 Ng4



I thought it was important to activate my knight before White was in time to play Qd4 or Qc3, leaving the knight passive.

18.g3 Ne5?! 19.Qc3 19.Bxe5! Not a move either my opponent or I strongly considered, assuming the bishop must be better than the knight. 19...Qxe5 20.Rac1 Qd6 defending the pawn and keeping the rook off c5. After 21.Qc2 Ra6 22.Rfd1 Black's position is under a lot of pressure, and he must play very accurately to survive.

19...f6 20.Rac1 Qe6 21.Kg2 Qf5



22.Qc2 I missed this move completely when I played Qf5; I thought White had to play the very ugly f3.

22...Qf3+ Here I offered a draw; I didn't really think my opponent would take it and I thought he might be provoked into playing too ambitiously and losing.

23.Kg1 Rac8 24.Rfd1 Qg4 25.f4?! 25.Bxe5: White should try to bail out here. This is what I was expecting during the game. However, White still has to be precise not to be worse. An example line: 25...fxe5 26.Rd2 h5 27.Qd1 Qg6 28.h4.

25...Nf7 26.Bd4 Rfe8 27.Qd2 Nd6 28.Qxa5



28...Nf5 28...Ne4! is even stronger and was my first instinct. However, I saw some lines with Nxd4, so decided on the game move instead. 29.Qe1 h5 30.Kg2 c5 31.Bb2 h4 32.h3 Qg6 33.g4 Ng3: I didn't properly appreciate after h5, h4 how strong the knight would be on g3 supporting a rook on e2. White is in massive trouble.

29.Qd2 h5 30.Qf2 c5! 31.h3 The only try, else e3 falls.

31.Bxc5 Rxc5 32.Rxc5 Qxd1+

31...Qxh3 32.Rxc5 Nxc3? It was much stronger to play Qg4 before taking on g3. I missed his reply in the game, only calculating Qg2 and Qh2.

33.Qf3! Rcd8 34.Rd2 Qg4 35.Qxg4 hxg4 36.Rg2 A key decision in the game. I can play either Nf5 or Ne4. My first instinct was Nf5, hoping desperately to liquidate into a drawn ending, but it's not so simple and if Black isn't precise he will lose. Ne4 leads to a very complicated race where White tries to push his connected passers before Black activates his pieces to support his g-pawn advance. Practically, I definitely make the right decision.

36...Ne4!? 36...Nf5 37.Rxg4 Nxd4 38.exd4 Re4 39.Rc7 g5! A key move I would have needed to see in advance. 40.Kf2 Rxd4 41.Ke3 Rb4 42.Kf3 d4 43.fxg5 d3! 44.Rg1 f5: Black just about makes a draw from here.

37.Rc7 g3



38.Rgc2? The rest of the ending was played with little time left, so at times the moves were far from optimal.

38.b4: White must be fast. 38...Kh7 39.b5 Kg6 40.b6 Kf5 41.b7 Kg4 42.Rb2 Rh8 43.Ba7 Nf2 44.Rxf2 gxf2+ 45.Kxf2 Rh2+ 46.Ke1 Rb2. Black has been just fast enough and should make a draw.

38...Kh7!

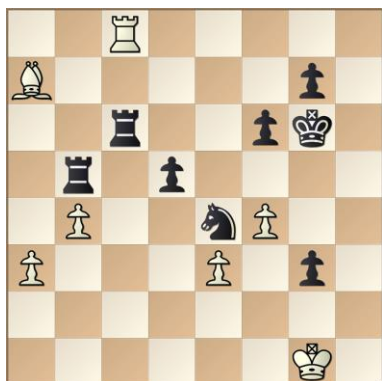


Starting the plan of putting the king on g4 before activating the rooks.

39.b4 Rb8?! 39...Kg6! Just continuing the king advance is strong.

40.a3 Kg6 41.Ba7 Rb5? 42.Rc8 42.f5+ forces a good liquidation for White. If 42...Kxf5 43.Rxg7.

42...Re6? 43.R2c6? Rxc6



Finally making a good trade for Black when forced to do so. At first glance it's easy to think White is doing well with the connected passed pawns, but he's actually lost as shown in the game.

44.Rxc6 Rb7 An important inclusion as otherwise White will go Rc7 himself, slowing Black's progress.

45.Bd4 Kf5 46.Kg2 Kg4 47.Bb6 Rb8! 48.Rc7 Desperation.

48...Rxb6 49.Rxg7+ Kf5 50.Rd7 Ke6 51.Ra7 Rc6 52.b5 Rc2+ 53.Kg1 Rb2 54.a4 Kf5 55.Rg7 Rb4



55...d4 would have been a much nicer finish, forcing an infiltration with the king.

0-1

Here is a further report from IM Matthew Wadsworth, including his perspective on the event and a number of his games.

English Chess Championships 2023 by Matthew Wadsworth



Matthew Wadsworth

The English Chess Championships were held from 26th-29th May in Kenilworth. The Open section was won by Mickey Adams, while the Women's section was won by Katarzyna Toma.

Firstly, I want to say a big thank you to the ECF for making the event run so smoothly. It is only the second time the English Championships in its current form has been held, and hopefully it will remain a fixture on the English chess circuit. 66 players competed in the Open section, including five GMs and eight IMs. Going into the event, the championship favourite was fairly obvious; Mickey Adams outrated the second seed by almost 200 points and came into the tournament with an incredible record in national championships. On the other hand, seeds 2 to 9 were within 100 points of each other, which meant that, even if Adams ran away with the victory, the battle for second would be very tight.

Given this, the tournament progressed almost exactly as expected. After hanging on for a draw in round 3 against Mark Hebden, Mickey won three games straight, to go a full point clear of the field with a round to go. Five players, including myself, were on 4½/6, with another seven a half-point further back. Mickey therefore only needed a draw in the final round, which he eventually made in a back-and-forth game against Jonah Willow. In the chasing group, both Marcus Harvey and I won our final games to share second place, while a group of four (Hebden, Willow, Danny Gormally and Ankush Khandelwal) shared 4th place. Jude Shearsby won the under-18 prize with 4½/7, including an impressive win in the final round against David Haydon.

Overall, I was very happy with how I played over the weekend to finish equal second. After starting with two wins, I lost a tight game to Marcus in round 3 before

recovering with a couple of nice wins, including against Gormally in round 5.

Wadsworth, Matthew (2428) - Gormally, Danny (2434) E69

English Championship, 28.05.2023



Matthew playing against Danny in their round 5 game.

1.c4 Nf6 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.Nc3 0-0 5.d4 Having started as an English, I decided to transpose back into the well-trodden paths of the Fianchetto King's Indian.

5...d6 6.h3 c6 7.Nf3 Qa5!? One of the major development systems Black can choose. The idea is to create counterplay against my centre with Nd7-b6 and Qb4.

8.0-0 Nbd7 9.e4 e5 10.Qe2!?



An unusual idea I came across during preparation. White prophylactically defends c4 and can bolster it further with Rd1 and Bf1.

10.Re1 is by far the main line and has produced good results for White.

10...exd4 11.Nxd4 The knight is temporarily undefended, but Black has no way of exploiting it.

11...Nb6 From b6 the knight puts unpleasant pressure on the c4 pawn, given that I can't play b3 without hanging the c3 knight. Black also has Na4 ideas to exchange off a pair of pieces.

12.Rd1 Nfd7 12...Qb4 13.Bf1 keeps everything under control. Now, if 13...Na4 14.Nxa4 Qxa4, 15.Qe1! is a nice idea, after which Black's queen runs dangerously short on squares.

13.Be3 Black was threatening a double attack on c4 and d4 with Qc5, so it made sense to overprotect the knight in preparation.

13...Qb4 13...Ne5 loses to 14.c5! (14.Nb3 was what I planned during the game, but Black stays alive after 14...Qa6) 14...Qxc5 (14...dxc5 15.Nb3 Qa6 16.Qxa6 bxa6 17.Bxc5+ is also hopeless for Black) 15.Ne6 and Black loses material; 13...Re8 is probably best but after 14.Rac1 Na4 15.Nxa4 Qxa4 16.b3 White has a dream position from this line.

14.Bf1 Ne5 Having spent so many tempi going after my c4 pawn, Black really has to play this to stay consistent. Unfortunately, it fails tactically. I had to calculate all of this when I played 13.Be3, but as far as I can tell I saw everything I needed to see.

15.a3 Qxc4 16.Qc2

Obviously, I avoid the queen exchange since Black's queen is almost out of squares.



16.Qd2? Qxd4! and Black wins the queen back after Nf3+.

16...Qxd4!? Danny's best try is to hope he can get enough for the queen, but it never quite happens.

16...Qc5 17.Nf5! is the only winning move for White. A sample line that I had to see at the board was 17...Qa5 18.b4 Nf3+ 19.Kg2 Qe5 20.Nxg7 Qf6 21.Nf5! gxf5 22.Kxf3 fxe4+ 23.Kg2+ and Black has nowhere near enough for the piece.

17.Bxd4 Nf3+ 18.Kg2 Nxd4 19.Rxd4! This felt like a very easy practical decision. After giving up the exchange, Black has a rook, bishop and pawn for the queen but is not coordinated enough to cause me serious problems.

19.Qb1 is supposedly also winning but feels very awkward for White.

19...Bxd4 20.Rd1 Bg7 Incredibly, the game only enters new territory with this move!

20...Bxc3 was played in a blitz game between Aronian (then 'only' rated 2610) and Ivanisevic in 2003! White also won that game after 21.bxc3 d5 22.exd5 Nxd5 23.c4 Nc7 24.Qb2+—

21.a4 Capturing on d6 was also possible, but I wanted to force Black's minor pieces back first.

21...Be6 22.Ne2 22.Rxd6: now was the right time to take on d6.

22...a5 22...Rad8 23.Nf4 Bc8 24.a5 Na8 looks appallingly passive for Black, and I can see why Danny didn't play it. However, he does keep the d6 pawn for the time being, and may be able to cause me some conversion problems later on.

23.Nf4 Bc8 24.Rxd6



Black is not only at a material disadvantage, but his position is pretty desperate too. The light-squared bishop has no good squares, which leaves the rook on a8 a spectator.

24...Nd7 25.Bc4 Ne5 26.Ba2 Simple chess, retaining my bishop and putting some unpleasant pressure on f7.

26...Ra6 Black's only real chance at counterplay, hoping to activate the rook via b6.

27.Nd3 Nxd3 28.Rxd3 Rb6 29.Rb3 Ra6 29...Rxb3 30.Bxb3 Rd8 31.Qc5+—

30.Rf3



Danny resigned. I don't think he did too much wrong, to be honest; unfortunately, this line has probably been rendered unplayable by the latest generation of engines.

30.Rf3 Be6 31.Bxe6 fxe6 32.Rxf8+ Bxf8 33.Qb3 was one possible continuation. The queen dominates the rook and bishop in all of these endings.

1–0

In round 6 I drew with Richard Pert after reaching a threefold repetition in a crazy time scramble. This put me on 4½/6 going into the last round, where I had White against my former Cambridge teammate Peter Finn. Peter was having a fantastic tournament going into the game – he was undefeated and had beaten John Emms in the previous round – so I knew it would not be an easy game.

(2) Wadsworth, Matthew (2428) - Finn, Peter (2127) A14
English Championship (7.3), 29.05.2023



Peter Finn (shown here playing John Emms, with Matthew in the background)

1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 e6 Peter chooses one of the most solid responses to the Réti and invites a transposition to the Catalan if I decide to play with d4.

4.0–0 Be7 5.c4 0–0 6.b3 I decide to keep the game firmly in Réti territory.

6...d4 Black's most ambitious move here, gaining space and punishing me for delaying d4. The position will start to resemble a reversed Benoni.

7.e3 c5 8.exd4 cxd4 9.Ne5!?



A relatively new idea, but a very logical one. In the regular Benoni, Black's life is a lot easier after exchanging a couple of minor pieces. Therefore, it makes sense for White to do the same in the reversed structure. Additionally, I had seen Ameet Ghasi win a nice game a couple of rounds before in this line, so I decided it was worth a closer look.

9.d3 is the standard move.

9...Qc7 9...Nfd7 was played in the aforementioned Ghasi game, and White was doing very well after **10.Nxd7 Qxd7 11.Ba3 Re8 12.d3 Nc6 13.Bxe7 Qxe7 14.a3 a5 15.Nd2** Ghasi-Eggleston, English Championship 2023 (5.2).

10.Re1 Nc6 11.Nxc6 I get my piece exchange, although Black can argue that his pawn structure has been slightly improved after bxc6.

11...bxc6 12.d3 Re8 13.Ba3?! a very typical idea in these positions, getting another pair of pieces off the board. In this concrete position, however, I had a stronger alternative.

13.Bf4! Qb6 14.Nd2 and Black will struggle ever to play e5, which keeps the d4 pawn vulnerable and the light-squared bishop inactive. During the game I was concerned about **14...Bb4** but White is doing very well after **15.a3 Bc3 16.Rb1 a5 17.b4**.

13...e5 13...Rb8: as we will see in the next couple of moves, my position hinges on a queenside expansion with b3–b4. Therefore, it makes sense for Black to try to delay this as much as possible.

14.Bxe7 Rxe7 15.Nd2 15.b4! I should play this immediately before Black has a chance to cut it out.

15...Bg4 16.Qc2 Rae8?! 16...Rb8 17.a3 a5 should have been played. Now I have an interesting pawn sacrifice: **18.b4 axb4 19.axb4 Rxb4 20.Ra8+ Re8 21.Rxe8+ Nxe8 22.Nf3 Bxf3 23.Bxf3** where I have good compensation for the pawn, but cannot realistically claim to be better.

17.b4!



Here I was quite happy as White. Benoni positions are usually decided by who can execute their pawn breaks first and I am much quicker on the queenside than Black is in the centre.

17...c5!? a very committal decision by Black, but one that was perhaps necessary.

17...h6: if Black passes time, then **18.a4 a6 19.c5!** is strong, with ideas of Nd2–c4–b6 or Nd2–c4–d6.

18.b5 With this unusual pawn structure I have all of the long-term trumps. In any ending my ability to create a distant passed pawn with a2–a4–a5 and b5–b6 will surely be decisive, while the c5-pawn will be a weakness for the rest of the game. On the other hand, Black has decent attacking chances in the centre and on the kingside.

18...Bc8 19.Nb3 From b3 the knight ties Black down to c5, supports a4–a5 and even plans Na5–c6 if Black allows it.

19...Qd6 This is a really nice multipurpose move by Peter. From d6 the queen protects c5 and supports Black's two most dangerous plans. Firstly, Black is hinting at breaking with e4 and d3 after dxe4. Secondly, Black can create a surprisingly quick attack with h5–h4, Ng4 and Qh6.

20.a4 h5 20...e4 21.dxe4 d3 loses to **22.Rad1!** using the pin on the d-pawn. Black loses material due to the back rank mate after **22...dxc2 23.Rxd6 Nxe4 24.Rxe4 Rxe4 25.Bxe4 Rxe4 26.Rd8+ Re8 27.Rxe8#**

21.Rad1? I was too concerned about Black's central plans and underestimated the strength of his kingside attack.

21.Na5 it was important to get on with my play as quickly as possible. 21...e4: I did not want to allow this as Black looks to be breaking through in the centre. However, after the calm 22.Nc6 Re6 23.Nxa7 Black has no immediate breakthrough and I am up an important pawn.

21...h4 22.Na5 hxg3 23.hxg3 Ng4



Suddenly the white position is filled with danger, and I have to play accurately to survive.

24.Nc6 Rc7 24...Qh6! is a curious but incredibly strong exchange sacrifice that White must refuse to stay in the game. 25.Re4! a critical defensive idea that saves my position in a couple of lines. (25.Nxe7+? Rxe7: at first glance, it seems that Black gets a check on h2 in return for the exchange and very little else. However, White has absolutely no play here, so Black can attack the white king slowly and methodically. A sample line is 26.Qe2 Qh2+ 27.Kf1 e4! 28.dxe4 Be6, and despite my material advantage I am helpless against Black's attacking ideas, for example Ne5 followed by Bh3). 25...Rc7 26.Qe2 f5 27.Rxg4 fxe4: I give up the exchange to stop Black's attack, after which the position is roughly balanced.

25.Qd2! an important defensive move, stopping Qh6 ideas for now.

25...f5? ultimately the game-losing mistake. Black's centre is overextended and will soon crumble.

25...Qg6 felt like the most natural move, intending Qh5 with kingside pressure. 26.f4! (26.Qa5? after the game, Peter said that this move dissuaded him from playing Qg6. White does win material but leaves his king far too exposed. 26...Rd7 27.Nxa7 Bb7 28.Nc6 Qh5 and Black has a wealth of attacking ideas, for example Rd6-f6 or f5 followed by f4 or e4). 26...Ne3 27.Rxe3 dxe3 28.Qxe3: once again, I can sacrifice the exchange to neutralise Black's

attack. The engine claims equality here, but it appears much easier for White to play.

26.Qg5!



Outposts can be used for queens as well as knights! Black now loses any attacking chances on the kingside and his centre starts to collapse.

26...Bd7 26...Qf6: during the game I thought that this was Peter's best chance; however, the ending after 27.Qxf6 gxf6 28.a5 Rg7 29.a6 looks incredibly unpleasant.

27.Bd5+ an important finesse to prevent Bxc6.

27...Be6 28.Bf3 Black will lose the e5-pawn and the game after Bxg4. Peter puts up some resistance, but there was not much he could do from here.

28...Bc8 29.Bxg4 fxe4 30.Rxe5 Rxe5 31.Qxe5 Qxe5 32.Nxe5 Bb7 33.Re1 Re7 34.Kf1 Bh1 35.f4 gxf3 36.Kf2



The contrast between minor pieces paints a sorry picture for Black.

36...g5 37.Nc6 Rxe1 38.Kxe1 f2+ 39.Kxf2 Kf8 40.Nxa7 Ke7 41.Nc8+ the knight will come to b6 next, followed by d5, so Peter resigned. A tense, balanced game that ultimately was decided by a single mistake.

1-0

Overall, congratulations to Mickey. Thank you to all of the participants and the ECF, and I hope to return to the tournament next year!

This year's Championship saw a number of younger IMs pushing to take the top places, with the result in question right up to the final round. The Championship was also notable for exceptional performances from juniors Kushal Jakhria and local player Jude Shearsby.

Final Standings and Prizes

		Player	Club	Points	
1st	GM	Michael Adams		6 pts	£1,500
2nd=	IM	Marcus Harvey	Wood Green	5½ pts	£750
2nd=	IM	Matthew Wadsworth	Maidenhead	5½ pts	£750
4th=	GM	Mark Hebden	Syston	5 pts	£50
4th=	IM	Jonah Willow	Wood Green	5 pts	£50
4th=	GM	Danny Gormally	Blackthorne	5 pts	£50
4th=	CM	Ankush Khandelwal	Nottingham University	5 pts	£50
Perf					
2200 plus		Peter Finn	Wycombe and Hazlemere		£50
2000 – 2199		Kushal Jakhria	Charlton		£50
U2000		Roger de Coverly	Bourne End		£50
Best U18 player		Jude Shearsby	Kenilworth		

English Women's Chess Championship

As the English Championship was taking place in the Warwick and Kenilworth Room, the English Women's Championship took place in the newly refurbished Leamington Room at the Holiday Inn.

Kamila Hryshenko was the top seed on rating, with a top-level field including WGM Katarzyna Toma, WFM Audrey Kueh, and WCMs Zoe Varney and Nina Pert. As with the main championship there were a number of fast-improving juniors challenging for the top places.

CM Nina Pert took an early lead in the event with four straight wins, with top-seeded players Kamila Hryshenko and WIM Kata Toma both losing in round 2 to Sarah Longson and Abigail Weersing respectively. Nina was followed by a trailing pack on 3 points but then faltered in round 5 when she lost out to WFM Audrey Kueh. At this point Nina was equal first with WCM Zoe Varney and WFM

Audrey Kueh, with all three players on 4 points. Zoe then won her 6th round game against Nina, to take the lead with 5 points ahead of Kata Toma and junior Ruqayyah Rida on 4½ points. Kata went on to win her deciding final-round game against Zoe to win the Championship.

Kata provides a report on the event and her critical round 7 game below.



English Women's Championship – Leamington Room

English Women's Chess Championship by Katarzyna Toma



The English Women's Championship was organised by the ECF at the Holiday Inn in Kenilworth from 26th to 29th of May alongside the Open Championship. There was a separate playing venue for ladies, and it was spacious and cosy. I must admit it smelled good too. 😊

We had 22 participants in our section, not a record number but enough to make a decent Swiss tournament. I really liked the idea of anti-cheating scans in every round to put all minds at ease. This way, if one loses a game to a talented junior player, one can be humbled without any excuses or doubts.

We played a seven-round tournament over four days with double rounds and time control of 90 min + 30 sec increment per move, so it was a bit of a marathon for my generation. Every player over a certain age had some kind of caffeine reinforcement by her side. It was a typical women's tournament with turbulence, plot twists and a lot of drama over the board. It's good that aspiring youngsters have the chance to play against more experienced players as it brings progress. That said, it was an experience that will keep me on my toes for a while! The younger generation has no shame, and they just want to beat us all!



Outside the venue we were spoiled by lovely weather and the proximity of nice restaurants and shops, which gave opportunities to catch up with chess friends over coffee, get a delightful dinner, or simply have a chat over outfit-hunting. The social part of tournaments is very important for female players, and we often feel abandoned amongst men only. It is important to organise events specifically for women or make sure there is a certain percentage of females in larger events to keep women participating going into adulthood.

Generally, I'm happy that I decided to play, but there are also a few improvements to make. The national championships should be the most prestigious event of the year with all top players attending, adequate prizes and a nine-round tournament as a minimum. It should be the ECF's priority to try to make it happen in upcoming years.

Finally, I would like to thank Aga and Nigel, Jo and Matt for taking care of us during the event. Well done, you guys!



Zoe Varney vs Kata Toma at the start of round 7 – photo courtesy of Denis Dicen

Varney, Zoe (1974) - Toma, Katarzyna (2254) A30

English Womens Championships 2023, Holiday Inn Kenilworth-Warwick, 29.05.2023

This was the last game of the tournament. Due to quite a dramatic mess-up in round 2 when I blundered into a mate

in one (I can only explain it by brain error...), I was trying to catch up the top of the table. Zoe had had a good tournament, winning against Kamila, Audrey and Sarah, and she was in first place with 5 points. I was sharing second place with 4½, so it was a life-or-death situation for me, and I needed to win.

1.Nf3 c5 2.e3 Nf6 3.b3 e6 3...g6 4.Bb2 Bg7: another way of reacting to White's fianchetto.

4.Bb2 b6 5.g3 Bb7 6.Bg2 Be7 7.0-0 0-0 8.Qe2 d6 9.c4 Nbd7 10.Rd1 Qc7 11.Nc3 a6 12.d4 Rfe8 13.Rac1 Rac8 14.e4 cxd4 15.Nxd4 After a calm opening we ended up having a hedgehog structure which to a certain degree we were both familiar with as we're both e4 players (most of the time)

15...Qb8 16.h4 Not ideal, as White gives up the g4-square; usually White aims to play f4.

16.h3 Bf8 17.Re1 would be more accurate plan for White.

16...Bf8 16...h5 would be the best answer to stop any dreams of attack: 16...d5? Premature and doesn't work here: 17.cxd5 exd5 18.Nxd5 Nxd5 19.exd5 Bxh4 (19...Ba3 20.Qd2 Bxb2 21.Qxb2 Qe5 ;22.Rxc8 Rxc8 23.Qe2 Qxe2 24.Nxe2 Rc2 25.Nd4 Rxa2 26.Rc1) 20.Qg4.

17.Re1 Qa8 17...h5: another chance to take control of g4.

18.g4 h5? I had decided to make a bit of a mess on the board, but ultimately this move leads to a worse position. In my defence, some of the consequences were tough to calculate over the board.

18...g6 was a perfectly normal response, with White having a slight edge: 19.Rcd1 Ne5 (19...Rcd8 20.h5) 20.g5 (20.Na4 Ned7 21.g5) 20...Nh5 21.Bc1:

a) 21.Qe3 Qb8 22.f4 Nd7 23.Bf3 Nxf4 (23...e5 24.Nde2 d5) 24.Qxf4 e5, with a complicated position;

b) 21Bc1 b5, a typical hedgehog breakthrough.

19.g5 Ng4 20.Bh3 d5 20...Nge5!? was an interesting alternative, but I saw the line with 21... Nd3 and that's why I declined it: 21.Qxh5 (21.f4 Ng4 22.Bxg4 hxg4 23.Qxg4 b5!?) 21...b5 (21...Nd3? 22.g6 fxg6 23.Qxg6 Nf4 24.Qg4 Nxh3+ 25.Qxh3±) 22.Re3 g6 23.Qe2 bxc4 24.h5 Bg7 25.Rd1 Qa7.

21.cxd5 21.f3 Nge5 (21...b5 22.fxg4 Bc5 23.Nd1 dxe4 24.Nf2 hxg4 25.Bxg4 bxc4 26.Rxc4 Ne5 27.Rxc5 Rxc5: the engine showed this interesting line 22.cxd5 (22.f4 Ng4

23.Bxg4 hxg4 24.Qxg4 dxe4 25.g6 f5 is OK for Black)
22...exd5 23.f4 Ng4.



24.e5!±

21...exd5 22.f3 Nge5? 22...dxe4!? the only way to keep the fight going: 23.fxg4 Bc5 24.Na4 Ne5!?. It's much easier for the attacking side to play such positions, especially in the 90 min+30 sec format we used:

a) 25.Nxc5 bxc5 26.Nf5 Nf3+ 27.Kf1 (27.Kf2 Qb8; 27.Kg2 Qb8 28.Rh1 Rcd8 29.Bc3 hxg4 30.Bxg4 Qf4 31.Bh3 Rd3) 27...a5;

b) 25.Bg2 Nf3+!? (25...Nxg4? 26.Nxc5 bxc5 27.Nf5 Qb8 28.Bh3 e3 29.Bxg4 hxg4 30.Qxg4 Re4 31.Qg3; 25...Nd3) 26.Bxf3 exf3 27.Qf2 Bb4 28.Rxe8+ Rxe8 29.gxh5 Qb8 30.Nxb6 Qf4 31.Nc4 Qg4+ 32.Kh2 Be1!

23.f4 Ng4 24.Bxg4 24.e5!± White is strategically controlling the whole board, has space and great attacking opportunities and keeps all the threats; the poor black queen is very miserable and Nc5–e4 doesn't give enough counterplay.

a) 24...b5 25.Bxg4 hxg4 26.Qxg4 Bc5 (26...Nc5) 27.Nce2+–

b) 24...Nc5 25.Bxg4 hxg4 26.Rcd1 g3 27.Kg2 Ne4 28.Nxe4 dxe4 29.Kxg3 Bb4 30.Rf1 Rd8 (30...Bc3 31.Nf5) 31.h5 (31.Nf5?! Rd3+ 32.Rxd3 exd3 33.Qxd3 Be4) 31...Bc3 (31...a5 32.g6 Bd5 33.gxf7+ Bxf7 34.e6+–; 31...Bc5 32.g6) 32.Nf5+–

c) 24...Ndxe5 25. Fxe5 Rxe5 26.Qd3.

24...hxg4 25.Qxg4? 25.e5!

25...dxe4 The knight on d7 is not hanging, as after Qxd7 Black has Rcd8 and takes back the knight on d4.

26.Nf5 26.Qxd7 Rcd8; 26.h5!? Another imaginative line given by the engine: 26...Rc5 (26...Bc5 27.Nce2) 27.b4 Rc4 28.g6 Rxd4 29.Nb5 axb5 30.gxf7+ Kxf7 31.Bxd4+– and even

after giving up two pieces White has so many threats that Black can't hold this position.

26...Re6 26...g6 27.Nh6+ (27.Ne3 Nc5) 27...Bxh6 28.gxh6 Nf6±

27.Ne2 27.Rcd1 it was much better to keep all the pieces on the board as it's tough for Black to activate the queen and bring pieces closer to the king: 27...Nc5 28.Nxg7! The engine gives 28...Bxg7 29.f5 Ree8 30.f6 Bf8 31.g6+–

27...Rxc1 28.Rxc1 g6? 28...e3!? 29.Ned4 Qe8 30.Nxe6 Qxe6 31.g6 e2 32.Re1 (32.gxf7+ Kxf7 33.Kf2 Nc5 34.Ne3 Nd3+) 32...Be4 33.Ne3 Qxg4+ 34.Nxg4 Bf3 35.Ne5 Bc5+ 36.Kh2 Nxe5 37.Bxe5 Bb4 38.gxf7+ Kxf7 39.Kg3 Bh5 40.Kf2=

29.Nfd4 29.Ned4! gxf5 (29...Bd5 30.Nh6+ Bxh6 31.gxh6+; 29...Bc5 30.Rxc5 Nxc5 31.Nxe6 Nxe6 32.Nh6+ Kf8 33. f5+–) 30.Qh5+–

29...Rd6 30.h5 Nc5 31.Ba1 Too passive! White should use the opportunity given by the fact that the black queen is still too far away from the action and act fast to win the game.

31.hxg6 fxg6 32.b4 Nd3 33.Rc7 Qb8 34.Ne6! Nxb2 35.Qh3 Qxc7 36.Nxc7+–

31...Qd8 32.Qh4? 32.hxg6 fxg6 33.Rf1∞

32...Bg7 Taking over the initiative and gaining a better position.

33.h6 Bxd4+ 34.Nxd4 Kh7 35.Rc4 e3 35...b5 was the best move 36.Rxc5 (36.Rb4 Nd3) 36...Rxd4 37.Bxd4 Qxd4+ 38.Qf2 e3+–

36.f5 gxf5 37.Qf4 Be4 38.Bc3 Rg6 38...Rxh6 39.gxh6 Qg8+ 40.Kf1 Qg2+ 41.Ke1 Nd3+–+

39.Kf1 Rxg5 40.Qe5 Bd3+ 41.Ne2 Bxc4 42.Bd4 Bxe2+ 43.Kxe2 Ne6 44.Bxe3 Rh5 45.Bf2 Qg5 46.Qb8 Qg4+ It was A very exciting, dynamic and stressful game and somehow I'm feeling lucky I managed to win!

0–1



Group photograph taken before the final round – ECF Women’s Director Aga Milewska (centre, seated) with the Championship players and organisers/arbiters

Final Standings and Prizes

1st	WGM	WGM Katarzyna Toma	Wood Green	5½ pts	£750
2nd=	WCM	Zoe Varney	Blackthorne	5 pts	£270
2nd=	WFM	Audrey Kueh	Guildford	5 pts	£270
2nd=		Kamila Hryshenko	Hull	5 pts	£270
Performance prize					
2000 plus		Elis Denele Dican	Coventry Chess Academy		£50
1800-1999		Emily Maton	Hertfordshire Juniors		£50
U1800		Thisumi Jayawarna	Tameside Juniors		£50
Best U18 player (shared)	WCM	Nina Pert	Brentwood	4½ pts	£20
		Ruqayyah Rida	Essex Juniors	4½ pts	£20
	AIM	Anusha Subramanian		4½ pts	£20



The 2023 English and English Women's Champions

The new Champions are shown above with their trophies. Mickey is pictured with the Tony Miles Trophy which is awarded annually to the English Champion. Kata is pictured with the English Women's Trophy which is also awarded annually.

British Chess Championships 2023

by Nigel Towers



The British Chess Championships are the largest and most prestigious event in the UK chess calendar. This year's British is organised by the ECF as in previous years and is being held at **The Venue, De Montfort University in Leicester**, with events running from 20th to 30th July 2023 - <https://www.britishchesschampionships.co.uk/> The schedule of tournaments and supporting events is as below.

British Championship Saturday 22nd to Sunday 30th July	Major Open Saturday 22nd to Sunday 30th July
British 50+ & 65+ Champs Monday 24th to Sunday 30th July	British Junior Champs Tuesday 25th to Saturday 29th July
Weekender Congress Friday 21st to Sunday 23rd July	Weekday AM / PM Congresses Monday 24th to Saturday 29th July
Rapidplay Events Friday 21st, Monday 24th, Saturday 29th July	Blitz Events Thursday 20th July, Tuesday 25th July Thursday 27th July (Junior Blitz)

Commentary <u>GM commentary and broadcast</u> Saturday 22nd to Sunday 30th July	Coaching <u>Junior coaching at The Venue</u> Tuesday 25th to Saturday 29th July	Bookstall <u>Well-stocked bookstall from</u> <u>Chess & Bridge</u> 20th to 30th July
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Festival Events	
Outdoor Drop-In Chess 21st and 28th July pm GM Simuls 21st and 22nd July	Chess Film Mini-Season Phoenix Cinema Sat 22nd, Weds 26th and Sat 29th July evening
Social Chess and Team Events The Venue, Sun 23rd and Fri 28th evening	Zwischenzug Lecture and Puzzles Wednesday 26th July evening BCPS Problem Solving Evening Thursday 27th July evening
National Chess Library Visits at the Kimberlin Library (Special Collections) Tuesday 25th – Thursday 27th July pm	Quiz Evening Leicester Heritage Tours And more..

Entries to date can be found at the link below for the various tournaments:

<https://www.britishchesschampionships.co.uk/entrants-2023/>

We are expecting over 800 players in total for this year's tournaments, with more than 1200 entries in events across the 11 days of the Championships.

There will be around 60 players in the main nine-round British Championships, with a particularly strong field this year including top seed GM Michael Adams, along with defending Champion IM Harry Grieve, and a number of top GMs and IMs from across the British Isles.

The Major Open is open to all players regardless of eligibility or qualification, and will run over nine rounds alongside the main Championship and with 10 qualification places for next year's British. This competition will also have a strong field this year headed up by top seed IM Brandon Clarke.

As well as the main Championship we will have the usual 50+ and 65+ Senior Championships, and the Junior Championships including sections for U8, U10, U12, U14 and U16.

We will also be running the usual programme of open tournaments including the traditional Weekender tournament for three days over the first weekend, the AM and PM standardplay tournaments with a game a day over

seven days, and a selection of rapid and blitz events across the Championship period.

The venue will include seating for spectators and a separate commentary room with top commentators IM Adam Hunt and GM Danny Gormally with commentary and games broadcast from live boards at the event. We will also have coaching available from top local coach Alan Agnew with supporting coaches for the duration of the junior events.

As shown in the schedule, there will be a supporting programme of social events including outdoor drop-in chess hosted by FM Jonathan Blackburn in one or two of the squares on campus and in Leicester city and currently scheduled for 21st and 28th July. Other events include three chess film nights at the local Phoenix, a GM simul and social/ team chess evening at The venue, visits to the British Chess Archives in the Kimberlin Library, and a problem solving event organised by the BCPS on 27th July.



In addition to the BCPS solving event, WIM Natasha Regan and NI Matthew Ball will be hosting a lecture and puzzle solving contest on Wednesday 26th July as co-authors of the new Chessable course Zwischenzug!.

Prizes will be available for the top solvers and this will be a great opportunity to learn more about the art of in-between moves. Spaces will be limited so please register via the website if you would like to attend.

Here is a sample warm-up puzzle provided by Natasha.



Kasparov – Vaganian, 1995

Entry form and details

You can find an entry form for the various tournaments at the link here:

<https://britchess.wufoo.com/forms/british-chess-championships-2023/>

Entries will be accepted up to the day before the various tournaments. However early entries are encouraged with a lower fee for those entering before 30th June.

European 65+ Championship by John Nunn



European 65+ Champion John Nunn - photo by Marco Maffiotto

This year's European Individual Senior Championships were held in Acqui Terme, Italy, from 26th May to 3rd June. This was a familiar setting for many of the players as several senior events have been held there in the past years. I myself had pleasant memories from last year's Senior World Team Championships, which took place in the same venue and proved a great success with three

English teams (Women's 50+, Men's 50+ and Men's 65+) gaining world titles.



Terry Chapman finished in a tie for first place - photo by Marco Maffiotto

Each year new players become eligible for the two age categories (50+ and 65+) and in 2023 the Slovakian grandmaster Lubomir Ftacnik was a new contender in the 65+ event, facing more established players such as Fernandez Garcia, Renman and myself. A close struggle ensued with the lead changing hands a number of times, but before the last round Ftacnik was sharing the lead on 6½ points with Terry Chapman, who had played very well throughout, while Fernandez Garcia and I were tied for third place with the Germans Kierzek and Polster. The final round pairings were Ftacnik-Chapman, Kierzek-Fernandez Garcia and Nunn-Gaprindashvili. Terry played solidly to hold Ftacnik to a draw, I won against the former women's World Champion, while Fernandez Garcia and Polster also took the full point to produce a five-way tie for first place. This was broken by tie-break with the following scores: Nunn (50½), Fernandez Garcia (50), Ftacnik (49), Chapman (48) and Polster (45.5). The result was that I added the European 65+ title to the British and World 65+ titles I already held, while Terry can certainly be happy with his result despite being a bit unlucky to miss out on the medals. He took home a massive rating gain of 44 points.

The other English players, with scores and rating changes, were as follows: Michael Stokes 5½ (-8 rating points),

Hassan Erdogan 5 (+24), Paul Raynes 4½ (-65), Ivan Myall 4 (-17), Peter Rawcliffe 2½ (+10).

First, here is my best game.

John Nunn - Matthias Kierzek

ECU Senior Chess Championship, Acqui Terme 2023
Caro-Kann

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.Nf3 e6 5.Be2 c5 6.Be3 Qb6 7.Nc3

This sharp line gives Black the choice between the double-edged capture on b2 and the more solid move played in the game.

7...Nc6 8.dxc5

A relatively tame option which, however, does contain a drop of poison. The critical line is 8.0-0 Qxb2 9.Qe1 cxd4 10.Bxd4 Nxd4 11.Nxd4 Bb4 12.Ndb5 (12.Rb1 Bxc3 13.Rxb2 Bxe1 14.Rxe1 b6 15.Nxf5 exf5 16.Bb5+ Kf8 is equal) 12...Ba5 13.Rb1 Qxc2 with tremendous complications. Black's king is trapped in the centre, but he is two pawns up and has retained his important dark-squared bishop. I felt the risk of running into some excellent German preparation was too great to enter this line, so I settled for a more modest possibility.

8...Bxc5 9.Bxc5 Qxc5 10.Nb5

This all looks good for White as Black is now forced to move his king, but White's lack of development makes it hard for him to achieve anything concrete.

10...Kf8



11.0-0!?

This was the result of my (not necessarily excellent) morning preparation. Almost the only moves played here have been 11.c3 and 11.Nbd4 and although castling isn't objectively any better, it does introduce a couple of new

elements and that's sometimes enough to induce an inaccuracy.

11...Nge7?!

Although this is a natural developing move, I think it is already wrong. The most obvious possibility is to accept the sacrifice by 11...Qxc2 12.Qxc2 Bxc2, but after 13.Rac1 Black must play very accurately to avoid a serious disadvantage. The best line is probably 13...Be4! 14.Ng5 Bg6 15.f4 h6 16.Nf3 Nge7 17.Nd6 a5! 18.Bb5 Rb8 and White has enough for the pawn but no more. However, the simplest response is 11...Bg4 12.Nbd4 Nxd4 13.Nxd4 Bxe2 14.Nxe2 Qc7! and White's poor development makes it impossible to exploit the black king's position.

12.Nbd4 Bg4

Now this is less effective, as White can arrange to take back on e2 with his rook, thereby maintaining his knight on the more active square d4.

13.Re1 Nxd4 14.Nxd4 Bxe2 15.Rxe2 Nc6

Black decides to extract his king via e7. It was also possible to play 15...g6 16.Qd2 h6 17.c3 Kg7, but after 18.Re3 White retains an advantage as Black's king is still not especially safe.

16.c3 Ke7

16...Nxd4? 17.cxd4 followed by doubling on the c-file is very good for White, as he has control of the only open file to add to his threats against the king.

17.Re3!



The most accurate move. White clears the way for his queen to move to g4, attacking g7, while also preparing to use the rook along the third rank.

17...Rac8

17...Nxd4? 18.cxd4 Qb5 19.Rb3 Qd7 20.Rg3 is very unpleasant for Black as he must either tie a rook down to the defence of g7 or further weaken his dark squares by ...g6.

18.Nxc6+

Practically forced, as now Black was genuinely threatening to take on d4.

18...bxc6

18...Rxc6 19.Qg4 Kf8 20.Rg3 g6 21.Qf4 also retains kingside pressure.

19.Qg4 Rcg8?

It's hard to retract a move that you played just a few moves ago, but 19...Kf8 would have been tougher. Then 20.Rg3 g6 21.Rf3 favours White, but there is no knockout blow. Of course, 19...Rhg8 loses a pawn to 20.Qh4+.

20.b4

Good, but the immediate 20.c4! was even better; for example, 20...Qxc4 21.Qg5+ f6 22.Qg3! f5 23.Ra3 Qc5 24.Rb3 and White penetrates with his rook.

20...Qb6?!

20...Qc4 was the last chance, although after 21.Qxc4 dxc4 22.Re4 Rc8 23.Rxc4 Rhd8 24.h4 the ending a pawn down should be lost.



21.c4!

White opens the c-file and penetrates with his rooks.

21...g5

21...dxc4 22.Qg5+ Ke8 23.Rd1 and 21...Qxb4 22.Rb3 are hopeless.

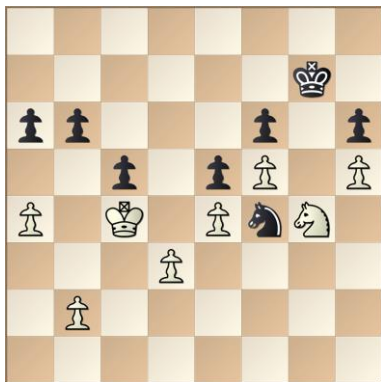
22.cxd5 cxd5 23.Rc1 h5 24.Qf3

Taking aim at the weak square f6.

24...Rg6 25.Rec3 Rh7 26.Rc8 1-0

It will be mate in a few moves.

Here is the most interesting ending from the tournament. I apologise in advance to Terry for giving his only loss from the event, but some of the lines are truly remarkable.



Jose Fernandez Garcia - Terry Chapman

ECU Senior Chess Championship, Acqui Terme 2023

This double-edged position slightly favours White. Black will take the pawn on h5 and create a passed h-pawn, while White's active king position will enable him to make a passed pawn on the queenside. The difference is that White's king is able to support his passed pawn, but Black's cannot. However, with accurate play it should be a draw.

37.Nf2

Before playing a5 White must defend the d3-pawn.

37...Kf7

Black must leave his knight defending d5, since after 37...Nxb7? 38.Kd5 Nf4+ 39.Kc6 White will take at least two queenside pawns.

38.a5 bxa5 39.Kxc5 Nxb7 40.Kb6 a4!

This forces the king to go all the way back to a4 to make a passed pawn. 40...Nf4? 41.Kxa5! h5 42.Kxa6 h4 43.b4 is worse, as the king is well placed on a6.

41.Kxa6 Nf4 42.Kb5 h5 43.Kxa4 Ke7 44.Kb5

44.b4 h4 45.b5 h3 46.b6 Kd6 47.Kb5 h2 48.Ka6 Nxd3 49.b7 Nc5+ 50.Ka7 Nxb7 51.Kxb7 Kc5 52.Kc7 Kd4 53.Kd6

Ke3 54.Ng4+ also leads to a draw. Instead of the immediate pawn push, White plays to first activate his king.

44...Kd6 45.Kb6



45...Ne2?

Black intends to use his king and knight in combination to hold up the b-pawn, but this is the wrong plan. The right idea is to push the pawn to h2 and then play ...Nxd3, with the same basic idea but with White having a pawn less. One line is 45...h4 46.b4 h3 47.b5 h2 48.Ka7 Nxd3 49.b6 Nxf2 50.b7 h1Q and White is quite lucky to be able to draw using the well-known 'star' perpetual check: 51.b8Q+ Kc5 52.Qb6+ Kc4 53.Qxf2 Qxe4 54.Qa2+ Kd4 55.Qa1+ Ke3 56.Qe1+ Kf4 57.Qh4+ Kxf5 58.Qh7+ Kf4 59.Qh4+ etc.

46.b4 Nc3 47.b5 h4 48.Ka5?

An understandable mistake since it's hard to see the idea 48.Ka6! Na4 49.Kb7! Kc5 50.Kc7, moving the king round to attack the f6-pawn. Then White wins after 50...Kxb5 51.Kd6 Nc5 52.Ke7 Kc6 53.Kxf6 Kd6 54.Kg5 or 50...Kd4 51.b6 Ke3 52.b7 Nc5 53.Ng4+! Kf4 54.Nxf6 h3 55.Nd7 Nxb7 56.f6 h2 57.f7 h1Q 58.f8Q+ Ke3 59.Kxb7.

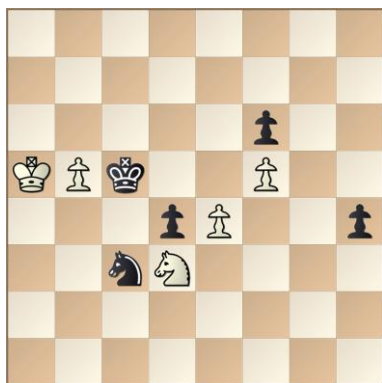
48...Kc5?

Black has a surprising draw by 48...Kc7! 49.Kb4 Ne2 50.Kc5 Nf4, which looks odd as the knight came from this square earlier. The key point is that from here the knight both prevents Kd5 and supports ...h3. Then 51.b6+ Kb7 52.Kd6 h3 53.Ke7 h2 54.Kxf6 Nxd3 55.Nh1 Kxb6 56.Ke7 Kc7 57.f6 Nf4 58.f7 Ng6+ 59.Ke8 Kd6 is safe for Black.

49.d4+!

Fernandez Garcia hits on the winning plan, sacrificing a pawn to break through in the centre and create a passed f-pawn. 49.b6? Kc6 50.Nh3 Kb7 51.Kb4 Ne2 52.Kc5 Nf4 is only a draw.

49...exd4 50.Nd3+



50...Kd6?!

Black goes down without too much of a fight. The toughest defence is 50...Kc4 51.b6 Kxd3 52.b7 Kc2 53.b8Q d3 and this position is like an endgame study. The decisive line runs 54.Qh2+ d2 55.e5! Kc1 56.Qh3! (not 56.Qxd2+? Kxd2 57.exf6 h3 with a draw) and now:

1) In practice Black should try 56...d1Q 57.Qxc3+ Kb1 58.e6 (58.exf6 also wins but is again very difficult) 58...Qd8+ 59.Ka4 Qe8+ 60.Kb3 Qb5+ 61.Qb4 Qxb4+ 62.Kxb4 and after both sides promote again White will be able to reach a won Q+P vs Q ending. However, the difficulty of this line shows that 50...Kc4 would have made life tough for White.

2) 56...Kc2 57.Qg2!. Now 57...Kc1 loses to 58.Qf3 Kc2 59.exf6, since d1 is covered, so Black must try 57...h3. Then comes the surprising twist 58.Qh2!, completing a kind of queen triangulation designed to lure Black's h-pawn forward to the vulnerable square h3. After 58...Kc1 59.Qxh3 Kc2 60.Qg2 Kc1 61.Qf3 the win is clear.

51.b6 h3 52.b7 Kc7 53.Ka6 h2 54.Ka7 h1Q

Or 54...Nb5+ 55.Ka8 h1Q 56.b8Q+ Kc6 57.Qb7+ Kd6 58.e5+ winning the queen.

55.b8Q+ Kd7 56.Qb7+

White misses a forced mate by 56.Nc5+ Ke7 57.Qc7+ Ke8 58.Qd7+, but it makes no difference to the result.

56...Ke8 57.Qc8+ Kf7 58.Qe6+ Kg7 59.Qe7+ Kg8 60.Qe8+ Kg7 61.Qg6+ Kh8 62.Qxf6+ Kg8 63.Qg6+ Kh8

Or 63...Kf8 64.f6 Qa1+ 65.Kb7 Qb1+ 66.Kc8.

64.Qe8+ Kg7 65.Qe7+ Kh8 66.f6 Nb5+ 67.Kb6 Qg2 68.Qg7+ Qxg7 69.fxg7+ 1-0

European 50+ Championship by Keith Arkell

This was my third Seniors event in the Italian city of Acqui Terme, the most recent being last year when England won the triple World Senior Team Championship.

The 50+ section (or 'Junior Seniors', as we like to call ourselves) boasted strength in depth with 5 GMs, 7 IMs and a total of 33 titled players out of a field of 80.

While I managed to race off to 3/3, a few rounds later FM Steve Dishman went soaring past me when he dispatched GM Martin Mrva with surprising ease in round 5 and then joined the leaders with the following effort:

FM Steve Dishman - IM Daniel Contin
European Senior (50+) Championship

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 b6 3.Bf4 Bb7 4.e3 c5 5.Be2 g6 6.c4 cxd4 7.exd4 Bg7 8.Nc3 d5 9.Ne5 0-0 10.Bf3 e6 11.Bg5 h6 12.Bxf6 Bxf6 13.cxd5 exd5 14.0-0



White has achieved a slight pull with straightforward chess, and it stays that way during the next phase of the game.

14...Na6 15.Re1 Re8 16.g3 Kg7 17.Bg2 Qd6 18.f4 Nc7 19.Rc1 b5 20.h4 h5 21.Kh2 a6 22.Rc2 Rad8



23.Ne2! I like this move. The knight was doing very little on c3, but Steve plans to bring it to a more active station via g1.

23...Re7 24.Ng1 Qb6 25.Ngf3 Ne8 Meanwhile Black similarly improves his own knight's position.

26.Ng5 Nd6 27.Qd3 Ne4 28.Bh3



28...Bxe5? Black has everything under control on the kingside and should be looking to expand on the other flank, but this impatient capture allows White attacking chances down the f-file.

29.fxe5 f6 30.exf6+ Qxf6 31.Rf1 Qd6 32.Qf3 Nf6?



With White's pieces already the more active, this retreat should lose on the spot.

33.Qf4? 33.Ne6+ Rxe6 34.Bxe6 Qxe6 35.Qxf6+ Rxf6 Rc7+ etc.

33...Bc6?



In an already very unpleasant situation this careless move enables a quick knockout:

34.Qxf6+ Qxf6 35.Rxf6 Kxf6 36.Rxc6+ Kg7 37.Ne6+ Rxe6 38.Bxe6

1-0

Meanwhile I played the following quirky game to hang in there:

FM Lasinskas Povilas – GM Keith Arkell
European Senior (50+) Championship

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nc3 d5 3. Bg5 Nbd7 4. e3 c6 5. f4 Nb6 6. Nf3 g6 7. Bd3 Bg7 8. O-O Bf5 9. Bxf5 gxf5 10. Bxf6 Bxf6 11. Ne5



11...h5 I wanted to keep my opponent's queen out of h5. I think Black is doing quite well here; my position is solid, and I can bring some pressure to bear down the g-file later.

12.b3 e6 13. Ne2 Nc8 14. Rc1 Nd6 15. c4 Ne4 16. c5 Bxe5 17. fxe5 a5 18. a3 Qg5 19.Nf4 h4 20. b4 axb4 21. axb4



21...Ke7 There was no point in playing 21...Ra2 or 21...Ra3 as both are met by 22 Ra1. However, I now intend to invade down the a-file if given the chance.

22. Qe2 Qg4 23. Qd3 Exchanging queens would help me, as the option of ...g3 at some moment would hang over White's head.

23... h3



24. Rc2 The natural 24 g3 Ra2 25 Rc2 Rha8 would leave White unable to defend against the many points of invasion.

24...hxg2 25. Rxg2 Qh4 I should now be close to winning, as all my pieces are better than his and h2 is weak.

26. Qe2 Rag8 Threatening mate in 1.

27. Rxg8 Rxg8+ 28. Ng2



28...Qh6 28...Qh3 was stronger, as 29 Qf3 will lose after 29...Rxg2+! 30 Qxg2 Qxe3+ 31 Kh1 Qxd4 with an overwhelming position as well as four(!) connected passed pawns.

29. Rf4 Ng5 30.Kh1 Nh3 31. Rf1 Rh8 32. Nf4 Ng5 33. Rg1 Ne4 34. h3 Qh4 35. Kh2 Ra8



After a bit of cat and mouse I have provoked my opponent into taking his first opportunity to go active, as I knew that doing so would cost him a rook.

36. Rg7 Kf8 37. Qg2 Qh8



38. Rxf7+ The problem is that after 38 Nh5 all his pieces are stuck, and I can just sail in with 38...Ra3; so this rook sacrifice is forced.

38...Kxf7 39. Qg6+ Lasinskas plays the next 17 moves extremely well, keeping me on my toes with his threats to advance his e-pawn and even his h-pawn.

39...Ke7 40. Qxe6+ Kd8 41. Qf7 Ra2+ 42. Kg1 Kc8 43. Ng6 Qd8 44. h4 Kb8 45.e6



45...Ng5 The only way to keep on top!

46. Qxf5 Qc7 47. Ne5



47...Nh7 I have to admit that I planned to play 47...Qh7 here until I saw 48 Nd7+ Ka7 (what else?) 49 Qxh7 Nxh7 50 e7!

48. Qf4 Qg7+ 49. Ng6+ Ka7 50. h5

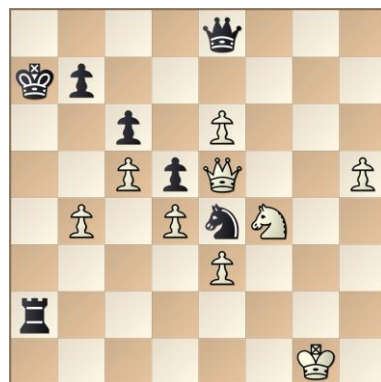


I was now starting to feel very frustrated, as I had thought that once I got my king to safety it would be quite easy to

get at his. After all, I am a rook up! The problem is that I lack entry points and my rook is actually cut off from the action.

50...Nf6 51. Qg5 Qc7 52. Nf4 Ne4 53. Qe5 Qe7 54. Ng6 Qe8 With my clock running down to less than a minute (plus 30 seconds increment per move) I had a brain wave...

55. Nf4

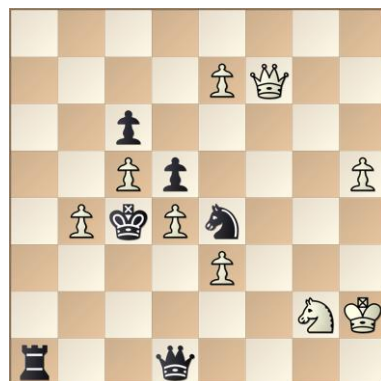


55...Ka6 ...and this was it. Move my king away from the a-file in order to clear it for my queen to get at his king. And it worked like a treat!

56. Qg7 Kb5 57. Qxb7+ Kc4 58. Qf7 Qa8 59. e7 Qa4



60. Ng2 Ra1+ 61. Kh2 Qd1



0-1

Steve Dishman stayed amongst the leaders with draws against IM Fabrizio Belia and GM Zurab Sturua, and would have earned the IM title outright as well as the small matter of being European Champion had he won in the last round. It wasn't to be, though, and in the end he finished half a point behind the winning group, but after fine performances both here and at last year's World Senior Championship it is clear that he is on the up.

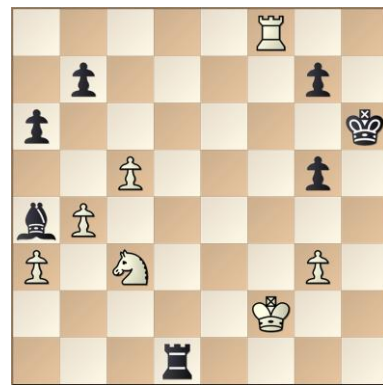
Here is a curious moment from Steve's round 7 game as Black against IM Belia:



As Steve himself demonstrated to a group of us later, Belia could actually have won the game with the unlikely-looking 34 Qd2! The main line runs 34...Re2 35 Ng5+ Kh6 36 Rf8! Qxg3+



(36...Rxd2 37 Nf7+ mates) 37 hxc3 Rxd2 38 Ne4! (Threatening the rook and mate on h8) Rd1+ 39 Kf2 g5 40 Nc3



decisively forking the rook and bishop!

I was able to reach a tie for 1st place with a win in the last round to bring my score with Black to 4/4:

FM Sigurdur Sigfusson – GM Keith Arkell
European Senior (50+) Championship

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 dxe4 4. Nxe4 Nd7 5. Ng5 Ngf6 6. Bd3 Nb6 7. N1f3 h6 8. Ne4 Nxe4 9. Bxe4 Bg4 10. O-O g6 11. h3 Bxf3 12. Bxf3 Bg7 13. c3 O-O 14. Re1 e6 15. a4 Nd5 16. a5 b5 17. axb6 axb6 18. Rxa8 Qxa8 19. Be4 b5 20. Bc2 Rd8 21. Qf3 b4



22. c4 White's position would be very fragile were he to allow 22...bxc3 23 bxc3 Qa5.

22...Ne7 23. Qb3 Qa7 I want to take on d4 with my bishop without allowing Bxh6 in reply.

24. Qxb4 Bxd4 25. Be3 Bxe3 26. Rxe3 Rb8 27. Qe1



27...Qd4 I didn't want to give up my valuable e6 pawn after 27...Rxb2 28 Rxe6! - even though I am still a bit better after 28...Rxc2 29 Rxe7 Qd4.

28. b3



28...Ra8 I have said many times that with this kind of pawn structure Black's ideal minor pieces are knight vs light-squared bishop.

29. Rd3 Qb2 30. Qd2 Kg7 31.Rd7



31...Qf6 It would be very careless to move my knight, allowing 32 Rxf7+. To make progress in such visually attractive positions it is necessary to make many medium-range calculations – two, three, four move sequences.

32. Qe3 Ra1+ 33. Kh2 Ra2 34.Be4



With my hero from the 1980s Ulf Andersson looking on, I agonised over how to improve my position. In the end I decided between 34...h5 and...

34...g5 My favourite chess move! I decided I needed to tighten my grip on the dark squares around my opponent's king. Should I have time to play...h5 and ...h4 I may even ensnare him in a mating net.

35. Qg3 Re2 I toyed for a while with 35...Rxf2 36 Rxe7 Rf4, but wasn't sure how big my advantage was after 37 Rc7.

36.Bb1 Ng8 37. f3



37...Qf4 Probably there were better moves but I couldn't resist the potential mating patterns with my knight entering the fray.

38. Qxf4 gxf4 39. Be4 Now it is an easy win, but I must be doing very well anyway with ...Rb2 in the air, as well as ...Nf6-h5-g3 if he doesn't watch out.

39...Nf6 40. Rc7 Nxe4 41. fxe4 f3



42. Kg1 Rxd2+ 43. Kf1 Kf6



Aiming for either e3 or g3.

44. b4 Rb2 45. Rxc6 Ke5



0-1

Next the long wait to see whether I had finished 1st or 7th - yes, there were seven of us tied! In the end, just like Terry Chapman who tied for 1st in the 65+ Championship, I finished a frustrating 4th on tiebreak. 3rd would have been a medal and full board for the 2024 World Senior Championship. In Terry's case 3rd would also have been his IM title outright - see the separate report on the 65+ section.

Congratulations to Zurab Sturua who came out top on tie-break.

My consolations were that the prize money was shared equally, and that I managed to win outright both the Senior Blitz (7/7) and the Open Blitz (6½/7).

World Cadets and Youth Rapid and Blitz 2023



Eight English juniors competed in the World Cadets and Youth Rapid and Blitz in Batumi, Georgia from 5th–12th June 2023. Located on the east coast of the Black Sea, Batumi is known as a resort city, the second in Georgia and capital of the Adjara region. The chess took place at 'Euphoria Hotel', a contemporary hotel which boasts fantastic views of the Black Sea.

The tournament was split into two sections, the rapid section with a time control of 15 minutes plus 5 seconds lasting three days and a two-day blitz tournament with a time control of 5 minutes plus 3 seconds.

Kicking off with an opening ceremony on 6th June, one of our England's players Frankie, was lucky (or unlucky!) enough to start the competition off with the ceremonial opening move against top seed GM Volodar Murzin (the perhaps unsurprising winner of the Open 18 section for both rapid and blitz)

After three intense days of chess all England players performed admirably as players finished in the top half in the rapid. In particular, Bodhana gave another outstanding performance, winning the gold medal in the Girls Under 8 section with a perfect score of 11/11! In addition, there were two other top 10 finishes – Stanley in the Under 14 Open section, finishing among titled players, and Advait in the U10 Open section narrowly missing out on a medal with a strong performance.

A rest day followed, with England players relaxing and undertaking various activities and excursions, including a chess composition competition and a trip to the Batumi Botanical Gardens arranged by the organisers. Some of the players took a day trip around the old part of the city, with the visits to some well-known landmarks such as

Europe Square and Batumi's 'Statue of Love' or catching a panoramic glimpse of the city via ascending the Argo Cable Car. Later in the evening, a few of the England players gathered for some blitz practice as well as to catch up with their experience of their stay so far.

The blitz tournament followed in the next two days, where once again Bodhana dominated the field in the Girls Under 8 section, completing a perfect clean sweep of the rapid and blitz without even dropping half a point. Elsewhere, there were some exceptional performances, notably Stanley's excellent victory over an IM, with the moment caught on video! Stanley (Under 14 Open) and Sharvari (Under 10 Girls) finished strongly in their sections, both narrowly missing out on a top 10 finish.

The event concluded in the evening with the prize giving, where Bodhana (below) remained as double world champion, collecting yet another two gold medals!



The England team comprised:

Boys

Open Under 18: Frankie Badacsonyi
Open Under 14: Stanley Badacsonyi
Open Under 12: Lion Lebedev
Open Under 10: Advait Keerthi Kumar
Open Under 10: George Zhao
Open Under 8: William Jin Zhongming Sutton

Girls

Under 10 Girls: Sharvari Saharkar
Under 8 Girls: Bodhana Sivanandan

Ukraine Marathon 20th May 2023

by Keith Arkell

The English Chess Federation (ECF) held a 24-hour tournament on Chess.com to raise funds for the British Red Cross's Ukraine Crisis Appeal. GM Keith Arkell has provided the commentary below.

The fourth ECF 24-hour Charity Marathon was organised in aid of the British Red Cross Ukrainian Crisis Appeal.

As soon as I saw the advertisement, I thought to myself 'There goes 24 hours of my life!'. How could I not play? 1) I love chess; 2) I was on a hat trick, having won the last two; 3) There can be few worthier causes; and 4) It would double up as a free health check for me - If I felt good at the end then my health was probably OK!

So, how to prepare? That's easy. Don't! It wasn't difficult to decide on repeating the formula which brought me success before, i.e. play positions I'm familiar with as much as possible and as quickly as possible and rely on my endgame technique. I can play on autopilot at quite a high level, and I find it restful and therapeutic.

With 10 minutes before kick-off I made myself a flask of coffee. I poured in the hot water, added plenty of coffee and sugar, put the top on and shook it. The top came flying off and boiling water scalded the backs of the index and middle fingers of my right hand! Great! I couldn't have timed it any worse! I managed to get the coffee right the second time around and with my fingers beginning to sting brought a cup of cold water upstairs with me. As much as possible between moves I dipped my fingers in the cold water. After a few hours the stinging went away and luckily I was only left with small blisters.

I began the event rated exactly 2600, but knew that by the end of the 24 hours it would come tumbling down as many of my opponents were fresh, having intended to only play for a few hours. In fact, I hovered around 2615 for several hours before the inevitable rating crash. I got paired with Matthew Wadsworth in round 1 and got a lucky win when he blundered a rook. Strangely, we didn't play again. And the same with Ameet Ghasi, who is especially brilliant at blitz. Our one game ended in more luck for me when it finished with a snap mate by my rook and knight against his king, rook and two pawns.



I took the lead for the first time at 8.30 pm, 3½ hours in. I had a feeling that this was going to be the toughest marathon yet, and, with so many talented IMs prepared to battle it out to the finish, I knew that I would need to beat my record score from last year of 722 points. The time control was five minutes each, without increment, and the scoring system was 1 for a draw and 2 for a win, with 3 if you scored a second win on the trot and 4 each time you scored three or more wins on the trot.

Yesterday I watched snippets of commentary on the ECF's Twitch Channel and really enjoyed what I heard. Matthew Wadsworth, who will surely become a GM one day, was very generous about my style of chess being 'instructive'. He commented that it was disheartening to find that I had pulled further in front of him after he had won 26 games in a row! But no sooner was I enjoying that than Danny Gormally was taking his regulation swipes at me! Jon Blackburn did a great job coordinating the various guests and it amused me when he found it easier to laugh at Danny's mockery than to contribute towards Peter Heine Nielsen's compliments!

I haven't had time to listen to more than a bit here and there, but I really enjoyed what I did hear, e.g. from the likes of Mickey, Matthew Wadsworth, Shohreh, Lan Yao, Mathew Sadler, Jonathan Mestel, Sean March and John Emms. With aid money flooding in from the audience, entertainment was the order of the day and the commentators did just that - even Danny, in his grumpy way!

Coming down the home stretch I felt myself tiring, but unlike in the 1973 Grand National, when the great Crisp led all the way but started to wobble as the winning post loomed, I was able to hold on from the fast-finishing Red Rum-style raider in the shape of IM Brandon Clarke.

I promised ECF Chief Executive Mike Truran that I wouldn't sneak any Carlsbad structures into this article, so instead I'll give you a couple of tactical slugfests against Brandon.

Brandon and I played each other six times. Four of them were accurate but uneventful draws, while the other two were very wild!

IM Brandon Clarke - GM Keith Arkell
ECF Charity Marathon Chess.com, 21.05.2023

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.dxc5 Nc6 5.f4 e6 6.Be3 d4 7.Bf2 Bxc5 8.Nd2 Nge7 9.a3 Nd5 10.Qg4 Possibly a novelty. Mostly they play 10 Ne4, with an edge for White.

10...0-0 11.Bd3 f5 12.Qf3 a5 In a classical game I might have found 12...g5!, which favours Black.

13.Ne2 b6 14.g4 Ba6



That d3 bishop has to go before I get mated!

15.gxf5 Bxd3 16.cxd3 Rxf5 17.Qg4 Qf8 I felt confident around here as I have more space and more active pieces.

18.Ne4 Rc8 19.Rg1 g6 20.h4 Kh8 I could also capture on f4, but I didn't like the e6 pawn going with check. In general, you can't afford to go very deeply into positions in blitz games. Instead, you have to calculate many short sequences and assess the outcomes.

21.Rc1 Nxf4 22.Nxf4 Nxe5



It's hard to imagine that I'm not winning by now.

23.Qh3 Rxf4 24.Rg3 Nxd3+ 25.Rxd3 Rxe4+ 26.Kf1



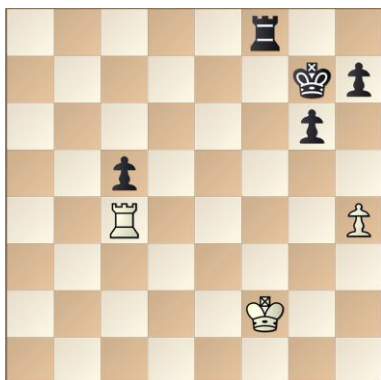
26...Rf4 Strong, of course, but 26...Re3 would have won on the spot.

27.Rc2 e5 28.b4 axb4 29.axb4 e4 30.Rxd4 Rf3 31.Qe6



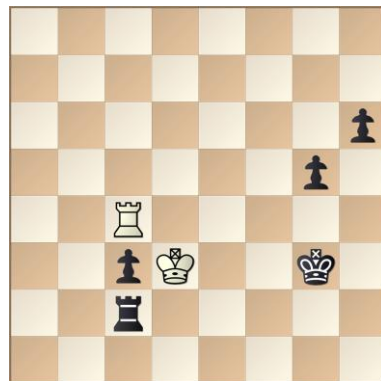
31...e3 Oh dear. I didn't say this game was very accurate - just full of drama! 31...Re8 would have been another instant knockout.

32.Qe5+ Qg7 33.Qxg7+ Kxg7 34.bxc5 bxc5 35.Rdc4 Rxf2+ 36.Rxf2 exf2 37.Kxf2 Rf8+



Because of Brandon's resourcefulness in a hopeless position, we've 'only' arrived at a winning rook ending in which I don't have much time left. In the ensuing scramble I left my rook en prize before losing on time in an equal position.

38.Kg3 Rf5 39.Kg4 Kh6 40.Rc1 Rd5 41.Kg3 Rd3+ 42.Kg4 Rd4+ 43.Kg3 c4 44.Rc2 Kh5 45.Rh2 Rg4+ 46.Kf3 Rxh4 47.Rd2 c3 48.Rd5+ g5 49.Rc5 Rh2 50.Kg3 Rd2 51.Rc7 h6 52.Rc6 Rd3+ 53.Kf2 Kg4 54.Ke2 Rd2+ 55.Ke3 Rc2 56.Rc4+ Kg3 57.Kd3



57...g4?? 58.Kxc2 h5 59.Rxc3+ Time

1-0

IM Brandon Clarke - GM Keith Arkell
ECF Charity Marathon Chess.com, 21.05.2023

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.dxc5 Nc6 5.f4 e6 6.Be3 d4 7.Bf2 Bxc5 8.Nd2 Nge7 9.a3 Nf5 10.Bd3 Ne3 11.Qf3 0-0 12.Ne2 f6 Something has gone wrong with my move order.



13.Qh3 Simply 13 exf6 leaves me in trouble, for example 13...gxf6 14 Nb3 Bb6 15 Nbxid4.

13...f5 14.Rg1 a5 15.g4 g6 16.gxf5 exf5 17.Nb3 Bb6 18.Bxe3 dxe3 19.0-0-0 Qe7 20.Bc4+



Be6 It's hard to be critical of such a natural move, but I might have been just about OK after 20...Kg7.

21.Bxe6+ Qxe6 22.Rd6 Qf7 23.Qh6 I should really lose this now that Brandon can break through by force on g6.



23...Kh8 24.Rdxg6 Rg8 25.Rxg8+ Rxg8 26.Rxg8+ Kxg8 27.a4 Qc4 28.Qg5+ Kh8 29.Qxf5 h6 30.Qc8+ I think it would have been more fitting for Brandon to win this one and for me to win the other game. Either way, 3-3 overall was about right.

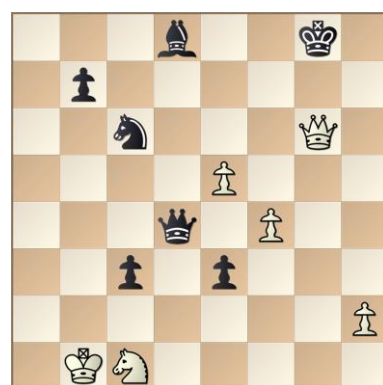


30...Bd8 31.Nbd4 Qd5 32.c3 Qh1+ 33.Kc2 Qe4+ 34.Kb3 Qd5+ 35.Ka3 Qc5+

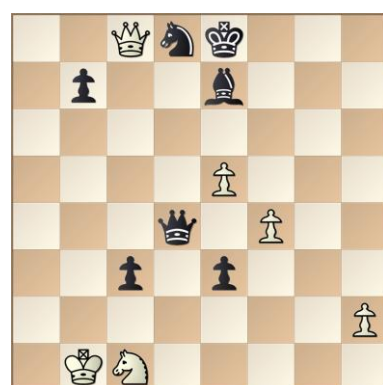


In the time scramble we have arrived at a messy kind of equality, but this time Caissa, the goddess of chess, favoured me.

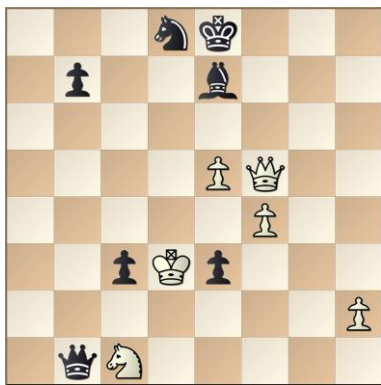
36.b4 axb4+ 37.Ka2 Qc4+ 38.Ka1 bxc3 39.Qe6 Qxa4+ 40.Kb1 Qd1+ 41.Nc1 Qxd4 42.Qxh6+ Kg8 43.Qg6+



43...Kf8 44.Qf5+ Ke8 45.Qe6+ Be7 46.Qc8+ Kf7 47.Qf5+ Kg7 48.Qg4+ Kf8 49.Qf5+ Ke8 50.Qc8+ Nd8



51.Qf5 Qb4+ 52.Kc2 Qb2+ 53.Kd3 Qb1+



54.Kxc3 Qxf5 55.Nd3 Qe4 56.Ne1 e2 57.Kd2 Bb4+ 58.Kc1 Bxe1 59.Kb2 Bb4 60.f5 e1Q 61.e6 Qc3+ 0-1

Congratulations to everyone involved in making this happen so successfully; let's do it all again next year, as there will always be a good cause to support.

English Counties Chess Championships 2022 – 2023 by Nigel Towers and Mark Murrell



The Lowenthal Trophy

This month saw the quarter- and semi-finals of the English Counties Championships, with defending champions Northumberland looking to protect their 2022 title in the Open competition.

As last year there are six sections in the competition including Open, Minor, U2050, U1850, U1650 and U1450.

The playing schedule for the competition has been as below:

- 22nd April** – Preliminary round where required
- 13th May** – Open, Minor Counties, U1850 and U1450 quarter-finals
- 20th May** – U2050 and U1650 quarter-finals
- 10th June** – Semi-finals of all Championships
- 1st July** – Finals of all championships

Six counties fielding 35 teams between them participated in the knockout stages across the six sections of the Championship. Five of these counties, Essex, Greater Manchester, Middlesex, Surrey and Yorkshire had teams in four of the championships.

Open

Quarter-Final 14 th May	Semi-Final 10 th June	Final 1 st July
*	Northumberland - 8	Surrey
*		
*	Surrey - 8	
*		Middx
*	Middlesex - 8½	
*	Greater Manchester – 7½	
*		

The Open section was remarkable for the absence of Yorkshire, with Greater Manchester and Northumberland qualifying instead from the NCCU. We miss Lancashire, too. Greater Manchester looked well placed to reach the final, with a significant average rating points advantage. However, four wins in the top half against higher-rated opposition won the day for Middlesex. This was one of ten matches being played in Syston that day.

In the other semi-final, reigning national champions Northumberland had their second encounter with a Surrey team at Newark, having earlier lost a close quarter-final affair in the U2050. Again, Surrey had an insignificant rating advantage. The match went down to the wire, with Northumberland a point ahead with one to play. In the resulting time scramble Surrey stole the win needed to win the match on tie-break.

Minor Counties

Quarter-Final 14 th May	Semi-Final 10 th June	Final 1st July
Lincolnshire - 16	Lincs 6	Norfolk
Somerset 0		
Sussex – 7½	Norfolk 10	
Norfolk – 8½		
Cambridgeshire – 9½	Cambridgeshire 8	Cambs
Worcestershire – 6½		
	Devon 8	



Minor Counties Quarter-Final – Sussex v Norfolk, Sawbridgeworth

The Minor Counties was the best supported section, notwithstanding the loss of the Somerset team to a late clash with the Frome Congress. Opponents had come from far and wide. Cambridgeshire defeated Worcestershire at South Kilworth in Leicestershire, and then went on to defeat reigning champions Devon at Overton in Hampshire.

Norfolk meanwhile had travelled to Sawbridgeworth on the Hertfordshire/Essex border where they only just prevailed in a very close match against Sussex. Peterborough was the venue for their semi-final against neighbours Lincolnshire, where a four-point winning margin sets up an intriguing all EACU final against Cambridgeshire, having shared the honours in the union qualifying competition.

U2050

The draw threw up a quadruple bill between Yorkshire and Essex, one as a quarter-final in the U1850s, and three as semi-finals in the U2050, U1650 and U1450.

Quarter-Final 14 th May	Semi-Final 10 th June	Final 2 nd July
*	Yorkshire – 6½	Essex
*		
*	Essex – 9½	
*		
*	Warwickshire – 9	Surrey
*		
Northumberland – 7	Surrey - 7	
Surrey - 9		



U2050 Semi-final – Warwickshire v Surrey, courtesy Rob Hammond

In the U2050s, Surrey beat Northumberland in the only quarter-final and were then defeated by a strong Warwickshire team in the semi-final. Essex won the other semi-final against Yorkshire to set up an Essex vs Surrey final.

U1850

Quarter-Final 14 th May	Semi-Final 10 th June	Final 1 st July
*	Norfolk – 7	Yorkshire
*		
Yorkshire - 9	Yorkshire - 9	
Essex - 7		
*	Middlesex – 8	Middlesex
*		
*	Greater Manchester - 8	
*		



Yorkshire celebrate their win in the U1850 quarter-final

The U1850 Yorkshire vs Essex quarter-final was played at Syston, where Yorkshire retained the John Philpott and Peter Brahm's memorial trophy, each a county stalwart.

Skippers Peter Nickals and Rupert Jones considered the frequency and passion of the ECF stage encounters between the two counties to be worthy of such an almost annual contest. Across the four championships honours were shared.

U1650

Quarter-Final 14th May	Semi-Final 10 th June	Final 1 st July
Yorkshire – 12	Yorkshire – 9	Yorkshire
Surrey – 3		
Essex – 16	Essex - 7	
Staffordshire – 0		
Worcestershire – 5½	Warwickshire – 9	Warwickshire
Warwickshire – 10½		
Greater Manchester – 8	Greater Manchester - 7	
Middlesex - 2		

U1450

Quarter-Final 14 th May	Semi-Final 10 th June	Final 2 nd July
Surrey - 5½	Surrey - 3½	Greater Manchester
Middlesex - 2½		
Nottinghamshire – 2		

Greater Manchester - 10	Greater Manchester - 8½	Essex
*	Yorkshire - 4½	
*		
Staffordshire – 5	Essex - 7½	
Essex - 7		

Greater Manchester, this year as a NCCU nominee, began proceedings in the U1450 section with one of the few comprehensive wins in the quarter- and semi-finals, eliminating Nottinghamshire's only team this year by 10-2. Their other three teams all encountered Middlesex teams.



U1450 Staffordshire vs Essex, Syston

Tie-Breaks

Many of the matches in the knockout stage were really close with three tied matches, and were decided by the first tiebreak of lower board count. This rewards success on higher boards over lower boards, with the count determined by the sum of the numbers of the boards that were won. If the semi-finals are anything to go by, all bodes well for the finals on 1st July.

Finals Day

The finals will be held on 1st July as follows:

Hythe Centre, Staines, Surrey – Open and U2050

Open – Surrey v Essex

U2050 – Essex v Surrey

Guildhall, Thetford, Norfolk – Minor Counties

Norfolk v Cambridgeshire

Syston Community Centre, Leicester

U1850 - Yorkshire v Middlesex

U1650 - Yorkshire v Warwickshire

U1450 - Greater Manchester v Essex

Cotswold Chess Congress 2023

by Mike Ashworth



Photo: Kevin Markey

The Cotswold Chess Congress 2023 was held during the May bank holiday weekend, 27th-29th May, at King's School in Gloucester. Once again, it was a successful event, with over 120 players competing across the three sections.

The Cotswold remains my favourite congress of the year, not just because I live in Gloucester myself, but for plenty of other reasons too. The three-day format with two games makes the event feel a lot longer than other weekend congresses. The location is also ideal, being so close to Gloucester City Centre, allowing participants to relax at a restaurant, bar or café after each round, with good breaks in between the morning and afternoon rounds providing ample opportunity to explore the city.

Over the past few years, I have helped on the committee for the congress, so I am aware of how much work goes into organising a tournament such as this. Whether it be the arrangements with the venue, the finances, updating the website, or collecting entry fees, the team behind the congress does a fantastic job, so thanks must go to Kevin Markey and the team for another enjoyable event.

Next year, it is hoped that the Open section will be FIDE-rated, which we hope will attract even more players to the event.

The Open was a well-represented section, with 42 players taking part from the start and a few others filling in where there were byes in certain rounds. The favourite going into the tournament was Yichen Han, who proceeded to win the event with a score of 5½/6. A summary of the prizes won in the Open is as follows:

Open

1st – Yichen Han 5½/6

2nd – Alex Bullen 5/6

3rd – Tim Kett 4½/6

Rating prizes were won by Ian Clarke (1840-2000) on 4/6 and Julian Llewellyn (Under 1840) on 3/6, with the junior prize being won by Qixiang Han, also on 3/6.

Ian Clarke also gained the title of Gloucestershire Individual Champion for 2023. Many congratulations to Ian who clinched the title with a crucial win in the last round.

The Major and Minor sections were also very well-contested, with both experienced players and newer players competing. The prizes in the Major and Minor were won as follows:

Major

1st - Max Dooley 5½/6

2nd - Justin Smith 5/6

=3rd – Matthew Holmes, Rob Wilden, Brendan O’Gorman, Dave Williams, Reya Li, Callum Hayes (all on 4/6)

Rating prizes were won by Dave Williams (1635-1735) and Callum Hayes (Under 1635), with the junior prize being won by Reya Li.

Minor

=1st – Alexis Kristoff Malibiran and Kenneth Jardine (5/6)

=3rd – Nigel Morris and Elmira Walker (4½/6)

Rating prizes were won by Steve Wilson (1435-1550) on 4/6 and Nicholas Wright (Under 1435) on 3½/6. The junior prize was won by Florence Spirling, with 4/6.

My personal objective for the Congress was to defend my Gloucestershire Individual Champion title. While I just fell short of this by half a point, finishing on 3½/6, I nevertheless enjoyed the experience and also played some interesting games. One of these was my first-round game against Joe Rastall, a player who I had not met before. We both had good fun exploring various lines after the game. I thought this analysis was worth sharing and have annotated the game for your enjoyment!

Michael Ashworth (2131) - Joe Rastall (1846)

Cotswold Congress Open Gloucester (1), 27.05.2023

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.f3 e5 Not a move I had seen played so early before. I had wondered whether this may have been some preparation, given that the pairings were published an hour or so before the round, so I avoided entering the queenless middlegame and opted for a standard move in this position.

6.Nge2 Nc6 7.d5 Ne7 8.Be3 c5 A good move, putting an early clamp on any potential white queenside play with c5 later on.

9.g4 A standard plan in the Sämisch, with me planning to castle on the queenside.

9.dxc6: this is not a desirable line for White, as I give up the strong d5-pawn and allow my opponent to play ...d5 himself, giving him a comfortable position. **9...bxc6 10.Qd2 d5 11.cxd5 cxd5 12.exd5 Nfxd5 13.Nxd5 Nxd5.** Although the computer says equal, I actually prefer Black, who has the much easier game in my opinion. It will take a few moves for me to complete my development and castle, and I cannot see any obvious plan for me.

9...h5 A move that the computer doesn't think is best, but one I expected my opponent to play, preventing a classic kingside pawn storm plan with h4–h5.

10.g5 Nd7 11.Bh3 A positional manoeuvre, planning to swap off the bishop that is on the same colour as my central pawns.

11...Nb6 12.Bxc8 Qxc8 13.h4 A move that I felt was prudent to stop any potential ...Qh3 ideas at some point. It also firmly secures the g5–pawn.

13...a6 My opponent played this move very quickly and at this point his body language appeared as though he had made an error. He told me after the game that for a few seconds he thought he had missed capturing on c4 to win a free pawn, but quickly realised that this simply drops the knight to a fork: **13...Nxc4 14.Qa4+ Qd7 15.Qxc4**

14.Qb3 Qc7



15.Nc1 A positional manoeuvre. In my mind, I had visions of playing an eventual break in the centre with f4. I figured that my knight is better on d3 than it is on e2 in these lines, as it is an extra piece attacking the pawn on e5 if this break eventually happens.

15...Nd7 16.Nd3 0–0–0 17.0–0–0 f5 A move I had expected and one that opens up a couple of lines. I don't think there is really anything better for Black to try in this position. If Black just sits back and waits for something to happen, White will eventually achieve the f4 break and will be likely to have too much space for Black to handle.

18.gxf6 Bxf6 19.Qc2 Another positional idea. My queen is now best placed on the kingside, where there is greater activity.

19...Rdf8 20.Qg2 Bg7 21.Qh3 Kb8 21...Rf7 If Black tries to double the rooks he is hit with a tactical shot, taking advantage of the pin on the h3–c8 diagonal. **22.Nxc5! dxc5 23.d6 Qc6 24.dxe7 Rxe7 25.Rd5:** my pieces would be extremely well placed here, with Black having too many weak pawns and squares to be able to survive.

22.Ne2 The purpose behind this move was to give extra protection to an eventual f4–pawn push, allowing me to recapture on f4 with the e2–knight and still leave my other knight on d3 to prevent Black from having an outpost for his own knight on e5. This move also prevents my opponent from playing ...Bxc3 after ...exf4, weakening my queenside pawn structure unnecessarily.

22...Nf6



A move that looks natural, but one that allows me to make inroads into the black position.

23.Nxe5 My opponent was visibly surprised by this move over the board, and he told me so after the game. Other than the line played in the game, there are two other lines worth exploring.

23...Nexd5 23...Qa5: a counter-attacking choice, which was the response I expected my opponent to play. As it turns out, White is winning with accurate play, but it would have required some calculating over the board. I had calculated a few moves down the line to know that my position could withstand any immediate threats, but I knew that it would make things more complicated, so it

was the move that I least wanted to face. 24.Nd7+ Nxd7
25.Qxd7 Qxa2 26.Qxd6+ Ka8

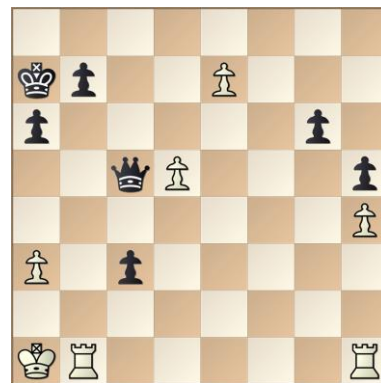


27.Nc3 The only move that keeps my advantage. (27.e5? This was the move I had originally intended to play if we had reached this position in the game. Although this blocks off the bishop and protects against the mate threat on b2, it gives Black a crucial square for the knight and some very pretty tactics. I'd like to think I would have been able to see that this was a bad move if I'd had the position in front of me on the board, but I suppose I will never quite know for sure! 27...Qxc4+: Black is winning here after both of White's main alternatives. 28.Kb1 (28.Nc3? In the position without e5 this move saves the day, but in this position, it would be a blunder, allowing a devastating fork. 28...Nf5 29.Qxc5 Nxe3! picking up a piece and crucially defending the queen. If White recaptures the knight, an even worse fate awaits. 30.Qxe3 (30. Qxc4 Nxc4 Black would be a piece for a pawn up and my two central passed pawns are not far enough advanced to cause Black any trouble. Black would be winning here.) 30...Bh6! A devastating pin.) 28...Rxf3!



The beginning of a fascinating line that is worth including purely for entertainment value. 29.Qxe7 Rxe3 30.Qxg7 Rxe2 31.Qxh8+ Ka7: although White would be a rook up here with two central passed pawns, it turns out that Black's threats are too strong, with White's queen being completely offside. 32.e6 Qc2+ 33.Ka1 Re4 34.Qc3 Ra4+ 35.Qa3 Rxa3+ 36.bxa3 c4 37.e7 c3 38.Rb1 Qa4 39.Ka2 Qc4+ 40.Ka1 (40.Rb3 Qe2+ 41.Ka1 Qxe7 42.Rxc3 Qe5

43.Rhh3 Qxd5 and Black has a queen and two extra pawns for the two rooks. This will be difficult for White to defend.) 40...Qc5!



Threatening mate and the e7–pawn. Black's queen is too powerful, with White's rooks not being actively placed. Neither of us had even considered this line in the analysis room afterwards, let alone during the game!) 27...Qxc4 28.Qxc5 Qxc5 29.Bxc5 Rf7 - White would be a clear pawn up here, so with the strongest continuation White is winning in this line. 23...dxe5: this is the most obvious response and objectively the best according to the computer, but one which doesn't pose any practical challenges to White, unlike the ...Qa5 line. 24.d6 Qd8 25.dxe7 Qxe7 26.Nc3: here I would have a comfortable game, with my knight coming into d5. The extra space in my position and the greater activity of my pieces is key here.

24.cxd5 dxe5



I was very happy with my position here. I just had to play sensibly in order to convert the game, my strong passed pawn on the d-file being a crucial asset in my position.

25.Kb1 Rc8 26.Rhg1 Bh6 27.Bxh6 Rxh6 28.Qe6 Closing in and forcing the win of the pawn on e5 after my next move.

28...Rf8 29.d6 Qd7 30.Qxe5 b6 31.Qg3 Ne8 32.e5 Ng7 33.Ka1 Safety first!

33...Rf5 34.Nc3 Ne6 35.Nd5 Ka7 36.Nf6 Qb7 37.d7 Rxf3
38.Qe1



The f3-pawn is irrelevant here, as now my rook and queen are in a perfect position to support my two central passed pawns.

38...Nd8 39.e6 I can allow my opponent to capture the knight, as the pawns are far too strong.

39...Rxf6 40.e7 Rh8 41.e8Q Rff8 42.Q8e4 Probably the first and last time I will ever write this exact move on a scoresheet!

42...Qc7 43.Qg3



Forcing a trade of queens, and my opponent therefore resigns. Had my opponent played 23...Qa5, it would have brought different complications to the game. My opponent and I had fun analysing the variations in the analysis room after the game. As it turned out, I just had to keep control of the game in order to convert the win. An enjoyable first-round game!

1-0

You can see more photos from the event at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/310978697034/permalink/10159120589492035/>

Durham County Chess Congress 2023 by Mick Riding

The 2022 ECF Congress of the Year followed up with another great weekend on 12th-14th May. Hosted again in the fabulous Dolphin Centre, 154 players participated despite the rail strike and despite the parallel event outside in Darlington's Market Square known as ... Eurovision!



Main prize winners were:

OPEN David Walker, Tim Wall, Andrew Burnett, Jonathan Arnott and Chris Izod, all = 1st;

MAJOR 1st Srivathsan Sasikumar =2nd John Cawston, Royce Parker and Dave Patterson;

MINOR 1st Joel Tofield-Brown, 2nd Daniel Williams, =3rd Rob Jarvis, Ryan Duff and Adin Breakley.

There were a number of rating prizes and trophy awards including:

Chris Izod, winner of the **Fred Stobbart** trophy for best North East adult performance;

Srivathsan Kumar, winner of the **Gary Hewitt** trophy for best North East junior performance; and

Dave Patterson, winner of the **Tony Mezzo** trophy for best performance in the Major by a Durham League player.

The Eurovision event kicked off on the Saturday morning, 11 a.m. with 24 sets of noise excluders and 60 pairs of foam ear plugs at the ready. However, the building's insulation, Council's adherence to agreed noise levels and player's tolerance levels meant they were ultimately not needed!

On the Sunday of the congress Darlington Chess Club ran a successful junior event with 44 entries competing within age categories as follows:

7-8 years - 1st Tashil Lankapura, 2nd Marco Balocco, 3rd, Henry Styles;

9-10 years - 1st Daniel Sewart, Can Sezen, 3rd John Smith;

11-13 years - 1st Sagar Patel, 2nd Balin Li, 3rd Jamie Wang;

14-16 years - 1st Joe Eggbert, 2nd Rhys Orton, 3rd Riley Lambert-Cousin.

Well done to them all and Darlington Chess Club.



Many left the weekend with a resounding 'See you next year'. We'll be there, so check out the ECF Calendar and book your place for 2024. The town centre is vibrant, with lots of accommodation, bars, shops and restaurants. The Dolphin Centre is a great site, our hosts are extremely friendly, and Darlington is easily accessible by rail or motor - simply nothing not to like!

Finally, a 'Thank You' to our arbiter team of Alex McFarlane, Mariana Mosnegutu and Carl Stephens, who ensured the event ran so smoothly – and Howard Wood for providing a book stall. Photographs provided by Paul

Charlton (adults) and Kevin Wilson (juniors) – please do not reproduce without permission.

32nd Frome Chess Congress by Sally Hunt and Kevin Thurlow



Deciding to join the organising committee of the Frome Chess Congress this year was one of the best and most rewarding decisions I have made thus far this year. Not only did I get to work closely with friends from the Trowbridge Chess Club, but I was also welcomed by new friends from the Frome Chess Club. Having been the Secretary of Trowbridge now for two years, I know how much work goes into just organizing things for a local club, but I never truly appreciated just how much preparation, time and effort go into arranging such a big event as a congress.

So, oh no, don't just visit a congress first and see what it's all about; let's just dive head-first into the deep end of the committee and sink or swim!

Thankfully, I swam rather well and loved every minute of it! The team I joined made it all look rather effortless at times. Much like a ballet of swans they always looked serene and composed on the surface whilst beneath the waterline their feet paddled furiously to get everything set up - an important last push to be on time and all in perfect working order to satisfy over 200 eager chess players who were just chomping at the bit to go toe to toe on the chequered battlefield.

This year saw lots of changes at the congress, not least a totally new layout downstairs in the main hall and a rearrangement of the sections. There were two additional rooms upstairs helping to accommodate the Open and Minor, while the Major and Intermediate were downstairs. As well as having an extra toilet block, this all helped to make the playing conditions less cramped and more comfortable overall.

Alongside this, Chris Lamming introduced a colour-coded system for the sections, with home-made noticeboards for each displaying the all-important pairings, players lists, Somerset Cup information, and maps of the new layouts.

This year our bookstall and all the event's chess equipment were supplied by Chess & Bridge – another new addition that added an extra dimension of interest for players and controllers alike. The event was overseen all weekend by the lovely Jim Fisher, an entertaining character who was a wealth of amusing anecdotes and chess knowledge. He painstakingly handpicked the book prizes for us, tailoring each one to the recipients' individual needs. We are pleased to know he will be joining us again next year.

The final piece to our congress puzzle was a new catering company called Devizes Catering, run by the amazing Alison Finney, who added to our ballet of swans with equal grace and serenity. Despite having a few kitchen equipment hiccups and hordes of hungry chess players baying at her kitchen door, she supplied a mass of home-cooked food. Alison and her team did a fabulous job of keeping us all fed and watered over three days and, more importantly, keeping the controllers topped up on tea, coffee and sweet treats to keep our feet paddling. Creating all those elusive pairings is thirsty work!

With the addition this year of some snacks on Friday evening, breakfast baps on Saturday and Sunday (which were very much needed and appreciated!) and the return of the roast dinner, the catering was a resounding success and we all also hope very much for her return to the event next year.

Now let's talk chess!

We had 15 teams enter the team event this year, which right up to the end was a very close-run affair – all coming down to the final round 5 results. I was proud to be assigned the teams work and I enjoyed compiling all the results and learning some new Excel skills at the same time. Much to my delight Trowbridge B won with a resounding 13½!

The Open was the last to finish late Sunday evening with Table 1 and Table 2 battling it out till gone 7.15 pm. Table 1, GM Keith Arkell vs Ben Ogunshola, went to a victory for Keith Arkell on 94 moves, securing him the Open win. With Table 2, Sasha Matlak vs Peter Large ending up in a 138-move draw.

We also saw wins for Richard Johnson in the Major, Matthew Coldwell in the Intermediate and Gabriel Keech in the Minor.

There were plenty of interesting games, and very few short draws.

Bernard Chan – Andy Hill

32nd Frome Open – 13.05.2023

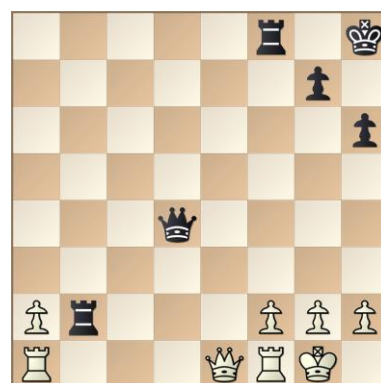


34.Ba4! Black resigns, as ... 34...Bxa4 35. Qe6+ and mate next move, or 34...Rc7 35. Qe6+ Kf8 36. Qd6+ Ke8 37. Rxc7 Bxa4 38. Qe6+ Kf8 39. Qf7#

1-0

Adam Sefton – Supratit Banerjee

32nd Frome Open – 13.05.2023



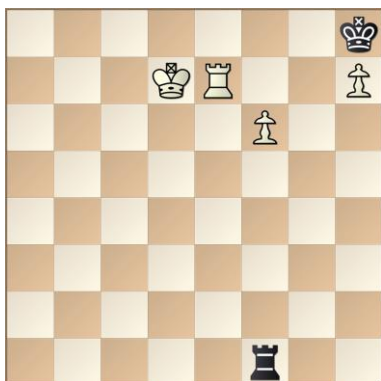
22...Rbxf2 23.Rxf2 Rxf2 24.Kh1 (White could have gone for 24. Qxf2 Qxa1+ 25.Qf1 Qxa2=) **24...Re2 25.Qg1 Qb2 26.Rd1 Qxa2 27.Rd8+ Kh7** (White should try h3 or Rb8, idea Qb1+.) **28.Qf1 Qc2 29.Rf8 Qe4 30.h3** (30. Qg1=) **30...Re1** (and wins)

Peter Large – Neil Crickmore
32nd Frome Open – 13.05.2023



21. Bg5 Nxe4 (21...Kg8) 22. Rxh7+ Kg8 23. Qc4+ d5
24. Rxd5 Qxg5+ 25. Rd2+ (Sadly, no check, so no time for Qxd2...) 25...Kf8 **26. Qf7#**

Keith Arkell – Bernard Chan
32nd Frome Open – 13.05.2023



Keith has laboured hard to get a won ending, then uncharacteristically messes it up. It is a bit unfair showing the one game he did not win, but this is a collector's item.
80.f7? (80. Re6! Kxh7 81.Ke8) 80...Rxf7!

½-½

Adam May – Kenneth Hobson
32nd Frome Open – 13.05.2023



29... Rxe3 30. Qg6+ (30. Qxe3 Bc5 31. Rd4!) 30... Bg7 31. Be4 Rxg3+ 32. Kf2 Rf3+ 33. Bxf3 Qh4+ 34. Ke3 gxf3 35. d6 Qh2 36. d7 Qe2+ 37. Kf4 Rf8+ 38. Kg4 Qg2+ 39. Kh4 Rf4+ 40. Qg4 Qxg4#

Bernard Chan – Oleksandr Matlak
32nd Frome Open – 13.05.2023



Bernard Chan had a lot of interesting games!

23...Rxh4 24. Nxc6 Rxh3 25. Nxf8 Rxh1 26. Rxh1 Bxf8 27. Qg5+ Bg7 28. Re1 Nd4 29. Nd5? (29.Qe3 is better) Qxc2+ 30. Ka1 Ne4 31. Qc1 Nd2 (and Ng3+ will win: 32.Qxc2 fails to Nxc2 mate!)

0-1

More games can be found to review at:
<https://www.saund.org.uk/britbase/pgn/202305frome-viewer.html>

We had a record field again this year of 207 players! This proves that not only is this congress very popular and thriving, but that chess as a whole is thriving, too. We had many familiar faces turn up to play, as well as many new additions who were experiencing a chess congress for the first time. I was heartened to see such a mix of age groups across all sections and to see all the Jjuniors' faces as they submitted results and handed in their feedback forms for a chance to enter the big raffle.

We were delighted to have been donated a beautiful wooden mahogany chess set by The Regency Chess Company to raffle off. We thank them for their kindness and generosity. We had a huge response to this new addition, with feedback forms coming in thick and fast all weekend. Before round 5 commenced, we all gathered in the main hall to draw the winning ticket out of the biggest cooking pot that I think Chris Lamming could find in the kitchen!

Gerry Udell did the honours, and the winner, Mark Barrett, gratefully received his new prize.

ECF Online

Nigel Towers Reports on This Month's ECF Online Clubs and Tournaments

ECF Online Clubs

The ECF Members Clubs are open to all ECF members and supporters on Chess.com or Lichess and provide regular ECF online rated tournaments most days of the week where you can get an ECF online rating, together with online internationals.

Chess.com:

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

Lichess:

<https://lichess.org/team/english-chess-players>

We also have an Open Club on Chess.com, with regular ECF tournaments and a chance to play for the ECF England team in the Live Chess World (LCWL) and European Leagues.

Chess.com:

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

Chess.com Internationals

We continue to field ECF Open Club teams in the Live Chess World, European, and Mediterranean Leagues, drawn from players in the ECF Open Club. Club members can register for events from an hour before each fixture and are allocated to boards depending on their Chess.com rating.

LCWL Season 11

We played our rounds 9 and 10 matches in the LCWL against India and Bolivia. We lost 0-2 to Team India on 18th May and then won 2-0 against Bolivia on 11th June, with convincing wins by 20 points to 2 in the Blitz and 16½ to 3½ in the Rapid.

LCEL Season 7

We won all three legs of our round 6 match against Team Belgium on 3rd June, including a fine draw by Robert Starley against the Belgian Captain IM Richard Polaczek.

Ferrarifan27 (2147) - RIPOL (2358) [C02]

Live Chess Chess.com, 03.06.2023

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3 Qb6 6.a3 c4 7.Be2 Na5 8.Nbd2 Bd7

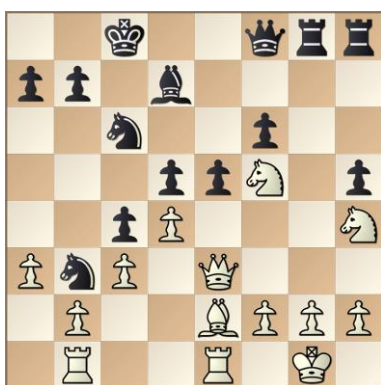


My heartfelt thanks go to Chris Lamming, Dave Marshall, Mark Leonard, Kevin Paine, Chris Purry, Kevin Thurlow, Bernadette Ross, Gerry Udell, Gerry Jepps and Derrick Walker for welcoming me into their fold and for all their efforts and work in hosting an amazing congress every year.

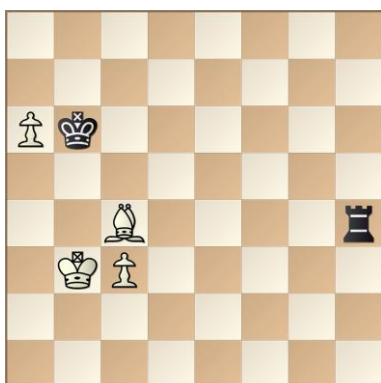
I very much look forward to the 33rd Frome Chess Congress in 2024!



9.0-0 Ne7 10.Re1 Nec6 11.Rb1 Qc7 12.Qc2 f5 13.exf6 gxf6 14.Nf1 Bd6 15.Ng3 0-0-0 16.Bh6 Rdg8 17.Nh4 Bf4 18.Bxf4 Qxf4 19.Nf3 h5 20.Qd2 Qd6 21.Nh4 Nb3 22.Qe3 e5 23.Ngf5 Qf8



24.Qf3 Nd2 25.Qxd5 Nxb1 26.Rxb1 Bxf5 27.Nxf5 exd4 28.Nxd4 Nxd4 29.Qxd4 Rg7 30.Qxa7 Rd7 31.Bxc4 Qd6 32.Qa8+ Qb8 33.Qa4 Qe5 34.Qa8+ Qb8 35.Qa5 Qd6 36.Be2 Qe5 37.Qxe5 fxe5 38.Kf1 Kc7 39.Rd1 Rxd1+ 40.Bxd1 h4 41.g3 hxg3 42.hxg3 Rh1+ 43.Ke2 Kd6 44.b3 b6 45.a4 Kc5 46.Kd2 Kd6 47.Be2 Ra1 48.Bd3 Kd5 49.f3 Rg1 50.g4 Kd6 51.b4 Ra1 52.Bb5 Kd5 53.Ke3 Re1+ 54.Be2 Rb1 55.a5 bxa5 56.bxa5 Rb3 57.Kd2 Rb2+ 58.Kd1 Ra2 59.a6 Kc6 60.g5 Ra1+ 61.Kd2 Rg1 62.Ke3 Rxe5 63.Ke4 Kb6 64.Bc4 Rg3 65.Be2 Rg5 66.Bd3 Rg3 67.Kxe5 Rxf3 68.Kd4 Rf4+ 69.Ke3 Rh4 70.Kd2 Rg4 71.Kc2 Rg3 72.Bc4 Rg4 73.Kb3 Rh4 74.Bd3 Rg4 75.Be2 Rh4 76.Bf1 Rf4 77.Bc4 Rh4 78.Kb4 Rf4 79.Kb3 Rh4



½-½

Lichess Internationals / Team Battles

Lichess team battles also continue to be very popular with English Chess Players team members. These provide an opportunity to take part in some of the biggest Lichess events, with team members paired in Arena format against players from opposing teams. The weekly schedule includes the Bundesliga on Sundays and Thursdays where we move between Ligas 3 and 5, the Liga Ibera on Sundays, and the Champions League on Tuesdays.

ECF Online Grand Prix Series 2023

The Online Grand Prix series continues for 2023 with the full series of ten blitz and ten rapid events scheduled for the first and third Sundays of the month from January to October 2023, with the first four blitz and rapid events now completed. You can find further details and the 2023 entry form at the link here, together with the leaderboards following the first four events:

<https://www.englishchess.org.uk/ecf-online-grand-prix-2023/>

FEATURES

A visit to HMP Dartmoor on Wednesday 31st May 2023

by Carl Portman, Manager of
Chess in Prisons



I was delighted to finally honour a longstanding commitment to visit HMP Dartmoor. I was meant to go in the wintertime but snow prevented the trip, and it's the first time I had to call a 'no show', but this time the weather was wonderful and the five-hour drive was worth it!

HM Prison Dartmoor is a Category C men's prison, located in Princetown, high on Dartmoor in the English county of Devon. Its high granite walls dominate this area of the moor. The prison is owned by the Duchy of Cornwall and is operated by His Majesty's Prison Service. Dartmoor Prison was given Grade II heritage listing in 1987.

The prison was designed by Daniel Asher Alexander. Construction by local labour started in 1806, taking three years to complete. In 1809, the first French prisoners arrived (Great Britain was at war with France) and the prison was full by the end of the year.

From the spring of 1813 until March 1815, about 6,500 American sailors from the war of 1812 were imprisoned at Dartmoor in poor conditions (food was bad and the

roofs leaked). These were either naval prisoners or impressed American seamen discharged from British vessels. Whilst the British were in overall charge of the prison, the prisoners created their own governance and culture. They had courts which meted out punishments, a market, a theatre and a gambling room. About 1,000 of the prisoners were black. A recent examination of the General Entry Book of American Prisoners of War at Dartmoor, by Nicholas Guyatt, found 'Eight Hundred and Twenty - Nine Sailors of Colour had been entered into the register by the end of October 1814.'

You can find more about the prison here:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HM_Prison_Dartmoor

It now holds around 640 prisoners, although they are having to take more because of pressure on the prison system. I was invited by one of the governors Michael Walker, and he was supported by prison governor Stephen Mead.

The day consisted of three sessions, two in the morning to speak to prisoners about how chess affected and shaped my life from 'finding' the game as a 12-year-old to still loving every game, many decades on. I spoke about how chess possibly saved me from going down a rocky road when I was young, living in a violent and abusive household. Chess was my world - my creative outlet - and I was the one in charge of my decisions at the board. This resonated with both groups. I also spoke about the amazing people I have met through chess, and the places I have visited to play our marvellous game. The notion that an ancient game is still of major benefit and influence in a modern setting was not lost on them. I also went through some general tips on a demonstration board, dealing with questions from the groups, and I set up some puzzles and problems for the players, and this was greatly enjoyed with full participation from an eager group.



Carl talking to prisoners about how chess can change lives, just as it did for him.

In a place where prisoners have time on their hands, chess can be the friend that they need. Chess is portable and inexpensive, and can be played in cells (unlike pool, for

example) and players can integrate, study and play. It shines a light in a dark place.

I had a tour of the huge kitchen just before lunch. The prisoners grow their own vegetables and other foods and the standard of the food and the preparation was extraordinary. Inmates make the meals and gain qualifications for learning how to cook. I could see how proud they were of the kitchens and the food they prepared. The menu was the most varied and interesting that I have ever seen at a prison, catering for meat eaters, vegans, vegetarians and people with gluten and other issues.

The governor, Mr. Mead, took some time out not only to visit the chess room but to see me privately. He was very keen to keep the chess going at HMP Dartmoor and could clearly understand the benefits of the game. It is a purposeful activity in every sense, and should be acknowledged on any prison inspection report. Chess incorporates English, mathematics, history, geography, art and even religion, so there is a whole raft of subject matters wrapped up in one chess session.

I should at this point mention that I was not only honoured but completely taken aback to find that the governor, Mr Walker, had made a special chess cake for my arrival (see photo), and this was shared between staff and chess playing prisoners. It was such a lovely gesture, and one I have never experienced before. Such a thoughtful act, involving much preparation, shows how much a visit to talk about and play chess can mean. It also happened to be my favourite cake, so I enjoyed an extra-large slice, and I would need the energy for the afternoons.



L-R Governor Stephen Mead, Carl Portman and Governor Michael Walker with the specially made chess cake (by Governor Walker!)

It was back to work afterwards, and a two-hour session, where I agreed to play thirteen players simultaneously. These were the men who played regularly and were very keen to improve. There were no easy games, and every opponent played attacking chess, keeping me on my toes.

One thing they knew was openings, but it was interesting that, as with people on the outside, their undoing was the endgame. Some very promising positions crumbled because of the intricacies of a tactic here or a pawn push there. As so often, there were more rook and pawn endgames to play, and this is an area where everyone can benefit from studying more, and I include myself.

I also donated an analogue chess clock, and the players were keen to see how this worked and to give it a go. One player in particular is good at this and held me to a three-minute draw. Bravo!

With the simultaneous exhibition, though, I emerged as the victor on all boards, with no losses and no draws but one or two games were very close indeed. It can be difficult playing these simuls, not because of the number of people opposing me, but some prisoners like to use their own sets and boards, some of which can be tiny. Indeed, one of these was a chess set made entirely of matchsticks and vape tubes on which, although the set was quite magnificent, it was difficult to distinguish the pieces, giving my opponent a slight advantage.

I had to be careful not to give up a queen (thinking it was a bishop) for a knight, for example. This set showed how creative and talented prisoners can be, and I attach a photograph of that set. He made it in about a month.



Chess set made of matchsticks and vape tubes.

Prisoners are always keen to know what the best openings to play are, when to exchange queens, and how to arrange pawns in endgames. They are also keen to discuss the psychology of chess and whether to play the man (or woman!), the board, or both. My personal view is to take heed of both, but everyone has their own view. I donated several sets, boards, books, magazines and the lock to the prison and they have also purchased some

Sets, so there's plenty to keep them going. A member of staff (shout out to Lisa) has been giving her own time to run a club, even though she does not play chess herself. This is testimony to how some officers go the extra mile to make good things happen at their prison, and is to be highly commended.

The best quote of the day was from one prisoner who, when his mate expressed disappointment that he did not beat me, said 'We are all winners today, because we are here enjoying chess.' I could not have put it better myself.

On behalf of the ECF I would like to extend my thanks to the governors and staff for investing time and energy for my visit, and for fostering interest in the noble game of chess at HMP Dartmoor, which I hope will continue. I should certainly like to thank the prisoners who attended on the day for their commitment, respect, contribution and passion for the game.

Finally, this was a Tweet on the prison's official account posted after my visit.



Hello Carl,

I just wanted to thank you once more for coming to visit us at Dartmoor today.

It was a really great day, and the effort you went to to be with us is very much appreciated.

I know that the prisoners involved were so grateful, and all in attendance found the experience interesting/fun/insightful/inspirational!

Kind regards Michael

Chess and Bridge



Chess & Bridge offer all members 50% off CHESS Magazine for the first year, and staggered discounts off online purchases according to your membership level – Supporters / QGS / Bronze members 5%; Silver / Gold / Platinum members 10%. Chess & Bridge supply chess books, chess sets, software and computers by mail order and also have a retail shop at 44 Baker Street, London W1U 7RT



The Chess and Bridge website is here - <https://chess.co.uk/>

Great British Chess Players by Dr John Nunn



Frederick Dewhurst Yates (1884-1932)



Frederick Yates was born in Birstall, West Yorkshire on 16th January 1884 and went on to become one of the most successful British players in the first part of the 20th century. He gave up his job in accountancy to become a professional chess player, but, as many professional players can testify, unless you are one of the very top players it's not a career for the faint-hearted. To supplement his income, he took on a good deal of journalistic work and often reported on the tournaments he was playing in, which must have proved distracting.

Of all the British players from this period, Yates was by far the most active and had a busy tournament schedule. He took part in many domestic events and won the British Championship six times in the period 1913-1931. However, it was in the international arena that his name really stood out as one of the few British players who regularly travelled to major events. Yates played in many

of the super-tournaments of his day, such as Karlsbad 1923, New York 1924, Baden-Baden 1925 and San Remo 1930, the last of these being perhaps the best individual result of his career, where he finished fifth ahead of Spielmann, Maroczy and Tartakower.

While his aggressive style enabled him to defeat many top players in individual games, his two wins against Alekhine being good examples, a certain lack of solidity in his play cost him many points. His choice of openings was also very predictable; with Black he almost invariably met 1.e4 with the Closed Ruy Lopez, and with White he stuck to 1.e4 throughout his career. Only against 1.d4 did he show more variety, playing the Queen's Gambit, Nimzo-Indian and King's Indian. It's this last opening for which he is best remembered today, since he was an early exponent of the opening and used it in one of his wins against Alekhine.

Yates's life came to an untimely end on 11th November 1932, when he died because of a gas leak. A book of his games, *101 of My Best Games of Chess*, was published posthumously in 1934, although it actually contains 109 games. It includes a brief biography, some appreciations by notable chess figures and superficial annotations typical of the time. His wins against Alekhine are too well-known to give here, so I have chosen a game which well illustrates his dynamic style.

Frederick Yates - Lajos Asztalos

Trieste 1923

Ruy Lopez

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.O-O Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.c3 O-O 9.d4

Yates had a particular fondness for this line which, by omitting h3, allows the reply ...Bg4. He had mixed results with it, losing several games but drawing against Alekhine and Capablanca and scoring a good win against Bogoljubow.

9...exd4

These days 9...Bg4 is almost the only move played, after which White has a choice between 10.d5 and 10.Be3.

10.cxd4 Bg4 11.Be3

Yates makes no attempt to exploit Black's move order, and the game transposes into one of the standard lines. It's possible to play 11.Nc3, since after 11...Bxf3 12.gxf3 White's strong centre and two bishops are more important than his damaged kingside pawn-structure.

11...d5

11...Na5 is another important line. This system is generally believed to give White no advantage, but it is still sometimes used as a surprise weapon.

12.e5 Ne4 13.Nc3 Nxc3 14.bxc3 Na5

14...Qd7 is another safe line for Black.

15.Bc2 Nc4 16.Bc1



White plays to keep his bishops, but the knight on c4 is annoying since it makes it hard for White to bring his queenside pieces into play.

16...Re8 17.h3 Be6 18.Nh2

White's plan is to play Qd3 to force ...g6, and then try to exploit the weakened dark squares around Black's king.

18...Bf8?!

When defending, you should only spend time on defensive moves that are genuinely essential, devoting your remaining tempi to generating counterplay. This passive move doesn't defend against any concrete threat, so it would have been better to play 18...c5 to start active play on the queenside.

19.Qd3 g6

Now Black threatens ...Bf5, so White must move his queen again.

20.Qg3 c5 21.Bg5

White would like to get his knight into the attack by Ng4, but if played immediately Black can simply swap the knight by ...Bxg4. Therefore, White first tries to make progress on the dark squares with his queen and bishop.

21...Qd7 22.Qh4 b4



23.f4

Yates abandons his queenside to its fate, and uses the time to press forward on the kingside. This is a brave decision, but objectively speaking it was better to play 23.cxb4! Na3 (23...cxb4 24.f4 gives White a much improved version of the game) 24.Bd1 cxd4 25.Ng4 Bxg4 26.Bxg4, since the two bishops are powerful and Black's knight is offside. Having said that, the move played is not bad; White is not worse, and Black must defend accurately to hold the balance.

23...bxc3 24.f5

This forces the exchange of the e6-bishop, after which the knight can move to g4 without being exchanged.

24...Bxf5 25.Bxf5 Qxf5 26.Ng4 Re6!

A good defensive move, since now 27.Nf6+ Rxf6 28.Bxf6 c2 is very good for Black. The disappearance of White's knight has killed his attack and the c2-pawn is very dangerous.

27.Rf1



27...Qe4?

In such a sharp position it only takes one mistake. This allows White to improve the position of his rook with gain of tempo, a tempo which should have proved decisive.

The correct 27...Qd3! should have led to a draw after the remarkable tactical line 28.Rxf7 h5! (28...Kxf7? 29.Qxh7+ Ke8 30.Rf1 Qxd4+ 31.Kh1 Be7 32.Nf6+ Bxf6 33.Rxf6 Rxf6 34.exf6 gives White a decisive attack.) 29.Raf1 Qxd4+ 30.Be3! (an amazing move.) 30...Nxe3 31.Rxf8+! Rxf8 32.Rxf8+ Kg7 33.Rg8+! Kh7 34.Rh8+! Kxh8 35.Qd8+ Kg7 36.Qd7+ Kf8 37.Qd8+ Kf7 38.Qd7+ Re7 39.Nh6+ Kf8 40.Qd8+ Kg7 41.Qxe7+ Kxh6 42.Qf8+ Kg5 43.Qf6+ and the fireworks peter out to perpetual check.

28.Rf4 Qd3 29.Raf1?

This natural move is too slow, and allows Black a saving chance. Instead, 29.Nh6+! Bxh6 30.Qxh6 would have given White a winning attack. There is an immediate threat of Bf6, and 30...Nxe5 31.dxe5 Qe3+ 32.Rf2 Qxe5 loses to 33.Rxf7 Kxf7 34.Qxh7+ Ke8 35.Rf1 Qxg5 36.Qf7+ Kd8 37.Qxe6 when Black's king is too exposed to survive.



29...Ra7?

This leaves the back rank fatally weak. Black could have drawn by either 29...h5! 30.Rxf7 transposing into the note to Black's 27th, or the more complicated 29...f5! 30.exf6 h5! 31.f7+ Kh7 32.Rf6 Nd2 (there are other drawing moves) 33.Bxd2 cxd2 34.Rxe6 Qxf1+ 35.Kxf1 d1Q+ 36.Kf2 Qxd4+ 37.Kg3 Qd3+ 38.Kh2 Qf5! 39.Re8 Kg7! 40.Rxa8 Bd6+ 41.Kg1 Qb1+, again with perpetual check.

30.Bh6!

The threats of Qd8 and Bxf8 are decisive.

30...f5 31.Qd8 Rf7 32.Bxf8 Rxf8 33.Qxd5

This wins, but there was a forced mate after 33.Nh6+ Kg7 34.Qd7+ Kxh6 35.Rh4+ Kg5 36.Qxh7 and Black can only delay the end by giving up one piece after another, starting with his queen.

33...Rfe8 34.Nf6+ Kg7

34...Kh8 35.Nxe8 Rxe8 36.Qf7 Rg8 37.dxc5 is also decisive.

35.Nxe8+ Rxe8 36.Qd7+ Kf8 37.Rxf5+! gxf5 38.Rxf5+ Qxf5 39.Qxf5+ Kg7 40.Qd7+ 1-0

After 40...Kf8 41.e6 Re7 42.Qd8+ Black also loses his rook.

It's a Puzzlement!



Puzzle 1

IM CW Baker – P. Raynes

English Seniors 65+



White to checkmate

Puzzle One

Puzzle 2

Peter Shaw – Damian McCarthy

British Rapidplay 2023



White to win

Puzzle Two

Puzzle 3

CM R. Willmoth – Keith Parker

English Seniors 50+



Black to win

[Puzzle Three](#)

Puzzle 4

A.Byron – Richard Betts

English Seniors 50+ 2023



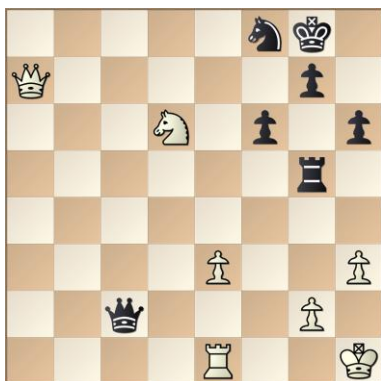
White to win

[Puzzle Four](#)

Puzzle 5

Keith Arkell –Johan-Sebastian Christiansen

4NCL 2023



White to win

[Puzzle Five](#)

Puzzle 6

Liza Kisteneva – David J. Walker

British Rapidplay 2023



White to win

[Puzzle Six](#)

Puzzle 7

IM David Fitzsimons – John Quinn

4NCL Daventry 2023



Black to win

[Puzzle Seven](#)

Puzzle 8

Donald Macfarlane – A. Brett

English Seniors 50+ 2023



Black to win

[Puzzle Eight](#)

Puzzle 9

GM John Nunn – Paul Raynes
ECU Senior Chess Champs



White to win

[Puzzle Nine](#)

Puzzle 10

IM Matthew J. Wadsworth – IM Balazs Csonka
4NCL



Black to win

[Puzzle Ten](#)

Puzzle 11

IM Ez Kirk – FM Kim Yew Chan
Southend Masters 2023



White to win

[Puzzle Eleven](#)

Puzzle 12

IM Shreyas Royal – FM Pall A. Thorarinsson
4NCL 2022-2023, Daventry ENG



White to win

[Puzzle Twelve](#)

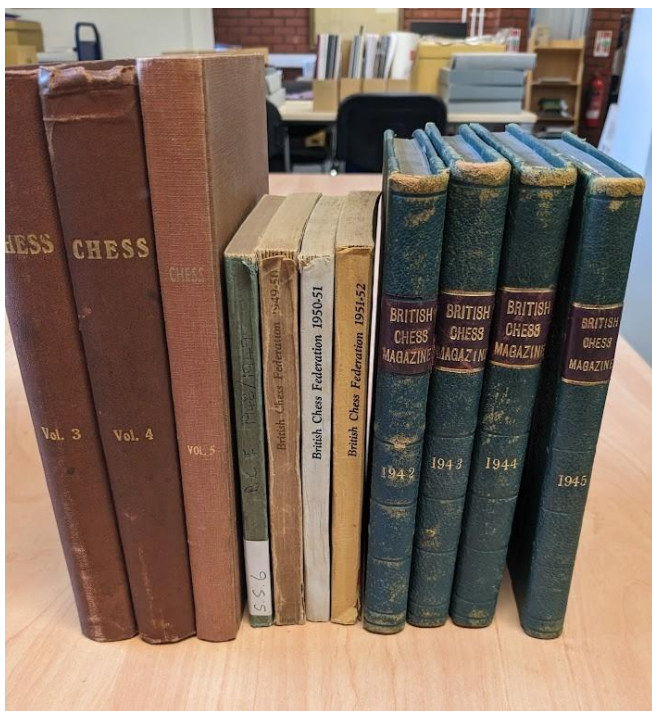
All in One

For all the puzzles on one page just visit
https://chesspuzzle.net/List/8353?utm_source=ecf&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=junenews

or via the QR code.



From the ECF Library and Archive A Researcher's Perspective



For this month's 'From the Library' feature we have asked a current PhD student who is using the ECF collection to share information about his studies.

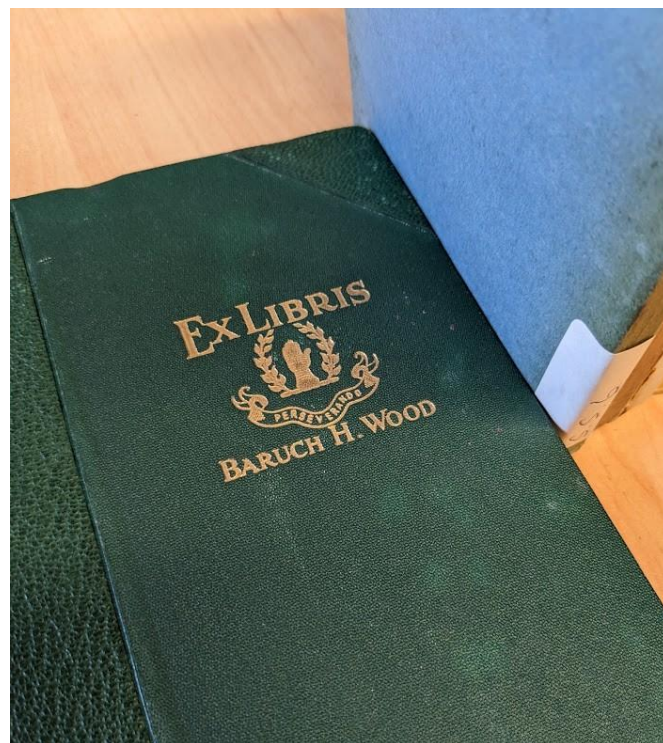
Hello everyone, my name is Mike Dougherty and I am currently undertaking research at the International Centre for Sports History and Culture at De Montfort University (DMU). My PhD thesis is focused upon the British Chess Community's engagement with the Soviet Union and the Eastern Bloc nations, 1941-1956.

The study will analyse the onset of the Cold War through the relationship of the British chess community with the Soviet Union and the Eastern Bloc nations for the period 1941 to 1956 through:

- Re-constructing the structure and the make-up of the British chess community;
- Reviewing the interplay between sport and national and international politics for the chess community;
- Analysing international issues and opportunities where the British chess community made decisions that were in alignment with or distinct from their own government or from chess communities in Europe, the Commonwealth and the nascent Western alliance.

My intent through this project is to further our understanding of Cold War relations between Britain and the Soviet Union and Eastern Bloc countries for the period 1941-1956. The activity of chess will be inserted into wider streams of analysis and explanation to reveal the impact of these variables on determining Cold War policy within the British Chess Federation.

Therefore, my thesis is not your typical 'chess history' topic. There won't be any games analysis or focus on the results of the leading players of the day. But at its foundation an understanding of the organisational structure and the leading administrative figures of the organisation will be essential. I chose to undertake this research here at DMU in part because of the extensive chess library that is available – including tournament and best games books, as well as the complete run of *British Chess Magazine*, *Chess*, and the *British Yearbook of Chess* for my period. These are complemented by the availability of the English Chess Federation (ECF) archives (including the Golombek papers) and the extensive Stewart Reuben materials. Having access to these books, magazines and materials will be critical in the completion of this study.



Specifically, the archive contains ECF files on such topics as Junior Chess (1952-1978), the Development Committee (1949-1966) and the Tournament and Match Committee (1951-1968), the records of which contribute to our understanding of the efforts being made in the immediate post-war period to revive the British chess community. In conjunction with this, the Croker Collection notebooks within the ECF materials contain

press clippings from different newspapers from the 1940s to the 1970s which provides a useful glimpse of the results of the BCF efforts, as highlighted to the wider chess community at this time.

On a more general note, the Special Collections staff are still cataloguing the ECF materials, and it will be some time before they can commence accepting additional materials. However, there are important areas that need to be filled in the next few years, particularly for the archive (e.g. documents) rather than the library (e.g. books and magazines). Any club or county association records from the past decades would be useful, especially membership roles or financial records.

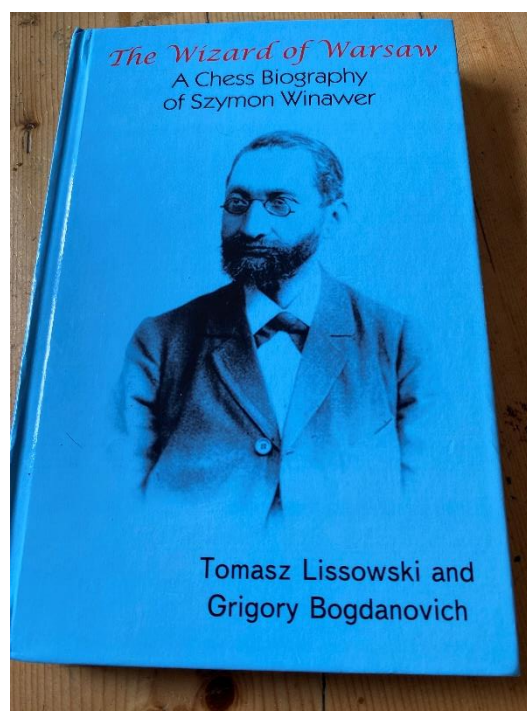
Personal papers of leading administrative figures would be incredibly helpful (as an example, the Phillip Stuart Milner-Barry papers at Cambridge hold nothing about his considerable chess activities including his roles with the BCM and the BCF). Thus, while some of the B.H. Wood library is included in the ECF materials, the absence of his papers and financial information on Chess magazine, his role(s) in the BCF and FIDE and with the Correspondence Association all leaves a gap in our knowledge of the period.

While we may have lost some of the materials from the 1940s to the 1960s, for those who were involved in the 'English Chess Explosion' in the 1970s and 1980s (either as administrators or participants), if you are looking to downsize and reviewing your personal holdings, please give consideration to contacting the Special Collections and having a conversation with staff here about donating your materials. While most books and magazines may be covered by the existing library holdings, personal papers, financial records, club and county administrative, committee and membership records, newsletters, posters, and other chess ephemera from the period are all welcome. Please contact archives@dmu.ac.uk if you would like to discuss a future deposit of archive material.

Books of the Month by Ben Graff



The Wizard of Warsaw – A Chess Biography of Szymon Winawer by Tomasz Lissowski and Grigory Bogdanovich (Elk and Ruby)



'I can't help but remember Winawer's courteous, knightly art of building friendly bridges with his desperate opponents when he was on the verge of victory. He showed no hint of arrogance or disrespect towards his opponents, but always found some kind words to sweeten their defeat.'

Andreas Ascharin, Schach-Humoresken, Riga 1894

In the unlikely event that I were ever rich enough to own a string of racehorses, I would undoubtedly name them all after chess openings. Wouldn't it be good to see Ruy Lopez winning the Grand National, or Benko Gambit triumph in the Derby? Perhaps Winawer Variation might

do well too. Yet how much do we know about the people who gave their names to our favourite systems? I had certainly played 3... Bb4 on many occasions in the French defence, but knew very little of Szymon Winawer's story. This timely and fascinating translation of a book, first published in Russian, taught me a lot.

The age we live in now is very different from that of the nineteenth and early twentieth century. Back then, chess memoirs were a rarity, and we often have little to go on in terms of understanding our forebearers' innermost thoughts and feelings. The fact that Winawer appears by most accounts to have been 'quiet and unobtrusive,' with one contemporary going so far as to remark that 'Winawer is so stingy with words that he usually doesn't even announce his checks,' makes clear the challenge faced by his biographers. Yet by drawing on the historical records, press reports and other accounts, as well as many of Winawer's games, the authors undoubtedly succeed in developing an interesting picture of Winawer's life in chess.

Growing up in a house where the game was 'strictly forbidden,' as his mother thought chess 'stole time,' Winawer did not start playing until he was twenty, and by the age of thirty still did not have a single published game. In his early years, Winawer worked as a merchant by day, while honing his skills in the Warsaw chess cafés by night. Yet he possessed the most important commodity of them all in spades - namely an abundance of natural talent.

Winawer's international chess debut was one that most of us could only dream about. In 1867, unknown outside Poland, he signed up for the Champ De Mars tournament in Paris, where many of the world's finest players, including Steinitz, Neumann and Kolisch, were competing. Having arrived early for the event, Winawer headed for the Café de la Régence, where the unsuspecting Rosenthal offered him knight odds and promptly lost to the new player on the block. Stories suggest that Winawer took on others in Parisian cafés, dispatching them easily, only to find to his amazement that, rather than being the patzers he assumed, they were famous players.

In the tournament itself Winawer ultimately came in second, ahead of Steinitz, but behind Kolisch. However, suspicion lingers that Winawer should have won the event outright, as his last-round defeat against Rousseau was the subject of (unproven) speculation that Rousseau may have been assisted in some way. Moreover, the lack of time Winawer spent on his moves does appear a little odd. We will never know for sure, but what was beyond doubt was that Winawer had announced himself as one of the strongest players of his era.

This was an event where draws were considered a defeat for both players, in an era where analysing adjourned games was frowned on, if not forbidden. In essence, chess was on the cusp of its transition from the coffee house to the tournament arena of the modern-day game, and Winawer was undoubtedly in the vanguard of players competing when this step change came about. Perhaps his smoking habits also helped him to some extent as it is noted that 'He smokes as a rule a brand of cigars known in Germany by the name of "outpost cigars", because the aroma is so offensive that they can only be smoked in the open air.' Winawer once remarked that if he could get his hands on even fouler cigars he would most likely win even more!

From Vienna to Warsaw, to London, Hastings, Berlin and many other places, this book charts Winawer's competitive journey and includes many fascinating games within the main body of the work. In Part II, more than a hundred further pages are dedicated to Winawer's games, covering his style, positional, tactical, endgame and opening play, as well as his 'glorious defeats' and his last recorded effort.

Very often a chess player's strengths and weaknesses are two sides of the same coin, and so it is with Winawer. In many ways the game came too easily to him. It appears that he did not study much, and his knowledge of opening theory, even within the context of his era, was limited and often cost him. A Warsaw newspaper noted that 'Winawer is called a "natural" player; they say he still hasn't learned all the rules and secret theories of the game.' Isidor Gunsberg further observed of Winawer that 'he does not possess great powers of concentration necessary for heavy match play. On the other hand, he possesses a ready wit in his play, sees every possible chance at the board (because he does not concentrate his mind too intensely on single points or lines of play), and displays great skill and ingenuity when he sees his opportunity to initiate a combination.'

When a challenger was needed for Steinitz's 1888 title match, Winawer's was one of the first names to 'crop up,' but he was considered not to be in good enough health and, as with all of us, time ultimately diminished Winawer's returns at the board.

The Wizard of Warsaw – A Chess Biography of Szymon Winawer does a brilliant job of painting a picture of this quiet man, who apparently did not even keep a chess set in his house. He may not have been talkative, but he was not devoid of wit. Remarking, when giving the shortest of toasts at the London event in 1883, 'Gentlemen, if I speak Polish, you won't understand me, and if I speak English, you won't understand me either. So, thank you.' This was

someone who was happy to play players of all levels, and to give generous odds in these games. A true chess player's chess player, through and through.

If there is a challenge with this book, it is one that is not fair to level at the authors. Namely, Winawer the man inevitably remains something of an enigma. It is mentioned that he outlived his wife and three of his sons, but there is little on the effect that this must have had on him. Yet, as we have already noted, this was a different epoch, where such things were not talked about and reflected on as they would be today. It is his on the board life where *The Wizard of Warsaw* excels.

Winawer was both a man of his time and a chess player who joins the ranks of those who transcend time. He will always be remembered, and this biography is an excellent way to learn more. The next time you play 3...Bb4 in the French, think of Winawer and his cigars. A brilliant natural talent, who got close, without going all the way, and left a lasting legacy.

NEWS and VIEWS

RIP Michael Lipton



Michael Lipton passed away on 1st April 2023 at the age of 86. A full obituary can be found at this link – <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2023/apr/18/michael-lipton-obituary> – on the Guardian website. We will be reproducing an article from *The Problemist* in an upcoming edition of *ChessMoves*.

Picture courtesy of the University of Sussex – <https://www.sussex.ac.uk/broadcast/read/60706>

Finance Council Meetings Report 2023

The Finance Council meetings were held on 22nd April. Though they were held as separate meetings, in this update I have covered all the significant points in this

single report. The first part of the meetings covered a number of items which I would call routine matters.

Finance matters

The following annual accounts were accepted by the meeting:

For the year ended 31st August 2021:

ECF annual accounts, BCF annual accounts, Chess Centre Limited annual accounts.

For the year ended 31st August 2022:

ECF annual accounts, BCF annual accounts, Chess Centre Limited annual accounts;

Well done to the Finance Director for bringing all the accounts up to date.

Budget

Members approved the budget as presented by the Finance Director, which confirmed that the current membership fees would be maintained for 2023/24.

Finance Committee Report

The Finance Committee's report was accepted. Given the size of the International budget, the report included a request for a breakdown of the expenditure by headlines of expenditure and a breakdown of the expenditure between Men's and Women's teams in the key international events.

Governance

Members approved changes to the governance rules relating to the appointment of members of the Standing Committees. In future the Standing Committees will appoint new members until the next Annual General Meeting where appointments will be confirmed. This changes the previous arrangement whereby the Board appointed new members in the interim period.

Members also agreed to minor changes to the governance arrangements mainly correcting the use of 'chair' instead of 'chairman'.

Members agreed changes to the Finance Byelaws updating the position regarding the coverage of the Finance Committee. Additionally, the meeting agreed that the Board should report to Council as to how sponsorship monies had been spent.

The John Robinson Youth Chess Trust (JRYCT) and The Chess Trust

The Chairman of the JRYCT presented an update on the activities of the trust and how they proposed to continue to support chess in the future. A change was agreed to allow the trustees greater discretion as to how funds were expended in the future.

I provided an update on the activities of The Chess Trust, highlighting the various activities supported: the Accelerator Programme; norm tournaments; women's and senior events; Ukrainian players who had come to the UK as a result of the Ukraine-Russia conflict; the British Chess Championships; and the ECF Awards Committee. For future meetings I will encourage representatives of the trusts to update Council on their activities to keep everyone informed.

Future Membership Options

For the second part of the meetings, which caused the most discussion, the Chief Executive, Mike Truran, had submitted a very useful paper on possible options for changing the current membership arrangements. As with any major change you will not be surprised to learn that there was the full spectrum of views on how the ECF should proceed from 'it's not broke, so do not change it' to 'if the ECF wants to make progress, we must have a single membership rate for everyone'. There was much heated debate. Fortunately, a return to the former game fee or a similar per event fee was clearly rejected.

The final outcome of the votes in order of preference was:

- No change;
- Single membership rate;
- Merger of the Silver and Gold categories.

The Board will consider the results of Council's views and, if considered appropriate, bring forward a paper to the AGM in October with firm proposals.

This is a brief summary of the meetings. More comprehensive details can be found on the ECF website under 'Council Meetings – Agendas and the Draft Minutes'.

*David Eustace, Chair, ECF and BCF Council
May 2023*

Membership Benefits and Partners

All members get:

1. Games played in ECF-rated over the board or online events rated free of charge (events included in this benefit are based on your membership level);
2. The ability to join ECF online clubs on Chess.com and Lichess, play in online club events, and gain an official ECF online rating – further details can be found at <https://englishchessonline.org.uk/>;

3. Ratings updated monthly to reflect your very latest results, whether you play over the board or online (or both);

4. ChessMoves, the ECF's 50+ page monthly magazine, with a link sent by email;

5. The annual ECF Yearbook, with a link sent by email (discounted price for printed version) – see the Yearbook archive at:

<https://www.ecfresource.co.uk/yearbook-archive/>;

6. A range of valuable membership partner benefits, including discounts on chess products from Chess & Bridge and discounts on retail, leisure, travel and eating out through our JustGo Rewards scheme (see website);

7. Eligibility to become an ECF titled player via the ECF Master Points System at

<https://www.englishchess.org.uk/master-points-system/>;

8. Eligibility to participate in the ECF Grand Prix (Silver ECF members and above):

<https://www.englishchess.org.uk/ecf-chessable-grand-prix/>.

Supporters get all the benefits above apart from 1., 7. and 8. above.

Clubs/Leagues Lapsed Members Reminder

The email recently sent to all clubs and leagues is reproduced below.

Dear Chess Club/League Secretary/Treasurer

This email is a friendly (and we hope timely) reminder to check the membership status of all members of your club or organisation before the end of June.

Game fee of £18.00 (£6.00 for juniors) applies once a player who is not an English Chess Federation (ECF) member at Bronze level or higher has played more than three games in a local league. It applies to all games played within a local league, regardless of division and including knock-out competitions, jamboree events etc. The ECF will recognise any ECF individual membership at Bronze level or higher taken out by a player on or before 30 June 2023 as covering them for game fee purposes for local league games as defined above for the season just ended (2022/23).

Local leagues (and therefore local clubs, on the basis that local leagues will doubtless pass on any game fee incurred) will be invoiced at the end of the 2022-2023 season at £18.00 (£6.00 junior) for each player who has played more than three games in a local league and is not an ECF member at Bronze level or higher as at 30 June 2023.

Please note that arrangements for club championships and club internal tournaments follow the same principle as for leagues above.

This page on the ECF website gives more information (see sections 3 and 4 in particular):

<https://www.englishchess.org.uk/pay-to-play-and-game-fee-new/>.

Kind regards

Rob Willmoth, Director of Membership

ECF Awards 2023

Nominations are invited for this year's ECF Awards. The annual awards are a way for the ECF to recognise contributions to the promotion and development of chess within the areas of ECF activity. We are grateful to the Chess Trust for supporting the ECF Awards with a grant of £2,000. This year winners in each category (with the exception of the President's Award for Services to Chess) will receive £250 (see details for conditions)

Details for this year's ECF Awards are now available and can be found here:

<https://www.englishchess.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/ECF-Awards-2023.pdf>

... together with information on how to apply and the assessment criteria. We are pleased to announce that the awards are now sponsored by a grant from The Chess Trust. There are nine award categories: Contributions to Accessible Chess; Community Chess; Online Chess; Junior Chess; Women's Chess; plus Club, Small Club and Congress of the year; together with the President's Award for Services to Chess. Nominations may be made until 7th July to the Awards Committee.

The World Senior Teams Chess Championships 2023

FIDE have finally announced that the World Senior Teams Chess Championships will take place from 18th-29th September at Struga (Ohrid Lake), North Macedonia. It is apparently a very beautiful region.

England will be looking to field the strongest teams it possibly can to defend the three World titles we won in Italy last summer, namely the 50+ and 65+ Open titles and the 50+ Women's title. The good news is that the 50+ first team will once again be led by Mickey Adams and the 65+ first team by World 65+ Champion John Nunn.

The details for this event can be found at the following link: <https://seniorteam2023.fide.com> or in the official [announcement](#).

Monday 18th September is intended as the arrival day and Friday 29th September as the day of departure. However, some people have already booked to arrive a day or so earlier as travel to Ohrid is quite difficult, as there are few suitable direct flights to Ohrid, and the nearest alternative airport is Skopje, which would involve a four-hour transfer, laid on by the organisers.

Anyone interested in playing in one of the England Teams should contact Nigel Povah at nigel.povah52@gmail.com to register their interest, bearing in mind that the closing date for registration is 31st July.

The Queens' Online Chess Festival Returns

The Queens' Online Chess Festival, a series of continental women's online blitz tournaments, is returning this summer. The third edition of the popular event, organised by the FIDE Commission for Women's Chess in cooperation with FIDE, will take place from 2th – 16th June 2023 on the Tornelo online platform.

The festival welcomes all women chess players from around the world of all ages and all rating groups, including unrated chess enthusiasts. Participation is free of charge.

The festival gives everybody a chance to participate in two competitions:

- Queens' Women Open Tournament – open to all female participants with FIDE ID, with continental qualifying events running from 1st-9th July and the semi-final and final scheduled on 15th-16th July;

- Unrated Princesses' tournaments – for U16 (born on 1st January 2007 or later) female players with no FIDE rating. National rating is acceptable but will not influence the pairing of the event.

The winners of the World Queens' Open 2023 and Princesses' Tournament (both U9 and U16) will be invited to the 45th World Chess Olympiad 2024 in Budapest. The ticket, full-board accommodation for three days and

invitations to the opening ceremony of the Chess Olympiad 2024 for the winner and one accompanying person will be covered. The official award ceremony for the Queens' Festival 2023 will take place during the Olympiad.

You can view the regulations at:

<https://www.fide.com/docs/regulations/Queens%20Online%20Chess%20Festival%202023%20Regulations.pdf>

You can register for the Princesses' Tournament at:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfPVZJQMPEeCizUQTzt35hITL4cyLjdmHx1ByMpYeyMGInQUQ/viewform>

You can register for the Queens' Tournament at:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSchbxHuzWu1il7WYuTHg53zwM2PmUPm8hmF2Baor6iEgfQ9A/viewform>

5th FIDE World Championships for People with Disabilities

The championships will be held in Lublin, Poland from 18th August (arrivals) to 28th August (departures) 2023.

Only players with communication (hearing) impairments, visual impairments and physical disabilities are eligible to take part in the event. Players must be approved by their national chess federation or organisation affiliated with FIDE or by the FIDE DIS Commission.

The deadline for registration is **1st July 2023**

[Regulations and invitation letter \(PDF\)](#)

[Registration form](#)

The [5th World Chess Championships for People with Disabilities official website](#) will be launched by 31st May.

Email: wccpd2023@fide.com

IBSA World games - Volunteers Needed



Hundreds of volunteers are needed for a major sporting event coming to Birmingham this summer.

The 2023 International Blind Sport Federation (IBSA) World Games are being held across Birmingham and other regional venues including Coventry, Warwick and Walsall between 18th-27th August – marking the first time it has ever been held in the UK.

The World Games will see around 1,250 blind and partially-sighted athletes from 70 countries competing in 10 sports – three of which include men's blind football, men's and women's goalball and judo, which are qualification tournaments for the 2024 Paralympic Games. Other sports featured include archery, chess, men's and women's cricket, powerlifting, ten pin bowling, tennis, and showdown.

The World Games will provide an opportunity for more than 400 volunteers to play their part in what is expected to be the largest gathering of blind and partially-sighted athletes ever brought to the UK. Volunteers are required at every venue to fill a range of positions, from helping with classification to assisting athletes within the villages in games services. Volunteers are also needed to create content in media and marketing team, within each sport at training and competition sessions and at all venues to ensure spectators have the best experience.

The World Games predominantly take place at venues in Birmingham – including the University of Birmingham's Edgbaston campus; however, there are also venues further afield in Coventry, Warwick and Walsall, including the Coventry Building Society Arena and the University of Wolverhampton's Walsall Campus. There is a range of opportunities available, and we are ideally looking for volunteers who can be available for six shifts or more throughout the duration of the event. Volunteer opportunities are available from 12th – 28th August; however, a higher level of support will be required during the World Games competition days.

The Volunteer Programme is open to all to apply and applicants can specify their availability and location preferences. Successful applicants will be contacted throughout June and July.

To apply to become a volunteer:

<https://forms.volunteero.org/view/b11c5349-8d4f-4116-9663-495e2ebb8059>

For queries please email:

ibsa2023volunteers@powerofpeople.org.uk

ChessFest is Back!



The UK's largest one-day chess event is back! ChessFest 2023 will take place at London's famous Trafalgar Square on Sunday 16th July from 11am until 6pm. All events will be free of charge and open to everyone. For full details of what's planned visit <https://www.chess-fest.com/>

- Free chess lessons for children and adults from Chess in Schools tutors;
- Play on one of ten giant chess sets;
- Hundreds of chess tables for casual chess;
- Challenge a grandmaster at speed chess;
- Blindfold chess exhibition;
- A giant screen broadcasting all the action from the square, as well as online games and challenges.

ChessFest Nottingham

NCA celebrates the centenary of its founding with a Chess Festival: a day of open-air chess activities in the heart of the city.

It takes place in Trinity Square, Nottingham on Saturday 15th July, open to the public from 10am – 4pm

<https://www.nottinghamshirechess.org/>

Manx Liberty Win 4NCL 2022-23

Congratulations to Manx Liberty who won the 4NCL for 2022-23. You can see the final table at:

<https://www.4nclresults.co.uk/2022-23/media/4ncl/xtab-div1.html>

You can see Leonard Barden's article reproduced from the Financial Times at:

<https://www.4ncl.co.uk/data/history/news-1.htm>

JUNIOR MOVES

Littlewood's Choice



Scotland has not produced any world beaters at the chessboard for some time, but Freddie Gordon has burst upon the scene in the last couple of years and looks a very bright prospect for the future. He is only 12 years old but has several notable scalps already, including GM Bogdan Lalic.

He has a fine positional sense, but when called upon can match tactics with the best. Consider the following game played in the European Team Championships in Slovenia in November 2021.

F. Gordon (Scotland) vs L. Davis (Wales)

1.e4 c6 2.Nf3 d5 3.Nc3 Bg4 4.h3 Bxf3 5.Qxf3 e6



Petrosian, as Black against Fischer, preferred 5....Nf6 here, as it forces White to make a decision about his centre before he has fully developed. The game continued 6.d3 e6 7.g3 Bb4 8.Bd2 d4 9.Nb1 Bxd2+ 10.Nxd2 e5 and Black went on to win a complicated game. The move chosen allows White to play 6.d4, when after 6..dxe4 7.Nxe4 Qxd4 8.Bd3 White has full compensation for the sacrificed pawn.

6.Be2 Nd7?! Better was 6....d4 to prevent White's next.

7.d4 dxe4 8.Nxe4 Ngf6 9.0-0 Nxe4 10.Qxe4 Nf6 11.Qd3
Be7 12.c3 0-0 13. Bf4 Bd6 14.Bg5 h6 15.Bh4



White has a small advantage, but Black has played quite sensibly and the best move now seems to be 15...e5, challenging White's centre.

15...Be7?! 16.f4?! However, this response from White is rather too loosening and allows Black to equalise. The best option was to reposition the white bishop by 16.Bd1, intending to go to c2 or b3 depending on Black's response.
16....Nd5! 17.Bg3?! Better was 17.Bxe7 ,but Freddie wants to keep the two bishops.



17....Bd6?! Stronger was the counter-attack 17...Qb6! When after, say, 18.Rab1 there follows 18...c5 with the initiative.

18.c4 Nf6 19.Bh4 Be7 20.f5 Freddie presses on with his attack and Black now makes an error.



20....Qd7? 21.fxe6 Qxe6 22.Rae1 Qd7? The last chance was 22...Bb4, but then follows 23.Bg4 Qd6 24.Rxf6 gxf6 25.Rf1 when White has a strong attack, but Black may be able to survive after 25....Bc5! 26.Bxf6 Rad8.

23.Bg4 Qd8 24.Bd1! Nd5 25.Bc2 g6 26.Re6! Qe8 27.Rxe7 Even stronger was the amazing move 27.Rxf7! when after 27...Rxf7 28.cxd5 White has an overwhelming attack.



27....Nxe7 28.Bf6! With deadly threats.

28....Qd7? 29.Qe3! and because of the threat of 30.Qxh6 Black now loses his knight on e7 with a completely lost position... so he decides to call it a day.

A tricky game, but Freddie found some excellent tactics towards the end which his opponent was not able to counter.

Meanwhile, 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.

--- Paul Littlewood

IMPROVERS

Paul Littlewood on Tactics

As I look through all my past games, I find that certain tactical motifs occur quite frequently. Very early on I learnt that the f7-square for Black (or the f2-square for White) is vulnerable to attack because it is only guarded by the king. Indeed, I am sure we all witnessed somebody losing quickly via **1.e4 e5 2.Qh5 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6?? 4.Qxf7 mate.**

My first lesson was learning how to counter this sequence, so as to not lose quickly. As my game developed it became obvious that castling helped to bolster this weakness, as now the rook would also guard f7(f2).

However, when the rook has moved, the square can again become the focus of an attack. Consider the following position:



D.C. Osborne vs P.E. Littlewood
Islington Open 1983

Black won by **1...Rxf2+ 2.Kxf2 Qh2+ 3.Kf1 Bh3 mate.**
Here is another more complex example:



T. Cruze vs P.E. Littlewood
Hitchin Premier 1988

Black won by the sacrificial sequence **1....Bxf2+! 2.Kxf2 Rxd2! 3.Rxd2 Nxe4+** and White now loses his queen after for example **4.Kf3 g4+ 5.Kxg4 Ng5+** etc. The game continued **4.Qxe4 Bxe4 5.bxa6 Qb6+** and Black won quickly due to his material advantage.

As with most themes we have examined, the main defence to these sacrificial attacks is preventative. It is important to remember that the f2- or f7-square is a weakness and moving your rook from f1 or f8 can expose it to attack.

Consider this famous example:



R. Byrne vs R. Fischer
US Championship 1963/64

White chose to play **1.Rfd1?** instead of the superior **1.Rad1**. Although the move chosen broke the pin on his knight it left the f2 square exposed to attack, and the game continued: **1...Nd3 2.Qc2 Nxf2! 3.Kxf2 Ng4+ 4.Kg1 Nxe3 5.Qd2** ...and now rather than the tame **5....Nxd1?** Fischer played **5....Nxe3! 6.Kxg2 d4 7.Nxd4 Bb7+ 8.Kf1 Qd7** leading to the following position:



Faced with all the threats Byrne resigned. The game could have finished **9.Qf2 Qh3+ 10.Kg1 Re1+! 11.Rxe1 Bxd4 12.Qxd4 Qg2 mate.**

Here are two examples to solve yourself, with the answers at the end of the article:



P.E. Littlewood vs S. Meyler
London Clubs League 2001

White to play and win



P.E. Littlewood vs H. Murphy
Islington Open 1983

How can White take advantage of his lead in development to win beautifully?

Answers

P.E. Littlewood vs S. Meyler

White wins by 1.Rxf7 Kxf7 2.Qxh7+ Ng7 3.Rf1+ Ke8 4.Qg8+ Kd7 5.Rf7+ Qe7 6.Rxe7+ Kxe7 7.Qxg7+ Kd8 7.d6 and Black resigned.

P.E. Littlewood vs H. Murphy

White wins by 1.Nxf7 Kxf7 2.Qh5+ Kf8 3.Rae1 Bd7 4.d6 g6 5.Qxh7 and Black resigned.

Paul Littlewood (plittl@hotmail.com)

Gormally's Coaching Corner by Danny Gormally



Open Your Mind with ChessBase India

India has recently overtaken China as the most populous country in the world and has a staggering population of over 1.4 billion. That is a huge pool to choose from and might help to explain why they are becoming such a powerful force in the world of chess. ChessBase India on YouTube has almost 1.2 million subscribers, and a great deal of their content seems to be put together by the industrious Sagar Shah, himself an international master but one who seems keener to help others than promote or advance his own playing career.

After round 1 of the Norway masters, Sagar unscrambled the game between Alireza Firouzja and Dommamarju Gukesh, which was won by Gukesh. India is getting very excited about its young players, and with good reason. Players like Gukesh himself, Nihal Sarin, Pragg, and Eragsai seem well primed to follow in the footsteps of the great Viswanathan Anand and bring the world title back to India, and Gukesh in particular has a look about him that suggests an inner confidence and belief that will take him all the way. The way that Sagar Shah dissected the game was interesting, even though it leant heavily on computer analysis. Working with machines can be a double-edged sword, as it can make you lazy and dependent on computers for your own thinking, but it can also open you up to possibilities that you might not have seen, to 'free your mind' as Morpheus said to Neo in 'The Matrix'.

Firouzja,Alireza (2785) - Gukesh D (2732) C54

Norway Chess - (1.2), 30.05.2023

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 The Italian game has become an increasingly popular choice at the highest level for a number of years now. That's at least partly because the Ruy Lopez has declined in popularity due to the Berlin

Defence proving an extremely difficult opening to break down.

4.d3 Nf6 5.0-0 d6 6.c3 h6 According to Sagar, this is generally played to prevent ideas of Bg5, pinning the knight. To be honest, my own knowledge of this opening is extremely limited, and I'm sad to say I'd already be out of theory by this point of the game.

6...0-0 is still more popular, and over 3,000 games have been played from this position. 7.Bb3 a6 8.Nbd2 Ba7 9.h3 h6 10.Re1 is a balanced position, where both sides have many plans available to them.

7.Nbd2 a5 before castling, Gukesh takes the time out to prevent b4, while also gaining space on the queenside. One of the things I have noticed from looking at the games of strong players is how reluctant they are to just make moves automatically. A lot of players would just castle without thinking here, but then you have to ask yourself 'What is White threatening'? Is there any immediate danger to the black king? Well, no, so this move is a useful one to throw in before getting your king away.

8.Re1 0-0 9.Nf1 a4 9...Be6 is a lot more popular according to Sagar, but part of the skill of playing at the highest level is presumably about avoiding your opponent's preparation.

10.Bb5 a3 11.b4 Bb6 12.Bc4 I wonder if Firouzja considered the immediate greed here with 12.Qb3, intending to snaffle the pawn. 12...Be6 13.Bc4 (13.c4? Bg4 14.Bxa3 Bxf3 15.gxf3 Nd4 obviously backfires on White.) 13...d5 14.exd5 Bxd5 15.Bxd5 Qxd5 16.Qxd5 Nxd5 17.b5 Na7 18.c4 Nb4 doesn't seem convincing for White.

12...Ne7! a typical manoeuvre in such positions. The knight is brought around to the kingside where it can do a more useful job, while at the same time this frees up Black to expand in the centre with ... c6 and ...d5.

13.Ng3 Ng6 14.h3 c6 15.Bb3 d5 16.exd5 Nxd5 16...cxd5? 17.Nxe5 Nxe5 18.Rxe5 Qc7 19.Qe1!

17.Bd2 17.Nxe5 Nxe5 18.Rxe5 is something of a mistake as it runs into 18...Bxf2+!, winning back the pawn with a great game, as pointed out by Sagar on the video.

17...Be6 18.Nh5 The game is now starting to become very sharp, as Firouzja starts to instigate some tactical play. There is also a concrete threat of taking on e5, as the same idea of taking on f2 and then playing ... Qf6+ would no longer be possible.

18...Bc7? Sagar said this was a mistake, and it turns out to be so, for tactical reasons. In a few moves the board will be aflame.

Sagar said that 18...Qd6 was a superior choice. After 19.Qc1 Kh7 Black seems to be holding the fort.

19.d4 exd4 20.Nxd4? Missing the brilliant tactical shot 20.Bxh6!!



As soon as you see this move you think: Wow! Isn't chess a complex and interesting game! Black seems super-solid; there doesn't seem to be much going on, yet he is getting dismantled! 20...gxh6 (20...Nxc3 should also fail to save Black: 21.Qd2 Bxb3 22.Bxg7 Nf4 23.Bxf8 (23.Nxf4 Kxg7 24.axb3 also seems good as the black king is wide open. 24...Bxf4 25.Qxf4 Qf6 26.Qg4++) 23...Qxf8 24.Nxf4 Qh6 25.axb3 Qxf4 26.Qxd4 Qxd4 27.Nxd4+-) 21.Qxd4 and Black seems done for. The computer makes chess look like an easy game! Here I might question, why did Firouzja not play Bxh6? After all these players are very capable of seeing complex and chaotic ideas; this is what their strength is based on. It is possible he vaguely saw this in passing but underestimated how strong it was.

20...Qd6! Praised by Sagar on the video.

21.Ng3 The computer solves all issues with ease, and indicates that 21.g3! is best. 21...Bxh3 might have been the reason why Alireza rejected this. 22.Bxh6! gxh6 23.Bxd5 cxd5 24.Nb5 Qb6 25.Nxc7 Qxc7 26.Nf6+ (26.Qd4 f6 27.Nxf6+ Rxf6 28.Qxf6 Qf7 seems much less convincing.) 26...Kg7 27.Qd4 with a big attack. For an engine this is all very simple; for a human, even one as strong as Alireza, it is much less so. You don't really consider going through all these complex tactical operations just to show compensation for one pawn.

21...Rad8 Sagar said this was a very interesting decision that he learned a lot from. Gukesh willingly gives up the bishop pair and allows his structure to be ruined. You see the influence of the engine here as well, because the engine always plays for activity, and it seems as if Gukesh

is doing the same, because when White takes on e6 the f-file becomes open - a significant point.

22.Nxe6 fxe6 23.Qg4 Ne5 24.Qe2 Nxb4! 25.Bg5! 25.Bxh6
Nbd3 26.Be3 Nxe1 27.Rxe1.



Objectively Black must be fine, but I'd be quite concerned if I had this position as the compensation for White seems equally obvious: two bishops, wide-open black king.

25...hgx5 26.cxb4 g6 27.Rad1 Qxb4 28.Bxe6+? It is tempting to win a pawn, but White should have resisted. This loses valuable time without gaining enough to show for it.

28.Ne4! was the way to maintain the balance. **28...Nd3** (28...Qe7 looks like a safe move, if a bit passive.) **29.Nxg5 Nxe1 30.Rxd8 Bxd8 31.Nxe6** with a bit of a mess. (31.Qxe6+ Kg7 32.Qd7+ Qe7 is defending for Black.)

28...Kh8 29.Rb1 Qf4 30.Rxb7 Nd3 31.Rd1



31...Nc1! 31...Nxf2 32.Rxd8 Bxd8 also seems good for Black.

32.Rxc1 32.Qe1 Rxd1 33.Qxd1 Qxf2+-

32...Qxc1+ 33.Kh2 33.Nf1 Qf4 34.g3 Qe5 Black will eventually win the game.

33...Rd2 Sagar mentioned on the video that Alireza was getting very short of time here because in this tournament there is a very fast time control, presumably designed to produce exciting finishes like this one.

33...Bxg3+? 34.fxg3 Rd1? would be very embarrassing after the simple reply **35.Qe5+-**.

34.Qe4 Rfxf2 35.Rxc7 Rxc7+ 36.Qxc7 Rxc7+ 37.Kxc7 Qd2+

0-1

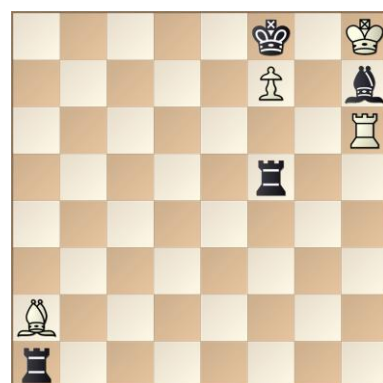
STUDIES AND PROBLEMS

HOW TO SOLVE A STUDY

by Ian Watson

Eternal Sacrificing

Repeatedly sacrificing the same piece, insisting on your opponent taking it, is what I mean by 'eternal sacrificing'. Not clear? Here's an example:



White to play and draw

When you are told that the theme is continuous sacrificing of the same piece, this study is not too hard to solve. However, it was much more challenging when we were presented with it, because we were not told that. It was one of the problems given to solvers in the Open Solving Tournament of the European Chess Solving Championship at Bratislava at the beginning of June. Only one solver out of the 71 taking part succeeded in finding the full solution, and the field included several former World Chess Solving Champions.

White is a whole rook down, his king is cornered and in danger of being mated, and he has a bishop en prise, so mating threats plus stalemating ideas are needed. 1.Ra6 is a good candidate. A lot of the solvers chose it. It's not the only option, though: 1.Be6 is another, for example. There are a lot of lines where you get to a R and B v R ending and may well not be sure whether it's a winning or drawing one. In such a murky analytical tree, you can't attempt to analyse out every line, so you need to rely on the fact that this is a composed study, which means the solution line must have some artistry to it. That's a useful method, although you still have to find the artistic line.

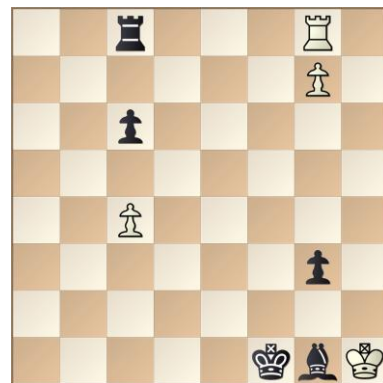
Here, unless you see that 1.Ra6 Ra5 2.Rxa5 Be4 protects the a8-square, you'll still be floundering in the morass of options. If you do (I didn't, and most other competitors didn't), then the next few moves aren't too hard. We get 3.Bb1 Rxb1 4.Ra1 and the eternal sacrificing begins: 4...Rb2 5.Ra2 Rb3 6.Ra3 Rb5 7.Ra5 Rb6 8.Ra6.

Notice that Black doesn't play 6...Rb4, as 7.Ra4 is not then forced - White can move his rook elsewhere, because Black isn't threatening mate on the h-file. Some solvers got the first six white moves but overlooked that trick; by giving the move 6...Rb4, they gave a weaker black move than the composer's solution line and so didn't get full points for solving this study. A few more solvers assumed that the solution ended with the shuttling up the b-file, but they should have also given a line where White sacrifices his rook on b8 such as 8...Rb1 9.Ra1 Rb8 10.Rb1 Rc8 11.Rb8 Rxb8 stalemate. In solving competitions, solvers are expected to find all the moves of the composer's solution; in this case, that means finding the white moves Rb1 and Rb8, even if the order of some of the preceding moves is not forced.

The full solution is **1.Ra6 Ra5 2.Rxa5 Be4 3.Bb1 Rxb1 4.Ra1 Rb2 5.Ra2 Rb3 6.Ra3 Rb5 7.Ra5 Rb6 8.Ra6 Rb1 9.Ra1 Rb8 10.Rb1 Rc8 11.Rb8 Rxb8** stalemate. The moves Rb2/Rb3/Rb5/Rb6 can be played in other orders.

That study was a version of a study published in 1917 by M Hlinka and L Kekely.

Here, for you to solve, is another example of the eternal sacrifice theme, composed by A Kotov and L Mitrofanov, from the *Leninska Smena* tourney in 1976.



White to play and draw

The solution is given after the PROBLEM CORNER ...

Ian Watson Email: ian@irwatson.uk

PROBLEM CORNER

Christopher Jones with his monthly conundrum

For the first time since February 2020, it was possible, at Nottingham High School on 20th May, to stage the finals of the British Chess Problem Solving Championships, sponsored by Winton. As usual, there was a wide range of strength, with overseas solvers (not qualified for the British Championship) solving the same set of problems as British solvers. Merging the results of the British and the overseas competitors, the star of the day was the Lithuanian junior (already with a 2350 solving grade) Kevinas Kuznecovas, with a score of 55 out of a possible 65. Second to seventh places were taken, in order, by IM David Hodge, GM Jonathan Mestel, IM Nikos Sidiropoulos (Greece), Roland Ott (Switzerland), Kamila Hryschchenko (GB, continuing her rapid ascent of the solving grading list) and fellow *Chess Moves* contributor Ian Watson.

For competitors there is a high-octane start: Round 1 comprises three 'mate in 2' problems, chosen for having some fiendish tries, to be solved in 20 minutes - an early adrenalin jolt! You may like to look at this tricky one, which was solved successfully only by 8 of the 18 competitors:



Efim Rukhlis
Mate in 2
4th Prize, *Mat Plus* 1995

In case you fancy solving it, I'll delay giving the solution until the end of the column. In the British finals, you'd be looking to solve it in about seven minutes, but unless you have experience of solving testing two-movers you may like to take up to the full 20 minutes to be sure of finding the correct one of the tempting possible first moves.

Successive rounds test your skills at solving three-movers (two in 40 minutes), studies (two in 60 minutes), helpmates (two in 30 minutes), and then, finally, two 'heavyweight' rounds. In Round 5, solvers have 50 minutes in which to tease out full solutions to two long problems. This year we had a four-mover and a seven-mover. It was actually the four-mover that was the more difficult, with only one solver getting full credit for finding all the variations. I shan't inflict it on you, but, if I've whetted your appetite, you can find all the problems (and solutions!) on the website of the WFCF (the international governing body on chess problem matters), using there the 'solving portal'. Here is the seven-mover, which was solved by ten of the competitors –



Wolfgang Baer
1st Prize, *Sächsische Zeitung* 2008
Mate in 7

As experienced solvers know, longer problems often have

just one variation, in which forcing moves by White keep Black occupied, often showing pendulum effects, achieving small but highly significant improvements in White's position. In this case, it turns out that we need to get the white knight from f3 to f7, and the way to do this is 1.Rdd4! (threat Rxf4) ...Ng6 2.Rd6 (threat Rxf6) Nf8 3.Ne5+ Kg5 4.Nf7+, and now, with the king unable to flee northwards, the end is nigh: 4...Kg4 5.Rd3 (threat Rg3) Ne3 (blocking Black's potential flight to e3) 6.Rxf4+! Kxf4 7. Rd4#.

The final round comprises two selfmates, to be solved in 30 minutes. (As you may know, in a selfmate White plays in such a way as to compel an unwilling Black to mate White.) This selfmate round – which is always the last round not only in the British Championships but also in the World and European Championships - is virtually always the toughest, with even top solvers often getting low scores, and not only because of end-of-tourney tiredness. Longer selfmates have an innate tendency to knottiness. At Nottingham, even the shorter of the two selfmates took its toll of the top seven solvers, of whom only two scored full points. (As we shall see, solvers are required to find, and refute, Black's most ingenious defences, and so even though you find the main thrust of the solution you may drop a point or two.) I don't recommend you to cudgel your brain with this one, though you may like to familiarise yourself with the diagram before reading on -



Waldemar Tura
1st Prize, *Probleemblad* 2005
Selfmate in 3

There are five points available for this problem. If you find the key 1.Bg4! and its threat 2.e3+ Nxe3 3.Bxe5+ fxe5# you score 1½ points. You then have to see Black's defences. First, he can defend with 1...Nxc3. The continuation then is 2.Qxf6+ Bxf6 3.Bxe5+ Bxe5#. The other lines are 1...Nc7 2.Qf5+ Rxf5 3.Nd5+ Rxd5 and 1...Nd6 2.Ne6+ Rxe6 3.Qe4+ Rxe4#. For finding these three continuations you upped your score progressively to 2½, 4 and 5. (The problems are selected not only for

solving difficulty but also because of their artistic qualities, as attested by the prizes awarded to the three problems in this article; tourney judges tend to reward aesthetic merit, regarding solving difficulty as a bonus!)

In case I've painted too daunting a picture, I should add that in the British Championships there is also a Minor section, with the same range of compositions to solve, but with less difficulty. If you're tempted to have a go, you can find more details on the British Chess Problem Society website (www.theproblemist.org/), or you can ask me (or Ian Watson!) for more information; and/or you may like to sample the online solving competitions that are to be found at www.netchex.club.

And finally – that Rukhlis 2-mover. Well done if you rejected 1.Qd3? (threat Qd5) ...Ne3!, 1.Qe4? (threats 2.Qd5, Qb4, Qxe5), ...Qb3!, 1.Qg4? (threat 2.Ne6), 1...Rh6! and 1.Qe6? (threats 2.Qd5, Qxe5), 1...Qf3!, and found instead the key move 1.Qg3!. Congratulations, and, if you were a competitor, five well-earned points.

Don't hesitate to raise any points with me.

Christopher Jones Email: cjajones1@yahoo.co.uk

How to Solve a Study – solution

1.Rf8+ Bf2 2.g8Q Rxf8 3.c5 Rf7 4.Qg7 Rf6 5.Qg6 Rf5 6.Qg5 Rf4 7.Qg4 Rxf4 stalemate.

Like the Hlinka/Kekely study, it's not too hard when you know which theme you need to find. Even 3.c5 isn't tough to spot; White had no other move - he was in Zugzwang on an open board.

Notice that Black moves his rook one square at a time, so blocking White's queen from checking on the first rank, and thus reducing White to a single drawing move.



New books from Elk and Ruby

- Masterpieces and Dramas of the Soviet Championships: Volume III (1948-1953) by *Sergey Voronkov*
- The Pawn Study Composer's Manual by *Mikhail Zinar*
- 101 Endgame Masterclasses: Rooks and Material Imbalances by *Alexander Galkin*
- Mate Threats and Defense - 1000 Tactical Examples by *Jakov Geller*









Elk and Ruby
www.elkandruby.com

Available in the UK from Chess & Bridge and on Amazon

EVENTS CALENDAR

The full events calendar is updated daily, and can be found at <https://www.englishchess.org.uk/event-calendar/>

Week beginning 26 June	
26 June 2023	Coulsdon Chess Junior Championship
26 June 2023	Coulsdon Chess Summer Cup
27 June 2023	Greater London Chess Club Summer Blitz 2023, London WC1
28 June 2023	Coulsdon Chess Club Daytime Chess Club
30 June – 2 July 2023	6th Crewe Chess Congress
1 July 2023	ECF Counties Championships Finals
1 July 2023	UKCC Northern Gigafinal, Manchester
1 July 2023	Poplar Rapid Tournament
1 July 2023	Aberystwyth Open Rapidplay
2 July 2023	CGCI Cambridge Girls Chess Tournament 2023
2 July 2023	4th Ilkley Grammar School Junior Rapidplay
2 July 2023	Wey Valley Summer Rapid Play 2023, Leatherhead
2 July 2023	South Shields FIDE Rated Blitz 2023
2 July 2023	11th Martlesham Heath Chess Tournament 2023 Fundraiser
Week beginning 3 July	
3 July 2023	Coulsdon Chess Summer Cup
5 July 2023	Coulsdon Chess Daytime Chess Club
6 July 2023	Hendon FIDE Blitz
7 - 9 July 2023	EJCOA National Youth Championships Final, Nottingham
7 - 9 July 2023	Scottish International Chess Championship 2023, Dunfermline
8 - 9 July 2023	Kent FIDE Congress 2023, Tunridge Wells
8 July 2023	Mitcham FIDE Rapidplay
8 July 2023	4NCL Junior Team League
9 July 2023	Chalfont Junior Slowplay 2
9 July 2023	4th Ashton Rapidplay
Week beginning 10 July	
10 July 2023	Coulsdon Chess Summer Cup
12 July 2023	Coulsdon Chess Daytime Chess Club
14 - 18 July 2023	Wood Green Invitational
15 July 2023	Nottingham Chess Fest
15 July 2023	Golders Green FIDE Rapidplay 2023 Open
15 July 2023	Maidenhead Junior Tournament 2023
16 July 2023	ChessFest, London
16 July 2023	Colchester FIDE Rapidplay
Week beginning 17 July	
17 July 2023	Coulsdon Chess Summer Cup
18 July 2023	Muswell Hill FIDE Rapid
19 July 2023	Coulsdon Chess Daytime Chess Club
20 – 30 July 2023	British Chess Championships 2023, Leicester
22 July 2023	UKCC Southern Gigafinal, Esher
22 July 2023	Poplar Rapid Tournament
22 July 2023	Ealing FIDE Rapidplay