

THE MIDDLE GAME

Volume 1, Issue 8

January 2004

NEW THIS ISSUE

Use of different software means that the “on line” version of the Newsletter now has a fuller index with “click on” links to the articles. This should make it is easier to navigate around, and to go straight to articles that are of particular interest to readers.

In order to facilitate clearer copying, the hardcopy version sent out by post has a slightly different County results supplement, but still contains the same information.

Julie D Johnson Editor

THE BIRMINGHAM POST CHESS COVERAGE

Those of you who are members of the MCCU Group will already be aware that Peter Gibbs chess column has disappeared from the Birmingham Post. Many thanks to those of you who wrote to the Editor to express your concern and disappointment. Whilst unfortunately this has not led to the reappearance of the column, it does seem to have resulted in the paper reassessing its' chess coverage.

This email reproduced on the next page was the second or third response most people received. If this really was their original intention, why did they not put out the above as the first response to those who emailed them? Why indeed did they not favour Peter Gibbs with this news when telling him his services were no longer required?

In my experience it is rather unusual for any organisation to suspend something whilst exploring a revised approach. I suggest that the paper is either guilty of poor planning in not having new style coverage in place before suspending the existing coverage, or, it grossly underestimated the interest in chess. I feel it would also have made more sense for them to carry out their fact-finding exercise, and then explore whether Peter Gibbs could deliver, or at least contribute towards this.

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A. J. MCKENZIE

With thanks to Lee Collier

The current demise of chess coverage in the Birmingham Post, whether temporary or permanent, led Lee to search out information about the very first regular chess columnist.

Mackenzie was the regular columnist of Birmingham's Daily Post from 1896 to 1948. There have been only 3 columnists in more than 100 years; Baruch Wood succeeded Mackenzie in 1948 and Peter Gibbs took over in February 1967.

He was born 5.2.1871 at 370 New John Street West, St George, Birmingham, England. Died 21.8.1949, aged 78, Hastings, England.

The district around New John Street West, where Mackenzie was born, was known as St George's. It is now called Newtown. Places in the area still have the old name: St George's Street, St George's Church of England School, St George's Church.

A J Mackenzie was the match secretary at the Birmingham St George's chess club early in the 1890s. Over the next few years, he had helped to form the:

Birmingham and District Chess League (1897),

MCCA (1897) as it was then called,

Warwickshire Chess Association (1900)

British Chess Federation (1904).

The latter is unconnected with the British Chess Association, which existed from c.1861-1892.

In addition to playing for the Birmingham Chess Club, he also played for St George's, Municipal Officers and Handsworth.

The St George's Chess Club was founded in 1877 and it was a founder member of the BDCL. It played in the League

The following is the latest email received: -

The Birmingham Post is reorganising coverage of chess. With this in mind we have suspended our regular weekly column while we explore new ways of covering the chess scene locally.

We apologise to readers who have been expecting to see the column, and who have been alarmed at news on the Internet that coverage has ceased in our pages, but we want to emphasise that far from cutting back on coverage of the game locally, we want to present a more wide-ranging and comprehensive overview of the Midland scene.

To ensure we are giving local players and clubs at all levels what they want to see, we are asking anyone interested to fill in the following questionnaire. What are you most interested in (please tick the appropriate box):

- o Local personalities*
- o National personalities*
- o International tournaments*
- o National tournaments*

- o Speed chess events*

- o Postal games*

- o News from club level*

- o League tables*

- o Computer chess developments*

- o Internet matches and news*

- o Move by move games*

If you have any other ideas or suggestions please write to The Editor, Weaman Street, Birmingham B4 6AT, e-mail thepost@mrn.co.uk, fax 0121 625 1105 or ring 0121234 5999 to dictate a letter, 2pm to 10pm Monday to Friday, 2.pm to 9.30pm Friday.

I would urge all interested parties to ensure they let the paper know what they want by way of chess news. The battle has been partly won; don't squander the opportunity to press home a victory.

between 1897-1903 and 1905-1906. It won division one for 4 successive seasons (1899-1902) and division 2 Champion in 1906. St George's was incorporated into the Birmingham Chess Club after World War one.

The BDCL was founded on 31 August 1897 when A J Mackenzie met with J.Pearce Derrington (YMCA cc), A H Davies (Central cc), W Renwick (Central cc) and Mr Ridgers (Bohemians) in the Central chess club at the London Restaurant in Corporation Street, Birmingham. They invited club entries and on 21 September 1897 they drew up a programme of matches. Eight clubs entered in that inaugural season and Dudley became the first BDCL Champions.

The MCCA was founded on Saturday 24 July 1897 at the St George's cc, Athletic Institute, John Bright Street, Birmingham.

Having been the first honorary secretary of both the WCA and MCCA. He became the MCCU President in the early 1930s and he served on the BCF Executive from its foundation in 1904 until into the 1930s. Amongst other posts, he was the BDCL President in 1902-03 and was deputed British delegate to the FIDE council in Stockholm in 1937.

Mackenzie won the Scottish championship 3 times; 1908; 1909 & 1913. His first title was in Dundee in 1908 when he scored 7/7, winning by 2½ points. He won the title again in 1909 and 1913, both in Glasgow. He played for Scotland in the Folkestone Olympiad in 1933.

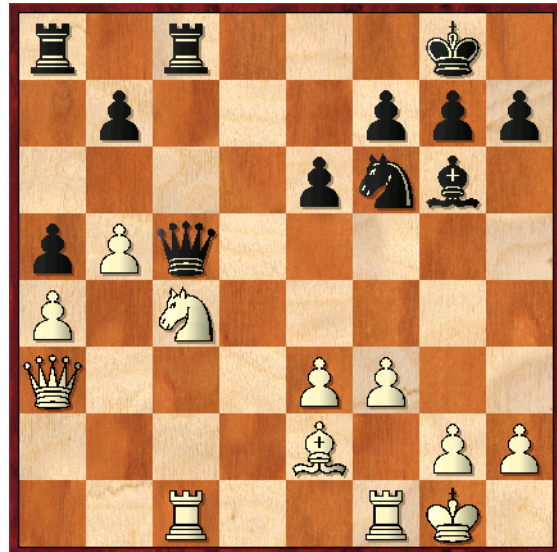
He was the first Warwickshire Champion in 1931 with 4½ out of 5, finishing ahead of Ritson Morry (3rd). Although he left Birmingham in 1931 to live in St Leonards he continued to play for Warwickshire until after World War II.

To illustration McKenzie in action over the board here is one of his games from the Scottish Championship of 1907

White: A.J.McKenzie

Black: J.A.McKee

1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. Bg5 Nbd7
5. e3 c6 6. Nf3 Be7 7. Bd3 dxc4 8.
Bxc4 Nd5 9. Bxe7 Qxe7 10. Qd2 Nxc3 11.
Qxc3 O-O 12. O-O c5 13. dxc5 Qxc5 14. b4
Qc7 15. Rac1 Nf6 16. Qb2 Qb6 17. a4 a5
18. b5 Bd7 19. Ne5 Bc6 20. Qa3 Be4 21.
f3 Bg6 22. Be2 Rfc8 23. Nc4 Qc5



24. Qxc5 Rxc5 25.Nxa5 Rxc1 26. Rxc1 b6
27. Nc4 Nd5 28. e4 Nf4 29. Bf1 Rc8 30.
Rd1 f6 31. Nxb6 Rc3 32. Rd8+ Kf7 33. a5
Ra3 34. a6 Ke7 35. Rd4 1-0

B H WOOD

Baruch H. Wood, better known as B. H. in chess circles, was born in Sheffield on 13th July 1909 and died on 4th April 1989. In addition to the Birmingham Post he was chess correspondent of The Daily Telegraph and The Illustrated London News for many years. However, he is probably best remembered for his magazine CHESS which first appeared in 1935. Despite the obvious difficulties, B.H. succeeded in publishing CHESS throughout World War II, all the more remarkable considering he was also working full time as Director of a chemical research laboratory. The magazine gained an international reputation as a frank, outspoken publication and had subscribers across the globe. He also penned chess books, the best known being Easy Guide to Chess, which he not only wrote, but also printed and sold.

B H Wood continued from previous page

Like McKenzie his involvement with chess was not limited to writing. He was no mean player, drawing with Max Euwe, who became a life long friend. He was second in the British Championship of 1948 and represented England in the International Team championship of 1939.

Having been played chess as University student in Bangor, where he gained a first in Chemistry, he became heavily involved with university chess and was President of the British University Chess Association right until his death. His move to the Midlands arose when he took an MSc at Birmingham University. He was also a driving force in postal chess, founding the Postal Chess Club, and filling the post of President of the British Postal Chess Federation for a number of years.

Many clubs over the years have also been kitted out from the premises next to Sutton Coldfield station from which his chess equipment business was run. I'm sure there are still "Coldfield" clocks being used today. If all these activities were not enough, he was also an International Arbiter who organised 21 annual chess festivals at seaside venues starting in the 1950's.

His services to chess were recognised in several quarters, he was a recipient of the BCF Presidents Award in 1983, an O.B.E. in 1984, and a Life Member of F.I.D.E.

To illustrate BH in action over the board here is one of his games from the BCF Championship in 1957: -

White: Wood, Baruch H
Black: Beaty, JH.

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. e4 d6 5. f3 e5
6. d5 O-O 7. Be3 Nh5 8. Qd2 f5 9. O-O-O a6
10. Kb1 Qe8 11. Bd3 Bd7 12. Rc1 Nf6 13. Nge2
b5 14. c5 b4 15. Nd1Bb5 16. b3 fxe4 17. Bxe4 a5

18. Ng3 a4 19. Qxb4 Na6 20. Qd2 axb3 21. axb3
Qb8 22. Nb2 Nd7 23. c6 Ndc5 24. Rc3 Qb6
25. Rhc1 Qa5 26. Kc2 Nb4+ 27. Kd1 Nxe4
28.Nxe4 Na2 29. Ng5 Nxc3+ 30. Rxc3 Qb4 31.
Ne6 Ra1+ 32. Kc2 Rf7 33. Bg5 Bf8 34.Re3 Qa3
35. Re4 Qa2 36. Qb4 Rb1 37. Bc1 Ra1 38. Qd2
Bg7 39. Rb4 Ba6 40. Rb8+ Bf8 41. Qh6



Qb1+ 42. Kd1 Qf5 43. Rxf8+ Rxf8 44. Qg7# 1-0

NEW YEARS HONOURS

A Midlands chess player found himself appearing on the latest New Years Honours list.

Alex Crombie of Rutland is a blind solicitor and is celebrating an MBE awarded for his outstanding service to the nation's blind community spanning 30 years.

For the last 26 years he has been a key figure in Vista, Leicestershire and Rutland's society for the blind. He was also a groundbreaking chairman of the National Library for the Blind and chairman of the British Braille Chess Association.

Continued next page column 1

He told the local newspaper the Leicester Mercury "I found out when I received a letter from Downing Street in November. After pinching myself about 100 times I thought it was brilliant. I was surprised but proud. I've been totally blind for 40 years. That gives you lots of time and opportunity to think about the particular problems people with disability have."

One of his most wide reaching achievements was helping introduce computerised Braille printing during his time at the British Braille Chess Association. It revolutionised the way Braille books were produced, increasing variety and printing speed.

As chairman of the British Braille Chess Association he helped double its membership and even lasted five hours in a game against world champion Gary Kasparov

LOCAL HONOURS

Alex Crombie was not the only Midlands player to have his achievements recognised. Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council recently held its' third "Achievement Awards" ceremony. Peter Gibbs found himself with an invitation to receive an award from the Mayor for his services to chess in general and blind chess players in particular.

I am sure a large number of Midlands players know Peter as a regular County player, both over the board and postal. West Midlands players will also associate him with the Birmingham Post chess column.

However, some of you may not be aware that Peter has served as an arbiter for the Braille Chess Association for many years and is an International Braille arbiter. He is also controller of the Veterans section of the correspondence chess championships.

He is no stranger to awards having been given the BCF Presidents Award in 1988, but having your efforts recognised by the local community is nevertheless a proud achievement.

Linking both Peter's involvement with Braille players and his own chess, here is a little gem featuring a blind player of master strength: Reg Bonham. Peter Gibbs was the winner, in his own words it was an "unexpected 21st birthday present". (*sorry Peter this gives your age away!*)

RW Bonham - PC Gibbs
British Championship Qualifier 1955
King's Indian Defence

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 g6 3. g3 Bg7 4. Bg2 0-0 5. 0-0 d6 6. c4 c5 7. Nc3 Nc6 8. h3 Bd7 9. Kh2? (an uncharacteristic blunder by RWB, which he then compounds) cxd4 10. Nxd4? Nxd4 11. Qxd4? Ng4+ and it's Goodnight Vienna.

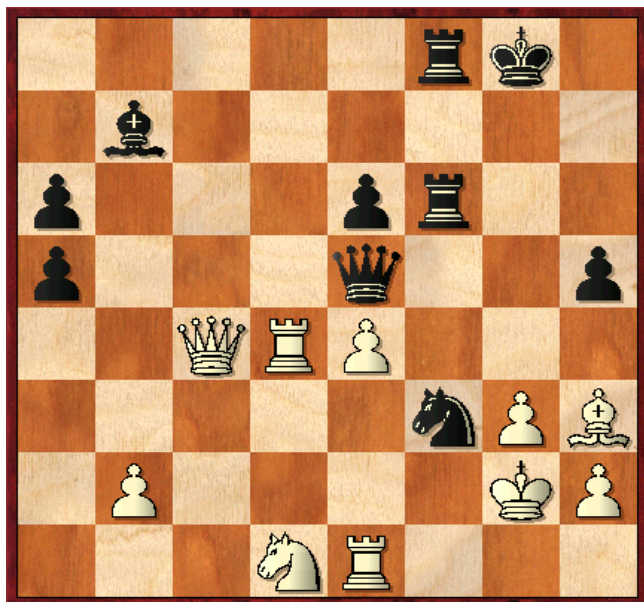
Like B.H. Wood Peter also played in the 1957 British Championships. Unfortunately they didn't play each other. Here is one of his games from that event.

White: Parr, Frank
Black: Gibbs, Peter C

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. e4 d6 5. f3 O-O 6. Nge2 Nbd7 7. Bg5 c5 8. d5 Qa5 9. Bd2 Re8 10. Nc1 a6 11. Be2 Qc7 12. O-O e6 13. dxe6 fxe6 14. Nb3 b6 15. Bf4 Ne5 16. Qd2 Bb7 17. a4 Rad8 18. a5 Nc6 19. Kh1 bxa5 20. Rfd1 Qb6 21. Ra3 Rd7 22. Na4 Qd8 23. Bg5 Bc8 24. Qe1 h6 25. Be3 Qc7 26. Qh4 g5 27. Qe1 Nh5 28. Qd2 Rf8 29. Nc3 Nf4 30. Bf1 Be5 31. g3 Ng6 32. Bg2 Rdf7 33. Ne2 Bb7 34. Rf1 Qb6 35. Nc3 Nd4 36. Qd1 Qb4 37. Bxd4 cxd4 38. Nxd4 Qxc4 39. Ra4 Qc8 40. Bh3 Rf6 41. Qb3 Bxd4 42. Rxd4 Ne5 43. Rfd1 Nxf3 44. Rxd6 g4 45. Bxg4 Ng5 46. R6d4 Qc5 47. Qc4 Qe5 48. Re1 Rf2 49. Nd1 R2f6 50. Kg2 h5 51. Bh3 Nf3 0-1

see column 1 on the next page for a diagram showing the final position.

See the previous page for the moves relating to this diagram



CONGRESS RESULTS

4th WREKIN CONGRESS

3RD/4TH January 2004

REPORT FROM GRAHAM SHEPHERD

128 players took part at Madeley Court Sports Centre. The entry from Shropshire League players was down by 20%, but was compensated for by an increased entry from outside the county. The congress ran very smoothly and seemed to be enjoyed by all taking part. Russell James (South Birmingham) was the unexpected winner of the Premier, ahead of Lawrence Cooper IM and John Cox FM. Joe Curry, a junior from Halesowen, had a very rewarding weekend, winning the Minor & Junior prizes.

The next congress has provisionally been arranged for 8th/9th January 2005 at the same venue.

See the next column this page for the 2004 results

PREMIER U211

1ST Russell James S Birmingham
2nd= Rudi Van Kermenade Aberystwyth
Lawrence Cooper Stafford
U175 Julie Van Kermenade Aberystwyth Grading
Jamie Hopkins Shrewsbury
Andy Talbot Nuneaton

MAJOR U161

1ST = Richard Bryant Telepost
Ed Goodwin Whoberley
David Jameson Colwyn Bay
U145 Joshua Hall Brown Jack
Grading

INTER U131

1ST Graham Ashcroft Preston
2nd John Westhead Telepost
3rd = Neil Allen Telepost
Mike Hadley Halesowen
Gary White Coddon
Iain Wilson Shifnal & Telford
Andrew Lake Handsworth Wood
Robert Simpson Telepost
U115 Don Curry Halesowen
Grading Jeremy Fallowfield Stourbridge

MINOR U101

1st Joe Curry Halesowen
2nd = David Williams Church Stretton
Tom Williams Church Stretton
Ron Thomson Oswestry
Yangshan Yu Cheddleton & Leek
Peter Allan Brewood
Martin Patterson Newport
Vincent Crean Telepost
Joe Pym Newport
Grading prizes combined with =2nd

Best Junior – Joe Curry
Best Senior – Ron Thompson
Peter Allan
Team Prize – Halesowen

Top Shropshire player in each section

See column 1 next page

PREMIER Jamie Hopkins Shrewsbury
 MAJOR Richard Byrant Telepost
 INTER John Westhead Telepost
 MINOR= David Williams Ch Stretton
 Tom Williams Ch Stretton
 Ron Thomson Oswestry
 Martin Patterson Newport
 Vincent Crean Telepost
 Joe Pym Newport

BURY RAPIDPLAY RESULTS

Total number of entries 185.

OPEN (22 entries)

- | | |
|---|-------|
| 1. GM Nigel Davies (3Cs) | 5/6 |
| 2= Ben Hague (Rochdale)
and Alan Walton (3Cs) | 4.5/6 |
| 4= John Bentley (3Cs),
Stephen Gordon (3Cs)
and Adam Ashton (3Cs) | 4/6 |

Grading Prizes
 U 190 – John Bentley (3Cs)
 U 170 – Roger Williamson (Hunts Cross)

MAJOR (U-155) (31 entries)

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 1= Jason Wright (3Cs)
Dominic Rabbitte (Swinton)
and Nick Barnaby (Bolton) | 5/6 |
|--|-----|

Grading Prizes
 U 135 – Chris Vassiliou (Chorlton) 4.5/6

U 120 – Richard Glover (3Cs) 4.5/6

MINOR (U-105) (45 entries)

- | | |
|--|-------|
| 1. Robert Amos (Prescot & Knotty Ash) | 5.5/6 |
| 2= Paul Stanley (Skelmersdale)
and John Sutcliffe (Caergwrle) | 5/6 |

Grading Prizes
 U 85 – Dennis Davies (Blackpool) 4/6

U 75 – Graham Lea (Stockport) – senior 3/6

Lodwig Gruchlik Memorial

Martin Bryant (Bury) won the trophy for the best performance by a Bury Chess Club full member.

Mick Norris, Chairman, Bury Chess Club

42nd. Nuneaton One Day Chess Congress 7th. December 2003.

Results from Roy Woodcock

All sections 6 Round Swiss Tournaments:-

OPEN

- | | |
|---|---------|
| 1 st . Daniel Gormally (Guildford) | 5 ½ / 6 |
| 2 nd . = Mark Hebden (Birstall) | 4 ½ / 6 |
| 2 nd . = Nick Pert (Ipswich) | |
| 2 nd . = Adam Collinson (Barbican) | |

Grading Prize.

William Bennett (Oakham) 4
 Giedrius Surplys (B'ham Uni.)

Under 160

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 st . = Derek Jarvis (Breadsall) | |
| 1 st . = Jonathan Rashleigh (Stratford-o-A) | 5 |
| 1 st . = Christopher Midgley (Warwick) | |

Grading Prize,

Stephen Booth (Whoberley)
 John Emanuel (Checkmate) **Junior**

Under 120

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 1 st . Murray David (Rugby) Junior | 5 ½ |
| 2 nd . = Jon Cox (Rugby) Junior | 5 |
| 2 nd . = Mike Brannan (Downend) | 5 |

Grading Prize,

Tim Kendall (Syston)

Under 80

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 st . = Andrew Gilbertson (Northampton) | |
| 1 st . = Gunter Bankavs (Bell Green) OAP | |
| 1 st . = Mark Monaghan (Cov' Transport) | |
| 1 st . = Ben Marlow (Wolverhampton) Junior | |

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

MCCU COUNTIES U18 TEAM EVENT

ST PETER & PAUL SCHOOL SYSTON LEICS
7TH FEBRUARY 2004

Contact Graham Humphries Tel 01384 571486

15TH NOTTINGHAM RAPIDPLAY

NOTTINGHAM HIGH SCHOOL WAVERLEY MOUNT NOTTINGHAM
22ND FEBRUARY 2004

Contact Geoff Gibson Tel

MIDLANDS JUNIOR INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIP

ST PETER & PAUL SCHOOL SYSTON LEICS
6TH MARCH 2004

Contact Graham Humphries Tel 01384 571486

BRAILLE CHESS ASSOC AGM & CONGRESS

MIDLAND HOTEL DERBY
19TH -21ST MARCH 2004

Contact Stan Lovell Tel 01642 775 668

BRITISH BLITZ

NEWTON ROOM BRUNEL UNIVERSITY
4TH APRIL 2004

Contact Lawrence Cooper Tel 01785 242269

BOLTON EASTER CONGRESS

BOLTON EXCEL CENTRE LOWER BRIDGEMAN ST BOLTON
9-11TH APRIL 2004

Contact R Middleton Tel 01204 383634

29TH NOTTINGHAM CONGRESS

23RD-25TH APRIL 2004

I am pleased to announce that, after lengthy negotiations, we have finally secured a superb new venue befitting the above event.

The congress will take place at Nottingham Forest F C, The City Ground, Nottingham NG2

5FJ in the Pitchside Diner, a magnificent facility which runs the entire length of the pitch and overlooks the River Trent. The venue offers excellent catering and leisure areas capable of holding an event of this size several times over!

There will as usual be 3 sections - an Open, Major (U160) and Minor (U120). Entry fees will remain very competitive and the congress will continue to represent one of the best value-for-money events in the country.

Entry forms will be available within the next two weeks and we hope this venue will attract a suitably substantial entry.

More details will shortly be posted on the tournament website at:
<http://mysite.freemove.com/nottsevents2003>

MIDLANDS OPEN

The Midlands Open at Hinckley will offer an increased prize fund. The first prize in each section will be £400, £200, £200 and £140 for the Open, U170, U130 and U90 respectively. Two places will be available for the British Championships and will offer bursaries of £75 each.

The entry fees will be £28, £24, £24, £24 and £18 for adults with reductions for juniors. Entries will be accepted on the day, but will attract a surcharge.

The time control will be 30 moves in 75 minutes, then an extra 30 minutes to complete the game in the time remaining. Friday will see a 7.00 p.m. start, Saturday a 9.00 a.m. start with a leisurely 9.30 a.m. start on Sunday.

The event is being supported by Hinckley & Bosworth Council who are pleased that the congress starts the Hinckley Festival, a week long event in the town.

Continued on the next page column 1

Continued from previous page

The Entry forms will be printed and available for March 10th, and a copy will be on the website for downloading and use.

The venue is more spacious than last year, and refreshments will be available at reasonable prices both on site and within walking distance. If you want an entry form, please send an email to mccuchesscongress@yahoo.co.uk or ring 01536 261697 or 0116 260 9012.

Plea from the editor

If you are running a local congress that does not appear on the BCF Calendar, let me have details and I will gladly publish them in the events section. The only condition being that the results are sent to me for inclusion in the issue following the event.

If you would like entry forms circulating by email, send me a copy, or if possible a file (I can handle Word, Lotus 123, pdf, gif & similar files) The Midlands Chess email group has over 200 members who include many club secretaries.

DID YOU KNOW

Some snippets of chess trivia

318,979,564,000 is the number of possible ways of playing just the first 4 moves on each side in a game of chess.

Champion For A Day:

After the death of Alexander Alekhine in 1946, FIDE held a meeting to decide on how to choose the next World Champion. The FIDE delegates decided that since Max Euwe was the only ex-World Champion still alive, he would be the "World Champion" until FIDE organized a tournament to find the next champion. The Soviet delegates arrived at the meeting a day late. They had the decision annulled, and thus the world title was left vacant, till Botvinnik won the 1948 tournament. Thus Euwe was "technically" World Champion twice: 1935-37, and one day in 1946.

Candidates Roulette:

The winner of the drawn 1983 Candidates quarter-final match between Vassily Smyslov and Robert Hubner was decided by the spin of a roulette wheel. Smyslov "won" and advanced to the Candidates semi-final.

Time Consuming:

German master Friedrich Samisch lost all 13 of his games in the 1969 Linkopping tournament by failing to meet the time control in each game.

Get A Kick Out Of This:

The mutual loathing between Viktor Korchnoi and Tigran Petrosian was so bad that when the two players faced each other in a 1977 World Championship Candidates match, a wooden division was placed under the chess table so that the players could not kick one another.

Simultaneous First:

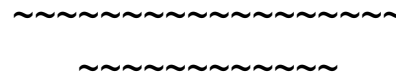
Swiss player Hans Fahrni (1874-1939) was the first master to play 100 opponents in a simultaneous display. He scored +55, - 6, =39 in a seven and a half hour display at Munich in 1911.

For Medicinal Purposes Only:

Mikhail Chigorin had a bottle of brandy next to the board, which he drank from, when he played Wilhelm Steinitz for the World Championship title in 1889 and 1892.

Chairman of the Board:

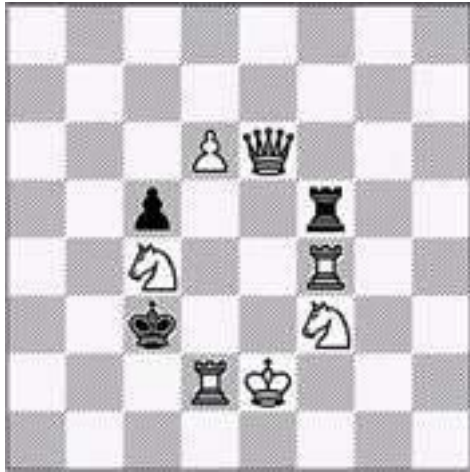
English GM Julian Hodgson was unhappy with the chairs provided for the 2000 British championships, so he brought along his own armchair, which he used for the whole tournament.



THE CAKE PROBLEM

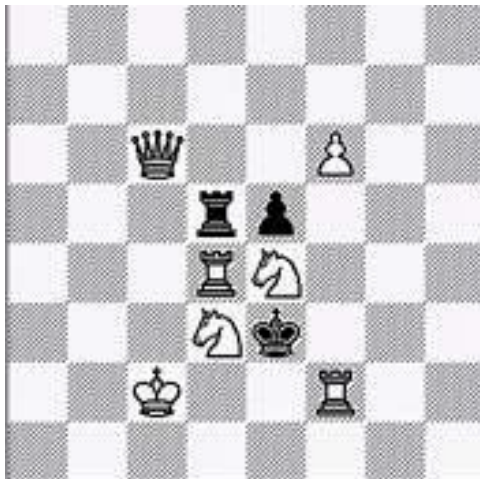
A chess player and gourmet once invited a friend to his home. The friend, Onésime XADREZ, besides being a good chess player also appreciated fine food.

In honour of his guest he ordered a cake decorated with a chess problem of his own composition. The problem was symbolic as it was in the form of a letter O, the first letter of his friend's name.



Mate in Two

Before serving the cake his cook cut it into four pieces. Unfortunately just as he was going to serve it he stumbled and dropped the cake. Picking up the pieces he quickly reassembled them on the plate inadvertently mixing them up. The cake that arrived at the table looked like this –



The cook's master, noticing that his problem had been destroyed and the surprise spoilt started to insult the poor cook. Onésime Xadrez was however staring attentively at the cake and the problem. Suddenly he cried, "Calm down my friend! Nothing is lost. The pieces now make an X, the first letter of my surname, and it's still mate in two!"

A CHESS DOUBLET

Lewis Carroll is famous for his doublet puzzles. A word is modified one letter at a time until a prescribed final word is reached e.g. APE – DAM is reached by are, arm, aim, dim, dam.

Can you convert CHESS to CHECK to MATES? I am assured it can be done and invite your solutions to this puzzle – the shortest set of links will be published in the next issue – closing date for replies 17th March.

Does anyone have any other doublets on a chess theme, if so please let me have them.

Alekhine's Favorites

AS AN ASIDE TO THE ABOVE –

Alexander Alekhine had 2 cats as pets. He named them "Chess" and "Checkmate."

FORTHCOMING BIRTHDAY

Bobby Fischer, former World Champion will be 61 on 9th March 2004. He won the US Open when only 14. At 15 became the youngest Grandmaster in the history of chess at the time. At 29 he became the first American to win the World Championship defeating Boris Spassky of the USSR. He was stripped of his title after refusing to defend it, but regained it 20 years later, again defeating Spassky. He slipped out of the game to become a reclusive character, although there have been claims of him popping up playing on the internet under assumed names. The most publicised of these being in 2001 when Nigel Short, who was convinced he had been trounced by Fischer repeatedly at 3 minute chess.

MIDLANDS CHESS HISTORY

I recently received copies of some Midlands related pages from 2 old BCF Yearbooks. They provide an interesting window to the past. Having triggered my interest, I would really like to hear from anyone who can provide further historical information relating to Midlands chess of any kind, e.g. anecdotes or excerpts from old publications.

The older set of papers relate to 1933/4, I wonder if there are any players in their 80's who might have been starting out their chess careers in the Midlands back then? It is interesting to note that the Union consisted of a different combination of counties back then.

Oxfordshire were a Midland county, whilst Shropshire & Hereford were a joint entity and Derbyshire, Lincolnshire & Northamptonshire either didn't exist or were affiliated elsewhere – can anyone from those counties provide some more background?

Many county matches were played over 12 boards, though 18 appears to have been the maximum for championship purposes. The MCCU secretary, C. A. James, provided an annual report relating to the 1932/3 season, which began “ *Interest in chess in the Midland Counties was fostered during the season by the introduction of an American Tournament to decide the championship of the Midlands, in lieu of the knock-out tournament previously held. Under this system more county matches were played than hitherto*”. He went on to state that Warwickshire won the southern section and Staffordshire the northern section. The final between the two was a 10-4 win for Warwickshire. The report also mentions a 100 a side match between Warwickshire and Worcestershire in the season 1931/2, claimed to be the biggest provincial match in history at the time, he does not include the outcome. Can anyone out there provide more details of this event?

County entries for Leicester & Nottinghamshire showed that the Leicestershire League had 2 divisions of 6 teams drawn from 7 clubs, whilst Nottinghamshire list 7 teams, including 2 based in Derbyshire.

The later set of excerpts received relate to 1951/2. I am hoping there will be rather more players who have memories of that era. By this time Derbyshire and

Lincolnshire are listed as affiliates. The county team competition still ran with 2 groups, with the winners playing in a final for the county title. Nottingham and Oxford were the finalists, with Oxford the winners. The county team rules show the playing session as being a minimum 3.5 hours. The number of players in a team depended on the number of members in a county. Where this was over 100 a minimum of 20 players was expected, except where they played a county with less than 100 members when 16 boards was the minimum. The time control was 36 moves in 90 mins, with 6 in 15 after that. Unfinished games were adjudicated with a fee of 5/- (25p) paid, the successful claimant receiving a refund. B. H. Wood won the 1952 MCCU Individual title.

County affiliation fees were shown as 2/6 (12.5p) per head for members over 21; 1/6 (7.5p) for those 18-21 and under 18 free. Vice-Presidents had to pay 10/6 (52.5p)

The county excerpts show that Derbyshire was in its early years, having been formed in 1945. Despite this it had grown to 12 teams. The Leicestershire league had expanded to 3 divisions of 8 teams each, drawn from 17 clubs. Half of the league consisted of “works” teams. This contrasts with today's league has only 1 team that could be called a works team. A total of 1,194 games were played with 37 adjudications submitted. There is also mention of a friendly match with the Coventry league, which Coventry won 18-10. A City v County match was also held over 68 boards, an innovation that season, but the result is not included. The Leicestershire League was apparently not the only chess league in the county, as a match was held against the Leicester Working Men's League, a 20-14 win for the Leicestershire League. The Lincolnshire entry shows that their association was indeed in existence in 1933/4 having been founded in 1878. Their club list shows 6 clubs, 3 of which were in Lincoln.

A number of the clubs listed are in theory still going, many have not been operating continuously over the years, even allowing for breaks for the 2 World Wars. I wonder which Midlands club has been running the longest? Let's have your claims for this record.

ON THE BANNED LIST

If you thought chess was a harmless game that no-one could take exception to, think again. Chess has been on someone's banned list, somewhere in the World, many times over the centuries. The following is a potted history covering some of the times, places & people for whom chess was a prohibited activity.

The playing of chess (shatranj) was an issue after Mohammad died in 642 A.D. In 655 his son-in-law, the Fourth Caliph Ali Ben Abu-Talib announced his disapproval of the game for members of his sect of Muslims because he regarded the pieces as graven images. But the later caliphs themselves played and had chess players in their circle of influence. Legal scholars debated the merits of chess. It was legal to play chess, provided it was not played with items of chance (dice,) and no betting or gambling was involved. Due care had to be taken not to miss prayers and to abstain from insulting or profane expressions.

It was still disapproved of in 725 by Sulaiman ibn Yashar, a scholar, but continued to be popular among the caliphs, especially when they moved their capitol to Baghdad in 750 and took their top chess players with them. The caliph al-Mahdi wrote a letter in 780 to Mecca religious leaders exhorting them give up gambling with dice and chess, but he died in 785 and caliph al-Rashid came to power and he was an avid chess player. By 810 the top chess players in the world were known and recognized and all were sponsored by powerful caliphs. In fact, the word Grandmaster was introduced by caliph al-Ma'mun in 819 AD.

Around this time chess was becoming popular in India. By 900 there were problems caused by players actually wagering fingers in their chess matches - you lose, you cut off a finger. The Egyptian al-Hakim banned chess in Egypt in 1005 and ordered that all chess sets and pieces in the country be burned. The 11th Century also saw chess pick up in Europe and very soon some of the clergy were said to be spending more time playing chess than saving souls. In 1061 Cardinal Damiani of Ostia forbade the non-monastic clergy from

playing chess. He died in 1072 and chess resumed in his domain. By 1093 the Eastern Orthodox Church condemned chess. The Orthodox Church stamped out chess in Russia as a relic of heathenism.

By the start of the 12th century chess was accepted as a regular feature of noble life in England. It was even a knightly accomplishment to play chess and was played by the upper classes. One of the acceptable reasons for having a lady in a gentleman's lodging without chaperon was for the game of chess. One wonders how many sets were sold to non-players! By 1115, the leader of the Byzantine Empire was a chess addict. Despite that, it was still being banned in some churches up to 1125. John Zonares, a former captain of the Byzantine imperial guard, became a monk and issued a directive banning chess as a kind of debauchery. St. Bernard (1090-1153) forbade his Knights Templars from playing chess. However chess became a popular pastime during the crusades. By 1195, Jews were seriously involved in playing chess, but Rabbi Maimonides included chess among forbidden games. In 1197 the Abbot of Persigny was also warning folks not to play chess.

The 13th Century saw continued local bans on Chess. In 1208 the Bishop of Paris, Odo Sully, banned his clergy from playing the game. It was also forbidden in Worcester, England in 1240 by the religious leadership in that area. In 1254 St Louis of France restricted chess to laymen and Provincial councils were also forbidding chess in France. King Henry III (1207-1272) instructed the clergy to leave chess alone "on pain of durance vile." In 1291 the Archbishop of Canterbury, John Peckman, also forbade chess. He threatened to put anyone on a diet of bread and water if they played.

However, Averbakh's book "Rook and Minor Piece Endings" contains a position from an Arabic manuscript which has been dated as being from 1257 AD and the chess historian van der Linde found a similar position in a manuscript whose creation dates from 1140AD. Van de Linde established that the author of this position was al-Adli who lived in the 9th century, when the moves of king, rook and knight were exactly the same as today.

The 14th Century started with further anti-chess pronouncements. Chess was forbidden in Germany in 1310 after the Council of Trier. In 1322 the Jewish rabbi Kalonymnos Ben Kalonymous condemned chess. By 1328 the Jewish laws were interpreted by some Jewish leaders that chess could be played, but not for money. Chess was still forbidden in Germany up to 1329 after the Synod of Wurzburg. Charles V (1337-1380) of France continued the prohibition chess in his domain. His successor Charles VI (1368-1422) continued this line. He later became insane.

The 15th Century saw the tide turn. By 1416 the Jews of Forli in Italy relaxed their rules and forbade all games of chance except chess. In 1420 Werner von Orseln, the Grand Master of the Knights of the Teutonic Order, abandoned the prohibition of chess on the grounds that chess was a proper amusement for a knight. By 1476 chess was being played in France again under Charles the Bold.

The 16th Century saw further progress, though there were still those who held to old beliefs. By 1500 chess was a recognized pastime for Jews on the Sabbath. In 1550 Saint Teresa of Avila, a Spanish religious reformer, mentioned chess in her writings to illustrate ethics and chess. The Church authorities in Spain proclaimed her patron of chess players. But just a year later in 1551 Czar Ivan IV (1530-1584), Ivan the Terrible, of Russia banned chess. The leading clerics compiled the Stoglav Collection (council of the Hundred Chapters) in 1551, which prohibited chess in Moscow. This same document prohibited shaving as well, as beards were said to imitate the visage of God and to distinguish Orthodox males from women. In 1575 a plague hit Cremona, Italy. Afterwards, all games were considered evil and the cause of their troubles. All games but chess were banned. Chess was still banned in Russia in the 17th century. In 1649 Czar Alexei (1629-1676) found some players playing chess and had them whipped and imprisoned. The Puritans also frowned on the playing of chess. In general chess was freely played elsewhere through the 17th, 18th & 19th Centuries.

The 20th Century saw the game being banned in certain parts of the World. In 1981 chess was forbidden in Iran as it encouraged gambling and

was unlawful (haran). Chess players went underground with their boards and pieces. In 1988 the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini (1900-1989) issued a religious decree, permitting chess play for Muslims as long as it was not played for the purpose of gambling and it did not delay the obligatory prayers or cause neglect other duties. The Ayatollah changed his mind after admitting that chess had its high educational and intellectual values. Chess made a comeback, spawning chess parks, chess palaces, and chess masters. In 2000, an Iranian became a world chess champion. In October 2000, Atousa Pourkashian of Iran won the World Girls' Chess Championship for 12 and under at the tournament held in Madrid, Spain. Iran also produced a recent World Boys' Under 10 Champion. Today the Chess Federation of Iran occupies one of the best buildings among all sporting federations in the country. All over the country there have construction of chess clubs. Prior to the Ayatollah, Iran, under the Shah, was the only Islamic country that organized chess and participated in chess tournaments, including the 22nd Chess Olympiad in Israel in 1976 (in Haifa).

Over the years a number of famous religious leaders have played chess, they include Thomas Becket (Archbishop of Canterbury), Charles Borromeo (Bishop of Milan), Pope Gregory VI, Pope Innocent III, Pope John Paul I, Pope John Paul II, Pope Leo X, Pope Leo XIII, Cardinal Richelieu, and Billy Graham.

The Taliban, when they ruled Afghanistan, believed chess was a form of gambling and distracted people from saying their prayers. When the Taliban caught people playing chess, they would burn the chessboard and pieces and put the players in jail. For five years (1996-2001), Afghanistan was the only place in the world where playing chess was illegal.

One wonders whether we can get through the 21st century without chess appearing on someone's banned list somewhere.



MCCU COUNTY COMPETITION RESULTS SUPPLEMENT

MATCH - Derbyshire v. Warwickshire
SECTION - OPEN - East
DATE - 30 November 2003

Bd	Derbyshire	Grade	Score	Score	Warwickshire	Grade
1	M. Alcock	187	0.5	0.5	A. Hynes	205
2	M. Alderson	170	0	1	N.Thomas	203
3	D. Latham	173	0	1	D. Garner	196
4	S. Gilmore	169	0.5	0.5	R. Taylor	185
5	M. Johnson	156	0	1	A. McCumiskey	183
6	R. Forey	163	0.5	0.5	K. Escott	182
7	R. Farley	140	0	1	I. Galloway	175
8	P. Kelman	134	0	1	A. Lloyd	174
9	T. Bould	156	0.5	0.5	D. Cooper	169
10	D. Jarvis	148	0.5	0.5	M. Smyth	159
11	S. Bracey	149	0	1	R. Wildig	169
12	J. Wagenbach	134	0	1	M. Fletcher	161
13	D. Brown	145	0	1	C. Searle	159
14	M. Hill	129	1	0	E. Goodwin	151
15	V. Smith	125	0.5	0.5	L. Collier	147
16	M. Carter	125	1	0	M. David	122
TOTALS			5.0	11.0		

MATCH - Greater Manchester v. Shropshire
SECTION - OPEN - West Zone
DATE - 10 January 2004

Bd	Gtr Manchester	Grade	Score	Score	Shropshire	Grade
1	L.J. van der Linden	205	0.5	0.5	Nick J. Rutter.	184
2	Alan A. Smith	206	1.0	0.0	Dave W. Gostelow.	172
3	Ali Reza Jaunooby	208	1	0	Nigel Ferrington.	164
4	S.J. Gordon	206	1	0	Simon Fowler	164
5	A. Ashton	202	0.5	0.5	Thomas W. Pym	161
6	A. Longson	196	0.5	0.5	Colin Roberts.	158
7	J. Bently	193	0	1	Glyn Pugh.	152
8	S. Pickles	187	1	0	Philip Saxon.	150
9	D. Shaw	188	1	0	Gordon Bradley	145
10	D. Hulmes	191	1	0	Glyn Randle.	141
11	M. Surtees.	183	1	0	Gareth Edwards.	136
12	R.A. Beach	189	1	0	Windsor W.A. Peck.	134
13	L. Powell	174	1	0	Iain R. Wilson.	126
14	G. Burton	175	1	0	Gary M. White.	126
15	H. Lamb	164	1	0	Keith Fowler.	75
16	D.R. James	200	1	0	Default	
TOTALS			13.5	2.5		

MATCH - Leicestershire v. Warwickshire
SECTION - OPEN - East Zone
DATE - 10 January 2004

Bd	Leicestershire	Grade	Score	Score	Warwickshire	Grade
1	G Lee	206	0.5	0.5	Tony Hynes	205
2	M Burrows	186	0.5	0.5	Don Mason	200
3	R Burgess	182	0.5	0.5	David Garner	196
4	A Morley	167	0	1	Nick Thomas	203
5	G Sharpe	166	1	0	Andrew McCumiskey	183
6	J Brookes	175	0	1	Andrew Baruch	183
7	P Clarke	156	1	0	Keith Escott	182
8	P Horspool	161	0	1	Philip Holt	184
9	R Musson	157	1	0	Keith Ingram	177
10	D Farrell	153	0	1	Ian Galloway	175
11	A Jex	146	0	1	Alan Lloyd	174
12	J Miller	149	0	1	Andrew Talbot	167
13	S Turvey	139	0.5	0.5	Mark Addis	155
14	G Botteley	134	0.5	0.5	Matthew Fletcher	161
15	G Booley	142	0.5	0.5	John Emanuel	158
16	O Hardy	134	0.5	0.5	Lee Collier	147
TOTALS			6.5	9.5		

MATCH - Lincolnshire v. Derbyshire
SECTION - OPEN - East Zone
DATE - 10 January 2004

Bd	Lincolnshire	Grade	Score	Score	Derbyshire	Grade
1	Francis Bowers	162	1	0	M Alcock	187
2	Kevin McCarthy	162	0	1	D Latham	172
3	Keith Palmer	161	0	1	S Gilmore	169
4	Kevin Shutt	159	0	1	M Johnson	156
5	Denis Georgiou	150	1	0	R Forey	163
6	George Zubreczki	147	0.5	0.5	R Gamble	163
7	Jan van Gemeren	142	0	1	T Bould	156
8	Herman Kok	142	1	0	D Jarvis	148
9	Dan Robinson	141	1	0	D Brown	145
10	Ian McDonald	141	0	1	P Moore	153
11	Graham Ladds	139	0.5	0.5	D Williams	153
12	Rick Davey	119	0	1	D Pickering	142
13	David Coates	118	0	1	M Hill	129
14	Peter Sherlock	115	0	1	V Smith	125
15	Mark Stephens	110	0.5	0.5	M Cobham	128
16	Bernard Pratten	110	1	0	M Carter	125
TOTALS			6.5	9.5		

MATCH - Shropshire v. Staffordshire
SECTION - OPEN West
DATE - 6 December 2003

Bd	Shropshire	Grade	Score	Score	Staffordshire	Grade
1	N Rutter	184	0.5	0.5	L Cooper	210
2	D Gpstelow	172	0	1	D Anderton	198
3	N Ferrington	164	0	1	JLB Blackburn	196
4	S Fowler	164	0	1	D Wheeler	188
5	T Pym	161	0.5	0.5	J Bellin	184
6	R Bryant	159	0	1	P Wallace	182
7	C Roberts	158	0	1	C Hibbard	177
8	N Graham	155	0.5	0.5	L Grinsell	176
9	G Pugh	150	0	1	A Richardson	173
10	W Peck	135	0	1	J Mangwengwende	168
11	J Footner	147	0.5	0.5	A Cromblehome	167
12	P Saxon	145	0	1	R Westwood	161
13	G Randle	141	0	1	D Pritchard	158
14	G Edwards	136	0.5	0.5	J Stanforth	147
15	G Link	135	1	0	D Gibson	136
16	I Wilson	126	1	0	P Pinfold	136
TOTALS			4.5	11.5		

MATCH - Northamptonshire v. Nottinghamshire
SECTION - Under 175
DATE - 17 January 2004

Bd	Northampton	Grade	Score	Score	Nottingham	Grade
1	S. Dixon	167	0.5	0.5	P. J. Mercs	172
2	C. Gibson	151	0	1	R. G. Truman	168
3	J. Thomson	146	0	1	B. Thompson	159
4	N. Young	143	0	1	J. Harrison	162
5	S. Taylor	136	0.5	0.5	D. Saenz	155
6	J. Sawiak	118	1	0	D. A. Toms	147
7	D. Griggs	126	1	0	B. M. Hayward	147
8	A. Lewis	110	0.5	0.5	N. Graham	143
9	N. Turner	111	0	1	H. R. Edwards	142
10	J. Piasecki	ug	0	1	S. Cranmer	139
11	W. Murray	121	0	1	M. J. Harper	111
12	N. Greaves	115	0	1	D. J. Wells	107
13						
14						
15						
16						
TOTALS			3.5	8.5		

MCCU COUNTY COMPETITION RESULTS SUPPLEMENT

MATCH - Nottinghamshire v. Leicestershire
SECTION - Under 175
DATE - 29 November 2003

Bd	Nottinghamshire	Grade	Score	Score	Leicestershire	Grade
1	PJ Merce	172	0.5	0.5	R Musson	157
2	RG Truman	168	0.5	0.5	OH Hardy	134
3	A Therrien	165	1	0	JV Dawkins	144
4	J Harrison	162	1	0	I Dodds	140
5	B Thompson	159	1	0	J Pattinson	147
6	D Saenz	155	1	0	J Glover	132
7	A Mehton	148	0.5	0.5	S Turvey	136
8	DA Toms	147	0	1	J Bingham	138
9	N Graham	143	1	0	P Harrison	126
10	HR Edwards	142	0	1	S Wylie	120
11	SE Cranmer	139	1	0	C Johnson	117
12	J Tassi	138	1	0	S Smith	115
13	RP Taylor	133	0	1	J Toon	115
14	A Carlton	133	0.5	0.5	P Evans	111
15	O Lyne	132	1	0	R King	95
16	D Wells	107	1	0	P Wood	66
TOTALS			11.0	5.0		

MATCH - Greater Manchester v. Leicestershire
SECTION - Under 150
DATE - 22 November 2003

Bd	Gtr Manchester	Grade	Score	Score	Leicestershire	Grade
1	R. Howley	141	1	0	J. Pattinson	147
2	D. Pardoe	142	0	1	O. Hardy	134
3	N. Barnes	121	0.5	0.5	I. Dodds	140
4	J. Lonsdale	140	1	0	J. Bingham	138
5	A. Scoular	138	0.5	0.5	S. Turvey	136
6	M. Norris	137	0.5	0.5	G. Walker	136
7	B. Padden	134e	0.5	0.5	L. Hayden	132
8	C. Hazelhurst	126	1	0	P. Harrison	126
9	M. Connor	130	1	0	F. Hulford	126
10	J. Wright	115	1	0	S. Wylie	120
11	A. Beresford	128	0.5	0.5	S. Hewitt	118
12	D. Keirman	128	0.5	0.5	C. Johnson	117
13	R. Sumner	129	1	0	P. Crosswell	114
14	P. Worlsey	129	0.5	0.5	D. Ward	90
15	A. Lee	120	1	0	R. King	94
16	V. Rozakis	105	1	0	P. Wood	66
TOTALS			11.5	4.5		

MATCH - Staffordshire v. Nottinghamshire
SECTION - Under 150
DATE - 22 November 2003

Bd	Staffordshire	Grade	Score	Score	Nottingham	Grade
1	J. Staniforth	145	0.5	0.5	A. Mehton	148
2	S. Pedder	142	0.5	0.5	T. Lane	148
3	P. Porter	138	0.5	0.5	H. Edwards	142
4	P. Pinfold	136	0	1	M. Ozanne	u/g
5	R. Lewis	133	1	0	N. Graham	143
6	D. Perks	129	1	0	J. Tassi	138
7	K. Francis	123	0	1	G. Murfet	132
8	K. Phillips	119	0	1	R. Taylor	133
9	J. Blackburn	113	0.5	0.5	O. Lyne	132
10	G. Rosser	111	0.5	0.5	D. Ince	126
11	M. Page	107	0	1	A. Robinson	124
12	J. Montague	115	1	0	M. Nailard	117
13	C. Perrygrove	102	0	1	B. Hobson	112
14	P. Broomhall	98	1	0	M. Harper	111
15	L. Greaves	85	0.5	0.5	R. Sayer	109
16						
TOTALS			7.0	8.0		

MATCH - Leicestershire v. Nottinghamshire
SECTION - Under 150
DATE - 24 January 2004

Bd	Leicestershire	Grade	Score	Score	Nottingham	Grade
1	John Pattinson	147	0	1	T.A. Lane	148
2	John Dawkins	144	0.5	0.5	H R Edwards	142
3	Iain Dodds	140	0.5	0.5	M Ozanne	u/g
4	Jim Bingham	138	0.5	0.5	N Graham	143
5	Steven Turvey	136	0	1	D Sudar	144
6	Otto Hardy	134	0.5	0.5	S Cranmer	138
7	John Glover	132	0	1	G Murfet	132
8	Frank Hulford	126	0	1	R P Taylor	133
9	Steve Wylie	120	0	1	O Lyne	132
10	Bruce Denton	116	1	0	A Carlton	133
11	Sean Hewitt	118	0	1	M Keetley	128
12	Jeff Toon	115	0.5	0.5	D Ince	126
13	Martin Steel	115	1	0	A S Robinson	124
14	Steve Smith	115	0.5	0.5	I Harris	122
15	Justin Hadi	113	0.5	0.5	T Severn	120
16	Ben Pourmozafari	100	0	1	K Lakhani	112
TOTALS			5.5	10.5		

MATCH - Derbyshire v. Staffordshire
SECTION - Under 125
DATE - 10 January 2004

Bd	Derbyshire	Grade	Score	Score	Staffordshire	Grade
1	Archer Barry	116	0.5	0.5	Christian Pohribnyj	124
2	Walker Roger W	115	0	1	John R Day	124
3	Hoddy David	115	0.5	0.5	Steven Colwell	120
4	Loomes Herbert	96	0	1	John Phillips	119
5	Smith Sam	ug	0.5	0.5	Charlotte Wilcox	119
6	Shelden Phillip	94	0	1	Robert Fell	118
7	Marshall Nigel D	91	1	0	John Montague	115
8	Pace Graham J	86	0.5	0.5	Max Wootton	114
9	Orridge Mick	ug	0	1	Robert Daniels	114
10	Barry Michael	87	0.5	0.5	Derryl J J Bird	113
11	James Michael	86	0.5	0.5	Geoffrey Rosser	111
12	Ratner Harry	84	0	1	Michael Page	107
13	Ellis Pete	71	0	1	Richard Wilkinson	105
14	Waller John W	75	0	1	Peter Broomhall	98
15	Bryce Wallace	67	0.5	0.5	Anthony Meakin	95
16	Ellis Mick	46	0	1	Peter Shaw	92
TOTALS			4.5	11.5		

MATCH - Leicestershire v. Derbyshire
SECTION - Under 125
DATE - 6 December 2003

Bd	Leicestershire	Grade	Score	Score	Derbyshire	Grade
1	Marlow J	Ug	1	0	Archer.Barry	116
2	Wylie Steve	120	1	0	Hoddy David	115
3	Hewitt Sean D	118	1	0	Harrison Ron	101
4	Johnson Cyril	117	1	0	Default	
5	Doidge Charles	117	1	0	Loomes Herbert	96
6	Ganatra Jay	117	0.5	0.5	Shelden Phillip	94
7	Smith Stephen	115	1	0	Barry Michael	87
8	Steel Martin	115	0.5	0.5	Pace Graham J	86
9	Pourmozafari Ben	100	0	1	James Michael	86
10	Toon Jeffrey	115	1	0	Ratner Harry	84
11	Hadi Justin	113	1	0	Orridge Mick	ug
12	Cresswall Peter G	114	1	0	Mould Stan	82
13	Ward D	Ug	1	0	Ellis Pete	71
14	Hill Granville	102	1	0	Waller John W	75
15	Clay Terry	89	0	1	Bryce Wallace	67
16	Sacmin Somia	Ug	0	1	Ellis Mick	46
TOTALS			12.0	4.0		

MCCU COUNTY COMPETITION RESULTS SUPPLEMENT

MATCH - Leicestershire v. Shropshire
SECTION - Under 125
DATE - 10 January 2004

Bd	Leicestershire	Grade	Score	Score	Shropshire	Grade
1	J. Marlow	Ug	0	1	John Whittaker	124
2	S. Wylie	120	0	1	Gavyn Cooper	124
3	J. Ganatra	118	1	0	Norman O'Connor	122
4	S. Hewitt	117	0.5	0.5	Richard Thompson	122
5	C. Johnson	117	0	1	Graham Shepherd	121
6	B. Pourmozafari	100	0.5	0.5	Louis Graham	120
7	G. Hewitt	118	0	1	Steve Tarr	120
8	M. Steel	115	0.5	0.5	Bob Simpson	118
9	S. Smith	115	0.5	0.5	Mark Billington	110
10	J. Toon	115	1	0	John Liddell	109
11	P. Cresswell	112	0.5	0.5	Roger Brown	103
12	J. Hadi	113	0.5	0.5	John Westhead	102
13	C. Graves	123	1	0	David Williams	98
14	L. Adlard	111	1	0	Eugene Raby	96
15	R. Toon	104	0	1	Ian Davies	89
16	L. Turner	Ug	1	0	Martin Patterson	80
TOTALS			8.0	8.0		

MATCH - Shropshire v. Warwickshire
SECTION - Under 125
DATE - 6 December 2003

Bd	Shropshire	Grade	Score	Score	Warwickshire	Grade
1	John Whittaker	124	0.5	0.5	Derek Stockhall	123
2	Gavyn Cooper	124	1	0	Ken Warren	122
3	Default		0	1	Mike Walker	122
4	Norman O'Connor	122	0	1	Murray David	122
5	Richard Thompson	122	0.5	0.5	Chris Evans	120
6	Graham Shepherd	121	1	0	Kim Gilbert	120
7	Steve Tarr	120	1	0	John Asbury	116
8	Louis Graham	120	1	0	Dennis Horsley	116
9	George Vizokai	109	1	0	Louis Rawson	115
10	Derrick Powell	106	0	1	John Fahy	115
11	Roger Brown	103	0	1	Dave Brelsforth	113
12	John Westhead	102	1	0	Gordon Barron	113
13	David Williams	98	1	0	John Llewellyn	111
14	H O' Harney	97	1	0	Wendell Rawlins	110
15	Eugene Raby	96	1	0	Chris Pitt	102
16	Peter Binks	Ug	1	0	Pauline Woodward	94
TOTALS			11.0	5.0		

MATCH - Staffordshire v. Worcestershire
SECTION - Under 125
DATE - 29 November 2003

Bd	Staffordshire	Grade	Score	Score	Worcestershire	Grade
1	Christian Pohribnyi	124	1	0	Clive Dent	124
2	John R Day	124	0.5	0.5	Ian Truscott	121
3	John Phillips	119	1	0	Arnold Kirkland	119
4	Robert Fell	118	1	0	Bill Watson	114
5	Charlotte Wilcox	119	1	0	Terry Pountey	111
6	Max Wooton	114	1	0	Kevin Ryder	110
7	Robert Daniels	114	0	1	Ardian Somerfield	110
8	John Montague	115	0.5	0.5	Don Curry	110
9	Geoffrey Rosser	111	1	0	Ian Ellis	108
10	Brain Wagstaff	111	0.5	0.5	Ian Clack	107
11	Shane Cooksey	111	0.5	0.5	John Varilone	106
12	Michael Page	107	0	1	Ben Curry	106
13	Kelvin Jones	90	0	1	Bert Foord	105
14	Peter J Allan	91	0	1	Peter Banks	104
15	Bryan Hall	91	0	1	Russell Sanders	102
16	Ben Marlow	79	0	1	Giles Stanton	101
TOTALS			8.0	8.0		

MATCH - Nottinghamshire v. Warwickshire
SECTION - Under 100
DATE - 22 November 2003

Bd	Nottinghamshire	Grade	Score	Score	Warwickshire	Grade
1	L. Bowen	98	0	1	J. Murray	99
2	R. Dawson	93	0	1	S. Black	97
3	O. Exton	99	1	0	L. Wilmott	95
4	D. Dunne	91	0.5	0.5	J. Wassell	95
5	D. Cronshaw	93	1	0	P. Woodward	94
6	I. Fillingham	94	1	0	D. Rowe	93
7	M. Jordan	92	0	1	K. Wise	92
8	P. Jacobs	90	0	1	D. McCarthy	89
9	L. Darby	88	1	0	F. Higgins	89
10	E. Fredericks	88	0	1	B. Butcher	83
11	P. G. Smith	83	0	1	M. Ward	77
12	K. Heath	72	1	0	J. Pakenham	66
13						
14						
15						
16						
TOTALS			5.5	6.5		

MATCH - Shropshire v. Staffordshire
SECTION - Under 100
DATE - 22 November 2003

Bd	Shropshire	Grade	Score	Score	Staffordshire	Grade
1	D. Williams	98	1	0	A. Corbella	98
2	T. Bosley	97	1	0	R. Brodie	97
3	E. Raby	96	0.5	0.5	P. Allan	91
4	J. Pym	95	0.5	0.5	B. Hall	91
5	A. Lewis	93	1	0	R. Gogerty	91
6	I. Davies	89	1	0	S. Heath	90
7	S. Cooper	88	0	1	P. Evans	89
8	A. Pickles	84	0.5	0.5	S. Bird	85
9	D. Ogundipe	81	0.5	0.5	D. Lynk	87
10	S. Davies	80	0.5	0.5	P. Gavin	76
11	M. Patterson	80	0	1	D. Buckley	79
12	T. Vokes	57	0	1	C. Spencer	54
13						
14						
15						
16						
TOTALS			6.5	5.5		

MATCH - Warwickshire v. Leicestershire
SECTION - U100
DATE - 24 January 2004

Bd	Warwickshire	Grade	Score	Score	Leics	Grade
1	Les Wilmott	99	0.5	0.5	Ron King	94
2	Stuart Black	97	1	0	Rob Stone	91
3	Vic Ward	97	1	0	Mike Thornton	94
4	Jon Wassell	95	0	1	Dave Moore	96
5	Pauline Woodward	94	0	1	Terry Clay	89
6	Dave Rowe	93	0	1	Lewis Turner	u/g
7	Chris Lee	92	0	1	Richard Smith	97
8	Ken Wise	92	0.5	0.5	Laurie Wilson	88
9	Des McCarthy	89	1	0	Stan Parsons	u/g
10	Fred Higgins	84	1	0	Peter Wood	66
11	Brian Butcher	83	1	0	John Creasey	73
12	Mike Ward	74	0	1	Mick Adams	u/g
13						
14						
15						
16						
TOTALS			6.0	6.0		

M.C.C.U. INTER-COUNTIES OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP TABLES 2003-2004 SEASON

WEST ZONE	G MAN	SHROP	STAFFS	WORCS	PTS	POS
GTR MANCHESTER		13.5-2.5	8 - 8	12 - 4	5	1st
SHROPSHIRE	2.5-13.5		4.5-11.5	5 - 11	0	4
STAFFORDSHIRE	8 - 8	11.5-4.5		11 - 5	5	2nd
WORCESTERSHIRE	4 - 12	11 - 5	5 - 11		2	3

EAST ZONE	DERBY	LEICS	LINCS	WARKS	PTS	POS
DERBYSHIRE		5 - 11	9.5-6.5	5 - 11	2	3
LEICESTERSHIRE	11 - 5		12.5-3.5	6.5-9.5	4	2nd
LINCOLNSHIRE	6.5-9.5	3.5-12.5		2.5-13.5	0	4
WARWICKSHIRE	11 - 5	9.5-6.5	13.5-2.5		6	1st

MAJOR SEMI-FINALS	G Manchester Warwickshire	Leicestershire Staffordshire
MINOR SEMI-FINALS	Worcestershire Derbyshire	Lincolnshire Shropshire

M.C.C.U. INTER-COUNTIES UNDER-175 CHAMPIONSHIP REPORT 2003-2004 SEASON

	LEICS	NORTHS	NOTTS	WARKS	PTS	POS
LEICESTERSHIRE			5 - 11	WO	2	2nd
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE			3.5 - 8.5		0	
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE	11 - 5	8.5 - 3.5		WO	6	1st
WARWICKSHIRE	DEF		DEF		0	

M.C.C.U. INTER-COUNTIES UNDER-150 CHAMPIONSHIP REPORT 2003-2004 SEASON

	GMAN	LEICS	NOTTS	STAFFS	WARKS	PTS	POS
GTR MANCHESTER		11.5-4.5	9 - 7	WO	8 - 8	7	1st
LEICESTERSHIRE	4.5-11.5		5.5 - 10.5		4.5-11.5	0	4=
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE	7 - 9	10.5 - 5.5		8 - 7		4	3rd
STAFFORDSHIRE	DEF		7 - 8		6.5-9.5	0	4=
WARWICKSHIRE	8 - 8	11.5-4.5		9.5-6.5		5	2nd

M.C.C.U. INTER-COUNTIES UNDER-125 CHAMPIONSHIP REPORT 2003-2004 SEASON

	DERBY	LEICS	NOTTS	SHROP	STAFFS	WARKS	WORCS	PTS	POS
DERBYSHIRE		4 - 12		3.5-12.5	4.5-11.5			0	7
LEICESTERSHIRE	12 - 4		10.5-5.5	8 - 8			8 - 8	6	1st=
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE		5.5-10.5			9 - 7	0-16def		2	5=
SHROPSHIRE	12.5-3.5	8 - 8			8 - 8	11 - 5		6	1st=
STAFFORDSHIRE	11.5-4.5		7 - 9	8 - 8			8 - 8	4	3=
WARWICKSHIRE			16-0wo	5 - 11			6.5-9.5	2	5=
WORCESTERSHIRE		8 - 8			8 - 8	9.5-6.5		4	3=

M.C.C.U. INTER-COUNTIES UNDER-100 CHAMPIONSHIP REPORT 2003-2004 SEASON

	LEICS	NOTTS	SHROP	STAFFS	WARKS	PTS	POS
LEICESTERSHIRE		6 - 6	2.5-9.5	W/O	6 - 6	4	2=
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE	6 - 6			W/O	6.5-4.5*	5	1ST
SHROPSHIRE	9.5-2.5			6.5-5.5		4	2=
STAFFORDSHIRE	W/DREW	W/DREW	5.5-6.5		6 - 5*	2	4
WARWICKSHIRE	6 - 6	4.5-6.5*		5 - 6*		1	5

* adjusted score Warwickshire ruled to have played an ineligible player
Staffordshire have withdrawn due to the illness of their captain

An Average Simul ?

