

THE MIDDLE GAME

Volume 1, Issue 4

May 2003

MCCU AGM

A reminder to all that the AGM is due to take place on Sunday 15th June, at 2.30pm at Birmingham University Guild of Students. There are motions for discussion on the structure of the MCCU and relating to the County team competitions. These are produced later in this Newsletter. Please take the time to ensure that your county delegates know your views, so that any votes reflect the feelings of as many Midlands chess players as possible.

It appears that most County and Union meetings are very poorly attended these days. If you are a delegate please make the effort to attend. The danger is that decisions will be made by a handful of people representing only some of the Midland counties, and as a result will not reflect the genuine wishes of the majority. If this happens, there is no point in bewailing the situation after the event.

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- + County team results supplement & much more

BCF FINANCE COUNCIL MEETING

26TH APRIL LONDON

This was another constructive meeting where the agenda was covered with time to spare. This article centres on the report of the Finance Committee for the meeting.

The departure of the Finance Director at the October 2002 AGM had led to the Finance Committee being asked to assume responsibility for BCF financial matters. Its chairman John Philpott presented a report to the Council Finance meeting,

His report was a substantial document, too large to be included in full here. However, as the Finances of the BCF have a significant impact on so many chess players I make no apology for devoting space to it. This distillation was agreed with John, along with the response of the meeting.

John indicated that his perception was that the BCF had been living beyond its long-term sustainable means for a number of years, and that Council should be given a clear and unambiguous picture of how things stood. The 2001/2 accounts finally approved in November showed a loss, before an exceptional item, of £3499, as opposed to the surplus indicated in the draft accounts of £4001. This ought to be regarded as an important warning shot.

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mccu u18 team event

The Midlands Under 18 team tournament was revived this year, being held at the Syston Chess Club on Feb 8th, getting off to a very interesting start. The venue organisers found out at 9.30 p.m. the night before that the hall had been double booked for the morning, and the other party being the church could not withdraw. Hasty phone calls led to some being asked in time to delay their journey for 2 hours, whilst others sampled the delights of Syston. Eventually, the event got under way, controlled by Cyril Johnson, with 5 teams present.

It soon became apparent that it was going to be a two horse race, with Manchester A and Warwickshire the leading contenders. Manchester A had a slight lead going into the second round, but went away in round 2 justifying their rating as the strongest team present.

It was pleasing to see 5 teams competing in this event, but we remember when 13 teams contested this at Leicester.

Any suggestions about a possible change of date, and offers of a new venue would be most welcomed by Graham Humphreys on 01384 571486.

FINAL SCORES

G Manchester A 21½: Warwicks 17 G
Manchester B 12 Leicestershire 5 Shropshire 4½

This event is normally a qualifier for BCF National Finals; these finals were in doubt as no one had come forward to run them. Almost at the eleventh hour Peter Walker from Southend Juniors saved the day. The Finals will go ahead at Saffron Waldon on June 28th.

It is also hoped that an U18 county team event for young ladies will take place the week before at Syston St Peter & Paul School.

The main business of the Council meeting was to agree a budget for 2003/4 and decide related issues such as the level of Game Fee. However, John felt that long-term considerations were even more important, and set out some significant considerations for the medium term future, asking for a steer from Council on the way forward.

FORECAST 2002/3

A forecast for 2002/3 was presented, key points concerning these included

- § Game Fee. The budget figure of £57k was viewed as totally unrealistic & had already been downgraded by £6k in the autumn. Further information suggested £49k was a more realistic forecast.
- § Membership scheme income appeared to be in broadly in line with the budget, but costs relating to the free issues of ChessMoves did not appear to be fully reflected.
- § Internet income from Games Parlor had ceased.
- § The British Championships produced a surplus not the budgeted break even.
- § The European Women's Championships had been postponed; thus related costs would fall into 2003/4.

Overall a modest deficit appeared to be likely, though the situation could change by the time the accounts were finalised.

2003/4 BUDGET

John stated that he was an advocate of sustainable long-term solutions rather than short-term palliatives. In the long term the balance between income and expenditure had to be restored.

Decisions needed to be properly considered and not rushed through to merely fix 2003/4 in isolation. John suggested that 2003/4 ought to be a holding operation, the objective being to get the BCF through in reasonable shape for a new start, with proper long term planning. Some key features of the Budget were highlighted, including

- § The BCF Centenary straddles 2 financial years. Council had decided to spend £5k on

this event, but had not indicated the source of this money. It seemed legitimate to utilise the Legacies Fund for this special one off. The budget assumed £2k used in 2003/4.

- § The DCMS Grant from the Government increases from £55k to £60k, but the money is linked to a programme of activities. The increase cannot simply be used to plug gaps elsewhere.
- § The Board had made no recommendation regarding Game Fee. The Budget was produced on the basis of an increase from 32p to 34p for standard play.
- § International figures assumed the same level of success in raising funds as in 2002. A modest shortfall could be covered from the Legacies Fund. However more significant shortfalls would call into question England representation.
- § The BCF has a new & enthusiastic Marketing Director. New sponsors could transform not just the present budget, but the whole future of the BCF activities. The budget reflects a working figure of £7.5K, but clearly discussion was needed on what should happen if this was over or under achieved.
- § A number of Directors had agreed cuts to their budgets or had these imposed upon them. The effect of the budget would be a loss of £1600.
- § If sponsorship was not achieved, or Game fee set lower than 34p additional savings would have to be made to maintain the loss at £1600. If income were greater than budget it would be possible to restore some of the cuts.

LONG TERM FINANCES

John used a summary of the BCF figures over the past 7 years to highlight the fact that since 1995/6 it has been failing to cover costs out of core income. Favourable windfalls in most years had led to the bottom line being much more favourable than it would have otherwise been. He went on to give his view of what should be aimed at and what alternatives he saw for achieving them.

In the long run it would be unwise to rely on a

continuation of such windfalls. The general aim ought to be to bring core income and expenditure into line with each other, to welcome windfalls, and use these to either build up reserves, or for one off items which will not impact on core activities in subsequent years.

The gap between core income and expenditure was likely to increase over time. Addressing this needed to be one of the central elements of the next corporate plan due to be presented at the September Council Meeting. Possible approaches include

- § Do nothing and hope that something will turn up. Not recommended, if nothing turns up the BCF financial resources will become exhausted.
- § Restrict expenditure to the level that is justified by current income levels. This allows no scope for growth and would risk corporate plan objectives not being met simply because of lack of funds. It could also put the DCMS grant in jeopardy if their criteria are not being met.
- § Seek to augment income obtained from outside the UK chess community. Games Parlor proved to be a nine days wonder. Significant new sponsors could get the BCF "off the hook". However, firm commitments would be needed before these could be relied upon in long term planning.
- § Increase the game fee by more than an inflationary 1 or 2p. In broad brush terms 1p on the standard rate of Game fee would raise an additional £1300. However, too great an increase risked organisations disaffiliating.
- § Rely on a Membership-based scheme to provide an enhanced level of income. There are some who seem to view a membership scheme almost as an act of faith. A more pragmatic view would be that this and Game Fee are simply alternative means of getting the UK chess player to contribute to the cost of running the BCF, the right option is whichever of the 2 (or combination thereof) that is likely to maximise that contribution. The BCF launched a direct membership scheme several years ago and in 2001 standard

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and junior categories. On both occasions there had been a promising start, but nothing to suggest long term growth in membership. If the BCF were to go down the membership route, it would be essential to have a mandatory aspect, significant support of the concept, and rigorous costings to ensure a reasonable net income from the fee for each member.

The meeting accepted the thrust of John's report. Lengthy discussion ensued on the level of game fee, serious consideration was given to a large increase in game fee to significantly improve the BCF financial position. Values up to 50p were considered. In the event an increase to 36p was median value agreed. Membership fees were also considered and an increase of 10% rounded to whole £'s agreed.

The increase in game fee impacted on the budget, though this was agreed largely as it stood. Apart from game fee income, the only other change was to exclude the £7.5k estimate for sponsorship income. If any is secured it will be treated as a windfall. A "wish list" was created for which any such funds will be used.

The future of membership was discussed. An important consideration here, apart from financial issues, is that FIDE will be extending their rating list down to around the equivalent of BCF 100 grade. However, in order to be included on a FIDE rating list a player must be a member of their National Federation. Apparently in Germany they have a relatively modest membership fee of 8euros. A straw poll indicated that there was support for a modest "no frills" membership fee in the region of £5.00, for which there would simply be a grade & would allow entry to BCF events.

On the National Counties Championship front it was agreed that the current rules regarding number of qualification places, currently based on number of teams completing Union fixtures, would be relaxed. The National Controller will consult with the Union Controllers regarding

Continued from previous column

cases where the number of teams entering an event differs from those completing their fixtures, each case will be decided on the circumstances.

No decision was taken regarding restructuring of the competition grading criteria, the motion in effect being remitted to the future.

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Future Publications

Provisional dates for 2003/4 -

Publication date 31st July 2003

Deadline for copy 18th July

Publication date 30th September 2003

Deadline for copy 18th September

Hopefully the AGM will agree to continued bi-monthly publication of the Newsletter.

Contact the editor

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

ST PETER & PAULS JUNIOR SCHOOL SYSTON

14TH JUNE 2003

CONTACT CYRIL JOHNSON 0116 2609012 (SEE LATER ITEM ON THIS EVENT)

MCCU OPEN

MACDONALD DE MONTFORT HOTEL KENILWORTH

20-22ND JUNE 2003

CONTACT JOHN ROBINSON 01536 261697

MANCHESTER CHESS FEDERATION SUMMER CONGRESS

ALLEN HALL

27-29TH JUNE 2003

CONTACT PETER DODSWORTH 0161 795 4856

.EVENT RESULTS SECTION

MANCHESTER SPRING CONGRESS

This event was cancelled

28th Nottingham Congress, 25- 27 April 2003 (Inc Midlands Individual Championships 2003)

The 28th Nottingham Congress was held for the first time ever at the Rushcliffe Leisure Centre, West Bridgford, Nottingham, the previous venue finally becoming unavailable after being under threat for some time. Although the playing area proved satisfactory, some of the facilities proved not to be to everyone's liking, making it unlikely the event will take place at this venue next year.

As our usual dates clashed with the Easter holiday, the event took place one week later than normal this year, and consequently entries suffered a little with a final total of 146

In the **OPEN** section (29 competitors) The event was dominated, as has been the case for several years by the only competing grandmaster this year, Mark Hebden (Birstall) who dropped his only half-point in round 4 to win by a clear point on 5.5/6. Two players shared second on 4.5/6 - Alex Posazhennikov (Nottm Univ) and Adam Ashton (3C's) - Adam also wins the British Championship 2003 qualifying place.

The **MAJOR** section, for players graded below 160 (47 competitors) was a very hard-fought affair, and eventually 2 players, Balvinder Grewal (Stapleford) and Kevin Shutt (Newark) shared first with 5/6. Third place was a four-way tie at 4.5/6 and there was a three-way split of the section's main grading prize.

The **MINOR** section, for players graded below 120 (70 competitors) was an incredibly close contest and resulted in a five-way tie for first place, all scoring 5/6.
Local players featured strongly amongst the

section's grading and junior prizes.

The tournament again ran smoothly and to time, for which huge thanks are due to the team of controllers and assistants. Thanks also to the ladies on the refreshment stall and to the leisure centre staff for their help both before and during the event in coping with the various problems, which arose.

The dates for next year's event are yet to be decided as a new venue is being sought and the availability is not yet clear. Nottingham High School and County Hall, the tournament's original venue, are both under consideration.

GEOFF GIBSON ORGANISER

Prizes

OPEN

Mark Hebden Birstall 1st= £400.00

Alex Posazhennikov Nottm University 4.5/6
2nd= £150.00

Adam Ashton 3C's 4.5/6 2nd= £150.00 (*)

Raymond Ilett Peterborough 3.5/6 U166 Grd
(Free Entry Voucher)

(*) wins British Championship 2003 qualifying
place

MAJOR

Balvinder Grewal 5/6 1st= £225.00
Kevin Shutt Newark 5/6 1st= £225.00

Vincent Naan Gambit 4.5/6 3rd = £20.00
John Parrott Shrewsbury 4.5/6 3rd= £20.00
Michael-John Turp Lincoln 4.5/6 3rd= £20.00
David Saenz Bunkers Hill 4.5/6 3rd= £20.00

Paul Carpenter St Mary Church, Torquay 3.5/6
U145 Grd £5.00
Amarjit Mehton Stapleford 3.5/6 U145 Grd £5.00
Shabir Okhai Birstall 3.5/6 U145 Grd £5.00

Colin Patterson Newcastle Upon Tyne 4/6 U134
Grd £15.00

MINOR

Rob Moruzzi Cheddleton & Leek 5/6 1st=
£85.00

Paul Salisbury Rose Forgrove 5/6 1st= £85.00

Richard Desmedt Wombwell 5/6 1st= £85.00

James L Thomson Stapleford 5/6 1st= £85.00 (*)

John Asbury Shirley & Lucas 5/6 1st= £85.00

Amar Mann Nomads 4.5/6 Best U100 Grd Free
Entry Voucher

Gunars Bankavs Bell Green 3.5/6 Best U80 Grd
Free Entry Voucher

G Hourd Stathern 2.5/6 Best U/G £5.00

Mehul Makwana Birstall 2.5/6 Best U/G £5.00

Ted Pynegar Nottm High School 3/6 Best Junior
Free Entry Voucher

Anne-Marie Moruzzi Cheddleton & Leek 1/6
Encouragement Prize £5.00 voucher

* wins Wilf Crossland Memorial Shield for best
Minor performance by a Nottinghamshire player.
The UK Chess Challenge 2003

UK CHESS CHALLENGE

REPORT FROM PAUL FINDLEY

On Saturday 17th May at Countesthorpe
Community College two hundred and thirty
junior chess players gathered to compete in a
regional round of The UK Chess Challenge
hosted by the Leicestershire Primary Schools
Chess Association. The UK Chess Challenge is
the largest chess competition in the world with
66,000 children taking part. After initial rounds
played in school during the Spring term the
qualifying youngsters gather for the regional
stage called a Megafinal.

There were 32 Megafinals taking place around
the country over the past few weeks. The

Rockingham Megafinal was for children from
Leicestershire, Rutland and Northamptonshire but
children also came from Lincolnshire,
Nottinghamshire, Cambridgeshire and
Warwickshire.

The competition was divided into age sections
ranging from under 7's up to under 18's.
Throughout the day 6 rounds of chess were played
with each game worth 1 point if won or half a
point if drawn. After a long day and some
excellent chess the children with a final score of 4
points or more qualified for the national round in
July called the Gigafinal. The winner of each age
section was crowned the Rockingham Supremo
(boys) or Suprema (girls).

Results

Under 7 boys

Supremo: David Robertson (Leics) 2nd Brandon
Clark (Leics) 3rd David Thomas (Leics)

Under 7 girls

Suprema: Faye White (Leics) 2nd Rebecca Bond
(Leics) 3rd Jessica Parkes (Leics)

Under 8 boys

Supremo: Barnaby Thomas (Leics) 2nd Laurence
Findley (Leics) 3rd Elliot Clarke (Northants)

Qualifiers: Jaspal Bains, Akshay Lakhani, Sam
Lowden, Rafe Uppal, Arjun Unaduat.

Under 8 girls

Suprema : Nikeeta Mehta (Leics) 2nd Bethany
Welch (Leics) 3rd Bethany Powell (Leics)

Under 9 boys

Supremo: Maxwell Turner (Leics) 2nd Toby
Thurgood (Notts) 3rd Chand Kotecha (Leics)

Qualifiers: Joe Duckham, Joe Kennedy, Tom

Mangan, Ben Paine, Ravi Patel, Luke Robinson,
Isacc Thornborough, Ashley Watson.

Under 9 girls

Suprema: Kathryn Lane (Cambs) 2nd Harriet
Yates (Leics) 3rd Clare Bond (Leics)

Under 10 boys

Supremo: Henry Ravenhall (Leics) 2nd Kyle
Forsyth (Lincs) 3rd Ray Parmar (Leics)

Qualifiers: Joshua Adams, Henry Bowles,
Andrew Griffin, Sam Hulley, Tom Lester, George
Martin, Max Sullivan, Paul Taylor, Luke
Matusiak .

Under 10 girls

Suprema: Eleanor Williams (Leics) 2nd Alice
Musker 3rd Paige Scott Wylie.

Under 11 boys

Supremo : Jonathan Palmer (Leics) 2nd Kush
Bajaria (Leics) 3rd Sam Austin (Northants)

Qualifiers : William Alms, Harry Brunton, Phillip
Duric, Jamie Fitzpatric, Benjamin Gilbert, Rico
Gilbert , Mark Hopkins, Alexander Ling, Premal
Mehta, Aaron Pakenham, Lewis Turner, David
Watson, Edward Williams.

Under 11 girls

Suprema : Nicola Kennedy (Leics) 2nd Rebecca
Seavers (Leics) 3rd Laura Hodgson (Leics)

Under 12 boys

Supremo : Theo Thaisi (Northants) 2nd Ben
Rogers (Northants) 3rd Sam Wood (Leics)

Qualifiers : James Corby, Ricky Kotadia, Sachin
Somia, Mecha Zakharov.

Under 12 girls

Suprema : Amy Shore (Leics) 2nd Hannah Dale
(Lincs) 3rd Alice O Rouke (Northants)

Under 13 boys

Supremo : Ajaj Parmar (Leics) 2nd Ashiq Pala
(Leics) 3rd Jatin Lodhia (Leics)

Qualified : Raafaye Ali .

Under 13 girls

Suprema : Becky Townsend (Leics) 2nd Rachel
Downs (Leics) 3rd Lucy Philps.

Under 14 boys

Supremo : Jack Collier (Leics) 2nd Toby Vernon
(Leics) 3rd Jesal Savania (Leics)

Under 14 girls

Suprema : Rachna Bhatt (Leics) and Melanie
Nute (Leics)

Under 15 boys

Supremo : William Bennett (Rutland) 2nd Jay
Ganatra (Leics) 3rd Thomas Williams (Leics)

Under 18 boys

Supremo : Alex Yastrebrov (Rutland) 2nd Shabir
Okhai (Leics)

LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

The organisers of this event have discovered that
a number of other Midland counties are not
running junior championships. As a result they
have decided to open their event up to any juniors
in the MCCU area. The County titles will be
awarded to the highest placed Leicestershire or
Rutland player. Further details may be obtained
as indicated under the events calendar, also by
email from leicsjuniorchess@yahoo.co.uk

WINTON CAPITAL BRITISH CHESS SOLVING CHAMPIONSHIP 2003/4

Brian Stephenson the Controller of this event has asked for it to be publicised.

There are prizes for the publication that generates the most entries, please consider having a go. The editor would appreciate some extra funds!

The British Chess Solving Championship is run annually by the British Chess Problem Society (BCPS). In 2003/4 it has a new sponsor, Winton Capital Management. As well as a cash prize and a trophy, the winner receives a guaranteed place in the British team for the next World Chess Solving Championship (WCSC). Currently, the competition is only open to solvers resident in Great Britain.

The competition is in three rounds, The Starter Round, The Postal Round and The Final.

The Starter Round

The Starter Round consists of one two-move chess problem for solution and is sent for publication to as many British chess magazines and chess columns as I know about - currently 114. They publish the starter problem during June and July and competitors must post their entries (just White's first move) to me by the end of July. Competitors are asked to enclose their entry fee and a stamped addressed envelope. They are also asked to indicate where they saw the starter problem published. This last piece of information is used to decide the winners of the annual Editors' Competition. In this, the three editors encouraging the most entries are presented with a small cash prize.

Those competitors who get the starter problem correct are sent the Postal Round. All competitors are sent a full solution to the starter problem.

The Postal Round is also sent to 'seeded' competitors. They are solvers who have won a prize in any previous Final.

The Postal Round

The Postal Round normally consists of 8 diagrams for solution. It is normally made up of directmates, endgame studies, selfmates and helpmates. Competitors have until the end of November to post their solutions to me. They are asked to enclose a stamped addressed envelope with their entries.

There is no preset pass mark for the Postal Round; it is redefined every year based on the accommodation available at the Final venue and the points scored by the competitors. Currently, I try to invite about 40 solvers to the Final. This number includes the defending champion, who is the only person who gets free entry to the Final.

The Final

The format of the final was changed in 2002-2003, to enable it to be internationally recognised as acceptable for rating and the winning of solving norms. Despite these changes the event will only attract norms and be rated if rated solvers of the relevant strength take part.

The Final, which starts at 12:30 p.m., is rather like a written exam, but chessboards and sets are provided and you are allowed to move the pieces!

Prize Fund

The generous new sponsorship will bring about several benefits:

An increased prize fund for players (£400 + £300 + £200 + £100 + £75 + £50 + £50).

An increased prize fund (£100 + £80 + £60 + £40) for the editors encouraging the most entries to the starter problem.

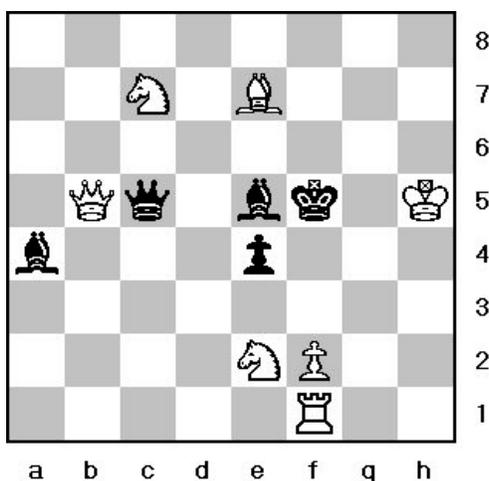
An increased prize fund (£150 + £100 + £75 + £50) for casual, unqualified finalists.

All qualifying finalists (not casuals) will receive full travel expenses for their return journey to the final.

All starter round entrants, whether successful or not, who are not members of the British Chess Problem Society, will each receive a free recent copy of the Society's magazine, *The Problemist*.

Expenses for rated and titled foreign solvers to attend the final. They will solve as casuals, so will not be eligible for the main prizes, but will help to qualify the event for international ratings and solving norms, which they themselves will be chasing.

The British team in the World Chess Solving Championship will receive full travelling and accommodation expenses for attending that event.



Above is the 2003/4 starter problem – white to play and mate in two.

Entries for this years event should be postmarked no later than 31st July and sent to: -

Paul Valois
14 Newton Park Drive
Leeds
LS7 4HH

The entry fee of £3.00 by cheque or postal order should be made payable to British Chess Problem Society and accompany the starter solution.

Those who provide the correct solution to the starter will receive 8 more difficult and varied problems.

For more information about the event and the British Chess Problem Society see the website www.bstephen.freeuk.com

THE 64 COMMANDMENTS OF CHESS

A Summary of Hints, Pointers and Precepts from the ABCs of Chess by Bruce Pandolfini provided by Lonnie Lee Best

You may not agree with them all, or the order of precedence, but even the most experienced of players could do worse than take these to heart.

1. Be aggressive, but play soundly. Don't take unnecessary chances.
2. Make sure every move has a purpose.
3. If you know your opponent's style, take advantage of it. But, in the final analysis, play the board, not the player.
4. Don't ignore your opponent's moves.
5. Don't give needless checks. Check only when it makes sense.
6. Answer all threats. Try to do so by improving your position and/or posing a counter-threat.
7. Play for the initiative. If you already have it, maintain it. If you don't have it, seize it.
8. When exchanging, try to get at least as much as you give up.
9. Take with the man of least value, unless there is a definite reason for doing otherwise.
10. Cut your losses. If you must lose material, lose as little as possible.
11. If you blunder, don't give up fighting. After getting the advantage, your opponent may relax and let you escape.
12. Never play a risky move, hoping your opponent will overlook your threat, unless you have a losing position. In that case, you have nothing to lose.
13. Rely on your own powers. If you can't see the point of your opponent's move, assume there isn't any.
14. Don't sacrifice without good reason.
15. When you can't determine whether to accept or decline a sacrifice, accept it.
16. Attack in numbers. Don't rely on just one or two pieces.
17. Look for double attacks.
18. Play for the centre: guard it, occupy it, influence it.
19. Fight for the centre with pawns.
20. Don't make careless pawn moves. In the opening, move as few pawns as necessary to complete your development.

- 21.If feasible, move both centre pawns two squares each.
 - 22.In the opening, move only centre pawns. Unless the opening system or situation requires otherwise.
 - 23.Try to develop your Bishops before blocking them in by moving a centre pawn just one square.
 - 24.Develop your pieces quickly, preferably toward the centre (especially Knights, which often are "grim on the rim").
 - 25.Develop purposefully, and not just for development's sake.
 - 26.Don't waste time or moves. Try to develop a new piece on each turn. Don't move a piece twice in the opening without good reason.
 - 27.Try to develop with threats, but don't threaten pointlessly.
 - 28.Develop minor pieces early. King-side pieces should usually be developed sooner than Queen-side ones, and Knights before Bishops.
 - 29.Develop during exchanges.
 - 30.To exploit an advantage in development, attack.
 - 31.In the opening, don't remove your Queen from play to "win" a pawn.
 - 32.Don't bring out the Queen too early, unless the natural course of play requires it.
 - 33.Try to give as much scope to your pieces as possible.
 - 34.Seize open lines.
 - 35.Develop Rooks to open files, or to files likely to open.
 - 36.Castle early.
 - 37.Try to prevent your opponent's King from castling. Keep it trapped in the centre, especially in open games.
 - 38.Try to pin your opponent's pieces. Avoid pins against your own pieces.
 - 39.Don't capture pinned pieces until you can benefit from doing so. If possible, try to attack them again, especially with pawns.
 - 40.After castling, don't move the pawns in front of your King without specific reason.
 - 41.To attack the King, pick a target square around it.
 - 42.When applicable, pick target squares on the colour of your unopposed Bishop. (Bishops control squares of only one colour. If you have a Bishop that controls dark squares and your opponent has exchanged his corresponding Bishop, your dark-squared Bishop is "unopposed" on those squares.)
 43. Look for tactics especially on squares of the colour controlled by your unopposed bishop.
 - 44.Try to avoid early exchanges of Bishops for Knights.
 - 45.Double your attacking pieces by building batteries (two or more pieces of like power attacking along the same line). Put queen and Rook(s) on the same file or rank, and Queen and Bishop on the same diagonal.
 - 46.Build batteries with the less valuable men up front, unless tactics require otherwise.
 - 47.Maximize the efficiency of your moves. Play flexibly.
 - 48.To strengthen control of a file, double your major pieces (Rooks and/or Queen) on it.
 - 49.Determine whether you have an open or closed game, and play accordingly.
 - 50.Usually play to retain you Bishops in open games, and sometimes Knights in closed games.
 - 51.To improve the scope of your Bishop, place your pawns on squares opposite in colour to it.
 - 52.Keep your weaknesses on the colour opposite to that of your opponent's strongest Bishop.
 - 53.Trade when ahead in material or when under attack, unless you have a sound reason for doing otherwise. Avoid trades when behind in material or when attacking.
 - 54.Choose a plan and stay with it. Change it only if you should or must.
 - 55.To gain space, you usually have to sacrifice time.
 - 56.If cramped, free your game by exchanging material.
 - 57.Trade bad minor pieces for good ones.
 - 58.If the position is unsettled, disguise your plans: make noncommittal moves.
 - 59.To gain space or open lines, advance pawns.
 - 60.If the centre is blocked, don't automatically castle.
 - 61.If behind in development, keep the game closed.
 - 62.Try to accumulate small advantages.
 - 63.Try to dominate the seventh rank, especially with Rooks.
 - 64.Use the analytic method. When you don't know what to do, first evaluate the position (as best you can), then ask pertinent questions about your analysis.
- Yes. We all know many of these, but do we follow them?*

CHESS QUIZ

How is your chess knowledge? See how many of the following you can get right – answers appear later in the issue, but no peeking until you've had a go! Questions taken from various sources.

1. Which country was the cradle of chess, according to the majority of historians?
2. Who won the first modern international chess tournament held in London in 1851?
 - a) Wilhelm Steinitz
 - b) Paul Morphy
 - c) Emanuel Lasker
 - d) Adolf Anderssen
3. Who was the first official world chess champion?
 - a) Alexander Alekine
 - b) Emanuel Lasker
 - c) Max Euwe
 - d) Wilhelm Steinitz
4. In what year was the International Chess Federation (FIDE) created?
1925:1924:1927:1929
5. Which city hosted the first unofficial chess Olympiad?
 - a) London
 - b) Paris
 - c) Athens
 - d) Moscow
6. Who won the first women's world chess championships?
Hint: initials VM
7. The legendary American chess player Bobby Fischer played his last match against whom?
 - a) Korchnoi
 - b) Karpov
 - c) Spassky
 - d) Tal
8. What is the name of the computer, which defeated the former world champion Garry Kasparov?
9. Who is the current (2002) world chess champion?
10. Which of these is not the name of a chess opening?
 - a) Cabbage Attack
 - b) Orangutan
 - c) Abracadabra
 - d) Baby Orangutan
11. Who was World Champion at the time World War 1 broke out?
 - a) Alexander Alekine
 - b) Emanuel Lasker
 - c) Max Euwe
 - d) Wilhelm Steinitz
12. How many ways are there to win a game of chess, other than by default?
1 : 3 : 2 : 4
13. How many ways are there to draw a game?
6 : 9 : 8 : 4
14. What real-life grandmaster's life was the musical 'Chess' based on?
15. How many moves is the shortest possible checkmate?
16. Who was the youngest World Chess Champion?
17. Who was the second youngest World Chess Champion?
18. Who defeated Garry Kasparov for the first BrainGames World Championship?
19. True or false? White has always been the first to move in a chess game.
20. What game is chess thought to have originated from?
 - a) Go
 - b) Shogi
 - c) Chaturanga
 - d) Xiangqi

BCF COUNTY TEAMS 2003/4

RESULTS & SEMI - FINAL MATCHES

Semi-finals to be played 14th June

OPEN

Preliminary Round

A: Cambs 12 Leicestershire 4

Quarter-Finals

Lancs 9 Cambs 7: Manchester 9½ Yorks 6½ :
Somerset 5 Essex 11: Kent 9 Warwicks 7

Semi Finals

Lancs v Essex : Manchester v Kent

MINOR COUNTIES

Quarter-Finals

Norfolk 8 bt Herts 8: Staffs 9½ Suffolk 6½ :
Surrey 8½ Wiltshire 7½ : Gloucestershire 10½
Derby 5½

Semi Finals

Norfolk v Gloucester: Staffs v Surrey

U175

Quarter-Finals

Sussex , Warks byes: Cambs 4½ Essex 11½ :
Lancs 5½ Devon 10½

Semi Finals

Sussex v Devon: Warks v Essex

U150

Preliminary Round

A: Warks 4½ Lancs 11½ : B: Surrey 10
Norfolk 6: C Dorset 9 Leicestershire 7

Quarter-Finals

Cambs 4 Lancs 12 : Yorks 12½ Sussex 3½:
Nottingham 7½ Surrey 6½ : Hants 9 Dorset 7

Semi Finals

Lancs v Hants: Yorks v Notts

U125

Quarter-Finals

Lancs 11½ Shropshire 4½ : Herts 7½
Merseyside 8½ : Devon 10 Nottingham 6:
Norfolk 8½ Middlesex 7½

Semi-Finals

Lancs v Norfolk: Merseyside v Devon

U100

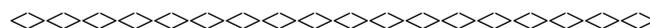
Quarter-Finals

Kent 5½ bt Cheshire 5½ : Norfolk 3½ Essex
8½ : Somerset 8 bt Warwickshire 8: Shropshire
3½ Lancs 7½

Semi-Finals

Kent v Somerset : Essex v Lancs

More details of matches involving Midland teams appear in a results supplement towards the rear of the Newsletter.



DAVID & GOLIATH

I received a suggestion for a series on giant-killing feats in Chess.

This had been sparked by memories of a Simul at Birmingham Town Hall in 1986 in which Taimanov played. I have since learnt from Barry Astbury that 54 games were played, with Taimanov winning 48, drawing 2 and losing 4. I know who 1 of the winners was, but how about the other 3. I would love to be able to publish the games of all 4 winners. Can anyone out there help?

I would also welcome any other stories of giant killing for inclusion in future issues, whether by individuals or teams. Did your lowly Division 6 team beat a Division One team in a cup match? Or what about the 90 graded player who beat the 190?

CHESS QUIZ ANSWERS

1. The majority favours India, but another school puts a case for China.

2. Adolph Anderssen of Germany who was the world chess champion between 1851–58 and 1862–66.

3. Wilhelm Steinitz, of Austrian origin, became the first official world chess champion in 1886, after defeating Johannes Zukertort. In 1894, he lost the world championship to Emanuel Lasker.

4. 1924

5. The first unofficial chess Olympiad took place in Paris in 1924, during the universal Olympic Games held in that city at the same time. The first official chess Olympiad was held in London in 1927.

6. Vera Menchik, born in Czechoslovakia, held the world chess champion's title till her death in 1944.

7. Robert (Bobby) Fischer played his last match ever against Boris Spassky from Russia in 1972 in Reykjavik, Island. The title of the world chess champion was at stake then.

8. The match Kasparov - IBM's Deep Blue took place in 1997. It has been the most famous confrontation between a man and a machine so far.

9. There are 2 possible answers here. Vladimir Kramnik (also from Russia) defeated Kasparov in 2000 in London. His world chess champion title is not recognised by FIDE. The current FIDE world champion is Indian Viswanathan Anand.

10. Abracadabra Opening

The Cabbage Attack, shown to be a fairly weak attack, is simply moving the pawns in the order in which the file letter spell "Cabbage," i.e. the moves c3, a3, b3, b4, a4, g3, e3, in order. The Orangutan is simply the opening move 1. b4, more formally known as the Polish Attack, and the Baby Orangutan is the move 1. b3, more formally known as Bird's Opening, which can transpose into the Nimzowitch-Larsen Attack.

11. Emanuel Lasker, the outbreak of war prevented a planned defence of the title against Akiba Rubinstein.

12. 4 - The four ways are to checkmate the enemy king, a time forfeit, by adjudication, and a resignation by the opponent.

13. 8 - The eight ways are (correct me if there are more) stalemate, 3-fold repetition, 50 moves without a pawn move or capture, insufficient losing chances, mutual agreement, double time forfeit, by adjudication, and time forfeit without sufficient mating material.

14. Viktor Korchnoi didn't ever win a World Championship, but this musical was loosely based on him. The lyrics for the songs were written by Tim Rice and Benny Andersson.

15. 2 - Yes, there is a two move checkmate. 1. f4 e6
2. g4 Qh4++

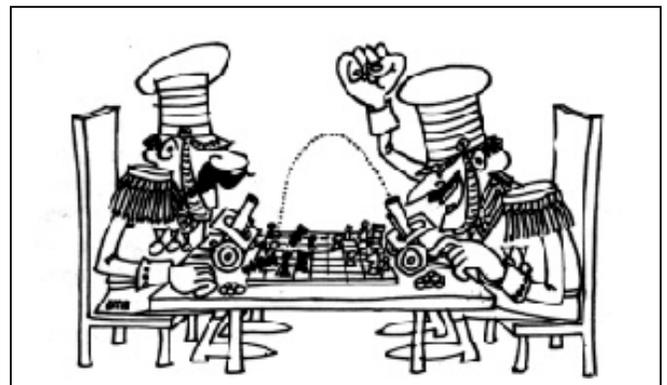
16. Garry Kasparov was 22 when he won it.

17. Mikhail Tal won the championship at age 24

18. Kramnik. In this match, all of the games but two were drawn. Those two were both won by Kramnik.

19. False. There have actually been records of Black making the first move.

20. Chaturanga, which travelled to Europe with traders.



I know Chess is a battle game, but I don't think this is quite what was intended!

BCF PRELIMINARY & QUARTER-FINAL RESULTS

MATCH - Staffordshire v Suffolk

SECTION - BCF MINOR Q/Final

DATE - 17th May 2003

Bd	Staffs	Grade	Score	Score	Suffolk	Grade
1	JLB Blackburn	199	0	1	S Gregory	202
2	J Mangwengwende	E196	1	0	S Munson	188
3	R Allen	179	0.5	0.5	M Cook	187
4	A Richardson	178	1	0	I Wallis	180
5	G Acoy	178	0.5	0.5	M Bushill	179
6	P Bennett	171	1	0	A Charity	177
7	C Hibbard	168	0.5	0.5	R Sanders	166
8	M Armstrong	165	0	1	T Lunn	161
9	J Stanforth	145	1	0	M Gray	169
10	J E Blackburn	108	0	1	K Greenacre	158
11	R Westwood	142	1	0	S Ruthen	159
12	C Simpson	142	0.5	0.5	P Revall	148
13	W G Armstrong	142	0.5	0.5	D Harris	145(E)
14	S Wilcox	133	0.5	0.5	H Thomas	139
15	D Gibson	132	1	0	Default	
16	G Rosser	121	0.5	0.5	L Pott	136
TOTALS			9.5	6.5		

MATCH - Shropshire v Lancashire

SECTION - U100 Q/Final

DATE - 18th May 2003

Bd	Shrops	Grade	Score	Score	Lancs	Grade
1	Louis Graham	95	1	0	Dave Hartley	98
2	David Williams	96a	1	0	Barry Standen	98
3	Default		0	1	Michael Horne	98
4	John Westhead	96	1	0	Ian McNeill	97
5	Roger Brown	91	0	1	Rob Hart	93
6	Martin Patterson	88	0	1	Steve Willder	92
7	Derrick Powell	87	0.5	0.5	Stephen Duckworth	89
8	Brian Jones	76	0	1	Bob Tinton	88
9	Alan Pickles	76	0	1	Warren Derbyshire	83
10	John Jordan	80e	0	1	Peter Dirs	83
11	Terry Vokes	52	0	1	Bernard Dean	83
12	Nathiel Paul	u/g	0	1	Charles Williamson	85
13						
14						
15						
16						
TOTALS			3.5	8.5		

MATCH - Surrey v Nottinghamshire

SECTION - U150 Q/Final

DATE - 17th May 2003

Bd	Surrey	Grade	Score	Score	Notts	Grade
1	SARAH HEGARTY	139	1	0	A G WRIGHT	141
2	ROY REDDIN	148	0	1	D SAENZ	U/G
3	H TREVOR JONES	147	0.5	0.5	W F RAY	149
4	ERIC BRODIE	147	0.5	0.5	S CRAMMER	139
5	RICHARD HARRIS	146	1	0	A MEHTON	134
6	GRAHAM GOODWILL	E144	0.5	0.5	D FLYNN	136
7	MICHAEL ZOUBAIDA	143	0	1	N GRAHAM	136
8	L EVBUOMWAN	143	0	1	I NICHOLSON	138
9	PATRICK OMARA	141	0.5	0.5	R P TAYLOR	132
10	DAVID WIGG	138	0	1	J TASSI	130
11	CARLOS PENALBA	137	0.5	0.5	A CARLTON	129
12	FRANK FIELDS	138	1	0	S WELLS	127
13	ROLY PIGGOTT	136	0	1	A S ROBINSON	119
14	SIMON WRICKLEY	131	1	0	R M SAYER	129
15						
16						
TOTALS			6.5	7.5		

MATCH - Devon v Nottinghamshire

SECTION - U125 Q/Final

DATE - 11th May 2003

Bd	Devon	Grade	Score	Score	Notts	Grade
1	M D Hancock	124	1	0	M Jackson	124
2	A Tatem	123	1	0	T Severn	124
3	G T Whelan	123	0	1	M Nailard	123
4	J H Vasey	122	1	0	M Keetley	118
5	R H Jones	124	0.5	0.5	D Ince	115
6	J Parker	120	0.5	0.5	M Harper	114
7	C Deakin	119	0	1	A Smith	114
8	E G Sharpe	119	1	0	D Fidler	113
9	A D Aight	119	0	1	M Clark	111
10	C J Parker	113	0	1	P Herring	u/g
11	F Kuan	113	0.5	0.5	D Dunne	97
12	N F Tidy	106	1	0	J Buttery	97
13	G Fowles	103	1	0	L Morell	u/g
14	J Simons	104	0.5	0.5	L Darby	91
15	M Spitz	100	1	0	C Potter	92
16	W A Frost	99	1	0	Default	
TOTALS			10.0	6.0		

MATCH - Gloucestershire v Derbyshire

SECTION - Minor Counties Q/Final

DATE - 18th May 2003

Bd	Gloucs	Grade	Score	Score	Derbys	Grade
1	N Hosken	183	1	0	S Gilmore	180
2	M Burn	175	0.5	0.5	M Johnson	162
3	P Dodwell	171	0.5	0.5	R Gamble	157
4	P Meade	171	0	1	R Farley	165e
5	J Boyce	170	1	0	R Forey	158
6	G Bolt	170	1	0	T Boukd	161
7	D Buchanan	168	0.5	0.5	P Kelman	130
8	G Brown	162	1	0	J Hoddy	151
9	G Taylor	160	0	1.0	D Brown	147
10	P Martin	149	0.5	0.5	J Wagenbach	138
11	R Dixon	145	0.5	0.5	P Moore	146
12	M Guv	136	1	0	D Williams	148
13	A Bentley	129	0.5	0.5	D Hoddy	109
14	R Francis	125	0.5	0.5	L Fancourt	109
15	S Herbert	120	1	0	A Welch	60
16	I Blencowe	114	1	0	H Loomes	103
TOTALS			10.5	5.5		

MATCH - Somerset v Warwickshire

SECTION - U100 Q/Final

DATE - 3rd May 2003

Bd	Somerset	Grade	Score	Score	Warks	Grade
1	A Hull	94	1	0	W Morgan	
2	A Quinon	92	0	1	D Dixon	
3	K Sherlock	93	1	0	G Gilchrist	
4	R G Waters	91	0.5	0.5	F Higgins	
5	P Carrick	88	1	0	M Clack	
6	M Dirham	78	0.5	0.5	B Butler	
7	K French	76	0	1	C Lee	
8	R Parker	71	1	0	J Pakenham	
9	L Korvin	70	0	1	D Tait	
10	C Beaupre	u/g	0	1	P Woodward	
11	F E Prenton	50	1	0	D Rowe	
12	PR Beaupre	u/g	0	1	P Church	
13						
14						
15						
16						
TOTALS			6.0	6.0		

Somerset won on board count

MATCH - Cambridgeshire v. Leicestershire
SECTION - BCF OPEN - Preliminary Round
 DATE - 3 May 2003

Bd	Cambridgeshire	Grade	Score	Score	Leicestershire	Grade
1	J. Vigus	215	1	0	M. Burrows	180
2	J. Conlon	198	1	0	R. Burgess	181
3	P. Wallden	162	1	0	E. Player	174
4	O. Cooley	178	0.5	0.5	J. Sutherland	180
5	P. Kemp	175	0.5	0.5	A. Morley	172
6	O. Winfridsson	175	1	0	P. Clarke	170e
7	A. Bamford	172	0.5	0.5	A. Edwards	171
8	P. McMahon	170	1	0	J. Mitchell	161
9	L. Retallick	155	1	0	O. Hardy	150
10	P. Webster	ug	1	0	A. Jex	155
11	J. Daugman	151	0.5	0.5	A. Eckersley-Waites	149
12	S. Pride	141	0.5	0.5	A. Combie	145
13	P. Ribbands	142	1	0	T. Eckersley-Waites	143
14	M. Lim	126	0.5	0.5	G. Botteley	141
15	P. Wagner	135	1	0	G. Booley	135
16	default		0	1	S. Okhai	134
			12.0	4.0		

MATCH - Leicestershire v. Dorset
SECTION - BCF Under 150 - Preliminary Round
 DATE - 3 May 2003

Bd	Leicestershire	Grade	Score	Score	Dorset	Grade
1	J. Glover	146	0.5	0.5	K. Sarahs	147
2	D. Farrall	146	0.5	0.5	G. Searing	147
3	J. Bingham	142	0.5	0.5	R. Burton	144
4	J. Pattinson	134	0	1	M. Bond	141
5	I. Dodds	131	0.5	0.5	F. Kingdon	141
6	G. Walker	134	0	1	P. Holt	139
7	I. Sealey	135	0.5	0.5	M. Litchfield	137
8	L. Hayden	130	0.5	0.5	M. Stevens	127
9	S. Turvey	130	0.5	0.5	C. Ambrose	124
10	C. Hill	118	0	1	D. Lewis	120
11	J. Oliver	117	1	0	I. Willis	120
12	B. Pourmozafari	116	1	0	E. Sheehan	117
13	C. Johnson	110	1	0	W. Kelly	117
14	F. Hulford	113	0	1	P. Errington	113
15	P. Cresswell	109	0.5	0.5	W. Bower	108
16	J. Ganatra	91	0	1	B. Bynoe	108e
			7.0	9.0		

MATCH - Lancashire v Shropshire
SECTION - BCF Under 125 - Quarter-Final
 DATE - 17 May 2003

Bd	Lancashire	Grade	Score	Score	Shrops	Grade
1	Vinton Lewis	124	1	0	N Oconnor	124
2	Harry Praeger	113	0.5	0.5	S Tarr	124
3	Peter Howarth	122	0.5	0.5	N Alkan	121
4	Steve White	115	1	0	P Crean	119
5	Phil Ashmore	115	0	1	G Cooper	e115
6	Blaine McGrady	114	1	0	I Davies	103
7	Steve Fanning	114	1	0	G White	104
8	Steve Flaherty	113	0	1	D Williams	e96
9	Geoff Jones	111	1	0	C Bayliss	99
10	Phil Raynor	111	1	0	J Westhead	96
11	Sharam Shokrollahi	105	0.5	0.5	S Cooper	e95
12	Domnie Rabbite	104	1	0	A Jones	95
13	Derek Brent	100	0.5	0.5	R Brown	91
14	Anthony Rigby	100	1	0	S Davies	79
15	Mike Horne	98	1	0	Default	-
16	Justin White (Atherton)	e100	0.5	0.5	V Crean	68
			11.5	4.5		

MATCH - Warwickshire v. Lancashire
SECTION - BCF Under 150 - Preliminary Round
 DATE - 26 April 2003

Bd	Warwickshire	Grade	Score	Score	Lancashire	Grade
1	MIKE FOX	149	0.5	0.5	S J LAMB	147
2	RICHARD REYNOLDS	144	0	1	S RILEY	147
3	SIMON SMITH	144	0	1	S HORROCKS	146
4	ROBERT REYNOLDS	139	0	1	J TEN-SMITH	147
5	DARREN LEE	136	0	1	P CHAPMAN	126
6	TOM ROBINSON	134	1	0	J HOPKINS	140
7	ROBERT WALLMAN	134	1	0	R TOKELEY	139
8	MIKE TARLOW	133	0	1	D HORTON	139
9	DEREK REEVES	129	0	1	W O'ROURKE	134
10	LEE BALL	128	1	0	A WISEMAN	136
11	ARTHUR KENT	126	0	1	J WHITFIELD	135
12	ALAN BURNETT	117	0	1	A CLARKSON	138
13	SIMON KILLARNEY	111	0	1	F RUSHWORTH	131
14	KEIRAN KOASHA	101	0	1	E DOBSON	130
15	MATTHEW DODD	UG	0	1	M HAWORTH	124
16	AMMAR KARIM	U/G	1	0	R ASHCROFT	120
			4.5	11.5		

MATCH - Kent v. Warwickshire
SECTION - BCF OPEN Quarter-Final
 DATE - 17 May 2003

Bd	Kent	Grade	Score	Score	Warwickshire	Grade
1	Martin Taylor	212	0.5	0.5	Geoff Lawton	213
2	Alan Hanreck	206	0.5	0.5	Nick Thomas	203
3	Peter Taylor	202	0	1	Don Mason	191
4	Ian Watson	200	0.5	0.5	Stewart Fishburne	185
5	Andy Mack	196	0.5	0.5	Russell James	189
6	Rory O'Kelly	191	0.5	0.5	Andrew McCumiske	184
7	Ian Snape	187	1	0	David Buckley	183
8	Mark Rich	185	0	1	Andrew Baruch	183
9	John Sugden	183	1	0	Alan Lloyd	181
10	Stuart Williams	183	0.5	0.5	Chris Shephard	180
11	John Wager	183	0	1	Ian Galloway	171
12	David Tucker	179	1	0	Keith Escott	171
13	David Horton	179	0.5	0.5	Bob Wildig	169
14	Chris Rice	174	0.5	0.5	Martin Smyth	165
15	Mark Robertson	168	1	0	Andrew Price	154
16	Alexis Harakis	161	1	0	Ed Goodwin	152
			9.0	7.0		

MATCH - Grt Manchester v Yorkshire
SECTION - Open
 DATE - 17th May 2003

Bd	G Manchester	Grade	Score	Score	Yorks	Grade
1	ADAM ASHTON	190	1	0	NINO PESIC	
2	ALAN SMITH	203	0	1	IAIN GOURLAY	206
3	DALE JAMES	191	0.5	0.5	RICHARD TOZER	196
4	DAVID HULMES	192	0	1	PETER GAYSON	191
5	STEPHEN GORDON	188	0.5	0.5	HAN NELSON	
6	STE PICKLES	189	0	1	PAUL TOWNSEND	198
7	ALI JUANOBY	e200	1	0	JIM BURNETT	193
8	DAVID SHAW	187	0.5	0.5	CHRIS ROSS	175
9	PHIL ADAMS	182	0.5	0.5	LIM CHIN-LEE	181
10	SHEVER MAPIRO		1	0	MIKE WALKER	183
11	RICHARD BEACH	182	1	0	LEO KEELEY	
12	ALAN WALTON	180	0	1	PHIL WATSON	171
13	GRAHAM BURTON	182	1	0	PETER SHAW	173
14	LLOYD POWELL	180	1	0	JONATHAN ARNOTT	167
15	RAY ENGLISH	177	0.5	0.5	IHOR LEWYK	168
16	HARRY LAMB	174	1	0	PAUL HOPWOOD	159
			TOTALS	9.5	6.5	

MCCU AGM MOTIONS

5) Constitutional Amendment:

I formally propose that the post of MCCU secretary be created: To deal with correspondence from the BCF and other chess organisations; to set up and deal with meetings; to ensure that all BCF material is sent out, and to act as an alternate for BCF MB Meetings. The Chief Executive to be responsible for co-ordinating the activities of the other directors and to lead the strategy of the MCCU and to buy a round of drinks for BCF directors.

Ø Proposer: Cyril Johnson

MCCU County Teams' Tournament Rules – Proposals.

9.0) The result of **9.1** is particularly important and I will not ask for entries for the 2003-2004 season from counties until I know whether this is to be implemented or not, so that they are fully aware of travel implications etc. before entering.
- Neil Beasley.

9.1) Zoned Sections

All sections with less than 8 teams should be played as all play all rather than be Zoned i.e. the U175, U150, U125 and U100 sections last season .

- **this would automatically give a third place nomination to the BCF event if required.**

Ø Proposed by Neil Beasley

9.2) MCCU 3

If a third place is required in a Zoned section then this should be the losing semi-finalist with the better result BUT if the scores are equal in both matches then the losing semi-finalists must play-off on the same date as the MCCU final is scheduled.

Ø Proposed by Neil Beasley

Seconded by David Pardoe, Greater Manchester U150 Team Captain.

(Both Neil and David proposed almost identical amendments).

9.3) Refreshments

Proposed that in the zonal stages the home team provides drinks and biscuits free of charge. The providing of a buffet tea is no longer compulsory.

COMMENTS: I believe the reason that we are finding it hard to get county captains is because of the need to provide refreshments in the form of a buffet tea, which is hang over from the "high tea" days. Many have said to me that they cannot run a team because they do not have a spouse or partner who is able or willing to provide the refreshments. Julie and I find it takes something in excess of 2 hours to prepare the food. We also find that more and more food is being left uneaten. If people want something to eat during play, most venues are close to shops or something can be purchased en route. The SCCU, which likes its creature comforts, has already implemented this rule.

Ø Proposed by Cyril F W Johnson, Director of Home Chess BCF/Leicestershire /Meetings Chairman .

Seconded by Julie D Johnson, Director Publicity MCCU/Leicestershire U100.

9.4) Defaults

I propose that a system of fines be introduced as follows: -

For a team defaulting on one board, a £5 fine, payable to the BCF, be levied.

For two or more boards defaulted, a £10 fine, payable to the BCF, be levied. These would help the BCF coffers.

For a team (match) default, a £25 fine be levied, payable to the opposing teams county association/sponsor. Match defaults caused by unavoidable circumstances, i.e. bad weather, would not incur such fines.

In addition, the default rules be changed as follows: If one board is defaulted, this may be allocated to boards 14 – 16.

If two boards are defaulted, the second default may be between boards 11 – 13. If a third board is defaulted, it may be allocated between boards 8 – 10. If a fourth board is defaulted, this may be allocated between boards 4 – 7. Subsequent defaults may not be allocated above board 3.

The above applies where the captain becomes aware of potential default(s), prior to the day of the match. Where the actual default would have occurred within the applicable board range, the actual respective board should be defaulted. Obviously, the rule depends on the usual captain's integrity, and the controller can take any appropriate action currently available, should breaches or suspected abuses take place. Unavoidable absence, and non arrival of players continues as at present. So players not showing up for perfectly valid reasons therefore classes as a default on the board(s) concerned.

The object of this rule is to provide some flexibility, to allow competitive matches to occur, and not overly penalise teams unfortunate enough to find themselves unavoidably short on the day of a match. Such penalisations can work against more than just the two teams concerned.

Also, in the case where teams cannot raise a full team, this flexibility will hopefully retain the incentive for teams to play the fixture, and therefore reduce match defaults caused by teams defaulting purely because they no longer think it worth turning out for a match. It is a major disincentive, particularly for a team to travel long distance, knowing before they set out that the match result is a foregone conclusion because of the `double whammy` of having to default on bottom boards, when the actual defaulting players would probably have played on higher boards.

It might be appropriate to introduce these rules on a trial basis, and those relating to defaults be treated as `guidance` for team captains.

To back this up, team captains would be required to send their `provisional` team lists to the controller, no later than two days prior to a match.

Ø Proposed by David Pardoe, Greater Manchester U150 Team Captain.

10) MCCU Correspondence Chess Teams' Tournament Rules – Proposal.

Allow players to play on more than one board.

Ø Proposed by Peter Sherlock, Lincs.

“TRAVELLING MAN”

I hear complaints from players about having to travel 15 miles for a match in an evening. This brings back memories of the first league I played in, the Mid-Wales League. When I started to play in the 1960s the league's extremities were Welshpool, Aberystwyth, Haverfordwest, and Brecon.

Rarely was a match played at a club venue, but the match secretaries became connoisseurs of the watering holes. These ranged from the helpful tenant of the Red Lion who was happy to provide sandwiches and a late closing for the party of chess players and supporters. The norm for such sessions was about 2 a.m. The drinking, not the chess. The other extreme was represented by some hotels with pretension to 3 moons, no stars, who overcharged for the use of a corridor and sandwiches which doubled as hardcore.

Security was good though, uniforms would always help. A trip to Llangammarch Wells was extended by a “shortcut” which was abruptly terminated by two jeeps being parked across the road, each with 3 large gentlemen with redcaps. And they were not from Butlins. “Can we help you gentlemen?” has a whole new meaning when the speaker is holding a rifle in his hand. A request to show us the road we wanted was met with “of course, FOLLOW US”, not exactly a suggestion. To be fair, they did come to the venue later and joined us for a jar or several.

The AGM, ah, another thing of beauty. It was deemed too organised to have it on an evening in a central venue. The preference was for a Saturday afternoon at a hotel in Llangurig, in the middle of nowhere. The crowning glory was the year the secretary complained he had not had a reply to his letter booking the event. When I arrived there the reason became evident. The place had burnt down! When he arrived his comment was “ Du du, must have been a good party last night”. We adjourned to the remaining hostelry, which as far as I know still stands.

Travelling such distances in student cars is interesting. One year the trip to Carmarthen was halted by a problem with a front wheel which meant leaving the car outside a row of four cottages. The occupant of one came out, and got us on the road in 3 minutes! Disputes, often. The cause, who was buying the next round. Problems, none. Laughter much. I must go back to their congress, with its midnight lightning tournaments, but that is another story

Anon.