



THE MIDDLE GAME

Volume 1, Issue 12

September 2004

CONGRATULATIONS

GM Mark Hebden has been included in the England team for the World Championships.

Craig Whitfield of Staffs and Amisha Parmar of Notts are both off to the Junior World Championships.

There were Midlands successes in the British Championships Mark Ozanne of Notts/Ashby is the joint U150 champion with Jeremy Fallowfield of Stourbridge. Richard Glover of Manchester took the U125 title. In the Junior events Sabrina Chevannes gained the U18 ladies title, Simon Fowler of Coddon both shared the U16 title with William Bennet of Oakham, and won the U15 title outright, Ankush Khandewal lifted the U13 title and Nathan Taylor the U8.

More on the British Champs in the results supplement

BCF Management Board

I can think of much better ways to spend a Wedding Anniversary than attending your first BCF Management Board meeting, but so the juxtaposition of dates decreed.

The Agenda included a number of items that will be aired at the Council AGM in October.

As many will be aware the British Championships require entrants to be BCF members. There was some discussion concerning whether MB felt that various BCF officials should also be required to be members e.g. Directors, Arbiters, accredited Coaches. There were varying views as to how far the boundaries membership should stretch. No doubt the AGM will have its thoughts on the matter.

Cyril Johnson was awarded the title of BCF Arbiter; he then presented a policy paper in his role of Director Home Chess. Phil Clemow had stepped down as Controller for the 2004/5 Open National Club Championship section and had been replaced by MCCU counties controller Neil Beasley; this is for one year only. As Mike McNaughton will be standing down next year, 2 new controllers will be needed for 2005/6.

Whilst the Braille & Deaf Chess Assocs provide support for some players with disabilities, a chess organisation is needed to assist those with other disabilities. The Home Chess Director plans to address this issue by proposing that the BCF set up such an organisation.

Cyril will be asking local chess organisations & clubs for assistance in promoting chess in prisons and for

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

10 Oct - Leicester Rapidplay, Countesthorpe College,
Winchester Road, Countesthorpe, Leics.
Sean Hewitt, 2 The Drive, Countesthorpe,
Leicestershire LE8 5PB Tel: 07830 202171, Fax: 0116
277 6150, Email: sean@leicesterchess.co.uk

17 Oct - 8th Birmingham & District Chess League
Rapidplay, Four Dwellings High School, Dwellings
Lane, Birmingham.
Graham Humphreys, 82 Vernier Avenue,
Kingswinford, West Midlands DY6 8SA Tel: 01384
571486 between 9:30-21:30,
Email: lbscc@blueyonder.co.uk

31 Oct - 7th Wolverhampton Rapidplay Robert Ward
Memorial Tournament, Connaught Hotel, Tettenhall
Road, Wolverhampton.
Geoffrey Rosser, 25 Leyland Avenue, Merridale,
Wolverhampton WV3 9RF Tel: 01902 424931, 07985
029069, Email: g-d.rosser@blueyonder.co.uk

21 Nov - Bolton Rapidplay,
R Middleton, 97 Dovedale Road, Brightmet, Bolton
BL2 5HS Tel: 01204 383634,
Email: Roderick.Middleton@tesco.net

12th Dec - Nuneaton Rapidplay
Etone Sports Centre, Leicester Road, Nuneaton.
Roy Woodcock 188 Coventry Road, Nuneaton, CV10
7AU Tel 024 7634 8097

NEW MCCU EVENT!!! **HANDICAP CLUB RAPIDPLAY**

A 4 a side handicap event will be run on Sunday 6th
December at Syston Church Hall. An entry form
should be on the MCCU website by the time you read
this. Hardcopy Newsletter recipients will find a form
enclosed.

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donations of chess sets & boards for homeless shelters.
Cyril also hopes to initiate a National Individual
Knockout Championship. Further details will be
available shortly.

Neil Graham had already announced that he was not
standing for re-election as Congress Director. He is the
longest serving of the current Directors. He is not
bowing out of BCF activities entirely as he will run the
Grand Prix. He was heartily thanked for his efforts.

In addition to Neil, Peter Turner is standing down as
Junior Director & David Levens as Marketing
Director. At the time of the meeting there were 4
candidates for the Junior post, 1 for the Congress post
and none for the Marketing post. Initial arrangements
for dealing with the selection process for the Junior
post were discussed.

Discussions took place on a change of status of the
BCF. It is currently an unlimited company. In essence
this means that the Directors carry financial liabilities
by becoming involved with voluntary work for the
BCF. A change of status to a company limited by
guarantee would remove this risk. Whilst some of the
implications have been established it was felt that a
working party should look at the ramifications in more
detail, with a view to reporting to Council in October.

Along side the change of status a change of name is
also being considered. A questionnaire had been
circulated at the British Championships. The resulting
votes were heavily in favour of English Chess
Federation, whilst Chess England received a few
votes in favour, a number of respondents were very
much anti this choice and a few wanted no change at
all.

The BCF has been registered as an umbrella body with
the CRB (Criminal Record Bureau). It is vital that the
BCF takes on board the need to check out those it
tasks with involvement with junior chess players.
There was some discussion over which posts should
require clearance, at which level. In tandem with this a
draft Child Protection Policy was discussed, part of
which is that affiliated organisations should have a
suitable Child Protection Policy. As an umbrella body
the BCF will be able to provide facilities for affiliates
to obtain CRB clearance for their own officials. This
will clearly be very beneficial all round; procedures
have yet to be fine tuned.

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BCF NATIONAL CLUB EVENTS

The closing date for entries to these events is Oct 16th. I am pleased to report that a couple of Midlands clubs that I haven't seen before have entered the Minor section.

The MCCU is almost as large as the SCCU, yet in the past the latter have managed to enter many more teams. There is no logical explanation for this imbalance; can we please do something to address it?

Entry forms are on the BCF website www.bcf.org.uk; if any club wants a hard copy entry form please contact me through the usual channels.

INTER-UNION MATCH

The EACU have made contact with a view to a 50 board match with the MCCU, 10 boards for each grading band. The challenge has in principle been accepted. I will be approaching County Match Captains regarding this, but if anyone wishes to express an interest in playing, please feel free to contact either myself or the MCCU Events Director Cyril Johnson. Email either juliedjohnson@yahoo.com or cyriljohnson@yahoo.co.uk

Tel for both: 0116 2609012

EVENT REPORTS

BELATED CONGRATS

Humble apologies to Bluecoats School Oldham for not recognising that they are part of the MCCU area, and mentioning their BCF Schools competition success in winning 3rd place in the Championship event. They lost to Monmouth in the semis only on age handicap, the match having finished 3-3. They beat Southend HS by a convincing 4.5-1.5 This is the second time they have reached the last 4. Well done Stephen Gordon, Katie Martin, Jason Wright, Robyn Smith & Karen Bradley.

My geography of the boundaries in that area is hazy, so I would be grateful if players in that area would highlight news items.

The 2nd Leek Chess Congress

The largest gathering ever in North Staffordshire of leading chess players saw Grand Master Julian Hodgson, from North London, consolidate his lead in the Terence Chapman Grand Prix when he jointly won the Britannia Building Society Open section of the 2nd Leek Chess Congress at Westwood High School, Leek, over September 14 - 16 with 4.5 points out of 5.

Joint winner Grand Master Mark Hebden, from Leicester, also gained valuable points in the Grand Prix to improve his position, as did International Master Danny Gormally, from South London, when he could only finish third with 3.5/5 at the Congress organised by Cheddleton & Leek Chess Club.

Equal fourth with 3/5 were Grand Master Keith Arkell, from Bromsgrove, second in the Grand Prix, International Master Lawrence Cooper, from Stafford, 14-year-old Ameet Ghazi, from Birmingham, 16-year-old Welsh international Jonathan Blackburn, from Holmes Chapel, the club's Robert Shaw, from Buxton, and Oliver Jackson, from Prestbury.

The club's David Buxton, a Westwood 'Old Boy' from Leek, came a very creditable tenth after having to play three of the top four, while a large number of the 29 club members who took part in the Congress of over 120 players as a whole did very well.

The Under-180 Grade Leek United Building Society section was won by Stephen Chadaway, from Handsworth, with 4.5/5, while equal second on 4/5 were the club's Jim Shemilt, from Leek, Ameet Ghazi's twin brother Sumeet and James Nicholson, from Melton Mowbray.

Steve Wilcox, from Rushall, won the slow starter prize with 2.5/5, while the club's England international Conrad Westmorland, from Biddulph, also scored 50 per cent with 2.5/5.

14-year-old Richard Westwood, from Cannock, won the A H Brooks Under-127 Grade section with 4.5/5, where 14-year-old Welsh international Suzie Blackburn, from Holmes Chapel, and Alan Ruffle, from Birmingham, were equal second with 4/5.

John Sutcliffe, from Chester, won the slow starter prize with 3.5/5, while the club's Craig Burns, from Leek, came a creditable equal sixth with 3/5 and Rob Moruzzi, from Leek, 12-year-old Yangshi Yu, from Hanley, and Allan Whitehead, from Chester, all scored 2.5/5.

The Cheddleton Under-103 Grade section saw the club's 11-year-old England international Molly Moruzzi, from Leek, and John Yee, from Congleton, share first prize with 4/5 and the club's 14-year-old Emma Atkins and Peter Tomczak, both from Leek, and Nicholas Duffell, from

Buxton, James Hanson, from Buckley, North Wales, and 13-year-old Charlotte Wilcox, from Rushall, come equal third with 3.5/5.

Hugh Burgess, from Holmes Chapel, won the slow starter prize with 3/5, while Nicholas Wright, from Biddulph, scored 2.5/5.

In the final Under-78 Grade Westwood section, Graham Lea, from Stockport, came first with 4.5/5, Carl Gartside, from Buxton, came second with 4/5 and the club's 11-year-old Martin Gee and 13-year-old Philip Hallen, both from Cheddleton, plus Geoffrey Blissett, from Oldham, came equal third with 3.5/5.

David Dickson, from Caergwrle, North Wales, and 13-year-old Ben Watson, from Crewe, shared the slow starter prize with 3/5, while club members Russell Corbishley and David Hallen, both from Cheddleton, also both scored a creditable 3/5, and 11-year-old Peter Hallen, from Cheddleton, and 13-year-old Matthew Wyza, from Leek, both scored 2.5/5.

The Team competition for a prize of a chess clock was won by the Rushall (Staffordshire) team of Richard Westwood, Charlotte Wilcox and Steve Wilcox with 10.5 points, followed by Checkmate (Birmingham) and Cheddleton & Leek 'A', both with 9.5 points.

The 3rd Leek Chess Congress will be held, again, at Westwood High School, Leek, from September 13 - 15 2002.

Please see the results supplement for British Championship results and details relating to the above and other local congress results.

REMINDER

Can I remind chess organisers to let me know of events being held in the MCCU area, both for the Newsletter and an MCCU diary.

I would also be grateful if results and reports on events could be sent to me, preferably by email to reduce my typing, but hard copy is welcome for those without email facilities.

Email juliedjohnson@yahoo.com

By post to: 105 Central Ave Syston Leics LE7 2EG

Smith & Williamson British Chess Championships 2004

The 91st Annual Championships of the B C F

The Smith and Williamson British Chess Championships returned in 2004 to ever-popular Scarborough for the 3rd time in six years for the Centenary Championships of the British Chess Federation.

My report on the 2003 Championship spoke of the decision of the British Isles Co-ordinating Committee to change the qualifying conditions to debar Commonwealth players. As a result of this the Championship events were substantially weaker at every level; indeed many of the players who had demanded a "British-only" Championship were conspicuous by their absence. Michael Adams was expected to compete but his eleventh-hour withdrawal following his World Championship exploits was not unexpected. The result was an extremely open 62 player British (compared to 95 last year) with only one previous winner, Chris Ward, in the field. In Edinburgh the strongest challenge to the Indian players was from home players of Jonathan Rowson, Paul Motwani and Ketevan Arakhamia-Grant. This Scottish theme was continued in 2004 with Jonathan a worthy outright winner scoring 8½/11. Kete retained her Women's Title and Paul was again in the prize list. Peter Wells, the only player to defeat Jonathan, was second equal with Simon Williams whose courageous play netted a grandmaster norm. Craig Hanley reached the 2400 needed to confirm his IM title whilst Andrew Greet and Gawain Jones also achieved I.M. norm results.

Entries overall were 940 compared with 1009 at Edinburgh and can be directly attributed to the decline in British Championship entries and also less players in the Weekenders which were extremely well supported last year. For the first time BCF or other national membership was insisted upon as a condition of entry. I cannot imagine any other national sporting body that would allow non-members to compete and take the titles from members so I was especially pleased that most competitors agreed with this stance. The decision to end the 2004 Grand Prix at the British also seems to be a good one; gone are the days of a huge London Tournament at

the end of the year and it seemed proper to complete the Grand Prix here with most of the key competitors turning up to fight out their sections.

In 2001 I can remember watching the eclipse of the sun on the Spa Centre steps, this year the chance of seeing the sun at all was an event in a fortnight dominated by either mist or rain. The sun actually appeared in the middle weekend for both holidaymakers and the Congress Cricket Team. The former benefited rather more than the latter who lost an entertaining match to Bridlington despite a fine 92 from Alec Toll. On now to the Sunday quiz. In one question it was alleged that one Otto Titzling invented the brassiere. Further research on this indicates that this fact, culled from a reputable quiz book and given in Trivial Pursuit, is, in fact, an urban myth of some long-standing. I promise better next time.

Which is an appropriate moment to announce that this, my seventh Championship, is to be my last as Congress Director and indeed as BCF Director of Congress Chess. I do not intend to seek re-election in October. I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who have assisted over the past seven years and indeed remember those such as George Smith, Tony Miles, Frank Hatto and this year Richard Furness who are no longer with us. Finally can I place on record my appreciation to Gareth Pearce and Smith & Williamson for their continued support for this, the flagship event of the British Chess Federation.

Neil Graham

I am sure many Midlands players will join me in thanking Neil for all the hard work he has put into staging the British Championships over the last 7 years. We cannot be aware of exactly how much time and effort is required in organising such event. Those who arrange local congresses will have some concept, just think of that and multiple by at least 20 times!!!

Though he is "retiring" from the British Championship role, he is not retiring from chess and chess admin completely. We will undoubtedly see him around and busy controlling events. Ed

WORLD CHESS CHAMPIONS

In this issue it is the turn of Capablanca to come into the spotlight.

JOSE RAUL CAPABLANCA



1888 - 1942

3rd World Champion, 1921 - 1927

Jose Raul Capablanca was born in Havana, Cuba on the 19th of November 1888. He learned chess at the age of four by watching his father play and in 1901, at the age of 12, he beat Juan Corzo, the Cuban champion.

Capablanca was regarded as the most naturally talented chess player anyone had ever seen. He was educated in America, studied engineering at Columbia University and spent much of his free time playing masters at the Manhattan Chess Club in New York City, where he achieved a sensational win in a match against US Champion Frank Marshall crushing him by 8 wins to 1 with 14 draws in 1909 when he was 20 years old. Frank Marshall had unsuccessfully played Lasker in a World Championship match only two years earlier.

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In 1911, on the insistence of Marshall, Capablanca played in San Sebastian, Spain at one of the strongest tournaments in the world at that time. He astounded everyone by taking first place at this tournament with a score of 6 wins, 7 draws and 1 loss ahead of Rubinstein, Schlechter and Nimzovitsch. This was his first major tournament, an achievement he shares only with Pillsbury.

In the same year Capablanca challenged Lasker for the world championship. Lasker agreed to the challenge but imposed 17 conditions for a future match. Capablanca disagreed with these conditions and the match did not take place.

In September 1913 Capablanca secured a job in the Cuban Foreign Office. He had no specific duties but to play chess.

In 1914 at a tournament in St. Petersburg Capablanca met Lasker over the chessboard for the first time. Capablanca took the lead by one and a half points in the preliminaries but lost to Lasker in the finals. Capablanca finished second to Lasker with a score of 13 points to Lasker's 13.5.

In the ten years after this tournament (from 1914 to 1924) he lost only one game and the chess world was beginning to think he was invincible. However, Capablanca had to wait another seven years until he could prove he was the world champion.

The war interrupted European chess for four years. After the war Lasker's heart was not really in chess. His efforts to secure proper financial rewards for chess masters had failed and great players were still dying in poverty. He agreed to defend his title against Capablanca in 1920 but resigned his title in favour of the challenger as he no longer felt like struggling. He told Capablanca, "You have earned the title not by the formality of a challenge, but by your brilliant mastery." However, there was pressure from the chess world for Lasker to play Capablanca and when Capablanca found sponsors in Cuba who were prepared to finance the match for twenty-five thousand dollars of which half would go to Lasker whether he won or lost he decided to go ahead with the match. However, Lasker maintained that as he had resigned the title already it was he who

was challenger to Capablanca.

In Havana in 1921 the match went ahead but it was a great disappointment to chess fans. Although thirty games had been planned the match lasted for only fourteen after which Lasker was losing by four games to none with ten draws. He resigned the match on grounds of ill health. Capablanca was now the new World Champion.

In December 1921 he married Gloria Simoni Beautucourt. They had a son, Jose Raul in 1923 and a daughter, Gloria in 1925.

At this time in the history of chess there were an increasing number of strong chess players and it was felt that the world champion should not be able to evade challenges to his title as has been done in the past. In London in 1922 the greatest players of the time including Alekhine, Bogolyubov, Maroczy, Reti, Rubinstein, Tartakower and Vidmar, met to discuss rules for the conduct of future world championships. Amongst other things, one of the conditions, which was imposed by Capablanca, was that the challenger would have to raise at least ten thousand dollars for the prize money.

In the following years, Rubinstein and Nimzovitsch challenged Capablanca but were unable to raise the necessary ten thousand dollars. Then came Alekhine's challenge backed by a group of Argentinean businessmen and the president of Argentina who guaranteed the funds. However, Capablanca imposed another condition. He replied that if Alekhine wanted to be considered as a challenger then he would have to play in a tournament in New York. The winner of this tournament would play Capablanca in the next world championship. This outraged Alekhine who had gone to a lot of trouble to find sponsors to back him. Capablanca had put another hurdle in his way. Beside this, it seemed that Capablanca had selected players for the tournament who had never before beaten him in even one game. They were Nimzovitsch, Vidmar, Spielmann and Marshall. Capablanca easily won this tournament and Alekhine came second. Alekhine had qualified to challenge the world champion.

Perhaps because Capablanca had won this

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If any organisation would like to see examples of Child Protection Policy already set up by other chess bodies please let me know.

MCCU Child Protection Policy

The MCCU is remiss in having no formal Child Protection Policy. As CEO I intend to see that this is addressed. The Half Year meeting in November will allow this to be discussed. If anyone has any thoughts, or indeed examples of what they feel is good policy, please contact me.

In addition we will need to decide on our policy over CRB clearance, what level is required, by whom, and how we will make use of the BCF facilities. As the November meeting is after the BCF Council meeting, a clearer picture of its' views will have emerged.

THOUGHTS ON BCF MB

Attending a Management Board meeting has only served to reinforce some thoughts I had on the current arrangements. The MB consists of 10 Directors plus President and Chief Executive, along with 9 representatives from the Unions and Independent Leagues. Naturally not all members of the MB are present at every meeting. It doesn't take a mathematical genius to work out that circumstances will arise when the "non-executive" members of the Board can outvote the "executive" members. When one considers that the "executives" are carrying financial risk, whilst the "non-executives" are not, I find this a ludicrous state of affairs.

The size of the MB, if all are present, is 21. In my opinion the old adage of "too many cooks" is apt. Yes, the Directors should not have carte blanche to do what they like, but do we really need 9 "non-executives" to ensure they apply the will of council, act in the best interests of the affiliates, and ensure affiliates views are heard? I think not!

We do need "non-execs", but surely 1 each from the Unions, independent leagues and congresses would produce more manageable size Board. If the smaller group of "non-execs" really had a problem with a Board decision they have the mechanism of an EGM to address this.

The disenchantment of grass roots chess players with the BCF suggests that their views are not currently being expressed by those who represent them. I suggest the tendency is that the views put forward and the way votes are cast, are more likely to be related to the personal opinions of the MB members. There are clearly all sorts of communication problems related to getting a proper idea of grass roots views. Meetings at which views may be gleaned tend to be poorly attended, and even when invited to express their views through other channels, feedback tends to be somewhere between limited and non-existent. It usually only after a decision has been made, or an outcome is disliked, that the grass roots player makes his or her view known. It is probably a case of fault being apportioned in the ration of 6 of 1, half a dozen of the other.

Whilst the above might be considered an argument in favour of a larger size Board, I would argue that a smaller number of non-execs with the responsibility of summarising differing views and raising concerns, would be far more efficient than having 9 different people, potentially repeating some of what each has said. True, the responsibility laid on such representatives would increase compared to the current position, and their job would become more difficult. But potentially this could create an MB able to discuss issues in a more efficient and focused manner.

Unfortunately, in the same way that most turkeys wouldn't vote for Christmas, I can't see many organisations currently represented on the MB being prepared to vote themselves off. So I fear I may just be whistling in the wind, but maybe, just maybe, I'm not.

CHESS PROBLEM SOLUTIONS (see page 3)

- 1) White should play f8 and promote the pawn to a knight
- 2) 1. Rd8+ Kh7 2. Rh8++
- 3) 1. Bf8 Kh8 2. Kf6 Kh7 3. Kf7 Kh8 4. Bg7+ Kh7 5. Bf5++
- 4) 1.Bh3+ 2. Kg1 Qf3 3. Qe2/any other move Qg2++
- 5) 1.Ra3+ 2. Kb2 Ra2+ 3. Kb1 Raxc2 (If Kc3 then Raxc2, Kd3, Be4++) 4. Bd2 Rxd2 (White can only delay the attack by giving away pieces) 5. Rb4 cxb4 6. g3 Bb3 (White has no other possible moves) 7. g4 Rf1++
- 6) 1. Rc7 Kh8 (1... Kf8 loses to 2. Rc8+ Rxc8; 3.bxc8/Q+ Kg7; 4.Qg8++ or 3...Ke7; 4. Bg5++) 2. Bh6 a1/Q+ 3.Kg2 Rg3+ (...Rg3+ is the only way to survive another move) 4. hxg3 Qh1+ (...Qh1+ is the only way to survive another move) 5. Kxh1 Rg8 6. b8/Q fxg4 (Black can't do anything about the attack) 7. Bg7++

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tournament so easily he had become dangerously complacent. The World Champion match was held in Buenos Aires in 1927. The first to win six games would be the new World Champion. This match was the longest World Champion match there had ever been. It lasted thirty-four games and seventy-three days but eventually Alekhine achieved a score of six wins to three to secure the title of World Champion.

A personal feud had grown between Alekhine and Capablanca with Alekhine refusing to play in the same tournaments as his old rival. At the Nottingham tournament in 1936 when the two men did meet they were never seen seated together at the board for more than a few seconds. Each man made his move and then got up and walked round. Capablanca died of a stroke in New York in 1942. Upon Alekhine's death four years later it was discovered that he had been working on a collection of Capablanca's best games and in the introduction he had written, "With his death, we have lost a very great chess genius whose like we shall never see again."

Here is one of the games from the San Sebastian Tournament in 1911

White Nimzowitsch, Aaron
Black Capablanca, Jose Raul

1. e4 e6 2. d3 d5 3. Nd2 c5 4. Ngf3 Nc6 5. Be2 Bd6 6. O-O Qc7 7. Re1 Nge7 8. c3 O-O 9. a3 f5 10. Bf1 Bd7 11. exd5 exd5 12. b4 Rae8 13. Bb2 b6 14. d4 c4 15. Nxc4 dxc4 16. Bxc4+ Kh8 17. Ng5 Bxh2+ 18. Kh1 Bf4 19. Nf7+ Rxf7 20. Bxf7 Rf8 21. Bh5 Ng8



22. c4 Qd8 23. Qf3 Qh4+ 24. Qh3 Qxf2 25. Re2 Qg3 26. Qxg3 Bxg3 27. c5 Nce7 28. Bf3 Bb5 29. Rc2 Nf6 30. a4 Bd3 31. Rcc1 Ne4 32. b5 Rf6 33. Bxe4 Bf2 0-1

Another "Capa" game

Event New York 1924
White Capablanca, Jose Raul
Black Tartakower, Saviely

1. d4 e6 2. Nf3 f5 3. c4 Nf6 4. Bg5 Be7 5. Nc3 O-O 6. e3 b6 7. Bd3 Bb7 8. O-O Qe8 9. Qe2 Ne4 10. Bxe7 Nxc3 11. bxc3 Qxe7 12. a4 Bxf3 13. Qxf3 Nc6 14. Rfb1 Rae8 15. Qh3 Rf6 16. f4 Na5 17. Qf3 d6 18. Re1 Qd7 19. e4 fxe4 20. Qxe4 g6 21. g3 Kf8 22. Kg2 Rf7 23. h4 d5



24. cxd5 exd5 25. Qxe8+ Qxe8 26. Rxe8+ Kxe8 27. h5 Rf6 28. hxg6 hxg6 29. Rh1 Kf8 30. Rh7 Rc6 31. g4 Nc4 32. g5 Ne3+ 33. Kf3 Nf5 34. Bxf5 gxf5 35. Kg3 Rxc3+ 36. Kh4 Rf3 37. g6 Rxf4+ 38. Kg5 Re4 39. Kf6 Kg8 40. Rg7+ Kh8 41. Rxc7 Re8 42. Kxf5 Re4 43. Kf6 Rf4+ 44. Ke5 Rg4 45. g7+ Kg8 46. Rxa7 Rg1 47. Kxd5 Rc1 48. Kd6 Rc2 49. d5 Rc1 50. Rc7 Ra1 51. Kc6 Rxa4 52. d6 1-0

Referring to the match with Marshall

"The most surprising feature of all was the fact that I played without ever having opened a book to study the openings.."

In order to improve your game, you must study the endgame before everything else, for whereas the endings can be studied and mastered by themselves, the middle game and the opening must be studied in relation to the endgame."

"The good player is always lucky."

CHESS CONGRESSES

Many players take Weekend & One-Day Congresses for granted, & assume that quite a full calendar of such events has existed for many years. However, those older chess players amongst you will be well aware that this is not the case. The current style of weekend chess congress is actually a relatively young event, with its cousin the one-day congress even younger. The following is brief history of the UK Chess Congress.

CHESS magazine of 1949/50 reports on a Herts Weekend Congress, which drew 50 participants, but play was on Monday to Friday evenings and some rounds on Saturday.

The Hastings Congress was one of many running for a week or a fortnight, with one game per day. Whilst BH Wood maintained an annual peripatetic event around the seaside resorts, and the British Championship travelled the length and breadth of the United Kingdom.

The main staple of social chess was the simultaneous, usually by a visiting foreign GM, who would take on about 25 local players and then move onto another town. There were a few events were held over a Bank Holiday weekend, where the pattern was either one or two games a day.

The impetus for the creation of the weekend congress was a visit by Stewart Reuben to the USA, where he observed large numbers coming together for a 6 round event over the weekend. This now familiar pattern spawned some huge events, especially in London and Manchester.

We remember playing in events in Manchester which attracted 100 players to each section, and Islington staged events of 1,000 entrants. Berks and Bucks started their weekend congress in 1968, others followed in the next 4 years.

There were small differences between the British scene and our American cousins. We are used to walking in and seeing the equipment all laid out having been loaned either by local clubs or usually the book stall franchise. In the USA, you brought your own set clock and board. If there was a dispute, then Black's equipment took precedence, provided that it was within certain limits. If neither player had thought to provide equipment, then the bookstall would be very happy to loan a set, board and clock for a small consideration.

What of the one-day chess congress? The first one your correspondent is aware of was a pair of events in 1968. The individual event was run in Cardigan, and an event for teams of 4 was held at St David's College, Lampeter,

which had a bigger room. If anyone knows of any earlier one-day events, we would be pleased to hear from them.

The early congresses saw their fair share of problems. Some of the events found themselves with multiple ties for first place; these were days before tie-break systems came into use. One summer saw three major events have this problem. Others saw so many people turn up on the day that chess sets were borrowed from the bookstall. We remember one one-day event at Loughborough which saw the tournament organisers clear WH Smith out of chess sets and one very large controller stand behind one board for the event. When queried, he explained that they were using a chess set which cost £250.00 in 1974!

Controllers came in all shapes and abilities. We heard of one tournament controller who did not know how to do the pairing for round two of a lighting event in Hackney. Fortunately, a well-known Midlands organiser had come down for a quiet day's chess. Another weekend event, never repeated, had a controller who admitted that he did not know what to do with a claim for a flag fall.

Horror stories of events with minimal toilet facilities, lighting that would have caused cricket umpires to abandon play for the day, and events which accepted disabled entries into sections up two flights of stairs still remain. The lighter side saw Owen's Park drunk dry one weekend in a heat-wave, hirsute chess players heading for a very short hair cut because of the heat, absent-minded county players taking a book to look at it, and bringing it back a year later, and even tournament organisers forgetting to return chess equipment.

We heard of one arbiter who was asked "But who are your appeals committee?" responding by holding a very large pair of fists up and replying "Theses". No queries about his decisions.

Still people come to and organise congresses. The Code of Conduct helps the disabled. Greater expectations have improved the catering standards, and the BCF arbiter's exam no longer encourages pugilism. Stewart Reuben deserves a medal for his excellent book for CHESS ORGANISERS, which concludes its list of requirements for a tournament organiser, "headache tablets for the controller."

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