

# THE MIDDLE GAME

Volume 1, Issue 14

JANUARY 2005

## ONE OF OUR TROPHIES IS MISSING

Or rather, more than 1 of our trophies is missing. Whilst the Board which is the Midlands Open Trophy has turned up, the whereabouts of other Midlands individual trophies, including junior cups, shields and the like are unknown. If anyone is in possession of any MCCU individual trophies, or has any idea of when any of these were last presented, or who to, please contact either myself, or the Events Director on 0116 2609012 or write to 105 Central Ave Syston Leics LE7 2EG or email us [juliedjohnson@yahoo.com](mailto:juliedjohnson@yahoo.com) or [cyriljohnson@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:cyriljohnson@yahoo.co.uk)

## H E ATKINS

This article marks the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the death, on 31<sup>st</sup> January 1955, of one of the Midlands best chess players.



Henry Earnest Atkins was born in Leicester in 1872, where his father was the vicar of St Nicholas Church. He is said to have been taught the rudiments of chess at the tender age of 4. His potential was recognised when he joined the chess club at the Wyggston School in 1882, having become a pupil there 2 years earlier. He also showed an aptitude for mathematics, probably inherited from his father, who spent some time as a mathematics teacher.

The Master in charge of the school chess club was M L Lewis, a noted local chess player, who was

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## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

6 Feb - [Stockport Rapidplay](#), The Guildhall, Wellington Road South, Stockport SK1 3UA. Contact : P Taylor, 10 Lodge Farm Close, Bramhall, Stockport SK7 3BZ (Tel: 0161 440 0733, Email:

[bee@bramhall2000.freeseve.co.uk](mailto:bee@bramhall2000.freeseve.co.uk))

11-13 Feb - **CANCELLED** - *Bentley Motors Crewe*

19-20 Feb - [Warwickshire Open](#), Four Dwellings High School & Community Centre, Dwellings Lane, Quinton, Birmingham B32 1RJ. Contact : John Pakenham, 348 Thimblemill Road, Smethwick B67 6PU (Tel: 0121 601 3920)

20 Feb - [16th Nottinghamshire Rapidplay](#), Nottingham High School, Waverley Mount, Nottingham. Contact: Geoff Gibson, 29 Lime Grove, Draycott, Derby DE72 3NS (Tel/Fax: 0115 972 9258, Email:

[geoff@chessman81.freeseve.co.uk](mailto:geoff@chessman81.freeseve.co.uk))

12 Mar - [Inter-Union Challenge Match MCCU v EACU](#)  
If you are interested in representing the MCCU please contact Cyril or Julie Johnson (Tel 0116 2609012)

24-28 Mar - [2nd Coventry International](#), King Henry VIII School, Warwick Road, Coventry CV3 6AQ. Entries to R Woodcock, 188 Coventry Road, Nuneaton CV10 7AU (Tel: 02476 348097). Other enquiries to: M Hogarth (Tel: 020 8390 3116, 07976 639080, Email: [mark.hogarth@btinternet.com](mailto:mark.hogarth@btinternet.com)) 1st prize £3,000. *Nine rounds with title norm opportunities.*

25-27 Mar - [Bolton Easter Congress](#), including Busy Persons, Bolton Excel Centre, Lower Bridgeman Street, Bolton Contact : R Middleton, 97 Dovedale Road, Brightmet, Bolton BL2 5HS (Tel: 01204 383634, Email: [Roderick.Middleton@tesco.net](mailto:Roderick.Middleton@tesco.net))

10 Apr - [2nd Leicester Rapidplay](#), Countesthorpe College, Winchester Road, Countesthorpe, Leicester LE8 5PR. Contact : Sean Hewitt, 2 The Drive, Countesthorpe, Leicester LE8 5PB (Tel: 07859 351731, Email: [info@leicesterchess.co.uk](mailto:info@leicesterchess.co.uk))

16 Apr - [Leicestershire & Rutland Junior Individual Championships](#) (only those qualified for Leics & Rutland can enter), Charnwood School, Nedham Street, Leicester. Contact : Cyril Johnson, 105 Central Avenue, Syston LE7 2EG (Tel: 0116 260 9012, Email: [bcfhomechess@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:bcfhomechess@yahoo.co.uk))

Date for your summer diary – last weekend in June  
[Midlands Open](#)

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probably instrumental in introducing a 15 year old Atkins to the Leicester Chess Club. His first match for the club was in January 1888 on board 11 against Nottingham, which he drew. Within 2 years he had worked his way up to Board 1, and never played on any other board. His playing record was also remarkable as he never lost a match for club or county.

Atkins gained a mathematics scholarship to Peterhouse, Cambridge. In addition to his studies he played top board for the University between 1890-95, losing only 1 game. He appeared occasionally for Leicester during vacations. His record earned him a place in the 1895 Hastings Tournament, he finished equal second behind Maroczy, and as the highest placed British player won the title of British Amateur Champion.

Atkins secured temporary appointments at Weymouth & Marlborough colleges before taking up a more permanent post as a mathematics master at Northampton Grammar school. Whilst he appeared for the Northampton club in friendly matches against Leicester, he played his county chess for Leicestershire. 1897 saw the first MCCU county competition, with Atkins win on Board 1 for Leicester in the final was the only positive result, the 11 other boards being drawn.

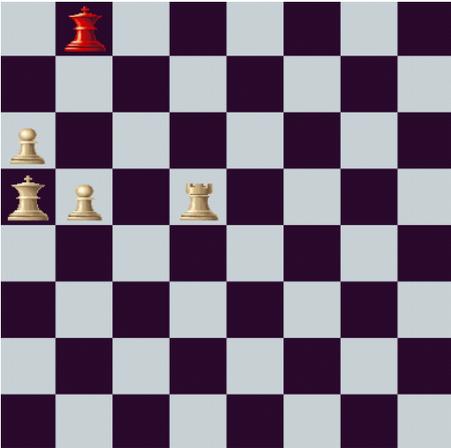
During the 5 years to 1900 Atkins gained increasing success in National events, represented Great Britain in cable matches and in 1899 won all 15 games at the strong Amsterdam Tournament. 1902 saw him compete in the International Masters Tournament in Hanover, where he finished third behind Janowski & Pillsbury but ahead of Tchigorin, Marshall & Gunsberg amongst others. Despite the promise shown he only competed in one other overseas event some years later. By this time he had returned to Leicester taking up the post of senior mathematics master at his old school, the Wyggeston. In some quarters it is suggested that he was unable to make further forays overseas due to his scholastic duties, in others that he was unwilling to devote the amount of time that would have required to do so.

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# POSITIONAL PUZZLES

Here are some more puzzles –solutions on page 13.

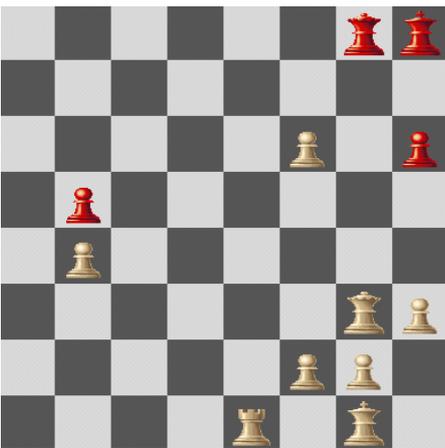
1) White to play and win in 3 moves.



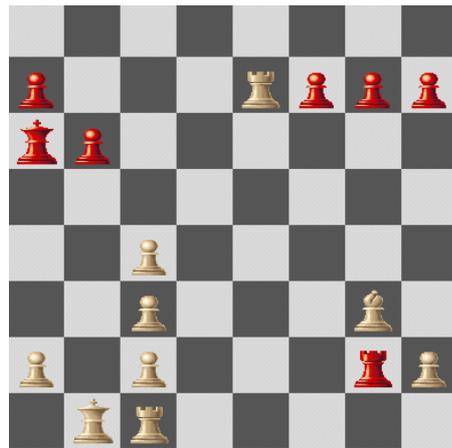
4) White to play and win in 3 moves.



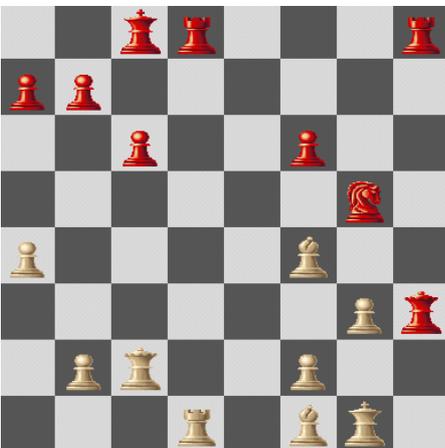
2) White to play and win in 2 moves.



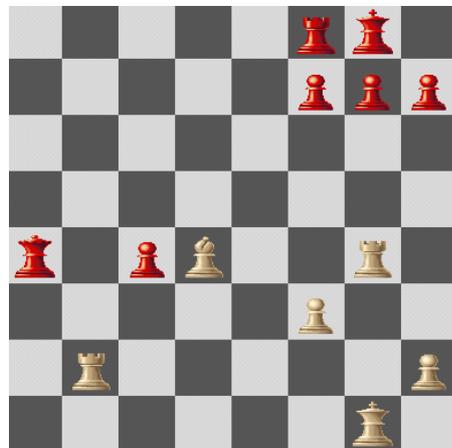
5) White to play and win in 4 moves.



3) White to play and win in 2 moves.



6) White to play and win in 3 moves.



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Having sacrificed an international chess career, for whatever reason, Atkins shone in the BCF championship tournaments in their first few years. He tied for first place in the inaugural event of 1904, losing the play-off for the outright title, which went to William E Napier. However, from 1905 – 1911 he made the title his own. Opinion in some quarters is that he could have held the title for much longer, but he retired from competitive chess in 1912. As with his overseas play, it is unclear what was behind this decision. He himself appears to have been unwilling or able to shed any light on the matter, being quoted in a collection of his games, published in 1952 as saying “I really can’t say why I didn’t play after 1911 for so many years” In 1908 he had moved from Leicester to Huddersfield to become headmaster at the Grammar School there.

Just as inexplicably as he had retired from chess competition, he came out of retirement, winning 2 more British Championships in 1924 & 1925, appearing in the London International event of 1922 and in international team tournaments in 1927 in London, and his final overseas foray to Warsaw in 1935. His international appearances may have been few but they were sufficient to gain him, on the Continent, the title of 'the little Steinitz'. Partly this was a reference to his prowess as a player, and partly this was a description of his style of play; for he was much influenced by [Wilhelm Steinitz](#), and played a type of game that the great Bohemian would have commended.

After 30 years as Principal of Huddersfield College as it had then become, Atkins retired. The Leicester club were delighted when he decided to return to his native city. The 1938/9 season saw Atkins once again at the head of a victorious Leicestershire team, once again defeating Worcestershire for the MCCU title. He played 76 games for the county with 36 wins and 40 draws, a remarkable record !

Chess activity was much curtailed by World War II and by the time the conflict was over Atkins

was in his 70's. The Leicester club history reports that he continued to attend the club in his last few years, but only for brief spells, playing no serious chess, but preferring to assist with adjudications. He passed away on the 31<sup>st</sup> January 1955 in his 83<sup>rd</sup> year.

Some aficionados regard Atkins as the greatest British player, ahead of Blackburne and Staunton. Even going so far as to say that, had he chosen to devote himself to a chess career, he would have been a World Championship contender

Here are a couple of Atkins games from the London International of 1922 during Atkins second spell of competitive chess

White : Atkins, Henry Ernest  
Black : Rubinstein, Akiba

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 e6 3. c4 d5 4. Bg5 Nbd7  
5. e3 Be7 6. Nc3 O-O 7. Bd3 dxc4 8.  
Bxc4 a6 9. a4 c5 10. O-O Qa5 11. Qe2  
cxd4 12. exd4 Nb6 13. Bd3 Rd8 14. Rfd1  
Bd7 15. Ne5 Be8 16. Qe3 Nfd5 17. Qg3  
Bxg5 18. Qxg5 Nxc3 19. bxc3 Nd5 20. Qh4  
Nf6 21. c4 h6 22. Qg3 Rac8 23. Bc2 Bc6  
24. Qe3 b6 25. Ra3 Ba8 26. Qf4 b5 27.  
Rh3 bxc4 28. Rxh6 Rc5 29. Rh3 Rcd5  
{...Be4 is better}



30. Kf1 Qb6 31. Rg3 Rxd4 32. Rxd4 Qxd4  
33. Qxf6 Qa1+ 34. Ke2 Bf3+ 35. gxf3 1-0

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White : Tartakower, Saviely  
Black : Atkins, Henry Ernest

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Nf6 4. Nc3 Nxe4 5. Nxe4 d5 6. Bd3 dxe4 7. Bxe4 Bd6 8. d4 Nxd4 9. Nxd4 exd4 10. Qxd4 O-O 11. Be3 Qe7 12. O-O-O Re8 13. Bd5 Be5 14. Qa4 c6 15. Bf3 Be6 16. Kbl a5 17. Bd4 Bd6 18. Bb6 Bb4 19. c3 Ra6 20. Be3 Bf5+ 21. Ka1 b5 22. Qb3 Bd6 23. a4 Rb8 24. Rd2 Be6 25. Qd1 Be5 26. Bd4 Bf4 27. Be3 Bxe3 28. fxe3 b4 29. cxb4 {c4 blocking the attack would have been better. Now Atkins lines everything up against the White King.}



Rab6 30. Rd6 Rxb4 31. Bxc6 Rxb2 32. Bb5 Ra2+ 33. Kbl Rxa4 34. Kc2 Ra2+ 35. Kc3 Rc8+ 36. Bc6 Rxc6+ 37. Rxc6 Qb4+ 38. Kd3 Qb5+ 39. Kd4 Qxc6 40. Ke5 Qc5+ 41. Kf4 Qf5+ 42. Kg3 Qf2++ 0-1

## MCCU v EACU MATCH

Arrangements for this match are being finalized as I write. The match will be over 50 boards, with 10 boards in each grading band i.e. 10 Open; 10 U175; 10 U150; 10 U125 & 10 U100. If you are interested in representing the Union and are available on March 12<sup>th</sup> please let either myself or Cyril have your details. A board fee will be charged to cover costs.

## WHO'S WHO QUIZ

- 1) This man was born in Poland in 1882 and is regarded by many as the finest player never to have won the World Championship, who was he?
- 2) This player won the World Championship in 1972, but did not play another public game until 1992, who was he & who were his opponents on these occasions?
- 3) In 1939 this world champion lost his brother Alexey, who had been murdered, who was he?
- 4) Which 19<sup>th</sup> century player was referred to as "the pride and sorrow of chess"?
- 5) Who was elected to the US chess hall of fame in 1988 for his invention of a ratings system for chess?
- 6) Which world champion became an American citizen on November 23<sup>rd</sup> 1888?
- 7) In 1930 a revolutionary chess book "My System" was first published. Who was the author?
- 8) In 1989 the longest game under international time controls and rules was played. The players were Nikolic & Arsovic, the place was Belgrade, but how many moves did they make?
- 9) Most people are aware of the man vs. machine match in 1997 where Deep Blue beat Kasparov, but who was the grandmaster consulted on the construction of Deep Blue?
- 10) Another "man vs machine" match also took place in which Kasparov was not the man, who was the man & what was the name of the machine?
- 11) This famous singer & pianist, was also a keen chess player, and has recently been the subject of a film release, can you name him?
- 12) Which retired former boxing world champion is also a keen chess player?
- 13) This snooker player also has an interest in chess and was for a time the BCF President, who is he?
- 14) Which current England cricket player has played county chess as well?
- 15) Which retired Argentinian international footballer, who both played and managed in England, was also a keen correspondence chess player?
- 16) What is the connection between the Home Office and the English grading system?
- 17) Which world championship challenger was born in Russia in 1931, but is now a Swiss citizen?
- 18) The Swiss board 2 player at the 2004 Olympiad was not Swiss born, can you name him?
- 19) Which world champion, born in Russia in 1906, later moved to England?
- 20) Which top player had no problems with noisy venues?

Answers may be found on page 14

## CORRESPONDENCE CHESS

Our historical series moves to another form of chess with which some of you will be familiar, others less so.

There are a number of anecdotal reports of early games the earliest being between the Emperor Nicephorus and the Caliph of Baghdad, Haron al-Rashid, in the 9th century. There are also reports that King Henry I (1068-1135) of England and King Louis VI (1081-1137) of France battled at chess by messenger in 1119. 17<sup>th</sup> Century merchants in Venetia and Croatia were said to be in competition, not just for trade, but at correspondence chess.

The earliest authenticated correspondence games involved inter-club matches. The Hague and Breda chess clubs competed in 1804 with Breda the winners. In 1824 one of the earliest recorded postal games occurred between Amsterdam and Rotterdam Chess Clubs, the victors being Amsterdam. In the same year the first recorded British match started. London Chess Club first challenged the Paris Club to a correspondence match, without the challenge being taken up. The match that did get off the ground was between London and Edinburgh; this was played until three decisive results were achieved. Draws did not count. The match began on April 23, 1824. According to the terms of the match, two games would be played at the same time, each club playing white on the first move. If a game was drawn, another game would start. The side which first won a game was to have White in a third game. The letters were carried 400 miles by mail coach and the letters were delivered within three days (any better than today's mail?). Edinburgh won the match with 2 wins, 1 loss, and two drawn games. During one of the games, the London chess club tried to take back two moves. Edinburgh declined, and went on to win the game. London had thrown away the second game in a winning position. The match lasted until July, 1828.

The Paris Club did take up the correspondence challenge in the 1930's and played a series of matches with London and Westminster clubs. In the meantime Manchester and Liverpool engaged in a shorter distance match.

The first real explosion in correspondence chess association, both administratively and in tourneys, in Britain came with the introduction of the "penny post" in January 1840. Individuals could now afford to play correspondence chess. Prior to the postage stamp, letters were sent and it was the person who received the letter who had to pay. The postage rate depended on the distance the letter had to travel. When the postage stamp was introduced, the sender of a letter prepaid his postage according to weight and not distance. In the two months after the introduction of the postage stamp, there was a very large increase in the number of correspondence games.

By the 1850's postal chess featured in the chess magazines of the day. 1870 saw the formation of the first British club dedicated to correspondence play the Cassia club. In 1888 the first international postal tournament was held. It was organized by the *Mondre Illustre* newspaper. This was followed in the 1890's by the first telegraph/cable matches, with an annual match between the USA and Great Britain from 1896 through to 1911. 1902 saw the first radio match, but this form of correspondence did not really take off.

Telephone chess is another format that never became popular, according to the 'The Chess Players' Chronicle of 1878, the first Chess game to be played by telephone, was between F. Thompson, editor the *Derbyshire Advertiser*, and a friend on January 25, 1878. The first county telephone match to be played in England was between Norfolk and Gloucestershire in 1934. The first telephone club match was between Cardiff and Swansea on March 18, 1884.

The first national correspondence association was the British Correspondence Chess Association, formed in 1906 and heading for its Centenary next year. It was the brainchild of 4 men, J Murray, H T Dickinson, W E Whetham, and F de Mattos Harding. Whilst Dickinson was the first secretary, it is Harding who quickly took over as secretary, who is regarded as responsible for the early development of the organisation. J C Bloodworth's account of the first 60 years of the BCCA describes Harding as "an invalid". He also recounts that ladies played a prominent role in the early years of the There was also a strong clerical element, with Reverend gentlemen winning the

Championship title in all but 2 years of the first 9 years. It was Rev. F E Hammond, a BCCA champion, who won the first BCF Correspondence championship in 1921/2.

The National Correspondence Chess Club was founded in 1932, followed by the Social Correspondence Chess Association in 1940. In the period leading up to World War II correspondence chess organisations were springing up across the world. This led to the first international team Olympiad in 1935, in which 17 European countries participated and which Hungary won.

Postal chess participants experienced a number of problems with misinterpretation of their activities. In the 19th century chess master Joseph Blackburne was arrested as a spy for sending chess moves in the mail. The British government thought they were coded secrets. It made the same mistake in the 20<sup>th</sup> century when its Board of Censors halted a mass England – USA match involving 1002 players on the same grounds in 1941. The FBI did not learn from the mistakes of their English cousins, in 1943 Humphrey Bogart was visited by them and prevented from playing postal chess because he was suspected of transmitting secret enemy codes.

International correspondence chess associations began with the ISFB (Internationaler Fernschachbund) in 1928. Post-war this became the ICCA (International Correspondence Chess Association) which then transformed into the ICCF (International Correspondence Chess Federation) in 1951. The ICCF has over 60 member countries and runs World Championship events.

The British Correspondence Chess Society came into existence in 1961, essentially as the result of a disagreement between the BCCA and the BCF over British representation at the 5<sup>th</sup> International Correspondence Chess Federation Olympiad. A GB team competed under the BCCS name. This incident also led to general agreement amongst the correspondence chess organisations that a national body solely for correspondence chess was needed. However, there were differing opinions on whether a separate committee of the BCF was the best option, or whether an entirely

separate independent body should be formed. This issue caused some discord, ultimately the BPCF (British Postal Chess Federation) was formed as a separate body in 1962, its' affiliation to the BCF created a solution which reunited the British correspondence community. The BPCF then became the current BFCC (British Federation for Correspondence Chess)

Correspondence chess was to be revolutionised by the widespread availability of email access. This created a new and different method of transmitting moves, and altered the dividing line between correspondence and over the board chess. OTB players who regarded "postal" chess as too ponderous were now presented with an alternative which was much speedier. Computers also presented correspondence chess with other issues, the growth and strength of chess programs has left some players feeling that the use of such an aid is a step too far; others feel that they are merely an extension in the search for move options, with the player still ultimately choosing from the options identified.

The 1990's saw another development, the internet chess club. This provides players with the opportunity to play games at the same sort of speed as OTB chess. Is this another form of correspondence chess? Some would say yes, it is simply a speedier form of transmitting the moves. Other would emphatically say no, it does not embody the principal of leisurely detailed analysis, which they feel is the essence of correspondence chess.

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## **CHESS JOKE CORNER**

A group of chess enthusiasts had checked into a hotel, and were standing in the lobby discussing their recent tournament victories. After about an hour, the manager came out of the office and asked them to disperse.

"But why?" they asked, as they moved off.

"Because," he said, "I can't stand chess nuts boasting in an open foyer."

Has anyone any offerings for a future issue? Must be clean enough for your maiden aunt to read.

## CHESS WORLD CHAMPIONS

The next in the series of World Champions leads us to Euwe, there are some striking similarities between his story & that of H E Atkins.



**Machgielis Euwe** is better known by the name **Max Euwe**, and he is better known as the world chess champion from 1935 to 1937 than as a mathematician. However, Euwe was indeed a very fine mathematician who concentrated more on his mathematics throughout his life than on his chess.

Max Euwe's parents were Elisabeth and Cornelius Euwe. Cornelius was a teacher and he often played chess with his wife who loved the game. By the time Max was five years old his parents had taught him to play and soon he was able to beat them. Max attended school in Amsterdam where he excelled in mathematics, and he began to play chess at ever more advanced levels. In 1911, when he was ten years old, Max entered his first chess tournament, a one day Christmas congress, and won every game. He became a member of the Amsterdam chess club when he was twelve years old and by the time he was fourteen he was playing in the

Dutch Chess Federation tournaments. This was a difficult time in most European countries as World War I was totally disrupting normal life in most places, but The Netherlands remained neutral, so life in Amsterdam was relatively comfortable.

When he was eighteen years old Euwe was awarded his *Abitur* after attending a six-form High School in Amsterdam. By this time World War I had ended and international travel became possible again. Euwe made his first trip abroad, going to England to play in the famous Hastings Chess Tournament where he took fourth place. There had been little doubt in his mind what subject he should study at university, and he entered Amsterdam University to begin his study of mathematics. It should not be thought that Euwe kept his study of chess distinct from his mathematical studies. On the contrary he saw mathematics as being able to provide him with a logical, precise, even algebraic, approach to the game. We mention below an interesting mathematics paper he wrote which was motivated by chess.

By 1920 he was the leading Dutch player and he won the Dutch Championship for the first time in August 1921. In 1923 he was awarded an Honours Degree in mathematics from Amsterdam University. He then undertook research in mathematics which led to him being awarded a doctorate in 1926 from the University of Amsterdam. His dissertation, *Differentiaal invarianten van twee covariantievectorvelden met vier veranderlijken*, was supervised by Roland Weitzenböck and Hendrick de Vries (who also supervised [van der Waerden](#) around this time). Euwe then lectured on mathematics in Winterswyk and Rotterdam and was appointed to the Lyceum for Girls in Amsterdam, teaching mathematics there from 1926 to 1940.

His doctoral studies behind him, from December 1926 to January 1927 Euwe narrowly lost a match with Alekhine 2 games to 3 won with 5 draws. At this stage Alekhine was not World Chess Champion, but soon after this he won the title and Euwe saw that, having competed so well with Alekhine, he was in with a chance at becoming World Champion himself. In 1928 he beat Bogolyubov twice in matches played in

Amsterdam, Rotterdam and Utrecht.

In 1929 he published a mathematics paper in which he constructed an infinite sequence of 0's and 1's with no three identical consecutive subsequences of any length. He then used this to show that, under the rules of chess that then were in force, an infinite game of chess was possible. It had always been the intention of the rules that this should not be possible, but the rule that a game is a draw if the same sequence of moves occurs three times in succession was not, as Euwe showed, sufficient.

In 1930 he won the Hastings tournament ahead of Capablanca. However in an Euwe - Capablanca match which was played later Euwe lost 0 wins to 2 with 8 draws. The year 1932 was a very successful one beating Spielmann, drawing twice with Flohr and taking second place behind Alekhine in a tournament in Berne.

During 1933-34 he played very little chess while he concentrated on mathematics. Then, in the summer of 1935, he challenged Alekhine; the match began on 3 October. It was held at twenty-three different locations in Amsterdam, The Hague, Delft, Rotterdam, Utrecht, Gouda, Groningen, Baarn, Hertogenbosch, Eindhoven, Zeist, Ermelo, and Zandvoort. L Pins and B H Wood wrote:-

*The dramatic result of his first match against Alekhine is old history. Three points down after seven games, he pulled up to equality, only to see his redoubtable opponent draw away again. Battling gamely, he was still two down at the two-thirds stage, but won the twentieth, twenty-first, twenty-fifth, and twenty-sixth games and retained his grip on a now desperate adversary to the end.*

There is also a description of Euwe's style of play:-

*Euwe's great characteristic is economy of force. He is logic personified, a genius of law and order. His play is accurate and aggressive. One would hardly call him an attacking player, yet when his genius is functioning at its smoothest he strides confidently into some extraordinary complex positions: he is no disciple of simplicity. His greatest weakness is a tendency to blunder.*

Euwe played the Nottingham International Chess Tournament from 10 August to 28 August 1936 while he was World Champion. In the Introduction to the Book of the Tournament, W H Watts wrote:-

*Euwe is the essence of caution. To win the world's championship and to secure a place only half a point behind the winner on caution alone is impossible, there must be depth and imagination, but the outstanding impression to be gained from his games is caution and dogged perseverance.*

Despite this overall impression of caution, it is worth noting that Euwe shared the prize for the most wins in his score during the tournament.

While Euwe was World Champion he changed the way that players competed for the title. From that time on the rights to organise World Championship matches was given to FIDE (Fédération Internationale des échecs - the World Chess Federation). The one exception was the return match between Euwe and Alekhine which went ahead according to the conditions already arranged at the time of the first match.

In his return match with Alekhine things went badly for Euwe after winning the first game, and he lost the match by a margin of five points. Various reasons have been put forward as to why he was defeated so heavily, but the main reason was almost certainly the fact that his advisor, Reuben Fine, had taken ill with appendicitis and could not assist him.

After this Euwe went through a rather bad spell as regards his chess. His teaching duties made it difficult for him to concentrate on tournaments and in the Dutch championship which followed his defeat as World Champion he could only play matches in the evening as he had teaching commitments through the day. For other tournaments, although he did receive time off from his teaching duties to play, he had no time to prepare as he would teach up to the last moment.

He played at Hastings at Christmas 1938-39 and won the Dutch Championship again in 1939 but the onset of war made international play difficult over the next few years. During the war Euwe led work to provide food for people through an

underground charity organisation.

After the war he won the London Tournament in 1946 and it looked for a while as though he might challenge again for the World Championship. However after some impressive play in the couple of years following the war, he then began to look past his best. Euwe became interested in electronic data processing and was appointed as Professor of Cybernetics in 1954. In 1957 he visited the United States to study computer technology in that country. While in the United States he played two unofficial chess games in New York against Bobby Fischer, winning one and drawing the second. He was appointed director of The Netherlands Automatic Data Processing Research Centre in 1959. He was chairman, from 1961 to 1963, of a committee set up by Euratom to examine the feasibility of programming computers to play chess. Then, in 1964, he was appointed to a chair in automatic information processing in Rotterdam University and, following that, at Tilburg University. He retired as professor at Tilburg in 1971.

In 1970 Euwe was elected the president of FIDE and held that position until 1978. His role as arbitrator of the Fischer - Spassky World Championship match in Reykjavik, Iceland in 1972 was a very difficult one which he carried out with great tact and skill. He was unfortunate that during his time as president negotiations for the World Championship match between Fischer and Karpov became extremely difficult. Euwe made huge efforts to ensure that the match was played but, unfortunately, despite every effort eventually the match had to be awarded to Karpov by default.

Here are 2 of the many Euwe/Alekhine matches

#### **Euwe,Max - Alekhine,Alexander**

World Championship 16th NLD (26) 1935

1.d4 e6 2.c4 f5 3.g3 Bb4+ 4.Bd2 Be7 5.Bg2 Nf6  
6.Nc3 0-0 7.Nf3 Ne4 8.0-0 b6 9.Qc2 Bb7 10.Ne5  
Nxc3 11.Bxc3 Bxg2 12.Kxg2 Qc8 13.d5 d6 14.Nd3  
e5 15.Kh1 c6 16.Qb3 Kh8 17.f4 e4 18.Nb4 c5 19.Nc2  
Nd7 20.Ne3 Bf6 21.Nxf5 Bxc3 22.Nxd6 Qb8 23.Nxe4  
Bf6 24.Nd2 g5 25.e4 gxf4 26.gxf4 Bd4 27.e5 Qe8  
28.e6 Rg8 29.Nf3 Qg6 30.Rg1 Bxg1 31.Rxg1 Qf6  
32.Ng5 Rg7 33.exd7 Rxd7 34.Qe3 Re7 35.Ne6 *The knight is essentially controlling much of black's half of the board*



35...Rf8 36.Qe5 Qxe5 37.fxe5 Rf5 38.Re1 h6 39.Nd8  
Rf2 40.e6 Rd2 41.Nc6 Re8 42.e7 b5 43.Nd8 Kg7  
44.Nb7 Kf6 45.Re6+ Kg5 46.Nd6 Rxe7 47.Ne4+ 1-0

#### **Alekhine,Alexander - Euwe,Max**

Amsterdam, 1936

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bb5 Bb4 5.0-0 0-0  
6.d3 d6 7.Ne2 Ne7 8.c3 Ba5 9.Ng3 c6 10.Ba4 Ng6  
11.d4 Re8 12.Bb3 exd4 13.cxd4 Be6 14.Ng5 Bxb3  
15.Qxb3 Qd7 16.f3 h6 17.Nh3 Re6 18.Nf4 Nxf4  
19.Bxf4 Bb6 20.Rad1 Rae8 21.Kh1 d5 22.e5 Nh7  
23.Nf5 f6 24.g4 fxe5 25.Bxe5 Nf6 26.Qd3 Kh8  
27.Rg1 Bc7 28.f4 Qf7 29.Rdf1



29 .....Bxe5 30.fxe5 Ne4 31.g5 hxg5 32.Nd6 Nf2+  
33.Kg2 Nxd3 34.Nxf7+ Kg8 35.Nxg5 Rg6 36.h4 c5  
37.dxc5 Rxe5 38.Kh3 Nxc5 39.Rc1 Rc6 40.Rge1 Ne4  
41.Rxc6 bxc6 42.Rc1 Nxg5+ 43.hxg5 Re6 44.Kg4  
Kf7 45.Rc3 a5 46.Kf3 Kg6 47.Ra3 Kxg5 48.Rxa5 Kf5  
49.a4 g5 50.Ra8 Re4 51.Rf8+ Ke5 52.Re8+ Kd4  
53.Rb8 c5 54.b4 c4 55.a5 Re3+ 56.Kf2 Ra3 57.Rg8  
c3 58.Rxg5 Ra2+ 59.Kf3 c2 60.Rg1 0-1

# FIDE LAWS

The FIDE laws have been revised & are due to come into force later this year. The current translation into English has been withdrawn for some minor amendment, but the main changes are highlighted below & are not expected to be materially affected.

## Article 1: The nature and objectives of the game of chess

1.2 The objective of each player is to place the opponent's king 'under attack' in such a way that the opponent has no legal move. The player who achieves this goal is said to have 'checkmated' the opponent's king and to have won the game. **Leaving one's own king under attack, exposing one's own king to attack and also 'capturing' the opponent's king are not allowed.** The opponent whose king has been checkmated has lost the game.

## Article 3: The moves of the pieces

3.1 It is not permitted to move a piece to a square occupied by a piece of the same colour. If a piece moves to a square occupied by an opponent's piece the latter is captured and removed from the chessboard as part of the same move. A piece is said to attack an opponent's piece if the piece could make a capture on that square according to Articles 3.2 to 3.8.

**A piece is considered to attack a square, even if such a piece is constrained from moving to that square because it would then leave or place the king of its own colour under attack.**

3.9 **The king is said to be 'in check' if it is attacked by one or more of the opponent's pieces, even if such pieces are constrained from moving to that square because they would then leave or place their own king in check.** No piece can be moved that will either expose the king of the same colour to check or leave that king in check.

## Article 4: The act of moving the pieces

- 4.4 a If a player deliberately touches his king and rook he must castle on that side if it is legal to do so.
- b. If a player deliberately touches a rook and then his king he is not allowed to castle on that side on that move and the situation shall be governed by Article 4.3(a).
- c. If a player, intending to castle, touches the king or king and rook at the same time, but castling on that side is illegal, the player must make another legal move with his king which may include castling on the other side. If the king has no legal move, the player is free to make any legal move.
- d. If a player promotes a pawn, the choice of the piece is finalised, when the piece has touched the square of promotion.**

**[4.6]** When, as a legal move or part of a legal move, a piece has been released on a square, it cannot then be moved to another square. The move is considered to have been made when all the relevant requirements of Article 3 have been fulfilled

**a. In the case of a capture, when the captured piece has been removed from the chessboard and the player, having placed his own piece on its new square, has released this capturing piece from his hand;**

**b. In the case of castling, when the player's hand has released the rook on the square previously crossed by the king. When the player has released the king from his hand, the move is not yet made, but the player no longer has the right to make any move other than castling on that side, if this is legal;**

**c. In the case of the promotion of a pawn, when the pawn has been removed from the chessboard and the player's hand has released the new piece after placing it on the promotion square. If the player has released from his hand the pawn that has reached the promotion square, the move is not yet made, but the player no longer has the right to play the pawn to another square.**

## Article 6: The chess clock

6.12 If both flags have fallen and it is impossible to establish which flag fell first then

- a. the game shall continue if it happens in any period of the game except the last period.**
- b. the game is drawn in case it happens in the period of a game, in which all remaining moves must be completed.**

## Article 7: Irregularities

7.4 a. If during a game it is found that an illegal move, **including promotion of a pawn or capturing the opponent's king, has been completed**, the position immediately before the irregularity shall be reinstated. If the position immediately before the irregularity cannot be determined, the game shall continue

from the last identifiable position prior to the irregularity. The clocks shall be adjusted according to Article 6.14. Article 4.3 applies to the move replacing the illegal move. The game shall then continue from this reinstated position.

b. After the action taken under Article 7.4(a), for the first two illegal moves by a player the arbiter shall give two minutes extra time to his opponent in each instance; for a third illegal move by the same player, the arbiter shall declare the game lost by this player.

Article 8: The recording of the moves

8.1 In the course of play each player is required to record his own moves and those of his opponent in the correct manner, move after move, as clearly and legibly as possible, in the algebraic notation (Appendix E), on the 'scoresheet' prescribed for the competition. **It is forbidden to write the moves in advance.**

A player may reply to his opponent's move before recording it, if he so wishes. He must record his previous move before making another. Both players must record the offer of a draw on the scoresheet. (Appendix E.12) If a player is unable to keep score, **an assistant, who is acceptable to the arbiter, may be provided by the player to write the moves.** His clock shall be adjusted by the arbiter in an equitable way.

8.4 a.If a player has less than five minutes left on his clock **at some stage in a period** and does not have additional time of 30 seconds or more added with each move, then he is not obliged to meet the requirements of Article 8.1. Immediately after one flag has fallen the player must update his scoresheet completely before moving a piece on the chessboard

**b.If a player has less than five minutes left on his clock and has additional time of 30 seconds or more added with each move, both players have to write the opponent's before completing their own move.**

Article 9: The drawn game

9.6 The game is drawn when a position is reached from which a checkmate cannot occur by any possible series of legal moves, even with the most unskilled play. This immediately ends the game, **provided that the move producing this position was legal**

Article 10: Quickplay Finish

10.2 If the player, having the move, has less than two minutes left on his clock, he may claim a draw before his flag falls. He shall stop the clocks and summon the arbiter.

a. If the arbiter agrees the opponent is making no

effort to win the game by normal means, or that it is not possible to win by normal means, then he shall declare the game drawn. Otherwise he shall postpone his decision or reject the claim.

b. If the arbiter postpones his decision, the opponent may be awarded two extra minutes ~~thinking time~~ and the game shall continue in the presence of an arbiter, if possible. The arbiter shall declare the final result **later in the game or** after a flag has fallen. **He shall declare the game drawn if he agrees that the final position cannot be won by normal means, or that the opponent was not making sufficient attempts to win by normal means.**

c. If the arbiter has rejected the claim, the opponent shall be awarded two extra minutes time.

d. The decision of the arbiter shall be final relating to 10.2 a, b, c.

Article 12: The conduct of the players

12.2 [a] During play the players are forbidden to make use of any notes, sources of information, advice, or analyse on another chessboard..

**b. It is strictly forbidden to bring mobile phones or other electronic means of communication, not authorised by the arbiter, into the playing venue. If a player's mobile phone rings in the playing venue during play, that player shall lose the game. The score of the opponent shall be determined by the arbiter.**

[12.3] The scoresheet shall be used only for recording the moves, the times of the clocks, the offers of a draw, matters relating to a claim **and other relevant data.**

Article 13: The role of the arbiter

13.7 [a.] Spectators and players in other games are not to speak about or otherwise interfere in a game. If necessary, the arbiter may expel offenders from the playing venue.

**[b.] It is forbidden for anybody to use a mobile phone in the playing venue and any area designated by the arbiter**

B Rapidplay

*BI.* A 'Rapidplay' game is one where either all the moves must be made in a fixed time from 15 to 60 minutes; **or the time allotted + 60 times any increment is from 15 to 60 minutes.**

[B5.] The arbiter shall make a ruling according to Article 4 (The act of moving pieces), only if requested to do so by one or both players.

B5 (b) is deleted

**B6. An illegal move is completed once the opponent's clock has been started. The opponent is then entitled to claim that the player completed an illegal move before the claimant has made his move. Only after such a claim, shall the arbiter make a ruling. However, if both Kings are in check or the promotion of a pawn is not completed, the arbiter shall intervene, if possible.**

C. Blitz

**C1.** A 'blitz' game' is one where all the moves must be made in a fixed time of less than 15 minutes for each player; or the allotted time + 60 times any increment is less than 15 minutes

**C2.** Play shall be governed by the Rapidplay Laws as in Appendix B except where they are overridden by the following Laws of Blitz. **The Articles 10.2 and B6 do not apply.**

D. Quickplay finishes where no arbiter is present in the venue.

**D1.** Where games are played as in Article 10, a player may claim a draw when he has less than two minutes left on his clock and before his flag falls. This concludes the game.

He may claim on the basis

- a. that his opponent cannot win by normal means, *and/or*
- b. that his opponent has been making no effort to win by normal means.

In (a) the player must write down the final position and his opponent verify it.

In (b) the player must write down the final position and submit an up-to-date scoresheet ~~which must be completed before play has ceased.~~ The opponent shall verify both the scoresheet and the final position. **The claim shall be referred to an arbiter whose decision shall be the final one.**

Once the final version of the new laws has been published I will be asking some arbiters to comment on their practical application. If you have any specific queries on the changes that you would like addressed please let me know.

My contact details are given on page 1 of this edition.

## MATCH OF THE GENERATIONS

The BCF continue to welcome results for the Centenary "Match of the Generations".

The basic idea of The Match of the Generations is that players Under 20 on 1 January 2004 will meet opponents 20 or over, under any circumstances they deem suitable, including games played on the Internet. The closing date is 6<sup>th</sup> May.

Browsing through some old "Chess" magazines I discovered that this "generations" event is by no means a new phenomenon. 50 years ago a National Chess Week held 14<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> February saw Teenagers v Old Stagers events. The overall totals were Teenagers 366.5 Old Stagers 643.5. These matches seem to have been a feature of a regularly held National Chess Week. Birmingham, Coventry, Hinckley, Leamington, Leicester and Stoke on Trent all held events in 1955. The organisers set a target of 3000 games for the 1957 event, which was actually reached. Although dates were announced for the following years' Chess Week I can find no report of the event actually taking place. Does anyone know whether 1957 was the last of the National Chess Weeks of that time? Is there anyone out there who competed as a Teenager in the old event and has competed as an "Old Stager" or over 20 in the current event?

Interestingly a National Chess week is being run by this year, but by Banardos to promote chess amongst youngsters.

### POSITIONAL PUZZLES SOLUTIONS from page 3

- 1) 1. b6 Ka8/Kc8 2. Rd6 Kb8 3. Rd8 ++
- 2) 1. Re8 Qxe8/Qxf8 (or if any other move 2. Qxg8++) 2. qxg8++
- 3) 1. Qxc6+ bxc6 2. Ba6++
- 4) 1. Qxh7+ Kxh7 2. Rh1+ Kg8 3. Rh8++
- 5) 1. Bb8 b5 (this is the only way to stop Rxa7++) 3. c4 Ka5/any other move 4. Rxa7++
- 6) 1. Rxg7 Kh8 2. Rg8+ Kxg8 3. Rg2++

## Little Fishes

There once was a fish,  
who splashed in the sea,  
his heart was in Zugzwang,  
his mind was en prise.  
Down the exchange,  
but on the attack,  
damn the torpedoes!,  
he went for the sac.  
A pawn, then a bishop,  
a rook and a knight.  
It was a glorious moment  
and a beautiful sight.  
His slack-jawed opponent  
just drooled in a trance,  
God couldn't save him,  
he hadn't a chance.  
King on the fifth,  
a forced mate in three  
his humbled stone silence,  
was my ecstasy.  
And then something happened  
that I'll never forget,  
when he offered his hand  
and our bloodshot eyes met.  
Three little words,  
even now make me gag,  
a polite little whisper:  
"Sorry, your flag".

William Larsen Utica, New York

(appeared in February 1995 issue of "Chess Life")

"I am still a victim of chess. It has all the beauty of art - and much more. It cannot be commercialized. Chess is much purer than art in its social position." - Marcel Duchamp (1887-1968)

"Chess is a foolish expedient for making idle people believe they are doing something very clever, when they are only wasting their time." - George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950)

"There is no remorse like a remorse of chess. It is a curse upon man. There is no happiness in chess." - H.G. Wells (1886-1946)

## ANSWERS TO WHO'S WHO QUIZ

- 1) Akiba Rubinstein, who in theory would have been an opponent for Lasker. However he developed mental illness and retired from chess at 50.
- 2) Bobby Fischer won the world championship in 1972 a full 5 points ahead of his opponent, Boris Spassky, who was also his opponent 20 years later.
- 3) Alexander Alekhine, Alexey was a good player in his own right and taught his brother to play, however he was killed because of his involvement in a love affair.
- 4) Paul Morphy, who was regarded as a brilliant player but suffered mental illness and died at the young age of 47.
- 5) Arpad Elo, whose rating system came into use in 1970. He was also president of the American Chess Federation.
- 6) Wilhelm Steinitz, who was born in Austria and defeated Zukertort in 1886 in what is regarded as the first official world championship.
- 7) Although 75 years old, this Nimzovitch book is still considered by many as a useful study aid.
- 8) 269 moves were made with the game ending in a draw.
- 9) Joel Benjamin, a former US champion.
- 10) Kramnik took on Deep Fritz, starting a few days after the Kasparov/Deep Junior match.
- 11) Ray Charles, whose keen interest in chess was yet another demonstration of his determination not to let his blindness hinder his activities.
- 12) Former world heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis is also a decent chess player.
- 13) Andrew Flintoff represented Lancashire at junior county level.
- 14) Ozzy Ardilles who played and managed at Spurs, and managed at Swindon & West Bromwich Albion.
- 15) Former world snooker champion Steve Davies was the figurehead president of the BCF, prior to that role being revised and becoming a more operational one.
- 16) Sir Richard Clarke, The current English grading system was devised by him, Charles Clarke, now in charge of the Home Office is his son.
- 17) Viktor Korchnoi.
- 18) Joe Gallagher, previously of England.
- 19) The first Women's world champion, Vera Menchik who became Vera Menchik-Stevenson.
- 20) Petrosian, he wore a hearing aid which he simply switched off if playing conditions became too noisy.