

THE MIDDLE GAME

Volume 1, Issue 16

May 2005

MCCU AGM

The MCCU AGM will be held at the Barn Social Club on Sunday 26th June at 2.30pm. The agenda is due out shortly, I hope to be able to circulate Officers reports to delegates with this, to allow time for them to be digested before hand, rather than only having them available at the meeting.

A draft Child Protection Policy will be placed before the meeting. There will also be proposals regarding board order for county matches & the county correspondence rules. I plan to put these on the website.

There are vacancies to be filled –

The Publicity post has been vacant since I became CEO last year. I have had one expression of interest in this post. As it suggests the post covers publicity for the MCCU. I have continued to produced this newsletter since becoming CEO,

HISTORIC BCF COUNCIL MEETING

I went along to Sheffield expecting a good deal of differences of opinion to be expressed on the main items, and to find that much of the remaining agenda would not be fitted in. However, firm control from the chair kept things moving and there was actually little fundamental disagreement regarding the proposals regarding the Budget, change to Limited Company status, change of name and the Northern Members pilot scheme. As a result the guillotine only fell on a few items.

President Gerry Walsh was away on international duties, the meeting heartily endorsed the suggestion that CEO Roy Heppinstall take the chair.

FINANCE

In presenting his report the Finance Director confirmed that Game Fee Income was on target to reach Budget in 2004/05, and that the final result for the year would be a surplus in excess of £20K. The Budget for 2005/06 was based on a proposed Game Fee of 44p. This was the same amount set at the 2004/5 Council meeting, though it was later reduced to 43p because the grading data could not be published on the BCF website.

The healthy excess was due in no small part to the good profit on the 2004 British Championships. There was some debate on the Directors argument that some of the profit be put into reserves, which have taken something of a battering in recent years. There were also queries raised on the fact that successive budgets have presumed a break even result on the British Championships, whilst they have in fact consistently

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become the Newsletter Editor. They could look to someone else to do this. Whilst I quite enjoy producing The Middle Game, I would be quite happy for someone else to take on the task, but would like to see some evidence that they could do a decent job.

Cyril Johnson is stepping down as Events Director, as the title suggests it involves organising or arranging for others to organise various MCCU events. His BCF commitments have meant Cyril has not been able devote as much time to this job as he would have liked.

Lee Collier resigned as MCCU Secretary during the year due to family commitments so this is another post we are looking to fill. The post is intended to provide secretarial support for the CEO, e.g. arranging meeting venues, sending out agendas.

All other posts are of course up for re-election.

If anyone would like to know more about the vacancies or any of the MCCU posts please feel free to contact me. Anyone wishing to be considered for a post must have a nomination proposed and seconded by any combination of 2 delegates or MCCU Officers.

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MCCU OPEN

It will not be possible to run this event this year. Problems arose with both the original premises planned for the event and a possible back up. No alternative venue within budget could be found in time to make the event a viable proposition. I am sure you will appreciate that the event cannot simply be run at all costs; the MCCU is not exactly awash with funds. If anyone is aware of a suitable venue to accommodate up to 150 players, at a reasonable price, for next year. Please let me know.

UNION JAMBOREE

I have been unable to locate a venue to accommodate 200 players within the £200 budget available in a central area for this, again if anyone has any suggestions please let me know. I would like this to run in the future if possible.

Continued from Page 1 col 1

made a profit. The 2005 event is regarded by many as a horse of a rather different colour to past events, the Isle of Man may not prove popular, bearing in mind the cost of actually getting there compared to mainland venues, it therefore seem prudent to continue to be conservative in the budget.

A query relating to the loss of insurance commission led to the meeting being informed that legislation had meant that the BCF could no longer receive insurance commission and in turn to a proposal "that the Federation continue with the Insurance Scheme even accepting that there will be administrative costs to bear" This was endorsed.

The Grand Prix came under scrutiny. It has not so far been possible to secure replacement sponsorship for this event. A number of delegates, including some congress organisers, did not feel the Grand Prix was a significant factor in congress entries and was not worth continuing. An amendment was proposed to the original motion on the table "On behalf of the Management Board the Director of Finance proposes that the Management Board be authorised to undertake a critical review of the Grand Prix" The amendment was accepted by the Director and the motion was agreed by a substantial majority.

The Finance Directors report as a whole was approved by a substantial majority.

NORTHERN MEMBERS SCHEME

Bill O'Rourke of the NCCU gave a presentation on the Northern Members Scheme, and reported that a number of areas within the Union who were currently outside the game fee system, had pledged to support the scheme. The Finance Director reported that he was content that the scheme did not represent a significant financial risk for the BCF, and the Management Board endorsed the proposals that would allow the scheme to operate. A number of queries and concerns were voiced by delegates. Most of the issues related to perceived problems for events outside the NCCU area in which Northern Members competed; in fact the NCCU will have mechanisms in place so that those outside the NCCU will carry on exactly as they do now. It was agreed that those parts of the constitution which prevent a region operating a membership scheme be temporarily overridden, thus allowing the NCCU to operate their proposed membership pilot. There will be regular reviews on the progress of the

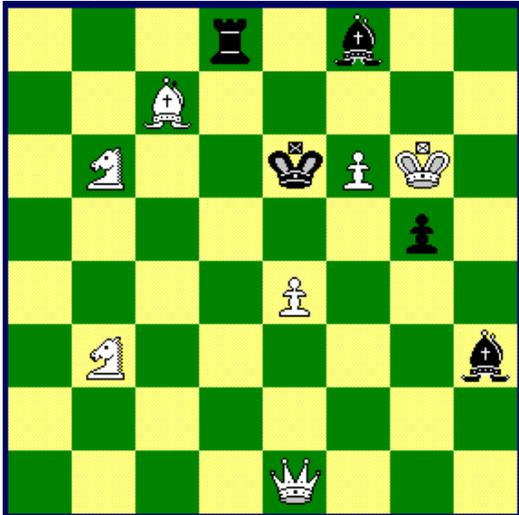
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POSITIONAL PROBLEMS

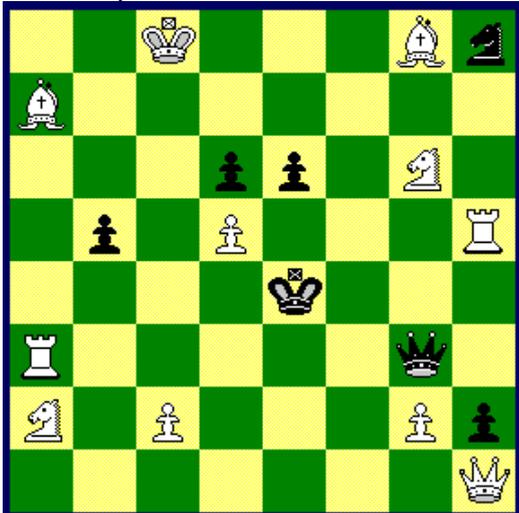
All white to move & mate in 2



Sam Lloyd New York Sunday Herald 1889

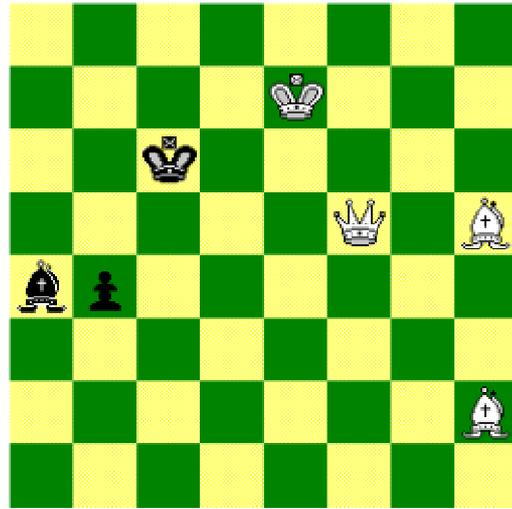


Michael Lipton Scakend Nederland 1968

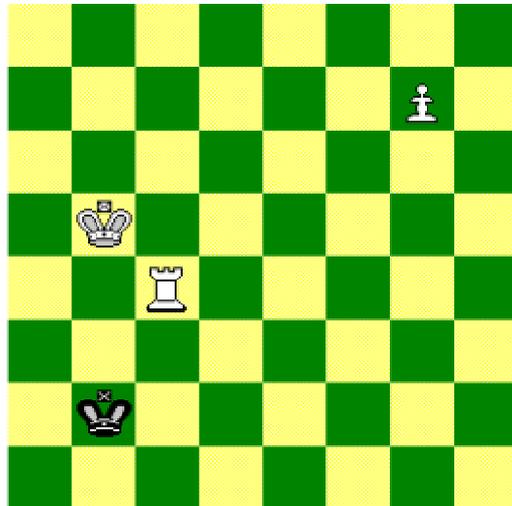


Alain White American Chess Bulletin 1941

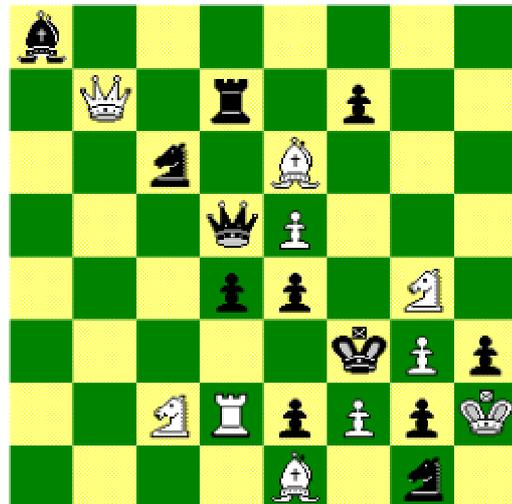
All white to move & Mate in 3



Shinkman Dubuque Journal 1890



Wolfgang Pauly Deutsche Schachzeitung 1905



M Niemejer Good Companions 1924

See page 10&11 for solutions

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scheme and a written agreement would set out such matters as dates for transfer of monies relating to the scheme from the NCCU to the BCF.

BCF MEMBERSHIP FEES

Fees for the wider BCF Membership schemes were discussed with the following motions:

On behalf of the Management Board, the Finance Director, who is also the Director responsible for Membership, proposed:

1. that Fees remained unchanged except that a three year option be introduced for Standard Members at £40 with effect from 1st September 2005. Motion carried.

2. that the four categories of Concessionary Full Members (Veteran, Student, Special and Disabled) shall cease to be open to new members and renewals from 1st September 2005. An amendment was proposed that a concessionary rate should be retained for those currently unwaged. It was further proposed that this be amended to read "those in receipt of Job-seekers or Disability Allowances or on Income support". This was lost, as was the original amendment. The original motion was carried.

Further related proposals were:

a) that the printed version of ChessMoves shall cease to be provided to new Standard and Junior Members from 1st September 2005 and to renewals in these categories from that date. Carried by a large majority.

b) that Standard and Junior Members shall be eligible to claim a Direct Member discount at congresses offering that facility with effect from 1st June 2005. Carried

c) that the benefit to all categories of Direct Members of a concessionary price for the Grading list shall be abolished with effect from that published in 2005. An amendment to restrict the loss of benefit to Standard, Junior and NMS members was lost. The motion was carried.

d) that Directors, members of Selection Committees and Players representing England in international events shall, with effect from 1st September 2005, all be required to be Direct Members. The motion was carried with one vote against.

The Finance Director, on behalf of the Management Board, proposed:

that a minimum Membership Fee be established for all "member organisations" and that it be set for 2005/06 at £50 for renewals and any new admission under Constitution 3.1-3.5. In speaking to the motion

the Finance Director confirmed that a payment of £50 would qualify an organisation for one vote, and it was further clarified (and added to the motion) that any Game Fee paid or Game Fee equivalent would count towards the Fee payable. Proposals for amendments to different amounts gained little support and the original motion was carried.

GAME FEE

The Finance Director, on behalf of the Management Board, proposed:

1 Standard Game Fee: The Management Board recommended that this be set, as it was for 2004/05, at 44p.

The customary card vote to set Game Fee gave the following results:

30p 1 vote; 36p 5 votes; 40p 13 votes; 42p 1 vote; 43p 9 votes; 44p 150 votes; 50p 1 vote; 100p 6 votes

The median vote was 44p and this would be Game Fee from 1st September 2005.

2 Rapidplay Game Fee: In the absence of any motion to the contrary this was automatically set at one half of the full Game Fee set in 12.1

3 Game Fee for club internal results: In the absence of any motion to the contrary this was automatically set at one third of the full Game Fee set in 12.1

4 Junior Game Fee: In the absence of any motion to the contrary this was automatically set at one half of the fees set above for adult events, with the revenue ring-fenced to support junior chess.

CHANGE OF NAME

The meeting discussed the proposal to change the name of the organisation to the English Chess Federation. Various surveys had shown this to be the most favoured option. In essence the BCF no longer represents or controls British chess activity in the way envisaged when the BCF was formed. The other "countries" within the British Isles have their own autonomous organisations. A change to an English title would acknowledge this. Having been given assurance that the change of name would not affect the British Championships, which are run with the agreement of the other organisations, a majority of more than 2/3rds of the delegates voted in favour of the name change.

CHANGE OF STATUS TO A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE – see next page

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The AGM had been quite determined that a change to "limited company" status must replicate the existing organizational set up as far as possible. In fact the proposals on the table included the option of a quite radical change to the set up. Whilst I have argued in earlier issues of this newsletter that the Management Board was too large and unwieldy, I knew of others that did not share this view. I was quite surprised to find a ready acceptance to the alternative of a slimmed down Board with fewer Directors and 2 non-executives. This will create a Board of only half the size of the existing one. As a result some of the current Director posts will become inevitably become Officers under the management of the remaining Directors, whose remit will cover more areas than currently. The non-executives will be elected by the AGM, rather than appointed by organisations. This will mean make them accountable to the delegates as a whole rather than merely their own area, no bad thing in my view. There were a number of motions regarding the wording of various items within the proposed Memorandum of Association and Bye Laws, but the Management Board structure was the most significant. The other proposals were more akin to tinkering around the periphery. A card for voting on the main alternatives had been pre-prepared and all motions were comfortably carried with a majority in excess of the 2/3rds required.

Following on from the voting some re-drafting of memorandum and bye laws will be required to encompass the options chosen. In addition enabling motions were passed so that Constitutional amendments will be draw up for the AGM to reflect the changes agreed.

LIFE VICE-PRESIDENCY

The meeting was asked to endorse the election of Roy Woodcock as a Life Vice-President. Most delegates were well aware of the significant amount of support, time and effort Roy has put into chess over many years and unanimously agreed to the proposal. They were sad to be doing so at a time when Roy is suffering serious illness and could not be present to receive their good wishes.

At this point there were only moments left until the closure of the meeting, in that time the meeting formally recognized the change of name of the Manchester and District Chess Association to the Manchester Chess Federation. Although this change arose some time ago it had never been formally dealt with. Other motions relating to the Manchester area

could not be covered in the time left. The same was true of motions relating to Strategic Planning and to standardize the representation of the constituent units (Unions & larger independent leagues) to 1 per unit.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

5 Jun - [Leek Rapidplay](#), St Edward's Middle School, Westwood Road, Leek, Staffordshire [ST13 8DN](#).

Robert Milner, 411 Cheadle Rd, Cheddleton, Leek, Staffordshire ST13 7BH (Tel: 01782 550112)

11 Jun - [County Championship - Semi Finals](#)
Cyril Johnson, 105 Central Avenue, Syston LE7 2EG (Tel: 0116 260 9012, Email: bcfhomechess@yahoo.co.uk)

18 Jun - [National County U18 Team Championships](#), St Peter & Paul School, Upper Church Street, Syston
Cyril Johnson, 105 Central Avenue, Syston LE7 2EG (Tel: 0116 260 9012, Email: bcfhomechess@yahoo.co.uk)

2 Jul - [County Championship - Final](#), Ratcliffe College, Syston, Leicester
Cyril Johnson, 105 Central Avenue, Syston LE7 2EG (Tel: 0116 260 9012, Email: bcfhomechess@yahoo.co.uk)

8-10 Jul - [Manchester Summer Congress](#), Allen Hall, Wilmslow Road, Manchester (see 5)
Harry Lamb, 134 Junction Road, Bolton BL3 4NQ (Tel: 01204 63374, Email: gmccacongress@yahoo.co.uk)

10 Jul - [National Club Championship Finals](#)
Cyril Johnson, 105 Central Avenue, Syston LE7 2EG (Tel: 0116 260 9012, Email: bcfhomechess@yahoo.co.uk)

10 Jul - [Walsall Kipping Rapidplay](#), King Edward VI School, Upper St John Street, Lichfield.
Mike Savin, 11 Highfield Way, Aldridge, Walsall WS9 8XF (Tel: 01922 456240, Email: mike@savin11.freeserve.co.uk)

SOLVING IT!

The issue of the starter problem in the 2005/6 British Solving Championships seemed like a good opportunity to put the spotlight on this branch of chess. My thanks to Michael McDowell of the British Chess Problem Society for his assistance in producing this article.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Chess problem solving and composition owes its roots to the forerunners of the modern game of chess. The modern purist definition of “solving” relates to those positions which have been specifically composed to be solved, rather than positions that have been taken from actual games. It is clear that earlier solvers had a broader definition, which included positions from games, nevertheless evidence has been found of position composers amongst 9th century Muslim players. There is also evidence of other cultures engaged in solving, but Medieval Europe essentially took its lead from the work of the Muslim scholars.

The objective of these earlier Muslim & Medieval “solvers” appears to have been to improve their chess skills in order to apply them to OTB play. Today’s solvers and composers are a mixture of those who do play OTB and those whose interest is purely in the solving field.

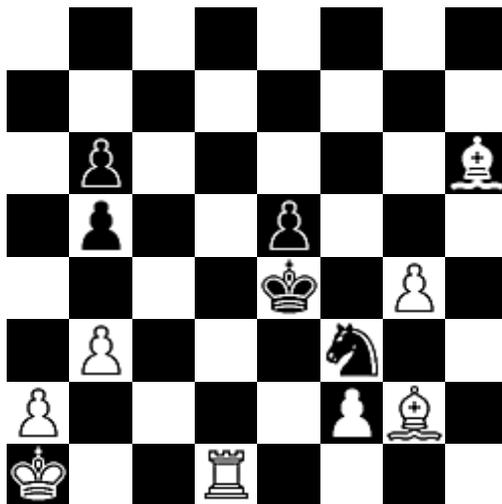
The Muslim composer tended to create positions where the solution was mate in 5-8 moves, and might be achieved in more than 1 way. There was no stress laid on the number of moves, just “white plays and wins”. Their later European counterparts created positions with only 2-3 move solutions and introduced the concept of a specific number of moves to achieve mate. A further European development was the “self-mate”, although in nearly every case the mated King was blocked in a corner square. Yet another variant was the symmetrical problem, literally a position with some level of symmetry in the starting position on the board. Conditional problems were also popular, e.g. mate on a specified square.

The modernisation of chess led to the positions created during the medieval period becoming obsolete. Whilst composing and solving positions never disappeared, modernisation created something of a void. Philip Stamma is credited with an 18th Century revival in solving. Lolli and Ponziani, 2 of the 18th century Modenese Masters, a group of the most gifted Italian players were responsible for collections of compositions which showed much greater skill than their European forerunners.

After Ponziani the chess problem gradually ceased to have any close connection with OTB chess, developing its own literature, and more specialist

composers and solvers who did not compete OTB.

After 1830 solving began to encompass an ever widening circle and by mid-century the founding principles of the current art of problem composition began to evolve. A new era of problems was ushered in when the Rev. Henry A Loveday’s famous “Indian Problem” was published in 1845.



The Indian Problem: White to play and mate in 4

This led to a concentration on positions whose solutions were 5 moves or less. The features of economy of material, difficulty of solution, neatness of construction and accuracy of solution became recognised as the key factors in the composition chess problems. Initially there were differences in the order of importance attached to these key factors by different groups or schools of composer, but by the end of the 19th Century a more uniform ideal had emerged. Needless to say, it wasn’t long before composers emerged, in particular in Germany, who regarded these ideals as too restrictive and placed greater emphasis on originality.

Despite the level of interest in solving in the 19th century, it was not until 1911 that any national solving group was formed, and it was the Brits who were first with the British Chess Problem Society.

Competitive chess problem solving was an activity mainly confined to readers of newspaper columns and chess magazines. Formal events, where solvers competed against the clock, might take place occasionally at meetings of problemists, but were more often a sideline at over-the-board tournaments. A number of well-known players had reputations as quick solvers. One of Joseph Blackburne’s party tricks was to solve problems “blindfold”. The positions would be

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called off to himminus the black king! José Capablanca and Frank Marshall often participated in solving tournaments organized by the Good Companions Chess Problem Club of Philadelphia. In the first half of the twentieth century solving matches between countries were popular, with each team solving under supervision in its own country.

The World Congress of Chess Composition is an annual week-long international gathering of chess problemists. The World Chess Solving Championship (WCSC) was first held at the WCCC in 1977. As it gained in popularity it became the centrepiece of the Congress. The WCSC consists of six timed rounds, each featuring three examples of a specific type of problem. Each country can enter up to four solvers, three of whom make up the team. All participants compete for the individual title, while the top two scores from the team members are combined to make the team score for that round. Great Britain has won the team title twice, in 1986 and 1990 (the latter shared with the USSR), while two British solvers have won the individual World Championship, Jonathan Mestel, in 1997, and John Nunn, at the last event in Greece in 2004. Israel are the current team champions.

The British Chess Solving Championship began in 1979, as a means of selecting solvers for the WCSC. Those who solve the starter problem receive a tougher postal round, and the highest scorers from that are invited to the Final, which for a number of years has been held in Oakham, usually on a Saturday in February. The 2005 Final was won by Jonathan Mestel. Thanks to the sponsorship of Winton Capital it has been possible in recent years to invite strong overseas solvers to the Final, making the event eligible for ratings and title norms.

Chess problem solving competitions mushroomed in the 1990s, and many countries now run national championships, most of them Open events. As with the game, there is a rating list and three levels of titles, Grandmaster, International Master and FIDE Master. Great Britain has three Solving GMs (Jonathan Mestel, John Nunn and Graham Lee), one IM (David Friedgood) and two FMs (Michael McDowell and Colin McNab). Top of the world rankings is the Russian Gyorgy Evseev, who has won four of the six World Championships in which he has participated.

Besides the national championship there are other opportunities to compete in clock solving events in Britain. It is hoped to hold two solving events in August 2005, at the British Chess Championships in Douglas, Isle of Man, and the Mind Sports Olympiad in Manchester. In January 2005 an international event

was held simultaneously in a number of countries, the British end taking place in Sheffield. Over 200 solvers participated, and it is intended that the event will become an established part of the solving calendar.

TYPES OF COMPOSITION

Directmates are problems in which White is to play and mate Black in the stipulated number of moves. Most problem sources separate directmates into three groups according to length, namely

- **Two-movers**
- **Three-movers**
- **More-movers**

Selfmates are problems in which White is to play and force Black to deliver mate in the stipulated number of moves. An offshoot of the selfmate is the **reflexmate**, which adds the condition that each side must mate on the move if possible.

Helpmates are problems in which Black and White co-operate to reach a mate for White in the stipulated number of moves.

Fairy chess is a term covering problems which feature unorthodox pieces, boards, conditions or a combination of these.

Retrograde analysis is a branch of composition based on determining the play leading to the given position.

Studies are positions in which White (who usually plays first) has to reach a clearly won or drawn position following the best play from both sides.

Websites which may be of interest:

Lubomir Siran's Solving Chess Website
<http://www.geocities.com/solvingchess/>

The BDS Website <http://www.bstephen.freeuk.com/>

The British Chess Problem Society
<http://www.bcps.knightsfield.co.uk>

SOLUTION TO THE INDIAN PROBLEM

1. Kb1 b4
2. Bc1 b5
3. Rd2 Kf4
4. Rd4 mate

WORLD CHESS CHAMPIONS

The next in the series of World Champions is Vasily Smyslov, whilst his predecessor Botvinnik was from the USSR, Smyslov is regarded by many as the herald of the period of Soviet domination of chess.



VASILY SMYSLOV

b. 1921 -

World champion: 1957 to 1958

No one has mentioned this strange fact before, but Vasily Smyslov, Caissa's gentle giant and would-be opera singer whose 1979 autobiography was titled *In Search of Harmony*, owes his distinguished chess career to hard work, natural talent and American chess angel and investment banker Maurice Wertheim. For Wertheim made possible the first USA - USSR Radio Match of 1945, a double-round battle on 10 boards. Few people recall that the United States, radiant victor of four successive Olympiads during the 1930s, was an odds-on favorite to win a match in which it was crucified, 4 ½ - 15 ½! In about 72 hours, from September 1 to 4, 1945, the Soviet Union established itself as the world's leading chess power. On the first three boards, the Soviets scored 5½ - ½, including Smyslov's two-zip win over Samuel Reshevsky. The Radio Match blowout legitimated Soviet chess, which included Smyslov's impressive results in the Soviet Union during World War II. Such legitimacy was crucial for Smyslov because based only on his scanty

international record before the 1948 World Championship Tournament (12th-13th at Leningrad-Moscow 1939, including a loss to Reshevsky; a distant third at Groningen 1946 behind Mikhail Botvinnik and Max Euwe; and a tie for 2nd-5th at Warsaw 1947, two points behind Svetozar Gligoric), he would surely never have been invited to play in the elite Hague-Moscow tournament for the world title.

Smyslov came from a chess-playing family. His father once won a tournament game from Alexander Alekhine, and the son began playing at age six. Inspired by chess visits to the Soviet Union in the mid-1930s by Emanuel Lasker and Jose Capablanca, Smyslov took up the game in earnest, winning at age 16 the All-Union boys' championship of 1938. He followed up this success in the same year by tying for first in the Moscow City Championship and found himself invited to play in the 1939 Leningrad-Moscow international where he finished tied near the bottom with an off-form Paul Keres. No matter, because in the 1940 USSR Championship, he joined the chess elite of his country by finishing third, 1 ½ points ahead of Mikhail Botvinnik, who found himself in a tie for 5th-6th. After finishing third in the 1941 Soviet "absolute championship," behind Botvinnik and Keres, but ahead of three other top Soviet players, Smyslov became the youngest Soviet grandmaster up until that time. During the war years he won the 1942 Moscow Championship and finished second behind Botvinnik in the 1944 USSR Championship.



Smyslov vs Keres
World Championship Tournament, The Hague,
Moscow, 1948

The above results, combined with Smyslov's mediocre international record and two-zip win over Reshevsky in the 1945 Radio Match, were his credentials for playing in the 1948 title tournament. By finishing a clear second, he justified his inclusion.

From 1950 to 1958, Smyslov produced the best chess results in the world while also elaborating a serene positional style in which he often played for better or simply even endings, trusting in his endgame technique to provide victory. His style has often been compared to Capablanca's, though reaching an ending per se may have played a larger part in the Russian's thinking than in the Cuban's.

Although Smyslov won the 1951 Tchigorin Memorial as well as Zagreb 1955 and Moscow 1956 (1st= with Botvinnik), Smyslov's greatest achievements were winning two consecutive candidates' tournaments, Neuhausen-Zurich 1953 and Amsterdam 1956, by two points and 1 ½ points, respectively. He climbed the Everest of qualification twice, which led to three matches with Botvinnik. He drew the first (1954), won the second (1957) and lost the third (1958), scoring +18 -17 =34 in these three mini-wars as well as achieving a plus score in tournament play against Botvinnik during the 1950s. Yet these titanic efforts yielded Smyslov the world title for only a year, given the regulations of that period.

Smyslov's competitive ambition was satisfied by winning the world title. He stated publicly that he did not believe he could win the 1959 candidates tournament, and he proved his view to be a self-fulfilling prophecy, finishing a gentleman's fourth. He was twice more a title candidate, qualifying from interzonals at Amsterdam 1964 (1st-4th) and Las Palmas 1982 (2nd). At age 61 he became the oldest ever championship candidate. If in 1965, he was brutally eliminated from the cycle by Efim Geller (losing wearily, -3 =5), in 1983 he won his quarter- and semi-final matches against Robert Huebner (+1 -1 =12, decided by the spin of a roulette wheel) and Zoltan Ribli (+3 -1 =7) to meet rising young Garry Kasparov in the finals in 1984, where he

lost -4 =9.

In the more than 40 years since Smyslov lost the championship rematch, he has become best known not for his writings and not for a singleminded pursuit of the world title. He became a tournament specialist (winning eight successive tournaments in the mid-1960s; taking one first and three shared firsts in strong Moscow Central Chess Club tournaments in 1959, 1960, 1961 and 1963; and winning Havana 1965 ahead of Bobby Fischer and Monte Carlo 1969, plus numerous tournament victories in Cuba and Latin America), travelling the planet and creating a body of chess games noted for its subtle artistry.

Botvinnik once claimed that in chess Smyslov did everything well, though endings were the latter's special territory. Botvinnik ought to know. For his great rival won games from him in every conceivable style, producing several miniatures or near miniatures as well as numerous accurate endgames.

Here are a couple of examples

Botvinnik v Smyslov

World Championship 1954

1. d4 d5 2. c4 dxc4 3. Nf3 a6 4. e3 Bg4 5. Bxc4 e6 6. Qb3 Bxf3 7. gxf3 b5 8. Be2 Nd7 9. a4 b4 10. f4 Ngf6 11. Bf3 Ra7 12. Bc6 Be7 13. Nd2 O-O 14. Nc4 a5 15. Ne5 Nb8 16. Bd2 Nd5 17. e4 Nb6 18. Be3 Bd6 19. Bb5 Qh4 20. Rc1 Kh8 21. Be2 Bxe5 22. dxe5 N8d7 23. Bb5 Rd8 24. Bd2 {Now a bolt from the blue} Nxe5

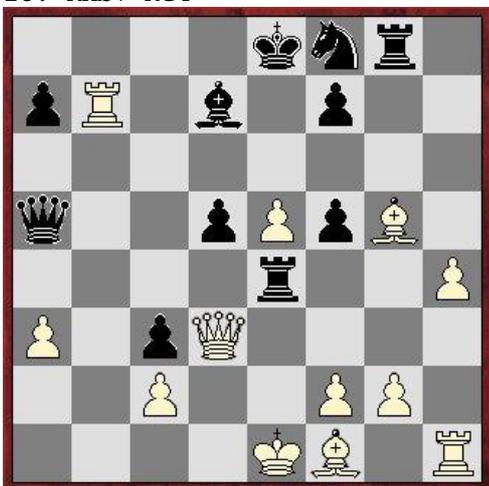


25. Qe3 Ng4 26. Qg3 Qxg3 27. fxg3 Nf2
 28. Kxf2 Rxd2+ 29. Ke3 Rxb2 30. Rb1 Rxb1
 31. Rxb1 c5 32. Rd1 Ra8 33. Rd6 Rb8 34.
 Kd2 c4 35. Kc2 g6 36. Rc6 c3 37. Kb3 Rc8
 0-1

Smyslov v Botvinnik

World Championships 1954

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. e5 c5 5.
 a3 Ba5 6. b4 cxd4 7. Qg4 Ne7 8. bxa5
 dxc3 9. Qxg7 Rg8 10. Qxh7 Nd7 11. Nf3
 Nf8
 12. Qd3 Qxa5 13. h4 Bd7 14. Bg5 Rc8
 15. Nd4 Nf5 16. Rb1 Rc4 17. Nxf5 exf5
 18. Rxb7 Re4+



19. Qxe4 dxe4 20. Rb8+ Bc8
 21. Bb5+ Qxb5 22. Rxb5 Ne6 23. Bf6 Rxc7
 24. h5 Ba6 25. h6 1-0

WINTON CAVEN BRITISH CHESS SOLVING CHAMPIONSHIP 2005-2006

Entries are invited by providing White's first move, known as the key move, to the starter problem. The move should be sent by post only, to Paul Valios 14 Newton Park Drive Leeds LS7 4HH, postmarked no later than 31st July. They should be accompanied by a cheque or postal order for £3.00 made payable to British Chess Problem Society. Those who provide the correct answer will 8 more difficulty and varied problems to response to by post. The best competitors from the postal round will be invited to play in the final on 18th February 2006 at Oakham School.

There is an editors competition for the publications producing the most entries so please mention that you saw the starter in The Middle Game



POSITIONAL PROBLEM SOLUTIONS

The convention with solution is often to show the Knight moves as S rather than N (springer as in German for Knight)

Sam Loyd Position

1. Bf8	threat 2 Qa1
1 ... Bxb2	2 Bxh6
1 ... Kxb2	2 Qa3

Michael Lipton Position

1. Qg3	
1 ... Rd6	2 Sc5
1 ... Bd6	2 Sd4
1 ... Rd5	2 exd5
1 ... Bf5+	2 exf5

Alain White Position

1. Qb1	> Qb4
1 ... Qd3	2 cxd3
1 ... Qxa3	2 c3
1 ... Qe5, Qg5	2 c4
1 ... Qb3	2 cxb3

William Shinkman Position

Be2

1 ... Kb7	2 Qc8+	Kxc8	3 Ba6
		Ka7	3 Qb8
		Kb6	3 Qc7
1 ... Kb6	2 Qa5+	Kxa5	3 Bc7
		Kb7	Qa6
		Kc6	Bf3
1 ... b3	2 Qd7+	Kb6	Qc7
		Kc5	Qd6

Wolfgang Pauly Position

1 g8R

1 ... Ka3	2 Rb4	Ka2	3 Ra8
1 ... Kb1	2 Rg2	Ka1	3 Rc1
1 ... Kb3	2 Rg2	Ka3	3 Rc3

M Neimejer Position

1 Bf5 (> 2 Kxg1 ... 3 Nh2)

1 ... Nxe5	2 Nxe5+	Qxe5	3 Rd3
1 ... Qxe5	2 Rd3+	exd3	3 Nxe5
1 ... e3	2 Nf6	Nxe5	3 Nxd4

At My Simul One Evening

By Brian Wall
(Dedicated to Ann Davies - Christmas, 2000)

At my simul one evening
Somewhere on Bristol Street
The rows of pawns facing me
Were fields of harvest wheat.

And down in the skittles room
I heard a GM sing
Under his breath in a whisper,
"You must study the ending."

I'll study you, skewers, I'll study you
Till A and H files meet
And the knight jumps over the bishop
And kingpawns sing in the street.

I'll study till the chessboard
Is folded and hung up to dry
And the Enemy rooks go squawking
Like geese about the sky

The passed pawns shall run like rabbits
For in my arms I hold
Extra pieces to promote to
And the prettiest queen in the world.

But all the clocks at the mall
Interrupt combinations sublime
O let not Time deceive you,
You cannot conquer Time.

In the burrows of the Hedgehog*
Where agoraphobia rules
White's allowed a pawn break
The Black Lady drools.

In headaches and in worry
The center leaks away
And Time will have his fancy
Tomorrow or today.

Into many a 7th rank
Races a nascent crow**
Time breaks the threaded dances
And the player's brilliant combo.

O plunge your mind in backranks
In diagonals crossed and crissed
Stare, stare at the position
And wonder what you've missed.

The rooks rock in the box
The board lays on the bed
And the crack in the bishop opens
A lane to the land of the dead.

Where pawns turn out their pockets
And the Red -Queen haughtily exclaims,
'Down with naughty bishops
I can't even remember their names.

O look, look in your database
O look in your distress
Find your seven-move mate
Under the clock's duress."

O stand, stand by your position
As the tears scald and start
You shall love your ragged rook pawns
As to the eighth they dart.

It was late, late in the playing hall
The players they were gone
The clocks had ceased their ticking
But the post-mortem continued on.