

CHESS MOVES

The newsletter of the English Chess Federation - January/February 2011

The London Chess Classic

Gawain Jones, joint FIDE Open winner



Simon Williams, joint FIDE Open winner



Arlette van Weersel, Women's Invitational winner



From 8th to 15th December, four of the world's top grandmasters joined battle with the top four English players in a thrilling all-play-all tournament, the 2nd London Chess Classic. Andrew Farthing was fortunate enough to be invited to attend during one of the rounds and offers his impressions of a stunning event.

From the desk of the President

In November, I was honoured to be invited to the British Rapidplay Championships held in Halifax. I had played in the event on two occasions in the mid 1990s but hadn't returned since so it was an opportunity I wasn't able to pass up.



I was delighted to find an extremely well set up and run event and it was a pleasure to be in the hall with avid chess fans and dedicated organisers, all determined to provide and enjoy an excellent event. Having been very much a non player for several years now, I had intended to merely spectate but a spare place in the Intermediate section tempted me back to my perennial role of filler once again. After being mated in round 2 (despite being a rook and a handful of pawns up) I realised that my disinterest had clearly weakened me and I looked forward to my (not unfamiliar) role of tournament bunny. However, after scoring 4.5 from my next 5 games (the draw being against the eventual winner) I felt very guilty and withdrew from the event - I hadn't even paid to take part and it might have been a tad suspicious had an invitee won a prize.

However, although I really enjoyed playing, especially my last game listed below which was a case of an early advantage and then having to watch the nerves as an attack and time trouble loomed, I still have no desire to play again full time. In 1998 and 1999 I was the most active player in the country (I was leading the Grand Prix until I withdrew in protest over actions of the sponsor) with 350+ longplay and 200+ rapidplay games, all of which were rated. I think I've paid my dues now and will retire (perhaps not so gracefully) to the benches and continue my work for chess in a new capacity now.

I was very pleased and humbled to be asked to present the prizes at the end of the event and I must mention the terrific results at both ends of the spectrum - Kishan Pattni winning the Minor with 10/11 only to be superseded by David Howell winning the Open with half a point more. Two magnificent efforts which along with Pierre Weller in the Major and Daniel Noel in the Intermediate (both won with 9/11 and my draw against Daniel will forever be a proud moment!) crowned a superb weekend and I offer my congratulation and heartfelt thanks to all those involved.

- CJ de Mooi

Matthew Fanning (144) - CJ de Mooi (ug)
British Rapidplay Championships
21st November 2010

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 dxe4 4. Nxe4 Bf5 5. f3 e6 6. Bd3 Nf6 7. Be3 Nbd7 8. Ne2 Bxe4 9. fxe4 c5 10. O-O cxd4 11. Bxd4



(I was expecting 11. Nxd4 when Bc5 could be answered with 12. b4 as 12. c3 would allow e5) Bc5 12. Bxc5 Nxc5 13. Ng3 Nxd3 14. cxd3 O-O 15. e5? Qd4+ 16. Kh1 Qxe5 (16... Ng4! 17. Qe2 Nxe5 18. Rad1 Rad8) 17.d4 Qd6 18. Nh5 Nxh5 19. Qxh5 Rad8 20. Rad1 Qd5 21. Qg4 Qxa2 22. Rf3 Qd5 23. Rg3 g6 24. Kg1 Qf5 25. Qh4 Rd5 26. Rf1 Qh5 27. Qe7 Rf5 28. Rgf3 Rxf3 29. Rxf3 Qd5 30. Qf6



The perfect way to scare someone who's out of practice ... have I been too greedy? a5 31. h4 b5 32. g4 h5 33. Rg3 Rd8 34. gxh5 The simplification removes any potential threats and nervousness Qxd4+ 35. Qxd4 Rxd4 36. hxg6 Rxh4 37. gxf7+ Kxf7 38. Kf2 Rh2+ 39. Ke3 Rxb2+ and although the game continued, even a patzer like me was able to hold out for the point 0-1

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YOUR FEDERATION NEEDS YOU!

- Andrew Farthing, Chief Executive

The ECF relies on the support of the many individuals, over 50 in all, who generously offer their time and energy to the cause of helping English chess. The Federation literally could not survive without its volunteers, and I should like to take this opportunity to record my sincere gratitude for their amazing efforts.

Although we are blessed with many volunteers already, some gaps remain. We have a number of positions vacant, and we urgently need to fill them with suitable volunteers:

Manager of Information & Communication Technology

– This requires an IT-literate individual who can give support to the ECF Office from time to time on IT issues and give the Board guidance on decisions in the area of IT development. The role need not be very time-consuming most of the time, but occasionally issues will arise which need the Manager's involvement. Ideally – but not necessarily – it would be someone for whom travelling to the office in Battle (Sussex) would not be too onerous. Reports to the Chief Executive.

Strategic Planning Officer (SPO) – Modesty forbids me from commenting on the excellence of the previous incumbent! Suffice it to say that I would prefer not to have to combine the strategic planning work with my responsibilities as Chief Executive. The tasks of the SPO are to draft an annual Business Plan, Long-Term Strategic Plan and Achievement Report. In practice, when I carried out the role, I had an open invitation to attend Board and Council meetings as part of the process of understanding what the Federation was trying to achieve and the issues confronting it. It was excellent preparation for my current role. If you have an interest in shaping the future of

English chess and can produce clear, well thought-out documents, this may be the role for you. Reports to the Chief Executive.

Minutes Secretary – This person needs to attend Board and Council meetings and produce accurate Minutes within a reasonable timescale (say, a week). In practice, this means travelling to London, Birmingham and venues in between about half a dozen times a year.

The ECF pays for out-of-pocket expenses and offers a modest honorarium per set of minutes produced of £50 (£70 for Council meetings). As well as being an essential function, this role offers the candidate the chance to see the Board and Council in action and for some it might be a useful way of deciding whether to seek further involvement, e.g. as a director. Reports to the Non-Executive Chairman.

Manager of Congress Chess

– Something of an empty canvas and, therefore, a great opportunity for someone with the right

vision. This role is currently only vaguely defined, so the scope is there for it to be shaped in all sorts of ways. Underpinning it is the wish to support English congress chess, in whatever ways the ECF can usefully contribute. Reports to the Director of Home Chess.

As well as these, we are seeking a **Chairman of the Finance Committee** (the financial watchdog for the ECF) and a **Direct Members' Representative** to be a voice for Basic and Basic Junior members.

Volunteering can be intensely rewarding. If you would like to join the throng of those giving their time in support of English chess, please contact the office in the usual way or get in touch with me direct by e-mail (chief.executive@englishchess.org.uk) or phone (01905 358949).



ECF Awards 2011

– John Wickham

Presidents Awards for Services to Chess

Nominations are invited for the ECF Presidents Awards. The awards are made annually for services to the game of chess. Previous winners include B H Wood, The BBC, the late IM Bob Wade and a host of players and organisers. The recipient of the award will receive a plaque.

Nominations, with a short citation, should be sent (by 21 April 2011) to: John Wickham, 55 Shakespeare Way, Taverham, Norwich, NR8 6SL or email j.r.wickham@btinternet.com – winners of the award will be announced on the ECF website and at the ECF AGM in October.

Club of the Year and Small Club of the Year 2011

The ECF is looking for submissions from Chess clubs for these two awards. We are seeking details of clubs that stand out from the rest and clubs that their members feel proud to belong to. It's time to get recognition of your club by becoming recipients of the award from the ECF.

The submissions should detail the clubs participation in local leagues and competitions, but also cover such items as how the club encourages membership among groups under represented in the general chess population, the contribution made to chess locally and nationally, the activities organised for juniors and comment on how the club interacts with schools and the local community. The club(s) selected for the awards will receive a scroll, an engraved plaque and digital clock.

Send your submissions by 31st May 2011 to: John Wickham, 55 Shakespeare Way, Taverham, Norwich, NR8 6SL or email j.r.wickham@btinternet.com

Magazine of the Year 2011

Nominations are invited for the ECF Chess Magazine of the Year award. We are looking for nominations from either readers or editors of Chess magazines that are produced by volunteers. The editor of the magazine selected will receive a scroll and a copy of the ECF Chess Book of the Year (any alternative to this is at the discretion of the Awards committee).

Send your nominations by 15 April 2011 to: John Wickham, 55 Shakespeare Way, Taverham, Norwich,

NR8 6SL or email j.r.wickham@btinternet.com

Website of the Year 2011

ECF are seeking nominations for the ECF Chess Website of the Year award. We are looking for nominations from either users or the webmasters of Chess Websites that are run by volunteers. The webmaster of the site selected will receive a scroll and a copy of the ECF Book of the Year (any alternative to this is at the discretion of the awards committee).

Nominations with the website address should be sent by 29 April 2011 to: John Wickham at j.r.wickham@btinternet.com

ECF Congress of the Year 2011 Award

Open to Congresses/Events that are affiliated to the ECF, either individually or through another body, and held in the period 1st July 2010 to 30th June 2011.

The Judges will assess the Congress/Event over a range of factors to include accessibility to all groups, quality of the venue and facilities offered, type and range of events offered, the skill/ability of the organisers, the entry form and the publicising of the event, value for money etc. In addition the judges may seek the views of the players who entered the Congress/Event. The winners will receive a certificate and will be able to offer a free entry to the 2012 British Championships to those entering their Congress/Event, as well as the title of "ECF Congress of the Year 2011". The Awards committee will contact the winners after the judging is completed and then will announce the winner on the ECF website as well as at the ECF AGM in October 2011.

Eligible Congresses/Events are asked to submit a citation, with copies of the entry forms, to John Wickham, 55 Shakespeare Way, Taverham, Norwich, NR8 6SL or email j.r.wickham@btinternet.com by 5 July 2011.

Last year's winners ...

Julie Johnson - ECF 2010 President's Award for Services to Chess

e2e4 - ECF 2010 Congress of the Year

Horsham Chess Club - ECF 2010 Club of the Year

St Helens Chess Club - ECF 2010 Small Club of the Year

Kingston Chess Club - ECF 2010 Website of the Year



Starstruck in Olympia

(continued from the front cover)

Let's be honest: I'm not a frequent chess spectator. My last visit to a grandmaster tournament – which also happened to be my first – was in October 1985, when by chance I was taking a few days' holiday in Montpellier, France at the same time as the Candidates Tournament and decided to go along. Among the stars were three former world champions (Vasily Smyslov, Mikhail Tal and Boris Spassky), the eventual winners and the strongest Soviet challengers to the Karpov-Kasparov hegemony (Yusupov, Vaganyan and Sokolov), the great hope of the West (Jan Timman) and a certain young English grandmaster called Nigel Short.

And Victor Korchnoi.



Victor Korchnoi during his second LCC simul

Korchnoi was not having the best of times in Montpellier, but I still remember what a thrill it was to see the great man in action on stage. The start of my serious interest in chess coincided with Korchnoi's first post-defection assault on the world championship in 1977 – my very first chess magazine included a report on his quarter final match against Petrosian – and I had spent the following years in wonder at the superhuman exploits of “Victor the Terrible”. If I could be said to have had a “chess hero” at that time, Victor Korchnoi was that hero.

Arriving at the impressive Olympia Conference Centre in Kensington, I was reminded of that earlier event. Once again, the quality of the field was tremendously strong: World Champion Viswanathan Anand, world number one Magnus Carlsen, former world champion Vladimir Kramnik, American star and world number 15, Hikaru Nakamura, along with the top four English players, Michael Adams, Nigel Short, Luke McShane and David Howell. The excitement and sense of occasion were palpable, not least because on the day I was there (round 5), a Brit – Luke McShane – was sharing the lead with the World Champion, while the pre-tour-

namment favourite, Carlsen, was lingering back in fourth place, having sensationally lost two of his four games to that point.

Before play began for the day in the Classic itself, the ECF's very own Adam Raof gave me a tour of the facilities. It was a genuine thrill to stand on the main stage facing the large auditorium which shortly would be filled to capacity with several hundred absorbed spectators. The four boards were placed in front of a giant screen, on which the moves of the games would be displayed thanks to the wonders of the sensory chessboards in common use at grandmaster events these days. Behind the screen, some of the tournament's many officials would be making sure that the various feeds worked smoothly, keeping everyone at the venue and online in touch with the moves as they happened. Adam told me that Vladimir Kramnik liked to wander around backstage during his game, staring at the projected image of the games on the back of the screen.

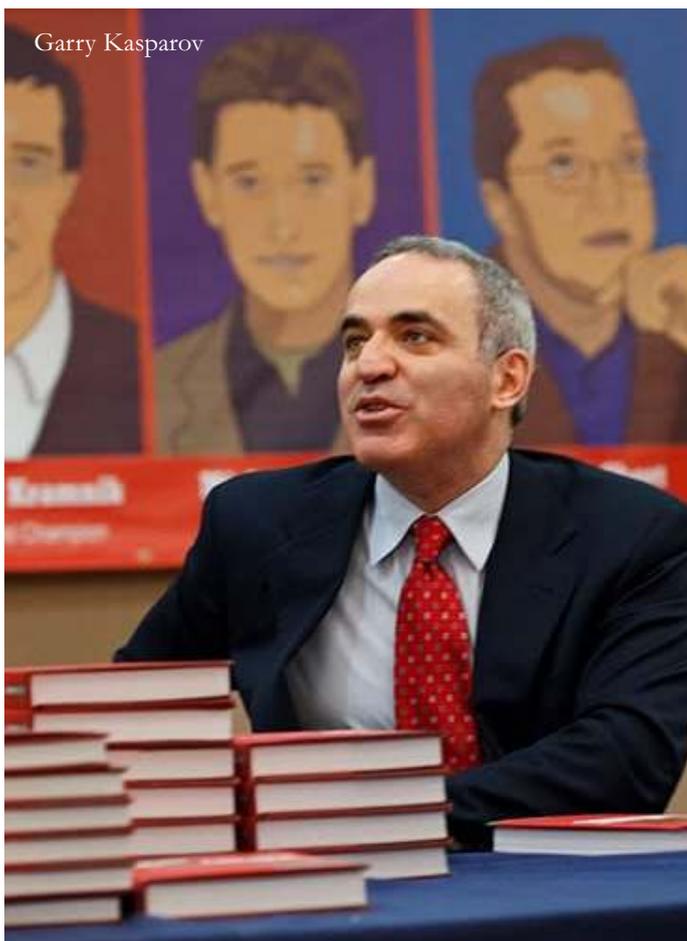
Elsewhere in the conference centre, an entire chess festival was taking place. Alongside the elite tournament, hundreds of amateurs were enjoying the opportunity to compete in a range of events – standard play, rapid and blitz – while desperately hoping that simply being in the same building as Anand et al. would infuse their play with just a little chessboard magic. In its way, the sight of so many people, young and old, drawn together by a shared love of chess was as inspiring to me as the glamour of the Classic. To a veteran of weekend chess such as me, it was abundantly clear that the festival spirit had transformed all of these events into something quite out of the ordinary.

At 2 o'clock, the Classic got underway. Round 5 saw, in effect, an England versus the Rest of the World match, as the English players found themselves paired against the four overseas players:

Anand – McShane
Nakamura – Short
Adams – Kramnik
Howell – Carlsen



There were several ways of watching the games. Ticket holders could sit in the main auditorium and watch the action unfold ‘live’ for themselves. Elsewhere, the commentary room offered the entertaining spectacle of two of the event’s expert pundits dipping into the games as they happened, explaining what was going on, answering questions and speculating on what might happen next. These sessions were streamed live online and were dangerously addictive. (I hate to think how much work I didn’t get done during the week of the Classic.) Out in the main lobby, more screens gave further opportunities for spectators and ad hoc commentary.



As the games finished, the players would come into the commentary room and spend anything up to half an hour talking through the key moments of their game. What an amazing opportunity this was, and the packed room spoke volumes for the appreciation everyone felt for the players’ willingness to give of their time in this way. Kramnik and Anand particularly impressed me with their authoritative but accessible comments, while Short’s irrepressible humour clearly made him an audience favourite.

For those lucky enough to have VIP tickets, there was a second room set aside in which a more informal running commentary was given by Julian Hodgson and others. Here, various grandmasters mingled and chatted, while keeping a watchful eye on proceedings in the

four games.

Thanks to the generosity of the Classic’s driving force, Malcolm Pein, I was able to infiltrate this area with my magic VIP pass. Always conscious that I was probably the weakest player in the room, it was nevertheless a joy to listen to the comments and banter of so many (to me) household names, such as John Nunn and Jon Speelman. (The latter’s flights of fancy were particularly wondrous to a pedestrian woodshifter such as me.)

Throughout the entire afternoon, unmoving in the front row, just a couple of feet away from me, one figure sat absorbed in the moves as they unfolded on the screens. Even if the figure had not been instantly recognisable to me, the frequent calls from Julian Hodgson of “What do you think, Victor?” would have pointed to the presence of none other than Mr Korchnoi himself.

At 79 years of age, the veteran grandmaster could easily be forgiven for a lack of attention at times – he must have seen it all before, after all – and yet there was no one in the room more focused on the chess throughout the entire afternoon. The energy and force of personality which had so drawn me nearly 35 years ago were still very much in evidence, and one can only marvel at the depth of the man’s love for chess that he remained driven to follow the on-screen events with such unswerving concentration. Sitting close enough to hear Victor Korchnoi passing comment on the games in progress was an experience I shall never forget.

As the day drew to a close, the results were in: Adams and McShane had drawn, while Short and Howell had lost. The Rest of the World bested England by 3-1. Despite this, I came away full of admiration for the hard work of everyone involved in the event – to whom English chess owes an enormous debt of gratitude – and for the stars who grace our game today. The London Chess Classic is a highlight in the chess calendar, and long may it continue.

But I’m sorry, Messrs Anand, Carlsen, Short and Co., if I had to name the undoubted highlight of the entire experience, I should have no hesitation...

It was the close-up view of the back of Victor Korchnoi’s head.

- Andrew Farthing

Junior Chess

Quadrangular 2010

- Peter Purland

The annual event involving teams of 26 (6 under 16, 10 under 14 and 10 under 12s) from Scotland, Wales Northern England and the English Midlands took place at Greenbank School on the weekend of 11\12 December. Three of the teams were bedevilled by the late cry off problem (the weather has led to much illness) but Scotland had many reserves so everyone got a game.

The Saturday rounds were North v Scotland and Midlands v Wales followed by North v Midlands and Scotland v Wales. Unfortunately the Midlands had only 3 U16s (4 on Sunday), Wales had 4 and North had 5 (4 on Sunday) so Scotland were favourites for this and ended the day on 9 points, one ahead of North with Wales 3rd and Midlands fourth. At U14 level the North, despite not having three of their England players still had a very impressive line up and, despite only having 9 players won both matches 7½ -2½. They were followed by Midlands 10, Scotland 8 and Wales 7.

At U12 level Midlands were the pre-tournament favourites and, despite one of their top boards moving up to U14, led the tournament with 14½ from Scotland 11, North 10½ and Wales 4. In the final round on Sunday morning the Midlands gave the Scots a hard game but went down 4-2 whilst Wales beat North 3-1 (2 DD) to leave the final table Scotland, North, Wales, Midlands.

The North continued their winning ways at U14 beating Wales 8-1 (one DD) whilst Midlands beat Scotland 7-3 leaving North winners followed by Midlands, Scotland and Wales. The U12 event was the closest with North piling on the agony for the Welsh youngsters whilst Scotland gave Midlands a real scare. In the end North won 9-1 but Midlands scored the 5½ points they needed to clinch the championship by the closest of margins from the North with Scotland 3rd and Wales 4th.

The closeness of the competition is shown by the fact that only 5 players (who played 3 games) got 3\3, Jamie Underwood of Scotland, Sam Hayman, Andrew Horton, James Walsh and Matthew Walsh all from North. Matthew has the incredible statistic of having played for the last three years and won 9\9.

The event has been booked for 10th and 11th December next year when we all look forward to renewing our friendly rivalry.

The John Robinson Grand Prix

Please note all scores are adjusted to be as if out of 6. Only scores of over 50% count. Any mistakes? Please contact the ECF Junior Director

John Robinson Under 10 Grand Prix 2011 (Born 01 or 02)

Name	British	London	Yateley
Joseph Allin		3.5	
Anantha Anilkumar		3.5	
Adam Averbukh	3.5	4	
Jamie Blackburn		3.5	
Jacob Boswell		3.5	
Harry Chathli		3.5	
Max Elliott		4.5	
Charles Grayson		3.5	
Harry Grieve		4	
Arul Gupta	4.5	5	
Girinath Haridas		4	
Oliver Hsieh		4.5	
George Ivanov		3.5	
Gautam Jain		4.5	
Akshaya Kalaiyalahan	3.5	3.5	
Thomas Kolya		4	
Tharshan Kuhendiran		4.5	
Keir Maclean		3.5	
Shobhin Manocha		3.5	
Gorak Rajesh		5	
Luke Remus-Elliott		4	
Sailesh Sitaram		4.5	
Edward Stevenson		3.5	
Brian Tarhon		4.5	
Jackson Wen		4.5	
Haotian Wu		4.5	
Aditya Yanamandra		4	
Anthony Zhang	3.5	4.5	
Zheming Zhang	4		

John Robinson Under 12 Grand Prix 2011 (Born 99 or 00)

Name	British	London	Yateley
Ned Ashcroft	4.5		
Michael Ashworth		3.5	
Judd Bennett	3.5		
William Claridge-			
Hansen	4	4.5	
Harry Croasdale	4	4	
Michael Fletcher	3.5	4.5	
Yasmin Giles	4	3.5	
Coby Graff	4	3.5	
Ravi Haria	5		
Joshua Higgs		3.5	
Ethan Horsfall	3.5		
Hector Huser		3.5	
Tarun Jina		3.5	
Raphael Kalid	4	4.5	
Ashwin Kalyana	5		
Cosima Keen		4.5	

Aloysius Lip	4	3.5
David Liu	4.5	3.5
Saaras Mehan	3.5	
Richard Meikle-Briggs		3.5
Daniel Muir		3.5
Conor Murphy	4	4.5
Akito Oyamu		3.5
Gwilym Price	4	3.5
Rohan Shiatis	5	
Billy Twigge-Molesey	3.5	
Prashat Vir		4
Matthew Wadsworth	4	
Anna Wang	5	4.5
Stephen Whateley	4	
Naomi Wei		3.5
Ryan Wong		3.5

John Robinson Under 14 Grand Prix 2011 (Born 97 or 98)

Name	British	London	Yateley
Emery Asher		3.5	
Ananth Balaji	4		
Rohan Bansal	3.5		
Nishant Bommayya		4	
Henry Broadley	4		
Robert Fitzgerald	4	4.5	
William Foo	4	3.5	
Barnaby Graff	4		
Alexander Harris	3.5	3.5	
Philip Knott	4		
Tarun Malhotra	5		
Owen Messere	3.5		
Roman Mitra	3.5		
Marcus Rose	3.5		
Tibo Rushbrooke	3.5		
Katherine Shepherd	3.5	4	
Patrick Smith	3.5	3.5	
Adam A Taylor	4	3.5	
Adam C Taylor		3.5	
Leo Tsoi	3.5		
Max Wood-Robinson	4		
Roy Zhang		5	

John Robinson Under 16 Grand Prix 2011 (Born 95 or 96)

Name	British	London	Yateley
Peter Batchelor		5	
Sagara Bogoda		4	
Brandon Clarke	5		
Jasdeep Gahir	4		
Oskar Hackner	4	4.5	
Marcus Harvey	5.5	5.5	
Radha Jain	4	4	
Joseph Levene		3.5	
Philomena Lip		3.5	
Charlie Nettleton		3.5	
Daniel Noel	4		
Frank Sabin	4		
Gordon Scott	5		
Morris Stranger		3.5	
Maria Wang		4	

English Primary School Rapid Play Championships

- Peter Purland

This annual event was held at Broadgreen School, Liverpool and attracted 235 players. The Open Section had players from all over England although the other sections were almost exclusively north west based. It was pleasing to see players from Kent, Berkshire, Lincolnshire and most counties in between attending whilst we had a first this year – a player from Gibraltar who are part of the ECF. This must rank as our most far flung player ever. The lure of half norms for the trial does tempt people to travel across the country for the event and 27 were successful in their quest.

The prizes were well shared out this year with every area entering 6 or more players getting at least one prize. There had to be a new name on the trophy this year (all those on are too old) and this was done in style. Gorak Rajesh from Essex scoring 100%. Daniel Abbas from Manchester drew in round three and thus never got a chance to play Gorak and finished second half a point behind. Marcus Lazenby (Liverpool), Jake Liang (Surrey) Johann Power (Cheshire) and Stephen Whatley (Gibraltar) were a further point behind.

The U10A section was won by Ibrahim Malik (Birmingham) with a perfect score whilst Ethan Hill (Rydal) was second a point behind. The U9A was won by Samir Samadav (Lancashire) with 5½ followed by Jack Nolan (Cheshire) on 5 whilst the U8s was shared by Arjun Bolina (Rydal), Pacey Gwynne (Rydal) and Nugith Jayawarna (Tameside). The three B sections were won by James Alsop (Yorkshire), Sean Spiers (Tameside), Sean Walker Wirral (U11), Alex Holland (Liverpool), Robert McLean (Oldham), Andrew Redmond (Tameside), Kyle Tyndall (Oldham) (U10) and Sharon Daniel (Manchester) (U9).

These sections prove an excellent training ground for the lower boards of association teams and are just as fiercely contested as any other. Next years event will be on January 14th at Broadgreen.

Thornton Hall Coaching Weekend 2011

This annual event was held on January 8th and 9th in the palatial surroundings of Thornton Hall. We had a record number of 56 registered and this year 55 made it. Many elected to stay overnight.

The event starts on the Saturday morning and the play-

ers are split in to four groups with coaches Andrew Martin, Nigel Davies and Graeme Buckley. The fourth group goes swimming for 45 minutes and also has a session on the Laws of Chess both taken by Peter Purland. This year we again had the Torintone Suite with four teaching rooms, an eating area and a social area where the parents could relax, chat and drink tea or coffee. Some of the parents relaxing between sessions can be seen below.



After two sessions a buffet lunch was enjoyed (beef-burgers proving much more popular than salad!) and after two more sessions we had an hours free time followed by dinner in the orangery after which the braver (or madder) of the parents joined many of the players in a six round crazy lightning tournament. This included such rules as Queens move as knights, remove all pieces from the a and h files and, the favourite of sadistic arbiters, swop places!! Yes, at least one player was deprived of a mate in one. At the end the luckiest (or craftiest) players were Joe Benton from Richmond and Miles Hemingway from Yorkshire. Meanwhile the other parents were enjoying a more formal dinner in the Oak Room. This is part of the original Thornton Manor and is a magnificent setting for a meal. The rest of us had breakfast there in the morning. At the end of all this it was time for the players to go to bed although some coaches and parents took advantage of the Thornton Hall hospitality for slightly longer!



Sunday morning saw the coaches working together with the whole group in three one hour sessions. The players worked in groups and thoroughly enjoyed the morning.

In the afternoon we had a themed tournament where the coaches set the opening and each player then had 10 minutes each on the clock to finish the game. Competition was fierce and, although we could only fit in 4 rounds we had no one on 100%. In fact, five players tied on 3.5; Daniel Abbas (Manchester), Judd Bennett (Lancashire), Tim Chatys (Tameside), Jack Healings (Staffs) and Ravi Mahapatra (Manchester).

After the conclusion of the tournament we had a brief prize giving before all the parents were away shortly after 4pm.



Thanks are due to the staff of Thornton Hall for making our stay so enjoyable, the coaches for all their hard work, the parents for their continued support, the players for working so hard and behaving so well and finally to Glynis Purland who organised the weekend and did all the behind the scenes work. We have already booked the equivalent weekend next year (Jan 7\8) so if you are still in years 5, 6 or 7 do come along. If you are a promising player and would like an invite contact Glynis Purland next autumn (glynispurland@yahoo.co.uk)

Yateley Manor Schools Championship Last Chance Saloons

Has your school been knocked out of the Yateley Manor Schools Championship? Or perhaps you didn't enter at the Zonal stage? Either way, you can still get into the last 15 of the National stage by qualifying through a Last Chance Saloon. There are two, both on 6th February: Last Chance Saloon North at Nottingham High School; and Last Chance Saloon South at Eton College. Enquiries to Richard Haddrell Email: rjh@sccu.ndo.co.uk Tel: 01892 532361

International Round-Up

- Lawrence Cooper

Future events:

4NCL Divisions 1, 2 & 3 15-16 January 2011
Barcelo Hotel, Hinckley Island
4NCL Northern League De Vere Wychwood Park (nr Crewe)

<http://www.4ncl.co.uk/index.htm>

The second weekend of the 4NCL 2010-11 season takes place this weekend with Divisions 1, 2 and 3 all taking place at the exotically named Hinckley Island whilst the Northern League is in Crewe.

73rd Tata Steel Chess Tournament Wijk aan Zee 14-30 January 2011

<http://www.tatasteelchess.com/tournament/participants/group/2>

<http://www.tatasteelchess.com/tournament/livegames>

England's number two (on the January 2011 rating list) Luke McShane plays in Grandmaster Group B. He is eighth seed in the fourteen player all-play-all event that includes four players rated over 2700.

Tradewise Gibraltar Chess Festival 24 Jan -3 Feb 2011

<http://www.gibraltarchesscongress.com>

Entrants include Michael Adams, Nigel Short, Gawain Jones, Jon Speelman and Jovanka Houska.

English results abroad:

Rilton Cup 27th December – 5th January 2011

<http://www.rilton.se/1011/index.html>

<http://www.chess-results.com/tnr42335.aspx?art=9&lan=1&fed=ENG&flag=30&m=-1&wi=1000&snr=38>

Ian Thompson finished on 4.5/9 with a 2245 performance.

Basle Open 2011 1st-5th January 2011

<http://www.schachfestivalbasel.ch/>

Nathan Alfred finished on 3.5/7.

In addition to the individual websites the latest international chess news can be found at the following link: <http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic844.html>

ECF Live Games Calendar

http://www.englishchess.org.uk/?page_id=5052

I encourage players to send me details of events they or others are playing in abroad and I will do my best to include them in my round-up.

The English Chess Federation Certificate of Merit

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY



The Certificate of Merit (COM) is centred on a number of online tests, which enable chess students to measure their progress and to earn certificates and badges. The tests are taken entirely online, and payments for the credits can be made online or by cheque. Examinees can practice as many times as they wish before they take the CoM test. All questions are multiple-choice, and the result comes through automatically - the certificate is issued by email and the button badge for the particular level is sent out by the ECF Office shortly afterwards. Please see the shop on the ECF website www.englishchess.org.uk for details of purchase of the full package or individual items.

New! Each credit costs £6 or £150 for 30.

Once a student has paid for a credit, he or she can then take the test as many times as necessary until a pass is achieved.

New! Students can track each question answered wrongly and find out the correct answer.

New! The answers now have an explanation included (where appropriate)

There is also a package available of many goodies - for details, go to www.certificateofmerit.org.uk

For further information contact the ECF Office:

01424 775222 / com@englishchess.org.uk

www.certificateofmerit.org.uk



Results Round-Up

British Rapidplay Championships

Day One

Over 300 chess players gathered in the NBLC in Halifax for the big chess rapidplay weekend. A good preparation plus a good turnout saw a fine day of chess. ECF president and TV personality CJ De Mooi was in attendance along with the ECF's Director of Home Chess, Adam Raoof. Both guests are playing in the event.

In the Open, the fine form of David Howell continued from last year. Although losing his queen to Matthew Payne of Worthing in Round One, David Howell won the game. Mark Hebden later lost to Gawain Jones, whilst Matthew Turner and Richard Palliser did well on the first day, despite odd draws. David Howell only dropped half a point in six rounds (that a draw to Gawain Jones) to go in as the first day leader on 5.5 points. Gawain Jones, Matthew Turner and Richard Palliser follow on 5 points.

In other areas, the brilliant young Zheming Zhang won the England Under-11 Trial with 5.5 out of 6. The Minor/Intermediate/Major all saw fine first day tournaments. Notables on day one were Kishan Pattni in the Minor with 6 points and Pierre Weller with 6 in the Major. Ollie Wilson won the Under-16 One Day Junior event with 6 points.

On the second day, it will be interesting to see if anyone can stop David Howell taking the title. Ironically, Mark Hebden faces David Howell first thing Sunday

Day Two

Well ... the morning was cold, plus the local car boot sale was doing well. The rain would hold off until the afternoon. The smell of bacon butties permeated the building. Later on some hearty Yorkshire puddings filled with mince, gravy and carrots were served in the canteen.

Anyway ... back to the chess and, specifically, the Open where true to form, David Howell beat last year's joint champion Mark Hebden in his first game of the day. Throughout the day David Howell went on to score five wins. Richard Palliser was beaten too along the way. David Howell scored a magnificent 10.5 from 11 points.

Aaron Summerscale had a fine day too. Mark Hebden, Richard Palliser and Aaron all finished on 8 points.

David Howell seemed very cool and relaxed - no doubt the London Chess Classic will present him a bigger challenge.

The other key results saw many fine performances and are summarized below. A special thank you to special



CJ de Mooi congratulates GM David Howell

guests Adam Raoof, Director of Home Chess at the ECF, and notably CJDeMooi, the ECF President - a big thank you.

CJDeMooi helped present all the prizes and kindly donated a fully autographed book from Gawain Jones to Zheming Zhang, the outstanding Under-11 trial winner.

- Brent Kitson, BRC Secretary

BRCC Winners 2010

OPEN

1ST DAVID HOWELL 10.5/11

2ND= MARK HEBDEN, RICHARD PALLISER,
AARON SUMMERSCALE 8/11

MAJOR

1ST PIERRE WELLER 9/11

INTERMEDIATE

1ST DANIEL NOEL 9/11

MINOR

1ST KISHAN PATTNI 10/11

JUNIORS

UNDER-11 TRIAL

ZHEMING ZHANG 5.5/6

SATURDAY UNDER-16

OLLIE WILLSON 6/6

SUNDAY BRITISH UNDER-16

DANIEL LEA & STEPHEN CHUNG 4/5

SUNDAY BRITISH UNDER-12

STEPHEN WHATLEY 5/5

Full crosstables can be found at <http://www.chess-nuts.org.uk/ny5/kitson.php?sectionid=781> (then sectionids up to 789) - thanks to Jon Griffith

86th Hastings International Chess Congress

Each year, as the Congress draws closer, the organisers in Hastings begin paying close attention to the weather forecasts and dread a white Christmas. Thoughts of David Welch being unable to drive down on Boxing Day with all the equipment or the resulting travel chaos cause nightmares. The weather prior to the recent Congress made these scenarios seem likely. However, Hastings micro-climate seemed to be in evidence again and on the 28th December the 86th Congress was opened by Deputy Mayor of Hastings, Councillor Alan Roberts and Councillor Jeremy Birch, Leader of Hastings Borough Council.

The event was again generously sponsored by Hastings Borough Council with additional help from the White Rock Hotel, the Chatsworth Hotel, Gwalia, the Pig in Paradise, KC Computers and Deutsch UK Ltd.

Entries held up despite public transport being affected by what seemed like one long bank holiday. There were 434 entries and 23 countries were represented. There was a large Indian contingent in the Masters this year and they provided commentators and spectators with some exciting chess as well as joint first-prize winners. GM Deep Sengupta and Arghydir Das also jointly hold the Golombek Trophy for one year with 7 points.



Cllr Forward and Amber Rudd, MP, present the joint first prize

Three of last year's winners, Eduard (FRA), Howell (Eng) and Istratescu (Rou) joined Gormally (Eng) Prasanna (Ind) and another former winner, Neverov (Uk) in joint second place with 6.5 points

Prasanna achieved his first GM norm and Gerhana Chkartine of Indonesia achieved a WIM norm.

As well as entertaining chess, there were developments

on the technology front with more live games being shown and webcams for the internet audience. Chris Ward was able to pick up the games in the commentary room which enabled him to switch between games with ease.

CJ de Mooi visited the Congress in his capacity as President of the ECF. He presented a giant chess set to a local adventure playground, in2play and opened the 28th Weekend Congress. This was won by GM Stuart Conquest.



Gerhana Chkartina, Yemi Jelsen & GM David Howell

The prize giving was attended by Mayor of Hastings, Cllr Kim Forward and MP for Hastings & Rye, Amber Rudd. This followed a reception kindly given by the Trustees of Horntye Park.

The Congress ran smoothly and the organisers now turn their attention to the future. Full details of the games and results can be found on the congress website www.hastingschess.org.uk

- Pam Thomas, HICC Press Officer



Thomas Rendle and Lateefah Messam-Sparkes

The ChEx Bookshelf

Each issue in this column, Chief Executive Andrew Farthing introduces a noteworthy book of interest to the average player

THE BUSINESS OF CHESS

What is the secret of success? How can I emulate the performance of those at the top? What are those magic shortcuts to improvement?

Chess publishing exists because there are enough of us asking these questions and – more importantly – willing to feed our hunger for answers by buying books. Deep down, I know that my standard of chess is very unlikely to improve significantly, yet I continue to buy chess books in considerable quantities. In this, I am clearly not alone.

Is this a folly unique to chess? Reassuringly, the answer is a resounding “No!” The world of business and management is also full of punters desperate to uncover the secrets of success and the bookshops are full of offerings to meet that need. No matter how many sceptics question their value, the books fly off the shelves in order to sit – often unread – on the desk of business people the world over.

Occasionally, there is crossover between the fields of business and chess. In 2008, the American chess publisher Bob Long produced **The Chess Assassin’s Business Manual** (Thinkers’ Press), an account of his life in the “business” of chess. Anecdotal in style, this is essentially autobiographical in nature with a few chess games thrown in for good measure. I rather enjoyed it, but then as a reader of both chess and business books I may well be the book’s ideal reader. The educational value for business people is, I suspect, marginal at best, but chess players may find it interesting provided that they don’t expect it to improve their game.

Better known is **How Life Imitates Chess** by Garry Kasparov and Mig Greengard (William Heinemann; 2007). In this book, according to the front-cover blurb, “The most successful chess player of all time shares his insights into life as a game of strategy.” Sadly, the book falls between two stools. As a business textbook (or life manual), it fails to convince, and the promised “insights” come across as rather bland generalisations. The most interesting sections are the specific anecdotes from Kasparov’s chess life, but the nature of the book means that these are diluted by the more “universal” content. The authors work hard to persuade the reader that the chess/life or chess/busi-

ness metaphor is valid but prove unable to move beyond this to show that the metaphor in turn generates insights unavailable without it.

So much for ventures into business literature from within the chess world; what about attempts to use lessons from business to learn about chess?

The book that I want to focus on tries to do precisely that: **Foundations of Chess Strategy** by Lars Bo Hansen (Gambit; 2005). Hansen is a Danish grandmaster who has made the career shift into business, where “he teaches and lectures on business studies, with a particular focus on marketing, organisation and strategy.” A number of strong players have moved into other professions, of course, but Hansen is unusual in that he continues to write about chess and, moreover, actively seeks to import models and frameworks from business thinking and apply them to chess.

The business models in question are not particularly complex. At the risk of over-simplifying, they can be summarised as follows:

(1) **Outside-in or Inside-out** – This refers to the notion of whether strategy should be determined by the external environment (“Outside-in”) or the internal qualities of the organisation (“Inside-out”). As so often in this area, there is no right answer, but Hansen makes the point that if strategy is driven only by the external conditions, there is a risk that everyone ends up with the same strategy and, therefore, no competitive advantage. Success, he argues, comes from a focus on what the individual (or organisation) does particularly well, i.e. the “inside”.

(2) **The Five Forces** – In business strategy, this is a famous framework devised by Michael Porter. Here, Hansen adapts the model to chess, replacing the four external forces identified by Porter with chess terms (Material; Initiative; Positional Factors and Environmental Factors) and the internal “force” with the Human Factor.

(3) **Personal Style matrix** – A classic ‘four-box grid’ so beloved of management consultants the world over. Here, it is applied to the definition of four broad groupings of chess styles.

The Personal Style matrix brings us to the heart of Hansen’s book, perhaps best summarised in the following table taken from Chapter 3:

Space prohibits a detailed explanation of this model,

for which you should read the book as a whole. In practice, Hansen uses the model as a basis for four lengthy chapters (110 pages out of 176) explaining the

	ACTIVISTS	REFLECTORS
Intuition	Tal, Anand, Shirov, Morozevich	Capablanca, Smyslov, Petrosian, Karpov, Adams
	PRAGMATICS	THEORISTS
Logic	Lasker, Alekhine, Euwe, Spassky, Fischer, Kasparov, Korchnoi	Steinitz, Tarrasch, Nimzowitsch, Botvinnik, Kramnik
	Facts	General Concepts

characteristics of each type, illustrated by numerous annotated games. The annotations emphasise words over variations, which makes them more attractive to the average player. The games, by world-class players, are of excellent quality (although possibly not new to the well-read amateur).

How will all of this help the average player? Hansen's underlying message is a familiar one:

1. Know yourself and play to your strengths;
2. Know your opponent and play to his weaknesses.

This has been said many times before. The key question is whether the specific model used here to make the point adds anything to the effectiveness of the lesson.

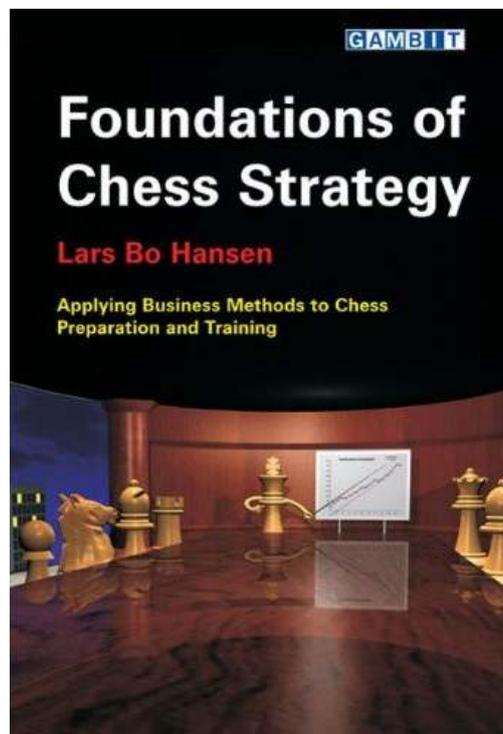
This is not easy to answer. Chess books and business books have this in common: the fundamental “truths” and essential knowledge required by the student are relatively well established and familiar. The quality of any given book on the subject tends to be determined by the way in which concepts are presented and the persuasiveness of the specific examples used. Many of the most acclaimed business books have similar features:

- The appearance of a “scientific” basis, often expressed as a specific model or framework, to convince the reader of the truth of the underlying messages;
- A series of simple messages (e.g. “Stick to the knitting”) or categories to make the lessons easy to remember and pass on;
- A heavy concentration on good examples, using the power of narrative to increase the reader's buy-in.

Foundations of Chess Strategy reproduces these elements faithfully. The effectiveness of this approach in the first instance will depend very much on the extent to which the reader is convinced by the “narrative”. For the most part, I was convinced. The model made sense to me, and I could see the logic behind the groupings of great players. Inevitably, there is a simplifying process at work here: the best players are always more rounded than headline descriptions of their style imply. Nevertheless, Hansen makes a good case that the players discussed in each chapter are indeed a natural fit within their category.

Of course, for the book to make a noticeable difference to the standard of my play, understanding must be transformed into action. The real lessons of the book are that, to improve, a player must put effort into: (a) understanding his own games; and (b) studying the methods of players who fit with his identified strengths.

Foundations of Chess Strategy provides an excellent framework for selecting a “chess hero” who tallies with your personal preferences. Whether it leads to improvement, however, depends – as always – on how much work the reader is willing to do. Learning a new way of expressing familiar ideas feels like progress, but ultimately the only thing that matters is how you change what you actually do.



If you enjoyed this, why not check out ChEx, the Chief Executive's blog, at - www.englishchess.org.uk/farthing?

ChessPoints - by Tony Robson

1. How ChessPoints started

How did it begin? Please be patient, I shall need to take you back 4 years and tell you about Tricky Dick's and Sosta Cafe!

Tricky Dick's

I recall how I used to visit a London coffee bar in the late 1970s where they played chess every night. Happy memories! This venue, 515 Finchley Road, nestling in a small parade of shops in northwest London, has long been a café or restaurant under a succession of different proprietors. In those days it was the Tricky Dick's restaurant and coffee bar, and remained open each night until the early hours, while the rest of London shut at 10.30 p.m.

I would frequently drop in at Tricky Dick's for a coffee around 1 a.m. on my way home from working late in London before hitting the motorway north. The customers would be sitting at 3 or 4 tables engrossed in chess while sipping at their cappuccinos. I would not join them at the chessboards – I simply relaxed and watched them play. A magical atmosphere! Maybe some of you "locals" will remember the place? Of course, people tell me of similar venues in many countries across the globe. But Tricky Dick's was the one that did it for me.

And so to the first "ChessPoint"...

Fast forward 30 years, I am strolling through Northampton town centre. I pass this café Sosta in Abington Street and immediately have a "Finchley Road" moment! That was my inspiration for the "ChessPoint", a community venue where members of the public could simply turn up and play chess free of charge, with sets provided by the management.

So we started at Sosta Cafe (now renamed Cafe del Sol, by the way). We provided the management with 4 chess sets; 2 chess clocks; the ChessPack, a lever arch file with 30 double sided A4 matt laminated pages, covering the history of chess, famous players, and a coaching section. This is of interest to the



non-chess playing public as well as seasoned chess players, or beginners.

We arranged a 2-hour group session there every Monday morning from 10:00 till 12:00, when 3 or 4 of us would turn up, sip coffee, and play. We built a small group of other interested individuals who would join us from time to time.

After a few months at Cafe del Sol, we wanted to look further afield and learn the kind of public venue that might make a ChessPoint. So we tried to get going in a variety of different venues. A library, a sports centre, an old people's home, a museum, a concert hall foyer, the town hall, the local university, the local hospital, a Working Men's Club, a hotel, various community rooms, &c.

In every case, there were problems:

- (i) We might be asked to pay to use the venue - in this case, we simply stopped going there.
- (ii) The venue might object to us using the venue at certain times.
- (iii) They might object to us talking while we were playing.
- (iv) They might argue that they could not spare tables or seats for our use.
- (v) They would not want to look after the chess sets &c for us!

We concluded that each of these places was potentially a successful ChessPoint, but needed support from the management.

2. Who is playing chess out there?

Let us examine the take-up of chess in ChessPoint's home county of Northamptonshire.

The county has a population of nearly 700,000. Established chess clubs (affiliated to Northamptonshire Chess Association, recently re-admitted to the ECF) have in total about 110 members. So about one in every 6,000 of the population plays chess to club standard at one of the 7 clubs across the county.

Northamptonshire Schools Chess Association, with its group of dedicated helpers, manages to organise chess for a further 150 schoolchildren in a dozen schools across the county.

This places Northamptonshire well down the list of all counties in the UK in its take-up of chess.

However, there are many hundreds in the community

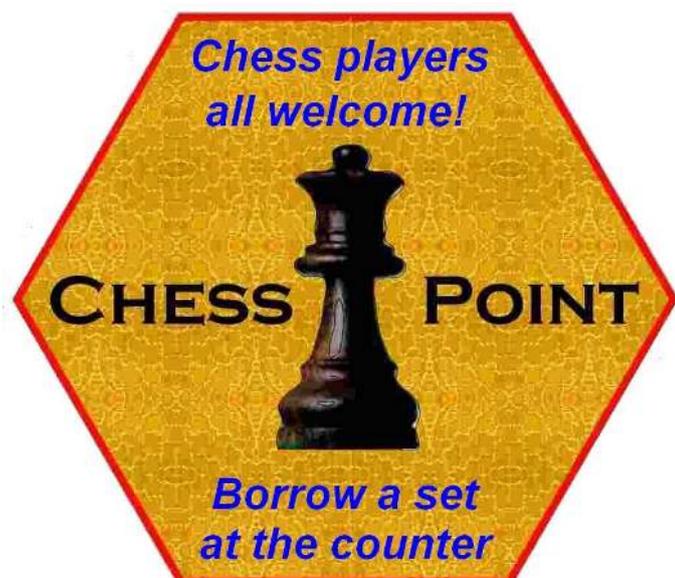
who would like to play chess but fall into neither of the above groups:

1. Adults and children who want to learn from scratch.
2. Those who cannot afford transport to reach established clubs on the weekday evening club nights, or to travel to away matches across the county.
3. Those whose work or family commitments prevent them from becoming involved in weekday evening chess.
4. Those who care not to visit licensed premises for their chess.

ChessPoint seeks to bring chess to just these people. Our philosophy is simply that many out there will never make strong players - they just want to play and learn social chess. In fact we find that about 4 out of every 5 fall into this category.

Should any who join us achieve a decent club playing standard, that is an all-round bonus but certainly not our *raison-d'être*.

To emphasise, we do not see ourselves as a recruiting agency for the adult clubs and school clubs. That is their area of expertise, not ours. We exist for the 80% who are simply not going to get chess without us. To summarise, we bring chess to the community at large, not to chess players per se.



3. What happens at a ChessPoint?

A ChessPoint is a venue where the public can come and play chess at any time.

1. Chess sets are held at the counter or enquiry desk, along with chess clocks and score sheets, and the ChessPack, a matt laminated lever arch file full of use-

ful information on chess.

2. The ChessPack tells the history of the game in the area, has a self-coaching section, and contains biographies and well-known games of famous players, plus other interesting information.

3. The ChessPoint is essentially a self-service facility.

People will turn up at any time (usually on weekday daytimes and at weekends) and play chess without the rest of the community even being aware that they are there. We find that if a chess set is already laid out or otherwise readily available, you will get people coming along to play at various times virtually every day of the week.

Over a period of time these visitors will meet one another and form a loose community.

4. Unfortunately, many venues are reluctant to lay out a chess set. In these cases, the casual use described above will simply not happen to the same extent, although from time to time visitors will turn up and ask to borrow a chess set.

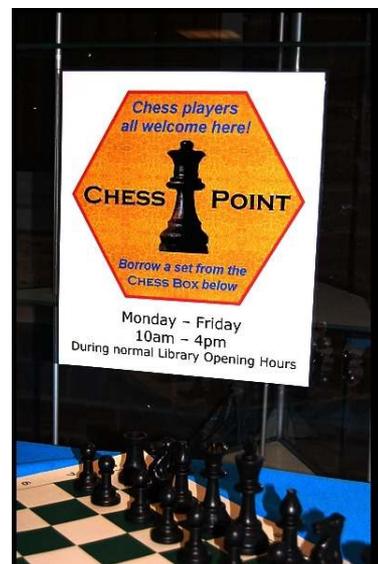
5. When we meet newcomers to the community at a ChessPoint, we invite them to register their details with us. This places them on the circulation for our email newsletter ChessRound, now distributed to about 500 people, young and old, beginners and seasoned players.

6. As the ChessPoint community grows, we meet adult members of the community who offer to become community volunteers, moderating regular group sessions at their local ChessPoints. In this way we can grow a Club identity for each ChessPoint.

7. The group sessions will uncover people - from total beginners to those returning to the game after many years away - who would like serious coaching. We run a Saturday ChessPoint Academy in Northampton town centre, with a large team of coaches, specifically to serve this need.

4. Where can you have a ChessPoint?

There are so many places out there. Here is a selection of possible venues (by no means an exhaustive list),



with asterisks (*) against those well suited to casual recruitment of participants and volunteers for ChessPoint -

1. Coffee bar *
2. Tea room *
3. Restaurant
4. Public house *
5. Library
6. University or college foyer
7. Bookshop
8. Retirement home
9. Hotel lounge or reception *
10. Hospital lounge or waiting room
11. Sports centre *
12. Community centre
13. Church rooms
14. Village hall *
15. Theatre, museum or concert hall *
16. Motorway service station *

Note that many of these places are open 7 days a week, some are open both day-time and evening, and a few are even open 24 hours a day!

ChessPoint has explored many of these places as possible venues. There is no question that the deciding factor is the support offered by venue staff. You have to find someone there who will help promote the ChessPoint ethos to visitors. That individual might be a chess player, or maybe someone who simply believes that what we are trying to do is laudable and deserves support. In some venues we have wonderful support from key staff. Then again we have several excellent venues waiting for management's backing. Without that help, little is possible, so we simply move on to develop the places where support is available.

5. The need for coaching - the ChessPoint Academy

As mentioned earlier, four-fifths of those coming into our community want coaching. In practice, a ChessPoint is normally an unsuitable venue for coaching activities. Indeed, some venues object to coaching activities taking place on their premises. In addition, coaching is often assisted by the availability of additional facilities, e.g. computers, large screen projectors for group presentations, and so forth, and of course we need a suitable venue for this.

Two years ago, we recognised that without a properly established coaching resource, we could not fully encourage the take-up of chess across the community. We adopted a three-pronged approach to addressing this need:

1. We acquired a wide range of coaching equipment and materials to facilitate one-on-one and group coaching activities.
2. We established a large team of chess coaches.
3. We adopted a large venue in central Northampton as a coaching base. With catering facilities and free parking, the ChessPoint Academy, as it is known, offers structured coaching and community chess tournaments every Saturday, and can offer further chess activities including boot camps at other times. Over a period of time we see the Academy as being able to assist the development of ChessPoints across the whole area.

6. ChessPoints and the wider chess community

When we examine ChessPoint in the context of the wider community, several issues come forward. We believe that these issues should be addressed fairly but honestly.

ChessPoint - bringing chess to the community

The ChessPoint network exists to bring chess to a community that has not been engaged by the traditional chess infrastructure across the county.

ChessPoint and the NCA

Many of the ChessPoint community have long been involved with NCA (Northamptonshire Chess Association) and its affiliated clubs. For many years NCA itself has undertaken few planned activities to increase the number of affiliated clubs. Here is an opportunity for NCA to establish new clubs in towns alongside ChessPoints supporting community chess activities.

Clubs affiliated to the NCA

With a few notable exceptions, the clubs themselves have been unable to grow their membership to any appreciable extent. Numbers have fallen away steadily over the past twenty years. Maybe this is not the format in which the bulk of the population wants its chess delivered. Perhaps we should accept that in future, if membership were left to the clubs themselves, we would have to make do with a total club membership of around 150 or less across the county.

The NSCA

Try though it might, NSCA (Northamptonshire Schools Chess Association) has been unable to grow its membership beyond about 10% of the schools across the county. Again, numbers have fallen away steadily over the past several years. One can raise a big question mark over the support offered by the schools themselves. Chess does not appear to fit easily into their agendas.

ChessPoint and the NSCA

ChessPoint has discussed with NSCA whether in future the county's youth could also be reached through community-based initiatives rather than through the framework of the school system. Recognising the difficulty of establishing chess through the schools network, Northamptonshire County Council has recently formed a partnership arrangement with ChessPoint to bring chess to the youth community across much of the county, and this is both a challenge and an opportunity that must be seized.

Perceptions

Within NCA and NSCA, voices are sometimes raised in criticism of the perceived role being undertaken by ChessPoint. But community support bodies across the county fully understand our role; they continue to provide funding for ChessPoint's efforts to help chess reach the wider community.

A national footprint for ChessPoint?

At the ECF's October 2010 Council Meeting, ChessPoint was voted in unanimously as an "Other Organisation". Indeed, we have members of our community from outside Northamptonshire, the county of our birth; and we strongly support the 4NCL and Junior 4NCL. What is more, other chess bodies outside our county have expressed interest in the ChessPoint model. Perhaps they see the same opportunities to grow chess across their respective communities.

Find out more about ChessPoint

Please take time to visit our web site: <http://www.chesspoint.co.uk> or contact us by email: chesspoint@solve360.com

TONY ROBSON R.I.P.

On Thursday, January 13th, just as this edition of Chess Moves was being finalised, I received the following message from Alan Walters, Chairman of ChessPoint:

"It is with great sadness and regret that I have to inform all of you that Tony Robson died on Tuesday. He had been undergoing treatment for cancer during recent months. Tony joined Northampton Chess Club in 2006. He ran the Youth Chess Academy during the club's year at the Central Library and then served the club as secretary from 2008-2010. Tony will also be remembered for his work to introduce more people to chess ("Bringing Chess to the Community") by setting up ChessPoint Services, a community organisation with which many of you are associated. He will be sadly missed."

On behalf of the ECF, I should like to offer my deepest sympathies to Tony's family and friends. ChessPoint Services stands as a fine tribute to Tony's love of chess and his commitment to spreading his passion throughout the community, and Tony's inspiring article will, I hope, serve as a fitting memorial to his work - *Andrew Farthing, Chief Executive*

HMCA Private Healthcare, Travel Insurance, Dental, Vehicle Breakdown Recovery and other Benefit Plans

HMCA (Hospital & Medical Care Association) is a specialist provider of services to membership groups and is



authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority. HMCA has been working with membership groups for over 30 years and now provides a portfolio of membership benefits to over 600 such groups. These arrangements provide ECF members and their immedi-

ate families with a simple means of securing the high quality benefits and services offered by HMCA.

The schemes on offer include the following Plans:-

PRIVATE HEALTHCARE COVER

- Potential savings of up to 50% for members and their immediate families. This figure is based on savings made by those who have joined HMCA using the transfer facility.
- Over 70% of HMCA new subscribers transfer to HMCA from other healthcare providers!

TRAVEL INSURANCE PLAN

- Cover can be obtained for unmarried children up to the age 23 in a family plan.
- Annual multi-trip European cover is £77.00 for a family. Annual multi-trip world-wide cover for a family is £115.00.
- Cover may be taken out for certain pre-existing medical conditions for an extra premium after answering a few questions over the 'phone.
- Annual cover available up to the age 70 and single trip cover up to the age 75.

DENTAL PLAN

- Provides 24 hour world-wide cover and you will not be tied down to one dental practice.
- Monthly subscription for a single person age 18 to 78 is £19.45.

VEHICLE BREAKDOWN RECOVERY SERVICE

- Represents excellent value for money.
- Fully comprehensive breakdown cover is available for £7.67 a month for one car (any driver), reducing to £4.75 a month (per car) for a total of 4 cars all based at the same address.

HMCA CASH INCOME CARE, INCOME PROTECTION, PERSONAL ACCIDENT & TERM LIFE PLANS

are also available for members and their immediate families. All plans carry a 30 day money-back guarantee and terms and conditions apply. Quoted subscription rates are correct as at 01/12/2010. To find out more and to apply online about any of the above benefit plans visit HMCA at www.hmca.co.uk/ecf.htm or ring on 01423 866985

Nigel Short – DVD/book signing and simul, 15th February 2011

Nigel David Short is generally regarded as the strongest British grandmaster of the 20th century ...

Born on June 1st 1965, he started out as a chess prodigy, first attracting media attention by beating Viktor Korchnoi and Tigran Petrosian in simultaneous exhibitions at the ages of ten and twelve years old respectively. At the age of 14 he became the youngest IM in history, breaking Bobby Fischer's previous record, and at 16 he came second (to Garry Kasparov) at the Under 20 World Junior Championship in Dortmund.

In 1985 Nigel became Britain's first ever candidate for the World Championship, and in 1993 he made it all the way to the final by beating Anatoly Karpov and Jan Timman. He only lost to World Champion Garry Kasparov in the title match in London. Since then he has remained active at the highest levels of competitive chess, but has also become a chess columnist, commentator and a coach for promising young talents. He is considered one of the most entertaining and outspoken personalities in the chess world.

In his DVDs "Greatest Hits" Nigel takes us on an electrifying journey through a very rich chess career, which saw him beat no less than twelve world champions. His experience in tournaments and matches all over the world – Short has visited a total of 89 countries – can be seen in the narratives that precede the games, which he annotates with humour and instructive insights.

Video running time: 5 hours 14 min.

Normally £60 – buy it at the event and get it signed for just £45!

PRICES

£40 per person admission to the event and a seat at the Mixed Simul to play Nigel Short

£25.00 for juniors under-16 (parents free entry)

£5.00 for all other spectators to the simul, talks and the book and DVD signings (entry must be booked in advance)

£45.00 for Nigel's 2-set DVD plus £3 postage and packing. Cheques should be payable to 'Adam Raof' and posted to 328 Watford Way, Hendon, London NW4 4UY. You can also pay using PayPal to – adam-raoof@gmail.com

ORGANISER

Adam Raof (ECF Director of Home Chess), for Nigel Short and CJ de Mooi.

VENUE

Middlesex University Real Tennis Club
(<http://www.murtc.co.uk/>),
2 Campus Way, Hendon, London NW4 4BT

PROGRAMME

4.30pm to 6.30pm – Junior Simultaneous Display over 30 Boards

6.30pm – 6.45pm – Nigel Short (Grandmaster) Q&A

6.45pm – 7.30pm – CJ de Mooi (Eggheads, ECF President) Q&A

DVD and book signing, including the opportunity to take photos with Nigel and CJ, purchase Nigel Short's Greatest Hits 2-Vol DVD for £40 (normally £60).

– BREAK –

7.45pm to a finish – Mixed Simultaneous Display over 30 boards

PRESS & PHOTOGRAPHERS

Please contact Adam Raof for an invitation

Crusaders Chess Club simul, Blackburn

23 players braved the snow and ice on Sunday 5th December to take on British chess legend GM Nigel Short MBE. The event was held at Blackburn Northern Sports Club, Blackburn, Lancashire, and was organised by Crusaders Chess Club.

Players came from Cumbria, Merseyside and Lancashire to play in the simul and after a short(!) welcome speech by Blackburn Northern



chairman Nick Marsden, Nigel informed everyone that there would be no passes allowed. 23 crestfallen faces looked at him in horror. It turned out to be a wise decision as after nearly 4-and-a-half hours of non-stop chess Nigel claimed victory on all the boards.

Despite two or three early losses due to blunders, most of the games lasted between 40-70 moves. Eight of the area's top juniors fought long and hard, only losing near the end, and the best game prize, chosen by IM Jeff Horner, was won by Crusaders player Martyn Hamer.

A big thank you to Nigel for the simul and for talking to everyone and signing autographs afterwards.

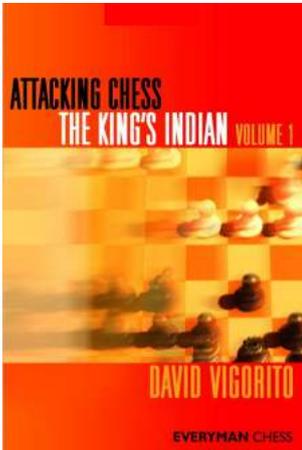
Book Reviews from Gary Lane

Attacking Chess: The King's Indian, Volume 1

by David Vigorito

Published by Everyman £17.99

The King's Indian has been a favourite of World Champions but also offers the average player a chance to attack with the back pieces.



The only snag is that over the years a lot of games have been played which has helped to build up an enormous amount of theory. So which line is the best for the tournament player? The American David Vigorito does a good job of recommending main lines for Black and then presenting what you need to know. Still, with a book last-

ing 368 pages, named as volume one and with a couple of free updates available on the web within a year of publication this is for the serious student. The lines covered in this work are the Classical Variation (1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 Bg7 4 e4 d6 5 Nf3 0-0 6 Be2 e5 7 0-0 Nc6), the Classical Variation with 7 Be3 and 7 d5 and the Sämisch Variation (1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 Bg7 4 e4 d6 5 f3 0-0 6 Be3 and now 6...Nc6 is the recommended move. I am particularly impressed that he has not fallen into the trap of recommending the trendy 6...c5 against the Sämisch. This is because a lot of opening repertoire books suggest lines exclusively played by the world's elite and conveniently forget to mention that Black is usually happy to draw. There is nothing worse than seeing juniors battling it out in the dull Petroff (1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nf6) just because they have seen the stars play it. Vigorito rightly rejects 6...c5 pointing out that White can grab the pawn and exchange queens which is not the fighting line required by those who want to win every position. Indeed he notes "...I believe that heading into a pawn-down endgame straight out of the opening is probably not to everyone's taste."

A well researched and thoughtful book for King's Indian players.

Dynamic Chess Strategy

by Mihai Suba

Published by New In Chess £14.99

It is time to check your library to see if you have old copy of this book which was originally published in 1990 and now has the might of New in Chess behind

another launch. It is always interesting to read what the author has changed and in chapter one he modestly reflects on the creation of the work. Apparently in 1989 the Belgian player Luc Winants read the manuscript and Suba reveals "He was the first to say that such a thing had not been published since My System." He then goes on to mention that GM Kevin Spraggett copied his recommended openings and even has time to mention a review from amazon.com. The reality is that the discussion on strategy is entertaining but after twenty years the openings should be treated with caution.

Suba spreads his personal thoughts throughout the book which is a welcome insight and has lots of intriguing things to reveal. The thirty-six illustrative games are interesting especially the anecdotes from his time in Romania but with no obvious additional new games in the notes it is not clear if the assessments stand the test of time.

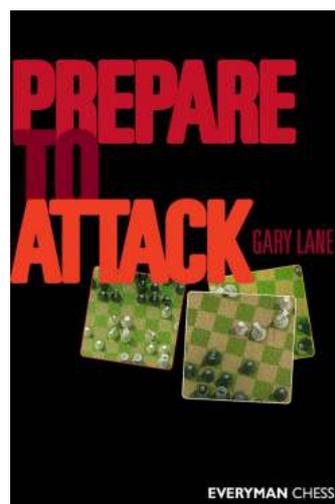
The perfect book to dip into when you need inspiration.

Prepare to Attack

by Gary Lane

Published by Everyman £15.99

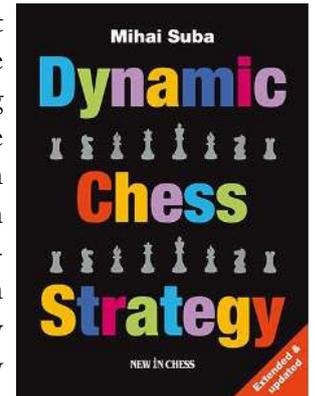
The idea is to encourage the reader to know when it is the right time to attack during a game. I endeavour to



demonstrate how it is possible to improve your level of play by introducing various easy to learn techniques. It might seem simple but the line 'count the pieces' can work wonders when deciding when to go on the attack, which makes more sense when you see the numerous diagrams and complete games. The theme is instructive but light-hearted so I share my

miseries of losing on time at weekend tournaments but also how to rectify the problem of rapid time-limits. There are plenty of practical tips spread throughout the work, such as to how to choose the right opening, planning and strategy, when to 'cash in your chips' and why resignation is not always the best move.

A fun way to learn and improve.





BATSFORD Competition

Congratulations to the November /
December competition winner --

**John Doidge from Newton Abbott
in Devon**

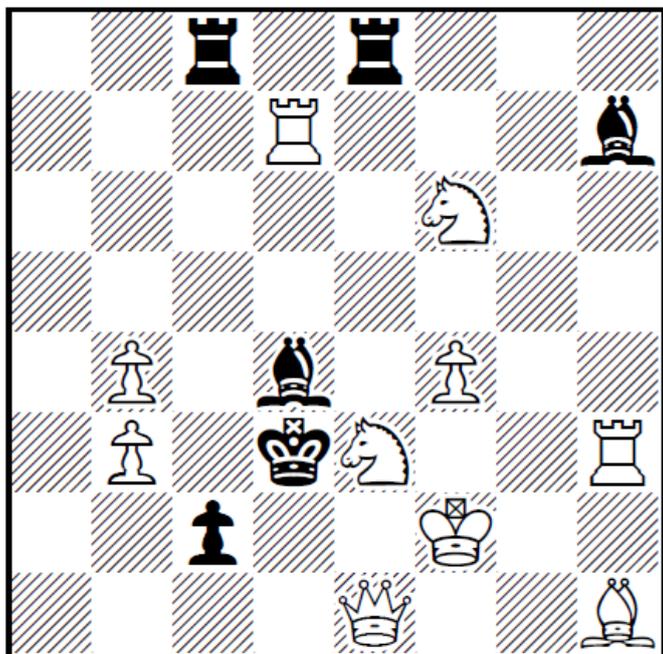
The correct answer was - **1. d4**

Here's the next problem ...

Comins Mansfield

3rd Prize, BCF 4th Ty., 1930-1931

White to play and mate in 2 ...



Please send your answer (just the first move is sufficient) on a postcard to the ECF Office, The Watch Oak, Chain Lane, Battle, East Sussex TN33 0YD. The first correct entry drawn on 10th March 2011 will win a Batsford voucher for any book on their current list! Good luck

Grand Prix Leader Boards

The GRAND PRIX 2010/11

Players shown in **BOLD** are counting the maximum number of events. Note that recent results will still be in the pipeline.

Leader Boards – December 23rd 2010

Junior Prix

Name	Club/Area	Pts
1 Zhou, Yang-Fan	Richmond Juniors	497
2 Nettleton, Charlie B	Hayes (Middlesex.)	493
3 Murphy, Conor E	Kent Jr Congresses	492
4 Wadsworth, Matthew J	Maidenhead	470
5 Hoare, Amy B	Sussex Junior	453
6 Haria, Ravi	Barnet Knights	452
7 Jones, Steven A	Grappenhall	451
8 Kalaiyalahan, Akshaya	Richmond Juniors	445
9 Oyama, Akito	Cambridge City	444
10 Brown, Martin	Grappenhall	442

Graded Prix (160-179)

1 Bryant, Richard BE	Oswestry	578
2 Jackson, Paul G	Coulsdon CF	516
3 Clegg, Robert	Huddersfield	499
4 Keogh, Edward	Preston	450
5 Hayward, Alan	Streatham	448
6 Patrick, David A	Courier Halifax	440
7 Garnett, John S	Elmwood	411
8 Cutmore, Martin J	Wood Green	399
9 Wells, Jonathan C	North Norfolk	378
10 Taylor, Robert K	Preston	376

Graded Prix (140-159)

1 O'Gorman, Brendan	DHSS	577
2 Desmedt, Richard E	Netherton	564
3 Hartley, Dean M	Amber Valley	540
4 Dean, Robert A	Pudsey	484
5 Connor, Michael I	Great Lever	466
6 Pride, Stephen C	Cambridge City	464
7 Papier, Alan	Bristol & Clifton	446
8 Wood, Peter C	Hastings *	442
9 Wiggins, Andrew S	Greenlands	439
10 Sandercock, E Barry	Buckinghamshire *	436

Graded Prix (120-139)

1 Horman, Paul A	Morecambe	524
2 Foley, Phil T	Upminster	520
3 Allen, Timothy S	Battersea	487
4 Crouch, Timothy J	Kings Head	486
5 Stone, Mark R	Petts Wood & Orpington	468
6 Gardiner, Colin J	Falmouth	467
7 Crockett, Stephen J	Birmingham *	465
8 Norman, Dinah M	Berkshire CA	445
9 Dunne, David C	West Nottingham	443
10 Howes, David J	Coulsdon CF	426

Graded Prix (U120)

1 Fraser, Alan R	Beckenham & Bromley	512
2 Brent, Derek	Urmston	476
3 Waddington, James	Bolton	455
4 Hall, James W	East Grinstead	440
5 Coleman, Patrick N	Lytham ex-Servicemen	412
6 Winter, Malcolm J	Shoeburyness *	399
7 Billett, Stephen J	Portsmouth	393
8 Miles, Barry S	South Norwood	391
9 Oyama, Harunobu	Cambridge City	383
10 Welch, Hazel	Seaton	375

LAKE DISTRICT CHESS HOLIDAYS

A relaxed, informal 5-night holiday at this well-known Country House hotel, including a 7-round Swiss competition and tutorials on chess tactics. Suitable for the inexperienced as well as local club players

Rothay Manor, Ambleside

Tel: 015394 33605

E-mail: hotel@rothaymanor.co.uk

www.rothaymanor.co.uk/chess



Tournament Calendar

*~ **22 Jan Poplar Rapid-Play Tournament**, Langley Hall, Saint Nicholas' Church Centre, Aberdely Street, Poplar, London E14 0QD Contact: Norman Went Email: docklandschess@yahoo.co.uk Website: www.spanglefish.com/docklandschessclub

22 Jan 18th Blitz Tournament, ETNA Community Centre, 13 Rosslyn Road, Twickenham TW1 2AR Contact: Peter Sowray Email: psowray@googlemail.com Entry form: <http://www.rjcc.org.uk/blitz110122.pdf> Website: <http://www.rjcc.org.uk/>

~ **23 Jan CCF Junior Rapidplay ECC Qualifier (Wimbledon)**, 84-90 Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 3BA Contact: Scott Freeman Email: chess@ccfworld.com Tel: 020 8645 0302 Fax: 020 8645 0412 Website: <http://www.ccfworld.com/Chess/>

~ **23 Jan Barnet Schools Chess Association Individual Championships**, Queen Elizabeth's School, Queen's Road, Barnet, Hertfordshire EN5 4DQ Contact: Rob Willmoth Email: rob@barnetknights.com 6 round rapidplay for juniors with sections for Under 7, Under 9, Under 11, Under 12, Under 14, Under 16 and Under 19 Entry form: <http://www.barnetknights.com/events/BSCAIndv11/bsca%20indiv%202011%20entry%20form.pdf> Website: <http://www.barnetknights.com/events/BSCAIndv11/BS11details.htm>

~* **23 Jan Richmond Rapidplay** 93, The White House, The Avenue, Hampton, TW12 3RN Contact: James Coleman Website: <http://www.surreyrapidchess.org> Email: rapidplay@aol.com

#~ **23 Jan 22nd Nottingham Rapidplay**, Nottingham High School, Waveney Mount, Nottingham NG7 4ED Contact: Robert Richmond Email: robrchmnd@aol.com Organiser's address: 25 Wilford Lane, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7QZ Sections - Open, U160, U135, U110

29 Jan Jorvik Rapidplay, Wheatlands Lodge Hotel, York - from 10.30- 5.30, one day rapidplay of 6 rounds Entry fee £10 - Entry via Peter Cloudsdale Tel 019040-767177 Accommodation available at hotel - £39 single or £34 shared

*~ **29-30 Jan 15th Dudley Congress - Spectrum Chess**, Quality Hotel, Dudley Contact: Norman Went Email: spectrumchess@hotmail.com Website: www.spectrumchess.com - 5 round Swiss congress with 3 tournament sections

30 Jan Suffolk Junior Open, Woodbridge School, Suffolk Contact: Adam Hunt Email: ahunt@woodbridge.suffolk.sch.uk Website: www.woodbridgechess.com - Suffolk Junior Championships, with an open section for adults



~#* **5-6 Feb 34th Kidlington Chess Tournament**, Exeter Hall, Oxford Road, Kidlington, Oxon OX5 1AB Contact: Gerard O'Reilly Email: gerard@fianchetto.co.uk Tel: 01865-727419 Organiser's address: 24, Donnington Bridge Road, Oxford OX4 4AX Website: <http://home.btconnect.com/OCA/> Entry form: <http://home.btconnect.com/OCA/ef2011.pdf>

~ **6 Feb Yateley Manor Last Chance Saloons**, Eton College / Nottingham High School Contact: Richard Haddrell Email: rjh@sccu.ndo.co.uk Entry form: <http://www.sccu.ndo.co.uk/LastChanceEntries2011.pdf> Website: <http://www.sccu.ndo.co.uk/schoolschamps.htm>

* **6 Feb Stockport Rapidplay**, The Guildhall, 169 Wellington Road South, Stockport SK1 3UA Contact: Peter Taylor Tel: 0161 4400733 Email: pht@rover12.wanadoo.co.uk

~ **6 Feb Leeds Junior Chess Congress**, Fountain Primary School, Fountain Street, Morley, Leeds Contact: John Hipshon Email: jr.hipshon@ntlworld.com Major, Intermediate, Minor & Novice sections, part of the Yorkshire Junior Grand Prix Entry form: <http://www.yorkshirejuniorchess.co.uk/GrandPrix.html> Website: www.yorkshirejuniorchess.co.uk

~ **12 Feb Golders Green Rapidplay**, Golders Green Parish Church Hall, West Heath Drive, Golders Green, London NW11 7QG Contact: Adam Raof Website: <http://goldersgreenchess.blogspot.com/>

~ **12 Feb Sussex Junior Eastbourne Rapidplay**, Bishop Bell School, Priory Rd, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN23 7EJ Contact: Paula Payne Email: entrymanager@sussexjuniorchess.org - 6 rounds rapidplay in 4 sections; U11

Minor & Major, U18 Minor & Major. Open to all aged under 18 on 31st August 2010 | Entry form - <http://www.sussexjuniorchess.org/Forms/GP5EastbourneFeb.pdf>

~*# **12-13 Feb The Warwickshire Open Chess Congress**, Arden School, Station Road, Knowle, Solihull, West Midlands Contact: Bruce Holland Email: chess@bhjh.net

12-13 Feb Junior 4NCL Weekend 2, Barcelo Hotel, Hinckley Island Contact: Mike Truran Tel: 01993 708645

*~# **12-13 Feb Warwickshire Open Chess Congress**, Arden School, Station Road, Knowle, Solihull, West Midlands B93 0PT Contact: John Pakenham Email: jpakenham@btinternet.com Website: www.warwickshirechess.org.uk Entry fee bursary for British Championships qualifier. Club team prize. Also incorporating the closed Warwickshire Championship

~* **12-13 Feb 3rd Clacton Congress**, Laxfield Hotel, Beach Road, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex CO15 1UG Contact: Norman Went Email: spectrumchess@hotmail.com Website: www.spectrumchess.com - 2 Tournament Sections - 5 Round Swiss - Minor (Under 125) and Major (Under 165)

~ **13 Feb Frodsham Junior Chess Championships**, Frodsham Community Centre WA6 7QN Contact: FJCC, 11 Hertford Close, Woolston, Warrington, Cheshire WA1 4EZ Tel: 01925 811855

~* **18-20 Feb Castle Chess 3rd Portsmouth**, Royal Beaches Hotel, Southsea, Portsmouth Contact: Tony Corfe Email: tony@tcs-chess.demon.co.uk Three sections - Open, Major (U160) and Minor (U120) Website: www.castlechess.co.uk

~* **19 Feb London Rapid Play**, Cardinal Hinsley Mathematics & Computing College, Harlesden Road, Willesden, London NW10 3RN Contact: Sainbayar Email: londonrapidplay@yahoo.co.uk - Junior ('2Get My First Grade' with 5 sections - U8, U10, U12, U14 & U18 with trophy), U130, U165 & open sections with prizes Website: www.londonrapidplay.co.uk

~ **19 Feb Northumberland Rapidplay**, The Function Room, Chillingham Pub, Heaton, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE6 5XN Contact: Noel Boustred Email: nboustred@googlemail.com Tel: 07903 913786 Open, Major and Minor sections

19-20 Feb 4NCL Rounds 5 and 6, De Vere Venues, Wokefield Park, Berkshire (Divisions 1 and 2), De Vere Venues, Sunningdale (Division 3) Contact: Mike Truran Tel: 01993 708645

19-20 Feb 4NCL Northern League, Barcelo Majestic Hotel (Harrogate) Contact: Mike Truran Tel: 01993 708645

@~* **23-27 Feb e2e4 Brighton International**, Barceló Brighton Old Ship Hotel, Kings Road, Brighton, East Sussex BN1 1NR Contact: Sean Hewitt Email: info@e2e4.org.uk Website: http://www.e2e4.org.uk/international/2011/Brighton_Feb/index.htm - A series of 10 player all-play-alls open to all players | Entry form: http://www.e2e4.org.uk/international/2011/Brighton_Feb/Brighton_International.pdf

~* **25-27 Feb The Nineteenth Doncaster Chess Congress**, Hall Cross School, Thorne Road, Doncaster DN1 2HY Contact: Trevor Taylor Email: trevortaylor43@yahoo.co.uk Organiser's address: 30 Alston Road, Bessacarr, Doncaster DN4 7HA Five round weekend tournament with four sections Tel: 01302 532629

*~ **26-27 Feb '11 Wiltshire & West of England Junior Open Championships**, St Joseph's Catholic College, Ocotal Way, Swindon SN3 3LR Contact: Bev Schofield Email: bev@schofieldhall.co.uk Website: <http://www.wiltshirejuniorchess.co.uk>

26-27 Feb BUCA Team Championship, Barcelo Hotel, Oxford Contact: Alex Holowczak Tel: 07913 976768 Email: admin@buca.org.uk Website: www.buca.org.uk NOTE - open to BUCA members only

~ **27 Feb Leyland Rapidplay**, Best Western Premier Leyland Hotel, Leyland Way, Leyland PR25 4JX Contact: Bob Tinton Email: leylandrapidplay2011@googlemail.com Website: www.leylandchess.org.uk/rapid/ Major Under 170, Minor Under 125



~ **5 Mar Champions' League Chess [Primary Schools] - 2nd Leg - Surrey Croydon Borough** [venue TBC] Contact: Scott Freeman Email: chess@ccfworld.com Tel: 020 8645 0302 Fax: 020 8645 0412

~ **5 Mar Golders Green Rapidplay**, Golders Green Parish Church Hall, West Heath Drive, Golders Green, London NW11 7QG Contact: Adam Raof Website: <http://goldersgreenchess.blogspot.com/>

5 Mar 19th Blitz Tournament, ETNA Community Centre, 13 Rosslyn Road, Twickenham TW1 2AR Contact: Peter Sowray Email: psowray@googlemail.com Entry form: <http://www.rjcc.org.uk/blitz110305.pdf> Website: <http://www.rjcc.org.uk/>

~ **6 Mar Girls Open Chess Tournament**, Alwoodley Community Centre, The Avenue, Alwoodley, Leeds LS17 7QN Contact: John Hipshon Email: jr.hipshon@ntlworld.com Main Section, Novice Section. For girls with little or no experience of a tournament. Prizes for at least the top 3 and certificates to all entrants Website: www.leed-s-juniorchess.org.uk

~ **6 Mar Champions' League Chess [Primary Schools] - 2nd Leg - Surrey Croydon Borough** [venue TBC] Contact: Scott Freeman Email: chess@ccfworld.com Tel: 020 8645 0302 Fax: 020 8645 0412

6 Mar Manchester Rapidplay [details to be confirmed]

~# **11-13 Mar Blackpool Chess Conference**, Blackpool Imperial Hotel Contact: Geoff Jones Email: blackpoolchess@gmail.com Organiser's address: 11 Lilford Street, Leigh, Lancs WN7 4JN Website: www.blackpoolchess.org.uk

12 Mar 2011 ESPCA Under 9 Zones - 3 zones Contact: Peter Purland director.juniorchess@englishchess.org.uk

~**12 Mar Champions' League Chess [Primary Schools] - 2nd Leg - Kent** [venue TBC] Contact: Scott Freeman Email: chess@ccfworld.com Tel: 020 8645 0302 Fax: 020 8645 0412

12 Mar 34th King's Head Rapidplay, Westbourne Grove Church, Westbourne Grove, London W3 0PW Contact: Colin Mackenzie Email: colin.mackenzie@atosorigin.com Website: www.khcc.org.uk 6-round Swiss Rapidplay (30 mins) - prize fund £700.00

~* **13 Mar Richmond Rapidplay 94**, The White House, The Avenue, Hampton, TW12 3RN Contact: James Coleman Website: <http://www.surreyrapidchess.org> Email: rapidplay@aol.com

~ **13 Mar Champions' League Chess [Primary Schools] - 2nd Leg - Surrey West & Middlesex**, Wimbledon Park Primary School Contact: Scott Freeman Email: chess@ccfworld.com Tel: 020 8645 0302 Fax: 020 8645 0412

@~#* **18-20 Mar e2e4 Uxbridge Congress**, De Veres Denham Grove Hotel, Tilehouse Lane, Denham, Buckinghamshire UB9 5DU Contact: Sean Hewitt Email: info@e2e4.org.uk Website:

<http://www.e2e4.org.uk/uxbridge/Mar2011/index.htm> - Three Sections: FIDE Rated Open; FIDE Rated Major (Under 2000 / 170 ECF); Minor (Under 140)

19 Mar 2011 ESPCA Under 11 Zones - 3 zones Contact: Peter Purland director.juniorchess@englishchess.org.uk

19-20 Mar Junior 4NCL Weekend 3, Barcelo Hotel, Oxford Contact: Mike Truran Tel: 01993 708645

20 Mar Atherton Rapidplay, Jubilee Hall, St Richards Club, Atherton Contact: Simon Woodcock Email: blitzchess2001@yahoo.co.uk Organiser's address: 8 Donnington Close, Leigh, Lancs WN7 3NY Tel: 01942 682646

~* **25-27 Mar Huddersfield Congress**, Huddersfield Ukrainian Club Contact: Nigel Hepworth Email: nigel@huddersfieldchessclub.co.uk Website: www.huddersfieldchessclub.co.uk

26 Mar 2011 ESPCA Under 11s Girls Final, Oxford Contact: Peter Purland director.juniorchess@englishchess.org.uk

26-27 Mar 4NCL Rounds 7 and 8, De Vere Venues, Staverton Park (Divisions 1 and 2), Barcelo Hotel, Daventry (Division 3) Contact: Mike Truran Tel: 01993 708645

~* **26-27 Mar Castle Chess 3rd Hereford**, Green Dragon Hotel, Hereford Contact: Tony Corfe Email: tony@tcs-chess.demon.co.uk Organiser's address: 51 Borough Way, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 3HA Open , Major U160, Minor U120 Website: <http://www.castlechess.co.uk>

26-27 Mar 4NCL Northern League, De Vere Wychwood Park (nr Crewe) Contact: Mike Truran Tel: 01993 708645

