

WESTWARD HO!

EDITOR:
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THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE
FOR THE
WEST OF ENGLAND CHESS UNION

JUNE 1989

I note having just read the Editorial from the last edition that I started with an apology for late production. Well again I am late in production but this time I am not going to apologise but rather to explain why. Having completed the February edition, I immediately started the next one. Indeed, I completed almost half of it in the first two weeks. I got to about three quarters completed when I stopped in my tracks. I have found that I can only write these magazines when I am happy in myself and back in March I had a lot of trouble at work. So much so that I realised that I was going nowhere fast and that I needed to change jobs. I have spent a lot of time going to interviews which has resulted in me having to work a lot of my free time to catch up. Regretably I failed to get accepted and decided that I might be better going to polytechnic and get better qualified. Indeed, I have applied and have a place at Wales Poly to do Maths and Computer Studies for 2 years. This of course would result in me having to move to Wales and much of my time has been spent getting the house up together for a sale.

Two weeks ago I went for an interview with TSB at Exeter and they have since offered me a job. I have now handed in my notice to my employers (Midland Bank) and start for TSB on 3 July. Furthermore, I will be working in Trowbridge which is closer to home than Bath where I work at present although I understand that if I prove that I am capable I am likely to be moved to "The Bournemouth area" in 3 to 6 months time. Thus I am able to keep my contact with the West of England Chess Union and need not worry about moving house for the time being. Furthermore, I feel that I have come out at the other end of the tunnel and have felt happy enough to finish this edition. I have further been helped by the fact that I am on holiday this week (last week in May), my first week off since Easter when I went to the WECU Congress at Weymouth.

Since starting this Edition back in February I have received reports on the East Devon Congress and the West of England Chess Union Easter Congress. I have had to make a decision as to whether I should include either of these reports or to leave the "Pot Pourri" article in. I have decided that as it is already the end of May I will leave things as they are and will put both the other reports in the next edition. Indeed, there are some very good games in both with five very good wins by Michael Adams in the East Devon Congress Report. There is however reference in this edition to the WECU Congress as I mentioned above I attended it as Acting Tournament Secretary and assisted Steve Boniface in the controlling. It proved a very good break from the strife at home and at work. My thanks to Steve, David Le Moir, "BUPA" Andrews et al who put up with me over that weekend.

In this edition I complete the County Match Results. My apologies if the setting of these pages aren't completely straight but I have typed them out onto A4 sheets and then reduced them down in order that I can get 4 complete matches on each page. If I can find a better way of presenting them I will use it but this way seems the best way at present.

I have yet to receive the results of the Devon I's, Devon II's, Glos I's, Glos II's, Somerset I's and Dorset I's matches in the final stages. If anyone knows them I would appreciate a copy in order that they can be included in the next edition.

I also print Part 2 of the Latvian Gambit by David Shire and indeed have received a third article from David which will go in the next edition. Incidentally, at Weymouth I was requested for a copy of the last edition from someone in the Championship in case David played it against him! At last, David didn't get the opportunity to play it against anyone.

Finally, may I take the opportunity of letting you know that it is my intention (provided TSB agree to my taking the week off!) to attend the Paignton Congress in September for which I will be writing a report for the October/November edition. There will be BCF Grading Lists and WECU Grading Lists for sale from me at the Congress. For details of how to enter see Page 2.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition.

Richard Rendell

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THE Devon County Chess Association 39th Annual PAIGNTON CONGRESS

To be held at Oldway Mansion, Paignton from Sunday 3 September to Saturday 9 September 1989 by courtesy of TORBAY BOROUGH COUNCIL.

Premier	(open to players graded over 159 or 144J)	
	Prizes £300, £150, £75, £50, £25, £20	Entry Fee: £16.00
Challengers	(open to players graded less than 170 or 155J)	
	Prizes £150, £100, £75, £50, £40, £30, £20	Entry Fee: £12.00
American Tournaments	(to be held in graded sections of 8 with a maximum grading of 169 or 154J. Morning or Afternoon play available)	
	Prizes £50, £25, £15 per tournament	Entry Fee: £11.00
Swiss	(open to players graded under 125 or 110J)	
	Prizes £100, £50, £40, £30, £20, £15	Entry Fee: £ 9.00

GRADING & VETERAN PRIZES will be awarded according to entries in Swiss Tournaments.

TWO BEST GAME BOOK PRIZES donated by Hexagon - P.H.Clarke

Quick Play will be held on Friday 8th September at 7.30 pm. Open to all.

Opening Ceremony: Sunday 3rd September at 5.15 pm.

Closing Date for Entries: Thursday 17th August 1989.

Entry Forms and further details are obtainable from the Tournament Secretary,
LEWIS MOATE, Water's Edge, 46 Thatcher Avenue, Torquay, TQ1 2PO
Tel: (0803) 293345

The Premier and Challenger Tournaments qualify for Leigh Grand Prix.

WEST OF ENGLAND CHESS UNION OFFICERS

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Tel: Plymouth (0752) 779823

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Tel: Stroud (045 36) 2518

JUNIOR SECRETARY - no one at present.

All correspondence to the General Secretary - Bob Jones,
40 Phillips Avenue, Exmouth, Devon
Tel: Exmouth (0395) 273665

FIXTURE SECRETARY Frank C KINGDON 6 Blenheim Road, Weymouth, Dorset DT3 5AZ
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Hampshire Len C WALTERS and Stuart DEAN

Somerset Gary N JEPPS and Dave WOODRUFF

Wiltshire Harbinder S BAHIA and Andy D HURST

Bristol League E I S (Ian) BIDDICK and A T (Tyson) MORDUE

B C F Management Board and Council Representatives Len C WALTERS and
R (Bob) H JONES

WESTWARD HO! EDITOR: Richard W RENDELL

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Melksham, Wiltshire SN12 6XT

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COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH RESULTS

DEVON v HAMPSHIRE

GLOUCESTERSHIRE v DORSET

Board	Name of Player	Result	Name of Player		
1	LANE G W	217	1 0	YEO M J	183
2	BEAKE B	201	1 0	CORFIELD J	200
3	HEATH C	190	1 0	WALKER M I	185J
4	WHEELER G W	186	1/2 1/2	BRAMELD A F	189
5	WHEELER J F	189	0 1	POILLON J R	182J
6	HEWSON B W R	179	1/2 1/2	NEIL D R	183J
7	ASTON P A	176	1 0	JONES J H	183
8	HUTCHINGS J M	178J	0 1	HOLLAND E	175J
9	HARRIS P	-	1 0	PILLAY J O	170J
10	GILBERT J A	175	1/2 1/2	KNOX S W	170
11	HILLS K	171	1 0	BUCKLEY M G S	167
12	LINGHAM R H	172	0 1	DEAN S	161
13	WATTS K	165	1 0	MONK J	154J
14	JONES J E	-	1/2 1/2	MILLER P	158
15	PETERS C	163	1 0	COWLING T I	159
16	PICKERING A	172J	1 0	MCLEOD F	155
17	THYNNE T F	160	1 0	SYMINGTON P C	155
18	BRUSEY A W	158	1/2 1/2	KIRCH K	-
19	RIDOLFO J	162	1 0	WEBB D J	153
20	HUTCHINGS R	159J	1/2 1/2	KENT S J	151
21	ANSON J (Miss)	149	1 0	WALTERS L C	151
22	BRUCE R M	151	1/2 1/2	HAGAN M C	149
23	PENALIGON B	141	1/2 1/2	BENNETT D	146
24	BROOKS P	-	1 0	BAKER M R	145
25	SHAPLAND R	141	0 1	SMITH A D	142
26	PARKER J	147	1 0	CROUCHER K	-
27	BLOODWORTH K J	144	0 1	MARSHALL P L	141
28	JONES R H	139	0 1	HEBBLETHWAITE P J	135
29	GORODI J	143	1 0	THOMPSON D F	138
30	HEATH P	138	1 0	CULLIFORD D	131
31	BRUCE R M (Mrs)	142	1 0	SUMMERS A C	125
32	SMITH J T	138	0 1	LE FEVRE S D	124
		1st Team	11 5		
		2nd Team	10 6		

Board	Name of Player	Result	Name of Player		
1	MOSDUE A T	205	0 1	SHUTLER S J	190
2	ASHBY A P	195	1 0	SIMONS M J	192
3	DODWELL P	192	1 0	ROBINSON S C E	183
4	COPELAND G	190	1 0	WADDINGTON M P	177
5	GILMOUR A	187	1/2 1/2	RUPPON R	176
6	NEWMAN E T	184J	1/2 1/2	CLARK I C	175
7	DILLEIGH S	179	1/2 1/2	PLEASANTS A J	169
8	JONES C J A	178	1/2 1/2	ROTH M J	167
9	BOYCE J R	176	1 0	ALDPIDGE D J	162J
10	NEVILLE G	176	1/2 1/2	CATCHPOLE J F	162
11	EASTON A	174	1/2 1/2	SIMMS T E	158
12	MEADE P J	172	1/2 1/2	COLMER P C	153
13	DAY P J	171	1 0	NEEDHAM H D	152
14	WHITE I	168	1 0	PAPWORTH D E	148
15	FURBER I	168	1/2 1/2	BEVTS D K	147
16	POWIS R O	166	1 0	BROADHOUSE B J	-
17	DENISON P	164	1/2 1/2	TILNEY-BASSETT	147
18	GREEN I	164	1 0	MILLERS A	145
19	WILKINSON G	159	1 0	ADAMS M W	143
20	SMITH R	157	1/2 1/2	DEARLOVE P C	143
21	HARWAR J (Miss)	155	1 0	DAVIES J M	-
22	CARR J J	149	1/2 1/2	CRANE S A	142
23	BENTLEY A R	148	1/2 1/2	EDGINGTON P	138
24	POWNEY C	144	1/2 1/2	FRINETT A D	138
25	KNIGHT J	141	1/2 1/2	BRACKNER P	137
26	GINGELL M	140	1/2 1/2	CANNINGS D J	136
27	MARKEY K	138	1/2 1/2	FOSTER P	131
28	OLIVER C	135	1 0	SALES M J	129
29	PARKER H	126	1/2 1/2	OLDFIELD J M	-
30	MARKE T	126	1 0	RAPKINS D G F	126
31	FLETCHER B	116	1 0	HUNWICKS G A	124
32	LOWERY R	112	1/2 1/2	KELLY W J	123
		1st Team	11 1/2 4 1/2		
		2nd Team	11 5		

DORSET v DEVON

SOMERSET v CORNWALL

Board	Name of Player	Result	Name of Player		
1	SHUTLER S J	190	1/2 1/2	HEATH C	190
2	DOMETT A J	193	1/2 1/2	WHEELER G W	186
3	ISAACS M B A	187	1/2 1/2	WHEELER J F	189
4	ROBINSON S C E	183	1/2 1/2	DOWN A	184
5	JOHNS C W	181	1/2 1/2	HEWSON B W R	179
6	WADDINGTON M P	177	0 1	HARRIS P	-
7	BURTON R	176	0 1	GILBERT J A	175
8	CLARK I C	175	1 0	HILLS K	171
9	PLEASANTS A J	169	1 0	LINGHAM R H	172
10	ROTH M J	167	1 0	DEFAULT	-
11	VALENTINE R	162	1/2 1/2	BRUSEY A W	158
12	SIMMS T E	158	0 1	RIDOLFO J	162
13	COLMER P C	153	1 0	HUTCHINGS R	159
14	NEEDHAM H D	152	1 0	ANSON J (Miss)	149
15	BROADHOUSE B J	-	0 1	LUFFMAN R C	149
16	PAPWORTH D E	148	0 1	WALKER J	152
17	TILNEY-BASSETT J F	147	0 1	BRUCE R M	151
18	WALKER B	145	1/2 1/2	PENALIGON B	141
19	ADAMS M W	143	0 1	SHAPLAND R	141
20	HURDLE T J	143	0 1	PARKER J	147
21	DEARLOVE P C	143	1/2 1/2	GORODI J	143
22	CRANE S A	142	0 1	JONES R H	139
23	DAVIES J M	-	1/2 1/2	HEATH P	138
24	CRISP S C	139	1/2 1/2	CROSS R V	139
25	EDGINGTON P	138	1/2 1/2	BRUCE R M (Mrs)	142
26	FRINETT A D	138	1 0	SMITH J T	138
27	BRACKNER P	137	1 0	GUARD L J	132
28	CANNINGS D J	136	1/2 1/2	HUTCHISON D V	131
29	SHEINBAUM B M	-	1 0	SPARKE E G	124
30	FOSTER P	131	0 1	THYNNE T (Mrs)	124
31	SALES M J	129	1 0	HAY I I	116
32	HUNWICKS G A	124	1 0	LE GALLEZ P	115
		1st Team	8 8		
		2nd Team	8 8		

Board	Name of Player	Result	Name of Player		
1	LITTLEJOHNS D P	184	1/2 1/2	MENADUE J F S	183
2	JARRETT D C	184	1 0	GRINE P J	172
3	WEEKS C J	178	1/2 1/2	GEORGE I M	169
4	HELBIG P D	173	1/2 1/2	WILLIAMS P J	167
5	PUGH D	170	1 0	HARRISON J P	-
6	BONIFACE S R	154	1/2 1/2	NICHOLAS J	151
7	FEWKES J E	168	1/2 1/2	BURLEIGH D	147
8	THOMAS H G	155	1 0	KIRKMAN N J	145
9	HOLMES D	152	1/2 1/2	WACKER O	130
10	JEPPE G N	151	1 0	HAMPTON J	131
11	WINCH C E	161	1/2 1/2	GARRETT B H	119
12	WOODRUFF D G	153	0 1	WATSON J	-
13	TOWERS B K	140	1 0	MARQUETTS S	118
14	DEFAULT	0 1	JOLLY N	119	
15	BOWEN D J	122	0 1	WOLFE J	116
16	MAISHMAN R	126	1 0	JUPP L	112
17	MILLER G	165	1/2 1/2	WILKINSON K	124
18	HENDY J	140	1/2 1/2	PILLING I K	119
19	HIBBITT A	139	1 0	HOCKING D	115
20	DEFAULT	0 1	CLARK P	106	
21	WALLIS T	134	1/2 1/2	BARTLETT S	96
22	FREEMAN D	-	1 0	GARRETT T (Miss)	92
23	HUGHES M	128	1 0	GARRETT M	92
24	HURONS R J	122	1/2 1/2	CHAPPEL A J	-
25	ROBERTS K	122	1 0	COLE R	100
26	STANFORD C	-	1 0	HOSKEN R	91
27	FREKE R	96	1 0	BUTT A	86
28	BELLINFANTE N	-	0 1	THOMAS W J	78
29	YEALDS D	87	1 0	MANNION A	72
30	ANDREWS J	-	0 1	WALKER O	72
31	MILLER A	-	0 1	CAREY H S	72
32	DEFAULT	0 1	MAYNDS A D	147	
		1st Team	9 1/2 6 1/2		
		2nd Team	9 7		

WILTSHIRE v CORNWALL

Board	Name of Player	Result	Name of Player
1	TRURAN M C 204	½	MENADUE J F S 183
2	COOPER A C 193	1	GRIME R J 172
3	HEADLONG T 193	½	GEORGE I M 169
4	HAYDON R 196	½	PIPER S J 165
5	GARWELL J (Miss) 173	0	NICHOLAS J 151
6	LEA E G -	1	KEUNEKE H -
7	STRANGE M A 163	1	KIRKMAN N J 145
8	PONTING A D 147J	1	ADDICOTT S 134J
9	RENDELL R W 154	0	MOSS B 148
10	PECK R J 153	½	WACKER O 130J
11	COHEN F M F 150	1	MEAKES A D 143
12	GILL P 136	½	PARKIN B 139
13	CHAMPION A W 135	0	HAMPTON J 131
14	HEIDRICH C 123J	1	GARRETT B H 119J
15	WOODWARD T 129	0	WOOLF J 116J
16	MILWARD J E 129	1	PILLING A 127
17	HURST A D 134	1	PATTERSON S H 125
18	BYTHEWAY M 132	1	BRAY C 113J
19	HUGHES D 125J	1	JUPP L 112J
20	POTT D H 131	½	WILKINSON K 124
21	MILLENER R P 123	1	BOWMAN L - J
22	CARVER R 120	1	PILLING I K 118
23	WALTERS M 119	½	HOCKING D 115
24	COBB J 126J	1	CLARK R 96J
25	HARTFORD E A (Mrs) 112	0	BARTLETT S 99
26	ASHBY N G 115J	1	GARRETT M 92J
27	FLANAGAN T M 114	0	CHAPPEL A J -
28	COBB C 108J	1	GREET D -
29	BOSWORTH A 95J	1	JUPP A 80J
30	ASHBY G S 97	1	THOMPSON J 78J
31	MILWARD B 94J	½	GREET A - J
32	PETTY J 71J	0	MANNION A - J
		1st Team	9½ 6½
		2nd Team	11½ 4½

HAMPSHIRE v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Board	Name of Player	Result	Name of Player
1	YEO M J 183	1	COLLIER D O 197
2	BENNETT G H 197	½	COPELAND G 190
3	POULTON J R J182	0	MORDUE A T 205
4	NEWBURY M L 184	½	BURN M E 188
5	PURKISS W 179	1	GILMOUR A 187
6	STENHOUSE I 172	0	NEWMAN E T J184
7	BUCKLEY M 167	½	DILLEIGH S 179
8	MONK J J154	1	JONES C J A 178
9	MILLER P 158	½	CANNELL R 177
10	COWLING T 159	0	BOYCE J R 176
11	SYMINGTON P C 155	1	NEVILLE G 176
12	WEBB D 153	0	HOSKEN N 173
13	JAMES J J148	1	MEADE P J 172
14	HAGAN M C 149	0	WHITE I 168
15	MARSHALL P L 141	1	POWIS R O 166
16	WALTERS L C 151	1	DIXON R 165
17	SMITH A 142	½	SANDERSON I -
18	BAKER M 145	0	PICKUP I R 162
19	HEBBLETHWAITE P 135	1	HARWAR J (Miss)153J
20	WELLS A J132	0	CARR J J 149
21	THOMPSON D 138	1	BENTLEY A R 148
22	CULLIFORD D 131	½	POWNEY C R 144
23	PERRIN R 124	1	KNIGHT J 141
24	LE FEVRE S 124	1	OLIVER C 144
25	CROUCHER K -	0	PRIDEAUX E 134
26	SUMMERS A 125	0	RICHARDS N 134
27	KELLY F 124	0	DE PIRO T 121
28	PENY J 116	0	PARKER H 126
29	LAXTON C 120	0	LESNJOWSKI P 120
30	PRINCE R M 106	½	FLETCHER B 116
31	KING S -	1	DEFAULT
32	DEFAULT	0	GINGELL M -
		1st Team	9 7
		2nd Team	6½ 9½

DORSET v HAMPSHIRE

Board	Name of Player	Result	Name of Player
1	COWLING M L 196	½	YEO M J 183
2	SHUTLER S J 190	0	CORFIELD J 200
3	SIMONS M J 192	0	BENNETT G H 197
4	DONNETT A J 193	0	HOLLAND E J175
5	FREEMAN N J 182	1	POULTON J R J182
6	ROBINSON S C E 183	1	NEWBURY M L 184
7	WADDINGTON M P 177	0	MENA C -
8	BURTON R 176	½	FRASER-MITCHELL J 183
9	PEGG R M 170	½	JONES J H 183
10	PLEASANTS A J 169	0	PURKISS W 179
11	ROTH N J 167	0	PILLAY J O J170
12	VALENTINE R 162	0	BUCKLEY M G S 167
13	CATCHPOLE J F 162	0	DEAN S 161
14	KINGDON F C 159	0	MILLER P 158
15	SIMMS T E 158	0	MONK J J154
16	NFEDHAM H D 152	½	SYMINGTON P C 155
17	BROADHOUSE B -	½	JAMES J J148
18	CRISP S C 139	½	COWLING T I 159
19	BEVIS D K 147	1	WALTERS L C 151
20	TILNEY-BASSETT J F 147	0	SWEENEY B P 149
21	MILLERS A 145	½	HAGAN M C 149
22	WALKER B 145	1	SMITH A D 142
23	ADAMS H W 143	0	BAKER M R 145
24	DEARLOVE P C 143	½	HEBBLETHWAITE P J 135
25	HURDLE T J 143	½	FERRIN R D 124
26	CRANE S A 142	1	THOMPSON D F 138
27	DAVIES J M -	½	CULLIFORD D 131
28	EDLINGTON P 138	0	LE FEVRE S D 124
29	PRINETT A D 138	1	SUMMERS A C 125
30	CRACKNER P 137	0	KELLY F 124
31	CANNINGS D J 136	½	PRINCE R M 104
32	FOSTER P 131	1	LAXTON C W 120
		1st Team	4 12
		2nd Team	8½ 7½

WILTSHIRE v SOMERSET

Board	Name of Player	Result	Name of Player
1	TRURAN M C 204	½	LITTLEJOHNS D F 184
2	HEADLONG T 193	½	WEEKS C J 185
3	COOPER A C 193	1	HILL A L 184
4	HAYDON R 196	½	HELBIG P D 183
5	ZEIDLER S 202	0	BONIFACE SR 182
6	LEA E G -	1	FEWES J E 182
7	BOURNE J D 173	1	GREGORY R W 182
8	GARWELL J (Miss) 176	½	JONES D A 182
9	STRANGE M A 163	½	THOMAS H G 182
10	PONTING A D J147	0	JEPES G N 182
11	CHAPMAN G 153	0	HOLMES D 182
12	COHEN F M F 150	0	WINCH C E 182
13	WARD D E 162	0	WOODRUFF D G 182
14	PECK R J 153	1	HENDY J 182
15	CHAMPION A W 136	0	SENTON N R 182
16	RENDELL R W 154	1	TOWERS R K 182
17	GILL P 136	½	EASTWOOD J (Miss) 182
18	WEBB M 149	½	MARKS J 182
19	MILWARD J E 129	1	DEFAULT
20	WINTER K -	1	MCKINLEY C T I 182
21	BYTHEWAY M 132	1	WALLIS I A 182
22	HEIDRICH C J123	½	FREEMAN D 182
23	HURST A D 134	1	MAISHMAN R 182
24	POTT D H 131	1	DEFAULT
25	WOODWARD T 129	1	JONES D R 182
26	COBB J J126	1	ROBERTS K 182
27	MILLENER R 123	1	STANFORD C 182
28	CARVER R 120	1	FRIEKE R 182
29	WALTERS M 119	1	CARTER M 182
30	ASHBY N G J115	1	BELINFANTH 182
31	FLANAGAN T N 114	0	YEATES D 182
32	ASHBY G S 97	0	ANDREWS T 182
		1st Team	7½ 8½
		2nd Team	12½ 4½

Board	Name of Player	Result	Name of Player
1	BEAKE B 201	1/2	DILLEIGH S 179
2	HEATH C 190	1/2	COLLIER D O 197
3	WHEELER G W 186	1/2	NEWMAN E 184
4	WHEELER J F 189	0	MORDUE A T 205
5	DOWN N A 184	1/2	ASHBY A P 195
6	HEWSON B W R 179	1	BURN N E 188
7	HARRIS P -	1/2	JONES C J A 178
8	HUTCHINGS J 178	1	CANNELL R 177
9	HILLS K 171	1/2	MEADE P J 172
10	LINGHAM R 172	1	DAY P F 171
11	JONES J -	1/2	BOYCE J R 176
12	PICKERING A 172	0	WHITE I 168
13	THYNNE T F 160	1	FURBER I 168
14	BRUSEY A W 158	0	STIRLING A 164
15	RIDOLEO J 162	0	DIXON R J 165
16	HUTCHINGS R 159	1	POWIS R O 166
17	LUFFMAN R C 149	1/2	CARNOT D 155
18	WALKER J 152	0	CARR J J 149
19	ANSON J (Miss) 149	1	KNIGHT J 141
20	BRUCE R M 151	0	POWNEY C R 144
21	PENHALIGON B 141	1/2	HARWAR J (Miss) J155
22	BROOKS P -	1	BENTLEY A R 148
23	SHAPLAND R 141	1/2	LESNIEWSKI P 129
24	PARKER J 147	1/2	DE PIRO T 121
25	JONES R 139	1	RICHARDS N 134
26	GORODI J 143	1	MARKE T 126
27	BLOODWORTH K J 144	1/2	PRIDEAUX E 134
28	BRUCE R M (Mrs) 142	1/2	PARKER H 126
29	LEWIS R 144	1	MARKEY K 138
30	SMITH J T 138	1	LOWERY R 112
31	GUARD L J 132	1	FLETCHER B 116
32	THYNNE J (Mrs) -	1	DEFAULT -
	1st Team	8 1/2	7 1/2
	2nd Team	11	5

HAMPSHIRE v YORKSHIRE
(B C F COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP QUARTER FINAL)

Board	Name of Player	Result	Name of Player
1	YEO M J 183	1	ELEY B R 203
2	CORFIELD J 200	0	BROWN S C 212
3	BENNETT G H 197	1	KNAPTON M C 186
4	HOLLAND E J175	0	FIRTH D 175
5	BRANFELD A F 189	0	VAN KEMENADE R 176
6	POULTON J R J182	1/2	SLINGER A J 167
7	NEWBURY M L 184	1	BUTTERWORTH A 172
8	PURRISS W 179	1	WHITE M 159
9	PILLAY J O J170	0	MARKHAM D R 159
10	HOPKINS J R 172	1/2	PUGSON D 171
11	STENHOUSE I A 172	1	MANN S J 180
12	BUCKLEY M G S 167	0	HODGE S R 154
13	MILLER P 158	0	CRISTANACCE D J144
14	SYMINGTON P C 155	0	BELL I C 161
15	COLLING T I 159	1/2	CURRY A 121
16	HAGAN M C 149	0	COULSON G 137
		6 1/2	9 1/2

NEXT YEAR'S COUNTY MATCH CALENDAR

7 OCT 89	Devon v Corn	Wilts v Hants	Dorset v Soms
28 OCT 89	Glos v Corn	Hants v Dorset	Soms v Wilts
25 NOV 89	Corn v Soms	Wilts v Glos	Devon v Dorset
9 DEC 89	Hants v Corn	Wilts v Devon	Dorset v Glos
13 JAN 90	Glos v Devon	Soms v Hants	Dorset v Wilts
10 FEB 90	Devon v Soms	Glos v Hants	Corn v Dorset
10 MAR 90	Hants v Devon	Soms v Glos	Corn v Wilts

WEST OF ENGLAND CHESS UNION

County Match Results for Season 1988/89

HAROLD MEEK COMPETITION

	CORN.	DEVON	DORST	GLOS.	HANTS	SOMS.	WILTS.	Points
CORNWALL	x	6	6	5	5	6½	6½	0
DEVON	10	x	8	8½	11	10½	10	11
DORSET	10	8	x	4½	4	6½	12	5
GLOS.	11	7½	11½	x	6½	9	10½	8
HAMPSHIRE	11	5	12	9½	x	9½	8½	10
SOMERSET	9½	5½	9½	7	6½	x	8½	6
WILTSHIRE	9½	6	4	5½	7½	7½	x	2

WAYLING CUP COMPETITION

	CORN.	DEVON	DORST	GLOS.	HANTS	SOMS.	WILTS.	Points
CORNWALL	x	1	5	5½	9	7	4½	2
DEVON	15	x	8	11	10	9	12	11
DORSET	11	8	x	5	8½	5	10	7
GLOS.	10½	5	11	x	9½	9½	9	10
HAMPSHIRE	7	6	7½	6½	x	4½	14	2
SOMERSET	9	7	11	5½	11½	x	3½	6
WILTSHIRE	11½	4	6	7	2	12½	x	4

FINAL POSITIONS: HAROLD MEEK
 1. Devonshire
 2. Hampshire
 3. Gloucestershire
 4. Somerset
 5. Dorset
 6. Wiltshire
 7. Cornwall

WAYLING CUP
 1. Devonshire
 2. Gloucestershire
 3. Dorset
 4. Somerset
 5. Wiltshire
 6. Cornwall
 7. Hampshire

From these results the following counties go forward into the Quarter-Final stages of the B.C.F Counties Championships:

COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP: Devonshire and Hampshire
 SECOND TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP: Devonshire and Gloucestershire
 THIRD TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP: Gloucestershire
 MINOR COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP: Somerset and Dorset

Part 2

In my last article (see February 1989 edition) I considered the consequences of 1.e2-e4 e7-e5; 2.Ng1-f3 f7-f5; 3.Bf1-c4... and concluded that 3...f5xe4; 4.Nf3xe5 d7-d5!; gives Black just the kind of position for which he hopes.

After 3.Nf3xe5!... Black can no longer dictate the course of events, and this is the line I wish to go into in this article:

3.Nf3xe5! Qd8-f6; 4.d2-d4...

An immediate 4.Ne5-c4... is worth consideration. The idea would be to play the d2-d3 lever against the back e-pawn after 4...f5xe4.

4...d7-d6; 5.Ne5-c4 f5xe4;

Now White has three important possibilities:

A Bf1-e2...(Bronstein)

B Nb1-c3... (Classical)

C Nc4-e3... (Nimzowitsch)

I will deal with the first two rapidly.

A 6.Bf1-e2... Bronstein introduced this move against Mikenas in 1941. He reasoned that the move ...Qf6-g6 will be necessary if Black is to untangle his Kingside pieces and then Be2-h5! would expose the weakness of 2...f7-f5. In the original game Mikenas tried to force ...Qf6-g6 at too high a cost... 6...Nb8-c6; 7.d4-d5 Nc6-e5; 8. 0-0 Ne5xc4; 9.Be2xc4 Qf6-g6; 10.Bc4-b5+!... and castling rights were denied.

However, 6.Bf1-e2... puts pressure on the e-pawn, so 6...Qf6-f7; should be possible with the possible continuation 7. 0-0 Ng8-f6; 8.f2-f3 e4xf3; 9.Rf1xf3 Bf8-e7: with only a minimal White plus.

B 6.Nb1-c3... Best in my opinion. After 6...Bc8-f5; the black bishop is exposed and White can gain tempi at its expense and consequently 6...Qf6-g6; is the natural response. However, the Black queen is by no means secure on this square...

6.Nb1-c3 Qf6-g6; 7.Nc4-e3...

Fine in his book "The Ideas behind the Chess Openings" suggests developing the White bishop at c1 to f4 before playing Nc4-e3. There is an element of logic to this but Fine placed too much emphasis on the game Thomas v Tartakower 1926 which continued: 7.Bc1-f4 Ng8-f6; 8.Nc4-e3 Bf8-e7; 9.Bf1-c4 c7-c6; 10.d4-d5 b7-b5?; 11.Bc4-e2 b5-b4; 12.Nc3-a4 Bc8-d7; 13.a2-a3!... The cost of driving away the protectors of d5 - always the key square! - proved to be high. A better Black strategy is 10...Nf6-h5; 11.Bf4-g3 Nh5xg3; 12.h2xg3 Nb8-d7; 13.Qd1-d4 Nd7-f6; 14. 0-0-0 Bc8-d7; etc.

7...Ng8-f6; 8.Bf1-e2...

It is too early to occupy d5. 8.Ne3-d5 Nf6xd5; 9.Nc3xd5 Qg6-f7; 10.Bf1-c4 c7-c6; 11.Nd5-b6? (11.Nd5-e3!) d6-d5; 12.Nb6xa8 d5xc4; 13.Qd1-e2 Bf8-d6; 14.Qe2xe4+ Bc8-e6; and Black is winning.

8...c7-c6;

What else? 8...Bf8-e7; 9.Nc3-d5! Be7-d8; 10.Nd5-f4... is most uncomfortable.

9. 0-0 d6-d5?; 10.f2-f3 e4xf3; 11.Be2xf3 Bf8-d6?

Black's extravagant play would work to his advantage if White continued timidly and allowed 12...0-0; with an easy game for Black. However, White can strike at once...

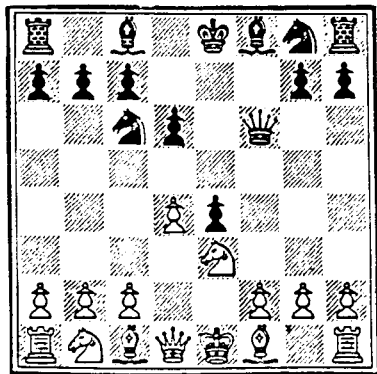
12.Ne3xd5! c6xd5; 13.Nc3-b5! Ke8-d7; 14.Nb5xd6 Kd7xd6; 15.Bc1-f4+...

It does not require much imagination to see that Black is bust. Clearly alternatives must be sought. In almost every instance it is a mistake for Black to play ...c7-c6; and ...d6-d5; in order to establish control over the white squares in the centre. This plan is too time consuming and is positionally suspect as Nimzowitsch realised.

C 6.Nc4-e3... Nimzowitsch preferred this to 6.Nb1-c3... because he considered e3 to be the ideal square for the blockading knight. True, but there is no hurry to move there. On the contrary, his thinking was primarily tactical. 6.Nc4-e3... vacates c4 to allow 7.Bf1-c4... This will prevent Black from castling Kingside and using the 'f' file unless he resorts to ...c7-c6; and ...d6-d5; the time consuming operation which brought about Black's downfall in the previous line. The stem game was Nimzowitsch v Behting 1919 which continued 6.Nc4-e3 c7-c6; 7.Bf1-c4 d6-d5; 8.Bc4-b3 Bc8-e6; 9.c2-c4! (This was the reason for not being over hasty with Nb1-c3) Qf6-f7; 10.Qd1-e2 Ng8-f6; 11. 0-0 (11.Nb1-c3 Bf8-b4!) Bf8-b4; 12.Bc1-d2 Bb4xd2; 13.Nb1xd2 0-0; 14.f2-f4! (threat 15.f4-f5) d5xc4; 15.Nd2xc4 Qf7-e7; 16.f4-f5 Be6-d5; 17.Ne3xd5 c6xd5; 18.Nc4-e3 Qe7-d7 (now if Black has time for 19...Nb8-c6; he will survive but...): 19.Ne3xd5! Nf6xd5; 20.Qe2xe4 Rf8-d8; 21.f5-f6!... 1-0

A master game in every respect, but I repeat that Black's strategy is faulty. He should not fall in so readily with White's plans but should seek a counter action by attacking the White d-pawn. Hence we arrive at:

6...Nb8-c6!:



I have encountered no less than four replies in this position:

C1 7.Ne3-d5...

C2 7.c2-c3...

C3 7.d4-d5...

C4 7.Bf1-b5...

None of these hold terrors for Black.

C1 7.Ne3-d5 Qf6-f7; 8.Nb1-c3...

8.Bf1-c4? Nc6-a5!; but after the text move the White knight on d5 is insufficiently secure. Perhaps better is 8.c2-c4...

8...Bc8-e6;

Contrary to appearances, this is playable. e.g. 9.Nd5-f4 d6-d5; 10.Nf4xe6 Qf7xe6; 11.Qd1-h5+ g7-g6; 12.Qh5xd5 Qe6xd5; 13.Nc3xd5 0-0-0; and Black recovers his pawn with easy equality. There is only one other option for White:

9.Nd5xc7+ Qf7xc7; 10.d4-d5 Ng8-f6!; 11.d5xe6 d6-d5!; 12.Nc3xd5...

If Black doesn't accept the pawn sacrifice he will be over-run with ...0-0-0 and ...d5-d4.

12..Qc7-a5+; 13.Nd5-c3 Bf8-b4; 14.Bc1-d2 0-0-0; 15.Qd1-e2 Rd8xd2!; and White can resign.

C2 7.c2-c3...

When first confronted by this move I considered it very passive and continued quickly.

7...Qf6-g6; 8.Ne3-d5...

But now I had to think. 8...Qg6-f7?; 9.Bf1-c4! Nc6-a5?; 10.Qd1-a4+... proves the value of opening the diagonal d1-a4.

8...Bc8-g4!; 9.f2-f3 e4xf3; 10.g2xf3 0-0-0!;

Now if 11.f3xg4? Qg6-e4+!; and 11.Nd5-f4 Qg6-e8+; are both fine for Black.

C3 7.d4-d5...

Already a small triumph for Black. White will not be able to use d5 for his pieces.

7...Nc6-e5; 8.Bf1-e2 Qf6-f7; 9. 0-0 Ng8-f6;

Now Black plans to continue simply with ...Bf8-e7 and ...0-0 leading to a harmonious development.

C4 7.Bf1-b5 a7-a6; 8.Bb5xc6+ b7xc6; 9. 0-0 Qf6-g6; 10.d4-d5...

It is interesting to compare White's strategy here with the Black strategy in the main line Vienna. 1.e2-e4 e7-e5; 2.Nb1-c3 Ng8-f6; 3.f2-f4 d7-d5; 4.f4xe5 Nf6xe4; 5.d2-d3 Ne4xc3; 6.b2xc3 d5-d4!; Now with the luxury of the first move White can happily continue 7.Ng1-f3 allowing 7...d4xc3?; However, in this Latvian position Black cannot permit 10...Ng8-f6; 11.d5xc6! 0-0; etc because White would have too much control over d5.

10...c6-c5; 11.Nb1-d2 Ng8-f6; 12.f2-f3 e4xf3; 13.Nd2xf3 Bf8-e7; 14.Nf3-h4 Qg6-e4!

I played this outrageous move against Goodland some years ago in the West of England Championship. Over the board my opponent could not refute my idea of sacrificing the Black Queen.

15.Ne3-f5 0-0; 16.Rf1-e1 Bc8xf5; 17.Relxe4 Bf5xe4;

White's game is dislocated and Black has all the play. There is nothing forcing about the sequence but it does demonstrate Black's considerable resources.

Conclusion

It can be stated that the d5 square is of vital importance in the lines beginning 1.e2-e4 e7-e5; 2.Ng1-f3 f7-f5; 3.Nf3xe5 Qd8-f6; 4.d2-d4 d7-d6; 5.Ne5-c4 f5xe4. At the moment White's best strategy seems to be 6.Nb1-c3 Qf6-g6; 7.Nc4-e3 Ng8-f6; 8.Bf1-e2... . We have already seen than a plan involving ...c7-c6 and ...d6-d5 is too slow for Black. White plays f2-f3 (a move he usually plays with some reluctance - the symmetrical pawn structure which results is very drawish) and uses the open lines for an attack on the Black King. Alternative Black approaches are also fraught with problems, for example, 8...Nb8-c6; 9.Nc3-d5 Qg6-f7; 10.Be2-c4 Nf6xd5; 11.Bc4xd5! (11.Ne3xd5 Nc6-a5!) Qf7-g6; (11...Qf7-e7; 12.c2-c3!...)12.f2-f3! e4xf3; 13.Bd5xf3!... and by beautiful use of the d5 square, White has reduced Black to a miserable position. 14.Bf3-h5... is threatened - it is interesting that 0-0 by White would have been a vital loss of tempo. Sadly it is through discoveries like this that many romantic openings disappear. With economical manoeuvres White pinpoints all the weaknesses of Black's position. Is this the final word? Perhaps not.

The slow ...c7-c6 and ...d6-d5 plan might just be possible with over protection of d5. Thus 8...c7-c6; 9. 0-0 d6-d5; 10.f2-f3 e4xf3; 11.Be2xf3 Bc8-e6?!; 12.Qd1-e2 Ke8-d7; 13.Bc1-d2 Nb8-a6; 14.Ral-e1 Na6-c7; with the subsequent intention of moving the rook on a8 to d8 or e8 resulting in an artificial Queenside castling being executed.

I hope there is some food for thought in these few observations...

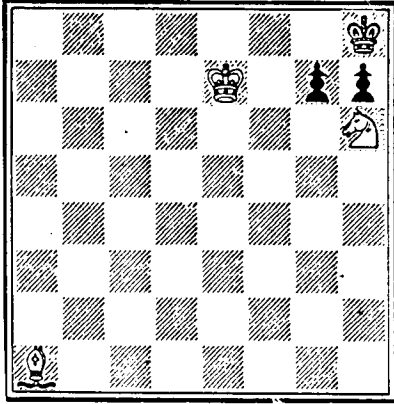
David Shire

PROBLEM AND COMPETITION PAGE

After last edition's stalemate theme, we get back to normality. However, you will find the first two positions interesting - they are the same position but reflected in the long white diagonal!

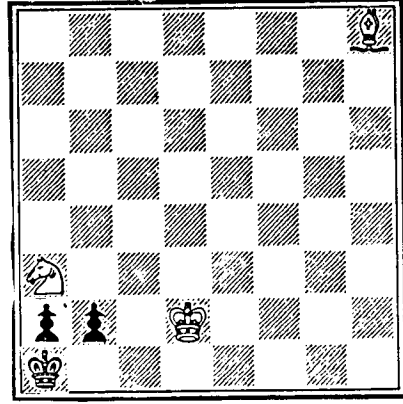
Due to the lack of space there are only three puzzles plus the competition. The competition is one courtesy of Graeme Oswald of Chester-le-Street, County Durham.

(a)



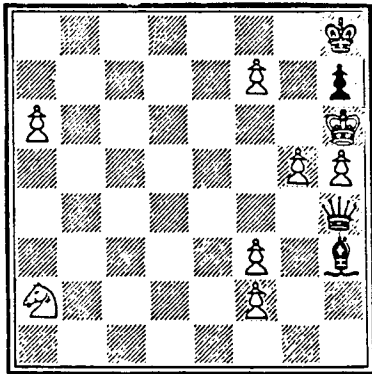
White to play and mate in 3.

(b)



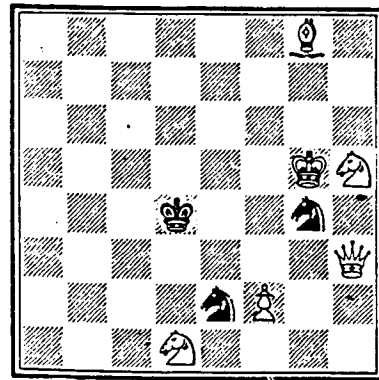
White to play and again mate in 3.

(c)



White to play and win in 8.

THIS EDITION'S COMPETITION



White to play and mate in 3 against any move.

(Hint: there are 5 lines from one waiting move.)

Prize of £5 for first correct solution out of the bag. Closing Date: 15 July 1989.

Solutions to above puzzles and last edition's competition are on page 28.

ETIQUETTE

By Richard Rendell

What is your definition of "Etiquette" ? The Chambers Twentieth Century Dictionary's definition is "forms of ceremony or decorum; ceremony; the conventional laws of courtesy observed between members of the same profession, players, etc."

The conventional laws of courtesy observed between members of the same profession, players, etc. A very good definition.. Courtesy is an interesting word. According to Chambers, courtesy comes from courteous which is defined as "polite, considerate or respectful in manner and action; obliging." Does etiquette come into the world of chess? "Of course it does" I hear you all cry. However, how many players are 'obliging' ? Very few. Perhaps this is a bit unfair. Certainly there are many players who are "polite, considerate or respectful in manner and action" when playing chess. How many of you offer your opponent a cup of tea/coffee or a stronger drink when playing a game and go and collect it? or shake hands before starting the game?

For some this sort of things come easily, for others it doesn't. How many players make their move quickly and quietly and then hunch themselves over the board as if still thinking whilst their opponent is away from the board? Nothing wrong with this? How about doing this when your opponent has offered you a cup of tea/coffee and disappeared of to get it? as has happened to me before. - no you don't tip it over him on your return! this would be dropping to his level. Every game you have the opportunity to show whether you are a good sportsman or not. Some players are at times - invariably when it suits them!

There have recently been occasions when etiquette has been blatantly abused. Suba's bad behaviour when claiming a game on time when he had a lost position really takes the biscuit. Perhaps the offered prize money corrupted him. I have heard of a lovely occasion (if you can call it that) of a player in a quickplay finish when facing defeat saved himself by wandering his King over to his opponent's and playing KxK to win! This resulted in the quickplay rules being amended to say KxK is a draw. But no doubt someone will at some time try to save a lost game by the same tactic and forcing his opponent to play KxK ! Can you imagine such a sight!

I have heard first hand of another amusing event. I was recently at Weymouth for the WECU Easter Congress helping Steve Boniface control the tournament. We were in the bar at the time with Brian Boomsma and Steve Bartlett both of Paignton. Brian (I hope he doesn't mind me saying) is one of those players who enjoy his drink! especially in the evening at Congresses. Anyway, he was playing in a tournament (I can't remember where) and after a heavy evening session sat down to an early morning round. He claims he was rather bleary-eyed - which I can believe - and couldn't really focus on the board. Anyway the game started rather uneventfully. Brian took a piece in the middle of the game and about an hour later found himself a piece down when he thought he should be a piece up. This rather puzzled him. Then he found he had taken one of his own pieces! He therefore brought this to the controller's attention but was told this was too bad. Not a good decision by the controller - the rules say that so long as the game has not ended the moves since the illegal move must be taken back. Time on the clock must be taken back pro rata. Thus if it happened on move 20 and it was spotted after move 40 with White having taken 80 minutes and Black 60 minutes so half of each time will be returned ie White having taken 40 minutes, Black 30. Anyway, his opponent must have noticed but not have said anything. On top of this, when asked by his opponent if he would agree to taking the moves back he promptly refused. Perhaps Brian did actually deserve this but even so his opponent obviously didn't believe in etiquette.

Fate is a funny thing. Within a month of hearing of this sorry tale, something very similar happened to me. Before showing you the game; let me explain the circumstances. We (Devizes) were playing a league match against Dragons. Dragons have won the league for the previous 5 years, the first of which I captained them before leaving Swindon. This year we felt we could give them a

run for their money. When we played them early in the season we were strengthened by a 200+ player whilst they were weakened by not having a 190+ player. I played a player who was 20 points below me but made a complete mess of a Grünfeld and allowed White to have pawns on d5, e5 and f4 with d6 and e6 possible moves. However, I swindled my opponent by a check on c5 and collecting the d-pawn. On reaching the time control I was 2 pawns up with an obvious move which collected a third. However, I chose to stop playing and seal this obvious move. My opponent then had the opportunity of playing on at my club or taking the adjudication. Some may say I wasn't very sporting but I had a totally won game and didn't intend to throw it away. Anyway. The game was resigned but not on the night (in fact my opponent never actually told me he had resigned it - my captain did when I turned up on the resumption night). Hence this had left a bad taste in the mouth from both sides. We won the match 3½-1½. So they needed to beat us on the return. Both sides were at full strength on the return. Alas the room they normally played in was in use and we had to play in snooker room - you know, a room with the main lights over the table and silly lights in the corners of the room.

I sat down to play the White pieces on Board 4 against the same opponent as the first match. A chance to show the first game wasn't a fluke. (We also felt that we needed to win on the bottom 2 boards to win the match)

R W Rendell v M Bohane

1.d2-d4 d7-d5; 2.c2-c4 Ng8-f6;

A strange move. 2...e7-e6; is normal. But perhaps they realise that I must win if we are to win. Ah well, let's see what happens...

3.c4xd5 Nf6xd5; 4.e2-e4 Nd5-b6;

Moves played fairly quickly. A prepared opening. It must be - there grading order was 193,196,172 (ex 200 not played much recently),132 and 149 against ours 193,202,147J,154 and Ungraded (approx 130).

5.Ng1-f3 e7-e6; 6.Nb1-c3 a7-a6;

Another strange move. It has got to be a prepared opening. But it is rubbish!

7.Bc1-e3 Bf8-b4; 8.Bf1-e2 0-0; 9. 0-0 Bc8-d7; 10.a2-a3 Bb4-e7; 11.Ra1-c1 c7-c6;

Again another strange move blocking in the knight. Time taken: White 4 mins, Black 15.

12.Qd1-d2 Nb6-c8; 13.Rf1-d1 Nc8-d6; 14.Qd2-c2 f7-f6;

Another poor move. Perhaps the intention is to move the knight onto f7. Each square it has moved to has been poor. It should have returned to f6 on move 4. Can I see a trap? Oh, yes I can:

15.Nc3-a4 Nd6-f7; 16.d4-d5! c6xd5; 17.a4-b6!...

At this stage I disappear away from the board feeling rather pleased with myself. I have won the exchange of a rook for a piece and a pawn and still his knight will be trapped in the centre.

17...e6xd5;

Time taken: White 28 mins Black 45. Black has 30 mins for 18 moves.

I return to the board. My clock has started but I can't see that the position has changed. I look at his book, it says PxP, not very helpful. What move HAS he played?

He has taken his own pawn!! All kind of thoughts go through my mind. 18.Nb6xa8... leaves me a whole rook up. Will he notice that he has taken his own pawn? If he doesn't but notices at a later time he can retract the moves and the time proportionally. This won't help me, his time can only improve.

Do I tell him or not? He doesn't deserve being told!

My conscious got the better of me. Move 17 retracted... 17...d5xe4; 18.c2xe4 Nf7-d6; 19.Qe4-c2 Nb8-c6; 20.Nb6xa8 Qd8xa8; 21.Be3-c5 Qa8-b8; 22.Qc2-d3 Nc6-e5; 23.Nf3xe5 Bd7-b5;

A good reply. I spent a long time studying 24.Qd3-b3... Bb5xe2; 25.Qb3xe6+ Kg8-h8; 26.Ne5-f7+ Rf8xf7; 27.Qe6xe2... or ...Bb5xe2; 25.Qb3xe6+ Kg8-h8; 26.Ne5-f7+ Rf8xf7; 27.Bc5xd6 Qb8xd6; 28.Qe6xf7... threatening mate looks good. But this is all very risky. Take the easy option...

24.Qd3-c2 f6xe5; 25.Be2xb5 a6xb5; 26.Qc2-b3 Rf8-f6; 27.Qb3-b4 Qb8-f8; 28.Bc5xd6 Be7xd6; 29.Qb4xd6 Rf6xf2; 30.Qd6xe6+ Rf2-f7; 31.Rc1-c8 Resigns.

Thus by being a sportsman I had been rewarded by a thoroughly enjoyable win.

However, I had missed something. Do you know what it is? I didn't realise until one of my team-mates spotted it when playing the game through later. He took one of his own pawns whilst I was away from the board. Which way does he take? Pick up his own pawn and then take the other or pick up his opponent's pawn and replace it with his own. The correct way is the first. If he touched the e-pawn first he had a legitimate move - 17...e6-e5; ! whereupon he loses the rook. How can I prove it? Well, of course, he played 17...d5xe4; immediately afterwards when I could have seen which way he did it. Alas, it happened so fast I didn't see which way. It would have caused a real stir! Perhaps I should have not said anything....

Richard Rendell

LETTERS FROM READERS

In response to the "Letters from readers" in the last edition I have received several letters concerning the "Legal Clinic" article by Steve Boniface.

The first one is from Peter Marshall (Deputy President of the WECU) which I take to be rather tongue-in-cheek and print in its entirety:

Dear Richard,

I think you may be on a winner with your inspiration to ask Steve Boniface to contribute a legal clinic article and invite readers' responses. As the first one from Paul Massey indicated, I think that the question of strict or discretionary application of Laws and Rules by Arbiters or Controllers will arouse most general comment.

In case this becomes a long-running saga terminating in an Editorial 'This correspondence must now cease', I thought that I would get my comments in quickly. The fact that, in spite of an overlong playing and administrative chess life, I have never controlled a major tournament obviously qualifies me to speak on this matter!

In general, my feelings coincide more with the strict application of the Laws and of Tournament Rules advocated by Paul (incidentally I am not myself a solicitor - in either meaning of the word!) rather than the more liberal approach advocated by Steve Boniface and supported by the Editor. I say this fully appreciating the excellence and experience of Steve as an arbiter and would also pay eulogistic deference to the Editor to avoid suppression of this article.

I base my case on three main points:

1) The preface to the F.I.D.E. (and B.C.F. endorsed) laws of Chess initially seems to support the liberal or flexible approach by saying 'The Laws of Chess can not, and should not, regulate all possible situations that may arise during a game', but then goes on to say 'In most cases not precisely regulated by an Article of the Laws, one should be able to reach a correct judgment etc'. This is further reinforced by Article 16 (Duties of an Arbiter) in both 16.1 'to see that the Laws are strictly observed' and 16.5 'to impose penalties on the players for any fault or infraction of the Laws'. N.B. the underlinings are my own.

2) It seems entirely consistent and logical that tournament Rules and Conditions of play should be subject to the same basic approach. I am reinforced in this view by the fact that in many events ranging through B.C.F., Union, County, League and Club levels, Rules and Conditions are often determined at A.G.M./ Council or Executive Committee meetings after careful deliberations by members elected and mandated for that purpose. Any attempt by an arbiter/ controller unilaterally to waive or amend such Rules, other than through obvious necessity, might be deemed to carry a whiff of presumption. Incidentally I do not believe that the common 'catch-all' rule about the arbiter/controller's decisions being final is meant to convey carte-blanche authority for subjective Laws/Rules amendments.

3) While relaxation of Laws/Rules may at times appear fair and desirable (e.g. our Editor being allowed to play in a round of the Paignton Congress after arriving late due to an unfortunate inability to time his toothaches conveniently!) I suggest that consistent application of Laws/Rules to all situations clearly defined therein is the surest way to achieve fairness to all competitors at all times, and for that fairness to have been clearly seen to have been applied. This would seem particularly important given the considerable number of events taking place and the differing degrees of qualification and/or experience of various arbiter/controllers. Some hazards of 'Taking the Law into their own hands' might include:

- Different arbiter/controllers making different decisions in identical cases to the confusion, perhaps irritation, of competitors in both events.
- Overlooking the possible ensuing consequences of stretching the Laws/Rules e.g.:

a) Player A arrives 5 minutes after the starting time limit prescribed in the tournament Rules. The controller adopts a merciful attitude and allows him to play. Player B arrives a further 5 minutes later. What does the controller do? - does he go on stretching the Rules indefinitely or make an arbitrary cut-off which, once he has stretched the Rules, might be difficult to be seen to be fair and even-handed.

b) Players A and B arrive together after the starting time limit. Interviewing A first (B has rushed into the loo for technical reasons) the controller accepts his excuse and allows him to play with his opponent's agreement. He then interviews a relieved B and grants the same dispensation only to find that B's opponent has left the hall as he was perfectly entitled to do. Presumably there is no option but to default B. What however if both A and B's opponents are neck and neck for prize money? If A's opponent drops a point one imagines he would not be best pleased - understandably so.

Steve Boniface says that 'Many chess players are known to be temperamental... ..and it is in no-one's interest to take a heavy-handed inflexible approach which can only antagonise people'. Is there not a danger here that a controller less experienced and resolute than, say, Steve or Ron Powis, might be pressured by a temperamental or aggressive competitor to grant concessions that would not be sought by a quieter well-mannered competitor content to abide strictly by the Laws and Rules?

I fully support our Editor's comment in the last issue about the importance of keeping chess friendly and enjoyable, but do not share his fears about this being undermined by strict adherence to published Rules. There are surely many other sports and games where the appointed officials apply Rules strictly without adverse effect on sportsmanship or participation enjoyment. Why should chess be different?

I hope none of the above is taken to imply that an arbiter/controller should have only a robotic kind of role. On the contrary, there are many ways in which the unquestionable exercise of judgment and authority are of the very essence, e.g.:

- The general layout and conditions within the tournament room.
- Reacting to unforeseen crises (Steve instanced lighting failure or a sudden heart attack as examples)

- Reacting to unforeseen crises (Steve instanced lighting failure or a sudden heart attack as examples).
- Pairing of players.
- Delegation of authority to assistants.
- Where the exercise of judgment is specifically authorised under the Laws e.g. Articles 11.5, 12.4, 12.8, 14.5, 14.6, 15.1, 16.3.
- Where an occurrence is not precisely covered by the Laws/Rules.
- Where the Laws/Rules may be precise, but facts are in dispute, e.g. did a player touch or not touch a piece not moved?

Finally (about time too, did I hear someone say?) let me hasten to add that any reference to he or him equally imports she and her.
Now, if you will excuse me, I am off to dig my foxhole before the flak starts flying!

Peter Marshall

My apologies to those of you who may have fallen asleep reading the last page and a half but I felt that if I was going to print any of Peter's letter, I should print it all. Having just read it again, I find that it raises a lot of interesting points but rather than writing a further page on it myself I will leave it to you and hope that it will result in further correspondence. All I will say is that I think Peter has not quoted Steve or myself totally correctly. Yes we have said what he says but on a couple of occasions he has mixed two comments into the same sentence thus altering the meaning.

I have also received a letter from Malcolm Burn of Gloucester on the same subject which again I print in full (thankfully much shorter!):

Dear Richard

At the risk of straining the patience of any reader who is getting bored by the topic, may I suggest the following reply to Mr Massey:

- (1) The Rules say that both players must keep a score of the game but no penalty is stipulated for failure to do so. There is no reason why every breach of the rules should lead to a loss, and in practice many do not (e.g. illegal moves).
- (2) The purpose of keeping a score is to enable the controller to decide the validity of a claim to a win, on the grounds that an opponent has failed to make the required number of moves before the time control, or to a draw under the 50 move or triple repetition rules.
- (3) As a solicitor, Mr Massey will be familiar with 'Estoppel'. The consequence of one player (A) keeping a score and his opponent (B) not doing so ought logically to be as follows:
- (4) A may make a claim of the sort described in paragraph (2) and the controller must decide it solely on the basis of A's scoresheet. As B cannot produce his own scoresheet he cannot contest the accuracy of A's scoresheet even though he believes it to be wrong.
- (5) B cannot make a claim of the sort described in paragraph (2) and this will be so even though it is apparent from A's scoresheet that B would have had a valid claim if he had kept a scoresheet.

Malcolm Burn

I think you will agree that Malcolm is very practical and indeed very correct. Going back to what Peter said, wouldn't it be rather unfair if player B indeed was correct but couldn't prove it that he had (say) a draw by repetition and the game continued with player A winning thus denying someone else (or indeed several players) a prize in a tournament?

Enough said by me. If however you feel strongly about either of the letters or indeed about anything else please do not hesitate to contact me, preferably in writing, in order that I can print it in a future edition.

POT POURRI

This article has in the past proved popular and I have therefore reinstated it in this Edition. This time I print below many of the games I have received over the past year. Some are from Tournaments, others just received from individuals.

The first three come from the WECU Challengers Tournament which was played last Easter (1988). The comments and analysis are from David Le Moir. The tournament finished in a four way tie between I.Clark, M.Sellars, C.Weeks and G.Miller. Clark came first on sum of opponents' scores with Sellars second and both qualified for the 1989 Championship. There was some good play in the tournament, especially among the leaders, and spice was added by the presence of Ken and Dinah Norman. They were playing in the Open Championship which was, as ever, combined with the Challengers. Two of the three games selected feature the Norman family.

Ian Clark deserved his first place. His play was generally the most convincing and he defeated Dinah attractively as follows:

D.Norman v I.Clark

1.d2-d4 d7-d5; 2.Ng1-f3 Ng8-f6; 3.c2-c3 Bc8-f5; 4.Qd1-b3 Qd8-c8; 5.Nb1-d2 e7-e6; 6.Nf3-e5 Bf8-e7; 7.Nd2-f3 0-0; 8.Bc1-g5 b7-b6; 9.e2-e3 c7-c5; 10.Bf1-e2 h7-h6;

Dinah Norman (nee Dobson and previously married to 1970's England International Danny Wright) was England's strongest lady player in the early 1970's until the arrival of Jana Malypetrova (Harston, Miles) from Czechoslovakia.

11.Bg5-h4 g7-g5!?!;

A fascinating and paradoxical decision by Clark. His own King is castled on the Kingside while White's has yet to make a decision, so you might expect White to be making the pawn advances on this side. Yet the sequel shows this to have been a fairly well judged decision. White loses time and this enables Black to set up an attack wherever White's King chooses to settle...

12.Bh4-g3 Nf6-e4!; 13.Nf3-d2 Ne4xd2; 14.Ke1xd2...

...which turns out to be in the centre. Black now speedily sets up a queenside breakthrough. 13.Nf3-d2... was a critical point in the game. The obvious 13.h2-h4 f7-f6; 14.Ne5-d3 c5-c4; loses the knight. The trouble with the logical central break 13.c3-c4... is that 13...f7-f6; 14.Ne5-d3 c5xd4!; 15.Nf3xd4 d5xc4; also wins the knight. So White would be forced into weakening contortions such as 15.c4xd5 d4xe3. Another way was the meek 13.d4xc5 Ne4xc5; 14.Qb3-d1... hoping to exploit the weakened Black King's wing later on.

14...c5-c4; 15.Qb3-d1 b6-b5; 16.a2-a3 Nb8-c6; 17.Ne5xc6 Qc8xc6; 18.h2-h4 a7-a5; 19.h4xg5 h6xg5; 20.Qd1-g1? ...

I can't tell whether Dinah overlooked Black's simple defence or whether she was trying to force rook exchanges. Certainly, this was the time for activity. Pestering the bishop by 20.Be2-g4... and opening some lines by 20.f2-f4... both give Black something to think about. Now his attack crashes through unhindered.

20...Kg8-g7; 21.Qg1-h2 Rf8-h8; 22.Qh2-g1 Rh8xh1; 23.Qg1xh1 b5-b4; 24.a3xb4 a5xb4; 25.Ra1xa8 Qc6xa8; 26.Qh1-cl Qa8-a2; 27.Kd2-e1 b4-b3!;

Demonstrating that the rook exchanges did not help White. Black threatens 28...Be7-a3!; 29.b2xa3 b3-b2; queening. White prepares a counter, but Black holds all the trump cards.

28.f2-f3 Be7-a3!; 29.e3-e4!...

The bishop move deserted the g-pawn, which is now threatened by the queen. Black remains cool.

29...f7-f6!; 30.e4xf5 Ba3xb2; 31.Qc1-e3 Qa2-a1+; 32.Be2-d1 Bb2xc3+;

33.Ke1-e2 b3-b2!; 34.Qe3xe6 Qa1xd1+!; 35.Ke2xd1 b2-b1=Q+; 36.Kd1-e2 Qb1-d3+; 37.Ke2-f2 Be3xd4+; 38.Kf2-e1 Qd3-e3+; 39.Qe6xe3 Bd4xe3; 40.Bg3-d6 Kg7-f7; White resigns.

George Miller was involved in a fair amount of brinkmanship. Having been splendidly outplayed by Ian Clark in the following game, he turned his trebled isolated c-pawns into account to force a brilliant draw.

I.Clark v G.Miller

1.e2-e4 Nb8-c6; 2.d2-d4 d7-d5; 3.e4-e5 Bc8-f5; 4.c2-c3 Qd8-d7; 5.Ng1-f3 f7-f6; 6.Bf1-b5 a7-a6; 7.Bb5xc6 Qd7xc6; 8. 0-0 0-0-0; 9.Rf1-e1 Bf5-g4;

Potentially, Black has a good game with his hold over the White squares. But White's annoying insistence on covering e5 with pieces rather than pawns leads him into moving the bishop for a second time. 9...g7-g5!?!; was an interesting alternative, intending a swift Kingside pawn-storm, and taking advantage of the fact that White did not support his centre by f2-f4 followed by Ng1-e2-g3 to embarrass the bishop.

10.Nb1-d2 e7-e6; 11.e5xf6!?! g7xf6; 12.Nf3-e5!?! Bg4xd1; 13.Ne5xc6 b7xc6; 14.Relxd1 e6-e5;

White's little combination has disturbed the flow of Black's planning. It would be sensible to play ...c6-c5; not only to straighten out his doubled pawns, but also to increase his pawn preponderance in the centre. The alternative advance played slightly weakens his centre pawns and endangers his opening advantage.

15.d4xe5 f6xe5; 16.Nd2-f3 Bf8-d6; 17.c3-c4! d5xc4?;

Panicking unnecessarily. Maybe he has missed the tactical trick 17...Ng8-f6; 18.Bc1-g5 Rh8-f8; 19.c4xd5 c6xd5; 20.Bg5xf6 Rf8xf6; 21.Rd1xd5 e5-e4!; intending 22...Bd6xh2+!; White could instead play c4-c5, exchanging c-pawn for the pawn at e5 and hoping to put pressure on the c-pawns along the open file. Black would have compensation in his pressure on the Kingside, especially on f2.

After the text move, Black's pawns become terribly weak and he shows great ingenuity in holding them.

18.Bc1-g5 Rd8-d7!?!; 19.Rf1-e1 Ng8-e7; 20.Nf3xe5 Bd6xe5; 21.Relxe5 Ne7-d5; 22.Ra1-e1 Kc8-b7; 23.Bg5-d2 Rh8-d8; 24.g2-g3 Kb7-b6; 25.Rel-e4 Kb6-b5; 26.Re4-h4 Rd8-f8; 27.Bd2-c3 c6-c5; 28.Rh4-h5 c7-c6; 29.Kg1-g2 a6-a5; 30.Bc3-e1 a5-a4; 31.a2-a3 Rf8-f7; 32.h2-h4 Rd7-e7; 33.Bel-d2...

White has probably decided to wait until the adjournment (move 34) before deciding how to win. With a 3-1 pawn majority on the Kingside, he should probably have positioned his rooks behind his Kingside pawns and pushed them forward. Now he needs some exchanges to make progress, but this time it is Black who jolts the game out of its smooth path with an excellent pawn sacrifice.

33...c4-c3!; 34.Bd2xc3 Kb5-c4; 35.Rh5-g5 Kc4-d3; 36.Re5xe7 Rf7xe7; 37.Bc3-e5 c5-c4; 38.f2-f4 Kd3-c2; 39.Rg5-g7 Re7xe5!;

Black soon ends up a whole rook down, as he must give up his knight for the e-pawn, but the c-pawns do their bit gloriously: the first sacrificed to open a path for his King, the second wins the rook back and the third promotes to force a drawn Q+P ending.

40.f4xe5 Kc2xb2; 41.e5-e6 c4-c3; 42.e6-e7 Nd5xe7; 43.Rg7xe7 c3-c2; 44.Re7-e2 Kb2-c3; 45.Re2-e1 Kc3-d2; 46.Rel-f1 c2-c1=Q; 47.Rf1xc1 Kd2xc1; 48.g3-g4 Kc1-d2; 49.h4-h5 c6-c5; 50.g4-g5 c5-c4; 51.g5-g6 h7xg6; 52.h5-h6 c4-c3; 53.h6-h7 c3-c2; 54.h7-h8=Q c2-c1=Q; 55.Qh8-d4+ Kd2-e1; 56.Qd4-f2+ Ke1-d1; 57.Qf2-f1+ Kd1-c2; 58.Qf1-c4+ Kc2-b1; 59.Qc4xa4... Draw Agreed.

Ken Norman won the Open Championship with a round to spare. A win in the last round would give him top place in the combined Challengers/Open tournament - there are no extra prizes but pride is at stake. This is what happened:

K.Norman v M.Sellars

1.Ng1-f3 Ng8-f6; 2.c2-c4 d7-d6; 3.d2-d4 g7-g6; 4.g2-g3 Bf8-g7; 5.Bf1-g2 O-O; 6.Nb1-c3 c7-c6; 7. O-O Nb8-a6; 8.e2-e4 Nf6-d7; 9.Bc1-e3 Nd7-b6; 10.b2-b3 Bc8-g4

I'm not clear why he didn't save time by playing this before 8...Nf6-d7;

11.h2-h3 Bg4xf3; 12.Bg2xf3 Nb6-d7;

The knight has now moved four times giving White time to develop his attack.

13.Ra1-c1 e7-e5; 14.Bf3-g2 Na6-c7; 15.d4-d5...

Maybe he was worried about 15...Nc7-e6; but 16.Nc3-e2... was a good reply. White plays for a space advantage and pressure on the white squares which Black has no bishop to cover. But Black can create counterplay by b6-b5 and f7-f5.

15...c6-c5; 16.h3-h4 a7-a6; 17.Bg2-h3 b7-b5; 18.Qd1-d3 Nd7-f6; 19.f2-f3 Ra8-b8; 20.Rc1-b1 Nf6-h5;

Starting a standard regrouping aimed at supporting the f7-f5 advance. But it weakens his hold on the central black squares, so White plays for f3-f4 to open the game up.

21.Kg1-h2 Bg7-f6; 22.Be3-f2...

Apparently afraid of sacrifices on g3 or h4, White allows Black to play his regrouping with a gain of time.

22...Kg8-h8; 23.Bh3-g4?! Nh5-g7; 24.Nc3-e2 Bf6-e7; 25.Bg4-h3 f7-f5; 26.f3-f4 Nc7-e8; 27.f4xe5 d6xe5; 28.c4xb5 a6xb5; 29.Rb1-c1...

White's play is paying off. The c-pawn is weak and he can also gang up on the b and e pawns. Black sensibly decides that White's play has been slow and has somewhat weakened his King's position, so a counterattack is in order.

29...f5xe4!; 30.Qd3xe4 Ne8-f6!; 31.Qe4xe5 Be7-d6!; 32.Qe5-a1...

32.Qe5-b2... looks better as the Queen can aid the defence of his Knight and his King from there.

32...Nf6xd5;

32...Nf6-e4; may be even better. White's next move looks like a time-pressure error, but is better than it looks. If, for instance, 33.Kh2-g1(unpinning the g-pawn) Qd8-e7!; 34.Rf1-e1 Rf8xf2!; crashes through.

33.Bf2xc5!? Rf8xf1; 34.Bh3xf1 Qd8xh4+; 35.Bf1-h3 Bd6xg3+!;

This is probably what White overlooked. 36.Ne2xg3 Nd5-f4; wins.

36.Kh2-g2 Rb8-e8;

36...Nd5-f4+; 37.Ne2xf4 Bg3xf4; threatens 38...Qh4-g3+; winning the bishop, 38...Qh4-g5+; winning the rook at c1 as well as the simple 38...Bf4xc1. The text move is a little too clever.

37.Ne2xg3! Nd5-f4+; 38.Kg2-f3 Nf4xh3; 39.Rc1-h1 Qh4-f4+; 40.Kf3-g2 Nh3-g5; 41.Qa1-d1 Ng5-e4;

Black simplifies into an ending two pawns ahead rather than continue his attack. White however continues to make his life awkward.

42.Ng3xe4 Qf4xe4+; 43.Qd1-f3 Qe4-e2+; 44.Qf3xe2 Re8xe2+; 45.Kg2-f3 Re2xa2; 46.Rh1-d1 Ng7-e6; 47.Bc5-b4 Ra2-a7; 48.Kf3-e4 Kh8-g8; 49.Ke4-e5 Ne6-g5; 50.Ke5-f6 Ng5-e4+; 51.Kf6-e5 Ne4-g5; 52.Ke5-f6 Ng5-f7; 53.Bb4-c3 Ra7-c7; 54.Bc3-a1 Kg8-f8; 55.Kf6-e6 Rc7-e7+; 56.Ke6-f6 Re7-a7; 57.Kf6-e6 Kf8-e8; 58.Ke6-f6 Nf7-h6; 59.Kf6-g5 Nh6-f5; 60.Ba1-e5 Ra7-d7; 61.Rd1-c1 Ke8-f7; 62.Rc1-c5...

At this stage the players ran out of time due to the WECU Championship rules - see July 1988 edition - which is a great pity as the game now went to adjudication when it was evident that Black was just playing for this rather than making an attempt to force his win. Of course, the adjudication went in his favour.

An exciting and complex game which was a credit to both sides. From this result Sellars came up to tie for first place in the Challengers section.

As mentioned above, these games were reported on by David Le Moir and the comments and analysis were up to his usual high standard. My thanks to him.

The next game comes from this year's Postal Competition which I have received from one of the players concerned. It is short but rather sweet:

R.Haydon (Wiltshire) v G.Davis (Hertfordshire) Board 2

1.Ng1-f3 Ng8-f6; 2.g2-g3 b7-b6; 3.Bf1-g2 Bc8-b7; 4. 0-0 g7-g6; 5.d2-d3 Bf8-g7; 6.e2-e4 d7-d6; 7.Nf3-d2 c7-c5;

This move misses the point of White's previous move. Better was 7...0-0; or 7...c7-c6!??;

8.e4-e5! Bb7xg2; 9.e5xf6 Bg2xf1; 10.f6xg7 Rh8-g8; 11.Kg1xf1 Qd8-d7; 12.Qd1-f3 Qd7-c6; 13.Nd2-e4 Rg8xg7; 14.Bc1-h6 Rg7-g8; 15.Nb1-c3 f7-f5; 16.Nc3-d5!...

A neat doubled edged sacrifice. Taking of either knight loses the queen: 16...Qc6xd5; 17.Ne4-f6+...; 16...f5xe4; 17.Qf3xe4... threatens mate. A queen move to stop the mate (either b7 or d7) loses it to Nd5-f6+. Therefore 17...Ke8-d7; looks the only move. 18.Qe4xe7+ Kd7-c8; 19.Qe7-e6+ Kc8-b7; 20.Qe6xg8... leaves Black hopelessly lost. Hence:

16..Ke8-d8; 17.Ne4-g5 Nb8-a6; 18.Ra1-e1 Rg8-e8; 19.Nd5xb6! Resigns.

19...Qc6xf3; 20.Ng5-e6++ whilst 19...Qc6xb6; 20.Qf3xa8+...leaves Black in a hopeless position.

The next collection of games are from the Challengers Tournament from the Paignton Congress 1988 as promised in the February 1989 edition. They are in no particular order. As reported in the previous edition, the competition was won by A.C.Southall of Smethwick with 6 out of 7, with M.Lamb of Bolton and D.M.Cooper of Olton, Birmingham second equal on 5½ points whilst equal fourth on 5 points were the early leader A.W.Brusey of Teignmouth, T.O'Mahoney of Norton Radstock and C.Peters of Paignton.

I regret that I cannot show any of Mr Southall's six wins as they are either full of blunders or I cannot read his writing. His game in round 1 against J.Gorodi was probably the most interesting but I get lost near the end of the game and cannot fathom the ending. I can however show his loss in round 2 to B.T.Harrold. It would appear that after 2 rounds he was well back and this allowed him to play weaker players. But despite this, six wins from 7 played for a player graded 150 in an under 170 competition is an excellent performance.

A.C.Southall v B.T.Harrold Round 2 Paignton Congress 1988

1.e2-e4 c7-c5; 2.d2-d4 e5xd4; 3.c2-c3 d4xc3; 4.Nb1xc3 Nb8-c6;

A well liked line of the Sicilian/Morra Gambit. You often see this in this strength of tournaments. A.C.Southall is a very aggressive player (looking from his repertoire of openings played in this Congress) and he likes to sacrifice pawns for the advantage. In this game he gets his play down the d-file against the pawn on d6.

5.Ng1-f3 d7-d6; 6.Bf1-c4 e7-e6; 7. 0-0 Bf8-e7; 8.Qd1-e2 a7-a6; 9.Rf1-d1 Qd8-a5;

10.Bc1-d2 Qa5-h5; 11.Bc1-f4 Ng8-f6; 12.Bf4xd6 Be7xf6; 13.Rd1xd6 O-O;

Black has given back the pawn in order to get his King safe. However, White has got complete control of the d-file. Black meanwhile, by his Queen manoeuvre has Kingside pressure but which is better? I think the d-file pressure...

14.Ra1-d1 Nc6-e5; 15.Nf3xe5 Qh5xe5; 16.Rd6-d8 b7-b5; 17.Rd8xf8+ Kg8xf8; 18.Bc4-b3 Bc8-b7; 19.f2-f3 Ra8-c8; 20.a2-a3...

It would appear that White has now lost all his advantage and indeed has run out of ideas. Black has a very active Queen in the centre of the board but this doesn't amount to much. A draw could be agreed here but Black chooses to play on...

20...h7-h5; 21.Qe2-f2 Kf8-e7; 22.Kg1-f1?...

Black's move of his King towards the centre has conked his opponent into doing so too, leaving the h-pawn unguarded. This unforced error loses him the game.

22...Qe5xh2; 23.Qf2-a7 Qh2-c7; 24.Qa7-e3 Qc7-c5; 25.Qe3-f4 g7-g5; 26.Qf4-h2 g5-g4; 27.e4-e5 Nf6-d7; 28.Qh2-h4+ Ke7-e8; 29.f3-f4 Qc5-e3; 30.Qh4-g5 g4-g3;

30.Qh4-g5... is a very strange move. Maybe he missed Black's reply. Surely 30.g2-g3... had to be played. White now must now give up his rook to stop the mate. He might as well resign now, but he chooses to play on a little bit longer.

31.Rd1-d2 Qe3xd2; 32.Qg5-g8+ Nd7-f8; 33.Qg8xg3 Qd2xb2; 34.Nc3-e2 Qb2-b1+; 35.Kf1-f2 Qb1-g6; 36.Qg3-h2 Qg6-g4; 37.a3-a4 Nf8-g6; 38.Bb3-d1 Rc8-d8; 39.Kf2-e1 Bb7xg2; Resigns.

Alan Brusey of Paignton was one of the early leaders. Alas a loss to M.Lamb in the last round stopped him from tying for first place. Alan is one of these no-nonsense players who keeps his games simple yet plays aggressive chess. He is prepared to give up a pawn for the advantage in the opening and a piece for a couple of pawns to get at his opponent's King.

A good example of this is his round 5 game against T.M.Mortimer:

A.W.Brusey v T.M.Mortimer

1.e2-e4 c7-c6; 2.d2-d4 d7-d5; 3.f2-f3 e7-e6; 4.Bc1-e3 d5xe4; 5.Nb1-d2 e4xf3; 6.Ng1xf3 Ng8-f6;

An unusual response to the Caro-Kann. White has given up a pawn for advanced development together with an open f-file for attacks against f7. However, his development isn't that dynamic - all his pieces seem to be on the wrong squares.

7.Nd2-c4 Nb8-d7; 8.Be3-f4 Nd7-b6; 9.Nc4-e5 Nf6-d5; 10.Bf4-d2 Nb6-d7;

Only 10 moves played but both players have taken 40 minutes each. And yet, both players have moved the same pieces rather frequently. Perhaps if one or other had got on with sensible development they could have been streets ahead of the other. I suppose the reason that both have moved the same pieces around a lot is because the other has.

11.Bf1-d3 Nd7xe5; 12.Nf3xe5 Nd5-f6; 13.c2-c3 Bf8-e7; 14. O-O O-O; 15.Rf1-f3 h7-h6;

All White's pieces are now aimed at the Kingside and this last move seems natural. But White has a surprise in store.

16.Bd2xh6!? g7xh6; 17.Qd1-d2...

It looked as though White was giving up a piece for a pawn (leaving him a piece down) but Black must lose the h-pawn now. If he tries to keep it he gets mated: 17...Kg8-g7; 18.Rf3-g3+ Kg7-h8; 19.Qd2xh6+... etc; or 17...h6-h5; 18.Qd2-g5+ Kg8-h8; 19.Qg5-h6+ Kh8-g8; 20.Rf3-g3+ Nf6-g4; 21.Qh6-h7++.

17...Nf6-h7; 18.Qd2xh6 Nh7-g5; 19.Rf3-g3 f7-f5; 20.Ne5-f3...

It looked as though the defence was going to hold out, but this move wins the piece back leaving White a pawn up. 20.Ne5-g6... looks interesting but doesn't actually achieve anything.

20...Qd8-d6; 21.Nf3xg5 Be7xg5; 22.Rg3xg5+ Kg8-f7; 23.Rg5xf5+!...

A hidden bonus - an extra pawn. Of course, 23...e6xf5; loses the Queen. Both players now are getting short of time - 15 minutes for 17 moves each, but White can now simplify and slowly push his connected passed pawns up the board.

23...Kf7-e8; 24.Rf5xf8+ Qd6xf8; 25.Bd3-g6+ Ke8-e7; 26.Qh6-h4+ Qf8-f6; 27.Qh4xf6+ Ke7xf6; 28.Bg6-d3 Bc8-d7;

5 minutes left for 12 moves, tight but fairly easy considering Black has no surprises he can spring.

29.Ra1-f1+ Kf6-e7; 30.g2-g3 Ra8-g8; 31.Kg1-g2 Bd7-e8; 32.Rf1-e1 Ke7-d6; 33.h2-h3 Rg8-h8; 34.g3-g4 Be8-d7; 35.Kg2-g3 Kd6-e7; 36.h3-h4 Ke7-f8; 37.g4-g5 Kf8-g7; 38.Re1-e5 b7-b5; 39.Kg3-g4 Rh8-f8; 40.h4-h5 Rf8-f2;

Time control reach with a whole 2 minutes to spare. The pawns have fairly charged up the board and White has a more or less forced win now:

41.h5-h6+ Kg7-g8; 42.g5-g6 Rf2xb2; 43.h6-h7+ Kg8-h8; 44.g6-g7+! Resigns.

44...Kh8xg7; 45.Re5-g5+ Kg7-h8; 46.Rg5-g8++ If the King moves to f7 or f8 the pawn queens. Black could have delayed the game by 42...Rf2-g2+; but this just drives the White King into his defence.

The next game is from round 3 and features my President of the WECU, Ken Bloodworth, in a good light:

K.J.Bloodworth v S.R.Capsey

1.c2-c4 Ng8-f6; 2.Nb1-c3 e7-e6; 3.g2-g3 c7-c6; 4.d2-d4 d7-d5; 5.c4-c5 Bf8-e7; 6.Bc1-d2 0-0; 7.e2-e3 Nb8-d7; 8.Bf1-d3 e6-e5;

White chooses to allow this move rather than play 8.Ng1-f3... However, once the e-file is opened neither player takes control of it.

9.f2-f3 e5xd4; 10.e3xd4 Rf8-e8; 11.Ng1-e2 Nd7-f8; 12.Qd1-c2 Bc8-e6; 13.h2-h3 b7-b6;

Black has rather restricted himself and therefore must resort himself to making non-committal moves on his side of the board. White meanwhile has room to get his King safe and develop his attack. Black wasting his time trying to open the b-file, he cannot take control of the b-file.

14.b2-b4 b6xc5; 15.b4xc5 Qd8-d7; 16.Ke1-f2 Nf8-g6; 17.Ne2-f4 Ng6-f8; 18.g3-g4 h7-h6; 19.Nc3-e2 g7-g5;

Black in his attempts to stem the tide is only weakening his position even more. Now the b1-h7 file, especially f5 is very weak as is e5.

20.Nf4xe6 Nf8xe6; 21.h3-h4 Be7-f8;

White's pieces are now ready to swarm in and there is very little Black can do.

22.h4xg5 Ne6xg5; 23.Bd2xg5 h6xg5; 24.Bd3-h7+ Kg8-g7; 25.Bh7-f5 Qd7-e7; 26.Qc2-d2 Nf6-d7; 27.Bf5xd7 Resigns.

T.M.Mortimer and R.J.Kearsley both won their first 3 round games and met on the top board in round 4:

T.M.Mortimer v R.J.Kearsley

1.e2-e4 c7-c5; 2.f2-f4 d7-d6; 3.Ng1-f3 Nb8-c6; 4.Nb1-c3 g7-g6; 5.Bf1-c4 Bf8-g7; 6. 0-0 e7-e6; 7.f4-f5...

An interesting sacrifice of the f-pawn. Taking with the e-pawn weakens d5 whilst taking with the g-pawn weakens the kingside. He takes the latter choice.

7...g6xf5; 8.d2-d3 Ng8-e7; 9.Qd1-e1 0-0; 10.Qe1-h4 Ne7-g6; 11.Qh4-h5 Nc6-e5;

12.Bc1-g5 f7-f6; 13.Nf3xe5 Ng6xe5; 14.Bg5-f4 b7-b5?!;

Black returns the pawn to obtain counterplay. However, his Kingside is in tatters and White has seen a little further than Black...

15.Bc4xb5 d6-d5; 16.e4xd5 e6xd5; 17.Bf4xe5 f6xe5;

Black has achieved his plan of taking the centre. It is rare that you see Black with 4 pawns unchallenged in the centre on c5, d5, e5 and f5. However, the sight doesn't last long.

18.Bb5-c6 Ra8-b8; 19.Bc6xd5+ Kg8-h8; 20.Rf1-f3 Rb8xb2; 21.Rf3-h3 h7-h6;
22.Rh3-g3 Rf8-f6; 23.Ra1-e1 Rb2xc2; 24.Re1xe5! Bc8-e6;

Of course, not 24...Rc2xc3?; 25.Re5-e8+ Qd8xe8; 26.Qh5xe8+ Kh8-h7; 27.Qe8-g8+.
Now 25.Re5xe6 Rf6xe6; 26.Bd5xe6 Rc2xc3; leaves Black equal and White with few options left.

25.Nc3-d1 Kh8-h7; 26.Bd5xe6 Qd8-d4+; 27.Rg3-e3 Rf6-g6; 28.Be6-g8+! Resigns.

This leaves Black a rook down and mate threatened.

The next game is from round 5 and although not a brilliant game, a game which I for one thoroughly enjoyed playing through. White obtains pressure and space for his pieces whilst Black plays a beautifully controlled game biding his time soaking up the pressure waiting for his chance. He plays in a style so similar to my own in my favourite defence - nothing special but always feeling he is in control:

E J Prideaux v I Clarke

1.e2-e4 c7-c5; 2.Ng1-f3 e7-e6; 3.d2-d4 c5xd4; 4.Nf3xd4 Ng8-f6; 5.Nb1-c3 d7-d6;
6.Bf1-c4 a7-a6; 7.Bc1-e3 b7-b5; 8.Bc4-d3 Bc8-b7; 9.a2-a3...

A strange move. Perhaps he was worried of a further advance on the queenside but this takes away his grip on the white squares. This move just wastes time. The threat of winning the e-pawn can be stopped by 9.f2-f3 or 9.Qd1-f3. 9.f2-f3 is the better, threatening a kingside advance - g2-g4-g5 and h2-h4-h5 etc and castling Queenside.

9...Bf8-e7; 10. 0-0 0-0; 11.f2-f4 Nb8-d7; 12.Qd1-e2 Qd8-c7; 13.Nd4-b3 e6-e5;
14.Ra1-d1 Rf8-e8; 15.Qe2-f3 Be7-f8;

Whilst White has been playing around Black has strengthened his position. White's 12th and 13th moves seem to be defensive moves rather than offensive moves so White's next must have come as a bit of a shock. However, Black has a very sound position now:

16.g2-g4 e5xf4; 17.Qf3xf4 Nd7-e5; 18.g4-g5 Nf6-d7; 19.Nc3-d5...

This knight is very threatening and must be removed. However, Black must give up his bishop pair. But now he has the opportunity to take advantage of the other long diagonal.

19...Bb7xd5; 20.e4xd5 g7-g6; 21.Nb3-d4 Re8-e7; 22.Qf4-h4 Bf8-g7;

Black has now succeeded in taking the advantage. White's pieces are going nowhere. I don't understand his next move but perhaps he thought by giving up his d-pawn he could get at his opponent's isolated d-pawn.

23.Nd4-c6? Ne5xc6; 24.d5xc6 Qc7xc6; 25.Rf1-e1 Ra8-e8;

23.Nd4-c6... is an even bigger mistake. Black takes control of the e-file and also threatens the pawn on b2 which White cannot defend.

26.Be3-f2 Re8xe1+; 27.Rd1xe1 Re8xe1+; 28.Bf2xe1 Bg7xb2; 29.Be1-f2 Nd7-e5;
30.Qh4-e4 Qc6xe4; 31.Bd3xe4 Bb2xa3; 32.Bf2-d4 Ba3-c5; 33.Resigns.

The next game is a lesson to those of you who are in the early stages of learning how to play. Namely, don't move your pieces too often in the early part of the game and get your King safe:

J B Hawson v A Hartsuiker

1.e2-e4 e7-e5; 2.Ng1-f3 Nb8-c6; 3.Bf1-c4 Bf8-c5; 4.d2-d3 h7-h6; 5.Nb1-c3 Ng8-f6;
6.a2-a3 b7-b6; 7.b2-b4 Bc5-d4; 8.Nf3xd4 Nc6xd4; 9.Bc1-e3 Nd4-e6;

Black has got himself into a bit of trouble yet he could have castled on move 6 and then retreated the bishop on c5 to e7 and have a reasonably easy game. Now his knight is in a silly position and is going nowhere. He has also moved it three times in the first 9 moves.

10. O-O Bc8-b7;

Again he would have been better castling.

11.Nc3-d5 Nf6xd4; 12.e4xd5 Ne6-g5;

Again a silly square for the knight.

13.Qd1-g4...

An aggressive move. Now if 13...0-0; 14.h2-h4 Ng5-h7; 15.Be3xh6... is most unpleasant.

13...g7-g6;

A mistake. I think 13...Qd8-f6; is much better and stronger. The queen covers all the pawns and enables him to castle queenside although 14.f2-f4... is awkward. 14...e5xf4; 15.Rf1xf4 Qf6-g6; 16.h2-h4 Ng5-h7; leaves White with the advantage but Black is far from lost.

14.f2-f4 f7-f5; 15.Qg4-g3 e5xf4; 16.Be3xf4 d7-d6; 17.h2-h4 Ng5-f7; 18.Qg3xg6 Qd8xh4; 19.Ra1-e1+ Ke8-f8; 20.Qg6xf5 Kf8-g8; 21.Qf5-g6+ Resigns.

21...Kg8-f8; 22.Bf4xh6+ Rh8xh6; 23.Qg6xf7++.

Round 7 saw the best and worst games of the Challengers Tournament with only seven boards between the two:

R J Wilcox v B Boomsma

1.e2-e4 e7-e5; 2.Nb1-c3 Bf8-c5; 3.f2-f4 d7-d6; 4.Bf1-c4? Bc5xg1; 5.Rh1xg1 Qd8-h4+; 6.g2-g3 Qh4xh2; 7.Ke1-f1 Bc8-h3+; 8.Resigns

A W Brusey v M Lamb

1.e2-e4 e7-e6; 2.d2-d4 d7-d5; 3.Nb1-c3 Bf8-b4; 4.a2-a3 Bb4xc3+; 5.b2xc3 d5xe4; 6.Qd1-g4 Ng8-f6;

Black chooses a very sharp line of the French yet makes it look very easy. Alan Brusey, as mentioned before, enjoys aggressive lines. However, Black seems to take advantage of this. Well prepared?

7.Qg4xg7 Rh8-g8; 8.Qg7-h6 Nb8-d7; 9.Ng1-e2 b7-b6; 10.Ne2-g3 Bc8-b7; 11.Bf1-e2 Qd8-e7; 12. O-O O-O-O; 13.a3-a4 Rg8-g6;

An intriguing position. White intends attacking on the a-file whilst Black on the half open g-file. Who is going to exert the most telling pressure?

14.Qh6-e3 Rd8-g8; 15.Bc1-a3 Qe7-d8; 16.c3-c4 h7-h5; 17.Qe3-f4 Nf6-g4; 18.h2-h3?...

Alas, a mistake losing a pawn.

18...Ng4xf2!; 19.Rf1xf2 Rg6xg3; 20.Be2-f1...

Both the h- and f- pawns are en prise but 20.Qf4xf7... allows 20...e4-e3; as does 20.Be2xh5.

20.Qd8-g5; 21.Qf4xg5 Rg8xg5; 22.Kg1-h2...

Stopping 22...Rg3xh3; which has been on for some time. However, this move allows Black to consolidate his pawn advantage. It is still an interesting position. Black is a passed pawn up although it is doubled whilst White has a bishop pair to play with.

22...f7-f5; 23.Ba3-c1 e4-e3!; 24.Rf2-e2 f5-f4; 25.Bc1-a3 Kc8-d8; 26.Ba3-b4 Rg5-g8; 27.Bb4-e1 Rg3-g6; 28.Be1-h4+ Kd8-c8;

In a matter of a few moves White has got his black squared bishop into play. However, he has allowed his opponent to move his pawns up another square each opening the long diagonal for his bishop.

29.a4-a5 Nd7-f6; 30.a5xb6 a7xb6; 31.Bh4xf6 Rg6xf6;

The knight was much too strong and must be removed. Now White has a very passive position.

32.Ra1-a3 f4-f3!; 33.g2xf3 Rf6xf3; 34.Bf1-g2 Rg8xg2+!; 35.Re2xg2 e3-e2;

A beautiful sacrifice. 36.Rg2xe2 Rf3xa3; leaves Black a bishop up; whilst 36.Ra3xf3 e2-e1=Q; 37.Rf3-f8+ Kc8-d7; 38.Rg2-g7+ Kd7-c6; leaves Black with a queen and bishop for two rooks. Hence:

36.Rg2-g8+ Kc8-d7; 37.Rg8-g7+ Kd7-d6; 38.Ra3-a1 Rf3-c3; 39.Ra1-c1 Rc3xc4; 40.Rg7-g1 Rc4xd4;

Time control reached and Black has a bishop and three pawns for his rook. His King has also become active.

41.Rg1-e1 Bb7-a6; 42.Kh2-g3 e6-e5;

Now the other passed e-pawn starts its march up the board.

43.Kg3-f3 Rd4-f4+; 44.Kf3-e3 Rf4-f1; 45.Rc1-a1 Ba6-c4; 46.Ke3-d2 e5-e4; 47.Ra1-a3 Kd6-d5; 48.Ra3-g3 b6-b5; 49.Rg3-g5+ Kd5-e6; 50.Rg5-g3 Ke6-f5; 51.Rg3-c3 Kf5-f4;

Stopping 52.Rc3xc4 b5xc4 (Rf1xe1; 53.Rc4-c5+ Kf5-f4; 54.Kd2xe1...); 53.Re1xe2... with a draw most likely. Now White is almost in zugzang. Hence he chooses:

52.Re1xe2 Bc4xe2; 53.Kd2xe2 Rf1-f3; 54.Rc3xc7 Rf3xh3; 55.Rc7-f7+ Kf4-e5; 56.Rf7-b7 Ke5-d4; 57.Rb7xb5 Rh3-h2+; 58.Ke2-f1 h5-h4; 59.Rb5-b4+ Kd4-e3; 60.c2-c4 Ke3-f3;

Mate is now threatened.

61.Kf1-g1 Rh2-c2;

Black transfers his attack to the c-pawn whilst allowing his e- and h- pawns to walk unhindered down the board.

62.Rb4-a4 h4-h3; 63.Ra4-a8 h3-h2+; 64.Kg1-h1 e4-e3; 65.Ra8-f8+ Kf3-e4; 66.Rf8-e8+...

It is interesting to note that if White didn't have his c-pawn left he could have played 66.Rf8-f4+! Ke4-d3; 67.Rf4-d4+! Kd3-e2; 68.Kh1xh2... leading to a draw. Of course, he can't take the rook as this would be stalemate! However, this cannot be played as he has c4-c5 afterwards.

66...Ke4-d4; 67.Re8-d8+ Kd4-c3;

At last the King is safe and the game all but over.

68.Rd8-d1 e3-e2; 69.Rd1-e1 Kc3-d2; 70.Resigns.

Well played by both players. (By the way, M.Lamb is Harry Lamb (Of Bolton)'s son).

Another well played French occurred in the last round:

B T Harrold v T O'Mahoney

1.e2-e4 e7-e6; 2.d2-d4 d7-d5; 3.Nb1-c3 Ng8-f6; 4.e4-e5 Nf6-d7; 5.Nc3-e2 c7-c5; 6.c2-c3 Nb8-c6; 7.f2-f4 Qd8-b6; 8.Ng1-f3 f7-f6; 9.g2-g3 c5xd4; 10.c3xd4 Bf8-e7; 11.Bf1-h3 0-0!;

A very interesting double pawn sacrifice. However, it has a very nasty sting in its tail. 12. 0-0... is best here.

12.Bh3xe6+ Kg8-h8; 13.Be6xd5?...

Alas taking the second pawn is a big mistake. 13.Be6xd7 Bc8xd7; 14. 0-0... leaves him weak on the white squares but a pawn up.

13...f6xe5; 14.Nf3xe5 Nd7xe5; 15.d4xe5 Nc6xe5!;

The whole point of the sacrifices. Now if 16.f4xe5? Be7-b4+!; 17.Ne2-c3 Qb6-f2++. Hence the knight cannot be taken and it is nicely placed in the centre.

16.Ne2-c3 Bc8-g4; 17.Qd1-d2 Ne5-f3+; 18.Bd5xf3 Bg4xf3; 19.Rh1-f1 Bf3-h5; 20.Qd2-d5...

An aggressive move threatening the bishop on h5 and attempting to free his position. But Black has another sacrifice up his sleeve:

20...Rf8-e8!; 21.Qd5xh5 Be7-b4+(dis); 22.Ke1-d1 Ra8-d8+; 23.Kd1-c2 Bb4xc3; 24.b2xc3 Qb6-a6; 25.Bc1-b2 Qa6-d3+; 26.Kc2-b3 Re8-e6;

The hunt of the White King goes relentlessly on. Black is a piece and a pawn down but is in the driving seat.

27.Bb2-a3 Rd8-d5; 28.Qh5-f3 Re6-e3; 29.Qf3xe3 Qd3xe3;

White has to give up his queen. He has nothing else as Qd3xc3+ followed by Rd5-a5 is mate and he cannot stop it.

30.Rf1-e1 Qe3-b6+; 31.Ba3-b4 h7-h6;

Not 31...a7-a5; as 32.Re1-e8 is mate. However, he now threatens to win the bishop. Hence:

32.Kb3-c2 a7-a5; 33.Bb4-e7 Qb6-f2+; 34.Kc2-b3 Qf2-b6+; 35.Kb3-c2 Qb6-g6+; 36.Kc2-c1 Qg6-d3; 37.Resigns.

GEMS OF THE CHESS BOARD

The format of this article for this edition and the next few is different to that of the past. I think I have mentioned in the past that one of the few books I read when a junior was "Attacking the King" by J.N.Walker. Well, at the West of England Chess Union at Weymouth over the Easter Weekend I managed to obtain a copy from Peter Clarke's bookstall. (Incidentally, J.N.Walker was playing in the tournament himself and I was able to persuade him to sign the copy!) In this book there are some wonderful examples of aggressive play leading to a win or mate. Unfortunately, Mr Walker doesn't give the players' names of the games, so I don't know whether the games are made up by him or in fact of a real nature. I would hazard a guess that they are indeed real games. Anyway, here is one of them with the comments and analysis of my own:

Attacking the castled king

French Defence

1.e2-e4 e7-e6; 2.d2-d4 d7-d5; 3.Nb1-c3 d5xe4; 4.Nc3xe4 Nb8-d7;

A slightly unusual line of the French defence. This last move is to enable Black to play Ng8-f6 and to leave him with a knight on f6 instead of the queen.

5.Ng1-f3 Ng8-f6; 6.Ne4xf6+ Nd7xf6; 7.Bf1-d3 Bf8-e7; 8. 0-0 0-0; 9.Qd1-e2 b7-b6; 10.Bc1-g5...

White has succeeded in getting his pieces well developed very quickly whilst retaining his advantage in space. Black meanwhile is very defensive and cramped and must try to play ...c7-c5 to free his position. He will then be able to use his bishops on the a8-h1 and a7-g1 diagonals. White must try to hold up ...c7-c5 for as long as possible.

10...Bc8-b7;

Of course not 10...c7-c5?; 11.Bg5xf6 Be7xf6; 12.Qe2-e4... threatening mate on h7 and the rook on a8.

11.Ra1-d1...

Now 11...c7-c5?; 12.d4xc5 Be7xc5; 13.Bd3xh7+... collects the Black queen. Thus Black must remove his queen from the d-file.

11.Qd8-c8; 12.c2-c4 Rf8-e8;

Again not 12...c7-c5; 13.d4-d5...pinning the e-pawn (13...e6xd5; 14.Qe2xe7...), hence Black defends the bishop.

13.Nf3-e5...

White steadily increases his hold on the centre. Again Black cannot play c7-c5 as: 14.Bg5xf6 Be7xf6; 15.Bd3xh7+ Kg8xh7; 16.Qe2-h5+ Kh7-g8; 17.Qh5xf7+ Kg8-h7; 18.Rd1-d3... leads to mate. Black must therefore get rid of the bishop on g5 but at the cost of weakening the squares round his King. However, he will now be able to play c7-c5.

13...h7-h6; 14.Bg5-d2 c7-c5; 15.Bd2-c3 c5xd4; 16.Bc3xd4 Qc8-c7; 17.Bd4-c3 Ra8-d8; 18.Rf1-e1 Bb7-a8; 19.Qe2-e3 Qc7-b7; 20.Qe3-h3...

White answers the crude threat of 20...Qb7xg2 mate with a simple move which transfers his power from the centre to the Kingside. He also attacks e6 which gives him the option of a possible rook sacrifice on this square.

20...Be7-c5; 21.b2-b4 Bc5-f8;

Black's attack lasts only one move. He is now even more passive.

22.Rd1-d2 Qb7-e7; 23.Re1-e3 Ba8-b7; 24.Rd2-e2 Nf6-h7;

White has such a stranglehold on the game that Black is left to simply moving his pieces around like a headless chicken not really knowing what to do, simply waiting for White to strike and hoping he will go wrong.

25.f2-f4 f7-f6;

Another aggressive move by White is met by a passive move by Black. His previous move was to allow this but this makes g6 and e6 very weak. 26.Ne5-g6... looks very threatening but doesn't achieve anything.

26.Ne5-g4 Qe7-c7; 27.Re3-g3...

Another aggressive switch. Now the threat is 28.Ng4xh6+ Kg8-h8; 29.Nh6-f7+... with which Black's defence crumbles very quickly. Hence, Black must get his King off the g-file but simply runs into further trouble.

27...Kg8-h8; 28.Bd3xh7!...

At first sight this seems a poor move as it allows Black to swop off a rook and gives up the strong bishop for the weak ineffective knight but it sets up a brilliant winning attack.

28...Rd8-d1+; 29.Re2-e1 Rd1xe1+; 30.Bc3xe1 Kh8xh7; 31.Qh3xh6+!!...

A brilliant move. If 31...g7xh6; 32.Ng4xf6+ Kh7-h8; 33.Rg3-g8 mate. Thus the queen cannot be taken.

31...Kh7-g8; 32.Ng4xf6+...

Of course, Black had no other move but he has run into more trouble on the g-file. Note that White has two pieces en prise but neither can be taken. Black's defences are completely wrecked and the end is in sight.

32...Kg8-f7; 33.Qh6-g6+ Kf7-e7; 34.Qg6xe8+ Ke7xf6;

Or 34...Ke7-d6; 35.Rg3-d3+ Bb7-d5; 36.Nf6-e4 mate. Fitting that the knight should be the mater. However, in the text it is the other minor piece which completes Black's misery.

35.Rg3-g6+ Kf6-f5; 36.Qe8xe6+ Kf5xf4; 37.Be1-d2 mate.

ANSWERS TO PROBLEMS AND LAST EDITION'S COMPETITION

(a) This problem is most intriguing as the first move of the solution would actually result in stalemate in problem (b). This move is: 1.Ba1-f6..., which leave Black with only one move: 1...g7xf6; whereupon White has a forced mate: 2.Ke7-f8 f6-f5 (the only move); 3.Nh6-f7 mate.

(b) As mentioned above a bishop move (above 1.Bh8-c3) leaves stalemate. The knight check does nothing so: 1.Kd2-c3... thus blocking the bishop and allowing Black again only one move - the promotion of the pawn. However, he can opt to a Queen, Rook, Bishop or Knight but none helps him!

1...b2-b1=Q; 2.Na3-c2+ Qb1xc2+; 3.Kc3xc2 mate.

1...b2-b1=R; 2.Na3-c2 mate.

1...b2-b1=B; 2.Na3-c2+ Bb1xc2; 3.Kc3xc2 mate.

1...b2-b1=N+; 2.Kc3-c2+ Nb1-c3; 3.Bh8xc3 mate.

(c) An artistic ending, featuring some clever fencing by the Queen and Knight, with honours even, until the pawn on h5, apparently a spectator, decides to join the fray!

1.a6-a7 Qh4-a4; The only move to stop the pawn queening with mate.

2.f6-f7 Qa4-a3; The only move to cover both pawns' queening squares.

3.Na2-b4!... To cut the lines of communication. 3...Qa3xf3; Again covering the two queening squares.

4.Nb4-d5!... Again cutting the lines. 4...Qf3xd5; allows 5.f7-f8=Q and 6.a7-a8=Q.

4...Qf3-a3; Again the only move.

5.Nd5-e7!... Again cutting the lines. 5...Qa3-f3; Again the only move. Now the knight shocks Black. This is the whole point of the knight moves:

6.Ne7-g6+!! h7xg6; The only move. 7.h5xg6... and wins as Black is helpless against all the threats - 8.a7-a8=Q, f7-f8=Q and g6-g7 mate. In fact the queening of either pawns also leads to mate.

N.B. The clever 7...Qf3-h5+; 8.Kh6xh5 Bh3-g4+!; doesn't work as White plays 9.Kh5-h6... and Black still has his bishop which can move.

Answer to Last Edition's Competition

A stalemate from this position in 8 moves seems incredible as White has 7 mobile pieces on the board. Thus the solution is as beautiful as it is ingenious.

1.Ra4-c4... threatening 2.a2xb3 and 3.Rc4xc2 winning. Thus: 1...b3-b2; 2.Rc4xc2... White cannot stop Black's next move, thus he takes the c-pawn.

2...b2xa1=Q; 3.f2-f3+... Not 3.f2-f4+ which loses! 3...Kh2-g1; The only realistic move. 4.Kh3-h2... threatening 5.Rc2-g2 mate. Hence: 4...Nd5xe3; 5.Rc2-h2...

Now Black is in a peculiar kind of "zugzwang". The knight on e3 must stay there to prevent the mate, the Queen cannot go to c3 or take d4 on account of Ng3-e2+, and if the other knight moves, the Rh2-h1+ wins the Queen.

Hence: 5...f6-f5; 6.f3-f4! (the point of move 3) d6-d5; 7.a2-a3! Qa1xa3; 8.Rh2-g2+ Ne3xg2; STALEMATE!

WINNER: Graeme OSWALD of Chester-le-Street, Co Durham.