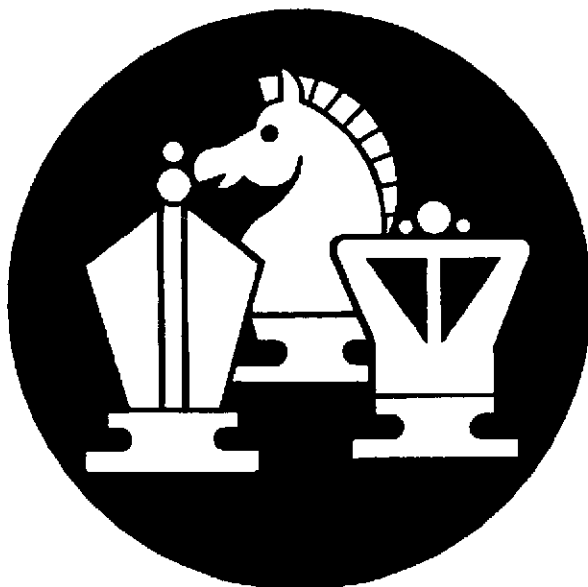


Westward Ho!

The official magazine of the West of England Chess Union



1947 - 97

50th Anniversary Edition

Vol. 4 No. 5

West of England Chess Union

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County	Executive Delegate	Council Delegate
Cornwall	Roger Grime	Ian George
Devon	John Dunleavy	Bob Jones
Dorset	Adrian Rookes	Paul Foster
Gloucestershire	Phillip Meade	Geoff Mann
Hampshire	Stuart Dean	Charles Morris
Somerset	David Woodruff	Martyn Chandler
Wiltshire	Fenella Cohen	Richard Haydon
Bristol League	John Richards	R. J. Palmer

Editorial

50th Anniversary Issue

This is the Union's Golden Anniversary and this issue wishes to commemorate that fact.

The first West of England Championship had been held in 1946, and according to its commemorative booklet the Championship held over the Easter weekend 1947 was the second, so the year in between can be seen as one of gestation, with the Union being born, small but perfectly formed, in June 1947. Written records of this time are rare, the only evidence in the Editor's hands being the aforementioned tiny printed booklet dedicated to the WECU Championship of 1947. The next item to hand is the souvenir of the 15th Congress in 1960 after which the record is more or less complete.

WECU Archives?

In the light of this would not this 50th Anniversary be a good moment to review the Union's policy to keeping an appropriate archive? Westward Ho! has been a magnificent record of all the Union's activities, but even this magazine's origins are somewhat shrouded. How did it start? Do the earliest issues still exist and can a complete collection be formed at this stage? Should WECU appoint an Archivist, as Devon has done, to save and collect anything relating to the history of Union chess, and where should such an archive be situated? Ideas and views would be welcome.

WECU's Role

It is sometimes said that the role of the Unions has been declining in recent years, with developments like Direct Membership and the Game Fee scheme all playing a part. WECU has had to recognise this and has cut its cloth accordingly, making cuts in expenditure to reflect a loss in income. The Autumn Executive has been cut out and events have had to become more self-financing. But the programme of events has not changed in any significant way. WECU still runs the Inter-County matches, the Congress, which includes the West of England Championship, the Jamboree, the Junior Jamboree and Individual Championships, not to mention the grading service. All of which adds up to an impressive record of activity by officers.

It is true that some of these activities are coming under pressure, but these are mainly due to factors beyond the Union's control. County captains, for example, are finding it increasingly difficult to get 32 players out on a Saturday afternoon. This is not unique to any one county within the Union, nor to the Union itself. It is

common throughout the country, due to a variety of reasons, both sociological and chessological. If these factors cannot be influenced by the Union then the Union will have to adapt accordingly, and this is what it is trying to do.

The 50 year history of the Union is one of gradual evolution, a process that must surely continue into the next millenium, so who knows what shape WECU will have adopted by its centenary.

WECU In Cyberspace

Possibly the first new development of its second 50 years is WECU's arrival on the Internet. Readers may recall Dave Regis' excellent article in the last Westward Ho! on Chess and the Internet. Since then he has been instrumental in setting up a "home page" or "web site" on the Internet for the Devon Association, on the same lines as one he had done earlier for the Exeter Chess Club. Having completed this, he has now done the same for WECU. Now, anyone with access to a computer & modem can access the WECU pages for news of chess in the South West. Hopefully, it will be like a Westward Ho! of the airwaves. And if this sounds a bit esoteric and academic, it should be remembered that the Exeter Club page was accessed no less than 37,000 times in its first year. So there are many folk out there taking an interest in South West chess.

Is this not a good omen for the future health of the Union itself?

Whatever the future holds, congratulations to WECU and to all who have given their services to it over the past half century.

R. H. Jones.
Editor.



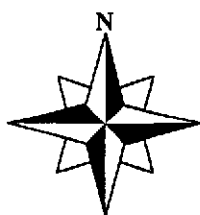
Many thanks to everyone who has contributed material for this anniversary issue, including, in no particular order:-

Frank Kingdon (Dorset); John Wheeler (Devon/Hants); Alan Dommatt (Dorset); Steve Boniface (Bristol League); Nigel Johnson (Hants); Mark Blackmore (Devon); Vic Cross (Devon).

Please continue to send all material for possible inclusion in future issues to me whenever it becomes available. Send it to:-

40, Phillipps Avenue, Exmouth. EX8 3HZ
Tel & fax 01395-223340
E-mail 106424.1175@compuserve.com

Around the Counties



Devon

East Devon Congress

Entries for this year's East Devon Congress were down this year from the usual near 200 to 160 competitors. Up-and-coming David Hodge was fancied to do well, as he did by coming 3rd=, but it was Bristol players who dominated the Premier, occupying the first two boards in Round 4. In the end Paul Helbig's 4/4 allowed him to settle for a quick draw with Richard Haydon in the last round.

In the Major section, Nick Frost of Tiverton raced to 4½ points but was pipped for the trophy on tie break by Jody Wood of Street. Curiously, players from those same two clubs shared 3rd place too, Ivor Annetts of Tiverton and G. Streer of Street. Their success helped Tiverton take the prize of a chess clock as the Team Prize.

The Intermediate section was settled by an intriguing game between Dave Rogers of Exmouth and Roger Knight of Yeovil and only cool thinking by the local player retained the win.

Norman West and John Whitfield shared the Minor title.

Summary

Premier:

1st	P. Helbig	Bath	4½	£200
2nd=	R. Haydon	Clifton	4	£80
	R. Nixon	E. Brook		£80
4th=	D. Osborne	Grendel	3½	£14
	M. Waddington	Wimborne		£14
	D. Hodge	Teignmouth		£14

Major:

1st=	J. Wood	Street	4½	£112
	N. Frost	Tiverton		£112
3rd=	I Annetts	Tiverton	4	£40
	G. Streer	Street		£40
<130	D. Bouliden	Godolphin	3½	£15
	D. Freeman	Yeovil	3½	£15

Intermediate:

1st	D. R. Rogers	Exmouth	4½	£120
2nd=	P. Bloom	Hayes	4	£37
	R. Knight	Yeovil		£37
	J. Harris	Stroud		£37
<110	Paula Le Gallez	Tiverton	3½	£20

Minor:

1st=	J. Whitfield	Harpford	4½	£75
	N. Went	Thamesview		£75
3rd	J. Poxon	Chard	4	£25
4th=	I. Greenhalgh	S. Hams	3½	£5
	D. Bate-Smith	Barnet		£5
	W.W. Pope	Bodmin		£5
<76	E. Matthews	Ilfracombe	3½	£15
U/G	J. Rose	Westinghouse	4	£20
Veteran	N. Heywood	Halesowen	3½	£20

Teignmouth Rapidplay

19th April 1997

Premier:

1st	M. E. van Wissen (Holland)	195	5 pts
2nd=	R. H. Lingham (Exeter)	160	4½
	J. Ridolfo (Plymouth)	163	
	J. Menadue (Truro)	188	

Grading prize: U-156

R. Young	(Teignmouth)	147	3½
S. Bartlett	(Bodmin)	136	

Under 120:

1st=	R. Scott	(Tiverton)	111	5½
	A. Stephens	(Gloucester)	98	

Grading prize: U-96

A. Dewbery	(Tiverton)	88	4 pts
P. Holmes	(Teignmouth)	92	

Under 11 yrs:

1st	S. Parkes	(Torquay)	76	5½ pts
2nd	D. Stephens	(Gloucester)	74	5
Best girl:	E. Havill	(Lymptone)	ug	4

Dorset

32nd Weymouth Congress 1996

Championship:

1st=	J. Rudd	(Yeovil)	4½/5
	J. E. Cobb	(Swindon)	
3rd	C. A. Cobb	(Swindon)	4
4th	A. N. Greet	(Truro)	3½
	P. G. House	(Nailsea)	
	D. E. Pye	(Portsmouth)	

Grading prize: B. R. Johnson (Salisbury) 3

Major:

1st	A. Pleasants	(Weymouth)	4½/5
2nd=	I. R. Taggart	(Exeter)	4
	J. S. Duckham	(Tiverton)	
	J. Morrison	(London)	

Grading prize: T. F. McKenna (Beckenham)

Gloucestershire

Minor:

1st C. J. Kidd (Hounslow) 5/5 pts
 2nd P. Szabo (Metropolitan) 4½
 L. Balem (Weymouth)
 Junior prize: O. Cooley (Beckenham)
 Grading Prize E. Cooper (Paignton)

2nd Dorset Rapidplay

1st= I. Clark 5/6 pts
 K. Goater
 G. White
 4th= E. Barker 4½
 M. Simons

Grading Prizes:

U155 S. Crisp 4
 U130 L. Cox 4
 U110 D. King 3
 K. Spooner

Junior Prize O. Lenton

The Bournemouth & District Chess League produce their own magazine, **NewsKnight**, under the editorship of Alan Dommatt, with the helping hands of Martin Simons, Steve Crisp and Richard Holmes. In his latest editorial (Jan 1997) Alan identifies the gulf between those who argue that chess periodicals should concentrate on the play of the world's most gifted players in the expectation that their ideas will thereby filter down to the average club member, and those who feel that the play of today's Super GMs has become so technical and abstruse as to be of little value to the general chess playing public. He goes on"Clearly, this gulf not only exists, but could be likened to the difference between the technical grace and beauty of a Carl Lewis sprint and a Monty Python dash for those with no sense of direction.

Unfortunately, down here in Dorset we do not have a Grandmaster to consult on the matter, and even if we did, I doubt is he would be available for a quick chat before turning out for his club side on a wet night in New Milton.

Perhaps the key is one of change, to provide a variety of material which is relevant to your audience. If Chess Monthly begins to think along the same lines, we may see a little less of Novgorod and a little more of Paignton in the issues to come. While you wait, I hope you enjoy the humble offerings within the pages of the unashamedly amateur **NewsKnight**".

We couldn't have put it better ourselves!

Readers who would like to enquire about future copies of **NewsKnight** should contact Martin Simons

Stroud Rapidplay:

8th December

Open: 1st C. Baker 5½/6
 U156: 1st J. Weatherlake 5½/6
 U126: 1st= K. Kahar & T. Marke 5/6
 U101: 1st B. Bareham 5½/6

Hampshire

Hampshire Individual Congress

15 - 17th November

Open: 1st J. Fraser 5/6 2nd D. Tunks 5/6
 U175: 1st A. Alexander 4½
 U150: 1st= R. Perris & P. Barber 3½
 U125: 1st M. Gamod 2½



Civil Service Championships

South West Region

Following regional heats at Exeter and Bristol, the final took place on Wednesday 12th March at the Taunton Civil Service Club.

Alan Brusey and John Carr came 1st & 2nd respectively and now go on to the National Finals at Leeds.

Details:

			1	2	3	4	5	6	
Alan Brusey	173	NewtonAbbot	x	½		1		1	2½
John Carr	147	Cheltenham	½	x	1		½		2
Neville Lane	151	Exeter		0	x	½	1		1½
Sean Pope	156	Exeter	0		½	x		1	1½
Andy Hewitt	142	Bristol		½	0		x	1	1½
Dave Gordon	64	Bristol	0			0	0	x	0

Chess on Ceefax

Chess has recently returned to Ceefax, the information service on BBC television. Page 578 holds 8 screensful of news on home chess and page 579 has 19 screensful of international chess.

The Editor is Adam Raoof who can be contacted by fax on 0181-202-0982 or

E-mail adam@circuit.demon.co.uk or by post to:-
 68a, High Street, Bideford, Devon. EX39 2AN

Inter-County Matches Results

Details of every game played

In spite of the difficulties experienced in the first part of the season, with an unprecedented number of defaults, things got better as the season progressed. The First Team Competition proved a very close affair with only two points covering five of the seven teams. Gloucestershire found themselves a new captain in Mr. Horlick, who was able to pull his team through to joint 2nd place, just one point behind the winners, an excellent result after such an unpromising start. Their draw against Hampshire was a high point for them, just as for Devon it was their most unexpected win against the champions. Who would have thought they would score 4 points on the top 5 boards.

There is still something of a question mark over the Wayling Cup competition. Cornwall found they couldn't even field 12 boards, and had to withdraw completely. Wiltshire, too, are considering contracting their 2nd team. The shape of this competition is gradually metamorphosing into something slightly different. How far can this process go?

DEVON v WILTSHIRE 7th December 1996

1 Wheeler J F	189 ½ - ½	Law A	220
2 Hewson B	180 0 - 1	Cobb C A	213
3 Lane P C R	174 0 - 1	Haydon R	197
4 Brusey A W	173 0 - 1	Headlong T	196
5 Musson R	177 0 - 1	Elliott S	165
6 Pickering A	171 ½ - ½	Windebank G	169
7 Hodge D J	168 ½ - ½	Johnson B R	169
8 Bellers C J	162 1 - 0	Lea E G	167
9 Collins C	163 0 - 1	Naylor P	161
10 Pope S	156 ½ - ½	Quinn D	165
11 Scott P	155 ½ - ½	Headlong F M	167
12 Walton E T	154 1 - 0	Ward D E	143
13 Towers R C	154 1 - 0	Woodward T	142
14 Rudall D	153 0 - 1	Phoutsady C	142
15 Leigh M	152 1 - 0	Champion A W	139
16 Taggart I	150 0 - 1	Tanner G	118
	6½ - 9½		

17 Ingham W	143 ½ - ½	Grant S	128
18 Gorodi J G	146 1 - 0	Willson J	125
19 Abbot M V	144 1 - 0	Carver R	111
20 Rosseinsky J	139 1 - 0	Walters M	100
21 Frost N A	140 1 - 0	Chase Jenny	99
22 Burbage D	140 1 - 0	Hyde K	95
23 Wright A	138 1 - 0	Reynolds S	98
24 Annetts I S	137 1 - 0	Brown D	87
25 Hamon Dr M	136 1 - 0	Hartford Mrs E	91

** Boards 10 to 16 defaulted by Wiltshire
15½ - 0½

HAMPSHIRE v GLOUCESTER 7th December 1996

1 Thompson I	202 1 - 0	Burn M E	186
2 Yeo M J	201 1 - 0	White I	185
3 Morris C F	198 ½ - ½	Hosken N	177
4 Pye D	197 1 - 0	Grossett D D	174
5 Anderton M	190 0 - 1	Dodwell P	170
6 Tunks D	189 1 - 0	Bolt G	166
7 Purdon C	183 0 - 1	Meade P J	164
8 Marsh R D W	176 ½ - ½	Boyce J R	163
9 Wilkinson J R	171 ½ - ½	White S M	162
10 Bell D W	167 1 - 0	Taylor G P	160
11 Jameson I	166 0 - 1	Pickup I R	157
12 Newbury M L	166 1 - 0	Day P F	157
13 Buckley M G	159 ½ - ½	Breakspear A	155

Boards 14 to 16 defaulted by Hampshire

8 - 8

1 Smith S J	157 ½ - ½	Passmore M	139
2 Priest M C	152 0 - 1	Ponter I	136
3 Hagan M C	152 ½ - ½	Sherman A M	130
4 Stenhouse I A	152 1 - 0	Francis R	128
5 Perrin R D	149 0 - 1	Oliver C M	123
6 Byard K	148 ½ - ½	Stephens P	117
7 Barber P	147 1 - 0	Roberts S C	118
8 Thompson D	143 1 - 0	Horlick W	115
9 Knight B J	137 ½ - ½	Blencowe I P	113
10 Grant B	129 0 - 1	Wood M J	107
11 Culliford D J	120 ½ - ½	Baker P	107
12 Agius V	115 1 - 0	Darvill A	85

Boards 13 to 16 defaulted by Hampshire

6½ - 9½

SOMERSET v CORNWALL 7th December 1996

1 Rudd J	200 0 - 1	Greet A N	201
2 Bamford A	160 1 - 0	Menadue J F S	188
3 Littlejohns D	163 ½ - ½	George I.M.	179
4 McMillan I	160 ½ - ½	Grime R.J.	162
5 Fewkes J E	156 ½ - ½	Addicott S	155
6 Jepps G N	154 1 - 0	Nicholas J J	151
7 Winch C E	149 1 - 0	Trudeau G	143
8 Default	0 0 - 1	Bartlett S	136
9 Baker M R	142 ½ - ½	Sellwood C	131
10 Gosling B G	139 1 - 0	Boulden D	128
11 Wallis T A	135 ½ - ½	Munday P	122
12 Ayres J	132 1 - 0	Barkhysen A	117
13 Woodruff D	131 ½ - ½	Wilde T J E	113
14 Mc Kinley C	131 1 - 0	Church E A	100
15 Senior N N	130 1 - 0	Stockton M	99
16 Barratt C F	126 1 - 0	Price R	87

11 - 5

Second team match defaulted by Cornwall

DEVON v HAMPSHIRE
4th January 1997

1 Lane G W	225	1 - 0	Webb R M	210
2 Wheeler J F	189	1 - 0	Thompson I D	202
3 Hewson B W	180	1 - 0	Yeo M J	201
4 Hodge D J	168	0 - 1	Morris C F	198
5 Lane P C R	174	1 - 0	Pye D	197
6 Levy S	170	0 - 1	Coates K G	193
7 Thynne T F	163	0 - 1	Noyce R C	189
8 Brusey A W	173	½ - ½	Tunks D	189
9 Hills K B	172	½ - ½	Marsh R D W	176
10 Pickering A	171	½ - ½	Knox S W	171
11 Bellers C J	162	0 - 1	Bell D W	167
12 Collins C	163	½ - ½	Jameson I	166
13 Hill D	160	½ - ½	Newbury M L	166
14 Ridolfo J	163	0 - 1	McLeod F N	163
15 Kinder A S	161	1 - 0	Body M	163
16 Scott P	155	1 - 0	Buckley M G	159

8½- 7½

17 Towers R C	154	½ - ½	Smith S J	157
18 Walton E T	154	½ - ½	Alexander A	155
19 Leigh M	152	0 - 1	Cary I	153
20 Rudall D	153	1 - 0	Priest M C	152
21 Taggart I	150	0 - 1	Hagan M C	152
22 Wright A	138	0 - 1	Stenhouse I A	152
23 Abbot M V	144	0 - 1	Cooper P	151
24 Rosseinsky J	139	½ - ½	Perrin R D	149
25 Annetts I S	137	0 - 1	Hoskins D I	148
26 Ingham W	143	½ - ½	Byard K	148
27 Brookwell C	141	0 - 1	Barber P	147
28 Hamon Dr M	136	1 - 0	Massey P J	147
29 Hodge F. R.	135	½ - ½	Kinsler D	145
30 Jones R H	134	0 - 1	Knight B J	137
31 Adams D	135	1 - 0	Default	0
32 Hodge B	100	0 - 1	Culliford D J	120

5½-10½

GLOUCESTER v WILTSHIRE
4th January 1997

1 Phillips R	186	½ - ½	Law A	220
2 Jones C J A	188	½ - ½	Haydon R	197
3 Burn M E	186	½ - ½	Richmond P A	200
4 White I	185	½ - ½	Cooper A C	185
5 Hosken N	177	½ - ½	Elliott S	165
6 Buchanan D	177	½ - ½	Windebank G	169
7 Andriessen G	172	1 - 0	Naylor P	161
8 Dodwell P	170	1 - 0	Lea E G	167
9 Meade P J	164	½ - ½	Wingfield N	160
10 Boyce J R	163	1 - 0	Headlong F M	167
11 White S M	162	½ - ½	Chapman G	153
12 Taylor G P	160	½ - ½	Ward D E	143
13 Pickup I R	157	1 - 0	O'Byrne D L	135
14 Day P F	157	1 - 0	Champion A	139
15 Breakspear A	155	½ - ½	Woodward T	142
16 Carr J J	147	½ - ½	Tanner G	118

10½- 5½

17 Poole C	143	1 - 0	Grant S	128
18 Passmore M	139	1 - 0	Willson J	125
19 Ponter I	136	0 - 1	Mayer R	136
20 Powis R O	134	½ - ½	Carver R	111
21 Poole T	134	1 - 0	Baker N	110
22 Baker J C	128	1 - 0	Mayer A	102
23 Francis R	128	1 - 0	Collingwood J	101
24 Oliver C M	123	1 - 0	Chase Jenny	99
25 Harris J B	122	0 - 1	Walters M	100
26 Powney C R	121	1 - 0	Hyde K	95
27 Roberts S C	118	1 - 0	Reynolds S	98
28 Stephens P	117	½ - ½	Brown D	87
29 Horlick W	115	1 - 0	Grant C	85
30 Wood M J	107	1 - 0	Duffy P	66

Wiltshire defaulted boards 31 & 32

13 - 3

SOMERSET v DORSET
11th January 1997

1 Rudd J	200	½ - ½	Simons M J	194
2 Brogden J	170	½ - ½	White G A	186
3 Bamford A	160	0 - 1	Freeman M J	180
4 Littlejohns D	163	0 - 1	Willets G J	177
5 McMillan I	160	1 - 0	Pleasants A J	175
6 Brierley M	158	1 - 0	Waddington M	173
7 Fewkes J E	156	0 - 1	Jenks C B	163
8 Jepps G N	154	½ - ½	Lines T J	162
9 Buckley D E	152	½ - ½	Mann C P B	156
10 Winch C E	149	0 - 1	Iyengar S R	153
11 Chapman P M	149	½ - ½	Needham H D	154
12 Hendy J S	148	1 - 0	Saraha K A	149
13 Wood D C	144	0 - 1	Kingdon F C	152
14 Baker M R	142	½ - ½	Hebert A	140
15 Gosling B G	139	0 - 1	Laker L	149
16 Dobber P	136	½ - ½	Papworth D E	144

6½- 9½

17 Wallis T A	135	0 - 1	Balfour D A	147
18 Ayres J	132	½ - ½	Cartwright G	147
19 Woodruff D	131	1 - 0	Oldfield J A	137
20 Mc Kinley C	131	½ - ½	Rapkins D G	137
21 Cole E W	131	½ - ½	Brackner P	137
22 Senior N N	130	0 - 1	Lenton O	136
23 Manning P	129	1 - 0	Walker B	134
24 Steer G	127	0 - 1	Weir T	128
25 Barratt C F	126	0 - 1	Bond M G	135
26 Maishman R	125	½ - ½	Foster P	132
27 Marke T N	123	1 - 0	Culleton S E	131
28 Knight R D	122	½ - ½	Cherryson J C	133
29 Berryman G	119	0 - 1	Kelly W J	123
30 Turner R D	117	0 - 1	Primmitt A D	123
31 Cooper M E	104	1 - 0	Sheehan E A	120
32 Buckley S A	102	0 - 1	Dalzell J	119

6½- 9½

GLOUCESTER v SOMERSET

18th January 1997

1	Burn M E	186	1 - 0	Rudd J	200
2	White I	185	1 - 0	Brogden J	170
3	Hosken N	177	1 - 0	Bamford A	160
4	Andriessen G	172	½ - ½	Sellars M R	165
5	Lesniowski D	170	1 - 0	Littlejohns D	163
6	Denison P	167	1 - 0	Buckley S T	161
7	Meade P J	164	½ - ½	McMillan I	160
8	Boyce J R	163	0 - 1	Brierley M	158
9	White S M	162	0 - 1	Fewkes J E	156
10	Taylor G P	160	1 - 0	Jepps G N	154
11	Pickup I R	157	0 - 1	Buckley D E	152
12	Day P F	157	1 - 0	Winch C E	149
13	Jordan D	156	½ - ½	Chapman P M	149
14	Carr J J	147	½ - ½	Hendy J S	148
15	Comley R	144	0 - 1	Wood D C	144
16	Passmore M	139	0 - 1	Dobber P	136
			9 - 7		

17	Ponter I	136	1 - 0	Woodruff D	131
18	Barwood G	136	0 - 1	Mc Kinley C	131
19	Powis R O	134	1 - 0	Senior N N	130
20	Millbank H	131	½ - ½	Manning P	129
21	Allen R N	129	0 - 1	Steer G	127
22	Baker J C	128	1 - 0	Barratt C F	126
23	Hipwell B D	126	1 - 0	Marke T N	123
24	Oliver C M	123	0 - 1	Knight R D	122
25	Roberts S C	118	1 - 0	Mills S	121
26	Horlick W	115	0 - 1	Berryman G T	119
27	Blencowe I P	113	0 - 1	Turner R D	117
28	Andriessen R	115	1 - 0	Bamford A	160
29	Wood M J	107	1 - 0	Cooper M E	104
30	Baker P	107	1 - 0	Buckley S A	102
31	Stephens A	98	1 - 0	Buckley S B	92
32	Darvill A	85	0 - 1	MacArthur D	81
			9½ - 6½		

CORNWALL v GLOUCESTER

25th January 1997

1	Greet A N	201	½ - ½	Jones C J A	188
2	Menadue J F	188	1 - 0	Horlick S	185
3	George I.M.	179	½ - ½	Hosken N	177
4	Grime R.J.	162	½ - ½	Buchanan D	177
5	Mantle J S J	160	½ - ½	Andriessen G	172
6	Addicott S	155	1 - 0	Bolt G	166
7	Nicholas J J	151	½ - ½	Meade P J	164
8	Trudeau G	143	0 - 1	Boyce J R	163
9	Sellwood C	131	0 - 1	Taylor G P	160
10	Greet D	131	½ - ½	Day P F	157
11	Boulden D	128	0 - 1	Jordan D	156
12	Munday P	122	0 - 1	Carr J J	147
13	Wilde T J E	113	½ - ½	Passmore M	139
14	Stockton M	99	0 - 1	Francis R	128
15	Wilde S	89	0 - 1	Oliver C M	123
16	Middleton M	77	0 - 1	Harris J B	122
			5½ - 10½		

DORSET v DEVON

25th January 1997

1	Simons M J	194	½ - ½	Wheeler J F	189
2	White G A	186	½ - ½	Hewson B W	180
3	Clark I C	175	1 - 0	Lane P C R	174
4	Pleasants A J	175	1 - 0	Musson R	177
5	Jenks C B	163	1 - 0	Hodge D J	168
6	Lines T J	162	½ - ½	Lee R A	172
7	Mann C P B	156	½ - ½	Brusey A W	173
8	Iyengar S R	153	½ - ½	Pickering A	171
9	Crisp S C	153	0 - 1	Bellers C J	162
10	Sarahs K A	149	0 - 1	Regis D	168
11	Kingdon F C	152	½ - ½	Thynne T F	163
12	Laker L	149	1 - 0	Ridolfo J	163
13	Hebert A	140	0 - 1	Kinder A S	161
14	Balfour D A	147	½ - ½	Hill D	160
15	Cartwright G	147	1 - 0	Walton E T A	154
16	Papworth D	144	1 - 0	Pope S	156
			9½ - 6½		

17	Brackner P	137	½ - ½	Towers R C	154
18	Lenton O	136	0 - 1	Rudall D	153
19	Bond M G	135	0 - 1	Leigh M	152
20	Foster P	132	0 - 1	Taggart I	150
21	Culleton S E	131	0 - 1	Gorodi J G	146
22	Cherryson J	133	0 - 1	Young R	147
23	McKenna J	130	1 - 0	Abbot M V	144
24	Harris J E	128	0 - 1	Frost N A	140
25	Kelly W J	123	1 - 0	Burbage D	140
26	Hamilton Taylor	125	0 - 1	Brookwell C	141
27	Primmatt A D	123	0 - 1	Homer S	129
28	Squires M A	122	0 - 1	Rosseinsky J.	139
29	Davies J M	122	½ - ½	Hamon Dr M	136
30	Bullock A C	121	½ - ½	Jones R H	134
31	Sheehan E A	120	0 - 1	Adams D	135
32	Ambrose C J	114	1 - 0	Bloodworth K	129
			4½ - 11½		

WILTSHIRE v SOMERSET

9th February 1997

1	Law A	220	0 - 1	Rudd J	200
2	Cobb C A	213	1 - 0	Helbig P D	189
3	Haydon R	197	1 - 0	Brogden J	170
4	Headlong T	196	1 - 0	Bamford A	160
5	Zeidler S P	199	1 - 0	Default	0
6	Varley P	194	0 - 1	Littlejohns D	163
7	Cooper A C	185	1 - 0	Buckley S T	161
8	Elliott S	165	0 - 1	Brierley M	158
9	Churm R	180	0 - 1	Buckley D E	152
10	Johnson B R	169	0 - 1	Winch C E	149
11	Windebank G	169	1 - 0	Chapman P M	149
12	Naylor P	161	½ - ½	Hendy J S	148
13	Quinn D	165	1 - 0	Wood D C	144
14	Lea E G	167	½ - ½	Baker M R	142
15	Wingfield N	160	1 - 0	Gosling B G	139
16	Headlong F	167	½ - ½	Dobber P	136
			9½ - 6½		

Second team match defaulted by Cornwall

17	Callow C T	150	½ - ½	Wallis T A	135
18	Chapman G	153	1 - 0	Ayres J	132
19	Ward D E	143	½ - ½	Cole E W	131
20	Phoutsady C	142	½ - ½	Senior N N	130
21	Woodward T	142	½ - ½	Steer G	127
22	O'Byrne D L	135	1 - 0	Barratt C F	126
23	Champion A	139	0 - 1	Eadie R	125
24	Tanner G	118	1 - 0	Marke T N	123
25	Grant S	128	½ - ½	Knight R D	122
26	Carver R	111	0 - 1	Berryman G T	119
27	Willson J	125	½ - ½	Turner R D	117
28	Walters M	100	½ - ½	Cooper M E	104
29	Brown D	87	½ - ½	Buckley S A	102
30	Reynolds S	98	½ - ½	Roberts K J	94
31	Hartford Mrs E	91	½ - ½	Helbig Mrs D	86
32	Hyde K	95	0 - 1	MacArthur D	81

8 - 8

DORSET v HAMPSHIRE
8th March 1997

1	Simons M J	194	0 - 1	Webb R M	210
2	White G A	186	1 - 0	Bennett G H	203
3	Hopkins J R	185	0 - 1	Thompson I D	202
4	Goater K P	181	0 - 1	Yeo M J	201
5	Freeman M J	180	0 - 1	Brameld A F	199
6	Hirsch B M	177	1 - 0	Morris C F	198
7	Clark I C	175	1 - 0	Coates K G	193
8	Dommett A J	171	0 - 1	Anderton M	190
9	Barker E	167	0 - 1	Noyce R C	189
10	Jenks C B	163	½ - ½	Tunks D	189
11	Valentine R	157	0 - 1	Purdon C	183
12	Mann C P B	156	½ - ½	Knox S W	171
13	Pollyn S	155	1 - 0	Wilkinson J R	171
14	Needham H	154	½ - ½	Nevalainen J	170
15	Crisp S C	153	½ - ½	Bell D W	167
16	Iyengar S R	153	0 - 1	Jameson I	166

6 - 10

17	Catchpole J	161	0 - 1	Newbury M L	166
18	Sarahs K A	149	0 - 1	Mc Leod F N	163
19	Simms T E	152	0 - 1	Miller P D	160
20	Kingdon F C	152	0 - 1	Buckley M G	159
21	Burton R	150	½ - ½	Smith S J	157
22	Hansen J B	150	½ - ½	Alexander A	155
23	Laker L	149	½ - ½	Dean S	155
24	Balfour D A	147	½ - ½	Samuels A	152
25	Cartwright G	147	0 - 1	Priest M C	152
26	Rapkins D G	137	0 - 1	Hagan M C	152
27	Lenton O	136	1 - 0	Stenhouse I A	152
28	Bond M G	135	0 - 1	Perrin R D	149
29	Adams M W	134	½ - ½	Hoskins D I	148
30	McKenna J	130	1 - 0	Barber P	147
31	Hamilton Taylor	125	0 - 1	Thompson D	143
32	Kelly W J	123	1 - 0	Coates N J	125

5½-10½

SOMERSET v DEVON
8th March 1997

1	Rudd J	200	0 - 1	Wheeler J F	189
2	Helbig P D	189	½ - ½	Hewson B W	180
3	Whitcutt J	185	0 - 1	Lane P C R	174
4	Brogden J	170	½ - ½	Hodge D J	168
5	Bamford A	160	0 - 1	Scott P	155
6	Littlejohns D	163	½ - ½	Bellers C J	162
7	Buckley S T	161	1 - 0	Brusey A W	173
8	Jepps G N	154	1 - 0	Pickering A	171
9	Chapman P M	149	0 - 1	Hill D	160
10	Hendy J S	148	½ - ½	Bloodworth K	129
11	Baker M R	142	½ - ½	Ridolfo J	163
12	Gosling B G	139	½ - ½	Walton E T	154
13	Dobber P	136	0 - 1	Leigh M	152
14	Paine A	136	0 - 1	Young R	147
15	Wallis T A	135	1 - 0	Pope S	156
16	Ayres J	132	½ - ½	Rudall D	153

6½-9½

17	Woodruff D	131	0 - 1	Towers R C	154
18	Mc Kinley C	131	0 - 1	Taggart I	150
19	Cole E W	131	½ - ½	Gorodi J G	146
20	Manning P	129	0 - 1	Frost N A	140
21	Barratt C F	126	1 - 0	Rosseinsky J	139
22	Maishman R	125	0 - 1	Abbot M V	144
23	Marke T N	123	0 - 1	Annetts I S	137
24	Knight R D	122	0 - 1	Barnett C R	135
25	Berryman G	119	0 - 1	Ingham W	143
26	Turner R D	117	½ - ½	Hamon Dr M	136
27	Cooper M E	104	½ - ½	Jones R H	134
28	Buckley S A	102	0 - 1	Adams D	135
29	Roberts K J	94	½ - ½	Roberts P J	126
30	Helbig Mrs D J	86	½ - ½	Sparke E G	127
31	Cooper R M	79	½ - ½	Mason I S	81
32	Sarginson I A	76	0 - 1	Kinder A S	161

4 - 12

WILTSHIRE v CORNWALL
8th March 1997

1	Haydon R	197	½ - ½	Greet A N	201
2	Headlong T	196	1 - 0	Menadue J F	188
3	Richmond P	200	½ - ½	Grime R.J.	162
4	Elliott S	165	1 - 0	Mantle J S J	160
5	Bourne J D	171	1 - 0	Addicott S	155
6	Windebank G	169	½ - ½	Nicholas J J	151
7	Quinn D	165	1 - 0	Trudeau G	143
8	Lea E G	167	1 - 0	Bartlett S	136
9	Wingfield N	160	1 - 0	Greet D	131
10	Headlong F	167	0 - 1	Sellwood C	131
11	Phoutsady C	142	½ - ½	Boulden D	128
12	O'Byrne D L	135	1 - 0	Barkhysen A	117
13	Woodward T	142	1 - 0	Wilde T J E	113
14	Tanner G	118	1 - 0	Stockton M	99
15	Carver R	111	½ - ½	Manton T	95
16	Brown D	87	½ - ½	Wilde S	89

12 - 4

Second team match defaulted by Cornwall.

Division I :: Harold Meek Competition

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Tot	
1	Cornwall	xx	5½	7	5½	d/f	5	4	0	7
2	Devon	10½	xx	6½	8	8½	9½	6½	7	5
3	Dorset	9	9½	xx	10	6	9½	5	8	=2
4	Gloucestershire	10½	8	6	xx	8	9	10½	8	2
5	Hampshire	w/o	7½	10	8	xx	10½	12	9	1
6	Somerset	11	6½	6½	7	5½	xx	6½	2	6
7	Wiltshire	12	9½	11	5½	4	9½	xx	8	=2

Division II :: Wayling Cup Competition

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Tot	
1	Cornwall	xx	½	df	df	df	df	df	0	7
2	Devon	7½	xx	11½	14½	5½	12	15½	10	1.5
3	Dorset	w/o	4½	xx	14	5½	9½	13	8	=3
4	Gloucestershire	w/o	1½	2	xx	9½	9½	13	8	=3
5	Hampshire	w/o	10½	10½	6½	xx	10	13½	10	1.5
6	Somerset	w/o	4	6½	6½	6	xx	8	3	=5
7	Wiltshire	w/o	½	3	3	2½	8	xx	3	=5

The following counties were nominated for the Quarter-Finals of the Counties Championships:-

Championship: 1. Hampshire 2. Gloucestershire
 Minor Counties: 1. Wiltshire 2. Dorset.
 Under 175: 1. Hampshire 2. Devon
 Under 150: 1. Hampshire
 Under 125: 1. Devon
 Under 100: 1. Devon -

Proposed Programme for 1997/98

This programme is subject to ratification by Council in June. Any county foreseeing problems about the dates, or who will be playing over fewer than the normal number of boards, should make representations to the Fixtures Secretary, Frank Kingdon.

Date				Bye
4th October 97	Corn v Wilts	Dorset v Som	Hants v Devon	Glos
25th October 97	Glos v Corn	Hants v Dorset	Wilts v Devon	Somerset
8th November 97	Devon v Corn	Dorset v Glos	Soms v Wilts	Hampshire
6th December 97	Devon v Soms	Hants v Corn	Wilts v Glos	Dorset
10 January 98	Dorset v Wilts	Glos v Devon	Soms v Hants	Cornwall
31st January 98	Corn v Dorset	Soms v Glos	Wilts v Hants	Devon
7th March 98	Corn v Soms	Devon v Dorset	Glos v Hants	Wiltshire

Possibly the upset of the inter-county programme was Devon's defeat of Hampshire in the Wayling Cup, Devon winning 4 - 1 on the top five boards. Here is the game from Board 2 with notes by the winner.

White: John Wheeler

Black: Ian Thompson

In this game, I found myself outside the book. Apparently, the book stops after black's 8th move, saying the line is good for black. I haven't got as far as that in the book, so I continued playing.

1. d4 e6 2. c4 b6

I decided to treat this as a Queen's Indian without the initial Nf6. In this opening, white usually has to struggle to get in e4, but here there is nothing to stop me playing it at once, or so I thought.

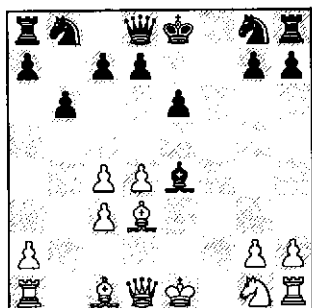
3. e4 Bb7 4. Nc3 Bb4

5. Bd3 f5 6. f3 If he can weaken his

king's side by moving the f-pawn, so can I.

6. ...fxe4

7. fxe4 Bxc3+ 8. bxc3 Bxe4



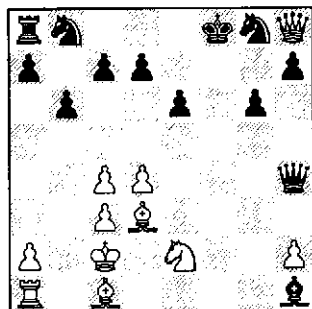
And black has won a pawn, since Bxe4 is met by Qh4+. However, if there are going to be queen checks on a short diagonal, white gets in first.

9. Qh5+ g6 10. Qe5 Bxg2 Bxd3 also

came into consideration.

11. Qxh8 Qh4+ 12. Kd1 Kf8

13. Ne2 Bxh1 14. Kc2



White now threatens 15. Ba3+ and 16. Rxb1 as well as 15. Bxg6, so I was not surprised by black's next.

14. ...Be4

15. Bh6+ Qxb6 Not Kf7, 16. Qg7+

16. Bxe4 Nc6

17. Rf1+ Ke7 18. Bxc6 dxc6

19. Qe5 Kd7 19...Rc8 seems better.

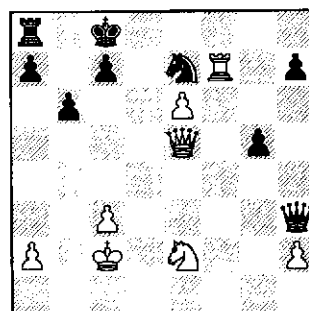
20. Rf7+ Ne7

21. d5 cxd5 22. cxd5 g5

23. Rf6 Qh3 23...Qg7 lasts a little longer.

24. dxe6+ Kc8

25. Rf7 Resigns



Final position

This result was particularly welcome as I had lost to Ian in the Jamboree match a few months earlier, and if that game had been decisive in giving Hampshire the Senior Trophy on tie break, I was pleased to make amends on this occasion.



National Stages - Under 175 - Preliminary Round

Frampton on Severn 26.04.97.

Devon		Gtr Manchester	
1. P.C. Lane	174 1 - 0	J. L. Bentlet	170
2. A. W. Brusey	173 ½-½	A. J. Walton	164
3. A. Pickering	171 1 - 0	P. Shand	154
4. D. Regis	168 0 - 1	A. Tyton	154
5. C. J. Bellers	162 1 - 0	D. Santer	ug
6. J. Ridolfo	163 0 - 1	S. A. White	151
7. D. Hill	160 1 - 0	I. McGlory	147
8. A. S. Kinder	161 0 - 1	A Longson	141
9. D. Rudall	153 1 - 0	A. Beresford	129
10. I Taggart	150 1 - 0	R. J. Sumner	121
11. Dr. M. Leigh	152 1 - 0	M. I. Connor	119
12. R. Young	147 1 - 0	D. Kieman	119
13. N. Frost	140 1 - 0	R. Hargreaves	117
14. S. Homer	129 1 - 0	J. Robinson	114
15. I. S. Annetts	137 ½-½	A Hickman	106
16. R. Scott	111 ½-½	Phylian	91
		11½ - 4½	

50th WECU Congress

The Tropicana :: Weston-Super-Mare :: Easter Weekend 1997

At least as far as weather was concerned, there can scarcely have been a better weekend for any of the preceding forty nine congresses than this WECU Golden Anniversary. The sun shone brilliantly throughout as temperatures on the sea-front threatened to reach 20°C at times - in March!



Easter Bank Holiday Monday at the Tropicana

Under the glass of the Tropicana, play was pretty warm too as Gavin Wall set a hot pace in the early rounds of the Open, forcing those in his wake to play for wins wherever possible.

Round 1

1. Humphries	0 - 1	Baker.
2. Wall	1 - 0	Lesniowski
3. Chaplin	½ - ½	Cole
4. Thompson	1 - 0	Horner
5. Lane	½ - ½	Beaumont
6. Rudd	1 - 0	Boyce
7. Buckley, S.T.	0 - 1	Haydon
8. Headlong	½ - ½	Borkowski
9. Hill	½ - ½	Sharp
10. Phillips	1 - 0	Taylor
11. Brierley	0 - 1	Dilleigh
12. George	1 - 0	Buckley M.
13. Wright	½ - ½	Sage
14. Littlejohns	½	
15. Butterworth	1	

The first game is when serious contenders set out their stalls early as they take on the lower grades. Games at this stage can be rather short and bloody, and it is certainly no time to concede a careless draw that might cost dear in the end. Of the leading contenders, Chris Baker of Keynsham and G. Wall both drew early blood, and Ian Thompson and Jack Rudd soon followed up with wins of their own, but Roland Cole and Chris Beaumont both conceded draws.

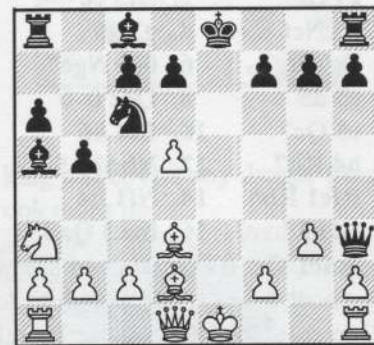
White: J. G. Humphries.

Black: C. W. Baker.

Scotch Game

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1. e4 e5 | 2. Nf3 Nc6 |
| 3. d4 exd4 | 4. Nxd4 Qh4 |
| 5. Nb5 Bb4+ | 6. N1c3 Ba5 |
| 7. Bd3 a6 | 8. Na3 b5 |
| 9. g3 Qh3 | 10. Bd2 Nf6 |

Black has threatened to fork the knights, but to press ahead would probably rebound. [10...b4 11.Nd5 bxa3 12.Bxa5 Nxa5 13. Nxc7+] 11. Nd5 Nxd5 12. exd5

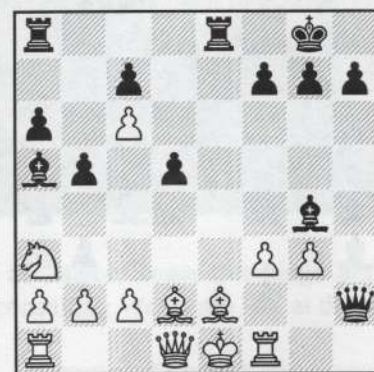


Black now offers his first piece; others follow.

12.0-0

13. dxc6 Re8+ 14. Be2 d5 A second piece is offered, but this time white declines.

15. Rf1 Bg4 16. f3 Qxh2



A third black piece is left to its fate, and white cannot resist longer.

17. Bxa5 Qxg3+

18. Kd2 Qf4+

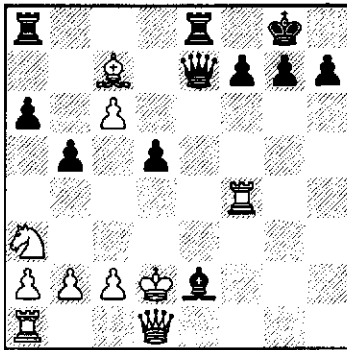
19. Ke1 Bxf3

20. Bxc7 Qh4+

21. Kd2 Bxe2

22. Rf4 Qe7

23. Resigns



Meanwhile, Wall benefited from a blunder and

White: G. Wall

Black: Lesniowski

Sicilian - Closed

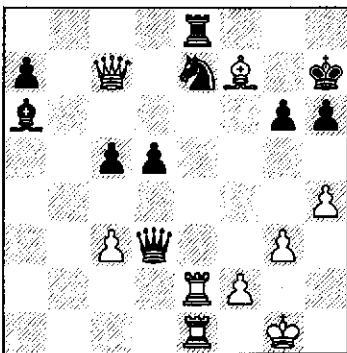
- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| 1. e4 c5 | 2. Nf3 e6 |
| 3. d3 Nc6 | 4. g3 g6 |
| 5. Bg2 Bg7 | 6. 0-0 Nge7 |
| 7. c3 d5 | 8. Qe2 0-0 |
| 9. e5 Qc7 | 10. Bf4 h6 |
| 11. h4 Kh7 | 12. Nbd2 b5 |
| 13. Rfe1 Rb8 | 14. Nf1 b4 |
| 15. Nh2 bxc3 | 16. bxc3 Qa5 |

17. Ra1 f5? It's difficult to see what Black was thinking about here, allowing White to take e.p. and attack 3 pieces simultaneously. Developing the queen's bishop seems logical.

- | | |
|---------------|--------------|
| 18. exf6 Rxf6 | |
| 19. Bxb8 Nxb8 | 20. Ng4 Rf8 |
| 21. Nge5 Nbc6 | 22. Bh3 Nxe5 |
| 23. Nxe5 Bxe5 | 24. Qxe5 |

Black's central defences are so threadbare it is folly to go snaffling the odd rooks pawn. 24.....Qxa2

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| 25. Re2 Qa6 | 26. Bxe6 Qxd3 |
| 27. Qc7 Re8 | 28. Rce1 Ba6 |
| 29. Bf7 Resigns | |



Final position.

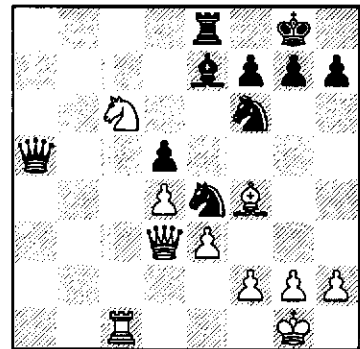
Black's knight suddenly has two extras attackers and its only defender routed.

Another contender, Jack Rudd, had a scare. Playing at the speed of light, as is his way, he found himself a piece down on move 20 having used just 10 minutes on his clock. However, he made good use of what compensation he had forcing his opponent into a blunder.

White: Jack Rudd (200)

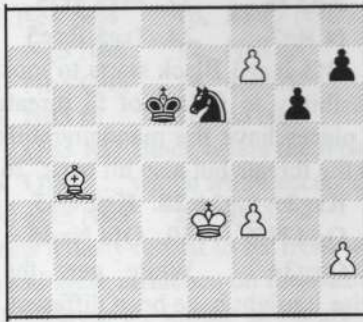
Black: Jim Boyce (163)

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 1. d4 d5 | 2. c4 e6 |
| 3. Nc3 Nf6 | 4. cxd5 exd5 |
| 5. Bg5 c6 | 6. e3 Bf5 |
| 7. Nf3 Nbd7 | 8. Bd3 Bxd3 |
| 9. Qxd3 Be7 | 10. 0-0 0-0 |
| 11. Rab1 Ne4 | 12. Bf4 Ndf6 |
| 13. b4 a6 | 14. a4 Re8 |
| 15. b5 axb5 | 16. axb5 Ra3 Threatening to win the knight. |
| 17. Rfe1 Qa5 | 18. bxc6 bxc6 |
| 19. Ne5 Rxc3 | 20. Nxc6 Rxc1+ |
| 21. Rxc1 | |



White has lost a piece, whose only compensation is taking black's backward c pawn leaving the d pawn vulnerable. Not much perhaps, but White plays on it...

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 21. ...Qd2 | 22. Qxd2 Nxd2 |
| 23. f3 Kf8 | 24. e4 Nc4 |
| 25. Bg3 Rc8 | 26. exd5 Nd6 |
| 27. Re1 Nf5 | 28. Nxe7 Nxe7 |
| 29. d6 Nf5 | 30. Be5 Rd8 |
| 31. Rb1 Nxd6 | 32. Rb8! Rxb8? [32...Nc8 |
| 33. Bxf6 gxf6 would have kept the piece intact.] | |
| 33. Bxd6+ Ke8 | 34. Bxb8 Kd7 |
| 35. Be5 Ne8 | 36. Kf2 Ke6 |
| 37. Ke3 Kd5 | 38. g4 f6 |
| 39. Bg3 g6 | 40. g5 Ng7 |
| 41. gxf6 Nf5+ | 42. Kf4 Nxd4 |
| 43. f7 Ne6+ | 44. Ke3 Kc6 |
| 45. Be1 Kc5 | 46. Bc3 Kd6 |
| 47. Bb4+ Resigns | |



Roland Cole and Chris Beaumont both drew against opponents graded 30 - 40 points below them.

Round 2

- | | | |
|-------------------|-------|--------------|
| 1. Baker (1) | 1 - 0 | George (1) |
| 2. Haydon (1) | 0 - 1 | Wall (1) |
| 3. Dilleigh (1) | 1 - 0 | Thompson (1) |
| 4. Butterworth(1) | 0 - 1 | Rudd (1) |
| 5. Cole (½) | ½-½ | Phillips (1) |
| 6. Beaumont (½) | 1 - 0 | Chaplin (½) |

Stiffer opposition for most of the contenders and Ian Thompson had a set-back by losing to Dilleigh. Cole and Phillips drew, but Baker and Wall set the pace by beating former champion Ian George and Haydon respectively.

White: R. Haydon Black: G. Wall
Sicilian Defence

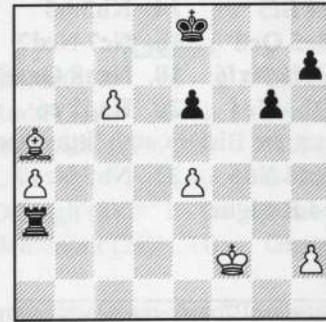
- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 1. Nf3 g6 | 2. e4 c5 |
| 3. d4 Bg7 | 4. Nc3 cxd4 |
| 5. Nxd4 Nc6 | 6. Nb3 Nf6 |
| 7. Be2 0-0 | 8. 0-0 d6 |
| 9. Be3 a5 | 10. a4 Nb4 |
| 11. f4 Bd7 | 12. Bf3 Bc6 |
| 13. Nd5 Nfxd5 | 14. exd5 Bd7 |
| 15. c3 Na6 | 16. Qd2 b6 |
| 17. Nd4 Nc5 | 18. Qd1 Qc7 |
| 19. c4 Rae8 | 20. Ra2 e5 |
| 21. dxe6 fxe6 | 22. b3 The White queen and black square bishop are both overloaded, a fact that Black exploits to win a crucial pawn. 22...Bxd4 |
| 23. Bxd4 Rxf4 | 24. Rd2 Bc6 |
| 25. Be3 Bxf3 | 26. gxf3 Rh4 |
| 27. Rxd6 Rf8 | 28. Rf2 Rh3 |
| 29. Bg5 Ne4 | |



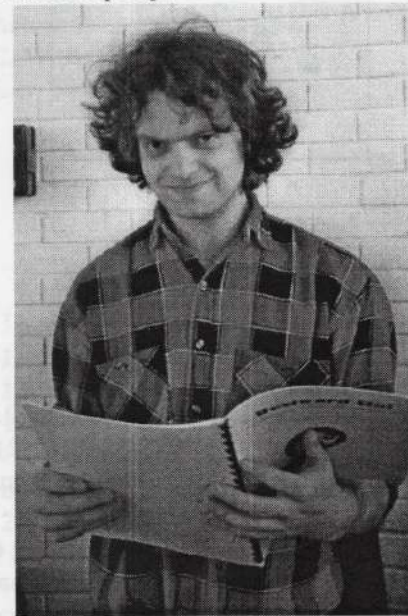
A suicidal knight, hitting most of white's forces in one blow - a sacrifice that can hardly be ignored. 30. fxe4 White had little choice. 30...Qc5 the point. The black queen hits both rooks.

31. Qf1 [31.Qd2 Rxf2 32.Rd8+ Rf8+ 33.Kg2 Rhf3 34.Rxf8+ Rxf8 this line also leaves White the exchange down.] 31...Rxf2 32. Qxf2 Qxd6

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| 33. Bf4 Qc5 | 34. Bg3 Qxf2+ |
| 35. Kxf2 Rh5 | 36. Bc7 Rh3 |
| 37. Bxb6 Rxb3 | 38. c5 Kf7 |
| 39. Bxa5 Ra3 | 40. c6 Ke8 |



The black king just covers any danger from the c pawn while the rook mops up.



Winner of the Major, Roger Hutchings, gets inspiration from consulting Westward Ho! at the bookstall

Round 3

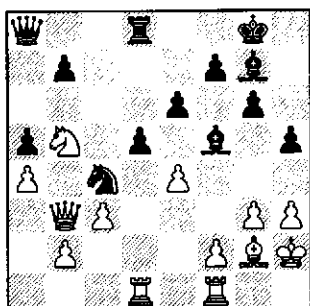
- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Rudd (2) | 0 - 1 Baker (2) |
| 2. Wall (2) | 1 - 0 Dilleigh (2) |
| 3. Phillips (1½) | 1 - 0 Beaumont (1½) |
| 4. Borkowski (1½) | 0 - 1 Sharp (1½) |
| 5. Thompson (1) | 1 - 0 Sage (1½) |
| 6. Boyce (1) | 0 - 1 Cole (1) |

Baker and Wall now pulled ahead by beating Rudd and Dilleigh respectively and Thompson kept in touch by

beating Sage. Chris Beaumont, however, fell back to a blunder that lost a piece in the following short game.

White: R. Phillips.
Black: C. Beaumont

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| 1. Nf3 g6 | 2. g3 Bg7 |
| 3. d4 c5 | 4. c3 Nf6 |
| 5. Bg2 0-0 | 6. 0-0 d5 |
| 7. dxc5 a5 | 8. h3 Na6 |
| 9. Be3 Qc7 | 10. Bd4 Nxc5 |
| 11. Na3 Rd8 | 12. Nb5 Qc6 |
| 13. a4 Bf5 | 14. Kh2 h5 |
| 15. Be5 Qc8 | 16. Nc7 Ncd7 |
| 17. Bxf6 Nxf6 | 18. Nxa8 Qxa8 |
| 19. Qb3 Ne4 | 20. Rad1 e6 |
- Leaving Black's white-square Bishop with little room to move.
- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| 21. Nd4 Nd6 | 22. Nb5 Nc4? |
| 23. e4 Resigns | |



winning a piece.

Round 4

- | | | |
|------------------|-------|-----------------|
| 1. Baker (3) | ½ - ½ | Wall (3) |
| 2. Sharp (2½) | 0 - 1 | Phillips (2.5½) |
| 3. Cole (2) | 1 - 0 | George (2) |
| 4. Haydon (2) | 1 - 0 | Thompson |
| 5. Dilliegh (2) | ½ - ½ | Rudd (2) |
| 6. Beaumont (1½) | 1 - 0 | Headlong (2) |

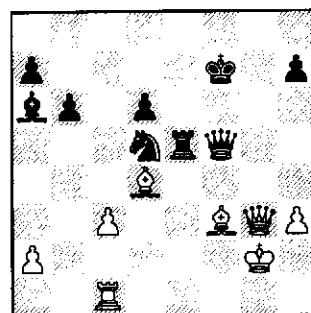
Baker was drawn against Wall and their mutual respect led to a 16 move draw, allowing Phillips to draw level on 3½ after beating Sharp. Cole and Thompson, who were last year's 1st = with Gavin Wall, both won to keep in touch with the leaders. Cole's win came in the following All-Cornish affair.

White: R. Cole (Truro)
Black: I. M. George (Camborne)

- | | |
|-------------|---------------|
| 1. d4 Nf6 | 2. c4 e6 |
| 3. Nc3 Bb4 | 4. g3 Bxc3+ |
| 5. bxc3 d6 | 6. Bg2 0-0 |
| 7. Nf3 Nbd7 | 8. 0-0 Re8 |
| 9. Nd2 e5 | 10. e4 c6 |
| 11. d5 cxd5 | 12. cxd5 Nc5 |
| 13. Qc2 b6 | 14. Nb3 Ba6 |
| 15. Rd1 Rc8 | 16. Nxc5 Rxc5 |
| 17. Be3 Rc7 | 18. h3 Qc8 |

- | | |
|-------------|---------------|
| 19. Rac1 g6 | 20. Qd2 Nh5 |
| 21. Kh2 f5 | 22. exf5 gxf5 |
| 23. f4 Rg7 | 24. fxe5 Rxe5 |

25. Bf3 Rxc3 Black starts to look aggressive with the possibility to follow of f4 threatening mate, but White's pieces have the manoeuvrability not only to cope with the threats but also hit back. 26. Rg1 f4
27. Rxc3+ fxc3+ 28. Kg2 Qf5
29. Qd4 Nf6 30. Qf4 Nxd5
31. Qxc3+ White gets the check in first, otherwise it might have been different. 31...Kf7
32. Bd4



Suddenly the bishop pair comes into its own. If the rook moves the white queen will invade on g7.

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| 32.Nf4+ | [32...Re6 |
| 33. Qg7+ Ke8 | 34. Qg8+] |
| 33. Kh2 Be2 | 34. Bxe5 dxe5 |
| 35. Rg1 Bxf3 | 36. Qxf3 Qc2+ |
- A last desperado check before White's queen and rook chase the Black king round the board.
- | | | |
|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| 37. Kh1 Qxa2 | 38. Qb7+ Ke6 | [38...Kf6 |
| 39. Qg7+ Kf5 | 40. Qxh7+ Kf6 | 41. Qh8+ Kf5 |
| 42. Qh7+ Kf6 | 43. Qh6+ Kf5 | 44. Rg5+ Ke4 |
| 45. Qh7+ Kf3] | | |
| 39. Qc6+ Kf5 | 40. Qd7+ Ke4 | |
| 41. Re1+ Kf3 | 42. Qg4+ Kf2 | |
| 43. Qg1+ Kf3 | 44. Re3 mate | |

Round 5

- | | | |
|-------------------|-------|---------------|
| 1. Phillips (3½) | 0 - 1 | Baker (3½) |
| 2. Wall (3½) | 1 - 0 | Cole (3) |
| 3. Thompson (3) | 1 - 0 | Beaumont (2½) |
| 4. Rudd (2½) | 1 - 0 | Sharp (2½) |
| 5. Borkowski (½) | ½ - ½ | Dilliegh (2½) |
| 6. Humphries (2½) | 1 - 0 | Haydon (2) |

Having hauled themselves back in touch with wins in the previous round, Phillips and Cole couldn't maintain the momentum and lost to Baker and Wall respectively, who thereby continued to force the pace. Thompson, too, kept his challenge alive by beating Beaumont.

White: G. Wall.
Black: R. Cole.

- | | |
|-------------|------------|
| 1. e4 c5 | 2. Nf3 d6 |
| 3. Bb5+ Bd7 | 4. a4 Nc6 |
| 5. d3 g6 | 6. 0-0 Bg7 |

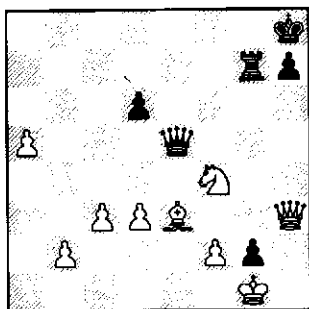
7. Re1 Nf6 8. Nbd2 0-0
 9. Nc4 Nd4 10. Bxd7 Nxd7
 11. Ng5 Nb6 12. Ne3 e5
 13. Nh3 Qh4 14. a5 Nd7
 15. Nd5 f5 16. c3 Ne6
 17. Qb3 Rf7 Black offers the b pawn..
 18. Qxb7which white accepts. 18...Raf8
 19. exf5 Nb8 20. Qb3

The queen naturally beats a hasty retreat to b3 from where it soon comes to wield great influence on the white square a2-g8 diagonal, whereas the knight on b8 plays no further part in the game.

20.gxf5
 21. Ne3 Nf4 22. Nxf4 exf4
 23. Nxf5 Qg4 24. Ne7+ Kh8
 25. h3 Qh4 26. Nd5 f3
 27. Ra4 Bd4! 28. Rxd4 White is forced to give up the exchange to avoid a king side annihilation. [28.cxd4 fxc2 and white's defences are burst asunder.]

28.cxd4
 29. Re4 Qh5 30. Qc4 fxc2
 31. Qxd4+ Rg7 32. Rg4 Rf8
 33. Nf4 Qe5 34. Be3 Rxc4
 35. hxc4 Rxc4? [35...Nc6 36.Qa4 Rc8 holds things together for Black much better than the text.]

36. Qxa7 Nc6 [36...Qe8
 37.Bd4+ Kg8 38.Qg7+]
 37. Qa8+ Rg8 38. Qxc6 Rg7
 39. Qc8+ Rg8 40. Qh3 Rg7



Final position.

Time control reached and Black calls it a day in view of the threat of 41.Ng6+ Rxc6 42.Bd4 Kg8 43.Bxe5 dxe5 44.Qxc2 Rxc2+ 45.Kxc2 Kf7 46.a6

White: I. D. Thompson
 Black: C. Beaumont.

English Opening

1. c4 g6 2. Nc3 Bg7
 3. g3 c5 4. Bg2 Nc6
 5. e4 Nf6 6. Nge2 0-0
 7. 0-0 d6 8. d3 a6
 9. h3 Rb8 10. a4 Ne8
 11. Be3 Nc7 12. d4 cxd4
 13. Nxd4 Nxd4 14. Bxd4 Bxd4
 15. Qxd4 b5 16. cxb5 axb5
 17. a5 b4 18. Nd5 Nxd5
 19. exd5 Bb7 20. h4 Qd7

21. Kh2 Qb5 22. Rfe1 Rfe8
 23. h5 Ra8 24. h6 f6
 25. a6 Rxa6 26. Rxa6 Qxa6
 27. Qxb4 Kf8 28. Qd4 Rc8
 29. Be4 Rc4 30. Qd3 Qb6
 31. Kg1 Rb4 32. Bxc6 Rxb2 [32...hxc6

33.Qxc6 Rxb2 34.Qg7+ Ke8 35.h7]

33. Re3 Rb1+?? In the time scramble Black seems to have had a mental block about the power of white's bishop; it may be en prise, but until it's actually taken it still exerts its power on b1.

34. Qxb1 Resigns

Round 6

- | | | |
|-------------------|-------|---------------|
| 1. Baker (4½) | ½ - ½ | Thompson (4) |
| 2. Rudd (3½) | 0 - 1 | Wall (4½) |
| 3. Humphries (3½) | 0 - 1 | Phillips (3½) |
| 4. Cole (3) | 1 - 0 | Borkowski (3) |
| 5. Dilleigh (3) | 1 - 0 | Lane (3) |
| 6. Beaumont (2½) | 1 - 0 | George (3) |

The penultimate round saw joint-leader Baker meeting Thompson, and Wall, floating down a full point, playing the rather more unpredictable Rudd. Baker was right on course for a win, having won the exchange but blew his chances with an uncharacteristic oversight letting Thompson right off the hook.

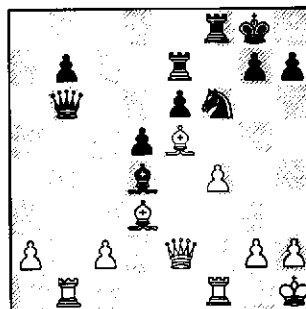
White: C. W. Baker.

Black: I. D. Thompson

French Defence

1. e4 e6 2. Nf3 d5
 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. e5 Nfd7
 5. d4 c5 6. dxc5 Nc6
 7. Bf4 Bxc5 8. Bd3 f6
 9. exf6 Nxf6 10. 0-0 0-0
 11. Ne5 Bd7 12. Qe2 Nxe5
 13. Bxe5 Qb6 14. Kh1 Rae8
 15. f4 Bc6 16. Rab1 Bd4
 17. b4 a6 18. b5 axb5

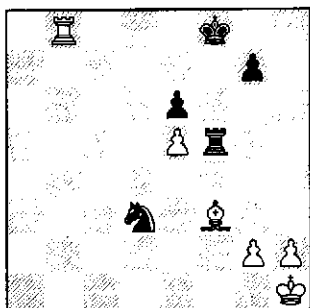
19. Nxb5 Bxb5 The bishop pair put great pressure on the black rooks 20. Bxb5 Re7
 21. Bd3



The Black queen is overloaded trying to protect bishop and the c file. 21...Qa7 [21...Qc6 22.Bb5 Qxb5 (22...Qc5)]

22. Bd6 Rfe8
 23. Bxe7 Rxe7 24. c4 Qc5

25. Rb5 Qd6 26. Qd1
 setting up an easily spotted trap. 26...Bc5
 27. cxd5 Nxd5 28. Bxh7+ If Kxh7
 29. Qc2+ winning the bishop back. 28.....Kf8
 29. Be4? The threatened fork on c3 is no
 great threat as it allows white to exchange queens, but
 to include the bishop as well lets black off the hook.
 29.Nc3 This oversight lets black off the
 hook.
 30. Qxd6 Bxd6
 31. Re5 Bxe5 32. fxe5+ Rf7
 33. Bf3 Nxa2 34. Ra1 Nb4
 35. Ra8+ Ke7 36. Rb8 Nd3
 37. Rxb7+ Kf8 38. Rb5 Rf5
 39. Rb8+ Kf7 40. Rb7+ Kf8
 41. Rb8+



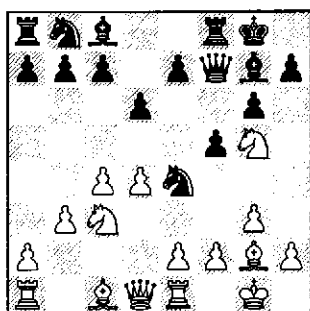
Draw by perpetual check. The king cannot escape to h7
 or g6 because of the Be4 pin.

White: J. Rudd.

Black: G. Wall

Dutch Defence

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| 1. d4 f5 | 2. g3 Nf6 |
| 3. Bg2 g6 | 4. Nf3 Bg7 |
| 5. 0-0 0-0 | 6. c4 d6 |
| 7. Nc3 Qe8 | 8. Re1 Qf7 |
| 9. b3 Ne4 | 10. Ng5 |



Clearly 10. Nxe4 isn't on, but the text loses a vital
 central pawn. 10.Nxc3

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| 11. Qd3 Qf6 | 12. Qxc3 Qxd4 |
| 13. Bd5+ Kh8 | 14. Qxd4 Bxd4 |
| 15. Rb1 c6 | 16. Be6 Na6 |
| 17. e4 fxe4 | 18. Rxe4 Bf6 |
| 19. Bxc8 Raxc8 | 20. Ne6 Rf7 |

21. Be3 c5 22. Rd1 White intends to
 utilise the open lines caused by his missing central
 pawns. 22.Nc7

- | | |
|------------|---------------|
| 23. Nf4 a6 | 24. Bd2 Bd4 |
| 25. Ba5 e5 | 26. Bxc7 Rxc7 |

27. Nd5 Bxf2+ Another pawn dropped.

28. Kg2 Red7

29. Nb6 Rd8 30. Rxe5 and one
 recovered. 30.Bd4

31. Re2 Rdf8 32. Rdd2 g5

33. Nd5 b5 34. Ne7 Rf1

35. Nc6 Rg1+ 36. Kh3 Bf6

37. Rg2 Rf1 38. Rxd6 White has done
 well to fight back to material equality with good
 counterplay. 38.h5

39. g4 h4 40. Rd3 Rc8

41. cxb5 axb5 42. Na7 c4

43. Re3 Rc5 44. Rc2 c3

45. Kg2 Rd1 46. Ree2 Rd3

47. b4 Rcd5 48. Nc6 Kg7

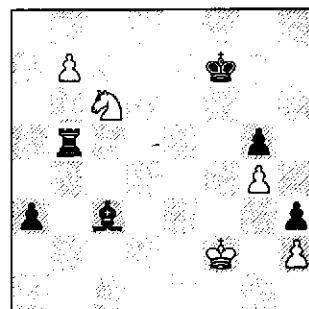
49. a3 h3+ 50. Kf2 Kf7

51. Re3 Rd2+ 52. Re2 R5d3

53. a4 bxa4 54. b5 Rxc2

55. Rxc2 Rd5 56. b6 Rb5

57. Rxc3 Bxc3 58. b7 a3



final position

Final Round

- | | | |
|--------------------|-------|----------------|
| 1. Wall (5½) | 1 - 0 | Phillips (4½) |
| 2. Dilleigh (4) | 0 - 1 | Baker (5) |
| 3. Thompson (4½)½½ | | Cole (4) |
| 4. Beaumont (3½) | 1 - 0 | Humphries (3½) |
| 5. Lesniowski (3½) | 0 - 1 | Rudd (3½) |
| 6. Haydon (3) | 1 - 0 | Sharp (3½) |

Wall's win against Rudd put him in the driving seat,
 playing white in the last round, but knowing that Baker
 would be seeking to make amends for his slip and
 trying hard to win and possibly share 1st place. A win
 would give Phillips himself the chance of a shared 1st
 place, so Wall still had everything to play for and
 needed a win to be sure.

West of England Championship

Weston-Super-Mare -- Easter 1997

Open Section.

	Name	Gd	Club	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	tot	prize
1	C. W. Baker	219	Witney	16+	11+	21+	26=	20+	25=	10+	6	Trophy winner
2	C. Beaumont	200	Hanham	17=	8+	20-	13+	25-	11+	16+	4½	
3	A. Borkowski	161	Clevedon	13=	17+	23-	22+	10=	9-	11-	3	
4	J. R. Boyce	163	B & Clifton	21-	6+	9-	27+	11-	12-	24=	2½	
5	M. Brierley	158	Burnham	10-	15+	12-	18=	19+	23-	6+	3½	
6	M. H. Buckley	152	Keynsham	11-	4-	15=	8=	27+	18-	5=	2½	
7	S. T. Buckley	161	Keynsham	12-	18-	24+	19=	14+	13=	22-	3	
8	P. Chaplin	167	Weston	9=	2-	14-	6=	15=	22-	by+	2½	
9	R. B. Cole	203	Leicester	8=	20=	4+	11+	26-	3+	25=	4½	4th=
10	S. P. Dilleigh	181	Horfield	5+	25+	26-	21=	3=	17+	1-	4	
11	I. M. George	179	Camborne	6+	1-	19+	9-	4+	2-	3+	4	
12	R. Haydon	197	Swindon	7+	26-	5+	25-	16-	4+	23+	4	
13	T. Headlong	196	Witney	3=	19=	18+	2-	by=	7=	17=	3½	
14	D. Hill	160	Exeter	23=	22-	8+	16-	7-	by+	15-	2½	
15	R. M. Horner	165	Gateshead	25-	5-	6=	24+	8=	19+	14+	3½	
16	J. Humphries	172	Downend	1-	24+	28=	14+	12+	20-	2-	3½	
17	P. C. Lane	174	Exeter	2=	3-	27=	28+	22+	10-	13=	3½	
18	P. Lesniowski	170	Bristol Uni.	26-	7+	13-	5=	28+	6+	21-	3½	
19	D. P. Littlejohns	163	Taunton	by=	13=	11-	7=	5-	15-	28+	2½	
20	R. Phillips	186	Grendel	24+	9=	2+	23+	1-	16+	26-	4½	4th=
21	J. Rudd	200	Yeovil	4+	28+	1-	10=	23+	26-	18+	4½	4th=
22	G. W. Sage	179	Clevedon	27=	14+	25-	3-	17-	8+	7+	3½	
23	P. J. Sharp	188	Clevedon	14=	27+	3+	20-	21-	5+	12-	3½	
24	G. P. Taylor	160	Gloucester	20-	16-	7-	15=	by+	28-	4=	2	
25	I. D. Thompson	202	Guildford	15+	10-	22+	12+	2+	1=	9=	5	BCF entry
26	G. Wall	210	Richmond	18+	12+	10+	1=	9+	21+	20+	6½	overall winner
27	A. D. Wright	122	Plymouth	22=	23-	17=	4-	6-	wd	wd		
28	P. Butterworth	141	Grendel	by+	21-	16=	17-	18-	24+	19=	3	

Major Section.

	name	gd	club	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	tot	prize
1	M. V. Abbott	144	Exeter	24+	27-	3=	by=	16=	1=	10-	3	
2	D. Adams	125	Exmouth	7-	by=	23+	5=	13+	19+	21-	4	
3	R. N. Allen	129	B & Clifton	9=	28=	1=	24=	5=	14=	wd	-	
4	I. S. Annetts	137	Tiverton	14+	21-	24+	20=	28-	25+	8=	4	
5	S. Bartlett	136	Bodmin	by=	9=	30=	2=	3=	10-	14+	3½	
6	N. Belinfante	103	Yeovil	27-	17-	16-	33-	by+	26-	24+	2	
7	E. Biddell	141	Staines	2+	18+	29-	15+	9-	21-	27=	3½	
8	B. Boomsma	155	Paignton	by=	19+	21+	9-	17-	16+	4=	4	
9	D. Buckley	152	Keynsham	3=	5=	18+	8+	7+	22=	20-	4½	
10	R. Burton	150	Weymouth	32=	30=	15-	26=	33+	5+	1+	4½	
11	P. Butterworth	141	Grendel	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	switched to open
12	M. E. Cooper	104	Burnham	13-	16+	19-	18=	14=	32-	33+	3	
13	M. E. Croasdale	137	Swindon	12+	22-	26+	21-	2-	30+	32+	4	
14	P. Dobber	136	Wellington	4-	33+	32=	17-	12=	3=	5-	2½	
15	R. S. Eadie	125	Street	33+	29-	10+	7-	27-	wd	-	-	
16	P. Foster	132	Weymouth	29-	12-	6+	32+	1=	8-	26+	3½	
17	M. Furnevall	128	Grendel	21-	6+	28=	14+	8+	35+	29=	5	joint runner-up

18	R. Furseman	133	Redditch	25+	7-	9-	12=	26+	1=	35-	3	
19	B. G. E. Gosling	139	Frome	26+	8-	12+	by=	20=	2-	25+	4	
20	R. Hardy	146	Grendel	30=	32+	35=	4=	19=	27+	9+	5	joint runner-up
21	J. Hendy	148	Keynsham	17+	4+	8-	13+	22-	7+	2+	5	joint runner-up
22	R. Hutchings	157	Barnstaple	23+	13+	27+	29=	21+	9=	28=	5½	overall winner
23	T. J. Le Roux	133	Burnham	22-	26-	2-	25-	wd	-	-	-	
24	R. Maishman	125	Weston	1-	by+	4-	3=	32-	33=	6-	2	
25	P. McIntosh	159	Morris Motors	18-	35-	33=	23+	30+	4-	19-	2½	
26	J. Newcombe	112	Grendel	19-	23+	13-	10=	18-	6+	16-	2½	
27	I. Ponter	136	Gloucester	6+	1+	22-	35-	15+	20-	7=	3½	
28	A. Price	152	Leamington	by=	3=	17=	30+	4+	29+	22=	5	joint runner-up
29	R. S. Shapland	157	Barnstaple	16+	15+	7+	22=	35+	28-	17=	5	joint runner-up
30	P. Spiller	125	Exeter	20=	10=	5-	28-	25-	30-	wd	-	
31	S. Sturgeon		Bath	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	switch to Minor
32	D. I. Tipper	129	Downend	10=	20-	14=	16-	24+	12+	13-	3	
33	R. D. Turner	117	Burnham	15-	14-	25=	6+	10-	24=	12-	2	
34	J. Z. Wood	112	Street	wd	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
35	T. Woodward	142	Trowbridge	by=	25+	20=	27+	29-	17-	18+	4	

Minor Section

	name	gd	club	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	tot	prize
1	M. Brief	122	Barnet	wd	wd	wd	wd	wd	wd	wd		
2	S. Buckley	92	Keynsham	25-	26+	4=	28-	6=	11-	10+	3	
3	D. F. Burt	118	Parkstone	7=	29+	33+	14+	27=	20=	4-	4½	
4	T. J. Chapman	108	Yeovil	16-	10+	2=	7+	15+	32+	3+	5½	1st =
5	A. Collins	124	Cowley	8-	30+	18-	29+	22=	28+	23-	3½	
6	R. M. Cooper	79	Burnham	32=	22+	12-	8-	2=	25-	17+	3	
7	J. J. Doel	90	Bath	3=	24+	14-	4-	25+	22-	15=	3	
8	H. J. Draisey	97	Horfield	5+	12=	20-	6+	18+	14=	13+	5	4th=
9	P. Duffy	66	Swindon	by=	32=	17+	33+	13-	24-	28-	3	
10	J. P. Fursman	78	Clevedon	13-	4-	11-	19=	21-	26+	2-	1½	
11	G. Gammon	76	Downend	14-	17-	10+	16+	24-	2+	32+	4	
12	C. Gardiner	117	Reading	30+	8=	6+	13+	20-	23+	14=	5	4th=
13	M. Hamilton	107	Bournemouth	10+	16+	23+	12-	9+	27-	8-	4	
14	P. Hurn	105	Weston	11+	20=	7+	3-	23+	8=	12=	4½	
15	M. Jacobs	123	Bath	29=	27-	19+	25+	4-	18-	7=	3	
16	B. Jones	85	Grendel	4+	13-	31-	11-	19+	33-	26+	3	
17	K. Jones	105	Nailsea	23-	11+	9-	30-	by=	29=	6-	2	
18	Dr. P. Le Gallez	105	Tiverton	21+	25=	5+	20-	8-	15+	22=	4	
19	D. C. Pike	62	Weston	27=	33-	15-	10=	16-	30-	by+	2	
20	A. D. Primett	123	Southbourne	28+	14=	8+	18+	12+	3=	27=	5½	1st =
21	J. Risdon	69	S. Bristol	18-	28-	26+	22-	10+	31+	33+	4	
22	A. D. Rookes	105	Weymouth	by=	6-	29=	21-	5=	7+	18=	4	
23	I. Sarginson	76	Wellington	17+	31+	13-	22+	by=	12-	5+	4½	
24	K. C. Spooner	109	Highcliffe	by=	7-	30=	26+	11+	9+	wd		
25	W. Springfield	59	Weston	2+	18=	27-	15-	7-	6+	30=	3½	
26	J. Stevenson		Weston	31-	2-	21-	24-	by+	10-	16-	1	
27	R. L. A. Studer	103	Clevedon	19=	15+	25+	31+	3=	13+	20=	5½	1st =
28	Dr. P. Taylor	96	Clevedon	20-	21+	32-	2+	31+	5-	9+	4	
29	I. A. Vincent	90	Weston	15=	3-	22=	5-	33=	17=	31-	2	
	M. J. Ward	87	Taunton	12-	5-	24=	17+	32-	19+	25=	3½	
31	S. Spurgeon	108	Bath	26+	23-	16+	27-	28-	21-	29+	3	
32	A. Young	108	Sedgemoor	6=	9=	28+	23-	30+	4-	11-	3	
33	E. A. Church	100	Truro	by=	19+	3-	9-	29=	16+	21-	3	

White: G. Wall
Black: R. Phillips

- | | |
|-------------|---------------|
| 1. d4 Nf6 | 2. Nf3 g6 |
| 3. c4 Bg7 | 4. Nc3 0-0 |
| 5. Bg5 d6 | 6. e3 Nbd7 |
| 7. Be2 e5 | 8. Qc2 Re8 |
| 9. 0-0 c6 | 10. Rfd1 Qc7 |
| 11. b4 h6 | 12. Bh4 Nh7 |
| 13. c5 dxc5 | 14. dxc5 Ndf8 |
| 15. Bg3 f5 | 16. Rd6 |

White comes to dominate the d file to winning effect.

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| 17. h3 f4 | 18. Bh2 Be6 |
| 19. Rad1 Bc4 | 20. Nd2 Bxe2 |
| 21. Nxe2 g5 | 22. a4 Ne6 |
| 23. Ne4 Re7 | 24. b5 Rc8 |
| 25. bxc6 Rxc6 | 26. N2c3 Rec7 |

27. Nb5 The c7 rook is stuck for a move; Re7 would seem a better alternative as the text loses the exchange. 27.....Bf8 28. Nxc7 Rxc7 [28...Bxd6 29.Rxd6 Rxc7]

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| 29. R6d3 Nxc5 | 30. Nxc5 Bxc5 |
| 31. Qb3 Nf8 | 32. Qxf7+ Kxf7 |
| 33. Kf1 Ke6 | 34. Rc1 b6 |
| 35. e4 Nd7 | 36. f3 Rb7 |
| 37. Bg1 Bxg1 | 38. Kxg1 Nc5 |
| 39. Rd5 Nxa4 | 40. Rc6+ Kf7 |

41. Rxh6 [41.Rxe5 Kg7 42.Ree6 Rf7 43.Rg6+ Kf8 44.Rc8+ Ke7 45.Rc7+ Ke8 46.Rg8+ Rf8 47.Rxf8+ Kxf8 48.Rxa7 b5 49.Kf1 Nc3 50.Ra3 b4 51]

- | | |
|------------------|---------------|
| 41.Re7 | 42. Rh7+ Kf6 |
| 43. Rxe7 Kxe7 | 44. Rxe5+ Kf6 |
| 45. Rf5+ Resigns | |

Meanwhile, Baker needed to press on in case of any slip by Wall ahead of him

White: S. Dilleigh.
Black: C. W. Baker

Nimzo-Indian

- | | |
|------------|-----------|
| 1. d4 Nf6 | 2. c4 e6 |
| 3. Nc3 Bb4 | 4. e3 Nc6 |
| 5. Nge2 d5 | 6. a3 Bf8 |

A retreat of unusual totality - which is repeated later in the game.

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| 7. exd5 exd5 | 8. Nf4 Ne7 |
| 9. Be2 c6 | 10. b4 a6 |
| 11. Bd2 Nf5 | 12. 0-0 Bd6 |
| 13. Nd3 0-0 | 14. a4 Re8 |
| 15. Rb1 Ne4 | 16. Nxe4 dxe4 |
| 17. Ne1 Re6 | |

Black builds up a King-side attack, where the advanced pawn cramps white's position.

- | | |
|-------------|------------|
| 18. g3 Rh6 | |
| 19. Ng2 Ne7 | 20. f4 Bh3 |
| 21. Rf2 | |

The rook is hopelessly blocked on f2 and becomes trapped. 21...Nd5 22. Qb3 b5

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| 23. a5 Qd7 | 24. Qd1 Nf6 |
| 25. Bc3 Re8 | 26. Qd2 Bf8 |
| 27. Ne1 Qd5 | 28. Ng2 Bg4 |

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| 29. Bf1 Bf3 | 30. Ne1 Ng4 |
| 31. h3 Nxf2 | 32. Qxf2 g5 |
| 33. g4 gxf4 | 34. exf4 Bg7 |
| 35. Qe3 Rd8 | 36. Nc2 Rhd6 |
| 37. Kf2 h5 | 38. g5 f6 |
| 39. h4 Qf5 | 40. Ne1 fxg5 |
| 41. hxg5 Rf8 | |



Final position.

The time control is reached and white takes stock before resigning. Black's queen and h-pawn are ready to invade the king's position where the bishop is already entrenched.

Having started the final round in joint 3rd (4½) Thompson settled for an early draw in the hope that this would guarantee clear 3rd place, which subsequently it did.

Thus Wall took the money, Baker the trophy and Thompson the British Championship entry. Cole, Rudd and Beaumont finished 4th= on 4½



Gavin Wall receives 1st prize from Controller and Deputy President Richard Rendell



Two Golden Games from the Wild West

As a small commemoration of WECU's 50 years existence, the Editor has retrieved two significant Wild West games from what records are to hand. The first game is from the first West of England Championship to be played under the auspices of the new Union exactly 50 years ago, and the second is from the 25th Championship.

This first game is taken from a tiny booklet which contains all 28 games played by the eight players involved in the 1947 Championship. All the games were annotated by Capt. P. D. Bolland the then Somerset Champion. The competition does not appear to have been part of a larger congress, as it is these days, nor does the booklet make mention of the actual venue. Can any reader with a long memory elaborate on these bare facts?

The Championship that year was won in a canter by Andrew Thomas of Tiverton with two Exeter players, Kitto and Mallison, among the three tying for 2nd and Ron Bruce of Plymouth a point behind.

Thomas had been picked to play for England around this time, but his Headmaster at Blundell's School would not permit him the time off, a fact that caused him much regret for the rest of his life. Thomas had a weakness for unconventional openings as exemplified here by his choice of the Evans Gambit in a competition like this where there are no easy opponents.

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
1	A. R. Thomas	x	1	½	1	½	½	1	1	5½
2	F. E. Kitto	0	x	½	1	0	1	½	1	4
3	H. Mallison	½	½	x	½	1	0	½	1	4
4	H. Trevnen	0	0	½	x	1	1	1	½	4
5	R. M. Bruce	½	1	0	0	x	1	0	½	3
6	C. Sullivan	½	0	1	0	0	x	½	1	3
7	R. A. Slade	0	½	½	0	1	½	x	0	2½
8	D. V. Hooper	0	0	0	½	½	0	1	x	2

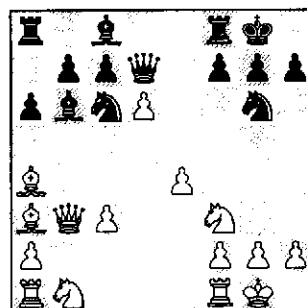
White: A. R. B. Thomas (Tiverton)

Black: F. E. A. Kitto (Exeter)

WECU Championship 1947

Evans Gambit

1. e4 e5
2. Nf3 Nc6
3. Bc4 Bc5
4. b4 Bxb4
5. c3 Ba5
6. d4 d6
7. Qb3 Qd7
8. dxe5 Bb6
9. Bb5 a6
10. Ba4 Nge7
11. Ba3 0-0
12. exd6 Ng6
13. 0-0



Asking for trouble and getting it. Nbd2 is the move. 13.Qg4 14. Bxc6 Nf4

15. Ne1 Nh3+ 16. Kh1 Qe2

17. Nd2 Qxd2 bxc6 is correct, leaving White with the awkward threats of Qxd2 and Nxf2+ to meet as best he can. Now the game goes in White's favour. 18. Bd5 Nxf2+

19. Rxf2 Qxf2 20. Nd3 Qe3

21. dxc7 Bh3 22. Qc2 Bxc7

23. Re1 Bxg2+ 24. Kxg2 Qg5+

25. Kh1 Rfd8 26. Qg2 Qh5

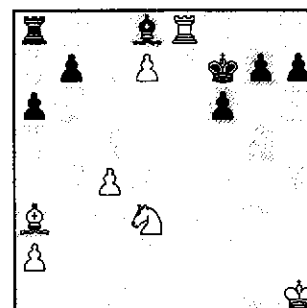
27. Rf1 Rxd5 28. exd5 Bxh2

29. Qf3 Qxf3+ 30. Rxf3 Bc7

31. d6 Ba5 32. c4 f6

33. Re3 Bd8 34. Re8+ Kf7

35. d7 resigns



A thrilling game worthy of both players.

The second game comes from the West of England Championship of 1970. This time the Championship was played as a Swiss and in the last round Peter Clarke met David Le Moir and needed to win in order to guarantee at least a share of first place. A win for Le Moir would give him a chance of shared 1st place hence his choice of an uncompromising opening. Notes by Dr. J. M. Aitken, former Scottish Champion, who finished joint 2nd in this competition.

White: David Le Moir

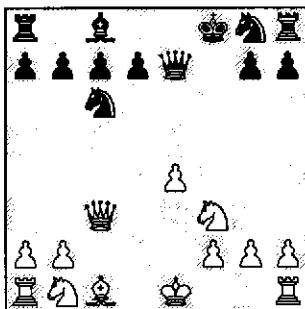
Black: Peter Clarke

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6
3. d4 exd4 4. c3

The Goring Gambit. Le Moir might have played this in any case, as it is currently quite popular - Levy played it several times, not without some success, at Hastings - but his choice may also have been largely dictated by the score. Before the last round when this game was played scores were:- Clarke, Ellis and myself 3½; Hutchings, Le Moir & G. W. Wheeler 3. The other leading pairings were Aitken-Ellis; Wheeler-Hutchings. It was clear only a win was of any use to Le Moir and he might as well lose as draw. For Clarke, too, a win was almost as essential as only this result would secure for certain at least a tie for 1st place. These considerations may help to explain the play on both sides. 4.dxc3

5. Bc4 Bc5 A more active than 4...P-Q3 played by Thomas v Merrett last year (1969 Rd 2)

6. Bxf7+ Kxf7
7. Qd5+ Kf8 8. Qxc5+ Qe7
9. Qxc3



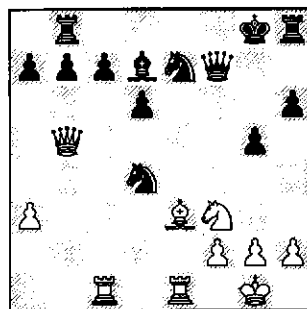
9.QxQ+ followed by 10. Nxc3 may well be objectively better - but who would win such a position, particularly v Clarke? The practical chances of a gamble are more attractive.

9.Qxc4+ 10. Be3 d6

11. Nbd2 Qb4 12. Qd3

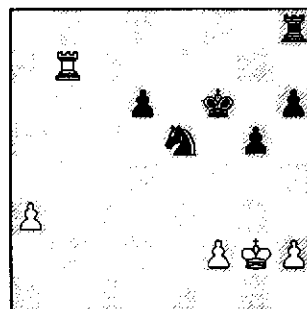
Finally burning his boats, but 12. Qc2 Kge2 13. 0-0 Bf4 drives the queen to a defensive position. White must attack at all costs - but the attack is not quite strong enough.

12.Nge7
13. a3 Qxb2 14. 0-0 Bf5
15. Qc4 h6 16. Rfe1 Qf6
17. Nd4 Qf7 18. Qb5 Rb8
19. N2f3 Kg8 20. Nh4 Bd7
21. Rac1 g5 22. Nh3 Nxd4



A combination that simplifies out to Black's advantage.

23. Qxd7 Nxf3+ 24. gxf3 Nc6
25. Qxf7+ Forced. 25. Q-N4 N-K4 wins. White is now reduced to a last desperate throw. 25.Kxf7 26. Bxa7 Nxa7
27. Rxc7+ Kf6 28. Ree7 Nc6
29. Rh7 Ne5 30. Rxh8 Rxh8
31. Rxb7 Nxf3+ 32. Kg2 Ne5
33. Resigns



final position.

This game secured Clarke's victory in the Championship - though he had to wait for some hours, until my game with Ellis ended in a draw, before the tie was finally ruled out.





Former WECU and Commonwealth Champion, I.M. Gary Lane of Paignton and Brussels, again writes specially for Westward Ho! giving us an insight into the contents of his latest book.....

Storming the Fortress

This extract from my book *A Guide to Attacking Chess* demonstrates some important themes which can make winning as easy as ABC! The question of how to exert the maximum pressure against the opponent's king can be answered by a close examination of the games featured in this article. A clear sign to emerge is the need to formulate a plan and stick to it. The player who is content to change policy after each move, becomes distracted by side-lines and meekly waits for something vague to happen is usually known in the chess world as the loser. In reality, good luck goes to the person who plays the game in the right manner and creates all his own chances. A good policy on deciding how to make progress is to try and identify how to seize the initiative. This is manifested by being able to position the pieces correctly, in order to increase their influence and help to harmonise the rest of the forces. A piece that is on the edge of the board or adrift from where the action is often finds itself with limited value. This is due to the lack of squares available and even becomes a possible target. An important element in conjunction with the major pieces is creating attacking chances by flinging the pawns towards the opposing king. This is thoroughly examined in the illustrative games. The ability to manoeuvre at leisure is only possible when an opponent has a passive position and ineffective counterplay. At a practical level time is of the essence and the attacking momentum should be maintained at every opportunity. Now we will see a variety of attacking methods.

Castling on opposite sides

A feature of games involving castling on opposite sides of the board is that both players are keen to launch an onslaught as soon as possible. It usually involves the pawns being flung in the direction of the king to create weaknesses and to force the defending pieces to

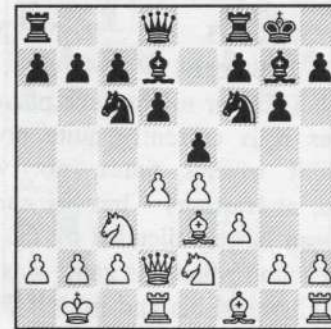
relocate to inferior squares. This technique is sometimes described as a bayonet attack.

White: Gary Lane

Black: Tony Miles

Le Touquet, 1990

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1. e4 d6 | 2. d4 Nf6 |
| 3. Nc3 g6 | 4. Be3 Bg7 |
| 5. Qd2 Nc6 | 6. f3 0-0 |
| 7. 0-0-0 e5 | 8. Nge2 Bd7 |
| 9. Kb1 | |



The game has already reached a critical stage. I know that opposite side castling often leads to attacks by both players with exciting play. However, I have little desire to be entertained by a grandmaster and end up losing. The simplest plan of action is to utilise the h-file: 10 Bh6 intending h4-h5xg6, Bxg7 followed by Qh6+ with a massive attack. Black will try to put obstacles in my way while conducting his own onslaught. The key to success is to seize the initiative to force the opponent to take defensive measures which diverts him from succeeding with a counter-attack.

9...Qb8?! Miles finds an unusual way to force the advance of the b-pawn. He later conceded that the idea came from a similar variation in the Dragon Sicilian and cheerfully concluded that it is probably better when there is an open c-file! I had been expecting 9...exd4 10 Nxd4 Nxd4 11 Bxd4 a6 with a slight edge for White.

10. g4 Now that the black queen had moved away from the kingside I felt sure that there should be some way to breakthrough. The first consideration is to respect Black's plan and analyse if it poses a threat or can be ignored. The prospect of ...b5 could prove awkward if the queen's knight has nowhere to go but the d5 square is satisfactory as an exchange of knights takes away another defender from the kingside. It would be wrong to try and start defending with 10 a3, which is well met by 10...b5 followed by ...a5 because now when ...b4 is achieved the white queenside pawn structure will be weakened.

10.b5

11. Bh6 This is Route 1 towards mate

11.Bxh6?! The start of a sequence of moves designed to lure the queen away from defending d4. It is understandable considering the grim alternative is to wait for White to continue with h4-h5.

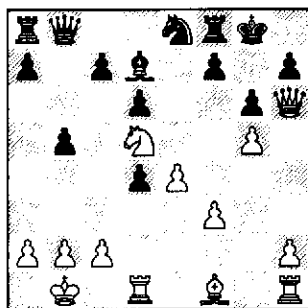
12. Qxh6 Nxd4

13. g5! A sly move that rapidly changes the nature of the position. Black had been relying on 13...Nxd4 14 Nxd4 exd4 15 Rxd4 Qb6 16 Rd1 b4 17 Nd5 (17 g5?? bxc3 18 gxf6 Qxb2#) 17...Nxd5 18 exd5 Rfe8 intending 19...Qe3 with reasonable prospects.

13. Ne8 13...Nh5 founders on 14 Nd5 Ne6 (14...Nxe2 15 Nf6+) 15 Ng3 when White has a decisive advantage.

14. Nxd4 exd4

15. Nd5



White's direct approach has paid dividends as the defending bishop and knight have quickly been eliminated or forced back. The result is that the dark square domination means that the threat of 15 Nf6+ and 15 Ne7+ are a real menace. An admission that the queen is adrift on b8 is too late because 15...Qd8 to cover e7 and f6 is useless in view of 16 h4-h5 threatening to take on g6, when the open h-file allows Qh7+ with a win.

15.f5 A desperate attempt to confuse matters and provide an escape square for the king.

16. Ne7+ Kf7

17. Qxh7+ Ng7 18. exf5 Bxf5

19. Nxf5 gxf5 20. g6+ Kf6

21. Qh4+! Mission accomplished and the attack goes on. White has successfully ripped apart Black's kingside pawn structure and is now aiming to expose the king to the power of the rooks. The game concluded as follows:

21.Kxg6 22. Rg1+ Kf7

23. Qh7 Rg8 24. Qg6+ Ke7

25. Re1+ Kd7 26. Qf7+ Kc6

27. Rxg7 Rxg7 28. Qxg7 Qh8

29. Qxh8 Rxh8 30. Bd3 f4

31. Rh1 Rh3 32. Bf5 Rh4

33. h3 d5 34. b4

I deliberately made a point in the book of using 95% of the games from the 1990s. This was to avoid the usual standard games, which although worthy have already been published in countless other middle-game books.

One of the exceptions is this relatively little known brilliancy by Tal.

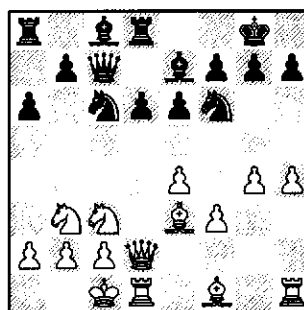
A pawn roller can be an important instrument in achieving the objective of accelerating the attack. A valuable technique is to jettison the g-pawn in order to open lines against the king. The next game provides a model example of how such an attack should be implemented.

White: M. Tal

Black: Koblents

Riga 1957

This training game features Mikhail Tal played on his route to the World Championship. He was known affectionately as 'master of the sacrifice' and certainly excelled in complicated positions creating wild, exciting attacks.



13...b5 A classic confrontation on the board has arisen. Koblents is keen to push his queenside pawns in an effort to gain time by threatening the white knights, to make the most of the half-open c-file by inserting ...Rc8 to put pressure on c2 and conserve the option of ...d5 which would open up the position allowing the dark squared bishop to have more influence. It is necessary for Tal to confront the situation with immediate and resolute action to exploit his advanced pawn storm in order to disrupt his opponent's plans.

14. g5 Nd7

15. g6! A wonderful attacking concept that seizes the initiative. The idea is that after the pawn is captured the h-pawn can be pushed forward which will allow the rook to enter the fray. At the time this was hailed as a revolutionary idea and is now regarded as a valuable asset in speeding up the onslaught.

15.hxg6 Black is ready to accept the challenge in spite of the imminent opening of the h-file. Considering what happens in the game, 15...fxg6 might be considered a slight improvement. The black king can still be put under siege: 15...fxg6 16 h5 gxh5 17 Rxh5 Nf6 18 Rg5 Ne5 19 Qg2+/- Spassky-Boleslavsky, USSR 1958.

16. h5 gxh5

17. Rxh5 Nf6 18. Rh1 The rook returns to its original square to facilitate the powerful 19 Qh2. If 18 Rh2 the aim of doubling rooks is a cumbersome

route to victory which gives Black breathing space to strike back.

18.d5

19. e5!? A typical pawn sacrifice by Tal which inspires a myriad of complications in an effort to thwart a counterattack. There might have been a short-cut to the monarch according to Timman - whose comments form the basis of these notes - who suggests 19 Bf4 Bd6 20 Bxd6 Qxd6 21 f4 intending the twin threats 22 Qh2 or 22 e5 with a clear advantage for White.

19.Nxe5 19...Qxe5? fails to 20 Bf4 Qf5 21 Bd3+-.

20. Bf4 Bd6

21. Qh2 Kf8 There is little joy to be gained from trying to relieve the pin with 21...Nd3+ as 22 Kb1 maintains the threat of mate on h8 which means the wandering knight is lost.

22. Qh8+ Ng8? An

impulsive move to deter the queen from capturing the pawn on g7 but it involves a lot of concessions in the long-term. The correct method of defence is 22...Ke7! when the g-pawn is immune due to 23 Qxg7 Rg8 24 Qh6 Nd3+! which wins at least a piece.

23. Rh7 f5 24. Bh6 Now that Tal has been handed a second chance to continue the attack he continues by ganging up on the g-pawn.

24.Rd7

25. Bxb5! White accentuates his domination of the board by picking off a pawn en route to providing the chance for the queen's rook to switch to the kingside.

25.Rf7 Black has little choice but to move the rook in view of 25...axb5? 26 Nxb5 Qb7 27 Nxd6 Rxd6 28 Rxd7 when White wins.

26. Rg1 Ra7

27. Nd4! White's pieces continue to stampede towards the black king. Just as Black must pay great attention to the multitude of threats on the kingside, White should do so on the other flank. The text once again emphasises the importance of the initiative, because if Tal falters his forces are not well placed to offer a reasonable defence especially with the queen on h8.

27.Ng4 A stubborn reply which is designed to allow g7 to be over-protected while simultaneously prompting counter-chances. After 27...Nc4 Timman demonstrated a route to victory: 28 Nxf5 Bf4+ 29 Kbl exf5 30 Nxd5 Qe5 31 Bxc4 Bxh6 32 Rxh6 Qd4 33 Rgh1! Rfd7 34 Qxg8+! Kxg8 35 Ne7++ Kf8 36 Ng6+ Ke8 37 Rh8 # (1-0).

28. fxe4 Be5 Other moves:

a) 28...gxf6 29 gxf5 Bf4+ 30 Kd1 Bg5 (30...Bg3 31 Rxf7+ Qxf7 32 Rxd3+-) 31 Rxh6 Qf4 32 Rxd5 Qxd5 33 Rg6+-.

b) 28...Bf4+ 29 Bxf4 Qxf4+ 30 Kbl Qxd4 31 Rgh1 and the threat of Qg8+ followed by Rh8# (1-0) gives White a decisive advantage.

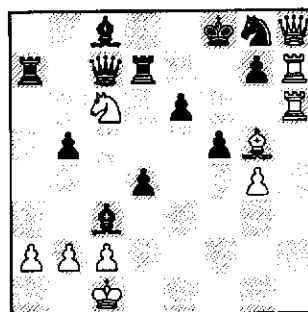
29. Nc6 Bxc3 30. Be3! The hanging pieces are ignored in Tal's single-minded pursuit of the king. Now the threat is 31 Bc5+.

30.d4

31. Rgh1 Rd7 It is necessary to give the king some air to avoid 32 Qxg8+ Kxg8 33 Rh8#.

32. Bg5 axb5

33. R1h6!!

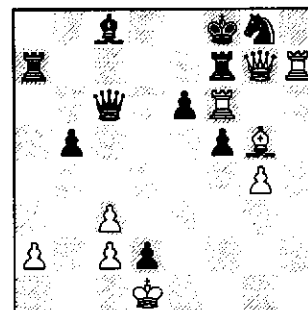


A truly remarkable way to infiltrate Black's flimsy fortress. The motive is 34 Rf6+ gxf6 35 Bh6+ Rg7 36 Nxa7 when Black has no hope.

33. ...d3 34. bxc3 d2+

35. Kd1 Qxc6 36. Rf6+ Rf7

37. Qxg7+



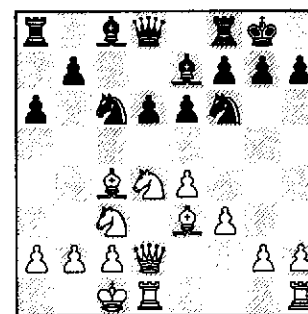
final position

It should be noted that the astute use of the g-pawn as a lever to open up the position is a motif that happens surprisingly often. The next game abounds in dramatic features and confirms that a knowledge of Tal's concept can have important consequences.

White: Apicella

Black: Collas

French League, 1996

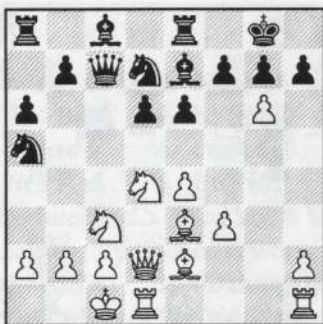


10.Na5 The position is finely balanced with both sides thinking about commencing an attack on the king. Collas has decided to target the bishop on c4 with the primary ambition to exchange pieces. It also reveals the long-term plan to use the open c-file to support a quest to occupy c4 with a knight in order to strike at the heart of White's camp. It is also possible to take advantage of the bishop to gain time by expanding on the queenside: 10...Nxd4 11 Bxd4 b5 12 Bb3 Bb7 with roughly equal chances.

11. Be2 Qc7 12. g4 Apicella sets into motion a pawn storm in order to procure dangerous counter-chances. It is futile to try and cover the c4 square with 12 b3 because then new difficulties arise with a weakness on a3 and also takes away the support of the knight on c3. This can be used to unbalance the position with 12...d5! when the bishop threatens to plant itself on b4 or a3 with good play for Black.

12.Re8 Collas decides to take time out to facilitate ...Bf8 in case of vague threats against g7. In reality it is the first sign that Black is drifting away from his plan, which is of major importance when the question of time has proved to be of such importance in cases of opposite-side castling. A more consistent approach would be 12...Nc4 13 Bxc4 Qxc4 intending b5-b4 and ...Rc8 with decent prospects.

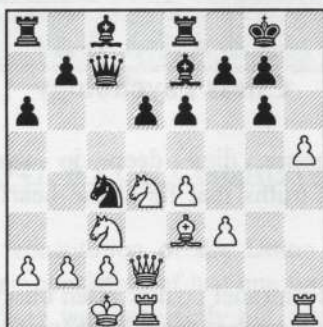
13. g5 Nd7 14. g6



14...hxg6

15. h4 Ne5?! 16. h5 Nac4

17. Bxc4 Nxc4



18. hxg6!! An extraordinary move that offers the queen in exchange for an imaginative mating net.

The ordinary 18 Qf2 is well met by 18...Nxe3 19 Qxe3 g5 20 h6 g6 21 h7+ Kh8 and the black king can use the pawn as a shield.

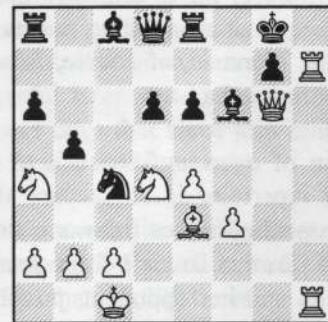
18.fxg6 The consequences of snatching the queen are quite spectacular: 18...Nxd2 19 Rh8+! Kxh8 20 gxf7 (the twin threats are Rh1# (1-0) or fxe8Q+ with a decisive advantage) 20...Qd8 21 Rh1+ Bh4 22 Rxh4+ Qxh4 23 fxe8Q+ Kh7 24 Kxd2 when White has a winning game due to having two pieces for the rook and Black has real problems developing the queenside. Apicella also points out that 18...Bf6 19 Qh2 fxg6 20 Qh7+ Kf7 21 Bf4 Bd7

19. Qg2 Qb6 Black cannot contemplate 19...Nxe3, since 20 Qxg6 Rf8 (20...Bd7 21 Nxe6 Bxe6 22 Qxe6+ with mate to follow) 21 Rdg1 Bf6 22 Rh7 intending Qh5 and Rh8 mate.

20. Na4 Qd8

21. Qxg6 Bf6 22. Rh7 b5 22...Nxe3 is advantageously met by 23 Rg1 Qe7 (23...Qd7 24 Nb6) 24 Rgh1.

23. Rdh1



final position

A Guide to Attacking Chess is published by Batsford £10.99.



Melanie Buckley of Keynsham receives the WECU Ladies Championship from Richard Rendell at the Easter Congress.

And now for something completely different.

With vary degrees of tongue in cheek, we look at the funnier side of chess. Steve Boniface starts by taking a wry look at over-confidence in chess.....

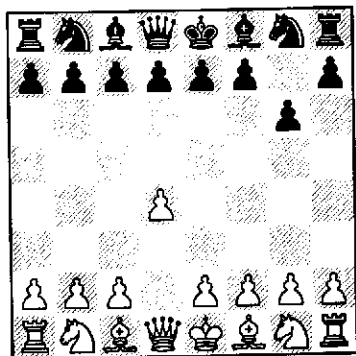
One of the favourite sign-off lines for chess commentators is "and now anything wins". This is supposed to indicate that the position for one side is so overwhelming that whatever the side currently standing better plays, they are bound to succeed. Unfortunately, chess is such a game that it is impossible to build up a totally loss-free position. Petrosian put his queen *en prise* to Bronstein in a seemingly impregnable situation, and Bronstein himself failed to win the World Championship when needing only a draw from the last game to succeed.

This is one of the marvels of the game - one is never dead until mated. Sadly, many players take this literally, and struggle on in the face of hopeless odds until the extra pieces prevail. Conversely, to see a county-standard player fail to win with Queen, Bishop and two pawns against a bare king makes one believe in miracles. The secret is, of course, to simplify; the bishop kept getting in the way!

The other form of over-confidence is to assume that one's opening repertoire is so secure that one can dictate all the opening moves from one side. I recall a postal game of Rowena Bruce's from years past when she started 1. d4 and her opponent, possibly trying to save postage, but more likely just showing off, wrote back "I reply 1....g6 and then whatever you play 2....Bg7" Mrs Bruce gratefully replied 2. Bh6 followed by 3. Bxg7 at which point her opponent saw the error of his ways.

White: Rowena Bruce
Black: B. Nameless

1. d4 g6



Black's fatal last words: "Whatever your move, my reply is 2....Bg7"

2. Bh6 Bg7

3. BxB

The same thinking can lie behind the popular opening of the 1960s, the King's Indian Attack. The theory was to set up a basic attacking position, which could be constructed against almost any defence, and so managing the course of play. The danger lies in missing the unusual

White: SB
Black: BB

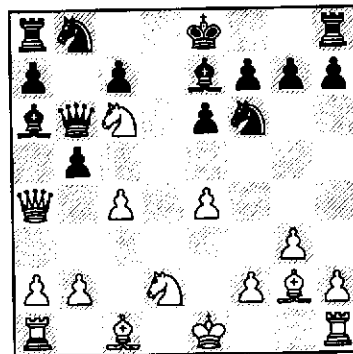
- 1. e4 e6
- 2. d3 d5
- 3. Nd2 Nf6
- 4. Ngf3 Be7
- 5. g3 b6

Slightly unusual and potentially dangerous; Black could suffer on the white squares.

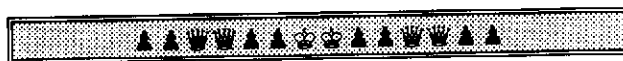
6. Bg2 dxe4
7. dxe4 Ba6 Black's idea; at the risk of weakening the long diagonal, he tries to keep White's king in the centre. 8. e5 Nd5 9. c4 seems to fail to 9....Nb4 and other attempts allow Black to close the vulnerable path byc6. 8. c4 Qd3 Totally consistent in hampering white's king. 9. Bf1 would leave Black happy to return to base and meanwhile he is threatening pawns and things.

9. Ne5 Qd4 10. Qa4+ Black was expecting Nef3 when hands may be shaken. But

10.b5
11. Nc6 Qb6



A bit lucky, but fortune wins a piece.



Chess Psychology

Mark Blackmore digs deep in search of the psychological truths that lie at the heart of our great game.....

Chess, as Emmuel Lasker often observed, is about playing the board *and* the man. The psychology of the game, and in particular sizing up your opponent, is very important. Because what most people don't realise is that chess, on the surface a

harmless respectable diversion, harbours a deep, dark secret. The whole thing is a cover up, you see. A charade of quite X-filemungous proportions. Harmless? Respectable? Please allow me an especially bitter 'Ha!'

See that nice young man with the chess set? Looks perfectly normal, doesn't he, with his brown cords and basin haircut? Well, think again. That person wants to destroy you. It will look to all the world as if he is just giving you a good kicking on the chessboard, but underneath it all, known only to the two of you, he will be crushing you, body and soul, all that you are, your entire value system, your moral code, your intellect, and finally your will to live will crumble before his assault. And all because you missed that *\$@[+* knight fork. That's what chess does to you. That's what it's really all about.

Shocked? You should be. We live on the edge of our pants in the wind, us chessplayers. Our only reward is the feel of a bishop in our palms and the ability to find Judit Polgar attractive. It's a tough job but somebody has to do it.

The loser of this game was later found in the gutter holding an empty whisky bottle and muttering to himself about piece development.

White: Bailey.

Black: Potter

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| 1. e4 e5 | 2. Nf3 Nc6 |
| 3. Bc4 Be7 | 4. c3 Nh6? |
| 5. d4 exd4 | 6. cxd4 0-0 |
| 7. Nc3 Na5 | 8. Bd3 f6? |

Black is

trying to lull white into a false sense of security by playing especially badly. It doesn't work.

- | | |
|------------------|---------------|
| 9. 0-0 d6 | 10. Bxh6 gxh6 |
| 11. Qd2 h5 | 12. Nd5 Nc6 |
| 13. Qh6 Bg4 | 14. e5 Rf7 |
| 15. Bc4! Kh8 | 16. Nxe7 Rxe7 |
| 17. exf6 Rd7 | 18. Nh4 d5 |
| 19. Bxd5 Qe8 | 20. Rae1 Be2 |
| 21. Rxe2 resigns | |

1947 WECU Constitution

The original constitution of the Union was a pretty moderate affair consisting of just one foolscap sheet of rules. Everything was succinctly put, until they got to the last paragraph on Dissolution which is a triumph of labyrinthine syntax. It consists of a single sentence of 139 words and runs thus.....

"If at any General Meeting a resolution for the dissolution of the Association shall be passed by the Members Meeting, held not less than one month thereafter, at which not less than one-fourth present, and such resolution shall at a Special General of the Members shall be present in person, be confirmed by a resolution passed by a majority of at least two-thirds of the members present, the Committee shall thereupon proceed to realise the assets of the Association and, after the discharge of all liabilities, shall divide any balance remaining between those Counties who were members of the Association as the date of the passing of the resolution first above referred to whose subscriptions were then fully paid up in proportion to the total amount of the subscriptions paid to the Association by such Counties respectively."

Net News

Readers may recall the article by Dr. Dave Regis in the last issue of Westward Ho! on Chess and the Internet, an excellent introduction to the subject in which he gave, among other things, a number of useful Internet addresses. Such is the pace of change these days that since that article there have been several further developments.

Dr. Regis set up a web site for the **Exeter Chess Club** back in November 1995 which in its first year had been accessed no less than 37,000 times.

More recently, he set up a site for the **Devon County Chess Association** based on information sent to him by the Editor of the Devon Chess Record. Now, he has done the same for **WECU** using a similar process. So news of many events throughout the south west will be recorded on the Internet, provided it comes via the Editor of Westward Ho! This gives everyone a double incentive to send in material for publication! Not only that, but news of forthcoming events can be listed. The time will surely come when entries will be received on entry forms downloaded from the net. If and when this actually happens to you please let us know. In the meantime here are some relevant addresses:-

West of England Chess Union

<http://www.ex.ac.uk/~dregis/DR/WECU/wecu.html>

Bristol Chess League

<http://www.r-cube.co.uk/chess/>

Devon County Chess Association

<http://info.ex.ac.uk/~dregis/DR/DCCA/dcca.html>

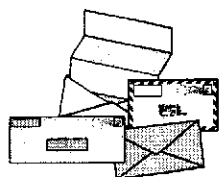
Exeter Chess Club

<http://www.ex.ac.uk/~dregis/DR/chess.html>

Dave Regis

D.Regis@exeter.ac.uk

Postal Bag



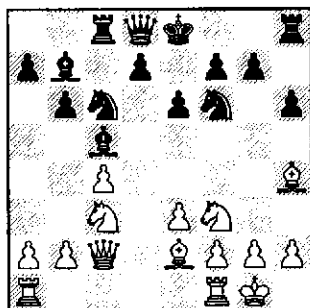
The following game won the Best Game prize for the Sinclair Division of the Postal Chess Championships and helped Dorset in their successful bid for promotion to Div I last season where they exchanged places with Devon. Text and analysis are reproduced by kind permission of Alan Dommert, Editor of NewsKnight, the official magazine of the Bournemouth & District Chess League.

White: J. Watson

Black: D. MacKenzie (Dorset Bd 3)

Nimzo-Indian Defence

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1. d4 Nf6 | 2. c4 e6 |
| 3. Nc3 Bb4 | 4. Qc2 c5 |
| 5. dxc5 Nc6 | 6. Nf3 Bxc5 |
| 7. Bg5 h6 | 8. Bh4 b6 |
| 9. e3 Bb7 | 10. Be2 Rc8 |
| 11. 0-0 | |



11.Ne7 A quiet 'Karpovian' move that steers White into troubled waters. The immediate aim is to nullify the influence of the bishop on h4 by playing Nf5, thereby underlining the strength of Black's own bishop pair. The passive nature of white's position leads him instead to scramble his opponent's king-side pawns and risk an attack along the open file against his castled king - an option Black sought to invite with this subtle knight manoeuvre.

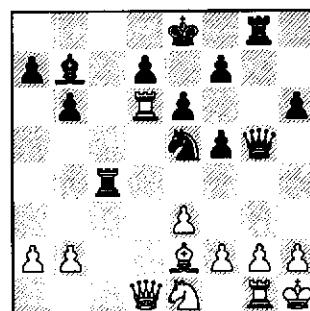
12. Bxf6 gxf6

13. Rad1 Ng6 14. Nb5 Rg8

15. Nd6+ Bxd6 16. Rxd6 Ne5 Another fine knight move that imposes a massive pin on f3 and also threatens to capture the c pawn.

17. Kh1 f5 18. Qd1 Qf6

19. Ne1 Qg5 20. Rg1 Rxc4



21. Rxd7 If 21. Bxc4 Ng4! and the cornered king cannot survive the attack (Try a few lines if you have any doubts)

21.Rh4 22. Rd4 Be4

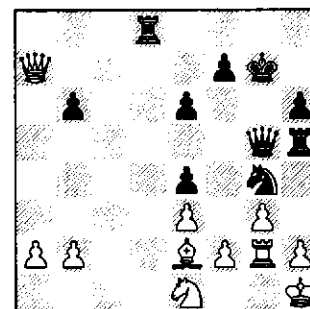
23. Qa4+ Kf8 24. Qa3+ Kg7

25. Rxe4 White must prevent Rxh2+ followed by Qh4++, but the inviting 25. Nf3 loses to the all-powerful 25...Ng4 once again.

25.fxe4 26. g3 Ng4 Played at

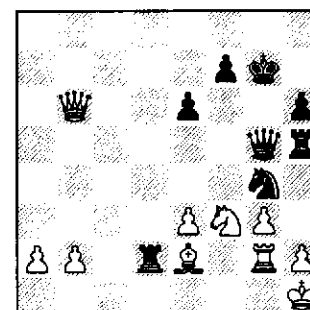
last, and no longer just a pretty threat!

27. Rg2 Rh5 28. Qxa7 Rd8



29. Qxb6? Greedy. The more circumspect 29. Qc7 gives White a cheapo reply to 29....Rd2 (30. Qc3+!) 29.Rd2 30. f4 exf3

31. Nxf3



31. ...Qd5! The flashy 31...Nxb2 only draws
 afater 32. Nxb2 (not 32. Nxb5?? Nf3+ 33. Rh2 Rxh2++)
 Rxe2 33. Rxe2 Qd5+ 34. Rg2 Qd1+ & perpetual check.

32. Qb4 Rxe2
 33. Qxg4+ Rg5! 34. Qd4+ Qxd4
 35. exd4 Rxg2 36. Kxg2 Ra5

37. a3 Ra6 Even though White has
 survived the main onslaught he now has to stop the
 second wave by preventing the black rook invading via
 c2, and so he decides to ditch the d pawn.

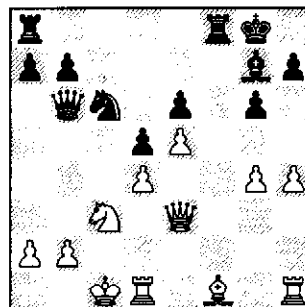
38. Ne5 Rd6
 39. Kf3 f6 40. Nd3 Rxd4
 41. Ke3 e5 42. b4 f5

The e pawn
 is taboo, due to 43. Re4+ and White has nothing more
 than other innocuous knight moves as Black brings the
 proceedings to an end.

43. Nc5 Kf6 44. Nb3 Rd1
 45. Resigns

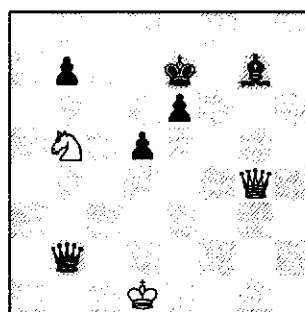
White resigns as another pawn must inevitably drop.

3. d4 e5 4. c3 cxd4
 5. cxd4 d5 6. e5 Bg4
 7. Nc3 Nc6 8. Be3 Nb6
 9. h3 Bxf3 10. Qxf3 Nf5
 11. 0-0-0 e6 12. g4 Nxe3
 13. Qxe3 0-0 14. h4 White will naturally
 try to storm black's castled position a.s.a.p. 14...f6
 15. f4 fxe5 16. fxe5 Qb6



In pressing his K-side attack White seems to miss the
 significance of Black's 16th move.

17. h5 Nxe5 18. hxc6 hxc6
 19. Qh3 Rf2 Threatening mate on b2
 20. Bb5 Rc8
 21. a4 a6 22. Rd2 Rxd2
 23. Qh7+ Kf8 24. Rf1+ Nf7
 25. Qxg6 Rc7 26. Kxd2 axb5
 27. Nxb5 Re7 28. g5 Bxd4 This whittling
 away of white's pawns proves conclusive.
 29. Qh7 Qa5+ 30. Kc1 Qxa4
 31. Qd3 Qa1+ 32. Kd2 Qxb2+
 33. Kd1 Qa1+ 34. Ke2 Qb2+
 35. Kd1 Bg7 36. g6 Kg8
 37. gxf7+ Rxf7 38. Rx7 Kxf7
 39. Qf3+ Ke7 40. Qg4



Final position

White loses. After 40... QxN 41. QxB+ Black's 3-0 pawn
 majority should win easily enough.



4NCL

The Four Nations Chess League seems to have been
 successful in attracting many of the country's top
 players into regular play in a team format as
 distinct from the predominant weekend congress.

The West of England has more than a passing interest in
 the competition. Nigel Johnson, former Hants match
 captain, is the 4NCL Marketing Manager and Press
 Officer and he E-mails out results and many games
 scores to a long list of interested parties including
 Westward Ho! All the following news comes from him.

There is considerable WECU interest in the competition
 as Union players turn out for Bristol, of course, but also
 Wessex (Haydon, Headlong, Ansell, Yeo, Brameld and
 other top Hants players), Guildford (Ian Thompson), and
 Witney.

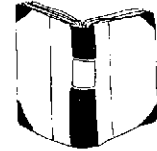
At Easter 97, after 10 rounds, the West's top team was
 Bristol in 8th place out of 18 teams, a remarkable
 improvement on bottom place after 6 rounds. This was as
 a result of fine wins against BCM in Rd 9 and Celtic
 Knights in Rd 10, both by 5½ - 2½.

Here is Chris Beaumont's win against GM David
 Norwood on Bd 1 in their match against BCM.

White: D. Norwood 2510 BCM
 Black: C. Beaumont 2300 Bristol

1. Nf3 g6 2. e4 Bg7

Chess Pieces



Bookshelf

CEEFAX

Chess has returned to Ceefax, the information service on BBC television, after a considerable gap. When on BBC2 just press "TEXT" on your remote and then call up Page 578 for 15 screensful of news of Home chess or Page 579 for 16 screensful of International chess.

Written enquiries about this service should be sent to:-
The Editor,
Ceefax Chess Pages,
c/o 68a, High Street,
Bideford.
N. Devon.
EX39 2AN

Civil Service Championships

South West Region

Following regional heats at Exeter and Bristol, the final took place on Wednesday 12th March at the Taunton Civil Service Club.

Alan Brusey and John Carr came 1st & 2nd respectively and now go on to the National Finals at Leeds.

Details:

			1	2	3	4	5	6	
Alan Brusey	173	NewtonAbbot	x	½		1		1	2½
John Carr	147	Cheltenham	½	x	1		½		2
Neville Lane	151	Exeter		0	x	½	1		1½
Sean Pope	156	Exeter	0		½	x		1	1½
Andy Hewitt	142	Bristol		½	0		x	1	1½
Dave Gordon	64	Bristol	0			0	0	x	0

J. Cobb 1st at Cardiff Masters.

James Cobb (Swindon) came clear 1st in this 10 player Category 4 All-Play-All event, the first to be held under the auspices of the Welsh Chess Union. His 6½ points gave him an IM norm, while 13 yr old Luke McShane and Danny Gormally on 6 pts both got their 2nd I.M. norms.

The Scandinavian by John Emms Chess Press
144 pp £14.99 ISBN 1-901259-02-1
Printed in Exeter by Wheatons.

The Chess Press, a new imprint of First Rank Publishing and brainchild of I.M. Byron Jacobs, has launched a series of seven opening guides, with Cadogan's helping hand as distributors.

The openings and authors chosen for this launch are as follows:-

Caro-Kann Advance -	Byron Jacobs
Dutch Leningrad -	Neil McDonald
Scandinavian -	John Emms
Sicilian Closed -	Daniel King
Sicilian Taimanov -	James Plaskett
Spanish Exchange -	Andrew Kinsman
The Slav -	Matthew Sadler

This represents an interesting range of opening with at least one book certain to be of interest to every player. They are chosen for being currently fashionable.

The Scandinavian or Centre-Counter, for example, is a case in point. Any inveterate 1. e4 player, will meet it several times a season as it's known to be popular at club level, even though it has rarely been seen at the highest levels. It has now, however, been given the World Championship seal of approval since Anand played it against Kasparov, and Kamsky tried it several times in the preceding semi-final.

Its value is that it cuts out reams of theory in the better-known defences (Sicilian, Spanish, French etc.) without courting the lunatic fringe (apologies to any Latvian aficionados reading this.) Players facing 1.e4 are coming to appreciate not only that, but that 1.....d5 does all that can be reasonably expected; it opens lines for queen and bishop and contests the centre. With a little deeper knowledge of the opening, helped by some underestimation by White, there is no reason why Black should not do well with this opening. This is becoming appreciated generally as the Scandinavian gains in respectability all the time, so players are seeking help with this opening as both Black and White. A good moment therefore to bring out a new guide on the opening.

Having said that, however, I have in my small chess library another guide on the Scandinavian, same size and format even, which says exactly all the things

about the opening just said above. Author: J. Du Mont. Date: 1919! It would be churlish to suggest that on the basis of this there's nothing new under the sun. But if that book couldn't persuade White to take the Scandinavian seriously, why should this one succeed? But then, isn't that exactly what Black wants?

What all books in this series have in common is their format which is very attractive and easy on the eye. If one is going to set aside an evening or two to mugging up some of the latest theory on a newly-fashionable opening, one doesn't need to be distracted by tiny print or a confusing demarcation between game text and analysis. These books are nice to hold and easy to read through, with two or three diagrams on every page and each chapter having a summary of the ground covered.

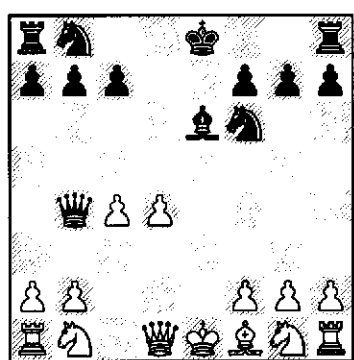
We are given 82 illustrative games, which is important as we need to know how, for example, the pawn structure created by the first few moves will influence the pattern of play for the rest of the game. There is limited value for the average improving player in having masses of opening variations each one ending after 9 or 10 moves in a terse + or - as one gets in MCO and its successor BCO.

Emms has done his homework, with credit given to a wide range of sources, from BCO to Fischer's 'My 60 Memorable Games', all the current mags and ChessBase, though my little book by Du Mont is conspicuous by its absence.

Here is a bright win by Julian Hodgson (black) using the Icelandic Gambit, in the last section of a book that will prove most useful in helping to keep veterans of the Scandinavian up to date, while doubtless creating more than a few converts.

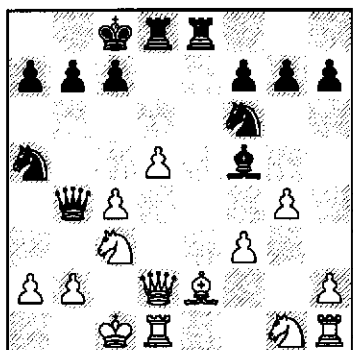
Game 80
Kuiff-Hodgson
Wijk aan Zee 1989

- | | |
|---------------|--------------|
| 1. e4 d5 | 2. exd5 Nf6 |
| 3. c4 e6 | 4. dxe6 Bxe6 |
| 5. d4 Bb4+ | 6. Bd2 Qe7 |
| 7. Bxb4 Qxb4+ | |



8. Qd2 After 8. Nd2 Black should reply with the fearless 8...Nc6!, with two possible variations:a) 9 d5 0-0-0 10 dxc6 (10 dxe6 Rhe8 11 Be2 Rxe6 gives Black an irresistible attack, while 10 Nf3 transposes to [b] below) 10...Rhe8 11 Be2 Ne4 and Black's compensation is quite obvious.b) 9 Ngf3 0-0-0 10 d5 Bg4 11 Be2 Bxf3 12 Bxf3 Rhe8+ 13 Kf1 Nd4 14 Qc1 Nxf3 15 Nxf3 Re4 16 b3 Rde8 17 h3 Nh5! 18 g3 Nxf3+ 19 fxf3 Re3 20 Ng1 Qd6 21 Rh2 Rxf3 22 Qb2 Qg6 23 Kf2 Ree3 24 Ne2 Rgf3+ 25 Ke1 Qg1+ 26 Kd2 Qxh2 27 Re1 Qf2 and White resigned in Sokolov-Speelman, Madrid 1988. This is the game that catapulted the Icelandic Gambit into the limelight.

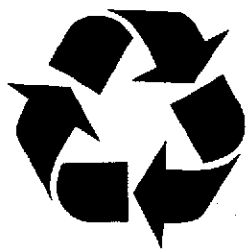
- | | |
|---------------|-------------|
| 8. ...Nc6 | |
| 9. Nc3 0-0-0 | 10. d5 Bg4 |
| 11. f3 Rhe8+ | 12. Be2 Bf5 |
| 13. 0-0-0 Na5 | 14. g4 |



14. ...Bg6
15. Nh3? 15 b3 is more resolute, although I still prefer Black after 15...c6!
15. ...Nd7 16. Nb1 And here 16 Bd3!? was White's last hope. 16 Nb1 allows a pretty combination.
16. ...Qb3 Very visual, as well as being extremely effective. Now 17 axb3 fails to 17...Nb3 mate, so the critical a-pawn drops.
17. Bd3 Qxa2 18. Qb4 Re2! White's bishop on d3 is overloaded, so he must give up the queen.
19. Bxe2 Nb3+ 20. Qxb3 Qxb3
21. Rd2 Qe3 An exceptional game from Julian Hodgson. It seems that Black has substantial hacking chances after the capture 7 Bxb4.

If you like that game, this book has 81 others to enjoy.
R. H. J.





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Stop Press!

Results so far in the National Stages

Quarter Finals

Championship:

Gloucestershire defaulted.

Under 175:

Preliminary Round:

Devon 1½ - 4½ Greater Manchester

Quarter-Final

Devon v Cambridgeshire

Cambridgeshire defaulted

Under 150:

Hampshire defaulted

Under 125

Devon 6 - 10 Nottinghamshire

The next issue of Westward Ho! will have the details and results of all matches involving WECU teams up to and including the Finals.



50th WECU Congress 1997

A last look at some of the games.

The early pace in the Major Section was set by clubmates Roy Shapland and Roger Hutchings, both of the Barnstaple club and both graded 157. They both won their games in Round 5 putting them jointly in the lead. Roger eased home with a couple of draws in the

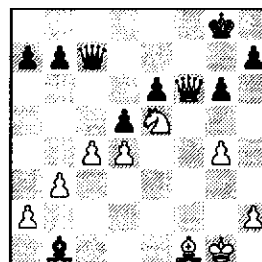
last two rounds, but Roy lost in Round 6 and couldn't make up the lost ground in the final round

White: R. Shapland (157)

Black: T. Woodward (142)

WECU Congress Major Rd 5

1.d4 f5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.g3 d5 5.Bg2 c6 6.0-0 Be7
7.b3 0-0 8.Ba3 Ne4 9.Ne5 Nd7 10.Nxd7 Bxd7 11.f3
Nf6 12.Qd3 Rc8 13.Bxe7 Qxe7 14.Nd2 Be8 15.e4
fxe4 16.fxe4 Bg6 17.Qe3 Rce8 18.Rae1 Qd7 19.Qc3
Qc7 20.exd5 cxd5 21.Re3 Bf7 22.Nf3 Ne4 23.Qc1
Bg6 24.Ne5 Rxf1+ 25.Qxf1 Rf8 26.Rf3 Bf5 27.Qe2
Ng5 28.Rf1 Bh3 29.Qh5 Rxf1+ 30.Bxf1 g6 31.Qxg5
Bf5 32.g4 Bb1 33.Qf6



final position

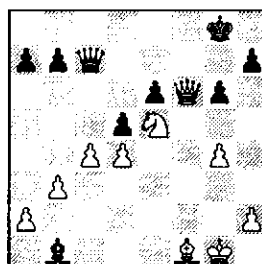
White: R. Shapland (157)

Black: T. Woodward (142)

WECU Congress Major Rd 5

Faulkbeer Counter Gambit

1.d4 f5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.g3 d5 5.Bg2 c6 6.0-0 Be7
7.b3 0-0 8.Ba3 Ne4 9.Ne5 Nd7 10.Nxd7 Bxd7 11.f3
Nf6 12.Qd3 Rc8 13.Bxe7 Qxe7 14.Nd2 Be8 15.e4
fxe4 16.fxe4 Bg6 17.Qe3 Rce8 18.Rae1 Qd7 19.Qc3
Qc7 20.exd5 cxd5 21.Re3 Bf7 22.Nf3 Ne4 23.Qc1
Bg6 24.Ne5 Rxf1+ 25.Qxf1 Rf8 26.Rf3 Bf5 27.Qe2
Ng5 28.Rf1 Bh3 29.Qh5 Rxf1+ 30.Bxf1 g6 31.Qxg5
Bf5 32.g4 Bb1 33.Qf6



final position

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