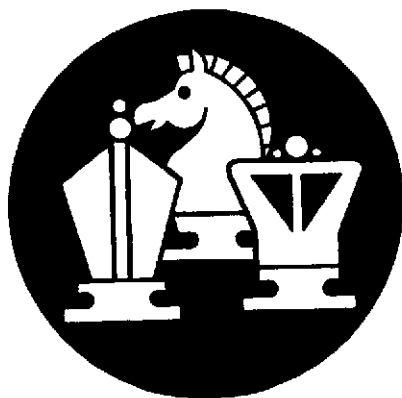


Westward Ho!

The Magazine of the West of England Chess Union



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West of England Chess Union

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Auditor	C.E. Winch	

Council Delegates.

County	Executive Member	Council Member
Cornwall	R.J. Grime	I.M. George
Devon	P.K. Trussler	B.W.R. Hewson
Dorset	S. Crisp	P. Foster
Gloucestershire	P.J. Meade	G.P. Mann
Hampshire	N.A. Johnson	L. O'Sullivan
Somerset	D.G. Woodruff	G.N. Jepps
Wiltshire	vacant	vacant
Bristol League	J. Paines	R.J. Palmer

Editorial.

We are coming to the end of a season that has had its usual mixture of ups and downs. It started at Millfield last August, where there were mixed feelings about it being the venue for the British Championships. Nothing wrong with the campus, of course, which had wonderful facilities and playing conditions, but several geographical factors meant it attracted the lowest number of entries for many years, and Congress Director, Neil Graham, had to work wonders to complete the event within budget.

While at Millfield, the BCF's new grading list was published, which signalled a universal chorus of disapproval, led in the main by WECU, who sent a very strongly worded plea to the BCF Chairman, Gerry Walsh, begging for the grading system to be put right immediately - a point which, after some hesitation, was taken, and corrective measures were put in place. In fact, our BCF Delegate, John Dunleavy, has been working very hard on the BCF Management Board, in an effort to get them working in a more business-like way - efforts, which he now feels, are beginning to bear fruit.

In September, the WECU Jamboree had to be cancelled because of the fuel crisis.

The inter-county programme continued to contract somewhat, with a number of defaults, though perhaps not as badly as it appeared at the beginning of last season. The feature was the continuing renaissance of Cornwall, who only narrowly missed out against Devon and Dorset, drew with the overall winners Wiltshire, and beat Hampshire and Somerset. They go on to represent the Union in the Championship, while Devon have three teams in the National Stages. Full details are given within. One optimistic note is the faint possibility that Gloucestershire, too long missing from the scene, might be entering a team next season.

The WECU Congress has found a settled home in Exmouth for the time being, with a free sea-side venue, excellent playing conditions and entries relatively high. The Executive has agreed that it should be held there again in 2002, but the venue for 2003 will be open to offers from the counties.

County Match Results.

March saw the completion of the 2000 - 01 season, with the following results.

HAROLD MEEK COMPETITION

	Cornwall	Devon	Dorset	Hants	Somerset	Wilts	points
Cornwall		7½	6	9½	10½	8	5
Devon	8½		11½	12½	9	7½	8
Dorset	10	4½		4	10	6	4
Hants	6½	3½	11		9	7½	0
Somerset	5½	7	5	7		5	0
Wilts	8	8½	10	8½	11		9

WAYLING CUP COMPETITION

	Devon	Dorset	Hants	Somerset	points
Devon		12	w/o	12½	6
Dorset	4		9½	9½	4
Hants	-	6½		4½	0
Somerset	3½	6½	3½		0

As a consequence, the following nominations were made for the final stages of this season Counties Championship:

Championship	Cornwall.
Minor Championship	Wiltshire.
Under 175	Devon.
Under 150	Champion: Devon, Runner up: Dorset.
Under 125	Hampshire.
Under 100	Devon.

In his report to the Union Executive, Fixtures Secretary, Frank Kingdon, gave the following explanations on these results and his nominations.

1. In my 18th December 2000 circular to Match Captains I stated the following: "You may notice that in some cases there are no match points awarded, this is because where a winning side has not submitted their full results for a match I have decided not to award the appropriate points for that match on the grounds that that County is not claiming them." also "As this is the first time that I have taken this action, if any of the missing

results are supplied within the next month I will award the appropriate match points." Hence, in the absence of results, Hampshire have not been awarded Match Points for their encounters with Dorset and Somerset.

2. Hampshire have qualified for the Quarter-Finals of the under 125 competition by beating Dorset in a separate match 11½ - 4½.

3. In the Championship/Minor competition, there were only four entrants; Cornwall, Dorset, Hampshire and Wiltshire and of these Cornwall and Dorset were not eligible to be considered for the Minor competition having played in the Championship the previous year. In the event, Wiltshire expressed a desire to be considered for the Minor section and neither Dorset nor Hampshire wished to continue to the final stages. Hence the nominations for final stages of these competitions which were agreed with the Cornish Match Captain.

DEVON v HAMPSHIRE

7th October 2000

1	Frost,N.A	194	1 - 0	Tunks,D	192
2	Homer,S	184	0 - 1	Wilkinson,J.R	167
3	Brusey,A.W	176	0 - 1	Newbury,M.L	155
4	Cox,M	172	1 - 0	Esmed,Khaled	138
5	Wheeler,J.F	168	½ - ½	O'Sullivan,Liam	133
6	Hewson,B.W.R	169	1 - 0	Walters,L.C	125
7	Bellers,C.J	168	1 - 0	Young,J	122
8	Derrick,K.W	168	1 - 0	Lacey,E	120
9	Brooks,Paul	164	1 - 0	Dallas,P	119
10	Sapiecha,M.W	160	1 - 0	Kirkland,Les	113
11	Regis,D	151	0 - 1	Culliford,D.J	112
12	Ingham,W	151	1 - 0	Default	
13	Pinkerton,A	145	1 - 0	Default	
14	Rogers,P.M	144	1 - 0	Default	
15	Pope,S	143	1 - 0	Default	
16	Marriott,P	143	1 - 0	Default	

12½- 3½

SOMERSET v CORNWALL

7th October 2000

1	Twyble,M.S	201	½ - ½	Menadue,J.F.S	175
2	Bamford,A.B	154	½ - ½	Sefton,R.S	165
3	Wood,D.C	152	½ - ½	Grime,R.J.	164

4	Gosling,B.G.E	150	½- ½	George,I.M.	163
5	Jepps,G.N	144	1 - 0	Nicholas,J.J	148
6	Dobber,P	142	0 - 1	Bartlett,S	145
7	Crabtree,A	140	0 - 1	Trudeau,G	144
8	Steer,G	141	½ - ½	Hassall,M	143
9	Eadie,R	140	0 - 1	Sellwood,C	137
10	Barratt,C.F	129	½ - ½	Kneebone,R.F	135
11	Chapman,P.M	129	½. - ½	Manton,T	133
12	Turner,R.D	127	0 - 1	Lakeland,G	121
13	Wood,J	129	0 - 1	Cooke,D	120
14	Senior,N.N	120	½ - ½	Brewer,K	119
15	Baker,M.R	116	½- ½	Leaver,S	106
16	Turner,R.D	127	0 - 1	Kneebone,J.P.G	93

5½-10%.

WILTSHIRE v DORSET

7th October 2000

1	Cobb,C.A	214	1 - 0	White,G.A	194
2	Richmond,P.A	200	1 - 0	Simons,M.J	191
3	Haydon,R	198	1 - 0	Pleasants,A.J	179
4	Headlong,T	192	½ - ½	Willetts,G.J	174
5	Bourne,J.D	178	1 - 0	Keddie,D.A	169
6	Johnson,B.R	170	½ - ½	Jenson,V.G	166
7	Wingfield,N	165	½ - ½	Laker,L.J	166
8	Phoutsady,C	150	0 - 1	Jenks,C.B	165
9	Le Quesne,J	145	½ - ½	Crisp,S.C	164
10	Wright,R	140	0 - 1	Saraha,K.A	152
11	Ward,D.E	136	0 - 1	Needham,H.D	150
12	Bosworth,A	136	½ - ½	Adams,M.W	142
13	Champion,A.W	134	1 - 0	Nielsen,J.H	139
14	Woodward,T	132	½ - ½	O'Neill,M	135
15	Chase,Jenny	128	1 - 0	Litchfield,M	128
16	Tomboline,D	130	1 - 0	Primmatt,A.D	128

10 - 6

CORNWALL v HAMPSHIRE

4th November 2000

1	Menadue,J.F.S	175	½ - ½	Tunks,D	192
2	Sefton,R.S	165	1 - 0	Wilkinson,J.R	167
3	Grime,R.J.	164	½ - ½	Marsh,R.D.W	166
4	George,I.M.	163	½ - ½	Newbury,M.L	155

5	Clifford,N	161	½ - ½	Kinsler,D	153
6	Nicholas,J.J	148	½ - ½	Barber,P	152
7	Bartlett,S	145	0 - 1	Dean,S	150
8	Trudeau,G	144	1 - 0	Default	
9	Hassall,M	143	1 - 0	Marshall,P.L	134
10	Lucas,D.G	138	0 - 1	Copper,P.K	130
11	Sellwood,C	137	1 - 0	Payne,Oliver	129
12	Manton,T	133	1 - 0	Walters,L.C	125
13	Lakeland,G	121	0 - 1	Le Fevre,S.D	124
14	Cooke,D	120	0 - 1	Young,J	122
15	Brewer,K	119	1 - 0	Lacey,E	120
16	Barkhysen,A	106	1 - 0	Garrod,M.R	113

9½- 6½

SOMERSET v DORSET

4th November 2000

1	Twyble,M.S	201	1 - 0	White,G.A	194
2	Bamford,A.B	154	½ - ½	Simons,M.J	191
3	Wood,D.C	152	1 - 0	Pleasants,A.J	179
4	Gosling,B.G.E	150	0 - 1	Willets,G.J	174
5	Winch,C.E	148	0 - 1	Waddington,M	174
6	Jepps,G.N	144	1 - 0	Footner,A.F	170
7	Fewkes,J.E	144	½ - ½	Jenson,V.G	166
8	Dobber,P	142	0 - 1	Clancy,M	166
9	Crabtree,A	140	½ - ½	Crisp,S.C	164
10	Steer,G	141	0 - 1	Claesson,H	154
11	Eadie,R	140	0 - 1	Sarahs,K.A	152
12	Barratt,C.F	129	0 - 1	Hebert,R.A	143
13	Mc Kinley,C.T	135	0 - 1	Adams,M.W	142
14	Chapman,P.M	129	0 - 1	Durston,C	140
15	Latham,J	125	½ - ½	Nielsen,J.H	139

5-10

16	Turner,R.D	127	1 - 0	O'Neill,M	135
17	Wood,J	129	1 - 0	Willis,I.J	133
18	Senior,N.N	120	½ - ½	Papworth,D.E	129
19	Berryman,G.T	122	0 - 1	Harvey,N	129
20	Hunter,G	114	0 - 1	Primmatt,A.D	128
21	Maishman,R.M	111	½ - ½	Grant,C	127
22	Hurn,P	111	½ - ½	Bullock,A.C	125
23	Fisher,J.A	105	½ - ½	Harris,J.E	123
24	Default		0 - 1	Cherryson,J.C	122
25	Mills,N	95	½ - ½	Kelly,W.J	121
26	Sherlock.K	92	½ - ½	Stevens,M	121
27	Waters,R.G	88	½ - ½	Ambrose,C.J.F	120

28	Carter,M.J	88	½ - ½	Lewis,D.W	117
29	Dodden,P	87	0 - 1	Bower,W	116
30	Woodward,T	78	½ - ½	Dalzell,J	109
31	Girling,M.J	75	0 - 1	Brackner,P	108
			6½- 9½		

DEVON v WILTSHIRE

11th November 2000

1	Frost,N.A	194	0 - 1	Cobb,C.A	214
2	Parkin,James	188	0 - 1	Law,A	202
3	Brusey,A.W	176	1 - 0	Morris,C.F	200
4	Cox,M	172	0 - 1	Richmond,P.A	200
5	Hewson,B.W.R	169	½ - ½	Haydon,R	198
6	Wheeler,J.F	168	½ - ½	Headlong,T	192
7	Bellers,C.J	168	0 - 1	Bourne,J.D	178
8	Derrick,K.W	168	½ - ½	Cooper,A.C	173
9	Mason,I	95	0 - 1	Wingfield,N	165
10	Trussler,P	157	½ - ½	Phoutsady,C	150
11	Walker,J	153	½ - ½	Tomboline,D	130
12	Regis,D	151	1 - 0	Ward,D.E	136
13	Ingham,W	151	½ - ½	Champion,A.W	134
14	Pinkerton,A	145	½ - ½	Woodward,T	132
15	Pope,S	143	1 - 0	Carver,R	110
16	Gorodi,J.G	141	1 - 0	Saunders,M	92
			7½- 8½		

HAMPSHIRE v DORSET

25th November 2000

1	Tunks,D	192	1 - 0	White,G.A	194
2	Brameld,A.F	184	1 - 0	Pleasants,A.J	179
3	Default		0 - 0	Default	
4	Kasmierski,T	169	½ - ½	Keddie,D.A	169
5	Stock,T.W	178	1 - 0	Kemp,P	169
6	Wilkinson,J.R	167	0 - 1	Laker,L.J	166
7	Marsh,R.D.W	166	1 - 0	Clancy,M	166
8	Henderson,I.R	164	1 - 0	Crisp,S.C	164
9	McLeod,F.N	160	½ - ½	Saraha,K.A	152
10	Newbury,M.L	155	1 - 0	Needham,H.D	150
11	Kinsler,D	153	1 - 0	Harmon-Bishop,A	151
12	Barber,P	152	0 - 1	Kingdon,F.C	142
13	Krawczuk,M	149	0 - 1	Hebert,R.A	143

28	Carter, M.J	88	½ - ½	Lewis, D.W	117
29	Dodden, P	87	0 - 1	Bower, W	116
30	Woodward, T	78	½ - ½	Dalzell, J	109
31	Girling, M.J	75	0 - 1	Brackner, P	108
			6½- 9½		

DEVON v WILTSHIRE

11th November 2000

1	Frost, N.A	194	0 - 1	Cobb, C.A	214
2	Parkin, James	188	0 - 1	Law, A	202
3	Brusey, A.W	176	1 - 0	Morris, C.F	200
4	Cox, M	172	0 - 1	Richmond, P.A	200
5	Hewson, B.W.R	169	½ - ½	Haydon, R	198
6	Wheeler, J.F	168	½ - ½	Headlong, T	192
7	Bellers, C.J	168	0 - 1	Bourne, J.D	178
8	Derrick, K.W	168	½ - ½	Cooper, A.C	173
9	Mason, I	95	0 - 1	Wingfield, N	165
10	Trussler, P	157	½ - ½	Phoutsady, C	150
11	Walker, J	153	½ - ½	Tomboline, D	130
12	Regis, D	151	1 - 0	Ward, D.E	136
13	Ingham, W	151	½ - ½	Champion, A.W	134
14	Pinkerton, A	145	½ - ½	Woodward, T	132
15	Pope, S	143	1 - 0	Carver, R	110
16	Gorodi, J.G	141	1 - 0	Saunders, M	92
			7½- 8½		

HAMPSHIRE v DORSET

25th November 2000

1	Tunks, D	192	1 - 0	White, G.A	194
2	Brameld, A.F	184	1 - 0	Pleasants, A.J	179
3	Default		0 - 0	Default	
4	Kasmierski, T	169	½ - ½	Keddie, D.A	169
5	Stock, T.W	178	1 - 0	Kemp, P	169
6	Wilkinson, J.R	167	0 - 1	Laker, L.J	166
7	Marsh, R.D.W	166	1 - 0	Clancy, M	166
8	Henderson, I.R	164	1 - 0	Crisp, S.C	164
9	Mc Leod, F.N	160	½ - ½	Sarabs, K.A	152
10	Newbury, M.L	155	1 - 0	Needham, H.D	150
11	Kinsler, D	153	1 - 0	Harmon-Bishop, A	151
12	Barber, P	152	0 - 1	Kingdon, F.C	142
13	Krawczuk, M	149	0 - 1	Hebert, R.A	143

14 Stenhouse,I.A	144	1 - 0	Adams,M.W	142
15 Flynn,D	140	1 - 0	Durston,C	140
16 Esmed,Khaled	138	1 - 0	Miller,T.W.B	137
11 - 4				
17 Hoskins,D.I	135	½ - ½	Willis,IJ	133
18 Marshall,P.L	134	½ - ½	Papworth,D.E	129
19 Cleave,R.A	131	½ - ½	McKenna,J	129
20 Copper,P.K	130	0 - 1	Phillips,N	129
21 Knight,B.J	127	½ - ½	Jackson,P.A	129
22 Walters,L.C	125	½ - ½	Culleton,S.E	129
23 Young,J	122	½ - ½	Grant,C	127
24 Lacey,E	120	½ - ½	Sheehan,E.A	126
25 Garrod,M.R	113	1 - 0	Bower,W	116
26 Culliford,D.J	112	1 - 0	Kelly,W.J	121
27 Grant,B	112	1 - 0	Bartlett,M.J	122
28 Default		0 - 1	Steevens,M	121
29 Default		0 - 1	Buckfield,H.A	119
30 Default		0 - 1	Bland,P.A	119
31 Default		0 - 1	Sachs,E.N	117
32 Default		0 - 1	Bullock,A.C	125
6½ - 9½				

DEVON

v

SOMERSET

13th January 2001

1 Frost,N.A	194	0 - 1	Twyble,M.S	201
2 Parkin,James	188	0 - 1	Bamford,A.B	154
3 Homer,S	184	½ - ½	Winch,C.E	148
4 Brusey,A.W	176	0 - 1	Jepps,G.N	144
5 Wheeler,J.F	168	½ - ½	Fewkes,J.E	144
6 Cox,M	172	1 - 0	Paine,A	147
7 Hewson,B.W.R	169	1 - 0	Wood,D.C	152
8 Brooks,Paul	164	0 - 1	Gosling,B.G.E	150
9 Clarke,I	164	1 - 0	Crabtree,A	140
10 Sapiecha,M.W	160	1 - 0	Steer,G	141
11 Waterfield,J	154	½ - ½	Eadie,R	140
12 Ingham,W	151	1 - 0	Mc Kinley,C.T	135
13 Regis,D	151	1 - 0	Wallis,T.A	137
14 Pinkerton,A	145	0 - 1	Purry,C	137
15 Marriott,P	143	½ - ½	Senior,N.N	120
16 Pope,S	143	1 - 0	Chapman,P.M	129
9 - 7				
17 Gorodi,J.G	141	1 - 0	Dobber,P	142
18 Rogers,D.R	141	1 - 0	Wood,J	129

19	Moffatt, W.J	140	½ - ½	Barratt, C.F	129
20	Adams, D.J	135	0 - 1	Turner, R.D	127
21	Boniface, S	135	1 - 0	Berryman, G.T	122
22	Belt, M	132	½ - ½	Baker, M.R	116
23	Deakin, C	131	1 - 0	Hunter, G	114
24	Foulds, A	129	½ - ½	Cooper, M.E	99
25	Bloodworth, K.J	127	1 - 0	Ruston, A	104
26	Hamon, Dr M.D	136	1 - 0	Mills, N	95
27	Suttle, N	124	1 - 0	Sherlock, K	92
28	Stinton, M	123	0 - 1	Cooper, B	83
29	Parker, J	121	1 - 0	Rowe, C	88
30	Jones, R.H	125	1 - 0	Rowe, M	79
31	Stephens, J.F.K	107	1 - 0	Woodward, T	78
32	Stephenson, Tom	103	1 - 0	Girling, M.J	75

12½ - 3¼

DORSET v CORNWALL

13th January 2001

1	Simons, M.J	191	1 - 0	Menadue, J.F.S	175
2	White, G.A	194	0 - 1	Sefton, R.S	165
3	Pleasants, A.J	179	½ - ½	George, I.M.	163
4	Footner, A.F	170	1 - 0	Nicholas, J.J	148
5	Keddie, D.A	169	1 - 0	Manton, T	133
6	Clancy, M	166	1 - 0	Bartlett, S	145
7	Sarabs, K.A	152	0 - 1	Hassall, M	143
8	Needham, H.D	150	1 - 0	Sellwood, C	137
9	Harmon-Bishop, A	151	0 - 1	Hooker, J	127
10	Kingdon, F.C	142	0 - 1	Lakeland, G	121
11	O'Neill, M	135	1 - 0	Brewer, K	119
12	Durston, C	140	0 - 1	Barkhysen, A	106
13	Nielsen, J.H	139	½ - ½	Hollingworth, J	100
14	Papworth, D.E	129	1 - 0	Default	
15	Primmatt, A.D	128	1 - 0	Default	
16	Bullock, A.C	125	1 - 0	Default	

10 - 6

HAMPSHIRE v WILTSHIRE

13th January 2001

1	Tunks, D	192	½ - ½	Law, A	202
2	Stock, T.W	178	0 - 1	Richmond, P.A	200
3	Wilkinson, J.R	167	½ - ½	Haydon, R	198

4	Marsh,R.D.W	166	0 - 1	Headlong,T	192
5	McLeod,F.N	160	0 - 1	Bourne,J.D	178
6	Newbury,M.L	155	0 - 1	Johnson,B.R	170
7	Perrin,R.D	153	½ - ½	Wingfield,N	165
8	Kinsler,D	153	½ - ½	Le Quesne,J	145
9	Barber,P	152	0 - 1	Bareham,D	140
10	Dean,S	150	1 - 0	Banda,G	140
11	Jones,J.H	144	1 - 0	Wright,R	140
12	Stenhouse,I.A	144	½ - ½	Ward,D.E	136
13	Stuart,G	142	½ - ½	Champion,A.W	134
14	Flynn,D	140	½ - ½	Woodward,T	132
15	Esméd,Khaled	138	1 - 0	Chase,Jenny	128
16	Marshall,P.L	134	1 - 0	Carver,R	110

7½- 8½

HAMPSHIRE v DORSET (Under 125 Grade)

20th January 2001

1	Le Fevre,S.D	124	½ - ½	Kelly,W.J	121
2	Roberson,Peter	123	½ - ½	Ambrose,C.J.F	120
3	Manzouri,M	122	1 - 0	Lewis,D.W	117
4	Chilton,Jamie	124	1 - 0	Bower,W	116
5	Young,J	122	½ - ½	Beniston,Paul	115
6	Dallas,P	119	1 - 0	Oldfield,J.A	115
7	Harborne,Matthew	116	1 - 0	Page,W.G	112
8	Smith,Calum	116	1 - 0	Rogan,M	111
9	Eland,David	115	1 - 0	Dalzell,J	109
10	Higenbotham,A	115	1 - 0	Brackner,P	108
11	Sibley,Phil	115	0 - 1	Cox,L.R	111
12	Garrod,M.R	113	0 - 1	Marples,Nick	115
13	Fields,Dave	113	0 - 1	Wilcox,P	110
14	Grant,B	112	1 - 0	Kaye,M	95
15	Drew,David	111	1 - 0	Holland,D.B	92
16	Payne,G.P.W	110	1 - 0	Mackie,N	81

11½- 4½

CORNWALL v DEVON

3rd February 2001

1	Menadue,J.F.S	175	½ - ½	Parkin,James	188
2	Saqui,D	173	1 - 0	Brusey,A.W	176
3	Sefton,R.S	165	0 - 1	Cox,M	172
4	Grime,R.J.	164	½ - ½	Hewson,B.W.R.	169

5	Burtlett,S	145	1 - 0	Wheeler,J.F	168
6	Hessall,M	143	0 - 1	Clarke,I	164
7	Lucas,D.G	138	0 - 1	Scott,R	162
8	Sellwood,C	137	0 - 1	Sapiecha,M.W	160
9	Minton,T	133	0 - 1	Trussler,P	157
10	Hooker,J	127	½ - ½	Waterfield,J	154
11	Labeland,G	121	½ - ½	Towers,R.C	153
12	Cookr,D	120	1 - 0	Ingham,W	151
13	Brewer,K	119	1 - 0	Regis,D	151
14	Lingard,G	120	1 - 0	Pinkerton,A	145
15	Hollingworth,J	100	½ - ½	Pope,S	143
16	Spargo,P	82	0 - 1	Waters,Simon	140
			7½ - 8½		

WILTSHIRE v SOMERSET

10th February 2001

1	Zeidler,S	205	1 - 0	Twyble,M.S	201
2	Morris,C.F	200	0 - 1	Bamford,A.B	154
3	Richmond,P.A	200	1 - 0	Winch,C.E	148
4	Haydon,R	198	1 - 0	Jepps,G.N	144
5	Headlong,T	192	1 - 0	Fewkes,J.E	144
6	Bourne,J.D	178	½ - ½	Crabtree,A	140
7	Cooper,A.C	173	1 - 0	Steer,G	141
8	Johnson,B.R	170	½ - ½	Eadie,R	140
9	Wingfield,N	165	1 - 0	Senior,N.N	120
10	Phoutsady,C	150	1 - 0	Chapman,P.M	129
11	Le Quesne,J	145	0 - 1	Wood,J	129
12	Bareham,D	140	1 - 0	Barratt,C.F	129
13	Wright,R	140	1 - 0	Turner,R.D	127
14	Tomboline,D	130	½ - ½	Berryman,G.T	122
15	Ward,D.E	136	0 - 1	Baker,M.R	116
16	Champion,A.W	134	½ - ½	Smith,D	111
			11 - 5		

DORSET v DEVON

10th March 2001

1	Simons,M.J	191	1 - 0	Parkin,James	188
2	Pleasants,A.J	179	1 - 0	Brusey,A.W	176
3	Willetts,G.J	174	0 - 1	Cox,M	172
4	Crisp,S.C	164	0 - 1	Wheeler,J.F	168

5	Saraha,K.A	152	0 - 1	Hewson,B.W.R	169
6	Needham,H.D	150	0 - 1	Bellers,C.J	168
7	Hebert,R.A	143	0 - 1	Scott,R	162
8	Bond,M.G	147	0 - 1	Brooks,Paul	164
9	Adams,M.W	142	0 - 1	Clarke,I	164
10	Durston,C	140	0 - 1	Derrick,K.W	168
11	Nielsen,J.H	139	1 - 0	Sapiecha,M.W	160
12	Mitler,T.W.B	137	½ - ½	Trussler,P	157
13	O'Neill,M	135	1 - 0	Towers,R.C	153
14	Wallace,P	134	0 - 1	Walker,J	153
15	Willis,I.J	133	0 - 1	Ingham,W	151
16	Papworth,D.E	129	0 - 1	Regis,D	151

4¼-11½

17	McKenna,J	129	0 - 1	Rogers,P.M	144
18	Primmatt,A.D	128	0 - 1	Pinkerton,A	145
19	Phillips,N	129	0 - 1	Marriott,P	143
20	Bullock,A.C	125	0 - 1	Pope,S	143
21	Leech,A	125	½ - ½	Gorodi,J.G	141
22	Hamilton-Taylor	123	0 - 1	Waters,Simon	140
23	Steevens,M	121	0 - 1	Halmkin,P.E	144
24	Kelly,W.J	121	½ - ½	Moffatt,W.J	140
25	Ambrose,C.J.F	120	0 - 1	Adams,D.J	135
26	Bower,W	116	0 - 1	Deakin,C	131
27	Butler,O	113	0 - 1	Jones,R.H	125
28	Oldfield,J.A	115	½ - ½	Suttle,N	124
29	Wilcox,P	110	1 - 0	Stinton,M	123
30	Abbott,K	106	½ - ½	Hamon,Dr M.D	136
31	Legg,C	103	1 - 0	Parker,J	121
32	Kaye,M	95	0 - 1	Stephens,J.F.K	107

4-12

HAMPSHIRE v SOMERSET

10th March 2001

1	Tunks,D	192	½ - ½	Twyble,M.S	2012
	Thompson,D.F	168	1 - 0	Bamford,A.B	154
3	Wilkinson,J.R	167	½ - ½	Winch,C.E	148
4	Henderson,I.R	164	1 - 0	Jepps,G.N	144
5	McLeod,F.N	160	0 - 1	Fewkes,J.E	144
6	Jeyaretna,S	160	0 - 1	Gosling,B.G.E	150
7	Newbury,M.L	155	0 - 1	Crabtree,A	140
8	Perrin,R.D	153	1 - 0	Default	
9	Barber,P	152	1 - 0	Eadie,R	140
10	Dean,S	150	1 - 0	Cole,E.W	135
11	Kinsler,D	153	1 - 0	Wallis,T.A	137
12	Stenhouse,I.A	144	0 - 1	Purry,C	137

13	Stuart,G	142	1 - 0	Senior,N.N	120
14	Flynn,D	140	0 - 1	Chapman,P.M	129
15	Esmed,Khaled	138	1 - 0	Dobber,P	142
16	Marshall,P.L	134	0 - 1	Wood,J	129
			.9 - 7		
17	O'Sullivan,Liam	133	0 - 1	Barratt,C.F	129
18	Walters,L.C	125	1 - 0	Turner,R.D	127
19	Le Fevre,S.D	124	1 - 0	Berryman,G.T	122
20	Lacey,E	120	0 - 1	Baker,M.R	116
21	Garrod,M.R	113	1 - 0	Smith,D	111
22	Grant,B	112	0 - 1	Mills,N	95
23	Retallack,K	105	1 - 0	Sherlock.K	92
24	Holm,P	90	½ - ½	Waters,R.G	88
			4½ - 3½		

WILTSHIRE v CORNWALL

10th March 2001

1	Richmond,P.A	200	0 - 1	Menadue,J.F.S	175
2	Haydon,R	198	1 - 0	Sefton,R.S	165
3	Headlong,T	192	½ - ½	Grime,R.J.	164
4	Bourne,J.D	178	1 - 0	George,I.M.	163
5	Cooper,A.C	173	½ - ½	Bartlett,S	145
6	Ward,D.E	136	0 - 1	Trudeau,G	144
7	Bosworth,A	136	0 - 1	Hassall,M	143
8	Woodward,T	132	1 - 0	Lucas,D.G	138
9	Chase,Jenny	128	0 - 1	Sellwood,C	137
10	Hayward,P	116	1 - 0	Lingard,G	120
11	Carver,R	110	0 - 1	Hooker,J	127
12	Tanner,G	100	½ - ½	Cooke,D	120
13	Walters,M	98	0 - 1	Lakeland,G	121
14	Brown,D	100	½ - ½	Barkhysen,A	106
15	Hall,J	90	1 - 0	Hollingworth,J	100
16	Hall,D	94	1 - 0	Default	
			8 - 8		

26th East Devon Congress

St. George's Hall, Exeter.

Friday 2nd - Sunday 4th March 2001

The East Devon Congress is one of those "stars barred" events, (max grade 204), designed to keep out the solitary rogue Great White GM and give the up-and-coming a better chance of the glory (and prize money).

Whatever the pros and cons of this approach, it certainly makes for an open contest, where fortune favours the brave. Any one of a dozen players, most of them local, could have fancied their chances this year, but perhaps the two most likely lads at the outset were Nick Frost, a pupil at Exeter School who was Runner-Up in the world Amateur Championship at Hastings last year, and James Parkin, a student at Exeter University, and a former representative of Scotland in the Glorney Cup, and winner of this event last year. Bruce Baer, also of Exeter, winner two years ago, was another prospect.

No surprises in Round 1. In the first game, Baer manages to break through against the White king in the last few moves, although his position is still unclear when White's flag falls.

White: F. McLeod.

Black: B. Baer [B06]

1.d4 g6 2.e4 Bg7 3.Nf3 d6 4.Be4 Nc6 5.c3 Nf6 6.Qe2 0-0 7.Bg5 Bg4 8.Nbd2 h6 9.Be3 Nxe4 10.Nxe4 d5 11.Bd3 dxe4 12.Bxe4 Qe8 13.h3 Bd7 14.0-0 Na5 15.Bd3 Be6 16.Kb1 a6 17.Ne5 b5 18.Be4 Rb8 19.d5 Bxe5 20.dxe6 f5 21.Bxh6 fxe4 22.Bxf8 Qxf8 23.Qxe4 Qf5 24.Qxf5 gxf5 25.Rd5 Bf6 26.Rxf5 Nc4 27.Rd1 b4 28.Rc5 bxc3 29.Rxc4 Rxb2+ 30.Kc1

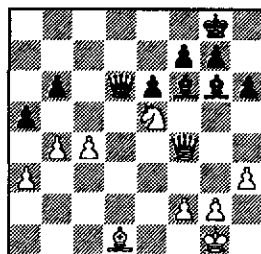
14

Rxa2 0-1

White: I. Ponter.

Black: J. M. Parkin [B22]

1.e4 e5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 Bg4 6.Be2 e6 7.0-0 Be7 8.h3 Bh5 9.a3 0-0 10.dxc5 Qxc5 11.c4 Rd8 12.Qa4 Qc7 13.Nc3 Nc6 14.Be3 b6 15.Rfd1 h6 16.Nb5 Qb7 17.Bf4 Ne4 18.Qc2 Bc5 19.Be3 [If 19.Qxe4 Bg6 and the White Queen is trapped in the centre.] 19...Bxe3 20.Qxe4 Bc5 21.b4 Bg6 22.Qf4 Be7 23.Nbd4 Bf6 24.Nxc6 Qxc6 25.Rxd8+ Rxd8 26.Rd1 Rxd1+ 27.Bxd1 a5 28.Ne5 Qd6 0-1 Final position.

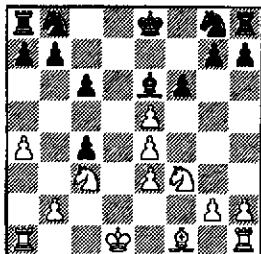


Round 2.

White: J. M. Parkin.

Black: D. R Cowley [D10]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.Nc3 e6 4.a4 e5 5.dxc5 Qxd1+ 6.Kxd1 Be6 7.e4 f6 8.Nf3 Bc5 9.Be3 Bxe3 10.fxc3



White's central pawn formation so early in the game is hardly textbook stuff. One of

them however, the back-marker on the e-file, will decide the game. 10...Nd7 11.exf6 Ngrf6 12.Ng5 Bg4+ 13.Kc2 Ne5 14.h3 Bh5 15.Ne6 Kf7 16.Nf4 g5 17.Nxh5 Nxh5 18.g4 Bf7 now makes the mistake of swapping off White's blocked-in bishop instead of developing his rooks and grabbing the open files. White takes his chance. 18...Ng3 19.Rg1 Nxf1 20.Rgxf1+ Ke6 21.Ne2 c5 22.Rf5 h6 23.Raf1 Rae8 24.Nc3 a6 25.Nd5 Kd6 26.Nb6 Re6 27.a5 Kc6 28.Rd1 Rhe8 29.Rd5 Kb5 30.Kc3 Kxa5 31.Nxc4+ Nxc4 32.Rxc5+ b5 33.Rxc4 Rxe4 34.Rxe4 Rxe4 35.Kd3 Re6 This e-pawn, held back for so long, now makes his bid for glory. 36.e4 Kb4 37.Kd4 a5 38.Kd5 Re8= 39.e5 Rd8+ 40.Kc6 Rc8+ 41.Kd7 Rc2 42.e6 Rxb2 43.Re5 Rf2 44.e7 Rf7 45.Kc6 Rxe7 46.Rxe7 Ka4 47.Re1 b4 48.Ra1+ Kb3 49.Rxa5 Ke3 50.Rc5+ Kd4 51.Rb5 Ke4 52.Rb8 h3 53.Kd6 Kc3 54.Ke6 1-0

Round 3

Baer and Parkin stay on course in this round, though Frost comes unstuck.

White: C. Pederson.

Black: B. L. Baer [B06]

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 c6 4.Be4 d6 5.Nf3 b5 6.Bd3 Bg4 7.Be3 Nf6 8.a3 0-0 9.h3 Bxf3 10.Qxf3 Nbd7 11.0-0 e5 12.d5 cxd5 13.exd5 a6 14.Rfe1 Rc8 15.Rab1 h6 16.Qd1 Ne8 17.f3 f5 18.Qd2 Kh7 19.Rf1 Ne5 20.Be2 Nf6 21.b4 Ncd7 22.a4 Qc7 23.Rb3 bxa4 24.Nxa4 Qxc2 25.Qxc2 Rxc2 26.Bd3 Rc7 27.Bxa6 Nxd5 28.Bf2 e4 29.Rd1 N7f6 30.Nb6 Nxb6 31.Bxb6 0-1

White: A. Brusey.

Black: J. M. Parkin [B22]

1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 Bg4 6.dxc5 Qxc5 7.Na3 a6 8.Nc4 Nbd7 9.Be3 Qc7 10.h3 Bh5 11.a4 e6 12.a5 Be7 13.Nb6 Rd8 14.Nxd7 Rxd7 15.Qe2 0-0 16.Bb6 Qb8 17.g4 Bg6

18.Ne5 Rd5 19.f4 Nd7 20.Nxd7 Rxd7 21.Qf2 Bd6 22.Ra4 Bc7 23.Bxc7 Qxc7 24.Be2 After waiting all this time to develop his Kingside, White chooses the wrong square, in view of... 24...Qc6 0-1

Although maybe not entirely his own fault, Nick Frost mistook the start of the afternoon round, and turned up almost an hour late. Although he managed to avoid the default, the time shortage told at the end when his flag fell with still a move to make. He felt doubly aggrieved as he suspected there was a mate in 4 lurking somewhere in the final position, if only he'd had the time to spot it. The loss put him out of the running.

White: N. Frost.

Black: J. Walker [C45]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Bc5 5.Be3 Qf6 6.c3 Nge7 7.Be4 Qg6 8.0-0 d6 9.Nxc6 Nxc6 10.Bxc5 dxc5 11.f4 Bh3 12.Qf3 Bg4 13.Qe3 0-0-0 14.a3 h5 15.f5 Qh7 16.Bxf7 Ne5 17.Be6+ Kb8 18.Qxc5 Be2 19.Qxc5 Bxf1 20.Kxf1 Rd1+ 21.Ke2 Rhd8 22.Bd5 Rh1 23.Qe7 Rh8 White certainly seems to have a grip on the centre at this point, but can't complete the development of his Queen-side pieces. 24.Qg5 c6 25.Be6 Re8 26.Kd3 Qh8 27.Qf4+ Ka8 28.Kc2 Rd8 29.Qc7 Qf8 30.a4 Rhd1 31.Be8 Rc1+ [31...Rxc8 32.Qxc8+ Qxc8 33.Kxd1] 32.Kb3 [32.Kxc1 Rxc8 33.Qg3] 32...Qg8+ 33.Be6 Qf8 34.Be8 Qg8+ 35.Be6 Qf8 After a flurry of repetitious moves, White's flag fell just one move before the time control. 0-1

Devon veteran and congress regular, John Wheeler, is always in the hunt in these events, and in this round had the opportunity of an all-out pawn-storm, and took full advantage.

White: J. F. Wheeler.

Black: I. M. Clarke [E73]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Be2 0-0 6.Bg5 h6 7.Be3 Nbd7 8.Qd2 Kh7 9.0-0-0 c6 It's clearly going to be a question of who can get their revenge in first, and White goes for it - a full scale pawn storm. 10.f4 Nb6 11.h3 d5 12.c5 Nbd7 13.e5 Ne4 14.Nxe4 dxe4 15.g4 f5 16.gxf5 gxf5 17.h4 b5 18.Nh3 Rh8 19.Rdg1 Nf8 20.Bh5 e6 Another key moment in the attack. 21.Rxg7+ Kxg7 22.Qg2+ Kh7 23.Rg1 Qe7 24.Bg6+ Kg7 25.Bxf5+ Kf7 26.Bxe4 1-0

James Parkin had invited his friend Graeme Kafka down from Edinburgh for the weekend, with every expectation of doing as well as each other. Dorset man Allan Pleasants had other ideas.

White: A. Pleasants

Black: G. Kafka [D15]

1.Nf3 d5 2.e4 c6 3.d4 Nf6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.c4 b5 6.e5 Nd5 7.Ne4 e6 8.a4 Bc7 9.Bd2 Bb7 10.b3 Nd7 11.bxc4 bxc4 12.Bxc4 c5 13.0-0 exd4 14.Nxd4 0-0 15.Nf3 Qc7 16.Rc1 Qb8 17.Qb3 Bc6 18.Nd4 Qxb3 19.Bxb3 Bb7 20.f4 Rfd8 21.Nc6 Bxc6 22.Rxc6 Rdc8 23.Rfe1 Rxc6 24.Rxc6 Rb8 25.Bxd5 exd5 26.Nd6 Bd8 27.a5 Kf8 28.Kf2 Rb2 29.Rc8 Rxd2+ 30.Ke3 Ke7 31.Nf5+ Ke6 32.Nxg7+ Ke7 33.Nf5+ Ke6 34.Nd4+ Ke7 35.Nf5+ Ke6 36.Rxd8 Rxd8 37.Kf3 Rd2 38.Ng7+ 1-0 Resigns, in view of 38...Ke7 39.Re8#

Round 4:

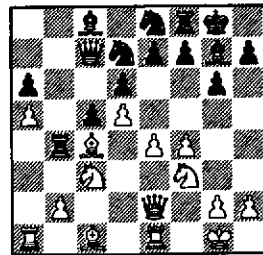
Strangely, Pleasants was now paired with Kafka's friend, Parkin, who felt moved to avenge his friend's defeat. James felt this was his best game of the tournament and provided the following analysis.

White: J. M. Parkin.

Black: A. Pleasants [A57]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e5 3.d5 b5 4.cxb5 a6 5.b6 This move takes all the fun out of the Benko for Black, and was the main reason

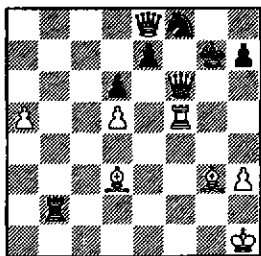
I gave it up 2 years ago. 5...d6?! I think this is too slow, and give White an easy game. Either a5, intending Ba6, or [5...c6 6.Nc3 Bb7 7.e4 exd5 8.exd5 when Black can at least pressurise White's weakened d-pawn.] 6.Nc3 Nbd7 7.e4 g6 8.a4! This completely ties up Black's Queenside and give him a horrible position. 8...Qxb6 9.a5 Qc7 10.f4 Bg7 11.Nf3 0-0 12.Bc4 I felt this was the correct square for the Bishop, since it prevents e6 & f6 breaks by Black, which seem to be his only active plan. Also, when the Rook gets to b4 it cannot pressurise c4. If the Bishop were to d3 in may be harassed by a timely c4 and Nc5. 12...Rb8 13.Qc2 Rb4 14.0-0 Ne8 15.Re1



Why rush, as Black is completely tied up, and there is no need to go in for the complications of grabbing the a-pawn. This would give Black what he wants, and my own a-pawn would fall later anyway. It is far more fun watching my opponent squirm. I have the slow plan of Ra2, Bd2 & Na4. I also have the threat of e5 constantly hanging over Black's head. 15...f6?? Surely not? Look at his Bishop - this has to be one of the worst moves on the board. Kh8 was far better. It might have been more playable after 15... Bd4+ 16. Kh1 then f6. 16.g4 Qa7 17.f5 And Black can now start crying! This is every Benko player's worst nightmare - he must have hated playing from now on. 17...Ne7

18.b3 Rb8 19.Be3 Qb7 20.Reb1 preparing b4, after which Black is practically three pieces down. 20...Kh8 21.h3 Rg8 22.Kh2 In fact, my only problem is where to put my King since it cannot stay on the g-file. But it is now exposed to potential checks if I play b4 and capture on c5. Care is still required. 22...Nf8 23.Ne1 Bd7 24.Nc2 Nb5 25.Qd3 Nxc3 26.Qxc3 Qc8 27.b4 gxf5 28.gxf5 cxb4 29.Rxb4 Rxb4 30.Nxb4 Black's queenside is about to fall to pieces since he is almost a whole chess set down - hence the random sacrifice. 30...Bxf5 31.exf5 Qxf5 32.Rf1 The defence is still quite tricky, so I decided the best policy was to surround my King with all my pieces, as it has no pawn cover. The a-pawn can always be captured later, and I didn't want his counterplay to get too intense. 32...Qh5 33.Bf4 Ng6 34.Bg3 Guarding against any nasty checks from e5. 34...f5 35.Qf3 Qg5 36.Nd3 Rf8? Maybe he should have tried to grab my a-pawn by Qd2+ 37.Rf2 Qxa5 38. Rxf5, but I think this will lose just as fast. 37.Nf4 and the defence is complete 37...Ne5 38.Qe2 Qh6 39.Bxa6 Rb8 40.Qh5 Rb2+ 41.Kh1 Qf6 42.Qe8+ Bf8 43.Ne6 Ng6 44.Nxf8 Nxf8 45.Bd3 Kg7 46.Rxf5

final position.



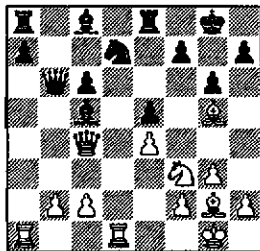
I felt this was a nice prophylactic game, made doubly pleasurable after he had beaten my friend the previous round.

Meanwhile, Bruce Baer had also moved into pole position for the final round, with this win over John Wheeler, in which he demonstrates his penchant for the fianchetto openings, followed by a sharp counter attack in the middlegame.

White: B. L. Baer.

Black: J. F. Wheeler [A07]

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.d3 d5 5.0-0 0-0 6.Nbd2 Nbd7 7.e4 dxe4 8.dxe4 e5 9.a4 c6 10.Qe2 Qc7 11.Nc4 Re8 12.Rd1 Bf8 13.a5 b5 14.axb6 Nxb6 15.Nxb6 Qxb6 16.Bg5 Nd7 17.Qc4 Bc5



White could have defended here with Rd2, though the b-pawn still drops. Instead he sucks in the Bishop, then traps it. 18.Bh3 Bxf2+ 19.Kg2 Nf8 20.Bxc8 Raxc8 21.Ra6 Qc5 22.Qe2 Bd4 23.c3 Ne6 24.cxd4 Nxd4 25.Nxd4 exd4 26.Bf6 Qf5 27.exf5 Rxc2+ 28.Kf3 Rxb2 29.Rxd4 Rb7 30.Rxc6 1-0

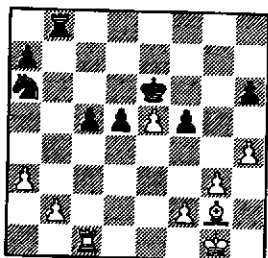
Round 5

Baer and Parkin were the only two on maximum points, and the only question was whether they would settle for a quick draw, or slug it out to the bitter end.

White: B. L. Baer.

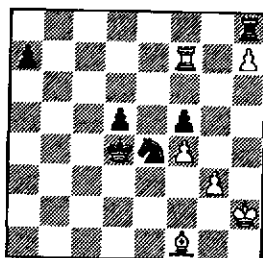
Black: J. M. Parkin [A04]

1.Nf3 f5 2.g3 Nf6 3.d3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.0-0 0-0 6.e4 d6 7.exf5 Bxf5 8.c3 e5 9.Qb3+ Kh8 10.Qxb7 White dares to take the b-pawn, but the Queen is constantly harried throughout the middlegame as a consequence. 10...Nbd7 11.d4 Be4 (=) Parkin would clearly be happy to share the points at this stage, with a guarantee of equal first. Baer is not so minded. 12.Qa6 exd4 13.exd4 Nd5 14.Nbd2 Nb4 15.Qc4 Bxf3 16.Nxf3 Rb8 17.a3 d5 18.Qc3 Na6 19.Qc6 Nb6 20.Bg5 Bf6 21.Bh6 Bg7 22.Bxg7+ Kxg7 23.Qb5 Qc8 24.Ng5 e6 25.Qe2 Re8 26.Qf3 Rf8 27.Qe3 Re8 28.Qf4 Qf5 29.Qxf5 gxf5 30.Rfe1 Kf6 31.h4 h6 32.Nf3 Rxe1+ 33.Rxe1 Ne4 34.Ne5 Nxe5 35.dxe5+ Ke6 36.Rc1 e5



Position at the 1st time control. White is a pawn up, has B vs N and the better pawn structure. The majority of games are now over, the hall is emptying except for a small crown gathering round the top game, keen to see how this will end. White has declined a draw twice, and has generally had the initiative throughout, though with much sniping from Black. 37.Bf1 c4 38.b3 Rxb3 39.Rxc4 Kxe5 (=) Still Black would be happy to draw. 40.Rc6 Nb8 41.Rxh6

Rxa3 42.h5 Nd7 43.f4+ Kd4 44.Rg6 Re3 45.Rg7 Nf6 46.h6 Re8 47.Rf7 Ne4 48.Kh2 Rh8 49.h7



Since the time control, Black has managed to centralise his knight, pull back a pawn and neutralise the h-pawn's advance. Now he is in a position to counter on the opposite wing. By this time, almost every game in the hall had finished and the crowd round this game was several deep. 49...a5 50.Bh3 a4 51.Ra7 a3 52.Bxf5 Nd6 53.Bb1 The Bishop is working hard to the point of overload. 53...Nb5 54.Rg7 Nc3 55.Rg8 a2 The final straw for the Bishop. 56.Bxa2 Rxh7+ 57.Kg2 Nxa2 58.Kf3 Nc3 59.Rb8 Ne4 60.Rg8 Rh2 0-1

James punched the air in his moment of victory. He had now won the event in consecutive years, winning all ten games in the process. His next outing was to be the West of England Championship at Exmouth over the Easter weekend, trying to improve on his Runner-Up position last year.

Full details:

Premier: U-205

1 st	J. M. Parkin	(Exeter University)	5/5 pts	£200
2 nd	R. Jones	(Swansea Valley)	4½	£100
3 rd =	B. Baer	(Exeter)	4	£20
	D. Roberts	(Met Office)		
	A. Pleasants	(Weymouth)		

Grading Prize: U-158 1st=

J. Walker	(Teignmouth)	3	£25
S. Piper	(Holsworthy)		

Major: U-150

1 st =	D. C. Wood	(Burnham on Sea)	4 pts	£68.75
	N. J. Wilson	(Taunton)		
	G. N. Jepps	(Frome)		
	M. J. Harris	(Newcastle-under-Lyme)		

Garding Prize: U-134

J. A. Spiegel	(Southend)	3½	£40
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Intermediate: U-125

1 st	F. W. Moreland	(Newham)	4½ pts	£120
2 nd =	N. Suttie	(Exmouth)	4	£25
	C. H. Pemberton	(Balsall Common)		
	A. D. Hargreaves	(Whitstable)		
	A. L. Therrien	(Isca Juniors)		

Grading Prize U-116

1 st =	P. J. Brown	(Chard)	3½ pts	£15
	P. Brackner	(Weymouth)		
U-107	J. W. Clarke	(Brixham)	3 pts	£30

Minor: U-100

1 st =	A. Wright	(Gloucester)	4½ pts	£90
	P. J. Cowley	(Paignton)		
3 rd =	A. Tatam	(Plymouth)	4 pts	£20
	M. J. Cuggy	(Brixham)		

Grading Prize U-86

1 st =	J. Maloney	(Exeter)	3	£10
	J. H. Whitfield	(S. Hams)		
	R. Chubb	(Teignmouth)		
	D. Turtle	(Penwith)		

Minor Seniors' Prize:

1 st =	J. Eyre	(Cockfosters)		£10
	E. Soper	(Exeter)		
	J. Britten	(Brixham)		

Team Prize: 1st= Isca Juniors & Taunton both won clock prizes.

Former West of England Champion, Gary Lane, increasingly known more as an author than a player these days, is always happy to contribute an article for Westward Ho! This time he offers readers some original ideas as Black against the Queen's Gambit

The Baltic Defence

by
Gary Lane

Nowadays, there are plenty of opening books that reveal how to win as long as you play a new idea around move 21. The reality is that most club players would be lucky to get past 7 moves before their opponent played something strange.

I have had a lot of positive feedback about my Batsford book 'Victory in the Opening' that gives numerous ways to create surprises within ten moves, which has basically reinforced the idea of how important it is to make sure your opening appears on the board before the opponent deviates into the unknown. This is why I have had enquires about how to play against the Queen's Gambit which has been played for hundreds of years and has become known as a formidable opening weapon. There are loads of books on the subject and even world champions have struggled to get a grip on how to handle the line. Therefore, what should one do if you just want to play a decent game against it? An obvious solution is to move to a remote island to learn the mind-boggling complications with special emphasis on minority pawn attacks and isolated queen pawn positions. There is also the practical solution, which is to avoid it!

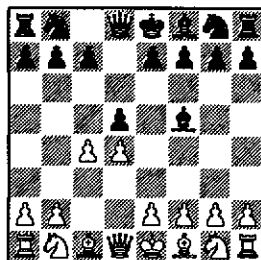
The Baltic Defence 1 d4 d5 2 c4 and 2.Bf5 is designed to annoy White who

usually has to start thinking from move two. The purists will rightly argue that it gives up the centre but that has not put off various star players adopting it such as Keres, Shirov and Akopian. Perhaps the key point is that at club level it is an awkward opening that presents White with a fresh set of problems in the opening.

C. Ward - I. Rausis

Le Torquet, 1992

1.d4 d5 2.c4 ♠f5



The starting point of the Baltic Defence.

3.♗b3 A typical reply that seeks to take advantage of the bishop excursion by putting pressure on the b7 and d5 pawns.

3..... e5 Black seeks to accelerate his development even if it costs the odd pawn.

4.cxd5 Hands up who would take on b7? The problem is that White falls behind on development and is soon in trouble. After 4. ♖d7 play might proceed :

a) 5. ♖c3 exd4 6. ♖xd5 ♗d6 7.e4 ♖c5 8. ♖xc7+ ♗xc7 9. ♗c6+ ♖d7 10. exf5 ♗a5+ 11. ♗d1 ♖e7 12. ♗f3 0-0 13. ♗f4 ♗b6 14. ♗b1 ♖c6 15. a3 ♗c3 16. ♗d3 ♗xb2 17. ♗c2 ♗ab8 18. ♗xb8 ♗xb8 19. ♖e2 ♖ce5 20. ♗g3 ♖xd3 21. ♖c1 ♖xc1 22. ♗hxc1

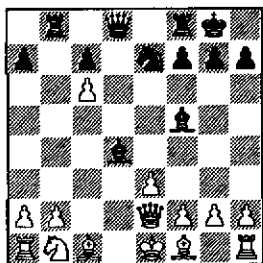
d3+ 0-1 H. Sorensen - I. Rausis, Gausdal 1989.

b) 5.♖xd5 ♗xb1 6.♖xb1 ♗b4+ 7.♗d1 ♗gf6 8.♗g5 0-0 9.♗f3 ♖c8 10.♗xf6 ♗xf6 11.♖xe5 ♖e8 12.♖f4 ♖c4 13.♖c1 ♗g4 14.♖c2 ♗xf2+ 15.♗c1 ♖e3 16.♖g1 ♖e8 17.a3 ♗d6 18.♖f5 g6 19.♖f6 ♖a4 20.b3 ♖xa3+ 21.♗c2 ♖c3+ 22.♗xc3 ♗e4+ 0-1 A. Mokriak - L. Jotov, Teteven 1991.

4... exd4 5.♗f3 ♗c5

The Latvian GM Igor Rausis has done much to popularise the opening in recent years thanks to a number of impressive victories. Therefore, it is hardly surprising that he improves on the old 'book' line quoted in 'Batsford Chess Openings 2' that went 5...♗c4?! 6.♗xd4 ♗xd5 7.♖e3+ ♖e7 8.♗c3 ♗f6 9.♖xe7+ ♗xc7 10.♗g5 ♗e6 11.e4 c6 12.♗xe6 fxe6 13.♗c4 e5 14.♗e2 ♗bd7 15.f3 and White had the superior chances in S. Gligoric - K. Schiffer, Berlin 1971.

6.♗xd4 ♗xd4
7.♖a4+ ♗c6 8.dxc6 b5
9.♖xb5 ♗e7 10.e3 ♖b8
11.♖e2 0-0



It is to Chris Ward's credit that he still smiles when talking about this game. He told me that it was played at 40 moves in two hours and he had already used up over an hour on the clock, while his opponent had used 2 minutes including the time taken to write down their names on the score sheet. The position is very poor for White because he cannot use his extra

material and has great difficulty finding time to get his pieces into the action. If 12.exd4 then 12...♗xc6 intending ...♗b4 or ...♗xd4 is winning for Black. 12.♗c3 ♗xc6 13.g4 ♗xc3+

14.bxc3 ♗e4 15.♖g1 ♗e5

The twin threats of ...♗f3+ and ...♗d3+ are decisive.

16.♗g2 ♗d3+ 17.♗f1 ♗xc1 0-1

It is always a good idea to see how to play an opening by looking at the games of someone who regularly employs the defense. Here is how Rausis copes with 3.cxd5.

V. Ivanov - I. Rausis

Daugavpils, 1982

1.d4 d5 2.c4 ♗f5

3.cxd5 Ivanov takes on d5, which

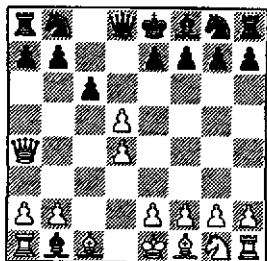
is one of the critical lines because Black has to give up the bishop pair. The most basic idea is that White has a comfortable position after 3...♖xd5?! which allows 4.♗c3 ♖a5 5.Qb3.

3... ♗xb 4.♖a4+ This move takes some of the sting out of Black's opening but White still has to be careful. The old move 4.♖xb1 was given an outing in I. Sambale - M. Leipert, Gruenheide 1997, Black castled queenside and started to attack : 4...♖xd5 5.a3 ♗c6 6.♗f3 0-0-0 (6...♖e4 is also worth a draw when 7.♖a1 e5 8.e3 ♗xd4 9.♗xd4 exd4 10.♖xd4 is equal.) 7.e3 e5 8.♖c2 exd4 9.♗c4 d3 10.♖b3 ♖e4 11.♗xf7 d2+ 12.♗xd2 ♖xg2 13.♖f1 ♗h6 14.♗e6+ ♗b8 15.♖c4 ♗e5 16.♖e2 ♖xh2 17.b4 ♗e7 18.♖b3 ♗d6 19.♗c4 ♖hd8 20.♗d1 ♗xc4 21.♖xc4 ♗f6 22.♖e2 ♖e5 23.♖f3 ♗f5 24.♖b1 ♗h4 25.♖g4 h5 26.♖e2 ♖e4 0-1.

4... c6

See diagram

A gambit played in the spirit of the opening that is based on the idea of getting the black pieces into the game. If you want to play it safe then take a tip from Rocabert Andreu - Gonzalez Manchon, Barcelona 2000, and enter the ending with 4...♞d7 there followed:
 5.♞xd7+ ♖xd7 6.♞xb1 ♜gf6 7.f3 ♜xd5
 8.a3 e5 9.c4 ♜5f6 10.d5 ♙c5 11.♙b5 a6
 12.♙xd7+ ♜xd7 13.♜e2 ♞ac8 14.♙e3
 ♙xc3 15.♜xc3 c6 16.dxc6+ ♞xc6 17.♜e2
 1/2. - 1/2.



Position after 4... c6

5.dxc6 Ivanov takes the opportunity to add a pawn to his collection. 5. ♞xb1 ♞xd5 and now:

a) 6.♜f3 ♜f6 (perhaps (6...♞f5!?)
 7.a3 ♞a2 8.♞c2 e6 9.♜d2 ♙xa3?
 (this is one tactic too far) 10.♞a4 1-0
 F. Gheorghui - H. Elstner, Montana
 2000.

b) 6.f3 e5 7.dxe5 ♞xe5 8.♙f4 ♞f5
 9.♙d1 ♜a6 10.e3 ♜c5 11.♞c4 ♜e6
 12.♙d3 ♞a5+ 13.♜f2 ♜xf4 14.♞xf4
 1/2 - 1/2 A. Czerwinski - O.
 Ivannikov, Frydek - Misk 1996.

5...♜xc6 6.♞xb1 e5
 7.♙d2 ♞xd4 8.♞xd4 exd4
 9.♜f3 ♜f6 10.b4 a6
 11.a4?

A classic mistake to assume that in the ending there are no tactics available. The pawn on b4 will soon be revealed as weak so 11.a3 should be considered.

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11... ♜e4 The simple threat is...♜xd2 followed by ...♙xb4.

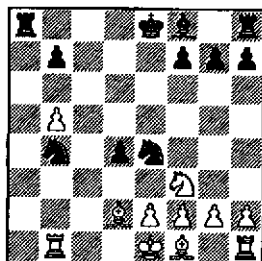
12.b5

The only way to avoid an instant loss of a pawn but the drawback is that it releases black's queen's rook by allowing the a-file to be opened.

12... axb5

13.axb5 ♜b4!

Black stakes his claim for victory. This marvelous move puts White under intense pressure and the open a-file means that a nasty check can be applied if White takes on b4.



14.♜xd4 Or
 14.♙xb4 ♙xb4+ 15.♞xb4 ♞a1+ wins.

14... ♞a2

15.♙c1 There is no way out of this mess. If 15.♜b3 ♜c2+ 16.♜d1 ♜xf2+ 17.♜c1 ♙a3+ or; 15.♙d1 ♜c2+ 16.♜xc2 ♞xc2 17.♙a5 (17.e3 ♜xd2 18.♞xd2 ♙b4 wins.) 17...b6 18.f3 bxa5 19.fxe4 ♙b4+ 20.♜f2 ♜e7 and Black has the better ending thanks to the passed a-pawn and the vulnerable white b-pawn.

15... ♙c5 16.f3 What else?
 16.e3 fails to 16...♙xd4 17.exd4 ♜c2+
 18.♜e2 ♜c3+ and Black can go home.

16... ♜c2+
 17.♜xc2 ♙f2+ 18.♜d1 ♜c3+

19.♔d2 ♖xb1+ 20.♔d3 ♗e7
21.e3 ♜c8 0-1

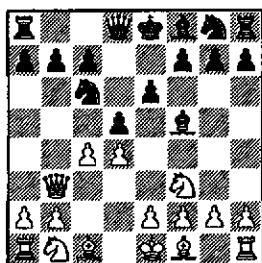
S. Bell – J. Rowson

Newcastle, 1995

1.d4 d5 2.c4 ♔f5
3.♖f3

A reliable system that seeks to secure a small advantage rather than attempt an outright refutation.

3... e6 4.♖b3 ♖c6



5.c5

A winning attempt because 5.♖xb7 leads to a quick draw upon 5...♖b4 6.♖a3 ♖b8 7.♖xa7 ♖a8 8.♖b7 ♖b8 9.♖a7 ♖a8 with a repetition of moves.

5... ♖b8 6.♖c3

6.♔f4 is the main alternative when 6...f6 was tried in O. Romanishin – I. Miladinovic, Saint Vincent 2000. The game continued 7.e3 ♖g7 8.♖bd2 g5 9.♔g3 h5 10.h3 ♖d7 11.♜c1 a6 12.♖c3 ♔g6 13.h4 g4 14.♖g1 e5 15.♖b3 ♖e6 16.♔d3 ♔xd3 17.♖xd3 ♖f5 with equal chances.

6... ♖f6

7.♔g5

Also possible 7.e3 a6 8.♖d1 ♔e7 9.♔d3 ♖e4 10.0-0 0-0 11.a3 ♖xc3 12.bxc3 ♔xd3 13.♖xd3 e5 14.dxe5 ♔xc5 15.c4 dxc4 16.♖xc4 ♖e7 and Black had the better

pawn structure in C. Bernard – Z. Klarić, Pau 1988.

7... ♔e7 8.e3 0-0
9.♔b5 ♖e4 10.♔f4 g5

It may seem reckless to advance a pawn in front of the king but the idea is that because the centre is closed making it difficult for White to take advantage of the situation.

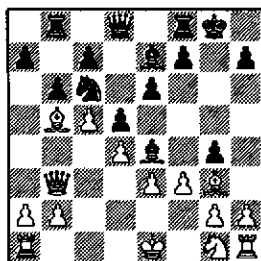
11.♔g3 g4 12.♖g1 b6?!

A surprising move that tantalisingly offers a piece for a lightning attack.

13.♖xe4

White plays it safe although 13.♔xc6 is met by 13...bxc5 14.♖d1 (14.♔b7 ♖d6 15.♔xd6 cxd6 favours Rowson) 14...♖xb2 with unclear play but a piece is a heavy price for Black to pay.

13... ♔xe4 14.f3



14... bxc5!

Rowson seizes his chance by ignoring the threat on the ♔ to open up the b-file to pin the light-squared ♔.

15.fxe4 a6 16.♔xc6

White tries to accumulate material for his ♖ but the deciding factor will be his poor development and the ♔ stuck in the centre. After 16.exd5 then Black has a strong initiative upon 16...♖xb5 17.♖d1 exd5 18.♖xg4+ ♔h8.

16... ♖xb3
 17.axb3 cxd4 18.exd4 ♖b4+
 19.♗d1 ♖g5

The threatened mate on d2 compels Bell to take defensive measures but his lack of development makes that task difficult.

20.♗e1 ♖e3
 21.♗xb4 ♖xb3+ 22.♗e2 ♖xb4
 0-1

The theme of playing ♖b3 is closely linked to the Baltic Defence because it is an obvious way to exploit the early ... ♗f5 in the opening. Another approach is simply develop and take the battle into the middlegame. A timely reminder that 2. ... ♗f5 is not a forced win!

A. Istratescu – N. Managadze
 Greek Team Ch., 2000

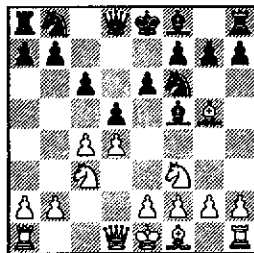
1.d4 d5 2.c4 ♗f5
 3.♗c3 e6 4.♗f3 ♗f6

There is no time for the cautious 4...h6 which was seen in L. Valenzuela – M. Lobos, Vina del Mar 1997. That game went 5.♗f4 c6 6.♖b3 ♖b6 7.c5 ♖xb3 8.axb3 ♗a6 9.e3 ♗b4 10.♗d2 ♗e7 11.♖a4 a5 12.♗c7 ♗f6 13.♗xa5 and the extra pawn gave White the better ending.

5.♗g5

The bishop pins the knight. Also possible is 5.e3 which occurred in R. De Jong – S. Wulfers, Dutch Junior ch 1999. There followed 5...♗c6 6.a3 dxc4 7.♗xc4 ♗d6 8.b4 0-0 9.♗b2 ♖e7 10.♖b3 a6 11.♖c1 ♖ad8 12.d5 exd5 13.♗xd5 ♗xd5 14.♗xd5 ♗e4 15.♖c3 1-0.

5... c6



6.e3

White is content to get on with the job of developing rather than going for a quick knockout. 6.♖b3 is the main alternative although it usually means an ending is the result after 6...♖b6. For example:

a) 7.♗xf6 gxf6 8.e3 ♗d7 9.♗e2 0-0-0 10.0-0 dxc4 11.♗xc4 ♖xb3 12.♗xb3 The ending is equal but it is worth seeing how to handle such a position. 12...♗b4 13.a3 ♗a5 14.♖fc1 ♗b8 15.♗d1 e5 16.b4 ♗b6 17.d5 cxd5 18.♗xd5 ♗e6 19.♗b3 h6 20.♗c4 ♖c8 21.♗xb6 ♗xb6 22.♗xe6 fxe6 23.♗f1 ♗a4 24.♗e1 1/2 – 1/2 K. Hulak – d. Zecevic, Croatian Team Ch Ch. 1995.

b); 7.c5 ♖xb3 8.axb3 White is prepared to accept the doubled b-pawns in return for the semi-open a-file. 8...♗c4 9.♗f4 ♗d7 10.b4 f6 11.e3 g5 12.♗g3 h5 13.b5 e5 14.h4 ♗xg3 15.fxg3 g4 16.♗h2 ♗h6 17.♗f2 0-0 18.bxc6 bxc6 19.♗a6 ♖ab8 20.♖a2 ♖b4 21.♖d1 ♗xc3+ 22.♗xc3 exd4+ 0-1. Cruz Lopez Claret – P. Brochet, Toulouse 1999.)

6... ♗e7

7.♗e2

7.♗d3 is also possible.

7... 0-0

9.♗f4

♗d7

8.0-0 ♗c4

The knight is heading for f6.

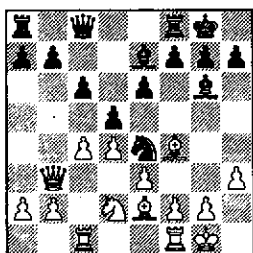
11.♗d2 ♗g6

13.♖ac1 ♗f6

10.♗xe4 ♗xe4

12.♖b3 ♖c8

14.h3 ♗e4



15. ♖xe4 dxc4?

It is always nice to be reminded that international masters also make silly mistakes. Something tells me that 15... ♖xe4 is a big improvement when 16.f3 ♖g6 17. ♗d3 intending e3-e4 gives White a small advantage.

16. ♗c2

1-0

The Baltic Defence is the perfect way to surprise anyone who plays the Queen's Gambit. The long list of tactics available for Black means that a number of victories could be recorded by gaining a decisive advantage straight from the opening. It is worth a try.

Richard Nash of North Devon, has been doing some research into the history of the Jaques company, which has been world famous for its production of Staunton for a century and a half. As you can see, it all started many years ago in the Westcountry.

John Jaques and the Staunton Chessmen

The Dick Whittington of fable and pantomime made his famous journey to London on foot. Thomas Jaques, his 18th century counterpart, chose a farm wagon as his mode of transport. He was born in 1765, the son of a farmer of French Huguenot descent, spent his childhood in the Wiltshire village of Grittleton, near Chippenham, and as an ambitious lad of fifteen left for London to seek his fortune.

He became apprenticed to a bone and ivory turner, Mr. Ivy, at 65, Leather Lane, Holborn, where his natural ability showed itself early on. Thomas's instinct and good sense extended into his private life, as at twenty-one he married Mr. Ivy's niece. Nine years later his employer and uncle by marriage died, and he took on the business which became "Thomas Jaques, Manufacturer of Ivory, Hardwoods, Bone and Tunbridge Ware", the last being a form of inlaid woodwork. In the same year, 1795, the first John Jaques was born, the third of seven children.

At fifteen, John was apprenticed to his father, and six years later partnered him in the firm. This was flourishing, with handcrafted coat, hat and hairbrushes, paper knives, workboxes, glove stretchers, snuff boxes, ivory fans and chessmen being produced "for Wholesale and for Exportation".

The need was becoming felt for a classic, simple design of chessmen to replace either the ornate or roughly turned ones then available. In around 1835 such a design was created by Nathaniel Cooke, proprietor of *The Illustrated London News*, whose daughter

later married John Jaques II. He took details of this design to John Jaques, by which time the family firm had expanded into additional premises in Hatton Garden. Cooke registered it in 1849, and in that year the *Morning Herald* commented on the exquisite knights inspired by the Greek horse of the Elgin Marbles, while *The Times* described the pattern as combining elegance and solidity to a degree formerly unknown.

Howard Staunton was the world's leading player of the 1840's, promoter of the world's first international chess tournament, chess columnist, author and Shakespearean scholar. In *The Illustrated London News* six months after their registration, Staunton recommended the use of these chessmen. When protection of the design expired three years later, he allowed his name and signature to authenticate every Jaques set, for a fee on each being sold, for only these sets were "genuine Staunton chessmen." The design became popular on account of the pleasing proportions of the men, the ease with which each man could be identified, and not least Staunton's advocacy. Over the years the design was refined, with about fifteen variations subsequently being named after different chess masters. The peak of perfection in design and craftsmanship was probably attained in about 1900 when a good club set, in boxwood and ebony, would typically have kings of height 4 ¼ inches and base diameter 2 inches, housed in a lockable mahogany box, while sets in ivory and smaller ones down to library size with kings about 2 ¾ inches high were manufactured.

John Jaques son, JJ II, was also apprenticed into the family firm and with considerable imagination he introduced croquet into England. His display at the Great Exhibition of 1851 attracted wide attention, with the game rapidly spreading in Europe and throughout the British Empire. The appeal of croquet was to allow the fashionable set to step outside the claustrophobic Victorian parlour to take exercise and show off their finery. Moreover, it gave young men and women a legitimate opportunity to mingle and wander off into the proverbial rhododendron bushes momentarily out of sight of their ever-present chaperones. JJ II was regarded as the greatest authority on the game and in 1864 published "*Croquet: the Laws and Regulations of the Game*", by which, with some revision, croquet is still played today. He also invented many parlour games including Tiddley-Winks (originally spelt Tiddledy), Ludo, Snakes and Ladders and Happy Families with memorable drawings by Tenniel, who brought "Alice in Wonderland" so vividly to life. He also developed dominoes, draughts and backgammon, and his originality and business acumen rewarded him with the Freedom of the City of London in 1869.

His son, John Jaques III, entered the family firm in 1884 and was a very keen athlete. His interests and abilities matched the changes that were taking place in the world of games and sports, and he initiated and extended the production of sports equipment for cricket, tennis, football, hockey, badminton, archery and bowls, never losing sight of the importance of craftsmanship. He also marketed the new game called Gossima, presumably because of the featherlight ball, which became ping-pong and then table tennis with its spectacular success as an international sport.

Ironically, John Jaques owes its survival to the company's inventive and top-secret role during the second World War, the deadliest game of all. John Jaques IV

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worked with M.I.9, the clandestine Intelligence Department responsible for "Escape and Evasion", the function of which was to help prisoners of war and shot-down airmen to escape and evade the enemy. Under the Geneva Convention, Jaques' games and equipment were allowed to be sent to the prisons, and these were specially crafted to conceal key elements of vital escape kits. Neatly sandwiched between the cardboard of Jaques Ludo or Snakes and Ladders, invisible to the unsuspecting Germans, was a map. Tightly furled within the wooden handle of cleverly split Jacques lacing awl, used to tighten laces on pre-war footballs, precious currency was secreted, the pegs of Jaques' game of deck quoits were hollowed out to contain a tiny compass, and cribbage boards opened to reveal a long slim panel containing a potentially life-saving hacksaw blade. Prior to the arrival of any of these innocent looking gifts, the prisoners would have received a coded message in correspondence alerting them to the hidden escape kit. Had it not been for this essential war work, Jaques' whole business would have been considered non-essential, with materials impossible to obtain.

Worse was to come during the Blitz of 1941 when Jaques' entire factory, which had been moved from Hatton Garden to Kirby Street, was destroyed. Only the company safe survived, which contained their original Pattern book, the design source of all they had created from 1795 to 1870, which was almost completely restored. Within a month the company was able to relocate and resume operations in their current headquarters in Thornton Heath, Surrey.

Just after the war, JJ IV invented the phenolic resin woods for playing bowls, superior to any other man-made material at the time. In 1950 he introduced a laminated plastic fibre archery bow, laminated tennis racket frames, and transformed the traditional wooden badminton racket into a lightweight, steel-shafted 4 oz. version. By the 1950's, Jaques had agents world wide selling their unsurpassed range of games and sports equipment, even including darts, skittles and shove halfpenny boards for the pub.

JJ IV was also a master turner, and personally created a miniature Staunton chess set, hand-carved out of ivory, for Queen Mary's Doll's House, made at her request. As a gesture of her gratitude for the fine work, she made a gift to him of the original 18th century walnut pedestal table.

Thus beautiful chess sets have continued from the time in 1862 when Jaques were awarded two prize medals for their Staunton chessmen until 1972 when they were used in the epic Fischer-Spassky world title match. Although Fischer objected to many of the arrangements and to much of the equipment, the Jaques Staunton men were beyond criticism. Kasparov has taken them for granted, and from the firm's bicentenary year, 1995, replicas of their early Staunton sets have been available.

In 1965, John Jaques passed safely into the hands of his sons, John V and Christopher. Together with Christopher's sons, Benjamin and Emmett, they have kept the firm competitive, continually forging new relationships with companies whose products are equal in quality to their own, taking it into the new Millennium.

Richard Nash.

Lane Wedding in Oz

Our congratulations go to our regular contributor, Gary Lane, who was married in Sydney on 9th February 2001. His bride was Nancy Jones, whose parents run a book business in Australia. It seems a drastic move to secure an overseas outlet for his own books, but we wish them both the very best for their future together. Although planning to live most of his time in Australia, he will be visiting us from time to time, and aims to be playing in the British Championship at Scarborough, where he hopes to at least equal his excellent performance there two years ago, when he came 6th in very strong company.

Portsmouth Congress

Results

Premier: 1 st	Danny Gormally	5½/6
2 nd =	Dave Ledger	4½/6
	Philip Rossiter	
4 th	M Schlette	4/6
Major: 1 st	D. Badham	5/6
2 nd =	Teresa Khoo,	4½
	N. Blackie,	
	P. Jackson.	
Minor: 1 st =	D. Elliot	5/6
	R. Gosden	
	A. McDougall	
	P. Zabrocki	
Novices: 1 st	Selina Khoo	5½/6
2 nd	J. Farrell	5

Obituary

D. V. Mardle

Since our last edition, the death was recorded of Dennis Mardle, the noted Gloucestershire player.

At school, he had been a brilliant scholar, but was struck down with polio at the age of 15, which left him incapacitated. However, he responded to this bad luck with an indomitable spirit, and he continued to excel at his studies. He specialised in cryptography, and became one of the country's leading operators in this field, working at GCHQ in Cheltenham. He played regularly for Gloucestershire, where his play at the board was as brave and courageous as it was in life.

A for Adams.

In the latest FIDE list, Cornwall's Michael Adams is rated 4th in the world, at 2746, just behind Kasparov, Anand and Kramnik.

Brits are Back.

The British Championship is returning to the Westcountry in 2002, when it comes to the Riviera Centre, Torquay.

Westward Ho!

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