



BULLETIN

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SOUTHERN COUNTIES CHESS UNION

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Yes, an Editorial! At the moment of writing it appears (absit omen) that adjudicated games in the Counties Championship Final will assure Kent's victory over Lancashire. Only the margin of victory is in doubt. The heartiest of congratulations to Joyce Macdonald-Ross and her team on keeping the title in the Southern Counties.

Bucks have done the unprecedented by picking up the Minor Counties title - the first first team ever to do so. They could remain the only first team to win this against second-team opposition, if anything comes of BCF proposals to put the second teams of the big boys in a competition of their own.

Surrey, of course, had already won the national Girls U18 title. Three championships in one year (and I hope I'm not overlooking anyone else!) doesn't seem bad going for one Union, even if it is the biggest.

SCCU BULLETIN

Please remember that all subscriptions expire with this issue. An order form for next season is attached to the front cover - send it off straight away if you're not fed up with the Bulletin yet. Put it off and, if you're anything like the Editor, you'll never get round to it.

The subscription has inevitably gone up again. Sorry about that, but the Bulletin has to pay for itself.

SCCU GRADING LIST

The 1981-2 List should be available about mid September. The order form on the front of this issue can also be used for ordering Grading Lists. Please try to get your order in in good time - it does help - but remember that the publication date is uncertain.

Note that the Grading List is sold separately from the Bulletin; Bulletin subscribers do not get a Grading List automatically.

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING

The Annual Council Meeting of the Union took place on Saturday 13th June 1981 at St Brides. 32 attended. All Counties except Berks were represented, though it was noticeable that only two had availed themselves of their right to produce three delegates, and some were represented only by people on the Union Executive who could have attended - and probably did - in their own right as individuals.

The (somewhat lengthy) official minutes will of course be sent to all Counties but the main points were:

SGM 3.10.80: This was the meeting which would, if quorate, have discussed the new Tournament Rules. Mr James (Surrey) complained that County delegates had not been told about the meeting. The President replied that all County Secretaries had been notified, and it was their job to pass the notice on. Mr James thought the position rather unsatisfactory.

Accounts for 1980-81: These showed a loss of £119, due to disappointing sales of Grading Lists and unexpected rises in general expenditure. The question of congress affiliation fees was raised; Mr Lauder thought it wrong that they should go direct to the BCF because that meant the SCCU, by virtue of its greater congress activity, was directly subsidising the other unions.

Budget for 1981-2: Mr Richmond said he had been more cautious than last year. The Meeting discussed:

(a) Bulletin subscription: £2 seemed acceptable to everyone.

(b) Grading List: Ordinary price £1.60; discount price (10 or more copies) £1.40; price to commercial enterprises ordering in bulk for resale £1.20. Mr Locke made it clear that all these prices were economically viable.

There was some discussion of County grading lists, largely pirated from the SCCU one. It was thought that these might considerably reduce SCCU sales. Mr Locke said that in spite of the copyright notice appearing on the Grading List there seemed to be a convention that Counties were entitled to produce their own lists. The point was made that the Union could now produce the Counties' lists for them if they were willing.

(c) General expenditure: The Treasurer said that despite the smallness of the budgeted increase he thought he had erred, if anything, on the side of caution. The Individual Championship should in future pay for itself, and room hire and travelling expenses might be expected to come down. On the other hand it seemed that insurance costs might go up, since we had just found the Fleming Trophy to be much under-valued.

The Treasurer proposed a levy increase from £4.50 to £6. This was approved with a large majority, after an unsuccessful amendment to £6.50.

The Meeting passed a vote of thanks to the Treasurer.

Grading: Mr Locke reported on the BCF's plans for centralised grading by computer. There was much discussion, but the Meeting was hampered by the paucity of information available since the plans are still at an early stage. The system would be tied in with the BCF registration scheme, and might come into operation in 1984 (!- Ed). It would render the SCCU system redundant. Much disquiet was expressed about methods of getting the game results to the computer; it seemed it would involve some people in very tedious operations. The local grader would become extinct.

Mr Locke reminded the Meeting that as from 30th April 1981 the Union was no longer accepting results for grading from unaffiliated congresses (with the exception of County ones). The question of league affiliation was to come up at BCF level.

County competitions: There were so far only three entries for the Ebony Shield next year (two from Surrey and one from Kent). It was hoped Essex might enter.

Elections (addresses inside front cover)

President	AJ Douglas	Executive Committee:
Deputy President	BA Fewell	AB Bamford (Sussex)
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Curator of Equipment	FC Manning	G Parker (Bucks)
Bulletin Editor	RJ Haddrell	J Poole (Middx)
Grading Programmer	HT Jones	GL Smith (Essex)

MrWR Bonds of Kent was reappointed Auditor.

Inter-County Competitions: The Executive had come up with some ideas for reducing travel expense and fixture congestion. Eventually no decisions were made, but the ideas remain on the table if anyone wants to take them up again. The suggestions were: (a) the top 2 divisions to be reduced to 8 teams each. Surrey were happy with this; Beds and Bucks said no. (b) an extra division for the teams displaced from the top 2. Obviously this depended on reaction to (a), and nobody could see where the teams were going to come from to make up the numbers into a sensible competition. (c) Regionalisation, and sub-division of Counties, in the lower divisions. There was mixed reaction to this. (d) Promotion and relegation throughout. Mixed reaction again. (e) A reduction in the size of teams (16 being the minimum BCF requirement). The idea was scarcely more than touched on.

One member said he would like to see 1st and 2nd team matches played simultaneously. This would make things easier for clubs that played their matches at weekends. The arrangement permitting Cambs to play all their matches in the university term was also brought up, as it had been at at least one recent AGM.

Tournament Rules: The Meeting now undertook the job of finishing off the draft Tournament Rules. Your Editor must confess that after more than 12 months of this he is starting to find the whole thing a little tedious, so briefly: The remainder of the draft from Rule 10 was considered and accepted, with one significant change: The number of nominations now required for the first team is 18, not 20 as proposed. It remains 14 for other teams.

The nomination rule provoked some discussion, of course. It was actually suggested that all nominated players should be required to play. Another suggestion, perhaps more practicable, was that the top 14 boards in a first team's first match of the season should automatically become "nominated".

The other bit of the eligibility system, preventing a player from going down a team after three appearances, also roused comment. Some felt it was too easy for a player to represent two or three teams regularly in spite of this rule. But of this more on a later page.

The Executive was asked to consider alternatives to both aspects of the eligibility rules. In the meantime, however, the draft rules (as amended) are in force.

COUNTY SECRETARIES PLEASE NOTE

If you have not yet sent off your County's copy for the new BCF Yearbook (publication date 1st October)... You're late. Any stragglers are urged to get this done instantly if not sooner. One County actually ended up without a Yearbook entry last year.

INTER-COUNTY MATCH RULES

In case you didn't read the AGM report: the new Rules are now official. Jeff Douglas asks us to say that copies will be distributed to Counties in good time for next season.

LETTER

Dear Mr Haddrell,

Team "overlap": Your paragraph on this subject, while recording (?regretfully) that no rules were broken*, seems to favour keeping a County's teams "distinct". Aren't you being ivory-towerish?

It has to be recognised that no team is likely to go through a season unchanged; a player may be sick, or prevented by personal or business reasons from playing. So reserves are necessary. Even the model County cited in your paragraph needed 27 reserves for two teams. The problem is to treat the reserves fairly.

What can a "distinct" County with four teams do? It can (a) allot the best 80 players to the four teams, and give the first vacancy which occurs in the first team to the 81st; who would that please? Not the I team captain, not the opponent who expected a good game, not players at the top of the II team who can reasonably expect a chance

* I didn't quite say that! - Ed

to show that they are worthy of higher things. Or it can (b) allot the best 20 players to the I team, keep nos. 21 to 25 as I team reserves, allot nos. 26-45 to the II team with nos. 46-50 as reserves for the II team and so on.

The reserves for each team, debarred from playing for their proper team, but getting only occasional games when a vacancy occurs, would certainly feel frustrated as compared with their colleagues a few places further down in the County order; these colleagues would get regular games with the dates known well in advance, and not a late call because someone has dropped out.

The present compromise system of a limited number of nominated players plus the grading limitations is reasonable and workable. Please don't make the captain's life more difficult than it presently is by pursuing this concept of "distinctness".

Yours sincerely,

FPE Green

Hove

Ed: I'm sure you must have expected my comments, Mr Green, so I won't disappoint you. I am in the happy position of agreeing with almost every word you say (except about me being ivory-towerish). You have convincingly demolished a position I have never defended and do not hold.

I agree that the present system is basically reasonable. Of course the first-team reserves must come from the second team, and so on. But I think the system needs considerable refinement, because it is very lax and - what is worse - is being interpreted differently in different Counties.

I would think it reasonable for any second-team player to have two or three outings in the first team. Not more than three, I don't think; it shouldn't be too hard for the first-team captain to satisfy his requirements by using reserves up to three times each. I expect that was in the mind of whoever drafted the current rule: the one which says you can't play in a lower team after three appearances in a higher one. The trouble lies in that word "after". If you choose your dates right it is quite possible to play half a dozen times each for two different teams, or regularly for three different teams. The result is that some players - not very many - are "full" members of more than one team, and I think this tends to destroy the concept of 1st, 2nd, 3rd teams.

I would like to quote an example from last season. This one is rather extreme, though I could have chosen similar examples from elsewhere. A certain player turned out 13 times in the course of the season, for the first, second and third teams in this order, or something very like it: 2,3,2,3,3,2,1,1,2,2,1,2,1. Now I don't think that's right. An improving player who worked his way up towards the first team as the season progressed? I don't think so; he played on a highish board in the second team in the previous season. If my (rather vague) memory serves me right, the magic figure last year was four (appearances in a higher team...). This means he didn't break any rules. Even under the present rules with the magic number three, only one of his appearances would have been illegal.

There is a small band of players like this, freelancers who will apparently turn out for whichever team has a match on on the day. I respect their keenness but would suggest that it is out of place in these competitions.

My remedy? A rule saying "No player may in the course of a season make more than three appearances outside the team he plays for most often." (That wants refinements to the drafting, but it's what I mean.) When I suggested it at the AGM people seemed to think you'd need a crystal ball half way through the season in order to apply it, but that's not so.

There I go again, writing comments longer than the letters they go with... Of course you can reply, Mr Green.

ROUND THE COUNTIES

KENT: Stevenson Cup Charlton V; Lewis Cup Petts Wood I; En passant Cup West Wickham II; Harvey Cup Charlton VIII. All the finals were played at Finals Day in Sevenoaks (16 May) except the 1st division championship between Charlton and Lewisham. The match was awarded to Charlton when half the Lewisham team failed to turn up on time, having objected to the arrangements for Finals Day. Rumbings continue.

County Championship resulted in a 3-way tie between MP Cook, JD Wager and IR Watson who are playing off. Major Championship M Ruston; Intermediate M Ruston; Minor H Phillips. East Kent Champion R Fullager; Mid Kent CH Armstrong.

Charlton Seniors beat Charlton Juniors 11-8 in their annual match.

NORFOLK: Final League tables in the County Bulletin show - Division I East Norfolk and Norwich A; I West UEA A; II East Gorleston Gnomes(?!); II West Dereham; II Central DONS.

Owen Hindle notched up his 7th Norfolk Championship ahead of John Emms on SOS.

Norfolk and Suffolk Cup Final was won by Saxmundham (of Suffolk we imagine; not sure, we rarely hear from Suffolk) who beat Gorleston 4-2.

Golden Star Summer League was won by Norfolk and Norwich.

Norwich Quickplay Tournament 7.2.81: Group A 1-2 C Cubitt, T Farrand; Group B 1 K Brown. Thetford Quickplay 15.2.81: 1-2 T Farrand, P Kemp.

The Annual Norfolk and Suffolk Jamboree was won by Saxmundham.

SURREY: Felce Cup winner is JDH Nicholas who scored $3/4$ in the final pool ahead of RG Rusha $2\frac{1}{2}$...

The club tournaments are almost completed. Alexander Cup goes to either Sutton or S Norwood who are 4-4 in the final with 2 for adjudication; Surrey Trophy Wimbledon I; Beaumont Cup Sutton II; Ellam Trophy Dorking; Centenary Trophy Ashtead II; Minor Trophy either Mitcham II or Wimbledon V whose final depends on adjudications.

HOME OR AWAY? A postscript to an item in "Round the Counties" last time. We reported that Zenith Chess Club (Maidstone Prison) had failed to get into the Kent club competitions because of their awkward hours and the complete ban on visiting U18s. We asked if anyone knew of a prison team actually competing in a league. Well, there is at least one. Paul Buswell tells us of a prison team named Appleton which is a member of the Warrington and District League. They played in division 5 (of 6) in 1979-80, finishing near the bottom. Only 2 hours is allowed for play, but 12-17 year olds can visit with parental consent. We don't know why the difference in regulations on juniors; with 12 year olds allowed Zenith CC might well have got in.

We hear from the same source that Lowestoft CC have a slight problem: the owners of their premises (a yacht club) are now insisting on jacket and tie for all players, visitors included. Chess players' sartorial habits being what they are, this could prove unpopular.

JUNIOR NEWS

Mostly from Kent this time.

Third Weald of Kent Junior Congress 2.5.81

Major 1-3 A Bellinger, S Reeves, MPR Veck $3\frac{1}{2}/4$... 16 played

Under 14 1 K Watkins $6\frac{1}{2}/7$; 2 I Fullager 6; 3-4 C Johnson, A Prior $5\frac{1}{2}$... 46 played

Under 11 1 R Bellinger $6\frac{1}{2}/7$; 2-3 S Anderson, N Haywood 6... 41 played

Thanet Chess League: 3rd Trustee Savings Bank Junior Championships 10.5.81

Open 1 R Horton 5/5; 2 N Edwards $3\frac{1}{2}$... 6 player APA

Under 16 1 SA Chew 6/6; 2 H Shafiezadeh 5; 3-5 S Blay, R Bray, J Horton 4... 18 pl

Under 13 1 D Shakeshaft $6\frac{1}{2}/8$; 2 S Griffiths 6; 3 D Wright $5\frac{1}{2}$... 21 played

Under 11 1 S Ramsay 8/9; 2 A Clewley $7\frac{1}{2}$; 3 L Atkins, A Clark $6\frac{1}{2}$... 32 played

Kilndown Chess Club: 2nd Invitation Tournament 25.5.81

1 SC Scott $4\frac{1}{2}/5$; 2-3 IM Berberich, MPR Veck 4... 30 played

Dartford Junior Congress 6.6.81

Under 16 1 N McDonald (Gravesend) 6/6; 2 P Morris (Gravesend) 5... 14 played

Under 13 1 TE Farndon (Sevenscaks) $5\frac{1}{2}/6$; 2-3 M Clarke (Swanley), A Tucker 5... 40 pl

Under 10 1 R Bellinger (Brenchley) 6/6; 2 D Cook (Northfleet) 5... 28 played

Isn't anyone else organising junior events these days? Oh yes:

19th Norfolk Schools Congress held over "two Saturdays" but we don't know which two.

Senior 1-2 K McEwan (Sprowston High), M Shephard (Wymondham College) $5\frac{1}{2}/6$;

3 M Johnson (Eaton) 4...

Junior 1 P Harrison (Wymondham) $5\frac{1}{2}/6$; 2 S Moore (Sprowston) 5; 3 B Jeffery (Sprowston) 4..

Junior Premier 1 C Allen (Fakenham) 6/6; 2-3 P Sneddon, G Warren (both Sprowston) 4...

Girls 1 D Thirkettle (Sprowston) 5/6; 2 S Coe (Thorpe) $4\frac{1}{2}$; 3 J Gledhill (Fakenham) 4...

Sprowston High School, which all but dominated this event, has also done the double by winning both the Senior and the Junior sections of the Norfolk Schools League outright - the first time this has been done since 1966.

Lloyds Bank Girls School Trophy 16.5.81 at Sutton was won by Coloma Convent School with 8/8 ahead of North London Collegiate, Edgware $6\frac{1}{2}$. The Under 13 section went to Westergate, Chichester $8\frac{1}{2}/12$ ahead of Coloma 8.

WORLD GIRLS UNDER 16 TOURNAMENT (The first since 1937!) at Westergate under FIDE auspices takes place 25-29 August. The girl champions of the US, Hungary, Australia, Singapore and "many West European nations" are expected to take part.

LONDON PRIMARY SCHOOLS CA: John Ball (Blackheath) are London Champions for the 3rd time in 4 years. Kelvin Grove (Forest Hill) were 2nd and Dulwich Hamlet (S London) 3rd. John Ball are also Kent Primary Champions and Kent Under 13 Champions.

SE London Primary Champion is Justin Smith (John Ball...) who is also London Champion.

SCCU JUNIOR ORGANISER: You will have noted, if you read the AGM report on page 1, that this post was left temporarily vacant. No candidate has yet emerged, and in the interim Fred Manning is continuing to shoulder the burden. This is hardly fair to Fred who has a hundred and one other jobs. Any volunteers? The job involves co-ordinating the Counties, being present (whenever possible) at SCCU junior matches - about 5 Saturdays a year, unless we've missed any - and liaising, occasionally, with outside bodies such as the BCF. The BCF Junior Squad/SCCU Junior Championships are not involved. Serious volunteers for office could contact the SCCU President, Jeff Douglas, whose address appears inside the front cover; or, for that matter, Fred Manning himself.

It looks at the moment as though Berks' attempt to get into the "Metropolitan" 40-board league will founder upon the rocks of fixture congestion. This seems a great

pity as Berks have comfortably enough juniors to make a team, and had agreed to play all their matches at the usual venue in N London. The occasional jamboree hardly seems enough for an active junior County. Any suggestions?

This is an opportune moment to say that the SCCU jamborees (U18 and U14) are open to all Counties. Those interested should contact Fred Manning. The U18 jamborees are on the 6th March; at the time of writing we do not know when the U14 one is but last season it was in mid April.

CONGRESS RESULTS

14th EAST ANGLIAN CONGRESS at the University of East Anglia 3-5 April 1981

Premier 1 C Cubitt 4½/5; 2-4 JT Farrand, RJ Richmond, S Ruthen 4... Norfolk prize shared by P Clemens, J Emms, T Farrand, OM Hindle, J Wells.

Premier Reserves 1 A Elwin 4/5; 2-6 D Carter, Mrs K Hindle, M Madden, GA Meitiner, M Shephard 3½...

Major 1 1 DE Brown 5/5; 2 D Twitchell 4; 3-6 G Blowers, S Ediker, K Freeman, A Toll 3½...

Major 2 1 K Chase 4½/5; 2-3 T Buttolph, JJ Lauder 4; 4 RW Burrell 3½...

Minor 1 1 C White 4½/5; 2-3 R Harvey, SG Matsell 4; 4-5 S Kent, RN Smith 3½...

Minor 2 1-2 R Butcher, P Turvey 4½/5; 3 N Everitt 4; 4-5 D Bradshaw, K Woodcock 3½...

This was the last East Anglian to see Norman Thomas as chief Controller.

Results Norfolk CCA Bulletin

32nd ILFORD CONGRESS 23-25 May 1981

Open 1 AC Kosten 5½; 2-3 Dr J Miles, M Svern 5; 4-7 PG Large, L Madebrink, JG Nicholson, HJ Plaskett 4½... 79 entries. Grading prizes: 170-179 SD Cunliffe; 160-169 RA Barton; 150-159 P de la Mothe, TH Smith; under 150 DJ Watts. Junior prize JM Emms. Special prize C Forbes.

Major 1-2 SJ Abbott, GW Dormand 5½; 3-6 S Bush, SVF Dickinson, MR Ruston, N Solomon 5... entries. Junior prize D Goorvitch.

Minor 1 BS Virk 5½; 2-7 K Chilvers, D Bakhshi, DC Eden, B Rippon, AR Smith, W Stanton 5... 98 entries.

Lightning tournament 1 HJ Plaskett 6; 2-4 K Bowden, J McDonnell, S Rodericks 5... 44 pl

2nd MANOR TYRES CONGRESS at the Grand Hotel, Bristol 26-28 June 1981

Open 1-2 MG Chandler (Charlton), AJ Miles (Birmingham) 4½/5; 3-10 G Anthony (Gloucester), A Ashby (Bristol), TC Fox (Bristol), AC Kosten (Islington), A Martin (YMCA London), RI Nokes (Canterbury NZ), JDM Nunn (Oxford Univ), PK Wells (Portsmouth) 4... Grading prizes: 180-189 JG Gallagher; 170-179 APH Kinsman; below 170 J Barron, S Knox, K Lerner, R Puchades, A Punnett, P Rossiter, R Spears, P Telfer.

Major U160 1 C Bowley (Cheltenham) 5/5; 2-12A Borkowski (Clevedon), A Hill (Bridgwater), RSQ Hillman (Haslemere), DV Jones (Bristol), FC Manning (Wimbledon), AJ Miller (Eccles), S Rawlins (Bristol), GW Sage (RAF), E Vosa (Leicester), AH Williams (Bristol), DG Woodruff (Keynsham) 4... Under 140 grading prizes to A Hill, DV Jones.

Minor U125 1-4 R Bacon (Bristol), M Kenney (Weston super Mare), R Palmer (Bristol), D Smith (Bristol) 4½/5... Under 105 grading prizes to B Thompson, G Bala.

The luxurious venue and excellent prize money (£500 Open 1st prize...) were due to the generosity of the local sponsors, Manor Tyres Ltd. All donations and any profits from the Congress go to the Bristol Chess Educational Trust.

Results Chris Carter

REVIEW

THE MORRA (SMITH) GAMBIT János Flesch (translated by John Réti): Batsford 150pp £6.95 paper covers. Figurine algebraic.

In 1964 I played chess in Cracow, Poland. One of the most impressive things in otherwise drab surroundings were the bookshops and the cheapness of the books, many of which were technological. As with most Russian and Polish books of the time the quality of the paper was notably second rate. It is extremely sad to say that this book on the Morra (Smith) Gambit reminded me immediately of that Russian and Polish paper some of which is now yellow with age.

The second unfortunate detraction I suffered before digesting the content of the book occurs on the front cover where it says "1 e4 c5 2 d4 cd 3 c3" but where the chess board set up is 1 e4 c5 2 c3! Not very impressive as this should be the cover for "2 c3 Sicilian" by MG Chandler and, would you believe, a Batsford chess book.

The next sadness I have is alluded to on the back cover where it says "The opening is known in the US as the Smith-Morra Gambit in recognition of the contribution by the Texan master Ken Smith, who popularised this variation." Is this an olive branch in apology for what occurs between the covers? To quote, "According to K Smith white stands better. This however is not always the case." Or, "We can see that the K Smith type of deduction is wrong for the variation leads to a loss not a win." Or, "K Smith gives this move an exclamation mark. Admittedly there too the combination is analysed faultily." It seems rather a pathetic feud but perhaps ultra-keen competition might produce fine analysis. But does it?

Frankly the book contains many fine games which are grouped together under lines of analysis rather than move by move analysis of alternatives. The chapter breakdown is

well thought out and gives considerable attention to the Bc4 lines of the Gambit Accepted but the treatment of the Morra Gambit Declined is sadly perfunctory.

There are also a number of text errors in the book, e.g. on page 1: "1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cd 4 d3" - which is impossible of course. An occasional diagram has a drunk pawn which is not standing straight on the board.

Despite these extremely annoying quality and vendetta problems this is the most authoritative Morra Gambit exposition available and should sell well to the dedicated gambit player.

JES

ANALYSING THE ENDGAME Jonathan Speelman: Batsford 144 pp £4.95 paper covers.

Figurine algebraic.

To start with the criticisms: I agree with my colleague in the previous review that Batsfords don't use very nice paper, though the book is otherwise nicely produced. The spelling mistakes (preceeded, seperated -twice-, tieing, infinitesimal) are horrible, there are some misprints in the moves which can make a variation unintelligible, and at least two diagrams are wrong; one seemingly one-sided ending took on new meaning when the two missing pawns suddenly materialised in an intermediate diagram. Mr Speelman writes well and one must assume that he is not responsible for these blemishes. Mishaps are no doubt inevitable in a book of this nature, but the ones I have noted suggest corner-cutting unworthy of a major chess publisher.

A side-issue? Maybe, but it had to be said. Now down to the book. The first half consists of corrections and reassessments of endgame analysis published elsewhere; the venerable Basic Chess Endings features very largely, though attention has been given to much more recent works by Averbakh, Levenfish, and Keres. Chapters are devoted to Pawns, Rooks, Bishops of opposite colour, Minor pieces, Queen and centre pawn v Queen, and Pieces v pawns. This is not an endgame manual and some of these chapters revolve more or less around a single position, with variants. But a lot of it goes into considerable depth and makes fascinating reading.

The second half of the book looks at actual game endings. First an in-depth analysis of that famous Spassky-Fischer ending (Reykjavik 1972, game 1/2), in which Fischer went ...Bxh2. Speelman must have devoted very many hours to this, and justifies the depth of his analysis by suggesting that it demonstrates the limits beyond which judgment must take over. ("Because it was fun" might have been an even better justification - but then I didn't do it.) The book concludes with some "practical endings" from Speelman's own play and from Miles's games at the Riga Interzonal, where Speelman was his second.

The book is a nice blend of the practical and the unpractical, the important and the not-so-important. I have enjoyed playing through the endings - selectively, for there are far more hours' reading in it than I have been able to find. I have not discovered any flaws in the analysis, but with my grade I wasn't expecting to. I expect there are some; Speelman has shown that you can't write this sort of book without making mistakes. He has drawn on - as well as occasionally demolishing - the work of numerous analysts and there are full acknowledgments in the text. (One puzzle, though: the "short bibliography" of works on the Fischer-Spassky match, prominently referred to at both ends of the book, ends with the words "Here is a list of some other books on the match:" - and there follows one (Batsford) title. I can't make up my mind whether this is a printer's error or an obscure joke.)

With the reservations expressed in the first paragraph, I recommend this book.

RJH

TRAIN LIKE A GRANDMASTER Alexander Kotov: Batsford 124pp £4.95 paper covers.

Figurine algebraic. Translated by Bernard Cafferty.

A follow-up to the earlier Batsford titles "Think like a Grandmaster" (1971) and "Play like a Grandmaster" (1978). Both estimable works indeed. But this one? A charitable person would say "de mortuis" and talk of something else, but as I'm a reviewer:

The second half of the book, and far the more interesting, pictures the Soviet system of chess training - a monumental undertaking by the sound of it, revolving around the chess sections of Pioneer Palaces but featuring also year-round television courses for different categories. The pages on the historical development of the system make interesting, if brief, reading. And one myth dispelled: chess isn't on the school curriculum in the USSR. I daresay none of this is any secret, but a lot of it was news to me.

The other worthwhile feature of the book, to my mind, is the games; largely by prominent members of the various regional schools and well worth playing through. And I nearly forgot to mention the in-depth analysis of critical positions quoted to illustrate postal contributions that flood in from nobodies in the backwoods.

A large part of the book, however, is taken up with Kotov's strictures on modern chess (what has happened to the creative element?) in which he frankly says nothing new and says it at considerable length. Longish tracts on methods of analysis and preparation, and a historical survey of chess thought, seem to me like so much space-filling; as do the bits about relationships between trainer and trained. The style of the book I found jarringly "loyal" and sloganful.

RJH

MINOR COUNTIES COMPETITIONSEMI-FINAL

<u>Bucks</u>	3.5.81	<u>Notts II</u>
1 PC Girdlestone	1 0	K Morrison
2 DA Bennett	1 0	P Kizsel
3 G Moore	1 0	R Haydon
4 JC Saunders	1 0	A Griffiths
5 M Rose	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$	S Mansfield
6 MJ Freeman	1 a 0	S Burke
7 RCS Newton	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$	D Holmes
8 KG Hyde	1 0	S Foster
9 K Beedle	0 1	G Waddingham
10 RDW Marsh	0 1	J Dawson
11 BW Atkinson	1 0	R Marshall
12 JE Povey	1 0	P Thomas
13 A Robbings	1 a 0	W Selby
14 AJ Cox	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$	I Sheppard
15 PR Rawcliffe	0 1	K Aiton
16 A Niedzwiedzki	1 0	BM Hayward
17 D Thomas	0 1	N Graham
18 Dr AW Hill	0 1	J Tassi
19 I Tweeddale	1 0	D Ball
20 D Jarvis	1 0	K Hourd
(near Rugby)	12 $\frac{1}{2}$ 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	

FINAL

<u>Bucks</u>	14.6.81	<u>Devon II</u>
PC Girdlestone (W)	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$	BW Clapp
G Moore	1 0	KJ Bloodworth
DA Bennett	$\frac{1}{2}$ a $\frac{1}{2}$	C Archer-Lock
RB Edwards	0 1	R Cotton
JC Saunders	1 a 0	KS Schofield
MJ Freeman	1 0	C Hawthorn
RCS Newton	1 0	RTH Newman
KG Hyde	1 0	Mrs RM Bruce
RD de Coverly	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$	SM Owen
EN Bramley	0 1	RC Lussman
JE Tovey	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$	N Crickmore
BW Atkinson	1 0	M Hughes
A Robbings	1 0	EG Sparke
AJ Cox	1 0	S Landon
A Niedzwiedzki	1 0	RH Johns
PR Rawcliffe	1 0	J Kellaway
(Bristol)	12 4	

COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIPSEMI-FINAL

<u>Kent</u>	6.6.81	<u>G'ter M'chester</u>
1 AC Kosten (W)	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$	VW Knox
2 RG Eales	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$	J Naujokas
3 J Kinlay	1 0	JT Farrand
4 MV Lambshire	0 1	OA Jackson
5 K Wicker	0 1	P Adams
6 PS Milner-Barry	1 0	H Lamb
7 D Friedgood	1 0	S Docherty
8 JN Sugden	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$	JL Powell
9 AE Hanreck	$\frac{1}{2}$ a $\frac{1}{2}$	R English
10 AG Trangmar	1 a 0	AA Smith
11 RMR O'Kelly	1 0	A Baruch
12 IR Watson	1 0	P Siddall
13 J Hutcheson	$\frac{1}{2}$ a $\frac{1}{2}$	PG Moore
14 RL Johannes	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$	D Miller
15 AP Smith	1 0	C Franklin
16 DH Powell	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$	RH Watson
17 NR Oliver	1 0	SH Niman
18 J Wager	1 0	B Rhodes
19 DC Taylor	a	EN Hawkins
20 RW O'Brien	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$	JS Ridgway
	(13 6)	

FINAL

<u>Kent</u>	4.7.81	<u>Lancashire</u>
AC Kosten (B)	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$	P Littlewood
RG Eales	0 1	J Horner
MV Lambshire	1 0	J Littlewood
PS Milner-Barry	0 1	I Wells
D Friedgood	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$	NJ Holloway
M Macdonald-Ross	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$	B Cafferty
JN Sugden	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$	MJ Conroy
AE Hanreck	0 1	M O'Hara
AG Trangmar	1 0	D Lees
RMR O'Kelly	1 0	G Ellison
JP Sommerville	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$	A Beardsworth
MP Cook	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$	P Brooks
RL Johannes	0 1	P Maguire
D Murphy	0 1	A Potts
J Hutcheson	1 0	R McMichael
JR Richardson	1 0	P Hoad
AP Smith	1 0	B Dabulawicus
DH Powell	1 0	H Hughes
NR Oliver	1 0	W Cottam
J Dodgson	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$	P Seery
(Aston)	11 $\frac{1}{2}$ 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	

We assume unfinished games have been resolved without adjudication.

More from the Counties

Well Kent, actually, but can we help it if Kent are fanatical bumf-pushers? Charlton CC Annual Lightning Tournament 30 June was won outright by Alan Hanreck with 5/5; 42 played. The 5 minute Championship went to Les Blackstock who beat Hanreck 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ -3 $\frac{1}{2}$ in a play-off.

Beckenham and Bromley Chess Clubs are to merge in the face of rising rentals.

London Borough of Greenwich is to provide chess sets and boards in its public libraries - following the example, we hear, of Southwark and Camden.

Ashford CC travelled to Dunkirk for their annual 2-day 4-cornered match with Dunkirk, Cappelle la Grande and the Railways Chess Association. The Swiss draw was arranged so that each game was international. RCA and Ashford came 1st and second respectively.

John Ball Primary School (see Bulletin Junior News, most issues, passim) have been awarded a BCET School Shield. The richly deserved reward for 5 years of outstanding achievements. John Ball was the SCCU nominee this year.

National Club Championship Final is between Kings Head (the holders) who beat Atherton 4-2 in the semi-final, and Wood Green who beat Atticus on board count. The Final will be in London on a date to be arranged.

University of Kent at Canterbury is laying on a course 28-31 August for beginners and novices. Meals provided, £45 residents £35 non-residents. Contact Bulletin for details.

BCF COUNCIL MEETING 11.7.81

A quick report. Details came by telephone from two delegates who seemed pretty well in agreement, so we hope we've got it more or less right. There will no doubt be a fuller report in the August Newsflash. We have tried to miss out the boring bits.

Accounts were circulated at the Meeting. The Auditor was critical of the Phillips and Drew accounting procedures. (We hasten to add that we're talking about the chess event. We have no reason whatever to suppose that Phillips and Drew did the accounts!)

Team competitions: It was agreed by 21 votes to 19 to have a second team competition (which in effect, of course, we already have). An upper grading limit of 175 was backed by some smaller Counties, but 200 eventually agreed 22-16. It was also agreed 22-16 that 1st and 2nd team matches in the BCF stage should take place simultaneously.

Council agreed (we think) to have a Minor Counties competition fitting its name. There was some discussion on the definition of a Minor County; levy limits were talked of, as well as a provision to admit all Counties who had not reached the BCF stage in the previous 5 years. Both schemes have snags (Cambs, for example, are stronger than their levy number suggests). No final decision was taken, and we do not know when the Minor Counties competition is expected to get off the ground.

The decisions on team competitions are, we understand, advisory. PM Shaw was not happy about some of them.

Centralised grading: Some spoke against this, on the ground that it would leave no place for the volunteer grader. Council agreed, however, that the Federation should continue its planning. (This means, we imagine, that the plan will eventually come into effect provided there are no unexpected developments.)

The interim grading list is not selling well.

Publicity Director: This office was left vacant; the Management Board may co-opt.

British Championship is to be open to non-British-Citizens of 5 years residence.

Board fees: A strong move to abolish these failed in the face of Management Board opposition. The travel grant for the BCF-stage was, however, abolished. (This was vatable, it appears.)

Congress affiliation: "County" congresses not affiliating in the normal way will in future qualify for grading only if 100% registration is required. This does not apply to congresses with an upper grading limit of 125 or less, or to junior events.

Future BCF Congresses: 1982 Twickenham (this is more or less final); 1983 Southport; 1984 Brighton.

Next year's meetings: Finance: 15 May at Birmingham. AGM: 17 July in London. (We gather this one is subject to clashes with a football competition in Spain, but find it hard to believe.)

A Minor Riot appears to have occurred at one stage on some inferior story of the hotel. This had no effect on Council's deliberations.

GAMES OR MATCHES?

There has been sporadic comment in recent Bulletins, mostly from the Editor, to the effect that leagues ought to be decided on game points rather than matches. The June issue of the Norfolk CCA News Bulletin contains an impassioned plea for the County's leagues to change from games to matches... The Kent Schools League recently changed (guess why) in the other direction and the schools have approved the game-point system in the proportion of about 2 to 1. Any views? (The London Schools League used to work on games only, but now lets both teams through if a different team gets most match points.)

On a totally different aspect of scoring, Paul Buswell asks: "Has anyone experimented with scores of $\frac{3}{4} - \frac{1}{4}$ rather than $\frac{3}{2} - \frac{1}{2}$ in quickplay finishes?" The Bulletin would vigorously oppose this on the ground that its typewriter hasn't got the requisite fractions.

The British Hexagonal Chess Federation (no, neither had we) holds its Hexagonal Chess Congress 11-13 September 1981 at Woodford Bridge, Essex. It includes the 4th British Championship (qualifying groups by areas starting 31st July) and the Major Open. Contact Martin Sands on Witham (0376) 511625.

COUNTY SECRETARIES and others: Please note these new officers -

Essex 1st team captain Jef Page, 71 Cranley Rd, Ilford O1 554 0493 home, O1 636 1544 ext 441 office.

2nd team captain Ray Forey, 17 Warley Mount, Brentwood (0277) 211874

3rd team captain Neville H Twitchell, 41 Mayfair Avenue, Ilford O1 554 5497 home, O1 928 9222 ext 2240 office.

4th team captain C Newman, 17 The Priory, Billericay 22265

Kent Secretary RJ Haddrell, 48 Southview Rd, Tunbridge Wells (0892) 32361 and that's our excuse if the Bulletin's a bit late this month.

4th team captain R Parsons, 31 Gorse Mead, Brookfield, Ashford (0233) 35127

Middx 1st team captain: We believe DJ Stewardson is taking over but have no address for him.

Fixture Secretary R Jennings is now 21 Wigton Gdns, Canons Pk, Stanmore O1 204 7160

COUNTY FIXTURES

We publish once again the "permanent" fixture list, with one or two changes that have already been agreed for this season. Will match captains changing others please inform both Nigel Dennis and the Editor, so that an updated list can be published next time. (The Chiltern programme has, as usual, been arranged to fit in with the SCCU one though we're not publishing Chiltern dates.)

	<u>Championship</u>	<u>Montague-Jones</u>	<u>Amboyna</u>	<u>Junior</u>
Oct 3		MO BdK HSx ESK		
10				
17	CBu SyM KH BrN SxE		SxE KSy	
24		SkH SxBd KM OSy		
31	SxC EBr NK HSy MBu		EK MSx	
Nov 7		SyK MSx BdSk HE		KE MSy
14	CM BuH SyN KE BrSx		KM SyE	
21		EBd SkM SxSy KO		
28	BrC SxK ESy NBu HM		MSy SxK	
Dec 5			EM	KM SyE
12		OE SyH	SySx	
Jan 9		?MBd		
16	CH MN BuE SySx KBr		ESx SyK	
23		OSx SySk ME BdH		
30	KC BrSy SxBu EM NH		KE SxM	
Feb 6		HM ESy SkO SxK		SyK ME
13	CN HE MSx BuBr SyK		MK ESy	
20		KSk		
27	SyC KBu BrM SxH EN		SyM KSx	
Mar 6		BdSy HO EK SkSx		SCCU Jamborees (U18)
13	EC NSx HBr MK BuSy		SxSy ME	
20				
27		SxE KH OBd		
Apr 3		SyM		BCF U18 Jamborees

There is as yet no Ebony fixture list as only 3 teams have entered, with a possibility of a fourth.

Some other junior dates:

- Oct 24-25 North London Junior Team
- Dec 30-3 London Junior Championships (note change of date)
- Mar 26-28 SCCU Junior/BCF Junior Squad U21/16/12/10
- Apr 15-18 North London Junior Championships
- 23-25 SCCU Junior/BCF Junior Squad U18/14, Girls U18

ADJUDICATIONS from last issue

- Essex - Oxon 25.4.81 9 Marshall 1 Millin; we don't know about bd 14 but presume, since Oxon were only claiming a draw, that Essex must have got at least the 1½ extra points required to put them in 4th place above Sussex.
- A Essex III - Kent III 25.4.81 9 Tyrrell 0 Gurr; 12 Turp 1 Sexton; no news of bd 5.

An extravaganza from the 2nd Manor Tyres Congress (rd 2):

<u>White</u>	<u>JDM</u>	<u>Nunn</u>	<u>Black</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>Anthony</u>				
1 e4	c5		9 ab4	Qxa1	17 Kf3	Qb3+	25 Kf3	b6	
2 Nf3	Nc6		10 Qd6	Nxe4	18 Ke2	Qc4+	26 Qg6+	Kd8	
3 d4	cd		11 Nxe4	Qxb1+	19 Kf3	Qb3+	27 g3	Qh3	
4 Nxd4	e5		12 Kd2	Qxb2	20 Kg4	f5+	28 Be7+	Kxe7	
5 Nb5	Nf6		13 b5	Nb4	21 Kxf5	Qf7+	29 Qxg7+	Kd8	
6 N5c3	h6		14 Bc5	Qxc2+	22 Kxe5	Nc2	30 Qxh8+	Kc7	
7 Be3	Bb4		15 Ke3	Qb3+	23 Bc4	Qh5+	31 Qe5+	Kd8	
8 a3	Qa5		16 Ke2	Qc4+	24 Kf4	Qh4+	32 Nd6	1-0	

(16 checks in 32 moves is just about par for Tunbridge Wells Junior Chess Club.)

LLOYDS BANK BRITISH PROBLEM SOLVING COMPETITION

The first stage of the competition attracted a total of 1913 entries, of which 1404 were correct. The postal stage follows, and the Final (for about 12 problemists) takes place in London next January.

We are pleased to see that entries from the Bulletin are up again (5 this year!). All were correct, of course. For the record, the key was Qc1.

The Bank's sponsorship of British chess currently stands at £18 000 a year. The highlight of the annual programme is, of course, the Lloyds Bank Masters (25 Aug to 2 Sep this year).

CONGRESS DIARY

- Jul 25-1 LOW AND BONAR SCOTTISH CONGRESS at St Andrews, Fife. Various Scottish championships, plus Open events. Weekend events July 25-26. AP Borwell, 3 Broomhill Avenue, Perth 22779 but of course it's late.
- Aug 1 KNUTSFORD QUICKPLAY Open; U170; U135; U100. RJ Hanbidge, 15 Northfields, Knutsford, Cheshire
- 3-15 GRIEVESON, GRANT BCF CONGRESS at Morecambe. Late entry still possible. BCF, 4 The Close, Norwich NR1 4DH
- 14-16 MARYMASS at Irvine (Scotland, we believe). Open; Major; U112; U17. F Park, 17b Russell Court, New Farm Loch, Kilmarnock 42918 (or R Scott, Alloway 45213)
- 23 BASINGSTOKE. RE Boxall, 91 Campsie Close, Bucksin, Basingstoke.
- 22-23 LONDON MATCHPLAY WEEKEND at Highbury Hill School N5. A match of 4 games against an evenly matched opponent. P Harris, 18 Elm Terrace, Harrow Weald, Middx
- 28-31 18th BERKS AND BUCKS at Amersham. Championship 190+; Premier; Premier Challengers; Reserves in graded tournaments. 10 to 14 players per tournament. A Niedzwiedzki, Heathfield, 14 Bois Lane, Amersham
- 25-2 LLOYDS BANK W1. Masters 175+; Amateur U175 26 Sep - 1 Aug; Quickplay 25-28 and 29-31 Aug. R Beville, Flat 8, 111 St Georges Sq SW1
- Sep 4-6 12th THANET at Ramsgate. Open; Major U156; Minor U121. MR Croft, 37 Upper Dane Rd, Margate, Kent CT9 2NA
- 4-12 BENEDICTINE INTERNATIONAL at Manchester. 180+. RA Furness, 9 Cranwell Ave, Culcheth, Cheshire WA3 4JX
- 9-18 11th NORTH DEVON at Woolacombe Bay Hotel:
9-11 Minor U121; Golden Coast U176
12-16 Open
16-18 Minor U141; Open.
MEE Clarke, Chapel House, Morwenstow, Bude, Cornwall.
- 18-20 4th CLEETHORPES. Open; Major U161; Minor U121. MH Colebrook, 105a Station Rd, Healing, Grimsby, S Humberside
- 26-27 MAIDSTONE SCHOOLS. Teams of 6 (U19/12) 26 Sep; Individual U19/11 27 Sep. Clive Greaves, 27 Woodville Rd, Maidstone, Kent (Maidstone 63066)

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS BCF Newsflash for June and July; Check Mate (Charlton CC) issues 9-11; Kingpin (Ilford CC) for May; Norfolk CCA News Bulletin for June; Open File for May and June; Surrey Chess News for June; SE London Primary Schools CA Annual Report; Westward Ho! Congress Edition.

STOP PRESS

Add to the list of acknowledgments Tempo for June. From it we glean the following.

Cambs Secretary is now AH Wadsworth, 9 Maple Way, Melbourn, Royston 60007. We believe Royston is in Herts.

Tempo Editor (and Publicity Officer) is GS Hathorn, 9 Princess Drive, Sawston, Cambs. (For new officers in other Counties, see page 8.)

AJ Mestel made a surprise appearance in the University's third team in the semi-final of the Cambs KO Cup. He had been inserted - against the wishes of the match captain - in order to qualify him for the University team in next year's National Club. The opposition complained that it was against the spirit of the competition, but it wasn't against the rules and the match went ahead. Sounds as though justice was done when the University lost anyway. It is understood that the University has protested against the opponents' board order, though agreeing to it at the time. The victors, Cambridge City A, meet S Cambridgeshire who had already beaten University A in the other semi-final.

Cambs League: Div I University 15/16 plus adjudications; 2 S Cambs 9+... Div II University B 17/18; 2 Perse 11...

Cambs Primary Schools Championship has been won for the 2nd time in 4 years by Hauxton Primary School. Three teams competed in the finals. (Cumulative board count scores were +1, -1 and -2. We would be intrigued to know how this was arrived at. Double defaults, we suppose!)