



BULLETIN

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SOUTHERN COUNTIES CHESS UNION

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All prices include postage and packing. Cheques should be payable to SCCU.

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EDITORIAL

Nothing much to say, really, except an apology for lateness. The SCCU Grading List has beaten me to it this year, having appeared half way through the month. Whatever effects planning blight may be having on the SCCU grading system, it certainly isn't stopping people getting on with their jobs.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive met on Friday 21st September 1984 at the Fairway Inn, Bayswater. 15 attended. Much of the meeting was devoted to BCF matters (see below) but the main SCCU ones were something like this:

(1) Long-term planning: training.

The Executive noted the BCF's junior training scheme. This has sometimes disappointed, in the SCCU, by the lack of interest among stronger players, and the Counties have not always availed themselves of the scheme to the full. While recognising that some Counties have schemes of their own, the Executive felt that it should attempt to involve the Counties that have not hitherto shown an interest. A central event in London seemed the obvious bet. (The Central YMCA already does junior training, mostly independently of the BCF.)

The Executive also discussed the old problem of juniors who leave school and are immediately lost to chess. It felt, though not unanimously, that some effort had to be made to involve juniors in club, as well as school, chess.

BCF ideas on adult training came up as well, and John Poole mentioned the interesting idea of "holiday courses" for weak-to-middling club players. There is also an idea floating around for high-class seminars, GM-led, for leading county players. This might involve paying the GM £100 and charging a dozen "pupils" £10 each. On a lower level there could be evening courses through local education authorities, though there were doubts about the extent to which authorities would finance these.

(2) SCCU Individual Championship. The ideal solution to this perennial problem would be a special event. To attract the strongest players this would need sponsorship, and no potential sponsor had yet come to light. For the present, the practical alternatives seemed to be scrapping the event, and repeating last year's arrangements (by which the title went to the highest eligible player in the Sutton Congress, with a special prize of £50 provided by the Union in addition to any other prize the Champion might win). There was some feeling that "highest eligible player" might be a lottery. On the other hand, last year's Sutton entry had been very largely an SCCU one and the top places had all gone to SCCU players; in addition, the entry had been reasonably representative, with the title going to an IM.

It was decided, to cut a long story short, that the 1984-5 Championship will be incorporated in the Sutton event. The £50 special prize will be awarded again. Other ideas will be considered for the future. (One is to award the title on the basis of higher-board performances in the Shannon competition: something along the lines of ten points for a win on board one, 9 for a win on board 2 and so on.)

(3) SCCU Trophies. Readers will remember, if they haven't forgotten, that the Annual Council Meeting instructed the Executive to have a good look at the trophies currently available. We are still supposed to be giving one or two to the EACU if we can find something suitable. A working party has investigations under way, but there are still some loose ends. (One of them has been under investigation for as long as the Bulletin can remember.) There was a proposal to give the Fleming Trophy (for the annual Beds/Bucks match) to the new Union, on the understanding that Bucks should be allowed to go on competing for it so long as they availed themselves of the right at least every other year. This proposal met with a predictable reaction from Bucks, and was hastily dropped. Someone suggested giving away the Stevenson Memorial Trophy (for the runner-up in the Counties Championship, and we bet you didn't know that). A match captain present spoke strongly against this, but it didn't matter really because no one knows where the Stevenson Memorial Trophy is. Prime candidate for donation seems to be the Imperial Cup, whose purpose is defunct.

(4) Inter-County Competitions. Dr Opie, the new County Match Controller, has sent match captains a questionnaire on three possible changes. To date ten match captains, out of 21, mostly 2nd and 3rd team men, had replied.

(a) A change from the current rate of play (40 in 2) to the new BCF one (54 in 2 hrs 15 min/2½ hrs). Replies so far were 8-2 against.

(b) The introduction of 2 new KO competitions, one for the MJ teams and one for the Amboyna. These would be played after the existing competitions are over, and could be for the Nemesis and Ebony Trophies. Replies were 5-4 against, with one abstention.

(c) The introduction of an inter-county quick-play event, to be held either on a Saturday or over a weekend. Four replies favoured a one-day event, one a 2-day one, and five were against.

The new competitions could be brought in at the end of the season 1984-5 if there is sufficient support. On the strength of the replies already in, it would not be silly to run something.

(5) Grading. Philip Clemow reported that the 1984 List is out, well on time. There are no very significant omissions. Sales already look very healthy (a copy has been sold in Zimbabwe) and we might, for the first time in years, actually run out of copies and have to decide whether to order a new batch. (If you haven't ordered your copy yet, get in before it's too late. See inside front cover.)

The BCF's centralised grading plans came up again. The Union, if you remember, will produce one more Grading List (1985) before the Federation takes over. Some members of the Executive have been concerned in discussions with the BCF, and there remained a nagging doubt in their minds about the viability of the scheme. Without going into details, there seems to be a question mark over the capacity of the machine itself (some kind of Apple), as well as the BCF's arrangements for servicing the system. (Who will handle enquiries/complaints? Who will sort out the bugs? - they could lie dormant for quite a while.) The system will be capable, in principle, of producing club and county lists like those on offer in the SCCU (though there do not, as yet, appear to be any plans to do it.) It will be incapable of producing itemised input lists because it will not remember which results came from where. (Results will still be on the original cassettes, assuming they haven't been re-used, but that's not a practical substitute.) Itemised input lists sell well in the SCCU.

What we would do if the system packed up was not clear. (The SCCU would have its own problems, as Trevor Jones cannot be expected to go on tending the machine for more than one year.)

There is to be a meeting for SCCU graders on Saturday 10th November.

BCF MATTERS

A few points from the latest Management Board meeting 15.9.84

(1) Admin. The BCF office is seriously understaffed because of the massive increase in chess activity.

(2) Membership. A working party is looking at a review of membership categories. It is understood (by your Editor, who could have got it wrong) that the present system is unlikely to be fundamentally changed.

(3) Adult training. One idea, in addition to some already mentioned in the Executive report above, was a certificate of merit scheme for adults. [! - Ed] The importance of contacts with the DES was stressed.

(4) Communications with ordinary players. Bryan Fewell, who was present on the Union's behalf, is to prepare a paper setting out the current weaknesses and would be pleased to hear from anyone who has encountered problems or who has suggestions to offer. His address is inside the front cover.

(5) Adjudications. The Federation is looking at ways of cutting these down. Philip Clemow is involved with this and invites comments, especially from those with knowledge of recent rule changes and reactions to them. (It appears that at least three SCCU Counties allow players the choice between adjudication and adjournments. In Bucks a large majority choose adjournments; in Middx a smaller majority do; and in Herts no one does. The Editor does not know, for any of these Counties, which option applies failing agreement.) "If adjudicated not graded" could be tried.

(6) British U21 Championship. The MB decided, though not very happily, to scrap the U21 tournament and award the title to the highest placed eligible player in the British Championship. The reason, obviously, is the totally unrepresentative entry to the U21; the strongest players are all in the British Championship anyway. The SCCU Executive had doubts about awarding a national title on a "highest placed" basis, considering that "highest placed" could mean half way down the table where the odd point one way or the other means little. It agreed to inform the BCF that it does not support the change. Your Editor is unsure whether the question will be re-opened.

(7) Publicity. Ray Keene, the new Director for Publicity, plans to write a weekly column supported by Legal and General (who are also supporting the new National Club competitions) and offer it free of charge to local newspapers throughout the country. The BCF also hopes to compile a list of enthusiastic local columnists ready to act as regional press officers.

(8) The UK Zonals will be held at Brighton in December, sponsored by Computer Games Ltd. The 3rd Commonwealth Championship will be held at London Docklands in February, sponsored by Novag Computers. London Docklands, it appears, were delighted with the publicity attendant on the USSR v World match and are interested in further collaboration with the BCF.

(9) The MB noted the SCCU's comment (see last issue) to the effect that levy voting might have been different had the Council had a more accurate prediction of the previous year's figures. No changes to procedure will be made. (The Executive recognised that the Treasurer had had a very difficult task as a newcomer to the job; also that predictions were becoming more difficult with large amounts of money floating around. However, it hoped for a more accurate prediction next time.)

It was noted that the published BCF accounts do not show, and the BCF rarely divulges, sponsorship figures. Figures in the accounts tend to be netted down. This does have the effect of obscuring the true position.

(10) Publicity. The BCF is becoming involved in "endorsements" ("This chess set/chess clock/electric toaster is approved by the British Chess Federation") and will, we understand, take money in return. [No harm in it so long as it's done honestly, I suppose. - Ed] Talks are under way with certain sponsors and PR men on the general subject of publicity.

(11) Et ruant... Remember the Greater Manchester Affair? Thought it was dead? It isn't. For those with short memories it goes back six years, or nearly, to the time when Greater Manchester decided to join the MCCU and a gentleman decided to take the BCF to court for allowing it. The case comes up next year.

MORE BCF NOTES

Yearbook due out late October, price £3.

National Club (with much enhanced prizes): entries close 30th September. Make sure yours is in.

Levy appeals: closing date also 30th September.

The Federation is appealing for donations towards the cost of getting a player into the Candidates. You know their address.

MORE COMPUTER SPONSORSHIP

We can confirm that Acorn Computers are backing a new Under 11 individual competition, to be called "Make your Move". Around 26000 primary schools are being invited to put forward their best player (only one? Well, that's what it says) for the regional heats in October. These will produce 256 qualifiers: 32 from each of six zones in England and Wales, and 64 from Scotland. A 5-round Swiss (we suspect this means eight 5-round Swisses) will then produce eight regional winners for the "computerised" national finals in January. Contestants will play from their own schools using Bees with chess software, and linked by direct telephone line with the Ceefax Computer in London. The games will go out on Ceefax. Prizes are Acorn hardware for the schools and chess clocks for the finalists.

PROBLEM CORNER

Dear Mr Haddrell,

Please find enclosed cheque for SCCU Bulletin.

I would query the solution given to the problem in the [July] issue. The moves in the mag are in one line inaccurate and in another totally impossible. If these errors were deliberate, then I look forward to receiving my free subscription next year!

IA Hames Broadstairs

[Ed:- I was tempted to save face, at the cost of a £2.30 sub, by falling in with this.]

The first stage of this year's Lloyds Bank British Solving Championship produced 2285 replies, of which 1642 (or 72%) were correct. Entries through the Bulletin hit a new record at nine (one wrong). To confirm, or shatter, your prejudices here are the figures for national newspapers: Sunday Telegraph 80% (46 entries); Financial Times 76% (67); Guardian 75% (209); Daily Telegraph 72% (347); Sunday Times 69% (36); Standard 67% (127); Mail on Sunday 65% (442). The Times scored 100% but we have disqualified them on a statistical technicality (2 entries).

The key move was Re4. The postal stages, probably three of them, continue and the final is in London in January.

If that heading led you to expect a Problem, you're out of luck. It is over a year since your Editor felt the urge, and readers never seem to.

CONGRESS RESULTS

5th CITY CHESS MINOR 28-29 July 1984

1-4 RP Willmoth (Hackney), S Richards (SW2), L Retallick (NW7), T Donnelly (Hackney) 5½/6; 5-7 MA Vidler (Staines), MA Brewer (Charlton), AJ Mant (Eastern Knights) 5... Junior SJ Cullipp (Rushden) 5; DA Dickenson (Swindon), M Josse (Richmond) 4½; Highest lady F Cohen (Finchley) 3½. U120 JF Jordan (GKC) 4½; P Lawrence (Watford), D Ramsey (Fulham) 4. Ungraded N Edwards (Hackney), F Wand (Bayswater) 4½. Team Prize: Islington

21st BERKS AND BUCKS at Amersham, 25-27 August 1984 attracted 129 players.

Premier (14 pl) 1 DJ Faulkner (Hull/Milton Keynes) 4½/5; 2 A Howe (Aylesbury) 3½; 3-4 R Ellames (Harlow), S Mitchell (Leeds) 3

Challengers (16 pl) 1-2 CM Kennedy (H Wycombe), M Trent (Slough) 4/5; 3-4 SC Knight (Maidenhead), Mrs DM Norman (Harrow) 3½...

Reserves "A" (16 pl) 1 SAM Foister (Maidenhead) 4/5; "B" (14 pl) 1 RD Barnett (Redhill) 4; "C" (14 pl) 1 M Brown (Slough); "D" (14 pl) 1 MK Chojnacki (Amersham) 5; "E" (14 pl) 1 AP Challenger (Slough) 4; "F" (13 pl) 1-3 SA Jones (Weybridge), R Keane (Watford), N Martin (Winslow) 4... Results AJ Cox

GREATER LONDON CHAMPIONSHIP 31 Aug - 2 Sep 1984 attracted 247.

Open 1 JDM Nunn (Roehampton) 5½/6; 2-6 ML Hebden (Leicester), JG Gallagher (Wimbledon), N de Firmian (US), V Barua (Ind), V Anand (Ind) 5...

Major U150 1 N Foster (Hampstead) 6/6; 2 R Willmoth (Hackney) 5½; 3-7 M Lyell (Acton), DJ Staples (CentYMCA), PJ Needham (Islington), AR Wise (Lewisham), AF Zoefitig (W London) 5...

Ladies 1 S Jackson (London) 5½/6; 2 C Leroy (France) 5; 3 SK Walker (Sutton) 4½...

Junior U18 1-2 CG Ward (7oaks; trophy on play-off), J Emms (Norfolk) 5/6; 3 MT Hennigan (London) 4½...

15th THANET CONGRESS 31 Aug - 2 Sep 1984

Open (37 entered) 1-4 PJ Dawes (Folkestone), B Eley (Rotherham), AE Hanreck (Charlton), DA Wood (Chatham) 4/5; 5-8 R Granat (London), DC Osborne (Bristol), AJ Stebbings (Charlton), IR Watson (Canterbury) 3½...

Major (36 entered) 1-6 RG Blake (Ashford), RP Fullager (Margate), C Hann (Hastings), MH Micklethwaite (Herne Bay), HW Phillips (Rainham), MD Sadler (Chatham) 4/5...

Minor (44 entered) 1 A Sweeney (Ramsgate) 5/5; 2 CA Byott (Oxford) 4½; 3-7 E Blankett (Croydon), J Cohen (Ilford), B Malkin (Whitstable), S Rowles (London), R Shipp (Whitstable) 4... Results MR Croft

34th PAIGNTON CONGRESS 2-8 Sep 1984

Premier 1-2 D Norwood (Bolton), GW Lane (Paignton) 5½/7; 3-5 RJ Gamble, A Ashby, DO Collier 5... Grading IR Dutton

Challengers "A" 1 G Homer 6/7; 2-3 R Burton, A Sebille 5; 4-5 AW Brussey, PL Terry 4½... Grading DG Cannon, PCR Lane

Challengers "B" 1-3 T Kendall, Mrs DM Norman, JH Springall 5/7; 4 J Walker 4½... Grading RS Lowery, MW Sapiecha

APA "A" 1 J Parker 5½/7; 2-3 PR Kings, DH Pott 4...

APA "B" 1 L Vallans 4½/7; 2-3 GC Walker, WR Chandler 4...

Morning 1 LJ Wheatley 5½/7; 2 EN Bramley 5; 3 JA Speigel 4½...

Graded Swiss 1 EW Knapp 6/7; 2-3 EW Engert, J Lord 5½; 4 G Collins 5; 5-13 V Litvin, RB Bullock, SL Russell, Mrs P Jackson, MP Foss, FN Coppington, RW Morris, T Starkie, DW Cay 4½...

Don't know where most of these people come from but we recognise the odd SCCU name.

GRIEVESON, GRANT BCF CHAMPIONSHIP CONGRESS at Brighton, 30 July - 10 Aug 1984

See Newsflash for results. But congratulations - and apologies for omissions - to the following SCCU winners.

Harry Golombek (=1st, Veterans Championship); Neil McDonald (=1st, U18 Championship); Chris Ward (=1st, U16 Championship); Mandy Hepworth (Girls U16 Champion); Matthew Sadler (1st, U11 Championship); K Bowden (=1st, Major Open). Your Editor took a one-sixth share of 3rd prize in his 5-day event but it didn't quite cover his expenses.†

ROUND THE COUNTIES

ESSEX leagues: last season's champions are - Div 1 Wanstead (3rd year running); Div 2 Ilford; Div 3 Ilford; Div 4 Ilford; Div 5 Barking. Div 5 folds this year, "though few will shed any tears for it". KO Cup: Rayleigh beat Wanstead in the final. Individual Championship went to Paul Townsend ahead of Neil Carr.

GL Smith retires as County President and is succeeded by GMA Smith. They may even get away with not changing their letterhead.

KENT Summer Quick-play League was won, for the first time, by Canterbury who just beat Charlton in the final. Mid Kent League, an independent U115 competition, went to Black Lion, Rainham, who beat Kilndown on board count in the final. (And Kent Schools League entries are down again.)

SURREY have a new league this year, 60-min/player/game, teams of 4, grading limit 150 bd 1, otherwise 130. One way of beating adjudications. Not gradeable unless they've changed the rules lately.

SUSSEX held a dinner on the 8th September to mark the Association's centennial (and the winning of the Minor Counties Championship). MacArthur Cup final, after a long delay, took place on the 29th July and Brighton defeated Hastings 4-2. Mid-Sussex Champions Seaford lost the annual Champions v Rest match 2-3. Primary School results: Primary Championship (16 teams) went to Fermor (Crowborough) who beat Great Walstead in the final; Girls Cup to St Margarets (Ditchling) who beat Heyworth (Haywards Heath).

NATIONAL CLUB 1983-4

Southern Counties clubs in general, and Kent in particular, have taken more than their fair share of the honours in the National Club for 1983-4. The Championship Final itself had not yet been played, last we heard, but was between Oxford and Cambridge Universities. The Plate went to Canterbury. In the Major, Tunbridge Wells won the Championship and Canterbury the Plate. In the Minor, Kings Head won the Championship and the Plate Final went to some Northern club or other who won by default in what sound to have been very peculiar circumstances.

CHESS EVENING CLASSES at Morley College SE1: tutor Bob Wade. For "ordinary club players below 150-160". Two different courses, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Telephone the college (01 928 8501) for details.

GRADING SERVICES - REMINDER

The following are available from HT Jones (SCCU Grading Programmer) at Flat 2, 11 Guildford Rd, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 1SW. Cheques payable to SCCU, and please send an SAE where requested.

(1) Club List (£2 + SAE)

All players known or believed (by the computer) to belong to a specified Club. Will include players with too few games to qualify for the published list. Gives grades for the last 3 years, plus the number of games and average grading score for the latest year.

(2) Itemised Club List (£5)

Yes, for all players in the Club, a breakdown of results by event (number of points, and number of games, for each event).

(3) Itemised list for all players of one surname (£5 + SAE)

Useful if you suspect a mix-up! (A new service.)

(4) County List (£5)

All players in a specified County. Can be sorted in any reasonable way (for example alphabetically, or in grade order, or by Clubs). Can give either the same information as (1), or a little bit more. Up to 5 additional, and identical, copies may be ordered at the same time @ 50p each. A copy sorted differently would cost fl.

(5) 175+ List

All players in the SCCU graded 175 or over from a reasonable number of games ("reasonable" is less than the number required for a published grade).

(1) to (4) are produced at any time upon request and may include information received too late for the September list.

Grading matters other than the above should be raised with Philip Clemow, who is very willing to track down errors.

1984 LIST

Trevor Jones wishes to apologise for the cryptic signs ("+", ":", ";") accompanying some of the club names. They mean technical, and completely boring, things about the club names and were not meant to get printed. [Thought that sort of thing only happened with my programs. - Ed]

The list includes the results of over 55000 games played in the 12 months ending 30th April 1984 (plus some results from the previous year that should have gone into last year's list but were received too late). Results have been received from all other Unions except the EACU.

Your Editor has copies of some histograms produced by the computer and showing the distribution of grades for various categories of player throughout the SCCU. Just for interest:

Y and Q grades: Number of players 2364, mode grade 130, mean 140 (honest).

Reasonably active players (some unpublished): 5242, mode 122, mean 131.

All current players: 9590, mode (and mean!) 122.

The modes came straight off the histograms. The means are RJH figures but his computer swears to them. It was so confused after the means that it refused to do the medians.

Highest published grade is 249 (JDM Nunn); highest unpublished 255 (no idea who). Lowest grade, published or not, is 14 (Q grade, but a junior).

Challenge match

London League	8.9.84	Birmingham League
1 P Littlewood (B)	1 0	DW Anderton
2 N Povah	1 0	J Hawthorne
3 R Wade	0 1	S Fishburne
4 N Carr	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$	J Sharp
5 AW Potts	0 1	B Sharp
6 JA Johnson	1 0	K Escott
7 PS Milner-Barry	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$	R Evans
8 WA Linton	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$	KW Wheeler
9 AJ Stebbings	1 0	BH Wood
10 K Shovell	1 0	ND Arkell
11 JN Sugden	1 0	W Calrke
12 RO Kelly*	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$	DP Wheeler
13 R Grant	1 0	R Mavlin
14 JH Hodgson	1 0	GJ Willetts
15 SR Gillam	1 0	WR Morry
16 Miss S Walker	1 0	JE Crump
17 R Webb	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$	RC Drury
18 DH Powell	1 0	K Ringram
19 DC Taylor	1 0	D Rowe
20 J Manley	1 0	S Campbell
21 J Page	0 1	A Ingram
22 RCA L-Pentecost	1 0	MSM Clark
(County Hall)	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$

Our first match of the season. The Bulletin's rules on publication of non-SCCU matches are so vague as not to exist. If you want one in, try your luck.

* We don't really believe this name, but it's what it says. The attention of certain Union Secretaries is directed to the bottom of this page.

Oh, County Hall, London.

COUNTY MATCHES 1984-5

(The fixture list is on the back page)

Dr DJ Opie, the new County Match Controller, has written to match captains making a few points for the coming season. For general interest we summarise them here, with a few Editorial comments thrown in.

(1) Match captains should ensure they have a copy of the current Rules.

Dr Opie can supply them on request. (We still haven't forgotten the match captain who claimed, near the end of a season, never to have seen the Rules.)

(2) Match captains should send Dr Opie their lists of nominated players before their first match.

(3) Any change of date or venue should be notified to Dr Opie and to Nigel Dennis (and changed dates to the Bulletin as well, if you're feeling helpful).

(4) Copies of complete match results should be sent to Dr Opie, and to the Bulletin for publication, within one week. (The BCF appreciates a copy of Championship matches for partial publication.)

(5) Adjudication fee is £3. Claims must reach Dr Opie within 7 days of the match. They must be accompanied by the fee, unless the deposit system (arranged through the BCF Adjudications Secretary) is in use.

(6) Appeal fee is £5. Appeals have to be sent within one week of receiving the original result. Match captains must notify the opposing side of any appeal; failure to do so invalidates the appeal. Notice of any counter-appeal must be sent to Dr Opie within one week of receiving the notice of appeal. (Editor's note: if "counter-appeal" means counter-analysis to an opponent's appeal, supporting the adjudicator's decision - a strange meaning for the word to have, but there it is - then there is no fee. If it doesn't, there is.)

(7) Match captains are requested to confirm dates/venues/times with their opposite numbers about a fortnight before the match; also to do their best to avoid defaults.

One or two requests from the Editor:

Please send full results to me promptly. Don't wait for adjudication results, I expect to be getting those direct. And don't assume you've missed the copy deadline just because it's officially past. Late results often go in.

It is helpful if you fill the result sheet in the right way round (home side on the left) and even more helpful if you write the name of each team above it in such a way as to leave no possible doubt in my mind. I really do have to run to a grading list sometimes to find out which side is which.

When there are adjudications, I like if possible to have an indication of the claims (just put "+" or "=" by the result column.) I am sure this information is of interest to readers.

Please give full initials. There was once a match captain who refused to do so on principle, believing that "sufficient" information is always preferable to wilful redundancy. This is a philosophy with which I have much sympathy. Unfortunately it has no bearing on our case. The fact that only one J Smith ever plays for your team doesn't mean there can never be another. Why make the grader guess?

Please spell names right, be legible, and add the scores up correctly!

REVIEW

Two new books from the Crowood Chess Library, which I confess I'd never heard of. I assume, since there's no list of "earlier titles" in either of them, that there aren't any; but I've been too lazy to ask the publishers and am open to correction. If it's new it's most welcome.

AN INTRODUCTION TO CHESS Shaun Taulbut: The Crowood Press. 154pp paper covers
£3.95

"Chess is a game for two opponents." Well, that proves I've looked at page 1. It should also give you an idea of the sort of book this is, if the title hadn't already. To be honest I kept thinking I'd read it before, and an excursion to my bookshelf did verify some echoes. But it's hard to be original with a book for complete beginners.

The book covers, in this order:

(1) The moves, and algebraic notation (15 pages). Why does this introductory bit always seem to be the weak point in beginners' books? Comes of taking things for granted, I suppose. Or maybe no one really believes people learn the moves from books. Maybe they don't. Anyway, this one has the usual obscurities on things like captures and check and mate. (I know the Laws of Chess don't say you can't leave your King in check, but you'd think a beginners' manual would do better.) The essential information is all there, it just seems to have got jumbled up a bit. Again, the beginner might be disturbed to find that when his Knight goes from g1 to f3 "we write this down as - " yes, you've guessed it, figurine notation. Not on my score sheets we don't. And I agree there's no particular reason to tell your beginner the notation's called "algebraic". Silly name anyway. But if you don't, it's unhelpful to spring the word on him 139 pages later and assume he'll know what you mean. Shades of Monsieur Jourdain... Little things, but they count.

(2) Basic checkmates v lone King (8 pages). Fair enough, but still the quibbles. I won't dwell on them.

(3) Basic pawn promotion (10 pages). OK.

(4) Basic openings (16 pages). Scotch game, Kings Gambit, Four Knights, Giuoco Piano, Lopez and a couple of Queens Pawn openings thrown in, with a fair amount of elementary explanation.

(5) Basic tactics (26 pages). Forks, pins, skewers, discoveries, decoys, back rank mates, overloading etc. A solid treatment, with good examples from actual play - though at least one careless slip in the notes. (It was at this stage that I realised it doesn't say whose move it is with the diagrams. Another little thing.)

(6) Combinations and attacks (19 pages). Attacks on the uncastled and the castled King; promoting combinations. Fine.

(7) Positional play (12 pages). Some nice games, mostly well known.

(8) More endings (23 pages). I was surprised to see four pages devoted to K+Q v K+R (is it really "quite a common ending"?) but pleased to see even more space given to K+Q v K+P (on 7th) which really is, at least between beginners. A useful chapter.

(9) More openings (19 pages). A quick all-round survey.

This is a general introduction in the traditional mould. With the reservations stated, I think it makes a very fair shot at what it is trying to do. Why buy this rather than another? Well, it's digestible. Enough detail to do the job, not enough to discourage. And it looks nice. Clear and plentiful diagrams, clear print, decent paper and a solid binding. And good value at the price.

RJH

CHESS TACTICS Paul Littlewood: The Crowood Press 138pp paper covers
£3.95

Another traditional one, and aimed, I would say, at the player who has worked through the foregoing (anything from BCF 70 or 80 upwards, and solving off the diagram there were certainly some problems I couldn't do. I'm 163.)

There are 14 sections, each devoted to a tactical theme (pins, overloading, drawing combinations and what have you). Each section starts with an elementary introduction and finishes with ten problems to solve; answers at the back. The (very) easy ones come first and the later ones can be tricky, though the play is rarely long or complex. A final section consists of twenty mixed ones.

There are plenty of books like this around. But there is always room for more, because the problems-to-solve are the thing and the supply of good ones is inexhaustible, despite the inevitable chestnuts. I liked this selection. One little quibble, though: the solutions are occasionally, and no doubt deliberately, simplistic. Not wrong, just incomplete.

What I said about the other book's attractive presentation applies equally to this one (though I don't understand the point of the cover diagram). The publishers, incidentally, come out pretty well on the misprint front. I thought I'd spotted one but can't now find it. One diagram has a missing King. (Oh, and in the second book it says whose move it is with the diagrams.) It will find its way into my school's chess library.

RJH

POPULAR CHESS

A magazine published "several times a year"(!) by Audio Chess, 7 Billockby Close, Chessington, Surrey KT9 2ED. Subscription £5 for 6 issues.

It is nice to get three things to review in one issue, especially when I feel competent to do them all myself. (All right, I'll publish the dissenting letters next time.) Actually no one sent this to me; I was quietly minding my own business at the Brighton Congress when what I can only describe as a hawker, who afterwards turned out to have been Michael Basman, thrust it upon me. The magic words "SCCU Bulletin" and "review" naturally induced him, with only minimal persuasion, to give me it for nothing.

Popular Chess (I have issue 7) is the successor to "Rabbits Review". Despite the mystic text on the cover, whose relevance I cannot fathom, it is about chess. Rather good, too. 25 A4 pages, stapled in one corner, catering for the weakish club player (but three pages on computer chess, at the end, whose author claims to have learnt much more from his computers than his - not very welcoming - club). The bulk of this issue is taken up with a pretty full introduction to the Colle System for the club player; clearly by MJB, though it doesn't actually say so. Lucid and user-friendly, and ought to be popular. Plus some other analysed games.

There is also an associated chess training scheme, in three levels, taking players "up to the 100 grade". I know nothing of this. And they do, of course, sell audio cassettes. As for the magazine, I can recommend it. With 21 issues of Rabbits Review and 7 of Popular Chess behind it, it looks a stayer.

RJH

CONGRESS DIARY

- Sep 28-30 SHEFFIELD. 150+; U161; U131; U101. C England, 27 Fitzwilliam St, Elsecar, Barnsley.
- 28-30 CHELMSFORD. Open; U161. B Thomas, 48 Berwick Avenue, Chelmsford.
- 28-30 GLASGOW. Open; U144; U120/over 17; U17/16/15/14/13/12 (no Friday play in U15 and below). KWC Stewart, 27 Golfview Drive, Coatbridge ML5 1JN.
- 28-30 WEST WALES at Neath. Open; U151. AM Davies, 2 Pwlldu Lane, Bishopston, Swansea SA3 3HA.
- Oct 5- 7 TSB PERTH. Premier; U150; U120; schools. AS Collie, 28 Stormont Rd, Scone, Perth 52126.
- 5- 7 PETERBOROUGH OPICO. Open; U150; U15. S Evans-Evans, 22 Henry St, Peterborough.
- 6- 7 ASHFORD Junior. U18 both days, U14 Sat, U11 Sun. RG Blake, 260 Hythe Rd, Willesborough, Ashford, Kent TN24 0QR (Ashford 39372).
- 7 TREVOR SPURGEON MEMORIAL QP WC1. MW Wills, 55 Stainforth Rd, Newbury Park, Essex.
- 7 BEDFORDSHIRE at Dunstable. Graded sections. K Liddle, 1 Lime Tree Close, Sundon Park, Luton 571961.
- 14 BASINGSTOKE. RE Boxall, 91 Campsie Close, Basingstoke.
- 20 RAINHAM (Kent) QP with time handicaps based on grades. HW Phillips, 28 Long Catlis Rd, Parkwood, Rainham, Kent.
- 26-28 LIVERPOOL. Open; U151; U126; U101. J Johnson, 7 Hetherlow Towers, Liverpool L4 6SL
- 26-28 YEOVIL. Open; U160; U130; U16/U101. MH Wheeler, The Barn, Crossway Mead, Chilthorne Domer, Yeovil, Somerset.
- 27-28 HERTFORDSHIRE at Hitchin. Open; U150; U125; U16/13 Sun, U11 Sat. Herts Chess Assn, 9 Lancaster Avenue, Hitchin, Herts SG5 1PA (Hitchin 54171).
- 30-31 BURNHAM (2nd Berks and Bucks Junior). Various age groups U18 to U10 or below. AP Challenger, 6 Boarlands Close, Slough 38589.
- Nov 2- 4 BEDWORTH. U185; U145; U110; U16/14/12/10 Sat/Sun; U8 Sun. Derek Evans, 47 Dalehouse Lane, Kenilworth.
- 11 BASINGSTOKE as 14 Oct.
- 23-25 TORBAY at Torquay. Open; U156; U126. P Short, Blue Horizon, Nut Bush Lane, Shiphay, Torquay TQ2 6LD.

SCCU COUNTY FIXTURES 1984-5

<u>date</u>	<u>Championship</u>	<u>M-Jones</u>	<u>Phillips and Drew Amboyna</u>
Sep 29		MK OH	
Oct 6	MSy HK CBr ESx		
13			M4E M3Sx K4K3 Sy3Sy2
20		KO	
27	BrE KC SyH BuM		
Nov 3			Sy3M4 K3M3 Sy2K4 SxE
10		HK	
17	HBu CSy EK SxB	OE	
24			M4Sx M3Sy2 K4Sy3 E3K3
Dec 1		EH MO	
8	KSx SyE BuC MH		
15		HM KE	
Jan 5		KM HO	
12	CM EBU SxSy BrK		
19		EM	K4M4 Sy3M3 Sy2E K3Sx
26	SyBr BuSx ME HC		
Feb 2		OK ME	
9	EH SxM BrBu KSy		
16			M4K3 M3K4 ESy3 SxSy2
23		EO KH	
Mar 2	BuK MBr HSx CE		
9			M3M4 K4E Sy3Sx Sy2K3
16	SxC BrH KM SyBu		
23		HE OM	
30			M4Sy3 EM3 SxK4 K3Sy3
Apr 6			
13		MH EK	

This list includes the few re-arranged fixtures we have heard about. Any others should be notified to the Tournament Secretary, and it helps if you tell the Bulletin as well. It frets about "missing" results otherwise.

Junior dates: SCCU U18 Jamborees 2nd March; National U16 team event 24 Nov; National U14 9th March.

COUNTY OFFICERS

BERKS

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First Team captain: GT Fergusson, 91 Redhatch Drive, Earley, Reading: tel Reading
(0734) 863281

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

BCF Newsflash for Aug and Sep; ChessIns for Aug; Chess Trainer No 19; Hex Press 14;
Passed Pawn for Aug; Surrey Chess News for July; Sussex Chess News for Sep; Westward
Ho! (WECU) Congress Edition

Quote from one of the above, and no prizes for guessing which:

"Hexagonal chess... is a derivative of traditional chess, but with a geometrical board." OK, it was a newspaper cutting.

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Section of text, possibly a summary or a specific entry, located in the middle of the page.

Section of text, possibly a continuation of the list or a separate section.

Section of text, possibly a conclusion or a final entry, located in the lower half of the page.