



BULLETIN

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SOUTHERN COUNTIES CHESS UNION

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* Officers marked with an asterisk are also members of the SCCU Management Board.

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(or their deputies).

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Facts we try to get right. Opinions, unless otherwise attributed, are the Editor's.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive met on Friday 6th May 1988 at St Brides. 12 attended. Main points of interest:

(1) Money. Figures were not final, but the Treasurer forecast a surplus for the year of several hundred pounds, some £200 up on budget. Grading income was very considerable. Unaccountably, Officers' Expenses had taken a nosedive. (Your Editor was much surprised to find that the Bulletin had made a profit. Not in his book it hadn't, but he has never pretended to understand money.)

It was agreed to propose the following charges at the Council Meeting on the 2nd July: Levy £8 per point (no change); SCCU Grading List £3 (up from £2.20; but it will be bigger - see below); Bulletin £3 (up from £2.50; costs are rising).

(2) Grading. The BCF proposes to publish a single list next time, going all the way down to players with 10 games in the last 3 years. It will be at least as big as the two 1988 lists put together. (Look inside the front cover if you don't know what these are. They have a combined thickness of just over half an inch.) The intention is to produce an extra list for graders, giving details of players below the 10-game mark. Your Editor, who is also a small-time grader, said he would prefer a comprehensive Graders' Master List containing everyone. Like we used to have in the SCCU. The Executive agreed. (It is very irritating to have to look people up in more than one list; especially when you don't really expect to find them at all and are only checking for thoroughness' sake. Graders have tolerated a multiplicity of lists in the last couple of years, conscious no doubt of the BCF's computer problem. Now that the BCF has sensible hardware and (we hope) software, graders are entitled to something better. Or payment. The Management apologises for this Editorial digression; normal service will be resumed immediately.)

Martin Cath, SCCU Grading Secretary, suggested that the SCCU list - which is, of course, just an extract from the BCF one - should omit players with less than 15 games over the 3 years. Their grades did not mean a lot, and we should beware of making the list so large, and expensive, as to deter buyers. The Executive agreed.

The BCF has not yet come up with the new-style programs for graders using IBM compatibles and Sinclair Spectrums. They are said to be on their way.

There was some discussion of a graders' meeting held by the London Chess Association, with the Director of National Grading in attendance, on the 9th April. As most of this is digression again, we've put it in a separate article below.

(3) County matches. Kent and Herts go forward to the BCF stage of the National Quick-play competition. Bucks, the only other SCCU entrant, withdrew for practical reasons but might be interested another time. For SCCU results to date in the main BCF competitions, see the later pages.

(4) County match rules. You will remember (ve heff vayss off making you remember) that the Executive is working on new rules to implement promotion and relegation. It had fun with the draft, but we'll spare you the details. (Unless you want to read your Editor on page 2.)

(5) BCF Management Board Report. Not very much of general interest, but: There "is to be" an entry fee for each county First, Second and Third team playing in the national competitions. (The Union stage, that is.) Don't know about Fourth teams. This would, we think, replace the levy. It would have to go to the BCF Council, since it involves changing the Constitution. There was also the by now traditional soul-searching on newsflash, and a long debate on "direct membership".

SCCU ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING (2nd July) will be held on the 2nd July. The venue is not yet fixed. County Secretaries will receive formal notice. County delegates will not, but please note that the Meeting is on the 2nd July.

LCA GRADING DISCUSSION 9.4.88

The meeting was chaired by SW Reuben, President of the London Chess Association, with Philip Clemow, Director of National Grading, in attendance. Size of meeting fluctuated as people wandered in and out from surrounding junior events, but your Editor would put the average figure somewhere around 14.

The BCF is interested in transferring to what are commonly called "rolling grades". The grades we have now are rolling, but they roll over a period of time (currently 2 years); and the new idea is to roll over an (as yet unspecified) number of games instead. So your grade would be calculated from your last n games, no matter how far back they go. The BCF also wishes to publish, or at any rate produce,

more than one list a year. After some discussion there was a consensus that one mid-term list next year would be a reasonable target. How it would be published your Editor is not sure. He got the impression, at the meeting, that this list would be used in subsequent calculations; but Martin Cath, who was also there, got the impression that it wouldn't. If the mid-term list is successful, whatever that means, the BCF might proceed to four lists in the following season.

The only other thing that stuck in your Editor's mind afterwards was a suggestion by SW Reuben to multiply all BCF grades by 8 and add 600 in order to make them look like Elo ratings. The laughter was politely muted. (To be fair, one or two were in favour.) Suppose you might make a case for it if the last (and meaningless) digit was dropped. ± 50 would become ± 40 . (And the 40-point rule becomes the 32-point rule, and you add 8 for Juniors?!) Seriously, and not because of the joke parenthesis, it would make mental calculations harder. How real would the Elo-correspondence be? Any statisticians out there want to comment?

Not quite the only thing. Gaffney grades came up as well. Gaffney grades, originally based on quick-play tournaments in the London area, have since been extended to include some "normal" tournaments as well. It emerged that, as well as being highly selective as to events graded, the Gaffney system is not quite orthodox in its rules or its arithmetic. It is, however, popular; especially among juniors. Because, of course, it is up to date. The Gaffney list is published monthly, if we got it right, and sells about 70 copies at £1. When the LCA meeting was reported to the SCCU Executive on the 6th April, mention of Gaffney grades led to discussion of the "up to date" grades being used for pairings, and sometimes grading, at some important junior events. See Bulletin 177, page 3. The Executive has reservations about this, and has agreed to make representations to the BCF Management Board.

COUNTY MATCH RULES

The Executive, at its meeting on the 6th May, had some difficulty finding a good way of deciding the two nominees for the BCF stage. Basically, the intention is to hold play-offs in cases where there are just one or two eligible teams in a higher division; but it was felt, for reasons which escaped your Editor, that in the Minor Counties alone the top team in a lower division should always have the right to a play-off, irrespective of the number of MCs in the higher division. In the other competitions, where play-offs would not be held if the number of teams in the higher division exceeded two, a problem arises over the new entry fees proposed by the BCF (see page 1). Lower-division teams may be automatically excluded from nomination; which in fairness will have to mean that they aren't "playing in" the competition, and don't pay a fee. The way round this might be to collect entry fees at a Union level, with a small reduction for teams not entitled to reach the BCF stage. (Small, because one supposes that they wouldn't have been very likely to qualify anyway.) Or, of course, extend the Minor Counties provision to the other competitions.

It was felt that our two nominees for a competition should always come from different counties. The BCF Director of Home Chess and Services, who was present in another capacity, said he would positively not accept two nominees from the same county in one competition. (Actually the rules, on a quick reading, do not seem to give him any say in the matter: the BCF is bound to accept Union nominations.)

There was some disagreement about teams qualifying for more than one nomination. Should they choose which to accept, or should they be obliged to accept the "higher" of the two? Someone invented the following hypothetical, and rather implausible, case: First in Division 1, Middx I. (No, that's not the implausible bit.) Second, Kent II. Third, Kent I. Now if Kent II are allowed to opt for the lower competition, that will let Kent I in by the back door. The argument works in reverse if you turn it upside down, but only for counties with fourth teams. Your Editor does not remember that the Executive took a view.

There was, in fact, some doubt whether the BCF would accept a 3rd Team in the 2nd Teams competition. (The BCF rules, as we remarked some time ago, don't say.) It emerged that the team would be accepted so long as it told the BCF it was a 2nd team.

Anyone running a book on whether Council will accept promotion and relegation?

ROUND THE COUNTIES

KENT Finals Day at Dartford 15.5.88 produced the following results: County Cup Maidstone beat Gravesend $3\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$; Lewis Cup Lewisham III beat Charlton III $4\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$; Stevenson Cup Gravesend II beat Charlton V on board count; En Passant Trophy Hayes III beat Gravesend III $4\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$; Harvey Cup Sevenoaks II beat South of the Thames III $4\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$. Individual competitions: County Championship is between JE Scholes and either IR Watson or D Taylor (semi-final adjourned); Major is between DJ Brown and G Josephs, at least one of whom was unavailable because playing for his club in a team final; Intermediate MA Bone beat P Finch; Minor RC Cross beat P Fenn.

SUSSEX: SW Sussex Chess League was won by Bognor & Arun. Six teams competed.

"Biggest Chess Event" in Britain this year took place at the Barbican Centre on the 20th March when over 1000 players attended the relaunch of CHESS magazine under Pergamon ownership. The main event was a match North London v South London over 280 boards (well, you didn't really believe the planned 1000 boards, did you?) and North London won $158\frac{1}{2} - 121\frac{1}{2}$. Simuls: RD Keene +14 =5 -1 (J Pratt, Basingstoke); JH Plaskett +15 =3 -2 (D Clayton, West Wickman it says here, and a computer); AJ Whiteley +18 =2 -0; C Haslinger (v Ulls) +18 =2 -1 (Yasmin Harvey, Streatham).

Cambridge won the BIS Group Universities Championship at Bristol, date unspecified, with $27\frac{1}{2}/36$ ahead of Warwick 24. 22 teams competed.

Another true story from a county internal league match.

Player X reached the point where he could no longer lose on time. (The county uses adjudication.) Announcing that he wasn't going to make any more moves, he suggested stopping and "having a look at it". His opponent declined to stop the game before the time was officially up, and left the board. Returning some time later he found members of team X analysing his position while the game was still in progress. He claimed the game. The county committee gave him it, but ruled that it would not count for grading. Whose side are you on?

COUNTY LEAGUE TABLES

The Championship table is now final. Final tables for the Montague-Jones and Amboyna/Ebony appeared last time, but for completeness we give them again.

CHAMPIONSHIP

	E	K	M	C	Sx	H	Br	Bu	O	GP	MP
Essex		10	$7\frac{1}{2}$	$14\frac{1}{2}$	10	13	12	$11\frac{1}{2}$	$16\frac{1}{2}$	95	6
Kent	10		$11\frac{1}{2}$	6	10	$14\frac{1}{2}$	$14\frac{1}{2}$	14	$13\frac{1}{2}$	94	6
Middx	$12\frac{1}{2}$	$8\frac{1}{2}$		$11\frac{1}{2}$	$12\frac{1}{2}$	8	$11\frac{1}{2}$	11	13	$88\frac{1}{2}$	6
Cambs	$5\frac{1}{2}$	14	$8\frac{1}{2}$		13	$14\frac{1}{2}$	$7\frac{1}{2}$	14	$14\frac{1}{2}$	$91\frac{1}{2}$	5
Sussex	10	10	$7\frac{1}{2}$	7		13	$11\frac{1}{2}$	15	10	84	$4\frac{1}{2}$
Herts	7	$5\frac{1}{2}$	12	$5\frac{1}{2}$	7		18	$12\frac{1}{2}$	$15\frac{1}{2}$	83	4
Berks	8	$5\frac{1}{2}$	$8\frac{1}{2}$	$12\frac{1}{2}$	$8\frac{1}{2}$	2		9	$15\frac{1}{2}$	$69\frac{1}{2}$	2
Bucks	$8\frac{1}{2}$	6	9	6	5	$7\frac{1}{2}$	11		10	63	$1\frac{1}{2}$
Oxon	$3\frac{1}{2}$	$6\frac{1}{2}$	7	$5\frac{1}{2}$	10	$4\frac{1}{2}$	$4\frac{1}{2}$	10		$51\frac{1}{2}$	1

MONTAGUE-JONES

	S	K	M	S	K	M	GP	MP
1 Surrey I		11	11		12	$8\frac{1}{2}$	$42\frac{1}{2}$	3
2 Kent II	9		$18\frac{1}{2}$	8		$15\frac{1}{2}$	51	2
3 Middx II	9	$1\frac{1}{2}$		$11\frac{1}{2}$	$4\frac{1}{2}$		$26\frac{1}{2}$	1

AMBOYNA/EBONY

	K	M3	Sx	M4	Sy	GP	MP
1 Kent III		$12\frac{1}{2}$	9	$13\frac{1}{2}$	15	50	3
2 Middx III	$7\frac{1}{2}$		12	13	14	$46\frac{1}{2}$	3
3 Sussex II	11	8		11	$7\frac{1}{2}$	$37\frac{1}{2}$	2
4 Middx IV	$6\frac{1}{2}$	7	9		$10\frac{1}{2}$	33	1
5 Surrey II	4	5	$12\frac{1}{2}$	$9\frac{1}{2}$		31	1

Adjudication results from last time.

First, an appeal from Berks-Middx 20.2.88: Middx appealed successfully on board 9; result is now Thompson 0 Lyell.

Adjudications:

C Berks $8\frac{1}{2}$ $11\frac{1}{2}$ Middx 20.2.88: 14 Norman 0 Burke
 Essex $14\frac{1}{2}$ $5\frac{1}{2}$ Cambs 20.2.88: 16 Hodgson 1 Tsang
 Cambs 13 7 Sussex 12.3.88: 8 Singh 1 Hawes
 Middx $8\frac{1}{2}$ $11\frac{1}{2}$ Kent 12.3.88: 7 Vlahos 0 Sugden; 18 Colston $\frac{1}{2}$ Cook
 Herts 18 2 Berks 12.3.88: 3 Swanson 1 Freeman; 10 Hollis $\frac{1}{2}$ Tickner
 Bucks 10 10 Oxon 12.3.88: 2 Moore $\frac{1}{2}$ Walker; 8 Smith 1 Chapman; 11 Bramley
 0 Alcock

BCF STAGE COUNTY MATCHES

<u>CHAMPIONSHIP</u>				<u>SECOND TEAMS</u>			
		<u>Quarter Final</u>				<u>Quarter Final</u>	
<u>Devon</u>		15.5.88		<u>Essex*</u>		21.5.88	
1	JF Wheeler (B)	0	1	AD Martin	<u>Kent II*</u>	1	0
2	GW Wheeler	0	1	NL Carr	EJ Whipp (W)	1	0
3	JM Hutchings	0	1	K Bowden	JD Wager	1	0
4	NA Down	0	1	AP Lewis	J Anderson	1	0
5	RH Lingham	0	1	D Coleman	JS Williams	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
6	P Harris	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	ES Lee	PJ Heaven	0	1
7	TF Thynne	0	1	M Fleury	DJR Barnes	0	1
8	RNJ Phillips	0	1	JA Goldberg	GR Tidmarsh	1	0
9	J Anson	0	1	P Hasson	KJ Verney	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
10	AD Starkie	0	1	JP Manley	def	0	1
11	J Walker	0	1	IJ Myall	JM Allan	1	0
12	J Hayward	= +		IBN Smith	MJ Reddie	1	0
13	J Ridolfo	0	1	JH Hodgson	MJ Pitt	1	0
14	RM Bruce	0	1	JC Moore	MM Robertson	1	0
15	KJ Bloodworth	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	CR Ramage	R Edmonds	1	0
16	A Pickering	0	1	JR Cooke	PW Eldridge	0	1
(Bristol)		(1	14)		CM Brown	1	0
					(Welwyn)	11	5

MINOR COUNTIES

<u>Preliminary round:</u>				<u>Quarter Final:</u>			
<u>Sussex*</u>		23.4.88		<u>Sussex*</u>		15.5.88	
1	G Kenworthy (W)	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	<u>Notts</u>	FJ Kwiatkowski	1	0
2	JC Henshaw	1	0	PA Richmond	BJ Denman	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
3	GH James	1	0	PD Hare	GH James	1	0
4	L Rutherford	0	1	S Burke	L Rutherford	1	0
5	SJ Newman	1	0	J Swain	SJ Newman	1	0
6	DB Graham	1	0	M Burrows	DB Graham	1	0
7	JIP Simpole	1	0	SV Woodhouse	RV Elliston	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
8	MD Nicholas	1	0	R Higham	JIP Simpole	1	0
9	G Rivers	1	0	P Mercs	G Rivers	a	
10	P Watson	1	0	N Graham	P Watson	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
11	APR Lewis	1	0	N Young	IG Kelly	1	0
12	IG Kelly	1	0	J Tassi	PR Selby	1	0
13	PR Selby	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	B Hayward	J Graham	1	0
14	RH Williams	1	0	L Sewell	RD Hirsch	a	
15	J Graham	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	D Gwynne	R Sherlock	1	0
16	LJ Cannon	1	0	MV Taylor	DGE Collard	1	0
(Welwyn)		13 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	A Clare	(Aston Univ)	(12 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$)

THIRD TEAMS

<u>Quarter Final</u>			
<u>Kent III*</u>		14.5.88	
1	MJ Reddie (W)	0	1
2	LR Gurr	0	1
3	Z Mehmet	1	0
4	S Williamson	0	1
5	MR Croft	1	0
6	C Brown	1	0
7	R Parsons	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
8	AC Waters	0	1
9	D Tuddenham	1	0
10	DE Mukoro	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
11	PL Childs	1	0
12	S Jacobs	0	1
13	R Williamson	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
14	RC Shilling	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
15	SC Scott	1	0
16	RG Blake	1	0
(Charlton House)		9	7

No other result sheets received (24.5.88). But we have bare match results for everything, courtesy PB.

Championship Kent 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ Warks +2; Warks hope for miracle on own admission. Hants 8 7 Northd +1; Hants must win. Lancs 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ Leics.

Minor Counties prelim Somerset* 8 8 Merseyside. Quarter Finals Cambs 12 4 Somerset; Beds 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ Dorset; Salop 13 7 Hunts & Peterboro.

2nd Teams Mx 9 7 Yorks (Mx def 3!); Warks 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ Hants; Lancs 11 4 Devon +1

3rd Teams Middx 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ Cheshire +1; Ches need win but "are confident". Warks 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ Suffolk II(!); Lancs 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ Somerset.

Full Quarter Final scores for SCCU teams will appear in the next issue if we receive them.

A couple of SCCU Championship matches not previously reported. (Received by a roundabout route within Kent.)

Kent		12.12.87	Berks		Oxon		30.1.88	Kent	
1	N McDonald (B)	1 a 0	P Sharp	P Wells (B)	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	RG Eales		
2	RG Eales	1 0	A Reeve	JN Walker	0	1	NF Dickenson		
3	IR Watson	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$	ID Thompson	RJ Starkie	1	0	HT Jones		
4	IM Pountney	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$	JA Freeman	DAS Buckland	0	1	AG Trangmar		
5	AE Hanreck	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$	M Taylor	M Kimber	0	1	JN Sugden		
6	JN Sugden	1 0	C Brakn (sic)	R Tomlinson	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	RMR O'Kelly		
7	AG Trangmar	1 0	M Johnstone	NJ Hepworth	0	1	D Edmunds (so)		
8	def	0 1	P Thompson	G Chapman	0	1	AP Smith		
9	A Dunn	0 1	S Foister	N Davies	1	0	RW O'Brien		
10	AJ Stebbings	1 0	D Tucker	D Godfrey	0	1	G Botley		
11	AP Smith	1 0	J Folder	N Jukubevis (so)	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	LM Pickett		
12	def	0 1	L Davis	N Jenkinson	0	1	IM Pountney		
13	NR Oliver	1 0	A Milnes	HAJ Searle	0	1	NR Oliver		
14	M Plook*	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$	K Hyde	G Alcock	0	1	M Adkins		
15	G Botley	1 0	M Peckham	J Stayt	0	1	M Robertson		
16	PS Milner-Barry	1 0	R Bhudy	P Bail	1	0	PS Milner-Barry		
17	D Taylor	1 a 0	O Worsfold	J Hastings	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	MJ Pitt		
18	M Adkins	1 0	M Redmond	S Ansell	1	0	RCA L-Pentecost		
19	JS Williams	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$	GT Fergusson	CG Copeland	0	1	S Jacobs		
20	RCA L-Pentecost	1 0	GN Crockhart	PK Sayers	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	R Winterborne		
	(Charlton House)	14 $\frac{1}{2}$ 5 $\frac{1}{2}$		(Cowley)	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ 13 $\frac{1}{2}$				

* Ed: I did tumble to the fact that this was MP Cook, several lines later, but it was too good to correct. The gentleman seems oddly prone to mishap; it's not so long since he came out as "Loon".

The Fleming Trophy match:

Bucks*		23.4.88	Beds	
1	RDW Marsh (W)	0 1	P Gayson	
2	S Finn	1 0	A Bryce	
3	GM Boyce	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$	RCP Freeman	
4	RD de Coverly	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$	PL Roe	
5	K Beedle	0 1	JN Wingfield	
6	D Smith	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$	D Ledger	
7	EK Tweeddale	0 1	KT Rose	
8	R Fox	0 1	PF Habershon	
9	EN Bramley	+	S Ledger	
10	M Egby	0 1	N McBride	
11	J Beedle	1 0	R Mahoney	
12	J Alster	1 0	H Ingham	
13	BP Church	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$	P Gill	
14	CD Floyd	1 0	M Dunne	
15	P Lawryshyn	1 0	M James	
16	AJ Cox	0 1	S Matthews	
17	D Woods	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$	S Valerio	
18	RP Ginger	1 0	JS Shaw	
19	T Rixon	1 0	R Sczeseniak	
20	MS Bool	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$	S Gibbs	
	(Hazlemere)	(10 9)		

Don't know if Bucks can lose on board 9, but if they did they would lose the match on board count.

Later: we hear, unofficially, that they can't lose it.

SCCU UNDER 180 KO

Sussex*		16.4.88	Kent*		Herts*		23.4.88	Middx	
1	A Hall	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$	MJ Reddie	C Majer	0	1	P Cawte		
2	IM Climie	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$	LR Gurr	S Law	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	J Grundy		
3	APR Lewis	1 0	BJ Westover	N Willmott	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	A Alabi		
4	J Graham	0 1	BJ Langridge	P Badger	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	B Stuart		
5	IG Kelly	1 0	PA Tatham	J Cook	1	0	JR Macdonald		
6	PR Selby	1 0	R Parsons	R Arnot	1	0	D White		
7	MR Stott	1 0	AC Waters	M Dyer	1	0	JVA Franks		
8	DG Ratcliffe	0 1	RC Shilling	B Morris	0	1	M Barkwill		
9	CJ Arthur	0 1	RT McCorry	I Cary	0	1	DJ Lawrence		
10	R Sherlock	1 0	MR Croft	B Judkins	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	J McVicar		
	(Hassocks)	6 4		(Welwyn)	5 5				

Herts won on bottom board elimination.

The semi-final is between Herts and Oxon, and Sussex have a bye to the Final.

CONGRESS RESULTS

SURREY EASTER CONGRESS at Sutton 1-4 April 1988 attracted 323 entries if we've counted right, but this was still about 15% down on last year.

Frank Winter Memorial Open (93 pl) 1 (and takes SCCU Individual title) PG Large (Mitcham) $6\frac{1}{2}/7$; 2-3 M Lyell (Acton: takes SCCU nomination for British Championship as Large is otherwise qualified), JC Benjamin (Richmond) 6; 4-5 RA Inglis (Coulsdon), F Rayner (Ks Head) $5\frac{1}{2}$... Grading U185 Andrew Webster (Sutton) $5\frac{1}{2}$; U175 DA Jarvis (Lancaster) $4\frac{1}{2}$; U165 IG Kelly (Brighton) 4. Junior U18 J Poulton (Fareham) 4; Under 16 JG Wilson (Cobham) 4.

Major U150 (99 pl) 1 JV Kaye (Finchley) $6\frac{1}{2}/7$; 2 PJ Massey (Fairoak) 6; 3-4 P Cogliatti (Stock Exchange), PS Janota (Reading Univ) $5\frac{1}{2}$; 5-12 KA Cartmel (Southampton), LJ Charlwood (Ewell), MJ Cowley (Streatham), ND Grey (Battersea), S Jacob (Lewisham), RW Jennings (W London), RJ Maltby (Kingston), G McManus (Battersea) 5... Grading U140 CR Timms (Richmond) 5; U130 AJ Wilson (Cobham) 5. Junior U18 L Bournemouth (Acton) $4\frac{1}{2}$; Under 15 DR Woods (Bourne End) $3\frac{1}{2}$.

Minor U120 (38 pl) 1-2 A Moseley (Chertsey), D Walker (Hayes Kent) $6\frac{1}{2}/8$; 3 I McNee (Bushbury) 6; 4-7 A Abiaw (Parsons Green), K Andrews (Bracknell), P Guy (Old Coulsdon), SR Jones (S Norwood) $5\frac{1}{2}$... Grading U100 SR Jones; Junior U18 KE White (S Godstone) 4; Slow starter D Gunter (Sussex Univ) $4\frac{1}{2}$.

Main Tournaments (8 player APAs): Section A 1 DP Johnson (Sutton) 6; 2 SJ Hitehouse (Crawley) 5... Section B 1 MP Foss (Woking) 5; 2-3 TS Allen (Fulham), WGV McLaughlin (Metropolitan) $4\frac{1}{2}$...

Main Tournaments (6 player APAs): Section C 1 S MacDonald-Ross (sic: Nalgo) $3\frac{1}{2}/5$; 2-3 J Harter (Charlton), CPL Parker (Wallington) 3... Section D 1 PJ Horlock (Godalming) 4; 2 R Bone (Sutton) $3\frac{1}{2}$... Section E 1 JC Inwood (Eagle Star) 4; 2 Dr DJ Opie (Hassocks) $3\frac{1}{2}$...

Novice A (U100: 35 pl) 1-2 AF Hewitt (Hilltop), D Ryan (Hayes Kent) $4\frac{1}{2}/5$; 3-5 GW Phillips (W London), RV Redmond (Morden), C Songhurst (W Wickham) 4... Junior 1 P Davidoff (Addlestone) $3\frac{1}{2}$; 2 W Faria (Wimbledon) $2\frac{1}{2}$.

Novice B (U100: 24 pl) 1 D Ryan (Hayes Kent) $4\frac{1}{2}/5$; 2-3 WT Marjoram (Epsom), GW Phillips (W London) 4; 4-5 DW Bate-Smith (Finchley), S Kenny (Thames Ditton) $3\frac{1}{2}$... Junior S Kenny.

Ladies Prizes: Best % score in Open/Major/Minor, KA Cartmel. Best Minor, C Lusher. Best Novice A, JL Johnson. Best Novice B, L Pereira.

Results HM Cath

32nd SOUTHEND EASTER CONGRESS 1-4 April 1988 attracted 166: also about 15% down.

"Is there room for so much chess in one week-end?" - GMA Smith

Open (74 pl) 1 CW Baker (Nuneaton) $6\frac{1}{2}/7$; 2 NL Carr (Ilford) 6; 3-6 SW Giddins (Gravesend), AJ Ledger (Warwick Univ), SC Ledger (Bedford), JN Sugden (Lewisham) $5\frac{1}{2}$; 7-8 RJ Gamble (Courtaulds, Derby), DE Hall (Chess Cafe, Norwich) 5... Grading 155-170 Roy Brown (Rayleigh), T Coote (Hendon: qualifies for Essex Championships), B Kemish, AJ Phillips (both Brentwood), M Waddington (Wimborne), SJ Wood (Gravesend) all $4\frac{1}{2}$; 140-154 DE Hall 5; 124-139 DL Read (Colchester) $4\frac{1}{2}$; Under 124 K Williamson (Leighton Buzzard) $3\frac{1}{2}$.

Major A (16 pl: no grading limit; Major sections were split on grade) 1 GF Yates (Waltham Forest) $4/5$; 2-4 LR Ainsworth (Kirkham), B Stevens (Norwich), Dr B Sturgeon (Ilford) $3\frac{1}{2}$; 5-6 DW Daniels (Northampton), RM Eames (Berkhampstead) 3...

Major B (16 pl) 1-2 RJ Lee (Lowestoft), M Likeman (Cambridge Univ) $4/5$; 3-4 SR Capsey (Bishops Stortford), AR Petherick (Westcliff) $3\frac{1}{2}$; 5-6 N Goldenberg (London Central), A Williams (Clacton) 3...

Minor A (16 pl: Grading U126; Minor sections split on grade) 1 BP Floyd (Wanstead) $4\frac{1}{2}/5$; 2-3 M Smedley (Brighton), TC Wright (Bs Stortford) $3\frac{1}{2}$; 4-7 EW Knapp (W London), GF Luetchford (Witham), CJD Newman (Billericay), JK Stoneman (Metropolitan) 3...

Minor B (16 pl) 1 K Kinnie (Upminster) $4\frac{1}{2}/5$; 2 RH Prickett (Grays) 4; 3-4 M Ashkettle (Upminster), A King (Grays) $3\frac{1}{2}$; 5-8 N Benn (Insurance CC), K Foakes (Thorpe Bay), GC Greer (Southend), DB Kinnerman (Westcliff) 3...

Minor C (14 pl) 1 S Lebon (Southend) $4/5$; 2-3 D Cuckson (Metropolitan), TC Lake (Southend) $3\frac{1}{2}$; 4-6 EM Brendish (BT & PO), N Herbert (Social CCA), A Byrne (Canvey Island) 3...

Junior U14 (6 pl) 1 I Dellow (South Benfleet) $4\frac{1}{2}/5$; 2 S Clubb (Benfleet) 4...

Junior U11 (8 pl) 1 K Perks (Southend: age 9) $7/7$; 2 C Hunt (Southend) 6; 3 R Weekes (Benfleet) 5...

All junior players received book prizes!

A questionnaire circulated to all players produced the usual violently opposed views on smoking. 70% favoured a ban, but the rest (all of them, it says here) wouldn't play if there was one. Quick-play was suggested as a means of increasing the junior entry; don't know what the reaction was. Favourable, we'd guess. Res GMA Smith.

23rd ANNUAL(!) FOLKESTONE EASTER CONGRESS 1-4 April 1988 re-appeared with 72 players. The main Open event was scrapped.

Shepway Open (36 pl) 1-2 AE Hanreck, AJ Stebbings (both Charlton) $4\frac{1}{2}/5$; 3-4 MP Cook (Maidstone), SJ Pullinger (Whitstable) 4...

Major U161 (16 pl) 1 P Eldridge (Maidstone) $5\frac{1}{2}/7$; 2 D Tuddenham (Kilndown) 5; 3-4 MR Croft (Margate), J Curtis (Folkestone), RC Shilling (Ashford) $4\frac{1}{2}$...

Two-day Tournament (20 pl) 1 RF Pooley (Herne Bay) 5/5; 2-4 MA Bone (Ashford), F Cole (Herne Bay), R Page (Broadstairs) 4...

Results MR Croft

OAKHAM SCHOOL INTERNATIONAL 28 March - 6 April 1988 attracted 52 players (from 17 countries, by our count); including 5 GMs and 12 IMs. Matthew Sadler, at 13 the youngest player in the event, picked up his first IM norm.

1 James Howell IM $7\frac{1}{2}/9$; 2-5 Michael Adams IM, Lucas Brunner IM (FRG), Lasha Dzhandzhgava (URS: IM norm), Boris Gelfand IM (URS) $6\frac{1}{2}$; 6-8 Pavel Blatny IM (CSR), Stuart Conquest IM, James Plaskett GM 6; 9-15 Jon L Arnason GM (ISD), Tibor Fogarasi (HUN), Catalin Navrotescu (ROM: IM norm), David Norwood IM, Matthew Sadler (IM norm), Grigory Serper (URS: IM norm), Ivan Sokolov GM (JUG) $5\frac{1}{2}$; 16-22 Demetrios Agnos, C Garcia Palermo GM (ARG), Jacek Gdanski (POL), Gadi Rechlis IM (ISL), Michael Schlosser (OST), Oliver Schulte (FRG), Thros Thorhallsson IM (ISD) 5; 23-32 Jor Brenninkmeijer (NLD), Ofer Bruk (ISL), Graeme Buckley, Glenn Flear GM, Csaba Horvath IM (HUN), Neil McDonald IM, Philip Morris, Philip Rossiter, Ladislav Stratil (CSR), Ian Thomas $4\frac{1}{2}$; 33-38 Christin Badulescu (ROM), Fabio Bellini (ITA), Mark Burgess, Angus Dunnington, Svetlana Matveyeva (URS), Hannes Stefansson (ISD) 4...

Results George Smith and DW Sadler, independently. Maybe one day Mr Smith will send us a list of those country codes...! Can Hannes Stefansson be the same as Hannes Stefansson, who caused problems in Issue 179?

SCCU QUICK-PLAY CHAMPIONSHIP at Earley CC 21.5.88

Berkshire Open QP (incorporating SCCU Championship: 36 pl) 1-3 (and share title) M Trent (Slough), PG Large (Mitcham), MJ Surtees (Camberley) 5/6... Grading U170 EN Bramley (Slough), NT Davies (Oxford Univ), RHW Pearce (Swindon) $3\frac{1}{2}$

Minor U140 (34 pl) 1 JD Hirst (Oxford Univ) $5\frac{1}{2}/6$; 2-3 RA Spencer (Camberley), James Cobb (Swindon: U11) 5... Junior Mark Brown (Aylesbury), Neil James (H Wycombe) 4
Results David Blackman

JUNIOR NEWS

UNDER 18 NATIONAL JAMBOREE FINALS played 26.3.88 in Birmingham

Main events:

Open 1 Hants 8/12; 2 (bd ct) Middx 8; 3 Greater Manchester 7; 4 Lancs 1. A Welsh team, don't know where from exactly, failed to turn up.

Girls 1 Middx 5/6; 2 Hants 4; 3 Suffolk 0.

Minor events:

Open 1 Oxon $7\frac{1}{2}/12$; 2 (bd ct) Derbys $7\frac{1}{2}$; 3 Northumberland $6\frac{1}{2}$; 4 Hunts & Peterborough $4\frac{1}{2}$; 5 Somerset 4

Girls 1 Oxon 5/6; 2 Merseyside 3; 3 Wilts 1

1st ANNUAL SUSSEX INDIVIDUAL UNDER 11 CHAMPIONSHIP at Ditchling, 5.3.88 attracted 44 "selected" players. 1 Piers Swivos (Great Walstead) 6/6; 2-4 Jesse Herschkovitz (Gt Walstead), Robert Lee (St Margarets Ditchling), Paul Wyatt (Birchwood Grove) 5; 5-6 T Allport, P Dunne $4\frac{1}{2}$; 7-12 C Easley, G Kilney, D McConachie, J Nash, N Walker, N Willcamson (sic: typed) 4...

Results Tim Greenhill

SUSSEX CLOSED JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS at Brighton, 30 April/1st May 1988

Under 18 (19 pl) 1 David Oates (St Andrews Worthing) 6/7; 2 Andrew Cooper (Varndean) $5\frac{1}{2}$; 3 Jeffery Jackson (William Parker Hastings) 5...

Under 14 (39 pl) 1 Robert Sherlock (Blatchington Mill) 7/7; 2-3 Daniel Elliott (Bishop Bell), James Schumacher (Christs Hospital C) $5\frac{1}{2}$... Best Girl Nicola Nuñez (Ratton) 5; Best U11 Jesse Herschkovitz (Great Walstead) $4\frac{1}{2}$

Results Paul Watson

14th MAIDENHEAD JUNIOR CONGRESS at Desborough School, 5-8 April 1988

Under 18 (22 pl) 1-2 Tom Townsend (Wokingham), Matthew Anderton (Guildford) 7½/9; 3 Natasha Regan (Gerrards Cross) 7; 4 Clinton Wells (Godalming) 6; 5 Martin Faulkner (Wokingham) 5½...

Under 15 (8 pl) 1 Ali Shahrukhi (High Wycombe) 6½/7; 2 Gain Sotheran (Woking) 5½; 3 Timothy Rogers (High Wycombe) 5; 4 Richard Coates (Wokingham) 4...

Under 13 (20 pl) 1 Marcus Bryant (Guildford) 8/9; 2-3 Paul Colburn, Neil James (both High Wycombe) 7½...

Under 12 (12 pl) 1 Neil Anderson (Farnborough ?Hants) 9/11; 2 Robert Smalley (Guildford) 8; 3 Jeffrey Clifford (Wokingham) 7½; 4-5 Mark Vandenberg (Maidenhead), Jamie Cleaver (High Wycombe) 7; 6-7 Gulraj Reyatt (Wokingham), Matthew Dodsley (Woodley) 5½...

Under 11 (54 pl) 1 Andrew George (High Wycombe) 8/9; 2 Daniel Lambourne (High Wycombe) 7... (no more results supplied)

Under 9 (38 pl) 1 Joseph Conlon (Reading) 9½/10; 2 Patrick Finglass (Solihull) 8; 3 Adam Hunt (Oxford) 7½; 4-8 Paul Bradford (Eastbourne), Matthew George (High Wycombe), Geroid (sic, and looks deliberate) Finglass (Solihull), Sujit Kapadia (Surbiton), Ian Price (Twyford Berks) 6½...

Results Nigel Dennis

LLOYDS BANK BCF JUNIOR SQUAD/SCCU JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS at the American School NW8 8-10 April 1988 attracted 359 players. *SCCU title, **BCF.

Under 21 (35 pl) 1 Michael Adams** (Truro) 5½/6; 2 Michael T Hennigan* (Muswell Hill) 5; 3-4 Ali Mortazavi (SW17), Jeremy P Sharp (NW7) 4½; 5-6 Dejan Djurovic (Yugoslavia), Chris G Ward (Sevenoaks) 4; 7-15 James Cavendish, Paul Dargan, Iain Galloway, Andrew J Ledger, Philip J Morris, Paul Mukherjee, Gary Quillan, Robert F Willmoth, David A Wood 3½; 16-19 Alastair I Armstrong, Conor D Bracken, Graham K Burgess, Paul Webster 3; 20-27 Ben D Beake, Bertrand A Barlow, John Carlin, Michael R Handley, Andrew L Mack, Alex E Tucker, Mark I Walker, Oliver R Worsfold 2½;

28-30 C Forbes, Dale R James, Gregor JM Reid, Ian L Thomas (w/d after 4 rds) 2; 32-34 Stephen J Cullip, Tim D Walker, Georghiou (4 rds) 1½; 35 Joseph MY Hong 0

Under 18 (28 pl) 1 Edward L Godber** (Southampton) 5/6; 2-3 Graeme N Buckley (Wolverhampton), Laurence Webb (Leeds) 4½; 4-7 Michael Harris (Birmingham), Andrew Hon* (Edgware), Ian D Mackay (Glasgow), Jonathan W Rogers (Shenfield) 4; 8-11 Mark Hann, Edward N Holland, Tom G Townsend, Andrew Webster 3½; 12-16 Thomas Middleton, Mark Morris, Alexander Selkirk, Andrew Thomas, Russell White 3...

Under 16 (45 pl) 1 Gareth J Haslinger*** (Hayes Mx) 5/6; 2-6 Caspar J Bates (Middx), Nicol Bathie (Dundee), Adam Collinson (Warwicks), Edward LA Ionides (Dulwich Coll), James R Poulton (Fareham) 4½; 7-10 Jonathan J Hastings (Oxford), Mark Jacob (Basingstoke), Jonathan F Parker (Notts), Jonathan G Wilson (Cobham) 4; 11-20 Alex Ballard, Jason M Dilley, Michael Eastwood, Lee A Grinseil, Bernard Hughes, Leslie BT Jones, Alistair S Morley, Chris Njotea, Paul Safar, Mark B Stockwell 3½...

Under 14 (60 pl) 1-2 John Merriman (Liverpool), Selim** (Poplar) 5/6; 3-7 Simon T Ansell* (Oxford), Paul Brown (Manchester), Dipak Golechha (Purley), Bernard MH Hong (Beckenham), Darryl Wolstoncroft (Blackpool) 4½; 8-16 Adam Crafts, Jason A Crockett, David Dobbs, Daniel B Rosenberg, Simon Shemilt, Daniel R Starling, Philip Tozer, Stephen J Willetts, Duncan R Woods 4...

Under 12/11 (119 pl) 1 Miroslav Houska***U12 (Camberwell) 6½/7; 2 Blair N Connell ***U11 (Guildford) 6; 3-4 Timothy G Chesters (Hull), Paul V Griffiths (WC2) 5½; 4-15 Matthew Brief (Edgware), Aron J Cohen (Guildford), Stephen Cordy (Caerphilly and Welsh Nationalists please note we've only copied the spelling), Matthew G Crocker (Hants), Paul D Fenn (Sittingbourne), Kublai Hoare (W11), Lee Jacobs (Stanmore), Brian Macfarlane (Glasgow), David Martin (Haverfordwest), Alal Miah (E2), Martin Sygrove (Fareham), Jeffrey Titmas (Maidstone) 5...

National Girls Under 18/16 (15 pl) 1 Natasha Regan***U18 (Gerrards Cross) 4½/5; 2 Julie Harwar (Cheltenham) 4; 3-7 Jane Eastwood (Somerset), Fiona Elder (Dundee), Cathy Haslinger*U16 (Hayes Mx), Nicola Hon**U16 (Edgware), Abigail Ranson (Farnborough Hants) 3; 8-12 Angela Eyton, Clare Joy, Rosemary Rahamim, Julie Robinson, Nicola Watt 2½...

National Girls Under 14 (20 pl) 1-3 Emilia M Holland (Portsmouth), Sarah A Joy** (Rotherham), Jemma Myers* (Stanmore) 4/5; 4-5 Ann-Marie Ashby (Coventry), Emma J Phillips (Ilford) 3½; 6-10 Donna Fumage, Claire Lusher, Genevieve O'Farrell, Helena Stafford 3; 10-11 Miriam Renner, Tracey Thompson 2½...

National Girls Under 12/11 (37 pl) 1-2 Rachel A Harvey*U12 (Ilford), Fiona Webster **U12 (Sutton) 6/7; 3-6 Helen M Burns*U11 (Cheam), Kate A Horsfield (Oakham Leics PB please note), Susan JJ Little (Inveresk), Ayesha Nathoo**U11 (Richmond Sy) 5; 7-11 Jovanka Houska, Harriet Hunt, Michelle Jacobs, Jennifer Randle, Jody Saunders 4½...

Results Peter Morrish

ENGLISH PRIMARY SCHOOLS CA UNDER 11 TEAM FINALS at Middlesborough 21.5.88. Teams of 10; three round jamboree.

1 Kent 44/60; 2 Greater Manchester 43½; 3 Wey Valley 41; 4 Nottingham 39½; 5-6 SE London, Richmond 35½; 7 Devon 33; 8 Barnet 32½; 9 Wandsworth 32; 10 Cornwall 28; 11 Lancs 24; 12 Northants 23½; 13-14 Lincs, Three Counties 22½; 15 Calderdale 12; 16 Cleveland - the hosts - 11.

No results for U9 team finals 30th April. (We only got the U11 ones because we happened to meet three carousing members of the Kent management team at Tunbridge Wells Chess Club a couple of days after the event.)

TIMES SCHOOLS KO

Round 1 Brentwood (16.1) 3½ 1½ Haberdashers (15.8); Dulwich College* (14.8) 3 3 Judd (15.10); Bradford GS (16.5) 5 1 Bramhall High (14.5); Nottingham High (15.2) 3½ 2½ Wellingborough (15.8); RGS Newcastle (13.10) 5 1 Gryffe High (15.7); Antrim GS (16.6) 4 1 +1 Kings Peterborough (15.11); Sir Thos Rich 5 1 Plasyfelin Junior School (10.7)

Round 2 Abingdon School (16.4) 4½ 1½ RGS High Wycombe (15.10); St Pauls (14.6) 5 1 Dulwich College (15.1); Brentwood (16.5) 4½ 1½ King Edward VI Southampton; King Edward VI Camp Hill (15.6) 3½ 2½ Manchester Grammar (15.6); Antrim GS (16.7) 4½ 1½ RGS Newcastle (13.11); Truro School (15.7) 4½ 1½ Sir Thos Rich (15.6); Hymers College Hull (14.6) 4½ 1½ Bradford GS (16.5); Queen Marys GS Walsall (15.4) 3½ 2½ Nottingham High (15.3)

Round 3 (Quarter-finals): Abingdon (16.7) 4 2 KESS Camp Hill (15.7); Hymers College (14.6) 2 4 Q Marys (15.4); St Pauls (14.8) 4 2 Brentwood (15.2); Antrim GS (16.7) 3½ 2½ Truro (15.7)

Results Mitchell Taylor. The Finals are 7th-8th July at the Charing Cross Hotel.

Quote from a Times leaflet on the beneficial effects of chess

(author: not Mitchell Taylor)

"Statistics from a wide range of schools demonstrate that students who join the school chess club perform with greater self-confidence in academic areas, in particular mathematics."

We've seen more respectable statistics on toothpaste tubes.

Notes for Junior Organisers from Peter Morrish

(1) Lloyds Bank BCF Junior Squad/SCCU Junior Individual Championships. This year's results are given above. We may be able to return to a two-weekend timetable next year, but the venue is not yet confirmed. Projected dates: March 10-12 and April 7-9. Age groups would be alternate, decision later.

(2) U18 Jamboree results. You will recall that the SCCU qualifiers in the main event were Middx (both Open and Girls); the Minor (Open) went 1 Oxon 7; 2 Berks 6; 3 Sussex 5. Results of the National finals appear on page 7.

(3) Metropolitan Counties 40 board U18 League: Surrey won with 67 points ahead of Kent 66, Middx 64 and Essex 40. (See last issue.) Result is on game totals - not matches, to the chagrin of Kent who won all three! But congratulations to Surrey who are seeing a renaissance.

Next season's dates (all at Highbury Fields School 2.30 p.m.): Nov 12 KE SM; Dec 10 SE KM; Feb 11 ME KS.

(4) BCET Junior (Schools Shields) Awards. This year once again, I have received no nominations for SCCU schools. I am therefore putting forward two organisations who have helped widely in the development of the younger age groups in recent years: Richmond Junior Chess Club, and Wey Valley Chess.

(5) Dates generally. Primary school (LPSCA and EPSCA) are in draft and I can advise on these and on fitting other junior dates into the calendar. Do please consult me regarding your projected dates, to avoid clashes where possible.

(6) Batsford/TCS London Junior (all events) will again be at St Benedicts School, Ealing, from 28 December: U8 28th; U10 28-29; U12/14/16/18/21 29th-31st. We hope to get all the U12 preliminary qualifiers fixed before the end of this term, and noted in the next SCCU Bulletin.

GAMES from the Lugano Open 4-13 March 1983. Your Editor, who has small Spanish and less Italian, apologises for the mistakes in translation. The moves work.

White Romero Holmes ESP, Black Sibarevic JUG

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 d6 6 Be3 a6 7 Qd2

This system against the Najdorf, popularised by certain English masters, has gained a fair measure of acceptance among the young Spanish masters. Here we see how the current Spanish Champion handles it.

7...b5 8 f3 Bb7 9 g4

This is normal, but recently 9 a4 has been tried.

9...h6 10 0-0-0 Nbd7 11 Bd3 b4

The alternative is 11...Ne5, very popular since the game Short-Kasparov.

12 Nce2 d5 13 exd5 Nxd5 14 Nf4 Qa5!?

A novelty? The most familiar plan is 14...Bd6 15 Nh5 Be5 as in Nunn-Ftacnik, but after 16 f4 Nxe3 17 fxe5 White is better.

15 Kbl Nxe3

The critical moment of the game. If White continues 16 Qxe3? Qe5 17 Qd2 Qxd4 18 Nxe6 Qd6! Black is clearly better. But:

16 Ndx6! Nd5

A diabolical combination ensues after 16...Nxd1 17 Rxd1 Ne5 18 Ng6!! with the following possibilities: (a) 18...Nxc6 19 Bb5+ Qxb5 20 Nc7+ Ke7 21 Qd6 mate; (b) 18...Bc6 19 Be4! Bxe4 20 Nxe5 Bd5 21 Qxd5 Qxd5 22 Nc7+; (c) 18...Bd5 19 Bb5+ axb5 20 Qxd5 fxc6 21 Qxe5!

17 Rhel! Nc3+?

In a difficult and delicate position Black commits the cardinal error of trying to attack when he should be defending. The only playable line is 17...fxe6 18 Rxe6+ with two possibilities: (a) 18...Be7 19 Bg6+ Kf8 (19...Kd8 20 Bf5!) 20 Rdel Nc3+ (20...N7f6 21 Rxe7! Nxe7 22 Qd6 wins) 21 Qxc3! bxc3 22 Rxe7 Nf6 23 Rf7+ Kg8 24 Re7 wins; and (b) 18...Kf7 19 Bg6+ Kg8 20 Nxd5 Bxd5 21 Qxd5 with play against the enclosed Black King; or instead the interesting 19 Bc4!? Rc8 20 Bxd5 Bxd5 21 Nxd5 Kxe6 22 Nf4+ winning.

18 bxc3 bxc3 19 Nc5+! Be7 20 Rxe7+! Kxe7 21 De3+ Kf8 22 Ng6+!!

A splendid ornament to what was undoubtedly one of the most spectacular games in the competition.

22...fxg6 (22...Kg8 23 Ne7+ Kf8 24 Nxd7+) 23 Nxd7+ Kg8 24 Qe6+ Kh7 25 Bxg6 mate.

Notes by GM Bellon

White Tomczack FRG, Black Anand IND: a flawed masterpiece.

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 exd4 4 Nxd4 Bc5 5 Nb3

Considered best. Alternatives are 5 Be3 Qf6 or 5 Nxc6 Qf6, and in both cases Black has a comfortable game; though not as played in Magem - Fernandez (Spanish Championship 1984) where the Spanish IM improvised with 5 (Nxc6) Qh4?? and resigned after 6 Nd4.

5...Bb6 6 a4 a6 7 Nc3 Nf6 8 Be2 d6 9 a5 Ba7 10 0-0 h6

He had to do something about the troublesome pin on g5; but White will soon gain a lasting initiative thanks to his greater control of space.

11 Kh1 0-0 12 f4 Re8 13 Bf3 Be6 14 Ra4 Qd7 15 Rel

A serious positional mistake would be 15 f5 Bxb3 16 cxb3 Ne5 and White's light-square Bishop has no play.

15...Ng4 (Not 15...Bg4? Nd5!) 16 Bxg4 Bxg4 17 Qd3 f5

Pursuing the plan initiated by 15...Ng4; but Black's game is becoming difficult.

18 Bd2 fxe4 19 Raxe4 Rxe4 20 Nxe4 Bf5

A serious error would be 20...Re8 21 Nf6+! gxf6 22 Qg6+ Kf8 23 Qxf6+ Kg8 24 Qg6+ winning. Also 20...Qf5? 21 h3 wins.

21 c4 Qf7

Interesting is 21...Re8 22 Nf6+ gxf6 23 Rxe8+ Kf7! 24 Re4 (the only move) Bxe4 25 Qxe4 f5 and Black stands well.

22 Bc3 Ne7 23 Qg3 Bg6

A dual-purpose move, indirectly defending against possible mates on g7 and also vacating f5 for the Knight.

24 Nbd2 Nf5 25 Qd3 Re8

Black has at last achieved this "freeing" move, and seems to have solved his problems. But:

26 g4! Ne7 (26...Nh4 27 f5 lands the Knight in difficulties) 27 f5 Bh7 28 Nf6+!!

A magnificent move which deserved a better fate in the game.

28...gxf6 29 Ne4! Kf8 30 Nxf6 Rd8 (what else?) 31 Qd2 Ng8 32 Nxc8! Kxc8 (forced) 33 Qxh6 Rd7 34 Qg5+

White could win easily with 34 Re6!! Qf8 (forced, because 34...Re7?? is met by 35 Rg6+ Bxg6 36 Qh8 mate) 35 Qg5+! (not 35 Rg6+ Bxg6 36 Qxg6+ Rg7 37 Bxg7 Qxg7 38 Qe8+ Qf8 39 Qg6+ Kh8 40 Qh5+ and a draw) 35...Rg7 (35...Kf7 36 Qf6+ Kg8 37 Qh8+ Kf7 38 Rf6+ wins) 36 Bxg7 Qxg7 37 Re8+ Kf7 38 Re7+ 34...Kf8 35 Re6??

It was not too late for 35 Qh6+ Kg8 36 Re6 winning as before. But now:
35...Qxf6!!

and White resigned (36 fxe6 Be4 mate!). For the first time in the game the Ba7 has done something for its living. A marvellous game by Tomczack, spoiled at the very end.

Notes by GM Bellon

White Psakhis USR Black Cicak SVE

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 e6 3 d3

Fischer liked to play this system.

3...Nc6 4 g3 d5 5 Nd2 dxe4 6 dxe4 b6 7 c3 Nf6?

Dubious. In this position Black should play ...Bb7.

8 Qa4 Bd7 9 Qc2

The Q has done its job, preventing the development of Black's B on b7.

9...Qc8

Black tries to conquer the light squares with the idea of occupying h6 (this can't be right! - Ed) and preventing White from castling. More logical was 9...Be7.

10 e5 Nd5 11 Bg2 Qa6 12 c4 Ncb4

An aggressive move which creates complications. Quieter was 12...Nc7.

13 Qe4! (13 Qb1 Ba4 14 b3 Nc3 15 Qb2 Nd3+) Bc6 (accepting the challenge)

14 a3 Rd8 15 Qb1

Highlighting Black's lack of space.

15...Nf4

Another possibility was 15...Nd3 16 Qxd3 Nf4 17 Qxd8+ Kxd8 18 gxf4 Qb7

19 0-0. In the game White seems to have a winning material advantage; but:

16 axb4 (16 gxf4 Nd3+ 17 Kf1 Nxf4 18 b3 Qb7 with initiative) Nxd2+ 17 Ke2 (17 Kf1 Qb7 18 Kxg2 Rxd2) 17...Qb7 18 b5! Rxd2+ 19 Nxd2 Nf4+ 20 gxf4 Bxh1 21 f3!

This was the idea behind White's 18th move.

21...g5 22 Qe4 Qb8 23 Qc6+ Kd8 24 Ra3 1-0

A beautiful game by the former Soviet Champion, demonstrating his outstanding variety of tactical and positional play.

Notes by FM Medancic

White Maric JUG, Black Schussler SVE

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 Bb4 4 e5 Ne7 5 a3 Bxc3+ 6 bxc3 c5 7 Nf3 b6

The most popular variation is 7...Nbc6 8 a4 Qa5 with very complicated play. The text move is Black's clearest strategic plan: he wants to exchange White's strongest attacking piece, his KB. The only disadvantage of the plan is that it costs much time. To hope for an advantage White must exploit his edge in development. Black's plan was successfully used in the Candidates match Sokolov-Jusopov, Riga 1986.

8 a4

I believe that attacking players will be happiest with 8 Bb5+ Bd7 9 Bd3. This was used by Sokolov in match game 1. Very interesting is 8 Ng5 h6 9 Qh5 as in match game 13. The text move is perhaps the most common one and was used by Sokolov in match game 3.

8...Ba6 9 Bxa6

I believe that 9 Bb5+ Bxb5 10 axb5 gives White better chances for a slight advantage.

9...Nxa6 10 0-0 h6!

An important theoretical novelty, which prevents the activation of White's Knight to g5. After the text move it is difficult to see how White can get attacking chances on the K side, which is his usual area of play.

11 Qe2 White chases Black's N where it wants to go. To try to take advantage of the time Black lost with 10...h6, he might consider 11 Nh4, 11 Ba3 or 11 a5

11...Nb8 12 c4

Playing on the Q side just is not going to work against Black's fine understanding of the position. More thematic would be 12 Nh4 and 13 Qg4 even though this would stamp White's 11th move as a loss of time.

12...dxc4!

By forcing White to capture with the Q, Black does not give him time to mobilise his centre pawns by 13 cxd5 and 14 c4.

13 Qxc4 Nd7 14 Ba3?!

181:12

White keeps playing on the wrong side. Correct is 14 dxc5 followed by swinging the Q over to the K side.

14...0-0 15 Rfd1?!

The R has no future here. Either the radical 15 dxc5, or the centre-supporting 15 c3, are in order. But it is already White who has to try and keep equality.

15...Qc7 16 a5?

White is opening the Q side so that Black's pieces can take it over. Any other reasonable move would be better.

16...Nd5 17 axb6 axb6 18 dxc5 bxc5 19 Bb2 Rab8 20 Rab1 Rb4 21 Qf1

A sad necessity. 21 Qe2? is refuted by 21...Rfb8 22 c4 Nc3

21...Ra8!

Threatening 22...Ra2; so White is forced to misplace his pieces some more.

22 Ral Rab8 23 Ba3 Rf4 24 Rel Rf5!

The noose is tightening around White's e pawn.

25 Qe2 Nf4 26 Qe3 Ng6 27 Qc3 Ndx5 28 Nxe5 Nxe5 29 Bb2 f6 30 Ra4 c4!

Black is a pawn up and dominates the board. The immediate threat is 31...Qb6. Now 31 Rb4 loses to 31...Rxb4 32 Qxb4 Ng4.

31 Bc1 Rb1 32 f4 Qc6 33 Ra5?

The only defence was 33 Ral.

33...Nf3+! 0-1

After 34 gxf3 Qb6+ Black wins the Rook on a5.

Notes by GM Mednis (at last an English speaker!)

The brevity of the "main" tournament:

1 e4 d6 2 d4 Nf6 3 Bc4 Nxe4 4 Bxf7+ Kxf7 5 Qh5+ Ke6 6 d5+ Kf6 7 Nf3 Nc5 8 Bg5+ 1-0

The Open finished in a 7-way tie on 7/9 between (in order of SOS) Ftacnik, Torre, Korchnoi, Psakhis, Norwood, Spraggett and Bischoff. Other British scores: Pein 6½; Flear, King 6; Hodgson 5½; Hebden, Jacobs, Ward, Lane 5; Hennigan, Dunnington, Cooper, Quillan 4½; Mortazavi, Upton 3½; Flear C 3; Kosten 2½/8.

CONGRESS DIARY

- Jun 5 HACKNEY QP at Shoreditch Town Hall. A Leigh Grand Prix event. Entry £5, top prize £125; also prizes for teams of 4. Roy Brown, 139 Claude Rd, Leyton E10 6NF
- 18-19 BRITISH OPEN QP CHAMPIONSHIPS at Leeds. Will count for FIDE "active" rating! No details of entry fee, but a prize fund of £5000 is expected. Ann Wagner, Marketing and Promotions, Leeds Leisure Services, 19 Wellington St, Leeds LS1 4DG 0532 462631
- 25-26 BERKSHIRE OPEN at Bracknell. Open; U170; U120. Entry fee £10; 1st prize in Open £400. GT Fergusson, 91 Redhatch Drive, Earley, Reading RG6 2QN 0734 863281
- Jul 15-17 SIXTEENTH CHARLTON at Charlton House. Open; U160; U125. Entry fees £12/11/10; 1st prizes £350/125/100. Mrs RM Hannan, 11 St Johns Rd, Sidcup, Kent DA14 4HA
- 16-23 BANK OF SCOTLAND at Paisley. Open; U1800; U1500; Junior U17/14/12. Plus Scottish Championships you're probably not eligible for. Entry fees £15/13/11/2/2/2; 1st prizes £350/125/70/depend. AW Driver, 12 Craigenbay Crescent, Lenzie, Glasgow G66 5JW 041 776 4942

Apologies for sparseness: the Bulletin does not tour the congresses picking up leaflets, so is dependent on leaflets sent and on cribs from other publications. The former are never particularly numerous, and the latter haven't happened this time.

Stop Press

National Minor Club Championship results (quarter finals): Hastings & St Leonards 1½ 3½ Ks Head; Equity and Law* 2½ 2½ Grantham. Semi-finals: Ks Head are away to a club with a funny name from Bolton; E & L are away to Barnstaple. Minor Plate QF: Haywards Heath w/o Metropolitan, are home v Thornbury (Glos) in SF. And while we think of it, Maidstone beat Tunbridge Wells 3-2 in the Major QF.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: BCF newsflash for February (and we do send them the Bulletin, even if they don't acknowledge it); SW Sussex Chess News for April; Tournament Bulletin, Scacchistico Internazionale di Lugano.