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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Richard,

29.3.99

I was interested to read David Shipp's letter [last issue] regarding the "chess as a sport" issue. I am of course deeply shocked that he should not regard English chess professionals as amongst the destitute and deserving of the world. Perhaps one Sunday he should visit a typical one-day quickplay event in a run-down church hall in darkest London; I am sure that the harrowing sight of legions of young unemployed/unemployable IMs and GMs flogging their brains out in the desperate quest for a £50 first prize will soften even his flint-like heart.

Seriously, though, it does seem to me that thought of lottery funding beyond the dreams of avarice may be blinding the chess world to the full implications of chess as a sport. In particular, there is the Sports Council's tyrannical approach to drug-testing. Some years ago they threatened to expel snooker from their ranks, unless draconian drug-testing procedures were introduced. Are we to see chessplayers peeing into plastic bottles at the end of every county match? Is every BCF Direct Member to live in dread of that knock on the door, signifying that the SCCU drugbusters team has descended on him for a random out-of-competition dope test? If this is to be the shape of the brave new chess world, it may be time for us all to take up Go.

Keep up the excellent work!

STEVE GIDDINS

giddinss@ms.com

dear richard,

8.4.99

i am surprised that neil clifton [last issue] feels that junior girls should have their sex indicated in the grading list. what is the point? why not have a symbol for black grandmasters and maybe a symbol for the disabled players? where does the man's logic end? as the north circular match captain i can assure the gentleman in question that when selecting a team i am not interested in a symbol indicating their sex, age, colour or disability. i am looking for keen reliable players who will hopefully win their games.

men like mr clifton give chess a very bad image showing a viewpoint that is antiquated and misogynistic. hopefully sanity will prevail and he will be ignored. any steps to indicate that a player is female should be answered with all women players adopting male names, then watch the bureaucratic confusion.

LOUISE S SINCLAIR

north circular league match captain

Ed: - This was an email, addressed to the SCCU Website. Shift keys are considered very low-tech in some circles.

Dear Editor,

29.5.99

One reason why it is useful to be able to identify the gender of a girl player in the grading list is so that the list at the front of the book, saying who the top 20 girls in the country are, can at last be accurate. There are usually three or four omissions of 120+ strength players from it.

Another, more important reason, for females of all ages, is so that a running eye can be kept on the very small percentage of active female players amongst the club and congress population. In bridge, the number of adult women playing the game can be between 30%-40%. In chess it rarely rises above 1%-2%.

Now if anyone thinks that is not a problem, they are living in cloud cuckoo land. As we approach the threshold of funding as a sport, Sport England¹ is going to be rather concerned to learn what we are doing about that huge imbalance to correct it and encourage more women and girls to play, to become organisers, coaches, and arbiters and to have equal chances of playing for England in international events abroad.

If you didn't know, Sport England has a Sport for All policy as does the Government, and is going to be equally interested in what we are or are not doing for disabled people, ethnic minorities, the unemployed and other disadvantaged groups who do not enjoy equal access to the game. Those sports with no equal opportunities policies and a head-in-the-sand attitude, whether physical or mind sports, are just not going to get much cash. So attitudes need to change and rapidly.

When Charlotte Atkins MP sticks her head above the parapets in the House of Commons on the 15th of March and asserts that the level of organisation of female chess is "appalling" (her daughter Emma plays so she knows what she is talking about), I think the chess world should regard that as a warning shot across the bows to get its house in order. Support from MPs for chess to be classified as a sport is not unconditional. It would be naive to think it would be otherwise.

So: are Mr Thurlow and Ms Sinclair part of the problem or part of the solution?

BRUCE BIRCHALL

¹ RJH to BHB: What is Sport England?

BHB to RJH: Sport England is the new name of the Sports Council for England (as opposed to the UK).

SCCU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

14th May 1999

The Executive met at the Durham Castle as usual (though not for much longer: the Kings Head club, through whose offices we book the room, are moving out). 14 attended. Main items:

(1) **SCCU U180 Jamboree**. This year's event had not been arranged. The intended date (15th May) had not proved possible for Oxon, the hosts. It would be hard to find another date this season, and short of holding it in September as a curtain-raiser to the new season we would probably have to ditch it for this year. The Executive agreed to ditch it. There was some feeling that the Jamboree had outlived its usefulness, now we have an U175 league. However, it

was agreed to hold next year's Jamboree in April or May.

(2) Non-County Membership. The President had received informal enquiries from a possible applicant for membership. This application could be contentious if anything comes of it. It's the Middx Girls CA, and it's not run by Middx. No, rjh had never heard of it either.

(3) County Match fixtures 1999-2000. The Controller had produced, and was about to circulate, a provisional Open list (see page 10). He said that, although people had grumbled about the old set of fixtures, he had been able to find nothing seriously amiss with it. Apart from the inclusion of Middx, his new list was substantially the previous year's with venues reversed.

(4) BCF Rules: County Matches. Two things, both on eligibility. (a) the GMCCA had proposed, at the Finance Council Meeting, that where a match captain's grade goes over the limit just before a season begins, he should remain eligible to play for the team. The proposal had been more or less shelved, but in case it came back, what would the Union's attitude be? It would be negative. The proposal found little or no support on the Executive. And (b) it appeared that Cyril Johnson was toying with an amendment (we had nothing in writing) to the effect that, in order to be eligible, you have to *play for a club* in the County. On reflection rjh can't believe he's said this. He must surely be thinking of a rider to one particular rule: the rule that makes you eligible if you are currently (etc) a member of a club in the County. So that in future you not only have to belong to the club, you must actually *play* for it. He can't possibly be thinking of people who qualify by other routes (say, birth in the County). Well, let's hope not. But it was not immediately clear, and people may well have taken it that way. Possibly *because* details were vague, the Executive fancied that the amendment had not been thought through. At all events the amendment, whatever it is, is no more than a twinkle in Cyril's eye at the moment.

It may be that Cyril has had in mind certain people who have qualified for Cambs in recent years by virtue of being life members of the University Chess Club, though in fact they went down some time ago and never go near the club. Cyril has said that this year he does not propose to challenge anyone whose eligibility has been accepted the SCCU stage.

(5) Juniors. U18 Jamborees 2001. It was agreed to take up the offer to hold these in Hertfordshire, in the county's centenary year.

The Junior Organiser had had a letter from Peter Turner asking the Union to publicise grants available from the BCF Youth Chess Trust. These are for local (or Union?) initiatives aimed at developing junior chess. Up to £100 is available for a local initiative. The Junior Organiser will copy the letter to County Secretaries, but anyone interested is invited to contact Peter Turner (ref YCT1), BCF Junior Director, 8 Endcliffe Avenue, Bottesford, Scunthorpe, North Lincolnshire DN17 2RD

(6) Grading. The Grading Secretary, who happens to be also the BCF Director of Game Fee and Grading, turned up specially for half an hour or so (wife and child waiting outside!) to summarise the state of play and answer people's questions. Briefly:

(a) It will still be possible, though not very popular, for people to enter results the old way until the end of this season. Until June, that is. But not new players: these have to be done the new way.

(b) The original (and still current) version of the "grader's" software was very unforgiving. The new version, expected shortly, would be much more flexible. The new version of "Tournament Director" had unfortunately not appeared yet. The software at the BCF's end had been modified to accept pretty well any halfway reasonable attempt at input.

(c) The Grading List would be hard copy, accompanied by a CD containing the same thing and a lot more besides. It was hoped that this would include *all* the names and addresses from the Yearbook, updated with each 6-monthly CD.

(d) The Director was confident that the system would produce this year's summer list accurately and without hitches. What he could not say was how many omissions there might be. Of course there have always been omissions.

(e) Some 40 "graders", out of 150-odd, had so far submitted results. No comparison with previous years was possible; in the past nearly everything has come in at the end. Indeed, lots of people this year had decided to give the half-year input a miss and just send everything in one go. This was understandable, given the delays with implementation.

(f) This year's "graders" - we're supposed to call them Results Officers - will not always be the same people as last year's Graders. Some Graders have felt unable to continue, given the changes in the job specification. [*One county at least has lost its Grader and not found voluntary Results Officers easy to come by.*]

(g) The Director had appointed three co-ordinators to ease the administrative burden. These are: *Juniors* Neville Belinfante; *Leagues* Bruce Holland; and *Congresses* Ken Groce. Their contact details are on the SCCU Website.

(h) The Director said he was standing down at the September Council Meeting. He would also stand down as SCCU Grading Secretary. In view of family responsibilities he felt unable to go on shouldering the huge workload.

SCCU Grading List. The Executive was unsure whether there was still a place for an SCCU Grading List. We would put it to Council at the AGM.

(7) SCCU Individual Championship 2000 and BCQ places. It was agreed to go to Southend, whose turn it was, for the Championship. The other qualifying places would go to Maidstone and (subject to confirmation) the Surrey Congress. Subject to confirmation because the Surrey Congress seemed likely to be in a different format in future; new organisers were being sought. The venue at least was pretty certain to change, considering this year's big price increase.

The Southend representative said he did not know whether the Redbus KO would continue. [*rjh: Redbus have*

suggested that it will.]

(8) Money. Put this one off long enough. The Executive considered the SCCU draft Accounts 1998-9, which showed a deficit of £259 compared with a budgeted deficit of £515. In recent years the Union has found it hard to realise budgeted deficits, often turning them into unintended surpluses. Current reserves of close to £4000 were more than adequate, and it was agreed to propose another deficit budget (£830 or so) for 1999-2000. It is not proposed to change the affiliation or entry fees. But the Bulletin is due for a price rise (first since 1994) as costs have gone up. An increase from £6 to £9 will be proposed.

(9) Money (BCF). The Finance Committee's review of budgeting/forecasting/monitoring procedures is under way. The Junior Director had some preliminary findings on the Witley affair, but they were intriguingly confidential. It emerged that no one was very sure whether the new Game Fee for internal club games was exactly one-third of 29p, or whether it would be rounded up to 10p. rjh does not remember anything being said about rounding.

(10) Extraordinary BCF Council Meeting? You will remember that lots of things did not get done at the Finance meeting, and noises had been made about going shares in requisitioning an extra meeting. (It takes two Unions to do this.) The Director of Game Fee and Grading had said at the time that he could not proceed without the (crowded-out) changes to the Constitution. He had changed his mind since. But there were other things, none of them in itself sufficient to warrant a special meeting, which collectively looked capable of clogging up the works for the foreseeable future. Enthusiasm for another meeting was limited, but the President was authorised to support the convening of one if he became convinced that it was necessary.

(11) SCCU Officers for next year. Everyone was still available except the Grading Secretary (no replacement sprang to mind). John Philpott, the retiring President, does not intend to stand for Union office. His proposed successor is Chris Majer.

(12) SCCU County Match Rules. The Rules & Appeals Sub-Committee had prepared a draft, which (after revision) will go to Council in July. It was a tidying-up exercise and proposed no real changes of substance. But the Executive considered a couple of real changes that could be incorporated.

(a) Substitutes for absent players. At the moment a substitute can be of any strength, GMs on bottom board included. Should the draft outlaw this? No, on a split decision.

(b) The rules provide no penalty for match captains that persistently fail to send results in time, or to contact their opponents in time with pre-match details. Should they provide one? It was agreed not to draft any provisions, but to seek Council's views. Of course the Controller, even without Council's permission, can always impose penalties if he wishes. He would only need to make his position clear to everyone at the outset.

(13) London Chess Association. The SCCU representative to the LCA, DR Sedgwick, reported (a) that at its forthcoming AGM the LCA was to consider applying for Non-County Membership of the Union; and (b) that he would not continue as SCCU representative next year. [*Note 26.5.99: the LCA is to apply for Non-County Membership.*]

(14) What got crowded out? Nothing, except Chess as a Sport. The meeting closed at the comparatively civilised time of 10.30 pm.

BCF FINANCE COUNCIL MEETING

24th April 1999

Fifty-ish attended, and one of them said he'd enjoyed it. Revisions were made to the figures in the previously circulated finance papers. rjh is not comfortable with instructions like "on page 10, fifth column, amend 'FIDE income' from £5000 to £4000". Not when they go on for five minutes he isn't, especially when you tell him the figures are changing all the time anyway. (So what was he doing at a Finance Meeting? You tell him.) At all events, we've still made a whopping loss for the year and for the details you must consult a competent authority. What got decided? Well:

Game Fee. The median vote was for the 29p proposed by the Management Board. So 2p increase. You want the details? 35p, 1 vote. 32p, 1. 30p, 1. 29p, 90. 28p, 8. 27p, 72. 24p, 1. Council came pretty close, in other words, to voting "no change". There was a strong feeling that increasing the Game Fee would only accelerate the undoubted decline in (gradable) chess getting played. A proposal to add another penny towards centenary celebrations in 2004 was rejected. "Not the time."

Discretionary expenditure by Chairman. The agenda included a proposal to allow the Chairman of the Federation to spend up to £1000 a year, in emergencies, and tell the Finance Director and the Chairman of the Finance Committee afterwards. Someone said, "Why bother? Directors exceed their budgets without asking anyway." But of that later. The proposal was not accepted, but he may do it with the prior agreement of one of them. The Chairman revealed, casually, that he had indeed spent £200 recently on his own initiative, to avert a libel action. No doubt most people had a fair idea what this would have been about, but someone asked anyway and the Chairman wouldn't say. (So why mention it?)

Financial Control Procedures. Council requested the Management Board to investigate last year's junior overspend and come up with procedures that would prevent such a thing happening again. So how *did* the previous Junior Director manage to overspend to the tune of £8,000? With the Witley event, in a nutshell. It is still not entirely clear to rjh why the Director was expecting sponsorship that never materialised. The Management Board had been given to understand that Witley was being financed by the Junior Squad. The Junior Squad, apparently, had been given to understand that it was being financed by the BCF. Everyone agreed, and not for the first time, that while the Junior Squad does splendid work it's nonsensical to have them using the Federation's name without

being in any way accountable to it.

BCF Website. As a part of the economy measures, it had been decided to drop the £1000 provision for Website development. This provision was reinserted. Some doubted the financial benefits of a decent website, but it was pointed out that the first thing a potential sponsor is going to do is have a look at your website to see what sort of an organisation you are. The site as it is now was not felt to be doing the Federation any favours.

Direct Membership Scheme. The proposals to increase subscriptions by an average of 25% or so were approved. There are no additional benefits, save an improved grading service. And free grading of internal club games, when the member's a Club. There are something like eight, or was it six, members that are. The proposal to drop the "Direct" in the Membership Scheme's name was rejected.

Director of Management Services. Tony Suttill, the retiring Director, received a surprise presentation in recognition of his sterling services. Howard Curtis¹, of the Coulsdon Chess Fellowship, was elected to succeed him. Howard has transformed the Coulsdon club and was well spoken of (while out of the room) by Surrey people, and he made a good impression on Council. One cautionary note, though. He sat through two or three hours of Budget debate before his election, and claimed to have enjoyed it. Yes, it was him. "He must be completely mad," someone said. It is rjh's private belief that he enjoyed it for reasons of his own and isn't mad at all.

Counties Championship Rules. The GMCCA proposed that where a match captain's grade goes over the limit just before a season begins, he should remain eligible to play for the team. Not agreed. Or postponed to the next meeting. This proposal has no effect on the Union stage of the Championships; the Unions are not obliged to use grading limits anyway, and where they use them they are not obliged to do it the BCF's way.

And what didn't get decided? The proposed changes to the Constitution, for a start. The meeting had voted for a six o'clock guillotine, and ran out of time. The changes were to take account of new developments in grading and Game Fee, and the Director said he couldn't proceed without them.

Also crowded out: a paper on contracts, paid posts and bidding procedures; a paper on the Hastings International Chess Centre and its impact on the Business Plan; a paper on the aborted European Team Championships; and Chess as a Sport.

Just remembered. We never gave you a report on the morning's **Management Board meeting** before the Council one. John Philpott was at it, and he says revisions were made to the figures in the previously circulated finance papers.

¹ Contact at Coulsdon Chess Fellowship, 82 Chipstead Valley Rd, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 3BA 0181 645 9586: fax 0181 645 0412: email chess@ccfs.freemove.co.uk

CONGRESS RESULTS

Readers may notice our new style of giving the results backwards. That is, in reverse chronological order. No particular reason except they're lifted off the SCCU Website. There are reasons for doing it that way in a website.

GOLDERS GREEN RAPIDPLAY 22nd May 1999

Open (10 pl) 1 GM Aaron Summerscale (Hackney) 5½/6 £60; 2 IM Colin Crouch (Harrow) 5 £30; 3 Paul Georgiou (Barnet) 4...

Major U160 (10 pl) 1 Adam Dakin (London N1) 6/6 £30*; 2 Emyr Jones (Imperial Knights) 4 £60; 3-5 E Michael White, Dan E Mayers (Marshall: *Veteran*), Maor Shine (Hendon) 3½...

Minor U130 (18 pl) 1-2 Claire Lusher (Fareham), Lee Gold (Hendon) 5/6 £45; 3 David McNish (Edmonton) 4½; 4-5 Lucy Smith (Oxford City), Maurice Siegel (Waltham Forest) 4... *Grading* U115 Siegel: two Grandmaster Videos.

Amateur U100 (10 pl) 1 Nick Burrows (Bolton) 6/6 £60; 2 Clive Blackburn (Northampton) 4 £30; 3 Adrian Fabisz (Willesden) 3½...

* Ungraded Player Rule

Results Adam Raoof

GOLDERS GREEN BLITZ 4th May 1999

24 played. 1-3 IM Colin Crouch (Harrow), Andrew Kitchlew (ISH), Costas Harris (QEB's) 5/6; 4-5 Alfredo Luaces (Kings Head), Ortwin Kreibich (GER) 4½; 6-7 Adam Joelson (highest placed Hendon Club member on tie-break: "Hendon Fiver"), Lee Gold (also Hendon) 4; 8-10 Chris Jones (Hendon), Jamie Hillman, Michel Hockx (NL) 3½...

Blitz is held on the first Thursday of every month.

Results Adam Raoof

GOLDERS GREEN RAPIDPLAY 24th April 1999

Open (8 pl) 1 Robert Eames (Hackney) 5½/6 £60; 2-3 Paul Georgiou (Barnet), Costas Harris (Hendon) 4 £15; 4 Heather Richards (Whitstable) 3...

Major (22 pl) 1 Dan Mayers (USA/Hampstead) 6/6 £60; 2-3 Iva Angelov (Barnet), Gordon Cadden (Hampstead) 4½ £15... *Grading* U145 Donny Muter (Richmond), Ivan Jones (NZL) 4 £7.50

Minor (15 pl) 1 Barry Sandercock (Chalfont St Giles) 5/6 £60; 2-3 Selva Somupillai (Wimbledon), Andrew Mant 4½ £15... *Grading* U115 Michael Mkpadi (King's Head), Paul Richards (Whitstable) £7.50 **Amateur** (18 pl) 1 Nick Burrows (Bolton) 6/6 £60; 2-4 Jan Wasserman-Fry (Whitstable), Edward Leung (Richmond), Andrew Fabisz (Willesden) 4...

Results Adam Raoof

23rd RICHMOND RAPIDPLAY 18th April 1999

Open (27 pl) 1 IM Andrew Ledger (London) 5½/6; 2 IM Saevar Bjarnason (Iceland) 5; 3-4 Gavin Wall (London), Simon Williams (Farnham) 4½... *Grading* U200 Steve Ledger (Bedford) 3½; U180 Bertie Barlow (Ewell), Martin Taylor (Rainham, Kent) 3½/6

Major (14 pl) 1 Andrew Bigg (Oxsted) 5/6; 2 Tom Quilter (Beaconsfield) 4½; 3-4 Oliver Cooley (Biggin Hill), C Devon Thomas (Bristol) 4... *Grading* U140 Cooley, Thomas

Intermediate (30 pl) 1 David Bates (RJCC/Richmond) 6/6; 2-3 Peter Szabo (Ilford), Mark Wieder (Feltham) 4½... *Grading* U100 Alex Kelly (Caterham), Edward Leung (RJCC/London), Joe Zhang (London) 3½

Minor (24 pl) 1-2 Trevor Pettit (RJCC/Hounslow), Ivan Sayer (Reading) 5/6; 3-4 Peter Alexander (RJCC/Surbiton), Malcolm Miles (Oxsted) 4½...

"One effect of the BCF's failure to publish any Rapidplay grades for almost a year is that many juniors have Rapidplay grades which are far too low. It is also noticeable that many players, especially juniors, have Rapidplay grades well below their slowplay grades. We guess the main reason for this is that if they play few Rapidplay games a lot of old information is still being used by the grading system. The BCF really needs to address this situation once the new system's teething problems have been resolved." Results Richard James/Adam Raoof

43rd SOUTHEND EASTER CONGRESS 2-5 April 1999**Redbus Knockout**

was a 16 player KO with substantial Redbus sponsorship. Must have been around £10,000, is our guess. Top prize was £2000 and even the first-round losers took home £200. Redbus is not, as we first supposed, a bus company. It is the latest venture of Southend-born Cliff Stanford, the self-made millionaire who founded Demon Internet (and recently sold it to Scottish Telecom, not the highest bidders but he wanted it to remain in British hands). Redbus was set up to help people who have good ideas and no funding, and it is so named, we understand, because he always wanted to drive one.

We believe that the KO is expected to happen again next year.

For each round two games were played at the rate of 100 minutes plus 30 seconds per move (Fischer timings). Tie-break: two ten-minute games and, if necessary, five-minute sudden-death.

The format of this event pretty much guaranteed some upsets, with the lower-rated player winning in 6 of the 14 decisive contests. However, only Malcolm Pein was able to manage this without resorting to the quickplay games, beating both Daniel King and John Emms before going out to Jim Plaskett in the semi-final.

After the first two games of the final were drawn, the arbiter, Jack Spiegel, asked both players to return in twenty minutes for the play-off, or alternatively, they could split the prize money without further play. This latter course was agreed by both players.

Round 1 Tony Miles ½ ½ 0 1 0 Jim Plaskett; Jon Speelman 1 ½ Chris Ward; John Emms ½ 1 Andrew Ledger; Bogdan Lalic 1 0 1 1 Nick Pert; Murray Chandler 1 0 0 1 0 Colin McNab; Nigel Davies ½ 1 Jon Levitt; Daniel King 0 0 Malcolm Pein; Jonathan Rowson 1 0 1 1 Ruth Sheldon

Round 2 Plaskett 1 0 1 0 1 McNab; Emms ½ 0 Pein; Speelman 1 ½ Davies; Lalic ½ 1 Rowson

Semi-final Pein 0 0 Plaskett; Lalic ½ ½ 0 1 1 Speelman. *Final* Plaskett ½ ½ Lalic, peace agreed.

Southend Open (76 pl)

In the absence of any GMs and IMs there was no single obvious favourite. Additionally, with first-round losers of the Redbus Knockout tournament having the option of entering the competition with 1½/2, it seemed likely that the tournament would be rather more 'open' than in previous years. As it turned out, only two players from the Redbus tournament participated in the Open, Andrew Ledger and Nick Pert. Both managed a (one-sixth!) share of first place. The event is FIDE-rated and two juniors completed their ratings. These were Lawrence Trent (Ilford: age 12) with a rating of 2138, and Sophie Tidman (Solihull Youth: age 15) 2073. Part ratings were achieved by John Bennett (Stevenage) and Richard Webster (Radcliffe & Bingham).

1-6 David Ledger (Bedford: MD Spiegel Memorial Trophy and British Championship place), Adrian Jackson (British Airways) Nicholas Pert (Ipswich), Andrew Ledger (Bedford), John Sugden (Lewisham), Peter Sharp (Reading) 5½/7... *Grading* 171-185 Peter Sharp; 156-170 Alec Toll (Norwich Dons) 5; 141-155 Ralph Newton (Rayleigh) 4½; 126-140 Daniel Gibbs (Ilford) 4; U126 Duncan Reed (Didcot), Michael Bridger (Customs) 3½

5-Round 'A' (18pl) 1-3 John Dodgson (Hastings), Ian McAllan (Sidcup), John Denton (Royston) 4...

5-Round 'B' (20pl) 1 Hugh Tanton (Billericay) 4; 2-5 Tony Miles [eh?] (Basildon), Richard Nash (Barnstaple), Stephen Savill (Chelmsford), Charles Newman (Billericay) 3½...

5-Round 'C' (20pl) 1 Antony O'Toole (Temple Sutton) 4½; 2 James Luck (Grays) 4; 3-4 David McGladdery (Hassocks), Finlay Moreland (Newham) 3½...

5-Round 'D' (19pl) 1 Bill Nisbet (Hadleigh) 5; 2 Nicholas Jellett (Customs) 4; 3-5 Roy Middleton (Hadleigh), Alistair Hung (Writtle), Alex O'Toole (Temple Sutton) 3½...

Lightning (10 sec/move) Saturday 3rd April: 1-2 Michael Twyble (Southend), Thomas Dougherty (Metropolitan) 5½/6...

Derek Field Memorial Trophy for the Essex junior with the highest percentage score in the congress was awarded to Antony O'Toole of Temple Sutton School in Southend. He also received a cash prize donated by the David Wood Memorial Trust. All other players scoring 50% or more received a book prize.

The Congress was organised by the Southend-on-Sea Chess Club. Assistance is gratefully acknowledged from Southend-on-Sea Borough Council for use of the Civic Centre, from Redbus Investments Limited, and also the GFI Group for financial support and from Barrie Ellen, The Bookshop, Westcliff-on-Sea, for donation of the book prizes.

Results Howard Grist

SURREY EASTER CONGRESS at Sutton, 2-5 April 1999

Speculation about the future of the Congress prompted the following statement to be released during the weekend. "The Surrey Congress Committee is concerned about persistent rumours that the Congress will not be held after this year. These rumours are quite untrue. The Surrey CCA is fully committed to ensuring that the Congress continues to take place over the Easter weekend in 2000 and in subsequent years."

The overall number of entries was slightly down on last year, 363 competitors playing in the seven events compared with 410 last year, but the Congress retains its position as the third or fourth largest in the country (behind the Smith & Williamson British Championships and Hastings, and possibly Blackpool). The number of entries allowed the Congress Committee to increase the prize fund by £610.

"As a small recognition of our Jubilee Congress it was decided to award three prizes to those Clubs who achieved the highest aggregate scores in the various events (the better score in either Minor or Novice counting towards the total). Only the Club's best score in each event counted and it was obviously an advantage to have Club members in each tournament. Richmond Juniors and South Norwood soon established a clear lead, but the battle for third place proved to be very close until Coulsdon pulled away from the chasing pack on the last day."

Frank Winter Memorial Open (FIDE rated: 79 pl) had no GMs this year but there were 62 rated players and another five achieved full ratings.

1 Andrew Webster (South Norwood / Bigwood: SCCU Champion) 6½/7 and £400; 2 Andrew Kinsman (Guildford) 6 and £240; 3-4 Richard Bates (Richmond), Simon Williams (Richmond / Hackney) 5½ and £90... *SCCU U18 Champion* Heather Richards (Kent Juniors) 4½ on tie-break from Matthew Broomfield (South Norwood); *Grading* U2226 Paul Georghiou (Barnet), Peter Kemp (Streatham) 4½; U2126 Richards, Broomfield; U2000 Malcolm Armstrong (Slough), Andrew Bigg (Hayes Kent) 4. *British Championship qualifying places* have been offered to Roy Phillips (Bristol) 5 and Matthew Broomfield.

Andrew Webster started his congress career at Sutton 16 years ago in the Novice Tournaments.

Premier U170 (45 pl) 1 Thirumurugan Thiruchelvam (Richmond Juniors) 6/7 £240 ("my name in full on the cheque, please"); 2 Dan Erichsen (Surrey Univ / Denmark) 5½ £120; 3-6 Donald Chaudry (Hounslow), Jeremy Kaye (Finchley), Russell Manning (Richmond), Martin Page (Insurance) 5 £38... *Grading* U156 Anthony Fulton (Willesden), Andrew Hebron (Barclays Bank) 4½ £15. *Junior U18* Koichi Nicholas (Slough) 4 £25

Eric Weimann Memorial U145 (68 pl) 1-3 Andrew Fleming (Eastbourne), Russell Goodfellow (Tunbridge Wells), George Zubreckzi (East Grinstead) 6/7 £150; 4-5 George Coomber (Redhill), Donny Muter 5½ £30... *SCCU U14 Champion* David Howell (age 8 yrs 4½ months) 5 £25; *Grading* U132 Terry Smith (Islington) 5 £30; U121 David Howell £30. *Junior U18* Donny Muter 5½, Chris Rawlinson 4½ £10 each

Minor A U120 (Fri/Sat: 63 pl) 1 Joseph Farrell (Metropolitan) 5/5 £110; 2-3 Kate Feld (Ashted), John Sprackett (Wimbledon) 4½ £55; 4-6 Dennis Rattray (South Norwood), Norman Tidy (Cobham), Ian van Delft (Southampton Univ) 4 £10... *Grading* U107 Joseph Al Malah (Danson), Giles Berry (Richmond Juniors), Raymond Gosden (Whitstable), Joseph Zhang (Hendon) 3½ £13. *Junior U18* Giles Berry, Joseph Zhang 3½

Minor B U120 (Sun/Mon: 51 pl) 1 James Wilson (*Clapham) 5/5 £110; 2 Raymond Gosden (Whitstable) 4½ £70; 3-7 Douglas Barber (*Purley), Kenneth Bracewell (Ashted), Connagh-Joseph de Mooi (Hammersmith), Anthony Duncan (Islington), Joseph Xuereb (Wimbledon) 4 £14... *Grading* U109 Barber, Bracewell, Xuereb 4 £10; U95 Bracewell 4 £8, Errol Campbell (Sidcup) 3 £22. *Junior U18* James Chapman (Danson) 3 £20; U11 David Barraclough, Peter Poobalasingam, Sebastian Pozzo 1½ £7

Novice A U100 (Fri/Sat: 29 pl) 1-2 Anton Chernikov, Edward Leung (both Richmond Juniors) 4½/5 £48... *Junior U18* [sorry, seems to be no name but he won £20]

Novice B U100 (Sun/Mon: 28 pl) 1 Edward Leung (Richmond Juniors) 4/5 £50; 2-4 Malcolm Jamieson (Eastbourne), Ben Shore (Liverpool), Brian Williamson (Coulsdon) 4 £10... *Junior U18* Mark Richards 3½

Congress Ladies Prizes Censored, so you know whose side we're on.

Congress Seniors Prize for the best % score in any of the tournaments: Kenneth Bracewell, Joseph Xuereb 80% £12

Congress Family Prizes 1 Alexei and Anton Chernikov (twins: Richmond Juniors) 75% £25; 2 Harriet and Richard Bates (Richmond) 70.8% £20

Jubilee Team Prizes 1 South Norwood 22½; 2 Richmond Juniors 22½; 3 Coulsdon 17 (all three won a DGT) Congress Committee: "We gratefully acknowledge the assistance provided by all our control team who give up their Easter to make the whole weekend run so smoothly. Our thanks also to Peter Morrish and Tony Corfe for providing their very popular bookstall and for providing equipment for the Congress..."

The Congress was saddened to hear of the death of John Hawson, at the age of 87, only two days before he was due to play in the Major. He was a regular competitor at the Congress. Before retiring to Surrey he had long been an Essex stalwart. He was Essex Champion in 1956, and later took the national Veterans title on three occasions. His family have expressed a wish to donate a trophy to the Surrey Congress in his memory.

Results Martin Cath

ST OLAVES CONGRESS 27th March 1999

Open/U160 (7 entries in each event) 1 Paul Georghiou 209R (Barnet) 5/6; 2 James Vigus 207R (Beckenham & Bromley) 4½; 3-6 John Lewin 159 (Beckenham & Bromley: U160 winner), Nathan Alfred 175R (Beckenham & Bromley), John Briggs 176 (Charlton), David Garner 183R (Nuneaton) 3½...

Under 120 (22 entries) 1-2 Thomas Sharp 106R (Maidstone), Fred Wellings 113 (Beckenham & Bromley) 5/6; 3-4 Alistair Taylor 100R (Canterbury), Raymond Gosden 102R (Whitstable) 4½...

Junior U14 (30 entries) 1 Jan Wassermann-Fry (Whitstable) 6/6; 2 Michael Muttiah (St Olaves) 5; 3 Edmund Birkhamshaw (Hayes) 4½...

Junior U11 (40 entries) 1-2 Stephan Wassermann-Fry (Whitstable), James Asquith 5½/6; 3-5 David Christie (Bishop Challoner), James McKeever (Horton Kirby), Sebastian Pozzo 4½...

Results Hanna Cooley (grades RJH)

JUNIOR NEWS

EPSCA GIRLS U11 FINAL at Basildon, Saturday 15th May 1999

1 Wey Valley 31½/36; 2 Manchester 27½; 3 Kent 24; 4 Northants 23; 5 NW London 22; 6-7 Norfolk, Devon 20½; 8 Sussex 19; 9-10 Wiltshire, Essex 18½; 11 Cambridgeshire 16½; 12 Notts 16; 13 Liverpool 13½; 14 Barnet 13; 15 Hampshire 10; 16 Herts 7; 17 Berkshire 5

Results Neville Belinfante

EPSCA U11 FINAL at Heywood Lancs, 8th May 1999

1 Richmond 47/60; 2 Essex 46½; 3 Kent 42; 4 Wey Valley 39½; 5 Sussex 37½; 6 Wilts 32½; 7-8 Devon, Yorks 29; 9 Oldham 27½; 10 Manchester 26; 11 Somerset 25½; 12 Lancs 23½; 13 Notts 22½; 14 Northants 20; 15 Suffolk 19; 16 Liverpool 13

Results Neville Belinfante

SUSSEX JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS at Brighton, 1st & 2nd May 1999

Under 18 (9 pl) 1 John Bryant (The Holt: takes George Self Cup) 7/7; 2 Edward Lamb (The Holt) 6; 3-4 Tom Davey (Hassocks), Sang Nguyen (Christs Hospital) 4½...

Under 14 (14 pl) 1 Charlie Linford (The Holt: takes Brian Denman Cup) 6/7; 2 James Asquith (Burgess Hill) 5½; 3 Tom Poulson (Bexhill) 5... *Best Girl* Lizzie Tippetts (Kirdford: takes Anne Gammans Cup); *Best U11s* Danny Grebocki (The Holt), Scott Lympny (Horsham)

We note that the U18 was another of those funny Swisses: 9 players, 7 rounds. With 9 players you can't even make it APA with a round missing!

Results Paul Watson

KENT SAITEK MEGAFINAL at Maidstone Boys Grammar School, 1st May 1999

159 played. No entries above U13. First-placed player took Supremo title unless otherwise stated. School names in quotes are the ones that meant nothing to us.

Under 13 (14 pl) 1 Aly Wilson hors concours (St Marks¹) 6/6; 2-4 Matthew Brown (Yardley Court Tonbridge: Supremo after play-off), Ian Gordon, Mark Jefferies (both Ravenswood Bromley) 4; 5-7 Christian Jones (Dulwich College Prep School²), Simon Ly (Ravenswood), Jonathan Temple 3½... No Suprema. No girl players except Aly.

Under 11 (45 pl) 1-3 David Ridout (Palace Wood Maidstone: Supremo on tie-break), Robert Gratwicke (Dulwich College), Mark Williamson (Amherst Sevenoaks) 5½/6; 4-5 Daniel Diamond (Dulwich College), Laura Weatherhead (Amherst: Suprema) 5; 6-15 Jessica Fathers, Melanie Jones, Laura Vinten (all Barming Maidstone), Guy Aust (Bishop Challoner), Elliott Ball (Yardley Court), David Franklin, Angus Heald (both Amherst), Michael Rose ("Oak Lodge"), Ranchor Murphy, Alex Stevens (both "St Saviours"), 4...

Under 10 (47 pl) 1 Thomas Sharp (Maidstone CC) 6/6; 2 Ricky Brown (Birchington) 5; 3-8 James Adams (Birchington), Iain Chipper, Christopher Collison, Chathu de Silva (all Barming), Karim Habibi (DCPS), Gregory Wellman (Bishop Challoner) 4½; 9-13 Amy Elvin (Charlton Dover: Suprema), Samuel Hutchins (Hawkinge), Timothy Lock, Zubin Siganporia (both Oak Lodge), Kunal Patel ("Greenhayes") 4...

Under 9 (23 pl) 1-2 Geoffrey Walters (Amherst: Supremo after play-off), Nicholas Kidson (Yardley Court) 5½/6; 3-6 Joseph Bedford, Edward Laurent (both "Roseacre"), Alexander Brooke-Turner (Dulwich College), Thomas Pope (Yardley Court) 4... Suprema Kirsty Little 3½

Under 8 (30 pl) 1 Samuel Evington (Barming) 5½/6; 2 Karen Jones (Bromley High: Suprema) 5; 3-4 Joshua Charlton (Luddenham), Visar Beqiri ("Shatterlocks", and there's a name to conjure with) 4½; 5-9 Alexander Davan-Wetton (Hilden Grange Tonbridge), Krishan Raval (Scotts Park Bromley), Alasdair Reed ("St Thomas"), James Shea, Oliver Stotter (both Dulwich College) 4...

Under 7 was incorporated in the U8. Supremo Visar Beqiri (see above); Suprema Jenna Kitley 2½

School Team Prize (a Kent initiative) 1 Amherst Sevenoaks 15/18; 2 Dulwich College; 3 (behind Dulwich on tie-break) Barming Maidstone

¹ St Marks School of Chess, and thereby hangs a tale. See page 9. The School of Chess is in Surrey, and Aly explained to us that she was in the Kent Megafinal rather than the Surrey one because she had other commitments that clashed with the Surrey one next day. She wasn't allowed to win Kent titles, but she could (and did) qualify for the next stage.

² Perhaps we should say that Dulwich College Prep School (in Dulwich) has nothing to do with the Dulwich College foundation.

TONBRIDGE JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS at Judd GS 25th April 1999

Under 18 (24 pl) 1 Matthew Noakes (Maidstone CC/Maidstone GS) 6/6; 2 Andrew Biggs (Hayes CC) 5; 3-6 Raymond Gosden (Whitstable CC: Minor title), Joseph Al Malah (Danson CC: U14/U91 title), Jin-Yu Cheong (Sevenoaks School), Mark Roberts (Sevenoaks) 4...

Under 12 (Kent Championship: 14 pl) 1 David Ridout (Maidstone CC) 5½/6; 2 Edmund Birkhamshaw (St Olaves)

5; 3 Harry Shaw (Dulwich College Prep School) 4½; 4 Edward Coughlan (Judd) 4...

Under 10 (43 pl) 1 James Asquith (Crowborough) 5½/6; 2-3 Tom Shillingford (Croydon), Chathu de Silva (Maidstone) 5; 4-7 Douglas Reed (Groombridge), Fiona Smailes (Ashted JCC), Geoffrey Walters (Amherst Sevenoaks), James McKeever (Horton Kirby) 4½; 8-13 Sam Siebert (Bromley), Aram Karakashian (Sidcup), Louis Chalk (Bishop Challoner), Alexander Brooke-Turner (Dulwich College), Gregory Wellman (Beckenham), Peter Haffenden (Amherst) 4...

Under 8 (16 pl) 1-2 Thomas Warrenner (Hilden Grange Tonbridge), Ian Wellman (Bishop Challenor) 5/6; 3-5 Alexander Davan-Wetton (Hilden Grange), Alasdair Reed (Groombridge), Jack Siebert (Bromley) 4...

Schools Prize: Bishop Challenor

Results Us

ENGLAND U11 TEAM TRIALS 24-25 April 1999, Liverpool

had some SCCU successes. William Bennet (Cambs) came 2nd with 5/6 in the 12-player Closed tournament (to determine board order among those already selected). In the Trial Tournament (52 played) Thomas Sharp (Kent) was =1st with 5/6, and Josiah Lutton (Essex) and Robert Heaton (Richmond) =3rd (with one other) on 4½. Thomas and Robert are still U10s.

EPSCA U9 TEAM FINAL Saturday 24th April 1999, Heywood Lancs

1 Wey Valley 30/36; 2 Sussex 28½; 3 Richmond 27; 4 Barnet 24½; 5 Somerset 22½; 6 Northants 19½; 7 Notts 18; 8 Greater Manchester 16½; 9-11 Hants, Lancs, Yorks 15; 12-14 Oldham, Solihull, Wirral 13; 15 Cornwall 9½; 16 Cambs 8. Which looks a pretty clean sweep for the Southern Counties. (We'll deem Cambs to be East Anglia on this occasion.)

KENT SCHOOLS LEAGUE 1998-9 update 22.4.99

Under 13 (19 entries) 1 Dulwich College; 2 Eltham College

BCF JUNIOR SQUAD CHAMPIONSHIPS at Liverpool, 9-11 April 1999

U18/U21 1-4 Alex Longson (Ashton Under Lyne), Adam Hunt (Oxon), Rohan Churm (Thamesdown/Swindon), Daniel Bisby (Redhill/Reigate) 4½/6... All are joint U21 Champions; Alex and Adam are joint U18 Champions. Daniel won the British Championship qualifying place.

U14/U16 1 Robert Taylor (Manchester: took U14 and U16 trophies) 5½/6; 2 Chris Charman (Solihull) 5...

U12 1 William Bennet (Cambs: took U11 and U12 trophies); 2 Chris Dorrington (Lincs)...

Next year's Championships are at Millfield School in Somerset.

25th MAIDENHEAD JUNIOR 7-8 April 1999

Under 18 (8 pl) 1 Adam Thorpe (13: Chinnor) 5/7; 2-4 Andrew L Foster-Yeow (9: Oxshott), Catherine David (13: Oxford), Thomas E Landais (14: Pirbright) 4½...

Under 13 (20 pl) 1 David WL Howell (7 it says here: Seaford) 6/6; 2-3 David Bareham (12: Cricklade), Jeremy ZR King (12: Marlborough) 4½; 4-5 Graham P Morris (11: Abingdon), Matthew A Holmes (12: Lechlade), Jeremy Appleyard (11: Witney) 4...

Under 11 (46 pl) 1-2 Sebastian Pozzo (7: SE27), Joshua DW Hall (10: Swindon) 7/9; 3-7 Daniel Hitchens (9: Oxford), Joseph Hamdi (10: Windsor), Matthew J Linnett (10: E Sussex), Nicholas George (10: Swindon), Richard Webb (10: Swindon) 6½...

Under 9 (31 pl) 1 James Peet (8: East Finchley) 9½/11; 2 Naomi Miller (8: Oxford) 8; 3-6 Yasmin Ball (8: Crowthorne), Alexander Cook (8: Robertsbridge), Daniel J Hall (8: Swindon), Ben Melrose (8: Oxford) 7½...

It occurs to us those ages may all be as at 1.9.98 or something. Just says "Age".

Schools Tournament (8 teams) 1-2 Frideswide Middle School Oxford, Lethbridge Junior School Swindon...

Results Nigel Dennis

TIMES SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIP as at 3.4.99

average ages in brackets: 5-1 always wins, else older team must win by number of points at least equal to age difference in years (ignoring fractions of a year, when you've done the subtraction sum)

Round 1 Calday Grange (location not known: 14.8) 3½ 2½ King Edward VII Lytham; Cottingham (where?) High (15.3) 3½ 2½ King Edwards Birmingham (16.7); Hampton School (14.4) 6 0 Great Houghton Prep School (11.6); Tiffin (16.2) 5 1 Winchester College (15.11); Magdalen College School Oxford (13.3)* 3 3 Dr Challenors GS Amersham (14.7); Ipswich School (14.3) 3½ 2½ Bishop Stortford High School (16.7); Maidstone GS (15.2) 6 0 North Bridge House (16.7); Yarm School (no idea: 14.11) 4 2 Greenwood Academy Irvine (14.1)

Round 2 (by end of term)

Calday Grange (14.10) 0 6 Manchester Grammar (15.10); Cottingham High School (15.8) ½ 5½ Oakham School (15.1); Hampton School (14.4) 2 4 Tiffin (16.2); Katherine Lady Berkeley School (14.10) 1 5 Torquay Boys GS (16.2); Magdalen College School (13.3) 4 2 Ipswich School (14.1); Maidstone GS (16.5) 3 3 *St Pauls (15.9); Nairn Academy (15.0) 1½ 4½ Royal Belfast Academical Institute (16.9); Queen Elizabeths Boys GS Wakefield (14.5) 4 2 Yarm School (14.11)

Quarter-finals (by 1st May)

Manchester Grammar v Royal Belfast Academical Institute; Oakham School v QE Grammar School Wakefield;

St Pauls London v Tiffin; Torquay Boys GS v Magdalen College School

PLATE COMPETITION

Round 1 Aylesbury GS (15.7)* 3 3 Queen Elizabeths Boys School Barnet (16.2); Southend High School (12.7) 5 1 Northgate High School Ipswich (14.7); Bedford Modern (15.1) 3½ 2½ Magdalen College School (14.10); RGS Guildford w/o scr West Hill Park School; Lytham St Annes High Technical College (14.3) 3½ 2½ Argoed School Mold (13.3); Greenwood Academy B w/o scr Egglescliffe School; Queen Elizabeths Junior School Wakefield (10.3) 4 2 Bolton Junior School (10.7); Judd GS Tonbridge (13.11) 6 0 Hasmonian School (13.7)

Round 2

Aylesbury GS (15.7) 4 2 Southend High (13.6); Bedford Modern (14.3) 1½ 4½ RGS Guildford (14.6); Judd GS Tonbridge (14.7) 2 4 Kings College School Wimbledon (15.10); Lytham St Annes High Technology College w/o scr Greenwood Academy; Nottingham High (16.7) 3 3 *Arden School Solihull (14.1); Perth High School scr w/o St Columbs College Derry; Q Elizabeths Junior Wakefield (10.5) 1 5 Hymers College Hull (14.10); Radyr School Cardiff (14.8) 1½ 4½ Truro School (14.9)

Quarter-finals

Arden School Solihull v Aylesbury GS; Hymers College Hull v Lytham St Annes; KCS Wimbledon v RGS Guildford; Truro School v St Columbs College Derry

Results Mitchell Taylor

THE CROYDON GIRLS AFFAIR

I had more or less decided to keep quiet about this, but a recent development has changed my mind. I said in the last issue that I had no idea why the headmistress would not sanction a school entry in the *Times*. I know now. You can find details elsewhere, but in brief - very brief - the story is something like this.

Last season, ill feeling arose about the school team's board order. Parents became involved, and the situation became unpleasant. Very unpleasant, if accounts are true. The headmistress responded by withdrawing the team from competition.

This season, Mike Basman entered an "unofficial" school team in the *Times*. The entry was accepted "in full knowledge of the team's status" (Basman's words). How full is full? Don't know, but when the headmistress wrote to the Chief Conductor the team was disqualified by the BCF Junior Director. You already know that Basman enlisted the help of the *Times*'s chess correspondent to get the decision overturned. Wrongly, in my opinion. I don't know whether it made any difference; the girls may or may not have played their much-delayed next match. I suspect they didn't, given the time-schedules imposed by the wrangling. Their opponents won the Zone at all events, and it's a knockout competition. I wasn't involved but if I had been I'd have objected to the unnecessary expenditure of time in a knockout competition.

Basman had also entered a team in the Briant Poulter (Surrey Schools) League, and it too was subsequently disqualified.

I was going to let this die the death, until a circular (dated April 1999) came from Basman. I don't know who it was sent to, it doesn't say, but it has a "UK Chess Challenge" heading. It says that since Croydon Girls aren't allowed to enter the Chess Challenge under their school name their players will be accepted under the (Surrey-based) "St Marks School of Chess" established by Basman himself. Fair enough, and I'm sure he'll act similarly with any other "irregular" entries that may crop up next year.

What provoked me was the rest of it. Without giving any details it resuscitates the issue by criticising the headmistress for "unaccountably" withdrawing the team. I'm surprised he can't account for it. He also seems unaware of what a Schools competition is. He compares the *Times* unfavourably with the UK Chess Challenge on the ground that it prevents juniors from playing in it. Of course it does, some juniors. It's a competition for school teams. A team can't represent a school if the head teacher says it doesn't. To complain that the *Times* won't accept non-school teams is about as sensible as complaining that the Kent Schools Chess League won't accept teams from Middlesex.

RJH

4NCL 1998-9: FINAL POSITIONS

Division 1 1 Slough 19/22 (GP 63); 2 Wood Green 18 (57); 3 Bigwood 14 (51); 4 Invicta Knights 13 (43); 5 NW Eagles 12 (42½); 6 Barbican 11 (41); 7 Richmond 8 (38½); 8 BCM 9 (45½); 9 Bristol 8 (38); 10 Home House 7 (37); 11 Barbican II 7 (36½); 12 Wessex 4 (35). Last three relegated.

Division 2 1 White Rose 18/22 (51); 2 Wood Green II 16 (51½); 3 Guildford 15 (54); 4 Coulsdon & Purley 15 (51); 5 Bristol II 14 (45); 6 Bigwood II 11 (47); 7 Kings Head 11 (45½); 8 Witney 10 (46½); 9 S Wales Dragons 10 (45); 10 BCCA 9 (36); 11 Nidum Knights 8 (40); 12 Gwent Dragons 8 (36); 13 Slough II 7 (38); 14 Invicta Knights II 2 (29). Top three promoted.

Results 4NCL Website

SCCU FIXTURES 1999-2000: OPEN (PROVISIONAL)

14.5.99

Oct 2	HBr K Bu SyE SxM	Jan 15	EBr SxC KH SyO BuM
9		22	
16		29	BrBu CE H Sy OSx MK
23	CH BrK BuSy ESx MO	Feb 5	
30		12	BuC SxH SyK EO BrM
Nov 6	OC	19	
13	SyBr SxBu KC HO EM	26	CBr O Bu HE KSx MSy
20		Mar 4	
27		11	BuH EK BrO SxSy CM
Dec 4	BuE OK CSy BrSx MH	18	

These fixtures are similar to last year's, but with venues reversed. If Counties have problems with any of them, they should inform the Tournament Controller quickly.

COUNTY MATCHES 1998-9: BCF STAGE

OPEN

QUARTER-FINAL

Yorks	8.5.99	Essex*
1 AJ Dunnington 221	0	1 J Rogers 223 (B)
2 SC Brown 222	0	1 M Twyble 206
3 C Dunworth 209	1	0 J Hodgson 197
4 AW Potts 197	0	1 L Marden 179
5 PM Gayson 203	1	0 J Goldberg 178
6 DM Adams 200	½	½ P Williamson 178
7 PM Townsend 198	1	0 A Brett 178
8 SJ Barrett 205	1	0 R Parker 176
9 RJD Palliser 202	0	1 T Whitton 177
10 AG Cooper 197	1	0 IBN Smith 173
11 PN Hughes 180	0	1 J Moore 170
12 JG Cooper 185	0	1 C Fegan 175e
13 J Burnett 188	1	0 P Barclay 165
14 M White 172	1	0 S Kalinsky 153
15 GCB Jones 156	0	1 C Ramage 153
16 I Lewyk 172	0	1 R Weeber 147
	7½	8½

Suppose it was too much to hope the Kent I match captain would send his result. The Bulletin knows Kent's bare match score against Greater Manchester, but is not disposed to print it.

Thank you to all the other SCCU captains (except one, on this occasion) for sending their results. Thank you also to the Controller, Cyril Johnson, for sending the bulk of the non-SCCU scores.

Open *Quarter-Finals* Dorset 9 7 Warwicks; Cambs w/o scr Hants. Hants to be fined for late withdrawal: twice in three years now.

U175 *QF* Beds 10 6 Yorks; Devon 9½ 6½ Notts
U150 *Prelim* Norfolk 10½ 5½ Staffs; Yorks 10½ 5½ Dorset
QF Warwicks 10 6 Devon
more on next page

MINOR COUNTIES

QUARTER-FINALS

Cornwall	17.4.99	Bucks*	Surrey*	8.5.99	Suffolk
1 Andrew N Greet 201	1	0 Andrew P Smith 201 (W)	PJ Sowray 210 (B)	0	1 K Bowden 202
2 Jeremy FS Menadue 173	½	½ Aiden Leech 192	SH Berry 202	1	0 E Player 189
3 Ian M George 172	½	½ Alex Tucker 189	RA Allicock 204	1	0 MP Cook 189
4 D Saqui 172	0	1 Robert J Richmond 189	PD Kemp 100	½	½ S Gregory 187
5 JM Mantle 162	0	1 Gerald Moore 189	DB Rosen 195	½	½ CP Botham 180
6 Roger J Grime 156	½	½ Jonathan E Beedle 182	KD Richardson 186	1	0 M Taylor 120141E 176
7 S Addicott 152	½	½ Bill Hughes 166	DR Sedgwick 177	1	0 T Lunn 168
8 G Trudeau 152	0	1 Richard O'Brien 167	CRA Clegg 168	½	½ SW Ruthen 166
9 S Bartlett 140	0	1 Roger de Coverly 161	MC Page 159	½	½ RR Sanders 165
10 R Woods -	0	1 Malcolm Armstrong 172	AJ French 153	0	1 A Charity 165
11 D Boulden 128	½	½ Andrew George 166	M Smith 171658L 150	0	1 T Rubin 164
12 C Sellwood 127	0	1 Stephen Law 160	J Nyman 147	0	1 JR Feavvour 162
13 Timothy Manton 119 j	½	½ Majid Majewski 158	RE Cutting 134	0	1 L Pott 156
14 P Manton 115	0	1 Steve James 143	STK Wilkinson 137	½	½ K Greenacre 153
15 K Brewer 114	0	1 Andrew Hughes 149 j	DA Varley 120	0	1 DR Harris 146
16 Anton Barkhuysen 104	0	1 Syringa Turvey 121	FC Manning 132	½	½ A Atkinson 151959B 141
(Exminster)	4	12		7	9
mean grade 146		mean grade 169			

Worcs	9.5.99	Herts*
1 GM Boyce 190 (W)	0	1 SJB Knott 219
2 M Burrows 177	0	1 S Swanson 204
3 P Kitson 172	1	0 G Kenworthy 206
4 R Thomas 171	0	1 PV Byway 197
5 D Joshi 170	½	½ Costas Harris 174
6 E Myers 162	0	1 JF Rudge 189
7 M Bissell 160	½	½ HL Tebbs 179
8 A Taylor 159	0	1 LAR D'Costa 172
9 G Dyett 156	0	1 JN Fraser-Mitchell 177
10 J Wrench 152	½	½ Kevin R Clark 179
11 E Horwill 151	½	½ JR Denton 173
12 M Bethel 149	0	1 D Ross Brennan 170
13 J Wilson 136	½	½ PJ Gregory 163
14 I Howarth 135	½	½ Barry Morris 158
15 G Hobert 134	½	½ BD Judkins 157
16 M Riley 129	0	1 Steven Weston 151
(Long Hanborough)	4½	11½

UNDER 175

QUARTER-FINAL

Essex*	8.5.99	Lancs
1 Tim Hebbes 174	½	½ Craig A Hanley 174 (W)
2 Trevor D Coote 172	½	½ John D Lyth 174
3 William L Saunders 171	1	0 RK Taylor 171
4 George E McNally 172	½	½ F Mulleady 172
5 David J Millward 169	1	0 Paul Isherwood 171
6 Tom O'Brien 168	½	½ S Riley 167
7 Ian D Hunnab 166	½	½ S Foulkes 166
8 Peter C Doye 166	½	½ S Appleby 166
9 Lawrence Trent 151	0	1 S Woodcock 158
10 Ivan J Myall 164	½	½ P Taylor 158
11 Martin McCall 164	0	1 A Catz 161
12 Dave G Pearse 163	1	0 Jim Tennant-Smith 144
13 Roy Heppinstall 162	½	½ FS Rushworth 144
14 Neville H Twitchell 162	1	0 M Lythgoe 143
15 John White 161	0	1 AT Dunkerley 141
16 Mark Weighell 151	1	0 EDG Dobson 140
(Syston)	9	7

UNDER 150

PRELIMINARY ROUND

Notts	17.4.99	Kent*
1 J Tassi 149 (W)	0	1 M Wiltshire 149
2 T Lane 148	½	½ V Southern -
3 W Selby 147	½	½ Z Mehmet 147
4 A Wright 147	0	1 P Rutland 147
5 D Levens 145	0	1 O Cooley 146
6 P Kirby 144	½	½ P Titmas 146
7 H Naan 144	½	½ P Childs 143
8 B Hayward 144	1	0 A Sherriff 142
9 J Ozyer 143	½	½ S Casement 141
10 J Wagenbach 131	0	1 E Bromilow 141
11 G Murfet 137	0	1 A Sands 140
12 M Nailard 133	½	½ I Hames 140
13 I Hannam 128	½	½ S Chick 139
14 M Taylor 124	½	½ G Steele 137
15 R Taylor 124	½	½ D Davis 131
16 R Sayer 120	½	½ M Jones 124
(Gt Shelford)	6	10

Notts queried Kent's ungraded board 2, but he was eligible. The Kent captain had cleared him in advance with the BCF Controller.

U125 Prelim Cambs 8½ 7½ Yorks
 QF Notts 6 10 Cambs; Hants 8 8 *Warwick
 U100 QF Suffolk lost to Merseyside

Semi-Finals are 5th June:

Open Gtr Manchester or Kent v Dorset; Essex v Cambs
 Minor Norfolk or Derbyshire v Herts; Suffolk v Bucks
 U175 Essex v Warwick; Devon v Beds
 U150 Sussex v Warwick; Lancs or Norfolk v Kent
 U125 Herts v Suffolk; Warwick v Cambs
 U100 Surrey v Essex; Lancs or Staffs South v Merseyside

National Club

OPEN SF Ilford 4 2 Bristol & Clifton

Plate SF Mushrooms 1½ 4½ Charlton

U175 Rd 3 Radbroke Hall 3½ 1½ Undercliffe; Milton
 Keynes 2 3 Guildford; Southbourne 2 3 Eastbourne
 SF Radbroke Hall v Guildford; Eastbourne 3½ 1½ Wanstead
 & Woodford

Plate Ashfield w/o scr Crusaders; Writtle 1½ 3½

Maidstone; Reading w/o scr Slough; Cosham 2 3
 SF Southampton v Reading; Maidstone 2½ 2½ *Ashfield

U150 QF Bedford 4 1 Grimsby; Bourne End 2 3 Cardiff;
 Crusaders 2 3 Gambit; Hammersmith 2½ 2½ *Maidstone
 SF (by 6th June) Gambit v Bedford; Maidstone v Cardiff

Plate QF Cosham 3 2 Hastings & St Leonards; Gt Lever 3
 2 Prescot & Knotty Ash; Hereford 1 4 Rose Forgrove; Kings
 Head 4 1 London Deaf

SF (by 6th June) Cosham v Kings Head; Rose Forgrove v
 Gt Lever

U125 QF Yorks Copperworks 2½ 2½ *Ashfield; Alwoodley
 2½ 2½ *Basingstoke A; Powdermill 2 3 Cowley; Tunbridge
 Wells 2 3 Bourne End

Semi-finals (by 30.5.99) Basingstoke v Cowley; Ashfield 3½
 1½ Bourne End

Plate QF Crusaders 3 2 Rotherham Juniors; Reading 3 2
 Eastbourne; Capablanca 0 5 Coulsdon & Purley; Maidstone 1
 Waltham Forest

SF (by 30.5.99) Coulsdon & Purley v Crusaders; Waltham
 Forest v Reading

U100 SF Ashted 3½ 1½ Coulsdon & Purley; Magdalen
 College School 4 1 St Marys Cannock

Final Ashted v Magdalen College School

Plate you know. Except that the incomplete QF match
 finished Reading 1½ 3½ Basingstoke.

HANDICAP RAPIDPLAY Still no new results, apart from a
 couple picked up more or less by accident.

Plate QF Syston 0 8 Mushrooms; SF Mushrooms 5½ 2½
 *Poulton le Fyld

Kent Finals Day 30th May 1999 at Sevenoaks

Grading limits are means. County Cup (Open) Maidstone I
 4 2 Lewisham I; Lewis Cup (not over 160) Maidstone III
 w/o scr Rainham I; Stevenson Cup (not over 140)
 Beckenham & Bromley III 3½ 2½ Hastings & St Leonards;
 En Passant Cup (not over 120) Tunbridge Wells II* 3 3
 Chislehurst III; Harvey Cup (not over 100) Chislehurst IV
 4 2 Danson II; Tom Fuller Cup (not over 80) Petts Wood V
 4 0 Danson III

U150 QUARTER-FINALS

Cams			9.5.99	Kent*	Sussex*	8.5.99	Yorks
1 Ray Ilett 148 (B)	½	½	Mike Wiltshire 149	LJ Cannon 149 (B)	½	½	RW Jennings 144
2 Colin Byrne 149	½	½	Vic Southern -	DL Roberts 148	0	1	K Trobridge 148
3 Matthew Wells 144	0	1	Zia Mehmet 146	PA Greaves 147	1	0	J Morgan 148
4 Neil Greenwood 136	½	½	Paul Rutland 147	PR Selby 146	½	½	PG Day 147
5 Peter Turner 149	½	½	Oliver Cooley 146	K Davies 146	0	1	G Conroy 139
6 Mark Szymanski 146	½	½	Peter Titmas 146	IK Edgson 146	1	0	D Patrick 141
7 John Daugman 139	1	0	Peter Childs 143	WH Partridge 144	1	0	M Bramson 139
8 Peter Barkas 143	0	1	Alan Sherriff 142	PN Kington 144	½	½	CW Davies 138
9 Richard Donaghy 148	½	½	Ed Bromilow 141	JLA Stone 142	1	0	RA Dean 137
10 Patrick Ribbands 145	½	½	Stephen Casement 141	EJ Hillier 140	0	1	R Letton 137
11 Marcus Misson 146	0	1	Ian Hames 140	TJ Woods 135	1	0	K Marshall 131
12 Chris Kreuzer 146	1	0	Steve Chick 139	BJ Izzard 128	1	0	T Paulson 131
13 William Bennet 113	0	1	Roy Parsons 138	GJ Cox 130	0	1	GM Smith 133
14 Richard Newman 144	1	0	Geoff Steele 137	DJ Cork 127	½	½	DR Parton 131
15 Stephen Pride 135	½	½	Derek Davis 131	PJ Helliwell 129	0	1	T Wheldon 132
16 Tom Bramley 138	1	0	Mike Jones 124	JL Bryant 119	1	0	B Foster 125
(Gt Shelford)	8	8		(Gaddesby Leics)	9	7	

Kent won on board count.

UNDER 125

PRELIMINARY ROUND

PRELIMINARY ROUND					
Herts*	17.4.99	Staffs	Warwicks	17.7.99	Middx*
1 M Wali 124 (B)	1 0	F Wood 123	Martin Hall - (B)	1 0	Brian Irving 124
2 M Price 124	1 0	B Payne 122	Derek Stockhall 124	1 0	Peter Staneland 124
3 L Roche 124	0 1	M Wootton 120	Peter Boynton 123	½ ½	Dave Harris 124
4 T Wright 122	½ ½	G Rosser 114	Chris Leeson 123	0 1	Michael Price 123
5 P Bunce 123	½ ½	P Atkiss 112	Mark Tallis 123	0 1	Wil Ransome 122
6 C Byrne 119	0 1	R Brodie 111	Ian Gallagher 122	1 0	Pete Hawran 121
7 M Jones 121	0 1	R Wilkinson 111	Mark Paffard 121	0 1	Phil Tabberer 119
8 P Laskier 120	1 0	P Broomhall 108	Alex Pready 119	0 1	Anthony Duncan 114
9 M Flatt 119	1 0	def	Steve Horrell 117	0 1	Alan Marshall 113
10 J Leake 120	0 1	D Bell 105	Gary Hope 117	½ ½	Gerry Luetchford 111
11 J Lanaway 122	0 1	J Button 104	Matthew Tapp 116	1 0	Hassan Afnan 111
12 K Grigg e115	1 0	A Hodges 103	Chris Pitt 114	1 0	John Marchant 111
13 J Moore 113	1 0	A Ward 103	Roger Healey 109	0 1	Ray Hamilton 110
14 R Harrison 113	0 1	D Buckley 98	Dave Brelforth 109	1 0	Garth Wayte 108
15 G Lunn 113	1 0	B Hall 96	John Llewellyn 108	1 0	Zoe Ryle 78
16 Q Latif 101	0 1	R Fletcher 88	Pauline Woodward 88	1 0	def
(St Albans)	8	8	Quinborne	9	7
			Community Centre		

Herts won on board count.

QUARTER-FINALS

QUARTER FINALS			QUARTER FINALS		
Lancs	8.5.99	Herts*	Suffolk	8.5.99	Essex*
1 C Carey 124 (W)	0	1 M Wali 124	A Harvey 124 (B)	1 0	R Payne 124 j
2 S Flaherty 119	0	1 M Price 124	C Roberts 102	1 0	I Gunn 124 j
3 T Smith 119	1 0	L Roche 124	R Child 118	½ ½	JE Lutton 117 j
4 K McMahon 116	½ ½	T Wright 122	K Maton 116	0 1	K Groce 12
5 G Hughes 113	0 1	C Byrne 119	J Stevens 116	1 0	R Iannetta 119
6 L Stoicnic (or similar) 111	0 1	P Laskier 120	S Lewis 116	0 1	S Collins 117
7 N Coward 110	0 1	G Howard 121	I Webster 113	½ ½	T Cole 116
8 S Shokrollah (ono) 105	0 1	M Jones 121	S Payne 112	0 1	J Winkworth 102 j
9 S White 117	0 1	M Flatt 119	M Coughtry 110	½ ½	J Sneesby 115 j
10 E Andersons 116	0 1	J Leake 120	A Barnes 10	1 0	A O'Neill 102 j
11 T Rigby 112	½ ½	J Lanaway 122	def	0 1	M Bridger 112 j
12 D Brent 101	½ ½	K Thompson e120	J Lambert 108	½ ½	G Walker 112 j
13 A Wiseman 98	0 1	J Moore 113	L Plunkett 108	0 1	K Bennett 110
14 C Wooley 88	½ ½	G Lunn 113	R Smith 105	1 0	M Cain 110
15 C Hazelhurst 99	0 1	R Harrison 113	M Spalding 104	0 1	S Savill 105
16 L Parkinson 95	0 1	Q Latif 101	V Allen 99	1 0	P Flint 104
3	13		(Bury St Edmunds)	8	8

Suffolk won on board count.

UNDER 100

PRELIMINARY ROUND

Essex*	17.4.99	Shropshire
1 Andrew Bowcock 99	1 0	WG White 95
2 Ron Prickett 96	1 0	WI Davies 91
3 James Luck 96	0 1	WBC Brown 79
4 Jason Klimach 89	½ ½	NM Patterson 75
5 Mark Huntley 86	1 0	WR Hughes -
6 Antony O'Toole 84	1 0	WJ Spragg -
7 Heather Walker 86	1 0	NP Broderick 74
8 Paul Houghton 76	½ ½	NR Holmes -
9 Matthew Jellett 89	1 0	WA Brough -
10 Andrew Murphy 82	½ ½	WA Lewis -
11 Nicholas Jellett 72	0 1	NT Volkes 65
12 Daniel Hedges 78	1 0	NV Holmes -
(Crick, Northants)	8½ 3½	

"Please note large number of ungraded players in Shropshire side. I understand that none of these players had been given prior permission to play." - Essex mc.

It turned out that only two Shropshire players were ungraded, though their match captain seems to have thought otherwise. Don't know which two they were, but the score after penalties is 8½ - 1½ so presumably they were two who lost.

Non-County Membership

Late note: end May. The London Chess Association and the Coulsdon Chess Fellowship have both applied for Non-County Membership of the Union. Their applications will go to Council on the 3rd July. The possibly contentious one (see page 2) has not yet been made but still could be.

QUARTER-FINALS

Surrey*	8.5.99	Leics
1 Keith Foreman 99 (W)	0 1	G Waller 95
2 Richard Jones 99	½ ½	S Okhai 94
3 Matthew Taylor 97	½ ½	M Sturgess -
4 Arthur Meaton 97	1 0	P Pearson 95
5 Anna Partington 91 j	1 0	N Rathod 87
6 Daniel Hegarty 83 j	1 0	J Creasey 87
7 Chris Chapman 96 j	0 1	T Clay 90
8 Harvey Murray-Smith 96	1 0	J Jarvis 78
9 Lana Boztas 92	0 1	G Jarvis 79
10 Laila Tillet 91	½ ½	P Wood 72
11 Ken Bracewell 89	1 0	J Collins 70
12 Richard Davey 93	1 0	J Johnson 69
(Bicester)	7½ 4½	

Hants	8.5.99	Essex
Martin Bowater 97 (B)	0 1	Andrew Bowcock 99
M Garrod 94	0 1	Ron Prickett 96
Tim Boone 94	½ ½	James Luck 96
Oliver Payne 80	0 1	George Smith 99
Matthew Elstrop 91	0 1	Mark Jones 96
Andrew Weston 89	½ ½	Dave Gatheral 95
S Kitley 89	0 1	Mark Huntley 86
R Treloar 87	0 1	Matthew Jellett 89
JW Carr 86	0 1	Paul Houghton 76
Matthew Harborne 84	0 1	Heather Walker 86
James Purcel 82	0 1	Andrew Murphy 82
John Kooner 81	1 0	Nicholas Jellett 72
(Basingstoke)	2 10	

GAMES

A game with a difference: competition by Gary Kenworthy.

Gary writes:

This is a prize competition. Entries should be sent to Gary Kenworthy, 17 Buttermere Close, Bletchley, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, MK2 3DG (please do not use email). Closing Date is the 1st July 1999.

Rather than provide notes just for the Herts Website, I would prefer to run a competition for the best ASSESSMENT (explanations) and ANALYSIS (concrete lines) of the strategy and tactics in this game. It would be a worthwhile and beneficial exercise, especially for those who have very strong juniors at their chess clubs. I believe Chris Briscoe missed a very spectacular win, whose degree of difficulty is hard. Can you find it? I will award two groups of prizes, one for U18 and one open age. In each group there will be a good book for the best written answers and also a runner-up book prize. Then I will publish full notes. For those wanting to copy it to your web sites, club mags etc please do.

How sound was 29 Qb8 --? Were there better moves for both sides after 25... Nd5 --? Warning, I think this is a very difficult game to assess and analyse.

Since time is important to this game - 35 moves in 75 minutes - total time used is shown after each move.

White Gary Kenworthy, Black Chris Briscoe (both belonged to this season's demised Bumbles Green Chess Club)

Capel Cup (Hertfordshire Individual Championship) Final

Saturday 8th May 1999

1 c4(-) e5(-); 2 g3(-) Nf6(3); 3 Bg2(-) c6(7); 4 Nf3(-) e4(9); 5 Nd4(-) d5(10); 6 cd5(1) cd5(12); 7 d3(1) Bb4+(27); 8 Nc3(2) Qb6(29); 9 e3(5) Nc6(35); 10 0-0(6) 0-0(42); 11 de4(8) Bc3(44); 12 bc3(9) de4(46); 13 Ba3(10) Re8 (47); 14 Rb1(11) Qa6(54); 15 Nb5(12) Be6(54); 16 Qc1(14) Ne5(72); 17 Nc7(16) Qe2(72); 18 Qd1(22) Qa2(72); 19 Ne8(23) Re8(72); 20 Bc5(25) Bg4(72); 21 Qb3(27) Qe2(72); 22 Rb2(29) Nf3+(72); 23 Kh1(29) Qa6(72); 24 Qb7(30) Qe6(73); 25 Bd4(32) Nd5(73); 26 h4(35) Bh3(73); 27 c4(38) Qg4(74) 28 Rfb1(40) Nh4(74) 29 Qb8(44) Bg2+(74); 30 Kg1(44) Rf8(74); 31 gh4(44) Bh3+(74); 32 Qg3(46) Resigns(74) - 14 seconds left.

Jones, G - Ramage, C

Yorkshire v Essex, BCF QF, 08.05.1999

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 f5 3.Bc4 b5 (a Colin Ramage speciality) 4.Bb3 fxe4 5.Nxe5 Qg5 6.Nf7 Qxg2 7.Rf1 d6 8.Qe2 Nc6 9.c3 (fatally weakening d3) 9...Nf6 10.Nxh8 Ne5 11.f4? Nd3+ 12.Qxd3 (As 12.Kd1 Bg4 also loses the Queen, White might as well have resigned here.) 12...exd3 13.Bd1 Bh3 0-1

Crouch - Harris

Golders Green Blitz 4.5.99 (Round 6)

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 d5 4 Nf3 Bg7 5 Bg5 c6 6 e3 0-0 7 Qc2 Nbd7 8 h3 Nb6 9 c5 Bf5 10 Qb3 Nbd7 11 Qxb7 Rb8 12 Qxa7 Rzb2 13 Qa3 Qb8 14 Bf4 Qb7 15 Ba6 Ra8 16 Bxb7? (16 Nd1) Rxa3 17 Bxc6 Rxc3 18 a4 Bd3 19 a5 Ne4 20 Rf1 Ra2 0-1

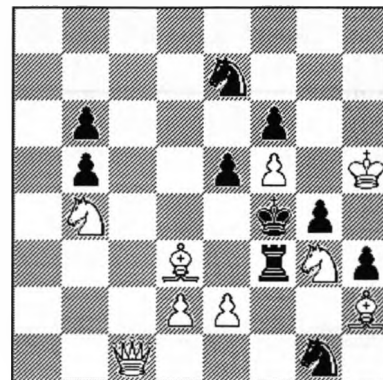
BRITISH CHESS SOLVING CHAMPIONSHIP

This is the first stage of this year's Championship. Successful solvers will go on to a harder postal stage, followed by a (live) Final in the new year.

Solutions (key move only), postmarked no later than 31st July, to BCPS, 9 Roydfield Drive, Waterthorpe, Sheffield S20 7ND. *British resident solvers only.* Enclose a cheque for £3 payable to British Chess Problem Society.

Mark your entry "SCCU Bulletin" so the Bulletin can win a prize if you win.

Last year's winner was AJ Mestel with 29/30 in the Final, and he took 35 minutes less than anyone else.



White to play and mate in two

CONGRESS DIARY

- | | | |
|-----|-------|--|
| Jun | 5-6 | 2nd READING Open; U171,131. CA Fieldsend, 12 Rokeby Close, Bracknell, Berks RG12 2NA 01344 869076 |
| | 6 | 24th RICHMOND RAPIDPLAY Open; U160,120,80. Richard James, 95 Lyndhurst Avenue, Twickenham TW2 6BH 0181 898 1190 or 0181 898 0362: rjcc@globalnet.co.uk |
| | 19 | COULSDON CF Open (grading prizes down to U90). CCF, 84-90 Chipstead Valley Rd, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 3BA 0181 645 0302 chess@ccfs.freemove.co.uk |
| | 19-20 | KENSINGTON Open (the first); U175,145,115,75. Barry Gale, 60 John Wilson St, Woolwich, London SE18 6QQ 0181 316 4132: b.j.gale@ic.ac.uk |
| | 26 | GOLDERS GREEN RAPIDPLAY Open. Adam Raoof, 21 Golderton, Prince of Wales Close, Hendon, London NW4 4QZ 0181 202 0982 adam@circuit.demon.co.uk |
| Jul | 10 | COULSDON CF Open, U170,130,90. CCF, 84-90 Chipstead Valley Rd, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 3BA 0181 645 0302 chess@ccfs.freemove.co.uk |
| | 11-13 | MCCU Open Championship BCQ in Birmingham. Open; U150,110. J Robinson, 7 Manor Rd, Stanion, Kettering NN14 1DG 01536 261697 |
| | 17 | GOLDERS GREEN RAPIDPLAY Open. Adam Raoof, 21 Golderton, Prince of Wales Close, Hendon, London NW4 4QZ 0181 202 0982 adam@circuit.demon.co.uk |
| | 25 | 19th BARNET KNIGHTS JUNIOR U14,12,10,8,6 and graded sections. Third tournament in the North London Junior Grand prix. Laurie Winston, 18 Mount Grove, Edgware, Middx HA8 9SX 0181 959 8376 |
| Aug | 1-14 | Smith & Williamson British Championships at Scarborough. Numerous events. BCF, 9a Grand Parade, St Leonards, E Sussex TN38 0DD 01424 442500 office@bcf.org.uk |
| | 28-30 | 35th BERKS & BUCKS at Reading. Open plus graded sections. Nigel W Dennis, Boundary House, 230 Greys Rd, Henley on Thames, Oxon RG9 1QY 01491 576052 |
| Sep | 5 | PAIGNTON BCQ Open 7 rds, plus 5-rd events. SR Boniface, 11 Henrietta St, Lower Easton, Bristol BS5 6HU |
| | 24-26 | 10th MAIDSTONE BCQ. Open; U160,130,105. NC Mackett, 50 Hedley St, Maidstone, Kent ME14 5AD. Enquiries to Lyndon Gurr 01622 221244 (work) |
| Oct | 9 | NATIONAL COUNTIES TEAM RAPIDPLAY at Sheffield. Chris Dunworth, Bunny Cottage, 5 Warren Rd, Croydon |

"All chess information is interesting for me, tournaments, chess classes... things about new rules, things or curses about arbiters, trainers, etc." - an enquiry from Spain.

Maidstone Megafinal. A Controller became aware that White, in a very junior game, was playing a lot of checks. On approaching, he observed that there were five queens on the board, including two upturned white rooks and one upturned black one. Just as he got there, White played another check, using a *black* queen. Black, seemingly unperturbed, got out of check from his own queen.

Intervention of puzzled Controller. "Oh, no," White said. "That's a white queen. I ran out of white rooks to turn over, so I used a black one."

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: *ChessIns* for March; *Chessex* for March/April; Surrey Girls Newsletter for April and May