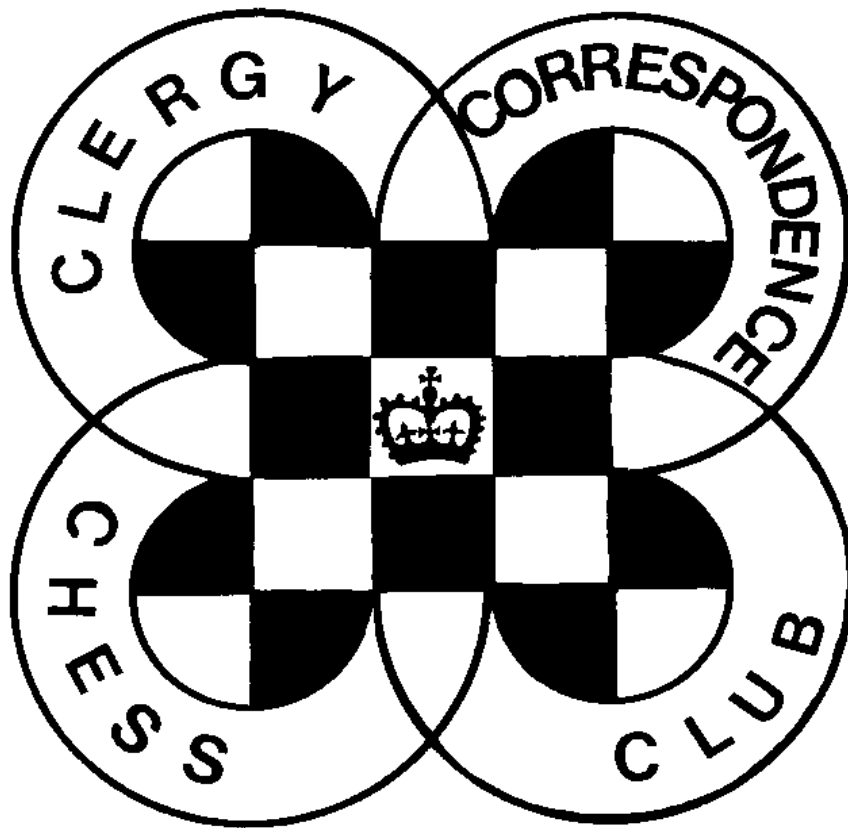
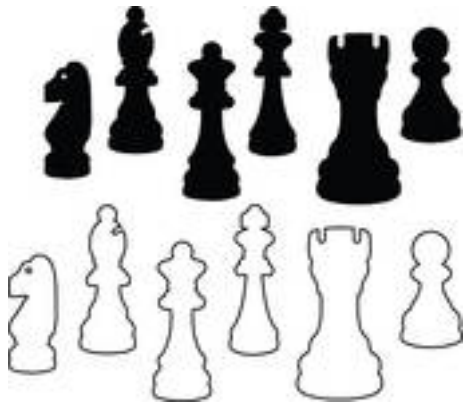


# **CHESS minister !**

**February 2022**



**CLERGY CORRESPONDENCE CHESS CLUB**



# **CHESS Minister!**

## **February 2022**

### **CURRENT SEASON**

All games should now be underway in the current season even if you are taking advantage of the staggered starting dates allowed to those playing on Scheming Mind. If there are any games not yet underway please do get them started now.

### **GAMES**

As always, my thanks to Michael Thistlewood who edits and prepares the games for the magazine. He does an excellent job but can only work with the material you send in, so please send in game scores, annotated if possible. In the absence of any games from members for this issue he has instead written an article, illustrated by games, on John Owen, our very own answer to Ruy Lopez!

### **SCHEMING MIND TEAM**

We again finished 4th in our Division in the last season of this tournament. Despite losing two of our top players we decided to enter again this year. Although the season began with a narrow defeat by knightworm78 (4-6), we then even more narrowly beat The Chess Masters  $5\frac{1}{2} - 4\frac{1}{2}$ , before losing (again 4-6) to México. We are currently leading SCCA C Team 3-1, and were given a walkover against The Chess Warriors as they were unable to field a team.

### **Can we strengthen our Team?**

That Chess Warriors are struggling to raise a team shows that we are not alone in that regard. Our Team is weaker than it was, and smaller, meaning that team members are having to play in more rounds than they used to. It was suggested to me by someone on Scheming Mind that we might open our team to non-members. To do this I think we would have to rename the team as it would no longer strictly be CCCC.

We are *not* talking about membership of the Club here, which would remain open only to clergy, but merely to our SM team, which would allow affiliates to join. Would we want to charge them a membership fee, or would we simply be happy to have them strengthen our Team?

I would be interested in members' views on this, as well as possible titles for a more open team. A couple of ideas that occurred to me were *Clerics and Friends* or The *Cleriwhos*, but like with our magazine title, someone might have a much better idea.

## ACCOUNTS

Accounts for the last year are elsewhere in the magazine. Our thanks to Charles for keeping careful control over the Club's finances.

## THE CHESS PLAYER'S ALICE

You will see from the accounts that sales of *The Chess Player's Alice* by our late President Ivor Davies have been boosted by 2021 being the 150th anniversary of the publication of *Through the Looking-Glass and what Alice Found There*. There are very few copies of this booklet left, so if any member hasn't got one now is the time to buy a copy as I cannot imagine we will reprint it.

## NEWS OF MEMBERS

Michael Hall and Charles Mason have taken out Life Membership of the Club and join the many who do not have to remember annual subscriptions.

David Boddy has contributed an update on his recent life-changes. If any other member wishes to write a few words about themselves and send me a digital photo, we can include it in a future issue. Over the years we have had Methodists, Baptists, Roman Catholics, United Reformed, and others, along with Anglicans (who have always been numerically the strongest denomination), but I do not believe we have ever had an Orthodox cleric until now.



David writes:

It is good to be playing chess with the Clergy Chess Club again and judging by my attempts I am sorely in need of practice. I am aware that since playing chess last a lot has changed in my life especially my ministry. After 20 years of being a priest with the Church of England I had to admit and accept that things were not right for me and a change was necessary. After speaking with my wife and a friend we decided to explore a move into the Orthodox Church. We both felt at home and after a time of leaving we were chrismated into the Antiochian Orthodox Church, we both valued our time in the Anglican Church but feel this move was right for us and now after several years I was sent to Axios ( selection conference) and in November after 2 years study I was ordained Fr Deacon David by metropolitan Silouan Oner, glory be to God.

## **CCCC ACCOUNTS**

### **Income and Expenditure Account for year ended 31.7.21**

	<u>2020/21</u>	<u>(2019/20)</u>		<u>2020/21</u>	<u>(2019/20)</u>
<u>Income £</u>			<u>Expenditure £</u>		
Subscriptions	99.50	(19.50)	Secretary's Expenses	19.43	(18.71)
Bank Interest	7.54	(8.14)	EFCC Affiliation	21.00	(15.00)
Scheming Mind p'ments	18.00	(21.00)			
Alice book sales	84.29	(2.58)			
Donations	79.50				
			Surplus for year	<u>248.40</u>	<u>(17.51)</u>
	<u>288.83</u>	<u>(51.22)</u>		<u>288.83</u>	<u>(51.22)</u>

### **Balance Sheet as at 31.7.21**

	<u>£</u>
Balances brought forward	1141.61
Add: surplus for year	248.40
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b><u>1390.01</u></b>
<u>Represented by:</u>	
Santander UK plc Business Account	276.76
NS&I Investment Account (Life Membership)	1113.25
	<b><u>1390.01</u></b>

### **Treasurer's Report on the 2020/21 Accounts**

This year's surplus of £248.40 is the largest in my 25 years as CCCC Treasurer. We have gained another Life Membership, sold nearly all the remaining copies of the *Alice* book, and received two donations. I will comment briefly on each of these elements in turn.

Life Memberships obviously boost our accounts, as they are fully credited in the year they are paid, rather than being apportioned over a longer time (I have to keep things simple!). At the end of the financial year we had 3 annual members, and at the time of writing, February 2022, we have just one. You will be pleased if not surprised to know that there is no sub outstanding.

Our publishing venture in November 2017, *The Chess Player's Alice*, has been a financial success. At the year end the surplus was £50.03, and of the print run of 130, there were 9 left. Congratulations to Bruce on his fine judgment, and thank you to all who purchased a copy, or multiple copies.

Both the donations were in connection with the *Alice* book, generous overpayments – one of them very generous!

On the expenditure side, the EFCC affiliation fee has increased by 40%, but this is the first rise since 2010.

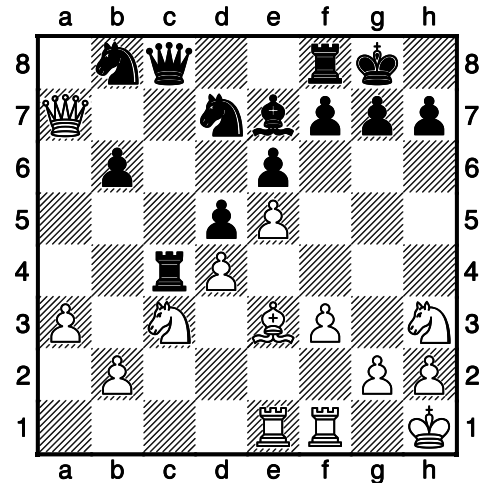
At the end of the financial year 2020/21 the value of the Life Membership Fund stood at £53.01 per Life Member (previous year: £46.42).

**Charles Mason – Hon Treasurer, CCCC**

## Owen's Defence

I often used to play the Ruy Lopez as White and I later learned about Owen's Defence as Black. This seemed to me to be very fitting as Ruy Lopez was a Catholic Priest and John Owen was an Anglican Priest.

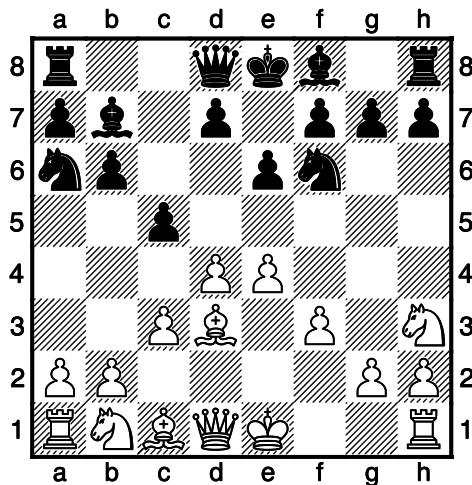
Owen's Defence is b6 which can be played straight away against almost any opening. It is good to be played against those who have done masses of preparation against more regular replies! It is now known as the English Defence.



## Zukertort, Johannes

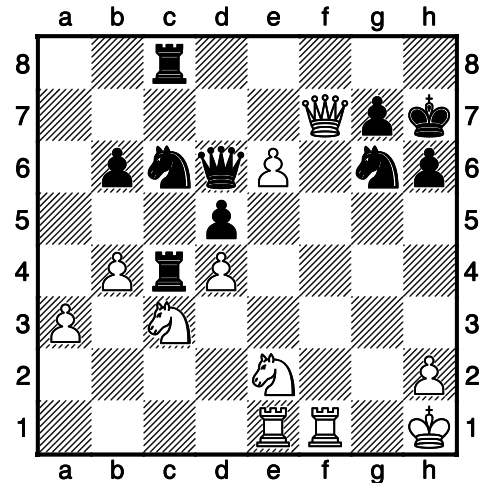
### Hermann – Owen, John

1.e4 b6 2.d4 Bb7 3.Bd3 e6 4.Nh3 Nf6 5.f3 Na6 6.c3 c5



7.0-0 cxd4 8.cxd4 Nb4 9.Be2 Rc8  
10.Nc3 Be7 11.Kh1 0-0 12.a3 Na6  
13.Qa4 Nb8 14.Qxa7 Bc6 15.Bb5  
d5 16.e5 Nfd7 17.Bxc6 Rxc6  
18.Be3 Rc4 19.Rae1 Qc8

20.Qa8 h6 21.Ng1 Rd8 22.Nge2  
Nf8 23.b3 Rc6 24.Qa4 Qd7 25.b4  
Rdc8 26.Qc2 Ng6 27.f4 Nh4 28.g4  
R6c7 29.Qd3 Rc4 30.Bf2 Nc6  
31.Qh3 Ng6 32.f5 exf5 33.gxf5  
Bg5 34.Be3 Bxe3 35.Qxe3 Nh4  
36.e6 fxe6 37.fxe6 Qd6 38.Qf2  
Ng6 39.Qf7+ Kh7



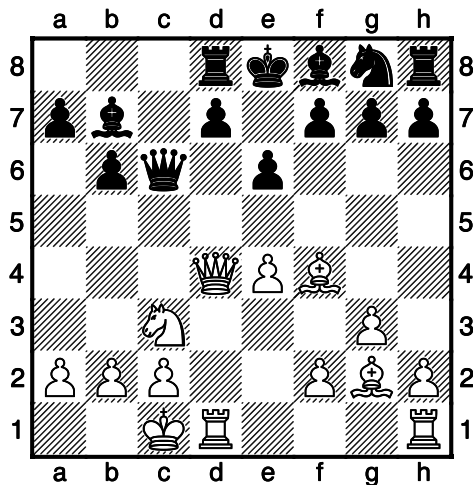
40.Rg1 Nce7 41.Rxg6 Nxg6  
42.Rg1 Qf8 43.Qxg6+ Kh8  
44.Nxd5 Qf3+ 45.Qg2

1-0

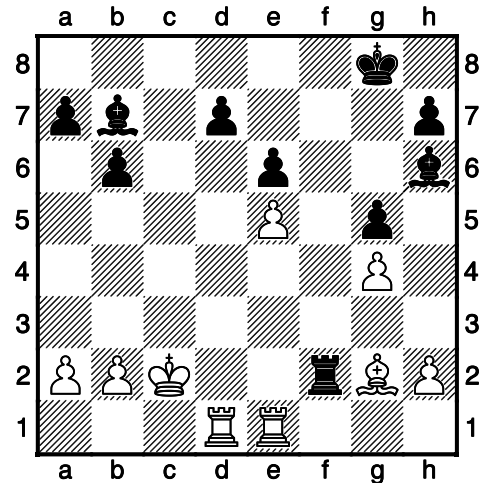
John Owen was Vicar of Hooton Cheshire from 1862 to 1900. There is a short article in the Oxford Companion to Chess. He was a strong player and played in many tournaments in England. He adopted a pseudonym 'Alter'. I believe this was because he didn't want his parishioners to know he played chess, because many Christians thought that chess was sinful!

### Burn, Amos – Owen, John

1.e4 b6 2.g3 Bb7 3.Bg2 c5 4.Ne2 Nc6 5.d4 cxd4 6.Nxd4 Nxd4 7.Qxd4 Qc7 8.Nc3 e6 9.Bf4 Qc6 10.0-0-0 Rd8



11.Rhe1 f6 12.Nd5 Rc8 13.Qd2 g5 14.Nxf6+ Nxf6 15.Be5 Bh6 16.g4 0-0 17.Bxf6 Rxf6 18.e5 Qxc2+ 19.Qxc2 Rxc2+ 20.Kxc2 Rxf2+

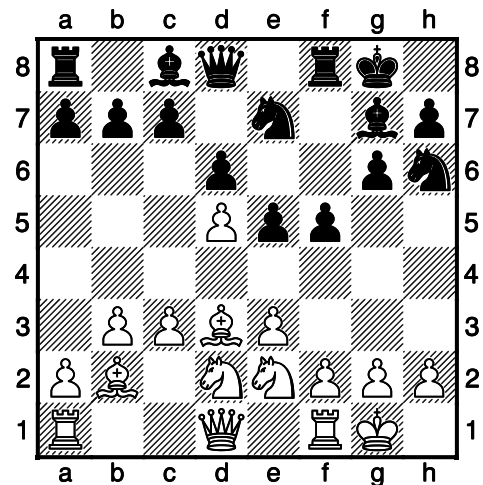


21.Kc1 Bxg2 22.Rxd7 Rf4 23.Red1 Rc4+ 24.Kb1 Bf3

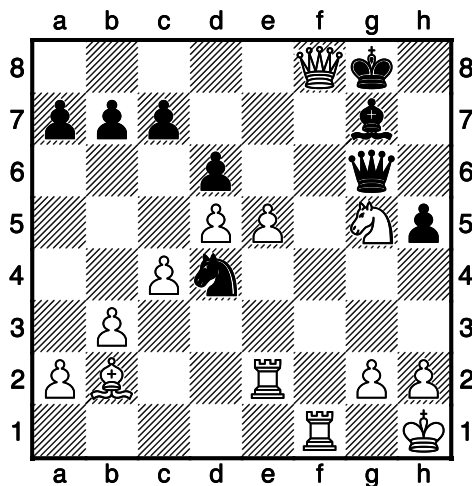
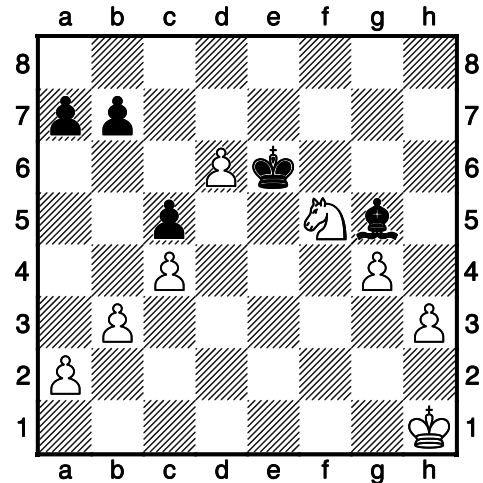
0-1

### Owen, John – Blackburne, Joseph Henry BCA-03.Challenge Cup London, 1870

1.b3 e5 2.Bb2 f6 3.e3 Nh6 4.d4 d6 5.Bd3 Nc6 6.c3 g6 7.Ne2 Bg7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Nd2 f5 10.d5 Ne7



11.c4 Nf7 12.Bc2 g5 13.Ng3 Nh6  
 14.Qh5 Ng6 15.Nf3 g4 16.Ng5  
 Qe7 17.f3 Rf6 18.fxg4 f4 19.Nf5  
 Qf8 20.exf4 Bxf5 21.Bxf5 Rxf5  
 22.gxf5 Qxf5 23.fxe5 Nf4 24.Qh4  
 Ne2+ 25.Kh1 Qg6 26.Rae1 Nf5  
 27.Qg4 Rf8 28.Rxe2 h5 29.Qf4  
 Nd4 30.Qxf8+



30...Bxf8 31.Ref2 Be7 32.exd6  
 Qxd6 33.Nf7 Qb6 34.Bxd4 Qxd4  
 35.Nh6+ Kh8 36.Rf7 Bg5 37.Nf5  
 Qd3 38.Ng7 h4 39.Ne6 Bh6  
 40.R7f3 Qe2 41.h3 c6 42.Nd4 Qe4  
 43.Nf5 Bd2 44.d6 Qe6 45.Nxh4  
 Bg5 46.Rf8+ Kg7 47.R1f7+ Qxf7  
 48.Rxf7+ Kxf7 49.Nf5 Ke6 50.g4  
 c5

51.Kg2 Ke5 52.Kf3 a6 53.h4 Bd8  
 54.h5 b5 55.a4 bxc4 56.bxc4 a5  
 57.h6 Ke6 58.Kf4 Bf6 59.g5 Bb2  
 60.g6 Bf6 61.h7 Be5+ 62.Ke4

1-0

Forgive the gaps. I need to make sure that the diagrams are not split.

As a postscript which has nothing to do with John Owen! I have been thinking for some time of publishing a chess book - My Hundred Worst Chess Games.

It would be a best seller. Hundreds of people would queue up to buy it and read it and say:

Thank goodness there is someone out there who is an even worse chess player than I am!!

## CLERGY CORRESPONDENCE CHESS CLUB RESULTS 2021 / 2022

<b>Division 1</b>	H	Y	N	W	C	Total	%
Hulme							
Yates					1 1*		
Nye					1 0		
Williamson					1 1*		
Carlin		0 0	0 1	0 0			
<b>Division 2A</b>	P	T	H				
Partridge							
Thistlewood			0 0				
Hall		1 1*					
<b>Division 2B</b>	C	D	B				
Cleaves		0 ½*	1* 1				
Druce	1* ½						
Boddy	0 0						

\* indicates a game won or drawn with the Black pieces.

Not many results in at this stage, which is only to be expected in February.

All games should be underway by now even if you are taking advantage of the staggered start for those playing online.

Please let me have your results as they come in.

I will continue to post results on our Facebook page as I receive them so that you all know what is happening in your Division.






# CLERGY CORRESPONDENCE CHESS CLUB

Affiliated to the English Federation for Correspondence Chess  
and the Welsh Correspondence Chess Federation

[www.efcchess.org.uk/cccc](http://www.efcchess.org.uk/cccc)  
(then select CCCC from Member organisations)



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## Life Members

Wilf Alexander	Ruggles Fisher	John Loxton	Peter Turnbull
Lisa Battye	Antony Foster	Charles Mason	Paul Waterfield
David Boddy	Jeremy Garton	David Nye	Steve Whitmore
David Brown	Michael Hall	Tim Partridge	Michael Williamson
Bruce Carlin	David Hulme	Brian Stevenson	Andrew Yates
Richard Cleaves	Matthew Joy	Michael Thistlewood	

## Subscriptions

Life membership £ 80.00  
Annual membership £ 6.50

Current Membership Year : October 2021 to September 2022

Payments can be made to CCCC by BACS Account Name: Clergy Correspondence Chess Club  
Bank: Santander plc Sort Code: 09-01-56 Account No: 12314006

If you make payments by this method, please use your name as a reference so that our Treasurer can identify the payment, and email him to let him know it's coming and what it's for (eg subs, Scheming Mind, book purchase, etc). Alternatively you could include the purpose of the payment in the reference.

The Secretary holds members' name, address, phone number, and email addresses where provided, their CCCC division, and membership of any team, and the Treasurer holds members' subscription records.