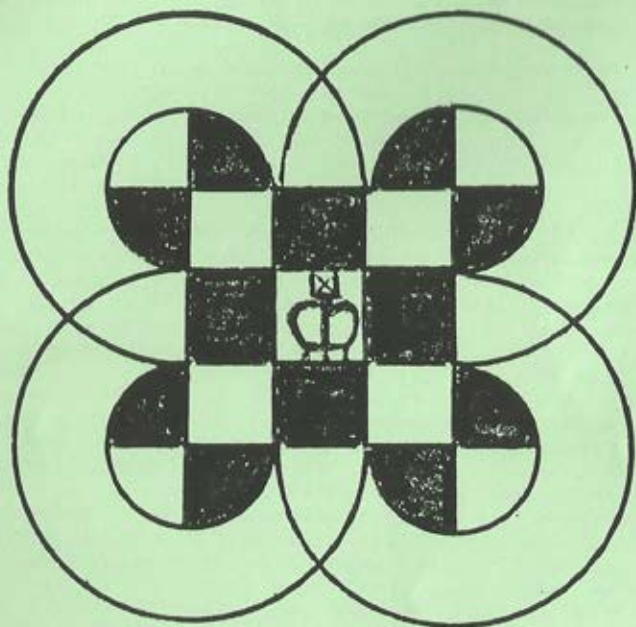


CLERGY CORRESPONDENCE CHESS CLUB

Affiliated to British Postal Chess Federation



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JANUARY 1987

MISCELLANY

Here, as promised, is the new issue of the CCCC magazine. This page is by way of general notes and comments. Elsewhere in the magazine you can read of how we are getting on in our match against NCCC, more about the forthcoming chess congress, an article from our President on the history of the club, and a few games to look over and consider.

Thank you to those who have sent in games, but PLEASE will more of you do so. I have again had to include two of my own to fill up space. I don't want this magazine to turn into "Carlin's 100 best games", not least because I haven't played 100 that would qualify for that title! Do send in your games, preferably in algebraic notation and with analysis and a diagram of a key point in the game.

You will gather from the above that I am still promoting algebraic notation. I know some of you still aren't convinced, but it is supposed to be the international standard. The BBC uses it exclusively, and so do most magazines now. With the retirement of B.H.Wood from his column at the end of last year, even the Daily Telegraph has now gone over to algebraic notation!!'

Very few results have come in from our current internal season as it has only been running three months, but do let me know when you finish games, with the result and whether you were white or black. In Division 2A Hodgess Roper and Morris have won one each. In Division 3A Lewis has withdrawn and so forfeited all his games. In my own Division 2B (probably because I am regularly in touch) I have quite a few results: Mackenzie has 2 against Carlin, 1 against Sutcliffe, and a draw against Hurt. Hurt also has a draw against Carlin and a win against Mackenzie. Geddes has two wins, one v. Carlin, one v. Mackenzie. Sutcliffe has 2 wins, one each against Hurt & Mackenzie. Keep your results coming in...

Finally, since we are now producing a regular magazine, why not accept adverts? I am suggesting that members may place adverts if they wish, and am kicking it off with two of my own in this issue. Classified lineage type would cost £1 for up to 10 lines, or a whole page is available for just £3 per issue. The money of course goes to CCCC funds to help keep subscriptions down. Let me know if there is anything you wish to advertise.

The next issue should be out late June / early July, shortly before our congress.

Bruce Carlin.

LOXTON (white) v CULLEN

John Loxton has submitted this game from Division 3 in the CCCC 1985/6 season. A sacrifice which pays off. The notes are his.

1	c4	e5
2	Nc3	Nf6
3	b3	g6
4	Bb2	Bg7
5	d3	Nc6
6	e3	d6
7	g3	b6
8	Bg2	Bb7

Double fianchetto on both sides.

9 Ne2 Qc8?

Surely Qe7 is less restrictive?

10 0-0 Ne7

11 e4 Ng4?

12 Bh3! ...

effectively pinning Knight as Queen has nowhere to go.

... f5

13 d4 0-0

too defensive. exd4 was better as white's reply shows.

14 d5 ...

which was ensure the eventual posting of a white Knight at e6.

... Qe8

15 Nb5 Qd7

16 Nf4 ...

White judged that the sacrifice was worth it, both to open up the diagonal and reach e6.

... exf4

17 Bxg7 Kxg7

18 Nd4 Kg8

19 Ne6 Rf6

20 exf5 gx f5

Not Nxf5, or Bxg4 follows.

21 f3 Ne3

Black is tempted forward. He should have gone back.

22 Qd4! Rf7

23 Rf2 Ne3xd5

Black does the best he can with his doomed Knight.

24 cxd5 fxg3

25 Rg2 Ng6

26 Rvg3 Re8

leaving this position



27 Re1 c6

28 Qd3 ...

preparatory to moving across to King's side as well as threatening f5.

... Kh8

29 f4 Rf6

30 Bxf5 Qf7

31 Qc3! c5

cx d5 would open up new dangers, and Bxd5 is now possible with control of the diagonal.

32 Kf2 ...

reduces the threat and could enable Rg1

... Rg8

33 Bxg6 ...

The final assault begins

... Rgxg6

34 Rxg6 hxg6

35 Ng5 ...

The Knight finally moves from e6, opening up the e file as well as threatening the Queen, and Black resigns.

THE CONGRESS

Our first ever residential chess congress is definitely on from Monday to Thursday July 13th - 16th this year. We now have 17 bookings from CCCC members. Additionally one member has asked if he can bring his wife as a non-playing resident. I see no reason why others should not do the same if they wish, subject of course to space remaining. Ecton House holds about 25, so if anyone else wishes to join us they must get in contact soon or we will have filled up. We need a £5 deposit with your booking, deductable from the final cost of about £40.

The exact format is yet to be decided, but I envisage it running roughly on Swiss system lines, possibly in two halves to produce a 'Grand Final'. We will assemble before supper on Monday and have our first round that evening, then on Tuesday & Wednesday have 3 rounds each day, culminating with our final on Thursday morning before departure after lunch. There will have to be fairly strict time controls on the games to get enough sessions in, which could be one way of evening up the strength of our players. Those attending the congress will be hearing from me nearer the time with final details, but if any others wish to book, get in touch now. - B.C.

NEWS FROM THE BPCF

John Gowing has kindly offered to act as our representative to the British Postal Chess Federation, and in November the CCCC was represented at a BPCF Executive Committee for the first time in ages (or ever?).

He has written to tell me that there were a few matters of interest to the CCCC discussed, not least proposed increases in affiliation fees, apparently necessary to keep the BPCF on an even financial keel. No doubt our treasurer will be hearing more about this...

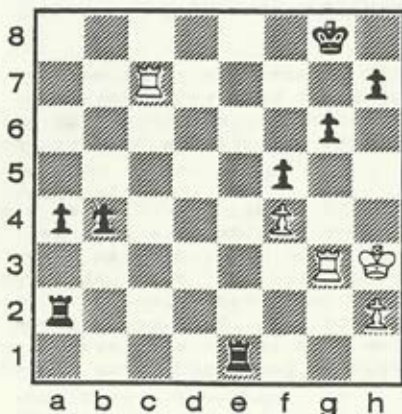
There are suggested changes in the rules of BPCF games being looked at by a committee. One matter of considerable interest to us was a report from the ICCF which included an item on defaulters. It seems that their opinion is that ALL games involving a player who has defaulted (presumably including those already completed) be declared null and void. This could prove to be the fairest solution to a problem that afflicts us every year, and your secretary would be delighted to hear your views on this one.

Our grateful thanks to John for representing the CCCC on this committee. It is good that we are no longer merely a standing apology.

WILLINGHAM (white) v CARLIN

This end game study is from our current match against the NCCC. It gave me considerable cause for concern as I saw an apparently won position nearly ending in disaster by being cornered into a draw or worse still check mated. Many of my opponent's moves that follow gave me food for several hours thought! Fortunately, apparently so did some of my replies! Not wishing to over-expose myself in this magazine, I asked my opponent, Steve Willingham of the NCCC to annotate it instead. My grateful thanks to him for what follows, as well as for two interesting games.

Steve begins by admitting that he has made a number of mistakes in the early/middle game, leaving the position after black's 38th move (a4) as:



Black has 3 extra pawns, including the dangerous looking ones on a4 & b4, but...

39 R d3 ... threatens mate, forcing
... Re8
40 R d4 ... threatens b4 whilst maintaining the threat of mate, but black simply moves it forward, the a-pawn being already defended.
... b3
41 R a7? ... Ineffective as black simply moves the a-pawn, both now one step closer to their ultimate goal. R d d7 would be better, keeping pressure on black's king.

... a3
42 R d d7 Re3+!
43 K h4 ... is forced, as is the next move after
... R x h2+
44 K g5 Re8
Black has to do this. If he checks again it leaves him at a disadvantage. R g3+ would have lost, while R g2+ forces white's King nearer to his, stifling it.
45 R g7+ ... K f6 would have been better, because after this it becomes academic.
... K h8
46 K f6 R f8+
White resigns.

Black's 46th move was the only move to prevent white winning. I spent hours one morning working out all the other possibilities. An entertaining game which I enjoyed, though I didn't win. - S.W.

CARLIN (white) v STEWART

Another endgame study, from last season's CCCC. This time a won position that I did let go! By the time we join the game I had already lost momentum and allowed black's a-pawn to become far more dangerous than I should have done. Despite my material advantage, I was in trouble. The position after black's 37th move (a3) is:



White is two pawns up, and black's pawns are unconnected, but the black pawn on a3 is more than sufficient compensation. As can quickly be seen black can force a draw by repetition in this position, the only way white can avoid it being to sacrifice his rook!

At the time I believed (wrongly as it turned out) that Paddy Stewart was my main threat in Division 3D and, having lost one game against him already, concluded that as far as winning the division was concerned, half a point was no better than no points at all. That was the sole

reason for my taking the gamble which in the event didn't work. Paddy reckoned I could have won and promised to send analysis to support this, but before doing so he was sent out to Nicaragua by his Church. I clearly can't offer any worthwhile commentary since if I knew how I could have won I would have done so!!! I offer this endgame then as a sort of competition. If anyone would care to send any alternative scenario, giving white a victory I will happily publish it in the next CCCC magazine. Begin, as I do now, from the diagram.

38 Ra6 Kb2
39 Rb6+ Kc2
40 Ra6 Kb2

and this can be repeated for a draw. But I decide to have a go. If I can make my advantage 3 pawns, can my four connected King's side pawns beat a Rook?

41 Rxf6 Rxb7
42 Ra6 Rb3
43 Kg2 a2

So here goes...

44 Rxa2+ Kxa2
45 f4 Ka3
46 Kh3 Kb4
47 e5 Kc5
48 e6 Kd6
49 f5 Rb8
50 Kg4 Ke5
51 Kg5 Rg8+
52 Kh6 Kxf5
53 Kxh7 Re8
54 h4 Rxe6

White resigns. With only two pawns left, and my King stranded and unable to support them, there is nothing to stop black clearing up. As I say, Paddy insisted that he reckoned it could be done. I have even tried it out on my computer to no avail (but then computers are notoriously bad at endgames!). Would anyone like to show me how I might have won? - B.C.

ORIGINS OF THE C.C.C.C.

A twentieth birthday article from our President and Founder.

The origins of the Clergy Correspondence Chess Club are lost in the mists of antiquity. I recall that the idea of a clerical club, to match the chess societies of other professions, occurred to me in my study at the Rectory of Talybont-on-Usk. Talybont was the parish of Henry Vaughan the metaphysical poet, and his brother Thomas was the incumbent and a practising alchemist, but I do not suppose these connections are strictly relevant. Nor, for that matter, is the fact that I had recently painted the walls of my study purple. Anyway, having thought up the notion I inserted an advertisement in the 'Church Times' and sat back to await replies.

The first competition attracted some six entries and play began in the autumn of 1967. It was won by Kenneth Procter, our first President and until recently our senior member. The prize in the early days was often a book purchased by the winner himself and suitably inscribed by the President. Among my treasured possessions is an early edition of Howard Staunton's 'Chess Player's Handbook' bearing Kenneth's autograph and commemorating the only time I won, or am ever likely to win, our premier award. The advent of Eric Bailey brought with it a more glittering prize in the shape of the Bailey Shield which now, I hope, graces Ruggles Fisher's mantlepiece at Oakham.

It would be invidious to single out names among those distinguished clerics of several denominations who have won the trophy. But the snowballing growth of our club over the past twenty years has depended as much on the administrators as on the players. Tim Partridge was the enthusiastic Secretary who built up the organization in the middle years, aided always by Gordon Geddes who is still our Treasurer. Under Bruce Carlin's energetic regime the Club has really begun to fulfil the muddled aspirations of its founder. Nor should we forget Leslie Clifton Joy, who as President lent an air of canonical authority to our fellowship in days that badly needed it.

Our twentieth birthday will be celebrated by our first Congress. I look forward to the time, not far off now, when the C.C.C.C. is accepted among those mildly eccentric but greatly loved Church societies whose names are listed in the back pages of clerical diaries and ecclesiastical yearbooks.

Ivor Davies.

In the next issue we will publish a full list of all winners of the C.C.C.C. through our twenty years' existence - Ed.

FRENCH (white) v MASON

Charles Mason has submitted this one, but it is NOT his. The Mason in question is his father, Oliver, and the commentary is his. It is a correspondence game, dating from 1980, and hinges on a crucial Bishop on a3. Black's 27th move took his opponent completely by surprise, the reply being a resignation with the comment "a bolt out of a clear blue sky!"

1	e4	b6
2	d4	e6
3	c4	d5
4	exd5	exd5
5	Nf3	Nf6
6	Nc3	Bb7
7	Bg5	Be7
8	Qc2	dxc4
9	O-O-O	...

This move is proved unsound by subsequent events.

...	O-O
10	Bxc4 Bxf3

It is usually better not to exchange the fianchettoed Bishop. In this case, although white's pawn on f2 is weak, the g-file is opened up for his Rook. Perhaps better was

10	... Nc6 etc.
11	gxf3 Nc6
12	Ne2 Nb4
13	Qf5 Ne8
14	Bf4 ...

Otherwise ... Nd6 wins a piece.

...	Nd6
15	Bxd6 Qxd6
16	Rhg1 Qc6
17	b3? ...

Qg4 was preferable.

...	a6
18	Kb1 b5
19	Bd3 Nxd3
20	Rxd3 Ba3!



The Bishop settles down on a3 for the rest of the game and quietly wins it for black.

21	Nf4	Rae8
22	Nh5	Kh8
23	Rd2	...

Not 23 Nxc7 because of ... Re2. Still less 23 Rxc7 because of ... Re1+ and mate next move.

...	Re7
24	Rc2 Qd6
25	d5 f6
26	Rc6 Qxh2
27	Rf1 Re1+!

White resigns.

If 28 Rxe1 Qxf2

If 28 Kc2 Rxf1

If 28 Rc1 Qxf2
 29 Qc2 Qxf1
 (29 Rxf2 Rxc1 mate)
 (29 Rf(orc)xel Qb2 mate)

If 27 Qg4 Rf7

28 Rf1 Qe5!

MATCH AGAINST NCCC

Our current match is drawing to a close. Remember team members, the adjudication date is 31st January. If you can possibly finish your games and let me have the results by then please do so, otherwise they must be sent in for adjudication. After our drubbing last year by the BCCA I am pleased to say we are doing much better in this match. The results so far in are given below (CCCC names on left; NR=no result yet) and you will see that we have already amassed 15 points. This means that we need just HALF A POINT from the remaining games to ensure us victory. Well done to everyone who has taken part.

CCCC V NCCC : results at 6/1/87

Fisher	11 v 00	Ashford
Stevenson	11 v 00	Flay
Davies	11 v 00	Collins
Mackenzie	11 v 00	Greenwood
Hodgess-Roper	11 v 00	Upton
Lewis	NR v NR	Ainsworth
Taylor	NR v NR	Collins
Hurt	NR v NR	Saul
Morris	11 v 00	Wallace
Loxton	10 v 01	James
Gowing	00 v 11	Wilkinson
Smith	NR v NR	Andrews
Carlin	11 v 00	Willingham
Stewart	00 v 11	Taylor
McIntyre	NR v NR	Goide

I am hoping to arrange another match against another club soon after this one finishes. I will assume that all in our present team are willing to play unless they tell me they are not by 31st January. Also, other members who would like to play tell me by the same date.

... and FINALLY

In the first issue last October I raised the question of a title for the magazine, something which 'Church Times' picked up. Our President, Ivor Davies responded as follows...

I think that "King of Kings" might offend the more strait-laced among our members, if such exist, or more likely those outside.

"Bishop's Move" would be all right had this not already been appropriated by Mr. Bishop the furniture remover.

"Bishop's Gambit" might do. I do not think it would be mistaken for an analysis of a particular antique opening. The only objection I can see is that few of the members I have encountered seem likely to be destined for episcopal orders.

So what about "Parson's Gambit"? On the twin analogies of Bishop's Gambit and Parson's Pleasure.

What do our members think? Bearing in mind that we are ecumenical, perhaps references to Bishops are inappropriate, despite the obvious attraction... A title on our next front cover in July is a possibility if people respond with suggestions!

ADVERTISEMENT

CHESS COMPUTER FOR SALE. Great Game Machine with Morphy game cartridge (interchangeable). Surplus to requirement simply because I now play chess on my BBC computer. Was one of the best available in its day and cost over £200 new. For sale at £50. Contact Bruce Carlin (0642) 674737.
