

# CHESS minister !



January 1989

Greetings, and a Happy New Year to all our members.

If this magazine is a little later into January than you might have expected, I can only apologize, but the last quarter of last year was a rather difficult time for me personally, and I am only just beginning to get sorted out. However, the CCCC must go on, but perhaps this gives added impetus to the suggestion of a formally constituted committee which has been made by our President Ivor Davies. There is more on this elsewhere in the magazine.

Since the last issue of Chess Minister! we welcome Norman Davies and Leslie Clifton Joy as new Life Members. Many annual members have subs owing from several years back, and it would help us if you could catch up. Alternatively, subscribe for Life and never owe a sub again!

Not many results are in yet from our internal championship, but there is plenty of time. Results are wanted please from the match against the Scottish CCA. This is supposed to end at the end of January and a lot of results are outstanding. Also please may I have volunteers for our next match to start in February against the Civil Service Chess Association. They in particular should appreciate our magazine title! Later in the year I shall be appealing for a really top team from our membership to enter a BPCF Clubs championship due to start in autumn. This is worth £200 to the winning club, so please Division 1 and 2 members, come out fighting!

We have received mentions in the UK Christian Handbook (Marc Europe) published last autumn, and also the 1989 edition of the Parson's Pocket Book has listed us. Also, a profile of the club was published by the British Postal Chess Federation in their Information Circular. All this can only be good for us and hopefully in due course increase our membership, but as with any evangelism, personal contact is always best, so do mention us to your chess playing friends.

Our thanks to John Wright of Exeter who has agreed to represent CCCC on BPCF Executive Committee. Anything he reports back that is worthy of note will of course be printed in these pages.

Would members be interested in CCCC sweatshirts? These would be white, and bear the logo from the front of our magazine. We have a local YTS workshop that would print them (they have done them for our church) and would cost £8 each, including postage. Sizes Small, Medium, Large, Extra Large. If you would like one, send me a cheque (it will be easier if you pay the cheque to W.P.B. Carlin then I am not forwarding them back and forward to the treasurer) for £8 before the end of February and we will get them printed. Don't forget to say which size you want. Depending on how many are ordered there may be a little money left over for club funds.

Finally, is there anyone among our members who reads Norwegian? I have received a couple of magazines from the Norwegian Postal Chess club secretary (he asked for ours in return). Anyone should be able to follow the games as they are in algebraic notation (though a little detective work is required to work out the initial letters of the pieces!), but if anyone can also read the articles I would be happy to send the magazines along. Just let me know.

The next issue of Chess Minister is due in July, by which time I hope to have most of the results from our current internal season please.

With best wishes to you all.

Bruce Carlin

CLERGY CORRESPONDENCE CHESS CLUB : PROPOSED COMMITTEE

Our President, Ivor Davies, has put forward a suggestion that we should perhaps have a more formally constituted committee for running the CCCC. At present decisions are basically taken by the President, Treasurer, and Secretary in consultation, but a lot of the day to day running of the club is done by one of these Officers in isolation. Were something to happen to one of us (and of course we in particular should be aware that one never knows the day or the hour...) there might be a hiatus in the running of the club while duties were taken over. It is suggested that we should consider a committee of 5 - the present 3 Officers plus two others, one of whom might be chairman. Although theoretically possible, it is doubtful that this committee would meet in the flesh as its members will doubtless be geographically scattered around the country. It would meet, like we play chess, by post or phone, but hopefully would gradually lead us towards a more democratic constitutional status that might be advantageous to the Club in future, and might provide for more efficient delegation of duties were some tragedy to overtake one of our current Officers.

Though he suggests I might 'put it more tactfully' (thus showing how little he knows his Secretary who is tactlessness personified!) I cannot resist quoting Ivor's proposals verbatim:

I think the idea of a Committee of 5 is worth following up. I do not feel we should ask the membership whether they actually want a committee - this would be unAnglican. Nor do I envisage a free-for-all election - this would be unapostolic, which is worse still.

I cannot imagine anybody else doing the jobs that Bruce and Gordon do anything like as well. So I suggest the re-election of the existing committee (as PCCs get returned en bloc at annual vestries) plus the addition of 2 extra members. These latter might be hand-picked and invited to stand. In other words the membership would be voting for a caucus.

Of course, as the Club becomes established there will be genuinely free elections (cf. Mr. Gorbachev) on a triennial basis.

I suppose Presidents are not elected! They stay in office until overtaken by senility when they either have the decency to retire or are invited politely to become Honorary Life Vice-Presidents.

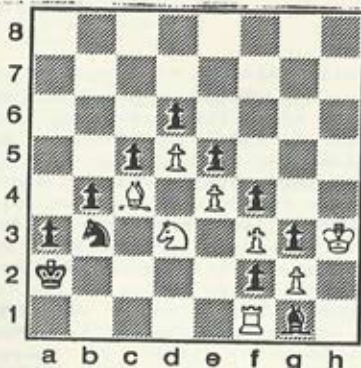
So this is the proposal set before us. Please do react to this suggestion and let us know what you think. A formal constitution would be an obvious next step along the road and this could be the first task of our new committee if appointed / elected.

Although gratified by Ivor's evident satisfaction with my work as Secretary, I am conscious that I have been Secretary for about 8 years now. Whilst I am not anxious to give up the job, neither do I want to be the proverbial 'cork in the bottle' (as clergy are so often accused of being) keeping down potential talent that could otherwise be used. If there is anyone among our membership who feels they would like a chance to be secretary / newsletter editor (the two jobs could even be separated I suppose) I would be pleased to hear from them and would not wish to stand in their way.

### CHESS COMPUTERY CHESS PROBLEM

The following is submitted by John Wright (Div. 2B).

I know that several of our members have chess computers and probably enjoy using them to solve problems. There appears to be a difference of approach between chess players and chess computers. On more than one occasion I have used the obvious basic difference in sermons as an illustration of the Doctrine of Free Will!!! Consider the following problem which was composed by Sejumov in 1873.



White to play and mate in 8.

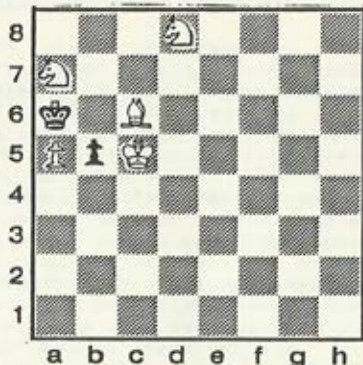
The chess player would see quite quickly that with the white King on a4, white mates by BxNb3. He would then realize that black cannot prevent white obtaining that position because black is restricted to moving his Bishop one square, and therefore the key is 1 Kg4. In fact the white King can be placed anywhere in the top half of the board. Most chess players would regard the problem as rather obvious.

The computer on the other hand finds the problem very difficult. Less powerful models will fail to solve it because of the number of moves needed to march the white king from h3 to a4. The computer finds it necessary to analyse the position after each move of the white King. It is interesting to set up

the problem with the white King on b5, c6, d7, e6, f5 and compare the time taken by the computer to solve it.

There is another interesting point about this problem. It was composed in such a way that it represented an incident in the Russian Turkish war with a long march of the Russian commander represented by the long march of the white King. The technical interest of the problem was not an important factor in its composition!

Now try this curious problem by Massman:



White to play and mate in 4.

Your chess computer should decide very quickly that there is no solution. But there is. It is a rare problem with an en passant key: 1 axb5 (ep). That in itself should not fox the better computers, but the real point is that the problem involves retrospective analysis. A few minutes thought shows that black's last move MUST have been b5. The problem was set in a problem solving competition and afterwards its legality was questioned. The British Chess Problem Society confirmed that it was perfectly legal and quoted another problem with retrospective analysis several moves deep. I do not know of a home chess computer that is programmed to cope with this!

### JAMES CAPEL SPEED CHESS CHALLENGE

One of the advantages of our joining the English Chess Association as a corporate member is that we receive invitations to attend (as spectators not players) events sponsored by the ECA. I will send on these invitations to members who live near the event in question, but if you would like to receive future invitations, do let me know. The first invitation was to the James Capel Speed Chess Challenge. Since it was Charles Mason who started this all in motion when he attended the WFW tournament last summer, it seemed reasonable that he should receive our ticket. He has kindly sent us the following report:

The Speed Chess Challenge is an 8-player knockout championship, staged for Thames TV and to be shown in 7 45 minute weekly programmes beginning on Thursday 19th January. The field consists of Jon Speelman, Nigel Short, John Nunn, Murray Chandler, Jonathan Mestel, Michael Adams, Matthew Sadler, Cathy Forbes. Commentators were Ray Keene and Larry Evans.

The openings and final time scramble were so fast that it was quite impossible to record the games, and Keene said that the scores would not be available until after the screening, if at all. For the same reason I suppose I shouldn't divulge any results, but suffice to say I saw two tremendously exciting matches, both resulting in draws which then required a 5 minute play-off! The commentary really made it. Often Keene and Evans guessed right ("he's made my move!"), and when one player miraculously scraped a draw from an apparently lost position, Ray declared "this proves there is life after death!" (sermon fodder?)

I came away in no doubt that TV rules. Speed chess owes its existence to TV and there was much adjusting of lights, shifting of cameras, and even a restart when a monitor failed to operate ... And Ray Keene saying "Good evening. Last week we saw..." when actually it was half an hour ago!

I don't know how or when I shall hear who won. I was not able to stay for the final, and I haven't got a television. Perhaps the columns of the Times will be the best bet.

Thank you to Charles for the above. I gather that this tournament is going to be screened in most ITV regions. However, the 'Thursday evening' has apparently become the early hours of Friday morning. The ITV companies evidently feel that most chess players are insomniacs! Keep your eyes open in TV Times or your newspaper for details of screening in your area, and if you have a video recorder you can also have a good night's sleep and watch it at leisure the next day! I prefer to video chess games anyway as I can then watch them at slower speed, pausing the recorder to take in the position in more detail before the commentator rushes on to the next move.

### MATCH NEWS

Our match against the Scottish CCA is finely poised at the time of writing as we are exactly level with 11 points each (15.5 needed to win). The match is supposed to be completed at the end of January, so I would be grateful if I could have results as soon as possible (I think we can allow a couple of weeks leeway to make up for last September's postal strike). I need results from Loxton, Hulme, Bailey, Carlin, Gowing, Bickerstaff please. Full results in July issue.

Also, please can I have volunteers for another team of 15 boards to take on the Civil Service Chess Association, beginning next month. Please let me know by the end of January if you are willing to play.

# WINNING CHESS FOR CHAMPIONS

## MODERN ART OF ATTACK



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Takes up where Vukovic's classic 'The Art of Attack' left off with a complete analysis of attacking play in modern chess. All the basic themes such as attacking the castled king, castling on opposite sides and counterattack are given chapters. Concludes with a look at the styles of the post-war greats, Tal, Fischer and Kasparov.  
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### ESSENTIAL CHESS ENDINGS EXPLAINED MOVE BY MOVE - J Silman

Designed to make the study of the endings less tedious than is normally the case. The author steers clear of overly complex and lengthy examples, concentrating instead on the basic motifs and guidelines common to each type of endgame.  
S A 188pp 1988 \*\*/\*\*\* £9.95

### HOW TO PLAY THE SICILIAN DEFENSE AGAINST ALL WHITE POSSIBILITIES - X Smith, A. Soltis

A repertoire book for black which recommends the Lowenthal (4...e5;) variation as the main line. All possible white divergences are dealt with in the early chapters. A must for anyone looking for an active defence for black!  
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### WINNING WITH 1.d4 - A Soltis

Kasparov's reign as World Champion marks the first time, for many years, that a confirmed 1.d4 player has been the world's No.1. But d pawn openings have become much more complex and aggressive (witness Kasparov's games!) since the era of Botvinnik and Petrosian. Here GM Soltis provides the tournament player with all the ammunition required to win with 1.d4.  
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A complete repertoire for the first player against all possible replies to 1.e4. Separate chapters on all black's major replies ranging from 1...e5; to 1...b6. GM Andrew Soltis has selected an active line of play for white in all cases; designed to maintain an initiative well into the middlegame. Open 1.e4 with confidence!  
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### A COMPLETE BLACK REPERTOIRE - J Silman

A recipe for the second player with which to combat all white's opening possibilities. Includes: French Defence, Queen Pawn Openings, English Opening, Flank Openings.  
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### WINNING WITH THE ENGLISH OPENING - A Soltis

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A COMPLETE OPENING SYSTEM  
ANDREW SOLTIS

**A BLACK DEFENSIVE SYSTEM FOR THE REST OF YOUR CHESS CAREER - A Soltis**  
Soltis aims to develop a cohesive system of opening play for black against all white's first moves. The emphasis throughout is on understanding black's play as an organic whole rather than as multiple pigeonholed defences. Based around the ...c6, ...d5 Caro/Slav set-up.

S A 188pp 1987 \*\*\* £9.55

**WINNING WITH THE COLLE SYSTEM - K Smith, J Hall**

Whilst bearing the name of one of the game's great attackers, the Colle has always been a neglected opening. Yet white's straightforward plan of development followed by a kingside attack has brought him many spectacular victories. The author is confident that there is no way for black to achieve a completely equal game. SA 234pp 1987 \*\*/\*\*\* £10.70

**THE POLISH DEFENSE - T Kapitanik**

1.d4/Nf3 b5! Strange looking perhaps but the Polish has gained respectability the hard way! With a 50% score from the games Petrosian-Spassky and Karpov-Miles one can hardly doubt the credibility of the system. Kapitanik presents the historical origins of the defense and a survey of current theory 25 annotated. Illustrative games provide a picture of the opening in practical play.

S A 60pp 1988 \*\* \*\*\* £5.45



**MY 60 MEMORABLE GAMES - R Fischer**

A classic of chess literature. The honesty and lucidity of Fischer's annotations demonstrate not only the depth of his understanding but also give the reader an insight into the psychological pressures present in Grandmaster play. To this day Fischer's masterpiece remains the most sought after game collection in print and no serious chess player can afford to be without it.

S D 384pp 1972 \*\*/\*\*\* £5.70

**THE COMPLETE CHESS ADDICT - M Fox & R James**

How can you guarantee to get at least a draw from Kasparov and Karpov? What was the worst blunder in chess history? Could Frank Bruno have beaten Albert Einstein? The answers to these and hundreds more questions which have puzzled chess lovers the world over are contained in this entertaining and enlightening work. The authors have garnered a cornucopia of bizarre anecdotes, trivia, legends and facts about the royal game. A must for all those who need the occasional wry smile to punctuate their serious chess study!

S A 264pp 1987 \*\* £7.25



**HOW CHESSMASTERS THINK - P Schmidt**

The first english translation of this 1949 classic. The author was a first rank chessplayer who, regrettably, gave up the game to concentrate on his career as a chemist but who, in his time, can claim a drawn match with Keres and a tournament first ahead of Keres, Flohr and Tartakover amongst his achievements. Here Schmidt analyses, in depth, fifteen Grandmaster games and attempts to reconstruct the thought processes which enable the masters to decide between several plausible moves at each turn. A book for those who have mastered the essentials of chess strategy but who are still baffled by the artistry of great players.

S A 128pp 1988 \*\*\* £7.10



#### HOW TO PLAY THE QUEEN'S INDIAN - E Schiller

The Queen's Indian has suffered an unfair reputation as being a drawish, even boring, system. The author believes that this is a rumour spread by the players of the white pieces in an attempt to deter opponents from choosing one of the soundest systems against 1.d4. The book analyses all white's attacking possibilities and also includes complete examples of master games throughout to illustrate the middlegame plans available to both sides. This is currently the only complete work on the Queen's Indian in the English language.

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#### THE MOST INSTRUCTIVE GAMES OF CHESS EVER PLAYED - I Chernev

Chess masters play to win! Fortunately for us their immense knowledge of the game means that their will to win is expressed in the form of masterpieces of the greatest beauty. 62 of these masterpieces are collected here, with deep annotations, to inspire each and every one of us to higher achievements.

S D 280pp 1966 \*\*/\*\* £5.70

#### SEMI-SLAV DEFENSE NON MERAN VARIATIONS - Donaldson/Silman

A defence which has been thoroughly tested, in the past by Botvinnik, Reshevsky and Euwe, yet still remains a favourite of such contemporary GMs as Yusupov and Flear. The great attraction of the Semi-Slav is that it can provide black with a complete answer to 1.d4. The authors recommend the move order 2...e6; and 3...c6; to avoid the lifeless 3.cxd5, exchange system.

S A 184pp 1988 \*\*/\*\* £10.25

#### 500 SICILIAN MINIATURES COLLECTION II - B Wall

A follow up to the best selling original which focuses on the most popular opening in tournament play. The multitude of traps and pitfalls which have been discovered by Grandmasters and woodpushers alike are seemingly infinite in their variety. Light notes, diagrams at critical junctures and a complete player index combine to make this a book of compelling interest.

S A 108pp 1987 \*\*/\*\* £5.45



#### SIMPLE CHESS - M Stean

A deceptive title since most of us find chess a far-from-simple affair! However, Stean brilliantly succeeds in presenting chess strategy in a form which is both entertaining and instructive. His use of finely played and well annotated Grandmaster games to illustrate each concept is, by far, the most effective way in which to demonstrate each concept in action. Contents include: outposts, weak pawns, space, black squares & white squares, open files and the minority attack.

S D 116pp 1978 \*\* £3.70



#### KING'S INDIAN ATTACK - K Smith, J Hall

The flexibility and latent power of the KIA attracts many players who wish to avoid well worn theoretical paths and play creatively from the start. The KIA has always attracted imaginative, attacking players and was a favourite of the late Ukrainian Grandmaster Leonid Stein.

S A 200pp 1988 \*\*/\*\* £9.95

#### STONEWALL ATTACK - A Soltis

In its heyday the Stonewall was used by both attacking players (Marshall, Colle) and also by positional masters such as Capablanca and Maroczy. The rise of the Queen's Gambit saw the Stonewall fall from favour and yet, it's bold but simple attacking formation offer perhaps more winning chances than the Queen's Gambit in tournament conditions.

S A 134pp 1987 \*\*\* £8.95



### RUSSIAN CHESS - B Pandolfini

Renowned chess teacher Bruce Pandolfini has chosen six recent games, featuring the 'Kasparov generation' of Soviet players, to illustrate some important and instructive themes in modern chess. He focuses on light square play, open lines, weak pawns and many other concepts; analysing and discussing every move of each game. The text is interwoven with germane comments from top Soviet GMs ensuring that the reader is presented with a clear picture of the thought processes which decide a top player's moves. S A 220pp 1987 \*\* \*\*\* £5.70

### LOGICAL CHESS: MOVE BY MOVE - I Chernev

How does the chess master deal with the myriad situations which he encounters on the chess board so quickly and efficiently? Is it by merely remembering masses of theory or by calculating every possibility at the board? Hardly! It is his understanding and grasp of position play that enables him to select the best move at every turn. By analysing and discussing, move by move, 33 master games the author unravels the workings of the greatest chess minds and provides a complete treatise on chess. S D 250pp 1958 \*\* £4.70



### AN UNBEATABLE WHITE REPERTOIRE AFTER 1.e4,e5; 2.Nf3. - Evans/Smith

White's unbeatability derives from his greater preparedness in the three and four knights games which form the backbone of his repertoire. Although both of these lines have fallen from popularity, being replaced by the Ruy Lopez, they contain many sharp, little known, variations in which the more knowledgeable player will triumph. (The Belgrade Gambit being one notable example) GM Larry Evans has uncovered some long-buried ideas and added much new material to give real sting to white's play. S A 152pp 1988 \*\*/\*\* £9.50

### THE WORLD CHAMPIONS TEACH CHESS - Estrin/Romanov

A fascinating collection of the writings of 13 World Champions from Steinitz to Kasparov. Each gives us his own insight into chess thinking, psychology and the relation between chess and the world beyond. One cannot fail to be captivated by Spassky's psychological analysis of his crucial game against Fischer at Siegen, 1970 or by the inside story of the two Euwe-Alekhine matches as told by Dr. Euwe. For this English edition there is also a specially written essay by Botvinnik giving his impressions of the first three Kasparov-Karpov matches. S A 208pp 1988 \*\*/\*\* £12.70

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## GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Thank you to those members who have sent in brief biographies of themselves. For once I have too many to include in one issue, but don't worry, they will all be published in due course! Those members who have not yet sent in biographies are encouraged to do so.

WILLIAM LEWIS (Div 3A) writes: I was born among the Welsh coalfields 2 years before WW1. At age 11 I went to Hereford Cathedral school and then Brasenose College Oxford to read Greats and then Theology at Wycliffe Hall. Not being happy with GOE I went to Kenya for 3 years with CMS, teaching English and learning Swahili. Returning by sea at the end of 1939 I was enrolled as a submarine spotter on our voyage through the Mediterranean. I then returned to Wycliffe Hall and was ordained Deacon in Ripon Cathedral on Trinity Sunday 1940, serving as curate in Beeston (Leeds) until 1944. By then I had met my wife at a CMS summer school, and after a short time at Farnley (Leeds) and Boscombe, we returned to Kenya for 17 years, returning to the UK in 1962. I then had two livings in the Church in Wales until I retired on Trinity Sunday 1980, exactly 40 years after my ordination! My father was a correspondence chess player and introduced me to the game at an early age. I still have some of his old cards and books, but have not managed to take much advantage of the latter as I was, and still am, totally incapable of memorising large numbers of variations and lists of moves. I cannot, or will not, play OTB chess, not having the patience to ponder a move at length. I suppose I have a deficiency of the 'Will to Win' which is said to be a sine qua non of the successful chess player. I have some interest in chess problems, but none in chess computers as I prefer to do my own thinking.

JOHN BICKERSTAFF (NPM) writes: I was born in 1910 in Worcestershire, educated at Worksop and the University of Birmingham (History) and did GOE at Queen's College, Birmingham. I was ordained in St. Paul's Cathedral in 1936. In 1939 I had to leave London for Sussex where I have remained ever since. In 1961 I became vicar of Christ Church Brighton where I stayed until retirement at the Biblical reckoning of three score years and ten. The church itself was burnt down in 1978 - the penalty of leaving it open. Since retirement I have been associated with the Good Shepherd, Brighton, but have also done quite a lot of work in old people's homes and wherever wanted. I read quite a lot of ancient history and archaeology and am always looking out for useful material for my stamp collection. I learned chess in 1920, but the oldest player I have ever encountered was a Mr. Elders who still played a fair game at the age of 104, but could not understand why he was not so successful as he had been at 50!

RUGGLES FISHER (NPM) writes: I was born in East Anglia in 1920 and educated at St. John's School, Leatherhead, and Sandhurst. During and after the war I served in the Far East, Middle East, and Germany. I retired from the army in 1958 and studied for ordination at Cranmer Hall, Durham. I served my ministry in Leicester diocese and retired from a group of four rural parishes in 1982, though I am still pretty active locally.

I played chess for many years with the Market Harborough chess club. I appreciate that those of us who are retired have an advantage in the CCCC over those still working as we have more time to ponder moves. Perhaps we should have some form of handicap?

— P E R G A M O N —

# CHESS

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DOWNHAM v SHEPHARD

Brian Shephard has submitted this game which he played in 1953 as part of the Cambridge University Dragons Team against Cambridgeshire. The notes are his:

It was a game full of small errors by me. I was a pawn up by move 17, but then he played much better before falling into a rather obvious trap.

1	d4	e6
2	Bf4	d5
3	Nc3	Nf6
4	e3	Bd6

In Batsford Chess Openings this continues with the usual 2.c4 Bb4+. I think Bb4 would have been a better move & for black in this position, even without the check.

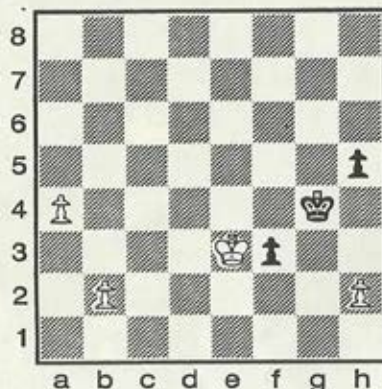
5	Bxd6	Qxd6
6	Nf3	O-O
7	a3	a6
8	Ne5	Nbd7
9	Nxd7	Bxd7
10	Ne2	e5
11	dxe5	Qxe5
12	Qd4	Qxd4
13	Nxd4	c5
14	Nf3	Rfe8
15	Bd3	d4
16	O-O-O	dxe3
17	fxe3	Rxe3
18	Ng5	Be6
19	Rde1	Rxe1+
20	Rxe1	Re8
21	Re5	c4
22	Be4	Nxe4
23	Nxe4	Bd7
24	Rxe8+	Bxe8
25	Nd6	Bc6
26	g3	b5
27	Kd2	h5?

Although playing rashly I seem to have got away with it until I made this first major blunder.

28	Ke3	Kf8
29	Kd4	g6
30	Kc5	Bd7
31	Kd5	Ke7
32	Ne4	Bf5 ?
33	Nc5	Bxc2
34	Nxa6	f5
35	Nc7	Ba4

36	Kc5	g5
37	Nxb5	Bxb5
38	Kxb5	f4 ?
39	gxf4	gxf4
40	Kxc4	Ke6
41	Kd3 ?	Kf5 ?
42	a4	f3
43	Ke3	Kg4

Leaving the following position:



All White has to do is to advance his a pawn and my fate is sealed. However he manages to find about the only move that can cause him to lose:

44	h3+ ??	Kg3
45	a5	f2
46	Ke2	Kg2
47	a6	f1=Q+
48	Ke3	Qxa6
49	Resigns	

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I have absolutely NO MORE games in hand for future issues, so PLEASE send in your good or unusual games for the magazine. Please send the score in algebraic notation, with annotations, and any suggested position(s) for a diagram.

I was delighted once again to receive a personally drawn Chess Christmas card from Bill Lockett (the designer of our logo) and would like to share it with our members:



CHESS MINISTER!

is the magazine of the

## CLERGY CORRESPONDENCE CHESS CLUB

Affiliated to British Postal Chess Federation

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