

CHESS minister !



January 1990

NEWS AND VIEWS

CONGRATULATIONS to Arnould Hurt who celebrated the 60th anniversary of his Ordination to the Priesthood with a Thanksgiving Eucharist on 5th January at St. Andrew's Innerleithen, where he is still actively engaged in his Ministry.

Among other MEMBERS, David Nye(4) has become a Life Member, Mike Smith(2A) has moved to 9 Eskbank, Tanhouse, Skermersdale, Lancs. WN8 6EQ; Justin Caldwell (2B) to The Priory, Banklands, Workington, Cumbria CA14 3EP; Geoff Wood(3D) to 9 Gordon Bank, Eggleston, Barnard Castle, Co. Durham DL12 0AS; and John Loxton (NLM) to The Vicarage, Turners Hill, Crawley, W.Sussex. RH10 4PB. We hope they are all settling in to their new Ministries.

Our match against the CIVIL SERVICE CHESS ASSOCIATION is due to finish at the end of this month, and I would be grateful if I could receive any outstanding results by then. At the time of writing I have results outstanding from Fisher, Hulme, Bailey, Lewis, Carlin, McIntyre, Gowing. We are currently leading by 14 points to 6, and need just one and a half points from the remaining 10 games to win the match.

I have been APPROACHED by the Railways CA for a match over 8 boards and also by the Social CCA (who beat us by a single point a couple of years ago) for a match on up to 15 boards. The Railways got in first, so if we can only manage one team we will play them, but as they only want 8 boards we may manage both. Please let me know if you are willing to play in such a team, and whether you can only manage one or both of the matches (each will involve 2 games against one opponent). Non League members are of course welcome to play in these matches. Please let me know by JANUARY 31st.

Few RESULTS are in from our internal 1989/90 season, but it is early days yet. Again, one or two withdrawals have spoiled some of the divisions. Let me have your results as you finish your games.

We are also fielding our STRONGEST team in the BPCF Club Championship under the Captaincy of John Morris. Thanks to him for organizing this, and to 10 of our strongest players for taking part. The team plays a composite team made up from 6 other BPCF Clubs taking part, with £200 at stake for the winner. Again, we have no results yet, but hopefully may have a progress report in time for the June magazine.

There was not enough support to organize a CONGRESS this year, but we will try again when we come to celebrate our Silver Jubilee season in 1992. As I may have mentioned before, in view of the proposed European significance of that year perhaps we might even consider crossing the Channel for this one if members were interested!

We have commissioned a set of wall PLAQUES, wood mounted with our 'logo' in black on silver. These will in future be sent to our winners each year. They will soon be ready and all past winners and officers will receive one in the next month or two (past multiple winners will receive a single plaque but in future all winners will receive a new plaque each time).

Finally, this magazine is the smallest yet, but June's could be smaller still if you don't send me some material! Members who have not yet written brief biographies, please do so. Also send me games with annotations, or any article of interest related to chess. I have a couple of games on file but they weren't enough to make another 4 pages, especially in the absence of any adverts for this issue.

With best wishes.

Bruce

HARPER V HULME

A game from last season's Division 1, annotated by David Hulme:

1	d4	Nf6
2	c4	e6
3	Nc3	Bb4
4	e3	b6
5	Ne2	Ba6
6	Ng3	Bxc3+
7	bxc3	d5
8	Ba3	dxc4

All this is 'bbok'. White sacrifices the pawn to get a massive centre.

9	e4	Qd7
10	Be2	Nc6
11	Qc2	O-O-O
12	O-O	h5
13	Rfd1	h4
14	Nf1	h3
15	g3	Ne8

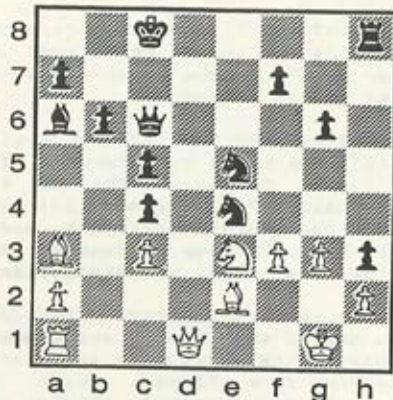
Now the battle is really joined. Black tries to provoke White's pawns forward to get some lines for his pieces. White wants to deny Black any space.

16	d5	Ne5
17	dxh6	Qxe6
18	Rxd8+	Kxd8
19	Ne3	Nf6
20	f3	Kc8
21	Nf5	...

The Knight embarks on a long but eventually futile tour. Maybe the more patient Rd1, Nd5 is better? (Qa4 is met by b5!).

21	...	g6
22	Nd4	Qe8
23	Qd1	e5
24	Nc2	Qc6
25	Ne3	Nxe4!

The culmination! White might already be lost. All Black's pieces now spring to life.



26	fxe4	Qxe4
27	Bc1	Bb7
28	Kf2	...

The only defence against a mating attack starting with Qh1+.

28	...	f5
29	Qg1	...

I had been looking at Qd6 as possibly the only chance to stay alive. I couldn't prove anything conclusive, but felt that Black's position should still win.

29	...	Nd3+
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Simply effective. Removes White's best defensive piece. Kf1 is horrible.

30	Bxd3	cxh3
31	Ke1	...

What else is there? The immediate threat is Qf3 and mate. Qd1 is no better.

31	...	g5
32	a4	...

There's no defence left.

32	...	f4
33	resigns.	

Thank you David - Ed.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

ERIC BAILEY (2A) : I was born in Gidea Park, Essex, in 1914, the only southern born member of a completely north Midlands family. I spent all my school holidays in North Lincolnshire, so have never felt a southerner! I went to King's College London and was ordained deacon in 1937, priest 1938. I have served in parishes in London, East Anglia, the Midlands, Yorkshire, and Sussex, and retired to East Anglia in 1979. My wife is now an invalid, and we have no children. Most of my chess was played in Yorkshire, where I played for York and Harrogate, and occasionally for Yorkshire II. I taught myself from the Boy's Own Paper when I was fourteen. After retirement I played for Bury St. Edmunds for 9 years, but Anno Domini and the Allegro finish have finished me off so now I stick to postal chess which I hope to have a few more years at yet!

DAVID HULME (1): I was born in Cannock, Staffs. in 1952 (which makes me a long suffering but lately rejoicing supporter of Wolverhampton Wanderers!). I lived in Gloucestershire from the age of 9, and worked for a major composite Insurance Office in Cheltenham for 13 years. I worked in Life Insurance, training to become an Actuary though never making it. I suppose you could say I've swapped one form of Life Insurance for another!? I then trained for the Ministry at Wesley College Bristol, from where I was sent to Coventry in the particularly Methodist way 3 years ago. I am married to Julie and have two children, Cathy (4), and Debbie (2), who keep our lives rather full.



And now for something completely different... John Gowing picked up the Mephistophelean chess game in an earlier issue and sends me two extracts from Mediaeval Moralities which have a bearing on chess. He got them from Alexander Cockburn's 'Idle Passion - Chess and the Dance of Death'.

The world resembles a chess board which is chequered White and Black, the colours showing the two conditions of life and death, or praise and blame... In this game the Devil says "check" when a man falls into sin; and unless he quickly covers the check by turning to repentance, the Devil says "Mate" and carries him off to hell, whence there is no escape.

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The man who postpones his repentance until death resembles a chess player who, understanding but little of the game, thinks to himself: I will allow my pieces to be taken and then at the end I will mate my opponent in the corner, while he knows all the time that his opponent is a skilful player. As there the unskilful player, so also the sinner, for the master player is the Devil... How can the sinner believe that he will be able to mate him in the corner - i.e. conquer at the end of his life - when the Devil tries the harder? See that you consider carefully to whom you can best give your heart from love.

Thank you, John for more illustrations of the link between chess and our vocation! I am sure there ought to be some good Lenten sermon material here, or perhaps not?

HOOPER V BAILEY

A game from our current match against the Civil Servants, annotated by Eric Bailey.

1	d4	d5
2	c4	dxc4
3	e4	e5
4	d5	e6
5	Bxc4	Nf6
6	Nc3	exd5
7	Nxd5	Nxd5
8	Bxd5	Be7
9	Bd2	...

This was a new one on me, and not in my book either. I decided that the idea was to be able to threaten my b-pawn and avoid the losing variation of 9 Qb3, O-O; 10 Bxb7, c4; 11 Qb5, a6; 12 Qd5, Bb4+. I expected 9 Bf4. I played 9...Nd7 so I could play Rb8 if he did play Qb3 and take the pawn.

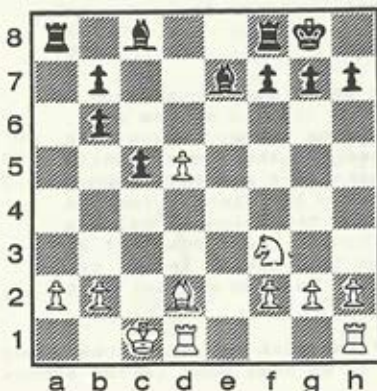
9	...	Nd7
10	Qb3	O-O
11	Nf3	Nf6
12	O-O-O	...

A bit doubtful as he is very open on the Q side, and that is where all the trouble comes later.

12	...	Nxd5
13	exd5	Qb6

To drive his Q away, I didn't think he would exchange.

14	Qxb6	axb6
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I think this is bad. It opens up the a-file for me, and leaves his King very exposed.

15	Rd1	Rxa2
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Wins a pawn and gives a completely open file for my Rook.

16	Kb1	Ra8
17	b3	Bf6

With a threat of mate!

18	Ne5	Rd8
19	Bc3	b5

...b4 would be nasty.

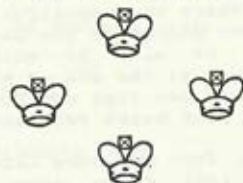
20	Bb2	Bf5+
21	Kc1	Bg5+

The Bishop checks play themselves. I couldn't see anything better. After the Queen exchange on move 14 his game just collapsed. I was rather fortunate that he was so careless.

22	Kd1	Rxd5+
23	Ke2	Ra2
24	resigns	

Thank you, Eric, for this game. One of the wins that has helped draw us close to victory against the Civil Service Team. It is an interesting co-incidence that both games sent for this issue are black wins.

I have only one more game on file (which could not have filled another 4 pages of magazine) and no more members' biographies. Do please send me some more of both by May in time for the next issue. - Bruce Carlin.



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