

# CHESS minister !



July 1990

This issue is timed to coincide with the end of our season, and I remind members that I should have your results by, or soon after 31st July. If games are not finished and you cannot agree a result then they should be sent for adjudication (BOTH players should submit a diagram of the position stating who is to play and what result you claim - supporting analysis can be submitted if desired). At the time of compiling this magazine the following games are outstanding:

Division 1:	Davies	v	Hulme	Morris	
	Hulme	v	Davies		Wright
	Morris	v	Davies		
	Wright	v	Hulme		
Division 2A:	All results in - thank you.				
Division 2B:	Caldwell	v	Nicholl	Morris	
	Hurt	v	Norris		
	Nicholl	v	Caldwell	Norris	
	Norris	v	Caldwell	Hurt	Nichol
Division 3A:	Harcus	v	McIntyre	Sutcliffe	Wiltsher
	McIntyre	v	Harcus	Wiltsher	
	Sutcliffe	v	Harcus	Wiltsher	
	Wiltsher	v	Harcus	McIntyre	Sutcliffe
Division 3B:	All results in - thank you				
Division 3C:	Davies	v	Partridge	Williamson	
	Gowing	v	Janicker	Partridge	Williamson
	Janicker	v	Gowing	Partridge	
	Partridge	v	Davies, Gowing, Janicker,	Williamson	
	Williamson	v	Davies	Partridge	
Division 3D:	McKinnon	v	Radcliffe	Shephard	
	Radcliffe	v	McKinnon	Shephard	
	Shephard	v	McKinnon	Radcliffe	
Division 4:	Carlin	v	Joy		
	Joy	v	Goode	Hutchison	Nye Carlin
	Goode	v	Joy	Hutchison	Nye
	Hutchison	v	Joy	Goode	Nye
	Nye	v	Joy	Goode	Hutchison

Obviously a day or two will have elapsed between my typing this and you receiving it, so if any of these results have crossed in the post, thank you. Otherwise please send them in as soon as possible.

Our new season is due to start in October. I shall be away from mid-Sept to early October. Providing I get this season's results in time I will get the new season started before I go, but if you do not co-operate by sending in results on time there will be a delay in starting the new season. If you know anyone who wishes to join us please ask them to get in touch by 15th August. Existing league players will be assumed to be playing again unless they tell me not. non-league players wishing to return to full league play please also let me know by 15th August.

With sadness we record the death of our first President, Kenneth Procter, an obituary of whom appears in this issue. Congratulations to Norman Davies who celebrated 25 years in the Priesthood in June. Thanks to all who sent in games and articles that has enabled this issue to be back to full size. I have one article on file and one game - please send me more, including your mini-biographies if you haven't already sent one, or any article you think may be of interest to us.

Hopefully you will be hearing from me again in September with details of our new season, but only IF you send me your results on time.

Bruce Carlin

!!! STOP PRESS !!! As the magazine goes to print a result from Division 1 confirms John Morris as CCCC Champion for the third year in succession!

DRAWN IN DYFED

A contribution from current CCCC champion John Morris:

Our President Ivor Davies lured me to Cardigan Bay in March 1989 for a chess weekend, and very enjoyable it proved. Not that I distinguished myself at the chess with two and a half points out of five rounds. Here is one of the games that got drawn, though perhaps I should have won.

- 1 e4 e5
- 2 Ne2 ...

This old fashioned and deceptively passive move has the advantage of taking the average tournament player out of the book, which is why I like to use it when I have white. It encourages my opponent to use valuable time studying unfamiliar positions. The positions are not so unfamiliar to me since I have studied Denis Druash's handy booklet 'Alapin's Opening' purchased from our regular advertiser, Brian Eley.

- 2 ... Nc6

Not the strongest reply (Nf6 is better). Druash now recommends Nc3, but I try

- 3 c3 d6
- 4 d4 Nf6
- 5 d5 Ne7
- 6 Ng3 h6
- 7 Be2 Bd7
- 8 O-O c5
- 9 c4 Qc8
- 10 f4 Bg4

Black is cramped, his king is uncastled. I think I have a small advantage.

- 11 f5 Bxe2
- 12 Qxe2 Qd7
- 13 Nc3 Nc8
- 14 a4 Be7
- 15 Nh5 ...

Why did I do this? It just helps black.

- 15 ... Nxh5
- 16 Qxh5 Bf6
- 17 Bd2 Nb6
- 18 b3 a6
- 19 a5 Nc8
- 20 Na4 Qe7
- 21 Rf3 Bg5
- 22 Bxg5 Qxg5

23 Qxg5 hxg5  
Black is trying to break out from his restricted position. I am not displeased with this exchange as I think I can win a pawn, and the black knight is still short of squares.

- 24 f6 g6
- 25 Rg3 Rh5
- 26 Re1 Kd7
- 27 R1e3 Kc7
- 28 Rh3 b6
- 29 axb6+ Nxb6
- 30 Nxb6 Kxb6
- 31 g4 Rh4
- 32 Rxh4 gxh4
- 33 g5 Ka5

Now I think I have not handled the last few moves all that well. I have failed to penetrate the h-file, failed to win that doubled pawn. More seriously, black's King is but a square away from my weak b-pawn.

- 34 Kg2 Kb4
- 35 Kh3 Rh8

Is this Rook switch necessary? It cheers me a little if black thinks so and takes his rook away from the half open a-file.

- 36 Kg4 a5
- 37 Re1 a4
- 38 bxa4 Kxa4
- 39 Rb1! Ka5
- 40 Rb7 Rf8



The 40 move time control is safely reached with us bth roughly level on time and not a great deal to spare. 20 minutes are now added to each clock within which the game must be finished, which means

playing faster. I spend some of my allowance deciding whether to keep my Rook on the b-file until ready to promote my h-pawn or go for the black pawns. I chose the second option, but as you will see this gave black opportunities also.

41	Kxh4	Ka6
42	Rd7	Ka5
43	Rxd6	Kb4 !
44	Rc6	Kxc4
45	d6	Rd8
46	Kg4	Kd4
47	Rc7	...

I am regretting the complications I have let myself in for and reflect that I might just as well have played Rc7 two moves previously.

47	...	c4
48	Rxf7	Rxd6
49	Ra7	Kxe4
50	f7	Rd8
51	Rc7	Kd3
52	Rd7+	Rxd7
53	f8=Q	Rd4+
54	Kg3	Kd2
55	Qf2+	Kd1

In correspondence chess white could find his way to a win (maybe with Qf6), but over the board with time running out for both sides, I am unable to see a conclusive way to head for victory. I offer a draw, my opponent accepts, and we head thankfully for the bar. Having made so many mistakes I scarcely deserved to win. Had my opponent not made some too, I probably would have lost. Perhaps therefore half each was just reward.

John has made a suggestion that we might perhaps print a couple of games from our top division in each magazine without annotation, rather like the BPCF Information Circular does with a lot of games. This would enable members to play through some of our top games without involving the players themselves spending the time to make notes. I think this is a good idea and ask

Division 1 players to let me have their game scores at the end of the season. If you can send them in algebraic notation, typed in the above format, so much the better.

But don't stop sending annotated games as well as they are much more instructive...

To get the idea started, and to fill this page, I have found in the archives a scorecard from Division 3A 1982/3 season! No annotation, but a brief exchange of correspondence between the players (Paul Waterfield and Michael Williamson) remarking on it being an extraordinary game. I hope having such an ancient game dredged up does not embarrass the players involved...

1	e4	e5
2	Nf3	Nc6
3	d4	f5
4	Nc3	fxe4
5	Nxe5	Nxe5
6	dxe5	Bb4
7	Qd4	c5
8	Qd5	Qh4
9	Be3	Ne7
10	Qb3	b6
11	O-O-O	Bxc3
12	Qxc3	O-O
13	Bc4+	Kh8
14	f3	exf3
15	gxf3	Rxf3
16	Rhf1	Rxf1
17	Rxf1	Ng6
18	Rf7	Qxh2
19	Bd5	Bb7
20	Bxb7	Rf8
21	e6	Rxf7
22	exf7	Qd6
23	Bh6	Qf8
24	Bd5	d6
25	Qa3	gxh6
26	Qf3	Qe7
27	Be4	Kg7
28	Bd5	Kf8
29	b3	Ne5
30	Qh1	Qg5+
31	Kb2	Nxf7
32	Bxf7	Kxf7
33	Qb7+	Qe7
34	Qd5+	

agreed drawn.

BOOK REVIEW

: THE CHESS PLAYER'S ALICE by Ivor Davies

If, like me, you had a deprived childhood and didn't come to certain children's classics until late in life (I only discovered Winnie-the-Pooh at University and Alice at Theological College) you will already know that many of them contain subtleties way beyond the understanding of the average child. If you have not read such books since your childhood (and parenthood has not given you the excuse to read them to your own children) then it is time at least to re-acquaint yourself with the adventures of Alice. As a companion to the book you could do a lot worse than have at your side the above booklet, recently published by our President, Ivor Davies.

Most of you will know that 'Through the Looking-Glass and What Alice Found There' is set within a game of chess, thus making it of even more interest to CCCC members (apart, of course from the fact that its author was a clergyman - should we have made him an honorary Patron?). Alice has apparently long been a fascination for Ivor and in between his ministry and playing games of chess he has devoted some time to studying Alice in the light of the chess game and has written occasional monographs on the subject for various publications. Now, with more time since retirement, Ivor has gathered these monographs together, added new material and put it all into a single booklet.

Chapters deal with the actual game of chess shown in Alice (it doesn't always seem to follow the strict rules), the invisible Bishop who Ivor insists is there, and the question of the Queen's castling. Other chapters look at chess-like games which may have had a bearing on the Alice tale and even include bits of theology from medieval moralities. All in all this booklet is a fascinating read for anyone interested in Alice, chess, or theology (and most CCCC members should be interested in at least one of these!). It costs a straight £2 and is available directly from Ivor (address on back cover). - B.C.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

: MICHAEL WILLIAMSON (Div 3C)

(b.39; London Coll. Divinity: d.64,p.65. 2 curacies and two charges in Manchester diocese and now Rector St. Mary Droylsden since 1977).

I think I responded to the 'Church Times' advert for the 1970/71 season and have played in the CCCC ever since. I very much enjoy the yearly tussles with fellow clergy. I am a rather erratic player I'm afraid, making silly off the cuff mistakes, but I also enjoy a gamble to see what happens! In fact I like to win or lose - no draws unless its a brilliant saving of a lost game.

The parish here is quite large with about 12,000+ people and takes up most of my energy. Jean my wife does M.U. and so we make a team effort. I enjoy the challenge and change in modern society, but really I find old ways adapted to new needs are the best for me. I relax through gardening, which is lucky since the Rectory has the traditional size garden. Old fashioned roses will keep anyone sane!

IS THIS A RECORD?

: from John Morris

John tells me that his opponent in our match against the Railways CA "is a signalman and seems to consider his moves in the signal box in the ever-increasing intervals between trains (I must find out what line that is and exercise due circumspection if required to travel thereon!) He tells me he currently has 52 games in progress!" Is this a record? Your secretary once had 17 games on the go at once and I found that difficult enough to keep track of, but 52... What about other CCCC members? What is the most correspondence games you have played simultaneously?

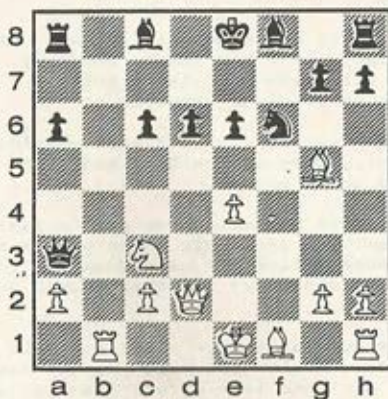
SMITH v GEDDES

Mike Smith, who has won Division 2A this year, sends in this game from his successful campaign. He comments that "it is not often I have been a piece and four pawns down at the moment of winning a game!" The notes are his.

- |   |      |       |
|---|------|-------|
| 1 | e4   | c5    |
| 2 | Nf3  | d6    |
| 3 | d4   | cx d4 |
| 4 | Nxd4 | Nf6   |
| 5 | Nc3  | a6    |
| 6 | Bg5  | e6    |
| 7 | f4   | Qb6   |

Black opts for the double edged 'poisoned pawn' variation. It remains to be seen who succumbs to the poison...

- |    |      |      |
|----|------|------|
| 8  | Qd2  | Qxb2 |
| 9  | Rb1  | Qa3  |
| 10 | f5   | Nc6  |
| 11 | fxe6 | fxe6 |
| 12 | Nxc6 | bxc6 |



Up to here, everything has been according to the book. White's usual move is 13.e5, but I wanted to get away from the book.

- |    |      |       |
|----|------|-------|
| 13 | Be2  | Be7   |
| 14 | e5   | dx e5 |
| 15 | Bxf6 | Bxf6  |
| 16 | Bh5+ | g6    |

16...Ke7, followed by Rd8 was worth considering. But black

wants to castle - and white wants to stop him doing so!

- |    |     |        |
|----|-----|--------|
| 17 | Ne4 | Be7    |
| 18 | Rb3 | Qxa2 ? |

The loosing move. 18 ... Qa4, keeping the Queen more active, was essential.

- |    |       |     |
|----|-------|-----|
| 19 | O-O ! | ... |
|----|-------|-----|

Keeping black's King in the centre is more important than the Bishop.

- |    |      |      |
|----|------|------|
| 19 | ...  | gxh5 |
| 20 | Nd6+ | Bxd6 |

Or 20...Kd8, 21Nf7+ Kc7, 22 Nxh8 is also good for white.

- |    |      |         |
|----|------|---------|
| 21 | Qxd6 | Qxc2    |
| 22 | Rbf3 | resigns |

Mate, or loss of Queen, is inevitable.

-----  
With half a column to spare, there is just room for this miniature, kindly sent in by Alan Mackenzie. He writes:

As the editor says he has 'absolutely no more games in hand' this is an invitation to scrape the bottom of the barrel. It is the shortest match game I have ever played in nearly 60 years of chess, and occurred on dark winter night a few years ago when I had travelled with a Bishops Stortford team to Welwyn Garden City. I was white, and chose the Nimzowitch attack:

- |   |       |     |
|---|-------|-----|
| 1 | Nf3   | d5  |
| 2 | b3    | e6  |
| 3 | Bb2   | Bd6 |
| 4 | Bxg7! |     |

My opponent (a young man) must have been dreaming, or seized up with the cold of the night. Actually, he went on for a few more moves. Perhaps he was super optimistic, or very cross, or just out of kindness giving me some sort of game.

Ivor Davies writes: Kenneth Procter died peacefully at his retirement home in Surrey on 10th January.

Kenneth was our first President back in the '60s, and three times Club Champion. Although chess was his favourite pastime - he was playing 14 postal games when almost 90 - he was distinguished in many other ways. A graduate of Durham, Kenneth was an able classical scholar, a musician and a composer. He will be remembered as a devoted parish priest and an inspiring teacher both in this country and overseas. His active ministry lasted for fifty-five years.

It was a fitting tribute to Kenneth's ever-cheerful nature that the organ voluntary played at his funeral was his own composition, 'Breath of Life'. We recall Kenneth's long life of service to the Church with gratitude and join in expressing our sympathy to Ruth and the family.

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#### WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP SEMI FINALS

by Michael Thistlewood

One of the advantages of being retired is the ability to rush off at a moment's notice and do wild, dangerous and impetuous things - like going to London from Cumbria.

I found that the annual meeting of SPCK coincided with the World Championship semi finals and so I decided to attend my first big chess event. At the back of my mind there was always the thought that if Speelman became unwell I might be called upon to stand in and play for my country. (Those of you who have played me will know what an hilarious event that would have been).

I made my way to Sadler's Wells and sat in a hushed auditorium - play hadn't yet begun. It was extremely quiet - nay indeed reverent. In fact I thought it was just the place for those who like a quiet 8 a.m. service (except that an 8 a.m. service is rowdy by comparison).

I thought what a strange contrast with football. I felt like wearing a scarf and waving a rattle and chanting, "Come on you Speelman". If I had I am sure that I would have ended up in prison.

For those who prefer the 9.30 Parish Communion, or even a Family Service, there was the commentary room with great big chess boards and wise people making comments. People were allowed to make comments from the audience (very much an every member ministry) and they looked even wiser and kept name dropping.

I was tempted to make some fatuous comment (after all I had paid my money as much as they), but I decided to follow the well known adage that it is better to keep your mouth shut and look a fool than to open your mouth and prove it.

Joking apart I did find it all very exciting. I had to leave at 6 and I found it hard to tear myself away - I was on the edge of my seat waiting for the next move.

I haven't yet reached the stage of having people pay £6 to watch me play chess at Sadler's Wells, but I have enjoyed my first season of Clergy Correspondence Chess and my thanks to those who have played me in my first season.

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## CHess MINISTER!

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