

# CHESS minister !



July 1988

## NEWS AND VIEWS

Welcome to the July issue of Chess Minister! In this issue you can read of how a new International Chess Challenge came into being; information on the end of our current season and the correct procedure for adjudications; the final result of our match against the SCCA; and the first CCCC Internal Gradings.

Also a few more potted biographies in 'Getting to Know You'. Thanks to those who have written about themselves, but PLEASE MAY I HAVE SOME MORE for the next issue. Also I would appreciate a few more GAMES with your notes and comments please - just one appears in this issue.

### ON THE MOVE

Since the January issue I have been informed of 3 moves by members: Paul Smith has moved to Rawmarsh (Rotherham); Charles Mason to be Priest in Charge of St. Cuthbert's West Hampstead; and John Morris into semi-retirement looking after the pensioners at Archbishop Holgate Hospital in Hemsworth, W.Yorks. We hope they are all happy in their new homes and spheres of work.

### LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Nine members have so far taken up the suggestion of Life Membership offered for the first time in January. Their names appear on the back cover and will do so as a regular feature of the magazine in future, the list being updated as necessary. Some of them apparently reckon they may not live long enough to gain full benefit, but we hope they may yet do so! A reminder that Life Membership costs £1 for each year of the CLUB'S age, i.e. £21 at present, but increasing to £22 on 1st October - so if you wish to join as a Life Member send your cheque to Gordon Geddes NOW.

### WELCOME BACK

Matthew Joy, former winner of the CCCC shield and son of Leslie (Div.3A) has rejoined us, but not to play. Matthew is currently working in Rotherham, but says he is fully committed to OTB chess and has no time for postal games. He is very involved in the Sheffield League and the Yorkshire Schools Chess Association as well as apparently bringing up a family of chess prodigies! He tells me that his younger daughter shared the British girls under-9 championship in 1984, and his older daughter the under-12 championship the following year. He takes them around the country to various congresses and events (they are now 13 and 15). He teaches chess in local junior schools which also serves as a way of being known to his parishioners. Clearly a chess playing family, these Joys, two generations already in the CCCC, and who knows - if legislation for the ordination of women goes through maybe Mathew's daughters may be future winners...(always assuming they take after their father in vocation as well as chess).

### NEXT SEASON

Finally, the next issue of Chess Minister is due out in early October ready for the start of the new season. I will assume that players currently playing in our Divisions wish to continue doing so unless they tell me otherwise. If any of our current Non Playing members wish to become regular players next season will they please tell me. Also please send material for the next magazine. As I shall be away for a holiday for part of September I would much appreciate having all this information by 15TH AUGUST.

Best wishes to you all - Bruce Carlin.

## CLERGY CCC 1987/88 SEASON

Our current season ends on 31st July, and I would appreciate having as many results as possible by that date. Please try to finish your games if possible - if you are near to finishing I don't mind if you over-run by a week or two, but if you are going to have to send games for adjudication I would be grateful if you would do so immediately after 31st July. Please see the notes below for the procedure for adjudications which I hope will be followed this year - it would make my life a lot easier!

Some results are in, and 3 divisions are complete. Division 3B collapsed with 2 players defaulting leaving it a straight fight between Wright and Mackenzie. They drew both games, so I fear there is no way to decide who goes up to Division 2 except drawing lots. It must be very frustrating for players in a Division which collapses as they are left without their expected games to play, but there really isn't anything we can do.

David Hulme continues his rise through the Divisions, winning Division 2B to ensure himself a place amongst the elite next season. And talking of the elite, Division 1 is the other one with all results in, and we finally have a successor to Ruggles Fisher. No one who was at our Congress last year will be surprised to learn that our new Champion is our Congress winner John Morris after his first season in Division 1. Poor Geoffrey Harper who has been runner up to Ruggles for the last two years has now achieved a hat-trick of being runner up! John Morris is now in semi-retirement in Hemsforth and could prove to be an even more formidable opponent with time on his hands next year! Congratulations!

### ADJUDICATION - THE PROCEDURE

If you are going to submit games for adjudication, may I remind you of the proper procedure for doing so. It will certainly make my life easier if everyone adopts this procedure fully. One or two people have queried the need for it, so I will outline the reasons for it as well:

1. I require a clear DIAGRAM of the position reached. This should be drawn from WHITE's side of the board, and the black pieces should be circled (or in a different colour). The diagram should state clearly which side is due to move next, but don't put the players' names on the diagram, but on a separate sheet. I require a diagram, not the score card, because I haven't the time to play through 6-10 games to reach the position to be adjudicated, and if I do have to play through them and make a mistake then the wrong position is adjudicated and it will be your own fault.
2. The diagram should be submitted by BOTH players. Of course, the two diagrams SHOULD be identical, but we are all human and prone to error, and if you don't bother to send in a diagram and your opponent sends in an incorrect one, then his position will be adjudicated and you will have no come back - so two diagrams please.
3. Both players should state their CLAIM - what result you hope to achieve. This will be either a win or a draw since presumably no one would claim defeat! Please note that the adjudicator will never allow you more than your claim, so if you think there is any hope of you being given a win, claim a win, since if you only claimed a draw that is all you will get!
4. This is optional, but you are welcome to submit analysis to support your claim if you wish. You do not have to, but if you think you have a winning line that the adjudicator may miss it is a good idea. You have no right to appeal against the adjudication unless you submit analysis.

Adjudications will normally be worked out on the assumption of BEST play on both sides (unless it is a clear book position), so it is no use suggesting mistakes you think your opponent might have made if you had continued with the game!

#### GETTING TO KNOW YOU

JOHN MORRIS (Div.1 - our new Champion) writes: I was born in Brighton in 1923 later moving to London. Briefly evacuated to Huntingdonshire early in the war, I returned as a Clerk at the Air Ministry, also taking an interest in music and painting and doing a part time course at St. Martin's school of art. Joined the RAF in 1942 and went to Ontario for flying training where I met Elsie (Yorkshire born but having emigrated with her family) whom I married in 1946. We have one son, Richard, who lives in Wharfedale. It was during my war service that I became committed as a Christian and was Confirmed in 1943 and encouraged to think of ordination. I was accepted for training by a CACTM board in Rome and demobilised to begin training.

I gained admission to Oriel College, Oxford and gained a degree in Theology, before crossing over to Westcott House for ordination training. I was ordained in 1950 & 51 by Bishop Barnes and served curacies at St. George's Great Hampton Row and St. Nicolas King's Norton, before becoming the first Vicar of St. John Baptist, Longbridge (adjoining the Austin Motor Works) in 1957. During this time I did some radio and television broadcasting and became an ACCM selector.

I moved to Southwark in 1964 as Rector of Sanderstead, an affluent commuter parish near Croydon before moving to St. Mary's Battersea in 1970. During my time there I have been involved in Social Services and Housing Committees among other things. I have now just moved into semi-retirement as Master of Archbishop Holgate Hospital, Hemsworth, W. Yorks.

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HENRY CULLEN (Div.2B) writes: I was educated at Brighton College, and the Universities of Liverpool and Cambridge (degrees in History & Theology) before going to Ely Theological College. I was ordained in 1934 to a curacy at Warrington and was also a teacher there until 1939 when I joined the RAF, serving in S.E.Asia, E.Africa, India, Burma, Ceylon, Cyprus, the Near East, & Europe. I retired from the RAF in 1963 and became Vicar of Rauceby and Cramwell until 1978.

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ALAN MACKENZIE (Div.3B) writes: I was born in Cambridge, moving to Cardiff while still a child, then taking a Maths degree at the University of Wales. I then spent over 40 years as a Chaplain and Social Worker with the Deaf, working over 5 areas: Winchester Diocese, Devon; Oxford Diocese; Chaplain Superintendent of the Royal Association in Aid of the Deaf, and finally 15 years in Salisbury Diocese. I then spent a short time as priest in charge of Corscombe and Halstock before retiring in 1977. I have been a Canon of Salisbury since 1971, being now 'emeritus'.

My hobbies have been chiefly chess and music, having been a member of chess clubs in Exeter (secretary for 12 years), Oxford, Weymouth, Bishops Stortford, and Worthing where we moved last year to be nearer some of the family. We still get about a bit and in the last 18 months have done two things we always wanted to do- visit Athens, and visit the Holy Land (with a party from St. Luke's Hospital for the Clergy). (Editor's Note: Alan modestly omits to mention in his biography that he was awarded the O.B.E. for his services to the Deaf).

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My thanks to the above 3 members, as well as to Brian Shephard whose biography appears elsewhere in this issue, for their contributions to the 'rogues gallery' (as Henry Cullen described it). I hope another 3 or 4 of you will write during the summer so that I can include you in our October issue.

HARPER v MORRIS

CCCC Division 1 (1987/88).  
Another game in which  
Geoffrey Harper beats the  
ultimate Champion on his way  
to 2nd again. The notes are  
his: Benko Gambit.

- |    |      |      |
|----|------|------|
| 1  | d4   | Nf6  |
| 2  | c4   | c5   |
| 3  | d5   | b5   |
| 4  | Nf3  | Bb7  |
| 5  | a4   | a6   |
| 6  | axb5 | axb5 |
| 7  | Rxa8 | Bxa8 |
| 8  | Nc3  | b4   |
| 9  | Nb5  | Qb6  |
| 10 | e4   | ...  |

A ghastly mistake! I have in  
mind a position where black  
has not moved his Queen and  
...Nxe4; Qe2 f5; f3 Nf6; Nd6  
mate. But here it is quite  
safe for black to take the  
pawn.

- |    |     |      |
|----|-----|------|
| 10 | ... | Nxe4 |
| 11 | Bf4 | Na6  |

I think ...d6 would have  
secured black's position with  
an extra pawn. But he is  
worried by having won a  
gambit pawn and responds with  
piece play which favours the  
player with a pawn less but  
open lines.

- |    |     |     |
|----|-----|-----|
| 12 | Qe2 | f5  |
| 13 | Nd2 | Qa5 |
| 14 | Nb3 | Qa4 |
| 15 | Qc2 | Nf6 |
| 16 | Bd3 | ... |



White now has better  
development after 0-0.  
Black's Queen is in danger so  
he mixes it, unsuccessfully,  
and loses a piece.

- |    |      |      |
|----|------|------|
| 16 | ...  | Nxd5 |
| 17 | cxd5 | Bxd5 |
| 18 | Nxc5 | Qa1+ |
| 19 | Bc1  | Qa5  |
| 20 | Qxc5 | e6   |
| 21 | Qc8+ | Ke7  |
| 22 | 0-0  | Qa2  |

Black's game is now lost. But  
after a tense time I missed  
the best next move of Bg5+  
which would have led to a  
quick mate

- |    |      |        |
|----|------|--------|
| 23 | Re1  | Bc6    |
| 24 | Nc7  | Kf6    |
| 25 | Nxe6 | Qa8    |
| 26 | Qxa8 | Bxa8   |
| 27 | Nxf8 | Rxf8   |
| 28 | Be3  | resign |

An interesting series of  
blunders - even in  
correspondence chess,  
emotion, not logic, is often  
our guide! My congratulations  
to John Morris, our new  
champion, who defeated me  
most soundly in our other  
game with faultless play-G.H.

John Morris adds his own  
'afterthoughts' on the game:  
Never having played the Benko  
before, I was quite chuffed  
to reach the position after  
move 9, which, according to  
Ray Keene, should have given  
black an excellent game. Then  
came Geoffrey's unintended  
counter gambit on move 10  
which proved my undoing. I  
should have declined it, but  
a pawn is a pawn and I could  
see no immediate danger until  
after the next move when it  
was too late! Maybe Geoffrey  
is right and 11...d6 would  
have saved the day, but  
things still look bad for  
black after 12 Qa4.

13...Qf6 might have given  
better chances than ...Qa5 as  
Geoffrey saw at the time.  
With my Queen committed to  
the a-file I was heading for  
defeat and should have  
resigned earlier.

Re. 10 e4, I asked Geoffrey  
after the game which book he  
got this continuation from  
and was shattered when he  
told me it was a mistake!  
With mistakes like that, who  
needs good moves? Should he  
reach the same position in a  
future game, my advice would  
be 'Play it again, Sam...'

THE COMPLETE CHESS ADDICT...

is the title of a book by Mike Fox and Richard James published by Faber. I am grateful to Eric Hodgess Roper who sent me a spare copy he ended up with after Christmas. It is not a serious book, being more on the lines of the 'Motorists/Cricketers Bedside Book' kind of compilation, full of all the useless information you ever wanted to know about chess (and quite a lot, I dare say, that you didn't...).

There are chapters on the Greatest chess players, and the Worst (I can think of at least one they missed here...), Chess Puzzles and variations, and one cataloguing the rise of computer chess from its disastrous beginnings (if you thought you had made all the silly mistakes it was possible to make, this chapter should cheer you up - there is nothing more stupid than a badly programmed computer!).

But it may be the Chapter on the 'Famous' that will interest CCCC members most, for this is not about famous chess players but rather those famous in other fields who also achieved some notoriety at chess, and among the politicians, the royals, footballers and others is a section on 'the Holy'. It appears that chess and religion have not always got along well together - St. Bernard of Clairvaux called it 'a carnal pleasure' and would not allow it, and a 13th century Abp of Canterbury banned it (fortunately Dr. Runcie is somewhat less hostile, though apparently he doesn't play). John Wycliffe considered it 'idleness and wantonness' and another example of the scandalous behaviour of the clergy (before we have a mass resignation of our evangelical brethren I might point out that both Luther & Cranmer, and more recently Billy Graham were keen players!).

However all is not lost - apart from the well known Fr. Ruy Lopez who invented one of the most famous chess openings of all time, St. Francis Xavier; St. Francis de Sales; and St. Thomas a Becket all played chess. So did St. Teresa of Avila (she devotes a whole chapter of The Way of Perfection to the game) though her habit of involuntary levitation must have been somewhat offputting to her OTB opponents. No doubt we will all be heartened to learn that St. Charles Borromeo clearly reckoned chess WILL be played in heaven; he was once asked, 'what would you do if you were playing chess and the world came to an end?' and replied, 'carry on playing' (presumably they can't have time controls in eternity, which must cheer up our slower players...).

These, and other fascinating facts and feats of the chess board are all to be found in this amazing compendium. Occasionally I did find the authors' slightly forced jokey style grated after a while, but as a book to dip into rather than read from cover to cover it can be recommended. It is clear from the above chapter that the authors haven't heard of CCCC, an omission that will by now be rectified as they too should be reading this issue of Chess Minister!

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John Gowing has represented the CCCC on the BPCF Executive Committee for the last couple of years, but recently John suffered a stroke. He is making an excellent recovery (and still looks like beating me in Division 3D), but feels that he must cut back on some of his commitments, this being one of them. For years we were never represented on this committee anyway, but it would be good to keep in touch if someone felt they could take on the task. Meetings used to alternate between Birmingham and London, but now often take place in Leicester, so it needs to be someone living in that vague area. They are always on a Saturday. If anyone feels they could take on this job, contact the CCCC Secretary for further details. Best wishes to John for a full and complete return to health.

### MATCH NEWS

Our match against the Social Correspondence Chess Association duly finished in January. Unfortunately, our lead which we had held all the way through finally disappeared as the last results came in. Finally, after one game was adjudicated we lost by a single point. The final score was as follows:

CCCC			SCCA
Fisher	WW	LL	Draisey
Davies	LL	WW	Reynolds
Stevenson	DD	DD	Hargrave
Mackenzie	LL	WW	Gifford
Hodgess Roper	WW	LL	Rowe
Sutcliffe	LL	WW	Lebon
Lewis	DD	DD	Jones
Hurt	DL	DW	Wyatt
Morris	WW	LL	Kiernan
Carlin	WD	LD	Stanley
Smith	LL	WW	Barlow
McIntyre	WD	LD	Senior
Gowing	WL	LW	Madha
Clergy	12.5	13.5	SCCA

Thanks to all who took part - the team acquitted itself well, and it was a real cliff-hanger. It was stated at one point in the SCCA magazine (at a time when we were romping away in the lead) that according to rough gradings I had given they expected to hammer us, so I think we can consider it a job well done!

We have immediately gone back into action with another match over 15 boards against the Scottish Correspondence Chess Association (another SCCA just to confuse us...). Obviously there are very few results in from that yet, but those that are are encouraging for us. At this early stage we lead by 2.5 to 0.5.

### GETTING TO KNOW YOU

BRIAN SHEPARD (DIV 3D) writes: 'I studied at Magdalen College, Cambridge and obtained a degree in Classics & Theology in 1956. After a spell as a Greek interpreter with the Army in Cyprus, in 1960 I took a Diploma in Public & Social Administration at Oxford and also married Helen. At the command of the Principal of Wycliffe Hall I delayed my ordination by one term while I got used to her and then went to be curate at St. Catherine's Wigan. I then went to St. George's Kidderminster and lectured in Ethics at Worcester Ordination College once a week before moving on to the Church Army Training College at Blackheath for 6 years. After this I was a Lecturer at Hamilton College of Education. For the last ten years I have taught Classics, Religion, and General Studies at the Buchan School in the Isle Of Man. (where I have taught my own two daughters among others) but by the time you read this I will have been made redundant by them as they have closed their Classics Department. So it may be that I find myself near to one of you in the future as I shall have to be moving in summer, as yet I know not where to. I would welcome your prayers for my future.'

### BIBLICAL CHESS ???

For some time now there has been the reference in our annual letter (long before I became secretary) of using the Biblical precedent of drawing lots to separate players irretrievably tied on points. Though we may accept its use in the CCCC many of us may very well have doubts as to whether the will of God is truly determined in this way (cf. Acts 1:15-26).

However, two of our members have taken this idea a stage further. To get the best from the following exchange of correspondence you need a Book of Common Prayer (so the players specify) to look up your references! At the end of their first game in Division 3C Norman Davies resigned to David Nye with the comment, 'Psalm 109v.22 - the most graceful and godly way I can find for my resignation.' As Game 2 was still in progress the card made a few more journeys, David now adding: 'I was amused to read on. Perhaps your innocuous looking move 16 which proved so costly was brought about by your condition described in verse 22? I claim no merit from this game; neither was I conscious of divine assistance a la verse 26.' To which Norman replied 'But surely you would subscribe to verse 29.' I don't know how long they would have kept this up, but it was cut short by David Nye resigning Game 2 with the simple comment 'Psalm 109 v.22' again...

Has anyone else any more suitable Scriptural comments on the subject of chess. I know I often feel like Psalm 69 v.1-3 (and more or less any translation will give you the gist of this one!).

### WATSON, FARLEY AND WILLIAMS INTERNATIONAL CHESS CHALLENGE

The following interesting story is sent in by Charles Mason, currently a 'fallow' member but runner up in our Congress last year:

Some of you may have noticed references in the press to the WF&W chess challenge. The background, and how I came to attend one evening is quite amusing.

WF&W, a firm of London solicitors, advertised their change of address by means of a chess illustration. "Your best move now is...etc.". The illustration was of a Queen moving into a checkmate position. Unfortunately the position also included a Pawn on the first rank! I wrote then a leg-pulling letter about this, and they replied that the error had occurred somehow after the proof reading stage. Anyway, they said they hoped there would turn out to be no such thing as bad publicity.

Indeed there wasn't. A few days later they had a phone call from Grandmaster Raymond Keene (Times Chess Correspondent) asking if they would like to sponsor a tournament, and wrote to me and the many others who had pointed out the error, inviting us to attend. This I did one evening, and very nice too, with free food and wine, unrestricted access to the playing area, and expert commentary in another room. Raymond Keene was there, and Bill Hartston, and Lev Wade. I saw Danny King beat Julian Hodgson, and Susan Arkell draw with Jon Fedorowicz. I gather the WF&W may become an annual event.

Charles added that Raymond Keene hadn't heard of the CCCC and was much intrigued and would like to receive a copy of Chess Minister! He will indeed be receiving a copy of this very issue. - Ed.



CCCC INTERNAL GRADING

A footnote in the January issue of Chess Minister! mentioned the possibility of some kind of Internal Grading for the CCCC. I have now devised a system for this. It is purely a relative grading within our own club and bears no relationship to any official grading and should not be quoted with entry into any outside competition etc.

It is based on three years of results in the CCCC and is a percentage rather than absolute grading. The Division One winner scores 100%, and this reduces to 10% for players in Division 4. The last season scores in full, the previous one scores 2/3, and the one before that 1/3, so your most recent result contributes half your grade. These three scores are then added and halved to produce a percentage score. To achieve a score of 100% you therefore need to win three consecutive seasons, an achievement recognized in the grading of Ruggles Fisher.

If two players score equal percentage points, the most recent score takes precedence in determining their position, only if all three scores are equal are they placed equal in the table below.

Clearly there are still anomalies, as a relatively new player may still be making his way up through the Divisions, but as each season passes his grading will improve. Players with less than three seasons play are given 10% for the seasons they did not participate in, and their grade is marked with an \* below indicating that it is not based on three seasons of actual play. Players who are not currently playing are given 90% of their last actual score for two further years, and then drop out of the grading list altogether if they have not returned by then. Players who have not played even one complete season are not graded at all. The grading list below includes results up to the 86/87 season, and will be revised to include the current season for the October magazine. This grading list will form the basis of the boards we place people on in outside matches, though it will be interpreted where a player should clearly be higher than he presently is.

CCCC PERCENTAGE GRADING LIST including 1986/1987 RESULTS

1	T.R. Fisher		100.00		
2	G. Harper		86.67		
3	I.L. Davies		85.00		
4	W. Nicholl		73.33		
5	B. Stevenson		69.17		
6=	G.D. Geddes		67.50		
6=	P. Waterfield		67.50		
8	F.M. Hodgess Roper		63.33		
9	A.F. Mackenzie		60.00		
10	D. Sutcliffe		52.50		
-----					
11	A.H. Hurt	51.67	24	C.O. Mason	23.33 *
12	J. Morris	50.00	25	P.R. Smith	20.00 *
13	T.R. Partridge	41.67	26=	R. Goode	17.50 *
14	J.S. Loxton	41.67	26=	P. Hair	17.50 *
15	W.H. Lewis	41.33 *	26=	B. Shephard	17.50 *
16	W.P.B. Carlin	38.33	26=	R. Sydenham	17.50 *
17	M.J. Williamson	38.33	30	W.E.A. Lockett	17.33 *
18	H.W.R. Cullen	35.00	31	L.J. Clifton Joy	16.67
19	A.J. Foster	31.67	32	J.E. Gowing	15.83
20	D.C. Nye	28.33	33	J. McIntyre	15.00
21=	E.A. Bailey	25.00 *	34	J.M. Robson	13.33
21=	D.S.H. Hulme	25.00 *	35	C. Wiltsher	12.50
21=	J. Sigsworth	25.00 *			



**CHESS MINISTER!**

is the magazine of the

## **CLERGY CORRESPONDENCE CHESS CLUB**

Affiliated to British Postal Chess Federation

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(Membership Year: October to following September)

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