# **CHESS** minister

OCTOBER 1987

the magazine of the

## CLERGY CORRESPONDENCE CHESS CLUB

Affiliated to British Postal Chess Federation



#### SECRETARY

Rev. Bruce Carlin St. Chad's Vicarage Ragpath Lane Stockton-on-Tees Cleveland TS19 9JN

(0642) 674737

#### PRESIDENT

Canon Ivor Davies The Vicarage Knighton Powys LD7 1AG

#### AND DESCRIPTION

Rev. Gordon Geddes 6 Richmond Close Elworth Sandbach Cheshire CW11 9TX

TREASURER

(0547) 528566

(0270) 767484

#### NEWS AND VIEWS

Welcome to the new season for 1987/88 - our 21st Season - and to a bumper edition of the Club magazine!

You will already have noticed the new-look cover with our magazine's new title: "CHESS MINISTER!". In a ballot held at our Congress this emerged a narrow winner as the preferred title among members present. It was Brian Shephard of the Isle of Man who originally suggested this pun on a well-known television programme. One or two people did point out that it was possible that this title may loose its topicality one day. If that should happen I would suggest that we adopt the second (and only narrowly defeated) choice of title:- "Parson's Gambit".

You will also notice that this magazine is much larger than usual. This is solely due to the space devoted to a report of our 20th birthday Congress held in July. I am delighted that the Congress was judged a success by those present. Whether it was the euphoria of the occasion or not remains to be seen but members expressed the hope that it might be repeated perhaps every 3 or 5 years. If that is what people want I would be happy to organize another if I am still Secretary.

Don't expect the magazine always to be this size though, and that for several reasons: I haven't the material normally for such a large magazine, nor the time to type, print, and collate it; and without an increase in subs. the Club hasn't the money to finance a regular magazine of this size. We do have enough spare cash to cope with this one-off large issue as can be seen from the Accounts published elsewhere.

Having mentioned subscriptions this is as good a time as any to say that these are now due! They are unchanged at £1.50 for the current season for all members. Please send these direct to our Treasurer, Gordon Geddes, or use our Girobank account number: 61-231-4006.

As you delve into this issue you will find a review of the season just past and the full results. Then the rules and pairings for the season of 1987/88. There is some News of Members and, unusually, a Book Review! In the centre are a couple of games to have a look at and play through; the remainder of the magazine is devoted to a report of the Congress, illustrated with photos from the Northampton 'Chronicle and Echo'. I have done my best to get the best quality reproduction from these photos using a dot-screen on the copier, but it is still not perfect. If anyone would like copies of the actual photos themselves, Tim Partridge was our liaison with the newspaper that took them, and I am sure he could still obtain copies.

Despite the greater amount of publicity we have received from the Church Press over our Congress, we have not had a corresponding increase in new members this year. Indeed with our usual few withdrawals we have a nett loss, thus making Division 4 redundant. Do spread the word among any clergy chess players you know.

With best wishes for the new season.

Bruce Carlin.

#### NEWS OF MEMBERS

WELCOME to our new members for the coming season: Norman Davies, John Hutchinson, and John Wright. In the last case it is in fact welcome back to a former member.

John Hutchinson is a Forces Chaplain in Germany. This need not present a problem for his opponents playing by post as it doesn't cost any more to send a letter to a European BFPO address than it does within the U.K. Apart from our Irish and Isle of Man members (which are part of the British Isles of course) is John our first overseas member? He certainly is since I have been in the Club, but maybe longer-standing members can produce a precedent.

Only one move since the last magazine - William Nichol has taken up a new post in Co. Antrim.

When I published the list of past winners in the last magazine, I asked if anyone had any news of any of them. An interesting story comes from John Gowing. Apparently Vere Ducker (who shared the Shield in 1979) was once John's father's curate, and during this time taught John to play chess. An interesting connection between a present and former member — a sort of chess equivalent to Apostolic Succession?

We have an increasing number of non-playing members in the club now. These are members who continue to pay their subs. and receive this magazine, but for various reasons no longer wish to play in our normal competition. To keep us all in touch I have listed them with the Divisions this year. Some of them still play for our team against other clubs, others just want to keep in touch, but cannot manage 6-8 games. It may be that some of them might like to get in touch with each other to arrange a 'friendly' game without the pressure of our normal timetable. I would be happy to co-ordinate this if they let me know, or they can contact each other directly.

If any member has capacity for playing yet more chess, why not try entering a BPCF Open Tournament? First round Groups begin whenever 7 entries are received, and the top 2 from each group go forward to a semi-final section, the best players again going on to a final in which decent prizes can be won. To have a go send your name and address and £3 entry fee to A.M.Anderson, 3 Winterfield Gardens, Duns, Berwickshire. TD11 3EZ. The standard inevitably varies as there is an element of luck as to who is in your initial group. Your secretary has had a go twice - I did not distinguish myself the first time, winning just two games by default! I am currently having another go and at present have one win, and one loss. If anyone does take part, let me know how you get on and I will publish your results in this magazine.

# ADVERTISEMENT

CHESS is the brightest world chess magazine with light-hearted readable stories of world chess, instructive articles, pictures, humour and up-to-date news of international events.

Send 13p postage for a specimen issue and details of a chess players' Mail order business, specializing in the game for a clientele in 150 countries.

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#### 1986 / 87 : A REVIEW OF THE SEASON

Congratulations to Ruggles Fisher on winning the CCCC competition for the third time in succession. This is the first time that anyone has achieved this distinction outright. G. Johnson did achieve a hat-trick 10 years ago, but twice shared the victory. Thus Ruggles retains the Bailey Shield for another year. It was a close run thing this year, the outcome being in doubt until the last minute as two of Geoffrey Harper's games were submitted for adjudication. Had he won just one of them he would have taken the championship but both were adjudicated draws and he lost by half a point. Ruggles has decided not to defend his championship in 1987/88 so we are guaranteed a new winner next year. Ruggles remains a member of the club and will play in our team against other clubs. The other remarkable feature of Division 1 this year is the results of our President Ivor Davies who achieved 8 draws in his 8 games to finish 3rd. Is this a record? Nichol and Waterfield are relegated to Division 2.

In Division 2A John Morris (who also won our Congress) won on a tie-break from former champion Eric Hodgess Roper. He admits he owes one of his results to his opponent's generosity after a mix-up of position. Because of Ruggles' withdrawal we have 3 places to fill in Division 1 so both of these players will be promoted. Brian Stevenson (another former winner) remains in Division 2 while Partridge and Loxton are demoted.

Division 2B sees Gordon Geddes promoted. Despite losing both his games against Arnold Hurt be made up the deficit elsewhere to beat Arnold by half a point. David Sutcliffe survives another season in Division 2 beating Mackenzie on a tie-break who goes down to Division 3 with Carlin.

Both Divisions 3A and 3B were marred by defaulters and the death of Paul Richmond, but winners are Foster and Sigsworth who earn promotion to Division 2. No system of tie-breaking could seperate Bailey and Cullen in Division 3C, but the knock-on effect of Ruggles' withdrawal allows both to be promoted so lots did not have to be cast, while Hulme scored a clear win in Division 3D. All the Division 4 players return to Division 3 next year, but it was Robson who won that division.

It does seem that the fairest way to deal with defaulters is to declare all their games VOID. In the past we have had the problem of a defaulter influencing the outcome of a division because he had completed some of his games before defaulting which was potentially unfair on the others in his division.

Finally, on a less happy note, there was an unprecedented number of unfinished games submitted for adjudication this year. Some of them were at such an early stage that it suggested that one or both players hadn't really made a serious effort to finish the game. I find it hard to believe (even with our rather lousy postal service) that a game could not have progressed beyond 20 moves in 10 months of playing. Though we try to be friendly about our playing I would remind members that there is a time limit of 20 days for each 10 moves. Whilst we may not wish to claim a game at the first breach I would not consider it unreasonable to do so if your opponent is clearly making no attempt to keep the time limit. Adjudications (especially since they are rarely submitted properly anyway) take up quite a lot of time of both the Secretary and the Adjudicator. We do not mind having genuinely unfinished games submitted for adjudication, but I would urge players to make a serious attempt to play their games to conclusion if atall possible.

#### CLERGY CORRESPONDENCE CHESS CLUB: RESULTS 1986 / 87

										_			
DIVISION 1							DIVISION 4						
	F	н	D	N	W	Tot		R	м	G	s		Tot
Fisher	xx	LD	DD	ыы	WW	5.5	Robson	xx	DW	WW	vv		3.5
Harper	WD	XX	DD	WL	DW	5	McIntyre	DL	XX	WW	W		2.5
Davies	DD	DD	XX	DD	DD	4	Gowing	LL	LL	XX	W		0
Nichol	LL	LW	DD	XX	LW	3	Scott	VV	VV	VV	XX		V
Waterfield	LL	DL	DD	WL	XX	2.5							
DIVISION 2A							DIVISION 2B						
	М	R	s	P	L	Tot		G	н	s	M	С	Tot
Morris	XX	WL	WD	им	WD	6	Geddes	XX	LL	WW	WD	MM	5.5
H-Roper	LW	XX	DD	WW	WW	6	Hurt	WW	XX	LL	WD	WD	5
Stevenson	LD	DD	XX	LW	DD	3.5	Sutcliffe	LL	WW	XX	WL	LW	4
Partridge	LL	LL	WL	XX	WW	3	Mackenzie	LD	LD	LW	XX	MM.	4
Loxton	LD	LL	DD	LL	XX	1.5	Carlin	LL	LD	WL	LL	XX	1.5
DIVISION 3A							DIVISION 3B						
	F	W	s	R	L	Tot		s	A	н	N	W	Tot
Foster	XX	WD	WD	VV	VV	3	Sigsworth	XX	WD	WW	VV	VV	3.5
Williamson	LD	XX	LW	VV	VV	1.5	Axtell	LD	XX	LW	VV	VV	1.5
Shephard	LD	WL	XX	VV	VV	1.5	Hair	LL	WL	XX	VV	VV	1
Richmond	VV	VV	VV	XX	VV	V	Nye	VV	VV	VV	XX	VV	V
Lewis	VV	VV	vv	VV	XX	V	Wiltsher	VV	VV	VV	VV	XX	V
DIVISION 3C							DIVISION 3D						
	В	C	G	J		Tot		н	М	Sy	Sm		Tot
Bailey	XX	DD	WW	WW		5	Hulme	XX	WW	WW	WW		6
Cullen	DD	XX	WW	WW		5	Mason	LL	XX	WW	MM		4
Goode	LL	LL	XX	WW		2	Sydenham	LL	LL	XX	WW		2
Joy	LL	LL	LL	XX		0	Smith	LL	LL	LL	XX		0
NOTES		Dra	wn,	a	nd 1	Lost. Ti	table games are nis is simply er, it being s	bec		e I	car		

'half' from my computer, it being so decimal hope nobody minds this change of style.

Defaults

- : In accordance with ICCF rules anyone defaulting during the season for any reason has all their games declared void, whether finished or not prior to the default. This seems to be the fairest way to deal with this perennial problem.
- Tie-Breaks : 2A. Morris wins by virtue of more black wins.
  - 2B. Sutcliffe beats Mackenzie by winning more games.
    - 3A. Williamson beats Shephard on Black wins.
  - 3C. Bailey & Cullen are inseperably tied.
- 3A: Notwithstanding the fact that in the results table his games Division are declared void, it is worth noting that before his death Paul Richmond had in fact gained 2 wins against Shephard and a win and a draw against Foster.
- Adjudication: All adjudications (and there were a lot this year see opposite) were carried out by our current champion Ruggles Fisher, except of course those from Division 1 which were adjudicated by the President of the Stratford-upon-Avon Chess Club, to both of whom go our grateful thanks.

Our season runs as usual from October to July. All results should be in, or games sent for adjudication, by July 31st 1988.

Opposite are the Divisions for this season. Each person plays each other in his division twice, once each as white and black, though you can agree to play one game for double points. The notation used should be agreed between you, though as ever I encourage algebraic which should now be regarded as the standard notation. At the end of the season one player is promoted and two relegated from each division. Others are moved sideways to ensure fresh opposition. Ties are decided firstly by the number of wins, then black wins (so let me know this), black draws, the games between the two tied players, and finally if all this fails by the (Biblical?) precedent of drawing lots!

If you receive the game card you are responsible for starting the games. Otherwise you should expect to hear from your opponent within a few days. It is always possible that letters go astray in the post, so if you haven't heard from anyone in your Division within fourteen days of receiving this, please contact the Secretary. (Please note though that I am away myself from 5th-15th October).

New players have a copy of the BPCF rules enclosed though these are now obsolete, new rules having recently been drawn up. Once these are available I shall make sure everyone gets a copy. A reminder of the basics: 20 days are allowed for each 10 moves. Time saved is carried forward. Same day reply counts as half a day used. Days on which there is no postal collection do not count atall. Each player can have 14 days off during a game after notifying his opponent.

Although not strictly allowed by the BPCF, we do allow the use of telephone to transmit moves. If you are efficient it is both quicker and cheaper, the following guidelines can help:

 Number the games 1 & 2 to avoid confusion, and read back your opponent's last move for confirmation before giving your new one.

ii. Arrange mutually convenient times to phone during cheap rate, and if out try to ensure that someone else in the house can take down a move, or get an answering machine!

iii. Always have pen and paper by EVERY phone in the house.

iv. If using algebraic the phonetic alphabet can avoid confusion.

v. Exchange scorecard by post every 10 moves or so (possibly with a diagram of the position) as a check that no one has gone wrong. I would like to stress item (iii) above. Phone is getting increasingly expensive, and is only cheaper than mail if you can put across your move in two units (90 seconds in cheap rate costs about 10p). Sometimes there may be a problem to clear up, and occasionally we all like a bit of a chat on the phone. But as a routine it should be quite possible to transmit a move in one unit (45 secs.) IF you are organized. Remember if you are not organized it is the other person's phone bill that is rising while you go and find pen or paper.

Whilst second class post (for those who prefer post) is normally acceptable, it can be dreadfully slow these days (7 days is not uncommon). If it looks like your game is not going to finish please consider changing to 1st class post or telephone from April or May. Last season we had an unprecedented number of games submitted for adjudication, some of which had only reached 20 moves or so!

Finally, it may be worth pointing out that Division 3D has an overseas player. As he has a Forces address it need not incur extra expense. Letters cost the same as to a U.K. address. If you are going to try the phone you really will have to be highly organized as this allows you only 9 seconds per unit and cheap rate is from 8p.m. to 8a.m. Also note that they are one hour ahead of our time in Germany!

# CCCC DIVISIONS : 1987/88

#### DIVISION 1

Rev. Cn. I.L. Davies, The Vicarage, Knighton, Powys, LD7 1AG, 0547 528566

Rev. G.D. Geddes, 6 Richmond Close, Elworth, Sandbach, Cheshire, CW11 9TX, 0270 767484

Rev. G. Harper, The Vicarage, Paul, Penzance, Cornwall, TR19 8UA, 0736731 261

Rev. F.H. Hodgess-Roper, 8 Victoria Close, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warnickshire, CV37 6RR, 0789 296603

Rev. Cn. J. Morris, St. Mary's Vicarage, Vicarage Crescent, London. SNI1 3LD. 01 228 9648

#### DIVISION 2A

Rev. E.A. Bailey, Hill End, Sapiston, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk, IP31 1RR.

Rev. A.J. Foster, The Vicarage, Mount Pellon, Halifax. W.Yorks. HTZ 0EF. 0422 65027

Rev. W. Micholl, & Randal Park, Portrush, Co. Antrim, N. Ireland. 8156 8JJ. 0265 822255

Rev. B. Stevenson, The Vicarage, 13B High Street, West Malling, Kent. ME19 6NE. 0732 842245

Rev. D. Sutcliffe, The Vicarage, Towngate, Calverley, Pudsey, W. Yorks. LS28 SNF. 0532 577968

#### DIVISION 2B

Rev. H.W.R. Cullen, 9 Victoria Avenue, Sleaford, Lincs. N634 7LN. 0529 304964

Rev. D.S.H. Hulme, 14 Frankland Road, Coventry, W. Midlands. CV6 7EH. 0203 685115

Rev. A.H. Hurt, St. Andrew's Parsonage, Innerleithen, Peebleshire, EH44 6HR, 0896 830447

Rev. J. Sigsworth, 136 Cottingham Road, Hull. HU6 7RY, 0482 43055

Rev. P.T. Waterfield, 41 Harewood Crescent, North Hykeham, Lincoln. LN6 836. 0522 691282

#### DIVISION 3A

Rev. Cn. L.J. Clifton Joy, 20 Victoria Drive, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex. SS9 ISF. 0702 710074

Rev. T. Partridge, Bugbrooke Rectory, Northampton. NN7 3PB. 0604 830373

Rev. Cn. J.M. Robson, Bristows Close, Southrop, Mr. Lechdale, Gloucestershire, 617 30A.

Rev. M.J. Williamson, St. Mary's Rectory, Dunkirk Street, Droylsden, Manchester. M35 7FB. 061 370 1569

Rev. C. Wiltsher, 19 Northover Road, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol. BS9 3LN. 0272 500520

#### DIVISION 3B

Rev. P. Hair, The Manse, Garve Road, Ullapool. 1926 35% 0854 2050

Rev. Cn. A.F. Mackenzie, Flat 3, 70 Richmond Road, Worthing, W. Susser. BMI1 4AF. 0903 39780

Rev. P.R. Smith, 46 Smalldale Road, Frecheville, Sheffield. S12 4TB. 0742 542355

Rev. J.S. Wright, The Rectory, Grove Road, Whimpole, Exeter. Devon. E15 2TP. 0404 822521

#### DIVISION 3C

Rev. N.E. Davies, St. Mark's Vicarage, 11 Old Mill Road, Plunstead, London. SE18 10E. 01 854 2973

Rev. R. Goode, Newlands, 18 Bescot Drive, Walsall, W. Midlands. WSZ 9DF 0922 23926

Rev. J. McIntyre, The Rectory, 24 Cedar Avenue, Stirling, FK8 2PQ. 0786 74380

Rev. D.C. Nye, Ss.Philip&James Vicarage, 73 Painswick Road, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. GL50 2EX. 0242 525460

#### DIVISION 3D

Rev. W.P.B. Carlin, St. Chad's Vicarage, Ragpath Lane, Roseworth, Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland. TS19 9JN. 0842 674737

Rev. J. Gowing, 7 Thurne Close, Newport Pagnell, Bucks. MK18 9DY. 0908 611500

Rev. G.J. Hutchinson, 1 RTR, Tofrek Barracks, B.F.P.O. 102. 010495121869912

Rev. B. Shephard, The Shieling, Howe Road, Port St. Mary, I.O.M. 0624 834100

Rev. R. Sydenham, 12a Iddesleigh Rd., Bournemouth, Dorset. BH3 7JR. 0202 292866

#### NON-PLAYING MEMBERS

Rev. J.A. Bickerstaff 16 Reigate Road Brighton BN1 5AJ 0273 556879

Rev. T.R. Fisher, 12 The Dell, Oakham, Leics. LEIS 6LY. 0572 57630

Rev. W.H. Lewis 34 Albany Road Blackwood Gwent NP2 1DZ 0495 228236

Rev. W.E.A. Lockett The Croft Ruff Lane Ornskirk Merseyside L39 402 0695 72119

Rev. J.S. Loxton, The Ascension Vicarage, 1 Sandy Vale, Haywards Heath, W.Sussex. RH16 4JH. 0444 450173

Rev. C.D. Mason, 32 Crescent East, Hadley Wood, Barnet, Herts. EN4 OEM. 01 449 2572

Rev. P. Townsend The Rectory Tews End Lane Paulerspury Towcester Northants. NW12 7ND

#### GETTING TO KNOW YOU

I hope to run this as a regular page or two in the magazine. Some of us met face to face for the first time at Ecton in July and got to know each other more than by just writing or talking on the phone. It seemed a good idea to see if we couldn't all get to know each other a bit better by having brief autobiographies of members in our magazine. We begin in this issue with our 'committee' who have each written about themselves. I would be grateful if other members would send me some notes about themselves for future magazines. We should be able to get through our whole membership in a couple of years.

IVOR DAVIES (Founder, President & Division 1). I was born near Swansea long ago. After wartime service in the Welsh Regiment I studied at the University of Wales and at Cambridge. Most of my parish work has been in the Welsh Borders and I am a Canon of Brecon Cathedral.

Other than founding the Clergy Correspondence Chess Club my only serious contribution to the game has been a monograph on the chess problem in 'Alice Through the Looking-Glass' that sometimes earns a footnote in books on Lewis Carroll.

GORDON GEDDES (Treasurer & Division 1). I was born in Norwich in 1938 and am inordinately proud of being a Norfolk man. Ordination training at St. Chad's Durham. Ordained Durham d.1961; p.1962 so by the time you read this I will have celebrated my Silver Jubilee (23.9.87). Married Marjorie in same month as priesting, thus celebrating Silver Wedding also in September. Two children: Christopher (19) at Agricultural College; Frances (12) at Cheadle Hulme School. Parish Priest in Sunderland and Jarrow for 6 years. Last 20 years ministry in school at what was Crewe Boys' Grammar School but is now, alas, Comprehensive. Main subject is Religious Studies but am also Head of Classics (now little more than nominal). Much involved in examining from CSE to A-level, I am Chief Examiner for GCSE for the Northern Board. Chess opponents may care to note that I have heavy marking commitments in December-January and May-July and am very prone to blunders in these months!

I was taught chess by David Parfitt (cousin of England cricketer Peter) on bus home from school. Played for School, College and University, and started playing by post when parish commitments made OTB play impossible. Joined CCCC in first season and have not missed a season since. I have been promoted to Division 1 from time to time but have been relegated the following season each time. Am determined to improve on this miserable record during the coming season!

BRUCE CARLIN (Secretary & Division 3D). I was born in Rochdale (home of the Co-Op, Gracie Fields, and Cyril Smith among other heavyweights) nearly 34 years ago. After training at St. Stephen's House I was ordained in Wakefield (d.78;p.79) and served my first curacy in a scattered parish based on the town of Penistone. Then spent two years as Deanery 'supply priest' (sacerdos vagans as one colleague suggested) and P.T. Hospital Chaplain in Barnsley (better known for Arthur Scargill) before moving to Durham Diocese (largely notorious for its Bishop!) to become Vicar of this Council Estate parish in Stockton (famous for its original railway and Late Earl).

I have played chess at a uniformly low standard since childhood, sheer carelessness being my main enemy. High-spots have included playing for the Barnsley Club 3rd team OTB and twice being promoted to Division 2 in the CCCC - each time being promptly and firmly relegated the next season! I joined the CCCC the first season after ordination having seen it mentioned in Church Times, and took over as Secretary some 6 years ago when Tim Partridge stepped down.

#### BOOK REVIEWS

Two booklets have come my way during the summer that may be of interest to members as they both concern one of our former members, Kenneth Procter, first ever winner of the CCCC championship in 1968, and winner again in 1970 and 1979. They are also both written by his wife and bring together the two seperate strands that led them to marriage to each other in 1982 when approaching the age of 90!

In fact it was chess that brought them together. When Ruth Puzey moved to Torquay she asked her Vicar if he knew anyone who played chess and was introduced to Kenneth - a true meeting of minds across the board!

"The First Ninety Years", by Ruth Puzey Procter, is her autobiography. She tells her own life story beginning with her childhood in London. She tells of her life in Canada, and her first marriage to Frederick Puzey in St. Martin-in-the-Fields in 1940, after a terrible voyage home on a ship that had already once been consigned to the breaker's yard! Some years later, after her first husband's death she moved to Torquay where chess brought her together with Kenneth who appears in the last pages of the book. This book, 52 A5 pages, costs £2.25 inclusive of postage direct from the author: Mrs. Ruth Puzey Procter, St. Martin, Lower Warberry Road, Wellswood, Torquay, Devon.

"Kenneth", by the same author, is the story of our former member Kenneth Procter. He was born in 1895 and ordained in Winchester in 1923. After a curacy in Woking he spent some years in Burma teaching. He later worked in London, Australia, and Scotland, before retiring eventually to Torquay where the two books meet. A lifelong Bachelor he finally met Ruth over the chess board and they married when Kenneth was 87. Although no longer an active member of the CCCC, Kenneth still plays chess though his eyesight is now failing. The book also tells of an apparently miraculous cure of his arthritis. This book is 16 A5 pages and is not commercially for sale, having been published mainly for family and friends. Nonetheless the author has sent me 5 copies, one of which is being kept for our archives and the other 4 sent to our longest-standing members. I have no doubt that if other members are interested they could write to the author at the address above (enclosing a stamped A5 envelope) and she would send you a copy.

Below is a photograph of Kenneth and Ruth at the chess board taken last year in their home, and is reprinted from 'Kenneth' by kind permission of the author.



CCCC The battle for the Championship in 1986/7 was between Geoffrey largely Harper and Ruggles Fisher. As mentioned in the last magazine Geoffrey wonders why he always does well against the Champion yet sufficiently badly against the others to loose overall. It is perhaps comforting to know that our three-times champion is not after all infallible as the game that follows shows, kindly supplied and annotated by Geoffrey Harper:

#### HARPER V FISHER

A sort of posioned pawn version of the Nimzo-Indian.

1 d4 Nf 6 2 c4 3 Nc3 Bb4 e3 h6 5 Bd3 ВЬ7 Nf3 Ne4 6 7 0-0 Nxc3

White offers a pawn for central control and better development. Black takes it and never recovers. 7...f5 would have been better.

8 bxc3 Bxc3 9 Rb1 Qf6

9...Nc6 or ...d5 would have been better, or later Nd7 with a view to castling. The black Queen takes no further part in the game in her exposed position.

10 Rb3 Bxf3 11 gxf3 Ba5 12 Kh1 d5 13 Ba3 ...



Black is vulnerable on the open g-file; has weak white squares on the Queen's side; an out of play Bishop; a King's Rook that never moves; and no central control. If I just keep cool I ought to win!

13 ... Nd7 14 cxd5 exd5 15 Rg1 c6

16 e4 ...
Offering the d4 pawn, and even the f2 pawn, to the Queen for a huge initiative.
Offer wisely declined by Black!

16 ... dxe4 17 Bxe4 0-0-0 What can Black do? Re1 perhaps?

18 Qc2 Nb8 19 d5 c5 20 Bxc5 Resigns.

Because of, for example...

20 ... bxc5 21 Qxc5+ Bc7 22 Rc1 Rd7 23 Qxa7 Kd8 24 Rxc7 Rxc7 25 Rxb8+ Kd7 26 Qa4+ Ke7 27 Qa3+ 28 RxhB

Which leaves White two pawns and a Bishop up.

#### \*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Obviously with all the news of the Congress together with last season's results and the new season's pairings there is less room than usual for games in this issue. However, we will be back to normal in January and I have only one game left on file at present. So if anyone feels inclined to send in any games with analysis (preferably algebraic notation to save me translating) I would delighted to receive them. Perhaps Ruggles would like to send in one or two of the triumphs that have made him 3 times Champion? - B.C.

In the last issue I printed a rather absurd game nonetheless wins by force against many computers. A few people have told me that some newer models in fact avoid this (I did get the game from a book that is a few years old, which in computer terms a lifetime!). One who tried it out against computer was Alan Mackenzie, and he has kindly sent in the result:

#### COMPUTER V COMPUTER

I tried the game in the magazine on my Mephisto portable. I used Level 6 (its 'club' level) at which it takes about 2.5 to 3 minutes a move. With me playing Black it followed the game as printed for 4 moves:

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Bc5 3 Nxe5 Bxf2+!? 4 Kxf2 Qh4+

Then it did something completely different, so I decided to let Mephisto play itself for a while to see what happened:

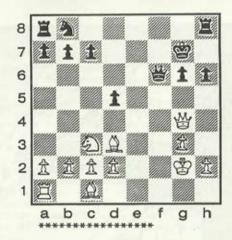
5 Qxe4 g3 Nf3 d5 6 7 Bd3 Qb4 8 Ng5 h6 9 Qh5 96 10 De2+ Ne7 Nf3 11

By which time I lost interest in the game.

In following this line, Mephisto had 'funked' 9.Nxf7, so I set up the position at that point and forced it to play this move. Allowing the computer to carry on playing itself, the game then became quite interesting:

9 Nxf7 Qb6+ 10 Kq2 Kxf7 11 Qh5+ 96 12 Rf 1+ Bf5 13 Rxf5+ Ka7 14 Qq4 Nf6 15 Rxf6 Qxf6 16 Nc3

And White has ended up with two Bishops for a Rook (see diag. at top of next column).

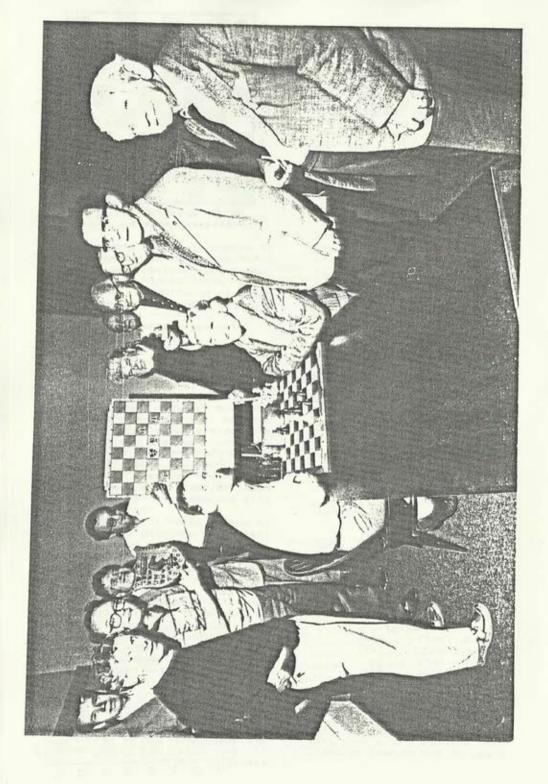


If anyone else has any more interesting or daft computer games they would like to share with us I would be happy to print them in the magazine — just send them in!

#### \*\*\*\*\*\*

Whilst on the subject of Computers, I was asked at the Congress if the BPCF allowed their use in correspondence games. My answer was that when the current rules were drafted they were not widely available so didn't merit a mention. However the rules are currently being revised, so I have enquired of their Secretary, Malcolm Peltz, what they will have to say on this subject.

It seems that the view is that a ban on using computers in postal games would totally unenforceable (as is on enlisting human the ban help which has been dropped Since it aswell). generally accepted that uneforceable law is a bad law, they do not intend to rule on their use atall. In any case, as I think has now been adequately demonstrated, anyone relying too heavily on a computer for help does so at their peril!!! If anyone feels strongly about this let or John Gowing represents us at BPCF Exec. meetings) know and we can put it to them for further revision. - B.C.



#### THE 20TH BIRTHDAY CONGRESS

Our 20th birthday was celebrated by our residential chess congress at Ecton House in July, and the rest of this magazine is devoted to a report of this event to let everyone know what happened.

Twelve of us assembled, coming from as far afield as Cornwall and Scotland, though the denominational spread was less satisfactory, all those present being Anglicans. Most of us had never met before, and it was fascinating to put faces to the voices and signatures we knew so well and seeing whether or not people were as we imagined them to be.

Ecton was a superb venue for such a congress, being quiet and peacful, with adequate rooms for us to play chess undisturbed. Apart from the chess there was much enjoyable fellowship and a little worship together in the form of a Eucharist on each of the full days celebrated by our President and Secretary respectively. On the former occasion we were treated to the Rite of the Church in Wales, complete with vernacular Blessing!

But of course, we had really gathered to play chess, and plenty of it. We were split into two groups of 6 for the first round, each player playing each other in his group. The groups had been roughly seeded on current form in the CCCC divisions, but would that form be repeated in over the board chess with a clock ticking away beside us?

Geoffrey Harper was top seeded in Group A and performed as expected, dropping only 1.5 points on his way to qualifying for the top group in the semi-final stages, but it was the game that he lost that proved most significant. Tim Partridge had arrived late and thus defaulted his first round game, but then went on to take 3 consecutive wins, finally settling for a draw with Foster which was enough to qualify him as top in Group A by virtue of having more black wins. Anthony Foster scored equal points with these two, but was let down by too many draws in his bid to qualify for the top semi-final group. The wooden spoon in Group A went to Henry Cullen who failed to gain a single point, albeit loosing twice on time (to Foster & Carlin).

By the third session it seemed that Group B was going to be a battle between our President Ivor Davies and John Morris and everyone was most dissapointed when their encounter ended in a draw. This turned out to be the only half point that John dropped in this Round and he duly came out top of the group. However, amid all this speculation we had overlooked Charles Mason. Following a second session defeat by Morris he came galloping through to take a surprising but fully deserved 2nd place. Third was a tie between Ivor Davies and Arnold Hurt, Arnold taking the place with more wins, while Peter Townsend scored the round figure of zero in this Group!

Thus the scene was set for the semi final stage of the competition. The top two from each group went through to Group C, the next two to Group D, and the final two to Group E. In each case two pairs of players had of course already played each other in Round 1, and because of a shortage of sessions this result would be carried forward and count again in Round two.

Pictured opposite are our members present at the Congress: Seated at the board are the two finalists, Charles Mason (left) and John Morris. Standing nearest the camera (left) is Geoffrey Harper; behind him Peter Townsend. Tim Partridge holds the Bailey Shield and next to him is Brian Shephard. Bruce Carlin is holding a piece on the demonstration board. To the right of the board is John Gowing and behind him Eric Hodgess Roper. Ivor Davies holds the 'Secretary's Trophy', and to his right are Henry Cullen, Anthony Foster, & Arnold Hurt.

(Photo: Northampton 'Chronicle and Echo')

GROUP B

	Pa	Ha	Fo	Ca	Sh	Cu	TOT		Mo	Ma	Hu	Da	Go	To	TOT
Partridge	X	W	D	W	L	M	3.5	Morris	X						4.5
Harper	L	X	D	W	W	M	3.5	Mason	L	X	W	D			3.5
Foster	D	D	X	D	W	W	3.5	Hurt	L	L	X	W		W	
Carlin	L	L	D	X	W	W	2.5	Davies	D	D	L	X	W	W	3
Shephard	W	L	L	L	X	W	2	Gowing	L	L	L	L	X	W	1
Cullen	L	L	L	L	L	X	0	Townsend	L	L	L	L	L	X	0

Looking at the semi final groups in reverse order, Group E saw Brian Shephard and John Gowing carrying forward a point from their Round 1 wins, but immediately the other two broke their ducks, Peter Townsend holding Shephard to a draw while Henry Cullen defeated Gowing. John Gowing however took the group with a further win over Shephard while Townsend beat Cullen to leave Henry overall last.

In Group D Arnold Hurt was the only player to carry forward a whole point, but he failed to add to it, loosing to both Anthony Foster and Bruce Carlin in this round. Anthony Foster clearly took this Group unbeaten (to be 5th overall), while Bruce Carlin just pipped Ivor Davies for the next place by virtue of a black draw.

Amongst the elite in Group C it seemed that Tim Partridge had shot his bolt. After a splendid first round performance he failed to add to the point he carried forward, but this still left him 3rd overall, ahead of Geoffrey Harper who at least had the distinction of being only the second player to take half a point off John Morris. John it was who took this Group, but Charles Mason who had carried forward a loss beat both the others to qualify for the other final place.

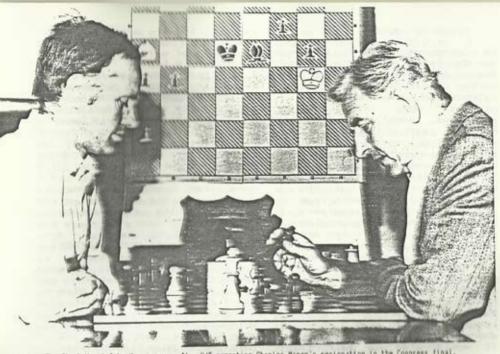
						RESULTS	:	R	out	ND	2						
GROUP C						GROUP D			811			GROUP E					
	Me	Mo	aP	H	TOT		F	C	D	н	TOT		G	S	т	C	TOT
Morris	X	M	W	D	2.5	Foster	X	D	D	W	2	Gowing	X	W	W	L	2
Mason	L	X	W	W	2	Carlin	D	X	L	W	1.5	Shephard	L	X	D	ы	1.5
Partridge	L	L	X	W	1							Townsend					
Harper	D	L	L	X	0.5	Hurt						Cullen				X	1

So now all the positions except First and Second overall were settled as follows:

12: Henry Cullen 11: Peter Townse 9: John Gowing 8: Arnold Hurt 6: Bruce Carlin 5: Anthony Fost 3: Tim Partridge	7: Ivor Davies
--	----------------

The top two were to play again in the Final on the last morning. The rules in the event of this final game being drawn allowed the previous result to be taken into consideration, thus since John Morris had beaten Charles Mason in round 1 he needed only to draw the final, whereas Charles had to win. So far John was unbeaten, having dropped just two half points, while Charles had drawn one and his only defeat was against his final rival. The night before the final John had complained that he seemed to have been playing black all week (in fact as things had worked out he had played 5 games as black and just two as white!). However, he had done rather well with the black pieces including once beating his final opponent with them! The coin was tossed — and John found himself with the black pieces again...

While messengers brought through the moves one by one the other members sat down in the lounge to follow and comment on the game that ensued, aided by Peter Townsend's superb demonstration board.



Above: The Final Move! John Morris moves 46...K65 prompting Charles Mason's resignation in the Congress final. The final position can be seen on the demonstration board.

(Photos: Northampton 'Chronicle and Echo')

Below: Our President Ivor Davies (left) presents John Morris with the Secretary's Trophy for winning our Congress. John Gowing is in the background, and the final position can be seen on the board.



We now reproduce the Final of our Congress. At the time it seemed an exciting game and a worthy final as WER a11 watched and commentated. Both were full of players often more than surprises, confounding our not expectations. We are grateful to both players for sending their own annotations. It is interesting that they have often both picked out the same moves to comment on since these annotations were prepared without reference to each other. John's notes are in standard type, Charles' in italic's and comments from the spectators in CAPITALS. It is perhaps worth noting from the outset that John Morris, having already beaten Charles Mason earlier in the congress, needed only a draw, whereas Charles had to win. It would also be fair to point out that 9 spectators discussing and analysing are quite likely to find better than 2 individuals moves under the pressure of a time control (1 hour for 30 moves then 20 minutes to finish the game). After all, commentators often find better moves for the likes of with Karpov/Kasparov the benefit of hindsight!

> 1 d4 c5 2 Nf3 ...

C.M.: dxc5 could be played.

2 ... Nf6 3 Nc3 cxd4

4 Nxd4 g6

5 e4 e5

C.H.: This seems likely to hamper the operation of Black's KB if fianchettoed. Would 5...d6 have been better, still preventing 6e5 and developing the QB?

6 Nf3 Nc6 7 Bc4 Bg7

8 0-0 0-0

9 Bg5 h6

J.M.: Kick the Bishop is often a good policy. I was relieved to see it retreat to e3. Had it gone to h4 the pin would have been maintained. Further kicking by g5 would

have invited its exchange for the two pawns and the prospect of a fierce assault by white's Q & N.

C.M.: Be3 was too tame. I feared Bh4 would be answered by 10...g5 compelling 11 Bg3. But 11 Bxg5, though giving up a B for 2 pawns would have left me the beginnings of a strong attack.

10 ... a6

J.M.: White is ahead in development and I am not pleased with the holes in my defences. White is all set to occupy d5.

12 Nd5 Nxd5
THE SPECTATORS HAD DECIDED
JOHN WOULD PLAY Nxe4...
J.M.: Resisting the
temptation of 12...Nxe4.
C.M.: Black cannot play Hxe4

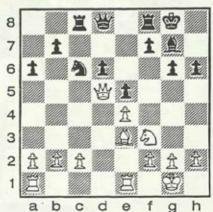
as 13 Bb6 wins white a piece.
13 Qxd5? ...

THIS WAS ANOTHER SURPRISE, WE WERE ALL EXPECTING Bxd5. AT THIS POINT BOTH PLAYERS HAVE USED ABOUT 22 MINUTES.

J.M.: Here's a stroke of luck for Black! White must have overlooked the obvious reply which costs him tempi.

C.H.: Undoubtedly the wrong move. Bxd5 was best, leaving me with a dominant white Bishop and making black's white squared bishop hard to develop. In fact I now have to waste a lot of time protecting my harrassed Queen

13 ... Be6 14 Qd3 Bxc4 15 Qxc4 Rc8 16 Qd5 ...



C.H.: Alright, but only because Black misses an opportunity, cJ or Qe2 are

better.

BLACK'S NEXT MOVE WAS INDEED THE SURPRISE OF THE GAME FOR US ALL. AFTER MUCH DISCUSSION WE WERE CERTAIN 16...Nb4 WINNER. SUBSEQUENT FURTHER ANALYSIS SUGGESTED IT WASN'T QUITE AS DEVASTATING AS IT SEEMED AT THE TIME, BUT WAS STILL BLACK'S BEST MOVE.

J.M.: White seems to have a fatal fascination for d5. Now Nb4 looks a winning move, so why didn't I play it? Some of the spectators had suggested that I was in a defensive rut and couldn't get out and this is probably correct. In the time available I could not see clearly enough the effect of possible counter threats from white like Qxb2. mesmerized myself apprehension considering remote possibilities of Q & N mate or perpetual check so I opt for safety prepare to defend d6.

16 Qe77? ... 17 Rad1 Rf d8

18 Bb6 Rd7 19 Bc5 Nd4

C. H. : A good move by white. Black might have done better to reply 19...Rcd8. Now looses a pawn.

20 Bxd4 exd4 21 Nxd4 Qe5 22 Qxe5? dxe5

C.M.: Exchanging Queens was my decisive error. I should either have avoided it, or allowed it to take place on d5 leaving my Rook an open file. c3 or Qb3 were probably better.

J.M.: I somehow assumed White would exchange Queens. Had he not done so I was considering Rc5 which looked promising. The exchange however allowed to re-unite my isolated d pawn.

> 23 Nf3 Rxd1 24 Rxd1

Rxc2 C.M.: I now pay the penalty for exchanging Queens. In a correspondence game I would probably have resigned soon after this as black looks certain to gain at least another pawn and it is going to take some time to

get my Knight & King active. TIME WAS BEGINNING TO PLAY PART ALSO AT THIS POINT. CHARLES HAD JUST 9 MINUTES LEFT TO REACH MOVE 30, WHILE JOHN HAD 15 MINUTES.

25 RdB+ 26 Nd2 Re72 C.H .: Why not Rxb2?

J.M.: Why not collect the pawn on b2? Being still in a cautious frame of mind I content with one pawn for the time being. The time control was coming up and I thought it better to go into the final stages ahead on time and safe from harm.

> 27 g3 Bf6 28 Rd6 Ka7 29 f4 exf4 30 oxf4 Bxb2

AND SO THE TIME CONTROL WAS REACHED. CHARLES HAVING MERE MINUTE LEFT! BOTH CLOCKS WERE NOW PUT BACK 20 MINUTES, LEAVING CHARLES 21 AND JOHN MINUTES IN WHICH COMPLETE THE GAME.

J. M. : Things are getting easier for me now. So long as I keep ahead on time victory seems assured.

> 31 e5 Bc 1 32 Ne4? Bxf4 33 Nf6

C.M.: Desperation and time shortage start to lead to elemenatry blunders. Kf2 was probably better than 32.Ne4 though there is no real to the answer threat black's Rc2. 33.Nf6 is BY last hope, aiming to win Rook with He8+.

J.M.: A last fling by the White N with a fork in view on e8. The best reply probably 33...Rc1+;Kg2;Rc2+ winning more material, even 33...Bxe5 allowing the Rooks to be exchanged as I have ample material still advantage. But still playing safe I did...

> 33 Re7 ... 34 Nd5 Bxe5 35 Nxe7 Bxd6

THIS POINT THE SPECTATORS DECIDED IT REALLY WAS OVER BAR THE SHOUTING ... J.M.: With the Rooks off White's chances are DOM negligible but he plays gallantly with his position deterioration further until

his flag is near to falling.

36 Nd5 16 37 Kf7 Kq2 38 Kf3 Ke<sub>6</sub> 39 Ne3 Bxh2 40 Be5 Na4! 41 Nxh6 05 42 Kq4 Ь5 43 Nf5 h4 44 Ne3 a5 45 Nc4 a4 Na5 Kd5 46 47 Resigns

WITH JUST OVER 2 MINUTES LEFT ON HIS CLOCK COMPARED WITH BLACK'S 10 IT IS FINALLY ALL OVER. A LAST COMMENT FROM THE TWO PLAYERS:

C.H.: Black's Bishop with his fåg pawns are an impregnable fortress against my King, and Black's King can come across to ensure a promotion on the Queen's side.

J.M.: By no means the best game of the congress though it seemed quite exciting at the time. I gather our fellow competitors had a jolly time analysing in the game progress, pointing out the errors and suggesting better lines of play. I was sorry to miss all that. I shouldn't have missed it, because there were better players than me present who would probably have provided a worthier victor. Even allowing for the fairly severe time limit, my own performance was unduly passive. I was really the beneficiary of my opponent's more adventurous but not always accurate play.

JOHN'S MODESTY CANNOT PASS UNCHALLENGED. HE WAS THE ONLY TO BE UNBEATEN PLAYER THROUGHOUT THE CONGRESS AND THE WAY IT WAS STRUCTURED HE MEET ALL THE POTENTIALLY STRONG OPPOSITION. WHETHER THE STRONGEST PLAYER OVERALL PRESENT OR NOT THERE IS THAT HE WAS THE ONE ON DOUBT THIS WEEK AND DESERVED TO BE THE FIRST WINNER OF THE SECRETARY'S NOW BE IT WILL TROPHY. INTERESTING TO SEE HOW IN DIVISION 1 OF SHAPES UP CORRESPONDENCE COMPETITION OVER THE NEXT 10 MONTHS.

A report on the Congress would not be complete without mention of two other tales:

first concerns Henry The Cullen, one of our longest standing members, who turned up with a secret weapon in his case. This comprised a chess set (on which he always played) which included a with its Black Knight usual horse's head missing. "Henry's Headless caused much consternation to more than one of his opponents. While I playing on an adjacent board observed one player confidently sweep offending piece diagonally across the board as if it was a Bishop only to be pulled up short by the set's owner. In my own game against Henry I was White and determined to remove the piece at the earliest opportunity playing Ruy Lopez exchange. But Henry wasn't having that and as the game progressed distance with decapatited creature still at large I was becoming quite paranoid about it ultimately led me to make the mistake which could have cost Another the game. remarkable feature of this game was that although much else had been exchanged White still had 8 pawns intact after 34 moves!

And finally, just the opening moves of a rather intriguing game which really did happen. I won't name the players, to spare their blushes:

- 1 e4 d6
- 2 d4 Nf6 3 Nf3 Nxe4
- 4 Nxd4 !!! ???

White thus opens the d-file for his Queen. In the heat of the moment neither player saw anything amiss (you have spotted it haven't you?) and the game continued until White ultimately resigned on move 34. The possible positional advantage gained from this bold sacrifice(!) had proved insufficient to counteract the disadvantage of loosing 2 pawns so early!

#### ACCOUNTS

Our Treasurer, Gordon Geddes, has submitted the Club's accounts for the past year so that we can all see where we stand financially:

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Balance 1/8/86	73.00		
Subs. & Donations	59.00	Secretary's Expenses	91.80
Donation	1.00	(inc. magazine printing)	
Magazine Adverts	6.00	BPCF Affiliation Fee	6.00
Congress Fees	498.13	Ecton House	470.70
Bank Interest	7.49		
		Balance 31/7/87	76.12
TOTAL	644.62	TOTAL	644.62

A couple of notes of explanation:

Our main item of expenditure is the printing and postage of our magazine, shown above under Secretary's Expenses. Our Congress appears to have made a profit, but this is in fact illusory. The apparent surplus comes from those who forfeited deposits. Against that there are Congress expenses (and indirectly this larger magazine) that will not appear until next year's accounts. In fact those attending the Congress were subsidised slightly by the Club from a surplus of funds built over the years.

Our Treasurer is suggesting that those who withdrew from the Congress, forfeiting their deposits, can consider their subscription to be paid for the coming 1987/88 season, thus effectively getting £1.50 refund.

It can be seen from the above that the Club made a small surplus this year, solely due to bank interest on our deposited funds, which means that we in fact made a small operational loss.

Given that Subs. & Donations from members includes a substantial donation from one member, simple arithmetic suggests that several members did not pay their subs. atall last year! Subs. remain at £1.50 for the coming season, but if these are not paid our reserves will drop and they may have to be increased next year. Subs. should be sent direct to the Treasurer or paid into Girobank account no. 61-231-4006.

#### MATCH NEWS

Our match against the Social Correspondence Chess Association continues. There are still few results in at present, but those that have come in are encouraging for the CCCC (or is it that those who have lost are just not letting on?...). The match is over 13 boards of two games each and at the time of writing results notified to me give CCCC 7.5 points against SCCA 0.5 points. I would remind members of the team that this match is due for completion by 31st January 1988, so if your games are not nearing a conclusion you should begin to consider upgrading to 1st class post to speed things up.

Please send me your results as soon as they are available, so that I have an accurate and up-to-date picture of how the match is progressing.

I shall be trying to arrange another match to take place when this one is over, so think about whether you may be interested in playing for our team. More details in the January 1988 issue...

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