

CHESS minister !



October 1989

Welcome to the October issue of 'Chess minister!' I am getting this out a little early as I shall be on holiday at the end of September. You may begin your games immediately, but time does not count until the official starting date of 1st October, which gives you a chance to get in a few 'free' moves.

With the arrangements for the new season, there is no space for any games in this issue, and only one member's profile. But I still need to receive these from you for future issues please.

Although we have had a couple of members drop out, our membership has shown a nett increase. A couple of personal introductions have been received, and a better than usual response to our mention in Church Times. We welcome Reg Harcus, Michael Thistlewood, Laurie Janicker, Neil McKinnon, Albert Radcliffe and Reginald Conway as new members and hope they enjoy playing postal chess. Charles Mason returns to League Membership. I have continued to enter new members into one of the 3rd divisions to split them up, which means that we cannot guarantee Division 4 members re-promotion each year. Indeed, if our membership rises any further there will have to be another 4th Division.

Among other members, Geoff Wood has moved to Harrogate, and John Hutchison has returned to Parochial Ministry in England making him more easily contacted. On a less happy note we must record the death of Maurice Robson, a long time member of the Club. Our prayers and sympathy go to his widow. Henry Cullen has suffered a stroke and will not be playing in the league this year, but he is making a good recovery and we wish him well.

We again have a number of Non-League Members (better than non-playing members since many of them do actually play) who receive this magazine and are eligible to play for our Teams. If any of them (or League members who finish their games early) want to play 'friendly' games with each other they should get in touch direct, or through me. I am sending each a score card, but if you need another just ask.

As you will be aware, postage rates are about to go up again, which will increase the cost of playing postal chess. I have always liked to suggest jokingly that people should stock up on stamps before an increase, but this time you really can do this! The Post Office have issued some 'priceless' stamps which are simply 1st or 2nd class. These are currently available for 19p and 14p, but can still be used after the increase, so rush along to your P.O. now.

This also increases the costs of running the Club. Our printing costs have also risen this year, so we have no alternative but to increase the subs. These are now £2 a year. Alternatively you can subscribe as a Life Member for £23 (£1 for each year of the Club's existence). Whichever subscription you choose should be sent to our Treasurer (see Back Cover) as soon as possible.

Some interest was expressed in the idea of holding another residential congress next year, but so far not enough for us to book a Retreat House. If anyone else would support this, please write to me by the end of October which is about the latest we can realistically book.

Only a few early results have come in from our match with the Civil Servants, but they are mostly in our favour. This has also been the case in our last two matches, only for later results to drop us behind. Is this because our fastest players are our best (against expectations), or their fastest players their worst, or is it simply that you only tell me about games you win??? We are also entering our strongest available team in the BPCF Club Championship due to start shortly. Our thanks to John Morris for agreeing to captain this team.

Do enjoy the new season...

Bruce Carti

Our season runs as usual from October to July. You may start games as soon as you receive this magazine, but time does not count until October 1st. All results should be in, or games sent for adjudication, by July 31st 1990, and I am going to get increasingly strict about this as late results threaten to delay the start of the new season.

Opposite are the Divisions for this season. Each person plays two games against each other player in his division, one each as white and black. If both players agree you can play one game for double points (it is up to you to decide who plays white in this case, but I would suggest that if Player A proposes a single game, player B should have the choice). Algebraic notation should be used unless both players agree to use another. At the end of the season players will be promoted, relegated, or 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 with this magazine then you are responsible for starting the game. 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 the start of the season, please contact the Secretary.

New players will have a copy of the full playing rules enclosed, but as always a reminder of the basics: 20 days are allowed for each 10 moves. Time saved is carried forward. Same day reply and days on which there is no postal collection do not count at all. 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:

- i. 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 only cheaper than mail if you put across your moves within 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, but as a rule it should be 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 rises while you find pen or paper.

Since we allow phone, I can see no reason why technologically up to date clergy cannot also send moves by PRESTEL or FAX if they so wish.

Whilst second class post (for those who prefer post) is acceptable, it can be dreadfully slow these days (7 days is not uncommon). If it looks as if your game is not going to finish please consider changing to 1st class post or telephone from March or April. We do not mind adjudicating genuinely unfinished games, but some don't look as though anyone has made any serious effort to finish them at all.

CCCC DIVISIONS 1989 / 1990

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Balance 31.7.88	70.17
Members' subs and donations	41.50
Payment for Advertisements	10.50
Bank Interest	2.32

124.49

Secretary's Expenses	56.14
Subscription to British Postal Chess Federation	10.00
Subscription to English Chess Association	8.00
Balance 31.7.89	50.35

124.49

LIFE MEMBERSHIP ACCOUNT

Balance 31.7.88	210.00
4 Life Memberships @ £22 each	88.00
Interest	17.54

Balance 31.7.89 315.54



GETTING TO KNOW YOU

MIKE SMITH (Div.2A)

I was born in Bolton, Lancs in 1949, and brought up there. I spent much time as a teenager playing chess for school, Bolton Chess Club, and Lancs county team. After reading history at Sheffield University, and then working for three years in the Library of Bolton Technical College, I entered the Northern Baptist College in 1974 to train for the ministry. I emerged in 1977 to marry Jenny and move to Hull.

In the past twelve years we have gained three sons and moved to Wolverhampton. We are about to move again, to Skelmersdale in Lancashire, to become a member of an ecumenical team (Anglican and Methodists, with me representing both Baptists and URCs) at an L.E.P.

During the past 15 years, with the exception of a couple of years in Hull, my chess activities have been confined to correspondence chess, where, although an expatriate Lancastrian, I have continued to play for my native county.

(Mike's present address appears in the 1989/90 Divisions list - from October 24th he will be living at: 9 Eskbank, Tanhouse, Skelmersdale, Lancs. WN8 6EQ. Phone 0695 20123).

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CLERGY CORRESPONDENCE CHESS CLUB : 1988 / 89 SEASON : RESULTS

DIVISION 1

	M	He	D	S	Hr	
Morris	XX	1½	1½	11	11	6½
Hulme	½½	XX	½1	0½	11	5
Davies	0½	½0	XX	½½	10	3
Stevenson	00	1½	½½	XX	0½	3
Harper	00	00	01	1½	XX	2½

DIVISION 2A

	HR	F	H	M	P	
H-Roper	XX	1½	11	11	11	7½
Foster	0½	XX	11	11	11	6½
Hurt	00	00	XX	11	11	4
McIntyre	00	00	00	XX	½1	1½
Partridge	00	00	00	0½	XX	½

DIVISION 2B

	Wt	N	G	Wd	S	
Wright	XX	01	11	11	½1	6½
Nichol	10	XX	½1	10	½1	5
Geddes	00	½0	XX	11	11	4½
Waterfield	00	01	00	XX	11	3
Shephard	½0	½0	00	00	XX	1

DIVISION 3A

	B	Wr	Wd	L	R	
Bailey	XX	11	11	½1	VV	5½
Wiltsher	00	XX	½½	11	VV	3
Wood	00	½½	XX	½1	VV	2½
Lewis	½0	00	½0	XX	VV	1
Robson	VV	VV	VV	VV	XX	V

DIVISION 3B

	Cl	M	S	Cn	N	
Caldwell	XX	½½	11	11	VV	5
Mackenzie	½½	XX	1½	11	VV	4½
Sigsworth	00	0½	XX	11	VV	2½
Carlin	00	00	00	XX	VV	0
Nye	VV	VV	VV	VV	XX	V

DIVISION 3C

	Sh	D	C	Se	Sm	
Smith	XX	1½	11	11	11	7½
Davies	0½	XX	01	11	11	5½
Couch	00	10	XX	01	11	4
Sutcliffe	00	00	10	XX	11	3
Sydenham	00	00	00	00	XX	0

DIVISION 3D

	N	C	W	H	
Norris	XX	10	11	1½	4½
Cullen	01	XX	10	½1	3½
Williamson	00	01	XX	10	2
Hutchison	0½	½0	01	XX	2

DIVISION 4

	Gg	S	Ge	CJ	
Gowing	XX	½½	01	1½	3½
Smith	½½	XX	½½	1½	3½
Goode	10	½½	XX	½½	3
Clifton Joy	0½	0½	½½	XX	2

John Morris retained his title for a second year, which has also moved him into 1st place in our internal Grading list. John won Division one without losing a game. Behind him came David Hulme, who held the champion to two draws in his first season in the top division after rising rapidly through the league. Ivor Davies only just hung on in Division 1, pipping Brian Stevenson for 3rd place by virtue of a win with the black pieces against Geoffrey Harper. And what of Geoffrey? - perhaps frustrated after 3 seasons as runner-up, he came unstuck this year and now finds himself relegated along with Stevenson. With these two relegated, the fight to get into Division 1 next season is going to be tough indeed.

Former winner Eric Hodgess Roper took Division 2A by storm, dropping just half a point to runner-up Anthony Foster, who is again denied a crack at the top division. Arnold Hurt again finished 3rd to continue his shuffle between the two second divisions, while McIntyre and Partridge drop back to Division 3.

John Wright is clearly back with a vengeance after a few years away from CCCC, and topped Division 2B comfortably. Runner-up William Nichol did at least take a game from him, while Geddes followed, and Waterfield and Shephard find themselves relegated.

Eric Bailey took Division 3A by dropping just half a point, while a move to northern climes has perhaps breathed fresh life into Chris Wiltsher who completed the season 2nd in this division. Geoff Wood took third in his first season in the club, beating William Lewis who came last despite being the player responsible for preventing Bailey scoring maximum points. Maurice Robson retired through ill-health during the season, and has subsequently died.

In Division 3B, currently our only R.C. member Justin Caldwell took the honours by half a point from Alan Mackenzie. John Sigsworth was the cause of Alan's undoing, while Bruce Carlin merely succeeded in giving everyone else maximum points in a dreadful season. David Nye withdrew during the season and his games are declared void.

There isn't any obvious solution, but it always seems a little unfair on 3rd Division members when their division contains a new member who is clearly destined for higher things. Such a new member is Mike Smith who devastated the opposition in Division 3C, dropping just half a point to runner up Norman Davies. Peter Couch had a reasonable first season in the circumstances, while David Sutcliffe finished 4th ahead of Fred Sydenham, who did not cover himself with glory this year.

The slightly smaller Division 3D provided a win for another new member, A. Norris, from Henry Cullen, while Michael Williamson beat John Hutchison for 3rd by virtue of winning more games.

Not all results were received from Division 4, and by 1st September I declared all outstanding games drawn as otherwise I could not prepare the new seasons pairings in time. Automatic re-promotion from Division 4 can no longer be guaranteed as the membership increases, but John Gowing at least ensured a return to Division 3, just pipping Smith by winning more games. Ray Goode was just half a point behind, with Leslie Clifton Joy bringing up the rear.

Next season promises to be a tough fight at the top, and John Morris is not going to get a hat-trick without a hard fight. Even staying in Division 1 is becoming increasingly difficult, and the fight to take the two vacated places is going to be a hard one between former stars and rising newcomers.

CCCC PERCENTAGE GRADING LIST OCTOBER 1989

Below is the new internal grading list for all CCCC players who have taken part in our leagues for at least one of the last three years. The grading has no relevance to any official grading of any chess organization, it merely tries to relate our own players to each other and is the basis on which we determine board order in our external matches. It is based on the past three season's results, the most recent carrying the most weight in the grading figure. As 100% would be obtained by winning Division 1 for 3 consecutive seasons, the grading figure shown is thus a percentage of this ultimate success. An * by the grading score means that one or two of the required three seasons results is interpolated because the player has not played in three consecutive seasons. Obviously some recently enrolled members will still be well below their potential grading as they rise through the divisions. Last year's positions are in brackets.

1	(4)	J. Morris	95.17	
2	(1)	T.R. Fisher	87.31	*
3	(3)	I.L. Davies	85.14	
4	(2)	G. Harper	80.15	
5	(11)	D.S.H. Hulme	75.12	
6	(7)	B. Stevenson	72.62	
7	(5)	F.M. Hodgess Roper	71.80	
8	(6)	G.D. Geddes	62.61	
9	(8)	W. Nicholl	61.75	
10	(12)	A.J. Foster	56.77	
11	(9)	P. Waterfield	56.77	
12	(10)	A.H. Hurt	55.92	
13	(26)	J.G. Wright	50.06	*
14	(16)	E.A. Bailey	43.42	
15	(15)	T.R. Partridge	41.73	
16	(24)	J. McIntyre	40.06	
17	(22)	B. Shephard	37.57	
18	(16)	J. Sigsworth	35.92	
19	(18)	H.W.R. Cullen	35.06	
20	(19)	J.S. Loxton	34.73	*
21	(14)	A.F. Mackenzie	33.38	
22	(13)	D. Sutcliffe	32.57	
23	(30)	N.E. Davies	26.72	*
24	(20)	W.H. Lewis	26.72	*
25	(25)	C.O. Mason	26.05	*
26	(21)	M.J. Williamson	25.87	
27	(36)	J. Caldwell	25.02	
28	(--)	A. Norris	25.00	*
29	(--)	M. Smith	25.00	*
30	(23)	W.P.B. Carlin	23.37	
31	(30)	G. J. Hutchison	21.72	*
32	(37)	C. Wiltsher	19.68	*
33	(28)	R. Sydenham	17.54	
34	(--)	P. Couch	17.50	*
35	(--)	G. Wood	17.50	*
36	(29)	J.M. Robson	16.72	
37	(32)	R. Goode	15.87	
38	(27)	D.C. Nye	15.04	
39	(34)	L.J. Clifton Joy	15.04	
40	(33)	P.R. Smith	14.36	*
41	(35)	J.E. Gowing	10.02	

CHESS MINISTER!

is the magazine of the

CLERGY CORRESPONDENCE CHESS CLUB

Affiliated to British Postal Chess Federation

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The Rev. Cn. Ivor Davies, Holly Cottage, 5 The Cwm,
Knighton, Powys. LD7 1HF. (0547) 520253.

Treasurer



The Rev. Gordon Geddes, 6 Richmond Close, Elworth,
Sandbach, Cheshire. CW11 9TX. (0270) 767484.

Secretary (& Magazine Editor)



The Rev. Bruce Carlin, St. Chad's Vicarage,
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