

# CHESS minister !



October 1990

Welcome to a new season of CCCC. All the information you require for the new season is in this issue of our magazine. Inevitably there is not much room for much else in this issue of the magazine, which is just as well as I haven't got much else to put in (I have one game on file and no biographies). Please may I have some games (annotated or not) and some biographies from some of you that haven't yet written one. I would like these by December for January's issue.

What I have had is a bit of feedback from the 'is this a record?' snippets in the July magazine. You may recall that John Morris said that his opponent in the Railways match had 52 games in progress. Well Alan Mackenzie tells me that Paul Keres says in the preface to his own 'Best Games of Chess' that in the years following 1931 (when he would have been 16+) he often had as many as 150 correspondence games in progress, adding, "this naturally made it impossible for me to play them all well." I should say so! Can anyone beat that?

I also mentioned my own game against Robin Lovelock of the Civil Service, which we had continued as a 'friendly' after the match was over. In July we had been going for 16 months and 55 moves. Now Ruggles Fisher tells me that he recently took part in a correspondence match against a team in Russia. His opponent lived in Murmansk and the return postage often took 5-6 weeks. They began the game in Feb. 1986 and played until June 1989 when they agreed a win each. That's 3 years and 4 months - and they had only reached move 38 and 43 in the two games! John Morris told me of his games with Ivor Davies in the last CCCC season, begun in Sept 1989 and finished in July 1990 - one of the games had reached move 78 before Ivor resigned. That is really quite rapid playing and certainly puts into perspective some of the unfinished games I receive from other CCCC members who have sometimes managed somewhat less than 30 moves in the same period! My own game against the CSCA is now at move 73 (and 18 months), and after all this a draw still looks the most likely outcome!

Anyway, back to this year. The season does not officially start until 1st October, but I will be on holiday by the time you get this so I am sending it out early as I will not be back until 6th October - please note this in case you have any problems. Also members of Division 3D please note that William Lewis will not be back from a period abroad until 11th October. He is granted extra cessation, and time in those games will not count until 20th October.

We welcome back William Lewis into full play, and also Ruggles Fisher who returns to the league this year. It seemed totally unfair both to Ruggles and his opponents to put a former 3 times winner in Division 3, but I could not see how we could put him straight into Division 1 without either demoting David Hulme who was 3rd and thus earned the right to stay up, or refusing promotion to one of the Division 2 winners, which would have been unfair as they both deserve it as they continue their rise through our league. However, Chris Wiltsher won one of the third divisions but has withdrawn for a year as he will be away for some of the time, so this has given me an ideal opportunity to put Ruggles into Division 2. Welcome also to Peter Knights, our only completely new member this year.

Our lack of new members may reflect the fact that for the first time that I can remember we have not been given a mention in Church Times during the summer. The new regime there evidently does not regard (ecumenical) clergy chess as worth any column inches, though they continue to report their own (purely Anglican) cricket cup faithfully!



This is a shame, but unless we can persuade the editor to change his mind we are going to have to do our recruiting by word of mouth or perhaps take out an advert. The other church press also receive Chess minister! and intermittently give us a mention, though as I do not take all the church papers I don't always know. Perhaps those of you who read them could let me know if you see mentions of CCCC. I do know that the 'Universe' got in touch with me a while ago, but if they printed anything it hasn't resulted in an increase of R.C. members, of which we currently have one. Don't R.C. clergy play chess?

Chris Wiltsher and Paul Smith become Non-League members this year. The list of non-league members appears at the foot of this page, such members are entitled to play for our teams and often enjoy a 'friendly' game or two with each other - each of you has a game card enclosed and should just contact another non-league member when you feel you would like a game. League members who finish their games early may also like to have a 'friendly' with one of these members.

Farewell to John Sigsworth, John Hutchison, Geoff Wood, and Albert Radcliffe who have left us. Perhaps we will see you back in future? Among other members, Gordon Geddes has returned to parish ministry and his new address is on the back cover.

We have had some plaques made for CCCC winners (our logo on a silver background wood mounted) and are sending them out to past winners as well. Apart from those I know to have died there are just two past winners I cannot trace - M.J. Wentworth (winner 1978/79) and G. Johnson (winner 1975,76,77). There are too many G. Johnson's in Crockford to identify which is ours (if he is indeed an Anglican) - can anyone enlighten me? I have an idea that Wentworth is our sole R.C. winner to date - does anyone know where he is?

Subs are due please. These remain at £2 for another year, and next year are going up to £2.50 to make them 10% of Life Membership which remains £1 for every year of the Club's existence, i.e. £24. Why not become a Life Member and never have to worry about subs again? Please send subs direct to Gordon Geddes our Treasurer - please note his NEW ADDRESS on the back cover.

In a year from now we will be beginning our Silver Jubilee season and I hope we can arrange another residential congress to celebrate this, either in the autumn of 1991 or during spring/summer 1992. Please let me know if you would support such a venture.

Finally, I receive two copies of the BPCF Information Circular each quarter as our club is affiliated to them. These magazines contain a number of games to follow through as well as other news about CC matters. I usually send these out to two of our members at random and hope that you will perhaps in turn pass them on to other members of your division or whatever. They are rarely topical as such, so are still readable months after their publication date and so worth passing on.

Best wishes for the new season.

*Bruce Carlin*

#### NON-LEAGUE MEMBERS

- Rev. J.A. Bickerstaff 16 Reigate Road Brighton BN1 5AJ 0273 556879  
Rev. R.H. Conway, 50 Knights Croft, New Ash Green, Dartford, Kent. DA3 8HT. 0474 873783  
Rev. H.W.R. Cullen, 9 Victoria Avenue, Sleaford, Lincs. NG34 7LN. 0529 304964  
Rev. M. Joy, The Vicarage, 256 Kimberworth Road Rotherham S. Yorks. S61 1HG. 0709 557810  
Rev. W.E.A. Lockett The Croft Ruff Lane Ormskirk Merseyside L39 4QE 0695 72119  
Rev. J.S. Laxton, The Vicarage, Turners Hill, Crawley, W.Sussex. RH10 4PB. 0342 715278.  
Rev. P.R. Saith, 191 Middlecroft Road, Staveley, Chesterfield. Derbys. S43 3NW.  
Rev. F. Sydenham, Rose Cottage, 4 Carbes Lane, Castle Hill, Lostwithiel, Cornwall. PL22 0DF. 0208 872736  
Rev. P. Townsend The Vicarage, Greettham, Oakham, Leics. LE15 7NF.  
Rev. C. Wiltsher, 55 The Avenue, Durham. DH1 4EB. 091 386 1835

BPCF CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP : 1989/90  
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The Clergy Correspondence Chess Club entered a team in the inaugural British Postal Chess Federation Club Championship which ran from October 1989 to July 1990. Seven clubs took part, and we ultimately finished 5th with 9 points from a possible 20. Well done to all who tried. Standings of the teams are given below with full results of our team. We intend to enter a team once again in this year's running of this championship, and hope for better fortune (there is a £200 prize on offer to the winning club). Our thanks to John Morris for acting as Team Captain in this championship.

The Championship uses the Hutton pairing system, where each team plays a composite team of one or more members of all the other teams. Against each of our team below is also the initial letters of the club whose member our team member was playing.

1st	POSTAL CHESS CLUB			13.5
2nd	BRITISH CORRESPONDENCE CHESS ASSOCIATION			12.5
3rd	CIVIL SERVICE CHESS ASSOCIATION			12.5
4th	NORTHERN IRELAND POSTAL CHESS ASSOCIATION			9.5
5th	CLERGY CORRESPONDENCE CHESS CLUB			9
	1. T.R.Fisher	W W	v NIPCA	
	2. J.R.Morris	W W	v ICC	
	3. D.S.H.Hulme	L L	v CSCA	
	4. I.L.Davies	L L	v SBPCC	
	5. G.Harper	D D	v PCC	
	6. M.Smith	W W	v BCCA	
	7. B.Stevenson	L L	v ICC	
	8. F.M.Hodgess-Roper	L W	v NIPCA	
	9. G.D.Geddes	W L	v SBPCC	
	10. A.J.Foster	L L	v CSCA	
6th	STARS BARRED POSTAL CHESS CLUB			7
7th	IPSWICH CHESS CLUB			6

Perhaps surprisingly the Civil Service Chess Association, who we beat in our match with them last year, did rather better than that result suggested they would, only losing out on 2nd place on the tie break of disregarding lowest boards. Ipswich CC had only joined the BPCF to enter this championship, so it was their first effort in such a match. The Postal Chess Club were generally regarded as the favourites and indeed turned out the winners, though in the one match we played against them we got two draws. With a bit of luck in the pairings we could stand a chance...

OTHER MATCH NEWS

We are currently engaged in two matches against other clubs, due to be completed by next January. It is of course early days yet, and as I have remarked before I always get told of our wins first, but a few results are in from these matches and the situation is encouraging. We have an 8 board match against the Railways Chess Association and are currently leading that 5-2 (needing 8.5 to win). We also have a 15 board match against the Social CCA (who narrowly beat us a couple of years ago) and currently lead that 6-4. Team members do please let me have your results as you get them - even your losses!



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 (but do note that I am away 12th Sep - 6th Oct).

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 18 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 suitably equipped clergy cannot also send moves by electronic mail 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 1990/91

DIVISION 1

- Rev. J. Caldwell, The Priory, Banklands, Workington, Cumbria. CA14 3EP.  
Rev. F.M. Hodges-Roper, 8 Victoria Close, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire. CV37 6RR. 0789 296603  
Rev. D.S.H. Hulme, 14 Frankland Road, Coventry, W. Midlands. CV6 7EH. 0203 686115  
Rev. Cn. J.R. Morris, Archbishop Holgate Hospital, Robin Lane, Hensworth, W.Yorks. WF9 4PP. 0977 610434  
Rev. M. Smith, 9 Eskbank, Tanhouse, Skelmersdale, Lancashire. WN8 6EQ. 0695 20123

DIVISION 2A

- Rev. E.A. Bailey, Hill End, Sapiston, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk. IP31 1RR.  
Rev. Cn. I.L. Davies, Holly Cottage, 5 The Cwm, Knighton, Powys. LD7 1HF. 0547 520253  
Rev. T.R. Fisher, 12 The Dell, Oakham, Leics. LE15 6LY. 0572 757630  
Rev. W. Nicholl, 2 Corrstown Park, Hopefield Road, Portrush, Co. Antrim, N.Ireland. 0265 822255  
Rev. M.J. Williamson, St. Mary's Rectory, Dunkirk Street, Droylsden, Manchester. M35 7FB. 061 370 1569

DIVISION 2B

- Rev. A.J. Foster, The Vicarage, Mount Pellon, Halifax, W.Yorks. HX2 0EF. 0422 65027  
Rev. G. Harper, The Vicarage, Paul, Penzance, Cornwall. TR19 6UA. 0736731 261  
Rev. N. McKinnon, William Temple Vicarage, 5 Finchale Road, Abbey Wood, London. SE2 9PG. 081 310 5614  
Rev. P.T. Waterfield, 41 Harewood Crescent, North Hykeham, Lincoln. LN6 8JG. 0522 691282  
Rev. J.G. Wright, Danesford, High Street, Albrighton, Wolverhampton. WV7 3LA. 090 722 3709

DIVISION 3A

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Rev. N.E. Davies, St. Mark's Vicarage, 11 Old Mill Road, Plumstead, London. SE18 1QE. 081 854 2973  
Rev. G.D. Geddes, The Vicarage, Minshull Vernon, Crewe. CW1 4RD. 0270 71213  
Rev. D. Sutcliffe, The Vicarage, Tomgate, Calverley, Pudsey, W.Yorks. LS28 5NF. 0532 577968  
Rev. M. Thistlewood, 9 Lightburn Road, Ulverston, Cumbria. LA12 0AU. 0229 54687

DIVISION 3B

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Rev. A. Norris, 18 Marywell Brae, Kirriemuir, Angus.  
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Rev. Cn. T. Partridge, Bugbrooke Rectory, Northampton. NN7 3PD. 0604 830373

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Rev. A.R. Marcus, Fernhurst Vicarage, Haslemere, Surrey. GU27 3EA.  
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- Rev. P. Couch, 17 Mayfield Road, Northampton. NN3 2RE. 0604 43243  
Rev. J. Gowing, 7 Thurne Close, Newport Pagnell, Bucks. MK16 9DY. 0908 611500  
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Rev. B. Shephard, Keayn Ard, Queen's Road, Port St. Mary, I.O.M. 0624 833315



CLERGY CORRESPONDENCE CHESS CLUB : 1989 / 90 SEASON : RESULTS

DIVISION 1

	M	R	H	D	W	
Morris	XX	1½	11	11	½1	7
H-Roper	0½	XX	½1	½½	10	4
Hulme	00	½0	XX	1½	1½	3½
Davies	00	½½	0½	XX	1½	3
Wright	½0	01	0½	0½	XX	2½

DIVISION 2A

	Sh	B	F	G	Sn	
Smith	XX	01	1½	11	½1	6
Bailey	10	XX	½½	1½	½½	4½
Foster	0½	½½	XX	01	½1	4
Geddes	00	0½	10	XX	11	3½
Stevenson	½0	½½	½0	00	XX	2

DIVISION 2B

	C	Hr	NI	Ns	Ht	
Caldwell	XX	1½	1½	1½	11	6½
Harper	0½	XX	1½	½1	11	5½
Nichol	0½	0½	XX	½1	11	4½
Norris	0½	½0	½0	XX	1½	3
Hurt	00	00	00	0½	XX	0½

DIVISION 3A

	W	Se	Sh	H	M	
Wiltsher	XX	½½	1½	11	11	6½
Sutcliffe	½½	XX	10	½½	11	5
Sigsworth	0½	01	XX	½½	10	3½
Harcus	00	½½	½½	XX	½½	3
McIntyre	00	00	01	½½	XX	2

DIVISION 3B

	W	M	T	M	C	
Waterfield	XX	11	11	11	11	8
Mackenzie	00	XX	11	11	11	6
Thistlewood	00	00	XX	11	11	4
Mason	00	00	00	XX	11	2
Couch	00	00	00	00	XX	0

DIVISION 3C

	W	J	P	D	G	
Williamson	XX	01	½½	11	11	6
Janicker	10	XX	01	½½	01	4½
Partridge	½½	10	XX	01	½½	4
Davies	00	0½	10	XX	11	3½
Gowing	00	10	½½	00	XX	2

DIVISION 3D

	M	Sd	R	Sh	W	
McKinnon	XX	VV	VV	VV	VV	V
Shephard	VV	XX	VV	VV	VV	V
Radcliffe	VV	VV	XX	VV	VV	V
Smith	VV	VV	VV	XX	VV	V
Wood	VV	VV	VV	VV	VV	V

DIVISION 4

	C	H	N	G	J	
Carlin	XX	½0	10	11	11	5½
Hutchison	½1	XX	½½	½½	11	5½
Nye	01	½½	XX	½½	11	5
Goode	00	½½	½½	XX	½½	3
Joy	00	00	00	½½	XX	1

NOTE: Despite repeated reminders a few results were never received, nor were the games submitted for adjudication by 31st August. These have been deemed to be draws in the above table.

TIES: Ties are broken firstly by the number of wins (rather than draws), then black wins, then black draws, then the games between the two tied players, and if all else fails by drawing lots! The only tie this year was in Division 4 where Carlin wins by virtue of having scored more wins than Hutchison.

## 1989 / 90 REVIEW OF THE SEASON

John Morris has retained his championship by winning Division 1 by an even more convincing margin than last year, thus becoming the third member to achieve a hat-trick of Division 1 victories. He has been prevailed upon to stay in the league next year to defend his title (someone suggested that we were in danger of needing a special division for past winners otherwise). 2nd place went to Eric Hodgess Roper (another former winner) just half a point ahead of David Hulme. Of current Division 1 members, our President Ivor Davies holds the record for the longest unbroken spell in the top division (he last won it in 1969) but that finally comes to an end as he finished 4th and is thus relegated along with John Wright, an untypical result in a season interrupted by illness.

Mike Smith continued his meteoric rise through the Divisions by winning 2A, and now has the chance to challenge for the top honour. Eric Bailey was the only player to beat him on his way to a good 2nd place just ahead of Anthony Foster. Gordon Geddes returns to Parish Ministry in the unfamiliar territory of Division 3, whilst the mighty continue to fall as former champion Brian Stevenson came last and also finds himself down in Division 3.

We have, I believe, once had a Roman Catholic winner of the CCCC, and this year there is a chance of that being repeated as currently our only R.C. member Justin Caldwell has won Division 2B and so gains promotion to the top division. After years of being runner up in Division 1 Geoff Harper must hope that this isn't going to become a habit in Division 2 as well, but that is where he finished this time. William Nicholl finished 3rd, while Angus Norris is back to Division 3 along with Arnould Hurt whose season was interrupted by eyesight problems leading to a result that failed to reflect his ability.

Division 3A was won by Chris Wiltsher, but because he will be in the USA for part of the coming year he has temporarily withdrawn from the league leaving me the opportunity to enter former triple winner Ruggles Fisher into Division 2, since it would be clearly unfair to his opponents to place him in Division 3. David Sutcliffe was a good 2nd in this division ahead of Sigsworth, Harcus and McIntyre.

Division 3B has a certain symmetry about it with a straight 8.6.4.2.0 scoreline, partly achieved by some of the players playing single games for double points. Paul Waterfield ran out the winner and so returns to Division 2, leaving Mackenzie, Thistlewood, Mason, and Couch in his wake.

Division 3C was closely contested, the ultimate winner being Michael Williamson, while newcomer Laurie Janicker was a good runner up from Partridge, Davies and Gowing.

Division 3D was a total wash out as all the players bar one dropped out at various stages as the season progressed. This is a very unfortunate state of affairs, particularly for Neil McKinnon, in his first season, who was the only person actually to try to finish all his games, only to have his opponents fall by wayside. Our apologies to him for such a poor first experience in the CCCC. In compensation he 'wins' the Division and gains promotion to Division 2 where at least he should get to play some games to conclusion next season.

Finally, Division 4 saw a tie between Bruce Carlin and John Hutchison. Carlin getting the verdict through having won more games. David Nye was a very close third ahead of Ray Goode and Leslie Joy.



CCCC PERCENTAGE GRADING LIST : OCTOBER 1990

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Below is the new internal grading list for CCCC players, taking into account results for the 1989/90 season. The last three season's results are taken into account in working out this grading, with the scores weighted so that more recent seasons have a higher influence on the grade. 100% is achieved by 3 consecutive division 1 wins, other grades are a percentage of this best score. Where players have not taken part in 3 full seasons their results are interpolated, based on their actual results, and an \* by the score indicates that this has been done. Clearly some newer members will not yet have achieved their potential grade as they rise through the divisions, but hopefully this table does give a guide to our relative strength. Last year's positions are given in brackets. It should be noted that this internal grading bears no relation to any official grading scores.

( 1)	1	J. Morris	100.00	
( 5)	2	D.S.H. Hulme	84.22	
( 3)	3	I.L. Davies	82.58	
( 7)	4	F.M. Hodgess Roper	81.74	
( 2)	5	T.R. Fisher	78.57	*
( 4)	6	G. Harper	68.41	
(13)	7	J.G. Wright	65.03	
( 6)	8	B. Stevenson	58.39	
(10)	9	A.J. Foster	57.55	
( 9)	10	W. Nicholl	56.71	
( 8)	11	G.D. Geddes	55.06	
(29)	12	M. Smith	55.00	*
(14)	13	E.A. Bailey	51.71	
(27)	14	J. Caldwell	50.01	
(12)	15	A.H. Hurt	47.55	
(11)	16	P. Waterfield	46.72	
(28)	17	A. Norris	45.00	*
(--)	18	N. McKinnon	40.00	*
(17)	19	B. Shephard	35.03	
(15)	20	T.R. Partridge	32.53	
(26)	21	M.J. Williamson	32.52	
(32)	22	C. Wiltsher	31.51	*
(19)	23	H.W.R. Cullen	30.20	*
(21)	24	A.F. Mackenzie	30.02	
(--)	25	L. Janicker	30.00	
(18)	26	J. Sigsworth	29.21	
(22)	27	D. Sutcliffe	28.37	
(15)	28	J. McIntyre	28.37	
(23)	29	N.E. Davies	25.02	
(--)	30	M. Thistlewood	25.01	*
(--)	31	R. Harcus	20.00	*
(25)	31	C.O. Mason	20.00	*
(31)	33	G. J. Hutchison	16.69	
(40)	34	P.R. Smith	16.35	*
(30)	35	W.P.B. Carlin	15.01	
(34)	36	P. Couch	15.00	*
(38)	37	D.C. Nye	12.52	
(33)	38	R. Sydenham	12.02	*
(37)	39	R. Goode	11.68	
(39)	40	L.J. Clifton Joy	11.68	
(41)	41	J.E. Gowing	10.00	

**CHESS MINISTER!**

is the magazine of the

**CLERGY CORRESPONDENCE CHESS CLUB**

Affiliated to British Postal Chess Federation

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