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Bristol CHESS TIMES

The Magazine of the Bristol & District Chess League

Grendel win close championship race ^{80p}

After a nail-biting finish, Grendel A are the new League Champions. They beat both the other contenders, Downend A and Horfield A in their last two matches of the season.

In this issue

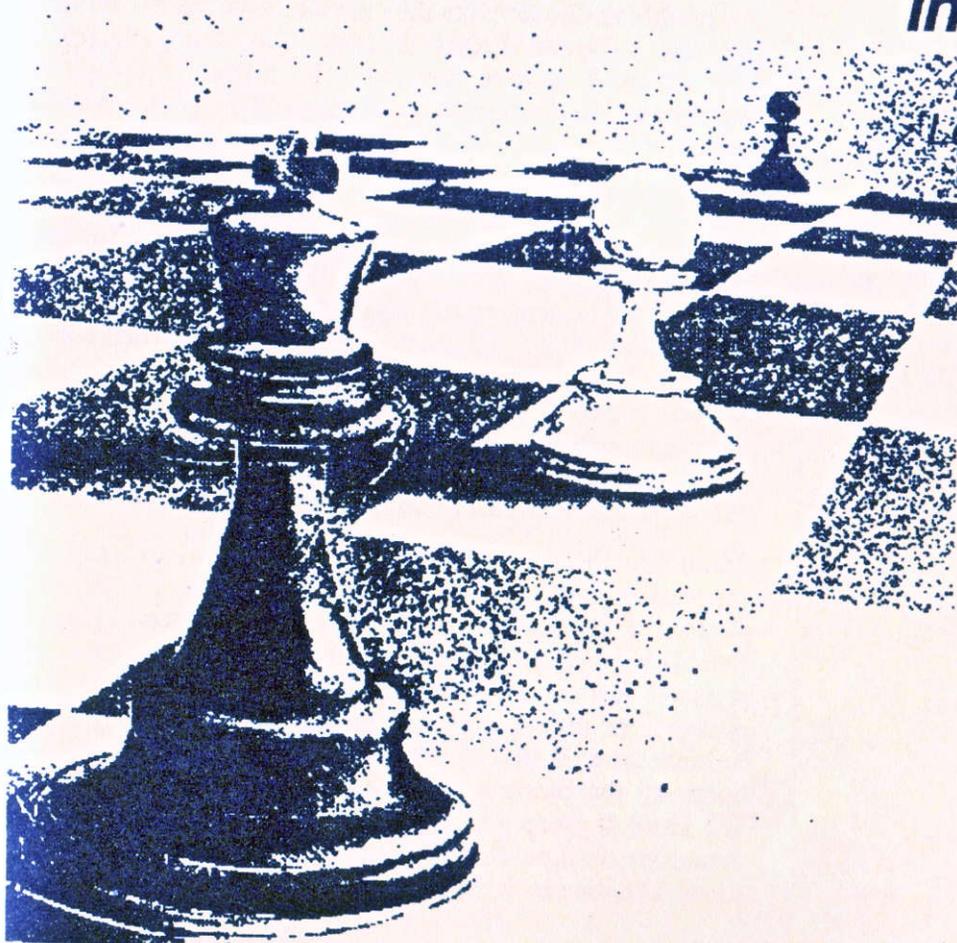
*League Congress:
Sections 1 and 2
reports*

The Big Match

*The art of
swindling*

*Results,
league tables*

Fantasy League



Bristol CHESS TIMES

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Next issue: 7th September.

Please send in articles, news, etc. for the next issue by 23rd August.

EDITORIAL

2007 - a chess odyssey

The League will be 100 years old in 2007. This may seem a long way off, but the League Management Committee has started to think about where we want the League to be when we get there. We're calling this Project 2007 and the objective is to ensure Bristol is seen as a major chess centre.

The sort of things being planned are improvements to the League organisation and image, promoting junior and women's chess, increasing the number of tournaments and players, and attracting more strong players to the area. A lot of planning has been done (and some things, such as the Bristol Grand Prix, have started), but in order to carry out the work we need some money to pay for it. The League is currently run on a shoe-string and just breaks even. In order to do anything new there must be new money. The LMC is proposing a rise in registration fees of £3.50 per team to provide about £200 for Project 2007 next season and this will be voted on at the AGM.

Of course, no one likes paying out more. It may be that the members decide that they do not wish to do so and they are perfectly happy with the way things happen now. If so, I believe they will be throwing away an opportunity to improve local chess for its clubs and players.

Bristol in the 4NCL

We always knew it was going to be a struggle for the Bristol & District team in the 4NCL. Bottom of the table is not a wonderful place to be. But there have been a number of things to suggest it was worthwhile entering. The players have found it valuable to take part in such a strong competition. Young Melanie Buckley has confounded those who thought she would be lucky to get half a point by scoring close to 50%. She also got a partial Elo rating of around 2130.

There are those who think the League should not be supporting such a team because it is only for the top players. I think this is a very short-sighted attitude. Establishing a team will help in the long term to promote Bristol chess and attract strong players. The presence of strong players benefits us all. Also it must be remembered that the vast majority of the costs were borne by the players themselves throughout last season. We have to keep trying to get sponsorship, but in the meantime I hope the League will continue to provide some assistance to its team.

continued on page 24

Close fight in Section One

Simon Ansell

An exclusive by the new Bristol Champion on his win in the Bristol & District League Congress, Section 1, 3-5 February 1995.

Fifteen players contested the top section of the League Congress, held at the Students' Union in the first week of February.

It was clear that this would be a closely fought tournament as early as Round 2, when last year's winner Roy Phillips (Grendel) found himself facing the top seed, Chris Beaumont (Hanham). That game was drawn, as were most of the others in the second round, leaving a seven-way tie (!) on 1½/2 going into the Saturday afternoon games.

Round 3 saw both I (University) and Steve Dilleigh (Horfield) win convincingly to share the lead, half a point ahead of Beaumont, Phillips, Tyson Mordue (Downend) and Derek Pugh (Grendel).

The next round was critical - Phillips played an excellent game with Black against Dilleigh, while Beaumont obtained a large advantage with White against me, but could not convert it, and was even standing worse when a draw was agreed right at the end of the quickplay finish. Mordue and Pugh both drew, leaving Phillips and I to play for the title in the final game.

I took no chances, securing the draw which gave me the title on tie-break. We were joined on 3½/5 by Mordue, who beat Dilleigh after a long struggle, and Jerry Humphreys (Downend), who scored a good win against Beaumont. In fifth place on 3/5 was Peter Chaplin (Clevedon), winning the U-170 grading prize for his efforts.

Phil Nendick - Chris Beaumont
Bristol League Congress Section 1 (1) 1995

1.d4 e6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 ♘g7 4.e4 d6
5.♙e2 0-0 6.♙g5 ♘a6 7.♙d2 e5

7...♙e8, preparing ...e5, is also possible.

8.d5 ♘d7

8...♘c5, or again 8...♙e8, are playable as well as Beaumont's choice.

9.f3 ♘c5 10.b4?!

I don't like this move. Priority should be given to developing the king-side pieces, e.g. 10.♘d1 intending ♘ge2, 0-0; or 10.0-0-0 planning g4, h4, ♘h3 if White is in a more aggressive mood.

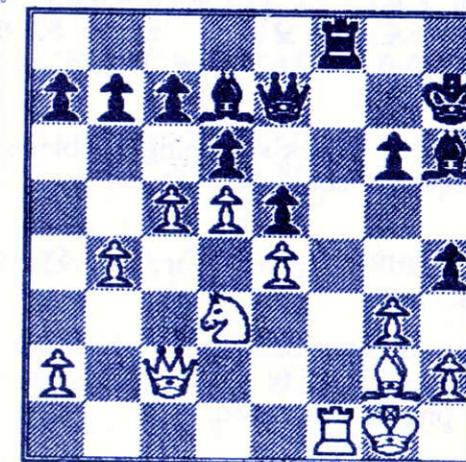
10...♘a4 11.♘xa4 ♘xa4 12.♘h3 h6!

Breaking the pin on the knight. If now 13.♘xh6 ♘xe4 14.fxe4 ♙h4+ wins back the pawn with an excellent position - a common theme in this set-up.

13.♙e3 ♘h7 14.0-0 ♘d7 15.♘f2 h5

White's pieces look reasonably well-placed, but he will find it hard to defend against the coming king-side attack. In fact, the knight on f2 is clumsily placed since it will have to move after ...f5 to provide a retreat for the bishop, leaving e4 weak in the process.

16.c5 16...f5 17.♘d3 ♘f6 18.♙g5 fxe4
19.♙xf6 Forced, since 19.fxe4 ♘xe4! wins for Black. 19...♙xf6 20.fxe4 ♙h4
21.♙xf8+ ♙xf8 22.♙f3 ♘h7 23.g3 ♙e7
Now Black has a target on g3 to aim at.
24.♙g2 ♘h6 25.♙c2 25.♙e2 ♘b5 and the queen must move again soon. 25...h4
26.♙f1



26...♖e3+ 27.♗h1 hxg3 28.♖xf8

28.hxg3 ♖h8 is very strong, e.g. 29.♖f3 (29.♗f2 ♗g7+ 30.♗g1 dxc5) ♗g7+ 30.♗g2 ♖h3+

28...♗xf8 29.cxd6

29.hxg3 ♗h6+ leads to mate.

29...♗h6 30.h3 ♖xh3 31.♗xc7+ ♖d7+ 0-1

A very instructive game.

Derek Pugh - Stuart Ansell

Bristol League Congress Section 1 (1) 1995

1.♖c3 d5 2.e4 dxe4 3.♗xe4 f5?!

An ambitious move which spectacularly backfires.

4.♗g5! e5 5.d4! ♗xd4

5...exd4 6.♖c4 ♗h6 7.♗f3 is similar since Black will probably have to force the exchange of queens sooner or later (with ...♗e7+ ♗e2).

6.♗xd4 exd4 7.♖c4 ♖b4+ 8.♖d2 ♖xd2+ 9.♗xd2 ♗f6?!

9...♗h6 is more resilient.

10.♗f3 h6? 11.♖he1+ ♗f8 12.♗h4! g6

Admitting defeat, but there was nothing to be done anyway.

13.♗xg6+ ♗g7 14.♗xh8 hxg5 15.♗f7 b5 16.♖b3 c5 17.♗d6 ♖d7 18.♖e7+ ♗g6 19.♖f7+ ♗h6 20.♖e6 1-0.

Chris Beaumont - Simon Ansell

Bristol League Congress Section 1 (4) 1995

1.g3 ♗f6 2.♖g2 c5 3.c4 ♗c6 4.♗f3 b6 5.d4 cxd4 6.♗xd4 ♖b7 7.♗c3 g6 8.0-0 ♖g7 9.b3 0-0 10.♖b2 ♖c8 11.♗d2 d6 12.♖fd1 ♗d7?!

The source of Black's coming problems. The d7 square should be reserved for the knight.

13.♗c2 ♖fd8 14.♗e3 ♗e5 15.♗cd5 ♗xd5 16.cxd5

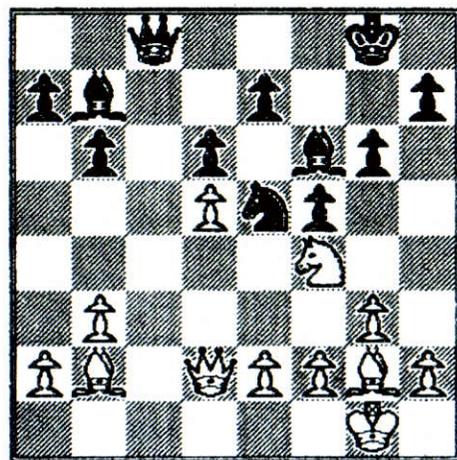
Now White is better because the queen must move again since 17.f4 ♗g4 18.♖h3, with a strong pin, is threatened.

16...♗e8 17.♖h3 f5!?

After 17...♖c7 18.♖ac1 Black cannot contest the c-file.

18.♗g2! Heading for e6. 18...♖c5 19.♗f4 ♖dc8 20.♖ac1 ♖xc1 21.♖xc1 ♖xc1+ 22.♗xc1 ♗c8 23.♗d2 ♖f6 24.♖g2

Maybe this is not necessary immediately. 24.♗e6, planning ♖g2 and possibly ♗h6, looks very strong. Also Black's coming queen manoeuvre is prevented.



24...♗c5! 25.♗e6 ♗a5! 26.♗xa5

Not 26.♗h6 ♗e1+ 27.♖f1 ♗xf2+! or 26.♖c3 ♗f3+!

If White goes for 26.b4 ♗b5 27.♗h6 ♗e8 28.♗g5 ♖xg5 29.♗xg5 then 29...♗a4! causes a few problems. Note that this is only possible because ♗c5-a5 provoked the weakening b4.

26...bxa5 27.♖d4 a6 28.♖b6 a4 29.bxa4 ♗c4 30.a5 ♖c3 31.♗d8 ♖a8 32.♗c6 ♗f7 33.e4

The only way for White to make progress.

33...fxe4 34.♖xe4 ♗e8 35.♖d3 ♗xb6!

This was a critical moment just before the time control. The other move is 35...♖xc6 36.dxc6 ♖xa5 (36...♗xb6 37.axb6 and 36...♗xa5 37.c7 ♗d7 38.♖xa6 both win) 37.♖xa5 ♗xa5 38.♖xa6 ♗xc6 39.♖b5 ♗d7. At the time I thought 40.♗f1 ♗c7 41.♖xc6 ♗xc6 was a winning endgame for White, but this is not the case. However, White has good winning chances if he does not exchange his bishop.

36.axb6 ♗d7 37.♖e4 ♗c8

Now Black wins the b-pawn. The two bishops and the weakness of d5 should secure the draw.

38.a4? a5

Now the a4 pawn is a target.

39.h4 ♗b7 40.♗xe7 ♗xb6 41.h5 gxh5 42.♖xh7 ♗c5 43.♖e4 ♗b4 44.♖c2 ♗c5 45.♖b3 ♖f6 46.♗g6 ♗b4 47.♖d1 ♖xd5 48.♗f4 ½-½

Black may now be winning after 48...♖c6, but with only a minute to complete the game, I decided to take the draw.

Steve Dilleigh - Roy Phillips

Bristol League Congress Section 1 (4) 1995

1.d4 g6 2.e4 d6 3.♗c3 c6 4.g3 ♖g7 5.♖g2 ♗f6 6.♗e2 0-0 7.h3 ♗bd7 8.♖e3 e5 9.0-0 ♖e8 10.♖e1 b5 11.a3 a6 12.♗d2 ♖b7 13.♖ad1 ♗e7 14.♖g5

White achieves little over the next few moves. A plan with f4 is more to the point.

14...♗f8 15.f3 h6 16.♖e3 ♖ad8 17.♗c1 ♗h7 18.♗h2 exd4 19.♗xd4 c5 20.♗de2 ♗b6 21.♗f4 d5!

Black begins to take control.

22.♗fxd5 ♗fxd5 23.♗xd5 ♗xd5 24.exd5 ♖xd5 25.c3

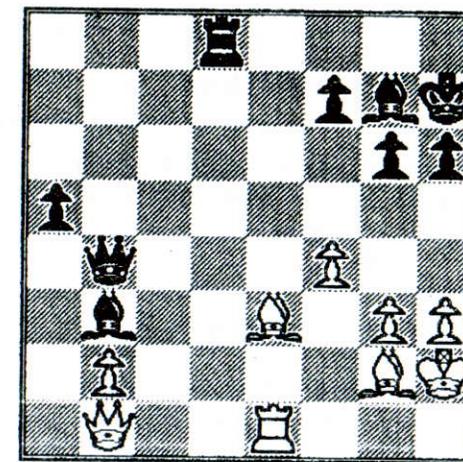
Conceding the d-file. 25.♖f2 looking to exchange some major pieces on the e-file is better, though the Black bishops are much

Bristol & District League Congress 1995, Section 1

Surname	BCF	Club	1	2	3	4	5	Score	Plc
1. BEAUMONT, Chris	212	Hanham	W8	D4	D7	D2	L6	2½	6=
2. ANSELL, Simon	205	University	W10	D5	W6	D1	D4	3½	1=
3. MORDUE, Tyson	204	Downend	W11	D7	D4	D8	W5	3½	1=
4. PHILLIPS, Roy	199	Grendel	W12	D1	D3	W5	D2	3½	1=
5. DILLEIGH, Steve	182	Horfield	W13	D2	W12	L4	L3	2½	6=
6. HUMPHREYS, Jerry	179	Downend	D14	W9	L2	W7	W1	3½	1=
7. PUGH, Derek	174	Grendel	W15	D3	D1	L6	D10	2½	6=
8. NENDICK, Philip	166	Horfield	L1	W14	D10	D3	L11	2	13
9. BOYCE, Jim	163	Clifton	D*	L6	D15	D13	W14	2½	6=
10. WILKINSON, Graham	157	Clifton	L2	W13	D8	D11	D7	2½	6=
11. CHAPLIN, Peter	153	Clevedon	L3	D15	W14	D10	W8	3	5
12. MORGAN, Roger	151	University	L4	BYE	L5	D15	W13	2½	6=
13. THOMAS, Devon	145	Harambee	L5	L10	BYE	D9	L12	1½	14=
14. GROSSETT, Duncan	131	Clifton	D6	L8	L11	BYE	L9	1½	14=
15. ANSELL, Stuart	119	University	L7	D11	D9	D12	BYE	2½	6=

stronger than their White counterparts.

25...♖b3 26.♖xd8 ♖xd8 27.♗b1 a5! 28.f4 b4! 29.axb4 cxb4 30.cxb4 ♗xb4



31.f5

Losing, but I can't suggest a better move. White has been punished for his passive play. The rest, as they say, is just a 'matter of technique'.

31...♖c2 32.♗xc2 ♗xe1 33.fxg6+ fxg6 34.♖f4 ♗b4 35.b3 ♗c3 36.♗xc3 ♖xc3 37.h4 ♖d2 38.♖c7 ♖d3 39.h5 ♖xb3 40.♖e4 ♖c3 41.hxg6+ ♗g7 42.♗h3 ♖b5 43.♖c2 ♖b7 44.♖f4 ♖b2 45.♖e4 a4 46.♗g4 a3 47.♖c1 ♖b4 0-1

A very smooth performance by Roy.

Thud and blunder

The Buckley Family

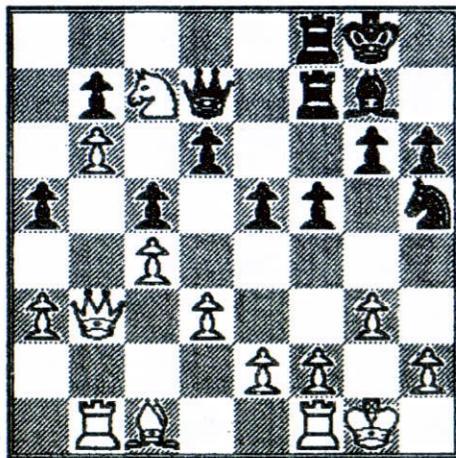
Nineteen players (with a grading span of 98 to 139) took part in Section 2 of this year's League Congress.

Round 1

Paul Butterworth - Paul Heaton

Butterworth succeeded in weakening the a5 pawn but succumbed to a well played mating attack by joint top seed Heaton.

1.♖f3 ♖f6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 ♖g7 4.♖g2 0-0 5.0-0 d6 6.♖c3 e5 7.d3 c6 8.♖b1 a5 9.a3 ♖bd7 10.b4 ♖h5 11.b5 c5 12.♖d5 ♖b6 13.♖xb6 ♖xb6 14.♖g5 h6 15.♖e4 ♖e6 16.♖c3 f5 17.♖d5 ♖f7 18.♖xf7+ ♖xf7 19.♖d5 ♖d8 20.b6 ♖d7 21.♖c7 ♖af8 22.♖b3



22...f4 23.♖g2 fxg3 24.hxg3 ♖g4

with the idea ...♖xf2

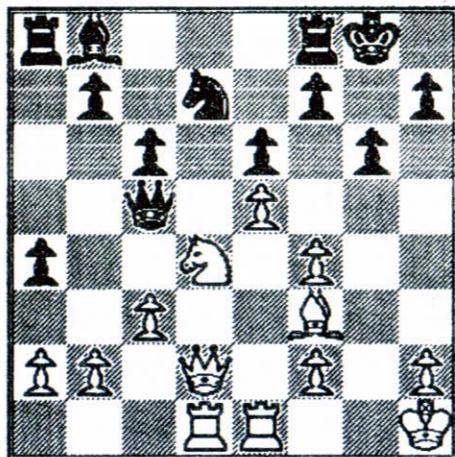
25.♖e3 ♖f4+ 26.♖xf4 exf4 27.e3 f3+ 0-1.

Round 2

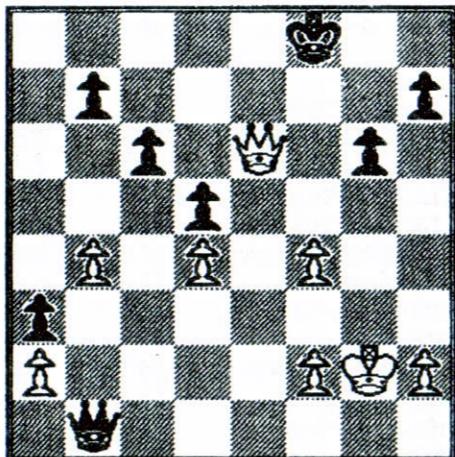
Andrew Johnstone won the following game against Paul Heaton to share the lead with Shane Roberts, who beat Ed Hill-Wood. Heaton withdrew from the tournament.

Paul Heaton - Andrew Johnstone

1.e4 ♖f6 2.e5 ♖d5 3.d4 d6 4.♖f3 ♖g4 5.♖e2 c6 6.0-0 ♖xf3 7.♖xf3 dxe5 8.dxe5 e6 9.♖e2 ♖d7 10.g3 ♖c7 11.♖e1 ♖c5 12.c3 a5 13.♖d2 ♖e7 14.♖b3 ♖a7 15.♖h1 ♖g6 16.♖f4 ♖b8 17.♖h5 a4 18.♖d4 ♖a5 19.♖ad1 ♖xf4 20.gxf4 g6 21.♖f3 ♖c5 22.♖d2 0-0



23.b4 ♖c4 24.♖e4 ♖b6 25.♖e2 ♖a6 26.♖g3 ♖c7 27.♖d4 ♖ad8 28.♖xd8 ♖xd8 29.♖c2 ♖xd1+ 30.♖xd1 ♖d5 31.♖d2 ♖c4 32.♖xd5 exd5 33.♖e2 ♖e4+ 34.♖g1 ♖b1+ 35.♖g2 a3 36.♖d4 ♖b6 37.e6 fxe6 38.♖e3 ♖xd4 39.♖xe6+ ♖f8 40.cxd4



40...♖e4+ 41.♖xe4 dxe4 42.f3 e3 43.♖f1

43...♖e7 44.♖e2 ♖e6 45.♖xe3 ♖f5 46.b5 cxb5 47.d5 b4 48.♖d4 b3 49.axb3 a2 50.♖c5 a1♖ and Black won in a few moves. 0-1.

Round 3

Andrew Johnstone dropped his only half point of the tournament to Shane Roberts, allowing 9 year old Simon Buckley (who beat Ian Biddick with Ian's beloved Reti opening) to share the lead along with Mike Collier, who smartly refuted Bob Selway's bishop sacrifice to reach 2½ points.

David Buckley - Antony Smith

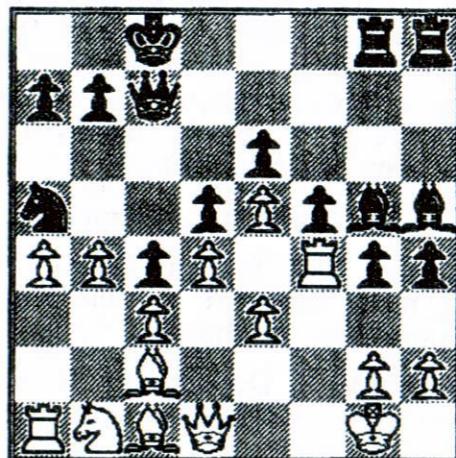
1.♖f3 g6 2.c4 ♖g7 3.g3 e5 4.♖c3 ♖c6 5.♖g2 f5 6.d4!? e4 7.♖g5 ♖ge7 8.♖e5 h6 9.♖xg6 hxg5 10.♖xh8 ♖xh8 11.e3 ♖f7 12.♖h5+ ♖g6 13.g4 d6 14.gxf5 ♖xf5 15.♖xe4 ♖xe4 16.♖xe4 ♖f6 17.♖g1 ♖ce7 18.♖xg5 ♖g8 19.♖d5+ 1-0.

Round 4

Andrew Johnstone and Mike Collier took advantage of blunders to beat Simon Buckley and Shane Roberts, respectively, reaching 3½ points. David Buckley was the sole player on 3 points, after winning a thud and blunder encounter with Stuart Mills.

Terry Marke - Gordon Cameron

A game distinguished by a plethora of sacrifices (some sounder than others!) 1.d4 e6 2.e3 f5 3.♖d2 ♖f6 4.♖d3 d5 5.f4 c5 6.c3 ♖c6 7.♖h3 ♖d7 8.0-0 ♖c7 9.♖f3 ♖e7 10.a4 c4 11.♖c2 ♖a5 12.♖e5 ♖d6 13.♖f3 ♖g4 14.♖f2 ♖xe5 15.fxe5 ♖e7 16.♖h3 0-0-0 17.♖h1 g5 18.♖f3 g4 19.♖f4 ♖dg8 20.♖g3 h5 21.♖f1 h4 22.♖d2 ♖g5 23.♖b1!? ♖e8 24.b4 ♖h5!?



25.♖f1 ♖xf4 26.exf4 ♖b3 27.♖b2!? ♖xa1 28.♖xa1 g3 29.h3 ♖h7 30.♖d2 ♖h6 31.♖b2 ♖g4!? 32.♖c1 ♖xh3!? 33.♖xc4!? ♖xg2!? 34.♖d6+ ♖b8 35.♖b5 ♖g7 36.♖xf5!? h3 37.♖xh3!? ♖xh3 38.♖c5 ♖f1!? 39.♖xf1!? g2+ 40.♖e2 g1♖ 41.♖b5 ♖h2+ 0-1.

Round 5

Andrew Johnstone scored a quick win against Mike Collier to secure first place and the base of the coveted silver queen.

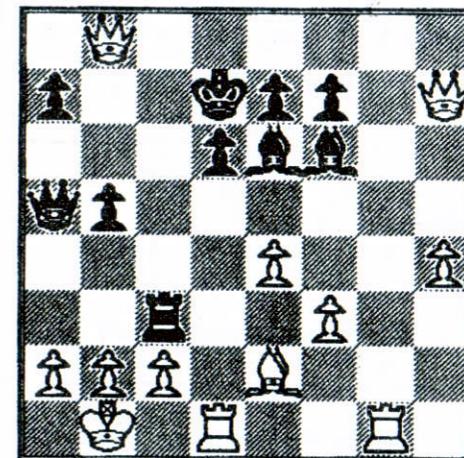
Andrew Johnstone - Mike Collier

1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 dxc3 4.♖xc3 d6 5.♖f3 g6 6.♖c4 ♖g7 7.e5! ♖c7? 8.♖b3 d5 [8...e6 9.♖b5] 9.♖xd5 e6 10.♖b5 ♖b6 11.♖e3 ♖a5+ 12.♖d2 ♖b6 13.♖d6+ ♖d7 14.♖a4+ ♖c6 15.♖xc6+ bxc6 16.♖xf7 ♖xb2 17.♖d1 ♖c7 18.♖a5+ ♖b8 19.♖xc6 ♖b7 20.♖d6+ 1-0.

David Buckley secured outright second place after a scintillating finish to a Sicilian Dragon game which attracted a large crowd.

Shane Roberts - David Buckley

1.e4 c5 2.♖f3 d6 3.d4 ♖f6 4.♖c3 cxd4 5.♖xd4 g6 6.♖e2 ♖g7 7.♖e3 ♖c6 8.♖d2 0-0 9.h4 h5 10.f3 ♖d7 11.0-0-0 ♖c8 12.♖hg1 ♖xd4 13.♖xd4 ♖a5 14.♖b1 ♖b8? allowing ♖d5. 15.g4?! b5? 16.♖xf6 ♖xf6 17.gxh5 ♖fc8 18.hxg6 [18.♖d5!] 18...♖xc3! 19.♖h6 ♖e6 20.♖h7+ ♖f8 21.g7+ ♖e8 22.g8♖+ ♖d7 23.♖xb8?



23...♖xa2+ 24.♖c1 ♖xc2+ 0-1.

Ian Biddick recovered from his round 3 reverse to share third place with Mike Collier after a convincing win over Clive Parker.

THE BIG MATCH

Grendel A v Downend A, 3rd April 1995

John Richards

This season has seen the closest Championship race that I can remember, with three teams all in with a chance up to the last couple of matches. Last year's winners, Downend A, started badly but caught up the early leaders, Grendel A. Horfield A have had an up and down season, beating both Grendel and Downend, but losing twice to Hanham A; they still amassed enough points to be in contention. With just a couple of matches to go, Downend looked favourites to retain the title while Grendel had to face both Downend and Horfield in the last two matches.

The big match on April 3rd was Grendel at home to Downend. A victory for either side would mean they were almost certain to be champions. My team, Horfield, were still in with a chance, but we needed Grendel to beat Downend, and then we had to win our last two matches (against Clifton A and Grendel) by big scores to take the Championship on tie-break.

The league position was:

	P	Pts	GD
Grendel A	13	19	+19
Horfield A	14	19	+11
Downend A	13	19	+11

(GD = game points difference)

Both Grendel and Downend were considered likely to win their outstanding match which would give them both 21 points from 14 matches.

On the Saturday before, I had been playing

in a tournament in Gloucester when I heard that Grendel's no. 1, Roy Phillips, was in Switzerland and would miss the Downend match. This was a big blow as it meant that the Grendel team would all have to move up one board and if Downend were at full strength this could be a disaster. We decided to try and keep the news a secret from the Downend players as long as possible; there was always a good chance that Tyson Mordue would be preparing for Roy.

On the Monday I arrived at the Full Moon to find play underway. My fears were realised when I saw the list of teams. Downend fielded their top six, while Grendel had also lost Alan Clarke (illness) and so had had to pull in two players on the bottom boards.

Grendel A	Downend A
Dave Osborne (W)	Tyson Mordue
Jim Will	Graham Copeland
Derek Pugh	Jerry Humphreys
Chris Carter	Mike Brigden
Andy Nicholls	Michael White
R Foster	Clive Oldfield

As I came back from the bar with my first pint of the evening, my feeling was that Grendel would be lucky to get 50% on the top boards and extremely lucky to get more than half a point from the bottom three. Downend seemed to be on the way to retain the league crown. Of course, God never intended life to be simple, otherwise he wouldn't have invented chess.

Board 1 - Dave Osborne v Tyson Mordue

Dave played the Sicilian Grand Prix. Nothing much happened and the players shook hands after 14 moves.

8:45pm Grendel ½ Downend ½

Board 3 - Derek Pugh v Jerry Humphreys

Jerry uncharacteristically misplayed the opening, allowing Derek to take on f7 with check and force Jerry's king out into the open. If this wasn't enough, Jerry also found himself two pawns down. He finally gave in as the White bits piled into his position.

9:45pm Grendel 1½ Downend ½

Board 5 - Andy Nicholls v Michael White

Andy's position looked solid while Michael's looked very cramped. Michael tried to create something on the kingside but only succeeded in losing material.

10:01pm Grendel 2½ Downend ½

Grendel had made the most of the White pieces and gone into a commanding lead. I was now starting to get worried that they would win by too many points, making it even harder for Horfield to catch them. However, I knew things were looking okay on board two.

Board 2 - Graham Copeland v Jim Will

Jim made a frightful retreat with a knight which allowed Graham a strong kingside attack. Jim was also under central pressure and ended up with a weak backward d-pawn. Graham won a pawn and then broke through in the centre - it was all over.

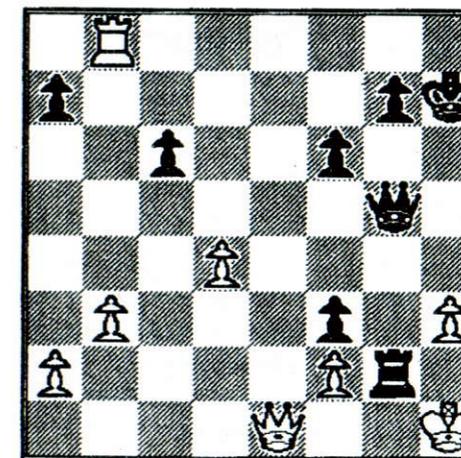
10:15pm Grendel 2½ Downend 1½

Two games to go, and Downend need two points. From my - distinctly biased - point of view, I wanted the teams to get one each. Board Four looked level, but Mike Brigden is an expert at conjuring something up before the time control so I felt anything could happen.

Board 6 - Clive Oldfield v Bob Foster

More interesting was the position on bottom board. Grendel's Foster, with the Black pieces, had managed to get a strong attack down the g-file. Clive Oldfield had been fighting for survival for several moves and was clinging on by his fingertips. However, Black's attack seemed to be running out of steam while White's rook was getting more active. Eventually, they reached this position (or something like it, I reconstructed it from

memory) with White to seal:



Clive sat and thought. After a minute or so I had decided the obvious ♖e4+ was possibly winning and at least a draw. Jerry Humphreys, the Downend captain, had come to the same conclusion. But Clive was still thinking. Jerry and I agreed that Clive must have run into a mental block; he couldn't have seen it or he'd have sealed by now.

After twenty minutes, Clive sighed and asked for another sheet of paper. He had written down a move and then crossed it out three times; he wanted to have a clean sheet. Clive stared at the board, sighed again, and wrote down his move. He then sealed the envelope, slumped back in the chair and looked at his captain. "Shall I resign now?" he said. We knew then he must have failed to see the right move. The only chance was he had sealed ♖e4+ anyway. He hadn't, and so resigned.

Those readers who are unused to sealing moves may be wondering how a first division player can get into this state. But Clive's crisis is by no means unusual. Many players, including grandmasters, have had the experience of freezing while trying to decide on a sealed move. It can be very difficult when you have been losing for most of the game to see a sealed move that wins. The pressure is on to find the right move, the match can depend entirely on what you do next, and there is often a crowd of people watching. Everybody watching knew exactly how he felt.

11:00pm Grendel 3½ Downend 1½

continued on back page

Gwbert Gambit

24th Dyfed Congress

Steve Boniface

If this sounds an uninteresting event, that probably explains why few English chess players make it to Gwbert-on-Sea in early March each year. This ruggedly beautiful bay - rather reminiscent of a small Woolacombe - hosts a tournament that has been going longer than most, and which attracts regulars back year after year.

Ian Biddick and I intended to plunder both the Open and Major prizes for the homeland, but a mixture of incompetence and gritty Welshmen restricted us to 50% in total. Of the 120-odd competitors, only a handful made it across the border. The weather immediately beforehand was positively wintry, but the snow stopped two days earlier and the one main road through Carmarthen was mercifully clear of ice and frozen GMs.

The spacious Cliff Hotel offers excellent accommodation with heavy meals three times a day included in the modest tariff. Unfortunately, the hill-farming mentality prevailed and we tended to be herded like sheep into the restaurant at set times with a Welsh Basil Fawltly in charge. But we English got treated well, even though the home rugby side got a fair drubbing at Scottish hands on the Saturday afternoon. Perhaps we were already forgiven for the previous fortnight ...

Ian's opponent in the critical third round spent most of the game watching the rigger, but till managed to win. Having got severely stuffed on the Saturday morning, I was quite happy to blitz away to see the match, but my opponent, despite being offered a generous draw on move seven of a King's Gambit, insisted on playing on until half-time. At that point he threw away as many pieces as the Welsh backs did possession and resigned shortly after the kick-off. It turned out that he was not a football fan and

thought Barry John was a toilet on the South coast.

One other feature of the event was the very relaxed controlling by Frank Hatto. With never an unkind word for any of the players, he refused to be hurried into starting any round until he was good and ready. This was helped by the cunning ploy of not publishing a timetable or rate of play before the event. Of course, those who had been before (90%) already knew this from last year, so why waste precious space on the entry form to repeat it? In the Major section there were six Joneses playing, all of whom had the same colours in the first four rounds, after which they all played each other. As the board numbers were placed exactly halfway between each chess set this led to some interesting exchanges before each round:

"Are you Jones the overtaker?" "No, I'm Jones the undertaker!" and the two would swap places.

It was an excellent weekend, but by early Sunday afternoon we'd had enough, and with quick draws agreed we set off in daylight just as the weather was closing in gain. Perhaps we should have waited and got snowed in to this lovely place.

Here is my only loss - a sad case of a better position going down the pan.

Steve Boniface - G Dodd
Dyfed 1995

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 ♖c6 5.♗f3
♜b6 6.♗e2 ♗ge7 7.♗a3 ♗f5 8.♗c2
cxd4 9.cxd4 ♗b4+ 10.♗f1

Allegedly the best move despite the incarcerated rook; Black's pieces get in each other's way.

10...♗e7 11.♗d3 ♗h4?

An extraordinary move which seems to give White the attack and material for no good reason.

12.♗xh4 ♗xh4 13.♜g4 ♗e7 14.♜xg7
♗f8 15.♜xh7 ♗xd4 16.♗xd4 ♜xd4
17.♗h6 ♗d7 18.♗xf8 ♗xf8

Allen shares first

Players flocked to the ever-popular East Devon Congress. The twentieth East Devon was held in Exeter on the last weekend of March and attracted 223 entrants. The "Stars-Barred" top Premier Section was expanded to include those with grades under 200, and this brought in FMs Michael Franklin and Luke McShane, the ex-Under 10 World Champion. Obviously most interest centred on the young master, and for a time, when on 2/2, it looked like he would walk away with the main prize.

In Round 3 Luke was outplayed by Neil Crickmore, but still managed to show tremendous technique to hang on for a draw. However, he finally fell to Paul Cooksey, who went on to win the main event for the second year running. The other youngster, Jack Rudd of South Bristol, managed only a disappointing 50%.

Crickmore spoiled his chances by arriving nearly an hour late for his fourth round game after the clocks went forward, and was duly put away by Franklin. He was joined in second place by Ian George and John Wheeler, both of whom were undefeated.

Local veteran Peter Dobber won the Major with a splendid 4½/5 while no less than twelve others amassed 3½.

B Kocan and Clifton's Richard Allen shared the honours in the Intermediate tournament, whilst the Minor was a triumph for David Bate-Smith. Perhaps the enforced curtailment of his cigar smoking has actually improved his chess!

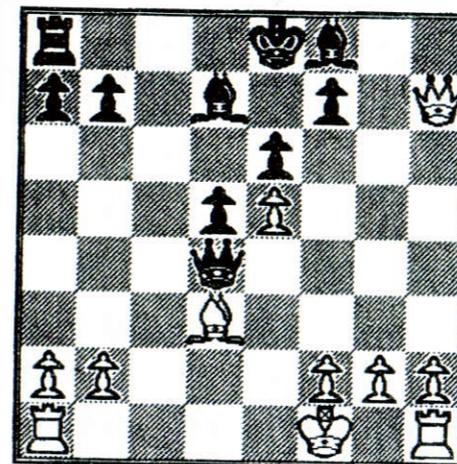
Premier: 1 P Cooksey *Newbury* 4½; 2= M J Franklin *Richmond*, I M George *Camborne*, J F Wheeler *Portsmouth* 4. Grading prizes: Duncan Grossett *Clifton*, R Hardy *Cossham*, J Walker *Teignmouth*.

Major: 1 P Dobber *Honiton* 4½; 2 D Hodge *Torquay* 4.

Intermediate: 1= Richard Allen *Clifton*, B A Kocan *Basingstoke* 4½.

Minor: 1 D Bate-Smith *Barnet* 4½.

Steve Boniface



Now White is the exchange and a pawn up, and seems to be better placed. However, the Black queen is well centralised and f2 looks weak.

19.♗e2 ♗c8 20.♜d3 ♜xb2 21.♗b1
♜xe5 22.g3??

I don't mind giving back the two pawns, but this is gross. The two White rooks are asking for it!

22...♗c3

Looks like a cheap shot, but is very powerful.

23.♜d1 d4 24.♗f3 ♗xf3!

This second exchange surrender is dreadful.

25.♜xf3 ♗c6 26.♜e2 ♜f5 27.♗c1 ♗b5
28.♗c4 ♜d5

and I saved myself further punishment... 0-1

The few English players didn't seriously threaten the prize list, though Sven Zeidler of Swindon is well known in our area.

Open: 1 I C Jones *Cardigan*, A Sheehan *Aberdare*, S Zeidler *Swindon* 4/5. **Major:** 1 N Servini *Penarth* 5/5. 2= H Jones *N Wales*, R Moore *Neath*, R Wade *Fishguard* 4½.

Check in the Post

The Bristol Evening Post will be carrying a chess column every Wednesday. This is due to the efforts of the League's Recruitment & Publicity Officer, Steve Roberts who, as been working to improve the coverage of chess in the local media as part of Project 2007.

Never Say Die!

Colin Axon

Some have sprung one, many have fallen by one - I talk of the swindle! Most games of chess are lost rather than won ("I dropped a bit somewhere along the line..."), but just occasionally one manages to be sneaky, devious, or downright cheeky and pull a result out of thin air!

To give you a taste for this particularly satisfying route to chess success, here are a couple of games.

Stuck in the corners

H Haas - Roy Phillips
Hastings Christmas 'A' 1993
(Notes by Roy)

1.e4 ♘f6 2.♖c3 e5 3.f4 d5 4.fxe5 ♘xe4 5.d3 ♗b4!?

I don't know much about this move other than it frightens people!

6.♘ge2

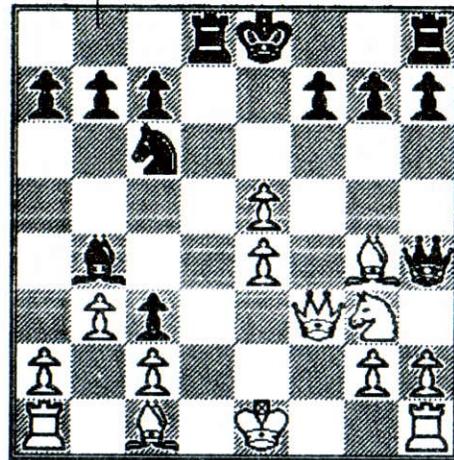
6.dxe4 ♗h4+ 7.♖e2 ♗g4+ 8.♘f3 ♗xc3 9.bxc3 dxe4 10.♗d4 ♗h5 11.♖e3 ♗xf3! 12.gxf3 ♗e1+ 13.♖f4 ♗h4+ 14.♖e3 ♗e1+ Draw! [Does White have to play ♖e3 ceding d1? Perhaps he can play something else in a bid to hold on to the extra material?? An exercise for the reader! CJA]

6...d4 The sharpest. 7.dxe4 ♗h4+ 8.♘g3 dxc3 9.b3 ♗g4

In the past I have tried 9...♘c6 10.♗b5 ♗d7 11.0-0 0-0-0 12.♗xc6 ♗c5+ 13.♖h1 ♗g4!? 14.♗e1 ♗d1?! (hoping for 15.♗xc3 ♗xg3!!) 15.♗g5! ♗xe1 16.♗xh4 ♗xa1 17.♗xa1 bxc6 eventually drawn.

10.♗e2 ♘c6!? 11.♗xg4 ♗d8 12.♗f3

Now I should play 12...♘d4 and regain my piece after ♗f2 (probably best) and 13...♗xg4. The resulting position I find hard to assess.



12...♘xe5??

What a blunder!! I completely overlooked White's next. I got my analysis crossed with the ♘d4 variation and thought that f5 was defended.

13.♗f5!

I'm busted, because of ♗b5+.

13...♗d6 14.♗e2 ♘d3+!

At least this gives Black a miniscule amount of compensation in the form of the unearthed king, which means that his rooks won't be connected. Irrelevant you might think - well, objectively yes, but ...

15.cxd3 ♗xg3+ 16.♖f1

Of course Black is completely lost; but chess is not only about winning games, but avoiding losing them too!

16...h6

Forced, since ♗g5 exchanges the queens.

17.♗a3 ♗d6 18.♗xd6 ♗xd6

Now swindling chances begin to enter my head - based on a) the passed c-pawn, and b) my rook swinging along the third rank.

19.♗e5+ ♖d7!

The reason for the exclamation mark will be revealed soon!

20.♗xc3

Oh well, there goes the c-pawn!

20...♗f4+ 21.♗f3 g5!!

What on earth is happening? This was why ♖d7 and not ♖d8, so that ♗xh8 isn't check.

22.♖e2??

Just the move I had hoped for. He didn't like the idea of gxf3, gf and ♗xf3+, so he defends the f3 square. Of course, 22. h3 is sufficient.

22...g4 23.♗xh8 gxf3+

There are still ways out for White, but his next move seals his fate!

24.gxf3 ♗xd3!! 25.♖xd3 ♗xf3+

I actually had the cheek to offer the draw here - a bit naughty, since it still isn't clear that White can't escape the checks. In fact, the game continued for another 18 moves!! It still involved hard work, but I think it is drawn. If anyone can find an escape, let us know!

26.♖d2 ♗f2+ 27.♖c3 ♗e3+ 28.♖c4 ♗e2+ 29.♖b4 ♗xe4+ 30.♖a3 ♗e7+ 31.b4 ♗e3+ 32.♖a4 b5+

It's what the crowd wanted to see - a nice cheap mate threat! CJA

33.♖xb5 ♗d3+ 34.♖a4 ♗a6+ 35.♖b3 ♗e6+ 36.♖c3 ♗e3+ 37.♖c4 ♗e2+ 38.♖c5 ♗c2+ 39.♖b5 ♗c6+ 40.♖a5 ♗b6+ 41.♖a4 ♗a6+ 42.♖b3 ♗e6+ 43.♖c3 ♗e3+

The same position as at move 36. At last a draw was agreed! ½-½

No place to hide

Now here's a game played in the league last year by two 'average' players.

M Howard - M Osborn
University C - Downend C, Bristol League 1994

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.♗g5 e6 7.f4 ♗e7 8.♗f3 ♘bd7 9.0-0-0 ♗c7 10.g4 b5 11.♗xf6 ♗xf6

This unfortunately takes defence away from d6 (♘xf6 is the 'correct' move) and so allows...

12.♗xb5! ♗xd4 Saves the d6 pawn, but ... 13.♗xd7+ ♗xd7 14.♗xd4 e5?! 15.♗d2

15.♘d5 is more aggressive.

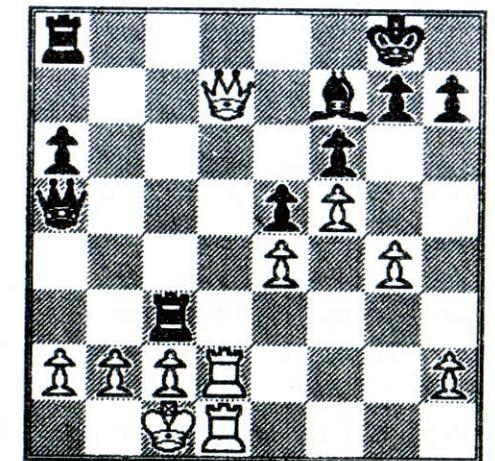
15...0-0 16.f5 f6 17.♗hd1

17.h4 is consistent with f5 - but the d6 pawn is important for Black.

17...♗fc8 18.♗xd6 ♗e8

18...♗a4!? perhaps would make White sweat a little more.

19.♗6d2 ♗f7 20.♗d3 ♗a5 21.♗d7 ♗xc3!!



Oops! Missed that. White can't recapture since ...♗a3+ leads to mate. After being well up, Mr Howard is no doubt a teensy bit miffed to be losing horribly - there can be nothing left to do but *swindle!*

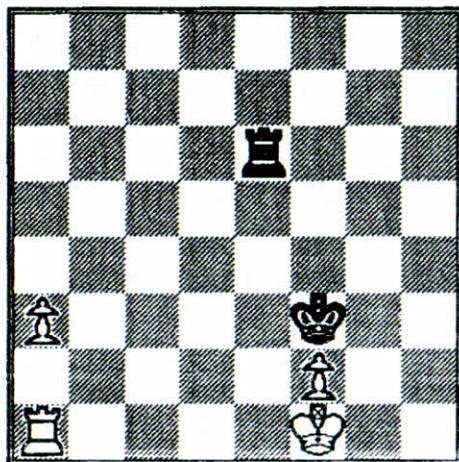
22.♗d8+! ♗xd8 23.♗xd8+ ♗e8 24.♗xe8+ ♖f7 25.♗dd8 ♗e3 26.♗f8+ And drawn! ½-½

So let us finish in a flourish with a cute ending.

Jim Boyce - Jim Will

Clifton A - Grendel A, Bristol League 1995

Black appears to be hopelessly lost...



1... ♖e4

There are many things here that White might play - 2. ♖e1 for instance looks quite good (the Black rook must leave the e-file, so allowing White to drive the Black king away). The move played looks so natural too ...

2.a4??

but oh dear, surely not...

2... ♖xa4!!=

You see, White cannot recapture the rook since, if you look carefully, you will see that it would be stalemate!

I hope that I've shown you that swindling is always an option and that you will try all the more harder the next time you drop a piece (but not against me please!!)

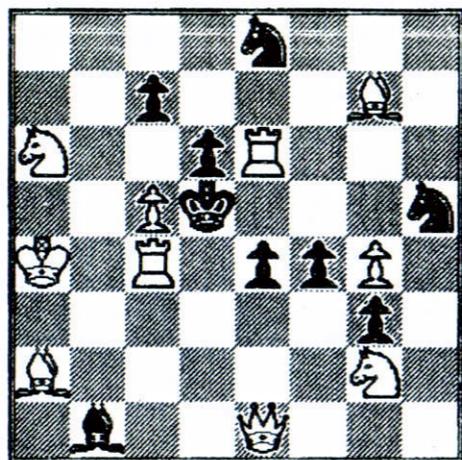
I've a couple of games left to show you, but I do need some more for the next instalment. *Please* send your efforts (even if you were on the receiving end - monster cheapos too) to me c/o the Editor - go on, don't be shy; anonymity available, discretion assured!

Game Fee rise

The BCF Council has voted to raise the Game Fee by 1p to 21p, and for rapidplay games the Fee rises from 5p to 7p.

British Chess Solving Championship

This is the starter problem for the 1995-6 British Chess Solving Championship. As ever it is White to play and mate in two against any defence. Solutions, first move only, should be sent to Brian Stephenson, 9 Roydfield Drive, Waterthorpe, Sheffield, S19 6ND, accompanied by a cheque or postal order for £2.00 made payable to British Chess Problem Society and a stamped addressed envelope. Please mark your entry 'Bristol Chess Times'. Successful solvers will be sent a set of problems for the second round. Only British residents are eligible to enter. Entries must be postmarked no later than 30th June 1995.



“If I treat women like objects, how do you treat men? You plunder them and their resources; you crash into their lives and get what you want and get out - you don't love men, you hate them!”

“Probably,” she conceded. “But it's not a competition, is it? I'm worse than you, you're worse than me. Which of us exploits the other sex the most? In any case,” she reflected, “I'm inclined to think that if men want to win competitions with women, they should stick to chess - they won't win any others!”

The Men's Room, page 172, Ann Oakley

Frank Palm's LETTER FROM HANNOVER

Dear Friends,

Mega, Micro, or what?

Thoughts about the optimum number of chess clubs in a city.

In the editorial of BCT 99, editor John Richards suggested a discussion about the future club structure in Bristol.

You may wonder why somebody not living in Bristol, not even in the UK, likes to talk about a purely Bristolian matter. On the one hand, Bristol is the town I know third best after Hannover and Hamburg; on the other hand, from my point of view it's not so purely Bristolian as we have similar problems in Hannover, and the figures here are somewhat comparable with Bristol: Hannover has a bit more than 500,000 inhabitants, there are 14 chess clubs with about 560 members, playing in 41 eight-board teams.

John criticised a lack of effectiveness caused by the atomisation of the local chess scene in too many small clubs. One mega-club, however, could provide a superior venue and other advantages.

A fascinating prospect, I admit, but will such a super-club satisfy the needs of the average chess player? Many, especially the elderly and the very young or inexperienced, possibly prefer a smaller but local club in their neighbourhood; furthermore, local clubs may be important for social integration: see Harambee in St. Paul's.

The question is: how many clubs are necessary to form a sufficient structure for the top as well as for the ordinary players?

In Hannover city, only three years ago we still had 19 clubs. Since then, five have vanished from our district league because they did not have enough players for a team. And the two leading clubs have enormous problems to keep their top teams in the 2nd and 3rd North German divisions, as the best players of the town are spread over several clubs.

To me, *fusions* seem to be the appropriate solution. We need local clubs, and competition is an essential incentive, but I think one local club in each direction plus two superior clubs in the centre should be enough. A first step was made last year when three of the “sick” clubs mentioned above fused with their neighbour clubs and so formed two much more vital entities with five teams each.

In Bristol, the geographical situation is different: unlike Hannover, the clubs are not spread evenly over the town area. While we have three clubs in the centre, four in the South, three in the East, one in the North, two in the North-West, and one in the West, in Bristol eight of your fourteen clubs play in or rather near the centre. The four clubs in the East could amalgamate into one, whereas Sea Mills and South Bristol have no possible partner in their part of town. The most interesting question, however, is whether the central clubs (except Harambee, which should stay independent because of its social function) could accumulate into more powerful units. Imagine, two big and strong clubs instead of the seven you now have: each could spend a much higher budget, would have many more activists and able organisers and, last but not least, top players. Thus it would be much easier for them to organise congresses, to carry out PR actions, and to offer regular tuition.

At any rate, I think it doesn't make much sense to consider an extensive club reform before the British Chess Federation has built up a complete super-regional division system. Competition, not only between individuals but between club teams as well, is an essential impulse to join tournament chess, and after a club reform as discussed above, but without at least a South England League below the 4NCL, the two or three strong Bristol clubs would not have enough challenging opponents.

And it should be borne in mind that a club reduction is no panacea. In Bristol, as well as in Hannover, we also need more advertising activities like chess in the parks, or tournaments for non-members, and more media attention. Furthermore, top players like Conquest could be kept only with the help of sponsors, who are necessary too in order to compete successfully in the 4NCL.

League AGM Motions

The following motions A-I are to be proposed by the LMC at the League AGM on May 24th.

Text in italics is editorial comment to clarify the meaning of the motions, but does not form part of the official text. Other motions may be proposed before the AGM. Details will be sent to club secretaries.

A This meeting approves the principles of Project 2007 and encourages the League Management Committee to continue the Project.

Project 2007 is the name given to the project set up by the LMC to promote local chess and set objectives to be achieved in time for the League's centenary in 2007.

B In Rule 2.6 after "WECU Council Member", add "Bristol Team Manager"

This would make the Manager of the 4NCL Bristol & District team an elected Officer.

C This meeting approves the affiliation to the League of the Bristol Grand Prix.

The Bristol Grand Prix is a new set-up intended to boost the number of local congresses and the number of people entering them.

D This meeting approves the affiliation to the League of Opening Moves.

The junior club is well-known by now. This will give them affiliate status.

E In Rule 1.2 b replace "September 1994 to August 1995 shall be £14 per team" by "September 1995 to August 1996 shall be £18 per team".

The increase is intended to pay for the extra activities generated by Project 2007. If the AGM decides that it does not want Project 2007 (motion A) then it is likely there will be changes to this motion.

F In Rule 3.4b replace "within 72 hours of it being agreed" by "within 30 days of the postponement."

At present there is no limit on how long is taken to rearrange a postponed match with the result there can be an end-of-season

pile-up. This motion seeks to ensure matches are rearranged within 30 days.

G In Rule 6.4b replace "6" by "7" in both sentences.

This motion is designed to slightly speed up play after the first time control. In all but Division One, the second time limit would become 7 moves in 1/4 hour.

H In Rule 9 replace "Summer Lightning Knock-out Competition" by "Summer Lightning Competition".

This is just a bit of tidying-up. Last year's Summer competition was not a knock-out; officially that was against the rules.

I In Rule 10.3a delete "the Individual Knockout and"

More tidying-up. Removes the need to pay BCF Game Fee on the games. As they were not graded this season, there was no need to do so.

The following motion is proposed by Errol Campbell and seconded by Devon Thomas:

J In Rule 3.4c, replace "Any club may declare its home venue to be a non-smoking area" by "The playing area at all league matches be designated as non-smoking"

Something to get passionate about at last. It's about five years since an AGM decided to allow clubs to declare themselves non-smoking. Just over half have done so. This would make it compulsory.

Summer Lightning

Colin Axon is again running the League's Summer Lightning Team Competition. This is a four round Swiss for teams of six, each player meets each of the opposing team once in a ten minute game.

Clubs can enter as many teams as they wish for £4 per team. Additional teams can be entered for only £2.50 each as long as all the fixtures are sent to one address. 'Games up' are not permitted by players from lower teams.

Entries by 8pm at the League AGM on Wednesday 24th May.



JUNIOR CHESS

Jerry Humphreys

Adam's successful run

Keynsham's talented eight year old Adam Britton has been performing well recently, with major victories in County and individual events. After an impressive 10/10 in the Somerset Under 9 Championship in February, Adam went to Swindon for the West of England Junior Championships, where he scored 4/6, coming second in the under 9s, and then boosted Somerset's Under 9 team by winning all three games on board 1 in the Zonal Qualifiers organised by the English Primary Schools' Chess Association. Local juniors will be able to meet Adam in Division One of the Junior League next season, where he will be representing Opening Moves.

The following game from the Bristol v Wales match in January shows both sides going for the enemy king:

C Davies - Adam Britton

Wales v Bristol U-12 Training Match 1995

1.e4 g6 2.f4 d6 3.♘f3 ♘c6 4.♙c4 ♘f6
5.♘c3 ♙g7 6.d3 0-0 7.0-0 a6 8.a4 ♖e8
9.♙g5 ♖f8 10.♙e3 ♙g4 11.♙d2 h6
12.♘f3 ♖e8 13.f5 g5 14.h3 ♙xf3 15.♖xf3
e5 16.fxe6 fxe6 17.♖af1 ♘e5 18.♖3f2
♘xc4 19.dxc4 d5 20.cxd5 exd5 21.exd5
♘e4 22.♘xe4 ♖xe4 23.c3 ♙d7 24.♖f7
♙xa4 25.♖xc7 ♖ae8 26.♖ff7 ♙h8
27.♙xg5 ♖e1+ 28.♙h2 ♙e5+ 29.♙f4
♙xc7

White has been better so far but now both sides have about equal chances.

30.♖xc7 ♖1e2 31.♙c1 ♖f8 32.♙xh6
♖f5 33.♖g7+ ♙h8 34.♙b1 ♙e4 35.♙d1
♖ff2 36.♙g1 ♙e5+ 37.♖g3 ♙xd5
38.♙g7+ ♙h7 39.♙d4 ♖f7 40.♙b1+
♖e4 41.♙d1 ♖fe7 42.c4

42...♙f5

42...♖xd4! would have won immediately.

43.♖f3 ♖f4 44.♙d2 ♖xf3 45.gxf3 ♙xf3
46.♙c2+ ♖e4 47.♙g1 ♙f4+ 48.♙h1
♙h6 49.♙h2 ♙f3+ 50.♙g1 ♖e1 mate.

Media Stars

Melanie Buckley made her debut television appearance recently, when she was interviewed by Mike Morris on cable TV about her performance in the Four Nations Chess League. Melanie has performed exceptionally well in this event, with two wins and two draws from ten games, including a win against 195-grade Richard O'Brien. Oliver Bright was also in the news when he played against the Czech Republic, and featured in a large article in the Bristol Evening Post on 6th April - ask your library for their copy if you have not already seen it.

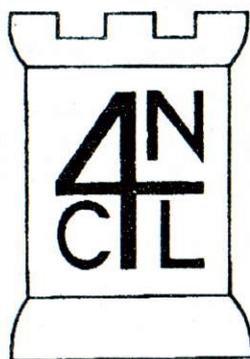
Recent Results

At the Bristol League Quickplay in March, nearly a third of the players were juniors, and they walked away with seven of the prizes. Peter Chaplin (Clevedon) came equal first in the combined Open/Under 150, while Jody Johnson (Thornbury) and Simon and David Buckley (Keynsham) shared the Under 150 first prize. Mike White (Downend) won the under 125 Grading Prize. In the Under 100 section, Paul Waller (Thornbury) came first with 5/6, and Adam Yorke (Nailsea) won the ungraded prize with 4½.

The Spectrum Grand Prix is a new event, with eight weekend congresses around the country, and five of our juniors took part in the Gloucester stage of the competition. Richard Colfer (Thornbury) came 2nd in the Under 140 with 4½/5, and Jody Johnson won the grading prize. Robert Pritchard (Downend) came 2nd in the under 105 section.

The Somerset Under 9 team is through to the final of the County Championships, to be held on April 29th. The Under 18 team won the County Minor Championship at Nuneaton on 8th April with 10½/12.

4NCL NEWS



Roy Phillips

5th Weekend, Birmingham, 18-19 March

Yet another good venue and good organisation ensured the smooth running of this weekend.

It was an eventful weekend in terms of table positions. The winners, with a round to spare, are the Midland Monarchs. Unfortunately, the other issue, the bottom of the table, is what Bristol are more concerned about. The Irish team chalked up their first win, thus leap-frogging over the Bristol & District team as we yet again failed to do ourselves justice.

Bristol & District		Wood Green
A Karlsson	0-1	IM M Pein (W)
Gavin Wall	½-½	IM J Littlewood
Chris Beaumont	½-½	FM A Law
Roy Phillips	0-1	FM B Martin
Michael Binks	0-1	P Sowray
David Collier	1-0	FM G Lee
Jack Rudd	0-1	WIM S Jackson
Melanie Buckley	0-1	G James
	2-6	

Bristol & District		Slough
A Karlsson	0-1	R Bates (B)
Gavin Wall	½-½	G Burgess
Chris Beaumont	1-0	A Harley
Roy Phillips	0-1	M Lyle
Andrew Cooper	½-½	M Franklin
David Collier	½-½	G Moore
Michael Binks	½-½	S Lazarus
Melanie Buckley	0-1	S Purvey
	3-5	

Chris Beaumont and, especially, Dave Collier performed well, scoring 1½ each.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Midland Mnchs	10	9	0	1	52½	27½	18
Slough	10	7	1	2	48½	31½	15
Wood Green	10	6	2	2	48	32	14
Witney	10	7	0	3	45	35	14
NW Eagles	10	6	1	3	42	38	13
BCM	10	5	1	4	42	38	11
Barbican	10	3	2	5	39	41	8
Covent Garden	10	4	0	6	35	45	8
Invicta Kts	10	3	1	6	36	44	7
S Wales Drgns	10	2	2	6	34½	45½	6
Na Fianna	10	1	1	8	30	50	3
Bristol & Dist	10	0	3	7	27½	52½	3

Next year's 4NCL

The structure next year will be a little different. There will be regional divisions. The teams at the bottom of the 4NCL table this year will have to play off against each other for the right to play in the 4NCL proper for 1995/96. This is with certain provisos, such as the Irish, Welsh and (if there is one) Scottish teams guaranteed a place to make it a true four nations competition.

There may also be a team from the North East, but there are rumours that some teams may be dropping out. Whatever happens, the Bristol team players have enjoyed the event and are keen to give it another go next year. The battle for places will probably be our first step, but surely we're due just a little bit of luck sometime?

The final round

The last match of this season will take place on Saturday May 20th at Bolton Moat House. Bristol face last year's winners, Invicta Knights. Well - it's a funny ole game - who knows what might happen!

Downend Dinner

Downend held a dinner on 28th April, at the Downend Cricket Club, organised by Mike Wood. Fifty people attended, including members' spouses. The guests of honour were the League's Match Secretary, Chris Carter and the Chess Times Editor, John Richards.

Arbiter Training

Want to know more about the Laws of Chess? Intrigued by the mysteries of the Swiss Pairing System? Or simply think you may have the flair to control an event of up to 200 players? If so, you may be interested in taking a course leading to the title of British Chess Federation Arbiter.

Currently the West Country is desperately short of qualified controllers, and though the events run in the area are of high quality, it may mean bringing in help from other areas. Not only is this costly, but it is not making the best use of the resources we have here.

Many local organisers have plenty of experience of running events, but lack the technical knowledge to gain the proper qualification to practise regularly. Others are interested, but do not know how to go about broadening their knowledge.

Two years ago I held a training course in the South West, spanning Torquay to Bristol. Of the nine candidates, five passed the examination and are on the way to full ratification. Would you be interested in joining their number?

I propose to hold another group of training sessions in the area during the close season, probably in July or August. This will consist of a number of seminars covering the theoretical and practical side of the art. Some travelling may be involved, but I hope to base it in Bristol itself.

The cost of the course will be approximately £10 which covers all tuition and the examination fee. In addition you will become associate members of the Arbiters' Association with valuable benefits including a specialist magazine. If you are interested, please write to:

Steve Boniface, 11 Henrietta Street, Lower Easton, BRISTOL, BS5 6HU

Please give details of any past experience you may have had, even if only organising your club ladder competition. No skill is wasted, and I shall provide more details of the planned sessions. It is important that you apply before the end of the season so that I can contact you over the summer.

Steve Boniface

Letters to the Editor



Letters may be edited for the purposes of clarity and space.

Dear John,

Chess is a very low-profile sport, but I wish to tell you about a club that is going from strength to strength.

Yate and Sodbury Chess Club was started early last season by fireman Graham Mill-Wilson when he saw there was no local team to join. Between Graham and recruit Pete Long they managed to construct a team. All were happy with a mid-table finish, but the next season was to be different.

A heavy recruiting campaign was embarked upon and two teams were entered in the sixth division for the 94-95 season. People kept coming and once the 'mini-seventh' was started we entered a team. Players are still joining but, without the publicity of a world championship, the numbers are not vast.

The A team look likely to be promoted next season and the C team will be in the sixth along with the B team.

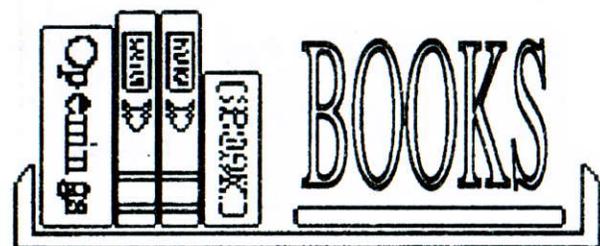
The club has had a number of personal successes, two of which are young Duncan Brown's inclusion in an 'Avon Schools' team which played a Welsh schools team, and Andrew Farthing's victory in the Spectrum Congress in Gloucester.

Things such as these all go to prove, chess is still a popular and exciting pastime.

Yours,

Richard Lobb
Yate & Sodbury CC

I am keen that the Bristol Chess Times is a magazine for all League clubs, whatever their size, and so was very pleased to receive Richard's letter. I hope others will write to let me know what is happening in their own clubs. (Ed.)



AN OPENING REPERTOIRE FOR THE ATTACKING PLAYER

Raymond Keene & David Levy

Batsford, 128pp, £9.99

'How should a player with limited time to study chess openings combat those players, particularly the younger generation, who come to the board armed to the teeth with prepared variations and the latest innovations?'

This key question was first asked and answered by the two authors in their 1976 book, *An Opening Repertoire for the Attacking Club Player*. Now, nearly twenty years on, they seek to present some rather different answers. The suggested repertoire is still based on 1.e4 (although back in 1976 it was 1.P-K4) but the examination of the various recommendations is now based on complete sample games, and not a list of ever-lengthening alphanumeric tags (so now we no longer look for variation B13211, but the "note to White's 4th move in game 8") which most readers will welcome.

As White, the following lines are suggested: 2.c3 versus the Sicilian; the Advance Variation versus both the French and the Caro-Kann (both recommendations differing from the 1976 vintage); the Byrne variation - with ♖g5 before f4 - against the Pirc/Modern; the Scotch versus 1...e5; and a brief look at Black's other possible defences.

As Black, a rather obscure line of the Scandinavian is examined in some detail, and Chigorin's Defence to 1.d4 (again, both new suggestions). In addition, lines are suggested against the English, 1.♖f3 and other, less common, openings.

The presentation is first class and the thirty four complete games and supplementary analysis include several from 1993 and even

1994 (including last year's Candidates Match between Adams and Gelfand) and is therefore as up to date as may be hoped for. However, with such a wide remit the book is, perhaps inevitably, a little shallow in its analysis in places. To give just two examples: in the Advance Variation against the French, Wade's plan of ...c5, ...♖b6, and ...♗d7 followed by ...♗b5 is not mentioned; and in the Scandinavian line after 1.e4 d5 2.exd5 ♖xd5 3.♗c3 ♗a5 (incidentally, 3...♗d8 merits only a brief note, quoting a 1962 Fischer game, and 3...♗d6 is not considered) 4.d4 ♗f6 5.♗f3, Black's main line is taken as 5...c6, with 5...♗g4 and 5...♗c6 dismissed as less promising, but 5...♗f5 (usually regarded as best here) is not considered at all.

My view, overall, is that this book is a useful starting point for a player with aggressive instincts, and several of the lines may well appeal. Having identified a suitable line, further research is highly recommended in order to fill in any holes in the (often brief) analysis. If used in this way (to identify a few lines that give the sort of position enjoyed by the reader, and then followed up with further study in more comprehensive opening books) then the book will prove of great value to many club players.

Bob Baker

Grendel Lightning

Grendel's Lightning tournament on 1st May was won by Simon Ansell of the University. This was the first Bristol Grand Prix event and points counted double, so Simon is also the first Grand Prix leader with 12 points.

There will be other Bristol Grand Prix events in the Summer. The Grendel Summer Championship (open to non-Grendel members) will count for sextuple points. There will also be some quickplay tournaments; watch out for events at Hanham and Harambee.

1 Simon Ansell *University* 6/6; 2 John Richards *Horfield* 5; 3 Mike White *Downend* 4½. Grading prizes: U-130: David Buckley, Melanie Buckley, S.D. Buckley *Keynsham* 4. U-90: D MacArthur 4. 28 entered.

Bristol Fantasy Chess

Mike Wood's Grumbalds Ash looks certain to win the first-ever Fantasy League and the first prize of £50, despite a terrific late run by C8 my Hamster. With just a few results to arrive, it is very unlikely he can be caught.

Mike's secret was to stick to the same six players throughout the season. His team of Boyce, Beaumont, Osborne, Richards, Eyley, EM White, was very close to the perfect side of Collier, Beaumont, Osborne, Richards, Hunt and EM White which would have scored 523 points with a rating total of 1048.

Prizes will be presented at the AGM on 24th May.

Team	Manager	Pts
Grumbalds Ash	M Wood	481
C8 my Hamster	C Beaumont	463
Arkle	R Gage	453
Babylon 6	J Edwards	446
Wessex	H J Draisey	444
Simple Minds	M Brigden	434
Clifton Sec's Stars	P Bissicks	425
The Chippendales	P Butterworth	421
Crewsers	B Crewe	419
The Mysterious Rooks	D Pugh	397
Blackburne Rovers	J Richards	396
Bigheads	I Biddick	390
Class Act	M Brigden	388
C J Strollers	C Jones	388
Friends of Kamsky	J Richards	384
Justintimers	I Pickup	382
Anonymous	J Humphreys	381
Oddballs	J Paines	376
Dead Moon	SS Sandhu	373
Northavon Nomads	J G Milton	373
Ronan's Six	G Thomson	373
Annie's Angels	N Palmer	367
Rook Fianchettoes	A Camilleri	366
Chessasy	M Dear	361
The Hatchet Men	C Axon	359
Swindler's List	R Phillips	358
The Bishop Bashers	G Mobbs	357
Morphy's Marauders	M Furnevall	352
Caissa	R N Allen	347
64 of Them	J Levine	334

Team	Player	Grd	S1	S2	Total	
Clifton A	Boyce	163	29	31	60	
	Collier	180	26	56	82	
	Cooper	192	31	14	45	
	Harris	164	21	32	53	
	Haydon	199	0	0	0	
	O'Byrne	143	25	22	47	
Clifton B	Grossett	131		6	6	
	Baker	165	25	32	57	
	Furmston	165	14	2	16	
	Grossett	131	31		31	
	Jones C	180	23	30	53	
	Pearce	165	8	13	21	
	Tiplady	175	5	5	10	
	White IR	165		13	13	
	Wilkinson G	155		36	36	
	Taylor GP	168		13	13	
Horfield A	Davies	166	27	36	63	
	Dilleigh	182	37	35	72	
	Easton	187	24	15	39	
	Nendick	166	34	44	78	
	Richards	154	51	26	77	
	Sellars	171	33	51	84	
	Down'nd A	Binks	206	30	25	55
		Brigden	176	32	41	73
		Humphreys	179	35	27	62
		Mordue	204	29	53	82
Oldfield		165	22	35	57	
White EM		158	44	47	91	
Grendel A		Carter	154	37	47	84
		Clarke	166	23	38	61
		Osborne	170	62	43	105
		Phillips	199	46	32	78
	Pugh	174	44	47	91	
	Will	174	43	43	86	
	Hanham A	Beaumont	212	39	45	84
		Biddick	136	21	33	54
		Bradley	164	8	42	50
		Crockert	161	22	39	61
Palmer		135	19	24	43	
Summerill		134	40	4	44	
S B'tol A		Brooks	157	8	5	13
		Jones D	150	28	-2	26
		Lock	162	27	-4	23
		Rudd	192	28	9	37
	Stone	153	7	0	7	
	Weeks	164	35	22	57	
	Twine D	167		0	0	
	Radford D	141		30	30	
	Parker CA	139		-7	-7	
	Univ A	Ansell	205	28	45	73
Simpson		190	22	-2	20	
Hong		172	20	31	51	
Hunt		174	34	50	84	
Heaton P		139		11	11	
Said D		161		0	0	
Bath		Appleton	171	29	17	46
		Buckley	214	35	31	66
		Eyley	188	36	28	64
		Gregory A	119	30	1	31
	Gregory R	147	29	-6	23	
	Helbig	193	5	3	8	
	Ledbury	141	7	0	7	
	O'Mahoney	159	9	20	29	

Results

All results received by the Match Secretary up to 28th April are included.

A = adjudication; C = continuation.

KO Quarter final: University 5 Cossham 3;
Semi-finals: Bath 5½ Horfield 1½ (1C). Thornbury v University (15th May).

Minor KO Semi-finals: Thornbury 6½ Harambee 1½; Clevedon 3½ Keynsham 4½; **Final:** Thornbury 3½ Keynsham 4½.

Division 1: Bath 3½ Downend A 1½ (1C); South Bristol A 3½ University A 1½ (1C); South Bristol A 3½ Bath 1½ (1C); Hanham A 3½ Clifton A 2½; Bath 3½ Horfield A 2½; Downend A 4 Clifton A 2; Hanham A 1 Grendel A 3 (2C); University A 1½ Hanham A 4½; Downend A 3½ Bath 2½; Clifton A 3 Hanham A 2 (1C); Downend A 6 University A 0 *walkover*; South Bristol A 0 Horfield A 6; Clifton B 5 Bath 1; Hanham A 4 Horfield A 1 (1C); South Bristol A ½ Grendel A 5½; University A 3½ Clifton A 2½; Grendel A 3½ University A 2½; Horfield A 5 Clifton B 1; South Bristol A 2½ Downend A 3½; Bath 1½ Clifton A 3½ (1A); Hanham A 3 Clifton B 3; Grendel A 4 Downend A 2; Bath 1 Hanham A 4 (1A); Clifton A 2 Horfield A 1 (3C); Clifton B ½ Downend A 4½ (1C); Grendel A 5 Horfield A 1; Hanham A *beat* South Bristol A; University A *beat* Bath.

Division 2: Thornbury A 2 Cossham B 4; Grendel B 4 Cossham B 2; University B 4½ Cossham B ½ (1A); University B 3 Grendel B 2 (1A); Cossham A 5 Sun Life A 1; Cossham B 3½ Grendel B 1½ (1A); Nailsea A 5 Sun Life A 1; Thornbury A 3 Cossham A 3; Grendel B 3½ Clevedon A 2½; University B 2 Clevedon A 4; Sun Life A 3 Grendel B 3; Cossham A 3½ Nailsea A 2½; University B 2½ Cossham A 3½; Clevedon A 4 Cossham B 2; Horfield B 4 Nailsea A 2; Sun Life A 1½ Thornbury A 4½; Nailsea A 3 Cossham B 3; Grendel B 2 University B 4; Clevedon A 3½ Sun Life A 2½; Thornbury A 4½ Horfield B 1½; Clevedon A 3½ Nailsea A 2½; Grendel B 2 Cossham A 4.

Division 3: Thornbury B 4 Nailsea B 2; Grendel C 5½ Clevedon B ½; Downend B 3 University C 3; Clevedon B 2 Thornbury B 4; Hanham B 2½ Downend B 3½; Cossham C 4½ Grendel C 1½; Grendel C 3½ Thornbury B 2½; Clifton C 6 University C 0; University C 2½ Clifton C 3½; Keynsham A 6 Clevedon B 0; Nailsea B 1 Keynsham A 4 (1A); Downend B 4 Grendel C 2; Thornbury B 3 University C 3; Cossham C 4½ Hanham B 1½; Grendel C 4 University C 2; Clifton C 2½ Cossham C 3½; Clevedon B 3½

Hanham B 2½; Hanham B 3 Nailsea B 3; Keynsham A 4 Thornbury B 2; Clifton C 3 Downend B 2 (1A); Cossham C 4½ Clevedon B ½ (1A); Nailsea B 1 Grendel C 4 (1A); Downend B 2 Thornbury B 3 (1A); Hanham B 1½ Keynsham A 4½; Clevedon B ½ Clifton C 4½ (1A); Downend B 2 Cossham C 4; Keynsham A 4 Grendel C 2; Clifton C 4 Nailsea B 2.

Division 4: Nailsea C 4 South Bristol C 1 (1A); Horfield C 3 Keynsham B 3; Hanham C 2½ Bristol Cabot A 3½; Horfield C 4½ Clifton D 1½; Nailsea C 3 Clifton D 3; Downend C 6 Nailsea C 0; Hanham C 4 South Bristol C 2; Clifton D 3 Keynsham B 3; Bristol Cabot A 1 Harambee A 5; Horfield C 6 Bristol Cabot A 0; Keynsham B 3½ Thornbury C 2½; Clifton D 3 Downend C 3; Nailsea C 2½ Horfield C 3½; South Bristol C 3½ Harambee A 2½; Thornbury C 3½ Hanham C 2½; Downend C 4 Harambee A 2; Bristol Cabot A 0 Keynsham B 6; Nailsea C 2½ Thornbury C 3½; Horfield C 4 Hanham C 2; Clifton D 3 South Bristol C 3; South Bristol C 3½ Nailsea C 1½ (1A); Keynsham B 3½ Downend C 2½; Thornbury C 3 Bristol Cabot A 3; Hanham C 3½ Clifton D 2½; Nailsea C 3 Bristol Cabot A 2 (1A); Downend C 3½ Hanham C 2½.

Division 5: University E 3 Grendel D 3; Clevedon C 2½ Grendel D 2½ (1A); University D 3 Clevedon C 3; Civil Service 4½ Sun Life B 1½; Grendel E 4½ Clevedon C 1½; University D 4 Civil Service 2; Grendel D 3 Bristol Cabot B 2 (1A); Clevedon C 2½ Civil Service 3½; Nailsea D 3 University D 3; Horfield D 6 Civil Service 0; Sea Mills 1½ Grendel D 4½; Grendel E 5 University D 1; Bristol Cabot B 2½ Clevedon C 3½; Sea Mills 3½ Civil Service 2½; Grendel D 5 Nailsea D 1; Sea Mills 4 Bristol Cabot B 2; University D 2 Grendel D 2 (2A); Horfield D 4½ Clevedon C 1½; Bristol Cabot B 3 Sun Life B 3; Civil Service 2 Nailsea D 4; Grendel E 4½ Civil Service 1½; Sun Life B 2 Sea Mills 4; Nailsea D 4½ Bristol Cabot B 1½; Horfield D ½ Grendel D 5½; Sun Life B 3½ Clevedon C 2½; Grendel E 5 Sea Mills 1; Civil Service 3 Bristol Cabot B 3; Clevedon C 1½ Nailsea D 4½; Grendel D 5 Sun Life B 1; Horfield D 4½ University D 1½.

Division 6: GE 4 Yate B 2; Downend D 4 Hanham D 2; Yate B 4½ Grendel G 1½; Keynsham C 4 Downend E 2; Grendel G 2 Yate A 4; Nailsea E 1 Hanham D 5; Grendel F 1½ Keynsham C 4½; Yate B 3½ Downend E 2½; Harambee B 2½ Downend D 3½; Nailsea E 0 Grendel G 6; Downend E 1½ Clifton E 4½; Grendel F 5 Hanham D 1; Yate A 5½ GE ½; Harambee B 0 Keynsham C 6; Downend D 2 Grendel G 4; Hanham D 2½ Clifton E 3½; Yate B 4 Nailsea E 2; Keynsham C 4½ Yate A 1½; Harambee B 2½ Grendel F 3½; Downend E 0

Yate A 6; Hanham D 3 Grendel G 3; GE 1 Downend D 5; Clifton E 4½ Harambee B 1½; Grendel G 3 Clifton E 3; Downend D 2½ Yate B 3½; Grendel F 5½ Nailsea E ½; Keynsham C 5½ GE ½; Downend E 2 Harambee B 4; Hanham D 1½ GE 4½; Yate A 3½ Grendel F 2½; Clifton E 3 Yate B 3; Grendel G 4 Downend E 2; Nailsea E 2½ Clifton E 3½; Yate A 4 Downend D 2; Keynsham C 5 Hanham D 1; Harambee B 1 Yate B 5; Nailsea E 1½ Yate A 4½; Downend E 1 Grendel F 5; GE 1½ Clifton E 4½.

Division 7: Keynsham E 2 Nailsea F 2; Downend F 3 Nailsea F 1; Keynsham E 2 Yate C 2; Keynsham D 4 Downend F 0; Keynsham E 2 Nailsea F 2; Nailsea F 4 Keynsham E 0; Keynsham D 1 Yate C 3; Nailsea F Yate C; Downend F 1½ Keynsham E 2½; Nailsea F 1½ Keynsham D 2½; Yate C 2 Keynsham E 2; Nailsea F 1½ Downend F 2½; Keynsham D 3

Keynsham E 1; Yate C 3 Keynsham D 1; Keynsham E 1 Downend F 3; Downend F 1½ Keynsham D 2½; Yate C Nailsea F; Downend F 2 Yate C 2.

Grendel are the champions!

Grendel A has won the League in a close finish with Downend and Horfield. This is Grendel's first title win since the seventies.

At the bottom of Division 1, Clifton A should haul themselves out of the relegation zone at the expense of University A.

It is two up and two down from each division despite the number of withdrawn teams. The Committee may spare some sides or grant extra promotions in July.

League Tables

includes resolved matches up to 6th May.

Division 1

	Pld	DP	Pts
GRENDel A	15	-	23
Downend A	16	-	23
Horfield A	15	-	19
Hanham A	14	6	16
Bath	16	-	12
Clifton B	16	2	12
University A	16	15	11
Clifton A	14	12	10
South Bristol A	16	6	10
Horfield B withdrew.			

Division 4

	Pld	DP	Pts
KEYNSHAM B	18	-	31
Horfield C	18	10	27
Downend C	18	1	23
Clifton D	18	5	22
Harambee A	18	2	17
Hanham C	18	2	15
Thornbury C	17	3	14
Bristol Cabot A	17	9	10
South Bristol C	17	3	9
Nailsea C	17	6	8

Division 7

	Pld	DP	Pts
Keynsham D	11	-	15
Yate & S C	10	-	14
Downend F	11	11	10
Nailsea F	8	-	7
Keynsham E	12	-	5

Division 2

	Pld	DP	Pts
COSSHAM A	16	-	24
Clevedon A	16	-	23
Thornbury A	16	-	22
Horfield B	15	-	15
University B	15	7	15
Grendel B	14	4	14
Cossham B	15	-	12
Nailsea A	15	-	7
Sun Life A	16	-	6
South Bristol B withdrew.			

Division 5

	Pld	DP	Pts
GRENDel D	17	3	31
Horfield D	18	5	29
Sea Mills & LW	18	-	27
Nailsea D	18	5	22
Civil Service	18	4	15
Sun Life B	18	5	11
Bristol Cabot B	18	10	11
Clevedon C	18	12	10
GRENDel E	18	35	9
University D	17	17	7
University E withdrew.			

DP = Default Penalty Points.
One league point has been deducted for every ten DPs.

Division 3

	Pld	DP	Pts
KEYNSHAM A	18	-	32
Downend B	18	-	27
Grendel C	18	4	25
Thornbury B	18	-	23
Clifton C	18	2	21
Cossham C	18	-	17
Nailsea B	18	10	10
University C	17	6	9
Clevedon B	17	12	6
Hanham B	18	12	5

Division 6

	Pld	DP	Pts
KEYNSHAM C	22	-	41
Yate & S A	22	-	38
Grendel F	22	4	30
Downend D	22	-	29
Yate & S B	22	-	23
Clifton E	22	17	20
Grendel G	22	9	19
Harambee B	22	28	18
GE	22	7	17
Downend E	22	1	15
Hanham D	22	2	10
Nailsea E	22	32	-1

Promoted/relegated sides are shown in **bold**.
Division champions are shown in **SMALL CAPS**.

Editorial *continued from page 2*

Yes, I'm still here

Following my last editorial in which I said I was looking for someone to replace me, it has been nice to have so many people say they were sorry I was going. Unfortunately, I have to report that no one has put themselves forward as the new Editor so it looks like I will be around for a while yet. My non-chess work load has actually increased and I have just started a project that will take me to Kent three days a week for the next month or so. This is why this issue is late and I will probably not get to the AGM. The LMC has suggested that I should instead take on an assistant to help with the work and I am happy to do so. If anyone would like to be the Assistant Editor, possibly, but not necessarily, with a view to taking over one day, I would be delighted to hear from them.

It's time for my traditional summer break, so the next issue will be out in September. Happy holidays!

John Richards

The Big Match

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The remaining game was adjourned but agreed drawn the next day.

Grendel A		Downend A	
Dave Osborne (W)	½-½	Tyson Mordue	
Jim Will	0-1	Graham Copeland	
Derek Pugh	1-0	Jerry Humphreys	
Chris Carter	½-½	Mike Brigden	
Andy Nicholls	1-0	Michael White	
Bob Foster	1-0	Clive Oldfield	
	4-2		

So Grendel won the crunch match on the bottom boards, the area where I thought they stood little chance. They also set up a championship decider against Horfield for the last match of the season.

Postscript

Horfield blew their slim chance of the title by losing to Clifton A just three days later.

Stroud Quickplay

11th December 1994: The key game in the Open was the defeat of IM Andrew Martin in Round 4 by Richard Haydon whose two rooks proved superior to Martin's queen in the ending. A quick draw with Roy Phillips in Round 6 was enough to give Haydon first prize, while Martin (playing an Alekhine's Defence) lost for a second time against J Cobb.

Open: 1 R Haydon Swindon 5½; 2 Roy Phillips Grendel 4½.

Premier (U-161): 1= E M White Downend, G Andriessen Cheltenham, M Kambites Stroud 4½.

Major (U-131): 1 A Smith Bristol 6; 2= P Spiller Downend, M Brierley Burnham, B Murray-Watson Ross 4½.

Minor (U-101): 1 L Collins Oxford 5½; 2 K Derrick Downend 5.

R Powis

All-Downend clash in Final

Downend players Jerry Humphreys and Tyson Mordue met in the Individual KO Final. After two draws in the half hour games, Tyson won both ten minutes games to retain the trophy.

The play-off for third place is between two Grendel players, Chris Carter and Derek Pugh.

Diary

Use this column to advertise your events. It's free, but please send your entries in plenty of time to the Editor.

May-Sep. GRENDL Summer Championship. 6x Bristol Grand Prix points. Chris Carter, 0117 924 5443.

May 6-8. DART VALLEY Congress.

May 12-14. FROME Congress. G Jepps, 01749 344191.

May 20. 4NCL. Bolton.

May 24. BRISTOL League AGM. Students' Union, Queen's Road.

May 27-29. COTSWOLD Congress. L Wood, 01684 72875.