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# *Bristol* **CHESS TIMES**

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The Magazine of the Bristol & District Chess League

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## ***Bristol's Summer of Chess Success...***

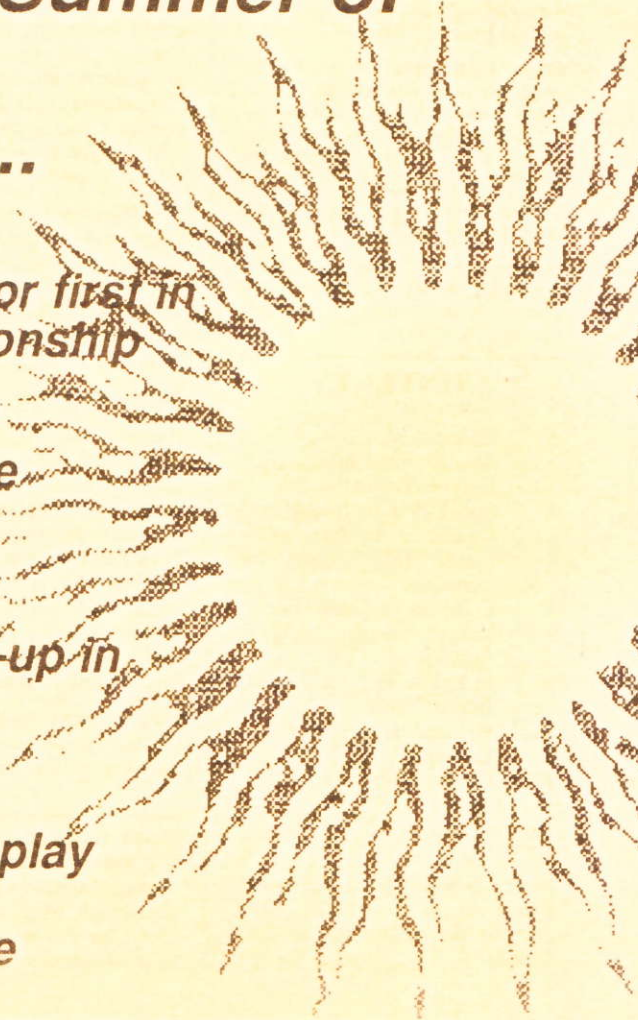
80p

***Hennigan ties for first in  
British Championship***

***Sun Life win the  
National Minor***

***Clifton runners-up in  
National Club***

***Bristol team to play  
in new  
National League***





# Bristol CHESS TIMES

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Next issue: 7th November. Please send in articles, news, etc. for the next issue by 23rd October.

## EDITORIAL

### Bristol's Exceptional Summer

The weather may not have been any good after June, but the summer was certainly notable for its chess results. This issue covers Sun Life's triumph in the National Minor and Michael Hennigan's exploits in the British. And David Collier tells the story of how Clifton came so close to becoming National Club Champions.

Also, the League's efforts to get a team into the new National League were rewarded. The Four Nations Chess League has six teams (Bristol, Barbican, Covent Garden, Maidstone, Slough and North West Knights) instead of the hoped for ten or twelve; perhaps they ought to rename it the Two Nations league: the Home Counties and the rest of England. Joking apart, the list of players already signed up shows the level of competition will be extremely high. There is every chance it will grow over the next few years to equal the status of the continental leagues. That is one reason why it is so important for Bristol to be in at this early stage.

The National League team will act as a focus for Bristol chess and attract more strong players to the region. Initiatives like *Opening Moves* are helping to ensure the future of the clubs by fostering junior chess. And there are more events coming up in Bristol this season than ever before. Bristol now has a strong claim to being Britain's second city of chess.

### Supporting Our Team

Running the Bristol team in the National League will cost money for accommodation, meals, and travel for the five weekends of the season, and if Bristol hosts one of the weekends we will have to pay for a venue. Efforts to raise commercial sponsorship have so far been unsuccessful and the League does not have money available for this purpose, so we are going to have to try to raise some in other ways. The clubs will soon receive lottery tickets which can help to generate some funds. Also, it is hoped to organise a quickplay tournament to make some money.

Please help to make the team a success by supporting the fund-raising ventures. It will not survive without the backing of the Bristol League players.

John Richards

### Don't forget the important League rule changes:

- (1) Quickplay finishes are now permitted, if the team captains agree beforehand.
- (2) Default time is 8pm, even if the match starts late.
- (3) Game Fee is now charged (the LMC will be happy to send someone to club AGMs to explain the scheme.)

# Around the Clubs

BRISTOL ROYALS has split in two. The club, which changed its name from Bristol Omnibus last season, had faced a large rent increase. It looks like the players will be moving to a number of clubs. Bob Radford and Chris Evans are expected to join South Bristol, and the rest of the A team is moving to Cossham to become Cossham C. The B team will continue as the Royals' only team and may move to a new venue in Patchway.

CHRIS BEAUMONT has returned to Clifton after spending one season with Hanham. Hanham's relegation made the move inevitable. Another first division mover is STEVE DILLEIGH who has left Sea Mills for Horfield. Cossham, who must have a Tardis for a venue to fit all the new people in, have picked up ANTHONY SMITH and PETE JOHNSON, from Downend.

New club YATE have entered a team in Division Six. Other new joiners are Grendel F, Horfield E and University E, making a total of 60 teams.

PETER CHAPLIN (Clevedon) won the Bridgend Major (18-20 June).

Batsford's new editor is GRAHAM BURGESS who used to play for Downend before moving to Denmark a while ago. Graham is the author of an excellent book, *The Complete Alekhine*. He is now going to play for Bristol in the National League.

Bristol League players had success at Warminster. J BADE (Bath) won the Open and TERRY MARKE (Cossham) came first in the Minor.

DOWNEND's annual end of season friendly against HORFIELD was played over thirteen boards and two quickplay rounds. The visitors, Horfield, won by 15-11.

## League Tables 1992-93

### Division 1

	Pld	DP	Pts
Clifton A	17	5	28
Downend A	18	5	25
Bath	16	-	22
Horfield A	17	-	20
University A	17	2	16
Clifton B	15	2	15
Sea Mills A	18	-	15
South Bristol A	18	-	13
Hanham A	18	-	12
Horfield B	18	5	6

### Division 4

	Pld	DP	Pts
Hanham B	18	-	30
Thornbury B	18	-	28
Horfield D	18	1	20
University C	18	3	17
Keynsham B	18	27	17
Grendel C	18	1	16
Nailsea C	18	7	16
Harambee A	18	2	15
South Bristol C	18	3	10
Cabot	18	40	5

### Division 2

	Pld	DP	Pts
Grendel A	18	-	30
Sun Life A	18	-	28
Thornbury A	18	1	24
Nailsea A	18	9	22
Cossham A	18	-	19
Downend B	18	-	16
Keynsham A	18	9	14
Clevedon A	18	-	10
University B	18	9	10
Clifton C	18	-	7

### Division 5

	Pld	DP	Pts
Sun Life B	21	-	36
Hanham C	21	21	28
Civil Service	21	-	26
Grendel D	21	6	25
Clevedon C	21	7	18
University D	21	7	18
Downend D	21	21	5
Clifton E	21	43	4
All-Play-All	3	times	

### Division 3

	Pld	DP	Pts
South Bristol B	17	3	27
Grendel B	18	4	25
Bristol Royals A	18	9	24
Cossham B	18	-	21
Horfield C	18	1	20
Nailsea B	18	-	20
Clevedon B	18	-	16
Clifton D	18	6	13
Downend C	18	13	7
Sea Mills B	16	1	2

### Division 6

	Pld	DP	Pts
Thornbury C	21	2	33
Nailsea D	21	1	29
Bristol Royals B	21	-	29
Hanham D	21	3	28
Keynsham C	21	24	19
Downend E	21	28	12
Harambee B	21	10	8
Grendel E	21	2	7
All-Play-All	3	times	

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



# Sun Life win National Minor

## Gerald Mobbs

SUN LIFE won the Minor Section of the National Club KO in a thrilling final against Great Lever in Birmingham.

### The Early Rounds

The road to the final saw Sun Life squeeze past West Warwickshire (on board count) and demolish Stroud (3½-1½). Walsall Kipping were just beaten (again on board count), before Sun Life got into top gear, beating Abercynon by 5-0. Gordon Cameron was the star of the early rounds, winning three and drawing one.

### The Semi-Final - Saturday May 15th

Basingstoke	Sun Life
Peter Williams (124) 0-1	Gordon Cameron (117)
John Shaddick (119) 0-1	Martin Ashford (117)
Oliver Gee (112) 0-1	Colin Marriner (113)
Liam Blanc (103) 1-0	Gerald Mobbs (88)
Nicole Jacob (112) 1-0	Andy Tonkin (74)
	2-3

We were not enthusiastic about our visit to Basingstoke for the semi-final, as it was our third visit and the first two had been unsuccessful. Our misgivings were reinforced by the presence of juniors on Basingstoke's bottom three boards. In the event, Gordon and Martin achieved relatively easy wins, whilst Gerald and Andy were gradually outplayed by their young opponents. This left Colin playing the match-deciding game. He always seemed to have a light edge and when he managed to simplify into a winning endgame, the match was decided. (As an aside, Nicole Jacob is now rated 127 and is the 11th ranked under-18 girl in the country.)

## The Final - Sunday June 27th at Clarendon Suites, Birmingham

Great Lever	Sun Life
P Hargreaves (116) 0-1	Gordon Cameron (117)
M Connor (115) 0-1	Martin Ashford (117)
B Mills (121) 0-1	Colin Marriner (113)
H Brooks (105) 1-0	Gerald Mobbs (88)
A Parkinson (90) 1-0	Andy Tonkin (74)
	2-3

This match followed a very similar pattern to the semi-final. Gerald played his "worst game of the season" and, throwing pieces away like confetti, was soon defeated. Andy lost a pawn early on and was ground down into a lost endgame. These defeats were balanced by a spectacular win for Gordon and a comfortable one for Martin. Here is Gordon's game (with notes by Derek Pugh):

### G Cameron - P Hargreaves

Sun Life-Great Lever, Nat Minor final 1993

#### 1.e4 d5 2.♘c3

Chess perfectionists may view the Scandinavian as a slightly inferior opening and 2.♘c3 as a 'cop-out'. My opinion is that 2.♘c3 is an excellent practical choice where White dictates the strategic lines.

#### 2...d4

Other possibilities are 2...c6 (French), 2...c6 (Caro-Kann), 2...♘f6 (Alekhine) and 2.dxc4 (often similar to Caro-Kann), all involving Black playing a defence he did not choose on move one.

#### 3.♘ce2

White's plan is broadly as follows:

- establish knights on g3 and f3;
- develop his light-squared bishop on c4 or d5, play d3 and 0-0;
- undermine Black's centre by playing for c3 and/or f4.

#### 3...♘g4?

2.♘c3 is vindicated as Black goes wrong almost immediately. After 4.f3, Black has nothing better than 4...♘c8.

#### 4.f3 ♘h5 5.♘g3 ♘g6 6.f4 f6 7.♘f3 ♘c6 8.♘b5 a6?

Black now finds himself with a structural weakness in addition to his other (spatial and development) problems.

#### 9.♘xc6+ bxc6 10.d3 e6 11.0-0 ♘d7 12.♘e1

White places almost unbearable pressure on Black's position by threatening a central breakthrough based on e5 and/or f5.

#### 12...♘f7 13.e5! ♘c5

Probably the best try in a bad position, overprotecting the vulnerable d-pawn.

[13...f5 14.♘xf5 exf5 15.e6 ♘xc6 16.♘g5 gives White a winning attack.]

[13...♘b4 14.♘c2 the b4 bishop is more a target than a well-developed piece.]

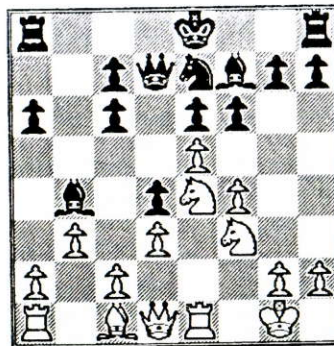
#### 14.b3

White could play more incisively here (e.g. f5). However, he chooses a quieter move giving his opponent a further chance to go wrong.

#### 14...♘e7?

Black's natural anxiety to develop his pieces causes this final error after which he loses by force. 14...f5 also loses as in the note to Black's thirteenth move.

#### 15.♘e4 ♘b4



#### 16.exf6! ♘d5 17.♘e5 ♘c8 18.fxg7 ♘g8 19.♘xf7 ♘xf7 20.♘g5+

White has handled the attack well, giving Black no time to capture the e1 rook. 20.♘h5+ immediately also wins.

#### 20...♘xg7 21.♘h5 1-0

The attack on focal points f7 and h7 is finally too much and Black must resign. Black certainly paid dearly in this game after his opening plans were hijacked.

As in the semi-final, this left Colin ("why is it me again?") with the decider. The position was confused and hairy. The spectating Derek Pugh was unable to offer an opinion as to who was winning. Fortunately the time control was approaching. Colin's opponent had a couple of minutes for about ten moves whilst Colin had an hour. Under this pressure he was unable to find the right line and Colin had triumphed!

### Afterthoughts

It was fitting that the crucial wins in both semi-final and final were achieved by Sun Life's longest-serving member, Colin Marriner, whose connection with the club dates back to about 1965 in London.

The secret of our success lay in the consistent performance of the top three boards, all of whom remained undefeated throughout the competition. Gordon is a rapidly improving "young" player, whilst both Martin and Colin were graded significantly higher in their youth. Gordon now thinks it was probably worth missing the Glastonbury Festival (see BCT 93).

In most matches we were outgraded. Does this prove the theory that Bristol grades are too low (particularly at the bottom end)?

Will this success encourage other Bristol League clubs to enter this enjoyable competition?

## New Grading List is out

The 1993 BCF Grading List was published on 1st August, containing gradings for the whole of the country. It costs £8 per copy (Direct Members are entitled to one copy each for £6). The latest Rapidplay Grading List is also out, and costs £2 per copy (£1.75 Direct Members). Both publications can be obtained from the British Chess Federation, 9a Grand Parade, St. Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex, TN38 0DD. Make cheques payable to BCF; prices include postage and packing.



BRISTOL & CLIFTON AT THE NATIONAL CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

by David Collier

By Malcolm Pein, Chess Correspondent

Semi-Finals

The semi-final against Bedford was almost anti-climactic after the excitement of our great victory over the strong King's Head team. In a way it all seemed too easy which is perhaps a tribute to the form displayed by our team. The result was reported in the Telegraph but although the match score is right the individual results are not quite (for example I beat Habershon, not Jones).

Final

● The Leigh Interests National Club Final will be between Wood Green of north London and Bristol & Clifton, who defeated the tournament giants Bedford in their semi-final at Swindon. Bedford 1.5-4.5 Bristol & Clifton (Bedford played white on odd numbered boards) A Ledger 0-1 G Beaumont, D Ledger 1-0 M Truran; S Ledger 0-1 P Richmond, P Hare, draw T Headlong, H Jones 0-1 D Collier, P Habershon 0-1 A Cooper.

CHESS

Celebrating the end of the season

IVAN MOROVIC of Chite won the Lark Grandmaster Tournament in Las Palmas, and Wood Green of North London won the Leigh Interests National Club Championship in Birmingham. By all accounts the latter event was much more fun.

It was part of the British Chess Federation's end of season celebrations with the finals of its domestic team competitions and its Player of the Year award.

Nigel Short was snubbed by the voters for that title (comprising British Chess Federation members, Executive committee and journalists) finishing a poor second to Michael Adams. You can't flout 1 de and get away with it at the BCF.

Kent won the County Championship on tie-split after scoring 8-8 against Essex. The Club Champion-

ship was equally close, though Wood Green had started as clear favourites against Bristol & Clifton. The match was finally decided by a single victory, when Mark Levitt beat David Collier. With the other five games drawn, Bristol can consider themselves unlucky, for Collier had looked like winning for much of the game.

Black's attempt to counter attack with 13...Na5? backfired and cost him a pawn when he realised that 14 Bd5? Nxd5 15 Nxd5 would leave White threatening Ne7 (followed by Bxa5) as well as Bxb6. Losing the pawn, however, opened the h file for Black, and he used it imaginatively.

If White had appreciated the danger, he might have declined the piece sacrifice with the safe 21 h3, but his real mistake came later. After Black had patiently moved his men into

strong positions, White lost control of the game with 25 Ncd1? ... Qd4+ ... which beat off the attack and won. The final attack was forced, ending as follows:

- White: D Collier
Black: M Levitt
1.d4 d6 17.N2.c1
2.c4 Nf6 18.Bg7 Bxg7
3.Nc3 e5 19.f4 Rb8
4.d5 g6 20.f5 Qh4
5.e4 Bg7 21.fxe6 Qxb2
6.Bd3 c6 22.Kf2 fxe6
7.Nge2 a6 23.Ne5 Nc6
8.0-0-0 24.Kc1 Nd3
9.Bg5 h6 25.Ncd1 Qp+
10.Bd2 b5 26.Rf2 Rb8
11.dxc6 bxc4 27.Nc3 Rh1
12.Bxc1 Nxc6 28.Nf1 Rb8
13.Qc1 Na5 29.Nc2 Rb1
14.Bd5 Rb8 30.Ka1 Rh1
15.Bxb6 Nxd5 31.Ng1 Qd5
16.Nxd5 Be6 32.Re2 Qxe2



CHESS

By MARK LEVITT

YOD GREEN won this year's National Club Championship thanks to exciting win by Mark Levitt, in a game full of surprises from move one.



ite: D Collier (Bristol & Clifton)
ick: M Levitt (Wood Green)

d6
A player should not be surprised by his own first move, but this one shocked me. I meant to open 1.d4 Nf6 4 Nf6, but got ahead of myself. I was relieved to be back on course f3 e5 4 d5 g6 5 c4 Bg7 6. Bd3 c6. Not knowing what to make of his usual sixth move, I decided not to let him do it. I was afraid of an

attack with h4 and h5.
7. Nge2 a6 8. 0-0-0-0-9. Bg5 h6 10. Bd2 b5
This looks loosening, but I liked the freedom it gave for my pieces. 11. dxc6 bxc4 12. Bxc4 Nxc6 13. Qc1 Na5?
13... Kh7 is fine, but I thought it better to chase his bishop back to d3 first. Then I noticed that the bishop might have a better move

14. Bd5!
Now I realised that I was in trouble. Then I saw that all the rest of my team seemed to be losing or drawing. There is no time for 14... Nxd5 15. Nxd5 Kh7 because 16. Nc7! wins the rook on a8 or knight on c5.
14... Rb8 15. Bxb6 Nxd5 16. Nxd5 Be6 17. Nec3 Kh7 18. Bxg7 Kxg7
My hopes now lay in my opponent's time shortage - he had only 45 minutes left to reach move 30. All the same, if he had now played 19. b3, followed by Qc3 and Rad1, my prospects would have been slim.
19. f4?! Rh8 20. f5 Qb4?
My first thought was 20... Bxd5 21. Nxd5 Qh4, but it disrupts this by flicking in 21. f6 +! With the piece sacrifice played I knew I was back in the game. He must take it since 21. h3 gxf5 22. exf5 Bxd5 23. Nxd5 Qh4+ is very healthy for Black.
21. fxe6 Qxb2 + 22. Kf2 fxe6 23. Ne3

Ne6
My main worry was that his king might escape to b6 so when I saw my clear winning plan I decided to improve the position of my knight and keep an eye on c2 from d4.
24. Ke1 Nd4 25. Ncd1?
After 25. Kd2? it is difficult for Black. The king is hard to get at on d3.
25... Qg3+ 26. Rf2? (see diagram)
And this mistake is fatal. 26. Nf2! is unclear. My first thought now was 26... Rh1 + 27. Nf1 Rb8, threatening Rxf1 + and Rh1 mate, but he can defend everything with 28. Nde1. Then I saw how to gain a vital move.
26... Rbc8! 27. Nc3
27. Qd2 would have lost to 27... Rh1 + 28. Nf1 Ne2 +
27... Rh1 + 28. Nf1 Rcb8! 29. Ne2 Rxf1 + 30. Kxf1 Rb1 + 31. Ng1 Qd3 +
My opponent looked up and smiled before making his next move.
32. Re2 Qxe2 mate.

There is no doubt that looked at dispassionately, losing only 2½-3½ to as strong a team as Wood Green fielded in the final was an excellent result, but it is difficult to be dispassionate after we came so close to winning. Chris Beaumont, Peter Richmond, Tim Headlong, Andrew Cooper, and Richard Haydon all played well to draw with highly rated opponents. Tim did especially well to draw with Paul Littlewood in a very exciting game, and Chris was oh-so-close to beating Malcolm Pein: had he done so of course this would more than have compensated for my loss. As I was certainly winning at one stage we clearly had every chance of winning this, the most important club event in British Chess, but we didn't. Perhaps next time?

I seem to have achieved infamy as my game had a pretty good airing in the press - see the Independent and Independent on Sunday articles. My only compensation is that the truth of the game seems to have evaded both authors, so maybe there is more to it than meets the eye.

The problems start on move 19. There is no doubt that my opponent's suggestion 19.b3 followed by 20. ♖e3 is dead safe and there are safer moves than my 20.f5 as well, but I was convinced that the thrust with the f pawn was the strongest continuation (f5 blocks the diagonal of the black bishop, so enabling h3, and eventually f6 or fxe6 will embarrass the Black king).

The Independent reckons that 21.h3 is safe, but does not consider 21...gx15 22.ex15 ♔xd5 23.♔xd5 ♖d4+; my first error was I did not see this line until he played ♖h4. But even here things are not that simple. I analysed 24.♕e3 ♖fc8 followed by 25...♕c4 winning for Black, and I also had to analyse the piece sacrifice 24.♔h1 ♖xd5 25.f6+ to which there is no good follow up even though the White queen can try to invade via c7 or g5.

All of this took too much time and eventually I came to the conclusion that if I was going to get a bad position I might as well be a piece up, so I played 21.fxe6 even though it was the last thing I had in mind when playing f5. Despite suggested later improvements, I believe that this

position is lost in practical terms - it is extraordinarily difficult to defend this sort of position in any sort of time trouble.

My second error was not seeing an improvement in the first line - an improvement that still seems to have evaded my opponent in his analysis. After 22...♔xd5, 23.f6+ is a great improvement, as when the king goes to the back rank (other moves are too dangerous) it disconnects his rooks and after 24.♔xd5 ♖d4+ 25.♕e3 he can no longer play ♖c8, so I must still be winning.

Well, after all that I think I can say I was a bit unlucky but, in truth, more than a bit clumsy.

Horfield and Thornbury contest Lightning Final

The Summer Lightning competition final is between Horfield and Thornbury, to be held at Thornbury on 9th September. There were a few surprises in the earlier rounds. Holders Grendel had both teams knocked out in the first round. League champions Clifton found that even they could not win a match when two players short, facing a Keynsham side including Tyson Mordue and Derek Pugh.

Round 1: Nailsea I 27-9 Hanham; Thornbury walkover Royals; Clifton 31½-4½ Grendel II; Nailsea II 5½-30½ Keynsham; Grendel I 17-19 South Bristol; Sea Mills 28½-7½ Clevedon.

Round 2: Nailsea I 15-21 Thornbury; Clifton 14-22 Keynsham; South Bristol 21½-14½ Cossham; Sea Mills 14-22 Horfield.

Semi-finals: Thornbury 18½-17½ Keynsham; South Bristol 14½-21½ Horfield.

■ Cossham C are a late entry to Division 3, replacing Bristol Royals A. The following fixtures are not in the fixture book. (H means Cossham at home, etc): Thu 16 Sep H Clevedon B; Mon 27 Sep A Nailsea B; Thu 7 Oct A Clifton C; Thu 14 Oct H Horfield C; Tue 26 Oct A Hanham B; Thu 11 Nov H Cossham B; Thu 18 Nov H Clifton D; Wed 1 Dec A Thornbury B; Thu 9 Dec H University B; Thu 6 Jan H Hanham B; Tue 25 Jan A Horfield C; Mon 7 Feb A University B; Thu 17 Feb A Cossham B; Thu 10 Mar H Nailsea B; Fri 25 Mar A Clevedon B; Thu 7 Apr A Clifton D; Thu 21 Apr H Clifton C; Thu 28 Apr H Thornbury B



# British Title Chance for Hennigan

IM Michael Hennigan produced a tremendous performance to tie for first place in the British Championship (2nd-14th August, Dundee). The University of Bristol student finished in front of many of the UK's top players, including the winner for the past two years, Julian Hodgson, to tie with Dharshan Kumaran on 8½/11.

Hennigan needed a win in the final round where he played GM Mark Hebden. Hebden sacrificed a pawn and had good play for it, before coming totally unstuck in the endgame.

Final leading scores: Hennigan, Kumaran 8½; Hodgson, Ward, Emms, K Arkell 7½; Hebden, A Martin 7.

There will be a play-off (two thirty minute games) for the title of British Champion. It was not held immediately because Kumaran was too ill. The play-off is due to be held in London as this issue goes to press.

Michael Hennigan has been an engineering student at the University since 1990 and is about to start his final year. In 1988, he won the World Under-18 Championship and in 1991 he became an International Master.

Three of Michael's victories:

## M Hennigan - C Ward

British Championship Rd 4, Dundee 1993

1.♠f3 c5 2.g3 g6 3.♗g2 ♗g7 4.0-0 ♠c6 5.e4 e6 6.c3 ♗ge7 7.d4 cxd4 8.cxd4 d5 9.e5 f6 10.♞e1 fxe5 11.dxe5 0-0 12.♗f4 h6 13.h4 ♗d7 14.♗d2 ♠f5 15.♠c3 ♗e7 16.♞ad1 ♗h7 17.♗h2 ♞ac8 18.♗f1 ♗b4 19.♗d3 h5 20.♗b1 cxd7 21.♗xd5 ♗xd2 22.♗f6+ ♗xf6 23.♞xd2 ♠c6 24.exf6 ♗xf3 25.fxe7 ♞f8 26.♗g5 ♗g7 27.♗e4 ♗xe4 28.♞xe4 ♗f7 29.♗g2 ♠c5 30.♞d7 ♞b5 31.b3 e5 32.♠c4 ♗d4 33.♞cc7 ♞a5 34.♞d8 1-0

## G Quillan - M Hennigan

British Championship Rd 9, Dundee 1993

1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 ♠c6 3.♗b5 e6 4.0-0 ♗ge7 5.c3 a6 6.♗a4 b5 7.♗c2 ♗b7 8.♞e1 ♞c8 9.d3 ♗g6 10.♗bd2 ♗c7 11.♗f1 ♗e7 12.♗e3 0-0 13.♗d2 ♗b6 14.a3 d6 15.h3 ♞fd8 16.♗h2 ♗f8 17.♗h5 ♠ce5 18.♗eg4 ♗c6 19.f4 ♗xg4 20.hxg4 d5 21.♗f3 dxe4 22.dxe4 ♞xd2 23.♗xd2 ♗xf4 24.♗h2 e5 25.♗f3 c4 26.g3 ♠c5+ 27.♗f1 ♗d3 28.♗xd3 cxd3 29.♞ad1 ♞d8 30.♗h5 f6 31.♗g2 ♗a7 32.g5 g6 33.♗h4 ♗c5 34.♞d2 f5 35.♗h2 fxe4 36.♞xe4 ♗d5 37.♗g4 ♞e8 [37...♗xc4 38.♗e6+ ♗g7 39.♗f6+ =] 38.♞e1 ♗xf3 39.♗xf3 ♗xf3 40.♞xd3 ♗g4 41.♞d6 e4 42.♞xa6 ♗f2 43.♞a1 ♞d8 0-1

## M Hennigan - M Hebden

British Championship Rd 11, Dundee 1993

1.e4 e5 2.♗f3 ♠c6 3.♗c3 ♠f6 4.♗b5 ♗d4 5.♗a4 c6 6.♗xe5 d5 7.d3 ♗d6 8.f4 0-0 9.0-0 ♠c5 10.♗h1 b5 11.♗b3 a5 12.a3 ♗xb3 13.cxb3 dxe4 14.dxe4 ♗xd1 15.♞xd1 ♗e6 16.♞e1 ♞fc8 17.♗e3 ♗f8 18.♗d3 e5 19.e5 ♗g4 20.♗g1 ♗xb3 21.♗e4 c4 22.♗dc5 a4 23.h3 ♗h6 24.g4 ♞d8 25.♗g2 ♞d5 26.♗xb3 axb3 27.♞ad1 ♞ad8 28.♞xd5 ♞xd5 29.♗c3 ♞d2+ 30.♞e2 ♠c2 31.♞xc2 bxc2 32.♗e3 b4 33.axb4 ♗xb4 34.♗d5 ♠c5 35.♠c1 ♗f8 36.♗f3 ♗e8 37.♗e3 f6 38.exf6 gxf6 39.♗xc4 ♗d7 40.♗e3 ♗c6 41.♗xc2 ♗d5 42.b3 ♗f7 43.♗b2 ♗e6 44.f5+ ♗e7 45.h4 ♗d6 46.♗e3 1-0

## Cup Final Chaos

Confusion reigned at the KO Cup Final between Clifton and Bath when one player forgot to seal his move. After discussing the game with others for several minutes, the mistake was discovered and a move was finally sealed. The match result hangs on this one game, and at the time of going to press, the game has not been continued.

No such problems in the Minor Clubs KO, where Nailsea beat Royals to take the Praxis Trophy for the second year running.

■ The League Congress will be held on 21st-23rd January 1994 in the Students' Union.

# EGM backs Game Fee

JUST 40 people turned up on 12th May at the Students' Union to discuss the League joining the BCF's Game Fee scheme. Was this a sufficiently good sample for such a momentous step? Difficult to say, but the League Management Committee felt there was little more they could have done to advertise the meeting and get people there.

As it transpired, the people who did turn up were overwhelmingly in favour of Game Fee. The BCF's Roy Brown was there by invitation to put the case for the new funding system and got a fairly easy ride. There was opposition of course: Jim Will put his own anti views in his usual individualistic manner and Ken Cleak made clear his dislike for the scheme. However, when Ken tried to put an amendment to restrict Game Fee to the upper divisions, he was unable to attract anyone to second it.

By 9pm, the discussion was starting to flag. The meeting voted to call a halt and proceed straight to a vote on the motion, which was carried by 32-7, an 82% majority easily exceeding the two-thirds required. So, the League is committed for one year to the Game Fee scheme. The clubs now have to decide how to raise the money and there may well be a few teething problems as club treasurers sort out new systems. The BCF also has things to sort out, such as fulfilling its promises of reforms to the representation system on BCF Council.

On pages 10 and 11, Richard T. Biskit gives his idiosyncratic view on the EGM.

## Woodturner Wanted

Chris Carter, the League Match Secretary, is searching for a woodturner to make a trophy plinth. "The problem is we've run out of room to fit the names of the winners on one of our trophies", he explained. "If anyone knows someone who could do the job, please contact me on Bristol 245443."

# League adopts quickplay finishes

THE league's AGM, held just 16 days after the EGM, will probably be best remembered as the one that introduced quickplay finishes. The meeting was something of an anti-climax, coming so soon after the excitement of the EGM. About the same number of people turned up, but there was little drama and all of the LMC's nominations and motions were accepted or passed.

First, the change that will affect nearly all league players. From this coming season, team captains may agree to have a quick-play finish for all boards in a match instead of adjudications or adjournments. It will be interesting to see how well the new rule is received. If it is embraced by the majority of teams, then a move towards compulsory quickplays will surely follow. It is doubtful that many first division teams will agree to use it, but it may be more popular elsewhere.

Another motion that will have an effect on matches was a change to the time allowed before a default. Players will forfeit games if they do not turn up by 8pm, instead of 15 minutes late. There is now no advantage to a team captain in trying to delay the start of the match in order to give his missing players more time to turn up. On the other hand, for matches that start on time, there is now an extra 15 minutes grace before a default.

The decline in the number of league players was halted last season. Chris Carter reported an increase of 56 to make a total of 534. Chris also reported an increase of two teams, but the loss of one club (Central) at the start of the season.

*continued on page 20*



# In League with The Fascists

## Brother Biskit is back, angrier than ever

Richard T. Biskit

**A**FTER the dark days of May 92, it was difficult to imagine that things could get worse. But they have, brothers - much worse. Before you finish reading this account of unspeakably dirty tricks, you will be forced to support my view that there is only one way forward for us honest, hard-working woodpushers.

The Confederated Institution of Chessbosses have this year excelled themselves in manipulation and control, building on those crushing powers they grabbed at the last AGM. Their first trick was to call not one meeting, but two. We all know the theory - divide and conquer - but how many of us realised it was happening? We were deflected by the flood of oily, self-serving propaganda pushed at us from every billboard, and in that once-proud journal, the *Chess Times* - now just a puppet rag for the bosses.

When Big Brother Williams exhorted us to attend the meeting 'and vote, otherwise we cannot be responsible for what happens', did you hear the unspoken threat - 'we cannot be responsible for what happens to you if you vote against us'. The sinister reality of this was revealed when we marched to the forbidding entrance of the Chessbosses Building Number Two, to be confronted by a row of grim-faced, contract 'security' guards - paid muscle to you and me. Who is to say how many timid souls, wanting to say 'enough is enough' to the Bosses, turned back and slunk home at the thought of a possible rendezvous with the concrete in the underground car park.

Inside, things were worse. Where was Brother Boniface? Surely only the most sinister of conspiracies could have kept this stalwart of truth and justice away from such

an important confrontation.

And important it was. How many of you were confused by the arcane wording of the so-called motion? In fact it was nothing more than an openly declared alliance between the Bosses and the British Chess Fascists, the effect of which was to allow them to tax every one of you from here to eternity. Each time you

play chess, you will be lining the pockets of these greedy, grasping men, and at a rapidly increasing rate. Within weeks, you will need to be moonlighting to support your chess habit, and before long you will be forced into a life of crime if you want to go on ignoring opening theory, playing planless middle games and ineptly butchering simple endings - the basic rights of all free chessplayers.

Despite all the dirty tricks, a few of us did manage to get in, and we were determined to fight, even if heavily outnumbered. That grand old man of revolutionary fervour, Brother Cleak, led the way, inspiring us with tales of his youth and of administrative cock-ups by the BCF. However, he is obviously losing his grip, since he then



proposed a limp-wristed compromise, leaving the Bosses grinning with delight at such an early sign of weakness.

Then followed the saddest moment of the evening. 'Brother' Mordue, once fearless exponent of the Militant variation and scourge of the Bosses, revealed himself. 'Brother Cleak, lad, what you just said there, lad, was crap', or words to that effect. And behind him, the massed ranks of collaborators stamped and clapped and chanted as Brother Mordue turned his coat and broke our hearts.

Brother Hughes of the Graders Union came temporarily to the rescue with a red-blooded counter-assault. He came straight to

the heart of the matter by pointing out the possibilities of a massive fraud by the Chessbosses. Possibility, Brother? Surely helping themselves is exactly what all this about. Perhaps your drink had been spiked after all, although you could not have guessed it from the general eloquence of your stirring tirade. Why should we be forced to pay for ten oranges when we only want to eat eight, you demanded with words ripe with logic. We'll promise to give you two oranges back, said the Bosses unconvincingly. Does anyone know if you can force a win with ten oranges against eight?

Then another bitter blow, although it was no surprise to me. 'Brother' Collier, outspoken against the Bosses last year, had been bought off, with no less than the entire

annual budget, to do with as he wished. He duly met his part of the bargain. 'It seems very sensible to me. I can't see what all the fuss is about' he drooled, looking every inch the kept man.

There followed endless apologies from the Bosses' lackeys, some of it outrageously arrogant and insulting. For instance, Mr 'Rich' Cullum maintained that he wouldn't even bother to pick up the 5p tax if he saw it. Well that may be alright for you, Mr Cullum, with your multiple club directorships and lavish expense accounts, but 5p will keep an average chessplayer alive for three weeks in a cafe.

Finally came the most challenging moment of the evening for the Bosses. Brother Will, intellectual giant and leader of the radical Cheers movement, stepped forth and questioned the whole basis of our existence. 'Where Are We?' he cried, and for many a minute a metaphysical tension gripped the meeting, and no-one dared speak.

The inevitable defeat for the forces of good was no less brutal for being expected. At some pre-determined moment, a handful of grey-suited 'agents' rose to their feet and demanded a vote. 'Vote for us, now!' they screamed in a display of overt intimidation. In a matter of seconds and with a whirl of hands, the Bosses declared the motion carried and the alliance with the Fascists 'democratically' forged.

So what is the way forward? There is only one. We must unite and do it, now. We have to *improve our grades*, brothers, and beat the Bosses at their own game.

*Editor's footnote:* I understand that Brother Biskit was not present at the second of the Bosses' meetings; indeed, he has not been seen since filing this report. Family and friends are deeply concerned for his safety, and we ask all Brothers to help find him and put our minds at rest.

*Late news:* Biskit's name does not appear in this year's grading list. The suspicion must be that the BCF has removed it in retaliation for his opposition to the Game Fee. Friends and supporters are asking FIDE and the PCA to intervene.





# JUNIOR CHESS

## Jerry Humphreys

Congratulations to Oliver Bright, of Keynsham Chess Club, who scored a major success in this year's British Championship. Despite being heavily outgraded in the Under 10 section, Oliver lost only one game, to the eventual winner Lee Debbage, and ended with 5/7, which gave him third place in the tournament.

In the following game, Oliver demonstrated that games are won by good endgame play, even after a poor opening which left him a pawn down.

White: M Tillett (110) Black: O. Bright (88)  
British Under 10 Championship 1993

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 ♘f6 4.0-0 ♘c5  
5.♙xc6 dxc6 6.♘xe5 0-0 7.d3 h6 8.♘d2  
♙e8 9.♘ef3 ♙g4 10.♘b3 ♙b6 11.♘d2  
a5 12.a4 ♙h5 13.♘c3 ♙e7 14.♘bd4  
♙xd4 15.♙xd4 c5 16.♙e3 ♙ad8 17.♘d2  
h6 18.♙e1 ♘d7 19.♙e3 ♘e5 20.♙f1  
♘xf3+ 21.gxf3 c4 22.♘c3 cxd3 23.♙g2 g6  
24.♙xd3 ♙xd3 25.cxd3 ♙h7 26.♙c1  
♙xf3! 27.♙g3 [27.♙xf3 ♙g5+ wins the  
rook.] 27...♙g5 28.♙xg5 hxg5 29.♙e1  
♙d8 30.♙e3 ♙h5 31.♙f6 ♙d6 32.♙xg5  
♙d4 33.b3 ♙b4 34.♙d8 c5 35.f4 ♙xb3  
36.♙f6 c4 37.♙e1 cxd3 38.♙c1 d2  
39.♙al d1♙+ 40.♙xd1 ♙xd1 41.f5 gxf5  
42.exf5 ♙f3 43.♙d4 ♙xf5 44.♙xb6  
♙xa4 45.h4 ♙h6 46.♙g2 ♙h5 47.♙g3  
♙d5 48.♙h3 ♙d3+ 49.♙g2 ♙xh4  
50.♙xa5 f5 51.♙c7 ♙g4 52.♙a5 f4  
53.♙f2 f3 54.♙f1 ♙b3 55.♙d2 ♙b1+  
56.♙f2 ♙b2 57.♙e1 ♙xd2 58.♙xd2 ♙g3  
59.♙e1 f2+ 60.♙f1 ♙b5+ # 0-1

Also competing at Dundee was Peter Chaplin (Clevedon), who scored 3½/7 in the Under 15 championship.

### League Congress

There were eight juniors at the Bristol League Congress in May, despite the fact that many people had exams at the time.

Best performance was Paul Spiller (Clevedon), who won Section 5 quite easily with 4½/5. Other results: Section 2 P Chaplin (Clevedon) 3, S Roberts (Cossham) 3; Section 3 E Fletcher (Clevedon) 2; Section 4 B Radford (Royals) (score unknown); Section 5 M Brooke-Smith (Clevedon) 2, M Parker (Hanham) 1½, P Coy (Nailsea) 3.

Next year's League Congress will be in January, so I hope that more juniors will be able to take part.

### Recent results

Matthew Parker (Hanham) was the highest scoring Bristol junior at Monmouth in July, with 3/5 in the Minor. Richard Colfer (Marlwood) and Edwin Fletcher (Clevedon) scored 2½, while Peter Chaplin scored 2½ in the Major.

Peter Chaplin was successful at the Cotswold Congress in May, coming 2nd in the Under 160 with 4/6, and scored 3½/5 in the Under 140 section at Frome, also in May. Also at the Cotswold Congress, Edwin Fletcher scored 2½/6 in the Under 100.

Oliver Bright scored 3/7 in the BCF Under 10 trials, and did rather better by coming 1st with 6½/7 in the Under 10 section at the Clerical Medical tournament in Winchester.

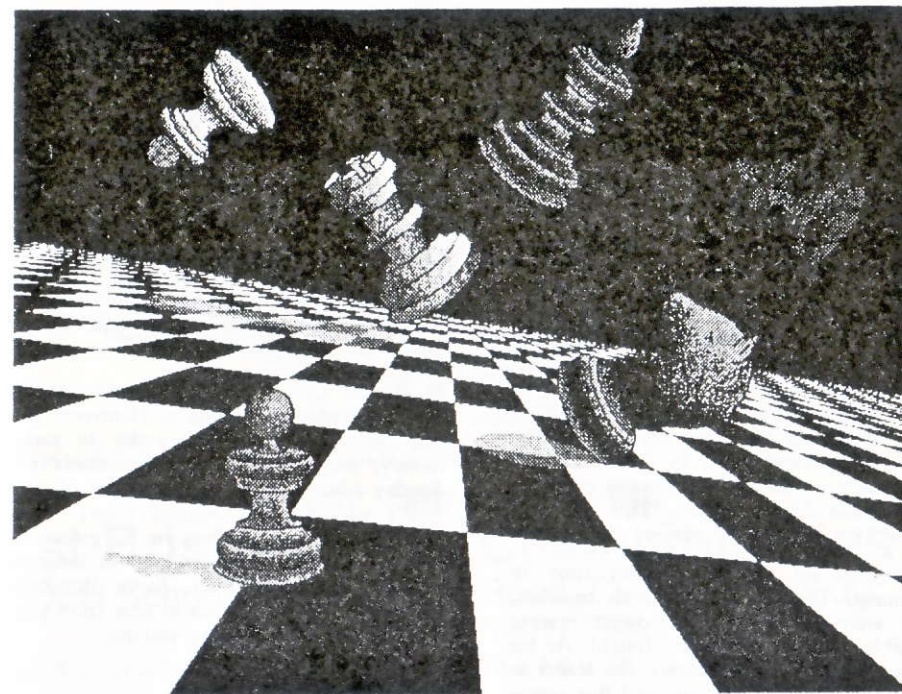
Jennifer Colfer (Marlwood) won the West of England Under 12 Girls' Championship.

### New Grading List

Two Bristol juniors have 'top twenty' places in the new grading list: Jack Rudd (South Bristol) is the third strongest 14 year old in the country, and also the 18th best Under 18. Thomas Bourne (Clifton) is the 12th strongest Under 10 player.

### Opening Moves

Opening Moves, the Bristol Under 14 club, is due to start up for the new season on Sunday 5th September. The club will be organised into three sections, according to ability, and the top section is entering a team in the Junior League. Richard Colfer is the Club Champion, and Anna Jones the Girls' Champion. The club will be organising the Bristol Junior Championship on Sunday 26th September. More information from Jane Norton (Tel 0272 776390).



## The 1st Bristol Junior Chess Championships

9.00 - 5.30 Sunday 26th September 1993  
QEHS School, Jacobs Wells Road, Bristol 8

### Sections for Players:

Under 8 Under 9 Under 10 Under 11 Under 13 Under 16  
all standards catered for  
Entry Fee: £3.00

### For Further Information & Entry Form

#### Please Contact:

Jane Norton, Tournament Secretary, 49 Bristol Hill, Brislington,  
Bristol 4Tel: 0272-776390



# Bristol - Hannover Exchange 1993

Steve Boniface

Every year a party of sportspeople travel from England to Germany (or vice versa) to compete against each other, see the twin country, and learn some of the opposite culture. Although the contests are fiercely fought, the sportsmanship is at the highest level, and whatever the result, enjoyment is the key. One section of the exchange is the chess contingent, who traditionally swap eight to ten members, though our comrades in Hannover are keen to increase those numbers. This year we would like to have 12 players if possible.

Last year we had a splendid time in Germany. Though we lost both matches, they were lost by the narrowest margin possible and extremely hard fought. As far as possible, we try to balance the teams as close as we can in strength, and this seems to work well. This year's exchange has been set for 15th - 18th October.

We need to provide accommodation in Bristol, preferably singly, so that the load is spread fairly. It is of little importance whether in house or flat, with a family or single people. It would be expected that breakfast is provided for our guests (they enjoy a larger spread than most English people) though most other meals tend to be eaten out. At a later date I shall draw up a suggested list of activities. It is traditional for the hosts to foot most of the bills when out - this is certainly our experience in Hannover.

Your commitment over the weekend would be to be a good host to our guests, whether in groups or singly, and to demonstrate some knowledge of our local culture (an excellent chance to learn!). There will probably be one chess event per day, according to demand, and a formal reception. A knowledge of German would be useful, though not essential. Those providing accommodation this year will be given

preference for the return visit in 1994.

If you are interested, please phone me (0272 515869) in the first instance and I shall endeavour to give more information and answer any questions you may have. There is no commitment at this stage, but we would like some idea of likely numbers fairly soon so that we know how many guests we can accommodate.

■ Bristol Council is broke and cannot afford to subsidise travel to Hannover for next year's exchange. In order to raise money, they are holding a tombola on Sunday 17th October, the last night of this year's exchange, at Ashton Court. They want lots of small items to be given as prizes; almost anything will do as long as it is in good condition. Steve Boniface (0272 515869) would like to hear from you if you have got anything suitable.

## RUSSIAN CHESS CLOCKS

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(p & p extra)

Also:

ROLL-UP BOARDS  
STAUNTON  
WOODEN PIECES  
(at 1/2-price)

Paul Cordy  
0222 869198

# BRISTOL CHESS FESTIVAL



Saturday, September 4th

## Open Air Chess

Chess with giant pieces

Castle Green, Broadmead, 1pm



Sunday, September 26th

## 1st Bristol Junior Championships

QEH School, Jacobs Wells Road, Clifton, 9:00-5:30

Contact: Jane Norton (0272) 776390



Saturday, October 16th

## BRISTOL v HANOVER

An event in the Bristol-Hanover Sports Exchange weekend provisionally at The Galleries, Broadmead, 1pm

Contact: Steve Boniface (0272) 540632



Sunday, October 17th

## St Paul's Quickplay

Six rounds, games limited to 30 minutes per player

Malcolm X Centre, City Road

Contact: Devon Thomas (0272) 540632



November 5th-7th

## Hanham Congress

Open and other sections  
Contact: Ian Biddick (0272) 863568





**What?** A Premier League of six premium sides. Each team plays the others twice. Play is over five weekends: one game Saturday, one game Sunday. Norms and ratings are possible.

**Who?** **BARBICAN**  
**BRISTOL**  
**COVENT GARDEN**  
**MAIDSTONE**  
**NORTHWEST EAGLES**  
**SLOUGH**

**When/Where?**

- ♞ **2&3 October: Opening Weekend in London during World Championship.**
- ♞ **19&20 March: Weekend in Liverpool**
- ♞ **Three other League Weekends plus one special Festival Weekend from:**  
-- 27/28 November -- 22/23 January -- 19/20 February  
-- 7/8 May -- 21/22 May

#### Team Squads (@5/8/93)

**BARBICAN:** GM Chandler, GM Hebden; GM Watson, IM Wells; IM Hartston; IM Crouch; IM Pritchett; WFM Regan; FM Thomson; FM Carr, FM Britton; etc

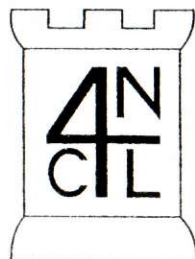
**BRISTOL:** FM Baker; FM Beaumont, FM Law, P Richmond; Truran; Headlong; A. Cooper; Haydon; WFM J. Richmond; Collier; etc

**COVENT GARDEN:** IM Agnos; IM Pein, IM Wade; FM Kinsman, M. Levitt; FM Rossiter; FM Harley; WIM Jackson; etc.

**MAIDSTONE:** GM King; IM Sadler; IM Emms; IM Ward; IM McDonald; IM Morris; FM Cooley; WFM Hunt; Clark; I. Watson; etc.

**NORTHWEST EAGLES:** IM Howell; IM K. Arkell; Carleton, FM Horner; FM Quillan; FM Ken-  
naugh; Tebb; WFM Sheldon; FM J. Littlewood; A. Smith; V. Knox, House; etc.

**SLOUGH:** IM Martin; IM Taulbut; IM Bradbury; Finn; M. Houska; J Richardson; A.P. Smith; J. Houska; Noyce; Webb; Davey; etc.



*Mother of all Leagues*

4NCL, P.O. Box 175, Croydon CR9 5DP  
MD: Chris Dunworth Tel/Fax: 081-688-3119

## High Quality in Frome Open

This recently-founded, but already firmly-established, event took place at Sellwood Middle School on 14th-16th May. It used to be a friendly and small event. With its two qualifying places for the British Championship it has managed to stay friendly, but is no longer small with 180 entrants.

The Open section had a very high quality field led by IM Keith Arkell. But with eight players over grade 200 and such fast-improving juniors as Jack Rudd and the siblings Hunt, there were going to be no easy games.

The critical game came in Round Four, when Summerscale had a fine win against Arkell. This allowed him to take first place with a comfortable draw against Ferguson in the last round, giving the latter a place in the British Championship. The remaining place was in doubt until the last minute, when Adam Hunt beat Saunders. As sister Harriet had already qualified, there was a joyful family celebration.

Final scores: 1 A Summerscale (Hackney) 4½/5; 2= M Ferguson (Haslemere), P Rossiter (Denmead), K Arkell (Breadsall) 4. Grading Prize (under 180): Adam Hunt (Cowley) 3½. Somerset Champion: Gerald Moore (Hounslow) 3. Bristol scores: Chris Beaumont 3½; Derek Pugh 2.

In the Minor, Horfield players Albert Camilleri and Doug Hudson came joint first.  
**Steve Boniface**

■ The London Chess Centre will be running a host of activities for the duration of the Short-Kasparov match. Live commentaries will be held every match day; starting at 5:30 on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and 4:30 on Saturdays. Admission: £5 adults, £2.50 concessions.

There will also be blitz tournaments, coaching sessions and simultaneous displays. The London Chess Centre is at 369 Euston Road. For details of what's on, phone 071 388 2404.

## Tyson ties first in Cotswold

There were four hard-fought sections in the Cotswold Congress, Stroud 29th-31st May. Bristol players featured strongly in the prizes, led by Tyson Mordue in the Open.

Open: 1= T Mordue (Downend), J Kraai (Oxford), I D Thompson (Fleet) 4½/6. Grading: E G Lea (Swindon) 3½. 26 players.

Premier (U-161): 1= G I Ladds (Newark), L Millin (Oxford) 4½/6; 3= J Carr (Cheltenham), E A Copeman (Worcester), C Evans (Aberdare), M Fox (Birmingham) 4. Grading: P Chaplin (Clevedon), P B Richards (Northampton) 3½. 32 players.

Major (U-131): 1= D V Francis (Horfield), M Dobson (Mitcham), D Ladds (Newark), E J Prideaux (Cheltenham), J Weatherlake (Monmouth) 4½/6; Grading: D Hudson (Horfield), C Parker (Hanham), S C Roberts (Cossham), S James (Slough) 3½. 30 players.

Minor (U-101): 1 P Hopkins (Henbury) 5½/6; 2= A Lynch (Frome), M White (Cheltenham) 5; Grading: M Parker (Hanham) 4½. 38 players.

## Bristol KO Cup Draws

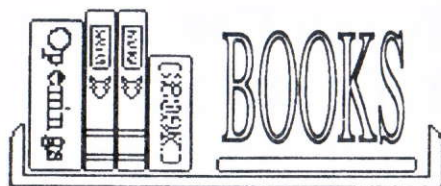
Last year's finalists, Clifton and Bath, have both got to play in the preliminary round this season.

**Bristol KO Round 1:** Clifton v Civil Service; Bath v Cossham. **Round 2:** Grendel v Keynsham; Clifton/Civil Service v South Bristol; Sea Mills v Clevedon; Nailsea v Bristol Royals; Sun Life v Horfield; Hanham v Downend; Bath/Cossham v Harambee; Thornbury v University

In the Minor Clubs, holders Nailsea have a repeat of last year's first round tie against Cossham. Clevedon make their first appearance.

**Minor Clubs KO Round 1:** Bristol Royals v Thornbury; Keynsham v Civil Service; Cossham v Nailsea; Clevedon v Harambee.





**Training for the Tournament Player**, Mark Dvoretzky and Artur Yusupov, Batsford, 189pp, £14.99.

Dvoretzky's first book, *Secrets of Chess Training*, was a big hit, winning the BCF's Book of the Year award in 1991 and massive plaudits from the reviewers ("...the best book I have seen in the past year." John Nunn). His second book, *Secrets of Chess Tactics*, has just been nominated for this year's Book of the Year. And now Dvoretzky has done it again. *Training for the Tournament Player* is a great read. It is based on the lectures given at the Dvoretzky-Yusupov chess school, with most of the articles by the two principals themselves.

Chessplayers who want to improve are often advised to analyse their own games. I've never found this an easy thing to do. Often my analysis post-game seems hardly any better than it was in the heat of battle. I may identify the blunder that led to my defeat but it doesn't seem to stop me repeating the mistake a couple of games later. This book aims to show you how it should be done. Some chapter headings should whet your appetite: "A Chessplayer's Strengths and Weaknesses", "Analysing your Own Games", "The Technique of Working on Your Own Games and those of Other Players", "Studying the Classics", "Assessing a Position and Choosing a Plan in the Middlegame".

The writing is beautifully clear (translator Malcolm Gesthuysen has done a great job) and the book positively oozes with good advice. At £14.99, you might think this book expensive. Think of it this way: it's only a third of the price of a ticket for the Short-Kasparov match and it will do a heck of a lot more for your chess. An essential for strong club players.

John Richards

**Winning with the Najdorf**, Danny King, Batsford, £13.99

Many people are scared away from the Najdorf (with both colours) because of its reputation for wild tactics and mountains of theory. In my view, they have got it wrong and miss out on a lot of fun as a result - surely nobody really enjoys playing a c3 Sicilian?

There are undoubtedly some tactical lines and a few that have to be learned, but in the main the Najdorf is based on strong strategic principles and such tactics as there are are a logical extension of the position. Danny King's book recognises this and the games are chosen not because they contain white-hot theory but to demonstrate typical strategic and tactical themes.

Anyone interested in taking up the Najdorf could do no better than to start with this book. It is much more important to understand the strategies and the tactical ideas than it is to learn variations off by heart - what do you do when your "book" runs out?

Those who are sufficiently taken by the opening to want to learn more may do so by moving on to John Nunn's book or the Informator series, but they will be very glad that the foundations were well laid by Danny King's carefully selected 61 games.

David Collier

**Chess for Absolute Beginners**, Ray Keene, Batsford, £9.99

**Your First Chess Games**, A J Gillam, Batsford, £7.99

There are two vital ingredients which need to be present in any book for beginners. Firstly, the language should be clear and concise, so that it can be understood by young readers or by those with no knowledge of specialist chess terms. Secondly, the games should be short and exciting, with a minimum of analysis. Raymond Keene's latest book, *Chess For Absolute Beginners*, often has the language of a university thesis, and attempts to progress from simple two-piece skeletons to whole grandmaster games. It is not very successful, but it does contain a lot of instructive material, and

may be a useful handbook for those who wish to teach chess to beginners.

*Your First Games of Chess* is the fourth in Tony Gillam's excellent series for beginners. He has made a creditable attempt to avoid opening variations, but by doing so has ended up with a collection of games that do not answer the vital question, What on earth do I do at the start of the game? If the reader skips the introduction and the rather verbose first chapter, he is left with a series of very short games all ending with a sudden checkmate or (in the last chapter) win of material followed by resignation. The games often contain blunders by both sides, which can be confusing, but the attempt to give life to the winning combinations by showing short complete games works well. Players wishing to learn the game should read the other books in the series first, while those who need to know the principles of opening play will have to look elsewhere, but this could be a useful addition for those who already have the previous books.

Jerry Humphreys

## Letters to the Editor



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

**Bristol and the 4 Nations Chess League**

Dear John,

I was horrified to discover that the 'Bristol' team in the new Four Nations Chess League is no more than the Bristol & Clifton National Clubs team, padded out with a few extra club members. This excludes our own local GM Stuart Conquest, the British Championship finalist Michael Hennigan, frequent Bristol Champion Tyson Mordue, and other strong local players.

The Clifton club membership is these days less than 10% of the Bristol League, and almost half of the nominated team members live outside Bristol.

When the new league was proposed a year or two ago it was argued that it would provide an inter-city competition to match the inter-county and inter-club national competitions already in force.

Bristol has an unusually active local league and the healthy club rivalries are enhanced by having strong players spread across several clubs. It would be a shame if Clifton were to stultify the League by recruiting all the strong players.

I hope that next year's 'Bristol' team will be truly representative of the city.

Alan Ashby Sea Mills CC

*John Richards replies: I am pleased to assure Alan the reality is somewhat different. Over the summer, a working party, including Alan Williams, Dave Collier, Mike Truran and me, tried to raise commercial sponsorship for a Bristol team. We were unsuccessful, and decided we would probably have to sit out the first season of the NCL.*

*At the last minute, the NCL invited us to submit an entry for Bristol in any case. With no time to contact other players, a list of Clifton players was submitted so that we did not miss the deadline.*

*We are not restricted to the players on the initial list and the organisers have no intention of making it Clifton-only. The main concern is to get the best players possible. Other players are being invited, and there are already some acceptances, including Tyson Mordue and Graham Burgess. Hennigan and Conquest will be invited when we manage to track them down.*

*I do think it is totally wrong to attack some Clifton players just for not living in Bristol. They have done a lot for their club and the League by helping to raise the standard of play in Division 1, and often they travel hundreds of miles a season just to play in league or cup matches. (I know some Bristol-based players who moan if they have to travel up the road to a game in Thornbury or Clevedon).*

*See my editorial on page 2 for discussion of some of the other issues involved.*



## Diary

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

1993

Sep 5-11. PAIGNTON Congress. Contact: Steve Boniface (0272) 515869.

Sep 26. BRISTOL 1st Junior Chess Championships, QEJ School, Jacob Wells Road. Organised by Opening Moves. Contact: Jane Norton, (0272) 776390.

Oct 2-3. 4 NATIONS CHESS LEAGUE. Bristol makes its debut.

Oct 15-17. Bristol-Hannover Exchange (in Bristol).

Oct 16. BRISTOL v HANNOVER, The Galleries, Broadmead, 1pm. (Venue not confirmed).

Oct 17. ST. PAUL'S Quickplay, Malcolm X Centre, City Rd, Bristol. Contact: Devon Thomas, (0272) 540632.

Oct 15-17. DORSET Congress, Weymouth. Contact: A.D.Rookes, (0305) 774044.

Nov 5-7. HANHAM Congress. Contact: Ian Biddick, (0272) 863568.

Nov 19-21. TORBAY Congress. Contact: Phil Short, (0803) 214766.

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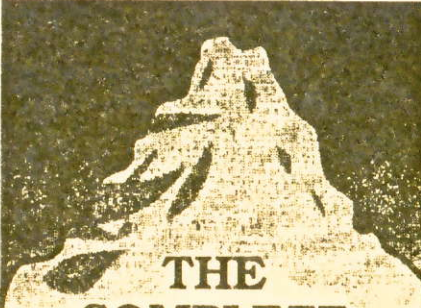
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## League AGM

*continued from page 9*

Other motions passed included adding a Junior Officer to the LMC, and requiring the Match Secretary to send the latest league tables to each club secretary in any month of the season that the Chess Times does not appear. Changes in officers for 1993-4: President - Mike Brigden; Vice-President - Devon Thomas; Adjudication Secretary - Gerald Mobbs; Junior Organiser - Jerry Humphreys; Recruitment & Publicity - Terry Marke. All others were re-elected.