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Bristol CHESS TIMES

The Magazine of the Bristol & District Chess League

80p



*Bernard never
did look
forward to the
away fixture
against North
Pudsey C*



***In this issue:
League and Congress Results
Alan Ashby - games review
Hanham Major***

Bristol CHESS TIMES

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Next issue: 7th May.

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

EDITORIAL

Why so few at the League Congress?

Numbers were down at this year's League Congress; just 89 compared with 105 last year and a dismal 79 the year before that. It is surprising that a League of around 500 players can not get a larger turnout. Particularly bleak and disappointing is the shortage of players above a grade of 140; this year there were only 15 players in the top section.

We need to try and improve our League Congress by finding out what we need to change. Do we need higher prize money (though this means higher entry fees)? Should the entry forms come out earlier? Are the round times inconvenient? Should we state in advance what the grading limits on each section will be? Should we allow entrants from outside the League? If you are one of the majority who do not play in the Congress, please write and let me know why.

Looking for a new editor

When the next issue of the Chess Times appears I will have been in the post of Editor for three years. The workload in my real (paid) job has recently increased somewhat and so I feel it's time to step aside and give someone else a go at producing the mag.

I believe I will be leaving the Chess Times in a healthy state. The subscriber numbers have doubled in the last three years and there is sufficient money coming in to meet the expenses. The new editor will find there is a good team of regular and occasional writers which all helps to make the production of each issue a lot easier. Usually the problem is what to leave out.

Of course, there is always a lot of room for improvement: new and different types of articles, more contributors, more club news, and there is a whole lot that could be done to get more advertisers.

I am looking for a new editor to replace me after the League AGM in May. If you might be vaguely interested, why not contact me to have a talk about what's involved?

John Richards

The Front Cover illustration (minus the caption which is entirely the Editor's fault) is a Bill Tidy cartoon from Bill Hartston's marvellously funny 1976 book *How to Cheat at Chess*. If you don't possess a copy, you'll be pleased to hear that Cadogan have recently re-issued it and it only costs £4.99. Also just out is the sequel *Soft Pawn* for the same price. Essential reading for all 'serious' players!

David Collier looks back at the life and games of a great Bristol chess player

Alan Ashby

One thing that was not mentioned in the obituaries in the January issues was that Alan was a committed Socialist - perhaps it is not thought appropriate to mention this in an obituary in a chess magazine, but as I believe it is relevant to Alan's life I will make the point anyway. I do not know whether this explains why Alan was prepared to make a stand on his principles, and for other people, or whether it is the other way round, but either way, in this day and age when it is unfashionable even to use the word Socialist Alan still believed passionately that there was such a thing as society. And we are the poorer for his loss.

I now want to concentrate on Alan Ashby, chessplayer. Those new to Bristol chess will not appreciate what a good player Alan was or how important he was to Bristol chess. From the time Alan arrived in Bristol in 1975 until the arrival of Chris Beaumont, Alan was the main standard bearer for Bristol and Gloucestershire; he was the man mostly likely to challenge the "foreign" invasion of West Country tournaments, was top board for the county and spear-headed Bristol & Clifton's early forays into the National Club competition. Alan was a regular challenger for top honours in the West of England Championship, winning twice and so going on to play in "the British".

Boris Spassky was Alan's chess hero and there is some of Boris in his style (we are talking about the early energetic Boris here of course, not the enervated modern version). I was most impressed by Alan's ability to formulate meaningful plans in the sort of open position

where most of us would just be pushing the wood around aimlessly. He also had an excellent grasp of the dynamics of chess being prepared to accept structural weaknesses in return for activity - O.K. so we can all do this at times, but the trick is to get it right!

I hope to find some games that will illustrate these aspects of Alan's style but so far I have only been through his early games and the style had not crystallised at that stage. What I have found is a series of dashing king-side attacks and a number of games that illustrate another facet - a sharp tactical ability.

It is helpful that Alan was very disciplined in writing up his games and made light notes on many of them. Game 1,388 was a win on time (almost certainly not the first) against Alex Easton on 13 October 1993.

Monk, RG - Ashby
Teesside Open Rd4, 1973
1. d4 f5 2. d4 e6 3. c4 b4+ 4. d2
dxd2+ 5. exd2 f6 6. c3 d6 7. g3
e7 8. Bd1 0-0 9. Qg2 c6 10. 0-0
e5 11. d5 Qd8 12. e3 e4 12... f7
13. Bfe1 g5 14. Bc2 g4 15. Qd2 e4
16. Qe2 Qe5 17. Qf4 h5 18. b4 h4
19. c5 hxg3 20. hxg3 Qfxg3 20...
Qd7 21. Qc4 Qf3+ 22. Qxf3 gxf3 23.
Qd2 Qg4 24. Qg6 Bxh7 25. Qh4 Bf6
26. Qdxh3 [26. c6 Bxh6 27. cxb7 Bxh4
28. bxa8 B+ Qf7 29. gxh4 Bxh4 30.
Qf1 Bxh3 Qg2#] 26... exf3 27. Qxf3
Bh3 28. Qg5 Bxh2+ 0-1

Ashby - Holt, H

Manchester Championship Rd4, 1969

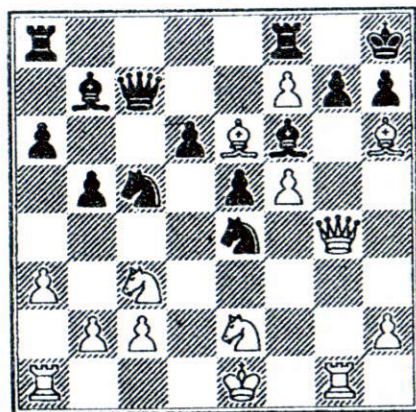
1.e4 e5 2.f3 c6 3.d4 exd4 4.c3 d5 5.exd5 ...

Ashby - Lynch, D

Lancashire U-18 final, 1970

1.e4 c5 2.f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4. exd4 ...

1



20...fxe6 21.fxe6 gxh6 22.fxe4 ...

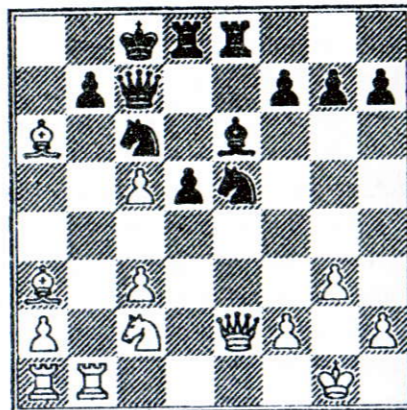
e7?! Ah4+ 29.Eg3 Wg1+!] 1-0

Ashby - Ripley

Manchester League v Liverpool League, 1970

1.e4 c5 2.f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4. exd4 ...

2



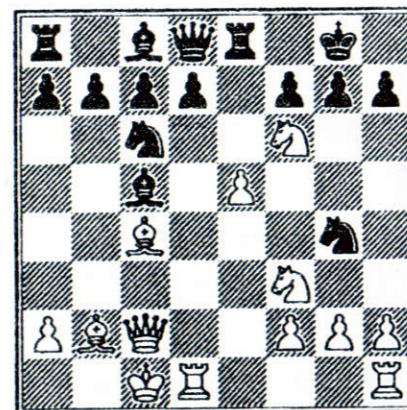
17...Ag4 18.Wf1 cf3+ 19.Wg2 Qd2 ...

Ashby - Burston, J

Manchester Open - Rd.2, 1970

1.e4 e5 2.f3 c6 3.d4 exd4 4.c3 dxc3 ...

3



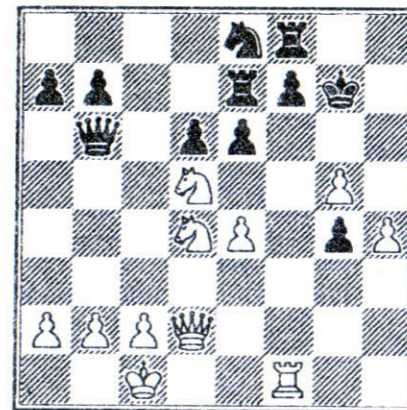
12...gxf6 13.Axf7+ Wxf7 14.Wxh7+ ...

Ashby - Gilliam, C

University of London Union v Mitcham, 1972

1.e4 c5 2.f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4. exd4 ...

4



29...Wd8 [29...Wa6 30.Wf4 e5 31. Wf5+; ...

Watson, IR - Ashby

Manchester II v East Cheshire II, 1973

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.c3 Ab4 4.e5 Qe7 ...

f6 10.exf6 [10.fxf5 Qxf5 11.h4 fxe5 ...

Sheldrick, JN - Ashby

Manchester Open Rd4, 1973

1.d4 cf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.c3 exd5 ...

17.f4 gxf4 18.Axf4 Qg6 19.Qg5 Qd7 ...

Ashby - McArthur, H

Teesside Open Rd3, 1973

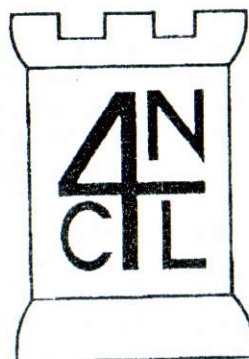
1.e4 c5 2.f3 d6 3.c3 c6 4.d4 cxd4 ...

23...We2 [23...f5 24.exf5 We2? 25.Wd5+-; ...

25.Wd5+-; 23...f6 24.Ah6 Wf7 25.Axg7 ...

Axg7+ Wxg7 28.Wh6+ Wf7 29.Wh7+ Wh7+ ...

4NCL NEWS



Roy Phillips

Third Weekend: 21-22 January

Bristol were drawn against the two most northerly teams: Midland Monarchs and North West Eagles. Both of these two teams had performed well on the first two weekends. Unperturbed, the Bristol team entered battle.

Unfortunately our change of luck didn't come on Saturday and we were comprehensively beaten by a team on form.

Bristol & District		Midland Mon'chs
C Beaumont	0-1	A Webster
A Karlsson	0-1	A Ledger
G Wall	½-½	M Fergusson
M Binks	0-1	G Buckley
T Mordue	0-1	H Hunt
R Phillips	½-½	L Cooper
R Cole	0-1	C Baker
M Buckley	½-½	R McFarland
		1½-6½

The team spent a pleasant Saturday evening replenishing brain cells with some Indian cuisine. It seems the strength of the player is directly proportional to the strength of their curry. Chris Beaumont ended up consuming a curry hotter than a pawn on b2!!

On Sunday we managed to take a point from the North West Eagles but, if it had not been for our continued bad luck, we could have had our first win.

Bristol & District		N West Eagles
C Beaumont	0-1	J Littlewood
A Karlsson	1-0	G Quillan
G Wall	½-½	G House
M Binks	1-0	B Lund
T Mordue	½-½	D Tebb
R Phillips	0-1	J Merriman
R Cole	½-½	D Wolstencroft
M Buckley	½-½	R Reeves
		4-4

Fourth Weekend: 18-19 February

Our team was severely hit by a few problems: forgetfulness; preferring the Portsmouth Congress; work (acceptable); studying for a degree (also acceptable). This left us without our usual top two for both days, and without board three for the Sunday, and having to find four additional players. Fortunately I managed to achieve this and I'd like to thank those who filled in; especially Martin Sellars who travelled 240 miles to play on Sunday. In fact, I now have the dilemma of who to select for the next match; all four scored a healthy 50%!

Overall, however, the weekend was typical of how things have been going for us. We struggled against Slough who outgraded us:

Bristol & District		Slough
G Wall	0-1	K Arkell
T Mordue	0-1	M Hennigan
R Phillips	½-½	M Houska
M Binks	0-1	R Webb
A Cooper	½-½	?
J Rudd	0-1	?
D Collier	1-0	R Noyce
M Buckley	0-1	Houska
		2-6

But we managed to collect a match point from Na Fiana. Congrats to our two juniors who pulled off two essential wins.

Bristol & District		Na Fiana
R Phillips	½-½	C O'Shaughnessy
T Mordue	½-½	C Holland
A Cooper	½-½	P Wallace
M Binks	0-1	T Clarke
D Collier	0-1	R McMichael
J Rudd	1-0	S Connolly
M Sellars	½-½	M O'Siochur
M Buckley	1-0	R O'Brien
		4-4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Midland Mnchs	8	7	0	1	40½	23½	14
Witney	8	6	0	2	36½	27½	12
BCM	8	5	1	2	38	26	11
Wood Green	8	5	1	2	38	26	11
Slough	8	5	1	2	35½	28½	11
NW Eagles	8	4	1	3	31½	32½	9
Invicta Knights	8	3	0	5	31	33	6
Barbican	8	2	2	4	31	33	6
S Wales Drgons	8	2	2	4	30½	33½	6
Covent Garden	8	3	0	5	27	37	6
Bristol & Dist	8	0	3	5	22½	41½	3
Na Fianna	8	0	1	7	22	42	1

Tired of being the rabbit

The Hanham Major, 4-6 November

John Richards

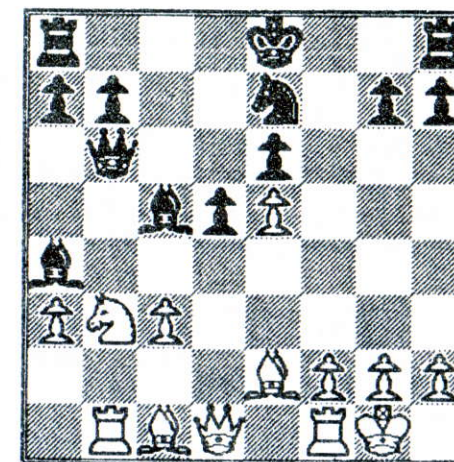
What does it take to win a tournament? I think I'd almost forgotten as for the last few years my grade has hovered around 165, which meant I had to play in Opens.

I have played in a large number of these events, going home on the Sunday evening, slumping in the armchair, opening a bottle of wine, and telling myself Opens were "good for my chess". If I scored 2½ or 3 out of 5 I would be satisfied and a score of 3½ would put me on a high for days. But too often, there was a succession of 1½ or 2 point results, or the occasional dismal solitary 1 point, which would leave me questioning the way I was spending my "leisure time".

So this season when my grade plummeted to 154, I decided it was time to try to win something for a change. Tired of always being the rabbit, I was going to do some bunny munching of my own. The Hanham Major, with an upper rating limit of 160, was my chosen target. There were seven players rated above me, so it was not going to be a picnic. I decided that the best way to play was to try to win every game - no quick draws for me - and not make any silly mistakes. The strategy worked for the first two rounds with two fairly safe victories, then I got pitched into a game where I had a difficult decision.

J Richards - M Croasdale
Hanham Major (3) 1994

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 ♖c6 5.♗f3 ♜b6 6.a3 c4 7.♗bd2 f6 8.♗e2 fxe5 9.♗xe5 ♗xe5 10.dxe5 ♗d7 11.b3 ♗c5 12.0-0 cxb3 13.♗xb3 ♗a4 14.♖b1 ♗e7

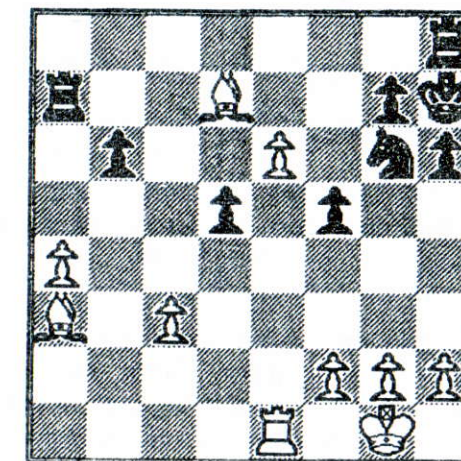


It's difficult decision time. The sac by taking on c5 looked so attractive and the more I looked, the better it got. However, I couldn't be sure that my initiative would be enough. Blow it, here goes:

15.♗xc5 ♗xd1 16.♖xb6 axb6

[16...♗xe2 17.♖xb7 ♗xf1 18.♗g5 ♗e2?? (18...♗g6 19.♗xf1 leaves White with some pressure, but no more) 19.♖xc7+ ♗d8 (19...♗f8 20.♗xc6+ ♗g8 21.♖xg7+♯) 20.♖xa7+--]

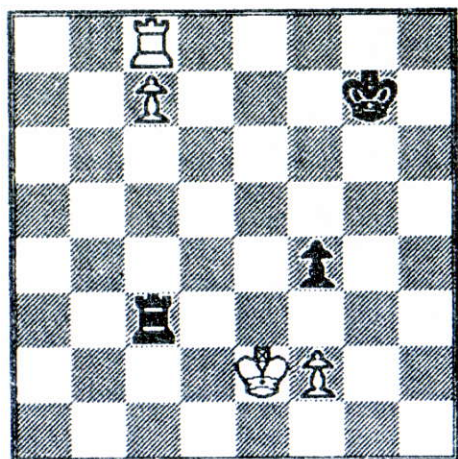
17.♗b5+ ♗f7 18.♗xb7 ♗c2 19.♗d6+ ♗g8 20.♗d7 ♗f5 21.♗xf5 exf5 22.a4 ♖a7 23.e6 h6 24.♗a3 ♗g6 25.♖e1 ♗h7



26. d6

Sadly, it's not possible to push the pawn, 26.e7 ♖xd7 27.e8♙ ♖xe8 28.♖xe8 ♖a7

26...♖d8 27.♖b1 ♖axd7 28.exd7 ♖xd7 29.♖xb6 ♖a7 30.♖b4 ♖a6 31.♖c5 ♖e5 32.♖d4 ♖d7 33.♖xd5 ♖xa4 34.g3 ♖a5 35.♖xd7 ♖xc5 36.♖d3 ♖g6 37.♖f1 ♖c4 38.♖e2 ♖g5 39.♖d2 ♖a4 40.♖d4 ♖a2+ 41.♖e3 ♖c2 42.c4 ♖f6 43.h4 g5 44.♖d6+ ♖g7 45.hxg5 hxg5 46.♖c6 ♖c3+ 47.♖d2 ♖f3 48.♖e2 ♖c3 49.c5 ♖c2+ 50.♖e3 ♖c3+ 51.♖d2 ♖f3 52.♖e2 ♖c3 53.♖c8 ♖c2+ 54.♖e3 ♖c3+ 55.♖d2 ♖f3 56.♖e2 ♖c3 57.c6 f4 58.gxf4 gxf4 59.c7



59...♖f7??

Amazing; throwing it all away to a standard rook ending tactic. After 59...f3+ there is nothing for it but to agree a draw.

60. ♖h8 1-0.

For those of you that have nodded off, 60...♖xc7 61.♖h7+ wins the rook.

Time waits for no man

The Sunday morning fourth round is always a difficult one. I've played a few with hangovers, but this time I'd been very disciplined and had an early night. My opponent was the only other player on 100% and he had the White bits.

Nine thirty: start of the round so I pressed the clock. No opponent. This can be a difficult time as it's easy to start relaxing and lose concentration. Luckily, someone

told me that Goodfellow often turned up late. I had a cup of coffee and tried to keep focussed. At 9:53 my opponent sat down, apologised for the lack of Sunday buses and played 1.e4.

R Goodfellow - J Richards
Hanham Major (4) 1994

1.e4 (23) c6 (0)

The numbers in parentheses are the number of minutes on the clock. The time limit was 42 in 2¼ hours (105 minutes). Watch White's times carefully.

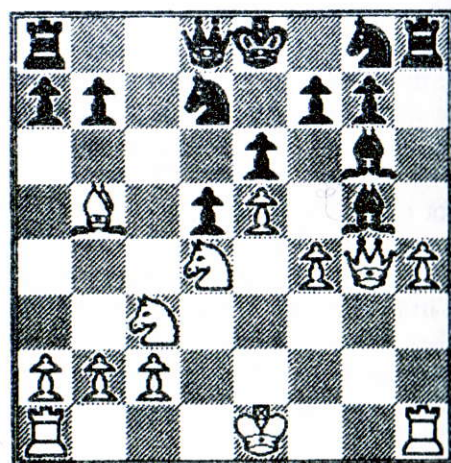
2.d4 d5 3.e5 ♖f5 4.♖c3 e6 5.g4 ♖g6 6.♖ge2 (43) c5 (10) 7.h4 (49) cxd4 (17) 8.♖xd4 h5 9.♖b5+

9.f4! is given as a big improvement over 9.♖b5+?! by Kotronias in his book, 'Beating the Caro-Kann'. 9...hxg4 10.♖b5+ ♖d7 11.f5 ♖xb4 12.♖f1! (12.0-0!? ♖h1+! "with wild complications").

9...♖d7 10.♖g5 (75) ♖e7 (30) 11.f4 (88) hxg4 (36) 12.♖xg4 (101)

White had burned oodles of time and had just four minutes left for 30 moves! Crowds were gathering just to look at his clock and then stare at the scoresheet.

12...♖xg5! (56)



Two reasons for the exclamation mark for this move. The first is that Kotronias graces it with one. The second is that we were still following theory, though I had no idea this was the case. Next I did what anyone should do when your opponent's flag is hanging after 12 moves but you don't know how

much longer your own king can survive; I went for a coffee.

13. ♖xe6!?

13.fxg5 ♖h5 14.♙h3 ♖e7 15.♖d2 ♖c8 is apparently what happened in Hort-Seirawan, Bad Kissingen 1981 (0-1, 34).

13...♖xh4+ 14.♖d2 fxe6 15.♙xe6+ ♖e7 16.♖xd5 ♖f5 (70)

Playing slowly and steadily. I've always found it a mistake to try and blitz your opponent when he's so short of time. He didn't dare leave the board in case I moved; and any sudden vibration was likely to bring his flag down.

17.♙xe7+ ♙xe7 18.♖xe7 ♖xe7 19.♖ag1 g6 20.♖h2 ♖g3?

Tsk, tsk. Careless. 20...♖e1+! is more decisive.

21.♖xh8 ♖xf4+ 22.♖d1 ♖xh8 0-1.

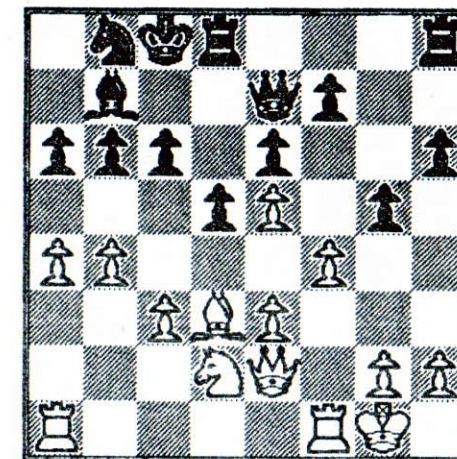
Deep opening preparation, not!

Four out of four, wow! There were two on 3½ and I realised I would have White against a good friend, Devon Thomas, in the last round. Devon had been playing really well and I knew he would fight all the way. He has a fine positional understanding and can conjure up a mean attack. His grade of 145 is an underestimate of what he could achieve. He runs his own business, *Pizza Delight* in Bristol's Stapleton Road, which takes many hours of work each week; if he had the time for chess I'm sure he would zoom up the ratings.

Here's an excellent fourth round win by Devon. The switch of attack from wing to wing is exhilarating to watch.

D Thomas - J D Turner
Hanham Major (4) 1994

1.d4 ♖f6 2.♖f3 d5 3.♖g5 ♖bd7 4.e3 c6 5.♖bd2 e6 6.♖d3 ♖e7 7.c3 h6 8.♖h4 b6 9.♙e2 a6 10.0-0 ♖b7 11.♖e5 ♖xe5 12.dxe5 ♖d7 13.♖xe7 ♙xe7 14.f4 ♖c5 15.♖c2 0-0-0 16.b4 ♖d7 17.♖d3 ♖b8 18.a4 g5



19.f5 ♙c7 20.fxe6 fxe6 21.♖f3 g4 22.♖h4 ♖hg8 23.♖g6 h5 24.♖f6 ♖de8 25.♖af1 ♖d7 26.♖f7 ♙d8 27.♖h7 ♖f8 28.♖xf8 ♖gx8 29.♖xa6 ♖e7 30.♖xf8 ♙xf8 31.♖xh5 ♙g7 32.♖d3 ♖d8 33.♙f2 ♖f7 34.♙h4+ ♖e8 35.♖h8+ ♖f8 36.♖xf8+ ♖xf8 37.♙d8+ ♖f7 38.♙c7+ ♖g8 39.♙b8+ ♙f8 40.♙xb7 ♙h6 41.♙h7+ ♙xh7 42.♖xh7+ ♖xh7 43.a5 c5 44.a6 1-0.

In the second round Devon had had a very quick eight move win in an Alekhine's:

C A Parker - D Thomas
Hanham Major (2) 1994

1.e4 ♖f6 2.♖c3 d5 3.exd5 ♖xd5 4.♖f3 ♖g4 5.♖e2

[5.d4 e6 6.♖xd5 ♙xd5 7.♖e2]

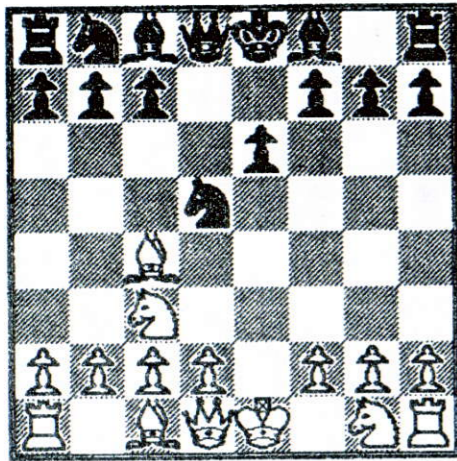
5...♖f4 6.d3?? ♖xg2+ 7.♖f1 ♖h3 8.♖g1 ♖e3+ 0-1.

I often have problems against the Alekhine's, so I decided to prepare a little surprise for Devon in a line I was sure he would be happy to follow, given his earlier success:

J Richards - D Thomas
Hanham Major (5) 1994

1.e4 ♖f6 2.♖c3 d5 3.exd5 ♖xd5 4.♖c4 e6

4...♖b6 is more common, but I had something up my sleeve for that as well.



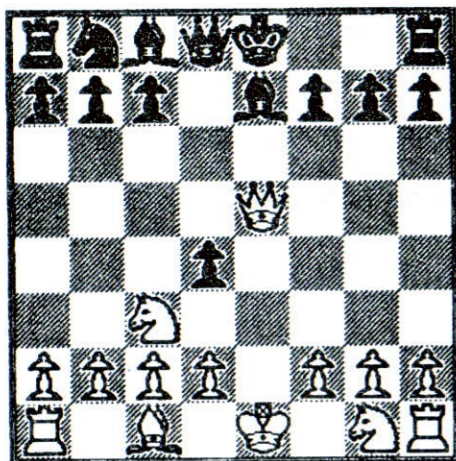
5. ♖xd5

This is the prepared surprise which I had found in Graham Burgess's *The Complete Alekhine*. Graham reveals that it was a computer program that found this ugly move which wins a pawn. It sounded good to me. After all, if I was a pawn up I felt I probably would not lose and a draw would guarantee at least a share of first place. Plus, it would be a nasty surprise for Devon and he would have to work a lot out over the board.

5...exd5 6. ♖e2+ ♔e7

But I was hoping not to see this. After 6...♔e7, Graham gives 7. ♖e5 - end of analysis - whereas he gives two lines after 6...♔e6, e.g. 7. ♖b5+ ♖c6 8. ♖xb7 ♖b4 (8...♖d4 9. ♖b5) 9. ♖b5+ ♔d7 (9...♖d7 10. ♖d1) 10. ♖e2+ ♔e7 11. d3 0-0 12. a3 ♖e8 13. ♖d1

7. ♖e5 d4



8. ♖d5

8. ♖b5 did not look appealing; 8...♖a6 9. ♖xd4 ♔d7 10. ♖c3 0-0 (10...♔f6?! 11. ♖e4+) when Black has good development for the pawn. Not 8. ♖xg7?? (deduct three points, as they say) because of 8...♔f6.

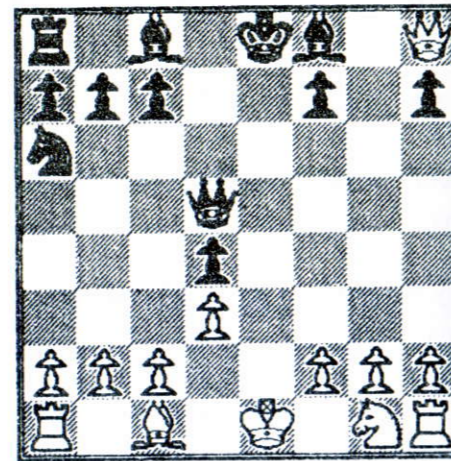
8...♖a6

[8...0-0!? 9. ♖xe7+ ♖h8 10. ♖e2 ♖e8 11. ♖xd4 ♖xe7 12. ♖e3 ♖d8 13. ♖f3]

9. ♖xg7

[9. ♖xd4?? c6--]

9...♖xd5 10. ♖xh8+ ♔f8 11. d3



11...♔f5

The consequences of 11...♖xg2 had to be calculated:

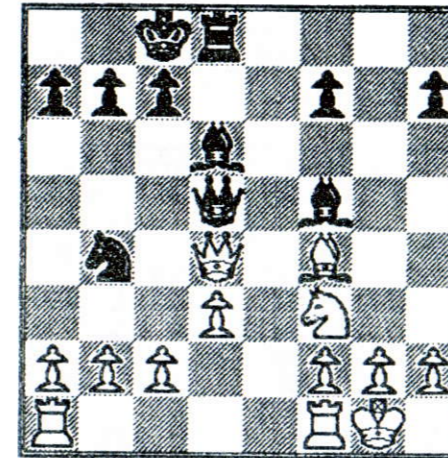
e.g. 12. ♔h6 ♖xh1 13. ♖xf8+ ♔d7 14. ♖xf7+ ♖c6 15. ♖f6+ ♔d7 16. ♖xd4+ ♖c6 17. 0-0-0 leaves White winning.

12. ♖f3

12. ♔h6? would give Black a strong attack. 12...0-0-0 13. ♔xf8 ♖e8+ 14. ♖e2 ♖xg2 15. 0-0-0 ♖xe2 16. ♔e7+ ♔d7 17. ♖d8+ ♖c6

12...0-0-0 13. 0-0 ♖b4 14. ♔f4 ♔d6 15. ♖xd4

On passing the board, Tyson Mordue said he could not believe it was a game with money at stake!



15...♖xd4 16. ♖xd4 ♔xd3 17. ♔xd6 ♖xd6 18. cxd3 ♖xd4 19. ♖fd1 c5 20. ♖ac1 b6 21. a3 ♖xd3 22. ♖c3 ♖f4 23. ♖xd4 ♖e2+ 24. ♖f1 ♖xd4 25. ♖h3

Devon fought on but had to concede defeat after 49 moves 1-0.

Delusions of greatness

100% and £200 first prize! I'd never won more than £85 before. For a few fleeting moments I even considered turning professional!

There is an unusual postscript. I bumped into Graham Burgess at the bookstall thumbing through some of his latest books (he's the Batsford Editor now, but many people still remember him from his Bristol days). "I've got a bone to pick with you Graham", I said. "I've just played this dumb Alekhine's line from your book and you didn't give enough analysis." Graham was initially taken aback, but eventually realised I wasn't being serious. He seemed very amused that anyone should have actually played it!

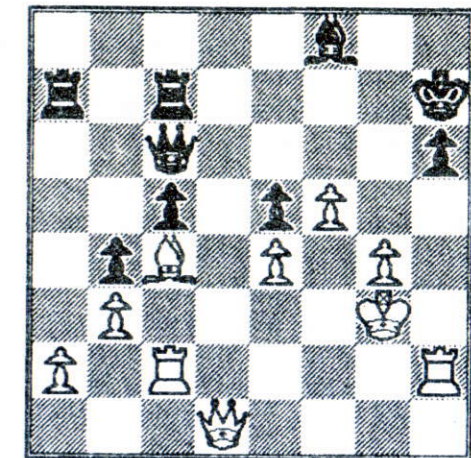
So there you have it. It's easy to win a congress. All you need to do is fight for the win in every game, get more Whites than Blacks, and have an awful lot of luck into the bargain.

Asset stripping

What's the psychologically most difficult thing about chess? Accepting a drawn position after you've been better for hours? Resigning?!

Fianchetto defenders occasionally have to realise that exchanging the wonderful g7 bishop is correct. Shining knights on e5 sometimes have to be quietly traded in. I was put in mind of these things when looking for a win in the following position:

Higgins



Millbank (to move)

White stands a little better and he has an extra supported passed pawn. But so what? Black is hitting the e4 pawn, and isn't in such bad shape. At least that's what the adjudicator must have thought, sending it back ½-½.

What the adjudicator missed (and in my experience of league adjudications this oversight is unique) was that White wins by immediately offering his greatest potential asset; thus 43.f6!

This solves the e4 problem at a stroke (the bishop will pin the queen) and after 43...♖xf6 44. ♖cf2, White continues in most lines with ♖f3; although after 44...♖e7 45. ♖d5 is crushing. Should Black decline the pawn, White has g5 and ♖h5 in the pipeline. As Maths textbooks used to say, "the remainder of this proof is left to the reader". I think you'll enjoy it.

Howard Millbank



JUNIOR CHESS

Jerry Humphreys

The major Junior event in Bristol so far this year was the training match between Avon and the Welsh Junior Squad, which was organised as part of the preparation for the Wales v Scotland match in January. Bristol hosted the event at St Helens Primary School in Alveston, and it consisted of two matches: Avon Under 16 v Wales Under 14 (11 boards), and Avon Under 12 v Wales Under 12 (13 boards).

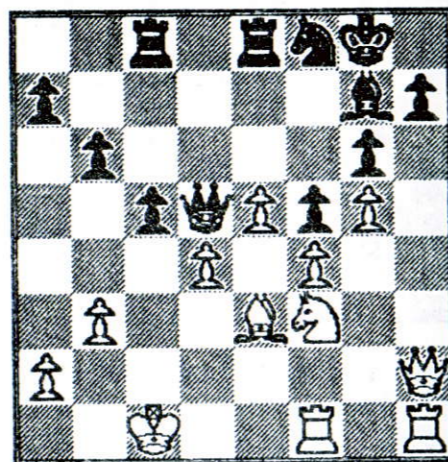
The Welsh Under 12s are stronger than their Under 14s, so our Under 12 team bravely contemplated the prospect of a thrashing while the Under 16s were much more evenly matched. In the first round only Oliver Bright and Tim Davies managed to draw in the Under 12s, but the Under 16s won 6 - 5. The Under 12s were much more determined in the second round, with top boards Oliver Bright and Michael White, plus Adam Britton and Tim Davies, all winning, while the Under 16s drew 5½ all. So a narrow victory to the under 16s and we shall try to beat the Under 12s in a return match at Cardiff in July. Particular congratulations to Oliver and Tim, as well as Jody Johnson, Richard and Jennifer Colfer, Matthew Parker, Nick Williams and James Macarthur, who were all unbeaten.

Wales seem to have gained from their training plan, because their Under 12 team went on to score a surprise victory against the strong Scottish team in the International on the 21st January.

Oliver Bright - Richard Jones
Avon v Wales Training Match, January 1995

1.d4 ♖f6 2.c4 g6 3.♗c3 ♖g7 4.e4 d6 5.f4 0-0 6.e5 ♗g4 7.h3 ♗h6 8.♗f3 ♗f5 9.g4 ♗h6 10.♖e3 ♗d7 11.♖d3 e6 12.g5 ♗f5 13.♖xf5 exf5 14.h4 b6 15.♗e2 ♖b7

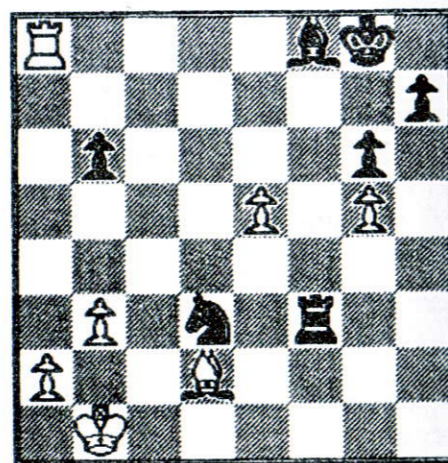
16.0-0-0 ♖e8 17.♖df1 ♗f8 18.♗h2 d5 19.cxd5 ♖xd5 20.h5 ♖c8 21.hxg6 fxg6 22.♗xd5 ♗xd5 23.b3 c5



White's attack has failed and Black now counterattacks, winning a piece. As so often in the Kings Indian, however, this is not the end of the game, only the start of the next phase.

24.dxc5 ♗d3 25.♗d2 ♖ed8 26.♖f2 ♗e4 27.♗e1 ♖d3 28.♖d2 ♖xc5+ 29.♗b2 ♖xf3 30.♗xe4 fxe4 31.♖xf3 exf3 32.♖f1 ♗e6 33.♖xf3 ♗d4 34.♖d3 ♗e6 35.♖e3 ♖c6 36.♗b1 ♖f8 37.♖d7 ♖c3 38.♖d2 ♖f3 39.♖xa7 ♗xf4 40.♖a8 ♗d3?

40...♗f7 would hold the pawn back, leaving Black a clear piece up, but now Richard climbs straight into Oliver's trap.



41.e6! ♖f1+ 42.♗c2 ♗e1+ 43.♗b2 ♗d3+ 44.♗c3 ♗g7?

Giving up a piece but still not solving the problem of the d pawn. The clever way out

Ansell grabs title

was 44...♗b4! 45.e7? ♗d5+

45.♖a7+ ♗g8 46.♗xd3 ♖f3+ 47.♗e2 ♖f5 48.♖c3 ♖f4 49.♗e3 ♖d6 50.♖a8+

Or 50.♖g7+ ♗f8 51.♖d7! traps the bishop, but the game is won anyway.

50...♖f8 51.♖xf8+ ♗xf8 52.♖f6 ♖e7 (otherwise White's plan would be to win by advancing the queenside pawns, supported by the king) 53.♖xe7+ ♗xe7 54.♗e4 ♗xe6 55.a4 ♗d6 56.b4 ♗d7 57.a5 ♗c6 58.axb6 ♗xb6 59.♗e5 ♗b5 60.♗f6 ♗xb4 61.♗g7 h5 62.gxh6 g5 63.h7 1-0

League Congress

The Bristol League Championships were again attended by a record number of juniors - 14 this year, one up on last year. This was largely due to the excellent efforts of Stuart Mills from Nailsea, who brought six of his players to play in Section 5. Incidentally, Nailsea claim to have twenty juniors, which is the highest of any League club at present. Three juniors were in the prize list - Peter Chaplin (Clevedon) won the grading prize in Section 1 with 3/5, David Buckley (Keynsham) came 2nd in Section 2 with 4, and Paul Spiller (Downend) won Section 3 with 4½. Adam York (Nailsea) did well to score 3/5 in Section 5.

Avon Primary Schools Championships

About seventy players took part in this event, despite the fact that it was held on the same day as the secondary schools' entrance exams. The Under 11 section was run as a Swiss for the first time, which was a marked improvement on the format of previous years. The under 11 champion was Matthew Pritchard (Downend), with Mark Sims (Downend) coming second. Adam Britton (Keynsham) won the Under 9 title.

Opening Moves!

Bristol's famous junior chess club will be restarting on Sunday 12th March. It will meet at the Kingswood Foundation, Britannia Road, Kingswood, which is next to the City Technology College. Play will be from 2.30 - 4.30 pm, and children aged 6 and over are welcome to attend. Further information from Duncan Macarthur, Tel 0117 974 2774.

Simon Ansell is the new Bristol Champion. The University student took the title at the League Congress (3-5 February) with just 3½ points from the five rounds, taking a last round draw when already assured of winning the tie-break. Last year's champion, Roy Phillips, was one of three others to finish on the same score. It was a very tight top section, with nearly half the games ending in draws.

Andrew Johnstone was a worthy winner in Section 2, but the sensation was young David Buckley who won an amazing fourth round game on the way to finishing second.

Two years ago, Paul Spiller won Section 5. This year he was first in Section 3. Watch out for him in '97. In the bottom section, it was a clean sweep for Grendel players who took the first three places.

Overall, numbers were down this season with just 89 players compared with 105 last year.

Reports on some of the sections will appear in the next issue.

Section 1: 1= Simon Ansell *University*, Roy Phillips *Grendel*, Jerry Humphreys, Tyson Mordue *both Downend* 3½. Grading: Peter Chaplin *Clevedon* 3. 15 players.

Section 2: 1 Andrew Johnstone *Cossham* 4½; 2 David Buckley *Keynsham* 4; 3= Mike Collier *Cabot*, Ian Biddick *Hanham* 3½. 19 players.

Section 3: 1 Paul Spiller *Downend* 4½; 2 Doug Hudson *Horfield*; 3 T Jefferies *Grendel* 3½. 15 players.

Section 4: 1 M Jacobs *Bath* 5; 2 G Wright *Harambee* 4; 3= P Osborne *Clevedon*, P Sartain *Keynsham* 3½. 20 players.

Section 5: 1 D M Keene *Grendel* 5; 2 P Flexman *Grendel* 4; 3 R Bisp *Grendel* 3½. 20 players.

Team prize: 1 Downend 14.

John Richards

Frank Palm's LETTER FROM HANNOVER

Dear Friends,

I much enjoyed Steve Boniface's Hannover story (BCT 100 and 101) and I'm looking forward to Steve's revenge this September, i.e. being chased through Wales and over the Mendips. I should correct two mistakes though, arising probably because the trip was so hectic. First: "Bristol/Hannover - Genesis and Development of the first English/German Twinning" wasn't my doctoral, but only my MA thesis. Second: I never lived in Hamburg, but I have been spending the weekends there since mid 1991. Before then, my wife and I lived together near Hannover, then she got a job as a speech and voice therapist in Hamburg.

But now to my topics.

PCA World Championship 1995 in Cologne

According to the German chess paper *Schach-Magazin 64* the PCA World Championship 1995 will definitely take place in Cologne, the metropolis of the German Rhineland, from September 10 to October 15; a maximum of 20 games will be played.

Large-scale TV presence is guaranteed; the PCA has already made agreements with major stations in the UK (BBC), the USA, Germany and Russia.

Stadthagen's Collapse - or: who the hell is Judit Polgar?

In March and May 1994. I told you about Stadthagen's meteoric rise from the fourth division into the top troika of the Bundesliga last season. But the downfall was even more rapid: six months after they had come third (below Cologne-Porz and Munich Bavaria) in the 1993/4 season, they had to withdraw their new team just after the first double-round of the present season and,

according to the rules, were relegated to the third division.

What had happened?

First act: Stadthagen lost its financial base. The enormous salaries for the hired GMs, as well as fares, accommodation and catering (roughly estimated as between 200,000 and 300,000 Deutschmarks (£85,000-£130,000) in three years) were not paid by the patron, Heiko Kuhlmann, himself, but by his wealthy girlfriend, who runs some rather profitable nursing homes for helpless elderly. One day in early 1994, however, she felt exploited enough and, not willing to support her mate's patronage and his other love affairs any longer, simply fired him.

Kuhlmann, who was still able to run a Bundesliga team able to avoid relegation, got deeply frustrated by the third place of his star team (remember, including Karpov!), as his only motive for building up a team of first-rate mercenaries was solely to win the championship. Directly after Stadthagen's 2½-5½ loss versus Bavaria Munich in the last double-round in May 1994, Kuhlmann declared he would not pay any more DM for the team, and most of the players quickly moved to other clubs.

With their source of finance suddenly dried up, Stadthagen's managing committee felt helpless and was going to withdraw in panic, without any attempts to prevent the fall.

Frank to the rescue

Second act: Hannover district was to lose its only club in the first division, which was a fatal threat, especially for my PR activities. So I felt forced to help Stadthagen.

Staying in the Bundesliga isn't possible without professionals, and it was obvious that we needed a more reliable source, i.e. an industrial sponsor instead of a moody patron. A sponsor, however, isn't normally driven by enthusiasm but by what he gets in return: PR-effects for his products. As in the USA and the UK, you have to get on the television here if you want to interest possible sponsors.

German TV stations, however, used to shun

chess almost completely; therefore a sponsored chess team must have exceptional stars at its top, attractive enough even for chess-ignorant TV journalists. The solution was simple: young, charming women, able to beat even the strongest male GMs - the Polgars!

I contacted a marketing institute recommended for sport sponsoring. They became thrilled by the idea, and together we worked out a concept. Until the end of June, GM Gyula Sax, the last of the former team and a close friend of the Polgars, convinced them to co-operate, and I formed a new team of young and promising IMs. The institute started its search for sponsors and we were all rather optimistic, as we were sure to get the necessary media attention, TV as well as magazines, and the team would cost in all no more than 70,000 DM (£30,000) - that's peanuts compared with the sums sponsors are used to paying for table-tennis, handball, or volleyball teams here, not to mention the sky-high prices in soccer or tennis.

Managerial Dullness

Third act: We had underestimated the inflexibility of German managers. "Made in Germany" is not only a trademark for solidity and high technical quality; in the business world it's also a symbol for conservatism in company and product policy, e.g. German managers are usually more reluctant to adopt new ideas than their British, American, or Japanese colleagues. Our marketing partner offered our concept (regular appearances on TV of a formerly widely disregarded sport, headed by two world famous sisters) to 64 (!) major companies in the most appropriate branches: computers, banks, insurance, and entertainment electronics. All refused; they didn't dare try a scheme without any previous positive experience. That means managers of leading German companies couldn't imagine the probable success of international top stars here because they were not top stars in Germany already!

We could not even win the support of the local administration, so we could neither pay the Polgars' or Sax's salaries nor the travelling expenses and accommodation for

the amateur IMs. After the first double-round, the latter declared they would not continue at their own expense, and the team had to be withdrawn.

Epilogue: If a most media-friendly team, promoted by marketing professionals, is not able to attract sponsors, chess sponsoring in the Bundesliga is probably impossible in the near future. The clubs will have to depend on enthusiastic but moody patrons, often behaving like 18th century estate owners. And a fascinating chance is gone to make chess more popular here.

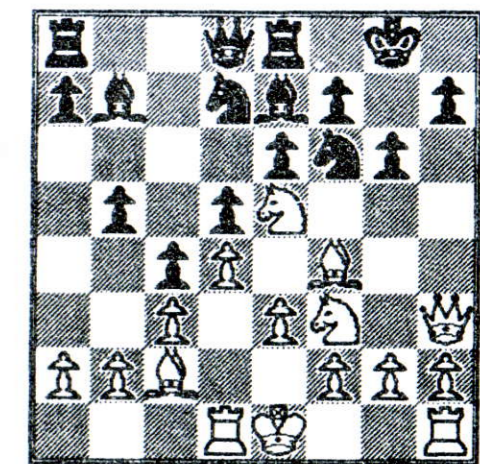
An example of the kind of chess we could have enjoyed:

Zsuzsa Polgar - Schaffart
San Bernardino 1988

1.d4 ♖f6 2.♗f3 e6 3.♗f4 c5 4.e3 d5 5.c3 ♗e7 6.♗bd2 0-0 7.♗d3 b6 8.♗e5 ♗b7 9.♗f3 ♗bd7 10.♗h3 ♖e8 11.♖d1!

Less exact is 11.♗df3 ♗xe5 12.dxe5 ♗e4 11...c4 12.♗c2 b5 13.♗df3 g6

White threatened 14.♗f7 ♗f7 15.♗xe6 ♗xe6 16.♗g5 ♖, or 13...h6 14.♗xh6 gxh6 15.♗g3+ ♗f8 16.♗xf7 ♗xf7 17.♗g6+ ♗f8 18.♗xh6+ ♗g8 19.♗g6+ ♗h8 20.♗g5 ♖f8 21.♗h6+ ♗g8 22.♗h7+ ♗h8 23.♗f5+ ♗g8 24.♗xe6+



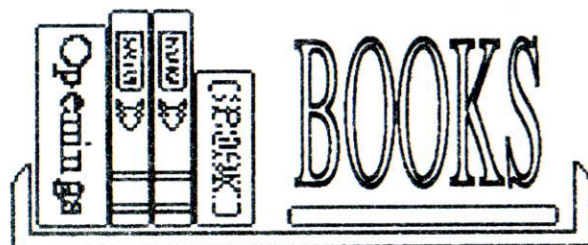
14.♗xf7! ♗b6

14...♗xf7 15.♗g5+ ♗g8 16.♗xe6+ ♗g7 17.♗f7 ♗c8 18.♗h6+ ♗g8 19.♗d6+

15.♗xg6! ♖f8

15...hxg6 16.♗h8+ ♗xf7 17.♗g5+#

16.♗3g5 1-0 Notes by Zsuzsa Polgar.



JOHN NUNN'S BEST GAMES

John Nunn
Batsford, 320pp, £17.99

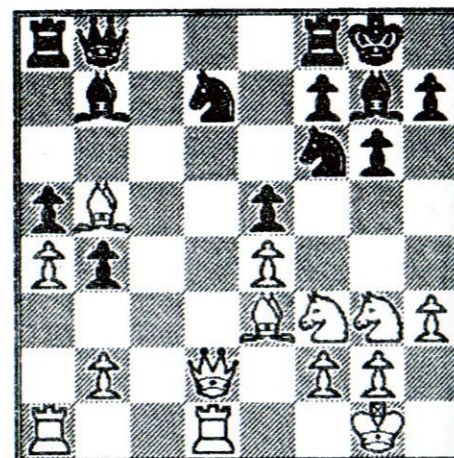
Batsford's publicity proclaimed this to be the Book of the Year; quite a claim to make in early January. However, they have quite a good chance of being right as it is going to take an exceptional book to beat this one.

This is really the second volume of Nunn's best games, if we count *Secrets of Grandmaster Play* as the first. *Secrets of...* was a joint effort between Nunn and Peter Griffiths with Griffiths writing most of the words. Nunn is completely on his own in *Best Games*, which takes up where *Secrets of...* stopped, at the Wijk aan Zee tournament in 1985 and runs through to the same tournament in 1993. Nunn has done an admirable job of putting the games in context, with some amusing anecdotes about happenings off the board, including a breakdown in the desert, an horrific stay in Hastings, and a swipe at the British chess press.

The 40 complete games and 16 part games are beautifully annotated. The reason this book is so important is Nunn's ability to explain complex concepts in such a way that average players feel they can understand them (whether they actually do or not is another matter). In this, Nunn reminds me very much of Bronstein. I found the following example very instructive:

"17. ♖g3 (See diagram at the top of the next column)

"As a young player, I was puzzled by games in which White played the manoeuvre ♖c3-e2-g3 against the Pirc. It seemed to me that the knight was not very well placed on g3, because Black's g6 pawn prevented the knight advancing. Indeed, its one and only



duty seemed to be to defend the pawn on e4. Then in 1984, I lost a game with Black against Murray Chandler, in which he used precisely this manoeuvre. The crucial distinction is whether White is attacking or defending. If White doesn't hold the initiative then the knight on g3 is truly inactive, but if White holds the initiative and has pressure in the centre then the knight can be very useful. The rooks and queen operating on the open files are so dangerous for Black that he cannot counter them directly; instead, Black must somehow aim for counterplay. The only weakness in White's position is the vulnerable pawn on e4. If this is secure, then White has plenty of time to improve his position. The function of the g3 knight is precisely to support the e4 pawn, and give White the freedom of action he needs to step up the pressure."

Just one example of the sort of clear explanation that you get from Nunn.

There is a small quibble - there are no indexes; Nunn says in his Introduction that he had to leave out all the indexes and one game because he had to fit everything into 320 pages. This seems a bit mean, especially as we are being asked to pay eighteen quid for this book. Surely, Batsford cannot avoid remedying this at the next edition (what's that saying about a ha'porth of tar?).

To sum up, this is one of the best 'Best Games' books of recent years. Hours of fun!

John Richards

Content ♖♗♘♙♚♛♜♝
Readability & layout ♖♗♘♙♚♛♜♝½
Overall ♖♗♘♙♚♛♜♝

Bristol Fantasy Chess
Bristol Fantasy Chess

Managers who avoided making transfers seem to have done best in the last two months. Grumbalds Ash (0 transfers) has opened up a huge gap and is going to be difficult to catch, while Blackburne Rovers (2 transfers) has slipped from second to fifth and Chessasy dropped 13 places.

Bigheads also did not make any changes and zoomed up the table from 28th to 11th. Another big climber was C8 my Hamster, up 11.

Competition is still strong for the bottom position, but Caissa is back there and may well hold on to it.

In the charts, S1 is the score in 1994 and S2 in 1995. Scores in italics in the S1 column may change because of unfinished games.

Team	Manager	Pts
Grumbalds Ash	M Wood	362
Simple Minds	M Brigden	328
The Chippendales	P Butterworth	323
Wessex	H J Draisey	318
Blackburne Rovers	J Richards	317
Arkle	R Gage	312
Crewsers	B Crewe	311
Babylon 6	J Edwards	308
Class Act	M Brigden	304
The Hatchet Men	C Axon	301
Bigheads	I Biddick	300
Rook Fianchettoes	A Camilleri	295
Clifton Sec's Stars	P Bissicks	294
C8 my Hamster	C Beaumont	294
Swindler's List	R Phillips	288
Chessasy	M Dear	285
Dead Moon	SS Sandhu	284
The Mysterious Rooks	D Pugh	277
Northavon Nomads	J G Milton	276
C J Strollers	C Jones	271
Annie's Angels	N Palmer	266
Friends of Kamsky	J Richards	266
Ronan's Six	G Thomson	265
Morphy's Marauders	M Furnevall	264
Anonymous	J Humphreys	262
Oddballs	J Paines	254
Justintimers	I Pickup	250
The Bishop Bashers	G Mobbs	247
64 of Them	J Levine	242
Caissa	R N Allen	231

Team	Player	Grd	S1	S2
Clifton A	Boyce	163	29	17
	Collier	180	26	33
	Cooper	192	31	5
	Harris	164	21	13
	Haydon	199	0	0
	O'Byrne	143	25	8
	Grossett	131		5
Clifton B	Baker	165	25	13
	Furnston	165	14	4
	Grossett	131	31	
	Jones C	180	23	28
	Pearce	165	8	10
	Tiplady	175	5	5
	White IR	165		6
Horfield A	Wilkinson G	155		18
	Taylor GP	168		5
	Davies	166	27	12
	Dilleigh	182	37	12
	Easton	187	21	2
	Nendick	166	34	12
	Richards	154	51	16
Down'nd A	Sellers	171	33	28
	Binks	206	30	11
	Brigden	176	32	14
	Humphreys	179	35	3
	Mordue	204	29	28
	Oldfield	165	22	22
	White EM	158	44	22
Grendel A	Carter	154	37	15
	Clarke	166	23	23
	Osborne	170	62	16
	Phillips	199	46	14
	Pugh	174	44	16
	Will	174	43	22
	Hanham A	Beaumont	212	39
Biddick		136	21	14
Bradley		164	8	2
Crockert		161	20	8
Palmer		135	19	10
Summerill		134	40	3
S B'tol A		Brooks	157	8
	Jones D	150	28	-2
	Lock	162	27	1
	Rudd	192	28	9
	Stone	153	7	0
	Weeks	164	35	11
	Twine D	167		0
Univ A	Radford D	141		22
	Parker CA	139		-3
	Ansell	205	28	26
	Simpson	190	19	0
	Hong	172	20	15
	Hunt	174	34	23
	Heaton P	139		7
Bath	Said D	161		0
	Appleton	171	29	16
	Buckley	214	33	27
	Eyley	188	36	22
	Gregory A	119	30	4
	Gregory R	147	29	0
	Helbig	193	5	0
Ledbury	141	7	0	
O'Mahoney	159	9	17	

League Notices

The old Post Office Social Club in Old Market has closed, causing two league clubs to get on their bikes.

Civil Service have moved to the Civil Service Sports & Social Club, Civil Service Sports Ground, Filton Ave, Bristol.

Bristol Cabot have gone to the Leisure Island Social Club, 7 Lawrence Hill, Bristol. The latter is perhaps better known as an old Omnibus venue.

University E have withdrawn from Division 5.

Bristol Grand Prix on the starting grid

It looks like agreement has been reached on launching a Bristol Grand Prix along the lines of the national events such as the Leigh Grand Prix. Players will get points and prizes according to their scores in a series of local congresses. The idea is to encourage players to enter more local events. Tournament organisers are invited to contact Chris Carter (0117 924 5443) for details on signing up their events.

Crossword Competition Results

It seems that the crossword in the last issue proved too tough for most of you. Still, there has to be a winner and the first correct entry out of the bag was from **Chris Bradley** of Hanham who wins the free ten issue subscription. To the others: better luck next time.

Solution to Crossword No 1.

Across: 1 Giuoco Piano. 9 Caro. 10 Paris Gambit. 11 Etna. 14 Overrun. 16 Kennels. 17 Manna. 18 Read. 19 Alps. 20 Beard. 22 Noddors. 23 Latence. 24 Good. 28 Skimmington. 29 Tube. 30 Independent.

Down: 2 Iran. 3 Odin. 4 Organum. 5 Isms. 6 Nailsea. 7 Castles Long. 8 Solar System. 12 Four Knights. 13 Gerald Mobbs. 15 Names. 16 Knurl. 20 Bracken. 21 Daytime. 25 Smee. 26 Aged. 27 Soon.

Ansell wins Grendel blitz

The third Grendel Lightning on 21 February was won by the new Bristol Champion, Simon Ansell. After winning his first five games, he was a point clear of the field, and in the final round, he took a draw against Dave Osborne to make sure of first place.

The tournament attracted 35 players. About half were from clubs other than Grendel, including four from Thornbury, and six from Keynsham (all members of the Buckley family!).

1 **ANSELL**, Simon *University* 5½; 2-3 **PUGH**, Derek *Grendel*, **CHAPLIN**, Peter *Clevedon* 5. **Under-141:** **ANSELL**, Stuart *University* 4½. **Highest ungraded:** **HARRIS**, P *Grendel* 4. **Under-101:** **BUCKLEY**, Melanie *Keynsham*, **WALLER**, P *Thornbury* 4. **Under-81:** **KUJORE**, A *Grendel* 2½.

Diary

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

Mar 4. **BRISTOL** League Quickplay, Students' Union, Queen's Road.

Mar 11. Somerset v Dorset.

Mar 12. **TEIGNMOUTH** Rapidplay. J G Gorodi, 01626 55360.

Mar 18-19. 4NCL.

Mar 24-26. **EAST DEVON** Congress. E G Sparke, 01395 442585.

Apr 1-2. **GLOUCESTER**, Spectrum Congress, U-180, U-140, U-105. Les Day, 01803 212136.

Apr 14-17. **WECU** Easter Congress. Richard Rendell, 01793 724039.

May 6-8. **DART VALLEY** Congress.

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

May 20-21. 4NCL.

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

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