

NCA BULLETIN 158



Magazine of the Year
2019

**Produced BY and FOR
NORTHUMBERLAND CHESS PLAYERS
(and Friends!)**



**COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS CONCLUDE, NCCU TRIUMPHS
for FOREST HALL and SOUTH SHIELDS, AWARDS for
JOHN WHEELER and MAGAZINE, TREVOR THOMAS,
YICHEN BEATS NIGEL DAVIES, PAUL BIELBY'S BRITISH,
NORTH EAST LOSE 4NCL BATTLE and MORE!**

Northumberland Chess Association
July 2019

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WELCOME TO BULLETIN 158

Hello all and again, welcome. We'll kick off this issue with a roll of honour then crack straight on. So congratulations to.....

- **Gateshead** Chess Club for clinching the Division 3 title
- Joint Zollner Winners **James Moreby** and **Charlie Storey** (Cover Page)
- Joint Gilroy Winners **Eddie Czestochowski** and **Ciaran McDonald**
- NCCU Club Champions **Forest Hall**
- NCCU Senior Champions **South Shields**
- **John Wheeler** on his ECF Presidents Award for Services to Chess
- **This Magazine** as the ECF Magazine of the Year

The full citation for John's award – and a rightly proud picture - fills our back page. **Lara Barnes**, NCA Exec Chair says "John has always been the utmost gentleman and a great inspiration to 'keep calm and carry on organising and supporting chess!' What a well-deserved award". And from **Bob Heyman** at Gosforth "We were very lucky to have John join Gosforth Chess Club a few years ago, and he is now our Chairperson. John plays at the club every week whenever he can and is always happy to give his time to weaker players. We have learnt so much from him".

Well done John and a nice way to start – and finish – Issue 158.

Happy Reading – Mick

2018/9 – COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

David Walker rounds off with another great report including puzzles arising from Championship games this season.

ZOLLNER FINAL TABLE

James Moreby, Charlie Storey	5
Tim Wall	4½
Roger Coathup, Yichen Han, Zheming Zhang	4
John Boyd, Paul Dargan, David Henderson	3½
Andy Trevelyan	3
Mick Riding, Stuart Skelsey	1

The title was shared due to both players having heavy commitments – James with pending GCSE exams and Charlie with his busy coaching schedule.

SELL FINAL TABLE

Paul Bielby	6½
Bob Mitcheson	4½
John Marsh, Martin Seeber, Mike Smith	4
John Clarke, Darren Laws, Ciaran Macdonald	3½
Steve Burnell	3
Stuart Skelsey, Christian Smith	2½

No tie-break required here as Paul dominated from the start!

GILROY FINAL TABLE

Eddie Czestochowski, Ciaran Macdonald, Bill Noble	5
David Stebbings, Weiming Xu	4½
Asa Bayram, Kevin Cox, Bob Heyman, Stan Johnson, David Peardon	4
Rob Appleby, Morgan French	3½
Joe Miller, Peter Wells	3
Paul Richardson	2½
Ian Rook, Bill Wilkinson	2
Kurt Moreby	1½
Alex Rudzenis	½
Brendan Glasper	0

And in the Gilroy Eddie and Ciaran both beat Bill and drew with each other to share the title.

Later Dave presents 10 (!) puzzles arising from this season's game. Before we move on a big **THANK YOU** to **David Walker** for his organising and reporting of this season's event. You might not know he didn't compete this year to avoid any potential conflict of him being player and organiser. Given his track record in the Zollner (and 2017/8 winner) that's no small sacrifice.

Finally one small puzzle of my own. On May 1st **James Moreby** became joint winner of the 2018/9 Zollner aged 16 years and 151 days. In 1967/8 the late

Frank Moon won the Zollner – aged 16 years in 1967/8 - but we cannot be more specific as we don't know his date of birth. Do you?

A critical game from the Gilroy play off.

Bill Noble - Ciaran Macdonald

1.d3 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nbd2 Bc5 4.e4 d6 5.c3 Nf6 6.b4 Bb6 7.Nc4 h6 8.Be2 0-0 9.Nxb6 axb6 10.h3 Be6 11.a3 Ne7 12.Nh2 Time to castle **12...d5 13.Ng4 Ng6 14.Be3 dxe4 15.Nxf6+ Qxf6 16.dxe4 Rfd8 17.Qc2 Nh4 18.Rg1 Ng6 19.g4** Leaving a hole but finding decent moves is becoming difficult **19...Nf4 20.Rg3 Rd6**



21.Bf1 Rf3 21...Rad8 22.Rf3 This is now a mistake –also the culmination of not castling earlier and Black's accurate play **22...Nd3+ 23.Ke2 Bc4** Nice **24.Bg2 Nxb4+ 0-1**

Now a Round 5 Zollner game annotated by and featuring the (perhaps) unlucky Stuart Skelsey

John Boyd – Stuart Skelsey

I was wondering if a series entitled 'Glorious Defeats' might be of interest. The main theme would be me playing rather strong players, during which I sort of do ok until that point where my brain implodes or the clock gives up, thereby restoring universal karma. Much like the Charge of the Light Brigade had Alfred, Lord Tennyson, I've got the NCA Bulletin! Oh well here goes. . .

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.f4 I did have a strategic plan here, which was to try and last longer than the 15 moves that I lasted the last time we played. **4...Bg7 5.Nf3 c5 6.dxc5 Qa5 7.Qd4** After the game John suggested that this was a relatively new move that he was at least aware of. He mentioned that he had never played the Austrian Attack before. Which pretty much matches my understanding of it. **7...0-0 8.cxd6 Nc6** The machines suggest **8...Nxe4!=**, which leads to the following line. **9.Qxe4 Bxc3+ 10.bxc3 Qxc3+ 11.Kf2 Qxa1** At this point, of course, we can see

that Black is an exchange up but with no pieces other than the Queen having left the back rank. If you do a bit of research you can see chess engines assessing that the position is roughly equal (!), compared with chess databases pointing out that White is scoring roughly 80% with this line. Something's not quite right . . . **9.Qa4** This definitely feels wrong. Perhaps **9.Qd2** is more relevant? **9...Qxa4 10.Nxa4 Nxe4 11.dxe7 Re8** Black has the initiative. **12.Be3** John suggested **12. Bd3** might have been stronger. **12...Rxe7** Black threatens **Nb4 13.0-0-0 Bg4 14.Nc5** **Bb5** keeps the balance. **14...Bxf3 15.gxf3 Nc3!** 15th move reached! Phase 1 of my strategic plan achieved. Unfortunately I don't have a phase 2. **16.Rd3 Nxa2 Nb4** Suggested by some kibitzers after the game, doesn't appear to be as strong **17.Rxc3 Nxa2+ 18.Kd2 Nxc3 19.bxc3 Bxc3+ 20.Kxc3 Rxe3+ 21.Kd2 17.Kb1** Black now needs to beware **c2-c3** by White. **17...Nab4 18.Rb3 b6** Just a bit passive. The engine suggests **18...Bd4 19.Ne4** (Of course **19.Bxd4** leads to **19...Re1#**) **19...Bxe3 20.Rxe3 Kf8** The **Ne4** is pinned so White has to worry about **f7-f5** by Black plus . . . **Nb4-d5-f4** is threatened. **19.Ne4 Rd8** Strongly threatening **Rd1+**. **20.Bb5 Rc7 21.h4 Nd5 22.h5 Nxe3 23.Rxe3 Nd4 24.Rd3 Rd5** Black's advantage has largely disappeared now. **25.h6 Rxb5 26.hxg7** White now threatens **27.Nf6+ Kxg7**

28. Ne8+ followed by **29.Nxc7**, so **26...Rxc2 27.b3 Rg2 28.Rxd4 Rxb3+ 29.Kc1 Ra3** I hadn't quite cottoned on to the fact that the position is roughly equal here, plus time trouble was getting chronic. **30.Nd2 Rc3+ 31.Kd1 a5 32.Rd7 Kxg7 33.Re1 b5 34.Ree7** and now Black lost on time. After say **34.Ree7 Kg8 35.Rxf7 Rg1+ 36.Ke2 Rg2+** White cannot play **37.Kf1** because **37...Rxd2** A fun game. **1-0**

NCA SUMMER KO

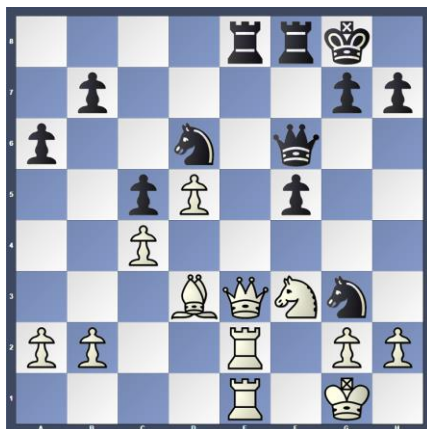
Able run by **David Walshaw** we're well underway and into the semi-finals. In the **Cup** competition **Jesmond, Gosforth A, Forest Hall Alpha Zeros** and **Gosforth B** await the semi-final draw whilst in the **Plate Gosforth C, Morpeth B, Forest Hall Bullets** and **Gateshead** are last men standing. In the First Round **Gosforth A** scraped through against a plucky **Leam Lane** team The following game features **John Marsh** giving **Andy Lawson** a good run for his money on top board. Notes from Andy (thank you).

Our esteemed editor, applying unwarranted duress, "encouraged" me to annotate the following less than brilliant game as an example of how we scraped through to win 4-0 against **Leam Lane**.

At the time it looked like Black was lucky not to be worse, but later the objective reality of computer evaluation overcame the sadly human impressions that dominated the actual game.

John Marsh – Andrew Lawson

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Bd3 e5 4.c3 Be7 5.Ne2 0-0 6.0-0 Nbd7 7.f4 c5 8.fe5 de5 9.d5 Ne8 This seems to be a rather dubious new move in a not terribly popular variation. The thematic 9...c4, in Modern Benoni style, is preferable: after 10.Bc2 Ng4 11.Kh1 Qb6 12.Qe1 with equality **10.Na3** Probably 10.c4 followed by Nbc3 is better, when the nature of White's edge is irritatingly persistent in view of the static pawn structure. **10...a6 11.c4 Bg5 12.Nc2 Bxc1** Here 12...b5 was more in tune with the position – if 13.cb5 Bxc1 14.Qxc1 Qb6 **13.Qxc1 Nd6 14.Rf3** This direct move has a drawback which Black failed to exploit. After 14.Ne3 White has an enduring edge **14...Nf6** Not a mistake in itself, but an error of omission: the break 14...f5 is very good e.g. 15.Nc3 f4 **15.Ng3 Bg4 16.Rf2 Nh5 17.Ne3 Nxc3 18.Nxc3 Ngxe4 19.Re2 f5** Well, better late than never. Now Black is slightly better **20.Nxe5 Qe7** And here 20...Re8 21.Nf3 Qf6 would be more accurate **21.Nf3 Qf6 22.Qe3** Playing 22.Bxe4 first is better, when after 22...Nxe4 23.Qe3 is about level **22...Rae8** Now Black has a clear advantage **23.Rae1 Ng3**



The best move, but at the time I wasn't sure about the nature of the position after the following sequence. To be frank, I was concerned that I might even be worse. **24.Qxe8 Nxe8 25.Rxe8 Ne4 26.Re6** After 26.Rxf8+ Kxf8 Black would also be much better. The computer suggests that 26.Re6 is weaker, but for carbon-based life forms sometimes it isn't so clear. When how you feel about a position affects your evaluation of a position, the indefeasible objectivity of the program is practically a reminder that humans aren't made for chess. **26...Qxb2** Naturally **27.Bxe4 fxe4 28.R6xe4 Qc2** Taking on a2 is probably stronger, but requires rather more accuracy: 28...Qxa2 29.d6 Qa4. Black wants to ensure that the d-pawn never becomes a serious threat. **29.h3** If 29.d6 then 29...Qd3 **29...h6 30.d6 Qd3 31.Re6 Kh7 32.R1e2 Qxc4** The queen indulges in a light lunch under not

especially dangerous conditions
33.d7 Rd8 34.Re7 Rxd7 The rook
 joins the picnic **35.R2e4 Qb5 36.a4**
Rxe7 0-1

MOTD – MORPETH A v FOREST HALL ALPHA ZEROS

Round 3 saw the tie of the tournament with two candidate winners locking horns. **Board 2** saw **Yichen Han** with White against **James Turner**, annotations are by James.

How do you go about beating Yichen Han? I think a lot of us are going to be asking this question over the next year or two. The lad is going to be very good indeed. Clearly, I'm not the best person to be giving the answers because I got stuffed in this game, but I think the short answer is: BE PREPARED. There are loads of Yichen's games online and, for this game, I was able to supplement this by asking one of my club colleagues, Alan Welsh, about how he'd almost pulled off a big shock against Yichen earlier in the season. The answer was: play the Sveshnikov Sicilian. More than that, Alan was able to remember most of the early moves, including **7.Bg5**, **9.Bxf6** and **c2-c3** at some unspecified point.

And that was good enough for me to do some studying. Tonight, Matthew, I'm going to be playing the Sveshnikov.....

Yichen Han – James Turner

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 Caruana played: **7.Nd5** in several of the games against Carlsen in the World Championship last year **7...Nxd5 8.exd5** when Carlsen played both **8...Nb8** and the alternative: **8...Ne7 7...a6 8.Na3 b5** Just as Alan had foretold, Yichen now plays: **9.Bxf6** The other choice is the more positional: **9.Nd5** when one line could be something like this: **9...Be7 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.c3 Bg5 12.Nc2 Rb8 13.a4 bxa4 14.Ncb4 Nxb4 15.Nxb4 Bd7 9...gxf6 10.Nd5 Bg7 11.c3** Again following similar moves to Alan's game, although Alan had played **10...f5 11...f5 12.exf5 Bxf5 13.Nc2 0-0 14.Nce3 Bd7 15.Bd3** Yichen was still playing quickly at this point. Fifteen moves in and he still knows the theory. **15...f5 16.0-0** After the game, Yichen said that he thought: **16.Qh5** is a fraction better than his game move **16...e4 17.Bc2 Kh8 16...e4** I was feeling fairly pleased with myself here: 16 moves in and I think black's got an equal position. I thought I'd given myself a chance. **17.Bc2 f4 18.Bxe4**



18...Re8?? I wasn't going to feel pleased with myself much longer. After the game, we looked at some lines after: 18...fxe3 when black's king gets forced into the open after something like: 19.Qh5 h6 20.Qg6 exf2+ 21.Rxf2 Rxf2 22.Qh7+ Kf8 23.Kxf2 and I'm going to need to play very accurate moves to survive; But the move I wish I'd played was: 18...Qe8 19.Qd3 fxe3 20.Nc7 exf2+ and I'm a piece up (for now). Anybody's game!

19.Nxf4 Rxe4? It's hopeless anyway after the previous Re8 move. Alternatives such as: 19...Qg5 are no better really 20.Qxd6 Rxe4 21.Qxd7 Rxf4 22.Qxc6 Raf8+— **20.Qd5+!** I played on because I didn't want to be the first game to finish, but obviously I am lost. The rest is a demonstration from Yichen on how to take a won game to its conclusion. **20...Kh8 21.Qxe4 Ne5 22.Nd3 Rc8 23.Nxe5 Bxe5 24.Rad1 Qg5 25.f4 Qh4 26.Nf5**

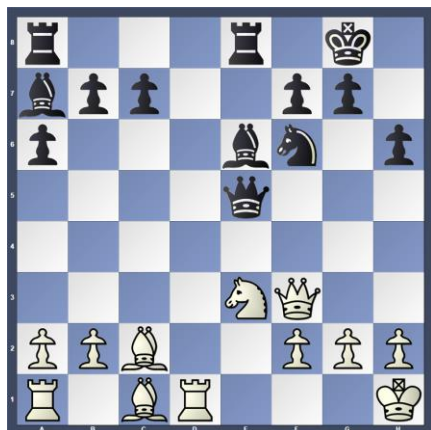
Qg4 27.Nxd6 Bxd6 28.Rxd6 Bf5 29.Qe5+ Kg8 30.Rfd1 Rf8 31.Rd8 Qg6 32.Qe7 1–0

First strike to the Alpha Zeros. But meanwhile **Board 4** was close to a finish. Notes by Phil.

Zheming Zhang - Phil Eastlake

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Bc5 4. c3 d6 5. d3 Nf6 6. Nbd2 a6 I play both sides of the quiet Giuoco Piano in correspondence chess so was familiar with these type of positions. It is a deceptively subtle opening with move order and minor sidelines, such as either a4 or a5 affecting the development of the minor pieces and the timing of d4 or d5 breaks. **7. Nf1** This is an unusual move order. The Nf1-g3 manoeuvre is normally done after O-O and Re1. **O-O 8. Bb3 h6 9. Ne3** This is the wrong square for the knight - it should be going to g3. Here it gets in the way of the QB development. **Ba7** Not Black's best development plan. Better is 9... Bxe3 10. Bxe3 d5 11. Bc2 Qe7 or 9...Ne7 10. O-O c6 11. Re1 Ng6 **10. O-O Re8 11. Kh1** This loses a tempo and hands Black the initiative. White will be in no position to play f4 anytime soon. Better would have been to continue to develop with 11. h3 Be6 12. Bxe6 Rxe6) **11... Be6** My turn to go wrong. Black should

have continued 11... Ne7 12. Bd2 c6 13. c4 Ng6 14. Bc3 b5 with a comfortable initiative. **12. Bc2** Better was 12. Bxe6 Rxe6 12... fxe6 13. h3 Rf8 14. Qe2 intending a4 and b4 with a Q-side counterplay. 13. Nf5 and Z0 14. Be3 **12... d5 13. exd5 Nxd5 14. d4** Loses a pawn. Black is now winning. **exd4 15. cxd4 Nf6 16. Qe2 Nxd4 17. Nxd4 Qxd4 18. Rd1 Qe5 19. Qf3** Blunder.



Bg4 20. Qg3 The bishop cannot be taken 20. Nxg4 Qe1+ 21. Rxe1 Rxe1# **20... Qxg3 21. hxc3 Bxd1 22. Bxd1 Ne4** and White resigned. Play might continue 23. Kg1Nxg3 24. fxg3 Bxe3+ 25. Bxe3 Rxe3 26. Bf3 c6 when Black has a won endgame. 0-1

The equaliser! On **top board** 'Peths' **Roger Coathup** (annotating) saw his Board 3 team mate struggling and needed to win against **Tim Wall** – a tough ask!

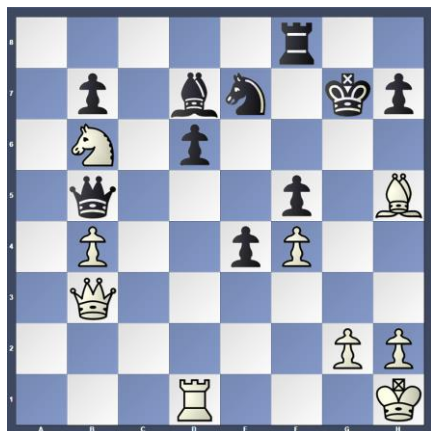
Roger Coathup – Tim Wall

1.c4 f5 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.e3 Bg7 5.Bd3 Nc6 6.Nge2 d6 7.f3 e5 8.d5 Ne7 9.Rb1 0-0 10.0-0 a5 11.a3 Kh8 12.b4 axb4 13.axb4 g5 14.f4 gxf4 15.exf4 Bd7 16.Ng3 e4 17.Be2 Qe8 18.Bb2 Qg6 19.Nh5

Up until this point, I'd only taken 4 or 5 minutes over my moves. I thought it likely that I'd need to win to see us home in the match, so this unusual double edged position, albeit objectively equal, with a big time advantage was ideal. My f4 has similarities with King's Indian ideas and is intended to nullify Black's light squared bishop. Of course, the protected passed pawn on e4 gives Black some trumps as well. 19 Nh5 is probably a mistake though -- better to have kept the minor pieces on. **19...Nhx5**

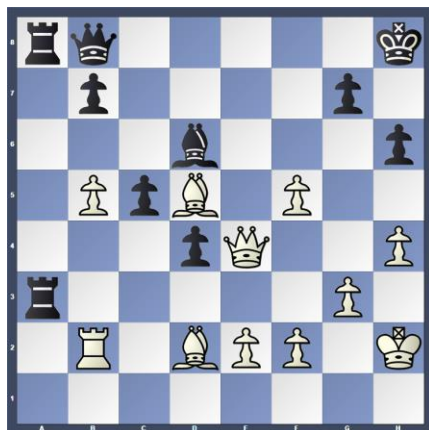
20.Bxh5 Qh6 21.Ra1? After this mistake, Black starts to gain an advantage. **21...Rxa1 22.Bxa1 Ra8 23.Bb2 c6 24.Be2 cxd5 25.cxd5 Bf6 26.Qb3 Qg7 27.Nd1 Bxb2 28.Nxb2 Qd4+ 29.Kh1 Qd2 30.Bh5 Rc8?! 30...Bb5!** Gives Black a clear advantage **31.Nc4!** The point of White's preceding play; this move allows White's Queen to come to the long diagonal with check and equalises the position. **31...Qxd5 32.Qb2+ Kg8 33.Nb6 Qb5 34.Rd1 Rf8** After this inaccuracy, White gains an edge with the attack on Black's exposed King. Black was running short of time at this point. It was better to take the piece which leads to a draw after 34...Qxb6

35.Qf6 35.Qb3+ Kg7



36.Nc4?! It seems logical to bring the Knight back into play with threats against d6, but instead **36.Qc3+ Kg8 37.Qc7 Be8 38.Bxe8 Rxe8 39.Nd7±** Would have left Black with real practical problems to solve **36...d5 37.Ne5 Be8 38.Bxe8 Rxe8 39.Qg3+ Ng6 40.h4 Qe2 41.Rc1 Re7 41...Qh5 42.Rc7+ Kg8 43.Nxg6 Qxg6** Was Black's last chance to keep the game alive **42.Qg5 Qe3 43.Nxg6 Qxc1+ 44.Kh2 hxg6** Rook moves lose, e.g. **44...Rc7 45.Ne5+ Kh8 46.h5+—** with a neat finish after e.g. **46...d4 47.Qd8+ Kg7 48.h6+ Kxh6 49.Qg5# 45.Qxe7+** With Tim down to his last minute, I threw in a few more checks here before eventually offering the draw $\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}$ All square and one to go! But things were looking bad on Board 3 for Morpeth's **Martin Seeber** (White) against young gun **Max Turner**. Could he hang on?

Martin Seeber – Matthew Turner
1.c4 c6 2.Nf3 d5 3.g3 Nf6 4.Bg2 Bg4 5.0-0 Bxf3 6.Bxf3 e6 7.d3 Be7 8.Nc3 0-0 9.Rb1 Ok, that's the way White wants to go. But Qb3 has been an option for a couple of moves. Nothing spoiling **9...Nbd7 10.Bg2 a5 11.b3 d4** Been in the air. I think White should have played cd and d4 to stop this **12.Ne4 Nxe4 13.Bxe4 Nf6 14.Bg2 e5 15.a3 Qb6 16.Qd2 Rfe8 17.b4 axb4 18.axb4 Ra4 19.b5 c5 20.Qc2 Rea8 21.Bd2 Bd6 22.Rfc1 h6 23.Qd1 Qa7 24.Rb2 Ra3 25.Rcb1 Nd7 26.h4 Nb6 27.Kh2 f5 28.Qh1 e4 29.dxe4 Nxc4 30.exf5 e5 30...Nxb2 31.Rxb2 Qb8 32.Bd5+ Kh8 33.Qe4 Qg2** looks better



33...Bxg3+ 34.Kg2 Bd6 And here Bxf2 is consistent with the take on g3 but all the same... **0-1**

And **Forest Hall Alpha Zeros** move into the semis. Who can stop them from a League and Cup double?

NORTHUMBERLAND's MOST WANTED!

A brief interlude to celebrate the recent successes of our friends and colleagues. Well done all!

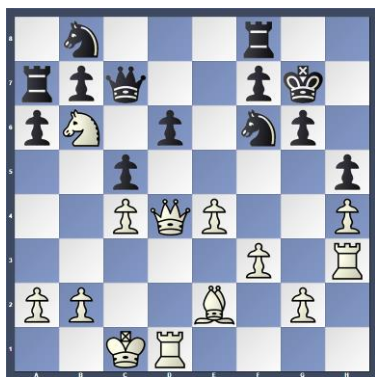


Left Col from the top - **Paul Bielby** receiving the **Sell** from **Mike Smith**. **Ciaran McDonald** and **Eddie Czestochowski** sharing the **Gilroy**. **Tim Wall** receiving the **D1 Shield** for **Forest Hall A** and above **Dave Henderson** receiving the **D2 Shield** on behalf of **Tynemouth B**.

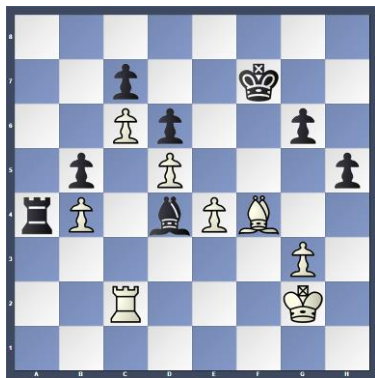
NORTHUMBERLAND PUZZLES

Dave Walker has usurped my puzzle page this edition with a number of positions arising from this year's County Championship. Love these – and can't help visualising the protagonists as they sit at the board.....

1. Dargan v Coathup Zollner - An easy one to start - white to play and win



2. Heyman v Cox. Gilroy - white to play and win



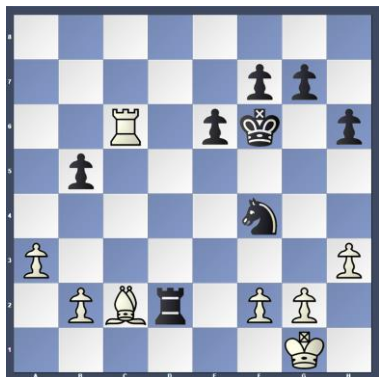
3. McDonald v Mitcheson. Sell - White to play has a couple of strong moves here, but which is the best?



4. Boyd v Trevelyan. Zollner - White to play and win.



5. Johnson v French. Gilroy - Black to play and win, but make sure to calculate to the end of the line.



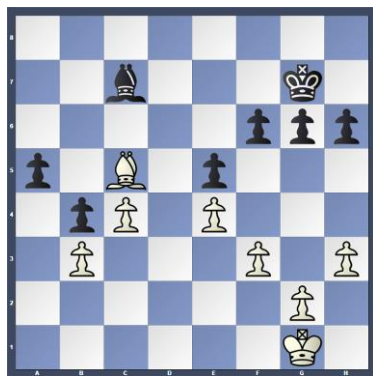
6. Appleby v Glasper. Gilroy - White to play and win. For full credit, how does white beat black's strongest defence?



7. Coathup v Han. Zollner - White to play and win.



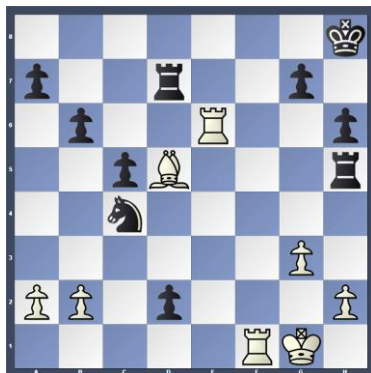
8. Bayram v Czestochowski. Gilroy - A seemingly innocuous position, but black has a winning continuation, can you find it?



9. Bielby v McDonald. Sell - With g6 and e8 en prise, black seems to be in difficulties, but he has a move to keep approximate equality, can you see it?



10. Storey v Moreby. Zollner - This is a difficult one - white to play and win.



Solutions on **P27**.

NORTHUMBERLAND TRIUMPHS IN NCCU CHAMPIONSHIPS

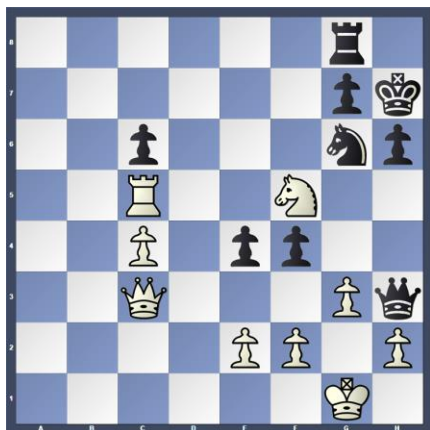
Forest Hall – with a dramatic tie-break win over **Heywood** – were crowned **2018/9 NCCU Club Champions** whilst at the same finals event **South Shields**, with a 3.5 - .5 win over **Prescott and Knotty Ash** captured the **Seniors** title. The Shields team of **David Walker, David Mooney, Paul Bielby** and **Brian Towers** – average age 65.4 - significantly out graded their opponents and gained revenge for last year's final defeat.

Forest Hall – represented by **Tim Wall, Zheming Zhang, Chris Goodall** and **Ravi Wariyar** were trailing 1 – 2 until a dramatic late win by captain **Tim Wall** pulled the score level and made our champions winners by board count.

The finals day at Harrogate was enjoyed by all concerned and perhaps this – allied with the success of our teams – might encourage more Northumberland entries next season? Here is Tim's win over renowned Lancastrian **Brett Lund**.

B Lund – T Wall

1.g3 e5 2.Bg2 Nf6 3.c4 d5 4.cxd5
 Nxd5 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.0–0 Nb6 7.d3
 Be7 8.a3 Be6 9.Nbd2 a5 10.b3 0–0
 11.Bb2 f6 12.Rc1 Qd7 13.Ne4
 Rfd8 14.Nc5 Bxc5 15.Rxc5 Bh3
 16.Bxh3 Qxh3 17.b4 axb4
 18.Qb3+ Kh8 19.axb4 Na4 20.Rc2
 Nxb2 21.Qxb2 Ra4 22.Rc4 Rda8
 23.b5 Rxc4 24.dxc4 Ne7 25.Rd1
 Qg4 26.Qc2 h6 27.Nh4 Kg8
 28.Qd3 e4 29.Qd2 Kh7 30.Ng2
 Ng6 31.Ne3 Qh5 32.Qc2 f5 33.Qb2
 f4 34.Rd5 Qh3 35.Nf5 Rg8 36.Qc3
 c6 37.bxc6 bxc6 38.Rc5



38.....h5 A loose move not in keeping with the game so far. The match situation I wonder? 39.f3 But it has the desired effect. Ra5 was better. f3 isn't a blunder but why move pawns protecting your King unless you have to? 39...fxg3 40.hxg3 Not Nxg3? when 40...Nf4 is killing 40...h4 41.fxe4 Losing. Must be time trouble. Qe1 should

be played 41...Nf4 The Pawn is pinned, Q on c3 hanging 42.Qf3 Ra8 43.Ne3 hxg3 44.Nf1 Ra1 45.Qxf4 Qh2# 0–1 A very enjoyable game in a tense situation, well played Tim.

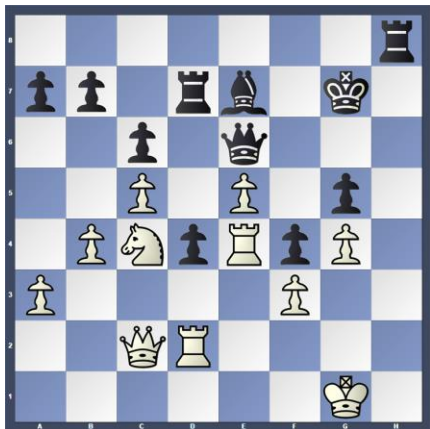
4NCL UPDATE

Sadly it was not to be. Successive defeats to **Grantham Sharks** 3½ - 4½, **3Cs** 2½ - 5 ½ and **Celtic Tigers** 3-4 consigned our heroes to Division 2 for season 2019/20. This is nothing to be ashamed of given the large grading disparity between ourselves and higher rated opposition, indeed to go kicking and screaming into the final weekend was an achievement in itself. Some highlights from the final weekend. On **Board 8 v GranthamSharks**.

Mihaela-Veronica Foisor v Lynda Smith (North East)

1.d4 f5 2.c4 Nf6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.Nf3 d6 6.0–0 0–0 7.Qc2 c6 8.Nc3 Na6 9.a3 Qe8 10.b4 Nc7 11.Bb2 e5 12.dxe5 dxe5 13.e4 f4 14.Na4 Nd7 15.c5 h6 16.Rad1 g5 17.g4 Bf6 18.h3 h5 19.Nh2 Ne6 20.Qb3 Kg7 21.gxh5 Nd4 22.Bxd4 exd4 23.h6+ Kxh6 24.Ng4+ Kg7 25.Nb2 Nxf6 and capture the d4 pawn seems better 25...Ne5 26.f3 Be6 27.Qc2 Nxg4 28.hxg4 Qf7 Okay but occupying the h file

seems a good idea **29.Rd2 Rad8 30.Re1 Bb3 31.Qc1 Rd7** Slipping a little. **Be5. 32.Bf1 Rh8 33.Bc4 Bxc4 34.Nxc4 Qe6 35.e5 Be7 36.Ree2 Qd5 Rh3 37.Re4 Qe6 38.Qc2**

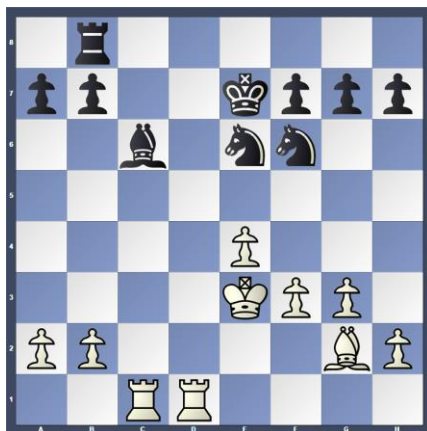


Rh3 Qh6 wins. **39. Rh2 d3!** and the d Pawn is a monster e.g. **40. Qd2 Qxh2+ 41. Qxh2 Rxh2 42.Kxh2 d2** and White has to go **Nb2** and given the Knight up for Black's d Pawn. Easier said afterwards of course! **39.Qd3** Must be time trouble. **39. Nd6** and White is safe. This loses. **39...Qh6 40.Rg2 Rh1+ 41.Kf2 Qh4+ 0-1** Well played Lynda, who was rated 257 Elo points lower than her opponent.

Next up is a win by **Graeme Oswald**, on **Board 6** in the **2½ - 5½** reversal to **3Cs**.

Graeme Oswald v Sarah Longson

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.g3 c6 4.Nf3 e4 5.Nd4 d5 6.cxd5 cxd5 7.d3 Qb6 8.dxe4 Bc5 9.e3 dxe4 10.Bg2 0-0 11.Nb3 Bg4 12.Qc2 Na6 13.0-0 Rac8 14.Qb1 Rfd8 15.Nxe4 Be2 16.Bd2 Bd3 Bxf1 and I'd want to be Black **17.Ba5 Bxb1 18.Bxb6 Bxe4 19.Bxd8 Rxd8 20.Rfd1 Rb8 21.Nxc5 Nxc5 22.f3 Bc6 23.Rac1 Ne6 24.Kf2 Kf8 25.e4 Ke7 26.Ke3**

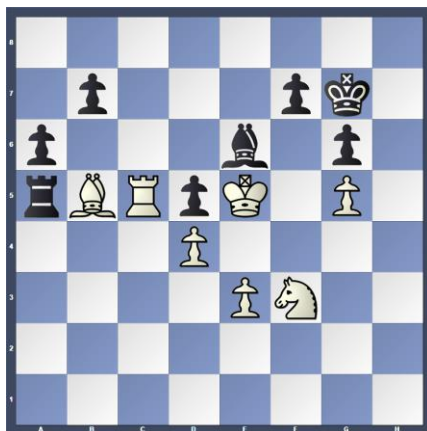


26.....Rd8 It's such a tight game and you'd have to be a Walker or a Wall to realise this is a mistake.. Engine says **Ne8**. I think the point is Black's Rook can do things his other pieces can't - so keep it. **27.Rxd8 Kxd8 28.Bf1 Ke7 29.b4 g5 30.Bd3 h5 31.h3 Bd7 32.f4 gxf4+ 33.gxf4 Nd8 34.f5 a6 35.a3 Nc6 36.Kf4 Nd4** Can't be right as it allows.... **37.Rc7** We're in! **37...b5 38.Ra7 Ne8 39.Rxa6 f6 40.Rb6 Ke3** and the N is losing touch with

his comrades 40...Kd8 41.e5 fxe5+ 42.Kxe5 Nc6+ 43.Kf4 Nd6 44.f6 Kc7 45.Rxb5 Nxb5 46.Bxb5 Kd6 47.Kg5 Ke6 48.Bc4+ Kd6 49.h4 Ne5 50.Be2 Ng4 51.b5 Be8 52.a4 Ke5 53.Bxg4 hxd4 54.Kxg4 Kxf6 55.b6 Bc6 56.a5 Bb7 57.Kf4 Ke6 58.Kg5 Kf7 59.Kf5 Ke7 60.Ke5 After 27. Rxd8 Graeme's play was excellent. Play through and learn you youngsters! 1-0

Another game from the same match featured **Roger Coathup** on **Board 2** against one of Britain's strongest.

Stephen Gordon - Roger Coathup
 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Bg5 Be7 5.Nf3 0-0 6.e3 h6 7.Bh4 Ne4 8.Bxe7 Qxe7 9.Rc1 Nxc3 10.Rxc3 c6 11.h4 Nd7 12.g4 e5 13.cxd5 cxd5 14.g5 e4 15.Nd2 hxd5 16.Qh5 g6 17.Qxg5 Qxg5 18.hxd5 Rd8 19.f3 exf3 20.Nxf3 Nf8 21.Rc7 Ne6 22.Rc2 Nf8 23.Bd3 Be6 24.Rch2 Rac8 25.Kf2 Rc7 26.Kg3 Rdc8 27.Kf4 Rc1 28.Rxc1 Rxc1 29.Rc2 Rd1 30.Rc3 Nd7 31.a4 Nb6 32.b3 Kg7 33.a5 Nc8 34.Ke5 Ra1 35.b4 Ra4 36.b5 White swings from slightly better to slightly worse. Better was 36.Nh4 Ne7 (g6 is en prise as the B on e6 hangs if the f Pawn has to capture after N/B x g6) 37.Rc7 Nc6+ 38.Kf4 Rxb4 39.a6 Nd8 40.Nxg6 A situation Roger never lets go! 36...Rxa5 37.Kf4 Nd6 38.Ke5 Nxb5 39.Rc5 a6 40.Bxb5

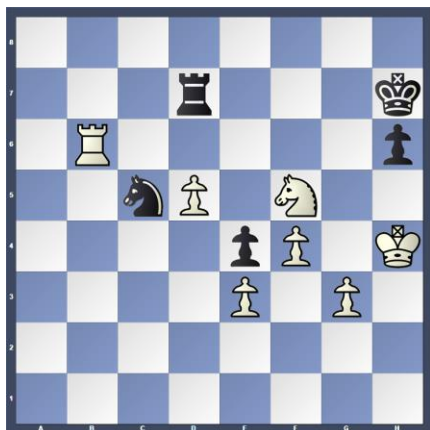


40....axb5 b6 seems to be almost winning 41.Rc7 Ra3 42.Kf4 Rb3 43.Rxb7 Rb2 44.Ne5 Rb1 45.Nc6 Rf1+ 46.Ke5 Re1 47.Nd8 Rxe3+ 48.Kd6 Kf8 49.Nxe6+ fxe6 50.Rxb5 Re4 51.Rb8+ Kf7 52.Rb7+ Kf8 53.Ra7 Rxd4 54.Kxe6 Rf4 55.Rd7 d4 56.Rd8+ Kg7 57.Rd7+ Kf8 58.Rd8+ Kg7 59.Rd7+ Kf8 60.Rd8+ ½-½ Well played Roger. Looks simple when you play through the game. But when White is a 2533 GM....!

We sign off this season's valiant campaign with a round 11 win, again from **Graeme Oswald**, this time on **Board 7**.

Graeme Oswald - Carsten Pedersen
 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Bg5 h6 5.Bh4 c5 6.d5 d6 7.e3 e5 8.Qc2 Bxc3+ 9.Qxc3 g5 10.Bg3 Ne4

11.Qa3 Qb6 12.Bd3 Nxc3 13.hxc3
 Qb4+ 14.Qxb4 cxb4 15.f4 gxf4
 16.gxf4 Nd7 17.Nf3 Nc5 18.Bc2 e4
 19.Nd4 Bd7 20.a3 bxa3 21.Rxa3
 Ke7 22.Kf2 f5 23.Rh5 Kf6 24.b4
 Na6 25.Ba4 Bc8 26.Nc2 Nc7
 27.Rh1 Rb8 28.Nd4 a6 29.b5 axb5
 30.Bxb5 Na6 31.Rb1 Nc5 32.Ra7
 Bd7 b6 is necessary but Black has
 been under pressure for a while
 33.Bxd7 Nxd7 34.Raxb7 Rxb7
 35.Rxb7 Nc5 36.Rb6 Rd8 37.g3
 Rd7 38.Kg2 Nb7 39.Kh3 Kg6
 40.Kh4 Nc5 41.Nb5 Nb7 42.c5
 Nxc5 43.Nxd6 Kh7 44.Nxf5 1-0



White is picking up another Pawn. If
 Black goes 44...Rxd5 then 45.
 Rxh6+ Kg8 46. Ne7+ Kg7 47. Rc6
 and White picks up a piece -
 47....Rd7 48. Nf5+ then Rxc5. How
 do these guys make it seem so
 simple?

Next we round off **Paul Bielby's**
 wonderful recollections of his 1969
 British Championship experience.

FIFTY YEARS AGO – Week2

A very personal account of the 1969 British Championship

The middle Sunday of the
 Championships was a rest day. I
 took two Sunderland Red House
 schoolboys, Mike Paley and Tim
 Atkinson, who were playing in
 Junior events, to Pen-y-Pass. We
 then climbed to the Crib Goch ridge
 and on to Snowdon. A refreshing
 and relaxing day. Then back to the
 chess on Monday.

R7 White v. Seth Saverymuttu (Sussex)

1. e4 e5 2. f4

At last I get my favourite opening

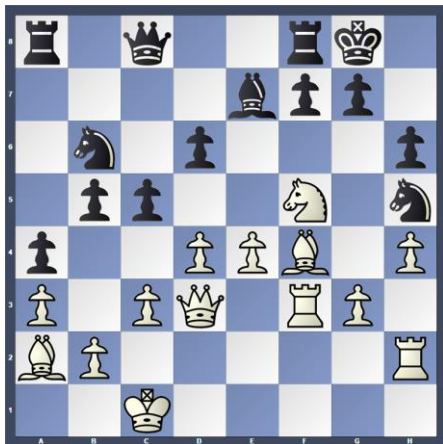
2. ...exf4 3. Nf3 d6 4. Bc4 h6 5. h4
 Nf6 6. Nc3 Be7 7. d4 Bg4 8. Bxf4
 Nh5 9. Be3 Ng3 10. Rh2

A silly square for the R but Black
 helps me sort it out later

10. ... O-O 11. Qd3 c6 12. O-O-O
 b5 13. Bb3 Nd7 14. Bf4 Nh5 15.
 g3 Nb6 16. Rf1 a5 17. a3 Rb8

Up to this point my computer gives
 Black a slight edge, but this R
 wastes 2 critical tempi.

18. Nd1 a4 19. Ba2 Ra8 20. c3
 Qc8 21. Ne3 Bxf3 22. Rxf3 c5 23.
 Nf5



23... Qb7 24. Bxd6 Bxd6 25. Nxd6
Black resigns

Seth Saverymuttu had qualified for the Championship as the current SCCU Champion. After this game both Mark Horton and Les Blackstock came up to me and said "If I'd known you played the King's Gambit I'd have played 1. ...e5". Score 4/7.

R8 Black v. Peter Jamieson (Scotland) Alekhine's Defence -

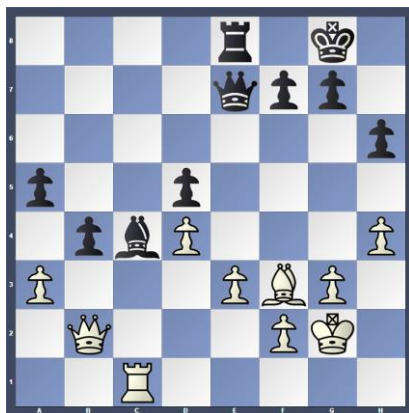
I don't remember having played the Alekhine before and I've hardly played it since. I got a cramped game and a lost N&P endgame. Back to half marks 4/8.

R9 White v. Alan Perkins (Leeds)

Alan Perkins was a junior then – I'd earlier that season beaten him in a Yorkshire event. I was happy to sacrifice a Rook to force repetition and a draw. 4½/9.

R10 Black v. Peter Clarke (Devon)

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 d5 4. Nf3 Bb4 5. cxd5 exd5 6. Bg5 h6 7. Bxf6 Qxf6 8. a3 Bxc3 9. bxc3 O-O 10. e3 c5 11. Be2 Nc6 12. O-O cxd4 Giving myself a Q-side pawn majority, which proves crucial in the long run. **13. cxd4 b6 14. Qb3 Rd8 15. Rfc1 Bb7 16. Qb2 Rac8 17. Nd2 Qg5 18. Bf3 Ba6 19. Rc3 Na5 20. Rxc8 Rxc8 21. Rc1 Re8** Tempting **22. Rc7** which would lose to **22. ... Rxe3 22. Rc3 Nc4 23. Nxc4 Bxc4 24. g3 b5 25. Kg2 a5** Forcing a Q side passed pawn **26. Rc1 Qe7 27. h4 b4**



28. axb4 Rb8

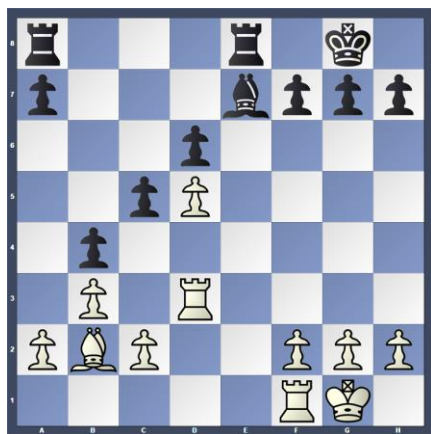
I thought this was a key move keeping my passed pawn as far away from his K as possible. My computer, damn it, doesn't like it preferring the simple **axb4 29. b5 Rxb5 30. Qc2 Qa3 31. Rb1 Rxb1 32. Qxb1 Qb3 33. Qf5 g6 34. Qc8 Kg7 35. h5** A final blunder.

35. Qe8 and he could still fight on.

35. ...Qb1 0-1 White lost on time
Black can force the exchange of all the pieces with 36... Qf1+ after which the a-pawn simply runs home. e.g. 36. Hxg6 Qf1+37. Kh2 Qxf2+ 38. Bg2 Bf1 39. Qh3 Qxg2+ 40. Qxg2 Bxg2 41. Kxg2 a4, etc.

I was very pleased with this win against an IM and for many years thought it the best game I had ever played. That nasty computer picks out the flaws. Score up to 5½/10

R11 Black v. Keith Oliff (Essex)



Dead drawn, but here White blundered with **19. Re1** and after **19... Bf6** he resigned. Bxb2 and back rank mate are threatened – so similar to my first round game !

Conclusion

So I finished with a satisfactory

6½/11 (Won 5 Drew 3 Lost 3) and won as many games as Penrose, the Champion. The Times correspondent, Harry Golombek, also a former British champion, congratulated me on doing better than he had done at his own first attempt. I was really chuffed. I played my 11 games at an average grade of 211 and kept my 200+ grade for the next two years, it was enough to win me the ECF 'National Master' title.

And how did the top players do?

Well, Jonathan Penrose was Champion with 8/11 (Won 5, Drew 6). Bob Wade was second on 7½. 5 players, including John Littlewood, shared 3rd place on 7. Alan Perkins and I shared 8th place. Of the 11 players I played against in the Championship three are still in the current 2019 grading list. Alan Perkins, 70 years old this year, is now graded 198. Seth Saverymuttu (170) and Barry Green (165) are much the same as I am.

But looking through the games above you can see that the standard of play was pretty poor for a British championship. Chess was still an amateur game. Bob Wade was probably the nearest thing we had to a chess professional – and he barely made a living. I make more mistakes now than I did then, but I think overall I play much better now. Sure my grade has fallen from 200+ to 170- over the years.

But general standards rising, many more high quality competitions, structured chess coaching, computer engines, the internet with its videos and databases means that there are many more highly rated players than ever. Like it or not, Chess is now much more professional and a very different game.

I played a few more times in the BCQC but never qualified for the Championship again. And I don't suppose I'll ever climb Snowdon again – unless I take the train to the top!



Talking of Databases, all of the 176 games played in the 1969 Championship are available to play through on 'Britbase' and no doubt many other databases. So if you want to you can play through all the games I've mentioned here, including all my disasters and dull draws too.

Brilliant Paul and thank you. And who knows - this may be the first in a series of '50 Years' articles – there's enough of us about!

MORE PICS

Featuring **Gateshead's Peter Wells** receiving the **Division 3 Champions** trophy from Mike Smith and **Trevor Thomas** – the oldest living winner of our precious Zollner Trophy – more on him soon!



YICHEN STRIKES

The South Lakes weekend saw **Yichen Han** score 4/5 – a grading performance of 234 and another Grand Master downed. What else to say? From round 5.

GM Nigel Davies - Yichen Han

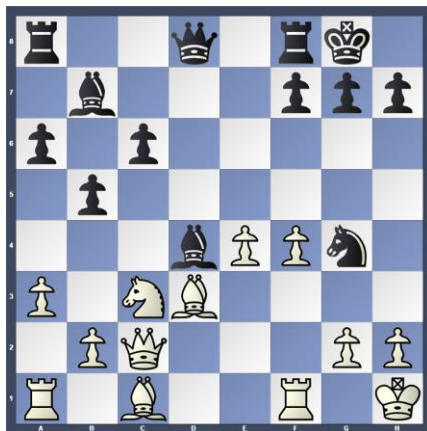
1.e4 c5 2.d3 Nc6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.f4 d6 6.Nf3 Nf6 7.0-0 Rb8 8.Nc3 0-0 9.h3 b5 10.a3 a5 11.g4 b4 12.axb4 axb4 13.Ne2 Bb7 14.Rb1 f5 is preferable. White has nothing from the opening. Black is better 14...Ra8 15.Ng3 Again f5. Black's advantage increases 15...Ra2 16.f5 Nd7 17.fxg6 hxg6 18.Kh1 c3 - but you can sense the GM's frustration. His young opponent has given him nothing so far 18...Nde5 19.b3 Nxf3 20.Bxf3 Nd4 21.Rf2 Nb5 Winning the exchange - as we will see 22.Bd2 Na3 23.Rc1 Bb2 24.Kh2 d5 25.Bg2 dxe4 26.Nxe4 Qd4 27.Re2 Bxc1 28.Bxc1 Bxe4 29.Bxe4 Nb1 30.Bd2 Nxd2 31.Qxd2 Ra1 32.Rf2 Ra6 33.g5 Re6 34.Kg2 f5 35.gxf6 Rxf6 36.Rxf6 Rxf6 37.Qe2 Kg7 38.Bf3 e5 39.Be4 Rf4 40.Bf3 Kf6 41.Be4 g5 42.Bf3 Ke6 43.Be4 Kd6 44.Bf3 Kc7 45.Be4 Kb6 46.Bf3 Kb5 47.Be4 Rf6 48.Bf3 Ra6 49.Qe4 Qxe4 50.dxe4 Ra2 51.Be2+ Kc6 52.Bd3 c4 53.Bxc4 Rxc2+ 54.Kf3 Rxc4 0-1 And the b Pawn queens. A remarkable game from Yichen, who is still only 11 years old

And from Round 1 against an opponent who finished 3rd despite this set back.

Yichen Han - Barry Hymer

1.e4 d6 2.d4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.f4 Nd7 5.Nf3 c5 6.Be3 cxd4 7.Bxd4 Ngf6 8.e5 dxe5 9.fxe5 Nh5 10.Qd2 Nb6 11.Bb5+ Kf8 If Bd7 the h5 Knight is dropping off 12.g4 Bxb5 13.Nxb5 Qd7 14.Bxb6 Qxb5 15.Bd4 12.0-0 Nd5 13.Ng5 Bf5 14.g4 Nxc3 15.bxc3 h6 16.Nxf7 Kxf7 17.gxf5 Qd5 18.Qe2 Rhc8 19.fxg6+ Kg8 20.Ba4 Rxc3 21.Bxc3 Qc5+ 22.Kg2 Qxc3 23.Qxh5 1-0

Round 2 saw some cheeky tactics with Black against Eric Gardiner



White's position is not good and worsened considerably after 17.e5 Nxb2. Oops! Now 18. Kxh2 and Qh4 is mate. But what else? 17. Qe2 f5 18.h3 c5 19.exf5 Nf2+

20.Rxf2 Bxf2 and if White takes on f2 then Black takes on d3. **18.g3 Nxf1 19.Bxh7+ Kh8 20.Kg2 g6 21.Bxg6 Nxg3 22.Kxg3 fxg6 23.Bd2 Kg7 24.Ne4 c5 25.Nd6Rh8 26.Nxb7 Qh4+ 27.Kf3 Qf2+ 28.Ke4 Qg2+ 29.Kd3 Rh3+ 0-1**

A great effort Yichen, congratulations. Follow that as they say – and we will with....

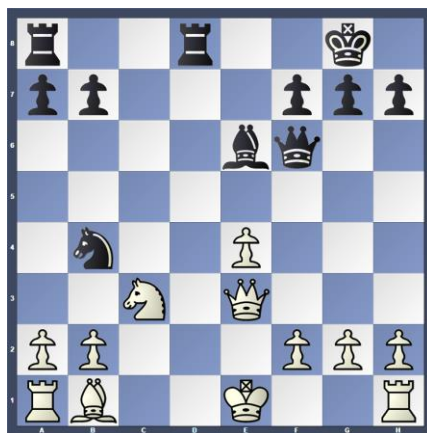
TREVOR THOMAS

Who he you ask? Well, he's the 1951/2 Zollner winner. Pictured on P22, he's currently 95 years old and living in Reading. I've been able to uncover little else save he played for a strong DHSS team in the 50s and.....he is stunningly good at correspondence chess. Senior International Master good and a rating around 2500 in his heyday. Many of Trevor's (correspondence) games are recorded and **Thank You to Mike Donnelly** – who has provided a selection from his chesspagesofmikedonnelly.co.uk. The pgn file of games for this bulletin include more extensive notes.

William Ritson Morry - Trevor Thomas British CC League corr, 1956

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Bg5 c5!? An uncompromising and complex line quite popular in the 1950s. 5.cxd5 cxd4 6.Qxd4 Be7

7.e4 Nc6 8.Bb5 Opting out of any serious effort to refute Black's opening. Now Black can simply castle with good play for the pawn due to white's unguarded queen. **8...0-0 9.Qd2** A further inaccuracy Black has an easy game and can exploit the move in several ways. **9...exd5 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.Nxd5 Nd4! 12.Bd3 Be6! Removing Whites most effective piece. 13.Nxf6+ Qxf6 14.Ne2 Rfd8 15.Qe3?! White had to seek an exchange of queens (or force the queen from its powerful post on f6) with 15.Qf4 or attempt to achieve some king safety with; 15.0-0 15...Nc6 16.Nc3?** The only hope was to evacuate the king from the centre with 16.0-0 when Black has an edge after 16...Qxb2 **16...Nb4 17.Bb1**



Bc4! An excellent move causing White serious problems by preventing castling kings-side. **18.Qc5?** Loses as Black develops

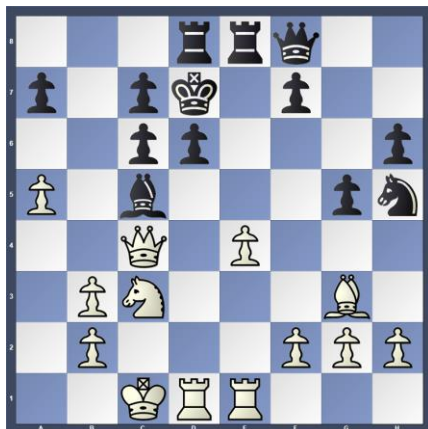
his last piece with gain of tempo then reveals the hidden point of his piece sacrifice. **18...Rac8 19.Qxb4 Qg5** Threatens of Qd2 mate, Qc1+. and Qxg2 **20.Bd3 20...Bxd3 21.Rg1 21...Qh5** Threat Rxc3 and mate on e2 follows. **22.h3 Ba6!** 23.a4 Hoping to play Nb5 **23...Rxc3 0-1** 24.g4 Re3+ 25.fxe3 Qh4+ 26.Rg3 Qxg3#

Next up is a 20 move demolition of the then reigning 1981 British Chess Champion!

Trevor Thomas – Paul Littlewood Ward-Higgs 1982–3

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Bc5 5.Nb3 Bb6 6.Nc3 Nf6 7.Bg5 h6 8.Bh4 g5 9.Bg3 Qe7 10.Bc4 d6 11.Qe2 Be6 12.0–0–0 0–0–0 13.Rhe1 Rhe8 14.Bb5 Qf8?! Perhaps with the idea of diminishing the impact of a White pawn push to e5 as well as deploying the queen on g7 to reinforce the kings-side structure. However, the move is a serious slip as White can break up the Black king's pawn cover. **14...Bxb3** was much to be preferred with a level game after the exchanges **15.axb3 Nd4 16.Qc4 Nxb5 (Not 16...c6 17.Rxd4 Bxd4 18.Qxd4 cxb5 19.Nxb5) 15.Bxc6 bxc6 16.a4 Bxb3 17.Qa6+ Kd7 17...Kb8 18.cxb3** and the bishop on b6 is in deep trouble e.g. **18...h5 19.h4 Qh6 20.Kb1 Qg6 21.f3** and a5 will soon follow as in the main game **18.cxb3 Nh5 19.a5 Bc5 19...Nxc3** is no use at all as White wins easily via

20.axb6 Nh5 21.Qxa7 20.Qc4 1-0



Mike's analysis in the Pgn file is deep. For us after (say) **20...Nxc3 21.fxc3** the B on c5 is lost and at this level there's no way back.

And now another beautiful correspondence game. This one from 1987 again a correspondence IM.

Trevor Thomas – Baruch Kuperman

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Qh4 5.Nb5 Bb4+ 5...Qxe4+ as played by Steinitz, gambling the Pawn compensates for lack of development and **5...Bc5** are alternatives. Results favour White **6.c3 6...Bc5** Again Black could play **6... Qxe4+** but this time follow with **7...Ba5. 7.Qe2 Qd8 8.Bf4 Bb6** d6 immediately restricting the action of the Bf4 looks a more solid option **9.Nd2 a6 10.Na3 d6 11.0–0–0** The most forceful line in contrast to the

quieter Nac4 or g3/Bg2 options. The move is deep in tempting Black to go for the a2 pawn with a simple developing move. **11...Be6** Qf6 or Nge7 **12.Nac4 Ba7 13.h4 b5** 13...Nf6 is safer but possibly Black didn't like the White possibility of a pawn storm with f3/g4 and/or h5–h6 should he castle kings-side **14.Ne3 Bxa2** Not the best since the Black king remains in the centre **15.b3 b4 16.Qc4** A strong move, securing the White king's defences with tempo, whilst activating the queen at the same time. **16...Bc5 17.cxb4 Nxb4** Black has secured the extra pawn and bishop on a2 but 3 pieces are tied up in the process. However, White must also look out for a5–a4 bringing the Black queen's rook into the fray. **18.e5** Meeting a flank attack with central action. **18...a5 19.Bg5 f6**



20.Nf5 Qd7 Taking the bishop is fatal: **20...fxg5 21.Nxg7+ Kf8** (21...Ke7 22.exd6+ cxd6 23.Re1+

Kd7 **24.Qb5+ Nc6 25.Qb7+ Qc7 26.Qxa8+;** 21...Kd7 **22.Ne4 Kc8 23.Nxc5+)** **22.Ne6+** netting the queen **21.exf6 gxf6 22.Qe4+ Kf7** If 22...Kd8 simply **23.Qxa8+ 23.Bh6** Another deep move, which relatively quietly, underscores how bad is Black's position. White has other attractive, but much more complex, options such as **23.Bc4+ d5 24.Qf3 Qc6 25.Ne4; 23.Qf3 fxg5 24.Ne4;** but certainly not **23.Qxa8** which throws the game away since after **23...Qxf5** mate on c2 cannot be prevented. **23...Nxb6** Allowing a great finish but what else? **24.Nxb6+ Kg7 25.Nf5+ Kf7 26.Qg4 Rag8 26...Kf8 27.Ne4 h5 28.Nxc5 hxg4 29.Nxd7+ Ke8 30.Bb5** is without hope for Black. **27.Nh6+ Ke8** Or **27...Kf8 28.Qxd7 28.Nxg8! 1–0** After **28.Nxg8 Qxg4 29.Nxf6+ Kd8 30.Nxg4** White emerges a rook up. A fine game with an excellent finish arising from several very deep moves from White.

One last game for this addition – I'll hold a couple over for 159. Ever heard of **Tim Harding**? A very strong correspondence player and chess author back then. In 1990 he crossed Trevor's path.....

Tim Harding – Trevor Thomas

NATT3–02 9094 corr, 1990

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 g6 3.d4 Unusual cxd4 4.Qxd4 Nf6 5.Bb5 a6 6.e5 6.Qa4 pins the pawn but actually ties up the White queen **6...axb5 7.exf6 e6** A nice move avoiding pawn weaknesses, tactics on the

a1–h8 diagonal and renewing the threat of Nc6 **8.Nge2?!** Seems a novelty at the time but the knights get in each other's way. White can grab the pawn with 8.Nxb5 but Black gets good play after 8...Qa5+ 9.Nc3 Nc6 with the subsequent threat of b5–b4. **8...Nc6 9.Qh4 Ra5 10.0–0 b4 11.Ne4** A key point here is that now the White knights have become "separated" the one on e2 is unguarded **11...Rh5 12.Qg3?** At first sight the most natural move since it keeps the diagonal of the Bc1 open and also allows for Nf4 forcing the invading rook back along the 5th rank. The move, in blocking access to g3 for a knight, however ends up causing White very serious problems. Hence best was 12.Qf4 **12...d5 13.Rd1** Now White is lost. Nd2 must be played with a poor position and the f Pawn will drop **13...Re5 14.N2c3 14...bxc3 15.Nxc3** If 15.Bf4 Rxe4 and the rook easily escapes via 16.f3 cxb2 **15...Qxf6** White could resign but plays on for a few moves. **16.Nb5** Or 16.Bf4 Rf5 and White has no follow up move to hit f5. **16...Bc5 17.Nc7+ Ke7 17...Kd8** is even possible which shows how good Black's position isoform example 18.c3 Kxc7 19.Bf4 Bd6 winning easily. **18.Bf4 Rf5 0–1** A rather startling win against a very strong and highly experienced over-the-board and correspondence player.

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

1) **18.Qxf6+!** Black resigned, since if **18...Kxf6 19.Nd5+** wins a piece.

2) **48.Bxd6!** In the game, white actually played 48.Bd2 **48...cxd6 49.c7** winning.

3) **9.Bxh7!** wins a pawn and threatens Bg6+ and Nf7. 9.Nxh7 as played in the game is slightly better for white, but not as clear as the 9. Bxh7. If **9...Nxh7? 10.Qxh5+ Kd7 11.Nf7**

4) **15.h3 Qe6** 15...Qxe4 is similar to the game **16.d5 Qxe4** If 16...Qf6 17.Bg5 traps the queen. **17.Nxd6+! exd6 18.Re1** winning.

5) **32...Ne2+ 33.Kf1 Nd4 34.Rd6 Ke5!** winning at least an exchange. In the game, black played the weaker 34...Rxc2 allowing 35.Rxd4

6) **12.Bxh7+!** A classic Greek Gift sacrifice. **12...Kxh7 13.Ng5+ Kg8 13...Kg6 14.Qg4 f5 15.exf6 Kxf6 16.Rxe6+! dxe6 17.Qxe6# 14.Qh5** Black resigned here, not seeing a defence to white's threats. **14...Ng6** seems to be black's best try, but **15.Qh7+ Kf8 16.Ng3!** is overwhelming with the threat of Nh5.

7) **26.Nexc5!** Both players missed this tactic a number of times during the game. **26...Bxc5 27.Qxb7 Qxb7 28.Bxb7 Rb6 29.Nxc5 29.Bg2!** is probably even stronger but much more complicated. **29...Rxb2 30.Bxa5** White should win.

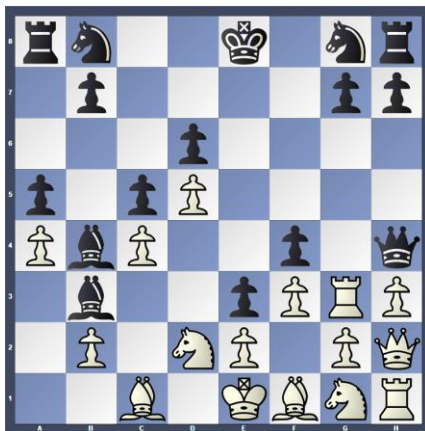
8) **39...a4!** In the game, black played 39...Kf7 and eventually drew. **40.bxa4 40.Bxb4 axb3 41.Ba3 Bb6+ 42.Kf1 Bd4 wins 40...Bb6!!** The only winning move 40...b3? 41.Ba3 Bb6+ 42.Kf1 Bd4?! 43.a5 b2? 44.Bxb2 Bxb2 45.c5 even wins for white. **41.Bxb6 b3** black wins.

9) **25...Re4!** Saving the rook and covering g6 In the game, black played 25...fxg5 but was losing after 26.Bxe8 Rxe8; 25...Rxd7 26.Qxg6 is also good for white. **26.Bh3 fxg5** with counterplay for black.

10) **33.Re8+!** In the game, white played 33.Rf8+ and black soon won. **33...Kh7 34.Bg8+ Kg6 35.Re6+ Kg5 36.Bh7!!** Threatening Rg6# and forcing mate in 3 moves at most. **36...Rd6 a - 36...Kg4 37.Re4+ Kh3 38.Bf5+ Rxf5 39.Rh4#; b - 36...Ne5 37.Rxe5+ Kg4 38.Rf4+ Kh3 39.Rxh5#; c - 36...Rh3 37.Rg6+ Kh5 38.Rf5# 37.Rf5+ Kg4 38.Re4+ Kh3 39.Rxh5#**
THANKS DAVE

WEIRD STUFF

Look at this.....



Stalemate in 12 moves. No pieces or pawns taken. Want to see how we got there? **1.d4 e5 2.Qd2 e4 3.a4 a5 4.Qf4 f5 5.h3 Qh4 6.Qh2 Bb4+ 7.Nd2 d6 8.Ra3 Be6 9.Rg3 Bb3 10.c4 c5 11.f3 f4 12.d5 e3 1/2-1/2**

You can thank **Phil Eastlake** for that! Here's another he's shared (and Thank You Phil) **1.e3 a5 2.Qh5 Ra6 3.Qxa5 h5 4.Qxc7 Rah6 5.h4 f6 6.Qxd7+ Kf7 7.Qxb7 Qd3 8.Qxb8 Qh7 9.Qxc8 Kg6 10.Qe6 1/2-1/2**

The longest game of chess that is possible is of 5,949 moves. The longest game ever played lasted for 269 moves and ended in a draw. That's the game we all love so much!

KNOW THE RULES – ILLEGAL MOVES

Alex McFarlane continues his campaign to keep us on the straight and narrow.

There are now 4 situations which count as illegal moves. These are:

- a) Completing an impossible move with a piece,
- b) Completing a move with both hands,
- c) Completing a pawn to the far side of the board and not exchanging it for another piece,
- d) Starting the opponent's clock without making a move.

If a player completes any two illegal moves then they will lose the game. Some players may be surprised to learn that it is only two but it was reduced from three illegal moves some years ago. The most recent Laws have increased the number of actions which count as illegal moves. Looking at these in more detail.

Firstly, (a) – (c) say 'completed'. ***A move is not completed until the clock is pressed.*** If a player has not started the opponent's clock then they can correct an illegal move without penalty.

a) is the one everyone knows. Sometimes it is a case of moving a piece to a square that it cannot legally move to. An example of this would be moving a knight from e4 to g6 or a bishop from c1 to g4. Both of these happen more often than you may think. The two most common illegal moves in 'adult' chess involve failing to notice a check. The first is where a player fails to notice they are in check and therefore makes a move which does not stop the check. Remember that if this happens and the touched piece can be used to stop the check then this must be done. The other is to make a move which exposes the king to check. Where a touched piece cannot be moved legally a player is allowed to move another piece.

b) Some players will use both hands when capturing a piece or when castling. This now counts as an illegal move as only one hand should be used. You are also only allowed to use one hand when promoting but this can be a bit more complicated. The promoted piece is only active when it touches the promotion square. A player can lift a queen, for example, with one hand and

pass it to his other to put on the board. Provided this second hand is also the one used to move the pawn then only one hand has been used.

A player who has castled using both hands and realises this before stopping his clock can replace the pieces onto their original squares and then castle using only one hand without penalty. Note also that moving with one hand and pressing the clock with the other is an offence but it is not an illegal move.

c) Promotion can cause a lot of arguments. Firstly, it is acceptable to stop the clock to get a new piece. It is also acceptable to touch other pieces (not on the board) before deciding on the one to put on the board. Also the pawn does not have to be moved to the promotion square. It is acceptable to put on the new piece and remove the pawn from the 'seventh'. It is not acceptable to push the pawn to the far side of the board, announce queen, and start the opponent's clock. This is illegal. A player must complete the move themselves.

d) If a player deliberately starts his opponent's clock without making a move then that counts as an illegal move. A grey area would be, for example, a player who returns from the toilet, sees his clock is running and fails to spot the opponent's move. He thinks he has forgotten to press the clock so does so now. Technically that is an illegal move but common sense says that it was accidental so should not count as such. Certainly the opponent can get compensation for the distraction caused.

So now you know – thank you Alex. Please send any questions to be answered here or on the website to ahmcfarlane@yahoo.co.uk and for further reference -

FIDE Laws of Chess

<https://www.fide.com/fide/handbook.html?id=208&view=article>

FIDE Laws of Chess with CAA Comments and CAA Guide for League

Matches with no Arbiter can both be found at the same link

<http://www.chessarbitersassociation.co.uk/html/documents.html>

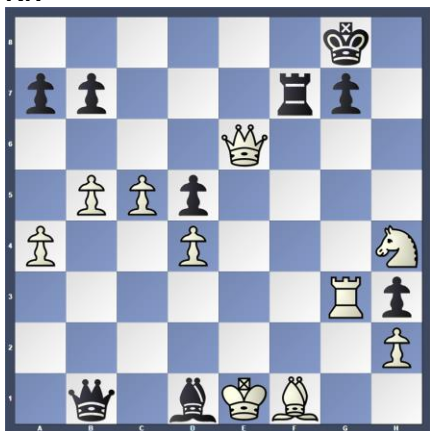
FROM ACROSS THE WATER

Ken Neat has kindly provided us with coverage of a correspondence challenge between **Durham City** and the French club **Columbiers**.

Over the past few years the Durham City club has been engaged in a series of 'correspondence' games. These began at the suggestion of one of our members, Sébastien Gilment, whose father Eric runs a club in Colombiers in the south of France. Play has proceeded at the leisurely rate of one move a week, with members supposedly being consulted and the most popular move chosen. I don't know how this operated in Colombiers, but in Durham the moves were usually selected on club evenings by a small group in The Woodman at around 11.00 p.m. after a couple of pints, which could explain some of the more bizarre choices. Initially two games were played, one with each colour. In Durham's first White game our opponents built up a surprisingly strong kingside attack from their Caro-Kann Defence, and in the end we were happy to bail out with perpetual check.

Durham City – Colombiers

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.c4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Bg5 e6 7.Nf3 Be7 8.c5 0-0 9.Bb5 Ne4 10.Bxe7 Nxe7 11.Rc1 Bd7 12.Bd3 f5 13.0-0 Ng6 14.b4 Qf6 15.b5 Rac8 16.Re1 h5 17.a4 h4 18.Bf1 h3 19.g3 f4 20.Rxe4 fxg3 21.Rg4 gxf2+ 22.Kxf2 Nh4 23.Be2 Be8 24.Rg3 Bh5 25.Qd3 Rf7 26.Rf1 Rcf8 27.Ke1 Qh6 28.Nxh4 Qc1+ 29.Nd1 Rxf1+ 30.Bxf1 Bxd1 31.Qe3 Qxd1? 31...Rxf1+ Qb1 32.Qxe6+ Rf7



Draw agreed in view of 33.Qc8+ Rf8 34.Qe6+.

In the second game an unusual line of the Benko Gambit gave us a lead in development, with the white king never able to reach safety. Our opponents resigned when a deadly invasion on the dark squares (starting with Qd4) was inevitable.

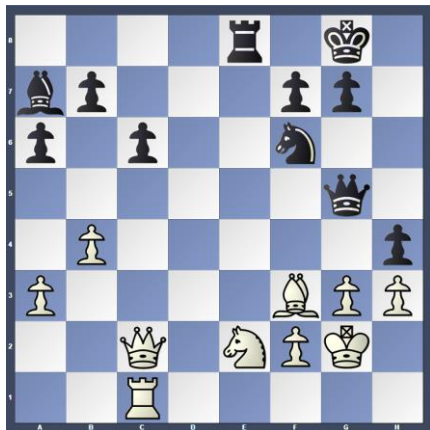
Colombiers - Durham City

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.cxb5 a6 5.f3 axb5 6.e4 Qa5+ 7.Bd2 b4 8.Na3 d6 9.Nc4 Qd8 10.a3 e6 11.dxe6 Bxe6 12.axb4 Rxa1 13.Qxa1 d5 14.exd5 Nxd5 15.b5 Be7 16.Qa5 Qc8 17.Ne2 0-0 18.Nf4 Bf6 19.Nd6 Qd7 20.Ne4 Bd4 21.Nxe6 Qxe6 22.Bc4 Qe5 23.Qa2 Nf6 24.Bd3 Nbd7 25.Kd1 Nb6 26.Nxf6+ Qxf6 27.Re1 Bxb2 28.Kc2 Bd4 29.Kb1 g6 30.Be4 Qd6 31.Ba5 Bg7 32.Bxb6 Qxb6 33.Qa6 Qd8 0-1

A second pair of games was started almost immediately. Our opponents played rather weakly against our French Defence, giving up a pawn without compensation, and allowing us to decide matters with a pretty sacrificial combination

Colombiers – Durham City

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.c4
Nf6 5.Nc3 Be7 6.Nf3 0-0 7.Be2
dxc4 8.Bxc4 Bg4 9.Be3 Nbd7
10.0-0 Nb6 11.Be2 c6 12.Qc2
Nbd5 13.h3 Bh5 14.a3 Qc7
15.Bg5 Rfe8 16.Rfe1 Bd6 17.Rac1
a6 18.Ne5 Bxe5 19.Bxh5 Bxd4
20.Bxf6 Nxf6 21.Bf3 Rad8 22.Ne2
Bd7 23.b4 Qe5 24.g3 h5 25.Nf4
Qg5 26.Kg2 h4 27.Rxe8+ Rxe8
28.Ne2



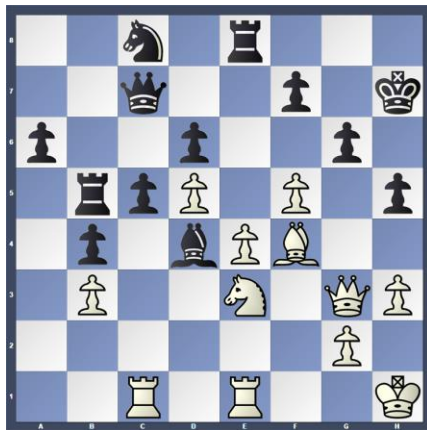
28...Rxe2 29.Bxe2 Bxf2 30.Kxf2
Qxg3+ 31.Kf1 Nd5 0-1

The other game took a more interesting course, with Durham more justifiably giving up a pawn for positional compensation.

Durham City - Colombiers

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4
d6 5.f3 0-0 6.Bg5 c5 7.d5 e6
8.Qd2 exd5 9.cxd5 Re8 10.Nge2
a6 11.a4 Nbd7 12.Ng3 Qa5 13.Be2

b5 14.0–0 b4 15.Nd1 Qc7 16.a5 h5
17.Bh6 Bh8 18.Ne3 Ne5 19.Nh1
Bd7 20.Nf2 Bb5 21.Rfe1 Rab8
22.b3 Bxe2 23.Qxe2 Rb5 24.Rac1
Rxa5 25.h3 Rb5 26.f4 Ned7
27.Qf3 Nb6 28.f5 Nfd7 29.Nd3 Ne5
30.Nxe5 Bxe5 31.Bf4 Bd4 32.Kh1
Nc8 33.Qg3 Kh7



Although still a pawn up, with the holidays looming the French club decided to resign in view of 34.fxg6+ fxg6 35.Nc4, followed by an inevitable breakthrough in the centre or the kingside.

For the present our French friends don't wish to continue the connection. It has been suggested that instead Durham should make contact with their twin-town in Russia – Kostroma. I suspect that they might provide more formidable opposition...

REMEMBERING FRANK

The achievement of **James Moreby** in sharing this year's **Zollner** brought to mind another young and strong player who was our 1967/8 champion – **Frank Moon**. **John Wheeler** has kindly provided this game from Frank's last Zollner in 2009/10

John Wheeler - Frank Moon

1.d4 Nf6 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Ne2 0-0 6.0-0 Nc6 7.h3 e5 8.Be3 exd4 9.Nxd4 Re8 10.Nc3 Bd7 11.f4?! Premature; better is Re1 11...Nh5 11...Nxe4 12.Nxe4 d5 is the critical line for black.

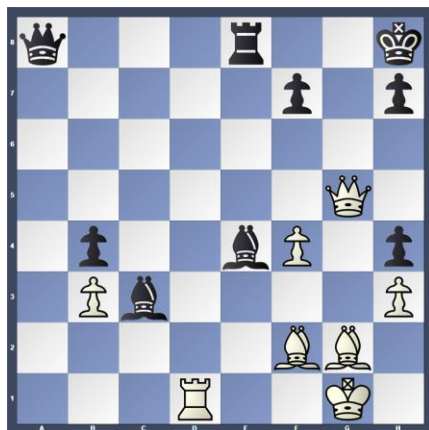
12.Nxc6? 12.Kh2 is fine for white.

12...Bxc6 13.Bf2 b5?! I could see nothing wrong with **13...Bxc3 14.bxc3 Nf6 14.Qd3 b4 15.Nd5 a5**

Better is **15...Bxd5 16.Qxd5 Bxb2 17.Rad1 Qe7 18.e5 16.g4? Bxd5 17.gxh5 Bb7 18.c3 Ba6 19.c4 gxh5? 19...Bxb2 20.hxg6 hxg6 21.Rad1 Qf6** Middlegame rubbish by white, unpunished by black!

20.Rad1 Bb7 21.b3 a4 22.Rfe1 axb3 23.axb3 Ra2 24.Re3 h4 25.c5 Qa8 26.cxd6 cxd6 27.Qxd6 Bc3 28.Qh6 White has finally got a plus, but fails to capitalise by **28.Bxh4 Rxg2+ 29.Kxg2 Bxe4+ 30.Kg1 h6 31.Qxh6 28...Ra1 29.Red3? 29.Rxa1 Qxa1+ 30.Kh2 Bd4 31.Qg5+ Kh8 32.Re1 Qa7 33.Bxh4 Rg8 34.Qe7 Qa2 35.Bf6+ Bxf6 36.Qxf6+ Rg7 37.Qd8+ Rg8 38.Qd4+ Rg7 39.Rg1+- 29...Rxd1+**

30.Rxd1 Bxe4 31.Qg5+ Kh8



32.Rd4?? I had seen the drawing line **32.Bxe4 Qxe4 33.Rd8 Rxd8 34.Qxd8+ Kg7 35.Qg5+ Qg6 36.Bxh4**, but I thought that the move played set a little trap since the Bishop cannot take the Rook. However it turned out to be a trap for me... **32...Qa1+ 33.Kh2 Bxd4 34.Bxe4 Bxf2 0-1**

CONTRIBUTERS

THANK YOU to **Paul Bielby, John Wheeler, David Walker, Ken Neat, Alex McFarlane, Andy Lawson, Tim Wall, Dave Walshaw, Richard Boddy, Stuart Skelsey, Mike Donnelly, James Turner, Roger Coathup, Yichen Han and Phil Eastlake** – for your contributions to 158. Apologies for omissions!

CHESS IN SCHOOLS and COMMUNITIES

Richard Boddy reports on the progress of our youngsters in this year's UK Chess Challenge.

Once again, the UK Chess Challenge has been a great success with the chess playing children of the North East. For those unfamiliar with the competition, it consists of a preliminary round in schools and clubs which lead to qualification for a regional round - known as the Megafinal - and from there to the Gigafinal - held in four locations across the country. Eventually a few remain for the final round, the Terafinal!

Our local Megafinal was held at the RGS on 18th May with 103 children aged from 6 to 18 taking part! Massive congratulations are due to all who took part but particularly our regional champions (1 boy and 1 girl from each section where possible).

Under 7: **Laksshana and Jiatong**; Under 8: **Daylan and Kimaya**; Under 9: **Arun and Alina**; Under 10: **Henry and Prachi**; Under 11: **Yichen and Sonali**; Under 13: **Weiming and Jessica**; Under 14: **Ciaran**; Under 15: **Benjamin**; Under 17: **Mrugaya**

51 children scored at least 3.5 points out of 6 in the Megafinal, which meant they qualified for the Gigafinal stage.

The different Gigafinals take place over four weekends in July but, at the time of writing, the 'Northern' event in Manchester has just finished, with all Northumbria children performing brilliantly, particularly Yichen Han who won all 6 of his matches in the U11 boys event! Good luck in the Terafinal!

On another front our **Chess Stand** (featured in 157) has now visited **City and Community Hub, Blakelaw, Cruddas Park** and **Denton Burn** Libraries. The stand is supplemented by leaflets advertising the whereabouts and contacts for all our clubs. As ever, please contact mickriding@hotmail.co.uk if you can use it to advertise chess in your community.

UPCOMING EVENTS

A sample for you to consider - <https://www.englishchess.org.uk/event-calendar/> will give you a full itinerary. **On our doorstep.....**

Northumbria Masters Aug 23 @ 10:00 a.m. – Aug 27 @ 7:30 pm

Contact: Tim Wall Email: timpeterwall@gmail.com

Northumberland Congress Sep 27 @ 7:00 pm – Sep 29 @ 6:30 pm

Contact: Mick Riding Email: mickriding@hotmail.co.uk

North East League Oct 13 @ 2:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Contact: Tim Wall Email: timpeterwall@gmail.com

And just down the road.....

Harrogate Chess Congress Sep 20 @ 7:00 pm – Sep 22 @ 6:45 pm

Contact: Noel Boustred Email: noelschess@gmail.com

Scarborough Chess Congress Oct 25 @ 6:45 pm – Oct 27 @ 6:15 pm

Contact: Maggie Butterworth Email: scarboroughchess@gmail.com

BYE FOR NOW

This issue has 15 (!) contributors and I have material to carry over for next time – on Sell and Gilroy in particular. But keep posting – because without your input our magazine would be a bit bleak. And feedback – if it's slipping a bit - tell me please. We must strive to improve. Meanwhile, thank you, hope you've enjoyed and see you in three months. Very Best - Mick

The last page is a tribute to **John Wheeler** and I hope it compensates for not making the front John.

JOHN WHEELER CITATION



John Wheeler is the current President of the Northumberland Chess Association.

As a schoolboy John represented Scotland in the Glorney Cup. He came to Newcastle-upon-Tyne in the mid-'70s. He worked as a lecturer in Engineering at Sunderland Polytechnic and was still there when it became a university.

He joined the Newcastle Chess Club and was one of its leading players and organisers for more than 40 years. For Northumberland County he has

served in many roles, as Chairman, County Secretary, County Championship Organiser, Team Captain, NCCU and ECF Council Delegate and most notably as bulletin editor.

In 1987 John became editor of the Northumberland Chess Bulletin, and produced this magazine regularly 5 times a year for 30 years; he retired from this job at issue 150, but is still a regular contributor under its new editor.

John won the Northumberland County Championship in 1978, 1982 and 1985 and then again 21 years later in 2006. Nowadays he still plays regularly for the Gosforth Chess Club, captaining one of their teams.

He is a knowledgeable chess historian and wrote the definitive work on the history of 'Chess in Northumberland' published in 2001, a real scholarly labour of love. This was followed in 2009 by 'The Zollner Book', an account of the Northumberland County Championships from 1930- 2009 lavishly illustrated with games he annotated from the tournaments. And to celebrate its anniversary he also wrote a history of the first 50 years of the Northumberland County Congress 1965-2015 illustrated again with many games.