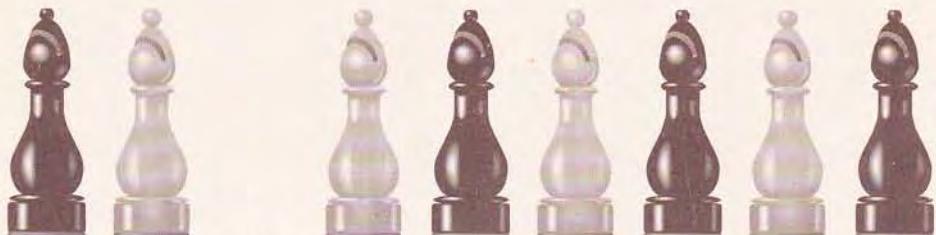


The Missing Bishop

No. 10

November 2001



www.SussexJuniorChess.fsnet.co.uk

50p

to non members



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01273 - 834 646
01825 - 767 728
01323 - 843 295
01424 - 443 300
01444 - 483 907

David Fryer
Gary McCulloch
Simon Deere
Nick Barracough
Martin May
Dave Stracey
Paul Watson

01342 - 317 287
01444 - 831 664
01892 - 663 688
01293 - 520 496
01323 - 843 742
01273 - 505 480
01342 - 315 075
01273 - 832 747

Jonathan Tuck
Michael Tester
Simon Deere
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Dave Stracey
Elizabeth Blundell

01342 - 712 990

Anne-Marie Prescott
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Nick Barracough
Nick Barracough
Caroline Campion
Stephen Penty
Rosemary Black CPFA
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01273 - 835 734

Simon Deere
Ruth Tucker
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Simon Deere

01892 - 663 688
01273 - 846 107

Simon Deere
Simon Deere
Simon Deere
Simon Deere
Simon Deere

The Missing Bishop newsletter is published by Sussex Junior Chess, which was established in 1995 to foster and promote chess for young people in Sussex. If you wish to contribute, please contact the Editor Stuart Hayden on 01825 - 767 728

Cover photo - Sussex Girls U11's - left to right - Amy Dunn, Jessica Wood, Rebecca Grant, Ellie Hayden, Elizabeth Tehrani, Abi Fryer, Rosie Arscott and Helen Wrathall

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Off the board . . .

Another season of Sussex Chess is underway with so many exciting games having already been played. I have never seen so many tournaments needing to be decided on a tie break with two, three or even four players on level scores after the final round. A new essential to the chess kit bag snuggling beside the bottle of water, score book, pen and lucky mascot is a clean towel - to mop up the perspiration at the end of the day!

Usually at this point, I like to welcome the newcomers to the ranks of SJC organisers. For the first time however, between issues of the Missing Bishop, there are no new faces to welcome. Is Stephen Penty losing his magic touch or does he have a more sinister coup planned?

SJC finances continue to appear rosy, bringing a smile to auditor David Fryer's face, due largely to our catering efforts. Anne-Marie and her team of volunteers

continue to do an excellent job, not only keeping us fed and watered throughout events but also keeping SJC solvent. Many thanks to all. Anne-Marie is always very grateful for offers of help.

Whilst David may be smiling at the moment, SJC are always looking for sponsors for their events. Consider the achievements of Sussex players such as David Howell, Sebastian Pozzo and Stephanie Barracough on the international scene and the good results attained by many at the British Championships and the Gigafinal this year and you will realise how Sussex breeds success. Anyone wanting to be associated with a winning team - for a small fee - please call us now!

Stuart Hayden
Editor

Simultaneous Magic . . .

One of the most popular end of season treats is the simultaneous display given by Sussex Coaches and International Masters Susan Lalic and Graeme Buckley. So popular was it this year at the Fonthill Lodge Coaching and Fun Day that there were not enough spaces to go round!



Sussex Coach and WIM Susan Lalic takes on the U9's - all at once!



IM Graeme Buckley delivers another knock-out blow at the simultaneous display

Both Susan and Graeme proved a very strong challenge for the juniors with Graeme winning all his games and Susan only being held to a draw by Jamie Richardson. Nevertheless, who minds being beaten by a master!

Sussex Teams . . .

Sussex v. Rest of England

Traditionally the winners of the U11 National Championships are invited to face a Rest of England team the following summer. The match provides the England selectors with an opportunity to see potential England players in action against strong opposition. As winners in 2000 the privilege this year fell to Sussex. Next year, however, the format of the match is to be changed making this year's the last of its kind and therefore an even more special event. As if winning the championship was not sufficient endeavour the Sussex players consequently travelled to London in June to face an extremely tough 24 board match against players drawn from the rest of England.

The Sussex team all played to the very best of their ability keeping their opponents battling right through to the end. The strength and experience of the England players finally proved too strong resulting in a 37½ to 10½ victory. There were a number of exceptional performances from the Sussex players including the captain Sebastian Pozzo playing on board one, drawing both his



The Sussex team after taking on the Rest of England - a hard struggle but still smiling!

matches. Joe Richardson and Andrew Tucker also remained undefeated each scoring one win and one draw.

Many thanks go to Colin Oliver for organising this splendid event

NYCA U12 Team Championships

The Sussex team travelled to Stoke for the U12 Team Championships at the end of September hoping to build on the good results achieved as under 11's at the end of last season. On the day, however, this proved to be much more difficult than expected.

It may have been the distance travelled, the early start, an early season lack of match practice, opposing teams strengthening their squads or a combination of all four. The Sussex team, despite all playing well, were not quite able to hit top form. The notable exception was rapidplay expert Joe Fraser who scored an almost perfect 4½ out of 5.

In a five round, team swiss competition, Sussex were placed third at the end of round four being paired against arch

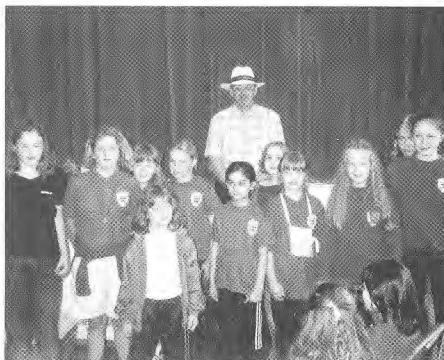
rivals Richmond in the final round. Richmond have struggled in the final round of competitions in the past, thus providing Sussex with some optimism. This time, however, they showed no sign of weakness playing superbly delivering Sussex a heavy defeat. Only Stephen Wrathall managed to secure a win against his Richmond opponent.

Sussex finally finished in equal sixth place of the twelve teams participating.

U14(U90) v. Hampshire

Sussex began the campaign to retain the U14(U90) Championship with a home match against Hampshire in Lindfield at the beginning of October. Team manager Martin May was naturally keen to retain his 100% record but almost arrived at the venue without his secret weapon - the chocolate incentive! A short visit to a local confectionery store, relieving a surprised owner of his entire stock of Mars Bars soon remedied the situation.

The match itself, 12 boards over 2 rounds, turned out to be a remarkable win for Sussex by 20½ to 3½ with only one game lost in the entire match. Indeed Martin was almost forced to send out search parties to seek more rewards. Let's hope that Martin and his players can keep up this excellent form throughout the rest of the competition.



David Fryer (the man with the hat!) and the Sussex Girls team that played against Surrey

Girls Team News

Team manager David Fryer has been keeping the Sussex girls very busy over the last few months. Firstly, playing in national team tournaments and secondly taking part in a series of friendly matches against other counties.

The Sussex Girls U14 team travelled to Abingdon in Oxfordshire at the end of June to compete in the ECGCF Minor Counties final. Sussex had been forced to field a weakened team in the qualifying round due to illness and were fortunate to have made it this far. In the final the whole team performed brilliantly finishing second just two points behind the winners Middlesex. This years competition begins in November and hopes are high for further success.

In July, at the Fonthill coaching day, the Sussex Girls took on Surrey in a friendly match. Our opponents have been the top English girls county team for nearly ten years and were therefore going to prove tough opponents. The final score of 13½ to 6½ to Surrey was therefore a very encouraging result. Stephanie Barraclough and Ellie Hayden triumphed winning both their games on the top two boards. Abi Fryer and Jessica Wood also managed one win each. Sarah Linford, sister of Sussex Young Master winner Charlie also played well scoring a draw in the second round.

At the beginning of this season in September, the U11 team, pictured on the front cover, travelled to Basingstoke to play Hampshire in another friendly. This time the Girls returned victorious winning 16 - 10 in a three round match. Amy Dunn receives a special mention for scoring a maximum 3 out of 3 on her debut for the county.

David now runs a special page for Girl's news linking from the SJC website, where you will be able to keep up to date with our young ladies' future successes.

Grand Prix, 2001/2002 season . . .

The opening event of the 2001/2002 season took place at Crowborough in mid September. For the first time in a Grand Prix competition a new section was introduced - the under 18 minor. It is hoped that the new section will encourage more of the older age group to take part by providing a more even challenge. It will only be possible to run the section where numbers allow, but early indications are that it will prove very popular.



U11 Minor winners at Crowborough - Harry Chandler, Mark Carter, Adam Hart & James Arnold

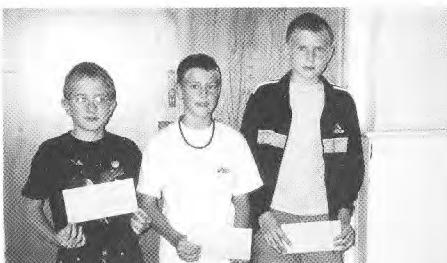
In the U11 Minor section Mark Carter from Holy Cross, Uckfield scored a perfect six to achieve his first tournament win ahead of Adam Hart. James Arnold and Harry Chandler shared third place. An excellent achievement for Harry in his first SJC tournament.



U11 Major winners at Crowborough - Farris Ziyada, Andrew Tucker, Ellie Hayden and Hugo King-Oakley

In the U11 Major section another perfect score saw Andrew Tucker from St Margaret's, Ditchling well clear of the field. Ellie Hayden took second place with Farris Ziyada and Hugo King-Oakley sharing third. Andrew's score of six wins also made him the highest scoring member of Crowborough Chess Club for which he won a special trophy donated by the club.

The very first winner of the U18 Minor section was Steven Stracey narrowly missing out on a maximum score with five wins and one draw. Jonathan Paley finished second with Lawrence Eagling third.



U18 Minor winners at Crowborough - Lawrence Eagling, Steven Stracey and Jonathan Paley

Five wins and a draw also provided Adam Prescott of Uckfield Community College with his first senior tournament win in the U18 Major section. Charlie Linford finished second ahead of Nimai McCarthy.

Although counting as an SJC event the Crowborough tournament is actually organised and run by members of Crowborough Chess Club. The club chooses to award cash prizes instead of trophies which is why everyone is pictured holding envelopes rather than the usual cups. Adam competed in the Adult congress the following day winning the U110 grading prize, taking his weekend earnings to £60. We all know where to go for a loan now!



Under 18 Major winners at Crowborough - Charlie Linford, Adam Prescott and Nimai McCarthy

For the second round of the Grand Prix the action moved to Chichester. This tournament is a qualifier for the London Junior Championships and so it was all change for the sections - no major or minor but straight age groups U8, U10, U12 and U18.

This year, despite a number of regulars playing for Sussex at the U12 Championships in Stoke, entries were up on last year. For the first time ever, all players who had entered the tournament duly arrived, and with no late entries on the day, life was much easier for the organisers!

Although two of the top players arrived late, having struggled to find the venue, the U18 section was extremely competitive. Michael Hamilton took the title ahead of Charlie Linford on tie-break, both players scoring five points. Adam Prescott continued his excellent form from Crowborough finishing third.

In the U12 section three players tied with five points. After the day's second application of the tie-break rule, Daniel Khoo was declared the winner, retaining his title. Yari Voropayev (London) finished second in front of Charles Evans (Amersham, Bucks) third.

It was certainly a day to score five points with the top three places in the U10 section all taken by players scoring the magic number. Farris Ziyada won his

first title since last November, ahead of a rapidly improving David Grant with Christopher Linnett taking third. We should all look forward to an exciting competition at the U9 Championships in Ditchling later this month.

In the U8 section Ben Blundell achieved the day's highest score with five and a half points. He began the day shakily with a stalemate against his first opponent but recovered quickly to edge Jed Kafetz into second place half a point ahead of Jonathan Wood.

Congratulations to everyone who took part on the day and good luck to those who have qualified for the London Junior Championships.

Simon Deere
Tournament Organiser

Sussex Grand Prix

The Sussex Grand Prix is a series of six tournaments held throughout the year. The best four scores of each player, regardless of section entered, are added together and at the end of the season the top three players in each age group receive a prize. Any player who competes in all six tournaments receives a special medal whilst those taking part in four or five receive a certificate.

STOP PRESS

Martin May maintained his unbeaten record as U14 team manager when the Sussex U14/U90 team defeated Berkshire 22 - 5 in a three round friendly match at Crowborough on Saturday 27th October.

County Championships . . .

Under 7 Championships

This year's U7 Championships were held at Fonthill Lodge School, East Grinstead in mid June. For many young players this is their first tournament and may perhaps be the starting point of a long, successful, and hopefully enjoyable association with the game of chess. Who knows? It may even be the first tournament of a future Sussex, British or even World champion!

For the second year in succession the early favourite for the title seemed in command only to falter in the final round. In a game of exceptional quality Jed Kafetz defeated Ben Blundell to take a well deserved title by half a point. George Toynbee and Luke Pearce each finished on four points with George taking third place on the tie-break.

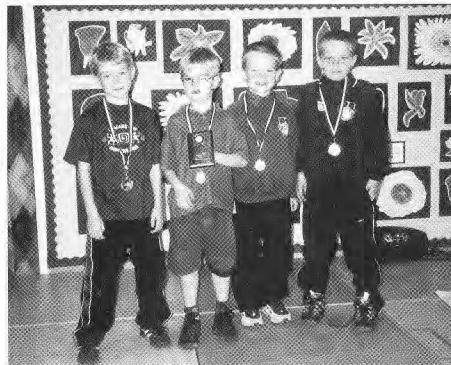


Trophy Winners at the U7 Championships - George Toynbee, Ben Blundell, Jed Kafetz & Luke Pearce

Ben may not have won the individual title but he was the leading player for the St Lawrence, Hurstpierpoint team that took the school team title, nudging Jed's Turners Hill side into second place. Third place was awarded to hosts Fonthill Lodge finishing just half a point behind.

If any further proof were needed of the benefits of attending Sussex training events then this tournament provided it.

U7 & U8 Team Gallery



St Lawrence, Hurstpierpoint - Gold medal winners at both U7 and U8 Championships.



Fonthill Lodge, East Grinstead - U7 Bronze , U8 Silver medal winners - Oskar Schortz, Richard Thorburn, Alex Yeomans & Fraser Hyland

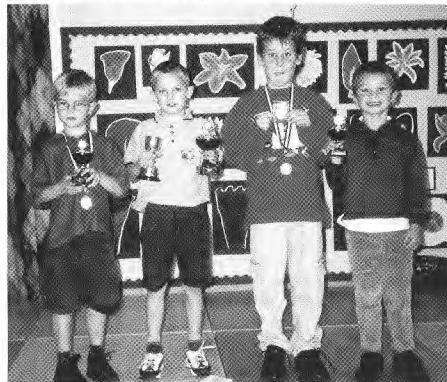


Turners Hill - U7 Silver, U8 Bronze medal Winners - Danielle Robinson, Jed Kafetz & Rhianmon Williams

Under 8 Championships

Having had their first taste of competitive play at the U7 championships, the players were invited back to Lindfield in early October for a second round of hostilities.

Once again history repeated itself in more than one way. Firstly, a newcomer to Sussex Junior Chess won the competition and secondly, Ben Blundell held the lead going into the last round only to fall at the final hurdle. He did have the consolation, however, of leading his school, St. Lawrence, Hurstpierpoint to take the school team trophy. The winner of the individual event was Oliver Benneck who was relatively unknown to Sussex



Trophy winners at the U8 Championships - Ben Blundell, Oliver Benneck, Jed Kafetz and Christopher Khoo.

Chess although he did come with an interesting pedigree. He is a member of East Grinstead Chess Club, which has produced a number of very fine juniors in recent months and has been having coaching lessons from quite an unusual source. When his parents had requested an au pair last summer they asked for someone with some knowledge of chess - but they probably hadn't expected to receive an application from WIM Petra Blazkova, living in the Czech Republic!

Petra's lessons obviously worked wonders as Oliver took the U8 title by half a point from Ben Blundell in second place.

Christopher Khoo edged out Jed Kafetz for third, both players had scored four. Fonthill Lodge, East Grinstead finished as the second place school pushing Turners Hill into third - a reversal of the positions in the U7 tournament.

The next competition will be the U9 championships at Ditchling in November which promises to be a very exciting competition. Let's hope that many of these U8's turn out for a third bite of the cherry!

U14/U18 Championships

The U14/U18 Championship is traditionally one of the last tournaments of the season, and also the toughest! This is a long play tournament played over two days giving the older and more experienced players a chance to get involved in some really serious thinking.

This year's tournament, played at the very end of June, moved to a new venue in Westmeston near Ditchling. An added advantage was the opportunity for players to avail themselves of Ruth & Phil Tucker's hospitality on the Saturday evening, that included a barbecue and a dip in the swimming pool.

Charlie Linford was duly crowned U18 Champion after scoring a perfect six wins. Danny Glebocki won the U14 trophy, scoring excellent wins over the England pair Theo Penty and David Barraclough in the course of the tournament.

LOST PROPERTY

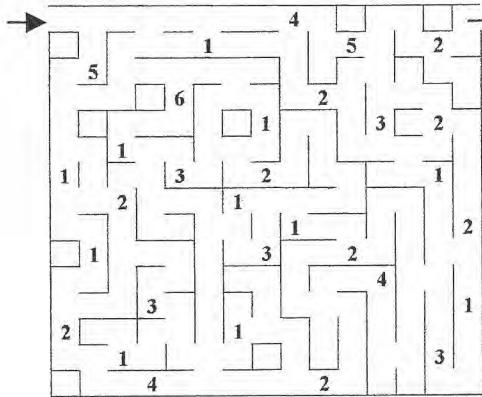
Simon Deere is currently in possession of various articles that have been left at events including a Sussex sweatshirt found at the Rest of England match. He would very much like to return them to their owners. Please contact Simon if you have mislaid any items.

Tel: 01892 663688



Number Maze

Can you find your way through the maze and score 50 points?
You are only allowed to pass through any number or pathway once.



Missing Link

Find a word that links those given.

Eg. Maths Test Tube

Cross	---	Tie
Note	-----	Worm
Sun	---	Square
Penny	-----	Board
Queen	---	Sting
Times	-----	Top
Half	-----	Beam
Hot	---	Basket
Chess	-----	Tower
Ice	-----	Soda

Spot the difference.

Can you spot the differences in these two pictures? There are at least 10.

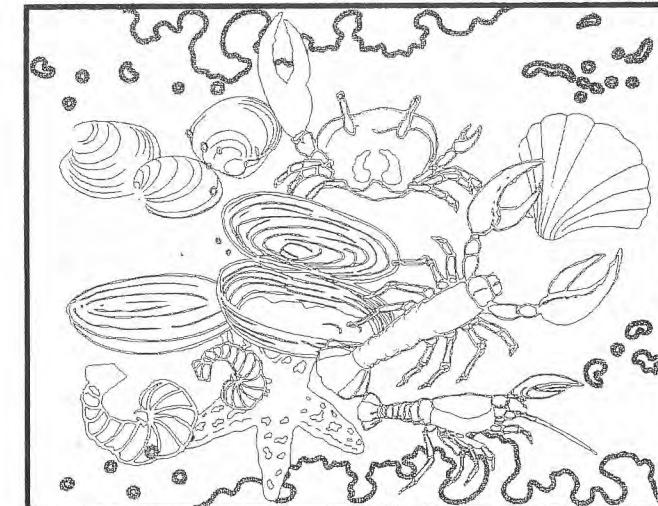


Star Search

There are the names of 26 singers or groups hidden in the grid.

R	O	B	B	I	E	W	I	L	L	I	A	M	S	S	B
I	H	D	U	N	D	E	W	T	L	D	N	U	P	O	X
C	N	S	Y	N	C	S	U	A	K	E	E	Y	E	P	A
K	S	I	V	A	R	T	Y	N	S	D	V	O	T	H	W
Y	H	A	I	R	U	L	A	A	R	D	I	F	S	I	Q
M	E	N	S	K	N	I	R	S	A	Y	F	R	I	E	K
A	T	A	O	J	C	F	G	T	T	G	D	J	M	E	N
R	L	E	W	Q	L	E	Y	A	S	R	A	E	H	L	O
T	E	U	E	U	E	L	C	C	L	A	P	M	V	L	S
I	A	G	R	N	C	D	A	I	L	N	I	A	X	I	K
N	H	O	S	O	R	E	M	A	A	T	W	T	Q	S	C
L	C	N	T	I	A	H	D	S	E	L	T	A	E	B	A
L	I	I	N	D	C	C	W	S	H	Y	I	Z	X	E	J
G	M	M	I	E	K	T	R	D	T	V	B	K	F	X	L
D	E	E	A	N	E	I	F	E	C	N	I	R	P	T	E
C	G	I	S	I	R	W	A	G	E	B	U	O	L	O	A
H	R	L	L	L	B	F	O	C	E	N	P	F	R	H	
I	O	Y	L	E	W	D	I	V	A	D	G	I	A	R	C
M	E	K	A	C	H	M	A	D	O	N	N	A	G	Q	I
N	G	R	E	D	L	I	U	B	E	H	T	B	O	B	M

By Fiona Prescott



Send your contributions for the 'Kids Page' to:

Anne-Marie Prescott
The Rosery
New Place
Uckfield.
East Sussex.
TN22 5DP

Outside the county . . .

The British Land UK Gigafinal

The 2001 Gigafinal took place at the Octagon Centre, Sheffield in July. For the first time the competition was split over two days due to the increased number of children taking part. Sussex had a small but experienced group of qualifiers who travelled up to South Yorkshire with high hopes of success.

On both days over 1000 competitors took part but despite stretching the facilities to their limit the competitions were very well run. The presentation on Saturday night was performed by Richard Caborn, the new sports minister, who seemed very impressed with the quality of the chess and the enthusiasm of all involved. He even gave some indication that more funding may be made available for chess - but seeing is believing!

Two Sussex players made it through to the Terrafinal by winning their sections. Firstly, David Howell in one of the U10 sections and secondly Joe Fraser in his U11 group. Joe's victory was very dramatic because he had to take part in a ten minute playoff against Martin Cheung, Middlesex. Not even a tie break could split these two after the final round.

Three more Sussex players also made it through to the challenger's section of the Terrafinal. Andrew Tucker was a little downhearted on arrival to find David Howell in his group but still managed to finish second, his only loss on the day being to David in the final round.

It was also an excellent day for the Linnett family as brothers Matthew and Christopher both qualified. Sister Sarah also played extremely well scoring 4½ points in the U10 girls event.

The British Land UK Terrafinal

At the Terrafinal which took place in Greenwich in late August, David Howell

Sussex Players at the Gigafinal

Section	Name	Score
U7 Boys	Ben Blundell	3½
U8 Boys	Christopher Linnett	5(3 rd)
	Nick Fraser	4½
	George Potts	4
	Henry Ravenhall	3½
	James Hollis	3
	James Draper	1
U9 Boys	Tristan Blundell	3½
	George Perez Trunin	3½
	James Arnold	3
	Harry Chandler	2
U9 Girls	Jessica Wood	3
	Sarah Margolis	1
U10 Boys	David Howell	6(1 st)
	Andrew Tucker	5(2 nd)
	Elliott Kafetz	3½
	Mark Carter	3
	Charlie Bristow	3
	Milo Hartnell	3
U10 Girls	Sarah Linnett	4½
	Ellie Hayden	4
U11 Boys	Joe Fraser	5½(1 st)
	Mark Willsher	3
U11 Girls	Stephanie Barraclough	4½
U13 Boys	Matthew Linnett	5(2 nd)
	Nick Campion	4
U13 Girls	Deborah Margolis	3½
	Katherine Rattle	3½

played exceptionally well to finish in third place and collect £500 scoring 4½ points. Joe Fraser scored a very creditable two points in such exalted company.

In the challengers section Matthew Linnett and Andrew Tucker each achieved three wins. Christopher Linnett was just a point behind with two victories.

The British Championships

This year's British Championships were held in Scarborough during the first two weeks of August. A number of Sussex players made the long journey northwards to the east coast resort.

Top performances included Farris Ziyada scoring four out of six and finishing equal seventh in the U8's. He also played well in the U9 section.

The signs are also good for next year's U11 team as Andrew Tucker and Ellie Hayden both played magnificently in the U10 tournament. Andrew attained an outstanding 5 points from his seven games finishing in equal fourth position, and achieving the status of joint top scoring British boy. The top scorers were all Commonwealth citizens. Ellie finished just half a point behind Andrew in equal sixth - the joint second best girl, level with Surrey rival Hannah Dale.

In the U11 Championship Stephanie Barraclough and Joe Richardson both scored 3½ points from their seven games. Daniel Khoo followed a point behind on 2½. Charles de Nicolay rejoined us from Belgium to achieve two wins. In the U12's Adam Prescott returned with three victories.

The U13's event saw Theo Penty share seventh place with an excellent four points, one ahead of David Barraclough.

Finally, many congratulations to Charlie Linford who scored an impressive three wins and a draw in the U16 section. He also achieved a superb four out of six in the proceeding weekend blitz tournament playing amongst adults that included a grandmaster or two!

The European Championships

Sussex had a record three players chosen to represent England at the European Championships in Greece at the beginning of September this year.

David Howell, who took part in the U12 section, recorded his best ever result finishing in equal first place scoring seven points from nine matches. Unfortunately for David the tie break did not work in his favour and he ended up collecting the Bronze Medal.

Stephanie Barraclough represented England for the first time in a major international championship. She played in the Girl's U12 section scoring four points from nine games, an excellent debut performance.

In the U16 event Thomas Rendle once again represented England with distinction scoring 4 points.

STOP PRESS! - Late breaking news . . .

At the World Junior Chess Championships in Oropesa, Spain David Howell finished equal second in the U12 section with 8/11 (117 players). After a poor start by David's standards he finished well scoring 4½ points in his last 5 games, including an exhausting 95 move draw in round nine.

Sebastian Pozzo scored 6/11 only losing one game in the U10 event finishing equal 28th (87 players). He demonstrated his true potential to the rest of the England squad with this 16 move brilliancy.

Sebastian Pozzo ENG v Marijan Bojchev BUL

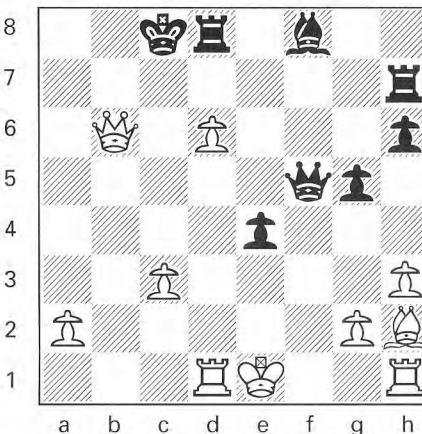
Round 8, World Championships
 1. e4 d6 2. d4 Nf6 3. Nc3 Nbd7 4. Nf3 e5
 5. Bc4 h6 6. O-O Be7 7. Qe2 O-O 8. Rd1 exd4 9. Nxd4 Re8 10. Bxf7!! Kxf7 11. Ne6!! Kxe6 12. Qc4+ d5 13. Nxd5 Kf7 14. Nf4+ Nd5 15. Qxd5+ Kf8 16. Ng6++ 1-0

At the Surrey girls chess congress in Epsom Ellie Hayden finished in first place in the U12 section winning all five games and a £50 first prize! Abi Fryer collected a rosette for her 3 wins in the same group. In the U14 event Katherine Rattle scored 2 wins and an excellent draw against Irish international Hannah Lowry-O'Reilly.

Chess, or Boxing? . . .

Sports commentators often describe a football game as being played like a chess match but sometimes chess games are played more like boxing. The following are some examples of those great punches or missed opportunities. All positional and careful players who listen to their trainer's sound advice need read no further.

A Missed Knockout Blow
Rebecca Tuck - Michaela Kerrigan (Herts)
Minor Counties Girls U14 Final
30th June 2001



In this example Rebecca has not worried about castling but concentrated on demolishing her opponent's defences and followed up with the very sensible **27.Qc6+ Kb8 28.Rb1+ Ka7 29.Qa4+ 1-0** but can you spot the even quicker mate in two?

A Spectacular Combination

"Don't bring your Queen out too early" except . . .

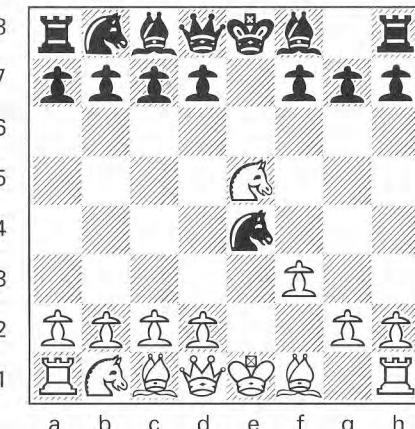
After **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 Nxe4 4.f3** the position shown in the diagram was reached in a game between Abigail Wood and Rosie Arscott.

In this position Rosie moved her knight to safety. If only she had paused for

a few moments and decided to attack. Let us dream . . .

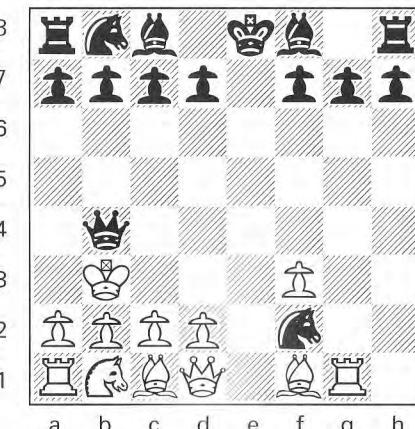
Abigail Wood vs Rosie Arscott

Hampshire vs Sussex
22nd September 2001



4...Qh4+ 5.g3 Nxg3 6.Rg1 Nh1+ 7.Ke2 Qxh2+ 8.Ke3 Qxe5+ 9.Kd3 Nf2+ 10.Kc4 Qc5+ 11.Kb3 Qb4#

with a final position more at home in a horror movie than a game of chess.

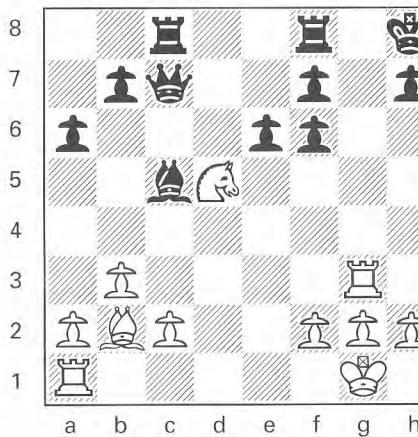


Unfortunately, dreams do not always come true . . .

Ducking and Diving

Michael Hale (Somerset) - Alex Cook

U12 NYCA Championship,
29th September 2001



Here Michael has sacrificed his Queen and hoped for **19...exd5 20.Bxf6++** but Alex is having none of it and plays the spoiling move **19...Qxg3** and although giving back his Queen remains well ahead in material and leaves white with no attacking chances at all.

So my advice is to keep an open mind, look at all those dream possibilities but check your opponent's replies carefully. Remember unlike football where it's important to strike the ball quickly before being tackled, a winning position at the chessboard will not go away, so stop and think.

David Fryer

Competition winners . . .

When Peter Turner, the British Chess Federation director of Junior Chess, visited the Hastings Grand Prix tournament in January he left us with the following puzzle - how many knights can you place on a chessboard so that each knight attacks exactly two others? Peter was kind enough to show us how to get 24 on the board but then told us it was possible to do much better. He then generously offered to donate a prize to the first person who could manage 32.

The puzzle was published in Missing Bishop No. 8 in March but proved a very tough nut to crack. Indeed, it wasn't until the Fonthill Lodge chess summer school in July that a solution was found.

A number of boys began working on the problem at the beginning of the week. A leader board was set up, the name at the top changing each day as better solutions were found. Then, on the very last day, three boys all independently found the elusive answer. The first correct solution came from Thomas Lamb, aged 9, from the host school. Closely followed by Robert Brown and Jamie Ferrett.



Jamie Ferrett, Thomas Lamb & Robert Brown together with prizes and solution to the knight's puzzle

Thomas later admitted to having a little help from his father, but then that's Sussex chess, bringing families closer together!

Many thanks to Peter and the BCF for supplying the puzzle and the prize. By the way Peter, Sussex is ready and waiting for another challenge, let's have a really difficult one this time that keeps us going all the way to Christmas!

A very British diary . . .

Once reaching the ripe old age of 10 you have to play long play games over an entire week at the British Championships. So it was, with trepidation, that I left the wife, the cat and the guinea pig and took my daughter Ellie to Scarborough in the summer. The following are extracts from my diary of the week's events both chess and otherwise to give anyone starting out on the chess circuit a flavour of what life is like at the top national event.

Day 1

10.00am: Leave Uckfield and begin 350 mile journey to Scarborough for 10 days at the British Championships.

12.30pm: Large stone hits windscreen on M1. No visible damage.

6.00pm: Arrive at Northern House in Driffield where we will be staying courtesy of BCF Director of Junior Chess Peter Turner. First impression - bewilderment - front room floor strewn with laptops, chess pieces, boards, books, championship bulletins and empty beer cans.

8.00pm: Meet the other people staying in the house. These include Peter and his wife Gill, Roger Edwards (BCF grading officer) his wife Maureen and son John. Three players from the main championship, IM's, Matthew Turner & Danny Gormally, and top English U16 Lawrence Trent. Finally two familiar faces, Jonathan and Rebecca Tuck. Interesting mix.

Day 2

10.30am: Arrive at the Spa Centre in Scarborough. Bright, sunny day. Ellie goes swimming with Andrew, Simon and Rebecca.

12.30pm: Still quite bright and sunny. Stephanie joins the others swimming in the sea.

1.30pm: Weather suddenly deteriorates. Find Ellie and Stephanie running about in their swimming costumes in freezing cold torrential rain.

7.30pm: Jonathan and I find a chip shop to buy some supper. Ask for plaice and chips. Receive reply, "you're not from round here

are you?" Return with haddock and chips - greasy, but much cheaper than in Sussex.

Day 3

9.00am: Discover crack in my windscreen hidden behind tax disc.

7.00pm: David and Abi Fryer arrive.

Day 4

1.00pm: Warn Ellie not go anywhere near the sea with her last pair of dry shoes on.

3.00pm: Rebecca finds David and I relaxing in the commentary room and wonders if Ellie and Abi can return to Northern House with Mr and Mrs Turner. "Oh, and by the way," adds Rebecca, "Abi fell in the sea and Ellie jumped in to rescue her."

3.10pm: Abi forgets to remove her wet underwear before putting on Mrs Turner's spare pair of (no longer) dry trousers.

5.00pm: A large quantity of sand has to be removed from the washing machine at Northern House.

Day 5

8.30am: Crack in the windscreen growing. David amuses himself by measuring it every five minutes on the journey in to Scarborough.

9.30am: Ellie plays her first game in the U10 Championship and loses.

2.30pm: Ellie and I go to a local pitch and putt course with David and Abi in the rain. Score a hole in one at the first hole.

6.00pm: David announces that the crack in the windscreen has grown 6cm on the way home.

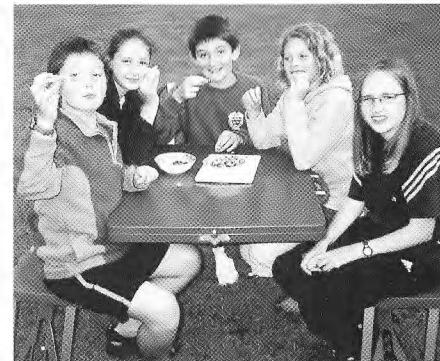
8.30pm: Tell Matthew that I scored a hole in one. He is very impressed until he finds out that it was only a 20 yard hole.

Day 6

9.30am: Ellie plays second game and wins.

12.30pm: Phone Autoglass. They promise to fix the windscreen the next day.

2.30pm: Ellie plays third game and wins again.



Simon, Ellie, Andrew, Abi and Rebecca enjoy a plate of freshly picked winkles.

3.00am: Dormitory is very noisy tonight. Woken by David snoring.

3.30am: Woken again. This time it's Danny analysing his earlier chess game in his sleep.

Day 7

8.00am: Discover that Danny has eaten all Ellie's Frosted Shreddies.

8.15am: Wait patiently for Autoglass to arrive.

9.30am: Exasperated! Autoglass phone to say that they can't come until tomorrow.

10.25am: Ellie feeling the pressure. Only just reach Scarborough in time to throw her out of the car before she is sick. Fortunately Anne-Marie Prescott is passing with a handy box of tissues.

10.30am: Ellie plays fourth game and wins for a third time. Not looking quite so green now.

4.00pm: Ellie and I play bridge with David and Abi. Things don't go to well for them. "You can't make a bid like that unless you've got 10 points," says David somewhat frustrated. "Oh I know that," replies Abi sweetly, "but I wanted to!"

8.00pm: Show Ellie's game to Matthew and Danny. Both seem impressed but point out a crushing move she missed.

Day 8

8.30am: Matthew Turner cooks everyone breakfast. Bacon and sausage. Very nice.

Day 10

10.00am: Set out on the long journey home.

5.00pm: Arrive home. Say hello to the wife and the cat. Cuddle the guinea pig, I really missed him.

9.00am: Autoglass finally arrive to replace the windscreen. Part sadly with £50.

11.30am: Ellie explains what happened. "I was a pawn up, then I was a pawn down, then I thought I was going to lose and then it was a draw."

2.30pm: Ellie plays sixth game. Big game, I start to get stressed.

3.30pm: Hear that Ellie has missed a chance to win her opponent's Queen. Remove hair forcibly from my head.

9.00pm: Spend an interesting evening listening to Lawrence trying to persuade Roger that his grade should be go up to 200. He spends a long time searching his lap top for favourable results that have not previously counted toward his grade.

11.00pm: Lawrence's grade goes up 3 points to 198.

12.00pm: Lawrence's grade goes up 1 more point to 199.

Day 9

9.00pm: Matthew cooks breakfast again. Fried egg this time. Not so nice. Danny refuses to eat his.

9.30am: Ellie plays final game and wins again.

12.00pm: Ellie, Rebecca, Abi, Andrew and Simon go winkle picking on the beach and collect a large jar full.

7.00pm: Jonathan and I go to pick Ellie and Rebecca up from Ruth and Phil Tucker's tent. Phil is in charge of the barbecue - excellent. Unfortunately the winkles have also been barbecued. Forced to eat some. Feel sick.

7.05pm: Andrew gleefully informs me that one of the winkles was in fact a sea-slug and I may have eaten that too. Feel even sicker.

Sussex Young Masters . . .

The fourth Sussex Young Masters tournament is now well underway with more players than ever before. Pictured right is Charlie Linford winner of the first three competitions who will be hoping to make it four in a row.

To encourage more entries, this year's competition has been expanded to include both Major and Minor sections, in the same way as a Grand Prix tournament. This of course means that less experienced players will not have to play the seemingly invincible Charlie! The players have been split into four leagues, two major and two minor sections. The winner and runner up in each league will qualify for the semi-finals. Both overall winners will each receive a Sussex Young Masters trophy, that has been specially commissioned for the tournament, to keep for one year.



Charlie Linford - three time winner of the Sussex Young Masters, holding the trophy

The matches are long play games, played at a mutually agreeable venue, usually either at a chess club or at one of the player's homes. This not only gives them the opportunity to experience long play chess in comfortable surroundings, but also gives parents the chance to get to know one another on a more informal basis.

Merit Award Scheme . . .

Announcing Gold and Junior Master

We are delighted to announce the arrival of the teaching syllabus for Gold and Junior Master levels in the SJC Merit Award Scheme. They are non-identical twins weighing in at substantially different weights. Perhaps this accounts for their longer than anticipated gestation!

The **Gold** level represents a natural progression from the Bronze and Silver. It is anticipated that juniors with an SJC grade of between 60 - 70 would be capable of achieving this level.

The syllabus can be taught in school and private chess clubs by a teacher or parent with sufficient chess knowledge. However, most juniors aspiring to this level will find that they need to study some of the syllabus in their own time, and/or work through particular problems with coaches at SJC training days.

To become a **Junior Master**, we have put together a syllabus that is devised to test a child's ability to play and understand games of chess, as opposed to rote learning that is a characteristic of the other levels. In addition to a range of knowledge concerning openings and end game techniques, children will need to annotate a game and discuss it with an examiner. They will also be expected to evaluate tactical situations and identify winning combinations of moves from the sample positions provided.

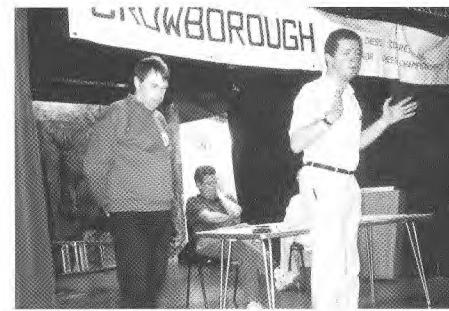
Juniors will have to work hard to become a Junior Master. This badge of distinction is likely to be won by 4 or 5 players a year (with an SJC grade of between 70 - 90). They will be entitled to sport the acronym of 'JM' after their name in all SJC tournaments.

Stephen Penty

And finally . . .

Simon tells fishy tales

What have we here? Simon Deere, Tournament Organiser, caught on camera at the Crowborough tournament entertaining the audience with his favourite angling anecdote.



"Oh no . . . not the one about the fish . . . not again!"

"No . . . really . . . the one that escaped . . . it was this big . . . honestly," declares Simon. Jonathan Tuck (left) and Scott Fraser (centre) have heard it all before - and it looks like they didn't believe it the previous time either.

Mascot Munchies



The King Pot Noodle lucky charm - if you lose then eat the mascot and blame it on Big Dave!

The number of junior players with lucky mascots has greatly increased in recent months. In a recent U14 (U90) match against Hampshire however, Danny Glebocki tried a tasteful new improvement

by placing a King Pot Noodle beside the board. Thus not only providing a lucky charm but also a nourishing meal during the game.

New position for Chairman?

Chairman Stephen Penty took a break from the registration desk at the Fonthill Lodge training day to prove that he can do more than just collect the money. Stephen is pictured below engaged in a simultaneous display against a number of seven year olds.



Stephen Penty has all the right moves

Despite some unorthodox opening moves, Stephen notched up a number of wins clearly surprising himself as much as the rest of the coaches.

Later that day in the girl's match against Surrey Jessica Wood from Holy Cross, Uckfield appeared very well prepared, but for the wrong sport!



Jessica Wood - "Never mind the Chess, when does the blow football start?"

Sussex Junior Chess

Autumn/Winter Diary

SJC Events

For all these events contact
Simon Deere 01892 663688

Sat 24 November

U9 Championships (Closed)
Ditchling

Sat 1 December

U11 Championships (Closed)
Burgess Hill

Sat 8 December

Coaching and Fun Day
Hove

Sat 5 January

Hastings (GP 4)
U11 Maj & Min, U18 Maj & Min

Sat 12 January

Coaching & Fun day
Venue tba

Sat 19 January

Girls Championships
Hurstpierpoint

Sat 2 February

Coaching & Fun Day
Crawley

Sat 23 February

Eastbourne (GP 5)
U11 Maj & Min, U18 Maj & Min

Sat 2 March

Coaching & Fun Day
Little Common, Bexhill

GP = Grand Prix Event

A printed calendar of national events can be obtained from the British Chess Federation.

Results, news, dates and contact details for Sussex events can be found on the SJC website which is regularly updated - www.SussexJuniorChess.fsnet.co.uk Other junior chess events of interest can also often be found at www.juniorchess.info

Team Events

Sat 17 November

U14 (U90) v. Surrey (A)
Martin May 01293 520496

Sat 17 November

Girls U14 ECGCF Qualifier
Hampton

Sat 8 December

Girls v. Hampshire (H)
Hove

David Fryer 01342 317287

Sat 12 January

Girls Friendly (H)
Venue tba

David Fryer 01342 317287

Sun 13 January

U9 Friendly v. Berkshire
Reading

Simon Deere 01892 663688

Sat 2 February

U14 (U90) v. Surrey (H)
Crawley

Martin May 01293 520496

Sat 9 February

U14 (U90) v. Hampshire (A)
Basingstoke

Martin May 01293 520496

Sun 10 Feb

U11 Friendly v. Berkshire
Reading

Simon Deere 01892 663688

Other Events

Sat 15 - Sun 16 December

London Junior Championships
U10, U14

Qualification necessary

South Bank University
Arnold Lutton 01268 280932

Fri 28 - Sun 30 December

London Junior Championships
U18/21, U16, U12, U8

Qualification necessary
South Bank University

Arnold Lutton 01268 280932

Sat 19 January

EPSCA Rapidplay Champs (U11)
Liverpool

Peter Purland 0151 733 4854

Sat/Sun 2/3 February

South of England Champs (U11)
Camberley

Joe French 01256 472537

Sat 23/24 February

West of England Champs (U12)
Swindon

Maureen Debbage 01793 617619

Fri/Sun 5/6/7 April

National Chess Junior Squad
Invitation only

Venue tba

Marc Shaw 020 8933 9951