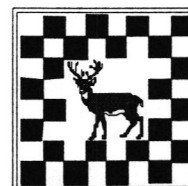


HERTFORDSHIRE CHESS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

No.36 December 1999

Editor: J Fraser-Mitchell



EDITORIAL

This is the last Newsletter of the Millennium and there are so many good games in it that I've had to leave a couple to the next issue. One of these delights to look forward to is a game by John Sharp, who is currently in his 50th successive season for the Herts correspondence team!

Along with the Millennium, there is another important anniversary approaching – the Centenary of the Herts Chess Association, which was formed in 1901 (we don't know more precisely than that – can anybody help?). At the most recent Exec meeting it was decided that all clubs would be asked to make a contribution to HCA funds in order to celebrate the Centenary in an appropriate style. A provisional calendar of events is given below. It would be nice if all clubs could provide at least one volunteer each to help with the organisation, and thus ensure that the job isn't left to just a few.

Jeremy Fraser-Mitchell

Date	Proposed Event(s)
Sept 2000	Herts vs Southern Counties (50 / 100 boards) – could be later in season to allow more time for organisation
Nov 2000	“President's XI” representative match
Dec 2000	Upgrade Hitchin Congress (normal activity) to British Championship Qualifier (NB. No Maidstone qualifier in 2000?)
Jan 2001	Juniors vs Veterans representative match
Mar 2001	Match vs Herts twinned region (Burgundy or Rheinland-Pfalz) on Saturday before Letchworth congress
April 2001	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Host SCCU U18 jamboree• Final of County Individual KO
Aug 2001	Hitchin qualifier plays in the British Championships
Sept 2001	Host Counties Rapidplay
Nov 2001	Dinner, maybe coupled with GM simul

Other Events during the Centenary year: (a) Problem-solving competition; (b) Correspondence match; (c) County-wide Individual Knockout (each club has qualifiers for finals in April 2001) – maybe merge with or replace Capel & Burn. Possibly graded sections. (d) Put together a history of Herts Chess and / or collection of best games

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

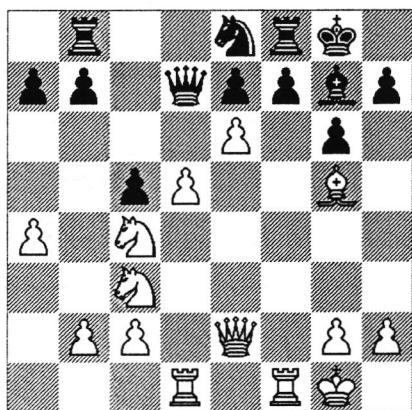
Last weekend (December 4th - 5th), we held our 46th annual Hertfordshire Congress at Hitchin Boys' School. Numbers were slightly up on last year's event, and early estimates suggest that we made a modest profit this time. More importantly, the event produced a great deal of hard fought chess, with Hertfordshire players taking a large share of the honours. Unlike last year, the open event failed to attract any Grandmasters. However, on the positive side, this meant that the event had a genuine 'Hertfordshire feel' to it. Top seed Simon Knott showed his class by leading the field with 4.5 points from 5, but only after winning a tense last round game. His opponent in that game, David Lemoir, now lives in Norfolk, but was for many years a Letchworth player. Going into the last round, he led the tournament with four straight wins, and despite losing to Simon, finished clear second ahead of more fancied players such as Stephen Swanson and Lorin D'Costa. These two contested a very tough game in the last round, with Lorin coming out on top, and thus securing the Glynne Jones Trophy for the best junior performance in the adult tournaments. In fact, Lorin only edged out last year's trophy winner (and fellow Royston member!) Richard Mycroft on tie break. Altogether a very successful weekend for Hertfordshire chess, and I would like to thank the team of organisers and helpers who made the whole event possible. Well done everyone!

John Denton

SELECTED GAMES FROM THE HITCHIN CONGRESS

D.Lemoir - C.Wheatley
Hitchin Open (1), 1999

1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.Nc3 Bg4 5.d5 Nb8 presumably 'book' though it looks a bit slow 6.Be2 g6 7.0-0 Bg7 8.Bg5 c5 9.Nd2 in typical Benoni fashion, White's knight heads for c4 9...Bxe2 10.Qxe2 Na6 and in typical Benoni fashion Black's goes to b4 or c7 11.Nc4 0-0 12.Rad1 Rb8 13.a4 Nb4 14.f4 Qd7 15.e5 dxe5 [15...Ne8 16.exd6 exd6 17.Be7 and Black loses the exchange. However he gets some compensation, and it's certainly better than what happened in the game! eg. 17...Nc7 18.Bxf8 Rxf8 19.Ne3 Bd4 20.Kh1 Re8] 16.fxe5 Ne8

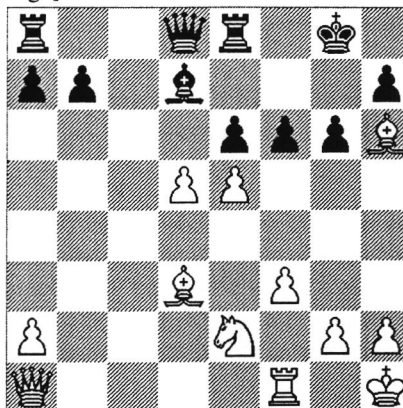


17.e6! fxe6 18.Rxf8+ Kxf8 19.dxe6 Qc6 20.Ne5 1-0

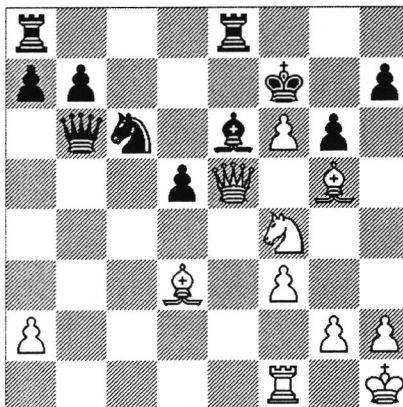
S.Peters - D.Lam
Hitchin Open (2), 1999

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Bc4 c5 8.Ne2 0-0 9.Be3 Nc6 10.0-0 Na5 11.Bd3 Bg4 12.f3 cxd4 13.cxd4 Be6 14.d5 This is all theory. The main alternative at this point was to sacrifice a pawn with 14.Rc1. Other moves are too slow to cause Black any problems. The point of playing ...Bg4 to force 12.f3 is that sometimes Qb6(+) is a vital defensive resource 14...Bxa1 15.Qxa1 f6 the best move, otherwise Bh6 regains the exchange due to the threat of mate on g7 16.Bh6 the most direct and critical. Moves such as Kh1 (so that Qb6 is not check), or Nf4/Nd4 (so that dxe6 is a threat) are too slow, but subtle refinements such as Bd2, Qb1 or Rb1 are also playable. Refer to a book on the opening for analysis of this position, since there isn't space here 16...Re8 [16...Qb6+ 17.Kh1 Rfd8 is not so good, since the queen is now exposed and after 18.Rb1 all Black's pieces will end up huddling on the back rank to escape the hounding by the White forces] 17.Kh1 Bd7 [17...Rc8 18.Qd4 (18.Nf4 Bd7 19.e5 Nc4 20.e6 Ba4 is good for Black) 18...Bd7 19.Qxa7 Nc4! Furman-Suetin, 21st USSR ch 1954. Black offers a second pawn to seize the initiative and completely blunt White's attack] 18.e5 e6

[18...Qc7 this is Euwe's analysis of 17.Kh1, but after 19.e6 Ba4 20.Qb1 Rec8 21.Bxg6 Bc2 22.Bf7+ White has the advantage]



19.Nf4 exd5 [19...f5 20.Qe1; 19...fxe5 20.Qxe5] 20.exf6 Kf7 21.Qd4 Be6 22.Bg5 Qb6 23.Qe5 Nc6 this natural-looking move may be a mistake, since on a5 the knight keeps b7 defended and also does not obstruct the queen's defence of e6. Better therefore is ...Rac8, since 24.Rb1? Qxb1+ wins at once for Black. However it's understandable that Black's king is feeling the draught.

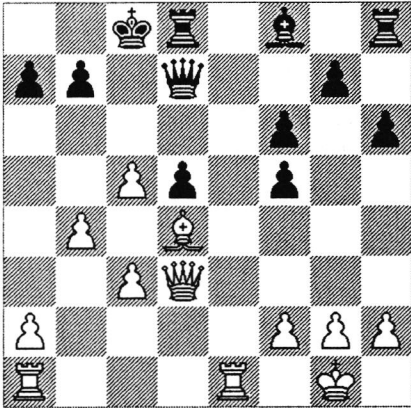


24.Qe1 Nd4 25.Qh4 Rh8 26.Rb1 Qc6 27.Qf2 Nf5 28.g4 Nd6 29.Nxe6 White's clever play has driven away all defenders of the bishop apart from the king. Now there's no way to stop White's queen getting to the heart of Black's position 29...Kxe6 30.Qe2+ Kd7 31.Qe7+ Kc8 32.f7 Nxf7 33.Rc1 Qxc1+ 34.Bxc1 1-0

S.Swanson - R.Maullin
Hitchin Open (2), 1999

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Be3 Nge7 Black can also play 5...Qb6 trying to exploit the absence of the bishop from the defence of b2. One amusing possibility is 5...Qb6 6.Qd2 Bd7 7.Nf3 Rc8 8.Bd3? cd 9.cd? Nb4 10.b3 (else ...Nxd3 & ...Qxb2) 10... Rc1+! 0-1 6.Nf3 Nf5 7.Bd3 Bd7? (not realising Steve Swanson prefers knights to bishops!) 8.Bxf5 exf5 9.dxc5 Qc7 10.0-0 0-0-0 brave but the best of a bad job [10...Nxe5 11.Qxd5] 11.b4 h6

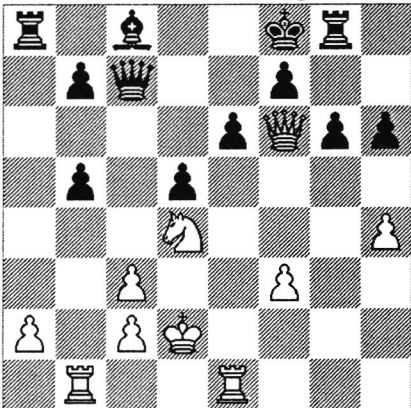
12.Na3 now Nb5 is a threat as well as the pawn storm. Meanwhile Black struggles to complete his development
 12...Nxe5 13.Nxe5 Qxe5 14.Bd4 Qf4 15.Re1 f6 16.Qd3 Qc7 17.Nb5 Bxb5 18.Qxb5 Qd7 19.Qd3 1-0



Black can only sit and wait for White to play a2-a3-a5-a6, so he decided the best move in the position was "resigns"

K.Nicholas - N.Beveridge [C12]
 Hitchin Open (2), 1999

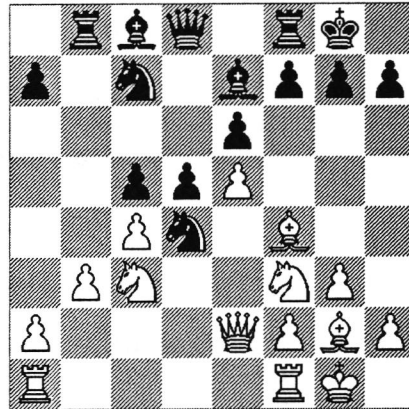
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Bb4 5.e5 h6 6.Bd2 Bxc3 7.bxc3 Ne4 8.Qg4 g6 ...Kf8 is also possible, leading to an unclear position 9.Bd3 Nxd2 10.Kxd2 c5 11.h4 Nc6 12.Nf3 Psakhis suggests 12.Rh3 or 12.Qf4, but there's certainly nothing wrong with the move played 12...Qa5 13.Rab1 [13.Qf4 to protect e5 as well as eyeing the weak points in Black's position 13...cxd4 14.Nxd4 Nxd4 15.Qxd4 Bd7 16.Rab1 b6 is about equal] 13...cxd4 14.Nxd4 Nxe5 very risky, but so are other moves! [14...Nxd4 15.Qxd4 Qc7!? (intending ...Bd7, and 16.Qf4 can be met by ...f5!) 16.Bb5+ Bd7 17.Bxd7+ Qxd7 18.c4 0-0-0!? 19.Qxa7 dxc4+ who gets mated first?] 15.Bb5+! Kf8 hoping to reach sanctuary on g7 but he never gets time 16.Qf4 Qc7 17.Qf6 Rg8 18.f3 just to stop ...Ng4, but also tempts Black into further trouble 18...a6 the last chance was ...Nc6 19.Rhe1 Nxf3+ 20.gxf3 axb5



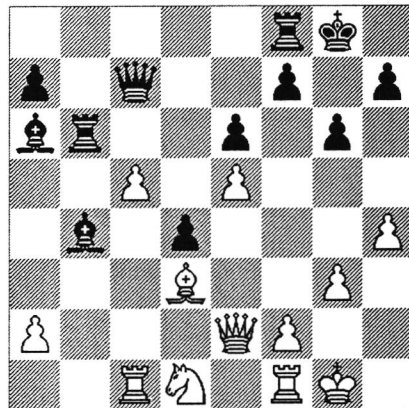
21.Rxe6! Rxa2 22.Rbe1 Bd7 23.Re8+! 1-0

D.Lemoir - S.Knott [C00]
 Hitchin Open (5), 1999

1.e4 e6 2.d3 d5 3.Qe2 rather committal. 3.Nd2 is the normal move 3...Nf6 [3...Nc6 4.Nf3 e5 is what Black should try if he wants to really bash White. However Black's more restrained handling of the opening in the game also proves very effective] 4.Nf3 c5 5.g3 Nc6 6.Bg2 Be7 7.0-0 0-0 8.e5 Ne8 the natural retreat ...Nd7 would leave Black with a few traffic problems organising his development 9.c4 this looks fishy - a more normal continuation would be c3 and Nbd2 followed by a gradual k-side push. The q-side is Black's natural territory 9...Nc7 10.Nc3 Rb8 11.Bf4 b5 12.b3 bxc4 13.dxc4 Nd4!



simple play has allowed Black to seize the initiative and once he's got it he doesn't let go 14.Nxd4 cxd4 15.Nd1 dxc4 16.bxc4 Ba6 17.Be4 Nd5! 18.Bd2 Qc7 19.Bd3 Nb4 20.Bxb4 Bxb4 21.Rc1 g6 now White is completely tied up, Black just eliminates any whiff of counterplay before rounding up the weak White pawns 22.h4 Rb6 23.c5



looking for a tactical way out of the bind 23...Bxd3 24.cxb6 Qxc1 25.Qxd3 Qc5 26.bxa7 Ra8 although he's got rid of the weak c-pawn, there are still plenty of other pawn weaknesses for White to worry about 27.f4 Rxa7 28.Rf2 Ra3 29.Qf1 Rxc3+ the end 30.Kh2 Rg4 31.Kh3 h5 32.Rf3 Qc2 33.Nf2 Qf5 34.Qd3 Rxf4+ 35.Qxf5 Rxf5 36.Rxf5 exf5 37.Nd3 Ba3 38.Kg3 Kf8 0-1

HERTS CHESS ASSOCIATION 46th ANNUAL CONGRESS

Hitchin Boys School 4-5.12.99

Premier (5 round swiss, 19 played), Challengers (U170, 5 round swiss, 23 played), Major (U145, 5 round swiss, 40 played), Minor (U120, 5 round swiss, 41 played)

Sat: U18 and U12 (6 round swiss in one section; 3 and 11 players respectively)

Sun: U18, U14 and U12 (6 round swiss in one section; 2, 11 and 20 players respectively), U10 and U8 (6 round swiss in one section; 21 and 6 players respectively). The U12, U10 and U8 were qualifiers for the London Junior Chess Championships.

Premier **S.Knott* 4.5**, D.Lemoir **4**, L.D'Costa, K.Nicholas, S.Peters, M.Taylor **3.5**
(180-195) L.D'Costa, S.Peters **3.5**
(U180) K.Nicholas, M.Taylor **3.5**
 * = Hakansson trophy for best Herts player

Challengers **A.Horton-Kitchlew 5**, M.Brazier **4**, A.Dasaolu, N.Moss, B.Valentine **3.5**
(U155) S.Charles, I.Evans, D.Faulkner, C.Hetherington* **3**
 * = Berry Cup for best Herts player

Major **J.Angus* 4.5**, T.Khoo **4**, R.Ganger, J.Harbour, R.Killeen, C.Turner **3.5**
(U131) J.Harbour **3.5**
 * = Davis Cup for best Herts player

Minor **C.Gardiner, DG.Wayte 4.5**, J.Baldwin, S.Buckley, C.Costelloe **4**
(90 - 104) J.Baldwin **4**
(U100) F.Batchelor, J.Hall **3**
 R.Mycroft **3.5** won the Lee-Johnson Cup for best Herts player

The **J. Glynne Jones Memorial Trophy**, for the best performance by a Herts / Cambs / Norfolk / Suffolk junior in an adult event, was awarded to Lorin D'Costa for his score of 3.5 in the Premier. Lorin won the trophy on tie-break ahead of C.Turner (3.5 in the Major) and R.Mycroft (3.5 in the Minor), by virtue of playing in the higher grading-limit event.

Club team prize **Bedford Junior CC** (John Harbour, Jo Harbour, Tom Harbour, Peter Quarry) **74%**
School team **John Henry Newman** (D Allen, M Allen, J Akrell, T Gilbert) **58%**

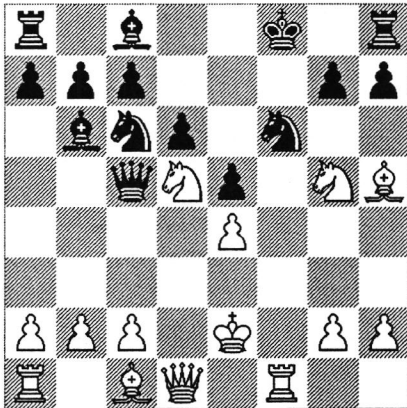
Saturday U18 **Mark Goodwin 6**
U14 Tom Gilbert **5**
U12 Matthew Allen **4**
U10 Yvette Cook **4**
U8 Rebecca Allen **3**

Sunday U18 **A.Rosewall 4**, J.Harbour **3.5**
U14 R.Webb **5.5**, N.Baranga **5**
U12 N.George **5.5**

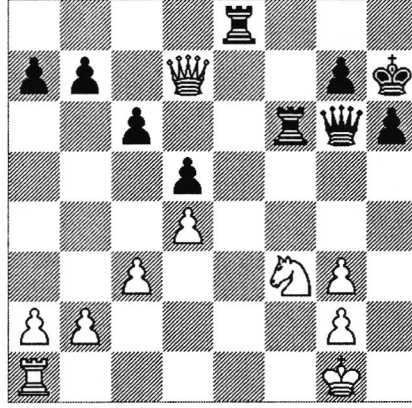
Sunday U10 **Tom Harbour 6**, Andrew Alexandrou **5**, Katie Nightingale **4.5**
U8 Edward Moss, Gordon Parker **4**, Toby Hall **3**

The "What Happened Next" section

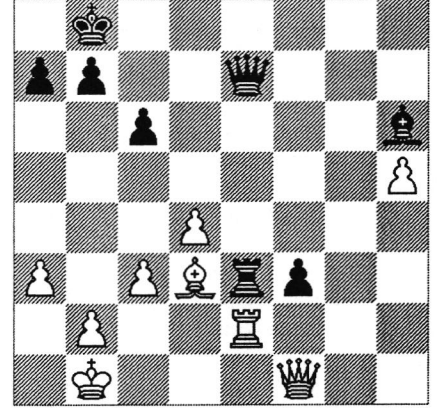
The answer could be a fancy combination, a terrible blunder, or an amusing incident. See the back of the newsletter to find out which! I hope that readers will be able to give me plenty of contributions for further editions.



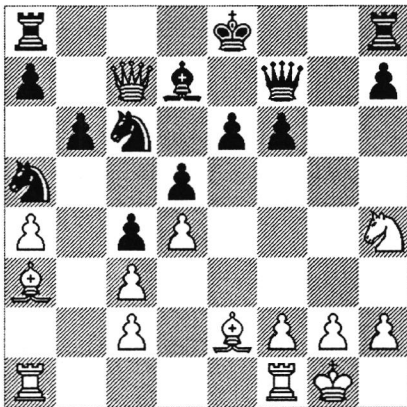
1. White to move



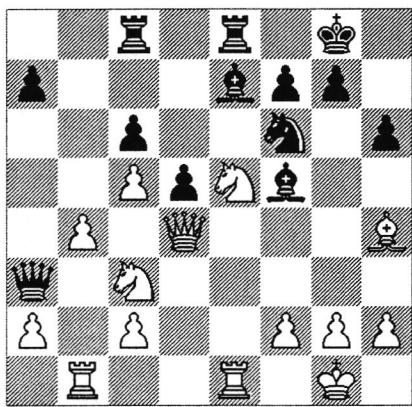
4. Black to move



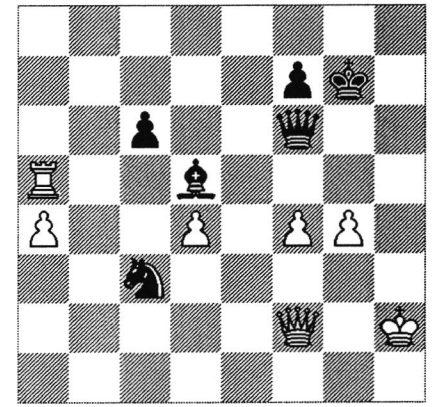
7. White to move



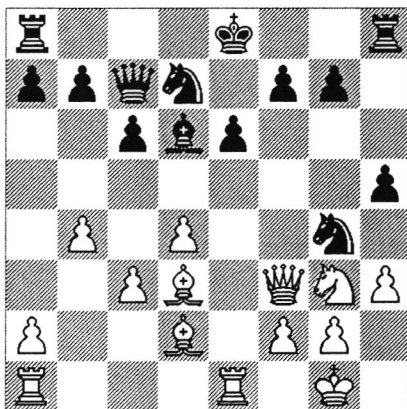
2. White to move



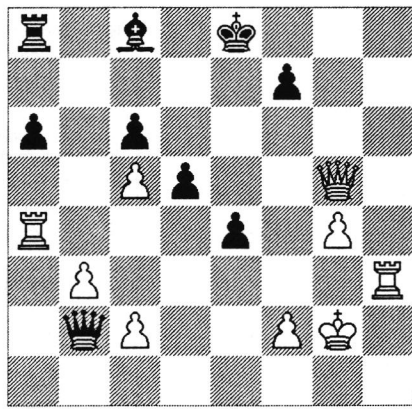
5. White to move



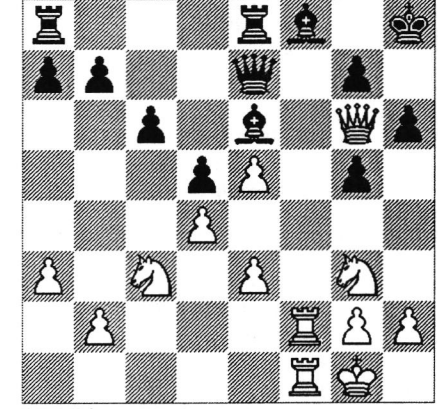
8. White to move



3. Black to move



6. White to move



9. White to move