

Issue 967 - May/June 2016

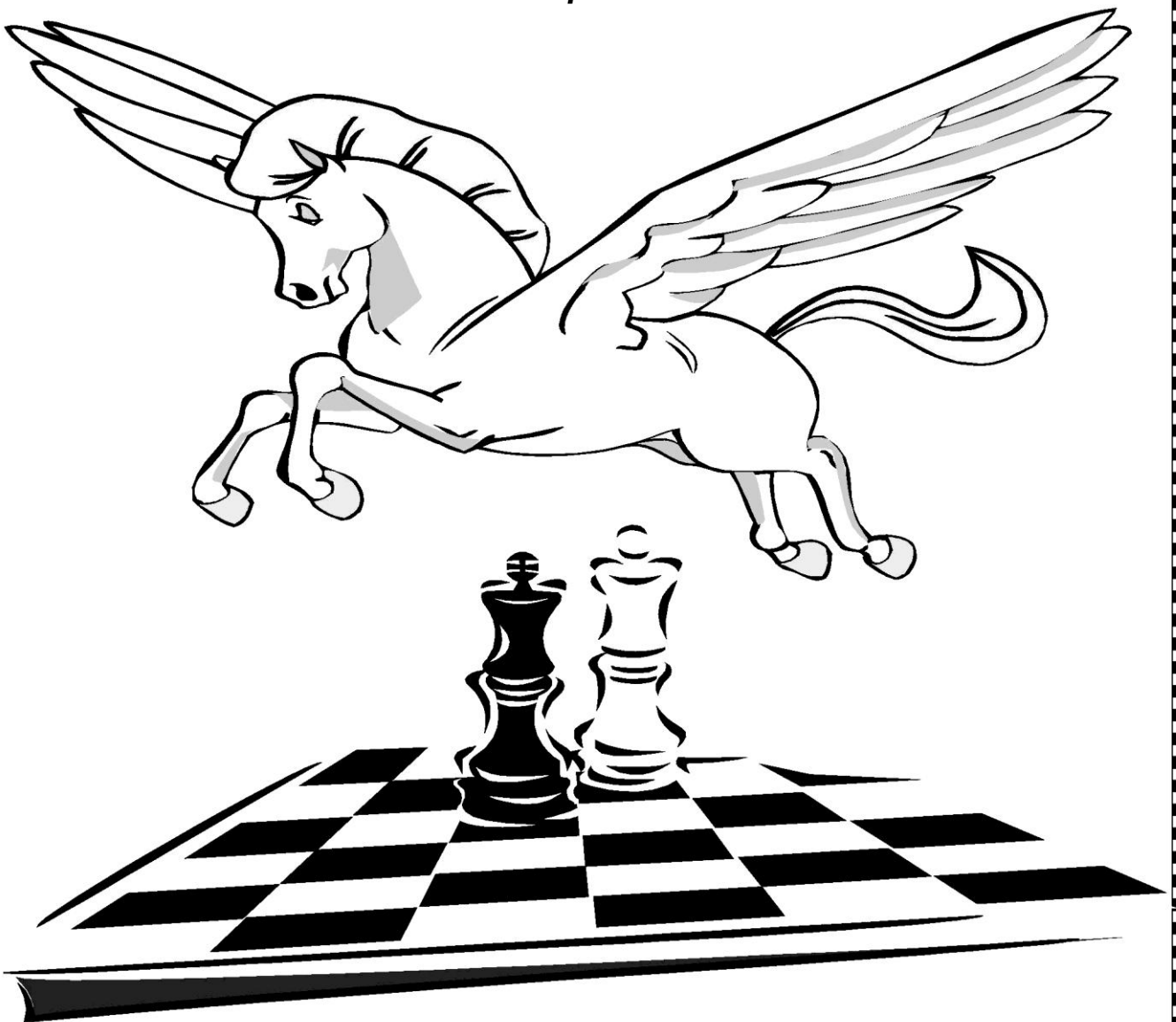
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NATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE

CHESS CLUB

The object of the club

"To foster friendship between members"



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Visit our website at natcor.org.uk

Editorial

Welcome to the May/June EP- Our apologies for the delay this time around, this has been so we could fit in the AGM info and keep the magazine as up to date as possible. This month we have a game for you to enjoy, courtesy of Mr Hibbert. Until next time enjoy your chess...

Lee Senior (Editor)

A quick note about deadlines- for anyone wanting to contribute to EP (and why wouldn't you?) please note that I require copy emailed to me on a Word doc please by the 15th July. If anyone wishes to send an article via snail mail that is also welcome. Ed

Chairman's Chat - Marc Wakeham

Hello Fellow Natcorians,

Well our AGM has come and gone. 7 Members including our very own GM Keith Richardson were in attendance. We fairly rattled through the AGM business and then minds turned to an informal discussion of ideas. These Ideas have been noted and your committee will now look into the ideas in greater detail on your behalf.

The meeting (full details elsewhere in this EP) discussed the free membership offer. It was noted that we only had one dissenting voice (albeit a very strong one) from our membership to the offer. However, the vast majority of our members considered the experiment a great success with the committee rewarding the loyal members as well as attracting new members. The initial indicators are that the idea has been a success, bringing in a lot of new members whilst making a VERY small dent in our accounts. Of course the real test will be long term. This is where ALL of the club has a role to play. We need to live up to our motto and "Foster friendship". We need to show those who have joined that we are the friendliest club around!

We still need YOU to help run NATCOR We have several post that are unfilled and our CT Controller, Mary Deans, is now finding her life is getting busier and she needs to take a step back. Mary has served the club faithfully for a long time and deserves a break. So our need is even greater. PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE give this request your serious consideration.

And finally....

To the aforementioned Keith Richardson, Congratulations on 60 YEARS of NATCOR membership.

You can find us in the following places

Facebook - Just type in NATCOR.

Twitter: Look for NATCOR@NATCORCHESS

On the web - www.natcor.org.uk

Email - have your EP delivered directly to your PC, laptop or Tablet!)

Paper - EP will continue to be available by post!

Enjoy the best game in the world with the best correspondence club in the world!

NATCOR - "To Foster friendship between members"

Secretary's Notes- Fred Margrave

HELLOOOOO Natcorians,

At last your long awaited Secretary's notes to brighten your day. Oh no!! I hear a groan from our members.

I love May it is a terrific month; we have nearly maximum daylight hours; the sunshine has been very pleasant. The dawn chorus is so loud yet so enchanting. I have a garden in full bloom with such an array of colours. We have just had the FA cup final...Boris versus Cameron, what fun. The Eurovision Song Contest, I know you all miss Terence Wogan, a sad loss of a great broadcaster. But we have just had our AGM- it went as smooth as a whistle.

I'm not sure but I think Coleshill is gonna be our Headquarters. Watch this space..

I haven't had a drink since Xmas, only the odd whisky. So the Saturday came around (the eve of the AGM) and Marc (our Chairman) Wakeham and I had a few pints of real ALE (it was like Amber Nectar), (it puts hairs on yer chest) and a lovely Carvery also. I'm afraid I can't drink that weak flavoured, thin insipid, chemical canal water called lager.

Then out of the blue who walks in but Keith Richardson GM (Natcor patron) and his good lady wife. I've been to 13 AGMs and been with Natcor 19 years, and never met the mighty KEITH. A thoroughly nice chap. I recommend you make an effort and get down to the AGM next year and meet all your chess mates, it is always uplifting and going home is an anti-climax. Keith also informed me he had been with the club 60 years which is a phenomenal achievement, so well done to all our members who started in the 50s and 60s they are our stalwarts.

I know there will be some wailing and tears, but I'm changing jobs to Vice Chairman, while Colin Hipwell steps in to do the Secretary's job. We are constantly trying to improve Natcor, and getting the right person for the right job is beneficial; we all have our fortes. Don't become depressed, by popular demand they might ask me to write a few items for the EP from time to time.

Please note the Officials' reports were fully published in our March/April EP. The minutes of this year's AGM are included in this EP.

NEW MEMBER

A very warm welcome to Andrew Burridge.

We hope you enjoy your stay with us.

Now for a very important matter! We have a number of vacant positions within Natcor. Please consider helping, full instruction for each job is available, we will guide you through each process.

We need a: Recruitment Officer, Match Captain, Games Editor, Assistant Editor/Reporter and a Grading Officer.

The most pressing position needing filling is that of CT Controller, Mary Deans, due to heavy work commitments. Mary needs to pass this job on as soon as possible. Please think seriously about this role. There may be a need to suspend the CT until this position is filled.

Please help out and contact our Chairman for details.

All the very best,

Fred

If anyone wishes to contact me about being Assistant Editor please do get in touch. It is good fun and rewarding (Ed.)

Minutes of the 56th AGM of the National Correspondence Chess Club (Natcor)

The meeting was held on Sunday 22nd May 2016 at "The Swan", High Street, Coleshill, Birmingham and commenced at 10.30am.

Members present were: Marc Wakeham, Des Green, Colin Mace, Anthony Thistlewood, Colin Hipwell, Fred Margrave and Keith Richardson GM.

1. Apologies for Absence: Craig Douglas, Lee Senior, Brian Goodwin, Matthew Boulton, Peter Dunks, Graham Mill-Wilson, Mary Deans, Jerry Cope and Chris Martin.

2. Minutes of the AGM 2016: Were taken as read as they had appeared in EP previously and were deemed to be a true record. Proposed by: Anthony Thistlewood Seconded by: Des Green.

3. Matters Arising: There were no matters arising.

4. Officers' Reports: These reports were taken as read having been published previously in EP. The Chairman emphasised the huge amount of work that the Committee had done during the year, particularly the additional work taken on by Colin Hipwell, and stated for the record that we now have a positive, efficient, forward-looking Committee to manage the Club's affairs.

A vote of thanks, proposed by Colin Hipwell and Seconded by Marc Wakeham, was recorded for Fred Margrave's brave and far-sighted work on the free trial/£1 renewal project.

The Treasurer reported that the Club's finances are in fine shape with £7900 in the bank at present. Full records of the accounts for year-end 31st December 2015 have already been published in EP.

5. Election of Officers:

Committee: All current incumbents have agreed to serve for another year. There were no other volunteers.

There is one change to the Committee: With immediate effect Fred Margrave will take on the Vice-Chairmanship and Colin Hipwell will take on the role of Club Secretary.

Auditor: Once again we are blessed with the help of Mark Green who takes no payment for his services (we make a small donation to charity on his behalf). Proposed by: Keith Richardson GM, Seconded by Colin Mace.

President: Proposed by Marc Wakeham, Seconded by Des Green. The Committee's decision was unanimous that Craig Douglas should be instated as President of Natcor for the coming year.

6. Date and Venue for AGM 2017: It was proposed by Marc Wakeham and Seconded by Colin Hipwell that the same venue be booked for next year. However, it was decided to hold the meeting earlier in the month to fit better with EP publication deadlines. A provisional date of Sunday 14th May 2017 was agreed.

The meeting was closed at 10:55am.

Following the official AGM business a general discussion on various Natcor topics was held. During these discussions we were pleased to welcome Ray and Eunice Dolan who had unfortunately been delayed and missed the AGM itself. Among the topics discussed were: recruitment, membership fees, trophies and club staffing levels. All of these and more will be looked at by the Committee and actioned as necessary during the coming year.

There now follows two pictures of the attendees at our AGM 2016.



Back row (L-R): Keith Richardson GM, Anthony Thistlewood, Marc Wakeham, Fred Margrave
Front row: Des Green and Colin Mace



Can you spot the subtle difference? Yes, that's right; Fred has been replaced by Colin Hipwell on the back row on the right.

Natcor imagery at its best and it perhaps gives a new meaning to the phrase "airbrush"!: Ed

Reg Gilman Continuous Tournament (correct up to 1st Mar 16)

	R/R	G/O	P	W	D	L	Pts
LAWRENCE, GRAHAM		2	18	16	2	0	17
DUDENEY, PETER	1	5	20	15	4	1	17
Mason, Ian		2	20	13	7	0	16.5
Truelove, Colin		1	20	14	5	1	16.5
BAILEY, STEPHEN		16	20	15	2	3	16
Deans, Mary	3	9	20	14	3	3	15.5
Hayton, Guy		6	18	14	2	2	15
Savage, Guy	1	3	20	12	4	4	14
Thistlewood, Anthony		4	20	13	2	5	14
Stevenson, Robert		18	20	11	5	4	13.5
Richardson, Dave		2	20	11	4	5	13
Frith, Ronnie		10	20	11	3	6	12.5
Robertson, James	1	4	20	9	6	5	12
Margrave, Fred		4	20	10	4	6	12
Garvock, Jim		4	20	11	2	7	12
Sitorus, Yosua	1	3	11	10	1	0	10.5
Davey, Allan		2	20	8	5	7	10.5
Phillips-Reid, Malcolm		2	20	9	3	8	10.5
Butcher, Doug		6	20	10	1	9	10.5
Randall, Adam	2	2	20	10	1	9	10.5
Rigby, Anthony		8	20	10	1	9	10.5
White, John		2	20	8	4	8	10
Dunks, Peter	3	1	11	8	3	0	9.5
Mace, Colin	1	3	20	7	5	8	9.5
Blackwell, Eric		2	20	8	3	9	9.5
Upton, Bob	2	4	20	9	1	10	9.5
Spencer, Adam	3	6	18	8	2	8	9
Caulkett, Pete		4	20	7	4	9	9
Goodwin, Brian		4	20	7	4	9	9
Martin, Chris		4	20	7	4	9	9
Green, Des	1	1	20	8	2	10	9
Drury, Philip		2	20	4	8	8	8
Dahlgren, Paul		2	20	5	6	9	8
Douglas, Craig	1	3	20	5	6	9	8
Allport, Andrew		10	20	7	2	11	8
Cornes, David		4	20	7	2	11	8
Lyne, Colin	4	16	8	7	1	0	7.5
Pomeroy, Ray	2	2	20	7	1	12	7.5
Wakeham, Marc	4	12	20	5	4	11	7
Wusteman, Fred		6	20	5	4	11	7
Hipwell, Colin	2	2	20	4	5	11	6.5
Grant, Peter		4	20	5	3	12	6.5
West, Bob		2	20	4	4	12	6
Dowell, Chris		2	20	6	0	14	6
Lawton, John	3	7	5	5	0	0	5
Burgess, Simon		2	12	3	4	5	5
Brown, Paul	2	2	20	4	2	14	5

Mill-Wilson, Graham		4	20	4	2	14	5
Egginton, Roy	2	2	20	2	4	14	4
Simons, Philip		2	4	3	1	0	3.5
Mackenzie, Reginald		2	20	2	3	15	3.5
Armiger Paul	2	1	3	3	0	0	3
Guy, Paul	1	3	7	3	0	4	3
Rixon, Anthony	2	6	20	2	2	16	3
Orchard, Chris		2	2	2	0	0	2
Pope, Paul		4	4	1	1	2	1.5
Swindells, Philip		2	6	1	1	4	1.5
Childs, Simon		2	4	1	0	3	1
McCaul, Christian		2	4	1	0	3	1
Payne, Graham	3	11	5	1	0	4	1
Sutcliffe, Patricia		5	5	1	0	4	1
Dolan, Ray		4	2	0	0	2	0
Feeney, William	2	2	2	0	0	2	0
Nichol, John		2	2	0	0	2	0
Fowler, Lindsay		6	12	0	0	12	0

No Results Box

Burridge, Raymond		4	0	0	0	0	0
Holdsworth, Alan		4	0	0	0	0	0
Lawrence, Stephanie		4	0	0	0	0	0
Frith, Stephen		2	0	0	0	0	0
Harkins, Nick		2	0	0	0	0	0

NO GAMES OUTSTANDING

Basson, Heinrich		0	4	0	0	4	0
Dempster, John		0	20	6	0	14	6
Filby, Ray		0	16	7	1	8	7.5
McGuigan, Michael	1	0	20	5	3	12	6.5
Pointon, Michael	1	0	4	0	1	3	0.5
Pooley, Mark		0	20	9	8	3	13
Wild, Freddie		0	1	0	0	1	0

M. McGuigan and M.Pointon are one month. H.Basson is two months and J.Dempster, R .Filby, M.Pooley, F.Wild are on three months.

RGCT RESULTS (04/03/16 to 29/05/16)

22/02/2016	32061	Colin Truelove	0.5	0.5	Yosua Sitorus
05/03/2016	32004	Brian Goodwin	0	1	Mary Deans
11/03/2016	31905	Mary Deans	1	0	Mark Pooley
18/03/2016	32040	Philip Swindells	0	1	Mary Deans
05/03/2016	32055	Stephen Bailey	0	1	Peter Dudeney
08/03/2016	32111	Colin Hipwell	0	1	Des Green
11/03/2016	32009	John Dempster	1	0	Paul Guy
11/03/2016	32010	Paul Guy	1	0	John Dempster
12/03/2016	32054	Colin Truelove	1	0	Stephen Bailey
16/03/2016	32150	Paul Pope	0	1	Peter Dunks
19/03/2016	32069	Colin Hipwell	0.5	0.5	Reg Mackenzie
20/03/2016	32112	Des Green	0.5	0.5	Colin Hipwell
20/03/2016	32149	Peter Dunks	1	0	Paul Pope
23/03/2016	32070	Reg Mackenzie	0	1	Colin Hipwell
24/03/2016	32131	Patricia Sutcliffe	0	1	Paul Arminger
26/03/2016	32056	Peter Dudeney	1	0	Stephen Bailey
26/03/2016	32091	Stephen Bailey	1	0	AnthonyThistlewood
27/03/2016	32024	Marc Wakeham	0.5	0.5	Stephen Bailey
27/03/2016	32117	Stephen Bailey	1	0	Jim Robertson
27/03/2016	32098	Mike Pointon	0	1	Stephen Bailey
28/03/2016	32030	Paul Dahlgren	0.5	0.5	Jim Robertson
30/03/2016	31903	Mark Pooley	0.5	0.5	Marc Wakeham
30/03/2016	32155	Ray Filby	1	0	John Nichol
30/03/2016	32156	John Nichol	0	1	Ray Filby
31/03/2016	32088	Chris Dowell	1	0	Marc Wakeham
01/04/2016	32087	Marc Wakeham	0	1	Chris Dowell
02/04/2016	32097	Stephen Bailey	1	0	Michael Pointon
04/04/2016	32007	John Dempster	0	1	Anthony Rigby
04/04/2016	32008	Anthony Rigby	1	0	John Dempster
05/04/2016	31875	Peter Caulkett	0.5	0.5	Robert Stevensen
18/04/2016	32003	Mary Deans	1	0	Brian Goodwin
18/04/2016	32041	Robert Stevensen	1	0	Graham Payne
18/04/2016	32042	Graham Payne	0	1	Robert Stevensen
06/04/2016	32090	Mike Pointon	0.5	0.5	Adam Spencer
14/04/2016	32139	Marc Wakeham	0	1	Colin Lyne
14/04/2016	32140	Colin Lyne	1	0	Marc Wakeham
14/04/2016	32092	AnthonyThistlewood	0	1	Stephen Bailey
18/04/2016	32169	Marc Wakeham	0	1	John Lawton
19/04/2016	32170	John Lawton	1	0	Marc Wakeham
22/04/2016	32145	Phil Drury	0.5	0.5	Paul Pope
22/04/2016	32118	Jim Robertson	0	1	Stephen Bailey
22/04/2016	32146	Paul Pope	1	0	Phil Drury
23/04/2016	32078	Heinrich Basson	0	1	Marc Wakeham Anthony
27/04/2016	32167	Peter Dudeney	1	0	Thistlewood
28/04/2016	32168	AnthonyThistlewood	0	1	Peter Dudeney
05/05/2016	31991	Bob Upton	1	0	Graham Payne
05/05/2016	31992	Graham Payne	1	0	Bob Upton
02/05/2016	32191	Marc Wakeham	0.5	0.5	Peter Dunks
14/05/2016	32109	Mary Deans	0.5	0.5	Guy Savage
24/05/2016	32175	Mary Deans	0.5	0.5	Colin Lyne
24/05/2016	32176	Colin Lyne	1	0	Mary Deans
03/05/2016	32159	Anthony Rixon	0	1	John Lawton
03/05/2016	32160	John Lawton	1	0	Anthony Rixon
04/05/2016	32192	Peter Dunks	1	0	Marc Wakeham
05/05/2016	31978	Graham Payne	0	1	Colin Mace
06/05/2016	32126	Paul Guy	0	1	Des Green
07/05/2016	32089	Adam Spencer	1	0	Michael Pointon
11/05/2015	32173	Paul Brown	0	1	Colin Lyne
11/05/2016	32174	Colin Lyne	1	0	Paul Brown
11/05/2016	32143	Craig Douglas	1	0	William Feeney

12/05/2016	32171	Adam Spencer	0	1	John Lawton
12/05/2016	32142	Paul Armiger	1	0	Ray Pomeroy
14/05/2016	32128	Roy Eggington	0	1	Marc Wakeham
15/05/2016	32165	Adam Spencer	0	1	Yosua Sitorus
17/05/2016	32183	Peter Dudeney	0.5	0.5	Jim Robertson
17/05/2016	32129	Colin Hipwell	0	1	Adam Randall
17/05/2016	32130	Adam Randall	1	0	Colin Hipwell
23/05/2016	32148	William Feeney	0	1	Peter Dunks
29/05/2016	31760	Michael McGuigan	0	1	Colin Mace
26/05/2016	32127	Marc Wakeham	1	0	Roy Eggington
29/05/2016	32141	Ray Pomeroy	0	1	Paul Arminger

RGCT PAIRINGS (19/03/16 to 29/05/16)

19/03/2016	32165	32166	Adam Spencer	Yosua Sitorus
19/03/2016	32167	32168	Peter Dudeney	Anthony Thistlewood
19/03/2016	32169	32170	Marc Wakeham	John Lawton
19/03/2016	32171	32172	Adam Spencer	John Lawton
19/03/2016	32173	32174	Paul Brown	Colin Lyne
19/03/2016	32175	32176	Mary Deans	Colin Lyne
19/03/2016	32177	32178	Graham Mill-Wilson	Philip Swindells
19/03/2016	32179	32180	Andrew Allport	Stephanie Lawerence
04/04/2016	32181	32182	Mary Deans	Stephen Bailey
04/04/2016	32183	32184	Peter Dudeney	Jim Robertson
04/04/2016	32187	32188	Marc Wakeham	Paul Guy
04/04/2016	32189	32190	Marc Wakeham	Reginald Mackenzie
04/04/2016	32191	32192	Marc Wakeham	Peter Dunks
04/04/2016	32193	32194	Chris Dowell	Stephanie Lawerence
24/05/2016	32195	32196	Colin Hipwell	Phil Drury
24/05/2016	32197	32198	Brian Goodwin	Colin Lyne
24/05/2016	32199	32200	Stephen Bailey	Robert Stevenson
24/05/2016	32201	32202	Peter Dudeney	Adam Randall
24/05/2016	32203	32204	Stephen Bailey	John Lawton
24/05/2016	32205	32206	Stephen Bailey	Anthony Rigby
24/05/2016	32207	32208	Marc Wakeham	Paul Pope
24/05/2016	32209	32210	Anthony Thistlewood	John Lawton
24/05/2016	32211	32212	Mary Deans	Anthony Thistlewood
24/05/2016	32213	32214	Paul Brown	Raymond Burrridge
24/05/2016	32215	32216	Graham Payne	Raymond Burrridge
24/05/2016	32217	32218	Anthony Rigby	Bob Upton
24/05/2016	32219	32220	Graham Payne	Marc Wakeham
24/05/2016	32221	32222	Jim Robertson	Colin Lyne
24/05/2016	32223	32224	Brian Goodwin	Paul Dahlgren
24/05/2016	32225	32226	Adam Spencer	Colin Lyne
29/05/2016	32227	32228	Ray Pomeroy	Paul Pope
29/05/2016	32229	32230	Roy Eggington	Colin Lyne

NBKO159 Semi-Final Update by Anthony Thistlewood

Colin Hipwell 1-0 Marc Wakeham (minor game)

SCCA Vs. NCCC

This 9-board match is poised on a knife-edge with the scores level at 8.5 and just one game remaining. Phil Drury is our man on the spot so no pressure, Phil!

Progress can be viewed on the ICCF server at: <https://www.iccf.com/event?id=52579> or via the link on our web site.

SCO	White	Black	White	Black	NCCC
Board 1 Campbell, Eoin S. 2193	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	Deans, Mary Helen 2257
Board 2 Burridge, Raymond John 2106	1	0	1	0	Dudeney, Peter 2049
Board 3 Coope, Derek William 1908	1	0	1	0	Cooper, Ronald A. 1973
Board 4 Armstrong, Alan 1892	1/2	0	1	1/2	Green, Des 1829
Board 5 Gilbert, Robert 1790	1	1	0	0	Thistlewood, Anthony 1692
Board 6 MacMillen, Andrew N. 1676	-	1	0	-	Drury, Philip 1657
Board 7 Armstrong, John M. 1634	1	0	1	0	Hipwell, Colin 1625
Board 8 Moir, Patrick 1609	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	Wakeham, Marc R. 1503
Board 9 McKinstry, John 1556	0	0	1	1	Pallister, Simon 1600 ^P
Total:		8.5		8.5	

BCCA Vs NCCC

A 12-board match between the BCCA and Natcor began on 22 April via the ICCF server. Our representatives are: Mary Deans, Peter Dudeney, Colin Truelove, Cornelius Cornes, Simon Pallister, Peter Dunks, Fred Margrave, Anthony Thistlewood, Phil Drury (C), Colin Hipwell, Paul Pope and Marc Wakeham.

The state of play at going to press is shown below. Progress of live games can be seen on the ICCF server here: <https://www.iccf.com/event?id=58510> or via the link on our web site.

BCCA	White	Black	White	Black	NATCOR
Sherwood, Alexander 2187	-	-	-	-	Deans, Mary Helen 2231
Campbell, Eoin S. 2068	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	Dudeney, Peter 2087
Burridge, Raymond John 2043	1	0	1	0	Truelove, C. 2030
Beckett, Phillip J. 2025	1	-	-	0	Cornes, David J. 1887
Cooper, Ronald A. 1996	-	1	0	-	Pallister, Simon 1880
Burton, Stephen 1883	-	-	-	-	Dunks, Peter 1820
Douglass, Paul 1846	-	-	-	-	Margrave, Alfred 1774
Tymms, J. D. M. 1843	-	-	-	-	Thistlewood, Anthony 1708
Tibbert, Peter H. 1758	-	-	-	-	Drury, Philip 1644
Woodhouse, Stephen 1740	-	-	-	-	Hipwell, Colin 1608
Howell, David 1562	-	-	-	-	Pope, Paul 1574
Gosling, David C. 1489	-	0	1	-	Wakeham, Marc R. 1494
Total:		4		3	

If you would like to represent Natcor in future team events please contact Phil and register your interest (ukmatchcaptain@natcor.org.uk)

Webserver Section Report – Colin Hipwell TD

Club Section Winners Championship

Gary Maguire and Ian Mason fought an epic battle for this title but could not be separated. Both games were drawn so Gary and Ian are declared 'Joint Club Section Champion 2016'.

Webserver Triplets Tournaments

Webserver Triplets Tournament 1 is finished and congratulations go to Yosua Sitorus our first Triplets Tournament winner.

Results:

Yosua Sitorus 2-0 Cornelius Cornes
Colin Truelove ½-1½ Yosua Sitorus
Colin Truelove 2-0 Cornelius Cornes

Tournament 2:

This final began on 25th May between Fred Margrave, Peter Dunks and Marc Wakeham.

Results:

Peter Dunks 1-0 Marc Wakeham

Tournament 3:

This final began on 28th May between Paul Armiger, Simon Pallister and Patricia Sutcliffe.

Triplet Tournament 4 is now under way:

Section 4A (17/04/2016 – 17/04/2017)

Alex Tupper, Anthony Thistlewood, Peter Dunks

Section 4B (25/04/2016 – 25/04/2017)

John Nichol, Patricia Sutcliffe, Marc Wakeham

Results:

John Nichol 2-0 Patricia Sutcliffe

Marc Wakeham 1-0 John Nichol

Patricia Sutcliffe 1-0 Marc Wakeham

New entries for the Triplet Tournaments have slowed down recently and we would like more of you to give the Webserver Section a try. The more players we have registered the easier it is to match members according to grading. If you already play in this section then why not register for rolling entries so that new pairings are arranged automatically when your current games finish.

Don't forget, too, that you can now opt to play your Natcor games in any of our tournaments via the server provided your opponent agrees. Banish clerical errors, time-wasting ambiguous/illegal moves and let the system record your moves and calculate your time for you all automatically. Just sit back and play chess!

Contact me at webserver@natcor.org.uk to register your interest. I'm always happy to provide you with an introductory game to try it out for yourself.



Book Review by Dr Adam Spencer

Houska, Jovanka, 2007. *Play the Caro-Kann: A complete chess opening repertoire against 1. e4*. London: Everyman Chess.

A problem faced by every chess player is how to respond to white's opening move of 1 e4. Over the course of a forty year plus chess career I think that I have tried pretty much every defence that enjoys a degree of respectability, and a few that do not.

There always seems to be one or two lines that throw me and, inevitably, these seem to be the ones that my opponents choose more often than not. If I play 1. ... e5 then I am content to face the Ruy Lopez but some of white's more immediately aggressive choices cause me difficulty; a difficulty made worse in over the board chess by having to remember complicated lines. I like the open Sicilian, and score well with it, but tend to lose against choices such as the Bb5 lines. Years ago I liked the Alekhine Defence but so many met it with the dull 2. Nc3 that I abandoned it. What of the French? Well, sadly, I just don't understand it and can't play the positions that arise. In my head I can now hear our Chairman shouting "Play the Pirc!" I did, with null points being the usual outcome.

This review considers Jovanka Houska's book on the Caro-Kann. As a respectable defence I have, of course, played it. Here my problems were with the Advance variation and, in correspondence chess, also with the Panov-Botvinnik Attack. Houska claims to offer a complete repertoire against 1 e4. Has she done it? I have to say that she has.

Against the 'Main Line' 3. Nc3 she advocates the old Capablanca line of Bf5. I thought this somewhat inferior with both sides castling on the queen's side and white, by and large, the only one with serious winning chances. Houska thinks differently, preferring black to castle short producing tense positions with black being very much in the fight. Against my bug-bear of the Advance, instead of Bf5 she prefers the 'Arkell line' of 3. ... c5. This, too, used to be thought inferior but Houska shows that it is fully playable so long as black is prepared to learn a few tactical lines.

What I really like about this book is not so much the lines that she recommends but her writing. She writes so clearly and engagingly, remembering that not everyone who buys her book will be as strong a player as she is. She takes time to explain the consequences of pawn structures; she explains the plans available and does not assume that they are obvious. Against 3.Nc3 especially, she shows when black should try one pawn break rather than another. I bought this book as an impulse buy at a chess congress. I went to the congress intending to play the Sicilian against 1 e4. But, after reading the early chapters of this book I bashed out the Caro-Kann the next day, played 3...Bf5 against 3. Nc3 which I had never played before and felt that I understood the position and what I was doing. Indeed I got a great position from the opening.

Has Houska solved the problem of what to play against 1 e4? No, obviously not. One must play in keeping with one's style and chess preferences. But, if you like the Caro-Kann, or would like to re-examine it after a break then there is a great deal in this book to interest and inspire. But the real star is Jovanka Houska herself. Those of us who are not grandmasters must hope that she writes more books because, dear friends, she writes for us; not to show how clever she is but to explain so that we might understand. And that is such a joy.

White – Bill Pettigrew
Black – Warren Hibbert

Irregular Opening

White	Black
1. e4	e5
2. d4	exd4
3. f4	d6
4. Nf3	Bg4
5. Bd3	Nc6
6. a3	a6
7. o-o	Qe7
8. Nbd2	o-o-o
9. b4	Nf6
10. b5	axb5
11. Bxb5	Ne5
12. fxe5	dxe5
13. c4	dxc3 e.p
14. Qa4	c6
15. Bxc6	Qc5 +
16. Kh1	Qxc6
17. Qa8 +	Kc7
18. Qa5+	Qb6
19. Q x b6	Kxb6
20. Nc4+	Kc7
21.N3 x e5	Be6
22. Be3	Be7
23. Bb6+	Kc3
24. B x d8	Rxd8
25. Rfc1	Nxe4
26. Resigns	
0	- 1

A snippet: from President Nixon to Bobby Fischer

“Dear Bobby,

Your convincing victory at Reykjavik is eloquent witness to your complete mastery of the world's most difficult and challenging game. The Championships you have won is a great personal triumph for you and I am pleased to join countless of your fellow citizens in extending my heartiest congratulations and best wishes.

Sincerely yours

Richard Nixon”

The above is quoted in my copy of “Fischer – Spassky move by move” published by Batsford.

*Many thanks to Mr Warren Hibbert for the above game and fascinating snippet from Richard Nixon:
Ed*

NATCOR TOURNAMENTS

Natcor offers a variety of tournament formats to suit a wide range of circumstances and abilities.

All Natcor tournaments are free to enter for our members.

All Natcor tournaments are double-pairing events (2 games against each opponent, one as white and one as black) unless otherwise stated.

Method of play for most tournaments (post, email, web server etc.) can be agreed by the players with post as the default.

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The All-Play-All Tournament. Each APA event consists of 4x4-player sections. Each section winner goes forward to the final. Entries can be made at any time and a new section will start when there are sufficient entrants.

The Noman Bond Knockout. Each section begins with a round of 8 players. The winners go forward to a semi-final and then a final. The winner of each section final enters 'The NBKO Hall Of Fame'. Entries can be requested at any time and a new section will start when there are sufficient players registered.

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The Friendlies Section. Here there are no restrictions except for the rules of chess. There are no time constraints or other limitations. A great opportunity to try out that new line or gambit without fear of damaging your reputation or grading.

UK and Overseas Matches. From time to time we play matches against other CC clubs in the UK and abroad. Details of these events are published in EP and on the web site as and when required.

Applications for entry or further information about our tournaments can be made via our individual tournament controllers whose contact details are listed at the back of this magazine.

Natcor Friendly Tournament Jim Tabor

This is just a reminder that the Natcor Friendly Tournament is open to members. The only rules that apply to this tournament are the rules of chess. There are no time limits, nor is there an adjudication date. Another advantage of this tournament is that players can try new strategies and openings etc. without the risk of falling behind in any league tables.

If you wish to play correspondence chess, either by post or email and don't want the constraints of adjudication dates or how long you should take between moves then the Friendly Tournament would be ideal for you. The pairings and results of individual games will be published in the EP, subject to agreement from both players.

At the moment the only players awaiting pairings are Ronnie and David Frith, both are requiring postal pairings. If you have also requested pairings please send me a reminder. Alternatively, if you would like some pairings anyway, please let me know. Remember to state whether you require postal or email pairings, or if you are prepared to accept either. I also need to know how many pairings you wish to take on.

My email address is: friendlies@natcor.org.uk

Thanks Jim

ADVERT

13 & 14 August 2016

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Grand Prix Congress

Contact Ray Dolan

Sunshine.dolan@gmail.com

23 Hollands Road, Walsall WS3 3AT

Entry fees

£32 (over 65 £27, Juniors £25)

Entries after 7/8/16 add £7

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