

# EN PASSANT



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The Journal of the National Correspondence Chess Club  
*The object of the Club: 'To foster friendship between members.'*

- **2023/2024 LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP UNDER WAY**
- **COMMITTEE AND PRESIDENT NOMINATIONS OPEN**
  - **TOURNAMENT NEWS**



## Chairman's Chat

### Hi all From NATCOR TOWERS

As we come to the end of 2023. I hope we can reflect on some enjoyable times playing chess with our Natcor family. I know I have many such memories.

Remember the Club is here for the members. It is not a hobby for the committee. Please send any ideas you have for events etc. to the Secretary. We are currently looking at one such idea very closely and we hope to move forward on it in the new year. The idea came from a handful of guys via our Facebook page. So, please, don't be shy; if it is workable we will try to run with your ideas!

We are also starting to think about the future as we start our plans for our virtual AGM. Please think what you can do for your club. Also, please start thinking about a nomination for your next President. Is there a player who embodies the values of the club? It's the members' recognising a member.

Back to my first thoughts. May I be the first to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a fantastic New Year.

### Remember

*You can find us in the following places:*

Facebook - Just type in NATCOR

X - Look for NATCOR@NATCORCHESS

The web - [www.natcor.org.uk](http://www.natcor.org.uk)

Email - have your EP delivered directly to your phone, 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!



### New Members

We extend a warm Natcor welcome to ADJ Smith from Lincoln, Barry Hampton from Southampton, Paul Keevil from Wigan and Chris Smith from Leigh.



### Recruitment Team Update – Nick Glanville

Thanks to Natcor members who have offered to take promo materials to in-person events that they have been attending to promote the Club. Now that in-person tournaments are up and running again, I would like to ask any other members that are attending events to let me know if they would be willing to take Natcor promo materials with them.



## Committee Nominations Invited

Do you feel you could fulfil one of the roles on our committee? Posts now open for applicants are: Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Webmaster, Editor of En Passant and one of three general committee roles. A nomination shall consist of the signatures of the proposer and seconder, and a signed statement by the candidate that, if elected, they will be willing to serve. The candidate, proposer and seconder must be fully paid up members of the Club. If there is more than one candidate for any of these posts a ballot of the members will be held. Nominations must be with the Chairman by 20<sup>th</sup> December. Job descriptions for all of our officials are available from the 'Clubhouse' page on the Natcor web site. Candidates must, of course, have access to the internet in order to attend online committee meetings and conduct business in a timely manner.



## The Reg Gilman Continuous Tournament Annual Report – Peter Dudeney

*(This report should have appeared in the previous EP – apologies for my oversight. Ed.)*

You can see from this month's CT table that Natcor's flagship tournament continues to hold its own, with a monthly average over the past year of 70 to 80 members active in the CT. I would expect some downturn in activity as we continue to emerge fully from the pandemic. Nevertheless, with 235 new pairings over the past twelve months, and with the results from 466 games being recorded, activity in the CT compares favourably with last year.

Of the 235 new pairings, over 80% were on the webserver. Postal pairings (38) were up by 1/3<sup>rd</sup> compared to last year, and only 5 pairings were email. The increase in postal pairings has largely been down to our welcoming ex-BCCA postal players, following BCCA's decision to close down their postal events. Natcor remains committed to providing and supporting postal play. To this end, and recognising the increased demand for postal pairings, I have encouraged the formation of a small group of members who will take further postal pairings at any time. I want to thank them for this commitment! Despite the obvious popularity of the webserver, and ongoing problems with the postal service, postal players will continue to hold their own in the CT, and I want to encourage that. So I am always on the look-out for more members willing to play the occasional postal pairing. Please therefore give this some thought if you have not already done so.

Finally, I just want to remind members of the auto-renewal facility, whereby a player who finishes a pairing is automatically put down for a new pairing. This helps keep the momentum of the CT going and makes my job easier! I would encourage members of the CT who do not have this facility to ask for it.

Enjoy your chess!



**Tournament News***(Events not mentioned here remain as last reported)***The Reg Gilman Continuous Tournament – Mary Deans****RGCT Table @ 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

<b>Name</b>	<b>R/R</b>	<b>G/O</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>Pts</b>
WAKEHAM, MARC CCM		7	20	14	6	0	17
Deans, Mary		8	20	12	8	0	16
Sherwood, Russell CCM		8	20	12	8	0	16
GARVOCK, JIM		4	20	13	5	2	15½
Hardingham, David		6	20	10	9	1	14½
Brockbank, Henry IM	2	10	20	10	8	2	14
Pooley, Mark	5	7	19	11	6	2	14
Jones, Andrew	8	5	15	12	2	1	13
Mason, Ian CCM	1	4	20	7	12	1	13
+BAILEY, STEPHEN	4	22	20	10	6	4	13
Cutter, Paul	1	7	20	10	6	4	13
Kirk, Matthew	3	2	20	10	6	4	13
Pointon, Michael	1	1	20	10	6	4	13
Dixon, Richard	2	11	20	11	4	5	13
Mountford, David	2	5	20	11	4	5	13
Wright, Ashley	2	6	20	13	0	7	13
Hewes, Ralph	3	6	20	8	9	3	12½
Beckett, Phillip		8	20	9	7	4	12½
Spencer, Adam		4	20	11	3	6	12½
Anderson, Thomas		2	18	9	5	4	11½
Clarke, David	2	1	20	8	7	5	11½
Burridge, Raymond		8	20	5	12	3	11
Caulkett, Peter		8	18	9	4	5	11
Egginton, Roy	1	2	20	8	5	7	10½
Swindells, Philip		2	20	10	1	9	10½
Dahlgren, Paul		7	20	7	6	7	10
Elwood, David	5	7	20	7	6	7	10
Rhodes, Lawrence		6	20	7	6	7	10
Tupper, Alex	2	2	20	7	6	7	10
Rimmer, Tony		3	20	8	4	8	10
Richardson, Dave	1	4	20	9	2	9	10
Powell, Jonathan	2	5	20	8	3	9	9½
Cornes, Cornelius		3	20	6	5	9	8½
Dudeney, Keith	2	5	20	7	2	11	8
Barron, Gordon	4	5	20	8	0	12	8
Allport, Andrew	2	2	20	5	5	10	7½
Glanvile, Nicholas	1	2	20	5	5	10	7½
Moore, John	2	2	20	5	5	10	7½
Dunks, Peter	1	4	20	3	7	10	6½
Lawrence, Stephanie		1	20	5	3	12	6½
Rixon, Anthony		1	20	5	3	12	6½
Gibbons, Jim	2	6	20	3	6	11	6
Mill-Wilson, Graham	7	6	20	6	0	14	6

Douglas, Craig	1	3	20	2	7	11	5½
Girling, Clive CCM		2	6	4	2	0	5
Stone, John		4	20	3	4	13	5
Finch, Russell		2	20	3	3	14	4½
Shaw, Tony	1	11	20	3	3	14	4½
McCaul, Christian		6	20	4	1	15	4½
Titely, Malcolm	1	1	9	3	2	4	4
Watson, Wilfred	2	2	16	3	2	11	4
Drury, Philip		3	20	2	4	14	4
Ariss, John	3	6	20	3	2	15	4
White, John		2	20	3	1	16	3½
Hughes, Greg		3	3	3	0	0	3
Morton, Peter	2	8	8	1	3	4	2½
Biddulph, David		6	2	2	0	0	2
Scarrott, Clive		7	3	2	0	1	2
Palmer, Vincent	1	1	1	0	1	0	½
Law, Ken	2	2	20	0	0	20	0

**No Results Box**

Keevil, Paul		12	0	0	0	0	0
Smith, Chris		12	0	0	0	0	0
Clayton, Ian		4	0	0	0	0	0
Edge, David		4	0	0	0	0	0
Lead, Barry		4	0	0	0	0	0
Mounsey, Clive		2	0	0	0	0	0

**NO GAMES OUTSTANDING**

DUDENEY, PETER		0	20	9	7	4	12½	2nd month
Thistlewood, Anthony	1	0	20	3	2	15	4	1st month
Wusteman, Fred	2	0	20	4	6	10	7	1st month

**Results Reported Since EP 1011**

10/09/2023	35820	Andrew Jones	1	0	Ken Law
13/09/2023	35743	Stephen Bailey	1	0	Ken Law
18/09/2023	35729	Peter Dunks	0	1	Stephen Bailey
18/09/2023	35763	David Clarke	1	0	Ashley Wright
19/09/2023	35819	Ken Law	0	1	Andrew Jones
20/09/2023	35751	Phillip Beckett	0	1	David Elwood
21/09/2023	35842	Peter Dudeney	1	0	David Elwood
21/09/2023	35483	Nicholas Glanville	0	1	Stephen Bailey
24/09/2023	35849	Raymond Burrige	½	½	Andrew Jones
26/09/2023	35832	John Ariss	1	0	Jim Gibbons
26/09/2023	35850	Andrew Jones	½	½	Raymond Burrige
26/09/2023	35841	David Elwood	0	1	Peter Dudeney
27/09/2023	38503	David Elwood	½	½	Russell Finch
28/09/2023	35653	Andrew Allport	0	1	Henry Brockbank
28/09/2023	35848	Andrew Jones	1	0	Peter Dunks
28/09/2023	35641	Mary Deans	1	0	Stephen Bailey

01/10/2023	35581	Stephen Bailey	0	1	Marc Wakeham
01/10/2023	35527	Stephen Bailey	½	½	David Elwood
01/10/2023	35780	Greg Hughes	1	0	Philip Drury
02/10/2023	35804	Russell Finch	1	0	David Elwood
02/10/2023	35755	Michael Pointon	0	1	Ralph Hewes
02/10/2023	35744	Ken Law	0	1	Stephen Bailey
03/10/2023	35785	John Ariss	0	1	Mark Pooley
03/10/2023	35756	Ralph Hewes	½	½	Michael Pointon
04/10/2023	35443	Mary Deans	1	0	Mark Pooley
04/10/2023	35831	Jim Gibbons	½	½	John Ariss
04/10/2023	35714	Marc Wakeham	1	0	Jim Garvock
07/10/2023	35827	Nicholas Glanville	1	0	Philip Drury
07/10/2023	35752	David Elwood	0	1	Phillip Beckett
08/10/2023	35805	Jim Gibbons	½	½	David Mountford
08/10/2023	35654	Henry Brockbank	½	½	Andrew Allport
08/10/2023	35828	Philip Drury	0	1	Nicholas Glanville
08/10/2023	35608	Paul Cutter	½	½	Stephen Bailey
09/10/2023	35787	Jonathan Powell	0	1	Mark Pooley
09/10/2023	35790	Mark Pooley	1	0	Cornelius Cornes
10/10/2023	35824	Peter Dunks	½	½	Tony Rimmer
06/10/2023	35665	Richard Dixon	0	1	Clive Scarrott
13/10/2023	35836	Ashley Wright	1	0	Jim Gibbons
14/10/2023	35833	Roy Eggington	1	0	Graham Mill-Wilson
16/10/2023	35809	Ian Mason	1	0	Ralph Hewes
16/10/2023	35835	Jim Gibbons	0	1	Ashley Wright
17/10/2023	35834	Graham Mill-Wilson	0	1	Roy Egginton
10/10/2023	35456	Gordon Barron	0	1	Dave Richardson
18/10/2023	35806	Jim Gibbons	0	1	David Mountford
19/10/2023	35807	John Moore	½	½	Vincent Palmer
19/10/2023	35877	Andrew Jones	1	0	Keith Dudeney
20/10/2023	35771	Ralph Hewes	½	½	Mark Pooley
20/10/2023	35810	Ralph Hewes	½	½	Ian Mason
21/10/2023	35721	Ralph Hewes	½	½	Matthew Kirk
21/10/2023	35878	Keith Dudeney	0	1	Andrew Jones
21/10/2023	35864	David Elwood	0	1	Andrew Jones
22/10/2023	35825	Alan Miles	0	1	Graham Mill-Wilson
22/10/2023	35826	Graham Mill-Wilson	1	0	Alan Miles
22/10/2023	35768	Mark Pooley	1	0	Paul Cutter
23/10/2023	35875	Andrew Jones	1	0	John Ariss
24/10/2023	35149	Richard Dixon	1	0	Fred Wusteman
24/10/2023	35150	Fred Wusteman	0	1	Richard Dixon
24/10/2023	35678	Stephen Bailey	1	0	David Clarke
25/10/2023	35730	Stephen Bailey	1	0	Peter Dunks
25/10/2023	35876	Andrew Jones	0	1	John Ariss
26/10/2023	35863	Andrew Jones	1	0	David Elwood
28/10/2023	35737	Henry Brockbank	1	0	Peter Morton
28/10/2023	35738	Peter Morton	0	1	Henry Brockbank
28/10/2023	35616	Tony Shaw	1	0	Anthony Thistlewood
29/10/2023	35786	Mark Pooley	1	0	John Ariss
30/10/2023	35676	David Clarke	1	0	Nicholas Glanville
30/10/2023	35814	Wilfred Watson	0	1	Andrew Allport
30/10/2023	35793	David Mountford	0	1	Mark Pooley
02/11/2023	35555	Stephen Bailey	1	0	Alan Beresford

02/11/2023	35556	Alan Beresford	0	1	Stephen Bailey
02/11/2023	35893	Alan Miles	0	1	Andrew Jones
02/11/2023	35894	Andrew Jones	1	0	Alan Miles
02/11/2023	35521	Gordon Barron	1	0	Sean Tomlinson
02/11/2023	35522	Sean Tomlinson	0	1	Gordon Barron
02/11/2023	35862	David Elwood	0	1	Matthew Kirk
02/11/2023	35764	Ashley Wright	0	1	David Clarke
03/11/2023	35565	Malcolm Titley	1	0	Gordon Barron
04/11/2023	35837	Graham Mill-Wilson	0	1	Alex Tupper
05/11/2023	35865	Graham Mill-Wilson	1	0	Ken Law
06/11/2023	35788	Mark Pooley	1	0	Jonathan Powell
06/11/2023	35817	Craig Douglas	½	½	Jonathan Powell
07/11/2023	35838	Alex Tupper	1	0	Graham Mill-Wilson
10/11/2023	35886	Ken Law	0	1	Graham Mill-Wilson
11/11/2023	35861	Matthew Kirk	½	½	David Elwood
13/11/2023	35854	David Elwood	1	0	John Moore
13/11/2023	35868	Michael Pointon	1	0	Keith Dudeney
15/11/2023	35813	Andrew Allport	½	½	Wilfred Watson

### New Pairings

11/09/2023	35849	35850	Raymond Burrridge	Andrew Jones
19/09/2023	35851	35852	Stephen Bailey	Andrew Jones
20/09/2023	35853	35854	John Moore	David Elwood
21/09/2023	35855	35856	Russell Sherwood	Mary Deans
21/09/2023	35857	35858	Russell Sherwood	Marc Wakeham
22/09/2023	35859	35860	David Elwood	Mary Deans
23/09/2023	35861	35862	Matthew Kirk	David Elwood
27/09/2023	35863	35864	Andrew Jones	David Elwood
04/10/2023	35865	35866	Graham Mill-Wilson	Ken Law
04/10/2023	35867	35868	Keith Dudeney	Michael Pointon
04/10/2023	35869	35870	Marc Wakeham	Ralph Hewes
06/10/2023	35871	35872	Stephen Bailey	Ken Law
06/10/2023	35873	35874	Mary Deans	Ralph Hewes
06/10/2023	35875	35876	Andrew Jones	John Ariss
06/10/2023	35877	35878	Andrew Jones	Keith Dudeney
12/10/2023	35879	35880	David Elwood	Clive Mounsey
16/10/2023	35881	35882	Adam Spencer	Henry Brockbank
16/10/2023	35883	35884	Keith Dudeney	Andrew Allport
16/10/2023	35885	35886	Stephen Bailey	Paul Keevil
16/10/2023	35887	35888	Keith Dudeney	Jonathan Powell
16/10/2023	35889	35890	Jonathan Powell	Paul Keevil
23/10/2023	35891	35892	Graham Mill-Wilson	Jim Gibbons
23/10/2023	35893	35894	Alan Miles	Andrew Jones
23/10/2023	35895	35896	Roy Egginton	Ashley Wright
23/10/2023	35897	35898	Jim Gibbons	Andrew Jones
23/10/2023	35899	35900	Ian Mason	David Mountford
29/10/2023	35901	35902	Jim Gibbons	Tony Shaw
29/10/2023	35903	35904	Ian Mason	Paul Cutter
29/10/2023	35905	35906	Alex Tupper	Raymond Burrridge
02/11/2023	35907	35908	Henry Brockbank	Gordon Barron
02/11/2023	35909	35910	Stephen Bailey	Peter Dunks

02/11/2023	35911	35912	Tony Shaw	John Ariss
02/11/2023	35913	35914	Mary Deans	Paul Keevil
02/11/2023	35915	35916	Marc Wakeham	Paul Keevil
02/11/2023	35917	35918	Graham Mill-Wilson	Chris Smith
02/11/2023	35919	35920	David Elwood	Chris Smith
02/11/2023	35921	35922	Phillip Beckett	Chris Smith
02/11/2023	35923	35924	Phillip Beckett	Raymond Burrridge
02/11/2023	35925	35926	Phillip Beckett	Paul Keevil
09/11/2023	35927	35928	Paul Keevil	Chris Smith
09/11/2023	35929	35930	Lawrence Rhodes	Chris Smith
09/11/2023	35931	35932	Lawrence Rhodes	Phillip Beckett
09/11/2023	35933	35934	Wilfred Watson	John Ariss
09/11/2023	35935	35936	Russell Sherwood	Raymond Burrridge
09/11/2023	35937	35938	Lawrence Rhodes	Raymond Burrridge
09/11/2023	35939	35940	Russell Sherwood	Chris Smith



### TMLC 23/24 (1/11/23–31/8/24) - Marc Wakeham

	Premier Division	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Tot.
1	Jim Garvock	■							
2	Marc Wakeham		■						
3	Russell Finch			■					
4	Stephen Bailey				■				
5	David Hardingham					■			
6	Jerry Cope						■		
7	Phillip Beckett							■	

	First Division	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Tot.
1	Nick Glanville	■							
2	Anthony Thistlewood		■						
3	Gordon Barron			■					
4	Phil Drury				■				
5	Graham Mill-Wilson					■			
6	Paul Dahlgren						■		
7	Ian Fawcett							■	

	Second Division	1	2	3	4	5	Tot.
1	Richard Dixon	■					



2	Paul Cutter						
3	Chris Martin						
4	Greg Hughes						
5	Mark Bastow						

	Third Division	1	2	3	4	Tot.
1	Peter Phillips					
2	Peter Morton					
3	Barry Hampton					
4	Craig Douglas					



## The Keith Richardson GM All-Play-All Tournament – Graham Mill-Wilson

If you want to play your APA games via the ICCF server please let me know and I will enter you in one of the server-only APA tournaments. Players not specifying the server as their choice will be placed in a standard APA event where they may agree any method of play (including server) with their opponents with post as the default.

More entries are needed in order to start APAs with players of approximately equal strength.

APA113 Server	(10/04/2023-09/04//2024)	1	2	3	4	5	P
1	Adam Spencer		½	½	1	½	2½
2	Paul Cutter	½		1	½	½	2½
3	Raymond Burrige	½	0		½	1	2
4	David Elwood	0	½	½		½	1½
5	Stephen Bailey	½	½	0	½		1½

Paul Cutter wins this tournament on tie-break. Congratulations!

APA114 Postal	(14/04/2023-13/04//2024)	1	2	3	4	5	P
1	Alan Beresford		V	V	V	V	V
2	John Arris	V		0	0		0
3	Peter Morton	V	1		0		1
4	Graham Mill-Wilson	V	1	1			2
5	Clive Scarrot	V					

APA115 Server	(01/08/2023 – 31/07/2024)	1	2	3	4	5	P
1	Adam Spencer			½	½	½	1½
2	Mark Pooley				1		1
3	David Elwood	½			1	0	1½
4	Cornelius Cornes	½	0	0			½
5	Paul Cutter	½		1			1½

APA116 Server	(15/08/2023 – 14/08/2024)	1	2	3	4	5	P
1	Greg Hughes			1	1		2
2	Tony Shaw			1	0	1	2
3	Jon Mahony	0	0		0	0	0
4	Wilfred Watson	0	1	1		0	2
5	Jonathan Powell		0	1	1		2

APA117 Server	(05/09/2023 – 04/09/2024)	1	2	3	4	5	P
1	Raymond Burrige		½	½	c		1
2	Stephen Bailey	½			c		½
3	Greg Hughes	½			c		½
4	Jon Mahony	c	c	c		c	0
5	Paul Cutter				c		

APA118 Server	(20/10/2023 – 19/10/2024)	1	2	3	4	5	P
1	CCM Marc Wakeham			½			½
2	CCM Russell Sherwood						
3	IM Paul Keevil	½				1	1½
4	CCM Colin Beveridge						
5	Ralph Hewes			0			0

APA119 Server	(11/11/2023 – 10/11/2024)	1	2	3	4	5	P
1	Ralph Hewes						
2	Stephen Bailey						
3	Chris Smith						
4	Paul Cutter						
5	Raymond Burrige						



## Norman Bond Knockout Tournament – Nicholas Glanville

Have you tried the NBKO yet? Why not give it go? You play **only one** opponent in each round!

*Please get in touch with me, Nick Glanville, the new NBKO Tournament Controller, with your details, as I am eager to start both new postal and webserver tournaments as soon as I can.*

We are still close to the required number for a webserver tournament, and I am also trying to arrange a postal tournament, so let me know if you are interested in either (or both) of those. I am specifically looking for players willing to play at least one game by post, so I can get a new tournament running.

(M = Major Game, m = minor game)

NBKO 170 Final (17/07/2023 – 16/07/2024)		
Russell Sherwood	-v-	Marc Wakeham

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**NBKO 171 Final (01/06/2023-31/05/2024)**

Stephen Bailey	-v-	Marc Wakeham
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**NBKO 173 R1 (26/10/25/10/24)**

CCM Marc Wakeham	-v-	Stephen Bailey
Antony Clare	-v-	Keith Dudeney
David Elwood	-v-	Ken Law
Clive Scarrott	-v-	Nick Glanville

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**NBKO 174 R1 (14/11/23-13/11/24)**

David Richardson	-v-	John Nichol
	-v-	Ken Law
Paul Keevil	-v-	David Elwood
Marc Wakeham	-v-	Chris Smith

**Give The ICCF Webserver A Go – Colin Hipwell**

Do you use a smartphone, iPad, tablet, PC, laptop, smart TV or any other device giving you access to the Internet but do not play your Natcor games on the ICCF server? Then why not give it a go? You have absolutely nothing to lose and an awful lot to gain in terms of convenience and potential cost.

If you are already 'connected', using the server costs you absolutely nothing to play your Natcor games because, unlike some CC clubs and other online chess sites, Natcor does not charge additional fees for server-hosted games. All of our games continue to be free for all of our members.

The ICCF server is really easy to use. It records all of the moves, informs you when your opponent has made a move and calculates your remaining time automatically. It greatly reduces your chances of making a blunder due to a clerical error and completely eliminates the possibility of your making an illegal move. It also calculates your CC rating automatically every quarter-year!

There is also plenty of opportunity for friendly chat with your opponents in line with our stated object of fostering friendship between our members.

All you need to get started is an ICCF account. If you do not already have one just contact me at [webserver@natcor.org.uk](mailto:webserver@natcor.org.uk) and I will arrange that for you.

For those new to the process we provide a simple, easy to follow guide to using the server to get you started in the right direction. So why not take the decision today and join your fellow Natcorians on the ICCF webserver?



### **BBC The Master Game: A Chess Extravaganza Through a Modern Lens [By Matthew Kirk]**

In the realm of televised chess, few programs have left as indelible a mark as the BBC's "The Master Game." I'm sure many of you will be aware of it (or even remember it when it was aired in the 1970s and 80s... 'chess boom' time in the UK). Running for several seasons from 1975 to 1982, this series brought chess into the living rooms of millions of viewers across the UK and beyond. Series 6, which aired in 1980, stands out as a memorable chapter in the show's history. Series 6 is the only series that I have seen in its entirety, as it appears that Series 1-5 were somehow destroyed in the BBC archives (correct me if I'm wrong). Series 7 is available (although I haven't seen it fully yet, but it is on YouTube) and Series 8 was never aired by the BBC due to industrial action (although it was apparently shown on German TV). My understanding is that some of these series also have accompanying books – does anybody have them?



IM Bill Hartston (winner of two Master Game series) and Jeremy James – hosting an episode of 'The Master Game'.

Let's delve into the intricacies and highlights of BBC 'The Master Game'- Series 6, comparing it to modern chess, sharing some cherished memories and exploring its connection to another fascinating dimension of the game: our beloved correspondence chess.

#### **A Brief Overview**

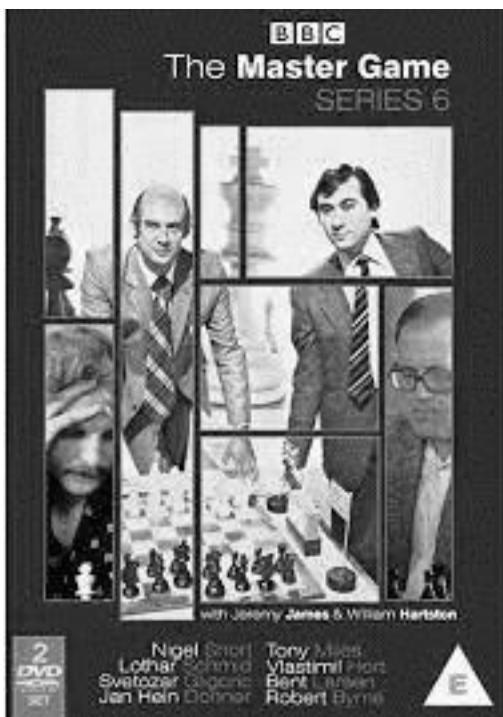
"The Master Game" was a groundbreaking concept in its time, and it still holds up as a fascinating chess spectacle in the modern era. The show featured some of the world's best chess players competing in a knockout-style tournament. Each episode showcased a single game, with expert commentary providing insights into the players' strategies and thought processes.

#### **The Players: A Glimpse into Chess History**

Series 6 boasted an impressive lineup of chess luminaries and was won by Nigel Short (at the time only 15 years old), beating the legend GM Tony Miles in the final. These legends set the stage for the evolution of chess broadcasting into the modern era.

The Master Game: Series 6-results (1980-1981)

No. in series	Players	Group	Result
1	"Gligorić vs Short"	A	0-1
2	"Byrne vs Hort"	A	1/2-1/2
3	"Miles vs Larsen"	B	1-0
4	"Schmid vs Donner"	B	1/2-1/2
5	"Hort vs Gligorić"	A	0-1
6	"Short vs Byrne"	A	1/2-1/2
7	"Donner vs Miles"	B	1/2-1/2
8	"Larsen vs Schmid"	B	1-0
9	"Gligorić vs Byrne"	A	1/2-1/2
10	"Short vs Hort"	A	1/2-1/2
11	"Larsen vs Donner"	B	1-0
12	"Miles vs Schmid"	B	1-0
13	"Short vs Miles"	Final	1-0



Series 6 – DVD box cover.

In comparing Series 6 to modern chess, it's striking to see how much the game has evolved. Today, chess enthusiasts are treated to online broadcasts with computer-generated analysis, real-time clock ticking and even the occasional player webcams and online databases – a vital part of our armoury as Correspondence Chess players in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. These technological advancements have enhanced the accessibility and excitement of watching chess, but there's a certain nostalgic charm to revisiting the old-school presentation of "The Master Game." It reminds us of the simplicity and purity of the game itself. The analytical insights provided by the GMs during the game narration is, quite simply, fantastic.

### **Correspondence Chess: A Timeless Pursuit**

While "The Master Game" brought chess into the living rooms of viewers, there's another fascinating aspect of the game that thrived outside the spotlight: Correspondence Chess! In the era of Series 6, correspondence chess players from around the world engaged in postal matches, carefully crafting their moves over weeks and months, making it a precursor to today's online chess platforms.

Correspondence chess, at the time played mainly by post, demands deep analysis and foresight over time (days!), as we know. Players rely on their chess understanding, as well as extensive opening preparation (and databases) and other reference material during the game. It is, of

course, a more contemplative and patient form of chess, contrasting with the fast-paced games seen in televised tournaments like "The Master Game."



### **From Your Editor**

My sincere thanks to those of you who have taken the time and trouble to submit items for publication.

Please remember that this magazine stands or falls on the contributions from you, the members, so if you have something to say or an interesting game to submit, please don't hold back. Put it down on paper (I'm happy to transcribe handwritten material provided it is reasonably legible) or, preferably, send it to me via email in order to avoid possible transcription errors creeping in.

**Please let me have your comments and contributions for the next edition by 15<sup>th</sup> January at the very latest.**

**As this is the final edition of EP for this year may I take this opportunity to wish you and yours my very best wishes for a peaceful Christmas and a happy 2024!**

*Colin Hipwell*



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