



Chess Editorial

By Executive Editor, IM Malcolm Pein  @TelegraphChess

GRAND CHESS TOUR

It gave me even more pleasure than usual to make this announcement. The Grand Chess Tour seemed to be in some trouble after the withdrawal of Norway Chess, which was doubly unfortunate as they left their decision so late (some thought deliberately late), it made it difficult for the GCT to put something together quickly for what is a fledgling organisation.

Despite the very short time frame, the GCT managed to find two new tournament sponsors in Paris and Brussels supporting two new rapid and blitz events in June. When you add the Sinquefeld Cup and what will be the 8th London Chess Classic, the GCT 2016 is going to be well worth watching with over \$1 million in prize money. More details soon, but I can confirm the status of the rapid and blitz tournaments will be equivalent to the classical events.

June 8th - 14th
GCT Rapid and Blitz, Paris

June 15th - 21st
GCT Rapid and Blitz, Brussels

August 19th - September 2nd
Sinquefeld Cup, Saint Louis, USA

December 7th - December 19th
London Chess Classic

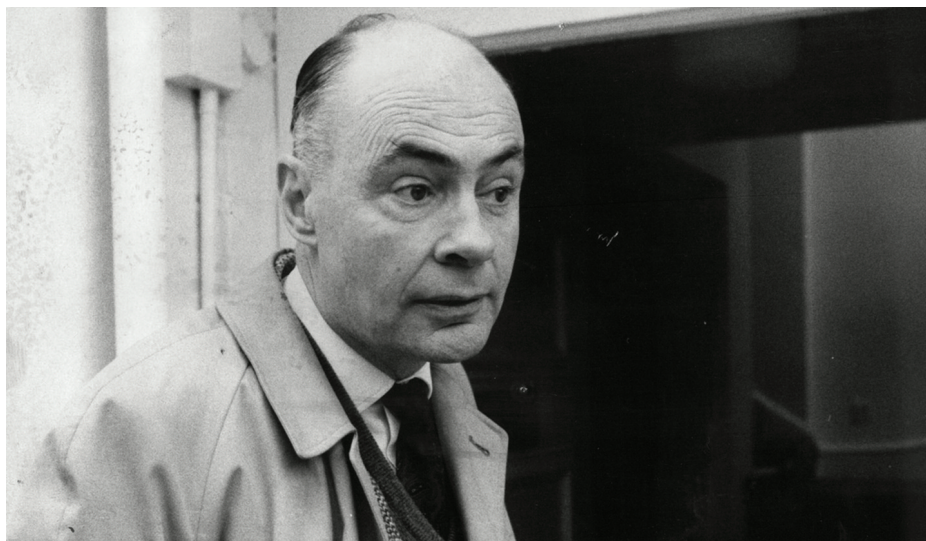
The addition of two capital cities is a great boost to the GCT and establishes it as the premier chess circuit in the world, particularly as even the staging of the FIDE Grand Prix remains in doubt.

GCT Player invites are being sent out now – check out grandchesstour.com for updates.

Sir Jeremy Morse (1928-2016)

I was very sad to hear of the passing of Sir Jeremy Morse. He was a classicist, poet, champion crossword puzzle solver, traditional banker and an almost impossibly clever man who steered Lloyds Bank through difficult times to calmer waters. Sir Jeremy lent his name to Colin Dexter's fictional detective, Inspector Morse, because in Dexter's view Sir Jeremy was the greatest problem solver he had ever met.

At 36, he was the second youngest Bank of England director ever and a year later became alternate governor at the International Monetary Fund for Britain. His obituary in *The Daily Telegraph* records a classmate saying that



Sir Jeremy Morse spent much of his retirement involved in the world of chess problems and composition. Indeed, that such a fine crossword solver became interested in that field was no surprise, but we must remember him too for those fabulous events, the Lloyds Bank Masters.

his Classics Master at Winchester School used to consult him as an authority.

So why is this intellectual giant being eulogised in a chess magazine? Because, without him, there might never have been an English Chess Explosion. While Chairman of Lloyds Bank, Sir Jeremy ensured the bank supported the Lloyds Bank Masters in which an entire generation of English chess juniors honed their skills against foreign stars, expertly selected by Leonard Barden and Stewart Reuben.

It's no exaggeration to say that without Sir Jeremy's backing, I might not have decided to carry on with chess. I still remember the excitement of being able to play the Lloyds Bank tournament and the thrill of beating a GM for the first time, as well as of regularly playing strong opponents. It was a world apart from the Liverpool, Greater Manchester or Chorley Open. In those days, before cheap flights and the internet, foreign travel was open only to a few, one hardly knew where other tournaments were taking place and *CHESS* provided the main source of chess news each month.

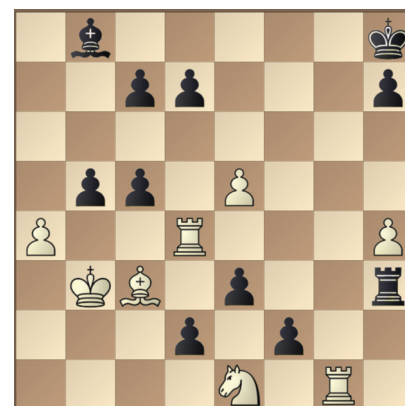
Sir Jeremy was also a major figure in the world of chess composition and solving as he loved all kinds of puzzles. Some of his creations are just so complex I was never able to appreciate them, but his family have generously reprinted his book *Chess Problems Tasks and Records* and are making it available at a fraction of its original cover price. Task problems are a particularly difficult area of composition, but also most rewarding.

I'd like to quote from John Nunn's preface: "There is no one better qualified to take the reader on this journey into wonderland than Sir

Jeremy Morse. His interest in problems was sparked in the 1950s, and he soon moved from solving to composing. Rather unusually he was attracted to task problems almost from the beginning and over the years became one of the world's leading experts in this area. Not content with studying the works of others, he soon claimed some records for himself – for example, he was the first person to compose a series helpmate containing seven black promotions."

Don't be put off by what sounds like terrifying complexity – here a couple of gems, conventional mates in two.

Sir Jeremy Morse, 1968



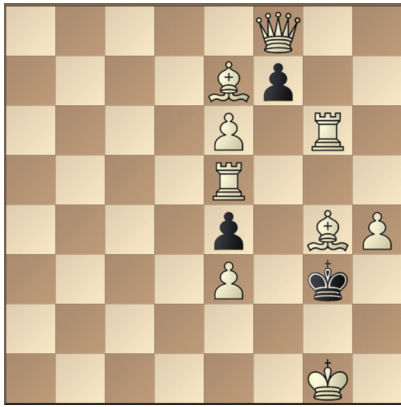
White to play and mate in two

The clue is it's a blocking theme:

1 e6! ♕xa4+

Alternatively: 1...h6 2 ♖xd7#, 1...cxd4 2 ♕xd4#, 1...d1♖+ 2 ♖xd1#, 1...f1♖ 2 ♖f4#, 1...♗g3 2 ♗g4#, 1...c6 2 ♖d6#, or 1...♗f3 2 ♖f4#. **2 ♖xa4#**

Sir Jeremy Morse, 1962



White to play and mate in two

1 ♖b8 fxe6 It's mate too if 1...fxg6 2 ♗xe4#, 1...f6 2 ♗h5#, or 1...f5 2 ♗xf5#. 2 ♗exe6#

Let's Keep Trying

I will be presenting at a Chess in Schools Conference at the European Parliament in Brussels on the day we go to press. The conference is being organised by the Educational Committee of the European Parliament along with the European Chess Union and will see eight presentations of case



studies from different European countries.

The objective is to show how chess is implemented in the different educational systems and by so doing to lobby the EU to follow through on the resolution passed by the European Parliament in 2012 for chess to be introduced in European schools. Of course, for that to happen the European Commission will have to come up with some financial support.

Not Much of a Record

I was puzzled by a feature in the latest European Chess Union bulletin in which it appears that a Guinness World Record was claimed in Moscow during the Moscow Open. Over 250 students listened to a 35-minute lecture from the International School Chess Union President, Aleksander Kostiev, about the first world chess champion Wilhelm Steinitz. The Guinness representative was there, but I have news for him; at the 2015 Chess in Schools and Communities tournament at St. George's Hall in Liverpool, over 400 children listened most attentively to your editor as he expounded on the virtues of developing your pieces, attacking the centre and ensuring you always castle.

Women's Chess Exhibition

The World Chess Hall of Fame recently inducted two new members: GMs Maurice Ashley and Gata Kamsky, an honour both most certainly deserve. However, what took my interest was an exhibition being staged at the Chess Museum in St. Louis on women in chess entitled: 'Her Turn: Revolutionary Women of Chess'.

In the words of the curator, the exhibition "examines women's chess history through highlights from the collection of the World Chess Hall of Fame as well as loans from the John G. White Chess Collection at the Cleveland Public Library and numerous private collections. The photographs and other artefacts included in this show tell stories about women chess stars, both in the United States and worldwide."

The Polgar sisters are featured, of course, as is Vera Menchik who is described as a "Russian Jewess". I hadn't realised Menchik was originally Russian; I had always thought of her as Czech, but the curator is right. I doubt, however, that she was Jewish if her mother's maiden name was Illingworth.

Happy Birthday Basman, you are an inspiration

We have a tribute to Michael Basman inside, but I want to add a few words to emphasise the enormous impact he has had on the development of junior chess in the UK. Since he set up the UK Chess Challenge in 1996 the tournament has had getting on for one million entries! The 21st edition is currently under way. I imagine most readers are familiar with its simple structure which enables teachers to organise the first round at school, after which the children progress to Mega, Giga and Terafinals. Many of the winners have gone on to become titled players or competitors in international competition and the 4NCL.

Magnus on the mend and on the march

Magnus Carlsen has re-imposed himself on his rivals after three back-to-back victories at London, Qatar and Wijk aan Zee. He has a quiet 2016 in prospect before his world title match unless he decides to play in the GCT. I applaud his participation in Qatar. It's wonderful for world chess if the greatest players compete in Open tournaments, and there's something almost unique to chess that amateurs can play in the same event as champions. That was one of the great thrills of the 2014 LCC Super Rapid.

As we will see this month, Vishy Anand did not find the hurly-burly to his liking as he decided to play at the Tradewise Gibraltar Masters and came very much unstuck. As we went to press Anand found himself in much more familiar surroundings at the elite event in Zurich and was poised for tournament

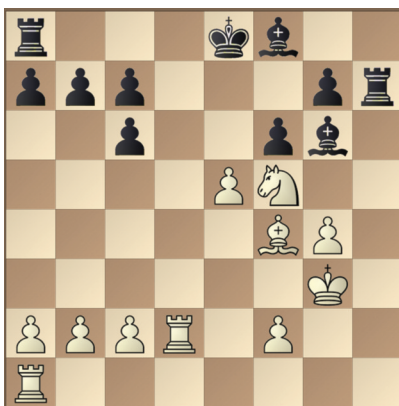


Children were seen in force at the Moscow Open, where they not only got to play chess, but heard a lecture about the first world champion and received plenty of tuition. The Open itself boasted 225 players and saw something of an upset, as we'll see this month in Overseas News.

victory after defeating Levon Aronian in just 19 moves. More next time.

It's a little over 10 years since *that* game

As part of its *Witness* series, the BBC recently featured Judit Polgar and her recollections of her victory over Garry Kasparov in 2002. The programme, at just over 4 minutes long, is well worth a look. Here is the famous game in question. Garry had been foiled by Vladimir Kramnik's Berlin Defence just two years earlier, so decided to play it himself, but clearly he was not comfortable with it.



24...♙xf5 25 gxf5 fxe5 26 ♖e1 ♙d6
27 ♙xe5 ♙d7 28 c4 c5 29 ♙xd6 cxd6
30 ♖e6 ♖ah8 31 ♖exd6+ ♙c8 32 ♖d5
♖h3+ 33 ♙g2 ♖h2+ 34 ♙f3 ♖2h3+
35 ♙e4 b6 36 ♖c6+ ♙b8 37 ♖d7 ♖h2
38 ♙e3 ♖f8 39 ♖cc7 ♖xf5 40 ♖b7+
♙c8 41 ♖dc7+ ♙d8 42 ♖xg7 ♙c8
1-0



U.S. Women's Champion in the 1940s Mona May Karff appears in a new exhibition in Saint Louis devoted to women in chess.



J. Polgar-G. Kasparov

Russia vs Rest of the World,
Moscow (rapid) 2002
Ruy Lopez

1 e4 e5 2 ♖f3 ♗c6 3 ♙b5 ♗f6 4 0-0
♗xe4 5 d4 ♗d6 6 ♙xc6 dxc6 7 dxe5
♗f5 8 ♗xd8+ ♙xd8 9 ♗c3 h6 10 ♖d1+
♙e8 11 h3 ♙e7 12 ♗e2

As played by Lasker in 1886!

12...♗h4 13 ♗xh4 ♙xh4 14 ♙e3 ♙f5
15 ♗d4



15...♙h7

If 15...♙e6 16 ♗x6 fxe6 17 ♖d4 ♙e7
18 ♖ad1 ♖d8 19 ♖xd8+ ♙xd8 20 ♙xa7!
b6 21 a4!, but 15...♙d7 intending ...♖d8
looks like the modern way of playing the
Berlin. Judit now steadily improves her
position.

16 g4 ♙e7 17 ♙g2 h5 18 ♗f5 ♙f8
19 ♙f3 ♙g6 20 ♖d2 hxg4+ 21 hxg4
♖h3+ 22 ♙g2 ♖h7 23 ♙g3 f6 24 ♙f4



Susan Polgar opened the exhibition, which also sees a young Judit pictured in at the board.



Some famous American chess figures watch Jacqueline Piatigorsky (left) facing Arnold Denker.