

EN PASSANT



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

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Chairman’s Chat

Hi all From NATCOR TOWERS

This is my last message to you as Chairman of Natcor. Sadly, I have two members of my immediate family who are terminally ill. As a result, I no longer feel able to put up with some of the goings on over the last year.

I have been threatened with the Russian / East European Mafia by one member and threatened by another with legal action for trying to uphold our club rules. Neither of these is what I joined NATCOR for.

I'd like to thank you for your loyal support to me as an officer and more importantly to this club. I have fond memories of my 37 years in Natcor and my 32 years as an officer. All good things must come to an end. I move on to a new chapter in my life.

Yours in Chess

Marc Wakeham



Editorial – Colin Hipwell

We are extremely grateful to Marc for all the hard graft and personal sacrifice he has given to Natcor in several capacities over many years. Marc will remain a member of the Club and fulfil his duties as Tournament Controller for theTMLC until the current season comes to an end.

Stepping back from committee duties is our Treasurer and Membership Secretary, David Elwood. David will continue in his role until a replacement can be found so please consider if you could step in to help keep the Club’s finances and memberships running smoothly.

Also stepping down from committee duties are our Vice-Chair, Peter Dudeney, and Secretary Russell Sherwood. Both of these gentlemen have given freely of their time and energy in order to help us keep Natcor running the way it should be. We thank you, gentlemen.

In the last edition of this magazine we reported a potential change to our rules viz the removal of General Rule 8 banning the use of chess engines. After comments from the members and further discussion among the Committee it has been decided that the proposal will be put to a ballot to give all our members an opportunity to consider and vote on this change. You will shortly receive a ballot paper along with statements of the cases for and against the proposed change in your post/email. Look out for it and please respond within the stated time limit. Your voice is important.



New Members

We extend a warm Natcor welcome to David Beech from Skelmersdale.



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 Committee (*send them to me Ed.*) by 20th December. Job descriptions for all our officials are available from the 'Clubhouse' page on the Natcor web site. Candidates must, of course, have access to the internet to attend online committee meetings and conduct business in a timely manner.

Presidential Nominations

It will soon be time to appoint our next Club President for the coming year. Is there someone you feel has done a lot to support the Club in any capacity and deserves to be rewarded with the title? The role of President of Natcor itself carries no actual responsibilities, but we feel it is a way of saying thank you to those who give a lot to Natcor.

If you feel you know someone deserving of this honour please send your nomination with a statement as to why you feel this person fits the bill, to me (Ed.) by the end of February 2025.



Members' Missives

In Defence of Rule 8 – Adam Spencer

Our committee have decided following, as the committee say themselves, '...a query from a club member...' to delete rule 8. You might have seen the news in EP 1017 and/or read about this on the club website. Just in case you missed it, rule 8 concerns the use of chess engines, computer analysis if you wish, in club tournaments and forbids such use. The rule, as currently in force, says the following.

'Players must decide moves for themselves. Seeking advice from another person or elsewhere (a computer chess-engine for example) is strictly forbidden. Printed or electronic works of reference may be consulted.'

Further, our committee intend to proceed with this rule deletion without holding a vote of the club membership. Instead, they will only go to a ballot of members if our secretary receives a policy motion under clause 11 of our constitution stating that we ought not to change the rule.

Thus we have the odd situation in which it is not those who wish to change the rules who have to go to the trouble of proposing a change but those who oppose the change. This seems rather unusual and, when the provision of clause 11 is considered, quite unreasonable.

Let's look at clause 11 of our constitution. It states, *inter alia*:

'a) Any member of the Club may call for a postal ballot of all members by submitting a motion to the Secretary.

b) Such a motion must bear the signatures of the proposer and four seconders.'

Note the wording. Not five emails or letters to the Secretary asking for a ballot but a motion bearing '...the signatures of the proposer and four seconders.' Given that we live all over the country, and some in other countries, and, quite rightly, the home and email addresses of our members are not public, this is an incredibly high bar to clear and will result, in reality, that no such motion will be successfully submitted regardless of how much opposition to the rule deletion there is.

Setting aside what I regard as an unreasonable process to delete the rule, why are our committee proposing this change? Their reasoning was in the last EP and also on the website. Unfortunately, their arguments are weak. Let's explore them.

First, it is argued that:

'Straight away there is a contradiction between the first sentence and the second. How can you consult a book and decide the moves for yourself? Do we have Schrödinger's pawn living amongst us? Also, pretty much most if not all chess reference works are written using engines to some degree. If you use a book, you are pretty much breaking rule 8' (Website and EP1017).

Well, this is simply nonsense. There is no contradiction at all between the first and second sentences of rule 8. One might argue that there is a contradiction between the first and third sentences but I do not think such an argument would hold.

Consider. The committee argue that simply using a book one is 'pretty much breaking rule 8.' I think not. Let's say that I am playing in a weekend congress. I prepare some opening lines using a book and, in a game at the congress, actually play the lines learned. Would anyone at the congress think I have cheated? No, I do not think so. OTB chess, and we at Natcor under rule 8, make a clear distinction between book use and computer use which is why it's fine to remember a 'book line' in an OTB game but if you are caught on the toilet using the engine on your smartphone then you get a ban.

Similarly, in correspondence chess, using a book still requires a player to decide the move for themselves. After the moves 1 e4, e6 2 d4,d5, 3 Nc3, a mainline French Defence, I can choose between three good options: dxe4, Nf6, and Bb4. If I am using a book then I need to either choose the line in advance and buy the book which discusses it or buy books on all three lines and choose between them after reading the books. I may also be presented with alternatives within the book from which to choose. In any case I will have made the choice of move.

There is one further difference between a book and an engine. In a unique position in the middle game or endgame no book is going to give you the best move to play whereas an engine can. Sure, an engine might offer two or three options of similar value but if you are going to use the engine again on the next move that hardly makes any difference and, also, by using the engine you remove the possibility of that inevitable result of humans playing, the weak choice or the outright blunder.

Lastly on this argument, the committee make reference to 'Schrodinger's pawn.' I showed this paragraph to my wife (PhD in theoretical cosmology) and asked her view. Friends, this is not an appropriate use of Schrodinger.

Let's look at the committee's second argument. This is that rule 8 is contrary to ICCF rules on the use of engines. This is quite true. But, rule 8 applies only in Natcor tournaments not in wider ICCF

events. Personally, I have no objection to members using engines when they play in matches for their countries or in ICCF events on their own behalf if they so wish. That is in ICCF rules. But we are considering Natcor rules.

Can we vary from ICCF rules in Natcor events? Absolutely we can. First, we have rule 1 in our General Rules. This states:

‘1. Except where otherwise provided in these rules games shall be played in accordance with ICCF rules for postal or web server play.’

Note the wording, ‘except where otherwise provided in these rules...’ Rule 8 constitutes an ‘other’ provision and the existence of rule 1 itself grants us power to vary from ICCF rules. Also, the committee themselves have acknowledged this right by permitting a ballot to retain rule 8 if clause 11 is satisfied. So we can keep rule 8 if we wish. Is the ICCF demanding that we ditch rule 8 (and if they are we should also ditch rule 1)? No, this proposal has emerged following a query from **one** member.

Lastly on this argument. The committee have suggested that players might make a ‘gentleman’s agreement’ not to use engines in pairings. They have not suggested how to annul a pairing if one of the players insists on using an engine. Further, rule 8 is, itself, the ‘gentleman’s agreement.’ In our club, with rule 8, we agree that in Natcor tournaments we do not use engines.

I move on to the committee’s last argument. This is that rule 8 is unenforceable. This is, of course, correct. A player may use an engine contrary to rule 8 and I have little doubt that some do such is human nature. But we have a word for such people. Cheats. If you use an engine in a Natcor tournament your opponent may never know. But you will. Sin eateth away at the soul.

But why would you use an engine in a Natcor tournament? Consider the object of our club which appears in each edition of *En Passant*. It is ‘To foster friendship between members.’ Are you in the habit of cheating your friends in other aspects of life? I assume not. Then why cheat your friends at chess? As I said above, rule 8 is our gentleman’s agreement not to use engines. It is also what makes our club different, unique even. The object of the club is not to ‘win as many games as possible’ or ‘raise our ICCF grades’ but to foster friendship. Abolishing rule 8 would, in my opinion at least, be contrary to that friendly spirit which ought, and largely does, prevail among us.

Our committee do great work and the rest of us, frankly, ought to be jolly grateful for their efforts and, on my part, I am. However, on this issue I do think that the committee has got it wrong. If it really thinks rule 8 ought to be removed then let’s debate it in EP, as I have tried to do in this article, and then let them put it to a ballot of members. If the membership want to vote to remove rule 8 then I shall abide by that decision. But if the members want to keep it then we must. I really think that most of us would rather play another person than a chess engine.



The Future of CC – A Member (*who wishes to remain anonymous*)

I started CC in 1967 and have joined and left the BCCA, BCCS and NCCC before rejoining NCCC upon retirement. I had started playing chess again and was after more opponents. The PCC too with a considerable membership in 1967, long since gone.

I considered, as several other NCCC members were also joining the BCCA but it no longer exists . I am astonished that this has not been mentioned anywhere on NCCC pages. Absorbed by the EFCC. The ICCF doesn't seem to have realised this has happened .

Are far fewer players playing CC? Is this due to the popularity of playing online. I routinely play 10 min blitz and during covid played in several weekend events. I find myself matched with similar strength opponents.

Within NCCC I am playing many times against the same opponent, my lack of ability produces rather predictable results. Chess is a wonderful game for everyone provided that there is not a massive mismatch in strength .

There are too many games that I play CC with NCCC that I no longer enjoy. Sadly, I offer no solutions and have only praise for NCCC officials.



Tournament News

(Events not mentioned here remain as last reported)

The Reg Gilman Continuous Tournament – Mary Deans

RGCT Table @ 15th November 2024

Name	R/R	G/O	P	W	D	L	Pts
SCOTT, PAUL CCM		8	20	14	6	0	17
Brockbank, Henry IM		4	20	13	6	1	16
Hardingham, David		1	20	13	6	1	16
GARVOCK, JIM	2	3	20	14	4	2	16
JONES, ANDREW		8	20	10	10	0	15
Sherwood, Russell CCM		2	20	10	10	0	15
Caulkett, Peter		4	20	13	4	3	15
Mason, Ian CCM		2	20	9	11	0	14½
Pooley, Mark		6	20	11	7	2	14½
Elwood, David	4	8	20	12	4	4	14
Beckett, Phillip	1	10	20	12	3	5	13½
WAKEHAM, MARC CCM	1	4	20	6	13	1	12½
Deans, Mary		6	20	7	10	3	12
Dixon, Richard		11	20	10	4	6	12
Scarrott, Clive		6	16	11	1	4	11½
BAILEY, STEPHEN	5	21	20	8	7	5	11½
Bishop, Nick CCM (William)	1	5	15	7	8	0	11
Clarke, David		2	20	7	8	5	11
Spencer, Adam		2	20	7	7	6	1½
Pointon, Michael		1	20	9	3	8	1½
Eginton, Roy		1	20	6	8	6	10
Watson, Wilfred	4	7	20	8	3	9	9½
Richardson, Dave		4	20	9	1	10	9½
Wright, Ashley	1	4	20	5	8	7	9
Glanvile, Nicholas		3	20	6	6	8	9
Morton, Peter	1	9	19	5	7	7	8½
Tupper, Alex		4	20	5	7	8	8½
Rimmer, Tony		4	20	7	3	10	8½
Hewes, Ralph		2	20	3	10	7	8
BurrIDGE, Raymond		2	20	4	8	8	8

Mountford, David	3	2	20	6	4	10	8
Thistlewood, Anthony	1	2	20	7	2	11	8
Cornes, Cornelius		2	20	5	5	10	7½
Moore, John	3	3	20	5	5	10	7½
Rixon, Anthony		2	20	6	3	11	7½
Douglas, Craig	1	4	20	3	8	9	7
Cutter, Paul	2	7	20	5	4	11	7
Dahlgren, Paul	1	4	20	5	4	11	7
Dunks, Peter	1	2	20	4	5	11	6½
Dudenev, Keith	4	6	20	5	3	12	6½
Shaw, Tony	4	6	20	5	3	12	6½
Finch, Russell		2	20	4	4	12	6
Allport, Andrew	3	2	20	3	5	12	5½
Drury, Philip	2	4	20	5	1	14	5½
Blake, Michael	1	4	6	4	2	0	5
Powell, Jonathan	2	5	20	2	6	12	5
Biddulph, David	2	7	9	4	1	4	4½
Stone, John		2	20	2	5	13	4½
Sherwood, Helen		4	6	2	4	0	4
Mill-Wilson, Graham	1	3	20	3	2	15	4
Gould, Iain		4	4	3	1	0	3½
White, John		2	20	3	1	16	3½
Lead, Barry		5	5	2	2	1	3
Edge, David		8	4	1	1	2	1½
Clayton, Ian		6	4	1	0	3	1
Law, Ken	2	2	20	1	0	19	1
Mackay-James, Mary	1	1	1	0	0	1	0

NO GAMES OUTSTANDING

Barron, Gordon		0	20	6	0	14	6	1st Month
DUDENEY, PETER		0	20	11	5	4	13½	3rd Month
Girling, Clive CCM	2	0	14	9	5	0	11½	1st Month
Kirk, Matthew		0	20	7	7	6	1½	1st Month
Mounsey, Clive		0	8	5	3	0	6½	2nd Month
Smith, Chris		0	14	8	3	3	9½	1st Month
Swindells, Philip	1	0	20	6	4	10	8	1st Month

Results Reported Since EP 1017

16/09/2024	36216	Graham Mill-Wilson	1	0	Ken Law
17/09/2024	36033	Russell Sherwood	1	0	Matthew Kirk
17/09/2024	36207	John Ariss	1	0	Philip Drury
18/09/2024	36064	Paul Cutter	0	1	Stephen Bailey
18/09/2024	36115	Richard Dixon	½	½	Henry Brockbank
22/09/2024	36171	Mary Deans	½	½	Paul Scott
23/09/2024	36208	Philip Drury	0	1	John Ariss
23/09/2024	36188	Anthony Thistlewood	1	0	Jonathan Powell
23/09/2024	36203	Jonathan Powell	½	½	Craig Douglas
24/09/2024	35966	Clive Mounsey	½	½	Adam Spencer
26/09/2024	36219	Clive Girling	½	½	William Bishop
27/09/2024	36158	Philip Swindells	½	½	David Mountford
28/09/2024	36261	David Elwood	1	0	Craig Douglas

28/09/2024	36057	Tony Rimmer	0	1	Helen Sherwood
29/09/2024	36261	Craig Douglas	0	1	David Elwood
29/09/2024	36220	William Bishop	½	½	Clive Girling
01/10/2024	35797	Richard Dixon	½	½	David Biddulph
02/10/2024	36237	Phillip Beckett	1	0	Ashley Wright
04/10/2024	36247	Keith Dudeney	0	1	Michael Blake
06/10/2024	36185	Jonathan Powell	0	1	John Ariss
06/10/2024	36156	Ian Mason	½	½	Paul Scott
06/10/2024	36223	Helen Sherwood	½	½	William Bishop
07/10/2024	35699	David Hardingham	1	0	Barry Lead
08/10/2024	36250	Ashley Wright	½	½	Keith Dudeney
08/10/2024	36224	William Bishop	½	½	Helen Sherwood
09/10/2024	36058	Helen Sherwood	1	0	Tony Rimmer
11/10/2024	36184	Nicholas Glanville	½	½	Roy Egginton
12/10/2024	36249	Keith Dudeney	0	1	Ashley Wright
13/10/2024	36248	Michael Blake	1	0	Keith Dudeney
16/10/2024	36228	Philip Drury	1	0	Wilfred Watson
16/10/2024	36269	Tony Shaw	1	0	Ken Law
16/10/2024	36227	Wilfred Watson	1	0	Philip Drury
16/10/2024	36282	Paul Cutter	1	0	Tony Shaw
17/10/2024	36279	David Elwood	1	0	John Moore
19/10/2024	36235	Phillip Beckett	1	0	Andrew Allport
21/10/2024	36071	Peter Morton	0	1	David Biddulph
22/10/2024	36186	John Ariss	1	0	Jonathan Powell
22/10/2024	36232	Mary Mackay-James	0	1	David Mountford
22/10/2024	35943	Stephen Bailey	0	1	Jim Garvock
22/10/2024	35944	Jim Garvock	1	0	Stephen Bailey
24/10/2024	36281	Tony Shaw	0	1	Paul Cutter
25/10/2024	36120	Stephen Bailey	0	1	Clive Girling
26/10/2024	36299	David Elwood	1	0	Andrew Allport
26/10/2024	36300	Andrew Allport	0	1	David Elwood
29/10/2024	36191	David Mountford	1	0	Anthony Thistlewood
28/10/2024	35801	Paul Dahlgren	0	1	David Biddulph
01/11/2024	36270	Ken Law	0	1	Tony Shaw
02/11/2024	36280	John Moore	0	1	David Elwood
03/11/2024	36197	Stephen Bailey	1	0	Peter Dunks
03/11/2024	36204	Craig Douglas	1	0	Jonathan Powell
04/11/2024	36239	Keith Dudeney	1	0	Wilfred Watson
07/11/2024	36239	Keith Dudeney	0	1	William Bishop
07/11/2024	36157	David Mountford	1	0	Philip Swindells
09/11/2024	36119	Clive Girling	½	½	Stephen Bailey
11/11/2024	36314	John Moore	1	0	Graham Mill-Wilson
12/11/2024	36306	Wilfred Watson	0	1	Marc Wakeham

New Pairings

22/09/2024	36287	36288	Paul Cutter	Stephen Bailey
22/09/2024	36289	36290	Marc Wakeham	Paul Scott
29/09/2024	36291	36292	Andrew Jones	Adam Spencer
29/09/2024	36293	36294	Jonathon Powell	Ken Law
29/09/2024	36295	36296	Graham Mill-Wilson	Philip Drury
29/09/2024	36297	36298	David Elwood	Jonathan Powell
29/09/2024	36299	36300	David Elwood	Andrew Allport
29/09/2024	36301	36302	Ralph Hewes	John Ariss

29/09/2024	36303	36304	David Elwood	Mary Deans
29/09/2024	36305	36306	Marc Wakeham	Wilfred Watson
29/09/2024	36307	36308	Wilfred Watson	Craig Douglas
11/10/2024	36309	36310	Helen Sherwood	Andrew Jones
11/10/2024	36311	36312	Stephen Bailey	Russell Finch
11/10/2024	36313	36314	Graham Mill-Wilson	John Moore
11/10/2024	36315	36316	Russell Sherwood	Paul Scott
11/10/2024	36317	36318	Helen Sherwood	Ashley Wright
11/10/2024	36319	36320	Nicholas Glanvile	Tony Rimmer
21/10/2024	36321	36322	Richard Dixon	Peter Caulkett
21/10/2024	36323	36324	Ian Mason	William Bishop
21/10/2024	36325	36326	Wilfred Watson	William Bishop
21/10/2024	36327	36328	Andrew Allport	Philip Drury
21/10/2024	36329	36330	Keith Dudeney	William Bishop
21/10/2024	36331	36332	Ralph Hewes	Michael Blake
27/10/2024	36333	36334	Stephen Bailey	Jim Garvock
27/10/2024	36335	36336	Keith Dudeney	John Moore
27/10/2024	36337	36338	Phillip Beckett	Ashley Wright
27/10/2024	36339	36340	Phillip Beckett	John Ariss
27/10/2024	36341	36342	Phillip Beckett	David Elwood
27/10/2024	36343	36344	Keith Dudeney	Paul Cutter
04/11/2024	36345	36346	Stephen Bailey	Peter Dunks
05/11/2024	36347	36348	Tony Shaw	Craig Douglas
05/11/2024	36349	36350	Phillip Beckett	Wilfred Watson
06/11/2024	36351	36352	Dave Richardson	Peter Morton
06/11/2024	36353	36354	Dave Richardson	David Biddulph
07/11/2024	36355	36356	Phillip Beckett	Paul Scott
07/11/2024	36357	36358	Tony Shaw	Paul Dahlgren



TMLC 23/24 Report – Marc Wakeham

2023/24 was a better year with only two issues. A default on the server due to time and a time complaint in a postal game. All results reported on time and just one adjudication. Well done to all the winners. Paul Dahlgren won the League Championship. You have gained the right to topple the big boys in the Premier Division.

Once again Jim and I were inseparable at the top of the Championship. Greg Hughes and Peter Phillips won divisions Two and Three respectively.

Here's to the 2025 season!

Tom Morris League Championship 24/25 (30/11/24-31/8/25)

Premier Division: Jim Garvock, Marc Wakeham, Russell Finch, Stephen Bailey, David Hardingham, Paul Dahlgren, Nicholas Glanvile.

First Division: Jerry Cope, Phillip Beckett, Anthony Thistlewood, Gordon Barron, Paul Cutter, Graham Mill-Wilson, Richard Dixon.

Second Division: Peter Phillips, Craig Douglas, Peter Morton, Philip Drury, Ian Fawcett.

Third Division: Matthew Kirk, Chris Martin, John Owens, Wilf Watson.



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.

APA119 Server	(11/11/23-10/11/24)	1	2	3	4	5	Tot
1	Ralph Hewes	█	½	0	½	½	1½
2	Stephen Bailey	½	█		1	1	2½
3	Chris Smith	1	1	█	1	1	4
4	Paul Cutter	½	0	0	█	½	1
5	Raymond Burrige	½	0	0	½	█	1

Chris Smith wins this tournament. Congratulations!

APA121 Server	(08/04/24-07/04/25)	1	2	3	4	5	Tot
1	Paul Keevil	█	½	½	½	½	2
2	Marc Wakeham	½	█		½	½	1½
3	Russell Sherwood	½		█	½	½	1½
4	Mickey Blake	½	½	½	█	½	2
5	Helen Sherwood	½	½	½	½	█	2

APA122 Server	(24/06/24-23/06/25)	1	2	3	4	5	Tot
1	Stephen Bailey	█	½		1	1	2½
2	Paul Cutter	½	█	1		½	2
3	David Elwood		0	█	1	½	1½
4	Adam Spencer	0		0	█	0	0
5	Greg Hughes	D	½	½	1	█	2

APA123 Server	(24/06/24-23/06/25)	1	2	3	4	5	P
1	Tony Shaw	█	1	½	1	1	3½
2	Wilf Watson	0	█	1	1	1	3
3	Jonathan Powell	½	0	█	1	1	2½
4	Ken Law	0	0		█	0	0
5	John Nichol		0		1	█	2

Tony wins this tournament. Congratulations!

APA124 Server	(2/11/24-1/11/25)	1	2	3	4	5	Tot
1	Peter Phillips	█					
2	Adam Spencer		█				
3	Matthew Kirk			█			
4	Stephen Bailey				█		
5	Ralph Hewes					█	

APA125 Server	(3/11/24-2/11/25)	1	2	3	4	5	Tot
1	Wilfred Watson	■					
2	John Nichol		■				
3	Nick Glanvile			■			
4	Tony Shaw				■		
5	Ken Law					■	



Norman Bond Knockout Tournament – Nick Glanvile

The NBKO continues to be a popular format for club members, and we currently have five tournaments on the go. However, we can always start more, so why not give NBKO a go? You play only one opponent in each round! We are very close to the required number for another Webserver tournament and a new postal tournament, so let me know if you are interested in either (or both) of those.

(M = Major Game, m = minor game)

NBKO 172 Final (13/8/24-12/8/25)		
Russell Sherwood	1-1R	Marc Wakeham

Russell wins this tournament and enters the NBKO Hall of Fame

NBKO 173 Semi-Finals (14/08/24-13/8/25)		
Marc Wakeham	-v-	Clive Scarrott
Antony Clare	0-2	David Elwood

NBKO 174 Semi-Finals (2208/24-21/8/25)		
Paul Keevil	0-2	Chris Smith
David Richardson	-v-	Stephen Bailey

NBKO 175 Semi-Finals (17/9/24-16/9/25)		
David Elwood	-v-	Chris Smith
Paul Scott	-v-	Marc Wakeham

NBKO 176 R1 (09/07/24-08/07/25)		
Stephen Bailey	1M-0	Cornelius Cornes
Russell Sherwood	1-1R	Marc Wakeham

Iain Gould	2-0	Ken Law
Frey Rafferty	2-D	Wilfred Watson

NBKO 176 Semi-Finals (25/11/24-24/11/25)		
Stephen Bailey	-v-	Russell Sherwood
bye	-v-	Iain Gould

Natcor Webserver Championship – Marc Wakeham

Here are the latest cross tables direct from the server.

Natcor Championship

Rated				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Score	Wins	SB	RG	Place
1	810163	IM	Keevil, Paul	2471	(83)	½	1	½	½	½	3.5	1	9.25	0	1
2	212803	CCM	Webster, Richard	2374	(78)	½		½	½	1	3	1	8.25	1	2
3	213350		Jones, Andrew Philip	2245	(124)	0	½		½	½	3	1	7	0	3
4	810075	CCM	Wakeham, Marc R.	2437	(74)	½	½	½		½	3	0	8	0	4
5	219137	CCM	Mason, Ian J.	2404	(79)	½	½	½	½		3	0	8	0	4
6	810161	CCM	Sherwood, Russell	2383	(76)	½	0	½	½	½	2	0	6.25	1	6
7	211254		Pooley, Mark C.	2177	(77)	½	.	0 ^E	½	½	1.5	0	4.75	2	7

Natcor Candidates A

Rated				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Score	Wins	SB	RG	Place
1	210195		Phillips, Peter Stephen	2097	(92)	½	1	½	1	1	5	4	10.75	0	1
2	211643		Elwood, David	1869	(72)	½		½	½	½	3.5	1	7.75	0	2
3	212505		Joslin, Kay	1954	(84)	0	½		½	.	3	2	5.25	1	3
4	213092		Hewes, Ralph	1982	(87)	½	½	½		.	3	1	6.75	1	4
5	810165		Bailey, Stephen	1874	(66)	0	½	.	.		2.5	2	3.75	2	5
6	865003		Finch, John Russell	1848	(99)	0	½	0	½	0	2	1	3.25	0	6
7	212792		Pointon, Michael	1804	(94)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7

Natcor Candidates B

Rated				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Score	Wins	SB	RG	Place
1	810332		Bastow, Mark	1800	(250)	½	1	1	½	1	5	4	12.5	0	1
2	213133		Clarke, David	1980	(95)	½		½	1	0	4	3	9.5	0	2
3	210454		Beckett, Phillip J.	1803	(63)	0	½		1	½	4	3	8.5	0	3
4	213224		Hardingham, David	1860	(96)	0	0	0		1	3	3	5	0	4
5	212069		Kirk, Matthew	1818	(95)	½	1	½	0		3	2	9.5	0	5
6	212296		Dunks, Peter	1872	(94)	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	3	0	6
7	211095		Hughes, Gregory	1892	(76)	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	7

Natcor Reserve

Rated			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Score	Wins	SB	RG	Place
1	213358	Smith, Chris	1759 (202)	.	.	1	.	1	1	3	3	4.5	3	1
2	213300	Scarrott, Clive Ian	1709 (216)	.	.	1	1	.	1	3	3	4.5	3	1
3	219067	Spencer, Adam	1791 (92)	.	.	1	.	½	1	2.5	2	3.5	3	3
4	219035	Cutter, Paul J.	1729 (70)	0	0	0	1	½	1	2.5	2	3	0	4
5	213097	Glanvile, Nicholas	1639 (92)	.	0	.	0	1	1	2	2	2	2	5
6	212260	Cornes, Cornelius J.	1771 (95)	0	.	½	½	0	1	2	1	2.5	1	6
7	211312	Palmer, Vincent G.	1713 (91)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7

Natcor Server Div 1

Rated			1	2	3	4	Score	Wins	SB	RG	Place
1	212114	Dudeney, Keith	1498 (94)	1	1	1	3	3	3	0	1
2	212991	Powell, Jonathan	1443 (82)	0	½	1	1.5	1	1	0	2
3	810199	Dahlgren, Paul P.	1425 (101)	0	½	½	1	0	1	0	3
4	212271	Watson, Wilfred A.	1307 (82)	0	0	½	0.5	0	0.5	0	4

Natcor Server Div 2

Rated			1	2	3	4	Score	Wins	SB	RG	Place
1	🇬🇧 211242	Drury, Philip	1216 (91)	1	1	1	3	3	3	0	1
2	🇬🇧 211789	Mill-Wilson, Graham	1167 (81)	0	1	1	2	2	1	0	2
3	🇬🇧 212932	Law, Ken	818 (85)	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	3
4	🇬🇧 212639	Nichol, John	1181 (102)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4



Recruitment Team Update – Nick Glanvile

We are continually looking to expand the membership of the club, so if any members are attending any tournaments in the near future and would be willing to take promo materials with them to help me do this, then please let me know. Equally, if any members have ideas on how we can promote the club, please get in touch.



The End of an Era – Richard Dixon

After over 100 years the BCCA recently ceased postal transmission. It now relies on that new-fangled computer interweb thingy you may have heard of (*the BCCA has since ceased operations altogether -Ed.*).

Compared to the human mind the most sophisticated computer is merely a plastic toy. Fair enough, a good plastic toy at times, but folk seem to get unreasonably overexcited about the whole shebang.

The game annotated here was the final one to be finished under the old regime.

Jonathan Tymms v Richard Dixon

BCCA Silver Medal 2022-23

Nimzowitsch Defence

1.e4 Nc6 Contrary to rumour I don't always play this.

2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe 4.d5 Ne5 5.Bf4! The exclamation mark as this is very much in the spirit of the Nimzo.

5... Ng6 6.Bg3 a6!? A reasonable prophylaxis. The main line is 6... f5 leading to some quaint positions with chances for both sides.

7.h4 e5 7... h5 is the main alternative.

8.dxe6ep Bxe6 9.h5 Ne7 At least the N can be usefully redeployed from this spot.

10.Qxd8+ Rxd8 11.Bxc7 I would have been inclined to play 11.Nxe4.

11... Rd7 12.Bf4 Where to retreat the bishop?

12.... Nf6 13.h6 Nfd5 The other N to this square looks more obvious. But I was bothered by the potential white Be5.

14.Nge2 White needs to develop pieces.

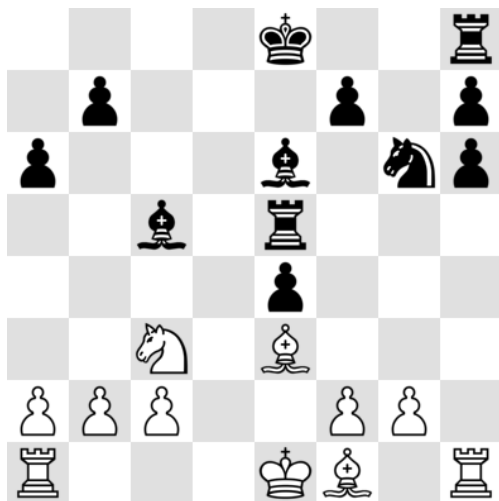
15.Nxd5 Rxd5 16.Bd2 This seems to unravel any of white's problems.

16... gxh6 I didn't really want to play this.

17.Nc3 I was expecting 17.Bc3 Rg8.

17... Re5 A safish square for the rook and a way to save the e pawn.

18.Be3 Bc5



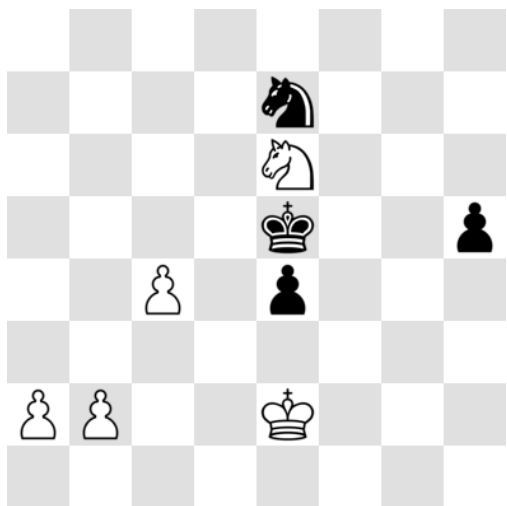
19.Bxc5 Rxc5 20.0-0-0 Re5 21.Rd6 0-0 22.Rb6 Bc8 23.Rxh6 Kg7 24.Rh1 e3 25.fxe3 Rxe3

26.Bd3 Rfe8 27.Nd5 Re1+ 28.Rxe1 Rxe1+ 29.Kd2 Re6 30.Rxe6 Be6 31.Be4 f5 32.Nc7 fxe4

33.Nxe6+ Kf6 I like knight endings, but my opponent probably has the advantage at this point.

34.Nc5 Ke5 35.Nxb7 Nf4 36.g4 Nd5 37.Nc5 Kf4 38.Nxa6 Kxg4 Although a pawn down there is one thing I know about knight endings. And that is a passed rook's pawn can be hard to deal with. Fingers crossed!

39.c4 Ne7 40.Ke2 h5 41.Nc5 Kf4 42.Ne6+ Ke5



43.Ng5 kd4 44.Kd2 e3+ 45.Ke2 Nf5 46.b3 Kc3 47.Nf3 Kb2? The wrong plan, I think. The white pawns become too strong if I go chasing the a pawn.

48.c5 Ka3 49.c6 Kb4 50.c7 Ne7 51.Nd4 Kc5 52.Nf5 Nc8 53.Kxe3 And a draw was agreed. Why?

a) White only needed a half to win the competition.

b) The kings could snap up the h and c pawns, and the if necessary black ought to be able to sac his N for the two remaining pawns, leaving white an unwinnable bare N. If white leaves the h pawn on the pitch his N is rather tied down to stopping its advancement.

I believe b) and am sticking to my story even if it is wrong.



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.

This is the final edition of EP for 2024. May I take this opportunity to wish you and yours a very happy festive season.

Please let me have your comments and contributions for the next edition by 15th January 2025 at the very latest.

Colin Hipwell