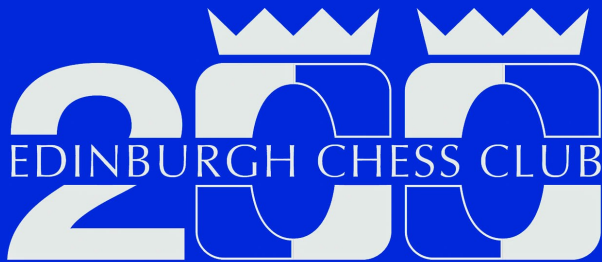


Edinburgh Chess Club 200th Anniversary



**A warm welcome to this wonderful publication designed to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Edinburgh Chess Club!**

**Although not a member of the club myself, I have had many occasion to visit and enjoy its history-seeped surroundings.**

**I was delighted to be asked to help produce this club history, although truth be told my addition was very**

**minor indeed compared to the work done by members of the Edinburgh 200 committee.**

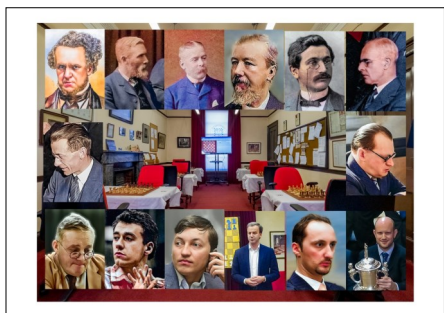
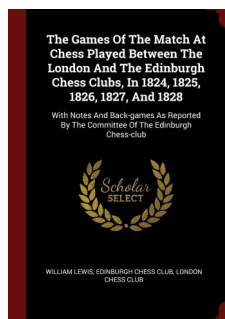
**Inside you'll find a pictorial history of the club, a look at its members old and new, the many esteemed visitors to the club, and the historic events that have taken place involving and within the club. Enjoy!**

**Andrew Burnett**



Alastair White's pictorial approach covers the most notable events of the last 140 years (think about it!) with a remarkable (and colourful!) journey through Edinburgh Chess Club's past.

There has never been a more famous correspondence chess match than that between Edinburgh Chess Club and London its London counterparts. Geoff Chandler dissects the story that launched a famous opening.



Ever wondered who has graced ECC's hallowed boards? Alan McGowan and Alastair White recall the most notable members and most illustrious visitors of the past 200 years.

Edinburgh Chess Club's junior section – the Tiger Cubs – are making history of their own. Soon to celebrate their 25th anniversary, read all about them courtesy of founder, Willie Rutherford.



# Chess in the Edinburgh Chess Club over 200 tumultuous years by Raj Bhopal

(First Chair of the bicentenary subcommittee of the Council of Edinburgh Chess Club)

In 1822 when the Edinburgh Chess Club was formed, King George IV was on the throne. Nine monarchs have ruled and forty Prime Ministers have served the country since 1822. The number of wars involving the UK since 1822 is too numerous to dwell on but include the Crimean War and the two World Wars. The first passenger railway was yet to run and the motorcar and the aeroplane were many decades away as was the first world chess championship. Throughout these tumultuous two centuries, chess flourished at the Edinburgh Chess Club. The Edinburgh Chess Club's life straddles about 1/7th of the entire history of chess from its invention in India in the sixth century.

The significance of the bicentenary of the club, inaugurated on 4 November 1822, was clear and the Council of the Edinburgh Chess Club set up a subcommittee to prepare for celebrations. It was my honour to be the first chair of this committee and we met first on 26 September

2018, with several meetings subsequently, and prepared a 10 point plan. The top priorities that we recommended to Council were re-enacting the famous correspondence chess match between the Edinburgh Chess Club and the London Chess Club and publishing an account of the de-



velopment of the club from 1822-2022. Fittingly, on 3 July 1822 Charles Babbage published a proposal for a forerunner of the modern computer ('difference engine'). The moves for the original correspondence match were conveyed by horse drawn coaches but the 2022 correspondence match on 42 individual boards, still underway, was on the successor to Babbage's engine i.e. the computer server of the International Correspondence Chess Federation [Cross Table \(iccf.com\)](https://www.iccf.com).

Few would disagree that the special bicentenary richly deserved publication, possibly through a grand and glossy book, but it was my view that as a stepping stone we should aim for a special issue of the Scottish Chess magazine. I thank the editor, **Andy Burnett**, and the president of the Scottish Chess Association, **Jim Webster**, for their immediate and unwavering support for this proposal.

My gratitude extends to all the writers involved in this special issue, but especially;

**Alastair White** for leading and delivering, at short notice, an ambitious brief to build upon a well recorded early history and prepare an account that gives due weight to events throughout our 200 years.

**Alan McGowan**, Chess Scotland's long-time historian, did extensive work, which is not only reflected in this issue but also in his recent article on ChessBase [The Edinburgh Chess Club celebrates its 200th anniversary | ChessBase](#).

Alastair's remarkable skills in photography are displayed here, not only in contemporary photographs but in colourising and editing old black-and-white photos.

**Geoff Chandler**, in addition to bringing to life the Edinburgh versus London correspondence match, helped in finding potential games for inclusion. It was a great privilege and learning experience for me to go through them and make a small selection that reflects the prowess of Edinburgh's players. The latest game is from 2022 and played by one of our most promising young players, Frederick Waldhausen-Gordon.

In recent decades Edinburgh chess club has promoted junior chess through the Tiger Cubs programme set up by **Willie Rutherford**, and summarised by him in this issue.

What, the reader might ask, were the other priorities and activities of the club in its bicentenary year?

- We planned for a Grand Master simultaneous display and talk, which were delivered by Paul Motwani on October 29th, 2022 <https://paulmotwani.com/2022/11/01/>
- We sought public recognition by requesting that the famous floral clock in Edinburgh's Princes St, Gardens be planted with a chess theme. The council, unsurprisingly, prioritised the Queen's 70<sup>th</sup> Jubilee over our bicentenary. Surely, chess players will agree this was a missed opportunity by the Council! However, the Council has agreed to the president of Chess Edinburgh, David Stewart's, request for a civic reception to mark the event. We

will be collaborating with both Chess Edinburgh and chess Scotland in events next year, including prizes (for best performances for players with a grading between 1822-1921, and 1922-2022, reflecting our two centuries of life).

- The city of Edinburgh has an annual open day when members of the public are invited to visit private premises. This year the club opened its doors to many visitors, some of whom have returned to become members.
- A celebratory dinner for members and guests is eagerly anticipated.

One small benefit of the pandemic, which hindered our work, is that our committee decided that the bicentenary celebrations would last three years, reflecting the length of the original correspondence match, and therefore will continue until 2025. There were also bonus events beyond the subcommittee's 10 point plan, achieved through council and club members' enthusiasm for the bicentenary.

The club hosted an invited-entry **Scottish Chess Championship** within its premises this year [Chess-Results Server Chess-results.com - Scottish Championship](#) as well as an international norm tournament [Chess-Results Server Chess-results.com - Edinburgh Chess Club Bicentenary IM](#).

A team from the Netherlands, **Apeldoorn Schaakstad**, visited for a 10 board match in July [BI-CENTENIAL INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY TOWN MATCH! | Edinburgh Chess Club News and Events](#).

The club is keen to promote greater interest in chess by girls and women, and a weekend of teaching and playing (led by Lorin D' Costa author of *She Plays to Win*) was an extremely important and successful step in this direction in September 2022. Readers can access more about the club **and its activities at its website** [The Edinburgh Chess Club - promoting chess since 1822](#)

Many club members have assisted Council in making our bicentenary both memorable and en-

joyable. It is risky to acknowledge specific individuals because others' important essential work is then sometimes undervalued.

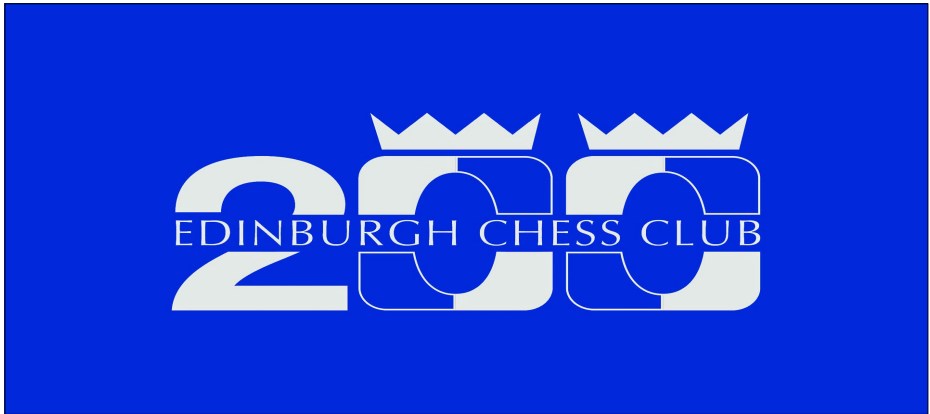
However, I must thank:

- **Bill Marshall**, our club's Webmaster, who took over the chair of the bicentenary subcommittee when I stepped down;
- **Ian Whittaker** (co-chair of the subcommittee, curator and council member) for injecting vigour and energy into turning ideas into action, including leading a team in cataloguing the club's assets;
- **Neil Berry**, club president, for a multiplicity of reasons of which the most important one is his unstinting leadership and support for any proposal that benefits the club; and the many people who served on the bicentenary subcommittee (see our website for names).

This special issue has exceeded my expectations and I hope it will

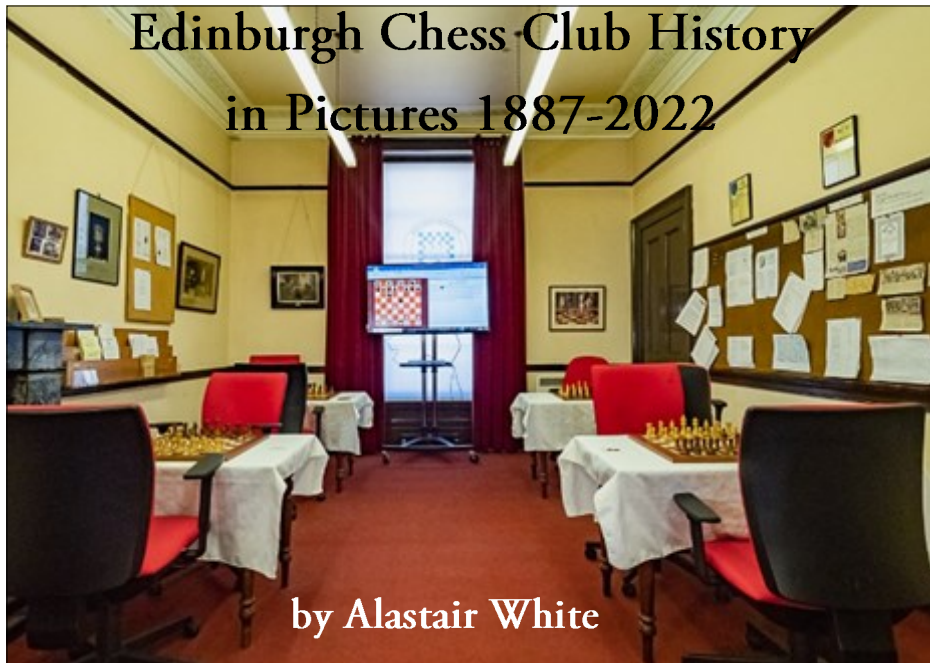
bring much pleasure to chess players internationally and across the generations. Chess is thriving and capturing the imagination of young people everywhere in the world. Our club is thriving and has enjoyed a surprising post-pandemic boost of new and very enthusiastic members of all ages. I have no doubt that our club will

celebrate its 300<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2122. It is likely, given increases in life expectancy and improvements in public health, that some of our younger members, perhaps now in the Tiger Cubs, will live long enough to be there. This special issue will be a source of history, education, enlightenment, and hopefully even joy.





# Edinburgh Chess Club History in Pictures 1887-2022



by Alastair White

The following pages are intended to give you a ‘pictorial history’ of the club, bringing it to life by making use of photographs. Many of these are taken from the framed photographs, some of which currently adorn the walls of the club. Nearly all these were originally rendered in ‘Black and White’, but due to the marvels of modern technology (and no little investment in time and effort) they have now been enhanced and transformed and can be seen for the first time in ‘full colour’. Others have been provided to the club by its members.

While this article has been written by me using the resources of the Edinburgh Chess Club and its archives, much of the source material has been gleaned from other sources. Foremost among these is the Chess Scotland History Archive and other documents compiled by Alan McGowan. Alan in turn has utilised many original sources, including the British Chess Magazine, the Scotsman and Herald newspapers, and many others too numerous to list here. Due credit is given where known and appropriate.

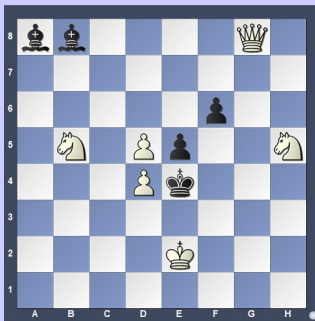
# The Club History in Pictures - David Forsyth (joined 1887)



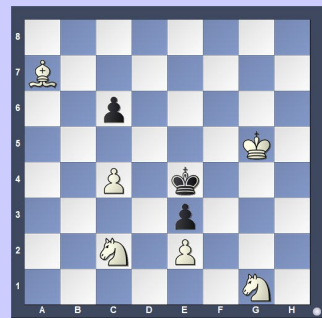
**Above Left:** Portrait of David Forsyth – Edinburgh Chess Club

**Above Right:** A receipt signed by him as Secretary and Treasurer of the Scottish Chess Association dated 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1889

This receipt is one of the earliest examples of Forsyth Notation, showing four chess problems. Two of these are given here. Can you solve them without using a computer? (Solutions on page 34)



Bb4Q1/8/5p2/1N1Pp2N/3Pk3/8/4K3/8  
White to play and mate in 3



8/B7/2p5/6K1/2P1K3/4P3/2N1P3/6N1

White to play and mate in 4

These are quite complex problems and stand up today to modern computer analysis. It does not say who composed them, but it might well have been David Forsyth himself.

## The Club History in Pictures – Richardson Cup 1901



**The winning team** sitting with the trophy after beating the previous winners, Glasgow, in the final: (Left to Right) J G Thomson, H Jackson, D Y Mills, W M Whitelaw, G P Galloway, E Macdonald. (*John Moffat Studios, Edinburgh colourised by A White*)

**John Graham Thomson** was one of the most important figures in the long history of the Edinburgh Chess Club. He was not only a fine chess player and administrator, but he was also instrumental in enabling the club to obtain its current premises at 1 Alva Street. For full bio see page 69

**Harry Jackson** joined in 1895 and was club champion in 1899. He played second board in the final against Glasgow, winning his game. He was born in 1863 and was playing chess actively in Yorkshire from a very early age. According to the Leeds Mercury in 1879, he was known as ‘The Yorkshire Morphy’.

**Daniel Yarnnton Mills** was the most experienced player in this team. He won the Scottish Championship a record eight times between 1885 and 1900. Only Gibson, Fairhurst and Aitken have subsequently surpassed this feat. Having joined in 1891, he was club champion a year later, and again every year until 1899 when Jackson won. He was club President in 1894-6. His job as an insurance executive (with various companies) took him all over Britain; but after he settled in Edinburgh, he became joint secretary of the Scottish Equitable Life Insurance Society.

Alan McGowan quotes BCM as saying: "He was clearly the strongest player in the country during his stay in Scotland but was also active in organizational matters, being the secretary of the Scottish Chess Association for many years. Be-

tween 1896 and 1903 he competed in every Cable match played between Great Britain and the United States, without losing a game." He died just three years after this photograph was taken, in 1904.

**William Martin Whitelaw S.S.C.** didn't play in that final, although he may have played in earlier rounds. He was club secretary from 1898 until 1903, and President in 1903-4. He became Treasurer in 1912 and held that position until 1924. He was a decent player, too, and was club champion in 1902-6, and again in 1908 and 1910. He also represented Scotland in international matches.

Whitelaw was a prominent solicitor in Edinburgh dealing with shipping and commercial law. He was President of the S.S.C. Society, chairman of the Solicitors' Discipline Committee and a member of



the Rules Council. He was a church elder, and a manager of Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. He was connected to Leith Chamber of Commerce and other public bodies and an ex-captain of the Bruntsfield Golf Club.

**George P. Galloway** joined the club in 1883 and was President in 1901-2. In the match against Glasgow he won his game on top board.

When Richard Teichmann visited the club for a simul in 1894, Galloway was the only player to beat him. (see game below).

**Edmund Macdonald** (given as Edmond sometimes) won his game on board 4. He joined as a country member from Killin in 1900.

He left in 1903 but re-joined in 1907, now giving a London address, and stayed a member until

1914. He was a regular in the Scottish Championship in the early 1900s, winning it in 1902 ahead of Mills. He also tied with Gibson in 1912, having beaten him twice, but lost the play-off. He was a civil servant and moved around the country with his job.

♣ **Teichmann, Richard**

♣ **Galloway, George.P.**

Edinburgh, 1894

1.e4 e5 2.♗e2 ♘f6 3.d4 ♗xe4  
 4.dxe5 d5 5.♗g3 ♗xg3 6.hxg3  
 ♕c6 7.♕d3 ♗c6 8.f4 ♖d7  
 9.♗d2 ♕c5 10.♗f3 0-0-0 11.c3  
 d4 12.c4 ♗b4 13.a3 ♗xd3+  
 14.♖xd3 ♕f5 15.♖d1 d3 16.b4  
 ♕d4 17.♞a2 d2+ 18.♕xd2 ♕c3  
 19.♖b3 ♖d3 20.♗f2 ♕d4+  
 21.♗xd4 ♖xd4+ 22.♕e3 ♖e4  
 23.♞e2 ♞d3 24.♖a2 ♕g4  
 25.♞ee1 ♞hd8 26.♕c1 ♖d4+  
 27.♕e3 ♖c3

0-1

## The Club History in Pictures - George Page (joined 1912 & 1933)



**George Page** (R) playing in the Scottish Championship in 1937. Also in picture: Sandy Goldberg (L) and Miss L M Hogarth.

*(Detail from a picture in the Chess Scotland archive. Originally supplied by David Everington, Shropshire Chess Association, via Hugh Gemmell. Colourised by A White)*

**George Page** was one of the most significant figures in Edinburgh Chess between the wars. He was in the Edinburgh Richardson Cup winning teams of 1920, 1923 and 1924, and also a losing finalist in 1921-2.

He was a member of both the Edinburgh club and its rival Edinburgh Civil Service. After transferring his allegiance to Civil Service, he led them to their only Richardson Cup success, (against Edinburgh Chess Club) in 1939.



sometimes not. George was playing for the Civil Service club at this time. On this occasion his 'Blitz' style paid off, with his opponent also playing quickly and making a careless mistake. However, most of the other Edinburgh players fared better, and they duly won the match. George was awarded the Companionship of the Imperial Service Order in 1952 for his long and meritorious service in the Civil Service. He died the following year, aged just 63.





## The Club History in Pictures – Richardson Cup 1946



**Standing:** A J D Lothian, A A Foster, T Harvey, B W Herd, D S Clunie, S L Hart.  
**Seated:** R T R Serjeant and D Simpson. (Photographer unknown, coloured by A White)

In the first competition since WW2, Edinburgh won, beating Stockbridge in the final. They went on to win the competition again in 1947, 1948 and 1950 with much the same team. The 'losing' Stockbridge team included R F D Hayman, John Wilkes, Ian Hamilton,

and Frank Gould, all of whom later became valued members of the ECC. Sandy Goldberg, who was also in that team, applied to join the Edinburgh Club too but was controversially 'blackballed' and not allowed to join.

**A J D Lothian** joined in 1911 and was club President 1947-8. He was a life member and died in 1958. He was a regular in the club teams and played a few times in the Scottish Championship.

**Alex A Foster** joined in 1910 and again in 1919. He was a regular in Richardson Cup teams between the wars.

**T R Harvey** joined as a country member in 1930 when he was living in Islay. He later moved to Edinburgh and was a member of the club until 1958.

**B W Herd** joined in 1944.

**S L Hart** joined in 1942 and was club champion in 1950.

**R T R Serjeant** joined in 1921 and played regularly in competitions. He was club champion in 1926, 1927, 1933, and 1945 and President 1946-7.

**David Simpson** joined way back in 1902 and was club champion on no less than 15 occasions he was in winning Edinburgh teams in every decade from 1904 to 1958! He was Club Treasurer in 1910-11, President in 1914-16, and then Treasurer again from 1924 until 1960.

He was also no stranger to success in the Richardson Cup, and played in several Scottish Championships between 1907 and 1931.

**D S Clunie** joined in 1929. He was club champion in 1932, and club President in 1954-5. He was also part of George Page's Civil Service team which gained its only success in the Richardson Cup in 1939, against an Edinburgh side that included most of the players pictured here.

## The Club History in Pictures – Richardson Cup 1958



**Standing:** W S Smerdon, I C Kirkwood, D S Clunie, A G Laing, R W M Baxter.

**Seated:** J A Smith, D Simpson, I McRobbie

The winning team are pictured with a collection of trophies: The Richardson Cup, the Edinburgh League Trophy, (and for good measure) the Scotch Gambit Cup.

*(Photographer unknown, colourised by A White)*

**William ('Bill') S Smerdon** was a strong player who was a Senior Engineer with Ferranti (later BaE Systems) in Edinburgh. He joined in 1950 and became President in 1974, a position he held for the next eight years. He was also President of the Edinburgh and Lothians Chess Association (now Chess Edinburgh) for many years.

**Ian Candlish Kirkwood (later Lord Kirkwood, 1932-2017)** was a strong player from an early age, sharing the title of Scottish Boys Champion in 1948. He later played in the Glorney Cup, the World Students Championship, and the Scottish Championship. He joined the club as a junior in 1952.

Later, as he rose through the ranks of the Legal profession, he found less time for chess, but was always a supporter of the club (of which he was a Patron) and of Scottish Chess in general. He could sometimes be seen watching the games at the Scottish Championships, smartly dressed in a 3-piece pin-stripe suit with watch fob and chain. People no doubt wondered who he was, not knowing he was a Law Lord, one of the foremost Judges in Scotland.

Kirkwood was one of the five judges selected to hear the appeal of the convicted Lockerbie bomber, at a special 'Scottish' court convened at the Hague in 2002.

He could also be seen regularly at Tynecastle Park, supporting his favourite Heart of Midlothian Football team.

**D S Clunie** and **David Simpson** were both veterans of the 1946 winning team (see page 17).

**A G Laing** was a regular in the team around that time. He had been playing chess in London in the 1930s and 40s and had played against Jacques Mieses and Sir

George Thomas among others. In 1943 he played against Vera Menchik, just a year before she was killed when a V1 Flying bomb hit her home.

After the war he moved to Edinburgh and joined the club in 1948. He was invaluable to the club, organising the competitions and matches and always making sure everyone knew what was going on. He was probably the best Club Secretary we never had. In fact many of us thought he was the Club Secretary.

He was a decent chess player in his day, and regularly played in the Scottish Championship. His chess style was undeniably a bit wild, usually starting with a speculative opening such as his favourite Danish Gambit before embarking on some equally speculative sacrificial attack.

**Raymond W M Baxter**, who joined the club in 1957, was an actuary with the Scottish Widows Fund in Edinburgh. He was a strong player and represented Scotland in the Tel Aviv Olympiad of 1964. He also tied equal first in the Scottish Championship of 1965 but lost out in a 3-way playoff. He

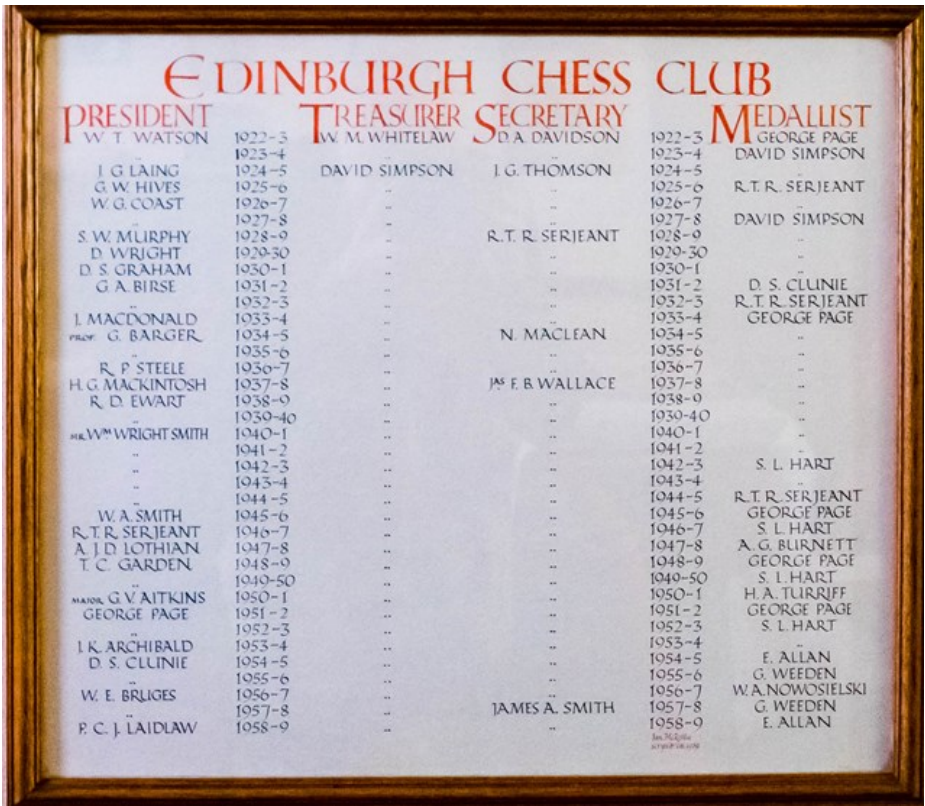


was club champion four times in the 1960s, and Treasurer in 1970-1972.

**James A Smith** joined in 1945. He was Club Treasurer from 1960 until 1966.

**Ian McRobbie** was President from 1963 until 1965.

He was responsible for this fine calligraphic record of office bearers currently on display in the club:



## The Club History in Pictures – 1968 Glorney Cup and Junior International, Plymouth 1968



**L to R:** J Glendinning, (non-playing captain) C Campbell, A Taylor, E Holt, D Marr, R Waugh, I Mullen (*Photo credit: John Glendinning, colourised by A White*)

‘Junior’ Chess was flourishing in Edinburgh chess scene in the late 1960s and the early 1970s. All but one of these pictured here were members of the club at one time!

**John M Glendinning**, from Glasgow, long-time President of the Scottish Chess Association, was a member of the club at this time! He joined in 1968, to help facili-

tate the upcoming Scottish Championships in 1972, which were to be held in Edinburgh as part of the club’s 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations.

**Colin Campbell** joined the club along with his brother Reg in 1968. They were both from a very successful Boroughmuir School team, who won the inaugural Scot-

tish Junior Team Championship in 1968, and gained back-to-back promotions in the Edinburgh League. Colin was club Champion in 1969 and represented Scotland in the Glorney Cup in 1968 and 1969.

**Allen Taylor** (Rutherglen and Cathcart) was the only one with no connection to the club.

**Eric Holt** was another product of the successful Boroughmuir School team. He was a naturally talented player, and a fine tactician. His successes included a share of the Scottish Boys Championship in 1967 (with Donald Marr), and a share of the Scottish Championship in 1971 (with Roddy McKay, another great natural talent). He represented Scotland in the Glorney Cup on three occasions (1968, 1969 and 1970), and performed well in each. He was Club Champion in 1970.

In 1971 he played in the British Championship, scoring a very creditable  $6\frac{1}{2}/11$ , but then gave up chess altogether to pursue his studies. Who knows what he might otherwise have achieved! Later he emigrated to the USA and became a minister of religion and a mis-

sionary. He died in 2013 after a battle with cancer.

**Donald T Marr** was the son of Edinburgh Club regular Johnny Marr. He attended Leith Academy and joined the club in 1971. He shared the Scottish Boys Championship in 1967 (with Eric Holt). When he played in the Glorney Cup in 1968, he was only 14, possibly the youngest person to have represented Scotland at international level at that time.

**Robert D Waugh** was the oldest of the 3-strong Boroughmuir contingent here. He was one of the first 'Juniors' to be allowed to join the Edinburgh club in 1964 when aged just 14. He co-authored a Schools Chess Magazine ('J'Adoube') with Alastair White and Alex Chalmers (who also both later joined the club).

He won the Scottish Boys Championship in 1966 with an impressive score of  $+6 =3 -0$  but was for whatever reason not selected to play in the Glorney that year. However he did play in 1967 and 1968.

**Ian D Mullen** (nicknamed ‘Spike’ after a jazz musician, not the comedian) was one of the most tragic figures of Edinburgh chess.

From Dollar Academy, he was only 15 when he played in the Glorney Cup.

Losing both parents at an early age, he moved to Edinburgh, and later became live-in caretaker at the club. He was gentle, clever, and talented as a chess player, a writer, and a musician – he played and taught guitar which he could play in any style.

As a chess writer he co-authored and produced the Edinburgh chess magazine ‘Capital Chess’ (later CapaTal Chess) first with Alastair White and later with Geoff Chandler. He also co-authored two fine chess books: ‘Master Chess’ with Danny Kopec and others, and ‘Blunders and Brilliances’ with Moe Moss.

Later he successfully wooed a visiting Norwegian lady chess-player, Anniken Omholt-Jensen. She moved in with him, and shortly after that she became pregnant with his child. When she moved back to Norway and had the child adopted, Ian became increasingly irrational, mentally disturbed, and insular, showing symptoms of paranoid schizophrenia. Some years later he committed suicide, a sad loss to his many friends.

*(See the Edinburgh Chess Club website for:*

- *further biographical details about Ian Mullen*
- *an article ‘A Golden Age for Edinburgh Juniors – the 1960s and 70s by Bill Marshall).*

## The Club History in Pictures – Richardson Cup 1981



Pictured with the Richardson Cup and the Scottish Championship Cup (won by D Kopec in 1980)

**Standing, L to R:** R Baxter, J Henley, G Weeden, C Morrison, W Smerdon.

**Seated:** D Smith, M Condie, D Kopec, G Chandler.

*(Photographer unknown. Photo restoration by A White)*

**Raymond W M Baxter and William S Smerdon** were both veterans of the 1958 winning team (see pages 19/20)

**John Henley** joined the club in 1977. He was never one of the top players, but nevertheless a reliable team member who rarely lost playing for the club.

**George Weeden** was another reliable veteran team player, who first joined in 1953, left in 1962, but re-joined in 1970.

In the Scottish Championship of 1979 he beat former champion Peter Jamieson and drew with Andy Muir.

**Chris J Morrison (FM)** joined the club in 1980 from Bon Accord, the year he won the Scottish Correspondence Chess Championship. He was East of Scotland Champion in 1979 (shared with Alastair White). He later became an international lawyer and moved to the far East.

**Donald J Smith** joined the club in 1967, along with his Portobello School team-mate Douglas May. In 1968, they played in the Scottish Boys Championship with Douglas first and Donald second. Donald's brother Eric, a notable chess organiser, joined in 1970. His sister Fiona also played competitive chess.

**Mark L Condie (IM)** is the son of club stalwart Phil Condie and was encouraged to play chess from a very early age. He won the Scottish Boys Championship in 1978 and held junior age records 5 times in his teens. He was 3rd in the European Junior in 1982/83 and in the same year obtained his FM title. He continued to play strongly in international events and became an International Master in 1984. He was Scottish Champion in 1985 and 1989 and represented Scotland in two Olympiads. Sadly he later dropped out of active play due to

health issues caused by the ravages of Wilson's disease.

**Danny Kopec (IM)** was an American International Master who came to Edinburgh at the invitation of Professor Donald Michie (who had worked with Alan Turing at Bletchley Park).

While at Edinburgh University he gained a PhD, investigating Artificial Intelligence via the medium of chess. He was Scottish Champion in 1980, the year he joined the club. He coached and captained the Edinburgh team to success in the Richardson Cup in 1981 and 1982. Later he returned to the USA where he set up chess 'camps'. He died in 2016.

**Geoff J Chandler** should need little introduction. He has been a member since 1977 and was live-in caretaker for a while. A prolific chess columnist, storyteller, blogger, and a noted tactician, his knowledge of the club, its members and its history is encyclopaedic (but he wouldn't be able to spell that!).

Geoff has also co-authored a couple of chess books. First, there was 'Master Chess' with Danny Kopec, Ian Mullen, and others (later revised and re-issued as 'Mastering



Chess'). Geoff wrote the excellent chapter on chess 'Tactics' (no surprise there). The books sold many copies worldwide and was translated into many languages.

Then in 2008 along with another former Edinburgh Chess member Keith Ruxton, he co-authored another excellent chess book, 'Rampant Chess'. Described by the authors as a 'gallus' compendium, it features more than 60 games by all the Scottish players who held GM or IM titles at that time.

*(I would urge you to get this book if you can! If you read the amusing foreword by GM Jonathan Rowson and the introductions by the authors, you will already be hooked.)*

A couple of years after that, in 2010, Geoff was voted 'Player of the Year' by Chess Scotland. Not bad for someone who hadn't played a rated game since 2007!

Since then he has continued to rest on his laurels competition-wise but never fails to impress us with his enthusiasm, his willingness to research chess 'blind alleys', his knowledge of the club and the game, and his good humour.

Edinburgh won the Richardson again in 1982, with **Ian Mullen** and **Bob Inglis** replacing George Weeden and Geoff Chandler in the team.

## The Club History in Pictures – European Club Cup 1987



**Standing, (to right of board), L to R:** R McAndrew, C Thomson, D Kilgour, C Morrison, G Morrison, P McInally.

**Seated (left of board):** M L Condie

*(Photo: from Edinburgh Chess Club, colourised by A White)*

In 1987 Edinburgh won the Richardson Cup again, beating Glasgow Polytechnic 5-3 in the final. This qualified them to play in the 'European Club Cup' which was a straight 2-round knockout tourney in those days.

In the first round they were drawn against a very strong Yugoslav team, ŠK Bosna Sarajevo, to be

played over two days. The Bosna team included six IMs, four of whom went on to become GMs.

Unsurprisingly Edinburgh were beaten 10-2, although IM Mark Condie did beat their top board Goran Dizdar in the second leg, which proved to be Edinburgh's only win in the match.

On the left-hand side of the photo you can see the Bosna Sarajevo team Goran Dizdar, Emir Dizdarević, Milan Draško, Bogdan Lalić, Ivan Sokolov, Miralan Dževlan, and Vitomir Arapović. But don't ask me which is which!

**Robert (Bob) A McAndrew**, a lawyer, joined in 1979, and was club Treasurer for ten years, from 1984-1995. So it fell to him to find a way of funding this match and finding acceptable hotel accommodation at Edinburgh Festival time!

He shared the club championship with Graham Morrison in 1984. He has recently returned to chess as a Senior International after a long absence from the game.

**Craig S M Thomson** was briefly a member around that time. He won the Scottish in 1984 and was second board behind Condie. He secured a draw against Draško in the second round of the match.

**David A Kilgour**, another lawyer, has played in several Scottish Championships, and is also notably a 'grandmaster' at correspondence chess. He was club Champion in 1986, and club Secretary in 1987.

**Christopher J Morrison (FM)** was yet another lawyer. (See p 26 for full bio.)

**Graham Morrison (FM)** joined in 1983, the year he gained his FM title. He was club champion in 1983, 1984, 1985, and 1987.

He was Scottish Champion in 1981 and represented Scotland in Olympiad teams in 1984, 1988, 2010, and 2012. He has the necessary norms to become an IM but still needs to achieve a 2400 rating to be awarded the title. His wife Lynne was Scottish Ladies Champion in 1977 and was also a club member.

**Patrick McNally** gained the distinction of being the only Edinburgh player unbeaten in this match! He drew with Dževlan in the first round but was then replaced by Bob McAndrew for the second leg.

**Mark Condie (IM)** of course you already know from the Richardson winning teams of 1981-2. (See page 26 for full bio.)

## The Club History in Pictures – Richardson Cup 2013



**Standing, L-R:** R Bhopal, H Brechin, C Sreeves, A Bremner

**Seated, L-R:** D Oswald, N Berry (C), D Robertson, C Macqueen

Pictured with the trophy after their decisive 5½-2½ victory against Edinburgh West

*(Photo supplied by Neil Berry)*

**Raj Bhopal** is an Emeritus Professor of Public Health at Edinburgh University and recipient of a CBE for services to public health. He ‘retired’ in 2018 but his services were still very much in demand due to the subsequent pandemic.

He was active as a junior and represented Scotland in several junior competitions, including the Glorney Cup in 1971. On returning to active chess around ten years ago, Raj has since played for Scotland in Senior International tour-

naments and played an active part in the organisation of the club and in the club teams, winning the club championship title in both 2016 and 2018.

**Hugh Brechin** joined as a junior in 1999 and has been a team regular for many years.

He also captained the Edinburgh University team on 'University Challenge' in 2009-2010 which made it to the quarter-finals, and is lead singer for the Indie Rock Group, 'Spylaw'.

**Clement Sreeves (FM)** was another junior who very quickly established himself as a very strong player. He represented Scotland in the Glorney Cup in 2010. He also played in the full Scottish team in the 2018 Olympiad. He famously won a 'bet' with Chess Scotland Magazine editor Andrew Burnett as to which of them would first make it to the FM title. He moved away first to work in the City of London and later moved again to New Zealand.

**Adam Bremner (CM)** is a product of Aberdeen's Bon Accord club who later moved to Edinburgh to work as a Senior Risk Analyst with Baillie Gifford. He has played in a lot of high-profile chess events in-

cluding Hastings, the 4NCL and the European Club Championship. Recently he was in the Scottish Team for the European Team Championships.

**David Oswald** is yet another strong player who joined from the junior ranks in 1999. He represented Scotland in the Glorney Cup in 2007. He was voted 'Chess Scotland Player of the Year' in 2013, the year this picture was taken.

**Neil Berry (FM)** was a product of the Balerno School team and played in the Glorney Cup in 1993/4. He joined in 1999 and shared the Championship the following year. He won it again in 2013 and 2015.

He has been President of the club ever since 2005, making him the second longest serving president after Sir William Napier in 1829-1847. He gained the Fide Master title (FM) in 2003.

Neil was Scottish Champion in 2015 and was voted Chess Scotland 'Player of the Year' in that year. He has represented Scotland in several Olympiad (World) and European Team Championship events, and captains the Scottish 'Team Alba' in the Four Nations

Chess League (4NCL). During the recent pandemic Neil was instrumental in setting up online competitions for the 4NCL and on behalf of the Edinburgh Chess Club, leading to him being voted Chess Scotland 'Player of the Year' for a second time in 2020.

**David A Robertson** (nicknamed 'Soxy' for reasons I am unaware of) joined the club in 1996 and was soon a regular in club teams. He is a former coach of the 'Tiger Cubs' Junior Section, and his son Calum is a former Tiger Club and Junior International player. He now lives in Dunbar.

**Calum Macqueen** is another young player who has enjoyed considerable success over the board and has undoubtedly been one of our strongest players over the last 10 years.

He was Chess Scotland 'Player of the Year' in 2012 and was East of Scotland Champion in 2013.

He has the distinction of twice beating the previous champion in the first round of the Scottish Championship.



## The Club History in Pictures – Richardson Cup 2016



Pictured with the trophy after their decisive 7-1 victory against Aberdeen side, Bon Accord (+6 =2 -0)

**Standing, L to R:** G Kafka, H Brechin, D McGowan, A Green, P Walden.

**Seated, L to R:** C Sreeves, D Oswald, N Berry, C Macqueen

*(Photo supplied by Neil Berry)*

Much of the team were as in the 2013 side with a few additions:

**Graeme Kafka** did not play in that final but had played in previous rounds. Originally from West Kilbride in Ayrshire, he represented Scotland in the Glorney Cup in

1999/2000. He joined the club in 2000 and was soon a regular in club teams. He is also very fit, and regularly takes part in running, hiking, and climbing adventures. He has completed the ascent of all 282 'Munros' (mountains over 3000 feet high) in Scotland.

**Daniel McGowan** was another Glorney Cup player, having played in 2003. He was formerly one of the club's strongest players, but now lives and plays in Germany.

**Andrew Green** joined the club in 2001. He was yet another Glorney player, having played in 2004 and 2007. A product of the club's youth development, he later became heavily involved himself in Junior Chess development himself via the 'Tiger Cubs' section of the club and the 'Edinburgh Chess Academy'. (See separate article).

**Dr. Petros Walden PhD** is a Cambridge University graduate

who is now a research scientist and lecturer at Edinburgh University school of Informatics, specialising in subjects such as Quantum Cryptography, as well as Quantum Computation and Quantum Information. He has organised club competitions and is also a strong player!

Many of these players from the winning Richardson teams have also represented the club in various European Club Cup competitions: Berry, Sreeves, MacQueen, Oswald, Green, McGowan, Brechin, Kafka and Bhopal among them.

## Solutions to D Forsyth Problems from Page 10

Bb4Q1/8/5p2/1N1Pp2N/3Pk3/8/4K3/8

**White to play and mate in 3**

1.**Qc8 f5** [1...exd4 2.Qe6+ Be5 3.Nd6#;  
1...Kxd5 2.Nxf6#; 1...Bb7 2.Nxf6+ Kf4]

2.**d6 exd4** [2...Bxd6 3.Qxa8#; 2...f4  
3.Nf6#; 2...Kd5 3.Nf6#]

3.**Qe6#**

8/B7/2p5/6K1/2P1K3/4P3/2N1P3/6N1

**White to play and mate in 4**

1.**Bd4 c5** 2.Nf3 cxd4 3.Nce1 d3 4.exd3#

# The Scotch Gambit Cup

by Geoff Chandler

In March 1824, the Edinburgh club challenged the London Club to a correspondence match. The first club to win two games would be declared the winner and the losing club had to supply a trophy to the value of £25 guineas. Both clubs set up a committee to analyse the games.



**The Edinburgh Club Committee:** Captain Aytoun, Buchanan, Burnett, Crawford, Donaldson, Gregory. Rev. H. Liston, Mackersey, Meiklejohn, More, Pender, Rose, Sir S. Stirling Bart., Wauchope and Wylie.

**The London Club Committee:** Messrs. Brande, Lewis, Cochrane, Mercier, Fraser, Parkinson, Keen, Pratt, Samuda, Tomlin, Willshire, and Wood.



John Cochrane, the top player for London, was actually Scottish

London had the White pieces throughout the match and although Edinburgh had Black, they moved first in four of the five games.

This was before the rule about White always moving first was established so when Edinburgh played the Scotch Game, which they did in two of their four games moving first, they were in fact looking at this position:



The fact Edinburgh had the first move four times was due to the way the rules were structured. If a game was drawn, then who ever started that game moved first in

the replay (they did not swap sides.) If a game was won, then the winner would go first in the next game. However, stay with me on this, I'll do my best to explain it.

Edinburgh drew game one when going first so started a new game (game three) and they also won game two where London went first so moved first in the next game (game four).

London won the 4th game and should have started another game, but the 3rd game had been going on so long and had transformed into an opposite-coloured Bishop ending with Edinburgh a pawn up. This was a game Edinburgh had little chance of winning and no chance of losing but it did not stop them playing on...and on.

So, before the end of game four London, correctly anticipating game three would eventually be

**Game One:** Edinburgh first:  
23rd Apr 1824 to 14th Dec 1824  
Game drawn, 35 moves.

**Game Two:** London first:  
28th Apr 1824 to 23rd Feb 1825  
Edinburgh won, 52 moves.

**Game Three:** Edinburgh first:  
20th Dec 1824 to 18th Mar 1828  
Game drawn, 99 moves.

**Game Four:** Edinburgh first:  
26th Feb 1825 to 15th Sept 1826  
London won, 55 moves.

**Game Five:** Edinburgh first:  
6th Oct 1826 to 31st July 1828  
Edinburgh won, 60 moves.

drawn, asked Edinburgh to start another game (game 5) which means there were now three games being played at once (games 3, 4 and 5). As the match was dragging on Edinburgh suggested the match be decided on the fifth game.

At that time the result of game five was in the balance. Edinburgh were a piece down but had the winning chances. A draw and a drawn match looked likely. However, Edinburgh won the 5th game when London resigned in July 1928 and so won the match.

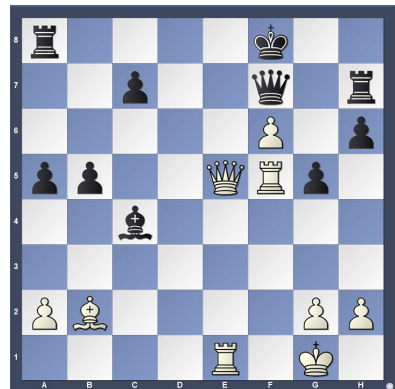
Edinburgh sent their first move on the 23 April (St. Georges day!) 1824. London made their first move and a reply to Edinburgh's opening move on the 28th of April 1824 so from these dates we can surmise that it took 5 days (approx. 80 miles a day) for the mail to go between London and Edinburgh.

*(Editor's note: According to research by Tim Harding, the 400 miles from London to Edinburgh could be travelled by stagecoach in around 45 hours. That's about 9 miles per hour on average, or over*

*200 miles/day. Presumably there would also be pickup and delivery delays and then the remaining time would be required for the respective committees to meet and consider their replies.)*

## The Controversy

To save time (and money) conditional moves were being applied by both sides and the position below from game 2 was reached:



London sent the move 26.♔c5+ and added if 26...♚g8 then 27.♖xg5+ and if the further



27...hxg5 then 28.♖xg5+. However London noticed that 27.♖xg5+ was an error so went to the mail company to get their letter back. The post master refused, so London sent a letter requesting 26.♖c5+ was the only move; the conditional move (27.♖xg5+) was to be ignored. Edinburgh wrote back saying that conditional move will have to stand claiming 'touch move.'

A wee bit of a kerfuffle ensued with the newspapers, (who were headlining this match as Scotland v England) getting involved but London eventually agreed to play on from the position after their conditional 28.♖xg5+.

The Edinburgh committee agreed that London were winning before the conditional moves and were no doubt happy to settle for a draw because London had a cast iron

perpetual check after 28.♖xg5+ and Edinburgh probably expected they would take it. (Here I speculate that had the conditional moves left Edinburgh with a clear win then they would have allowed the conditional moves to be ignored. They would want not to win that way but a draw in view of London's error seemed a fair result.)

But London refused the perpetual, possibly thinking not unreasonably that there were a few plausible errors Edinburgh could make in the following 10 -15 or so moves and it appears that the perpetual check was always there when they wanted it. However, in hindsight when it became clear Edinburgh were not going to walk into a two-move trap London should have taken the draw and started another game moving first.

The trouble for London began

when they turned down their last chance at a perpetual (move 41). At that point, Edinburgh took the initiative and wrapped up the win perfectly.

♞ London ♜ Edinburgh

### Game 2

Started 28th April, 1824

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4



At the suggestion of John Cochrane, and a move that opens an interesting debate. Was this opening named the Scotch because Edinburgh won the match (though they did not play 3.d4 till a later game), or was it named after

Cochrane who was a Scot living in London?

It appears chess history may have been close to naming this the English Opening or...heaven forbid...The London System.

3...exd4 4.♙c4 ♙c5 5.c3 ♚e7 An odd-looking move. Possibly rejecting 5...dxc3 due to 6.♙xf7+ and ♚d5+ winning back the bishop. 5...♚e7 protects the c5-bishop. 5...♘f6 was better.

6.0-0 dxc3 Going a pawn up for the sake of development but thanks to 5...♚e7 Black is going to have a difficult game no matter what they played here.

7.♘xc3 d6 8.♘d5 ♚d7 The best square. 8...♚d8 would have been a blunder as will easily be seen on move 11.

**9.b4** White sacrifices another pawn to bring the c1-bishop into the game with a gain of tempo and to encourage Black to place an unprotected piece on b4.

**9...♟xb4 10.♞xb4 ♟xb4** If Black had played **8...♞d8**, here **11.♞a4+** would have won the bishop.

**11.♞g5**



Everyone would like the White position here. An attack on f7, an awkwardly placed queen, the king in the centre, a loose piece on b4 to gain a tempo on. The fact Black is two pawns up is moot. This

game is looking like the pawns will never get a chance to play a role.

**11...♞h6 12.♟b2** The London club would have enjoyed demonstrating to its members the simple checkmate should Black castle here. (**12...0-0 13.Qd4!**) Protecting the g7-pawn with **12...f6** meets with **13.♟xf6** or **13.♞h5+**, so Edinburgh has to play **...♞f8** or **...♞g8**.

**12...♞f8** Not the best option as this has a strong reply, though London did not play it.

**13.♞b3** This makes me think Cochrane or Lewis were not present during this phase. Although **13.♞b3** gains a tempo on the loose bishop, **13.♞d4** would have forced **13...♞g8** thus making **12...♞f8** a wasted move. White could then nick a pawn back with **14.♞xh7+**.

13...♔e7 14.♘xf7 White wins back a pawn with this pseudo-sac.

14...♘xf7 15.♚xb4 ♘e5 16.f4 Here a modern player would play 16.♙e2 and the knight can sweat on e5 waiting for f4.

16...♘xc4 17.♚xc4 ♔f7 18.♚c3



Despite not playing 13.♚d4, this is a good position from which to build a White win.

18...♙e6 19.f5 ♙c4 20.♞f4 With e4-e5 and ♞g4 ideas. 20.f6 is playable and tempting but White's move is also good.

20...b5 Again, a modern player, guided by such positions handed down through history would now have played 21. a4 as it loosens up Black's queenside and opens more files, which always benefits the better developed side.

21.e5 White brings the game to the boil. Maybe this move could have been prepared better, but it is not a mistake.

21...dxe5 22.♚xe5 h6 Someone in the Edinburgh camp had a keen sense of danger This move vacates h7 for the rook to hold g7.

23.♙e1 White now has all his pieces in action ....

23...♞h7 ... While Black's are tied down defending things. Something has to give.



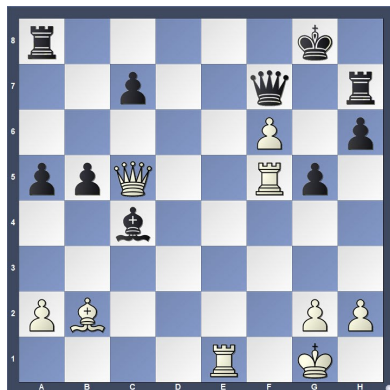
24.f6 As White you be thinking this will soon be over and be looking for a tactical way to finish it. This is just one of the many tempting ways to go about it.

24...g5 25.♞f5 Played with the coming unsound rook sacrifice in mind. Another way was 25.♚c5+ ♔g8 26.♞xc4 bxc4 27.♞e7 when Edinburgh would have possibly considered resignation.

25...a5 Another good defensive move aimed at playing b4 in the event of ♔a3+. However, with correct play White should win the game from here.

26.♚c5+ This is where London added the conditional moves.

26...♔g8



The win from here is not too difficult to work out in a correspondence game. With best play it goes: 27.♚c6 ♞f8 28.♔a3 b4 29.♞e7 ♞g6 30.f7+ ♔xf7 31.♞exf7 ♚xc6 32.♞xf8+ ♔g7 33.♔b2+ ♔g6 34.♞8f6+.

27.♞xg5+ hxg5 28.♚xg5+ ♔f8 29.♔d4 London now had a clear perpetual with 29.♚c5+ and 30.♚g5 but they never took it.

29...♙e6 30.♚c5+ The perpetual is still there and this time it appears London may be taking it.

30...♔g8 31.♛g5+ ♕f8 32.♙c5+ But London refuses to take the perpetual. It is possible they still saw a few more winning tries thinking the perpetual would always be an option.

32...♔e8 33.♛d5 This looks good but....

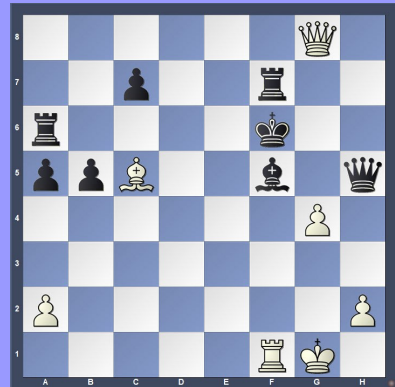
33...♖a6 ... is a good reply.

34.♛b7 Still trying to make something happen. It's tricky and there is still a draw on the board.

34...♛h5 White has no time to take on a6 as the c5-bishop hangs with check.

35.f7+ ♕xf7 36.♖f1+ ♔g6

37.♛e4+ ♙f5 38.♛e8+ ♖f7  
39.♛g8+ ♕f6 40.g4



This position was practically forced, and it looks good for White but once again Edinburgh play a very good defensive move.

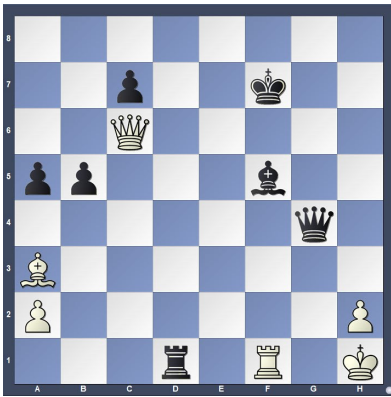
40...♖a8 41.♛xa8 Here is the last chance for a perpetual with 41.♙d4+ ♕e7 42.♙c5+ ♔f6 etc. Taking the perpetual was best, but the game move gives Edinburgh a chance.

41...♛xg4+ 42.♔h1 ♖d7 43.♙a3 ♕f7 London have drifted in a bad position but looking at it you



would think you can keep checking the Black king at the first sign of any real danger. The problem is after the king moves the f5 bishop is no longer pinned and Be4+ is a real threat. For example 44. ♖f8+ ♔g6 45. ♖g8+ ♖g7 and ♙e4+ is a winning threat.

44. ♖c6 ♖d1



Best now appears to be 45. ♖g2 with the idea of offering to swap all the heavy pieces going into an opposite-coloured bishop ending. Black would have to play very accurately to win it. The h-pawn will tie down the White bishop.

45. ♖xb5 But this turns it into a simple win. Indeed, Edinburgh sent moves 47 to 51 as conditional moves and the London club finding nothing better accepted them.

45... ♖e4+ 46. ♔g1 ♔g6 The f5 bishop is unpinned and joins in. 47. ♖xd1 ♖e3+ is a simple mate in a few moves.

47. ♖b2 ♖g4+ 48. ♖g2 This stops all the mating threats, but it loses the exchange.

48... ♖xg2+ 49. ♔xg2 ♙h3+ 50. ♔xh3 ♖xf1 51. ♙e7 a4 52. a3 ♖f5 London resigned and Edinburgh started game 3.

0-1

♣ Edinburgh ♣ London,

## Game 5

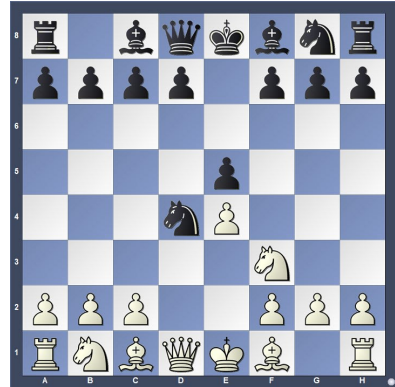
Started 6th October, 1826.

This was the game London asked Edinburgh to start whilst game 3 which began in December 1824 was still in progress. Possibly hoping Edinburgh would be done with it and agree to a draw, in which case Edinburgh, due to the rules would start another game. That game lasted another 17 months and 32 moves by which time it was agreed that game 5 would be the last of the match.

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 Edinburgh decided to play 3.d4 as they did in game 3 returning the compliment and fighting London with the same opening that saw Edinburgh nearly losing game 2. Since by then they had purchased a copy of Cochrane's 1822 treatise on

chess which examined this opening, they were, fully armed with the latest 'Theory'.

3...♘xd4



Cochrane, who had left the scene long ago and was in India, advised not playing this in his book.

4.♘xd4 This is what Cochrane suggests against 3...♘xd4 adding that 4.♘xe5 is also playable.

4...exd4 5.♖xd4 ♘e7 6.♙c4 ♘c6 7.♗d5 ♗f6 8. 0-0 as given by Lewis in the 1830's and as demon-

strated in subsequent games, appears to be the best move here because after...

8.♖c3 ♘b4 White has little to show by way of taking advantage of Black's 3rd move.

9.♙d2 d6 10.♙b5



Edinburgh are trying to squeeze something out of the opening. They are hoping to force London to play ...♙xc3.

10...♙d7 11.♙c4 ♙c5 But Black retreats the bishop. You can safely class this as being equal.

12.0-0 0-0 I'd have now played 13.♘d5 ♙d8 then realised Black is threatening 14...♘e5 followed by ... ♙xb5 and ...c6. Instead, White swings the queen across to the kingside still hoping to inject some life into their position.

13.♙d3 ♘e5 14.♙g3 ♙xb5 15.♘xb5 c6 16.♘c3 Now some probing moves by Black.

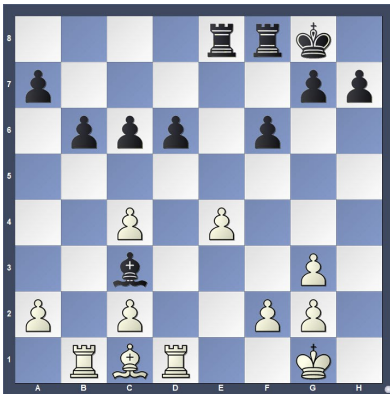
16...♘c4 17.♙g5 ♙g6 18.b3 f6 White avoids 19.♙f4 ♙xg3 20.♙xg3 ♘d2 and 21...♙d4 winning at the very least the exchange.

19.♙c1 ♙xg3 20.hxg3 ♙d4 This move instead of the alternative 20...♘a3 gives cause for Edinburgh to question Philidor's doctrine on pawn structures.

21.bxc4 ♙xc3 22.♙b1 b6 Edinburgh state that although having doubled and isolated pawns they found the sudden freedom it al-

lowed their pieces was fully worth it. Something today we take for granted but back then it was novel and Edinburgh in their report on the match advised a careful study of this game as it conflicts with Philidor in the use of the pawns. However, as the game proceeds Edinburgh slip back into Philidor mode realising they are indeed the '...very soul of the game' Read on....

23.♖d1 ♜ae8



Although this forces the black bishop out of the game, London quite rightly reject passive defence

and are willing to shed the d6-pawn for active play.

24.♖b3 ♔a5 The bishop remains a virtual spectator for the next 25 moves, but if 24..♙e5 25.f4.

25.f3 f5 26.exf5 ♜e2 27.g4 ♜xc2 28.♙f4 ♜xc4 29.♙xd6 ♜e8 This position would have caused concern for some players in the Edinburgh camp and delight for all in London. White has an isolated pawn and two doubled pawns. Black's pawns are united, one passed. Add two active rooks and even I, knowing what is to come, would have to give Black the nod .

30.♖a3 Played to keep the bishop out of the game. Sneaking it back into play via e1 drops the a7-pawn.

30...h6 Giving the king a bolt hole and stopping g5. Black does not

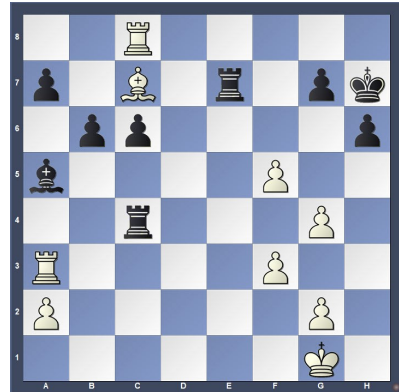
want to see that group of pawns on the move.

31.♔c7 Aiming to get a rook to d7 or considering swapping a pair of rooks with ♖d8. White has to get active before Black doubles rooks on the 7th.

31...♜e7 31...♜c2 and running the passed c-pawn is a good alternative. Round about here it was agreed this 5th game should be the last, and game three was finally being agreed drawn after 99 moves.

32.♞d8+ 32...♔f7 33.♞d6 and if not allowed to play Rf8 mate then 34.♞d7+ and 35.♞xa7 will be played.

32...♔h7 33.♞c8



Not only protecting the c7-bishop but the rook is also now behind the dangerous passed c-pawn. Both black rooks now dive into the White camp and if it does not win then surely a blind pig draws.

33...♜c1+ 34.♔h2 ♜ee1 35.♔h3

♜h1+ 36.♞h2 ♞c3 This bishop has reappeared. I'd forgotten all about him.

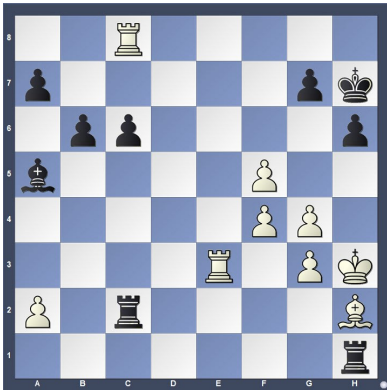
37.f4 ♞d2 38.g3 ♞a5 The bishop goes back to a5 and White is threatening to win the h2-bishop.

(see diagram next column)

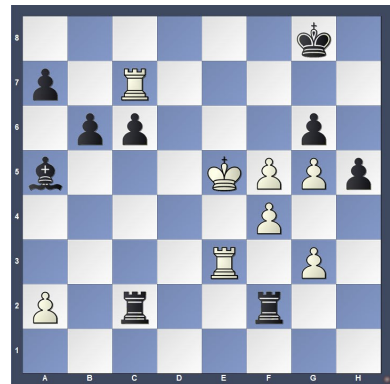
39.♖c3 This looks like an oversight but it is the result of some incredible analysis. It is obvious from here on in they looked much deeper into London did. London did.

40...♜hxh2+ 41.♔g4 h5+ 42.♔f3 ♜hf2+ 43.♕e4 Black is facing a mate in two by 44.g6+ and 45.♞h8#. By now London must have realised that being a piece up was not a clear-cut win and they were now fighting for a draw.

39...♞c2



43...g6 44.♞c7+ ♔g8 45.♕e5

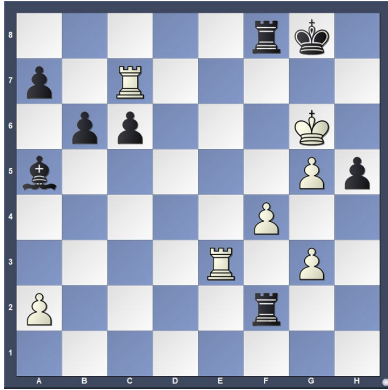


Here is a position you do not see everyday. Black is threatening a mate in one with either rook taking on h2.

40.g5 White prevents the mate in one by moving a pawn, this same pawn now threatens mate in one with g6 mate!

45...♞c5+ An example of just how good White's position is, if 45...♔c3+ White can just take it. 46.♞xc3 ♞xc3 47.♔f6 and Black will be checkmated in a few moves.

46.♔f6 ♞xf5+ 47.♔xg6 ♞f8



It is now clear that White is winning. The carefully thought-out conditional moves would have been coming from the Edinburgh camp. With checkmates in one appearing on the board we are now into forced moves territory.

The pawns coupled with active rooks far outweigh the bishop.

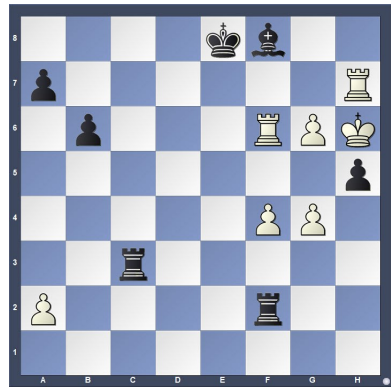
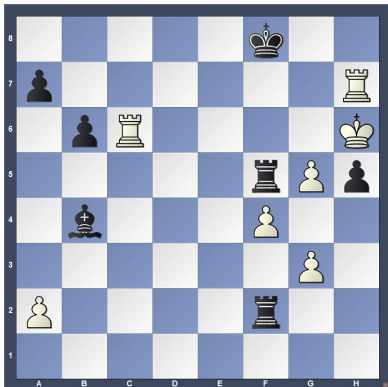
48. ♖g7+ ♔h8 49. ♕h6 ♘b4 The bishop joins in to cover one of the queening squares but too late.

53... ♖c5 The best try, but Donaldson and Edinburgh will have had what follows all worked out.

54. ♖f6+ ♔e8 55. g6 ♖c3 This looks best as it sets up one last swindle.

50. ♖e6 ♖f5 51. ♖h7+ ♔g8  
52. ♖g6+ ♕f8 53. ♖xc6

56. g4 ♕f8+





Now if 57.♔xh5 the win becomes awkward. But Edinburgh have a better idea...  
 57...♔xf8 58.g7+ ♔f7 59.♖h8 ♖c6+ 60.♔h7 London resigned. Edinburgh win the match!

57.♖xf8+ ...this move wraps it up nicely and the pawns have the final say. 1-0

# A look at some of Edinburgh Chess Club's members

by Alan McGowan

(Archivist/Historian, Chess Scotland)

It was a privilege to have been included in the team that examined Edinburgh Chess Club's history as the members prepared to celebrate their 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The work was eased somewhat by the availability of numerous online sources, but most important of all were the primary club records, including a Members Roll from 1822–1967, the pages of which had been meticulously photographed by Alastair White.

## ORIGINAL MEMBERS

The club was formally instituted on 4th November 1822 with 31 members. There were accountants, lawyers, merchants, military men (several of whom were connected to the East India Company) as well as a baker, a church minister, a printer, and a theatre manager.

Four of them were employed by the Royal Bank of Scotland: James Gregory, John More, William Mitchell and Alexander Mitchell. Here are the original members, in the order in which they appear in the Members Roll:

Dr Andrew Berry  
Captain A. Campbell Major J.C. Parry  
Captain David William Ross  
Rev. Henry Liston Hugh Cree Meiklejohn  
Charles Broughton James Donaldson  
David Wylie Andrew Wauchope  
Captain James Watkins George Brown  
Captain Marriott. C.W. Aytoun  
Alexander Robertson Thomas Pender Jun  
James Laidlaw James Rose  
Thomas Innes James Clarke  
John More James Gregory  
James Lockhart William Mitchell  
Edward McMillan John Buchanan  
John Andrew Archibald Douglas  
James Simpson William Murray  
John A. Cameron Alexander Mitchell

Biographies were prepared for all of them, with only a few details eluding the researcher. Each of the original members was important but looking at several of them in more detail provides a glimpse into Edinburgh society of the day.

## Dr Andrew Berry (1764–1833)

M.D. (Edinburgh, 1784), Physician, Surgeon, and Botanist. F.R.S.E.

Dr Berry was the first president of the club, to which he gave the Berry Medal for championship play (later replaced by the Abercromby Cup).

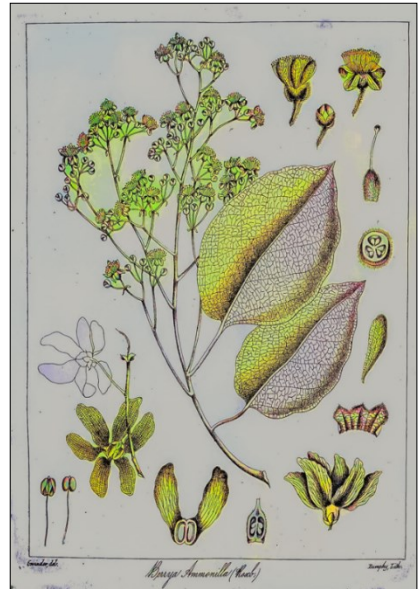


The Berry Medal, gifted by the first President for Championship Play.

Berry held various positions in the Indian Medical Service: Assistant Surgeon 1784; Surgeon 1791; Superintending Surgeon 1801; First Secretary of the Madras Medical Board 1786; Member of Madras

Medical Board 1807-14 and a member of the Asiatic Society 1796.

He was a nephew of James Anderson (1738–1809), Physician and Botanist. After Anderson's death, the botanical garden he had created in Madras was maintained by Berry. The plant genus 'Berrya' was named after him by his friend William Roxburgh (1751–1815).



'Berrya Cordifolia' (Roxburgh) one of the genus named in honour of Dr. Berry

Dr Berry died at Newton House, Perthshire.

## James Rose (1797–1864)

James Rose was born in Edinburgh to James Rose, Depute Clerk of Session, and Jean Scott. He followed his father into the legal profession, being apprenticed to Walter Dickson. In 1824 he was admitted as Writer to the Signet, thereafter partnering with Donald Horne in the firm Horne & Rose.

In 1830 Rose married Susan Brabazon Wight, daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel Andrew Wight of Largnearn, Kirkcudbrightshire, and Jean Cunningham. In later years he lived at 96 George Street, Edinburgh, now the home of the Freemasons' Grand Lodge of Scotland.

Rose should be considered as one of the most significant figures in the club's early history. His dedication as Secretary from 1825–1852 likely prevented the club from failing during difficult times related to problems with membership and premises. He also served as President from 1852–1864. He died December 1, 1864, at Dean Bank House, Stockbridge, Edinburgh.

## James Donaldson (1787–1848)

S.S.C., Accountant.

James Donaldson was born in Kirkcaldy in 1787 to John Donaldson and Janet Gib. In 1813 he married Janet Wright (1787–1868), by whom he had six children. He was deeply involved in various city matters. He served on the Edinburgh Town Council, which included work with the City Improvements Commission and the Leith Dock Commission (because of this, some chess reports chose to refer to him as 'Baillie' Donaldson). He was also a manager with the National Security Savings Bank of Edinburgh (founded 1836).

Mr. Donaldson was the convenor of the committee formed for the correspondence match against London 1824–1828. Accounts of the day suggest he was considered to be the strongest player not just in Edinburgh, but indeed in the whole of Scotland at that time. He contributed the 'Chess' section for

an edition of the Encyclopaedia Britannica.

James Donaldson was appointed club president for season 1847–48, but he died on 27th January 1848 at his home, 46 Northumberland Street, Edinburgh. In 1853 his wife had a monument erected in Greyfriars Churchyard to honour her husband, five deceased children, and her parents. He had a son, James Donaldson (1818–1853), who also became an Advocate, and was a club member.

### **William Henry Wood Murray (1790–1852)**

Actor, Theatre Manager.

William Murray was born in Bath, Somerset in 1790, the son of an actor and dramatist, Charles Murray. He moved to Edinburgh in 1809, where he worked for the next 40 years. The city's Theatre Royal was then managed by Henry Siddons and his wife Harriet – Murray's sister – but after Henry

died in 1815 Murray and his sister took over.



Things improved under their partnership, which included the staging of the works of Walter Scott. A particular success was the first performance of Rob Roy.

In 1822, when Scott was organising the upcoming visit of King George IV to Scotland, he made extensive use of William Murray's talents in his preparations for setting the various venues.

In 1830 Murray took over sole management of the theatre, continuing in this role until resigning in 1848, though he continued acting.

When Murray joined the club in 1822 he lived at 4 Thistle Street, Edinburgh. He married twice:

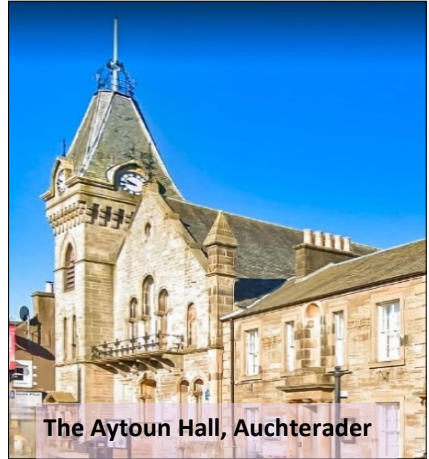
(1) Ann Dyke, 1819 in Edinburgh and (2) Ellen Gray, 1830 in London. Murray died in St Andrews on 5 May 1852.

**Captain Marriot Chadwick Walker Aytoun (1787–1854)**  
R.A.

Capt. Aytoun was descended from an ancient family whose surname is taken from the lands of Ayton (the town on the River Eye) in Berwickshire, though branches of the family later settled in Fife. He was born 18 March 1787 in Kinglassie, Fife, to then Major Roger Aytoun and Jean Sinclair. In 1823, in Edinburgh, he married Eliza Miller, daughter of Dr Henry Miller, late of the East India Company and Purin, Fife, and Clara Rutherford.

He was actively involved in local matters, being a Justice of the Peace for Fife and Perthshire and Deputy Lieutenant for Fife. In 1832 he provided Auchterarder,

Perthshire, with its first water supply. The townspeople presented him with a silver punch bowl and spoon and a silver snuff box as thanks for his efforts and, in 1872,



the Aytoun Hall in the town was constructed as a memorial to him.

When he joined the club in 1822, he was retired from the Royal Artillery. He served on the club council for several years and was a member of the committee in the correspondence match against London 1824–28. He died at Coates Crescent, Edinburgh on 16 February 1854.



# THE FIRST 50 YEARS

There was no organised chess in Scotland in those days, so the members could only indulge in casual games, unless they entered the club championship for the medal donated by Dr Berry. Like other gentlemen's clubs, however, the membership offered social and business contacts, as well as family interactions between members. For example, Capt. Watkins married a daughter of John Buchanan and two sisters of James Lockhart married original member John More and his brother, James Stephens More, who joined the club in 1824.

Membership increased greatly after Edinburgh challenged London to a correspondence match in 1824, a match that generated huge publicity and some controversy and ended

with Edinburgh's victory in 1828. This period at first featured problems with membership and changes in premises.



**Howard Staunton, who visited  
the club in 1852**

The situation improved when the club met for the first time in new rooms on Princes Street on 5 July

1852. The club had acquired members from those who had previously played chess at the Philosophical Institution, and the opening of the new location was marked by a visit from one of the most famous players of that time, none other than Howard Staunton.

The club was in Princes Street until 1856, when it accepted rooms in the Philosophical Institution at 4 Queen Street. This move marked a real period of stability for the club remained there for 34 years.

Several members contributed trophies or medals for club competitions. The Berry Medal, donated by the club's first president, was superseded by the Abercromby Cup, given by (later Sir) Robert Abercromby, who was president from 1824–1828. There were later additions to the list; the Donaldson Gold Medal (James Donaldson), the Frazer Gold Medal (Dr James Frazer), the Macfie Chessmen (John Macfie) and the Rattray Chessmen (Dr James Clerk Rattray).

A significant figure during this time was **Dr James Cunningham Frazer (1825–1876)**. He won the club championship in 14 consecutive years, from 1861 through 1874, but he then became seriously ill, withdrew from chess, and died a few years later. The Frazer Gold Medal had been awarded to him by the club in recognition of his success but was gifted back to the club by Dr Frazer's representatives for future competitions.

### **1884 Scottish Chess Association**

The Scottish Chess Association (SCA) was founded in 1884, with much of the inspiration coming from **Sheriff Walter C. Spens**. He joined Edinburgh CC in 1862, but his legal profession later took him to Glasgow.

Three members of Edinburgh CC became directors of the SCA at the inaugural meeting: Dr J. Clerk Rattray, Christopher Meikle and John Fraser.

Although some advance in the popularity of chess had already been made – (the East v West of Scotland matches that started in 1871 had raised awareness) – the organising of an annual SCA Congress took things much further.

Later additions to the chess calendar included a series of matches between the Edinburgh and Glasgow clubs, the Richardson Cup,

## CHURCH

**Rev. Henry Liston (1771–1836).**

One of the original members, he was known as the inventor of the Enharmonic Organ, as well as an improved form of plough. He wrote *Essay on Perfect Intonation* (1812) and other writings included the article ‘Music’ in the Edinburgh Encyclopaedia. Rev Liston was the father of Robert Liston, the renowned surgeon (1794–1847) and Reverend David Liston (1799–1881), Professor of Hebrew and Oriental Languages at Edinburgh University.

(the premier team competition), the Spens Cup, and the formation of the Edinburgh Chess League in 1903. These events provided opportunities for the club members to show their skill in both individual and team competitions. And, as might be expected, the membership came from a variety of backgrounds. A few examples are shown below.

**Rev. John Gibson Cazenove (1821–1896).**

A member of the club since 1878, he was the son of John Cazenove, who published *A Selection of Curious and Entertaining Games at Chess* in 1817. At the time of his death, he lived at 22 Alva Street, a few steps from where the club would later secure permanent premises. He bequeathed part of his library to the club.

**Rev Thomas Gordon 1817–1888**  
**(Also known as ‘Gamma’).**

He joined the club in 1840 and was probably one of its strongest

players after the death of his friend James Donaldson in 1848. According to Tim Harding (*Chess Mail April 2014*) Thomas and his friend John Donaldson ('Delta') played a Scotland-Ireland consultation game in Dublin in 1857 which was left unfinished with the Scots in a favourable position.

### **Rev. George Dickson Hutton (1866–1929)**

Originator of the Hutton Pairing System for team competitions (does anyone remember the 'Jamborees?').

### **Rev. George McArthur (1829–1913)**

He joined the club in 1872 and was Secretary 1872–1889. He then emigrated to the USA and joined the Brooklyn CC, but later returned to live in England. He was the father-in-law of another club member, Dr Alfred D. Vardon.

## **LAW**

### **Ralph Richardson (1845–1933)**

A member of the club from 1866 to his death. Mr Richardson served as political agent for William Ewart Gladstone in Midlothian during that statesman's successful general election campaign of 1880.

According to a letter writer in *The Scotsman*, 28 June 1933 (p13), "So efficient was the organisation under his direction, and so complete the canvass of the electorate, that he was able on the evening of the poll to forecast to Mr Gladstone...to within 29 votes of the actual declared result."

Interestingly, in the film *Khartoum* (1966), the part of Gladstone was played by the celebrated actor of the same name, Ralph Richardson.

### **Walter Tait Watson, K.C. (1869–1929)**

He joined in 1900 and served as president 1906–07 and 1922–24.

He also served as Hon. President of the Edinburgh Chess League.

### **Ian Candlish (later, Lord) Kirkwood (1932–2017)**

Candlish joined in 1952, having previously shared the 1948 Scottish Boys' Championship. He played in the 1st World Student Team Chess Championship at Oslo, 1954.

He was one of five judges selected to hear the appeal of convicted Lockerbie bomber. This appeal was heard at a special Scottish Court in the Netherlands in 2002. (See also page 19).

## MEDICINE

### **Dr George William Bell (1813–1889)**

Dr George William Bell was interested in social reform, was for a time secretary of Dr Guthrie's Edinburgh Ragged School, and published two pamphlets exposing the squalid conditions in the city's

wyndy (alleys): *Day and Night in the Wynds of Edinburgh* (1849) and *Blackfriars' Wynd Analyzed* (1850). He was appointed District Examiner for Edinburgh and Glasgow and was later appointed to the new office of Inspectors of Registers.

He joined Edinburgh CC in 1840, was the medallist in season 1855–56, and served as club secretary in 1856–57. Bell appears several times in the photographs of David Octavius Hill and Robert Adamson.

### **Dr James Clerk Rattray (1834–1896)**

His family was associated with the ancient lands of Rattray in Perthshire. He studied medicine at Edinburgh University – during which time he joined the club – graduated in 1857 and joined the army. He served as Assistant Surgeon (Captain) with the 25th Regiment of Foot, including some time spent in Gibraltar.

In 1874 he became a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, and in 1882 he was admitted as a member of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

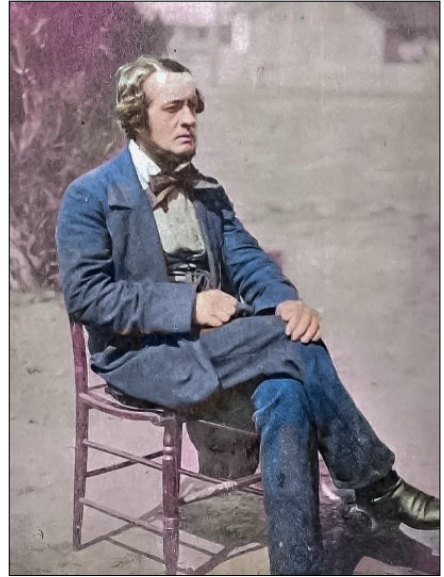
Dr Rattray was club President 1881–82, and a director of the Scottish Chess Association on its formation in 1884. He played in six of the East of Scotland matches versus the West.

### **Dr William Robertson (1818–1882)**

Born in Edinburgh, William Robertson was the son of George Robertson, Keeper of Records at Register House in Edinburgh, and Eliza Brown. He was educated at Edinburgh Academy, after which he studied medicine at Edinburgh University. (His great uncle was William Robertson (1721–93), Principal of Edinburgh University from 1762 until his death.)

After successfully completing his courses, he undertook postgraduate studies in Paris, Vienna, and Ber-

lin. On returning to Edinburgh, he graduated M.D. in 1839 and four years later he was admitted as a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians.



**Dr William Robertson (Detail from a photograph in the J Paul Getty Museum)**

During the Crimean War (1853–56) Robertson served as Inspector-Physician of the British Civil Hospital at Renkioi, during which time he showed his skill as an amateur photographer. Many of his images (such as the one above) are held by the J. Paul Getty Museum.

In 1860 he was admitted as a Fellow of the Royal Society (Edinburgh). In 1874 he was appointed Superintendent of the Statistical Department in the General Registry Office, having previously acted as Medical Registrar for Scotland.

Dr Robertson joined the Edinburgh CC in 1843 and served as club secretary 1852–56. He died on 25 August 1882 at 28 Albany Street, Edinburgh, his home for his entire life. He never married.

## MILITARY

**Lt. Harris Kirkland Handasyde, M.C. (1877–1935)**

Harris Handasyde served in WWI with the Royal Scots (4th Battalion). In 1917 he was transferred, temporarily, to the King's African Rifles and in 1922 he relinquished his commission.

Before WWI Mr Handasyde represented the Edinburgh Working Men's Institution CC. In the 1915 Scottish championship he finished

1st equal with Wardhaugh and Wenman but failed to win the play-off.

He joined the Edinburgh CC in 1921. In the club's 1923 championship he tied with Lothian and Page, but again failed to win the play-off.

Handasyde maintained a home in Paris. He played in the 1924 FIDE 'Olympiad' in Paris that was restricted to amateurs. He also played in several Paris championships, including 1925, 1926, 1927 and 1930. He is closely associated with the British Chess Club in Paris, founded in 1926. He died in Paris on 24 May 1935.

**Capt. Hugh Alexander Kennedy (1809–1878)**

Hugh joined the club in 1840. He served as Lieutenant in the Madras Native Infantry, retiring in his early thirties. He was later a Captain in the Forfar and Kincardine Militia.

As well as his military career, he was notable both as a chess-player and as an author. He founded the Brighton Chess Club, which is still in existence today and attracted strong players such as Buckle and Staunton. He was an associate of Staunton and helped him prepare for his match against St. Amant. He played in the great London tournament of 1851, won by Adolf Anderssen.



**Capt. Hugh Alexander Kennedy, who donated his library to the club.**

He was also involved with a couple of ‘telegraph’ chess matches, the first time that medium had been used. He was at one time a vice-president of the British Chess Association.

As an author he is mainly remembered for his book *‘Waifs and Strays, Chiefly from the Chess Board’* (1875). He died in October 1878 at his home in Reading. Capt. Kennedy donated his library to the club.

### **Col. James A. Robertson (1803–1874)**

Born at Blair Atholl, Perthshire, the first son of General William Robertson of Lude and Margaret Haldane. He enlisted with the 82nd Regiment of Foot in 1823 and steadily rose through the ranks: Lieutenant (1835); Captain (1832); Major (1848); Lieutenant-Colonel (1854) and Brevet Colonel (1857). He resigned the service in early 1858.



In retirement, Colonel Robertson, who remained unmarried, became active in the club. Aside from his chess activities, he also authored several works: *Comitatus de Athollia* (the Earldom of Atholl, 1860), *Concise Historical Proofs respecting the Gael of Alban* (1865); *The Gaelic Topography of Scotland* (1869). And with fellow club member T.B. Johnstone, Geographer to the Queen for Scotland, he co-authored *Historical Geography of the Clans of Scotland* (1872).

Robertson participated in the provincial section of the London 1851 tournament and played at Dundee 1867. He served as Edinburgh CC president in season 1872–73.

### **Col. William Grenville Irvine-Fortescue M.C. and bar (1897–1980)**

Born in Aberdeen, he fought in WWI and was awarded the M.C. and bar. It was during this time that he took an active interest in chess. He later gained the rank of

Lieutenant-Colonel in the Royal Engineers and served in WWII.

His military service included a period in India in 1928, where he met Sir Umar Hayat Khan and his servant, Sultan Khan, who later achieved outstanding chess successes, including winning the British Championships of 1929, 1932 and 1933.

Col. Irvine-Fortescue returned to active chess in the post-WWII years, playing in every Scottish Chess Association congress from 1954 through 1970. He became a prominent member of Edinburgh Chess Club after moving to Edinburgh and joining in 1966.

## FROM FOREIGN LANDS

Several club members came from foreign lands; some of them might have been escaping political turmoil or anti-Semitism.

### **Dr Oskar Bolza (1857–1942)**

Oskar Bolza initially studied mechanical engineering, then physics,

but changed his field of study to mathematics. He joined the club in 1887, but [online references](#) show that from 1888 he was associated with several American universities.

### **Joseph Martin Kronheim (1810–1896)**

A lithographer, born in Magdeburg, Germany. By the late 1830s [Joseph Kronheim](#) was in Edinburgh, working for Miller & Richard, type foundry. He used a process developed by [George Baxter](#) (1804–1867) to produce a wide variety of coloured prints. His business dealings took him to London, back to Germany, then America, and back to the U.K.

He first joined the club in 1876, but his name appears again in 1891, at which time he gave 10 Montague Place as his address. He died in Berlin.

### **Léo Melliet (1843–1909)**

Born in France, he was active in the Paris Commune that seized power for a short time – March to

May 1871 – at the end of the Franco-Prussian war. He was Deputy Major of the XIII<sup>th</sup> arrondissement, but on the fall of the Commune he was arrested and imprisoned. He escaped, with help, and fled to Belgium before ending up in Glasgow.



Melliet gave private French lessons and lectured on subjects such as the writings of Victor Hugo and the Siege of Paris. He was briefly employed by Caversbank House, a school for girls in Paisley. He was also involved with Socialist political groups.

He joined the Arlington Baths CC and represented them in numerous matches. He played in several West v East of Scotland matches.

During this time he used the name A.L. Melliet-Prevot and this was the name entered in the Members Roll when he joined Edinburgh CC in 1885. Initially, he again advertised his private French lessons, but it wasn't long before he was employed at the Charlotte Square Institution for the Education of Young Ladies. Soon after, because of an earlier amnesty, he called himself Léo Melliet.

The *Edinburgh Evening News* of 28 May 1898 (p2) reported that he had been appointed to the French Chamber of Deputies. He returned to France where he represented Lot-et-Garonne from 1898 to 1902.

### **Alexander Nicolay Meyerowicz (1828–1922)**

Born in Russian Poland, he was taken to Königsberg when young, where he lived for about ten years. He attended universities in Kö-

nigsberg, Heidelberg and Berlin and was admitted to the Prussian Bar. He went to London in 1856, and a year later he went to Trinity College, Glenalmond, where he was German and French master for four and a half years. Thereafter he was in Edinburgh, where he was German master at the Royal High School, Edinburgh Academy and George Watson's Ladies' College. He also taught at Falkirk High School.

Mr Meyerowicz joined the club in 1876. He died at 97 Comiston Road, Edinburgh.

(*The Scotsman*, 16 May 1904, p6; 30 January 1922, p6; *Falkirk Herald*, 4 February 1922, p4.)

### **Otto Schulze (1852–1925)**

Born in Leipzig, he became a bookseller, publisher and book-binder. He joined the club in 1902. Interestingly, in 1910, when he became a naturalized British Subject, his application was approved by Winston Churchill.

For fifteen years he was the manager at Messrs. Williams & Norgate, booksellers, 20 South Frederick Street, Edinburgh, but around 1901 he acquired the business, which then operated as Otto Schulze & Co. He died at 9 Dundas Street, Edinburgh in 1925. (*The Publisher: The Journal of the Publishing Industry*, Volume 74, 1901, January 26).

### **Reinhold Tramm (1867–1946)**

Tramm was a musician, a music teacher and a composer, having studied at the Leipzig Conservatory. He joined the club in 1902, but he had been in Edinburgh from around 1893 and married there in 1897. He featured in numerous recitals in the city and he was associated with the Leith Amateur Orchestral Society.

Mr Tramm moved to England in the mid-1930s and died at Islington, London in 1946. He served as club president in 1912–13.

## OTHERS

**David Forsyth (1854–1909)** Inventor of a method of recording positions that became known as Forsyth Notation, details of which were first published in the *Glasgow Weekly Herald* of 10 February, 1883 (p 7).

Mr Forsyth, a solicitor, was one of the founding members of the Scottish Chess Association in 1884, being elected to the positions of Secretary and Treasurer. He was also secretary of Glasgow Chess Club. In 1887, [David Forsyth](#) joined Edinburgh CC after moving to that city. His photograph is displayed in the club (see page 10). He later conducted a chess column in the *Weekly Scotsman*, while continuing in his roles of secretary/treasurer for the SCA.

In early 1899 he took up residence in New Zealand, winning the championship of that country in 1901.

**Sir George Harrison (1811–1885)**

Club president from 1883 until his death. Lord Provost of Edinburgh 1882–85, Knighted 1884. In December 1885 he was elected as M.P. for Edinburgh South, but he died on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of that month.

Harrison Arch in Blackford is named in his memory, as are Harrison Road, and the Edinburgh road and park Harrison Gardens. (*Edinburgh Evening News*, 23 December 1885).

**Christopher Meikle (1823–1906)**

Meikle was employed by the Edinburgh Savings Bank as a boy and went on to serve there for nearly 50 years, almost 40 of them as an Actuary. He joined the club in 1844 and supported it in many ways, serving as secretary, treasurer and president. He was also a five-time club champion.

(*Edinburgh Evening News*, 2 May 1906).

**Sir William Milliken Napier, Bart. (1788–1852)**

Born at Kilbarchan, Renfrewshire, he was a member of the Napier family of Merchiston, Edinburgh and was a direct descendant of John Napier, the inventor of logarithms.

In 1817, he proved his succession to the dormant baronetcy of Merchiston, and became the 8th Baronet. He served as convener of Renfrewshire. Sir William joined the club in 1828 and served as President from 1828 to 1847.

**James Pringle (1847–1926)**

Pringle studied at Aberdeen University before moving to Edinburgh, where he qualified as a chartered accountant and as an actuary. He was admitted to the Society of Accountants in 1870. From 1873 he was a partner in the stockbrokers, John Robertson & Company, Edinburgh, retiring in 1911. Pringle was also the director of several finance and investment

companies. His bequests — to be paid after the death of his wife — included £52,000 to Morayshire, the bulk of it going to his hometown of Elgin. At the time of his death he lived at 42 Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh.

He joined the club in 1873 and immediately showed his willingness to assist by taking on the role of Treasurer from 1874–1910. He was also President 1910–11.

### **Walter Cook Spens (1841–1900)**

Born in Glasgow, he was connected to an old Spens family from Lathallan in Fife. His early schooling was at Glasgow Academy, followed by the Universities of Glasgow and Edinburgh. He was called to the Bar in 1865.

He joined the club in 1861, likely because at that time he was studying at Edinburgh University. In 1870 he was appointed Sheriff-Substitute for Lanark, serving there

for six years before being transferred to Glasgow Sheriff Court.

Sheriff Spens edited a chess column in the *Glasgow Weekly Herald* and was the driving force behind the formation of the Scottish Chess Association in 1884. He participated in every Scottish Chess Association Congress from the inaugural year of 1884 until his death in 1900.



**W C Spens (left) vs W N Walker in the play-off for the Scottish Championship in 1890. (Photo: Edinburgh Chess club, coloured by A White.)**

He was equal first with W.N. Walker in the 1890 championship but lost the play-off match. He won in 1894.

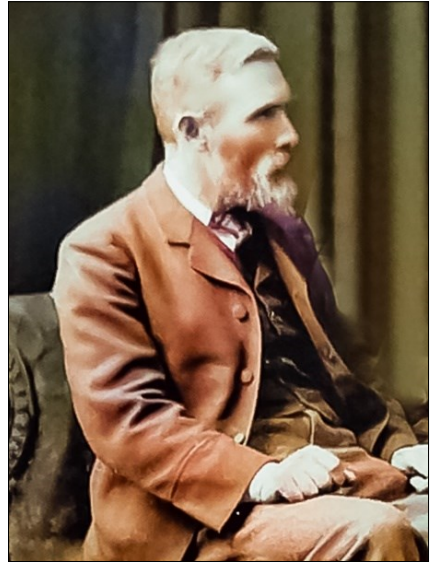
After his death, a public subscription raised sufficient funds to purchase the Spens Cup, to be competed for by teams other than those in the primary team competition in Scotland, the Richardson Cup. (Sadly, the original trophy was lost during WWII and had to be replaced.)

### **John Graham Thomson (1856–1932)**

One of the most significant figures in the history of Edinburgh CC; his support and generosity is why the club occupies their own premises.

Mr Thomson was born in Edinburgh in 1856 and was a lawyer by profession. He joined the club in 1888 and served as president in 1907–08 and 1921–22 and as secretary in 1910–11 and 1924–28. He won the club championship

three times; 1889–90, 1899–1900 and 1901–02. He also served as president of the Scottish Chess Association and the Edinburgh Chess League, and he was a life member of the British Chess Federation.



**J G Thomson, from a photograph in the Edinburgh Chess Club (*Moffat Studios 1901, coloured by A White*)**

Mr Thomson, while president in 1921–22, made a gift to the club of £200, and a further loan of £400. This permitted the club to purchase a flat at 1 Alva Street in time for their centenary celebrations in November 1922.

Outside of chess Mr Thomson had several interests. He was an accomplished mathematician, responsible for several inventions and published *The Cycloid in Astronomy* in 1923. He was particularly interested in harnessing the power of the tides. In 1929 he was granted permission to erect buildings on the River Forth at Killiebank, Alloa, to be used in research into tidal power.

He died at 34 London Street, Edinburgh on 23 March 1932. At the time of his death in 1932 his research had not been completed, but he left instructions in his will (his Executor was club member David Simpson) that the work should continue. This resulted in a legal case brought by his nephew William Graham Thomson, an engineer, who claimed that his uncle's invention was 'useless and impracticable and incapable of being developed commercially or economically.' The case was decided in favour of Thomson's nephew in November 1933.

(*British Chess Magazine* 1922, p23 and 1932, p202.

*Falkirk Herald*, 6 April 1932.

*Leven Advertiser and Wemyss Gazette*, 12 October 1929

*Dundee Evening Telegraph*, 23 December 1932.

*Edinburgh Evening News*, 17 November 1933, p9).

#### THE DEPARTMENT OF

"I didn't know *he* was a member!"

#### Ian Robertson Hamilton (1925)

A new member of the club in 1956 was Ian R. Hamilton, Advocate, of 2 Circus Gardens. He was one of four students who removed the Stone of Destiny from Westminster Abbey in 1950. He wrote about the experience in his 1952 book (*originally called 'No Stone Unturned' but later re-issued as 'The Stone of Destiny'*), and in 2008 the story was made into a film 'Stone of Destiny'. At the time of writing, he was living in Ontario, Canada.



Hamilton was born in Paisley, Renfrewshire and was educated at the John Neilson Institution in Paisley and, after serving in WWII, Glasgow University, where he studied law and became politically active.

### **Dr Lim Kok Ann (1920–2003)**

FIDE General Secretary 1982–88.

He joined in 1940, when he was studying medicine at Edinburgh University. His address at that time was 109 Warrender Park Road. He married in Edinburgh in 1942 – Rosie Seow, also from Singapore – and they had two children born in the city; a daughter, Sing Po, born 1944 and a son, Su Min, born 1946 (Su is the Chinese word for ‘Scot’).

At some point Lim resigned, but he rejoined 15 December 1945, at which time he was at 28 Sciennes Road. He resigned in March 1947 when he and his family went to Singapore.

Just before leaving, Lim played on the Edinburgh CC team that won the 1947 Richardson Cup (his game against R.P. Smeaton on board 5 was drawn).

Dr Lim was Singapore champion in 1949, the same year he helped found the Singapore Chess Federation. He also won the 1960 and 1968 Singapore championships and played in the Olympiads at Lugano 1968, Siegen 1970 and Skopje 1972. He became an International Arbiter in 1968.

Dr Lim had a distinguished career in medicine. He was Professor of Microbiology and later Dean of Medicine at University of Singapore (1965-1972). Of particular note was his success in isolating the virus responsible for the 1957 Asian influenza epidemic.

After his death members of his family drew from an unpublished memoir by Dr Lim, which can be read at <https://limkokann.blogspot.com/>.

## PLAYERS and PROBLEMISTS

There are numerous references to Edinburgh, the entries for August and September 2008 being particularly relevant.

### **Prof. (later Sir) Robert Robinson (1886–1975)**

Prof. Robinson was born near Chesterfield in Derbyshire. He joined Edinburgh CC in 1921, during a period when he had been appointed Professor of Chemistry at St Andrews University. He was knighted in 1939, and in 1947 he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry.

Prof. Robinson played for Oxford University in the match against the Bletchley Park codebreakers in December 1944. He was president of the British Chess Federation from 1950–53, and with Raymond Edwards he co-authored the book *The Art and Science of Chess* (Batsford, 1972).

Many significant names stand out in the history of the club. James Donaldson, Col. J.A. Robertson, and Dr J.C. Frazer, all previously mentioned, were considered to be prominent figures in their day.

The club benefitted when many English-born players moved to Scotland for business reasons:

- **Harry Jackson (1863–1927)**: Yorkshire-born, stalwart team member and problem composer
- **Edmund Macdonald (1865–1937)**: winner of the 1902 Scottish Championship.
- **Daniel Y. Mills (1849–1904)**: an eight-time Scottish champion.
- **Peter Reid (1910–1939)**: represented Scotland at the Stockholm Olympiad 1937.
- **George W. Richmond (1877–1941)**: Scottish champion 1910.

- **Robert T.R. Serjeant (1875–1962):** club secretary and president and a four-time medallist.
- **Percy Wenman (1891–1972):** Scottish champion 1920.
- **Jonathan Parker (1976-):** Was a member while studying in Edinburgh. During this time, he won the Scottish Championship (in 1994). He was British under-21 Champion in 1996 and became a GM in 2001.
- **Aitken** was a codebreaker at Bletchley Park during WWII.
- **William M. Whitelaw (1869–1936):** Served as president, secretary and treasurer, as well as being a six-time club champion.
- **John Crum (1841–1922):** Scottish champion 1884, the year the Scottish Chess Association was formed. Originally from Glasgow, he later transferred his allegiance. Also known as a problem composer.

**Other important players, in no particular order, were:**

- **Dr James M. Aitken (1908–83):** A 10-time Scottish champion, who also played in the Olympiads at Stockholm 1937, Munich 1958, Tel Aviv 1964 and Skopje 1972 and the Zonal tournaments at Bad Pyrmont 1951, Munich 1954 and Enschede 1963.
- **David Simpson (1880–1977):** Joined the club in 1902. He was club secretary 1906–10, treasurer in 1910–11 and 1924–1960, and president 1914–16. He won the club championship 14 times.
- **George Page (1890–1953):** Scottish champion 1925. Played in the Olympiads at Folkestone 1933 and Stock-

holm 1937. Club champion 14 times. (See also page 10)

- **Eric Allan (1913–1995):** Joined the club in 1939. He served as president 1960–61 and was a six-time club champion. Served as treasurer with the Scottish Chess Association. Problem composer. (see also page 98)
- **William Finlayson (1855–1929);** A noted problem composer.
- **John Stewart (1893–1960):** A compiler and composer of chess problems. *Scotland's Chess Centenary Book* (1984) states: 'For a number of years he worked on a manuscript collection of problems by Scottish composers which he planned to give to the British Chess Problem Society. Unfortunately, it cannot be traced.' He edited (with George Page) the short lived periodical *The Chess-Board*. Volume I, from December 1913

to June 1914, was issued in manuscript form only and passed around to subscribers. The articles were hand written by Stewart and Page with hand stamped diagrams. The articles were mainly problem related including several interesting biographies of problem composers. Volume II was from November 1914 to October 1915. It was hoped that the magazine would be resumed after the War but this never happened. The club has this publication.

More information about many of the people mentioned here can be found in the online Chess Scotland archive at <https://www.chessscotland.com/documents/history/biographies/biographies.htm>

## SOURCES

Edinburgh CC Members Roll and lists of Office-Bearers and Medal-lists.

ScotlandsPeople website (national records) [https://](https://www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk/)

[www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk/](https://www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk/)

[Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com)

British Newspaper Library online archives at

[https://](https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/)

[www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/](https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/)

Google Books

Chess Scotland Archive at [https://](https://www.chessscotland.com/documents/history/latest_additions.htm)

[www.chessscotland.com/](https://www.chessscotland.com/documents/history/latest_additions.htm)

[documents/history/](https://www.chessscotland.com/documents/history/latest_additions.htm)

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# Visitors to the Edinburgh Chess Club

by Alastair White

(With significant contributions from Alan McGowan)

**O**ver the years a great many notable Chess personalities have visited the Edinburgh Chess Club.

Many of these were well known chess masters; some were reigning World Champions; and others came to give lectures or simultaneous displays against multiple opponents. And many of them were persuaded to sign the club's official Visitor's Book.

In this article we will tell you about some who have graced the club with their presence and/or signed the visitors' book. As always, we will try to illustrate these wherever possible with colourised images, and with examples of their signatures where we have them.

My own research, based on the names in the Visitors' book, has been complemented by Chess Scotland Archivist and Historian Alan McGowan, who has carried out extensive research into chess masters who visited Scotland.

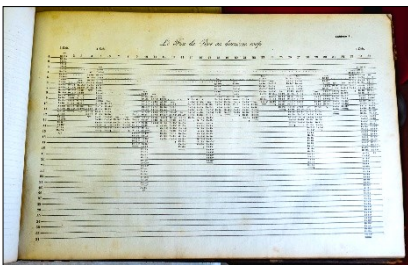
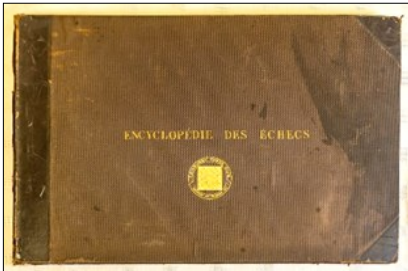
## 1840: Aaron Alexandre

Aaron Alexandre trained as a Rabbi in France but later became a professional chess player, analyst and author.

He wrote the 'Encyclopédie des Échecs' (*Encyclopaedia of Chess*),

published in Paris in 1837. This was the first book to classify and document chess openings; as such it is the forerunner of 'Modern Chess Openings' and the like.

The club has two examples of this mighty tome, probably obtained after Alexandre visited the club for several days in 1840.



**'Encyclopédie des Échecs' - the club has two copies of this monumental work, with tabulated analyses of openings**



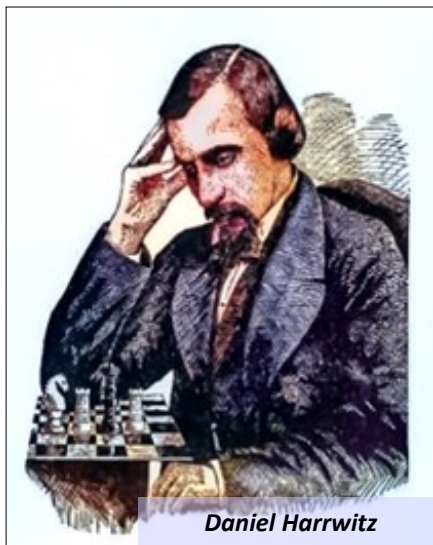
Alexandre is also known to have beaten Staunton in a match in London in 1838, and he was stated to have been one of the operators of the chess-playing automaton 'The Turk' (*Wikipedia*).

### **1850: Daniel Harrwitz**

Daniel Harrwitz was a German Chess Master who established a reputation for playing blindfold games in Paris before moving to London, along with Kieseritsky. There he founded a popular chess periodical, 'British Chess Review' in opposition to Staunton's 'The Chess Player's Chronicle'.

He played in matches against the top players of the time. Against Morphy he won the first two

games but lost the match. Early in his career, he lost to Staunton, but Staunton later steadfastly declined a rematch. But he beat Bernard Horwitz, Elijah Williams, Jacob Löwenthal, and Jozsef Stern, and drew with Anderssen.



*Daniel Harrwitz*

Harrwitz visited the club in 1850, playing two games blindfold, winning one and losing the other.

### 1852: Johann Löwenthal

Johann Jacob Löwenthal was forced to leave his native Hungary after having been involved with the 1848 revolution there.

He briefly settled in the USA, becoming a chess professional, and obtained funding to play in the



*Johann Löwenthal*

great London 1851 tournament. After losing in the first round, he was too embarrassed to return to America and face his backers. Instead he remained in Britain, where he was able to hone his technique by playing against many of the top players of the day.

He won some fine games against Staunton, Anderssen, Falkbeer and Harrwitz, and managed to win three games in a losing match with Paul Morphy. But his greatest successes were coming first in a couple of strong tournaments in Manchester and Birmingham in 1857-8. He continued to play and organise tournaments for several years after that.

Löwenthal visited the Edinburgh Club in March 1852, and also visited clubs in Fife.



He died in Hastings in 1876 aged 66.

Here is an entertaining game played between these last two early visitors to the Edinburgh Chess Club:

White: **Harrwitz, Daniel**

Black: **Löwenthal, Johann**

Match - London Chess Divan  
1853, Queens Gambit Declined

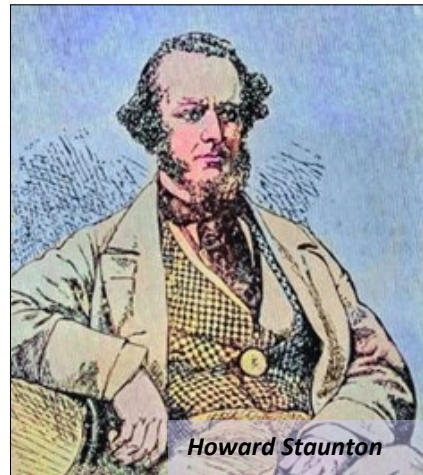
1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♘f6  
4.♙f4 a6 5.e3 c5 6.♗f3 ♗c6  
7.a3 ♙e7 8.dxc5 ♙xc5 9.b4 ♙d6  
10.♙xd6 ♙xd6 11.c5 ♙e7  
12.♙e2 0-0 13.0-0 ♖d8 14.♞c1  
e5 15.♞e1 h6 16.♙c2 ♙e6 17.b5  
axb5 18.♗xb5 ♗e4 19.♗d2  
♗xd2 20.♙xd2 d4 21.♙f3 ♗a5  
22.♙b4 ♗b3 23.♞b1 ♗xc5  
24.exd4 exd4 25.♞bc1 ♞dc8  
26.♗xd4 ♞a4



27.♙xa4 ♗xa4 28.♞xc8+ ♗h7  
29.♗xc6 fxc6 30.♙e4+ g6  
31.♞ec1 1-0

## 1852: Howard Staunton

One of the most significant visitors to the Edinburgh Club was Howard Staunton in 1852. He was widely considered to be the strongest player in the world after beating John Cochrane and French champion St Amant.

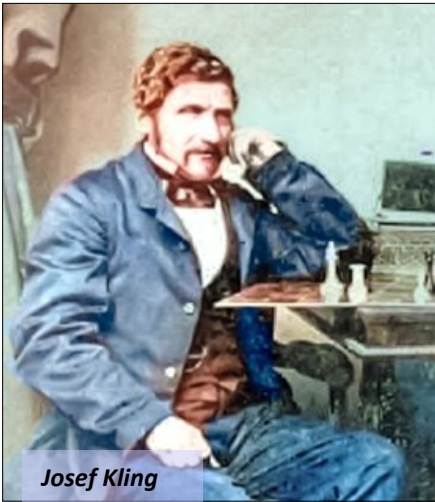


On 5th July 1852, after being in the doldrums for some years, the club was relaunched at a new venue at 73 Princes Street, and Staunton attended as guest of honour at their first meeting and dinner. He played a match against three of the club's members at odds of pawn

and two moves before the membership moved to supper at Douglas' Hotel. Staunton was elected as an honorary member and remained a firm friend to the club for many years afterwards.

### 1860: Josef Kling

Kling was born in Germany and was originally a Church musician. He later moved to Paris and was a regular at the Café de la Régence where chess was played.



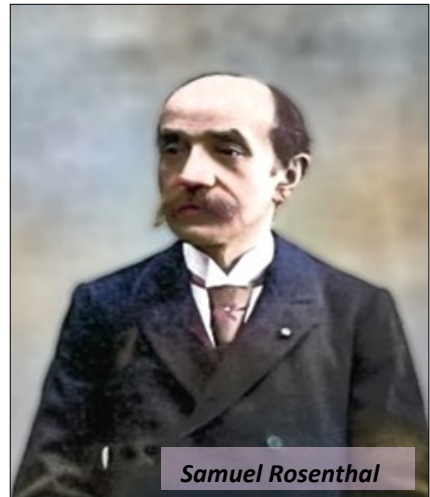
*Josef Kling*

After that he moved again to London and opened his own chess café in New Oxford Street. Along with his associate Bernhard Horwitz, Kling published several books featuring chess problems, endgames, and studies.

Alan McGowan found an advert in 'The Scotsman' noting he would be giving a demonstration at the Edinburgh Chess Club on 13th December 1860. However he was unable to find any further details.

### 1871: Samuel Rosenthal

Samuel Rosenthal was born in Poland but moved to Paris in the 1860s. He played chess at the Café de la Régence, winning their championship in three consecutive years in 1865-7. During the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-1, he moved to London, but later returned to France.



*Samuel Rosenthal*

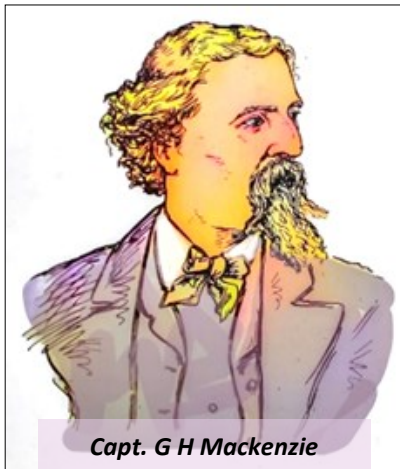
Rosenthal was a clever player who at one time or other had beaten most of the top players of the day

including Anderssen, Blackburne, Chigorin, Mackenzie, Mason, Paulsen, Steinitz and Zukertort.

On 11th March 1871 he visited the Edinburgh Chess Club and gave a simultaneous display, scoring an impressive  $+12 =1 -0$ .

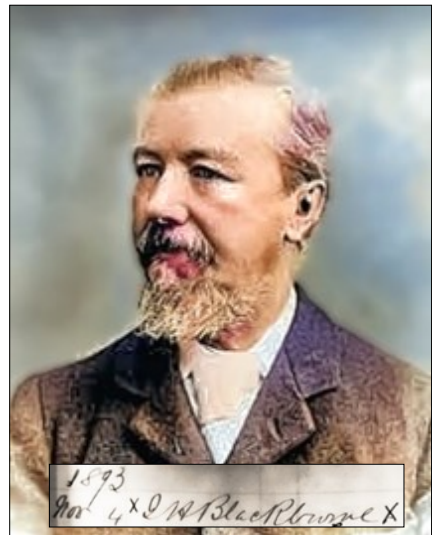
### 1888-9: Captain G H Mackenzie

Captain George Henry Mackenzie was a very colourful character. He served in the army in India and Ireland, then resigned his commission in 1861 to play chess, and rapidly improved as a player. In 1863 he went to the USA and enlisted for the Union Army in the Civil War but left to play some chess in 1864. He re-enlisted in 1864 and fought with distinction.



Then in 1865 he spent some time in jail for his earlier desertion. After that he beat all comers in America for many years. He returned to Britain in 1888 and while there won the Scottish Championship. He visited the club several times in 1888/9, and gave simultaneous displays, before returning to the USA where he died.

### 1893-1912: Joseph Henry Blackburne



Joseph Henry Blackburne, who Steinitz famously called 'The Black Death' was born in Manchester and became the foremost player in Britain during the second half of the 19th century.

He was a chess professional, touring the country and giving simultaneous displays. He was also noted for his blindfold play - he was introduced to this after Louis Paulsen beat him in a blindfold simul in 1861.

He visited the club on several occasions between 1893 and 1912. In 1893 he was the first major player to sign the club's visitor book (see above). In 1914 he won the British Championship for the last time at the ripe old age of 72. He died in 1924.

### 1894 Richard Teichmann

Richard Teichmann was born in Germany in 1868 and studied modern languages, becoming fluent in many of these. In the early 1890s he spent some time living in London.

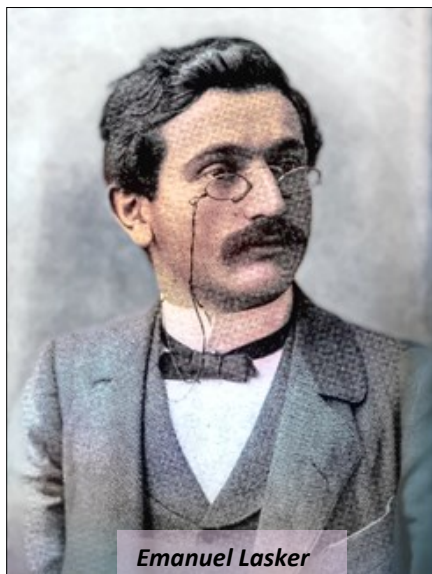
He had a distinguished chess career, winning matches against Mieses, Spielmann and von Bardeleben, and drew a match with Alekhine in 1921. (In fact he had a lifetime plus score against Alekhine!). He also won strong tournaments in London 1900 and Karlsbad 1911.



He was in Edinburgh more than once, but on June 24th 1894 he visited the club and gave a simultaneous display. He lost only one game, to George Galloway, and signed the visitors book.

### 1899 Emanuel Lasker

Emanuel Lasker was the first reigning world chess champion (if you don't count Staunton!) to visit the Edinburgh Chess Club. Lasker won the title in 1894 by defeating Steinitz and held it for the next 27 years until beaten by Capablanca. He was ahead of his time in adopting a pragmatic and flexible approach to the game, modifying his style to suit the occasion.



*Emanuel Lasker*

Lasker visited Edinburgh on 9th January 1899, while on a trip to Scotland. During that visit, he played a simultaneous against Edinburgh Chess Club members at the Clarendon Hotel. This might explain why his signature is not in the visitors' book, although as we shall see later, such small difficulties can be overcome!

He took on 27 opponents, winning 24, drawing one and losing two. Club member and Scottish Champion D Y Mills (see pages 6, 7 and 72) was one of the two players who beat him.

## 1906 Francis J Lee

Francis Joseph Lee was a noted English player who had some modest success around the turn of the century. He won the South African Championship in 1903.



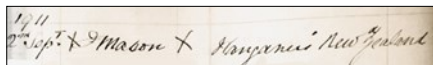
*Francis J Lee*

He visited the club in 1906 and gave a simultaneous display, winning 10, drawing with Mr H J M Thoms, and losing to the Rev. G D Hutton. He also won a game against 4 players consulting.

## 1911 John Mason

'J Mason' is highlighted in the visitors' book, as having visited on the 2nd September 1911.

But this was not (as some thought) the more famous Anglo-American player James Mason, but a New Zealander by the name of John Mason.



1911  
27 Sep. J. Mason X *King's New Zealand*

He was however a chess player of some repute, having won the New Zealand championship the previous year after coming close twice previously.

During WW1 we find him doing ambulance work for the army in Palestine and winning a chess tournament in Moascar in Egypt.

### 1919 J R Capablanca

Various people have reported that the great Jose Raul Capablanca visited the club on 23rd September 1919, just a couple of years before he became World Champion by beating Emanuel Lasker. At first sight it looks like an open and shut case- there is his signature in the visitors' book, with the date.

But did he? It is perfectly possible he was in Edinburgh then; he had just played a simul in Newcastle on the 22nd and was about to play another in Glasgow on the 24th.



But... then you hear a story that some enterprising person from the club (possibly club champion George Page, who played in the Glasgow Simul) took the visitors' book to Glasgow, to have Capablanca sign it there.

Probably the truth may never be known. Geoff Chandler has even tried without success to check the guest lists of the North British and Caledonian hotels to try to find out! But we do have the great man's signature in the visitors' book, that at least is sure.

### 1920 British Championship

In 1920 the British Chess Championships were held in Edinburgh, at the McEwan Hall. Not surprisingly, the Edinburgh Chess Club had a number of visitors from those attending the congress, and most



of those pictured signed the visitors' book.



**Standing, L to R: G E Wainwright, W Gibson, P Wenman, Dr. S F Smith, H Jacobs, R H V Scott, A J Mackenzie. Seated: E E Middleton, E G Sergeant, Sir G A Thomas, R P Michell, J H Blake**

Notable visitors who signed the book included **George A Thomas** (Later Sir George, Baronet, pictured seated, centre) who was second this time but won it in 1923 and again in 1934. At Hastings in 1934/5 he shared top score with Max Euwe and Salo Flohr, ahead of past World Champion Capablanca and future World Champion Mikhail Botvinnik.

Thomas was also a Badminton champion, winning 21 All-England titles in singles, doubles, and mixed doubles, making him arguably the best player of all time in that sport.



**Sir George Thomas**

He also played Tennis with some distinction, appearing at Wimbledon and representing England a few times.

Others who signed the visitors included **William Gibson**, who won the Scottish Championship 9 times, , **A J Mackenzie**, (3 times Scottish Champion) **R P Michell** and **H E Atkins**, who won the British Championship nine times in 11 events (not in the picture).

### 1922 Boris Kostic

Boris Kostic was born in Hungary in 1887 when it was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. He travelled the world playing chess. He was second at Hastings in 1919 and won it in 1921/2.



He is said to have visited the club in 1922, when he played a simultaneous at Edinburgh Ladies chess club. He lost only two games, one of which was to then Club Champion George Page. He didn't make it into the visitors book, so that one is another definite 'maybe'. He later represented Yugoslavia in international events and became a prominent organiser.

### 1927 Z P Simitch

This Serbian master visited in 1927 and signed the visitors' book.

Z P Simitch Belgrade - Serbia

### 1926 British Championship

When the British Championship visited Edinburgh once again in 1926, this resulted in a further tranche of signatures in the visitors' book. The winner of that event, F D Yates, was one of these.

### 1926 Fred D Yates

One of the strongest English masters of the early 1900s, Fred Dewhurst Yates won the British Championship 6 times. On this occasion he won comfortably, scoring 9½/11 with just one loss.



F D Yates Leeds



As well as playing chess, he wrote a chess column in the Manchester Guardian. He won a brilliant game against Alekhine in 1923 but was rather inconsistent against the top players. He died in 1932 at the age of just 48, from asphyxiation due to a faulty gas pipe in his home.

### 1926 A R B Thomas

Another of the competitors at the British in 1926 was English Chess enthusiast and author A R Thomas, from Liverpool. Here is one of his games, finished off with a clever combination:



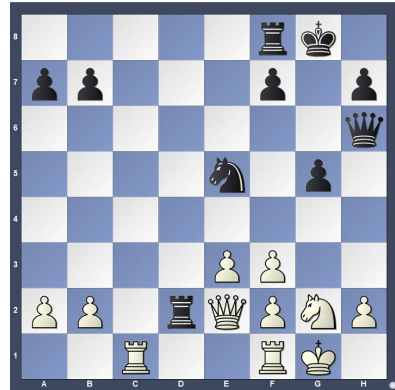
### ♣ Michell, Reginald Pryce

### ♣ Thomas, Andrew Rowland B

British Championship

Edinburgh 1926

1.d4 ♖f6 2.c4 e6 3.♗c3 d5 4.♙g5  
 ♙e7 5.e3 ♗bd7 6.♗f3 0-0 7.♞c1  
 c6 8.♙d3 dxc4 9.♙xc4 ♗d5  
 10.♙xe7 ♞xe7 11.♗e4 e5 12.dxe5  
 ♗xe5 13.♙xd5 cxd5 14.♗c3 ♙g4  
 15.♗xd5 ♞d6 16.0-0 ♞ad8  
 17.♗f4 ♞h6 18.♞e2 ♙xf3 19.gxf3  
 g5 20.♗g2 ♞d2



0-1

Thomas also wrote an entertaining book 'Chess for the Love of it'

## 1926 John Keeble

John Keeble had already signed the visitors' book in 1920 but did so again in 1926 when in Edinburgh for the BCF Congress.



He was not a strong player, but he was widely respected for his chess journalism, problem composing, and various problem books. He was a railway clerk who edited the chess column of the Norwich Mercury from 1902 to 1912 and contributed many significant arti-

cles elsewhere. He also investigated various chess questions and established the burial place of several of the great players and arranged for their graves to be properly tended.

## 1934 Jacques Mieses

Mieses was born in 1888 in Germany and was considered to be a dangerous attacking player.



He visited the club in 1934 and gave a 17-board simultaneous display, with a score of +13, drawing three (D Simpson, J Macdonald, and J Fraser) and losing just one (to A J D Lothian). He also played exhibition games against David Simpson.

Four years later, following the persecution of the Jews, he and his

family left Germany and settled permanently in England. He was active as a chess player to an advanced age and won a brilliancy prize at Hastings at the age of 80. He died in 1954, aged 89.

### 1938 George Koltanowski

George Koltanowski was a Belgian-American Chess Master and a Blindfold Chess specialist. He famously set a world Blindfold Simultaneous Chess record in the Albyn Rooms in Edinburgh in September 1937. But that was organised by Stockbridge Chess Club, not the Edinburgh one.



*George Koltanowski*

He returned to Edinburgh the following year, and this time he did visit, on 24th February 1938.

He played a simultaneous display (over the board, not blindfolded this time - 16 boards). After 2½ hours play he emerged with 15 wins and just 1 draw (to A A Foster).

### 1938 Alexander Alekhine

Alexander Alekhine was the current World Champion when he visited the club on 22nd September 1938. He gave a simultaneous display against 23 players, scoring 22 wins and conceding just one draw (to David Simpson).



Born in Moscow in 1892, Alekhine was an avid student of chess and became one of the strongest players of all time. He was winning a strong tournament in Mannheim, Germany, which was halted due to the outbreak of the first

World War. After several strong tournament performances, he defeated the then World Champion Capablanca in a gruelling match in 1927. He never allowed a return match with Capablanca (although it was often discussed, the conditions never seemed right for him). However he successfully defended his title twice to Bogoljubov.

He remained World Champion for the rest of his life apart from a brief period when he lost to Euwe in 1935 (but won the return match in 1937). He continued to play where he could during the war years.

Many of his alleged political affiliations – first with Bolshevik Russia and later with Nazi Germany – were later criticised, but these could be seen as expediency to enable him to continue his chess career and family life as well as he could without undue sanctions. However they did come back to haunt him later in life,

He settled in France in the 1920s but later moved to neutral Portugal where he remained until he died in controversial circumstances in 1946. He was married four times.

## 1945 Willliam Fairhurst CBE



Fairhurst visited the Club in 1945. He was a Glasgow-based engineer who specialised in designing bridges. His most famous design was the Tay Road Bridge in 1959, which included a 'chess' motif which can be seen in the detail.

As a chess player, he won every tournament he entered in Scotland, winning the Scottish Championship a record 11 times, as well as 16 West of Scotland titles and 18 Glasgow Chess Club championships. Despite being born in

England, he represented Scotland in the Olympiad on six occasions, and played a number of times for Great Britain in International matches.

As well as playing, he was very active in chess administration. He was President of the Scottish Chess Association from 1956 to 1969, and supported them financially. He was also instrumental in supporting and developing the game in Scotland, including sponsoring young players, and organising major tournaments such as the Glasgow International in 1953 and the Dundee Centenary Tournament in 1967. He was also chess correspondent for the Glasgow Herald .

After retiring and being awarded the CBE for his engineering work, he emigrated to New Zealand where he continued to play and support chess. He played top board for New Zealand in the Nice Olympiad in 1974. He died there in 1982.

His signature is in the visitors' book beside that of B H Wood, who is discussed next.

1971/75	W.A. Cairns	Glasgow.
10/7/76	B.H. Wood	Sutton Coldfield

## 1946 B H Wood

Baruch Harold Wood, born in 1909, visited the club in 1946, and signed the visitors' book (as seen on the previous column).



He was a pretty decent player and won several chess tournaments; he also played for England in the infamous Buenos Aires Olympiad of 1939 which was still going when war broke out in Europe. He also won the British Correspondence Chess Championship in 1944-5.

But he is best known for his editorship of the chess magazine he started in 1935: 'Chess' (Sutton Coldfield), which along with the British Chess Magazine dominated the scene for over 50 years. He retired in 1988 when it was taken over by Pergamon Chess.



## 1948 Nancy Gordon (Later Nancy Elder MBE)



Nancy Elder (née Gordon)

On April 2nd 1848 we had a visitor who signed herself 'Nancy Gordon, Dundee Chess Club'. At that time she was not well known but she went on to win the Scottish Ladies Championship a record 16 times, being better known by her married name of 'Nancy Elder'. She also represented Scotland in Women's Olympiads five times.

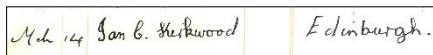
Nancy was a music teacher at Dundee High School. During her career she encouraged and coached a great many of her pupils, including future champions Sandy Davie, Margaret Forwell, Rosie Gulian (née Jackson) and Lynne Morrison (née Houston). In 1974 she was

awarded the MBE for services to Chess in Scotland.

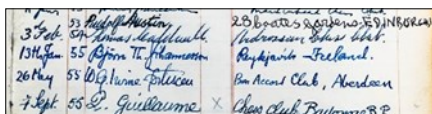
## 1947-1960 Various Signatures

During this time, several other significant signatures appeared in the visitors' book:

On March 14th, 1947, we have the first appearance at the club of **Ian C Kirkwood** (later to become Lord Kirkwood, the high court judge). At this time he would only have been 15 years old. See also pages 19 and 63.



Then we have an interesting group from 1953 onwards:

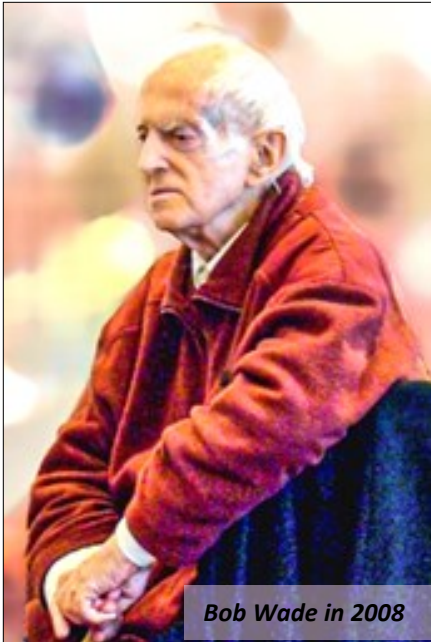


We see the first visit of club regular **Rudolf Austin**, (born in 1936). Soon after that he lied about his age in order to join the club. Then we have visitors from Ardrossan, Iceland, Aberdeen and France. **Colonel Irvine Fortescue** later moved from Aberdeen to Edinburgh, while **P Guillaume** became a 'Country Member' and regularly visited from Bayonne in France. At

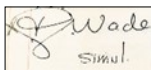
the bottom of the same page we have the first visit of another future club regular, **Phil Condie**, Mark's father in 1960.

### 1961 Robert G ('Bob') Wade

Bob Wade was a new Zealander who won the Championship of that country in 1944, 1945 and 1948. Later he came to Europe to further his chess career. He settled in England and won the British Championship in 1952 and represented England in various Olympiads between 1954 -1972.



**Bob Wade in 2008**

 <p>Wade simul.</p>	<p>New Zealand House, London W1G 2</p> <p>+1/-2 = 4</p>
--	---

He also became an International Arbiter in 1958 and was much in demand in that capacity well into his later years. I took this picture of him playing at a tournament in 2008, but later that year he died after contracting pneumonia.

He visited on 15th July 1961 and gave a simultaneous display over 17 boards, scoring +11 =4 -2.

### 1964 & 1970 Svetozar Gligorić



**Svetozar Gligorić**

Svetozar Gligorić was born in Belgrade, Serbia in 1923. He became arguably the strongest Yugoslavian Grandmaster of all time. He won the Yugoslavian Championship 12 times, and represented them in 15

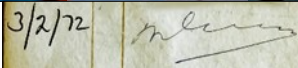
Olympiads, 13 of them on top board. In Dubrovnik in 1950 he led them to win the gold medal.

He was a regular player on the tournaments circuit world-wide with many top placings and played at Hastings many times. After Hastings he sometimes went on tour, and he visited Scotland a number of times. On two of those occasions he played simulms at the Edinburgh Chess club: 1964 +24 =1 (Smerdon) and -1 (D Munro). 1970 +15 =3 -0. Sadly he didn't make it into the visitors book.

### 1972 Max Euwe



Max Euwe



Max Euwe was a Dutch grandmaster who was briefly World Champion when he narrowly defeated Alekhine in a match in 1935. However he lost a rematch in 1937. Alekhine took him more seriously this time, and reportedly gave up alcohol and cigarettes in preparation for the match. Later in life he became a prominent chess administrator, and when FIDE gave notice that he would be on a world tour, he was invited to visit Scotland.

He visited the Edinburgh Club on 3rd February 1972. After being taken out for lunch and sightseeing, he came back to the club in its 150th year for afternoon tea and signed the visitors' book.

### 1975 William 'Bill' Lombardy

William James Joseph Lombardy was an American Grandmaster who won a great many titles and international honours in the USA before giving up chess to become an ordained Catholic Priest. Later he returned to Chess and won more honours but is probably best known for acting as Fischer's second in the famous World Championship Match against Boris Spassky in 1972.





**Bill Lombardy**

In 1975 he was invited to play in the Glasgow International which he won. Later he visited the Edinburgh Club, and when I told him how much I had enjoyed watching his win against Italian Master Tatai, he generously donated his signed scoresheet to the club where it still resides.

### 1970s - More Significant Visitors

In the 1970s we see a few more interesting signatures in the book:

1/2/72 Next to Max Euwe there is a **G Chandler**, of Croydon, Surrey. But Geoff insists it isn't him!

4/6/76 **Mark Condie**, on an early visit to the club, aged 11

8/9/77 **Derek Heyes**, Horwich

A blind player who visited after winning the Scottish Disabled Chess Congress tournament. He played in the British Blind Chess team and was also a keen sportsman (he ran, swam, and played cricket and even football with a specially adapted ball which he could hear). He was also a keen sports fan and won BBC Radio Sports Brain of Britain in 1979.

4 Nov 79	Small spot	X	LONDON
7 Nov 77	Can. D. Mullin		EDINBURGH
4 Jun 80	Colin Mills	X	Dundee
9 Jun 80	Tony Milligan		Clackmannan
8 EX 8	Tony Milligan	X	Edinburgh (Host)
25.6 X 20	Malcolm	X	Edinburgh
3/8	20 Ware-Jackson		Geneva, Switz.
3/5/81	Danny Kopeck	X	New York, N.Y.
3/2/81	Chris Morrison		Edinburgh
20-4 X 81	Robert Bell	X	St. James's
2-14/83	Peter Miller		Dundee
15-5-83	Tom Carroll		Ardara Ireland
15-4-83	Mark Carroll		Ardara Ireland
9-6-83	ROBERT GARZA		SAN ANTONIO, TX
9-6-83	Robert J. Douglas		San Antonio, TX
11/20/83	Malcolm Goss		Manchester England
9-7-83	Michael Johnson		Newcastle N Ireland
11.2.84	John Nunn	X	London

The rest of that page contains a veritable feast of names, including:

4/11/79 **Jonathan Speelman**

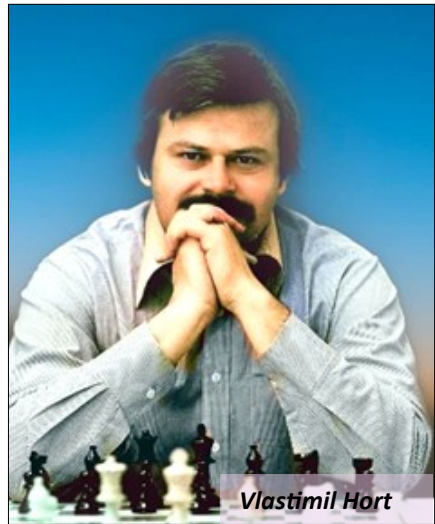
English Grandmaster who in 1989 was ranked fourth in the world and

got to the semi-final of the World Championship candidates cycle.

The next three names on that page are future caretaker **Ian D Mullen**, future Scottish Champion **Colin McNab** (Dundee) and another future caretaker **Tommy Milligan** (Clackmannan)!

Further on we have Czech **GM Vlastimil Hort** (see next column).

Then it's **Mark Condie** again (now aged 15), **IM Danny Kopec**, **FM Chris Morrison**, English **IM Robert Bellin**, Dundee CC Historian **Peter Walsh**, and strong English **GM John Nunn**, who was world problem-solving champion three times.



While in Scotland, he made a private visit to the Edinburgh Chess Club on 18th June 1980. He also visited the Castle Chess Club on Princes Street.

### 1980 Vlastimil Hort

Hort was a Czech Grandmaster and during the 1960s and 70s he was one of the world's strongest players. In 1980 he was still ranked 7th in the world.

He was invited by the Scottish Chess Association to help train their Olympiad squad, which included Mark Condie, Colin McNab, Graham Morrison and Paul Motwani among others.

### 1984 Scotland vs Ireland

In 1983-4 Scotland were playing in a 3-way double round tournament with Wales and Ireland, the 'Celtic Triangular' tourney. The final match of the series was Scotland vs Ireland at the Edinburgh Chess Club over the weekend of 3rd/4th March 1980. Scotland had to win the match 11-5 to secure the trophy. They duly won the match 11½-4½.

All of the Scottish team who played in that match signed the visitors' book. They were:

**Colin McNab**

**Mark L Condie**

**Graham Morrison**

**Timothy J Upton**

**Douglas Bryson**

**Philip M Giulian**

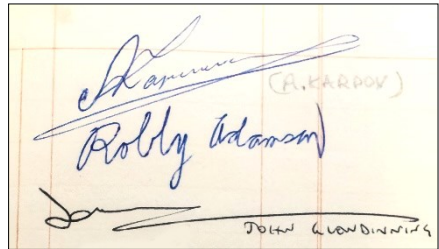
**Helen Milligan**

**Alison J Coull**



International Arbitrator **Stephen D Mannion** also signed, as did SCA President **Walter Munn**.

For the Irish only **John Delaney** and **Alan Ludgate** signed.



### **1984 Anatoly Karpov**

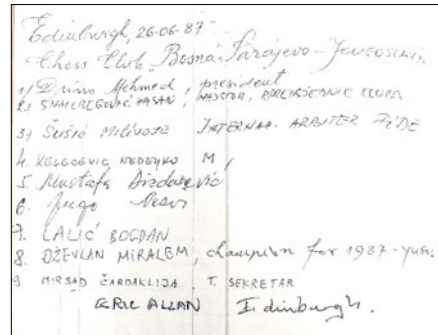
In 1984, the then World Champion was on a sponsored visit to Scotland. He gave a simultaneous display in Glasgow against strong opposition on May 14 where Mark Condie was among those who obtained a draw. Karpov didn't lose any games.

The following day he made a private visit to Edinburgh, and John Glendinning the SCA President asked me if it would be possible for me to show him round Edinburgh by car. This I willingly did, but I was desperate to get him up to the Chess Club to sign the visitors' book. His KGB 'minder' wasn't at all keen for this to happen, but I persisted and did manage to get him there.

A small number of members had gathered there just in case, and he spent ten minutes or so looking at the treasures of the club.

So there it is, his signature, and that of John Glendinning. But the presence of a third signature there is a complete mystery to me! **Robby Adamson** is a FIDE master from the USA who later ran chess 'training camps'. Was he there, or was his signature added later in a blank space below Karpov's? Maybe someone knows!?

Also on that page is the signature of English Grandmaster **Raymond Keene**, who visited for the British Championship in 1985, held in Edinburgh and won by Speelman.



Once again, we have an extra 'interloper' signature on the page. **Eric Allan** joined the club way back in 1939 and was club president in 1960-1. He was also club champion five times. This may have been his last visit to the club. Latterly he was confined to hospital but always welcomed visitors to play a game of chess.

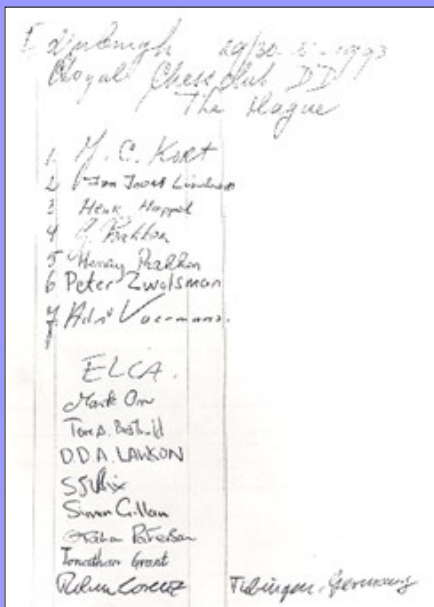
### 1987 Bosna Sarajevo

In 1987 Bosna Sarajevo visited to play Edinburgh in the European Club Cup. You can read the full story on page 28.

This page of the Visitors' Book has the signatures of some of the team members, including **Bogdan Lalić**, **Mustafa Dizdarević** and their current club champion **Miralan Dževlan**, as well as various club officials.

### 1993 Royal Hague Chess Club

A whole page in the visitors' book is dedicated to a match which took place in 1993 between visiting club '**Royal Chess Club DD the Hague**' and an Edinburgh League select. The 'DD' in the club name stands for 'Discendo Discimus', a Latin proverb meaning 'By Teaching we Learn'. The club was founded in 1852 and was granted the 'Royal' accolade in 1952.



Perhaps the best known of the Dutch players is their board 3, Henk Happel (who ECC's Raj Bhopal happened to beat recently in the European Senior team Championships in Dresden!).

There are several well-known players in the ELCA select side. And as often happens there is a 'random guy' at the foot of the page, a visitor from Germany who I don't know.

### 1997 Paul Motwani

Another 'full page' entry marks the occasion to mark the 175th Anniversary of the club in 1997. Scot-

land's first GM **Paul Motwani** visited and gave a talk and a simultaneous display. Paul recently returned to help celebrate Edinburgh Chess Club's Bicentenary with displays and talk on October 30th and November 3rd, 2022. As well as the signature of Paul, the page contains a few other important signatures:

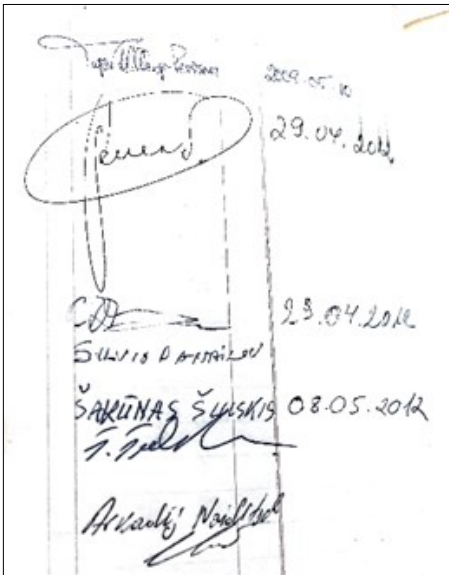
**John (Johnny) Marr** was one of the most regular attenders at the club for many years and a real character loved by those who knew him.

**Hamish Rushton** was club president at the time. Also there are

well known names **Willie Rutherford**, **Simon Gillam**, **Johathan Grant** and **Keti Arakhamia-Grant** among others.

### 2009 Onwards - Visiting GMs

The next of our full-page entries documents a number of famous visiting Grandmasters and others. Let's take them one by one:



**Tiger Hillarp-Persson** visited the club in 2009 and gave a series of training seminars.

The next signature is that of **Veselin Topalov**, the former Bulgarian World Champion. He gave a

simul at the club in 2012 against very strong opposition including titled players. IM Andrew Greet, the 2010 Scottish Champion, was the only player to beat him.



**Topalov on his way to beating Alastair White, with Geoff Chandler looking on. (Photo credit: Andy Howie)**

Draws were secured by GM Jacob Aagaard, Hugh Brechin, Adam Bremner, Roberta Brunello, Robert Lawson and Boris Mitrovic.

Along with Topalov we also have the signature of his manager IM Silvio Danailov. He held various high positions in European and World Chess before being sanctioned by FIDE for alleged financial irregularities.

The next signature is the strong Lithuanian Grandmaster **Šarūnas Šulskis**. He was in Scotland as part of Scotland's preparations for the Chess Olympiad, and later he was



non-playing captain for the Scottish Team at that event.

The final signature on the page is that of **Arkady Naiditsch**, who was one of a number of strong players in Scotland by invitation to play in a 'sponsored' Scottish Blitz Championship in Edinburgh.

### 2018 Arkady Dvorkovic

**Arkady Dvorkovich** visited Edinburgh Chess Club on the 20th November 2018, the first time he visited Scotland as head of FIDE.



After a speech from Dvorkovich, the evening continued with a 2-hour talk by famous Israeli Grandmaster and FIDE Director General **Emil Sutovsky**.

They both signed the Visitors' Book along with a couple of others I don't know - **Konstantin Kiselyov** (who may be a Russian Journalist) and another signature I can't quite make out, but it was his birthday! (another random?).

Dvorkovich was previously a high-ranking Russian politician - he was deputy Prime Minister in the Dmitry Medvedev cabinet. At the time of writing Dvorkovich is still FIDE President of FIDE, having been re-elected by a landslide (157-16 votes) in August 2022, despite any concerns in the West about his connections to the sanctioned Russian regime.

In the FIDE system of giving every affiliated country one vote, third world countries (who stand most to gain) can easily outvote major chess-playing nations such as the USA and Germany.

# Edinburgh Tiger Cubs

by Willie Rutherford  
(with contributions from Mike Ridge and Chris Sykes)



**The 'Edinburgh Tiger Cubs' Junior squad who won the ELCA Division 3 in 2000-1 with a 100% score**

**Back Row** (L to R): Hamish Rushton (Club President), Stuart McNally, Colin Horne, Keith Anderson, Hugh Brechin, Willie Rutherford (Captain)

**Front, Seated** (L to R): David Clarke, Michael Clarke, Elaine Rutherford (coach) Grant Clarke, Kathleen Rutherford. David Oswald



**I**n the late 90's I was involved in running an after-class chess club in the local primary school. It was very popular, with 15 to 20 members each year. Truth be told, some of them were only there for the free childcare and so crowd control skills were as important as chess knowledge in running the club. However, over the years I did see a number of kids who were both talented and interested.

Unfortunately, almost all of them gave up chess immediately on leaving the school. Of course, many just found other interests, but the fact was that for most of those who wanted to keep playing there just wasn't the opportunity.

Only a select few secondary schools had chess clubs and adult chess clubs were generally unwelcoming places for 12-year-olds and their parents. This was primarily why the "Tiger Cubs" was launched, to act as a bridge giving primary school players an opportunity to keep up their interest in chess as they moved on through secondary school. It was also a way to help develop the most promising younger players in P5 through P7.

With a handful of talented exceptions Edinburgh Chess Club, like most chess clubs at the time, had few junior players. It seemed to me

the club had a unique ability to support juniors, consistent with the Club's purpose as stated in its constitution of "promoting and supporting the playing of chess".

With its own city centre, alcohol free and smoke free venue it was much better placed to receive juniors than most club venues. (Although it cost a few members, Edinburgh Chess Club had already voted to be a smoke-free environment some years before the national smoking ban of 2004).

The club Council were wholly supportive and so it was that the "Tiger Cubs" club was formed in 1998/99. Given space restrictions, attendance was by invitation, with organisers of the school chess clubs in the Edinburgh & Lothians Primary Schools Chess League being asked to nominate who they thought might benefit and be in-

terested. Around 10/15 members met each term-time Wednesday evening for internal tournaments and coaching.

I acted as organiser; the coach was my daughter Elaine (with me as a poor sub if she wasn't available) and there were guest presentations from strong players from the club and local area. Sessions were held 6pm to 7.15, ahead of adult events starting at 7.30. Then, as now, child protection was a key consideration and in keeping with the club's Child Protection Policy, a chaperone was always present, sourced from a parents' rota.

The next development was to offer external competition via the adult local league. To make it more attractive to the children and their parents when I enquired about entering a Tiger Cubs team, I requested a few concessions.

Firstly, all matches would be played at home at Edinburgh Chess Club on Tiger Cub club nights as some club venues were just unsuitable for children and the logistics of winter evening pick-ups and drop-offs in unfamiliar locations would also be off-putting for many. Secondly, matches would start at the earliest time and with

the shortest time control allowed under the league rules to allow the 10- to 12-year-old kids to get home at a reasonable time.

Happily the League were also fully supportive and so the first Tiger Cubs team appeared in lowest division of the Edinburgh and Lothians Chess League in the 1999/00 season. It wasn't an auspicious start with a 4.5/1.5 thrashing in the first match.

However, the team found their feet to win most of their remaining matches. The following season the Tiger Cubs really showed their claws, winning the division with a 100% match score! (see photo).

After about 5 years the Tiger Cubs baton was passed on to Mark Sanderson and David Robertson. Mark's dedication to the Tiger Cubs was second to none. He met with them every week for training, using the "Steps" method and workbooks extensively.

The Tiger Cubs also grew under Mark's stewardship as he engaged in extensive recruitment. Eventually the cohort grew so much that the students had to be divided into more advanced pupils and those just starting out.

Tragically Mark, (a keen cyclist), died in a road traffic accident in 2012 at which point Mike Ridge took over with Chris Sykes joining the following year. Mike and Chris continued the practice of meeting weekly for training sessions with the Cubs.



Benjamin Ridge contemplating his first move in a league match. Chris Sykes comments: *"I can't say I blame him. That's how I'd look if I was about to play the French"*

They combined lessons and puzzles based on Artur Yusupov's series *'Build Up Your Chess'* with lectures on various themes, going through games of the Cubs themselves as a group, and guest lectures.

In 2018 Mike and Chris handed over to the current duo of Andrew Green who leads the coaching, and Geoff Chandler who manages the Tiger Cubs team in the Edinburgh League. Andrew has taken the Tiger Cubs more into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, using his computer and various pieces of software to enhance his training.

The focus of Tiger Cubs was always that children should enjoy playing chess. Success in matches was a bonus, not the primary aim, though of course it is more enjoyable if you are winning. Over the years the team had many notable results. The team have always competed in divisions 2 or 3 (division 2 is 3<sup>rd</sup> tier) of the Edinburgh League. Their best placed finish was 2<sup>nd</sup> in division 2 in 2016, narrowly missing promotion. The top players in this team went on to play for Edinburgh Chess Club 'adult' teams the following season, making way for the next group of young Tiger Cubs.

The Tiger Cubs team has also had significant success in the Summer Cup over the years. This is a knock-out tournament with a grade handicap system which the team took advantage of. They won the tournament in 2003, 2004, 2007, 2014 and 2015, and were runners up in 2018.

Members of the Tiger Cubs club have regularly (too numerous to list!) represented Scotland in junior and youth tournaments including 'junior home nations' Glorney and Faber Cup competitions, and at European and World Youth tournaments, both team and individual events. Also Cubs and former Cubs have represented Edinburgh and Scotland in 'adult' competitions.

Kathleen Rutherford (2016) and Rhian Hughes (2006, 2008, 2022) played for the women's Olympiad Team, and current Tiger Cub member Freddie Gordon played in the 2022 open event in Chennai at age 11 years. Ex Tiger Cubs members David Oswald (2011 and 2013) and Hugh Brechin (2011) represented Edinburgh in the European Club Cup. And on a different field, ex Tiger Cub Stuart McNally is now a forward in the Scotland Rugby team.

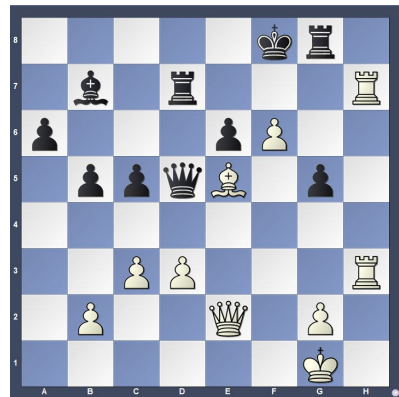
Finally, as well as coach and friend who we all miss, Mark Sanderson was a creative club player. Below is a win of his against a former Tiger Cub in the Scottish Championship

♣ Sanderson, Mark (1799)

♣ Brechin, Hugh (2052) B23

118th Scottish Champs (1), 2009

1.e4 c5 2.♘c3 a6 3.f4 b5 4.♘f3 e6 5.e5 ♘b7 6.d3 d6 7.exd6 ♘xd6 8.♘e4 ♘e7 9.♘e2 ♘f6 10.♘xf6+ ♘xf6 11.0-0 ♘c6 12.♘g5 ♘d4 13.c3 ♘xe2+ 14.♚xe2 ♘g5 15.fxg5 0-0 16.♘f4 ♚d5 17.♘e5 ♘ad8 18.♖f3 ♘d7 19.♖af1 ♚xa2 20.♖h3 ♚d5 21.♖f4 f5 22.gxf6 g6 23.♖g3 ♖ff7 24.h4 ♖f8 25.h5 ♘f7 26.hxg6+ hxg6 27.♖h4 ♖g8 28.♖h7+ ♘f8 29.♖gh3 g5



30.♖g7 ♖dxg7 31.fxg7+ ♘e7  
32.♖h8 1-0

# Selected Correspondence Games of Edinburgh CC

Below you'll find a selection of games from Edinburgh Chess Club's most notable correspondence matches, taken from the club's excellent website. You can find these games and many, many more involving club members and notables via the link at the end of the article.

▣ Edinburgh CC

■ Phoenix CC Dublin

Correspondence match, 1894  
*Notes by Prof Berger of Graz*

1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.♔c4 ♖h4+ 4.  
♔f1 d5 5.♙xd5 g5 6.♗f3 ♖h5  
7.h4 ♙g7 8.d4 ♗e7 9.♗c3 h6



10.e5 The K P should not be moved without compulsion, as it prevents in some cases White's N-K5 (Ne5), and it enables also Black to play either N-B4(Nf5) or B-B4 (Bf5).

10...0-0 11.♙e4 ♜d8 12.♗e2  
♗g6 Dublin followed Herr Berger so far but here they deviate with the text move. Anticipating White's intended R-R2 (Rh2) to which they want to reply P-N5 (g4), they defend the KBP with N-N3(Ng6). But the continuation suggested by Herr Berger should have been 12...♗bc6 13.♞h2 ♖g4 14.hxg5 hxg5 15.♖e1 ♙f5 16.♙xf5 ♖xf5 17.c3 ♗g6 18.♞h5

13.♖h2



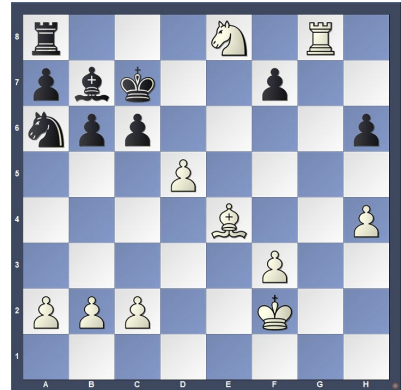
13...g4 It appears to us that Black could still have played 13...QN5 (Qg4), and assuming White to continue as in the preceding variation, the result would be the same only that Black would not have the QN developed, but then White's Q would still be at her square.

14.♙xf4 gxf3 15.gxf3 ♙xe5



16.♙xe5 Better than 16.♘g3 ♙xf4 17.♘h5 ♙xh2 with three pieces for the queen.

16...♘xe5 17.♘f4 ♘g4  
 18.♘h5 ♘e3+ 19.♙f2 ♘xd1+  
 20.♖xd1 c6 21.♖g2+ ♙f8  
 22.♖dg1 b6 23.♖g8+ ♙e7  
 24.♖xd8 ♙xd8 25.♖g8+ ♙c7  
 26.♘f6 ♘a6 27.d5 ♙b7  
 28.♘e8+



28.♘e8+ ♙d7 29.♙f5+ ♙e7 (29... ♙d8 30.d6) 30.d6+ ♙d8 31.♘f6#

1-0

♠ Edinburgh CC

♣ Rome CC

Correspondence 1902-1904

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙c4 ♙c5  
 4.b4 ♙xb4 5.c3 ♙a5 6.0-0 d6

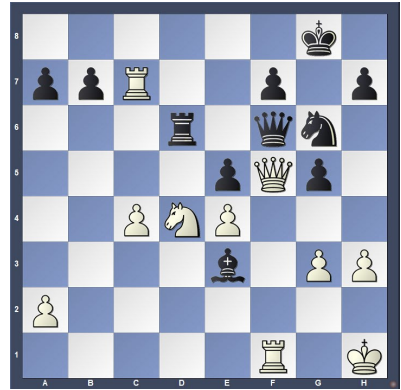
7.d4 ♔d7 8.♖b3 ♚e7 9.dxe5  
 dx5 10.♞d1 ♞d8 11.♞d5 ♘b6  
 12.♙b5 ♞a5 13.♙xd7+ ♞xd7  
 14.♚a4 ♞c6 15.♞bd2 ♚e6  
 16.c4 ♞ge7 17.♙a3



17...0-0 18.♞g5 ♚g4 19.h3 ♚f4  
 20.♞xd7 ♙xf2+ 21.♞h1 ♚xg5  
 22.♞f3 ♚f6 23.♞xc7 g5



24.♙xe7 ♞xe7 25.♚d7 ♞g6  
 26.♞f1 ♙e3 27.g3 ♞d8 28.♚f5  
 ♞d6 29.♞d4



29...exd4 30.♚xf6 ♞xf6 31.♞xf6  
 d3 32.♞xf7 d2 33.♞fd7 b5  
 34.cxb5

1-0

♞ Edinburgh CC

♜ Turin CC C52

Correspondence Game 1, 1911

1.e4 e5 2.♞f3 ♞c6 3.♙c4 ♙c5  
 4.b4 ♙xb4 5.c3 ♙c5 6.0-0 d6  
 7.d4 ♙b6 8.dxe5 dx5 9.♖b3  
 ♚f6 10.♙g5 ♚g6 11.♞bd2 ♞f6  
 12.♚c2 0-0 13.♞fe1 ♙g4  
 14.♙e3 ♙e6 15.♙b5 ♞d7 16.a4  
 ♙h3

See diagram next page





17.♔f1 ♖fe8 18.♘c4 ♕e6  
 19.♘h4 ♔f6 20.♘f3 h6  
 21.♘fd2 ♕c5 22.♞ab1 b6  
 23.♘b3 ♕f8 24.♘cd2 a5 25.♖b5  
 ♜e7 26.♘f1 ♞ed8 27.♜g3 ♜g6  
 28.♘e2 c6 29.♕d3 ♕xb3



30.♞xb3 ♜c5 31.♕xc5 ♕xc5  
 32.♞f1 ♞d6 33.c4 ♞ad8 34.♔h1  
 ♞d7 35.♔g1 ♔d8



0-1

♣ Turin CC

♠ Edinburgh CC C44

Correspondence Game 1, 1911

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♜c6 3.d4 exd4 4.  
 ♕c4 ♕c5 5.0-0 d6 6.c3 ♕g4  
 7.♞b3

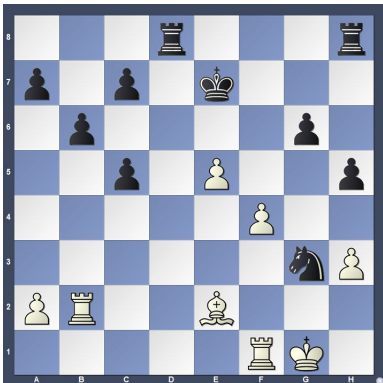




7...♙xf3 8.♙xf7+ ♔f8 9.gxf3  
 dxc3 10.♙h5 g6 11.♙g4 h5  
 12.♙h3 ♘d4 13.♚c4 ♚f6  
 14.♙g2 cxb2 15.♙xb2



15...♘xf3+ 16.♙xf3 ♚xb2  
 17.♘c3 ♚b4 18.♚d3 ♚d4  
 19.♚c2 ♘f6 20.♘a4 ♘g4  
 21.♘xc5 ♚xc5 22.♚xc5 dxc5  
 23.♚ab1 b6 24.♙e2 ♖d8 25.h3  
 ♘f6 26.e5 ♘e4 27.♚b2 ♔e7  
 28.f4 ♘g3



29.♚f3 ♘xe2+ 30.♚xe2 ♚hf8 31.  
 ♚g2 ♖d4 32.♚gf2 c4 33.h4 b5  
 34.♘h2 b4 35.♙g3 c3

0-1

♠ Newcastle CC

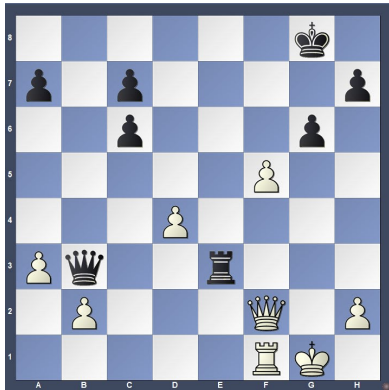
♣ Edinburgh CC

Correspondence Game 1, 1916

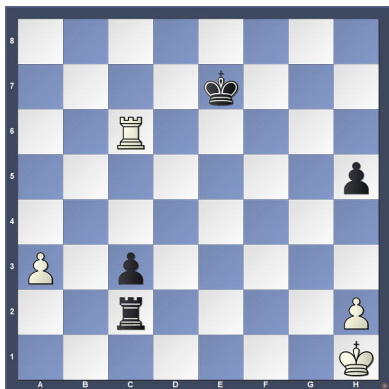
1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♘c3 ♘f6  
 4.♙b5 ♙b4 5.0-0 0-0 6.d3 d6  
 7.♙xc6 bxc6 8.♙g5 ♙g4 9.♘e2  
 ♙xf3 10.gxf3 d5 11.f4



11...exf4 12.♘xf4 dxe4 13.c3  
 ♙c7 14.♙xf6 ♙xf6 15.dxe4 ♚e7  
 16.♚e2 ♚fe8 17.♚ae1 ♚ad8  
 18.♘g2 g6 19.f4 ♚e6 20.a3 ♖d7  
 21.♚f3 ♖de7 22.e5 ♙g7 23.♚f2  
 ♚b3 24.♘e3 f6 25.exf6 ♙xf6  
 26.♚f1 ♙d4 27.cxd4 ♚xe3  
 28.♚xe3 ♚xe3 29.f5



29...♔d3 30.f6 ♕xd4 31.f7+  
 ♖f8 32.b4 c5 33.bxc5 ♕g4+  
 34.♖h1 ♜e2 35.♗f3 ♕xf3+  
 36.♞xf3 ♜c2 37.♞f6 ♞xc5  
 38.♞a6 ♖xf7 39.♞xa7 ♔e7  
 40.♞a4 ♜c2 41.♞h4 h5 42.♞h3  
 c5 43.♞g3 c4 44.♞xg6 c3 45.♞c6



45...♔d7 46.♞c4 ♖d6 47.♞f4  
 ♞d2

0-1

Edinburgh CC

Newcastle CC C21

Correspondence Game 2, 1916

1.e4 e5 2.d4 exd4 3.f4 ♖b4+  
 4.♘d2 ♘f6 5.♙d3 d5 6.e5 ♘g4  
 7.a3 ♘e3



8.♗e2 ♘g4 9.♘gf3 ♙a5 10.b4  
 ♙b6 11.♘b3 0-0 12.♙b2 f6  
 13.♙xd4 ♙xd4 14.♘bxd4 fxe5  
 15.fxe5 ♘f5 16.♘e6



16...♖e7 17.♘xf8 ♖xf8 18.0-0  
♘h6



19.♙xh7+ ♔xh7 20.♘g5+ ♔g6  
21.♖xf8 ♙xe2 22.♘e6

1-0

♠ Paris CC

♣ Edinburgh CC B0

Correspondence Game 1, 1923

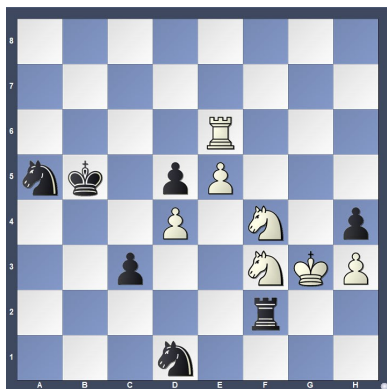
1.d4 ♘f6 2.♘f3 e6 3.♘c3 b6  
4.e4 ♙b7 5.♙d3 d5 6.e5 ♘g8  
7.♘e2 ♙a6 8.♙e3 ♙xd3 9.♖xd3  
♘e7 10.♙g5 ♖c8 11.a3 ♖a6  
12.♖d2 h6 13.♙e3 ♘d7 14.0-0  
g6 15.b4 c6 16.♘e1 ♖b7  
17.♘d3 ♙g7 18.♘df4 c5  
19.bxc5 bxc5 20.c3 c4 21.g4  
♖b8 22.♖ac1 ♖a6 23.♘g2 ♖xa3  
24.♖a1 ♖b2 25.♖xa7 ♖xd2  
26.♙xd2



26...♙d8 27.♖fa1 ♘c6 28.♖7a2  
♙c7 29.♘g3 ♖b3 30.f4 h5  
31.gxh5 gxh5 32.♘h4 f6 33.♙f2  
fxe5 34.fxe5 ♙h6 35.♙xh6 ♖xh6  
36.♘e2 ♖h7 37.♙g1 ♖f7+  
38.♙e3 ♘b4 39.♖a4 ♘c2+  
40.♙d2 ♘a3 41.♙e3 ♘c2+  
42.♙d2 ♘a3 43.♙e3 ♘b5  
44.♖c1 ♖g7 45.h3 ♘b8 46.♖aa1  
♘c6 47.♖cb1 ♙b6 48.♙d2 ♘a5  
49.♖g1 ♖b2+ 50.♙e3 ♖xg1  
51.♖xg1 ♖c2



52. ♖g6 ♜xc3 53. ♘f4 ♜d1+  
 54. ♙f3 ♜f2+ 55. ♙g3 ♜b5  
 56. ♘f3 c3 57. ♖xe6 h4+



58. ♙xh4 c2 59. ♘d3 ♜xf3  
 60. ♘c1 ♜b3 61. ♞d6 ♜xc1  
 62. ♜xd5+ ♙b4 63. ♜c5 ♜c3  
 64. e6 ♜d3 65. e7 c1♚ 66. e8♚  
 ♚f4+ 67. ♙h5 ♜xh3+ 68. ♙g6  
 ♜h6+ 69. ♙g7 ♚f6+ 70. ♙g8  
 ♜h8#

♚xc5 15. ♜cd4 ♜xd4 16. ♜xd4  
 ♜c4 17. ♙xc4 dxc4 18. ♚e2 0-0  
 19. 0-0 b5 20. a3 ♙c6 21. ♞ad1  
 ♞cd8 22. ♞d2 ♞d5 23. ♜fd1 ♙b7  
 24. ♚e3 f6



25. exf6 ♜xf6 26. ♞e2 ♞d8  
 27. ♞de1 ♞g6 28. ♜f2 ♚b6 29. h4  
 ♞g4 30. ♚h3 ♞g6 31. ♜xe6 ♜xe6  
 32. ♚xe6+ ♚xe6 33. ♜xe6 ♞e8  
 34. ♜c5 ♙c8

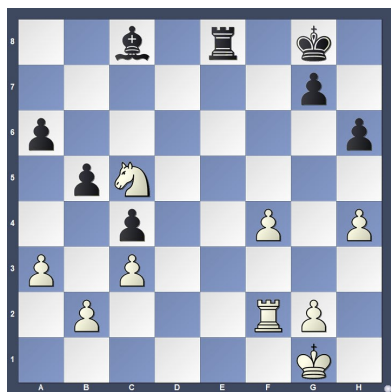
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♞ Edinburgh CC

♜ Paris CC

Correspondence Game 2, 1923

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. ♜c3 ♜f6  
 4. ♙g5 ♙e7 5. e5 ♜fd7 6. ♙xe7  
 ♚xe7 7. ♜b5 ♜b6 8. c3 a6 9. ♜a3  
 c5 10. ♜c2 ♙d7 11. f4 ♜c6  
 12. ♜f3 h6 13. ♙e2 ♜c8 14. dxc5



35. ♞d2 ♙f7 36. ♙f2 ♙e7  
 37. ♜e2+ ♙f7 38. ♜xe8 ♙xe8



# Selected Over-the-Board Games of Edinburgh CC members

A flavour of Edinburgh chess players' prowess on  
the 64 squares by **Raj Bhopal**

**I** have selected 15 games by Edinburgh Chess Club players from the late 19th century to the present year. I have done this by choosing, with the help of Stockfish 14 to assess quality, from games supplied by Geoff Chandler, Alastair White, those already compiled on our website by Webmaster Bill Marshall, and finding some using Chess Base's Megabase.

I chose hard-fought, over-the-board struggles between players of roughly equal strength or where the non-Edinburgh player was stronger. The late Johnny Marr is one of the club's most venerated members and, in his memory, I have included a game where he beat me. These games are presented in chronological order with one or two illustrative diagrams (thanks to the editor) and my simple notes relating to a key position.

Yarnton Mills finds a deadly exchange sacrifice when White plays the natural Qc3.

♞ Spens, Walter Cook

♣ Mills, Daniel Yarnton A84

Scottish Championships  
Stirling, 1899

1.d4 f5 2.c4 ♘f6 3.♘f3 e6 4.e3  
♙e7 5.♘c3 b6 6.♙d3 ♙b7 7.a3  
0-0 8.0-0 ♘e4 9.♘e2 ♚e8  
10.♘g3 d6 11.b3 ♘d7 12.♘d2  
♘ef6 13.d5 exd5 14.♘xf5 dxc4  
15.♙xc4+ d5 16.♘xe7+ ♚xe7  
17.♙d3 ♘c5 18.♘f3 ♘fe4  
19.b4 ♘xd3 20.♚xd3 a5 21.b5  
♘c5 22.♚c3

**See diagram next page**



22...♖xf3 23.gxf3 ♔g5+ 24.♔h1  
d4 25.exd4 ♕h5 26.♚c4+ ♔d5  
27.♚xd5+ ♚xd5 28.dxc5 ♚xf3+  
29.♔g1 ♖e8

0-1

♣ Fairhurst, William Albert

♣ Menchik, Vera E60

Margate (3), 1935

White blows the black defences apart by taking the seemingly protected c-pawn and finishes in fine style.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 ♙g7  
4.♙g2 0-0 5.e4 d6 6.♘e2 c6  
7.♘bc3 ♚c7 8.0-0 e5 9.h3 h6  
10.♙e3 ♘bd7 11.♖c1 ♖d8  
12.♚d2 ♔h7 13.f4 a6 14.fxg5  
dxe5 15.d5 c5 16.♖f2 ♚d6

17.♖c1 ♖b8 18.a4 b6 19.♘c1  
♖f8 20.♘d3 ♚e7 21.a5 b5



22.♘xc5 ♘xc5 23.d6 ♚e6  
24.♙xc5 ♚xc4 25.♚e3 ♘d7  
26.♙a7 ♖b7 27.♘d5 ♘b8  
28.♙xb8 ♖xb8 29.♖xf7 ♖xf7  
30.♖xf7 ♙e6 31.♘f6+ ♔h8  
32.♚xh6+

1-0

♣ Tartakower, Saviely

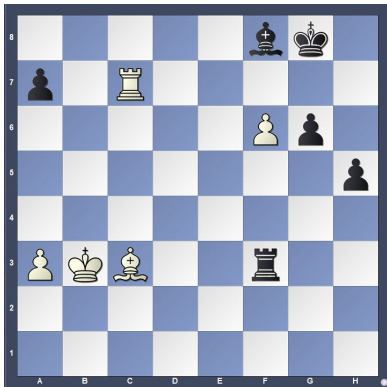
♣ Aitken, James B72

Southsea (8), 1949

Who could resist the free a-pawn, creating a passed pawn of your own? Resisting the temptation was the difference between a draw and defeat.

1.e4 c5 2.♘e2 d6 3.d4 ♘f6  
4.♘bc3 cxd4 5.♘xd4 g6 6.h3

♙g7 7.♙e3 ♘c6 8.♚d2 ♙d7  
 9.♙c2 ♘xd4 10.♙xd4 ♙c6 11.f4  
 e5 12.♙e3 ♘xe4 13.♘xe4 ♙xe4  
 14.♙b5+ ♙c6 15.♙xc6+ bxc6  
 16.0-0 0-0 17.♚xd6 ♚a5  
 18.♚a3 ♚xa3 19.bxa3 ♙h6  
 20.♙hf1 ♙fd8 21.♙d3 ♙xd3  
 22.cxd3 exf4 23.♙xf4 ♙f8  
 24.♙c2 ♙e8 25.♙b3 ♙e2 26.g4  
 ♙g7 27.♙c1 ♙b2+ 28.♙a4 ♙xa2  
 29.♙xc6 ♙f8 30.♙c1 ♙h2 31.♙c8  
 ♙xh3 32.♙d2 ♙g7 33.♙c3+ f6  
 34.g5 ♙xd3 35.♙c7+ ♙g8  
 36.gxf6 ♙f3 37.♙b3 h5



38.♙xa7 h4 39.♙a4 h3 40.♙h4  
 ♙xa3 41.♙c4 ♙d6 42.♙d4 h2  
 43.♙d5 ♙d3 44.♙h6 ♙d1  
 45.♙xd6 ♙xd4+ 46.♙e5 ♙d2  
 47.♙f4 ♙f7 48.♙g3 ♙xf6  
 49.♙h4 ♙e2 50.♙f4+ ♙g5  
 51.♙g4+ ♙f5 52.♙f4+ ♙e5  
 53.♙h4 ♙a2 54.♙h8 ♙e4  
 55.♙e8+ ♙f5 56.♙f8+ ♙g5

57.♙h8 ♙a4 58.♙g2 ♙h4  
 59.♙xh4 ♙xh4 60.♙h1 ♙g4  
 61.♙xh2 ♙f3 62.♙h3 g5  
 63.♙h2 g4 64.♙g1 ♙g3 65.♙h1  
 ♙f2

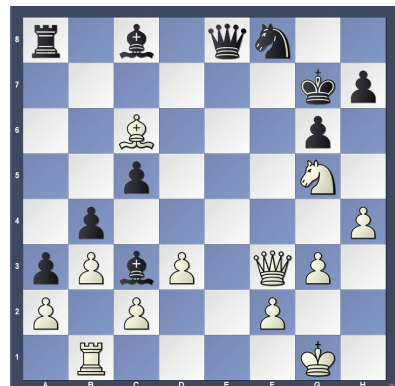
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♠ Holt, Eric J

♣ Pritchard, David B C00

British Championship, (11)  
Blackpool, 1971

1.e4 e6 2.d3 d5 3.♘d2 c5  
 4.♘gf3 ♘c6 5.g3 ♘f6 6.♙g2 b5  
 7.0-0 ♙e7 8.♙e1 0-0 9.e5 ♘d7  
 10.♘f1 a5 11.h4 a4 12.♙f4 a3  
 13.b3 ♙e8 14.♘e3 f6 15.exf6  
 ♙xf6 16.♙b1 ♙c3 17.♙e2 b4  
 18.♘xd5 exd5 19.♙c7 ♚xc7  
 20.♙xe8+ ♘f8 21.♘g5 ♚d7  
 22.♚h5 g6 23.♙xd5+ ♙g7  
 24.♚f3 ♚xe8 25.♙xc6



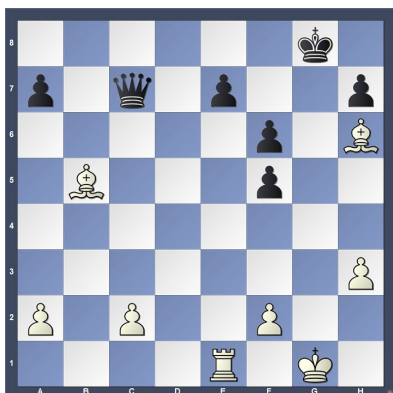




1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4  
 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 d6 6.♙e2 g6  
 7.0-0 ♙g7 8.♙e3 0-0 9.h3 d5  
 10.exd5 ♘xd5 11.♘xd5 ♙xd5  
 12.♙f3 ♙a5 13.♘xc6 bxc6  
 14.♙xc6 ♖b8



15.b4 ♙c7 16.b5 ♙xa1 17.♙xa1  
 ♖d8 18.♖e1 ♙f5 19.♙h6 f6 20.♙  
 c3 ♘h8 21.g4 ♖xb5 22.gxf5 gxf5  
 23.♙g3 ♖g8 24.♙xg8+ ♘xg8 25.  
 ♙xb5



25...♙a5 26.♙c4+ ♘h8 27.♖xe7  
 1-0

♣ Kopec, Danny (2375)

♠ King, Daniel (2365)

Philips & Drew Knights  
 London (7), 1982

Black has a small advantage after  
 13 ...dxc5 but the b-pawn and the  
 exchange are too inviting. The tac-  
 tics are exciting and not calculable  
 by humans. As often happens, the  
 defender goes astray.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙d3 g6  
 4.c3 ♙g7 5.♙c2 e5 6.0-0 ♘ge7  
 7.d3 0-0 8.♙e3 d6 9.h3 h6  
 10.♙d2 ♘h7 11.d4 exd4  
 12.cxd4 ♙b6 13.dxc5



13...♙xb2 14.cxd6 ♙xa1  
 15.dxe7 ♖e8 16.e5 ♘xe5  
 17.♘d4 ♘c4 18.♙b4 b5  
 19.♙xb5 ♘d6 20.♙c6 ♙xd4  
 21.♙xd6 ♙e5 22.♙c5 ♙a6

23.♔d5 ♖g7 24.♞e1 ♞ac8  
 25.♙c5 ♙f6 26.♚b3 ♚d3  
 27.♞xf7+ ♔h8 28.♙a4 ♙xe7  
 29.♞xe7 g5 30.♙xe8 ♞xb1+  
 31.♔h2

1-0

♣ Condie, Mark L (2410)

♣ Anand, Viswanathan (2420)

Lloyds Bank Open (9)  
 London, 1986

The future world champion should simplify in the diagram position with ...♗xg3 but goes for complications. The struggle ends with black's rook helpless against a bishop and a mass of queenside pawns.

1.♗f3 ♗f6 2.c4 e6 3.d4 c5 4.e3  
 g6 5.♗c3 ♙g7 6.♙e2 0-0 7.0-0  
 b6 8.b3 ♙b7 9.♙b2 ♞e7 10.♞c2  
 ♗c6 11.♞fd1 ♞ac8 12.dxc5 bxc5  
 13.♞d2 ♞fd8 14.♞ad1 d5  
 15.♞b1 d4 16.exd4 ♙h6  
 17.dxc5 ♙xd2 18.♗xd2 ♗d4  
 19.b4 e5 20.♙f1 ♗f5 21.♗de4  
 ♗xe4 22.♞xd8+ ♞xd8 23.♗xe4  
 ♞h4 24.♗g3

See diagram next page



24...e4 25.♞c1 f6 26.♞c3 ♞d1  
 27.♞c2 ♞d7 28.♞a4 ♞e7  
 29.♗xf5 gxf5 30.♞xa7 ♔f7  
 31.♞b8 e3 32.fxe3 ♙xg2 33.♞g3  
 ♞xg3 34.hxg3 ♙xf1 35.♔xf1  
 ♞xe3 36.b5 ♔e8 37.c6 ♔d8  
 38.♙xf6+ ♔c8 39.c5 h6 40.a4  
 ♞e6

1-0

♣ McNab, Colin A (2435)

♣ Ruxton, Keith (2325)

British Championship, 1989

1.♗f3 e6 2.g3 ♗f6 3.♙g2 d5  
 4.b3 c6 5.0-0 ♗bd7 6.♙b2 ♞b6  
 7.d3 ♙e7 8.♗bd2 0-0 9.e4 ♞d8  
 10.♞e2 ♗f8 11.c4 ♗g6 12.h4  
 ♞c7 13.e5 ♗e8 14.h5 ♗f8  
 15.♞ac1 b6 16.♞fe1 a5 17.♗f1

c5 18.cxd5 exd5 19.♘e3 ♔e6  
 20.♘d4 ♚d7 21.♘xc6 fx6  
 22.f4 a4 23.♞b1 axb3 24.axb3  
 ♞a2 25.♞a1 ♞da8 26.♔h2 ♘c7  
 27.♞xa2 ♞xa2 28.♞a1 ♞xa1  
 29.♙xa1 b5 30.h6 d4 31.♘g4  
 ♘d5 32.hxg7 ♔xg7 33.♘f2 ♘e3  
 34.♘d1 ♘xg2



Two heavyweights are slugging it out. White's early advantage has slipped away. Now it is a choice between ...♔xg2 or ...♚xg2. White sacrifices/loses the b-pawn and Black surprisingly but wisely keeps the queens on, even when the ending is won. Good decision.

35.♔xg2 ♚d5+ 36.♔h2 ♚xb3  
 37.♘f2 ♘g6 38.♚b2 ♚a4  
 39.♚c1 h5 40.♚d1 ♚a2 41.♔g1  
 h4 42.gxh4 ♙xh4 43.♘e4 ♘xf4  
 44.♚g4+ ♘g6 45.♘c5 ♚b1+  
 46.♔g2 ♚c2+ 47.♔f3 ♚f2+  
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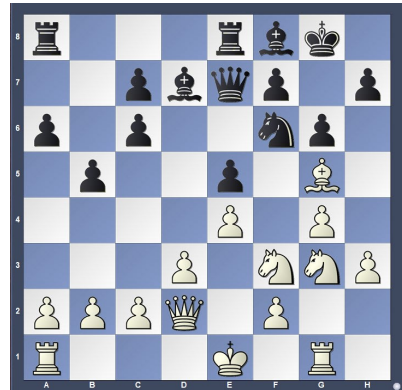
♠ Chandler, Geoff

♠ Roberts, Paul

League v Edinburgh West  
 Edinburgh, 1990

The knight sacrifice on f5 is so tempting but is it sound? On move 18, White finds a second follow-up exchange sacrifice. It's all easy when you can see why and how, but so difficult on the board.

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 a6  
 4.♙a4 ♘f6 5.♙xc6 dxc6 6.d3  
 ♙c5 7.♘c3 0-0 8.♙g5 ♞e8  
 9.♚d2 ♙g4 10.h3 ♙d7 11.g4 b5  
 12.♞g1 ♙f8 13.♘e2 ♚e7  
 14.♘g3 g6



15.♘f5 gxf5 16.gxf5 ♔h8  
 17.♙h4 ♙g7 18.♞xg7 ♔xg7  
 19.♚g5+ ♔h8 20.♚xf6+ ♚xf6  
 21.♙xf6+ ♔g8 22.♔d2 ♔f8

23.♠g1 h6 24.♠g7 ♕xf5 25.exf5  
 ♜ec8 26.♠h7 ♖e8 27.♗xe5

1–0

♣ Rutherford, Elaine (2050)

♣ Upton, Timothy J (2274)

Scottish Championships (9)  
 Glasgow 2000

Black has played very well and probably thought that his good play deserved something. Perhaps the g-pawn seemed like his just reward? Was it? One move can make the difference. Our then coach to the Tiger Cubs takes control in impressive fashion.

1.e4 e5 2.♗f3 ♗c6 3.d4 exd4  
 4.♗xd4 ♕c5 5.♕e3 ♜f6 6.c3  
 ♗ge7 7.♜d2 ♕xd4 8.cxd4 d5  
 9.♗c3 0–0 10.♗b5 dxe4 11.♕g5  
 ♜g6 12.♗xc7 ♠b8 13.♕f4 ♕f5  
 14.d5 ♠bd8 15.h3 ♕e6 16.♕c4  
 b5 17.♕b3 a5 18.a3

See diagram next page

18...♜xg2 19.0–0–0 ♕f5?  
 20.♠dg1 ♜f3 21.♕d1 ♗d4  
 22.♠xg7+ ♖h8 23.♕e5 ♗b3+



24.♕xb3 f6 25.♠hg1 e3 26.♜xe3  
 ♜xe3+ 27.fxex3 ♗g6 28.♠7xg6  
 hxg6 29.♕c3 a4 30.♕c2 ♕xc2  
 31.♗e6 b4 32.axb4

1–0

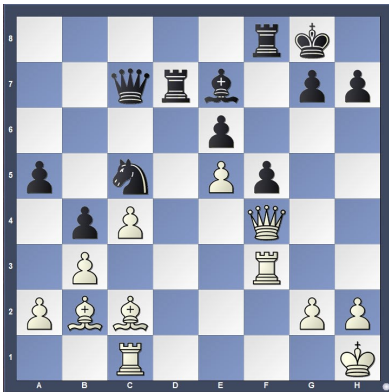
♣ Williams, Simon (2487)

♣ Aagaard, Jacob (2467)

British Championships (7), 2007

A tightly fought opening and early middle game leads to an important decision. At the diagram, Black has just played ...f5 leaving White to decide whether or not to take en passant and allow the exchange of queens. A difficult decision. After this lost opportunity the game slips away from White and even bishops of opposite colour don't help. Our honorary life member enjoys a fine victory.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.b3 b6 4.d4  
 cxd4 5.♗xd4 a6 6.♙b2 ♖c7  
 7.♙d3 ♙b4+ 8.c3 ♙e7 9.0-0  
 ♗f6 10.f4 d6 11.♗d2 ♙b7 12.c4  
 ♗c6 13.♖e2 ♗xd4 14.♙xd4 0-0  
 15.♔h1 ♗d7 16.e5 dxe5 17.fxe5  
 ♖ad8 18.♙c3 b5 19.♖ac1 b4  
 20.♙b2 ♗c5 21.♙c2 a5 22.♗f3  
 ♙xf3 23.♖xf3 ♖d2 24.♖f4 ♖d7  
 25.♖f3 f5



26.♖cf1 ♖d8 27.♖e3 ♖d2  
 28.♖3f2 ♖xf2 29.♖xf2 ♗e4  
 30.♖e2 ♙c5 31.g3 ♗c3 32.♙xc3  
 bxc3 33.♖d1 ♖a8+ 34.♖g2 ♖b8  
 35.♖e1 ♖d8 36.♖c6 ♖b6  
 37.♖xb6 ♙xb6 38.♖e2 h5  
 39.♔g2 g5 40.♔f3 ♔f7 41.♖g2  
 g4+ 42.♔e2 ♔g6 43.♔e1 ♙c5  
 44.♙d1 ♔g5 45.♖c2 ♙c3 46.a3  
 f4 47.gxf4+ ♔xf4 48.♔e2 ♙d2  
 49.b4 h4 50.c5 g3 51.hxg3+  
 hxg3 52.♔f1 ♖h8 53.c6 ♖h1+  
 54.♔g2 ♖h2+ 55.♔g1 ♙e3+

56.♔f1 ♖h1+ 57.♔g2 ♖xd1  
 58.c7 ♔g4

0-1

♣ Morrison, Graham (2340)

♣ Bisby, Daniel L (2306)

4NCL Daventry 2011

1.d4 ♗f6 2.c4 e6 3.♗f3 c5 4.d5  
 exd5 5.cxd5 g6 6.♗c3 d6 7.♗d2  
 ♙g7 8.e4 0-0 9.♙e2 ♖e8 10.0-0  
 a6 11.a4 ♗bd7 12.♖c2 ♖b8  
 13.a5 ♗h5 14.♙xh5 gxh5  
 15.♖a3 ♗e5 16.♗d1 ♔h8  
 17.♗e3 ♗g4 18.♗dc4 ♖f6  
 19.♙d2 ♗xe3 20.♖xe3 h4  
 21.♙c3 ♖g6 22.♙xg7+ ♔xg7  
 23.f4 ♙d7 24.♖c3+ ♔g8 25.f5  
 ♖h6



This is one of those positions with many tempting options. Which one to go for? Morrison goes for the attack and sacrifices the exchange. The knight proves trickier than the rook.

26.e5 ♔b5 27.♘xd6 ♔xf1  
 28.♗xf1 ♖ed8 29.♘e4 ♜f4+  
 30.♔g1 ♞xf5 31.♘f6+ ♔f8  
 32.e6 fxe6 33.♞f3 ♞g6 34.dxe6  
 ♞d1+ 35.♔f2 ♞bd8 36.♘d5+

1-0

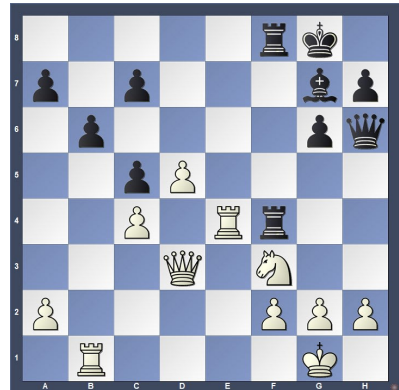
♣ Berry, Neil (2306)

♣ Arakhamia-Grant, Keti (2374)

Scottish Championship (9)  
 Edinburgh, 2015

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 ♔g7  
 4.e4 d6 5.♘f3 0-0 6.♔e2 ♘bd7  
 7.♔c3 e5 8.d5 ♘g4 9.♔d2 f5 10.  
 ♘g5 ♘c5 11.b4 fxe4 12.0-0 e3  
 13.♔xg4 exd2 14.bxc5 ♞xg5 15.  
 ♔xc8 ♞axc8 16.♘e4 ♞h4 17.♞  
 e2 dxc5 18.♞ab1 b6 19.♘xd2 e4  
 20.♞xe4 ♞h6 21.♘f3 ♞ce8 22.  
 ♞d3 ♞f4 23.♞fe1 ♞ef8 24.♞e4

See diagram next column



Whose rooks are stronger? Should Black exchange rooks or not? It is a delicate judgement. Retreating the rook was the turning point of the game and our club president doesn't falter as he progresses to win the Scottish Championship title. He provides a fine demonstration of how to play with rook and knight versus rook and bishop.

24...♞4f7 25.♞be1 ♞h5 26.♞e7  
 g5 27.h3 ♔f6 28.♞xf7 ♞xf7  
 29.♞f5 ♞g7 30.♞e6 ♔e7 31.♞e5  
 ♞xe5 32.♞xe5 ♔f6 33.♞e6 ♔g7  
 34.♔f1 h5 35.♔e2 ♔d8 36.♘d2  
 ♞f4 37.♘e4 g4 38.hxg4 hxg4  
 39.g3 ♞f8 40.♘d2 ♔g5 41.♘f1  
 ♞h8 42.♘e3 ♞h1 43.♘xg4 ♞a1  
 44.f4 ♞xa2+ 45.♔e3 ♔d8  
 46.♞e8 ♔f6 47.♞c8 ♔d4+  
 48.♔f3 ♞a3+ 49.♔e4 ♞xg3  
 50.♔f5 a5 51.♞xc7+ ♔f8 52.d6  
 ♔e8 53.♔e6 ♔d8 54.♞f7 1-0

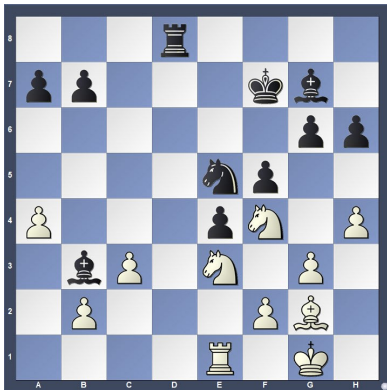


☞ Bezuidenhout, Roland (2269)

■ Waldhausen-Gordon,  
Frederick (2028)

Northumbria Masters (4)  
Newcastle, 2022

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 g6 3.c3 d5 4.exd5  
♙xd5 5.♘a3 ♘g7 6.♙c4 ♙e4+  
7.♙e2 ♘f6 8.0-0 0-0 9.d4 cxd4  
10.♘xd4 e5 11.♘db5 ♘c6  
12.♙f3 ♙h4 13.g3 ♙h3 14.♙g2  
♙d7 15.h3 ♙d8 16.♙xd7 ♙xd7  
17.♙g5 h6 18.♙xf6 ♙xf6  
19.♘c7 ♙ac8 20.♘d5 ♙g7  
21.♙ad1 ♙e6 22.♘c2 f5 23.♙fe1  
♘f7 24.♘ce3 ♙d7 25.a4 ♙cd8  
26.h4 e4 27.♘f4 ♙xd1 28.♘xd1  
♙b3 29.♘e3 ♘e5



Freddy shows how to do it with elegance and maturity leading to a fine victory in the endgame. The march of the black king is memorable. It is hard to believe, given the patient, positional play, that this star junior was only born in 2010.

30.g4 ♘d3 31.♘xd3 exd3  
32.♙f3 d2 33.♙a1 f4 34.♘d1  
♙e8 35.♘g2 ♙e1 36.h5 g5  
37.♘h2 ♘e6 38.♘g2 ♘d6  
39.♘h2 ♘c5 40.♘g2 ♘c4  
41.♘h2 a5 42.♘g2 ♘d3  
43.♘h2 ♙xd1 44.♙xd1 ♙xd1

0-1



Black is clearly better but how will he convert his positional advantages?