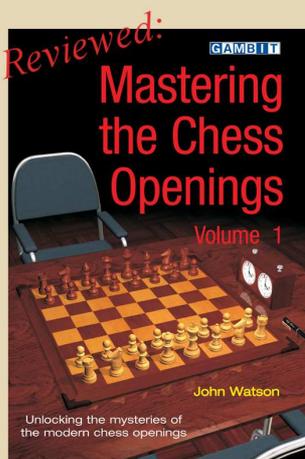


# The Irish Chess Journal

February 2007



*Karl McPhillips, Champion of Leinster. Insert: Karl receives his trophy from Tony Gregory.  
Report by Mark Quinn on page 9.*



*Plus:  
Recent tournaments, all the  
news, domestic and FIDE rating  
lists and more!*



## Irish Chess Journal

Published biannually by the Irish Chess Union and distributed online from [www.icu.ie](http://www.icu.ie).

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Additional thanks to: Michael Germaine, Helen Milligan, Herbert Scarry, Peter Scott.

The editors would like express our gratitude to everyone who contributed to this issue, and apologise if we've forgotten anyone!

### Disclaimer

The opinions expressed herein are strictly those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Irish Chess Union, its officers or members.

### Symbols used in this magazine

+ Check  
# Checkmate  
!! Excellent Move  
! Good move  
!? Interesting move  
?! Dubious move  
? Bad move  
?? Blunder  
△ Better is  
= Equal position  
∞ Unclear position  
± White is slightly better  
∓ Black is slightly better  
± White is better  
∓ Black is better  
+- White is winning  
+ Black is winning  
(N) Novelty  
(D) Diagram

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There's no detail on the Irish Championships yet, but otherwise, here's the low-down on tournaments from now until August.

## News

### ICJ Online!

If you're reading this, you presumably already know, but this issue of the Irish Chess Journal will be published online. At a recent meeting, the ICU executive decided that future issues of the Irish Chess Journal will be made available online only. The current (February 2007) issue of the biannual magazine will not be printed and posted to members as it has been in the past.

Instead, the journal is available as a single downloadable pdf file, which can be read by freely available pdf readers. The journal is open access, available to non-members to download. It's hoped that this will help promote the game in this country, as well as raising the profile of many tournaments.

This policy change will save approximately €6,000 from the ICU's annual budget, equivalent to about a third of the union's annual income. In a year which sees Ireland hosting the Glorney and Faber Cups, the annual U19 team competition contested by Ireland, England, Scotland, Wales, France and the Czech Republic, it is necessary to tighten our belts.

A poll on the icu.ie website found that a majority of members are in favour of this move. 31% were in favour of keeping the hard-copy edition, 23% were in favour of having the journal on-line but available to members only and 46% were in favour of the format chosen, with the journal available to anyone who visits the website.

### Grand Prix Suspended

It was also decided to suspend the Grand Prix for this season. The Grand Prix awarded points to players who did well in a number of tournaments around the country. At the end of the season, the six players with the most points in each of the three rating bands won cash prizes.

The Grand Prix was set up to encourage people to play in more tournaments. It particularly provided a boost to the top sections of some smaller tournaments, as strong players fought for points as much as the tournaments' prizes, but its cost-effectiveness has been questioned, as has the merit of awarding prizes to people who are already doing well in tournaments. The suspension of the Grand Prix saves a further €3,000 on the ICU budget.

### Website PIN Expiry Postponed

There has been a delay in the membership secretary responding to some postal subscriptions, which means some ICU members don't have their PINs yet and the normal expiry date for 2005-06 PINs is tomorrow (2006-12-31). To compensate for the delay, all members registered on the web site with a 2005-06 PIN have had the expiry date advanced one month, to 2007-01-31, by which time the problem will hopefully be resolved.

The best way to subscribe to the ICU is online because machines can accurately accomplish in seconds what humans can take weeks to do, and not always reliably.

### Women's Officer Appointed

Gearóidín Uí Laighléis was recently appointed Women's Officer for the ICU and she would like to hear from all active (and not so active) women chess players. Please forward your email address to her to join her mailing list. It doesn't matter what your rating is! She can be emailed at [women@icu.ie](mailto:women@icu.ie).

### Britain's Chess Charity

Last November, the British parliament passed the Charities Bill, which, among other things, changed the definition of sport to include non-physical games such as chess. This move means that chess can now receive government funding and chess organisations can apply for charity status.

### Rating Foreign Tournaments

If you notify the ratings officer in advance, you can have your results in foreign tournaments count towards your ICU rating. However, a recently introduced rule is that you must now pay a €10 fee. Olympiads and other events where players are selected to play for Ireland are exempt.

### Munster Chess Union AGM

At its AGM in Mallow on September 12, Munster Chess Union elected the following officers:

Chairman	- Ray O'Brien
Secretary	- John Alfred
Treasurer	- Kevin O'Shea
PRO	- Tom Hickey
Munster delegate to ICU	- John Cassidy
Leagues Controller	- Frank Noonan

The only contentious motion at the AGM was one 'That the MCU objects to bringing in players from outside the Munster League'. The motion, which was passed, referred to the issue of players being parachuted in by teams to help promotion or title hopes.

Results of league matches should be e-mailed to Frank Noonan at [franknoonan@eircom.net](mailto:franknoonan@eircom.net). John Alfred's site [www.chessz.com](http://www.chessz.com) and others, will display league table results.

Following complaints about lengthy delays in receiving pin numbers, MCU called for the discontinuation of the system. Many Cork and Limerick players never received their PINs and were unable to access the ICU website last season. Clubs who have news about meeting dates and venues and/or club competitions, etc., should send them to Tom Hickey at [tomhickey.tom@gmail.com](mailto:tomhickey.tom@gmail.com) or call 086-1245670.

### Cork Chess Club Championships

Fed up with championships where too many people failed to turn up for games, members decided the best way to fight indifference was to charge people to play! The result was a 30% increase in membership and over 40 entries in the seven round club championship which has 400 euro for the winner and many other prizes. After two rounds six players are on full points - James McKeon, Donal O'Hallihan, Killian Long, Stephen Short and John Donoghue.

Simon Lawrence claimed the senior championship when he overcame Pat Twomey in a play-off. The dramatic finale followed a tense final round in the championship proper. Michael Bradley won the junior title.

Club officers: Chairman: Tom Hickey; secretary: Aonghus Gannon; treasurer: Mark Walters. The club meets every Friday at 36 St Patrick's Quay, Cork, at 8pm. For further details check out the website: [www.corkchess.com](http://www.corkchess.com)

### Limerick Chess Club Championships

Gerry Casey, Michael Normoyle, Ray O'Brien and Pat Hayes lead with two points, though Casey and Normoyle's game has yet to be concluded.

Round 3 Draw

1 Gerry Casey (2)		Michael Normoyle (2)
2 Gabriel Mirza (1.5)	0-1	Ray O'Brien (1)
3 Phillip Foenander (1)	0.5-0.5	Pat Hayes (1.5)
4 Kieran Young (1)		Conor McCarthy (1)
5 Pat Coleman (1)		John Collison (1)
6 John Alfred (0.5)		Eamonn Canning (0.5)
7 Chris Young (0)		Brian Collery (0)

### Glorney and Faber Cups

The Glorney and Faber Cup competitions got underway on 2nd August in the University of Swansea in Wales. This year just three nations took part due to the Czech Republic "crying off" at the last minute. As a result the Irish teams had a "double header" against England, Wales and a local Welsh adults team over six rounds. Only the results of the two matches each against England and the Welsh Glorney and Faber teams counted towards the points earned during the competitions.

First up for the Irish were the holders of both trophies, England. The Irish Glorney team lost 4-1 with the only Irish win coming on Board 1 where David Fitzsimons defeated the 2137 rated Peter Constantinou. While the overall scoreline was disappointing, it did not reflect the closeness of some of the individual games and as such it understates the quality of the Irish play. The Faber team fared significantly better in round 1 by drawing with a strong English team with Emily Alfred drawing on board 1, Catherine Danaher just losing out on board 2 after a long 65 move struggle and Sarah Cormican winning against a 1536 rated opponent on board 3. In the afternoon, England's teams outplayed the Welsh adult teams with the

Glorney team winning their match 5 – 0.

In round 2 the Irish Glorney team put the mornings disappointing result behind them by crushing Wales 4½-0½ with wins for David, John McMorrow, Liam Normoyle and Oisín Benson plus a draw for Dara Murphy. The Faber team also beat the hosts by 2-1 with draws for Emily and Catherine and a second successive win for Sarah. Next up on day 2 was the Welsh adult team who lost and drew overall with the Glorney and Faber teams respectively. This was followed by another joust with England where the Glorney team again lost by 4–1 with draws for David and Dara. After their promising opening performances, the Faber team were unlucky to lose their crunch clash with England by 3–0.

On day three of the tournament, Ireland's teams played the Welsh Glorney and Faber Teams with the boys drawing 2½-2½ with draws for David, Oisín and Dara and a win for John. The Faber team defeated Wales 2½-0½. In the final round, while Ireland played against the Welsh adults, the England Glorney team defeated Wales 3½-1½ for the second time while the Faber Team won their game 2–1. Thus Ireland finished as runners-up to England in both the Glorney and Faber Cup competitions with Wales finishing third. Cross tables for both competitions are set out below and the games are here: Glorney, Faber. Ireland host the events in 2007 and it is anticipated that the Scots, Czechs and Belgians will participate along with England and Wales.

Overall there were encouraging performances from both Irish teams which had lower average ratings than their English and Welsh opponents. The experience of playing in these events will stand to the Irish players in the future.

Final standings:

#### Glorney Cup 2006

Players: 1. David Fitzsimons, 2. John McMorrow, 3. Liam Normoyle, 4. Dara Murphy, 5. Oisín Benson.

	IRL	ENG	WLS	IRL	ENG	WLS	Total
IRL	•	1	4.5	•	1	2.5	9
ENG	4	•	3.5	4	•	3.5	15
WLS	0.5	1.5	•	2.5	1.5	•	6

#### Faber Cup 2006

Players: 1. Emily Alfred, 2. Catherine Danaher, 3. Sarah Cormican.

	IRL	ENG	WLS	IRL	ENG	WLS	Total
IRL	•	1.5	2	•	0	2.5	6
ENG	1.5	•	2	3	•	2	8.5
WLS	1	1	•	0.5	1	•	3.5

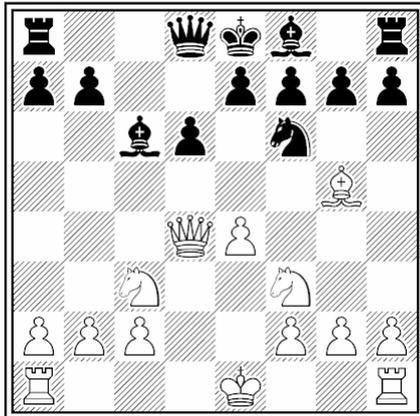
Next, we have a game from the Glorney cup, a win by David Fitzsimons over his Welch counterpart.

Fitzsimons,D (2081) - Jones,M (1800) [B53]  
 Glorney Cup 2006 Swansea (6), 04.08.2006  
 Notes by David Fitzsimons

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 d6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Qxd4 Bd7  
 6.Bxc6 Bxc6 7.Nc3

White gets rapid development in return for giving up the bishop pair. 7.c4 is another strategy intending to clamp down on the centre but 7...f5!? cuts across White's plan and is perfectly playable for Black.

7...Nf6 8.Bg5 (D)



8...e5?!

White has a massive plus score against this line. More common and better is 8...e6 9.0-0-0 Be7 10.Rhe1 0-0 11.Kb1 intending Qd2, Nd4, f2-f3 and g2-g4 with an attack is White's main idea.

9.Qd3± h6? 10.Bh4

10.Bxf6 was possibly better: 10...Qxf6 11.Nd5 Qd8 12.0-0± intending c2-c4 and Rf-d1 with a stranglehold on the centre.

10...g5 11.Bg3

The Black position is very loose and White has the clear plan of occupying d5 and/or pressurising the Pd6.

11...Nh5?!

♞11...Be7.

12.0-0-0 Nf4?

12...Qa5 activating the queen and clearing the way for potential queen-side castling looks best although White is still better after 13.Nd2± intending Nc4 or Nb3.

13.Bxf4 gxf4 14.g3!

ensuring the creation of more weaknesses in Black's P structure.

14...fxg3 15.hxg3± (D)

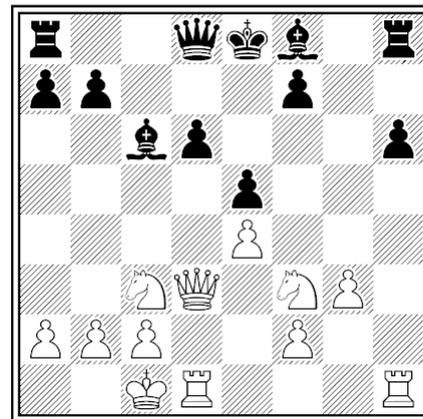
The White position is very easy to play: his Nf3 can quickly be transferred to f5 where it pressurises Black's weaknesses on d6 and h6 and the Nc3 can occupy a powerful post on d5, forcing Black to relinquish the bishop pair at some stage.

15...Qb6

Attacking f2.

16.Nd5! Bxd5 17.Qxd5 Qc6

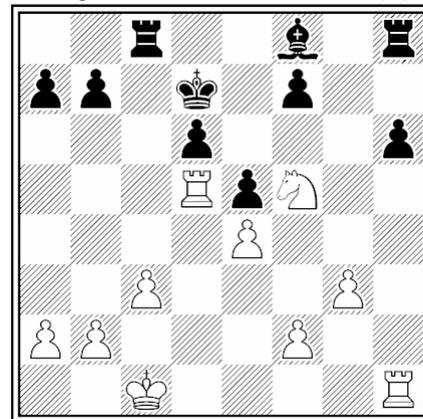
if 17...Qxf2?? 18.Qb5+- and Black is busted: 18...Ke7 (18...Kd8 19.Nxe5) 19.Qxb7+.



18.Nh4

This knight is much superior to the Black bishop on f8 because once it reaches a light square (i.e f5), it cannot be exchanged off.

18...Rc8 19.c3 Qxd5 20.Rxd5 Kd7 21.Nf5 (D)



Black's position is very difficult: his Rh8 and Bf8 haven't moved yet and now they both have the thankless task of defending Black's weak pawns. White can build up slowly, pushing his queen-side pawn majority supported by the king and can play g2-g4, tying down Black's h6 pawn completely if need be. f2-f3 can be played, defending the e4 pawn and placing all White's king-side pawns on light squares so they cannot be attacked by Black's bishop if it is ever activated. All Black can do is sit and wait.

21...Ke6 22.Rhd1 Rc6 23.Kc2 f6

♞23...Be7 because f7-f6 closes the last open diagonal that the B has.

24.b3+- Rh7 25.c4 b6 26.Kc3 a5 27.a3 Rhc7 28.Rh1 a4 29.Ne3 axb3 30.Kxb3 Rc5 31.Rxc5 bxc5

31...dxc5 was probably best although Black just trades one weakness for another i.e. d6 for b6.

32.a4 Ra7 33.g4 Rb7+ 34.Ka3 Rb4 35.f3

35.a5 is also winning but there is no need to hurry.

35...Bg7 36.Rc1 Bf8 37.Nd5 Rb7 38.a5 h5

a last attempt to gain some activity at the cost of a P but it is too late.

39.gxh5 Bh6 40.Rc2 f5 41.Rg2 Bc1+ 42.Ka4 fxe4 43.fxe4 Rh7 44.Rg6+ Kf7 45.Rf6+ Ke8 46.a6 Bg5

47.Rxd6 Bd8 48.Nf6+

1-0

## Gonzaga Classic

John Healy

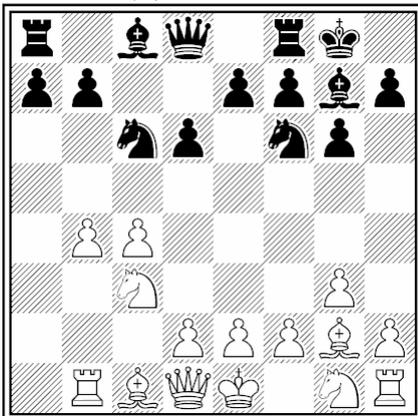
Some weekends, it's just not going to go your way. For me, the first weekend in February was one of those. I apologise here for a very personal report, but Gonzaga 2007 was fairly memorable for me. Maybe my experience will serve as a cautionary tale! For a full week, I'd been suffering the effects of the flu, but I was stubborn – I like the Gonzaga tournament, which is in its sixth year, and no mere virus was going to hamper my attending. Besides, I was nearly better. As it happens, that attitude wasn't going to serve me well. I turned up on the Friday, wrapped in scarf and coat, and paid in. €25 into a weekend tournament is pretty good these days, and the poor prize fund is more than compensated by two factors: firstly, the tournament raises money for a Jesuit charity, and secondly, like most tournament goers, I rarely get any of the prize money anyway!

Gonzaga is a typical Dublin tournament – about eighty people gather in a hall for what's usually a decent chess event, though lacking the spirit of the big country events. It's held in Gonzaga College, in Ranelagh, a few minutes' walk from some nice restaurants and pubs, so it's pretty good craic if you're looking for it. Gonzaga's top section has always been weak, usually struggling to make an all-play-all, so this year, they dropped it, sticking instead with an >1600 section, as Cork and Malahide do.

The first round draw saw me take on Danny Mallaghan, a strong player I usually look forward to playing. He's a challenge, not invincible but not someone I'd normally be concerned by a loss to.

**Healy, J (1650) - Mallaghan, D (1858) [A36]  
Gonzaga Classic 1600+ (1), 02.02.2007**

**1.c4 g6 2.g3 Bg7 3.Bg2 c5 4.Nc3 Nc6 5.a3 Nf6 6.Rb1 0-0  
7.b4 cxb4 8.axb4 d6 (D)**



This isn't thought to be the best. The main line is 8...a5 Either way, the position is supposed to be pretty comfortable for White. Now, watch closely as I lose in five moves.

**9.e4?**

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I'm confident that this is a mistake. Gordon Freeman suggested 9.b5 Ne5 10.d3 intending f4, which looks eminently sensible. 9.b5 Ne5 (9...Ne7) 10.c5 was Hodgeson-Rytshagov, Netherlands Donner op 1995, though I'm not thrilled by White's position here.

**9...Qb6**

Interestingly, there has been a high level game here before: 9...d5 10.cxd5 exd5 11.b5 Nd4 12.e5 Bf5 13.Rb2 Ne4 14.f4 f6 15.Nh3 Qd7 16.Nxe4 dxe4 17.Nf2 fxe5 18.fxe5 Bxe5 19.0-0 Rac8 20.d3 exd3 21.Nxd3 Bxd3 22.Qxd3 Nf3+ 23.Qxf3 Rxf3 24.Bxf3 0-1 Thiede-Borriss, Solingen 1999.

**10.Nd5? Nxd5 11.exd5?**

This is bad because of Black's 12th, which I'd missed entirely.

**11...Nxb4 12.Qb3? Bf5! 13.Nf3**

The alternatives are really no better. 13.Qxb4 Bxb1+

**13...Nd3+ 0-1**

I consoled myself by blaming the flu (which made me think of the old quote "I've never beaten a player who wasn't sick", I forget by whom) and thinking of Kramnik's blunder against Deep Fritz (see *Of Machines and Men*, on page 32, if you're unfamiliar with this). Mine was the shortest, but hardly the most significant game of the round. That distinction goes to Rory Delaney's interesting win over top seed Semon Mkrtchyan.

**Delaney, R (1752) - Mkrtchyan, S (2030)  
Gonzaga Classic 1600+ (1), 03.02.2007**

**1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e5 3.g3 Nc6**

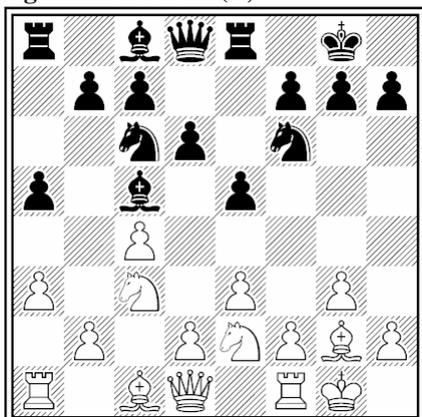
This is the popular Three Knights system of the English Opening.

**4.Bg2 Bc5 5.e3**

5.a3! is considered more accurate because of the possibility in the note to Black's next move.

**5...0-0**

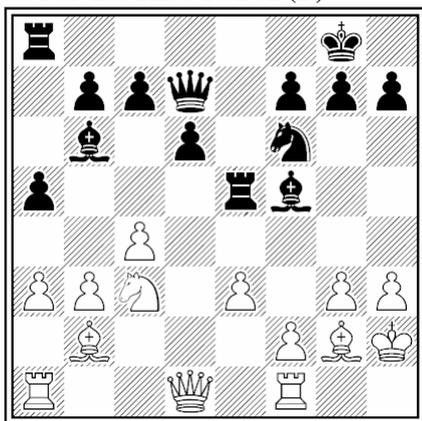
5...d5! 6.cxd5 Nb4 and Black is at least equal.  
6.a3 a5 7.Nge2 Re8 8.0-0 d6 (D)



9.h3

9.d3 Bf5 10.h3 Ba7 11.Kh2 Qd7 12.e4 Bg6 13.Bg5 Ne7  
14.f4 exf4 15.gxf4 Bh5 16.Qc2 Bxe2 17.Nxe2 Kh8  
18.Bxf6 gxf6 19.Qc3 Ng8 20.Ng3 is Spraggett-Polak,  
Cappelle la Grande 1998. White is much better.

9...e4 10.Nf4 Bf5 11.d4 exd3 12.Nxd3 Bb6 13.b3 Qd7  
14.Kh2 Ne5 15.Nxe5 Rxe5 16.Bb2 (D)



16...Bg4?!

This doesn't really work, but Semyon has won many a tournament with this kind of play. It's just easier for the defender to make a mistake and very hard to see everything at the board, so Rory decided to play it safe and decline the sacrifice.

17.Ne2 Rh5 18.Bxf6 gxf6 19.h4 Re8 20.Qd2 c6 21.Nf4  
Rhe5 22.Qc3 d5 23.Nd3 Rf5 24.cxd5 cxd5 25.Rac1 d4  
26.exd4 Bxd4 27.Qc7 Qb5 28.Rc4! Be2 29.Rxd4 Bxd3  
30.Rg4+ Kf8 31.Qd6+ Re7 32.Re1 Rfe5?? 33.Rxe5

33.Qxf6! R7e6 34.Qh8+ Ke7 35.Rd4!+-

33...fxe5 34.Qh6+ Ke8 35.Rg8+ Kd7 36.Bh3+?

36.Qf6! was necessary to peg back that f pawn.

36...Kc7??

After 36...f5! , Black is still much worse, but the mating threats are over.

37.Rc8# 1-0

Semyon's tournament path was to cross mine the following morning, as I helped him on his way back from that seeming-fatal first round setback. He didn't need to break a sweat, though problems with the heating system meant that

he probably couldn't.

Mkrtchyan,S (2030) - Healy,J (1650) [A00]

Gonzaga Classic 1600+ (2), 03.02.2007

1.g4

The Grob, favoured by English IM Mike Basman (who some people prefer to name the opening for) and a few fellow nutters, has a bad reputation. It's not dreadful, but if Black know's what he's doing, he'll get the better game. For the uncautious, or me, it can catch you out with a few little traps.

1...d5 2.Bg2 Bxg4?!

2...c6 3.h3 e5 is one of the better ways to play this.

3.c4± c6 4.cxd5 cxd5 5.Qb3 Qc7 6.Nc3

6.Bxd5?? Qxc1+

6...e6??

Oops. 6...Nc6 7.Nxd5 Qd7 looks okay.

7.Qa4+ 1-0

Oh, yeah! The Kramnik defence is beginning to get a bit sketchy. Even the flu is no excuse for averaging ten moves a loss game.

Round three went a bit better for me. I blundered early, just to keep momentum going, then was gifted the exchange back and eventually found myself trying to defend an opposite coloured bishops endgame a pawn down. I lost in about sixty moves after mishandling the endgame (honest, it wasn't as trivial to hold it as these endgames often are). On 0/3, I was in line for a bye next round. Around me, or to be more precise, above me, things were starting to shape up. Gordon Freeman lead with full points, while only his fellow Gonzaga alumnus, David Murray, was within half a point of him. In the Major section (1200-1600), the four leaders after round two had all drawn with each other, while four more stood on 2/3. In the Challengers, Daniel Purdey and Robert McKenna shared the lead on full points. Five players stood on 2.5 points.

A round four draw between Murray and Freeman opened things up in the Championship, allowing Mkrtchyan and Cafolla to catch Murray. The Major remained tight, but Robert McKenna took the clear lead in the Challengers by beating Purdy.

David Murray - Gordon Freeman

Gonzaga Classic (4) 03.02.2007

Notes by Gordon Freeman

1.e4 b6 2.d4 Bb7 3.Nc3 e6 4.Nf3 Bb4 5.Bd3 Nf6 6.Nd2!?  
c5!?! 7.a3 cxd4 8.axb4 dxc3 9.bxc3 Qc7 10.Bb2 Nc6  
11.0-0 e5

Trying to create a position that suits the knights.

12.Qe2 a5 13.b5 Ne7 14.Rfd1 0-0 15.c4 d6 16.Nf1 Nd7

17.Ra3! Nc5 18.Ng3 Qd8 19.Qg4 Ng6 20.Nf5 Qf6

21.Bc1 Nf4?!

A dubious pawn sac, prompted by White's purposeful manoeuvring and the feeling that the position was turning against me.

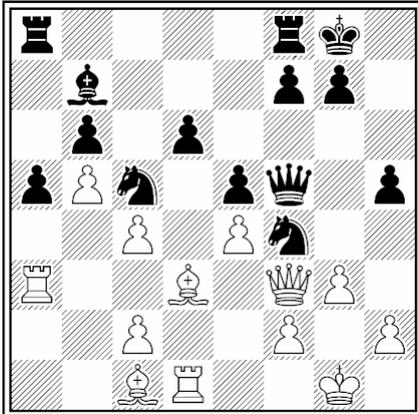
22.g3?

White overplays his hand. After the simple 22.Bxf4 exf4 23.Qxf4 Black has some structural compensation for the pawn, but nothing immediate.

**22...h5! 23.Qf3**

23.Qh4?? g5!

**23...Qxf5 (D)**



**24.gxf4?**

After this White is in serious difficulty. But there is another way to retrieve the piece: 24.Qxf4!!...a neat mirror-move that both players missed (more an optical brilliancy than a chess brilliancy!).

**24...Bxe4 25.Bxe4 Nxe4 26.Re3 Nc5 27.Rxd6 exf4 28.Re2 Rad8?**

Missing 28...Rae8! holding the extra pawn by tactical means and maintaining a big advantage (29.Rxb6? Rxe2 30.Qxe2 f3 with a winning attack).

**29.Qxf4 Qxf4 30.Bxf4 Ne6 31.Rxd8 Rxd8 32.Be3 a4!?**

This is a bit risky but keeps some life in the game. After 32...Nd4 33. Bxd4 Rxd4 White is worse, but with only rooks remaining it's an easy draw.

**33.Re1**

Precise and safe play; 33.Bxb6 Rd1+ 34.Kg2 Nf4+ 35.Kf3 Nxe2 36.Kxe2 looks tempting, but after 36...Rb1! Black is better. 33.c3 Rc8 34.Bxb6 Rxc4 35.Rc2 is double-edged, but not 35.Ra2? Rxc3 36.Rxa4 Rb3 37.Ra5 Nf4 38.h4 Ne2+ 39.Kg2 Nc3 and the b-pawn falls.

**33...Rc8 34.Ra1 Rxc4 35. Bxb6 Nf4**

This time the line 35...Rxc2 36.Rxa4 Rb2 37.Ra5 Nf4 38.h4 Ne2+ 39.Kg2 Nc3? is busted by 40.Bd4! Time for a truce.

**36.Be3 Nd5 1/2-1/2.**

Come Sunday morning, I drew Patrick Launders, who I'd beaten in the Leinster Championships a little more than a month previously. Partick's only started playing in the 1600+ sections recently, and he was having as unsuccessful a weekend as myself, if not quite as dramatically. I made a poor choice of plan in a sort of knight's tour Modern Benoni, and Patrick missed a chance to get a big advantage, instead letting me equalise. I won a pawn, then checkmated him in an interesting endgame with a rook and bishop each, and plenty of pawns. It's the only game from the weekend I have any pride in. I'm not going to publish it, as no doubt someone would immediately email me to point out a number of significant errors!

Elsewhere, Freeman beat Cafolla and Mkrtchyan beat Murray to set up an interesting last round pairing on board one. Having lost his first game, Semyon was threatening to win the tournament in a 'Swiss submarine'. In the Major, Kouhtev beat Maher and O'Keeffe beat Bourke to become joint leaders on 4/5. Robert McKenna beat Michael O'Toole to go a full point clear at the top of the Challengers section.

At lunchtime, GM Baburin gave an open coaching session, where he took games and analysed them for the benefit of the audience, as well as answering their more general opening questions. A theme of unbalanced positions ran through the session, as he emphasised how symmetric and asymmetric positions differ in character, and why you would choose one over the other. As ever, he was entertaining and informative in equal measures.

I went into the final round, where I was to play Raino Soikkeli, in a better mood than before. Having seen his name misspelled in every conceivable way during the Irish Championships, I checked it with Raino as I filled out the top of my score sheet. Once bitten, twice shy – he didn't give me the opportunity to get it wrong, writing it out for me himself! We both played the opening in a nervous haste, me blundering a whole rook, him missing it. Yes, I was just missing everything this weekend. Soon afterwards, I stormed his kingside with some pawns, won a piece, and he soon resigned.

The battle royale between Gordon Freeman and Semyon Mkrtchyan wound up a draw, making Gordon clear winner with 5/6.

In the Major, the counterpart key game was Atanas Kouhtev's win over William O'Keeffe, which earned him first prize on 5/6.

In the Challengers, Robert McKenna wrapped up the tournament with a draw with Eamon Launders. That draw let four other players catch Launders with wins to leave five players joint second.

The full list of winners is below.

The chief organisers were Gonzaga transition year students Brendan Lannoye, Michael Flanagan and William Hurley, with assistance from their teacher Daniel Lynch (who's still more 'Dan' than 'Mr. Lynch'). Herbert Scarry did his usual efficient job as arbiter.

**Championship:** 1 Gordon Freeman 5/6; 2 Semyon Mkrtchyan 4½; 3 David Murray, Rory Delaney, Tom Fitzpatrick 4; *grading prize* John Crowley.

**Major:** 1 Atanas Kouhtev 5/6; 2 John Maher 4½; 3-5 William O'Keeffe, John Bourke (*grading prize*), Ciaran Walsh 4.

**Challengers:** 1 Robert McKenna 5½/6; 2-6 Eamon Launders, Michael O'Toole (*grading prize*), Alasdair Walsh, Mark Berney, Sean McGowan 4½; *ladies prize* Bernie Mahon.

## Leinster Championships



*Champions, all: The winners of the four sections of the Leinster Championships with Tony Gregory TD, who presented prizes. (l to r) Semyon Mkrtychyan, Alasdair Walsh, Yoel Ferrer, Tony Gregory TD, Karl McPhillips. Photo: Ciaran Ruane*

### Mark Quinn IM reports on the Masters section

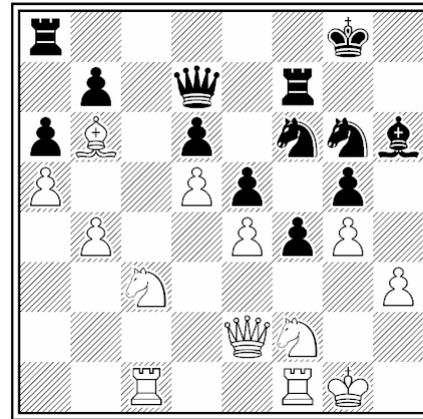
The recent Leinster Chess Championships held over the Christmas period was one of the most hard fought tournaments in Ireland in recent times. The top Masters section saw several of Ireland's leading titled players battle not just amongst themselves, but against a number of rapidly improving junior players, who are on the cusp of breaking through into top flight Irish chess. The top seeds were GM Votava from the Czech Republic, followed by myself, IMs Sam Collins and Gavin Wall, Colm Daly and Karl MacPhillips, fresh from his victory in the City of Dublin Championships. While all eyes may initially have been on the titled players, from an early stage, up and coming players set the pace, showing a healthy disregard for more experienced opposition. Already in round 1, David Fitzsimons scored a convincing victory against John Redmond, a highly experienced player making a welcome return to chess after a sabbatical of some years. By day three of the tournament, as the two annotated games against Colm Daly and Sam Collins demonstrate, Redmond would begin to show some impressive form. GM Votava got off to a shaky start having to work very hard to draw against Rory Quinn's Chigorin.

**Votav,J (2531) - Quinn,R (2112) [D07]  
Leinster Chess Championship (1), 28.12.2006**

1.d4 d5 2.c4 Nc6 3.Nf3 Bg4 4.e3 e5 5.dxe5 dxc4 6.Qa4 Bxf3 7.gxf3 Qd5 8.Be2 0-0-0 9.Qxc4 Bb4+ 10.Nc3 Qxc4 11.Bxc4 Nxe5 12.Be2 Bxc3+ 13.bxc3 Nd3+ 14.Bxd3 Rxd3 15.Rg1 g6 16.Ba3 Nh6 17.Rd1 Rhd8 18.Rxd3 Rxd3 19.Bb4 c5 20.Ke2 c4 21.a4 b6 22.a5 Kb7 23.axb6 axb6 24.h4 Kc6 25.h5 Nf5 26.hxg6 hxg6 27.Rh1 Nd6 28.Rh8 Nb5 29.Rc8+ Nc7 30.f4 Rd7 31.Ba3 Kb5 32.e4 Ka4 33.Bb4 Kb3 34.Rb8 Nb5 35.Rxb6 Nxc3+ 36.Bxc3+ Kxc3 37.e5 Kc2 38.Kf3 c3 39.e6 fxe6 40.Rxe6 Kd2 41.Rxg6 c2 42.Rg1 1/2-1/2

I managed to win a highly complex game against Gerry

O'Connell who sacrificed his queen for a very dangerous attack in the late middlegame. Black was never in danger, but had to play extremely precisely to avoid getting mated in the ensuing complications.



*O'Connell,G (2098) - Quinn,M (2369)  
Leinster Chess Championship (1), 28.12.2008*

25...f3 26.Qxf3 Nxd5 27.Qxf7+ Qxf7 28.Nxd5 Rf8 29.Nd3 Qe6 30.Rc7 Nf4 31.N3xf4 exf4 32.Re7 Qg6 33.Bd4 Rf7 34.Rc1 Bf8 35.Rxf7 Kxf7 36.Rc7+ Ke6 37.Nc3 Be7 38.Rxb7 Bf6 39.Bxf6 Qxf6 40.Nd5 Qd4+ 41.Kf1 Qd3+ 42.Kf2 Ke5 43.Re7+ Kd4 44.Rc7 f3 45.Nf4 Qe3+ 46.Kf1 gxf4 0-1

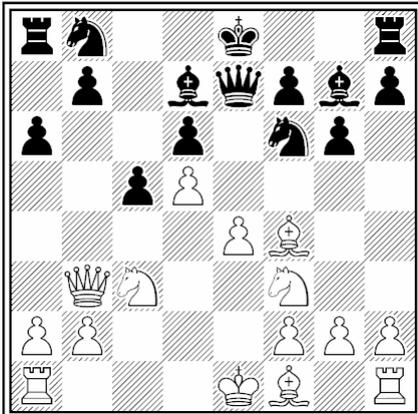
Thus, Irish players were left to fight for the lead from the start and the first critical encounter in this respect came in round 2 when Karl MacPhillips faced Sam Collins. This was an odd game in which Karl seemed to be in some trouble, but in the middlegame Karl somehow managed to get out of an awkward pin and turn the tables on Sam, exchanging off pieces into a winning rook and pawn endgame.

The following morning I was drawn with black against Karl. Responding to my Benoni defence, Karl went for a solid positional line with 7. Bf4, which promises white good chances of a safe edge, without significant risk. In the hope of bringing Karl into uncharted waters, I decided to play an old and somewhat dubious line, that I remembered seeing analysed in an article some time in the 1980s. The line had initially been suggested to me by Romanian GM Mihai Suba, an extremely creative and innovative player, who I got to know when he stayed in my house in Dublin during the Telecom Tournament in 1990. After being exposed to Suba's infectious enthusiasm for the Benoni it became a staple opening in my repertoire, but I had never had the opportunity to play this line with Qe7, and not being as conversant with chess theory these days as I probably should be, I wasn't sure whether it had been refuted or even played on any grand scale. As Karl, looked a little sleepy at the board and I felt in the mood for mixing things up, I thought it was worth a punt. The game that ensued was one of the most enjoyable and stimulating I've played in a long time, as Karl did not shirk from the challenge, but followed the age old dictum, that the best way to refute a sacrifice is to accept it. The complications that ensued were mind boggling and highly unclear.

Though objectively, the line looks dubious for black, once white takes the rook on a8, his king is extremely exposed and the White queen finds herself temporarily boxed in on the black queenside. At a certain point Karl could have played the funny Rg1, after which I should probably accept a perpetual. Instead, he chose to keep the game and the contest alive by playing 19.Qb7, which enabled me to pick up the f2 and d5 pawns, while the white king remained stranded in the centre. In the messy middlegame, I missed the first of two clear wins, the first of which 25...Nc6 would have led to a spectacular and beautiful finish. The second big chance came right at the end of the game when I played 37...Rb8, convinced that White's king had finally run out of safe squares to hide. That was until Karl came up with the incredible 38.Rb1!!, which I had completely missed in time pressure which meant I had to force a perpetual. As Gavin Wall, pointed out later 37...Ra8 would have won for black, but considering the game, in retrospect, a draw seemed a fair result. This was the critical moment for my tournament, as once I let Karl off the hook twice, he never looked back.

**Mc Phillips,K (2250) - Quinn,M (2368) [A70]**  
**Leinster Chess Championship (3), 29.12.2006**  
*Notes by Mark Quinn*

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 c5 4.d5 d6 5.Nc3 exd5 6.cxd5 g6 7.Bf4 a6 8.e4 Bg7 9.Qa4+ Bd7 10.Qb3 Qe7 (D)**



### 11.Qxb7

11.Bxd6? the actual move order here is different as Suba played 10...Qc7, but Karl could easily have chosen to transpose and so as to distract the black queen from pressuring e4. 11...Qxd6 12.Qxb7 0-0 13.e5 (13.Qxa8? Qb6 14.0-0 Nxe4,) 13...Bc8!! An extraordinary move which Suba claims was the best he ever found over the board. 14.Qxa8 Qb6 15.Bxa6 Bxa6 16.0-0-0 Ng4 17.d6 Nxe5 18.Nxe5 Bxe5 19.Qf3 Nd7 20.Rd2 Rb8 Korchnoi-Suba, Beer Sheva 1984 21.Re1 Bb7 22.Qe3 Bd4 23.Qg3 Nf6 24.Re7 Bc8 25.Na4 Qb5 26.Qb3 Qxb3 27.axb3 Be6 28.Rc7 Ne4 29.Re2 Nxd6 30.Nxc5 Bf5 31.Rd2? Bxc5 32.Rxc5

### 11...Nxe4 12.0-0-0

12.Nxe4 Qxe4+ 13.Be3 Qb4+ 14.Qxb4 cxb4 15.0-0-0=

### 12...Bxc3 13.bxc3

13.Qxa8 0-0 14.bxc3 Qf6

### 13...Qf6! 14.Bd2

Only move. 14.Be5 dxe5 15.Qxa8 0-0+

### 14...0-0

Only move once again. 14...Nxd2? 15.Re1+ Kf8 16.Kxd2 Qf4+ 17.Re3+- or 14...Nxc3?? 15.Re1+ Kf8 16.Bh6+ Kg8 17.Qc8+ Bxc8 18.Re8#

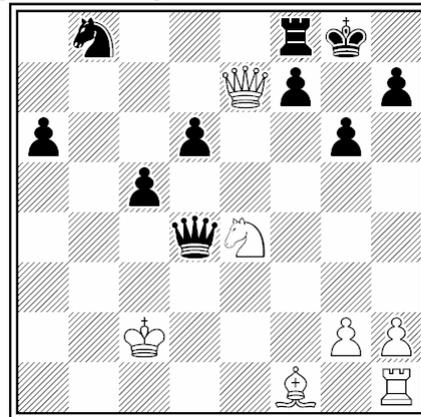
### 15.Qxa8 Nxd2 16.Rxd2

16.Kxd2? Qf4+ 17.Kc2 (17.Ke1 Re8+ 18.Be2 Qe4 19.Rd2 Bb5 20.Ng1 Qxg2+-) 17...Ba4++

### 16...Qxc3+ 17.Rc2 Qa1+ 18.Kd2 Ba4 19.Qb7∞

19.Rg1!? Bxc2 20.Bd3 Qxa2 21.Bxc2 Qa5+ 22.Kc1 Qa1+ 23.Kd2=

### 19...Bxc2 20.Kxc2 Qxa2+ 21.Kc3 Qxf2 22.Qe7 Qa2 23.Ng5 Qxd5 24.Ne4 Qd4+ 25.Kc2 (D)



### 25...Nd7?

25...Nc6!! I had seen this idea during the game, but rejected it, as I underestimated how strong 29...c4 was, and with time beginning to run short, I didn't fancy entering a highly unclear endgame against Karl a rook down.

26.Nf6+ Kg7 27.Ne8+ Rxe8 28.Qxe8 Nb4+ 29.Kc1 c4 30.g3 Qc3+ (30...c3 31.Qe1 Na2+ 32.Kc2 Qa4+ 33.Kd3 Qb5+ 34.Kd4 Qb2+-) 31.Kd1 Qf3+

### 26.Bxa6 Qa4+ 27.Kd2 Qa2+ 28.Ke3 Qxa6 29.Qxd7 Qa3+ 30.Kf4 Qb4 31.Kf3 Qb3+ 32.Kf4 Qc4 33.Kf3 Qd3+ 34.Kf4 Qd4 35.Kf3 f5!

the best way to continue the attack is to expose the white king further by chasing away the knight and then bringing the dormant rook on f8 into play.

### 36.Nxd6 Qd5+ 37.Kf2 Rb8?

With f7 covered by the black queen on d5 and the white king exposed, I confidently moved my rook to the b-file contemplating a swift mate, only to be shocked by Karl's response.

37...Ra8! 38.Ra1 Qd4+ 39.Kf3 Qxa1 40.Qe6+ Kh8 41.Nf7+ Kg7+

### 38.Rb1!! Qd4+

38...Rxb1 39.Qd8+ Kg7 40.Ne8+ Kf8 41.Qxd5+-;

38...Ra8 39.Kg1! c4 40.Re1±

### 39.Kf3 Qd5+ 40.Kf2 Qd4+ 1/2-1/2

In round 4, later that afternoon, perhaps somewhat annoyed at my failure to convert against Karl in the morning, I let a slight edge slip against David Fitzsimons and very soon after found myself in big trouble. The game is annotated below by David, and is a great example of what happens,

when a player with a slight opening edge, momentarily loses concentration. David's choice of the Blumenfeld was an excellent choice, as it is both sharp and complex. Moreover, in a chess career of some twenty odd years, incredibly, I had never before faced the Blumenfeld. After contriving to gain a slight but tangible edge in the opening, after one careless exchange, Bxc4 the initiative suddenly and definitively passes to black. After a further slight inaccuracy, Bh2 instead of Bg3, black is soon in control and gains a winning position.

**Quinn IM,M (2386) - Fitzsimons,D (2100) [E10]**  
**Leinster Ch. 2006 Dublin (4), 29.12.2006**

*Notes by David Fitzsimons*

**1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.c4 c5 4.d5 b5 5.Bg5**

White has many alternatives here but this is a main line

**5...exd5**

5...h6!?

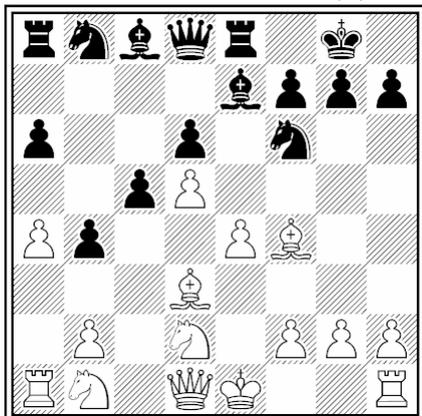
**6.cxd5 d6 7.e4**

7.a4!? is interesting: after 7...b4 8.e4 White has not forced Black to waste a tempo on ...a6 but this allows him to play Bb5+ at some point.

**7...a6 8.Nfd2**

8.Nbd2 occurred in K McPhillips-D Fitzsimons, Armstrong Cup 2006. 8...h6 9.Bh4 Be7 10.Bg3 Nh5 11.a4 Nxc3 12.hxg3 Bf6

**8...Be7 9.Bf4 0-0 10.a4 b4 11.Bd3 Re8 (D)**



=11...Nbd7 12.Nc4 Qc7 13.0-0 Ne5

**12.0-0 Bf8**

12...Nbd7 is interesting, also giving me the option of Nf8-g6 13.Nc4±

**13.h3**

A useful move, which prevents the manoeuvre Nf6-g4-e5.

**13...Nbd7 14.Re1 a5?!**

△14...Ne5

**15.Nc4 Nb6 16.Nbd2 Nxc4 17.Bxc4?!**

△17.Nxc4±

**17...Nd7 18.Bh2?!**

18.Bg3 is stronger because the bishop has more squares to go to i.e h4 or f2 at some stage.

**18...Ba6**

△18...Nb6

**19.Bxa6 Rxa6 20.f4**

20.Qe2 Ra7 21.Qb5±

**20...Nb6 21.b3**

This move is only useful if followed up by Nc4

**21...g6 22.Nf3?!**

This is not a logical continuation of the plan started with 21 b3. Instead, 22.Nc4 Bg7 23.e5

**22...Bg7 23.Ra2 Ra7**

23...Bc3

**24.Qd3 Rae7**

24...Rc7♣ intending c4 looks good for Black.

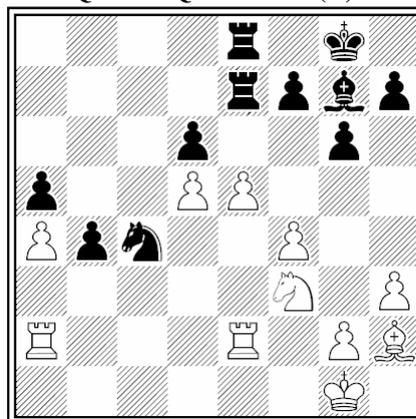
**25.Ree2 Qc8**

△25...Qc7♣ because the Nb6 is defended but I instinctively didnt like the x-ray of the Bh2 on my queen.

**26.e5**

26.Qb5!

**26...c4 27.bxc4 Qxc4 28.Qxc4 Nxc4♣ (D)**



Now Black has a clear advantage because White's central pawns are going nowhere and his passed b pawn is ready to roll. White's chances lie in removing Black's d6 pawn without compromising his own pawn structure, so as to make his central pawns mobile again.

**29.Rac2 Nb6 30.Red2**

30.Rc6 Rb7 (30...Nxd5 31.Rd2 Nc3 32.exd6) 31.Rxd6 Bf8! (31...Nxa4!? 32.Ra6 This is the kind of position White should be aiming for: he has removed Black's d6 and has a passed d pawn. Nevertheless, Black should still be better but the game is complicated.) 32.Rxb6 (32.Rc6 Nxd5) 32...Rxb6♣

**30...Nxa4 31.Nd4**

31.exd6 Doesn't look like a move that White wants to play but may be his best shot: 31...Rd7 32.Rc7 Rxd6 33.f5

**31...Rb7 32.Nb3 Rb5 33.Ra2 Nc3+**

33...Nc5?! 34.Nd4♣ Rb7 35.Rxa5

**34.Rxa5 Rxa5 35.Nxa5 Ra8 36.Nb3 Ra3 37.Rb2 Nxd5**

**38.Kf2 Nc3 39.Ke1 dxe5 40.fxe5 Na4 41.Rb1 Nc3**

41...Ra2+

**42.Rb2 Ra2?**

42...Ra8+ Black's rook is much more active than its White counterpart and should therefore not be exchanged. 42...Na4 43.Rb1 Ra2 allows Black to transpose into the previous note.

**43.Rxa2 Nxa2 44.Kd2 Kf8 45.Kd3 Ke7 46.Kc4 f6**

White retains good drawing chances in this position, and I was running short of time so I decided to extend a peace offer.

1/2-1/2

As I struggled to hold with white against David Fitzsimons, Karl McPhillips eased into top place with a convincing win on the black side of the Chigorin defence against Peter Cafolla.

**Cafolla,P (1979) - Mc Phillips,K (2250) [D07]  
Leinster Chess Championship (4), 29.12.2006**

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 Nc6 3.Nf3 Bg4 4.cxd5 Bxf3 5.gxf3 Qxd5 6.e3 e5 7.Nc3 Bb4 8.Bd2 Bxc3 9.bxc3 Qd6 10.Rb1 b6 11.Rg1 g6 12.f4 exf4 13.e4 0-0-0 14.Qf3 Qa3 15.Qxf4 Qxa2 16.Bd3 Nge7 17.Kf1 f5 18.Be3 h6 19.Rxg6? Nxg6 20.Qxf5+ Kb8 21.Qxg6 Ne5! 22.dxe5 Rxd3 23.Re1 Qc4 0-1**

Elsewhere Colm Daly and Gavin Wall's game ended in a perpetual after 25 moves. This hard fought albeit paradoxically short draw was symptomatic of several of Gavin Wall's games at the championships. Each of his positions against Collins, Daly and myself, petered out in the middle game to drawn positions after initially complex and double edged openings. In round 5, Karl lost to Colm Daly, while I could only equalise with Gavin Wall with black. Demonstrating a high degree of patience and technique, David Fitzsimons used the white pieces to beat Bernard Palmer and set up an intriguing encounter with Karl in the final round.

As I went down to Votava on the wrong side of an awkward and fumbling English opening, Karl McPhillips, won a scrappy encounter against David to take the title, underlining the degree to which his game has progressed of late.

**Quinn,M (2368) - Votava,J (2531) [A25]  
Leinster Chess Championship (6), 30.12.2006**

**1.c4 e5 2.g3 Nc6 3.Bg2 d6 4.Nc3 g6 5.e3 Bg7 6.Nge2 h5 7.d4 h4 8.d5 Nce7 9.h3 hxg3 10.fxg3 Bd7 11.g4 Bf6 12.Qb3 Bh4+ 13.Kd1 Rb8 14.Bd2 Kf8 15.Kc2 Kg7 16.Raf1 Nf6 17.Ng1 b5 18.e4 c6 19.cxb5 cxd5 20.exd5 a6 21.a4 axb5 22.axb5 Bxb5 23.Nxb5 Qd7 24.g5 Nh5 25.Ne2 Rxb5 26.Qd3 Rf8 27.Bc1 Nf5 28.Rd1 Bxg5 0-1**

All in all, the Leinster Championships was a highly successful tournament. The venue at An Óige was ideal, particularly for the numbers of players involved, and smooth organization thanks to Mick Germane and Pat Fitzsimons ensured that chess players could concentrate purely on their play. This was particularly important, especially in the Masters section, as the tournament is one of only two opportunities Irish chess players have each year to compete in FIDE rated events in Ireland. The fact that the event was FIDE rated probably contributed to the intense, hard fought nature of the tournament, as several of Ireland's top players put valuable rating points on the line, so as to chase the Leinster title. It can only be hoped that more tournaments such as this are organised in the future to give further rating and norm opportunities to the likes of Karl McPhillips, David Fitzsimons and Sam Osborne,

amongst other rising talents.

The Leinster Championships also saw the welcome return to Irish chess of John Redmond, one of Ireland's strongest players in Ireland when I was growing up. After taking time out from chess, John returned to the game at the recent European Union Championships in Liverpool. Although I never had the opportunity to play against John when he was at his peak, his games on the final day of the Leinster Championships, suggest that he is still very much a force to be reckoned with. His games against both Colm Daly and Sam Collins demonstrate the combative and creative qualities which I remember observing years ago. His round 6 game against Colm Daly is a text book case of what happens when White overextends on the queenside, leaving his kingside exposed. His earlier game in round 5 against Sam Collins was no less spectacular. Despite getting in to all sorts of trouble in the opening and losing an exchange, once out of the opening, he manages to consolidate and gain sufficient compensation to cause Sam a number of problems in the late middle game. Sam's subsequent escape in the endgame stands as one of the best Houdini acts I have seen in quite a long time. With white's time running low, he managed to create just enough complications to force a mistake and save a half point.

**Redmond,John - S Collins [A29]  
Leinster Championships (5), 30.12.2006**

*Notes by John Redmond*

**1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e5 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.g3 d5 5.cxd5 Nxd5 6.Bg2 Nb6 7.a3 Be7 8.b4**

In 2006, I returned to competitive chess after a 15 year absence. I felt the need to create a new repertoire and so I find myself playing lines I never played before. This line is an example. I wanted to mix things up by delaying castling but I only vaguely knew what I was doing and soon make a mistake. I suppose this is how you learn.

**8...Be6 9.d3 0-0 10.Bb2?!**

10.0-0 now is normal.

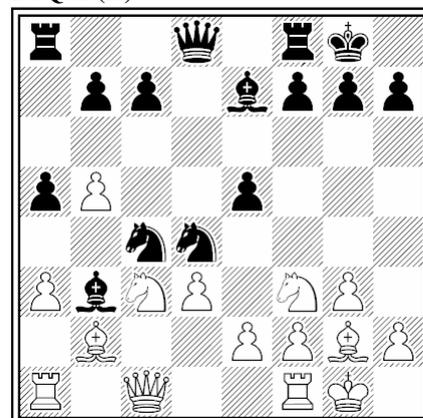
**10...a5 11.b5 Nd4 12.0-0**

12.Nd2

**12...Bb3 13.Qd2**

I missed the following motif.

**13...Nc4! 14.Qc1 (D)**



**14...Nxb2?!**

14...Nxf3+ 15.Bxf3 Bg5! 16.e3 Qxd3 17.Be4 Qd7 18.Bxb7 Rad8 is better for Black. The move in the game is natural but gives White counterchances. Nevertheless, White's inaccurate opening, the loss of the two Bishops, and the following exchange sac persuaded both players, I think, that Black was doing much better than in fact he was. **15.Qxb2 a4 16.Nd2**

White may be better after 16.Nxe5 but it looked too loose 16...Rb8 (16...Nc2 17.Bxb7 ) 17.Rac1 c6 18.bxc6 bxc6 19.Nxc6 Nxc6 20.Bxc6 Bg5 21.e3 Instead I went in for the following exchange sac as a means of making Black's win hard. But the sac worked out better than that.

**16...Nc2 17.Nxb3 axb3 18.Qxb3**

18.Rab1 may be better

**18...Nxa1 19.Rxa1 Rb8?!**

This looks passive. 19...Ra7 20.a4 Bc5 is a better set-up.

**20.a4 b6?!**

I was pleased to see this. Now White's pieces can all occupy strong squares. The rook on b8 is particularly hard to activate. 20...c6 seems better

**21.Nd5 Bd6 22.Rc1 Kh8 23.Rc4 f5 24.Qc2 Rf7 25.Rc6 h5?**

I think Black wanted to prove an advantage even though he is probably worse. The move played makes even more white squares vulnerable, especially g6. I still thought I was worse but felt I now had a chance of saving the game.

A better move is 25...f4

**26.Qc4 Rd7 27.Bh3**

At this point I offered a draw.

**27...Bc5 28.e4 Rd6 29.Rxd6**

Here I considered another exchange sac 29.Rxc5!? bxc5 30.Qxc5 fxe4 31.dxe4 The fact I was thinking this way shows the game had swung around.

**29...cxd6**

29...Qxd6 may lead to a draw 30.exf5 Rf8 31.Qe4 c6 32.bxc6 Qxc6 33.f6 gxf6 34.Qg6 with a perpetual coming **30.exf5**

In order to seal the f-file. Black now looks to attack down the h-file by getting the rook to h7. In the end he pursues this aggressive policy too rigidly.

**30...Qg5 31.Qc2 h4 32.Kg2 g6?!**

Although this idea is consistent, it is mistimed and cements White's advantage.

**33.f6**

Natural. Another line is 33.f4 Qh6 (33...exf4 34.Qc3+ Kh7 35.d4 ) 34.d4 Bxd4 35.Qc7 Rg8 36.Qxd6 Qh5 37.Qf6+ Kh7 38.Qf7+ Rg7 39.Nf6+ Kh6 40.Qxg7+ Kxg7 41.Nxh5+ gxh5

**33...Rb7?**

After this Black is lost. He should be thinking about making a draw and his best chance is to sac back the exchange for the advanced f-pawn. After the text this is impossible. Also the d3-d4 motif is made stronger because of the weakening of the eighth rank. 33...Rf8 34.a5 bxa5 35.b6 Bxb6 36.Nxb6 Qxf6 37.Nd7 Qf3+ 38.Kg1 Rf7 ; 33...Rf8 34.Be6 Rxf6 35.Nxf6 Qxf6 36.Bd5

**34.Be6 Rh7**

34...Ra7 35.d4 exd4 36.f4 Qh6 37.Ne7

**35.g4 h3+ 36.Kf1 Rb7 37.d4!**

g6 starts to tremble

**37...exd4 38.f4 Qh6 39.g5 Qh5 40.Qd3 Ra7 41.Ne7 Kh7****42.Nxg6**

42.Bg4! is a simpler win - I didn't see this motif till later.

**42...Rxa4 43.f7**

Missing a pretty mate 43.Bg8+! Kxg8 44.Qb3+ Kh7 45.Qf7#

**43...Ra1+ 44.Kf2 d5**

A nice mirror of White's sacrificial d-pawn push, closing one sensitive diagonal while opening another.

**45.Bg4!**

A good-looking move. Another way to proceed is 45.f8N+ Kg7 (45...Bxf8? 46.Nxf8+ Kg7 47.Qxd4+ Kxf8 48.Qxa1) 46.Bxd5 Rd1 47.f5! when 47...Rxd3 allows 48.f6 mate! I was worried by Black's counter-chances against my King - and they are real enough. Here are some plausible alternatives that only draw: 45.f8Q Ra2+ 46.Kg1 Ra1+ 47.Kf2=; 45.Ne5+ Kg7 46.Bxd5 Rd1= ; 45.Ne7+ Kg7 46.Bxd5 Qh4+ 47.Kf3 Qh5+=

**45...Ra2+ 46.Kf3**

46.Ke1 also wins 46...Bb4+ 47.Kf1 Ra1+ 48.Kf2 Qxg6 49.Bf5

**46...Qxg6 47.Bf5 Ra3 48.Bxg6+ Kg7 49.Qxa3 Bxa3****50.Bf5?!**

50.f5 d3 51.Bh5 is more forceful

**50...Kxf7 51.Bxh3 d3 52.Ke3?!**

I was short of time and found a way not to win. It was harder to make a draw. 52.Bg4 prepares to cover d1 and push the 3 passers. Even the opposite-coloured bishops would not save Black.

**52...Bc1+ 53.Kxd3 Bxf4 54.Kd4 Bxg5 55.Kxd5 ½-½****Colm Daly - John Redmond [A10]****Leinster Championships (6), 30.12.2006**

*Notes by John Redmond*

**1.c4 b6 2.Nf3 Bb7 3.e3 e6 4.b3 f5 5.Bb2 Nf6 6.Nc3 Be7 7.g3 0-0 8.Bg2 Ne4 9.0-0 Bf6 10.Qc2 Na6!? 11.a3 Nac5 12.d3 Nxc3 13.Bxc3= d6 14.b4 Bxc3 15.Qxc3 Nd7 16.d4 Be4 17.Rfd1 Qe7 18.Rac1 Nf6 19.c5 Nd5 20.Qb3 g5 21.Re1 Kg7?!**

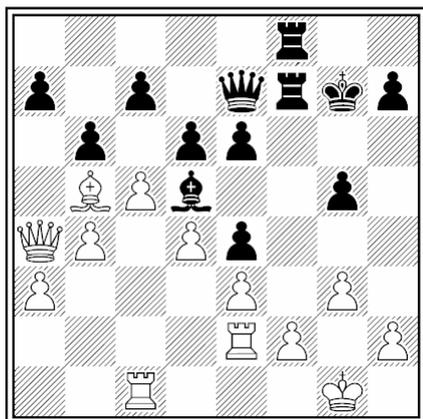
h8 is a better square for the king

**22.Qd1 Rf7 23.Bf1 Raf8 24.Nd2 Nf6 25.Qa4 Bd5 26.Bb5?!**

Decentralising 26.f3 is better. White would have some edge.

**26...Ne4! 27.Nxe4 fxe4 28.Re2 (D)**

Colm thought that White was better here - I thought the position was double-edged. Both of us were wrong. With accurate play, Black has an advantage. His threats on the f-file are worth more than White's threats on the c-file. Black's correct plan is to advance his h-pawn to h4 and exchange on g3. If white retakes with the h-pawn Black attacks down the open file. If White retakes with the f-pawn, Black attacks down the file and has new threats against e3. Meanwhile Black defends the seventh rank laterally.

**28...Rf3?!**

White makes this move look good but it should lose time. In the light of the last note, correct is 28...h5! e.g. 29.Rec2 h4 30.cxd6 cxd6 31.Bf1 Kg6! 32.b5 hxg3 33.hxg3 g4 34.Qb4 Qd8 with the plan of doubling rooks on the h-file followed by Q-f6-f3

**29.Bc6??**

Over-optimistic. This removes the bishop from crucial defensive squares. 29.cxd6 cxd6 30.Rec2 (30.Qc2 is met the same way) 30...R3f7! e.g. 31.Be2!? Kg6! 32.b5 h5 33.Qb4 g4 34.Bf1 h4 35.Bg2 hxg3 36.hxg3 Qd8 37.Rd2 Rh8 38.Rdc2 (38.Qb1 is instructive 38...Qf6 39.Bxe4+? Kg7 with the winning threat of Qf3) 38...Rfh7 with the idea of Q-f6-f3

**29...Qf7 30.Rcc2 Bc4! 31.Be8**

There is no defence. 31.Rxc4 Rxf2 ; 31.Red2 Rxe3! 32.Rc1 Re2 33.Rxe2 Bxe2 34.f4 exf3 35.Kf2 Qh5 36.Rh1 Qh3 37.Ke3 Qg2

**31...Qf6 32.Qd7+ Kh6 33.Red2 Rxe3 34.Rxc4 Re1+ 35.Kg2 Qf3+ 36.Kh3 g4+ 37.Kh4 Rh1 38.Qxe6+ Rf6 39.Qxf6+ Qxf6+ 40.Kxg4 Qe6+ 41.Kf4 Qxc4 42.h4 Qc1 43.g4 Qxd2+ 44.Kf5 Kg7 45.g5 dxc5 0-1**

*Pat Fitzsimons reports on the Major and Challengers sections*

The Major Section was won outright by top seed Semyon Mkrtchyan with a score of 5.5/6. Ray O'Rourke, Peter D. Jackson and Lukasz Goralski finished 2nd–4th respectively with scores of 4/6. Rory Delaney, Peter J. Hayes and David Baird won grading prizes.

The Challengers Section was contested by 22 players and was won by Galway-based Cuban Yoel Ferrer on tie break from Ger Reilly, both scoring 5/6. Five players tied for third on 4/6, namely Andrew Rodger, Patrick McKillen, David Cormican, Ronan Sweeney and John Hensey.

The Junior Section was contested by 15 players and was won by 13 year old Alasdair Walsh who won the section outright with 5.5/6. Another member of the St. Benildus Chess Club, 12 year old Stephen Cunningham finished in the runners up position with Jobstown Chess Club's Wayne Murphy in 3rd position. Kevin Fitzpatrick and youngsters Christopher Taylor, Adam Blunden and Mark Berney also won prizes in the Junior Section.

## Three Wise Men

Last September, at the AGM of the union, it was announced that three men had been awarded life memberships of the Irish Chess Union. These men, Jack Hennigan, Gerry Murphy and Frank Scott all left their mark on generations of schoolchildren, not just as teachers, but as chess coaches. The schools they taught at, Straffan, Gonzaga and St Benildus respectively, have dominated Leinster, and to some degree Irish youth chess for some time.

We invited some of their former students to tell us about the men who shaped their early understanding of chess.

### Jack Hennigan

*We start with Jack Hennigan, who was principal of Straffan National School in Kildare for forty-four years before his retirement in 2005. He took up chess around 1980 and was soon passing his love of the game on to generations of school kids. Like the other men profiled here, the phenomenal successes of the teams under Jack Hennigan show what can be achieved by the passion of just one man.*

#### Robbie Lunn

I have been told not to make this sound like an obituary<sup>1</sup> and to do so would be an insult to a man who has more life and energy in him than many half his age. Jack Hennigan is a teacher, a mentor, well respected by any one who has had the pleasure of meeting him. His knowledge of chess is astounding. His attitude to life is perhaps more impressive.

I first really came into contact with Jack or 'Sir' as I will always know him when I was in fourth class. It was then that we got the opportunity to start playing chess. His obvious love of the game was clear to see even for me as a ten year old. Jack wanted you to learn, he wanted you to challenge yourself and explore the psychological minefield that is the chess board. He allowed you to make your own mistakes and would quietly advise you afterwards. In the knowledge that you would prove yourself to him. I think respect is very important to Jack. He once stopped our chess practices as he felt we had begun to mess and lose interest. I don't think we ever talked in practice again!!

The thing that I respect most about Jack was the amount of time he put into chess. He must have brought us to at least 2 or 3 matches a week without question or objection. His passion and patience made it easy to learn and it is clear that he was a fantastic teacher. How many Irish titles have been won and how many Irish teams have been comprised of Straffan lads. They even tried to find some way to kick us out when they realised they couldn't beat us!! The highest compliment to Jack surely!

My only regret however is that I never got to play a game against Jack.. But that wasn't his style. He would prefer to teach us then hammer us! 'Sir' to me is a legend. His

<sup>1</sup> *Maybe I overemphasised this point! – Ed.*

contribution to chess was massive, not only to Straffan but to all of Ireland. There is no one who deserves absolute and complete respect and admiration more than Jack Hennigan and this lifetime membership that has been awarded to him is just a small sign of the appreciation that he deserves.

### Gerry Murphy

*When we mentioned this feature Sam Collins and Mark Quinn, they both immediately volunteered to write a piece. Two of the strongest players in Ireland today, they both have fond memories of Gerry Murphy, head of music at Gonzaga College in Rathmines, Dublin since 1973.*

#### Sam Collins IM

A 12-year old walks down a dusty corridor in Gonzaga, and hears Beethoven's ninth blaring from one of the rooms. He opens the door to find a dozen boys lined up playing blitz with a supervising caped figure kibitzing at the top of his voice.

In the Soviet Union, they had institutions called Palaces of Young Pioneers, where talented kids could hone their skills in whatever talent had gained them entry. Gerry Murphy was like the chess teacher at one of these schools. He never showed me a single chess move, yet all of my positive experiences in chess are thanks to him. The scale of his efforts verged on the inexplicable; driving kids to tournaments and matches, opening the school at night for league games, organising multiple internal competitions and penning dramatic reports of their progress. Even when he started composing music and releasing CDs, he always found time to run the chess club.

When I won a medal at the Bled Olympiad, Gerry wore it for a full weekend. When I wrote my first chess book, I dedicated it to him. He is genuinely proud of the achievements of all of his players – not only when Mark Quinn, Gordon Freeman, Alan Peart, Eoghan Casey or Adam Kelly wins a tournament, but when some 1000-rated 13-year old wins on time in a drawn king & pawn endgame. Gerry gets more of a kick out of the game than anyone, and showing him a nice win at the end of a tournament was always a rewarding experience.

I owe a lot to Gerry. He deserves every accolade the Irish chess community can give him.

#### Mark Quinn IM

In 1984, when I first strolled through the doors of Gonzaga College, I was already an enthusiastic chess player. My father had taught me the game some years before, and as I began to improve he sent me to a Junior chess club in Newtown Park Avenue, which I attended assiduously every Wednesday evening from 7.30 pm to 9pm, paying the organisers the grand total of forty pence on each visit. Like all kids attending primary school for the first time, everything is new and somewhat mystifying. There are many new faces, a new environment, a whole new world to discover and come to terms with. On arriving in Gonzaga, I would discover that, unusually for the time, chess played a significant part of school life, and the man who was

responsible for creating this world was Gerry Murphy. A highly respected teacher of Music, Latin and Classical studies Gerry Murphy was also a keen and passionate chess player, who had started a chess club in the school some years before. Gerry cut a striking figure amongst the teaching staff at Gonzaga, with a long flowing red beard, sandals and an animated black cape that used to trail after him as he paced around the school. The chess club used to meet every Wednesday afternoon all year round, in a small musty room above the rugby changing rooms, in a complex of buildings near the old bikesheds. Each Wednesday, Gerry would turn up around 1.45pm and open up the club. There he would hold court, coaching and encouraging players starting out and playing blitz against all-comers. His passion and enthusiasm for the game was infectious and tangible to anyone who would turn up to look or play. There he would resolutely defend his beloved Benko Gambit and always maintain that with best play, white should retain a little edge with the English. I will never forget the look he gave me once when I cheerfully announced one day at the club that the Benko was refuted by some new line with f3. Several blitz games followed where I tried to put this theory into practice, but each time, saw Gerry's beloved Benko c5 pawn coasting home in the endgame, much to his delight! What made the club so special was the sheer number of players who used to play week in week out, before heading off to rugby training or home. While I was the only really enthusiastic player in my own class, (another talented natural player, Gerald Parkinson never caught the chess bug), in the class ahead of me there were at least twenty regular players, who were extremely committed players. Alan Peart would become by far the strongest of the players in this class and go on to represent Ireland at the Glorney Cup. Gerry was quick to recognise that the huge popularity of the game in Alan Peart's year, was something that might be built upon and he began to encourage us all to play in competitions outside of school, and take part in the large open tournaments that used to be run in Dublin at this time, often in the Mansion House. He entered 'A', 'B' and sometimes even 'C' teams in the Dublin school chess leagues and it wasn't long before Gonzaga began to dominate at junior and senior level, winning several Leinster and All-Ireland Championships. At one stage, if I remember correctly Gonzaga dominated to such a degree that they won the Leinster Senior chess championships for five years in a row. Gerry's contribution was however far more than simply organizing the club and picking the teams. He used to accompany the various junior and senior teams all over Leinster and eventually overseas to Marlwood, the premiere schools chess team event in Great Britain or Ireland.

What made the Marlwood tournament unusual was that the teams consisted of 12 players, which meant that any school that had ambitions to win the tournament had to have strength in depth. Equally, the system by which players were drawn against each other, meant that teams would never face off against each other directly. Players on each board would play in different rooms and never knew how

the rest of the team were doing or how our closest rivals were faring. The only thing that was certain was that every single half point was like gold dust. We first went to Marlwood in about 1989. I can still recall the intense excitement of being dropped off to Dun Laoghaire where Gerry, Denis Cusack and David Murray, two other enthusiastic chess playing teachers in the school around 1800 Elo in strength, were waiting to take the team over to Holyhead. The trip to Marlwood was the highlight of every year, and provided non-stop chess over a three day period, from blitz and analysis on the boat and train, to the stiffest competition against the best schools that England and Wales had to offer. Gonzaga's victory at Marlwood in 1992/93, is in many respects the crowning achievement of Gerry Murphy and Gonzaga chess. No other team that I have ever played in had such a strong sense of team spirit, commitment and loyalty. Despite the immense ability of various individuals in the team such as Alan Peart, Francis Sweeney, John Carroll, William Mulligan to name just a few, each of us all knew that every single player regardless of our differences in age or strength or personality, had to pull together and support everyone else if we were going to win the tournament. This strong team spirit was not the result of a short, inspirational pep talk, but the result of over a decade of commitment on Gerry's part, to cultivating a friendly atmosphere in which each of our own individual chess talents might flourish. Some years ago, Colm Daly stated that Gerry Murphy had done more for Irish chess than perhaps anyone else and I cannot but agree. Much of my own success as a chess player comes from those formative years in Gonzaga, playing blitz on big stodgy old White Russian clocks for endless hours, then traipsing across the length and breadth of Dublin city to different schools to play for junior and senior teams and finally to Marlwood.

It is worth noting however that chess was only one of Gerry's many passions. Indeed, Gerry Murphy is also a distinguished and acclaimed composer of classical music, whose works are available on CD and are performed regularly at home and abroad. I suspect that Gerry's first love was music and that he discovered the magic of chess later. Now looking back, I wonder how on earth, he found time for chess at all, considering that he and his late wife Patricia had a large family of four sons, and that he was steadily composing a range of works encompassing orchestral works and concertoes for Uilleann pipes and piano. I remember calling into Gerry and Patricia's home on several occasions after I left school, where I discovered that while Patricia didn't play chess, (like Gerry she was a musician and music teacher), she really thought it was a worthwhile activity and gave her husband her full support in his involvement in chess. It was most probably thanks to Patricia that Gerry never missed an important match, when following tough encounters and unexpected defeats, fractured egos might need to be reassured and restored. The latter, Gerry had an uncanny ability of doing swiftly and with great humour, something which made unpleasant losses much easier to bear, especially for players starting

out.

Gerry also made sure that any significant chess successes were recognised within the school and I recall many assemblies where teams and individuals that had won competitions or medals were brought out on stage in front of all the pupils, so that those achievements would get the acknowledgement they deserved. On paper one could argue that Gerry's greatest legacy to Irish chess was that under his guidance, the school won countless junior and senior, Leinster and All-Ireland Championships. One could also point to the successes in Marlwood in 1992 and then with a later generation of chess players led by Sam Collins in Millfield (as Marlwood become known after a venue change in the mid nineties). It is also noteworthy that two of the players Gerry should have taken such a keen interest in should go on to become International Masters and compete for Ireland in numerous chess Olympiads. That Sam Collins would go on to win a gold medal at the Bled Olympiad in 2002 is also hardly coincidental and a testament to Gerry's continued dedication to chess long after I left the school. Gerry's real contribution for me however was the way in which he consciously went about creating a chess culture in Gonzaga. He quite literally inspired hundreds of kids down the years to take up the game whether it be for a few weeks, a season or a year or two. Not everyone would get hooked on the game, or be good enough to play for the school. But many, regardless of their level, did learn something of the magic of chess, what it feels like to catch an opponent unawares and, most importantly, how in order to improve one has to learn from one's mistakes. I am only too aware of the debt I owe both Gonzaga and Gerry for helping to provide an atmosphere conducive to enabling me to pursue my chess ambitions. And to that end, I am delighted that the ICU have taken the step of honouring Gerry by issuing him with honorary life membership. He is one of a few individuals who really has made a difference to Irish chess and the lives of countless junior chess players who passed in and out of the doors of Gonzaga. I have so many memories from those years, that it is difficult to pick one out, but I will never forget the first time I played for Gonzaga in an away match against Stratford, who thanks to the efforts of April Cronin, had a number of very strong players in the school at the time. I don't remember the result of the match, but I remember Gerry arriving half way through the game and noticing that I was not annotating my game. Without saying anything to me, he began to right down the moves, and once the game was over, he patiently explained to me what notation was and also how important it is to record one's games so as to play over them afterwards. I seem to recall suggesting that in future he could watch and annotate all of my games if he liked, which received a smile of no uncertain incredulity! Now looking back, I think this occasion marked the very first point when I began to study chess and not just play it for fun. So thanks Gerry for the way in which you went out of your way to explain to a somewhat stubborn and reluctant nine year old the secret to improving one's chess! After taking the advice on board, a whole new world of

chess magazines and books suddenly opened up and became comprehensible to me. Only a few weeks later my dad bought me my first chess book, Bobby's Fischer's *My Sixty Memorable Games*, and I was well and truly hooked.

### Frank Scott

*When Steve Burns won the first Irish Email Chess Championship a few years ago, he spoke fondly of his first chess teacher, "Much of my early chess style and enthusiasm can be credited to Frank Scott, our school chess mentor, who reminded us regularly of the benefit of rooks on the seventh rank." Frank had taught him at St Benildus College in Stillorgan, Dublin, in the early eighties, and has taught many a youngster the 'Ten Commandments of Chess' (and even some geography and economics!) since.*

### John Healy

I first met Frank in 1995, when I entered secondary school. I had learned the moves of the game from a few years previously, but I'd never really played it much. Frank would turn up at the little room where the chess club met at lunch time and after school every day, to open the place for an hour or so. He'd watch us playing blitz games, often kibitzing with unflagging good humour. He put a lot of emphasis on the basics – rapid development, early castling, control of the centre, the value of open files and the seventh rank, as well as practical advice, like the now-illegal practice of writing your move down before you played it. Looking back now, I don't think I have really appreciated how much he taught me about the game.

Frank didn't push us to do any more than we wanted to, but he gave the players in the school as many opportunities to play the game as he could. Aside from those lunchtime and after school sessions, he ran a number of school teams (usually five or six) in the LSCA's Leinster schools leagues, often driving us to games. He brought teams over to what's now the Millfield tournament, sometimes even two – for any school to be able to field the guts of thirty decent players is a massive achievement. He introduced us to the LCU's leagues as well, forming a connection between the school club and the adult club (which was Dundrum Chess club until about 15 years ago – his influence no doubt helped that move) which survives to this day. It's often struck me that the number of adult players in this country is very low compared with the number of schoolkids who play the game. I think that the reason is a lack of people like Frank Scott, who has helped hundreds of young players find their feet in competitive chess over the years.

Though retired now, Frank remains an active chess teacher. He is the same amiable gentleman he's ever been, still telling tales of his time in the merchant navy (I once saw him walking dead straight along the deck of a heaving ship, everyone around him staggering from wall to wall), still a big football fan, and still able to silence a room full of noisy kids with a single word, before showing them some king and pawn endgames. Long may it continue.

## Kilkenny Congress

*Ciaran Ruane*

The 30th Kilkenny Congress was run over the weekend of November 24th to 26th 2006. There were four competitions: the Challengers (under 1200), the James Mason (1200-1600), the Major (1600-2000) and the Masters (over 2000).

The Masters event, moved to Butler House hotel from the historic Kilkenny Castle where it was held in 2005, boasted three grandmasters, Alex Baburin, Mark Hebden and the star of the show world number nine Michael Adams and four IMs in Mark Heidenfeld, Gawain Jones, Mark Orr and Austrian Valeri Atlas. Also playing were Valeri's twin brother Dimitry and young local player Karl McPhillips.

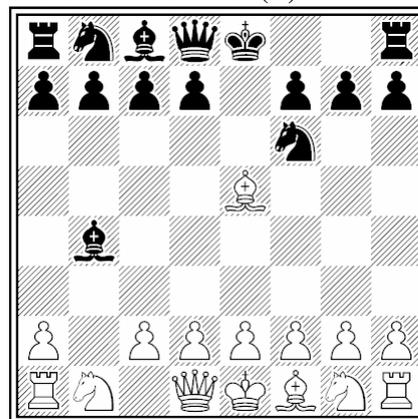
The first round was remarkable only for the lack of surprise results. The top seven seeds all won, with the eighth and ninth seeds availing of travelling byes. Baburin beat Kees De Kruif after the Dutchman chose too-adventurous of an opening as seen here.

**De Kruif,K - Baburin,A [A00]**

**Kilkenny Masters (1), 24.11.2006**

*Notes by Alexander Baburin ([www.chesstoday.net](http://www.chesstoday.net))*

**1.b4 e5 2.Bb2 Bxb4 3.Bxe5 Nf6 (D)**



**4.Nc3**

I don't like this move - now the bishop will not be able to return to b2. However, it contains a positional threat - 5.Bxf6 and 6.Nd5.

**4...c6**

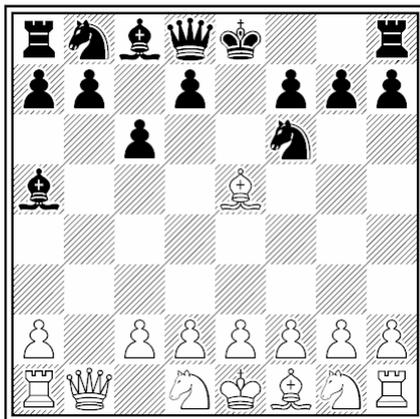
I made this move very reluctantly, as I, of course, wanted to gain a tempo with 4...Nc6 5.Bxf6 Qxf6 6.Nd5 Qe5 7.Nxb4 Nxb4 8.Rb1 a5 9.Rb3 0-0 10.Nf3 Qf6 11.c3 Nc6 12.g3 de Kruif-Thurlo, Cobo Bay 2005.

Only after the game I found 4...Ba5 which is probably the best way to stop Bxf6 and Nd5.

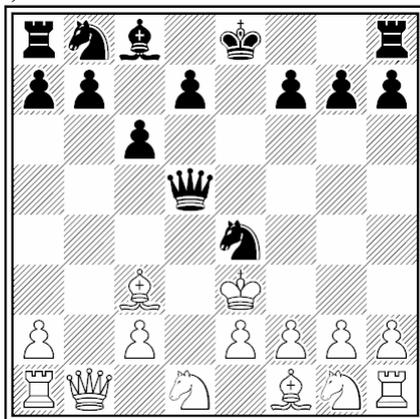
**5.Qb1?!**

This is a really strange move.

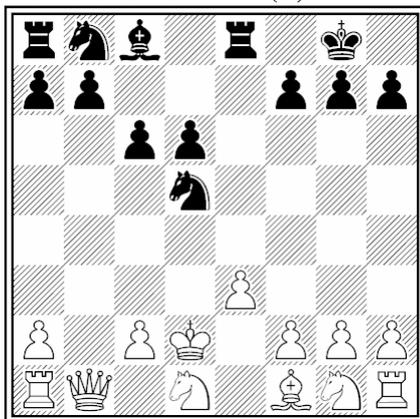
**5...Ba5 6.Nd1?? (D)**



One CAN be too original! Here I started to suspect that White was planning Be5-b2-c1! :-). Perhaps White already had to settle for 6.Bd6 Bxc3 7.dxc3 Ne4 8.Qb4 Nxd6 9.Qxd6 Qe7+ 6...Bxd2+! 7.Kxd2 Qa5+ 8.Bc3 Ne4+ 9.Kd3 Qd5+ 10.Ke3 (D)



After 10.Bd4 c5 11.e3 cxd4 12.exd4 Nc6+ the king on d3 will be White's only developed piece!  
**10...0-0! 11.Qb3 Nxc3 12.Qxd5**  
 12.Nxc3 Re8+ 13.Kf4 g5+ 14.Kg4 (14.Kg3 Qd6+! 15.Kh3 Qh6+ 16.Kg3 Qh4+ 17.Kf3 Qf4#) 14...d6+ 15.Kh5 Qf5+- 12...Nxd5+ 13.Kd2 Re8 14.e3 d6 (D)



15.Nf3 Nd7 16.Bd3 Nc5 17.Nc3 Nxc3 18.Kxc3 h6 19.a4 a5 20.Rhb1 Kf8 21.Nd2 Ke7 22.Ne4 Nxe4+ 23.Bxe4 d5 24.Bf3 Kd6 25.Rb6 Kc7 26.Rab1 Ra7 27.Kd4 Bf5 28.R6b2 Be4 29.Rg1 b6 30.c4 c5+ 31.Kc3 dxc4 32.Kxc4

Bc6 33.Bxc6 Kxc6 34.Rd1 Re4+ 35.Kb3 Rb4+ 36.Ka3 Rxb2 37.Kxb2 Rd7 38.Rxd7 Kxd7 39.Kc3 Kd6 40.Kc4 Ke5 41.f3 f5 42.h3 h5 43.g3 g5 44.Kd3 g4 45.hxg4 hxg4 46.fxg4 fxg4 47.Kd2 Ke4 0-1

The big clashes started in round two with impressive draws by Mark Heidenfeld against top seed Michael Adams (which he has kindly annotated for us below), Dmitry Atlas against second seed Mark Hebden and Rory Quinn against third seed Alex Baburin. Valeri Atlas and Gawain Jones were the only players to make to 2/2, beating John White and Tom Healy respectively.



Adams, M. (2735) - Heidenfeld, M. (2371)  
 Kilkenny Masters (2), 25.11.2006  
 Notes by Mark Heidenfeld

What an opportunity, the dream of any earthly woodshifter, to play the world number 9 in a serious game. But what to play against someone so strong and experienced?

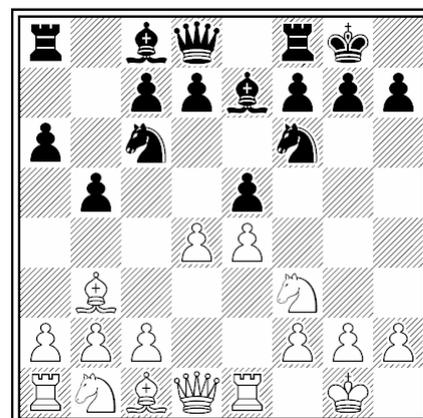
**1.e4 e5**

More often I play the French, however, I thought it would be sensible to offer to play something very sharp such as the Marshall Attack. And although my opponent would certainly know more opening theory, it was likely that he would deviate into some sideline as to avoid being tempted into revealing some of the secrets, which he may have prepared for some of his world class compatriots.

**2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 0-0**

Inviting to the Marshall Attack, which arises after 8. c3 d5!?. However, Michael likes to play this with Black.

**8.d4 (D)**



So, there it is. An unusual anti-Marshall, which I had never seen before. More common are 8. h3 or 8. a4 or 8. d3.  
**8...Nxd4**

A more frequent response leading to a more complex game is 8...d6.

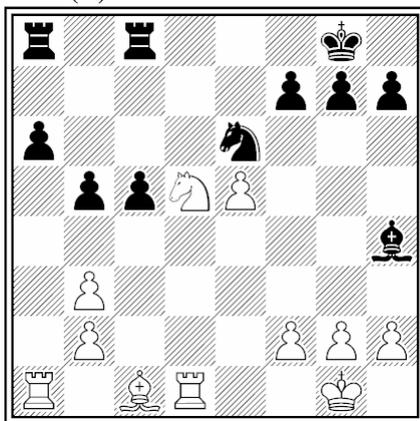
**9.Nxd4 exd4 10.e5 Ne8 11.c3!?**

An interesting pawn sacrifice justified by White's attack after the most common 11... dxc3 12. Nxc3 Bb7 13. Qg4 or 13. Qh5

**11...d6 12.Qf3 Be6 13.cxd4 Bxb3 14.axb3 dxe5 15.dxe5 c5±**

The plan is to consolidate after Nc7 and Ne6. However, with the half open a-file, the limiting pawn on e5, and the active pieces, White has a persistent advantage.

**16.Rd1 Qc8 17.Nc3 Nc7 18.Qc6 Ne6 19.Nd5 Bh4 20.Qxc8 Rfxc8 (D)**



White's advantage is undisputed, but I was quite happy to have survived the opening. The queens have been exchanged and the position has been significantly simplified. The strong position of the white rooks has been compensated to some extent by the doubled b-pawn and the strong central knight on e6.

**21.Be3**

21.Nb6 Rd8 22.Be3 Rxd1+ 23.Rxd1 Rd8

**21...Bd8**

Better is the immediate 21...Rc6 protecting a6 and keeping the option to disturb the central knight on d5 by Nc7.

**22.f4 Rc6**

preparing to answer 23. f5 with 23... Nc7. 22... g6 did not appeal to me as after 23. g4 the g-file will ultimately be opened. With the bishop on d8 and the uncoordinated black rooks on the queen side, this seemed quite unpleasant.

**23.Kf2 f5**

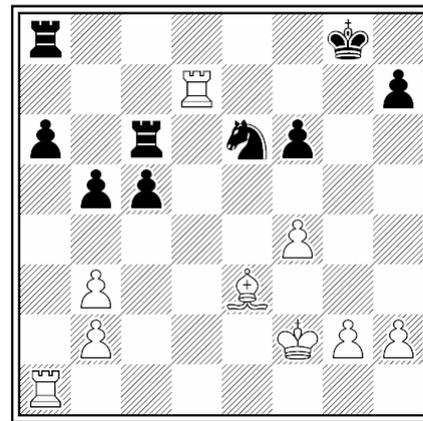
'Brutally' preventing a white f5. However after the exchange of the white knight against Black's bishop, White still maintains some advantage.

**24.exf6 Bxf6 25.Nxf6+ gxf6 26.Rd7?! (D)**

Surprisingly, this natural looking move gives away some of White's advantage, as it allows Black to exchange one of his passive rooks against one of White's active rooks. 26. g4 gaining further space on the king side would have been better.

**26...Rd8 27.Rad1 Rxd7 28.Rxd7 Nd4**

Black needs to hurry to gain some counterplay on the queen side, as White was threatening to set up a mating net

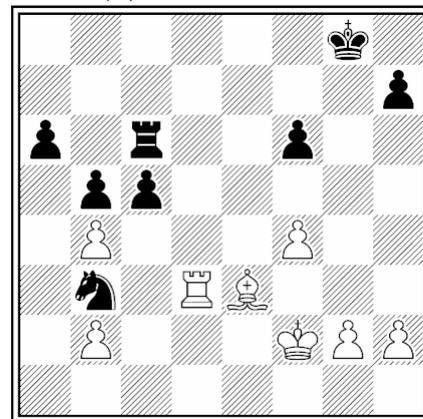


with f5 (followed by g4 if necessary) and Bh6.

**29.b4**

29.Bxd4 cxd4 30.Rxd4 Rc2+ 31.Kf3 Rxb2 32.Rd3 f5=

**29...Nb3 30.Rd3! (D)**



This forces Black's knight into a passive position. It will take Black a few moves to reactivate the knight.

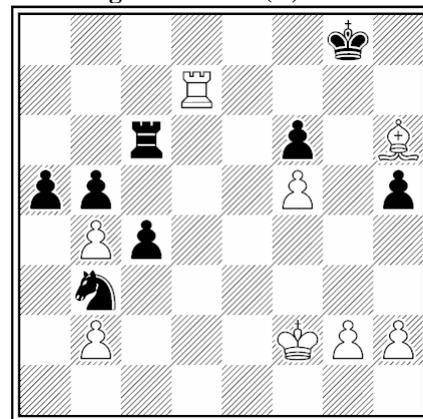
**30...c4 31.Rd8+ Kg7**

To prevent the mating net mentioned above, Black will need to play h5 sooner or later. 31... Kf7 allows 32. f5 and after 32... h5 33. Rh8 would be unpleasant.

**32.f5**

threatening Rd7+ and Bh6.

**32...h5 33.Rd7+ Kg8 34.Bh6 a5 (D)**



Black needs to free his knight immediately. With slow passive play (e.g. Na1), White has a few ideas such as Rg7+ followed by Rg6, Bg7(+) and Rxf6 or Bxf6. An

alternative plan for White is demonstrated in the game.

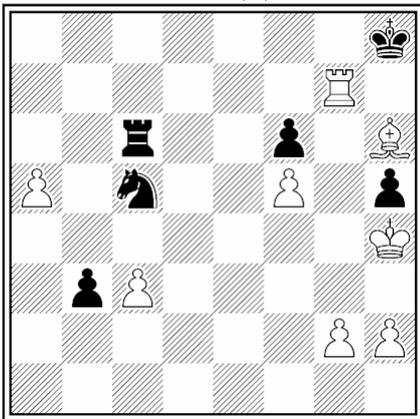
**35.bxa5 Nc5**

An attempt to break free from passive defence and complicate matters. Objectively, White has a large advantage but chooses the wrong plan. I didn't like the passive 35... Ra6 and 35... Nxa5 is followed by 36. Rd5 Rb6 37. Be3 Rb7 38. Bd4 winning a pawn.

**36.Rg7+ Kh8 37.Kg3?**

The idea is to mate Black by Kh4, Kxh5, Kg6, Rh7+, Bg7, and Rh8 mate. 37. Ra7 would have secured the White advantage. Both 37... b4 and 37... Nd3+ lead to interesting lines, which ultimately seem to be good for White.

**37...b4 38.Kh4 c3 39.bxc3 b3! (D)**



The move that Michael had probably overlooked when playing 37. Kg3. White is now forced to settle for perpetual check as otherwise Black has the advantage.

**40.Kxh5**

40.Re7 b2 41.Re1 Nd3 42.Rb1 Ra6 43.Kxh5 Kh7 44.Be3 Rxa5+ winning the white rook.

**40...b2 41.Kg6 b1Q 42.Rh7+ Kg8 43.Rg7+**

43.Bg7 of course now loses to 43...Qxf5+ followed by 44...Kxh7.

**43...Kh8 1/2-1/2**

The third round saw Adams get back on track with a win against local man Karl McPhillips in a difficult rook endgame while Valeri Atlas continued his 100% start with a win over Gawain Jones on board 1. Hebden and Baburin drew as did Heidenfeld and Mark Orr while Dmitry Atlas beat Rory Quinn to move into contention on 2½/3.

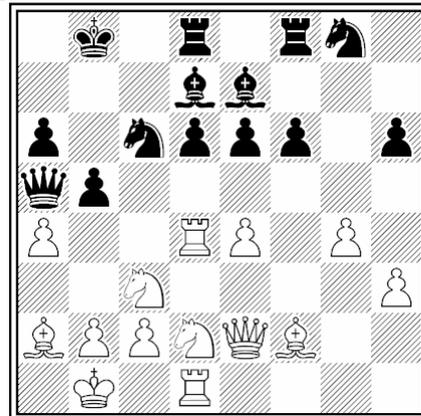
Valeri Atlas' winning run came to an end in round 4 when he was beaten by top seed, Michael Adams (game below), bringing Adams into the lead on 3½/4. His brother Dmitry drew with Alex Baburin to move to 3/4. Of the other top players, Mark Hebden, Mark Heidenfeld and Gawain Jones all won against Mark Orr, Andrew Mendelson and Marek Goban respectively, moving the three titled players to 3/4.

**Adams,M - Atlas,V [B81]**

**Kilkenny Masters Kilkenny IRL (4), 2006**

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 d6 6.g4 h6 7.h3 Nc6 8.Be3 g5 9.Qd2 Ne5 10.0-0-0 a6 11.f4 gxf4 12.Bxf4 Bd7 13.Be2 Qc7 14.Rhf1 Ng8 15.Bg3 0-0-0 16.Nf3 f6 17.Kb1 Rh7 18.Qe3 Be7 19.Rd4 Rf7 20.Rfd1

**Bc6 21.a4 Kb8 22.Bc4 Bd7 23.Bb3 Rff8 24.Bf2 Qc5 25.Qe2 Qa5 26.Nd2 b5 27.Ba2 Nc6 (D)**



**28.Nb3 Nxd4 29.Rxd4 Qc7 30.axb5 axb5 31.Nxb5 Qb7 32.Rb4 d5 33.Nc5 Bxc5 34.Bxc5 Be8 35.Nd4 1-0**

The top two seeds finally met in round 5, Adams on 3½/4 and Hebden on 3. With Jones, Heidenfeld, Valeri and Dmitry Atlas and local man John White all on 3/4 as well, the loser of the top match would find it difficult to get back into the tournament. In a surprise result, Hebden beat the world number 9 to move into the lead. In the other top games, the Atlas brothers drew with each other, as you might expect from identical twins!, Heidenfeld beat White and Jones drew with Baburin (Baburin's fourth draw in five games).



Mark Hebden GM

Photo: Uncredited

**Hebden,M - Adams,M [A46]**

**Kilkenny Masters Kilkenny IRL (5), 2006**

Notes by Alexander Baburin ([www.chesstoday.net](http://www.chesstoday.net))

**1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.c3 c5 4.Bg5 h6 5.Bxf6 Qxf6 6.e4 Nc6 7.d5 Ne5**

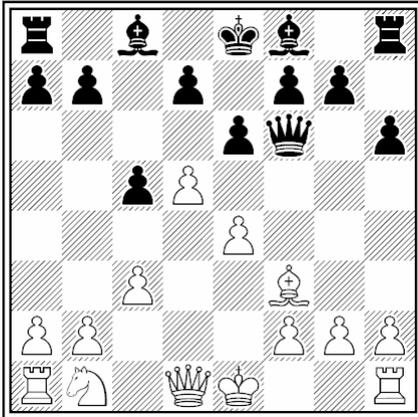
7...exd5 8.exd5 Ne5 9.Nxe5 Qxe5+ 10.Be2 Bd6 11.Na3 0-0 12.Nc4 Qf6 13.0-0 b5 14.Nxd6 Qxd6 15.Bxb5 Rb8 16.Qd3 a6 17.Bc4 Rxb2 18.Rab1 Rxb1 19.Rxb1 Re8 20.g3 g6 21.a4 Kg7 22.h4 h5 23.a5 Qc7 24.d6 Qxa5 25.Qf3 f5 26.Qd5 Rf8 27.Qe5+ Kh6 28.Qf4+ 1-0 Hebden-Grant, Port Erin 2002.

**8.Be2 Nxf3+**

8...exd5 9.Qxd5 Bd6 10.Na3 Nxf3+ 11.Bxf3 0-0 12.Nc4

Be7 13.e5 Qe6 14.0-0 Rb8 15.a4 b6 16.Rfd1± Hebden-Miezis, Cork 2005.

9.Bxf3 (D)



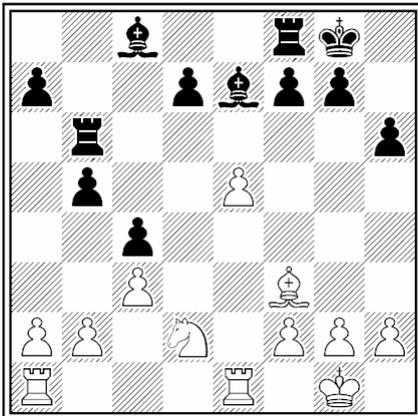
9...exd5?!

This move leaves Black with serious structural problems - he will wish that he left his pawn on c7! 9...e5 10.a4 g6 11.Na3 d6 12.Be2 h5 13.Bb5+ Ke7 14.a5 Qh4 15.Qe2 f5 16.Bd3 Qg5 17.f3 Bh6 18.Nc4 h4∞ V.Milov-Macieja, Batumi 2002.

10.Qxd5 Qe6 11.Qd3 Be7 12.0-0 0-0 13.Nd2 b5

⊖13...d6

14.Rfe1 Rb8 15.e5 c4 16.Qd4 Qb6 17.Qxb6 Rxb6 (D)



18.a4! a6 19.axb5 axb5 20.Ra7 Re8 21.Bd5

Perhaps White should have played 21.Kf1

21...Bc5

21...Bd6 22.f4 Bb8

22.Ra8 Ra6 23.Rxa6 Bxa6 24.Kf1 b4 25.Ne4! Bf8

26.Nd6! Bxd6 27.exd6 Rb8

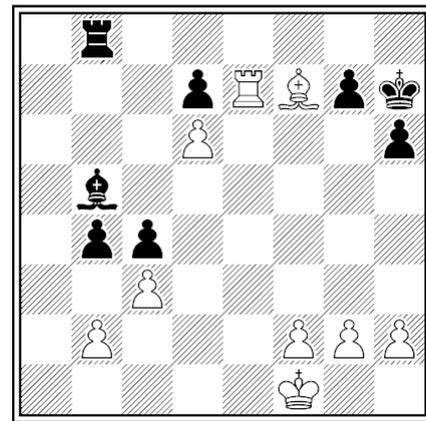
27...Rxe1+ 28.Kxe1

28.Re7 Bb5 29.Bxf7+ Kh7 (D)

30.h4! h5 31.Be8 Rb7 32.Ke2 Bc6 33.Ke3 bxc3 34.bxc3

Rb1 35.Bxd7! Re1+ 36.Kd4 Rxe7 37.Bxc6 1-0

So heading into the last round, Hebden and Heidenfeld led the way on 4/5, closely followed by Adams, Jones and both Atlas brothers on 3½, all hoping that a draw on the top board would put them in with a chance of victory. In the end Hebden won a long game against Heidenfeld to wrap up the Kilkenny Masters 2007 on a score of 5/6. This is the deciding game of the tournament.

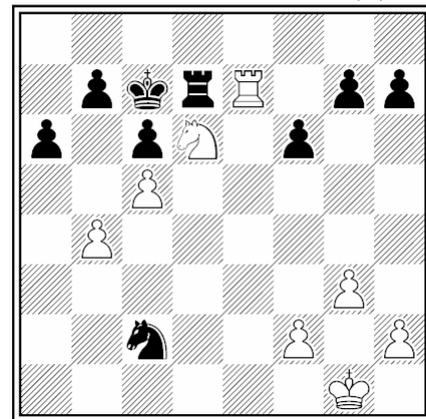


Heidenfeld, M - Hebden, M [C68]

Kilkenny Masters Kilkenny IRL (6), 2006

Notes by Gerry Graham

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Bxc6 dxc6 5.0-0 Bd6 6.d4 exd4 7.Qxd4 f6 8.Be3 Ne7 9.Nbd2 Be6 10.Rad1 Ng6 11.Nc4 Bxc4 12.Qxc4 Qe7 13.b4 0-0-0 14.Bc5 Rhe8 15.Bxd6 Rxd6 16.Rxd6 cxd6 17.Nd2 Nf4 18.a3 Qe5 19.g3 Ne6 20.c3 Nc7 21.Qd3 d5 22.exd5 Qxd5 23.Qxd5 Nxd5 24.c4 Nb6 25.c5 Rd8 26.Ne4 Nc4 27.Rc1 Nxa3 28.Nd6+ Kc7 29.Re1 Nc2 30.Re7+ Rd7 (D)



31.Re8 Rxd6 32.cxd6+ Kxd6 33.Rg8 g6 34.Rg7 b5 35.Rxh7 Nxb4 36.h4 c5 37.Kf1 Nc6 38.g4 a5 39.Rb7 b4 40.h5 gxh5 41.gxh5 a4 42.h6 a3 43.h7 a2 44.h8Q a1Q+ 45.Kg2 Qe5 46.Qc8 Qd5+ 47.f3 Qe6 48.Qf8+ Kd5 49.Rf7 Qe2+ 50.Kg3 Qe5+ 51.Kg2 Qg5+ 52.Kf2 Nd4 53.Rxf6 Kc4 54.Rf4 Kc3 55.Qd6 b3 56.Re4? 56.Qc7 56...b2 57.Re1 Qd2+ 58.Kf1 Qxe1+ 0-1

Below the top board, Adams beat Jones and Valeri Atlas beat Mark Orr to finish in joint second place on 4½/6. Dimitry Atlas' draw with Van Dijk and Baburin's win over Andrew Mendelson (leaving him unbeaten for the weekend apart from a drunken challenge in the bar on the Saturday night!) meant that they joined Heidenfeld on 4/6, as did surprise package John White, the 22nd seed, who performed 280 points above his rating winning the prize for the top untitled Irish player.

The Major section was jointly won by Eddie O'Connor,

## Leagues Roundup

Gerry MacElligott and Danny Mallaghan, all on 5/6. In fact the three only dropped points to each other with MacElligott beating Mallaghan in round 3, O'Connor beating MacElligott in round 4 and Mallaghan beating O'Connor in round 6 to leave the three level after MacElligott beat top seed Darco Polimac in the last round. Polimac had also made it to 4/5 after losing in the first round to Terence Fayne. The four grading sections were won by John Donoghue (4½/6), Mark Collins (4/6), Hammad Khonji (3½/6) and Stephen Roe (3½/6).

The James Mason section for players rated between 1200 and 1600 was won by Colin Menzies of Limerick on 5½/6. His only dropped half-point was against second placed Stephen Stokes of Bray who finished on 5/6. Shannon's Michael Normoyle finished third on 4½/6. The grading prizes were won by John Curtis of Inchicore on 4/6, Paul O'Donoghue of Cork on 3½/6, John O'Connor of Cork on 4/6 and Gregory Bailey of Rathmines on 4/6. The most impressive feat was achieved by David Kiely and Dermot Earls who both managed to draw all six of their games. I myself was matching them until round 5 when my dastardly opponent gave me a mate in three that I couldn't resist!

The Challengers section saw such a huge turn out (86 players in all) that it couldn't be accommodated in the Club House Hotel ballroom as usual and the top seven boards had to be moved upstairs beside the James Mason. This section saw the only 100% finish (aside from the two serial drawers above) as Brendan Mulvey from the University of Limerick won with a perfect 6/6. Five players finished in joint second on 5/6: Eoin McSweeney, Bernard Walsh, Andrew O'Donoghue, Edward Doyle and Fergal Kelly. There were also seven grading sections, won by Tony Deane, David Finan, John McKenna, John Gordon, Brendan Cuffe, Juhua Lili and Stephen Timoney.

### Prize Winners

**Masters:** 1st **Mark Hebden, GM** (England), 2nd - 3rd **Michael Adams, GM** (England), **Valeri Atlas IM** (Austria, but originally Russia). Best untitled Irish player: **John White**, Kilkenny.

**Major:** 1st - 3rd **Eddie O' Connor** (Dublin), **Gerard MacElligott** (Dublin), **Danny Mallaghan** (Belfast). Grading sections: top: **John Donoghue** (Cork); 2nd: **Mark Collins** (Dublin); 3rd: **Hammad Khonji**; 4th: **Stephen Roe**.

**James Mason:** 1st **Colin Menzies** (Limerick), 2nd **Stephen Stokes** (Bray), 3rd **Michael Normoyle** (Shannon). Grading sections: top: **John Curtis** (Inchicore); 2nd: **Paul O' Donoghue** (Cork); 3rd: **John O' Connor** (Cork); 4th: **Gregory Baily** (Rathmines).

**Challengers:** 1st **Brendan Mulvey** (Limerick); 2nd - 6th **Eoin McSweeney** (Cork); **Bernard Walsh** (Dungarvan), **Andrew O' Donoghue** (Cork), **Edward Doyle** (Royal Lopez), **Fergal Kelly** (Thurles). Grading sections: top: **Tony Deane** (Ballinasloe); 2nd: **David Finnan**, 3rd: **John McKenna** (Ballinasloe); 4th: **John Gordon** (Dungarvan); 5th: **Brendan Cuffe** (St. Benildus); 6th: **Juhua Lili** (University of Limerick); 7th: **Stephen Timoney** (Dublin).

### More information

Cross-tables [www.icu.ie](http://www.icu.ie)

### Munster

There was some drama in Division 1 when Charleville withdrew and Cork B, relegated last season, were offered the opportunity to contest the spot with Division 2 runners-up Shannon. However, this match never took place and Cork B regained premier status. Back on the chessboard, Douglas have edged ahead of champions Ennis A following the first five rounds, with 16.5 points to 15.5. However, there are nine more rounds to go in this home and away series, and both sides have yet to meet, so there is all to play for. Trailing five points back are Cork A, with Sarsfield, who have played one match fewer, on 9.5 points.

At the bottom of the table only 1.5 points separate Limerick A, Cork B and CCYMS, but Limerick look to be in the more vulnerable position having completed six rounds. Cork B also surprised their more fancied Cork A colleagues by snatching a draw in their game, and also defeated CCYMS.

Only one result has been reported in Division 2, Milford edging Dungarvan A 5-0, while Division 3 has seen Cork C defeating Cork D 3.5-1.5. The latter also played a double match against Dungarvan B and C, winning 3.5-1.5 and 4-1 respectively. However, the withdrawal of Adare in this division has thrown a spanner in the works as there are so few teams in the section. The late start in these divisions means teams have a lot of catching up to do.

### Leinster

League campaigns across Leinster are reaching the business end with the half way point reached shortly before Christmas. There's a familiar face atop the Armstrong with reigning champions Rathmines 2½ points clear of a rather unfamiliar face, St Benildus. Benildus, who have been avoided relegation on the last day in two of the last three years, have lost Simon Jeffares, Dave Willow and Sam Osborne for the year to the pressures of study, but have really put it up to Rathmines. Indeed, when the sides met in the last round before Christmas, Benildus went 2½-½ up to take over leadership of the table before ultimately losing 5-3 when the remaining five games were played.

At the other end of the table, albeit with games in hand, are Kilkenny, now shorn of three of last year's dream team, and a 3½-4½ defeat to Rathmines A together with a 4-4 draw with Rathmines B were a blow to their hopes of European qualification for next year.

There is a bit of a gap in standard throughout the league, however, as evidenced by a series of results which have seen Kilkenny beat Trinity 6½-1½, Trinity beat Bray 7½-½ and Bray beat Drogheda 6½-1½. Curiously, third-placed Elm Mount hammered fourth placed Dublin 7-1.

Results are in short supply in the Heidenfeld, where Rathmines A are well-placed for a promotion which could see an almost unprecedented three Rathmines teams in the

Armstrong. (Elm Mount did have a C team in the Heidenfeld a few years back, who were summarily hammered). Rathmines have benefitted from absorbing Jobstown's Heidenfeld team to make what was already the biggest club in the country even bigger. Rathmines B, however, are looking over their shoulders at the drop to the Ennis which, coupled with the precarious position of Rathmines' Armstrong B, could make three league movements for the club come May. The possibility of Rathmines replacing Rathmines in the Armstrong is intriguing – as you can't be placed lower than someone rated 150 points lower than you, the players who won promotion from the Heidenfeld quite possibly wouldn't be eligible to take up their place in the Armstrong, while those who were relegated would gain a reprieve!

Phibsboro currently lead the way in both the Heidenfeld and the Ennis, although in the Ennis, Elm Mount A do have a game in hand and will be rueing a 4-2 loss to their B team at the start of the season. Regular readers of this column will recall that last season saw B teams come out on top in almost all league ties against their A teams; however, the aberration in the Ennis is this year's only example of it happening this year. St Benildus are mid-table despite a strong team – not that it's John Healy's (1½ from 4) fault or anything<sup>2,3</sup>

Further down the ranks, it's a tough season for Elm Mount as they prop up the O'Hanlon and BA divisions. Kilkenny look set to storm the eleven-team O'Hanlon – three points clear with a whole match in hand as their superb youth development programme continues to reap its rewards – while Elm Mount's BA team are in the possibly unique position of being on negative points six games in! With a top board rated 950, they have struggled from the off, and the only individual game in which they didn't lose – a draw garnered against Dún Laoghaire on the opening day – was offset by being docked a point due to forfeiting a game, and a 4½ - -½ resulted, with whitewashes across the board in the remainder of their games. A last day clash against Dublin – averaging less than a point a game themselves – is likely to be no more than a chance for consolation for both teams.

No results to hand in the Bodley bar what I've garnered from my role as non-playing captain of the Benildus team, but if anyone stops Naomh Barrog, I'd be surprised. With a lowest rated player of 1075, they appear far too strong for any of the other teams, which often comprise young inexperienced players or those just starting playing competitive chess. Still, there's always the second promotion spot to chase!

Now, we've a couple of games for you, both from the Armstrong Cup, though both are from previous seasons. First up, Mel Ó Cinnéide's win over Alexander Baburin in last year's league.

2 See last issue's ICJ! – KB

3 That's 3 from 6 thank you! – JH

### Baburin,A - Ó Cinnéide,M [E32]

Armstrong (2), 01.10.2005

Notes by Mel Ó Cinnéide

1.d4 e6 2.c4 Nf6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 0-0 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.Qxc3 b5!? 7.cxb5 c6 8.Bg5

Alex opts for the solid option of returning the pawn.

8...cxb5 9.e3 Bb7 10.Nf3 a6 11.Bd3 d6 12.e4?!

Too committal

12...Nbd7

12...h6? 13.Bxf6 Qxf6 14.Qc7 Bc6 15.Qxd6±

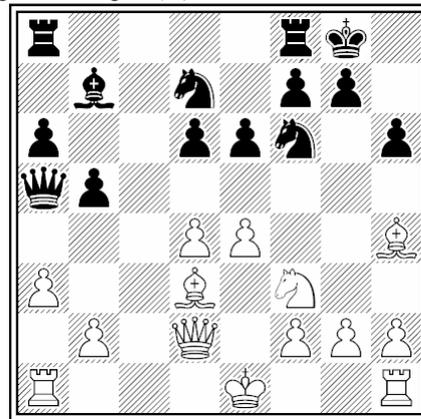
13.Qc2

13.0-0? Bxe4!

13...h6

Black has a fine game here.

14.Bh4 Qa5+! 15.Qd2 (D)



After 15.b4 Qb6 16.0-0 Rfc8 17.Qe2 Rc3 Black has an easy game.

15...b4!♣

I am very happy to have found this move! White seems to about to get a steady game after 15...Qxd2+ 16.Nxd2. Instead Black put a pawn en prise and lets it be pinned it to his queen! The point is of course that White's e-pawn hangs and there is no satisfactory way of defending it.

16.Bg3 e5?!

Better was to sac a pawn with 16...Nxe4 17.Bxe4 Bxe4 18.Bxd6 Rfc8 19.Bxb4 Qd5♣ when White is under unpleasant pressure.

17.dxe5 Nxe5

Also possible was 17...Nxe4 18.Bxe4 Bxe4 when Black is doing fine, regardless of how White captures on d6.

18.Bxe5

The safest option. 18.Nxe5? dxe5 19.f3 looks solid, but I had a hunch that White's position was a bit too loose. After the game, Fritz confirmed 19...Rad8 20.Rd1 Nxe4! 21.fxe4 Bxe4 22.axb4 Qa4 23.Qe2 Qxb4+ 24.Kf1 Qb3♣

18...dxe5 19.Qxb4 Qxb4+ 20.axb4 Bxe4?!

20...Nxe4! 21.0-0 Nxf2! I missed this. 22.Kxf2 e4 23.Ne1 exd3 24.Nxd3♣

21.Bxe4 Nxe4 22.0-0 f6♣ 23.Rfe1 Ng5 24.Nxg5

Accompanied by a draw offer. I didn't feel I had any great winning chances, but what chances are there are mine, and sometimes you just have to play on to see. Interestingly, Alex commented afterwards that he considered allowing me to capture of f3 and double his pawns, relying on the

probable resulting 4v3 R+P ending to be an easy draw (apparently the pawns are better doubled in this case).

**24...hgx5 25.Rec1 Rfd8**

or 25...Rfb8 26.Rc4 Rb6 27.Kf1

**26.g3 Rd2 27.b5 Rxb2 28.Rxa6 Rxa6**

28...Rb8 29.Rc7 R2xb5 30.Raa7

**29.bxa6 Ra2 30.Rc6= g4 31.Rc4 f5**

A dubious plan, but I still felt (wrongly) that I had some chances. My note to move 37 explains the mate I was dreaming of.

**32.Rc6 Kh7 33.Kg2 f4 34.gxf4 exf4 35.Rc4 g5**

35...g3 forced an immediate draw.

**36.Rc7+ Kg6 37.a7 Ra3**

To explain why I was playing for a win, my original plan here was to play 37...Ra1 threatening the nasty f3+ and Rg1 mate. However, I had overlooked the forced 38.h3! when I have to bale out with 38...g3!= 39.fxg3 Ra2+ 40.Kf3 Ra3+=

**38.Kf1 Ra2 39.Ke1 Kf5 40.Re7 Kf6 41.Rb7 Ke5**

**42.Re7+ Kf5 43.Kd1 Kf6 ½-½**

Oliver Dunne send us the following game from a few years ago, which he describes as his best game (so far).

**Dunne, Oliver (1812) -Casey, Eoghan (1777) [A00]**

**Armstrong Cup 1999-2000**

**(Elm Mount v Gonzaga, Rd.7, Bd.4)**

*Notes by Oliver Dunne*

My young opponent, whom I had played a number of times before, sits back with a look of aristocratic disdain not yet justified by the position.

**1.b4 e5 2.Bb2 d6 3.d3 f5 4.Nd2 Nf6 5.g3 c6 6.a3 Be7 7.Bg2 Qc7**

He plays the first few moves quickly to show he is not impressed by my Sokolsky (otherwise known as the Orang-Utan) Opening.

**8.c4 Be6 9.Ngf3 Nfd7**

This looks odd.

**10.h4 Na6 11.Rc1 Bf6**

Still moving quickly. Perhaps he feels the time saved will be useful in a later endgame? (But in the Irish Leagues games are adjourned and the opponents only meet again to play out their computer analysis.)

**12.Ng5 Bg8 13.e4 g6 14.exf5 gxf5**

Now Black's king is forced to stay in the centre.

**15.Qh5+ Ke7 16.0-0 h6 17.Nh3 Be6**

It seems White has been driven back.

**18.Rfe1 Rag8 19.d4 f4 (D)**

Arm outstretched, Black plays with a flourish. He assumes victory is not far off.

**20.Nxf4**

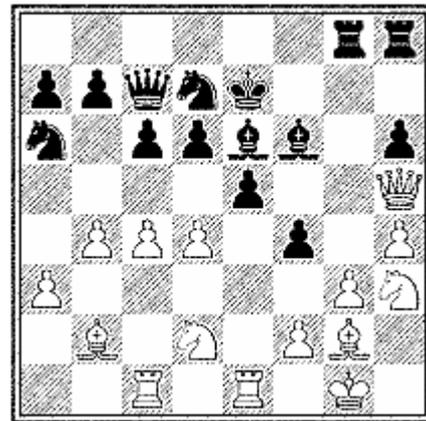
Oh, that's a surprise. Well, Black can take it. Must be winning.

**20...exf4 21.Rxe6+**

Surely White can't do that?, My opponent bends his back and brings his eyes closer to the board.

**21...Kxe6 22.Re1+ Ne5 23.dxe5 dxe5 24.Bh3+ Ke7**

Black sits back again. What can White do? Has it blown over? When you start a combination, you can't see it all.



You have to trust a move will be there.

**25.Qf5**

Logical, but hard to find.

**25...Bg7 26.Bxe5**

White has 30 minutes left, Black now has 11. My opponent leans right over the board. Face a little red. Gosh, it can't be. It's mate in 3 or lose everything. **1-0**

### Galway Winter League

The 2006/2007 Galway Winter League is now at the 4th round stage. This ICU-rated competition is run by the Galway Chess Club on every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday between November and March at the Galway Chess Club at the Bridge Centre, St Mary's Road, Galway.

There are 24 players entered in this, the 5<sup>th</sup> running of the main competition in Connaught during the winter months. The competition now attracts several entries from the active Ballinasloe club as well as great support (as usual) from Westport and perhaps should now be called the "Connaught Winter League"! Indeed, John McKenna from the Ballinasloe club has now taken over as guardian of the GWL draw so thanks are due to John for helping out.

In terms of how the competition is going, defending champion Marek Goban has again started strongly and shares the lead on 3/3 with Paul Ward and Hashem Mehrjoo. The major surprise so far is that Pete Morriss, club champion in 2005 and runner-up last year has begun sluggishly, losing to Paul Ward and drawing with Sarah Cormican. Sarah who performed well for Ireland during the summer is improving rapidly and is now a danger to all of those above her current 1258 rating! The Galway Winter League has 4 rounds to go, to be played between Feb 1st and Mar 29th. You can view the results of each round as they are updated on [www.galwaychess.net](http://www.galwaychess.net).

### More information:

The current Leinster league tables are available from both of the following sites:

<http://www.chessleague.net/> (Peter Scott)

<http://www.leinsterchess.com> (LCU official site)

More information on the Galway Winter League can be found on Galway Chess Club's homepage: [www.galwaychess.net](http://www.galwaychess.net)

## Galway Congress



Alexander Baburin receives his prize for first place in the Galway Congress  
Photo: Uncredited

### Ronan Duke

The 2006 Galway Congress which was held on the weekend of September 29<sup>th</sup> to October 1<sup>st</sup> was sponsored this year by Hewlett Packard, Galway and had an overall prize fund of over €4000. The tournament was once again played in relatively relaxed mood with many competitors remarking positively on comfortable surroundings of the Corrib Great Southern, where the congress has been based for the last several years.

In the Minor section which was again the largest competition, we saw a great performance from Kenneth Dillon of Ballinasloe who won all of his games. There has been a lot of enthusiasm in the Ballinasloe chess club for the past few years so it's great to see them making a breakthrough. Fintan Hegarty from NUI Galway was runner-up with 5.5/6 – a score that would have won most tournaments: Fintan drew his third game and so missed out on a chance to play Kenneth. Tom Monahan from Ballina who won his first 5 games, ended up in joint 3rd with Jonathan Kiely who won his last 5 games! Ashley Campion, Robert McKenna, Ivan Baburin (!) and Yoel Ferrer won grading prizes.

The Major section was won by Raino Soikkeli – after winning his first 5 games, Raino was offered a draw in the last game and wrapped up the title early with Robert White runner up on 5/6 and Michael Burniston and Ronan Sweeney tying for 3rd on 4.5/6. Grading prizes went to Pat McCarrick and James Osborne.

This year, we tried the experiment of amalgamating the over-1600's into the Masters section and to run a "tournament within a tournament" for the players rated 1600-2000.

In the top section, there was a record 64 players with ratings of 1600 and over and this ended up in a 4-way tie on 5/6 between Alex Baburin, Yury Rochev, Karl McPhillips and Alex Lopez (who was also presented with his FIDE title certificate during the prize-giving). At the

start of the final day, only Gawain Jones and Alex Lopez were on full points but after they agreed a quick draw, the field tightened up and Gawain lost his last round match against Alex Baburin (see below) to fall out of the placings altogether. Yury Rochev seemed to have a slight advantage on Alex Lopez throughout their final game on board 1 but the game ended up in a drawn knight and pawn endgame. So, after being 9 minutes away from a time default in round 1, Alex Baburin ended up taking the title on a tie-break!

There were also significant prizes on offer for the best performances in the Masters section for players under-2000 and this one went right down to the wire. With almost all the matches completed, it looked like this was going to a 5 way tie for first on 4/6 between Robert Stuart, David Murray, Pete Morriss, Stephen Moran and Ryan-Rhys Griffiths. However, right at the death, Mark McGovern won his last match to reach 4.5/6 and take 1st place with the others tying for joint second. Grading prizes went to Barry Walls, Rory Delaney and Zaidan Zulkilpi.

The Galway Chess Club website has the full cross-tables and standings list.



Former ICU President Eamonn Pitts (left) in action in Galway.

Photo: Uncredited

## Selected Games

**Baburin,A (2541) - Pilkievicz,N [E62]**

**Galway Chess Congress, Galway IRL (1), 29.09.2006**

Notes by Alexander Baburin ([www.chesstoday.net](http://www.chesstoday.net))

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nf3 Bg7 4.g3 0-0 5.Bg2 d6 6.0-0 Nc6 7.Nc3 Bd7**

This move is, of course, possible, but I think it is less flexible than 7...a6.

**8.d5 Na5 9.Qd3**

But I like to try develop the queen to d3 once in a while.  
9.b3 c5 10.Bb2 a6 11.Nd2 b5 12.Qc2 Rb8 13.Rae1 bxc4 14.bxc4 e5 15.Nd1 Nh5 16.e4 f5 17.f3 Bh6 18.Bc3 Nb7 19.Nf2 Qc7 20.exf5 gxf5 21.Bh3 Ng7 22.Nd3 Rbe8 23.f4 e4 24.Nb2 Nh5 25.Nd1 Bg7 26.Ne3 Bc8 27.Qb2 Re7 28.Rf2 Bxc3 29.Qxc3 Rg7 30.Ndf1 Nd8 31.Rb1 Rg6 32.Ng2 Ng7 33.Nh4 Rgf6 34.Ne3 R6f7 35.Rfb2 Bb7 36.Rb6 Bc8 37.R1b3 Bb7 38.Qb2 Bc8 39.Kf2 Qd7 40.Rb8 Qc7 41.Ra8 Bb7 42.Ra7 Qa5 43.Rb6 Bc8 44.Rxf7 Nxf7

45.Ke2 Ne5 46.fxe5 f4 47.Rb8 Bxh3 48.Rxf8+ Kxf8  
49.gxf4 Qd8 50.Nhg2 Qe8 51.e6 Qh5+ 52.Ke1 Bxg2  
53.Qxg2 Qh6 54.Qg5 Qg6 55.h4 Ke8 56.f5 Qh5 57.Qxg7  
Qxh4+ 58.Ke2 Qh5+ 59.Ng4 1-0 Furman,S-  
Bannik,A/Moscow 1961/URS-ch (59).

The more common move is 9.Nd2

### 9...c5 10.e4 Rb8?!

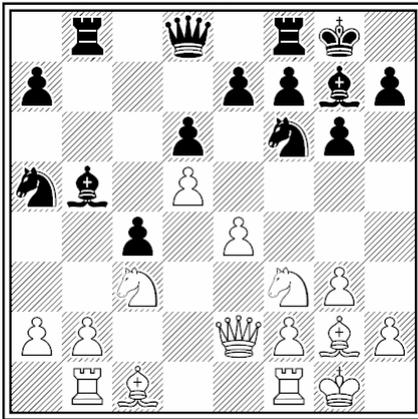
The first step in the wrong direction. Better is 10...e5 for example: 11.dxe6 Bxe6 12.b3 Nc6 13.Bb2 Ng4 14.Rad1 Qa5 15.Qc2 Nge5 16.Nxe5 Nd4 17.Nc6 bxc6 18.Qd2 Rfb8 19.Ba1 Bh3 20.Kh1 Bxg2+ 21.Kxg2 Re8 22.Rfe1 Re6 23.h4 h5 24.Qd3 Rae8 25.Na4 Qa6 26.Bc3 R8e7 27.Bd2 Re8 28.Bc3 R8e7 29.Rb1 Re8 30.Rbd1 - S.Guliev-I.Zaitsev, Moscow 1995.

If Black wanted to prepare ...b5, he should have started with 10...a6 Still, after 11.Re1 White's chances are better.

### 11.Rb1 b5?

Again, necessary was 11...a6. Then, White might consider 12.b4 cxb4 13.Rxb4

### 12.cxb5 c4? 13.Qe2 Bxb5? (D)



At that point my opponent appeared happy about his position, but he missed the following blow:

### 14.b4!

Now Black is doomed.

### 14...cxb3

14...Nd7 15.Qc2 Bxc3 16.Qxc3 Nb7 17.Bh6 f6 18.Nd4!+-  
15.Nxb5 bxa2 16.Qxa2 Nxe4 17.Nfd4 Bxd4 18.Nxd4  
Rxb1 19.Qxb1 Nc5 20.Bh6 Re8 21.Qa1 f6 22.Ne6 Nxe6  
23.dxe6 Nb3 1-0

### Rochev,Y - Lopez,A

Galway Masters, Galway IRL (6), 01.10.2006

1.c4 b6 2.d4 Bb7 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 e6 5.e3 Be7 6.Bd3 d5  
7.cxd5 Nxd5 8.0-0 0-0 9.e4 Nb4 10.Be2 c5 11.dxc5 Qxd1  
12.Rxd1 Bxc5 13.a3 N4c6 14.Bf4 Rd8 15.Rxd8+ Nxd8  
16.Rd1 Be7 17.Kf1 Kf8 18.h4 Ba6 19.Bxb8 Bxe2+  
20.Kxe2 Rxb8 21.Rd7 Rb7 22.Rxb7 Nxb7 23.h5 g6  
24.hxg6 hxg6 25.Ne5 Bf6 26.Nd7+ Ke7 27.Nxf6 Kxf6  
28.f4 g5 29.g3 gxf4 30.gxf4 Ke7 31.b4 Kd7 32.Kd3 Kc6  
33.Kd4 Nd6 34.a4 a6 35.Ne2 a5 36.bxa5 bxa5 37.Nc1  
Nb7 38.Nb3 f6 39.e5 f5 40.Kc4 Kb6 41.Kd4 Kc6 42.Kc4  
1/2-1/2

### Baburin,A - Hoffmann,H [E65]

Galway Chess Congress, Galway IRL (3), 30.09.2006

Notes by Alexander Baburin ([www.chesstoday.net](http://www.chesstoday.net))

### 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nf3 Bg7 4.g3 c5 5.Bg2 0-0 6.0-0 cxd4 7.Nxd4 Nc6 8.Nc3 d6

8...Nxd4 The line 9.Qxd4 d6 10.Qd3 gives White some edge, so many players are tempted by this pawn sacrifice. I don't think that it is sound, though Black might get some play.

### 9.Nxc6 bxc6 10.Bxc6 Rb8

I once faced 10...Bh3 That game was rather curious: 11.Bxa8 Qxa8 12.f3 Bxf1 13.Kxf1 Rc8 14.Qd3 Rc5 15.Be3 Rh5 16.Bg1 Qc8 17.Rd1 Qh3+ 18.Ke1 Bh6 19.Qd4 Qg2 20.Qf2 Qh1 21.Kf1!+- Bg7 22.Qg2 Qxg2+ 23.Kxg2 Nd7 24.Bd4 Bxd4 25.Rxd4 Rc5 26.b3 Nb6 27.Kf2 a5 28.Nd5 Nc8 29.Ke3 Kf8 30.Kd2 e6 31.Nc3 Ke7 32.g4 Nb6 33.Ne4 Rc6 34.g5 a4 35.h4 axb3 36.axb3 Nd7 37.Kc3 Nc5 38.b4 Nxe4+ 39.Rxe4 Ra6 40.b5 Ra2 41.Kb4 Kd7 42.Rf4 Ke7 43.b6 Rxe2 44.Kb5 1-0 Baburin,A-Manca,F/Cappelle la Grande 1993/TD (44)

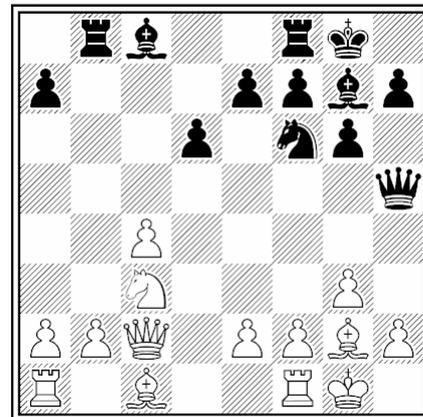
### 11.Bg2

This is the most common move. White can also try 11.Qa4 for example: 11...Bh3 12.Bg2 Bxg2 13.Kxg2 Qd7 14.Rb1 Qxa4 15.Nxa4 Rfc8 16.c5 dxc5 17.Be3 c4 18.Bxa7 Rb4 19.Nc3 e6 20.Bd4 Nd5 21.Bxg7 Kxg7 22.Rfc1 Nxc3 23.Rxc3 Rcb8 24.Rc2 g5 25.a3 Rb3 26.Rxc4 Rxb2 27.Rxb2 Rxb2 28.e3 Ra2 29.Ra4 h5 30.h3 f5 31.Ra7+ Kf6 32.Ra8 g4 33.hxg4 hxg4 34.a4 Ra1 35.a5 Ke5 36.a6 Ke4 37.a7 Ke5 38.Kh2 Ke4 39.Kg2 Ke5 - Kramnik,V-Topalov,V/Monte Carlo 1997/CBM 057 ext (39)

### 11...Qa5 12.Qc2

I vaguely remembered that usually White tried to prevent the shift of the enemy queen to the kingside by playing 12.Nb5

### 12...Qh5 (D)



### 13.Nd5

Without knights Black won't be able to create serious threats on the kingside.

### 13...Nxd5 14.cxd5 Bf5?!

Better was 14...Bh3 or 14...Bg4

### 15.e4 Rfc8?!

I think that was too much.

### 16.Qa4 Bg4 17.Qxa7 Be2 18.Re1 Bf6

Curiously, Junior 8 (running on a rather average PC), believes that White is only slightly better here!

**19.a4!**

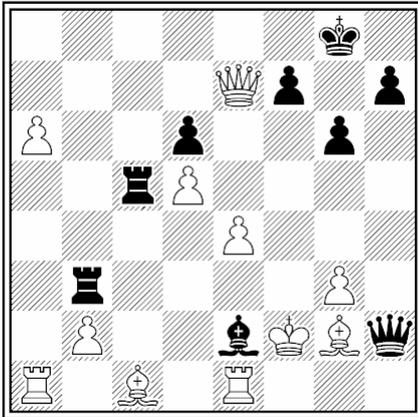
While Black tries to create threats on the kingside, White plays his main trump on the opposite wing. Black can get one pawn back - but not two!

**19...Rb3 20.a5 Rc5 21.a6! Bd4 22.Qxe7 Bxf2+**

Or 22...Rc2 23.a7 Bxf2+ 24.Kxf2 (24.Kh1 wins too.)

24...Bf3+ 25.Kf1

**23.Kxf2 Qxh2 (D)**

**24.Qd8+**

This is not the only path to victory, but it is the shortest. White also wins after 24.Rxe2 Rxc3 25.Kf1 Rxc2 but here he must find 26.Qd8+ Kg7 27.Bh6+ Kxh6 28.Qg5+!!

**24...Kg7 25.Bh6+! Kxh6**

25...Qxh6 26.Rxe2 is also hopeless.

**26.Rh1 1-0**

Next, we have the top two boards from the final round. First, a queen hunt goes astray for Gawain against Alex:

**Jones,G (2467) - Baburin,A (2544)**

**Galway Masters, Galway IRL (6), 01.10.2006**

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.c4 Nb6 5.exd6 exd6 6.Nc3 Nc6 7.Be2 Be7 8.h3 Bf5 9.Be3 0-0 10.b3 Bg5 11.Bxg5 Qxg5 12.g4 Bg6 13.h4 Qf6 14.Qd2 Nxd4 15.g5 Qe5 16.f4 Qc5 17.b4 Qc6 18.Qxd4 Qxh1 19.0-0-0 Qxh4 20.c5 Nd7 21.Nd5 Rae8 22.Nxc7 dxc5 23.bxc5 Re4 24.Qd6 Nxc5 25.Qxc5 Qxf4+ 26.Kb2 h6 27.Nb5 hxg5 28.Nc3 Rb4+ 29.Ka3 a5 30.Nd5 Qg3+ 31.Nf3 Re4 32.Ne7+ Rxe7 33.Qxe7 g4 34.Qe5

34.Rd8 Rxd8 35.Qxd8+ Kh7 36.Qh4+ Qxh4 37.Nxh4 38...Qh3 35.Qh2 Re8 36.Qxh3 gxh3 37.Nd4 Be4 38.Kb2 h2

38...Bf3 39.Bxf3 (39.Nxf3 Rxe2+ 40.Kb1 Rf2 41.Nd4)

39...g5

**0-1**

**McPhillips,K - Jones,G**

**Galway Masters, Galway, 30.09.2006**

1.d4 e6 2.c4 f5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e3 d6 5.Bd3 e5 6.Nge2 a5 7.0-0 g6 8.b3 Bg7 9.Bb2 Nc6 10.a3 0-0 11.d5 Ne7 12.b4 axb4 13.axb4 Rxa1 14.Qxa1 g5 15.Bc2 f4 16.Ne4 f3 17.N2g3 fxg2 18.Kxg2 Ng6 19.Nxf6+ Qxf6 20.Bxg6 Qxg6 21.Qd1 g4 22.Qb1 Qf7 23.Qe4 h5 24.f4 gxf3+ 25.Rxf3 Qxf3+ 26.Qxf3 Rxf3 27.Kxf3 e4+ 28.Kxe4 h4 29.Bxg7 hxg3 30.hxg3 Kxg7 31.c5 Kf6 32.cxd6 cxd6 33.Kf4 Bf5 34.e4

Bg6 35.g4 Bh7 36.g5+ Kf7 37.Ke3 Ke7 38.Kd4 Kd7 39.Kd3 Kc7 40.Ke3 Kb6 41.Kd3 Bg6 42.Ke3 Kb5 43.Kd4 Kb6 44.Ke3 Kc7 45.Kd3 Kd8 46.Ke3 Ke8 47.Kd4 Kf8 48.Kd3 Be8 49.Ke3 Bd7 50.Kf3 Kf7 51.Ke3 Kg6 52.Kf4 Bc8 53.e5 Bd7 54.e6 Bb5 55.Kg4 Bc4 56.e7 Bb5 0-1

**Baburin,A - Hunt,H**

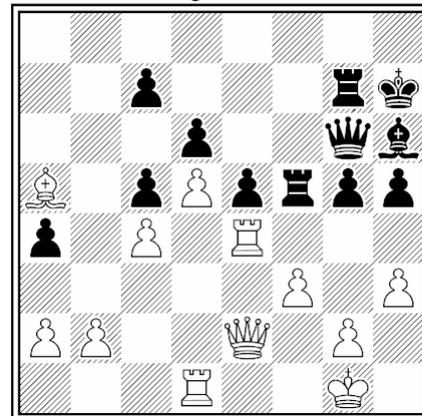
**Galway Chess Congress, Galway IRL, 01.10.2006**

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.Bg5 c5 4.e3 cxd4 5.exd4 b6 6.Bd3 Bb7 7.0-0 Be7 8.c4 0-0 9.Nc3 d5 10.Re1 Nbd7 11.Qe2 Re8 12.Rad1 Nf8 13.Ne5 dxc4 14.Bxc4 Nd5 15.Bc1 Bb4 16.Rd3 Rc8 17.Rg3 Ng6 18.Rd1 Bxc3 19.bxc3 Qc7 20.Bxd5 Bxd5 21.Qh5 Be4 22.Re1 Bf5 23.h4 Red8 24.Qe2 Rd5 25.h5 Nxe5 26.Bf4 Qc4 27.Bxe5 Qxe2 28.Rxe2 g6 29.hxg6 hxg6 30.Rge3 Kf8 31.f3 g5 32.g4 Bg6 33.Bf6 Ke8 34.Rb2 Rc4 35.Kf2 Kd7 36.Ke2 Kc6 37.Kd2 b5 38.Re5 and later drawn with both players down to less than 2 minutes... 1/2-1/2

**Rochev, Yury - Short, Stephen**

**Galway Masters, Galway, 30 Sep 2006**

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 g6 3.e4 d6 4.d4 Bg7 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2 e5 7.d5 Nbd7 8.Bg5 h6 9.Bh4 a5 10.Nd2 Nc5 11.0-0 g5 12.Bg3 Nh7 13.Nb3 b6 14.Nxc5 bxc5 15.Bg4 f5 16.Bxf5 Bxf5 17.exf5 Rxf5 18.Re1 Qf8 19.Ne4 Qf7 20.Rc1 h5 21.h3 Nf6 22.f3 Rf8 23.Nxf6+ Qxf6 24.Re4 Qg6 25.Qe2 Bh6 26.Rf1 Kh7 27.Rd1 Rg8 28.Be1 a4 29.Ba5 Rg7 (D)



30.g4 Rf8 31.Kg2 Rgf7 32.Rf1 Kg8 33.Bd2 hxg4 34.hxg4 Rh7 35.Rh1 Rff7 36.Rh5 Rf8 37.Qd3 Rhf7 38.Rh3 Qf6 39.Qe2 Rh7 40.Qe3 Kf7 41.Qa3 Rfh8 42.Qxa4 Bf8 43.Qd7+ Be7 44.Rxh7+ Rxh7 45.Qf5 Qxf5 46.gxf5 Rh8 47.a4 Ra8 48.a5 Ra6 49.Re3 c6 50.dxc6 Rxc6 51.Rb3 Bd8 52.Rb8 Bc7 53.Rc8 1-0

Thanks to Fiona Cormican, Indy Banerjee, Lorcan O'Toole and Martin Power and Hewlett Packard Galway for their help to make this happen.

**More information:**

[www.galwaychess.net/](http://www.galwaychess.net/), Galway Chess club's official site has full crosstables and standings.

## Braille Chess Association of Ireland Open Tournament 2006

### *Seán Loftus*

The Braille Chess Association of Ireland biennial open tournament took place this year from Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> to Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> September.

After an absence of eight years we returned to Cork, the home city of our organiser and mentor, Barry O'Brien. The venue was the Blarney Park Hotel, about 5 miles from the city centre.

On this occasion while the number of visiting players showed a slight increase with 7 travelling from England and 1 from Sweden, the number of Irish blind and vision impaired participants went down from 11 to 5. For the most part it was family and other commitments which brought about this significant decrease in our numbers. One who had every intention of participating was our Chairman, Eamonn Casey, but only 2 days before the tournament he was obliged to withdraw because of illness. Barry O'Brien, who had already recruited 4 sighted players from the Cork area to bring the number of participants up to 18, was able to find yet another willing volunteer in Kevin Foley to maintain an even number.

The tournament was played over 6 rounds according to the Swiss system. Round 1 got under way at about 8 o'clock on the Friday evening. As usual in this type of event the higher rated players were paired off against those in the lower half of the draw. In all cases the players with the higher gradings came out on top, but 2 of the Irish players Michael Meaney and Shane Hall battled on until close to the time control before losing out to their higher rated opponents.

In the second round, which took place on the Saturday morning, the winners from round 1 were matched up and here we had the first surprise result of the tournament. Barry Foran from Cork overcame a grading deficit of some 280 points to defeat Les Whittle (England). Going into round 3, which was played in the afternoon, there were 3 others tying with Barry on full points. These were Ernie McElroy and Philip Doyle (Ireland) and Richard Murphy (England). Ernie and Philip both won their games and so, at the halfway stage of the tournament they shared the lead on 3 points, with Colin Chambers (England) just half a point behind. In round 4 on the Sunday morning the McElroy-Doyle encounter resulted in a draw. Colin won his game, so this allowed him to join them in a tie for the lead on 3.5. On 3 points was Olle Engstrom (Sweden).

In the afternoon Colin and Philip drew and Ernie got the better of Olle. Going into Monday morning's final round Ernie led on 4.5 followed by Philip and Colin on 4. On 3.5 was Sean Loftus (Ireland).

The game between Ernie and Colin was soon drawn, so Philip knew he needed a win against Sean to join them in a

tie for first place. His plan of all-out attack proved to be somewhat ambitious, and he ended up on the losing side.

### Leading scores

McElroy 5; Chambers, Loftus 4.5; Doyle, Plechaty, Coughlan 4.

The first grading prize was won by Richard Murphy. George Plechaty (England) shared the second grading prize with Ann Coughlan from Cork, and the third grading prize was won by Jim Cuthbert. Jim has lived for many years in England, but he was born on this side of the Irish Sea. Once again we must express our sincere thanks to our tournament controller, Tim Conlan. Tim carried out the task in his usual calm and capable manner. A special word also for local man, John Quigley, who assisted Tim during the weekend. John is an experienced tournament controller in his own right and we are most grateful to him for giving up his time on our behalf. We must apologise to the 5 Cork players, Ann Coughlan, Barry Foran, Joe Brown, Michael Costello and Kevin Foley, whose participation greatly enhanced the tournament for us all. Due to no fault of theirs they missed the prize-giving. A change of time and location somehow was not communicated to them, and whereas it was believed they had gone home, they were in another part of the hotel waiting to return to the presentation in the tournament hall.

For those not playing chess there was a coach trip to Killarney organised by Barry O'Brien on the Saturday. Despite some heavy rain this outing was enjoyed by all.

At dinner that evening we were honoured by the presence of the Lord Mayor of Cork, councillor Michael Ahern and his wife, Eileen. Some photographs were taken and there were some words of welcome to the city of Cork by the Lord Mayor. There were also expressions of thanks to both the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress for so willingly making themselves available to be with us. Once the meal was over, the music got underway. The musicians were listed in the programme as Declan O'Keefe and friend. The friend turned out to be a lady with an excellent singing voice. After dinner on the Sunday evening there was the customary informal sing-along which again brought the final evening of the weekend to a most pleasant conclusion.

In addition to those already mentioned, special words of gratitude are due to Barry O'Brien and his Wife, Mary, and also to Noreen Cleary. Their involvement and commitment ensured that everything ran smoothly so that this year's tournament was another outstanding success.

The Braille Chess Association of Ireland is extremely grateful to the following organisations for their most generous support:

- The National Council for the Blind of Ireland
- Irish Blindsports
- The National League of the Blind of Ireland
- The Civil and Public Service Union,
- SIPTU.

## 11th Individual World Chess Championships for the Blind

8<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> October 2006, Goa India

*Report by Justin Mulrooney, who acted as guide to Michael Delaney in India.*

We arrived on the 8<sup>th</sup> of October to a friendly and welcoming arrival. A band played music and sang. We had quite an eventful trip. We had been upgraded between London and Mumbai to first-class. We arrived in Mumbai with less than an hour to make the next flight. We just made our flight to Goa, as the doors were virtually closing.

The next day was the opening ceremony, with presentations to the organisers and sponsors. Shri Pratapsinh Rane, Chief Minister of Goa, making the first move of the championships, proudly stating that this was India's first time hosting the WCC for the Blind. Indian GM Sandeevan Chanda flew in specially from Kolkata. The tournament arbiter was Mr Kameshwaran, who became India's first international arbiter. There was the technical meeting regarding the escorting of players for breaks by neutrals.

Michael's 1<sup>st</sup> game, white against Norlis Yera Tamayo (Cuba, 2211), was quite eventful. Despite Michael's early chances, Norlis took the advantage, before a blunder gave Michael a piece. Sadly, due to time trouble, Michael blundered his queen and in so doing lost the game. In his 2<sup>nd</sup> game, Michael felt that he was just outplayed by a better player in the form of Oscar Saes (Spain, 2006).

Next, Michael had white against Patrick Beggren (Sweden, 1913). The position at the start was quite interesting. Unfortunately, Michael again found himself in time trouble and Patrick's experience in these types of positions gave him an advantage. With best play, Michael could have made a draw out of quite a complicated position. From the start of game 4, Michael had Wikman Bengt (Finland, 1986) on the back foot. Winning going into the endgame, Michael again got into time trouble, and, two pawns up, was forced into a drawing exchange of pieces.

The 5<sup>th</sup> game saw Michael play Vasant Patant (India, 1900) in a hard fought battle which ended up a draw. The 6<sup>th</sup> round game was against Crisolon Vilas Boas (Brazil, over 2000) was a particularly frustrating game as Boas forced Michael to swap off when otherwise Michael would have been better. This game was a draw after 34 moves. So after 6 rounds of Michael was on 1½ points.

The 7<sup>th</sup> game was full of drama. His opponent was Jose Lucena Vas (Brazil, 2000+). The game was looking like it was heading for a draw, but Michael blundered in time trouble and lost. In the eighth round Michael's opponent was Elisabeth Fries (Germany, 1831). Michael decided to play a new opening and this was a very enjoyable game to watch. In a very complicated position, a pawn up, Michael agreed a draw.

A bye in round 9 left Michael on 3.5/9, 69<sup>th</sup> of 73. The strong tournament had 45 players rated >2000. Most of Michael's games went the full 6 hours. The tournament was won by Vladimir Berlinskiy (Russia, 2301) on 7.5/9.

## Tournament Roundup

### Mulcahey Cup

Alex Lopez is the proud holder of the Mulcahey Cup, having defeated no less than Karl McPhillips to retain the trophy he won last year. He was unbeaten throughout, scoring 5.5/6, with his only draw conceded to Rory Quinn of Ennis. McPhillips was clear second. Joint third were locals Tom Healy and Henk de Jonge. Grading prizes were awarded to Alex Martinovic (U1800), Ricky Riordain (U1500) and Daniel Cashin (U1200).

The tournament was held this year between the 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of Jan at UCC, Cork, and run by DJ O'Donoghue.

### Leinster Chess Union Christmas Blitz

The annual Leinster Chess Union Christmas Blitz was held on Tuesday 12th December 2006 at the Phibsboro Chess Club. Nineteen players took part. The event was originally scheduled to be a ten round swiss. Unfortunately due to a power failure in the area around Mountjoy Street the tournament did not commence until 9 pm and as a consequence had to be reduced to eight rounds. However this did not dampen the enthusiasm of the players and a great nights chess was had by all. The tournament was, as usual impeccably controlled by Michael Germaine.

First place was awarded on tie break to the Lithuanian player Zygimantas Jakubauskas representing Elm Mount. Runner up was Killian Delaney from Rathmines. In their head to head clash Killian was unlucky not to take the full point, when in a King + Rook versus King endgame scramble Killian's time ran out two moves from checkmate.

#### Final standings

Place	Name	Rating	Score
1-2	Jakubauskas, Zygimantas	1966	6.5
	Delaney, Killian	1959	6.5
3-7	Fitzsimons, David	2100	5
3-7	Zvolanek, Jan	1800	5
3-7	Murray, David B.	1961	5
3-7	Osborne, Sam C.	1881	5
3-7	Bajcar, Tomas	1686	5

### Bray CC East Coast Open 2006

*Mervyn Honner*

We had 15 entries, Denis Dempsey from Dublin CC & the other 14 players from Bray CC. James Finnegan (UG), was playing for his first time in ten years & made the journey, religiously for the six Club Wednesdays that the tournament was held, all the way from Shilelagh, in the southern-most tip of Co. Wicklow.

All of the other players are regular LCU league players, some of whom played when the East Coast Open was first held in 2004, when it was won by Eric Bennett. Pat Reynolds, Bray Senior Club Champion 2005, also won Bray CC East Coast Open 2006 on 6/6 points. Brian Gaines came second on 4.5 points, while Colin Byford

came third on 4 points. Denis Dempsey and Pat Quill came joint first in the minor section < 1500, on 4 points each. Pat Quill also lifted the Bray Minor Club Champion Trophy 2006, as the highest placed Bray CC player < 1500.

This beautiful mahogany knight was made by the sculptor and former Bray CC member Victor Brophy and first won by Bray CC Secretary Mervyn Honner in 1996. Hugh Taylor came third in the Minor (<1500) section with 3.5 points. Jamie Dowling won the grading prize for players >1350, while Billy Robinson won the grading prize for players <1351, both finishing on 3 points each.

The rest of the players are placed in finishing order on the attached list of "Final Standings".

Most games were played on club nights in "The Esplanade Hotel", Bray Sea Front and it is hoped to make this an annual event, to take place from mid-August 2007 to end-Sept. 2007, again on a six round swiss basis & perhaps also incorporating the Bray Senior Club Championship title.

Place	Name	Elo	Pts.
Open: 1 <sup>st</sup>	Pat. Reynolds	1971	6
Open: 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Brian Gaines	1582	4.5
Open: 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Colin Byford	1677	4
Minor: =1 <sup>st</sup>	Denis Dempsey	1358	4
Bray Minor Ch.	Pat. Quill	1163	4
Minor: 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Hugh Taylor	1350	3.5
Grading > 1350	Jamie Dowling	1369	3
Grading < 1351	Billy Robinson	1292	3
=7 <sup>th</sup>	Vincent Denard	1002	3
	Eugene Rellis	1373	3
=11 <sup>th</sup>	James Finnegan	UG	2
	Mervyn Honner	1317	2
	Paul Ryan	1273	2
=14 <sup>th</sup>	Frank Holohan	1370	1
	Bernie Stokes	700	1

### Limerick Open, 2006

GM Nick Pert was the winner of Limerick 2006, a tournament which saw a new lease of life under new management. Seventy-five players competed in the event, almost twice the total who turned up last year. Competition for the top spot was fierce, with three English IMs, Simon Williams, Simon Ansell and Lawrence Cooper all finishing just half a point behind Pert on 5/6. Williams and Pert had drawn in round five, but Karl McPhillips drew with Williams in the final round to give Pert the title. McPhillips finished joint fifth with Rory Quinn, Sam Osbourne and Nick Larter.

**Fitzsimons,D (2100) - Twomey,P (1642) [B01]**

**Limerick Open 2006 Limerick (3), 30.10.2006**

*Notes by Fitzsimons,David*

**1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qd6 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 a6 6.Be3**  
6.g3 is the critical line.

**6...g6?!**

Black plays along with White's plan of Qd2 and 0-0-0 by allowing White to exchange off the dark-squared Bs with

Bh6

**7.Qd2 Bg7 8.0-0 b5 9.Bd3 Bb7 10.Bh6**

10.Bf4 Qd8 11.Qe2± is another plan

**10...0-0**

△10...Bxh6 11.Qxh6 b4 12.Ne2 Bxf3 13.gxf3 Qd5

**11.Rhe1 Re8**

Now Black is able to drop his B back to h8 and retain control of the dark-squares so white finally exchanges Bs 11...Bxf3 12.gxf3 b4 13.Ne4 Qxd4 14.Bxg7 Kxg7 15.Nxf6 exf6 (15...Qxf6 16.Be4 Nc6 17.Bxc6 Qxc6 18.Qxb4) 16.Re4±

**12.Bxg7 Kxg7 13.Ne4!**

The main point behind Re1: White is able to exchange off the main defender of Blacks K-side before Black has started a counterattack

**13...Nxe4 14.Bxe4 Bxe4 15.Rxe4± 15...Nd7**

15...h6 16.Rh4 g5 17.Rh3! intending Rg3 and h2-h4 at an appropriate moment

**16.Rh4 h5**

16...Rh8 17.Qh6+ Kg8 may have been better although it looks unattractive.

**17.g4! Nf6**

17...Qd5 18.gxh5! Qxf3 19.hxg6 Rh8 20.Rf4 Qd5 21.Rxf7±

**18.gxh5 Nxh5 19.Rxh5!! gxh5 20.Rg1+ Kf8**

△20...Kh8 but 21.Ne5 Qf6 22.Rg5 h4 23.f4!+- intending Qf2 is winning for White

**21.Ne5 e6 22.Qh6+ Ke7 23.Qg5+ Kf8**

23...f6 24.Qg7+ Kd8 25.Nf7+ wins the queen.

**24.Qf6**

White threatens 25 Qxf7# and 25 Ng6+ Kg8 26 Qh8# and Black cannot parry both threats. **1-0**

### Munster Championship 2006

There are few details available on this event played Hearne's Hotel in Clonmel last November. The winner was Frank Noon won five points. Sharing second and third were Rory Quinn and PJ Rea on 4.5 points. Best under 1600 was Eamonn Lambden, while Jon Kiely was best under 1350.

### City of Dublin Championships

*Pat Fitzsimons*

The City of Dublin Championships took place recently over the weekend of 8th – 10<sup>th</sup> September 2006. This year the championships moved to the Southside to the home of the Inchicore Chess Club in St. Michael's Parish Centre, Emmet Road, Inchicore. A total of 69 players competed. Interestingly, there were a total of 18 different nationalities represented in the 4 sections.

All of the sections were keenly contested. There were 13 players competing in the Masters Section. The winner of the Section, and City of Dublin Champion for 2006 was Kilkenny's Karl McPhillips on tie break from Mark Quinn IM, with both players on a score of 4.5/6. Third place went to Pavel Madynski on a score of 4/6, while Rory Quinn (Ennis) won a grading prize with a score of 3.5 out of six

which included wins over the two IMs, in the tournament, Mark Quinn and Gavin Wall.



Colm Daly watches as Karl McPhillips (left) takes on Rory Quinn at the City of Dublin  
Photo: Michael Germaine

20 players contested the Majors Section which was won outright by Peter J. Hayes on a score of 5/6. Slawomir Jurkiewicz and Semyon Mkrтчjan finished second and third respectively on scores of 4.5/6 while the grading prize was won by David Grzymek.



Peter Hayes receives his prize from Pat Fitzsimons  
Photo: Michael Germaine

The Challengers Section was very keenly contested by 18 players and resulted in a three way tie at the top with three players scoring 4.5/6. They were Ronan Sweeney, Tom O' Sullivan and Senan Bannon with Ronan taking first place on tie break. Atanas Kouhtev took the grading prize with a score of 4/6.

The Juniors Section was also contested by 18 players and was won outright by Ciaran Walsh with the weekends highest score of 5.5/6. John Thompson finished in the runner-up spot with a score of 5/6 with Charles Barker finishing in 3<sup>rd</sup> position on 4.5/6. Gregory Bailey, Philip Maguire and John Costigan, who finished in 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> places respectively, were also amongst the prizes.

One interesting feature of the weekend was the fact that two players fell foul of the new FIDE rules concerning mobile phones ringing during games, despite warnings to all players at the beginning of each round to turn off mobile phones. Both players were in contention for the top prizes in their sections until the incidents occurred and the games involved were awarded to their opponents. There were also

two incidents concerning disputes about the “touch piece” rule not being observed.

All-in-all the competition, while down in numbers compared to 2005, was very successful and the playing venue, inclusive of the great hospitality provided by the Parish Centre’s volunteers, was excellent.

Games and many more photographs from the event are also available on the ICU website.



Sixty-nine players took part in the tournament, which was held in St Michael's Parish Centre, in Inchicore  
Photo: Michael Germaine

## Limerick Monthly Rapidplay - November

John Alfred

The first Limerick Monthly Rapidplay was held in the Kilmurry Lodge Hotel, Castletroy, Limerick in November 2006.

John Alfred controlled it with assistance from Una Mulvey and some parents. 79 children attended from a variety of local towns and villages, with some from Galway and West Clare.

Level 3 was won by Aidan O'Sullivan from Bruff with Christopher Young from Cratloe coming 2nd. John Cormican from Clarenbridge took 3rd place on tie-break with Lucinda Holland. The ladies prize was awarded to Lucinda Holland.

Level 2 was won by Jack McCarthy, with Dara Shanahan from Patrickswell/Co Limerick coming 2nd. Andreas O'Brien/Adare/Co Limerick came 3rd on tie break with Joshua O'Donnell and Daniel Walsh/Killimer. The Ladies prize was awarded to Claire Bannon from Killimer/Co Clare.

Level 1 was won by Franky Martyn, with James Walker/Croom/Co Limerick coming 2nd. James Moran came 3rd on tie-break with Eoin Trehy. Megan O'Shea/Limerick was awarded the Ladies prize. Some of the players in this section say they only learned how to play since last September.

## Of Machines and Men

John Healy



You'll never feel really ashamed of a blunder again. Hung your queen? Missed mate in three? Lost in fifteen moves? Kramnik can top it all. In an position that common consensus says is a drawn endgame, he overlooked mate in one. No matter how he had stretched the capacities of Deep Fritz, however overheated its ten parallel processors were from a dueling with the best human chess player, the computer doesn't miss these things.

Kramnik's six game match last November was the latest in a series of high profile matches between computers and the best of mere flesh and bone which date back to Kasparov's titanic battles with IBM's Deep Blue in 1996 and 1997. The second of these sounded the death knell of human players' supremacy over the machines, when an out of sorts Kasparov was beaten comfortably by the monster computer, which combined custom-built software and hardware with hand tuning by a team which included GM Joel Benjamin to beat the then World Champion. Still, with Deep Blue retired to a museum<sup>4</sup>, there hasn't been a leap forward in the past decade to leave mankind trailing far behind. Instead, as Kramnik and Kasparov's 4-4 and 3-3 draws with Deep Fritz and Deep Junior<sup>5</sup> showed, there's still ground to fight the computers on.

Sadly, there was less of that kind of thing last year. The 2006 Kramnik-Deep Fritz match wasn't exactly up there with Shredder's whitewash of Michael Adams last year, but Kramnik looked off the pace.

In the pre-match press conference, Kramnik said that increasing hardware speeds, allowing programs to see ever further meant that the window of opportunity for such

<sup>4</sup> In case you feel the need to cower in fear, one of the two racks of equipment that made up Deep Blue is on display at the National Museum of American History in their exhibit about the Information Age; the other rack appears at the Computer History Museum in their "Mastering The Game: A History of Computer Chess" exhibit.

<sup>5</sup> Yes, the 'Deep' thing gets tedious – it seems to be used any time there's a souped up multi-processor version of a commercial programme these days

contests was closing. I think that this is exaggerated. In truth, the increase in processing speed required to go out an extra ply is enormous, so the gains for computers here are incremental. In truth, the programmes used in matches recently see less positions per move than Deep Blue – that monstrosity's custom hardware gave it an edge that general purpose computers are only slowly eroding. The Deep Blue of 1997 considered around 25 times as many positions as Deep Fritz of 2006! The real advancements have been in algorithmic, such as Junior's weighting of 'interesting' moves to give them a finer examination. At any rate, there is certainly a drive to make ever better chess playing programmes, but I think that the very best players will be competitive with them for a few years to come.

Kramnik made the first move of the match on November 25<sup>th</sup>, in the pleasant surroundings of the National Art Gallery in Bonn, Germany. That game began with a QGA and finished with a draw after Deep Fritz survived early pressure and made for a level endgame. Yasser Seirawan later criticized Kramnik's handling of the endgame, pointing out a number of points at which he could have made Fritz's life much more difficult.

### Kramnik, V - Deep Fritz 10 [E03]

Man vs Machine Bonn, Germany, 25.11.2006

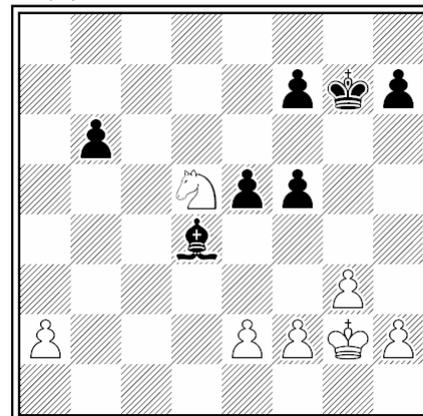
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.Bg2 dxc4 5.Qa4+ Nbd7 6.Qxc4 a6 7.Qd3 c5 8.dxc5 Bxc5 9.Nf3 0-0 10.0-0 Qe7 11.Nc3 b6 12.Ne4 Nxe4 13.Qxe4 Nf6 14.Qh4 Bb7 15.Bg5 Rfd8 16.Bxf6 Qxf6 17.Qxf6 gxf6 18.Rfd1 Kf8?

This has been pinpointed as a serious error, gifting White some winning chances. Correct was to doff the f3 knight, it seems. I don't see it, but then neither did Fritz, so I'll take some consolation in that.

19.Ne1 Bxg2 20.Kxg2 f5 21.Rxd8+ Rxd8 22.Nd3 Bd4 23.Rc1 e5 24.Rc2 Rd5?

Letting White force the rooks off was a bad idea.

25.Nb4! Rb5 26.Nxa6 Rxb2 27.Rxb2 Bxb2 28.Nb4 Kg7 29.Nd5 Bd4 (D)



### 30.a4

Seirawan points out 30.e3! Bc5 31.Kf3! With a clear win for White. I won't copy his analysis here, but I recommend you go read it for yourself on the Chessbase site.

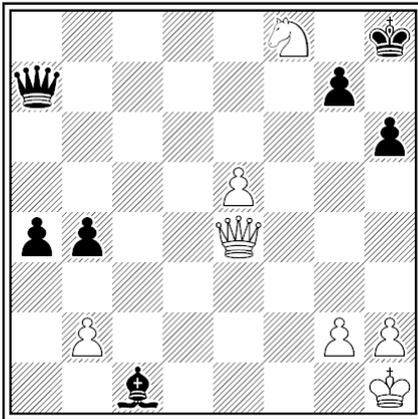
30...Bc5 31.h3? f6 32.f3 Kg6 33.e4? h5! = 34.g4 hxg4 35.hxg4 fxe4 36.fxe4 Kg5 37.Kf3 Kg6 38.Ke2 Kg5

39.Kd3 Bg1 40.Kc4 Bf2 41.Kb5 Kxg4 42.Nxf6+ Kf3  
43.Kc6 Bh4 44.Nd7 Kxe4 45.Kxb6 Be1 46.Kc6 Kf5  
47.Nxe5 Kxe5 1/2-1/2

In round two, Kramnik played well again, taking the machine out of the comfort zone with a Queen's Gambit Accepted. Some tenacious defending from Fritz saw things level off, before Kramnik made a little oversight.

**Deep Fritz 10 - Kramnik, V (2750) [D10]  
Man vs Machine Bonn, Germany (2), 27.11.2006**

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.e4 b5 4.a4 c6 5.Nc3 b4 6.Na2 Nf6  
7.e5 Nd5 8.Bxc4 e6 9.Nf3 a5 10.Bg5 Qb6 11.Nc1 Ba6  
12.Qe2 h6 13.Be3 Bxc4 14.Qxc4 Nd7 15.Nb3 Be7  
16.Rc1 0-0 17.0-0 Rfc8 18.Qe2 c5 19.Nfd2 Qc6 20.Qh5  
Qxa4 21.Nxc5 Nxc5 22.dxc5 Nxe3 23.fxe3 Bxc5  
24.Qxf7+ Kh8 25.Qf3 Rf8 26.Qe4 Qd7 27.Nb3 Bb6  
28.Rfd1 Qf7 29.Rf1 Qa7 30.Rxf8+ Rxf8 31.Nd4 a4  
32.Nxe6 Bxe3+ 33.Kh1 Bxc1  
33...Re8 and Black can play for a win.  
34.Nxf8 (D)



34...Qe3??

Yeah, just wow. Numerous sites have given 34...Kg8 35.Ng6 Bxb2 36.Qd5+ Kh7 37.Nf8+ Kh8 38.Ng6+ draw as the most likely continuation. Chessbase reported what happened here: "Kramnik played the move 34...Qe3 calmly, stood up, picked up his cup and was about to leave the stage to go to his rest room. At least one audio commentator also noticed nothing, while Fritz operator Mathias Feist kept glancing from the board to the screen and back, hardly able to believe that he had input the correct move. Fritz was displaying mate in one, and when Mathias executed it on the board Kramnik briefly grasped his forehead, took a seat to sign the score sheet and left for the press conference, which he dutifully attended."

35.Qh7# 1-0

In the press conference, Kramnik was at a loss to explain it, "It was actually not only about the last move. I was calculating this line very long in advance, and then recalculating. It was very strange, some kind of blackout. I was feeling well, I was playing well, I think I was pretty much better. I calculated the line many, many times, rechecking myself. I already calculated this line when I played 29...Qa7, and after each move I was recalculating,

again, and again, and finally I blundered mate in one. Actually it was the first time that it happened to me, and I cannot really find any explanation. I was not feeling tired, I think I was calculating well during the whole game... It's just very strange, I cannot explain it."

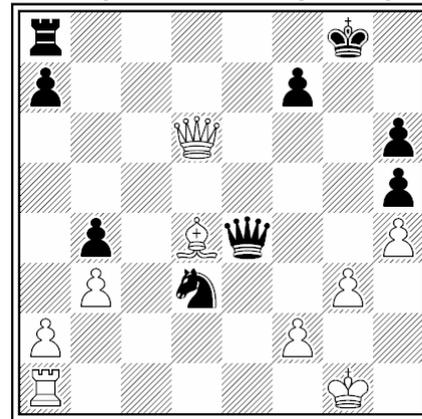
Of the many explanations put forward about this move, 34...Qe3??, perhaps the most convincing for me is that this meme of a knight on the back rank supporting such a mate is so rare that even the phenomenal pattern recognition skills of a top rank GM can miss it. Distracted by the interesting queenside battle, Kramnik wasn't paying enough attention to his king, and the usual warning flags just weren't there.

GM John Nunn, a familiar face in Bunratty, wrote to Chessbase to mention the following game's similar finish.

**Wells, P (2480) - Areshchenko, A (2640) [E06]**

**Monarch Assurance Isle of Man (4), 2006**

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.c4 c6 4.Nc3 e6 5.g3 Be7 6.Bg2 0-0  
7.0-0 b6 8.Ne5 Bb7 9.e4 dxc4 10.Nxc4 Ba6 11.b3 b5  
12.Ne3 b4 13.Ne2 Nbd7 14.Bb2 Nb6 15.Re1 Rc8 16.Nf4  
Re8 17.h4 Bb7 18.Ng4 Nbd7 19.d5 cxd5 20.exd5 exd5  
21.Bxd5 Bxd5 22.Nxd5 Nxd5 23.Qxd5 Nc5 24.Qf5 Qd3  
25.Qf4 h5 26.Nh6+ gxh6 27.Rxe7 Rxe7 28.Qf6 Qh7  
29.Qxe7 Nd3 30.Qd7 Ra8 31.Bd4 Qe4 32.Qd6 (D)



32...Ne1 33.Bb2 Qg2# 0-1.

In the aftermath, a number of other famous blunders were republished. The shortest of them was the following little gem,

**Christiansen, L (2620) - Karpov, A (2725) [E12]**

**Hoogovens Wijk aan Zee (2), 01.1993**

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.a3 Ba6 5.Qc2 Bb7 6.Nc3 c5  
7.e4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Nc6 9.Nxc6 Bxc6 10.Bf4 Nh5 11.Be3  
Bd6?? 12.Qd1 1-0

At any rate, Kramnik recovered a little in the third game, when he managed a draw after coming under substantial pressure. In another QGA, he found himself struggling to contain Black's queenside majority, and eventually had to give up a rook for Black's bishop and passed pawn. The resulting R+2 v B+3 endgame was soon agreed a draw.

The fourth game saw Fritz take the white pieces and open with 1.e4. Kramnik came under a good deal of pressure

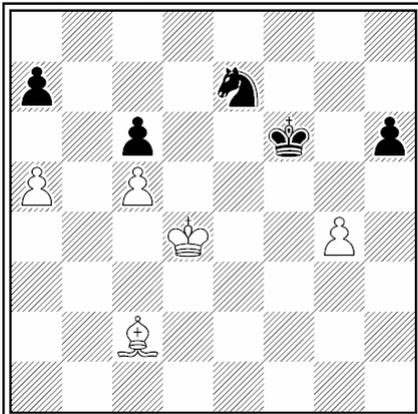
before earning a draw.

**Deep Fritz 10 - Kramnik, V (2750) [C43]**  
**Man vs Machine Bonn, Germany (4), 01.12.2006**

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6

Petroff's Defence. Kramnik has lead the field in rejuvenating this opening at the top level, but it's still a rarity at club level, where it's a bit too unambitious for most.

3.d4 Nxe4 4.Bd3 d5 5.Nxe5 Nd7 6.Nxd7 Bxd7 7.0-0 Bd6 8.Qh5 Qf6 9.Nc3 Qxd4 10.Nxd5 Bc6 11.Ne3 g6 12.Qh3 Ng5 13.Qg4 Qf4 14.Qxf4 Bxf4 15.Nc4 Ne6 16.Bxf4 Nxf4 17.Rfe1+ Kf8 18.Bf1 Bb5 19.a4 Ba6 20.b4 Bxc4 21.Bxc4 Rd8 22.Re4 Nh5 23.Rae1 Rd7 24.h3 Ng7 25.Re5 Nf5 26.Bb5 c6 27.Bd3 Nd6 28.g4 Kg7 29.f4 Rhd8 30.Kg2 Nc8 31.a5 Rd4 32.R5e4 Kf8 33.Kf3 h6 34.Rxd4 Rxd4 35.Re4 Rd6 36.Ke3 g5 37.Rd4 Ke7 38.c4 Rxd4 39.Kxd4 gxf4 40.Ke4 Kf6 41.Kxf4 Ne7 42.Be4 b6 43.c5 bxc5 44.bxc5 Ng6+ 45.Ke3 Ne7 46.Kd4 Ke6 47.Bf3 f5 48.Bd1 Kf6 49.Bc2 fxe4 50.hxe4 (D)



The position is a fortress now – there is no way for White to force his King through.

50...Ke6 51.Bb1 Kf6 52.Be4 Ke6 53.Bh1 Kf6 54.Bf3 Ke6 1/2-1/2

Trailing 2.5-1.5 to Fritz, Kramnik chose to play a bit more aggressively in round five. However, in a complicated and exciting game, Fritz was a match for him and an interesting game ended in a draw.

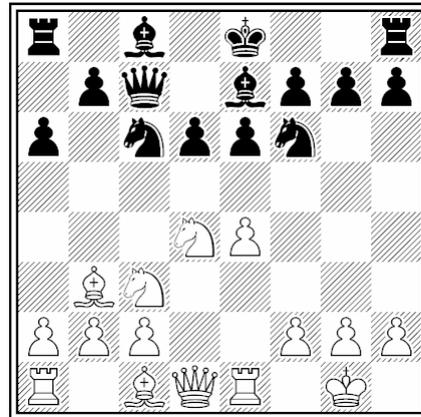
**Kramnik, V (2750) - Deep Fritz 10 [E51]**  
**Man vs Machine Bonn, Germany (5), 03.12.2006**

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 Bb4 5.e3 0-0 6.a3 Bxc3+ 7.bxc3 c5 8.Bb2 Nc6 9.Rc1 Re8 10.Bd3 dxc4 11.Bxc4 e5 12.dxe5 Qxd1+ 13.Rxd1 Nxe5 14.Nxe5 Rxe5 15.Be2 Bd7 16.c4 Re7 17.h4 Ne4 18.h5 Ba4 19.Rd3 b5 20.exb5 Bxb5 21.Rd1 Bxe2 22.Kxe2 Rb8 23.Ba1 f5 24.Rd5 Rb3 25.Rxf5 Rxa3 26.Rb1 Re8 27.Rf4 Ra2+ 28.Ke1 h6 29.Rg4 g5 30.hxe6 Nxf2 31.Rh4 Rf8 32.Kf1 Nh3+ 33.Ke1 Nf2 34.Kf1 Nh3+ 35.Ke1 1/2-1/2

The final game of the match was interesting, a showcase of Fritz's ability to play quite inventive chess. The win, sealed with White's 47<sup>th</sup> move, made the final score 4:2 to the machine.

**Deep Fritz 10 - Kramnik, V (2750) [B86]**  
**Man vs Machine Bonn, Germany (6), 05.12.2006**

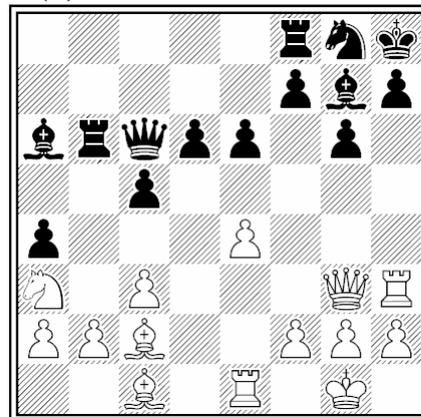
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bc4 e6 7.0-0 Be7 8.Bb3 Qc7 9.Re1 Nc6 (D)



10.Re3!? (N)

This is new. The position after 9...Nc6 had been seen before a few times, but Fritz's next few moves are remarkably original. Live commentators struggled to understand what the computer was up to, but it slowly became clear that whatever it was, it was working.

10...0-0 11.Rg3 Kh8 12.Nxc6 bxc6 13.Qe2 a5 14.Bg5 Ba6 15.Qf3 Rab8 16.Re1 c5 17.Bf4 Qb7 18.Bc1 Ng8 19.Nb1 Bf6 20.c3 g6 21.Na3 Qc6 22.Rh3 Bg7 23.Qg3 a4 24.Bc2 Rb6 (D)



Kramnik had missed White's reply...

25.e5! dxe5 26.Rxe5 Nf6 27.Qh4 Qb7 28.Re1 h5 29.Rf3 Nh7 30.Qxa4 Qc6 31.Qxc6 Rxc6 32.Ba4 Rb6 33.b3 Kg8 34.c4 Rd8 35.Nb5 Bb7 36.Rfe3 Bh6 37.Re5 Bxc1 38.Rxc1 Rc6 39.Nc3 Rc7 40.Bb5 Nf8 41.Na4 Rdc8 42.Rd1 Kg7 43.Rd6 f6 44.Re2 e5 45.Red2 g5 46.Nb6 Rb8 47.a4 1-0

#### More information:

[http://www.chessbase.com/eventlist.asp?eventname=Kramnik vs Deep Fritz](http://www.chessbase.com/eventlist.asp?eventname=Kramnik%20vs%20Deep%20Fritz) Chessbase had a lot of good material on the match, including notes and photos from each game, Yasser Seirawan's interesting and instructive criticism of Kramnik's first game and various articles on game two. You can download the database of games from their site at: <http://www.chessbase.com/news/2006/games/vkdf06.pgn>

## European Club Cup

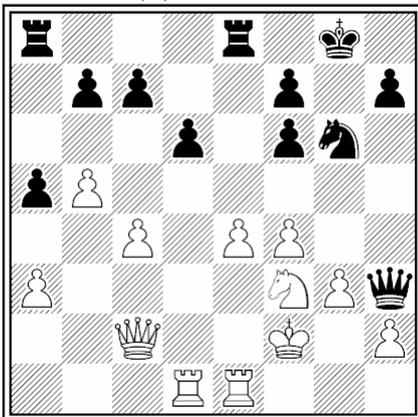
Kilkenny and Galway were Ireland's representatives in the 2006 European Club Cup. The competition was held in Fuegen, Austria last October. Belfast also competed, playing under the flag of the ECU.

The tournament table is based on team results, with two team points for a win and one for a draw, which is a little different for those of us familiar with Irish leagues, which tend just to add up the results of each individual game. It can be a cruel system, as Galway found out, as they finished bottom with no team points. They can console themselves with some decent individual performances, not least from Lorcan O'Toole, who scored 3.5/7. In Galway's defence, they were seeded last, and badly outrated in each game. Their best result was probably their 3.5-2.5 loss to C.E. Monte Carlo.

Kilkenny had a bit more to cheer about, chalking up wins against Belfast (5-1) and de Sprenger Echternach of the Netherlands (4-2). John White's 4/7, a 2164 performance rating, is worthy of mention, while the team's decent performance owes a lot to GM Baburin's solid 4.5/7 on board one.

**Baburin,A (2541) - Scannell,S (2157) [E33]**  
**22nd European Club Cup 2006 (4), 11.10.2006**

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 Nc6 5.Nf3 Qe7 6.a3 Bxc3+ 7.Qxc3 d6 8.b4 e5 9.dxe5 Nxe5 10.Bb2 Ng6 11.g3 Bd7 12.Bg2 Bc6 13.0-0 0-0 14.Rfe1 Be4 15.Bh3 Rfe8 16.Nd2 Bc6 17.e4 Qe5 18.Qc2 Qh5 19.Bg2 Bd7 20.Bxf6 gxf6 21.f4 Bh3 22.Nf3 Bxg2 23.Kxg2 a5 24.b5 Qg4 25.Kf2 Qh3 26.Rad1 (D)



**26...h5?!**

Looking at the next few moves, it looks like this is premature. Maybe Black should play 26...b6.

**27.Qc3 Kg7**

The alternative is 27...f5 but it's well met by 28.e5! dxe5 29.Rd7!

**28.b6! cxb6 29.Rxd6 Re6 30.Red1 Rae8 31.Rxe6 fxe6**

or 31...Qxe6 32.f5 Qxe4 33.Re1 which is no better.

**32.Rd7+ Re7 33.Qd4 h4 34.Rxe7+ Nxe7 35.Qxb6 hxg3+ 36.hxg3 Kf7 37.Qxa5 Qh7 38.Qe1 Nc6 39.Qb1 Ke8**

**40.Qd3 Qe7 41.Kg2 Qc5 42.Qb3 Kd8 43.Qxb7 Qxc4 44.Qb2 Ke7 45.e5 f5 46.Qd2 Ke8 47.Kh2 Ke7 48.Ng5 Ke8 49.Kh3 Nd4 50.Qg2 Qa6 51.Qf2 Qc4 52.Nf3 Nc2 53.Kh4 Qd3 54.Kh5 Ne3**

54...Nxa3 55.Ng5

**55.Qb2 Ng4 56.Qb8+ Kd7 57.Ng5 Qxa3??**

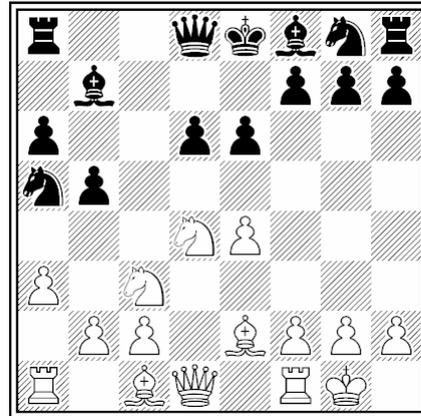
Now White has forced mate.

**58.Qb7+ Kd8 59.Nf7+ 1-0**

Another familiar face was that of IM Gawain Jones, who was turning out for Slough Sharks Chess Team, even meeting Kilkenny's GM Baburin in round seven, a game which resulted in a draw.

**Jones,G (2430) - Horvath,A (2495) [B23]**  
**22nd European Club Cup 2006 (6), 13.10.2006**

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Na5 4.Nf3 a6 5.Be2 b5 6.d4 cxd4 7.Nxd4 e6 8.a3 Bb7 9.0-0 d6 (D)



10.Ncxb5 Nf6

Things get murky after 10...e5 11.b4! exd4 (11...axb5? 12.Bxb5+ Ke7 13.Nf5+ Ke6 14.Nxg7+ 12.bxa5 axb5 13.Bxb5+ Ke7 14.Bg5+ when White has plenty of compensation for the piece.

**11.Bg5 Be7 12.b4 Nxe4 13.Bxe7 Qxe7 14.f3 Nf6 15.bxa5 axb5 16.Bxb5+ Kf8 17.Qd2 Qc7 18.Rfe1 Kg8 19.Nb3 h5 20.Rad1 Bd5 21.Qd3 Qa7+ 22.Qd4 Bxb3 23.Qxa7 Rxa7 24.cxb3 Rxa5 25.a4 Nd5 26.Rxd5 exd5 27.Re8+ Kh7 28.Rxb8+ Kxh8 29.Kf2 Kg8 30.Ke3 Kf8 31.Kd4 Ke7 32.Kxd5 Ra8 33.Kc6 Rc8+ 34.Kb7 Rc5 35.Kb6 Rc3 36.Bc4 1-0**

Belfast's team weren't so strong as Kilkenny's, but they still managed a couple of wins, beating Galway in round five, and Albanian club Butrinti in the very next round. While their top boards struggled with much stronger opposition, Stephen Morgan managed an impressive 4/7 on board six, losing only his round one game against German FM Christof Nogly.

The overall tournament winners were the Alexander Morozevich lead Tomsk-400.

### More information:

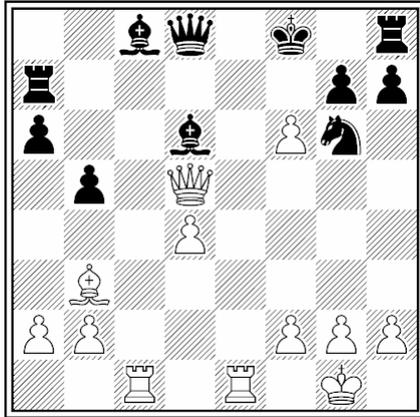
Official tournament site: <http://www.ecc2006.com/>

ECU site: <http://www.eurochess.org/content/blogcategory/27/57/>

# Test Your Tactical Wizardry

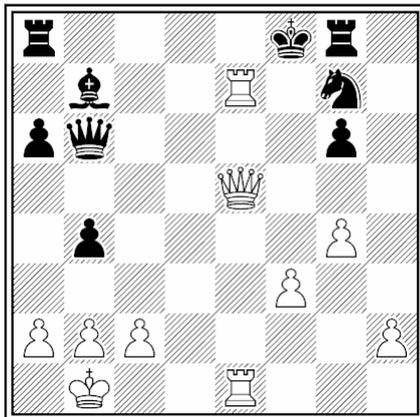
In honour of the participation of GM Michael Adams in Kilkenny 2006, we have a themed tactics page this issue. Can you find the moves played by one of the top players in the world?

A)



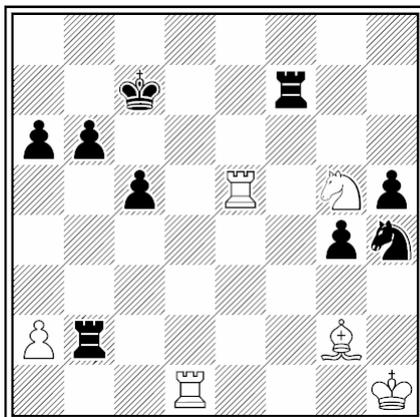
Adams-Sherhard  
London 1993  
White to play and mate in 3.

B)



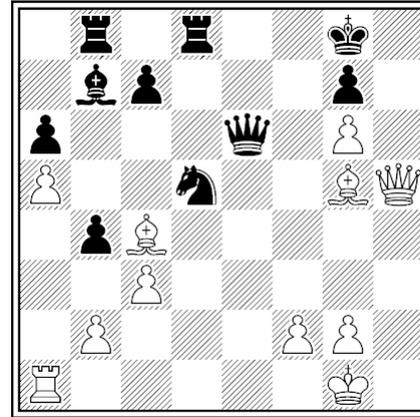
Adams-Comas Fabrego  
Adelaide, 1988  
White to play and mate in 2.

C)



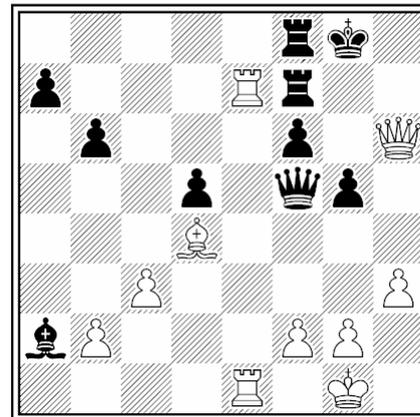
Adams-Piket  
Wijk aan Zee, 1993  
White to play and mate in 3.

D)



Adams-Tumurhuyag  
Moscow, 1994  
White to play

E)



Adams-Jussupow  
France, 2005  
White to play and win

## Solutions

I'd tell you that they're upside down, but if you didn't get that, you probably won't be getting any of the answers either!

- A) Qxd6 Qxc8+ Qd8, Rxd8#  
 B) Rf7! Kxf7, Qe7#  
 C) Ne6+ Kb8, Rd8+ Ka7, Ra8#  
 D) Be7!  
 E) Rxf7 Kxf7, g4!

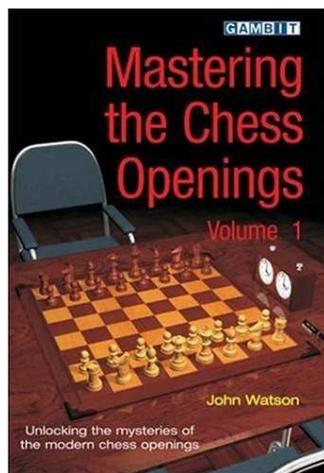
## Book Review

Review by John Healy

### Mastering the Chess Openings Vol. 1

John Watson IM

Gambit Publications  
288 pages  
RRP £19.99 (€29.69)  
ISBN 1904600603  
October 2006



John Watson is my favourite living chess author, and I'm not alone in this. For those of you who don't know him, he's an American IM who is probably more famous for his excellent books and his detailed, insightful book reviews than his chess. Among his previous books are genuine classics like *Play the French*, which is considered by many to be the French Defense players' bible, and *Secrets of Modern Chess Strategy*, which was the 1999 British Chess Federation Book of the Year. As an opening theorist, he is held in high regard, not only for his work on the French Defense, but on the English opening and the Modern Benoni. His latest book is no less excellent.

*Mastering the Chess Openings* is an openings book with a difference. It's almost an openings primer along the lines of Sam Collins *Understanding the Chess Openings*, but Watson has made no effort to be comprehensive. You won't find any section on the Grob here. Sometimes significant lines are omitted because they don't present any really different ideas to those shown. The book examines most openings in the manner of a primer, but with a strong emphasis on the common themes running through them. For example, in the open games, Watson continually returns to the theme of the d5 break, showing how Black uses it in the Giuoco Piano (1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Bc4) to equalise, while the equivalent break in the Closed Ruy Lopez (1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Bb5 a6), after the bishop has retreated to b3 with something like 4.Ba5 b5 5.Bb3, is less effective because it doesn't win a tempo by attacking the bishop, which has still wound up on that key a2-g8 diagonal.

The first three chapters deal with more general topics. You'll get a good idea of what kind of thing they cover from their names, "The Nature of Chess Openings: Fundamentals", "Opening Ideas and Positional Features", and "The Significance of Structure". The material in these chapters isn't terribly new to any experienced player, though it's worth a skim at least. They contain the kind of information that you tend to assimilate slowly from a lot of sources, so I suspect that these chapters are a real gold

mine of instructional material on general opening and positional themes for a young or new player. They strike me as very interesting material for a series of lectures for young players.

After that, we're into the usual system of covering different openings in each section. This volume covers the open and semi-open games (basically 1.e4) while volume two (which is out on the 30<sup>th</sup> of April) covers 1.d4. This material is really excellent – Watson's attention to detail and wonderful prose explanations make even the most complicated openings seem fairly straightforward. I have to admit, I read things I didn't know in sections about openings which I play regularly, something I find a bit worrying when the entirety of their coverage might be six or eight pages! Watson's decision to run with two volumes has meant that he has room to really explain the hows and whys of each opening, making for some very high quality material.

I've done the usual trick with an openings book of comparing a number of lines Watson gives with other theory books to hand, and his legendary thoroughness shines through. I never found an example of him giving a lazy assessment of a position or missing a key novelty – in fact I found one example of the reverse!

You can read an extract of Watson's *Mastering the Chess Openings Volume 1* at the following URL: <http://www.classicalgames.com/Merchant2/002058.pdf>. It contains the contents pages and four pages of the chapter on the French Defence and is a decent sample of the style of the book, though it's a pity that it doesn't show any of the material on positions closer to the middlegame. So many books leave a weak or middling player with a curt assessment of which side has the better chances, with no real idea of how to handle the resulting positions, but Watson goes out of his way to avoid doing that.

*Mastering the Chess Openings* is a wonderful book, well written, a treasure trove of information and insight. I think it will deservedly win awards, and any chess player's library will be richer for having a copy on its shelves. It is written for a wide range of playing strengths, and I think it will make for a satisfying read for any of them. Unfortunately, it may fall foul of its own quality. The fact that it is in two volumes, and the decision to leave out certain openings may mean that many people chose to look elsewhere for a general openings book. More's the pity.

### Contribute to your ICJ

The editors have been delighted with the response to the new-look ICJ. However, we need your help to make the magazine as good as we possibly can. What we need are contributors and feedback.

**Please send us: Games or combinations** you've played. Notes are a bonus! Letters, puzzles or endgame studies. News and photos from events. Email: [journal@icu.ie](mailto:journal@icu.ie)

## ICU Ratings

The latest list was published in January. Members can view it on [www.icu.ie](http://www.icu.ie) where you can view your rating history and sort the rating list by rating, club, etc. Please note that this list only contains players who were listed as paid members by January. Some players who paid by post may not have yet had their membership processed at that time.

Name	Rating	Club	Name	Rating	Club
Aherne, John P.	1787	Rathmines	Burke, Kevin	1441	St. Benildus
Ajay, Ademola	982*	Balbriggan	Burke, Martin	1437	Elm Mount
Alfred, John	1708	Limerick	Burns, Donal	1416	Cork
Allen, Keith	2232		Burns, John	1764	Rathmines
Allison, Finbarr	1671	C.C.Y.M.S.	Butler, James	1432	
Armstrong, Joe	983*	Navan	Butler, Kevin C.	1951	Phibsboro
Arney, Anthony	1332	Sligo	Byrne, Brendan	1277	Phibsboro
Arundell, Richard	1857	Curragh	Byrne, Claire	1514	Portmarnock
Baburin, Alexander (Gm)	2537	Kilkenny	Byrne, Gary	1053*	Elm Mount
Bailey, Gregory	1236	Rathmines	Byrne, Liam	1535	Bray/Greystones
Baird, David	1555	Westport	Cadogan, Liam	1012	
Bajcar, Tomas	1743	Elm Mount	Caffrey, Noel	1399	Celbridge
Baker, Anthony	1504	Kilkenny	Cafolla, Peter	1980	Rathmines
Banerjee, Indranil	1677	Galway	Campion, Ashley	990	Killarney
Bannon, Senan	1530	Phibsboro	Canavan, Maurice	1288	Curragh
Barrett, Conor	733*	Ballinasloe	Cantwell, Nathan	703	Galway
Barry, Eugene	1272	Charleville	Carey, Paul	1683	Limerick
Barry, Gerry K.	1707	Elm Mount	Carlile, Orison	1587	Cork
Barry, Kevin	1572	Dublin University	Carroll, Laura H.	801	Knocknacarra
Batt, Wayne	1445		Carter, Paul	1026	Inchicore
Bedi, Balazs	1116*		Casey, Eamonn	1501	Phibsboro
Behan, Gerard	1623	Elm Mount	Cassidy, John	1711	Ennis
Behan, Patrick	700*	Naomh Barrog	Cassidy, Paul	1948	Dun Laoire
Benson, Nicola	729	St. Benildus	Chin-Shong, David	1369	Cork
Benson, Oisín P.	1702	St. Benildus	Ciganik, Martin	1544*	
Berney, Mark	928*		Clarke, Adrian	1489	Finglas
Bishop, Peter	1402	Rathmines	Clarke, Philip	1339	Tallaght
Bissett, Vincent	1612	Malahide	Clements, Shannon	1667	Dublin
Blake, Austin	1069	Naomh Barrog	Cole, Kieran	1660	Charleville
Bleheane, Conor	700*	Ballinasloe	Collins, Mark A.	1715	Gonzaga
Bleheane, Shane	700*	Ballinasloe	Collins, Sam E. (Im)	2337	Gonzaga
Blunden, Adam	741*		Collison, John	938	
Boles, Alastair	1217	Dun Laoire	Collum, Brian	1119	Drumlsh
Bourke, John	1210	Castlebar	Collum, Petie	1178	Drumlsh
Bradley, John	1678	Kilkenny	Condon, David M.	1034	Elm Mount
Bradley, Michael	1291	Cork	Conlan, Tim	1257	Phibsboro
Brady, Frank	1473	Dublin	Connaire, Niall	1015*	Galway
Brady, Liam E.	1665	Kilkenny	Connolly, Dylan	700*	Ballinasloe
Brezing, Thomas	1949	Phibsboro	Connolly, Eamonn	1105	Inchicore
Broderick, Rory	1225	Dublin	Connolly, John G.	700*	
Browne, Joe	1097	Cork	Connolly, Pearse	1417	Inchicore
Buggy, John	935	N.U.I.G.	Connolly, Suzanne	1930	Malahide
			Constantinescu, Dan A.	1282	Tallaght
			Cormican, David	1429	Galway
			Cormican, John A.	1072	Knocknacarra
			Cormican, Ruth E.	1261	Galway
			Cormican, Sarah M.	1297	Galway
			Corrigan, Brendan	1546	Drogheda
			Cosgrove, Pat	1478	Lucan
			Coughlan, Anne B.	1184	Cork
			Coughlan, Kieran	1745	Drogheda
			Courtney, John	1325	Kilkenny

Coyle, Greg	1368	Elm Mount	Eyers, Michael	1046*	Balbriggan
Croke, Pat	982	Galway	Fagan, Leon	1744	Rathmines
Crowe, Michael	1840	Portmarnock	Fagan, Michael	1404	Dublin
Crowley, John	1646	Rathmines	Fahy, Patrick J.	1329	Westport
Cummins, Thomas	1083	Drogheda	Farren, John	1335	
Cunningham, Stephen	1098		Fayne, Terence	1718	Tallaght
Curran, Barry	1098	N.U.I.G.	Feeney, John	1328	Athlone
Curtis, John W.	1387	Bray/Greystones	Fennelly, Donal	1590	Kilkenny
Dalton, Garry	1282	Dublin	Ferguson, John M.	1193	Wicklow
Daly, Richard	957	Dun Laoire	Ferrer, Yoel	1402*	Galway
Danaher, Catherine	1404	Shannon	Finan, David	1013	Galway
Danaher, Eimear	776	Shannon	Finan, Hugh	1003	
Danaher, Eoghan	1129	Shannon	Fitzgibbon, Walter	956	Cork
Danaher, James	715	Shannon	Fitzmaurice, Garth	1867	Rathmines
Danaher, Stephen	1064	Shannon	Fitzpatrick, Kevin	974	
Davoren, Sean	1237	Elm Mount	Fitzpatrick, Tom	1604	Phibsboro
Deane, Tony	1042	Ballinasloe	Flood, Joseph A.	1249	Rathmines
Delaney, Killian	1967	Rathmines	Foenander, Phillip	1469	Limerick
Delaney, Michael C.	1695	Phibsboro	Forde, John P.	1071	Naomh Barrog
Dempsey, Denis	1360	Dublin	Forkin, Hugh	811	Elm Mount
Dempsey, Michael	1477	Portmarnock	Fox, Anthony	2066	Dun Laoire
Dempster, Alan	1266	Aer Lingus	Freer, Patrick	1368	Rathmines
Dennehy, Tony	1947	Rathmines	French, William	1255	Elm Mount
Dillon, Kenneth	1215	Ballinasloe	Gahan, Edward	1483	St. Benildus
Divilly, Paddy	1547		Galligan, Brian	1883	Cork
Dobey, Ronan	700	Knocknacarra	Ganchev, Galin	1494	Limerick
Doherty, Francis	1245	Elm Mount	Gannon, Aonghus J.	1310	Cork
Donoghue, John	1855	Cork	Germaine, Michael	1491	Phibsboro
Donohoe, Eugene	1503	Elm Mount	Gibson, John F.	1839	St. Benildus
Dooley, Alan J.	1218	Kilkenny	Gilmer, Conor	1737	Phibsboro
Dooley, John	1262	Elm Mount	Gilvarry, Myles D.	1637	Castlebar
Douglas, Noel	1584	Charleville	Goetzee, Rick	1707	Drogheda
Downey, Stephen	1079	Phibsboro	Goggins, David	1836	Rathmines
Doyle, Edward	1001*		Goralski, Lucasz	1806*	
Doyle, Hugh	1288	Cork	Gordon, Ivor	1016	Dungarvan
Doyle, John	974*		Gordon, John	925*	Dungarvan
Doyle, Patrick	1133*	Naomh Barrog	Greene, Chris	700*	
Doyle, Peter	770		Griffiths, Paul	904	
Doyle, Philip P.	1698	Rathmines	Griffiths, Ryan-Rhys	2003	Kilkenny
Duff, Jack	1186	St. Benildus	Guinness, Paul	1376	Dublin
Duffy, Anthony	1716	Phibsboro	Hammouma, Hugues	1263*	Curragh
Duffy, Brendan	1338	Curragh	Hanley, Michael	1770	St. Benildus
Duffy, Seamus	1879	Wicklow	Hanly, Steven	1754	Shannon
Duke, Ronan	1702	Galway	Harding, Tim	2077	Dublin University
Dunne, Oliver	1743	Elm Mount	Harrington, Donal	922	Elm Mount
Dunne, Pearse	1778		Harte, Frank	1364	Kilkenny
Dunne, Ray	1439*	Elm Mount	Hassett, Christy	1251	Inchicore
Eagleton, Michael	1127	Drogheda	Haughey, Donal	700*	
Earls, Dermot	1274	Curragh	Hayes, Peter J.	1826	Dublin University
Eccles, David	1384	Naomh Barrog	Healy, Des	1152	Charleville
Egan, Colm	1675	Dublin	Healy, John	1650	St. Benildus
Evers, Brendan	1338	Drogheda	Hearn, Liam T.	1858	Dun Laoire

Hearty, Ray	1372	Elm Mount	Kuntzsch, Marco	916	Inchicore
Hegarty, Conall	845	Galway	Kurjak, Samir	1661	Dublin University
Hegarty, Fintan	1138	N.U.I.G.	Lanca, Ivan	1927*	
Heidenfeld, Mark (Im)	2377	Dublin	Lane, John	1970	Dun Laoire
Heinrich, Jan	2096	Charleville	Larkin, Henry	912	Kilkenny
Henry, Tom	1298	Lucan	Larkin, Paul	1054	Tallaght
Hensey, John	1421	Westport	Larter, Nick	1786	Ennis
Herrick, Liam	1256	Phibsboro	Launders, Eamon	1006	Dunshaughlin
Hickey, Tom	1175	Cork	Launders, Patrick	1512	Dunshaughlin
Hogan, Kieran	1237		Lawrence, Simon	1774	Cork
Hogarty, Philip	1757	Rathmines	Leaden, Mark	1032	Dublin
Honner, Mervyn	1315	Bray/Greystones	Lennon, Conor	1108*	Dun Laoire
Howard, Harry	1224	Naomh Barrog	Loftus, Sean	1607	Elm Mount
Howley, Kieran	1106	Phibsboro	Loughran, John	1655	Elm Mount
Hurley, Daniel	907	St. Benildus	Lovett, James B.	1377	Galway
Hurley, John	2008	Rathmines	Lowry-O'Reilly, Hannah (Wfm)	1801	Rathmines
Hurley, Luke	718	St. Benildus College	Lowry-O'Reilly, Johanna	700	Rathmines
Hurley, Thomas	700*		Lynch, David	1276	Elm Mount
Husein, Mamer	1264	Celbridge	Lynch, Noel	1504	Curragh
Jackson, Peter C.	1243	Phibsboro	Lynch, Peter J.	1654	Rathmines
Jackson, Peter D.	1739	Dun Laoire	Lyons, David	1286	
Jakubauskas, Gadas	1683	Elm Mount	Macdonagh, Alan	1733	Elm Mount
Jakubauskas, Zygimantas	1966	Elm Mount	Macelligott, Gerard	1990	Elm Mount
Jeffares, Simon	2138	St. Benildus	Macgowan, Sean	946	Elm Mount
Jennings, Mark	700*	Galway	Maguire, Philip	932	Wicklow
Jessel, Stephen	2255		Maher, John	1407	Rathmines
Johnson, G. Christopher	1509	Dun Laoire	Maher, Vincent	1900	
Joyce, John	2177	Phibsboro	Mahon, Adrian J.	1470	Celbridge
Jurkiewicz, Stawomir	1900*	Phibsboro	Mahon, Ciaran	1713	St. Benildus
Keating, Michael D.	1497	Dublin	Makris, Christodoulos	1172*	Balbriggan
Keating, Michael E.	1540		Mallaghan, Danny	1858	Clifton House
Kelleher, Denis	1509	Portmarnock	Malone, Paul	1575	
Kelly, Fergal	1024	Thurles	Manning, Carole M.	700	Kilkenny
Kelly, Fintan	931*	Drogheda	Manning, Shane	1616	Kilkenny
Kelly, Garry	1311	Limerick	Martin, Edward A.	1486	Phibsboro
Kelly, Sean	1485	Drogheda	May, Kevin	895*	St. Benildus
Kelly, Stephen (Jnr.)	1368		McAleenan, Charles	1560	
Kennedy, Michael	1238		Mcalister, David	1634	Hillsborough
Kennedy, Michael	1732	Rathmines	Mcaree, Gerard	1425	Charleville
Keogh, Eamon (Nm)	2008	Kilkenny	Mccabe, Killian P.	700*	St. Benildus
Kernan, Terry	779	Phibsboro	Mccann, Jack	1429	
Kidd, Sam	1035	Inchicore	Mccarrick, Clare	700	Longford
Kiely, Anthony J.	1175		Mccarrick, Pat	1407	Longford
Kiely, Jonathan	1069	Waterford	Mccarrick, Sean	1257	Longford
Kilbride, Raymond	1347	Rathmines	Mccarthy, Conor M.	956	Adare
Killane, Jack	1729	Rathmines	Mccarthy, Donagh	1433	Charleville
King, Melvyn	1455*	Naomh Barrog	Mccarthy, Pat	1436	Elm Mount
Klompers, Peter	1443	Curragh	Mccarthy, Tim	1915	St. Benildus
Kolesar, Michal	2063		Mccluskey, Luke	700	C.U.S.
Kostick, Conor	1680	Dublin University	Mccluskey, Michael	1006	C.U.S.
Kouhtev, Atanas	1443		Mccormick, Damien	1327	St. Benildus

Mccullen, Carl	1105*		Mulvey, Brendan	1268	
Mcdonnell, Patrick	1288	Drogheda	Murphy, Dara T.	1790	Knocknacarra
Mcelroy, Ernie	1789	Royal Lopez	Murphy, Gerry	1451	Gonzaga
Mcevoy, Pat	1629	Rathmines	Murphy, Timothy	1449*	Dun Laoire
Mcglinchey, Sean	1278	Rathmines	Murphy, Wayne	1034	Jobstown
Mcgovern, Mark E.	1974	Gonzaga	Murray, Kevin	1166	Elm Mount
Mcgowan, Patrick J.	1461	Tallaght	Murray, Victor	1344	Elm Mount
Mcgrath, Brian	1072	Portmarnock	Neary, Graham	1645	Dublin University
Mcgrath, Peter A.	1431	Elm Mount	Nolan, Ronan	1581	Dublin
Mchugh, Joe	1457	Lucan	Noonan, Frank	1872	Limerick
Mcinerney, Christy	1505	Limerick	Noone, Joe	1946	Celbridge
Mckenna, Billy	700	Ballinasloe	Normoyle, David	1407	
Mckenna, Jack	700	Ballinasloe	Normoyle, Liam	1849	Shannon
Mckenna, John	974	Ballinasloe	Normoyle, Michael	1578	Shannon
Mckenna, Robert	1036	Ballinasloe	Norris, Brendan	1684	Lucan
Mckenna-Carroll, Ruairi	700*	Ballinasloe	O'Boyle, Donal	1738	Drogheda
Mckenna-Carroll, Thomas	700*	Ballinasloe	O'Boyle, Una	1207	Rathmines
Mckeon, James P.	1834	Bray/Greystones	O'Brien, Liam	1828	Limerick
Mckillen, Patrick	1297	Clifton House	O'Brien, Ray	1579	Limerick
Mcloughlin, Mark	1563	Curragh	O'Brien, Sean	1038*	
Mcmahon, Daire	2177	Rathmines	O'Connell, David	1391	Tallaght
Mcmahon, Peter	1138*	Royal Lopez	O'Connell, Gerard	2065	St. Benildus
Mcmorrow, Eugene	1459	Elm Mount	O'Connell, John	1403	Rathmines
Mcmorrow, John	1883	Gonzaga	O'Connell, Kevin J.	2252	
Mcnamara, Jim	1344*	Wicklow	O'Connor, Billy	1414	Curragh
McpPhillips, Karl	2274	Kilkenny	O'Connor, Eddie	1870	Dublin
Mcswiney, Arthur	1298	Aer Lingus	O'Connor, Fergus	1413	Cork
Meghan, Brendan	1975	Rathmines	O'Connor, John	700*	E.M.C.
Mendelson, Andrew	2095	Dublin	O'Connor, Maurice	1015	Drogheda
Menon, Aravind J.	1687	Kilkenny	O'Dell, Eoin	1415	Dublin University
Menon, Jaya Tharayil	700*		O'Donoghue, Andrew	1181	Cork
Menon, Jayadev	890	Kilkenny	O'Donoghue, Martin	1132	Balbriggan
Menon, Poornima J.	1644	Kilkenny	O'Donoghue, Paul T.	1437	Cork
Menzies, Colin	1675	Limerick	O'Donoghue, Timmy	700*	Cork
Meskens, Stephan P.	1696	Rathmines	O'Donovan, Paul	1656	Cork
Mogerley, Paul	1331	Rathmines	O'Donovan, Richard	2069	Phibsboro
Molloy, Martin	1034	Naomh Barrog	O'Driscoll, Kieran	2040	Douglas
Monaghan, Thomas A.	1029	Ballina	O'Dwyer, Eoin	802	Portmarnock
Monahan, Mark	971	Knocknacarra	O'Dwyer, Fergal	1876	Kilkenny
Monahan, Michael	1306	Straffan	O'Dwyer, Michael P.	1299	Naomh Barrog
Mooney, Tony	1815	Phibsboro	O'Flynn, Tom	1728	Tallaght
Moore, Kenneth	1048*	Rathmines	O'Grady, Martin	1848	Limerick
Moran, Eoin	910*	Ballinasloe	O'Higgins, Eoin	1313	Gonzaga
Moran, Stephen	1868	Rathmines	O'Leary, Tony	1293	Cork
Morriss, Pete	1907	Galway	O'Mahoney, Roderick	1559	Drogheda
Moynihan, Kieran	2040	C.C.Y.M.S.	O'Mahony, David	1546	Cork
Mueller, Jan	1872	Limerick	O'Mullane, Brian	1280	Dublin
Mulligan, Niall	1580	Navan	O'Mullane, Ross	1151	Dublin
Mullooly, Michael G.	728	Milford N.S.	O'Neill, Pat	964	
Mullooly, Neil M.	1010		O'Reilly, Cormuin	1249*	Dublin
Mullooly, Sean	700	Milford N.S.	O'Reilly, Eamonn	1557*	
Mulrooney, Justin	1209	Phibsboro	O'Reilly, John	1404	Finglas

O'Reilly, P.J.	1406		Scott, Frank	1378	St. Benildus
O'Shea, Kevin	1909	Douglas	Scott, Peter	1363	Elm Mount
O'Shea, Niall	1203	Curragh	Shaughnessy, Elizabeth	1493	
O'Sullivan, Daniel	1451		Shearan, John	1325	Malahide
O'Sullivan, Daniel P.	986	Tallaght	Sheridan, Chris	1174	Inchicore
O'Sullivan, Padraig	1330		Short, Stephen	1886	Cork
Orchin, John C.	1388	Hillsborough	Sloan, Cecil	1726	
Orr, Mark (Im)	2238		Smith, David J.	1778	Cork
Osborne, James	1361	Rathmines	Smith, Derek	1965	Rathmines
Osborne, Sam C.	1922	St. Benildus	Soikkeli, Markus	1203*	
Oudrei, L.	1800*	Phibsboro	Soikkeli, Raino	1553	
Pentony, Frank	1143	Drogheda	Spellman, Christy	1322	
Peters, Andrew	1301	Elm Mount	Stacey, Derek	1303	Curragh
Pierce, Nicholas	1452	Rathmines	Stassen, Walter	1945	Rathmines
Pitts, Eamonn	1287	Elm Mount	Stokes, Stephen	1553	Griffith College
Plummer, Barry	1359	Naomh Barrog	Stuart, Robert	1993	Rathmines
Porter, William	1900		Sweeney, Jim	1309	Phibsboro
Power, Patrick T.	886	St. Benildus	Sweeney, Ronan	1470	St. Benildus
Prendiville, Jim	1618	Tallaght	Talbot, Charlie	1137	Curragh
Prior, Shane	700*	Kilkenny	Talbot, Leo (Gj)	1136	Curragh
Puchala, Martin	1390	Phibsboro	Taylor, Christopher	737*	Dunshaughlin
Pushpangathan, Shine	1227*	Balbriggan	Taylor, Stephen	700*	Dunshaughlin
Pye, Robert	1998	Bray/Greystones	Thee, Bernd	1779	Kerry
Quinn, Ciaran	1943	Elm Mount	Thomson, Andrew	1523	Drogheda
Quinn, Deborah	1661		Thomson, Noeleen	783	Drogheda
Quinn, Patrick C.	1309	Naomh Barrog	Thorpe, Brian L.	1295	
Quinn, Rory	2105	Ennis	Tierney, Andrew	700*	
Rafferty, Joeseph	1065	Naomh Barrog	Tierney, Michael	1266	Kilkenny
Rea, P.J.	1817	Charleville	Timoney, Stephen	1107*	
Rea, Willie	1758	Charleville	Tishkin, Garry	1525*	
Redican, John	1039	Kerry	Treacy, Michael	1332	Phibsboro
Redmond, John	2227	Dun Laoire	Twomey, Pat	1663	C.C.Y.M.S.
Reid, Joseph	1534	Drogheda	Tyrrell, Alec	1699	Elm Mount
Reilly, Dominic	1182	Tallaght	Ui Laighleis, Gearoidin	1601	Aer Lingus
Reilly, Gerard	1576	St. Benildus	Vernor, Karl	1698	Elm Mount
Rivera, Franco	1288*	Curragh	Walls, Barry	1856	
Rodger, Andrew	1526	Dublin University	Walsh, Alasdair	1135	Rathmines
Roe, Stephen W.	1667	Lucan	Walsh, Amos	1021*	Naomh Barrog
Rogers, Kieran	1748	Drogheda	Walsh, Ciaran	1110	
Ruane, Ciaran	1291	St. Benildus	Walsh, David W.	1484	Celbridge
Rufli, Trevor	1753	Rathmines	Walsh, John L.	1128	Charleville
Ryan, Paul	1230	Bray/Greystones	Walsh, Kevin	1159	Rathmines
Ryan, Richard	934*	Dun Laoire	Walsh, Paul	2014	Limerick
Salter, David	1824	Phibsboro	Ward, Eugene J.	1402	Inchicore
Scanlan, Pat	1250	Drogheda	Watkins, Mark R.	1214	Cork
Scannell, Tony	1713	Rathmines	Webb, Mark	1605	St. Benildus
Scarry, Herbert	1831	Phibsboro	Whalley, Anthony	1513	Malahide
Schmidt, Adam K.	936	St. Patrick'S N.S.	Whearity, Peter	1561*	Balbriggan
Schmidt, Davin	700	St. Patrick'S N.S.	Whelan, Niall	1415	Rathmines
Schmidt, Joerg	1041		White, John S.	2148	Kilkenny
Schmidt, Martin	2007	Dublin	White, Robert	1640	Kilkenny
Schott, Robert	1032*				

## FIDE Ratings

With FIDE now offering ratings down to 1400, the number of Irish players on the FIDE list is gradually growing. The following is the rating list for active Irish players.

We featured the FIDE rating list for the first time in the last issue of the ICJ. That list, from July 2006, had seventy one names on it. The lower limit of FIDE's rating system currently stands at 1400, having been reduced a couple of times in recent years. While the effect will be gradual, this seems to be leading us in the direction of two things.

Firstly, it is possible that all domestic players and competitions will eventually be covered by FIDE, making a national rating system redundant. This could have interesting consequences, as the ratings floor in FIDE's system acts to slow rating inflation.

Secondly, the ICU's FIDE fees are based (at least in part) on how many Irish players are rated by FIDE, which is not currently a problem. However, it is going to get more expensive. FIDE are at any rate aware of this issue. A report to their congress in 2001 made this clear, "At the moment rating is paid for by federations and with the proposed increase in the number of rated players some revision to the charging system is inevitable. The FIDE estimate of potential increase on reducing the threshold to 1001 is a tenfold increase from 35,000 to 350,000."

#	Name	Title	Rating
1	Baburin, Alexander	g	2545
2	Kelly, Brian	m	2480
3	Collins, Sam E.	m	2398
4	Quinn, Mark	m	2397
5	Brady, Stephen	f	2360
6	Heidenfeld, Mark	m	2358
7	Daly, Colm	f	2353
8	Jessel, Stephen	f	2343
9	Astaneh Lopez, Alex	f	2337
10	Wall, Gavin	m	2326
11	Ryan, Joseph	f	2321
12	Orr, Mark J L	m	2293
13	Short, Philip M	f	2277
14	Wallace, Paul		2274
15	Joyce, John		2263
	O'Kinneide, Mel		2263
17	Redmond, John		2226
18	McMahon, Daire		2222
	Allen, Keith		2222
20	Murray, John		2209
21	Smith, Andrew Philip	f	2201
	O'Shaughnessy, Conor		2201
	O'Connor, Jonathan		2201
24	McPhillips, Karl		2185
25	O'Donovan, Richard		2174
26	Scannell, Stephen		2151
27	O'Connell, Gerard		2146
28	Clarke, Thomas		2137

29	Schmidt, Martin	2134
30	Fitzsimons, David	2133
31	Dignam, Matthew	2132
32	Smith, Derek	2131
33	MacElligott, Gerard	2130
34	Fox, Anthony	2112
35	Griffiths, Ryan-Rhys	2104
36	Freeman, Gordon	2100
37	Waters, Michael	2096
38	Jeffares, Simon	2095
39	Path, David	2090
40	McKeown, Paul	2087
41	O'Rourke, Ray	2086
42	McCarthy, Jim	2084
43	Keogh, Eamon	2074
44	O'Driscoll, Kieran	2062
45	Fitzpatrick, Brian	2055
46	Cafolla, Peter	2053
47	Harpur, Colin A	2045
	Walsh, Paul	2045
49	Quinn, Rory	2044
50	Butler, Kevin	2043
51	McDonnell, James J.	2041
52	Delaney, Killian	2037
53	Galligan, Brian	2035
54	O'Shea, Kevin	2035
55	O'Leary, Matt	2025
56	Crichton, Martin	2022
57	Healy, Tom	2020
58	Connolly, Suzanne	2014
59	De, Jonge Henk	2005
60	Murray, David	1990
61	Hanly, Steven	1986
	Uí Laighléis, Gearóidín	1986
63	Palmer, Bernard	1980
64	Boyle, Bernard	1977
65	Muntadas, Alan	1968
66	Murphy, Dara	1956
67	Menon Jayadev, Poornima wf	1951
68	O'Grady, Gary	1937
69	Osborne, Sam	1929
70	Murtagh, Dermot	1924
71	Salter, David	1917
72	Nicholson, John	1910
73	Twomey, Pat	1894
74	Moran, Stephen	1892
75	Hogarty, Philip	1865
76	Smith, David J.	1860
77	Dunne, Paul	1857
78	Quinn, Deborah	1837
79	Benson, Oisín P.	1835
80	Lowry-O'Reilly, Hannah wf	1823
81	Loughran, John	1789
82	O'Brien, Kieran	1773
83	Grzymek, David	1677

### Key

g = international grandmaster, m=international master, f=FIDE master, wf= women's FIDE master.

# Upcoming Events Board...

## Irish Championships

The tournament will probably be on in July. Details are due to be arranged in the very near future, so keep an eye on <http://icu.ie> for further information.

## Bunratty Chess Festival

**Where** – Bunratty, Co Limerick  
**When** – 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> February  
**Contact** – Paul Carey +353-61-318689  
**Email** – [bunrattychess@aol.com](mailto:bunrattychess@aol.com)  
**Website** – [members.aol.com/BunrattyChess/](http://members.aol.com/BunrattyChess/)  
**Entry** – €45. €10 discount (€15 for Minor section) if in before 16<sup>th</sup> Feb.  
 Entries received on the Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb may be subject to a surcharge of €10  
**Bands** – Masters (2000+), Major (1600-1999), Challenger (1200-1599), Junior (800-1200), Novices (under 800 or ungraded)  
**Prize fund** – Estimated over €5000

## Cork Congress

**Where** – Gresham Metropole Hotel, Cork  
**When** – 30<sup>th</sup> March – 1<sup>st</sup> April  
**Contact** – Tom Hickey 086 1245670 or Michael Bradley 086 8042710  
**Email** – [corkchess@gmail.com](mailto:corkchess@gmail.com)  
**Entry** – €35 all sections before 23<sup>rd</sup> March. €10 late fee applies thereafter  
**Bands** – Masters (1600+), Major (1200-1600), Minor (U1200)  
**Website** – [www.corkchess.com](http://www.corkchess.com)  
**Prize fund** – €5,500

## Ennis Open

**Incorporating the MUC Championsh,**

**Where** – Auburn Lodge Hotel, Gort Road, Ennis.  
**When** – 13-15 April 2007  
**Contact** – Rory Quinn or John Cassidy  
**Email** – [ennischessclub@hotmail.com](mailto:ennischessclub@hotmail.com)  
**Entry** – €40 (U18 €25) €5 discount if paid by 6 April.  
**Notes** – Best player from North Munster will receive cash and a trophy.

## Other Tournaments

Drogheda Congress (June)  
 Limerick Monthly Rapidplays (11 Mar, 15 April, 6 May)  
 Galway Monthly Rapidplays (18 Feb)  
*For more information on these, keep an eye on [icu.ie](http://icu.ie)*

## Malahide Millennium Tournament

**Where** – ALSAA, near Dublin Airport  
**When** – 5-7 May  
**Contact** – Vincent Bissett – [VincentBissett@Hotmail.com](mailto:VincentBissett@Hotmail.com)  
**Website** – [www.myclubmanager.hosting365.ie/malahide/](http://www.myclubmanager.hosting365.ie/malahide/)

*If you would like a tournament posted here, contact [KTBurke@Hotmail.com](mailto:KTBurke@Hotmail.com)*

*Check the calendar section of the ICU website – [www.icu.ie](http://www.icu.ie) – for further details*