



ENGLISH DRAUGHTS ASSOCIATION JOURNAL Vol 58 No 1 March 2018

## BIRMINGHAM CUP

The West Midlands Draughts Association put on the Birmingham Cup event on 25 Nov 2017, in Longbridge. Tony Boyle (WMDA President) attracted a 12 strong field including guests and some potential recruits.



Shown above are, left to right standing: Tony Hynes (3rd), Mike McMenamin, Ken Lovell (m/c non-player), Tony Boyle (winner), Tony Gallagher, Richard Ball, William Leeper, Pat Cremin (2nd). Seated L - R: Rob Greenaway, Dave Horsewell, Alan Sutchfield. (Photo copyright Paul Braithwaite)

## IN THIS ISSUE

Calendar of Events	2
Guides to Websites	3
Green's Recollections & Collectors' Corner	4
Moran's Annotations	5
Problems	6-7
EDA AGM Agenda, Accounts, Motions	8-9
Czech Open 2017	10
Game & Invitation	11
Letter (Tony Boyle)	12
Membership, Trainers & Bartlett Memoir	13
History Notebook	14-
<i>Payne's book, 1756</i>	15
Officers & Affiliates	16

## EDITORIAL

Welcome to the new A5 format. Please contribute anything concerned with draughts and make 16 pages the standard issue size.

*Best Wishes, Paul Braithwaite.*

Thanks to Ken Lovell for proof reading this issue.

## WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

3-Move World Championship at Livorno, 9-23 Sept. 2017. Challenger Sergio Scarpetta beat Michele Borghetti by 6-1 and 29 draws.

## DISCLAIMER

The opinions herein are those of the respective contributor and do not necessarily reflect those of the Editor or any part of the EDA.

## CALENDAR

*Mostly from Graham Young*

Feb 23-24	Kildare Open, Town House Hotel, Naas: 2 days.
Mar 9-11	East of Scotland. Moyness B&B, Inverness: 3 days.
Mar 24	Counties Cup: Lancs v West Midlands, at Danny Oliphant's House, Warrington.
Apl 16-20	British Open, Spectrum Centre, Inverness: 5 days. including <b>EDA AGM ON 18th</b>
Sep 6-8	Northern Ireland Open, Greenvale Hotel, Cookstown:
Sep 22-23	Welsh Open, The Plough Hotel, Knighton: 2 days.
Oct 27-30	Irish Open, TBA, 3/4 days For 2018 events in the Czech Republic see the feature article on page 11.

## CORRECTIONS TO LAST ISSUE

*Spotted by Ian Caws.*

The Editor apologises for the following errors in the December 2017 issue:

Page 1, European Cup: Francis McNally is of Northern Ireland.

Page 3, Game 2, Move 6, should read 22-17 (not 22-27).

## COUNTIES CUP, 1st ROUND

Played in Bristol, Sat. 10th February 2018.

*from John Jolliff and Ian Caws.*

W	CORNWALL	D	HOBI	W
1	Miller, George	1	Poole, Brian	0
0	Gillbard, John	2	Caws, Ian	0
2	Brent, Nigel	0	Neeves, Peter	0
1	Jolliff, John	1	Goodenough, Brian	0
4		4		0

# GUIDE TO WEBSITES

*from Debra McManus (Australia)*

## Checker Websites and Apps

PLAYOK - formerly called Kurnik, free and timed games at:

<https://www.playok.com/en/checkers/>

GOLDTOKEN - turn based games GAYP, 3-Move, 11 Man Ballot, Tournaments and Clubs and Ladders at: <http://goldtoken.com>

ITS YOUR TURN - turn based games GAYP. 3 Move isn't handled well. You only get 1 leg and can get losing openings, at:

<https://www.itsyourturn.com>

Facebook Checkers - you need a *Facebook* account and it is timed games with about a minute per turn.

[https://apps.facebook.com/cp\\_checkers/](https://apps.facebook.com/cp_checkers/)  
Flyordie - 10 minute Timed games at:

<http://m.flyordie.com>

## APPS

You can search on the developer as well as the name. The developer is often quicker and more distinctive.

Checkers Online has timed games with about 30 seconds per move.

On Apple devices - 8x8, 10x10, 12x12

Checkers by App Holdings.

On Android devices - Draughts by App Holdings developer

Checkers Elite- timed games 1 min per move.

Both Android and Apple - by Elvista Media Solutions Corp. developer

Checkers Online (again) timed speed games with about a minute a turn.

Android - by Balicheckers developer

## Information Sites

Checker Cruncher - tactical puzzles, game database and opening explorer

<https://www.checkercruncher.com>

Online Checkers Library - checker books

<http://checkersusa.com/books/>

The Checker Maven - great site with interesting articles and links

<http://www.bobnewell.net/nucleus/>

To create checker diagrams <https://fmjd.org/dias2/help/draughtsdiagram.htm>

# WEBSITE FOR PROBLEMISTS

*Bill Salot (USA)  
tells us about his  
specialist website*

I have been conducting free bi-monthly problem composing contests for about six years. They are aimed at developing modern-day composers and at publicizing original, unpublished problems. But they also provide opportunities for everyone to solve and/or evaluate the problems in order to determine the winners.

Contest entries are checked beforehand by knowledgeable problemists with the aid of computer programs and databases.

The site is updated monthly with either a new contest or results of the preceding contest. All 37 previous contests are archived there. Go to [http://www.usacheckers.com/problems/show\\_contest.php](http://www.usacheckers.com/problems/show_contest.php). (What looks like a space is really an underscore.) The contests have some participation from Europe and overall visits increased massively just before Xmas.

Each contest is headed "*Unofficial World Championship Checker Problem Composing Contest*," so here is a way to become a World Champion without leaving your armchair!

## MEETING THE MASTERS

*Melvyn Green recalls some Big Moments*

### 1963

I think Scarborough was the venue for this English Open Championship. It was my first taste of a major tournament. Here was Derek Oldbury, one of Britain's best. I watched him pull a fine stroke in one of the games. Afterwards, I asked whether he considered A.C. Hews to have been the greatest stroke problemist and he responded "probably!"

### 1973

This was the year of a GB vs USA International Match held at Bournemouth. The highlight for me was seeing Walter Hellman, one of the all-time greats, at the board. He did not stay long due to poor health. The 10-man team included former world champ Asa Long who, the *Bournemouth Echo* reported in a small story, celebrated his 69th birthday at the opening of the event. It was the third meeting, with the first having been in 1905! A pity that Tinsley could not be there.

The 10-man GB squad was captained by Tom Padgett (63), of Leeds. Tom Landry (38) was one of only two Englishmen in the team, with five Scotsmen and two Welsh. He put up £1,200 of his own money to fund the event in the hope of reviving interest in the game. Very odd that the *Echo* quoted him as saying that draughts was "very unsociable, not a word is spoken"

I also saw and spoke to the late, great, Joe Charles, world famous Welsh problemist. We had a good talk at the local open-air draughts board and later exchanged problems, Joe published a book in 1986 and it is a classic. The international match was covered by the local newspaper with articles and photos.

### 2001

The English Championship was held at Morecambe in that year. There was also a World Title Three-Move Match won by A. Moiseyev, who beat Docherty. I found a seat nearby and watched one of their games. It was fascinating. Later, I introduced myself to

Moiseyev and showed him my book of problems. He even bought a copy and said he liked it! Another world champion, Ron King, was present and upon asking, he kindly autographed my book.

## COLLECTOR'S CORNER



Liam Stephens has kindly shared this old comic postcard by Bamforth (no. 425 in their "COMIC" series).

*The genre picked up on popular opinions of the day and so it is clear that our game has a longstanding reputation for slowness. The obsession with regular rule changes related to the duration for moves that are motioned at our AGMs seems to have done nothing to overcome that perception.*  
(Editor)

# FRANK MORAN'S GAME ANNOTATIONS

*The Current English Open Champion  
selects games from*

## THE 2017 ENGLISH OPEN, ROUND 3

### **GAME 1: Francis McNally (Black) v Lindus Edwards (White)**

9-13	25-22	14-17 (D)	27-24	2-6	23-18
24-19	11-15	21-14	8-11	32-28	1-6
10-14 (A)	29-25 (C)	10-17	24-20	17-22	28-24
22-18	15-24	18-15	7-10 (E)	25-18	6-10
6-10 (B)	28-19	11-18	14-7	10-15	24-19 (F)
18-9	8-11	23-14	3-10	19-10	
5-14	22-18	4-8	26-23	6-22	White wins

- A No longer regarded as a critical ballot but this opening has remarkable scope because of the sheer number of attacks at white's disposal.
- B Cutting down the range by transposing into a main variation of the "Inferno" (9-13, 22-18, 10-14). This, however, brings additional problems of its own.
- C 28-24 is also good and must be met by 7-11.
- D Black's problems originate with this move which is too early. Instead 1-5, 18-9, 5-14, 25-22, 11-15 draws with care. Both 23-18 and 32-28 are strong white attacks but Canning's "Compilations" and Pask's "21<sup>st</sup> Century Checkers" give sound drawing routes, which space restrictions prevent showing here.
- E Both 11-16 and 1-5 are also doubtful.
- F The score-sheet finishes here, as 13-17, 30-26 is resignation time.

### **GAME 2: Lindus Edwards (Black) v Francis McNally (White)**

9-13	6-10	11-18	15-24	11-18	7-11
24-19	29-25 (B)	23-5	28-19	22-15	22-18
10-14	2-6 (C)	8-11	4-8	12-16	6-10 (F)
22-18	21-17 (D)	27-23	31-27	19-12	
5-9 (A)	14-21	11-15	8-11	10-19	Drawn
25-22	18-15	23-18	18-15	25-22 (E)	

- A. Varies from previous game and is the standard move at this stage.
- B. Just one of several strong white attacks available here. This move (29-25) was often used with success by the late Irish Grandmaster Pat McCarthy.
- C. Correct move and threatens a shot.
- D. 18-15 is usual, but Derek Oldbury once described 21-17 as "another strong looking move."
- E. Not 32-28, 19-23 and backshot. Black Win.
- F. Interesting game, away from hackneyed published play.

*We hope to have more from Frank Moran in our next issue.*

## SOLUTIONS TO DEC 2017 ISSUE

Source of problem is given before the moves.

**Problem 289;** Walton W. Walker "*Inside Checkers*" 1922, p.142, Problem 21 set by M.J. Babcock, & p167. White to play and win. 17-21; 25-30 6-2; 7-11 18-15; 11-18 2-7; 3-17 21-32; 30-26 32-27.

**Problem 290:** *Draughts Review*, v.3, n.6, June 1927, p.110, Problem 608 & p.114. White to play and win. 8-3; 5-9 3-8; 9-14 8-12; 14-18 12-16; 18-22 16-19; 23-26 29-25; 22-29 31-22; 21-25 19-15; 25-30 15-18; 30-25 18-15.

**Problem 291:** *Draughts World*, v.18, n.56(ns), Aug 1901, p.1109, Problem 895 & p. 1131. Black to play & win. 3-7 23-18; 16-23 28-19; 23-26 31-22; 6-9 17-13; 10-26 13-6; 1-10 18-15; 10-14 5-1; 26-31 1-6; 31-27 6-10; 27-23.

**Problem 292:** *California Checker Chatter*, v.13, pts. 10-12, Oct-Dec 1963, pp.2018, & 2019 Problem 195. White to play and win. 7-10; 15-18 28-24; 19-28 10-14; 18-23 14-18; 23-27 18-25; 27-31 25-30; 12-16 17-14; 16-19 14-10; 19-23 10-7; 31-27 7-2; 27-24 2-7; 24-19 7-11; 19-24 11-15; 24-27 30-25; 27-31 15-19; 31-26 19-24; 26-31 25-30.

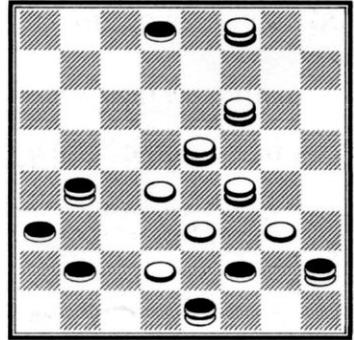
**Problem 293:** W. Ryan "*Big League Checkers*" 1961, p119. White to play & win: 8-3; 9-18 3-10; 18-23 10-15; 12-16 28-24; 16-20 15-18; 20-27 18-22; 5-9 21-17.

**Problem 294:** source: J.A. Kear "*The English Draught Player*" v.1, n.7, July 1878, p76 Position 36 by late F.J. Winder of Limerick, & p.91. Black to play & win. 23-27 32-23; 17-22 26-17; 19-26 30-23; 12-26 28-24; 26-31 24-20; 31-26 18-15; 26-23 15-11; 7-16 20-11; 23-18 11-8; 18-15 8-3; 15-10 3-8; 2-6 8-11; 5-9.

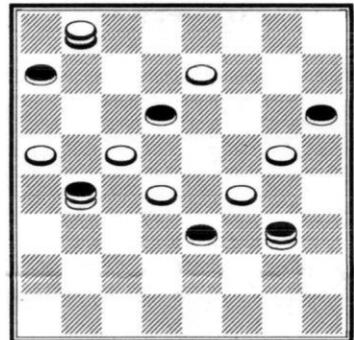
## PROBLEMS

Selected by MELVYN GREEN

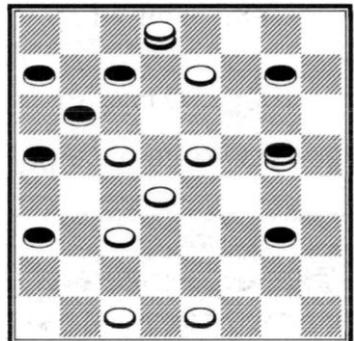
**Problem 295** (2012)  
White to move & win.



**Problem 297** (2012)  
Black to move & win.



**Problem 299** (2012)  
White to move & win.

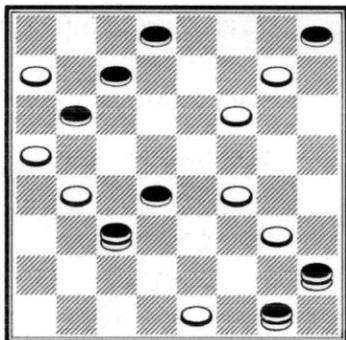


## (2018 Series)

Selected by MELVYN GREEN

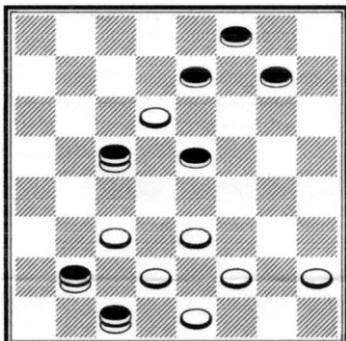
### Problem 296 (2006)

White to move & win.



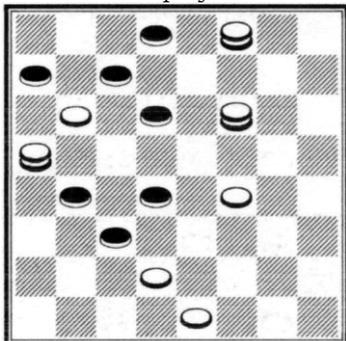
### Problem 298 (2013)

White to move & win.



### Problem 300 (2012)

White to play & win.



## PROBLEMS SOLVED!

In the last issue questions were raised about apparent dislike of the "problems" format. Several members were helpful in identifying the idea of *points for identification of sources* as being the trouble.

It should please you all to know that we now revert to the simpler and traditional method. The hiccup also had benefit in seeing the return of Melvyn Green as our problems selector and composer. The dates that he created them are given in brackets after each problem number.

Great news for competitors is that a member, who wishes to remain anonymous, has most generously offered £100 in prize money.

## COMPETITION RULES

- 1.. The competition is open to all members who are honour bound **not** to use computers. This series will run over the four *Journal* issues of 2018. Final standings and awards will be advised at the March 2019 issue.
2. Points will be awarded as follows:  
10 for the target solution.  
8 for any other true solution (only scored if you do not find the target answer).  
2 bonus points per problem for any amusing or insightful comment. (that *may* if suitable be repeated in the *Journal*.)
- 3 Prizes will be £40 for 1st; £30 for 2nd; £20 for 3rd; £10 for 4th (We would wish to agree an equivalent with any non-UK winner to avoid currency charges).
4. Right is reserved to cancel the competition and not award prizes if there are insufficient entries to this first set.
5. Solutions to the March set should be sent to Paul Braithwaite, 13 Lamerton Close, Wyken, Coventry CV2 3AL, or email to draughts@mail.com, to arrive no later than 30 April 2018.

## EDA AGM AGENDA

The Spectrum, Inverness  
18 April 2018, start 7.30pm.

1. Hon. President's Address & welcome.
2. Minute's silence for deceased members.
3. Apologies for Absence.
4. Minutes of 2017 AGM.
5. Matters Arising from 4.
6. Correspondence.
7. Hon. Secretary's Report.
8. Hon. Treasurer's Report.
9. Motions: Proposals and Rule Changes.
10. Election of Officers (posts are generally Honorary):
  - (a) President (b) Vice-President (c) Chairman (d) Secretary (e) Treasurer (f) Journal Editor (g) Publicity Officer (h) FMJD Co-ordinator (i) Postal Secretary (j) Two Trustees (k) Three Committee Members.
11. Forthcoming Events:
  - (a) English Open Championship 2019, Dorset Hotel, Ryde, IoW, 1st, 3rd or 4th week April?
  - (b) World 3-Move Qualifier 2018, Barbados (c) British Counties Championship (d) Postal Tournaments (e) Other Events.
12. EDA Website
13. Executive Committee and AGM Dates.
14. Any Other Business.

**A PROXY VOTING SLIP is attached to this Journal for those unable to attend the AGM.**

## MOTIONS TO AGM

PROPOSALS AND POTENTIAL  
RULE CHANGES

*An amendment to Consitution Rule 1.7 and cancellation of Rule 1.25, Proposed I.H. Caws, Seconded K.W. Lovell.*

That the office of Delegate to the FMJD be abolished. (2/3rds majority required to pass)

*An addition to Rule 3.21. Proposed J.R. Jolliff, Seconded I.H. Caws:*

That in the event of an uneven number of entries, other than in a round robin, the first round bye shall be awarded to the lowest rated player and in the absence of suitable ratings the referee's decision shall prevail.

*Another addition to Rule 3.21. Proposed by K.W. Lovell, Seconded by I.H. Caws.*

Adequate time shall be allowed at the end of the tournament for all necessary calculations to determine accurate standings. Members of the playing committee may be called upon in order to speed up this process.

*Amendment to Rule 3.26 and subsequent amendments to others. Proposed G. Young, Seconded W.A. Dobbins.*

If two or more players finish level on tournament points anywhere in the final table they shall be split by comparing SB points (weighted honour points).

*Relating to EDA Life Members - A Protocol Note. Proposed P. Braithwaite, Seconded K.W. Lovell*  
Life Members shall be respectfully asked to notify the EDA on January of each year of their current address and continued interest in receipt of the *Journal*, etc., unless they have met with or otherwise communicated with an EDA Officer in the previous year.

*Europe Ambassador for EDA*

Proposed A. Boyle, Seconded P. Braithwaite.  
The EDA authorises David Kotin to act as our (Honorary) Ambassador in Europe.

## 2017 EDA ACCOUNTS

*Ian Caws, Hon. Treasurer*

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>£ - p</b>	<b>£ - p</b>
SUBSCRIPTIONS		
Members	484-06	
Affiliations	<u>60-00</u>	544-06
DONATIONS		
General	40-00	
English Open	25-00	
Postal	<u>25-00</u>	90-00
ENTRY FEES		
English Open	410-00	
English Postal	<u>5-00</u>	415-00
BANK INTEREST		1-31
EXCESS OF EXPENDITURE		<u>861-66</u>
		£1,912-03

### EXPENDITURE

HONORARIA		
Secretary	100-00	
Treasurer	100-00	
Editors	100-00	
Auditor	<u>25-00</u>	325-00
POSTAGE		
Journals	178-68	
General	<u>88-64</u>	267-32
INSURANCE		182-89
AFFILIATIONS		60-00
STATIONERY		16-82
ENGLISH OPEN PRIZES	<u>1,060-00</u>	
		£1,912-03

### BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DEC 2017

ACCUMULATED FUND		
Balance as at 31 Dec 2016	3,284-55	
Less Excess of Expenditure	<u>861-66</u>	
		2,422-89
ASSETS		
Business account	465-38	
Instant Access account	<u>2,064-99</u>	
		2,530-37
Less Unpresented Cheque	<u>107-48</u>	
BALANCE		£ 2,422-89

*Audited and Found Correct 20 Jan 2018,  
(Auditor's signature) G.W.Shore*

## MOTIONS CONTINUED

### Annual Subscriptions

Proposed P.Braithwaite, 2nd  
K.W. Lovell.

The annual subscription rate for UK members shall be altered into two categories in reflection of servicing costs:

(a) To those who accept communications by email (or equal electronic means that cause no cost to the EDA), subscription shall remain at £10 per annum.

(b) To those who want posted, paper copy of the Journal and other communications, the subscription shall be £15 per annum.

### EDA Website

Proposed P.Braithwaite,  
Seconded K.W. Lovell.

A fresh website should be created aimed at recruitment (if the current site cannot be suitably modified). Authorisation of spending to cover annual fees to a website provider is sought in a budget not exceeding £150 per annum.

### MEMBERS CONTACT LIST

Names and contact details of members who seek to meet their local players will be published on condition that the EDA cannot accept any responsibility for misuse of such information. Write to accept those terms.

# CZECH OPEN DESKOHRANI 2017

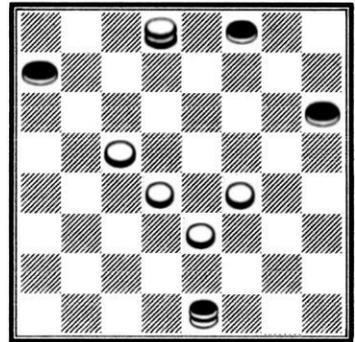
Old England Club, Prague, 21 & 22th October  
*Report and Game Analysis*  
by **DAVID KOTIN**  
(Arbiter of the tournament)

POSN	PLAYER	NAT	1	SB	
1	Nadiya Chyzhevska	UKR	17	133	
2	Mario Meiello	ITA	15	103	
3	Filip Kareta	CZE	13	87	
4	Alona Maksymova	UKR	12	75	
5	Vaclav Krista	CZE	11	63	
6	Vaclav Marek	CZE	6	39	
7	Yegor Maksymov	UKR	6	20	
8	Olga Maksymova	UKR	6	20	
9=	Hana Kotinova	CZE	2	8	
9=	Martin Vondra	CZE	2	8	

*Results table from [www.deskohrani.cz](http://www.deskohrani.cz)*

The results of this GAYP tournament are shown above. The Sonneborn-Berger system was used to break ties. The atmosphere was pleasant as in previous years. 1<sup>st</sup> place was won by WGM & women's world champion (at the time) Nadiya Chyzhevska. M. Meillo, an Italian Dama Master, making his debut at Desko hrani took 2<sup>nd</sup>. I.M. Filip Kareta was 3<sup>rd</sup> while 4<sup>th</sup> was WGM Alona Maksymova. 10x10 I.M. Vaclav Krista was 5<sup>th</sup>. I have trained Filip and currently work with Alona. Her children occupied some of the lower places and are still quite young, the older one being 13.

Vaclav Krista missed a win with Alona and the latter prepared a devious trap which enabled her to draw the game with double breeches which is a very pleasing theme to see. Willie Ryan missed a win in the 9th American Tourney and only drew his game with Bas Bell as the latter also concluded his game with a draw using the same theme - it is pretty. (*game in next column*)



Bas Bell - Black - 3, 5, 12, king - 31. Willie Ryan - White - 14, 18, 19, 23, king - 2. 9th A.C.A. Tourney 1939. White to play, what result?

Study the position for a few minutes and try to analyse as carefully and accurately as possible. White is certainly better but can black draw the position with best play by both black and white?

White finally played ...14-9, followed by 5x14 18x9, 31-27 23-18. What should Black play now? If now (27-23 then ...18-15, 23x16 15-11, 16x7 2x11 W.wins) Is there anything better than 27-23 by Black? Black can now play 3-7! followed by ...2 x11, 27-23 & draws easily by the cute device called *double breeches*! This material was published on page 36 of Ryan's "*Modern Encyclopedia of Checkers*" (1st edition) 1940! It is not in the 2nd ed which I also have. Finally, how should Ryan have played to secure his win?

## DESKOHRANI 2017

**Vaclav Krista** (Black) **v**

**Alona Maksymova** (White)

The following game played at

Deskohrani ended the

checkers tourney in Prague

and the often played Cross

opening finished with a twist

that was most unexpected!

11-15 23-18, 8-11 27-23, 4-8

23-19, 10-14 19x10, 14x23

26x19, 7x14 24-20, 6-10 22-

17, 9-13 30-26, 13x22 25x9,

5x14 29-25, 11-15 28-24

*(very weak, ...26-23, 15x24*

*28x19 draws)*, 8-11 26-22,

3-7 31-27, 14-18 21-17, 11-

16 20x11, 7x23 25-21,

18x25 27x11, 25-30 11-8,

30-26 8-3, 26-22 17-13, 22-

18 3-8, 18-15 32-28, 15-18

8-11, 18-23 *(18-14 clearly*

*better because if white*

*exchanges pieces via 11-16*

*then Black wins easily as the*

*king holds piece[s] on the side*

*and prevents white from*

*obtaining another king)* 13-9

*(white should play the*

*stronger ...11-16!, 12x19*

*24x6, 2x9 [A] 13x6, 1x10 21-*

*17, 23-18 17-13, 18-14 28-24*

*draws. [A] if Black plays 1x10*

*then 13-9!, 10-14 28-24 or 9-*

*5 draws easily), 23-27 24-*

*20, what should Black play*

*now? (27-23! is best and*

*Black is threatening to win*

*the game with 1-5 etc. Black*

*has a strangle-hold in the*

*centre which wins the ending*

*eventually. Instead of 27-23,*

*black played the obviously*

*attractive 1-5 which appears*

*to win a piece and the game?*

*Should white resign at this*

*point? What would you play*

as white? Alona now pitched ... 9-6!, 2x9 now another pitch...20-16, 12x19 11-15 drawing the game by "Double Breeches" and ending the tourney in a surprising manner!

## WARM WELCOME AWAITS IN CZECH REPUBLIC

David Kotin is keen to get UK and Irish players to visit Prague and nearby places to enjoy the many fine attractions and places of culture on offer.

Many readers will recall that David spent almost 20 years in England and as a piece of trivia won the only two EDA tournaments that he entered. He has subsequently specialised in analysing many abstract strategy games and enjoys training players of all ages. In 2018, David plans to visit Turkey & France very shortly, Netherlands in April and/or August. Kyrgyzstan in September to compete in & promote "brain" games. He is always keen to advise other potential teachers and promoters of draughts as well as a myriad of sister mind games.

He praises Prague as one of the most beautiful cities in the world, known for its architecture, exotic museums, castles etc. Accommodation and travel costs are far cheaper there than in the UK. Can he tempt you to draughts events at Deskohrani (13-21 Oct in Prague) and the Czech Open? (12-29 July in Pardubice). Draughts events take place on the 2 weekends of Deskohrani as well as on other days. Frisian 5x5 endings may take place on 17 Oct. Czech Open – Czech Dama & 10x10 tourneys are scheduled for 13-15 July. Frysk/Frisian draughts may take place on 12-13 July in the morning. 8x8 draughts, Thai dama etc will run after the first 4 days of Czech Open and finish no later than 19 July. See websites for previous year's info via [www.czechopen.net](http://www.czechopen.net) and [www.deskohrani.cz](http://www.deskohrani.cz) It is too early to post updated info about the 2018 editions of these major game festivals info about results and accommodation etc is available from 2017, of course.

# **LETTER - STATE OF THE GAME**

*from Tony Boyle*

The game of Draughts has been around a while and had highs and lows. In my 25 years of playing I have met some lovely people: sadly a lot of them have passed now.

The new *Journal* editor, Paul Braithwaite, has asked several questions which we may, or may not, have answered to his expectations. Which way will the game go? Well, I can only say in trying to promote it that 99.9% of the population have not got the slightest interest in the game. The image of the game is that of a child's game and on a par with, say, "Connect 4," "Jenga," marbles or tiddlywinks.

That image relates to the UK but is not necessarily the same on the continent (of Europe). Indeed, anyone who sees me playing draughts asks "can't you play chess?"

I do not think we can get rid of this image. It is ingrained in the public mind.

All that and the typical age of EDA players, now in their 60s, 70s and 80s, raises a big question about the future of the game.

Efforts to get youth into the game have been tried by many in the past. Joan and Ian Caws, George Miller, and myself, have all tried at various times. All the kids who played during those periods are not to be seen as adults on the scene now. With this in mind who do we attract? The Editor has suggested we look to the later-50s and near retirement age group. They might be looking for a time-filling hobby and come back to the game. It may have merit.

In the past we tried to attract foreigners into the game eg Poles resident in Birmingham and Redditch but they are a very closed community. I have tried going to chess tournaments to promote the game with little or no result.

How can we get online players to join real clubs?

All efforts to date have produced very few players into the game.

At present I am going to a pub in Stourbridge where they have a board-games night once per week. There they have been playing chess and Connect 4. I have introduced draughts and got a couple of youngsters (18 and 23 year olds) who have never played our game before.

The pub landlord is a young poker player and seems to want to attract poker players to other games beforehand. They seem to play from about 10pm to 9am! He says they may start playing from 7pm in which case I may get a few to try draughts before they play the big poker game.

I think that draughts needs to be seen to survive and therefore to be played alongside other games. What I mean by that is to try and poach a few players from other games into the draughts world. It is what I call diversity. Although I have resigned as EDA Publicity Officer I am still actively promoting the game in any way that I can in the West Midlands area.

All the best to fellow players and I hope to see you at a tournament in the near future.

*Tony Boyle.*

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

A warm welcome to new member Bill Salot (USA) and to new life member Brian Goodenough. In our last issue we mentioned the passing of Donald Bartlett and can now share a memoir (next column) penned by John Jolliff:

## PLAY SKILLS TRAINING

In response to the Membership Survey the EDA now present four experienced players who have generously offered to provide help to novices to improve their playing skills. Anyone interested should make direct contact with their preferred trainer and agree mutually suitable arrangements.

BOYLE, Tony [tony.boyle1@talktalk.net](mailto:tony.boyle1@talktalk.net)  
20 Holly Grove, Sidemoor, Bromsgrove,  
B61 8LH. Tel. 01527 836568.

*Workshops only (West Midlands)*

JOLLIFF, John [jnjolliff@btinternet.com](mailto:jnjolliff@btinternet.com) or  
write to 'Halwyn,' Windsor Estate, Pelynt,  
Looe, PL13 2JY. Tel: 01503 220548.

*(Not available for a spell during 2018)*

KOTIN, David A. [cemsomaster@seznam.cz](mailto:cemsomaster@seznam.cz)  
K Nadrazi 89 Prague 9 Satalice 19015  
Czech Republic. Players can also contact  
me via Skype! Name used is hakvago. I give  
lessons via Skype to a few players already.

*Electronic only.*

LOVELL, Ken W. [lovell.ken@btinternet.com](mailto:lovell.ken@btinternet.com) or  
write 5 Waterloo Street East, Tipton, West  
Midlands, DY4 8NG. Tel: 0121 5577166

*Workshop and/or electronic.*

## LIBRARY

The Editor has a good selection of mostly older books about draughts. EDA members may inspect (in Coventry) by appointment only. A limited amount of copying may be possible of out-of-copyright publications. For list or enquiries email [draughts@mail.com](mailto:draughts@mail.com) or write with large sae to Paul Braithwaite, 13 Lamerton Close, Wyken, Coventry CV2 3AL.

## Donald Bartlett

*A memoir by John Jolliff*

Donald, my friend and accomplished fellow draught player, died suddenly in October 2017. He was a member of the Liskeard club and a regular in the Cornish team. He also played for England. As a young man he learned his trade as a wheelwright, afterwards joining the RAF and was sent to Aden where he worked on wooden Mosquito planes. He would often talk about involvement in test flights (as an incentive to do a good job maybe?). Because he had experience of driving tractors he pulled the planes in to be repaired.

After the RAF he became a skilled carpenter. He married Valerie in 1955, later building their own house with help from his brother in the village of Rilla Mill.. He also constructed a lovely garden, in which he spent many enjoyable hours.

He finished his working life as a surveyor with *Everest*, retiring in 1991 due to ill health. An active member of the community, he took part in many things, including short mat bowls, darts and whist, and rang the church bells for over 50 years.

Very much a family man, he was the youngest of five brothers and two sisters. He leaves a wife, two daughters and several grandchildren who miss him terribly, as do we all.

# HISTORY NOTEBOOK - 1

350 years of serious play is something that should be celebrated, not forgotten. Draughts offers a rich field of study for game historians and admirers of the master players. Please contribute something to this new (occasional) history section. The Editor kicks off by setting the scene on its earliest exponents.

## THE RISE OF GAME ANALYSIS

### *William Payne, 1756, an author in two minds?*

by Paul Braithwaite

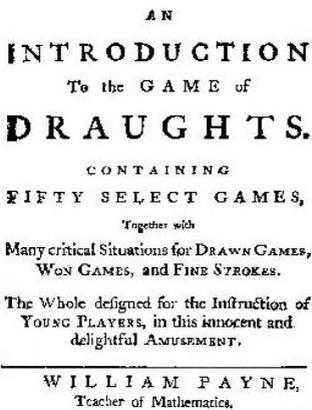
Before comment on play analysis it is worth setting out origins of the game itself in a few short facts. These are taken from the study in H.J.R. Murray "A History of Board Games Other Than Chess" (1951, Oxford University Press, pp.72-82. Some of his findings are disputed but I think it is an excellent overview of its vast subject.) Draughts in various forms had spread during the late mediaeval period so that before the year 1700 it was played throughout greater Europe, Scandinavia and beyond.

Serious regard for the game was implied in the early sixteenth century when a rule (the *huff*) was added to enforce capture when such a move was available. In France, during the first half of the seventeenth century, a form of the game was much favoured amongst mathematicians. Books specifically about draughts appeared in Spain from 1547 and France from 1668. English devotees had a long wait for a similar volume.

The game came into favour with the better classes in England around 1660. Leading players came to be recognised, including a Col. Panton (died 1681), whilst Jonathan Laud (died 1704) played for money but his reputé as a highly skilled gamester soon became known and none would challenge him.

Serious play persisted to the mid-eighteenth century when William Payne entered the stage and we turn to his book to notice the state of the game. That author credited three gentlemen with raising his own skill in draughts. His friends Captain John Godfrey and William Wolly were rated excellent players, with James Randell said to be the best. How such skills came about is unfortunately not recorded but in all likelihood was at the coffee and gambling houses which were so much in fashion for the well-to-do of that age.

*Left: the Title page of Payne's book.*



L O N D O N

Printed for the Author at the Golden Ball in Bedford Street,  
Covent Garden: And Sold by T. PAYNE, at the Middle Glass,  
in Coffee Street; J. MARRAS, at St. Nicholas's Church; J. COLEMAN,  
in St. James's Street; W. SHROPSHIRE, in New Bond Street;  
W. OWEN, in Fleet Street; J. PAYNE, in Peter-a-dew-Road;  
and J. BROTHERTON, in Cornhill.

M DCC LVI

[Price Two Shillings and Sixpence.]

William Payne was responsible for the first English book about draughts, published in London in 1756. His "*Introduction to the Game of Draughts*" was much criticised by Sturges when his "*Guide*" saw light of day in 1800 and we will review that work on another occasion. Sturges rather robbed Payne of credit for the legacy of jargon in the game and the means of recording move sequences as a source of study. That was summarised in part of Payne's book title, "*Containing Fifty Select Games, together with Many Critical Situations for Drawn Games, Won Games, and Fine Strokes.*"

Payne offered board numbering in the manner now taken for granted and used that as a basis for recording moves, with variations. It was almost needless for Payne to admit to being a Teacher of Mathematics as there was no descriptive analysis to assist the reader in a study of those games. It presumably meant that the game was sufficiently played to expect people to understand the records.

Payne's book title ended with "*The Whole designed for the Instruction of Young Players, in this innocent and delightful amusement.*" This sentiment was revealed again in the preface where he thought draughts to be a suitable amusement where more laudable employment was not available! The address (a usual feature of books at this time) to the Earl of Rochford adds to Payne's state of apparent mental turmoil when foreseeing that he might be ridiculed. It is, however, reputed by James Boswell (biographer) that both preface and address were penned by the illustrious Dr. Johnson.

The better side of Payne took hold in his Preface (if indeed he wrote that part) where he pronounced it to be a game of skill having incontestible levels of difficulty. "Multitudes practise it, very few understand it." He noted some prevailing opinion that black invariably won but, with his rated player friends, found that skill always overcome the alleged advantage of having the first move.

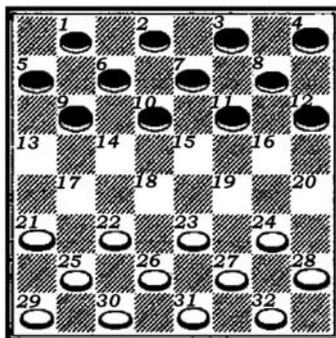
William Payne gave us a book with columns of enumerated play lines, and associated jargon, which has served as a template for all

works on draughts down almost to the present day. Since World War II authors have tended to favour descriptions as the game turned towards strategic approaches to play.

GAME XLIV.											
N	C	F	T	N	C	F	T	N	C	F	T
1	W	22,17		19	W	24,20		37	W	18,15	
2	B	11,15		20	B	16,19		38	B	7,10	
3	W	23,19		21	W	32,27		39	W	20,16	
4	B	8,11		22	B	6,10		40	B	10,14	
5	W	25,22		23	W	25,21		41	W	15,11	
6	B	4, 8		24	B	10,17		42	B	8,15	
7	W	29,25		25	W	21,14		43	W	19, 1	
8	B	9,13		26	B	1, 6		44	B	12,19	
9	W	17,14		27	W	27,24		45	W	24,15	
10	B	10,17		28	B	19,23		46	B	14,18	
11	W	19,10		29	W	20,19		47	W	1, 6	
12	B	7,14		30	B	6,10		&c.		drawn.	
13	W	22,18		31	W	30,26					
14	B	14,23		32	B	10,17					
15	W	21,14		33	W	26,22					
16	B	11,16		34	B	17,26					
17	W	27,18		35	W	31,22					
18	B	3, 7		36	B	2, 6					

Above: a typical page from Payne's book showing the moves in a game.

Below: the numbered board has remained the standard.



## EDA OFFICERS

President: Graham Young, East Bendings, Stonehaven,  
AB3 2XX. email bendings@hotmail.com.  
Secretary: Ken Lovell, 5 Waterloo Street East, Tipton,  
West Midlands, DY4 8NG lovell.ken@btinternet.com  
*Thanks to all the EDA Committee Members who  
contributed to the December Executive Meeting  
conducted by email.*  
Treasurer: Ian Caws, 54 Mayfield Road, Ryde, Isle of  
Wight, PO33 3PR. email: ianhenrycaws@gmail.com  
Chairman: Ian Caws, as above  
*My good wishes to all for 2018 and look forward to a  
successful British Open and a productive AGM.*  
Postal Secretary: Chris Saxton, 123 Writtle Road,  
Chelmsford, CM1 3BP, chrissaxton@hotmail.co.uk.  
Journal Editor: Paul Braithwaite. 13 Lamerton Close,  
Wyken, Coventry CV2 3AL. draughts@mail.com  
*Look forward to your contributions to the Journal.*  
FMJD Coordinator: John Reade, 123 Andover Avenue,  
Middleton, Manchester M24 1JQ. email  
sue.ream@uwclub.net.  
Webmaster: vacant.  
Publicity Officer: vacant.

## AFFILIATED ORGANISATIONS

*Cornwall Draughts Association*  
contact John Jolliff 01503 220548  
*Hampshire, Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Bucking-  
hamshire and Isle of Wight (HOBBI)*  
*Draughts Association*  
contact Ian Caws 01983 565484  
*Lancashire Draughts Association*  
contact John Reade 0161 6432985  
*Welsh Draughts Association*  
contact Gordon Mills 01633 666937  
*West Midlands Draughts Association*  
contact Ken Lovell 0121 5577166  
*Yorkshire & East Humberside Draughts*  
*Association*  
contact Mahood Qureshi 01274 726361

## THE JOURNAL

It is issued on the first of March, June,  
September and December and is available in  
pdf or paper copy. Members' small adverts  
may be inserted free.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS AND BACK ISSUES

Write to Ian Caws,  
Treasurer, 54 Mayfield Road,  
Ryde, Isle of Wight, PO33  
3PR. Membership £10  
(Europe 20 Euros, USA \$25.  
Back Issues (from 2000  
onwards) 50p each. *Subject  
to possible change at the  
AGM.*  
Also available: Sets of 3-Move  
Cards, £3.50 each, laminated  
£5. EDA Badges £2 each.  
Oldbury v Hallett match  
games, £8.  
Make cheques payable to the  
EDA

### COPYRIGHT

(c) English Draughts Association,  
except any item noted otherwise.

### PUBLICATION & DISTRIBUTION

Produced and distributed on  
behalf of the EDA (to members  
only), by the Editor, Paul  
Braithwaite, 13 Lamerton Close,  
Coventry CV2 3AL, England..

Material for the *Journal*  
should be sent to the  
Editor, Paul Braithwaite,  
13 Lamerton Close,  
Wyken, Coventry CV2 3AL  
or email  
draughts@mail.com.

Please supply in Word.doc  
(not docx), plain text, or  
pdf, with images in jpeg,  
plus relevant copyright  
details.

DEADLINE FOR JUNE  
ISSUE IS 10 MAY 2018.

ENGLISH DRAUGHTS ASSOCIATION AGM 18 APRIL 2018

**PROXY VOTING SLIP**

If you are a member but unable to attend the AGM and wish to nominate another member to vote on your behalf you must complete this form and return to the Hon. Secretary for declaration prior to the meeting.

Your name (PRINT CLEARLY) .....

I am unable to attend the 2018 AGM and hereby appoint  
(INSERT NOMINEE'S NAME - must be a member)

..... as a proxy on my behalf.

Sign:..... Date .....

Return to K. Lovell, 5 Waterloo Street East, Tipton, West Midlands, DY4 8NG or  
email a scan to [lovell.ken@btinternet.com](mailto:lovell.ken@btinternet.com)