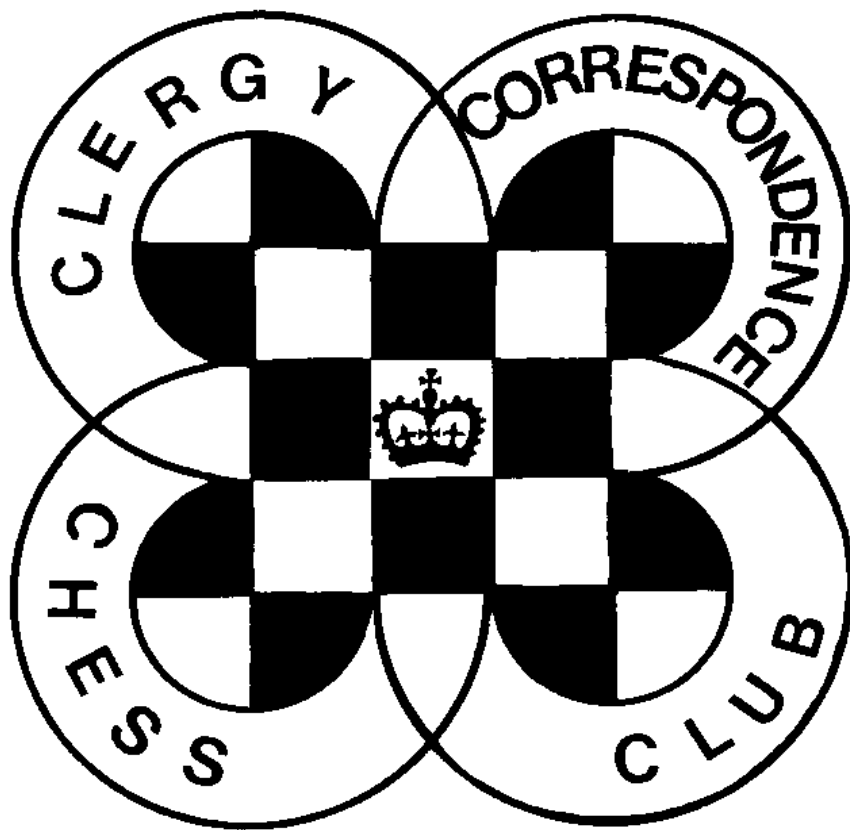


# **CHESS minister !**

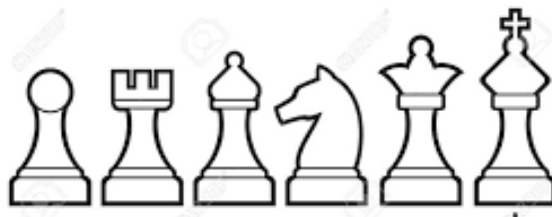
**February 2025**



**C**LERGY **C**ORRESPONDENCE **C**HESS **C**lub

# **CHESS Minister!**

## **February 2025**



### **CURRENT SEASON**

The new format of our competition is underway and all rounds except the last one should have begun by the time you receive this magazine. A few results have come in from earlier rounds and the current table appears elsewhere in this magazine.

### **MEMBERS**

We are sad to record the death of long standing member Antony Foster. A tribute to him appears elsewhere in this magazine, along with his final game of chess completed just a few days before his death. Being fairly local I was able to attend his funeral at St Jude's, Halifax, and meet some of his family. Antony had planned the funeral himself and it reflected his firm hope in the resurrection.

### **SCHEMING MIND CURRENT AND COMPLETED GAMES**

One member asked a question about why he had some Completed Games still in his Current Games section on Scheming Mind. On the basis that if one person asks a question, several others probably have the same question but haven't asked, I referred it to the Site Owner and this was his reply:

If your opponent enters a message in a game after it has finished, it continues to show in your current games list with a highlight. If you look at the game and read the messages, then the game will disappear from your list of current games, not necessarily immediately, but it will be gone the next time you log on to the site.

### **SCHEMING MIND CHESS LEAGUE**

We completed our final match in Season Fourteen with a  $6\frac{1}{2} - 3\frac{1}{2}$  victory over Dreadnoughts and so finished 3rd in the Division, which well exceeded our expectations in this higher Division. Congratulations to the Team that achieved this excellent result. Because of this we remain in Division 3 for Season 15 which has now begun. We lost our first match  $1\frac{1}{2} - 8\frac{1}{2}$  to The Chess Masters B Team, but they were in a higher Division last season. Our second round match is underway against knightworm78 and at the time of writing we lead  $2\frac{1}{2} - 1\frac{1}{2}$ .

### **ACCOUNTS**

Accounts for the last year are elsewhere in the magazine. Our thanks to Charles for keeping careful control over the Club's finances.

## **CCCC ACCOUNTS**

### **Income and Expenditure Account for year ended 31.7.24**

	<u>2023/24</u>	<u>(2022/23)</u>		<u>2023/24</u>	<u>(2022/23)</u>
<u>Income £</u>			<u>Expenditure £</u>		
Subscriptions	13.00	(6.50)	Secretary's Expenses	16.85	(16.95)
Bank Interest	9.86	(1.19)	Treasurer's Expenses	2.45	
Donation	3.00		EFCC Affiliation	28.00	(28.00)
Scheming Mind p'ments	15.00	(18.00)			
Deficit for year	6.44	(19.26)			
	<u>47.30</u>	<u>(44.95)</u>		<u>47.30</u>	<u>(44.95)</u>

### **Balance Sheet as at 31.7.24**

	<u>£</u>
Balances brought forward	1531.54
Less: deficit for year	6.44
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<u><b>1525.10</b></u>
<u>Represented by:</u>	
Santander UK plc Business Account	240.69
NS&I Investment Account (Life Membership)	1284.41
	<u><b>1525.10</b></u>

### **Treasurer's Report on the 2023/24 Accounts**

This year's accounts show a more modest deficit of £6.44 compared with last year's £19.26. The situation has been improved by a small donation – for which thank you! – and also by the higher interest rates now being paid by NS&I, though it seems unlikely that these will continue at current levels throughout 2024/25.

After two rather large percentage increases in the last five years, I am pleased to report that EFCC have not raised their affiliation fee this time. The other items call for little comment beyond saying that for the first time in seven years I have had to charge some Treasurer's expenses, connected with my change of address.

Thank you to those who support us financially by buying Scheming Mind tokens.

Subs are all up to date.

At the end of the financial year 2023/24 the value of the Life Membership Fund stood at £58.38 per Life Member (previous year: £57.93).

**Charles Mason – Hon Treasurer, CCCC**

# Looking down from heaven at Notre Dame

*Recollections of David Lowe by Richard Cleaves*

I'm sure there's more to it than that! Returning to Bridgend on the train from a preaching engagement in Maesteg, I was reading a review of the restoration of Notre Dame by the Observer's architecture critic. Commenting on the way Notre Dame now 'reverberates with light', Rowan Moore, a self-professed unbeliever, was sure, 'It's impossible not to be moved'. My eye fell on his assessment of Guillaume Bardet's altar, lectern, cathedra with seats, tabernacle and baptistery: 'simple and modern'.



There's surely more to it than that, I thought, as my mind turned to the Clergy Correspondence Chess Club. I recalled regular games with the late David Lowe, most if not all of which I lost, and a piece he contributed to *Chess Minister* describing a three-month sabbatical he took 30 years ago at the beginning of 1995. Intrigued, I sent for the booklet he produced at the end of his sabbatical: *Nervous Breakdown in Italy, a Sabbatical Look at Liturgy and Architecture*. Vicar of a Victorian parish church with pews for a thousand people, he had a vision for the future of the church building he wanted to share.

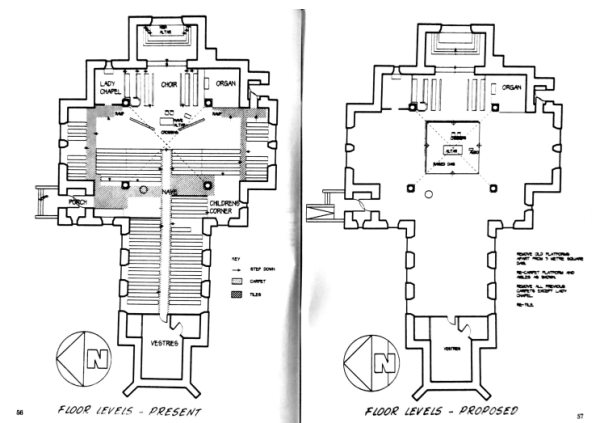
The church is the people and the church building is for the people. The church building is for Christians gathered together for the worship of God. It follows that church architecture and the ordering of furniture inside the building is important because it provides the setting for the way we worship God.

The first part of the sabbatical was taken at Carlow, the Irish Institute of Pastoral Liturgy where David researched the connection between liturgy and architecture in the light of the reforms of the second Vatican Council and the Liturgical Movement. The next month was spent on a grand tour of Italian churches in the company of architect, parishioner and friend, Simon Merrett. David made notes and Simon sketched the way each church had responded to the move from a 'high altar', distant from the people, to a 'central table' around which the people of God gather for mass. Returning home, David then wrote up his reflections and finished his booklet with a plan for St Margaret's.

The removal of the pews would enable an altar table to be placed at 'the crossing', on three sides of which the congregation could sit. This is precisely the arrangement of the restored Notre Dame. The key furnishings are not just 'simple and modern': they express a liturgy which, in the words of Michael Perham's preface to David Lowe's booklet, will keep drawing the community of the church together and also 'give them a glimpse of the community of heaven where true worship is to be found'.

In an obituary in the parish magazine in February 2021, Simon Merrett recalls David's return as 'an honorary guest at the service of rededication to witness the realisation of his brilliant vision for our church'. It was a vision, he suggests, that has gone on to 'inspire new and creative ways of drawing our community together'.

In his sabbatical booklet, David, had feared he would not live to see his plans realised; he anticipated 'looking down with interest from heaven'. Maybe he's been doing just that at the re-opening of Notre Dame!



## ANTONY FOSTER (1939-2024)

Antony was born in St. Albans and educated there and at Cambridge, where he read Natural Sciences then Theology. He became a CMS missionary teacher in Western Nigeria, where he also ran a chess club, having originally been taught the game by his father. He trained for Ministry at Ridley Hall, being ordained in Wakefield Cathedral and serving as curate of Sandal Magna, before returning to Africa, this time to Uganda where he was Chaplain and head of Chemistry at a College in Soroti. In 1974 he returned to the UK for the education of their children and he became Vicar of Christ Church, Mount Pellon in Halifax, remaining in that town when he took early retirement on health grounds. He captained a chess team in the Calderdale League for a few years and regularly entered The Times chess problem competition, winning it at least once to my knowledge. He also did that newspaper's cryptic crossword most days.

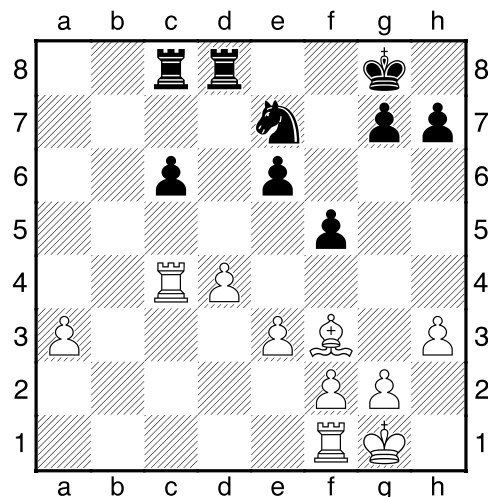
He was married to Juliet for just short of 60 years. They met on the 2 week sea voyage to Nigeria, and arrived in Africa engaged. She survives him, though now very frail and living in a Care Home, along with their son and two daughters. His funeral, in St Jude's, Halifax, where he had worshipped and helped out since his retirement, was planned by Antony himself and was full of the hope of the resurrection we have in Jesus Christ.



## Antony Foster – Bruce Carlin

[The last issue of CHESS Minister! contained two games between Bruce Carlin and Antony Foster. As it happened Antony never saw the magazine as he died suddenly while it was in the post to him. Just a week or two before he died we played what turned out to be our last game, and it turned out to be something of a marathon. I offer only brief notes, partly because Antony is not here to reply.]

**1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Bg4 3.e3 e6 4.Be2 Bb4+ 5.Bd2 Bxd2+ 6.Nbxd2 Nf6 7.h3 Bxf3 8.Bxf3 0-0 9.0-0 Nc6 10.c4 b6 11.cxd5 Nxd5 12.Rc1 Nce7 13.a3 Rc8 14.b4 a5 15.bxa5 bxa5 16.Qa4 c6 17.Nc4 Nb6 18.Qxa5 Nxc4 19.Qxd8 Rfxd8 20.Rxc4 f5**

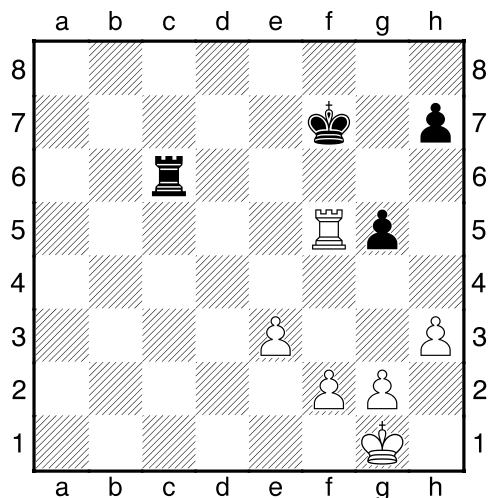


[I had again lost a pawn and we looked to be entering into at least the beginning of the end game as early as move 21, but little did we know ... ]

21.Rfc1 Rd6 22.a4 g5 23.a5 Nd5  
 24.a6 c5 25.a7 Ra6 26.Rxc5 Rxc5  
 27.dxc5 Rxa7 28.c6 Rc7 29.Bxd5  
 exd5 30.Rc5 Kf7 31.Rxd5 Rxc6

[At this point it looked as good as over, with me now two pawns down and seemingly with little to hope for, but in fact we were still barely half way through the game.]

**32.Rxf5+**



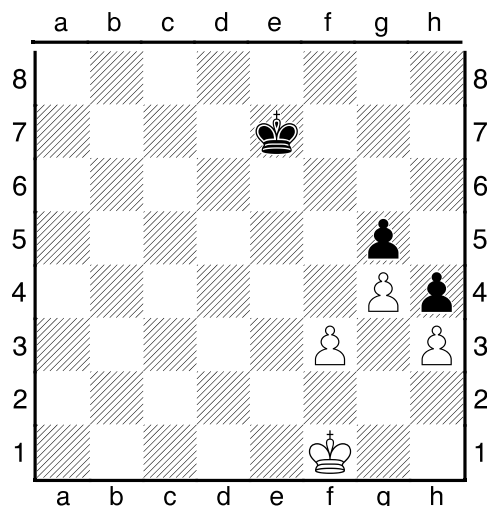
**32...Kg6 33.g4 h5 34.e4 h4 35.Kg2  
 Rc4 36.e5 Rd4 37.Rf6+ Kg7**

[I thought I would see if there was a chance of a draw by repetition, but Antony wasn't having that!]

**38.Rf5 Kg6 39.f3 Rd2+ 40.Kf1 Ra2  
 41.e6 Ra8 42.e7 Re8 43.Re5 Kf6  
 44.Re2 Rxe7**

[By move 45 we have only pawns left, and he had one more than me.]

**45.Rxe7 Kxe7**



**46.Kf2 Kf6 47.Ke3 Ke5 48.Ke2 Kf4  
 49.Kf2 Ke5 50.Ke3 Kf6 51.f4 gxf4+  
 52.Kxf4 Kg6**

[I tried an attempt at stalemate on move 53, but Antony wasn't falling for that either!]

**53.g5 Kh5 54.g6 Kxg6 55.Kg4 Kh6**

[So finally there is only a single pawn left and, wondering if there is any point continuing I ask, "Can you force that through?" "I think so," Antony replied, "though you nearly got a draw by stalemate a few moves ago." That was enough doubt to make me decide he was going to have to prove it.]

**56.Kxh4 Kh7 57.Kh5 Kh8 58.Kh6  
 Kg8 59.h4 Kh8 60.h5 Kg8 61.Kg6  
 Kh8 62.h6 Kg8 63.h7+ Kh8**

[And so I said, "I think I have got a draw by stalemate now."]

And with that, though we didn't know it at the time, our 10 years of more or less regular games of chess, ended.]

## CLERGY CORRESPONDENCE CHESS CLUB

## SHIELD DIVISION RESULTS 2024 / 2025

	Y		N		C		H		D		T		B		Tot	%
Yates							1*	1	1	1*			1	1*	6/6	100
Nye					1	1*					0	0			2/4	50
Cleaves			0	0			0	0							0/4	0
Hall	0	0			1*	1					1*	0	0	1*	4/8	50
Druce	0	0													0/2	0
Turner			1	1*			0	1*							3/4	75
Battye	0	0					1*	0							1/4	25

\* indicates a game won or drawn with the Black pieces

Not many results in at this stage, though I might have expected a few more from the early rounds. If you have completed any games please do let me know the results so that I can keep the table up to date.

Andrew Yates has started with a string of victories as he fights to win back the Trophy that he surrendered last season, though there are plenty of games still to play and things could easily change.

### RESULTS FROM SOCIAL OR OCCASIONAL DIVISION

Although there is no format table for the other Divisions I will record results of games here if I am informed of them.

Social Division Williamson 1- 0 Carlin	
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# CLERGY CORRESPONDENCE CHESS CLUB

Affiliated to the English Federation for Correspondence Chess  
and the Welsh Correspondence Chess Federation

[www.efcchess.org.uk/cccc](http://www.efcchess.org.uk/cccc)



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## Life Members

Wilf Alexander	Ruggles Fisher	David Nye	Steve Whitmore
Lisa Battye	Jeremy Garton	Tim Partridge	Michael Williamson
David Boddy	Michael Hall	Brian Stevenson	Andrew Yates
David Brown	David Hulme	Michael Thistlewood	
Bruce Carlin	Matthew Joy	Peter Turnbull	
Richard Cleaves	Charles Mason	Paul Waterfield	

## Subscriptions

Life membership £ 80.00  
Annual membership £ 6.50

Our Membership Year is from October to the following September

Payments can be made to CCCC by BACS Account Name: Clergy Correspondence Chess Club  
Bank: Santander plc Sort Code: 09-01-56 Account No: 12314006

If you make payments by this method, please use your name as a reference so that our Treasurer can identify the payment, and email him to let him know it's coming and what it's for (eg subs, Scheming Mind, book purchase, etc). Alternatively you could include the purpose of the payment in the reference.

The Secretary holds members' name, address, phone number, and email addresses where provided, their CCCC division, and membership of any team, and the Treasurer holds members' subscription records.