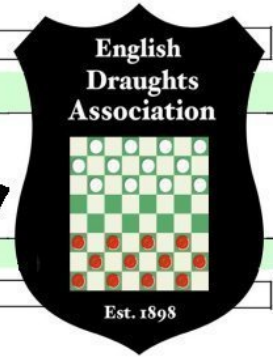


ENGLISH DRAUGHTS ASSOCIATION

JOURNAL

Volume 59 Number 4 DECEMBER 2019



HELLO "NEW FACES"

NEW FACES TOURNAMENT *Report page 3*



Players group photo (c) Paul Braithwaite

Standing, Back Row, left to right: Tony Boyle (referee), Pat Cremin, Tony Hynes, Gary Pollard, William Leeper, Eljus Shipovski, Rob Greenaway; Seated, Front Row (L to R): Stuart Pearman, Mark Cohen, Mike Peach, Tony Gallagher, Simon Smith, Richard Ball.

GOODBYE EVERYONE

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NOTICES

Normally the December issue would contain notices about the end of subscription memberships and need for renewal, and for life members to keep in touch. Also, to invite motions and nominations for the AGM.

We are now however hovering on the end of the EDA and at time of creating this Journal it is likely that such notices are irrelevant.

AFFILIATE

Only one group remains active: *West Midlands Draughts Association* contact Ken Lovell tel 0121 5577166.

He reports:

In a very close finish, Tony Boyle retained the West Midlands League title. In the final of Warwickshire Cup Ken Lovell plays either Pat Cremin or Mike Peach. Eljus Shipovski won the Birmingham Cup match.

CALENDAR

March 30 to April 3 British Open Championship, Dorset Hotel, Ryde, Isle of Wight. Intended to go ahead regardless of EDA status. Our AGM on the Wednesday night if still relevant.

TBA (usually early June) Sammy Cohen Memorial Tournament. Venue not decided. May be run by George Miller in Bristol if EDA wound up.

A FUTURE FOR THE EDA ?

The EDA is now virtually without officers and no volunteers had come forward to take on their duties. Without officers the EDA cannot function and our bank account is understood to be frozen whilst probate is enacted on Ian Caws' estate. Lack of activity by members means there will be nothing to put in a Journal so this issue is the last.

Enquiries are in hand with the SDA to consider a possible merger. Apart from terminal cessation of the EDA another option is to continue only in electronic format (ie website and Facebook), subject to having someone to run it. That would allow players to keep in touch and to report on local initiatives in England. (*Editor's opinion on page 4*)

SDA TRIBUTE TO IAN CAWS

It is with much regret that the Scottish Draughts Association has received notice that Ian Caws has passed away.

Ian was for many years first choice as referee at our Scottish Open events and was regarded as a fine referee and a great friend. Ian travelled to Kirkwall in June and took part in our 2019 competition as a competitor.

Ian will be very much missed by his family, friends and draughts players. (*Danny Oliphant*)

NEW FACES TO DRAUGHTS TOURNAMENT

Report by organiser PAUL BRAITHWAITE

The competition was divided into two sections of six players which nicely matched their self-assessment of skill level. Thus every player had a real fifty percent chance of winning the three cash prizes to each section. I insisted on a straight meet every player format per section rather than Swiss rules. The players were great at keeping things at a lively pace and although timing led me to expect only eight games we managed to do ten so that everyone did play everyone else! It was Go As You Please. After some discussion it was decided that in the event of a tie for any place then the cumulative monies would be split equally.

A genuine new face Eljus Shipovski was a revelation. He is an Estonian now resident in Coventry. His clean sweep in the novice section (earning £250) was only contained in the two games against William Leeper who held him to draws. Leeper came through to take the second place (£150). Mark Cohen was pleased with his improved play to claim a clear third spot (£100). Gary Pollard came from Northumberland and brought enthusiastic ideas to help the EDA. Thanks also to Stuart Pearman and Rob Greenaway for challenging play.

In the competent players section top place was earned by Pat Cremin (£250) after a late surge to score ahead of challenger Tony Hynes. At the same time old-hand Mike Peach rallied to take a share of the equal second place with Tony Hynes (prize money split £125 each).

My sincere thanks to Tony Boyle for his prolonged efforts to persuade the West Midlands contingent to enter this event and to him for taking on the duties of referee. On the day Ken Lovell provided valuable assistance with official duties. Feedback on the day was positive and all would like to see similar events organised in other parts of England.

NEW FACES



New Faces, Competent Players Section Winner; Pat Cremin (left) receives the award from organiser Paul Braithwaite, with referee Tony Boyle at the rear.

RESULT: Pat Cremin 14, Tony Hynes & Mike Peach =11, Richard Ball & Tony Gallagher =9, Simon Smith 6.



New Faces, Novice Section Winner Eljus Shipovski (left) receives the award from organiser Paul Braithwaite, watched by referee Tony Boyle.

RESULT: Eljus Shipovski 18, William Leeper 16, Mark Cohen 14, Gary Pollard 6, Rob Greenaway 4, Stuart Pearman 2

THE END HAS ARRIVED

A personal assessment by Paul Braithwaite

We can only achieve what members put in. Recent participation has fallen at an alarming rate. Our predominantly elderly membership have been dying off, or say they are now so infirmed (physically or mentally) that they can no longer play the game and mostly contribute nothing. Surprising that folks with so many memories and the odd photo or other memorabilia could not even be bothered to write a paragraph for the *Journal* or send an item for the *Collector's Corner* spot. As Editor I have had to introduce photos (adds cost and printing time) to fill space as well as gain material from two American contributors and a number of other Foreign sources to cover the huge cracks in the *Journal* by the paucity of EDA activity.

All Affiliate groups, with the exception of West Midlands, have collapsed and the Counties Cup is a thing of the past.

Another burden has been the life members. It was a great bargain 20-years ago to pay 20 years worth as a life member subscription in the 1970s (say) so that now those folks have had twenty years membership (2000 to 2019) at the EDA expense, printing and sending *Journals* and, at least recently, little input in return.

There has been a bright side to the coin. Ken Lovell, Tony Boyle, David Kotin, Melvyn Green and Chris Reekie made numerous valuable contributions; Liam Stephens, Frank Moran and Bill Dobbins have also contributed to the *Journal*.

Debra Louise McManus has made a fantastic transformation to our website as well as providing a popular Facebook chat site. Unfortunately, those media facilities are free to anyone and leaves no incentive to pay for being in the EDA, so something good might also be part of our problem.

We have been getting by without an official Publicity Officer for some years. The Constitution positions the holder as being "*respon-*

sible for obtaining the maximum possible media coverage for events run by the Association and for endeavouring to swell the membership numbers." It has been interpreted to mean that person does everything to get members, so everyone else sits back and watches. Who would take such a job?

The entire EDA Constitution is badly formed and, in any case, was written over the years and adapted to suit a bygone, larger organisation. In my view any continuing body should throw it away and write a new Constitution suited to circumstances and limited goals. A certain person has been using the rules to block proposed changes to keep us going (proposed by me since late 2017), I believe, for his own self aggrandizement.

Smooth running of the EDA for decades by Ian Caws and Ken Lovell left everyone complacent. The sad passing in October of Ian has left a big hole, notably in financial control. There is a desperate need for a Treasurer for without such there can be no organisation; no way to take subscriptions and thus no members. Also, Ken Lovell has decided that it will not be the same without Ian and is stepping down from the Secretary role.

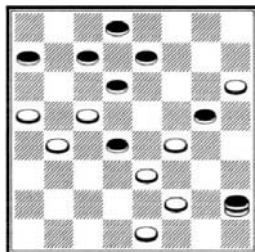
With only two possible events planned for 2020 there is no point in having a *Journal* nor my renewal of membership subscription.

TRUE COMPOSERS?

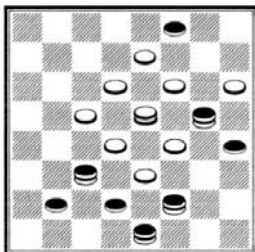
or, a problem with "Problems."

From MELVYN GREEN

All Problems: White to move and win.



1. By Matt Long and by Melvyn Green.

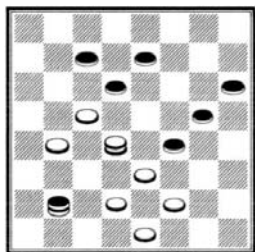


2. By A.C. Hews and by Joe Charles.

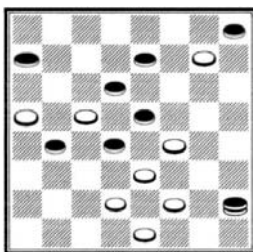
Draughts "problems" have been included in specialist periodicals for almost as long as the game itself. The reader is challenged to identify moves required to fulfil a particular ending. The skill and artistry of the creator (variously called the author or composer) of these set pieces is in the revaluation of surprise endings.

With such a volume of problems over the years it comes as no surprise to learn that on occasion the same problem has been created by separate composers in the same time period. Melvyn Green has had past experience of others not so open to the likelihood of chance duplication.

With that in mind he has selected four problems which have multiple authorship. You can find the solutions on page 11.



3. By A.C. Hews and L.Bassett & M.Long.



4. By Joe Charles and by M. Green.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

New members have been attracted due to the "New Faces" Tournament, comprising Mark Cohen, Pat Cremin, Rob Greenaway, Tony Hynes, William Leeper, Stuart Pearman, Eljus Shipovski and Simon Smith (all of the West Midlands area).

John Morgan, long-time organiser of the Welsh Open has died. He served at one time as mayor of Knighton and in honour a local gallery is searching for recollections and memorabilia related to John to display April to September 2020. Contact Julia Llewellyn-Roberts, Curator, Knighton Museum www.galleryknighton.co.uk.

WELSH OPEN RESULTS

Report on page 8

| Pos | Player | Points |
|-----|-------------------|--------|
| 1 | Scarpetta, Sergio | 22 |
| 2 | Moran, Frank | 16 |
| 3 | Boyle, Tony | 15 |
| 4 | McNally, Francis | 15 |
| 5 | Lucas, Brian | 15 |
| 6 | Young, Colin | 15 |
| 7 | Oliphant, Donald | 14 |
| 8 | Jolliff, John | 14 |
| 9 | Williams, Dafydd | 14 |
| 10 | Young, Graham | 13 |
| 11 | Harper, Addie | 12 |
| 12 | Boyle, Con | 11 |
| 13 | Mills, Gordon | 10 |
| 14 | Foubister, Keith | 9 |
| 15 | Ball, Richard | 8 |
| 16 | Kelly, Billy | 7 |
| 17 | Gallagher, Tony | 6 |

**UNOFFICIAL WORLD
CHAMPIONSHIP CHECKER
PROBLEM-COMPOSING
CONTEST no. 48 "TWINS"**

November 16 to December 31, 2019.
Organised by BILL SALOT (USA)

Editor's Note: As you see, Bill has already managed 47 of these contests whereby you can vote for your favoured problem composer. The contests run bi-monthly on the internet and so we have taken advantage of a rare alignment with the Journal's quarterly cycle to run his competition in our pages. Hope you find this interesting.

Season's greetings! No, you are not seeing double: you are looking at three original, previously unpublished, look-alike "Twins" by three composers.

Appearances deceive. The solution to one twin may not be of any help in solving the other. Composing these pairs was not easy and may have been more luck than skill. If they baffle or confuse you, let the solutions straighten you out, then give the best one your vote. Reward yourself with some counter-intuitive ideas and the lucky composer with the gift of a 2-month reign as a World Champion. Also, grab a rung on the Voters Free Ladder. A vote for one problem is a vote for a pair of twins.

If you have internet access, the animations, ballot box and instructions are all at

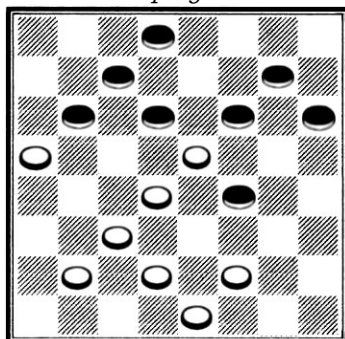
www.usacheckers.com/problems/show_contest.php.

If you lack access, mail your vote or any future contest entry to Bill Salot, 1006 Elmwood Drive, Colonial Heights, VA 23834-2905, USA.

Solutions may be found on page 11.

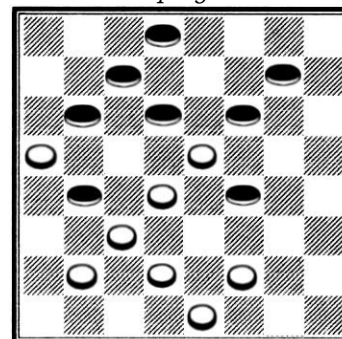
CLEARLY STOLEN 8 x 8

White to play and win



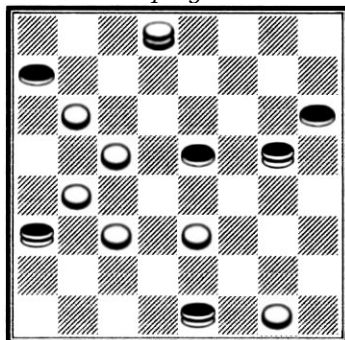
CRACKER BARREL 8 x 8

White to play and win



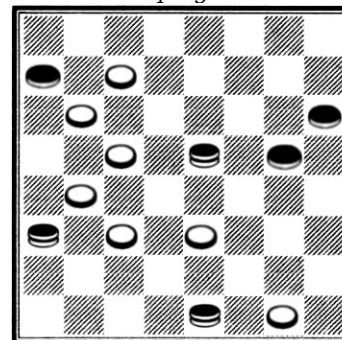
CURIO 6 x 7

White to play and win



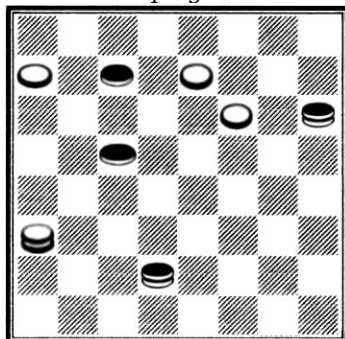
CURIOUS 6 x 7

White to play and win



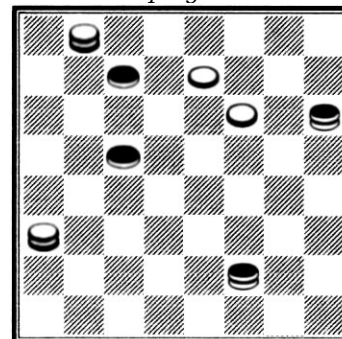
SISTER 4 x 4

White to play and win



BROTHER 4 x 4

Black to play and draw



IAN CAWS "MR EDA"

A memoir by KEN LOVELL

I am sorry to report the death of Ian Caws at the age of 85. He was taken ill on return to England from Barbados and died in hospital on 11th October.[?]

Ian had been a great friend of mine for nearly 50 years. He first became an EDA officer in 1974, since when he served mainly as chairman but also as president and in later years as treasurer, taking over from his wife Joan. For many years all EDA activities have revolved around him and he could truly be called "Mr EDA". He was a great ambassador for the game and was well known and respected both here and abroad. He was scrupulously fair in his judgements and dealt with all matters in a calm and efficient manner.

In earlier years he and Joan promoted draughts among youngsters on the Isle of Wight and encouraged them to enter the national youth championships.

Although his forte was organising he was no mean player; he was captain of the HOBBI county team and played for England B, was English Amateur Champion in 2013 and won the West Midlands League in 2000. He regularly took part in or refereed national tournaments.

Ian was also an enthusiastic and accomplished Scrabble player. He had an unusual hobby in that he collected mugs from British football clubs playing in major and minor leagues. Ian's death is a sad blow to the EDA, his relatives and friends.

Other tributes to Ian Caws: Richard Beckwith, President of the *American Checker Federation* noted Ian to have been "a true gentleman." Lindus Edwards rated Ian to have been a "great friend" and was so saddened by the news. A similar note came from Slava Gorin (Russia).

WELSH OPEN

Report by TONY BOYLE

Results table on page 5.

The Welsh Open this year had 17 players from Ireland, Scotland, Wales, England and Italy! Unknown to us all Sergio Scarpetta, the world champion, turned up probably for a bit of practice before playing Ron King in Barbados. Ron had earned the right to challenge Sergio for the world title. As I would say the usual suspects turned up and a very good tournament was enjoyed by all.

Sergio played magnificently and won ten out of 12 games, with only Brian Lucas and Addie Harper holding him to draws. I myself had a good position with Sergio which disintegrated in the last few moves of the game.

Sergio graciously told us where we went wrong, even looking deep to find draws in the games. He was indeed a worthy winner and I hope he will consider coming back to Wales again, maybe even bring a few playing friends. He may as time permits send some of the games with annotation for the Journal.

PLAYER PROFILE

SERGIO SCARPETTA

Interview notes by TONY BOYLE

I started playing draughts (Italian style) in 1987 at age 12. I entered a school tournament and won. A friend gave me four books on the English game. They were Tinsley's *Way*, Kear's *Encyclopedia*, *Basic Checkers* and Tescheleit.

I became master of Italian draughts at age 16 and was also strong at the English game, having started that version in 2009. I won the Italian Championship of English Draughts (Checkers) eight times.

In the world title GAYP match against Ron King the score was 2 wins, 2 losses and 20 draws, all tied, so Ron retained his title. Two years later I beat Ron King with the score of 2

SCARPETTA INTERVIEW CONTINUED:

wins, 1 loss and 17 draws. Another two years later I lost in GAYP to Michele Borghetti by 1 loss and 25 draws! That same year I won the match against Borghetti by 6 wins, 1 loss and 29 draws.

At present, after playing in the Welsh Open (10 wins, 2 draws) I am off to Barbados to play Ron King and defend my world title. I consider myself the same strength at English Draughts and Italian Draughts.

Italy won a match versus USA by one game. There were eight players including one woman and one youth per side.

In Italy there are around 60,000 players,* mostly youngsters and around 100 clubs. Youth tournaments can have 200-300 competitors in a tournament. Italian Draughts is taught in Schools and is government sponsored. I am a school teacher and believe people should be going into schools in Britain to stimulate a new generation to play draughts.

(* Editor's Note: 60,000 probably relates to the number of schoolchildren who have to attend game classes, as compared to taking history classes in England! But still an impressive coverage as is the number of clubs - attendance being voluntary).

SOCIAL DRAUGHTS

EDA Website and Facebook update from

LOUISE McMANUS

Social Media Manager

FACEBOOK

We are about to hit the triple century in membership!!!! At 27 October the facebook group had reached 292 members who are all interested in what we are doing in Draughts.. Since my last report there have been over 2200 reactions from the group and over 250 of our followers have actively participated: amazing! So an extremely busy period in the group, with the Welsh Open, Irish Open, New Faces and USA Nationals all featuring in posts with information, photos and results.

We also saw live streams of the events in Barbados at the World GAYP qualifiers and women's and youth's world championships. Also featured the Sergio Scarpetta v Ron King battle for the World 3-Move title. There was exceptionally good promotion by Barbados with live streaming and animations of the games.

For that sort of information alone I would encourage all our members to get a log-on to Facebook and join our group: the only place in the world that you see live broadcasts of such major draughts events. The most recent games by the top players of the world are also presented in animations. Many and varied posts and plenty of associated discussions.

If you wish to join us search ENGLISH DRAUGHTS and find us with the EDA header and logo: just apply to join.

WEBSITE

www.englishdraughtsassociation.org.uk

It has been updated with announcements and information from the EDA as well as results and photos from the Welsh Open. Other information will, as always, be added as it becomes available. Have a look at the site and send advice and comments to me at englishddraughtsuk@gmail.com. Contact details of EDA officers are also there.

SOME THOUGHTS ON THE STATE OF THE EDA

From TONY BOYLE

(bits selected by the Editor!)

So much is on the net that there is no need to pay for a *Journal* when you can get the information online. Another big issue is the elderly bias of our membership with, I would say, an average age of 70-80 years. No new blood has been coming in.

I am trying to be a realist, not a pessimist. I know of clubs of players of almost unknown games that have bigger membership than the seventy odd of the EDA. We are a minority amongst minority gamers.

It is hoped that a Treasurer and Secretary can be found. Ken Lovell feels it is time to step down as Secretary. He had a special friendship with Ian Caws and feels unable to continue alone. I have no wish to take on those roles but could continue to contribute as Publicity Officer/Youth Coordinator.

The EDA does not deserve to die yet. If it does, then the West Midlands club will keep going with 10 players, or so, and sometimes attracts others from further afield. Perhaps fresh local clubs elsewhere could keep the game alive in England. Perhaps we will start a newsletter to keep players in touch with each other. *(END)*

PLAYER PROFILE No. 7
TOM WATSON

The leading Scottish player of modern times gives a summary of his life as a draughts player. He then airs some strong views about the use of opening move ballots. In his cover letter Tom revealed himself to now be 75 years old and afflicted with arthritis: too old to learn new ballots.

Back in 1962 I worked in the offices of the now defunct Scottish Cooperative Wholesale Society. One day someone brought in a makeshift draughts board and Coca Cola bottle tops were used as pieces! At a later time better equipment was brought in for lunchtime play and I became interested, especially when four draughts books were found in the public library that I used. This added to my knowledge because as a Co-Op employee I saw the paper called "*Reynolds News*" and later the "*Sunday Citizen*."



Tom Watson (left) v F. Buckby (right) believed to be at the Scotland v England Home International, Morecambe, 2000.

I wrote to Cohen and this led me to Bridgeton W.M.C. in the summer of 1963 and I have been active ever since. In 1965 I played



Tom challenges the passport photography machine in April 2019!

in the Scottish Open and for most years since have competed in various events.

I have not had a meteoric rise and only became winner of a major event in 1977 when I gained the English Open title. Since then my tally is 10 Scottish, 4 English, 3 British, 3 Irish, 3 Northern Ireland Senior and 2 British & Irish Freestlye titles. I have played for Scotland a few times and 5 times for UK & Ireland against the USA. My score against the USA is 16 wins, 15 losses and 69 draws.

Looking back I realise that I came into the game at the right time. Today in the UK and Ireland there is a lack of really strong players. Only active now is Shane McCosker. Hugh Devlin and Richard Pask have for some time been absent from crossboard play, whilst Billy Docherty is based in France.

WATSON PROFILE
CONTINUED

I have had the pleasure of playing Jim Marshall, Eddie Gibson, Jim Grant, Bill Edwards, Ivor Edwards, Graham Davies, Alf Huggins, Tom Landry and Pat McCarthy - all now gone. John McGill still lives but is housebound and I so play him on a friendly basis.

Players starting out now have not encountered the old kind of competition. Sad to say that the game is only hanging on by its fingertips.

When I came into the game we had 137 ballots which does seem sufficient! Many of those ballots were critical but now there are too many. 5 were added in the early 1970s and another 2 in the 1990s. Then all of a sudden 12 were added for no good reason that I can fathom. I think of them as the dirty dozen!!!

It is notable that GAYP, or Freestyle, still produces wins even amongst top players. Years ago I suggested that 2-move ballots would be enough to suit most players and the person I spoke to agreed. He then voted to add these really terrible openings.

I believe that when tournaments only have 10 chances to get a ballot (or 8 in the modern day Irish Open) then more means less. A return to 137 or 144 would be a good idea. (END)

**SOLUTIONS TO UNOFFICIAL
WORLD PROBLEM COMPOSING
CONTEST pages 8 - 9.**

For full solutions go to website.

Clearly Stolen 8x8: 26-23; 19-26 27-23; 10-19 23-7; 2-11 18-14; 9-18 22-15; 11-18 31-15; 12-16 25-21 (or 25-22); 16-19 21-17; 19-23 17-14; 23-26 14-9. WW.

Cracker Barrel 8x8: 26-23; 17-26 23-7; 10-19 31-22; 22-17; 19-23 27-24; 23-26 25-21; 26-31 17-14; 31-27 14-5; 27-20; 18-14.

Curio: 32-27; 31-24 14-10; 21-7 2-27; 5-14 27-31; 12-16 31-26; 16-20 26-30; 20-24 23-19 WW

Curious: 14-10; 21-7 6-2; 5-14 2-9; 31-26 23-19; 16-23 9-13; 26-27 13-22; 12-16 22-18; 23-26 32-28 (or 18 23 first); 26-31 28-23; 16-20 28-24; 20-27 23-32; 31-26 32-27; 26-22 27-23; 22-17 23-18; 27-13 18-14 WW

Sister: 5-1; 6-9 1-6; 9-13 6-9; 14-18 11-8; 12-10 9-14; 10-17 21-30. WW

Brother: 6-9 1-6; 9-13 6-9; 27-24 9-18; 24-19

**SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS ON
PAGE 9**

From MELVYN GREEN

1. (Long and Green) 13-9; 6-22 14-9; 5-14 27-24; 18-27 12-8; 16-23 8-3; 28-19 31-6; 2-9 3-19.
2. (Hews and Charles) 12-8; 3-12 7-3; 16-7 19-16; 12-19 15-24; 22-6 3-1; 27-9 1-5; 20-27 5-32.
3. (Hews, Bassett and Long) 26-22; 19-26 14-9; 6-13 18-23; 25-18 31-6; 13-22 23-36; 22-31 6-2; 31-24 2-27.
4. (Charles and Green) 27-24; 4-11 13-9; 18-27 26-22; 17-26 31-22; 10-26 19-3; 5-14 3-8; 28-19 8-22. (END)

GAME ANNOTATION

by JIM LOY

Editor of the American Checker
Federation's "Bulletin."

ICHF International Invitational 1987

A. Long – H. Devlin

10-14 23-19 14-18 22-15 11-18 21-17 8-11
17-13 9-14 25-21(A) 11-16 19-15 16-20 29-
25(B) 4-8 24-19 7-11 {first diagram} 26-22?(C)
11-16 22-17(D) 16-23 17-10 5-9 21-17 9-14
25-21 12-16 31-26(E) 16-19 15-11 8-15 26-
22 18-25 27-11 6-15 17-10 25-29 21-17 19-
23 13-9*(F) 1-5 9-6 2-9 10-6 9-13 17-14 15-
18 14-10 18-22 6-1 22-26 1-6 26-31 10-7 3-
10 6-15 13-17 11-7 17-21(G) 15-18 23-26(H)
30-23 31-26 23-19 26-22 18-25 21-30 7-3 30-
26 {second diagram} 3-8?(I) 29-25 8-11 25-22
11-15 26-23 19-16 22-26 RW(J),

- A – 26-23 draw, published play.
B – 24-19 draw, *Kear's Encyclopedia* p.300
v.37.
C – See the first diagram. This is difficult, and
may or may not draw. 28-24 18-23 27-9
20-27 31-24 11-18 26-22 9-14 22-15
12-16 19-12 6-9 draw, J. Kear Jr..
D – 15-10 BW, Kear's.
E – 30-25 BW, B. Case - E. Lowder, 1962
National.
F – I think this draws. I haven't found any
missed Black wins, so the game may be
sound to here.
G – Others probably draw.
H – I think the *ICHF Checkers Yearbook* had
this move as 23-27 which eventually
resulted in illegal moves.
I – See the second diagram. 32-27* 29-25
19-16 25-22 3-7* 5-9 16-12* 9-14 7-10*
14-18 10-14* draw.
J – A great game.

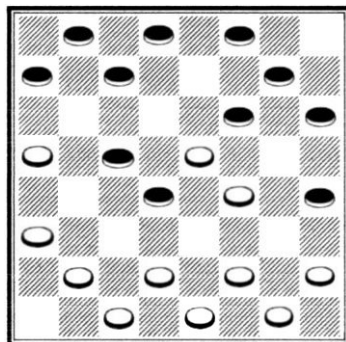


DIAGRAM 1

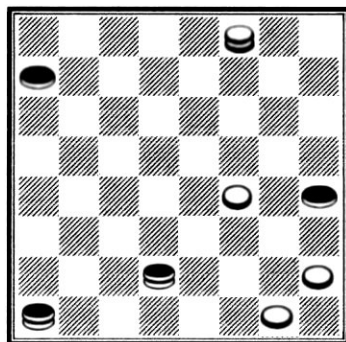


DIAGRAM 2

THE JOURNAL

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*This issue has been made
possible thanks to a
donation from member
Richard Ball - Thank you.*