

# Games & Puzzles

## Chess Jon Speelman

The 134th Varsity match between Oxford and Cambridge universities took place on Saturday at the Royal Automobile Clubhouse in Pall Mall, in the centre of London.

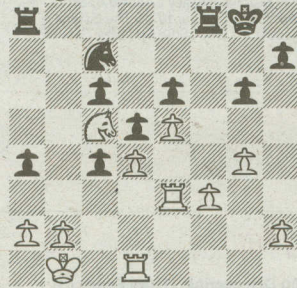
First contested at the City of London Chess Club way back in 1873, this is the oldest continuous fixture on the chess calendar, with breaks only during the war years. It was first held at the RAC in 1973 and has now been there every year since 1978.

Over this long period, fortunes have waxed and waned, but in recent years Cambridge have been in the ascendant and they began on Saturday with a lead of 58-53 with 22 draws.

The previous two years, an outrated Oxford had bucked the odds to draw 4-all. Led by IMs Daniel Fernandez and Yang-Fan Zhou, Cambridge were favourites again, and this time the rating advantage told, as they won by a hefty 6-2, with Oxford's only victory on bottom board, where Aleksandra Kozera defeated Maria Wang.

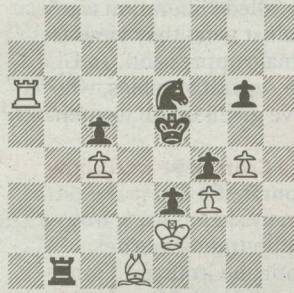
There is always a splendid closing dinner, at which this time Bill Hartston was the main speaker. Ray

Keene, Luke McShane and myself had previously been deputed to act as "three wise men", to choose the best game and brilliancy prizes. After quite a lively discussion (Kozera's win was in contention for the brilliancy prize and excellent for a relatively low-rated player but somewhat flawed) we awarded them to these two games.



Rhys Cumming (to play) vs Jean-Luc Weller

Black is preparing to play ...Rf4 and ...Nb5 with serious pressure. It would have been pretty unclear after 30.Ra3, but disliking his position White tried 30.b3?! and it ended ...axb3 31.axb3 Ra3 32.Rde1 Rfa8 33.bxc4 Rb8+ 34.Kc1 Ra1+ 35.Kc2 Ra2+ 36.Kc3 Rbb2 37.Nd3 Rc2+ 38.Kb4 Na6+ 39.Kb3 dxc4 checkmate. The finish was extremely pretty.



White's position lost dynamism after 15.Nxg6, and 16.Qf3 encouraged 16...a5!. Black got a black-square bind and converted with great aplomb.

### Aleksandar Monev vs Gregory Young Varsity Match 2016 Centre Counter

- |              |               |
|--------------|---------------|
| 1.e4 d5      | 28.Bd1 Nd6    |
| 2.exd5 Qxd5  | 29.Be2 Nf5    |
| 3.Nc3 Qa5    | 30.Kf2 e5     |
| 4.d4 c6      | 31.Nxf5+ gxf5 |
| 5.Bc4 Nf6    | 32.g4 f4      |
| 6.h3 Bf5     | 33.Kg2 g6     |
| 7.Nge2 e6    | 34.Bf1 f5     |
| 8.0-0 Bd6    | 35.Re1 e4     |
| 9.Bf4 Bxf4   | 36.Rc2 e3     |
| 10.Nxf4 Qb4  | 37.Be2 Ne6    |
| 11.Bb3 0-0   | 38.Rd1 c5     |
| 12.Nce2 Rd8  | 39.Kf1 Rh8    |
| 13.c3 Qb5    | 40.Kg2 Rb6    |
| 14.Ng3 Bg6   | 41.b3 Rhb8    |
| 15.Nxg6 hxg6 | 42.Kf1 axb3   |
| 16.Qf3 a5    | 43.axb3 Rxb3  |
| 17.Rab1 c5   | 44.Ra2 fxc4   |
| 18.dxc5 Na6  | 45.hxc4 Rb1   |
| 19.c4 Qc6    | 46.Ra7+ Kf6   |
| 20.Qxc6 bxc6 | 47.Ra6 Rxd1+  |
| 21.Ba4 Rdc8  | 48.Bxd1 Rb1   |
| 22.Rfd1 Nxc5 | 49.Ke2 Ke5    |
| 23.Bc2 a4    | (see diagram) |
| 24.Rd2 Rab8  | 50.Rxe6+ Kxe6 |
| 25.Nf1 Kf8   | 51.Ba4 Rb2+   |
| 26.f3 Ke7    | 52.Ke1 g5     |
| 27.Ne3 Ne8   | 0-1           |

## Bridge Maureen Hiron

Ralph Cohen of the US played the pips off dummy's cards to bring home a doubled game.

West	North	East	South
	Marvin Shapiro		Ralph Cohen
3♥	5♦	double	2♦ <sup>1</sup>
(1) Weak.		double	all pass

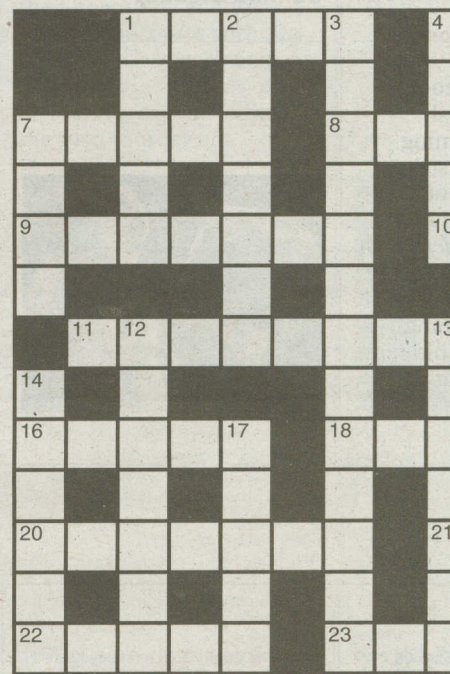
In the other room, the same contract had been

defeated, as it was North who had opened with One Diamond. Therefore it was East who was on lead. He led a heart, and although declarer guessed trumps correctly, playing them for one loser, he couldn't avoid losing a club as well as a trick in each of the red suits.

At Cohen's table - he sat South - West elected to lead the four of spades.

Cohen called for the five from dummy, which forced the 10 from East, won with South's king. At trick two, declarer played a heart, which West won. West shifted to a club and South rose with dummy's ace. Cohen continued with the ace of spades, then the spade jack. East covered with the queen, declarer ruffed, and down came the nine from West. Declarer returns to dummy with

## Concise crossword #9172



### SOLUTION TO YESTERDAY'S CONCISE CROSSWORD

Across: 1 Seek, 4 Whence (Sequence), 8 Fowl, 9 Clean, 12 Amoeba, 14 Louvre; 16 Substantiate, 19 Katmandu, 23 Need.  
Down: 2 Eclipse, 3 Kick-start, 4 Wee, 5 Ennui, 6 Clutter, 13 Message, 15 Utilise, 17 Bombe, 18 Tilt, 20 Nan.

**NEED HELP WITH THE CONCISE OR CRYPTIC CROSSWORD STUCK ON A WORD?** Use your mobile phone to text just replace unknown letters with a full stop, start with **IND SOLVE** and send it to **85100**. Eg. IND SOLV 50p plus your standard network charge. If no suggestion you won't be charged. For multi-word answers, lead the words. If you are having trouble using this service, call the helpdesk on 0800 839 174.

## Codeword #1162

