

June 2017. Third year.

Magazine without name

Periodical by chess club EsPion Amsterdam

Special International edition

A welcome to the Hammersmith Chess Club

We can hardly imagine what happened last week, a near 7 miles from your chess club.

It will surely effect your lives and your general well being. We hope that your stay in Amsterdam will help to regain extra strength in dealing with this dreadful situation.

As it is impossible for us to take away the pain and anger that you probably might feel, we as editors and chess friends can only try to present you with more pleasant issues. That is why we would like to offer you a light-footed magazine.

Jaap de Kreek & Tom Kooij
editors

The 10th of June: A very special day

As you may know our countries have been friends during the past few centuries, at least since the Napoleonic times. But, as you may also know, that it hasn't always been the case. In the seventeenth century we fought a series of wars, mainly at sea. You know them as the Dutch Wars, we call them the English Wars.

A remarkable event in the second Dutch War was the Medway Raid. The Julian Calendar showed the day June 10th 1667: 350 years ago. The Dutch fleet sailed up the Medway and opened fire on Fort Sheerness, commencing the Medway Raid. Samuel Pepys reported: "*Thus in all things, in wisdom, courage, force, knowledge of our own streams, and succes, the Dutch have the best of us, and do end the war with victory on their side.*" Wow, please do not seek revenge today!

... Before this we had the first Dutch War (1652-1654), later in time there was the Third (1672-1674 and the Fourth (1780-1784). The latter was the last stage in the handing over the Ruling over the Seas from the Republic of the Seven United Provinces to Britannia.

There is one exceptional war: we could call it War Zero. A war without casualties and without a single shot fired. During your civil war the fleet of your king Charles II sought refuge at the Scilly Islands. Meanwhile, they captured a considerable number of Dutch fishing boats, including their catch. So the Dutch sent a fleet under admiral Tromp to ask for compensation. When he was sent home without any satisfaction, he declared War. On the Scilly Islands, not yet on England. When later the First Dutch war came to an end in 1954 the 'War on the Scilly Islands' was simply forgotten.

A local Scilly-based historian discovered this strange situation in 1985. So on April 17 1986, the Dutch ambassador symbolically signed a peace treaty, thus ending the 'Longest War in History'.

On June 10th: in 1667 we still used the Julian Calendar. Transported to the Gregorian calendar we use today the day was June 20.

EsPion: A very peculiar Wedding

Considering the history of the two partners, the wedding between the two chess clubs that lead to the birth of Schaakvereniging (Chess Club) EsPion can hardly be better characterised as 'peculiar', 'strange' or 'most remarkable'. Judge for yourself.

Let us leap back in time: to 1856. In the small town of Pířbor, (in the Czech region Moravia) a boy was born in the third marriage of a wool trader. Sigmund Schlomo Freud. This boy will years later, in 1980, be a role model for the founders of Es '80, a chess club in Amsterdam. The founders and early members of this chess club were a little bit anarchistic, a bit different from the main stream.

Returning to 1856: a two-year old boy is limping around in Pegli, a suburb of the Italian town of Genoa: Giacomo, the sixth child of a local marquis. This boy, the future pope Benedict XV, will in 1917 be a role model for other founders of another chess club in Amsterdam: The Roman Catholic Chess Club De Pion (The Pawn). The founders and early members were law-abiding, traditional people.

In 2014 these two unlikely partners decided to a merge. However different as the partners may be, the marriage is a lucky one.



Giacomo Della Chiesa, Pope Benedict XV and Sigmund Freud in the year 1917.

Completely useless, we can't help it, we still do it!

Let's face it: one of the most useless ways of spending time is solving a jig saw puzzle.

Let me explain. A jig saw puzzle starts with, for example, a painter putting all his skills and energy in counterfeiting a beautiful scene. Then another craftsman uses the best tricks of his trade to transfer the picture into a very artistic photograph. The third stage is printing this in the best possible way on paper and to glue it onto a piece of first class cardboard. After this it becomes really weird. This pinnacle of craftsmanship is deliberately destroyed, cut into, say 3000, small elements. The silly remains of this fine reproduction are put into a box and shipped to a shop, in which we pay a lot of our valuable, hard-earned money to buy it. Then we spend hours and hours of our time, very often in backbreaking circum-stances to put all the pieces together again. And, after we have finally achieved this goal, we briefly look at the result, which by no means is as beautiful as it once was, we breathe a sigh of satisfaction and then we break the thing up again, put it in the box again and store it in the attic. Is there something as useless as that? Yes, there is: Playing Chess!

Consider this: at night you leave your family and travel to a chess club. There you put up the board and the pieces and after a handshake you start to play with another person. With whom you might as well have a nice conversation, have a good meal, make love to or, say, with whom you try to resolve important World Issues. You could be very close friends. In stead of that, you don't say a word to your opponent, and for several hours you try to trick this person, designing mental booby traps, in order not only to win, no you try to destroy your 'enemy'. Regardless of the result, a win, a draw or a loss, you shake hands again. You put the pieces in the box, store board, clock and the box and then the both of you head of to the bar to have a drink and an interesting conversation, which you could have had in the first place, mind you, no chess game needed. Your 'enemy' turns out to be a friendly companion...

So why do we play chess?

I think we do it because of the rare occasions where we find the most elegant solution for a difficult situation. A move that stuns your opponent and leaves him or her helpless and lost. In Dutch we have a saying: "*Geen schooner zaak dan leedvermaak!*" It translates into something like "No merrier good than Schadenfreude."

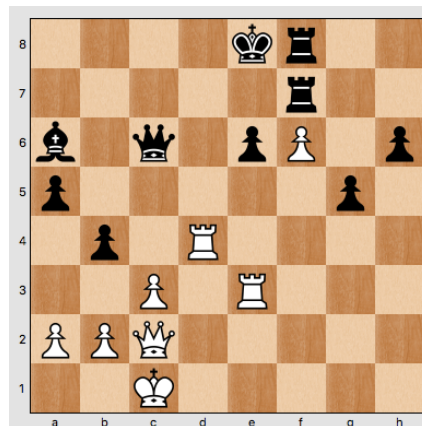
When such a stroke of luck becomes us, we can bear the burden of months of hardship at the chess club, we can even enjoy lousy weather and a grumpy boss for some weeks.

An example:

In 1978, in the Lithuanian town Klaipeda a game of chess was played by Aloyzas Kveinis and Pranciškus Petras Būčys. The position shown at the top of next column was reached.

Kveinis saw a move for white in this that immediately ended the game. That is the kind of experience we seek. And indeed and we remember this position for ages and as soon as we meet someone new, we ask: "Do you play

chess? Yes? Well, let me show you something!" What Kveinis could have shown was this:



Can you find the killer-move 39 years after Kveinis did it?

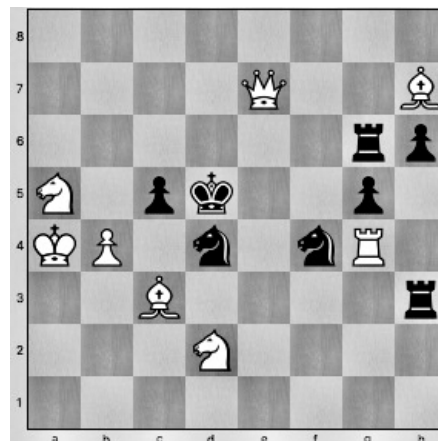
Another part of our history: two older guys

Recently we lost two remarkable members. They did not die in the cradle. On the contrary. Bert Rietveld died 5 month before reaching the age of 100 years. On his 99th birthday he treated the entire club to drinks and refreshments. Jan C. Roosendaal died only three weeks ago, at the age of 95. Shortly before his death he published a booklet with 40 new poems.

Both men had a special personality. To be frank: Bert was not very good as a chess player, but one of the most enthusiastic opponents I ever met. Even at 99 he was always looking for a new game and/or a new victim for his very own style of insight in the game. Even after the loss of, say five or six matches the same night. The most important role for Bert was matchmaking: he was both member of De Pion and of Es '80 and brought the two clubs together.

Jan was, to be frank again, sometimes very blunt. But he meant no harm. He was a solid chess player, chess journalist and befriended players like Larsen and Korchnoi, played bridge with them. Furthermore, Jan was a well known composer of Chess Problems. This one won a prize in 1956.

Jan C. Roosendaal Mate in two moves. Die Schwalbe 1956



- 1. Ndc4, threatens Qe5††
- 1. ... Nf3,
- 2. Ne3††
- 1. ... Nc6,
- 2. Nb6††
- 1. ... Nde6,
- 2. Qb7††
- 1. ... Nfe6,
- 2. Qd6††
- 1. ... Nd3,
- 2. Qc4††
- 1. ... Re6,
- 2. Qxc5††