

Nottingham 1886 Robert Richmond

The first International tournament in Nottingham was held from 3–9 August 1886, organised by the Nottingham Chess Club. The Minutes describe the rather casual way it was thrown together. At the AGM on 9/10/1885:

the question of entertaining the Counties' Chess Association at Nottingham next summer was considered and a sub-committee formed...

A month later:

the Rev A. B. Skipworth, hon secretary of the Counties Chess Association, visited the club and delivered an address. Mr. Sipman (treasurer) himself guaranteed the amount required by the association (£40) as the first condition on which the congress could be held in Nottingham. The next meeting of CCA should be held in Nottingham at the end of July 1886.

23/7/1886:

The Congress Committee decided at the last moment to organise an International tournament in connection with the visit of the CCA, Mr. Sipman undertaking to collect £75 for a prize fund. A number of 'masters' were engaged at the time in the tournament of the British Chess Association in London, and most of them accepted the invitation to attend the Nottingham congress, which was definitely fixed to commence 2nd August.

The Congress was opened at the Mechanics Lecture Hall – the following eminent players being present: Bird, Burn, Gunsberg, Hanham, Mason, Mackenzie, Macdonnell, Owen, Pollock, Schallop, Skipworth, Thorold, Taubenhau & Zukertorte. The proceedings were unfortunately marred by a squabble which ended in the withdrawal of messrs Blackburne, Mason & Mackenzie

The press report now gives details of the event:

Chess Notes The Nottingham Chess Congress – The master tournament was brought to a successful conclusion last Monday, when Burn secured the first prize by defeating Hanham. The latter adopted the French defence, and for some time the game looked decidedly in favour of the second player, but Burn, displaying the utmost patience eventually forced his opponent to resign on the 67th move. In the meantime Mr. Schallop accepted the Evans Gambit in his game with the young master, Pollock, who scored a win amidst great excitement after 29 moves. Schallop thus lost his chance of a tie for first place, and had to content himself with the second prize. The last game of the tournament was the one between Gunsberg and Thorold, which ended in favour of the former after 50 moves. This brought the score of Gunsberg to six, a tie resulting between Gunsberg and Zukertorte for the third and fourth prizes. We append a tabulated score as it stood when play terminated on Monday evening.

	Bi	Bu	G	H	P	R	S	Ta	Th	Z	Total
Bird	X	½	0	½	1	1	0	1	½	1	5½
Burn	½	X	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	½	8
Gunsberg	1	0	x	1	1	½	0	1	1	½	6
Hanham	½	0	0	x	1	½	0	0	0	0	2
Pollock	0	0	0	0	x	1	1	0	1	0	3
Rynd	0	0	½	½	0	x	0	0	½	0	1½
Schallop	1	0	1	1	0	1	x	1	1	1	7
Taubenhaus	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	x	1	0	4
Thorold	½	0	0	1	0	½	0	0	x	0	2
Zukertorte	0	½	½	1	1	1	0	1	1	x	6

The prizes were distributed by Mr. Carl Sipman, the treasurer of the congress, as follows

- 1st £40 Mr. Burn, of Liverpool
- 2nd £20 Herr Schallop, of Berlin
- 3rd £10 Messrs Gunsberg and Zukertorte, of London
- 4th £5

There then followed reports on the subsidiary events – the CCA congress proper. Perhaps the most significant for the future was the first place in class C with 7½ of a young J. N. Derbyshire. He was to become Alderman, JP, BCF President (1942–50), Nottinghamshire President (1922-54) and the driving force and money behind Nottingham 1936, exactly 50 years hence. The report also gives a couple of games:

Burn–Gunsberg 1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.Nf3 Bd6 5.Bd3 Nf6 6.Nc3 c6 7.Ne2 Nbd7 8.Ng3 Nf8 9.0-0 Qc7 10.Re1+ Be6 11.Nf5 0-0-0 12.Nxg7 Rg8 13.Nf5 Ng6 14.Bg5 Nf4 15.Bxf6 Nxg2 16.Kh1 Nxe1 17.Qxe1 Rde8 18.Ne5 Bxe5 19.Bxe5 Qd7 20.Nd6+ Kd8 21.Nxe8 Bh3 22.Nf6 1–0

Zukertorte–Schallop 1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 c5 3.e3 e6 4.b3 Nf6 5.Bd3 Nc6 6.0-0 Bd6 7. Bb2 cxd4 8.exd4 Ne4 9.c4 0-0 10.Nc3 Nxc3 11.Bxc3 f5 12.c5 Bc7 13.b4 g5 14.b5 Nb8 15 Bd2 g4 16.Bg5 Qe8 17.Ne1 Bxh2+ 18.Kxh2 Qh5+ 19.Kg1 Qxg5 20.g3 Nd7 21.Ng2 Nf6 22.Qc1 Qg7 23.Nf4 Bd7 24.Kg2 Ne4 25.Bxe4 fxe4 26.Qb2 Rae8 27.Rh1 e5 28.dxe5 Qxe5 29.Qb3 e3 30.fxe3 Bf5 31.Kf2 Be4 32.Rhg1 Qh5 33.Raf1 Qh2+ 34.Ke1 Bf3 35.Qd3 d4 36. Qc4+ Rf7 37.Ng2 dxe3 0–1

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