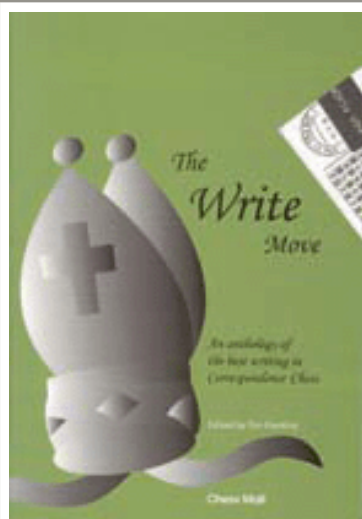




COLUMNISTS

The Kibitzer

Tim Harding



The Write Move
by Tim Harding

The First Women's Championship: The Decisive Rounds

I now conclude my series on women's chess with the second part of my report on the historic Women's International Tournament, played in London in June-July 1897.

As we left the situation at the end of last month's [column](#), the twenty pioneering women from nine countries had played four, 4-hour long, rounds in two days. Amid the midsummer heat and the excitement in central London, as citizens celebrated Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, the principal contenders were becoming clear.

At the close of play on 24 June, the leading scorers were: Miss Mary Rudge 4 pts. (100%); Mrs. Mathilda Fagan (representing Italy) 3 pts/3 (and a winning adjourned position); Miss Gooding 3½ out of 4 and Miss Gertrude Field 2½ out of 4.

The American representative, Mrs. Harriet Jona Worrall, had two adjourned games, one of which she was to win and the other to lose, so her real score after four rounds was 2½. Mrs. Worrall (maiden name unknown to Gaige) lived from 1836 (London)–1928 (NY) and was the wife of Thomas Herbert Worrall. Presumably it is he (or they) who gave their name to the Worrall Attack in the Ruy Lopez, 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 4 Ba4 Nf6 5 0-0 Be7 6 Qe2.



The main surprise so far was the failure of Lady Edith Margaret Thomas, who only had 50% at this stage. However, there were still 15 rounds to go.

The View from *The Times*

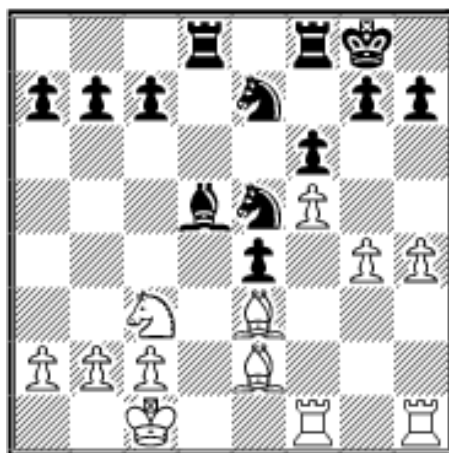
Round 5 was played at the Hotel Cecil on the afternoon of Friday 25 June and, reported *The Times*, most games finished early and none had to be adjourned. Miss Rudge, Mrs. Fagan and Miss Gooding all won, while the chasing group fell further behind. Lady Thomas lost with Black to Miss Field and Mrs. Worrall lost with White to Miss Thorold, who thus moved to 50%.

According to Mrs. Rowland's chess column in *Kingstown Society* (June 1898), Miss Field "is one of the strongest players in the Ladies' Chess Club, London. She is also a fine problem composer and edits the Chess Column of *The Vegetarian*." Miss Field was later married (17th May 1898) to Mr. Donald Anderson, "a prominent member of the British Chess Club."

The same evening, round 6 was played and saw Miss Rudge and Mrs. Fagan maintain their 100% record, the former's victory being especially significant as it came with Black against the experienced competitor Miss Thorold. The finish was published in the *British Chess Magazine* (August 1897, page 293).

Miss Thorold – Mary Rudge

Ladies' International, London (6), 25.06.1897



"Miss Thorold played a Giuoco Piano against Miss Rudge, who allowed her to set up a strong attack on the kingside (Castled KR). Miss Thorold had castled QR, and seemed bent on pushing her pawn attack, though unnecessarily giving up a pawn to do so." Here Black has just played ...Bd5.

22 g5 c6 23 h5 Nf3 24 gxf6 Nxf5! 25 fxg7 Rf7 26 Bxa7? Ng3 27 h6 Nxf1 28 Rxf1 Rd6 29 Be3 Rff6 30 b3 Ne5 31

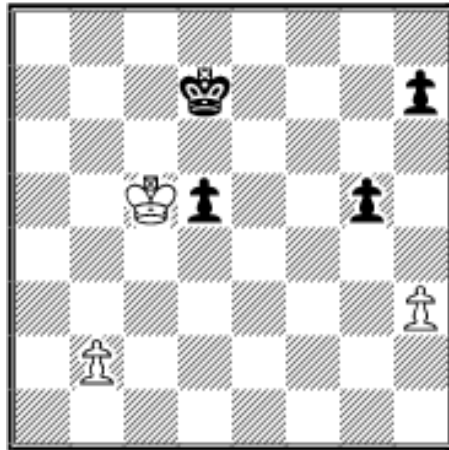
Rd1 Nf7 32 Rf1 Rxf1+ 33 Bxf1 Nxe6 34 Bc5 Rg6 35 Bf8 Rg1 0-1

Mrs. Worrall won against one of the weaker players, Fraulein Hertzsch, but Lady Thomas lost again. Miss Gooding and Miss Field played the only draw

of the round, which kept them in good contention for the lesser prizes, with 5/6 and 4/6 respectively. However, perhaps Black should have won. *The Times* (28 June 1897) gave a position from the endgame, with Black to play, but didn't make it clear if this was the final position.

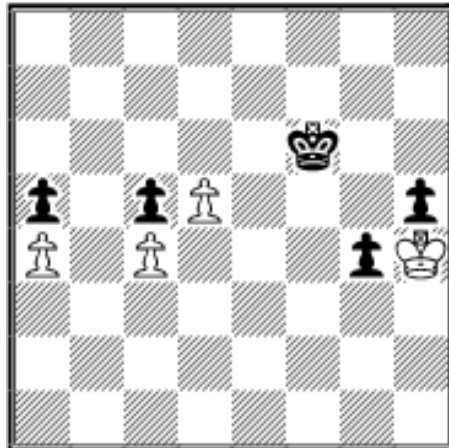
Miss Gooding – Miss Field

Ladies' International, London (6), 25.06.1897



The game was drawn “but analysis may disclose another result.” **1...Ke6 2 b4** (or 2 Kd4) **2...h5** would seem to win for Black.

Next day saw a more curious king and pawn ending.



Unfortunately *The Times* (28 June 1897) doesn't say who was to play here.

“A curiously interesting position occurred at the finish of the game Miss Forbes-Sharpe v Miss Watson. It was abandoned as a draw, although Black has two passed pawn united, as well as an extra pawn. Mr. Blackburne believes that, although the win is difficult, Black has a way of forcing the game.” GM Karsten Müller

has shown that Black can win, and I will give the solution next month.

Tinsley's report on the third day gives a good impression of how the proceedings that day appeared to neutral, male observers:

There was nothing specially exciting about the play as a whole, but one or two incidents were noticeable. As the tournament proceeds it becomes more and more evident how difficult it is for some of the ladies to accustom themselves to the hard-and-fast rules and conditions of match play. Those relating to the scoring of moves and the turning of clocks cause several of the competitors obvious uneasiness, though arrangements are made as far as possible to obviate the difficulties. The players, as usual, are expected to deliver correct copies of every game, and, of course, in their own interests,

the really simple process of setting the opponent's clock going move by move is important. But in the excitements of play these things are sometimes forgotten. These apparently trivial matters are really more worrying, as well as more important, than appears at first sight.

As an example, he instanced the game **Miss Forbes Sharpe – Miss Gooding** (from the fifth round on 25.06.1897).



“It was now White’s turn to move, and she touched the KBP, of course intending P-B3, to drive off the black bishop, overlooking that the pawn is fixed by Black’s bishop at Kt3. The penalty was ‘move your king’ and then Black played P-B6 which, it requires very little analysis to prove, wins the game in a few moves against any play.”

The game ended: **1 Kh1 f3 2 gxf3 Bxf3+ 3 Kg1 Qg5+ 4 Ng3 Bxd1 0–1**

Of course with the rules we have now in the 21st century, there would have been no such penalty for touching the f-pawn; there being no legal move possible with it, White would have been free to play whatever legal move she liked.

“It should be added,” wrote Tinsley, “that the more experienced players are not much troubled about the points now referred to, and of course this fact gives them additional advantages.”

The leading players of the London Ladies’ Club probably had had more practice at play in match conditions than most of their rivals, and several of the players had been in tournaments such as Hastings 1895. However, the greater public attention undoubtedly made the conditions at the London 1897 event very different. At Hastings, the ladies’ event was a sideshow; here it was the main event. Apart from the press, spectators (on the first day at least) had included several chess masters and two or three Members of Parliament. In last month’s [article](#), I forgotten to mention that the event had been opened by the Irish MP, the Hon. Horace Plunkett, who was the leading player in the House of Commons – which around this time played matches against the Lords, the gentlemen of the press and (by telegraph) the U.S. House of Representatives.

Any inexperienced player in those days, accustomed to family and social play, might have found public competition with clocks and score-sheets a little daunting at first. It wasn’t necessarily a gender issue, but there is

evidence that some men still wanted to hold the women's progress back. The previous year there had been a match in London between those living north and south of the River Thames, but only men had been involved. In the *Dublin Evening Mail* of 8 May 1896, Mr. Carslake Winter-Wood (whose sister, Mrs. Baird, was one of Britain's leading problem composers) was quoted as saying:

I can well understand the feelings which prompt Mrs. Gunsberg [in the Ladies' Pictorial] in denouncing those northerners who objected to half a dozen of the members of the Ladies' Chess Club taking part in the recent match between the North and South of London. The southerners – characteristic of the soft and genial atmosphere which they breathe – had acceded to the request made by the secretary of the club, when the discourteous Northerners said "No", the reason given for their refusal being that they possessed men who played better. As there were one hundred players aside, I do think that three boards out of the hundred should have been allowed the ladies.

The Fourth Day

Saturday 26 June was the last day on which the Masonic Hall in the Hotel Cecil was available. The seventh and eighth rounds were played there. The afternoon games saw the leaders continuing to forge ahead: wins for Miss Field, Miss Gooding and Mrs. Fagan while Miss Rudge (shown at right) adjourned in a winning position against Fraulein Hertzsch after four hours play.

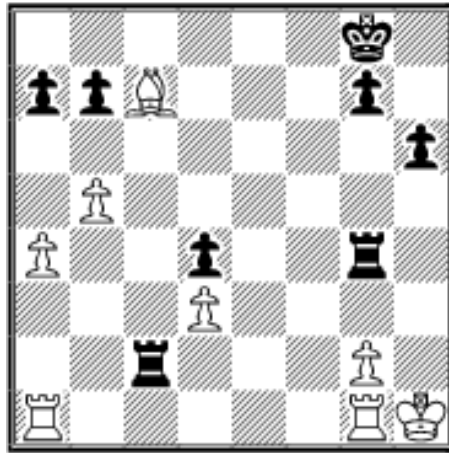


The evening games however saw the veteran from Bristol take the lead at last as rivals faltered. Miss Field drew with Miss Worrall, while Miss Gooding lost with White to Madame Bonnefin and Mrs. Fagan spoiled her chances by playing a bad game and losing with Black to Miss Hooke.

After losing both her Saturday games, the Irishwoman Miss Kate Finn withdrew from the tournament on health grounds; as Hoffer put it (in *The Field*), "the task of playing two rounds daily being beyond her power of endurance." Also *The Times* acknowledged her to be "a really good player." Her day was yet to come, as she was to become the first BCF Ladies' Champion (1904) and overall one of the most successful female players of the next decade. Miss Finn's absence meant that the players who were due to meet her in rounds 9-19 scored a win by forfeit and had an easier day on the rounds when the bye fell to them.

All the other ladies, wrote Hoffer, “stood valiantly by their colours, although there were unmistakable signs noticeable that the conclusion of the tournament will be a great relief to them.” Sunday 27 July was a rest day and on the Monday, play transferred to what *The Times* called “the more suitable quarters in the Ladies’ Chess Club, 184-5 Tottenham Court Road.”

In round 9, White won nearly every game with Mrs. Fagan and Mrs. Worrall both successful, but Mrs. Miss Gooding was a casualty, after failing (when a piece down) to take advantage of a blunder by her opponent.



Instead of 1 Bh2, Fraulein Hertzsch blundered by **1 Rac1??**, but the game continued **1 ...Rh4+?? 2 Bh2** and White eventually won. As *The Times* pointed out, 1...Rxc7 regains the piece with excellent chances, on account of 2 Rxc7?? Rh4 mate.

Another loser was Miss Field, as the second Irishwoman, Mrs. Berry, came to the fore, “winning one of the best, if not the finest, games so far” as *The Times* reported. *BCM* gave only the finish, but the whole game appeared in two Irish columns edited by her friend Mrs. Rowland.

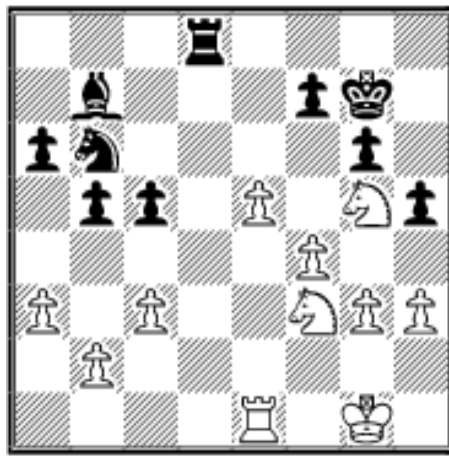
Mrs. F.S. Berry – Miss Gertrude Field

Ladies’ International, London (9), 28.06.1897

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 Nf6 4 d3 Be7 5 Bxc6 dxc6 6 Nxe5 0–0 7 0–0 Bd6 8 f4 Ne8 9 Ng4 Qh4 10 h3 Bc5+ 11 Kh1 h5 12 Nh2 Nf6 13 Nf3 Qg3 14 Qe1 Qxe1

“Miss Field had here a very strong attack if she had properly backed it up. She did wrong in exchanging off her queen.”

15 Rxe1 g6 16 d4 Bb6 17 c3 Kg7 18 Ng5 a6 19 Nd2 Ba7 20 Ndf3 c5 21 Be3 cxd4 22 Bxd4 Bxd4 23 Nxd4 c5 24 Ndf3 b5 25 a3 Bb7 26 Rad1 Rfe8 27 e5 Nd5 28 Kg1 Rad8 29 g3 Nb6 30 Rxd8 Rxd8



31 e6 f6 32 e7 Re8 33 Ne6+ Kf7 34 Nd8+ 1-0

After the event, the Rothschild best game prize (worth £20) was judged by Pillsbury, and this game was among the three that shared it.

It appears from the report in *The Times* that one of the potentially significant games of the event was played in this round, as Miss Fox adjourned with

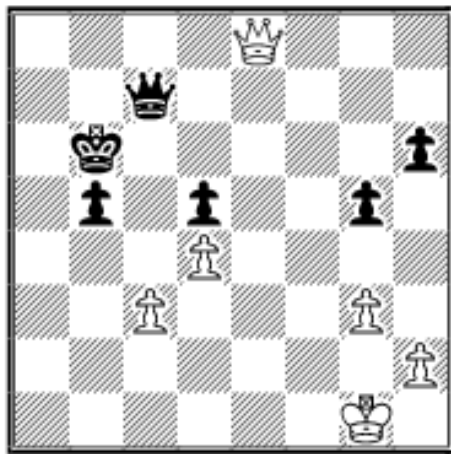
chances in an ending against Miss Rudge, but eventually lost. Frustratingly, I have not been able to find this game, or even a position, in any source as yet. Had Miss Fox been able to defeat the leader, this would of course have maintained the suspense much longer.

The Monday evening round was important too, with once again the sources available to me not yielding the three games identified by *The Times* to be the best of the round: Miss Field v Mrs. Fagan, Miss Rudge v Mrs. Worrall (both adjourned) and Miss Watson's win against Miss Thorold. Noteworthy was that Lady Thomas won both her games this day.

At the close of play, the leading positions were as follows: Miss Rudge 7 and 3 adjourned, Mrs. Fagan 7 and 2 adjourned, Mme. Bonnefin and Miss Gooding 7/10 each, Mrs. Sidney and Mrs. Berry 6 each, Mrs. Worrall and Miss Fox both 5 and 3 adjourned, Miss Eschwege 5, Miss Field 4½ and 2 adjourned. In reality, the leadership was not as close as it looks from these figures because of Miss Fox's failure to capitalise on her chances; Mary Rudge ultimately won all three of her adjourned games.

On the Tuesday, Miss Rudge had the bye in the afternoon round and was able to clear off her adjournment against Hertzsch. In the evening she beat Mme. de la Vingne while Mrs. Fagan dropped half a point to Miss Eschwege.

Several sources noted that Mrs. Berry threw away half a point to Mrs. Worrall in an instructive queen endgame in round 11.



Samuel Tinsley wrote (in *The Times* of 30 June 1897): “After a long battle of about fifty moves, and nearly four hours play, the following ending was arrived at. It exhibits two of the leading players in a department of the game usually considered only for experts.” **51 Qe3 Ka5 52 Qd2 Qc4 53 Qb2 b4? 54 cxb4+ Qxb4? 55 Qa2+ Qa4 56 Qxd5+ Qb5 57 Qxb5+ Kxb5 58 Kf2 Kc4 59 Ke3 Kd5 60 g4 1–0** Tinsley made the significant observation that “Mrs. Berry should have

played for a draw, but it was a very unusual thing in this tournament to do so.”

The Decisive Clash

The game that would ultimately decide first prize came on the afternoon of 30 June in the 13th round. Only a win for Mrs. Fagan could keep her chances of the tournament victory alive, but she had the black pieces. Her aggressive moves 11-13 showed she wanted to make something happen but White had no reason to take any risks. Miss Rudge played in her usual solid style and brushed off her opponent’s attempts to create complications. The complete game appeared in *The Field* of 10 July 1897.

Miss Mary Rudge – Mrs. Louisa Matilda Fagan

Ladies’ International, London (13), 30.06.1897

Notes by Leopold Hoffer

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bc4 Bc5 4 d3 d6 5 Be3 Bxe3

Inferior to 5...Bb6 or even to leaving the bishop to be taken for a developing move.

6 fxe3 Na5 7 Nbd2

We prefer 7 Bb3 so as to get an open file, if Black takes the bishop.

7...Nxc4 8 Nxc4 Be6 9 Ncd2 c6 10 Qe2 Nf6 11 0–0 Qb6 12 b3 0–0–0

Mrs. Fagan obviously tries to win, else castles KR would be safe enough for a draw.

13 Kh1 h5 14 Ng5 Rde8 15 Nxe6 Rxe6 16 Rae1 Qc7

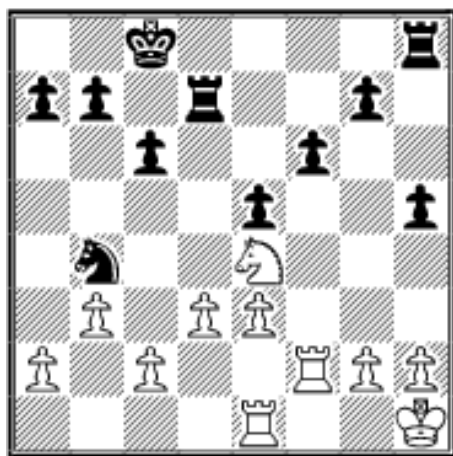
Intending to advance ...d5, and defending the weak f-pawn so as to release the knight.

17 Nf3 d5

We prefer 17...h4 18 Ng5 Re7 followed by ...Qd7, or ...Rh6 and ...Rg6.

18 Ng5 Re7 19 exd5 Nxd5 20 Qf3 f6 21 Qh3+ Qd7

21...Kb8 could have been played. After the exchange of queens, the game should be drawn.

22 Qxd7+ Rxd7 23 Ne4 Nb4 24 Rf2**24...Rxd3**

Mrs. Fagan admitted this to be the effect of some hallucination, being under the impression of giving up the exchange for two pawns. The rest is plain sailing for Miss Rudge, who played the ending very well.

**25 cxd3 Nxd3 26 Rd1 Nxf2+ 27 Nxf2 b5
28 Ne4 Rd8 29 Rxd8+ Kxd8 30 Kg1
Kc7 31 Kf2 Kb6 32 Kg3 f5 33 Nd6 g6
34 Nc8+ Kc5 35 Nxa7 g5 36 a3 Kd5 37 Kf3 Kc5 38 g3 Kd5 39 e4+ fxe4+
40 Ke3 g4 41 b4 Kc4 42 Nxc6 1-0**

As for the other players, Mme. de la Vingne was indisposed and did not play rounds 13-15, conceding three forfeits. Happily, she was able to return on the last day and played the final two rounds. Some of those who had disappointed so far (notably Mrs. Worrall and Lady Thomas) made some progress in these later rounds. Miss Watson left her queen *en prise* against Miss Gooding, who failed to notice and eventually lost. *The Times* commented: "Such incidents appear strange, but are by no means unknown in contests among the masters."

In round 14, the same evening, Miss Rudge at last missed a win, against Mme. Bonnefin who "had played steadily and well as usual." The game was eventually declared drawn (says *The Times*) "because, after a series of checks, the same position had occurred three times." Mrs. Worrall overlooked a chance to deliver forced mate and also conceded a draw.

Unfinished adjourned games still complicated the standings. According to *The Times*, the leading scores after play concluded on 30 June were: Miss Rudge 11½ and 2 adjourned, Mrs. Fagan 10½ (1 adj.), Mrs. Worrall 9½ (2 adj.), Mme. Bonnefin 9, Miss Thorold 8½, Miss Field 7½ (2 adj.), Miss

Watson and Mrs. Berry 7½, Miss Hooke 7, Miss Fox 6½ (3 adj.), Lady Thomas 6 (2 adj). Until the adjournments were played off, scheduled before round 18, some uncertainty remained but Miss Rudge was expected to score at least one point from her unfinished games.

On 1 July, rounds 15 and 16 were played. The most significant results were Lady Thomas's defeat of Mrs. Worrall in the afternoon and Mrs. Fagan's loss to Fraulein Hertzsch in the evening. Miss Rudge won both her games.

On 2 July, Miss Rudge made her victory certain, as she not only won her round 16 game but also her two adjournments, as was mentioned above. She now led by three points with only two rounds remaining, and Mrs. Fagan was one and a half points ahead of Miss Thorold in third place.

Although first and second prizes, were now effectively decided, which made for an air of anti-climax in the last few days, there were still the lesser prizes to play for. On the final day, Saturday 3 July, the three leaders each won both their games to maintain their respective positions. Mrs. Berry, one of the players whose true strength emerged towards the end as she became used to the conditions, finished with two wins and moved up to a tie for sixth place. The *Irish Figaro* quoted the master Van Vliet as complimenting Mrs. Berry: "The fact that she has not come out higher in the score list is very much owing to accident... [she] played some very good games, showing frequently a keen insight into a complicated position."

The [crosstable](#) of the complete event was published both in *The Field* and *British Chess Magazine* and can be seen [here](#). Miss Finn defaulted 11 games and Mme. de la Vingne forfeited three. Mrs. Stevenson forfeited her last round game. She was the only player in the event who was apparently outclassed by all the rest, but at least she had the consolation of winning one game.

The Times reports that "there was a good company present at 10.15pm on Saturday, when, amid some enthusiasm and the strains of the National Anthem, the proceedings terminated. The prize-giving was held on the evening of 5 July at the Ladies' Chess Club, when Sir George Newnes presided, various speeches were made, including praise for the chief organiser, Mrs. Rhoda Bowles. Hoffer and Blackburne were among those who spoke. Then the club's president, Lady Newnes, did the honours. There were six cash prizes, of which the last was shared between Mrs. Berry and Lady Thomas, plus various consolation prizes."

Miss Field, Miss Gooding, Miss Watson and Mrs. Sidney each received a medal, given by Mr H. Eschwege. Miss Hooke received a music case and, Hoffer reported, "Miss Hertzsch and Miss Mullerhartung a prize each for amicability. This prize was fully deserved." There followed a consultation

game between Horace Plunkett and an unidentified lady against another lady and Mr Parnell MP (the brother of Charles Stewart Parnell).

For the closing scene of the event, Sir George and Lady Newnes entertained the competitors at their home, Wildcroft (variously described as being in Wimbledon or Putney), on the Wednesday afternoon. The *Glasgow Herald* gave a nice account of this party, which included the following:

After the severe strain which the ladies had experienced in playing two games a day with the thermometer far from freezing point, it was refreshing to see the ladies revive and come out in quite a different role, Miss Rudge, the lady champion, beating everyone who came against her at croquet. The gentlemen shone especially at the game of bowls. Mr Blackburne, the British champion, and Mr Leith played Mr Lowe, of the British Chess Club, and Mr Atherley Jones, M.P. Mr Blackburne showed he was an expert at bowls as well as chess...

The Champion

In the summary of the event printed in *British Chess Magazine*, it is easy to discern more admiration for the style of the runner-up Mrs. Fagan amid the respect for the methods of the champion, Mary Rudge.

Miss Rudge was in capital form, and from the first she displayed those qualities of steadiness and tenacity for which she is renowned, and right through she carried all before her... Here play was marked throughout by care, exactitude and patience. Someone said of her, "She doesn't seem to care so much to win a game as to make her opponent lose it". She risked nothing, she never indulged in fireworks for the purpose of startling the gallery.' She didn't always outplay her opponents but 'she always managed to hold her game together' and 'in the end her experience as a tournament player and her skill in end positions came in with powerful effect.

Mary Rudge's victory was the culmination of a quarter of a century of chess competition, beginning with a postal tournament in 1872. She was a very weak player then, but after she was able to join the Bristol chess club in 1875 she gradually gained in experience and skill. By the end of the 1880s, she was able to beat the vast majority of male opponents, as her tournament results in England, and the fact that she was giving simulms in chess clubs, show. To the results mentioned by Richards in his article, I can add that she had an excellent consistent performance in the one full season (1889-90) she played on board 2 for the Clontarf Chess Club in Ireland. With an undefeated record of P11 W8 D3 (missing only one match), she had the fourth best percentage result of any player in the whole competition (*Dublin Evening Mail*, 1 May 1890) and one of the men with a better record only played five games. Clontarf's top board, the Irish champion Porterfield Rynd, was one of

the other players whose percentage was higher than Mary's.

Miss Rudge won numerous prizes in the 1880s and 1890s but hitherto had seemed to avoid female-only events. In her last tournament outing, she had won the Class II tournament of the Southern Counties, held in Bristol in September 1896, against nine men. On occasion she could even beat "first class" players, as in the second Dublin Mail correspondence tournament (1890-3), where she tied for second prize and defeated the winner, William H. Gunston of Cambridge, who was in the top rank of English amateurs for several decades. (My article about Mary's CC career will appear in *Chess Mail* issue 6/2005 shortly.)

She was also a very solid opponent for masters and grandmasters in simultaneous displays, culminating in her win against Emanuel Lasker a few months after her victory in London. (Lasker had misplayed a winning position and, when time ran out, did not exactly resign the game but used a form of words which was in effect adjudicating the game lost for himself.)

The year 1897 was her swansong. According to Gaige's *Chess Personalia* she was already 52 years old, but John Richards has discovered that she was actually born on 6 February 1842, not 1845 – not the only Victorian lady to lie about her age. I have not seen any games by her later than the one with Lasker. Probably her health was declining (although she lived until 1919) and she effectively retired as undefeated champion.

Undoubtedly the first prize of £60 was very important to Miss Rudge, whose difficult pecuniary circumstances have been well documented, by John Richards (in his [article](#) about Mary Rudge) as well as in contemporary sources. The purchasing power of £60 in 1897 is roughly equivalent to £5,000 at the present time, i.e. it was probably enough for her to live on for a year after paying her expenses for the event. A case can probably be made for saying that Mary Rudge was the first female professional chess player, though she would never have described herself as such; indeed, she would have been debarred from some events had she been considered as such. Her approach to the event was in no way different from her normal mode of playing, which in all the games I have seen from her mature years, was cautious and aimed at accumulation of small advantages and exploitation of opponents' errors.

Mrs. Fagan, on the other hand, gave more for the spectators to enjoy, carrying off the second prize (three points behind) "in really brilliant style; for she played the 'forward game' throughout, and if she sometimes tripped in her own combinations, the combinations were interesting. 'Had she played less chess, she would have won more games,' someone said of her." Undoubtedly Mrs. Fagan (1850-1931), who had lived in India as well as Italy and England, was a popular person and much admired in progressive circles.

The *BCM* pen-picture mentions that she was a member of the Fabian Society and “a prominent worker of the Women’s Emancipation Union” who had only fairly recently returned to chess, although she had contributed problems to the *Westminster Papers* in 1873 under the *nom de plume* of “Deesa.”

The openings adopted by the ladies were analysed by Tinsley in *The Times* after 15 rounds, and as *The Field* mentions all the openings employed in its round-by-round survey, it is possible to complete the picture. “Queen’s Pawn &c” openings were surprisingly popular. Tinsley counted 22 instances in the first 15 rounds and there were five more in the final rounds. This was because Mrs. Sidney, Miss Watson and Lady Thomas opened 1 d4 throughout the event; Bird’s Opening was employed on six occasions (by Mrs. Worrall).

The other 16 competitors employed 1 e4. The Sicilian Defence was played in nine games, by three different players. The French Defence was tried 23 times and there were some instances of 1...d5 and 1...b6. When Black met 1 e4 by 1...e5, the Giuoco Piano (favoured by Miss Rudge) and various centre gambits were the most popular continuation, with the Evans Gambit and Ruy Lopez being employed more seldom. The Petroff Defence was played six times.

Database and Conclusion

I now have collected 19 complete games and 11 fragments of play from this tournament; thanks to David McAlister for finding the beginning of one of the games whose finish I presented last time. All but one of the twenty players are represented at least once. This game file is available for [download](#) in PGN at my website:

This file has some examples of play not included in my two Kibitzer articles. I think this is the fullest collection of games from the event ever published but I welcome any additions (if possible, send photocopies with verifiable sources please).

In retrospect, it was quite amazing that this event did take place, and that two women came from North America to compete, as well as some from the continent.

After all, it was only four years earlier that such an event had been mooted for the first time, by the Americans. *British Chess Magazine* in 1893 had mentioned (on page 413) a proposed women’s congress (and tournament) on foot in America, and dismissed the idea summarily. Mrs. Rowland and Mrs. Baird had been written to; the latter said she was only a composer not a player but Mrs. Rowland expressed interest. “It can, however, hardly be expected,” wrote *BCM*, “that married, or even single ladies, would be willing to cross the Atlantic for such a purpose...”

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