



Weekly Newsletter

Sunday 26 February 2023 Issue #8

Queens Park Chess Club | Glasgow, Scotland

www.queensparkchessclub.com

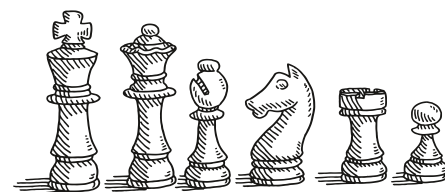


image by Frank Ramspott, 2014

TEAM INFO

Queens Park Chess Club have **six teams** playing competitive chess this season.

This week, we focus on our **Glasgow Chess League Division 3b Team**. Outperforming expectations, the team has developed a strong chance of winning promotion to Division 2.

The top of the league table is as follows:

- 1 Queens Park (13pts)
- 2 Glasgow Uni (11pts)
- 3 Lenzie Dementors (10pts)
- 4 Hamilton D (7pts)
- 5 Hamilton C (8pts)

Queens Park sit top by two points after eight games played, with four fixtures remaining.

A busy league schedule in March & April will see Queens Park try to pick up maximum points in an effort to maintain the lead over the higher-rated Uni team, which got one win and one draw from its two fixtures vs Queens Park.

Team Captain **Rhys McCrosson** said: "I believe the team is almost guaranteed promotion."

Meanwhile, Queens Park enter the **Campbell Rosebowl Cup** - a consolation tournament for those knocked out of the Spens Cup - away to Strath Uni on 13 March.

Updated league tables for all Queens Park teams can be viewed on [the Club website](#).

Upcoming league fixtures are available on the [Chess Club calendar](#).

IMAGES OF THE WEEK



From the archives: Govanhill Chess Club (as QPCC was originally known) with founder Julien Papillon at the [Southside Fringe](#) in May 2019, by Langside Halls

INTERNATIONAL CHESS

This week, we ask: **where in the world is Alireza Firouzja?**

The French-Iranian prodigy was seen as a World Champion in waiting by many in 2021. He became the youngest ever player to **reach 2800**, rose to #2 in the world rankings, and Magnus Carlsen identified him as a serious threat to his domination.

In June 2022, however, he underperformed at the [Candidates tournament](#), finishing in sixth place of eight. Since then, he has been notably **absent** from major over-the-board and online events. His rating has fallen to 2785 and his ranking to #4. His many fans have asked: what has he been up to?

The answer is: **fashion design**. Firouzja has [shared on Twitch streams](#) that he is studying the subject and attending catwalk shows. He plans to work in the industry while playing high-level chess.

Can he combine his passions while remaining competitive? His French teammate Maxime Vachier-Lagrave may provide inspiration; MVL reached the #2 classical and #1 rapid world ranking while studying a PhD in mathematics.

Firouzja at the 2018 Blitz World Champ.



Photo by L. Fleischman (CC-Att-SA-4.0.)

CLUB ACTIVITIES

28 Feb - the [Simultaneous Exhibition vs IM Andrew Greet](#) takes place on Tuesday.

19 Mar - the next set of fixtures for our two [Scottish National Chess League](#) teams.

21 Mar - A guest talk from Bearsden's Rob Colston (1874 FIDE & 1916 Chess Scot) on middlegame planning.

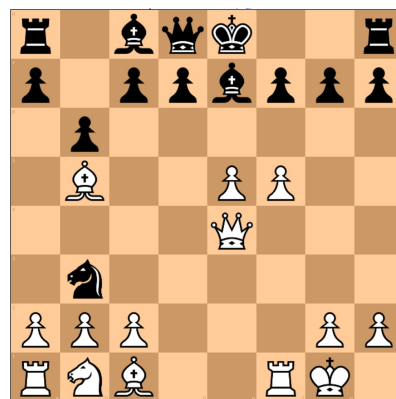
4 Apr - The designated date for round 4 of the Beltrami Club Championship. Round 3 results are [being recorded here](#).

11 Apr - An opening repertoire class by Club President Graeme McKinnon.

Recent - [Ever wondered why there is no apostrophe in Queens Park Chess Club?](#)

GAME OF THE WEEK

A miniature from the romantic era of chess in the mid-1800s, associated with creative sacrifices, wild open positions, and beautiful attacking combinations. Here, England's **Henry Bird** - of Bird's Opening fame (1.f4) - faces Austria's **Wilhelm Steinitz**, the first official World Champion. The Ruy Lopez Berlin Defence was played. After move 11.Qe4 (below), two Rooks are left hanging. Steinitz took Bird's Rook with 11...Nxa1, but Bird left Steinitz's alone. An important demonstration of why King safety, central control and piece activity often matter more than material.



H. Bird vs W. Steinitz | 1868 | London
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.d4 exd4 5.e5 Ne4 6.Nxd4 Be7 7.0-0 Nxd4 8.Qxd4 Nc5 9.f4 b6 10.f5 Nb3 11.Qe4 Nxa1 12.f6 Bc5+ 13.Kh1 Rb8 14.e6 1-0 (may have continued: ...Rg8 15.Qxh7 Rf8 16.exf7+ Rxf7 17.Re1+ Be7 18.Qg8+ Rf8 19.f7#)

[View game on chessgames.com](#)



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CHESS CLUB