

The 1983 IBM Irish Chess Championships held in the Travellers Friend Hotel, Castlebar and sponsored by IBM Ireland Limited must go down as one of the most successful and enjoyable in the aeries.

The hard work put in by the team of Tom McNally and Tom O'Sullivan was well rewarded by an excellent turn-out which included what was the strongest ever Irish Championship proper held outside Dublin. And indeed, the Senior Championship was almost equal to the last Dublin event of 1981, marred only by an astonishing on the day decision to allow a player significantly below the required grading level to participate. Hopefully the ICU will ensure that no one member of its Committee can make such a decision in the future.

A total of 10 Tournaments were staged during the 9 days with the response for the Week-ender necessitating its split into 2 events. Work on a book giving the main highlights and games has commenced and this will be ready hopefully by Spring 1984.

OPENING ROUNDS

In the Senior Championship reigning joint cahmpions Dunne and Short started off with 2 wins as did Barry, Wallace & O'Reilly. Hot favourite Pat Dillon did likewise in the Intermediate with Willie Lyons and John Kelly keeping pace. Pat Carton Jnr., Paul Farrell and James O'Sullivan set the pace in the Junior.

DECISIVE CLASHES

Round 5 proved to be a decisive round in both the Senior and Intermediate. Dunn, with white, played Short, both being $\frac{1}{2}$ pt. ahead of the field. It was a 30 move encounter with Dunne taking the honours. Joint leadrers of the Intermediate - Dillon and Kieran Maloney played a draw - a result that was to see them overtaken in the next and final round of the event. James O'Keefe was now a clear leader in the Junior.

INTERMEDIATE & JUNIOR FINISHES

The next - 6th - round was the final one of the supporting Championships. O'Keefe won to take the Junior outright. Dillon, leader of the Intermediate from the outset, adjourned against Pat Carton Snr. with Carton taking full advantage of the won ending upon resumption. Lyons downed Limerick's Maloney to share the title with Carton.

In the Senior Dunne retained his $\frac{1}{2}$ pt lead and in the remaining 3 rounds scored 1 win and 2 draws to win the Irish Championship outright for the first time

SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES

In addition to the main Champioships the events were this year extended to include Novices events - one intended for mature chessplayers who had no previous competitive experience and the other for juveniles whose standard had not yet reached grading levels. When the final entry for these events was analysed a further event - Junior Reserve - was introduced to cat_r for

for a number found to "fall between two stools" i.e. not quite Junior standard but somewhat strong for Novice. Aidan O'Connell (Edenderry) won the Senior Novice while Barry Gallery (Castlebar) took the Junior Reserve. Edel McGreal (Edenderry) took the Juvenile Novice event.

Other highlights during the early rounds of the Championship included blitz tournaments - the Senior was won by Paul Whitehead and the Junior by Ronan Duke. During the mornings game analysis sessions were conducted by Paul Whitehead and the young American also gave an impressive blindfold simul over 3 boards. Paul won all 3 although each board had a 'consultative' team involved. There were also several simul performances given by Whitehead.

WESTERN WEEK-ENDERS

40 played in the Senior Western Week-ender won comfortably by Paul Whitehead on 5½. The Junior Western Week-ender (under 1500) was won by P Sweeney (Rathmines), also on 5½.

COMPLETE RESULTS++++COMPLETE RESULTS

1. IBM IRISH CHAMPIONSHIP : 1. David Dunne (Rathmines) 7/9;
2- C Barry (Rathfarnham) 6½; 3= E Curtin (Unattached), J Delaney (Raheny) P Wallace (Sandymount) and E O'Reilly (Kevin Barry).
Total Entry - 32
2. IBM IRISH INTERMEDIATE : 1= W Lyons (Youghal) and P Carton Snr (Newcastle); 3= P Dillon (Vikings), K Maloney (Ennis), C Walsh (Vikings) & N McDonnell (Castlebar)
Grading Awards- R Duke (Lucan) A Packham (Ballyfermot) J Kelly (Beaumont) and D Leggett (Phibsboro) Total entry- 26
3. IBM IRISH JUNIOR : 1. J O'Keefe (Ennis) 5½; 2= P Farrell (Lucan), J O'Sullivan (Ennis) and B Megher (Rathmines) 4½
Grading Awards- F Cassidy (Ennis) G Casey (Strabane) and E Dolan (Dunshaughlin) Total Entry - 30
4. SENIOR NOVICE : 1 A O'Connell (Edenderry) 2- F Rusk (Monaghan) 3- P Kocikowski (Dunshaughlin) Total Entry- 6
5. JUVENILE NOVICE : 1. Edel McGreal (Edenderry) 2. Rhona Moran (Edenderry) 3. A O'Malley (Malahide) Total Entry - 19
6. JUNIOR RESERVE : 1. B Gallery (Castlebar) 2. D Carton (Newcastle) 3- A O'Sullivan (Malahide) Total Entry - 6
7. WESTERN WEEK-ENDER (Senior) 1. P Whitehead (San Francisco) 5½ 2. J Ahearne (Athlone) 5; 3= T Harding (Dundrum), B Ryan (Phb) Grading Award - R Duke (Lucan) Total Entry - 40
8. WESTERN WEEK-ENDER (Under 1500) 1. P Sweeney (Rathmines) 5½ 2. M Murphy (Lucan) 5; 3= J Cunniffe (Athlone), P Moclair (Newcastle), M Neville (Phibsboro), R Beckett (Fisherwick) and C Daly (POESSBA) Grading Award - P Keeney (Letterkenny) Total Entry - 43
9. BLITZ (SENIOR) 1- P Whitehead 2- C O'Sullivan 3- B Palmer 4- E O'Connor Total Entry - 16
10. BLITZ (JUNIOR) 1- R Duke 2- P Millett 3- B Megher 4- A Millett Total Entry - 20

An observant reader will note that Lucan's Ronan Duke did quite well, coming amongst the prizewinners in each of the events in which he participated - Intermediate, Week-ender (Snr) and Blitz. Ronan also carried off a fourth prize - he was the first to beat Paul Whitehead in a simul exhibition on the Thurs night.