

Draughts Razoo: Coming Soon

When I first began playing draughts in 1990 I was amazed at the rich history of the game. Giants like Wyllie, Drummond, Hay, Anderson, Martins, Jordan, Ferrie and others roamed nineteenth century Britain like gladiators, seeking out contests, challenges and playing for a stake – winner takes all.

But I was looking to the past oblivious of the present. Back in the early 1990s we had Tinsley, Oldbury, Long, Lafferty, McCarthy, Edwards, Wiswell and Chinook. I was in the middle of a golden age and didn't realise it. It made me think. Am I, along with other players, constantly looking back without seeing what we have here and now?

Maybe the game is in good shape. Never before has it been played on such an international scale. It wasn't that long ago when the UK, Ireland and the USA alone seemed to play our game. Everywhere else just seemed too far away or not interested.

Then a player from **Barbados** entered the US Nationals and almost won the Masters section at his first attempt. He spoke of thousands of players back home in his country. He went on to play all comers, scoring successes in **Ireland, Scotland, England, the West Indies, United States and South America**. He won two world titles but his efforts to promote the game in **South Africa** were per-

haps his crowning glory. This champion has worked hard at raising the status of the game internationally and has made many TV appearances. Now, South Africa may have even more players than any other country in the world, but like Barbados, the lack of wealth hinders many of its top players from travelling overseas.

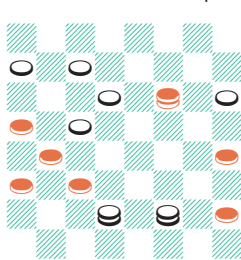
But the world is getting smaller. The **Internet** has given us an explosion of players from countries formerly under represented on the world scene. **Australia** has writer Bavali Hill and former cricket coach Joe Hoad. **New Zealand** has Ralph

As a new draughts magazine is about to be launched Nick McBride says why now is the right time for the Razoo, and gives a sneak preview

Dixon and Jan Mortimer (who plays Ireland's Patricia Breen for the women's world title this year). **Canada's** future is bright with Steve Jones and Clint Olsen chasing their number one Leroy Adams. And then there are the 'emerging' countries, ones that

do not have a history of playing our version of the game. These countries have given us talents such as the Durdyev brothers from **Turkmenistan**, Slava Gorin of **Russia**, Dennis Pawlek of **Germany** and Martin Fierz of **Switzerland**.

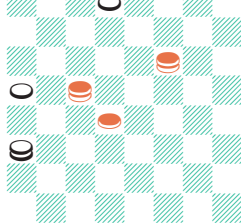
With recent or upcoming events at Niagara



White to play, Ryan said draw
Al Lyman shows a white win.

Falls, Prague, Las Vegas, Manchester, London, Cambridge, Ireland, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Barbados, Scotland, Illinois, Milan, Texas, Wales, and one I'm looking forward to, the English Open on the Isle of Wight, 2nd-6th June 2003. Draughts offers exciting opportunities for international travel.

As I write Ron 'Suki' King and Alex Moiseyev plan to square-off for the world title re-unification match in October 2003, with Larry Keen challenging the winner in 2004. The success of Irishman Hugh Devlin's tour of South Africa is sure to be repeated in his next tour of the Caribbean in June 2003. Scotland's William Docherty eyes the world scene, and English grandmaster Richard Pask remains the world's most widely respected draughts author while maintaining an incredible +59, =70, -1 playing record since 1991.



Beckwith v Cowie 2002,
Red to play and win, but
requires precise play.

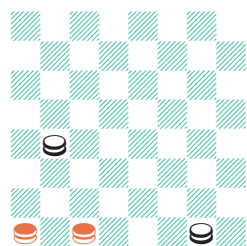
With all this in mind I'm putting my money where my mouth is. I'm giving something back to the game. I'm publishing a new draughts magazine with an international flavour. It's called:

Draughts Razoo

The first issue will have 28 A5-sized pages with a full colour cover. It will be packed with articles from all over the world by international writers.

Welsh master Lindus Edwards tells us how it felt to receive a letter inviting him to play for the UK and Ireland in the 1983 international match. The US team comprised of players such as Tinsley, Long, Lafferty, Levitt, Lowder, Wexler and others. How can you prepare to face that sort of line up? His preparation included a sparring session with Derek Oldbury. The article gives two games that the young Lindus played against Tinsley.

In an interview, Richard Pask tells us how he began his career, gives the best and worst moves



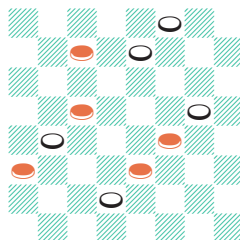
White to play and win. American Position.

he has ever played, describes giants of the game's past and reveals why his next book will be his last.

Hans L'Hoest of Belgium looks at the 'American position' ending, giving advice on recognising it in embryo, and avoiding this if need be.

Melvyn Green describes how he began composing, shares his favourite problems and gives an insight into the mind of a problemist showing **how** he created this stroke.

cont.
 7-21 26-23 6-22
 14-21 19-26 **White**
 30-25 2-6 **wins**
 21-30 12-19 **brilliantly!**



White to play and win. by Melvyn Green.

From the USA and Canada: Al Lyman corrects Ryan's analysis

of the Tyne 3-mover, Ed Trice gives an insight into the 'mind' of a program with a look at the White Doctor, Richard Beckwith annotates a game against Louis Cowie, Michael Heckert shares an Internet game versus the world's foremost annotator Dick Fortman, while Lisle Cormier gives sound advice to newcomers.

The *Razoo* will give some missed opportunities from actual play, news, games and results from around the world (including the May 2003 Cambridge MSO) and much more.

Subscribe now to ***Draughts Razoo*** !

Draughts Razoo

Draughts Razoo will be launched at the English Championships, Isle of Wight, on 2 June 2003.

Draughts Razoo will be published three times per year.

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