

Author

Message

Batgirl



Joined: 06 Dec 2003
Posts: 165
Location: North Carolina

■ Posted: Sat Apr 17, 2004 4:17 pm Post subject: William Lewis



William Lewis (1787-1870)

William Lewis was born in Birmingham, England in 1787. He first learn to play chess at Tom's Coffee House where the London Chess Club met and at the Salopian Coffee House where Jacob Surratt, the house professional, instructed him in the finer points.



Thomas Twining, whose Twinning Tea Company is still around, bought the conveniently named Tom's Coffee House, located in Devereux Court just off the Strand in the parish of St Clement Danes, in 1706 when he was 31. It had been established about 50 years prior to his purchase. According to the Twinning Co. history, "*Men – but never women – of all classes would gather there to drink, to gossip, and to do business. Coffee shops gathered a loyal clientele by specialising in particular products or by encouraging customers with common interests. Poets, for instance, would go to one establishment; army officers, to another.*

The coffee house is where tipping began. Customers who wanted to be sure of speedy service would drop a small gratuity into a wall-mounted box inscribed with the letters 'TIP' ('to insure promptness')."

To quote Dicken's again:

*"Upon the death of Philidor, the Chess Clubs at the West-end seem to have declined; and in 1807, the stronghold and rallying point for the lovers of the game was the **London Chess Club**, which was established in the City, and for many years held its meetings at Tom's Coffee-house, in Cornhill. To this Club we are*

indebted for many of the finest chess-players of the age; and after the lapse of nearly a century, the Club still flourished, and numbered among its members some of the leading proficientes."

In 1819 (the year Sarratt died) Lewis took a job as the operator of the Turk, the chess automaton, during its English tour. He was supplanted by Peter Williams (not Elijah Williams, as so often seen) In 1821 Lewis and John Cochrane met with Deschapples in their triangular match. Lewis, receiving odds of *pawn and the move*, beat Descapples +1 =2.

They met again in 1823. Some places indicate there were two matches, one ending +1 -1 and the other +1 -4 in Bourdonnais' favor. Others seem to think it was a single match with Bourdonnais winning +5-2. Either way, Lewis was definitely weaker than Bourdonnais. Hooper and Whyld claim it was in 1825, but that doesn't seem to be the case.

In 1825, however, Lewis open a subscription chess room at St. Martin's Lane and took on Alexander McDonnell, an Irish player, as a pupil.

Lewis headed the London Chess Club team in their correspondence match with the Edinburgh Chess Club - a match that lasted from 1824 to 1828. The London Club was favored to win by a large margin. owever, Edinburgh, headed by a relatively unknown named James Donaldson won by a score of +2 -1 =2.

In 1827, Lewis' chess room folded when he went bankrupt through an ill-advised investment in the piano business. Then, after the embarrassing loss to Edinburgh in the most publicized match to date, he gradually withdrew from chess competition.

Following the tradition of his mentor, Sarratt, William Lewis, who took on the less pretentious title *Teacher of Chess* (Sarratt had the self-appointed sobriquet, the *Professor of Chess*), translated some earlier works such a Greco in 1819 and Carrera in 1822. He also wrote several books:

His first was *Oriental Chess (in two volumes)* in 1817 and then a revised edition of Sarratt's *Treatise on Chess* in 1822. (Mrs. Sarratt, impoverished by her husband's sickness and death, had published her own supposedly superior revision. Lewis's book directly competed for sales. It's also worth noting that when a fund was being establish on her behalf in 1843, Lewis' name wasn't on the list of subscribers.)

In 1831, he published *Series of Progressive Lessons* followed by its sequel, *Second Series of Progressive Lessons* the following year. These books offered something about openings and a bit of analysis as well as a study of the Lewis counter-gambit. In 1838 he published *The Chessboard Companion* and in 1844, his *Treatise on the Game of Chess*.

here's a sample from *Treatise on the Game of Chess*:

"The King's Gambit is perhaps the most instructive, as it is certainly the most entertaining, of all the Openings. It abounds in difficult and interesting positions, and has more variety than any other method of beginning the game. Nearly all the best writers on the game of Chess agree that the King's Gambit is a hazardous game for the first player, because he sacrifices a pawn without gaining a corresponding advantage of position; this is true, but it must not be forgotten that the second player has one of his pawns doubled and that a pawn more, so circumstanced, does not necessarily win the game."

William Lewis stayed active to some degree in chess throughout his life. This is evident since in 1858, he was the stakes-holder in the Morphy-Lowenthal match. He lived until 1870.

Some games by William Lewis:

[Event "unknown"]
[Site "unknown"]
[Date "1813.??.??"]
[Result "1-0"]
[White "W Lewis"]
[Black "J Parkinson"]

1. e4 e5 2. f4 exf4 3. Nf3 g5 4. Bc4 Bg7 5. h4 g4 6. Ng5 Nh6 7. d4 Nc6 8. c3 Na5 9. Bb3 Nxb3 10. Qxb3 f6 11. Bxf4 Ke7 12. e5 f5 13. d5 Qe8 14. O-O Qh5 15. d6+ cxd6 16. exd6+ Kd8 17. g3 Qg6 18. Na3 Rf8 19. Nb5 Ng8 20. Nxa7 Nf6 21. Qb6+ Ke8 22. Nb5 Ra4 23. Nc7+ Kd8 24. Nce6+ Ke8 25. Qd8# 1-0

[Event "Unknown"]
 [Site "Unknown"]
 [Date "1813.??.?"]
 [Result "1-0"]
 [White "W Lewis"]
 [Black "J Parkinson"]

1. e4 e5 2. f4 exf4 3. Nf3 g5 4. Bc4 Bg7 5. h4 g4 6. Ng5 Nh6 7. d4 f6 8. Bxf4 d5 9. exd5 fxc5 10. Bxc5 Qd6 11. Qe2+ Kd7 12. Bxh6 Re8 13. Qxe8+ Kxe8 14. Bxc7 Qg3+ 15. Kd1 Qxc2 16. Rf1 g3 17. Rf8+ Ke7 18. d6+ cxd6 19. Rf7+ Ke8 20. Rf8+ Kd7 21. Rf7+ Kc6 22. d5+ Kc5 23. Rf4 Bg4+ 24. Rxc4 Qf3+ 25. Be2 Qxd5+ 26. Nd2 Qh1+ 27. Bf1 Nc6 28. c3 Ne5 29. Bxe5 dxe5 30. Rxc3 Qxh4 31. Rh3 Qf4 32. Kc2 Rd8 33. Rd3 Re8 34. Bg2 h5 35. Rf1 Qg4 36. Rd5+ Kb6 37. Rf6+ Kc7 38. Be4 Re7 39. Rc5+ Kd8 40. Bf5 Qa4+ 41. Nb3 Rg7 42. Rc8+ Ke7 43. Re6+ Kf7 44. Rc7+ Kf8 45. Rf6+ Ke8 46. Rxc7 Qh4 47. Bg6+ Kd8 48. Rf8# 1-0

[Event "Unknown"]
 [Site "Unknown"]
 [Date "1815.??.?"]
 [Result "1/2-1/2"]
 [White "J Wood"]
 [Black "W Lewis"]

1. e4 e5 2. f4 exf4 3. Nf3 g5 4. Bc4 g4 5. O-O gxf3 6. Qxf3 Qf6 7. d3 Bh6 8. Bd2 Nc6 9. Bc3 Ne5 10. Qh5 d6 11. g3 Bg4 12. Bxe5 Bxh5 13. Bxf6 Nxf6 14. gxf4 Rg8+ 15. Kh1 Ng4 16. Na3 Ne3 17. Rf2 O-O-O 18. h3 Nxc4 19. Nxc4 c6 20. Ne3 f6 21. Raf1 Bg6 22. c4 Rge8 23. h4 f5 24. h5 fxe4 25. hxg6 exd3 26. Ng4 Bg7 27. gxh7 Re2 28. f5 Rh8 29. f6 Rxh7+ 30. Kg2 Bf8 31. Rxe2 dxe2 32. Re1 Rh5 33. Rxe2 Kd7 34. Kg3 Rf5 35. b4 b6 36. Re4 d5 37. cxd5 Bd6+ 38. Kh4

Rxd5 39. a3 Rf5 40.
Re2 a5 41. Rf2 Rxf2 42. Nxf2 Ke6 43. Kg5 Be5 44. Ne4 Bxf6 +
1/2-1/2

[Event "unknown"]
[Site "unknown"]
[Date "1816.???.???"]
[Result "1/2-1/2"]
[White "W Lewis"]
[Black "J Parkinson"]

1. e4 e5 2. f4 exf4 3. Nf3 g5 4. Bc4 g4 5. O-O gxf3 6. Qxf3 Bh6
7. d4 Qe7 8.
Bxf4 Nc6 9. Bxh6 Nxb6 10. Qh5 Qf8 11. Rf6 Qg7 12. Qxh6 Qxh6
13. Rxh6 Nxd4 14.
Na3 c6 15. Rd6 Ne6 16. Rad1 Rg8 17. Bxe6 fxe6 18. Nc4 Rg5
19. Kf2 Ke7 20. Ne3
a5 21. Kf3 b5 22. Ng4 Ra7 23. Kf4 Rc5 24. c3 b4 25. cxb4 axb4
26. Ne5 Rc2 27.
a4 Rxb2 28. Rxc6 Rf2+ 29. Ke3 Rf8 30. Rdc1 Ba6 31. Rc7 Rxc7
32. Rxc7 Kd6 33.
Ra7 Kxe5 34. Rxa6 Rb8 35. Ra5+ d5 36. exd5 exd5 37. Kd3 Rc8
38. Rb5 Rc3+ 39.
Kd2 Rc4 40. a5 Rf4 41. a6 Rf2+ 42. Ke3 Ra2 43. Rxb4 Rxa6 1/2-
1/2

[Event "Unknown"]
[Site "Unknown"]
[Date "1816.???.???"]
[Result "1/2-1/2"]
[White "J Sarratt"]
[Black "W Lewis"]

1. e4 e5 2. f4 exf4 3. Nf3 g5 4. Bc4 g4 5. Ne5 Qh4+ 6. Kf1 f3 7.
g3 Qh3+ 8. Kf2
Qg2+ 9. Ke3 Bh6+ 10. Kd3 d5 11. Bxd5 c6 12. Bxf7+ Ke7 13.
Qf1 Kf6 14. Bxg8 Kxe5
15. Bb3 Rd8+ 16. Kc3 Bg7 17. d3 Kd6+ 18. d4 Kc7 19. Bf4+
Kb6 20. e5 a5 21. Nd2
Ka7 22. Qxg2 fxg2 23. Rhg1 b5 24. Ne4 Bf5 25. Rae1 Na6 26.
a3 c5 27. Nxc5 Rac8
28. Bf7 Nxc5 29. dxc5 Rxc5+ 30. Kb3 Rxc2 31. Rc1 Rdc8 32.
Rxc2 Rxc2 33. Bd5 Re2
34. Rxg2 Re1 1/2-1/2

[Event "Unknown"]
[Site "Unknown"]
[Date "1816.???.???"]
[Result "1/2-1/2"]

[White "J Sarrat"]

[Black "W Lewis"]

1. e4 e5 2. f4 exf4 3. Nf3 g5 4. Bc4 g4 5. O-O gxf3 6. d4 d5
7. exd5 Bg4 8. Rf2 Bd6 9. Nd2 Nf6 10. Nxf3 Ne4 11. Qe1 f5
12. Nd2 Qe7 13. Nxe4 fxe4 14. Bxf4 Nd7 15. Qd2 h6 16. Raf1 O-
O-O
17. Qa5 Kb8 18. Be3 Bb4 19. d6 Qxd6 20. Qa4 Nb6 21. Qb3
Rhf8
22. Bf7 Qe7 23. c4 Bd6 24. c5 Bxc5 25. dxc5 Rd3 26. Qc2 Rxe3
27. cxb6 axb6 28. Qd2 Rd3 29. Qc2 Rfd8 30. Bc4 Bd1 31. Qc1
e3
32. Rf7 Qc5 33. b4 Qd4 34. Bxd3 e2+ 35. Kh1 exf1=Q+ 36.
Bxf1 c6
37. a3 Bb3 38. Qf4+ Qxf4 39. Rxf4 Rd1 40. Rf2 Bc4 41. Kg1 Rxf1
+
1/2-1/2

[Event "London m/1"]

[Site "London m/1"]

[Date "1818.???.??"]

[Result "1-0"]

[White "W Lewis"]

[Black "Unknown"]

1. e4 e5 2. f4 exf4 3. Bc4 Qh4+ 4. Kf1 d6 5. c3 Nc6 6. d4 Qe7
7. Nf3 Nf6 8. Bxf4 Nxe4 9. Nbd2 Bf5 10. Nxe4 Bxe4 11. Qb3 Nd8
12. Re1 f5 13. Ng5 b6 14. Bd5 c6 15. Bxe4 fxe4 16. Rxe4 Qxe4
17. Nxe4 Be7 18. Nxd6+ Kd7 19. Qd1 h5 20. Nf5 g6 21. Nxe7
Kxe7
22. Bg5+ Kd7 23. d5 c5 24. g3 b5 25. Qd3 c4 26. Qxg6 Rf8+
27. Kg2 Kc7 28. Qg7+ Nf7 29. Rf1 Kb6 30. Rxf7 Rxf7 31. Qxf7
1-0

[Event "London"]

[Site "London"]

[Date "1819.???.??"]

[Result "1-0"]

[White "W Lewis"]

[Black "P Williams"]

1. e4 e5 2. f4 exf4 3. Nf3 g5 4. Bc4 Bg7 5. d4 d6 6. c3 c6
7. O-O Qe7 8. Ne1 h5 9. h4 f6 10. Bxg8 Rxg8 11. Qxh5+ Kd8
12. hxg5 fxg5 13. Nf3 Bf6 14. e5 dxe5 15. Nxe5 Bxe5 16. dxe5
Qxe5
17. Bxf4 Qc5+ 18. Rf2 Nd7 19. Bg3 Nf6 20. Qd1+ Bd7 21. b4
Qb6
22. Qd4 Qxd4 23. cxd4 Ne4 24. Rf3 Nxg3 25. Rxg3 a5 26. Ra3
a4

27. Nd2 Be6 28. Ne4 b5 29. Nc5 Bd5 30. Rf1 Ke7 31. Re3+ Kd8
32. a3 Ra7 33. Rf2 Re7 34. Rxe7 Kxe7 35. Rd2 Bc4 36. Kf2 Rf8+
37. Kg3 Rf5 38. Ne4 Ke6 39. Nc3 Kd6 40. Rd1 Rf4 41. Rd2 Rf1
42. Ne4+ Kd5 43. Nc3+ Ke6 44. Nd1 Bb3 45. Re2+ Kf6 46. Rf2
+ Rxf2
47. Nxf2 Ke6 48. Kf3 Bd5+ 49. Ne4 Kf5 50. g4+ Ke6 51. Ke3
Ba2
52. Nxcg5+ Kd5 53. Kd3 Bb1+ 54. Kc3 Bg6 55. Nf3 Ke6 56. Ne5
Be8
57. g5 Kf5 58. g6 Kf6 59. Kd3 Bxcg6+ 60. Nxcg6 Kxcg6 61. d5 Kf6
62. Kd4 Ke7 63. dxc6 Kd6 64. c7 Kxc7 65. Kc5
1-0

[Event "Unknown"]
[Site "Unknown"]
[Date "1825.???.?"]
[Result "0-1"]
[White "Unknown"]
[Black "W Lewis"]

1. e4 e5 2. f4 exf4 3. Nf3 g5 4. Bc4 g4 5. Ne5 Qh4+ 6. Kf1 Nf6
7. Bxf7+ Ke7 8. Bc4 d6 9. Nd3 f3 10. g3 Qh3+ 11. Kf2 Qg2+
12. Ke3 Bh6+ 13. Nf4 Bxf4+ 14. gxf4 f2 15. d3 g3 16. hxg3 Bg4
17. Qf1 Qxcg3+ 18. Kd4 Nc6+ 19. Kc3 Nxe4+ 20. Kb3 Nd4+ 21.
Ka4 Bd7+
22. Ka5 b6+ 23. Kb4 a5+ 24. Ka3 Nxc2+ 25. Kb3 Ba4+ 26.
Kxa4 Nc5+
27. Kb5 Nd4#
0-1

~Batgirl

Back to top



Display posts from previous: