

Louis Pieterse Trophy 2013

No success without preparation. So when the almost yearly match between The Dublin Chess Club and Fischer Z Amsterdam was mooted again, Thomas and myself went on an exploratory mission to Dublin early September. The sun was shining, temperatures were in the low twenties (Celsius) and the beer was excellent.

As a side trip we explored the Dublin of Bloomsday in the company of a group of female Joyce enthusiasts – I was added as a late joiner as Thomas feared that the daily beer intake might run low. Such worries were unnecessary however, as some of the women clearly liked their drink – albeit sometimes cider (ugh!).

The travel arrangements to Dublin end of November were quite diverse. Kees and I were amongst the first arrivals on Wednesday, thereby making sure our quarters were well equipped in the Arts Club itself. We did an inspection tour of the playing hall also and noticed two electronic DGT boards – would the match be broadcasted live on the internet?

The customary check on the quality of the Irish beer during the evening produced even better results, and the spirits rose high in the expectation of the upcoming battle the next evening.

Thursday morning a shopping spree was executed without any hiccups and in the late afternoon the Dutch team had a prematch peptalk in a rather narrow, but apparently quite popular local venue.

Afterwards we repaired to the Arts Club to meet our esteemed opponents and join them in an extensive common dinner. Fine food and brilliant company was provided, and being seated between Jack and Bram ensured that the conversation never lulled - or dulled for that matter.

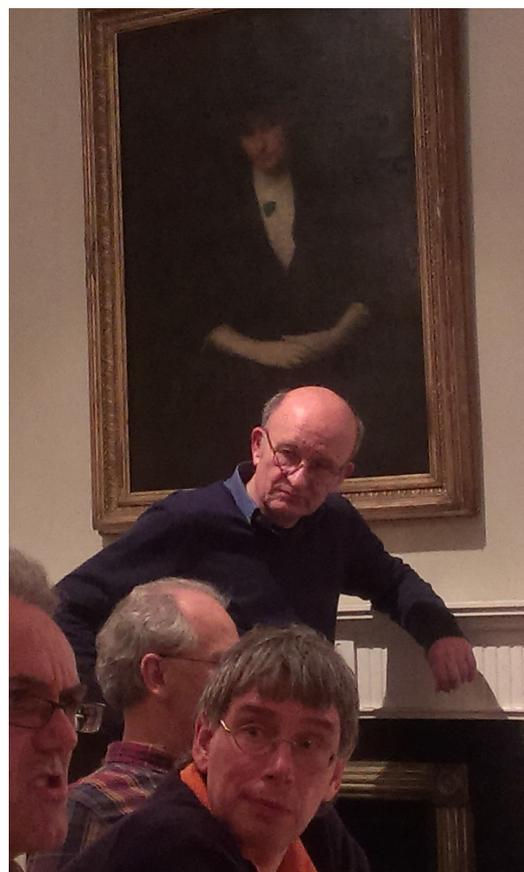
With hesitant steps we moved afterwards across several flights to the top floor, where the real battle was to be fought. Although the numbers were with the Dutch visitors (10 against 6), the quality of the Home team was unsurpassed. A scoring system was devised easily to take these differences into account and the teams were off!

The defenders of the Louis Pieterse Trophy – the Away team - had a very good start: the first five rounds ended in a clear victory on points, with the fifth round a resounding 7-1 victory!

However, the scoring system made sure that the match points were divided more evenly between the teams.

That's the big picture, but when looking at the details surprises spring easily. When I tried to complement Ivo on his nice win over Jack with a crushing queen sacrifice – I am a simple soul by heart – he mentioned in passing that he actually had blundered the queen and was very lucky later on ...

The Home team rallied strongly by taking three of the four next rounds, thereby sending the tension – and the beer consumption – to unscaled heights. Like the comeback of the All Blacks however later that week, the Away team recouped their losses and struggled over the finish line with a small lead still in place. Mission accomplished!



The final score:

Dublin Chess Club – Fischer Z: 6,9 – 7,8

Best individual scores:

Dublin Chess Club:

1. Martin Schmidt 11/15
2. Andrew 10/15
3. Jonathan O'Connor 9½/15

Fischer Z:

1. Ivo Timmermans 14/15 (!)
2. Jos Teeuwen 11/15
3. Michael Abspoel 9/15