

UNIVERSITY SUPPLEMENT.

The Second Annual Match between the Oxford and Cambridge University Chess Clubs took place on Friday, 27th March, at the City of London Chess Club, City Restaurant, 34 Milk-street, Cheapside. It will be remembered that the first match, which took place last year, between the two University Clubs, and which was also played at the City Restaurant, was a grand success. It was the unanimous opinion of all Chess circles that such a vast number as was then gathered together—from 600 to 800—had never been assembled before to witness a match at Chess. Moreover, it was found that sections of the community which previously knew little or nothing of Chess, regarded the event with interest, and the daily Press, perceiving this to be the case, showed their usual zest as caterers of public information.

The explanation of this is that the public take a vivid interest in all that concerns the two great Universities, and they do so not without some reason, discerning that our undergraduates are our future leaders in science, art, politics, commerce, war, in everything.

Now, Chess players, while sharing in this general interest, and discerning a great future for the game from the fact of our University students engaging in emulative Chess encounters, are also not ignorant of the fact that in these early days of dark and light blue Chess matches no very high degree of strength is to be expected; that will come by and bye, though the zest with which they have taken up the study of the game speaks well for a quick advent of Chess excellence.

On the present occasion there was evidently no diminution of the public interest excited by last year's encounter. There were in attendance certainly not less than 700 to witness the match, and much speculation was evinced as to the probable result. Oxford was the favourite, but it was fully well known that there would be a much harder fight by Cambridge than last year, when, it will be remembered, the dark blue representatives gained the day by 9 games to 2. Great preparations had been made for the reception of the two Clubs, and the saloon in which the match was to be played was handsomely decorated with the University colours and various emblems, besides being adorned with choice plants and some splendid

candelabra, which the proprietor of the restaurant, Mr. Gordon, had provided for the occasion. Nearly all the Chess celebrities of the metropolis were present on the occasion, and amongst them we may mention Staunton, Steinitz (who officiated as umpire), Lowenthal, Horwitz, Zukertort, Bird, Blackburne, De Vere, Macdonnell, Boden, Duffy, Zytogorski, Wisker, &c.

The number of players each side was, as last year, 7, and it was agreed that each pair should play three games.

Sand glasses to be provided to any players requiring same, and time limit in that case 20 moves per hour.

Play commenced at a little after 6 o'clock p.m., and terminated at 11 o'clock, when the score showed that Cambridge had won the match by 13 games as against 3 won by their opponents, 4 being drawn. The following is the pairing and score:—

OXFORD.	Won	CAMBRIDGE.	Won
1 W. Parratt, Magdalen	—	v. J. de Soyres, Caius 1
2 F. Madan, Brasenose	—	„ J. N. Keynes, Pembroke 2
3 S. R. Meredith, Brasenose	1	„ C. B. Ogden, Magdalen 2
4 W. Grundy, Worcester	1	„ W. W. R. Ball, Trinity 1
5 Hon. H. C. Plunkett, University	—	„ T. H. D. May, Trinity 2
6 C. Tracey, Lincoln ...	—	„ J. S. Nicholson, Trinity 3
7 A. R. C. Connell, Trinity	1	„ W. Hooper, Clare 2
	—		—
	3		13

The following pairs made drawn games, viz. : May and Plunkett Keynes and Madan, De Soyres and Parratt (2 draws).

Herr Zukertort, in another room, played 6 games without seeing the board, against the following players:—Messrs. Pearson, Wood, Cohen, Hall, Taylor, Woodard and Stowe in consultation.

Herr Zukertort won 2, lost 1, and 3 were drawn.

Mr. Blackburne, in another part of the establishment, played 7 simultaneous games over the board at a time, allowing fresh opponents as each game was finished—altogether about 20. He won all except three, which were lost by him.

Altogether the event was emphatically the most successful that has ever taken place in the Chess world. The utmost order and good humour prevailed throughout the large assemblage, and it was generally agreed that the arrangements made had proved most successful.

We should not omit to allude to the marked improvement in the play of the Cambridge players as compared with last year. They have evidently used the interval of time which has elapsed to the best advantage. Of Oxford we cannot say the same; hence their defeat by such a large majority of games.

Not the least interesting and pleasing part of the affair was the

appearance of Mr. Staunton among the crowd of spectators who witnessed the match. There were many present who had never seen him, and who were consequently glad to have the opportunity of doing so afforded to them. We were happy to observe that Mr. Staunton had apparently recovered from his late illness.

At the conclusion of the match there were six games not finished, and these, according to agreement, were examined by Herr Steinitz, who had been appointed umpire for the occasion. He awarded four games to Cambridge, and two to Oxford.

With reference to Herr Zukertort, we should add that Mr. Taylor was the player who won his game; Messrs. Cohen and Wood lost; while Messrs. Pearson, Hall, and the two who were consulting—viz., Messrs. Woodard and Stowe, effected drawn battles.

The Chess men and boards with which the University match was played were supplied by Messrs. Howard, of No. 63 Barbican.

After the conclusion of the proceedings the players and officials of the two University clubs were entertained at a supper, as the guests of the City of London Chess Club, and the remainder of the evening was occupied with toast making. Among the toasts were those of "The Two University Chess Clubs;" "The City of London Chess Club;" "The Umpire, Herr Steinitz;" "Chess Celebrities," coupled with the names of Messrs. Bird and Zukertort. Messrs. Lowenthal, Horwitz, and Duffy (the latter for "The Press") also came in for their share, and the round of compliments finished with the toast of "The President, Mr. Rabbeth," by which time the clock made an announcement which sent all away to their homes.

GAME 28.

Sicilian Defence.

White.		Black.
Mr. DE SOYRES.		Mr. W. PARRATT.
1 P to K 4		1 P to Q B 4
2 K Kt to B 3		2 P to K 3
3 Q Kt to B 3		3 P to Q R 3
4 P to Q 4		4 P takes P
5 K Kt takes P		5 Q Kt to B 3
6 Q B to K 3		6 K B to Q Kt 5
7 K B to Q 3 (a)		7 K Kt to K 2
8 Castles		8 B takes Kt
9 P takes B		9 Castles
10 P to K B 4		10 P to K B 3 (b)
11 R to K B 3		11 P to Q 4
12 R to K Kt 3		12 P to K B 4