

2026-06-10

## **Our favourite pastime: "Chasing the Rabbits ..." - but some were even caught!**



Jimmy Adams and Michael Negele, 2012

James "Jimmy" Bernard Adams (February 7<sup>th</sup> 1947 - June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026) a British FIDE Master, chess author, and long-time editor of CHESS magazine, passed away on June 6, 2026, at the age of 79 following a long illness.

For me, following our first in-person meeting in June 2007, Jimmy became a humorous friend who always showed great respect for the achievements of fellow enthusiasts, despite his own prominent standing in the field. So I remember with warm feelings his comment to my talk in Norwich (KWA-meeting 2012): "Amazingly, Michael, you are making jokes, even in English language." And our "Chasing the rabbits ..." at the dinner.

The following compilation — which makes no claim to being exhaustive — bears witness to Jimmy's incredible contribution to the chess world.

Jimmy Adams helmed the renowned British magazine CHESS (formerly CHESS Monthly) for a total of 19 years, until his retirement in 2010. He also served as deputy editor for American Chess Magazine (ACM).

Being introduced as a member of the KWA since late 2006, I myself was delighted to meet Jimmy in person at the KWA gathering in London. He was an exceptionally friendly man with an ever-present smile and immense knowledge of chess and its leading figures.

- [Group photos from the London meeting in June 2007](#)

- [Expedition through London - The Knights and Kings of Chess](#)
- [First pictures from our Norwich meeting 2012](#)
- [Pictorial Report on the Norwich Meeting 2012](#)

Without people like Jimmy Adams — who dedicated nearly their entire active lives to chess — our little kingdom of 64 squares becomes steadily poorer. It is our task to act in Jimmy's spirit and pass on his enthusiasm to a (hopefully) future generation.

A saddened Michael Negele

### Some photos with Jimmy Adams

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— Jurgen Stigter, Tony Gillam and Jimmy Adams, 2007

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• Jimmy Adams, Leonard Skinner and Mark Huba, 2007



• Jimmy Adams is flanked by the couple Corneth, on the right Andreas and Marie-Theres Saremba, 2007



• Jimmy Adams with the dedicated item, 2007



• Michael Negele, Jimmy Adams, Calle Erlandsson and Tony Gillam, 2007



— Jimmy Adams, Owen Hindle, Tony Gillam and Leonard Skinner, London 2007

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• \_ Vor dem „Simpson's-in-the-Strand“, Sonntag, 10. Juni 2007



— Leonard Skinner, Jurgen Stigter, Calle Erlandsson, Tony Gillam, Jimmy Adams, Andreas Saremba and Regina Corneth, 2007



— Jimmy Adams with Raymond Cannon, 2012

**PS:** Over the course of several decades, our friend Jimmy authored a multitude of significant chess books. His bibliography is best categorised into his monumental historical biographies and his earlier monographs on chess openings:

### **Major Biographies & Historical Works**

- Johannes Zukertort: Artist of the Chessboard (1989; reissued by New In Chess in 2014)
- Mikhail Chigorin: The Creative Chess Genius (1987; later expanded under the title Mikhail Chigorin: The Creative Genius, New In Chess 2015)
- Gyula Breyer: The Chess Revolutionary (New In Chess 2017) – A work of over 800 pages on the pioneer of the Hypermodern school.
- Paul Keres: The Eternal Second (Four-part biography series, published by New In Chess between 2022 and 2024)
  - Volume 1: The Early Years
  - Volume 2: The World Championship Candidate
  - Volume 3: The Soviet Champion
  - Volume 4: The Later Years
- Salo Flohr: Master of Tactics (The Chess Player, 1985); reissued as a monumental later work in 2026 under the title Salo Flohr: From Chess Fighter to Chess Writer (New In Chess, June 2026).
- Isaac Boleslavsky: Selected Games (Caissa Books 1988)
- The Games of Anatoly Karpov (with Kevin J. O'Connell; Batsford 1974, expanded 1976)
- Bled 1931: International Chess Tournament (Caissa Editions 1987) – Translation and historical analysis.
- Much like Bled 1931, Adams translated the original — often rare — records and contemporary accounts of major tournaments and made them available in book form:
  - Paris 1900;
  - Baden-Baden 1925;
  - Dresden 1926;
  - Moscow 1935 (The Second International Chess Tournament);
  - Moscow 1936

### **Books on chess openings (selection)**

In the 1970s and 1980s, he authored numerous specialized books on opening theory, mostly for the publishers The Chess Player or Batsford:

- Main Line Najdorf (1977)
- Najdorf Poisoned Pawn (1977)
- Sicilian Najdorf: Polugaevsky Variation (1978)
- Richter-Veresov System (1978)
- The Trompowsky Attack (1979)
- The Torre Attack (1981)
- Schliemann/Jaenisch Gambit (1982)

### **Instructional book**

- Chess for Absolute Beginner (2006)

