

2013-01-18

Regional KWA Meeting in Wijk aan Zee



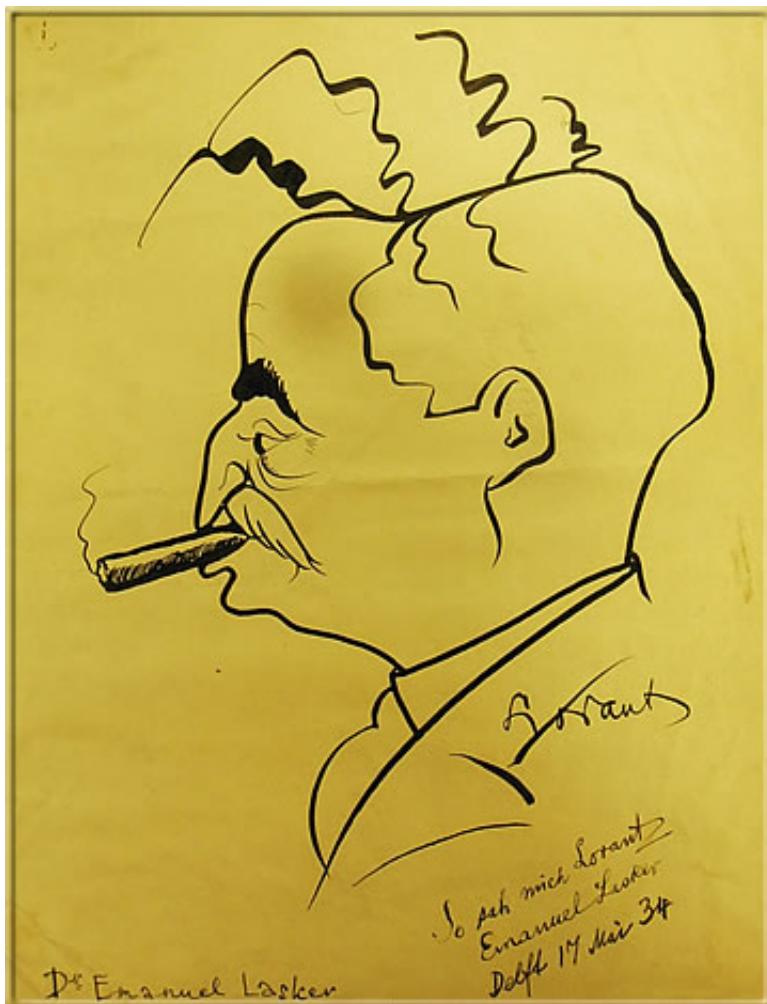
Once again the traditional January meeting in Wijk aan Zee was well-attended by our members. This time, besides **Michael Negele** also **Tony Gillam** and **Guy Van Habberney** have contributed to our pictorial report.

Michael Negele:

I had started for the meeting in Wijk already on Friday, 11th of January as I intended to do some research work beforehand in The Hague Royal Library. Having arrived there not until 3.45 pm I was very pressed for time – at least I could still sift through the Feenstra Kuiper scrapbooks and the fifties with respect to Niemeijer. A further complication in the Special Collection is the fact that books can be ordered only at certain times, so I nearly would have gone away empty-handed (best you announce your wishes two days in advance ...).

Here are three of my findings:

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MAELZEL'S EXHIBITION, No. 29, St. James's Street.

The Automaton



Chess Player

Being returned from *Edinburgh* and *Liverpool*, where (giving the Pawn and Move) it baffled all Competition, in upwards of 200 Games, although opposed by ALL THE BEST PLAYERS.

Has opened its Second Campaign,

WITH THE ADDITION OF THE

AUTOMATON TRUMPETER.

From the Commencement of the Second Exhibition of the Automaton Chess Player in *London*, to the 13th of May, it has played 250 Games, giving the Pawn and Move, of which Six Games only have been lost.

When the Difficulty of Winning but 10 successive Games, even at the Odds of the Rook is considered, it will be acknowledged that the Chess Player has fully sustained its Reputation, in Winning against the Chess Players of the Metropolis, 244 Games at the Pawn and Move out of 250.

The Public are not to form a Judgment of the Automaton's Strength from its Play during the Hours of Exhibition, as MR. MAELZEL, to avoid tiring the Company, arranges the Movement of the Mechanism as quick as possible, but as some Misrepresentations have gone abroad with respect to its Powers and Skill, in Consequence of the very few Games it has lost at the Pawn and Move, MR. MAELZEL challenges any *Chess Player in England*, without exception, to measure his Strength with the Automaton, on even Terms, for a Sum not less than Five Guineas.

The EXHIBITION begins at 3 o'Clock, P.M. and in the Evening at 8 precisely, when GAMES will be played AGAINST ANY OPPONENT, to whom the double Advantage of A PAWN AND THE MOVE WILL BE GIVEN.

Admission 2s.6d. Children 1s.6d. each.

The EXHIBITION of the CHESS PLAYER lasts at most One Hour; should a Game not be finished in that Time, the Party will be at Liberty to take it down with a View to its being resumed at another Opportunity. Parties of Twenty may be accommodated with a PRIVATE EXHIBITION (on previous Application) for SIX GUINEAS, above that number TEN GUINEAS.

Mr. M. begs leave to announce that the ORCHESTRION, AUTOMATON TRUMPETER, CONFLAGRATION OF Moscow, and the Patent for the METRONOMES, are to be disposed of.

Printed by W. GLINDON, 51, (late 48) RUPERT STREET, Haymarket.

Maelzel's Automaton Chess Player

... and 3 impressions from the shelves:



David DeLucia's set *In Memoriam*



That's what I call coincidence: The latest *KARL* issue with my article on Tartakower was already available.



Obliged to Tradition... is in very good

company.

I then continued my trip to Leidschendam where the cash audit was planned for Saturday morning. After a fine dinner with the Corneth family – I had "board and lodging" there – I was allowed to view the wonderful library of my host, and I discovered items never seen before.

The next morning after breakfast the viewing was continued only shortly as our two Belgian friends were more than punctually. Therefore the cash audit, meanwhile already a matter of routine, could successfully be finished at about 12 o'clock; the cash balance was OK, and only a few formal changes and additions were necessary for the documents.

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The cash audit

for 2012



Bert Corneth,

Guy Van Habberney, Michael Negele and Henri Serruys



Our host Regina

Corneth with Henri Serruys and Guy Van Habberney

After a short lunch break - Regina Corneth was again so kind to fortify us with filled rolls and plenty of coffee - we went the 60 km eastwards to Wijk aan Zee. In glorious weather we first met Jurgen Stigter, soon afterwards a whole pack of KWA members.



The cash auditors and the chairman on the

way to the pavilion.

But against our expectations the Tata organization had put "table and chairs" literally outside, i.e. in the entrance area of the pavilion – impossible to hold there a meeting with nearly 20 members and guests. So our exodus to the beach started, only the guests (Walter Mooij and Abraham van der Tak) were not willing to come along with us. But the 18 KWA members followed the call of the chairman and marched through the village and the dunes to "Het Strandhuis" – a little handicapped were only the three "book market suppliers" Raemakers, Erdélyi and Negele as the last 300 m from the parking to the beach were not accessible by vehicle.



— Cold but sunny

afternoon

But soon the anger about this strange "rebuff" really blew over as the new pub was beautiful – especially at this glorious winter day. Obviously the guilty conscience of Tata was substantial as the first round was shouted by the organization, arguably Ron Bleeker and Guy Van Habberney had arranged for that. The KWA treasurer then didn't splash out and turned to pay the second round.

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Nice location and service – Geert Gijssen, Henri Serruys and Ron Bleeker.



Peter Holmgren, Calle Erlandsson, Bernd Ellinghoven, Jurgen Stigter, Harrie Grondijs and Bob van de Velde

Guy Van Habberney provided a short and witty summary on the meeting:

Wijk organizers claimed that the KWA meeting last year was too noisy, and contrary to earlier written promises denied us our traditional meeting room. The rowdy group, led by such notorious hooligans as Geurt Gijssen and Dirk Jan ten Geuzendam subsequently trekked thru the cold dunes of Wijk, only to find a beautiful location on the beach which will serve us well in the coming years. (A most rowdy character, a tall German subject claiming "feenschach" as the one and only real chess addiction also strolled around ...) With 18 members in attendance, the chairman and the treasurer quickly went thru some statistics: 182 members, 23 seniors, one junior member, 9 institutional members. A very healthy balance sheet, a

revamped website, an ever improving CSQ plus interesting book projects. Furthermore, the KWA will soon also get an appropriate legal status which will facilitate many of its official dealings. A regional meeting is planned in Cracow in May and the annual meeting will hopefully be held in Belfort later in the year. For 2014, Saint Louis is on the agenda. In order to celebrate our 10 years of existence, the board is considering a special publication for KWA members only. After the meeting was concluded, all attendants eagerly attacked the chess books that were on offer. No arrests were made.



Informal

meeting – the attendees are listening to Tony Gillam.



Peter de Jong

and Ton de Vreede



Peter Holmgren,

Tony Gillam and Calle Erlandsson



bernd

ellinghoven, Jurgen Stigter, Peter Ramaekers (standing), Harrie Grondijs, Bert Corneth and Bob van de Velde

The report written by **Tony Gillam** (and already sent to the British members) will be reproduced here as well:

A few words to bring you up to date with the regional meeting of the KWA held last Saturday in a restaurant on the beach at Wijk aan Zee! It was very cold outside. There was also a book market at which at least 4 members sold their duplicates.

About 18 members were present, mainly from the Netherlands and Belgium. Several topics came up about possible future publications which were interesting:

1: should there be a paper version of Chess Stalker Quarterly?

2: someone had suggested asking all the members what their 3 favourite library items were and writing a

book about the answers. I don't really have favourites but I do have some unusual items: one would be a miniature version of a complete issue of L'Echiquier magazine which I assume was produced for advertising purposes. At the dinner afterwards, I sat opposite a Dutch member who told me that his favourite item was a chessboard (I assume paper) which had a "panel" on the right hand side on which appeared a handwritten complete simul game with Alekhine's signature. It seems the Dutch Federation decided to raise money by charging players 2.50 guilders (in about 1935-36) to play in simul against top players. Everyone who played received one of these special boards on which to record the game and which the simul giver would sign. An interesting idea. The player in this case had a lost position after about 11 moves but played on till move 32.

3: the Dutch are searching for the games of Beverwijk 1954. This is the only post-war Beverwijk tournament not to be published, which is strange as a Dutchman, Bouwmeester, won! So far they have 27 of the 45 games. Bouwmeester will be 85 next year and I think that has something to do with the search. They have all his games. There are 24 games on the Beverwijk cd.

4: The Belgians have discovered a manuscript with all the games of the first Belgian Championship of 1921 (Colle won).

5: the KWA is going to publish Ken Whyld's booklet called "Simpson's, Headquarters of the Chess World" (which I supplied them with) to mark the 10th anniversary of the KWA, next year.

6: the editor already has 3 articles for the next CSQ. He remarked that he was very pleased at the way material comes in without him having to try hard to get it. There is another little booklet by Ken Whyld which can be included, on the world's first international all-play-all tournament in London 1851. It was chaotically organised and only some of the games are known – a small pamphlet with about 8pp A5 size. I have it.

7: the next regional meeting will be in Krakow in the first weekend of May. Details of hotels will be sent out to all members.

8: the 2014 AGM will be in St Louis, USA, at the same place at the Susan Polgar school.

Of course the 2013 Tata Steel Chess Tournament was taking place at Wijk aan Zee at the same time. Round 1 was also on Saturday – Anand, Aronian, Carlsen, Giri, Harikrishna, Nakamura, Loek van Wely, Sokolov, etc. 14 players. Entry is free. There is a separate marquee (literally!) 100 metres down the road where 2 top Dutch players comment upon 4 of the games each day (only in Dutch unfortunately). Lots of people are around + the odd TV crew. It's very civilised and well organised. You can follow the games in the tournament hall on TV sets. I daresay it is also on the web.

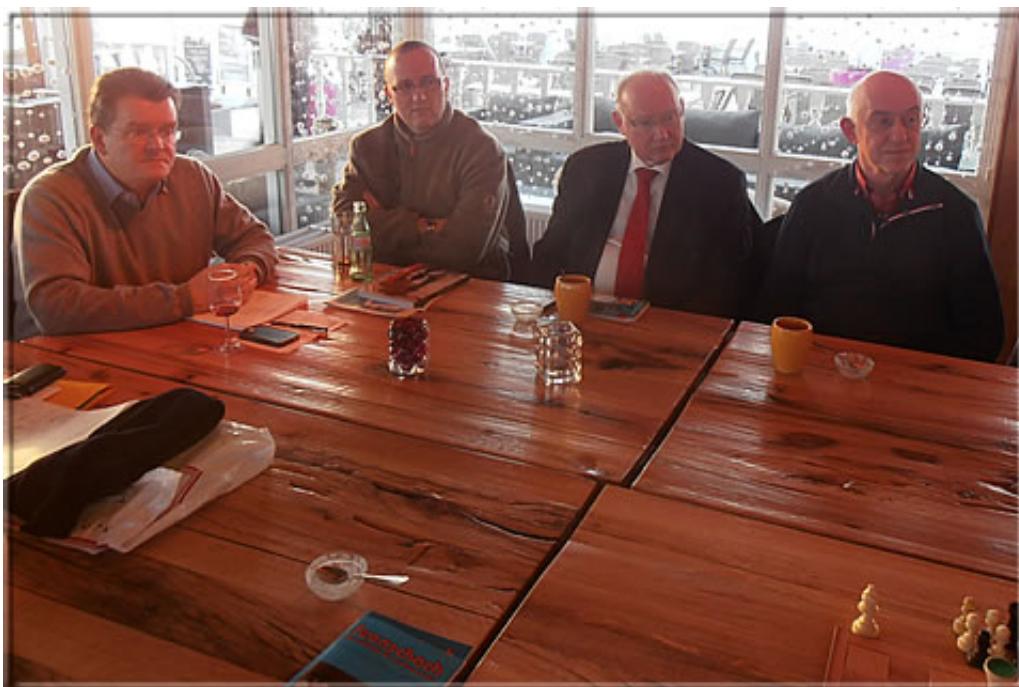
We should have more British members and a bigger British attendance at the regional meetings.

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Dirk Jan ten

Geuzendam in the front



Guy Van

Habberney, Rob Spaans, Geert Gijssen, Henri Serruys



Tamás Erdélyi (on the right) with Peter de Jong and Ton de Vreede



The KWA Board

[Again Michael Negele now:]

At the subsequent book market I had quite a lot of customers which considerably supplemented my vacation fund.



Book market in Het Strandhuis

Strandhuis

From a short visit to the tournament hall:



Two Pawns

down and not the wrong Bishop.



Bob, Jurgen and

Tony: She should surrender and she did.



The very last

book sales



The end of that day...

A fine conclusion was the joint dinner which (unfortunately) everybody had to pay for himself.



Strandhuis

Dinner in Het



Bob van de

Velde and Guy Van Habberney are pleased about an impressive plate...



... and Henri

Serruys likewise.

Photographs by Michael Negele.

