



Welcome to fun!

Why form Variant Chess now?

👑 Welcome to Variant Chess. This new charity for board game players, especially players of *Rose Chess*, the variant which is most like *Chess* on a hexagonal board.

👑 No one has yet devised a game as good as *Chess*. **How inventive are you and how well can you describe your new game to other members? Variant Chess aims to help you find out.** Your game may become the game chosen for the David Pritchard Trophy competition if you can prove that it is the best variant so far.

👑 *Variant Chess news* provides any news of progress as an educational charity and feed back from members. The newsletter is sent to every supporter in the UK who agrees to receive it.

👑 Variant Chess works with the Chess world through the Abbey Knights Chess Club at the Mermaid Alehouse, Hatfield Road cost-effectively.

👑 The 110th AGM of the Herts Chess Association (HCA) was held on Friday, 2 July 2010 at the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) near Morrisons, Hatfield Road, St Albans. Their email address is: info@e2-e4.co.uk - "e4" is the White Queen Pawn's (ie. the old apothecary's) first move.

👑 David Pritchard averred that no Chess variant has yet been devised that is as good as *Chess*. Pritchard founded the BCVS in 2001 (the only British national body in this field) but he died, and his successor president retired this year. So the society collapsed because of the cost of publications rather than cost-effectiveness for members of subscribing £8 pa. to further their limited aims and futile search for status (see *Roseboard news* Vol1 No5 2010).

👑 Therefore Variant Chess was formed on Sunday in St Albans in order to encourage the local Chess world to find that game as good as *Chess*. Variant Chess will ratify the constitution (see p.4 below) next year, and will apply for registration as a charity. The charity is based on 12 mutually exclusive Areas: one Area each for Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales and nine for England (based on major post code areas) and simply named (eg. "Wessex Area"). Each Area is represented by one Board member and is democratically run locally. Variant Chess aims to ensure that local clubs are fun for all age groups and all grades of ability, whether they play, watch, or help their local VC Club or VC Area to thrive.

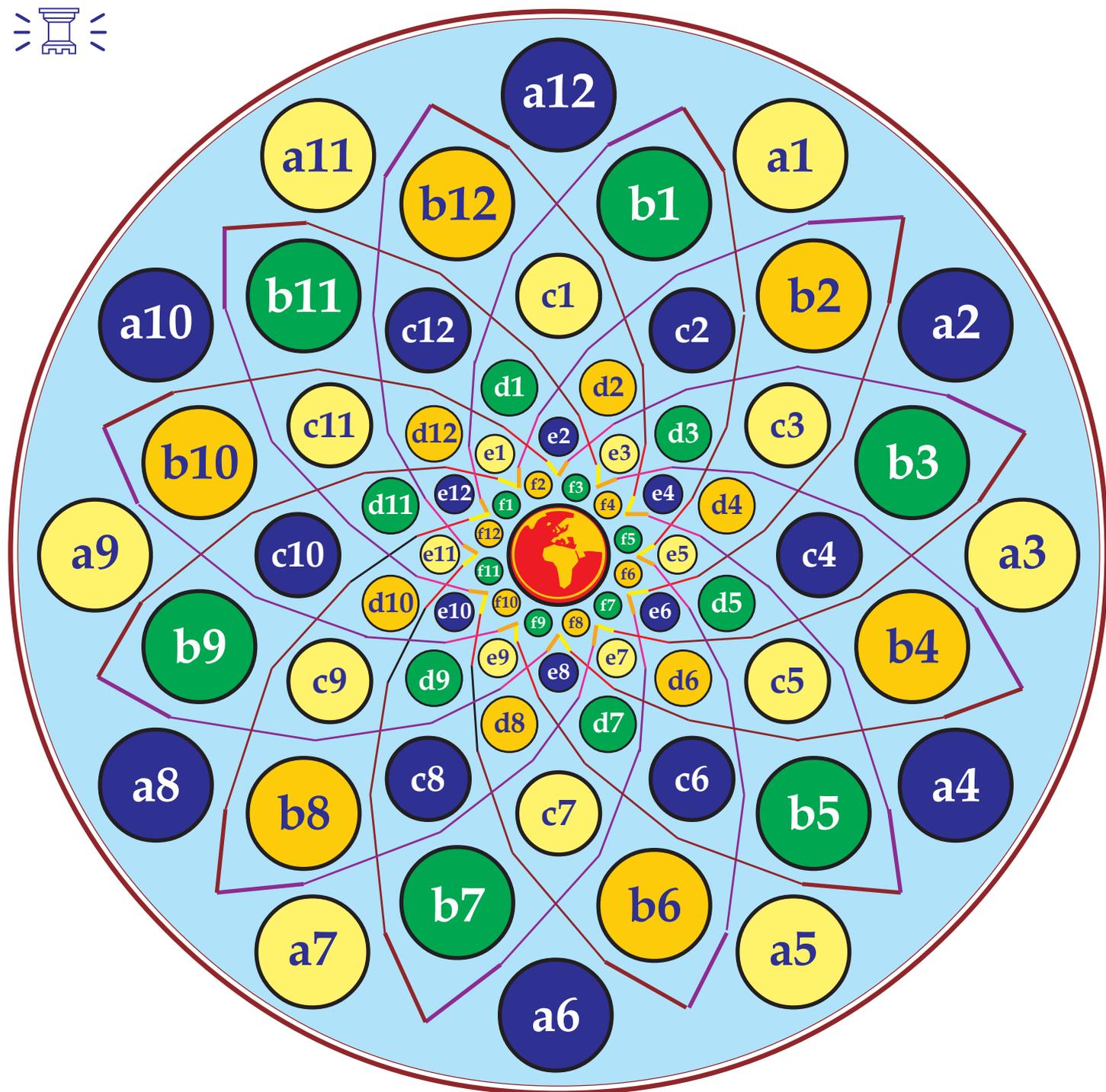
Aims and objects

👑 Variant Chess is a charitable pressure group aiming to improve the quality of board games play, at home and in competition. The Objects of Variant Chess are (see p.4 below):

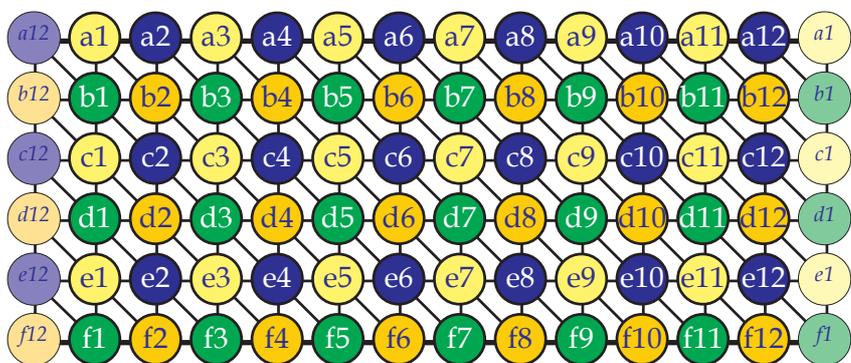
"to improve the quality of awareness, understanding and skill of players in the art and science of chess variants, to foster the highest standards in the organisation of Variant Chess tournaments, and to encourage the playing of chess variants for fun."

👑 Variant Chess aims to promote variants like *Rose Chess*, develop any other new game which is as similar as possible to *Chess*, develop the awareness, understanding, skill and commitment of players and spectators, and improve the quality of playing any chess variant, in order to help them to appreciate the art and science of *Chess* and chess variant design.

👑 Variant Chess aims to show that chess variants based on a rectilinear lattice array (eg. oriental *Chess* games such as *Xiangqi* or *Shogi*) are complementary to, but quite distinct from, chess variants based on the triangular lattice array (eg. *Rose Chess* and *Hexagonal Chess*), and show that neither group is superior.



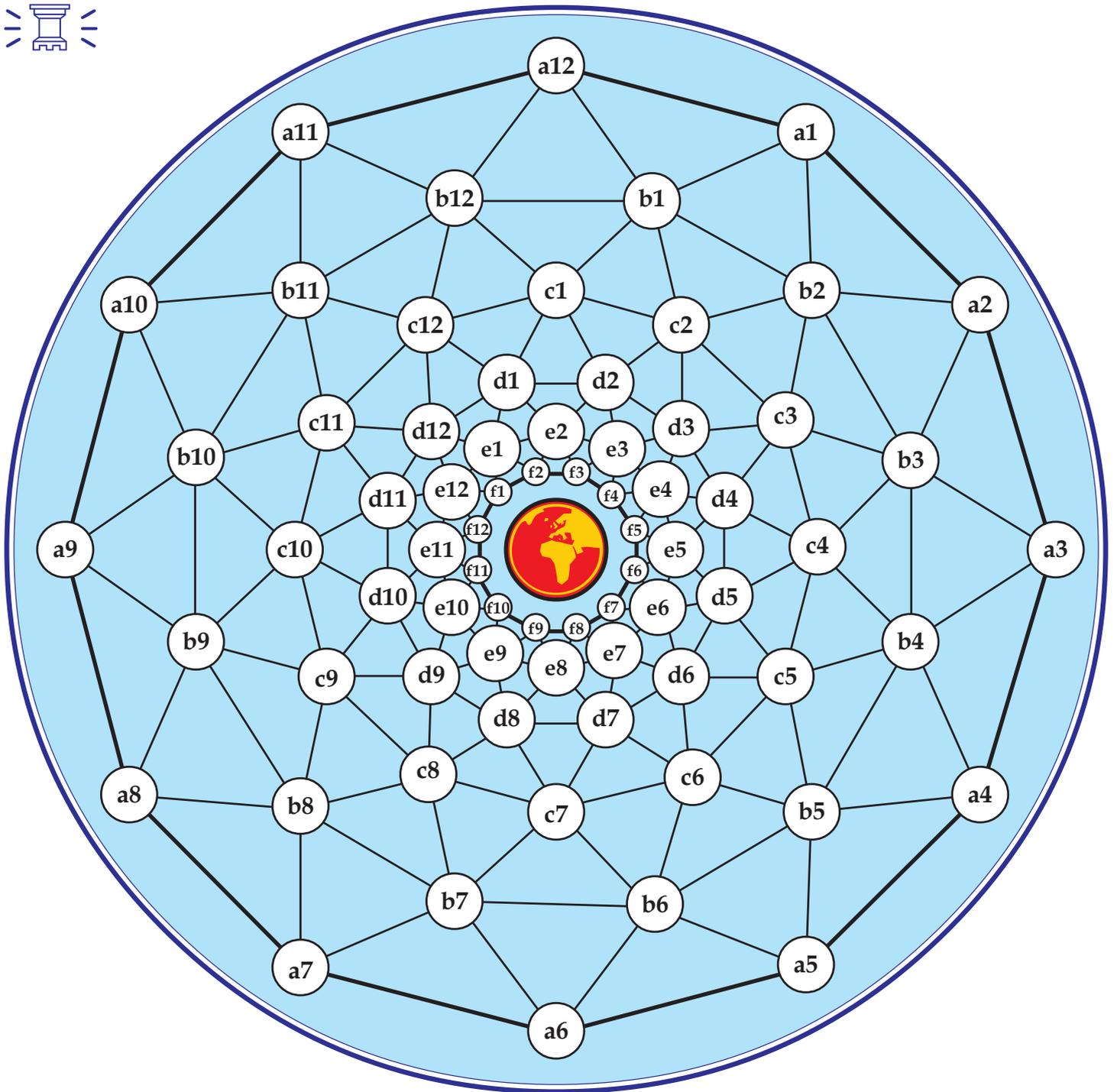
The Dandelion



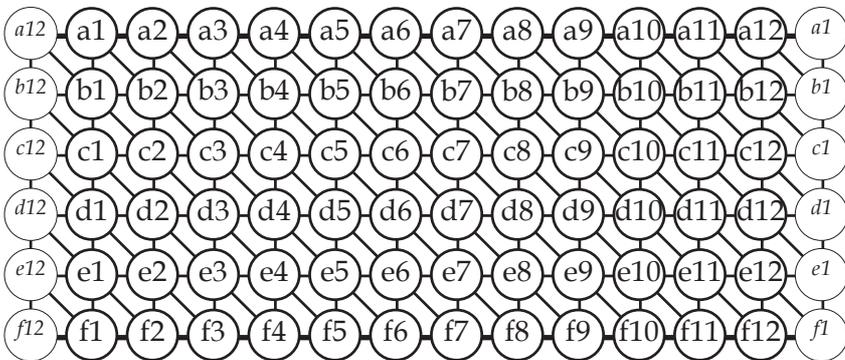
* Moves "on file" are blue-yellow or green-gold (eg. a5-a6 or a5-c6 like a Bishop in *Rose Chess*). Cells labelled "a" or "f" have only four adjacent cells each (2pt lines).

* The 72 cells of the Dandelion are the same as those of the Dandelion Clock (p.3 next) and both behave like the Rose Stem (pp 149-151*). The lines in the diagram here show each of the **32 ranks**.

* *Rose Draughts* and *Rose Chess* can be played on the Dandelion. Rank "a" is numbered like the clock face, hence the name (p.3 next).



The Dandelion Clock



* Moves "on file" (like a Bishop in *Rose Chess*) are along a **circumference** (eg. a5-a6) or **radius** (eg. a5-c6). Cells labelled "a" or "f" have only four adjacent cells each.

* *Rose Five-in-a-row* can be played on The Merry-Go-Round. A winning five-in-a-row may be scored **on rank or on file**.

* You can also play *Rose Go* (no handicapping) even though there are only 72 liberties.

* The diagram here shows which cells are next to each other on each of the **32 ranks**.



Variant Chess - Constitution

1 Name - The name of the Association shall be "Variant Chess" (hereinafter called "the Charity").

2 Objects - The objects of the Charity are to improve the quality of awareness understanding and skill of players in the art and science of chess variants, to foster the highest standards in the organisation of variant chess tournaments, and to encourage the playing of chess variants for fun.

3 Members - A Member shall be anyone who supports the aims and has paid the subscription due. Each member shall have one vote and in the event of an equality of votes the chairman shall have a second or casting vote. The annual subscription shall be due on 1 January in each year. Any member in arrears on 1 July shall be deemed to have resigned but may re-apply for membership.

4 Meetings - There shall be an Annual General Meeting held not less than nine months after and not more than fifteen months after the last preceding Annual General Meeting in order to receive the Annual Report and Annual Financial Statement, to elect the Board for the ensuing year and to conduct any other duly notified business. A Special General Meeting may be called by the Board and shall be called by the Board on receipt of a request by ten Members stating the purpose of the meeting. Open Meetings shall be held in order that members and guests may further the aims.

5 Order - The affairs of the Charity shall be managed by a Board consisting of the Officers being a Chairman a Vice-Chairman a Secretary and a Treasurer elected for the ensuing year by the Board from amongst its members, and not more than eight other Board members. One third of the Board members shall retire each year but shall be eligible for re-election. A

quorum for general meetings shall be twenty Members present and voting or one third of the membership whichever is the less. A quorum for Board meetings shall be five members present and voting. Fourteen days' due notice shall be given for general meetings and at least four working days' due notice shall be given for Board meetings. The Board may co-opt a Member to fill any vacancy on the Board during its term of office and may appoint committees and subgroups with a named Board member as chairman and defined terms of reference. The financial year shall end on 31 March in each year.

6 Audit - There shall be an Auditor appointed in general meeting to audit the affairs of the Charity including the accounts, membership, publications and archives in accordance with the Charities Act 1960, the Data Protection Act 1984 and any subsequent Acts. The annual subscription shall be set by the Charity in general meeting on a proposal from the Board.

7 Other bodies - The Charity shall co-operate with other bodies with similar objects locally and nationally cost-effectively and without loss of independence.

8 Change of Constitution - The Constitution of Variant Chess may be amended altered or repealed only by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting in a general meeting duly called for the purpose *provided that* nothing shall be done that shall make Variant Chess other than charitable at law. □

Approved at the open meeting of Variant Chess held on Sunday, 11 July 2010 and proposed for approval at the first Annual General Meeting to be held at St Albans in 2011.

Asterisked page numbers (p.00-00*) in Variant Chess news relate to games in "Rose Board Recipes - new games and old to play your way" (St Albans 2009)

The David Pritchard Trophy Competition

- 👑 The Trophy consists of a top quality Staunton Chess set (with an extra Bishop for each player) and the hexagonal board of *Rose Chess* - or of whatever game is chosen as better in future years. The first competition for the David Pritchard Trophy will be held on the same day and at the same place as the first Variant Chess Annual General Meeting, and then every other year after that. The game chosen to be played at each of these competitions will be the game-for-two that is most like Chess *on an hexagonal array*.
- 👑 The board of the first competition, competed for and given to the winner is the Roseboard (pp 63-69*), and the game that will be played is *Rose Chess* for two players. The inscribed boxed Chess set will be held by the winner to use until it is time to hand it over to the next winner of the trophy. The inscription celebrates the outstanding achievements of David Pritchard in this field.

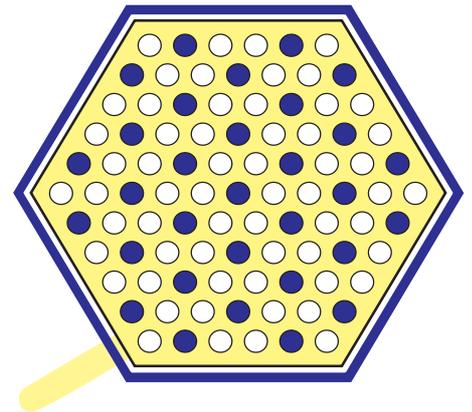
Diplomatic tools



- 👑 Chess is a powerful diplomatic tool, especially within the world of board games. Variant Chess aims to be a bridge-builder with local Chess Clubs, and be an iconoclast when necessary of nerdish chauvinism. Wyncke had a wicked sense of humour: this Queen and the monarch engage in foreplay.

The first Trophy board

- 👑 The 2011 David Pritchard trophy's board design will be a Roseboard (see below). No notation is marked on the rim. The diameter of a cell matches the diameter of the base of the trophy's Staunton King. The Roseboard can be used whichever way it is placed between the players at the start of their first game.



- 👑 The competition will be run along lines that are familiar to local Chess Club members. Players and spectators of all age groups of both genders are expected to get to know each other and have fun. □

Feedback and deadlines

- 🕒 Extract (p.140): "*Rose Five-in-a-Row* - Play alternately. Plonk your stones on any liberty and try to be the first one to get five-in-a-row (in a straight line - in any direction - on rank - and/or on file!). Kidz Stuff? Try it! Compare this game with *Rosebud* games." [*ibid.* pp115-117*]
- 👑 **The Deadline** for *Variant Chess news* No.2 is the last Monday of the month, **30 August**. The Variant Chess website is www.variantchess.org. The editorial email address (at present) is that of the editor michael.jameson@talktalk.net until the first AGM next year.
- 👑 *Roseboard news* was published as a supplement to "*Rose Board Recipes - new games and old to play your way*" ISBN No. 978-0-9564066-1-3 (an A5 paperback 194pp £5.00 + P&P) published for St Albans Cathedral by Parker Wilks Solutions Ltd © 2009, 2010. Roseboard games and related board designs published in that little book and in *Roseboard news* are owned by St Albans Cathedral, UK..

- 👑 **Please suggest how the Variant Chess newsletter service for readers may be improved in future.** Thank you for your support and for being on the contact list. If you no longer wish to receive *Variant Chess news*, please reply to this email and write "UNSUBSCRIBE" in the message. □