

Chess is the fastest game in the world, because in chess you have to think through thousands of thoughts every second.

(Albert Einstein)

„MANY YEARS OF SUCCESS.“

KARLHEINZ EISENBEISER, 1. CHAIRMAN

2003 saw the beginning of an unusual partnership, which – filled with new ideas – is still being creatively developed and which can truly be described as a success story: OKW Managing Director Christoph Schneider and Karlheinz Eisenbeiser, Chairman of the chess club BG Buchen 1980 e.V. and head of the chess group at the Burghardt grammar school in Buchen, initiated a cooperation that characterised chess life in Buchen and made the name of the town of Buchen very well known at national level in connection with chess as a sport.

SCHACHCLUB
BG BUCHEN 1980 E.V.



SPONSORING

The chess club, which was founded in 1980, developed from the chess group at the Burghardt grammar school and was initially composed only of pupils from the school. However, the group was gradually extended to include pupils from other schools, and the next logical step was to open the club to all chess fans from Buchen – especially since the Buchen/Walldürn Chess Club, which was founded in 1948, had meanwhile transferred to Walldürn. In this phase, the sponsoring by OKW was a ground-breaking development. Up to then, the so-called BG Buchen teams had mainly played at school level – albeit nation-wide – and in the Odenwald chess district: thereafter, at club level, they put out their feelers in the direction of the Heidelberg region.

This development continued to make rapid progress, and in the 2013/14 season the chess club by now has six teams in the adult section of the Baden Chess Federation. Here, the spectrum ranges from the district class through the regional league and

as far as the second national division, in which the Buchen chess club competes with teams from major cities. Even the world class Grand Master Jozsef Pinter from Budapest (Hungary) plays for the BG Buchen chess club. In addition to this, the chess club now has its sixth young person doing a volunteer social year, with the main task of managing lessons in the work groups, of which there are now 10, in schools in Buchen and in the surrounding area.

The chess club has also gained prominence by organising many chess events. Besides the normal events, it also organises at least ten additional events a year, and is always on the lookout for something new: examples here are the Baden Chess Congress 2006 in the multi-purpose hall in 74722 Hainstadt with more than 400 competitors, the final of the Baden-Württemberg School Chess Team Championships in seven squads, the top-class international Open in the Old Town Hall in Buchen and

The basis: the chess club developed from the chess group at the Burghardt grammar school in Buchen (BGB).



The Buchen chess club is **highly successful** in all age groups.



now in the Prinz Carl Hotel (Buchen), the traditional fast chess tournaments at the Schützenmarkt fair and the Oliver Wiegand Memorial Tournament, a visit by the chess legend Anatoli Karpow to Buchen and much more. You can always find the latest as well as archived information on the homepage, which is always kept up-to-date: www.schachclub-buchen.de.

On the other hand, however, the partnership with OKW also has above-average effects, for every year the two sides think about services which are simply an absolute luxury for a chess club: for example, the BG Buchen chess teams go to their competitions in the OKW coach, all members – in time for the 10th anniversary – have been kitted out with new shirts, for home matches there are posters in the town, nameplates for the players, clipboards and special game forms for the team matches. In 2012, for example, a competition was also carried out in the OKW logistics centre between select Odenwald players and the national youth team, which was staying in Buchen for a week's training, and

much, much more.

For both sides, however, it is also important to enrich life in Buchen. Here, the chess club tries to support and encourage the events of the town of Buchen and of the other Buchen clubs as actively as possible. This has made the game of chess synonymous with the town of Buchen, a fact that is immediately obvious on account of the regular press work. This is only an excerpt of the activities: regular participation in the opening procession of the „Schützengesellschaft“ to the Buchen Schützenmarkt fair, support for the carnival society Narhalla during events, organisation of a hobby chess/football tournament in the clubhouse and on the grounds of FC Viktoria Hettingen for other local clubs etc.

Recognition for all of these activities is also reflected in many different types of award. In 2013 the chess club BG Buchen came fourth in the „Club of the Year“ competition organised by the German Chess Federation at national level, and the chess club



Renowned players like the world class Grand Master Jozsef Pinter from Hungary, play for the BG Buchen chess club.



has also won several first places in presentations by the local Buchen sports federation and in the „Stars of Sport“ competition organised by the cooperative banks (Volksbanken). As a special honour, two films were shot about the chess life of the BGB - this film report also includes an interview with OKW Managing Director Christoph Schneider which was broadcast on the television programme „Sport im Dritten“ – and the simultaneous match of Elisabeth Pähtz – Germany’s best woman chess player played simultaneously against 27 opponents in the Prinz Carl Hotel in Buchen.

At the moment an examination is being carried out by the University of Ulm on stress test behaviour in cases of high stress levels. A scientific team comes to Buchen three times to examine 50 members of the chess club using various methods. In addition, the Baden Chess Federation is carrying out a long-term project for girls and young women which was started in September 2013.

A few weeks ago Buchen was declared the third regional training centre (after Baden-Baden and Hockenheim) of the Baden and Württemberg Chess Federations, representing a special upgrading. In the final resort, a welcome side effect of this partnership is also the harmonious cooperation. For example, OKW representatives attend the chess events, while the chess club comes to OKW’s public relations activities such as open days and jazz concerts. It is then possible to have pleasant conversations, for these form the basis of this unusual partnership



CONTACT

Karlheinz Eisenbeiser, 1. Chairman
Schachclub BG Buchen 1980 e.V.
EMail BGB@eisenbeiser.de
www.schachclub-buchen.de