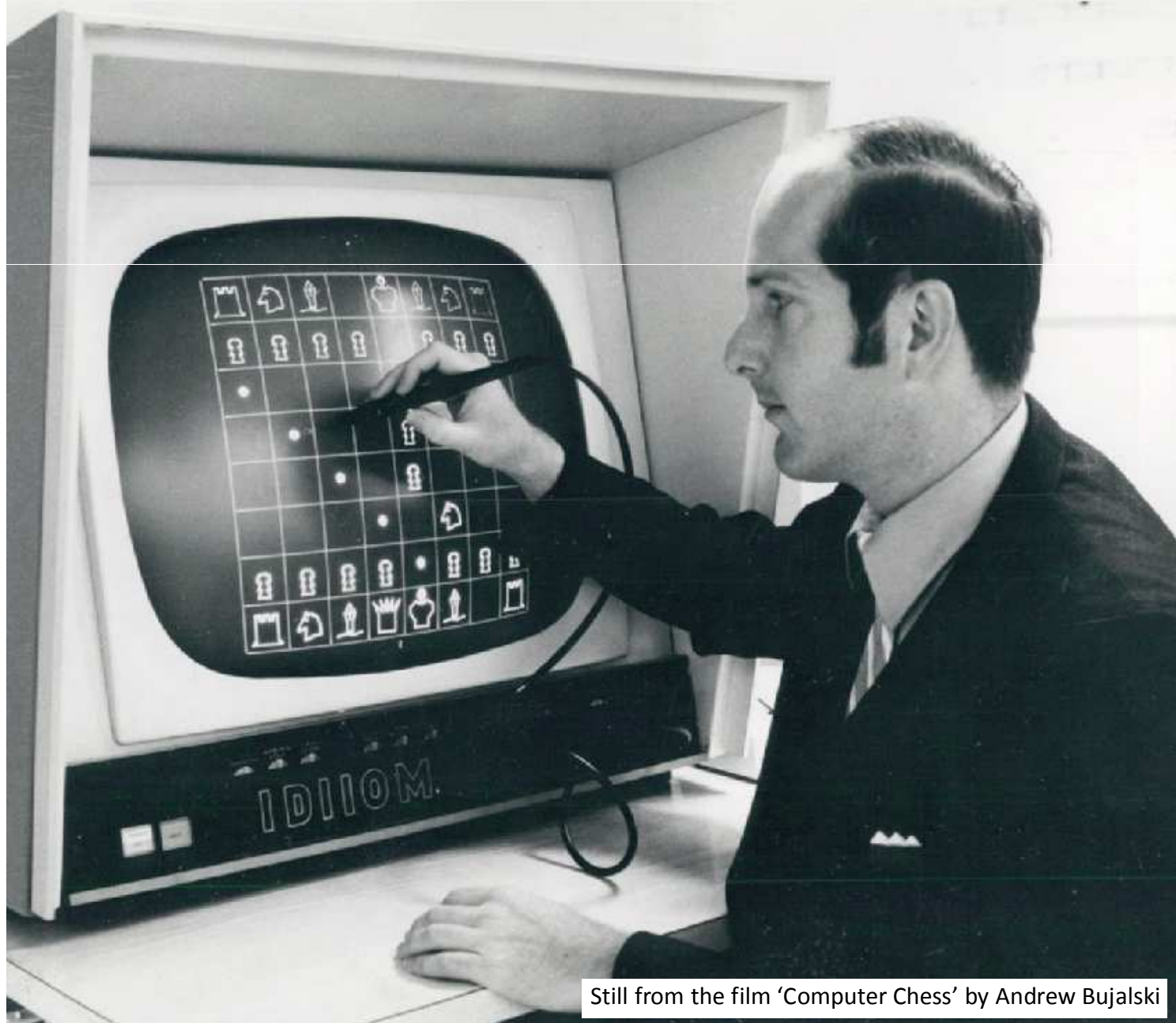


Chess Moves

The Newsletter of the English Chess Federation | January 2014 edition



Still from the film 'Computer Chess' by Andrew Bujalski

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Chess News

THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP, 9-22 November 2013

The chess world has a new champion. Congratulations to Norwegian superstar Magnus Carlsen, who at the age of 22 (he was born on 30 November 1990) comfortably defeated defending champion Viswanathan Anand by 6½-3½ in Chennai, India.

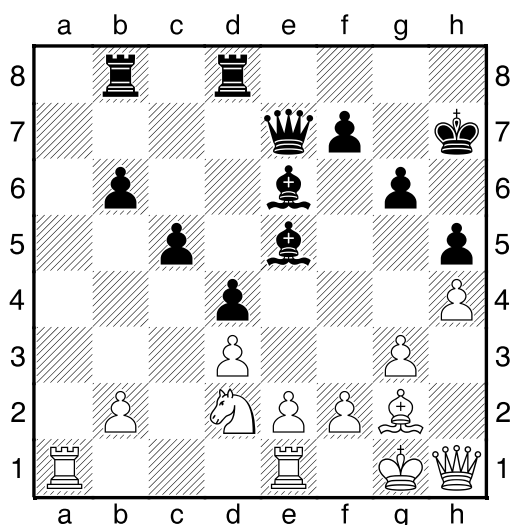
The first game was drawn in just 16 moves, reminding one of Anatoly Karpov’s quip after an 18-move draw in his opener against Korchnoi in 1978 (“We were just testing the pieces”). The second game was also drawn, in 25 moves. Given the brevity of the match – just twelve games – this quiet start had the effect of raising the tension while simultaneously causing dissatisfaction with the lack of fighting chess.

Supporters of Carlsen seemed more disturbed by their hero’s lacklustre start than fans of Anand, presumably due to a mix of disappointment in the wake of heightened expectations and the knowledge that each draw edged the defending champion closer to the lottery of a tie break. The third game cannot have helped those rooting for Carlsen, as their man teetered on the brink:

Magnus Carlsen – Viswanathan Anand

Game 3, 12.11.2013

1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 g6 3.c4 dxc4 4.Qa4+ Nc6 5.Bg2 Bg7 6.Nc3 e5 7.Qxc4 Nge7 8.0–0 0–0 9.d3 h6 10.Bd2 Nd4 11.Nxd4 exd4 12.Ne4 c6 13.Bb4 Be6 14.Qc1 Bd5 15.a4 b6 16.Bxe7 Qxe7 17.a5 Rab8 18.Re1 Rfc8 19.axb6 axb6 20.Qf4 Rd8 21.h4 Kh7 22.Nd2 Be5 23.Qg4 h5 24.Qh3 Be6 25.Qh1 c5



26.Ne4?

26.b3 was better, restraining a future ...c5-c4 advance. Now White is in serious trouble.

26...Kg7 27.Ng5 b5 28.e3 dxe3 29.Rxe3 Bd4?

Grabbing the pawn with 29...Bxb2 would have offered excellent winning chances.

30.Re2 c4 31.Nxe6+ fxe6 32.Be4 cxd3 33.Rd2 Qb4 34.Rad1 Bxb2?!

Ironically, what would have been so promising five moves ago is now a mistake. 34...Rf8! (Kotronias) would have put White under more pressure.

35.Qf3

After this strong move, White is no longer in serious danger.

35...Bf6 36.Rxd3 Rxd3 37.Rxd3 Rd8 38.Rxd8 Bxd8 39.Bd3 Qd4 40.Bxb5 Qf6 41.Qb7+ Be7 42.Kg2 g5 43.hxg5 Qxg5 44.Bc4 h4 45.Qc7 hxg3 46.Qxg3 e5 47.Kf3 Qxg3+ 48.fxg3 Bc5 49.Ke4 Bd4 50.Kf5 Bf2 51.Kxe5 Bxg3+ ½–½

Game 4 was arguably the most interesting of the match, with both players rising to the occasion and providing a tremendous contest:

Viswanathan Anand - Magnus Carlsen

Game 4, 13.11.2013

(Notes based on those by Kotronias in his excellent book, *Carlsen's Assault on the Throne*, co-authored with Sotiris Logothetis [Quality Chess; 2013])

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.0–0 Nxe4 5.d4 Nd6 6.Bxc6 dxc6 7.dxe5 Nf5 8.Qxd8+ Kxd8 9.h3 Bd7 10.Rd1 Be7 11.Nc3 Kc8 12.Bg5 h6 13.Bxe7 Nxe7 14.Rd2 c5 15.Rad1 Be6 16.Ne1 Ng6 17.Nd3 b6 18.Ne2?!

Kotronias suggests the exciting alternative 18.f4 c4 19.Nb4 Nxf4 20.Nc6 Re8 21.a4 a5 22.Rd4 Nd3 23.cxd3 Kb7 24.dxc4 Kxc6 when Black has the better structure, but White has plenty of compensating piece activity. After the game continuation, Black gains the upper hand.

18...Bxa2! 19.b3 c4 20.Ndc1 cxb3 21.cxb3 Bb1 22.f4! Kb7 23.Nc3 Bf5 24.g4 Bc8 25.Nd3 h5! 26.f5 Ne7 27.Nb5?!

27.Rc2! hxg4 28.hxg4 Rh4 29.Nf2 g6 30.e6! fxe6 31.f6! Nd5 32.f7 Rh8 33.Nxd5 exd5 34.Re2 Rf8 35.Re7 Kc6 36.Rc1+ Kd6 37.Rcxc7 (Kotronias). Black is still a little better, but White has good chances to hold.

27...hxg4?! [27...a6!] 28.hxg4?! [28.Rc1!] 28...Rh4 29.Nf2 Nc6 30.Rc2 a5 31.Rc4 g6! 32.Rdc1 Bd7 33.e6 fxe6 34.fxe6 Be8 35.Ne4!

Giving up another pawn for activity and pressure against the enemy king.

35...Rxg4+ 36.Kf2 Rf4+ 37.Ke3 Rf8 [37...g5!] 38.Nd4 Nxd4 39.Rxc7+ Ka6 40.Kxd4 Rd8+ 41.Kc3 Rf3+ 42.Kb2 Re3 43.Rc8!

Forcing the minor pieces off, leaving a rook and pawn ending which White can hold without too much difficulty.

43...Rdd3 44.Ra8+ Kb7 45.Rxe8 Rxe4 46.e7 Rg3 47.Rc3 Re2+ 48.Rc2 Ree3 49.Ka2 g5 50.Rd2 Re5 51.Rd7+ Kc6 52.Red8 Rge3 53.Rd6+ Kb7 54.R8d7+ Ka6 55.Rd5 Re2+ 56.Ka3 Re6 57.Rd8 g4 58.Rg5 Rxe7 59.Ra8+ Kb7 60.Rag8 a4 61.Rxg4 axb3 62.R8g7 Ka6 63.Rxe7 Rxe7 64.Kxb3 ½–½

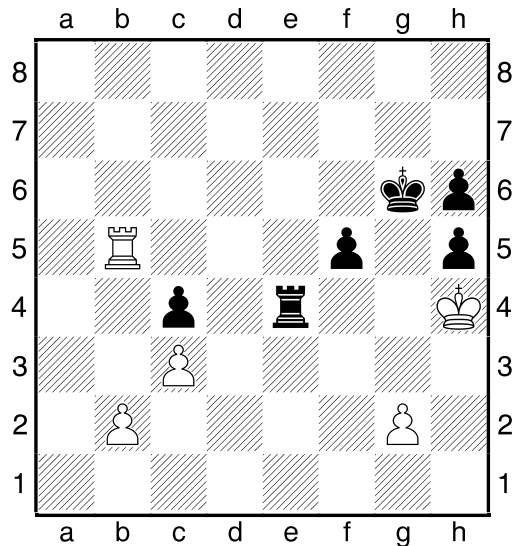
There was a sense of the momentum shifting with this game, in which the challenger had finally been the one pressing for the win, and the dam broke in Game 5 with a classic (i.e. typical) Carlsen win. Anand held the balance for over forty moves, while Carlsen just carried on making moves, keeping up the pressure in that nagging way for which he has become both famous and feared. Carlsen won a pawn just after the first time control, but Black had fully adequate compensation in the form of piece activity. Suddenly, the pressure told on Anand, who missed an easy draw on move 45. Not fatal in itself, this started the champion on a slippery slope, and half a dozen moves later the losing error was made.

Magnus Carlsen - Viswanathan Anand

Game 5, 15.11.2013

1.c4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 c6 4.e4 dxe4 5.Nxe4 Bb4+ 6.Nc3 c5 7.a3 Ba5 8.Nf3 Nf6 9.Be3 Nc6 10.Qd3 cxd4 11.Nxd4 Ng4 12.0-0-0 Nxe3 13.fxe3 Bc7 14.Nxc6 bxc6 15.Qxd8+ Bxd8 16.Be2 Ke7 17.Bf3 Bd7 18.Ne4 Bb6 19.c5 f5 20.cxb6 fxe4 21.b7 Rab8 22.Bxe4 Rxb7 23.Rhf1 Rb5 24.Rf4 g5 25.Rf3 h5 26.Rdf1 Be8 27.Bc2 Rc5 28.Rf6 h4 29.e4 a5 30.Kd2 Rb5 31.b3 Bh5 32.Kc3 Rc5+ 33.Kb2 Rd8 34.R1f2 Rd4 35.Rh6 Bd1 36.Bb1 Rb5 37.Kc3 c5 38.Rb2 e5 39.Rg6 a4 40.Rxg5 Rxb3+ 41.Rxb3 Bxb3 42.Rxe5+ Kd6 43.Rh5 Rd1 44.e5+ Kd5 45.Bh7 Rc1+? [45...Ra1 46.Bg8+ Kc6 47.Bxb3 Rxa3 recovers the pawn, eliminating any remaining difficulties for Black in holding the draw.] **46.Kb2 Rg1 47.Bg8+ Kc6 48.Rh6+ Kd7 49.Bxb3 axb3 50.Kxb3 Rxg2 51.Rxh4 Ke6?** [51...Re2! 52.Kc4 Rxe5 53.a4 Kc6 54.Rh6+ Kb7 55.a5 Re4+ 56.Kxc5 Re2 57.a6+ Ka7 58.h4 Re4 should draw, according to Kotronias. After 51...Ke6, the a-pawn decides the game.] **52.a4 Kxe5 53.a5 Kd6 54.Rh7 Kd5 55.a6 c4+ 56.Kc3 Ra2 57.a7 Kc5 58.h4 1-0**

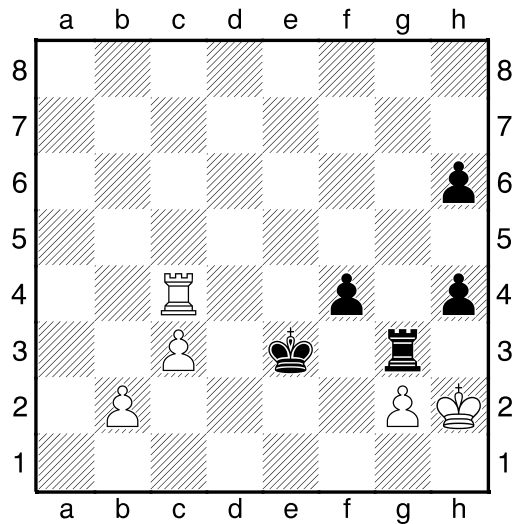
This was a worrying defeat for the defending champion, who seemed to have the wind knocked out of his sails. In Game 6, the situation worsened. In a pawn-down rook and pawn ending, Anand failed to find the clearest path to a draw, leading to a defensible – but much trickier – position, in which the pressure led to a decisive error. This was the position after 49 moves, with Anand (White) to play:



50.Kh3?

This leads to White's king being confined to the corner, which in turn allows Black's king to advance. The resulting pressure makes the ending much harder to defend. He should have tried 50.Kg3 h4+ 51.Kf2 when White's king is better placed to hold back the Black advance.

50...Kg5 51.Rb8 h4 52.Rg8+ Kh5 53.Rf8 Rf4 54.Rc8 Rg4 55.Rf8 Rg3+ 56.Kh2 Kg5 57.Rg8+ Kf4 58.Rc8 Ke3 59.Rxc4 f4



60.Ra4??

60.b4 h3 61.gxh3 Rg6 62.Rc7 f3 63.Re7+ Kf2 64.b5 Rg2+ 65.Kh1 Rg1+ 66.Kh2 Rb1 67.c4 Rb2 68.c5 Rxb5 69.c6 Rc5 70.Ra7 (Kotronias) and the rook checks from the a-file should guarantee the draw.

In the game, Anand's queenside pawns are less advanced and therefore pose less of a threat, and the rook is misplaced on a4.

60...h3 61.gxh3 Rg6 62.c4 f3 63.Ra3+ Ke2 64.b4 f2 65.Ra2+ Kf3 66.Ra3+ Kf4 67.Ra8 Rg1 0-1

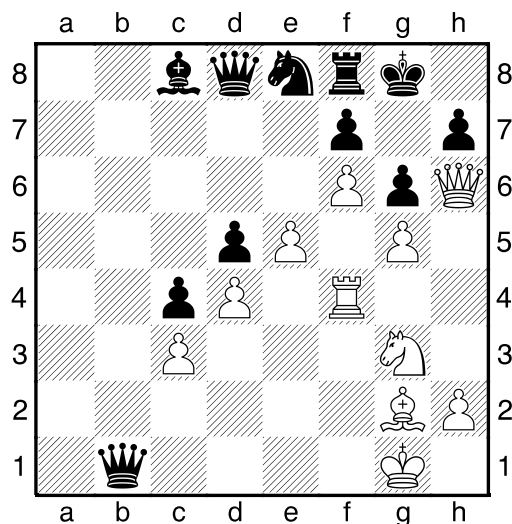
In such a short match, a two-game deficit at the halfway stage is enormous, and in the eyes of many the championship was effectively decided. Relatively quiet draws in Games 7 and 8 suggested that prospects for a comeback were slim.

The champion's last hurrah came in Game 9, when Anand built up a fierce-looking kingside attack, countered by resolute defence. Just when an exciting draw seemed on the cards (and a worthy outcome), Anand suffered a horrible oversight:

Viswanathan Anand - Magnus Carlsen

Game 9, 21.11.2013

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.f3 d5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 c5 7.cxd5 exd5 8.e3 c4 9.Ne2 Nc6 10.g4 0-0 11.Bg2 Na5 12.0-0 Nb3 13.Ra2 b5 14.Ng3 a5 15.g5 Ne8 16.e4 Nxc1 17.Qxc1 Ra6 18.e5 Nc7 19.f4 b4 20.axb4 axb4 21.Rxa6 Nxa6 22.f5 b3 23.Qf4 Nc7 24.f6 g6 25.Qh4 Ne8 26.Qh6 b2 27.Rf4 b1Q+



28.Nf1??

Tragic. 28.Bf1 would have kept the balance after 28.Bf1 Qd1 29.Rh4 Qh5 30.Nxh5 gxh5 31.Rxh5 Bf5 32.g6 Bxg6 33.Rg5 Nxf6 34.exf6 Qxf6 35.Rxd5 Qf3 36.Rc5 Qxc3 37.Qf4 Rd8 38.Rxc4 Qb2 (Kotronias).

28...Qe1 0–1

With the score now 6-3 in his favour, Carlsen needed only half a point from the remaining three scheduled games. Few expected him to require more than one, and he duly achieved a draw in Game 10 to take the title. It is greatly to Anand's credit that he fought tenaciously to hold the tenth game (in 65 moves), having been in serious trouble for some time. Many might have ceded to the pressure after the dispiriting events of the earlier games.

The match left me with mixed feelings.

I was delighted for Magnus Carlsen, who played the better chess and thoroughly deserved his victory. His 'persistent' style of play is a model of determination and fine technique, which developing players could usefully emulate. The publicity surrounding the new champion's triumph was very encouraging, and it would be tempting to think that this will translate into a resurgence of interest in the game in Europe and America (just as Anand's tenure of the crown provided an enormous boost to chess in India). Whether it will remain to be seen, but for now, the presence of a new young champion, who is, moreover, the clear number 1 in the ratings, feels like a shot in the arm for the game. It can only be good news, and it is to be hoped that chess in England will not be immune to the benefits.

That said, my sympathies extend to Viswanathan Anand, a champion whose stature has arguably been underrated due to the damaging effects of the period in which the world championship title was disputed (and its format within FIDE subject to constant tinkering) as well as to the giant shadows of predecessors Karpov and Kasparov. Vishy was in many respects a model champion: in addition to being a great player, he has been unfailingly sporting, gentlemanly and articulate, with a healthy sense of humour.

Defending a title is intrinsically harder psychologically than motivating oneself to win it for the first time, and one senses that on this occasion Anand could not find the mental reserves of strength to convince himself that he could overcome a period of indifferent form and what seemed to be the tide of history.

The short format of the match cannot have helped in this regard: if morale is a doubt, chances of recovery over just a handful of games must be minimal. Readers of Chess Moves will have heard this before, but it is no less true: twelve games are simply not enough to provide a proper contest for something as important as the world championship. Perhaps a longer format would have made no difference to the outcome in this instance, but as a chess enthusiast, I look back on a match which, for all practical purposes, had only half a dozen genuine contests (at best) and I feel cheated.

Looking to the future, what can we expect in our little corner of the world in the wake of Magnus Carlsen's victory?

The trend away from intensive (and extensive) opening preparation and from sharp opening lines extending towards the endgame in analysis before the game is likely to continue. In English chess, this may not have much of an impact, given our long tradition of sailing less charted waters anyway, but it would not be a surprise to see the next wave of opening manuals and repertoire books reflecting the Carlsen approach to the first phase of the game.

It will be interesting to see whether there is a tendency towards a more endgame-focused style of play, in the belief that lesser mortals can achieve the same success by refusing to offer or accept draws and persisting in level or near-level positions. (As a peaceable and somewhat lazy player, this is not unalloyed good news for me.)

Whatever may be to come, it is clear that a new chapter in chess history has opened, and seeing how it develops will be immensely exciting.

5th LONDON CHESS CLASSIC, 7-15 December 2013

The elite event at the latest London Chess Classic festival was very different from previous years. The organisers opted for a rapid play tournament, consisting of four preliminary groups of four players in a double-round all-play-all format. Each player had 25 minutes for the game, plus a 10-second increment for each move made. As is traditional at this event, wins scored 3 points, draws 1 point and losses 0 points.

After the group stages, two-game knockout matches were played, followed if necessary by a two-game tiebreak match at the faster rate of 10 minutes + 10 seconds per move.

Group A proved to be comfortable for the top seeds. Michael Adams and Vishy Anand each scored 12 points (3 wins, 3 draws), leaving them well ahead of Luke McShane and qualifier from the FIDE-rated Open, Andrei Istratescu, both on 4 points (each scoring 1 win, 1 draw, 4 losses).

In round 1, McShane had the former world champion on the ropes until his ill-advised 31.Ke2, after which Anand's pawns proved impossible to stop in time pressure:

Luke McShane (2684) – Vishwanathan Anand (2773)

Classic Super 16 (1), 11.12.2013

1.e4 c6 2.Nf3 d5 3.Nc3 Bg4 4.h3 Bxf3 5.Qxf3 e6 6.Be2 Nf6 7.0–0 Bb4 8.e5 Nfd7 9.Qg4 Bf8 10.d4 c5 11.Bg5 Qb6 12.dxc5 Qxc5 13.Be3 h5 14.Qg3 d4 15.Ne4 h4 16.Qf3 Qd5 17.c4 Qxe5 18.Bf4 Qf5 19.Bd3 Qh5 20.Nf6+ gxf6 21.Qxb7 Ne5 22.Qxa8 Bd6 23.c5 Nf3+ 24.Qxf3 Qxf3 25.gxf3 Bxf4 26.b4 Nc6 27.Bb5 Kd7 28.Rfd1 e5 29.a3 f5 30.Kf1 Kc7 31.Ke2? e4 32.fxe4 fxe4 33.Bxc6 d3+ 34.Kf1 Kxc6 35.Kg2 Kd5 36.Rg1 Be5 37.Rad1 Rg8+ 38.Kf1 Rxg1+ 39.Kxg1 f5 40.Kg2 Kd4 41.c6 f4 42.b5 Bc7 43.Rb1 d2 44.Kf1 Kd3 45.a4 e3 46.fxe3 fxe3 0–1

McShane made amends for his disappointment in the next round, winning a good game against Istratescu.

Luke McShane (2684) – Andrei Istratescu (2670)

Classic Super 16 (2), 11.12.2013

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 c5 4.Ngf3 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Nc6 6.Bb5 Bd7 7.Nxc6 bxc6 8.Bd3 Bd6 9.0–0 Qc7 10.Nf3 Ne7 11.c4 0–0 12.cxd5 exd5 13.Qc2 Ng6 14.Be3 Bg4 15.e5 Nxe5 16.Nxe5 Bxe5 17.h3 Bd7 18.Bxh7+ Kh8 19.Bd3 f5 20.Bc5 Rf6 21.Rae1 f4 22.Qe2 Bd6 23.Qh5+ Rh6 24.Bxd6 Qxd6 25.Qg5 f3 26.Re7 Rg8 27.Rfe1 fxg2 28.h4 c5 29.h5 Rf6 30.Bg6 Bc6 31.Qh6+ 1–0

In the following Round 6 game, both players were certain of qualifying, but the order in which they qualified was up for grabs. This led to a gripping heavyweight encounter, resulting in an honourable draw.

Michael Adams (2754) – Vishwanathan Anand (2773)

Classic Super 16 (6), 13.12.2013

1.c4 c5 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.Nc3 Nc6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.d4 cxd4 7.Nxd4 0–0 8.0–0 Qa5 9.Nc2 d6 10.Bd2 Qh5 11.Rc1 Bh3 12.Ne3 Bxg2 13.Kxg2 e6 14.Nc2 d5 15.cxd5 Nxd5 16.Ne3 Nb6 17.Qc2 Nd4 18.Qe4 f5 19.Qxb7 Rf7 20.Qa6 f4 21.f3 fxe3 22.Bxe3 Nd5 23.Nxd5 Qxd5 24.b4 Qb5 25.Qxb5 Nxb5 26.Rc6 e5 27.Rfc1 Nd4 28.Rc8+ Rf8 29.Rxa8 Rxa8 30.Kf1 Rb8 31.Rc4 Rb7 32.a4 a6 33.Kf2 Bf8 34.Bd2 Kf7 35.e3 Ne6 36.Bc3 Bd6 37.Rc6 Bxb4 38.Bxe5 a5 39.f4 Nc5 40.Bd4 Nxa4 41.Kf3 Ke7 42.g4 Kd7 43.Ra6 Nc3 44.f5 gxf5 45.gxf5 Nb5 46.Be5 Ra7 47.Rh6 Ke8 48.Rb6 Na3 49.Bd4 Rc7 50.e4 Rd7 51.Bf6 Nc4 52.Rb8+ Kf7 53.e5 Nxe5+ 54.Bxe5 Bd6 55.Bxd6 Rxd6 56.Ra8 Kf6 57.Rxa5 Rd4 58.h3 Rb4 59.Kg3 Rc4 60.Kf3 Rb4 61.Kg3 ½–½

Group B was a little closer, in that the qualifiers had not all been decided before the start of the final round. Peter Svidler won the group with 11 points, ahead of Vladimir Kramnik on 9 and Matthew Sadler on 7. Jonathan Rowson, awarded a place in the Classic Super 16 when Magnus Carlsen decided that he would not be able to participate after his exertions in Chennai, came last with 4 points (a win against Sadler and a draw with Kramnik).

Had Sadler been able to beat Svidler with White in the final round, he would have forced a tiebreak with Kramnik. Round 2 witnessed a sparkling little draw:

Peter Svidler (2758) – Matthew Sadler (2646)

Classic Super 16 (2), 11.12.2013

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.f4 c5 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Be3 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Bc5 9.Qd2 0–0 10.0–0–0 a6 11.Qf2 Nxd4 12.Bxd4 b6 13.Bd3 f6 14.Qh4 g6 15.Bxc5 bxc5 16.exf6 Nxf6 17.Rhe1 Rb8 18.Qg5 Qb6 19.b3 c4 20.Bxg6 hxg6 21.Qxg6+ Kh8 22.Nxd5 Nxd5 23.Qh6+ Kg8 24.Qg5+ Kh8 25.Qh6+ Kg8 26.Qg6+ Kh8 ½–½

The following Round 4 encounter was also very exciting. Jonathan Rowson fended off his opponent's attack and looked to be winning, but the clock – and perhaps an element of ring rust – told in the end and Matthew turned it around.

Matthew Sadler (2646) - Jonathan Rowson (2569)

Classic Super 16 (4), 12.12.2013

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 c5 5.Nge2 cxd4 6.exd4 d5 7.c5 Ne4 8.Bd2 Nxd2 9.Qxd2 Ba5 10.a3 Nd7 11.g3 Nf6 12.b4 Bc7 13.Bg2 h5 14.h3 Bd7 15.Qe3 Kf8 16.Nf4 g6 17.Nd3 Kg7 18.0–0 Ng8 19.Rfe1 Nh6 20.Qd2 Re8 21.Ne5 Re7 22.a4 Be8 23.a5 a6 24.Re2 Rc8 25.Rae1 Bb8 26.Nf3 Bc6 27.Ng5 Qd7 28.h4 Rce8 29.Bh3 Nf5 30.Bg2 Bc7 31.Nh3 Bb8 32.Nf4 Qc7 33.Re5 Qd7 34.Nxh5+ gxh5 35.Qg5+ Kh7 36.Qxh5+ Nh6 37.Rg5 Rh8 38.Re3 Qe8 39.Qe2 Rg8 40.Nxd5 Bxd5 41.Rxd5 f5 42.c6 bxc6 43.Rc5 f4 44.Be4+ Kg7 45.Rg5+ Kf8 46.Rc3 fxc3 47.fxc3 Rxc3 48.hxc3 Nf5 49.Rxc6 Kg7 50.Qh2 Qd8 51.d5 Ba7+ 52.Kf1 Rf7 53.Rxe6 Nd4+?? (Either 53...Qxg5 or 53...Nxg3+ - a devastating double check - would have won.) 54.Kg2 Nxe6 55.Qh6+ Kg8 56.dxe6 Rg7 57.e7 Qxe7?? (57...Qd2+) 58.Bd5+ Kf8 59.Qh8+ 1–0

Group C was the closest of the four groups, but ultimately the two highest-rated players qualified: Nakamura 10; Gelfand 9. Gawain Jones had every reason to be pleased with his 7 points, including wins against Boris Gelfand and Judit Polgar and a draw with Hikaru Nakamura. Judit, on the other hand, cannot have been happy with her 5 points and last place.

Gelfand showed his class in the first round with the following technical win against Polgar:

Boris Gelfand (2777) - Judit Polgar (2693)

Classic Super 16 (1), 11.12.2013

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.g3 Ba6 5.b3 Bb7 6.Bg2 Bb4+ 7.Bd2 a5 8.0–0 0–0 9.Qc2 Be4 10.Qb2 c5 11.Nc3 d5 12.cxd5 exd5 13.Bg5 Bxc3 14.Qxc3 Nbd7 15.Bh3 Ra7 16.dxc5 bxc5 17.Bxd7 Rxd7 18.Qxc5 Bxf3 19.exf3 d4 20.Rad1 Rd5 21.Bxf6 gxf6 22.Qc4 Qd7 23.Rd2 Rc8 24.Qd3 Re8 25.Rfd1 Rd8 26.Kg2 Qd6 27.Re1 f5 28.Rc2 Kg7 29.Rec1 Rd7 30.Rc6 Qe5 31.Qd2 f4 32.Re1 Qb8 33.Re4 Qd8 34.Rxf4 R7d6 35.Rxd6 Qxd6 36.Qd3 f5 37.Rh4 Qf6 38.Rh5 h6 39.g4 Qd6 40.gxf5 Qf6 41.Qe4 Rd8 42.Rh4 d3 43.Rg4+ Kh7 44.Rg6 Qf7 45.Qf4 Qf8 46.Qc7+ Kh8 47.Rxh6+ Kg8 48.Rg6+ Kh8 49.Qe5+ Kh7 50.Qf4 1–0

It would be ungalant not to show the only win by the greatest ever female player. Truth be told, Judit was looking a little shaky midway through this game, but she is a fierce competitor and reversed the pressure, leading to Gawain's blunder on move 63.

Gawain Jones (2654) - Judit Polgar (2693)

Classic Super 16 (3), 12.12.2013

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 e6 4.0–0 Nge7 5.Re1 a6 6.Bxc6 Nxc6 7.d4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Bb4 9.c3 Be7 10.Qg4 g6 11.e5 h5 12.Qe4 Qc7 13.Nxc6 bxc6 14.Nd2 Bb7 15.Nc4 c5 16.Qd3 h4 17.h3 Rh5 18.Bf4 a5 19.Rad1 Bd5 20.Nd6+ Kf8 21.c4 Bc6 22.Qe3 Rb8 23.Re2 Ba8 24.Rd3 Kg8 25.Red2 Qc6 26.f3 Qa6 27.Rb3 Rxb3 28.Qxb3 Bxd6 29.Rxd6 Bc6 30.Qb8+ Kg7 31.Qd8 Qxc4 32.Bg5 Rxc4 33.Qxg5 Qxa2 34.Qd2 a4 35.Rd3 Qc4 36.Rc3 Qb4 37.Rc2 Qxd2 38.Rxd2 f6 39.Rc2 fxe5 40.Rxc5 Kf6 41.Kf2 Bd5 42.Rc7 Bc6 43.Ke3 g5 44.Rc8 Bd5 45.Rf8+ Ke7 46.Rg8 Kf6 47.Kd3 Bb3

48.Rf8+ Ke7 49.Ra8 Kf6 50.Ra7 d5 51.Kc3 Kf5 52.Rf7+ Kg6 53.Rf8 Bc4 54.Rg8+ Kf6 55.Rf8+ Kg7 56.Ra8 Bf1 57.Rxa4 d4+ 58.Kd2 Bxg2 59.Ke2 Bxh3 60.b4 e4 61.fxe4 Bg2 62.b5 Bxe4 63.Rxd4?? (Now the h-pawn romps home.) 63...h3 64.Rxe4 h2 65.b6 h1Q 66.Rb4 Qg2+ 67.Ke1 Qc2 0-1

Gawain obtained his revenge in round 5 in a game which Judit had to win to retain any chance, however slim, of qualifying. As a result, she threw caution to the winds and spurned drawing lines which, under other circumstances, she doubtless would have taken.

Judit Polgar (2693) - Gawain Jones (2654)

Classic Super 16 (5), 13.12.2013

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 Nc6 8.Qd2 0-0 9.Bc4 Bd7 10.0-0-0 Rc8 11.Bb3 Nxd4 12.Bxd4 b5 13.h4 a5 14.h5 a4 15.Bxf6 Bxf6 16.hxg6 e6 17.e5 Bg7 18.Rxh7 Bxe5 19.Rdh1 fxg6 20.Bd5 (20.Rh8+ Bxh8 21.Rxh8+ Kxh8 22.Qh6+ Kg8 23.Qxg6+ is a draw.) 20...Rf7 21.Rxf7 Kxf7 22.Be4 Qf6 23.Kb1 Rh8 24.Rxh8 Qxh8 25.Nd1 d5 26.Bd3 Qh4 27.a3 Bd6 28.c3 Bf4 29.Qe2 Qh1 30.Bc2 e5 31.g4 Be6 32.Qxb5 Qxf3 33.Qxa4 Qxg4 34.Qa7+ Kf6 35.a4 Qe2 36.Qg1 e4 37.Qd4+ Be5 38.Qc5 Qd2 39.a5 Bf4 40.Bb3 e3 41.Qf8+ Bf7 42.Nxe3 Qxe3 43.Bxd5 Qd3+ 0-1

From the last round, here is how Gawain Jones defeated a former challenger for the world championship:

Gawain Jones (2654) - Boris Gelfand (2777)

Classic Super 16 (6), 13.12.2013

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Bd7 4.Bxd7+ Qxd7 5.0-0 Nc6 6.c3 Nf6 7.Re1 e6 8.d4 cxd4 9.cxd4 d5 10.e5 Ne4 11.Nbd2 Nxd2 12.Bxd2 Be7 13.Rc1 0-0 14.Rc3 Rac8 15.a3 Nb8 16.Rd3 Qb5 17.Rb3 Qc6 18.Ng5 Bxg5 19.Bxg5 Nd7 20.Qg4 f5 21.Qh4 Rfe8 22.Bf6 Nf8 23.Bxg7 Kxg7 24.Qf6+ Kg8 25.h4 Rc7 26.Rg3+ Ng6 27.h5 Rf8 28.Qg5 Rg7 29.Rc1 Qb6 30.hxg6 Rxg6 31.Qh4 Rxg3 32.Qxg3+ Kh8 33.Qh4 Qd8 34.Qxd8 Rxd8 35.Rc7 Rg8 36.Rxb7 Rg4 37.Rxa7 Rxd4 38.b4 Rd1+ 39.Kh2 d4 40.b5 d3 41.Rd7 d2 42.a4 Kg8 43.a5 Rb1 44.b6 d1Q 45.Rxd1 Rxd1 46.b7 1-0

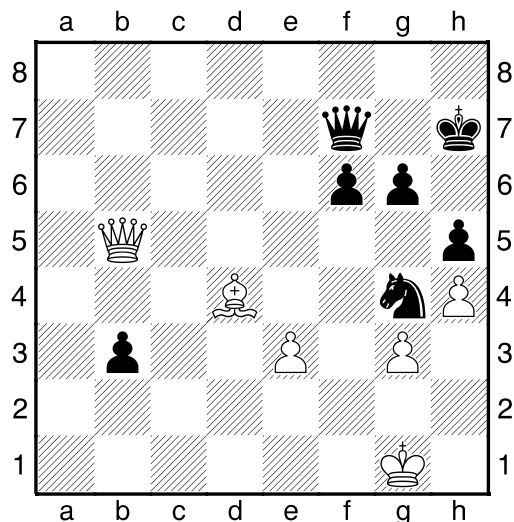
Group D witnessed an utterly dominant performance by Fabiano Caruana, who conceded just one draw in his six games. The second qualifier was Nigel Short, who lost both games to Caruana but was too strong for Emil Sutovsky (two wins) and David Howell (a win and a draw).

In round 3, David Howell came within a whisker of defeating Caruana in a game so long that the games scheduled to follow it had to be postponed for quarter of an hour. Despite (or perhaps because of) its length, it is well worth studying:

Fabiano Caruana (2782) - David Howell (2640)

Classic Super 16 (3), 12.12.2013

1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.0-0 Nf6 5.c4 c6 6.b3 Ne4 7.d4 0-0 8.Bb2 Bf5 9.Nbd2 a5 10.Nh4 Nxd2 11.Qxd2 Be6 12.Rac1 a4 13.Nf3 Bf5 14.cxd5 cxd5 15.Ne5 axb3 16.axb3 Qd6 17.Rc5 Be6 18.Rfc1 Qb6 19.Bxd5 Bxd5 20.Rxd5 Qxb3 21.Rdc5 Ra2 22.R5c2 Bxe5 23.dxe5 Nc6 24.Bc3 Rxc2 25.Rxc2 Rd8 26.Qc1 Qd5 27.Rb2 b5 28.Qe3 Qc4 29.Rb1 b4 30.Ba1 Qc2 31.Qc1 b3 32.Kg2 Nb4 33.Qb2 Rd1 34.Rxd1 Qxd1 35.e6 f6 36.Qc3 Nc2 37.Qc8+ Kg7 38.Qb7 Qd6 39.Bc3 Qxe6 40.e3 Kf7 41.Qb5 h5 42.h4 Na3 43.Qb7 Nc4 44.Kg1 Nxe3 45.Bb4 Ng4 46.Bc5 Ne5 47.Ba3 Nd3 48.Kg2 Ne1+ 49.Kg1 Nc2 50.Bc5 Na1 51.Bd4 Nc2 52.Bc5 Kf8 53.Qb8+ Kg7 54.Qb7 Qf7 55.Qb8 Ne1 56.Qb7 Nd3 57.Ba3 e5 58.Qb5 e4 59.Qb6 Ne5 60.Bb2 Nd3 61.Bd4 Ne1 62.Bb2 Nd3 63.Bd4 Ne5 64.Bb2 Kh7 65.Bc3 Ng4 66.Bb2 Kh6 67.Bc1+ Kg7 68.Bb2 Kh7 69.Bc3 Qd5 70.Qc7+ Kh6 71.Qf4+ Kg7 72.Qc7+ Kg8 73.Qb8+ Kg7 74.Qc7+ Qf7 75.Qb6 Nh6 76.Qc6 Qe7 77.Qb6 Qf7 78.Qc6 e3 79.fxe3 Ng4 80.Bd4 Kh7 81.Qb5



81...Qe6? (81...Qc7! would have been devastating.) 82.Qb7+ Kh6 83.Qb8 Kg7 84.Qb7+ Qf7 85.Qc6 Ne5 86.Bxe5 fxe5 87.Qb5 Kf6 88.Qc6+ Qe6 89.Qf3+ Kg7 90.Qb7+ Kh6 91.Qb8 g5 92.hxg5+ Kxg5 93.Qb4 Qd5 94.Kf2 Qf7+ 95.Kg2 Kf5 96.e4+ Kg4 97.Qc3 b2 98.Qc8+ Kg5 99.Qb8 Qa2 100.Qxe5+ Kg6 101.Qd6+ Kf7 102.Qd7+ Kf6 103.Qd6+ Qe6 104.Qb4 Qe5 105.Qf8+ Kg6 106.Qg8+ Kh6 107.Qf8+ Kg6 108.Qg8+ Qg7 109.Qe6+ Kh7 110.Qf5+ Kh6 111.Qf4+ Qg5 112.Qf8+ Kh7 113.Qf7+ Kh6 114.Qf8+ Qg7 115.Qf4+ Kh7 116.Qf5+ Kg8 117.Qc8+ Qf8 118.Qc4+ Qf7 119.Qb5 Qa2 120.Qe8+ Kg7 121.Qe7+ Kg6 122.Qd6+ Kf7 123.Qd7+ Kf6 124.Qd6+ Qe6 125.Qb4 Qe5 126.Qf8+ Kg5 ½-½

In round 5, Nigel Short typically employed a good old-fashioned Italian Game with a strange Evans-style twist to defeat Emil Sutovsky, who admitted that the quicker forms of the game were not his forte.

Nigel Short (2683) - Emil Sutovsky (2657)

Classic Super 16 (5), 13.12.2013

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.b4 Be7 6.d3 0-0 7.0-0 d5 8.exd5 Nxd5 9.Re1 Bf6 10.a4 Nb6 11.Bb3 Nxb4 12.d4 Nc6 13.a5 Nd7 14.d5 Ncb8 15.Ba3 Be7 16.Nxe5 Nxe5 17.Rxe5 Bd6 18.Re3 Nd7 19.c4 Nc5 20.Nc3 Qh4 21.g3 Qh3 22.Bc2 Bf5 23.Bxf5 Qxf5 24.Nb5 Qf6? 25.Nxc7 Rac8 26.Nb5 Be5? 27.Nxa7 Bxa1 28.Nxc8 Bd4 29.Rf3 Qe5 30.Ne7+ Qxe7 31.Qxd4 Qe1+ 32.Kg2 1-0

In the end, the top two seeds from each group qualified – a nice ‘logical’ result but perhaps lacking in drama for the spectators.

Quarter Finals

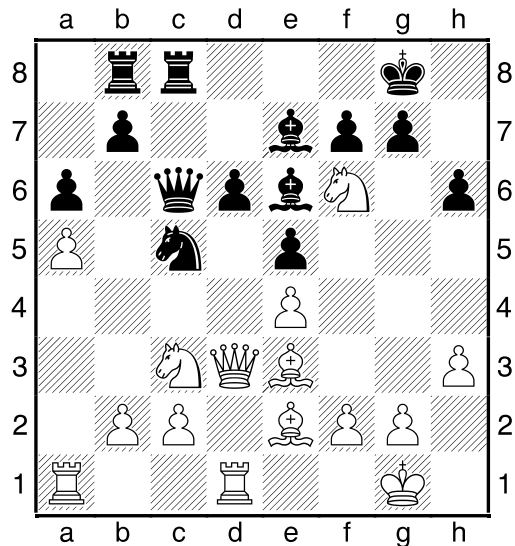
Kramnik defeated Anand 1½-½, thanks to a good win with the black pieces in the second game.

Viswanathan Anand (2773) - Vladimir Kramnik (2793)

Classic KO, Quarter Finals (2), 14.12.2013

1.Nf3 d5 2.c4 e6 3.d4 Nf6 4.Nc3 c5 5.e3 Nc6 6.a3 a6 7.dxc5 Bxc5 8.b4 Bd6 9.Bb2 0-0 10.Qc2 Qe7 11.Rd1 Rd8 12.Be2 dxc4 13.Bxc4 b5 14.Bd3 Bb7 15.Ne4 Nxe4 16.Bxe4 Rac8 17.Qb1 f5 18.Bd3 a5 19.bxa5 Nxa5 20.0-0 Nc4 21.Be2 Be4 22.Qa1 Nxb2 23.Qxb2 b4 24.axb4 Rc2 25.Qb3 Rxe2 26.Nd4 Bd5 27.Qd3 Qh4 0-1

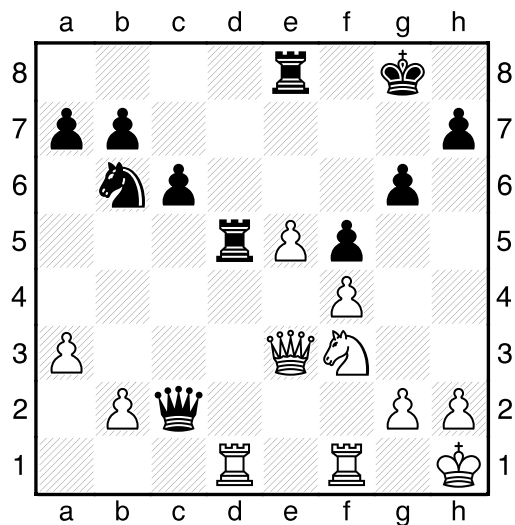
Michael Adams and Peter Svidler swapped wins in their match, forcing a further two tiebreak games at a much faster rate. In the first of these games, the following position was reached after Adams (White) had just played 17.Nxf6+:



Svidler's **17...Bxf6??** (he had to recapture with the pawn) left him in a lost position after **18.Qxd6 Qxd6 19.Rxd6 Be7 20.Rd2 Bg5 21.Bxg5 hxg5 22.Bg4 b5 23.axb6 Rxb6 24.Nd5 Rb7 25.f3 Rcb8 26.b4 1-0**

In the second tiebreak game, Svidler was unable to put up much resistance, and Adams duly chalked up a 2-0 victory.

Gelfand and Caruana played two well-contested draws in their match, before Boris broke the deadlock in the first tiebreak game:



Gelfand (*Black*) has just played **27...Qc2**. The position is fairly level.

Caruana now played **28.Rd2??** overlooking a decisive Zwischenzug: **28...Nc4! 29.Rxc2 Nxe3 30.Rcc1 Nxf1 31.Rxf1 Red8 0-1**

Gelfand also won the second tiebreak game, to proceed comfortably to the semi-finals.

In the last of the quarter finals, Nigel Short was outplayed in the first of his games with Hikaru Nakamura:

Nigel Short (2683) - Hikaru Nakamura (2786)

Classic KO, Quarter Finals (1), 14.12.2013

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.d3 d6 6.Nge2 Rb8 7.a3 b5 8.0-0 e6 9.Be3 b4 10.axb4 cxb4 11.Na4 Nge7

12.Qd2 0–0 13.Bh6 Bxh6 14.Qxh6 a5 15.b3 Kh8 16.Ra2 e5 17.Qe3 Qc7 18.Nb2 Bg4 19.f3 Be6 20.Nc4 d5 21.exd5 Nxd5 22.Qc5 Rfc8 23.Re1 Qd8 24.Qf2 Nc3 25.Nxc3 Bxc4 26.bxc4 bxc3 27.Ra3 Rb2 28.Rxc3 Qd4 29.Qxd4 Nxd4 30.Rxe5 a4 31.f4 Nb5 32.Rxb5 Rxb5 33.Ra3 Rb2 34.Rxa4 Rxc2 35.Bd5 Rb8 36.Ra8 Rxa8 37.Bxa8 Rd2 38.Be4 f5 39.Bg2 Rxd3 40.c5 Rc3 41.c6 Rc1+ 42.Kf2 Rc2+ 43.Kg1 Kg7 44.Bf3 Kf6 45.h4 Ke6 46.Kf1 Kd6 47.Ke1 Kc5 48.Kf1 Kd4 49.Kg1 Ke3 50.Bd5 Rc5 51.c7 Rxc7 52.Ba8 h6 53.Kg2 Rg7 54.Bd5 g5 55.hxg5 hxg5 56.fxg5 Rxg5 57.Bf3 f4 58.g4 Rc5 59.Bb7 Rc2+ 60.Kh3 f3 0–1

In the second game, Nakamura essayed 1.b3, keeping things steady and safely securing the draw that he needed to progress.

Semi-Finals

In the first semi-final, the last Englishman standing, Michael Adams, found himself up against the solid Boris Gelfand. The match was effectively decided in the first game:

Gelfand,Boris (2777) - Adams,Michael (2754) [D37]

Classic KO, Semi-Finals (1), 15.12.2013

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 Be7 5.g3 dxc4 6.Bg2 0–0 7.Ne5 c5 8.dxc5 Qxd1+ 9.Nxd1 Bxc5 10.Ne3 c3 11.bxc3 Nbd7 12.Nd3 Rb8 13.Nc4 b6 14.Nxc5 Nxc5 15.Ba3 Ba6 16.Ne5 Rfc8 17.Nc6 Rb7 18.Bxc5 bxc5 19.Ne5 Rb2 20.c4 h5 21.Bf3 Ng4 22.Nc6 Rc7 23.h3 Nf6 24.Ne5 Nd7 25.0–0–0 Nxe5 26.Kxb2 Nxf3 27.exf3 Bxc4 28.Rd8+ Kh7 29.Rc1 Bd5 30.Rc3 Kg6 31.h4 Kf6 32.a3 Ke5 33.Rh8 g6 34.g4 hxg4 35.fxg4 Kd4 36.Re3 f5 37.gxf5 gxf5 38.h5 f4 39.Rh3 Rb7+ 40.Kc1 Be4 41.Rd8+ Ke5 42.h6 c4 43.Kd2 Rb2+ 44.Ke1 Rb1+ 45.Rd1 Rb7 46.Rh5+ Kf6 47.Rd4 Rb1+ 48.Kd2 Rb2+ 49.Kc3 Rc2+ 50.Kb4 Bh7 51.Rxf4+ Kg6 52.Rh3 e5 53.Rxc4 Rxf2 54.Rc7 1–0

Gelfand proved too tough a nut to crack in the second game, holding it comfortably.

The second semi-final, between Kramnik and Nakamura, looked on paper to be the pick of the semis, and so it proved.

The first game was hard fought, ending amusingly in a stalemate:

Vladimir Kramnik (2793) - Hikaru Nakamura (2786)

Classic KO, Semi-Finals (1), 15.12.2013

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.b3 Bg7 4.Bb2 0–0 5.g3 d6 6.Bg2 e5 7.0–0 Nh5 8.Nc3 f5 9.d3 Nc6 10.e3 h6 11.a3 a5 12.Nd2 Nf6 13.Nd5 Be6 14.f4 Kh7 15.Qc2 Qd7 16.Rae1 Rae8 17.Bc3 Bxd5 18.cxd5 Ne7 19.e4 exf4 20.gxf4 fxe4 21.dxe4 Nh5 22.Bxg7 Kxg7 23.e5 Nxf4 24.e6 Qb5 25.Qxc7 Nxg2 26.Rxf8 Kxf8 27.Kxg2 Qxd5+ 28.Ne4 Qxe6 29.Qxd6 Qxd6 30.Nxd6 Rd8 31.Rf1+ Kg8 32.Nxb7 Rd5 33.Rb1 Nc6 34.Rb2 h5 35.b4 axb4 36.axb4 Rb5 37.Nd6 Rxb4 38.Rxb4 Nxb4 39.Ne4 Kf7 40.Kf3 Nd5 41.Kg3 Kg7 42.Kh4 Kh6 43.Ng5 Ne7 44.Nf7+ Kg7 45.Nd6 Nd5 46.Kg5 Nc7 47.Kf4 Nd5+ 48.Kg5 Nf6 49.h4 Nh7+ 50.Kf4 Nf8 51.Ke5 Nd7+ 52.Ke6 Nc5+ 53.Ke5 Nd7+ 54.Ke6 Nc5+ 55.Ke5 Nd3+ 56.Ke4 Nb4 57.Kf4 Nd3+ 58.Kg5 Ne5 59.Ne8+ Kf7 60.Nd6+ Ke7 61.Nc4 Nxc4 62.Kxg6 Ne5+ 63.Kxh5 Kf6 64.Kh6 Ng4+ 65.Kh5 Kf5 ½–½

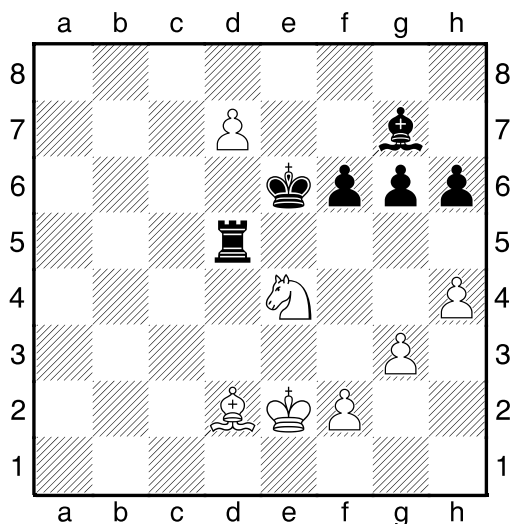
The second game turned into a tragedy for the Russian ex-world champion. He soon won the exchange for a pawn and seemed on his way to the final. Nakamura, however, would not lie down and kept himself in the game. What eventually happened, combined with memories of the 2012 Candidates Tournament, must have left Vladimir wondering whether London was the city for him...

Hikaru Nakamura (2786) - Vladimir Kramnik (2793)

Classic KO, Semi-Finals (2), 15.12.2013

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 c5 7.a3 g6 8.Nf3 Bg7 9.h4 Nc6 10.Be3 Qa5 11.Qd2 cxd4 12.cxd4 Qxd2+ 13.Kxd2 0–0 14.Bb5 Bd7 15.Rhd1 Rfd8 16.Ke1 Nb4 17.Bxd7 Nc2+ 18.Kd2 Nxa1 19.Ba4 b5 20.Bxb5 Nb3+ 21.Ke2 Rac8 22.d5 exd5 23.exd5 Nc5 24.Rc1 Ne4 25.Rxc8 Rxc8 26.Bc6 Rb8 27.Bxa7 Rb2+ 28.Kf1

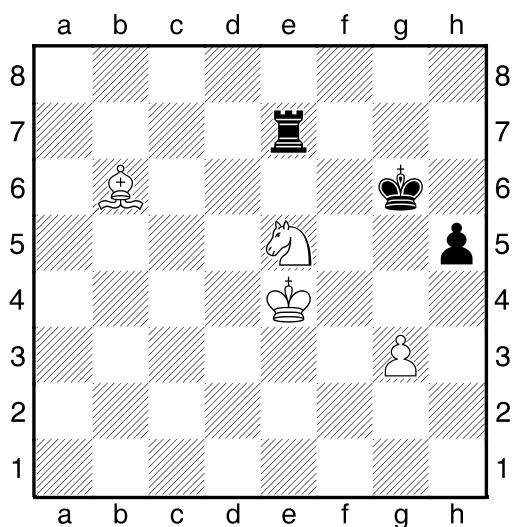
Ra2 29.a4 Ra1+ 30.Ke2 Nc3+ 31.Kd3 Nxa4 32.Bxa4 Ra3+ 33.Ke2 Rxa4 34.Bb6 Kf8 35.g3 Ke8 36.Be3 Ra5 37.d6 Rd5 38.Bf4 f6 39.Nd2 Kd7 40.Ne4 Ke6 41.Bd2 h6 42.d7



42...Kf7?

42...Bf8! preventing a knight check on c5 after 43...Rxd7 looks good enough to win.

43.Nc5 Bf8 44.Ba5 Be7 45.Bb6 Rd6 46.Ba5 Rd5 47.Bb6 h5 48.Kf3 f5 49.Kg2 Rd2 50.Ba5 Rd5 51.Bb6 f4 52.Kf3 fxg3 53.fxg3 Rd6 54.Ba5 Rd4 55.Bb6 Rd1 56.Ba5 Rd5 57.Bb6 Rd1 58.Ba5 g5 59.hxg5 Kg6 60.Bb6 Bxg5 61.Ne6 Rd3+ 62.Ke4 Rd6 63.Nxg5 Rxd7 64.Nf3 Re7+ 65.Ne5+



Kramnik may already be lost at this stage, but there was plenty of scope for resistance. Unfortunately, he misses a 'tic-tac'...

65...Kf6?? 66.Bd8! 1-0

Final

The final proved to be a slight anti-climax. Nakamura won a tight first game and had no difficulty holding the draw in the second (he could have pressed for a win but saw no reason to do so).

The decisive first game:

Hikaru Nakamura (2786) - Boris Gelfand (2777)

Classic KO Final (1), 15.12.2013

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Qb3 dxc4 6.Qxc4 0-0 7.e4 a6 8.e5 b5 9.Qb3 Nfd7 10.Ng5 Nc6 11.Nxf7 Rxf7 12.e6 Nxd4 13.exf7+ Kf8 14.Qd1 Nc5 15.Be3 Bf5 16.Rc1 Qd6 17.b4 Ne4 18.Nxe4 Bxe4 19.f3 Bf5 20.Qd2 Rd8 21.Kf2 Kxf7 22.Be2 Qf6 23.Rxc7 Ne6 24.Rd7 Rc8 25.Bd3 Rc3 26.Bxf5 gxf5 27.f4 Rc4 28.Rc1 Re4 29.g3 h5 30.h4 Qg6 31.Bc5 Bf6 32.Re1 Qg4 33.Rxe4 fxe4 34.Qd1 Qf5 35.Rd5 Qh3 36.Qf1 1-0

His narrow escape against Kramnik in the semi-finals notwithstanding, the American was a worthy winner. He plays in a crowd-pleasing style, well suited to faster time limits, when the possession of the initiative often counts for more in practice than the objective assessment of the position on the board.

It will be interesting to see what the future holds for the London Chess Classic. The change in format resulted in a successful event, but there seemed to be a general view among players and observers that this was a tournament which would linger less well in the memory than its standard play predecessors. The clock is a telling influence on the games, and the number of instances when the final result had little in common with the play in the first half of the game was high. It is perhaps revealing that what has stuck most in my own memory of the tournament is Kramnik's blunder in the semi-final, rather than a strikingly good move or well played attack.

Other London Chess Classic events

Kensington Olympia was full of chess activity throughout the nine days of the Classic, including junior events, weekend congresses and pro-am challenges. Most prestigious was the nine-round FIDE-rated Open. The two frontrunners after four rounds, of course, won the attractive prize of promotion to the Classic Super 16. After Sutovsky and Istratescu departed, it was left to GM Jon Ludvig Hammer to complete a good few weeks for Norway by coming sole first with 7½ points. Close on his heels were five GMs on 7 points: Boris Grachev, Tigran Gharamian, Mateusz Bartel, Viorel Iordachescu and England's Neil McDonald.

At the start of the festival, a two-day conference on Chess and Education was held, attracting an impressive line-up of speakers from the UK and overseas. There will be a full report on this event in the next Chess News.

FOUR NATIONS CHESS LEAGUE

The first two 4NCL weekends have been completed. Rounds 1 and 2 were played on the weekend of 16-17 November last year, with Rounds 3 and 4 following on 11-12 January.

Three separate venues were used on each weekend: Divisions 1 and 2 at the Hinckley Island Hotel; Division 3 South at the Daventry Court Hotel and Division 3 North at the Redworth Hall Hotel (weekend 1) and Shrigley Hall (weekend 2). These arrangements allow the players and organisers more breathing space, although they do reduce the hustle and bustle of past years which I felt added to the charm of the event.

Leaders after four rounds:

Division 1a – Cheddleton 1 and Guildford 1 are leading the pack with four match wins each. Cheddleton 1 have a half-point lead in game points, with 24½ to Guildford 1's 24.

Division 1b – Wood Green HK 1 and Guildford 2 are on 100% with 8 match points. Wood Green showed particular ruthlessness against e2e4.org.uk 1, beating them 8-0, as a result of which they enjoy a two-point lead over Guildford 2 on 26 points (from a maximum 32 available).

Division 2a – Warwickshire are the only team with four match wins. Giving chase are Anglian Avengers 1 (21 game points, just half a point shy of Warwickshire's total) and KJCA Kings (17 game points).

Division 2b – The AD's are dominating this group, with four match wins, including narrow 4½-3½ victories over two of the three teams lagging behind on 4 match points: BCM Dragons (1) and South Wales Dragons. The other team on 4 match points is Bradford DCA Knights A, so it remains to be seen whether the AD's are able to slay knights as well as dragons!

Division 3 South – There are 49 teams in this mammoth section. Two teams lead with the maximum 8 match points, Guildford 3 and Leeds University Old Boys, closely followed by Anglian Avengers 2 and West is Best 1 on 7 match points.

Division 3 North – This division includes 14 teams. The current leaders on 7 match points are Spirit of Atticus A, followed by North East England 1 and Bradford DCA Knights B on 6 match points.

HASTINGS INTERNATIONAL CHESS CONGRESS

This year's Masters resulted in something of a traffic jam at the top of the prize list, as no fewer than seven players tied for first place with 6½ points:

GM Mikheil Mchedlishvili (Georgia; 2649)

GM Igor Khenkin (Germany; 2598)

GM Qun Ma (China; 2595)

IM Jahongir Vakhidov (Uzbekistan; 2452)

IM Justin Sarkar (USA; 2425)

FM Jovica Radovanovic (Serbia; 2339)

GM Mark Hebden (England; 2560)

Each won £750. Going into the last round, there were six players on 6 points, paired against each other. All drew, opening the door for the seven players on 5½ to join them in shared first place. Only England's Mark Hebden was able to take this opportunity, beating Jens Kipper (Germany) in a fierce contest.

On the congress website, Stewart Reuben commented that the fact that six of the top seven games were drawn was "inevitably disappointing", although he went on to note that all but one of the games in question was a proper contest, in which efforts were made to win, albeit to no avail (except in Hebden's case). There was one short draw (11 moves) between Igor Khenkin and Jovica Radovanovic, but this seemed to be a case of the GM going badly wrong in the opening (having "made a mess of his preparation", according to Stewart) and bailing out against a much lower-rated player when continuing would have been very dangerous.

- APF



The European Team Championships 2013

by David Openshaw, ECF Director of International Chess

The European Team Championships are held every two years and alternate with the biennial Chess Olympiad cycle. The 19th European Team Championships took place on 8-17 November 2013 in Warsaw.

I had been a spectator when these championships were held in England in Bath in 1973. At that time, each squad had ten players, from which the team of eight had to be drawn. I particularly remembered the presence of Karpov on board four for the Soviet Union. Out of curiosity, I looked up the records to see just what their team was. Quite a good team!! In board order: Spassky, Petrosian, Korchnoi, Karpov, Tal, Smyslov, Geller, Kuzmin, Tukmakov and Balashov. Four past world champions, alongside Karpov who was to become world champion two years later. Unsurprisingly, the Soviet Union ran away with the event on that occasion.

Back to 2013: the Open Championship had 38 entries, including 3 teams from the host country Poland. They were allowed two teams as of right as the organising country and a third to ensure an even number of competitors. In the Women's event, there were 32 entries.

Both events were nine-round Swiss events decided on Match Points. Each match was over four boards. The team winning a match scored two match points. In the event of a drawn match, each team scored one match point. Each team was allowed one reserve. The board order had to be decided prior to the event and could be changed during the event.

Top seeds in the Open event were Russia and Ukraine. All five players Russian players were rated over 2700, which would suggest that they should have been clear favourites. However, recent experience has shown that this event is usually very close, and as many as twelve of the teams could have had some expectations of gold or silver medals. Over the last six events, Russia have won twice, Azerbaijan twice and the Netherlands and Germany once each. England has also had some very good results in the past, with a win in 1997 (when our team was Short, Adams, Speelman, Sadler and Hodgson) and third place in 1992.

In recent years, we have not been able to field our strongest team. This year, however, was different, as Leonard

Brendan O'Gorman - Chess Images Srinidhi Dwarakanathan at Leicester, November 2013

See Brendan's work at - <https://picasaweb.google.com/bpogorman>



Barden reported in his Guardian column.

“In a bold selection strategy, the English Chess Federation has geared its international budget to give priority to sending the strongest possible team to next month's European Championship in Warsaw.

“Michael Adams, Luke McShane, Nigel Short, Gawain Jones and David Howell are the chosen playing quintet, with Peter Wells as manager. Their average rating is a high 2683, a level which probably only Russia and Ukraine can significantly better.

“Adams, 41, is the current world No. 10. He and Short, 48, are former world title finalists while Jones, 25, and Howell, 22, are the latest two British champions. Depending on who plays in rival squads, England is likely to be seeded between No. 6 and No. 12.

“McShane's inclusion is the standout selection, and a direct result of the new ECF policy. The city trader, 29, competes rarely, but his impressive play in the annual London Classic and his bravura performance against the world elite in the 2012 Tal Memorial in Moscow makes him the world's top amateur.”

The Open Championship Round by Round

Our board order was Michael Adams, Luke McShane, Nigel Short, Gawain Jones and David Howell.

In the first round, we played one of Poland's extra teams (Poland Goldies) and secured a 3-1 win. In the next round, we had a reverse against Greece who beat us 3-1 (two draws with black but two losses with white). In round three because of the vagaries of the pairing system the two strongest teams on one out of two were paired against each other: England and Russia (in a shock result, Russia had also lost in round 2, to Turkey). Perhaps this was a blessing in disguise as it seemed to inspire our team. In the end, we were somewhat disappointed to draw this match. Gawain Jones had a great win against Morozevich:

Gawain Jones (2648) - Alexander Morozevich (2727) [E81]

Round 3, 10.11.2013

1.c4 g6 2.Nc3 Bg7 3.d4 Nf6 4.e4 d6 5.f3 0-0 6.Be3 c5 7.dxc5 dxc5 8.Qxd8 Rxd8 9.Bxc5 Nc6 10.Nge2 Nd7 11.Be3 Nde5 12.Nf4

So far, the game has followed an earlier game of Gawain's against Shimanov in the World Cup earlier in 2013. In that game Gawain was Black and the game was drawn after 108 moves.

12...b6 13.Rc1 Ba6 14.b3 e6 15.Be2 Nb4 16.0-0 Ned3 17.Nxd3 Nxd3 18.Rcd1 Nb4 19.Rxd8+ Rxd8 20.Rc1 f5 21.a3 Nc6 22.Nb5 fxe4 23.fxe4 Bxb5 24.cxb5 Nd4 25.Bc4 h5 26.g3 Kh7 27.Rf1 Rd7 28.Kg2 Nc2 29.Bc1 Bh6 30.Bxe6 Bxc1 31.Rxc1 Rd2+ 32.Kf3 Rxh2 33.Bc4 Kh6 34.a4 Nd4+ 35.Ke3 Nc2+ 36.Kd3 Nb4+ 37.Kd4 Rg2 38.e5 Nc2+ 39.Ke4 Kg5 40.e6 Kf6 41.Rf1+ Ke7 42.Rf7+ Ke8 43.Bd5 Nb4 44.Bc6+ Nxc6 45.bxc6 Re2+ 46.Kd5 1-0

In rounds four and five we had good wins against Montenegro and Germany. This put us in a good position as we reached the rest day to press for a strong finish.

In round six, we were drawn against second seeds Ukraine. This match ebbed and flowed but finally ended in a tie. Michael Adams had a plus against Areshchenko but the win slipped away:

Michael Adams (2752) – Alexander Areshchenko (2720) [B52]

Round 6, 14.11.2013

(Notes by Michael Adams from his website; reproduced with permission.)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Bd7 4.c4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.d4 cxd4 7.Nxd4 Bg7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Bxd7 Qxd7 10.b3 Nc6 11.Bb2 a6 12.Nxc6 Qxc6 13.Nd5 Nxd5 14.exd5 Qc5 15.Bxg7 Kxg7 16.Re1 e5

In the game Bacrot-Giri Black ran into difficulties after the natural 16...fxe8 17.Qd2 b5 18.Rac1 Qa7 19.b4 Rac8 (19...bxc4 20.Rxc4) 20.c5.

17.dxe6 fxe6 18.Qd2 Rf6 19.Rad1

Difficulties remain as Black's weak pawns and slightly exposed king are problematic.

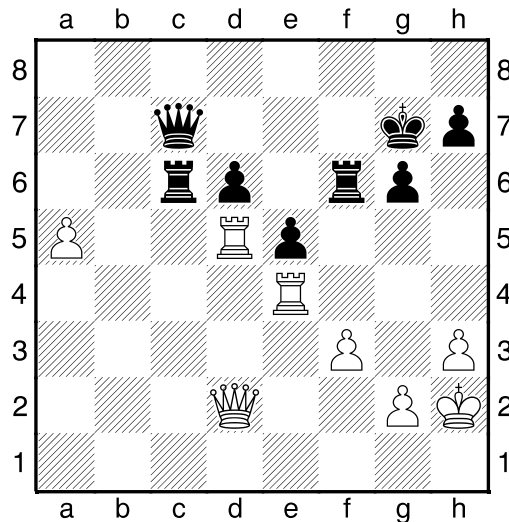
19...Raf8 20.Re2 e5 21.a4 R8f7

A useful move in general but it was better to begin active play immediately with 21...Qb6 22.Qc2 Qb4 23.h3 (not 23.Rd5? Rxf2) 23... b5.

22.h3 Qb6 23.Qc2 Qb4 24.f3 b5 25.cxb5 axb5 26.Re4 Qa5 27.Rd5 Qb6+ 28.Kh2 bxa4 29.bxa4 Rc7 30.Qd2 Rc6 31.a5

The simplest and most practical continuation was 31.f4 Rxf4 32.Rxf4 exf4 33.Qxf4 when Black has an uphill task to save the game.

31...Qc7



32.Re2

I missed the clever 32.Rb4 Rf7 (after 32...Rc2 33.Qd3 there is no good follow up; 32...Rxf3? 33.a6! is the hidden tactical point: 33...Rf7 34.Rb7 Qc8 35.Rxf7+ Kxf7 36.a7 Ra6 [36...Qa8 37.Ra5] 37.Ra5) when 33.Rb2 keeps control.

32.Rxe5 dxe5 33.Rd7+ Rf7 is ineffectual as in the game.

32...Rf4!

Now the chance has slipped away.

33.Rxe5 dxe5 34.Rd7+ Rf7 35.Rxc7 Rxc7 36.Qd6 Rfe7 37.a6

If 37.h4 Rcd7 and there is nowhere for the queen to hide.

37...Rcd7 38.Qc6 Rc7 39.Qb6 Ra7 40.Kg3 Ra8 41.Qd6 Rea7 42.Qxe5+ Kg8 43.Qd5+ Kg7 44.Qe5+ Kg8 45.Qd5+ Kg7 46.Qe5+ ½-½

Luke McShane chalked up a vital win on board 2. Did he really hypnotise his opponent?

Andrei Volokitin (2682) - Luke McShane (2696) [D15]

Round 6, 14.11.2013

(Notes by Luke McShane)

Even without Ivanchuk and Ponomarev, Ukraine have an extremely strong national team, so we knew this would be a tough match. A very lucky win for me allowed us to save a 2-2 draw. The day after, I bumped into a couple of their players in the hotel lift. They joked that I must have hypnotised their team-mate!

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 a6 5.c5 Nbd7 6.Bf4 Nh5 7.Bd2 Nhf6 8.Qc2 g6 9.Bg5 Bg7 10.e3 h6 11.Bh4 g5 12.Bg3 Nh5 13.0-0-0 Nxc3 14.hxc3 e6 15.Na4 Rb8 16.Kb1 0-0 17.Bd3 f5 18.Rh2 g4 19.Ng1

The knight is aiming for a nice outpost on f4. I felt it was important to try to bring the g7 bishop to life.

19...e5!? 20.Qc3

I had only considered 20.Bxf5 Rxf5 21.Qxf5 Nxc5 22.Qc2 Nxa4 23.Qxa4 exd4 24.exd4 Bf5+ 25.Ka1 Qe7. Here I reckoned that the bishop pair, added to White's poor coordination, would offer good compensation for the exchange.

20...exd4 21.exd4 Nf6

21...f4 exchanging off the weak f5 pawn, was probably better.

22.f3 Qe7 23.Re1 Qf7 24.Ne2 Bd7 25.Nf4 Rbe8 26.Rhh1 Rxe1+ 27.Rxe1 Nh5 28.Nxh5 Qxh5 29.Nb6 Qf7

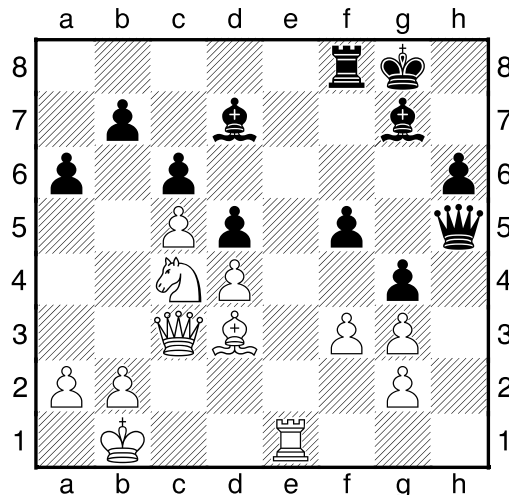
...Be6 is a positional threat here, as then the knight on b6 would be isolated from the battle.

30.Nc4

Pretty, but the calm 30.Nxd7 Qxd7 31.Bc2 would have given me more problems to solve, as the kingside situation is still a bit shaky.

30...Qh5

The counterplay against the pawn on f3 means that the knight incursion is not a disaster for Black.



31.Nd6?

I couldn't work out what he was up to when he played this. Returning to b6 was the best way to go. 31.Ne5 Bxe5 32.dxe5 gxf3 33.gxf3 Qxf3 34.e6 Bxe6! is an important resource, because 35.Rxe6 Qd1+ wins the bishop on d3.

31...gxf3 32.gxf3 Qxf3 33.Re7??

This was his intention, but it is a horrible blunder. White's position would still have been fine after 33.a3

33...Qd1+

Just picking up the bishop with check, like in the earlier variation. I was stunned at my good fortune, and the rest is straightforward.

34.Qc1 Qxd3+ 35.Ka1 Bc8 36.Rc7 Be6 37.Qe1 Bf7 38.Rxb7 Qxd4 39.Nxf5 Qf6 40.Qf1 Bg6 0–1

This draw against Ukraine continued to put us in a good position. France led the event with 11 match points (five wins and a draw), Azerbaijan were second on 10 and Russia and Armenia had 9. We were in a group of six teams including Ukraine on 8 points and we had played both of the top two seeds.

However, we were disappointed not to register at least one win in the last three rounds. Our three draws against Georgia, Hungary and Poland gave us a good consistent finish but not enough to put us in the medals. We finished in joint 7th to 12th place.

Some highlights from these last three rounds:

Baadur Jobava (2695) – Michael Adams (2752) [C44]

Round 7, 15.11.2013

(Notes by Michael Adams from his website; reproduced with permission.)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Be2 Nf6 4.d3 d5 5.Nbd2 Bd6 6.0–0 0–0 7.c3 a5 8.Re1 a4 9.Qc2 h6 10.Nf1 Re8 11.Ng3 Be6 12.Bd2 Bc5 13.b4 axb3 14.axb3 Rxa1 15.Rxa1 d4 16.Qb2 Bg4 17.b4 dxc3 18.Bxc3 Bxf3 19.Bxf3 Bb6 20.Nf5 Qxd3 21.Rd1 Qc4

Avoiding the tempting 21...Bxf2+ 22.Kh1! (22.Kxf2 Nxe4+ 23.Bxe4 Qxd1 24.Qe2 may also hold) 22...Qc4 23.Rc1 Bb6 24.Bxe5 Qe6 25.Bxf6 Qxf6 26.Qxf6 gxf6 27.b5 is roughly equal.

22.b5 Nxe4

It is very hard to find the correct continuation here 22...Nd4! 23.Nxd4 Nxe4! and everything falls into place: 24.Bxe4 exd4 25.Bxd4 Bxd4 26.Qxd4 (26.Rxd4 Rxe4 exploits the weak back rank) 26...Rxe4.

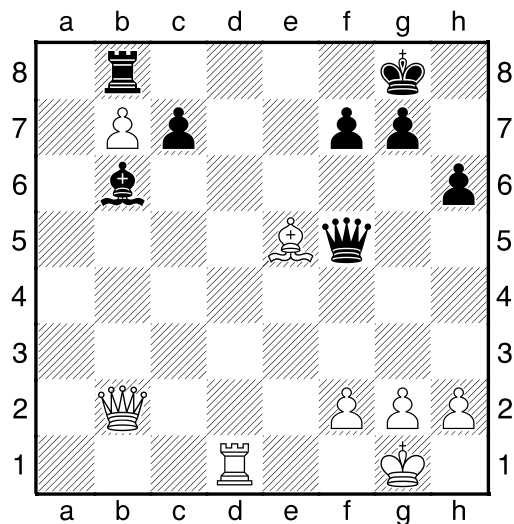
23.Bxe4 Qxe4 24.bxc6 Qxf5

I thought I was in good shape here but it's not easy to collect the b-pawn.

25.cxb7 Rb8

I considered that 25...Qe4 26.h3 Qxb7 27.Bxe5 f6 was too dangerous, but in fact 28.Qa2+ Kh8 29.Bxf6 gxf6 30.Qf7 Qe4 fails, so I could keep some practical chances.

26.Bxe5



26...Rxb7

Originally I was intending 26...Kh7 27.h3 (Not 27.Bxg7 Qg4) 27...f6?? (However 27...Rxb7 28.Bxc7 is like the game) but 28.Qxb6! turns the tables spectacularly as 28...cxb6 29.Bxb8 Qe4 30.Rd7 wins.

27.Bxc7 Bxf2+ 28.Qxf2 Qxf2+ 29.Kxf2 Rxc7 30.h4 Rc4 31.g3 g5 32.hxg5 hxg5 33.Rd5 g4 34.Ke3 Kg7 35.Rd6 f6 36.Rd2 Kg6 37.Kf2 Kf5 38.Re2 Re4 39.Ra2 Rd4 40.Re2 Rd5 41.Kg2 Re5 42.Rf2+ Ke6 43.Ra2 Rd5 44.Re2+ Kd6 45.Kf2 f5 46.Re8 Rb5 47.Rd8+ Ke5 48.Re8+ Kd4 49.Rd8+ Rd5 50.Re8 Kd3 51.Re3+ Kc4 52.Re2 Kd4 ½-½

Judit Polgar (2689) - David Howell (2644) [C67]

Round 8, 16.11.2013

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.0-0 Nxe4 5.d4 Nd6 6.Bxc6 dxc6 7.dxe5 Nf5 8.Qxd8+ Kxd8 9.Rd1+ Ke8 10.Nc3 Ne7 11.h3 h6 12.b3 Bf5 13.Nd4 Bh7 14.Bb2 Rd8 15.e6

Will the strength of this pawn outweigh its weakness?

15...Nc8 16.Nce2 Bd6 17.c4 Ne7 18.Rac1 b6 19.g4 f6 20.f4 a6 21.Nf3 Rf8 22.Ng3 Rg8 23.Ne2 Rf8 24.Kg2 g6 25.Ng3 f5 26.Ne5 fxg4 27.Nf7 gxh3+ 28.Kxh3 Rxf7 29.exf7+ Kxf7 30.Be5 c5 31.Ne4 Nf5 32.Nf6 Bg8 33.Nd5 Bxe5 34.fxe5 Rc8 35.Re1 Kg7 36.e6

Another white pawn reaches e6 same question as before.

36...Nd4 37.e7 Be6+ 38.Kg3 Kf7

Around this point David has an edge but not enough for the full point.

39.Nf4 Re8 40.Nxe6 Nxe6 41.Re5 Nd4 42.Rf1+ Nf5+ 43.Kf4 Rxe7 44.Rxe7+ Kxe7 45.Ke5 a5 46.Rg1 Kf7 47.Rf1 Ke7 48.Rg1 Kf7 49.Rf1 h5 50.Rf2 Ke7 51.Rg2 Nh4 52.Rg3 g5 53.Rd3 g4 54.Kf4 Kf6 55.Rd5 Kg6 56.Re5 Nf3 57.Re6+ Kg7 58.Re7+ Kf6 59.Rh7 Kg6 60.Rxc7 Nd4 61.Rd7 Ne6+ 62.Kg3 Nd4 63.Kf4 Ne6+ 64.Kg3 Nd4 65.Kf4 Ne6+ ½-½

Michael Adam (2752) – Bartosz Socko (2661) [B52]

Round 9, 17.11.2013

(Notes by Michael Adams from his website; reproduced with permission.)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Bd7 4.c4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Bxb5 6.cxb5 g6 7.d4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Bg7 9.0-0 Nbd7 10.Qe2 0-0 11.Rd1 Rc8 12.a4 Nc5 13.Bg5 h6 14.Bh4 Qd7 15.h3 Nh5 16.Ra3 Bxd4

Dubious. The waiting move 16...Rfe8 was stronger.

17.Rxd4 Ne6 18.Rd1 Nef4 19.Qf3

I had intended 19.Qg4 f5 here (*after 19...e6 20.e5 or 20.Bg3 is good*): 20.exf5 Rxf5 21.Nd5 Rxd5 (*the computer points out 21...Nxd5 22.Rxd5 Ng7 is also playable*) but then realised that 22.Qxd7 Rxd1+ 23.Kh2 Rcc1 24.Qe8+ Kh7 25.Qxe7+ Kg8 leads to a draw.

19.Qe3 is strong as the game continuation is not possible due to 19...g5 20.Bg3 Nxf3 21.fxf3 when a7 is hanging.

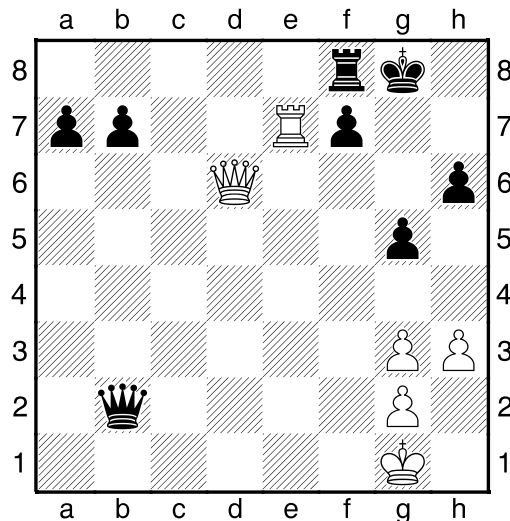
19...g5 20.Bg3 Nxf3 21.fxf3 Ng6 22.Nd5 Qe6 23.Qe3 Rc2 24.Rd2 Rxd2

I was more concerned about 24...Rfc8.

25.Qxd2 Qxe4 26.Re3 Qxa4 27.Nxe7+

Capturing with the rook was also possible: 27.Rxe7 Qxb5 (27...Nxe7 28.Nxe7+ Kg7 29.Nf5+ Kg6 30.Qxd6+ Kxf5 31.Qxf8) 28.Nf6+ Kh8 29.Qc2.

27...Nxe7 28.Rxe7 Qxb5 29.Qxd6 Qxb2



30.Kh2?

After 30.Qxh6! Qb1+ 31.Kh2 Qg6 32.Qxg6+ fxg6 33.Rxb7 Ra8 34.Rb4 (*not 34.Rb5 a5 35.Rxg5 Kf7 36.Rc5 a4 37.Rc2 a3 38.Ra2 Ke6*) 34...a5 35.Ra4 Kf7 36.Kg1 Ke6 37.Kf2 a draw is on the cards. Miraculously, I managed to save half a point anyway after many adventures.

30...Kg7 31.Qd5 b6 32.Rxa7 Qf6 33.Ra3 Rd8 34.Qa2 Rd1 35.Rf3 Qe6 36.Qb2+ f6 37.Qc3 Qd6 38.Re3 h5 39.Qc8 h4 40.Qb7+ Kh6 41.Qc8 hxg3+ 42.Rxg3 Kg7 43.Qb7+ Kf8 44.Qa8+ Ke7 45.Qb7+ Kd8 46.Qa8+ Kc7 47.Qa7+ Kc6 48.Qa8+ Kb5 49.Qe8+ Kb4 50.Qe4+ Rd4 51.Qc2 Kb5 52.Qb3+ Kc6 53.Qf3+ Kc7 54.Qc3+ Kb8 55.Kg1 Rd1+ 56.Kf2 Qd2+ 57.Qxd2 Rxd2+ 58.Ke3 Rb2 59.Kd4 Kc7 60.Rf3 Rd2+ 61.Kc4 Rd6 62.g3 Kd7 63.g4 Kc6 64.Rf5 Re6 65.Rf3 b5+ 66.Kd4 Rd6+ 67.Kc3 Kd5 68.Kb4 Rb6 69.Rf1 Ke5 70.Kc5 Rb8 71.Kb4 Rd8 72.Rf5+ Ke6 73.Rf3 Rd5 74.Re3+ Re5 75.Rf3 f5 76.gxf5+ Rxf5 77.Ra3 Rd5 78.Ra8 Kf5 79.Rh8 Kf4 80.Rh5 Rf5 81.Ka5 Re5 82.Kb4 Kf5 83.Rh6 Re6 84.Rh8 Rb6 85.Kc5 Rb7 86.Kc6 Ra7 87.Kxb5 Rc7 88.Rh6 Rc1 89.Kb4 Kf4 90.Rh5 Rh1 91.Kc4 Kf5 92.Kd3 Rd1+ 93.Ke2 Rd8 94.h4 Rg8 95.hxg5 Rxg5 96.Rxg5+ Kxg5 ½-½

Media coverage of these championships was limited because they coincided with the Anand-Carlsen match, but with two rounds to go this is what Leonard Barden wrote in his Guardian coverage:

The final two rounds of the European team championship at Warsaw are also staged this weekend, with the outcome still open after several early upsets. The biggest shock was Russia's defeat by Turkey, and next round England scored a 2-2 draw with the top seeds as Gawain Jones defeated the former world title candidate Alex Morozevich. Jones has been the outstanding England player, and England still has an outside chance for a medal.

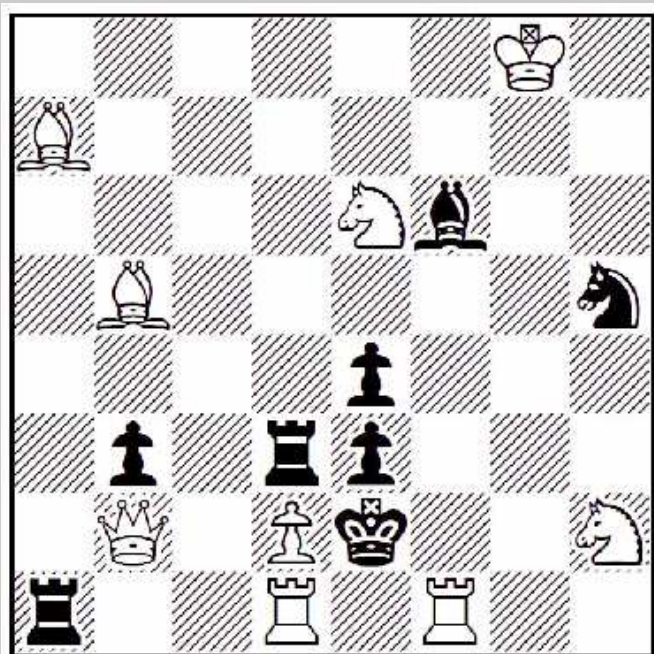
The final result was a win for Azerbaijan. Going into the last round, France had been caught by Azerbaijan on 13 match points, with Armenia one point behind. Azerbaijan and Armenia were playing each other, while France faced Russia. In the first of these matches, all four games were drawn, so Azerbaijan were still ahead of Armenia. France could not get the draw they needed to stay in joint first place, losing 1.5-2.5.

Congratulations to the winners Azerbaijan. One has to admire how both Azerbaijan and Armenia have regularly had such good results over the last few years.

[below - David Howell and Judit Polgar prepare for battle]



BATSFORD Chess Competition



Well done to the November/December winner - **Barry Sandercock of Bucks**

The correct answer was - **1. Qxç4**

Here's the next problem ...

Brian Harley

Reading Observer, 1911

White to play and mate in 2 --

Please send your answer (just the first move is sufficient) on a postcard or by email to the ECF Office, The Watch Oak, Chain Lane, Battle, East Sussex TN33 0YD (office@englishchess.org.uk).

The first correct entry drawn on 10th March 2014 will win a Batsford voucher for any book on their current list!

England Match Scores

Round

1	ENGLAND	3	POLAND GOLDIES	1
2	GREECE	3	ENGLAND	1
3	RUSSIA	2	ENGLAND	2
4	ENGLAND	3.5	MONTENEGRO	0.5
5	GERMANY	1.5	ENGLAND	2.5
6	ENGLAND	2	UKRAINE	2
7	GEORGIA	2	ENGLAND	2
8	ENGLAND	2	HUNGARY	2
9	ENGLAND	2	POLAND	2

European Team Championship 2013

Place	Team	Match Points	Tie Break
			S.B.C
1	AZERBAIJAN	14	212
2	FRANCE	13	210.5
3	RUSSIA	13	202
4	ARMENIA	13	195.5
5	HUNGARY	12	200.5
6	GEORGIA	12	178.5
7	GREECE	11	199.5
8	CZECH REPUBLIC	11	192.5
9	UKRAINE	11	188.5
10	ENGLAND	11	184.5
11	NETHERLANDS	11	167
12	ITALY	11	142
13	SERBIA	10	173
14	ROMANIA	10	159.5
15	BELARUS	10	155.5
16	POLAND	10	154
17	CROATIA	10	151
18	MONTENEGRO	10	124.5
19	SPAIN	9	144.5
20	GERMANY	9	142.5
21	SLOVENIA	9	138
22	POLAND FUTURES	9	121.5
23	LITHUANIA	9	112
24	TURKEY	8	145
25	BULGARIA	8	134
26	SWEDEN	8	127.5
27	DENMARK	8	115
28	ISRAEL	7	124
29	ICELAND	7	112
30	AUSTRIA	7	110.5
31	POLAND GOLDIES	7	110
32	SWITZERLAND	7	103
33	BELGIUM	7	95.5
34	FINLAND	6	94
35	NORWAY	6	68.5
36	SCOTLAND	4	67.5
37	FYR MACEDONIA	4	66.5
38	WALES	0	13.5

The Women's Championship Round by Round

I had hoped that we would have a strong Women's team in this event and some early indications on availability looked favourable. However, because of a mixture of financial constraints and the non-availability of some of our players, we could not field our strongest team.

Our team was as follows: Top board was shared by Dagne Cuitsyte and Sabrina Chevannes, neither of whom was available for the whole tournament. Anya Corke was on board 2, Meri Grigoryan on board 3 and Kanwal Bhatia (who also captained the team) on board 4.



[Left - All smiles ... the England team before their Round 8 match against Azerbaijan]

We had a rather bad start and lost our first four matches. However, we were all pleased that the team showed great resilience and produced a good performance in the last five rounds. We had wins against Finland, Switzerland and Turkey in rounds 5, 6 and 7. There followed a narrow loss to Azerbaijan and then in the final round a win over Iceland. This gave us 8 match points and placed us in joint 19th to 23rd out of 32 teams. We finished above France, who had beaten us 4-0 in the first round.

Ukraine, Russia and Georgia were the favourites to win the event. Ukraine started strongly with five straight wins before drawing with Georgia in round 6. Russia lost to Israel in round 2 and drew with Germany and Poland in rounds 5 and 6. This meant that Ukraine held a two point lead after six rounds. After two more wins for Ukraine in rounds 7 and 8, the championship was decided in their favour with 15 match points, whilst their nearest challengers Poland and Russia were on 12. Russia had a consolation win in the last round against Ukraine, but it was too late.

Congratulations to Ukraine on a convincing win. Congratulations are also due to Poland. Firstly, all three of their teams were in the top 14 places, with their first team in second place jointly with Russia.

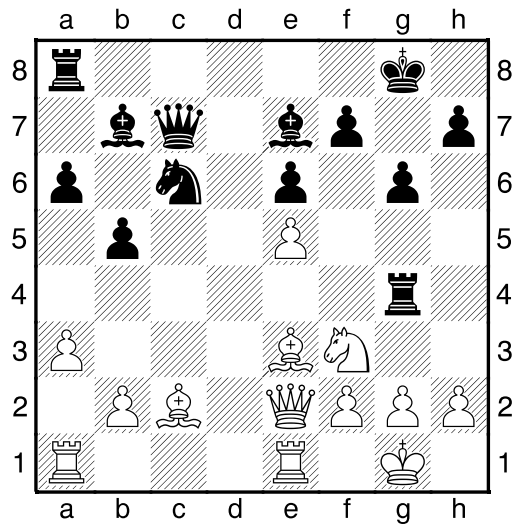
Here are three interesting games by our players.

In the first, Dagne showed the power of two bishops in her win against Finland. See if you can find the solution to her question.

Tanja Tuominen (2105) - Dagne Ciuksyte (2355) [B22]

Round 5, 12.11.2013

1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nf3 e6 6.cxd4 d6 7.Bc4 Nc6 8.0-0 Be7 9.a3 0-0 10.Re1 a6 11.Bd3 dxe5 12.dxe5 Qc7 13.Qc2 g6 14.Nc3 Rd8 15.Nxd5 Rxd5 16.Bf4 b5 17.Be4 Rc5 18.Qe2 Bb7 19.Be3 Rc4 20.Bd3 Ra4 21.Bc2 Rg4



22.g3

QUIZ: How should Black respond if White plays 22.h3 here? Make sure you see right to the end (five moves) of any combination. *(Solution at the end of the game)*

22...Rc8 23.h3 Rc4 24.Bd3 Nxe5 25.Nxe5 Qxe5 26.Bxc4 Rxc4

Black has given up the exchange but has two powerful bishops.

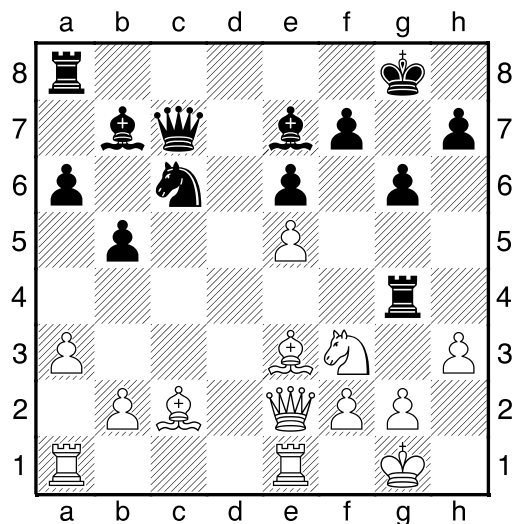
27.Kh2 Qe4 28.Rg1 Rc2 29.Qd1 Rxb2 30.Qd4 Qxd4 31.Bxd4 Rd2 32.Rgd1 Rxd1 33.Rxd1 Bxa3 34.Bf6 Bd5 35.Ra1 b4 36.g4 Kf8 37.Kg3 h6 38.h4 a5 39.Kf4 a4 40.Rxa3 bxa3

Will bishops of opposite colour save white or does black have too many pawns advantage.

41.g5 hxg5+ 42.hxg5 a2 43.Bc3 Ke7 44.Ke5 Kd7 45.Kd4 Kc6 46.Bb2 e5+ 47.Kd3 Kd6 48.Kc3 Ke6 49.Kb4 Bb3 50.Bc3 Kf5 51.Ka3 e4 52.Bf6 a1Q+ 53.Bxa1 Kxg5 54.Bd4 Kf4 55.Kb2 Kf3 56.Kc3 Ke2 57.Be3 f5 58.Bc5 g5 59.Bd4 f4 60.Bf6 g4 61.Be5 f3 62.Bd4 e3 0-1

Solution to quiz question:

We asked what would happen if White played 22.h3. Here's the position:



22...Rxc2+! 23.Kxc2 Nxe5 24.Bf4 Bxf3+ 25.Qxf3 Nxf3 26.Bxc7 Nxe1+ 27.Rxe1 Rc8 0-1

The next game shows Meri playing her typical fighting chess.

Grigoryan, Meri (2039) - Stoeri, Laura (2102) [A43]

Round 6, 14.11.2013

(Notes by Meri Grigoryan)

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nc3 c5 3.d5 d6 4.e4 g6 [4...e6] 5.Nf3

This allows 5...Bg4= [Better 5.a4 now or 5.h3]

5...Bg7 6.a4 [6.h3] 6...0-0 7.Bc4 Nbd7

With a slight plus for White. [7...Bg4=]

8.Bg5= [8.a5] 8...Ng4 9.Qd2 Nge5 10.Be2 Nxf3+ 11.gxf3 Re8 12.h4 a6 13.h5 Qa5 14.hxg6

14.Ra3 - a very subtle move

14...fxg6 15.Bh6 Bh8 16.f4

16. Ra3 or 16.Nd1 Qxd2+ 17.Bxd2=

16...Qb4 17.Bg4

White's taking risks. If 17.0-0-0, 17...Bxc3 18.Qxc3 Qxc3 19.bxc3 is almost similar to what happens in the game.

17...Nf8

17...Nb6 is a lot stronger.

18.Bxc8 Raxc8=

18...Bxc3 19.Qxc3 Qxe4+ 20.Kd2 Qxd5+ 21.Ke2 e5! with a slight plus or perpetual check 21... Qe4+ 22. Kd2 Qd5+

19.0-0-0= Bxc3 20.Qxc3 Qxc3 21.bxc3 Nd7 22.a5 c4 23.Rdg1 Kf7 24.Bg5 Rh8

With a slight plus for White [24...h5=]

25.Kd2 h5 26.Rb1 Rc7 27.Rb4 Rb8 28.Rhb1 Nf6 29.f3 Nh7

This is a waste of time.

30.Bh4 Nf6 31.Ke3 Nd7 32.Kd4 Nc5 33.e5 dxe5+ 34.fxe5+- Rbc8 35.Rb6 Rg8 36.f4 Rd8 37.d6 Ne6+ 38.Ke3 Rc5 39.Rxb7 Re8 40.Bxe7 Kg8 41.Rg1 Kh7 42.Bf6+ Black resigns as forced mate follows. **1-0**

In the third game Sabrina gets an opening edge with a nice tactic. Her opponent fights back, but in time pressure Sabrina has chances for a win. In the end, both white queens(!) are away from the action and the game ended with perpetual check.

Lenka Ptacnikova (2238) - Sabrina Chevannes (2200) [A11]

Round 9, 17.11.2013

1.c4 c6 2.Nc3 d5 3.cxd5 cxd5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Bf4 Qb6 6.Qc2 Nc6 7.e3 Bf5 8.Qd2

White cannot play 8.Qxf5 because of ...Qxb2 winning for Black, e.g. 9.Qb1 Qxc3+ 10.Ke2 e5 11.Bxe5 Ne4 12.Qc1

Nxe5 13.dxe5 Qxe5

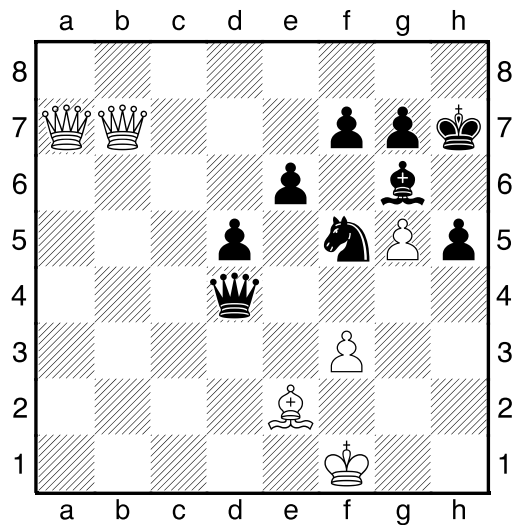
8...e6 9.f3 Be7 10.Rc1 0-0 11.g4 Bg6 12.h4 h5 13.g5 Ne8 14.Na4 Qd8 15.Nc5 Bxc5 16.Rxc5 Nd6 17.b4 Qd7 18.b5 Ne7 19.Qb4 Rfd8 20.a4 Rac8 21.Rh2 Rxc5 22.Qxc5 Ndf5 23.Qxa7 Rc8 24.Rd2 Nxh4 25.a5 Qd8

By now both players are under time pressure to reach 40 moves.

26.Kf2 Kh7 27.Rb2 Nef5 28.a6 bxa6 29.bxa6 Qa5 30.Qb7 Rc1 31.Qb4 Qa1 32.Bd3 Rxc1 33.Rb1 Rxb1

33...Qa2+ 34.Rb2 (34.Kxg1 Qg2#) 34...Rg2+ 35.Ke1 Rxb2 36.Qxb2 Qxb2 37.a7 Nxf3+ (37...Qb7 also wins) 38.Kf1 Nxe3+ 39.Bxe3 Bxd3# mate

34.Qxb1 Qa5 35.Qb2 Ne7 36.Be2 Nhf5 37.Qb7 Qd2 38.a7 Nxd4 39.exd4 Qxf4 40.a8Q Qxd4+ 41.Kf1 Nf5 42.Qaa7



White's two Queens are both out of play and don't seem able to stop Black drawing.

42...Ng3+ 43.Ke1 Nxe2 44.Kxe2

44.Qxd4 Nxd4 and White cannot progress.

44...Qd3+ 45.Ke1 Qc3+ 46.Ke2 Qd3+ 47.Ke1 Qc3+ 48.Kf1 Qc1+ 49.Ke2 Qc2+ 50.Ke1 ½-½

European Womens Team Championship 2013

Place	Team	Match Points	Tie Break
			S.B.C
1	Ukraine	15	222.5
2	Russia	14	267.5
3	Poland	14	203
4	Georgia	12	226
5	Armenia	12	215.5
6	Hungary	11	173.5
7	Germany	11	167
8	Lithuania	11	164
9	Poland III	11	160
10	Czech Republic	11	158
11	Spain	11	157
12	Romania	10	172.5
13	Poland Futures	10	132.5
14	Netherlands	10	115

15	Bulgaria	9	158
16	Serbia	9	137.5
17	Austria	9	109.5
18	Slovenia	9	108.5
19	Israel	8	158.5
20	Azerbaijan	8	129
21	Belarus	8	125
22	Turkey	8	118
23	England	8	54.5
24	France	7	119
25	Italy	7	117.5
26	Greece	7	116.5
27	Belgium	6	87
28	Switzerland	6	85.5
29	Norway	6	67.5
30	Croatia	4	59.5
31	Iceland	3	77
32	Finland	3	70.5

Junior Chess

National Prep Schools Rapidplay, 14th December 2013

This year was the 13th year of holding the competition at Aldro School. The tournament was previously held at Oundle School and attracted schools from all over the country. Since moving to Surrey, most of the teams have come from the south of England, but it has become an annual fixture for many of the top chess-playing schools and all the sections are keenly contested. Many of the players play for their counties, and there are always a number of players who have represented England. At the same time, some of the players are new to competitive chess and it is good to see them enjoying the event.

The U13 and U12 sections were small so they joined together to make a group of 15 players and the winners in each age group were as follows:

U13 1st Joel Malam (Twickenham Prep); 2nd= Ted James, Ross Milverton and Kishen Singh (Twickenham Prep) (6 players)

U12 1st= Kiran Lee (Homefield) and Martin Vizir (King College); 3rd= Linus Rossington and Julius Gasson (Magdalen College School) (9 players)

The younger age groups were more varied in ability and the winners of each age group were:

U11 1st Oliver Howell (Hawthorns); 2nd=Anthony Fox (MCS), Pramoth Ragavan (Kings), Nick Rees (MCS) and Kyle Rundstrom (Kings) (24 players)

U10 1st Matthew Gray (Aldro); 2nd= Anerhan Ahilan (Twickenham), Dameer Ahmeed (Homefield) and Henry Dorman (Aldro) (33 players)

U9 1st Logan Fear (Homefield); 2nd= Henry Hickey (Aldro), Masson Graves-Brown (Dulwich), Oscar Horsfall (Hawthorns), Ali Sharma (Twickenham) and Charlie Thompson (Aldro) (39 players)

The three team trophies were awarded to the top schools at the end of the prize giving and as usual it was a close competition:

1st Aldro 17 points;
2nd Homefield 16.5;
3rd= Twickenham and Kings College 15;
5th= Magdalen College and Hawthorns 14.5;
7th Dulwich 11.5

My thanks goes to all the players who competed so sportingly and to the Aldro parents who ran the refreshments and raised £134 for the school's two charities.

- D.J.Archer

ECF member Peter Morrisson is a teacher and published author. He is also a Certified Director of 3D animated films by Reallusion, the developers of industry standard animation software. Written in 2013 to illustrate the art of the prose poem – see <http://freedomtoteach.collinseducation.com/prose-poetry-comparing-texts/> for more on this subject – the following piece is a dark reflection on our favourite 'game' ...



Chessiderata!

Tread warily amid the noise and haste ...

... as two implacable adversaries of equal measure face each other across a field of combat beyond the shadowy confines of which both will simply cease to be. Everything is NOW, all existence defined within a single plane. There is no cruel fate here, no blind chance, and there are no random acts of arbitrary injustice or unfathomable favouritism from a far-distant deity.

One army is arrayed in glorious white; the other, bedecked in baleful black.

Two irreconcilable foes about to be locked in a battle to the end, both irretrievably bound to protect the liberty of a king upon whose well-being their own survival ultimately depends. There is no moral exactitude in this strange land - no fine distinctions between right and wrong - but there are rules, and these rules are as binding as any of the known laws of physics which govern our universe.

With a theatrical flourish, the white force abruptly makes the first move. It is the beginning of a carefully premeditated assault intended to inflict maximum injury upon the opposing side. There is a sudden unnerving neighing of terrified horses and a thunderous pounding of hoofs as frightened war-bred steeds leap into action over their own forward ranks.

Amidst this dreadful cacophony can barely be heard the steady march of those who are no more than mere pawns in a much larger contest, a contest which will always reside well beyond the limited comprehension of these hapless foot soldiers who are doomed never to return from whence they came.

It is not long before the cold, clinical precision of warrior bishops begins to cut diagonal swathes through enemy lines. There is all to play for, and everything to lose. Within scant seconds, the parameters have expanded so dramatically that the clash seems to spiral into a realm of its own.

Waiting patiently in the wings, just beyond the increasingly ferocious field of conflict, are the battering-ram rooks, the juggernauts of this primordial struggle. Their devastating incursions will soon resurrect haunting visions of the innumerable sieges which have laid waste to so many great civilizations whose ruined remains have long since been submerged beneath the shifting sands of time.

Even more heart-stopping is the statuesque queen: aloof, elemental and utterly inhumane. Indifferent to such trivialities as pity or remorse, she surveys the scene before her with a dispassionate eye, her magnificent power about to be unleashed on every inch of ground.

However, the most astounding thing about this elegant microcosm of the human condition is that it is not being conducted on a muddy tract in some far-flung corner of our world, but in a perfectly sanitary, mathematically precise, abstract dimension which consists of just sixty-four squares, and yet which is imbued with such infinite complexity that no matter how many aeons may pass, no two such encounters need ever be the same.

This is life; this is death.

This is chess.

It's not just a game!

Time Trouble Tales

(2) The 1978 World Championship match

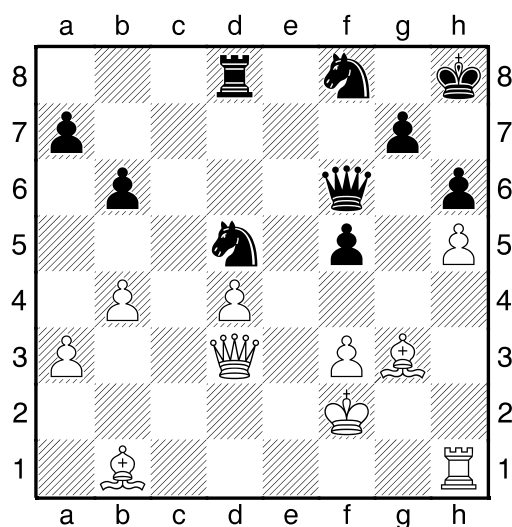
Was ever a world championship match so influenced by clock-handling as the 32-game marathon contested by Anatoly Karpov and Viktor Korchnoi in Baguio City, Philippines? The match ran from 18th July to 17th October 1978, a test of endurance in which stamina played a significant part. At 47, the indomitable Korchnoi proved better able to cope with the strain of three months of fiercely competitive chess than the 27-year-old defending champion, although in the end he just failed to overturn a 5-2 deficit, losing 6-5 after a remarkable comeback in games 28 to 31.

The study of history invites the question 'What if...?' and chess history is no exception. In the case of the 1978 K-K match, one of the critical questions is: "What if Korchnoi had handled his clock better?"

To a large extent, the question is moot. Thinking long and hard to penetrate deeply into a position was at the core of Korchnoi's manner of playing, and changing it may simply have been beyond him. Perhaps a persuasive sports psychologist or trainer might have been able to help him 'program himself' à la Botvinnik, but the result might have been that Korchnoi played less well in other respects.

Nevertheless...

The first seven games of the match were drawn, with Korchnoi doing most of the pressing. Game 5 was marked by the first and most horrible of the match's time trouble tales.



After a desperate time scramble, Korchnoi (*White*) had made the time control with seconds to spare. The diagram shows the adjourned position after White's 42nd move. White is better. In his book of the match¹, which also includes Mikhail Tal's annotations, Ed Edmondson quotes an encounter with Korchnoi's principal second, Raymond Keene, who reportedly judged it to be "90% of the full point." Perhaps more relevantly, Korchnoi had thought for such a long time over his 42nd move that he had only 12 minutes left to achieve the next time control.

42...Nh7

Karpov's sealed move. Objectively strong (if not necessarily best), it turned out to have the enormous advantage of being completely overlooked by Korchnoi and his team. This must have come as a nasty shock to Korchnoi, who managed to negotiate his way well through the complexities. Crucially, however, it ate up his time, and this was to prove decisive.

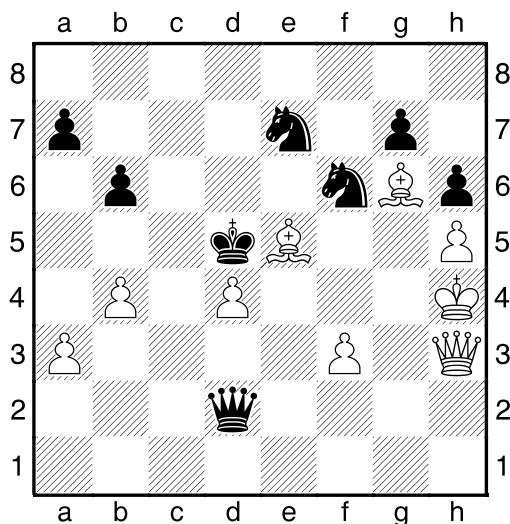
¹ Chess Scandals – The 1978 World Chess Championship by E.B. Edmondson and M.Tal (Pergamon; 1981). All references to Tal or Edmondson in the text refer to this book.

43.Be5 Qg5 44.Qxf5 Qd2+ 45.Kg3 Nhf6 46.Rg1 Re8 47.Be4!

Very strong and, it seems, missed by Karpov and team during their adjournment analysis. Karpov now thought for some 50 minutes before finding the best practical chance. Korchnoi had less than five minutes to reach the time control at move 56.

47...Ne7 48.Qh3 Rc8 49.Kh4 Rc1 50.Qg3 Rxf1 51.Qxf1 Kg8 52.Qg3 Kf7 53.Bg6+ Ke6 54.Qh3+ Kd5

White to play and win...



55.Be4+??

With seconds left, Korchnoi plays the wrong check. 55.Bf7+ Kc6 56.Qe6+ mates by force as follows: 56...Kb7 57.Qxe7+ Ka8 58.Qd8+ Kb7 59.Qc7+ Ka6 60.Bc4+ b5 61.Qc6#

55...Nxe4 56.fxe4+ Kxe4

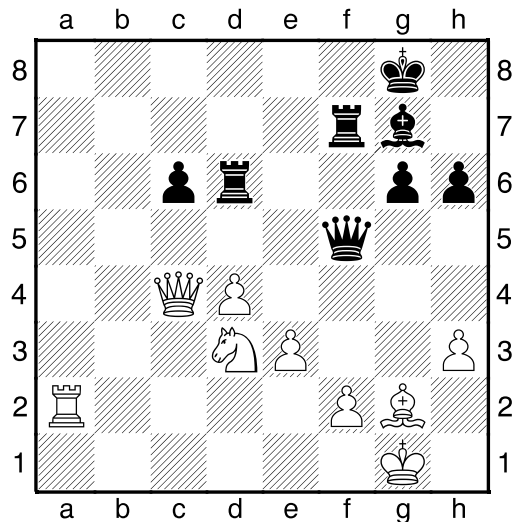
Korchnoi had made it to the time control - barely - but the chance had gone. There is no longer a win. He played on until stalemate on move 124, but the result was never in doubt from this point. ($\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ in 124 moves)

After this heart-breaking missed opportunity, Korchnoi continued to press, only to suffer a shock in game 8, when Karpov won a fine game to move 1-0 up in the race to six wins, draws not counting. Despite this, in the next few games, Korchnoi still had the better of it, particularly with the white pieces.

In game 9, Korchnoi had a definite plus but let it evaporate in the time scramble towards move 40. In their respective books² on the match, Keene and Larsen claimed that the challenger missed a win, but Tal and Edmondson believe that Karpov was (just) holding on. Computer analysis supports the latter view.

In game 11, Korchnoi levelled the scores with a good win. Game 13, his next game with the white pieces was to prove another tragedy of poor clock-handling. Once again, let us pick it as the first adjournment approaches:

1 Karpov-Korchnoi 1978: The Inside Story of the Match by Raymond Keene (Batsford; 1978) & 2 Karpov vs. Korchnoi – World Chess Championship 1978 by Bent Larsen (Unwin; 1978). All references to Keene and Larsen respectively in the text refer to these books.



The adjourned position. Black has just played his 40th move (...Bf8-g7) and stands worse. Keene, Larsen and Edmondson all agreed at the time that Korchnoi missed a more promising path on move 37 (Fritz is unconvinced). The position is difficult to fathom but not as difficult as Korchnoi's decision now to think for 40 minutes over his sealed move. This would mean that he only had 20 minutes for his next fifteen moves, far from sensible in a position like this.

41.Ra7

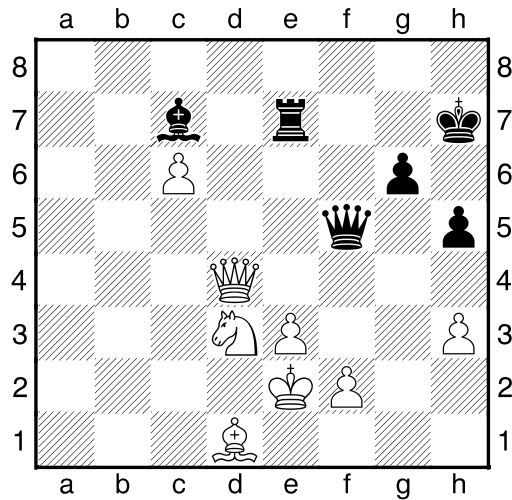
In his book of the match, Raymond Keene takes up the story: *"After a night of analysis we decided, in view of Korchnoi's time shortage, that it was necessary to take time out for the adjournment session in order to avoid any surprises which might throw him off balance after the adjournment. In retrospect, this was the wrong decision. In the extended period of analysis, we discovered the position was not a win. [...] This demoralised Korchnoi somewhat."*

Worse yet, Karpov outplayed Korchnoi in the 14th game (which as a result of the postponement took place **before** the resumption of game 13) and was clearly going to win it upon resumption. This seemed to make Korchnoi reckless in the resumed 13th game, leading to a horrible time trouble blunder in his efforts to win the game.

41...Rdf6 42.Rxf7 Rxf7 43.d5 Be5 44.dxc6 Kg7 45.Be4 Qg5+ 46.Kf1 Bd6 47.Bd5 Re7 48.Bf3 h5 49.Bd1 Qf5 50.Ke2 Re4 51.Qc3+ Qf6 52.Qb3 Qf5

Now there is a draw by repetition for the taking with 53.Qc3+. Desperate to make up for the game 14 disaster and equally desperately short of time, Korchnoi tries to keep the game alive, hoping to find winning chances after the time control.

53.Qb7+ Re7 54.Qb2+ Kh7 55.Qd4 Bc7



Now, White can maintain the balance with a variety of moves, such as 56.Qc5, 56.Bb3 or 56.Bc2. Instead, with one move to make before the time control and no time to think, Korchnoi finds a stinker.

56.Qh4?? Re4

Whoops! Suddenly the white queen has no squares. The next move keeps it on the board, but at the cost of a fatal weakening at e3.

57.f4 Bb6 58.Bc2 Rxe3+ 59.Kd2 Qa5+ 60.Kd1 Qa1+ 61.Kd2 Re4 0-1

During the first session of the 13th game, Korchnoi must have felt that he had Karpov on the ropes. He had equalised the scores in convincing style in his previous game with White and seemed to be on the verge of taking the lead in game 13. Over the course of the next three days, he not only failed to win the 13th game, he lost it, and to make matters worse had thrown in an additional loss in game 14. instead of leading by 2-1, he was 1-3 behind and Karpov was halfway to retaining his title.

The final chapter of this time trouble tale concerns game 17 [next page]

CHESS HOLIDAYS in the Lake District

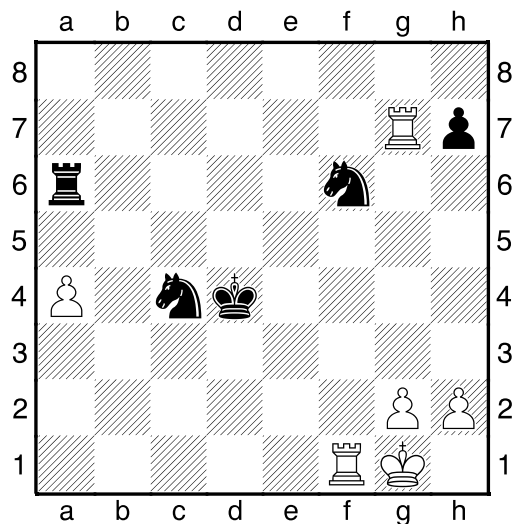
A relaxed, informal 5-night holiday at this well-known Country House hotel, including a 7-round Swiss competition and tutorials on chess tactics. Suitable for the inexperienced as well as local club players ...

Rothay Manor, Ambleside

Tel: 015394 33605 / E-mail: hotel@rothaymanor.co.uk

Website: www.rothaymanor.co.uk/chess





Karpov (Black) has just played 33...N(a3)-c4. What follows is a good example of the champion's clever approach to Korchnoi's time trouble (less than a minute a move left).

34.Rf4+ Ne4

Karpov shows a disregard for the fate of his one remaining pawn. His pieces are very active and White needs to be alert - exactly the sort of situation one does NOT want to deal with in severe time trouble.

35.Rd7+ Ke3 36.Rf3+ Ke2 37.Rxh7 Ncd2!

Tal: *"The rook is attacked, although taking it would lead to a draw. But the first thing anyone under time pressure would see is to move it and simultaneously to defend the a-pawn."*

38.Ra3 Rc6

No one likes to see a threat of mate in one when without any time to think. Korchnoi meets the immediate threat but misses the sting in the tail.

39.Ra1??

He had to play 39.g3 or g4, with a draw.

39...Nf3+ 0-1

It's mate after 40.gxf3 Rg6+ 41.Kh1 Nf2#.

On the face of it, instead of being 1-4 down after seventeen games, Korchnoi could justifiably claim that he should have been – at worst – level at 2-2, i.e. with a win in game 5 and draws in games 13 and 17 (instead of a draw and two losses). With his experience of their 1974 Candidates Final match behind him, Korchnoi could and should have expected that Karpov would fade in a long match, so his priority should have been to hold firm over the early stages and allow time for the champion's energy reserves to start to fail. The final result could well have been very different ...

... And maybe not. The last example helps us to put this time trouble tale into perspective. There are two players in every game of chess, and Karpov did not simply sit back and wait for Korchnoi to self-destruct. He showed a distinct knack for complicating the game in his opponent's time trouble, along with the true competitor's willingness to take risks in return for practical chances. Karpov deserves credit for creating the opportunities for Korchnoi to go wrong, even if things could have backfired had Korchnoi been just a little more pragmatic in his handling of the clock. Sometimes, the margin between defeat and victory are very thin – the width of a minute hand, perhaps.

Bookshelf

The Seven Deadly Sins of Chess Publishing

The season of peace and goodwill is over. Let's talk about sin!

Whenever I buy a chess book – an event which happens with alarming frequency – I do so in the hope that the book will be GREAT. I love reading about chess, and I love the fact that it is a game with such an entertaining, instructive and enduring literature.

If truth be told, however, much more often than not, I come away from the book disappointed. Chess publishing proves no exception to Sturgeon's Law¹. The reasons for this are many and various, but certain recurring crimes against quality recur again and again. This article examines seven of the worst sins in chess publishing, in the vain hope that chess publishers will take this opportunity to adopt the eradication of these unnecessary evils as their New Year's resolution for 2014.

1. RECYCLING

I may be as 'green' as the next man, but there is one form of recycling which makes me see red: the reprinting of previously published material in chess books as if it was new material.

Collections of a player's best games seem to be particularly prone to this phenomenon. Owners of *Anatoly Karpov's Best Games* (Batsford; 1996) and Karpov's later *My Best Games* (Olms; 2007), for example, will experience a strong sense of *déjà vu* as they read the notes to many of the games.

In an effort to be charitable, let us concede that more than a decade separates the two retrospectives cited in the previous paragraph. There is a far more egregious recent example. Kasparov's recent volumes of his best games published by Everyman² recycle the annotations from the three 'Kasparov vs Karpov' volumes produced by the same publisher in the *Kasparov on Modern Chess* series. In *Part I*, the duplication accounts for 9 games out of 100, i.e. about a tenth of the book. In *Part II*, no fewer than 28 of the 100 games are encounters with Karpov, reproducing the notes from just a few years earlier. These are hefty collections (nearly 500 pages) at a hefty price (£30), and many readers must have felt cheated to discover that nearly a third of the latest volume was simply a reprint from an earlier volume in the Everyman series. I know I did.

Readers of the Streatham & Brixton Chess Blog (or indeed, Private Eye) will be all too familiar with another inveterate recycler (not just of his own work, but that's another story) from the letter K of the chess pantheon.

Of late, one-time chess publishing giant Batsford, now a pale shadow of its former self, has taken to reissuing previously published books in a way which, to say the least, fails to advertise their true nature. How many purchasers of *1000 Checkmate Combinations* by Victor Henkin (Batsford; 2011), for example, were aware of its previous incarnation – admittedly, in a different translation – as *Tal's Winning Chess Combinations* (Simon & Schuster; 1979 / Routledge & Kegan Paul; 1980) by Mikhail Tal (hmm...) and Victor Khenkin? The "© Victor Henkin 2011" will not have helped any owner of the earlier work to avoid shelling out £15.99 for essentially the same book. In a similar vein, would purchasers of Batsford's 2008 volume, *Find the Right Plan with Anatoly Karpov* by Anatoly Karpov and Anatoly Matsukevich have known that the text was a (slightly) updated version of a 1987 work published in German, *Stellungsbeurteilung und Plan?* There are certainly no clues in the Batsford edition.

Last year, Batsford reissued its own 2005 games collection, *Najdorf: Life and Games* (by Tomasz Lissowski, Adrian Mikhalchishin and Miguel Najdorf) with a new cover but otherwise identical. The original edition includes the words, "First published in 2005" on the Copyright page and the text is copyright the authors. By 2013, any reference to a date is omitted and the book is simply "Volume copyright © Batsford". Chess magazine went on to give notice of the book's publication on p.57 of its October 2013 issue as "A totally new release from Batsford and a welcome book on one of the most colourful Grandmasters the chess world has ever known." Whoops!

1 Coined by the late great American science fiction writer, Theodore Sturgeon, in the 1950s, the law – more correctly known as Sturgeon's Revelation – posits that 90% of any art form is rubbish (I have cleaned up the terminology in deference to the refined sensibilities of the *Chess Moves* readership).

2 *Garry Kasparov on Garry Kasparov Part I: 1973-1985* (Everyman; 2011) and *Garry Kasparov on Garry Kasparov Part II: 1985 – 1993* (Everyman; 2013)

2. BIAS

Our second deadly sin does not refer to the occasional example of slanted writing by an author with a personal agenda, such as Alexander Alekhine's notorious account of the New York 1927 tournament, in which his desire to execute a comprehensive denigration of his arch-rival Capablanca is all too obvious.

My focus here is on openings books, particularly those intended to provide one side with a specific repertoire. It would be marvellous to find a route map to advantage from the opening, but objectively, this is wishful thinking and "Anyone who says differently is selling something"³. Specifically, they are trying to sell you a chess book.

Symptoms of this pernicious disease include:

- Ignoring the best moves for the opponent or, at best, quietly hiding the best moves for the other side in the notes, while giving prominence to games in which the opponent plays like a man with a death wish;
- A tendency to cite blitz and other quick play games, leading one to wonder what happens when the opponent has time to think;
- Double standards – whenever 'our' side is a pawn down, there is ample compensation; whenever the opposition is a pawn down, they're just a pawn down;
- Carefully avoiding any reference to the relative strength of the players, so that the reader may fail to note that the reason 'his' side does well is that he out-rates the opponent by a country mile.

Ultimately, this sort of behaviour does the reader no favours and is quite unnecessary. The important point about an opening repertoire is not that it should lead to advantage but that it should suit the player and that it should enable him or her to reach a playable middlegame in which the plans are familiar.

3. SLOPPINESS

Granted, some of us are more sensitive to this particular sin than others, and I readily admit that I sit at the 'sensitive' end of the spectrum. Some publishers are more prone to typos, omitted or erroneous moves and incorrect headings/sub-headings than others – Everyman Books, I'm looking at you – but few chess books seem to be immune. Chess books are not cheap, and it does not seem too much to ask that the publishers take a certain amount of care to ensure the quality of their product. When the book is clearly intended to be an enduring and serious work, carelessness of this kind is particularly frustrating. McFarland & Company publishes some beautiful books on chess history, which makes the number of typographical errors in some of their productions especially galling. Sometimes, the carelessness extends to the outside of the book, as was the case with Batsford's notorious front cover to their 1997 re-issue of Harry Golombek's *Richard Réti's Best Games* on which the author's name was spelled "Golmbek".

A second form of sloppiness encountered all too frequently is the poorly thought-through opening repertoire. Of all the technical genres of chess literature, this is the one in which a robustly logical structure is essential, yet transpositions are frequently missed, important possibilities overlooked, and move order subtleties ignored.

4. IGNORING HISTORY

Chess literature is a curious hybrid of instruction, entertainment and history. This is part of its charm. Some authors evidently focus on the instruction and/or entertainment aspects in the apparent belief that in a work of technical instruction or entertainment, historical accuracy does not matter.

I could not disagree more. Truth is truth, and there is no excuse for laziness when it comes to the facts. Readers of Edward Winter's excellent *Chess Notes* website (or of the various collections of items from *Chess Notes* published in book form) will be all too familiar with this topic, and lengthy recapitulation would be redundant on my part.

It comes as no surprise, perhaps, that a lack of historical method applies to accounts of the game intended for

³ With apologies to Westley a.k.a. the Man in Black a.k.a. the Dread Pirate Roberts in the seriously wonderful film, *The Princess Bride*, scripted by William Goldman: "Life is pain, Highness. Anyone who says differently is selling something."

the non-specialist audience, where what seems to matter is the attractiveness of the anecdote rather than its veracity. I find myself more irritated by those books which give all appearance of having been intended as serious, weighty volumes and yet their authors seem to go out of their way to flout the standards which in any other form of literature would be considered the basic minimum.

One famous example is Garry Kasparov's series, *My Great Predecessors*. Kasparov's writing method is essentially one of quotation and critique: in his annotations, he quotes extensively from other annotators, before commenting on their conclusions based on his own (and his computers') analysis. Given the prominence of direct quotations from other sources, surely the bare minimum that the reader can expect is that these sources will be clearly identified? In fact, there are no footnotes or endnotes specifying the source in each instance, and, worse still, in the first three volumes of the five-volume series, there is not even a gesture in this direction in the form of a bibliography.

5. TECHNOPHILIA

This particular sin is a relatively recent invention: the overuse of chess engines and databases in chess books.

In most respects, the advent of computer technology in chess has been a blessing. It has made powerful analytical engines available to almost any purse, and it has enabled any of us interested in tracking down games to make use of vast databases (admittedly, of variable quality). It has provided the means to produce accurate chess text (game moves and analysis) more quickly and easily.

For some chess authors, however, the computer has become a crutch. Openings manuals are packed with games in the notes downloaded directly from databases. Annotators fill page after page with lengthy, complex variations produced using analysis engines.

Chess literature has undergone a huge transformation. Before the 1970s, it could be argued that the chess public was relatively starved of good quality analysis and large quantities of master games. There was a shortage of widely available information, and possessors of extensive collections of games (such as Bob Wade) were valued authorities. Now, the challenge facing us is that we have too **much** information, not too little. Where chess authors have to add value is in steering the reader authoritatively through the labyrinth of data, identifying what is genuinely significant and – crucially – explaining the essence of what is going on.

Forests of variations fill books, but they rarely add to the reader's understanding. Most chess books are purchased by average players, not masters, and it is the responsibility of authors and publishers to tailor their texts accordingly. This means harder work for the author (it is not always easy to cut to the heart of the matter), but this is what we are paying for in the end.

6. MISLEADING EXTERIORS

"Never judge a book by its cover," they say, and how right 'they' are. Our sixth deadly sin refers to the various ways in which the outside of the book can mislead or annoy the potential buyer.

Authorship of chess books ought to be straightforward enough to establish but is often anything but. The more prominent the grandmaster author, the greater the likelihood, it seems, of one of more co-authors hidden away behind the scenes. Some books are clear about the nature of the collaboration involved, which is as it should be. For example, Gambit's collection of Vishy Anand's games (now in its third, much expanded edition) is a joint effort between Anand and John Nunn, as clearly explained in the preface to the book.

In other cases, who knows what the truth may be? The 2007 Olms collection, *My Best Games*, by Anatoly Karpov refers in the author's Introduction to the "indispensable help" of Evgeny Gik, "a co-author of many years standing", yet it is impossible to tell how big a role Gik played in the writing of the text. The annotations use the first person, suggesting Karpov's authorship, but the games are interspersed with a context-setting narrative which refers to Karpov in the third person. One assumes that someone else wrote this, but who?

Book exteriors also mislead (or at least annoy) through their hyperbolic titles. One would think that the chess

world should be administered by GCHQ rather than FIDE for the number of times book titles promise to reveal the “Secrets” of the game. It would appear, too, that every opening system available promises blood-curdling excitement and inevitable victory. Calling a book *Winning with the Petroff* may cause a few eyebrows to be raised, and Gambit’s ‘Killer’ and ‘Explosive’ opening repertoires just possibly fail to capture the true spirit of the variations contained therein.

Publishers may worry, of course, that their subject suffers from a less than thrilling public image and that this may affect sales. If one is publishing a biography of one of the most famous drawing masters in chess history, for example, what better way to deflect attention from this inconvenient truth than by adding an exclamation point? The result: *Carl Schlechter!* by Warren Goldman (1994; Caissa Editions) – a good book made to look a little silly by the needless addition to its title.

7. PADDING

Chess books seem to be getting longer. No bad thing in itself, bearing in mind that in the 1980s the opposite problem tended to apply (with Batsford issuing expensive openings books of little more than 100 pages). Our final sin, however, refers to those occasions where the page-count seems to have been boosted by padding of a most dubious kind.

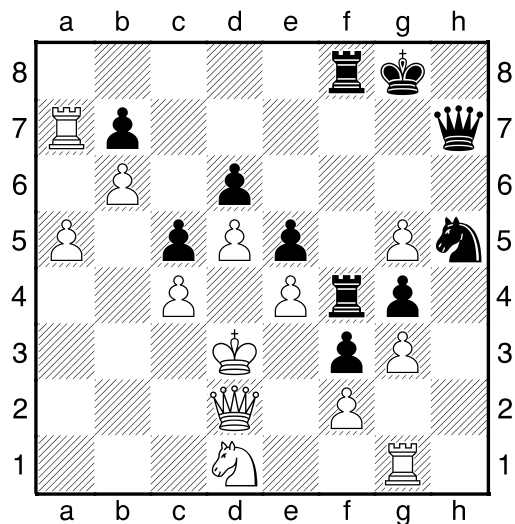
Two variations of this ‘sin’ spring to mind. The first concerns our old friends, openings manuals. The conventional wisdom is that playing through complete games is a ‘good thing’. The student comes to understand the typical piece placements, plans and middle game motifs and can study how the relevant pawn structures affect the typical endgames which arise. All well and good, but how useful can it be to take up several pages presenting an annotated game lasting 60 or 70 moves, especially if it is made clear in the notes that one side played a very bad move early in the opening (the correct move being glossed over very briefly)? A few examples taken from a typical ‘repertoire’ book, *A Ferocious Opening Repertoire*, by Cyrus Lakdawala (Everyman; 2010):

- Pages 15-23 are taken up with just two games, of 59 and 65 moves respectively. The opening phase accounts for about three pages;
- Pages 92-95 present an 80-move game, marked by multiple errors in the endgame phase;
- Pages 204-207 cover one game, misplayed early on by White, despite the fact that the book is presenting a repertoire for White. Black wins after 59 moves. There is little reason for this game to appear in the book except that it was won by the author, thereby achieving victory in the US Quickplay championship.

The book is 304 pages long, but its coverage of the **opening** is surprisingly light, bearing in mind the space available.

The second form of padding is a trend towards greater wordiness (I know – pots and kettles spring to mind!). Recently, there has been a spate of “move by move” books published by Everyman. In principle, I don’t object to thorough verbal explanations of games; as Sin No. 5 above shows, I am very dubious of the opposite approach of endless computer-assisted variations. The danger, however, is that the author feels compelled to write for writing’s sake.

I do not mean to pick on Mr Lakdawala, but my example comes from another of his books, *Botvinnik move by move* (Everyman; 2013). It’s not a bad book by any means (it’s not great either), but there are times when the author seems to ‘filling’. Take this position, from Botvinnik-Smyslov, 5th match game, 1957 World Championship [next page]:



Smyslov has just played **51...R(f7)-f4**. In his own notes to the game, Botvinnik simply writes:

“Trying at all costs to complicate the game. Alas, White pays no attention to it...”⁴

This is what Cyrus Lakdawala has to say about the same move (p.277):

“Now that’s what I call desperation. Rare is the time when persevering eagerness for a task effectively supplants reality. High fences make for suspicious neighbours, and the message behind this move can hardly be construed as a peaceful gesture. Black’s hoped-for revenge is a living organism which must be fed to be kept alive. This fact, combined with his life-threatening situation, has a marvellous way of shaking off apathy. In this case the predator grows bold in times of famine, when prey is scarce, and the rook presumes to approach White’s king as an equal.

“Botvinnik was undoubtedly in his habitual time pressure, so Smyslov attempts to out-Tal his opponent with one of those hyper-charged moments, like the split second before the other car impacts yours in a freeway collision.”

Wow! That’s a lot of words just to say that Black was in a desperate situation and tried to make the game messy in the hope of confusing his opponent. I leave it to the reader to decide which approach to annotation is better. For this weary reader, 400 pages of this kind of thing proved something of an endurance test.

These, then, are my seven ‘deadly sins’ of chess publishing. You may have your own list of bugbears, in which case I’d be interested to hear from you, especially if you have some particularly annoying examples.

In the meantime, my catharsis is complete, and Bookshelf will return next time with its spirits refreshed, eager to share with the readers of Chess Moves an example of the brighter side of chess literature.

- Andrew Farthing



⁴ Taken from Botvinnik-Smyslov 1954, 1957, 1958 (New in Chess; 2009), p.130.

Book Reviews by Gary Lane

Techniques of Positional Play

by Valeri Bronznik and Anatoli Terekhin

Published by New In Chess; 256 pages; £21.95

The art of positional chess is difficult to teach so the latest attempt must be applauded. Basically, Bronznik updated a book by a Russian trainer FM Terekhin published in German in 2005, which proved to be successful, so the latest version now appears in English. The first question that always arises is whether the 2013 edition has been updated. Well, there is no hint that anything major has been done and more importantly, I cannot find any game references after 2005. This seems to me a missed opportunity considering for example that there is only one reference to World Champion Magnus Carlsen and the bibliography stops in 2004. Surely an extra chapter could have been added, but I do have sympathy for the authors as I know from my own experience that such deals are done between publishers, and the writers might not have much input.

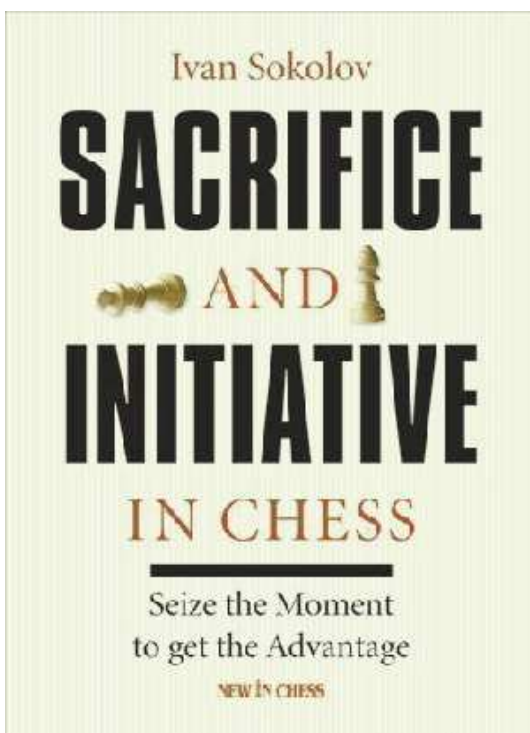
The book is carved into 45 sections with the commitment to teach different positional ideas. This works well and the numerous fragments of games are richly rewarding for the club player. On the back cover, there is traditionally a positive comment by a mate of the author with a surname of Kramnik or Kasparov, but this time it is Paul Kane of Salford. It turns out that somebody noticed his glowing review of the German publication on the Manchester Chess Federation's website and suddenly it is emblazoned on the book. He is also right that the book is excellent. The only regret is that New In Chess have not added any photos to go with some of the star players, which is unusual for them.

A good way to top up your positional understanding.

Sacrifice and Initiative in Chess

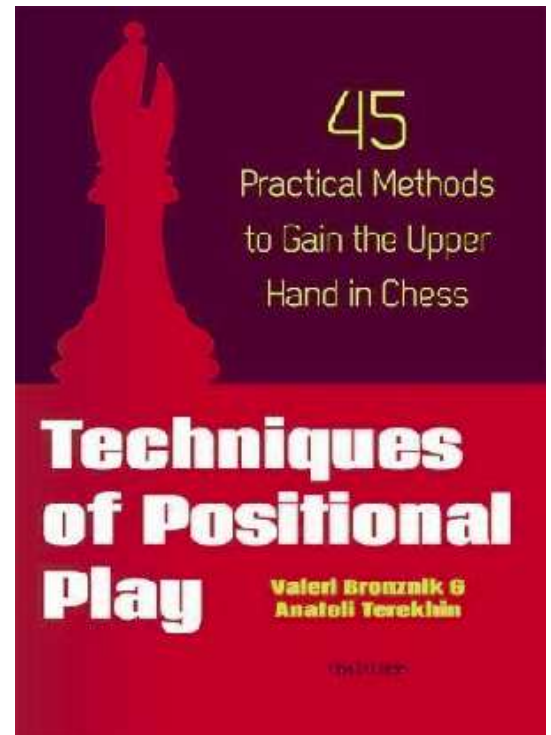
by Ivan Sokolov

Published by New In Chess; 256 pages; £21.95



So you want to attack and win? If the answer is yes - and who wouldn't want to? - then Sokolov is your man to provide a broad account of how to establish a good base to start an initiative and then to finish the game with a victory. There are lots of great games to demonstrate highly skilled play, so it is no surprise that Tal features heavily and of course the author is a top grandmaster and it is his own games that are the most revealing. In a previous book by Sokolov, England's Michael Adams provided the foreword, but now there is not even a quote to promote the publication and indeed a couple of his losses are included but hopefully it is not personal. There are lots of tips and instruction to benefit all serious players.

The perfect guide to attacking chess.

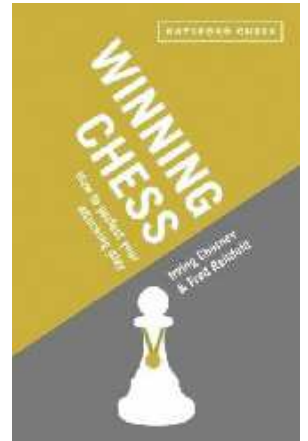


Winning Chess: How to perfect your attacking play

by Irving Chernev and Fred Reinfeld

Published by Batsford Chess; 229 pages; £14.99

I often hear players discussing their favourite book, and Reinfeld's name is occasionally mentioned, as he is usually the author of something they read when first starting out. It also means that the inevitable question of whether I have chatted to him socially is answered by the line, "He died in 1964," which tends to be met with stony silence. It is a tribute to his powers of making chess exciting for the improving player that his works are so often reprinted, and he remains a bestseller in the chess world. Now Batsford Chess have decided to convert his 1949 classic into algebraic notation for another generation to enjoy. In this instance, it is co-authored by Chernev, who is best remembered for his famous tome *Logical Chess: move by move*.



The format is user friendly with 332 puzzle positions and solutions given at the back of the book or explained straightaway. There are no names of players associated with the games, which would merely age them to a new audience, so it still appears at first sight to be a fresh new book. The only slight doubt is how many of the positions and solutions are accurate, because in my experience lots of old books are filled with flaws which modern chess software pick up on, which is why nowadays puzzles are headlined 'computer checked' to make it clear there will be only be one correct answer. The final chapter contains illustrative games, and this is where a keen student will wonder why he is not being inspired by Anand or Carlsen rather than the likes of Sergeant-Steiner, Hastings 1927-28.

A thoughtful book that will inspire more players to play winning chess.

Q&A – BRENDAN O’GORMAN

Brendan O’Gorman is a well-known figure on the congress circuit for two reasons. Firstly, he is one of the most active players in the country. He clocked up a staggering 231 games in the year to 30 June 2013, according to the ECF grading database, not counting, I suspect, the events in the rest of the UK and overseas in which he competed.

Readers of Chess Moves and visitors to the ECF website will also know Brendan through his superb photographs taken at various chess congresses. His pictures embellish both, and we greatly appreciate Brendan’s generosity in allowing their use.

‘Who photographs the photographer?’ is one of the eternal conundrums, so we are delighted that Brendan has been able to supply us with the following image from Nottingham 2012 (*picture by Gregory Bailey*)



Somehow, in the midst of his feverish over-the-board and through-the-lens endeavours, Brendan found time to tackle the Chess Moves questionnaire:

Tell us a little about your background.

Retired civil servant with lots of time on his hands.

How long have you been playing chess?

Since 1972.

What attracts you to the game?

Excitement without risk.

How important to you is improving your chess, and how do you go about it?

Very important, judging by the number of chess books I buy; of no importance at all, judging by the number of chess books I read.

What is your favourite chess book and/or DVD, and why?

May I choose two? *Starting Out: The Accelerated Dragon* by Andrew Greet is the best opening book I've read. Belying its title, it is the most comprehensive treatment of this opening written in terms an amateur can understand as well as examining the duff lines that club players try along with sounder GM praxis. *Simple Chess* by Michael Stean was the first book to give me some inkling of what positional chess was about, and it's short and pithy (so I've read every word!).

Who is your favourite player, and why?

Fischer because he was number one when I took up the game.

What are you looking for in a chess congress, and do you have a favourite?

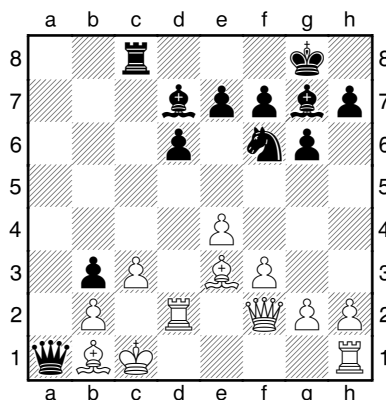
Good venue in an interesting place where I have a chance of winning. No favourite at present but it used to be the Paignton Congress when played at Oldway Mansion.

Do you have a most memorable or favourite game?

Robert Clegg - Brendan O'Gorman [B35]

Rhyl Major, 19 May 2005

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 g6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Be3 Nf6 6.Nc3 Bg7 7.Bc4 0-0 8.Bb3 a5 9.f3 d6 10.Qd2 Bd7 11.0-0-0 Nxd4 12.Bxd4 b5 13.a3 b4 14.axb4 axb4 15.Na2 Rxa2 16.Bxa2 Qa5 17.Bb1 Rc8 18.Qe3 Qh5 (threatening ...Bh6) 19.Qf2 b3 20.Rd2 Qa5 21.Be3? (Guarding against ..Bh6 but this loses. 21.Qe3 was better.) 21...Qa1 22.c3



22...Nxe4 23.fxe4 Bxc3 24.Re1 (24.bxc3 Rxc3+ 25.Kd1 Bg4+ 26.Ke1 Qxb1+ 27.Rd1 Qxd1#) 24...Bxb2+ 25.Kd1 Bg4+ 26.Qf3 (26.Rde2 Qxb1+ 27.Kd2 Qc2#) 26...Bxf3+ 27.gxf3 Rc1+ 0-1

Robert Clegg at Leicester 2013 (*Picture taken by Brendan O’Gorman*)



Grand Prix 2013/14 Leader Boards 2nd January 2014

180+

	Ref	Name	Club/Area	Grade	Mem No	Pts
1	112455K	Hebden, Mark L	4NCL Guildford	247	G4157	636
2	241589G	Jaunooby, Ali Reza	Denton	204	G4139	576
3	224790C	Villiers, Thomas	Muswell Hill	190	G17811	557
4	252763H	Harvey, Marcus R	Witney	227	JG4440	551
5	119904D	Surtees, Mike J	Bolton	202	G17950	521
6	104762A	Storey, Charles H	Jesmond	208	G4020	490
7	263507A	Prior, Stephen CV	Grantham	181	G6569	484
8	263810B	Wadsworth, Matthew J	Maidenhead	206	JG4383	473
9	121366A	Wells, Jonathan C	North Norfolk	180	G14103	466
10	273236B	Oyama, Akito	Cambridge City	190	JG17242	461

160-179

	Ref	Name	Club/Area	Grade	Mem No	Pts
1	242398E	Hjort, Helge	Hendon	177	G3467	553
2	104852B	Whitehead, Mark A	Rochdale	165	G15489	515
3	267990F	Landau, Jonathan	Hendon	175	G22677	498
4	290163J	Shaw, Meyrick	Exmouth	173	G17941	488
5	162291C	Jackson, Paul G	Coulsdon CF	160	G4609	487
6	270877C	Hayward, Alan	Streatham	176	G5803	486
7	247688F	Porter, Sam J	Trinity School	177	G21994	440
8	116801A	Patrick, David A	Courier Halifax	161	G5137	432
9	185941K	Olbison, Philip J	Chorlton-cum-Hardy	166	G6757	420
10	119124L	Slinger, AJ (Tony)	Undercliffe	172	G6481	398

140-159

	Ref	Name	Club/Area	Grade	Mem No	Pts
1	116382G	O'Gorman, Brendan	DHSS	154	G4320	563
2	114423G	Lim, Yu-Chin (Peter)	Harrow *	141	G23561	563
3	112248E	Hartley, Dean M	Amber Valley	144	G4789	528
4	140662A	Pride, Stephen C	Cambridge City	150	G3453	521
5	108722J	Connor, Michael I	Great Lever	146	S15540	518
6	109622K	Desmedt, Richard E	Wombwell	153	G3411	489
7	111388E	Goodfellow, Russell R	Tunbridge Wells	155	G5615	489
8	118873C	Shepherd, Graham C	Church Stretton	146	P6197	485
9	113949G	Joslin, Tim M	Lloyds TSB	148	G23798	465
10	288301G	Sloan, Cecil	Watford	140	S6981	463

120-139

	Ref	Name	Club/Area	Grade	Mem No	Pts
1	259148A	Foley, Phil T	Upminster	137	G4414	594
2	283350F	Bullock, Lee	London *	123	G18801	525
3	123333G	Gilbert, David J	DHSS	121	G3430	504
4	264336E	Crouch, Timothy J	Kings Head	122	P5843	499
5	156363E	Greenaway, Terence V	Torquay	130	G17343	464
6	220688C	Papier, Alan R	Bristol & Clifton	139	G6187	448
7	274379G	Macdonald, John R	Kings Head	124	G6972	429
8	122817B	Horlock, Peter J	Godalming	138	G3991	425
9	156972H	Wiggins, Andrew S	Redditch	132	G5594	407
10	248020H	Stone, Mark R	Petts Wood & Orping'n	132	G4972	402

U120

	Ref	Name	Club/Area	Grade	Mem No	Pts
1	279615G	Crockett, Stephen J	Redditch	116	G6367	625
2	140257C	Fraser, Alan R	Beckenham & Bromley	108	G2908	585
3	258940A	Allen, Timothy S	Battersea	117	G4415	565
4	111052E	Gardiner, Colin J	Falmouth	113	G1469	512
5	278381C	Hewitt, Rob	Southampton Univ.	118	G6958	510
6	111361G	Goldsmith, Jennifer	Harrow	101	G6876	486
7	178214K	Watts, Peter J	Middlesex Congresses	113	S22770	470
8	181078K	Robson, Caroline J	Barnet Elizabeth	104	G4002	465
9	274725L	Fraser, Chris A	West Bridgford	100	S19796	432
10	256834C	Glover, Gordon L	Crusaders	114	S17628	426

Women's Prix

	Ref	Name	Club/Area	Grade	Mem No	Pts
1	111361G	Goldsmith, Jennifer	Harrow	101	G6876	486
2	181078K	Robson, Caroline J	Barnet Elizabeth	104	G4002	465
3	275645G	Sit, Victoria	Coulsdon CF	129	JG6719	438
4	291359J	Johnson, Elizabeth	Surrey Congresses	73	JG17874	423
5	291487G	Dwarakanathan, Srinidhi	Barnet *	89	JG20426	416
6	279664J	Ivanov, Elizabeth	Heathside Prep School	121	JG6541	382
7	285553H	Davidson, Laura J	Sandhurst	97	JP6792	361
8	284508J	Sheremetyeva, Elizaveta	Oxfordshire Juniors	114	JG6692	346
9	286375D	Daniel, Sharon	Greater Manchester *	105	JG6815	338
10	280020C	Kalaiyalahan, Akshaya	Coulsdon CF	178	JG6425	337

Junior Prix

	Ref	Name	Club/Area	Grade	Mem No	Pts
1	282398G	Liang, Jake Z	Surbiton	169	JG6416	565
2	252763H	Harvey, Marcus R	Witney	227	JG4440	551
2	291535C	Peck, Silas	Ipswich	162	JG19469	551
4	276302D	Higgs, Joshua	Sussex Juniors	178	JG6319	510
5	282399J	Kalavannan, Koby	Coulsdon CF	159	JG6614	509
6	277139B	Haridas, Girinath	Kent Junior Congresses	158	JG6693	498
7	279727G	Balouka-Myers, Gabriel	Garden Suburb S	140	JG17131	492
8	263810B	Wadsworth, Matthew J	Maidenhead	206	JG4383	473
9	273236B	Oyama, Akito	Cambridge City	190	JG17242	461
10	280218B	Headlong, Benjamin	Wiltshire *	119	JG17125	459



ECF English Tournament Calendar

Y 29 Jan ECF Afternoon School Chess Tournament, Wilson's School, Mollison Drive, Wallington, Surrey SM6 9JW Contact: Neill Cooper Email: manager.secondary@englishchess.org.uk - 25 minutes per game, two sections – Elite (more experienced players) and Major

~* 1-2 Feb 37th Kidlington Chess Congress, Exeter Hall, Oxford Road, Kidlington, Oxfordshire OX5 1AB Contact: Gerard O'Reilly Email: gerard@fianchetto.co.uk Website: www.kidlingtonchess.org.uk 09:30-17:30 - 5-round congress in 4 sections: U225, U180, U145, and U120. Total prize fund £1930

~ 2 Feb Hertfordshire Junior Chess Championships, Skyswood Primary School, Chandlers Road, St Albans, AL4 9RS Contact: Yogesh Jina Email: hsca@live.co.uk Website: <http://hertfordshireschoolschessassociation.com> - starts 9:30AM ends 6:00PM. U9, U11, U14 and U18 sections from 9.30am to 6pm. For regular players this is an opportunity to compete for a place in the county squad and possibly walk away with a prize. Open to non-Hertfordshire Juniors as well.

@ 6 Feb Hendon 'First Thursday' Blitz, Golders Green Unitarians Church, 31½ Hoop Lane, London NW11 8BS Contact: Adam Raof Email: adamraof@gmail.com Website: www.hendonchessclub.com - Swiss 6 rounds Open

~* 7-9 Feb Frodsham Weekend Congress, Frodsham Community Centre, Fluin Lane, Frodsham, Cheshire WA6 7QN Contact: Patrick Ridley Email: patrick.ridley@ntlworld.com Website: www.kisekigo.com/frodsham14.html - starts 19:00 ends 19:00. 5-round standard play tournament with Minor, Intermediate and Major sections, with Fischer time controls. There is special arrangement for those wishing to play in the parallel Go tournament (The Cheshire) on the Saturday

~Y 8 Feb Sussex Junior Rapidplay, Bishop Bell School, Priory Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN23 7BE Contact: Sandra Manchester Email: entrymanager@sussexjuniorchess.org Website: <http://www.sussexjuniorchess.org> - starts 9:45AM ends 5:30PM. 6 rounds rapidplay in 4 sections; U11 Minor, U11 Major, U18 Minor, U18 Major. Open to all aged under 18 on 31st August 2013

~Y 8 Feb Newbury Park Junior Tournament, Newbury Park Primary School, Perrymans Farm Road, Ilford, Essex IG2 7LB Contact: Dave Hawkins Email: davehawkins126@googlemail.com Website: <http://www.ejca.co.uk> - starts 9:30AM ends 5:30PM. Essex Junior Grand Prix Round 3

Y 8 Feb East Midlands Chess Tournament 2013/2014, Dovecote School, Greencroft, Clifton, Nottingham NG11 8EY Contact: John Crawley Email: crawlj6@aol.com Website: <http://www.npsca.co.uk> - starts 9:30AM ends 5:00PM

@ 8 Feb Golders Green Rapidplay Congress, Golders Green Church Hall, West Heath Drive, London NW11 7QG Contact: Adam Raof Email: adamraof@gmail.com Website: www.goldersgreenchess.blogspot.co.uk - 6 round Swiss open, £500.00 prize fund

9 Feb Simultaneous with WFM Sarah Hegarty, Harrogate Chess Club, Harrogate Conservative Club, 61 East Parade, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG1 5LQ Contact: Richard White Email: richardwhite484@hotmail.com Website: <https://sites.google.com/site/harrogatechessclub/home> - starts 2:00PM ends 6:00PM – starts 2pm ends 6pm. We are expecting around 20 entries. Places will be offered on a first come first served basis and the entry fee is £10 adults, £5 juniors

~@ 9 Feb Oxfordshire Sunday League R4, Ducklington Village Hall, Standlake Road, Ducklington OX29 7UX Contact: Mike Truran Email: mike@truranfamily.co.uk Website: <http://www.witneychess.co.uk/>

~ 9 Feb Norfolk Rapidplay 2014, Parkhill Hotel, Oulton, Lowestoft NR32 5DQ Contact: John Charman Email: jaygee@ntlworld.com Website: <http://www.norfolkchess.org/> - starts 9:45AM ends 6:30PM. 6 round Swiss, two sections - Open and Challengers. Part of the EACU Grand Prix

~@ 15-16 Feb Hampstead U2200 Weekend Congress, Henderson Court Day Centre, 102 Fitzjohn's Avenue, London NW3 6NS Contact: Adam Raof Email: adamraof@gmail.com Website: www.hampsteadchess.blogspot.co.uk

~@ 15-16 Feb 4NCL | Weekend 3, Hinckley Island Hotel, Daventry Court Hotel

~* @+ 15-16 Feb 4th FIDE Congress, Hinchley Wood School, Claygate Lane, Surrey KT10 0AQ Contact: Sainbayar Tserendorj Email: ukchessacademy@gmail.com Website: <http://www.ukchessacademy.com> - starts 10:30AM ends 5:45PM. 3 Sections: FIDE U2200/U195ECF, FIDE U1800/U145ECF and ECF graded U110. Prize fund £1250, winner £200, special trophies and medals.

~*#@ 21-23 Feb e2e4 West Bromwich Congress, Park Inn West Bromwich, Europa Avenue, Birmingham Road, West Bromwich B70 6RS Contact: Sean Hewitt Email: info@e2e4.org.uk Website:

http://www.e2e4.org.uk/west_brom - starts 7:00PM ends 7:00PM. 3 Sections - FIDE rated Open, U160 and U130

~***@ 22 Feb London Rapidplay**, Millennium Hall, Parish Centre, St. Mary's Church, Osterley Road, Isleworth TW7 4PW Contact: Sainbayar Tserendorj Email: londonrapidplay@gmail.com Website: <http://www.london-rapidplay.co.uk> - starts 10:00am ends 5:10pm. 6 round Swiss, FIDE rated sections: Open, U2000/U170, U1700/U130, prize fund £450

~***Y+ 22 Feb Get Your First Chess Grade**, Millennium Hall, Parish Centre, St. Mary's Church, Osterley Road, Isleworth TW7 4PW Contact: Amu Sainbayar Email: londonrapidplay@gmail.com Website: <http://www.london-rapidplay.co.uk> - starts 10.00am ends 5:10pm. 6 round Swiss, sections: U7, U8, U9, U10, U11 & U14. Players graded under 80 ECF. Winner will receive a trophy in each age category, Best Girl medal in each section. Special prize for players scoring 4.5 or more

~* **22 Feb Poplar Rapid-Play Tournament**, Langley Hall, St.Nicholas Church Centre, Ettrick Street, Poplar, London E14 0QD Contact: Docklands Chess - Norman Went Email: DocklandsChess@yahoo.co.uk Website: <http://www.spanglefish.com/docklandschessclub> - starts 10:30AM ends 6:00PM. 6 round Swiss tournament. Minimum of two sections; Minor under 130 and Major/Open. All moves in 30 minutes

~ **22-23 Feb 2014 British Universities' Championship**, Park Inn by Radisson Birmingham West, Birmingham Road, West Midlands B70 6RS Contact: Alex Holowczak Email: alexholowczak@gmail.com Website: <http://www.buca.org.uk> - a 5-round team Swiss for members of the British Universities' Chess Association

~* **22-23 Feb Castle Chess 4th Dudley Congress**, The Quality Hotel Dudley, Birmingham Road, Dudley, West Midlands DY1 4RN Contact: Tony Corfe Email: enquiries@castlechess.co.uk Website: <http://www.castlechess.co.uk> - starts 10:00AM ends 10:30PM. Open including Premier U180, Major U160 including Intermediate U140, Minor U120 including Challengers U100

~* **22-23 Feb Wiltshire & West of England Junior Open Championships**, St Joseph's Catholic College, Ocotal Way, Swindon, Wiltshire SN3 3LR Contact: Bev Schofield Email: bev@schofieldhall.co.uk Website: www.wiltshirejuniorchess.co.uk – although this 28th Junior Open Congress is organised by Wiltshire Junior Chess, it is open to ANY chess player aged under 18 on the 31st August 2013

~* **23 Feb Leyland Rapidplay Chess Congress**, Wellfield Business and Enterprise College, Yewlands Drive, Leyland PR25 2TP Contact: R Tinton Email: leylandrapidplay2014@gmail.com Tel: 07866 944563 - Major, Intermediate and Minor sections

~ **23 Feb Bury St Edmunds Junior Congress**, Moreton Hall Community Centre, Symonds Road, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP32 7EE Contact: Bob Jones Email: bobjoneschess@btinternet.com - starts 9.30am ends 5.15pm. Six round Rapidplay Tournament with various age-group sections. Entry form to follow. Contact organiser in the meantime

~* **28 Feb-2 Mar Twenty Second Doncaster Chess Congress**, Hall Cross School, Thorne Road, Doncaster DN1 2HY Contact: Steve Mann Email: sjmann@supanet.com - five round, standard-play weekend congress. High quality, good value hot and cold refreshments and chess bookstall available throughout. Incorporating the 2014 Yorkshire Championship

~* **28 Feb-2 Mar East Devon Chess Congress (39th)**, Exeter Corn Exchange, Market Street, Exeter, Devon EX1 1BW Contact: John Stephens Email: johnkfstephens@gmail.com Website: <http://chessdevon.co.uk> - five round weekend tournament with 4 hour games

@ 1 Mar Golders Green Rapidplay Congress, Golders Green Church Hall, West Heath Drive, London NW11 7QG Contact: Adam Raof Email: adamraof@gmail.com Website: www.goldersgreengreenchess.blogspot.co.uk - 6 round Swiss open, £500.00 prize fund

~***# 1-2 Mar Warwickshire Open Chess Congress**, Trident Centre, Poseidon Way, Warwick CV34 6SW Contact: Guy Greenland Email: warks.ccc@gmail.com - 5 rounds / 4 sections : Open, U170, U145, U120

~ **2 Mar Suffolk Junior Open**, Woodbridge School, Burkitt Road, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP12 4JH Contact: Adam Hunt Email: ahunt@woodbridge.suffolk.sch.uk Website: <http://www.woodbridgechess.com> - starts 8:00AM ends 5:30PM. Suffolk Junior Championships, with a strong Open section for adults/parents

@ 6 Mar Hendon 'First Thursday' Blitz, Golders Green Unitarians Church, 31½ Hoop Lane, London NW11 8BS Contact: Adam Raof Email: adamraof@gmail.com Website: www.hendonchessclub.com - Swiss 6 rounds Open

~ **7-9 Mar 38th Blackpool Chess Conference**, The Imperial Hotel, North Promenade, Blackpool FY1 2HB Contact: Simon Woodcock Email: blackpoolchessconference@yahoo.co.uk Website: www.blackpoolchess.org.uk

7-9 Mar 38th Blackpool Chess Conference, The Imperial Hotel, North Promenade, Blackpool, Lancashire FY1

2HB Contact: Simon Woodcock Email: blackpoolchessconference@yahoo.co.uk Website: <http://www.blackpoolchess.org.uk> - starts 7:00PM ends 6:15PM. 5 sections: Open, U181, U155, U135 and U115. £6250 in Prizes. Entry limited to 450 players. Online entry available at the website.

~Y **8th Mar EPSCA Under 9 Zones Hampshire, Kent and Staffordshire** Contact: Nigel Dennis Email: nigelwdennis@btinternet.com

~@ **8-9 Mar Hampstead U2200 Weekend Congress**, Henderson Court Day Centre, 102 Fitzjohn's Avenue, London NW3 6NS Contact: Adam Raouf Email: adamraouf@gmail.com Website: www.hampsteadchess.blogspot.co.uk

~@ **9 Mar Oxfordshire Sunday League R5**, Ducklington Village Hall, Standlake Road, Ducklington OX29 7UX Contact: Mike Truran Email: mike@truranfamily.co.uk Website: <http://www.witneychess.co.uk/>

~Y **9 Mar SCCU U14/U18 Jamborees**, The Weald School, Station Road, Billingshurst, West Sussex RH14 9RY Contact: Carol Graham Email: info@sussexjuniorchess.org - team event in 2 age groups - U14 and U18. Major and Minor sections. More details to follow

~* **14-16 Mar Castle Chess 6th Hereford Congress**, The Green Dragon Hotel, Broad Street, Hereford HR4 9BG Contact: Tony Corfe Email: enquiries@castlechess.co.uk Website: <http://www.castlechess.co.uk> - starts 10:00AM ends 10:30PM. 6 round event - Open including Premier U180, Major U160 including Intermediate U140, Minor U120 including Challengers U100

~*#@ **14-16 Mar e2e4 High Wycombe Congress**, De Veres Uplands House, Four Ashes Road, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire HP15 6LB Contact: Sean Hewitt Email: info@e2e4.org.uk Website: http://www.e2e4.org.uk/high_wycombe - starts 7:00PM ends 7:00PM. Three FIDE rated sections - Open, U2050 (180) and U1750 (140). Discounted rates for players staying at the venue.

~Y **15 Mar EPSCA Under 11 Zones Berkshire, Richmond and Merseyside** Contact: Nigel Dennis Email: nigelwdennis@btinternet.com

~* **15 Mar Central London One Day Rapidplay Chess Congress**, Upper Vestry Hall, St George's Bloomsbury, 6-7 Little Russell Street, London WC1A 2HR Contact: Tyrone Jefferies Email: tyronejefferies@hotmail.com - starts 10:00am ends 7:00pm. Three sections: Open, Major (U150), Minor (U120) of six round Swiss 30 minute rapid-play games