

August 2022



PHOTO: FIDE / Madelene Belinki

England at the Olympiad

David Howell takes Gold

**The Chessable British Chess
Championships**

**... and introducing our new regular columnist
Dr John Nunn!**

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EDITORIAL



Dear ECF members

This is my last edition as editor of ChessMoves and it comes at a truly vibrant time in English chess. It was fantastic to witness the wonderful Olympiad in Chennai. Both England teams did well, and GM David Howell won gold with an Olympiad-topping performance rating of 2898.

As I write, the British Championships are taking place, supported very generously by Chessable, who have not just provided valuable financing but also incredible support such as arranging training sessions with the reigning women's world champion GM and WGM Ju Wenjun.

I also believe ChessMoves is flourishing, and I am delighted to announce that we have a new regular contributor, Dr John Nunn, who will be writing a series on Great British Chess Players, starting in this issue with Alexander McDonnell.

The magazine has come a long way in the eight months I have been editor and that's down to a lot of people.

I thought hard about thanking everyone but decided in the end to focus on just a few people behind the scenes – I hope all the wonderful contributors who without exception have been a delight to work with will forgive me.

I think readers would be amazed, if they could peep behind the ChessMoves curtain, at the amount of time and effort that goes on above and beyond the call of duty by Nigel Towers, Mike Truran and Andrew Walker in particular. It is often easy to forget or not even notice the unseen - the dog that didn't bark in the night. I am hoping that readers will take a moment to appreciate the aforementioned trio's unstinting (I believe, without hyperbole, it would be fair to call them amazing) efforts. A word of thanks too, to David Taylor who has generously given up his time to do some eagle-eyed proof-reading.

I am delighted to be passing on the editorial baton to IM Andrew Martin. Most of you will know Andrew very well and be aware of what a terrific communicator he is. This, plus his being steeped in the English chess scene will serve him very well. I feel confident that ChessMoves is in safe hands. I would also like to welcome on board Debra Atkinson, who, in the space of just a few weeks, has already become a central part of the editorial team.

Be seeing you!

--- Danny Rosenbaum (aka Number 6) Email: danny.rosenbaum@englishchess.org.uk

PS. Regular columnist Peter Wells was away this month and will be back next issue.

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Cover Story – The Olympiad

We will have more coverage of the England teams at the Olympiad in subsequent issues. In the meantime, please enjoy this photo collection of the England players. Many thanks to FIDE for the terrific photos. Many thanks also to IM Lorin D’Costa, England Women’s Coach, for his report.



Photos of Michael Adams (above) and Luke McShane - FIDE / Madelene Belinki









[pictures above - David Howell FIDE / Lennart Ootes, Gawain Jones FIDE / Lennart Ootes, Ravi Haria FIDE / Lennart Ootes, Jovanka Houska FIDE / Lennart Ootes, Katarzyna Toma FIDE / Madelene Belinki, Lan Yao FIDE / Stev Bonhage, Akshaya Kalaiyalahan taken at a previous Olympiad (FIDE Baku 2016), Zoe Varney FIDE / Madelene Belinki]

Report on The Open

by Danny Rosenbaum

England were seeded tenth out of the 188 teams from 186 countries that took part in the Olympiad in Chennai, India, which started on 28 July.

There were two very strong absentees - Russia and China.

England ended up 14th amongst several teams on 15 points. The team had seven wins and three losses with only one draw.

All the team made important contributions. Michael Adams was undefeated but the stand-out performance not just from England but of the tournament was by David Howell who won the board 3 prize with a score of 7.5/8 and an amazing rating performance of 2898.

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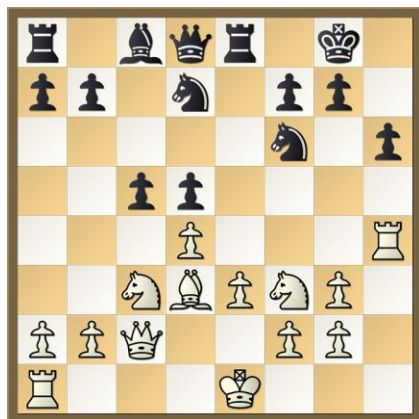
England had a fantastic start with a 4-0 win over Cyprus followed by wins over Singapore, Lithuania and Serbia.

Michael Adams' fourth round win against Serbia's Aleksandar Indijic was hailed a 'masterpiece' by Malcolm Pein in his Telegraph column -

Indjic, Aleksandar (2620) - Adams, Michael (2696) [D35]

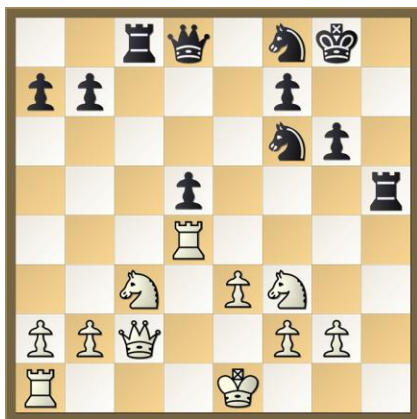
44th Olympiad 2022 Chennai IND (4.1), 01.08.2022

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Bg5 c6 6.e3 h6 7.Bh4 Be7 8.Bd3 0-0 9.Bg3 Bd6 10.Nf3 Bxg3 11.hxg3 Nbd7 12.Rh4 Re8 13.Qc2 c5



David Howell in The Sunday Times noted, 'The centre opens to the dismay of the white king.'

14.Bf5 cxd4 15.Rxd4 Nf8 16.g4 g6 17.Bxc8 Rxc8 18.g5 hxg5 19.Nxg5 Re5 20.Nf3 Rh5



David Howell in The Sunday Times points out that Black takes control of the h-file. Malcolm Pein in The Telegraph points out that the rook defends d5 and protects the king.

21.0–0–0 Ne6 22.R4d2 b5 23.Qb3 a6 24.Kb1 Rc4 25.a3 Nc5 26.Qc2 Nfe4 27.Rd4 Nxc3+ 28.bxc3 Qa5 29.Rxc4 dxc4 30.g4 Rh3 31.Ng5 Rh2 32.Ne4 Nxe4 33.Qxe4 Qxc3 34.Qf4 Qb3+ 35.Kc1 Qc3+ 36.Kb1 Qb3+ 37.Kc1 Qxa3+ 38.Kb1 Qb3+ 39.Kc1 Qc3+ 40.Kb1 Rh3 41.g5 Qb3+ 42.Kc1 c3

0–1

After four rounds England were flying high with four wins, but in the fifth round we were just shaded by a very strong Armenian side 1.5-2.5. After a draw against Austria and a loss to Brazil we soon got back on a winning run, defeating Belgium and Argentina.

In Round 9 Gawain Jones beat Argentina’s Leonard Tristan. As Gawain himself tweeted, ‘After 20 moves I owned the dark squares, and 25...Qd4 won material. The KID lives!’

Tristan, Leonardo (2558) - Jones, Gawain C B (2652) [E92]

44th Olympiad 2022 Chennai IND (9.3), 07.08.2022

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0–0 6.Be2 e5 7.d5 a5 8.h3 Na6 9.Bg5 Qe8 10.g4 Nd7 11.a3 Nb6 12.Be3 Bd7 13.Qd2 Nc5 14.Bxc5 dxc5 15.Qe3 Qe7 16.Nd2 Na4 17.Nb5 c6 18.dxc6 bxc6 19.Nc3 Nxc3 20.Qxc3 Bh6



21.Nf1 Rfd8 22.h4 Bf4 23.Rd1 Be6 24.Rxd8+ Qxd8 25.Ne3 Qd4 26.Qxd4 cxd4 27.Nc2 Rd8 28.Bd3 Bxg4 29.0–0 f5 30.f3 Bh3 31.Rb1 fxe4 32.fxe4 Bg3 33.b4 Rb8 34.b5 cxb5 35.cxb5 Bxh4 36.b6 Bc8 37.Bc4+ Kg7 38.Bd5 Bb7 39.Rb5 Bxd5 40.exd5 Bg5 41.a4 d3 42.Na3 d2 43.Rb1 Rc8 44.b7 Rc1+ 45.Kf2 d1Q 46.Rxc1 Qd2+ 47.Kf3 e4+

0–1

The next rounds saw the streak continue with a convincing 3-1 victory over Italy, only to be ended in the final round, losing 1.5-2.5 to Moldova.

A disappointing last round, but an excellent performance overall. Well done, England!

Other highlights, apart from David Howell, were Dommaraju Gukesh, who was born in Chennai, playing for India 2, who was the top board 1 player with a rating performance of 2867; then there was a gap to the next best rating performance, Uzbekistan's Board 4, Jakhongir Vakhidov with a rating performance of 2813.

Vakhidov, well-known in 4NCL circles, was part of the young Uzbekistan team, coached by GM Ivan Sokolov, which won the gold medal.

The England coach Lorin D'Costa gives a report below on the Women's Team's Olympiad. Let me just note, before handing over to Lorin, that during the whole Olympiad there was excellent live commentary.

Peter Leko and Peter Svidler formed a terrific commentary partnership, and it is fascinating to watch back their **analysis of the England Women's round 3 match against India**. The commentary in the clip takes place in the early middlegame and lasts about a quarter of an hour at <https://youtu.be/yx9tW7L2gb4?t=4615>

The Olympiad: The England Women's Team

by Lorin D'Costa, England Women's Chess Coach

The England Women's Team embarked on their odyssey to Chennai, India, for the 44th World Chess Olympiad in good spirits. The Olympiad took place 27 July - 9 August, a gruelling 11-round event. Four players played per match, with one player 'rested'.

After 11 rounds, the team came 31st but ended joint 21st, on a par with the team's seeding. To demonstrate how close we were to a superb finish, we lost 2.5-1.5 in the final round to Hungary, who themselves came joint 6th.

There was a great team spirit, despite the challenges of getting visas, flights, fighting last-minute Covid, as well as lizards and other guests finding their way into players' rooms!

The players worked hard to prepare and play. In almost every round, one of the players reached five hours' duration in their games. Their commitment for a result was never in question, as well as their support for each other regardless of the outcome.

The team won seven of their eleven matches, losing only to their four higher-ranked opponents: India, Armenia, Germany and Hungary. The team were - Jovanka Houska, Katarzyna Toma, Lan Yao, Akshaya Kalaiyalahan, and Zoe Varney

Despite the short notice for Chennai to host the event, the organisers were very thorough in ensuring players were looked after and safe. Everyone enjoyed their time in Chennai, with both Jovanka and David Howell being mobbed on a daily basis by local fans!

THE CHESSABLE BRITISH CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2022 - Week 1

A report from ECF Home Director Nigel Towers and Organisers Kevin Staveley and Adrian Elwin



After many months of preparation, the British Championships 2022 kicked off on Monday 8 August with Round 1 of the Junior Championships, Senior Over 50 Championship, and the Weekday Congress all starting at 2.30 pm on Monday afternoon. These are the 108th British Championships in an almost unbroken run since the first Championship took place in 1904, with the competition making a welcome return to the Riviera International Conference Centre (RICC) in Torquay.

the RICC ready to relay the games from the championship events and also the top boards of the weekday congresses via a live internet broadcast.

You can follow the games live via the BCC broadcast web page - <https://tinyurl.com/yyrrck9a> - with commentary on the main Championships scheduled to start from Saturday 13 August for the 9 rounds of the main Championship and Major Open (which runs from 13 to 21 August).

You can also see the pairings and results to date and standings for all tournaments at the link here - <http://chess-results.com/tnr655607.aspx>



This way in – picture by Melinda Wilde

The organising team, led by Chief Organiser Adrian Elwin, had set up over 100 live boards in the Arena at



Junior Section lead arbiter Jo Wildman – picture by Brendan O’Gorman

Junior Championships – As ever there was a big turnout with over 180 of the UK’s top juniors taking part in 7-round Swiss tournaments including separate sections for U8s, U10s, U12s, U14s and U16s.

Under 8s (35 players) - Bodhana Sivanandan from London led the field until round 4 when Scottish Junior **Supratit Banerjee** took over to win the Under 8 championship on 6 out of 7 just ahead of **Bodhana** who wins the U8 Girls’ Championship on 5.5 points.

	Name	FED	Rtg	Pts
1	Supratit Banerjee	SCO	1667	6
2	Bodhana Sivanandan	EN	1717	5,5
3	Zoe Veselow	EN	1638	5
	Ethan Pang	EN	1592	5
	George Chen	EN	1527	5
	Junyi Zhang	EN	1426	5

Under 10s (43 players) - **Oleg Verbytski** from Kent made a late run in the Under 10s including a win in his round 7 game against Harry Bryant to clinch the Championship with 6 points out of 7, followed by Kai Hanache and Luoke Wang both on 5.5 points. **Ruqqayah Rida** from Essex and **Rachel Yang** from London shared the Girls’ Championship on 4.5 points.

	Name	FED	Rtg	Pts
1	Oleg Verbytski	ENG	1791	6
2	Kai Hanache	ENG	1636	5,5
	Luoke Wang	ENG	1605	5,5

Under 12s (45 players) - **Kameron Grose** made another late run to take the lead in round 5 and stay in front to win the Under 12 Championship with 6 out of 7 followed closely by **Elis Denele Diden** and Sankit Kumar on 5.5 with Elis winning the U12 Girls’ title.

k.	Name	FED	Rtg	Pts
1	Kameron Grose	ENG	1637	6
2	Elis Denele Diden	ENG	1968	5,5
	Sanjit S Kumar	ENG	1855	5,5

Under 14s (30 players) - **Luca Buanne** (below) won the U14s on 6 out of 7 followed by Caleb Caleshu on 5.5 with Michelle (Ngo Yu) Chan winning the U14 Girls’ title.



Rk.	Name	FED	Rtg	TB1
1	Luca Buanne	ENG	2147	6
2	Caleb Caleshu	ENG	1863	5,5
3	Kenneth Hobson	ENG	2198	5
	Stanley Badacsonyi	ENG	1911	5
	Ruben Nangalia	ENG	1831	5

Under 16s (28 players) – In the U16s Frankie Badacsonyi won his final round game to take the Under 16s title on 6, followed closely by Mohammed Ayaan Ismail, Edward Jackson and Abigail Weersing with **Abigail Weersing** (picture, next page) winning the U16 Girls’ title on 5.5.



Rk	Name	FED	Rtg	TB1
1	Frankie Badacsonyi	EN	199	6
2	Mohammed Aayan	EN	222	5,5
	Edward Jackson	EN	207	5,5
	Abigail R Weersing	EN	203	5,5

Here is Aayan's round 1 game, which is an English Opening where he controls the c-file and develops what proves to be an irresistible attack.

Ismail, Mohammed Aayan (1919) - Sachdeva, Ronit [A11]

Chessable British Chess Championships Riviera Centre, Torquay, 08.08.2022

1.c4 c6 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.e4 e5 4.Nf3 d6 5.d4 Qc7 6.Be2 Be7 7.0-0 0-0 8.h3 Nbd7 9.Be3 Rd8 10.Qc2 Nf8 11.Rad1 Ng6 12.Ne1 a6 13.Nd3 b5 14.cxb5 cxb5 15.Rc1 Bb7 16.Qb3 Qc4 17.Qd1 Qe6 18.d5 Qd7 19.Qb3 Re8 20.Nb4 Rec8 21.Rc2 Qd8 22.a4 a5 23.Nc6



23..Bxc6 24.dxc6 Rxc6 25.axb5 Rcc8 26.b6 Rab8 27.Ba6 Rc6 28.Nd5 Rxc2 29.Nxf6+ gxf6 30.Qxc2 Qd7 31.Qc7 Qd8 32.Rc1 Nf8 33.b7 Qxc7 34.Rxc7 d5 35.Ba7

1-0

Seniors 50+ - There has also been a big turnout for the two Seniors' Championships with 44 players in this week's 50+ and 62 scheduled to play in the week 2 65+.



50+ Championships Round 1 – picture by Brendan O'Gorman

Top seeds for the 50+ were Scottish GM Paul Motwani, CM Mark Josse and FM Chris Townsend.

GM Paul Motwani shared the lead throughout the tournament and finished with shared top place with **FM Chris Duncan** and **Phil Crocker**, all on 5.5 points.

Here is GM Paul Motwani's round 3 win against Paul Dargan, where Motwani deploys a 2. g3 line against the Sicilian Defence.

Motwani, Paul (2420) - Dargan, Paul (2056) [B20]

Chessable British Chess Championships: Riviera Centre, Torquay, Unit (10.08.2022)

1.e4 c5 2.g3 Nc6 3.Bg2 g6 4.Ne2 Bg7 5.0-0 d6 6.d3 e6 7.Nbc3 Rb8 8.a3 b5 9.Rb1 Nge7 10.b4 cxb4 11.axb4 a5 12.Na2 d5 13.Bd2 a4 14.exd5 exd5 15.Nac3 0-0 16.Nf4 d4 17.Ne4 Bb7 18.h4 Ne5 19.h5 h6 20.hxg6 fxg6 21.Ne6 Qd5 22.Nxf8 Kxf8 23.f4 Nf7 24.g4 Qd8 25.f5 gxf5 26.gxf5 Nd5 27.Nc5 Kg8 28.f6 Bxf6 29.Qh5



1-0

Week 1 Congress – Open Section



IM Gary Lane – picture by Brendan O’Gorman

The Week 1 Congress had around 140 entrants across the various sections including GM Keith Arkell and IM Gary Lane. Gary Lane led the field throughout to finish on 6.5 out of 7 points, followed by Matthew Dignam and fast-improving teenager Remy Rushbrook, both on 4.5 points. Here is Gary’s first round game against Ifan Rathbone-Jones.

Lane, Gary W (2328) - Rathbone-Jones, Ifan (2006) [B07]

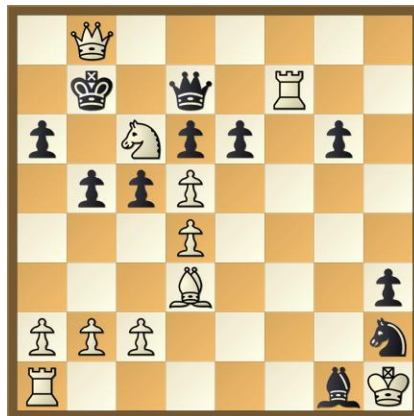
Chessable 2022 British Championship Riviera Centre, Torquay, Unit (1.2), 08.08.2022

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Be3 a6 5.Qd2 b5 6.f3 Nbd7 7.Nge2 Nb6 8.Ng3 h5 9.Bd3 h4 10.Nge2 h3 11.g4



Ifan tries a speculative sacrifice of a bishop for two pawns, with Bxg4 looking to create problems for White’s king which is stuck in the centre for a while. Gary defends efficiently before staging a counter-attack leading to checkmate.

11...Bxg4 12.fxg4 Nxg4 13.Bg5 Qd7 14.0–0 c5 15.Nd5 Nxd5 16.exd5 Rh5 17.Ng3 Rxd5 18.Qxg5 Bh6 19.Qh4 Be3+ 20.Kh1 0–0–0 21.Nf5 e6 22.Ne7+ Kc7 23.Nc6 Nxd5 24.Rxf7 Bg1 25.Qxd8+ Kb7 26.Qb8#



Rapidplay – The rapidplay took place on Wednesday 10 August with a big field of around 180 players across seven sections – Open, U1750, U1500 and U11.

[Rapidplay photographs by Brendan O’Gorman]



[pictured, above - joint Open winners Danny Gormally and Keith Arkell]

The **Open** was won by GM Danny Gormally on tie-break, with 5 players all on 5.5 out of 7 – Danny, GM Keith Arkell, Stanley and Frankie Badacsonyi and Soham Kumar.



U1750 and U1500 Winners Joseph Whelan (above) and Magnus Borissow (top)

The **U1750** was won by Joseph Whelan with 6.5 out of 7, and the **U1500** by Magnus Borissow. The **U11** Rapidplay was won by Luoke Wang with 6.5 out of 7.

Simul, Coaching, and Special Guests

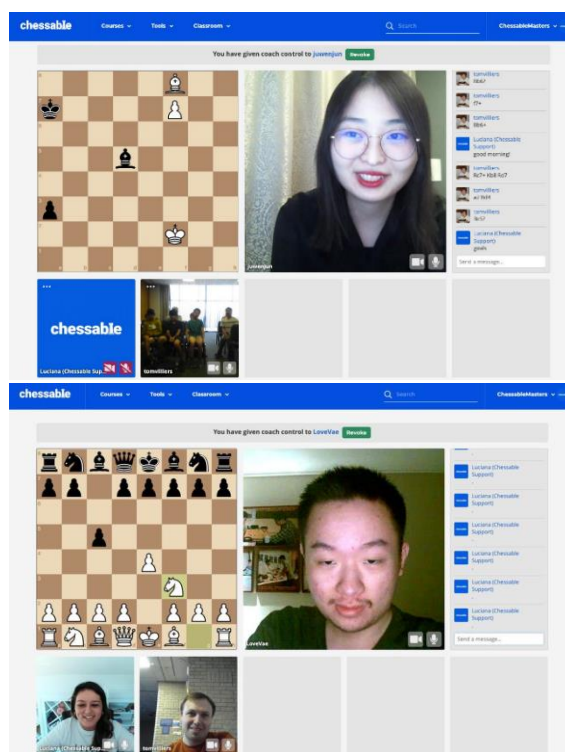


Week 1 Simul - Outside the main events GM Keith Arkell took on 18 players in a simul on Tuesday evening.



Tom Villiers at the BCC – picture by Brendan O’Gorman

Coaching - BCC Coach Tom Villiers has been available to provide some expert coaching before and after junior rounds. He was also able to run the first of two group sessions on Wednesday evenings.



Special Guests – Our sponsors Chessable arranged for a Chessable classroom session at 1.30 pm on Wednesday run by Tom and WIM Luciana Morales, with a guest appearance from the reigning women’s world champion GM and WGM Ju Wenjun. The world champion set a puzzle for the audience to consider and took questions and answers from the audience in the commentary/ coaching room.

Luciana and Tom also hosted a second guest session at 4.00 pm on Friday with top Chinese GM Wei Yi, with a similar set of puzzles followed by a Q and A session.

Weekend and Week 2 Events - Friday evening saw the start of the 5-round Weekender congress. This year's Weekender was very well subscribed, with an Atkins Open Section with 104 players, the Soanes U1750 with 56 players, and the Yates U1500 with 31 players.

The first Blitz competition was held on Saturday evening. This was extremely popular with 108 players taking part in a 9-round blitz at 3|2 time control. GM Keith Arkell was top seed, but the event was won by FM Jonah Willow with a perfect 9 out of 9, followed by Anthony Zhang on 8 and Oscar Garcia on 7 points.



GM Nick Pert (top) and WIM Lan Yao – pictures by Brendan O’Gorman

The main British Championship and Major Open started on Saturday 13 August with round 1 at 2.30 pm. These will be 9-round events, with a game a day scheduled to complete on Sunday 21 August.

We will include a fuller article on the Championship and Major Open in next month's edition.

Chess on the Riviera

David Gilbert reports on a sunny build-up to the British Chess Championships. This is an edited version of David's posts on English Chess Forum

5 August

A weather warning for the coming week in Torquay. It's gonna be a scorcher! The sun will be shining and that means heaps of excited chess players will be dislodging the mothballs from their bottom drawer, donning their (very short) shorts and converging on the Riviera Centre, unleashing their frightening white legs on an unsuspecting public. You know who you are!

With a few days before the start entries are up to 1076. Previous experience suggests there will be more next week and overall there should be over the 1100, and that figure could reach as many as 1200. There are big numbers for Blitz (132) & Rapidplay (159) events, while the Major Open (78) and the Weekender (173) have achieved impressive entry levels.

7 August

POSTCARD: Arrived just after 1.00pm this afternoon. It's hot! The car air con was a dream. All quiet at the Riviera Centre. Apparently, they'll be setting up from five o'clock today. The organisers have now inserted the August ratings on Chess-Results in good time for Monday's pairings. Well done! The bowls green is now yellow and in a worse state than the Coventry Arena pitch. Plenty of action on the crazy golf course - a hole in 1 as I passed. The funfair looks scary if you're fifty-plus. The Terminator is aptly named - what person in their right mind would do that to themselves? The Fun House looked anything but.

11 August

What an amazing week. I don't remember it being this warm for any previous British. Inside the Riviera Centre the air con is cranked up to full power and doing a great job keeping us cool. It's the last round for the rated sections tomorrow. Conditions in the balcony are fabulous, but we knew that already. Starting tomorrow evening there are close to 200 entries in the Weekender. What a brilliant turn-out. Downstairs in the over-50s the last game finished at 8.10pm this

evening - getting on for six hours! You guessed it - a draw.

The arbiters are quietly getting on with their jobs, the refreshment counter has been busy, while parents celebrate or commiserate with their children, who all appear to be having a wonderful time. Staff in the restaurants in the town, and as far afield as Paignton, are reporting their best week of the summer.

Brendan O’Gorman really does have the knack of capturing chess emotions in his photography. Take, for example, his one of Stewart Reuben (shown below)



15 August

The sun has set over the first week of the Championships - and what a week it’s been, with the best chess weather ever, ever, ever. I came away in good spirits having won both Sunday games - the second a thrilling win to overturn a lost position. Those pesky juniors were filling most of the top boards in the Soanes and Yates. There seem to be new ones every year! But in the massively popular Atkins I was delighted to see a London Public Service League player Gary Senior (Pimlico) take joint first. I can’t thank the arbiters and the people manning the Office in the bowels of the building enough. Everything has gone like clockwork - all week they’ve been calmly efficient. Once a game finishes there’s an arbiter by your side ready to collect the signed scoresheets.

One last thing - the bookstall is incredible. Jim must have bought most of the Chess & Bridge shop with him. Complimentary copies of Chess magazine were going like hot cakes. I bought *300 Most Important Chess Exercises* by Thomas Engqvist - that should keep me occupied until 2023. Where will that be? An announcement expected shortly ...

New To Chess?

Looking for resources for yourself or to advise on other on how to start out in chess and improve?

Well, one great launch pad is the ECF’s New To Chess page.

Free booklets, videos and streams, find a club, find a trainer, guide to online learning resources, books and a whole lot more.

It’s all at <https://bit.ly/newtochess>

What's next after the British?

Nigel Towers reports on the return of the UK Blitz Championships



The UK Blitz makes a welcome return in September following an enforced three-year break as a result of the pandemic.

This year's Blitz Championship will follow the same format as earlier years with eight regional qualifier events across the UK on 3 and 4 September (or in some cases the weekend before or after). The finals will then be on 3 December at a Midlands location to be confirmed.

There will be eight regional one-day qualifier events at locations across the UK across three weekends as follows —

Bank Holiday Monday 29 August

Wales - Mercure Cardiff North Hotel, Circle Way East, Llanedeyrn, Cardiff CF23 9XF

Saturday 3 September

London - St Luke's Church, Kidderpore Avenue, Golders Green NW3 7SU

Midlands - Holiday Inn, 212 Abbey End, Kenilworth CV8 1ED

Scotland - Novotel Edinburgh Park, 15 Lochside Avenue, Edinburgh EH12 9DJ

Sunday 4 September

North West - Ukrainian Social Club, 99 Castle Street, Bolton BL2 1JP

Northern Ireland - Maynard Sinclair Pavilion, Stormont, Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast BT4 3TA

Saturday 10 September

South West - Polish Community Centre Whitbourne Avenue, Swindon, Wiltshire SN3 2JX

Sunday 11 September

North East - The Parks Leisure Centre, Howdon Road, North Shields NE29 6TL

All qualifier events will be fifteen-round Swiss tournaments with a blitz time limit of 3 minutes plus 2 seconds per move.

You can find further details of the events and an entry form for the 2022 qualifiers at the link here:

<https://www.englishchess.org.uk/uk-blitz-championships-2022/>

All qualifier events are now open for entry.

There will be category prizes for the highest finishing players within each rating category. The top two players in each qualifier will qualify for the finals in December, and the two highest-placed female players will qualify for the Women's Final. The finals will be held on 3 December as two 16-player all play all tournaments again, with 15 rounds at 3|2 blitz time controls at a Midlands location to be confirmed

The full set of qualifier events and the two finals will be FIDE and ECF rated, with results appearing on the FIDE blitz list and also the new ECF over the board blitz list which is due to appear shortly.



Reigning champions from the 2019 final are GM Justin Tan (pictured) and GM and WGM Ketevan Arakhamia-Grant, and we look forward to another close-fought competition across the qualifiers and finals to find the champions for 2022.

FEATURES

Michael Adams' Game of the Month



This month I am looking at a very tense game from the World Seniors. As our match with co-leaders USA had finished in a draw, it was important for both countries to keep winning, and the Italian host team presented a tough challenge, which we edged by the narrowest

margin 2.5-1.5.

Mark Hebden won this key encounter, part of a four-game winning streak with which he finished the event. Although White gets a comfortable edge from the opening, Garcia Palermo resists stubbornly and, when he gets the chance to create counterplay, both kings, which are shakily placed on opposite sides of the board, feel the heat.

In a very difficult middlegame to negotiate, both sides have opportunities, and the assessment remains hard to figure - a tense situation, especially in a close team match. However, in the run up to the time control, Mark zones in, and with a series of accurate moves takes full advantage of a slip by his opponent, to convincingly close out the game for a very significant victory.

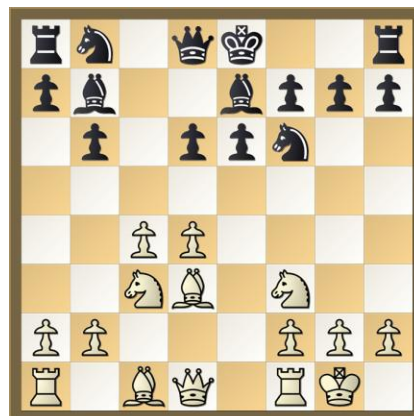
M. Hebden – C. Garcia Palermo

World Seniors 50+ Team 2022

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.e3 Surprised by his opponent's unexpected opening choice, and smelling preparation, Mark avoids his speciality 3.c3. A wise choice, as Garcia Palermo proves unfamiliar with the resulting positions.

3...b6 4.Bd3 Bb7 5.0-0 c5 This move looks very logical after Black has fianchettoed the light-squared bishop, but his development is lacking, so 5...d5 getting a solid central presence is stronger.

6.c4 cxd4 7.exd4 Be7 8.Nc3 d6 8...0-0 9.d5 is also not ideal. The best 8...d5 9.cxd5 Nxd5 10.Ne5 0-0 11.Qg4 is also not easy for Black, though.



9.d5! Very awkward to meet.

9...e5 9...exd5 10.cxd5 0-0 11.Nd4! is even worse, if 11...Nxd5? 12.Nxd5 Bxd5 13.Qh5. Carlos's response is sensible, but the central bridgehead on d5, cutting Black's army in two, means that he will struggle to co-ordinate his pieces.

10.Nh4! Simple play with 10.Rb1 0-0 11.Re1 Nbd7 12.b4 gives White a nice space advantage, but Mark rightly looks for more.

10...g6 10...Nxd5 11.cxd5 Bxh4 12.Bb5+ Nd7 13.Qg4 with Ne4 to follow is very nasty. As the bishop on b7 is biting on granite, perhaps 10...Bc8 11.Nf5 Bxf5 12.Bxf5 was a better option, although the bishop pair maintains a large edge.

11.Bh6 Preventing castling. The direct 11.f4 exf4 (11...Nbd7 12.f5) 12.Bxf4 Nbd7 13.Bh6 was also good.

11...Nbd7 11...Bf8 12.Bg5 Nbd7 13.f4 is no better.

12.f4 a6 Covering b5, after considering the variation 12...Qc7 13.Nb5 Qc5+ 14.Kh1 a6 15.b4.



13.Qe2 Qc7 14.fxe5 14.Rae1 0-0-0 15.Nf3 looks a good way to keep up the pressure, whilst maintaining options, and keeping Black's pieces bottled up.

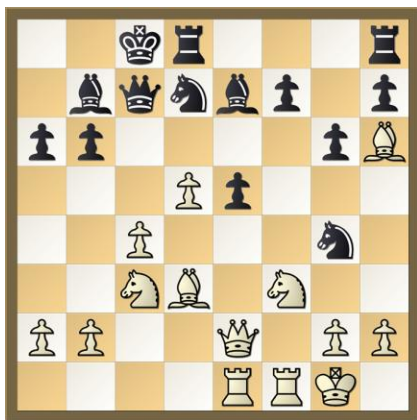
14...dxe5 Not 14...Nxe5? 15.Bg7.

15.Rae1 It's always tempting to force matters, but a simple line like 15.Kh1 0-0-0 16.Rad1 leaves Black with plenty of problems to resolve.

15...0-0-0 Not the safest place for Black's king, but at least it is finally out of the centre.

16.Nf3 White could have played 16.Kh1! several times over in the last few moves, but now it is necessary. This slip allows Black his first active moves into opposing territory.

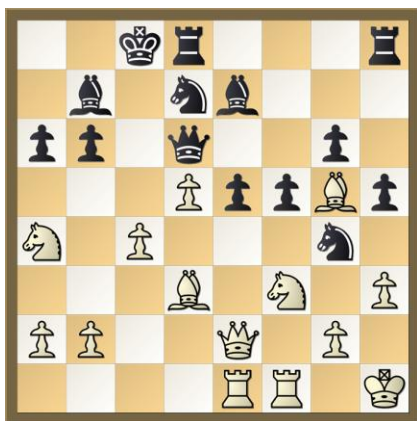
16...Ng4!



17.Bg5 Qc5+ 17...f6 was also very reasonable; 18.Bh4 Ne3 19.Rf2 (19.Qxe3?? Bc5) 19...Ng4 leads to an unusual repetition.

18.Kh1 f5 19.h3 h5 Now Black has made progress on the kingside, the position is much more double-edged – so White needs to accelerate his play on the other side of the board.

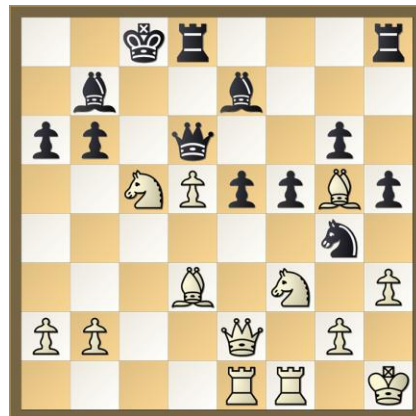
20.Na4! Qd6



21.c5 The sneaky 21.Nxb6+! Nxb6 22.c5! is a more effective way to open lines, when the black king quickly becomes exposed. 22...Qxd5 (22...Qxc5? 23.Rc1)

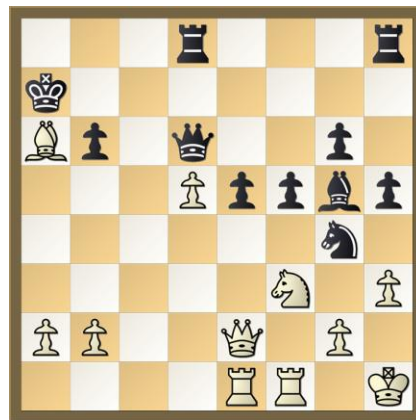
23.Bxe7 Qxd3 (23...Rd7 24.Bd6 e4 25.Bxa6 exf3 26.Rxf3) 24.Bxd8 Qxd8 25.cxb6.

21...Nxc5 22.Nxc5 22.Bxe7! Qxe7 23.Rc1 Kb8 24.Nxc5 bxc5 25.Bxa6 is a bit more accurate.



22...Bxg5 Too ambitious - 22...bxc5! 23.Bxe7 Qxe7 24.Bxa6 e4! leaves all to play for.

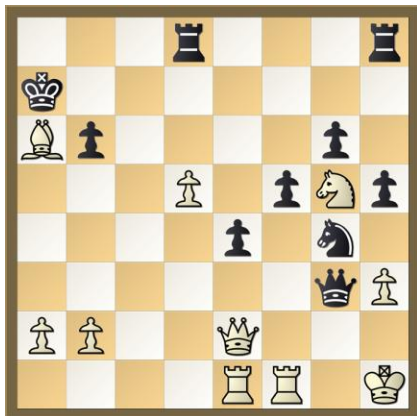
23.Nxb7 Kxb7 24.Bxa6+ Ka7



25.Nxg5 e4 Black has plenty of play for the material, albeit objectively insufficient.

26.g3! It's crucial not to allow Black's rook to join the attack: 26.hxg4? hxg4+ 27.Nh3! (27.Kg1 Qh2+ 28.Kf2 Qf4+ 29.Kg1 Qxg5; now Black's attack is too dangerous: 30.Qc4 (30.g3 Rh3) 30...Rh7 31.Bb5 g3 32.Qa4+ Kb8 33.Bc6 Rh1+ 34.Kxh1 Qh4+ 35.Kg1 Qh2 mate) 27...Qg3! 28.Bb5 gxh3 29.Kg1 hxg2 30.Qxg2 Qe5 is very messy.

26...Qxg3

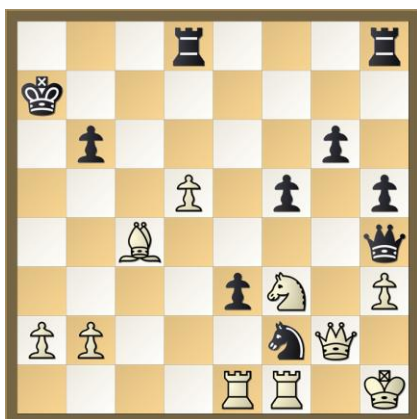


27.Bc4! A calm move, securing the bishop, and protecting the important pawn on d5. Black doesn't have that many pieces in the attack.

27...e3 27...Qh4 is a good practical try: 28.Qd2! e3 29.Qc3! is the strongest, with the idea of 29...Rh7! (29...Qxg5? 30.Qg7+ Kb8 31.Ba6) 30.d6! Qxg5 31.Bd5 wins for White, but this is a very difficult line to say the least.

28.Qg2 28.Rf3! was cleaner: 28...Nf2+ (28...Qh4 29.Nf7) 29.Qxf2 Qxf2 (29...exf2 30.Re7+) 30.Rxf2 exf2 31.Rf1 consolidates the material.

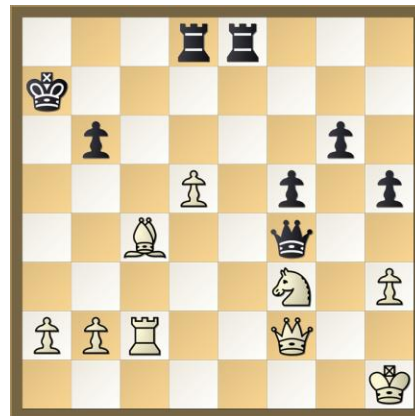
28...Qh4 29.Nf3 Nf2+



30.Rxf2! It's essential to remember that White's bishop is now loose: 30.Kh2? Qxc4.

30...exf2 31.Rc1 Qf4 32.Rc2 After this, the game is back in the balance. 32.Rc3! was correct; Ra3+ ideas might be useful, but equally importantly the e3 square is covered preventing a black rook entering. After 32...Rhe8 33.Qxf2 g5 34.Ra3+ Kb7 35.Ba6+ Kc7 36.Rc3+ White arrives first.

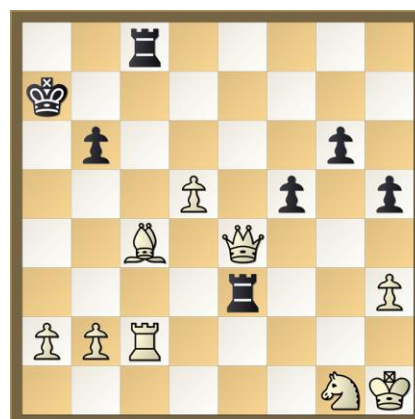
32...Rhe8 33.Qxf2



33...Re3 33...Rc8! 34.b3 Re3 35.Ng1 Qe4+ 36.Qg2 b5 achieves Black's dream of getting all his major pieces in the game. 37.Bd3 Qxg2+ 38.Kxg2 Rxc2+ 39.Bxc2 Rc3 leaves White needing accuracy to survive.

34.Ng1! The knight is safe here, and h3 is covered.

34...Qe4+ 35.Qg2 Rc8 36.Qxe4



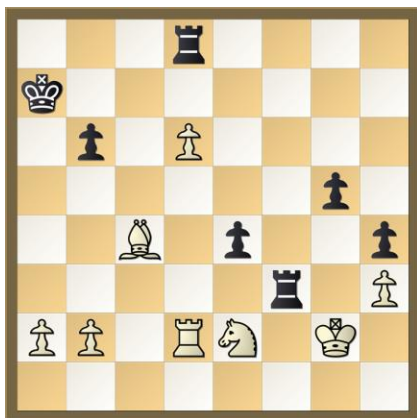
36...fxe4? The final mistake, and from now on Mark is merciless. The pawn on e4 looks nice, but it leaves the rook on e3 hopelessly impeded, with too few squares available. More importantly, 36...Rxe4! keeps up the momentum by attacking the bishop, not allowing White any time. 37.Bd3 (37.b3 b5) 37...Rxc2 38.Bxc2 Re1 39.Kg2 Kb7 should lead to a draw.

37.d6! Advancing the passed pawn is very strong, as it can be reinforced by either bishop or rook.

37...Rd8 38.Rd2 g5 38...Re1 39.d7 e3 40.Rd4 leaves the e-pawn stuck.

39.Kg2 h4 40.Ne2! The knight re-emerges, preventing a check on g3.

40...Rf3



41.Nd4! Now there are forks everywhere.

41...Rg3+ 41...Rf6 42.Nc6+!

42.Kh2 e3 43.Re2 b5 All the tactics work like clockwork now: 43...Rxd6 44.Nb5+!, or 43...Kb7 44.Nf5! Rf3 45.Bd5+.

44.Nc6+ Kb6 45.Nxd8 bxc4 46.Nf7!

Black resigned. 46...Kc6 47.Ne5+ Kxd6 48.Rxe3 Rxe3 49.Nxc4+ is one way the game could have wrapped up.

Arkell's Endings - Netting De Wolf



Arkell, K (2513) - De Wolf, J. (2149) [D35]
Vlissingen Open (2),
03.08.2003

I continue to receive requests for endings resulting from the Carlsbad structure, so here is another, played in the Netherlands 19 years ago.

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.c4 d5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Nc3 c6 6.Bg5 Be7 7.e3 Bf5 8.Bxf6 Bxf6 9.b4 0-0



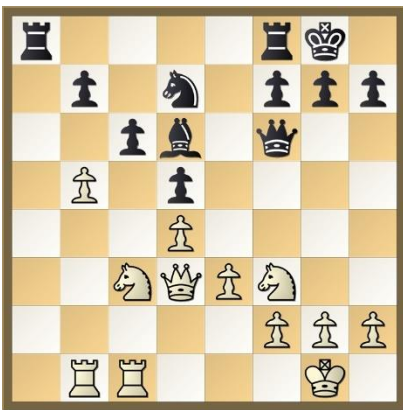
10.Bd3 When White plays the Queen's Gambit Exchange variation with a minority attack in mind, as opposed to central and kingside pressure with plans involving f3 and e4, it is helpful to exchange light-squared bishops. This is because the d3 bishop has no role to play in such positions, whereas Black's opposing bishop can be very useful both in attack and defence. And there is a more subtle reason for the bishop exchange: d3 is the ideal square for a white knight, and I can't park both pieces there!

10...Bxd3 11.Qxd3 a6 12.0-0 Be7 13.Rab1 Nd7 14.a4 Bd6 15.Rfc1 Qf6



I have played many games involving the sequence ...b5 a5, one of which is explained beautifully by Matthew Sadler in a YouTube video entitled 'AlphaZero king march and piece manoeuvres - Middlegame Strategies #1'.

16.b5 axb5 17.axb5



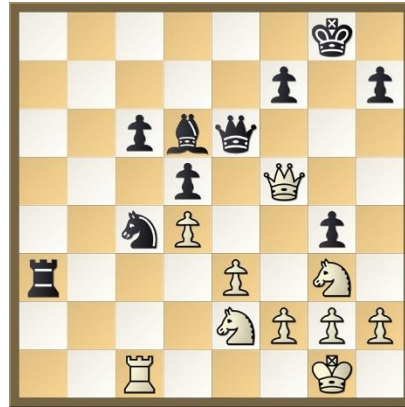
17...g5 My opponent understands that his chances lie in counterplay on the kingside, as without such a distraction he will suffer constant pressure against his weakened right flank.

18.bxc6 bxc6 19.Ne2 g4 20.Nd2 Ra3 21.Rb3 Rfa8



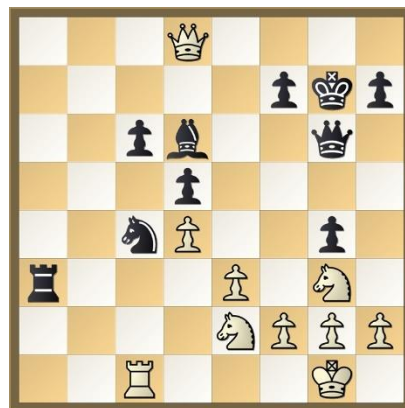
22.Nf1 The downside of the g-pawn march is the permanently weak squares left in its wake.

22...Nb6 23.Nfg3 Nc4 24.Rxa3 Rxa3 25.Qf5 Qe6



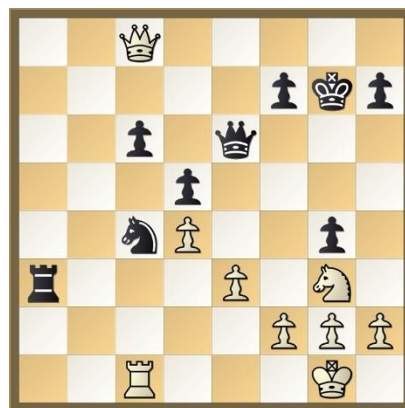
26.Qg5+ By diverting some of Black's pieces from the kingside I can now cause trouble with my queen and knight.

26...Qg6 27.Qd8+ Kg7



28.Qc8 This move eyes up all the sensitive points in De Wolf's position: f5, g4 and c6.

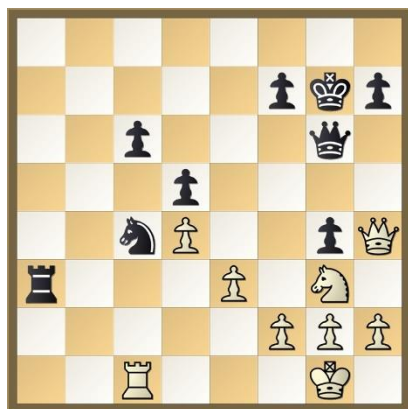
28...Bxg3 29.Nxg3 Qe6



30.Qd8 Some players naively think I will always exchange Queens in conjunction with a minority

attack, or even in any position! But in reality I try to play each position according to its demands.

30...Qg6 31.Qh4



31...f6 Nh5+ was a big threat.

32.h3 This is a multi-purpose move. 1) I give my king a bit of luft; 2) I create more scope for my queen and 3) it further damages Black's pawn structure.

32...gxh3 33.Qxh3 Ra7 To prevent Qd7+. Compare the isolated nature of Black's pawns with my own healthy chain.

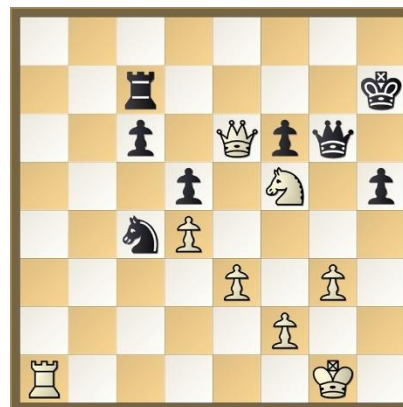
34.Qe6 h5



35.Nf5+ When playing these technical games you are constantly engaged in the calculation of minor skirmishes. Here it would be foolish to grab the c6 pawn and allow ...Nxe3 in reply.

35...Kh7 36.g3 Keeping everything nice and tidy. There is often no rush when playing against permanently fixed weaknesses.

36...Rc7 37.Ra1



37...Qf7 My opponent has defended well and understands that his king wouldn't be able to withstand the entry of my rook.

38.Qxf7+ Rxf7 39.Ra8



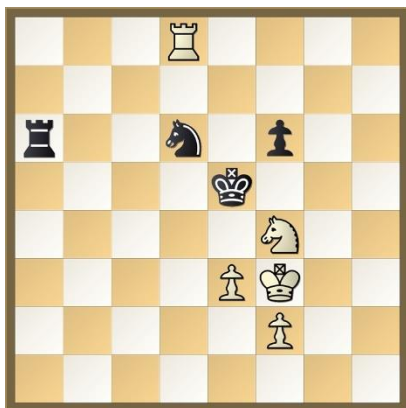
39...Rc7 The position is extremely difficult to defend, but Black is correct to try to reduce the number of pawns and eliminate one of his weaknesses.

40.Re8 c5 41.Rd8 cxd4 42.Nxd4 Rc5 43.Rd7+ Kh6 44.Kg2 Ra5 45.Nf5+ Kg5 46.Ne7



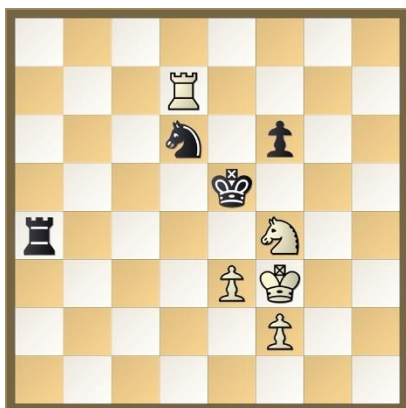
46...h4 A pawn will soon drop off but my opponent is hoping to gain drawing chances by reducing the position to 2 pawns v 1. However, while R v R or N v N can usually be held, the defence is much harder when dealing with the combination of both.

47.gxh4+ Kxh4 48.Nxd5 Kg5 49.Kg3 Kf5 50.Rd8 Ra6
51.Nf4 Nd6 52.Kf3 Ke5



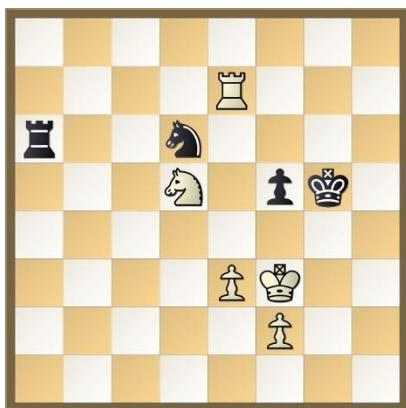
53.Rd7 The net is beginning to tighten around the black king. It's important to remember that in the endgame you can often use your own king to help with a mating attack...

53...Ra4 54.Re7+ Kf5 55.Rd7 Ke5



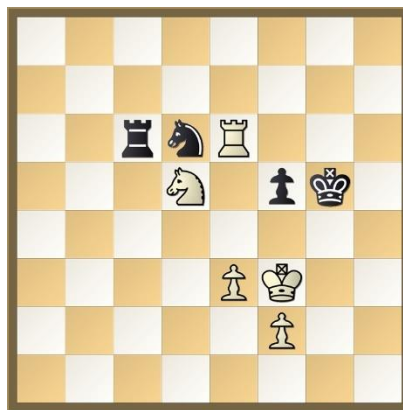
56.Kg4 ...and here we see just that: my king covers f5, threatening Re7# and inducing a further weakening move.

56...f5+ 57.Kf3 Ra6 58.Re7+ Kf6 59.Nd5+ Kg5



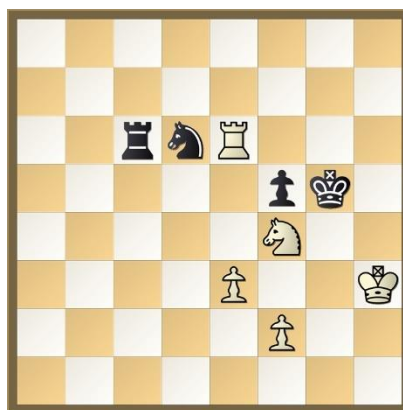
60.Re6 Finally he is irreversibly tied up and I can continue weaving the mating net at my leisure.

60...Rc6



1.Kg2! Again the king is useful in blocking escape routes. Here it will plug g4 and h4, after which the game is over.

61...Ra6 62.Kh3 Rc6 63.Nf4



1-0

Books of the Month

by Ben Graff



The best new writing and the greatest classics under one roof ... in association with Forward Chess

Ben Graff is on holiday this month, so we are sharing an extract from his book, *The Greenbecker Gambit*.

In this chapter, the delusional Tennessee Greenbecker has convinced himself that he is Magnus Carlsen's rightful challenger and is determined to build a strong backroom team to support his world championship quest. He then reflects on *My 60*

Memorable Games and his friendship with Bobby Fischer...

Only a draw

It feels like I've had enough actual chess for now, so I decide to turn my attention to securing Garry Kasparov as a second. I google his website. The white entwined letters GK appear on a black header. There are links labelled HOME, ABOUT GARRY, LECTURES AND EVENTS, FOUNDATION, HUMAN RIGHTS, DEEP THINKING, WINTER IS COMING, BOOKS, CONTACT.

There is a photograph of Garry wearing a suit but no tie, holding a white king in his left hand, staring straight towards the camera. A caption to the side of the picture reads MASTER CLASS in block red lettering. Underneath it says 'He may be the best chess player the world has ever seen. Now he teaches you how to improve your chess game.'

I consider whether this statement is libellous. My first instinct is that it must be. Yet, he surely ran it through his legal team. It is not immediately obvious why they were so relaxed about Garry opening himself up to being sued. Finally, I see. If I challenged him in a courthouse, Garry and his team would doubtless try and rely on the use of the word *may*. It is still a little embarrassing that he should be trying to oversell his accomplishments in this way, but that's what the insecure are prone to do. I am blessed that my own temperament is so different.

I click on the link to his books, which include what some idiots consider to be his seminal work – a multi-volume epic titled *My Great Predecessors*. It is Garry's assessment (with the help of computers) of every single previous world champion and a number of those who came close to the crown but missed out. I was incandescent at the time to find that I had not warranted a mention. Beyond furious. There is professional rivalry and then there is blatant disrespect for your betters.

I click through to the contact page. There is an option of a form to fill in or an email address for his office. I elect to write him an email.

Dear Garry,

I am sorry the critics have not been kind to Your Great Predecessors. I expect you have realised by now that your failure to include a chapter on me doomed your

work to oblivion from the outset. I would still be open to you righting this wrong in any future reprint, for the sake of the fans as much as anything.

Equally, if you think a single chapter could not do me justice (which was the most charitable motive that I could ascribe to you for my omission) I am open to any proposals you might have to write a whole book about my chess. Perhaps it could be called The Greenbecker Gambit. Clearly, we will need to discuss my share of the royalties. I would imagine a 90% cut for me would be reasonable. I will leave that one with you to reflect on. Clearly, I will be happy to help if there are any elements of my play you struggle to get to grips with.

All of this can keep Garry. Frankly, I am a little annoyed we have started at something of a tangent. Please do try and be more focussed in the future. What I am really writing to you about is my forthcoming match with Magnus Carlsen.

Having been alerted by a mutual friend to the fact that you might be available, I would like to offer you the opportunity to join my team. After all I have done for you over the years, often for very little thanks, I do feel that this is payback time. I think we both know that it is in the interests of the chess world for me to fulfil my destiny. In some ways, Garry, this could be your crowning achievement.

I need to be very clear, Garry. I will be doing most of the media work myself. I really want your insight on the Sicilian and other such setups. Judging by your match with Kramnik, I will look elsewhere for tips on how to manage The Berlin Defence! LOL!

Given this is a unique opportunity to be a part of history I am proposing that you work for me for free. However, you can come back to me on this point if you wish.

Yours faithfully

Tennessee

I click send and watch my message disappear into the ether. I am sure it will not be long until I hear back from him... I imagine Garry rushing into the internet café, sweat pouring off his brow, eager to get cracking. Grateful when I warn him off the fruitcake. These are exciting times indeed. Another good job done. Another wheel set in motion. As ever in life, if you want to get something sorted, do it yourself.

With Kasparov now in the bag, I open Bobby's book and look at game thirty-seven, which is titled 'Only a Draw'. I remember the last time that I saw Bobby. I made the trip to Iceland not all that long before he died. More than ten years ago now. My brother Gabriel had not wanted me to go. He never thought that Bobby was a particularly good influence on me, for reasons that escape me now. In some ways I regretted going myself, not that I would ever tell Gabriel that. Bobby was a mess. Lots of shouting and swearing. Practically incapable of finishing a sentence on any subject without cursing the Jews. He looked terrible. His fear of doctors meant he rejected treatment that could have saved his life.

Many urged him to get help, but he always refused. I was generally more circumspect, which I know he appreciated. He was right not to trust doctors, or those in authority. Who is to say they would not just have killed him more quickly if given the opportunity? My own situation today helps me see this with piercing clarity – albeit I will admit that not trusting doctors did not help Bobby overly much either. Whatever choices you make, the State will ensure you end up dead in the end. Is it any wonder, then, that humans have an inherent desire to burn everything down?

Bobby could still be lucid on occasion. I think he did have some regrets. In hindsight the reasons why he had walked away seemed less obvious to him than once they had been.

'Do not make the same mistakes as I made, Tennessee,' he said to me. 'You've already been out of the game for far too long, it's time to get back to playing, if the Jews will let you.'

I had long since reached the point where I knew that it was pointless to mention that both of us were Jewish. I still appreciated the sentiment about playing again. Bobby's encouragement always meant a lot to me. In his own way, he was telling me it was now on my shoulders to take forward his legacy. I was the only one capable of putting the kids of today back in their place.

We had an unbreakable bond. A shared clarity of purpose. People might have seen the wilderness years we had both spent away from the board as a waste. What did they know? The two of us achieved far more than anyone else. We just did it in our own way, that

was all. We gave as much as we could give. We were never afraid of our choices.

Time is pressing... I read through the notes of 'Only a Draw'. I laugh at the double mistake on move fifty-six. Even Bobby would admit to me that he was never sure entirely what he had been thinking on that one! I still have it, of that there is no doubt. I am determined that after these years of exile my time is drawing close. If I fully believe in myself then nothing can possibly go wrong.

The Greenbecker Gambit is published by The Conrad Press.

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Benefits: <https://bit.ly/ecfbenefits>

It's a Puzzlement!



Puzzle 1

Anthony Y Zhang (2237) - Andy Hill (1873)

28th 4NCL Congress 2022



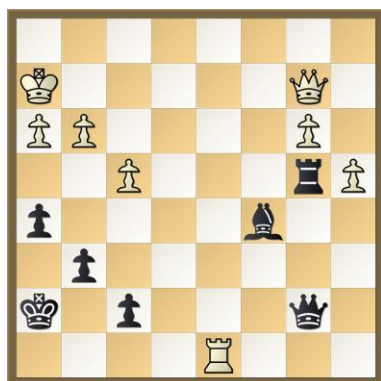
Black to play and win

[Click here to solve or for a hint and/or the solution](#)

Puzzle 2

Shivam Agrawal (1770) - WFM K Bhatia (1968)

4NCL 2021-22



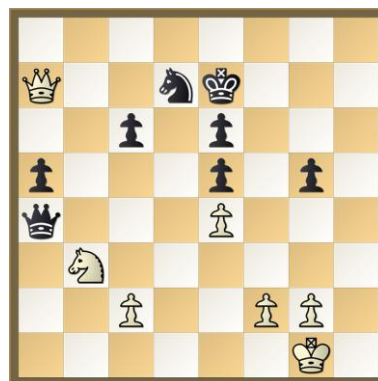
Black to play and win

[Click here to solve or for a hint and/or the solution](#)

Puzzle 3

Shabir Okhai (2134) - K Gregory (1954)

28th 4NCL Congress 2022



White to play and win

[Click here to solve or for a hint and/or the solution](#)

Puzzle 4

Ethan Li (1677) - M Gallana (2274)

28th 4NCL Congress 2022



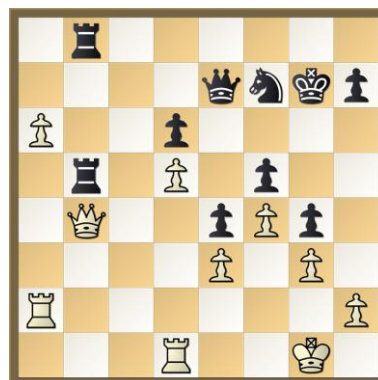
Black to play and win

[Click here to solve or for a hint and/or the solution](#)

Puzzle 5

GM J Mestel (2471) - FM Mart Taylor (2342)

4NCL 2021-22



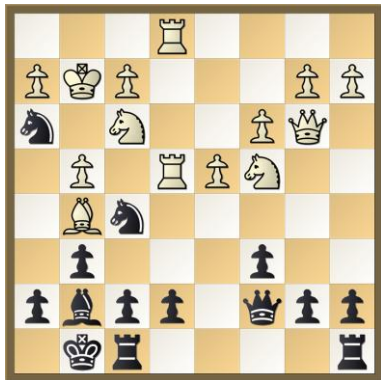
White to play and win

[Click here to solve or for a hint and/or the solution](#)

Puzzle 6

CM Konstantin Garagulya (2389) - GM Gawain Jones (2652)

Titled Tue 12th Jul Early chess.com



Black to play and win

[Click here to solve or for a hint and/or the solution](#)

Puzzle 7

FM Ruben Domingo Nunez (2382) - GM David Howell (2650)

Titled Tue 28th Jun Late chess.com



Black to play and win

[Click here to solve or for a hint and/or the solution](#)

Puzzle 8

IM A Ledger (2316) - Andrew I Paterson (2047)

4NCL 2021-22



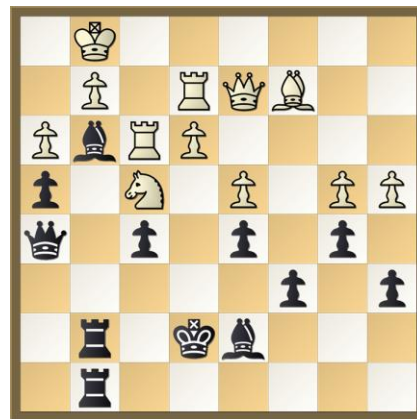
White to play and checkmate

[Click here to solve or for a hint and/or the solution](#)

Puzzle 9

IM J Cooper (2237) - FM J Merriman (2285)

4NCL 2021-22



Black to play and win

[Click here to solve or for a hint and/or the solution](#)

Puzzle 10

Kishan Jagdish Modi (2014) - Rishi Vijayakumar (1809)

28th 4NCL Congress



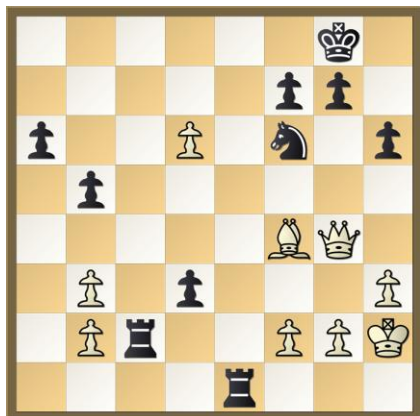
White to play and win

[Click here to solve or for a hint and/or the solution](#)

Puzzle 11

GM K Arakhamia-Grant (2354) - WCM Zoe Varney (2060)

Caplin Menchik Memorial



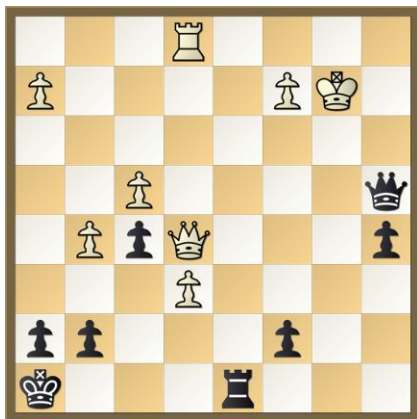
White to play and win

[Click here to solve or for a hint and/or the solution](#)

Puzzle 12

WGM K Toma (2309) - FM Lara Schulze (2284)

Caplin Menchik Memorial



Black to play and win

[Click here to solve or for a hint and/or the solution](#)

All in One

For all the puzzles on one page just visit [ChessMoves August Puzzles](#) by clicking the link or via the QR Code below



Mr Dodgy (Michael Duke) Interview

Questions by Mark Rivlin



If you like a spot of humour to go with your chess, Michael Duke (Mr Dodgy) is well worth a follow on Twitter, Twitch and Substack. Coming late-ish to chess, Michael has a 2067 FIDE rating and thousands of social media followers. Aside from a day job with Chessable, he runs the MrDodgy Online Invitational that attracts the world's A-Listers and he coached the Jersey Women's squad in the Chennai Olympiad.

How and why did you choose the handle Mr. Dodgy?

It's not the most exciting answer, I'm afraid! A long time ago, when I was making an account on ICC, I chose the name Dodgy. I figured it described my openings and my style – and it stuck!

With thousands of followers on Twitter, Twitch and Substack, along with your work for Chessable, you are a metaphorical social media pawn storm. Tell us about your rise to chess fame.

To be honest, it's all been quite random. I spent an embarrassing amount of time trolling Jan Gustafsson's and Peter Svidler's Chess24 commentary sessions from the chat; they seemed to like my silly jokes, so I kept going. I eventually shifted mostly onto Twitter and just continued to post my 'thoughts' about the chess world. I think because chess has the perception of being such a serious game, there is a nice contrast when humour is injected into the mix, so it seems to resonate with people.

Unlike the 2022 version of Howard Staunton who remains anonymous, you are happy to be known by your real name, Michael Duke. How different are your two personae?

I'm a bit less dramatic in real life, though I still think I'm pretty funny. Other opinions are available!

You have a FIDE rating of 2067; how much chess do you play on- and offline?

I play regularly online but stick to rapidplay and blitz. Offline, my last tournament was pre-pandemic (I finished second in a Swedish local tournament with 5.5/7). I do plan to play more OTB events, but I say that every year.

Tell us about your competitive chess journey in Scotland, England and latterly Sweden, where you now live.

I was a relatively late starter and didn't go to a chess club until I was 17, though I had played online. I was active in club chess for around ten years in England, though tournaments were less frequent. Since moving to Sweden six years ago I've only managed to play two tournaments, but I hope to be more active soon.

You were coach of the Jersey Women's team in the Chennai Olympiad. Prior to this work, had you done much coaching and how did the team respond?

I'm not a professional coach, though I do give some lessons, so this was a new experience for me. This was part of Chessable's sponsorship of the team, so, after discussions with the women, I suggested a study plan and courses for them to work on in the lead-up to the event. We also did weekly lessons focusing on the positions they were likely to see, along with training games and analysis of their games. The team worked incredibly hard and I couldn't be prouder of them. Three of the five players achieved conditional WCM titles and we lost out on a category bronze on a tie-break. It was a pretty good performance for a first-time event with four unrated players!

Your favourite chess tittle – standard-play, rapidplay or blitz?

As both a player and spectator, I have a big preference for slow chess. I think it's one of the near-unique aspects of chess, where that deep state of concentration can be reached when you play, and I find

slow games much more instructive when commentators have time to dive into them.

Please show us a game that you particularly enjoyed.



This position from the Olympiad was a nice shot to hold on in a very tough position, so I was a very proud coach.

Aside from your coaching at the Olympiad, what are your thoughts on the overall event?

It was my first ever Olympiad and I was incredibly impressed. The Indian hosts went to extraordinary lengths in the scale of the event and also making sure everyone had what they needed. Thousands of fans arrived every day and the atmosphere was fantastic.

The ECF are delighted that Chessable are sponsoring the British Championships for the first time. What are the reasons behind this sponsorship?

In my day job I work for Chessable and we wanted to support English and British chess because we knew the pandemic had been rough on OTB events. We thought it could be a great cooperation because many of our users are based in England and would benefit from the support. We're very proud to sponsor such an important historic event as the British Championships.

Your one-line Twitter quips are superb (<https://twitter.com/ChessProblem>). How do you come up with these ideas?

I don't write in a very systematic manner, so it's mostly just a lack of filter and a willingness to post the first thing that pops into my head. It's also important to

understand that some jokes will just flop and to be okay with that – I try to write things that make me smile and, if other people enjoy them, then that's a happy bonus!

The top players in the world are vying for a place in your legendary MrDodgy Invitational. How did this become an A-lister event?

I was fortunate to be able to run two online super tournaments that included some of the best players in the world. To some extent it just kind of snowballed from Peter Heine Nielsen and Peter Svidler agreeing to play very early on, though Jan Gustafsson and of course Anish Giri turned it into something special. I think there's room in chess for fun tournaments and I hope to see more of them.

Tallulah Roberts (<https://twitter.com/lularobs>) played in the Jersey team you coached. A brilliant chess influencer. What was it like having her in the squad?

Lula was the driving force behind the team and I think it would've been tough for them to get there without her tireless work on engaging sponsors (both Chessable and chess.com). She takes her chess very seriously and worked hard in the lead-up to the event. She had a tough event on board 1 but managed to put some nice games together and achieved the conditional WCM title. It's important to recognize she has only been playing since December 2020, so I expect big things from her in the future! 😊

Around the Country

Report on Wood Green Invitational 14-19 July 2022

by Lawrence Cooper

Last year's event produced three title norms and two titles, with Marcus Harvey gaining his third international master norm and title, Aga Milewska gaining her final FIDE arbiter norm and title and Ravi Haria his second grandmaster norm (the third followed in his very next tournament!), so this year's event had a lot to live up to.

Whilst this year's tournament ultimately ended without any norms there was little doubt which player made the biggest impact.

At one point it looked possible that all ten players might be part of the Wood Green 4NCL squad. Ultimately though, an Olympiad call-up, a FIDE rule change that came into force on 1 July and a player being on call for a visa appointment in Istanbul meant that we again had six players, with four guests.

The 2021 winner of the tournament (and England's latest grandmaster at the time), Ravi Haria and Daniel Fernandez were joined by Ketevan Arakhamia-Grant (who last played in one of my all-play-all tournaments in 2002!) as the three grandmasters. Marcus Harvey, Jonah Willow and David Fitzsimons returned, and Joseph McPhillips made his debut in the event. Conor Murphy was hoping to add to his one GM norm, whilst Zala Urh (from Slovenia) was aiming for her final WGM and second IM norm. The final player to join was FM Tim Wall who somehow found time to fit in nine games whilst working tirelessly on his Northumbria Masters event taking place at the end of August.

With several of the players being underrated I felt that the GM norm of 7/9 would be extremely difficult. The IM norm score was 5.5 (5 for Tim) and WGM norm was 5.

Ravi repeated his winning score of 2021 with 6 wins and 3 draws. Unlike last year though, he actually had one hard fought draw (as Black against Marcus in round 2). He is a class act and a pleasure to have in the team

and tournament. If it's helpful to the norm seekers is another matter!

Second place went to David Fitzsimons, who probably had the tournament of his life but ultimately fell agonisingly short of his first GM norm. He won a tough game against Marcus in round 1. With the GM norm being 7/9, players had to fight from the first round to the last and this game was no exception. Marcus had a promising position from the opening but at some point may have lost his sense of danger and David converted in convincing style. A hard-fought draw with Jonah followed before he stepped on the accelerator with three successive wins against WGM Zala Urh and grandmasters Ketevan Arakhamia-Grant and Daniel Fernandez (the last of these is annotated by David at the end of this report). A quick draw with Ravi Haria left him on 5/6, needing 2/3 heading into the final double-round day. Round 7 proved to be a key game. White (Joseph McPhillips) sacrificed a pawn but David was able to consolidate and stood very well. He turned down a draw, quite correctly, but then things started to go wrong. Joseph managed to create enough confusion for the game to head towards equality, but a mistake allowed White's advanced passed pawn to force a decisive win of material. He showed great character to bounce back and win against Tim Wall in the afternoon. This left him needing to beat Conor Murphy with Black, a difficult task but one that looked well within his grasp as he took the initiative and won an important pawn. Things looked very promising around move 40 but White was able to simplify to a minor piece ending where David had an extra pawn, but with all pawns on the kingside there was little hope of a win. He tried until move 121 but then accepted the inevitable. Although a score of 6.5/9 was still very good he finished just half a point off the GM norm, and it was painfully clear that the round seven and nine games will be viewed as missed opportunities.

The round one defeat to David meant that Marcus never really had a chance to play for a norm, but he finished the event with 3/3 and scored 3.5/4 (a hard fought draw with Ravi) with White to finish in third place with 5.5. The pairings weren't kind to him with five Blacks, including David, Joseph, Conor, and Daniel.

Daniel had a very difficult start, scoring 1.5 from his first five games. With the exception of his loss to David in round 5 he scored heavily against his 4NCL

teammates (3.5/4) in the last four rounds, having struggled against the rest of the field.

Jonah and Joseph both finished on 50%. Jonah had extremely tough pairings, having to face Ketevan, Ravi, Marcus, and Daniel all with Black. He recovered well from a loss to Ravi in round 3 with three wins before a horrible double Black on the final double round day knocked him back to 50%. He already has all his IM norms so missing one here hopefully won't impact on the pending title application he has. Joseph has become an important player for the Wood Green 4NCL team, showing great commitment by flying in from Dusseldorf to all five weekends this season. His games were all hard fought, with just one draw which was a crazy game against Marcus. I should also mention that he won the "Loz Cooper Birthday Blitz" held on the 16th when there was no round in the afternoon. He finished ahead of Daniel, Jonah, & Marcus with 5th, 6th & 7th places occupied by the birthday boy, Neil Clarke (who played in some of my 1990s events before returning after a gap of about 25 years in 2019) and Alex Richardson (who has played all but one of my many birthday blitz events dating back to my 21st in 1991).

The four guest players will have hoped for better scores but were welcome additions to the event.

Conor had tough pairings, with five Blacks including facing Ravi, Daniel, Jonah and Ketevan. Judging by his results in the 2022 Olympiad though he has found some form!

Ketevan remains an incredible fighter and even after three losses in a row overrunds 4-6 bravely dived headlong into complications against Tim in round 7 and lived to tell the tale. She was close to a win in rounds one and three (against Jonah and Daniel) and I am very pleased that she will be joining the Wood Green team at this year's European Club Cup for Women.

Tim had a memorable day two beating both Daniel and Conor and had some exciting games in the other rounds.

Zala had an eventful start to the tournament when she arrived too late at her hotel to get her room the day before the tournament! Fortunately, having to sleep on a mattress on my lounge floor didn't prove too damaging to her round 1 game as she drew with Daniel. From there things got trickier. She had promising

positions against Ketevan and Ravi, but the double round days were not kind to her. She kept fighting, though, and finished with a draw against Jonah. An early morning flight the day after the event led to the organiser getting up at 3am to avoid her having to pay for a £100+ taxi!

No report is complete without thanking all those who helped make the event possible. It is no exaggeration to say that without the support of the organisations listed below I wouldn't be able to organise annual tournaments. One might appear once every five or ten years but along with other organisers we are incredibly grateful for any contribution that they are able to provide.

The John Robinson Youth Chess Trust was created following the death of John Robinson in February 2006. Its funds are used to help players under the age of twenty-one resident in England or eligible to represent England.

The English Chess Federation International Director, Malcolm Pein, needs no introduction and was again able to provide financial help. Like me, he values the importance of title norm opportunities being given to our many promising players.

The Chess Trust was established in 2015, helped by a significant bequest from Richard Haddrell. It has the support of the English Chess Federation and aims to provide support to amateur chess in England both in terms of playing and teaching.

The Friends of Chess have less funding than those mentioned above but have consistently helped support my tournaments. They also offer support to individual players.

Matthew Carr was chief arbiter and live board operator and provided all the equipment. We were very happy with the Oddfellows Hall venue (in particular the air conditioning on the two hottest days of the year!) and its location in the town centre of Stafford. Thank you also to Natasha Regan, Matthew Sadler and Peter Wells for the entertainment provided by their commentary and of course to the ten players for providing the organiser with a hassle-free tournament.

Fitzsimons, David (2337) - Fernandez, Daniel Howard (2496) [B01]

Wood Green Invitational 2022 Oddfellows Hall, Stafford (5.1), 17.07.2022 [Fitzsimons, David]

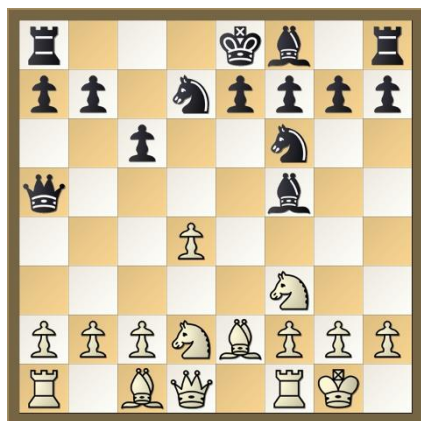
1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5?! Despite Dan's vast theoretical knowledge, he often likes to go his own way in the opening. In this case, he may be taking too many liberties, however. White is not obliged to transpose to a Scandinavian with 4 Nc3 but can instead gain space with his c-pawn, leaving Black passively placed. **4.Nf3 4.c4±** Playing this either now or on the next move may be the most accurate way to continue, as Dan managed to prevent me from doing so in the game. **4...Nf6 5.Be2.** Simple development. I was playing by analogy with the line 1 e4 d5 2 exd5 Qxd5 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 d4, which is known to be good for White. Black should instead play 3...Bg4 4 Be2 Nc6 if he wants to fight for equality, but with Black's pawn already on c6 here, he is deprived of this option and has no real counterplay. Again, 5.c4± is probably more accurate. **5...Qa5+!?** An interesting attempt to prevent White from playing c2–c4 in one go. It seems to be something of a speciality of the Serbian GM Savic, who has played it a handful of times over the years. **6.Nbd2** This felt momentarily awkward, but White can look forward to gaining a tempo on the black queen with Nd2–c4 after he castles and unpins the knight. 6.c3 is another natural way to block the check. 6...Qc7: the queen has done its job on a5, but Black has lost a lot of time. (6...Nbd7 7.0–0 e6 8.c4 Be7 9.Bf4!± Taking away the c7–square from Black's queen. Black's position is clearly worse due to his lack of space and bad light-squared bishop. (9.Nc3?! 1/2 (25)–1/2 (25) Hug, M (2257) - Dolezal, R (2436) Prague 2009 9...e5! 10.d5± is only a slight edge for White.)) 7.0–0 Bg4 8.Ne5! The most direct way to secure an advantage for White. (8.h3 Bxf3 9.Bxf3 e6 10.c4± White achieves the desired pawn advance and has the two bishops to boot. (10.Nd2 Nbd7± 1/2 (40)–1/2 (40) Kadric, D (2458)-Savic, M (2543) Novi Sad 2012)) 8...Bxe2 9.Qxe2 e6 10.Bf4 Gaining further time on Black's queen. 10...Qc8 11.Re1±; 6.Bd2!± is also critical. Dan mentioned that his intention was to play 6...Qb6?! and call my bluff about sacrificing the b2–pawn. This looks very risky, however, after the accurate (6...Qc7 is somewhat safer, but Black is clearly worse after 7.0–0 e6?! Very passive. (7...Bg4 8.Ne5!± is similar to a line we looked at after 6 c3; The natural 7...Bf5!± is probably best, but 8.Ne5 Nbd7 9.Bf4± is still good for White.) 8.c4 Bd6 9.Nc3 0–0 10.Re1± (10.h3

1/2 (77)–1/2 (77) Arias, J (2277)-Valle, L (2284) chess.com INT 2021)) 7.Na3! Black's attempts at snatching the b2–pawn are thwarted by this move. 7...Be6 (7...Qxb2?? loses the queen immediately after 8.Nc4+– b5 is the only square where the queen isn't immediately hanging, but Nc4–d6+ will pick up Her Majesty anyway.) 8.0–0 Nbd7 (8...Qxb2?? Black doesn't lose the queen this time, but White's compensation is overwhelming after 9.Nc4 Bxc4 10.Bxc4+– with too much development and the two bishops.) 9.Re1± Once again, capturing on b2 is no good: 9...Qxb2?? 10.Nc4 Bxc4 11.Bxc4 Black's queen needs to beat a hasty retreat, but this allows White to launch a decisive attack. 11...Qb6 12.Rb1 Qc7 13.Ng5! e6 14.Bxe6+– is devastating.

6...Bf5

6...Qc7 7.0–0 Bg4 is met in the usual way with 8.Ne5 Bxe2 9.Qxe2 e6 1/2 (21) –1/2 (21) Popovic, D (2516)-Savic, M (2520) Gunja 2014, and now 10.Re1 Nbd7 11.Ndc4± leaves White with a commanding position in the centre. 6...e6 is, as usual, very passive: 7.0–0 Be7 8.Nc4 Qc7 1–0 (58) Postny, E (2622) - Novak, R (2162) Sibenik 2011 9.a4± secures the knight on c4 and leaves White with more space and better-placed pieces. 6...Bg4 7.0–0 e6 8.Ne5! Yet again! 8...Bxe2 9.Qxe2 Be7 10.Ndc4 Qd8 1/2 (25)–1/2 (25) Vea, O (2234) -Savic, M (2509) Sarajevo 2015 11.Rd1 Nbd7 12.Rd3± White's advantage isn't as substantial as in other lines, but he still has a rather straightforward attacking plan on the kingside.

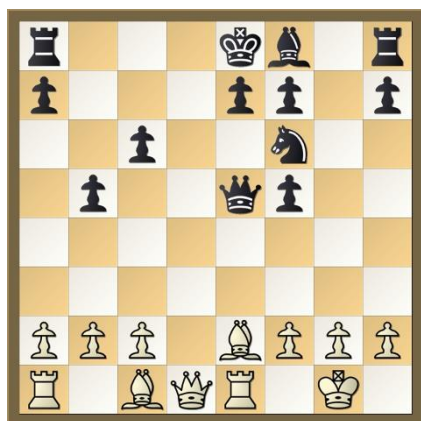
7.0–0 Nbd7



7...e6 8.Nh4± had been my intention, just securing the two bishops and a guaranteed edge. **8.Nh4!** Dan had initially underestimated the strength of f2–f4–f5 in response to his bishop retreating. **8...g6?** This is too

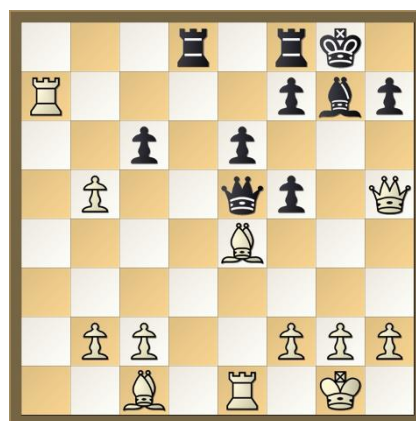
ambitious, but Black's position was already very difficult. 8...Be6 9.f4 (9.c4± is similar.) 9...g6 10.c4!± Black is very cramped and his light-squared bishop is uncomfortably placed on e6. White will kick back Black's queen with Nd2–b3 and then break with f4–f5, with a strong initiative; 8...Bg6 9.Nc4 (9.f4 e6 10.g4± Dan mentioned that he was worried about this brute force way of persecuting his light-squared bishop. (10.f5 is also very good: 10...exf5 11.Nc4 Qd8 12.Nxf5 Bxf5 13.Rxf5 Be7 14.Bd3± with a clear advantage and dangerous attacking prospects for White.)) 9...Qc7 10.f4 Be4 11.f5± Black is very cramped here. **9.Nc4** Forcing the queen to abandon her protection of the bishop on f5 sooner or later. **9...Qc7** 9...Qd5 continues to defend the bishop, but not for long: 10.Ne3 Qa5 11.b4! Qxb4 12.Nexf5 gxf5 13.Nxf5 e6 14.Nh6!+– is a nice idea, momentarily preventing Black from castling on either side. White has a winning advantage as Black cannot complete his development without making further concessions (such as capturing on h6). Black's king won't be able to find a safe haven anywhere on the board. **10.Nxf5 gxf5 11.Re1±** White's advantage is already close to being decisive here. Black is behind in development, White has the two bishops and Black has a damaged structure. **11...b5!?** I felt that this was far too extravagant during the game, but in fact it's one of the top engine choices here! 11...h5!? is the other move the engine wants to try, but Black is basically committed to sacrificing a pawn after 12.Bd3 e6 13.Bxf5 0–0–0 14.Bd3 Ng4 15.g3+– and it really doesn't look as if he has any compensation. **12.Ne5!** 12.Ne3! is also good. 12...e6 13.a4 b4 14.Bf3 Castling queenside is too risky and otherwise Black struggles to defend the f5–pawn. 14...f4 (14...Be7 15.Qe2 Ne4 16.Bxe4 fxe4 17.Nc4 Nf6 18.Bg5+– is just crushing for White.) 15.Nc4 Bg7 16.c3 0–0!? 17.cxb4 Nd5 This might look like a bit of a mess to deal with over the board, but White has several strong continuations. I like 18.Bd2! Bxd4 19.Rc1+– best, as White has tremendous pressure on the queenside. **12...Nxe5?!** 12...e6 Keeping the tension is probably better. 13.Bf4 Bd6 14.Bf3 White threatens to capture on c6 already. 14...Nd5 15.Bxd5 cxd5 16.Qh5 Nxe5 17.Bxe5 Bxe5 18.Rxe5+– Perhaps somewhat surprisingly, Black is completely lost, despite the simplifications. Black's king has no safe haven and White's major pieces are well able to exploit this. There are immediate threats to the e6 and f5–pawns, and 18...0–0–0 brings no joy to Black after 19.Re3! Kb8 20.Rb3+– which wins at least a pawn, with

an overwhelming advantage. **13.dxe5** 13.Bf4!? I also considered this, but I felt that White would have to capture on e5 with the pawn eventually anyway. 13...Nfd7 (13...Nf3+ 14.Bxf3 Qxf4!? 15.Bxc6+ Kd8 and now 16.g3! is probably the most accurate, as (16.Bxa8 Ng4 17.Qf3 (17.Bf3+–) 17...Qxh2+ 18.Kf1 had been my intention, and it is indeed winning for White.) 16...Qb8 is met by 17.Qf3+– winning the rook anyway.) 14.Bh5! I hadn't considered this move. (14.dxe5 This was what I looked at, but Black seems to be better off than in the game after 14...e6±) 14...Bg7 (14...e6 can be met by 15.Rxe5!+– and Black can't guard against both Re5xe6 or Re5xf5.) 15.dxe5 e6 16.g4! appears to be very strong for White, but it looks messy to play this way in a practical game. 16...0–0–0 17.Qe2 fxe4 18.a4+– gives White decisive pressure. **13...Qxe5**

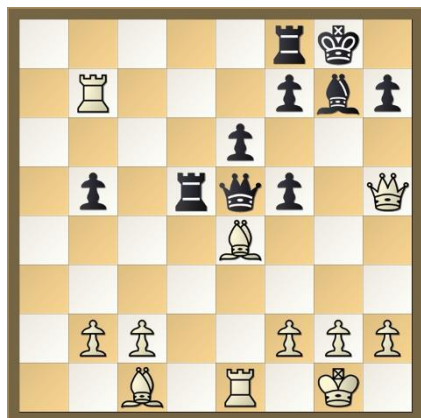


14.a4! Softening up Black's queenside further felt like the best way to go. **14...Ne4** 14...Rd8 Dan and I looked at many interesting lines after the game, most of which I have unfortunately forgotten! However, in the cold light of day with the engine on, it's clear that Black is in dire trouble. 15.Bd3 Qd5 16.axb5 Rg8 17.g3 e6 18.bxc6 Bc5!? This looks like the most dangerous continuation for White to face, but he has several ways to defend. 19.c7 Rc8 20.Bb5+ strikes me as being the simplest. (20.b4! is the engine first choice but it seems somewhat inhuman. 20...Bxb4 21.Bf4+– Taking the exchange gives White overwhelming play on the dark squares.) 20...Ke7 21.c4 Qb7 It's more reasonable to consider (21...Qxd1 22.Rxd1 Rxc7 23.Bf4 is crushing for White, one sample line being 23...Rb7 24.b4! Bxb4 25.Bc6+– winning decisive material.) 22.b4! in this position, as Black may have potential ... Rg8xg3+ ideas if his queen captures on c7. 22...Bxb4 23.Ba6 Qxc7 24.Bxc8 Rxc8 (24...Bxe1 25.Qxe1 Rxc8 26.Ba3+ Ke8 27.Qb4+– with murder on the dark squares.) 25.Bg5 Bxe1 26.Qxe1+– is overwhelming for White. **15.axb5**

Rd8 15...e6 This attempt to complete development falls short after the cold-blooded 16.bxc6 Bc5? 17.Qd7+ Kf8 18.Bh6+ Kg8 19.c7!+– and Black's threat to f2 is of no consequence, since promoting the c-pawn leads to mate. **16.Bd3 e6** **17.Qh5!** 17.bxc6+– is also enough, but I wanted to fight for the initiative. **17...Bg7** **18.Rxa7?!** Definitely not the most accurate. There's nothing wrong with 18.bxc6 0–0 19.Bxe4 fxe4 20.Qxe5 Bxe5 21.Bh6 Rfe8 22.Rxa7 Bxb2 23.c7 Rc8 24.Rxe4 with a winning ending: 24...Re7 25.Rg4+! Kh8 26.Rb4 Black can't capture on c7 due to the back rank mate. 26...Be5 27.g3!+– Capturing on c7 will either lead to mate on the back rank or a devastating pin on the c-file after Rb4–c4. g2–g3 was an important prophylactic move to prevent ...Bc7xh2+ in the latter case. **18...0–0** **19.Bxe4?** And this throws away a good chunk of White's advantage.



19.bxc6 still looks winning after 19...Qc5 20.Be3 Qxc6 21.h3 For example, 21...Bxb2 22.Bxe4 Qxe4 23.Rxf7! Rxf7 24.Qg5+ Bg7 25.Qxd8+ Rf8 26.Qd6+– with an extra pawn and Black having to deal with his weakened structure and exposed king.; 19.b6 hadn't really occurred to me, but it's the engine's first choice. Black seems to have nothing better than 19...Qd4 20.Bxe4 fxe4 21.Be3 Qxb2 and now 22.Qc5+– keeps control for White. **19...cxb5!** I had completely overlooked this. It was a very unpleasant surprise! I spent a good bit of time here trying to make sure I at least had a clear way of keeping an extra pawn. **20.Rb7!** After nearly twenty minutes of thought, I managed to find one of the strongest moves. Luckily, White's advantage should still be enough to win against best play, but it's not trivial. 20.Ra5!+– may be even more accurate, avoiding 20 Rb7 Rb8! **20...Rd5??** This is a creative attempt to avoid losing a pawn, but fortunately I had seen the refutation.



20...fxe4 21.Qxe5 Bxe5 22.Rxb5 Rd5 23.Rb6± maintains very good winning chances for White. (23.Rxd5 exd5 24.c3 Dan and I discussed this ending after the game and felt that Black has good drawing chances. 24...Ra8±) ; 20...Rb8! looks like Black's best chance. 21.Rxb8 Rxb8 22.Kf1! is the strongest reply, protecting the rook on e1 and unpinning the light squared bishop. Black is forced to capture on e4: 22...fxe4 23.Qxe5 Bxe5 24.Rxe4+— This ending with an extra pawn for White and same-coloured bishops still on the board is objectively winning, although it will take a long time for White to prove this. **21.Bf4!+—** Black will end up an exchange and a pawn down if he captures on f4. **1–0**

Chessington Chess Club

by Edward Jemes

Being Surrey's newest Chess Club wasn't an easy feat!

The Chessington Chess Club began during the Covid lockdowns, meeting virtually until we were able to have weekly meetings on Wednesdays from 7:30 pm at the North Star pub on Hook Road.



The atmosphere is relaxed and friendly (being in a pub is a huge plus). All skill levels were welcome from beginner to expert, which created a more diverse and challenging atmosphere.

Whether people were looking to get some match play experience or just looking to play some casual games, CCC had something for you.

After the website was created, we also invested heavily in Facebook and Instagram advertising and posts, which created more interest from people, along with great content.

Last season, we won the Fred Manning league and made it to the Lauder Cup Final: we are now looking to make a bigger mark for the next season!



ECF Online

Nigel Towers reports on ECF Online Club Tournaments and Internationals

ECF online club membership levels (mid-August 2022) are as follows ---

Chess.com ECF Open club - 5,553

Chess.com ECF Members - 1,786

Lichess English Players - 1,517

We continue with three tournaments a week in the Lichess English Chess Players Club and four per week in the Chess.com ECF Members Club – at a mix of blitz and rapid time control.

ECF Online Classical Swiss



We are also now running the fortnightly classical Swiss event open to all English Chess Players team members, with four rounds at 50|10 time control on alternate Sundays. Rounds start at 10.30 am, 2.00 pm, 5.00 pm and 8.00 pm with the tournaments rated in the Online Standardplay list.

ECF Online Grand Prix – 2022

We have reached month 8 of the ECF Online Grand Prix, which runs for ten months from January until October 2022, with the blitz events running on the first Sunday of each month and the rapid on the third Sunday. The leaderboard can be found here for the two series --- <https://www.englishchess.org.uk/2022-online-grand-prix-series/>

Rapid Event Seven (July 17)

Rapid Event Seven was won by Chris Davison who moves back into the lead in the rapid leader board ahead of Tristan Cox and Kyle Bennet --- <https://www.englishchess.org.uk/2022-online-grand-prix-series-rapid-leaderboards/>

Blitz Event Eight (Sunday 7 August)

Blitz Event Eight was won by FM David Walker, followed by @rocktroll and @woodpusher1971. Michael Harris is still in the lead, followed by Chris Davison and Kyle Bennet --- <https://www.englishchess.org.uk/2022-online-grand-prix-series-blitz-leaderboards/>

Lichess Team Battles

Lichess team battles continue to be very popular with English Chess Players team members. These provide an opportunity to take part in some of the biggest Lichess events with team members paired in Arena format with players from opposing teams. The weekly schedule is currently as follows:

The **Mega A Blitz Team Battle** on alternate Friday afternoons















The **Bundesliga** (Lichess Liga) with regular team events on Thursday and Sunday

U2100 Summer World League on Saturdays

The **Chess960 Superblitz** which is a four-hour Fischer random marathon on Sunday afternoons.

The **Torres de Loule** which runs on Sunday afternoons

The **Champions League** on Tuesday afternoons

	Lichess Liga 4A Team Battle 3+0 • Blitz • Rated • 1h 40m	10 teams battle 12 hours ago	 144
	93 rd TORRES de LOULÉ 2D Team Battle 3+3 • Blitz • Rated • 1h 30m	16 teams battle 16 hours ago	 129
	77th u2100 Summer World League Team Battle 3+0 • Blitz • Rated • 1h 10m	79 teams battle 36 hours ago	 91
	Weekly Chess960 SuperBlitz Team Battle 3+0 • Chess960 • Rated • 4h	30 teams battle 43 hours ago	 83
	41st Lichess Mega A Team Battle 3+0 • Blitz • Rated • 2h	195 teams battle 2 days ago	 2,788
	Lichess Liga 4A Team Battle 5+0 • Blitz • Rated • 1h 40m	10 teams battle 3 days ago	 112
	Champions league Team Battle 3+0 • Blitz • Rated • 2h	33 teams battle 5 days ago	 364

NEWS and VIEWS

ECF Awards

The Committee have agreed the following eleven awards in seven categories which the ECF Board have ratified. All winners will be presented with an engraved glass trophy recognising their achievement and will, where appropriate, be entitled to use the winner's logo.

President's Award for Services to Chess

Jimmy Adams; Colin Green; Ray Pomeroy; Mick Riding

Contribution to Women's Chess

Lorin D'Costa

Contribution to Junior Chess

Dale James

Club of the Year

Gosforth Chess Club

Small Club of the Year

Holmfirth Chess Club

Congress of the Year

Durham

Contribution to Community Chess

John White and Christopher Skulte; Warwick University Chess Club

No awards were made in the categories of Contribution to Online Chess and Accessible Chess. Next year we will ask for nominations to be made in a more standardised format. This will aid the evaluation and reporting structure.

You can download the citations for the winners via <https://www.englishchess.org.uk/ecf-awards-2022/>

Arbiter Award

Many congratulations to Shohreh Bayat who was the

recipient of the award of Outstanding Chess Arbiter from Europe at Year of the Woman in Chess Awards. More information at <https://fide.com/news/1905>

ECF Membership – and We're Rolling!

Good news! From 1 September the ECF is moving from a fixed membership year, where all memberships expire on 31 August, to a rolling year where all memberships extend for 12 months from the point at which they are taken out. The text of the formal proposal accepted by Council to implement this change can be found in the download at <https://www.englishchess.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/C36.181-Move-to-Rolling-Membership.pdf> There are also supplementary notes downloadable at <https://www.englishchess.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/C36.183-Notes-on-Rolling-Membership-2.pdf> outlining the Board's reasoning in bringing forward the proposal. The attention of league organisers and players is particularly drawn to this document, which explains the impact of the new system on liability for game fee in league and club internal matches.

Support for Ukrainian Chess Players

The Chess Trust has announced financial support for Ukrainian Chess players. Amongst recent grants it has awarded, The Chess Trust has agreed a series of small grants totalling £10,000 to support and facilitate the playing of chess by Ukrainian nationals in the United Kingdom. Full details of these grants and how to apply for them can be found at <https://www.englishchess.org.uk/chess-trust-support-for-ukrainian-chess-players/>

Ratings

Brian Valentine, Manager ECF Rating writes ---
For ECF rating purposes a blitz game is one where each player has between 3 and 10 minutes to complete the game (increment count following the normal 60-move convention). Up until now these results have not been rated by the ECF.

Last November we put out a call to collect OTB blitz results to start a new rating list for this speed of chess. By the end of July we had received over 6000 results involving 581 players. We have decided that it is time to start publishing the list.

We aim to have the list published for the 1 September update. Ratings will become available for each month starting 1 December 2021.

Investigations have shown that the rating list will work best if it is seeded with 'sensible ratings'. All players will start with a draw against a dummy player with their then current ECF OTB rapid chess rating. Only categories A-K will count as valid and, if that is not available, we will try to use the similar standard play version. Otherwise we will operate the normal rapid chess methodology. Subject to review, we expect to move to the normal new player method in the new year.

The more results submitted the better the quality of the list. We are still light on adult results. Why not start your club season with a rated blitz tournament? Blitz game fees don't apply yet, so it is an effective way to involve new members. If you are interested in getting your own blitz rating, consider entering the UK Blitz 2022.

ECF AGM

Michael Farthing, Chair of Council, reports ---
The 2022 ECF AGM will be held on Saturday 15 October in Birmingham, with access also by Zoom. The deadline for motions and for nominations for posts is Thursday 8 September. More information at <https://englishchess.org.uk/ecf-agm-call-for-nominations/> and <https://www.englishchess.org.uk/ecf-agm-call-for-motions/>

ECF Elections - Direct Members' Representative election results

At the close of voting for the Silver Representatives positions, results were as follows ---
Robert Dennington – 21; Srihari Iyengar – 8; Tahir Maher – 8; Julian Morrison – 16; John Reyes – 23. So Robert Dennington and John Reyes have been elected – congratulations to them both. You can find all the representatives at <https://www.englishchess.org.uk/direct-members-reps-elections-2022/>

FIDE Commissions

FIDE are seeking nominees for their various non-elected Commissions – more details at <https://www.englishchess.org.uk/fide-commissions-nominations/>

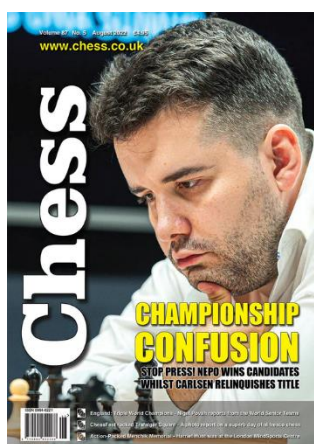
Glorney Cup

England won the Glorney Cup 2022 – results and downloadable games are available at <http://chess-results.com/tnr657808.aspx?lan=1>

YouTube

Natasha Regan and her many guests have provided fantastic commentary on numerous events over the years. You can watch these live at https://www.twitch.tv/ecf_commentary but if you prefer there is now an extensive library of them at <https://www.youtube.com/c/EnglishChessFederation/videos>

CHESS MAGAZINE TASTER



Click here for this month's taster -

<https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/0478/2876/2775/files/chess-magazine-august-2022-sample.pdf?v=1651590824>

Click here to purchase / subscribe -

<https://chess.co.uk/collections/chess-magazine/products/chess-magazine-august-2022>

Gems from the Library

Chess Scrapbooks

by Jennifer Voss



For this month's 'Gems from the Archive' I'd like to introduce our fascinating collection of chess scrapbooks. Spanning the period between 1940 to 1973, these carefully crafted items contain a wealth of newspaper clippings covering a wide range of chess journalism from weekly chess problems and tournament notes to current events from the world of chess.

Notable historical chess problems and columns which feature within the collection have been taken from publications such as *The Observer*, *The Times* and *The Telegraph* and have been produced by a wide range of contributors including: Brian Harley (President of the Chess British Chess Problem Society, 1947-1949), William Winter (British Chess Champion 1935-36), W. Hatton Ward (chess editor and organizer), Harry Golombek (British Chess Champion in 1947, 1949 and 1955) and Leonard Barden (England international and esteemed chess columnist).

There are also a large number of puzzles posed by readers, as well as reader responses to publications' previous weekly problems, demonstrating the longstanding participatory nature of chess journalism within British print media.

Another prominent area of interest that has been well-documented within the scrapbooks is the 1972 World Chess Championship. Dubbed 'The Chess Match of the Century', the battle to be World Champion consisted of 21 games which took place between 11 July and 31 August 1972 at the Laugardalshöll arena in Reykjavík, Iceland.

The heated contest between American GM Bobby Fischer and Russian GM Boris Spassky garnered a significant amount of media attention, with the clippings showcasing the intense dissection of each match, and each player, throughout the competition. From details of Fischer's 'wild and unpredictable' temperament and requests to play in privacy, away from the cameras, to detailed analyses of every move played, the scrapbooks provide a unique insight into the buzz and excitement generated by this gripping event.

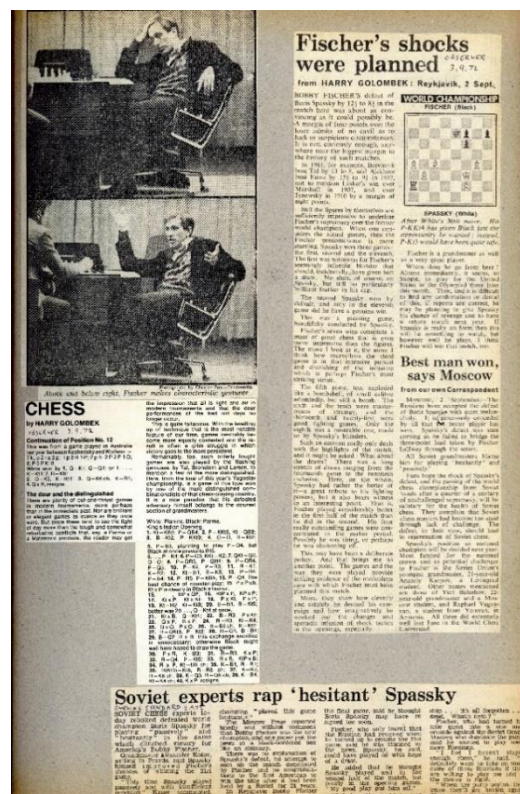
Witness this excerpt: 'So Fischer has won! After a seven-and-a-half-week saga in which psychology, diplomacy, accusation and counter-accusation were mingled with chess, Boris Spassky's three-year reign as world champion has ended.'

In a similar fashion to the public's response to Netflix's 2020 miniseries *The Queen's Gambit*, the intense coverage of the match sparked a renewed interest in chess in the 1970s. A 1972 article from *New Scientist* featured in the scrapbook addresses this 'unprecedented wave of interest' in a discussion on the issue of 'whether or not computers can be programmed to compete on equal terms with the best human chess intellects'. Likewise, a clipping titled 'Chess Boom Catches Out Super Set Makers' details how the sky-rocketing demand for hand-turned, boxwood chess sets created a six-month delay in production for international artisans.

If you would like to test your chess problem solving skills with a vast array of past puzzles, or leaf through pages of war-time chess news, these scrapbooks are a treasure trove of incredible chess history.

Remember that the ECF Library and archive at DMU Special Collections is open for everyone, please contact archives@dmu.ac.uk for enquiries or to make an appointment.

--- Jennifer Voss, Archives Assistant



Tweet of the Month



Maria Emelianova
@photochess

Start of the round: just @MagnusCarlsen and deez nuts on Norwegian side. Is he ready for a simul? #ChessOlympiad

← Thread



JUNIOR MOVES

Littlewood's Choice



Shreyas Royal is one of our top juniors who is now having real success at a senior level.

He recently played in the Dortmund Sparkassen A-Open and scored 7/9, finishing joint third in a field which included several grandmasters.

He had several good games, but the following was his best effort against GM Daniel Hausrath.

D. Hausrath vs S. Royal

Dortmund Sparkassen A Open Round 8

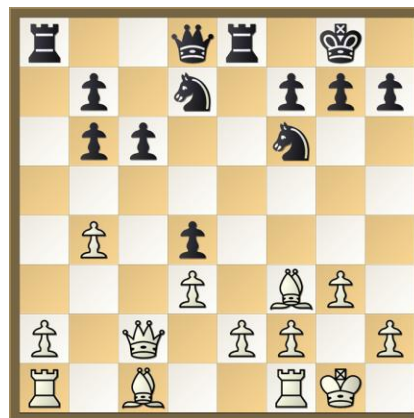
1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 Bg4 3.Bg2 c6 4.c4 e6 5.O-O Nf6 6.cxd5 exd5 7.d3 Nbd7 8.Nc3 Bc5 9.Qb3 Bb6 10.Na4 O-O 11.Nxb6 axb6 12.Qc2 Re8



White now has the two bishops and a slightly better game. However, if Black plays energetically then he will always have some chances based on his control of the half open e-file.

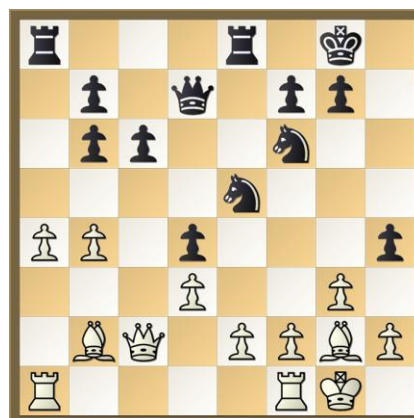
13.b3 Bxf3!? An interesting choice. Personally, I would have waited with say 13...h5 and only play Bxf3 when White plays h3. However, it does seem to give Black equal chances so is a reasonable option.

14.Bxf3 d4 15.b4?!



This is a poor move which hands the initiative to Black. Better was 15.a4, which leaves White slightly better for choice.

15...Ne5 16.Bg2 Qd7 17.a4 h5 18.Bb2?! h4

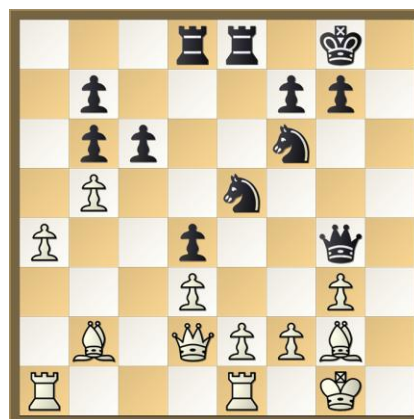


Now White has to be really careful as Black has a dangerous kingside attack.

19.Qd2?! A better choice was 19.a5 but after 19...bxa5 20.Rxa5 Rad8 Black still stands well.

19...hxcg3 20.hxcg3 Qg4?! This sortie is slightly premature. Preferable is 20...Rad8, bringing all his pieces into play.

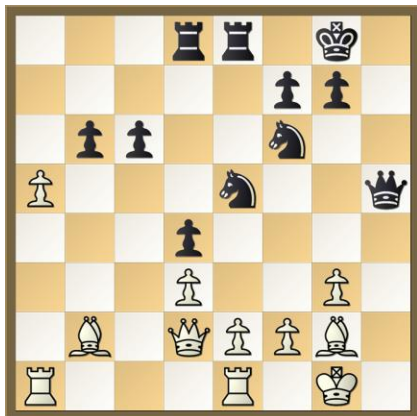
21.Rfe1 Rad8 22.b5?



The last chance was 22.Qf4 to try and bolster the kingside defences. However, Black is still better after 22....Qe6.

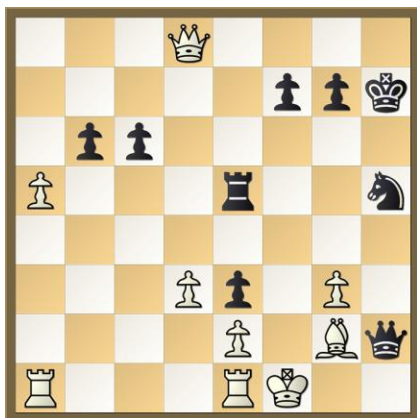
22...Qh5 23.bxc6 bxc6?! Even stronger was 23...Nfg4 24.c7 Rd6! with a crushing attack.

24.a5??



However, this is suicidal... the last chance to survive was 24.e3 when Black is better, but it is not totally clear. Shreyas now finishes off nicely.

24....Neg4 25.Qf4 Qh2+ 26.Kf1 Ne3+! 27.fxe3 Nh5 28.Qg5 dxe3 29.Be5 Rxe5 30.Qxd8+ Kh7



31.Resigns.

A very mature game from Shreyas with a sparkling finish. A great prospect for the future!

Meanwhile, if you have played any exciting games as a youngster that you would like to have published in my column then please send them to me at plittl@hotmail.com. I cannot promise that they will appear, but I will give them every consideration.

--- Paul Littlewood

Never Give In – A Lesson for Juniors

by Steve Westmoreland

There is one game from my youth that is permanently seared in my memory and that I frequently use to teach juniors some valuable chess lessons. It often elicits laughter from adults too. My (ahem) 'brilliancy' was also published 30+ years ago in the Bradford Telegraph and Argos, by my long-suffering and wonderful coach IM Bill Lumley of East Bierley Chess Club.

Here we go!

Date: Not sure. Sometime around 1991. It was a very early competitive game

Location: East Bierley, West Yorkshire

White: Memory does not go that far back.

Black: Steve Westmoreland

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nf6



Petrov's Defence! Named after the Russian Alexander Petrov from the mid-19th century. With a drawish reputation, it has been adopted by many of the greats of the game, such as Smyslov, Petrosian and Karpov. The opening has huge pedigree, and I should have felt huge pride in adopting such a classical approach.

Actually, what I was thinking was, 'I wonder what happens if I do this?'



Lesson one – Try to know what you are doing when starting a game of chess...

3. Nxe5 Nxe4 4. Qe2 Nf6

White playing Qe2 has a 73% win rate for White on my Chessbase app. The following, by myself, gives the opportunity to wallop this up to 95%.

Pause the lesson – What is the BEST move for White here? Think about discovered checks...

Resume....

5. Nc6



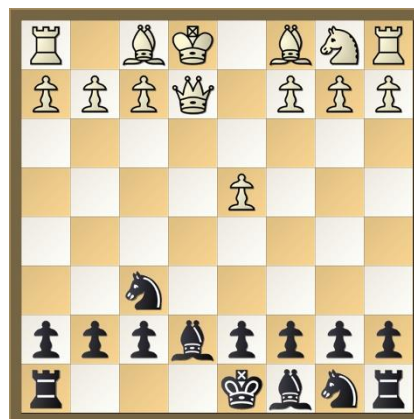
I am an idiot. Can I say that? I certainly felt it at the time, with my cheeks hotting up and head in hands. For those juniors that have not noticed it, wannabe GM Westmoreland is just about to drop his queen through the previously hinted at discovered check.

6. ...Be7 7. Nxd8 Kxd8 8. d4

It is time for White to now crush the moron. d4 commences this task, allowing pieces to be freed. I wanted to resign at this point but...

Lesson two – Never give in! Many games can be won or lost from incredibly good positions. Make your opponent work hard.

7... Re8 with the idea of attempting a pin on the queen. I thought the potential to pin the queen with my rook might help a bit. Note Chessbase has White at 100% here. 8. Qd1



Frustration! I again nearly threw down my King and in annoyance played my idea anyway.

8...Bb4+



My opponent tried to block with his c-pawn, but I pointed out the rook had him in check. He then went to move his bishop, but my bishop had him in check! We were both puzzled.

At that point some of the adults started laughing and a crowd gathered.

Question: Why were people laughing and how does White move out of the checks?

Answer: White doesn't. It is double check and mate. #

So, what are the key take-aways here?

- Look at the consequence of your actions on the board.
- Try to know a bit about what you are doing when starting a game of chess.
- NEVER give in.
- Chess is won by the person who does not make the last big mistake.

So, what happened to a young Steve after this game?

- Did he get that dreamed of title? Absolutely not, and I remain the clubbiest of club players.
- Did he walk away knowing he had just refuted a key line in the Petrov? I had not and did not know the name of the opening for a long time after.
- Did he take up the Petrov from here and play it with success over many more years? No, as a junior I just played Nc6 on move 2 from then on. Like most other people.
- Does Steve feel the pain of his coaches based on his actions as a junior? Yes – sorry Bill, Eric and co. A huge thanks for your patience and support through my teenage years.

ECF Secondary School News

by Neill Cooper

It is good that life is returning to normal, though the experiences of the last two years have created new ways of playing inter-school chess. These will continue to be used to provide opportunities for school teams to play chess against other schools where it is not feasible to play 'over the board'. Informal 'Lichess Battles' and the more formal 'Hybrid' fixtures (where pupils play online in school under supervision) will enhance inter-school chess in the years to come.

Review of 2021-22

Covid provided a dampener on this year's inter-school tournaments, with some being cancelled, others being reduced in size or delayed in completion.

National School Chess Championships 2021/22

I am delighted that the prestigious U19 National School Chess Championships did run successfully and concluded on 1 July when Westminster School won the national finals held at Stratford Upon Avon. For the first time the games were broadcast using live boards, which added to the excitement for those of us who were not present. A report with links to the full results and to the games can be found at <https://bit.ly/ecfschools22>

The results of the Autumn term qualifying events can be found at <https://bit.ly/schoolsecf> whilst the spring term Regional and Repêchage results can be found at <https://bit.ly/3P43ZY0> Individual match results are available on the ECF League Management System <https://ecflms.org.uk/lms/node/39243/home>. A map showing all entrants can be found at <https://bit.ly/3QinZrM>

Team Chess Challenge 2021/22

There were only eight regional finals held but due to ties a total of fifteen schools have qualified for the national finals. As in previous years, this will be hosted by Imperial College Maths Department but at a later date than normal, Wednesday 14 September. More details at <https://bit.ly/3OZ7m3s>

Junior Team Chess Challenge 2021/22

There were a limited number of regional finals and nine finalists who played on 23 April at King's College, Wimbledon. Wilson's School won all eight matches to win the trophy with King's College second. There is a report at <https://bit.ly/3OZ7m3s>

Team Problem Solving Chess Challenge 2021/22

This was particularly popular this year with over 20 schools entering. Leading schools have been invited to the national finals held at Imperial College in parallel with the Team Chess Challenge finals in September.

Ivan Gromov Online Schools' Chess League

This was a new fortnightly inter-school league played online on Thursday evenings. 14 teams from eight schools took part. Match results can be found at <https://ecflms.org.uk/lms/node/73960/efixtures>

Inter-school Lichess Battles

Fortnightly online “battles” took place on Fridays from 6pm to 7pm on [Lichess Secondary School Chess](https://lichess.org/team/secondary-school-chess/tournaments). Events run last academic year can be seen at <https://lichess.org/team/secondary-school-chess/tournaments> where over 40 schools and 500 players took part, with players varying in rating from over 2400 to below 700. These will continue in the autumn term, but on a monthly basis. The first Lichess battle, with most pupils playing at home, will be at 6pm on Friday 9 September.

Plans for 2022/23

We hope to run a full complement of tournaments in the coming academic year, including a new fortnightly ‘in school’ online league which will be starting on Monday 12 September at 4.15 – 5.15pm for teams of six players. Please email me at manager.secondary@englishchess.org.uk for more information.

Further details of all events will be circulated at the start of the autumn term.

If you would be willing to host an event for schools in your area, then please let me know.

Hoping that you have a refreshing summer holiday!

IMPROVERS

Great British Chess Players

A new series by Dr John Nunn



1. Alexander McDonnell (1798 - 1835)

When Mike Truran asked me to write a series of articles for *ChessMoves* on ‘Great British Chess Players’, I realised that some fundamental decisions had to be made. Should I

include problem composers, correspondence players and those born elsewhere but who settled in Britain? Eventually I decided to exclude the problemists, include the correspondence players, and for the rest be guided more by ‘contributions to British chess’ rather than any strict principles of nationality. Inevitably this is a personal selection, and I apologise in advance to fans of the many worthy players who did not find their way into the list.

With regard to the games, I will try to avoid old chestnuts and include those which may be unfamiliar to many readers.

The sequence is roughly chronological, so I will start with Alexander McDonnell, who was born in Belfast in 1798 but settled in London in 1820 and spent the rest of his life there. Curiously, no picture of McDonnell has survived. These days he is remembered mainly for the mammoth series of six matches played against the French master La Bourdonnais in London during 1834. La Bourdonnais was regarded as perhaps the strongest player in the world at the time, and while McDonnell lost by 51½-33½ overall, the result showed that he was a talented player. Wikipedia, quoting Walker (1850), adds the detail that, ‘La Bourdonnais was an ebullient and garrulous individual. When winning, he grew talkative and affable; but when things went against him, he swore tolerably round oaths in a pretty audible voice’. Perhaps the most famous game is the 16th game of the fourth match, in which La Bourdonnais won with three connected passed pawns on the seventh rank. I have always felt it rather unfair that some very strong players are remembered mainly for a game they lost (von Bardeleben being a good example)

and McDonnell suffered from this to some extent. Despite his overall loss in the matches, McDonnell won some good games, the following being one of the most modern-looking.

McDonnell - La Bourdonnais

Game 5, 1st Match, London 1834

Sicilian Defence

1.e4 c5 2.f4

The Grand Prix Attack, 1830s style.

2...e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.e5

4.Bb5+ is a modern alternative.

4...Nc6 5.c3 f6

Black seeks to undermine White's centre, but Nimzowitsch's doctrine that it is better to attack the base of the pawn-chain rather than its head still lay far in the future. These days Black tries to put pressure on d4 rather than e5 by playing his king's knight to f5 and queen to b6.

6.Na3

6.d4 is more accurate, to prevent a possible ...d4 by Black.

6...Nh6 7.Nc2 Be7

In the early 19th century, there was a tendency for players to get on with their own plans and devote less attention to frustrating their opponent's. Black is happy to develop his pieces but bearing in mind that White's whole strategy is based on playing and supporting d4, this would have been a good moment to throw a spanner in the works by 7...d4. Preventing d4 by White would also have made Black's pressure against e5 more effective.

8.d4 0-0

Although the game started as a Sicilian, now the pawn-structure is typical of the French Defence.

9.Bd3



9...c4

This move looks odd to the modern eye, because it surrenders the pressure against d4, but it's not bad since Black can develop queenside play quickly. 9...cxd4 10.cxd4 fxe5 11.fxe5 Nf5 12.0-0 Bd7 followed by ...Qb6 is a good 'modern' alternative, when Black is not worse.

10.Be2 Bd7

Black's decision to push the c-pawn means the subsequent play will be a straight battle between White's kingside play and Black's efforts on the queenside.

11.0-0 b5 12.Ne3

Currently White's pieces are clumsily placed for any kingside activity, and he has to reorganise them before he can make real progress.

12...a5

Players of this era often failed to appreciate the importance of the time element. Black could have played 12...b4 immediately and moving the a-pawn first doesn't really improve the situation.

13.Kh1?

13.b3! may seem a little counter-intuitive, but it would have held Black up for some time since he cannot now play ...b4 until he has further supported the c4-pawn.

13...fxe5 14.fxe5 Nf5 15.g4 Nxe3 16.Bxe3 Be8

Playing the bishop outside the central pawn-chain is a common strategy in the French Defence and the manoeuvre ...Be8-g6 (or h5) is still often used today. The direct 16...b4 was also good for Black.



17.Qd2 Bg6 18.Ng5 Bxg5!

At first sight it looks odd for Black to surrender his good bishop, but this gains time and seizes the initiative.

19.Bxg5 Qd7?!

Having achieved a large advantage, the French master starts to play too passively. 19...Be4+ 20.Kg1 Qb6 keeps White off-balance by attacking the e5-pawn. Then 21.Bf4 b4 followed by ...a4-a3 gives Black a large advantage.

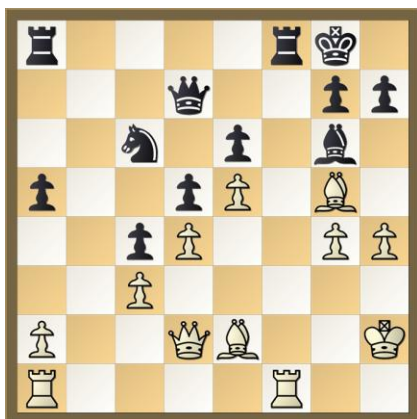
20.h4?

White wants to push the pawn to h6, weakening the dark squares around Black's king, but this gives Black a tactical chance.

20...b4?

Missing 20...h6 21.Bf4 Qe7 and the attack on h4 would have been very awkward.

21.Kh2 bxc3 22.bxc3



22...a4?

Once again Black underestimates the importance of time. He wants to play ...a4-a3 and then transfer a rook to b2, but this plan is extremely slow. Instead, 22...h6

23.h5 Be4 24.Be3 Rab8 would have maintained the balance, the important point being that the advance of White's pawn to h6 has been blocked.

23.h5 Be4 24.h6!

Now Black loses control of f6 and his king will be permanently vulnerable.

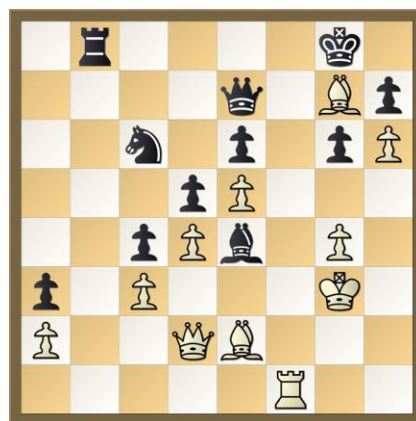
24...g6 25.Bf6 Rab8?

25...Rf7 26.Bg7 Nd8 was a much better chance since the knight will be a good defender on f7.

26.Bg7 Qe7

Threatening mate by ...Qh4+, but this is just a pinprick.

27.Kg3 Rxf1 28.Rxf1 a3



29.Rf6

White is of course winning, but the game still must be won. The simplest method is to activate the e2-bishop, the only white piece not currently participating in the attack. Therefore 29.Bd1! is correct, intending Ba4, and meeting 29...Nd8 with the attractive 30.Qg5!.

29...Na5

A clever but unavailing defence, intending to block the bishop's path to a4 by ...Nb3.

30.Bd1 Nb3 31.Qf2?!

The queen and rook are the wrong way round since with the queen in front White would threaten mate on both f7 and f8. Therefore, he should have played 31.Qg5 (threat Rf8+) 31...Qd7 32.Rf2 followed by Qf6, with a winning attack.

31...Nc1 32.Ba4

The bishop gets to a4 anyway, but Black has gained time to improve the position of his knight. The position is still winning for White, but unlike the situation a few moves ago accurate play is required.

32...Nd3 33.Qf1?

A serious mistake, allowing Black to hold the game. White must prevent ...g5 and so 33.Qe3! was correct, followed by Qg5, much as in the note to White's 31st move.

33...g5!

Black pounces on the mistake and secures the f4-square for his knight. Suddenly Black threatens ...Nf4 followed by ...Rb2, with a decisive attack.

34.Bc2!



The only move to avoid an immediate loss.

34...Nc5?

Having rescued his lost position, La Bourdonnais makes a fatal misjudgement. After 34...Nf4! 35.Bxe4 dxe4 36.Qxc4 e3 37.Qc6 e2 38.Kf2 the position is very double-edged, yet curiously neither side would be able to undertake any action without fatally exposing their own king.

35.dxc5 Bxc2 36.c6

The mate threat on f8 already ties Black's forces down and he cannot cope with the passed c-pawn as well.

36...Ba4 37.c7 Re8 38.Qc1

38.Bf8 Qxc7 39.Bd6 is another way to win.

38...Qxc7 39.Qxg5 Bc2 40.Bf8+ Bg6 41.Bxa3 Qd7 42.Bd6 d4 43.Qf4 Qc8 44.Qxd4 Qc6 45.Qa7 1-0

A rather fluctuating game, but with many surprisingly modern motifs.

A Sense of Danger

by Andrew Martin

At a high level, a lot of action lies under the surface of a game. The players are trying to control what the opponent can do, whilst carrying out plans of their own. This is often a difficult juggling act and a great skill. A strong sense of danger is necessary to prevent surprises, and it is something all of us can acquire. There are always signs in a position which we can note and which can help us to find good moves, without being struck down by a shocking idea which we just haven't seen. These same signs can help us to find brilliant concepts of our own. I'm going to start with a fairly basic list. Accidents can happen when the following situations are present: 1) the king is stuck in the middle; 2) one of the players has a poor pawn structure; 3) one or other player has passive pieces. There are certainly more ideas that can be added, but this will start us out on the right path to developing a deeper instinct for the game and to improving our rating...

Spassky, Boris V - Avtonomov D28

Leningrad-ch Juniors Leningrad, 1949

We begin with a cautionary tale of what can happen when you do not castle. In this early game of ex-World Champion Boris Spassky, Black is oblivious to danger.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4



The Queen's Gambit Accepted; very reasonable, but not a variation that can be played carelessly.

3.Nf3 More aggressive is 3.e4, which takes the centre immediately, but Black has a variety of

counterattacking responses such as 3...e5 (or 3...Nf6 which works because White hasn't developed any pieces yet). 3.d5.

3...Nf6 4.e3 e6 5.Bxc4 c5 It would be unwise to give White a completely free hand in the centre, so Black challenges there.

6.0-0 a6 7.Qe2 b5



Queenside expansion is part of the plan.

8.Bb3 Nc6 9.Nc3 cxd4 10.Rd1! Bb7 10...Be7 11.exd4 Na5 12.Bc2 0-0 was more careful.

11.exd4 Nb4? The scene is set for a strong, tactical blow.

12.d5!



Very good! What gave White the inspiration to play this move? 1) White has castled. Black's king is still in the middle. 2) White's rook is on the same file as the black queen. 3) White is ahead in development. He must open up the game. Thinking systematically like this, it is possible to arrive at the excellent move 12 d5!

12...Nbx d5 13.Bg5! Both black knights are now pinned.

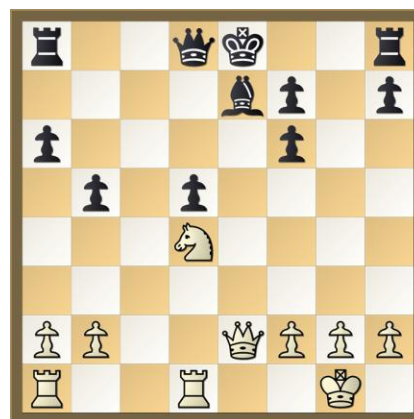
13...Be7 14.Bxf6!



The point. Black must take with the pawn, or captures on d5 will simply win material.

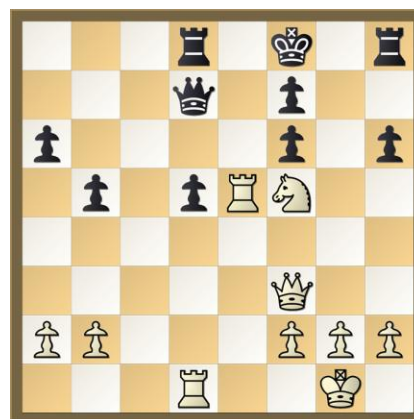
14...gxf6 14...Bxf6? 15.Nxd5 Bxd5 16.Bxd5+-

15.Nxd5 Bxd5 16.Bxd5 exd5 17.Nd4



A position foreseen by Spassky when he embarked on the combination. Nf5 and Nc6 are both serious threats.

17...Kf8 Against 17...Qd7 White also has a winning attack: 18.Re1 Kf8 19.Qh5 h6 20.Nf5 Bd6 21.Rad1 Be5 22.Qf3 Rd8 23.Rxe5!



This is an idea springing naturally from the position. Black is cut in half thanks to the poor location of his king and he is now unable to defend against White's attack:

23...fxe5 24.Qa3+ Kg8 (24...Ke8 25.Ng7#) 25.Qg3+ Kf8
26.Qg7+ Ke8 27.Qxh8#

18.Nf5 h5 19.Rxd5 Qxd5 20.Qxe7+ Kg8 21.Qxf6

1-0

Kiriushin, Vladimir (2102) - Dashko, Andrey (2219)
A52

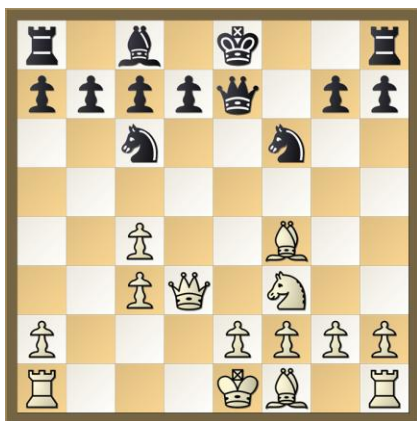
Sochi Doroshkevich Amateur op Sochi (4), 24.12.2017

This game is a classic example of White neglecting his pawn structure. He launches an attack which is unlikely to succeed and gets hit on the rebound.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e5 This is the Budapest Gambit; quite a good opening to learn and employ at club level. There are many tricks and traps.

3.dxe5 Ng4 4.Bf4 Nc6 5.Nf3 Bb4+ 6.Nc3 Qe7 We should note that 6...Bxc3+! 7.bxc3 Qe7 is the correct black move order.

7.Qd5 Bxc3+ 8.bxc3 f6 9.exf6 Nxf6 10.Qd3



This is a popular variation, but my impression is that it is easier to handle for Black, despite the white bishop pair and extra pawn. There is the danger that the white pawn structure becomes fixed and passive.

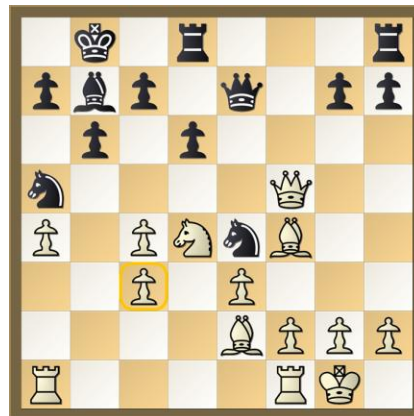
10...d6 11.e3 b6! Black fixes the doubled pawns, trying to make them immobile.

12.Be2 Bb7 13.0-0 0-0-0! Black could have castled on the kingside too.

14.a4? 14.Nd4 is more appropriate.

14...Na5 15.Qf5+ A useless check, which results in taking the white queen out of play.

15...Kb8 16.Nd4 Ne4



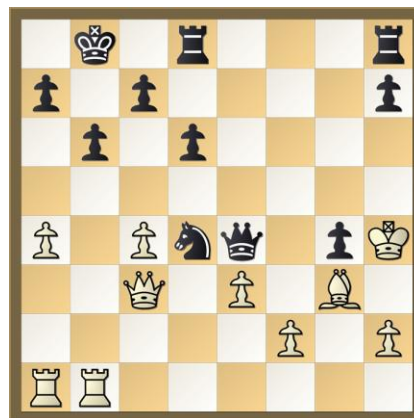
The doubled pawns suddenly become a source of concern. It is precisely this type of position that White should avoid. He is still OK, but he has not made life easy for himself.

17.Rfb1? g5! 18.Bg3 Nxc3 19.Qxa5?? White doesn't like his position and cracks. He is hoping for 19...bxa5 20.Nc6+, regaining the queen.

19.Bf3 is better, but Black still holds the advantage: 19...Bxf3 20.gxf3 Nxb1 21.Rxb1 Ka8! 22.Qd5+ c6 23.Nxc6 Nxc6 24.Qxc6+ Qb7+

19...Nxe2+ 20.Kf1 Nxd4 21.Qc3 A rout now follows.

21...Bxg2+! 22.Kxg2 Qe4+ 23.Kh3 g4+ 24.Kh4



It is mate in two after 24...Nf3+ A poorly played game by White, whose discomfort I am sure stemmed from his lousy pawn structure.

0-1

Hort,Vlastimil (2595) - Kasparov,Garry (2760) D00

Cologne m Cologne (1), 1988

Doing nothing and playing without a plan is a very short route to the poorhouse against anyone strong. You generally end up with passive pieces and nothing to do.

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Bf4 Bg7 5.e3 This is the Barry Attack, a popular queen pawn system at all levels.

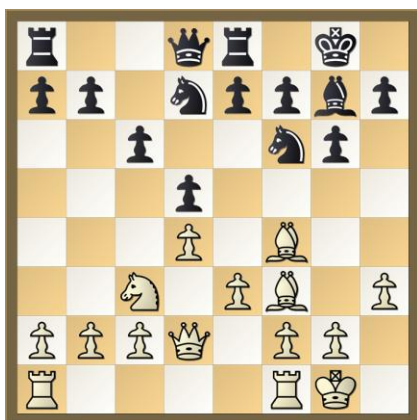
5...0-0 6.Be2 If White wants to stop what Kasparov does, he may have to play 6.Ne5!? Obscure complications may follow, which it looks as if Hort does not want. 6...Nh5!? We might then career on with 7.Bg5 f6 8.g4! fxe5 9.gxh5 h6 10.dxe5 hxg5 11.hxg6.



The computers like Black, but over the board this would not be easy to defend,

6...Bg4 A simple plan. Black aims to exchange a pair of minor pieces to ease any possible cramp.

7.h3 Bxf3 8.Bxf3 c6 9.0-0 Nbd7 10.Qd2 Re8



With ...e7-e5 coming up, it is hard for White to generate any advantage.

11.Rfd1 Hort gets ready for Black's central advance.

11...Qb6 12.a4 a5 13.Ne2 e5 Black would have played this more or less whatever White did. We have a level game on the board.

14.dxe5 Nxe5 15.Bxe5 Rxe5 16.Nd4 He could just sit there after 16.c3 and ask Garry how he is going to win. Black could maybe start with 16...Nd7 17.Nd4 Nc5 18.Qc2 Re7 but White is rock-solid.

16...Ne4! 17.Bxe4 Rxe4 18.c3 Rae8 19.Rab1 h5 20.b4 Qc7 21.Nf3 White is going to sit it out and ask Black how he is going to win. The problem with this plan is that it is entirely passive, and this allows Kasparov to take over the game. White has no active chances and no counterplay. Your sense of danger should tell you not to go into positions like these.

He should have developed queenside play after 21.bxa5 Ra8 22.Rb6 Rxa5 23.Rdb1 Ra7 24.a5 Re7 25.Qa2 This should hold the game, although it is not very inspiring.

21...Qe7 22.Qd3 g5!? Kasparov rejects 22...axb4 23.Rxb4 Rxb4 24.cxb4 Qxb4 25.Rb1 Qxa4 26.Rxb7 which seems to win a pawn. He probably felt that playing for the initiative was more important at this stage. I hazard a guess that Hort was already short of time.

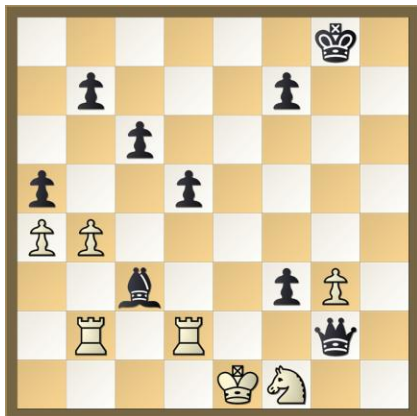
23.Nd2 Re6 24.Nf1 g4 25.hxg4 hxg4 26.g3? 26.bxa5 seems right to me, creating a target on b7 to aim at. White clearly wants to prevent ...Qh4.

26...Qg5! 27.Kg2 Qh5 You cannot just sit there and do nothing against the best in the business. Kasparov now makes Hort pay.

28.f4 Otherwise Rh6.

28...gxf3+ 29.Kf2 Qh1 30.Rd2 Qg2+ 31.Ke1 Rxe3+!
32.Qxe3 32.Nxe3 Qg1+ 33.Qf1 Rxe3+.

32...Rxe3+ 33.Nxe3 Qg1+ 34.Nf1 Bxc3 35.Rbb2 Qg2!



A lovely finishing touch, with White out of good moves. It is imperative to play with some sort of plan, preferably one which keeps you as active as possible.

0-1

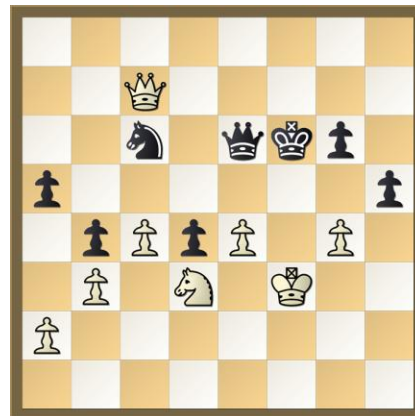
SUMMARY

Let's summarise what we have learned: 1) there is potential danger if your opponent has castled and you have not. If the reverse is the case you should be looking out for ways to attack without delay; 2) it is possible to play with a poor pawn structure, but the positions reached can be difficult to manage. You might misplace your pieces in a vain effort to try to improve your lot; and 3) passive pieces and planless play sow the seeds of defeat. Stay active to avoid surprises. The acute sense of danger which grandmasters possess develops over time, but everyone has to start somewhere. Look out for the ideas mentioned above in your own games and you will start to play better chess.

Paul Littlewood on Tactics

A decoy in war is usually used to lead an enemy into a trap. It is similarly possible in chess to decoy a piece into a trap or into a position which allows a winning combination.

Consider the following position:

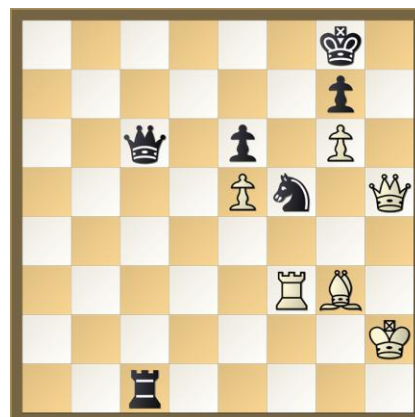


Ustinov vs Ilivitsky

USSR 1959

White plays **1.g5+** decoying the black king onto a fatal square and after **1...Kxg5** then **2.Qf4** mate.

The decoy is often used in conjunction with a knight fork. For example:



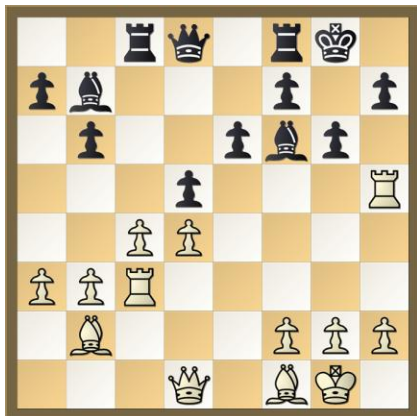
Dementiev vs Dzindzichashvili

USSR 1972

Black won by **1...Rh1+** decoying the white king to h1 and after **2.Kxh1 Nxg3+** won the white queen.

To defend successfully against a decoy it is usually vital to spot the decoy before it happens.

However, there are examples when it is possible to escape, even after the decoy has occurred. Usually this involves not accepting the decoy sacrifice and the following example is a classic case of how to defend.



Keres vs Smyslov

Zurich 1953

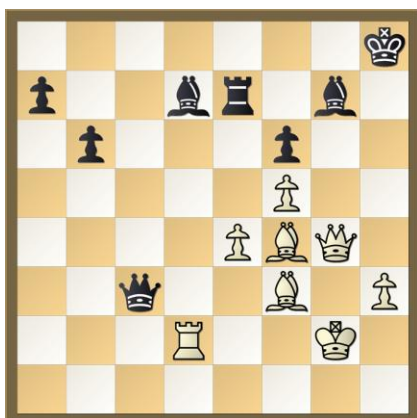
In this interesting position Keres played the imaginative move **1.Rch3**, leaving his rook on h5 as a decoy. Smyslov thought for a long time and decided not to take the rook... a decision which on later analysis was shown to be correct, as Keres appears to have a forced win after **1...gxh5 2.Qxh5 Re8 3.a4!** with the devastating threat of **4.Ba3** and **5.Qh7** mate.

Therefore the game continued **1...dxc4 2.Rxh7 c3 3.Qc1!** ... another fine decoy, but again Smyslov declines to capture the bishop (if **3...cxb2?** then **4.Qh6 Qxd4 5.Rh8+ Bxh8 6.Qh7** mate) and the game continued **3...Qxd4! 4.Qh6 Rfd8** and Black is now safe.

The finish was: **5.Bc1 Bg7 6.Qg5 Qf6 7.Qg4 c2 8.Be2 Rd4 9.f4 Rd1+! 10.Bxd1 Qd4+ 0-1.**

A marvellous defensive achievement by Smyslov!

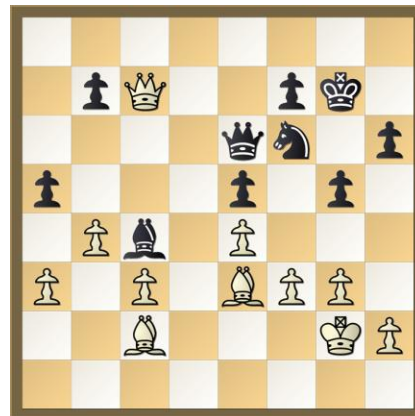
Here are two examples for you to solve yourself with the answers at the end of the article:



P. E. Littlewood vs J. Mestel

British Championship 1979

How did White win a piece?



U. Andersson vs W. Hartston

Hastings 1972-73

Black's winning decoy took White completely by surprise. What was it?

Answers

P.E.Littlewood vs J.Mestel

White wins by **1.Rxd7! Rxd7 2.Qh5+ Kg8 3.Qe8+ Kh7 4.Qxd7** and wins

U.Andersson vs W.Hartston

Black wins by **1...Qh3+!** With two variations: (a) **2.Kxh3 Bf1** mate (b) **2.Kh1 Qf1+ 3.Bg1 Qxf3** mate

STUDIES AND PROBLEMS

PROBLEM CORNER

Christopher Jones with his monthly conundrum

Before giving you the solution to the problem left over from the last issue, I want to tempt you with another offering from Tony Lewis, this time in collaboration not with his wife Sally but with the eminent British composer Norman Macleod. I'll give the solution later in this article, but you may like to have at least a brief study of the position first to see if the solution presents itself to you:



Mate in 2

Norman Macleod and Tony Lewis (after H. Ahues)
3rd Prize, *The Problemist* 1980

Going back to the problem I left you to solve last time -



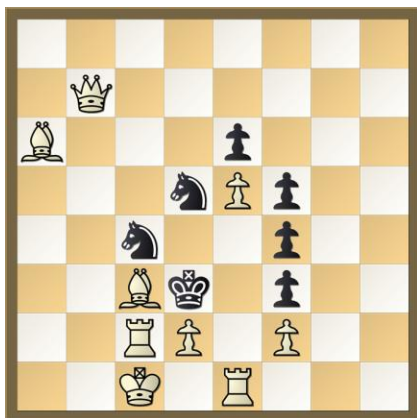
Mate in 2 - Sally and Tony Lewis
1st Prize, St. Petersburg Congress 1998

Problems by Sally and Tony Lewis are always strewn with clever tries defeated by clever refutations. In this case, you might 'solve' with 1.Ba5 (threat 2.Rc7), overlooking 1...Rh7; or 1.Rd7 (threat 2.Na5), failing to 2.Bxc2; or 1.Qc3 (for 2.d5), refuted by 1...Bxf3. In fact, the key move is 1.Qg6!, unpinning the black knight (the sort of paradoxical key move enjoyed by composers!). The threat is 2.Qe8, and the *threats* created in each of the three tries reappear as *actual mates* – 1...Nb6 2.Rc7; 1...Nd6 2.Na5; and 1...Ne5 2.d5.

And now to that Macleod and Lewis problem. Building on an earlier work by the German composer Herbert Ahues, Macleod and Lewis found a setting that maximised the interest in the 'half-pin' arrangement on the d-file – if either the black queen or the d5 black rook leaves the file it leaves its colleague pinned. This leads to interesting effects. If White plays 1.Rf3, the threat is 2.e4, and the black defences are captures at f5. At first sight, it might seem that 1...Qxf5 is not, in fact, a defence, because (as well as leaving the d5R pinned) it is itself now pinned, on the h7-d3 line. However, were White to reply 2.e4 that would unpin the bQ and so 2...Qxf3 would be possible. (This effect – the unpinning of a black piece when the threatened 'mate' is played – is known as the Schiffmann theme, and gives rise to rich and complex strategy in many two-move chess problems.) So 1...Qxf5 is indeed a defence, but it is not a successful one, as White can exploit both the pins by playing 2.Ne5#.

Similarly, if 1...Rxf5, then not 2.e4? but 2.Qxb5#, exploiting both pins. However, 1.Rf3 is **not** the key! 1...Nxf5, preparing 2.e4 Ne3, is the successful defence.

Instead 1.Rxf2, threatening 2.Rd2, is the key. Again, the variations are 1...Qxf5 2.Ne5# and 1...Rxf5 2.Qxb5#. This bears out the point, previously made, that in problems in which Tony Lewis has a hand, the solving challenge (particularly in the form of highly plausible tries) goes hand in hand with aesthetics. This sentiment was shared by Norman Macleod, a strong player (who played in the Scottish team at the 1958 Olympiad in Munich) who went on to obtain the title of Grandmaster of Chess Composition. I'll leave you with a problem composed by him on his own –



Mate in 2

Norman Macleod

2nd Prize, *Problem Observer* 1983

Solution next time. If you have any queries about this problem or anything else problem-related don't hesitate to contact me at the email address below.

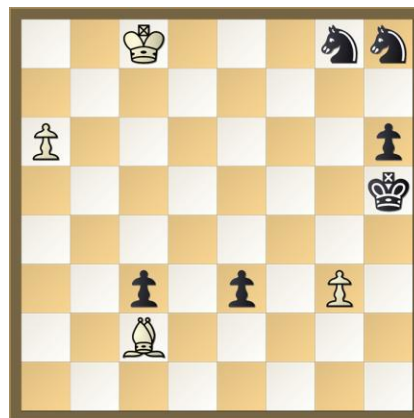
Christopher Jones Email: cjajones1@yahoo.co.uk

HOW TO SOLVE A STUDY

by Ian Watson

Improving the Classics

Even the most famous of studies can often be improved, especially now we have strong programs that can quickly check all our ideas. This month, here are two such studies that have recently been reset; one which was sound but had excess material that distracted somewhat from the splendid solution, and another that has turned out to be unsound and whose new version both corrects and enhances it. The first has been widely published outside the small world of study columns, often as a solving challenge to over-the-board players. It was by Gijs van Breukelen and appeared in *Schakend Nederland* in 1990. The version here is by Sergei Didukh, one of the leading study composers of the 21st century. It was published in the July 2022 edition of the endgame study magazine *EG* (details at <http://www.arves.org>).

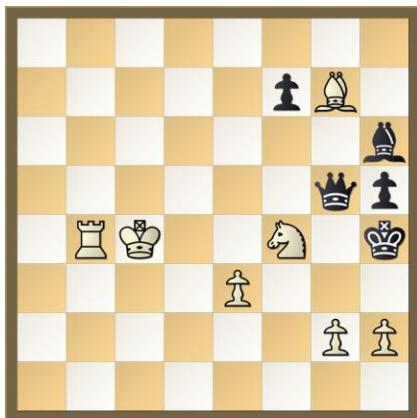


White to play and win

To solve this, as for all studies you first need to spend some time thinking about the diagram position: what's going on? who seems to be winning? what kind of position should you aim for? and so on. Here, White will presumably need to promote his a-pawn and Black will obviously bring a knight over to inhibit that, since he'll get mated after Qf3+ if he just queens his e-pawn. Okay, but look at that black king position; the king is suspiciously boxed in and in a study that should suggest that there may be an eventual mate even without a white queen - say, if the white king got to f5. Thinking like that, you realise that Black's knights will be checking the white king, so it will get an opportunity to walk over towards f5. So, you try that plan. **1.a7 Ne7+ 2.Kd7 Nd5 3.a8Q Nb6+ 4.Ke6 Nxa8 5.Kf5** and now your planned mate is threatened. It's not hard from here because Black has few choices: **5...e2 6.Be4 e1N** is obvious, but White's moves are not completely obviously forced, so you need to consider both 7.Bc6 and 7.Bd5. 7.Bc6? fails to 7...Nc7 8.Ba4 c2, so it's **7.Bd5 c2** (or 7...Nb6 8.Bc6) **8.Bc4 c1N 9.Bb5 Nc7 10.Ba4** and, although Black has four knights now, none of them can stop the coming mate. Notice the elegant bishop manoeuvre - Be4-d5-c4-b5-a4 all the while moving away from the action on the right-hand side. There's also a queen sacrifice and two underpromotions. That all happened in the 1990 version, but Didukh has been able to achieve it with a pawn, knight and bishop less.

The original version of our second study has also often been reprinted, even though that version had two other white first moves that also solved it (not even particularly difficult ones to find!) The new version is again by Didukh, from the July issue of *EG*, and it uses two fewer pawns without losing any of the fine play. The original was by Alexander Kazantsev and was a joint winner of the Olympic composing tourney in

1964. Didukh's version is for you to solve. Even if you recognise the structure and remember the ideas, you still have a task: don't merely solve it but find out why White's alternative try on move one fails, and also find how White defeats Black's move one alternatives.



White to play and win

A reminder about online study-solving: go to www.netchex.club. The August study-solving tourneys are now available; visit the home page and click on "August Study Tourney". In case you haven't done them yet, the previous months' tourneys are also available from the [netchex.club](http://www.netchex.club) home page.

The solution to the Didukh version of the Kazantsev study is given below.

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How to Solve a Study – solution

(Kazantsev, version by Didukh)

1.Bc3 Qe7 2.Ng6+ fxg6 3.Bf6+ Qxf6 4.Kd5+ Kg5 5.h4+ Kf5 6.g4+ hxg4 7.Rf4+ Bxf4 8.e4 mate.

Again, a boxed-in black king, so a mating finish is a good bet. Also, you don't need rook, bishop and knight, so some sacrifices are likely, but it's still surprising that you can sac all three. Surprising... and delightful.

The white try on move one goes: 1.Ng6+? Qxg6 2.Kd5+ Kg5 3.h4+ Kf5 4.g4+ Qxg4 5.Rxg4 Kxg4 6.Bxh6 Kxh4 and Black will draw.

What about Black's alternatives on move one? 1...Qd8 2.Be1+ Kg4 (2...Kg5 3.Rb5+ Kf6 4.Bh4+) 3.Rb5 Qc8+ 4.Kb3 f5 5.h3+ Kg5 6.Rb6 and the black king is imprisoned, or in this line 3...f5 4.h3+ Kg5 5.Ne6+ or 3...Bxf4 4.h3 mate). 1...Qg8 2.Kd3 Qh7+ 3.Kd2 Kg4 4.Nd5+ Kf5 5.Rb5 Ke6 6.Nf6 Qg6 7.Rb6+ Kf5 8.g3 with

a blockade (or in this line 2...Bxf4 3.Bf6+ Kg4 4.Rxf4 mate or 2...Kg5 3.Rb5+ f5 4.Rb6 Qd8+ 5.Bd4). Well done if you found all those lines.

Didukh writes that the task of the repairer/improver is to make the study flawless, and perhaps he has achieved that with both this month's studies.

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Event Calendar

For details on all the events listed below visit <https://www.englishchess.org.uk/event-calendar/>

August 20	9th Martlesham Heath Chess Tournament
August 26	Northumbria Junior Rapidplay
August 26	Northumbria Chess Masters
August 26	Northumbria Masters GM & IM Tournaments
August 27	56th Berks & Bucks Chess Congress
August 27	1st Brentwood FIDE-Rated August Bank Holiday Congress
August 27	CSC London Junior Qualifier
August 27	Leyland Chess Congress
August 27	1st Brentwood FIDE-Rated Rapid Play
September 1	Hendon FIDE Blitz
September 3-4	UK Open Blitz - Various Location
September 3-4	UKCC Online Gigafinal - U10s
September 3	Coulsdon Chess September Rapidplay
September 4	2022 Warwickshire Rapidplay Championship
September 4	UKCC Online Gigafinal - U11-U18s
September 4	Northampton FIDE Rapidplay
September 5	2022/23 Birmingham League Blitz Grand Prix Event 1
September 6	1st Library Bar FIDE Blitz, Barnet
September 8	Junior 4NCL Online Season 6 Round 1
September 9	Mindsports Masters - GM Norm
September 9-11	World Chess League.Live 2022-2023
September 10	Golders Green FIDE Rapidplay
September 10	Maidenhead Junior Tournament
September 11	Hampshire Junior Open Congress
September 11	Mindsports Rapidplay
September 11	Mindsports Blitz
September 13	Muswell Hill FIDE Rapid
September 13	4NCL Online Season 6 Round 1
September 16	Ilkley Chess Festival
September 17-18	2022 UK Chess Challenge Terafinal Challengers
September 17	36th Crowborough Chess Congress
September 17	Streatham & Brixton CC 150th Anniversary Rapid
September 17	Poplar Rapid Tournament
September 17	First Move Chess Tournament
September 18	Surrey Kings LJCC Qualifier
September 18	West London Chess Academy
September 20	1st Muswell Hill Chess Club Evening FIDE Blitz
September 22	Junior 4NCL Online Season 6 Round 2
September 25	Cambridgeshire Rapidplay
September 25	Smarticus Juniors Rapidplay Zoom & Tornado
September 27	Muswell Hill FIDE Rapid
September 27	4NCL Online Season 6 Round 2