

September 2022



Pictures by Brendan O’Gorman



**Congratulations to the new
Chessable British Chess
Champions**

**Harry Grieve
and Lan Yao**

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EDITORIAL



Dear ECF members

Welcome to the September edition of *ChessMoves*. Firstly, let me thank, on everyone's behalf, my predecessor Danny Rosenbaum. He did a superb job and led the magazine into new areas of excellence. We wish him well for the future.

This month the exciting content just keeps on coming, and we begin with a review of the last week of the British, topped off by a detailed annotation by the new Champion, Harry Grieve himself, to whom many congratulations are due. Some superb photography complements the report.

I must admit that when taking over as editor I could not fail to be impressed by the sheer number of original articles, written by some of our leading players. In this edition we have Michael Adams, John Nunn, Keith Arkell, Peter Wells, Danny Gormally and Paul Littlewood contributing. The line-up speaks for itself.

We have a puzzle challenge and observations on the books of the month by Ben Graff, and the highlights from domestic news include articles on Chess in Prisons, Chess in Schools, and a look forward to forthcoming tournaments, including a comprehensive events calendar.

The magazine is topped off by a couple of articles about problems and studies, an area of chess which I have always found fascinating. In short, *ChessMoves* offers variety and excellence. I hope you enjoy this edition. Don't forget you can play through the games from this month's edition here - <https://englishchessonline.org.uk/september-chessmoves-playable-games/> - or via this QR code ---



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Cover Story – Week Two at the Chessable British Chess Championships 2022

A report from ECF Home Director Nigel Towers with contributions from British Champions FM Harry Grieve and WGM Lan Yao | All photographs by Brendan O’Gorman



<https://www.britishchesschampionships.co.uk/> | <http://chess-results.com/tnr661832.aspx>

Last month we covered week one of the Chessable British Championships from 8th – 14th August including the Junior Championships, Senior Championships Over 50, the Weekday Congress, and the Rapid and Blitz events.

This month we are covering week 2 from 13th – 21st August including the main British Championships, the Major Open, and the Over 65 Championships.

The main British Championships





The main British Championships started with round 1 on Saturday 13th August, with the remaining eight rounds running until Sunday 21st August.

You can find pairings and results for all tournaments at the link here - <http://chess-results.com/tnr655607.aspx>

All games were played on live boards and shown in the playing hall (pictured above) and published via the internet as shown on the BCC broadcast web page - <https://tinyurl.com/yvrrck9a>

There were sixty players in the Championships, including eight GMs and two WGMs, with the top ten seeds shown below –

1		GM	Pert Nicholas	ENG	2537
2		GM	Hebden Mark L	ENG	2476
3		GM	Emms John M	ENG	2474
4		IM	Clarke Brandon G I	ENG	2474
5		GM	Gormally Daniel W	ENG	2466
6		IM	Kirk Ezra	ENG	2442
7		GM	Davies Nigel R	ENG	2425
8		IM	Wadsworth Matthew J	ENG	2418
9		IM	Pert Richard G	ENG	2411
10		GM	Arkell Keith C	ENG	2409

The Championships were played over nine rounds from Saturday 13th to Sunday 21st August, with rounds starting at 2.30 pm each day, aside from round 9 which started at 10.30 am on the final Sunday. Games of the day were selected by a panel of IM Richard Palliser, GM Matthew Sadler and WIM Natasha Regan and published on the ECF web site - <https://www.britishchesschampionships.co.uk/notable-games/>

Rounds 1 - 3 Saturday to Monday

Danny Gormally took an early lead and was the only player on 3 points after round 3. Games of the Day from the first three rounds were as follows ...

Round 1 Game of the Day

Chris G Ward v Martin G Walker

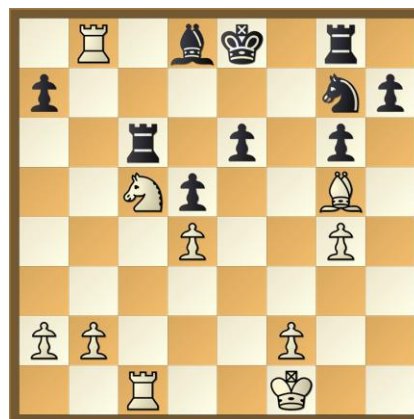
Kings Indian Defence 13.08.2022



In this game Chris (above) adopts an early h pawn push against Martin's Kings Indian Defence and then switches the attack to the c-file with black's king caught in the centre.

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. h4 Bg7 4. Nc3 d5 5. h5 Nh5 6. cd5 c6 7. e4 cd5 8. e5 Bf8 9. Qf3 Nc6 10. Bb5 Be6 11. Nge2 Qd7 12. Na4 Bg4 13. Qe3 Be2 14. Qe2 e6 15. g4 Ng7 16. Bh6 Rg8 17. Rc1 Be7 18. Rh3 Rc8 19. Kf1 Qc7 20. Bc6

bc6 21. Qa6 c5 22. Nc5 Qc6 23. Qc6 Rc6 24. Rb3 f6 25. ef6 Bf6 26. Rb8 Bd8 27. Bg5 1-0



Round 2 Game of the Day

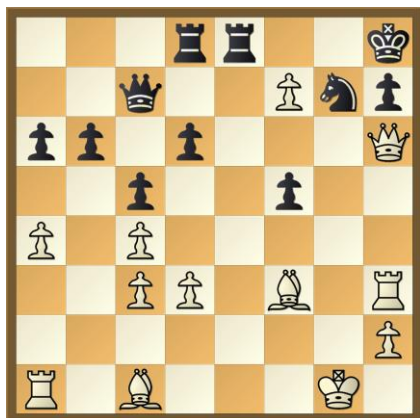
Keith C Arkell v Lan Yao

English Opening 14.08.2022



After some early manoeuvring, Keith (above) pushes his kingside pawns with his queen joining in to provoke a weakness on the dark squares followed by a rook lift to win the game.

1. c4 Nf6 2. Nc3 e6 3. Nf3 Bb4 4. g3 b6 5. Bg2 Bb7 6. O-O O-O 7. d3 Bc3 8. bc3 d6 9. e4 Nbd7 10. Nd4 c5 11. Nc2 a6 12. a4 Qc7 13. Ne3 Bc6 14. f4 Rad8 15. g4 Ne8 16. g5 Qb7 17. Qh5 g6 18. Qh6 Ng7 19. f5 ef5 20. ef5 gf5 21. Nd5 Bd5 22. Bd5 Qc7 23. Rf3 Rfe8 24. g6 Ne5 25. gf7 Kh8 26. Rh3 Nf3 27. Bf3 1-0



Round 3 Game of the Day

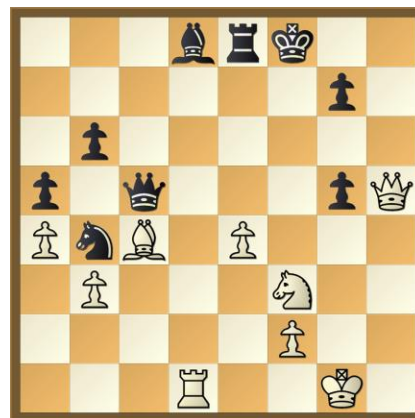
Nigel R Davies v David J Eggleston

15.08.2022

Nigel plays the Catalan against David with a well-timed pawn push against the opposing king, and a fine pawn sacrifice with 26 g6! to open up lines against the opposing king.



1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 e6 3. g3 d5 4. Bg2 Be7 5. O-O O-O 6. c4 dc4 7. Qc2 a6 8. a4 Bd7 9. Qc4 Bc6 10. Bg5 a5 11. Nc3 Na6 12. Rfd1 Nb4 13. Rac1 Re8 14. h4 h6 15. Bf6 Bf6 16. e4 Qd7 17. b3 b6 18. Qe2 Bb7 19. Qe3 Bd8 20. g4 Qe7 21. g5 hg5 22. hg5 c5 23. dc5 Qc5 24. Qf4 Qe7 25. Nb5 Rf8 26. g6 fg6 27. Qg4 g5 28. Nbd4 Bc8 29. Rc8 Rc8 30. Ne6 Rc5 31. Bf1 Re8 32. Nc5 Qc5 33. Bc4 Kf8 34. Qh5 1-0



Round 3 Game of the Day

Thomas Villiers v Ioanis Lentzos

15.08.2022

Tom sets an opening trap in the Caro-Kann with a pawn sacrifice to set up Nxf7 on move 6, which picks up the opposing queen for two minor pieces.

1. e4 c6 2. Nf3 d5 3. d3 de4 4. Ng5 ed3 5. Bd3 Nf6 6. Nf7 Kf7 7. Bg6 hg6 8. Qd8 e5 9. Nc3 Nbd7 10. O-O a5 11. Bg5 Rg8 12. Rad1 Be7 13. Qc7 Ne8 14. Rd7 Nc7 15. Re7 1-0



Rounds 4 – 6 Tuesday to Thursday

Danny dropped a point against IM Brandon Clarke in round 4. This meant that Brandon Clarke, Ezra Kirk, Richard Pert and Keith Arkell took the joint lead after round 4 with 3.5 points out of 4.

Keith then won his round 5 game against Ezra Kirk with some fine attacking chess to move in front on 4.5 points. Keith was closely followed by a chasing pack of six players on 4 points (IM Brandon Clarke, GM Danny Gormally, IM Matthew Wadsworth, IM Richard Pert and FM Harry Grieve).

Keith drew his round 5 game against Matthew Wadsworth while Harry won his game against Danny Gormally, so Keith and Harry were now equal first at the end of round 6.

Games of the Day for the middle three rounds were as follows ...

Round 4 Game of the Day

Matthew J Wadsworth v Lan Yao

16.06.2022

1. Nf3 Nf6 2. g3 e6 3. Bg2 d5 4. O-O Be7 5. d3 c5 6. Nbd2 Nc6 7. e4 b6 8. Re1 Bb7 9. e5 Nd7 10. c4 d4 11. Nf1 Qc7 12. Bf4 h6 13. g4 g5 14. Bg3 Bf8 15. a3 a5 16. h3 Bg7 17. Qe2 Ne7 18. N1d2 Ng6 19. Ne4 O-O 20. h4 gh4 21. Bh2 Nde5 22. Ne5 Ne5 23. g5 hg5 24. Ng5 Bg2 25. Qh5 Rfe8 26. Be5 Be5 27. Qh7 Kf8 28. Re5 Ra7 29. Rae1 Qc6 30. Rf5 Ke7 31. Rf7 Kd8 32. Ra7 Bh1 33. f3 1-0



Round 5 Game of the Day

Keith Arkell v Ezra Kirk

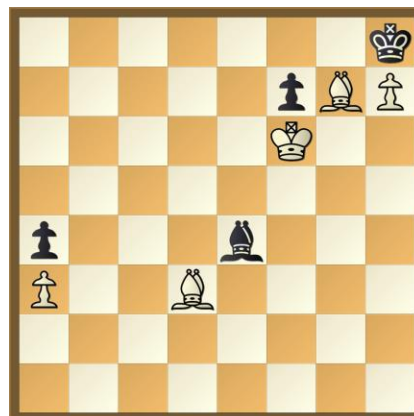
17.08.2022

Keith (below, left) goes in for a Catalan with some fine attacking chess to reach a winning endgame with two bishops and a passed h-pawn against bishop and knight.



1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 g6 3. g3 Bg7 4. Bg2 O-O 5. O-O d6 6. c4 Nbd7 7. Nc3 e5 8. e4 Re8 9. h3 ed4 10. Nd4 Nc5 11. Re1 h6 12. Rb1 a5 13. b3 c6 14. Bb2 h5 15. Qd2 a4 16. b4 Ne6 17. Nf3 Nd7 18. Qd6 Bf8 19. Qd2 Bb4 20. Ba1 Bf8 21. Rbd1 Bg7 22. e5 h4 23. Ne4 hg3 24. fg3 Qb6 25. Kh2 Rd8 26. Qc1 Qc7 27. Nf6 Nf6 28. ef6 Bf8 29. Rd8 Qd8 30. Ne5 Ra5 31. Be4 Bd6 32. Ng6 Rg5 33. Ne7 Kf8 34. Nf5 Qc7 35. Nd6 Qd6 36. Qe3 b5 37. cb5 cb5 38. Rc1 Bd7 39.

a3 Rg3 40. Qg3 Qd2 41. Bg2 Qc1 42. Be5 Qg5 43. Bd6 Kg8 44. Qf2 Nf8 45. h4 Qf5 46. Qf5 Bf5 47. Bf1 Bd7 48. Kg3 Bc6 49. Kf4 Nd7 50. Kg5 Kh8 51. Bd3 Kg8 52. h5 Kh8 53. h6 Kg8 54. h7 Kh8 55. Kh6 b4 56. Bb4 Ne5 57. Bf8 Ng4 58. Kg5 Nf6 59. Kf6 Be4 60. Bg7 1-0

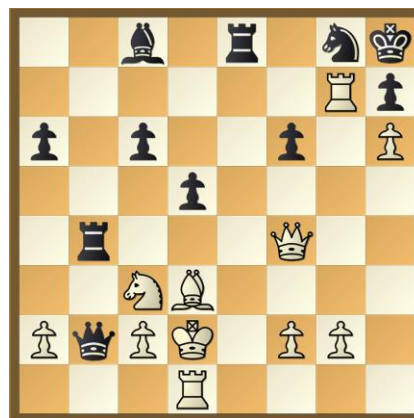


Round 6 Game of the Day

Harry Grieve v Danny Gormally

2022.08.18

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cd4 4. Nd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 Nc6 6. Bg5 e6 7. Qd2 Be7 8. O-O-O O-O 9. h4 a6 10. Nc6 bc6 11. Rh3 d5 12. Rg3 Kh8 13. Be2 Rb8 14. Qe3 Ng8 15. ed5 ed5 16. h5 f6 17. Bf4 Bd6 18. Rg7 Re8 19. Qg3 Bf4 20. Qf4 Qb6 21. h6 Qb2 22. Kd2 Rb4 23. Bd3 1-0



Rounds 7 - 9 Friday to Sunday

Round 7 Game of the Day

Daniel W Gormally v John Merriman

19.08.2022

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nd2 Be7 4. Bd3 c5 5. dc5 Nf6 6. Qe2 a5 7. Ngf3 Na6 8. e5 Nd7 9. c3 Nac5 10. Bc2 Qc7 11. O-O b5 12. Re1 Ba6 13. Nd4 b4 14. Qe3 Rc8 15. Qg3 O-O 16. cb4 ab4 17. N2b3 Rfe8 18. Bf4 Qb6 19. Rad1 Nb3 20. Bb3 Bc5 21. Ba4 Qa7 22. Bh6 Bf8 23. Be3 Bc5 24. b3 Qb7 25. h4 Rc7 26. h5 Bf8 27. Bd7 Rd7 28. Nf3 Bb5 29. h6 g6 30. Nh2 Ra8 31. Ng4 Be7 32. Qf4 Rc7 33. Nf6 Kh8 34. Nh7 Bd8 35. Ng5 Ra2 36. Qb4 Be7 37. Qf4 Bd8 38. Rc1

Rd7 39. Bc5 Ra8 40. Bf8 Bg5 41. Qg5 f5 42. Bd6 d4 43. Rc5 d3 44. Rec1 Ra2 45. Rc8 Kh7 46. Qf6 1-0

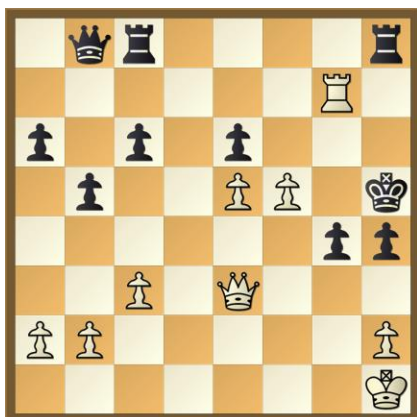


Round 8 Game of the Day Antanas Zapolskis v Gwilym Price 2022.08.20

This was a fantastic attacking game which deservedly won the Alexander best game prize including a fine piece sacrifice with 25 Bxe6! to open the position and a second sacrifice 28 Rf3! to force checkmate.



1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. d4 cd4 4. Nd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 Nc6 6. Ndb5 Bc5 7. Nd6 Ke7 8. Nc8 Rc8 9. Be2 Qc7 10. O-O h5 11. Bg5 Kf8 12. Qd2 Ng4 13. Bf4 Nge5 14. Nb5 Qb8 15. c3 a6 16. Nd4 Bd6 17. Kh1 Bc7 18. Nc6 dc6 19. Be5 Be5 20. f4 Bf6 21. Qe3 g6 22. Bc4 Kg7 23. e5 Bd8 24. Rad1 b5 25. Be6 fe6 26. Rd7 Kh6 27. g4 hg4 28. Rf3 Bh4 29. Rh3 g5 30. Rh4 gh4 31. f5 Kh5 32. Rg7 1-0



Round 9 Game of the Day Matthew J Wadsworth v Harry Grieve 21.09.2022

Harry Grieve took on Matthew Wadsworth in a dramatic last round game which he needed to win to avoid a playoff. Harry takes us through the Championships decider game where he demonstrates the power of two bishops against two rooks in an endgame. The game ends with four queens on the board after both players promote but with a forcing line for Harry and the game played through to checkmate as a fitting end to the Championships.

(1) Wadsworth, Matthew (2418) - Grieve, Harry (2390) A13

Grieve, Harry
Chessable British Championship (9), 21.08.2022



Heading into the last round of the British, I had just taken the sole lead for the first time with 6.5/8, closely followed by Matthew Wadsworth, Keith Arkell and Nick Pert on 6/8. This left me having Black against Matthew on Board 1, with Nick having White against Keith on Board 2 - a set of pairings that promised an exciting final round. I had to assume that there would be a decisive result between Nick and Keith, since a draw would put them both out of contention for the title - so to avoid the possibility of a playoff, I was looking to play for a win going into this last round. Of course, I knew Matthew would be doing the same - which set the stage perfectly for the dramatic game that followed. There was the added complication of needing just a draw for my first GM norm, but I tried to put that out of my mind with the British Championships on the line.

1.c4 e6 2.g3 d5 3.Bg2 c6 4.Nf3 dxc4 5.Na3 b5?!



Being honest, this is mostly just a mixing-up of move orders in the opening. Matthew is an excellent technical player, so I usually look to create lots of complications when we play each other - which here I achieved somewhat by accident. Just a week later, we played with the same colours in the Northumbria GM event where I deviated with 5...Bxa3, a much safer option. In this later game I got a winning position out of the opening, but Matthew later turned the tables and took the full point.

6.Nxb5! cxb5 7.Ng1!

Necessary, since 7.Ne5? Nd7 and; 7.Nh4? g5 both fail to win the exchange for White.

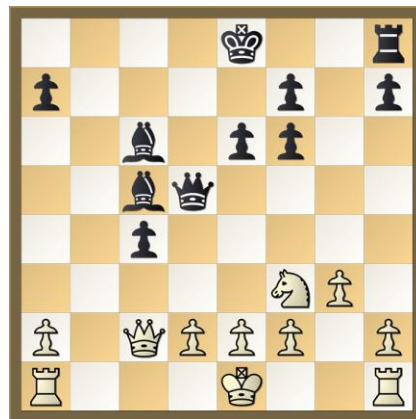
7...Bd7 8.Bxa8 Nc6 9.Bxc6 Bxc6 10.Nf3



10...Nf6

Black clearly has some compensation for the exchange due to the strong light-squared bishop which will always deter White from castling. 10...g5!? is an option I considered at the time - White has to spend a tempo to prevent g5-g4, giving me time to play Bg7 and prevent White's b3 plan as played in the game. I decided instead just to complete development, but Matthew plays the next few moves very well to prevent me from developing my initiative.

11.b3 Bc5 12.Bb2 Qd5 13.bxc4 bxc4 14.Bxf6!? gxf6 15.Qc2



White sensibly trades pieces to prevent any ...Ne4 ideas and now starts to put pressure on the weak c4 pawn. Defending it passively with ...Bb5 will remove my strong light-squared bishop from the long diagonal and allow White to castle, so instead I have to look for a tactical solution.

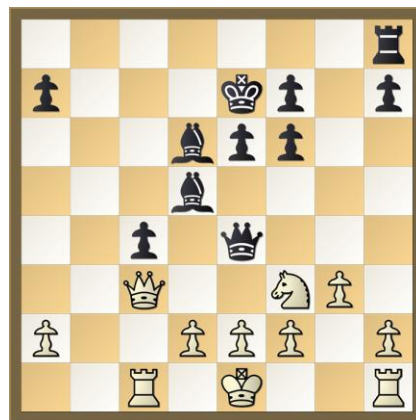
15...Ke7 16.Rc1 Ba3 17.Rb1 Bd6 18.Qc3

18.Rc1 would pretty much force me to repeat moves with 18...Ba3, but I had the advantage of knowing that Matthew would never head for a quick draw like this given the tournament situation.

18...Qe4 19.Rc1

19.O-O! would have been well-timed because White has the response 19...Qxe2? 20.Nd4. After the text move White never gets another chance to castle.

19...Bd5



20.Qa5

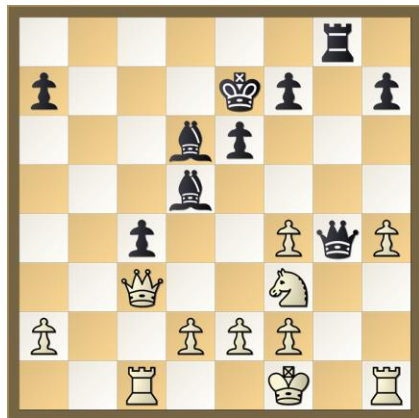
It's worth noting that Matthew turned down a couple of chances to exchange queens during the game: 20.Qe3!? Qxe3 21.fxe3 Rb8 gives Black some counterplay with the

two bishops and the b-file, but White can keep the advantage with careful play.

20...Ra8 21.Kf1 f5 22.h4 Qg4 23.Qc3

Around here I started to fully believe in my position for the first time - White hasn't managed to come up with a plan in the last few moves while Black's initiative has reached serious proportions.

23...f4 24.gxf4 Rg8



25.Ke1

Already an only move, since 25.Rg1? fails to 25...Qh3+ 26.Ke1 Bxf3—+

25...Bxf4 26.Qa3+ Kf6 27.Rf1 Rd8 28.Qc3+

A necessary check, since the immediate 28.Rg1? allows 28...Bxd2+! 29.Kxd2 Bxf3+ 30.Kc2 Qe4+ 31.Kb2 Rd2+ with a powerful attack.

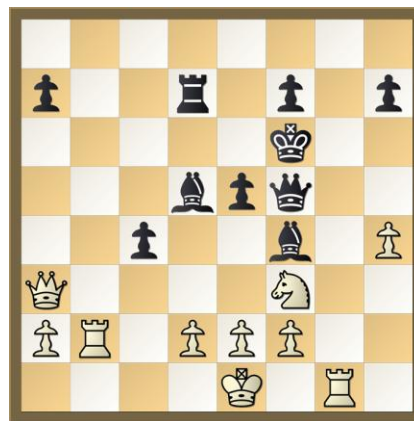
28...e5 29.Rg1 Qh5



30.Qa5 Rd7 31.Qa6+ Ke7 32.Qa3+ Kf6

Around here it became clear that Nick Pert was going to win a powerful game on board 2 to reach 7/9, confirming that I would also need the full point to avoid the playoff - but whilst Matthew is still looking for the win, I can continue to offer repetitions when necessary.

33.Rc2 Qf5 34.Rb2



34...Be6? 35.Qc3

35.e3! would have exploited Black's last move, removing the bishop from a key diagonal. After 35...Bh6 36.Ng5 White starts to take over.

35...h6 36.Rb5 Qe4 37.Kd1 Bf5 38.Rb2



38...Rd3!

Not too difficult a move to play, but definitely nice aesthetically. My calm choices such as ...h6 in the last few moves have highlighted the fact that White has no direct tries and I can just improve my pieces - but with every piece now seemingly well-placed, it must be time for the breakthrough. This also has the advantage of giving Matthew a difficult decision to make just before the time control.

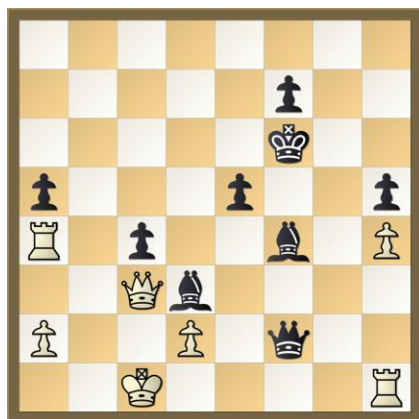
39.exd3

39.Ng5!? is an interesting engine alternative, leading to a similar position to the game but without the h-pawns which should favour White - 39...hxg5 40.hxg5+ Bxg5 41.exd3 Qf3+ 42.Kc1 Qxf2 43.Rd1 Bxd3 is still very unclear.

39...Qxf3+ 40.Kc1 Bxd3

I felt the momentum of the game was with me now - my compensation had felt shaky at times since being one exchange down from move 8, but actually things feel much easier with two exchanges gone - White's rooks lack targets whilst the black bishops are excellently placed.

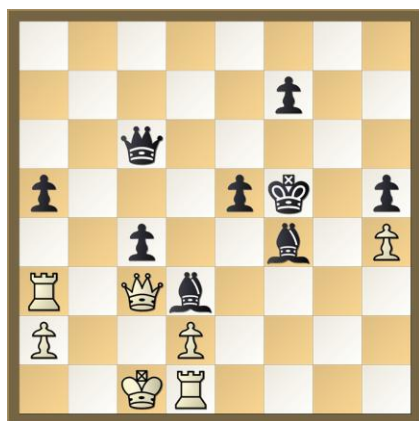
41.Rb4 Qxf2 42.Rh1 h5 43.Ra4 a5!?



44.Rd1

Definitely a poisoned pawn - both 44.Qxa5? Qd4 and 44.Rxa5? Qb6 are winning for Black.

44...Qb6 45.Qb2 Qc5 46.Ra3 Kf5 47.Qc3 Qb5 48.Qb2 Qc6 49.Qc3



Finally, Matthew is the one to offer a repetition, potentially ending his challenge for the title if I accept and enter a playoff with Nick. However, since sacrificing the second exchange I had felt my position was practically very promising, so I decided to play for more.

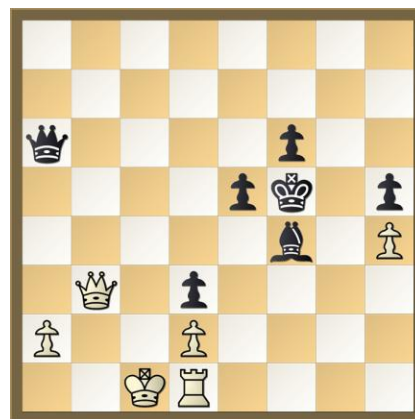
49...f6

Right idea, claiming that the a5 pawn is still poisoned, but wrong execution. 49...Kg4! is very strong, when 50.Qxa5 Qb7 51.Rxd3 cxd3 gives Black a much better version of the game with the king already activated.

50.Qxa5!

Agreeing to give back one exchange after the sequence in the game, but I expect Matthew will have been quite happy with this to remove Black's strong bishop on d3 and have all three results back on the table - White's strong a-pawn gives him definite winning chances as well.

50...Qb7 51.Rxd3 cxd3 52.Qc3 Qa6 53.Qb3



53...Ke4!

The engine gives many moves as equal here, but this feels right - White needs to act quickly now to prevent me achieving an ideal setup with the king on f3 protected by pawns on f5 and e4.

54.a4 Kf3 55.Re1?

Threatening Qd1+, but as it turns out the decisive mistake, giving me time to cement my king in the position.

55.Qd5+ Kf2 56.Qc5+ Ke2 57.Re1+! Kxe1 58.Qg1+ Ke2 59.Qg2+= is a nice trick to force a repetition. This is the result of my 53rd move - White needs to look for a quick perpetual to avoid being worse, but even if Matthew had seen this idea I doubt he would have gone for it under the circumstances.

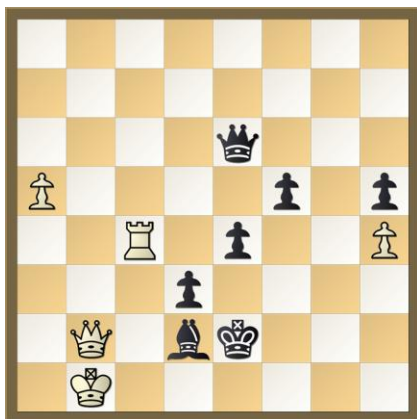
55...Kf2!

Sometimes during a game you don't realise exactly where a position becomes winning - but here at the board I sensed that the advantage had finally turned and it was down to me now to convert it. My next two pawn moves were both played instantly, giving me the ideal setup whilst gaining time attacking white's rook.

56.Re4 f5 57.Rc4 e4 58.Qc3 Ke2!

The black king functions perfectly as an attacking piece while I have the strong central pawn chain protecting it from any checks.

59.a5 Qh6! 60.Kb1 Bxd2 61.Qb2 Qe6

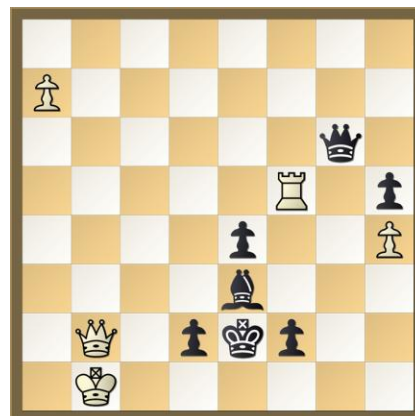


Now the f-pawn can start running and the conversion should be fairly easy - were it not for the amount that was on the line in this game.

62.Rc5 f4 63.Qb5 f3 64.Re5 Qg6 65.a6 f2 66.Rf5 Be3

One last precise move, although cashing in immediately with 66...Qg1+ 67.Ka2 f1Q 68.Rxf1 Kxf1 should also be good enough.

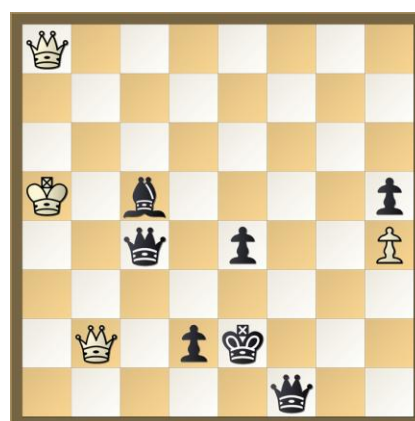
67.Qb2+ d2 68.a7



68...Qxf5

68...Bxa7 does the trick as well of course, but it was a fitting end to such a tense game to have four queens on the board.

69.a8Q f1Q+ 70.Ka2 Qe6+ 71.Ka3 Bc5+ 72.Ka4 Qc4+ 73.Ka5



73...Qa1+! 74.Qxa1 Qb4+ 75.Ka6 Qb6#

0-1

Championship Results

FM Harry Grieve won the British Champion and British U21 Champion titles on 7.5 points out of 9. Nick Pert was second on 7 points, with IM James Jackson and IM David Eggleston joint third on 6.5 points and a pack of five players in joint fifth place.



Photographs --- Mike Truran, the ECF Chief Executive, presents the British Crown trophy to FM Harry Grieve; fifth placed Danny Gormally, Matthew Wadsworth and Aarvamudhan Balaji; second placed Nick Pert is congratulated by Mike Truran

British Championship				
1st	FM Harry Grieve	Guildford	British Champion and British U21 Champion	7.5
2nd	GM Nicholas Pert	Sandhurst		7
3rd=	IM James P Jackson	Banbury		6.5
3rd=	IM David J Eggleston			6.5
5th=	GM Daniel W Gormally	Blackthorne		6
5th=	IM Matthew J Wadsworth	Maidenhead		6
5th=	GM Keith Arkell	Cheddleton		6
5th=	FM William Claridge-Hansen			6

The Chessable British Women's Championship

The top seeded female players in the Championship were WGM Kata Toma (2476), WIM Lan Yao (2274) and WGM Sheila Jackson (2070).

Lan and Kata were joint leaders of the Women's Championship for rounds 1 to 5, with Lan edging ahead in round 6 with a win against Charlie Storey, whereas Kata drew against Stephen Dishman. The scores after round 6 were Lan Yao on 3.5 points, Kata Toma on 3 and Sheila Jackson on 2 points.

Lan then drew her last three games against CM Aaravamudhan Balaji, Stephen Dishman and Dietmar Kolbus. Kata also drew her remaining games against Neil Bradbury, Oscar Pollack and Nigel Birtwhistle.

This meant that WIM Lan Yao won the women's championship to add to her English Championship success with 5 out of 9 points just ahead of WGM Katarzyna Toma on 4.5 points. Sheila Jackson finished in third on 3.5 points.

1st	WIM Lan Yao	British Women's Champion	5
2nd	WGM Katarzyna Toma		4.5
3rd	WGM Sheila Jackson		3.5

Here Lan takes us through her round 3 win against Ifan Rathbone-Jones with a Nf6 Caro-Kann which leads to a sharp tactical struggle.

Lan Yao v Ifan Rathbone-Jones
British Chess Championship 2022
2022.08.15 Round 03

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nf6 5.Nxf6+ exf6 6.c3 c5



A more common move is 6...Bd6, following by 7.Bd3 0-0 8.Qc2 Re8+ 9.Ne2 h5.

7.Nf3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 Qc7 10.0-0 Rd8 11.Qc2 g6?!



Black prepares to play Bf5, attacking White's queen, but this move slows down Black's tempo of developing pieces. If Black plays 11...Nc6?, White can play 12.dxc5+— winning a pawn. A better move is 11...cxd4, trading the pawn before developing pieces. 12.Nxd4 Nc6 13.Nxc6 bxc6 14.Rad1

12.Rad1 Bf5 13.Qb3 Nd7?



Black does not pay attention to the problem of the f7 pawn. If Black plays 13...Nc6?, White can still play 14.dxc5+—, winning a pawn. A better move for Black is 13...Be6, attacking White's queen and blocking White's threat on the f7 pawn.

14.Bc4! b5

Black is no longer able to protect the f7 pawn. If Black plays 14...Rf8, White can play 15.Bh6.

15.Bxf7+ Kg7 16.dxc5 a5?



This move enables White to keep the pair of bishops, and Black's f5 bishop can be a potential problem. It is better to play 16...Nxc5 17.Bxc5 Bxc5 18.Be6.

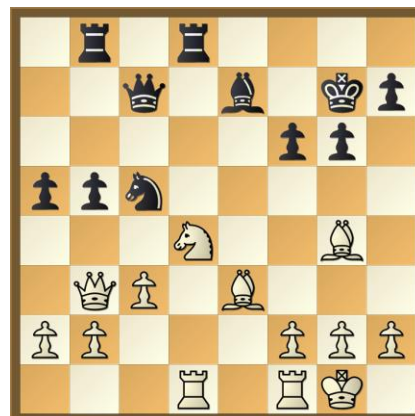
17.Bd5+— Rab8 18.Nd4 Bg4

If Black plays 18...Bxc5, White can play 19.Nxf5+ gxf5 20.Qc2+—; Black is a pawn down and has a double pawn, and Black's kingside is vulnerable.

19.Bf3

Better to play 19.h3! Nxc5 20.hxg4+— and White wins a piece. If Black takes the queen, White can play Ne6, winning the queen back.

19...Nxc5 20.Bxg4?



A big blunder. I thought it was caused by jet lag (since the championship started a couple of days after I returned from the Olympiad in Chennai). I thought that I was going to win material, because if Black takes the queen, White can play 21.Ne6, winning the queen back. But I ignored Black's tactic. It is better to play 20.Nxb5! Qe5 21.Qc4 Bxf3 22.gxf3; White wins two pawns and is winning.

20...Rxd4!

A beautiful tactic. Black eliminates White's powerful knight and threatens Nb3 and Rg4. I was shocked when

seeing this move, and thought that my great advantage had disappeared. But when I tried to keep calm and checked the position thoroughly, I found that my position was not that hopeless.

21.Rxd4 Nxb3 22.Rd7!



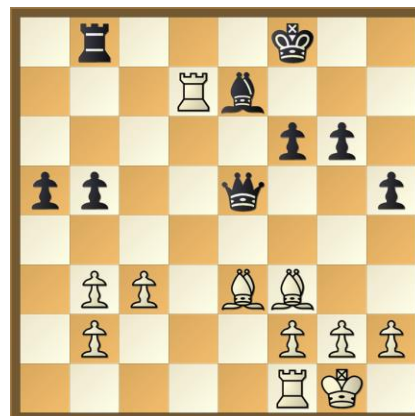
Attacks Black's queen and occupies the seventh rank rather than taking the knight immediately. If White plays 22.axb3?, Black can play 22...Rd8=, forcing trading White's active rook and it will be hard for White to win.

22...Qe5 23.axb3



Though White does not gain the advantage in material, White has great compensation. White's d7 rook is exerting pressure on Black's e7 bishop and king. White's f1 rook can be placed in e1, aiming at Black's queen and preparing a discovered attack, or move to d1 to control the d file. White's both bishops occupy good squares and are powerful when cooperating with the rooks, while Black's bishop is inactive. In addition, White does not have any obvious weakness, while Black has to pay attention to the vulnerable kingside, wandering queen, and weak pawns on the queenside.

23...h5 24.Bf3 Kf8?

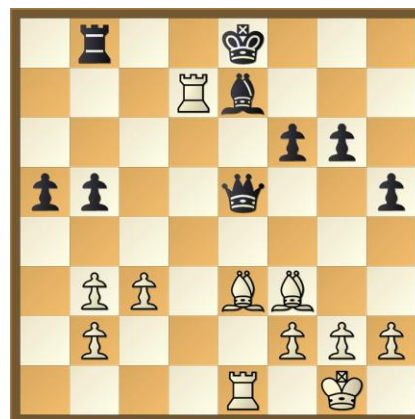


Black hopes to get rid of the pin of the d7 rook but does not pay attention to White's threat. The only way to defend is 24...Rd8, trying to trade White's rook. White can play 25.Rb7 or 25.Ra7, attacking Black's queenside pawns.

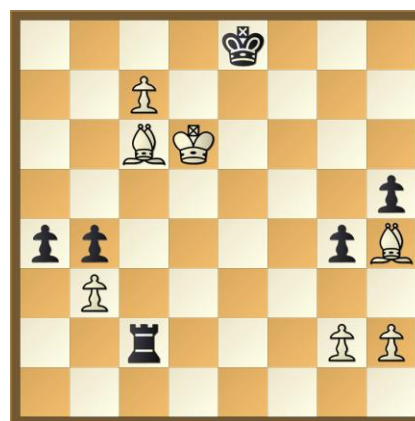
25.Re1!+-

Threatening Bh6 and Bd2. White is going to win material.

25...Ke8



26.Rxe7+! Qxe7 27.Bd2 Qxe1+ 28.Bxe1 b4 29.Bd5 Rd8 30.c4 Ke7 31.Kf1 Kd6 32.Bd2 g5 33.Ke2 g4 34.Bf4+ Kd7 35.Kd3 Re8 36.Be3 f5 37.Kd4 f4 38.Bxf4 Re2 39.c5 Rxf2 40.c6+ Ke7 41.Bg3 Rd2+ 42.Kc5 Rxb2 43.Bh4+ Ke8 44.Kd6 a4 45.c7 Rc2 46.Bc6+





ECF Events Director Shohreh Bayat (left) presents the Women's Championship Trophy to WIM Lan Yao



WIM Lan Yao and WGM Katarzyna Toma



Julia Volovich (right, pictured with Shohreh Bayat) won the British U18 Girls' Championships

Major Open

The Major Open ran for nine rounds alongside the British Championship with a big turnout of 82 players. The lead changed hands several times over the course of the event with Ben Ogunshola (below, left), PU Midhun (middle) and Peter Shaw (right) ending up as joint winners on 7 out of 9 at the end of the competition.



Seniors 65+

As in week one there was a big turnout for the Seniors Championships with 62 players taking part in the Over 65 Championships.

Top seed for the Over 65 Championships was GM John Nunn. John led the field throughout, finishing on a perfect 7 out of 7, followed by Paul Hutchison on 5.5, with Geoffrey James, Oliver Jackson, Jim Burnett and Paul Girdlestone all in joint third on 5 points.



Over 65 Championships Round 4 – Nunn v Jackson



3rd= Jim Burnett and 3rd= Geoffrey James

Gillian Moore, Dinah Norman and Susan Chadwick were joint British Women's Over 65 Champions on 3 out of 7.



British Over 65 Champion GM John Nunn; and below, 2nd placed Paul Hutchison and 3rd = Oliver Jackson



Joint British Over 65 Women's Champions (l-r) – Gillian Moore, Dinah Norman and Susan Chadwick



Joint British Women's Over 65 Champion Susan Chadwick accepts the trophy from Mike Truran on behalf of her colleagues



Bodhana at the Chessable British Championships

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There was an eye-catching performance in the Open Rapid, the fast time limit championship. The youngest entrant Bodhana Sivanandan, seven, began with a stunning sequence of two wins against 2100s, a draw against a 2200 Candidate Master, and a [win against the British U12 champion](#).

In round six (of seven), with 4/5, she was promoted to board two, facing Arkell, a legend of English chess, he of the World 50+ Teams double gold, the current fifth round British Championship leader, author of the acclaimed Arkell's Endings, and the man who always scores with rook and bishop against rook.



Bodhana Sivanandan at the British Championships in Torquay
Photograph: Brendan O'Gorman/Handout

'I won only because of her inexperience,' he said. 'She got a passive position defending a queen and two rooks ending, but she understood the importance of counterplay so caused me problems by activating her queen. There was a fleeting moment where she could have held but she missed it and got a lost king and pawn endgame.'

The occasion evoked a memory of an encounter with another prodigy: 'One day, as with Magnus [Carlsen], it will be something to brag about that I have a 1-0 score against her,' he said. Arkell v Carlsen, Gausdal 2002, a [28-move tactical skirmish](#) where the 11-year-old Norwegian came off worse, deserves to be better known.

FEATURES

Michael Adams' Game of the Month



Jovanka Houska has been a reassuring presence on board one of the English Women's team for many years; this game showcases her strengths.

Jovanka's superior positional understanding enables her to gradually get a good position, but with her dangerous opponent loading up pieces on the kingside, ready to attack if given any opportunity, the situation requires careful handling. As the game approaches a crisis between moves 17-24, Jovanka takes a string of excellent decisions, blending calculation, assessment, and material considerations. This favourably brings clarity from chaos, and she ends up controlling all the key areas of the board.

Mobina Alinasab – Jovanka Houska
Women's Olympiad Chennai 2022

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.f3 e6 The Fantasy variation has been in vogue recently, 3...dxe4 4.fxe4 e5 5.Nf3 gives White a pretty good version of the King's Gambit, and otherwise Caro players have to adapt their usual plans, the light squared bishop being denied its customary post on f5.

4.Nc3 Bb4 5.Bd2 A French Winawer with the extra moves c6 and f3 has arisen, reducing the theoretical load, but increasing confusion.

5...b6 5...Ne7 6.a3 Ba5 was another option.

6.a3 Be7 More circumspect than 6...Bxc3 7.Bxc3 dxe4, when either 8.d5, or 8.Nh3 give White good play. Not 8.fxe4? Qh4+.

7.e5 I would have preferred 7.Be3 intending Qd2, and perhaps castling long later. Fixing the pawn structure reduces White's options, and dynamism.

7...c5 8.Nce2 Mobina understandably wants to play c3 to reinforce the central pawns, but this creates a bit of a logjam of minor pieces.



8...Nc6 Black should certainly avoid 8...cxd4 9.Nxd4 helping White's development.

9.c3 a5 I like this patient move, gaining space before developing the bishop, but 9...Ba6 immediately was also possible.

10.f4 Ba6 11.Nf3 The sacrifice 11.f5! exf5 12.Nf3 was interesting, Nh6 is prevented, and White could continue Nf4 with an active position - a stack of knights like this covers a lot of territory, and is often effective in French structures.

11...Nh6 12.Be3 12.Ng3 Bxf1 13.Nxf1 0-0 14.Ne3 is fine for Black, but at least it clarifies how to complete White's development.

12...0-0 I will mention again that it is crucial to keep the tension in the centre. After 12...cxd4? 13.Nexd4 is a good response, but 13.cxd4 also allows White's knight a handy square on c3 to unravel.

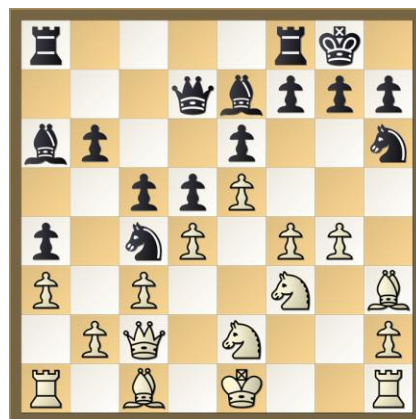
13.g3 If White tries to be active 13.h3 Nf5 14.Bf2 a4 15.g4 Nh4 is a good response.



13...a4! A good plan, creating a pathway for the knight to enter the sensitive queenside light squares.

14.Bh3 Na5 15.Qc2 Not 15.Qxa4 Nc4 16.Bc1 Nxb2 17.Bxb2 Bxe2. If White plans 15.g4 it might as well be played immediately, then 15...Nc4 is met by 16.Bc1.

15...Qd7 16.g4 Nc4 17.Bc1 17.Bf2 seems more logical, now that the queen is covering b2.



17...f6! 17...cxd4 18.Nexd4 is still not a good idea. 17...f5 18.g5 Nf7 19.Bf1 is possible, but the blocked position is a relief for White.

Jovanka realises that if the position is opened White's lagging development and king stuck in the middle will be a problem, and that exposing her own king somewhat is a small price to pay for opening lines. Over the board this judgement would be far from simple with a board full of pieces, and her clarity of thought over the next few moves is impressive, and takes the game away from her opponent.

18.exf6 gxf6 19.f5 19.g5 fxg5 20.Nxg5 Nf5 21.Rg1 Kh8 looks a little scary, but all is under control. White should have tried 19.0-0 Kh8 20.Ng3 leaving Black wondering about both f5 and g5 breaks; this is both practically and objectively stronger.

19...Nf7 The knight is forced to go here, but it proves a useful square.

20.Nf4 If 20.fxe6 Qxe6 21.0-0 (21.Kf2 Ng5! is even worse.) 21...Ng5! takes control.



20...e5! Much stronger than 20...exf5 21.gxf5.

21.Ne6 21.dxe5 fxe5 22.Ne6 e4 23.Nxf8 Rxf8, or 21.Nh5 e4, are no better.

21...e4! In such a sharp position there are high stakes, and it is important not to move the rook, as 21...Rfc8? 22.g5 brings a lot of White pieces into the action, and totally changes the assessment - now White has a very dangerous attack. In the game Black maintains the initiative and control of the action.



22.Nh4 White's only good piece is the knight on e6, so grabbing the exchange is not a good idea: 22.Nxf8 Rxf8 23.Nh4 (23.Nd2 Ne3 24.Qb1 Bd3 is a bit awkward.) 23...cxd4 24.cxd4 Rc8 25.Qf2 (25.Qe2 Nxa3 26.Qxa6 Nc2+ 27.Kf2 Nxa1) 25...e3 26.Bxe3 Nxe3 27.Qxe3 Bd6 28.Kf2 Re8 29.Qc1 (29.Qd2 Re2+ 30.Qxe2 Bxe2 31.Kxe2 Qb5+) 29...Re2+ 30.Kg1 Ng5 31.Bf1 Qe7 leaves White totally helpless, with both rooks spectators.

22...cxd4 23.cxd4 Moving the knight from e6 is still not wise; 23.Nxf8 Bxf8 24.cxd4 Rc8, or 23.Nxd4 Bc5 24.Ne6 Nfe5! - the other knight heads to d3.

23...Rfc8 24.Qg2 24.g5 is met by 24...Ne3!

24...Ng5! Blocking out any kingside play. The knight totally plugs that sector, leaving the minor pieces on the h-file hopelessly out of play.



25.0-0 Na5 26.Be3 White has to part with material: 26.Re1 Nb3 27.Rb1 Bd3.

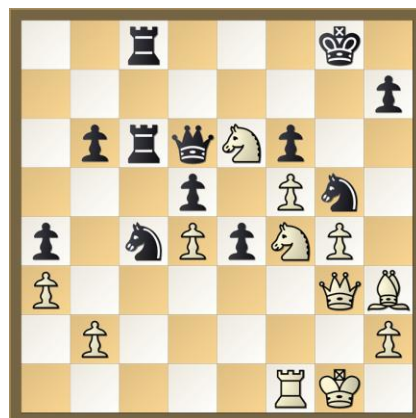
26...Bxf1 27.Rxf1 Nc4 28.Bf4 Rc6



29.Qg3 Rac8 30.Ng2 30.Bg2 seems like a better attempt at untangling.

30...Bd6! More practical than the greedy 30...Nxb2.

31.Bxd6 Qxd6 32.Ngf4



33...Nd2! This square became available due to the bishop swap, smoothly opening the way for the rooks to infiltrate down the c-line.

33.Rf2 Ndf3+ 34.Kh1 Rc1+ 35.Bf1 R8c2! The rooks dominate.



36.Rxc2 Rxc2 A bit simpler than 36...Rxf1+ 37.Kg2 Rg1+ 38.Kf2 Rxc3 39.Rc8+ Kf7 40.hxc3.

37.Be2 Nxe6 38.fxe6 Nxd4 38...Rc1+! 39.Kg2 Rg1+ makes sense now though. The game is almost finished in any case.

39.g5 39.e7 Qxe7 40.Nxd5 Qe5 decides.

39...Nxe2 40.Nxe2 Qxc3

White resigned. After 41.Nxc3 fxc3 the White e-pawn is easily covered by Black's king, and conversion is simple.

Consistency: The Most Elusive Chess Virtue?

by Peter Wells



To anyone aware of my fluctuating chess fortunes this summer, the progression of subject matter in these pieces will hold few mysteries. My July column was explicitly a consequence of the brief optimism arising from my success at the South Wales International, which prompted me to explore the

ways in which older players could leverage the advantages which come with experience to mitigate their declining faculties in other areas. This column is undeniably to some degree a response to my horrible performance at the British Championships – which unsurprisingly has placed that renewed confidence under profound pressure.

However, I haven't embarked on a discussion of the elusive nature of consistency based upon my tribulations alone. In the first place, I think most players will identify to some extent with the bumpy character of our chess journeys. In my youth we used to talk about periods of rapid progress followed by plateaux, which might most optimistically (even euphemistically) be referred to as 'periods of consolidation'. Now – not least due to the high k factors which young players carry with them everywhere – any reversals can easily look like significant backward steps, at least on paper. I was also alerted to the fact that over the last few months, the kind of drastic inconsistency between tournaments within a short time period which I had suffered has been neither that unusual, nor by any means restricted to players in my demographic. I was especially struck that Harry Grieve – following the extraordinary *tour de force* of his performance at the British Championships – appeared to be struggling a bit in the GM group of the Northumberland Masters just a few days later, which led me to the more surprising realisation that his events preceding Torquay had not been especially auspicious either. This is in no way to diminish what Harry achieved in Torquay. I was really excited by his play there and genuinely delighted for him that he managed to win the tournament in such a dramatic and deserving manner. However, it is precisely because he seemed there to

epitomise all the virtues of the up-and-coming young player: energy, confidence, great preparation, clinical finishing and a mindset capable of exhibiting such incredible courage in the final round (a game covered by the man himself elsewhere on these pages), that I found his apparent struggle for consistency so intriguing.

Reflecting on all this, it seemed worth stressing that in striving for 'chess improvement' we are really aiming at two distinct goals. On the one hand we want to attain fresh knowledge and hone skills which have not hitherto been a part of our weaponry. However, we also should be looking to ensure that skills which we have already sometimes shown to be within our grasp can be demonstrated more convincingly and consistently. I was certainly aware of this dichotomy when writing *Chess Improvement: It's all in the Mindset*, but I think it is worth making it more explicit here, not least because I think there is a risk that when we set about trying to make progress, we are easily drawn to want to learn the new and to master fresh techniques with perhaps a consequent tendency to underestimate how much is already there, but latent and in need of constant practice.

It is hard enough to analyse our own reasons for fluctuating form across tournaments, never mind speculating upon the causes of other players' inconsistency. For one thing no two tournaments are identical. There are such a range of 'external' factors which can affect performance: any 'real life' distractions which might impact upon the level of focus; accommodation and quality of sleep; overall levels of health and fitness; playing conditions; even how well any given tournament works socially and the extent to which a player feels supported, especially in adversity. In the 1990s I played in a number of events in which I was the only UK player and sometimes even the only one with English as their mother tongue, and can testify that this can have a significant impact, even if a degree of isolation is not always a disaster from the point of view of facilitating hard work.

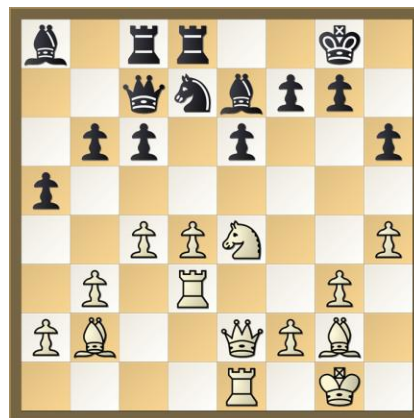
Fairly self-evidently, all of these will feed into a player's psychological state, and I am ever more convinced that this is the key to so much variation in form both between events and within them. Returning to my own case, I definitely gained momentum during the South Wales International, not just from the favourable results, but from the sense that I was both seeing a decent amount and avoiding beating myself up too much at the board when things did not go to plan. The latter was probably the key to the final two rounds, in both of which I felt more than usually sanguine when I found myself under a

degree of pressure. Arriving in Torquay with the hope that this momentum might endure across events, it was, needless to say, a massive shock to the system to start with 0/2. Moreover, since this score was so richly deserved in terms of my multiple failings in those early games – disastrous time consumption, poor preparation, and a failure to keep control of the position being just the start of a longer list – it became clear that something was fundamentally wrong. What was interesting was that the subsequent apparent 'recovery' didn't remotely convince me either, my fourth win in a row doing no more than provide a particularly graphic example of my shortcomings.

Peter Wells – Max Turner

British Championship Round 6 Torquay 2022

1.c4 e6 2.g3 d5 3.Bg2 Nf6 4.Nf3 Be7 5.0-0 0-0 6.d4 c6 7.Nc3 Nbd7 8.b3 b6 9.Nd2 Bb7 10.e4 a5 11.Re1 Rc8 12.Bb2 Ba8 13.Qe2 dxe4 14.Ndxe4 Qc7 15.Rad1 Nxe4 16.Nxe4 Rfd8 17.h4 h6 18.Rd3



9 Nd2 is a slightly unusual way to give priority to achieving the e4 break which I have played a few times over the years, and here Black's passive reaction has afforded me something like a 'perfect Catalan position'. However, following the useful 17.h4, it is not obvious what is the best way to make further progress and I was consuming too much time constantly eyeing the d5 break and various other violent attempts to break through. Definitely one of those times when finding good moves rather than feeling an almost moral obligation to look for the 'best' ones would have been the wisest course.

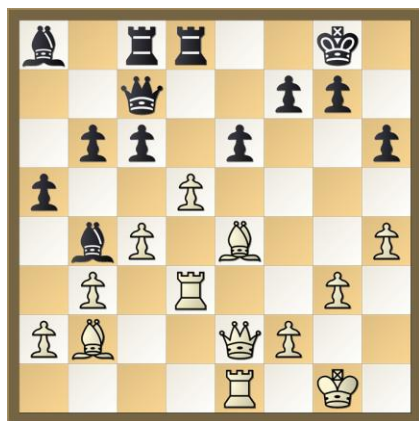
18...Nf6 19.d5?!

In the end this was played more as a panicky response to looming time pressure than as the consequence of rational analysis. For sure, I did see a good deal of the variations to come, but if Max had appreciated how easily his position could become 'cut in half' by the advancing d-pawn he would have eased the pressure with a simplifying

exchange, solving far more of his problems than he should ever have been allowed to do.

19...Nxe4 20.Bxe4 Bb4?

One defender deserts the battle and when others also get cut off, Black's kingside becomes a lost cause. A simple solution was available with 20...cxd5! 21.cxd5 Bb4! (but not 21...exd5 22 Bf5) 22.Red1 Bxd5 23.Bxd5 Rxd5 24.Rxd5 exd5 25.Rxd5 and White's mistimed pawn break has done little but simplify the position, and with it Black's task.



21.dxe6! Rxd3 22.Bxd3 Bxe1 23.e7! Qd7

23...Re8 24.Qg4 f6 25.Qe6+ Kh8 26.Bxf6 is not much fun for the defence either.

24.Qe4

Black seemed to set too much store on denying access to g4, but White has another simple route to the key squares around the king. It is critical that Black cannot play 24...f5 since after the simple 25. Qe5!, Black's pieces are hopelessly badly placed to contest the long diagonal.

24...f6 25.Bxf6 Qe8 26.Qe6+ Kh8 27.Be5 Bb4 28.Qxh6+ 1-0

There could be several ways to react to such a game. I guess I could at least have taken solace from the fact that luck had been on my side, and certainly the finish did give me some pleasure. However, I chose to dwell more on my tentative and then borderline irresponsible handling of a very promising position which, unsurprisingly, didn't do much for my confidence, regardless of my recovering score. This raises an interesting general question: I am convinced that the advice to players to give priority to analysing their games rigorously and honestly with a view to identifying problems from which they can learn is correct, and the sooner they do this after they have been played, the more they will be able to recreate an authentic record of their thought processes. However, doing this mid-tournament can also clearly endanger

morale, particularly as any use of the engine tends to put even the most beautiful and satisfying games into disheartening perspective. I think the absolute key – and in this respect I have definitely improved since the experience of working together with Barry Hymer on our book – is never to bring identity into the equation. In other words, the sometimes all too natural leap from 'I played terribly' to 'I'm a terrible player' must be avoided at all costs. However, I am still vulnerable to the more plausible but harmful claim that 'I'm in hopeless form here' or 'I'm seeing nothing in this tournament.' This is a kind of limited identity claim but still very damaging. Somehow this has to be combatted – the ideal should be that the kind of adjustment after a bad *tournament* of which many players seem to be capable should be undertaken after every bad *game*. Yesterday didn't go well, but I am a strong player and today is a new day! Herein, I suspect, lies one of the clearest causes of inconsistency, but evidently one of the hardest to conquer.

Another key variable in seeking consistent high performance is clearly preparation. Perhaps the most useful thing to say about this is that the sense of one day entering a tournament 'fully prepared' motivates many players to do a lot of hard work, but is nonetheless likely to remain a pipe dream. There is now so much to know and theory still evolves at such an impressive speed that we can expect to be always on a journey with regard to getting the opening phase right. However, feeling well prepared before an event and at least sometimes getting specific preparation on the board does make a huge difference. I think it is also helpful to quash those narratives which pit preparation against 'natural talent' as some kind of antithesis. Good preparation involves a lot of chess intelligence, and it makes no sense to me to view it as anything other than a key component of whatever we mean by talent. My impression was that excellent preparation was one source of Harry Grieve's success in Torquay, and again as he triumphs in the Mindsports Masters GM group even as I write these words. His mastery of sharp lines of the Taimanov Sicilian has clearly served him well, as has the range of weapons upon which he seems able to draw. His game against Shreyas Royal a few days ago was a case of a side-line which may or may not be shown to have enduring appeal, but which packs a surprising punch for an occasional outing.

Harry Grieve – Shreyas Royal

Mindsports Masters (GM group) Round 6 Hammersmith 2022

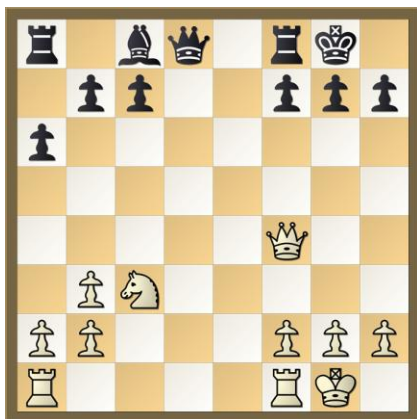
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.d4 exd4 6.0-0 Be7 7.e5 Ne4 8.Nxd4 Nxd4

This game has prompted me to look at 5.d4 anew and realise that there is more than I thought to this attempt to turn the Spanish into something more akin to other Open games. I think my previously rather dismissive attitude might stem from the old line 8...0-0 9.Nf5 d5! 10.Bxc6 bxc6 11.Nxe7+ Qxe7 12.Re1 Re8! preparing to meet 13.f3 with the neat 13...Nd6! with comfortable play. However, assumption is as usual the greatest enemy of innovation, and White has been showing lately that there are intelligent alternatives to 9.Nf5 such as 9.Re1 or 9.Bf4 which keep the tension and may lead to positions more akin to the main line here.

9.Qxd4 Nc5 10.Nc3 0-0 11.Bb3 Nxb3 12.cxb3!?

An interesting moment. Prior to the last twelve months or so, the capture towards the centre had been automatic here. Yet there is a logic to the text move, not just as the c-file could be handy – not least to support a knight on c5, but also because attacking a pawn on c2 is one obvious road in for Black's light-squared bishop.

12...d6 13.Bf4 dxe5 14.Qxe5 Bd6 15.Qd4 Bxf4 16.Qxf4



This doesn't feel like it should be too terrifying for Black, although the fact that he is likely to need the move ...c6 (as we shall see shortly) adds to the sense that White may be able to show something on the dark squares. Still, if I suggested that White will be able to execute a decisive rook sacrifice in just eight moves time, it might all feel a bit far-fetched!

16...Be6 17.Rad1 Qe7 18.Rfe1 c6

As mentioned above, this is structurally a move which Black might prefer to avoid, but his queen sits best on e7 and Nd5 really does need to be prevented. In any case, if Black's bishop could secure itself on the d5 square then support from the c-pawn could be useful – one reason,

incidentally, why simply heading to c5 with the White knight would not be such a great plan.

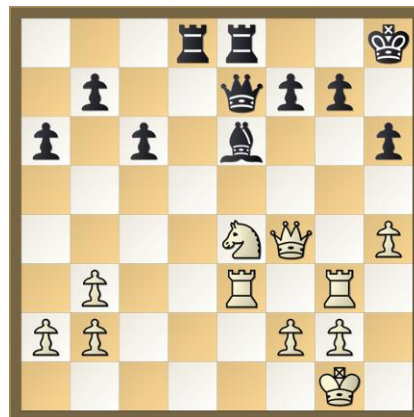
19.Rd3 Rfe8 20.Rg3!? Kh8 21.h4 Rad8 22.Ree3

It is interesting, and somewhat surprising, how dangerous these rook swings to the kingside turn out to be. I think Black can find improvements over the next couple of moves which may render this variation one for limited if not actually single use. Still, the decisions which Shreyas faces are far from simple and so much effective modern opening preparation is just this: the recognition that it is tough to gain an advantage with White, but that for practical purposes it may be sufficient to force the defender to make tough choices on unfamiliar terrain.

22...h6

Stockfish plausibly wants to offer to trade queens here with 22...Qd6!? and meet 23.Qg5 with 23...Rg8. I think it is easy to feel that ...Rg8 is rather passive, but it is noteworthy that White then has to depart from his approach in the game, since 24.Ne4? would be met by 24...Qd1+ 25.Kh2 Qf1! and it is no longer White doing the attacking!

23.Ne4



Another critical position. As I was commenting on this game with Natasha Regan, we were highly impressed that White has managed to conjure genuine threats (Rxg7 needs to be urgently addressed!) in just a few moves. Again, the safest way of dealing with this may turn out to be 23...Rg8, which looks rather passive. I like the fact that 23...f6? 24.Rg6! Bf7? 25.Nxf6+ provides no respite, but 23...Qb4!? pinning the knight may help, and if 24.Kh2 Bd5! (but not 24...f5? 25.Rxg7!) when White may have nothing better than a draw by 25.Rxg7 Kxg7 26.Qf6+ Kg8 27.Qxh6 Bxe4 28.Rg3+ Bg6 29.Rxg6+ fxg6 30.Qxg6+ and so on. Most surprising, perhaps, is that Shreyas's apparently 'safety first' choice, fails to meet the threat!

23...Qf8? 24.Rxg7!

Beautiful, and a nice echo of Harry's powerful tactic against Danny Gormally at the British Championship. If g7 wasn't previously the new British Champion's 'favourite square' it probably is by now...

24...Qxg7 25.Nf6!

Only this way! In the commentary, we correctly predicted the sacrifice and saw that 25.Rg3 allows Black 25...Bg4! with the point that 26.Rxg4 allows simplification with 26...Rd1+ 27.Kh2 Qe5. However, I missed that 26.Nf6 instead can be met with 26...Re6 27.Nxg4 Rg6 and Black consolidates. Now Black is helpless against the threat of Rg3, meeting ...Qf8 with Rg8+ and Qxh6+ mating. Black does what he can, but the fact that Rxg7 will always threaten mate on h7 seals his fate. Note the vital role of the h4 pawn in all this taking the g5 square from the black queen. This is a super-efficient attacking set-up!

25...Rd1+ 26.Kh2 Red8 27.Rg3 R1d4 28.Rxg7 Kxg7 29.Qe5 Kf8 30.Nh7+ Kg8 31.Nf6+ Kf8 32.h5 Rd2 33.Ne4 Re2 34.f3 Bd5 35.Qh8+ Ke7 36.Qf6+ Kd7 37.Nc3 Rd2 38.Nxd5 cxd5 39.Qxf7+ Kc6 40.Qf6+ 1-0

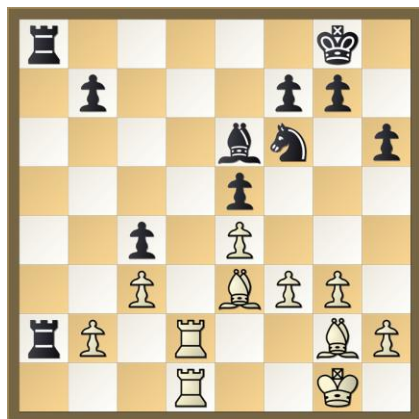
Impressive stuff, but it was the less glamorous end of the preparation game and a very interesting judgement call which first alerted me to Harry's challenge in Torquay as early as Round 3.

John Emms - Harry Grieve

British Championship Torquay 2022 Round 3

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.Nc3 Nc6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Qc7 6.g3 a6 7.Bg2 Nf6 8.0-0 Nxd4 9.Qxd4 Bc5 10.Bf4 d6 11.Qd2 h6 12.Rad1 e5 13.Be3 Bb4 14.Nb5 axb5 15.Qxb4 Rxa2 16.Rxd6 0-0 17.Rd2

(17.Bxh6? Ne8!) 17...Be6 18.f3 Rfa8 19.Rfd1 Qc4 20.Qxc4 bxc4 21.c3



What struck me here (evidenced by the speed at which Black got these moves on the board) is not just that we were clearly witnessing preparation, but that Harry was emerging with a position which I personally wouldn't want to touch with Black – it looked to me as though the bishop pair might mean something, that his pawn structure was not that tidy and that the lack of active counterplay would render it tough to play. I especially wouldn't have fancied it against a player with the grinding credentials of John Emms! Yet White made little impact and Harry's judgement was vindicated. Selecting the games where you will not fight for a win and assessing that you will be able to hold such a position without excessive suffering is another important chess skill and plays every bit as much of a role in a whole tournament campaign as the flashy wins.

However, it also reminds us of how such preparation is geared to a specific occasion. If you have positions like this in your repertoire, you clearly need diverse lines for playing different levels of opponent. Not much fun reaching this when needing a win against a lower-rated player! Which in turn gives us a clue as to how a player can look very well prepared in one event and not another. For, having outlined some of the factors in which fluctuations in performance can be very real, I think it is also important to note that what might appear to be huge inconsistency in playing level on paper might rather exaggerate what is going on in reality. For one thing, lockdown has left us with a lot of underrated (mostly young) players, who have not yet had the opportunities to bring their ratings in line with their new found strength. This creates some quite treacherous games for higher-rated players in rating terms and may well increase the importance for the stronger player of succeeding in the early rounds and possibly escaping too many of these encounters. It is also worth acknowledging that the margins between success and failure in chess are anyway often marginal. Frequently a few key decisions at the critical moments are the key and a player can be playing at a perfectly decent level for much the game, but end up with results which create an image of abject failure. I also see so many tournaments in which a player just doesn't seem to get positions which they like or (especially at the higher level, as Mickey Adams candidly described when Barry Hymer interviewed him) the opponents just clamp down and don't make mistakes which can afford few opportunities for victory without any particular lapse in form. I make these points not because they come with a particular remedy, but because a bit of perspective in judging the apparent fluctuations in a player's form might not go amiss.

If this lengthy exploration of the factors which can affect consistency has been quite serious for some tastes, I have two suggestions for those preferring a short-cut to some insight on the subject. As Matthew Wadsworth follows his strong form at the British with two straight tournament wins inside a month (the GM group in Northumbria and the IM group with an amazing 7.5/9 at the Mindsports masters) it might just be worth working out what he is doing and just trying to replicate it! Alternatively, you could consider that at any given level a player who is profoundly inconsistent will tend to win much more money (and many more plaudits) than one who produces something like the same level of chess in every event! In other words you could - with Luke McShane for company, albeit in a rather different context – believe that consistency is an overrated virtue. On one occasion I recall Luke having the audacity to accuse me of being inconsistent. I hit back with the obvious point that he had often declared this to be unimportant, to which – with a more than usually impish grin – he launched the killer blow ‘Yes, but I don’t have to be consistent about it, do I?’

Arkell's Endings – Why I Like Kingside Pawns



A passed pawn increases in strength as the number of pieces on the board diminishes

- Jose Raul Capablanca

In round 4 of the 2022 British Championship I played one of the army of youthful players who have improved dramatically during the Covid years. In the first three rounds Gwilym Price had already beaten GM Peter Wells and IM James Jackson, as well as drawing with GM Mark Hebden, so I knew I was in for a tough tussle.

Arkell, Keith C - Price, Gwilym

108th ch-GBR 2022 Torquay ENG (4), 16.08.2022

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.c4 Bg7 4.g3 0-0 5.Bg2 d6



6.0-0 Nbd7 7.d5 Objectively this move gives White nothing, but I play it just sparingly enough to be able to benefit from its surprise value.

7...e5 8.dxe6 fxe6 9.Nc3 Nb6



10.Qd3 Not the strongest continuation. 10 b3, to meet 10...d5 with 11 Bf4, was more testing, but now the position stays roughly equal for many moves.

10...d5 11.cxd5 exd5 12.Bg5 Bf5 13.Qd2 Qd7 14.Rad1 Ne4 15.Nxe4 Bxe4 16.b3 c5 17.Bh6 Rfe8 18.Bxg7 Qxg7

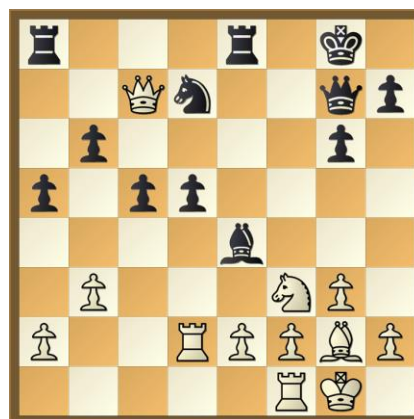


I think many players would feel uncomfortable with White here because of the avalanche of queenside pawns threatening to roll down the board. I noticed that Tom Rendle, for example, who is a perfectly strong IM, had stated during his excellent later commentary that I was in trouble. In general, I have a preference for extra pawns on the kingside, both in the middlegame, when the reasons are obvious, and even in the endgame, although, of course, each case has to be judged on its merits. When a kingside majority is advanced in the endgame there will often be tempo gains by giving check, and mating patterns can also rear their heads. In reality I think that neither side can claim much of an advantage here, though the play can get very sharp.

19.Qa5 Nd7 20.Qc7 b6 21.Rd2?!

A small error which worked out well in practice. Probably I should have gone for the immediate 21 Bh3 to meet 21...Nf6 with 22 Qxg7+ Kxg7 23 Ng5.

21...a5?!

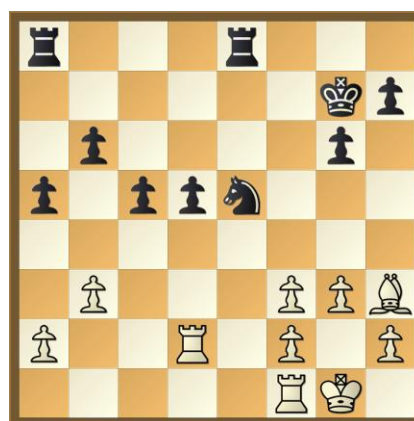


My opponent returns the favour. The immediate 21...Nf6 would have left me a little passive after the queen exchange, the point being that Ng5 is less effective with my bishop on g2 as Black can simply capture it and leave my knight looking a little silly. I now needed a bit of a think as there was much to analyse.

22.Bh3 The alternative was 22 Ng5, which looked roughly equal. I found it difficult to resist the chosen move though, as I felt I had the better chances in the R+B v R+N ending.

22...Bxf3 I felt sure that Gwilym would play this as it was very possible to underestimate White's position at the end of the forced sequence. In playing 22 Bh3 I was very aware of the vulnerability of my rook and bishop to a queen on h6, but even after 22... .Nf8 I was ready with 23 Qxg7+ (not 23 Qxb6?? Bxf3 24 exf3 Qh6, forking!) Kxg7 24 Ng5 with quite a nice position.

23.exf3 Ne5 24.Qxg7+ Kxg7



25.Bg2 The point is that my pieces enter the game by force via the d5 square and the d-file.

25...Rad8 26.f4 Nc6 27.Rxd5 It would be inexcusably careless to miss 27 Bxd5?? Nd4 netting the exchange.

27...Rxd5 28.Bxd5 Nb4 29.Bc4 Nxa2 30.Rd1



This was the position I envisaged when playing 22 Bh3, feeling that with the more active pieces I had the better chances in practice.

30...Rb8 31.Rd7+ Kh8 On h6 there would be all sorts of mating nets beginning with g4 for Black to worry about.

32.Be6

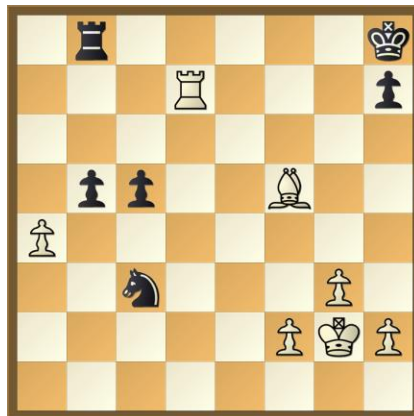


The stronger the players, the better they are at calculating, but this one isn't easy for anyone; there are too many branches and too many candidate moves for each side. I was confident though that Black would have to be much more precise than White to stay in the game. My active pieces can do a good job of restraining the queenside pawns and I have all sorts of mating ideas using my pawns and even my king.

32...Nc3 33.Kg2 Who can resist a plan such as Kg2–h3–g4–g5–h6 followed by Rh7 #?

33...b5 34.f5 gxf5 I thought he might leave that pawn for now and try 34...a4, but the defence remains difficult after 35 bxa4 Nxa4 36 Rc7.

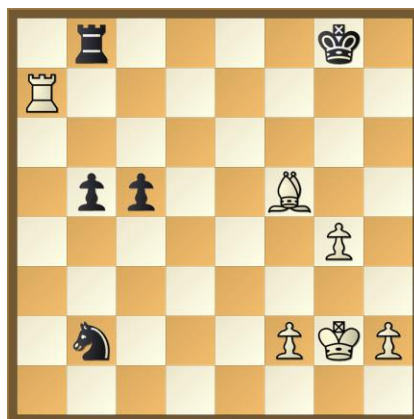
35.Bxf5 a4 36.bxa4



36...Nxa4 One nice line I was able to calculate went 36...b4 37 Rxh7+ Kg8 38 Ra7! b3 39 a5 b2 40 a6 b1(Q) 41 Bxb1 Rxb1 42 Rb7 Ra1 43 a7 with the winning threat of 44 Rb8+.

37.Rxh7+ Kg8 38.Ra7 Nb2 38...Nc3 was more active, but it's hard to imagine that I'm not winning the race with something like 39 h4. I now finished the game with my favourite chess move:

39.g4



1-0

Mate is in the air with g5–g6 followed by Be6+ and g7.

Books of the Month

by Ben Graff



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

September seems to come around more quickly with every passing year. As the air gets crisper, and the nights draw in, curling up with a good chess book feels ever more appealing. This month

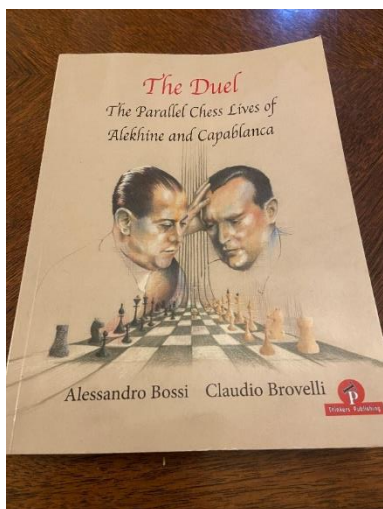
we look at two fantastic new offerings and an enduring classic.

The Duel exquisitely charts the rivalry between Capablanca and Alekhine, bringing to life the most gripping of chess struggles. *From Ukraine with Love for Chess* celebrates this strongest of chess nations in its hour of need. We also explore Viktor Korchnoi's *Chess is My Life*, one of the bravest and most compelling chess biographies ever written.

These books cover different periods and span more than a century in total. They all capture encounters and happenings that transcend the moment. In the hands of such skilful writers, they remain as fresh and vibrant as the coming autumn. Enjoy!

The Duel – The Parallel Chess Lives of Alekhine and Capablanca

by Alessandro Bossi and Claudio Brovelli
(Thinkers Publishing)



The Duel explores the lives of Capablanca and Alekhine, shares their games, and provides a comprehensive account of these brilliant yet flawed world chess champions. This is the story of the effortlessly gifted but somewhat lazy Capablanca, and the intensely driven Alekhine's quest to succeed him. Almost a hundred years after their epic 1927 title match, which Alekhine won against the odds, *The Duel* provides an insightful and nuanced perspective on the first great chess rivalry of the twentieth century.

In many ways these were two very different people: 'Capablanca would not have objected to being described as an Apollo: beautiful, solar, rational and straightforward; Alekhine, on the other hand, often appeared like Dionysus: unrestrained, chaotic and full of energy.' Yet *The Duel* excels in highlighting that there were also similarities between them, particularly in terms of upbringing, early chess experiences, and weaknesses, when it came to their judgement away from the board.

Both enjoyed a much more comfortable childhood than many players of the previous generation such as Charousek, Rubinstein and Steinitz. The pair's insatiable appetite for chess worried their respective parents, who tried to limit it. Capablanca was not allowed to attend the Havana chess club until he was eight years old, and only then at weekends. Alekhine's family went further, denying him a chess board. Albeit, as the authors point out, this may have backfired as Alekhine reverted to effortlessly playing through games in his head.

The two men (in very different ways) are shown to have had weaknesses in their character. Esteban Canal, who knew them well, is quoted as noting that as a baby the goddess of Fortune blessed Capablanca with '...many presents... (beauty, talent wealth)' ... but adds that 'a bit of wisdom was lacking...' Throughout his life, he was often to be found at the card table, the theatre, or in the company of a glamorous companion, to the detriment of his chess. That said, of course, all of us only live once and who can really condemn Capablanca for wanting to live life to the full?

Perhaps for Capablanca it was not so much that everything came too easily, but rather that when things didn't he lacked any fortitude to fall back on. While at university (before dropping out) it was noted that '... in those subjects that he disliked, Capablanca did not make sufficient effort to master them. As one of his classmates put it, José Raúl never learnt to learn. Unfortunately, this characteristic was also going to have negative effects later on in his chess career.'

Similarly, Alekhine after winning a game against Rosanoff that appeared lost, 'Commented afterwards that this game brought him to think that, however apparently compromised his position might look, he would have been able to find salvation or even victory through some brilliant resource – a delusion on which he had to work very hard to be rid of subsequently'.

Alekhine's endorsement of the Nazi regime toward the end of his life, through his participation in their tournaments and the antisemitic literature he first denied having written and then subsequently said had been produced under duress, is well documented in this account - his descent into alcoholism, his penchant for marrying richer women who could fund his chess, and the general decline in his behaviour over the years perhaps a little less so.

In the early stages of their rivalry, Capablanca was undoubtedly the master, and Alekhine 'seemed to suffer from an inferiority complex, more than once losing without much fight.' Both were given to express doubts about the other's ability. Alekhine was sceptical as to the quality of Capablanca's play when Capablanca crushed Marshall to otherwise universal acclaim. Similarly, relatively deep into their rivalry, Capablanca did not list Alekhine amongst those he regarded as the five best players in the world.

Yet for all that would follow, it seems that the two were once close. At the St Petersburg tournament, 'He and Capablanca had become friends – these two and Alekhine's brother, Alexei, were often seen strolling together in the central streets of St Petersburg; Jose Raul and Alexander exchanging views and sometimes analyzing together.' Alekhine wrote to Capablanca regularly, although of course things would change. *The Duel* quotes Hooper and Whyld who noted that 'Having spent 13 years before the match praising Capablanca and courting his friendship. Alekhine spent the next 13 years derogating his rival in annotations, articles and books.'

Immediately prior to their title match, Capablanca triumphed in the New York tournament, and was viewed overwhelmingly as the favourite. However, not everyone saw it this way. Alekhine (who was still to win against Capablanca) said that while he could not see how he would win six games against Capablanca, he was even less certain how Capablanca would win six games against him. Presciently Reti wrote '...the style of Alekhine belongs to the future and is destined to defeat the style of Capablanca, in the same way as an airplane moving in the air is going to prevail over a train moving on the earth.'

So, it would prove. Alekhine won the very first game. While Capablanca fought back to take the lead, his subsequent defeats in games 11 and 12 were the first time he had lost two games in a row since St Petersburg in 1914. When Alekhine triumphed in game 32, he reflected that 'After my victory in the previous game, the way my opponent looked was in itself a guarantee that the fate of the match was already sealed.'

Undoubtedly Capablanca missed a lot of chances. *The Duel* also highlights that this was the largest number of games Capablanca had played in any one event, and suggests that he tired. (The book also makes a compelling case that Capablanca's high blood pressure had a detrimental impact on his health and his play throughout his career.) Yet aligned with Alekhine's better focus must come one of the most startling admissions from a defeated world championship candidate. Capablanca reflecting that 'The match has shown us that we cannot any longer do as we did formerly – that is enter a contest without preparation of any kind.'

Esteban Canal is quoted as saying that becoming world champion did not make Alekhine happy and his subsequent treatment of Capablanca was his 'sadistic revenge.' He refused to contemplate a rematch and would charge a higher appearance fee if tournament organisers intended to invite Capablanca, which meant the two would not meet again for another nine years - although Capablanca had the consolation of winning that game. All subsequent encounters took place in deeply strained circumstances. For instance, when playing at Nottingham, 'The atmosphere was very tense throughout the game and neither player sat at the board while the other was thinking, in order to avoid eye contact.'

Alekhine would lose the title to Euwe and then reclaim it. Perhaps neither he nor Capablanca were quite the players they had been by this stage. In 1941, Capablanca suffered a stroke in the Manhattan Chess Club and subsequently died. He was only 53. Canal is quoted on Alekhine's reaction as follows: 'The death of Capablanca must have greatly upset him, with enormous surprise and deep suffering, because hatred, it is well-known, is often accompanied by affection.'

Perhaps. But perhaps not. On the one hand, Alekhine had probably acted throughout his career in the ways he felt he must, to first usurp and then hold off the more naturally gifted Capablanca. On the other, in my view, Alekhine's unpleasantness should not be underestimated. After Capablanca's death, Alekhine's remaining time would be short, unhappy and tarnished by

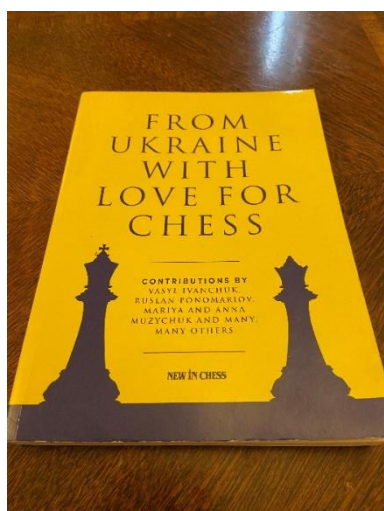
scandal. He would die alone at his chess board, having choked on a piece of meat.

In total, Capablanca and Alekhine were destined only to play 49 games. Capablanca would win nine and Alekhine seven. This is fewer games than Alekhine played against Euwe, and it is chess's tragedy that there are not many more Capablanca – Alekhine efforts to enjoy. Still, those we have are immortal.

These two great geniuses and bitter rivals captured the imagination like no pair ever had before. Whether they once liked each other, and the true depth of their eventual mutual loathing, is in many ways beside the point. They will be remembered in the same breath as Fischer and Spassky, Kasparov and Karpov. Duelling adversaries, forever locked together by time and fate.

From Ukraine with Love for Chess

by multiple contributors including Vasyl Ivanchuk, Ruslan Ponomarev and Vladimir Tukmakov
(New in Chess)



Few of us imagined we would witness tanks rolling across European soil. Yet images previously consigned to the history books now fill our television screens once again. Ukraine is facing its aggressor with immense bravery, earning the respect and solidarity of millions in the process. There could be no better time to celebrate 'the richness and strength' of Ukrainian chess players.

Ruslan Ponomarev noted that producing this book '... was not a simple task, as it would be in normal circumstances. Some of [the contributors] had fled from their homes without knowing what would happen on the next day. Some were hiding in a bomb shelter, trying to survive. But we managed to do it!' We must applaud the effort.

From Ukraine with Love for Chess opens by looking at the 'pioneers' of the Ukrainian game, including the legendary

Leonid Stein, who on being praised by Ray Keene for playing a fine game in the 'Soviet tradition,' was quick to exclaim, 'But I'm a Ukrainian.' Stein died of a heart attack aged only 39, and despite all his brilliancies left a sense of what might have been. In contrast, the Ukrainian Alexander Beliavsky is still going strong as he approaches 70. Beliavsky has beaten nine undisputed world champions (a record he shares with Keres and Tal), and the book provides a nice portrait of him.

Ukrainian Oleg Romanishin's training matches with the Latvian Mikhail Tal are covered, and make for highly engaging reading. Romanishin's own story is fascinating, and I was struck by the fact that as a child he played his father 99 times before securing a result. The insights on Tal are particularly illuminating and add to our knowledge of the eighth world champion. When it came to politics, he trod a fine line: 'Tal was not a Communist, nor was he like Spassky, who maybe talked too much.' Sometimes it is the small details that go some way to giving a sense as to what a person is really like, and it is easy to see the essence of the man in the observation that Tal did not keep his scoresheets, because he was '...famously careless in such matters.'

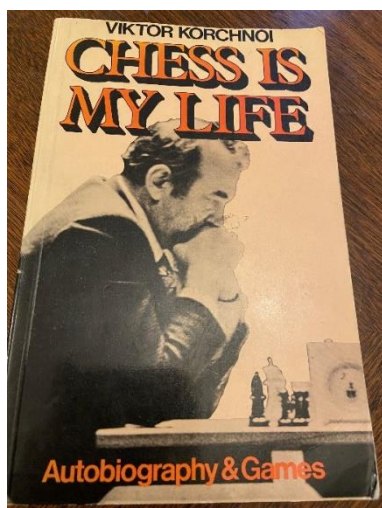
Profiles and games from many of Ukraine's contemporary leading lights are shared, along with intriguing chapters on Ukrainian Olympic victories in 2004, 2006 and 2010. Vasyl Ivanchuk features prominently, and it is hard to disagree with the assertion that along with Korchnoi and Keres he warrants being seen as the greatest player never to have been world champion.

Ivanchuk's brilliance, dedication and unworldliness particularly shine through in the accounts of Ukraine's 2004 Olympiad victory. He scored a remarkable +6 on top board. His team captain Tukmakov noted that Ivanchuk never attended team meetings; 'He was so wrapped up in his own world of chess and his preparation that I didn't disturb him.' Perhaps few would be surprised to learn that at one point Tukmakov received a call from Ivanchuk at 4 in the morning. 'He couldn't sleep and of course he didn't know what time it was.'

From Ukraine with Love for Chess would stand as a wonderful tribute to one of the foremost chess playing nations, whenever it was written. Perhaps the old cliché when it comes to a good book is that the would-be reader should beg, steal, or borrow a copy. Given all proceeds are going to Ukrainian charities, I would urge you to do as I did, and buy one.

Chess is My Life

by Viktor Korchnoi
(Batsford 1977)



'I won the twenty-first in the very opening ... I remember what a hateful glance Karpov threw me before he resigned. It was said that after this game he gave up eating.'

When it was published a year after Korchnoi's defection to the West, *Chess is My Life* caused a sensation. Harry Golombek described Korchnoi's story in *The Observer* as being '... at once harrowing and exhilarating.' B. H. Wood wrote in *The Daily Telegraph* that '... there never has been a chess autobiography remotely resembling *Chess is my Life*.' Nearly fifty years on, this is a book that retains both its significance and capacity to shock.

Chess is My Life charts Korchnoi's chess journey, from childhood through to his 1974 Candidates Final struggle against Karpov, and the bitter aftermath that caused him to defect. This is a tale of resilience and intense struggle, both at and away from the board.

Korchnoi grew up in straitened circumstances. Born in 1931, at the height of Soviet purges, he wryly noted that the State wanted 'economic equality' for all. 'In this respect the authorities were highly successful: on the eve of the war there were tens of millions living in poverty.'

It is hard for readers today to imagine what the day-to-day reality of Soviet life must have been like in the 1930s and 1940s. Korchnoi's family shared a thirteen room flat with eleven other families, with communal cooking and washing facilities. He was convinced that he only survived the extreme rationing in World War Two because so many of his relatives perished. 'Our neighbour and I would wrap the corpse in a sheet, lie it on a sledge, and drag it right across the cemetery. But the ration cards of the deceased

remained – until the end of the month, and sometimes for a month after that. The dead lent the living a hand!'

Korchnoi learnt to play at six, but his family did not own a single chess book. It was only a little later in 1943 that Korchnoi enrolled at the Pioneers Palace, one of a series of youth clubs where children could develop their talents for music, the arts, and of course chess. Korchnoi's ability was obvious, and he would soon begin his ascent through the ranks of Soviet chess.

Some of Korchnoi's mishaps (albeit on a grander stage) mirror those of many chess players. He remembers inadvertently moving the wrong bishop in a game against Bagirov in the 1960 Soviet championship, throwing away victory in the process. 'I left the hall... in a state of bewilderment, which shortly turned to grief. What can I say? I recall that the day was a nervy one: the baby was ill, and I had helped my wife look after him.' Showing the strength that he would be renowned for, Korchnoi somehow found the courage to hold himself together in the final three rounds to still become Soviet champion.

There is an interesting passage on the 1970 USSR v Rest of the World encounter, where the much stronger Soviet all-stars eventually scraped to victory by the narrowest of margins. Korchnoi's observations highlight the perils faced by any team that is lacking in camaraderie. 'But there was no harmony between the team members. Rather, just the opposite – clashes of opinion, disagreements and arguments. The antagonism became particularly acute when the board order was announced... I remember how during play some of the Soviet players walked up and down the stage, rejoicing over the misfortunes of their own team members.'

Two players would prove to be Korchnoi's bitter enemies: Petrosian and Karpov. Petrosian had defeated Korchnoi in the 1970 Candidates cycle. Korchnoi's refusal to then work with Petrosian in his Candidates final match against Fischer on the grounds that '...it wasn't always pleasant for me to watch Petrosian's play, to say nothing of carrying responsibility for it,' was one of the reasons why their subsequent Candidates match in 1974 was so bitter.

At one point in the 1974 proceedings Petrosian started to rock the table. 'What was I to do?... Stop shaking the table, you're disturbing me,' I said to him... "We're not in a bazaar..." Then I uttered the sacred and at the same time naïve words: "This is your last chance!" Petrosian, who was 3-1 down, checked himself into hospital and demanded that Korchnoi be disqualified on the grounds that he had prevented Petrosian from playing. Korchnoi was asked to apologise. Petrosian's request to be

awarded victory was denied, and Petrosian quit the contest.

Korchnoi reflected that 'I had become forever his sworn enemy, like Fischer and Spassky before me, for having beaten him.' In the years that followed, as the Editor of the influential Soviet Chess Magazine 64, Petrosian would be responsible for numerous articles that belittled Korchnoi and praised the new rising star, Anatoly Karpov.

When Korchnoi played Karpov in the Candidates Final, he would find that the deck was stacked against him. Spassky's defeat to Fischer had been a disaster for the Soviet authorities, and they saw in the young Karpov (a player who, the rest of Korchnoi's generation, had not been scarred by Fischer) their best hope for the future. Moreover, 'He [Karpov] was a typical representative of the working class, the rulers of the country according to the Soviet constitution, whereas I had spent my life in the cultural centre of Leningrad and was contrasted to him as a representative of the intelligentsia.'

Korchnoi was right when he '...sensed that Karpov was the favourite, that he was receiving all possible support, and that everything was being arranged to his advantage.' Having been adamant that the match would not be played in Moscow, Korchnoi found a clause stating the opposite had been subsequently added to a document he had signed.

Karpov insisted that the games should start at 5.00 instead of the more usual 4.30, as this both suited his own routine better and he thought would tire the older man out. Korchnoi's objections got him nowhere and he resorted to venting his anger by writing a postcard to Averbakh, the President of the Soviet Chess Federation. 'From cowardice to treachery is but one step, but with your attributes you will easily accomplish it. Sail skilfully with the wind and you'll be all right!' Korchnoi somewhat wistfully noted, 'I had acquired yet another enemy, but no longer cared.'

Few were willing to work with Korchnoi. The legendary Bronstein spent some time with him, and subsequently found himself banned from attending or reporting on the contest. This was a lonely time for the few who remained close to Korchnoi. 'My wife was in the press centre, but people were afraid to go up to her, simply to say hello.' With great fortitude and in these most difficult of circumstances, Korchnoi would put up an extraordinary fight at the board.

As would be the pattern in his subsequent matches, Karpov raced into the lead, winning games 2 and 6 of the

24-game contest. He would win again in game 17 for a seemingly unassailable three-game margin. However, Karpov was tiring, and Korchnoi was growing in strength with every game. He truly was a terrific fighter. When he pulled the score back to 3-2 in game 21, all things seemed possible, but Karpov clung on. Fischer's subsequent abdication left Karpov as world champion, without the need to push another pawn, and Korchnoi facing a very different struggle.

In an interview, Korchnoi suggested that Karpov was no more talented than the grandmasters he had beaten in the Candidates cycle. Petrosian attacked him in the press as an 'unsporting grandmaster' and other players rushed to pile in. Korchnoi was excluded from the USSR team, banned from travelling, writing chess articles or appearing on television. Letters from abroad no longer reached him. Those that did from closer to home were often vile.

Ultimately Korchnoi's situation stabilised a little. Partly because the authorities recognised that with Fischer no longer on the scene, if Karpov's rivals were denigrated, it diminished Karpov's achievements. It was too little, too late. The damage had been done. Korchnoi noted that 'I no longer wanted to re-establish old connections. I myself no longer phoned people who had ceased to phone me during the difficult times.'

In 1976 Korchnoi defected to Holland. His future would be long and glorious, including epic world title battles with Karpov in 1978 and 1981, and a top-flight career that would stretch into the new millennium. Korchnoi is rightly remembered today as one of the greatest players never to become world champion. *Chess is My Life* shows that he was still more than this. His struggles against all odds will always be remembered.

It's a Puzzlement!



Puzzle 1 - Eric D Gardiner (1908) - Paul A Johnson (1816)
Chessable British Championships/Major Open



White to play and win

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

Puzzle 2 - Thomas Villiers (2170) – Ioanis Lentozeos (2097)

108th Chessable British Championships

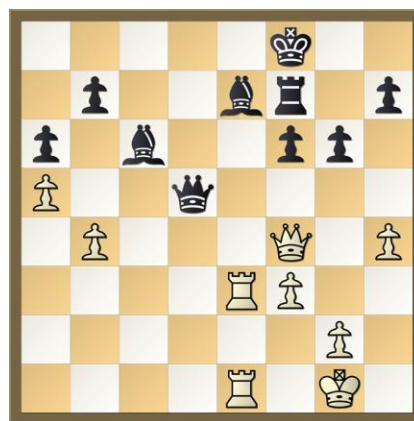


White to play and win

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

Puzzle 3 - Nigel Birtwistle (2151) – Mike P Waddington (2066)

108th Chessable British Championships

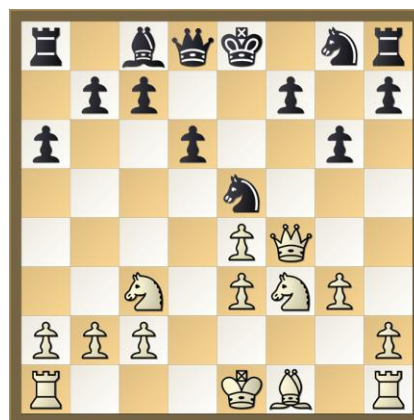


White to play and win

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

Puzzle 4 - T Wilfred D Hill-Wood (1475) – Michelle (Ngo Yu) Chan (1638)

U14 Chessable British Youth Championships



Black to play and win

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

Puzzle 5 - Calum Salmons (1944) – Thomas Villiers (2170)

108th Chessable British Championships

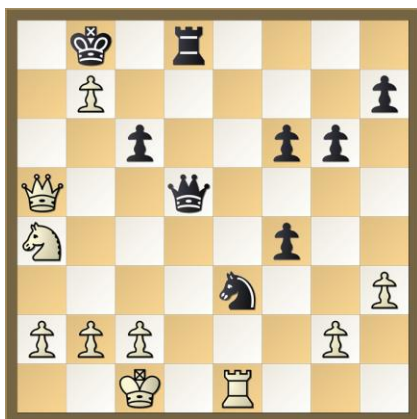


White to play and win

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

Puzzle 6 - FM Robert S Eames (2112) – Thomas Donaldson (1982)

108th Chessable British Championships



White to play and win

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

Puzzle 7 - Ronit Sachdeva – Henry Neenan (1390)

U16 Chessable British Championships

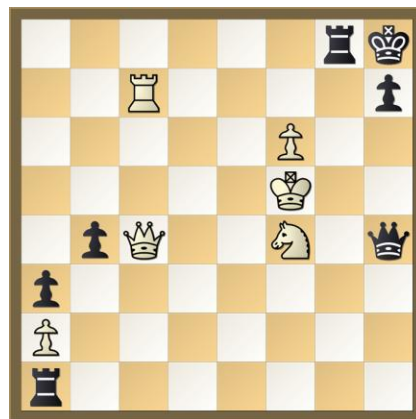


White to play and win

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

Puzzle 8 - IM Nikolay Milchev (2408) – Shyam Jagdish Modi (2148)

108th Chessable British Championships

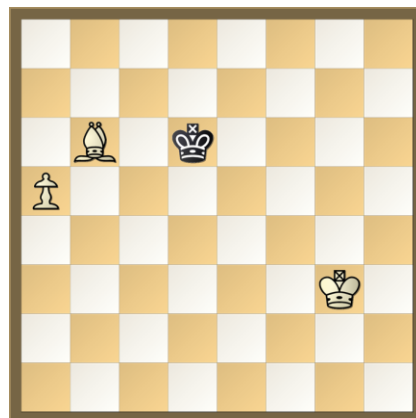


White to play and win

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

Puzzle 9 - GM Nicholas Pert (2537) – Viktor Stoyanov (2246)

108th Chessable British Championships



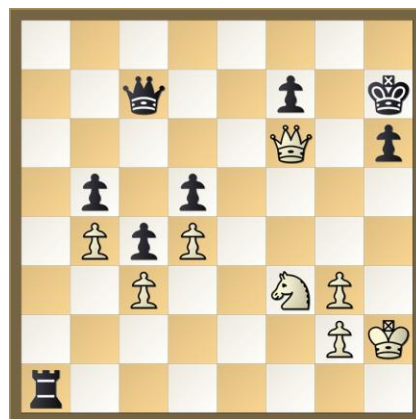
White to play and win

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

Puzzle 10

Jack Wills – Raina Jithendra (1306)

U16 Chessable British Youth Championships



White to play and win

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

Puzzle 11 - Brendan J Ruane (1838) – Nick Burton (1797)

Chessable British Championships/Major Open

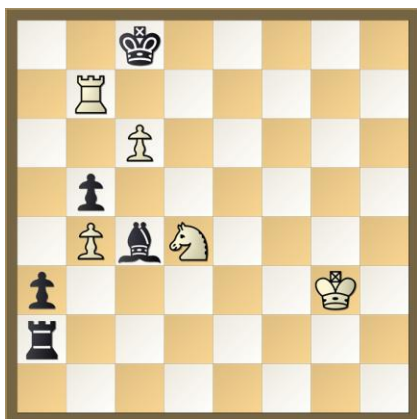


White to play and win

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

Puzzle 12 - Julia Volovich (1756) – Tom Brooks

U16 Chessable British Youth Championships



White to play and win

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

All in One

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



Great British Chess Players by Dr John Nunn

Howard Staunton (1810 - 1874)



Howard Staunton is generally regarded as the world's strongest player from 1843 to 1851, but he was a controversial figure in his time and remains so today. Almost nothing is known about his early life. No birth certificate has ever been found, so the exact date and place of birth are a

mystery; even the '1810' given above is based on Staunton's own claim and not on any documentary evidence. There was no official world championship title in the mid-19th century, but Staunton's decisive win against Saint-Amant in 1843 (+11 =4 -6) is generally reckoned as giving him a good claim to be the world's strongest player.

In addition to his over the board achievements, he also wrote extensively on chess and organised the great London International tournament of 1851. Both organising and playing in a tournament is generally a recipe for disaster, and Staunton's loss to Anderssen, who went on to win the event, marked the end of his claim to be the world number one. Later in the 1850s, Morphy came to Europe with the intention of playing a match with Staunton, and this is one of the main sources of controversy in Staunton's life. The match never took place, with Staunton hinting repeatedly that it could but finding various excuses not to play. Staunton was apparently an arrogant man, and he started the tradition, which continues to the present day, of using chess journalistic outlets for personal ends.

I am dealing solely with the chess side of Staunton's life, but it is worth mentioning that he was also a Shakespearean scholar and published extensively on this subject in the 1850s and 1860s. A quick check on Amazon shows that Staunton's editions of the plays are still available today. He also endorsed a design for chessmen which is named after him and remains the international standard today.

Playing over Staunton's games, for the most part it's hard to be especially impressed. Although his name is often associated with the English opening, he only played this in a small percentage of games, starting mainly with 1.e4.

His main strength lay in the openings, and more than his contemporaries he appreciated that quick action was necessary to exploit lax opening play. Morphy is generally credited with recognising the importance of quick development, but Staunton's games to some extent anticipated this advance. When he had the chance, Staunton could be ruthless, but his middlegame and especially his endgame play did not match his handling of the openings.



The following is one of his best positional efforts.

Elijah Williams - Howard Staunton

Game 9, match, London 1851

Sicilian Defence

1.e4 c5

Staunton most often answered 1.e4 with 1...e5, but he also played the Sicilian. In those days the Sicilian was met with a wide variety of moves, with 2.f4 (still played today) and 2.c4 (very rare today) being amongst the most common. Several of his Sicilians started 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e5, which looks very modern.

2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Be3 Nf6 6.Bd3 Be7 7.0-0 0-0

Black's Taimanov-style development is typical of Staunton's opening play; avoiding unnecessary pawn moves, he concentrates on getting his pieces out.

8.Nc3 d5



By missing out ...a6 and ...d6, Black has gained time to strike immediately in the centre.

9.Nxc6

This gains time but improves Black's pawn-structure. 9.exd5 exd5 10.h3 would have been better, with a typical isolated queen's pawn position in which White might have a slight edge.

9...bxc6 10.e5 Ne8

This looks slightly odd, since it seems more natural to play 10...Nd7. However, after the reply 11.f4 it's not easy to find a good move for Black. The obvious 11...c5 runs into 12.Bxh7+ Kxh7 13.Qh5+ Kg8 14.Rf3 with a likely draw by perpetual check after, for example 14...f5 15.Rh3 Qe8 16.Qh7+ Kf7 17.Qh5+.

11.Ne2

11.f4? is no longer possible as 11...d4 wins a piece.

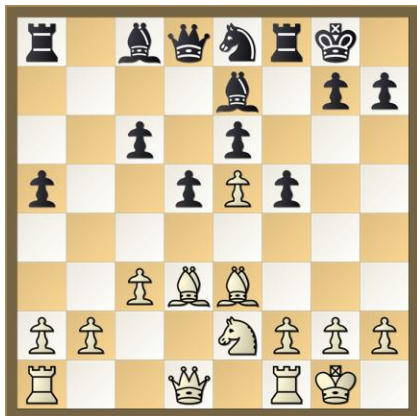
11...f5?!

11...f6 is better, with an edge for Black as White's foothold in the centre will be eliminated, allowing the knight on e8 back into the game.

12.c3

Too passive. 12.c4! followed by Rc1 would have given White a clear advantage, since the e8-knight will remain out of play for some time.

12...a5



13.f4?

This was White's last chance to play the important move c4. It's crucial for White to be able to meet ...c5 by cxd5, because once Black has played ...c5 he can meet c4 by ...d4, creating a pawn-structure which favours Black due to the weak long light diagonal which can be occupied by ...Bb7.

13...c5 14.b3

Now that White lacks c4, it's harder to suggest an active plan for him. Black's pawns control the squares along White's fourth rank, denying White's pieces useful squares.

14...Bb7 15.h3 Qd7 16.Kh2 Qc6

Threatening to win a piece by 17...d4.

17.Rg1

Covering the sensitive g2-square.

17...Rd8?!

17...Nc7 is more to the point, as the knight will need to be activated at some point, while it's not at all clear that the rook is better posted on d8 than on a8.



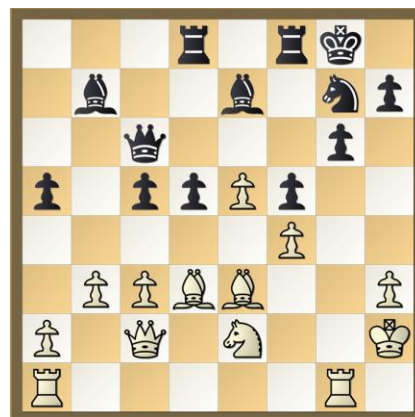
18.g4?!

White is attempting to create kingside play, but it's obviously risky to open the long diagonal leading to his king. During this phase of the game, both players miss the key point that White needs to play b4 to gain the d4-square for his pieces. Indeed, 18.b4! is especially effective now as a later Nd4 will attack the black queen and the weak e6-pawn. Then 18...axb4 19.cxb4 cxb4? is impossible due to 20.Nd4 Qd7 21.Bb5 Qc8 22.Rc1 Nc7 23.Nxe6. This could have been avoided if Black had played 17...Nc7 to reinforce the e6-pawn.

18...g6 19.gxf5 exf5 20.Qc2?

A more serious mistake. White threatens to take on f5, but this is easily countered. More seriously, White cannot now play b4 because ...c4 traps the bishop. Instead, 20.a3 Ng7 21.b4! was correct, with a roughly equal position.

20...Ng7



Once Black has unpinned the g-pawn, his knight can occupy an excellent post on e6.

21.Ng3 Kh8 22.Qe2 Ne6

Black has a decisive positional advantage. White's kingside play has come to nothing and his knight is useless on g3, while all the time he has to worry about Black's potential threats on the long diagonal.

23.Rac1 d4!

Staunton realises it is time for action and strikes in the centre.

24.cxd4 Nxd4 25.Bxd4 Rxd4

Attacking f4 and intending to double rooks, so White plays to reduce Black's attacking force by exchanging one pair.

26.Rc4 Rfd8 27.Rxd4 Rxd4

There's no way White can defend f4, cover the mating squares g2 and h1 and meet moves such as ...Rd2 or ...Bh4; for example, 28.Rf1 allows 28...Rxd3.

28.Bb5 Qf3 29.Rf1 Qd5

29...Qc3 would have won material immediately, since 30.Rf2 may be met by 30...Bh4, but the move played is also good enough to win.

30.Bc4 Qd8 31.Qe3 Qd7

Black has no need to rush as his advantage is not going to disappear.

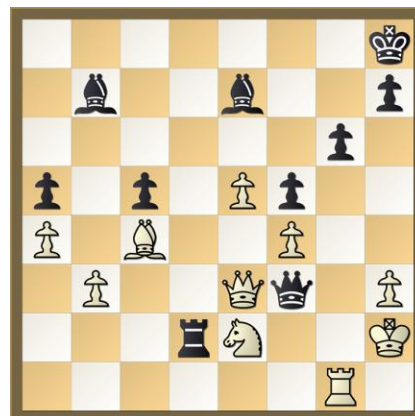
32.Ne2?!

Allowing black's rook onto the seventh rank makes life easy for Staunton. 32.Rf2 would have been a better defence, when Black would have had to add a new ingredient to the mix in order to win, for example ...h5-h4.

32...Rd2 33.a4 Qc6

Back to the long diagonal.

34.Rg1 Qf3



Now material loss is unavoidable.

35.Qxf3 Bxf3 36.Rg2

36.Re1 Bh4 is also hopeless.

36...Bh4 37.Kg1 Bxg2 38.Kxg2 Kg7

White limps on for some time, but the result is never in doubt.

39.Kf3 Rd8 40.Nc3 Rd2 41.Ne2 Rd1 42.Kg2 h6 43.Ng3 Bxg3 44.Kxg3 g5 45.Kf3 Rc1 46.fxg5 hxg5 47.e6 Rc3+ 48.Kg2 Kf6 49.Bd5 Ke7 50.Bc4 f4 51.Bd5 Kd6 52.Bc4 Re3 53.Kh2 Rg3 0-1

The zugzwang wins further material.

Around the Country

What next after the British – UK Open Blitz 2022

Nigel Towers reports on the return of the UK Blitz Championships



The UK Open Blitz made a welcome return in September following an enforced three-year break during the pandemic - <https://www.englishchess.org.uk/uk-blitz-championships-2022/>

This year's Blitz Championship followed the same format as earlier years with eight regional one-day qualifier events at locations across the UK across three weekends from 29th August to 11th September to find 32 qualifiers for the Open and Women's finals in December.

Monday 29th August

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

Saturday 3rd September

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

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

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

Sunday 4th 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 10th September

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

Sunday 11th September

North East

The Parks Leisure Centre, Howdon Road, North Shields NE29 6TL All qualifier events were 15 round Swiss tournaments with the exception of the Belfast event, which was played as an all play all. Games were played at a Blitz time limit of 3 minutes plus 2 seconds per move.

The top two players in each qualifier qualified for the final in December, and the two highest-placed female players qualified for the Women's final. The top players in each rating category also won category prizes from their event. The finals will be held on 3rd December as two 16 player all play all tournaments again, with 15 rounds at 3|2 blitz time controls at the Woodland Grange Hotel in Leamington Spa, Warwickshire.

The full set of qualifier events and the two finals are FIDE and ECF rated, with results appearing on the FIDE blitz list and also the new ECF over the board blitz list which was published in September for the first time. Pairings and results can be found here for all events – <https://chess-results.com/tnr668675.aspx?lan=1&art=1&rd=15&flag=30>

Bank Holiday Monday 29th August



Wales (Cardiff - 29th August)

Mercure Cardiff North Hotel, Cardiff



The Cardiff event was run by Kevin Staveley and was the first of the qualifiers, with 16 players taking part on Bank Holiday Monday. The event was run as an all play all event over 15 rounds with qualifiers and prize winners as below.

Photographs courtesy of Kevin Staveley

Open Qualifiers

1		IM	Jose Camacho Collados	WLS		2351	14
2			Oliver Stubbs	ENG	Downend and Fishponds	1971	13

Female Qualifiers

6			Bodhana Sivanandan	ENG	Harrow	1626	8.5
7			Lindsay Pyun	ENG		1399	8

Category Winner – A Jose Comacho Collados



After the battle - left to right – Jose Camacho Colladas, Oscar Garcia and Oliver Stubbs

Saturday 3rd September



London (Golders Green – 3rd September)

St Luke's Church, Kidderpore Ave, Golders Green NW3 7SU



The Golders Green qualifier was organised by Adam Raoof with Chief Arbiter Rob Hamond, and took place on the following Saturday with 143 players taking part in a 15 round Swiss competition. Ukrainian GM Eldar Gasanov and local GM Jon Speelman finished equal first with 12 points to take the qualifying places, with qualifiers and prize winners as listed below.

Photographs courtesy of Rob Hammond

Open Qualifiers

1		GM	Eldar Gasanov	UKR	West London	2454	12
2		GM	Jon S Speelman	ENG	Wood Green	2569	12

Female Qualifiers

30			Kamila Hryshchenko	UKR	1938	9
38		WGM	Elmira Mirzoeva	FID	2160	8.5

Section Winners

A – GM Eldar Gasanov (West London); B – CM Jonathan Pein (Celtic Tigers); C – Peter Finn (Cavendish); D – Kabir Pandit; E – Ryan Benguelo; F – Zain Patel; G – Eugenia Karas; H – Arran Airlie; I – Slawomir Kalinowski.



Qualifier GM Jon Speelman (left); Qualifier GM Eldar Gasanov vs FM Harry Grieve



Midlands (Kenilworth – 3rd September)

Holiday Inn, 212 Abbey End, Kenilworth CV8 1ED



Photographs courtesy of Dennis Dicen

The Midland Qualifier also took place on 3rd September at the Holiday Inn in the centre of Kenilworth. This was another well attended qualifier with a total of 64 players taking part, including local GM Mark Hebden, WGM Katarzyna Toma and IMs Jonah Willow and Lawrence Cooper. There were also a number of fast improving juniors including several players from the Coventry Chess Academy, together with a big contingent of players from Warwick University Chess Society.

Open Qualifiers

1		IM	Jonah B Willow	ENG	West Nottingham	2248	14
2		GM	Mark L Hebden	ENG	Syston	2457	13

Women's Qualifiers

17			Elis Denele Dicen	ENG	Coventry Chess Academy	1420	8
18		WGM	Katarzyna Toma	ENG		2210	8

Section Winners

A Jonah Willow, B Shabir Okhai, C Anusha Submarian, D Elis Dicen.



A view of the playing area at the Kenilworth Holiday Inn



Board 1 - IM Jonah Willow plays GM Mark Hebden; Board 1 - Henrik Stepanyan v IM Jonah Willow





View across the top boards in Kenilworth

Scotland (Edinburgh – 3rd September)



Photographs courtesy of David Clayton

The Scottish Qualifier was the third event on 3rd September. The event was organized by David Clayton and Alex McFarlane and took place at the Novotel Edinburgh Park. There was a total of 39 players in the event with qualifiers and section winners as below.

Open Qualifiers

1		CM	Adam Bremner	SCO	Edinburgh	2155	14
2		FM	Keith Ruxton	SCO	Edinburgh	2346	14

Women's Qualifiers

5		WFM	Louise Head	ENG	Crowthorne	1849	9
10		WIM	Svetlana Sucikova	SVK	Chessable White Rose	2059	9

Section Winners

A – Adam Bremner (Edinburgh), B Louise Head (Crowthorne) on tie break, C Frederick Gordon.



View down the playing hall; top board at the Edinburgh Blitz

Northern Ireland (Belfast – 4th September)



Photographs courtesy of UCU Secretary and Organiser Mark Newman

The Northern Ireland event was organized by Mark Newman and took place in the NICS meeting rooms in the Pavilion of the Stormont estate, Belfast. There were 19 players in the event, which ran as an all play all.



The playing area; head to head match between Qualifiers Koichi Nicholas and Mandar Tahmankar

Open Qualifiers

1		Koichi Nicholas	ENG	Schach Attack	2075	16½
2		Mandar Tahmankar	IND	NICS	2104	16

Women's Qualifiers

14		Louison Fuchs	FRA		1394	6
15		Leah Worbey	IRL	Greenisland	1317	4½

Section Winners



A – Nicholas Koichi (Schach Attack), B – Andrew Campbell (Greenisland)

North West (Bolton – 4th September)


The North West event took place at the Ukrainian Centre in Bolton.

Photos courtesy of Julian Clissold

Open Qualifiers

1		Jacob Connor Boswell	ENG	Cheddleton	1948	13.5
2		Allan W Beardsworth	ENG	Stockport	2195	11

Women's Qualifier

11		WIM Natasha Regan	ENG	Barbican	1951	7.5
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Section Winners

A - Jacob Boswell



South West (Swindon – 10th September)

The Swindon event was organised by Ben Ogunshola and took place at the Polish Community Centre in Swindon. There was a big turnout for the event, with 56 players taking part. The event was very close with a three-way tie for top place between CM Jonathan Pein, Yichen Han and IM Marcus Harvey with Jonathan Pein and Yichen Han qualifying on tie break. Stefanie Duessler and WFM Meri Gregorian qualified for the Women's final as the highest placed female players on 8.5 points. Qualifiers and section winners are as shown below.

Open Qualifiers

1		CM Jonathan Pein	ENG	Celtic Tigers	2140	13
2		FM Yichen Han	NED		2117	13

Women's Qualifiers

15		Stefanie Duessler	GER		2093	8.5
17		WFM Meri Grigoryan	ENG	Cavendish	1978	8.5

Section Winners

A – Jonathan Pein, B – Indy Southcott-Myers, C – Dylan Wastney, D - Jude Shearsby



Organiser Ben Ogunshola (right); IM James Sherwin (right)



GM Keith Arkell





North East (North Shields – 11th September)



The North East event took place as the last of the qualifiers at the Parks Leisure Centre in North Shields. There were 25 players in total, with top seeds GM Danny Gormally in the Open section and Madara Orlovskas in the Women's section. Qualifiers and section winners were as below.

Photographs courtesy of Martin Seeber

Open Qualifiers

1		GM	Daniel W Gormally	ENG	Blackthorne	2554	14
2		FM	Charles H Storey	ENG	Forest Hall	2188	13.5

Women's Qualifiers

10			Madara Orlovskas	LAT	Lewisham	2063	8
12			Anita Somton	ENG		1690	8

Section Winners

A – Danny Gormally, B - Maksym Larchikov



Qualifier Danny Gormally v Nathan Ekanem

The Finals

The finals will take place on Saturday 3rd September December at the Woodland Grange Hotel in Leamington Spa, and will be based on two 16 player all play all competitions with 15 rounds at 3|2 time control and with qualifying players as shown below.

Open Final		Women's Final	
GM Jon S Speelman	2569	WGM Katarzyna Toma	2210
GM Danny Gormally	2554	WGM Elmira Mirzoeva	2160
GM Mark L Hebden	2457	Stefanie Duessler	2093
GM Eldar Gasanov	2454	Madara Orłowska	2063
IM Jose Camacho Collados	2351	WIM Svetlana Sucikova	2059
FM Keith Ruxton	2346	WFM Meri Grigoryan	1978
IM Jonah B Willow	2248	Kamila Hryshchenko	1938
Allan W Beardsworth	2195	WIM Natasha Regan	1951
FM Charles Storey	2188	WFM Louise Head	1849
CM Adam Bremner	2155	Anita Somton	1690
CM Jonathan Pein	2140	Bodhana Sivanandan	1626
FM Yichen Han	2117	Eugenia Karas	1560
Mandar Tahmankar	2104	Elis Denele Diden	1420
Koichi Nicholas	2075	Lindsay Pyun	1399
Oliver Stubbs	1971	Louison Fuchs	1394
Jacob Connor Boswell	1948	Leah Worbey	1317

Puzzles from the UK Open Blitz



GM Danny Gormally recalls three positions from his games at the North Shields qualifier

Round 1

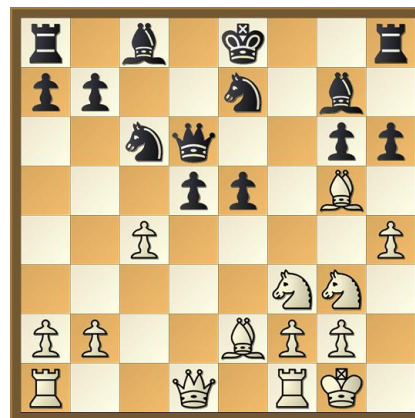
This was my blitz game against promising north-east youngster Max Turner.



As Black to move, what was his best reply here to my Qd3?

Round 13

This was my game against Andrei Ciuravin. For me this is a demonstration of how difficult it is to have the time to identify candidate moves at blitz.



If I had seen Bxe7! Nxe7 cxd5 I would have played it without hesitation. I did see the immediate Ne4! but didn't have the time to calculate. Which is the best line and what would you have played here?

Round 14

This was my penultimate round of the British Blitz (the games weren't recorded live so had to recount from memory). I had Black against Jude Ranga Samarasinghe and he played h4? when I went ... b3! with counterplay, for example Bc3 ... Bb4.



What plan was I concerned about instead?

UK Open Blitz Puzzles and Answers

Round 1 – 1. ...f6! 2. Qxf5 fxe5 3. Qxg5+ Qxg5 4. fg – And Black has the better endgame due to the central pawn roller and White's doubled g-pawns.

Round 13 – White is better in either variation. 1. Ne4! Qc7 2. cd! hxg5 3. dxc6 Nxc6 4. N(f)xg5 is probably best. Simpler but also good is 1. Bxe7 Nxe7 2. Ne4! Qb4.

Round 14 – Best is 1. Bc5 Bxc5 2. Rxc5, and White's rook stops the b-pawn with a winning rook v bishop endgame. (White can also start with 1 g4 hg 2 hg hg 3 Bxg4 and then 3.. Bc5).

ECF Online

Nigel Towers reports on ECF Online clubs and tournaments

ECF online club membership levels (mid September 2022) are as follows: Chess.com ECF Open club -5,558, Chess.com ECF Members - 1,796, Lichess English Players - 1,558.

We continue with seven blitz and rapid tournaments per week – three in the Lichess English Chess Players Club and four in the Chess.com ECF Members.

ECF Online Classical Swiss

ECF Sunday Classical Swiss				
4 Unfinished Rounds				
Q	W	M	1-10/12	M
1	alicefox 1788	W	1	1.5 1.5
2	Blackchess123 1808	W	1	1.5 1.5
3	eight_eights 1423	W	0	1 1.5 0
4	hual 1857	1	0	1 1.5
5	offuser5 1589	1	0	1 1
6	joe_sul 2317	0	1	1 1
7	Bunglejohn 1174	0	1	1 0.75
8	ourhousecat 1591	W	0	0.5 0.25

We are also now running the fortnightly classical Swiss event open to all English Chess Players team members, with 4 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.

Chess.com Internationals

This month sees the return of the Live Chess World League Season 10 and the Live Chess European League with the ECF entering both events from the ECF Open team.

LWCL England v Belgium

Our first match of the new season was in the Live Chess World League season 10, where we played Team Belgium led by IM Richard Polaczek on 10th September - <https://englishchessonline.org.uk/english-chess-online-home-page/live-chess-world-league-season-10/>

The match was in two parts, with a blitz leg with two games against the opposing team at 5|2 and a rapid leg with two games at 10|2.

Blitz Leg -

<https://www.chess.com/club/matches/live/english-chess-federation/1448343>

Rapid Leg -

<https://www.chess.com/club/matches/live/english-chess-federation/1448344>



Online Board 1 Robert Starley pictured at the British – Photo by Brandon O’Gorman

We won the blitz leg 13.5-2.5 and the rapid leg 7-5.

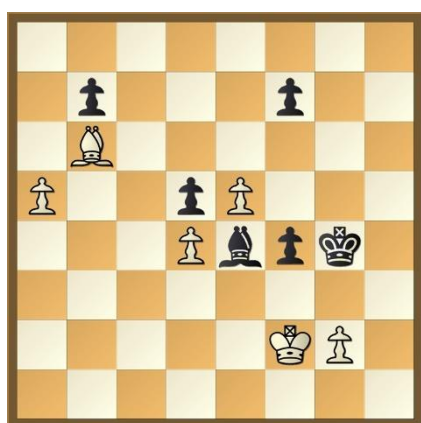
Here is Robert Starley’s online game against Belgian IM Richard Polaczek on board 1 of the rapid leg. Robert plays an Advance variation against Richard’s French defence with an exchange of pieces on the c-file and Robert then securing a draw to ensure the team win the match in the second leg.

Event "Live Chess" Site "Chess.com", Date "2022.09.10", Result "1/2-1/2", WhiteElo "2024", BlackElo "2294", TimeControl "600+2"

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. e5 c5 4. c3 Nc6 5. Nf3 Nge7 6. a3 a5 7. a4 cxd4 8. cxd4 Nf5 9. Bd3 Nb4 10. Bxf5 exf5 11. O-O Be7 12. Nc3 Be6 13. Nb5 h6 14. Be3 g5 15. Rc1 Nc6 16. Ne1 f4 17. Bd2 O-O 18. Qh5 Kg7 19. Nd3 Qd7 20. Qe2 Rfc8 21. Rc3 Nb4 22. Nxb4 axb4 23. Rxc8 Rxc8 24. b3 Rc2 25. Rc1 Qc8 26. Qd1 Bf5 27. Rxc2 Qxc2 28. Qxc2 Bxc2 29. Nd6 Bxb3



30. Nf5+ Kf8 31. Nxe7 Kxe7 32. Bxb4+ Ke6 33. a5 Kf5 34. f3 h5 35. h3 Bc4 36. Kf2 Bd3 37. Be7 g4 38. hxg4+ hxg4 39. fxg4+ Kxg4 40. Bc5 Be4 41. Bb6 - 1/2-1/2



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 on Sunday afternoons

The Champions League on Tuesday afternoons

ECF Online Grand Prix – 2022

We have reached month 9 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 leader board can be found here for the two series --- <https://www.englishchess.org.uk/2022-online-grand-prix-series/>

Rapid Event Eight (Sunday 21st August)

Rapid Event 8 was won by Chris Davison, followed by @Rocktroll and Oleg Verbytski. Chris Davison is still in the lead, ahead of Tristan Cox and Elis Dicen --- <https://www.englishchess.org.uk/2022-online-grand-prix-series-rapid-leaderboards/>

Blitz Event Nine (Sunday 4th September)

Blitz Event 9 was won by @Rocktroll, followed by @PeNgXiAo_ZhU and Harry Bryant. 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/>

Autumn Term Secondary School Online Chess

We will continue to run 6pm Friday Lichess battles each month this term on the following dates - 8th September; 14th October; 4th November; 2nd December

The 8th September event is open for further entries at <https://lichess.org/tournament/JRhBycPH> (some schools who have regularly entered before are already included). For most schools players in these events are at home, unsupervised but lichess will check for cheating.

In addition, there is a new afternoon 'National Online Schools Chess League' which may be particularly attractive to those schools who have little chance to play other schools over the board. Details below.

The Ivan Gromov league will run this year fortnightly on Thursday evenings – email Justin Moston at j.moston@etoncollege.org.uk for more information.

Details about this year's National School Chess Championships will be circulated soon.

National Online Schools Chess League

Matches to be played fortnightly on Mondays from 4.15 to 5.15pm. These will be in the form of Lichess battles but with no streaks, berserk or chat. Rate of play: 5 min + 3 sec increment. Players should be in school and being supervised.

Up to six players in a team with the top five scorers counting to the team total.

You can change the team from event to event (e.g. if players are unavailable or improved).

[Note that as a Lichess club leader you can remove as well as add players to a club].

Schools can enter up to three teams – please call them A, B, C teams in Lichess.

Schedule

12th September: All teams together in one battle to decide on future divisions

26th September: Round 2 in divisions with between eight and ten teams per division - top three promoted, bottom three relegated

10th October: Round 3

24th October: Half term (for many schools)

7th November: Round 4

21st November: Round 5

5th December: Round 6

--- Neill Cooper

News and Views

ECF Wordpress project

The ECF is planning a small Wordpress project to develop a separate area of the website, including development of a customised WordPress plugin.

Please do make contact if you have WordPress and PHP skills and experience and would be able to help with this.

Rolling Membership

Summary

Player is a member at the start of and throughout the season ---

No game fee (this is effectively the current situation and will cover the vast majority of players for the foreseeable future as most players' renewal date will remain 31 August). As now, clubs need to monitor player status towards the end of the season (or more often if they wish) to avoid game fees.

Player not a member at the start of the season but joins or renews before 30 June ---

No game fee (this is also effectively the current situation in a large number of cases as many players fail to renew on a timely basis). As now, clubs need to monitor player status towards the end of the season (or more often if they wish) to avoid game fees.

Player is a member at the start of the season, but membership lapses mid-season and not a member on 30 June ---

Game fee charged unless exempt due to extenuating circumstances which preclude them rejoining (see 'Example' below and note at end). Clubs need to monitor player status towards the end of the season (or more often if they wish) to avoid game fees.

Player not a member at the start of the season and does not renew or join by 30 June ---

Game fee charged. Clubs need to monitor player status towards the end of the season (or more often if they wish) to avoid game fees.

Example

1. A player who would usually renew their ECF membership in September decides not to renew in September 2022 and instead to wait until, for example, March 2023.
2. When the player rejoins in March 2023 they are treated as an ECF member for league and county season 2022-23.
3. If the player fails to rejoin by 30 June 2023 a game fee liability is incurred by default.
4. If the player fails to rejoin in March 2024 and does not do so by 30 June 2024 for a reason such as giving up chess, emigration, long-term illness, death etc, the organisation may apply for the game fee liability to be waived provided that the player was an ECF member for all the games played in that organisations events that they played up to March 2024. Where a waiver is granted the ECF Office will carry out checks on the playing status of the player in season 2024-25 and apply a retrospective game fee charge if appropriate **
5. The player DOES NOT need to be an ECF member at the time he/she plays an individual league or county game – but the player DOES need to be a member as at 30 June (see above).
6. Organisations are free to stipulate that the player needs to be an ECF member in order to play in an event,

but, as now, that is NOT a requirement imposed by the ECF.

7. Captains and secretaries can, as now, check on the player's ECF membership status as frequently or infrequently as they wish. The ECF rating database shows expiry dates of current and recently expired memberships. These are displayed in the player profile and on the 'by-club' list.

8. If the player fails to renew until June 2023 ECF benefits such as ChessMoves, chess product discounts, JustGo Rewards etc cease after a month.

** Self-evidently if the player fails to rejoin in March 2023 and also does not do so by 30 June 2023, even for a reason such as giving up chess, emigration, long-term illness, death etc, game fee waiver will not be available if the player was NOT an ECF member for all the games in that organisation's events that they played in season 2022-23. But that is no different in principle from the position as it currently pertains if a player fails to rejoin in September 2022 and also does not rejoin by 30 June 2023.

Clubs and Congress Insurance 2022/2023

Clubs and other chess organisations can now renew their insurance through Greens Insurance, using the renewal/application form link below. Cover will begin when the completed form and payment are received by Greens, or 1st September [please note the corrected dates] if existing cover is being renewed and the information and payment is received by 14th September. All applications and payments should be sent to Greens (contact details in the form) - <https://www.englishchess.org.uk/clubs-congress-insurance-2022-23/>

English Juniors lead the world!

Some excellent news! With the publication of the September FIDE rating lists, English juniors are number 1 in the World in both the [Under 7 Boys](#) and [Under 7 Girls](#) English juniors are also number 2 and number 4 in the [Under 8 Girls](#)

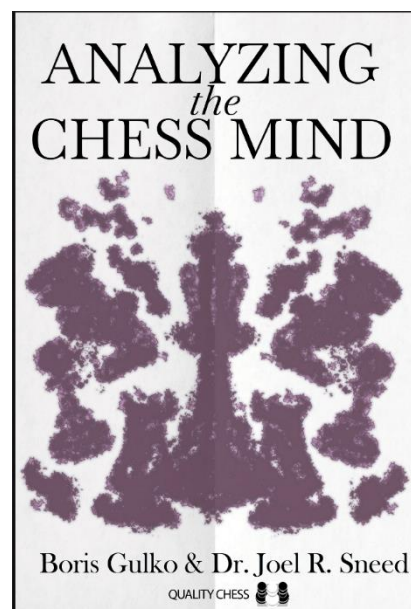
Book of the Year 2022 Shortlist

Many of the high quality books received this year concentrated on chess training. Perhaps reflecting current anxieties, the emphasis was not only on chess positions, but also on how the chess mind works in actual play. Three have been selected. The fourth book is an exception to this and is the final volume in a trilogy on one of the greatest players who ever lived.

Analyzing the Chess Mind

Gulko and Sneed

Quality Chess pp 224 £26.99



Gulko is an extremely strong grandmaster who uniquely has won both the Soviet and US championships, while Sneed is a professor of psychology. Together they are very well placed to consider chess mind issues in a well-chosen selection of games and positions. Two sample subjects – Losing Winning Positions and Problems in Self-Confidence. This book is both instructive and very readable.

Emanuel Lasker Volume Three

Forster, Negele, Tischbierek – editors

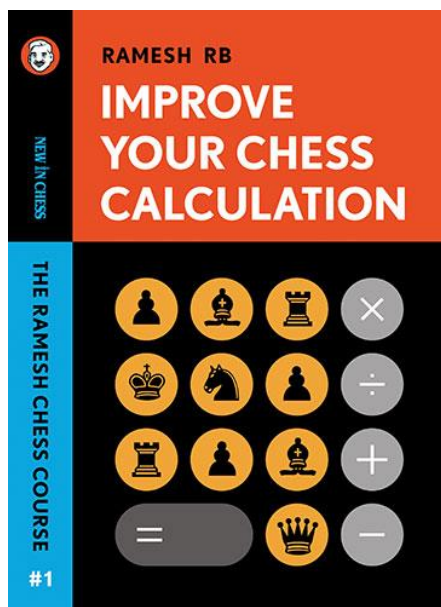
Exzelsior Verlag pp 468 £54.95

Subtitled *Labours and Legacy Chess, Philosophy and Psychology*, this third volume covers Lasker's life from 1914 to his death in New York in 1942. Lasker was a complex man with myriad interests and occupations outside chess. It has needed three large volumes to adequately cover all aspects of Lasker's life. This volume, with the two previous volumes (both of which featured in earlier shortlists) are the work of many experts over more than a decade. They, and the books, do full justice to a world champion of 27 years. An outstanding trilogy in every way.

Improve Your Calculation

Ramesh RB

New in Chess pp332 £26.95



This is the book for anyone who wishes to improve their calculation abilities and work their way through this substantial volume; but it is much more than that, as many other aspects of chess improvement are touched upon throughout the text. Ramesh is a very gifted coach and writer. He was coach to the Indian 'B' team consisting of young players, most of whom are his pupils, and which won a bronze medal at the recent Olympiad, ahead of the Indian 'A' team. No wonder that this book is already a best seller.

Think Like a Super GM

Adams and Hurtado

Quality Chess pp464 £29.50



Adams, a Super GM himself, and Hurtado, who has an engineering, scientific, and statistical background, have teamed up to produce a most interesting book which

works on several levels. Players of varying abilities from amateur to GM were asked to examine 40 selected positions and find the best and follow up moves, whilst the time taken and their thoughts were recorded and then analysed and compared. Readers can test themselves and calculate their performance. Adams provides analysis and, after each puzzle, 'Adams Insight'. Both authors provide interesting essays on aspects of what makes (or does not make) a Super GM. Quality Chess deserve credit for investing in the work behind the book and it is produced to their usual high standards.

— Ray Edwards, Jovanka Houska, Sean Marsh 31st August 202

Over the board blitz ratings go live

On 1st September over the board blitz ratings went live on the ECF rating website. Blitz chess for ECF purposes is games where each player has between 3 and 10 minutes for the whole game.

The ECF is grateful to those organisations who have submitted results since 1st November 2021. These results have been included in the inaugural ratings that have been backdated to the relevant month.

For the technically minded, all players' ratings have started using the new player p-rating method, with one modification. Where a player has an over the board rapid chess rating, that rating is used for the dummy rating. Such rating must be category A-K. If there is no qualifying rapid chess rating, then we look for an equivalent standard play rating. If neither are available, then the usual rapid chess dummy is used.

Once there is a reasonable number of listed players this formula will revert to the full rapid chess approach. That date is tentatively the end of the year following the UK Blitz event.

--- Brian Valentine, Manager ECF rating

Hull 4NCL Congress

The Hull 4NCL International Congress in partnership with Hull & District Chess Association and incorporating the 59th Hull Congress will take place on Friday 14 – Sunday 16 October at Canham Turner Conference Centre, University of Hull. There will be three sections: FIDE Rated Open, FIDE Rated U2000 and ECF U1700. You can enter at - https://4ncl.co.uk/fide/info_hull22.htm

South of England Junior Chess Congress at Yateley Manor

This event will be held on 1st and 2nd October at Yateley Manor School. You can enter at - <https://www.southofenglandjunior.com/>

Manager of Chess in Prisons Carl Portman

A visit to HMP Wakefield

24th August 2022

All photographs are used with the kind permission of HMP Wakefield

This visit had been outstanding for a long time due to the Covid pandemic and other reasons, so I was delighted to finally deliver on my commitment to visit HMP Wakefield on behalf of the English Chess Federation to give a chess simultaneous exhibition against ten players and hold a chess Q&A session with the prisoners.

HMP Wakefield is a Category A establishment, which is to say it houses some of Britain's most dangerous prisoners. It has held many infamous prisoners, but the day was about chess, not what people were there or why.

Wakefield Prison was originally built as a house of correction in 1594. Most of the current prison buildings date from the Victorian era. The current prison was designated as a dispersal prison in 1967, holding 144 inmates, and it is the oldest of the dispersal prisons still operating across England and Wales. From what I saw it was still very fit for purpose.



Carl on a wing at HMP Wakefield

'Here we go round the mulberry bush'

The exercise yard at HMP Wakefield once had a mulberry tree, around which female inmates who were also mothers used to exercise. This has been linked to the nursery rhyme Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush as attested by former prison governor R. S. Duncan in his 1994 book. This origin of the song is also explained on the prison's website. There is no corroborative evidence to support this theory or to say it isn't true. The tree was removed in May 2019 as it had died. Thankfully (miraculously), a cutting from it was taken by a retired prison officer and two small 'beginnings' were planted. I saw that two healthy bushes are now growing, which is excellent news.



Prison Governor Tom Wheatley and Head of Reducing Offending Christine Lindsay both supported my visit. Without such commitment and vision I would never be able to set foot in a prison. Christine spent the day as host. Despite having recently had an operation on an ankle she pressed on and gave me a tour which was absolutely fascinating. Her passion not just for putting on a chess event, but for her job in general (helping prisoners with rehabilitation through education and thereby hopefully to reduce re-offending), shone through and everywhere I went I could see that Christine had managed to put the magic touch to the working environment for her and her staff – whom I also met and had lunch with (thanks again Christine). It is remarkable how a coat of bright paint can transform drab prison walls into a boost to the spirit just by walking down a corridor. A picture here, a motivational quote there – it all serves to make for a more positive environment for both prisoners and staff.

Christine showed me the woodwork shop, where prisoners make wonderful artefacts from furniture to

children's toys, but the shining light was the workshop, where inmates recycled old mattresses to make new divans that were then sold. They have not been doing this for long. It is a new initiative and I think the only one on the prison estate, but already they have prevented almost 800,000 metal springs from going into landfill. This is remarkable, and just one of the positive stories that happens in a prison that the general public seldom if ever get to hear about.

That lunch incidentally was made by prisoners, working for their catering qualifications and everything about the prison said 'education and self-improvement' to me.

Back to the chess. I played ten opponents simultaneously and all were of a good standard. That is to say, they would easily take their place in a club team and local league. I was delighted that amongst the team players was one prison officer. Let's not forget that many officers encourage chess and unsurprisingly play against inmates. Chess is a game for everyone, after all.

The games were all hard fought. The openings were sound and the middlegame to endgame struggles were often quite complex. Only in the endgames did I manage to capitalise on mistakes – which is in truth the essence of any sport. You not only need to be aware of an opportunity, but you have to strike immediately. There's no time to be lost in chess, or in life.

I managed to win nine games and the final one was agreed drawn. I had my opponent on the run in the opening and hassled his queen which he had brought out way too early (not a good idea in chess) but he played a very committed 'gung ho' attack against me – pushing Harry the h-pawn all the way to h3 near my castled king, then he brought his queen and rook in, desperate to checkmate me, but I managed to keep calm and forced some key exchanges in the end. In fairness I did allow him a very important move back earlier on in our game but overall, he deserved his result. Well done indeed.

The games were all intense struggles. Thus I was pleased with 9½/10 with no losses.

Q&A session

After the simul we enjoyed a fascinating Q&A session and I was asked many questions about chess. The first was the most difficult. 'Who is the youngest player you have ever lost to?' I couldn't answer this. I still can't, as I have no idea! Prisoners were keen to learn more about how to study, castling choices, en passant, pawn structures, knights v bishops, when to exchange pieces what is the best opening, chess personalities, my experience of chess

in other prisons, and especially that old chestnut the 50-move rule, which for some reason many prisoners do not understand. They seem to think it is an 18 or 27 move rule, but I have no idea why.

I am the chess columnist for the prison newspaper 'Inside Time', and the players were eager to point out that they always read and enjoy the column and the puzzles I provide. At all times they were respectful to me, the prison staff and one another – all that mattered was the chess. This is how it always is. What a credit they were.

I donated several chess sets, books and magazines (on behalf of the ECF) and also met with the Governor afterwards to discuss the benefits of chess in prison and encourage the regular playing of the game at HMP Wakefield. Both Governor Tom and Christine are receptive to this, having seen the effect of chess on the prisoners, some of whom would simply not have mixed outside the chess scenario. I look forward to seeing if any progress is made. Chess as ever unites people; it brings them together in a way that real life does not seem able to do. It is a productive use of time in a place where time is all that people have.

My sincere thanks are extended to the team at HMP Wakefield, and to the ECF for their continued support of chess in prisons.

Testimony

This is what the prison said after my visit. The final paragraph is what makes it all worthwhile, and so rewarding for me.

'Carl visited HMP Wakefield on 24th August. We have a lot of avid chess players here who eagerly awaited his visit. Carl pitted his wits against nine prisoners and one member of staff in chess games simultaneously.

It was astonishing to see a group of men who would normally not even be in the same room together, let alone have a group discussion. But they were all in the chess zone, totally focused on their own individual games. Carl was amazing; I don't know how he played all those games at once and the prisoners were in awe of him.

Once the simultaneous display was finished Carl answered many questions from the group who were enthralled in his knowledge and anecdotes. This has made it evident that chess breaks down barriers between people and brings people together harmoniously with a common interest and goal to play and improve their chess skills. This is something that we will endeavour to repeat at HMP Wakefield in the future to build a regular chess

tournament amongst different groups of prisoners and staff.

The books that Carl gave us were donated to the library so that everyone has the opportunity to read them. The magazines were given out to the participants to read and share on their respective units.

Thank you Carl for your visit; both the prisoners, staff and the Senior Management Team (SMT) were amazed at your skills, and whilst prisoners were playing against you they were no longer in prison, they were in that game of chess, mind body and soul, and prison didn't exist. It shows the power of chess and the lessons that can be transferred to daily life and how it can mitigate some of the pains of imprisonment.

Regards
Christine Lindsay
Head of Reducing Offending

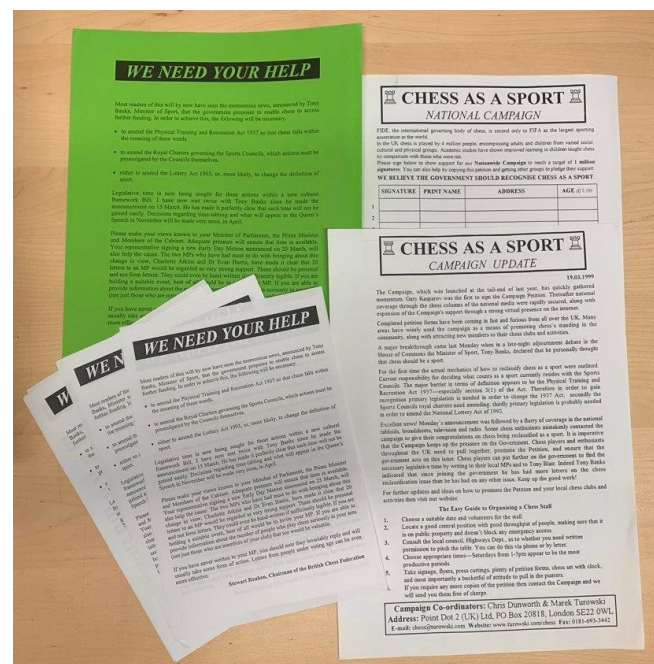
'They tried to bury us; they didn't know that we were seeds' --- Mexican proverb



Carl's Q&A was very popular

Gems from the Library

Chess as a Sport Campaign by Jennifer Voss

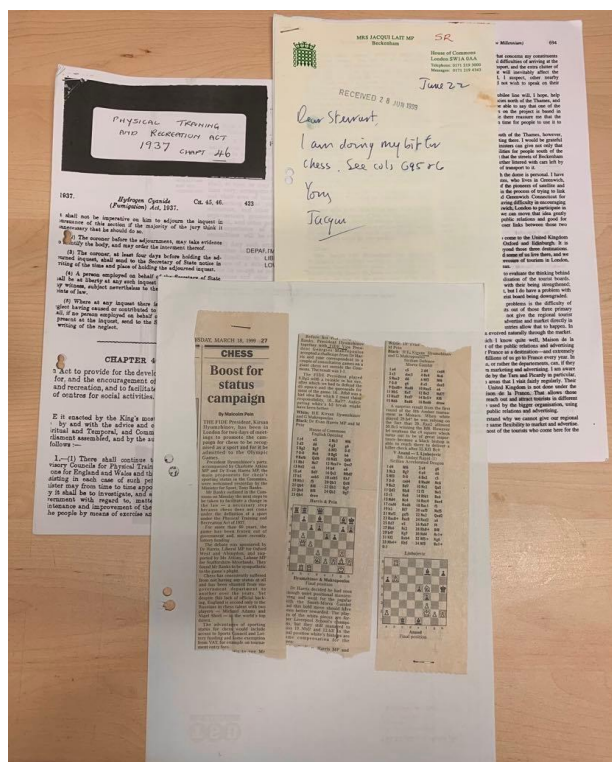


On 28th January 1996, the *Sunday Times* published an article with the strapline 'Chess is competitive and aggressive, but is it sport?' For this month's 'Gems from the Archive' instalment, I'd like to share our collection of papers which document the BCF's 1990s-2000s 'Chess as a Sport' campaign.

In 1996, BCF Chairman Stewart Reuben formally launched a campaign to have chess officially recognised as a sport. Here in the archive, we hold an exciting range of material detailing the various steps of this campaign, highlighting what this recognition would have meant to British chess and revealing the momentous energy put into the campaign by a number of key figures.

Returning to the *Sunday Times* article, a copy of which is held within these papers, the reporter explains that 'chess recently had its application turned down by the Sports Council because the game is "just not physical enough"'. However, this perception of chess as a sedentary pursuit is rebutted in the article by WGM Susan Lilac, who states that 'the physical and mental fitness required to play chess at a professional level cannot be ignored', adding that 'you often see people sweating and shaking with the sheer effort of playing against the clock'. Yet, as correspondence from official bodies such as the English Sports Councils and Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport shows, the viewpoint that there is a 'lack

of physical effort' within chess play remained a consistent barrier to progress and its classification as a sport.



One of the ways in which the BCF sought to address this issue was by lobbying HM Government to amend the Physical Training and Recreation Act 1937 so that chess would fall within the descriptors outlined within the Act. In 1999, with Tony Banks, Minister of Sport, voicing his personal support for the movement, the BCF ramped up its activity through distributing flyers, producing various articles on the subject for *ChessMoves* magazine, and encouraging members to write to their MP. In a 'Chess as a Sport: Campaign Update' newsletter, campaign co-ordinators Chris Dunworth and Marek Turowski even provided a 'Easy Guide to Organising a Chess Stall' – with the reverse side of the newsletter acting as the petition sheet. In terms of the extensive letter writing campaigns, the archive holds a large amount of this intriguing correspondence, including a response from the Private Secretary to HRH The Princess Royal.

Another key element of the campaign which features prominently within the archive is the vast amount of research collected to highlight the benefits afforded to players and organisations in countries which *do* recognise chess as a sport - the primary advantage being access to funding. Throughout the documents, it is clear that chess being awarded sport status would have opened up significant funding avenues, including the recently established National Lottery fund. In a 2003 letter to Gordon Brown, President of the BCF Gerry Walsh outlined the way in which chess had been discriminated against in terms of funding, and the impact of this on younger, emerging players. Supporting evidence gathered for the campaign reinforces the fact that 'while Britain had managed to hold a consistent third place in the international league table', having appropriate and necessary access to funding would allow the BCF to foster, and retain, even greater talent in the future.

Unfortunately, despite the hard work of a great many people, this particular campaign was unable to achieve its aims. Nevertheless, the items within these folders are a testament to the drive and determination to see the advancement of British chess. If you are interested in finding out more about the BCF's long-standing mission to champion British chess, please contact archives@dmu.ac.uk for enquiries or to make an appointment to view this collection.

--- Jennifer Voss, Archives Assistant

JUNIOR MOVES

Littlewood's Choice



Continuing on the theme of juniors who are now making a real impact at the senior level, I noticed that Jonah Willow has just won the opening blitz tournament at the British Championships with the remarkable score of 9/9.

He plays in an aggressive style and rarely misses a tactic. Consider the following game that occurred in the Wood Green Invitational Tournament this year.

J. Willow vs J. McPhilips

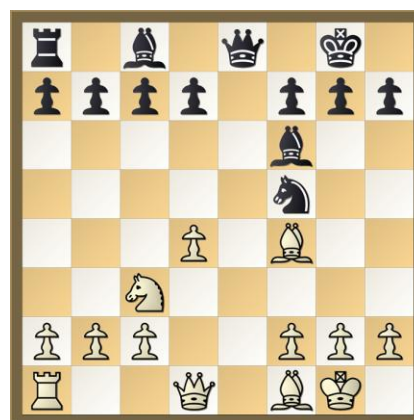
1.e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4. 0-0 Nxe4 5.Re1 The usual continuation is 5.d4 Nd6 6.Bxc6 dxc6 7.dxe5 Nf5 8.Qxd8+ Kxd8 which leads to an ending with chances for both sides. Jonah prefers an alternative which produces an interesting middlegame.



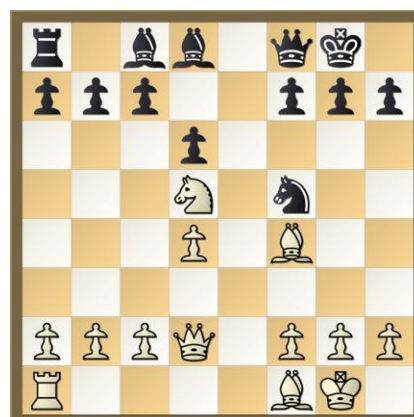
5.....Nd6 6.Nxe5 Nxe5 7.Rxe5+ Be7 8.Bf1 0-0 9.d4 Bf6 10.Re1 White has a small advantage due to his lead in development and the slightly awkward placing of the black pieces.



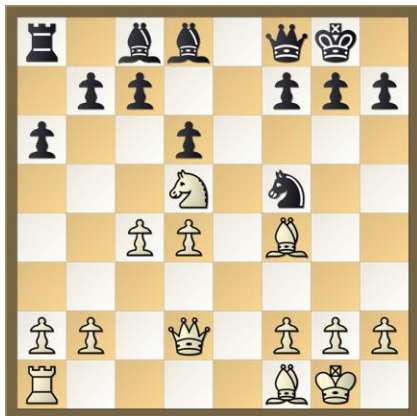
10...Re8 11.Rxe8+ Qxe8 12.Bf4 Nf5 13.Nc3 The white d-pawn could now be taken but it is in fact poisoned. Consider the following two possible continuations: (a) 13....Bxd4? 14.Nd5 Bb6 15. Qg4 Qe6 16.Qxf5 Qxf5 17.Ne7+ winning; and (b) 13....Nxd4? 14.Nd5 Be5 15.Qe1! Nxc2 16.Qe4 Nxa1 17.Bd3 f5 18.Qxf5 Qe6 19.Ne7+! Qxe7 20.Qxh7+ Kf7 21.Qh5+ Kf8 22.Bxe5 d6 23.Qh8+ Kf7 24.Qxg7+ Ke8 25.Bg6+ Kd7 26.Bf5+ Ke8 27.Qg8+ Qf8 28.Bg6+ Ke7 29.Bf6+ Qxf6 30.Qe8 mate.



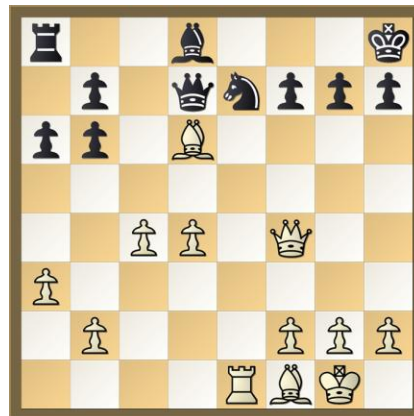
13....d6 14.Nd5 Bd8 15.Qd2 Qf8?! Better is 15...Be6.



16.c4 a6?! Wasting more time and now giving White a clear advantage.



17.Re1 Bd7 18.a3 Ne7?? This is a blunder, allowing a winning combination.

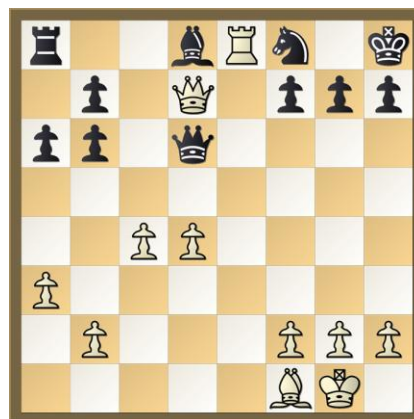


23....Ng6? 23....Ng8 was best but after 24.c5 h6 25.b4 White is a pawn up with a winning position.

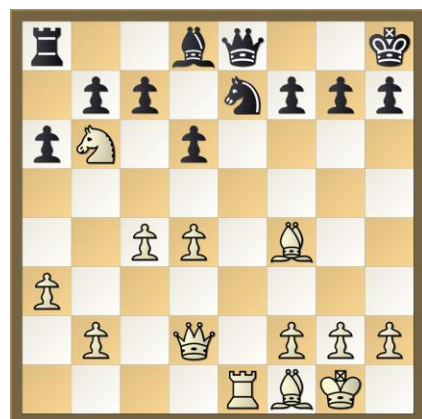


19.Nf6+! Kh8 After 19...gxf6 20.Bxh6 Qe8 21.Qf4 Black must give up his queen to prevent mate.

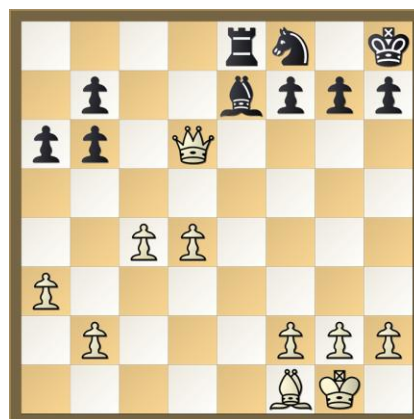
20.Nxd7 Qe8 21.Nb6 There are several good moves here, for example 21.Qb4 or 21.Nf6, but Jonah's choice nets a pawn and still retains the initiative.



26....Be7 27.Qxd6 Rxe8 and Black resigned as he is completely lost.



21....cxb6 22.Bxd6 Qd7 23.Qf4 Setting a deadly trap which Black falls into...



A great game which illustrates the exemplary use of tactics to procure the victory.

I am told by Lawrence Cooper that Jonah has just qualified as an IM...next stop GM!

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.

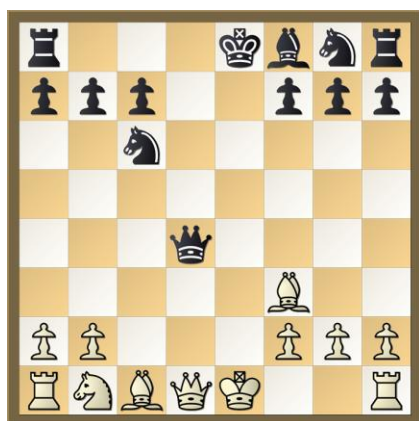
--- Paul Littlewood

IMPROVERS

Paul Littlewood on Tactics

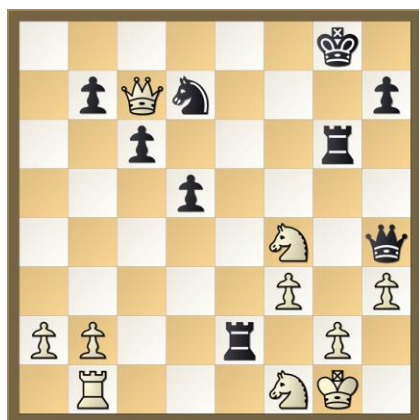
For an attack to succeed in war the enemy's defences must first of all be broken down. The same principle applies in chess. As an illustration consider the following short game:

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.c3 d5 5.exd5 Qxd5 6.cxd4 Bg4 7.Be2 Bxf3 8.Bxf3 Qxd4?



Black seems to have everything defended. However White wins by removing the knight on c6 which defends the black queen on d4...**9.Bxc6+ bxc6 10.Qxd4.**

Another common example occurs when a piece is removed which defends against mate, e.g.



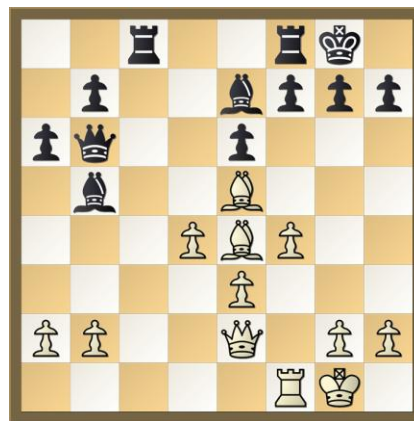
Ryzkov vs Fass

USSR 1978

Black wins by removing the defensive White knight on f4:

1...Qxf4! 2.Qxf4 Rxd4 3.Kh1 Rg1+ 4.Kh2 R6g2 mate

To defend against defence removal the main medicine must be preventative. However, it is possible to assess that the defence removal is not dangerous. Consider the following position:

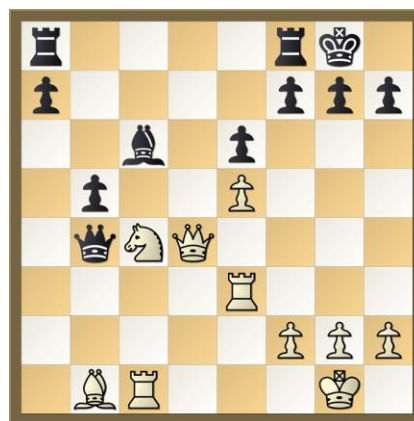


P. Littlewood vs J. Littlewood

British Championships 1979

My father has deliberately played for this position because he has seen that (a) 1.Bd3 Bxd3 2.Qxd3 f6 is winning for Black and that (b) **1.Bxh7+ (as played in the game) 1...Kxh7 2.Qh5+ Kg8 3.Bxg7 Kxg7 4.Qg4+ Kh6** only leads to a draw by perpetual check, as an attempt to win by 5.Rxc8 Rxc8 6.Rf3 fails to 6...Rc1+ 7.Kf2 Rf1+ and Black wins.

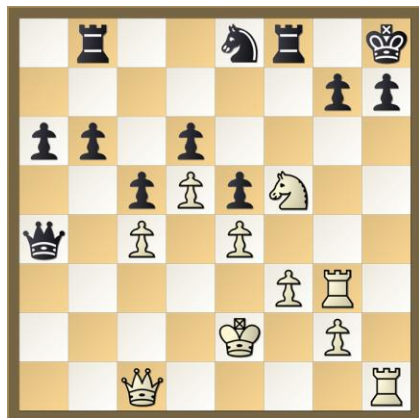
Here are now two examples to solve yourself, with the answers at the end of the article.



P. Littlewood vs S. Reuben

London 1983

How did White use defence removal to force the win?



Brinck-Claussen vs Johannessen

Oslo 1978

White to play and win.

Answers:

P. Littlewood vs S. Reuben

White wins by 1.Bxh7+ Kxh7 2.Rh3+ Kg8 3.Qh4 f6
4.Qh7+ Kf7 5.Nd6+ Ke7 6.Qxg7+ Resigns

Brinck Claussen vs Johannessen

White wins by 1.Rxh7+ Kxh7 2.Rxg7+ Nxg7 3.Qh6+ Kg8
4.Qxg7 mate

--- Paul Littlewood Email: plittl@hotmail.com

Gormally's Improvers

1. Active moves in passive positions.

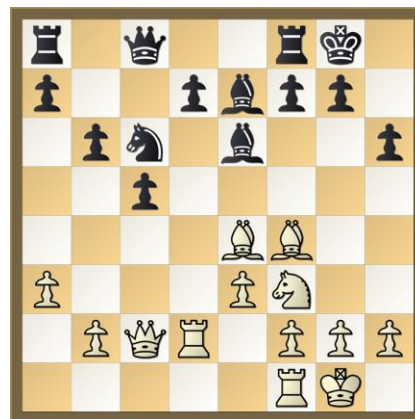


If you have played chess for as long as I have (which seems like a very long time now) you start to identify different themes in your games, some of which are fairly instructive.

I recently played in the British Chess Championships which took place in Torquay in Devon, and very nice it was too, as you can imagine. In round 4, however, I was very nervous and lost to Brandon Clarke. I then had a chance to bounce back in round 5 when I was paired against William Claridge-Hansen.

Gormally, D (2466) - Claridge-Hansen, W (2345)

Chessable British Championships 2022 (5), 17.08.2022



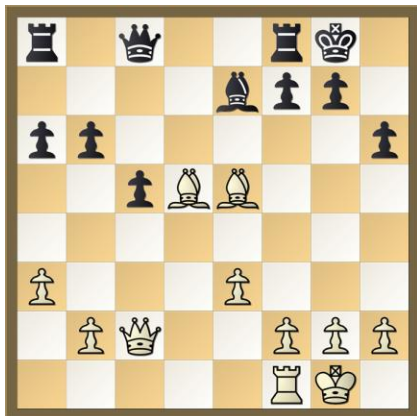
16...a6?! There is nothing especially wrong with this, and when you are facing strong players they rarely make moves randomly, as is the case here, because he wants to play the Rook to a7 which would free up the Knight on c6. However this could still be categorised as a passive move in a passive position. We need something with more oomph!

The normal procedure after games would be to go to the pub (you can tell I take the chess very seriously) and end up checking your games on someone else's phone to see what mistakes were made, if any. However, on this occasion I finished the game so quickly that I was able to go back to my hotel, which was situated on the top of a hill, fairly close to the main town. I then checked the computer evaluation, and I later had a chance to test this on some other players who were playing in the congress. At the Pier Point restaurant on the seafront, I asked Anuurai Sainbayar and her friend Gregg Hutchence what they would play here. The beautiful views across the bay allowed me to relax as they struggled with this position. After suggesting some moves, Gregg finally came up with 16...Qa6! 'I was about to suggest that!' said Anuurai. 'No you weren't!' said Greg. I don't think 16... Qa6 is that obvious, but I like the idea that you are fighting back in a passive position, and I myself found this example instructive. The danger when you are in a defensive position is to think too much in that mindset. You don't look for chances to become active. Your opponent imposes their psychological will on you, and it is very easy to fall into that storyline. 17.Rfd1?! Qb5, and one of the ideas behind 16...Qa6 is revealed. Black is threatening to play 17...Bb3, winning the exchange; 16...Qb7! is also rather good. The idea is simply to bring the rook to d8. 17.Rfd1 Rad8, and Black is starting to

threaten d5. 18.Qb1? d5 19.Bxd5 Bxd5 20.Rxd5 Rxd5 21.Rxd5 Nd4!→ is a typical trick.

17.Ne5! This is still equal. However, the main point is that White's position is slightly easier to play - he is more active.

17...Nxe5 18.Bxe5 d5 19.Rxd5 Bxd5 20.Bxd5



20...Ra7?? it was time to bail out with 20...Kh8 21.Bxa8 Qxa8 22.Qf5 Qc6= when Black will easily be able to resist White's slight pressure.

21.Qg6!

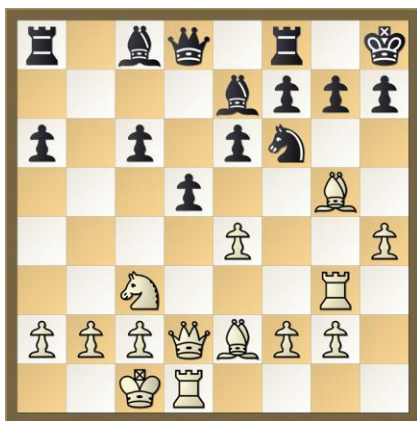
1-0

In the next round I faced Harry Grieve, who eventually went on to win the championship. Because of the speed and confidence of his opening moves, it was obvious that he had prepared thoroughly. I now found myself in a rather defensive mindset, which is natural in such situations when your opponent seems to be making the running.

(2) Grieve H (2390) - Gormally, D (2466) B63

Chessable British Chess Championships 2022

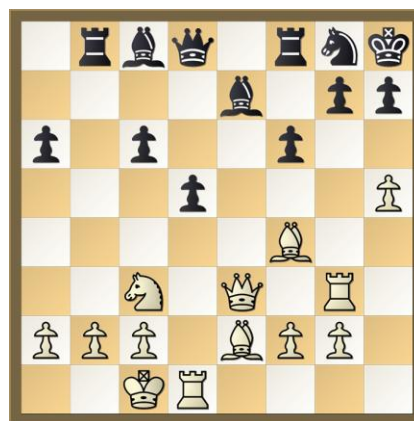
18.08.2022



13...Rb8 A natural looking enough move in a Sicilian when your opponent has opened the b-file. The trouble is that it is not that easy to get an attack this way as ... Qb6 can just be met by the blunt b3.

13...Bd6! isn't a move that I really considered but it could also be categorised as an active move in a passive position: (a) It attacks the Rook on g3; (b) It prepares in some cases to place the bishop on e5, where it stands very well. The natural knee-jerk reaction is to dismiss this as it runs into f4, which in turn threatens e5. But that is where the genius of 13... Bd6 is revealed, as the bishop simply retreats to e7, and then e4 has been weakened. 14.f4 Be7 15.Bd3 Rb8.

14.Qe3 Ng8 15.exd5 exd5 16.h5 f6 17.Bf4



17...Bd6? Now this is simply bad, and overlooks a very nice combination which effectively wins the game.

18.Rxg7! Re8 18...Kxg7 19.Qg3++

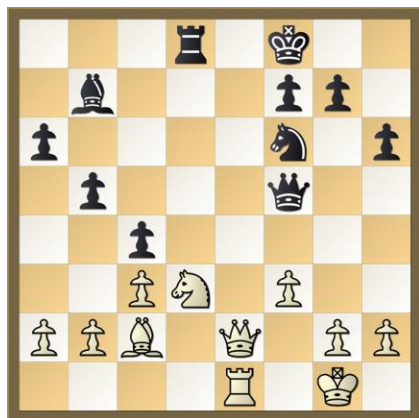
19.Qg3 Bxf4+ 20.Qxf4 Qb6 21.h6 Qxb2+ 22.Kd2 Rb4 23.Bd3

1-0

It can often be difficult to judge whether to play actively in passive positions, or go for a more defensive solution, as the following example indicates:

(3) Van Foreest, Jorden (2680) - Grover, Sahaj (2505) C78

28th Abu Dhabi International Chess Fest Radisson Blu Hotel & Resort, (2.7), 18.08.2022



28...Qd5? Black reaches for an active move, placing his queen in the centre, but this was a situation where a more defensive move would have done a better job.

28...Re8! and Black is at least equal. 29.Ne5 Be4 (29...Qc8 simply co-ordinating the forces, was also fine.) 30.Bxe4 Qxe5 is a nice sequence forcing a pleasant endgame for Black. 31.Qd2 h5.

29.Qe7+ Kg8 30.Nc5! It transpires that White is already winning. Rd1 is a winning threat that can't be easily met.

30...Bc6 30...Rb8 31.Rd1 Qc6 32.Rd8+—

31.Rd1 Qxd1+ 32.Bxd1 Rxd1+ 33.Kf2 This is an easy technical job for a player of Van Foreest's ability.

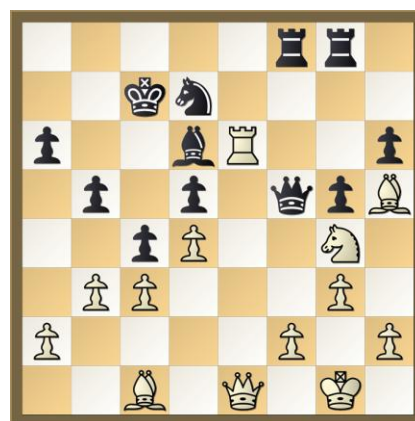
33...Rd2+ 34.Kf1 a5 35.Qc7 Be8 36.Qxa5 Rxb2 37.Qa8 Kh7 38.h4 Bd7 39.g4 Be6 40.Nxe6 fxe6 41.Qc6 Nd5 42.Qxe6 Rb1+ 43.Kf2 Rb2+ 44.Ke1 Nxc3 45.Qf5+ Kg8 46.g5 hxc3 47.hxc3 Re2+ 48.Kf1

1–0

The following example came from the recent Northumbria Masters. The grandmasters and some of the other players stayed in the Holiday Inn in Jesmond, which was a really nice hotel. At night the breakfast room transformed into an Italian restaurant. The only shame, I suppose, was that the event was not one game a day. I know due to spiralling costs one game a day events are becoming increasingly rare, and most are two games a day, which for me personally speaking makes the event less pleasurable. People don't have the chance to explore Newcastle as much as they might have done had the schedule been a little more relaxed. You are too exhausted to do anything after two tiring games.

(4) Gormally, Daniel W (2466) - Bezuidenhout, Roland (2269) C06

Northumbria Masters chess24.com (3.2), 27.08.2022



34...Rf6 a resourceful try in a rather desperate position. Despite having a nominal material advantage of an exchange for a pawn, Black is dead lost here as he has too many weaknesses and the white pieces are threatening to run rampant. So this is as good as anything.

35.Nxf6 35.Rxf6 Nxf6 36.Nxh6 was probably the most obvious continuation, but in the tension of the situation I miscalculated. 36...Qh7 37.Nxg8 Nxh5 and my calculations ended here, which is completely bonkers of course. I thought the knight on g8 was getting trapped so I moved on, but in fact White has any number of winning continuations, for example 38.Qe6 Qb1 39.Qf7+ Kb6 40.Kg2 Qxc1 41.Qxh5+—

35...Nxf6 36.Bf7 Rf8 37.Rxf6 I saw 37.Rxd6! Rxf7 38.Rxa6 and assumed this was probably winning somehow, but then he gets ... Ne4, which seemed a bit annoying. 38...Ne4 39.Be3+—

37...Qxf6 38.Bxd5 Nevertheless the transformation White has managed is a reasonable one, at least in a practical sense. I felt that with the two bishops and my opponent having an airy king I couldn't lose, and in Black's time trouble this would be extremely tough to defend.

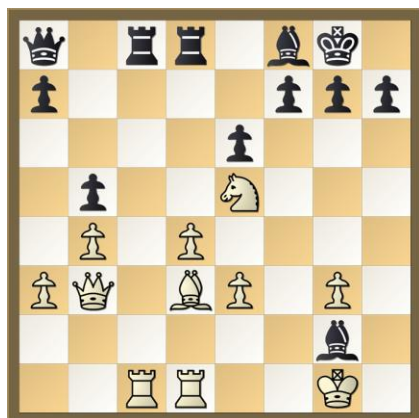
38...cxb3 39.axb3 h5? My opponent was very short of time, so can hardly be criticised here. I was quite happy to see this, as I could see that even if he manages to play ... h4 and take on g3, it doesn't really improve his attacking chances.

It is still losing, but the active in a passive position sequence with 39...Qf5 40.c4 Bb4! would have given

21...Nd6 22.Bf1 Nxe3 23.Qxe3 Rxc1 24.Rxc1 Rc8 I had the feeling that if I played like this he would just make a draw somehow, even though White is worse. This kind of position is probably why White has given up playing the c3 Sicilian at the highest level. There are too many depressing positions where you just end up with a weak and easily blockaded d-pawn.

22.Bd3 22.Bxb5 Ndx3 23.fxe3 Nxg3 24.hxg3 Bxg2 25.Bc4=.

22...Nxg3 23.hxg3 Nxe3 24.fxe3 Bxg2



25.Qb1! f5 26.Bxb5 Bd5 27.g4? I think this shows White's lack of experience. This weakens the kingside without gaining a great deal in return.

27.Bd7! once again shows the value of activity, the theme of this article. 27...Rxc1 28.Rxc1 Bd6 29.Bc6 Bxc6 30.Nxc6 Rf8 and the position is rather messy and unclear, although due to the safer king I would always prefer to play Black in a practical game.

27...g6? I saw 27...Bd6! but I can't calculate! 28.gxf5 Rxc1 29.Qxc1 (29.Rxc1 Qb8 30.Bd7 Bxe5 31.dxe5 Qxe5–+) 29...Qb8 30.fxe6 Bxe5–+

28.gxf5 exf5 29.Qd3 Bg7?



It was better to play 29...Bd6, as this has the same idea of threatening to take on e5 and then play ... Qb8 and gain an attack, but doesn't allow counterplay with Rc5. Clearly, as some of my recent games show, I have some kind of weakness in not knowing when I should or shouldn't play ... Bd6. 30.Ba6 Rxc1 (the engine also recommends the flashy 30...Bh1!? 31.Qf1 Rxc1 32.Rxc1 Kg7 with rather messy play) 31.Rxc1 Kg7.

30.Nd7 The power move 30.Rc5! would have restored the balance. Once again in a passive position, look for an active move! 30...Rxc5 31.bxc5 Bxe5? 32.dxe5 Qb8 33.Bc4 even loses for Black.

30...Rxc1 31.Rxc1 Qb7 32.Nc5 Qc7 33.Bc4 Qg3+ 34.Kf1 Qf3+ 35.Ke1 Re8 36.Kd2 Bh6 37.Re1 Kg7 38.Bxd5 Qxd5 39.Kc3 Qa2! 40.Qa6 Bxe3 41.Qb7+ Kh8 42.Rd1 Qxa3+ 43.Nb3 Bg5 44.Rd3 I had a moment of horror when I played my last move as I suddenly realized I had forgotten that 44.Ra1 traps the queen, but of course 44...Re3+ wins in turn.

44...Re7 I was quite happy to calmly play this, which simply improves my position. The win isn't running away.

45.Qc8+ Kg7 46.d5? Ending the agony.

46...Bf6+ 47.Kc4 Re4+

0–1

STUDIES AND PROBLEMS

PROBLEM CORNER

Christopher Jones with his monthly conundrum

In the last issue I left you with this problem -



Mate in 2

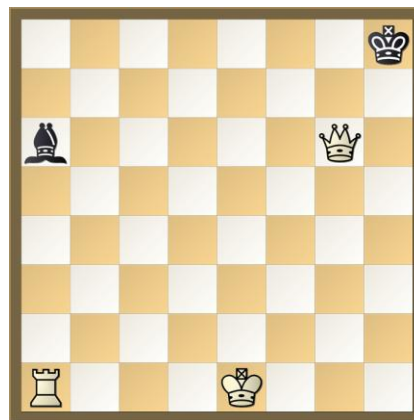
Norman Macleod

2nd Prize, *Problem Observer* 1983

The key is 1.Rd1!. There is no threat – the position is zugzwang, and the particularly attractive feature of the problem is that different black moves are met by each of the four possible moves of the pawn on d2 – 1...Ke2 2.d4 [not 2.d3+ Nd2!]; 1...Ne3 2.dxe3; 1...Ke4 2.d3 and 1...Nxc3 2.dxc3. In problemists' parlance, an Albino.

Chess problem enthusiasts' main publication in the UK is the journal of the British Chess Problem Society, *The Problemist*, published every second month, featuring articles on various chess problem topics and a host of newly-composed problems and studies. As well as aiming to solve the new problems, you can take an enjoyable short cut by looking at the original problems from three issues ago, republished alongside their solutions and a selection of solvers' comments. If you are competitively minded you can take part in the annual solving ladders for the various types of problem – or may even be emboldened to compose something yourself and submit it for publication! For further information you can either email me or look at the BCPS website - www.theproblemist.org/, where you are able to view past issues.

In the September 2022 issue of *The Problemist*, for instance, is a selection (by Michael Lipton) of 'tanagras' – problemists' parlance for problems with no more than five pieces on the board. These are never going to be the toughest problems to solve, but it is amazing what can be achieved with such sparse resources. All problem composers set great store by material economy – that is, not having any more pieces on the board than are necessary – and for some the appeal of combining excellent economy with absolute accuracy in the play is highly alluring. Consider the following example –



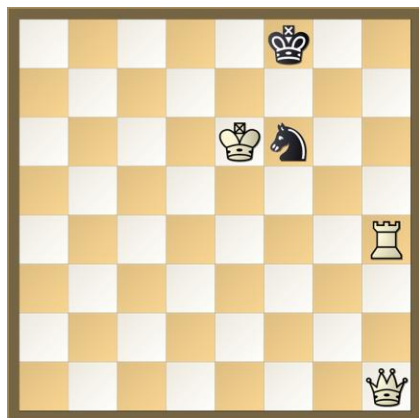
Mate in 2

Lev Sokolov-Bardanov

8th Honourable Mention, Chuvash Tourney 1955

There are many tries – attempts to force mate next move that fail to a single black defence. Of course 1.Rxa6 fails because of stalemate! But also we have 1.Ra5?, threatening 2.Rh5, failing not to 1...Be2 (2.Ra8!) but to 1...Bb5!, 1.Ra4? Bc4!, and 1.Ra3? Bc8! (and not, for example,, 1...Bd3 2.Ra8). The key is 1.O-O!, as you've no doubt already spotted, but do note that the two threats, 2.Rd8 and 2.Rh1, are *completely* differentiated – whatever move Black plays, one, and one only, of the threats works.

Here's another example, this time one that was composed by the legendary Hungarian over-the-board grandmaster and composer not only of endgame studies but also of problems, Pal Benkő.



Mate in 2
Pal Benkő
Chess Life 1982

1.Qb7, threatening 2.Qf7, fails to 1...Nd7!. The key is 1.Rg4! (zugzwang), and again there is, you will find, complete accuracy – every possible black move is met either by 2.Qa8 or 2.Qh8; there is never a choice of two White mating moves, which would be considered a ruinous *dual*. ('Duals' are not always considered ruinous, and sometimes are just minor imperfections, sometimes not even that, depending on the nature of the problem; but in this case, it is of the essence of the problem that the play should not be dualized.)

But there's no doubt, of course, that for a richly rewarding *solving* experience, you need more pieces on the board (certainly for 'mate in 2' problems, anyway), and so I leave you with a much more complex problem, from a different article in the September *Problemist*, to 'get your teeth into':



Mate in 2
Franz Pachl and Dieter Berlin
Die Schwalbe 1988

There are some tempting tries in this one. If you want to be absolutely sure that you've identified the key and not one of the tries you may want to check on your computer!

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: cjaiones1@yahoo.co.uk

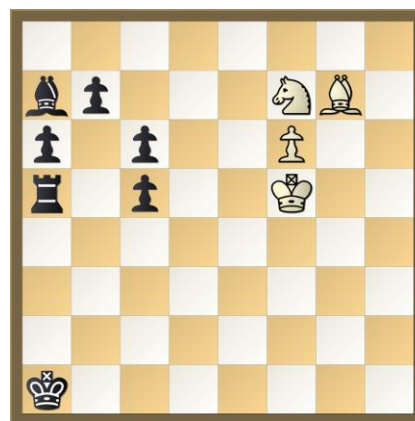
HOW TO SOLVE A STUDY

by Ian Watson

The New Champion

There's a World Championship for composing endgame studies. The results of the latest Championship, which ran from 2019 to 2021, have just been announced. The World Champion is Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen. Second was Oleg Pervakov, who won the previous two World Championships, and third was Serhiy Didukh, who won the one before that.

To introduce you to Nielsen's studies, here are two published just before the latest Championship, one that we'll look at together and one for you to solve. The first is from the magazine *Springaren* in 2018.



White to play and win

You see immediately that White needs to promote to be able to win. You probably notice next that Black will defend with ...c4 because that not only brings the rook into play but also releases the c5 square for the black bishop. The first moves are thus reasonably obvious 1.Ne5 c4 2.f7 Bc5. Okay, now you are clearly going to use a discovered check, but which one? Black will

defend by a cross-check ...Bd4+ and you can then interpose. But which interposition? This is a good moment to sit and take stock. Black will have to move his bishop back from d4 to c5, so if you begin by interposing the knight, you'll get a chance to move it again and go back again. That thought would set a player thinking of draws by repetition but set a seasoned study solver thinking 'repeated manoeuvre', which is a frequent theme in endgame studies. So, even if you don't yet know why, it's a fair bet that interposing the knight is correct, followed by interposing it again (and taking the opportunity to snaffle any hanging pieces in the meantime). It's a composed study, so if you find a way that will probably turn out to be elegant, you're likely to be on the right track.

That more or less solves the study, but you still need to understand why interposing the bishop on move four or move six doesn't work, and why you have to capture on c6; so you need to go through to a clear finish and do the same for the sidelines. It doesn't need any more inspiration; just play through the lines.

The full solution is **1.Ne5 c4 2.f7 Bc5 3.Nxc4+ Bd4+ 4.Ne5 Bc5 5.Nxc6+ Bd4+ 6.Ne5 Bc5 7.Nc4+ Bd4+ 8.Be5 Rxe5+ 9.Nxe5 Bc5 10.Ng6 b5 11.Ke6 b4 12.Ne7 b3 13.f8Q** wins after, for example, 13...b2 14.Qf6 Ka2 15.Nd5 b1Q 16.Nc3+.

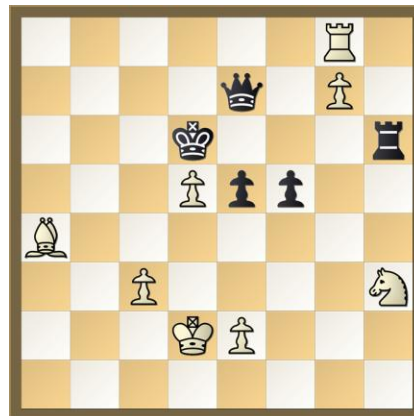
Alternatives in the main line are:

3.Nxc6+? Bd4+ 4.Ne5 c3 5.f8Q c2 draws;

4.Be5? Rxe5+ 5.Nxe5 Bc5 6.Ng6 b5 7.Ke6 b4 8.Ne7 b3 9.f8Q b2 draws;

6.Be5? bxc6 draws, as does 6.Nxa5? Bxg7.

The study for you to solve is from the Garcia Jubilee Tourney in 2018.



White to play and win

You can find many more Nielsen studies at arves.org, which is the website of ARVES who also publish the leading endgame study magazine *EG*.

To get more practice for your solving skills, have a go at the September study-solving tournaments on www.netchex.club. Visit the home page and click on 'September Study Tourney'.

The solution to Nielsen's Garcia Jubilee Tourney study is given below ...

--- Ian Watson Email: ian@irwatson.uk

How to Solve a Study – solution

(Nielsen - Garcia JT)

1.Rc8 Qxg7 2.Rc6+ Kxd5 3.c4+ Kd4 4.e3+ Ke4 5.Rg6 and two alternatives for Black:

5...Rxxg6 6.Ng5+ Rxxg5 7.Bc6 mate, or **5...Qxxg6 6.Bc6+ Qxc6 7.Ng5** mate.

Crystalline clear - there are hardly any sidelines; I scarcely need to mention 2...Ke7 3.Rc7+ Kf6 4.Rxxg7 winning easily, or, in the main line, 3...Ke4 4.Bc2+ Kd4 5.e3 mate.

The difficulty in solving this study is, of course, to find 5.Rg6; it's an interference move of the type that problem composers call a 'Plachutta', named after a mate in three by Josef Plachutta published in 1858. Such interference moves almost never happen in real games, but they occur very often in problems, so practicing solving problems can help with solving studies.

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Event Calendar

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

September 24	Colchester Junior Chess Event
September 24	Mill Hill FIDE Congress Under 2400
September 25	Cambridgeshire Rapidplay
September 25	SCCU Junior Jamboree
September 25	Viz Kings Chess Congress
September 25	Smarticus Juniors Rapidplay
September 27	Muswell Hill FIDE Rapid
September 27	Greater London Chess Club Autumn Blitz
September 27	4NCL Online Season 6 Round 2
September 30	2022/23 Birmingham & District Junior Chess League - Tournament 1 Jamboree
September 30	58th Northumberland Chess Congress
October 1	South of England Junior Chess Congress
October 1	Norfolk County Chess Championships
October 1	Swindon Rapidplay
October 2	Bucks Junior Chess Congress (LJCC)
October 3	2022/23 Birmingham League Blitz Grand Prix Event 2
October 5	9th Seaton Jurassic Blitz
October 6	Junior 4NCL Online Season 6 Round 3
October 6	Hendon FIDE Blitz
October 7	World Chess League Live 2022-2023
October 7	Castle Chess 19th Fareham Congress
October 8	Golders Green FIDE Rapidplay
October 8	Maidenhead Junior Tournament
October 9	2022 Birmingham Junior Open
October 9	3rd Desert Penguins Junior Chess Championships LJCC Qualifier
October 9	ECF Schools Girls Semi-Finals South
October 11	Muswell Hill FIDE Rapid
October 11	4NCL Online Season 6 Round 3
October 14	1st Cornwall Autumn Congress in Penzance
October 14	5th Crewe Chess Congress
October 14	Dundee Congress
October 14	Hull 4NCL International Congress
October 15	2022 UK Chess Challenge Terafinal
October 15	Bury St Edmunds Congress
October 15	Worth Junior Rapidplay
October 16	Kensington FIDE Rapid Chess Open
October 16	West London Chess Academy
October 16	46th Guernsey International Chess Festival
October 19	Beckenham FIDE
October 20	Junior 4NCL Online Season 6 Round 4
October 22	4NCL Rounds 1 and 2
October 22	Half-Term Oxted FIDE Standard Tournaments
October 22	Poplar Rapid Tournament