



# Chess*Moves* September 2023



Chessable Grand Prix results announced, congress reports from around the country, UK Open Blitz underway with record entries, and a look forward to the National Club Championships

# CONTENTS

## Events

<a href="#">UK Open Blitz Championship Qualifiers</a>	4
<a href="#">2023 National Club Championships</a>	6
<a href="#">Chessable ECF Grand Prix 2022/23</a>	6
<a href="#">51<sup>st</sup> Thanet Congress by Alan Atkinson</a>	7
<a href="#">Kirklees Library Chess: The House of Kings Tournament by Steve Westmoreland</a>	8
<a href="#">Hull 4NCL Congress: 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> September by Stephen Greep</a>	10
<a href="#">Lancaster Standardplay Congress – 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> August by Richard Walsh</a>	11
<a href="#">Record Seven Norms at Northumbria Masters by Tim Wall</a>	13
<a href="#">ECF Online</a>	14

## Features

<a href="#">Great British Chess Players by John Nunn</a>	16
<a href="#">Book of the Month by Ben Graff</a>	19
<a href="#">Endgames all Club Players Should Know by Glenn Flear</a>	20
<a href="#">Readers' Games by Andrew Martin</a>	26
<a href="#">It's a Puzzlement</a>	28
<a href="#">ECF Rating Inflation by Brian Valentine</a>	31
<a href="#">From the Archive: Correspondence Chess in the B. H. Wood Collection</a>	31

## News and Views

<a href="#">CSC London Junior Rapidplays</a>	33
<a href="#">ECF Book of the Year Shortlist</a>	33
<a href="#">Peterborough Library Chess</a>	33
<a href="#">ECF AGM</a>	33

## Junior Moves

<a href="#">Littlewood's Choice</a>	34
<a href="#">European Youth Chess Championship 2023 in Mamaia, Romania by Abhishek Pradhan</a>	36

## Improvers

<a href="#">Paul Littlewood on Tactics</a>	36
<a href="#">Gormally's Coaching Corner by Danny Gormally</a>	38

## Studies and Problems

<a href="#">How to Solve a Study by Ian Watson</a>	43
<a href="#">Monthly Conundrum by Christopher Jones</a>	44
<a href="#">Puzzles by Andrew Martin</a>	46
<a href="#">How to Solve a Study Solutions</a>	51
<a href="#">Calendar</a>	52



# EDITORIAL



Greetings all!

Hello and welcome to the September edition of Chess Moves. This issue is particularly strong on diverse and interesting columns, where the emphasis is very much on the chess itself, rather than politics, controversy or news. We have numerous congress reports from around the country, together with previews of the National Club Championships and the UK Open Blitz Championships (there's still time to enter both events – full details inside). We also welcome Grandmaster Glenn Flear to our panel of regular contributors – Glenn will be writing on '*Endgames All Club Players Should Know*'. As Glenn says, 'If you are feeling guilty about your lack of endgame knowledge, or just want to polish up your technique, then I suggest that you look out for my articles over the coming months in *ChessMoves*'.

Enjoy!

--- IM Andrew Martin Email: [a.martin2007@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:a.martin2007@yahoo.co.uk)

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## EVENTS

### UK Open Blitz Championship Qualifiers



The UK Open Blitz Championships for 2023 have just started, with the first two events at Golders Green, London and the Quinborne Centre, Birmingham on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

This year will follow the format used in previous years' events, with eight regional one-day qualifier events at locations across the country as follows:

#### England

**London:** Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September – St Luke's Church, Kidderpore Avenue, Golders Green NW3 7SU

**Midlands:** Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September – Quinborne Community Centre, Quinborne, Birmingham B32 2TW

**North-West:** Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September – Bolton Arena, Arena Approach, Horwich, Bolton BL6 6LB

**South-West:** Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October – Bristol Bridge Club, Grenville Hall, Oldfield Road, Hotwells, Bristol BS8 4QQ

**North-East:** Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October – Gosforth Empire Club & Institute, 32-34 Salters Road, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE3 1DX

#### Scotland

**Edinburgh:** Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September – Novotel Edinburgh Park, 15 Lochside Avenue, Edinburgh EH12 9DJ

#### Wales

**Bridgend:** Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September – Best Western Heronston Hotel, Ewenny Road, Bridgend CF35 5AW

#### Northern Ireland

**Belfast:** Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September – NICS, Maynard Sinclair Pavilion, Stormont, Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast BT4 3T

All qualifier events will be fifteen-round Swiss tournaments. The time limit for all events will be all moves in three minutes plus two seconds per move.

Players will be allocated to a category of 16 players or part thereof based on their initial seeding. For example, if there are 48 entries in a qualifying tournament, then there will be three categories of 16, with players 1 to 16 in Category A, 17 to 32 in Category B and 33 to 48 in Category C.

A category prize of £50 will be awarded to the highest-scoring player in each category.



*Presentations at last year's Open Final*

The top two players in each qualifier will qualify for the Final. The two highest-placed female players will qualify for the Women's Final. If a female player finishes in the top two places, then she may choose whether to play in the Open Final or the Women's Final.



*Presentations at last year's Women's Final*

The final will be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December at Woodland Grange in Leamington Spa and will comprise an Open and a Women's Championship, with each Championship played as a 16-round all play all tournament to decide the 2023 UK Open Champions.

As we go to press the first two qualifiers have just finished on 23<sup>rd</sup> September in Golders Green and Birmingham, with record entries for both events.



The qualifying players are as follows:

### **London/ Golders Green**

Open: GM Eldar Gasanov (12½) and GM Jon Speelman (12)

Women: WFM Emmanuelle Mei-En Hng (10½) and WGM Elmira Mirzoeva (10)

### **Birmingham/ Quinborne Centre (64 entries)**

Open: IM Ameet Ghasi (14) and IM Jonah Willow (12½)

Women: Kamila Hryshchenko (9) and Shambavi Hariharan (8½)

There is still time to enter for the remaining six qualifiers which will take place at venues across the UK on 30<sup>th</sup> September, 1<sup>st</sup> October and 8<sup>th</sup> October. Further details and the entry form can be found here:

<https://www.englishchess.org.uk/uk-blitz-championships-2023/>

Here's a selection of photos from the Golders Green event:



## 2023 National Club Championships



The 2023 National Club Championships will be played at the Canham Turner Conference Centre, Cottingham Road, Hull, HU6 7RX over five rounds from Friday 20<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October. The competition is open to teams of four players from any club that participates in a league in England, Scotland, Ireland or Wales.

There will be three sections for clubs to enter teams:

- Open, with no rating restrictions
- Intermediate, restricted to teams whose average rating is not more than 2000
- Minor, restricted to teams whose average grade is not more than 1700

Each section will be a five-round Swiss competition, with one match on the Friday evening, two matches on Saturday and two matches on Sunday. Clubs are permitted to list up to six players per team (friendly rated games will be organised where possible for players not participating in any given round). A bye may be taken in any one round except the last.

For the rules of the event:

<https://www.englishchess.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/clubrules.pdf>

For information about the venue, accommodation etc:

<https://www.englishchess.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/clubinfo.pdf>

For details of current entrants:

<https://www.englishchess.org.uk/ecf-national-club-championships-2023-entrants/>

Teams must be entered no later than Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October. Clubs may enter teams in one or more sections, with team lists to be sent to the organiser at least 48 hours before the start of the competition. Clubs are permitted to list up to six players per team. Unrated players will be given an estimated rating for the purposes of the competition, which must be agreed with the competition organisers.

Please complete team entries for your club at the link below with one entry per team:

<https://britchess.wufoo.com/forms/ecf-national-club-championships-2023/>

## Chessable ECF Grand Prix 2022/23



This month (September 2023) saw the announcement of the winners for the Chessable ECF Grand Prix, which was based on players' results in ECF-rated events from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022 to the end of June 2023. We are very grateful to Chessable, providers of the **MoveTrainer® software**, for their generous support for the Grand Prix, which was relaunched following a gap of three years caused by the pandemic. All ECF-rated open congresses or open sections played in England at standard or rapid play time controls have been included in the Grand Prix point calculations. While scoring is based on data from the rating system, organisers have also been sending congress reports/results to the ECF for publication on the website and/or in *ChessMoves*.



*Open Grand Prix winner IM Brandon Clarke*





Women's Grand Prix winner Nina Pert



Junior Grand Prix winner Yichen Han

The full list of winners for 2023 is below:

	Open	Prize	Points
<b>Open/2050+</b>			
1st	Brandon GI Clarke	Trophy plus £1,200	706
2nd	Mark L. Hebden	Medal plus £500	624
3rd	Peter G. Large	Medal plus £300	612
<b>Major 1900-2049</b>	Sheng Liang Bernard Chan	Medal plus £250	495

<b>Intermediate 1750-1899</b>	Stanley Badacsonyi	Medal plus £250	545
<b>Minor 1600-1749</b>	Supratit Banerjee	Medal plus £250	416
<b>Improvers U1600</b>	Kai Hanache	Medal plus £250	303
<b>Junior U18</b>	Yichen Han	Trophy plus £250	583
	<b>Female</b>	<b>Prize</b>	<b>Points</b>
<b>Open/2050+</b>			
1st	Nina P. Pert	Trophy plus £800	482
2nd	Anusha Subramanian	Medal plus £300	404
3rd	Jane Richmond	Medal plus £200	372
<b>Major 1900-2049</b>	Nina P. Pert	Medal plus £150	482
<b>Intermediate 1750-1899</b>	Alaa Gamal	Medal plus £150	222
<b>Minor 1600-1749</b>	Anusha Subramanian	Medal plus £150	404
<b>Improvers U1600</b>	Bodhana Sivanandan	Medal plus £150	287
<b>Junior U18</b>	Nina P. Pert	Trophy plus £150	482

The final 2022/2023 leader boards can be found at the link here: <https://englishchessonline.org.uk/chessable-grand-prix-leaderboard/>

## 51<sup>st</sup> Thanet Congress by Alan Atkinson

The 51<sup>st</sup> Thanet Congress was held at Sandwich Technology School from 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> August 2023. In itself, that was something of an achievement.

We knew the previous control team would not be assisting us; the long-standing sponsor and the local council too had had changes of priorities. A previous venue happily agreed to host us, then months later, citing heating costs for an event being staged mid-August, un-invited us. Alternative venues proved impractical.

However, faced by all this, and after a long Covid lay-off, the Thanet and East Kent League decided that, if there was no congress this year, they would be likely to lose the 'slot' in the calendar, and the Thanet Congress forever.

Then the SCCU very kindly granted us their nominated place at the 2024 British Championships, (and a further £100 prize), to be awarded at the congress. And with that, blind faith, and, (dare I say?), with some knowledge as to

how these events should be run, we set out! So the Thanet and East Kent League hosted and subsidised an arbiter course, and that allowed a core control team to be created. Then, when we were kindly offered the venue at Sandwich, we gratefully accepted.



Conor Murphy, as newly crowned SCCU champion, receives the trophy from Mike Flatt following his 5/5 at the Thanet Congress

The FIDE-rated International Open was convincingly won by Conor Murphy. Sharing second place alongside Alan Merry and Martin Taylor, both already qualified for the 2024 British, was local player Robert Starley, who thus also qualifies. A worthwhile local success!

Sometime local player Trefor Owens came top, with League Committee member John Atherton second equal in a closely contested Challengers section, and top seed Aram Swiatkowski, a Kent player, won the Intermediate section. In the Minor category two local juniors, Aravind Sai Kuchibhatla and Freddie White, won; being unrated, their prizes were limited slightly, reducing the event's expected slight loss.

We offered an open chess tournament (an international event, even) to the local players in a corner of the country that sits, rather overlooked, in the shadow of London. From scratch we set up a group to run the event and used it as a training event for our local league and for future congresses here - and we had multiple local successes.

With your support, 'The Thanet' will continue; do please look to support the 52<sup>nd</sup> Thanet Congress next year.

Below are two games from Robert Starley: first, his loss against tournament winner Conor Murphy, and finally, the win which secured Robert's place at next year's British Championships.

### Starley, Robert - Murphy, Conor

Thanet Congress Open Sandwich (2.1), 19.08.2023

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Bxc6 dxc6 5.0-0 Bg4 6.h3 h5 7.d3 Qf6 8.Nbd2 g5 9.Re1 Be6 10.Nc4 g4 11.Ng5 Bc5 12.Rf1 Bd7 13.Qe2 b5 14.Na5 Bb6 15.Nb3 Qe7 16.h4 f6 17.Kh1 Qg7 18.a4 Ne7 19.d4 fxe5 20.Bxe5 0-0 21.Qd2 exd4 22.Bh6 Qf6 23.Bxf8 Rxf8 24.g3 c5 25.axb5 Bxb5 26.Rfe1 Ng6 27.c4 Bc6 28.Re2 Qf3+ 29.Kg1 Qxb3 30.Qh6 Rf6 31.Qxh5 Qf3 32.Qg5 d3 33.Re3 Qxf2+ 34.Kh1 Ba5 35.Rd1 Kg7 36.h5 Bd2 37.Rxd2 Qf1+ 38.Kh2 Qh3+ 39.Kg1 Rf1#

0-1

### Starley, Robert - de Coverly, Roger

Thanet Congress Open Sandwich (5), 20.08.2023

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 a6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Bc4 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Re1 d6 10.h3 b5 11.Bd5 Bb7 12.a3 Nxd5 13.Nxd5 Na5 14.a4 Nc4 15.axb5 axb5 16.Rxa8 Bxa8 17.Qd3 Bxd5 18.Qxd5 Qc7 19.b3 Nb6 20.Qxb5 Rb8 21.Be3 Nd7 22.Qd3 Nf6 23.Nd2 h6 24.Ra1 Bf8 25.Ra7 Rb7 26.Ra8 Rb8 27.Rxb8 Qxb8 28.Nc4 Qc7 29.f3 Qc6 30.Nb6 g6 31.Qc4 Qb7 32.Nd5 Nxd5 33.Qxd5 Qa6 34.Kh2 Qe2 35.Qd2 Qf1 36.c4 h5 37.Bg5 Qb1 38.Qb4 h4 39.Bxh4 Bh6 40.Qc3 Bf4+ 41.Bg3 Bxg3+ 42.Kxg3 f5 43.exf5 Qxf5 44.Qd2 Qf6 45.b4 Kg7 46.c5

1-0

## Kirklees Library Chess: The House of Kings Tournament by Steve Westmoreland



A mix of chess enthusiasts gather at the Huddersfield Library

Chess is becoming more popular, with clubs benefiting from an influx of juniors and new adults. Within the Huddersfield & District Chess Association (HDCA) covering Kirklees we have seen new clubs appear at Holmfirth and



Meltham. Dewsbury are rebuilding, and Huddersfield have several new adults in. Enthusiasm is growing. Chess in schools is on the rise, as it now is in libraries.

Huddersfield Library Chess Club (HLCC) previously had a small, isolated meet at the old library building, from October 2021 to December 2022. A change of venue into a more visible public space saw numbers more than double to between 12 and 18 per week on Saturdays.



*Venu wanders past Hamid and Will (backs to us), hot drink in hand*

Rob Mitchell and Brendan Briggs from the newly-formed Meltham Chess Club have recently started to attend HLCC, supporting the organiser Luke Haslam. Luke in turn brought additional material such as puzzles and resource sheets in to the club before attending Meltham on Monday nights. He also runs a mobile chess book library service for Meltham players.

Luke then decided that he wanted to run a tournament and spoke with Rob and Brendan about how to do this. The House of Kings Tournament was born, with the first friendly event held on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2023.



*Players deep in thought, especially Steve and Alex with heads in hands, about to create utter chaos on the board*

Numbers exploded, with around 30 people in attendance, including players from Holmfirth, Huddersfield and of course Meltham. Many players were not rated, with the strongest at 1800 (myself). It was a fantastic three-round team event, with a good mix of juniors and adults. A lot of interest was generated from the watching library members, especially the live board to Chess.com where people could play games on a touch screen.



*Dylan accepts the Trophy from Luke on behalf of Meltham, with the new HDCA President, to the side, clapping*



*Between rounds on Chess.com with Alex and Isaac of the England County Champions Yorkshire U1650 squad, centre*

Congratulations to Huddersfield Library for hosting their first chess event. From here Luke wants to promote more library events throughout Kirklees. We wish him all the best, and have offered our support. Such initiatives can only help the game grow and benefit local clubs.

Meltham took the trophy 17½-12½.



## Hull 4NCL Congress: 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> September

by Stephen Greep and Douglas Vleeshouwer

The weekend of 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> September saw the 60<sup>th</sup> Hull Chess congress and the fourth held in association with 4NCL. For the third year running it was held in the Canham Turner conference centre, University of Hull, perhaps one of the best chess venues for a congress in the country. To mark the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary we added an additional section and raised the prize money to £5,100. Partly to compensate, but more to do with the rising costs of venue hire (in particular), we also raised the price of playing in FIDE-rated sections of the congress to £40. We didn't do this lightly, recognising the financial pressures that chess players face elsewhere, but we felt we simply had to reflect the rising cost of the event. The Open, U2000 and U1700 sections were FIDE-rated, and the top 32 boards (everyone in the Open and the top boards in the U2000) were broadcast on live boards.

In the event 163 players attended, a near-record number. We were particularly pleased with the local turnout of 50 players (against a longer-term average of just over 30), several playing in their first ever congress. As GM Danny Gormally reports on one of his games from the event elsewhere in this issue, this account concentrates on the broader aspects of the congress!

One of the more 'exciting' events of the weekend was a power cut for over two hours on the Saturday morning. As we quickly discovered, this didn't only affect the Conference Centre, but was more widespread both within and outside the University. Only Northern Powergrid could sort this out (as we discovered the University had no back-up generator) and an engineer from Manchester was required (fortunately a local engineer on leave heard about it and came to restore power sooner), and by the time power was restored round two in the Open and U2000 had already been abandoned and a consultation held, with the players agreeing that these sections should consist of four rounds (rather than the alternatives such as three rounds on the Sunday). This caused unexpected consequences, as Swiss-Manager wouldn't pair further rounds because it considered round 2 was still active. This was only resolved by recording every game as an unrated draw (fortunately only two games had been concluded when power was lost), leading to further stress for the arbiters in sorting out colours in the last round (Swiss-Manager believing that round 2 had been completed and was a real round...). In the event, the last three rounds started on time (the fifth maybe a few minutes late).



*The Canham Turner Conference Centre, Kingsley Suite (106 players in the Open and U2000)*

Those playing in the 1700 and U1450 sections in the Austin Blake Suite took a different view of the lighting conditions and voted to continue playing (albeit after an hour's delay). Although round 3 was delayed by one unfinished game by 10 minutes, all the rounds in these two sections were completed. It might have been rather different if the emergency lighting had given out (it was a three-hour supply) as everyone would then have had to abandon the building.



*The Canham Turner Conference Centre: Austin Blake Suite (57 players in the U1700 and U1450 sections)*



The local team were particularly pleased to see three of the sections won by local players. In the Open, Joe Varley (Hull Chess Club) was joint winner with Max Turner (Berwick upon Tweed Chess Club), both on 3.5/5, leaving the three GMs in the field trailing; in the U2000 section Kristian Usifoh (Hull Chess Club) was one of three joint winners on 3.5/5; and in the U1450 section Mark Robinson (Hull Chess Club) won all his games to finish on 5/5. The U1700 section was won by Rojus Lukauskas of Limewood & Scarcroft Chess Club with a score of 4.5/5.

The full results from each section can be found below:

Open: <https://chess-results.com/tnr809637.aspx?lan=1&art=1&rd=5&fed=ENG&flag=30>

U2000: <https://chess-results.com/tnr809638.aspx?lan=1&art=1&rd=5&fed=ENG&flag=30>

U1700: <https://chess-results.com/tnr809639.aspx?lan=1&art=0&fed=ENG&flag=30>

U1450: <https://chess-results.com/tnr809640.aspx?lan=1&art=1&rd=5&fed=ENG&flag=30>

Alongside the congress there was a competition for the Yorkshire Champion, a title settled every year by the highest-scoring Yorkshire player in the Open section. Coming into the last round there were six players who could have won. In the end Joe Varley of Hull Chess Club was the outright winner on 3½/4, defeating Samuel Milsom in a long game (the second last to be finished).



Joe Varley receiving the Yorkshire Champion Trophy from congress organiser Stephen Greep

## Lancaster Standardplay Congress – 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> August by Richard Walsh

Lancaster hosted its first standardplay congress over the first weekend in August. It followed on from our first two rapidplay events, and we are now firmly on the ECF congress circuit. We are planning another rapidplay and standardplay in 2024 and to make the standardplay Open FIDE-rated.

We had a total of 97 entrants for the four sections: Open, Major, Intermediate and Minor, with £2,000 in prizes. It was held at Cumbria University in Bowerham, Lancaster, and we had excellent feedback on the venue and the congress organisation. As it was during the student holidays, we were able to offer players accommodation at only £30 per night which, although basic, was very popular. Brendan O’Gorman took pictures, and here are the winners:



Connor Clarke – Open



James McKiernan – Major



Paul Doherty – Intermediate



David Kilmartin – Minor

In addition, on Saturday evening we held an optional seven-round ECF-rated cash blitz tournament. 32 players took up the challenge, and we ran it at a fast pace, finishing in under two hours. All £320 cash was distributed in prizes. You can see more photos of the congress and information about Lancaster Chess Club on our website: [www.lancasterchessclub.co.uk](http://www.lancasterchessclub.co.uk)

We are considering duplicate score sheets for our next standard play event so we can post games, but in the meantime, I cannot leave without sharing this cracker.

### James McKiernan - Raymond Wyncarczyk

Lancaster Chess Congress, Major, 5th Round, 06082023

This was the final round of the Lancaster Congress and James McKiernan was on 4 points and Raymond was in joint second place with two wins and two draws. James only needed a draw to win outright, and Raymond offered one, which James refused. Commentary is by our local International Master Gediminas Sarakas and James himself.

**1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Bf4** The London system, fashionable in modern chess. It is interesting how it unfolds in this game.

**3...e6 4.e3 a6 5.Nbd2 Be7 6.Bd3 0-0 7. 0-0 Nbd7 8. c3 Re8** Black should have tried Nh5, trading a knight for a bishop with equal play.

**9. Re1 Nf8** Now Nh5 does not work due to the amazing **10.Bxh7+ Kxh7 11.Ne5**, with the double threat Qxh5+ and Nxf7.

**10. Ne5** Now White has a serious edge because of his attacking potential and the difference in activity of the light-squared bishops. A dream London set-up on the board!

**10...Ng6 11. Bg3 Bd6 12. f4 c5 13. h4 Bxe5?** Good opening play by White; after 13...Bxe5, Black's position is lost. Death on the dark squares should have resulted, but White was too hesitant... The remaining commentary is provided by James...

**14. fxe5 Ne4?** Allowing White to go a pawn up and remove a central pawn that was controlling central squares. The only move in the position was Nd7.

**15. Nxe4 dxe4 16. Bxe4 Nxh4?** Black had probably seen the potential of Qh5, but had noticed that the knight back would provide the cover needed; however, he had likely missed the opportunity for White to play Bxh7+.



**17. Bxh7+ Kxh7 18. Qh5+ Kg8 19. Bxh4 Qc7 20. Rf1 b5 21. Rf3 Bb7 22. Rg3?** White missed a forced five-move mating opportunity.

**22...Be4 23. Rh3??** Disaster for White, missing a forced checkmate in three moves and also now allowing Black to provide a key defensive piece to bolster the defence and bring the game back to almost parity.

**23..Bg6 24. Qg5 Qc6 25. Rf1? Qe4 26. Bg3 cd 27. ed Rf8 28. Kh2 Ra7 29. Rf4 f6?** The pressure of White's attack creates a significant weakness in Black's position and the end comes swiftly from here.

**30. ef gf 31. Qh4 Qc2 32. Qh8+ Kf7 33. Rf6+ 1-0**

## Record Seven Norms at Northumbria Masters by Tim Wall

By any measure, the 6th Northumbria Masters in Newcastle upon Tyne (24<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> August), was a resounding success. There were a record seven title norms scored in the GM and IM tournaments, and six different FIDE-rated tournaments with a total prize fund of over £6,000, catering for 150 players.

The standout performance was by Rajat Makkar, a 16-year-old pupil at Hampton School, London. Makkar played enterprising, attacking chess throughout, scoring an impressive 7½/9 in the GM Schiller tournament – a point above the GM norm. As he is still an FM, Makkar also scored an IM norm.

Heading up the IM tournament was 15-year-old Krzysztof Raczek (Poland) with 7½/9, a point over the IM norm. IM norms were also scored by Borna Derakhshani (21, England), Tanmay Chopra (19, Harrow), Edvin Trost (16, Sweden) and Freddy Waldhausen Gordon (13, Scotland).

The congress was generously supported by the ECF, the Chess Trust, the John Robinson Youth Chess Trust, Friends of Chess, the Northumberland Chess Association and the Northumbria Junior Chess Association. Thanks to sponsorship from former ECF publicity officer Mark Jordan, the norm achievers also shared a prize pool of £600.

The Masters (2000+ FIDE) with 28 players was won jointly by GMs Danny Gormally (Alnwick) and Gudmundur Kjartansson (Iceland) on 7/9. Other leading scores: 3<sup>rd</sup> Steven Jones (Basingstoke) 6½; 4<sup>th</sup> GM Keith Arkell (Torquay) 6.

The Challengers (Under 2000 FIDE) with 47 players was won by Owen Crawford (Derby) on 7/9, followed by Ran

Song (China), Jack Liu (Millfield School) and Edmond Andal (Philippines) on 6½.

The Major (Under 1800 FIDE), with 27 players, was won by Joel McBeath (Ashton) on 6½. The Minor (Under 1600 FIDE), with 25 players, was won by Lea Tang (Hong Kong) on 7/9. The Foundation (Under 1400 ECF), with 15 players, was won by Aaron Gifford (Newcastle) on 7½/10.

The congress was superbly controlled by IA Alan Atkinson, FA Paul McKeown and FA Satish Gaekwad.

Here is Rajat Makkar's typically swashbuckling last-round win against the top-seeded Chinese GM:

### FM Rajat Makkar – GM Pengxiang Zhang

**1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 c6 3.g3 d5 4.Bg2 dxc4 5.0-0 e6 6.Na3 b5 7.d3 cxd3 8.Ne5 Nd5 9.Nxd3 Be7 10.e4 Nb6 11.Be3 b4 12.Nc2 Ba6 13.Ncxb4 Bxb4 14.Nxb4 Bxf1 15.Qxf1 0-0 16.Rc1 Qd7 17.a4 Qb7 18.a5 N6d7 19.Qc4 Rc8 20.f4 Qc7 21.Qa2 Qd6 22.Qa4 e5 23.Bh3 Rd8 24.Rd1 Qc7 25.Kg2 Nf8 26.Rc1 exf4 27.gxf4 Ne6 28.e5 c5 29.Bg4 a6 30.Bf3 Ra7 31.Nd5 Qd7 32.Qe4 Nd4 33.Bxd4 cxd4 34.f5 Qe8 35.e6 fxe6 36.fxe6 Qg6+ 37.Qxg6 hxg6 38.e7 Re8 39.Bg4 Nd7 40.Be6+ Kh7 41.Bf7 Rxe7 42.Nxe7 Ne5 43.Bg8+ Kh6 44.Nd5 d3 45.Rd1 Rd7 46.Ne3 Rd4 47.b3 Re4 48.Nc4 Re2+ 49.Kg3 1-0**

# ECF Online

## Nigel Towers Reports on This Month's ECF Online Clubs and Tournaments

### ECF Online Clubs

The ECF Members Clubs are open to all ECF members and supporters on Chess.com or Lichess, and provide regular ECF online rated tournaments most days of the week, where you can get an ECF online rating, together with online internationals.

Chess.com ECF members Club (2,175 members):

<https://www.chess.com/club/english-chess-federation-members>

Lichess English Players Team (1,797 members):

<https://lichess.org/team/english-chess-players>

We also have an Open Club on Chess.com with over 6,000 members, with regular ECF tournaments and a chance to play for the ECF England team in the Live Chess World and European Leagues.

Chess.com ECF Club (6,500 members):

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

### Chess.com Internationals

We continue to field ECF Open Club teams in the Live Chess World and European Leagues, drawn from players in the ECF Open Club. Club members can register for events from an hour before each fixture and are allocated to boards depending on their Chess.com rating.

### LCWL Season 12

Season 12 of the LCWL is now underway, with our first match in Division 3W played against Team India on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> September. We managed to tie the match against Team India, with a 10-14 loss in the blitz followed by a 10-8 win in the rapid.

You can find the matches and games at the links here:

ECF vs Team India Blitz (10-14):

<https://www.chess.com/club/matches/live/english-chess-federation/2104355>

ECF vs Team India Rapid (10-8):

<https://www.chess.com/club/matches/live/english-chess-federation/2104354>

Our next match will be against Team China on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

### LCEL Season 8

Season 8 is now under way, with our first match scheduled against Team Hungary for Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September.

### Lichess Internationals / Team Battles

Lichess team battles also continue to be very popular with English Players team members. These provide an opportunity to take part in some of the biggest Lichess events, with team members paired in Arena format against players from opposing teams. The weekly schedule includes the Bundesliga on Sundays and Thursdays where we move between Liga 3 and Liga 5, the Liga Ibera on Sundays, and the Champions League on Tuesdays.

### ECF Online Grand Prix Series 2023

The Online Grand Prix series continues for 2023 with the full series of ten blitz and ten rapid events scheduled for the first and third Sundays of the month from January to October 2023, with the first four blitz and rapid events now completed. You can find further details and the 2023 entry form at the link here, together with the leaderboards after the first four events:

<https://www.englishchess.org.uk/ecf-online-grand-prix-2023/>

Blitz and rapid category leaders after eight and seven events respectively are as follows:

Blitz			
Open	Elis Dicen	90	Coventry Academy
Women	Elis Dicen	129	Coventry Academy
Seniors	John Sharp	119	Hemel Hempstead
Juniors	Elis Dicen	118	Coventry Academy
U2000	Elis Dicen	128	Coventry Academy
U1700	Caleb Caleshu	98	Plymouth
U1400	Oli Smith	136	Oxfordshire
U1100	Stefan Petrov	143	Wimbledon
Rapid			
Open	Alexander Cant	83	
Women	Caroline Robson	112	Blackthorne Russia
Seniors	Alan Greg	140	USA
Juniors	Alexander Cant	89	
U2000	Alan Greg	110	USA
U1700	Alexander Cant	108	
U1400	Oli Smith	123	

























































































































U1100	John Chandler	95	
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## ECF Online Juniors

The ECF Junior director organised an U18 match between England and Australia which was played on Tornelo in September over two legs with colours reversed.

The match was extremely close with the England team just losing out by 11½ to 12½.

#M	↑	White team	Flag	Rtg	Clock	Result	Clock	Rtg	Flag	Black team	No
1		Australia		1642		6 - 6		1853		England	553
#B		White player	Flag	Rtg	Clock	Result	Clock	Rtg	Flag	Black player	No
1.1		  Yihe Fu		2044	4:22	1 - 0	0:16	2169		 Mohammed Aayan Ismail	56
1.2		  Chao Xin Cheng		1775	0:46	½ - ½	0:13	1746		 Alisha Vyas	75
1.3		  Benjamin Leong		1847	2:39	1 - 0	0:46	1944		 Nishchal Thatte	50
1.4		  Chloe Fan		1782	2:13	½ - ½	1:41	2021		  Nina Pert	32
1.5		 Harvey Zhu		1770	4:15	0 - 1	5:00	2053		 Jude Shearsby	34
1.6		 Elaina Qiang		1456	0:20	0 - 1	5:37	1962		 Elis Denele Diden	34
1.7		  Yifei Hu		1920	15:09	1 - 0	10:26	1827		 Billy Fellowes	29
1.8		 Deethya Sai Katakam		1423	9:58	0 - 1	12:03	1830		 Ruqayyah Rida	68
1.9		 Rheyansh Reddy Annapureddy		1825	14:11	1 - 0	4:45	1799		 Oleg Verbytski	46
1.10		 Stephanie Yuan		1308	3:04	1 - 0	1:17	1112		 Amy Ba	66
1.11		 Terrence Li		1554	0:00	0 - 1	14:29	1949		 Kushal Jakhria	28
1.12		 Bayes Cai		1002	7:26	0 - 1	13:36	1834		  Bodhana Sivanandan	35

#M	↑	White team	Flag	Rtg	Clock	Result	Clock	Rtg	Flag	Black team	No
1		England		1853		5.5 - 6.5		1642		Australia	628
#B		White player	Flag	Rtg	Clock	Result	Clock	Rtg	Flag	Black player	No
1.1		 Mohammed Aayan Ismail		2169	1:50	½ - ½	6:05	2044		  Yihe Fu	42
1.2		 Alisha Vyas		1746	1:57	1 - 0	0:20	1775		  Chao Xin Cheng	83
1.3		 Nishchal Thatte		1944	7:41	1 - 0	9:58	1847		  Benjamin Leong	39
1.4		  Nina Pert		2021	1:33	½ - ½	0:29	1782		  Chloe Fan	44
1.5		 Jude Shearsby		2053	3:26	0 - 1	1:13	1770		 Harvey Zhu	39
1.6		 Elis Denele Diden		1962	2:43	0 - 1	4:27	1456		 Elaina Qiang	65
1.7		 Billy Fellowes		1827	7:30	0 - 1	5:21	1920		  Yifei Hu	36
1.8		 Ruqayyah Rida		1830	3:35	½ - ½	2:41	1423		 Deethya Sai Katakam	66
1.9		 Oleg Verbytski		1799	5:30	0 - 1	17:09	1825		 Rheyansh Reddy Annapureddy	84
1.10		 Amy Ba		1112	0:00	0 - 1	2:34	1308		 Stephanie Yuan	41
1.11		 Kushal Jakhria		1949	15:27	1 - 0	7:39	1554		 Terrence Li	37
1.12		  Bodhana Sivanandan		1834	13:31	1 - 0	12:41	1002		 Bayes Cai	52

## FEATURES

# Great British Chess Players by John Nunn



Harry Golombek (1911-1995)



Harry Golombek was born in London on 1<sup>st</sup> March 1911 to Polish-Jewish parents. During the Second World War he worked, as did Alexander, in the codebreaking centre at Bletchley Park, but after the war he decided to pursue a career in chess and won the British Championship three times, in 1947, 1949 and 1955. He came close to a fourth title in 1959, but lost out to Penrose in a three-way play-off. Golombek represented England in nine Olympiads stretching from 1935 to 1962, and took part in many international tournaments. He was awarded the International Master title in 1950 and an Honorary Grandmaster title in 1985. Looking at Golombek's tournament results they may not appear especially impressive, but by the standards of English chess at the time they were not bad. He came joint fourth at Venice 1949, ahead of Gligoric and Tartakower, and was the first

British player (along with Bob Wade) to qualify for an Interzonal (4½ /20 at Saltsjöbaden 1952).

Golombek's playing career formed only part of his chess activities. He served for decades on FIDE's rules commission and was also a respected arbiter, officiating at high-profile events such as the 1963 World Championship match. However, Golombek is probably best remembered for his contributions to chess literature. He was chess correspondent of *The Times* from 1945 to 1985, worked in various capacities for the *British Chess Magazine*, and translated several books into English at a time when high-quality English-language chess literature was rare. He also wrote more than a dozen books himself. One of the first chess books I read cover to cover was his *Capablanca's Hundred Best Games of Chess* (1947), which I borrowed from the LCC (London County Council) library at County Hall, where my father worked. Some might reasonably say that not much of Capablanca's style has stayed with me. Golombek was gifted with a witty and engaging style, which makes many of his contributions to the *British Chess Magazine* highly entertaining. Without wishing to diminish his contributions to British chess literature, his writings do display a tendency, not unknown to chess authors, to mention himself excessively. One example of this occurs in *The Art of the Middle Game* by Kotov and Keres (a very good book, incidentally, especially the sections by Keres), which Golombek translated into English. He decided to add an introductory chapter which includes four additional games, not given in the original Russian, all of them wins by H. Golombek. In this respect I should mention, in case anyone missed it, that Golombek won the London Boys' Championship in 1929.

Golombek played mainly 1.d4 or 1.c4, favouring the Catalan against ...d5 and Fianchetto or Saemisch structures against the King's Indian. With Black his repertoire was less flexible, and he played the Caro-Kann and Nimzo-Indian throughout his career. The strongest part of his game was in defence and counter-attack; the following encounter shows his skill against a world-class opponent.

**Miguel Najdorf - Harry Golombek**  
Margate 1939  
Nimzo-Indian Defence

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2**

The so-called Capablanca variation, which aims to play a3 without conceding doubled pawns.

**4...c5**

In the other main line, 4...0-0 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.Qxc3 b6, Black plays for a lead in development to compensate for the bishop pair.

#### 5.dxc5 Nc6

These days Black more often continues 5...0-0 6.a3 Bxc5 7.Nf3 b6.

#### 6.Nf3 Bxc5 7.Bg5 Nd4

Playing for exchanges. The more complex 7...h6 8.Bh4 0-0 9.e3 b6 10.Be2 Bb7 is also possible.

#### 8.Nxd4 Bxd4 9.e3

9.Nb5 seems too double-edged for most people's taste. Then the sharp 9...Bxf2+ 10.Kxf2 Ng4+ 11.Ke1 Qxg5 12.Nc7+ Ke7 13.Nxa8 d6 leads to unclear play, while 9...Be5 is a safer alternative.

#### 9...Qa5 10.exd4 Qxg5

The simplification hasn't fully equalised, since Black finds it hard to get the c8-bishop into play.

#### 11.Bd3?!

This risky move can't be recommended. White can secure a slight advantage by either 11.Qd2 Qxd2+ 12.Kxd2 b6 13.b4 Bb7 14.f3 or 11.g3 0-0 12.Bg2 Rb8 13.0-0 b6 14.d5.



#### 11...0-0

Golombek prefers not to grab the g-pawn against a dangerous attacking player such as Najdorf, but not taking it effectively hands the initiative to White. Objectively speaking, 11...Qxg2 12.0-0-0 Qg5+ 13.Kb1 Qh4 doesn't give White enough for the pawn.

#### 12.0-0 d5 13.cxd5?!

Releasing the c8-bishop doesn't make the most of White's advantage. The natural 13.c5 Qf4 14.Rad1 looks unpleasant for Black.

#### 13...exd5 14.f4 Qh6 15.Rae1

The e5-square is an attractive outpost for this rook, but it's not easy to see a concrete plan for White after it arrives there.

#### 15...Bd7 16.h3 Bc6 17.Re5 Rfe8

At some stage Black will have to play ...Nd7 to drive the rook away from e5. The problem is that if Black delays this too long White can simply leave the rook on e5 and offer an exchange sacrifice. Hence I think it would have been better to play 17...Nd7 18.Rg5 Nf6, intending ...Rfe8, before White strengthens his position further.

#### 18.Qe2 g6

It looks as though 18...Kf8 19.Qf2 Nd7 forces the rook away, but after 20.Nd1! Nxe5 21.fxe5 Kg8 22.Ne3 White has a huge attack for the exchange.

#### 19.Qf3 Qg7 20.Rfe1

20.b4! a6 21.a4 was stronger, since then 21...Nd7 22.b5! Nxe5 23.fxe5 axb5 24.axb5 Bd7 25.Nxd5 is very good for White.

#### 20...Red8

A necessary prelude to ...Nd7.

#### 21.Qf2 Nd7 22.Re7 Nf8?!

Too passive. 22...Nf6 was better, since Black needs to be able to meet f5 by ...g5, and this is impossible if the knight is not covering f6.

#### 23.f5! Qf6





Or else f6 is crushing.

#### 24.R7e5?!

24.R1e3! was very strong, because 24...Ne6 (or 24...g5 25.Ne2, followed by Ng3-h5) 25.fxg6! Qxe7 26.gxf7+ Qxf7 27.Rg3+ Kf8 28.Rf3 wins for White.

#### 24...Kg7 25.Qg3 Nd7?!

Up to here Najdorf has played well to secure a decisive advantage, but his failure to press his advantage home over the next few moves gives Black the opportunity to wriggle out of his difficulties.

#### 26.Ne2?

Missing 26.fxg6! hxg6 27.Rf5! Qxd4+ 28.Kh2 Nf6 (28...Re8 29.Rxf7+) 29.Ref1 with a decisive attack.

#### 26...Kh8

So that f6 does not come with check.

#### 27.Nf4?

27.fxg6! Nxe5 28.dxe5 Qg7 29.gxf7 Qxf7 30.Qh4, with threats of e6 or Nf4, would still have won.

#### 27...Nxe5

Accepting the sacrifice is now the best chance.

#### 28.dxe5 Qg7

White still has some advantage, but he is material down and must play accurately to prove his compensation.

#### 29.f6?!

29.e6! was better, but this was far from obvious.

#### 29...Qh6 30.h4 Bd7!



Golombek is making the most of his new-found chances and switches his bishop to a better diagonal.

#### 31.Qe3

31.Nxd5 Bf5 32.Bc4 Be6 forces a piece exchange which relieves much of the pressure on Black's position.

#### 31...d4?!

Just as at move 11, Golombek is overly cautious. He could have simply grabbed the pawn by 31...Qxh4, after which Black is close to winning, since 32.g3 Qg4 33.Be2 Qg5 is safe for Black.

#### 32.Qg3 Rg8 33.Nd5 g5!

Black unexpectedly seizes the initiative on the kingside.

#### 34.h5 g4!

Clearing space for a possible ...Rg5.

#### 35.Nf4 Bc6?

35...Rac8, preventing Bc4, would have given Black a large advantage.

#### 36.Bc4!

Now Black has a problem with his f7-pawn and must play a defensive move.

#### 36...Rgf8 37.Qxg4?

This natural move is a serious mistake, since it opens the g-file leading to the sensitive g2-square. Instead, the unexpected manoeuvre 37.Qf2! Rad8 38.Qd2!, threatening to win Black's queen by Ng6+, would have given White a clear advantage, but this was certainly hard to see.

#### 37...Rg8 38.Qh4

38.Qf5 Rg5 39.Qh3 Bxg2! 40.Nxg2 Rxh5 followed by ...Rg8 is winning for Black.

#### 38...Bf3!



The deadly threat of ...Rg4 means that Black no longer needs to worry about the f7-pawn.

**39.Bd5 Rg4 40.Qf2 Bxd5 41.Nxd5 Rag8**

The counterattack is in full swing and White has no satisfactory defence to the g-file threats.

**42.Ne7 Rxd2+ 43.Qxd2 Rxd2+ 44.Kxd2 d3 45.Re4 Qxd5 46.Rc4 Qe2+ 47.Kh3 h5**

Relieving the back rank mate possibility.

**48.Rc8+ Kh7 49.Rg8**

Hoping for perpetual check, but Golombek finishes accurately.

**49...Qf3+ 50.Kh2 Qf4+ 51.Kg2 Qe4+ 52.Kf2 Kh6 53.Rg7 h4 0-1**

## Book of the Month by Ben Graff



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

I hope all our readers had a great summer, whether you were battling it out at the British Championships or elsewhere, or simply taking time away from the board to recharge your batteries. I very much enjoyed playing in Leicester, and you can read more about my experiences in the September issue of *Chess*. Hats off to Kevin, Nigel, Adrian and everyone else involved for staging such a great event.

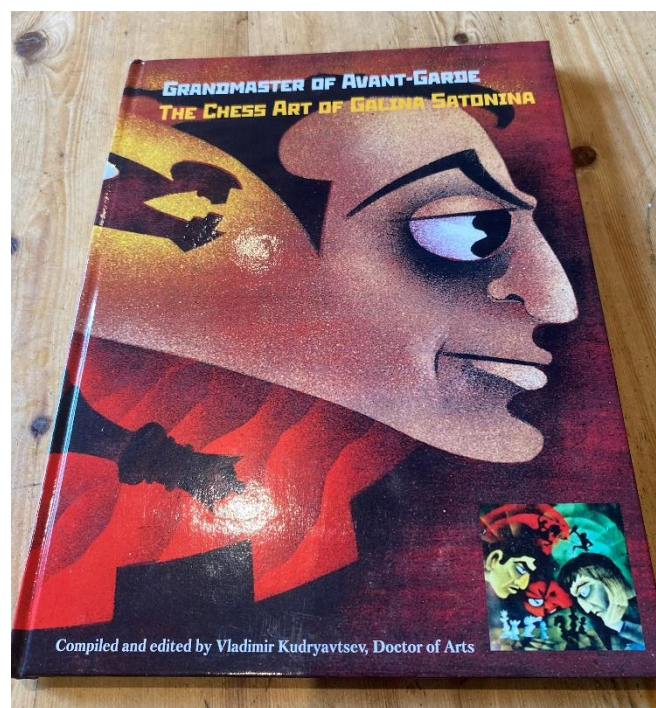
I have also managed to catch up on some reading, and am delighted to restart this column now that the autumn is upon us. Next month I will be reviewing Andrew Smith's *Off The Board Chess*, which I spied at the bookstall at the British Championships and subsequently devoured. This month we start with a review of *The Chess Art of Galina Satonina*. It's a beautiful and intriguing book, and a worthy tribute to a true artist and chess player.

### ***Grandmaster of Avant-Garde - The Chess Art of Galina Satonina***

**Compiled and edited by Vladimir Kudryavtsev (Elk and Ruby)**

*'Our entire life, like a chess game, consists of attacks, defences, struggle, losses and wins.'*

Galina Satonina



Vladimir Kramnik wrote, 'For me art and chess are closely related, both are forms in which the self finds beauty and expression.' Another world champion, Alexander Alekhine remarked in similar vein, 'I consider chess an art and accept all those responsibilities which art places upon its devotees.' I have long thought that players at all levels share these sentiments. It must in part be the imagery of the board that draws people to the game, the beauty of

the near unfathomable patterns the thirty-two chessmen and sixty-four squares can conjure up, which are destined always to be both familiar yet fresh. There is always something new to see and appreciate every time we look at the board - an intricacy previously unappreciated, a combination both irrefutable yet somehow mysterious, a perfect alloy of complexity and chaos that would mean nothing to the non-player, but form a secret world only we chess players can see. It is little wonder that chess has inspired so many actual artists to pick up a brush, and to attempt to convey on paper and canvas something of what we feel when we sit at the chess table.

In the vanguard of these creators, we must rank Galina Satonina, who, the author notes, '...dedicated her long and eventful life to fine art, chess and poetry.' Vladimir Kudryavtsev's book is a fitting tribute to the legacy and work of a remarkable woman.

Galina Satonina's long life stretched between 1905 and 2000, making her a true witness to the twentieth century. One of ten children, she grew up in poverty, but in a household where chess was played, paint was available and a rented piano was in frequent use. A gifted student, she saw her fair share of tragedy. A brother was arrested in 1930 for 'organizing an illegal political and philosophical circle' and sentenced to three years in a labour camp. He would be rearrested again in 1938 as an 'enemy of the people.' Two other brothers died in 1935 and she lost her mother and another brother in the 1940s. She was known for her use of grey, and Kudryavtsev notes, 'Life's hardships brought a lot of dark shades to her artistic palette.'

Yet if this gives the sense that Satonina's art is somehow depressing, that would be to give entirely the wrong impression. The 124 beautifully presented pictures shared within this book, all of which are in colour, are the most captivating I have ever seen. Ranging through themes such as checkmate, time-trouble, the chess pieces, and images of famous players from Morphy through to Kasparov, they are a tribute to an artist who had a way of seeing that was truly unique.

It is little wonder that Galina's work was much admired in her lifetime and has made its way into the collections of many leading players, including Kasparov and Karpov. Tal was a particular fan and, after studying her pictures at an exhibition during the Spassky-Petrosian world title match, he sent her his photograph with the following message: 'To the respected master of the paintbrush and chess Galina Ivanova Satonina with sincere admiration.' This was not even the first time Galina's work had been shown at a world championship contest. An impromptu exhibition also took place in the press centre during the Botvinnik-

Smyslov match, and her work formed part of 150 exhibitions.

Despite starting to play competitively only at thirty-one, Galina became Kazan's Women's Champion on five occasions and the Tartar Women's Champion an incredible thirteen times. Undoubtedly the fact that she was a true chess player has informed her art. As a Soviet era news agency put it in 1966, 'I think that Galina Satonina's chess prints can rightfully be called small dramas and tragedies of a big chess life.' She was also a renowned arbiter, swimmer, hockey player and speed skater in her time; undoubtedly a life well lived.

Two of my favourite Satonina pictures are *Time Trouble* and *Fischer In America's grip*. In the former, a white king stares in horror at a menacing red clock, with its flag on the brink of falling, perfectly conveying that feeling of paralysis we have all known, when action is desperately needed but the walls are closing in. The Fischer picture, painted in 1982, shows 'Fischer with a chess crown on one side, and skyscrapers and the Statue of Liberty on the other, as symbols of America. Sadness, grief and melancholy in the champion's gaze highlight his life as it seemed at the time.' As Kudryavtsev notes, Satonina was prophetic in foreseeing that America would ultimately reject Fischer altogether. No doubt all readers will find their own favourites within this exquisite collection.

This is a lovely coffee-table book, filled with beautiful art and the fascinating story of an artist and chess player who deserves to always be remembered. Kudryavtsev has done a fine job, and this work should be of interest to any player who wants to see visual representations of what it feels like to be a chess player. It would also make a terrific Christmas or birthday present. If you haven't previously heard of Galina Satonina, remember the name, and take the time to look at her art. It is worthy of the same immortal status as the finest of chess games.

## Endgames All Club Players Should Know by Glenn Flear

Over the coming months I'll be discussing a number of endgame techniques that are worth getting to know. As you may have noticed, the title of the series even goes further i.e. *Should Know!* So if you are feeling guilty about your lack of endgame knowledge, or just want to polish up your technique, then I suggest that you look out for my articles over the coming months in *ChessMoves*.

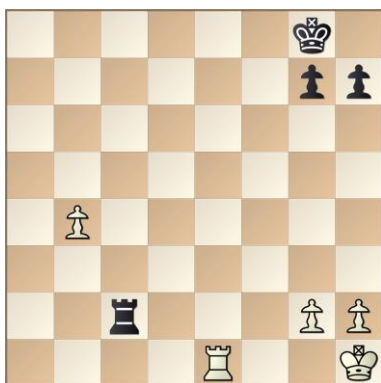


## Lucena and More

Anyone who has ever opened an endgame book and turned to the chapter on rook endgames will have come across the term 'Lucena'. It doesn't always mean exactly the same thing to everyone, but I consider it to be a set of positions (usually in the case of rook and pawn vs rook) where the weaker side has the king cut off. The stronger side exploits this fact by 'building a bridge for his king' to enable the promotion of the pawn in peace.

Many of you will already know the basic technique, but in my experience it's often the play leading up to Lucena that confuses the student. So it's worth looking at the thinking behind the moves in this stage. Let's start with a classic game.

**Botvinnik, Mikhail Moisevich - Boleslavsky, Isaak**  
URS-ch Absolute Leningrad/Moscow (11), 11.04.1941



**34.Rb1!** It's important to place the rook behind the passed pawn.

Instead 34.h3?! is insufficient, as after 34...Rb2! (now it's Black who can place his rook behind the passer, and this boosts his chances of saving himself) 35.Re4 Kf7 36.Kh2 Kf6 37.Kg3 h5 38.Kf3 g6 it will be difficult for White to make progress without taking risks.

**34...Kf7 35.b5** With the support of the rook 'urging on' the pawn, White seizes the initiative. In consequence, Black will be obliged to go passive with his rook.

**35...Ke6 36.b6 Rc8 37.h3!** Now it's time to bring the king into the fray.

Some care (and calculation!) is required, as 37.b7? turns out to be an error: 37...Rb8 38.h3 Kd6 39.Kh2 Kc6 40.Kg3 Rxb7 41.Rxb7 Kxb7 42.Kf4 Kc6 43.Ke5 Kd7 and White is unable to penetrate.

**37...Rb8 38.Kh2 Kd5 39.Kg3 Kc6 40.Kg4 Kb7** The king blocks the pawn and now the rook is ready to be freed for other duties.

If 40...Rxb6 then the pawn endgame is lost: 41.Rxb6+ Kxb6 42.Kf5 Kc7 43.Ke6 and then Kf7 etc.

**41.Re1!** Time to switch tasks, with the threat of Re7+ again forcing Black's rook to take up a passive pose. It's often the case that once a rook has done its job (here, tying the opposing rook down, which was the case, but not any more!), then the role needs to be changed.

**41...Rg8** Naturally, the pawn endgame resulting from 41...Kxb6 42.Rb1+ leads to the same issue as in the earlier note.

**42.Re6** Here the rook defends the b-pawn from the side and handily ties down both of Black's pieces.

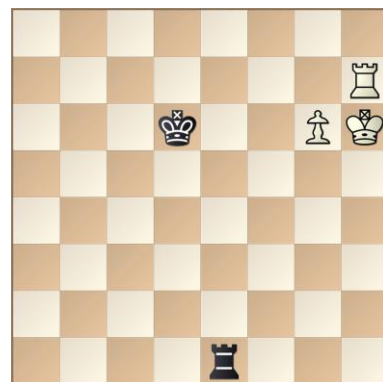
**42...Ka6 43.Kg5** Black can only wait while White makes slow but sure progress.

**43...Kb7 44.h4 Ka6 45.h5 Kb7 46.g4 Ka6 47.Kh4!** The idea is to 'soften up' the kingside defences with h5-h6, but not allowing Black to capture on h6 with check.

**47...Kb7 48.h6 gxh6 49.Rxh6 Rg7 50.Kh5 Ka6 51.Rc6!** Now the threat is Rc7.

**51...Re7 52.Rc7 Re5+ 53.g5 Kxb6 54.Rxh7** Finally, we arrive at 'rook and pawn versus rook' with Black's king woefully distant. Lucena is now inevitable.

**54...Kc6 55.Kh6 Kd6 56.g6 Re1**



**57.Rf7!** Ensuring that Black's king is definitively cut off.

**57...Ke6 58.Rf2** With Black's king out of the frame, White can make progress without any serious hassle.

**58...Ra1 59.g7 Rh1+ 60.Kg6 Rg1+ 61.Kh7 Rh1+ 62.Kg8 Ke7** We have arrived at the classic Lucena scenario.

**63.Re2+ Kd7** In the case of 63...Kf6 simply 64.Kf8 and the king is sheltered by the opposing monarch.

**64.Re4!** A key move. The rook is 'improved' with an important idea in mind: White's king will soon require shelter from Black's checks and this prepares a shield.

**64...Rh2 65.Kf7** Following 65.Kf7 Rf2+ 66.Kg6 Rg2+ 67.Kf6 Rf2+ the checks soon run out, and if instead:

a) 67...Rg1 just temporising, then the rook can be used to interpose on the g-file with 68.Re5 Rg2 69.Rg5;

b) 67...Kd6 68.Rd4+ Kc7 (or 68...Kc5 69.Rd8 Rf2+ 70.Ke6) 69.Rd5 Rg1 70.Rg5 etc.;

68.Kg5 Rg2+ 69.Rg4 the shield is in place and the pawn will be able to promote. This is sometimes referred to as 'building a bridge'.

**1-0**

Here is an example of one of my games that I hope you will find instructive.

**Flear, Glenn C (2460) - Bruk, Otto**  
Oakham YM Oakham (2), 29.03.1988

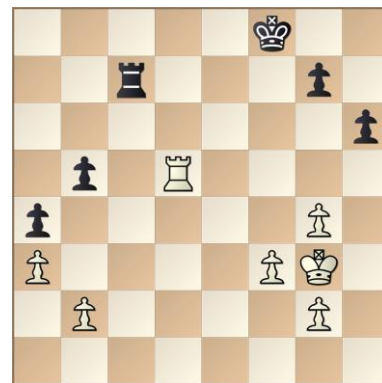


White has emerged from the middlegame with an extra pawn, but with Black's pieces quite well placed the result remains in doubt.

**45...Ke6 46.Bf8 Rc7 47.Re2+ Kf7 48.Re5** Such jostling involves activating one's own pieces and limiting the effectiveness of the opponent's.

**48...Kxf8** If 48...Rd7 then 49.Bc5 and the bishop can be brought to d4, where it has influence in all directions. So my opponent decided to try the rook endgame.

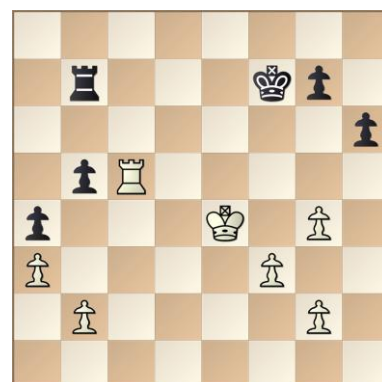
**49.Rxd5**



Rook endgames have a reputation of being drawish, but here I consider White to have good winning chances. My reasoning is that White's rook is more active than its black counterpart, which is often a key element in assessing the chances of success. You may have already noticed that Black has little choice but to stay passive and defend the b-pawn.

**49...Rb7 50.Kf4** The king is brought into the action, which is easier to do when the opponent doesn't have any threats.

**50...Ke7 51.Kf5 Rb6 52.Re5+ Kf7 53.Rc5 Rb7 54.Ke4**



In those cases where one side can only 'wait and see', the opponent can take his time before committing himself. So after a few probing moves the plan finally takes shape: The white king threatens to make the journey to b4 to help pick off the opposing queenside, so my opponent decides that he has 'to do something' after all.

**54...b4 55.Ra5** The a4-pawn is going to drop, but now Black is able to generate some counterplay against the kingside.

**55...bxa3 56.bxa3 Rb2 57.g3 Re2+ 58.Kd3** Sometimes the choice between two or more good lines comes down to a question of which 'feels the most comfortable'. 58.Kf4 should also be decisive, but at the time I no doubt decided that 58...g5+ 59.Kf5 Re3 looked messy. However, if one



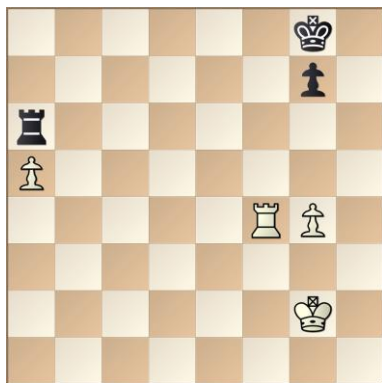
goes further: 60.Ra7+! Kf8 61.Rxa4 Rxf3+ 62.Kg6 and White will win a second pawn.

**58...Rg2 59.Ke3 Rxb3 60.Kf2 Rh3 61.Kg2 Rh4** Chasing the opposing rook to a sidelined square gives White the time not just to win the a-pawn, but prepare its advance.

**62.Rxa4 h5** Some freedom is required.

**63.Rf4+ Kg8 64.a4!** The most natural is to get the a-pawn going.

**64...hxb4 65.fxb4 Rh6 66.a5 Ra6**



The black rook has been 'freed' from its cage, but (alas, for my opponent!) only for a defensive task.

**67.Ra4!** The rook goes behind the passed pawn, which denies the opposing rook any freedom of movement.

**67...Kf7 68.Kf3 Ke6 69.Ke4 g6 70.Kf4 Kf6 71.Ra1** White temporises and Black finds himself in Zugzwang.

**71...Ke6 71...g5+ 72.Ke4 Ke6 73.Ra2** would also leave Black with no good moves. Whichever way the black king goes, the white king heads in the opposite direction. **73...Kf6 (73...Kd6 74.Kf5) 74.Kd5.**

**72.Kg5 Kf7 73.Kh6** Penetrating into the opposing camp and making the g6-pawn into a target.

**73...Kg8 74.g5 Kf7 75.Kh7** Maximising progress before calling on the assistance of the rook.

**75...Kf8 76.Rf1+** Switching flanks in order to eliminate the g6-pawn. The timing of this manoeuvre can require a little calculation, but here, with the preparations on the kingside well under way, it soon becomes clear that victory is close.

**76...Ke7 77.Rf6 Rxa5 78.Kxg6** We have a fledgling Lucena with Black's king cut off and no prospect of annoying checks against the white king.

**78...Rb5 79.Rf1** In general, I like to move my rook well away from the opponent's king, just to avoid any unfortunate tricks.

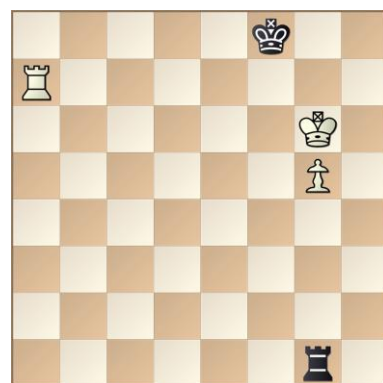
**79...Rb2 80.Kg7** The white king and pawn shuffle down the board towards the promotion square.

**80...Rg2 81.g6 Rh2 82.Kg8 Rg2 83.g7 Rh2** Now for the standard technique.

**84.Re1+ Kd7 85.Re4! Rh3 86.Kf7 Rf3+ 87.Kg6 Rg3+ 88.Kf6** Feeling at ease with this manner of converting an advantage will bring any club player a number of points in their future chess games. It will also enable them to be confident about steering many an advantageous rook endgame towards this scenario.

**1-0**

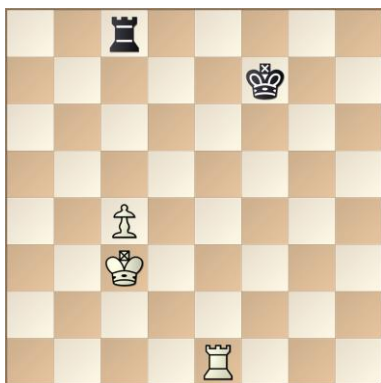
**IE 1**



Would you know how to win this position? It's not that easy if you've not seen the idea before or don't suddenly get inspired! When I show this exercise to students who are of club player strength some of them take a long time to work out the win, and often do so by eliminating all reasonable alternative winning tries. Clearly in a practical game, with limited time available, there is a fair chance that they wouldn't convert their advantage. How long have you taken so far? Imagine that the clock is ticking away... Here's the reasoning that leads to the solution: White clearly needs to protect the pawn while it's on g5 and would like to advance it further, but after

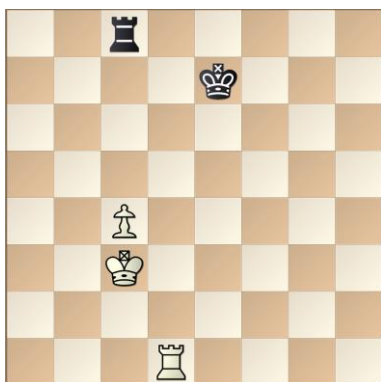
**1.Ra8+ Ke7 2.Kh6 Kf7!** there isn't enough control of the g6-square. So, in order to make progress from the initial position, a firm control of both g5 and g6 is required. Does this help? The answer follows at the end of the article.

## IE 2



With the black king cut off by so much there is little he can do to stop the opponent making progress. White doesn't even need to be that precise here, but he still needs a coherent plan; see the next example.

## IE 3



White to play wins, but this time he needs to find the right idea straightaway.

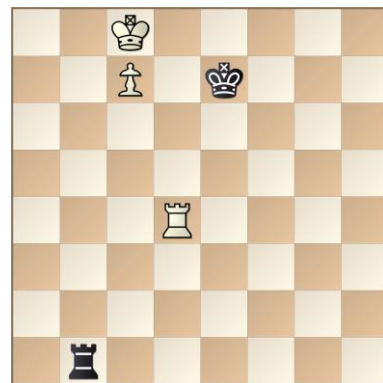
**1.Kb4!** The first mini-plan is for the king to make as much progress up the board as possible (noting that c4–c5 is now threatened).

**1...Rb8+ 2.Ka5 Rc8 3.Kb5 Rb8+ 4.Ka6 Rc8** Now the white king cannot go any further (as yet) due to the threat against the c-pawn. So the rook is required to help out.

**5.Rd4 Ke6 6.Kb7 Rc5 7.Kb6 Rc8** and finally the pawn can advance.

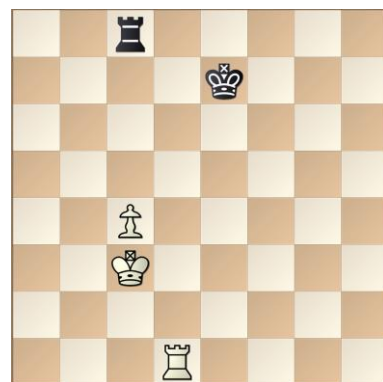
**8.c5** and Black's rook is helpless to stop White's pawn advancing further. You may already recognise that 'Lucena' is not far away.

**8...Rb8+ 9.Kc7 Rb1 10.c6 Ke7 11.Kc8 Rb2 12.c7 Rb1**



Finally, we arrive at Lucena, when **13.Re4+ Kf7 14.Kd7** wins straightaway as the rook is already conveniently placed on the fourth rank. So many advantageous rook endgames involve the stronger side preparing the ground for Lucena and, if circumstances allow, the defender trying to avoid it.

## IE 4



Black to play draws in more than one manner, but he can employ a nice idea that I first saw in a Bobby Fischer game. Here he could opt for **1...Rb8** to stop the opposing king advancing, as in the previous example (where White had the move). However, a handy technique to know is that **1...Rd8!** is good. OK, as a general rule, it's a little dangerous to exchange into a pure king and pawn endgame when a pawn down, that is unless you are confident about your calculations, or you really know what you are doing! However, if such an idea does indeed work, then it simplifies the defence a great deal. Here the key point is that

**2.Rxd8 2.Rh1 Kd7 3.Rh7+ Kc8 4.Kb4 Rd6** leads to a straightforward draw. More on such positions soon!

**2...Kxd8 3.Kd4** might seem to give White the opposition, but after the resource

**3...Kc8!** it's actually Black who seizes the opposition when it matters (i.e. when White's king is in front of the pawn and not yet on the sixth rank). So

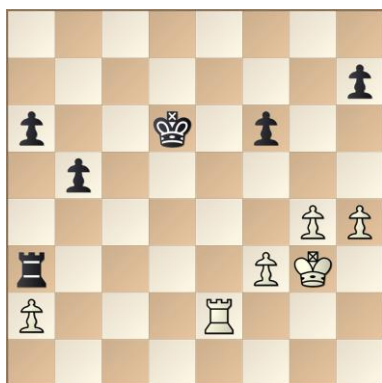


**4.Kd5 Kd7 5.Kc5 Kc7 6.Kb5 Kb7 7.c5 Kc7 8.c6 Kc8** is a standard draw.

**Gozzoli, Y. (2564) - Edouard, R. (2514)**

96th ch-FRA 2023 L'Alpe d'Huez FRA (4.2), 26.08.2023

Here's a more recent example of Lucena occurring. I was recently following what proved to be the decisive game from this summer's French Mixed Championships, which it might surprise UK readers to know has a knock-out format.



Romain Edouard had recently seen his advantage slip away, and he now has to be very careful not to find himself in difficulties, as Gozzoli's kingside play is beginning to become dangerous.

**35.g5! fxg5 36.hxg5 b4 37.Kg4 a5 38.f4 b3?! Not the best way to create a passed pawn.**

With 38...a4 39.f5 Rc3 (activating the rook) 40.Re6+ Kd5! 41.Rb6 b3 it seems that Black has enough counter chances.

**39.axb3 Rxb3 40.Re5 Rb7? The wrong way to give up the pawn.**

Going behind seems to be better: 40...Rb1! 41.Rxa5 Ke6 42.Ra7 Rg1+ with plenty of harassment in view. Instead, defending the passed pawn might seem natural, but it's too slow: 40...Ra3 41.Kf5 a4 42.Ra5 Ra1 43.Ra6+ Kc5 44.Rh6 a3 45.Rxh7 a2 46.Ra7 and Black is helpless while White calmly advances his majority.

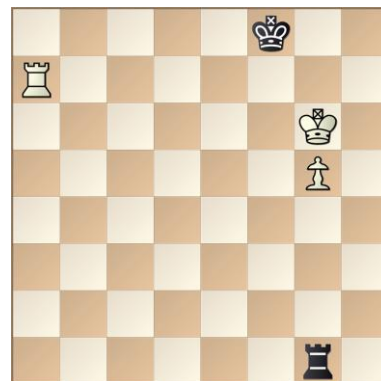
**41.Rxa5 Ke6 42.Kh5!** The king can't be stopped from getting to h6, whereas Black's monarch is unable to contribute to the defensive effort.

**42...Rb4 43.Kh6** Simplest, as the remaining pawn is sufficient for White to be victorious.

**43...Rxf4 44.Kxh7 Rh4+ 45.Kg7 Rb4 46.g6** Clearly, with Black's king cut off from the g-pawn, White will soon be able to win using the Lucena technique.

**1-0**

**IE 1 answer**



The only way to bolster control of both the g5 and g6 squares is with

**1.Ra8+ Ke7 2.Rg8!** White intends either Kh7 or Kg7 depending on the position of Black's rook.

(rather than 2.Kh6?! Kf7! and White will have to try again.)

**2...Rh1 2...Rg2 3.Kh7 Rh2+ 4.Kg7 Rg2 5.g6** comes to the same thing.

**3.Kg7 Rg1 4.g6 Rg2** Now that the pawn has been successfully advanced from the fifth rank to the sixth, White needs to redeploy his rook, which has done its job on g8 but is now getting in the way.

**5.Ra8 Rg1 6.Kh7 Rh1+ 7.Kg8 Rh2 8.g7 Rh1** You might recognise something familiar already.

**9.Ra2 Rh3 10.Re2+ Kd7 11.Re4!** and the victorious king walk follows.

Each month I will be finishing off my articles with some general thoughts. Hopefully, you might find these pointers useful in similar situations in your own games. Here are a few that seem relevant to this particular article.

1. The relative activity of the rooks is important for assessing the likely outcome.

2. More often than not, the rook's optimal position is behind a passed pawn (for the attack or defence).

3. The attacking king needs some sort of shelter from harassing checks.

4. In endgames in general, there are periods where 'keeping control' and 'restricting the opponent's options' is the best approach. However, there will be moments where precise calculation is required, especially if a radical change (such as an exchange or a race) is in mind.

5. Formulating plans is an important task in all phases of the game and, just as in the middlegame, often a series of mini-plans (each of which has a certain aim in mind) can be more relevant than a long-term plan. The penultimate mini-plan that we have observed this time is 'setting up Lucena' with the final mini-plan being to convert the advantage using the Lucena technique.

## Readers' Games

### by Andrew Martin

Winter, K. - Cawston, J.  
Bolton Major (3), 19.08.2023

Kevin Winter is one of the most active amateur players in the UK. He travels extensively, playing in tournaments all over the country, and seems to have a fabulous time, enjoying the company of friends as he goes. Kevin is a true chess lover. So *ChessMoves* was delighted when he sent in one of his recent games for analysis.

**1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 a6!? 3.g3** The move ...a7-a6 is not supposed to be effective against a Closed Sicilian formation.

**3...b5 4.Bg2 Bb7 5.Nge2 e6 6.0-0 Ne7** I guess Black could play 6...b4, hoping to disrupt White's development, when peculiar positions arise after both 7 Na4 and 7 Nb1, which do not seem that bad for Black. 7.Na4 (7.Nb1 Nf6 8.d3 d5) 7...Nf6 8.d3 d6 9.a3.

**7.Re1** This looks as though it is geared towards dissuading Black from playing ...d7-d5, but he is not to be stopped. Black fails to realise that opening up the game too soon may result in his king getting stuck in the centre. It is often the case that in Closed Sicilian or Anti-Sicilian positions where White is going for a kingside attack, Black does best to delay castling and seek counterplay on the queenside or in the centre. Not here.

There are certainly other approaches for White: 7.d4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 may lead back into an Open Sicilian; 7.f4 d5 8.exd5 Nxd5 9.f5! seems dangerous from Black's point of view; the quiet 7.d3 can also come into consideration, so White had plenty of choice.

**7...d5?**



Asking for it.

7...Nbc6 was clearly better, when White may have nothing better than 8.d4 cxd4 9.Nxd4 Nxd4 10.Qxd4 Nc6, returning to familiar Open Sicilian lines.

**8.exd5! Nxd5 9.Nxd5 9.Nf4!** may have been stronger still: 9...Nxc3 (9...Nxf4 10.Bxb7) 10.Qh5!!



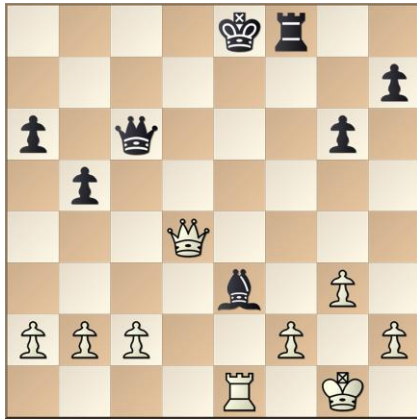
10...g6 (10...Bxg2? 11.Nxe6 Qf6 12.dxc3; 10...Ne4 11.Bxe4 Bxe4 12.Rxe4) 11.Qe5 Qd4 12.Qxd4 cxd4 13.Bxb7 Ra7 14.dxc3 Rxb7 15.cxd4 Nc6 16.c3 and White emerges a pawn up from the flurry of complications.

**9...Bxd5 10.Bxd5 Qxd5 11.Nf4 Qd7 12.Qh5 g6** Black's position is so precarious that this is probably the only move.

**13.Qe5** This is a move which is hard to resist.

13.Qf3! was an attractive alternative, but then White has to find 13...Ra7 14.d4! with the idea 14...Bg7 (14...cxd4 15.Nxe6 fxe6 16.Qf6 Rg8 17.Rxe6+ Be7 18.Bg5 Rf8 19.Qe5 Nc6 20.Rxc6! Qxc6 21.Qb8+ Bd8 22.Qxa7 Bxg5 23.Re1+ Be3 24.Qxd4





(A long and complicated line!) 15.dxc5 0-0 16.Nd3 Nc6 17.c3 The attack has gone, but White can settle down to exploit the extra pawn slowly.

**13...Rg8** Black should try 13...Qd4! when White has to settle for a very modest edge: 14.Qe2 Be7 15.c3 Qd6 16.a4.

**14.Nd5** Kevin wants to finish the game right away.

**14...Bg7**



**15.Nf6+** Another tempting move, which is perhaps not best.

White avoids the trap 15.Nc7+? Kd8 16.Qe4 Ra7 17.Nxe6+ Qxe6 18.Qxe6 fxe6+; but 15.Qe4! with the idea of Nb6 causes problems: 15...Ra7 16.a4 b4 17.d3 Nc6 18.Nb6. Black will have to play the rest of the game with his king stuck in the middle.

**15...Bxf6 16.Qxf6 Nc6 17.c3** Inhibiting ...Nd4.

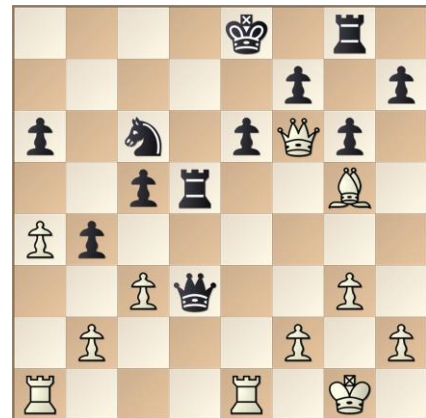
**17...Rd8 17...Qd3!** was a much better try, when White is posed the question of how he will complete development.

**18.a4** Kevin points out that he is now threatening axb5, opening the game with excellent play.

**18...b4 19.d3 Bg5** is the strong threat.

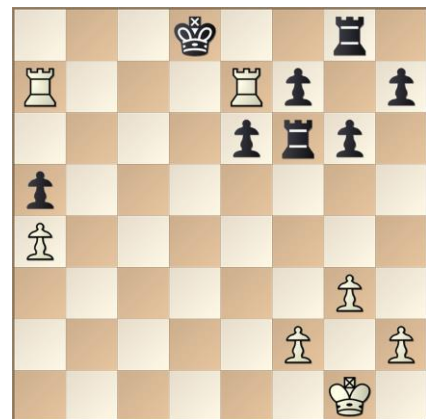
**19...Qxd3 20.Bg5** Intending Rxe6+! and mate.

**20...Rd5??**



Under pressure, Black cracks, allowing a lovely finish.

20...Rd7 had to be tried, although White is still in the ascendancy after 21.cxb4! Qf5 (21...cxb4 22.Rxe6+; 21...Nxb4 22.Rxe6+! fxe6 23.Qxe6+ Kf8 24.Re1) 22.bxc5 Qxf6 23.Bxf6 Rd5 24.b4! Nxb4 25.Rab1 a5 26.c6! This position is all about getting the white rooks in. 26...Nxc6 27.Rec1 Rf5 28.Rxc6 Kd7 29.Ra6 Rxf6 30.Rb7+ Kc8 31.Re7 Kd8 32.Raa7



Curiously, Black may be able to make a fight of this position, however horrible it looks.

**21.Rxe6+!**



21...fxe6 21...Kd7 22.Qxf7+

22.Qxe6+ Kf8 23.Qf6+ Ke8 24.Qxc6+ Rd7 25.Re1+ Kf8 26.Qf6+ Rf7 27.Bh6+ It is mate in three: 27...Rgg7 28 Bxg7+ Kg8 29 Re8+ Rf8 30 Rxf8 mate. Not the type of finish to a game that occurs every day.

1-0

## It's a Puzzlement!

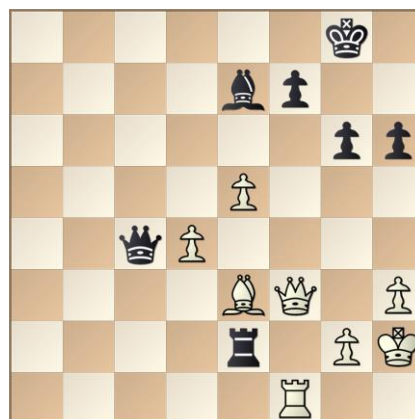


Welcome to our puzzles section! Here are this month's puzzles - all hand-picked by [ChessPuzzle.net](https://ChessPuzzle.net)

We provide a link to the relevant ChessPuzzle.net page and a QR Code so you can try the puzzles interactively and get hints if needed or even the solutions!

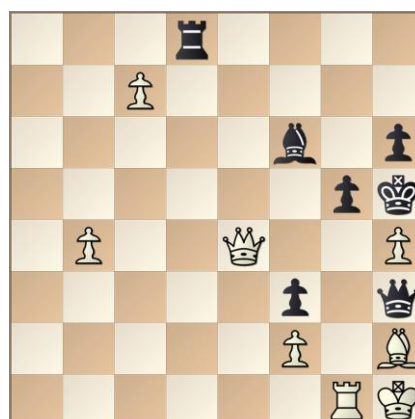
*When you click on the links below you need to play a move to see the hint and/or solution.*

**Puzzle 1 - WFM Luisa Bashylina - IM Jovanka Houska**  
FIDE World Rapid Team-ch 2023, Düsseldorf, GER



Black to win - [Puzzle One](#)

**Puzzle 2 - Alex Botgros – Ezra Brass**  
ECF National Schools Championship Final 2023, Nottingham ENG



Black to win - [Puzzle Two](#)

**Puzzle 3 - WGM Nutakki Priyanka – IM Jovanka Houska**  
FIDE World Rapid Team-ch 2023, Düsseldorf, GER



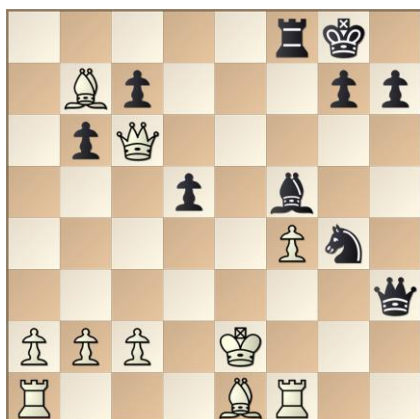
Black to win - [Puzzle Three](#)

**Puzzle 4 - FM Can Durak – FM Jonathan Pein**  
Psyon Chess Masters 2023, London ENG



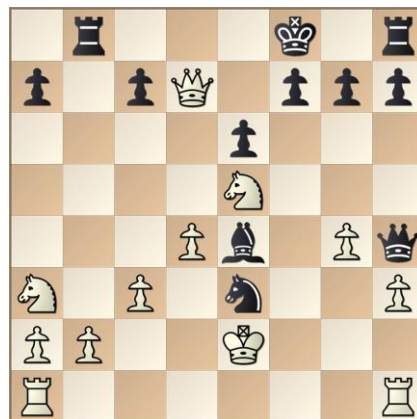
White to win - [Puzzle Four](#)

**Puzzle 5 - Richard W.Y. Lee – FM T. Kett**  
Newcastle-under-Lyme RR, Newcastle ENG



Black to checkmate - [Puzzle Five](#)

**Puzzle 6 - IM R. Panjwani – FM Rajat Makkar**  
Northumbria GM Pool 2023, Newcastle upon Tyne, ENG



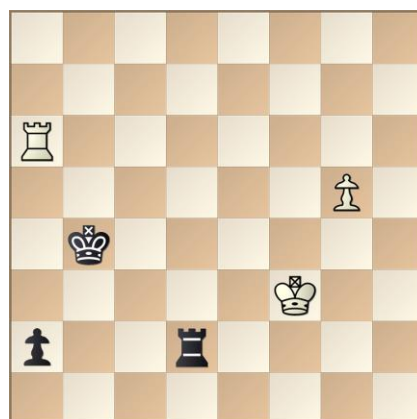
Black to win - [Puzzle Six](#)

**Puzzle 7 - IM Jonah B. Willow – IM Nikolas Wachinger**  
Northumbria GM Pool 2023, Newcastle upon Tyne, ENG



Black to win - [Puzzle Seven](#)

**Puzzle 8 - Ch Morris – Th Brown**  
Newcastle-under-Lyme RR, ENG



Black to win - [Puzzle Eight](#)

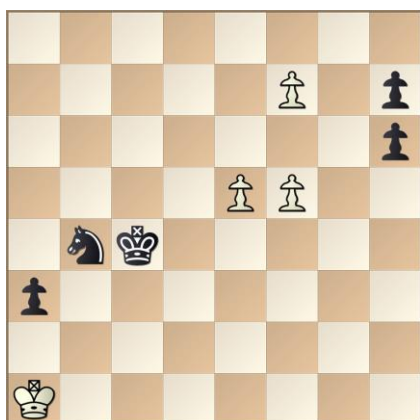


**Puzzle 9 - FM Can Durak – CM Adam Bremner**  
Psyon Chess Masters, London ENG



White to win - [Puzzle Nine](#)

**Puzzle 10 - Lakshya Lokwani – Avyukt Dasgupta**  
ECF National Schools Championship Final 2023,  
Nottingham ENG



Black to win - [Puzzle Ten](#)

**Puzzle 11 - FM Hussain Besuo – IM Jovanka Houska**  
FIDE World Rapid Team-ch 2023, Düsseldorf, GER



Black to win - [Puzzle Eleven](#)

**Puzzle 12 - GM Nigel Short – GM Nodirbek Abdusattorov**  
FIDE World Rapid Team-ch 2023, Düsseldorf, GER



White to win - [Puzzle Twelve](#)

**All in One**

For all the puzzles on one page just visit ---

[https://chesspuzzle.net/List/9052?utm\\_source=ecf&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=septembernews](https://chesspuzzle.net/List/9052?utm_source=ecf&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=septembernews)

by clicking the link or via the QR code.



# ECF Rating Inflation

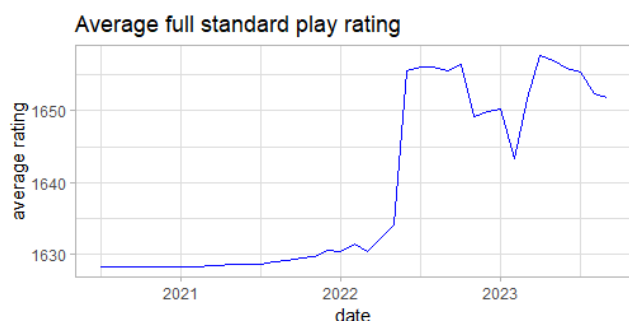
## by Brian Valentine

Given the current consultation to address deflation in the FIDE ratings, I thought going through the situation with ECF ratings worthwhile. I shall restrict this article to over the board standard play with full ratings; other ECF lists have the same issue, with some additional distortions. The ECF monthly system only started in July 2020, so we are short of a long period to assess trends. Strange average rating changes are explicable, meaning that no method changes are appropriate for now.

Leading up to the introduction of the system, we set out goals of maintaining steady average rating and dispersion of ratings. This ignored measuring changes in the general skill level, which was adjudged beyond ECF's limited resources. Despite the underlying dynamics, which are discussed below, the old grading system had met these criteria for many years.

The idea immediately looked pretentious as soon as the Covid restrictions curtailed chess activity. The goal on average rating can be said to have a severe case of long Covid!

The problem has been 'the dynamics'. In a closed simple Elo system, points are reallocated and none are gained or lost, so the average remains the same. However, when new players enter the system they tend to be weaker, reducing the average rating of the new population. On the other hand, players leaving the list also tend to be weaker, increasing the average rating of those remaining. As players tend to improve over their chess career, the steady state would be deflationary. So the trick is to inject the necessary points into the sums to compensate.



In the first year to July 2021 just over 500 games were rated compared with an average of 10,000 per month before Covid. No conclusions could be reached! However, underlying dynamics would have been at work as ratings expired. This did not happen as older ratings remained active because the expiry period lengthened. With the resumption of chess well under way, the expiry period was

reduced to three years for the June 2022 list. Suddenly, older ratings were expunged, and the average published rating increased by 21 points for that list. I don't think anyone would argue that this was evidence of systemic inflation.

As regards the future, the average published rating has been buffeted by various events not resuming. After March 2023 a slalom phase began. Although we continue to attract new entrants (reducing the average), very few players can have played their last game during the pandemic, so the expiring ratings from three years ago are not there to balance the influx. Hence we must expect the average published rating to fall one or two points a month till late 2024.

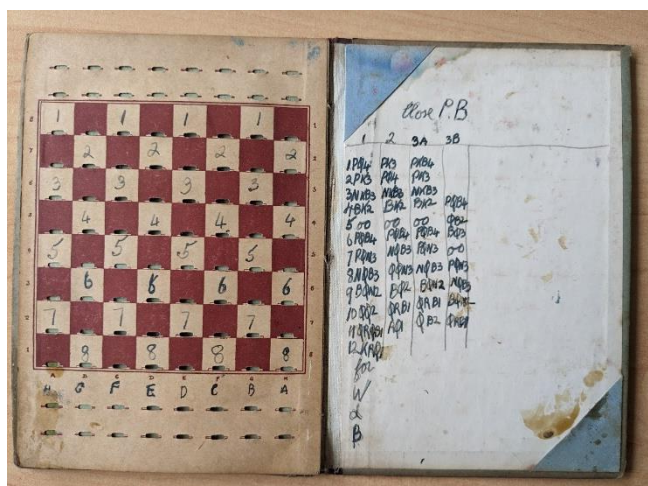
Clearly the measure can mislead. The inflation/deflation issue should not be defined by one statistic. We have looked at the progress of those players in their 30s and 40s which past studies (beginning with Elo) suggest should exhibit stable ratings. It is too early to be conclusive, but this does look to be the case so far.

The limited information during an extraordinary period gives no indication that we should follow any FIDE changes.

## From the Archive: Correspondence Chess in the B. H. Wood Collection



This summer we have been busy sorting through nearly 100 boxes of books, journals, newsletters and papers from the library of B. H. Wood. These will be integrated into the main ECF Library collection (with bookmarks indicating their origin), but first we need to clean them and do some simple organisation ready for cataloguing.



We're finding all sorts of interesting things within the boxes, however. We'll showcase some of our findings over the next few newsletters. These editions of *Meek's Correspondence Chess Companion* were among the first things to catch my eye. Each notebook is small and slender – designed to be easy to post back and forth – and has a little chessboard with slots to insert tiny tabs as pieces. Only one of these survives – the rook pictured. The books are filled with annotations for games long since finished. Perhaps online games, for all their speed and ease, have lost some of the intrinsic charm of these little books?



# NEWS and VIEWS

## CSC London Junior Rapidplays



Chess in Schools and Communities is excited to announce a series of London-based junior rapidplay tournaments with free entry, open to all aged under 18, with prizes of chess coaching for the top three finishers in each of the five sections.

**FREE ENTRY FOR ALL COMPETITORS**





**The CSC Junior Chess Grand Prix**

**2023 Tournament Dates**

Saturday 23rd September

Sunday 15th October

Sunday 12th November

+ December 2023 (TBA)

Each tournament is a 6-round Rapidplay event

Free Entry! Prizes - £1,000 per tournament in chess coaching and equipment, plus a trophy for each section winner!

5 sections: Under 8, Under 10, Under 12, Under 14, Under 18

All tournaments will be ECF Rated (ECF Silver Membership required)

Venue: UCL Academy, Adelaide Rd, London, NW3 3AQ

Closest tubes: Swiss Cottage (Jubilee) 2 min walk, Finchley Road (Metropolitan) 10 min walk, Chalk Farm (Northern) 15 min walk.

ENTER ONLINE AT [WWW.CHESSINSCHOOLS.CO.UK/CSC-JUNIOR-GRANDPRIX](http://WWW.CHESSINSCHOOLS.CO.UK/CSC-JUNIOR-GRANDPRIX)

The first event was at the UCL Academy in London (Swiss Cottage) on Saturday 23rd September, with tournaments scheduled for October, November and more in 2024! Sign up now via:

<https://chessinschools.co.uk/csc-junior-grandprix>

## ECF Book of the Year shortlist

Details here - <https://www.englishchess.org.uk/ecf-book-of-the-year-shortlist-2/>

## Peterborough Library Chess

Paul Iwala has started a chess club which will run weekly at Peterborough library. The club is open to all but would particularly welcome visually impaired players. Braille boards are available, courtesy of the Braille Chess Association.



(Photo of) Braille Chess Set © Paul Iwala

Accessible - Braille - Chess Club @ The Central Library in Peterborough Wednesdays from 10am to 11:30am

Address: Peterborough Central Library Broadway, Peterborough PE1 1RX Telephone: 0733 864 280

- A new chess club will be starting at Peterborough Central Library - weekly - starting Wednesday 13th September 10am to 11:30am.
- Open to any adult who has played chess before or wants to learn.
- Sight impaired players very welcome; we have the use of braille chess sets.
- Come and join us. Find a new interest and make new friends.
- See you there!

## English Schools Chess Championships

You can find full details about this event and an entry form at <https://www.englishchess.org.uk/NSCC/english-schools-chess-championships-2023-24/>

## ECF Annual General Meeting

The ECF Annual General Meeting takes place on 14th October, with election of directors and proposed changes to the membership scheme the headline items. You can find the papers for the AGM here:

<https://www.englishchess.org.uk/about/ecf-council-and-board/>

# JUNIOR MOVES

## Littlewood's Choice



Another one of our up-and-coming juniors is Jude Shearsby. He is currently one of the best juniors in his age range, and recently played in the British Open Championships in Leicester despite being only 13 years old.

Although he learned the game at the age of four, he did not excel at chess until lockdown. Jude played lots of games against his mentor Paul Lam from the Coventry Chess Academy, and this dramatically improved his results.

Consider the following, which was played recently in the 4NCL Division 3 West.

**Jude Shearsby - John Lyth**  
**30/04/23**

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 d6** Black clearly likes to play solid lines, as he avoids the chance of playing the Marshall Gambit with 7...0-0 and 8...d5 if White plays the main line.

**8.c3 0-0 9.h3 Na5 10.Bc2 c5 11.d4 Qc7 12.Nbd2 Rd8 13.d5!?** If White continues normally with 13.Nf1 then Black can open the centre with 13...cxd4 14.cxd4 exd4 15.Nxd4 d5 16.e5 Ne4, when he has equal chances. The game now becomes one of manoeuvring in a fairly closed position.



**13...Bd7 14.Nf1 Rdb8 15.b3 Nb7** This knight is a constant source of worry in this variation, as it does not have much scope to influence matters.

**16. Be3 Nd8 17.Ng3 g6?!** This slightly weakens Black's kingside position and gives White the initiative. Better would have been 17...c4! When, after 18.Qd2 Nb7 19.b4 a5 20.a3 Ra6, Black has potential counterplay down the a-file.

**18. Nh2 Ne8 19.Rf1 f6?!** 19...c4 should have been played, as Black must try and get some counterplay.

**20. f4 Nf7 21.f5 Ng7 22.fxg6!?** Also possible was 22.Ng4 g5 23.Bd2, followed by a slow build-up on the kingside after fully developing his pieces.

**22...hxg6 23.Ng4 Bxg4?** I would be very reluctant to give up this bishop, as it is Black's best minor piece. 23...Ne8 is more solid, after which White stands only slightly better.



**24.Qxg4 g5?!** Better was 24...Kh7. Now White could have played 25.a4 b4 26.c4 Rf8 27.Rf2 Nh6 28.Qe2, employing a slow build-up, with Black having no queenside counterplay. However, he prefers more direct action.

**25.h4 Nh6 25...Qc8** would have relieved the pressure by exchanging queens, but White would still retain the advantage.

**26.Qf3 Rf8 27.Nh5** It was again possible to play 27.a4 to restrict Black's options on the queenside. A sensible

continuation would be 27...c4 28.b4 Qd7 29.hxg5 fxg5 30.Nf5 Nhx5 31.exf5 Bf6 32.axb5 axb5 33.Be4 when White is clearly better. Understandably, though, Jude focuses on the kingside.

**27.....g4?** Tempting, but a bad mistake - again, 27....c4 would have given him chances.

**28.Qe2 Kh7 29.Nxg7?** The wrong move order! 29.Bxh6 Kxh6 30.Nxg7 Kxg7 31.Qxg4+ Kh8 32.Qh5+ Kg7 33.Rf3 Rg8 34.Rg3+ Kf8 35.Qh6+ Kf7 36.Qh7+ would have been crushing.

**29....Kxg7 30.Bxh6+ Kxh6 31.Qxg4 Rg8** White has won a pawn, but Black now has counterplay down the g-file.

**32.Qe6?!** Better was 32.Qf3 Rg6 33.Qe3+Kh7 34.Rf5 Rag8 35.Rh5+ Kg7 36.Bd1 Kf8 37.Bf3, after which White can slowly make use of his extra pawn.



**32....Rg3 33.Qf7?!** With time trouble looming Jude sets his opponent a trap; but better was 33.Rf3, attempting to swap off the dangerous black rook.

**33.... Rag8?** And Black falls into it! 33...Rg7 34.Qe6 Rag8 35.Rf2 Qa5 would have left the position unclear.

**34.Rf5! Rxg2+ 35.Kh1 R2g6 36.Rh5+!**  
A brilliant move which is easy to miss.



**36....Kxh5 37.Qh7+ Kg4** If 37...Rh6 then 38.Bd1+ Kxh4 (38...Rg4 39.Qf5+ Kxh4 40.Qxg4#) 39.Qxh6+ Kg3 40.Qh2#

**38.Rg1+** Also good was the fantastic move 38.Rf1!!, when mate cannot be avoided, e.g. 38...Kh3 39.Rf3+ Rg3 40.Qf5+ Kxh4 41.Rxg3 Rxg3 42.Bd1 Rg5 43.Qh7+ Kg3 44.Qh2#

**38...Kf4 39.Rxg6 Rxg6 40.Qxg6 Qd7 41.Qg2** Slightly quicker was 41.Kh2 Qg4 42.Qh6+ Kf3 43.Bd1+, winning the black queen and mating soon afterwards.

**41....Bf8** If 41...Qg4 then 42.Qd2+ Kg3 43.Qh2+ Kf3 44.Bd1+ and wins.

**42.Qf2+ Kg4 43.Bd1+** and Black resigned, as it is mate next move.

An excellent finish by Jude which illustrates how dangerous he can be when tactics are involved. I was also impressed with how he understood the complexities of the closed Ruy Lopez as it is a very tricky opening to master.

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](mailto:plittl@hotmail.com). I cannot promise that they will appear, but I will give them every consideration.

--- Paul Littlewood



# European Youth Chess Championship 2023 in Mamaia, Romania from 4<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> September 2023

by Abhishek Pradhan



From left to right: Zoe, Shambavi, Dimitrios, Michelle, Dildarav and Ayan (apologies from Anvikkashri, Billy and Sohum)

England's young chess players took part in the European Youth Chess Championship held in early September in Romania. The tournament was organised by the European Chess Union (ECU), together with the Romanian Chess Federation and Universul Chess Club. The championship was held in Mamaia, which is a thin strip of land between the Black Sea and Lake Siutghiol. There were in total close to 1,000 participants from various countries. England had one representative for each age section from Open U8 to Open U16 and Girls U8 to Girls U14 categories. The tournament was a nine-round Swiss standard play tournament, with a time control of 90 minutes with an increment of 30 seconds per move, starting from move 1.

Upon arrival the England delegation faced a few challenges, such as sharing rooms with other players without prior notice, lack of adequate ventilation in the playing halls, no waiting areas for parents, etc. After persistent complaints from the delegation and a couple of strong letters from the ECF a few things got better - and as for the other problems we started to accept them as they were.

Now moving to the matter at hand, the England players all put in good performances despite its being a very tough event. As the organisers said in their opening ceremony, 'Everyone is a winner, since they have already got this far'. Here is the summary of each player's performance:

Open U8: Ayan Pradhan finished with 6 out of 9 points, 16<sup>th</sup>

Girls U8 Anvikkashri Prabhakaran finished with 5 out of 9 points, 20<sup>th</sup>

Open U10 Dildarav Lishoy Gengis Paratazham finished with 6 out of 9 points, 11<sup>th</sup>

Girls U10 Zoe Veselow finished with 5½ out of 9 points, 15<sup>th</sup>

Open U12 Billy Fellowes finished with 4½ out of 9 points, 44<sup>th</sup>

Girls U12 Shambavi Hariharan finished with 5 out of 9 points, 25<sup>th</sup>

Open U14 Sohum Lohia finished with 4½ out of 8 points, 48<sup>th</sup>

Girls U14 Michelle Chan finished with 4½ out of 9 points, 32<sup>nd</sup>

Open U16 Dimitrios Zakarian finished with 4 out of 9 points, 61<sup>st</sup>

More details can be found here: <https://chess-results.com/tnr793410.aspx?lan=1&art=0&turdet=YES&lag=30>

Overall, the players and the parents had a wonderful experience. The team spirit and the willingness to help each other grew each day. There were a few occasional tears, but also there was a determination to do better next day. Everyone was happy as they left, but everyone was also thinking, 'It would have been a different result if I had maybe won that extra half-point or full point'. Remember – there's always a next time!

## IMPROVERS

### Paul Littlewood on Tactics

One of the first things we learned playing chess was to avoid making blunders. If a piece was attacked our first instinct would be to move or guard it.

However, the more I have played, the more I have realised that it is not always necessary to do this. In fact, there are numerous times that we have to go against our earlier taught principles and do something quite different.

Take this position, for example:



**G. Stanway - P. E. Littlewood**  
**Blackpool Open 1982**

Black's bishop is attacked, and our first thought is to move it to say f7 or c8. However I realised I could ignore the threat, and the game continued **1...Rxa2 2.Nxe6 Rb2** and now the a-pawn is impossible to stop queening. The finish was **3.Rf3 f4 4.c5 a2 5.c6 a1=Q 6.Bd3 Rb1** and White resigned.

Here is another more complex example:



**P. E. Littlewood - V. Kovacevic**  
**Hastings 1983**

The natural move is to capture the black knight on c3, but this gives White no advantage. Instead, I chose the much more interesting alternative **1.dxe6!** and the game continued **1...Qxd3+ 2.Rxd3 Nb5 3.Bxb7 Rc2 4.Bxa6 0-0 5.Bxb5 Rxf2+ 6.Ke1 Rce2+ 7.Kd1 Rxe6 8.Rd2 Rf8 9.Re2 Be5 10.Kc2** - and when the smoke had cleared I was a pawn up with a winning ending.

The lesson to be learnt is to keep looking out for those opportunities to surprise one's opponent by not making the obvious move. You will be amazed at how many times a winning chance will come along which your opponent had missed because he was only considering 'normal' moves.

Here are two of my own positions where an unexpected blow proved my opponent's undoing. As usual, the solutions will be provided at the end of the article.



**P. E. Littlewood - D. Cramling**  
**European Junior Championship 1982**

White to play and obtain a winning advantage.



**P. E. Littlewood - P. J. Sowray**  
**Aaronson Masters 1979**

The white rook is attacked, so the natural reaction is to move it. However, I found a much better alternative.

**Answers:**

**P. E. Littlewood - D. Cramling**

White played 1.0-0-0! Now if 1...Bxe2 then 2.g7 Rc8 3.Qh6 wins or 1...Qxe2 2.Qh6 wins. Therefore Black played 1...fxg6, and there followed 2.Rxg6+ Kf7 3.Bxf3 Kxg6 4.Rg1+ Kf7 5.cxd4 Qf6 6.Bxa8 Rxa8 and the ending is winning for White.

**P. E. Littlewood - P. J. Sowray**

The winning move for White was 1.Qd7! The game continued 1...Bf6 2.Be3 Qxd7 3.exd7 Rxg1+ 4.Bxg1! Kg7 5.Bd4 Kxf7 6.Bxf6 Ne6 7.d8=Q Nxd8 8.Bxd8 b4 9.Bb6 Ke6 10.Kg1 c3 11.b3 Kf5 12.Kf2 and Black resigned.

Paul Littlewood Email: [plittl@hotmail.com](mailto:plittl@hotmail.com)

# Gormally's Coaching Corner

## by Danny Gormally



### Northumbria Masters Report

**Gormally, D. - Sowray, P.**

Northumbria Masters 2023, London 28.08.2023

The round 8 game of the Northumbria Masters proved to be a pivotal game in my event, as it helped me to go clear in the tournament standings and ultimately led to my tying for first. In this article I want to go through the game and pick out some important moments. For the annotations, with a few exceptions, I have mainly done my own analysis and then gone back and picked it apart later with the engine. Did I make any obvious bloopers? The reason I have taken this approach is obvious - I think people have become too dependent on engines in their analysis. The typical approach now is, once the round has finished, to feed your games into the engine immediately, to find out what mistakes you made, if any. This removes the process of trial and error that used to be a part of analysis, and for that reason I think a lot of people just can't analyse anymore. They are lost without their engines. But fine - most junior players are obsessed with working with engines, and I think engine analysis is helpful in isolation, so that's why I have done a separate analysis where I include suggestions from the computers.

**1.d4 d6** The first mild surprise. I was expecting Peter to either play a King's Indian, which he had done earlier in the tournament, or possibly to go for something solid like a Slav. This invites White to play e4 and go for a Pirc, and who am I to back down from a challenge?

**2.e4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.h3 0-0 6.Be3 c6 7.Bd3 Nbd7 8.0-0 e5 9.Re1 Re8 10.Qd2 b5** I must admit that I was quite relieved to see this at the board, even though it as a typical approach by Black.

I was quite concerned by 10...d5!?, as this seemed quite a concrete way to try to hoover pieces off the board and

make a draw. 11.dxe5 (11.Nxe5 Nxe5 12.dxe5 Nxe4 13.Bxe4 dxe4 14.Qxd8 Rxd8 15.Nxe4 Bxe5 16.Bg5 is a line that might be a bit annoying for Black, as White will manage to get Nf6+ and then emerge with a very powerful bishop on f6 in the ending. But is this enough to win? After 16...Rf8 17.Nf6+ Bxf6 18.Bxf6 Be6 Black will quickly play a rook to e8, and I don't think that White has many chances to win. (11.Bg5?! exd4 12.Nxd4 dxe4 13.Bxe4 Nc5 14.Bf3 Rxe1+ 15.Rxe1 Ne6 16.Be3 Nxd4 17.Bxd4 Be6 also feels like nothing for White, as Black has no weaknesses.) 11...Nxe4 12.Bxe4 (12.Nxe4 dxe4 13.Bxe4 Nxe5=) 12...dxe4 13.Nxe4 (This was one of the few occasions that I turned on the engine because I was interested in the theory here. 13.Bg5!±



creates a problem for Black.) 13...Nxe5 14.Qxd8 Nxf3+!=. 10...exd4!? was the most forcing way to play, and this is also a quite popular choice for Black. This is of course rather committal, as Black loses some influence in the centre. 11.Nxd4 Ne5 by Black forces tactical play. (After 11...Nc5 12.Bh6± White is exchanging bishops and seems to be clearly better (12.f3 d5?! 13.Nxc6!) 12...Bxh6 13.Qxh6 Qb6). 12.Bf1 Bxh3 13.f4 Neg4 14.gxh3 Nxe3 15.Rxe3 Qb6 16.Na4 Qc7 17.Rae1 Bh6 18.Qf2 Qa5 19.Nc3 Nh5 20.Rf3 d5 is one zany line that might have occurred on the board if I was playing a complete maniac. But Peter Sowray is not the type of player to go for such adventures, and objectively the sacrifice is not a good one for Black.

**11.dxe5 Nxe5 12.Nxe5 Rxe5 12...dxe5 13.a4 b4 14.Ne2 a5** was also something to consider, and then do you prod at the structure or not? (14...Qe7 15.c3 Rd8 16.cxb4 Nxe4 17.Qc2 Nf6 18.Bc5 Qe6 feels a lot better for White; for example, the knight could simply move to g3.) 15.Ng3 (15.c3!? Ba6 16.Bxa6 Qxd2 17.Bxd2 Rxa6 18.f3 c5 19.Be3 c4 20.Red1±; fortunately White has 15.Nc1!± and is clearly better - I saw this move during the game. The knight will go to b3, when the pawn on a5 is rather sickly and any further expansion by Black with ... c5-c4 is contained. Then White can prepare c3 at leisure, which will break open the queenside.) 15...h5!?



**13.a3 Bb7** 13...d5 14.Bd4 and I thought White was clearly better, as the black structure in the centre feels rickety and uncomfortable.

**14.f3** This decision took me a lot of time. I felt uncomfortable - a bit panicky. I was nervous because I really wanted to do well and win the tournament, but realized this was becoming a difficult game. Sowray is really tough - I've played him on a number of occasions and I always got the feeling that he's easily IM strength, even though work commitments meant he never quite achieved that title. The reason I played f3 is very sensible and follows the same logic of why I played a3 earlier. Black wants to attack e4, so I am taking prophylactic measures against this.

**14.f4 Re8 15.Bd4** is more aggressive, although it is not clear then if Black can play ...c5 straightaway or prepare this first by playing ...a6. 15...a6 (15...c5 16.Bxf6 Bxf6 17.Bxb5 Bxc3! 18.Qxc3 Rxe4) 16.e5 Nd7! when e5 is weak.

**14...Qc7 14...Nh5**, provoking White into winning the exchange, was one idea. Unfortunately for Black this runs into 15.g4, gaining even more space. (15.Bd4 c5 16.Bxe5 Bxe5 17.Nxb5 Qh4



with really fantastic compensation is what Black was hoping for!)

**15.Bf1 Ree8 16.Rad1 Red8 17.Qf2 Nd7 18.Bd4** 18.Bxa7 Bxc3 19.bxc3 c5 would be clearly wrong, of course.

**18...Bf8**



Again Peter plays the move that irritated me the most. I was hoping he would exchange on d4. And so another difficult positional problem faces White. I feel like I need Mark Dvoretsky sitting beside me!

**19.Ne2?! as soon as I played this I regretted it**, as he then played the move I was most concerned about!

19.f4 is the move I really wanted to play, as ...Bf8 is surely a red rag to a bull and White should go into attack mode! 19...Re8 holds up the e5 break, when it doesn't seem that clear what White should do next. Maybe I should play the queen to g3, and the engine would say that I'm winning. We'll have to check this later... (19...a6 is also possible, when Black intends to push the bishop back with ... c5. 20.f5 [20.e5 dxe5 21.fxe5 c5 22.e6 is a line that I saw during the game. But I have a feeling that I saw this earlier and then forgot about this variation and decided to play it 'safe' with Ne2.] 20...c5 21.Be3 Ne5 and the attack is gunked up for now, but perhaps we'll come back and analyse it with an engine later - I get the sense that Black is horribly short of space already, and that the computer would say that White has a big plus.) 19.Qh4 Re8∞; 19.Rd2 was the safe move that I regretted not playing. 19...a6 20.Red1 c5 21.Be3 Nf6 22.Bg5 Be7 23.Qh4 Kg7, and even here it is not easy to break through.

**19...c5! 20.Be3** I think against a weaker player than Sowray I would have gambled with 20.Bc3 because the best reply 20...a5! is not that obvious - the problem was that Sowray was likely to see this, when Black is fundamentally back in the game. 21.Nf4 b4 22.Bd2 Bg7∞

**20...Bg7 21.c3 Re8 22.Nf4 a6 23.Qd2! Be5 24.Nd3 24.Nd5** Bxd5 25.Qxd5 Nf6 just felt like a line that was too easy for Black to navigate. If 26.Qd2 Bg3 27.Re2 Re6 the game could easily go down hill for White from here.

**24...Bg7 24...Bg3 25.Bf2 Bxf2+ 26.Qxf2 Ne5 27.Nf4 Re7** 28.Nd5 Bxd5 29.Rxd5 Nd7 30.Red1 Re6 31.Qg3 Ne5 32.f4! and White is doing well - but this whole variation is hardly forced, so playing ...Bg3 was a legitimate alternative.

**25.Nf2 Re6 25...Be5 26.Ng4 Bg3 27.Bf2 Bxf2+ 28.Qxf2** felt a lot better for White, as the dark squares around the black king are quite tender.

**26.Bf4 Ne5 27.Bxe5?** giving Black the bishop pair surely lets him off the hook.

It was only when analysing the game later that I realised that the position after 27.Ng4 Nxe4 28.hxg4 wasn't so straightforward for Black to hold. The main issue that Black has here is liquidating the pressure on d6 with the pawn break ...d5 isn't that easy to carry out. If 28...Rd8 29.g5!±



Later I was quite happy to find this, and found some lines where Black was beginning to feel uncomfortable. One of the ideas of course is to attack down the h-file later. But the main idea is to play g3 and Bh3 quickly. How boring it would have been, I thought, to just find this with an engine instead, and it is blandly pumping out g5 and saying that White is +1.3 ahead. It's so much more fun when you find ideas by yourself in the analysis. 29...Qe7 (29...Be5 30.g3 d5 31.Bh3 Ree8 and the more I see this I am doubting my evaluation that White is clearly better after g5. Why is White better here? 29...Qb6 30.g3 d5 31.Bh3 does look better for White.) 30.g3 d5 31.Bh3+-; 27.Bg3 Rae8 28.f4 Nc4 29.Bxc4 bxc4 30.f5 gxf5 31.exf5 Rxe1+ 32.Rxe1 Rxe1+ 33.Qxe1 seemed promising until I saw the direct 33...Qc6!

**27...Bxe5?!** I was really hoping that Peter wouldn't play 27...dxe5! as this certainly didn't look better for White. 28.c4 does threaten to dismantle the queenside, but also introduces the possibility of Black's bringing a rook to d4 later, so it's a rather double-edged sword. 28...Qb6 29.Ng4 Bf8 30.Qg5 Be7 (If 30...f6? 31.Qh4 when White is threatening Rd7.)

**28.f4 Bg7**



**29.f5!** this was my idea - to attack directly on the kingside.

**29...Re7 29...gxf5 30.exf5 Rxe1 31.Rxe1 Qd7 32.Bd3** seemed more promising for White, as there is an obvious chance to attack on the kingside. (32.Qf4 Be5 (32...Qd8 33.Ng4 h5 34.f6 hxg4 35.fxg7+-) 33.Qg5+ Kh8 34.Rxe5! dxe5 35.Qf6+ Kg8 36.Ng4+-). 29...Re5 seemed too provocative, when White should probably go for the simple 30.fxg6 (30.Ng4 Rxe4 31.Rxe4 Bxe4 32.f6 Bf8 and I saw nothing for White.) 30...hxg6 31.Qxd6 Qxd6 32.Rxd6 Rae8 33.Rb6 Bc8 34.a4+-

**30.Qf4 d5** Now 30...Be5 felt critical, so as to counter-attack on the dark squares. If 31.Qh4 d5! 32.exd5 Bh2+

**a) 32...Rae8 33.Ng4 Bg3 (33...gxf5? 34.Rxe5!** when Black is dismantled on the dark squares. 34...Rxe5 (34...fxg4 35.Qg5+ Kh8 36.Qf6+-) 35.Nf6+ Kf8 36.Qh6+-) 34.Rxe7 Rxe7 35.Nf6+ Kg7 36.Nh5+! gxh5 37.f6+-

**b) 32...Bxd5!?** simply recapturing is also possible; this is based on a tactical trick. 33.Rxd5? (But there is 33.Ng4, and the mess continues.) 33...Bh2+ 34.Kh1 Rxe1+

33.Kh1 Rxe1 34.Rxe1 Bg3



was a line that I reached in my calculations and seemed very critical to the entire assessment of the position. If 35.Qf6 Qf4! 36.Nd3 Qxf5 (36...Qd2? 37.Re7 Rf8 38.Rxb7+-) 37.Qxf5 gxf5 38.Nxc5 Bxd5 when Black is at least equal.

**31.Qh4!?** playing sharply for the attack.

31.Qxc7 Rxc7 32.exd5± was objectively what I should have done, but it was tempting to play on my opponent's time trouble a little. If 32...gxf5 (32...Rd7 33.fxg6 hxg6 34.Ne4; 32...Rd8) 33.d6 Rd7 34.Nd3 Rc8 35.Ne5, when Black seems in trouble.

**31...Re5** 31...Be5 32.exd5 (32.Ng4 dxe4 33.Nf6+ (33.Qh6 gxf5 is less than nothing for White; 33.f6 Re6 also leads nowhere.) 33...Bxf6 34.Qxf6 Qe5!) 32...Bh2+ 33.Kh1 Rxe1 34.Rxe1 Bg3 35.Qf6 transposes to the line given above.

**32.exd5** 32.f6? Rh5 33.Qg4 Bxf6+-

**32...Rxf5?** in the cold light of the day 32...Rxd5! seemed stronger. Perhaps Sowray was concerned about allowing the white pawn to f6. 33.Rxd5 (If 33.Re7 Qc6 34.Rxd5 Qxd5 35.c4 Qc6 36.cxb5 axb5 37.fxg6 hxg6, when Black seems to be holding, although admittedly it's a bit brittle.) 33...Bxd5 34.f6 Bf8∞

**33.d6 Qd8 34.Qe7!** 34.Qxd8+ Rxd8 35.d7 Kf8 leads nowhere; 34.Re7? Bf6!+-

**34...Bc6** 34...Qxe7 35.Rxe7 Bc6 36.Rc7 looks like problems for Black.

**35.Bd3!**

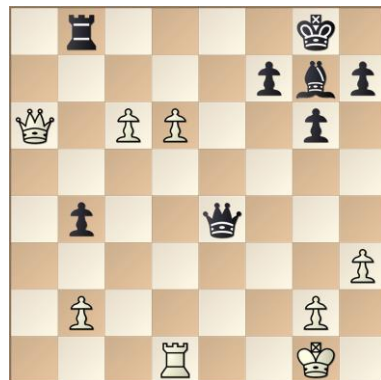


I was quite happy to find this. The bishop is heading for e4 to break the blockade. For the first time in the game I felt confident of winning. There was only one problem which quickly becomes relevant; I was now short of time myself, and as a consequence unable to calculate well enough to find the killer blow.

**35...Rf6 36.Be4 Bxe4 37.Nxe4 Re6 38.Qb7 Rb8** If 38...Be5? 39.Rf1 f5, 40.Qd5 would have ended the game at once.

**39.Qa7** Perhaps trying to be too precise.

39.Qxa6 There was no reason not to just collect the pawn. 39...Qh4 was what worried me, although it is hardly enough. (39...b4 40.axb4 cxb4 41.c4, and White will trundle the pawn forward and win. 41...Qe8 42.c5 Rxe4 43.Rxe4 Qxe4 44.c6



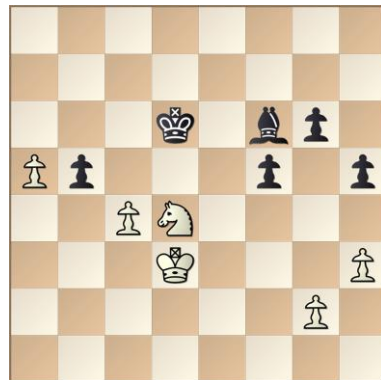
... and at first I thought this was winning easily, but White has gone wrong over the last few moves, as now 44...Qc2! doesn't look so easy.) 40.Qc6! f5 (40...Rbe8 41.d7 Rd8 42.Qc7+-) 41.Qd5.

**39...Ra8** 39...f5 40.d7!; 39...Be5 40.Ng5 (40.d7! - White should always push if he can.) 40...Qxg5 41.Qxb8+ Kg7 and White is presumably still winning here, but it isn't so easy to kill the game off and Black has some serious counterplay coming with ... Qf4; 39...b4 40.axb4 cxb4 41.c4+-

**40.Qxc5 Qh4 41.Nf2?** This was another moment where I briefly 'cheated' and checked the engine, which said that White could have won briskly with the straightforward 41.d7 Rd8 42.Qc8! f5 (42...Bf8 43.Nf2) 43.Nf2+-.

**41...Rxe1+ 42.Rxe1 Bf8 43.Qc6 Rd8 44.d7 Qc4 45.Qxc4 bxc4 46.Ng4 Kg7 47.Rd1 f6 48.Kf2 Kf7 49.Ke2 Ke6 50.Ne3 Rxd7 51.Rxd7 Kxd7 52.Nxc4 Kc6 53.Kd3 f5 54.b4 Bg7 55.a4 h5 56.Nd2 Bf6 56...g5 57.Nf3 g4 58.Nd4+ Bxd4 59.Kxd4+-.**

**57.Nf3 Kd5 58.c4+ Kd6 59.a5 Kc6 60.Nd4+ Kd6 61.b5 axb5**





**62.cxb5** I went down to my last 13 seconds before deciding to capture with the pawn. I felt that taking with the knight was also winning, but in my panicky calculations I started seeing ghosts. I was really unused to being so short of time, so nearly froze completely with fear and lost on time.

62.Nxb5+ Kc6 63.a6 Be7 64.a7 Kb7 worried me as the advance c5 is held up, but there is 65.Kd4!

**62...Kc5 63.b6 Be5 64.Nf3 Bg3 64...Bf4 65.b7 Kc6.**

**65.b7 Kc6 66.Nh4!** So Black manages to win the queenside, but the issue is that his kingside collapses at the same time.

**66...Kxb7 67.Nxg6 Bc7 68.Ne7 f4 69.Ke4 Bxa5 70.Ng6 Kc6 71.Nxf4 h4 72.Kf5 Be1 73.Kg4 Kd6 74.Ng6 Kd5 75.Nxh4 Ke4 76.Nf5**

1-0

## Gormally vs Sowray - the engine verdict

**Gormally, D. - Sowray, P.**

Northumbria Masters 2023 London, 28.08.2023

It is very hard to annotate as accurately as a machine can. I did the best I could. Now let's see what mistakes the machine finds in my analysis.

**1.d4 d6 2.e4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.h3 0-0 6.Be3 c6 7.Bd3 Nbd7 8.0-0 e5 9.Re1 Re8 10.Qd2 b5 11.dxe5 Nxe5 12.Nxe5 Rxe5 13.a3 Bb7 14.f3 Qc7 15.Bf1 Ree8 16.Rad1 Red8 17.Qf2 Nd7 18.Bd4 Bf8 19.Ne2?! I guess my evaluation in this case was more or less correct. The advantage dips for White after this move.**

However, I didn't really consider here the computer's suggestion of 19.h4!



The more you think about this the more logical it becomes. White has the pieces in an ideal position - so it's

time to attack with pawns! I think this fits into the old saying that 'if you don't know what piece to move, make a pawn move instead'. So now h5 and hxg6 will come, and if Black takes back with the f-pawn he has weakened e6, and if he takes back with the h-pawn I can then play Qh4 and more or less force the move ... Bg7, after which White should exchange bishops and take over the game. If 19...h5, 20.f4!± and now f5 will come with a lot more force.

**19...c5 20.Be3 Bg7 21.c3 Re8 22.Nf4 a6 23.Qd2 23.h4!** is again indicated by the computer as the way forward. Maybe I have a problem with moving my h-pawns!

**23...Be5 24.Nd3 Bg7 25.Nf2 Re6 26.Bf4** During the game I was reluctant to consider the option of 26.c4, which is one of the machine's recommendations - perhaps because I was wary of giving his bishop on g7 more scope, which now has more room to breathe. If 26...Bc6 27.b4!



This way of playing, where you are placing maximum pressure on Black's queenside, just didn't occur to me at all. I guess the machine just likes to play as concretely as possible. However, after thinking for a while its evaluation drops a bit and it feels that Black is still surviving after 27...Ne5 28.cxb5 axb5 29.bxc5 dxc5 30.Bxc5 Nc4.

**26...Ne5 27.Bxe5?!** This was indeed something of a mistake, although not that big a one.

The engine agreed with my analysis that 27.Ng4 was probably the way forward. If 27...Nxg4 28.hxg4 Rd8 29.c4± (but not 29.g5 as I indicated, as then 29...Be5 30.g3 d5 should be fine for Black.)

**27...Bxe5** I should definitely not have given this as dubious (!) either, as it's perfectly fine, although I think practically speaking, with Black becoming short of time, it was safer to take back with the pawn.

**28.f4 Bg7 29.f5 Re7 30.Qf4 d5 31.Qh4 Re5 32.exd5 Rxf5** In my notes I gave this as a mistake; however, the machine shows that chess games are full of resources and

in fact Black is perfectly OK after this, although it does put him under pressure to play extremely accurately.

32...Rxe1 33.Rxe1 Bxd5 was already slightly better for Black. 32...Rxd5, as indicated in my notes, was also completely equal.

**33.d6 Qd8?** It is only this that is the decisive mistake.

33...Qc6!



and Black is more than fighting. 34.d7 Bf6! is the main point where Black is more than fighting. Tough to see!

**34.Qe7!** Now the interesting moments finished at least from the machine's perspective - at no point later did the evaluation dip below 'hopelessly lost for Black'.

34...Bc6 35.Bd3 Rf6 36.Be4 Bxe4 37.Nxe4 Re6 38.Qb7 Rb8 39.Qa7 Ra8 40.Qxc5 Qh4 41.Nf2 Rxe1+ 42.Rxe1 Bf8 43.Qc6 Rd8 44.d7 Qc4 45.Qxc4 bxc4 46.Ng4 Kg7 47.Rd1 f6 48.Kf2 Kf7 49.Ke2 Ke6 50.Ne3 Rxd7 51.Rxd7 Kxd7 52.Nxc4 Kc6 53.Kd3 f5 54.b4 Bg7 55.a4 h5 56.Nd2 Bf6 57.Nf3 Kd5 58.c4+ Kd6 59.a5 Kc6 60.Nd4+ Kd6 61.b5 axb5 62.cxb5 Kc5 63.b6 Be5 64.Nf3 Bg3 65.b7 Kc6 66.Nh4 Kxb7 67.Nxg6 Bc7 68.Ne7 f4 69.Ke4 Bxa5 70.Ng6 Kc6 71.Nxf4 h4 72.Kf5 Be1 73.Kg4 Kd6 74.Ng6 Kd5 75.Nxh4 Ke4 76.Nf5

1-0

I now have a YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeuxKDDPLI7-bba-M0Ogdzg>

The link below is to the video where I discuss the game: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-PmSUBTNacc&t=928s>

## STUDIES AND PROBLEMS

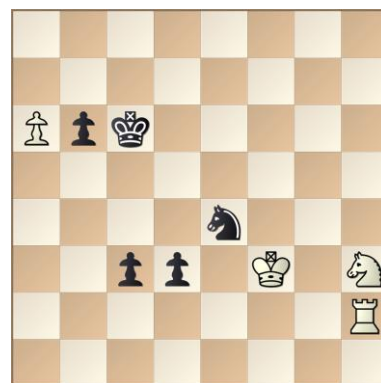
### HOW TO SOLVE A STUDY

by Ian Watson

#### UK amongst the medals

The 2023 World Chess Solving Championship has just taken place. The WCSC is an annual event and this year's was at the beginning of September, in Georgia, in their city of Batumi on the Black Sea. There's an individual Championship and a Team Championship. The 2023 World Champion is Danila Pavlov, a young Russian who solves under the FIDE flag. He is the best chess solver there has ever been, winning most of the tournaments he takes part in, and by a big margin. He's only 20 years old, but he has already won the world title three times. In the team event, the World Champions are Poland, with Lithuania taking the silver medals, and the United Kingdom the bronze. The UK team was Jonathan Mestel, David Hodge and Kamila Hryshchenko; they finished narrowly ahead of the host nation Georgia. The UK is stronger at solving chess than at over the board chess, so getting amongst the medals was not a major surprise, but the team did it without John Nunn, a former World Chess Solving Champion, who was not available this time.

The lead organiser of the event was David Gurgendze, a well-known study composer, and one of his studies was used in the competition. It was a joint composition with Velemir Kalandadze, and it was first published in 2008 when it took part in the Dresden Olympiad composing tourney.



White to play and win

Black's pawns can't be completely stopped, so you need a counter-threat. That makes the first move not too hard.

Black is threatening to move either pawn, but only the d-pawn queens with check, so if you shift the rook to the other side of the board you have your own threat (2.a7) and you've dealt with Black's threat of 1...c2 and hopefully your king and knight can subdue the d-pawn. So, you try it and see what happens. 1.Ra2 d2 2.Ke2 Ng3+ 3.Kd1 and now Black needs to threaten a knight check, so either 3...Nf1 or 3...Nf5. Try one. Either? It probably doesn't make any difference as 4...Ne3+ is coming either way. 3...Nf5 4.Nf2 Ne3+ 5.Ke2. That's it?? Well, obviously, that can't be all - it's far too trivial for a study, let alone one in a solving championship. Ah-ha! 5...d1Q+ 6.Nxd1 c2. Now what? Ah-ha part two: if my knight snaffles the other knight there'll be 7.Nxe3 c1Q 8.Rc2+ Qxc2 9.Nxc2 and Nb4 to follow. Still looks seriously thin, though. Ah-ha part three: ...c1N+. Now there's 8.Kd1 or 8.Kd2; which? We'll test 8.Kd1 which goes 8...Nxa2 9.Nd5 b5 10.Kd2 b4 11.Kc2 b3+ 12.Kb2 - that seems to do the job. And it feels like enough content, too. Just need to refute 8.Kd2, though. 8.Kd2? Nxa2 9.Nd5 b5 10.Kc2 b4 11.Kb2 b3 draws, as, in this line, does 10.Kd1 Nc3+ 11.Nxc3 Kb6. Nice - I needed that d2 square to remain available: clever composing.

The full solution is **1.Ra2 d2 2.Ke2 Ng3+ 3.Kd1 Nf1/f5 4.Nf2 Ne3+ 5.Ke2 d1Q+ 6.Nxd1 c2 7.Nxe3 c1Q 8.Kd1 Nxa2 9.Nd5 b5 10.Kd2 b4 11.Kc2 b3+ 12.Kb2** wins.

David Gurgenidze is a Grandmaster of Chess Composition, and endgame studies are his main focus. Here, for you to solve, is another of his compositions. Strictly speaking, it's a version of one of them, because the original version was found to be unsound; this version is a 2001 correction by Laurent Linnemer. The original version was from a St. Petersburg tourney of 1998. The solution is ingenious and amusing. Yes, some studies are intended to make you laugh!



White to play and win

The solution is given on page 50

Ian Watson Email: [ian@irwatson.uk](mailto:ian@irwatson.uk)

## Monthly Conundrum by Christopher Jones

As I reported recently it was possible, at Nottingham High School on 20<sup>th</sup> May, to stage the finals of the British Chess Problem Solving Championships, sponsored by Winton, for the first time since 2020. Thinking of these Championships over the many years they've taken place, one development that is striking is the extent to which an international 'solving circuit' has evolved. For the winner of the Open section at Nottingham, the Lithuanian junior Kevinas Kuznecovas, Nottingham was just one of a succession of May weekends in which he was competing successfully in such tourneys, winning IM norms along the way. Go to the solving portal on the website of the World Federation for Chess Composition and you'll get a sense of the level of activity – not yet quite rivalling over the board chess-playing activity, perhaps, but definitely a busily competitive picture, with gradings and norms very much sought after, as in over the board chess.

The said W FCC solving portal is also a good place to go if you want to get an idea of the sort of problems competitors at these events face. For all but the most recent tourneys there is a PDF of the problems that were set. I see, for instance, that at the Serbian Championships on 29.4.23 the first problem was this:



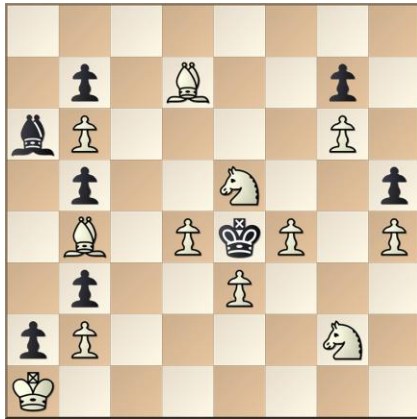
**V. Vladimirov and V. Timonin**

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize, *Tchevornii grnik* 1964

Mate in 2

I'll come back to that 2-mover in a moment, but here is a perhaps more arresting problem, which was among those set in the French Solving Championships, the week after Nottingham (27.5.23) –





### C. W. Benbow

*Dubuque Chess Journal* 1873

Mate in 6

In the 2-mover, a solver might quite quickly arrive at the notion of creating a threat of mate by 2.Qg4; and if so the solution would fall into place – 1.Nd5!. You'll see that in this Zugzwang position mates are now set for every possible black move, and a use has even been found for that out-on-a-limb a4B (the need to find a purpose for which renders this probably one of the easier problems for experienced solvers).

In the 6-mover, real imagination is needed to see how to close the net on the black king. It turns out that for tempo reasons we need to start by wasting a move – 1.Bc8!. Then the solution runs 1...Kd5 2.Bh3 Ke4 3.f5 Kd5 4.Nf4+ Ke4 5.Nd5! – and mate next move. These days, computers can verify the soundness of such problems quickly, but you do have to admire the assiduity of long-ago composers who had to be very clear-headed in seeking out and eliminating any possible flaws in their attractive intended lines of play.

(Composers, such as the admirable Mr. Benbow, can be a shadowy bunch, like some these days whose presence is felt only as a name printed over a diagram – on the WFCC website I was impressed to see photos of all the solvers listed as having outstanding norms – should you get on to the solving circuit you won't be as shadowy a figure as we composers!)

Talking of problems that are available online, I haven't for some time mentioned the weekly chess problems featured on the website of the British Chess Problem Society - [www.theproblemist.org/](http://www.theproblemist.org/). At the foot of its page there is a link to the archive of previous weekly chess problems. The problems are chosen with a view to being moderately challenging but also fun to solve. Here is one example, from January 2023:



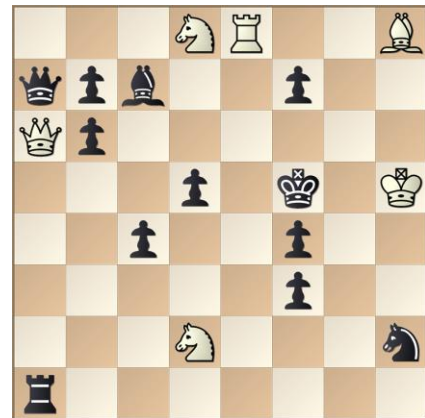
### Gyorgy Bakcsi

2<sup>nd</sup> Honourable Mention, David Przepiorka Memorial Tourney 1982

Mate in 8

It's actually not difficult once you get the idea of what happens to those stacks of white pawns and how the white rooks can be activated – 1.N6f7 threatens 2.Ng5, and provokes the following sequence: 1...Rxf4 2.d4 Rxd4 3.f4 Rxf4 4.d4 Rxd4 (...cxd4 e.p. 5.Rc6) 5.f4 Rxf4 (...gxf4 e.p. 6.Rg6) 6.Rb3 Rb2 7.Rh2 Rxh2 (the rook has been overloaded) 8.Rb6#.

Finally, here is a 2-mover from the same archive for you to solve:



### Herbert Ahues

1<sup>st</sup> Prize, *Deutsche Schachzeitung* 1979-80

Mate in 2

There are two excellent tries as well as the key move, with strong links between the play after each of these three moves. If you can't wait until the next issue to verify the solution then your computer may be able to tell you, or else you may be prompted to look this problem up on the aforementioned archive (6<sup>th</sup> February 2023).

Christopher Jones Email: [cjajones1@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:cjajones1@yahoo.co.uk)

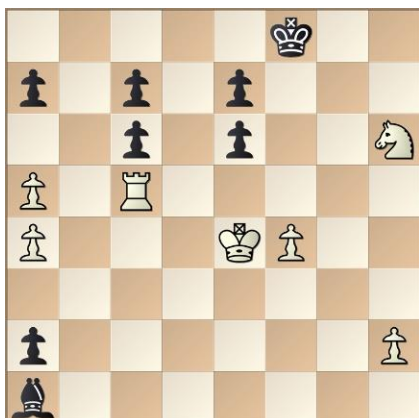
# Puzzles

## by Andrew Martin

### INTRODUCTION

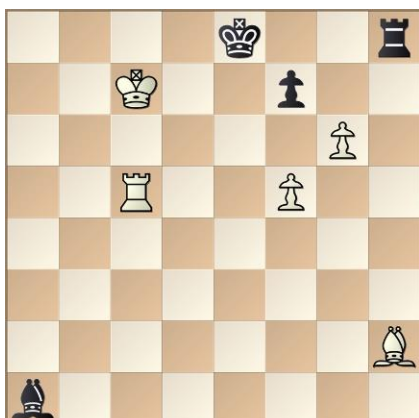
I've always tried to include puzzles, problems and studies in my training routines, whether it be group or individual coaching. Even if you work on your own, devoting some time to the ideas above will pay dividends. Generally, the positions used will have some bearing on the actual competitive game, but there is always room for the odd and unusual. The idea is to get the chess brain working in a different way to the norm and to develop creative thinking, which is normally needed to solve these conundrums. So let us take a look at some interesting positions and try to solve them without looking at the answers or using an engine.

### PUZZLE ONE



This is White to play and win. (Samov-Nasimovitsch) 1928

### PUZZLE TWO



This could easily come from a game, but in fact it is a problem. With routine play, it could easily end in a draw. White to play and win. (Kruchkov 1926)

### PUZZLE THREE



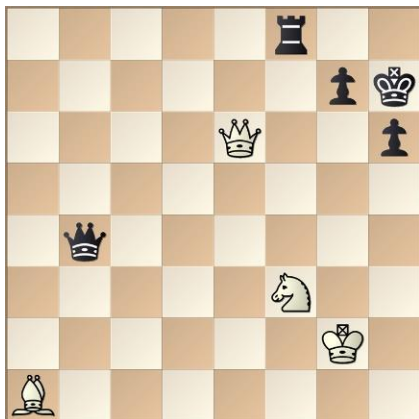
White to play and draw. The knight is trapped, and the black rook's pawn is the right colour. How do you get out of this predicament? (Mattison 1924)

### PUZZLE FOUR



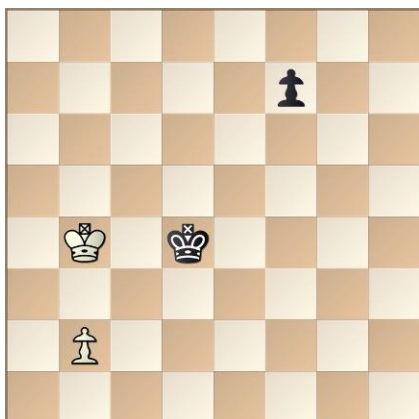
The easiest one so far? White to play and win. The most difficult part of solving positions such as this one lies in finding the correct defensive moves. (Otten 1892)

## PUZZLE FIVE



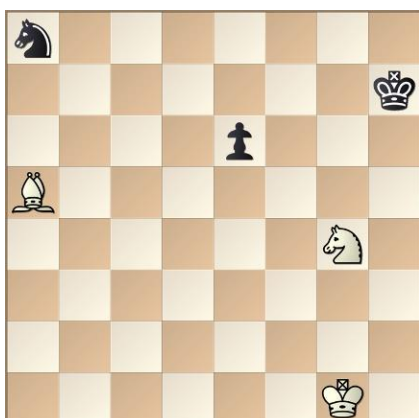
The next puzzle is a little artificial due to the absence of white pawns, but attractive all the same. White to play and win, with Zugzwang as the theme. (Rossolimo 2010)

## PUZZLE SIX



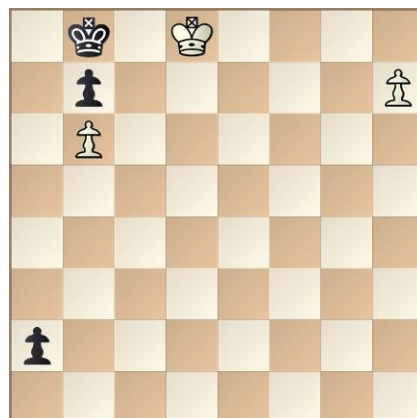
White to play and draw. Rushing positions such as this one is a common mistake. You need to take your time to get it right. (Morovec 1941)

## PUZZLE SEVEN



Let's up the difficulty on the last two. I know you like a challenge. White to play and win (A. and K. Sarychev 1930)

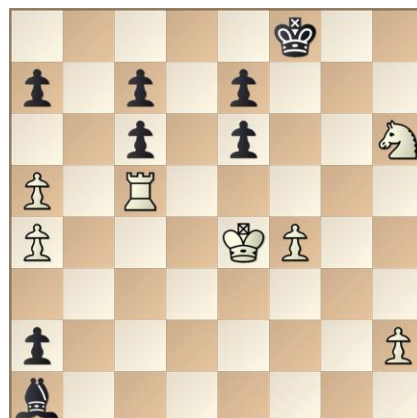
## PUZZLE EIGHT



I am sure you have seen this before. If you have not, then you are in for a treat. White to play and win. (Joseph 1922)

## ANSWERS

### PUZZLE ONE ANSWER



Black has considerable counterplay in the form of his passed pawn on a2 and so White must find a two-way move which deals with this pawn and at the same time attacks the black king.

**1.Rc2! Bb2** Black has nothing better, or the pawn falls.

**2.Rg2!** The threat of mate forces Black's hand.

**2...Ke8 2...Bg7 3.Rxa2** wins straightforwardly

**3.Rg8+ Kd7 4.Nf7!** White must keep up the threats.

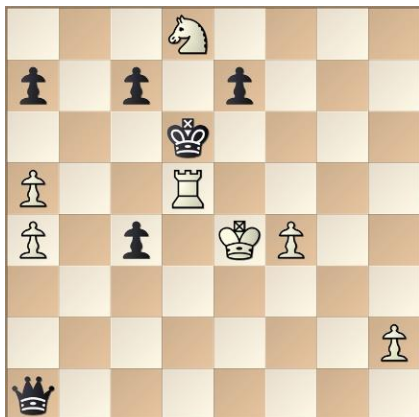
**4...c5 5.Rd8+ Kc6** Now what?

**6.Rd2!** With the idea of Nd8 checkmate!



6...c4 Black finds a way to escape for the time being.

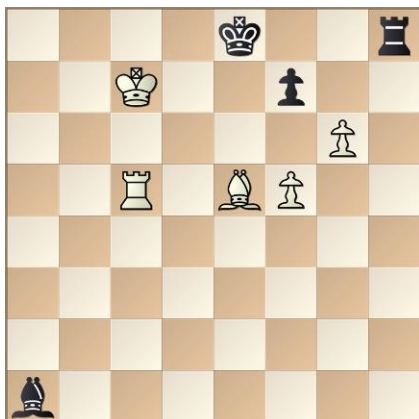
7.Nd8+ Kc5 8.Nxe6+ Kc6 9.Nd8+ Kc5 10.Rxb2! a1Q  
11.Rb5+ Kd6 12.Rd5#



A masterclass in setting up threats and carrying them out.

1-0

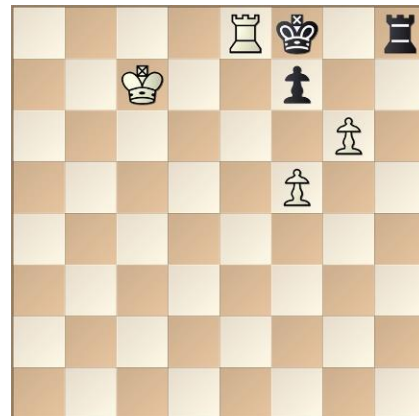
#### PUZZLE TWO ANSWER



Black is not only a pawn down, but his rook and king are poorly placed. However, thanks to the limited material on the board, White must play precisely.

1.Be5! Bxe5+ 1...Rh1 is not good enough, thanks to 2.g7 (2.Bxa1? fxg6 3.Bd4 gxf5 4.Kd6 Kf7 is not clear at all.) 2...Rg1 3.f6! and Black has no good moves.

2.Rxe5+ Kf8 3.Re8+!!



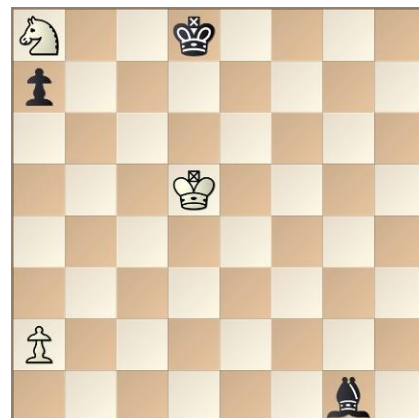
If you saw this move, very well done.

3...Kxe8 4.g7 Rg8 5.f6 Rf8 What else?

6.gxf8Q+ Kxf8 7.Kd7 Kg8 8.Ke7

1-0

#### PUZZLE THREE ANSWER



1.Kd5! The king is a strong piece in the endgame!

1...Kd7 1...Kc8 2.Kc6 saves the knight 2...Bh2 3.Nb6+

2.a4 With the idea of a5 and Nb6

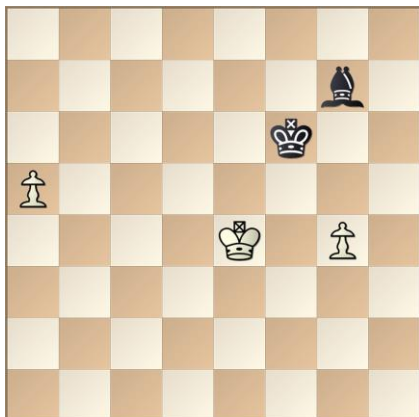
2...a5 The only move.

3.Kc4 Kc6 4.Nc7! Nice, and deeper than it looks.

4...Kxc7 5.Kb5 Bb6 6.Ka6 Kc6 Stalemate. A bit unexpected, but something to watch out for in many positions, especially when the king is on the edge of the board.

½-½

## PUZZLE FOUR ANSWER

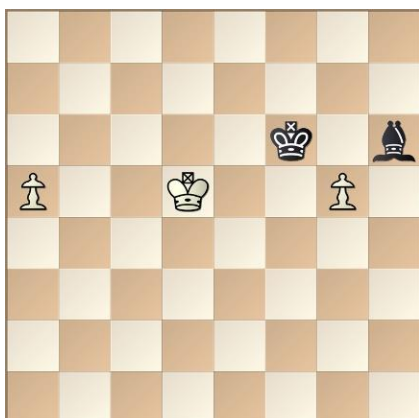


1.a5 Let's queen a pawn.

1...Bf8 White must stop ...Bc5

2.Kd5 Bh6 ....Be3 is a threat.

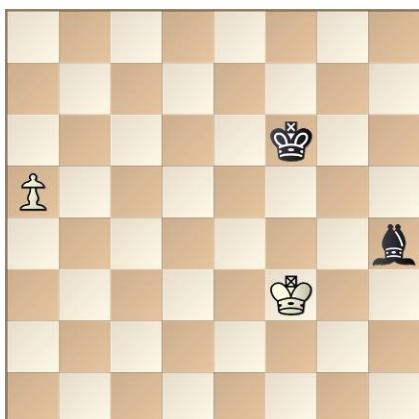
3.g5+!!



This is a beautiful idea.

3...Bxg5 If Black had captured with the king, he would have obstructed the bishop.

4.Ke4 Bh4 5.Kf3

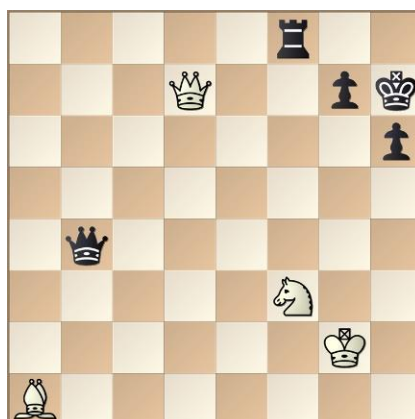


Black cannot get to a meaningful diagonal. Tactics crop up all the time in the endgame. Watch out for them!

1-0

## PUZZLE FIVE ANSWER

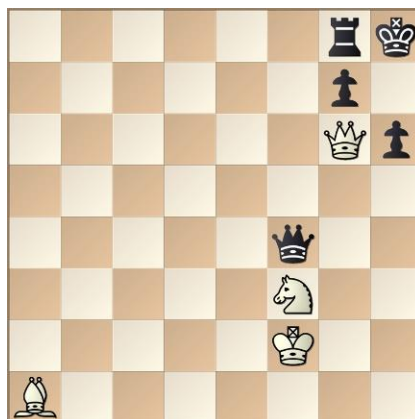
The first move is not too tricky to find.



1.Qd7! Rg8 The only move. Note the helplessness of the black queen.

2.Qf5+ Kh8 3.Qg6! Threatening Qxh6 mate. Black must defend.

3...Qf4 4.Kf2!



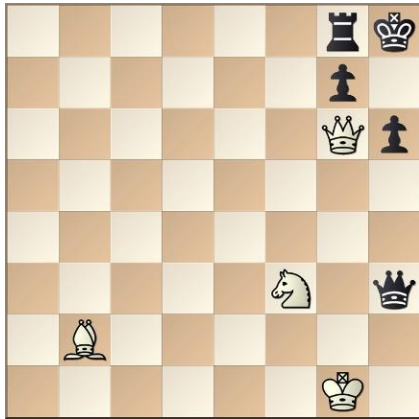
Did you find this move? If you put in the effort, I feel confident that you would have done.

4...Qc1 There is nothing else.

5.Bd4! Preventing ....Qc5+

5...Qh1 5...Qf4 6.Bb2! is a nice point and Black is out of moves.

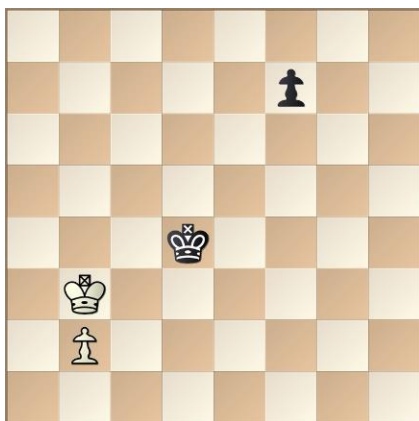
6.Bb2 Qh3 7.Kg1!



Very good. A king move creates a fitting zugzwang position.

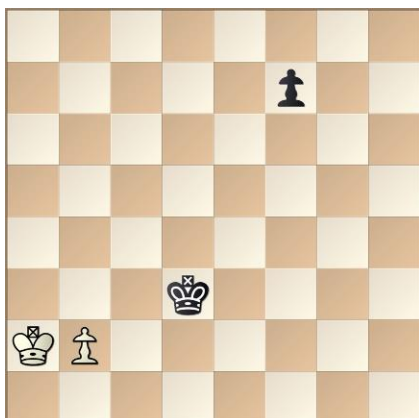
1-0

#### PUZZLE SIX ANSWER



**1.Kb3!** But not 1.Ka5 f5 2.b4 f4 3.b5 Kc5! Easy to miss - the point is to drive the white king onto an unfavourable square. 4.b6 Kc6 5.Ka6 f3 6.b7 f2 7.b8Q f1Q+ 8.Ka5 Qa1+. If the king is on the edge of the board, your sense of danger has to be on high alert.

**1...Kd3 2.Ka2!!**



Incredibly, this draws.

**2...f5 3.b4! Kc4 4.b5! Kxb5 5.Kb3** The white king is in the right place. For those unsure how the game might finish, let us play it out.

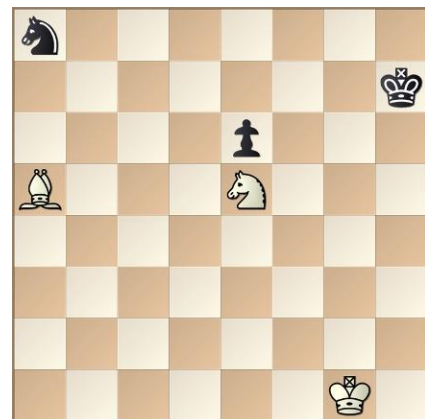
**5...Kc5 5...f4 6.Kc3 f3 7.Kd3 f2 8.Ke2.**

**6.Kc3 Kd5 7.Kd3 Ke5 8.Ke3 f4+ 9.Kf3 Kf5 10.Kf2!** Getting ready to take the opposition.

**10...Ke4 11.Ke2 f3+ 12.Kf2 Kf4 13.Kf1! Kg3 14.Kg1 f2+ 15.Kf1 Kf3** stalemate.

½-½

#### PUZZLE SEVEN ANSWER



**1.Ne5!** Over the board, a lot of players would simply bring up the king. Yet that would free up his black counterpart. White will win this by running Black out of moves.

**1...Kg7 2.Bd8! Kf8 3.Kf2 Ke8** Black is stuck for moves, with his knight so poorly placed. But how is White going to win?

**4.Ba5 Ke7 5.Ke3 Kd6 6.Kd4**



Systematic.

**6...Nc7 7.Bb4#**



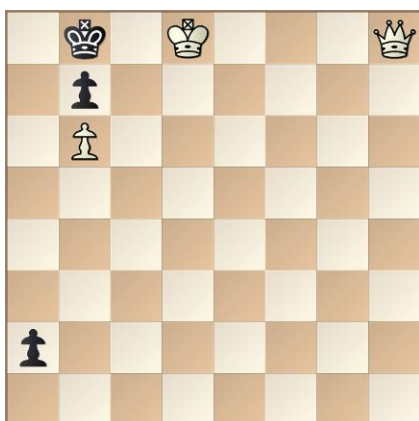


Black was not expecting that!

1-0

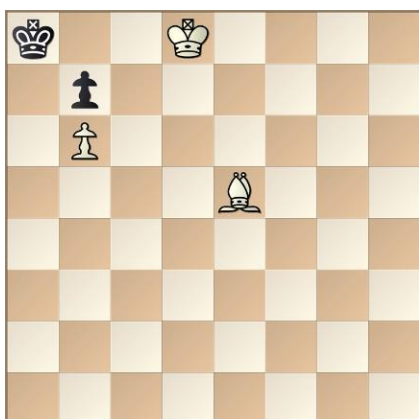
### PUZZLE EIGHT ANSWER

Andrew



This is a puzzle to tease your friends with. It's tricky and may take you some time.

**1.h8Q** 1.h8B does not cut the mustard: 1...Ka8 2.Be5 a1Q 3.Bxa1 Kb8 4.Be5+ Ka8.



A most irritating position has arisen where White cannot win.

**1...a1Q 2.Qg8!** Tries which fail are 2.Qe8 Qg7!; or 2.Qf8 Qa3 3.Qg8 Qd6+

**2...Qa2** Black plays for stalemate.

**3.Qe8 Qa4 4.Qe5+** Pushing the king to a8 is the killer blow.

**4...Ka8 5.Qh8!** This time White can capture the queen on a1 and it will be check!

1-0

### CONCLUSION

Essentially, setting time aside for solving puzzles, problems and studies will expand your chess mind. Putting the effort in is, as usual, the key to getting something out of exercises such as these. I hope you have enjoyed our little expedition into a universe you might not always frequent.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY** *American Chess Art* - Walter Korn, *Chessboard Magic* - Irving Chernev, *Secrets of Spectacular Chess* - Jon Levitt and David Friedgood, *FIDE Trainers Commission Yearbook 2012* – article 'A Tough Session' by A. Martin

Christopher Jones

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### How to Solve a Study – solutions

(Gurgenidze - version)

**1.d5+ Kf5 2.e4+ Kg4 3.f3+ Kh5 4.b8Q Bh2+ 5.f4 Bxf4+ 6.e5 Bxe5+ 7.d6 Bxd6+ 8.Kd7** and wins. The pawns flow forward like waves on the ocean.

The original version of this study took part in a theme tourney, in which the entries had to show a threefold successive pawn sacrifice. Gurgenidze's study showed the theme doubly and it won the tourney. In 2001, the original version was found to be unsound, and this discovery was mentioned in the study magazine EG. The correction was made by one of the EG readers.

If 7...Rxh6 8.Qb5 Re6 9.Qxe5 Rxe5 10.d7, or in this line 8...Bxd6+ 9.Kd7 Rh8 10.Be4. After 8.Kd7 in the main line, obviously not 8...Bxb8 9.Bf3 mate which White has been aiming for, but 8...Rxh6 9.Qb5 also loses as in the 7...Rxh6 line.

## EVENTS CALENDAR

The full events calendar is updated daily, and can be found at <https://www.englishchess.org.uk/event-calendar/>

<b>Week Beginning 25 September</b>	
30 September-1 October 2023	Norfolk County Chess Championships 2023, Horstead, Norwich
30 September 2023	2023/24 Newham Junior Grand Prix
30 September-1 October 2023	Oxted FIDE Standard Rating September Tournament
30 September 2023	2023 Camberley KR Rapid Play Tournament
30 September 2023	UK Open Blitz 2023 - North West Qualifier, Bolton
30 September 2023	UK Open Blitz 2023 - Northern Irish Qualifier, Belfast
30 September 2023	UK Open Blitz 2023 - Scottish Qualifier, Edinburgh
30 September 2023	UK Open Blitz 2023 - Welsh Qualifier, Cardiff
1 October 2023	Ealing FIDE Rapidplay
1 October 2023	Colchester Junior Chess Tournament
1 October 2023	9th Desert Penguins Junior Chess Championships - LJCC Qualifier
1 October 2023	Bucks Junior Chess Tournament - LJCC Qualifier
1 October 2023	Eton College Secondary School Rapidplay
1 October 2023	UK Open Blitz - South West Qualifier, Bristol
<b>Week Beginning 2 October</b>	
2 October 2023	National Online Schools Chess League
3 October 2023	4th 4NCL Online Autumn Congress
3 October 2023	Uxbridge Advanced Chess Lessons
4 October 2023	Coulsdon Chess Daytime Chess
4 October 2023	Beckenham FIDE Rated Club Championship
5 October 2023	Hendon FIDE Blitz
5 October-10 October 2023	Junior 4NCL Online Season 8
6-7 October 2023	Wimbledon FIDE Congress
6-8 October 2023	2nd Ribble Weekend FIDE Congress
7-8 October 2023	Sheffield Chess Congress 2023
7-8 October 2023	South of England Junior Chess Congress
7 October 2023	Peter and Peggy Clarke Memorial Rapidplay
7 October 2023	4th Swindon Rapidplay
7 October 2023	2nd Greenwich Peninsula Chess Club Rapid
7 October 2023	Maidenhead Junior Tournament October 2023
8 October 2023	2023 Birmingham Junior Open
8 October 2023	LJCC Qualifying Chess Tournament, Borehamwood
8 October 2023	Mitcham Rapidplay
8 October 2023	UK Open Blitz 2023 - North East Qualifier, Gosforth
8 October 2023	BBCA ECF Rated Rapid Tournament, London
<b>Week Beginning 9 October</b>	
10 October 2023	4NCL Online Season 8
11 October 2023	Coulsdon Chess Daytime Chess
13 October 2023	Secondary School Chess Lichess Battle
13-15 October 2023	Castle Chess 22nd Fareham Congress
13-15 October 2023	Dundee Congress 2023
14 October 2023	Hampton Junior Chess Congress
14-15 October 2023	Chess 4U Weymouth Chess Congress
14 October 2023	Sussex Junior Rapidplay LJCC Qualifier, Turners Hill
14-15 October 2023	UKCC Terafinal 2023, Blenheim Palace
15 October 2023	Coulsdon Chess Junior Grand Prix Autumn Term 2023
15 October 2023	CSC Grand Prix 2023, London
15-21 October 2023	47th Guernsey International Chess Festival
<b>Week Beginning 16 October</b>	
16 October 2023	National Online Schools Chess League
17 October 2023	Muswell Hill FIDE Standard

17 October 2023	4th 4NCL Online Autumn Congress
18 October 2023	Coulsdon Chess Daytime Chess
19-24 October 2023	Junior 4NCL Online Season 8
20 October 2023	5th Desert Penguins Friday Evening FIDE Rapidplay, London
20-22 October 2023	ECF National Club Championships 2023
21-22 October 2023	15th West Surrey Standard Play, Leatherhead
21 October 2023	East Kent Junior Ches Congress, Barham
22 October 2023	35th Brimingham Rapidplay
22 October 2023	LJCC Qualifier, Elstree
<b>Week Beginning 23 October</b>	
24 October 2023	Muswell Hill FIDE Standard
24 October 2023	Coulsdon Junior Mini Tournament 23/24
24 October 2023	4NCL Online Season 8
25 October 2023	Coulsdon Junior Mini Tournament 23/24
25 October 2023	Coulsdon Chess Daytime Chess
26 October 2023	Coulsdon Junior Mini Tournament 23/24
27 October 2023	Secondary School Chess Lichess Battle
27-29 October 2023	London Chess League FIDE Weekender
27-29 October 2023	46th Scarborough Congress
28 October 2023	Scarborough Junior Rapidplay 2023
28-29 October 2023	Southall FIDE Congress
28 October 2023	2023/24 Newham Junior Grand Prix



## New books from Elk and Ruby

- Masterpieces and Dramas of the Soviet Championships: Volume III (1948-1953) by *Sergey Voronkov*
- The Pawn Study Composer's Manual by *Mikhail Zinar*
- 101 Endgame Masterclasses: Rooks and Material Imbalances by *Alexander Galkin*
- Mate Threats and Defense - 1000 Tactical Examples by *Jakov Geller*







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