

IRISH CHESS JOURNAL

October 2010

Dun Laoghaire Centenary Masters Tournaments



L to R: Manca, Quinn, Fitzsimons, Griffiths, Collins, Hebden, Daly, Atlas, Baburin, Moskow, Short, Ansell, Tvarijonas, Astaneh Lopez, Rochev, Bischoff, Heidenfeld, Cech, Brady, Rodriguez Lopez

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**IRISH CHESS
JOURNAL**
Editor : Tony Foley

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The editor would like to express his gratitude to everyone who contributed to this issue, and apologise if I've forgotten anyone!

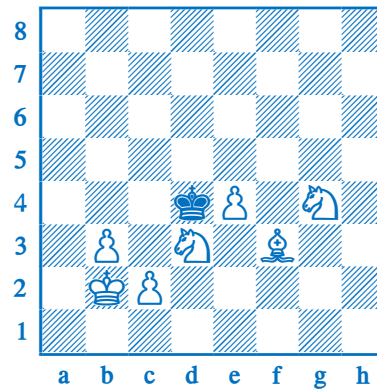
Re-launching the defunct Irish Chess Journal was not an easy decision to make as IM Mark Orr has produced an immensely useful website. However, I felt that people may want an alternative.



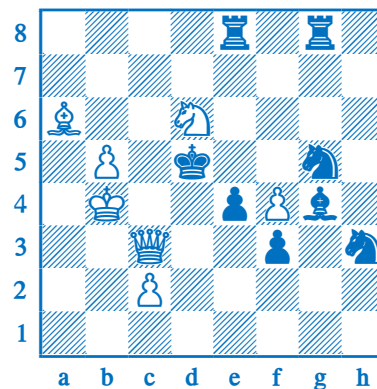
[Chess Today](#) is a daily newspaper delivered by email. A typical Chess Today email contains three attachments, these are a PDF newsletter containing games, a test-yourself puzzle and the latest news from tournaments plus two other files that are a selection of games in CBV and PGN formats that can be read by your chess program or text file.

The Chess Today PDF file contains four pages, which over a month adds up to an awful lot of chess delivered to your inbox! You can view 15 free sample files of Chess Today by visiting http://www.chesstoday.net/sample_issues.html A subscription costs 3 months €15, 6 months €25, 12 months €45.

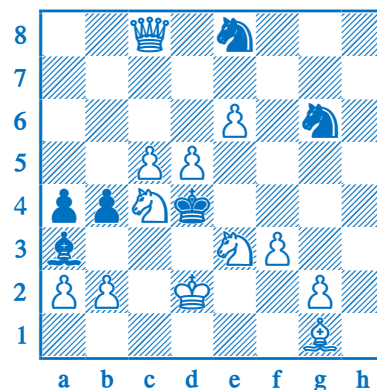
ARE YOU A PROBLEM SOLVER?



#5 **D'Orville**
Le Palamede, 1837



#5 **Walter Grimshaw**
The Illustrated London News, 1850



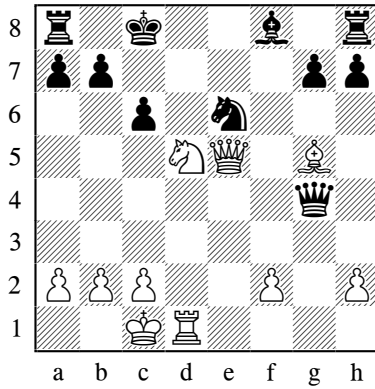
#3 **Alex Casa**
Europe Echecs, 1970 (1st Prize)

Solutions on last page.

CHESSE MAGIC

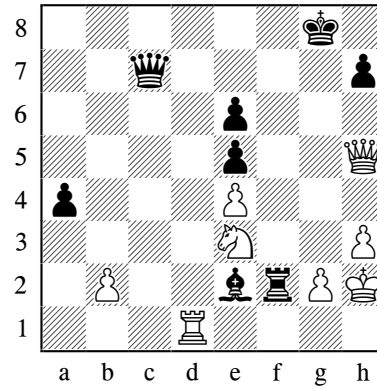
White to play and win

1



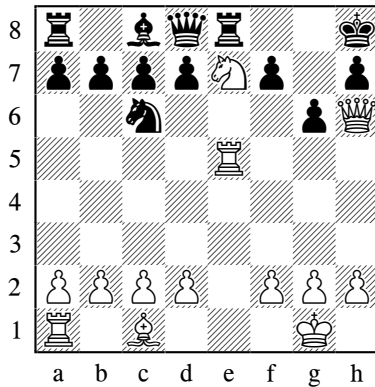
Manca – Braga,
Reggio Emilia 1992/3

4



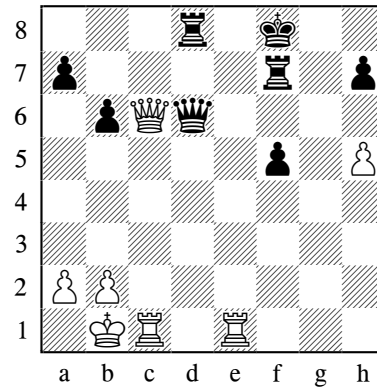
A.Fedorov – M.Dzhumaev
New Dehli, 2006

2



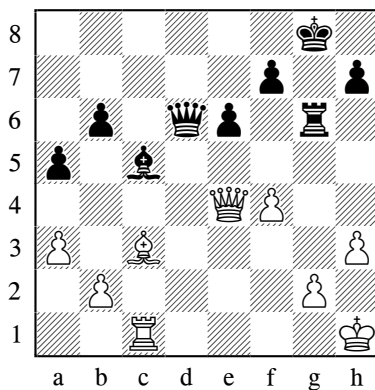
S.Collins – T. Spanton,
Hastings, 2009-10

5



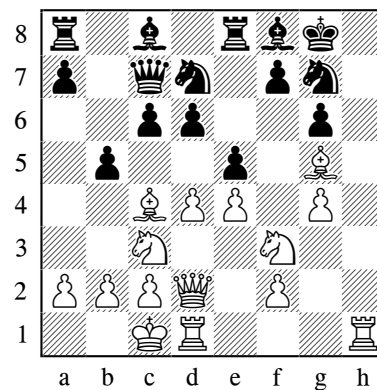
Z.Izoria – Z.Sturua
Dubai, 2006

3



L.Portisch – A.Beliavsky
Szentgotthard, 2010

6



N.Karpenko – S.Muzalevsky
USSR, 1970

Solutions on last page.



Robinson Crusoe GM

You're stranded on a desert island and have only a few chess books with you. Which ones do you want, and why? Readers are invited to submit their choices. A regular feature.

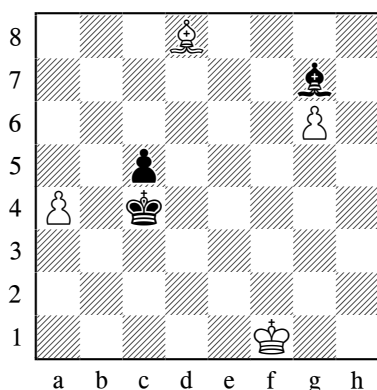
The Tactics of End-Games By Jenö Ban

No desert island for me, but I did give the game up for twenty years, retaining just a very few books. The book I read most in this time was Ban's *The Tactics of End-games*.

The book consists of endgame studies with various tactical themes from the late nineteenth and early twentieth century's. "Studies", mind you, not "problems": the main practical distinction is that problems look contrived while studies seem natural, and indeed for most studies in this book you have the impression that they could appear in one of your own games. (On a very good, and memorable day.)

The author does an extremely good job of linking the studies together thematically under dozens of themes – "walling in", "discovery", "focal point", "driving on", and many others – and the solutions are beautifully written.

Here is one example: (warning: converted from the book's descriptive notation), from the book's 220+:



R. Reti (1925)
White wins

"The foregoing lesson might lead us to believe that a similar end-game could be enforced here by exchanging the a-pawn for Black's c-pawn.

But after 1.Kd2? Kb4! 2.Be7! Kxa4 3.Bxc5 Kb5 4.Ba3 Kc6 5.Ke3 Kd7 6.Kf4 Ke8 7.Kf5 Kd7! it turns out that White's king cannot worm his way into Black's position and no advantageous exchange of the bishops can be forced through. Nor is it much better to secure the a-pawn by 1.a5, for after 1...Kb5 2.Ke2 c4! 3.Ke3 c3! Black's pawn becomes a permanent menace.

The solution is as short as it is poignant.

1.Ba5! Kb3

1...Kd3 White counters with the text (but see note below), any other move with 2.Ke2 and wins.

2.Bc3!!

A surprisingly strong driving-off sacrifice based on the fact that momentarily Black's king is outside the "magic square" of the a-pawn, and the bishop is unable to stop both pawns.

2...Bxc3

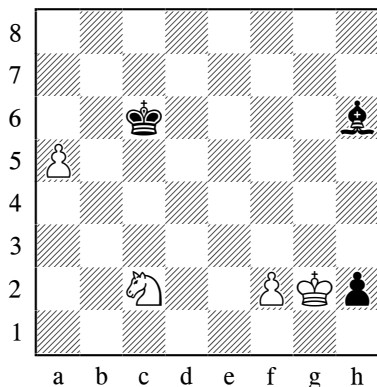
2...Kxc3 or 2...Bh6 would be answered by the same move:

3.a5! and wins,

because one of the pawns can be realized by giving up the other as a driving-off sacrifice."

There is a flaw in the solution given – 1...Kd3 2.Bc3? Bxc3! draws – but 2.Be1 appears to win. And similarly in the main line Ban's "and wins" glosses over some remaining work. But these quibbles shouldn't distract from Reti's spectacular idea.

Here's one more example, again from Reti, with some similar themes but from a different section of the book.



R. Reti(1922)
White wins

Paraphrasing Ban, 1.Nd4+ is met by 1...Kc5! Otherwise White wins by

straightforward means, e.g., 1...Kb7 2.Kxh2 Ka6 3.Nb3 Bf4+ 4.Kh3 Kb5 5.Kg4 Bb8 6.f4 Kb4 7.f5! Kxb3 8.f6 Kb4 9.f7 Bd6 10.a6! etc. But after 1.Nd4+ Kc5 2.Nb3+ Kb5! White is short the tempo that secured the win above.

So how does White win from the diagrammed position? Solution next issue.

The Tactics of End-Games is out of print but can be found on, e.g., amazon.co.uk. My edition is the 1997 Dover one, ISBN-10: 0-486-29705-5, a reprint of the 1963 original translation into English (in descriptive notation). Highly recommended!

Sean Coffey

CHESS SPY!

BY PETER CAFOLLA

GALWAY CONGRESS 2010

As always Galway held a very enjoyable chess congress with healthy entries in all three sections. It was particularly good to see quite a number of people who wouldn't be regulars on the circuit. As always there was quite a number of upsets in the Masters section the most noticeable being Tom Healys excellent draw with Alex Baburin in round one. Another great achievement was Ryan Rhys Griffiths draw with top seed Dorian Rogozenko. Young Ronan Magee did very well to win the grading prize with 4/6 and Stephen Short deserved more than his 3.5 after beating Anthony Fox and then completely outplaying John Merriman 2277 but letting him off the hook. Socially the event was a lot of fun too with late night/early morning analysis and blitz in the bar . I intend rating any tournaments I attend this season in Chess Spy fashion awarding up to 5 stars in each category.

Galway

Venue: ***** Best hotel on the Irish chess circuit, reasonably priced food and drink and very comfortable rooms with sky sports and wi fi, also a fine leisure centre.

Playing Conditions: *** (Poor lighting) I think I prefer longer time limits too.

Strength: ***** 2 GMs and no easy games.

Organization: ***** Relaxed but efficient and friendly, just one minor cock up with the draw when I arrived at the board to play Rogozenko and found Rochev (or was it Cowan?) there instead.

Accessibility: * How do people live in Galway with that dreadful traffic?

Après Chess: ***** Good fun.

21/30 I'll be back.

IRISH CHAMPIONSHIPS, DUBLIN, 2010

9 round open Swiss, 28 players.

Place	Name	Rtg	Score
1	Astaneh Lopez, Alex	2367	7.5
2	Short, Philip	2296	6.5
3-4	Griffiths, Ryan-Rhys	2249	6
	Rodriguez Lopez, Rafael	2312	6
5-8	Orr, Mark	2247	5.5
	Redmond, John P.	2205	5.5
	Delaney, John	2210	5.5
	Quinn, Ciaran	2104	5.5
9-10	Brady, Stephen	2376	5
	Murray, David B.	2021	5
11-17	Wallace, Paul A.	2242	4.5
	Fox, Anthony	2129	4.5
	O'Connell, Gerard	2136	4.5
	Butler, Kevin C.	2054	4.5
	Duffy, Seamus	1996	4.5
	Fitzsimons, David	2263	4.5
	Delaney, Killian	2034	4.5
18-20	Cafolla, Peter	2090	4
	Porter, Liam	1976	4
	McCabe, Darren	1892	4
21-24	Daly, Colm	2322	3.5
	Boyle, Bernard	1943	3.5
	Keogh, Eamon	2047	3.5
	Palmer, Bernard M.	2012	3.5
25-26	Kalam, Abul	1880	3
	O'Rourke, Ray	2066	3
27-28	Benson, Oisin P.	2062	2.5
	Loughran, John	1928	2.5

Congratulations to **Alex Astaneh Lopez** who is the 2010 Irish Champion 3-11 July. Philip Short was runner up while Ryan-Rhys Griffiths and Rafael Rodriguez Lopez shared 3/4th. Well done to Michael Crowe, tournament controller, who put on another smooth show.

The young Corkonian was a most deserving winner of the event and will now also be representing Ireland for the first time at an Olympiad when he joins the Irish team due to participate at the 2010 Chess Olympiad being held in Russia later this year.

Orr,M - Daly,C [A47]

2010 Irish Ch (3), [Daly,Colm]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.Bg5 c5 4.e3 cxd4
5.exd4 b6 6.Bd3 Bb7 7.0-0 d6 8.Nbd2 Be7
9.Re1 Nbd7 10.c3 0-0 11.Bf1 Re8 12.g3
Qc7 13.Bg2 Rad8 14.Nf1 e5 15.Ne3 h6
16.Bxf6 Nxf6 17.Rc1 Bf8 18.Nh4 e4 19.Bf1
d5 20.f4 a6 21.Ng4 Nxc4 22.Qxg4 b5
23.a3 Bc8 24.Qe2 g5 25.Ng2 f5 26.Qe3
Qg7 27.Be2 Bd6 28.Rf1 Re7 29.Rf2 Rc7
30.Rc1 g4?!

Black has had a comfortable advantage for some time but this move only makes it easier

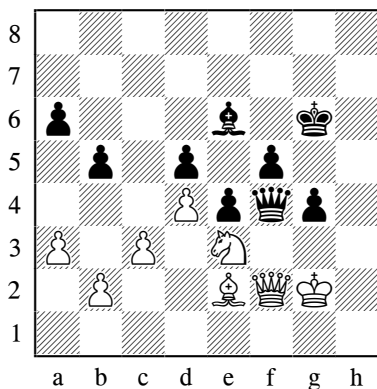
for White to defend and rules out a range of options and plans which would give White something to constantly worry about. Keeping the tension would leave Black with a nice advantage to work with.
31.Qd2 h5 32.Ne3 Be6 33.Qd1 Qd7
34.Qb3 Qc6
34...h4!?
35.h3
A curious move which I assumed was bad but it is hard to be sure.
35...Rh7 36.hxc4?!

This really did surprise me as I had the firm idea that the main idea was to now play h4 and so shut of a whole avenue of attack for Black. After all, Black has the space advantage on this side of the board so it should be easier for Black to make use of the open h-file.

36...hxc4 37.Rh2 Rxc2 38.Kxc2 Rd7 39.Kg2 Rh7 40.Qd1 Qc7! 41.Rh1 Bxf4!

This is probably the only, or at least the best try for a win for Black. He has been better all through the game from the opening and after some careless and lazy play has found most of his advantage dissipated.

42.gxf4 Qxf4 43.Rxh7 Kxh7 44.Qg1 Kg6 45.Qf2



45...Qh6?

Made too quickly, and a very careless mistake which throws away any winning chances. As it happens White has a saving resource which I had not seen and after the correct move 45...Kg5 it appears White does indeed have a saving resource but we will never know if White would have found it. Now it is Black who must take care to make a draw. [45...Kg5 46.Bxc4! fxc4 47.Qg3 Bg8 48.Kh2 a5 49.Kg2 a4 50.Kh2 Qxc3+ 51.Kxc3 Be6 52.Nf1 Bf7 53.Ne3 Be6= ; 45...Qxf2+ 46.Kxf2 Kg5 47.Bxc4! Probably the only way to draw. 47...fxg4 48.Kg3=.

46.Kg3!

Probably the only useful move for White and Black must play very carefully now.

46...Qh3+ 47.Kf4 Kf6?

Possibly or probably losing now. [47...Qh6+ 48.Kg3 (48.Ke5 Bc8=) 48...Qh3+=.

48.Bf1 Qh1 49.Kg3 Kg5

The best practical try.

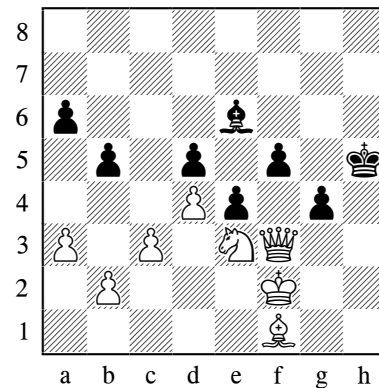
50.Qf4+ Kh5?

This should lose on the spot, but it was worth a try after already going wrong.

51.Kf2?

Black now gets a second chance to draw after having gone wrong on move 47 51.Nxf5! Would have won on the spot.

51...Qf3+ 52.Qxf3



52...exf3??

This just throws away the draw which was to be had with gxf3. A pretty awful way to lose considering White was just hanging on for most of the game, but that is chess for you. You must work harder at the board and keep playing the right moves right up to the end. 52...gxf3! When what was played in the actual game does not work here. A sample line might be as given here now. The position is equal with best play but White has to be more careful than Black. 53.a4 f4 54.Nc2? (54.axb5 fxe3+ 55.Kxe3 axb5 56.Bxb5 Kb4 57.b4 Bh3 58.Bc6 Kg3) 54...bxa4 55.Bxa6 Kg4 56.Bb5 e3+ 57.Nxe3+ fxe3+ 58.Kxe3 Kg3 59.Bxa4 f2 60.Bb5 Kg2 61.Kf4 Bd7 62.Bd3 Bh3 63.Ke5 Kg1 64.Kxd5?? Bf1 65.Bf5.

53.a4

As it happens the position is now actually winning for White but my next move is comical in its stupidity. I could have resigned but inertia sees me play on a few pointless moves. Overall a pretty awful loss, and another nice gift for Orr. Coming just a round after Stephen Brady blundered from an actual winning position, as opposed to my merely better position. Though I was comfortably better from move 13 onwards and probably should have been able to extract a win from the position. However I

can't claim I was ever actually winning. With luck like this Orr could go on to win the event, but I still very much doubt it. In fact I reckon I will finish ahead of him by the end of the event.

53...f4??

53...Kg5 54.axb5 axb5 55.Bxb5 Kf4 56.Nf1 Kg5 57.Bc6 f4 58.b4.

54.Nxg4

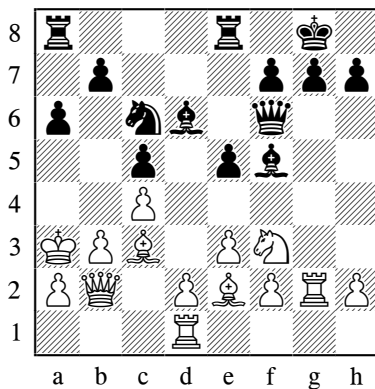
Game over.

Kxg4 55.axb5 a5 56.b6 Bc8 57.Bb5 Bb7 58.Bd7+ Kg5 59.Kxf3 Kf6 60.Kxf4 Ke7 61.Bb5 Kd6 62.Kf5 Bc8+ 63.Kf6 Bb7 64.Kf7 Ba8 65.Ke8 Bc6+ 66.Kd8 Bb7 67.Bd7 Bc6 68.Bc8 a4 69.b7 1-0

Redmond, J – Astaneh Lopez, A [A11]

Irish Ch (8),

1.c4 c6 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nc3 d5 4.e3 e6 5.b3 Bd6 6.Bb2 0-0 7.Qc2 Re8 8.Be2 a6 9.g4 e5 10.g5 d4 11.gxf6 dxc3 12.Bxc3 Qxf6 13.Rg1 Bf5 14.Qb2 c5 15.0-0-0 Nc6 16.Rg2



16...Nd4! 17.exd4 exd4 18.Nxd4 cxd4 19.Bxd4 Qxd4 0-1

Delaney, K - Cafolla, P [C50]

Irish Ch (2), [Cafolla, Peter]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Be7

The Hungarian Defence

4.d4 d6 5.dxe5 dxe5

Swapping monarchs now would give White a theoretical edge but Queen-less middle games don't suit Killian's style.

6.Qe2 Bg4 7.Bb5 Qd6 8.Bxc6+ bxc6

Recapturing with the Queen would just lose a pawn to Nxe5.

9.Nbd2 f6 10.h3 Bh5

10...Be6 is probably better to influence the centre.

11.g4?!

This just drives my Bishop to a better diagonal and weakens Whites K-side.

11...Bf7 12.Nh4?!

As often happens one poor move follows another, Killian maybe hasn't heard that "a Knight on the rim is dim", nevertheless the position is only level.

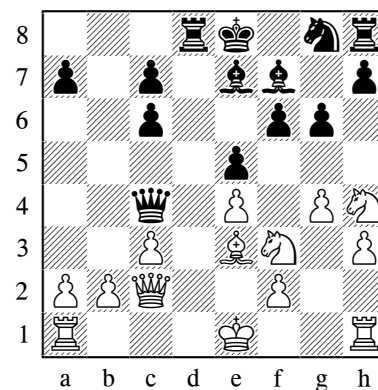
12...g6 13.Ndf3?!

Not content with misplacing one Knight he tries to justify it by tying down the other. The problem was that Black could play f5 at any moment.

13...Qb4+?!

My turn to start messing about. The simple Rd8 gave me a nice += but I wanted to make some room for my Bishop on e7 and consequently my Knight.

14.c3 Qc4 15.Qc2 Rd8 16.Be3



16...Bc5??

A really cretinous move made after some shallow analysis of the variations. The move my instinct was roaring at me to play was 16...a5 when Black has the better game.

17.b3?

Sloppy play by Killian too. 17 Nd2, Qb5 18 a4, Qb6 19 a5, Qb5 20 c4, Qb4 21 Ra4! wins the exchange. I seem to remember Carlsen missing something similar against Howell in Corus this year.

17...Qb5 18.a4 Qb6 19.a5 Qb5 20.c4 Bb4+ 21.Ke2

21.Bd2 or Kf1 was better but I guess Killian wanted to keep his rooks connected.

21...Qa6

My silly manoeuvres on the Q-side have resulted in my Queen being marginalised but Black is still probably slightly better due to Whites misplaced King and dim Knight.

22.g5 Be7

22...Bd6 was a better defence.

23.Qc3 h6 24.gxh6?!

Wrong pawn, after gxf6 Bxf6 Nxe5 White wins a pawn but Black has enough compensation because of the niggling pin on e5.

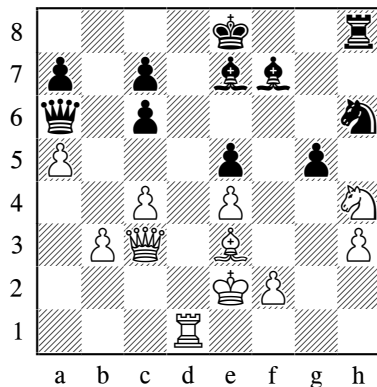
24...Nxb6 25.Rhd1 Rxd1!

A good move as the idea Rxd8 Nxe5 was in the air for White.

26.Rxd1 g5 27.Nxg5!

An excellent sacrifice .

27...fxg5



28.Qxe5?

White blows his big chance. 28 Bxg5!, Bh5+ 29 f3, Nf7 30 Bxe7, Kxe7 31 Qb4+!, Kf6 32 Rxd7, Re8 33Rxc7 +- .

28...Bh5+?

Now I go wrong again Bxc4+! bxc4 Qxc4+, Rd3 gxh5 just wins.

29.f3 Nf7 30.Qf5??

Killian picked up his Queen here to play Qe6 then panicked for some reason (possibly seeing the harmless Rh6) and put it on f5 where it does nothing. If he had played the correct Qe6 I had planned gxh4 Rd7 then the amazingly surprising 0-0!! when everything holds nicely.

30...gxh4 31.Rd7 c5 32.Rxe7+ Kxe7 33.Bxc5+ Kd8 34.Qd5+ Ke8 0-1

Cafolla, P - Brady, S [C41]

Irish Ch (1) [*Cafolla, Peter*]

I wrote these annotations originally for my own use with the idea of identifying faults then setting about eliminating them. I had no intention of publishing my notes but then thought "what the hell", it may help weaker players to see how I think during a game and it may attract some feedback from stronger players who might offer some advice or comment. I would be interested to know if better players than me ever have similar experiences during a game.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6

A surprise, and an opening that I had not prepared in any depth.

3.d4 Nf6 4.Nc3

If 4.dxe5,Nxe4 5 Qd5,Nc5 6 Bg5,Qd7 7.exd6,Bxd6 8 Nc3, 0-0 9 0-0-0 is possible but I didn't know this line.

4...Nbd7 5.dxe5

It was probably better to maintain the tension.

5...dxe5 6.Bc4 Bc5 7.O-O O-O 8.Qe2

8.Bg5 seems to be more popular here but White's results aren't very good with it.

8...c6 9.a4

I like this move. As I discovered v Clery in Prague white can't allow Black easy Q-side expansion.

9...Qc7 10.h3

This probably isn't necessary especially since a black knight cannot easily get to d4 in the event of Bg4.

10...h6

Also unnecessary and creates a hook for a white pawn attack.

11.Nh4

A good idea but a little impatient better to just keep developing with Be3 or Rd1.

11...Re8 12.Nf5 Nf8?!

12...Nb6 is better, then chopping on f5.

13.Be3

By now I've realised my knight sortie isn't such a good idea so try to justify it tactically.

13...Bb4 14.Qf3!

Now an exchange on f5 isn't so disadvantageous.

14...Be6?!

Taking on either F5 or C3 is better.

15.Bxe6 Rxe6 16.Ne2

Or Na2.

16...Ba5 17.Rad1 Bb6 18.Bc1!

The Bishop is an important attacking piece.

18...Rd8 19.h4?!

This I felt was the critical point of the game so I should not have moved until I was completely happy with my choice. H4 is not a bad move in itself but I have to question my reasons for making it. Firstly I felt that I had an advantage and should be attacking, this is probably true up to a point but my advantage is only about half a pawn and my dominance on the K-side not so great that I can expect a hurried attack to be successful. The second important factor is that I have a bad record against Brady in recent years so I was determined to show that I didn't fear him, this coupled with a belief that I shouldn't let him off the hook yet again. I considered moves like g4, Rxd8 and Neg3 (probably best) but couldn't find anything convincing then opted for H4 which is in no way convincing either. The difference between H4 and say Neg3 is that h4 causes weaknesses and cannot be taken back.

19...Rxd1 20.Rxd1 h5

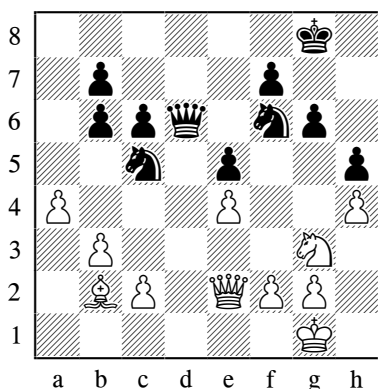
Fairly obvious yet I hadn't really considered it. In fact, looking back, I don't think I analysed any concrete variations after h4.

21.Neg3 g6 22.Ne3

Fritz likes Nh6+ too but only a machine could play a move like that.

22...Rd6 23.Rxd6 Qxd6 24.Nc4 Qe6 25.Nxb6 axb6 26.b3 N8d7 27.Qe2 Qd6 28.Bb2?!

The Bishop would be better employed on e3.
28...Nc5



29.f4??

This is lunacy when the obvious f3 would have maintained equality. I no longer had any advantage but was reluctant to switch to "drawing mode". This time too there were spectators at the board and I got a fit of bravado. Finally, and most alarmingly, I just saw the cheap tactic exf4 e5 (which doesn't even work) and blazed ahead with no analysis of variations. My "justification" for the whole silly idea was some vague notion of increasing the range of my Bishop.

29...Ng4

Better was simply exf4 e5 Qe7 when my Knight being en prise shows how rubbish my plan was.

30.f5 Qf6

My whole position just collapses now, the rest needs no explanation.

31.fxg6 fxg6 32.Qf3 Qxh4 33.b4 Ne6 34.Nf1 Qe1 35.Bc3 Qc1 36.Bxe5 Qxc2 37.Ba1 Qc4 38.Qc3 Qxc3 39.Bxc3 Nf4 40.Bd2 Ne2+ 41.Kh1 Nf2+ 42.Kh2 Nxe4 43.Be3 N2c3 44.Nd2 Nxd2 45.Bxd2 Nxa4 46.Kg3 Kf7 0-1

So to summarize:

1. Insufficient knowledge of the opening.
2. Impetuously attacking.
3. NOT analysing variations at critical times.
4. Silly bravado.
5. Not taking enough time to re-adjust my thinking at crucial turning points.
6. Possible tiredness.

Results of the Irish Junior, Intermediate and Weekender.

This year's Intermediate Championship was a three-way tie between **Bartłomiej Cichonski**, **Ronan Magee** and **Colm Fitpatrick** who each scored 4/5. **Pearse Dunne** was 4th with 3½/5. The Junior Championship was won outright by **James McAree** with 4½/5 with **Kevin May**, **Diego Lionello** and **Martin Kelly** sharing 2nd place on 4 points. The Weekender was won by **Sam Collins**, winning all his games, while **Stephen Scannell**, **Pete Morriss** and **Tomas Bajcar** shared 2nd with 4/5.

JUNIOR CHESS

“I give you some advice before we begin” and for the last time for the next five hours he was to smile. “In the words of the old masters – beware the pins, beware the forks, beware the skewers and the double checks” and here he paused for effect, “but most of all beware the mates.”

Boris Spassky (Kilkenny, 1991)

INTRODUCTION TO TACTICS

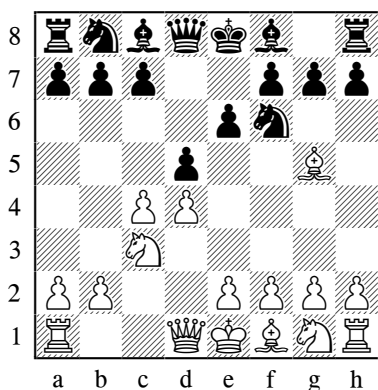
Here are the basic tactical ideas which crop up in virtually every game of chess:

- 1) The PIN
- 2) The FORK
- 3) The SKEWER
- 4) DOUBLE CHECK
- 5) DISCOVERED CHECK

Mastery of basic tactics is essential if one wishes to improve and so we cover each of these ideas in turn.

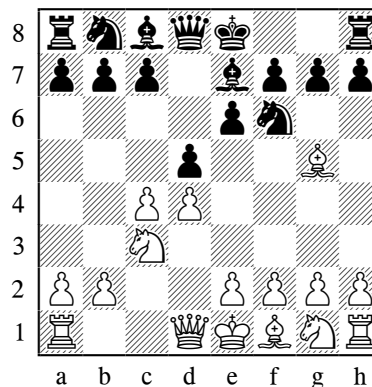
PIN

There are two kinds of pin; an ABSOLUTE pin and a NORMAL pin. Let us go through the opening moves of a game to illustrate both kinds of pin. **1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6**. This is an opening called the Queen’s Gambit Declined. **4.Bg5!**

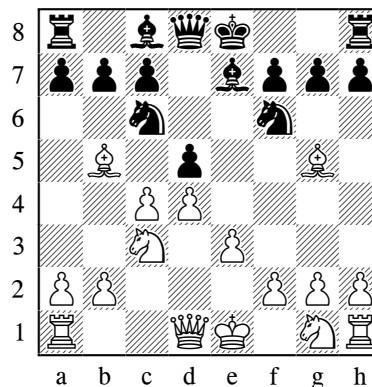


PINNING the Knight on f6. This is a normal pin, because the Knight can move, but in that event Black would lose his Queen. The best defence to a pin is to UNPIN; to

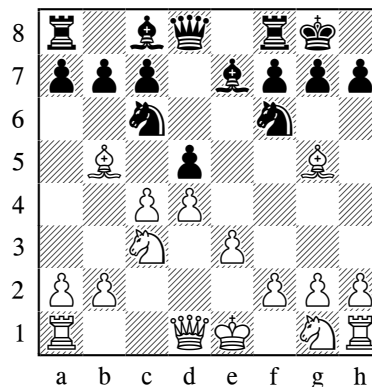
get out of the pin as quickly as possible. Thus Black’s best reply now is **4...Be7!**



Play could continue: **5.e3 Nc6 6.cxd5 exd5 7.Bb5!**



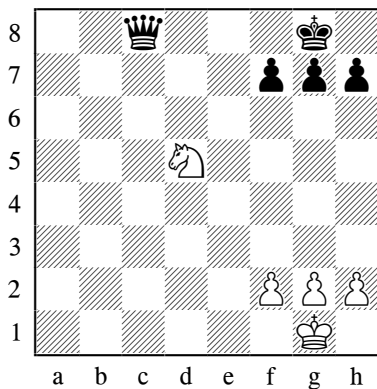
This is an ABSOLUTE PIN. Black’s knight on c6 cannot move. Once again Black does best to escape the pin as soon as he can: **7...0-0!**



The Pin is a powerful tactical idea, so look out for it in your games. Keep your opponent PINNED up whenever you can.

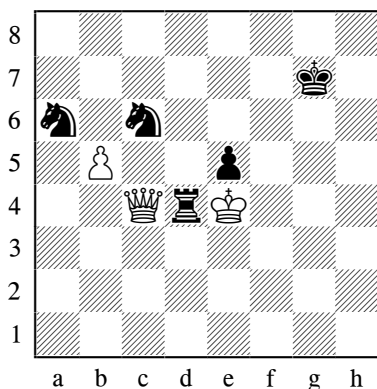
THE FORK

This is one of the simplest and most effective tactical devices. One piece directly attacks two or more enemy pieces simultaneously. The usual piece that forks is the Knight but every piece is capable of doing so.



In this very simple example. White plays Ne7+, forking Black's king and queen and one of them is lost.

Forks can also be made by other pieces. Consider the following position. The white b-pawn is forking the black knights, and the black rook is forking the white king and queen. White wins a knight, but Black a queen for a rook.

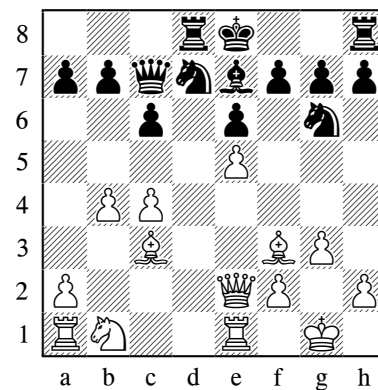


Tip: remember that for a knight to fork two pieces, they must stand on the same coloured squares.

SKEWER

The SKEWER is a form of pin, but with the added point that the attacking piece intends to take either of the enemy pieces. Generally this is because the piece is less valuable than those attacked.

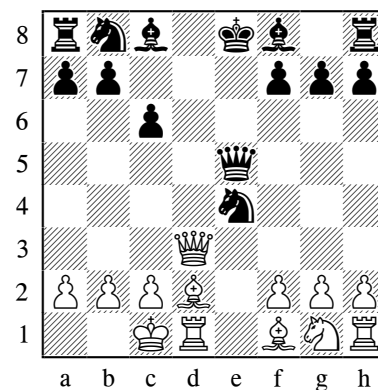
In the following position a simple trick based on a SKEWER helped Black win.



Iijin – Burgess
Biel Chess Festival 1992

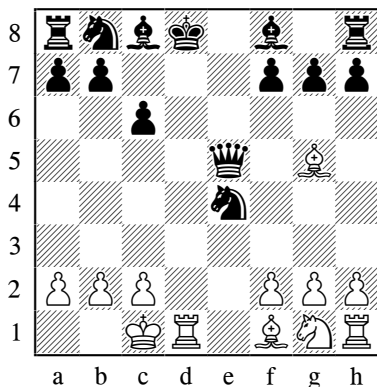
15...Ndx5 Black wins a pawn in Broad daylight, since after 16.Bxe5 Qxe5 17.Qxe5 Nxe5 18.Rxe5, Black has 18...Bf6, skewering the white rooks.

DOUBLE/DISCOVERED CHECK



Retii – Tartakower
Paris 1910

Here is a good illustration of double and discovered check. 1.Qd8+!! A brilliant move. White sacrifices his queen. 1..Kxd8 Black had no choice. 2.Bg5+



DOUBLE CHECK from the Bishop and Rook and DISCOVERED CHECK too. The Rook has been uncovered. **2...Ke8** (Or 2...Kc7 3.Bd8#) **3.Rd8#** Checkmate.

A 'double check' always means that the King **must** move.



In a good or winning position avoid risk. In a poor or losing position take any risk – COMPLICATE! I would say the first piece of advice is very relevant to the games of the average or younger player. I have seen countless winning positions ruined by careless or over- zealous play, when the simple way would have done.

IM Andrew Martin



THE RIGHT WAY TO LEARN

By IM Andrew Martin

The correct way to learn a new opening is to use the following method.

1) FAMILIARIZATION

Play through a number of games at reasonable speed with the opening in question (20-30), to get the basic ideas and patterns of play in your head. At this stage IGNORE DETAIL.

- 2) **TRY THE OPENING OUT** in friendly or quick games at your club, or the internet or against a playing program.
- 3) **CHECK** the lines used in practical play in your opening books. You are now starting to learn theory!
- 4) **REPEAT** stage 2 and 3 for a few weeks.
- 5) **STUDY** the book more carefully now and learn concrete lines.
- 6) **PLAY** your new opening repertoire choices in competitive games! Finally, don't forget to:
- 7) **ANALYSE** your games afterwards. You can continuously update your opening knowledge this way. This is how the best players do it – follow tried and trusted methods. What is the point in trying to go your own way before you have even mastered the basics?

KO by Kevin O'Connell

I was going to use the header “Thoughts of a Chess Coach” but decided that would restrict my digressions. This column is, however, made up of some thoughts from a chess coach.

I will start with a point that some may consider purely linguistic, but which I believe to be of great importance – the difference between “chess coaching” and “chess teaching.” Having done both, I think I know the difference.

For me “chess teaching” is a good description of what happens in schools, clubs and camps, teaching beginners how the pieces move, the Laws of Chess and so on. “Chess coaching” is facilitating a player's development – it is the player who does the developing, with the coach easing the way. The coach is a bit like a servant with a machete, clearing a path through the jungle for his master (the student).

I believe that “chess coaching” must be preceded by some “chess teaching” until the beginner, having mastered the moves and the basic rules, has reached the start of the jungle. “Chess teaching” can continue and, I think unfortunately, often does; a “coach” walking behind the “student” telling her or him how to wield the machete and which branches to lop off.

Before I examine a concrete example of “chess teaching” supplanting “chess coaching” let me digress with the thought that the secret of both good chess teaching and good chess coaching is ...

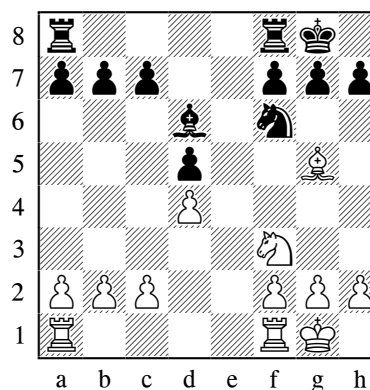
Enthusiasm!

If you can communicate your own enthusiasm for chess, then you will be well on the way to the success of your students.

Be positive, be confident, but try to avoid all kinds of dogmatism, even if, perhaps especially if it seems 'obvious' that you are stating a 'truth.'

I had been teaching and coaching chess on and off for twenty years before I stumbled across the importance of avoiding dogma.

The following diagram contains the essentials of a position that I happened to see in a tournament game. The game was played by a diligent and very attentive student of mine. He had Black in this position.



White played Bg5xf6 and Black was pondering his reply. I was perplexed – I could not for the life of me figure out what he was waiting for. He was aware of me watching the game and just before he made his move, he looked up at me and then moved the rook from f8 to e8. Was I gobsmacked? Yes, but not half as much as when I found out why he played that move.

It transpired that I had told him, just a day or two before this game was played, that “you *must not* weaken the pawn wall in front of your king” (or some such).

What I had witnessed was the kid's agonising inner conflict as he struggled to resolve that “must not” with his very natural desire not to lose a piece for nothing.

I hope I have learnt my lesson and for the twenty years since, I have striven to avoid dogmatic statements beyond “checkmate ends the game” and there's even some doubt about that, but that's a thought for another day. What was the lesson?

Do not make your students weaker!

I have some more concrete advice on that...

More next time...

SAM COLLINS WINS 4NCL BEST ANNOTATED GAME PRIZE

Emms, John - Collins, Sam [C54]

4NCL (10), 02.05.2010

These notes are based on my annotations in the June 2010 issue of British Chess Magazine. On checking the 4NCL website, it seems that the game has also been featured by Macolm Pein in his column, and was the subject of a video analysis by Thomas Rendle. I think John might also express his views on the opening phase in a forthcoming book on the Open Games, making this my most published game ever!

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 Nc6 4.Nf3 Bc5

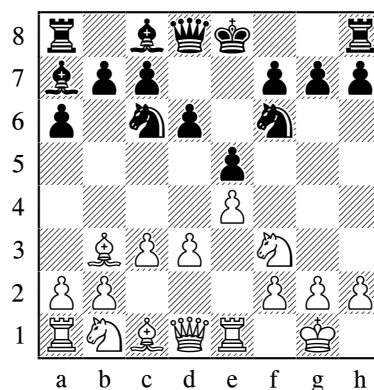
The Italian Game has featured heavily in my league seasons in both England and Ireland this year. Fortunately, I've scored 3/3 with Black, often showing some of the downsides of White being 'nuanced' with his move order. [In my game with John Delaney from the Armstrong Cup (the Leinster league - Leinster in one of the four Irish provinces, in case anyone didn't know!), I instead selected the Steinitz setup with 4...h6 5.Nbd2 g6 , intending a kingside fianchetto. 6.c3 Bg7 7.b4 a6 8.0-0 0-0 9.Bb3 d5 My opponent now started spending a lot of time. 10.Re1 Be6 11.a3 Qd7 12.Qe2 Rad8 13.Bc2 b5!? Borrowed from my 4NCL game against Berzinsh. 14.h3 Nh5 15.Nb3 dxe4 16.dxe4 Bc4 (16...Qe7!) 17.Qe3 Qe7 18.Nfd2 Be6 19.Nc5 Bc8 20.a4 Nf4 21.Nf1 Rd6 , intending a rook lift to the kingside, and I prefer Black's game: J.Delaney-S.Collins, Armstrong 2010 (0-1 in 53).

5.c3 a6 6.Bb3 Ba7 7.0-0

7.h3 h6 8.Nbd2 0-0 9.Nf1 (9.g4 b5³) 9...d5³ was the start of my game against Berzinsh. As John Emms noted in the post-mortem to the main game, 7...d6 8.Nbd2 0-0 9.Nf1 d5!? is a theoretical main line - here I have gained the move ...h6, which could prove a significant weakening if my opponent can achieve g4-g5, but otherwise constitutes a useful extra tempo, preventing Ng5 and Bg5.

10.Qe2 Be6 (10...dxe4 11.dxe4 Nb5 also makes sense, aiming for a quick ...Nf4.) 11.Bc2 b5!? A very useful move, giving me the option of ...dxe4 and ...Bc4, which could prove annoying. (11...dxe4 12.dxe4 Nb5 13.Nxe5 Nxe5 14.Qxb5 Nd3+ 15.Bxd3 Qxd3 16.Qe2 Bc4= and Black has comfortably sufficient compensation for the pawn with his two bishops and lead in development.) 12.N3h2?! The start of a disastrous plan to play f4, but White is already reduced to crawling around the back two ranks. 12...d4 (12...dxe4 13.dxe4 Bc4 14.Qf3 Qe7) 13.f4? exf4 14.Bxf4 dxc3 15.bxc3 b4 16.Ba4 Bd7 A temporary retreat, but White is far too uncoordinated to have any tactical relief. 17.Rc1 bxc3 18.Bxc6 Bxc6 19.Rxc3 Bb5 20.Nf3 Re8 21.Bxc7 Qe7 22.Be5 Qb4 23.Qd2 Nxe4 24.dxe4 Rad8 25.Qf4 Rxe5 26.Qxe5 Qb1+ and White resigned in R.Berzinsh -S.Collins, 4NCL (4) 2010.

7...d6 8.Re1!?



A twist on a known concept, forcing Black to react. 8.Nbd2 0-0 9.Re1 is known to be comfortable for Black after 9...Ng4! 10.Re2 Kh8 followed by ...f5 (the knight can retreat to h6 - Black isn't worried about Bxh6 gxh6 since he can use the half-open g-file to attack the white king, and the bishop pair are strong).

8...Ng4!?

A very committal move, since I had already seen that I would be forced to follow up with ...Qf6. 8...0-0 should be pretty sound. I was worried about 9.Bg5 but in the post mortem John pointed out that this is rarely a problem for Black after both kings have castled (since I have the option of ...h6 and ...g5, when Nxc5 sacrifices are not likely to work).

9.Re2

9.d4?! exd4 10.cxd4 Nxd4! 11.Nxd4 Qh4 12.Be3 Qxh2+ 13.Kf1 Qh1+ 14.Ke2 Qxg2 15.Rg1 Nxe3 16.Kxe3 Bxd4+ 17.Kxd4 Qxf2+ 18.Kd3 was reached in M.Langer - H.Chen, Indianapolis 2009 (1-0 in 37), where White's victory can be attributed to later mistakes by Black, since the 4 pawns outweigh the piece at the moment.

9...Qf6

9...0-0 10.h3 forces 10...Nf6, when Black has lost time, since 10...Nh6? drops a pawn to 11.Bg5 and 12.Qd2.

10.Nbd2 g5!

If this is bad, the blame should really lie with Black's 8th move. 10...g5 looks odd, but it has the idea that 11.Nf1 or 11.Nc4 can be met by capturing twice on f2 followed by ...g4, winning material. White can kick the Knight away with h3, but then ...Nh6 and ...g4 will open up lines in front of the white king.

11.d4

The move I was expecting, but White isn't necessarily happy to play this since his centre comes under some strain.

11...Bd7 12.Nf1 Rg8 13.Ne3

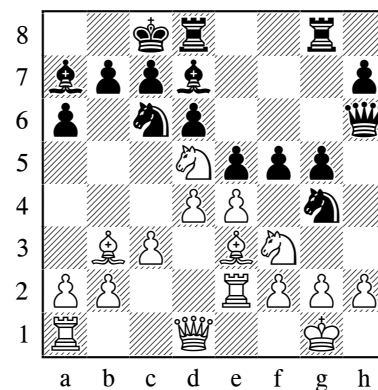
13.Be3 was the move we thought was best during the post mortem. White keeps the f1-knight at home to protect the king, and simply proceeds with development. 13...Nxe3 14.fxe3 g4 then looks like a logical sequence. 15.N3d2 (15.Nxe5!? is a dynamic try, since 15...dxe5 16.Rf2 breaks through on f7, but 15...Nxe5 16.dxe5 Qxe5 spoils White's fun.) 15...Qg5 with an unclear game where Black has two bishops and some kingside initiative but a horribly weak f-file. Practical tests needed!; 13.h3 Nh6 14.Ne3 looks critical. Now 14...g4 (I saw that I had an 'emergency exit' in 14...Ne7, but this looks good for White after 15.dxe5 dxe5 16.Nd5 Nxd5 17.Qxd5 and Black will drop a pawn.)

15.Nd5 Qg7!? leads to a tactical slugfest: (15...Qd8 is quite passive, and White gains the initiative by simple means: 16.hxg4 Bxg4 17.Qd3) 16.Ne1 0-0-0 17.Qd2 gxh3 18.Qxh6 exd4 19.Qxg7 Rxc7 with a mess, though one in which White is a piece up.

13...0-0-0 14.Nd5 Qh6 15.Be3?

Now White is definitely much worse. 15.h4 is comfortably met by 15...f6; I was expecting the 'computer-like' defence 15.h3 Nf6 16.h4, but was confident in Black's chances based on a temporary queen sacrifice: 16...Bg4 17.Bxg5 Bxf3 18.Bxh6 Rxc2+ 19.Kf1 Rh2 20.Ke1 Rh1+ 21.Kd2 Rxd1+ 22.Rxd1 Nxe4+ 23.Rxe4 Bxe4 with an extra pawn for Black in the endgame. However, 17.Qd3! is much stronger, when White might still be fine objectively, though it goes without saying that Black has excellent chances in a practical game.

15...f5!



Putting another straw on the camel's back. A black pawn on e4, hitting the f3-knight, would be devastating. 15...Nxe3 was also strong.

16.h3

Rybka suggests the rather despondent 16.Bc1.

16...Nxe3

I didn't see anything clear after 16...fxe4 17.hxg4 exf3 18.gxf3

17.fxe3 g4

It's possible that 17...fxe4 is more precise, cutting out White's g5-resource (see move 19)

18.hxg4 fxe4

I wanted to attack down the g-file. 18...fxg4 was also tempting and probably stronger,

aiming to get a pawn to g3 and deliver mate on the h-file. 19.Ne1 g3 20.Nf3 Rg5 looks crushing - Black has ...Rf8, ...Bg4 and ...Rh5 following in some order.

19.Nh2?

I expected the more tenacious 19.g5, but John was down to his last few minutes. Of course, even here Black is dominant, eg 19...Qg7 20.Nd2 exd4 21.Nxe4 (21.exd4 Nxd4! 22.cxd4 Qxd4+ winning, eg 23.Ne3 Bg4 or 23.Kh2 Rxe3.) 21...dxe3. This is more difficult than the variation after Black's 18th move alternative, so 19.g5 is a significant resource.

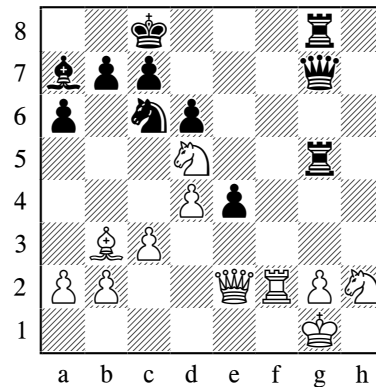
19...Bxg4

Now there are no more problems.

20.Qd2

20.Nxg4 Rxe4 and 21...Rh4 mates or wins tons of material on the f-file.

20...Bxe2 21.Qxe2 Rg5 22.Rf1 Rf8 23.Ng4 Qg7 24.Nh2 Rg8 25.Rf2 exd4 26.exd4



26...Nxd4!

The cleanest finish.

27.cxd4 Bxd4 28.Nf4 Everything lost, but this allows mate in two.

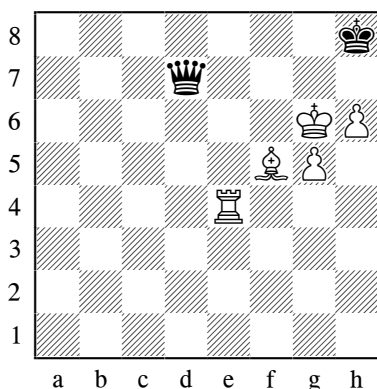
28...Rxe2+ 0-1

(Many thanks to IM Sam Collins for permission to reproduce this article.)



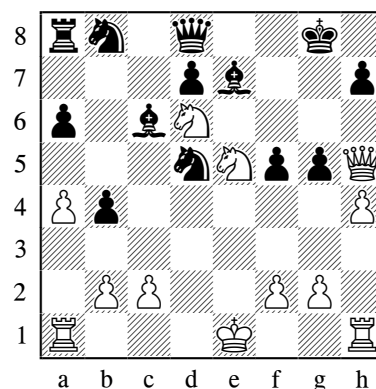
PUZZLED?

V Ivanchuk – P Leko
Khanty Mansiysk, 2007



It's Black to play his 215th move (!)
What was it?

Volovik – Kozlov
USSR, 1987



It's White to play and force mate.

Solutions on last page!

TOURNAMENT REPORTS

Artic Challenge (Norway)

SAM COLLINS has secured his second GM norm after producing a fine performance at the strong Artic Challenge in Tromso, Norway. The 27-year-old Dublin IM finished with a total of 6/9 including a plus score of two wins, three draws and a solitary loss against the six grandmasters he encountered. Collins attained his first GM norm at Budapest in 2008 and now requires one more to become the country's first indigenous grandmaster (Plus a rating of 2500).

GM Mikhail Kobalia (Russia) beat the top seed GM Loek van Wely (Holland) in the final round to edge out GM Manuel Leon Hoyos (Mexico) on tie-break after both finished on 7.5/9.

Van Wely tied for third place on 7/9 with GM Chanda Sandipan (India), GM Bartosz Socko (Poland), GM Marijan Petrov (Bulgaria) and GM Mathew Turner (England).

Collins tied for 17th place and was the highest placed non-GM in a 164-player field containing 25 Grandmasters.

After winning his opening two games, Collins drew with GMs Gyimesi (Hungary), Abbasov (Azerbaijan) and Mieziš (Latvia). He then claimed two 2600-plus grandmaster scalps in a row with victories over Burmakin (Russia) and Ivanisevic (Serbia) before suffering his only reversal to GM Sandipan (India) in the penultimate round. A final round draw against IM Elsness (Norway) secured his GM norm.

Collins, Sam E (2408) - Ivanisevic, I (2611)
Arctic Challenge, Tromso (7), 2010

1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 g6 5.Nf3 Bg7 6.Na3 cxd4 7.Bc4 Qe4+ 8.Be3 Nh6 9.cxd4 0-0 10.Qb3 Nc6 11.Bd3 Qg4 12.h3 Qh5 13.Rc1 Ng4 14.Rc5 e5 15.Bd2 Nf6 16.dxe5 Nd7 17.Rxc6 Nxe5 18.Rc2 Nxf3+ 19.gxf3 Qxf3 20.0-0 Bxh3 21.Be4 Qg4+ 22.Qg3 Qxg3+ 23.fxg3 Bd4+ 24.Rf2 Rfe8 25.Bxb7 Rab8 26.Bd5 Bxf2+ 27.Kxf2

Rbd8 28.Bc6 Re6 29.Bf4 Rd1 30.Bg2 Bxg2 31.Kxg2 Kg7 32.Nb5 h6 33.Nxa7 g5 34.Bc7 Ree1 35.Bb6 f5 36.Bf2 Re4 37.Nb5 Rd3 38.Nc3 Re6 39.a4 Kg6 40.a5 f4 41.gxf4 gxf4 42.b4 f3+ 43.Kg1 Ra6 44.Bb6 Kf5 45.b5 Ra8 46.a6 Rd6 47.Bf2 Rg6+ 48.Kf1 Rg2 49.Nd5 Rh2 50.Ne7+ Ke6 51.Nc8 Rh5 52.Rc6+ Kf7 53.a7 Rd5 54.b6 Rd1+ 55.Be1 Rb1 56.Rc7+ Ke6 57.b7 Rxa7 58.Nxa7 h5 59.Kf2 Kd6 60.Rh7 1-0



Ryan Griffiths British U18 Champion

British Championship

Ireland's Ryan-Rhys Griffiths produced a creditable showing at the British Championship in University of Kent Canterbury (Sunday 25 July to Saturday 7 August) where he finished the leading non-titled player, and also won the U18 title. The Kilkenny teenager scored five wins, three draws and three loses for a total of 6.5/11 and a share of 18th place. Highlight of his performance was this grandmaster scalp.

Summerscale, A (2428) - Griffiths, R (2249)
British Championships (9), 2010

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.f3 Nc6 5.e4 d5 6.cxd5 exd5 7.e5 Ng8 8.Be3 Nh6 9.Qd2 Nf5 10.Bf2 Ba5 11.f4 f6 12.Nf3 fxe5 13.fxe5 0-0 14.Be2 Bb6 15.0-0 Be6 16.Na4 h6 17.Rac1 Qd7 18.Nc5 Bxc5 19.Rxc5 b6 20.Rc3 Na5 21.Qc1 c6 22.Nd2 b5 23.b3 Ne7 24.Nf3 Bf5 25.Bh4 Ng6 26.Be1 Be4 27.Bd2 Ne7 28.Bxb5? cxb5 29.Rc7 Qg4! 30.h3 Qg3 31.Be1 Qg6 32.Nh4 Rxf1+

33.Kxf1 Qf7+ 34.Kg1 Nac6 35.Rxc6 Nxc6
36.Qxc6 Rf8 37.Kh2 g5 38.Nf3 Bxf3
39.gxf3 Kg7 40.e6 Qxf3 41.Qc7+ Kg6
42.Qc2+ Qf5 43.Qc6 Qf4+ 44.Bg3 Qd2+
45.Kg1 Qd1+ 0-1

England number one GM Michael Adams, making a rare appearance at the Championships, bridged a 21-year gap by capturing the title outright for only the second time; his first victory secured in 1989 when he was just 17.

Adams won his opening five games and conceded just three draws in his remaining six games to claim the title with a round to spare. His unbeaten 9.5/11 total was 1.5 points clear of runner-up GM Nicholas Pert. Other Irish representatives in the British Championship included Pete Morris in the Seniors; and Ronan Magee in the U13 championship.

Pete Morris came joint fourth in the Seniors. He won his first 3 games which meant he was on the top boards for the rest of the tournament (ending up with the 3rd highest rating performance). A loss in the last round was the difference between joint 4th and a possible 2nd place. Pete finished with 4.5/7 and a performance rating of 2214.

Ronan Magee (aged 11) came clear second in the U13 championship. He finished with 5.5/7 just a half-point off the winner Ravi Haria. Ronan lost only one game to Robert Fitzgerald in round two and conceded one draw. His performance rating was 175 BCF (roughly 2150 Irish).

The following game won the Alexander Best Game Prize of £100.

Pert, Richard - Rendle, Thomas

97th ch-GBR/Canterbury ENG (10) 2010
1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nd2 Be7 4. Bd3 c5 5. dxc5 Nf6 6. Qe2 Nc6 7. Ngf3 Nb4 8. O-O Nxd3 9. cxd3 Bxc5 10. Nb3 Be7 11. Bg5 Qb6 12. e5 Ng8 13. Be3 Qb4 14. Nfd4 Nh6 15. Rac1 Nf5 16. Nxf5 exf5 17. Rc7 Bd8 18. Rc3 b6 19. Nd4 O-O 20. a3 Qa4 21. Qf3 Qd7 22. Rfc1 Re8 23. Qg3 Bb7 24. e6 Rxe6 25. Nxe6 Qxe6 26. Bd4 g6 27. Qe5 Qxe5 28. Bxe5 f6 29. Bc7 Ba6 30. Bxd8 Rxd8 31. d4 Re8 32. Re3 Re4 33. Rxe4 fxe4 34. Rc7 f5 35. Rxa7 Bc4 36. Rb7 b5 37. b3 Bxb3 38. Rxb5 Bc4 39. Rb7 1-0

Kokavy Open (Czech Republic)

Rory Quinn (Ennis) produced a superb performance at the 2010 Kokavy Open (Czech Republic) which took place from the 3 – 11 July 2010. Although seeded 43rd of 83 competitors he finished in sixth place (with a performance rating of 2381). The Ennis player scored 6/9 only losing one game and finishing only one point behind the eventual winner IM Petr Neuman. Rory's best game was the following draw against the third seed Jan Sodomá:

Sodomá, Jan (2364) – Quinn, Rory (2041)

Klatovy Open, Czech Republic (5) 2010

1.d4 Nc6 2.c4 e5 3.d5 Nce7 4.e4 Nf6
5.Nc3 Ng6 6.h4 h5 7.Bg5 Be7 8.Be2 d6
9.Qd2 Ng4 10.Bxe7 Qxe7 11.g3 f5 12.Qg5
Qxg5 13.hxg5 f4 14.Nd1 fxg3 15.fxg3 h4
16.Rc1 Bd7 17.Rc3 Ke7 18.gxh4 Rxh4
19.Rxh4 Nxh4 20.Rg3 Nh2 21.Ne3 Rh8
22.Bd3 g6 23.Be2 Rf8 24.Ng2 Rh8 25.Kf2
Rf8+ 26.Ke3 Rh8 27.Ne1 Rf8 28.Ng2 Rh8
1/2-1/2

I just have to add that prior to the event Rory stated on his excellent blog <http://ennischessclub.wordpress.com/> "I most likely won't be taking the chess aspect too seriously in any case!"

City of Dublin Chess Championship

This tournament took place from Friday 3rd to Sunday 5th September 2010 at the Academy Hotel Dublin. The event consists of four sections, the Masters, Majors, Challengers and Juniors. The rate of play was 1 hour and 45 minutes per player in all sections.

The Masters section was won by GM Nick Pert (ENG) with 5/6, in second place was FM Colm Daly with 4.5/6 and third place was shared by IM Sam Collins and David Fitzsimons on 4/6. There were fourteen competitors.

The Majors section was won by Stephen Moran on tie break ahead of Seamus Duffy, Mindaugas Janusaitis and Gerard Buckley all on 4.5/6. There were 28 competitors.

The Challengers was won by Pat Coleman with an impressive 5.5/6, in second place was Karl Fitzsimons with 5/6 and third place was Gabriel Mirza with 4.5/6.

The Juniors competition had 30 competitors. It was won by unseeded Alan Lau with 5.5/6 second place was Cathal Murphy with 5/6 and third by Conor Young with 4.5/6.

Daly,C (2303) - Pert,Nick (2551)

City of Dublin Dublin (5),

1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 Nf6 3.c4 c6 4.cxd5 cxd5 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Bf4 a6 7.e3 Bg4 8.Be2 e6 9.0-0 Be7 10.Ne5 Bxe2 11.Qxe2 Rc8 12.Rfc1 0-0 13.h3 Nxe5 14.Bxe5 Qa5 15.Bxf6 Bxf6 16.Rc2 Rc6 17.Qd3 Rfc8 18.Rcc1 h6 19.Kf1 Rc4 20.Ne2 Be7 21.b3 R4c6 22.Rxc6 Rxc6 23.a3 Qc7 [23...Bxa3 24.b4!] 24.g3 Bd6 25.a4 g6 26.Qd1 Kf8 27.Rc1 Ke7 28.Rxc6 Qxc6 29.Qd2 Qb6 30.Qc2 Kd7 31.Nc1 Qc6 32.Qxc6+ Kxc6 33.Nd3 b5 1/2-1/2

Glorney & Gilbert 4 Nations Chess Cup

IRELAND performed above expectations at this summer's annual junior internationals staged at Trefforest in Wales.

In the Glorney Cup (boys under 18), Ireland, seeded fourth on rating, ran England 19.5 and Scotland 19 close before having to settle for third place on 17.5 ahead of Wales on 4.

In the double-round event the Irish boys achieved plus scores against both Wales and Scotland. They defeated Wales twice (3.5-1.5 and 5-0), beat Scotland 3-2 and drew 2.5-2.5 in the return match and then held England, after suffering their only reversal (1-4) to the cup winners in the first round.

Cork's Hugh Doyle was the leading Irish scorer with 4.5/6 on board three. Oisín Benson (Dublin) on board one and 13-year-old Oisín Murphy (Galway) on board five each scored 4/6. Mark Berney (Gorey) 3/6 on board two and Kieran O'Riordan (Cork) 2/6 on board five completed the scoring.

With an average 500 points rating gap over their collective opponents in the Faber/Gilbert Cup (girls under-18), Ireland's third place on 7 points behind England 12.5 and Scotland 11.5 and ahead of Wales 5 was commendable.

Ireland lost both matches to Scotland 0.5-2.5 and after going under 0-3 to England managed a remarkable 1.5-1.5 draw in the return match, despite an average 660 rating point gap. After earlier holding Wales to a 1.5-1.5 draw, the Irish girls finished in style

with a shock 3-0 whitewash over their hosts in the return match.

Ruth Cormican (Galway) on board two top scored with 3/6, with Catherine Hearne (Kilkenny) returning 2.5/6 on board three and Sarah Jane Hearne (Kilkenny) scoring 1.5/6 on the top board.

Ireland struggled in the Stokes Cup (under 14) and brought up the rear on 8 points behind England 30.5, Wales 20, and Scotland 13.5. Irish scores (in board order): John Cormican (Galway) 2.5/6, Liam Murphy (Adare) 2/6, Richard Flynn (Limerick) 0.5/6, James Danaher (Shannon) 1/6, Sean Guinan (Ballinasloe) 1/6, Jack McKenna (Ballinasloe) 1/6.

Ireland's best result came in the Robinson Cup (under 12) with a comfortable runners-up spot on 19 behind England 25.5 and ahead of Wales 14 and Scotland 13.5.

Ireland scored a double over Wales (4-2 and 3.5-2.5), a win (4-2) and a draw with Scotland and a draw and only loss (1.5-4.5) to England.

Eoin Minnock (Kilkenny) scored an unbeaten 5/6 on board three, while Ronan Magee (Tralee), who subsequently finished runner-up in last month's British U13 Championship, scored 4.5/6 on top board. Remaining totals (in board order): Conor O'Donnell (Bray/Greystones) 3.5/6, Billy McKenna (Ballinasloe) 3/6, Geoffry Keating (Limerick) 2.5/6 and Paula Eglite (Galway) 0.5/6.

European Union Chess Championship

GM Pawek Jaracz won the 6th 2010 EU Chess Championship in Arvier, Italy held from 4th – 12 Sept 2010. He collected 6.5 points, the same as IM Sabino Brunello, GM Evgenij Agrest, GM Lexy Ortega, GM Miguel Llanes Hurtado, and IM Clovis Vernay, but won the gold on better tiebreak. WGM Monica Calzetta Ruiz, who is part of the Spanish Chess Olympiad 2010 team is the women EU Champion. She finished with 5.5, first among women participants and 10th overall.

There were three Irish representatives at the event: FM John Delaney, Anthony Fox and Peter Cafolla. In a mixed field the Irish

representatives performed creditably. John Delaney and Anthony Fox having the satisfaction of performing ahead of their seeding while Peter Cafolla had the satisfaction of producing the following attractive combination:

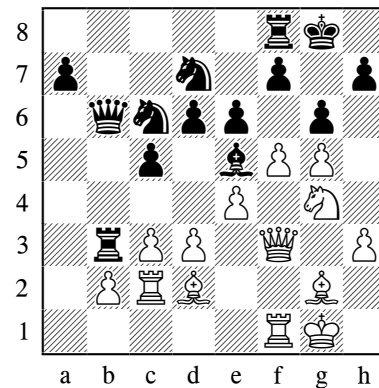
Cafolla,P - Montani,R [B25]

European Union Ch (5), 2010

I recently played in the European Union Chess Championship in Arvier, Italy. I didn't do particularly well but the tournament did throw up a couple of very memorable games including the following one against Riccardo Montani (1893). **1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.d3 d6 6.f4 Nf6 7.Nf3 Bg4?!**

This isn't any good as Black certainly doesn't want to be giving up this Bishop and there is no point in provoking h3 as that is a move I want to be playing soon anyway. Strangely enough quite a few people have played 7..Bg4 against me recently including Ray O'Rourke in the Irish Ch. **8.h3 Bxf3 9.Qxf3 Nd4 10.Qf2** I think that this is a slight improvement on the Qd1 I played previously in this position. I decided to vary in order to avoid any possible home preparation. **10...Rb8 11.0-0 0-0 12.Nd1 Nd7 13.c3 Nc6 14.Ne3 e6 15.Bd2+/= Qc7 16.Qf3** There is an element of bluff here. My opponent showed by his last move that he feared e5 in the case of b5 so I renewed the imaginary "threat" and at the same time improved the position of my Queen. **16...Rfc8?!** Fritz seems to think that this move is ok but I don't agree (what do computers know anyway?), the fact that the rook eventually has to return to f8 adds weight to my argument. The immediate b5 starting Q side activity was preferable. I think my opponent was afraid of 17 e5 but this can easily be sidestepped with 17..d5 when Black is doing fine. **17.g4 b5** Typical Closed Sicilian fare, both sides start firing pawns at each other. **18.Rac1+/=**. I thought I was being prophylactic a la Karpov here but my opponent just ignored it! and rightly so. **18...b4 19.Rc2 b3** This isn't as bad as I thought it was during the game but Qa5! is probably better. **20.axb3 Rxb3 21.f5?** After dictating the pace for most of the game I was in no mood to accept that Black's counter-

play has become quite serious so decided to throw caution to the wind without the careful analysis that a move like this deserves. Luckily for me sometimes fortune favours the brave. **21...Rf8?!** 21...Nde5 ! would have given Black the advantage. **22.g5** Threatening to incarcerate Blacks KB for the rest of the game. **22...Be5 23.Ng4 Qb6**



My opponent offered me a draw here. He threatens Rxb2 and also c4 with discovered check. I thought about it for a few minutes and then Caissa herself appeared above my opponents head and smiled at me (not before time I might add as I'd lost a couple of horrible games in the preceding rounds). **24.fxe6!!** Okay two exclamation marks might be slightly OTT but as annotator I get a certain amount of poetic licence. **24...fxe6 25.Qxf8+** There are times ya just gotta love this game of chess we so often toil over. The two players at the next board paused their play to smirkingly survey the carnage. **25...Nxf8 26.Nh6+ Kg7 27.Rf7+ Kh8 28.Rxf8+ Kg7 29.Rg8#** Unfortunately the very next day I offered a draw in a position where I had a very elegant forced win. Caissa can be a fickle lover. **1-0**

(Notes kindly provided by Peter Cafolla.)



IM SAM COLLINS

INTERVIEW By Jonathan O'Connor



Just after Sam scored his second GM norm in Norway, I sent him a list of questions to answer, and here are his answers:

1. What was your best game at Tromso?

Probably against Ivanisevic. I lost control of the position, but it was a great result to beat such a strong player in an unclear struggle.

2. What was your most difficult move?

Move 22 against Sandipan, when I couldn't resist the temptation to play my knight to g4. This move was so difficult I got it wrong.

3. You mentioned in a video interview that Abbasov missed a bank rank mate (I think he could win your pawn on d5). How come he missed it? And had you missed it too?

Just a mutual blunder. I saw it as soon as I made the move; he returned to the board and I was sure he would take the pawn, but he played his rook to c6 quite quickly. We had each seen a variation on the back-rank theme, but my move had introduced a new, simpler back rank threat, and we weren't looking for that. In some respects my game against Abbasov was my best result though, since after this blunder I saved a horrible position with some good defensive moves.

4. At lunch during the Irish, you mentioned you were giving weaker players more choices, and let them self-destruct. Did you apply the same strategy in your games at Tromso?

I was playing less forcing chess, not trying to get more out of the position than was realistic to expect. In general I like this way of playing, but against weaker players it's essential, since if you're forcing the pace you don't give them the opportunity to make mistakes.

5. How often do you train with other players? Who do you train with in Ireland? Do Irish players train together more or less than players from other countries? In particular I'm thinking of the Armenian olympiad team players who seem to be very close.

I very rarely do any work with other players, which is probably a missed opportunity. You just have to be much more organised to work with someone else. The Armenians definitely have the right approach.

6. Do the top Irish players have a similar style? Is there an Irish School of Chess?

There's a strong stylistic similarity between Alex Baburin and Brian Kelly, and some overlap in their openings. With White, they both go for long term advantages (space, two bishops etc) and are prepared to allow their opponents an initiative. Brian is probably more ambitious with Black, getting long term advantages (e.g. trading his light squared bishop in the French) at the expense of an initiative; Alex just tries to get a playable position. They are strong defensively, have good technique and don't study much theory.

Regarding myself, Mark Quinn, Alex Astaneh Lopez etc, I don't like talking about 'styles' of players beneath GM level, since I think we just have collections of weaknesses rather than styles. You can only really talk about style once you've got a good command of the basics in every aspect of the game, and as Aagaard says, once you've achieved this you're already GM strength.

In general Irish players are poorly prepared, relatively good at finding resources and have

decent technique, subject to the caveat I just mentioned.

7. Who is your favourite active player? And dead or retired player? And why do you like them/their games/their style?

I don't have a single favourite. There are a number of players I like; Gelfand, Grischul, Dreev, Baburin, Kelly, Gyimesi, Mamedyarov, Negi, Topalov, Carlsen of course. I also like certain phases in players' development, like Kramnik when he was just breaking through. Of older players, probably Botvinnik and Karpov are my favourites. I like anyone who plays in a thoughtful, planned fashion, for instance Gyimesi has a very well thought-out repertoire in my view.

8. Who is the best chess story teller you have come across on your travels abroad? And the best Irish story teller?

I love Tal's Hippopotamus anecdote, in his best games collection. Alex Baburin's a good storyteller 😊.

9. Why on earth did you play the Kopec System? Did you ever see the articles on it in Chess magazine in the late 1970's? Are you in Edinburgh to get the low down on how to play it properly from Kopec (I think he still works at the AI lab in Edinburgh University)? Surely the c3 Sicilian is good enough for a draw?

It was a last minute choice. The last round was early in the morning and I thought Elsness might have done some homework in the c3-Sicilian. It was a reasonable choice I think, but I hadn't done much work on it – I saw some rapid games by Akopian where he made it look convincing.

I wasn't born in the late 70's Jonathan 😊. [The young these days just search in databases, rather than read a chess book or magazine. Harumph!]

10. In your game against Gyimesi, I liked your gambit. Do you know about the analysis of this line in Kaissiber?

No, I has just seen Movsesian – Adams, Corus 2009, and thought it was worth a go. Gyimesi is a fantastic player, and I had seen a lot of his games before the tournament, but he tends to stick to some of the same opening lines. He hadn't been convincing in the gambit line I played so it was a natural

choice. It's lower risk than most gambits since Black's structure is compromised.

11. How did you feel being paired against 6 GMs in a row, and was the end result fair/deserved?

I think it makes it easier than playing weaker players followed by stronger players, since you have to keep the same level and you're fully concentrated from the start of the game. By the time I faced Sandipan I had already had GM responses to my last 200-odd moves, which may have been why I seized the initiative so easily with Black, though I horribly spoiled that game.

Of course, if you're in bad form, playing 6 GMs in a row would be a nightmare since there's no respite. If you look at Mark Hebden's performance at the Jack Spiegel Memorial 2009 (now fully forgotten, since he has had a great season, including winning Hastings), he really could have used an easy game somewhere. That said, I lost as many rating points at Hastings playing against 2100-rated players, so maybe in bad form you find a way to lose everywhere.

12. What wins/loses games at your level? Tactics, strategy or openings, time management? Which is most important?

There are a number of differences between IMs and GMs, in particular: under-estimation of critical positions; overestimation of material over initiative; a preference for forcing moves over non-forcing moves; underestimation of passed pawns; and lower levels of resistance in defence or in bad positions generally. Most games which I lose or IMs generally lose can be explained by one of these traits. I would mention time management as well though, since with the quicker time controls it has become a more important factor, especially in games where you have to start thinking early and the position remains complex.

Every single one of these differences informed my 22nd move against Sandipan, which is why I'm so upset about it, even now. Anyone can make a mistake, but that one move contained so many mistakes that I realise I have a lot of work to do.

Special thanks to Jonathan O'Connor for permission to reproduce this interview.

The best club-player game I've ever seen!

By Gerry Graham

Noonan,F - O'Driscoll,K [E73]

Munster Championship (3), 2001

[Notes by Gerry Graham]

This game was played in the third round of the Munster Chess Championship in Clonmel in 2001. The players were second and third seeds in the event so this was an important game. It was also a good one.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Be2 0-0 6.Bg5 h6 7.Be3 c5 8.dxc5 Qa5 9.Bd2

[9.cxd6 Nxe4] **9...Qxc5 10.Nf3 b6** There are 29 games in my database in which black now played 10...Bg4 but only 1 with 10...b6, Langeweg - Van der Wiel, Dutch Championship 1979, which was drawn. **11.0-0** Frank decides to complete his development before trying to exploit the slightly uncomfortable position of Black's queen.

11...Bb7 12.Qc2 Nbd7 13.Be3 Qc8 14.Nd2 e6 15.f4 a6 16.Rac1 Qc7 17.h3 Rad8 18.g4

There's no doubting the intentions behind this move, attack the Black king. The problem with this is that White's own king will be exposed by pushing his pawn cover.

18...g5 This is more of a counter attack than a defense, however [18...Nh7 deserved consideration] **19.fxg5 hxg5 20.Kg2** Of course not 20.Bxg5?? Qc5+ wins the bishop.

20...d5 Fritz 6 prefers 20...Nh7 again but the text is certainly more active and more in keeping with Kieran's counter attacking mood. **21.Bxg5 dxe4?!** 21...d4 was another way to play this position and it might have been better. 22.Nd1 Nxe4 23.Nxe4 Qe5~.

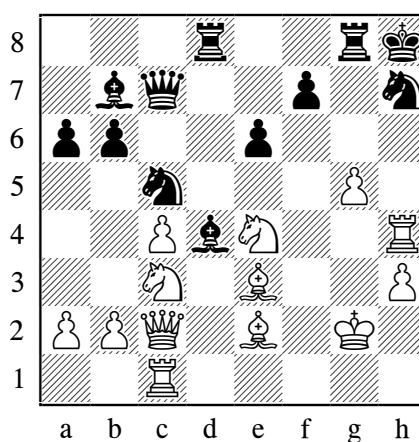
22.Be3 [22.Ndxe4? Nxe4 23.Nxe4 Qe5]

22...Kh8! The idea behind this move is made clear after his next! **23.g5** Where would you move the attacked knight? **23...Rg8!** "I'd leave him where he is" says Kieran. This imaginative move is based on the fact that White's king is exposed on the g file. **24.Rf4!** Neither king looks particularly safe! [24.gxf6? Bh6+! wins for Black.] **24...Nc5 25.Rh4+**

[25.Rcf1 is probably even better, ie 25...Nd3 26.Rh4+ Nh7 27.Ndxe4+/=] **25...Nh7**

26.Ndxe4?! What a position, it is incredibly

complex. White has just played 26.Ndxe4, undoubtedly a mistake but Black would have had to find an amazing line of play beginning with 26...f5 in order to exploit it. [26.g6 fxg6 27.Ndxe4] **26...Bd4?** The losing move but what a move it loses to. Fritz finds an incredible line for Black 26...f5 27.g6 Bf6!! 28.Rh6 (28.Rxb7+? Qxb7) 28...Bxe4+ 29.Nxe4 Nxe4-/+.



27.Nd5!! Doing it the other way around 27.Rxh7+? Kxh7 28.Nd5 doesn't work because of 28...exd5 29.Nf6+ Kg7 30.Qh7+ Kf8 31.Qxg8+ Ke7 32.Bxd4 Rxc8] **27...Rxd5** [If 27...Bxe3 28.Rxh7+ Kxh7 29.Nef6+ Kg7 30.Qh7+ Kf8 31.Qxg8#; If 27...exd5 28.Bxd4+ Rg7 29.Bxg7+ Kxg7 30.Rxh7+ Kxh7 31.Nxc5+ winning; If 27...Bxd5 28.Bxd4+ e5 29.Rxh7+ Kxh7 30.cxd5 exd4 31.Nf6+ Kg7 32.Qh7+ Kf8 33.Qxg8+ winning. **28.Rxh7+!** Black now resigned. This is a lovely finish, had Black decided to play on, the continuation might have looked like this. **28...Kxh7 29.Nf6+ Kg7** [29...Kh8 30.Qh7#] **30.Qh7+ Kf8 31.Qxg8+ Ke7 32.Qe8+ Kd6 33.Qf8+ Qe7 34.Qb8+ Qc7 35.Ne8+** Black sportingly admitted afterwards that if he had to lose the game, then 27.Nd5 was the type of move he'd prefer to lose to. **1-0**

I challenge anyone to send in a better game by both players under 2000 (only just).

Dun Laoghaire Chess Festival

HIGHLIGHTS of the recent Dun Laoghaire International Chess Festival (20th August 2010 to 29th August 2010), held to celebrate the centenary of the Dun Laoghaire club, were two all-play-all tournaments, a GM and a Masters, containing a combined total of three grandmasters and eight IMs. The event was run with the support of the ICU and Dun Laoghaire and Rathdown County Council. The time control used throughout was 90m+30spm.

The GM event was won by the top seed, Mark Hebden of England, with an unbeaten 6/9. The 52-year old Leicester grandmaster finished a half-point ahead of Irish IM Mark Quinn, whose loss to the tournament winner in round six spoiled his chances of a GM norm. Hebden's key win was his round eight victory over German GM Klaus Bischoff.

Third place was shared on 5/9 between GM Alex Baburin (Ireland), IM Mark Heidenfeld (Ireland), IM Federico Manco (Italy), and 22-year-old FM Alex Astoneh Lopez, the recently-crowned Irish Champion from Cork.

Astoneh Lopez recovered from losses in the opening two rounds to record three wins and four draws, enough to gain his second IM norm.

German GM Klaus Bischoff, the second seed, was well in the mix with two rounds to go, but lost both games to Quinn and Astoneh Lopez and had to settle for seventh place on 4.5/9.

Austrian IM Valery Atlas was next best on 3.5/9, followed by IM Sam Collins (Ireland) and Yuri Rochev (Russia) 2.6/9.

The Masters tournament was won by IM Simon Ansell of England who, apart from one slip in round seven, dominated throughout and won by 1.5 points with 7/9. IM Rafael Rodriguez Lopez of Spain lost his final two games but still succeeded in finishing second on his own with 5.5/9. Third place was shared on 5/9 between FM Stephen Brady (Ireland) and IM Pavel Cech (Czech Republic).

Remaining scores: FM Colm Daly (Ireland), David Fitzsimons (Ireland) and Povilas Tvarijonas (Lithuania) 4.5/9; Eric Moscow (USA) 3.5/9, FM Philip Short (Ireland) 3/9; Ryan Rhys Griffiths (Ireland) 2.5/9.

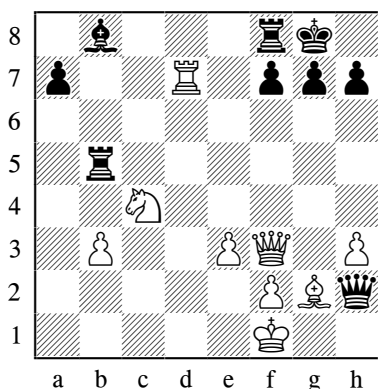
Other events at the festival included the Irish Ladies Championship which was won by April Cronin with a perfect 5/5 from Aoife Ledwidge O'Brien 3/5 and Sinead Duffy 2.5/5, while the Joyce Weekender went to England GM Gawain Jones with a maximum 5/5. IM Gavin Wall was second with 4/5. Third place was shared Oisín Benson, Kevin Butler, Peter Cafolla, Seamus Duffy and Tom Bajcar 3.5/5.

The tournaments were primarily organized to give Irish players an opportunity to record qualification norms towards GM and IM titles. So the hard work of Eamon Keogh and his team was rewarded when Alex Astoneh Lopez succeeded in achieving this goal. Also, three Irish players claimed grandmaster scalps as Sam Collins defeated Baburin and Mark Quinn beat Bischoff, while Astoneh Lopez also overcame the German GM to secure his IM norm.

Any event involving ICU president Eamon Keogh, a long standing supporter and sponsor of Irish chess, will provide great entertainment on and off the board. So the Dun Laoghaire Masters, including the first closed GM tournament ever to be held in Ireland, is a welcome new development.

Michael Adams

Fitzsimons, D – Griffiths, R
Dun Laoghaire IM (2)



Being the exchange up, Black is clearly winning. He could play something like 29...g6 and see what White's next move will be. As right now White has no threat, it won't be easy for him to find a good move. But Black lost the sense of danger and played **29...Rxb3??**

The punishment was swift:

30.Qxf7+!! Rxf7 31.Rd8+ Rf8 32.Bd5+ Kh8 33.Rxf8# 1-0 (GM Alexander Baburin.)

Hebden, Mark - Baburin, Alex [D30]

Dun Laoghaire GM (2),

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Nbd7 5.e3 c6

Here White can play 6.Nc3, when Black can go for the Cambridge Springs Variation with 6...Qa5. White can radically avoid that by playing 6.cxd5, but Mark Hebden likes to avoid that system in a different manner:

6.Nbd2 Be7 7.Rc1 h6 8.Bf4 c5

This move is probably not as accurate as 8...0-0 9.Bd3 c5 10.0-0 b6 11.cxd5 Nxd5 12.Bg3 Bb7 13.a3 cxd4 14.Nxd4 Rc8 15.Qe2 Rxc1 16.Rxc1+/= Hebden - Baburin, 4NCL, Sunningdale 2010. Was I looking for an improvement on move 8, when I played 8...c5? Not really - I simply forgot our previous game!

9.cxd5 Nxd5 10.Bg3 0-0 11.Bc4

White has a small advantage here. Black's main problem is the c8-bishop, which needs to be developed.

11...cxd4 12.Nxd4

White could not leave me with an isolated pawn as 12.Bxd5?! runs into 12...dxe3!

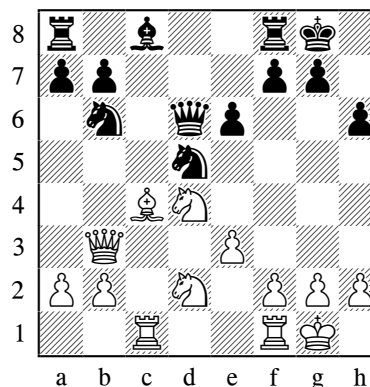
12...N7b6

Usually this is a great place for a knight, but playing the Alekhine Defence I am well used to a knight there! :-) In this case I wanted to gain a bit of time by attacking the c4-bishop, but White can leave him there.

13.0-0 Bd6 14.Bxd6

After the game Mark suggested 14.Bxd5 Nxd5 15.Bxd6 Qxd6 16.Qb3+/=.

14...Qxd6 15.Qb3



15...Nf6!

I felt that after this move Black solved most problems - now the knight on d2 does not have too many prospects.

16.Rfd1 Bd7 17.Nb5 Bxb5 18.Bxb5 Qe7 19.Be2! Rac8 20.Bf3 Rxc1 21.Rxc1 Rd8

Here I offered a draw, but Mark felt that he had an edge.

22.Nb1

This is too fancy. Simple 22.Ne4 Nxe4 23.Bxe4 was a better try, though I guess I would have found the line 23...Nd5 24.Rd1 Nf6! 25.Rxd8+ Qxd8 26.Bxb7 Qd2 where Black should be OK.

22...Nbd5 23.g3 b6 24.a3 e5 25.Rd1 Nc7 26.Nc3 Rxd1+ 27.Qxd1 Qd7 28.Qxd7 Nxd7 29.Bc6 Nf6 30.Kf1 Kf8 31.Ke2 Ke7 32.b4

I felt that there was no danger here and that led me to make an error:

32...g5?!

Generally, grabbing space (or rather marking territory) isn't a bad thing, but here Black weakens the f5-square, which could play a role later.

33.f3 Kd6 34.Bb7 Nfe8 35.Kd3 Ke7 36.g4 Nd6 37.Bc6 f5 38.h3?

It was Hebden's turn to get over-confident and make a mistake. He would be pressing if his bishop was on a safe square (i.e. a4), but now Black can take the initiative.

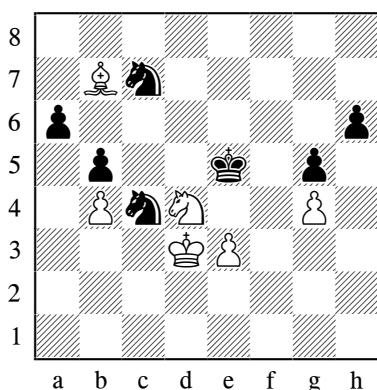
38...e4+! 39.Ke2

The line 39.fxe4 fxc4 40.hxc4 Nf7 41.Kd4 Kd6 42.Bd5 Ne5 leaves White in trouble.

39...exf3+ 40.Bxf3 fxc4 41.hxc4 Nc4 42.Kd3

Hebden sacrifices a pawn to avoid the line 42.a4 Ne5.

42...Nxa3 43.Bc6 Kd6 44.Ba4 Ke5 45.Bc6 b5! 46.Ne2 a6 47.Nd4 Nc4 48.Bb7



48...Nd5

Mark was critical of this move, believing that Black should have kept both knights on. I too knew that my move was committal, but I felt the resulting knight endgame could be won. However, it seems that 48...Kf6! was a better try. I just did not see that retreat, which would vacate a nice square for my c4-knight.

49.Nf3+ Kd6 50.Bxd5 Kxd5 51.e4+ Ke6

At first, I calculated the line 51...Kd6 52.Kd4 a5 53.bxa5 Nxa5 54.e5+ Ke6 55.Kc5 Nc4 56.Kxb5?? Nxe5 57.Nh2 Kd5 but, of course, White can improve on that line: 53.e5+! Ke6 54.Ke4 axb4 55.Nd4+ Kf7 56.Nb3.

52.Kd4 a5 53.bxa5 Nxa5 54.Kc5 Nc4 55.Kxb5 Ne3 56.Kc5 Nxc4 57.Kd4 Nf6

This is how far I saw when I was considering 48...Nd5. I felt that Black should be winning here. At that point Hebden had 9 minutes for the remaining moves, while I had 12. I have no idea where all that time went later...

58.Ke3

58.e5!? Nh5.

58...Nd7 59.Kd4 g4 60.Nd2 Ne5 61.Ke3 Kf6 62.Kf4 h5 63.Nb3 Ng6+ 64.Ke3 h4 65.Nd4 h3

Black has made a lot of progress and should be winning now.

66.Nf5 Kg5 67.Kf2 Kf4 68.Ng3 Ne5

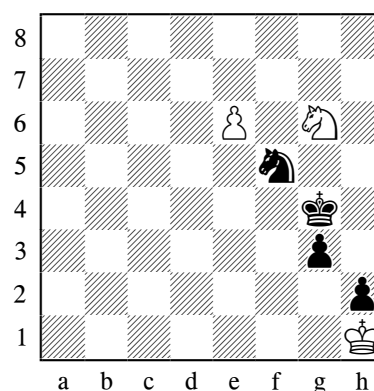
It was better to play 68...Nh4! as then White can't go for 69.Ne2+ Kxe4 70.Kg3 in view of 70...Nf5+ 71.Kxc4 h2.

69.Ne2+! Kg5

69...Kxe4? 70.Kg3 leads Black nowhere.

70.Kg3 Nf3 71.e5 Nh4 72.e6 Nf5+ 73.Kf2 Kh4 74.Kg1 g3 75.Nf4 Kg4 76.Ng6 h2+ 77.Kh1

Or 77.Kg2 Ne3+ 78.Kh1 Nd1+



Here I had just over a minute left, while Mark had about the same. I could (and should!) have stopped here and calculate a bit, but it's hard to know when to stop and take time, particularly when you don't have much of it left. And you can add to that the fact that we had been playing for almost 5 hours then... Here 77...Ne7!-+ would be a very nice finish!

77...Kf3? 78.Ne5+ Kf4 79.Ng6+

79.e7! Nxe7 80.Nf3!!=

79...Kf3 (79...Kg4!) 80.Ne5+ Kf2 81.Ng4+ Kf3 82.Nxh2+ gxh2 83.Kxh2 Kf4 1/2-1/2 (GM Alexander Baburin)

Bischoff, Klaus – Hebden, Mark

Dun Laoghaire GM (8),

King's Indian Defence

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.d4 0-0 6.Be2 e5 7.0-0 Nc6 8.d5 Ne7 9.Ne1 Nd7 10.Nd3 f5 11.Bd2 Nf6 12.f3 f4 13.c5 g5 14.cxd6 cxd6 15.Nf2 Ng6 16.Qc2 Rf7 17.Rfc1 Bf8

17...a6 is also played.

18.a4 h5 19.Nb5 Ne8 20.Ra3

20.Nxa7 Rc7

20...Bd7 21.Rc3 Rg7 22.h3 a6 23.Na3

23.Nc7 Nxc7 24.Rxc7 Rb8.

23...Be7 24.Be1 Qb8!?

Hebden likes this plan, it looks risky to open queenside lines and squares.

25.Qb3 Bd8 26.Qb4 Qa7 27.a5 b6 28.Nc4 bxa5 29.Nxa5 Bb6 30.Kf1

30.Nc6!

30...Rb8 31.Rb3 Ne7 32.Ra1

32.Nc6

32...Bc7 33.Qa3 Nf6 34.Rxb8+ Qxb8

35.Qb3 Qe8!

A practical decision, White seems to have lost the thread somewhat and Black prepares a typical KID attack even though White might be better with correct play.

36.Nc6 g4! 37.Nxe5

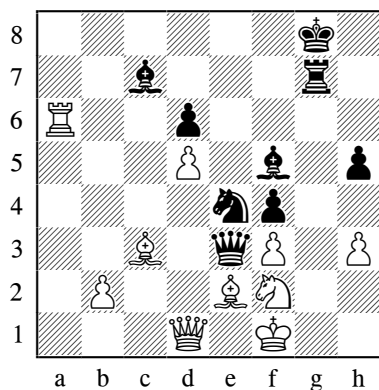
It looked risky but 37.hxg4 hxg4 38.fxg4 Nxg4 39.Bxg4 Bxg4 40.Nxg4 Rxg4 41.Nxe5 was better.

37...gxh3 38.gxh3

38.Nxh3 dxe5 39.d6+ Kh7 40.dxc7 Qg6 41.Bf2 Qxg2+ 42.Ke1 Qxh3.

38...Nf5!! 39.exf5 Qxe5 40.Bc3 Qe3

41.Rxa6 Bxf5 42.Qd1 Ne4!!



43.Qd4

43.Nxe4 Rg1#; 43.fxe4 Bxh3+ 44.Nxh3 Qxh3+ 45.Ke1 Rg1+.

43...Bxh3+! 0-1 (IM Malcolm Pein)

The following game sees Black pursue his queenside play while White attacks the other wing. For a while it appears the players are ignoring each other but eventually White's threats become decisive.

Quinn, Mark - Astaneh Lopez, Alex

Dun Laoghaire GM (2),

Semi Slav

1.c4 c6 2.Nf3 d5 3.d4 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6 5.Bg5

h6 6.Bh4 g5 7.Bg3 dxc4 8.h4!? g4 9.Ne5

b5 10.h5 Bb4 11.Bh4 Qa5! 12.Rc1

12.Bxf6 Bxc3+ 13.bxc3 Qxc3+ 14.Qd2 Qxa1+

12...Ne4

12...Nbd7 may be best; 12...Nxh5 13.a3 Bd6

14.e3 f5 15.Nxg4!

13.Qc2 f5 14.a3 Bd6 15.Ng6

15.Nxg4!?

15...Rh7 16.g3 Nxc3 17.bxc3 Bxa3 18.Ra1

b4 19.Bg2 b3 20.Qd2 b2 21.Rb1 Qc7 22.0-0

Nd7 23.e4!

Black has only a pawn on b2 for his trouble and this can be eliminated at minimal cost if required.

23...Nb6 24.Rfe1

24.exf5 was also strong.

24...f4! 25.gxf4 Na4 26.f5! Qa5 27.Re3 Rb8

28.Ne5 Qb5

28...Rb3 29.Nxc4 Nxc3 was the last chance to cause confusion.

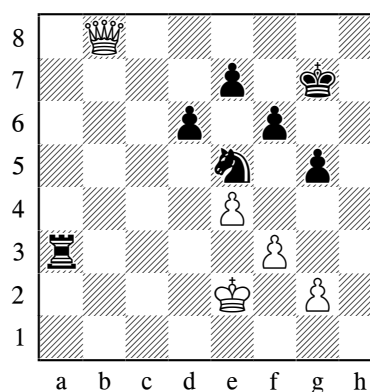
29.Nxg4 Be7 30.Bxe7 Rxe7 31.f6 Qg5

31...Rf7 32.e5

32.fxe7 Qxg4 33.Rg3 Qxh5 34.Qf4 1-0 (IM Malcolm Pein)

Bischoff, Klaus - Quinn, Mark

Dun Laoghaire Centenary GM (4)



65.Qb2

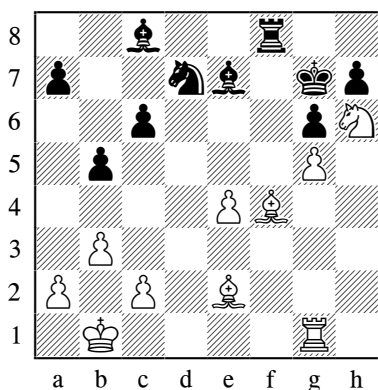
After 65.Qe8 Ra2+ a draw is on the cards, but this error allows some neat geometry.

65...Re3+

This alert move convinced White to resign as 65...Re3+ 66.Kxe3 a) 66.Kf1 Re1+ 67.Kxe1

Nd3+; b) 66.Kd1 Re1+ 67.Kc2 (67.Kd2 Nc4+) 67...Re2+ all win White's queen.; 66...Nc4+] 0-1 (GM Michael Adams)

Astaneh Lopez,Alex - Collins,Sam
Dun Laoghaire Centenary GM (3)



The knight on h6 didn't look great earlier in the game, but now it restricts the Black king effectively and a sneaky withdrawal of the bishop sets up problems on the long diagonal.

31.Bc1 Ne5

If 31...Bd6 32.Rd1 Bf4 (32...Be5 33.Bg4 is strong.) 33.Rxd7+ Bxd7 34.Bb2+ is a nice tactical finish. Relatively best, although not very appetising was; 31...Rf2 32.Bg4 Kf8 33.e5

32.Bb2 Bd6 33.Rd1 Bb8 34.Bg4

Swapping the bishop causes a complete collapse.

34...Bxg4

After 34...a5 35.Bxc8 Rxc8 36.Ng4 Re8 37.Nf6 Re7 38.Rd8 Bc7 39.Ne8+ is one simple win.

35.Nxg4 Re8 36.Rd7+ Kh8

The king can't retreat in the other direction as 36...Kf8 is met by the deadly 37.Ba3+.

37.Rb7 Bd6 38.Nf6 1-0 (GM Michael Adams)

Simon Ansell was in good form in the accompanying IM event.

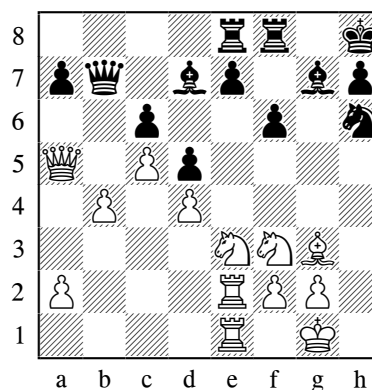
Fitzsimons,David - Ansell,Simon [B13]

Dun Laoghaire Centenary IM (4)

French Defence

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.c4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Nf3 Be6 7.c5 g6 8.Bb5 Bg7 9.Ne5 Qc8 10.0-0 0-0 11.Bxc6 bxc6 12.Qa4

Bd7 13.Re1 Be8 14.h3 Qb7 15.Re2 Kh8 16.Bf4 Ng8 17.b4 f6 18.Nf3 Bd7 19.Qa5 Rae8 20.Rae1 g5 21.Bg3 g4 22.hxg4 Bxg4 23.Nd1 Nh6 24.Ne3 Bd7



25.Nc2

The knight was doing a good job on e3, so 25.Qc7 was wiser.

25...Nf5 26.Qc7

26.Bf4 keeps black bottled up.

26...Qxc7 27.Bxc7 Bh6

A crucial move, grabbing control of an important diagonal.

28.a4 Rg8 29.Rb1

It's not particularly easy to give good advice: 29.Ne3 doesn't look pretty, but challenges the influential knight.

29...a6 30.Na1

Not a good sign.

30...Rg4

Even worse, Black has a clear plan to execute.

31.Nb3 Rc8 32.Bb6 Rcg8

With White's bishop banished to the edge of the board the rooks double up.

33.g3 Bf4

33...Nxg3 34.fxg3 Rxg3+ 35.Kf2 Bf5 looks very dangerous, but increasing the pressure is also strong.

34.Rbb2 h5

The 'h' pawn battering ram signals the beginning of the end.

35.Nh2 R4g7 36.Kg2 h4 37.Kf3 e5

37...hxg3 was decisive, but the thematic central advance is hard to resist.

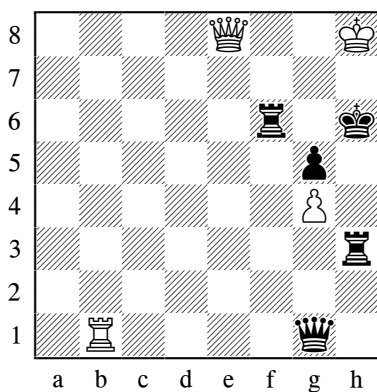
38.dxe5 fxe5 39.Bc7

39.gxf4 e4+ 40.Rxe4 dxe4+ 41.Kxe4 Re8+ leaves the White pieces lacking in coordination to resist.

39...hxg3 40.fxg3 Rxc3+ 41.Kf2 Be3+
 41...Rg1 was a more precise finish, but this is
 good enough.
 42.Rxe3 Rxe3 43.Nf1 Re4 44.Nbd2 Rf4+
 45.Nf3 Re8 0-1 (GM Michael Adams)

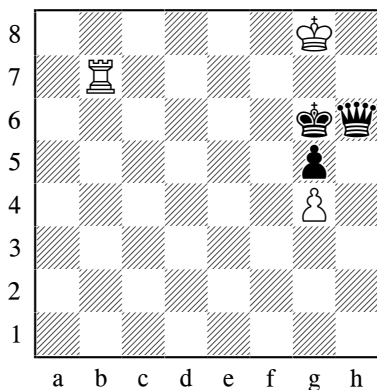
WHY STUDIES?

My fascination for studies proved highly beneficial, it assisted the development of my aesthetic understanding of chess, and improved my endgame play. - Vasily Smyslov.



Silaev, (1983)

White to play and win – beware of stalemate!
1.Rb7!! Not 1.Rxcg1? Rf8+ 2.Qxf8+ Kg6+
 3.Kg8 Rh8+ 4.Kxh8 stalemate! **1...Rf8+**
 Looks like this also leads to stalemate but
 there is a remarkable twist! **2.Qxf8+ Kg6+**
3.Kg8 Rh8+ 4.Kxh8 Qh1+ Black is aiming
 for the same stalemate trick. **5.Qh6+!!** A
 SPECTACULAR MOVE. **5...Qxh6+**
6.Kg8, 1-0.



BLACK IS HELPLESS The threat of Rb6
 mate is decisive.

Solutions:

Are you a problem Solver?

D'Orville

1.Nge5 Ke3 2.c3 Kd2 3.Nc4+ Kxd3 4.b4
 Kxc4 5.Be2#

Walter Grimshaw

1.Bc8! (2.Qc5#) 2...Bxc8 2.Qc6 (3.c4#)
 2...Re6 3.Qd4+ Kxd4 4.Nf5+ Kd5 5.c4#

Alex Casa

1.Qb7!

CHESS MAGIC

1. 20.Qc7+ 1-0 If 20...Nxc7 2.Nb6+ (3.Rd8#)

2. 13.Rh5! 1-0 If 13...gxh5 14.Qf6#

3. 44.b4! axb4 2.axb4 Qf8 1-0 If 45...Bf2 46.
 Bd2 wins.

4. 44.Qg5+ Qg7 45.Qxg7 Kxg7 46.Rd2Rf5 1-
 0

5. 37.Re8+! Kg7 38.h6+ 1-0 If 38...Kf6 Rxd8.

6. 16.Bd8! 1-0 If 16...Qxd8, then 17.Qh6 Nh5
 18.Qxg6+ Bg7 19.Qxf7 wins.

Puzzled?

Ivanchuk - Leko

1...Qf7! draws.

Volvik - Kozlov

18.Qf7+ Kh8 19.Ng6+ 1-0