

Official Newsletter of the Irish Chess Union

IRISH CHESS JOURNAL

December 2010

Braille Chess Association of Irelands Jubilee tournament 2010



Photo by Michael Germaine

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ARE YOU A PROBLEM SOLVER?

Contributors:

Robert Pye, FM John Delaney, Kevin O'Connell, Sean Coffey, Peter Cafolla, GM D. Rogozenco, Gerry Graham, Jonathan O'Connor, David McAlister, Sean Loftus, Philip Doyle and Brian Wall.

The Irish Chess Journal is the official newsletter of the Irish Chess Union. The opinions expressed herein are strictly those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Irish Chess Union.

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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!

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

The ICU wishes to take this opportunity to extend Seasons Greetings to all Chess Players and their families and wishes everyone a successful 2011.

CONGRATULATIONS TO IM ALEX LOPEZ

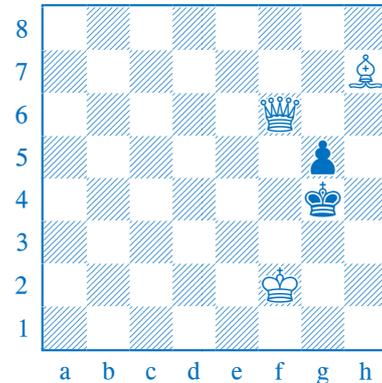
Current Irish Champion Alex Lopez has obtained his 3rd and final IM norm in the FIDE Open section of the London Chess Classic, thus becoming Ireland's 7th IM and Munster's first!

<http://www.londonchessclassic.com/>

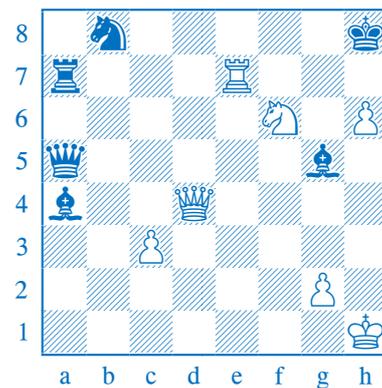


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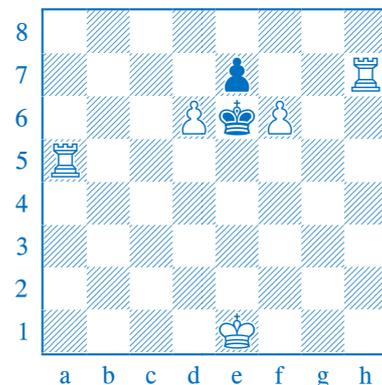
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#2 Joseph G. Campbell
'Chess Players' Chronicle' 1861



#2 A. Petroff
1864



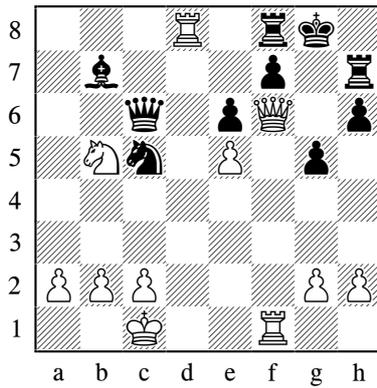
#3 W. Shinkman
1872

Solutions on last page.

CHESSE MAGIC

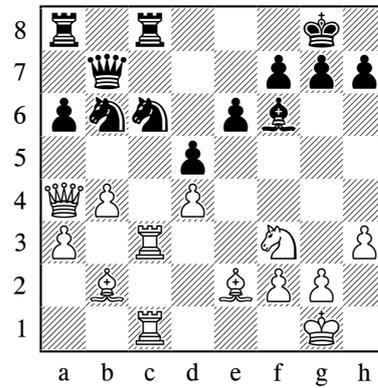
White to play and win

1



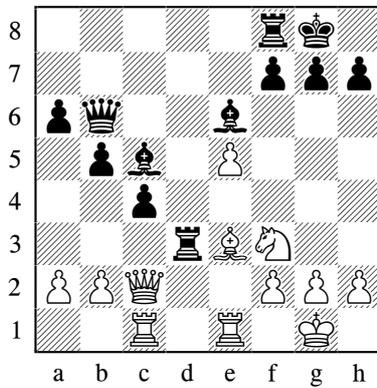
Agapov - Nepomniashy
USSR 1983

4



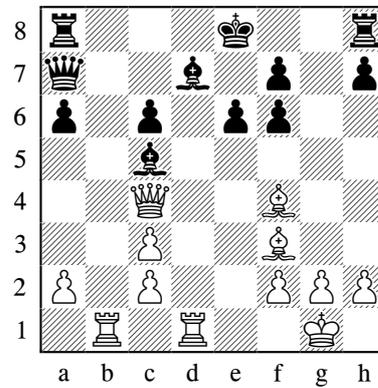
E. Torre – L. Schmid
Nice Olympiad, 1974

2



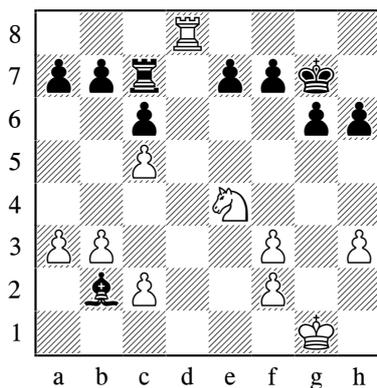
Coffey – Serpi
Le Havre, 1980

5



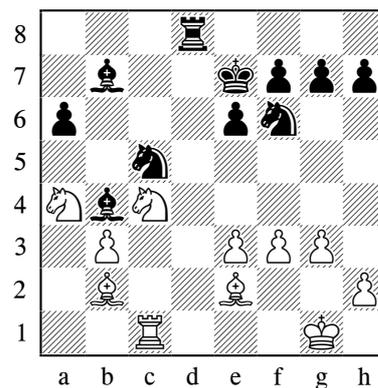
F. Olafsson – M. Quinteros
Las Palmas, 1974

3



V. Peresypkin – Chekhov
USSR, 1976

6



B. Spassky – M. Chandler
New Zealand, 1988

Solutions to puzzles on last page.

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

By Jonathan O'Connor

This letter is part politics, part book review, and part tale of woe, but more about my chess later!

If anyone had asked me a year ago, if I wanted to be part of the ICU executive, I would have said, absolutely not. So what happened to change me? Where and when was my Pauline conversion? During the first half of the year, some very forthright opinions were expressed on the LCU blog about the then ICU executive. Regardless of their truth or falsehood, the people making these statements annoyed me with their negativity. I am a believer in the maxim: put up or shut up. In June, I decided to run for the chairmanship. Most of my friends thought I was mad. They were probably right, but along with the opinions about my mental health, there was also a huge range of ideas for the betterment of Irish Chess. Thus, I announced my interest in the position, and, the rest, as they say, is history.

Since September, your executive has been working hard on your behalf. We now have a budget with estimates for our income, and allocations for our expenditure. This year is an expensive year for us, as we have to run the Glorney and Faber Cup competitions. For those of you who don't know, the Glorney is an international junior team event for boys. Mr. Glorney gave a bequest to sponsor such a competition, and it has been held annually since 1948. Until the 90's the competition was always between Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales. But in latter years, teams from France, Belgium and Holland have also played. This year, it looks as if there will be the original four countries taking part. As our boys team have come very close the last two years to winning the competition, we have made it a goal to win the Glorney. Our junior officer, Darko Polimac, has organised a complete training plan for the team, who will be picked early in the New Year by the new selection committee.

Speaking of the selection committee, Gerry Graham is stepping down as the chairman after, I don't know how many years, and I would like to thank him for all his good work in that role. Shannon Clements, who many of you will remember when he was secretary of the ICU, has kindly offered to step into Gerry's shoes. He is currently gathering his committee, and will officially take over on January 1st.

We are introducing some new national titles. We already have qualification criteria for the National Arbiter title, and in the next few months we will be introducing 2 or 3 training titles. The details are still being worked out. You may ask what benefit does this bring, and the answer is

twofold. Firstly FIDE are pressuring us and other national federations to encourage coaches and controllers to get FIDE qualifications. For instance, FIDE object quite strongly to rating events that are not controlled by a FIDE or International Arbiter. Establishing the National Arbiter title is a stepping stone for anyone wishing to go for the FIDE titles. Secondly, encouraging controllers and event organisers to get qualifications can only improve the events they run, and reduce the number of mistakes that are occasionally made when making a draw, or deciding on disputes. Yes, of course, many of us have run tournaments, as I myself have. But I probably only know about 80% of the rules governing disputes, and while this is normally enough, for our prestigious events, this would not be enough. We will be holding training courses over the next few years, and there will be a theory exam, but the main qualification criterion is to have run a number of tournaments.

In early November, our women's officer and chess author, Una O'Boyle, contacted Senator Dan Boyle, who raised the issue of the recognition of chess as a sport in the Seanad. Sadly, his timing was somewhat unfortunate, in that he spoke two days after the Green Party announced they would be pulling out of government after the budget had been passed. Even though we could expect no favours from a jilted Fianna Fail, it must be said that Sean Haughey, who was responding to Senator Boyle's questions, clearly didn't believe what he was saying, and found it ridiculous that chess is not recognised as a sport. I must admit, that getting chess recognised as a sport was not part of my vision, but sometimes opportunities arise, and one must grab them while one can. I'm not going to reveal all our arguments, because our chief weapon is surprise ... surprise and cunning ... cunning and surprise - our two chief weapons are surprise and cunning ... and ruthless efficiency.

Now enough about politics. When I look back on the year, four events stand out. Firstly, there was the Dun Laoghaire Masters tournament organised by my predecessor, Eamon Keogh. What a fantastic event. In the GM event it was the battle of the Marks, with GM Mark Hebden winning ahead of our own Mark Quinn and Mark Heidenfeld. Alex Lopez also scored his second IM norm. Well done Eamon for organising the event, to Gerry Graham and Michael Crowe for controlling, to Mark Quinn for doing the nightly reports, and to Una O'Boyle for social and promotional activities.

The second highlight has to be the publication of the first chess book written in Irish by our very own Una O'Boyle. It's wonderfully illustrated, and is perfect for any child attending a Gaelscoil. The real novelty of her book, is that each copy comes with its own board and pieces, as well as very nice bookmark. Contact Una quickly, if you want a copy for Christmas.

The third highlight has to be Sam Collin's win against his Mongolian opponent Gundavaa in the Olympiad (<http://icu.ie/games/display.php?id=29822>). Sam needed a win with Black to keep any chances of a final GM norm. Somehow he managed to sacrifice a piece for a speculative attack. Unfortunately, Sam couldn't put his opponent away, and he ended up in a position with Q and pawns against 2R + N. Sam kept playing for the win, and amazingly got it. There were quite a lot of us following the game live, using the LCU blog to exchange comments with each other. Sadly, Sam had to draw with a very strong former Chinese GM the next day, and ended losing, thus missing his norm by half a point. However, having seen Sam winning Kilkenny this year against opposition such as Ivan Cheparinov, our Bulgarian visitor, I know it won't be long before Sam gets his well deserved title.

My fourth highlight is Alex Lopez' third IM norm, scored in the London Classic FIDE Open tournament. It still has to be confirmed by FIDE, but from what I have heard, Alex can expect his nice shiny new IM certificate to be winging its way from Kalmykia soon.

As some of you may know, I'm an inveterate chess book buyer, and this year has been quite a good one. My favourite book this year has to be Yasser Seirawan's

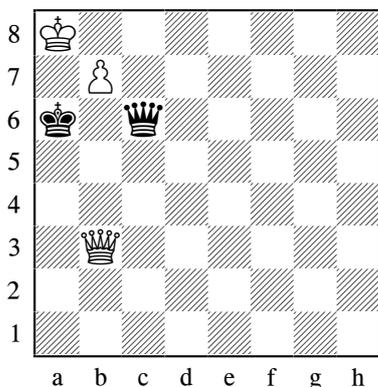
"Chess Duels: My Games with the World Champions". Not only are the games beautifully annotated, Yasser is the best story teller amongst the grandmasters. The best opening book ever written has to be Sergei Shipov's labour of love, "The Complete Hedgehog, Volume 1". Unlike many opening books, this one tells the story of the opening. On middle games, Ivan Sokolov has written "Winning Chess Middlegames: An essential guide to pawn structures". It systematically examines the pawn structures that arise mainly from queen's gambits, and Nimzo-Indians. The only similar book previously on this subject was Alex Baburin's "Winning Pawn Structures". Sokolov's book seems to have more material on doubled and hanging pawns. I should, of course, mention Sam Collins' new book "Gambit Busters: Take it, Keep it ... and Win!" Sadly, I haven't got a copy yet (hint, hint Sam, send me a copy, and I'll review it) so I can't say what it's like, but given his previous books, it'll be worth the read.

I have had a chess Annus Horribilis (Latin for dreadful year, and not ugly backside), winning a single game against the unfortunate Rory Quinn, and to be honest, I should have lost that one too. I have lost games to Gordon Freeman and Kilian Delaney in under 20 moves. I could claim over work, the stress of trying to move house, or the reduction of free time due to my ICU responsibilities, but I actually think it is due to my lack of fitness. "Mens sana in corpore sano" say the sages, and so I'm heading for the gym in the new year.

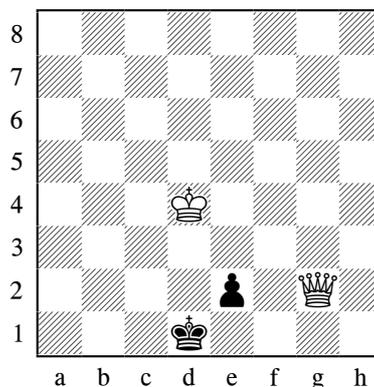
Finally, on behalf of the executive, may I wish you all a merry Christmas and a winning new year.

PUZZLED?

Instructional positions for the improving player.



L van Vliet (1888)
White to play and win!



T. SiersKieler
Neueste Nachrichten 1937
White to play and mate in 5

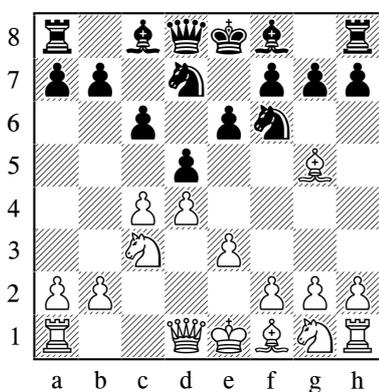
Solutions on last page!

2 ANNOTATED GAMES FROM GALWAY CONGRESS 2010

Rogozenco,D - Baburin,A [D36]
[Notes by Dorlan Rogozenco]

This game from the penultimate round of Galway Chess Congress 2010 was practically decisive for the final standings. I was on 4.5 out of 5, Alex was half a point behind me.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Nbd7 5.e3 c6



6.cxd5

On Sunday morning I didn't really feel like going for a theoretical battle in the sharp Cambridge-Springs Variation arising after 6.Nf3 Qa5.

6...exd5 7.Bd3 Be7 8.Qc2 0-0 9.Nf3 Re8 10.0-0 Nf8 11.h3

One of the most ambitious plans in the Exchange Variation of the Queen's Gambit Declined.

11...Nh5

In case of the standard 11...g6 12.Bh6 Ne6 13.Ne5 Ng7 with the idea to exchange the light-squared bishops on f5, White shows the idea behind his eleventh move: 14.g4! with advantage.

12.Bxe7 Qxe7 13.Rae1 g6!

Weaker is 13...Be6 14.g4 Nf6 15.Ne5 N6d7 16.f4 f6 17.Nf3 and again White is better.

14.e4



I was trying to exploit my slight lead in development by opening up the position.

14...dxe4 15.Rxe4 Be6 16.Rfe1 Rad8

The chances are close to equal: White has an isolated pawn, but his pieces are more active and Black's kingside is slightly weakened by the move g6.

17.Qc1 Nf6 18.Re5 N8d7 19.R5e2 Qf8

Probably better is 19...Nb6 with the idea Nbd5.

20.Qf4

After the activation of white queen Black must play very precisely in order to prevent White from developing the initiative. During the game I thought the position is equal, but now after analysing it with the help of the computer I believe that

White's chances are slightly preferable.

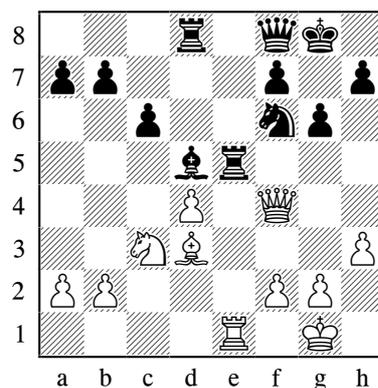
20...Bd5 21.Ne5 Nxe5

21...Nh5 22.Qh4 Nxe5 23.Rxe5 Rxe5 24.dxe5! leads to the variation 23.dxe5, see below. (24.Rxe5 is probably about equal.)

22.Rxe5

22.dxe5 Nh5 23.Qh4 Bxg2]

22...Rxe5



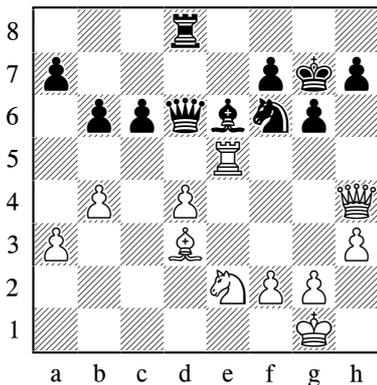
23.Rxe5?

During the game we both thought that 23.dxe5 Nh5 24.Qh4 (24.Qe3 Bxg2! 25.Kxg2 Rxd3!) 24...Bxg2 favours Black, but the computer shows that after 25.Be2! Bd5 26.Bxh5 gxf5 27.Kh2! h6 (worse is 27...f6 28.exf6 Qd6+ 29.Kg1) 28.Rg1+ Kh7 29.Qxh5 Black is struggling to survive. In the approaching time-trouble I didn't even seriously consider to give up the pawn g2, but this was the right way to continue, keeping White's advantage.

23...Kg7=/+

Now the situation changed completely, as it became obvious that Black has little to fear and can try to play for more than equality. With the last move Alex correctly rejected my draw offer, since his position is very safe and he had considerably more time on the clock.

24.a3 Qd6 25.Qh4 Be6 26.Ne2 b6 27.b4



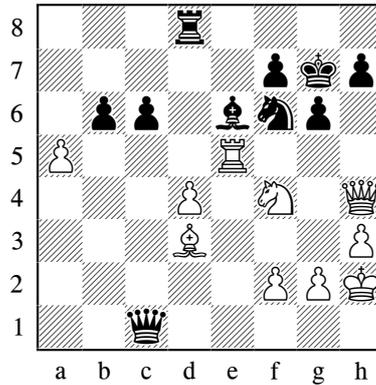
27...a5!?

Alex is trying to play as complicated as possible, using his advantage on the clock. But now the position becomes very sharp and Black is also taking risk.

28.bxa5 Qxa3 29.Nf4 Qc1+

Again the strongest continuation is spotted by the computer: 29...Bg4! with the idea Qc1xf4. Alex saw the idea, but chose the wrong move order. After 29...Bg4 objectively speaking Black is probably better, but the position remains very sharp and double-edged.

30.Kh2



30...Bg4?

Here Black should have already gone for the draw: 30...Ng4+ 31.Kg3 Nxe5 32.Nxe6+ fxe6 33.Qxd8 Nxd3 34.Qe7+ Kh6 35.Qh4+ Kg7=.

31.Qg5!

Not only protecting the knight on f4, but also creating a threat of a knight check, winning the queen from c1. Here we both realized that White is winning. Alex calculated only 31.Re3 Rxd4 but here White is actually winning as well thanks to the nice move 32.Ne2 using the pin of the bishop g4.

31...Qd1 32.hxg4 Nxg4+

32...Qxg4 would have put up more resistance, although it would have hardly changed the result, since after 33.Be2 (33.axb6 h6!) 33...Qxg5 34.Rxg5 Rxd4 35.g3 White is technically winning.

33.Kg3 Nxe5 34.Qxe5+ Kg8 35.f3

Creating the idea 35.Nh5+ gxf5 36.Qg5+ (35.axb6 Qb3 seemed less clear to me during the game, although it is also completely winning after 36.Qc7 Rf8 37.Kh2 g5 38.Qe5 gxf4 39.Qg5+ Kh8 40.Qh6.)

35...Qa1 36.Ne6!

Here 36.Nh5?? would have been a big mistake, since 36...Qxd4 protects against the mate on g7 and Black is suddenly winning!

36...fxe6 37.Qxe6+ Kf8 38.Bc4 Rd5 39.Bxd5 cxd5 40.axb6 Qb2 41.Qxd5 1-0

Game reproduced with the kind permission of the Galway chess club.

www.galwaychess.com

Cafolla,P - Rochev,Y [B23]

Galway Masters (2)

[Notes by Peter Cafolla]

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 e6

This is quite a good way of meeting the Closed Sicilian as long as you don't mind playing the French Defence.

3.g3 d5 4.exd5 exd5 5.d3

I've struggled in this line before so decided to follow a Nigel Davies recommendation this time.

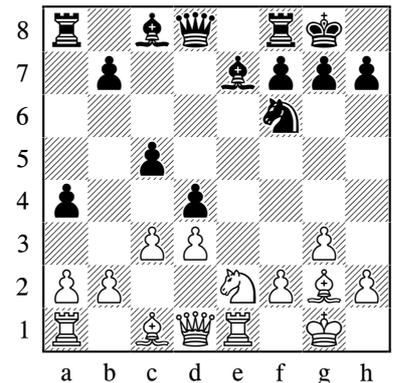
5...Nf6 6.Bg2 d4 7.Ne4 Nxe4 8.Bxe4

The alternative dxe4 is probably a bit more ambitious but against Rochev I was happy to keep things quiet.

8...Nd7 9.Ne2 Nf6 10.Bg2 Be7 11.0-0 0-0 12.Re1= a5 13.c3

I was already well up on the clock but I thought for quite a while here as I have a number of plausible options Qc2, h3, Nf4, a3, Rb1, Bd2, Bg5

13...a4



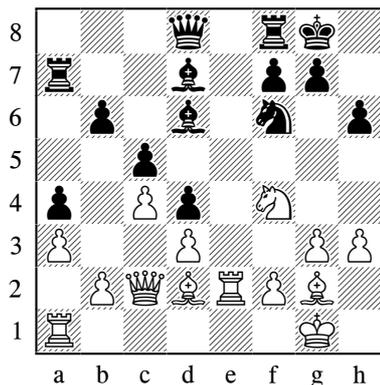
14.c4?!

I thought that by taking control of d5 and b5 that I might have some hope of an advantage but Fritz seems to think that all the aforementioned moves were slightly better. I can't honestly say that I can see what's wrong with c4, perhaps it weakens d3.

14...h6 15.a3 Ra7 16.Nf4 b6

I assessed the position as being slightly better for me here because of my nice Bishop and the d5 square. Philip Short said afterwards that he thought Black better because he had more space. Fritz thinks it's dead level. Take your pick.

17.Bd2 Bg4 18.Qc2 Bd6 19.h3 Bd7
20.Re2?!



20.Kh2 is safer, not cutting my Knight adrift.

20...g5!/+ 21.Nd5 Nxd5 22.cxd5 Qf6 23.Rf1 Raa8 24.f4?!

A typical "Cafolla move" trying to mix it up a bit as soon as I am slightly worse instead of trying to stay solid and not make any more mistakes.

24...g4!-+ 25.h4 Rfe8 26.Be4 h5

I don't think that Yuri should have been so quick to close up the Kingside especially as his plan is to head straight for an ending where very often it is necessary to be able to create threats of both sides of the board.

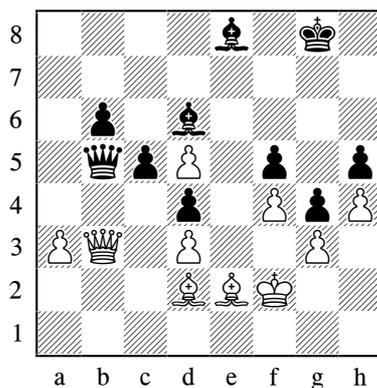
27.Rfe1 Qg7 28.Kf2 f5?!/+ 29.Bg2 Rxe2+ 30.Rxe2 Re8 31.Rxe8+ Bxe8 32.b4

Possibly doing nothing with a move like Kf1 or Qc4 was objectively better but I'm still slow to criticize my desire to resolve the Q side pawn issue. Sometimes fortune can favour the brave!

32...axb3

32...cxb4 was slightly better.

33.Qxb3 Qa7 34.Bf1 Qa6 35.Be2 Qb5?!



Consistently pursuing the wrong plan. The more pieces that come off here the happier I'm becoming.

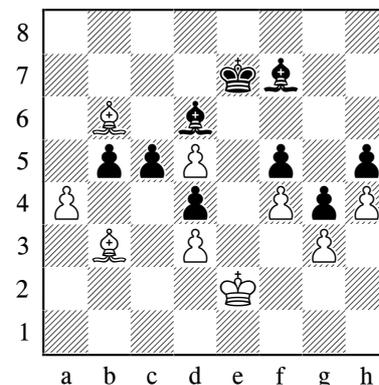
36.Bd1 Qxb3 37.Bxb3 b5?!

Too rash. Better was bringing the Black king over to b6 first.

38.Ba5 Bd7 39.Bb6!/+ Kf8 40.Ke2 Ke7 41.Kd2 Be8 42.Ke2

I can't stray too far from the g file in case of a sac on f4

42...Bf7 43.a4!!



Fritz, being the materialistic monster it is doesn't like this move but for the small price of a pawn I get some activity at last.

43...bxa4 44.Bxa4 Bxd5 45.Bb5 Bf7 46.Kd2 Be6 47.Ke2 Bb3 48.Kd2 Bf7 49.Ke2 Be8 50.Bc4 Bf7 51.Bb5 Bb3 52.Kd2 Ba2 53.Ke2 Be6 54.Kd2 Bb3 55.Ke2 Kf6 56.Kd2 Be7 57.Ke2 Bg8 58.Kd2 Bh7 59.Bc4 Bg6 60.Bc7

Threatening mate in one but amazingly Black couldn't facilitate it with any move even if he wanted to.

60...Be8 61.Ke2 Bd7 62.Bb6 Bc6 63.Kd2 Bd6 64.Bd8+ Kg6

There is nothing Black can do, if he marches his king over to the Q-side he will have to entomb his bishop on g6 to babysit the pawns effectively leaving himself a piece down where the action would be.

65.Bb6 Bd7 66.Ke2 Kf6 67.Kd2 Be6 68.Bb5 Bf7 69.Ke2 1/2-1/2



THE MENTAL CHECKLIST

Try running through this mental checklist before making your move:

1. Note all the checks and captures.
2. Ask yourself: 'What is he trying to do?'
3. Ask yourself: 'What am I trying to do?'
4. Finally, check for surprise moves-have I missed anything? Laborious at first, this routine soon becomes second nature. You will avoid blunders using it!

By IM Andrew Martin

An Interview with Robert Pye

By Tony Foley



Robert Pye

Photograph by Laragh Pye

For those people unfamiliar with you, could you please give us a little essential background information to get us started?

I played for Ireland at junior, student and senior international level in the 1970s and was a moderately good over-the-board player (highest rating 2230 or thereabouts).

You are deep into chess studies. How did you become involved with this rather specialized aspect of chess?

As a youngster I was fascinated by chess ideas – at any phase of the game – but the most developed literature on this related to endgame studies. Some studies were quite amazing. I remember solving some studies with a few of the participants, including John Nunn, at the European Under-21 Championship in Groningen in 1974/5. We were all enthralled by a superb study by Kaminer (Number 281 in '1357' by Lommer). I believe this unfortunate man died in the Stalinist purges but he left a very fine legacy of beautiful studies. I was always struck by the fact that studies could be enjoyed by anyone, anywhere, at virtually no cost, and transcended ethnicity and language. A minor art form.

How many studies have you published to date? And please give us one of your favourites!

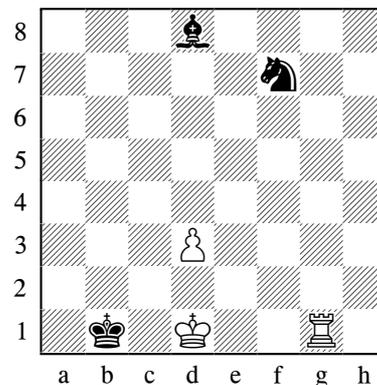
I have always found it difficult to get the time to compose studies. This means my overall output is fairly small. However I've always tried to compose studies with intrinsically interesting ideas, of the kind that would appeal both to study enthusiasts and to over-the-board players.

Among my favourite studies is the one that came with least effort. One evening I was exploring some new ideas at the board when suddenly a highly original manoeuvre came into view, fully formed [see below]. I wish my other studies had taken shape as easily as this one!

Schach-Echo 1988-1991

3rd Prize

[revised version]



White to play and win

1.Rg8 Bh4 [1...Bf6 2.Rf8 Ne5 3.Rxf6 Nxd3 4.Kd2 Nb2 5.Ra6 wins] **2.Rb8+ Ka2 3.Kc2 Ka3 4.Ra8+ Kb4 5.Rf8 N~ 6.Rf4+ wins.**

Who are some of your favourite study composers?

I have derived a lot of pleasure from studies by Nadareishvili, Fritz, Matous, Nestorescu, Bazlov, Bron, Gurgendidze, Mattison and Yakimchik, among others.

How do you get your ideas?

Good question! Often I wonder if a particular manoeuvre is actually possible. Then I try to decide whether the material needed to express the idea can be kept to an artistic minimum. Good studies depend a great deal on a very simple principle – how much can be done with just a few pieces and how thematic is the mainline play? Of course, the central idea must be original or, at minimum, expressed in an original way.

You began study composition before the great expansion in computer analysis. Therefore how did it feel when a flaw was found in your work?

I'm only a moderately good analyst, so I have to work hard to ensure a study is sound. Even composers famed for their meticulous accuracy have published studies with fatal errors. I have rarely used a computer to test a study for soundness, but perhaps I should. I prefer to rely on my fallible human judgment!

Do you think the concept is more important than the overall correctness of the study?

I would like to think so, since it would make my task easier. But no, a study must be sound to be beautiful. I have had to correct several of my published studies because analytical errors had crept in. This is something every study composer has to confront. Some have worked for years on a particularly challenging idea and published many versions before finally coming up with a version that was sound.

How do you ensure that you are not reinventing a chess study?

A marvellous database of studies has been compiled by Harold van der Heijden, a very systematically-minded Dutchman. It allows one to use ChessBase to interrogate over 67,000 studies, going back to the 19th century, and to determine whether particular positions (or ideas) have been used before. I have used it only a few times, but it is definitely a remarkable resource. For most of my composing 'career' I have relied mainly on my memory. It is surprising how many positions or patterns our minds can recognise.

Do you continue to play OTB tournaments? Correspondence?

I played a few Armstrong league games in recent years, at around 2000 Elo level, but my concentration is very uneven. Correspondence chess might possibly be a better alternative.

What is the best chess game you have ever played?

I think one of my best games was against Yefim Geller during a simultaneous exhibition he gave in Dublin in May, 1982. It was published in *The Irish Chess Journal* with detailed notes. I also played some nice games during the '70s against players like Bernard Kernan, Paul Delaney, Tony Doyle and Ray Cassidy – all of whom were very inventive at the board.

Do you think study composition helps in other areas of chess?

I think so, but many players do not. The key aptitudes that one needs to develop as a player are accurate analytical

skills combined with clear idea formation. A facility for solving endgame studies (as distinct from composing them) should help players get this balance right.

Which chess books have influenced you and why?

The two books which influenced me most as a study composer were *My Best Games 1935-1957* by Smyslov and *1234 Modern Endgame Studies* by Sutherland and Lommer. I came across both in my early teens and was enthralled by the richness and variety of the latter and the remarkable strategic clarity of the former. I also got considerable enjoyment around the same age from *The World's Greatest Chess Games* by Reuben Fine.

Has your work received any international recognition?

Some of my studies have won prizes and honourable mentions in formal international tourneys. Also, I have judged one international tourney (*Suomen Shakki* 2007-2008) and published an article in *EG* on the objective evaluation of the artistic merit of endgame studies (*EG* No.117, July 1995). John Roycroft told me some years ago that he chided F S Bondarenko for omitting me from his survey of world composers. I found this rather amusing as Bondarenko was a Major in the KGB!

Have you found being isolated here in Ireland difficult when it comes to study composition?

Not really. Some composers worked away quietly for decades and rarely met with other composers. Alois Wotawa is a good example.

Any advice to budding chess composers?

Pursue what you enjoy most in the realm of chess. If studies really give you pleasure – rather like the pleasure one gets from seeing the proof of a theorem in geometry – then it is natural to wonder if you could come up with something similar. However, it is far, far harder than it looks. Some composers are remembered for just a few studies.

Do you consider study composition as just a sideline to your OTB play?

Chess is a really great game and a monumental waste of time. The trick is to find the right balance in one's personal life. Study composition and OTB play are just different ways of exploring the game.

What do you do when you're not playing chess?

After 33 years in a New Age movement, I became a born-again Christian in 2008. This has opened up a whole new world for me. I am also writing papers for publication on the Web about the dangers of the coming New World Order.



Delaney, J (2227) - Short, P (2309)
Irish Ch (5), 2009

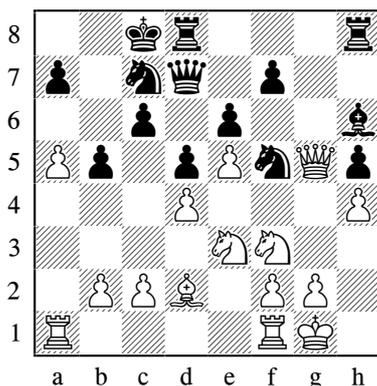
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 b6

A surprise with the effect that I had little opening knowledge and certainly nothing later than something I read in 1987.... Philip is a terribly dangerous soul with those Knights of his and I often think I ought to sit down and find an opening where I get to do Bishop takes Knight twice and then simply grin across at him! In the French he likes to attack with ...g5 and ... h5 too which is not a pleasant prospect to face. So, yes, I could see what was coming already but stood helpless....

5.Qg4 Bf8 6.Bg5 My memory was that Tal played this once and that it was a problem if Black triedNe7 as I could take that Knight with the Bishop and there would be a trick (Nxd5) which would force black to retake with the King. But really it has little meaning as a trick as Black plays the Queen to d7 in this line in any case. **6...Qd7 7.Nf3 Ba6 8.Bxa6**

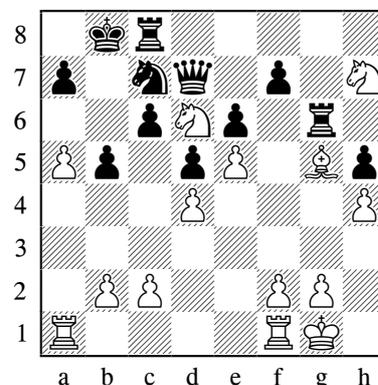
Of course Philip was right in saying after the game that I ought to make this positional achievement somewhat more difficult. I simply decided to go for quick activity, assuming this was a less theoretical line just in case Philip had bought a laptop recently.... **8...Nxa6 9.O-O h6 10.Bd2!? Ne7 11.h4 c6** During the game I felt that this was sufficiently slow as a plan to justify the White play. I was of course playing like Tal [I had the cheek to say this after the game...] and Philip was now playing like Petrosian [his response to me when I cited Tal!] **12.Nd1 Nc7 13.a4 O-O-O** You play a4 to dissuade Queen-side castles, and he just goes ahead and castles. These Cork lads have no shame.... **14.a5 b5 15.Qf4** I had decided on a Queen sacrifice at this point but was holding an emergency exit of some kind if

necessary. **15...Nf5 16.Ne3 g5 17.Qg4!?** Apparently the Fritz's of the world explain that 17.Qh2 was better. One thing I like about this game is the shockingly bad assessment that come from Fritz, which is unaware of what was significant about the resulting closed positions. **17...h5 18.Qxg5 Bh6**



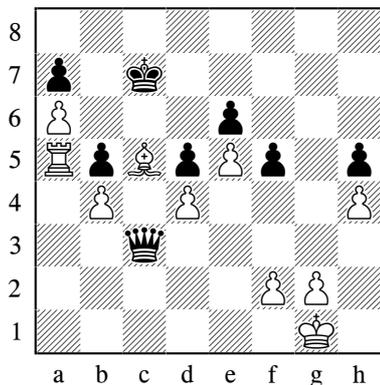
This was the key position. I had seen that I could now play Qf6 and Black could draw with Bg7. I had dismissed this as a likely outcome for this game and Philip would go for Bxe3. The choice of then retaking with the Bishop (bad) or pawn was analysed and I had decided that White could wiggle his way out of trouble with a Rook sacrifice on f5. However I had in mind the following queen sacrifice, for initiative and control. **19.Nxf5!?** **Bxg5 20.Nd6+ Kb8 21.Bxg5** Would any sane player give up a Bishop of such beauty for one of those unhappy Rooks? I think this was a difference between us in the game at this stage. It is not a sacrifice for two pieces at all, but rather a sacrifice for a Rook and a piece and the question was how the Rook was surrendered. If Black surrendered it by taking a bishop on say f6, then he would have a winning position and this was what White needed to avoid. In attempting to avoid giving me material Philip ran into an amusing blunder (time trouble was looming). But I think, in

retrospect that his assessment that the position is better for Black was correct and the Queen sacrifice was wrong. But the key for him in this position was to now ignore the possibility of B x Rook, and play directly for activity on the g-file. **21...Rdf8 22.Bf6 Rhg8 23.Ng5 Rg6 24.Nh7** Black is now getting himself tied up in knots. **24...Rc8 25.Bg5** and a very nice reorganisation of the pieces is appearing. An urgent attempt (with ... Ne8) to avoid letting White continue to improve his pieces is understandable, despite it being a blunder.



25...Ne8?? 26.Nf8 and the amusing outcome of the Black's greedy attempt to save one exchange has led to his losing two exchanges! **26...Qc7 27.Nxg6 fxg6 28.Nxc8 Kxc8** White ought to be winning trivially here and my time trouble was little help. The correct action is to close the Queen side with b4. White should be immediately watchful of Black double pawn sacrifices for activity (Black will still play ... c5 if at all possible.) But having controlled for that, White will win. White could have proceeded as follows: step 1) c3, Rc1 (preventing ... c5); step 2) Re1-e3-f3-f4; followed by f3, g4; step 3) a king side file will then open and the two Rooks should invade causing significant damage. Not a difficult winning process and Black would be

entirely helpless. **29.Rfe1 Ng7 30.Re3?** (30.b4!) **30...Nf5 31.Rf3 c5 32.c3 Kb7 33.b4!? cxd4 34.a6+! Kb6 35.cxd4 Qc4 36.Rxf5! gxf5 37.Be7 Qc3 38.Bc5+ Kc7 39.Ra5**

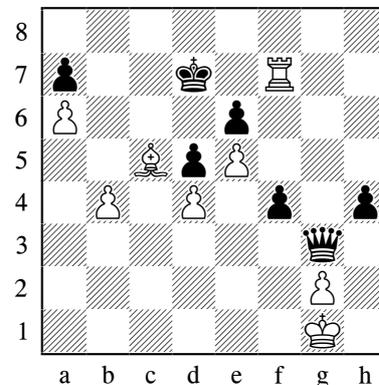


Time trouble caused this move. Luckily it does not change the assessment of equality. Black could try to place a Queen on b2 with a King on c6 and put White in Zugzwang but White has freedom with his King then. Alternatively the Black Queen could perhaps go the King-side but there is no zugzwang there either as that would leave the Rook free to move. In Black taking the f-pawn we quickly reach a drawn

position. Black finds that he cannot spend time mating White as White can break through on the Queen side and either Queen his a-pawn (thereby forcing Black to take a perpetual) or else White will himself construct a perpetual against the Black King. Neither King is safe.

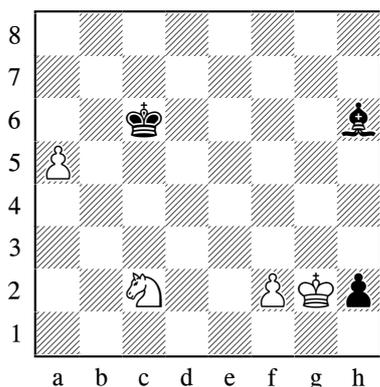
39...Qe1+ 40.Kh2 Qxf2 41.Rxb5 f4 42.Rb7+ It took me a while to decide on this simple solution. In chess I find that I am often attracted to the complex candidate moves first. In this type of position that is incorrect thinking and the error is in seeking to find winning lines where Black has a perpetual. White should have identified quickly that his task is to force a draw, not to seek a win. Partly my willingness to analyse complex lines was affected by my knowledge of Philip. It would be irrelevant to Philip that he had a draw in hand. With the slightest opportunity he would play on and look for the win. So the question was whether there were lengthy lines where one of us would mis-analyse. Therefore I spent some time on moves such as Bd6, which although

such moves have their merits at times, in this position they simply lose. I eventually settled down to look at the more direct and simpler way forward. **42...Kc8 43.Rf7 Qxh4+ 44.Kg1 Qe1+ 45.Kh2 Qg3+ 46.Kg1 h4 47.Rf8+ Kd7 48.Rf7+ Ke8 49.Rf8+ Kd7 50.Rf7+**



With the final point that after ... Kc6, White plays Rb7 and Black has no time to mate White. What I enjoy about playing as talented a player as Philip is that his intentions are always rather clear and none too subtle i.e. to mate you. Getting a draw is often an achievement in itself.... **1/2-1/2**

Solution to last issue's problem from *The Tactics of End-Games*:



R. Reti(1922)
White wins

After 1.Nd4+ Kc5 White has 2.Kh1!!! Zugzwang!

Seán Coffey writes: Two days after the last ICJ issue appeared, I was browsing the archives of Tim Harding's

Kibitzer columns at ChessCafe.com, when what do I come across but "Desert Island Chess Books" (June 2001), containing *The Tactics of Endgames* as one of his ten selections, plus in addition another, relatively obscure, book that I think will be selected by someone else for a future ICJ issue. I was a little taken aback, I have to admit. I certainly knew of and would have chosen *The Tactics of Endgames* long before that article—Jonathan O'Connor recommended it to me many years ago—but I think I dimly recollect reading Tim's article before, and I must have mentally filed away the idea of a desert island chess selection. So this note is in belated acknowledgement of the source. In addition, here's an extra recommendation: the *Kibitzer* articles contain a wide variety of interesting material, including much of interest to Irish chess, and a complete set, available at <http://www.chesscafe.com/archives/archives.htm>. The *Kibitzer*, would be another excellent choice for the castaway.

1. Colin Kennedy

For over 50 years one of the most significant wins ever by an Irish player has lain forgotten. You'll not find it in any of the standard databases like BigBase. It's not even in the ICU online database. However that might change now the excellent internet reference website Olimpbase has published all the games from the 1959 Students' World Team Championship.

Even at the time, the game didn't garner the attention it deserved. It wasn't included in the official tournament book. J.J. Walsh did feature the game in his weekly chess column in the Irish Times but didn't give all the moves because the game was too long! The only place where the game was given it due regard was in the pages of B.H. Wood's "Chess" magazine, where it was annotated by K.W. Lloyd, a member of the English team at the Student Olympiad. [Lloyd and Kennedy were Cambridge University team-mates]

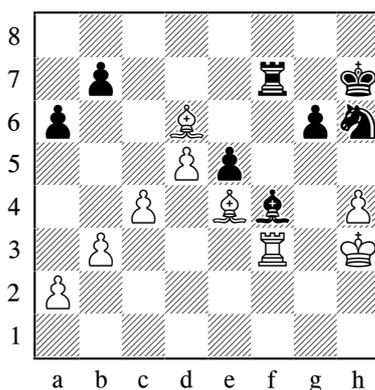
The winner of the game, Colin Kennedy, never played in an Irish Championship. His biggest tournament success in Ireland was probably the 1955 Ulster Schools Championship. Yet he played Board 1 for the Irish Students' Team, while the 1953 Irish Senior champion and possibly the most talented Irish player of his generation, the ill-fated Noel Mulcahy, was only on Board 2. Here's why.

R.C.Kennedy (IRL) – B.Gurgenidze (USSR)

6th Students' World Team Championship, Budapest, Round 7, 7th July 1959

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 g6 5.c4 Bg7 6.Be3 Nh6 7.Nc3 0-0 8.f3 f5 9.Qd2 Nxd4 10.Bxd4 d6 11.Be2 e5 12.Bf2 fxe4 13.fxe4 Be6 14.0-0 Nf7 15.Be3 Qa5 16.Rac1

Rac8 17.b3 a6 18.Rc2 Rc6 19.Qc1 h5 20.Nd5 Qd8 21.Bd3 Rc8 22.Rcf2 Bxd5 23.exd5 Nh8 24.Kh1 Qh4 25.g3 Qg4 26.Bg5 Rxf2 27.Rxf2 Nf7 28.Bf6 Bh6 29.Qe1 Re8 30.Qe4 Qxe4+ 31.Bxe4 Kh7 32.Kg2 Bg5 33.h4 Be3 34.Rf3 Bc1 35.Kh3 Bd2 36.g4 hxg4+ 37.Kxg4 Nh6+ 38.Kh3 Bf4 39.Bg5 Rf8 40.Be7 Rf7 41.Bxd6



Kennedy has just forced the win of a pawn. Lloyd here tells us: "At this stage the game was adjourned. It was generally assumed that Black's sealed move would be 41...Nf5 and that White would have to manoeuvre very carefully in face of all the traps conjured up by the analytical battery of the Russian team before beginning to capitalise on the extra pawn.

However Kennedy and the rest of the Irish team [Mulcahy, Desmond Mac Carthy and Brian Hannon - DM] put in a great deal of high-powered analysis themselves, and it soon became obvious that Gurgenidze was completely unprepared for the fine combination which follows."

41...Nf5 42.h5 Nxd6 43.Bxg6+ Kg7 44.Bxf7 Nxf7 45.Rxf4

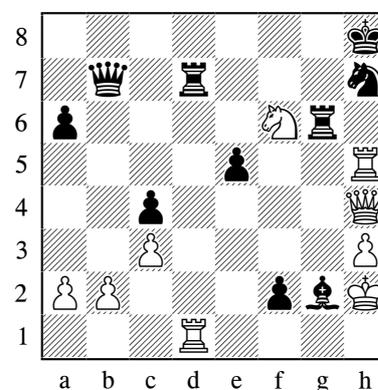
"The climax of White's combination. Before entering on the whole plan initiated by 42.h5, he had to envisage the ensuing ending as far as move 53, but 45.Rxf4 represents the inspiration...the rest was mere

perspiration!" – Lloyd.

45...exf4 46.Kg4 Kf6 47.Kxf4 b6 48.Ke4 Nd6+ 49.Kd4 Nf5+ 50.Kc3 Ke5 51.Kb4 Kd4 52.a4 Ne3 53.a5 b5 54.cxb5 Nxd5+ 55.Ka3 axb5 56.a6 b4+ 57.Ka4 Kc5 58.h6 Nb6+ 59.Ka5 Nc4+ 60.bxc4 b3 61.a7 1-0

[Sources: Chess Vol. 25, pages 105-107; Irish Times 13th August 1959; Olimpbase website]

2. Under-promotion



T. Ireton – G. McCurdy

IRL-ch, Cork, Round 3, 12th July 1971

Here McCurdy under-promoted to a Knight with **34...f1N+** and Ireton resigned. The promotion to a Queen with **34...f1Q** would only have led to a draw by perpetual check after **35.Rxh7+ Rxh7 36.Rd8+ Kg7 37.Qxh7+ Kxf6 38.Rf8+ Ke6 (and not 38...Kg5 39.h4+ Kg4 40.Qxg6+ Kxh4 41.Rh8+ Qh7 42.Rxh7 mate) 39.Qxg6+ Kd5 (best) 40.Rd8+ Kc5 41.Qd6+ Kb5 42.Qb4+ Kc6 43.Qd6+**

Do readers know of any other examples in Irish chess where under-promotion was necessary for scoring a win?

[Source: Irish Chess Championships Cork 1971 by Maurice Coveney.]

3. Dublin International 1968

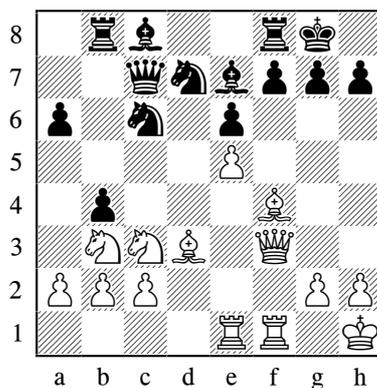
There have been a number of all-play-all international chess tournaments held in Dublin, but one held in 1968 seems to have faded away into complete obscurity. Prior to Christmas that year, Canadian player Denis Allan was staying in Dublin before playing in the Hastings Challengers in England and a special training tournament, sponsored by the Collegians and Dublin chess clubs, was organised for him, starting on the 12th December.

Final scores 1. D. Allan 4.0; 2. W. Heidenfeld ((Dublin) 3.5; 3=4. O. O Siochru & K. O'Riordan (both Collegians) 2.5; 5. E. Keogh (Eoghan Ruadh) 1.5; 6. J. Gibson (UCD) 1.0
Allan won the tournament unbeaten and also found time to win the Leinster Lightning Championships during his stay in Dublin. He went on to finish 3rd equal at Hastings, where

he played the game below, which he considers one of his best games.

**D. Allan – P. van der Weide
Hastings Challengers 1968-69,
Round 8**

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
Qb6 5.Nb3 Nf6 6.Nc3 e6 7.Bd3 a6
8.0–0 d6 9.Kh1 Be7 10.f4 Qc7
11.Qf3 0–0 12.Bd2 Rb8 13.Rae1 b5
14.e5 dxe5 15.fxe5 Nd7 16.Bf4 b4**



**17.Nd5 exd5 18.e6 Nde5 19.Rxe5
Nxe5 20.Bxh7+ Kxh7 21.Qh5+ Kg8**

**22.Bxe5 Qxe5 23.Qxe5 Bxe6
24.Nd4 Rb6 25.Qc7 Bd8 26.Qc5
Bd7 27.Qxd5 Bc8 28.h3 Bb7
29.Qd7 Be4 30.Rxf7 1-0**

Further information, particularly games, is sought on Dublin 1968.

[Sources: Irish Times 13th, 23th and 25th December 1968; British Chess Magazine 1969 pages 43-50; Canadian Chess website.]

If you can help with further information on these items, or if you would like to know more about any aspect of Irish chess from the nineteenth century until modern times, or if you have an interesting game or story you would like to share, e-mail David at journal@icu.ie putting Irish Chess News in the subject field.

Endgame Essentials

By Andrew Martin

When you come to the endgame, any endgame, what should you be thinking about? I've compiled a basic list for you of what I consider to be the most important ENDGAME ESSENTIALS. Hope it's useful:

- 1) The whole point of the endgame is to create a PASSED PAWN;
- 2) PASSED PAWNS must be PUSHED;
- 3) Use the King actively and aggressively if you can;
- 4) DON'T RUSH! Precision is important;
- 5) Calculation and tactical control have a large part to play in many endgames;
- 6) The endgame should be studied in CHUNKS. It is useful to have a stack of basic positions in your head which you can play perfectly when called upon to do so. Dvoretsky thought 80 was enough for the competitive player. For juniors, try to have at least 20 key positions memorised.
- 7) Carelessness and lack of concentration are enemies to the young player and especially in the endgame;
- 8) Keep cheerful and optimistic, whatever the position;
- 9) Keep fighting;
- 10) Don't follow the basic rules above blindly. Judge every position ON ITS MERITS.

That's about it for now!

"The Right Move" (English Chess Federation - Junior Chess Magazine) – April 2010.

The Fishing Pole attack!

By Brian Wall

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/La_Bourdonnais_%E2%80%93_McDonnell_chess_matches

Timeline

1834 – Louis Charles Mahe De Labourdonnais from France and Alexander McDonnell from Ireland contest a series of 6 matches at the Westminster Chess Club, London, England between June and October 1934, an unofficial World Championship match since Labourdonnais was considered the best player in the world. Louis won 45 games to McDonnell's 27 (31%) with 13 draws in 85 games. Alexander won the second match and was leading the final match when it broke off forever, therefore one could say the world had an Irish Chess Champion for a brief spell. McDonnell made up for the difference in strength by taking more time, sometimes hours for one move, since there were no clocks.

1850 – My great-great grandfather Walter Wall leaves Ireland due to the potato famine. Later half of my 8 younger brothers and some aunts and uncles visit Ireland and the farm where the Wall family used to live.

1955 – Brian Wall is born. My dad sings Irish songs to me all his life.

1980 – I become a Chessmaster.

1991 – I live in a house in Lowell, Massachusetts with 3 other Chessmasters, IM David Vigorito, US Senior Open Champion Joel Johnson and Unorthodox Chess Openings guru Jack Young.

2000 – Jack Young tells me about the Fishing Pole for about 5 minutes on the phone. I become obsessed with this kind of attack, playing thousands of games with it, writing thousands of Chess emails about it, making YouTube videos, even an

illustrated version in HOW TO PLAY CHESS LIKE AN ANIMAL.

Jonathan O'Connor, President of the Irish Chess Union, joins my Chess email list and suggests I write for Ireland.

2010 – I use ChessBase to collect 50,000 Fishing Pole attacks. The first one I find is a 1600 Greco game. The second Fishing Pole is from the Labourdonnais-McDonnell match which is the one I would like to present to you.

The first Fishing Pole attack, 1620, by Greco.

Greco, Gioacchino – N.N.

Europe 1620 [ECO "C54"]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.Ng5 O-O 6.d3 h6 7.h4 hxg5 8.hxg5 Nh7 9.Qh5 1-0

A few Fishing Pole attacks so you get the idea.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.O-O Ng4 5.h3 h5 6.hxg4 hxg4 7.Ne1 Qh4 8.f4 g3 mating.

The g4-Knight is the bait and the h5-pawn is the Fishing Rod. In England a weak player is a bunny, in America it's a fish, I am not sure what they call them in Ireland.

"You are fishing for cheap tactics with fish" – Life Master Jack Young.

The fish nibbles the Knight and gets thrown in the pail.

A few more traps.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.O-O Ng4 5.Re1 Bc5 6.d4 Nxd4 7.Nxd4 Qh4 8.Nf3 Qxf2+ 9.Kh1 Qg1+ 10.Rxg1 Nf2# (Smothered mate.)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.O-O Ng4 5.Re1 Bc5 6.d4 Nxd4 7.Nxd4

In England a weak player is a bunny, in America it's a fish, I am not sure what they call them in Ireland.

Qh4 8.Nf3 Qxf2+ 9.Kh1 Qg1+ 10.Rxg1 Nf2#

My favorite, checkmating with three minor pieces a Queen down.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.O-O Ng4 5.d4 exd4 6.Nxd4 h5 7.Nc3 Bc5 8.Nxc6 Qh4 9.h3 Qg3 10.hxg4 hxg4

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.O-O Ng4 5.d4 exd4 6.Nxd4 h5 7.Nc3 Bc5 8.Nxc6 Qh4 9.Bf4 Bxf2+ 10.Kh1 Nxh2 11.g3 Qh3 12.Rxf2 Nf3+ 13.Rh2 Qxh2#

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.O-O Ng4 5.d3 Bc5 6.h3 h5 7.Bxc6 dxc6 8.c3 Bb6 9.d4 Qf6 10.Nxe5 Nxe5 11.dxe5 Qxe5 12.Nd2 Bxh3 13.gxh3 Qg3+ 14.Kh1 Qxh3+ 15.Kg1 Rh6 0-1

I have thousands of games like these from slow Grandmaster games to one minute v luggertje bullet games.

As opposed to most openings Irish pawn chains are encouraged.

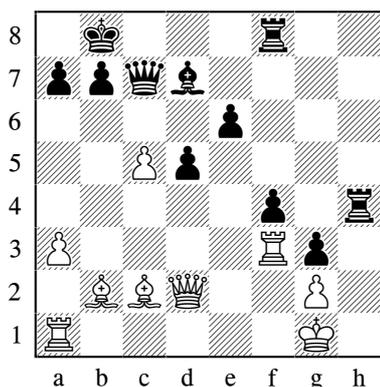
Internet Chess Club 2010

OscarWilde - B-Wall

[ECO "C65"]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.O-O Ng4 5.h3 h5 6.d3 Bc5 7.c3 a6 8.Ba4 Ba7 9.hxg4 hxg4 10.Ng5 d6 11.Bxc6+ bxc6 12.d4 f6 13.g3 fxg5 14.dxe5 Be6 15.Kg2 Kd7 16.Qe2

26.Qd2



26...Qxc5??

Losing all his advantage. The Game Turner. Insert Irish blessing here.

The key to understanding the game is the e5-square.

A wing attack prefers a stable centre. On move 19 McDonnell could have maintained control of e5 with Ba4:c6! On Move 23 Labourdannis should have left the e5-pawn on the board with ... Qa5!! winning on the spot. Taking on e5 interferes with the doubling of the Rooks on the h-file. On move 24 Labourdannis could have successfully sacrificed his Queen on e5 with

24...Rh6!!(+6) 25.B:e5 Q:e5!! 26.N:e5 Rfh8!! mating

On move 26 Labourdannis could have won by filling the breach again

with 26...e5!!(+4) 27.Q:d5 Rfh8!! with a winning game for the last time.

27.Bd4! Qe7? 28.Qa5!! a6 29.Rb1!! Bb5? 30.Rxb5!! Rfh8! 31.Bxh8 Rh1+?

When Labourdannis runs out of spite checks he will be checkmated. He was lost anyway.

32.Kxh1 Qh4+ 33.Kg1 Qh2+ 34.Kf1 Qh1+ 35.Ke2 Qxg2+ 36.Ke1 Qh1+ 37.Kd2 Qxh8 38.Qxa6 Qh2+ 39.Kc1 1-0

You're out of checks, you have to pay cash. - Danielle Rice

I didn't know who to root for in this game, Ireland or the Fishing Pole, I love them both.

Limerick Open 2010

The Limerick Open was held on the 23-25 October 2010. It was organised and controlled by Jamie Flynn. There were a total of **67 players** who participated in both the **Philip Hogarty Open (33)** and the **Under 1400 Sections (34)**.

In the **Philip Hogarty Open** section **IM Sam Collins** from Gonzaga club, Dublin won outright first, winning all 6 games. He overcame **Gabor Bolkeny (Hungary, but working in Dublin)** in Round 6 to clinch the prize money and a perpetual trophy.

In outright second was **Arnaud Aoustin (Cork)** followed by five players in joint 3rd-7th (see below).

In the **Under 1400** section, **Sean Guinan (Ballinasloe)** finished first on 5/6 points. Joint Second/Third were **Tim Dineen (Limerick)** and **Cian Guinan**.

Prize winners list:

1st Philip Hogarty Open prize **IM Sam Collins** 6 pts. **2nd Philip Hogarty Open** prize **Arnaud Aoustin** on 4.5 points.

Joint 3rd-7th Philip Hogarty Open prize **Orison Carlisle, Gordon Freeman, Cedric Magnifico, Hugh Doyle, Keegan O'Mahony** on 4 points

Best U-1800 Philip Hogarty Open prize **Cedric Magnifico** 4 points

Best U-1400 rating prize **Philip Hogarty Open** prize **Keegan O'Mahony** 4 points

1st U-1400 Major **Sean Guinan** 5 points

Joint 2nd U-1400 Major **Tim Dineen, Cian Guinan** 4 points

Major section rating prize **Peter Cooke** 4 points

Major section rating prize **Thomas Keating** 3.5 points.



Kilkenny Congress 2010

by Gerry Graham

When this year's Kilkenny Chess Congress (26-28 November) got under way in Butler House and the Club House Hotel in Kilkenny, few were expecting the Masters event to be as strong as it was, an incredible seven grandmasters from five different countries were joined by three Irish international masters and a host of other strong players to compete for the coveted Kilkenny Masters title, not to mention the honorary Kilkenny Jumper. Rumour has it that the only way to prise one of these precious garments out of Jack Lowry's hands these days is to make a donation that would embarrass the IMF!!



GM Ivan Cheparinov of Bulgaria, the 2010 Kilkenny Masters champion
Photo by Gerry Graham

Cheparinov	GM 2661	Bulgaria
Jones	GM 2576	England
Maze	GM 2571	France
Hebden	GM 2542	England
Baburin	GM 2528	Kilkenny
Libiszewski	GM 2496	France
Suba	GM 2459	Romania
Lopez	FM 2403	Cork
Heidenfeld	IM 2393	Kilkenny
Collins	IM 2390	Gonzaga
Quinn	IM 2378	Kilkenny
Griffiths	2252	Kilkenny
Short	FM 2246	Galway
Fitzsimons	2237	Elm Mount
Allen	2232	Isle of Man
Timmermans	2215	Netherlands
Vospernik	2205	Slovenia
Orr	IM 2201	Scotland

It was interesting to note that the clash on board 9, Thomas Hauptmann vs Mark Heidenfeld deserved the best dressed prize as both players were sporting their

official Kilkenny jumpers, nice touch lads.

There were no real surprises in round one, the only seed not to win at the first hurdle was our own Mark Quinn who was held to a draw by an injured Darren McCabe. Darren appeared with his left leg in a cast, which had nothing to do with the first hurdle, his Friday night excuse was that he was the victim of an unfortunate accident on a bouncy castle but this explanation was to change form day to day during the event! Vospernik allowed a back ranker against Jones.

The second round did produce a few surprises, Olympiad debutant David Fitzsimons beat Alex Baburin with Black on board 5 while a surprise in the form of our own Irish Champion, Alex Lopez, lay in wait for Ivan Cheparinov on board 1, Alex claimed a famous half point against Topalov's second.

Top board for round 3 was an all French affair, Fabien Libiszewski vs Sebastien Maze, and the French

friends certainly didn't come to draw, the in-form Maze winning a tactical battle. Mark Hebden beat Mahai Suba while Gawain Jones and Alex Lopez beat Irish IMs Mark Quinn and Heidenfeld respectively while Fitzsimons lost to Cheparinov.

By the start of the 4th round, there were only two players on 3/3, Sebastian Maze and Mark Hebden so this encounter was watched for most of the game by quite a contingent of spectators. Sebastian had done his preparation well for this game and it paid off. Sam Collins was playing the other French grandmaster and he did quite a bit better than Mark Hebden.

The top of the Masters leader board at the end of round 4 looked like this:

1	Sebastien Maze	2571	4
2-7	Mark Hebden	2542	3
	Ivan Cheparinov	2661	3
	Gawain Jones	2576	3
	Alex Lopez	2403	3
	Mihai Suba	2459	3
	Sam Collins	2390	3

8-13 Mark Heidenfeld	2393 2½
Alex Baburin	2528 2½
Philip Short	2246 2½
Ryan-Rhys Griffiths	2252 2½
Keith Allen	2232 2½
Mark Quinn	2378 2½

Gawain Jones managed to squeeze a win in a tight time scramble after a tough game in which, if there was a slight advantage for either player, it seemed to change a few times! Cheparinov managed to win with Black against Hebden and Suba claimed the full point in his game against Alex Lopez who arrived 45 minutes late for the game due to an alarm clock malfunction. Sam Collins emerged victorious against fellow Irish IM Mark Quinn to join 4 other players, all on 4 points, going in to the final round. Local junior Ryan-Rhys Griffiths also managed to hold Alex Baburin to a draw with a fine performance on board 6. This left the final pairings looking like this:

1 Cheparinov	4 Maze	4
2 Collins	4 Jones	4
3 Suba	4 Libiszewski	3
4 Heidenfeld	3 Hebden	3
5 Baburin	3 Short	3
6 Griffiths	3 Lopez	3

This was shaping up to be an exciting finish and it seemed the spectators knew this too as the playing hall for this round was pretty full. Ivan Cheparinov won fairly quickly on board 1 to set the bar at 5/6, a bar which Sam Collins met with a fine win over Gawain Jones. This is Sam's second year in a row ending up on top of the Kilkenny Masters, something agrees with the young man from Dun Laoghaire when he's at Jack Lowry's event! Fabien Libiszewski managed to overcome Mihia Suba in a tight endgame to end up on 4, a score

that was to be equalled by 4 other players.

Kilkenny Masters

1-2 Ivan Cheparinov	GM 2661	5
Sam Collins	IM 2390	5
3-7 Sebastien Maze	GM 2571	4
Gawain Jones	GM 2576	4
Mihai Suba	GM 2459	4
Fabien Libiszewski	GM 2496	4
Alex Baburin	GM 2528	4

Best other Irish Player: Alex Lopez (FM, 2403) 3½..

Kilkenny Major

1 Mark Collins	1837	5
2-6 Matthias Rahneberg	1807	4½
Tom John	1784	4½
Shane McCabe	1960	4½
Bernard Boyle	1756	4½
Arnaud Aoustin	1925	4½

Grading sections: 1 Henk de Jong, 2 Paul Roger, 3 Terence Fayne, 4 Pat Fitzsomons..

James Mason

1 Turlock Kelly	5½
2-6 Shane Brennan	4½
Stephen Murphy	4½
Andrew Rodger	4½
Cezary Glegolski	4½
Keegan O'Mahoney	4½

Grading sections: 1 Denis O'Connell, 2 Anthony Baker, 3 Eugene Donohoe, 4 Gerard Flynn, 5 Geoffery Keating..

Minor Results

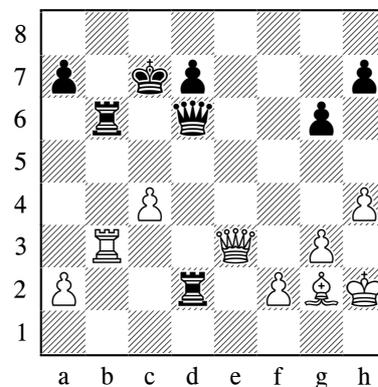
1-5 Jonathan Kiely	5
Seamus Flynn	5
Cian Guinan	5
Kevin Kilduff	5
Cathal Murphy	5

Grading sections 1 Pat O'Mahoney, 2 Adrian Bradley, 3 Jeffery Alfred, 4 Dave Casey, 5 Michael Morgan.

Baburin, A - Fitzsimons, D

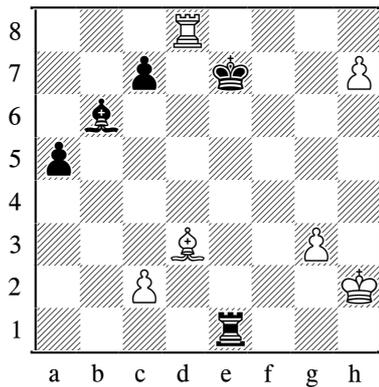
Kilkenny Masters (2)
ECO A43

1.d4 ♘f6 2.♘f3 c5 3.d5 b5
4.♙g5 ♘e4 5.♙f4 ♙b7
6.♚d3 f5 7.♘bd2 c4 8.♚d4
♘a6 9.c3 ♘c7 10.♘xe4 fxe4
11.♙xc7 ♚xc7 12.♚xe4 e6
13.♚d1 O-O-O 14.♘g5 ♙c5
15.e3 ♙xd5 16.♚xd5 exd5
17.♚xd5 ♚de8 18.b4 cxb3
19.♙xb5 ♙xe3 20.O-O
[20.fxe3 ♚xe3+ 21.♙f2 ♚xc3
22.♙xd7+ ♙b8 23.♚b5+]
20...♙xg5 21.♙a6+ ♙b8
22.♚b1 ♚e6 23.♚xb3+ ♚b6
24.♚xg5 ♚e8 25.♚d2 ♚e6
26.♙f1 ♚d6 27.♚c1 ♚e5
28.g3 ♚d5 29.♚c2 g6 30.h4
♚d1 31.♚e2 ♚d5 32.♙h2
♚d2 33.♚e3 ♙c7 34.♙g2
♚d6 35.c4?



Fritz does offer a significant improvement here but Alex was in his last minute by now. Fritz suggests 35.♚a3 ♚xa3 36.♚xd2 ♚d6 37.♙d5 and White is still in the fight. 35...♚d4 36.♚xb6 axb6 37.♚f3 ♚xf2 38.♚b7+ ♙d8 39.a4 ♙e7?! 39...d5! was more accurate but that's like splitting hairs, Black now has a won game.

36.♔d3 ♖xa2 37.h6 ♖a1
 38.♖d7 ♖g1+ 39.♔h2 ♖e1
 40.♖d8 ♔e7



41.h7 ♔xd8 42.h8♖+ ♔e7
 43.♖g7+ ♔d6 44.♖f6+ ♖e6
 45.♖d8+ ♔c6 46.♔e4+ 1-0

Cafolla, P – IM Quinn, M
 Kilkenny Masters (6)
 ECO B24

Notes by Peter Cafolla.

1.e4 c5 2.♘c3 ♘c6 3.g3 g6
 4.♔g2 ♔g7 5.d3 e6 6.f4 h5
 7.h3

To meet h4 with g4.

7...♘ge7 8.♘f3 d5 9.O-O
 ♖b6 10.♔h2 ♔d7 11.♘a4
 ♖a5 12.c4!?

Provocative. I've noticed that against higher rated players I am often too eager to mix things up rather than just play simple solid moves.

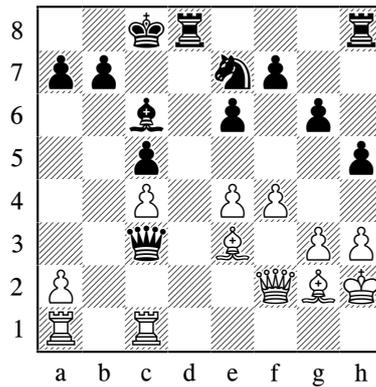
12...♘d4 13.♘c3 ♘xf3+
 14.♖xf3!

The best recapture available.

14...♔xc3 15.bxc3 dxc4
 16.dxc4 O-O-O 17.♔e3 ♔c6
 18.♖f2

Qe2 was a better option.

18...♖xc3 19.♖fc1? ♞



A stupid move. I could have safely taken the c pawn as after Rd2 I had Qe1!

19...♖a5 20.♖c2

I could no longer take on c5 because of Rd2 and Bxe4 etc.

20...♔a4= 21.♖b2 ♖b6
 22.♔d2 ♖a6 23.♔c3 ♖he8
 24.♔f6 ♖xc4 25.♔f1?

Too hasty, Qe1! maintained equality despite the two pawn deficit.

25...♖xe4 26.♔a6+ ♔c7?
 27.♔e5+ ♖d6 28.♖e1

Simply taking the exchange with Bxd6 kept things level.

28...♖c6 29.♔f1 ♔c8
 30.♔a6+?!

30.Qe2! or 30.Bg2 =

30...♔d7 31.♔f1 ♖d8

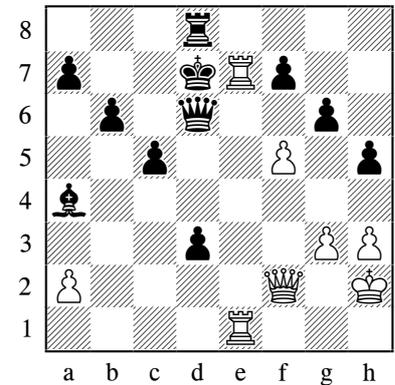
32.♔g2 ♘d5 33.♔xd6

33.Rc1!

33...♖xd6 34.♔xd5 exd5

35.♖be2 d4 36.f5 d3

37.♖e7+ ♖xe7??



37...Kc8 was just winning, even titled players make silly mistakes.

38.♖xe7+ ♔xe7 39.fxg6 d2
 40.♖e3+??

Unfortunately I'm the one to make the last mistake. Qxf7+ would have forced a draw by repetition as if the King tries to seek sanctuary on the Q side I pick up the Bishop WITH CHECK (the point I missed in my time trouble). After the move played it's all over

40...♔f6 41.♖f4+ ♔xg6
 42.♖e4+ ♔g7 0-1



GM Alexander Baburin, Ireland's and Kilkenny's highest rated player in action in Kilkenny.

Photo by Gerry Graham

Measure your chess aggressiveness

By Robert Morrell and Daren Dillinger (California Chess Journal April/May 2004.)

We all know that chess is a war game, and while some of us go at it on the boards like cerebral Rambos – always punching, always finding some way to be aggressive and be in our opponent's face! ...Others play too nice. Imagine a game by Jimmy Carter or Mahatma Gandhi. How aggressive are you? Do you go for broke or dance around waiting for an opponent to throw you a mistake? The following test is scientifically designed to rank your aggressive tendencies on the board.

Check your answers with the score key at the end and see how you rate.

Early in the game, your opponent collapses of an apparent heart attack. His wife and children gather round, and after exchanging tearful farewells with them, he looks up, and with life fading from his eyes, asks you for a draw. In response, you:

- A) Accept immediately.
- B) Analyze the position on the board first.
- C) Tell him that you wouldn't give a draw to your dying mother, whom you love dearly.
- D) Try to push him over the edge by announcing mate in three.

When psyching yourself up for a game , you visualize yourself:

- A) Extending your hand across the board and wishing your opponent "best of luck".
- B) Crushing your opponent's pieces with a hammer.
- C) Strangling your opponent with your bare hands.
- D) Ransacking your opponent's village and carrying off his women.

You view your opponent's pawns as:

- A) Potential Queens.
- B) The shape of his position.
- C) Juicy morsels to be gobbled up.
- D) Speed bumps.

You view your pawns as:

- A) Potential Queens.
- B) An integral part of your strategy.
- C) Expendables in your kingside attacks.
- D) Howitzer shells.

You will consider a pawn rush only.

- A) When you have safely castled on the opposite wing.
- B) When playing a lower rated player.
- C) When you have more than a piece advantage.
- D) When it is your turn.

Endgames are:

- A) When the Queens are off the board.
- B) Sometimes unavoidable.
- C) When your opponent won't resign.
- D) Only for weenies who can't finish off their opponents in the middle-game.

You are playing an eight year old, who leaves his Queen hanging in a complex position. He begins to cry. Your response is:

- A) Offer to stop the clock while he regains his composure.

- B) Capture the Queen without comment.
- C) Pick up the Queen with a chuckle and remark “Won’t be long now!”
- D) Call the child’s mother over to the board... Rip his Queen off, and tell her to take her baby home, because he’s not ready to be a chess player.

After leaving your own Queen hanging against an eight year old you would:

- A) Resign gracefully and offer congratulations for a great win.
- B) Smile knowingly to bluff him into not capturing her.
- C) Announce mate in eight.
- D) Tell him of an obscure rule about taking back moves that he’s too young to know about.

You will sacrifice your Queen only:

- A) When you see a forced mate.
- B) As a last attempt in a losing game.
- C) For an overwhelming positional advantage.
- D) When it rips open your opponent’s position ...Let the pieces fall where they may!

For an open file on your opponent’s King you would sacrifice:

- A) A pawn.
- B) A minor piece.
- C) A major piece.
- D) Your soul.

You might consider the Caro-Kann defence (yawn ...) when:

- A) Playing against e4.
- B) Playing against someone you knew was unbooked.
- C) Playing a non-tournament game.
- D) You’ve had a mind crippling stroke.

When you first spot a winning combination, appropriate behaviour would be to:

- A) Look at your clock to see how much time you can spend checking it out.
- B) Giggle.
- C) Drool while laughing gruffly under your breath.
- D) Laugh out loud while raising your hand and pointing.

ANSWER KEY – Scoring A=0, B=1, C=3, D=5

0 to 12 Conscientious objector.

You are a pacifist in the war game of chess. Negotiating a draw is your biggest thrill. Should you accidentally win, you feel obligated to buy your opponent lunch.

13 to 26 Innocent bystander.

You’ll pick up wins if they fall in your lap.

27 to 39 Reluctant aggressor.

You’ll do the “aggression thing” when backed into a corner, or when your wife tells you its time to leave and finish up your stupid game. (“Yes, dear”)

40 to 56 Rambo aggressor.

You don’t play defences, just offences minus a tempo. You like Openings with names like “The Blackmar-Diemer Gambit”, “The Fried Liver Attack”, “The Can Opener”, or “The Berserker”.

57 to 60 Psycho.

Congratulations! You are the “Main Man”.

A danger to yourself and others. At home you kill small animals or low-rated chess players for amusement. All of your opponents are beaten within 20 moves, or they get beaten on the side of the head ...Their choice!

Paying Homage to the Master By Nick Larter

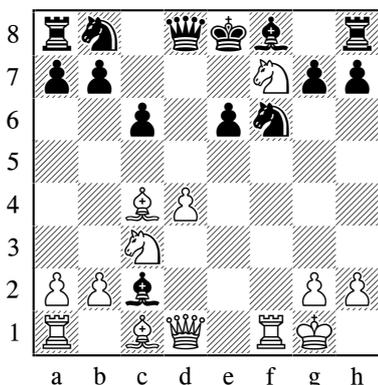
Ennis Chess Club and IM Gerard Welling have 'Previous.' It's 2005 in the sleepy Val'd'Aostan backwater of Saint Vincent, our first venture into the dizzy heights of the European Club Cup and our captain John Cassidy and this creative and hugely respected IM serve up a classic c3 Sicilian battle that Welling, playing Black, finally shades when his king marches fearlessly up the board to support his remaining Queen and Knight [1]. His team HMC Calder whitewashed us 6-0 that day and so, four years on in the delightful southern Macedonian city of Ohrid there's a bit of pride at stake when we draw the palpably misfiring 21st seeds in the last round – our reward for our best ever ECC return of four points – and it's my turn to test my mettle against the man.

From my preparation it seemed that my 1.e4 would be most likely met with one of 1...d6, 1...c5, 1...g6 or 1...d5. I could aim to transpose any of the first three into my usual Botvinnik English type set-up, confident in the expectation that a few well timed off-the wall moves from my opponent would soon get us into unknown territory. For the last, I was faced with daring to play my normal transposition into the Blackmar-Diemer Gambit against a player who, certainly in his younger days if maybe somewhat less so today, was an acknowledged BDG aficionado and expert.

So this is the story that unfolds below and whilst I would generally be reticent in assuming that anyone would be much interested in one of my chess games, I'm persuaded to make an exception here, firstly because of the amusing back-story that emerges and secondly because of the brain-twisting and highly theoretical dénouement that may be new and of interest to some, as it certainly was to me. Scene setting done, let's see what happens...

N. Larter 1799 – G. Welling IM 2372

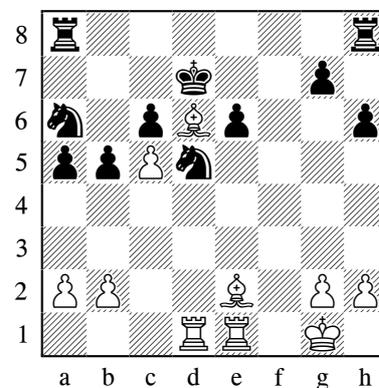
European Club Cup (7), Ohrid, 2009
1.e4 d5 2.d4 So BDG it is... **4...dxe4 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.f3 exf3 5.Nxf3 c6** ...and naturally enough we enter the Ziegler defence, a bastard cousin of the Caro-Kann, which usually forms the basis of the purported refutations of the BDG that appear in print from time to time, of which IM Andrew Martin's 'Shopping for a Tombstone' [2,3] is perhaps the best known example. **6.Bc4 Bf5 7.Ne5 e6 8.0-0 Bxc2** I was playing for this line and was a little surprised that Welling went into it. **9.Nxf7!?**



And for those of you still in the dark, let's hand over to IM Gary Lane to reveal the novelty of what is transpiring, for of this move he writes.[4] This tremendous move by

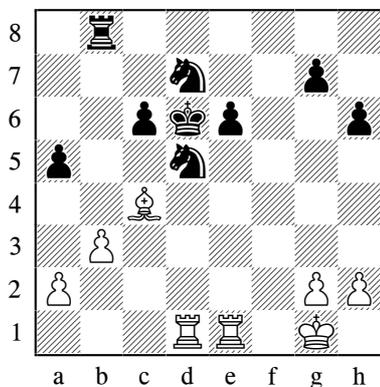
Welling has revived the entire line – yes I'm playing the very variation that my opponent himself had invented almost 30 years ago! By now our wry grins across the board had attracted the attention of the neighbouring games and one or two of the HMC Calder players, including GM Giri, came over for a look and immediately grasped the joke. **9...Bxd1** Clearly not 9...Kxf7?, which gives White a raging attack, eg.; 10.Qg4 Qd7 11.Bg5 Na6 12.Bxf6 gxf6 13.d5! Nc7 14.dxe6+ Nxe6 15.Rae1 Re8 16.Ne4 Bxe4 17.Rxe4 Bc5+ 18.Kh1 Re7 19.Qh5+ 1-0, Welling – Marzik, Biel 1981. **10.Nxd8 Kxd8 11.Rxd1 Nd5 12.Re1 Kd7** Alternatively, in Welling – Wrobel, Luxembourg 1982, Black tried to free his position through some exchanges with 12...Bb4 13.Rxe6 Nxc3 14.bxc3 Bxc3 but failed and lost after 15.Bg5+ Kd7 16.Re7+ Kd6 17. Rd1 h6 18.Re6+ Kd7 19.Bf4 Re8 20.Rd6+ Ke7 21.Rd3 Bb4 22.Re3+ Kf8 23.Rf6+ 1-0. But back to the game... **13.Bg5 h6 14.Bd2** I think this is best – the immediate 13. Bd2 doesn't create the potentially useful hole for me on g6, whilst the retreat 14. Bh5, although weakening the important f6 post for Black's Knight after 14...g5 15.Bg3, gives him the

a1-h8 diagonal and leaves my piece offside – it's more flexibly placed on d2. **14...Be7 15.Ne4 b5 16.Be2** Again more flexible than 16.Bb3 and the pressure on e7 can potentially be renewed later with Bg4. **16...Nf6 17.Nc5+ Bxc5 18.dxc5 a5 19.Bf4 Na6 20.Rad1+ Nd5 21.Bd6**

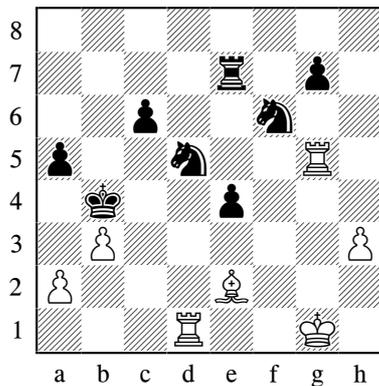


So Black has engineered a passed pawn but White has a lot of positional compensation – the threat 22.Rf1 is difficult for Black to meet (21...Ke8 fails to 22.Bg4; 21...Nf6 fails to 22.Bf8+) and I think Welling, in opting to sacrifice the exchange to thwart this move whilst removing the annoying piece on d6 in compensation, finds the best plan. **21...Rhe8** (Not 21...Rh8? 22.Bxf8 Rxf8 23.a4! **22.Rf1 Re7 23.Bxe7 Kxe7 24.Rfe1 Nxc5?!** I was initially

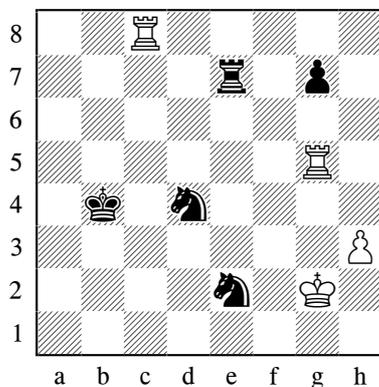
shocked when he played this, since he must have seen that White will immediately win the pawn back with a tactic. I felt at the time that the c5 pawn was so weak that Black had time to prepare to capture it more safely and gain a two pawn advantage for the exchange. However on reflection maybe it's not so clear cut, since the natural 24...Ndc7 neutralising 25.a4 and with the idea 25...Nxc5 does not work after 25.Rd6 Nxc5 26.Rxc6 and anything else beginning with 24...Nac7 is probably too slow, eg; 25.a4 bxa4 26.Ra1. **25.Bxb5 Kd6** (If 25...cxb5 26.Rxd5) **26.Bc4 Rb8 27.b3 Nd7**



Here I start to drift and it's where I lose any realistic winning chances. Having overlooked the elementary 29...Rb7, it's clear I'm not going to improve my position any further by one-move threats and I would have been better employed organising a blockade of black's trump card – the passed e pawn. One line could go 28.Re2 N7d6 29.Rde1 Nf4 (or else 30.g3) 30.Rxd6+ Nxd6 31.Rxd6+ Kc5 with chances for an edge for White. **28.Re3 N7f6 29.Rg3? Rb7 30.Rf3 e5!** Naturally enough. **31.h3 e4 32.Rf5 Re7 33.g4 Kc5 34.g5** I could try to restrain the King with 34.a3 but then 34...g6 35. Rff1 e3 36. Be2 Ne4 is unpleasant for White. Alternatively just a simple and natural 34...a4 would threaten to open up my Queen's side. **35...hxg5 35.Rxg5 Kb4 36.Be2**

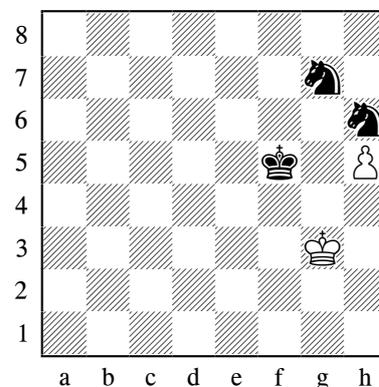


Pretty much forced. Simplifying into a materially equal endgame with 36.Bxd5 cxd5 37.Rgxd5 Nxd5 38.Rxd5 is superficially attractive, but after 38...e3 39.Kf1 Rf7+ 40.Ke1 Rf3 it's Black who has all the active play. **36...Ka3** The Black King invades, but maybe I can turn it to my advantage by sacrificing a pawn to open some lines. Alternatively, 36...Nf4 37.Rd4+ Kc3 38.Rc4+ Kd2 would have become very messy for both sides. **37.Rd4 Kxa2 38.Ra4+ Kxb3 39.Rxa5 Nc3 40.Kf1 Nfd5 41.Rc5 Ne3+ 42.Kf2!** Anything else loses eg; 42.Ke1? Nc2+ 43.Kd2 (43.Kf1 Rf7+ 44.Rgf5 Ne3+ 0-1) Rd7+ 0-1 **42...Nc2 43.Bc4+!** Covering the vital f7 square. **43...Kb4 44.Rxc6** And after some aggressive defence White has reduced the pawn deficit again. **44...e3+ 45.Kg2 45.Kf1** allows 45...Rf7+! and moving anywhere else loses to a Knight fork. **45...Nd4 46.Rc8 e2 47.Bxe2 Ncxe2**



Now my plan becomes very simple – to sacrifice all my remaining material

for Black's Rook and pawn, leaving him with a King and two Knights versus my King. There now follows a long passage of play with White alternately threatening the g pawn and if a Knight moves to cover, switching to cutting off the Black King. **48.Rg4 Rf7 49.Rg8 Nf4+ 50.Kh2 Nfe6 51.Rc8 Kb5 52.Rg2 Nc7 53.Rg8 Nde6 54.Rc2 Nc5 55.Rg2 N7e6 56.Rc8 Kc4 57.Rd2 Rf3 58.Rh8 Kc3 59.Ra2 Kd4 60.Rh4+ Ke3 61.Rg4 Nd3? 62.Rg3 Rxd3 63.Kxg3** Part 1 accomplished. **63...Ke4 64.Ra8 Ne5 65.Rg8 Kf5 66.h4 Nf7 67.h5 Nh6 68.Rxg7?! Nxd7**



69.Kf3 After 68...Nxd7 I had kind of assumed that I had reached the finishing line with a draw, but with IM Welling playing on, it slowly dawned on me that this was not so. In fact, as he confirmed to me after the game, the position after Black's 68th move is a theoretical win for the second player. The pawn needs to be on the 6th rank for White to be sure to draw on best play. What's going on here of course is that with the pawn on, White has to lose a tempo with a pawn move while the Black Knights and King are stalemating their opponent, enabling checkmate to be delivered the move following. In my play I had only considered the case of mate being delivered where the White King is hemmed in, the vital escape square being blocked by his own pawn: I thought by running across to the other side of the board I would be safe. Not so. However,

theory is one thing, practice is another. The game concluded thus:-
69...Ne6 70.Ke3 Ke5 71.Kd3 Kf4 72.Kc3 Ke3 73.Kb2 Nd4 74.Ka2 Kd3 75.Kb2 Kc4 76.Ka3 Kb5 77.Kb2 Kb4 78.Ka2 Kc4 79.Kb1 Kd3 80.Ka2 Kc3 81.Kb1 Ne2 82.Ka2 Kb4 83.Kb2 Nd4 84.Kc1 Kc3 85.Kb1 Ne2 86.Ka2 Nc1+ 87.Kb1 Nb3 88.Ka2 Nd2 89.Ka3 Nb3 90.Ka2 Nd4 91.Kb1 Ne2 This in fact is a threefold repetition but I did not notice it at the time – it is immaterial since by this point IM Welling had decided to throw in the towel and this move was preparatory to an elegant draw offer made via the capture on h5. **92.Ka2 Nf4 93.Kb1 Nxf5** draw agreed.

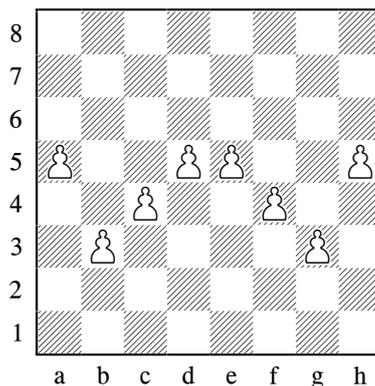
After the game Welling told me that in his original analysis of 9.Nxf7 he had eventually concluded that Black stood better after 12...Kd7, which would explain why he was happy to go into the line, 'but clearly that assessment's a load of rubbish!' he added with a smile. And from my perspective, thanks to IM Lane for taking a more optimistic view of Welling's invention than the man did himself – as he puts it.[4] The ending after 9...Bxd1 underlines the significance of White's superior development.

~~~~~

For the record, Ennis lost the match 4.5 to 1.5 – a fighting performance, with IM Petr Neuman and Rory Quinn also drawing on boards 1 and 4 respectively. But let's return to the position after 68...Nxc7. This brings us into the arcane realm of Troitzky Endgames, named for Russian analyst A.A. Troitzky – a world I never knew existed until penning this write-up. Before looking at Troitzky's ideas in more detail, let's return to the problem facing IM Welling after move 68 – and lest we were to conclude that Welling failed just because he is 'only' an IM, my Ennis colleague IM Petr Neuman told me

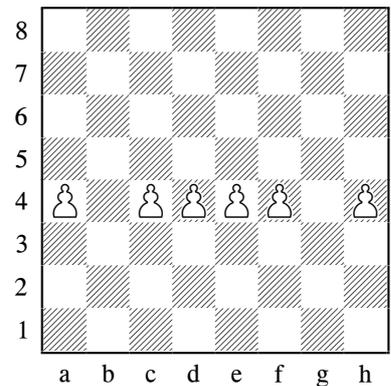
that strong GM V. Babula had had a similar position against him not long ago and couldn't do it either – we can quickly discern some general principles that illustrate why it is so difficult to bring home the win:-

1. Black has to be confident he can calculate the mating solution before moving the blockading Knight in for the kill since as soon as he does so he is committed.
2. Black has to take into account what will happen after the pawn queens. If this move delivers check or attacks the mating piece, then the win has gone.
3. It is hard to steer the enemy King just using King and Knight. From point 2 above, we can deduce that depending on which file the remaining pawn is on, the solution differs. This leads us to the concept of the Troitzky Line.

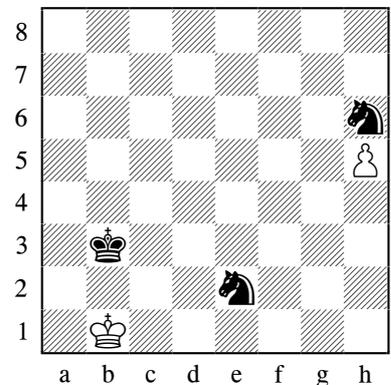


If the pawn is blockaded on or before this line then the attacker will win on best play. If the pawn is blockaded after this line then the board can be divided into two zones – a winning zone and a drawing zone –and the defending King, if not confined by the opponent, should aim to get to the drawing zone to secure the half point.

This is not the complete story however. Some of the Troitzky wins take more than 50 moves on best play – the longest is 115 moves! If we were to create a 50 move Troitzky line it would look like this:



Apparently a win can also be achieved in 50 moves or under with a pawn blockaded on b2/b3 or g2/g3 in about 99% of instances. For the present game I'll begin by exploring a few ideas worked out with my colleague Rory Quinn on the way back from Ohrid during a lengthy flight delay at Budapest airport, that give a flavour of what is involved. We set up a checkmate with the defending king on a1, then working backwards we found that one solution for the game begins with the following starting position:



The Knight could equally well be on d3 as e2. Checkmate can then be delivered thus **1.Ka1 Nc1 2.Kb1 Na2 3.Ka1 Nf5 4.h6 Nd4 5.h7 Nc3 6.h8=Q Nc2#**

Well this is just dandy if the White King cooperates by sitting on a1, but what if instead of a pawn move White plays at some point Kb1? Can Black apply corrective action to his plan in mid flow? In a word yes, eg; **5.Kb1 Ne2 6.h7 Nac3+ 7.Ka1 Nd4 8.h8=Q Nc2#**. The King move at other points

in the sequence is solved the same way. Given this is so, the crux must surely be how the attacker forces the defender into one of the starting positions to begin with, which may be easier or harder to do depending on whether or not the defender realises the danger in the first place. In my defence in the game I opted to run near to a corner without voluntarily entering the corner itself – looking back through the final 20-odd moves of the game, Welling never achieved either of the starting positions against me, though that was more by luck than judgement on my part. Rory reckoned that it would be best for the defending King to stay in the middle of the board for as long as possible until forced towards the corner by the attacker. The only caveat here I can see is to avoid straying too close to the blockading Knight from where it could passively influence the position.

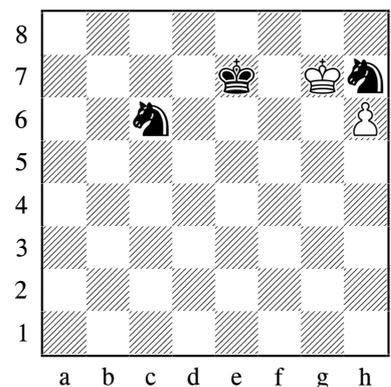
We didn't draw any conclusions on what other viable starting positions existed in addition to the two we found. Nor did we look at which is the best location for the defending King to run to – in the game I opted for the vicinity of a1, but it would be interesting to see how running to the vicinity of either a8 or h1 would change the solution. To try and shed some light on this, the final part of this discussion describes what I found out when I ran the position through the Nalimov Tablebases. Those whose interest has been piqued by the above can also check out two articles by GM Karsten Mueller [5,6] that give more theory and a lot more examples of solutions to Troitzky Endgames from different positions.

The Nalimov Tablebases give the solutions for all chess endings with three to five men and for some with six men. The one drawback with them is that they do not currently take account of the 50 move rule.

There are several implementations available on-line, the nicest of which is probably at the K4IT website [7]. The outcome of the exercise was illuminating to say the least. Some of the general points which emerged can be summarised as follows:-

1. From the starting position after **68...Nxb7** the win, on best play takes 90 moves;
2. If it were Black's move in the same position, the win would only take 31 moves on best play;
3. On worst play by the defender, best by the attacker, it's over very quickly – **69.Kh4 Kf4 70.Kh3 Kf3 71.Kh2 Kf2 72.Kh1 Ng4 73.h6 Nf5 74.h7 Ng3#**.
3. On worst play by the defender, best by the attacker, it's over very quickly – **69.Kh4 Kf4 70.Kh3 Kf3 71.Kh2 Kf2 72.Kh1 Ng4 73.h6 Nf5 74.h7 Ng3#**.
4. The win on best play does not respect the 50 move rule, so the position for all theoretical, if not practical purposes, is a draw. Initially I thought otherwise, since mid-way through the solution, the Knight blockading on h6 moves away allowing h5-h6, before the other Knight moves in to renew the blockade on h7. However if the purpose of this finesse is to zero the 50 move clock then it ends up being futile as the pawn advance h5-h6 occurs on move 101 and it is 55 moves later before it advances any further. Probably the purpose is to set up the possibility of Stamma's mate (see 7 below);
5. The forcing line drives the defending King around the whole board clockwise, before finally delivering mate in the vicinity of h1;
6. There are at least six instances where the attacker has to find the only move, the point being that otherwise the defending King will be able to temporarily escape, entailing threefold repetition as it is being rounded up again, before mate can be delivered;

7. The crux of the solution is where the defending King is driven close to the blockading Knight, so that it has fewer flight squares. This Knight then has to be left en prise, the point being that if the defending King captures, Stamma's mate follows. Since the Knight is poisoned, the King has to move away and gets trapped on the h1-h5 file, which directly leads to the final mating sequence. The forced win is as follows – it's not a unique line – there are some transpositions possible along the way:- **69.Kf3 Ke5 70.Ke3 Kd5 71.Kd3 Ne8 72.Kc3 Ke4 73.Kc2 Kd4 74.Kd2 Nd6 75.Ke2 Nc4 76.Kf2 Kd3 77.Kf3 Ne5+ 78.Kf4 Kd4 79.Kg5 Neg4 80.Kf4 Kd5 81.Kf3 Ke5 82.Ke2 Ke4 83.Kd2 Kd4 84.Kc2 Ne5 85.Kb3 Nd3 86.Ka4 Kc4 87.Ka5 Ne5 88.Kb6 Kb4 89.Kb7 Kb5 90.Kc7 Kc5 91.Kb7 Nd7 92.Ka7 Kb5 93.Kb7 Nf6 94.Kc7 Kc5 95.Kb7 Nf7 96.Ka6 Kb4 97.Kb6 Ne5 98.Ka6 Nc4 99.Kb7 Kc5 100.Kc7 Kd5 101.h6** the pawn moves **101...Nh7 102.Kd7 Nb6+ 103.Kc7 Kc5 104.Kb7 Nd5 105.Ka7 Kc6 106.Ka6 Nb6 107.Ka5 Kc5o 108.Ka6 Nc4 109.Ka7 Kd6 110.Kb7 Kd7 111.Ka7 Kc7 112.Ka6 Kc6o 113.Ka7 Nd6 114.Kb8 Kb6 115.Ka8 Kc7 116.Ka7 Nb7 117.Ka6 Kc6o 118.Ka7 Nc5 119.Kb8 Kd7 120.Ka8 Kc8 121.Ka7 Kc7 122.Ka8 Kb6 123.Kb8 Nd7+ 124.Kc8 Kc6 125.Kd8 Nb6 126.Ke8 Kd5 127.Ke7 Ke5 128.Ke8 Ke6 129.Kd8 Kd6 130.Ke8 Nc8 131.Kd8 Na7 132.Ke8 Nc6 133.Kf7 Kd7 134.Kg7 Ke7!**



This is the crux, with Stamma's mate if White takes the bait: 135.Kxh7?? Kf7 136.Kh8 Ne5 137.Kh7 Nd7 138.Kh8 Nf8 139.h7 Ng6#  
**135.Kg6 135...Ke6o 136.Kh5 Kf5o 137.Kh4 Kf4o 138.Kh3 Kf3 139.Kh2**

**Kf2 140.Kh3 Ne5 141.Kh4 Kg2 142.Kh5 Kf3 143.Kh4 Nf7 144.Kh3 Nfg5+ 145.Kh2 Kf2 146.Kh1 Ne6 147.Kh2 Nf4 148.Kh1 Kg3 149.Kg1 Ng2 150.Kf1 Kf3 151.Kg1 Ne3 152.Kh2 Kg4 153.Kg1 Kg3 154.Kh1**

**Kf2 155.Kh2 Ng5 156.h7** the pawn moves again (156.Kh1 Ng4 157.h7 Ne4 158.h8Q Ng3#) **156...Ng4+ 157.Kh1 Ne4 158.h8Q Ng3#**

What else remains? Well the one last exercise I tried was to put the actual moves from the game through the Tablebases, to see how well we were both doing. The results are tabulated below:

| Move No | W move       | Moves to Mate | B move       | Moves to Mate | Notes                                          |
|---------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|------------------------------------------------|
| 69      | <b>Kf3</b>   | 90            | <b>Ne6</b>   | 90            |                                                |
| 70      | <b>Ke3</b>   | 89            | <b>Ke5</b>   | 89            |                                                |
| 71      | <b>Kd3</b>   | 88            | <b>Kf4</b>   | 90            |                                                |
| 72      | <b>Kc3</b>   | 89            | <b>Ke3</b>   | 89            |                                                |
| 73      | <b>Kb2</b>   | 84            | <b>Nd4</b>   | 88            |                                                |
| 74      | <b>Ka2??</b> | 44            | <b>Kd3</b>   | 44            | No. moves to mate halved                       |
| 75      | <b>Kb2</b>   | 43            | <b>Kc4</b>   | 43            |                                                |
| 76      | <b>Ka3</b>   | 42            | <b>Kb5</b>   | 42            |                                                |
| 77      | <b>Kb2</b>   | 40            | <b>Kb4</b>   | 40            |                                                |
| 78      | <b>Ka2??</b> | 29            | <b>Kc4??</b> | 43            |                                                |
| 79      | <b>Kb1??</b> | 32            | <b>Kd3??</b> | 44            |                                                |
| 80      | <b>Ka2</b>   | 40            | <b>Kc3</b>   | 40            |                                                |
| 81      | <b>Kb1??</b> | 25            | <b>Ne2??</b> | 41            |                                                |
| 82      | <b>Ka2</b>   | 40            | <b>Kb4</b>   | 41            |                                                |
| 83      | <b>Kb2</b>   | 40            | <b>Nd4</b>   | 40            | 83 Kb1?? Or 83 Ka1?? are both 8 moves to mate. |
| 84      | <b>Kc1</b>   | 39            | <b>Kc3</b>   | 39            |                                                |
| 85      | <b>Kb1??</b> | 25            | <b>Ne2??</b> | 41            |                                                |
| 86      | <b>Ka2</b>   | 40            | <b>Nc1+</b>  | 40            |                                                |
| 87      | <b>Kb1??</b> | 11            | <b>Nb3??</b> | 39            | 87 ...Nd3 is correct, see below                |
| 88      | <b>Ka2</b>   | 38            | <b>Nd2</b>   | 40            |                                                |
| 89      | <b>Ka3</b>   | 39            | <b>Nb3</b>   | 39            |                                                |
| 90      | <b>Ka2</b>   | 38            | <b>Nd4</b>   | 40            |                                                |
| 91      | <b>Kb1</b>   | 25            | <b>Ne2</b>   | 41            |                                                |

The table shows that neither of us had much idea of what we were supposed to be doing. Every time I blundered into a bad position Welling immediately gave me all the moves back again. The crux is that at one point (move 87) I blundered into a mate in 11. Now I'm sure that this would be calculable to a finish, but only if the attacker knows that the position has suddenly shifted some thirty moves in his favour – without that knowledge the mistake is surely academic.

For the record, it would go thus:- **87...Nd3 88.Ka1 Kc4 89.Ka2 Kb4 90.Ka1 Ka3 91.Kb1 Kb3** and we've reached one of the starting positions analysed by Rory and I above.

## Notes

[1] Cassidy – Welling, Saint Vincent 2005 (<http://www.icu.ie/games/display.php?id=11841>)

Welling told me that it has since been published as an illustrative game in a German book on the c3 Sicilian – I'm guessing that it's Zeller's book on Murey's Antidote (1.e4 c5 2.c3 b6) but I so far haven't been able to confirm this.

[2] Martin A. (2004) Shopping for a Tombstone Part 1

([http://www.jeremysilman.com/chess\\_bits\\_pieces/110103\\_blackmar\\_dmr\\_gmbt.html](http://www.jeremysilman.com/chess_bits_pieces/110103_blackmar_dmr_gmbt.html))

[3] Martin A. (2004) Shopping for a Tombstone Part 2

[http://www.jeremysilman.com/chess\\_bits\\_pieces/110103\\_blackmar\\_dmr\\_gmbt\\_2.html](http://www.jeremysilman.com/chess_bits_pieces/110103_blackmar_dmr_gmbt_2.html)

[4] Lane G. (1995) The Blackmar-Diemer Gambit. Batsford. p.73

[5] Mueller K. (2003). The Damned Pawn. (<http://www.chesscafe.com/text/mueller35.pdf>)

[6] Mueller K. (2003). The Damned Pawn 2. (<http://www.chesscafe.com/text/mueller36.pdf>)

[7] <http://www.k4it.de/index.php?topic=egtb&lang=en>.

The first chess magazine I subscribed to was CHESS Sutton Coldfield, back in the days when it was still edited by B.H. Wood. One of its keynote features in those days was the annual Christmas quiz, which entered the festive spirit with a generally relaxed approach, not always adhering to the rules of standard chess, or even of fair play. All good fun, though.

Those quizzes were easy to read but must have been extremely hard to write. So the quiz below stays relatively close to standard chess, and all problems are based on the same set of rules (and no trick questions).

The game is Progressive Chess, sometimes called 'PR': White plays one move, Black plays two, White plays three, and so on. A sharp way to play chess!

There are some extra rules: all moves must be legal in standard chess in the given board position, check ends the turn immediately, and a player who has no legal moves before the end of a turn is stalemated. An e.p. capture can only be made on the first move of a turn, the captured pawn having moved two squares at any time in the previous turn and gone no further. The standard rules don't say that the square crossed still has to be empty, but I assume that's implied.

There is one other rule commonly used in serious play: in 'Italian' progressive chess a player who checks before the last move of his allotted turn loses the game, rather than just finishing the turn early. This leads to so-called 'Italian mates', where a player is forced to give check on the first move of his sequence and so loses. Is it clear to you why this rule makes sense? Me

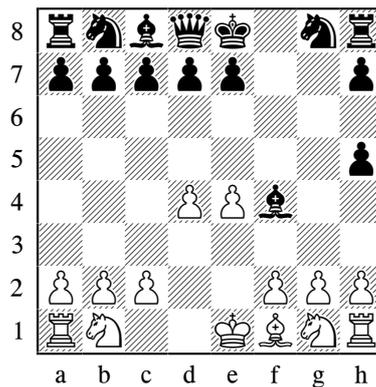
neither, and none of the problems below involve Italian mates.

One of the main sources of information on this game is D.B. Pritchard's book *Popular Chess Variants* (Batsford, 2000). Popular, relative to other chess variants, that is, as these are all fringe games. PR, though, is popular enough that several correspondence tournaments have been held, mostly in Italy, and there is some opening theory, which is reviewed by Pritchard. There seems to have even been at one time a database of around 10,000 games maintained by the Italian organisation A.I.S.E.; however their web pages don't seem to have been updated since 2004.

But enough background, on with the quiz. Problems are in roughly increasing order of difficulty. Solutions to problems 1-4 are in the back of this issue, and the rest will be given in the next issue.

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### Problem 1.

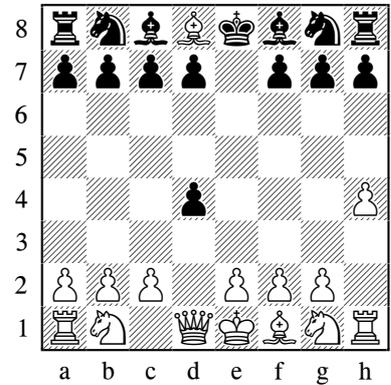


White to play and mate (5)

A nice easy one to warm up. This is from a correspondence tournament played in 1995, via *Variant Chess*, a magazine published by the British Chess Variant Society, *Volume 3, Issue 21, Autumn 1996, pages 7-9* (article by Peter Wood). Peter Coast

- George Jelliss: 1. e4 2. f5, f4 (?) 3. d4, Bxf4, Qh5+ 4. g6, gxh5, Bh6, Bxf4.

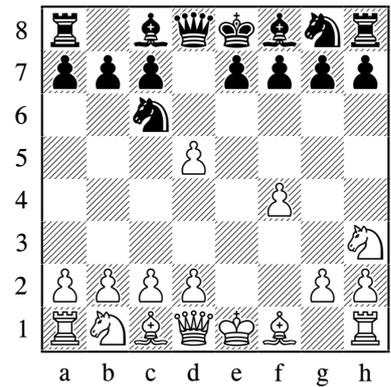
### Problem 2.



Black to play and mate (4)

From Pritchard, this was a win by S. Palmieri, after the sequence 1. d4 2. e5, exd4 3. h4(??), Bg5, Bxd8. The mate is elegant, but the most striking aspect of the game is White's h4. Was he trying to support the bishop? A shocker.

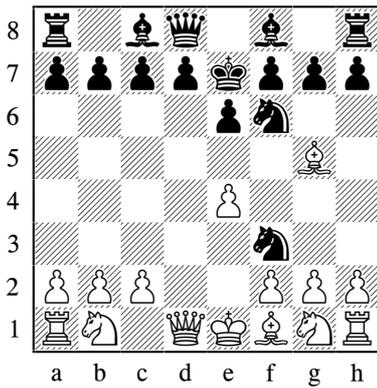
### Problem 3.



Black to play and mate (4)

Again from Pritchard, this was a win by M. Leoncini, after 1. f4 2. Nc6, d5 3. e4, exd5, Nh3. Black has any number of ways to win in 5 moves, but 4 requires a bit of thought.

**Problem 4.**



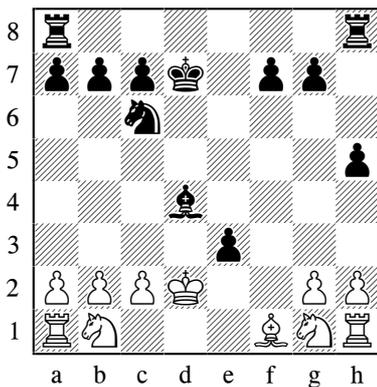
*White to play and mate (5)  
Dual solution*

Again from Pritchard, and again from a win by M. Leoncini, after 1. d4 2 Nc6, Nf6 3. Bg5, e4, Nf3 4. Nxd4, e6, Ke7, Nxf3+. After some thought I managed to solve it, but found on looking at the solution that Leoncini played something completely different; Pritchard doesn't mention the dual solution. So White to play and win in two different ways.

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Now for some slightly harder ones. Solutions next issue:

**Problem 5.**



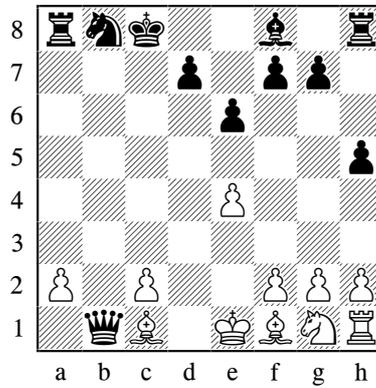
*White to play and mate (7)*

Again from the 1995 correspondence tournament, via *Variant Chess*, this was the tournament winner's only loss, and also the subject of a contest for readers of the magazine.

Peter Coast - Paul Byway  
Corr, 1995

1. e4
2. Nc6, d5
3. Qg4, Qxc8, Qxd8+
4. Kxd8, dxe4, h5, Nf6 (*theory!*)
5. d4, Bg5, Kd2, Bxf6 Bxe7+ (N)
6. (?) Bxe7, Bh4, Bxf2, Bxd4, Kd7, e3+

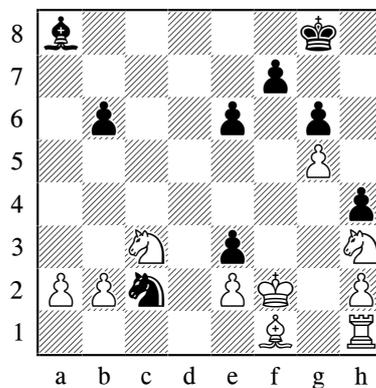
**Problem 6.**



*White to play and mate (7)*

This and the next problem are from *Variant Chess, Vol. 1, No. 1, January-March 1990* (article by Malcolm Horne).

**Problem 7.**



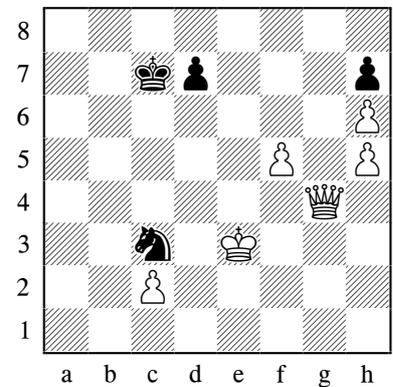
*White to play and mate (9)*

I wasn't able to solve problem 6 or 7 myself. I'm still not quite sure how I missed 6, since I had all the elements and thought I'd tried every permutation, but I was nowhere near on 7.

**Problem 8.**

All the previous problems involve immediate mate, but one of the

attractive elements of PR is that there is much more to the game. It has been described as combining the precision of problem solving with competitive play, and often a player is faced with the problem of what to do if an immediate mate does not seem possible. With that in mind, here is a position that is partly based on a correspondence game, but is a new composition for this issue. As with any new analysis there can be holes, so I'll leave it as an open-ended question: how do you evaluate this position with Black to play on move 12? If my solution is correct, there are some twists and turns, so be warned.



*Black to play (12)*

Happy solving!



# BCAI Open Tournament, 2010

by Sean Loftus

The 2010 Braille Chess Association of Ireland Open Tournament took place from October 1-4. For this tournament, marking the silver jubilee of our association's existence, we returned to the Marine Hotel in Sutton, Dublin, scene of a very successful event in 2008. When booking the Marine more than a year ago we hoped for a modest increase in the number of players, guides and visitors from 2 years ago. Then 19 players took part and we were hopeful that this might increase to 24 or 26. During the early months of the year bookings were slow, but this gave us no cause for concern. We believed these would pick up in May and June. When this eventually happened we were absolutely astonished at the level of interest.

Within a few days of each other we learned that sizeable groups would be coming from France and Sweden. Suddenly, no more accommodation was available at the Marine Hotel. We even had to make arrangements with the nearby Deer Park to take some people for the Saturday night.

It was now clear that the tournament would be played in 2 sections. The Marine Hotel management made a second playing room available to us at reasonable cost. In the weeks prior to the tournament we needed to make some booking alterations and the hotel handled these with great patience and efficiency.

When we all met up on the afternoon of Friday, 1 October, we knew that there would be 33 players and some 20 other people. The tournament would be organised in 2 sections, with 20 in the open section and 13 in the minor. Following dinner, those of us involved in the chess immediately made our way to our respective tournament rooms to get the first



Eamonn with the four players who tied for first in the major section, L to R, Marcus Berggren (Sweden), Patrik Berggren (1st on tiebreak) Eamonn Casey, Michael Delaney (Ireland) and Phillip Doyle (Ireland)

*Photo by Michael Germaine*

round underway. In this type of tournament, played according to the Swiss system, the higher graded players in the top half of the draw are paired against those in the lower half. An additional feature of our tournament is that players from the same country do not meet in the first round. In the open section 8 of the 10 games produced the expected result with a win for the player with the higher grade. In the other games Joe McAlloon drew with Colin Chambers (England) and I had an unexpected win against Markus Berggren (Sweden).

In the minor section there were also 2 games which did not go according to expectations. Wilfried Van Der Velden (Belgium) lost to Bengt Eriksson (Sweden) and John Carroll drew with Koenraad Lecluyse (Belgium).

Round 2 in both sections got started at 10 am next morning. In the open 3 players emerged on full points when this round was completed. These were Patrik Berggren (Sweden),

brother of Markus, Philip Doyle and Ernie McElroy. Philip and Patrik drew their game in round 3, which allowed Ernie to move into outright leadership with a win against Les Whittle (England).

In the minor section there were still 3 players on full points after round 2, but following the afternoon games the young Swede, Fredrik Ljungdahl, was the only player to have won all 3 games.

For those not playing chess Barry O'Brien's coach tour set off from the hotel just as the morning round was getting started. With some 20 people on board, the biggest number he has ever had during one of our tournaments, Barry certainly pulled out all the stops to make sure that our visitors had a full day's activity. In the morning they visited Farnley House and Aras an Uachtaráin and after lunch they went to the Guinness Storehouse. By all accounts everyone enjoyed themselves enormously.

In the evening we all came together again for our celebration dinner. This was the occasion to mark 25 years of the Braille Chess Association of Ireland. In all there were 68 people present. We were very pleased to welcome as our special guests Des

very much the byword during this part of the evening.

With the formalities out of the way, it was time to get the party going. Guitarist and singer, Martin Kenny, was our musician. There were also some singers in the audience who

rival, Philippe De Coninck (Belgium), with a round to go.

Following dinner on Sunday evening many people opted for an early night. A 9.30 start next morning would be followed for many by the journey home in the afternoon. A small number found time to get together in the bar for an hour or so.

When the final round was played on Monday morning Ljungdahl completed a perfect weekend in the Minor Tournament with his sixth win. Gary Wickett (England) and Martin Kane came joint third and Shane Hall took the grading prize.

The battle for the leading places in the open was fought out on the top 3 boards. The Berggren brothers drew with each other, as did Michael Delaney and Ernie McElroy. This allowed Philip Doyle to move into the prize money with victory over Joe McAloon. The grading prizes resulted in more success for our Swedish visitors. A draw with Colin Chambers was sufficient for Håkan Thomsson, but Olle Engström needed to win, and this he did in the very last game to finish.

Our grateful thanks go to our tournament controller, Tim Conlan, and his assistants, Mick Germain and John Crowley. Tim has been our arbiter since the late 1980s and has always performed this task with great skill and efficiency.

We also wish to acknowledge the great help given throughout the weekend by Barry and Mary O'Brien and also Noreen Cleary.

A special word of thanks is due to the staff of the Marine Hotel who spared no effort to make our stay so very pleasant.

Amid much clicking of cameras the prizes were presented by our Chairman, Eamonn Casey. Then it was time to say our goodbyes and for our visitors to make ready for their homeward journey. All expressed great satisfaction with the weekend



Photo by Michael Germaine

Kenny, Chief Executive of NCBI with his wife, Terry, and Michael Lavin, Secretary of the National League of the Blind, with his wife, Teresa. We were also very pleased to welcome Michael and Una Keane with their daughter and son-in-law, Carmel and Noel Kennedy.

Mick, now aged 81, played a key role in the setting up of the O'Hanlon Chess Club in 1960 which led to blind players competing against sighted players. He also represented Ireland at international tournaments for blind players between 1964 and 1985.

Following an excellent meal there was a short address from our Chairman, Eamonn Casey and some words of congratulations and good wishes from Des Kenny and Michael Lavin. Notwithstanding the promptings of Barry O'Brien, now fulfilling the role of MC, brevity was

stepped up to the microphone to perform their party pieces. The entertainment ended shortly before midnight.

Next morning saw games in the fourth round of the tournament being played. In the open there were wins for Patrik Berggren over Ernie McElroy and for Michael Delaney against Philip Doyle. This placed Patrik and Michael in joint leadership on 3.5 points. Markus Berggren joined Ernie on 3 points with victory over David Hodgkins (England). In the afternoon round Patrik drew with Michael and Ernie lost to Markus. Philip Doyle bounced back with a win over Colin Chambers. This moved him up into fourth place, just half a point behind.

The feature of the Sunday games in the minor tournament was 2 more wins by Fredrik Ljungdahl. This placed him in an unassailable lead on 5 points, 1.5 ahead of his nearest

and a firm hope to be back here in 2012.

The BCAI would like to thank the following organisations for their support in connection with this tournament:

NCBI, The National League of the Blind of Ireland, Irish Blindspots, The Irish Chess Union, and The Leinster Chess Union.

#### McElroy, Ernie (Ireland) - Whittle, Les (England)

BCAI Open Tournament, Rd 3

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♘c3 d6 4.d4 cxd4 5.♘xd4 g6 6.♗e3 ♗g7 7.♖d2 ♗d7 8.♗c4 ♖c8 9.♗d3 ♘a5 10.O-O a6 11.f3 ♘c4 12.♗xc4 ♖xc4 13.♘d5 ♗c6 14.♘xc6 ♖xc6 15.c3 a5 16.♖ad1 e6 17.♘f4 ♘e7 18.♘e2 O-O 19.♘d4 ♗xd4 20.♗xd4 ♘c8 21.♖h6 f6 22.e5 ♘e7 23.exf6 ♘f5 24.♖g5 ♘xd4 25.♖xd4 ♖xf6 26.♖xa5 d5 27.♖b5 ♖b8 28.♖fd1 ♖d8 29.♖e2 ♖a8 30.a3 ♖b6 31.♗h1 ♖f8 32.♖b4 ♖c7 33.♖e1 ♖f6 34.♖e3 ♗f7 35.♖h6 ♗g8 36.h3 ♖b6 37.♖g5 ♖f5 38.♖e3 ♖xb4 39.♖xe6+ ♖f7 40.axb4 ♖xe6 41.♖xe6 1-0

#### Delaney, Michael (Ireland) - Berggren, Patrik (Sweden)

BCAI Open Tournament, Rd 5

1.d4 ♘f6 2.♗g5 d5 3.♗xf6 exf6 4.e3 ♗d6 5.c4 dxc4 6.♗xc4 O-O 7.♘f3 ♗g4 8.♘bd2 ♘d7 9.O-O f5 10.♖c2 ♘f6 11.h3 ♗xf3 12.♘xf3 ♘e4 13.♗d5 ♗h2+ 14.♗xh2 ♖xd5 15.♖xc7 ♖fc8 16.♖e5 ♖xe5+ 17.♘xe5 ♖c2 18.♘d3 ♖ac8 19.♖ac1 ♖xc1 20.♖xc1 ♖xc1 21.♘xc1 ♘xf2 22.♗g3 ♘d1 23.♗f4 ♘xb2 24.♗xf5 ♘c4 25.♗e4 ♗f8 26.♗d3 ♘d6 27.e4 ♗e7 28.♘b3 ♗d7 29.d5 b6 30.♘d4 f6 31.♘e6 ♘e8 32.♗d4 ♗d6 33.♘f4 ♘c7 34.♘d3 ♘b5+ 35.♗c4 ♘c7 36.a4 a6 37.♗d4 1/2-1/2

Final scores.

#### Open Tournament:

1-4 Patrik Berggren, 4.5;  
Philip Doyle, 4.5;  
Markus Berggren, 4.5;  
Michael Delaney, 4.5;  
5-8 Ernie McElroy, 3.5;  
David Hodgkins, 3.5;  
Håkan Thomsson 3.5 (grading prize);  
Olle Engström, 3.5 (grading prize);  
9-13 Sean Loftus, 3;

Colin Chambers, 3;

Joe McAloon, 3;

Eamonn Casey, 3;

Richard Spele (Sweden), 3;

14-16 Les Whittle, 2.5;

Gerard den Otter (Netherlands), 2.5;

Laurent Peignien (France), 2.5;

17-19 Bernard Duthoit (France), 1.5;

Nenand Antonic (France), 1.5;

John Dearie (Scotland), 1.5;

20 Jean-Claude Martin (France), 1.

#### Minor Tournament:

1 Fredrik Ljungdahl, 6;

2 Philippe de Coninck, 4.5;

3-4 Gary Wickett, 4;

Martin Kane, 4;

5 John Carroll, 3.5;

6-10 Regis Gerbaux (France), 3;

Shane Hall, 3;

Koenraad Lecluyse, 3;

Bengt Eriksson, 3;

Hernon Sobredo (Sweden), 3;

11 Stan Lightowler (Northern Ireland), 2;

12-13 Wilfried Van Der Velden, 1.5;

Ann Casey, 1.5.

## CHESS SPY!

BY PETER CAFOLLA

### KILKENNY CONGRESS 2010

This year's Kilkenny Congress was probably one of the best ever with a glittering array of GMs and most of our own top players competing. IM Sam Collins did fantastically well to retain his title tying with Topalov's second the Bulgarian number two GM Cheparinov. All the games were very hard fought with hardly any short draws.

Ratings:

Accommodation: \*\*\* The Club House Hotel is very overpriced. Looking for 100 euro per night for a single room so I ended up getting a B&B for 35 but there are plenty of other good options in the area.

Strength: \*\*\*\*\* 7GMs 4 IMs and very few weak players although the credentials of one or two were a bit dubious.

Playing Conditions: \*\*\*\* Butler House is a fine venue. Generally very good conditions but the room was very hot

at times and some twit with an enormous plastic flask seemed intent on making as much noise as was humanly possible every time he had a coffee.

Organization: \*\*\*\*\* Gerry Graham always runs tournaments very efficiently and with a minimum of fuss.

Accessibility: \*\*\*\*\* Kilkenny is very central and easy to get to from anywhere in the country. There is always a special atmosphere there at this time of the year and the snow added to it.

Social side: \*\*\*\* I missed out on the late night sessions this year because I wasn't staying in the immediate area but no doubt the craic was as good as always.

**26/30** - Overall a very enjoyable tournament. The Kilkenny Congress has a special place in the hearts of Irish chess-players and has built up a fine tradition over the years, long may it continue.

# BRAILLE CHESS ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND

By Philip Doyle

The Braille Chess Association of Ireland was established in 1985 to promote Chess among the blind and partially sighted. The BCAI is affiliated to the International Braille Chess Association, the Irish Chess Union and Irish BlindSports.

The BCAI organises teams and individuals to represent Ireland at international level. At home we hold our own Irish Championship and this is used as a basis for team selection. In addition to the Championship, there is a very successful international Tournament with players coming from many parts of the world to participate.

Website: [www.bcai.net/](http://www.bcai.net/)

## THE BRITISH BRAILLE CHESS ASSOCIATION

Many Irish players are also members of the British Braille Chess Association, which organises a variety of tournaments, both Over-the-Board and by Correspondence and these events are suitable for all standards. The BCA has a Braille library of Chess books as well as a more extensive cassette library, containing information on all aspects of the game. In addition to their quarterly Gazette which appears in several formats, the BCA produce a number of other periodicals on cassette. Website: [www.braillechess.org.uk/](http://www.braillechess.org.uk/)

## THE INTERNATIONAL BRAILLE CHESS ASSOCIATION

The International Braille Chess Association organises the team Olympiad and World Cup and the World Individual Championship and

these are held at four-yearly intervals. In addition, there are European, under 21, Women's and correspondence Championships. Website: [www.ibca-info.org](http://www.ibca-info.org)

## CHESS EQUIPMENT

The blind player uses an adapted board, with the white squares slightly lower than the black. Each piece has a peg at the bottom, which is inserted into a hole in the centre of the square on which it stands, so that it remains steady while the position is being examined manually. Also one set of pieces have small dots on the top, so that they can be distinguished from the other set. Opponents use separate boards and call the moves to each other. At international level, where there is no common language, the German Algebraic notation is used, and this involves learning about twenty German words. In addition, a club player may use a Braille Chess clock and a small tape recorder or Braille device for noting moves. For those living in Ireland, Chess sets, clocks etc. can be purchased from the National Council for the Blind, 45 Whitworth Rd., Dublin 9. tel: 01 8307033.

Chess literature is available in Braille, and to a greater extent on cassette, although the choice is not as great as one would like. Many Chess computers and Chess programmes for PCs can be used successfully by blind players with the aid of a synthetic voice. In addition, e-mail has been adopted as an exciting medium for playing

Correspondence Chess. Partially sighted players require good lighting plus a large easy-to-see Chess set. Low vision aids are also useful when it comes to reading small print in Chess books.

## SUMMING UP

Chess is said to be one of the few sports where blind people can compete independently and on equal terms with their sighted counterparts and while this assertion may be largely true certain disadvantages should not be overlooked.

- (a) The fact that a blind player takes slightly longer to survey the position on the Chess board;
- (b) The difficulty of knowing precisely how much time is left on the clock;
- (c) The shortage of suitable information on the latest developments in Chess theory;
- (d) The problem of mobility in a crowded and perhaps unfamiliar tournament venue;
- (e) On the rare occasions when it happens, not being able to observe the antics of an unscrupulous opponent.

Despite these obstacles, blind players often reach very high levels in Chess, with some even attaining Master standard.

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I concluded last time with the exhortation “Do not make your students weaker!” and the promise of concrete advice.

When teaching beginners, try to moderate, or even avoid the shabby worn out piece value system of 3-3-5-9 in terms of “pawns” or “units” (units of what?).

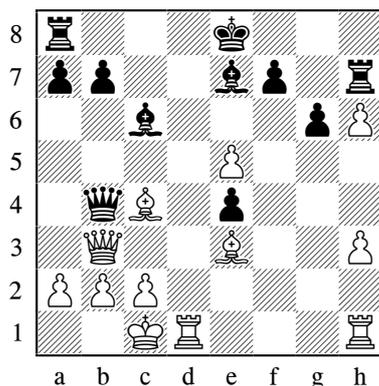
Staunton said that trying to determine piece values “with mathematical exactitude ... appears to be an expenditure of ingenuity and research upon an unattainable object.”

3-3-5-9 illustrates the law of unintended consequences. The constant reinforcement that beginners experience sets the concept in stone. They are repeatedly told “you must not play that, she just takes it” or “you can't take that pawn with your rook, he'll recapture and you'll be lost – the rook is worth 5 and the pawn only 1” and so on, and on. Thus the rule of “can't” is established.

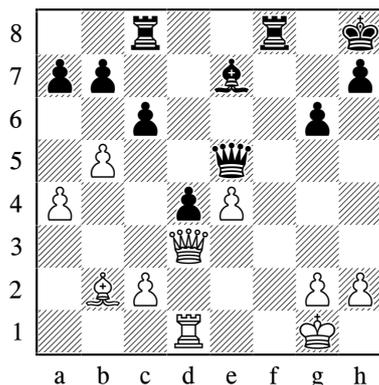
**Once established, the “can't” syndrome blights the further development of club and intermediate level players, and even affects the play of masters and Grandmasters.**

Spielmann wisely pointed out that pieces have values like shares on the Stock Exchange – they can be static, but most of the time they go up and down.

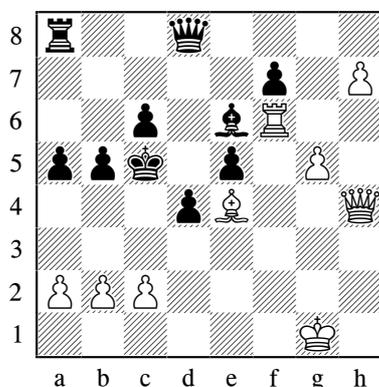
Maria Schoene (WIM, 2251) - Vlastimil Babula (GM, 2554), Bundesliga 2010, is typical. It's obvious that “she can't take on f7,” isn't it?



My next example is from a 2007 French League game Florian Ranc (1860) – Guy Cesbron (2105). White had given up a rook because Black can't avoid losing the queen after 1 Bb2xd4.

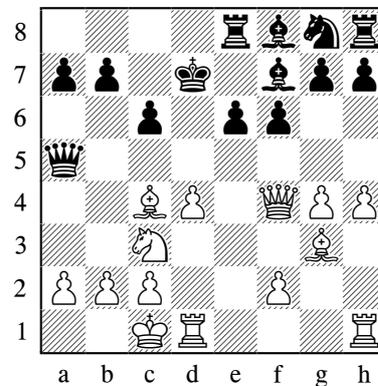


Sometimes there's a panto style “can – can't sequence” as in Klyukin-Gergel, USSR 1971. White to play.



Overcoming “can't” can pay big dividends. Look at Mark Heidenfeld

(IM, 2365) – Roberto Cechhetti (1930), Turin Olympiad 2006. White to play.



That was great, but the ultimate “can't” was seen in GM Paul Motwani's first tournament game. He was a small boy. The game: 1 e2-e4 d7-d6 2 Bf1-b5 mate. White (a little girl) said “your king is in check and it can't move, so it's checkmate.” Black gracefully accepted.

\*\*\*\*\*

Schoene - Babula. But she could and did: 1 Bc4xf7+ Rh7xf7 2 h6-h7 1-0, although White's last move wasn't best (Qb3-e6).

Ranc - Cesbron. Oh yes he can! 1...Be7-c5! White had the temerity to limp on for four moves before resigning.

Klyukin - Gergel. 1 g5-g6 f7xg6 2 Rf6xe6 Qd8xh4 3 Re6xc6+ Kc5-b4 4 a2-a3+ Kb4-a4. Oh yes I can: 5 Rc6-c4+ b5xc4 6 Be4-c6 mate.

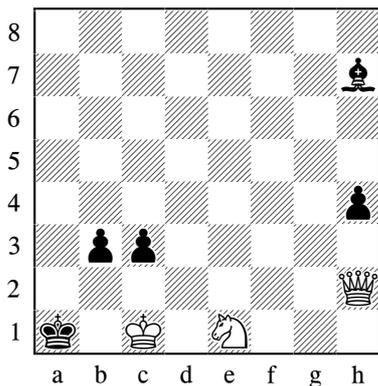
Heidenfeld - Cechhetti. 1 d4-d5! e6xd5 2 Nc3xd5! Bf7xd5 3 Rd1xd5+! c6xd5 4 Bc4-b5+ Black resigned (4...Qa4xb5 5 Qf4-c7+ Kd7-e6 6 Rh1-e1+ Qb5-e2 7 Re1xe2 mate).

More next time...

# 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.*

Compared to his great contemporary Smyslov, Paul Keres composed very few endgame studies. However, his compositions have survived the ravages of time. Consider the following gem:



Paul Keres, 1936

In this position Black threatens 1...b2+. The plausible try 1.Qb8 does not help. So what can White do?

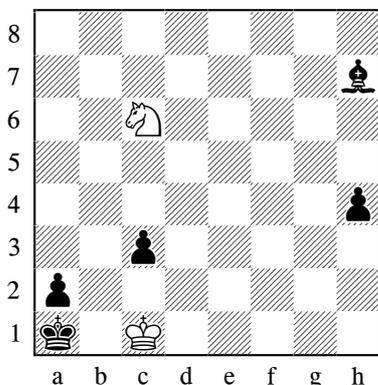
**1.Nc2+!!**

Now 1...Bxc2 is met by 2.Qb8. After 2...b2+ White wins the bishop. Or 2...Bb1 3.Qxb3 Ba2 4.Qxc3+ Black is mated.

**1...Ka2 2.Nb4+**

2...Ka3 leads to a spectacular display by White. 3.Nd3! Bxd3 4.Qd6+ Ka2 (hoping for 5.Qxd3?? b2+) 5.Qd5!! pinning the pawn on b3 and threatening 6.Qa5 mate wins.

**2...Ka1 3.Qa2+!! bxa2 4.Nc6! 1-0**



Black is helpless against the threat of Nd4 and mate with Nb3 or Nc2 next move.

## Solutions:

**Are you a problem Solver?**

**Joseph G. Campbell**

1.Qh8! (waiting) 1...Kf4 Qd4#; 1.K h-file 2.Bf5#.

**A. Petroff**

1.Qd7 (threatening both Rh7 and Re8.) 1...Rxd7

2.Re8#; 1...Bxd7 Rh7#.

**W. Shinkman**

1.f6xe7 with the following lines: 1...Kf6 2.e8=B Ke6

3.Rh6#; 1...Kd7 2.e8=Q+ Kxe8 (or 2...Kxd6 3.Qg6#)

3.Ra8#; 1...Kxd6 2.e8=R Kc6 3.Re6#.

## CHESS MAGIC

**Agapov-Nepomniashy, USSR, 1983**

1.Qxg6! Rg7 2.Rxf7!! 1-0

**Coffey - Serpi, Le Harve 1980**

1. Bxc5 Qxc5 2.Qxd3 1-0

**Peresyphkin - Chekhov, USSR, 1976**

1.Nd6! 1-0

**Torre - Schmid, Nice Olympiad, 1974**

1.Bxa6! Rxa6 2.Qb5! Rca8 3.Rxc6 Qa7? 4.Rc8+! 1-0

4...Rxc8 5.Rxc8+ Nxc8 6.Qe8 is mate.

**Olafsson - Quinteros, Las Palmas, 1974**

1.Rxd7! Kxd7 2.Bxc6+! Kxc6 3.Qa4+ 1-0

The end would be 3...Kd5 4.Rd1+ Bd4 5.Rxd4+ Kc5

6.Bd6+ Kb6 7.Rb4 mate.

**Spassky - Chandler, New Zealand, 1988**

White thought for 20 minutes, played 1.Nxc5? and

only drew. But 1.Bc3! wins a piece: 1...Nxa4

2.Bxb4+; 1...Bxc3 2.Nc5 attacking two pieces, or

1...Nd3 2.Bxd3 Bxc3 3.Rxc3.

## Puzzled?

**L van Vliet (1888)**

1.Qb4 !!

This is Zugzwang, believe it or not !

1...Qh1

(Black has to prevent 2.b8=N mate. 1...Qd5 2.Qa4+

Kb6 3.Qb3+! Qxb3 4.b8=Q+ ; 1...Qf3 2.Qa4+ Kb6

3.Qb3+ Qxb3 4.b8=Q+ ; 1...Qg2 2.Qa3+ Kb6 3.Qb2+

Qxb2 4.b8=Q+ ; 1...Qa3+ Kb6 3.Qb2+ Kc7 4.Qh2+! A

very attractive point, echoed in the other lines.)

4...Qxh2 5.b8=Q+ 1-0

**T. Sierskieler**

1.Kc3 e1Q+ 2.Kd3 Qg3+ 3.Qxg3 Kc1 4.Qb8 ! Kd1

5.Qb1 mate. 1-0

## PR Chess

Problem 1. 5. Nf3, Ng5, Nxh7 (or Ne6), Be2, Bxh5 mate.

Problem 2. 4. d3, dxc2, cxb1=R, Bb4 mate.

Problem 3. 4. Ne5, Qd6 (showy; more natural Qxd5), Qe6, Nd3 mate.

Problem 4. My solution was 5. Nxf3, Bf4, Ng5, Qh5, Qxf7 mate. Leoncini played 5. gxf3, Bb5, Bxd7, Be3, Bc5 mate.