

## **MY MEMORABLE GAMES AND OPPONENTS –PAUL CASSIDY**

### **A. Introduction**

I first took up chess in 1956 at the age of 14. I have had a reasonably successful career, the following being my most notable results:

- Leinster Junior (1959), Intermediate (1960), and joint Senior Champion (1966); - Irish Universities Champion 1963 and 1964;
- Runner up City of Dublin Championship 1962 and 1964;
- Runner up Irish Championship 1968 and third in 1973;
- Irish Veterans Champion 2009 and joint winner in 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2012.

I also played on the Irish Glorney Cup schoolboy team from 1958 to 1960 inclusive and for the Irish Olympiad team in 1966 (Havana) and 1972 (Skopje).

### **B. The 1960s**

As can be seen, most of my successes came in the 1960s and early 1970s (I never played with the same intensity or frequency since). I reached my highest national rating (fifth in Ireland) in 1965.

During this, my most active period, I played throughout at the highest level and met the then strongest players in Irish chess. I had some memorable games against some memorable opponents.

I think it might be interesting to give below some of these games. They were memorable for a variety of reasons: particularly good play (not too often on my part!), importance of the occasion, notable successes and body blow losses.

All of these games, for one reason or another, remain firmly in my memory.

My opponents were also memorable for many reasons. They represented the cream of Irish chess at the time. Each of them had his own personality traits, good and bad, and all of them were very interesting people.

I hope these games, together with their commentary, player profiles, and some anecdotes in certain cases, will prove interesting for people. At the least, they will provide an historical background to a decade which I think laid the foundations for the future successes of Irish chess, particularly on the international stage.

### **C. Acknowledgement**

I would like to thank my good friend, Gerry Smith of the Balbriggan chess club, for all the help he gave me in compiling this document. He spent a considerable amount of time in editing the document, providing advice on its format and content etc. He also undertook the arduous task of running the games by Fritz thus producing very interesting and insightful analysis. His help was invaluable and greatly enhanced the quality of this document.

Gerry is also one of my current memorable opponents for all the wrong reasons. No matter how hard I try, I just cannot beat him at lightning chess. Our matches are always very close but he always emerges the narrow winner. I often claim this is luck but the invariable reply is “No, class”.

#### **D. Layout of this document**

This document has three parts:

- Part 1 summarises my introduction to chess, my schoolboy chess activities, and my Glorney Cup experiences;
- Part 2, the main part of the document, gives my memorable games and opponents, mainly during the 1960s and early 1970s;
- Part 3 gives some interesting games which I had when I took up correspondence chess for a brief period in 1995-2000.

### **PART 1-BEGINNINGS**

#### **A. How I took up chess**

In 1956 I was interested in camping (somewhat laughable in retrospect since I immediately lost interest after my encounter with a multitude of midges on my first and last camping venture some years later) and I went down to my local library in Phibsboro to read about the subject.

I came across a book whose title I remember to this day. The “Boy’s Book of Sport” had separate chapters on sporting activities of interest to boys. One of these dealt with chess.

On reading this chapter I immediately fell in love with the game. Even though I did not understand chess notation at the time, I devoured every chess book in Phibsboro Library just to read about chess.

I particularly remember Golombek’s book on the Hague-Moscow world championship match play tournament which was won by Botvinnik. It contained a fascinating background on the historical background to the tournament, round by round summaries, and great pictures of the five players involved and of the playing hall. I read this book many times.

In reading this book, I immediately adopted Dr. Euwe of Holland (who finished last!) as my favourite player and he remained a favourite of mine ever since. I had the pleasure of drawing with him in a simultaneous many years later when he visited Dublin as FIDE President.

My two other favourite players have been Nimzowitch and Petrosian. I thought “My System” by Nimzowitch was one of the most profound chess books I ever read. I modelled my style on Petrosian (obviously not with too much success) as I greatly admired how he used to snuff out his opponent’s threats and then strangle him positionally. A quintessential positional player, it is often overlooked that Petrosian was also a brilliant tactical player.

Nimzowitch also gave me my final paragraph in my Leaving Cert. English essay. In “My System” he comments on a game he played which was severely criticised by Dr. Tarrasch, then one of the leading international players and a world championship contender. Tarrasch criticised Nimzowitch’s

opening play, classifying his moves as bizarre and commenting that “Herr Nimzowitch goes his own way in the openings, a way however not to be recommended to the general public”.

Nimzowitch’s response was savage: “Ridicule can do much, for instance embitter the existence of young talents. But this much is not given to it, to stop the incursion of new and powerful ideas. The supposed byways of yesterday have now become the highways of to-morrow on which rich and poor can thread conscious of their own security and wellbeing”.

This is a great purple passage which, suitably adapted, can be used in nearly any situation. It certainly helped me in my Leaving Cert. Years later in the civil service I used it when drafting a speech for the Minister in response to a criticism of his policies. I remember he asked me “Where did you get that “and was very impressed when I told him the source.

## **B. Initial Progress**

I played a lot of cricket at the time and I had a very good cricketing friend who had a chess set. With my new found passion for the game, I badgered him to play chess and we did on an almost daily basis during the summer of 1956.

At first he beat me very easily and I think it was about 50 games before I got my first draw with him. Thereafter I steadily improved and we eventually gave up playing as I had become too strong for him.

I was lucky that my school, O’Connell School of North Richmond Street, had a strong chess tradition and, together with our great rivals Synge Street, was one of the top two schools in Leinster chess at the time.

The two best players in the school at the time were John McMahon and Art Coldrick who were both extremely strong players (John was runner up in the Irish Championship in Galway in 1960 and the City of Dublin Championship in 1964 and Art was a member of the Irish Olympiad team in Skopje in 1972). Both of them are still playing (John’s younger brother Frank joined the club later and he too was a very strong player and is still playing chess).

With such mentors and a vibrant chess atmosphere I made rapid progress and soon developed into a strong player.

## **The Glorney Cup**

I was selected for the Irish Glorney Cup schoolboy team in 1958. That year the tournament was played in Cardiff with three countries taking part- Scotland, Wales and Ireland (England did not compete in 1958 and it was only much later that the Glorney was extended to include continental teams).

We won the Glorney in 1958, the first Irish team to do so. I played against Wales and had a most unusual game which included a serious bout of chess blindness. Winning easily a piece up, I let him take my Rook as I thought I could capture his other Rook with my remaining Rook only to discover that there was a pawn in the way! So I was now the exchange down. Luckily he misplayed the position thereafter and I managed to win the game.

Apart from being a member of the first Irish team to win the Glorney, I was also the manager of the first team ever to beat England when Ireland won the Glorney again in Dublin in 1964. Frank McMahon and Ray Byrne of Gonzaga were on that team as was High McGrillen of Belfast who later won the Irish Championship.

I also played for Ireland in the Glorney in 1959 in Dublin and in 1960 in Gloucester. Overall my Glorney record was 50% (two wins, two losses, and three draws).

I had some interesting experiences. In the Glorney in Dublin in 1959 my English opponent announced mate in one! This was a highly embarrassing moment. I had a very bad position with my King caught in the middle of the board. I was so busy trying to cope with his many threats that I completely overlooked the mate. I put the pieces back in the box very quickly after that one!

In Gloucester in 1960 I lost a game against Scotland which was the most interesting one I played in the Glorney.

It was a very exciting game. He got a good position in the opening and early middle game but I came back strongly and had a winning ending. The position, however, was very complicated and I was extremely short of time. Nevertheless, I was sure I had chosen the correct moves and I was completely convinced that I had a won position when I queened my pawn on move 41 only to realise with growing horror that the opposite was the case! Here is the game:

## **Cassidy ,P - Wheeler,G [E72]**

### **Glorney Cup, 1960**

**E72: King's Indian: 4 e4 d6 5 g3**

**1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 g6 3.d4 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.g3 0-0 6.Bg2 c5 7.Nf3 Nc6 last book move 8.h3?** [8.d5 Nd4 9.Nxd4 cxd4 10.Qxd4 Ng4=] **8...Na5** [>=8...cxd4 Black clearly has the better chances 9.Nxd4 Nxe4 10.Nxc6 Nxc3 11.Nxd8 Nxd1 12.Kxd1 Rxd8-+] **9.b3= a6** [9...Nc6 10.Be3=] **10.Be3 Qc7** [10...b5 11.e5 dxe5 12.Nxe5=] **11.Qc2** [11.dxc5 dxc5 12.Bf4 Qb6+/-] **11...Bd7** [11...cxd4 12.Nxd4 Nc6 13.0-0+/-] **12.Rc1** [12.dxc5 dxc5 13.e5 Bf5+/-] **12...Rac8?** [>=12...Nc6!?!+/- is a viable option] **13.dxc5+- dxc5 14.0-0 b5?** [>=14...e5+/-] **15.Nd5??** [>=15.e5 a shame that White overlooked this excellent chance 15...Bf5 16.Qe2+ ] **15...Nxd5+/- 16.cxd5 c4 17.bxc4** [17.Bf4 Qd8 18.Qb1 Qb6+/-] **17...Qxc4** [17...Nxc4 18.Bd4=/+ ] **18.Qxc4** [18.Qb1 Qa4=] **18...Nxc4=/+ 19.Bd4 Bh6 20.Rc2 e6** [20...b4 21.Rb1 Ba4 22.Re2=/+ ] **21.Bf6 exd5 22.exd5 Bf5 23.Rc3 b4 24.Rb3 a5 25.Nd4 Nd2** [25...Bd7 26.Rd3 Nb2 27.Rb3=] **26.Nxf5+/- 26...gxf5 27.Rd1** [>=27.d6!?! is noteworthy 27...Nxf1 28.Bxf1+/- (28.Kxf1?? Rc1+ 29.Ke2 Re8+ 30.Be7 Bg5-+ ) ] **27...Nxb3=/+ 28.axb3 Bg7** [>=28...a4!?! should be examined more closely 29.bxa4 b3=/+ ] **29.Be7+/- ...Rfe8 30.d6** Pushes the pass pawn **30...Rxe7 31.dxe7 32.Rd7 a4?** [>=32...Re8!?!+/- has some apparent merit] **33.bxa4+/- b3** [33...Re8 34.Rb7 Bxe7+-] **34.Bd5** [>=34.Rb7!?! b2 35.Rxb2 Bxb2 36.Bc6+-] **34...b2+/- 35.Ba2 Kg7 36.Rb7** [>=36.a5+/-] **36...Be5??** [>=36...Re8+/- was much better] **37.a5+- Ra8** [37...Bd6 is the last straw 38.Rxb2 Bxe7+-] **38.a6!** doomsday **38...Bd4** [38...Rxa6 39.e8Q Promotion] **39.a7 b2 39...Bxa7** [39...Rxa7 40.e8Q Promotion; 39...Bxa7 40.Rxb2 Deflection] **40.Rxa7 Rxa7 41.e8Q Rxa2 42.Qe5+ Kg6 43.Qb5?? throws away the game** [>=43.Qd6+ is just about the only chance 43...f6 44.Qb8 Ra1+ 45.Kh2=] **43...Ra1+-+ 44.Kg2**

**b1Q 45.Qc6+ Kg7 46.Qc3+ f6 47.Qc7+ Kg6** [47...Kg6 48.Qxh7+ Kxh7 49.g4 Qf1+ 50.Kg3 Ra3+ 51.f3 Rxf3+ 52.Kh4 Rxh3#] 0-1

I actually had a perpetual check after he queened his pawn but I was so disconcerted by the turn of events that I missed it.

## **PART 2-MEMORABLE OPPONENTS**

### **(i) J J Walsh**

The following game was played in round 3 of the City of Dublin Championship 1962.

Nowadays, people will probably not be aware of the position J J Walsh occupied in Irish chess at the time. He then completely dominated chess. He was Board 1 for Ireland at the 1956 Moscow Olympiad and, although losing, had played a very respectable game against the then World Champion Botvinnik. He regularly competed with considerable success in the section immediately below the Challengers' Section at the Hastings annual international tournament. He had won the City of Dublin tournament in each of the five years preceding this one. He had not lost a game in Irish chess for a very long time to my knowledge.

### **Walshe, J – Cassidy, P [E87]**

City of Dublin, 1962

E87: King's Indian: Sämisch: 6...e5 7 d5

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.f3 0-0 6.Be3 e5 7.d5 Ne8** last book move **8.g4 f5 9.gxf5 gxf5 10.h4 f4 11.Bf2 Nd7 12.Qd2 Ndf6 13.0-0-0 Nh5 14.Nge2** [14.Rh2 Kh8+–] **14...Qf6** [14...Rf6 15.Bh3 Bxh3 16.Rxh3±] **15.Rg1** [15.Bh3 Bxh3 16.Rxh3 Kh8+–] **15...Kh8 16.Kb1 Bd7 17.Nc1** [17.Rh1 Ng3 18.Nxg3 fxc3+–] **17...Ng3 18.Bxg3** [Δ18.Qc2!+–] **18...fxg3± 19.Rxg3 Qxh4 20.Qf2** [20.Qg2 Bh6 21.Qf2 Ng7=] **20...Nf6 21.Qg1 Bh6 22.Nd3??** [Δ22.N1e2± was a good chance to save the game] **22...Be3!-+** Deflection: g3 **23.Qxe3** [23.Qxe3 Qxg3 Deflection; Δ23.-- Bxg1 Wins material] **23...Qxg3 24.Be2 Rg8 25.c5 Nh5 26.Rc1 Nf4 27.Nxf4 Qxf4** [27...exf4?! 28.Qd4+ Qg7 29.Qb4 dxc5 30.Qxb7=] **28.Qd3** [28.Qxf4 exf4 29.Bb5 Bh3+–] **28...a6** [Δ28...dxc5 29.d6 c6+–] **29.Nd1??** simply worsens the situation [Δ29.Rh1+–] **29...Bb5 30.Qc2 Rg2 31.Nc3** [31.cxd6 cxd6 (31...Bxe2?! is impossible 32.dxc7 Bxf3 33.c8Q+ Rxc8 34.Qxc8+ Rg8 35.Qc5+–) 32.Nc3 Qe3+–] **31...Bxe2 32.Nxe2 Qxf3 33.Re1 Qf2** [Δ33...dxc5 34.a3+–] **34.Qc3 Rg8 35.cxd6 cxd6 36.Nc1** [36.a3 Rf8 37.Qc1 Rf3+–] **36...Qd2 37.Qxd2** [37.Re3 Qxc3 38.Rxc3 h5+–] **37...Rxd2 38.Nb3** [38.b4 Rgg2+–] **38...Rf2 39.Na5 Rgg2 40.Nc4 b5 41.Nxd6 Rxb2+ 42.Ka1 Rxa2+ 43.Kb1 Rgb2+ 44.Kc1 Ra1+ 45.Kxb2 Rxe1 46.Kc2 Kg7 0-1**

This game naturally gave me a huge boost. I had become the first player to beat J J Walsh for a very long time. I remember well the last 10 moves or so of the game which were very tense. I knew I was winning and was on the cusp of something big. I wanted to make sure I did nothing stupid or give him any counter chances. Luckily I succeeded in both aims.

Jim Walsh was a very pleasant person and we got on very well when I joined the Dublin Chess Club some years later. As most people will know, he has a daily chess column in the "Irish Times" which is now the longest running daily newspaper chess column in the world.

What may not be as well known is that he was a very talented artist. Many years ago he wrote travel reports in the "Irish Times" and illustrated them with wonderful sketches of the places under review.

When J J Walsh came back from the Moscow Olympiad in 1956 he wrote two articles for "the People" newspaper, a British newspaper which had a very big circulation in Ireland at the time. These articles, inter alia, contained some critical comments of his experiences in the Soviet Union. They were given front page prominence in the two consecutive Irish editions of the newspaper.

What could not have been anticipated was that Ken O'Riordan, another member of the Irish Olympiad team in Moscow, had taken ill during the tournament and had in fact collapsed on the stage. He was immediately rushed to hospital. He was still languishing in a Moscow hospital when the "Sunday People" articles appeared. This was at a time when the Cold War was at its height and the Soviet Union under Stalin did not take too kindly to criticism. Luckily the KGB did not come looking for Ken and he got home in one piece!

Overall I had reasonable plus score against Jim but this did not truly reflect our relative strengths. After our first game in 1962, our subsequent games were played when Jim's chess ambitions had largely been fulfilled and he was not playing with the same intensity of his earlier career. My career, on the other hand, was only starting.

### **(ii) Michael Littleton**

Michael Littleton was one of the strongest players in Irish chess in the 1960s. He was joint Irish champion in 1962 and won it outright in 1965. He played on five Irish Olympiad teams between 1960 and 1974 and represented Ireland in the 1966 zonal tournament.

Michael had a very exciting style and was quite capable of beating even the strongest players, home and abroad, which he demonstrated on a number of occasions.

Michael was a highly intelligent person who was very prominent in RTE and made an enormous contribution to public service broadcasting. The Michael Littleton memorial lecture is broadcast each year and is always given by a very prominent academic person on a major current affairs topic. This is a measure of the respect in which he is held in the broadcasting area.

Michael died at the relatively young age of 64 and probably never fully realised his outstanding ability in chess and other areas.

Michael and I had a cordial but relatively formal relationship. We never had any problems but we were not particularly close. I always thought, perhaps wrongly, that he did not have that high an opinion of my chess abilities although I actually had an overall plus score against him.

The following game was played in round 1 of the City of Dublin Championship 1962. I followed very closely a Botvinnik-Tal game in their return World Championship match. White plays for a slight plus by doubling Black's pawns at the expense of giving Black free piece play. There is a very tense middle

game battle where Black fights to translate his piece activity into an enduring initiative and White attempts to neutralise these plans. During this period White makes six consecutive Knight moves from move 19 and nine Knight moves in total between moves 14 and 24. All of these moves were logical.

Eventually I won a pawn and we reached an ending where White had a Knight and four pawns against a Bishop and three pawns (two doubled) all on the same side of the board. The game was adjourned on move 40 as was the practice in those days. I spent many hours analysing the position and worked out precisely a complicated plan to win one of the doubled pawns. This plan was carried out to the letter but was nearly thwarted when Black found an extremely clever resource (which I had not seen) on move 51 which almost gained a draw. I had to choose between allowing a stalemate and letting my Knight go. Fortunately, I found the correct reply and steered the game to a winning conclusion.

### **Cassidy,P – Littleton,M [E51] City of Dublin, 1062**

**E51: Nimzo-Indian: Rubinstein: 4...0-0 5 Nf3 d5**

**1.c4 Nf6 2.d4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 0-0 5.Bd3 d5 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.a3 dxc4 8.Bxc4 Bd6 9.Nb5 e5 10.Nxd6**  
last book move **10...cxd6 11.dxe5 dxe5 12.Qxd8 Rxd8** [Instead of 12...Nxd8 13.Nxe5 Re8 14.f4±]  
**13.b4 e4** : e4xf3 **14.Nd2 Ne5 15.Bb2 Nxc4 16.Nxc4 Be6 17.Nd2 Bf5** [17...a5 18.Bxf6 gxf6 19.Ke2=  
(≤19.Nxe4 axb4 20.Nxf6+ Kh8±) ] **18.Bxf6± gxf6 19.Nb3 Rd3** [△19...Rac8!± Black can hope to  
survive] **20.Nc5± Rd5 21.Nxb7 Rb8 22.Na5 Rc8 23.Nb3 Be6 24.Nd4 Rg5 25.g3 Rc3** [25...Rd5 26.0-  
0+-] **26.Kd2** [26.0-0!? Rc7+-] **26...Rd3+ 27.Kc2 Bd7** [27...Rd5 28.Rhc1+-] **28.a4 a5** [28...Rd5  
29.Rhd1 Rxd1 30.Kxd1+-] **29.Rhd1 axb4 30.Rxd3 exd3+ 31.Kxd3 Ra5 32.Kc4 Rxa4 33.Rxa4 Bxa4**  
**34.Kxb4 Bd7 35.Kc5 Kf8 36.Kd6 Bc8 37.Kc7 Ba6 38.Kd8 Bd3 39.Nb3 Be4 40.Nc5 Bd5 41.Nd7+**  
**Kg7 42.Ke7 f5 43.Kd6 Be6 44.Nc5 Ba2 45.Ke5 Kg6 46.Nd7 Bb1 47.f4** [47.Nf6 is better 47...Bd3+-]  
**47...Ba2** [47...Bc2 48.Nc5+-] **48.Nf6 h6** [48...Bb3 49.Ng8 Kg7 50.Ne7 f6+ 51.Kxf5+-] **49.Nd5 Bb1**  
[49...Kg7 50.Ne7 f6+ 51.Kxf5+-] **50.Ne7+ Kh5** [50...Kg7 51..Nxf5+ Kg6 52.e4+-] **51.Nxf5** [△51.h3 and  
White wins 51...Bd3 52.Kf6+-] **51...f6+ 52.Kxf6 Bxf5** Black wins a piece **53.Ke5** [53.Kxf5 is a bad  
alternative 53...-- 54.g4+ Kh4+-] **53...Bd7??** [△53...Kg6±] **.e4+- Kg4** .Bb5 the only chance to get  
some counterplay 55.Kf6 Kg4+-] **55.f5 Kh3 56.Kf4 Kxh2 57.g4 Kh3 58.g5 hxg5+ 59.Kxg5 Kg3 60.e5**  
**Kf3 61.e6 Bc8 62.e7 Bd7 63.f6 Be8 64.Kh6 1-0**

I finished joint second with J J Walsh in the City of Dublin in 1962.

### **(iii) Wolfgang Heidenfeld**

Wolfgang Heidenfeld was one of the greats of Irish chess and also had a high international reputation.

Born in Germany, he moved to South Africa during the 1930s where he won their national championship eight times and also represented them in the 1958 Olympiad. He then moved to Ireland and was equally successful here. He was Irish Champion six times (in 1958 he held both the Irish and South African titles) and also represented Ireland at four Olympiads.

At international level he beat former World Champion M. Euwe and the extremely strong grandmasters M Najdorf and L Pachman. He also drew with B Larsen, for many years a leading world championship candidate.

He wrote a number of chess books which were very well received. His last book, "Lacking the Master Touch", was an ironic comment on the fact that, despite being of the requisite standard, he had never been awarded the FIDE International Master Title.

The following game was played in the Armstrong Cup in 1965 on board 1 between UCD and Dublin. It is one of the few games where I opened 1.e4.

## **Cassidy,P - Heidenfeld,W [C14]**

**Armstrong, 1965**

**C14: French: Classical System: 4 Bg5 Be7 main line**

**1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Be7 5.e5 Nfd7 6.Bxe7 Qxe7 7.f4 0-0 8.Nf3 c5 9.Bd3 cxd4 last book move 10.Nb5 f6 g5 11.Nc7** [11.exf6 Nxf6 12.Nbxd4 Qb4+ 13.Qd2 Qxb2=] **11...fxe5= 12.fxe5 Rxf3??** [ $\geq$ 12...Nxe5 this is the best bet to save the position 13.Nxa8 Nxf3+ 14.gxf3 Qh4+ 15.Kd2 Nc6=] **13.Qxf3 Nxe5 14.Bxh7+! Kxh7 15.Qh5+ Kg8 16.Qxe5** [16.Nxa8?! Qb4+ 17.Kf2 Qd2+ 18.Kg1 Qe3+ 19.Kf1 Qf4+ 20.Kg1 Qe3+ 21.Kf1 Qf4+ 22.Kg1 Qe3+=] **16...Nc6 17.Qg3 Qb4+** [17...Rb8 18.0-0 d3 19.cxd3+-] **18.c3 dxc3 19.0-0 cxb2** [19...Nd4 20.Kh1 Nf5 21.Qe5 cxb2 22.Rab1+-] **20.Rae1 Rb8** [20...b6 21.Qg6 Nd4 22.Nxa8 Qe7+-] **21.Ne8 Qc5+** [21...Qd4+ is still a small chance 22.Kh1 Ne7 23.Nf6+ Kf7 24.Nxd5+ Nf5 25.Qxb8 Qxd5 26.Qxc8 a5+-] **22.Kh1 b6 23.Nf6+** [23.Qxg7#] **23...Kf7 24.Nd7+ Ke7 25.Nxb8** [25.Qxg7+ Kd8 26.Nxc5 Ne7 27.Nxe6+ Kd7 28.Nd8 Bb7 29.Qxe7+ Kc8 30.Nxb7 b1Q 31.Rf8#] **25...Nxb8+- 26.Qxb8 Qc3** [26...d4 27.Rb1 Qc4 28.Qxa7+ Bd7 29.Qa3+ Qc5 30.Qxb2+-] **27.Qf4** [27.Qxa7+ Bd7 28.Qb8 Be8 29.Qxb6 Qc6 30.Qxb2 Qd7+-] **27...Ba6** [27...Kd7 otherwise it's curtains at once 28.Qa4+ Kd6 29.Qxa7 Kc6+-] **28.Qf8+ Kd7 29.Rf7+ Kc6 30.Qe8+ Kc5 31.Rc7+ Kb4 32.Rxc3** 1-0 (not a premature resignation!)

This was my only win against Wolfgang Heidenfeld. Although he had an overall plus score against me it was not significant. Most of our games ended in draws.

A lawyer by profession, Wolfgang Heidenfeld was probably more universally respected than universally loved. He could be very forceful on occasions and he certainly did not tolerate fools gladly. He was a highly intelligent man who was easily frustrated when things were not done properly. The long postal strike in 1979 was the last straw for him as far as Ireland was concerned and he returned to Germany shortly after that.

I got on quite well with Wolfgang, however, and I do not remember any occasion of difficulty between us. I accepted and respected him for what he was and I think he had a reasonably tolerant attitude towards me.

Wolfgang was very interested in playing the odds in horse racing and poker. I heard that he owned a poker club in his earlier days and that, when his brother came to Ireland for a visit from Australia, they would bet on two flies going up a wall. I understand he made a big killing when Levmos won the Prix de L'arc de Triomphe in the 1960s.

Wolfgang was also a very strong bridge player and a compiler of crossword puzzles which I understand he syndicated to various newspapers abroad. He was an avid stamp collector and had a comprehensive collection of the stamps of German states.



What may not be too well known about Wolfgang is that he was a brilliant writer of English. He wrote like a native. His commentary in the “Chess” magazine of the 1956 Candidates tournament in Holland matched, and probably surpassed, any writing on chess I have seen in the English language.

### **(iv) Eamon Keogh**

During the 1960s and well beyond Eamonn Keogh was consistently at the very top echelon of Irish chess. He was joint Irish champion in 1975 and 1979, was Leinster Senior champion on four occasions (once jointly), was City of Dublin champion three times (once jointly), and was a member of the Irish team at three Olympiads.

It is hard to categorise Eamon’s style. He was primarily a tactician and liked active piece play but he was also at home in any position. Of all the players I have met he had the most realistic and practical outlook on chess. He took each game (and opponent) on its merits. He was the supreme opportunist in chess, nearly always taking immediate advantage of the slightest slip by an opponent.

Eamon always played with a high level of confidence, outwardly giving the impression that he was in full command of the position with little worries. This may have been a deliberate strategy to hide certain worries and anxiety which are present in most chess players. Nevertheless it was a highly effective play. It is an added pressure for a player when his/her opponent seems to be brimming with confidence on the other side of the table.

The following game was played in the 1964 City of Dublin championship:

#### **Keogh,E – Cassidy,P [C02] City of Dublin, 1964**

##### **C02: French: Advance Variation**

**1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3 Qb6 6.Be2 Bd7 7.0-0 f6 8.dxc5 Bxc5 9.b4 Be7** last book move **10.exf6** [10.c4 Qxb4 11.cxd5 exd5 12.Qxd5 Qc5±] **10...Bxf6** [10...Nxf6!? 11.Be3 Qc7≠] **11.Be3=** **11...Qc7** **12.Nd4** [12.Na3 a6 13.b5 Nce7=] **12...Nxd4** **13.cxd4 Ne7** **14.g4** [14.Nd2 Nf5 15.Nb3 b6=] **14...g6** [14...Ng6 15.Qc1 Qb6 16.Qd2≠] **15.Na3** White plans b5 [15.Nd2 Qd6±] **15...Qb6** **16.b5** [16.Qd2 0-0=] **16...Nc8** [16...h5 17.g5 Bg7 18.Qd2≠] **17.Bd3** [17.Rc1 Nd6≠] **17...Qd6** [17...0-0!? 18.Qa4 Qd6≠] **18.Nc2≠ e5** [18...0-0 19.Bd2 Rf7 20.Bb4≠] **19.dxe5** [19.Bh6!? e4 20.Be2=] **19...Bxe5≠** **20.Bd4** [△20.Bh6!? looks like a viable alternative 20...Nb6 21.Rc1≠] **20...Bxh2+≠** **21.Kg2 0-0** **22.Rh1** [22.a4 Be5-+] **22...Be5** **23.Bxe5** **24.Ne3?** [24.f3-+] **24...Nd6** **25.Re1** [25.Qd2 Qf4 26.Rh2 Bxg4-+] **25...d4** **26.Nf1** [26.Nf5 Qf6 27.Ne7+ Kg7-+] **26...Qf4** **27.f3** [27.Nh2 Qxf2+ 28.Kh1 Qf7-+ ] **27...Bxg4!** **28.Nh2** [28.fxg4 Qf2+ 29.Kh1 (29.Kh3 Rf3+ 30.Qxf3 (30.Ng3 Qxg3# Mate attack) 30...Qxf3+ Double attack) 29...Rf3 Combination; Δ28.-- Bxf3+ Wins material] **28...Bxf3+!** Deflection: f3. **29.Nxf3** **30.Qg4+** **30.Kf2** **Rxf3+!** decapitation **31.Qxf3** **Rf8** **32.Qxf8+** **Kxf8** **33.Rad1** **Qf4+** **34.Kg2** **Qg4+** **35.Kf2** **Qh3** **36.Rf1** [36.a4 Nf7 37.b6 axb6-+] **36...Kg7** **37.Rfe1** [37.37...Qe3+ 38.Kg2 Qg5+ 39.Kf3 Nf7-+] **37...Nf7** **38.Bf1** **Qf5+** **39.Kg2** [39.Kg1 9...Qg4+ 40.Kf2 Qf4+ 41.Kg2 Ne5-+] **39...Qg4+** **40.Kf2** **Qf4+** [40...Qf4+ 41.Kg2 Ne5-+] **0-1**

0-1 (White resigned on adjournment)

Eamonn had the greatest “neck” of anybody I ever met in the chess world. He would walk into a meeting confined to former World Champions and it would not cost him a thought. This confidence worked very well for Irish chess on many occasions, eg, when Eamon got the former World Champion Boris Spassky to come to Ireland and play a series of games here and he did make an important contribution generally to the development of Irish chess.

There were not too many people who were neutral about Eamon. He attracted both positive and negative views. I had the same birth date as Eamonn (he is two years younger than me) but there the resemblance ends. While there were times when he drove me mad (and still does) there were also times when I really admired his single-mindedness and self-confidence. He was a highly intelligent person who made the very most of his talents in chess and other areas.

Eamon beat grandmaster Stahlberg of Sweden at the 1964 Olympiad. Technically, it was the first Irish win over a grandmaster as official titles did not apply when J J Hanlon beat the future world champion Max Euwe of Holland and Brian Reilly beat grandmaster Reuben Fine of the USA, then one of the strongest players in the world, at the 1935 Olympiad.

Eamon’s win over grandmaster Stahlberg meant that Israel, the host country, qualified for the top section at the 1964 Olympiad. Eamon thus occupied hero status among the Israeli chess fraternity and I have no doubt he made the most of it!

### **(v) Ray Cassidy**

Ray Cassidy was a very strong player who was an ever present member of Irish Olympiad teams in the 1960s and early 1970s and who captained the team on at least two occasions.

Ray was a very fine all round player. He participated successfully at the highest level in Irish chess during the 1960s and beyond and was joint Leinster Senior Champion in 1966. Possibly his main weakness was a certain lack of belief in his own ability which may sometimes have affected his results. His attitude was in stark contrast to his contemporary Eamon Keogh who believed, or gave the impression, that he could win every game!

Ray, Eamon and myself “grew up together”, so to speak, in the Irish chess scene. We were part of a cohort of young players who were emerging and challenging the older chess elite of the time. In fact, from 1960 onwards this older group was gradually replaced and Irish Olympiad teams began to make a growing impact on the international chess scene.

Ray, Eamon and I also shared some non-chess interests. Eoghan Rua (their club) had a fierce rivalry at the time with my club Kevin Barry but that did not prevent us, together with other Eoghan Rua members such as Kevin Ryan and Malachy Doherty, from playing poker on a regular basis and also attending horse racing meetings.

I particularly remember a weekend where some of our activities will appear an anachronism to many who have got this far in reading this article. The group met on a Saturday morning and we went to the racing in the Phoenix Park. After a quick sandwich we (or at least some of us) then attended

confession in the church near Shelbourne Park and thereafter went to the greyhound racing there. Afterwards it was off to one of our houses where we played poker until about 4am, followed by Sunday morning mass at 5.30am in Merchant's Quay. An interesting day!

The following game was played in June 1966. Ray and I had shared the Leinster Senior title and there was a play-off of two games to determine the winner. Ray won the first game so I had to win this game to stay alive. Hence my choice of 1.e4 for my opening move.

### **Cassidy,P – Caasidy,R [C61] Leinster Senior Playoff, 1966**

#### **C61: Ruy Lopez: Bird's Defence**

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nd4 4.Nxd4 exd4 5.d3 c6 6.Ba4** last book move **6...Qa5+** [6...Bc5!?±] **7.c3± dxc3 8.Nxc3 d6 9.0-0 Nf6 10.d4 Be7 11.Re1 0-0 12.Bc2 Be6 13.f4 Rad8 14.Qd3 g6** [14...Rfe8 15.Be3 g6 16.f5±] **15.f5 Bc8 16.Bh6 Rfe8 17.Qf3 Qb6** [17...Qb4 18.Rad1+-] **18.Rad1 Qxb2** [18...a6 19.Bg5 Nd7 20.Bxe7 Rxe7 21.Rf1+-] **19.Bb3 Qa3 20.fxc6**[Δ20.Bg5 and White can look forward to a comfortable game 20...Kg7 21.e5 dxe5 22.dxe5 Rxd1 23.Qxd1 (23.Nxd1 Bc5+ 24.Kh1 Nd5±; ≤23.Bxf6+ Bxf6 24.exf6+ Kxf6 25.fxc6+ Bf5 26.Rxd1 Qc5+ 27.Kf1 fxc6+-) 23...Qc5+ 24.Kf1+-] **20...hxc6± 21.Qg3 d5 22.e5** [Δ22.exd5!?! is an interesting alternative 22...cxd5 23.Bg5±] **22...Nh5± 23.Qf3 Be6** [23...Ng7 24.Rf1 Be6 25.g4±] **24.Ne2** [24.g4 Ng7=] **24...Bf8 25.Bc1 Qb4 26.g4 26...Ng7 27.Nf4 Qe7 28.Be3** [28.h3 Bc8±] **28...Bc8± 29.Ng2** [29.Rf1 Ne6±] **29...Ne6± 30.h4 Qd7** [30...Bg7!?!±] **31.h5** [Δ31.Rf1=] **31...g5??** 31...Ng7 is a viable option 32.h6 Ne6=] **32.Bc2± Nf4?** [Δ32...Nc5 33.Bxc5 Qxc4 34.Qxc4 Bxc4 35.Bxd8 Bxd1 36.Bxd1 Rxd8 37.dxc5 Bxc5+ 38.Kh2 Re8+-] **33.Bxf4+-** [33.Nxf4?! gxf4 34.Bf5 Qc7 35.Bxf4 Bxf5 36.gxf5 Kh7+-] **33...gxf4 34.Qd3 f5** [34...f6 35.exf6 Qf7 36.Nxf4 Bh6+-] **35.gxf5 Qh7** [35...Bh6 36.f6 Qf7 37.Kf2+-] **36.Nxf4 Bh6** [36...Bg7 37.Re3 Rf8 38.e6+-] **37.Qg3+ Kf7** [37...Qg7 38.Ng6+-] **38.Qg6+** [38.e6+ Kf8 39.Ng6+ Kg8 40.f6 Rxe6 41.Rxe6 Bxe6 42.Ne7+ Kf7 43.Bxh7 Ke8 44.Nxd5 Be3+ 45.Kf1 Bg5 46.Bg6+ Kf8 47.Qxc5 Rd7 48.Qh6+ Kg8 49.Ne7+ Rxe7 50.fxe7 Bc4+ 51.Kf2 Bxa2 52.e8Q#] **38...Qxc6+ 39.hxc6+** [39.fxc6+?! Kg8 40.Ne2 Bg4±] **39...Kf8 40.Nh5 c5 41.dxc5** [41.dxc5 Bg5 42.Kg2+-] **1-0**

After that, we played two more games resulting in short draws and agreed to share the title.

I had a slightly plus overall score against Ray. He was a person with whom I got on very well and liked very much. I was very saddened by his death at an early age.

#### **(vi) Bernard Kernan**

Together with Wolfgang Heidenfeld, I think Bernard Kernan was the best Irish player I have met.

He was also the one who caused me the most grief. I blew two winning positions against him in very important tournaments and I nearly succeeded in doing so in a third.

The first time it happened was in the Dublin Matchplay Tournament of 1970. The format of that tournament was that one played a four game match against an opponent and the winner advanced to the next round. Bernard was very young (15 years of age) when I met him but he was incredibly talented even at that age. He led 2-1 in the match and I had to win the last game to stay in alive.

I prepared meticulously for the game, suspecting that Bernard would play the Marshall Gambit, which he duly did, against my Ruy Lopez. It was a titanic game. The middle game was very much like my game against Michael Littleton (above), where Black strove to capitalise on his initiative for his

pawn sacrifice and White fought to stabilise matters before realising this material advantage. This time, however, the pressure on White's position was even greater. It was relentless and lasted for some 30 moves. White had to find the very best defence throughout to maintain his material plus.

The game was adjourned after 40 moves with White having two pieces against a Rook and pawn. The next session involved very complicated manoeuvring where Bernard sacrificed his Rook for one of my two Bishops to leave a position where I had an extra piece with two pawns each on the King side, both my pawns being doubled. It was a very difficult and complicated ending.

About six moves before the end of the second session Bernard claimed a draw by threefold repetition of moves. That had in fact occurred but he had not claimed the draw correctly ( he had moved his piece and then claimed the draw whereas he should have indicated that he was **going to move** his piece to a square which would result in a threefold repetition of moves).

During the second adjournment I had analysed the position extensively to a forced win. We began the third session and I made my move. Immediately Bernard got up and went to the wall of the chess club (it was the Dublin Chess Club) where the rules of chess were displayed. He returned and again claimed a draw (this time correctly) by repetition of moves!

You can imagine my consternation when I saw that this was correct. I had completely overlooked the fact that my move repeated a position which had happened some moves ago!

The whole episode was extremely disappointing for me but one has to admire the razor sharpness of Bernard's mind. The threefold repetition he claimed had not occurred in sequence; there was quite a gap between the positions in question. The fact he noticed the repetition in such circumstances and under the considerable tension of a very tense game was truly remarkable in my opinion.

Anyway, here is the game which, in my opinion, contains very high class chess throughout on both sides.

### **Cassidy,P – Kernan,B [C89]**

**Dublin Match Play, 1970**

**C89: Closed Ruy Lopez: Marshall Attack**

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 0-0 8.c3 d5 9.exd5 Nxd5 10.Nxe5 Nxe5 11.Rxe5 Nf6 12.h3 Bd6 13.Re1 Ng4 14.Qf3 Qh4 15.d4 Nxf2 16.Re2 Bg4 17.hxg4 Bg3** (Bh2 was played in the Famous Capablanca Marshall game from 1918) **18.Rxf2 Qh2+ 19.Kf1 Qh1+** (Now we are back to Capa's game) **20.Ke2 Bxf2 21.Bd2 Bh4 22.Qh3** last book move In this position Bernard finally play a different rook move to the one played in the famous Capablanca –Marshall game won by Capablanca in 36 moves. **22...Rfe8+** [22...Rae8+ 23.Kd3 Qf1+ 24.Kc2+-] **23.Kd3 Qf1+ 24.Kc2 c5** [24...Qf6 25.a4 h6+-] **25.Bd5??** [Δ25.dxc5 and the rest as the say is a matter of technique 25...Qf6 26.a4+-] **25...Rad8± 26.Qf3** [26.Qxh4 Rxd5 27.Qg3 cxd4-+] **26...Qxf3 27.Bxf3** [27.gxf3? Rxd5 28.dxc5 Rxc5-+] **27...cxd4 28.cxd4** [28.a4!?±] **28...Rxd4± 29.Bc3 29...Rc8 30.Kb3 Rd3 31.a4 Be7 32.axb5 axb5 33.Kc2 33...Rd7** [33...Rdd8!? 34.Ra7 Bc5=] **34.Ra8± Rxa8 35.Bxa8 Rc7 36.Kd3** [36.Kb3 Rc8 37.Bb7 Rd8±] **36...Rd7+= 37.Ke3 Rd1** [37...b4!? 38.Bd4 h5=] **38.Be4± f6?** [38...Bc5+ 39.Ke2 Rd7 40.b3±] **39.Bd4** [Δ39.b4!?+-] **39...b4** [39...f5 40.Bd3 fxg4 41.Nc3 Bg5+ 42.Ke4±] **40.Nd2± g6 41.Bd5+ Kg7 42.Nb3 Bd6 43.Ke2 Rh1 44.Kd3 Re1 45.Kc4 Re2 46.Kd3 46...Re1 47.Nc5 Rd1+** [47...Be5 48.Bxe5 fxe5 49.Kc4±] **48.Kc4± h6?** [Δ48...Be5 49.Bxe5 fxe5±] **49.Bf3+- Rxd4+?!** [49...Rf1+-] **50.Kxd4 Be5+ 51.Kc4 Bxb2 52.Kxb4 Be5 53.Nd3 Bd6+ 54.Kc4 Kf7 55.Kd5 Bb8 56.Bd1 Bg3 57.Bf3 f5?** [57...Bb8 58.Ke4 Bd6+-] **58.gxf5 gxf5 59.Ne5+ Kf6 60.Nd7+ Kg5 61.Ke6 h5 62.Nf6 h4 63.Nd5 h3** Black prepares f4 [63...Bh2+-] **64.gxh3 Kh4 65.Bg2 Kg5** [65...Be1 66.Ne7+- (66.Kxf5?! is much

weaker 66...Kg3+-] **66.Ne3 f4 67.Nf1** [67.Nf5 Bf2+-] **67...Kg6** [67...Kh4 68.Nd2 Bf2+-] **68.Nd2 Be1 69.Nf3 Bf2 70.Ke5 Bg3** [70...Be3 71.Nh4+ Kg5 72.Nf5+-] **71.Ke4 Kf6** [71...Kh5 72.Kf5+-] **72.Nd4** [72.Bf1!.Kg6+-] **72...Kg5** [72...Bf2 73.Nf5 Be3+-] **73.Nf3+ Kf6 74.Ne5** [74.Bf1 .Kf7+-] **74...Kg5 75.Nf3+** Twofold repetition [75.Bf1! Kf6+-] **75...Kf6 76.Nd2** [Δ76.Bf1!? seems even better 76...Ke6+-] **76...Be1 77.Nf3** ½-½

As indicated earlier, Bernard was only 15 years old when this game was played and I thought that his standard of chess was incredible for one so young.

If I thought this experience was bad, the next one was catastrophic. This happened in round 8 of the Irish Championship 1974. A win for me would have put me in a very strong position to challenge for the title in the final round. I played a very good game, got a winning position, refused numerous draws, made a very nice and not obvious Rook sacrifice to force mate, and then blew it all! Here is the game.

### **Kernan,B – Cassidy,P [C00]** Irish Championship, 1974

#### **C00: French: Unusual White 2nd moves**

**1.e4 e6 2.d3 c5 3.g3 d5 4.Nd2 g6 5.Bg2 Bg7** last book move **6.Ne2 Nc6 7.0-0 Nge7 8.f4** [8.exd5 exd5 9.Nf4 Bf5=] **8...f5** [8...0-0 9.Nc3≠] **9.Nf3** [9.e5 0-0=] **9...d4** [9...fxe4 10.dxe4 0-0 11.c3=] **10.Nh4** [10.Nd2 fxe4 11.Nxe4 b6=] **10...Qc7** [Δ10...0-0≠] **11.g4??** [11.e5!?!=] **11...Bf6** [11...fxg4 12.e5 Qd8 13.Ng3-+] **12.Qe1** [12.g5 Bg7 13.c3 fxe4 14.Bxe4 Nf5≠] **12...Nb4** [Δ12...fxg4 13.e5 Bg7-+] **13.Qg3?** [Δ13.g5 Bg7 14.Qd1≠] **13...Nxc2-+ 14.Rb1** [14.g5 Bxg5 15.fxg5 Qxg3 16.Nxg3 Nxa1 17.exf5 exf5 18.Rf2-+] **14...Bd7??** [Δ14...fxg4!?! 15.Qxg4 c4 16.e5 Bxh4 17.Qxh4 cxd3 18.Ng3-+] **15.Bd2** [15.g5 Bg7 16.Bd2 h6 17.exf5 gxf5≠ (17...exf5?! 18.Rbc1 hxg5 19.Nxg6 (≤19.Qxg5 Qd6 20.Bxb7 Rb8 21.Rxc2 Rxb7-+) 19...Nxg6 20.Qxg5=)] **15...Bb5** [Δ15...fxg4 with excellent chances for Black 16.Rbc1 Ne3 17.Bxe3 dxe3-+] **16.g5= 16...Bg7 17.b4??** [Δ17.exf5 was much better 17...exf5 18.Rfc1=] **17...c4-+ 18.Rb2** [18.exf5 exf5 19.dxc4 Bxc4 20.Rf2-+] **18...cxd3 19.Nc1 Ne3!** **20.Nb3** [20.Bxe3 dxe3 Passed pawn; Δ20.-- Nxf1 Wins material] **20...Nxf1 21.Kxf1 Kf7** [21...fxe4!?! seems even better 22.Bxe4 0-0 23.Kg1-+] **22.Nc5** [22.Kg1 is not much help 22...Rac8-+] **22...fxe4** [Δ22...b6!?! and Black can already relax 23.Nxd3 Qc4 24.Rb3-+] **23.Bxe4 Nd5 24.Bxd5 exd5 25.Qf3 Rhd8 26.a4 Bc4 27.Kg1 b6 28.Nxd3 Bxd3 29.Qxd3 Kg8 30.f5 Qc4 31.Qh3 gxf5 32.Nxf5 d3 33.Rb1 Qe4** [33...Re8! 34.Rc1 Qe4 35.Nxg7 Kxg7 36.Rc7+ Kh8 37.Rf7-+] **34.Nxg7 Qd4+** [34...Kxg7?! is clearly worse 35.Re1 Qd4+ 36.Kg2=] **35.Kh1 Qxg7 36.Rc1** [36.Qxd3 Qg6 37.Qxg6+ hxg6 38.Kg2-+] **36...Qg6 37.Rc7 .Qe4+ 38.Kg1 Qd4+** [Δ38...Rf8 makes sure everything is clear 39.g6 Qxg6+ 40.Qg3 Qxg3+ 41.hxg3 Rfc8 42.Rxc8+ Rxc8-+] **39.Kh1??** [39.Kg2 Qe4+ 40.Kg1-+] **39...Qe4-+ 40.Kg1 Rf8 41.Bc3** [41.g6 Qxg6+ 42.Qg3 Qxg3+ 43.hxg3-+] **41...d4** [41...Rf3 42.Qxh7+ Qxh7 43.Rxh7 Kxh7 44.a5 Rc8 45.Kg2 Re3 46.Bd2 Re2+ 47.Kg3 Rxd2 48.axb6 axb6 49.h4 Rg2+ 50.Kf3 d2 51.g6+ Rxg6 52.Ke2 Rg2+ 53.Kf3 d1Q+ 54.Kxg2 Qe2+ 55.Kg3 Rg8+ 56.Kf4 Qe4#] **42.Bd2 Rf3** [Δ42...Rae8 might be the shorter path 43.Rc1 Qe2-+] **43.Qd7** [43.Re7 desperation 43...Qxe7 44.Qxf3-+] **43...Rf1+!** Black has to consider giving back material **44.Kxf1 Qh1+ 45.Kf2 Qxh2+** [45...Rf8+ 46.Qf7+ Rxf7+ 47.Rxf7 Qxh2+ 48.Kf3 Kxf7 49.Bc1 Qh1+ 50.Kg3 Qxc1 51.g6+ hxg6 52.a5 Qe1+ 53.Kh2 Qe2+ 54.Kg3 d2 55.b5 Qe3+ 56.Kh4 d1Q 57.axb6 g5#] **46.Kf3+- Qh1+** [46...Rf8+ 47.Ke4 Qe2+ 48.Kxd4 Qf2+ 49.Be3 Qf7 50.Qxf7+ Rxf7 51.Rxf7 Kxf7 52.Kxd3 Kg7+-] **47.Kf4 Rf8+ 48.Ke5 Qh2+ 49.Kd5** [49.Kd5 Qxc7 50.Qxc7+-] **1-0**

44.....Rf8+ mates. This is the move I had intended to play after the Rook sacrifice but I was in horrendous time trouble and decided to play the “safer” Qh1+ after which his King gets away.

Bernard deserves credit for playing on in a position where most people would have given up. He kept creating tactical problems which led to my time pressure and ultimate defeat.

This loss represented the end of my serious chess career. For many years I simply could not come to terms with it. I had, of course, previously lost won positions like we all do but for some reason this one seared into my soul. There was so much at stake and I had played so well to conjure up a beautiful finish with the Rook sacrifice. I have now come to terms with it but it still hurts to reproduce it here and experience once again the calamitous finish.

After all this it is a relief to show one of my wins against Bernard. This was from the Olympiad Candidates Tournament (for the Skopje Olympiad) 1972. Even here, Bernard claimed a threefold draw by repetition near the end of the game but for once he was incorrect. Had he been right, I think the Liffey at high tide would have become quite a possibility!

### **Cassidy,P – Kernan,B [A23] Olympiad Candidates Tournament Dublin, 1972**

**A23: English Opening: 1...e5 2 Nc3 Nf6 3 g3 c6**

**1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.g3 c6 4.Nf3 e4 5.Nd4 d5 6.cxd5 cxd5 7.Bg2 Qb6 8.Nb3 Bf5 9.d3 exd3** last book move **10.exd3** [10.0-0 Nc6 11.Bg5±] **10...d4?** [△10...Bg4!/? 11.Be3 Qd8±] **11.Nxd4!+- 11...Qxd4?** [11...Qxd4 12.Qe2+ **12.Bxb7 Bxd3 13.Be3** [13.Bxa8?! Bb4 14.Be3 Bxc3+ 15.bxc3 Qxc3+ 16.Bd2 Qe5+ 17.Be3 Qc3+ 18.Bd2 Qe5+ 19.Be3 Qc3+=] **13...Qc4** [13...Qd7 14.Bxa8 Bb4 15.Qb3+-] **14.Bxa8 Bb4** [14...Nbd7 15.Qb3+-] **15.Qb3 Bxc3+** [15...Nbd7 16.Qxc4 Bxc4 17.0-0-0+-] **16.Qxc3 0-0** [16...Qxc3+ does not save the day 17.bxc3 0-0 18.0-0-0+-] **17.Qxc4 Bxc4 18.Bf3** [18.b3 Bd5 19.Bxd5 Nxd5 20.Bxa7 Nc6+-] **18...Re8 19.Be2 Bd5** [19...Bxe2 20.Kxe2 Nc6 21.Rhd1+-] **20.0-0 Nc6 21.Rfe1** [21.Rfc1!/? 21...Re6+-] **21...Nb4 22.Rac1 Nxa2 23.Rc7 h6 24.Bc4 Nb4** [24...25.Bxa6 Nb4 26.Bf1+-] **25.Bxd5** [25.Bd2! 25...Rb8 26.Bxb4 Rxb4 27.Bxd5 Nxd5 28.Re8+ Kh7 29.Rxf7 Rxb2+-] **25...Nfxd5** [25...Nbx5 does not solve anything 26.Rxa7 g5 27.Ra4+-] **26.Rxa7 Nd3** [26...Nc2 27.Rd1 Ncxe3 28.fxe3 Nxe3 29.Rdd7+-] **27.Rd1 N5b4** [27...Nxe3 28.Rxd3 Ng4 29.b4+-] **28.Bd4 Re2** [28...Rd8 29.Bc3 Rb8 30.Rd7+-] **29.Bc3 g5** [29...Kh7 30.Rxf7 Ne5 31.Rb7+-] **30.Bxb4** [△30.g4 30...Kf8 31.Ra4 Re4 32.Rxd3 Rxg4+ 33.Rg3 Rxg3+ 34.fxg3 Nd5+-] **30...Nxb4 31.Rd8+ Kg7 32.Rdd7 Rxb2** [32...Nc6 33.Rxf7+ Kg6 34.Rg7+ Kf5 35.Raf7+ Ke6 36.Rb7+-] **33.Rxf7+ Kg6 34.Rfb7 Nd3 35.Rxb2 Nxb2 36.Ra6+ Kg7 37.Kg2 Nc4** [37...g4 38.f3+-] **38.Ra7+** [△38.Kf3 Nb2+-] **38...Kg6 39.Ra6+ Kg7 40.Kf3 Ne5+ 41.Ke4** [41.Ke4 Ng4 42.Kf5 Nxe2 43.Ra7+ Kf8 44.Rh7+-] **1-0**

I have not records of all my games against some of my earlier opponents indicated above. I kept the vast majority of game scores but some went astray. I do, however, have precise details of my overall record against Bernard. I won two, drew one, and lost four. Not too bad considering the two disasters indicated above.

### **(vii) John Moles**

John Moles was another very high class player who emerged during the 1960s He won the Irish Championship on two occasions and was also a member of the Irish Olympiad team. He was the author of some very well received books on the French Defence in which he was an expert. He actually appears in a book of Karpov's games. They played against each other in a students' tournament and, even though John lost, Karpov was very complimentary about his play.

I only played John once. The game took place in the second round of the Cuba Olympiad candidates' tournament in 1966. It is given in my report on the Havana 1966 Olympiad which has been on the ICU website but I am reproducing it here for completeness. I have always regarded it as probably my finest positional game.

**Cassidy,P – Moles,J [A72]**  
**Olympiad Candidates Tournament Dublin, 1966**

**English**

**1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 g6 3.d4 Bg7 4.e4 0-0 5.Be2 d6 6.Bg5 c5 7.d5 e6 8.Nf3 exd5 9.cxd5 h6 10.Bh4 Re8 11.Nd2 Na6 12.0-0 Nc7 13.a4** last book move **13...g5 14.Bg3 Qe7 15.Qc2** [15.Qb3 Nd7 16.Nc4 Ne5 17.Ne3 Ng6 18.Rae1 Nf4 19.Bxf4 gxf4 20.Nc4 Rd8 21.Bf3 Bd4 22.h3 Qg5 23.Ne2 Be5 24.Nxe5 Qxe5 ] **15...Nd7** [13: 15...Nfxd5 16.exd5 Bxc3 17.bxc3 Qxe2 18.c4 Na6 19.Bxd6 Nb4 20.Qc3 Qd3 21.Qxd3 Nxd3 22.f4 g4 23.Nb3 b6 24.a5 Bd7 25.Be5 b5 26.cxb5 Bxb5 27.Rfb1 0.11/21 ] **16.Nc4 Ne5 17.Ne3 Ng6 18.Bd3 h5 19.f3** [19.Nc4 Ne5 20.Bxe5 Bxe5 21.Nxe5 Qxe5 22.Qd2 Bd7 23.h3 Rac8 24.Be2 h4 25.Ra3 Kg7 26.Bb5 Rcd8 27.Bxd7 Rxd7 28.Rb3 b6 29.Qd3 Kg6 ] **19...Bd4 20.Bf2 Nf4 21.Nc4 Na6 22.Qd2 Qf6** [22...Nb4 23.Bb1 Bxf2+ 24.Rxf2 h4 25.Ne2 Ng6 26.f4 gxf4 27.Nxf4 Ne5 28.Nxe5 Qxe5 29.Nd3 Qxe4 30.Qg5+ Qg6 31.Qxg6+ ffg6 32.Nxb4 Re1+ 33.Rf1 Rxf1+ 34.Kxf1 cxb4 35.Bxg6 Bd7 ] **23.Nb5 Bxf2+** [23...Be5 24.Rfd1 Bd7 25.Be3 Bxb5 26.axb5 Nb4 27.Bf1 h4 28.Re1 Kg7 29.Ra3 Rg8 30.Rea1 h3 31.Rxa7 Rxa7 ] **24.Rxf2 Rd8 25.Bf1 Ng6 26.Rd1 Ne5** [26...h4 27.Re1 Qe7 28.Ncxd6 Rxd6 29.Nxd6 Qxd6 30.Qxg5 Nb4 31.f4 Qe7 32.Qxe7 Nxe7 33.Bb5 a6 34.d6 axb5 35.dxe7 Bd7 36.Rd1] **27.Nxe5** [27.Nbxd6 Rxd6 28.Nxd6 Qxd6 29.Qxg5+ Kf8 30.Qxh5 Kg7 31.Bxa6 bxa6 32.f4 Ng4 33.Rf3 c4 34.Rg3 Qb6+ 35.Kh1 Qg6 36.Qxg6+ ffg6 37.Rd4 Nf2+ 38.Kg1 Nd3 39.Rxc4 Nxf4] **27...dxe5 28.Na3 b6 29.g3 Qg7** [29...Nb4 30.Nb5 Bd7 31.Qe3 Kh7 32.d6 h4 33.Rfd2 hxg3 34.hxg3 Rh8 35.a5 Kg7 36.Nc7 Rad8 37.Ra1 Rc8 38.axb6 axb6 39.Bc4] **30.Kh1 Nb8** [30...Nb4 31.Qc3 Nc6 32.Rb1 Nd4 33.b4 cxb4 34.Qxb4 Bd7 35.Nc2 Nxc2 36.Rxc2 Rac8 37.Rbc1 Qf6 38.Kg2 h4 39.Rxc8 Rxc8 40.Rxc8+ Bxc8 41.Kf2 h3 42.a5 Bg4 ] **31.Qc3** [31.Bb5 Qf6 32.Qe3 Bd7 33.Nc4 a6 34.Bxd7 Nxd7 35.Qb3 Rdb8 36.d6 b5 37.Ne3 Qe6 38.Qc3 c4 39.Kg2 Nc5 ] **31...Nd7 32.Nc4 f6 33.f4 g4** [ 33...exf4 34.gxf4 g4 35.Ne3 Nf8 36.Bc4 Ng6 37.b4 cxb4 38.Qxb4 Bd7 39.d6+ Kh7 40.a5 Bc6 41.Bd5 bxa5 42.Qxa5 Rxd6 43.Bxc6 Rxc6 44.Qxh5+] **34.Bg2 Rf8 35.Nd6 h4 36.Nf5 Qh7 37.Nxh4 exf4 38.Rxf4 Ne5 39.Rdf1 Ba6 40.Rd1** [40.R1f2 Rad8 41.d6 Qh6 42.Nf5 Qh5 43.Bf1 Bxf1 44.Rxf1 Kh7 45.a5 Qf7 46.h4 Rd7 47.axb6 axb6 48.Ra1 Qc4 49.Qd2 Re8 ] **40...Bc8 41.Bf1 a6** [41...Qd7 42.Ra1 Qd6 43.Be2 Rf7 44.Nf5 Bxf5 45.Rxf5 Raf8 46.b3 Rb8 47.Raf1 Rbf8 48.a5 Rg7 49.axb6 axb6 50.Ra1 Rd8 51.Rh5 Rh7 52.Rxh7 Kxh7 53.Kg2 Re8] **42.Be2 Bd7 43.Rdf1 Qg7 44.a5 b5** [44...Rab8 45.Nf5 Bxf5 46.Rxf5 bxa5 47.d6 Kh7 48.R1f4 Qg6 49.Bxa6 c4 50.Bxc4 Rbc8 51.b3 a4 52.Qd4 axb3 53.Bxb3 Rc1+] **45.Qxc5 Rac8 ] 46.Qd6 Rc2 47.Rxf6 Rxf6 48.Rxf6 Rxe2 49.Qxe5 Rxe4 50.Qxe4 Qxf6 51.Qg6+ 1-0**

John Moles won the Irish Championship in Belfast later that year. I did not compete. I had used all my holiday entitlements in participating in the Havana Olympiad. I always felt that 1966, in which I played my best chess by far, was my best opportunity to win the Irish.

John went on to considerable success in chess and achieved high academic distinctions (he was head of the classics department at Durham University and later Professor of Latin at Newcastle University). He died in 2015 at the relatively young age of 66.

**(viii) Paul Henry**

Paul Henry was an extremely strong player. He tied for the Irish Championship with Wolfgang Heidenfeld in 1967 and won it outright in 1970 ahead of John Moles. He was a member of the Irish Olympiad team in 1974. When he went to Cambridge University in 1969 he had a number of notable results against top English players, including Raymond Keene, later Grandmaster.

Paul graduated from Cambridge with a first class degree in mathematics and later achieved his doctorate in pure mathematics in 1976. After returning to Belfast that year, he decided to change careers. He began medicine studies in 1977 and, after qualifying in 1982, pursued a career in medicine which led to his appointment as a consultant in clinical oncology in 1994.

With all of these academic pursuits and his interest in other activities ( literature, music, theology, sports, meeting people from other academic disciplines and other walks of life), Paul's concentration on chess gradually diminished as these activities and pursuits encouraged a broadening of the mind rather than a concentration on one particular activity. To my knowledge, he has not played ant serious chess for at least 25 years.

The following game (the only one time I met Paul in a tournament) was played in the Irish Championship in Cork in 1973. In a very double edged position Paul missed my tactical shot late in the game.

### **Cassidy,P – Henry,P [D55]**

**Irish Championship, 1973**

**D55: Queen's Gambit Declined: 4 Bg5 Be7: Lines without ...h6 and 6...h6 7 Bxf6**

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Bg5 Be7 5.Nf3 0-0 6.e3 b6 7.cxd5 exd5 8.Bd3 Bb7 9.0-0 Nbd7 10.Qe2 a6 11.Rfd1 Re8 12.Rac1 last book move 12...h6 13.Bxf6 Nxf6 14.Ne5 Qd6 [14...c5 15.Bc2=] 15.f4± c5 16.a3 c4 17.Bb1 b5 18.Qf3 Bf8 19.Qh3 Ne4 20.Nxe4 [20.Bxe4 dxe4 21.Qh5 Qc7±] 20...dxe4± 21.g4 [21.Qd7 Bd5±] 21...Bd5 [21...Qe6!±] 22.g5± hxg5 23.fxg5 Rxe5 24.dxe5 Qxe5 White wins the exchange 25.Qg3 Qxb2 26.Qf4? [26.Rc2!? Qb3 27.Rcd2=] 26...Qxa3 [26...Re8!? 27.Rc2 Qe5 28.Qxe5 Rxe5-+] 27.Bxe4± Bc5 [27...Bxe4 28.Qxe4 Ra7 29.g6±] 28.Re1 [28.Kf2 Bd6 29.Qf5 Bxe4 30.Qxe4 Rc8±] 28...Bxe4± 29.Qxe4 Rd8 30.g6 Qd3 31.gxf7+ Kxf7 [31...Kf8 32.Qxd3 Rxd3± (32...cxd3?? 33.Rxc5 Kxf7 34.Kf2+-) ] 32.Rf1+= Kg8 33.Qe6+ Kh8?? [△33...Kh7 the only rescuing move 34.Qh3+ Kg8 35.Qe6+ Kh7 36.Qh3+ Kg8 37.Qe6+=] 34.Rf3+- g6?? [34...Bxe3+ 35.Qxe3 Qd7+-] 35.Qf6+ [35.Qf6+ Kg8 36.Qf7+ Kh8 37.Rh3#] 1-0**

Paul Henry was an extremely pleasant person and we got on very well together during the championship. I remember we spent some pleasant times walking and discussing topics other than chess.

### **(ix) Philip Short**

I only played one game against Philip but I have decided to include it in view of his recent much lamented death.

The game was played in the penultimate round of the 1980 Irish Championship. I adjourned on move 40 in a winning position but only had an hour for analysis before the game was resumed later that night.

A friend of mine was also playing in the Irish Championship that year and he offered to analyse the adjourned position with me. I only like to analyse on my own but I could not refuse his kind offer which was made in good faith.



The analysis was a disaster. We never systematically analysed the position. We basically jumped from Billy to Jack with different candidate moves without analysing any of them in any logical way.

When I got back to the board I had little or no confidence. I could not concentrate my energies on the position and all I was afraid of was that Philip would skewer my Queen with his Queen checks! The game quickly petered out into a draw. Bad play from me but full credit to Philip for taking his opportunities.

Here is the game:

### **Short,P – Cassidy,P [D55] Irish Championship, 10.1980**

**D55: Queen's Gambit Declined: 4 Bg5 Be7: Lines without ...h6 and 6...h6 7 Bxf6**

**1.d4 e6 2.c4 Nf6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 Be7 5.Bg5 0-0 6.e3 Ne4 7.Bxe7 Qxe7 8.Bd3 Nxc3 9.bxc3** last book move **9...b6 10.cxd5 exd5 11.Qa4 Bb7 12.Ne5** [12.Qc2 h6±] **12...c5= 13.0-0 c4 14.Bb1 f6 15.Nf3 Nd7 16.Bf5 16...Rf7 17.Rae1 g6 18.Bb1 f5 19.Nd2** [19.Bc2 a5 20.Rb1 Qd6=] **19...Qd6 20.f3 Bc6 21.Qc2 Raf8** White's is very cramped: **22.Re2** [22.Qb2 b5±] **22...Nf6± 23.Qc1 Re8** [23...b5 24.Qb2±] **24.Rfe1 b5** White has a cramped position [24...Rfe7±] **25.Nf1?** [25.e4!? is noteworthy 25...fxe4 26.fxe4±] **25...Rb7** [25...b4 26.Ng3±] **26.Ng3 Rbe7** [26...b4 27.e4 dxe4 28.fxe4 Nxe4 29.Nxe4 Bxe4 30.Bxe4 fxe4 31.cxb4 Qxd4+ 32.Qe3-+] **27.Qd2** [27.Bxf5 gxf5 28.Nxf5 Qe6 29.Nxe7+ Qxe7=] **27...a5** [△27...Re6!±] **28.Bxf5= gxf5 29.Nxf5 Qe6 30.Nxe7+ Qxe7 31.g4** [31.Rb1 Kg7=] **31...b4±** Nimzovich: attack the chain at its base **32.g5** [32.Qc2!± should be investigated more closely] **32...Nh5± 33.e4** [33.Qc1!±] **33...bxc3-+ 34.Qc1 dxe4 35.fxe4 Qd7 36.d5** [36.Qxc3?? the pawn contains a lethal dose of poison 36...Nf4 37.Qxc4+ Bd5-+] **36...Bxd5** [△36...Ba4!? 37.Qxc3 Nf4±] **37.exd5= Rxe2 38.Rxe2 Qg4+ 39.Rg2 Qd4+ 40.Kh1??** [△40.Rf2 is the best chance 40...Qg4+ 41.Kf1 Qh3+ 42.Ke1=] **40...Nf4-+ 41.Qe1** [41.Qb1 Qe5-+] **41...Nxc2 42.Qe8+** [42.Qe6+ hoping against hope 42...Kh8 43.Kxc2-+] **42...Kg7 43.Qe7+ Kg6 44.Qe6+ Kxc2 45.Kxc2 c2 46.h4+ Kf4** [△46...Kxh4 and Black takes home the point 47.Qe7+ Kg4 48.Qe2+ Kf4 49.Qxc2 Qxd5+ 50.Kg1 Qd3 51.Qf2+ Kg4-+] **47.Qh6+ Ke4 48.Qxh7+ Kxd5 49.Qxc2** ½-½

Philip was undoubtedly one of the strongest chess players of his generation. He was Irish chess champion on five occasions and was placed first three times at the Kilkenny Chess Congress and the Mulcahy Memorial respectively. He was twice a member of the Irish Olympiad team and in 1990 was awarded the FIDE Master title.

Philip wore all his accomplishments lightly and was a popular and well liked player on the chess scene. He will be sorely missed.

### **PART 3-CORRESPONDENCE GAMES**

In 1995 I took up correspondence chess and played on the Irish team in the NATT IV (North Atlantic Team Tournament) and later in the Olympiad XIII Preliminaries.

At that time correspondence chess suited me very well. I loved analysis and computers had not yet taken over. I spent many hours on many positions and never used a computer on any of them. All the moves I played in correspondence chess came out of my own head. I did not see how one could gain any satisfaction from using a computer as an aid in playing this type of chess. Might as well give the computer a name and enter that instead of your own if you choose to play chess that way.

I did very well in the NATT IV, scoring an unbeaten 7 points from 10 games (IM norm was 8 points) but not so well in the Olympiad XIII preliminaries although I beat a correspondence IM in that event (see later).

The following games are taken from the **NATT IV** competition.

The first is against B Ellis of England who had a rating of 2410. I played the opening indifferently but started playing well in the early middle game. We reached a fantastically complicated middle game where I appeared to be under very serious pressure but I had thoroughly analysed all variations (taking days with some moves) and was satisfied that I had the upper hand. The White Queen's Bishop is a hero!

**Cassidy,P (2250) – Ellis,B (2410) [A07]**  
NATT4-07 9599 corr, 20.12.1995

**1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.0-0 e5 5.d3 Ne7 6.e4 0-0 7.Qe2 Nbc6 8.c3 b6 9.exd5 Nxd5 10.a3 Bb7 11.b4 Qd6 12.Nfd2 Rad8 13.b5 Na5 14.Nc4 Qc5 15.a4 15...Nxc3!? 16.Nxc3 e4 17.Nxa5 exd3 18.Qa2 Bxg2 19.Kxg2 Qxc3 20.Bd2 Qc2 21.Nc6 Rd7 22.Rfc1 Qb2 23.Re1 Qc2 24.Re7 Bxa1?! [24...Rd6 Cassidy] 25.Qxc2 dxc2 26.Rxd7 Bb2 27.Rxc7 Ba3 28.Nd4 1-0**

In the next game T Olafsson (2,315) of Iceland went astray in the two Knight's Defence and allowed my Bishops to rake his King side. This was my first win in correspondence chess.

**(4) Olafsson,T (2315) – Cassidy,P (2250) [C55]**  
NATT4-07 , 20.12.1995

**1.e4** Cassidy for ICCA Newsletter **1...e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d4 exd4 5.e5 d5 6.Bb5 Ne4 7.Nxd4 Bd7 8.Bxc6 bxc6 9.0-0 Bc5 10.Be3 Qe7 11.Re1 0-0 12.f3 Ng5 13.Qd2 f6 14.Kh1 h6 15.Bxg5 hxg5** All of these moves are a well established main line of the Two Knights Defence where praxis tends to favour Black. However, possibly due to a pessimistic nature (in chess at any rate) I regard the chances as roughly equal. **16.exf6?** This should be preceded by 16.Nb3, forcing the black bishop on to the less threatening b6-f2 diagonal. **16...Qxf6 17.Nb3 Bd6** The B now joins in with his colleague in an irresistible attack against the white monarch. **18.Nc3 g4** Black's attack plays itself. **19.fxg4 Qh4! 20.g3** [20.h3 Qg3 mates] **20...Bxg3 21.Rf1** Forced in view of the threat ...Bf2 **21...Bxg4 22.Qg2** [22.Nd4 Bf2 23.Nce2 Bxe2] **22...Bf2!** White resigned in view of 23 Nd2 Bh3 or (more artistic) 23...Kh7! taking the g6 square from the white queen after 24...Bh3.[22...Bh3?? Cassidy wrongly gave this as probably also winning! 23.Rxf8+ Rxf8 24.Qxg3+-; 22...Bf2 A sample continuation could be: 23.Nd2 Kh7 24.Nd1 To get as much material as possible for the queen 24...Bh3 25.Qxf2 Rxf2 26.Rxf2 Rf8! 27.Rxf8 Not check: another good point of ...Kh7 27...Qe1+] **0-1**

The following position in J. Coleby (2,200) of Wales in the NATT IV: after move 37 is interesting.

I was White (to move), a pawn up with full control of the seventh rank. But how can the game be won and how can Black be prevented from delivering perpetual check with Re2 etc?

After many hours analysis I conceived the remarkable idea of manoeuvring White's King to f6 to support the two Rooks in delivering checkmate. This involved the loss of many pawns (not too important since White always has perpetual check) but would win the game if the strategy succeeded.

I worked out over these hours a forced manoeuvre which wins for White. Black had various choices to try to combat this manoeuvre but I was satisfied he could not prevent it. This analysis is the deepest I have ever undertaken of any chess position and I believe it is entirely correct. Here is the game and have a look at the position after move 38.

### **Cassidy,P – Coleby,J [D37]**

NATT4-07 9599 corr, 20.12.1995

[Cassidy]

**1.c4 Nf6 2.d4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 b6 5.Bg5 Bb7 6.cxd5 exd5 7.e3 Be7 8.Bxf6 Bxf6 9.Bd3 Nd7 10.Qb3 c6 11.0-0 0-0 12.Rfe1 Rc8 13.e4 dxe4 14.Nxe4 Be7 15.Ne5 Nxe5 16.dxe5 c5 17.Rad1 Bd5 18.Bc4 Bxc4 19.Qxc4 Qc7 20.Nd6 Rcd8 21.Qd5 Qb8 22.Qc6 Bg5 23.g3 Qa8 24.Qxa8 Rxa8 25.f4 Bd8 26.Nb7 Re8 27.Rd7 Be7 28.Red1 Kf8 29.Kf2 f6 30.e6 f5 31.Nd6 Bxd6 32.Rf7+ Kg8 33.Rxd6 Rxe6 34.Rdd7 Rae8 35.Rxg7+ Kh8 36.Rxh7+ Kg8 37.Rhg7+ Kh8** White's rooks control the 7th rank. It seems impossible to make progress as his K is hemmed in by the black rooks threatening perpetual check. White conceives the remarkable idea of bringing his K to the 6th rank for a mating net. To achieve this he sacrifices a number of pawns and uses his remaining pawns and the enemy pawns as shields from the black rooks. The play is subtle and difficult, and in some variations White wins by one tempo. The idea, however, seems correct. **38.g4!? Re2+ 39.Kg3 Rxb2 40.h3! Rxa2 41.Kh4 fxe4 42.Rh7+ Kg8 43.Rdg7+ Kf8 44.Kg5 Rae2 45.Rf7+ Kg8** White also used his rooks to manoeuvre the black K into the desired position and to avoid rook exchanges. **46.f5 gxh3 47.Rfg7+ Kf8 48.Kf6** At last! **48...R8e6+ 49.fxe6 Rf2+ 50.Ke5 1-0**

I think this was a very interesting ending. White's 40. h3! was important to prevent the Black Rook getting to the h file. White used Black's pawns and his sole remaining f pawn to shield his King on his journey to f6. He sacrificed four pawns in this ending!

Finally, here is my win against IM Manduch of Slovakia in the **Olympiad X111 Preliminaries**. This was a really hard fought game where, in my view, the chess was at a high level on both sides. Some of the positions were hugely complicated and demanded hours (and sometimes days) of analysis.

### **Cassidy,P - Manduch,M [E94]**

#### **Olympiad X111 Preliminaries CC, 2004**

**E94: King's Indian: Classical: 6 Be2 e5 7 0-0: Various Black 7th moves**

**1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.c4 Bg7 4.Nc3 0-0 5.e4 d6 6.Be2 e5 7.0-0 Nbd7 8.Be3 c6 9.d5 c5 10.Ne1 Ne8 11.g4 f5 12.exf5 gxf5 13.gxf5 Nb6 14.Nf3 Bxf5 15.Ng5 Qe7 16.Kh1 last book move 16...Kh8 17.Rg1 e4** [17...Bh6 18.Bd3 e4 19.Be2+/- (19.Ngxe4?! Bxe3 20.fxe3 Nxc4=; 19.Ncxe4?! Nxc4 20.Bc1 Ne5=+/+) ] **18.Qd2** [18.Qc2 Be5 19.Ncxe4 Nf6+/-] **18...Nf6** [18...h6 19.Ne6 Bxe6 20.dxe6 Qxe6 21.Rac1+/-] **19.Rg3** [19.Rg2 h5+/-] **19...Rg8** [19...h5 20.h3 Nh7 21.Rag1+/-] **20.Rag1+ Rae8** [20...a6+/-] **21.b4 Nfd7** [21...Ref8 22.bxc5 dxc5 23.a4+/-] **22.bxc5 dxc5** [22...Nxc5 is one last hope 23.Bh5 Nxc4+/-] **23.d6 Qf6** [23...Qf8 24.Bh5 Ne5 25.Bxe8 Qxe8 26.Bxc5+/- a) 26.Ncxe4 h6 27.Bxc5 hxg5 28.Nxg5 Rf8+/-; b) 26.Ngxe4?! Qc6 27.Bh6 Bxe4+ 28.Nxe4 Qxe4+ 29.f3 Qxf3+ (29...Nxf3 30.Qg2 Ng5 31.Rxg5 Qxg2+ 32.R1xg2 Re8 33.Bxg7+ Kg8 34.Rf2 h5 35.Bc3+ Kh7 36.Rg7+ Kh6 37.Rfg2 h4 38.Bd2+ Re3 39.Bxe3+ Kh5 40.Rh7#) 30.Rxf3 Nxf3+/-; ] **24.Bh5 Bg6** [24...Ref8 25.Nd5 Nxd5 26.Qxd5+/-] **25.Bxg6 Qxg6 26.Rh3 Ne5** [26...27.Rxh7+ Qxh7 28.Nxh7 Rxg1+ 29.Kxg1 Bxc3+/-] **27.Nxh7 Qxg1+** [27...Qf5 what else?

28.Rgg3 Bh6 29.Rxh6 Rxc3 30.Nf6+ Kg7 31.Nxe8+ Kf7 32.hxc3 Kxe8+-] **28.Kxc1 Nf3+ 29.Kh1** [29.Kh1 Bh6 30.Qc1 Rg1+ 31.Qxc1 Nxc1 32.Rxh6+-] 1-0

### **CONCLUSION**

The above games represent the most memorable games I played, and the most memorable opponents I met, during my peak period in the 1960s and early 1970s. In many ways, they reflect the joys and sorrows of chess. Great successes but also great disappointments.

But I wouldn't change my experiences for anything. It was great to be able to play at a high level and to compete with the top players at the time. It was also great to experience the sheer joy of playing chess and the atmosphere which goes with it. As Tarrasch said; "Chess, like love, like music, has the power to keep men (and women) happy".

Paul Cassidy, October 2018

