

Official Newsletter of the Irish Chess Union
IRISH CHESS JOURNAL

August 2011

Stephen Brady wins Seventh Irish Championship title!



Photo by Sean Hewitt

Highlights of this issue

:

<i>Ennis Open.....</i>	<i>p. 4</i>
<i>Using Business Processes for Chess.....</i>	<i>p. 9</i>
<i>Chess Spy!.....</i>	<i>p. 10</i>
<i>Dwindling Away.....</i>	<i>p. 11</i>
<i>Paris Open.....</i>	<i>p. 12</i>
<i>Brian Tomson.....</i>	<i>p. 14</i>
<i>Club Organisation 1.....</i>	<i>p. 17</i>
<i>British Championship.....</i>	<i>p. 19</i>
<i>Irish Championship.....</i>	<i>p. 20</i>
<i>Six Nations.....</i>	<i>p. 24</i>

**IRISH CHESS
JOURNAL**
Editor: Tony Foley

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FM John Delaney, FM Colm Daly, Seán Coffey, David McAlister, Peter Cafolla, GM Gawain Jones, Jim Olney, Gerry Smith, Tim Conlon, Rory Quinn, WIM Sue Mororoa, and Will Stewart.

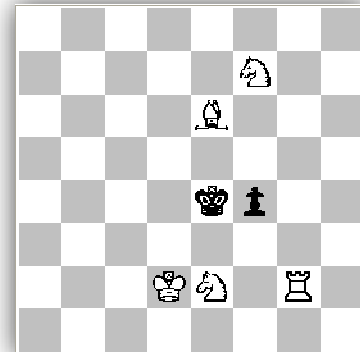
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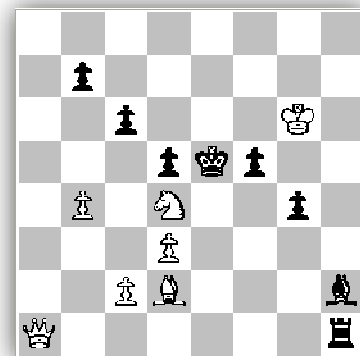
The editor would like to express his gratitude to everyone who contributed to this issue, and apologise if I've forgotten anyone!

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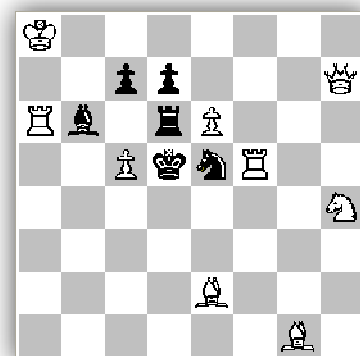
ARE YOU A PROBLEM SOLVER?



#2 St. Love
'The Problemist' 1986



#4 St. Love
'B.C.M.' 1986

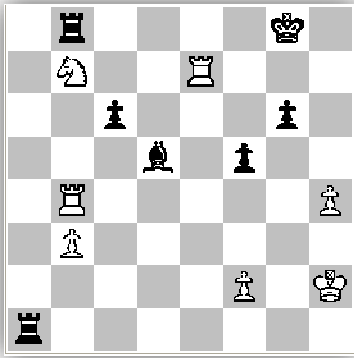


#2 Thomas B. Rowland
'Irish Times' 1883

[Solutions on last page.](#)

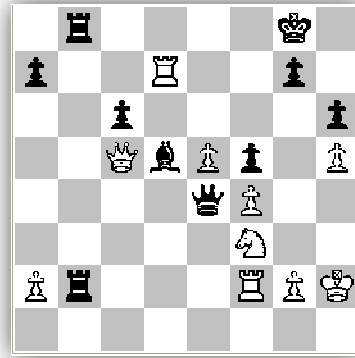
CHESSE MAGIC

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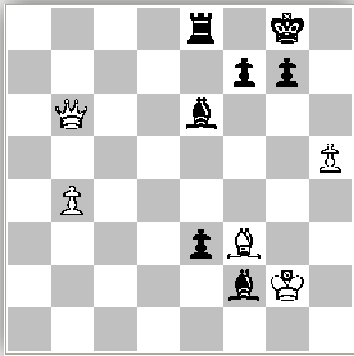
V. Ligterink – Biyiasas
Wijk aan Zee, 1980

4



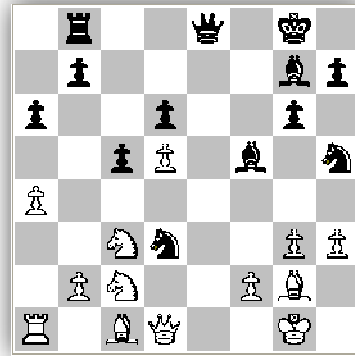
Pyhala – Westerinen
Lahti, 1980

2



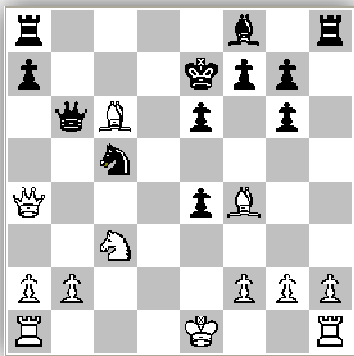
Gavrikov – Kengis
Riga, 1980

5



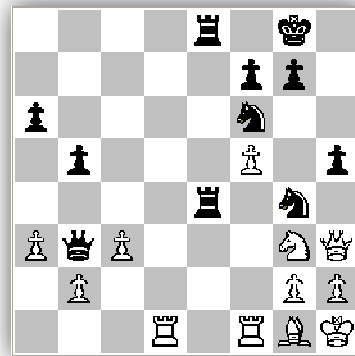
Najdorf – Rubineti
Argentine Cup, 1980

3



Andrianov – Imanaliev
Sochi, 1980

6



Van der Wiel – Browne
Wijk aan Zee, 1980

Solutions to puzzles on last page.

2011 Ennis Open

The 5th Ennis Open was held in the Auburn Lodge Hotel in Ennis over the weekend of May 20th to 22nd and it certainly announced its intention to join the top events on the Irish weekender circuit. With just about 90 players in 2 sections, thanks to the LCU (Bryan Tobin in particular) all boards, sets and clocks were provided in this enjoyable event. This meant the time control with increment passed off hassle free. The arbiter was Gerry Graham who updated the standings daily on the ICU website.

The tops seed in the open included 3 grandmasters, Vlad Jianu from Romania, Gawain Jones and Aaron Summerscale, both from the UK. IM Jan Sodoma, IM Petr Neuman and FM Colm Daly were also on hand to ensure that the grandmasters didn't have it all their own way.

In the first round of the open, all the top seeds came through unscathed with the exception of Liam Murphy (1615, Adare) who was beaten by a young local player, Robert Wall, playing in his first senior open event, a nice way to start for the Ennis man.

On top board in round 3, top seed (by Irish ratings, not FIDE) Vlad Jianu faced Gawain Jones's girlfriend Sue Maroroa and was lucky to survive this encounter.

Maroroa, S (1999) - Jianu, V (2545)

Annotated by Rory Quinn

1.e4 c5 2. Nc3 g6 3.f4 Bg7 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Bb5 Nd4 6.O-O Nxb5 7. Nxb5 d6

Gawain considers 7...d5 more critical in his 2008 book on the Grand Prix.

8. d3 Bd7 9.Nc3 Bc6 10. a4 Nf6 11. Qe1 Qd7 12.e5!? Nd5 13. Ne4 f5 14. Neg5 h6 15.Nh3

Gawain had thought that maybe the immediate 15. e6 is stronger here



Photograph by Sue Maroroa

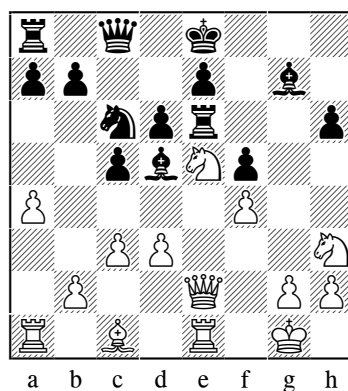
however after 15... Qc8 16.Nf7 Rg8! 17.Nh4 Nc7

White's position starts to fall apart.

15... Nb4 16. e6!?

Maybe not the best, Sue said afterwards that she missed that Black is rounding up her e-pawn after Rf8 and Rf6.

16... Qc8 17. Qe2 Bd5 18. Re1 Rf8 19. c3 Nc6 20. Nh4 Rf6 21. Nxg6 Rxe6 22. Ne5



I have to give Sue full marks so far for sheer chutzpah. This lady certainly knows how to attack! 22...Nxe5?!

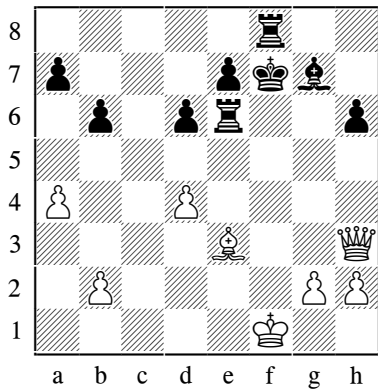
It's understandable that the GM doesn't want to enter the murk of 22...dxe5 23.c4. However it looks like the tactics are in his favour. 23...exf4 24.Qh5+ Kd7 25.Qxf5 Ke8! 26.Qh5+ Kf8 27.Qf5+ Bf6 28. Rf1 Nd4! and it seems that Black will keep his extra piece.

23.fxe5 Rxe5 24. Be3 Bf7

I had seen this position before leaving to grab some sleep before round 4 and rather naively assumed Black was winning and indicated as much in my report. Things aren't so clear however, especially as we are playing a fast time control 90 minutes for all moves + a 10 second increment per move and in such a complicated position with the clock ticking it's very easy to go wrong.

25. Nf4 Qc6 26. Qf2 b6 27. Qg3 Kf8 28. Ng6+ Bxg6 29. Qxg6 Qe8 30. Qg3 Qh5 31. Rf1 Kf7 32. d4 Re6 33. Rxf5+ Qxf5 34. Rf1 Qxf1+ 35. Kxf1 cxd4 36. cxd4 Rf8 37. Qh3?

White should have played 37. Ke2. By now the players were blitzing out the moves.



37... Rc8

Here Black misses: 37... Bxd4! 38. Bxd4 Kg8+ 39. Bf2 Ref6 40. Qg3+ Kh8 41. Qe3 Rxf2+ and Black is much better.

38.Ke1 Rc1+ 39. Kd2 Rf1 40. g4 Rff6?

After this White gets the advantage.

41.Qh5+ Kg8 42. Qd5 a5 43. Qa8+?!

Here Sue misses a chance to notch her first grandmaster scalp, after 43. h4 followed by g5 Black's predicament is becoming critical.

43...Kh7 44. Qb7 Rf7 45. Qd5 Ref6 46. h4 Rf3 47. g5

47. Ke2

47...hgx5 48.hgx5 Kh8 49.Qe6 R3f5 50.Qc8+ Kh7 51.Qb7 e5

It's not often you see a game where its move 51 before Black moves his e pawn!

52. Qxb6 exd4 53. Bxd4??

White can still draw after 53. g6+ Kxg6 54.Qxd6+ Kh5 55.Bxd4. Unfortunately for Sue the immediate Bxd4 loses.

53... Rd5! 54. Ke2 Bxd4 0-1

An exciting struggle!

While Sue was busy with that game, Gawain was occupied with the following game of his own against Colm Daly.

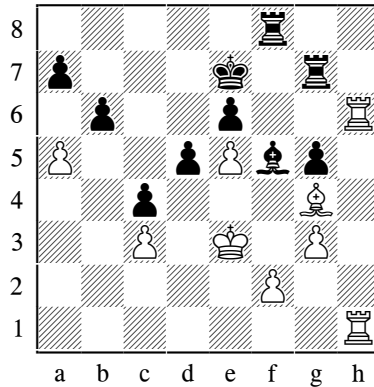
Jones, G. (2596) - Daly, C (2258)

Round 3

Annotated by FM Colm Daly

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. Bg5 Bb4 5. e5 h6 6. Bd2 Bxc3 7. bxc3 Ne4 8. Qg4 g6 9. Bd3 Nxd2 10.

Kxd2 c5 11. h4 Nc6 12. Nf3 c4 13. Be2 Bd7 14. Rhb1 b6 15. Nh2 Qe7 16. Qf4 g5 17. Qe3 f5 18. exf6 Qxf6 19. hxg5 hxg5 20. Nf3 Rg8 21. Ne5 Nxe5 22. dxe5 Qf4 23. g3 Qxe3+ 24. Kxe3 Ba4 25. Bg4 Ke7 26. Rh1 Bxc2 27. Rh6 Bg6 28. a4 Raf8 29. Rah1 Rg7 30. a5 Bf5?



31. Be2?

31. axb6!! =

31... bxa5??

31... b5! Simple and straight forward. When the only question is: Can White draw? My guess is, probably, but only with some accurate play.

32. Ra1 a6 33. Rxa5 Ra8 34. Rh1 Kf8 35. Rha1 Rga7 36. R1a2 Ke7 37. Rb2 Kd7 38. Rb6 Ke7

Black should be able to draw this but with time trouble it is not at all easy.

39. Kd4 Kf7? 40. Bh5+ Ke7 41. Bd1 Bg6? 42. Bg4 Bf7 43. Ke3 Rc7 44. Rbxa6 Rxa6 45. Rxa6 Rb7 46. f4 gxf4+ 47. gxf4 Rb2 48. f5 exf5 49. Bxf5 Rg2 50. Ra7+ Kf8 51. e6 Be8 52. Kf4 Rg1 53. Ke5 Rg7 54. Rxg7 Kxg7 55. Kxd5 Kf6 56. Bh3 Ke7 57. Bf1 Bb5 58. Bxc4 Ba4 59. Ke5 Bc6 60. Bd5 Ba4 61. c4 Be8 62. c5 Bb5 63. c6 Ba6 64. Bb3 Bb5 65. Kd5 Ba6 66. Kc5 Bc8 67. Bc4 Ke8 68. Kd6 Kd8 6. c7+ 1-0

Rory Quinn: "The masters started clashing in round four when Vlad beat Petr Neuman and Gawain

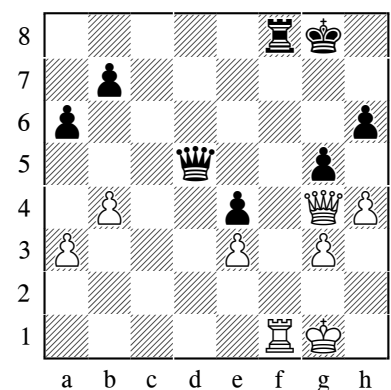
Jones outplayed Jan Sodoma in what looked to me like a fairly even queen and four pawns each ending but what do I know, eh."

Here's Gawain Jones comments on his round four encounter:

"Round Four was the final game on the Saturday and all the players were rather tired. I was Black against the reigning champion Jan Sodoma from Czech Republic. I was a little over-ambitious and soon found myself having to grovel a draw but somehow after declining a repetition Jan allowed a trade of rooks leaving him in a highly unpleasant queen and pawn endgame. I believe with best play it still should have been a draw but short on time the position was very difficult to play and he erred allowing a queen trade into a lost king and pawn (the instructive endgame is below – the queenside pawn structure ensures Black has an extra tempo whoever is to move.)"

Sodoma, J. (2399) - Jones, G. (2598)

Annotated by WIM Sue Mororoa



White is definitely the one pressing
40. Rxf8+ Kxf8

The computer says equal and with perfect play it should be but this is now unpleasant for white.

41. hxc5 hxc5 42. Qc8+ Kf7 43. Qc7+ Kg6 44. Qc1

No more checks and now white is very passive.

44... Qb3 45. Kh1

45. g4 is a better try.

45... Qf7 46. Qd1

Just turns into a lost endgame.

46... Qf3+ 47. Qxf3 exf3 48. g4 Kf6

49. Kg1 Ke5 50. a4 Ke4 51. Kf2 b6 0-1

It's zugzang for both players but whoever needs to move first is lost and here it's white!

To quote Rory Quinn: "Wow what a finish we have just had to round 5 of the Ennis Open as all three top boards went down to a time scramble. Ronan Magee had an extra pawn against Jan Sodoma but with king, queen and four against king, queen and three all on the same side and with an exposed king it was never going to be easy for Ronan to win and a perpetual resulted. On board 2 Petr Neuman was an exchange up against Aaron Summerscale but went wrong in the time scramble and ended up sacrificing a bishop for a perpetual. On the other boards Sue Maroroa had a quick win against Peter Cafolla on board 4, Colm Daly beat Paul Kiely on 5 and Paul Walsh and Oissine Murphy halved on board 6 though Paul said afterward he missed a tactic that would have won.

The game of the event was the top board clash of Gawain Jones and Vlad Jianu in round 5, Gawain seemed to get the better of the opening with good attacking prospects down the open h file when he assayed a "speculative, but promising looking" sacrifice, which didn't quite work, eventually got in to a materially unbalanced endgame. It's an exciting game, see what you think yourself.

GM Jones, G (2596) – GM Jianu, V (2545)

Notes by GM Gawain Jones

I noticed that Vlad was exclusively a Dragon player (and always played this rather odd ...Qc7) so I decided that it would be interesting to try it out on the White side.

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 g6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Bg7 5. Nc3 Nc6 6. Be3 d6 7. Qd2 Nf6 8. f3 O-O 9. Bc4 Bd7 10. h4 Qc7!?

His speciality but I'm skeptical of its merits. As Chris Ward has observed, the queen cannot be readily sacrificed on c3!

11. Bb3 Na5 12. O-O-O Nc4 13. Bxc4 Qxc4 14. h5 b5!?

Vlad repeats a pawn sacrifice he played last time he reached the position. 14... Rfc8 is the other possibility but 15. Bh6 is very dangerous for Black. I actually annotated the game Kekelidze-Gorman earlier on the ChessPublishing website which instead continued 15.Kb1 but I analyzed all the alternatives. The critical line runs: Bh8 16. Bg5! b5 17. hxc6 (17. Bxf6!?) has also been underestimated by theory – but you'll have to subscribe to ChessPublishing to get all my secrets!) 17... fxc6 18. Bxf6 Bxf6 19. Nd5 Rf8 which Vlad has all played recently. I believe White should be better but there's life left in the position.

15. b3 Qc7

Last time he reached this position Vlad tried 15... Qb4 but it fails to defend the pawn and 16. hxc6 fxc6 17. Nxb5! Qxd2+ 18. Rxd2 left Black with little to show for the pawn. Dvirnyy,D (2459)-Jianu,V (2492) Baia Sprie 2010.

16. Nxb5 Qb7 17. Nc3 Rfc8 18. hxc6 fxc6

So I've gained a pawn but Black hopes to get some counter-chances on the queenside. I could have tried to consolidate my extra pawn but instead decided to continue in similar vein to the note to Black's 14th.

19. Bh6 Bh8 20. Bg5 Rf8 21. Bxf6

The computer prefers 21. Rde1 stating Black has nothing for the pawn but I do like to attack!

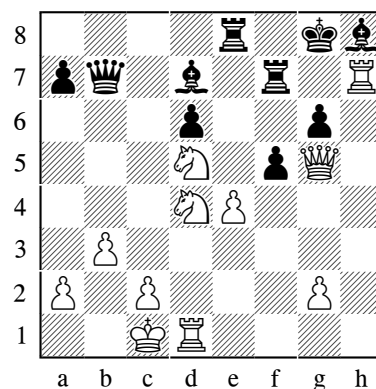
21... Rxf6 22. Nd5 Rf7 23. Qg5 Re8 24. f4 e6 25. f5!

In for a penny...Black's defence is extremely tough.

25... exf5

25... exd5 26. fxc6 hxc6 27. Qxc6+ Bg7 [27... Rg7 28. Qh5!] 28. Rh7 Kf8 29. Rdh1 and 30.Rxc7 followed by 31.Rh8+ is decisive.

26. Rxc7!



I thought long and hard about this rook sacrifice but it seemed right to blow open Black's king. Unfortunately I didn't follow it up correctly

26... Kxc7

26... Rxc7 loses instantly to 27. Qxc6+ Rg7 28. Nf6+ Kf8 29. Qh5 when the h8 bishop is trapped and I'll win back the material with interest while his king is still running free from any protection.

27. Rh1+?

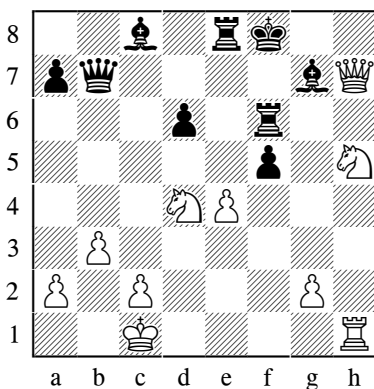
But unfortunately this obvious move not only throws away all my advantage but also gives Black a winning position. Instead I really should have found 27. exf5 when Black's defence is very tough. 27... Kg8 this seems forced. [27...Bxf5 28. Rh1+ Kg8 29. Nxf5 is utterly hopeless.] 28. Qxc6+ Bg7 29. Ne6 when I have fantastic play for the rook in the shape of three pawns, fantastic knights and a very strong attack. Practically Black has no chances here.



A great shot from the 2011 Ennis Open. How many people do you recognise?
Photograph by Sue Marroa

27... Kg8 28. Qxg6+ Bg7 29. Nf4
Threatening 30.Qh7+ and 31.Ng6
mate but he keeps up a correct
defence.

29... Rf6 30. Qh7+ Kf8 31. Nh5 Bc8!



I missed this move when I played the
rook sacrifice. At the cost of the
exchange Black exchanges off into
what should have been a winning
endgame. 31... Re7 might also be
good but it's not as clear as the
game.

**32. Nxf6 Bxf6 33. Nxf5 Qxh7 34.
Rxf6 Bxf5 35. exf5 Bc3**

The mate threat forces me to go
extremely passive and now I was
expecting to go down but as we both
started to get short on time I tried to
make it tricky. Black only has two
pawns left after all.

**36. Rh1 Re2 37. Rg1 Kf7 38. g4 Kf6
39. a3 Bd4**

The straightforward 39... Kg5
probably should have won. I was
planning on trying: 40. Rd1 Be5 41.
Rd5 Kxg4 42.b4 Kxf5 43. Ra5 but
objectively this is hopeless.

40. Kd1!?

Complicating as much as possible.

40... Re4

40... Bxg1 41. Kxe2 is complicated
but I'm probably holding the draw.

41. Re1 Ke5

It appears that 41... Rxe1+ was
winning but short on time it wasn't so
easy to calculate. One sample line:
42.Kxe1 Kg5 43.Kd2 Kxg4 44.Kd3
Bb2 45.Ke4 Kg5 46.Kd5 Bxa3
47.Ke6 Bc5 48.f6 Kg6 and Black's
winning. 41...Rxg4 42.Re6+ Kxf5

43.Rxd6 would at least reduce him to
one pawn.

42. Re2

Perhaps 42.Rxe4+ Kxe4 43.Kd2 was
possible, I'll leave it to you guys to
work out if I could hold a draw here
but with my king so passive it felt
unlikely.

42...Be3 43.c3

At least my king can now get active.
Vlad was down to less than five
minutes by now (+10 seconds a
move increment) and the next few
moves saw him slipping till suddenly
I had the advantage.

43... Bg5 44. Rg2 d5 45. Kc2 Re3

**46. Rd2 Re4 47. Rg2 Re3 48. Rd2
Bf6 49. Rd3 Re2+ 50. Rd2 Re3 51.
Rd3 Re2+ 52. Rd2 Re4 53. Rg2 Bg7
54. Kd3 Kf4 55. Rf2+ Kg3 56. Rf1
Kg2 57. Rd1 Kf2**

57...Rxg4 58.Kc2 Rg3 59.Rd2+ Kh3
60.Rxd5 Rxc3+ 61.Kd2 and Black
still needs to show a lot of technique
to win.

58. Rd2+ Kf3 59. Kc2 Re5 60. c4!

One objective is successful. Black's down to one pawn.

60... dxc4 61. bxc4 Re7?

Completely losing the thread.

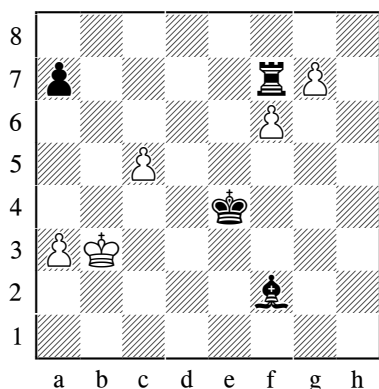
62. g5!

With the pawns motoring suddenly I have all the winning chances.

62...Be5 63.f6 Rc7 64.Kb3 Ke4 65.Rf2 Rf7 66.c5 Bd4 67.g6!?

With only a couple of minutes left I couldn't resist queening a pawn! However, Sue pointed out that 67. Re2+ was probably better as 67... Kd5 68. Re7 is highly unpleasant.

67...Bxf2 68. g7!



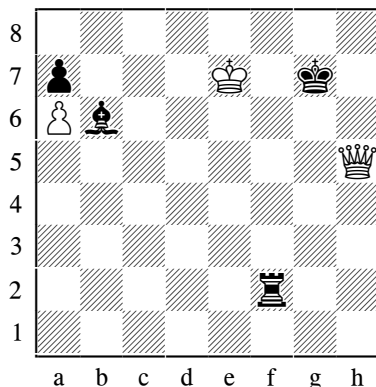
A weird looking move but now the pawn cannot be stopped.

68... Bxc5 69. g8Q Rxf6

An interesting endgame. I believe the game should still be drawn but Black was obviously demoralised after the turnaround and I could play risk-free.

70. Kc4 Be3 71. Qd5+ Kf4 72. Kd3 Bb6 73. a4 Rf5 74. Qe4+ Kg5 75. Qe7+ Kg6 76.Qe6+ Kg5 77. Ke4 Rf6 78. Qe5+ Kg6 79. a5 Bf2 80. Qe8+ Kg7 81. Qd7+ Rf7 82. Qg4+ Kf8 83. Kd5 Be1 84. Qc8+ Kg7 85. Qg4+ Kf8 86. a6 Bf2 87. Qg5 Bb6 88. Ke6 Rf2 89.Qh5 Kg7 90. Ke7

Attempting a Zugzwang but Black has one move to survive.



90... Rg2??

But not this! 90... Kg8 should hold as my king is blocked off from creating any mating threats by the f2 rook.

91. Qe5+!

Now Black loses the rook by force.

91... Kh6

91... Kh7 92. Qe4+ Rg6 93. Kf7 or 91... Kg6 92. Qe4+.

92. Qh8+ 1-0

Colm Daly got the closing stages on camera so you can view it on the Irish Chess Union channel on Youtube.

Round 6 Pairings

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 S. Maroroa (4) | G. Jones(5) |
| 2 V. Jianu (4) | A Summerscale (4) |
| 3 J. Sodoma (3.5) | Jan Heinrich (3.5) |
| 4 P. Morriss (3.5) | Petr Neuman (3.5) |
| 4 C. Daly (3.5) | R. Magee (3.5) |
| 4 R. Quinn (3.5) | Seamus Duffy (3.5) |

The draw for the final round pairings looked like this:

Rory Quinn managed to beat Seamus Duffy while Colm Daly overcame Ronan Magee. Pete Morriss gave Petr Neuman a good game but was ultimately outplayed by the visiting international master. In the battle of the Jan's on board 3, Sodoma managed to overcome Heinrich so all the players on 3½ played hard to reach 4½, no draws here. That was not the case on the top 2 boards where quick draws were agreed to leave the final results looking like this:

Gawain Jones	GM 5.5	England
Vlad Jianu	GM 4.5	Romania
Petr Neuman	IM 4.5	Czech Republic
Sue Maroroa	- 4.5	New Zealand
Jan Sodoma	FM 4.5	Czech Republic
Colm Daly	FM 4.5	Dublin
Aaron Summerscale	GM 4.5	England
Rory Quinn	- 4.5	Ennis

Grading prizes went to Brian Farragher and Denis O'Connell.

Under 1400

The Under 1400 was a major success for the local club member, Herickson Da Silva who won the title for the third time in a row! Rory Quinn posed the following point: "Honestly I think there is some anomaly with the Irish rating system as how Herickson's rating is as low as it is, is beyond me." Shay Scott was clear second place and third place was shared by Adare Juniors, Diana Mirza and Jeffrey Alfred along with Desmond Martin from Portmarnock. Best unrated player was Jean Marie Perinetti of Ross Chess Club.

Editors note:

I must specially thank Gawain Jones for his kind permission to reproduce his annotated game. Below is a link to his great chess blog:

<http://www.gawainjones.co.uk/wp/>

Also for the very few who might not be aware of Rory Quinn's excellent blog:

<http://ennisclub.wordpress.com/>

USING BUSINESS PROCESSES FOR CHESS – THE SWOT ANALYSIS

Will Stewart (USCF 2256, FIDE 2234)



The similarities associated with the decision-making process, analytical model, and strategic planning in chess and business are undeniable. Specifically, our decision-making process defines who we are and what we are able to accomplish. Thoroughly identifying, objectively evaluating, and continually improving our approach and execution of our individual decision-making process are essential requisites of success. Working hard and being smart is no longer enough to experience great success in the current global economy. It is absolutely paramount to frequently and persistently reexamine the way we make decisions. Garry Kasparov says in his book “How Life Imitates Chess” (2007)

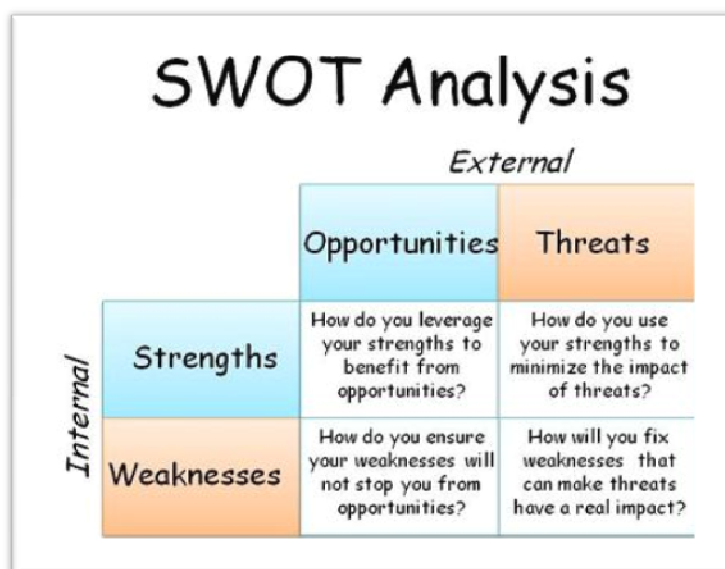
“It’s not enough to be talented. It’s not enough to work hard and to study late into the night. You must also become intimately aware of the methods you use to reach your decisions.”

A brief explanation of the SWOT analysis

The SWOT analysis model is extremely well-known in the business world, and for good reason. SWOT is extremely simple and to the point – identify your strengths and weaknesses with respect to opportunities and threats), objectively evaluate your analysis, and make the best decision. However, this is easier said than done. You can very easily fall into a simple routine and fail to capitalize on the most promising opportunities. By continually reevaluating your process of making decisions, you will put yourself in a position to achieve the most efficient and effective results.

As Confucius says:

“By three methods we may learn wisdom: First, by reflection, which is noblest; Second, by imitation, which is easiest; and third by experience, which is the bitterest.”



How to apply the S.W.O.T. Analysis Model to Improve your Chess

How to apply the SWOT Analysis Model to improve your chess game is relatively simple. Start with the noblest method by which we learn wisdom, reflect on your strengths and weaknesses as a chess player.

Analyze Your Strengths and Weaknesses by Phases

The easiest way to do this is by making a well-known division of your game into 3 phases – the Opening, Middlegame, and Endgame. If you’re achieving terrible positions in the opening – why would you spend time studying endgames first? A logical progression of study would seem to generate better overall results. This process is not meant to

disregard the other phases of the game, more to say that a well-thought, balanced plan of development as a chess player is the most efficient and effective method.

For example, once you have identified your strengths in the Opening phase you will be able to more efficiently study the resulting middle and endgame positions. This provides a well-rounded strategy for short-term and long-term development as a chess player. Identify what you are good at (and enjoy) and capitalize on this strength (opportunity). On the flip side, identifying honestly your weaknesses will enable you to improve them or avoid similar positions altogether. Bettering your decision-making process and developing a balanced strategy for improvement (as a chess player) is only made possible through genuinely honest and objective reflection and evaluation. As you gain more information throughout this process, it is essential to adapt your decisions to the changing information that they should be based on.

Always Check and Balance Your Opportunities and Threats

Beginner chess players have a tendency to jump at a quick opportunity to win an extra pawn or dive into a trap or gambit without seeing the true outcome. In business the SWOT analysis isn't only about seeing your opportunities and threats but comparing them against each other. Chess is very useful in training a business mind in this aspect because a beginner entrepreneur may also jump into a potential opportunity without properly balancing out the risks and threats. A true chess master will always carefully analyze both opportunities and threats, and combine it with his known strengths and weaknesses to result in the best analytical decision.

"Intelligence is the ability to adapt to change." – Stephen Hawking

If you are interested in more articles by Will Stewart please check out: <http://www.onlinechesslessons.net>

CHESS SPY!

PETER CAFOLLA

Since my last article I have played in two of the most enjoyable tournaments of the season. The first was Drogheda, a tournament I had never played in before. Drogheda has a unique formula of grouping the players according to rating into round robins of six players each. I found myself the bottom seed in a section containing two ex Irish Champions Colm Daly and John Delaney as well as 2200+ players David Fitzsimons and Paul Wallace and a Spanish 2,000 player. Group B was held in the same room as our tournament so there was plenty of room and the conditions generally were excellent apart from John Loughran, a fresh air freak, continually jamming the door open or turning the air conditioning to an Arctic setting. I think that John must be part polar bear.

Colm Daly won our section very impressively with 4.5/5 but all the games were hard fought and the few draws that did occur only did so after tense struggles. The Drogheda club members are a very friendly bunch and they made us all very welcome. Staying in the bar until 2 a.m. didn't seem to affect my play too badly but possibly that's because some of my rivals did exactly the same. The two game a day format was very civilised and I love the round robin idea because one is guaranteed tough games. I will certainly play Drogheda again next year but

can only hope that I gain some rating points in the meantime to guarantee a place in the top section.

My final tournament of the season was, as always, the Irish Championship, the final game of which was my 100th rated game this season! This made it very easy to do a thorough statistical analysis of my performance over the preceding eleven months but I won't bore you with the details. Suffice to say I finished on +1, the first time in a while that I've actually achieved a plus score notwithstanding a rating loss. The Irish was organised by Sean Hewitt of E2E4 and what an excellent job he made of it. Playing conditions were excellent, a table each, lots of room, good lighting, nice chess sets, digital clocks, free parking, punctual starts to every round, the draw promptly posted online each evening and best of all live transmission of the top games on the web. Stephen Brady won the tournament without moving out of third gear and finished a cosy half point ahead of John Redmond who also had an excellent tournament. For the first time in an Irish Championship we had grading prizes which were a great incentive for those of us with little hope of a major prize. I had one of the toughest tournaments of my career spending over 46 hours at the board and five games of 65 moves or more but I enjoyed every minute of it. Usually by the end of such a long season I am all chessed out but Drogheda and the Irish Championship were both so enjoyable I now can't wait for the new season to start.

Dwindling away – our Irish chess world

An Opinion piece by FM John Delaney

I would offer a number of guesses on the changes in the Irish chess population as follows:

Our Irish chess population is in fact ageing fast, as follows:

- 1980 – average age of 26 years, 2,300 members
- 1990 – average age of 33 years, 2,100 members
- 2000 – average age of 42 years, 1,300 members
- 2010 – average age of 51 years, 1,000 members

As our population drifts downwards in number, and upwards in ages, we also face an inexorable decrease in the number of our chess events. Fewer entries to tournaments have also led to significantly higher entry fees, with a consequence that the economics of holding a tournament are often now precarious. Many events are no longer viable.

Specifying the problem

Our key problem is that we now lack a critical mass of players in the core middle ranks [rated 1100-1800], who always provided the economic backbone for events and from whose ranks the top players develop over time. If we grow this key group significantly, then that enlarged group will lead to:

- New top players will develop naturally to represent Ireland [1800+]
- New administrators will be found
- New chess events, cheaper to enter, will develop
- Our chess clubs will attract new members and be safeguarded

So, we need to find ways to grow this core group from perhaps a current 300 ICU members to 3,000 core players.

Growing the core playing group

ICU and provincial union resources need to be directed towards enlarging the core group of players.

There seems to be two approaches. One is to grow new players by expanding junior chess significantly. This means investing time and energy [not merely money] in junior chess activities, specifically to develop a mass of junior players and perhaps to worry less about developing 'good' junior players as such. Alternatively, we could seek attract new adults [or former players] adults to chess and develop a development program around this.

Assuming we first focus on developing a mass of new junior players, we can model the likely impact it will have on chess playing numbers in our senior ranks Ireland over time. It is simplest to express this by estimating the

impact on ICU membership, making some sensible assumptions about how many children will become committed senior players in time.

Doing the maths

Some assumptions - of the kids being taught chess in a club or school setting, we can expect:

- They will actively play as junior players between ages 7-14,
- Forget about chess at ages 15-20,
- With 20% returning as 'core' players from age 21 onwards.

Level 1: 1,000 kids being taught [present day]

We currently teach around 1,000 children how to play chess [schools, clubs]. This will lead to ICU membership figures as follows:

2011	1,000 members
2018	700 members
2022	450 members

Level 2: 10,000 being taught

10,000 children being taught how to play chess [schools, clubs]. This will lead to ICU membership figures as follows:

2011	1,000 members
2018	2,200 members
2022	2,450 members

Level 3: 20,000 being taught

20,000 children being taught how to play chess [schools, clubs]. This will lead to ICU membership figures as follows:

2011	1,000 members
2018	3,700 members
2022	4,450 members

Conclusion

We need to find ways to increase the number of children being introduced to chess in Ireland. Our wish is to grow the core group of chess players, rated 1100-1800 over time. Ensuring a successful junior chess program, designed to attract a maximum number of children to chess, is a matter of genuine concern for all members of the ICU. It is however a very daunting task. We need to think of creative solutions. Can we avoid having only 450 ICU members in 2022? What should we do? What have we done wrong [do we know?] that our numbers dwindle so? Finally, is it a worry? Do busy senior chess players need to be bothered about any of this?

86th Paris Chess Championship

The 86th Paris Chess Championship was held from 2nd to 10th July at the Stade Pierre de Coubertin, 82 avenue Georges Lafont 75016 Paris. The Championship was played in 4 Groups and was open to all players of FIDE federations.

- FIDE Open: 9 rounds with rating above 2200
- A Open: 9 rounds with rating from 1800 to 2300
- B Open: 9 rounds with rating from 1400 to 1900
- C Open: 9 rounds with rating under 1500



Indian Grandmaster Arun Prasad defeated his compatriot SP Sethuraman in the last round and won the main tournament with a total of 7.0 points. Earlier co-leaders Sergey Fedorchuk and Magesh Chandran Panchanathan made a draw and a loss respectively and slipped down the rankings. Fedorchuk shares the second place with GM Ruben Felgaer.

In this same open, Sochacki Christophe earned his first GM norm and Christopher Debray his third IM norm.

The A Open was convincingly won by Belgian Albin Dal Borgo (8.0 points, full point ahead of the rest of the field). The trophy in the B Group goes to the French Thaymour Bonneville and finally C Open was won by the young Daniel Pietras from Poland. 633 participants from 35 countries competed in the Championship.

Ireland had two competitors in the FIDE Open, FM Ryan Rhys Griffiths and David Fitzsimons: ranked 36th and 43rd respectively. Both players did extremely well, performing above their rating, finishing in 31st and 37th place respectively.

	Fitzsimons, David	2251		Griffiths, Ryan Rhys	2301	
Rd 1	Bajarani, Ulvi	2424	½	Abergel, Thal	2445	1
Rd 2	Roser, Kevin	2446	½	Kalegin, Evgenij	2477	½
Rd 3	Debray, Christopher	2364	½	Felgaer, Ruben	2573	½
Rd 4	Bernard, Christophe	2342	1	Sethuraman, S.p.	2529	0
Rd 5	Battaglini, Gabriel	2407	0	Bok, Benjamin	2507	0
Rd 6	Payen, Arnaud	2339	1	Laurent, Julien G.	2331	1
Rd 7	Zysk, Robert	2437	0	Roser, Kevin	2446	0
Rd 8	Bissireres, Matthieu	2352	0	Gosset, Arnaud	2213	½
Rd 9	Song, Julien	2336	0	Daurelle, Herve	2261	½
			3.5			4

The table highlights the player's excellent performances.

David Fitzsimons performance rating was 2303 while Ryan Rhys Griffiths was 2384. I can't help but feel that it won't be long before David Fitzsimons has the FIDE master title.

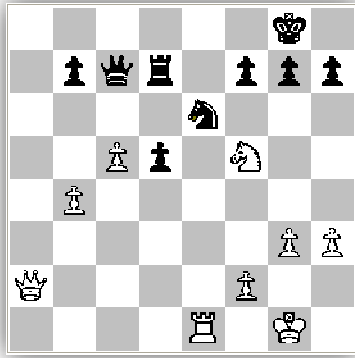
In the following game Ryan Rhys demonstrates his excellent technique to draw against a strong grandmaster.

GM Felgaer, Ruben (2573) - Griffiths, Ryan Rhys (2301)
[B11]

Championnat de Paris IdF Fide Paris (3.6), 2011

1.e4 c6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Nf3 Bg4 4.h3 Bxf3 5.Qxf3 e6 6.d4 dxe4 7.Qxe4 Nf6 8.Qd3 Bd6 9.g3 Nbd7 10.Bg2 Qc7

11.0-0 0-0 12.b3 Rad8 13.Bb2 e5 14.Ne2 Rfe8 15.c4 exd4 16.Nxd4 Be5 17.Qc2 Qb6 18.Rad1 Nf8 19.c5 Qc7 20.b4 Ne6 21.Nf5 Bxb2 22.Qxb2 Rxd1 23.Rxd1 Rd8 24.Re1 a5 25.a3 axb4 26.axb4 Rd7 27.Qa2 Nd5 28.Bxd5 cxd5



g6 38.Qh7+ Kf6 39.Qxe7+ Kxe7 40.Rc1 g5 41.Kf1 d2
 42.Rd1 Rb7 43.Rxd2 Rxb5 44.Rd4 Kf6 45.Kg2 e5
 46.Rd6+ Kf7 47.Kf3 Rb4 48.Ra6 Rc4 49.Ra3 Kf6 50.Re3
 Kf5 51.g4+ Kf6 52.Kg3 e4 53.h4 gxh4+ 54.Kxh4 Kg6
 55.Ra3 Rc2 56.Kg3 Kg5 57.Ra5+ Kf6 58.Rf5+ Kg6
 59.Re5 Rc3+ 60.Kg2 Rc4 61.Kf1 Kf6 62.Rf5+ Ke6
 63.Ke2 Rc3 64.Rf8 Ke5 65.Rf5+ Ke6 66.Kf1 Rc2 67.Rf8
 Ke5 68.Rf5+ Ke6 69.Ra5 Rb2 70.Rc5 Ra2 71.Rb5 Rc2
 72.Rb3 Ke5 73.Rg3 Kf6 74.Rg2 Rc1+ 75.Ke2 Kg5
 76.Ke3 Re1+ 77.Kd2 Ra1 78.Rg3 Ra2+ 79.Ke1 Ra1+
 80.Ke2 Ra2+ 81.Kf1 Ra1+ 82.Kg2 Ra2 83.Re3 Kxg4
 84.Rxe4+ Kf5 85.Rh4 Kg5 86.Rb4 Ra6 87.Kf3 Kg6
 88.Rb7 Kf6 89.Kg4 Rc6 90.Rh7 Kg6 91.Rd7 Ra6 92.f4
 Rb6 93.Rd5 Kf7 94.Kf5 Ra6 95.Rd7+ Kf8 96.Ke5 Rb6
 97.Rd6 Rxd6 98.Kxd6 Kf7 99 100.Kf5 Kf7 1/2-1/2

29.Nd4!?

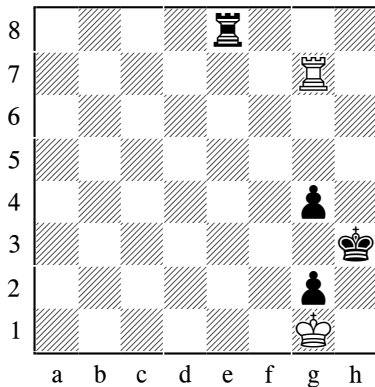
White is distracted by the following complications – probably hoping to press more out of the position. However, objectively, 29.Nd6 was stronger.

**29...Qc8 30.Nxe6!? Qe8 31.c6! bxc6 32.Rc1 fxe6
 33.Rxc6 Qe7 34.b5 Kf7 35.Qc2 d4 36.Qxh7 d3 37.Qh5+**

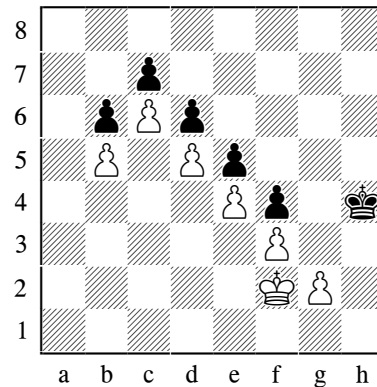
PUZZLED?

Instructional positions for the improving player.

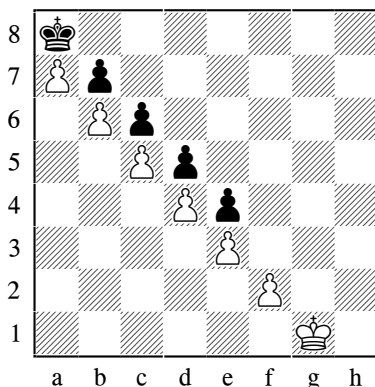
When selecting positions, emphasis is placed on miniature compositions. These are easier to remember so you can challenge your chess friends with them when you see them at the club.



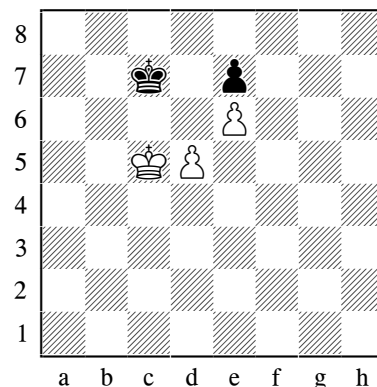
A. Salvio (1604)
 White to play and draw!



J. Kling (1851)
 White to play and win!



L. Kieseritzky (1843)
 White to play and win!



I.A. Horowitz (1957)
 White to play and win!

Solutions on last page!

Brian Tomson 1942-1986

Seán Coffey, David McAlister

From a player profile in a 1971 Australian magazine:

“Brian Tomson is a lecturer in English at the University of Newcastle. Before coming to Australia he had gained fourth place in the Irish National Title, played for Oxford University and represented Ireland in an international universities tournament played in Europe against top class competition including the crack Russians. He modestly stresses the fact that the Irish team finished in last place on this occasion.”

These matters are all relative and your mileage may vary, but I’ll admit that these achievements sounded quite respectable to me (SC). But the name was entirely unfamiliar. No such name appeared in the ICU web site’s tables for Irish championships in the 1960’s: the closest was a “J. Thomas” who was listed as finishing 4th-6th in the 1965 championship—and that didn’t seem all that close. OlimpBase listed a “J. Tomson” as playing board 3 for Ireland in the 1967 Student Olympiad at Harrachov (then Czechoslovakia), and the same name appeared in the lists for the 1966 Irish championship. The final piece of the puzzle came from an article from the Ulster Chess Union Yearbook, in which Arthur Pinkerton recalled drawing with “J. B. Tomson” in the 1966 championship, and the mystery player stood revealed as **J. Brian Tomson**.

(The ICU report on the 1965 championship has been corrected accordingly.)

A University of Newcastle web site had much further information, including collected correspondence and the information that he was a problemist, and had edited the problem column for *Chess in Australia* from 1984 to his death.

He had even published a book, *Fifty Chess Problems*, privately printed, and only 7 copies.

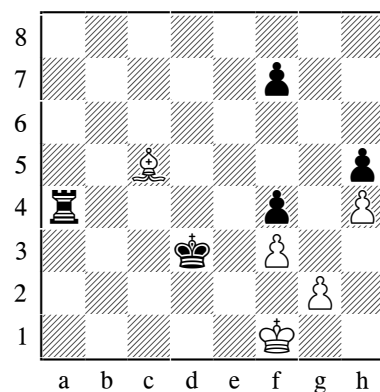
The story to this point was sent to David McAlister, who found more information:



Brian Tomson

Tomson had one of his best results at the inaugural Australian Open in Adelaide 1971 (Karlis Lidums International). This strong tournament resulted in a win for Portisch (11/13), followed by 2nd-4th. Schmid, Gheorghiu, Browne (10), 5th. Matanović 9½, six players sharing 6th-11th on 9 points, and Tomson in a group sharing 12th-24th places on 8½ (15th on tie break). 155 played.

His ending against Matanović made the endings section in Informator 11:



Matanović, A. - Tomson, J.B.
Adelaide 1971

The solution, as given by Matanović, was **1.Bb6! = Ra1+ 2.Kf2 Rh1 3.Bc7!** [3... Rxf4? 4.Kg1!] ½ : ½.

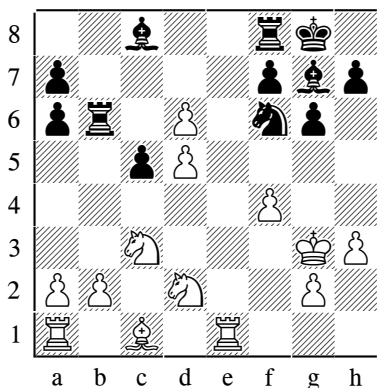
There’s a minor puzzle here. According to Ozbase, the position above never actually arose in the game: the nearest was after 69. ... f4, when White’s bishop stood on d8. And the draw was agreed on move 88, not a few moves later as Matanović indicates. Apparently these

endgame features in Informator are touched up from time to time; who knew?

The game against Portisch in the penultimate round was a missed opportunity:

**Tomson, J.B. – Portisch, L. [A67]
Adelaide 1971 (12)**

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.Nc3 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.e4 g6 7.f4 Bg7 8.Bb5+ Nfd7 9. Bd3 Qh4+ 10. Kf1 Na6 11.Nf3 Qd8 12. Kf2 Qb6 13. Kg3 Nb4 14.h3 Nxd3 15. Qxd3 Qa6 16. Qxa6 bxa6 17. e5 O-O 18. exd6 Rb8 19. Re1 Rb6 20. Nd2 Nf6



Something has gone badly wrong for Portisch and now with the straightforward 21.Nc4 Rb4 22.Na5 or 22.Ne5 White stands much better. Unfortunately Tomson takes the time for a preparatory move, apparently based on a miscalculation.

21. a3?! Nh5+ 22. Kf3 Rxd6 23. Nde4 Bxc3 24. bxc3?!
24. Nxc3 still leaves White a little better.
24. ... Rxd5 25. g4?

The final error. After 25.Be3 White is still in the game, though any advantage is long gone.

25... f5!

Was this what Tomson missed earlier? Now White is in serious trouble. Portisch converted without further incident.

26. Nf2 fxc4+ 27. hxc4 Nxf4 28. Bxf4 g5 29. Re4 Bb7 30. Ke2 gxf4 31. Re7 Rf7 32. Rxf7 Kxf7 0-1.

The UCU Archive has the list sent by Albert Long to W. Lewis of the ICU putting forward the list of players the UCU wanted to enter in the 1965 Irish Championship. Amongst the six put forward was "J.B. Tomson, 37 Old Cavehill Rd. Belfast 15. All-Ireland Schools Champion 1959. Played No. 1 and 2 boards in T.C.D. club 1960/2. Won Belfast Feis Major, 1965."

He attended Belfast Royal Academy and played in the 1959 Glorney Cup, at board 2.

He reached the final of the 1967-68 Williamson Shield, beating Michael Roberts (a team-mate in the Harrachov Student Olympiad) in the semi-final. The other semi-final

was between Paul Henry and John Moles, but before it could be played, Tomson emigrated to Australia, on 28th March 1968. The other fixture became the final instead, Henry winning 1½-½. (Source: Albert Long notebook.)

In the Student Olympiad in Harrachov 1967, Ireland first faced the Soviet Union (Tukmakov, Kuzmin, Gulko, Faibisovich), and lost 4-0, Tomson losing to Gulko. The Student Olympiads were generally very strong events, with far fewer weaker teams than Olympiads, and in Harrachov the Irish team found the going tough all along. Tomson's score of 2½/9 on boards 2 and 3 was one of the relative bright spots, eclipsed only by John Gibson, the reserve player, with 3/8, the other scores being Gerry McCurdy ½/11 on board 1, Nick Kerins 1/8 on board 2, and Michael Roberts ½/8 on boards 3 and 4. Tomson's score could have been better if he had not managed to lose from an overwhelmingly won game as black against László Percz (Hungary). But these things even themselves out, and in a later round he enjoyed good fortune in a spectacular win on board 2 against the Netherlands:

Kort, Jacob – Tomson, J.B. [E25]

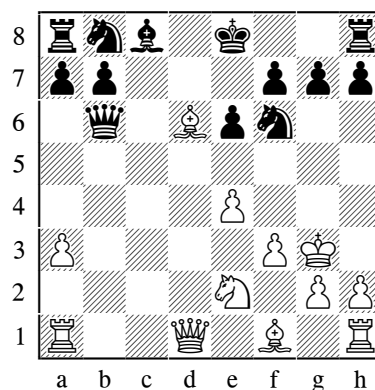
Student Olympiad, Final-B (6), Harrachov 1967
Netherlands-Ireland (board 2)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.f3 d5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 c5 7.cxd5 Nxd5 8.dxc5 Qa5 9.e4 Qxc3+?!
Better 9. ... Ne7.

10.Bd2 Qe5 11.Ne2 Nf6?

Now 11...Ne7, covering c8, was essential. Tomson's move allows 12.Bc3, after which 12...Qxc5? fails to 13.Rc1. So 12...Qc7, and then after 13.Qd6 White stands clearly better.

12.Bf4? Qxc5 13.Bd6 Qa5+ 14.Kf2 Qb6+ 15.Kg3??



A severe case of over-optimism. At this point the computer starts straining at the leash, urging 15. ... Nxe4+ with great and increasing insistence. After 16.fxe4 Qe3+ 17. Kh4 g5+ 18. Kh5 Qxe4 White can only avoid mate by giving up large amounts of material, with an easily won game for Black. Tomson misses the chance, perhaps thinking the text came to the same thing ...

15. ... Qe3? 16.Qd4 Nh5+ 17.Kh4 Qh6 18.g4??

... and as it happens he's right. But White could have escaped with 18. Qc5 Nc6 (nothing more direct seems available) 19. Qg5. He may have wanted to avoid playing the pawn-down ending, but instead allows a mate in three.

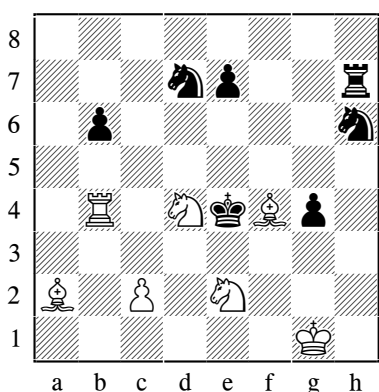
18...g5+ 19.Kh3 Nf4+ 0-1.

The ICU archive has 4 of his games, listed under "J. Tomson", all from Harrachov 1967 and not including the game above. From Ozbase and BigBase we have 16 more, and we also have one game, a win against Eddie Whiteside, in an Ulster championship qualifier in 1968.

On the problemist side, 29 of his problems appear in the Chess Problem Database. And (amazingly) we even have his book *Fifty Chess Problems*, which is available on Google Docs (see references).

Fifty Chess Problems gives Tomson's frank assessments of his own problems—and problemists are very self-critical—but he nominates this one as his best problem *not* to feature in an award, with a key that impressed solvers:

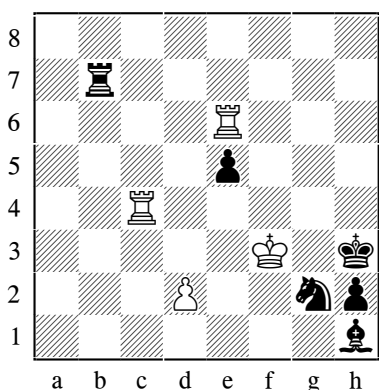
J.B. Tomson
The Problemist, March 1981



White to play and mate in three

Solution for this and the next problem on last page.

J.B. Tomson
BCM, December 1982



Series helpmate in 28

Many of his later compositions were 'series' problems. Anyone who has tried John Nunn's Christmas Puzzles at ChessBase.com will be familiar with this genre, which is popular in the problem world. For those to whom this is new, the idea is that White and Black are working together to help White mate Black (hence 'helpmate'), and the puzzle starts with Black playing a series of 28 consecutive moves, while White's pieces remain fixed (hence 'series'). All 28 must be legal moves, and all but the last must leave a position that would be legal for Black to move next, so there can be no check in the first 27 moves. After this series of 28 Black moves, White plays one move to checkmate Black.

The book was published in December 1983. In the foreword he says "some-day I may produce another work with 50 problems, strictly selected and better worth looking at". It was not to be: Brian Tomson died two days before his 44th birthday, on 20th June 1986, 25 years ago this summer.

Tomson, Brian

[J. Brian Tomson]

* 22-06-1942 Belfast

† 20-06-1986 Newcastle, AUS

r. Australia (28-03-1968-†)

Irish championship b.r. 4th-6th 1965

Student Olympiad 1967

Glorney Cup 1959

Belfast Feis Major, 1st 1965

Nemtsov Cup (while Belfast C.C. c'ship)
1st 1968

Williamson Shield finalist 1968

Country Chess Championship of NSW,
1st 1971, 1973, 1982

All-Ireland Schools' champion 1959

Columnist, *Newcastle Morning Herald*

Problem corner ed., *Chess in Australia*,
1984-†

Author, *Fifty Chess Problems*

C.C.: T.C.D. (1960-1962),

Belfast (-1968),

Newcastle AUS (-1971-)

University of Newcastle Cultural Collections,

<http://uoncc.wordpress.com/category/chess/>;

Ozbase, <http://www.ozbase.com.au/>;

OzProblems: Australian Chess Problem Composition,

<http://www.ozproblems.com/archives/problemists-history>

(includes link to *Fifty Chess Problems*)

OlimpBase, <http://www.olimpbase.org/1967y/1967in.html>;

Irish chess history: Irish championships,

<http://irishchesshistory.tripod.com/irishch.htm>;

Ulster Chess Competition Records,

<http://www.rc26.dial.pipex.com/records.htm>

ICU tournament records, <http://icu.ie/tournaments/display.php?id=77>

Club Organization 1 – Basics

Gerry Smith

My name is Gerry Smith. I learned to play chess in Secondary School at the age of fourteen. I have been playing league chess since the mid seventies and I help out as a leagues controller for the Leinster Chess Union. I also play chess with Balbriggan Chess Club.

Birth of a chess club. Like all good things it started with an idea that we need to get junior clubs up and running or else chess in Ireland will have a dim future. John Delaney was also starting a club in the Blanchardstown area.

John reckoned that as I lived in Rush, North Dublin, why not start a junior chess club there? I had stopped playing mid-week league chess so I had some spare time on my hands. After thinking about it, I realized that I would have to commit to one night a week for the next few years in order for it to succeed.

So what was required to get this going? I approached the problem in the following way.

The population of Rush is 10,000 give or take. John had about 25-30 kids in Blanchardstown, which has a population of well over 60,000, so if I got ten kids I would be doing well.

The issues that needed working out were ones of money, equipment, premises, volunteers, and of course the young players. All of them were interlinked. The hardest step was deciding to go and take the chance. If it failed there would be no change in Rush, but if I succeeded then there would be young people playing chess.

Equipment?

After looking around the house, I discovered that I had five sets and boards and one clock, so that would be enough to get started. I decided not to mention the clock at the start. A few people also donated chess books and magazines. These would be useful at a later stage. So far so good and no money spent yet.

Premises?

Rush has three national schools and one secondary school, a small community centre and a new library just about to open (the time here is last September 2010).

The community centre was open to the idea of a junior chess club but the time slots that were available were not great.

Next up, I contacted the Library Service. They put me in touch with the Librarian for Rush. She was all in favour of the idea, but pointed out that the club would have to be free, in keeping with the Library ethos. This would be a problem with the money issue. The library would be opening in October 2010 .

When the library opened, they informed me that they had purchased 8 boards and sets plus an outdoor set.

They also put up advertising to attract members and took a list of names.

The library provides the room for free and also provides general insurance cover for all on the premises. So no money required for rent and insurance.

The Players

On the first night we opened, over twenty children turned up looking to join the chess club.

Being used to playing chess in an adult environment I was used to playing chess in a quiet environment. This is not the way the younger players play. They generate a tremendous amount of noise and energy. They were enthusiastic and wanted to play. Great.

The mix was about 60% to 40% male /female. The age profile was 7 to 12 with the majority in the 9 year age group.

Volunteers?

This was the hardest part to tie down. The kids were dropped off in the library and the parents came back when it was over.

The following week the number was still 25 /26 kids and I called a meeting of the parents to let them know what was going on, and to look for help. Two parents turned up. This was a bit of a setback.

The following week I sent out an additional note with the idea in it of what I would be saying, added in a bit of doom and gloom, and 12 parents turned up. This was greater than 50 % of the kids; a few even phoned me up apologising that they could not attend. The next step was to get the Librarian on board about what we were doing. They provided great support as they have seen that the club was trying to make a go of it. The numbers were very good and there was a strong commitment from all to keep it going.

At the next meeting I got the librarian up to open the meeting and she cracked the whip a bit. She pointed out that the library was happy to provide the room, equipment, and insurance. But she pointed out that the library was not a babysitting service and that unless Gerry got some help he would not be LET continue, due to child protection issues, as much for himself as for the kids.

This resulted in three mothers coming forward to help with the roll call, keeping an eye on who is going out to the toilet etc.

Forms

We have now developed an attendance sheet that we keep in a folder so we can track who is there and the attendance over the weeks. We currently have 50 kids who have been to the club but only thirty who could be regarded as regular. Anyone who has missed 5 weeks straight, we mark off. We also have a waiting list that we keep with the help of the library staff and when our active number drops below 30 we contact them and get them to call around. This way we are keeping the numbers up. The kids themselves are also spreading the word and a number have turned up and jumped the list.

The other thing we have in a folder is a consent sheet for each child with a contact details and other information

We are also developing a form for the volunteer. This is based on an idea that is used in Foroige Youth Clubs. It is

to cover the volunteers until they have received Garda clearance.

I attended a child protection course run by Fingal County Council. The other three volunteers have also done child protection courses through their day jobs. Foroige have agreed to run the new child protection course which they call 2 by 2 and to administer the Garda clearance for us. This is recommended to be done every two years. Currently I am getting a list of names together for this to happen. This will be all done for free.

Money?

Because we are operating in the Library we are unable to charge any money and ongoing this may become a problem. There are grants from the VEC, Fingal Co. Co. and possibly Dublin Bus. Getting access to these funds is not the easiest of things. In Rush this year we were lucky in that EirGrid gave €100,000 to Fingal to be divided among clubs and groups along the route of the interconnector between Ireland and England. We applied for €890 and received €566. This money will be used to purchase chess clocks.

Help?

There is help available out there. Fingal County Council has a Community, Recreation and Amenities Department. This has a special sports development department that have offered to help. I am not sure yet how to work with them on this but it's an opportunity for ongoing development.

(Editor's note: This piece was one of the highlights of the recent excellent CI seminar presented by Kevin O'Connell. Gerry Smith kindly provided an expanded version, however I feel this piece should be presented separately.)

Part two next issue...



British Chess Championships 2011

24 July - 6 August, Ponds Forge, Sheffield, S1 2BP



Mickey Adams won the 98th British Championship sponsored by Darwin Strategic Limited after a dramatic tie-break playoff with Nigel Short. Both Adams and Short finished the 11-round event with 8½/11 which then required a 2-game play-off to decide the title. After a draw in the first rapid game, Adams won the second to successfully defend his title and claim the championship.

This British Chess Championships was the strongest event for a decade thanks to support from Darwin Strategic. ECF President CJ de Mooi promised the tournament would be upgraded last year and he succeeded in his aim. In total, eleven Grandmasters and six International Masters competed.

Jovanka Houska also defended her women's title after finishing the best placed woman on 7/11, making it her fourth British title.

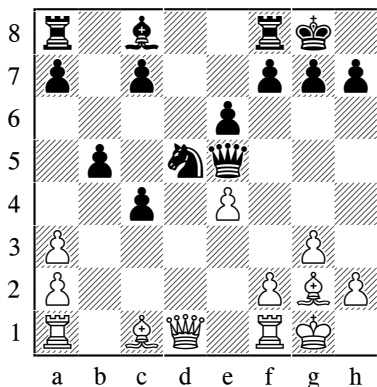
Ireland was well represented in Sheffield. In the Championship proper, FM Ryan Rhys Griffiths (Kilkenny) finished in 21st place on 6.5 and Ronan Magee (Tralee) finished in 77th place on 4 points. In the Senior Pete Morriss (Galway) eventually finished in 10th place after a final round loss on top board to the tournament winner David Anderton. Pete had a great tournament and was placed second going into the final round. In the under 10 competition, Padraig Hughes (Athy) had a great result and finished in third place losing only one game. Oissine Murchadha and Anthony Bourached both played in the Open tournament which ran alongside the British and finished in 49th and 56th place respectively.

Griffiths, Ryan Rhys (2301) - Hawkins, Jonathan (2457)

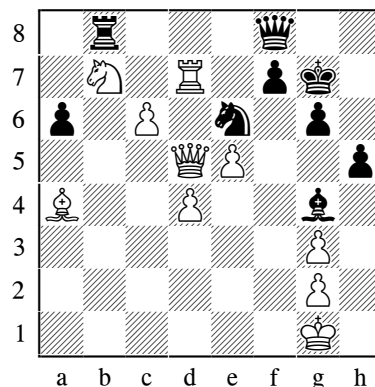
[A13]

98th ch-GBR Sheffield ENG (3)

1.c4 Nf6 2.g3 e6 3.Bg2 d5 4.Nf3 dxc4 5.Na3 Bxa3 6.bxa3 b5 7.Ne5 Nd5 8.d3 Qf6 9.d4 Nd7 10.0-0 0-0 11.e4 Nxe5 12.dxe5 Qxe5



26.a5 Qd7 27.a6 cxb5 28.Qb4 bxa6 29.Rxa6 Nc7 30.Rd6 Qc8 31.Qa5 Rxe5 32.fxe5 Bd7 33.c6 Be6 34.Bxb5 a6 35.Ba4 Rb8 36.Nb3 h5 37.Nc5 Bg4 38.Nb7 Ne6 39.Rd7 Kg7 40.Qxd5 Qf8



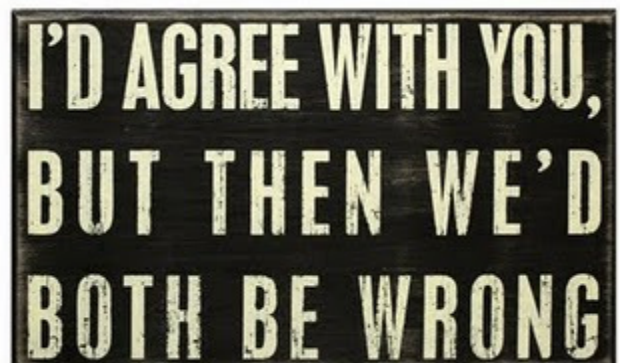
13.exd5 Qxa1 14.d6 Rb8 15.dxc7 Rb6 16.Be3 Qe5 17.Bxb6 axb6 18.Qd8 Qc5 19.Rd1 f5 20.Qd6 c3 21.Qc6 Qxc6 22.Bxc6 c2 23.Rc1 Rf7 24.Bxb5 Rxc7 25.Ba4 Bb7 26.Rxc2 Rxc2 27.Bxc2 Bf3 28.Kf1 Kf7 29.Ke1 Kf6 1/2-1/2

41.Qd6? [41.Nd6! Rb1+ 42.Kh2 Qg8 43.Rxf7+] 41...Rc8 42.d5 Nd4 43.Qf6+ Kg8 44.e6 Bxe6 45.Qxd4 1-0

Magee, Ronan (1953) - French, Angus J (2103) [B05]

98th ch-GBR Sheffield ENG (3)

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.Nf3 Bg4 5.Be2 c6 6.c4 Nb6 7.exd6 exd6 8.Nbd2 Be7 9.0-0 0-0 10.Qc2 d5 11.c5 N6d7 12.Nb3 Nf6 13.Bf4 Nbd7 14.Rfe1 Re8 15.Nbd2 Nf8 16.b4 Ng6 17.Bg3 Nh5 18.a4 Ngf4 19.Bf1 Nhg3 20.hxg3 Ne6 21.Qc3 Bf5 22.b5 Bf6 23.Ne5 Qc7 24.f4 Bxe5 25.Rxe5 g6



2011 IRISH CHAMPIONSHIP

Jim Olney

STEPHEN BRADY (42) has won the Irish Championship for the seventh time at the Green Isle Hotel, Naas Road, Newlands Cross, Dublin. The Championship was run from 2nd to 10th July and included Senior, Intermediate, Junior and Weekender events. For the first time, the congress was run by a professional organisation, e2e4, and their service included covering all the tournaments online. The Phibsboro FM led from the start to claim a title he first won exactly 20 years ago. Brady, the top seed, scored an unbeaten 7.5/9 to finish a half-point clear of John Redmond (Atticus), Daire McMahon (Co. Kildare) was third, a further half-point adrift. The Intermediate Championship was won by Eric Bennett (Bray) with 4.5/5, from Colm Buckley (Portmarnock) and John Cormican (Galway), both with 3.5/5 Mark Finnegan (Bray) took the Junior title with a maximum 5/5. Cork players Denis O'Connell and Niki Mullins were next best with 4.5/5 and 4/5 respectively.

Results:

Senior						
Rank	Name	Flag	Score	Rating	TPR	Prize
1	Brady, Stephen	Phibsboro	7.5	2357	2454	€1,000
2	Redmond, John P.	Atticus	7	2190	2397	€600
3	McMahon, Daire	Co. Kildare	6.5	2196	2361	€300
U21/ Perf	Moran, Stephen	Dublin Un	5	1983	2231	€100
Over 60	Jones, Iolo C	Wales	6	2286	2258	€100
Perf	Prizant, Michael	England	5	2126	2204	€50
U21	Courtney, John	Kilkenny	4	2059	2076	€50

Intermediate						
Rank	Name	Flag	Score	Rating	TPR	Prize
1	Bennett, Eric	Bray	4.5	1804	2033	€300
2	Buckley, Colm	Portmarnock	3.5	1784	1760	€150
3	Cormican, John	Galway	3.5	1484	1807	€150
U1400	O'Mahony, Keegan	Cork	3	1506	1683	€50

Juniors						
Rank	Name	Flag	Score	Rating	TPR	Prize
1	Finnegan, Mark	Bray	5	1476	2084	€300
2	O'Connell, Denis	Cork	4.5	1475	1749	€200
3	Mullins, Niki	Co. Cork	4	1435	1520	€100
1300-1399	Duffy, Brendan	Curragh	3.5	1392	1511	€50
100-1299	Ryan, Patrick	Cavan	2	1023	1147	€50
U1000	Joyce, Stephen	Inchicore	2.5	889	1520	€50

Weekender						
Rank	Name	Flag	Score	Rating	TPR	Prize
1	Quinn, Rory	Ennis	5	2009	2519	€300
2 nd =	Quinlan, Paddy	Waterford	4	1505	2014	€80
2 nd =	Gedvilaite, Monika		4	0	1874	€80
2 nd =	Kalinins, Valentine		4	0	1824	€80
2 nd =	Murphy, Oissine	Galway	4	1833	1907	€80
2 nd =	Bajcar, Tomas	Elm Mount	4	1774	1854	€80
U1500	McGann, John	Kings Head	2	845	1173	€50

Cafolla, Peter - Short, Philip

Round One

Notes by Peter Cafolla

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6
5.Be2 O-O 6.Nf3 Nbd7 7.Qc2 e5
8.d5 c5 9.Bg5 h6 10.Bh4 a6 11.O-O
Qe8

Black obviously intended f5 but I came up with a little plan to disrupt this.

12.Ne1 Nh7 13.Qd1!?

Now f5? loses the exchange to Bh5!

13...Kh8

I had counted on this along with Rg8 next move to which I intended playing the very annoying Qc2! or Bd3! and still f5 is impossible. In the meantime I could use the time gained to start my queenside play. Brilliant and profound as my plan was...the simple 13...Ng5! would have refuted it.

14.a3 Ng5!

Philip finally copped on to what the plan was.

15.Rb1 Qe7

Threatening Nh3+

16.Kh1 f5 17.f3?!

This is too passive, better was taking on f5 and then playing the immediate f4

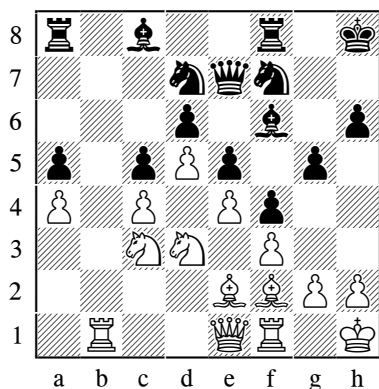
17...Bf6 18.Bf2

Now Nxe4 was threatened. You really have to keep your wits about you when playing Philip, he is always up to something.

18...f4 19.b4 Nf7 20.Nd3 b6 21.Qe1

Played to stop Bh4 and also in some variations to target Blacks a-pawn.

21...g5 22.a4 a5 23.bxc5 bxc5



Here I became a bit confused as to how to continue my Queenside play

and rejected Nb5! because of Nb6? but that fails to a sacrifice on c5

24.Rb3

An interesting move with the intention of popping along the third rank to the kingside if required.

24...h5 25.Qd1 Rg8 26.Be1 Nf8 +-

White is better here because Black still lags well behind in development but I should have played Nb5! on one of the previous moves. Sometimes when an idea is rejected it becomes difficult to ever embrace it again.

27.Nf2 Nh6

Black's piece formation looks clumsy and unnatural but he is beginning to drum up counterplay

28.Nb5

At last!

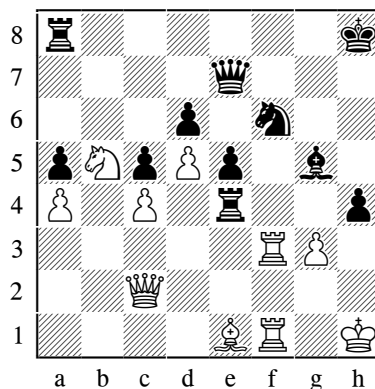
28... g4 29. g3 Nh7 30. Rg1 fxf3 31. hxf3 gxf3 32. Bxf3 Ng4 33.Bxg4 Bxg4 34. Nxf3 Rxf3 = 35. Qe2 Bg5 36. Rf3 = Nf6 37.Rgf1!

Better to be active than to defend the e pawn

37...Rxe4 38.Qh2?!

38.Qc2! was better

38...h4 39.Qc2



39...Qh7?!

39...hxg3!

40.g4?!

40.Kg2!

40...Rf4?!

40...Rxf4! After a few rushed and inaccurate moves we both reach the time control and breathe a sigh of relief. The game was very intense and energy sapping so mistakes where inevitable.

41.Qxh7+ Kxh7 42.Nxd6 += Nxf4

43.Rxf4 Bxf4 44.Bxh4 Ne3 45.Rb1 Kg6 46. Rg1+! Kh5 47.Bf2 Ra6?

This looked very tempting but 47...Rb8! was necessary

48. Bxe3?!

Not a bad move but Ne4! was stronger

48...Bxe3 49.Re1 Bd4 50.Ne4 Kg4 51.Rf1! +-

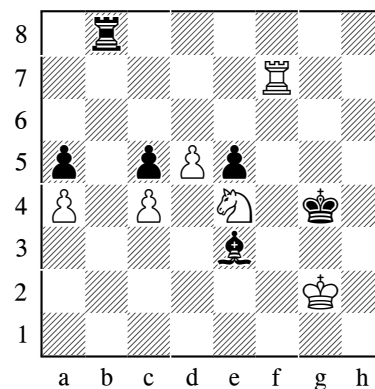
An untypically good endgame move by me, with the King cut off Black is in real trouble,

51...Ra8 52.Kg2 Rb8 53.Rf7?!

Again with a time control approaching we were both short of time and mistakes occurred, d6! maintained Whites advantage

53...Be3?!

53...Rb2+!



54.Nf6+

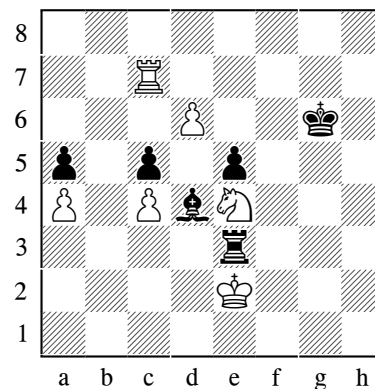
54.d6!! was winning

54...Kg5 55.Ne4+ Kg6 56.Rc7 Rb4

57.Kf3 Rb3 58.Ke2 Bd4 59.d6?!

This is still winning but the simple Nxc5! avoided all the messing that follows

59...Re3+



60.Kd2??

I just went into shock after Re3+ thinking for a minute that I had blundered and lost, then I spotted a

clever way to draw and it never even occurred to me to look for the winning Kf1!!

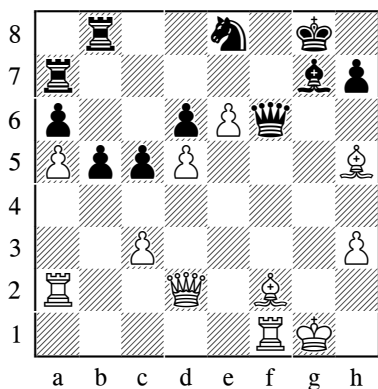
60...Rxe4 61.d7 Be3+ 62.Kd3 Rd4+ 63.Kxe3 Kf5 64.Rxc5 Rxd7 65.Rxa5 Rh7 66.Ra8 1/2-1/2

What a shame after seven hours of good play to spoil it all. I was wrecked after this game both physically and emotionally and consequently lost my next two games very easily. Philip too showed signs in his next games that this game had drained him.

Nevertheless, it was an exciting and dramatic struggle and a game that I will not forget in a hurry.

Twomey,Pat – Loughran,John Irish Championship (3)

1.c4 g6 2.Nc3 Bg7 3.d4 d6 4.e4 Nf6 5.f4 0-0 6.Nf3 c5 7.d5 Bg4 8.Be2 e6 9.0-0 exd5 10.cxd5 Nbd7 11.h3 Bxf3 12.Bxf3 a6 13.a4 Ne8 14.Be3 Nc7 15.a5 Nb5 16.Qd2 Nd4 17.Bd1 Nb5 18.Be2 Nxc3 19.bxc3 Re8 20.Bf3 Qc7 21.Bf2 Reb8 22.Ra2 b5 23.e5 Ra7 24.e6 Nf6 25.g4 Ne8 26.f5 gxf5 27.gxf5 Qe7 28.Bh5 fxe6 29.fxe6 Qf6



30.Bd4? [30.Bxc5!] 30...Qh6 31.Bf7+ Kf8 32.Qxh6 Bxh6 33.Bxe8+ Kxe8 34.Bf6 [34.Rg2 with mate in nine.] 34...b4 35.Rb1 b3 36.Rg2 Rb5 37.Rg8+ Bf8 38.e7 Rxe7 39.Bxe7 Kxe7 40.c4 Rb4 41.Rg3 b2 42.Re3+ Kd7 43.Re2 Bg7 44.Rc2 Bd4+ 45.Kg2 Ra4 46.Rbx2 Bxb2 47.Rxb2 Rb4 48.Rf2 Rxc4 49.Rf7+ Kc8 50.Rxh7 Ra4 51.Rh6 Kd7 52.Rh7+ Ke8 53.Rh8+ Ke7 54.h4 Rxa5 55.Kf3

Ra4 56.h5 Rd4 57.h6 Kf7 58.h7 Kg7 59.Rd8 Kxh7 60.Rxd6 a5 61.Ke3 a4 62.Ra6 Kg7 63.Ra5 Rxd5 64.Rxa4 Kf6 65.Ra6+ Ke5 66.Rc6 Kf5 67.Rh6 Kg5 68.Rc6 1/2-1/2

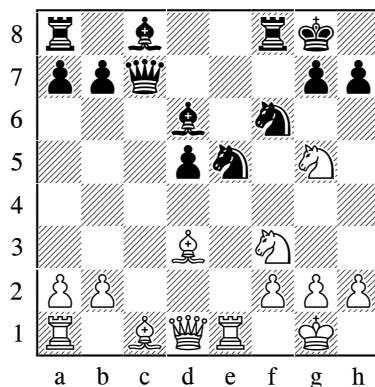
Daly,Colm - Short,Philip Irish Championship (3)

1.c4 e6 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.d4 d5 4.Nc3 Be7 5.Bg5 0-0 6.Qc2 c6 7.e3 Nbd7 8.0-0-0 Re8 9.Kb1 dxc4 10.Bxc4 Nd5 11.h4 Nf8 12.e4 Nxc3+ 13.Qxc3 Qc7 14.g3 b6 15.Bf4 Bd6 16.e5 Be7 17.h5 Bb7 18.h6 g6 19.Rhe1 Rac8 20.Bg5 b5 21.Bf1 b4 22.Qe3 c5 23.Bxe7 Qxe7 24.dxc5 Qxc5 25.Qxc5 Rxc5 26.Nd4 Rd8 27.f4 Bd5 28.b3 f6 29.exf6 Kf7 30.Nc2 a5 31.Kb2 Kxf6 32.Ne3 Rdc8 33.Ba6 R8c7 34.Rd2 Nd7 35.Bd3 Kf7 36.Bc4 Nb6 37.Bxd5 Nxd5 38.Nxd5 Rxd5 39.Rxd5 exd5 40.Re5 Rc3 41.Rxd5 Rxd5 42.Rxa5 Rg2+ 43.Kb1 Rf2 44.Ra7+ Kf6 45.Rxh7 Rxf4 46.Rb7 Rh4 47.h7 g5 48.Kc2 Kg6 49.Rxb4 Rxh7 50.a4 Kf5 51.a5 g4 52.Kd3 Rg7 [52...Re7] 53.Ke2 g3 54.Kf1 Ke5? 55.a6 Kd6 56.Rb6+ Kc5 57.Rb7 Rg8 58.b4+ Kc6 59.Kg2 Rg6 60.b5+ 1-0

Brady,Stephen – O'Connor,Jonathan Irish Championship (4)

(Notes by GM Alexander Baburin)

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.c3 c5 6.Bd3 Nc6 7.Ndf3 cxd4 8.cxd4 f6 9.exf6 Nxf6 10.Nh3 Bd6 11.0-0 Qc7 12.Re1 0-0 13.Nhg5 e5 14.dxe5 Nxe5

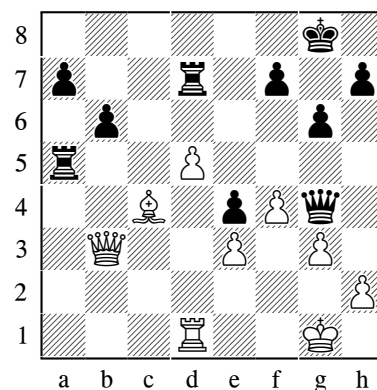


15.Bxh7+! Kh8 16.Bd3 [16.Rxe5!? Bxe5 17.Nh4] 16...Bg4 17.h3 Bxf3 18.Nxf3 Nxd3 19.Qxd3 Rad8 20.Bg5 Bc5 21.Bxf6 Rxf6 22.Rac1 Qb6 23.Rc2 1-0

Moran,Stephen – O'Connell,Gerard

Irish Championship (4)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.cxd5 Nxd5 6.g3 Nxc3 7.bxc3 c5 8.Bg2 Nc6 9.Be3 cxd4 10.Nxd4 0-0 11.0-0 Na5 12.Qa4 Bd7 13.Qb4 Rc8 14.Rfd1 Rc4 15.Qa3 Ra4 16.Qc5 b6 17.Qd5 Qe8 18.f4 e6 19.Qf3 Nc4 20.Bf2 e5 21.Nc6 Nd2 22.Qd5 e4 23.Qxd2 Bxc6 24.Bd4 Qe6 25.e3 Rd8 26.Qc2 Ra5 27.Bf1 Ba4 28.Qb2 Bxd1 29.Rxd1 Rxa2 30.Qb4 Bxd4 31.cxd4 Qg4 32.Qb3 Ra5 33.Bc4 Rd7 34.d5



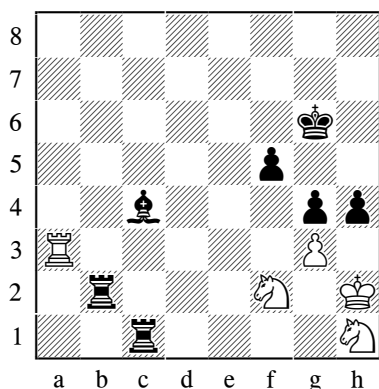
34...Qf3? [34...Ra3!; 34...b5!] 35.Re1 h5 36.Be2 Ra1 37.Bxf3 Rxe1+ 38.Kf2 Rc1 39.Bxe4 Rc8 40.Qb5 Rd6 41.Ke2 f5 42.Bf3 Kf7 43.Kd3 a5 44.Kd4 Kf6 45.Qa6 Rcd8 46.Qc4 R8d7 47.h3 Rd8 48.g4 hxg4 49.hxg4 fxg4 50.Bg2 Kg7 51.e4 R6d7 52.e5 Rf8 53.Ke3 Ra7 54.e6 a4 55.Qd4+ Kh6 56.Qxb6 Rfa8 57.d6 a3 58.Bxa8 Rxa8 59.Qb7 Ra4 60.Qh1+ Kg7 61.Qa1+ 1-0

Keogh,Eamon – Doyle,Hugh Irish Championship (7)

(Notes by Sean Coffey)

1.f4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.e3 g6 4.Bb5 Bg7 5.0-0 a6 6.Bxc6 bxc6 7.Nc3 Nf6 8.d3 Rb8 9.e4 0-0 10.Ne2 d6

11.h3 c4 12.e5 cxd3 13.Qxd3 Nd5
 14.c4 Nb4 15.Qc3 c5 16.a3 Nc6
 17.Rd1 Qb6 18.Kh2 Be6 19.Ng3
 Na5 20.Nd2 dxe5 21.fxe5 Rfd8
 22.b4 cxb4 23.axb4 Nc6 24.Re1
 Qxb4 25.Qxb4 Nxb4 26.Re2 Rd3
 27.c5 Nc2 28.Rxa6 Nd4 29.Re1 Rc8
 30.Ra7 Rxc5 31.Nde4 Rc2 32.Rf1
 Bxe5 33.Rxe7 Kg7 34.Bf4 Bxf4
 35.Rxf4 Nf3+ 36.Rxf3 Rxf3 37.Kg1
 Rb3 38.Nh1 Bxh3 39.Nef2 Be6
 40.Ra7 Rbb2 41.Ra1 Bc4 42.Re1 g5
 43.Re3 Kg6 44.Ra3 h5 45.Re3 g4
 46.Rg3 f5 47.Ra3 h4 48.g3 Rc1+
 49.Kh2



49...h3?

This complicates matters considerably, but the win is not gone yet. Much better is 49...Bd5! threatening immediate mate, and if 50.gxh4 then the crispest is 50...f4! and mate cannot be avoided.

50.Ra6+!

And now Black has to step carefully to avoid stalemate.

50...Kf7 51.Rf6+ Ke7 52.Re6+ Kd7 53.Rd6+ Kc7 54.Rc6+ Kb7 55.Rc7+ Kb8?

Now the win is gone. It was essential to play 55...Ka8! 56.Ra7+ (56.Rc8+ Rb8) 56...Kb8 57.Ra8+ (57.Rb7+ Rxb7) 57...Kc7 and the Black king escapes. 58.Rc8+ Kd6 59.Rd8+ Kc5 60.Rc8+ Kd4 61.Rd8+ Kc3 62.Rd3+ Kc2 63.Rc3+ Kb1.

56.Rc8+ Kb7

56...Ka7 comes to the same thing after 57.Ra8+ Kb6 58.Rb8+.

57.Rb8+

And now Black must give up a rook to avoid stalemate.

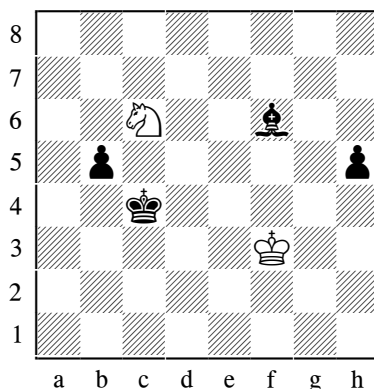
57...Kxb8

In fact Black wouldn't risk much after 57...Kc6 58.Rxb2 Bd5, but there is no way of breaking through. 1/2-1/2

The following game was the deciding game of the Irish Championship.

Daly, Colm – Brady, Stephen [C65] Irish Championship (8)

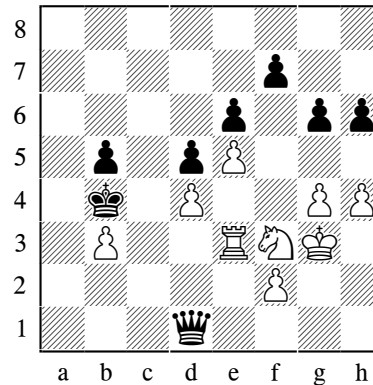
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.c3 Qe7 6.0-0 0-0 7.h3 a6 8.Ba4 b5 9.Bb3 d6 10.Bg5 h6 11.Bxf6 Qxf6 12.Bd5 Bd7 13.a4 Rab8 14.axb5 axb5 15.Ra6 Bb6 16.b4 Ne7 17.Bb3 Ng6 18.Kh2 Nf4 19.Ng1 Ra8 20.Rxa8 Rxa8 21.Qf3 Ng6 22.g3 Qxf3 23.Nxf3 Kf8 24.Kg2 f5 25.h4 Ne7 26.Nfd2 g6 27.f4 exf4 28.gxf4 fxe4 29.dxe4 Kg7 30.Nf3 Bc6 31.Re1 Ra1 32.Nfd2 d5 33.exd5 Nxd5 34.Kg3 Ne3 35.Be6 Kf6 36.Bh3 Nf5+ 37.Bxf5 gxf5 38.Nb3 Ra2 39.N1d2 Rc2 40.Rc1 Rxc1 41.Nxc1 Be3 42.Ncb3 Ke6 43.Nf3 Bxf3 44.Kxf3 Bg1 45.Ke2 Kd5 46.Kd3 h5 47.Nd2 Bb6 48.Ke2 Ba7 49.Kd3 Bg1 50.Ke2 Bh2 51.Kf3 c6 52.Nf1 Bg1 53.Nd2?! [53.Ng3] 53...Bb6 54.Ke2 Bd8 55.Nf3 Kc4 56.Nd4 Kxc3 57.Nxf5 Kxb4 58.Nd4 Bxh4 59.Nxc6+ Kc5 60.Ne5 Kd5 61.Kd3 Bg3 62.Ke3 Be1 [62...b4] 63.Nd3 Bc3 64.f5 Bg7 65.Nb4+ Kc4 66.Nc6 Bf6 67.Kf3 Kc5 68.Nb8 Kd6 69.Na6 Bc3 70.Kg3 Be1+ 71.Kf4 Bd2+ 72.Kg3 Bg5 73.Nb4 Kc5 [73...Ke5 74.Nc6+ Ke4 75.Kh3 Bf6 76.Nb4 Kxf5] 74.Nd3+ Kd4 75.Nb4 Kc4 76.Nc6 Kc5 77.Ne5 Kd5 78.Nd3 Ke4 79.Nb4 Kxf5 80.Kf3 Ke5 81.Nc6+ Kd5 82.Nb4+ Kc4 83.Nc6 Bf6? [83...Kc5]



84.Ke4? [84.Na7 b4 85.Nc6 b3 86.Na5+ winning the b-pawn and leading to a drawn endgame.]
84...Kc5 85.Nb8 Be7 86.Nd7+ Kd6 87.Ne5 b4 88.Nc4+ Kc5 89.Nd2 h4 90.Nb3+ Kc4 91.Na5+ Kc3 92.Kf3 Bd8 93.Nb7 Bb6 94.Nd6 b3 95.Ne4+ Kd3 0-1

Daly, Colm – Redmond, John P Irish Championship (9)

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nc6 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.Bg5 Be7 6.e5 Ne4 7.Bxe7 Qxe7 8.a3 Nxc3 9.bxc3 Bd7 10.Qb1 Na5 11.Qb4 b6 12.Bd3 Nc6 13.Qb1 Na5 14.0-0 c5 15.Re1 Rc8! 16.Qc1 cxd4 17.cxd4 Nb3 18.cxb3 Rxc1 19.Rexc1 0-0 20.Rc7 Rc8 21.Rxa7 Qd8 22.a4 Rc3 23.Bb5 Bxb5 24.axb5 h6 25.g3 Qe8 26.Ra8 Rc8 27.Rxc8 Qxc8 28.Re1 Qe8 29.h4 Qxb5 30.Re3 Qc6 31.Kg2 Qc1 32.Re1 Qc2 33.Re3 Kf8 34.g4 Ke7 35.Kg3 Kd7 36.Kg2 Kc6 37.Kg3 Kb5 38.Kg2 Kb4 39.Kg3 Qd1 40.Kg2 b5 41.Kg3 g6 42.Kg2 Qc2 43.Kg1 Qb1+ 44.Kg2 Qd1 45.Kg3



45...Qxb3! 46.Rxb3+ Kxb3 47.Ng5 b4 48.Nxf7 Ka4 49.h5 gxh5 50.Nxh6 b3 51.gxh5 b2 52.Ng4 b1Q 53.Nf6 Qf5 54.f4 Kb3 55.h6 Qg6+ 56.Ng4 Kc3 57.Kf3 Kxd4 58.Kg3 Kc3 0-1

SIX NATIONS TOURNAMENT, 2011

BY PHILIP DOYLE

The Six Nations Tournament took place from 5 to 9 May in the Old Swan Hotel in Harrogate, in the north of England. This is a biennial friendship event which is hosted in turn by the participating countries. The nations which usually contest the Tournament are Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. Due to the withdrawal of Switzerland, Ireland was asked to provide a team to take their place. Having had the great pleasure of participating on two previous occasions, we had no hesitation in answering the call. The team selected was Michael Delaney, Philip Doyle, Ernie McElroy and Eamonn Casey. As guides we had Ernie's sister, Margaret O'Shea from Cork, and John Maher from the Rathmines Chess Club in Dublin.

On the morning of Thursday, May 5, we all met up at Dublin Airport to take our flight to Manchester. From there we proceeded to the Airport railway station to continue our journey to Harrogate. We had to change trains at Leeds, but despite having to race to make the connection, everything went to plan and we reached the Old Swan Hotel by 5.15 leaving us plenty of time to settle in before dinner.

After the meal there was a meeting of team representatives to discuss the tournament. The scoring system would be match points rather than



Left to right: Michael Delaney, Sergio Hamandan, (a member of the Dutch team), Ernie McElroy, Margret O'Shea (guide) John Maher (guide) Eamonn Casey and Phillip Doyle.

Photograph by Julie Leonard

board points. The arbiters would be Julie Leonard and Peter Gibbs, assisted by three stewards, Norman Andrews, Richard Murphy and Tristram Cole. The order of play was then determined by lot.

In the first of two matches on the Friday our opponents were France who appeared to be stronger than usual and here we had a share of the spoils. Michael lost on board 1 to Olivier Deville. After that there were draws for myself and Ernie. Ernie's was a long, grueling game with Andre Schmeisser in which he was materially better but wisely offered a draw when in time trouble. Eamonn won his game against Laurent Peignien. This result placed us in joint third behind Germany and the Netherlands. Round 1 results: Germany-United Kingdom, 3-1;

Ireland-France, 2-2; Netherlands-Belgium, 2.5-1.5.

In the afternoon we came up against the Netherlands. After some hard games Michael and myself came away with creditable draws against Sergio Hamandan and Jan Boer. I had a dreadful start in this game and was very lucky to emerge only a Pawn down but I managed to hold out for the half point in a protracted Rook and Pawn against Rook ending. Meanwhile, Ernie and Eamonn had good wins over Cor Tesselaar and Jan Zeeman giving us a 3-1 victory and moving us up to second place. Round 2 results: Ireland-Netherlands, 3-1; United Kingdom-Belgium, 4-0; Germany-France, 3.5-0.5.

After dinner Friday evening we were treated to a concert by the Harrogate Brass Band who played

many old favourites to an appreciative audience.

Just one round was played on the Saturday and our opponents were the UK. Michael had chances but lost to Graham Lilley but a draw for myself with Steve Hilton and a win for Ernie over John Gallagher meant that everything hinged on board 4. This was a long and exhausting game between Eamonn and Stan Lovell with Eamonn the first to crack leaving the final score a 2.5-1.5 victory for the UK. We were now in joint third place with France behind Germany and the UK. Round 3: United Kingdom-Ireland, 2.5-1.5; Germany-Belgium, 4-0; France-Netherlands, 3-1.

In the afternoon there was an outing by coach to the Jorvic Viking centre in York where we took a trip in a time car and experience the sights, sounds and smells of the history of York. Parts of the museum were of special interest to us as the exhibits could be handled.

Next day was Sunday when we played the last two rounds. First we came up against the bottom team Belgium and had a satisfying 4-0 victory, consolidating third place with 5 match points. Meanwhile the Germans had overwhelmed the Netherlands 4-0. With a round to go Germany was already guaranteed first place but there was still a slight chance that we could cause an upset and pip the UK for second place. Round 4: Ireland-Belgium, 4-0; United Kingdom-France, 3-1; Germany-Netherlands, 4-0.

In the final round the UK made no mistake and defeated the Netherlands. Meantime, Ireland was

putting it up to our more powerful German opponents. I was first to finish drawing with Gert Schulz on board 2. Michael on board 1 soon followed with another draw against Olaf Dobierzin, giving encouragement to Ernie and Eamonn on boards 3 and 4. They stuck tenaciously to their task and eventually produced two more fine draws against Hans Jagdhuber and Manfred Pinnow. Our 2-all draw with the Germans was undoubtedly the surprise of the Tournament and our party was elated with the outcome. Round 5 results: Ireland-Germany, 2-2; United Kingdom-Netherlands, 2.5-1.5; France-Belgium, 3.5-0.5.

Final scores:

Germany 9 match points.

United Kingdom 8.

Ireland 6.

France 5.

Netherlands 2.

Belgium 0.

Following dinner, the closing ceremony and prize giving took place. Everyone complimented the tournament organisers and the management and staff of the Old Swan Hotel who made our stay so enjoyable.

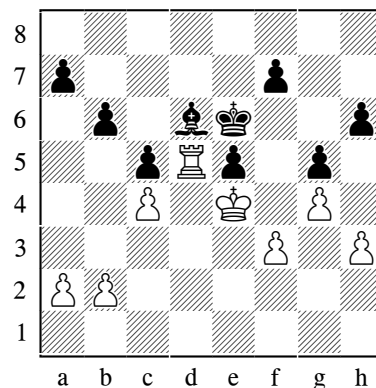
After breakfast next morning, we had some time to spare which we spent visiting a local park. Then we set out on the journey home. Once again everything went according to plan arriving back in Dublin at about 6pm.

McElroy, Ernie (1694) - Gallagher, John (1930)

Round 3: Ireland - United Kingdom

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 O-O 6.Be2 e5 7.dxe5 dxe5 8.O-O Na6 9.Bg5 h6 10.Qxd8 Rxd8 11.Bxf6 Bxf6 12.Nd5 Bg7 13.Rfd1

c6 14.Ne7+ Kf8 15.Rxd8+ Kxe7 16.Rad1 Nc5 17.R8d2 Nxe4 18.Rc2 Bf5 19.Nh4 Be6 20.f3 Nf6 21.g4 Rd8 22.Rxd8 Kxd8 23.Ng2 c5 24.Kf2 g5 25.Ne3 b6 26.h3 Bf8 27.Bd3 Ne8 28.Be4 Kc7 29.Rd2 Nf6 30. Bd5 Nxd5 31.Nxd5+ Bxd5 32.Rxd5 Bd6 33.Ke3 Kd7 34.Ke4 Ke6



35.Rxd6+! Kxd6 36.Kf5 Ke7 37.Kxe5 f6+ 38.Kf5 Kf7 39.a3 a6 40.f4 gxf4 41.Kxf4 Ke6 42.h4 b5 43.b3 b4 44.axb4 cxb4 45.Ke4 a5 46.Kd4 Kd6 47.c5+ Kc6 48.Kc4 a4 49.bxa4 b3 50.Kxb3 Kxc5 51.Kc3 Kb6 52.Kd4 Ka5 53.Ke4 Kxa4 54.Kf5 Kb5 55.Kxf6 Kc5 56.Kg6 Kd6 57.Kxh6 Ke6 58.g5 Kf7 59.Kh7 Kf8 60.g6 1-0

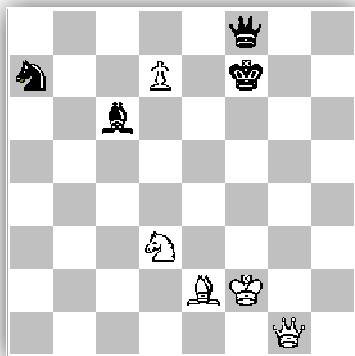
Pinnow, Manfred (1912) - Casey, Eamon (1435)

Round 5: Germany - Ireland

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 g6 3.e4 Bg7 4.g3 d6 5.Bg2 O-O 6.Nge2 Nbd7 7.f4 e6 8.O-O Nb6 9.d3 c6 10.Bd2 Bd7 11.b4 c5 12.a3 Rc8 13.Rb1 Qc7 14.Nb5 Bxb5 15.cxb5 Nbd7 16.a4 b6 17.h3 h5 18.Rc1 Qd8 19.d4 cxd4 20.Nxd4 Rxc1 21.Bxc1 Qc7 22.Qd3 Rc8 23.Nc6 Nb8 24.e5 dxe5 25.Nxe5 Qc3 26.Qxc3 Rxc3 27.Rd1 Nd5 28.Bxd5 exd5 29.Nd3 Bd4+ 30.Kf1 Rc2 31.Rd2 Rxd2 32.Bxd2 1/2-1/2

WHY STUDIES?

Some studies have excellent solutions, while others are truly works of art. The following study is a work of art!



A.S. Seletsky,
1st Prize, "Chess in USSR", 1933

How is White to win? He has a pawn ready to promote, but the Black bishop threatens it, the promotion square is guarded, and the Black king threatens discovered check if it moves.

1.Qg5! (threatening d8=Q)

If 1...Bxd7, then 2.Nf4 and with 3.Bh5+ White wins. If 1...Qe7, then 2.d8=Q and White wins.

1...Ke6+ 2.Kg1!! Kxd7

Not 2...Bxd7 3.Bg4+ Kf7 4.Ne5+ Ke8 5.Bxd7#.

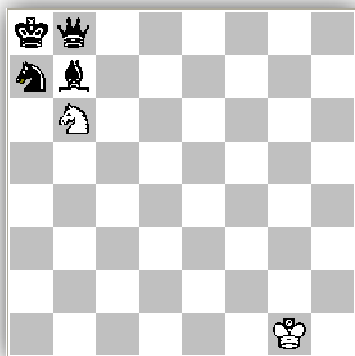
3.Nc5+ Kc8

Not 3...Kd6 4.Qg3+ Kd5 5.Bc4+ Kxc4 6.Qb3+ and in the next move the queen is lost. If 3...Ke8 4.Bh5+ and Q is lost. If 3...Kc7 / Kd8, then with 4.Ne6+ the Q is lost.

4.Ba6+ Kb8 5.Qg3+ Ka8 6.Bb7+ Bxb7 7.Nd7

The queen is attacked and must move. It would be a good idea give check, but the white King is wisely located on g1 (now the meaning of the second move becomes obvious!) and Black has no safe check. White is also threatening [8.Nb6#] and, if the queen leaves the back rank 8.Qb8# follows. So...

7...Qd8 8.Qb8+ Qxb8 9.Nb6#



From an open position, in nine moves, White delivers smothered mate. It hardly seemed possible!

Solutions:

Are you a problem Solver?

1.Rh2!

2.Qa8!

3.Ng6!

CHES MAGIC

(1) V. Ligterink – Biyiasas

1...c5! 2.Rb6 f4 0-1. (3.Kh3 Bf3)

(2) Gavrikov – Kengis

1...Bh3+! 2.Kxh3 e2 3.Qxf2 e1=Q wins.

(3) Andrianov – Imanaliev

1.0-0-0! Nxa4 2.Rd7+ Ke8 (2...Kf6 3.Nxe4+ Kf5

4.Rxf7+Kg4 5.h3+ Rxh3 6.f3+) 3.Bxa4! 4.Be7

4.Rxa7+ 0-1

(4) Pyhala – Westerinen

1.Ng5 Qb4 (1...hgx5 2.Qe7) 2.Qxa7 hgx5

3.Rxg7+ Kf8 4.a3! wins.

(5) Najdorf – Rubineti

1...Nxf2! 2.Kxf2 Bxc2 3.Qxc2 Bd4+ 4.Kf3 Qe1!

0-1 (5.Ne4 Rf8+ 6.Kg4 Re8 7.Qd3 Rxe4+!)

(6) Van der Wiel – Browne

1...Qxd1!! 2.Rxd1 Re1 3.Rxe1 Rxe1 4.Nf1 Rxf1

5.Qh4 Ne4 wins. (6.g3 Nef2+ 7.Kg2 Ne3+ 8.Kf3

Nd1+).

Puzzled?

(1) Salvio,A (1604)

1.Rh7+ Kg3 2.Re7 1/2-1/2

(2) Kling,J (1851)

1.g3+ fxg3+ 2.Kg2 Kh5 3.Kxg3 Kg5 4.f4+ exf4+ 5.Kf3

Kg6 6.Kxf4 [6.e5!] 6...Kf6 7.e5+ dxe5+ 8.Ke4 Kf7

9.Kxe5 [9.d6!] 9...Ke7 10.d6+ cxd6+ 11.Kd5 Ke8

12.Kxd6 Kd8 13.c7+ Kc8 14.Ke6 Kxc7 15.Ke7 Kc8

16.Kd6 Kb7 17.Kd7 1-0

(3) Kieseritzky,L (1843)

1.f3 exf3 2.Kf1! f2 3.e4 dxe4 4.Kxf2 e3+ 5.Ke1 e2 6.d5

cxd5 7.Kxe2 d4 8.Kd2 d3 9.c6 bxc6 10.Kxd3 c5

[10...Kb7 11.Kc4 Ka8 12.Kc5 Kb7 13.Kd6 c5 14.a8Q+

Kxa8 15.Kc7] 11.Kc4 Kb7 12.Kd5! c4 13.Kd6 c3

14.a8Q+ Kxa8 15.Kc7 c2 16.b7+ 1-0

(4) Horowitz,I.A (1957)

1.d6+!! exd6+ 2.Kd5 Kc8! 3.Kc6! Kd8 4.Kxd6 Ke8

5.e7 1-0

J.B. Tomson

(1): 1. Kf2 (threat Ng3+). 1. ... Ne5 or 1.... e5, 2. Ng3+; 1.... Nf5 2. Ne6+; 1. ... Nc5 2. Bd5+; 1. ... Nf6 2. Nf3+

(2): 1. Rg7-g4 Kh4-h5 Rg6 Kh6-g7-f8 Rg7-e7 Ke8-d8 Rc7-c6 Kc7-b6-a5 Rb6-b4 Ka4-a3 Rb2-c2 Kb2-c1xd2 Rc1-e1 2. Rd6#