Homage to Basman!?

John Griffin annotates 2 games for CHESS; from the City of Dublin open 1980 and the 1978 Irish Championship at Galway.

Sicilian

J. Griffin *White* **K. Pytel** *Black*

1 e4	c5
2 ♘f3	d6
3 ♗e2	♘f6
4 c3	♘bd7

Not 4 . . . ♘e4:? 5 ♕a4+.

5 d3	g6
6 O—O	♗g7
7 ♘bd2	O—O
8 d4	d5

Unexpected; 8 . . . ♕c7 or 8 . . . e5 is safer, while 8 . . . ♖b8 is routine. Pytel's idea is to transfer the KN to c7 to support . . . b5, but it gives White some space on the king's side.
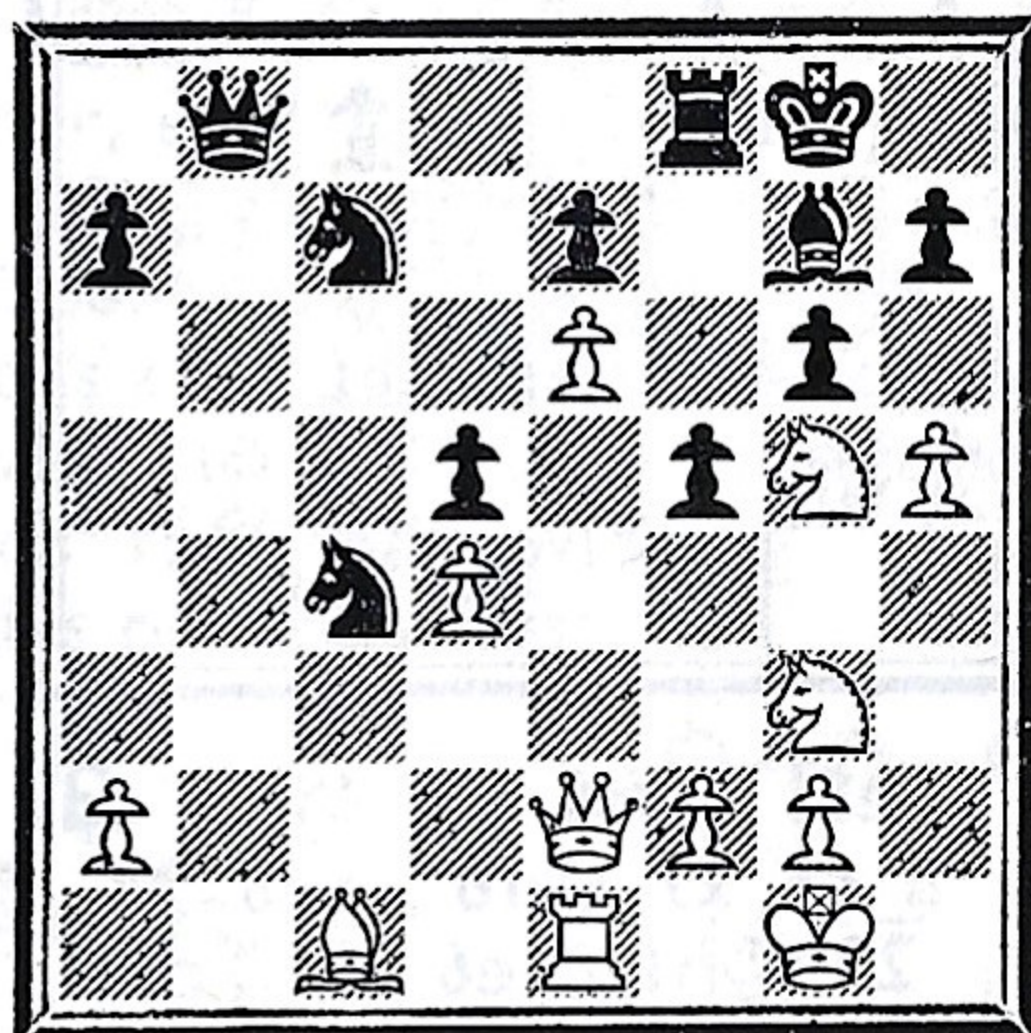
9 e5 ♘e8 10 ♖e1 ♘c7 11 ♘f1 b5 12 ♘g3 b4 13 h4 bc: 14 bc: cd: 15 cd: ♘b6 16 h5 ♘c4 17 ♖b1 ♗g4?!

17 . . . ♗d7 was better.

18 ♘g5	♗e2:
19 ♕e2:	♖b8

And here 19 . . . ♕d7 was imperative.

20 ♖b8:	♕b8:
21 e6	f5

22 ♘h7:!!

What Pytel overlooked. White is now winning (except on the clock). If 22 . . . ♔h7: 23 hg:+ ♔g8 (23 . . . ♔g6: 24 ♕h5+ ♔f6 25 ♕g5++) 24 ♕h5 ♖c8 25 ♕h7+ ♔f8 26 ♗h6 ♔e8 (26 . . . ♘e8 27 ♕h8++) 27 ♕g8+ ♗f8 28 ♕f8:++.

22 . . . f4 23 ♘f8: ♕f8: 24 ♘h1 g5 25 ♕g4 ♕f6 26 g3 ♗b5 27 gf: ♗d4: 28 ♘g3 ♘c2 29 fg: ♕c3 30 ♖f1 ♘e5

If 30 . . . ♘e1, 31 ♘e2.

31 ♕a4	♘d4
32 ♕e8+	♗f8

Forced. Now all White's moves to the time control at move 40 had to be played instantaneously.

33 ♗e3?

The right sort of idea in time trouble, but a mistake. 33 h6! ♘e6: 34 g6! must be winning.

33 . . .	♘e6:
34 ♖c1	♕d3
35 ♖c8	

Allowing a draw by perpetual.

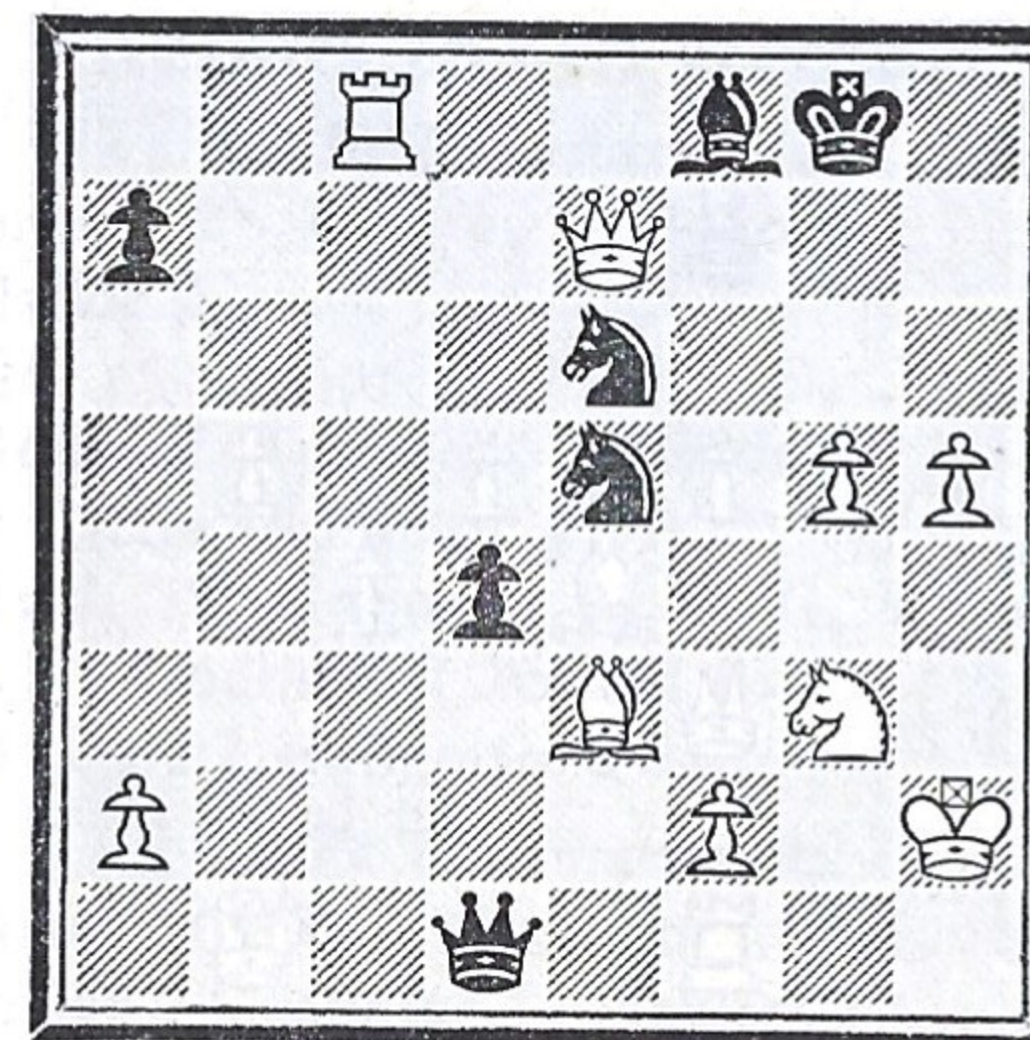|	
35 . . .	♕d1+
36 ♔g2	♕f3+
37 ♔g1	d4?

He plays for a win! But it rebounds . . .

38 ♕e7:!

Now 38 . . . ♕d5 is perhaps the last attempt to hold things together.

38 . . .	♕d1+
39 ♔g2	♕f3+
40 ♔g1	♕d1+
41 ♔h2	see dgm. next page

Having made the time control, White has no need to look for a draw. Now if 41 . . . ♘f3+, 42 ♔h3 ♘g1+ 43 ♔g2 or 41 . . . ♘g4+ 42 ♔h3, whilst 41 . . . de: 42 ♕e6:+ is crushing. Black has only one move . . .

41 . . .	♕g4
42 ♖f8:+	♘f8:

43 ♕e5:	de:
44 ♕e3:	

Black could resign.

44 . . . ♘e6 45 ♕b3 ♔f8 46 ♕b8+ ♔e7 47 ♕a7:+ ♔d8 48 ♕b8+ ♔d7 49 ♕b7+ ♔d8 50 ♕d5+ ♔e7 51 ♘f5+ ♔f7 52 ♘h6+ Black resigns.

Oddly enough, after the game I discovered that Basman himself had played 3 ♗e2 against Pytel at Hastings 1973-4. Black won in 33.

Sicilian

L. Porter *White* **J. Griffin** *Black*

1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 e6 3 d4 cd: 4 ♘d4: ♗c5 5 ♘b3 ♗b6 6 ♘c3 ♘e7 7 ♗g5 O—O 8 f4 f6 9 ♗h4 ♘bc6 10 ♕d2 d5 11 ed: ed: 12 O—O—O ♗f5

A bit hasty; 12 . . . ♗e6 is better.

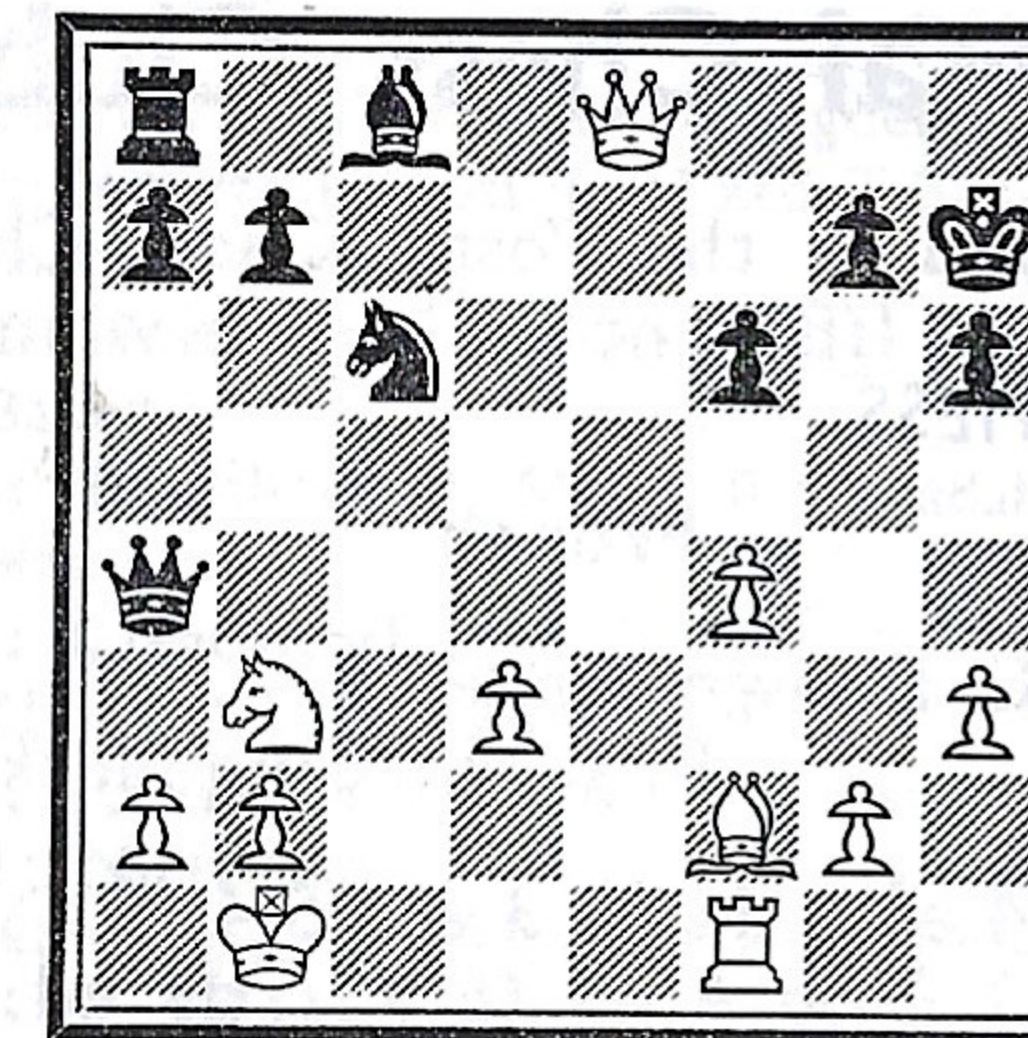**13 ♗f2 d4 14 ♘a4 ♗e3 15 ♘b6: ♕b6: 16 ♖e1 ♘f1: 17 ♖hf1: ♖d8 18 h3**

If 18 ♖d1, 18 . . . ♗g4.

18 . . . ♕a6 19 ♔b1 ♕a4 20 ♕d3 ♔h8 21 ♕e4 h6 22 ♕g6?

Overlooking Black's idea.

22 . . .	d3!
23 ♖e8+	♖e8:
24 ♕e8:+	♔h7
25 cd:	

Apparently White has prevented 25 . . . ♘b4 due to the pin, and he menaces 26 ♕e4+.
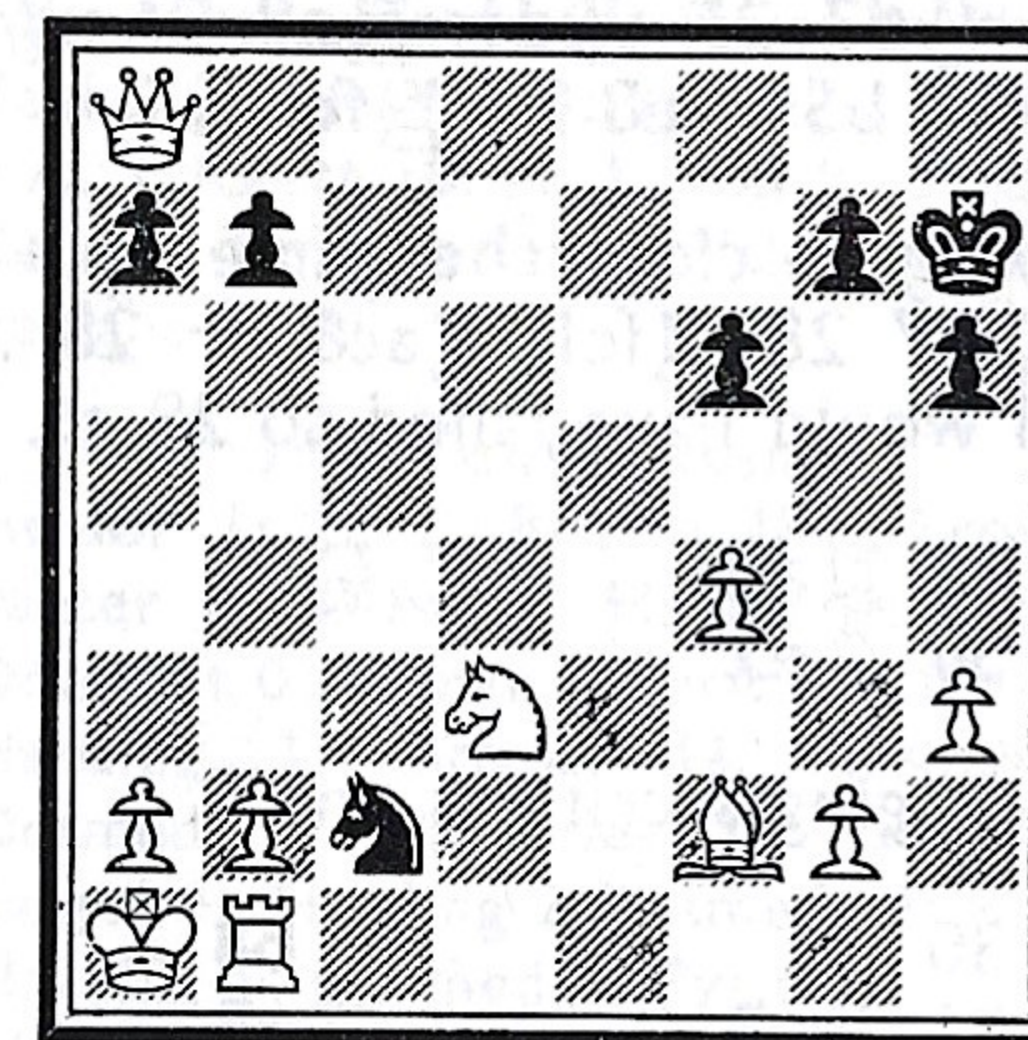

25 . . .	♗f5!
26 ♕a8:	

If 26 ♕e2 (26 ♕e3 isn't much better) 26 . . . ♘b4 is very strong. One sample line: 27 ♘c1 ♗d3:+! 28 ♘d3: ♕a2:+ 29 ♔c1 ♕c4+ regaining the piece with a pawn ahead. (30 ♔d2? ♕c2+ 31 ♔e3 ♖e8+).

26 . . .	♗d3:+
27 ♔a1	

If 27 ♔c1, 27 . . . ♕c4+ 28 ♔d2 ♕c2+ 29 ♔e3 ♕e2++.

27 . . .	♘b4!

There is no defence. If 28 ♕a7:, 28 . . . ♘c2+ 29 ♔b1 ♗e3+ and 30 . . . ♕a7:. The prettiest is 28 ♘c1 ♘c2+ 29 ♔b1 ♘a3+ 30 ♔b1 ♕c2 31 ♘d3: ♕b1+! 32 ♔b1: ♘c2++.

White takes the easy way out.

28 a3	♕b3:
29 ab:	♕a4++