

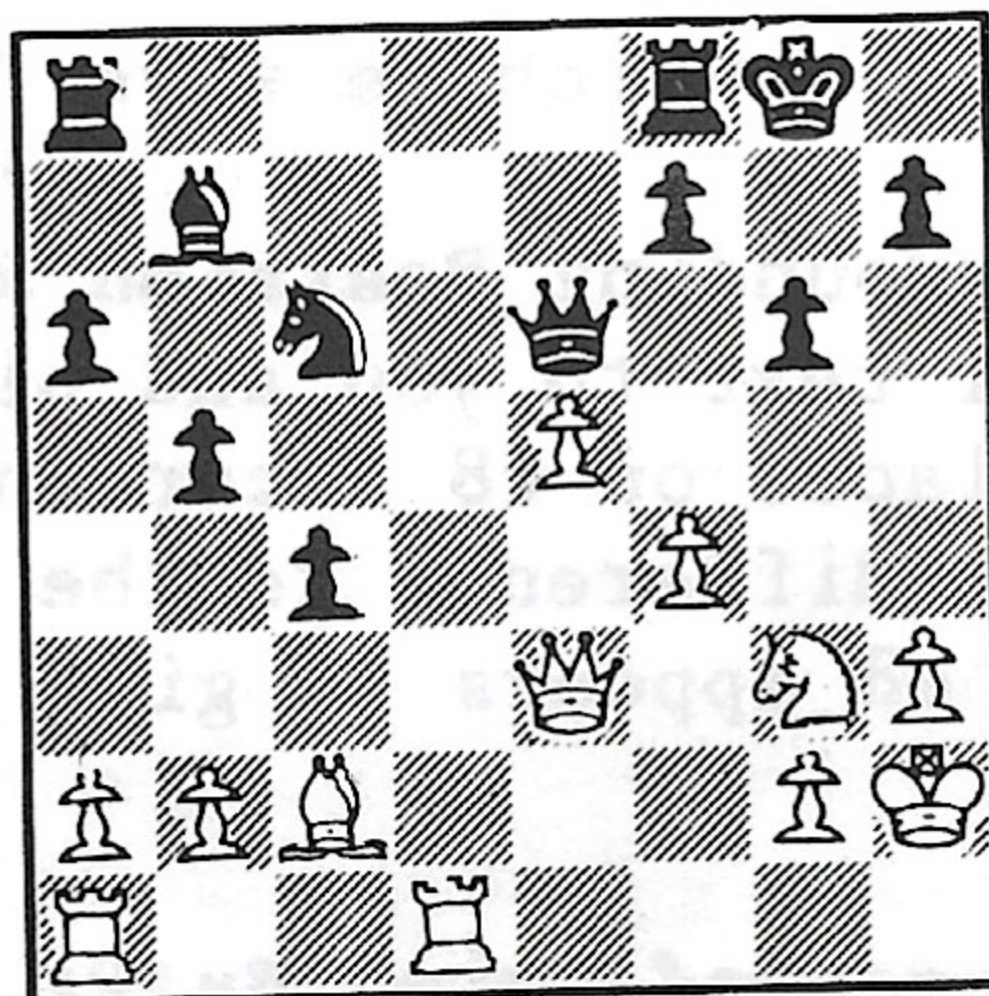
GAME 52
IRISH CHAMPIONSHIP 1988
PHILIP SHORT NM **MARK ORR FM**
 (White) (Black)

Q.G.A.

1d4 Nf6 2c4 e6 3Nf3 d5 4Nc3 dc4
 Offering to go into the complications of the Vienna Gambit (see Braga-Orr, ICJ Vol 1. No.3. P.19) but Philip is conservative in the openings and transposes into the QGA.

5e3 c5 6Bc4 a6 7 0-0 b5 8Bd3 Nbd7 9Qe2 Bb7 10Rd1 Over the board I was more concerned with the immediate 10e4 cd4 11Nd4 Nc5 12Rd1 Nd3 14Rd3 when White's extra development compensates for the exchange of his good Bishop. 10...Qb8! Making it difficult for White to force his congested pieces for if 11e4 cd4 12Nd4 Bd6 and if then 13g3 perhaps 13...h5! The Queen is better on b8 than c7 to avoid White sacrificing on b5 and a subsequent Knight fork of c7 and d6.

11Ng5!? Be7 12Nge4 Ne4 White's idea was 12...0-0 13dc5 Nc5 14Nf6+ Bf6 15Bh7+ Kh7 16Qh5+ Kg8 17Qc5 winning a pawn, but on reflection, this position is dangerous for White as Black's two Bishops and lead in development constitute serious compensation, e.g. 17...Rc8 18Qb4 Rc4 19 Qb3 Bc3 20bc3 Rg4 21g3 Qc7 with Qc6 to follow. 13Ne4 c4?! Better was 13...cd4 14ed4 0-0 but I did not want to release the Bcl. 14Bc2 0-0 15Ng3 g6 16e4 e5 17de5 Ne5 18Be3 Qc8! Eyeing g4 and c5. 19h3 Bc5 20Kh2 Be3 21Qe3 Qe6 22f4 Nc6 23e5



White has the advantage here with Ne4-f6 coming and a possible f5 at some point as well and Rd6. To counter this Black has Nb4 at some point and can try and use the unprotected state of Qe3 e.g. 23...Rfe8 24Rd6? Qd6 or 24Ne4? Ne5 25fe5 Qe5+ winning. I chose the possibly inferior 23...Rad8 which lead to the sacrifice of a piece for three pawns. 24Ne4 Ne5 25fe5 Qe5+ 26Qg3 Qb2 27Qc3 Also possible was 27Rd8 Rd8 28Qh4 again leading to an

ending with piece for 3 pawns but with the Queens on and probably at least a draw for Black.

27...Qc3 28Nc3 Rfe8 29Rd8 Rd8 30Rd1 Rd1 31Nd1 Philip later criticised his play around here - he was hardly taking any time over his moves. In the resulting position Black's King gets to d4 unchallenged simply because White has to spend a tempo doing something about the pawn g2.

31...Kg7 32Kg3 Kf6 33h4 Ke5 34Kf2 f5?! Unnecessary. Simply a5, Bc6, b4 and a4 35g3 a5 36Ne3 Bc6 37Ke2 Kd4 38h5 b4 39h6 a4 40g4 f4?? White has done well to give Black a critical decision on the last move before the time control and with only seconds left I duly obliged. I saw his reply but thought I could draw the ending. If only it occurred to me to try and win, the result could have been very different. (40...b3! 41gf ba2! 42Bd1 Be4 wins. Better for White is 41ab cb 42gf gf 43Bf5 a3 44Bc2! Ba4! but still losing)

41Bg6! fe3 42Bh7 Bd5 43Bb1! Philip is trying to win now and realises that he must keep control of b1-h7. 43Bc2 Bg8 44Ba4 Bh7 would be drawn.

43...Bg8 44g5 Kc3? As discovered later 44...Ke5 draws e.g. 45Ke3 a3! 46g6 Kf6 47Kd4 b3 48g7 ba2 49Ba2 Kg5 50Bc4 Kh6 51Bg8 Kg7. I played 44...Kc3 hoping to get the interesting ending of Q v. 4Ps where three of the pawns are connected and advanced. This is what happens but (a) my opponent should not have allowed it and (b) I misplayed it anyway.

45g6 Kb2 46h7? Better is 46Bf5 b3 47a3! (47ab a3 48h7 a2 49h8(Q)+ c3) c3 48h7 c2 49h8(Q)+ Ka2 so Qc3 and wins. 46...Bh7 47gh7 Kbl 48h8(Q) Ka2 49Ke3 a3? The final blunder! After 49...b3 50Qc3 a3 51Qc4 Kal 52Qb3 a2 Black draws and there does not seem to be any other way for White to try and win

50Kd2 b3 If 50...c3+ 51Kcl! b3 52Qg8! c2 53Qf7 Kal 54Qb3 a2 55Qb2 mate. 51Qh1 Kb2 If 51...b2 52Kc2 and mate by Qbl next move 52Qcl+ 1-0 A typical finish would be 52...Ka2 53Qc4 Kb2 (53...Kal 54Qb3 a2 55Qc3+ Kbl 56Qcl mate) 54Kd1! Ka2 (54...a2 55Qcl mate) 55Kcl Kal 56Qb3 a2 57Qc3 mate.