

IRISH CHAMPIONSHIPS 1994

Herbert Scarry reports on this year's Championships which were held in Armagh.

The 1994 Irish Championships made their periodic trek north of the border for the first time since Derry hosted them so successfully in 1987 and 1990. Apart from Limerick in 1991, they have been in Dublin every other year since 1985. This is probably about the right balance; although Dublin is the largest centre of population and therefore most accessible to players from the point of view of cost, it is important that all provinces are represented as hosts. Also a venue outside Dublin provides major benefits for the players in terms of freedom from distractions and a closer social atmosphere.

The proof of the pudding is in the number of entries, and on this basis Armagh was a popular choice. The Senior had an impressive 20 players, many no doubt keen to enhance their reputations with a view to Olympiad selection, and the only real absentees were significantly players not interested in the Olympiad this year.

The tournament was made possible by generous sponsorship from BT Northern Ireland and the *Armagh Together* organisation, which is co-ordinating the celebration of the founding of the first Christian church in Ireland by St Patrick at Armagh 1550 years ago. The city is steeped in history, with its imposing twin cathedrals and the nearby Navan Fort (Emain Macha), the ancient seat of the kings of Ulster. The nearby Navan Centre tells the story of the excavation of the site and dramatises the myths and legends associated with it. The Trian complex in the centre of Armagh provides exhibitions from more recent history, including tales of incessant pillaging by Viking invaders from about 900-1200AD, this despite Armagh's inland location. The best place to go if you wanted to take your mind off Ireland's troubled past, or an adjourned game, was the Armagh Planetarium with its star shows, interactive exhibits and samples of lunar dust.

The tournament was organised by Frank Coll and his colleagues in the Armagh Chess Club, and the arbiters were Herbert Scarry and Alec Beckett. The Charlemont Arms Hotel proved an excellent choice of venue, not least because of its helpful proprietor Robin Forster.

An important feature of the Irish Championships event this year was that for the first time the AGM of the Irish Chess Union was held in tandem with it. When this idea was first mooted, it had not been foreseen that the first time it would be put into practice was when the Championships would move outside Dublin. Nevertheless the ICU stuck to their guns and were rewarded with a bigger attendance than at any previous AGM. It seems that the idea is here to stay.

SENIOR

The Senior event was won by Mark Orr, still Ireland's only International Master. It was his first outright win, having shared the title with Eugene Curtin in 1985. He started with four straight wins, against Gerry McElligott, Stephen Gillen, Tom Clarke and Niall Carton, had two draws with John Joyce and Brian Kelly, then won against Richard O'Donovan to leave himself on 6/7 with two rounds to go. His closest pursuer turned out to be 16 year old Brian Kelly, who started out with a loss to Colm Daly but then reeled off a series of impressive wins against Ray Devenney, Joe Ryan, Ciaran Quinn, Niall Carton and Tom Clarke, which, added to his draw with Mark, left him only half a point behind the leader going into the crucial eighth round.

The tournament was assured of a dramatic finale when Mark Orr lost to Mel O'Cinneide on time to leave him on 6/8. However Brian Kelly could not take full advantage as he only drew with Adrian Gillen. Still, he was joint leader on 6/8 and a share of the title was a distinct possibility.

The last round pairings were Orr v A Gillen and Kelly v O'Cinneide. The latter was agreed drawn when White appeared to be getting the worst of it, although the post mortem was inconclusive on this point. Meanwhile Mark played for the win, which duly arrived on move 41, as Adrian had to give up his queen to avoid mate. He did manage to queen a pawn, but his position was beyond restoration.

Other impressive performers were Mel O'Cinneide who came clear third; John Joyce who showed impressive technique to claim a share of fourth place; and Richard O'Donovan whose performance included wins against Colm Daly, Joe Ryan and Conor O'Shaughnessy. Not so impressive were top seed Colm Daly, who showed an unusual frailty in time trouble; Niall Carton, who won his first three games and lost his next four; and Joe Ryan, who was third seed and recent winner at St Benildus, but seemed out of sorts and was lucky to recover from 2/7 by winning his last two games. Everyone else performed more or less according to seeding.

1 Mark Orr IM 7/9; 2 Brian Kelly 6½; 3 Mel O'Cinneide 6; 4-6 Tom Clarke, John Joyce, Colm Daly 5½; 7-9 Richard O'Donovan, Conor O'Shaughnessy, Stephen Gillen 5; 10-12 Adrian Gillen, Niall Carton, Gerry McElligott 4½; 13 Joe Ryan 4; 14-17 James McDonnell, Ciaran Quinn, Tim McCarthy, Ray Devenney 3½; 18-19 Arthur Pinkerton, John Nicholson 2½; 20 David Blair 1½.

INTERMEDIATE

Andrew Wright of Darndale was a convincing winner ahead of a strong field of 18 players. A win with Black against his nearest rival Kieran O'Driscoll in round 5 virtually assured him of the title, which he wrapped up with a quick draw in the last round. Irish U14 champion Gareth Lewis also impressed with a share of third place.

1 Andrew Wright 5/6; 2 Kieran O'Driscoll 4½; 3-5 Tom Esmonde, Sam Moore, Gareth Lewis 4; 6 Arlo White 3½; *grading prizes* Kevin Summons Walsh 3½, Gareth Annesley 3.

JUNIOR

Local man Nigel Telford entered the last round with a half point lead over Wenceslas Torres Gonzalez from Belfast, but lost with White to drop down to a share of second place with Shane McCabe of Rathmines. There were 44 players in all.

1 W Torres Gonzalez 5½/6; 2-3 Nigel Telford, Shane McCabe 5; 4-6 G Maher, J Hayden, P O'Sullivan 4½; 7 Paul Dempsey 4; *grading prizes* William Brennan, Pat Murtagh 3½.

WEEKENDER

Normally this is held on the second weekend to allow the players to view the climax of the Senior event. This time convention was defied so that they could view the exciting opening rounds (and attend the AGM). There were 30 entries, making a total of 112 for the four tournaments, a very acceptable turnout for an event outside Dublin.

Alexander Baburin scored a maximum 6/6 to take the £300 first prize, with his main opposition being German visitor Lars Thiede (FIDE 2280) who came joint second with Kieran Greer, with whom he drew.

1 Alexander Baburin 6/6; 2-3 Lars Thiede, Kieran Greer 4½; 4-7 Gareth Lewis, Suzanne Connolly, Andrew Lynch, Dermot Murtagh 4; *grading prizes* John Lynch (Derry) 3½; Arlo White (Belfast) 3½.

CHALLENGE MATCHES

Gareth Lewis 3 - Alec Beckett 1; St Patrick 4 - Snakes 0.

Fans of such things will be interested to know that the Intermediate featured an A White and the Junior an A Black, however both did not play in the Weekender (otherwise a pairing between the two would have been a tempting possibility). As a consolation, round 3 of the Junior saw the pairing C Redden v A Black (0-1).

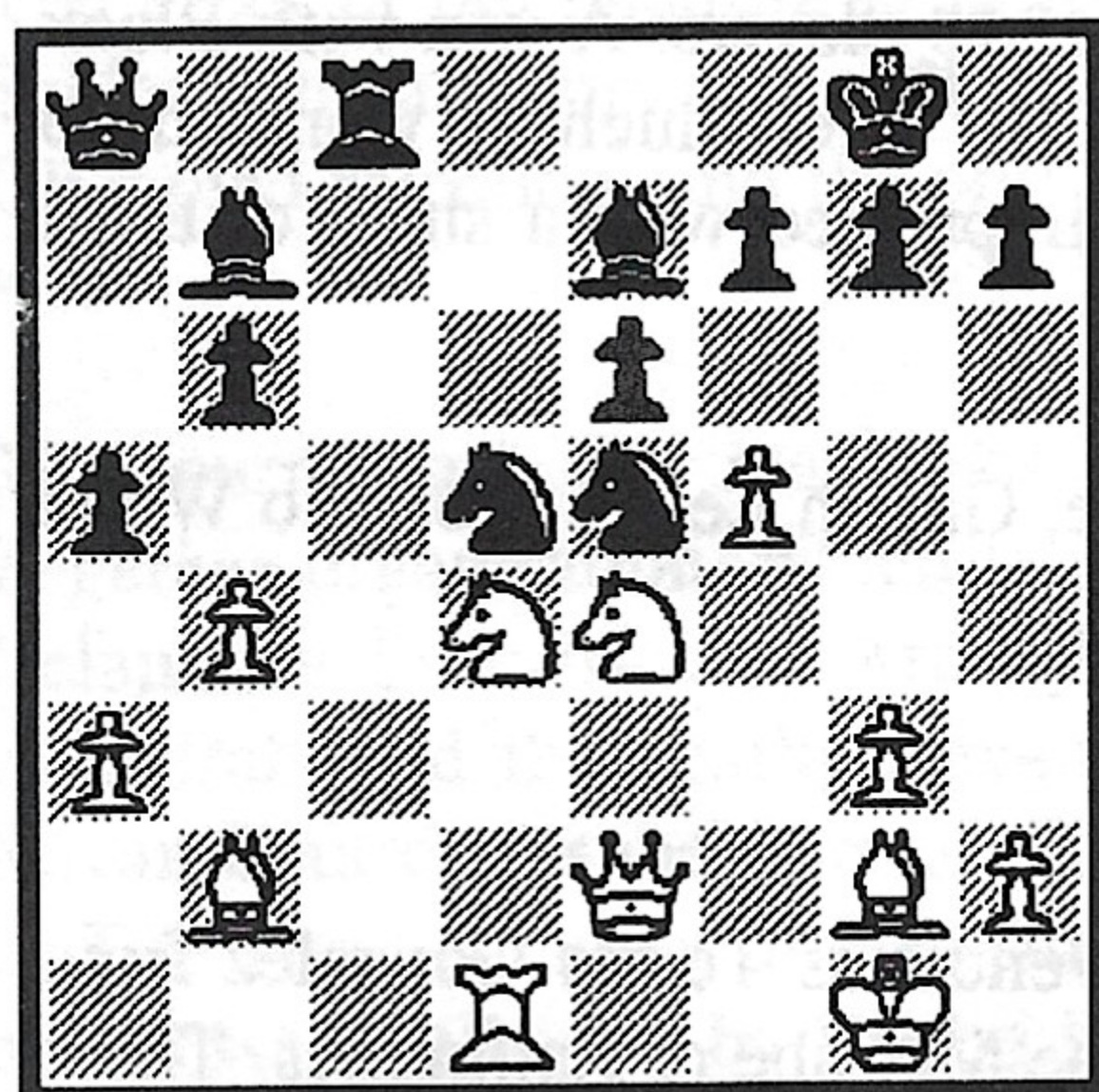
A closed tournament such as the Senior provides a good opportunity to examine statistical trends. For instance 25% of the games were drawn; of the other 75%, White won 45% and Black 30%, an interesting bias in favour of White and probably quite high by international standards. So how did White score so well? He opened 1 e4 in 45% of the games, 1 d4 in 38%, 1 c4 in 14%, and 1 Nf3 or 1 g3 in the remaining 3%. On the other hand, none of the top three were 1 e4 players! The most popular opening was the Sicilian Defence, appearing in no less than a fifth of all the games. In three games Brian Kelly met 1 e4 with 1...c5 (and scored 100%); as it happened Mark Orr never faced 1 e4.

C Daly - B Kelly

Round 1

Reti

1 Nf3 Nf6 2 g3 e6 3 Bg2 d5
4 0-0 Be7 5 c4 0-0 6 b3 c5 7
cxd5 Nxd5 8 Bb2 b6 9 d4 Bb7
10 Nbd2 Nc6 11 dxc5 Bxc5 12
a3 Be7 13 e4 Nf6 14 Qe2 Rc8
15 Rfd1 Qc7 16 Rac1 Qb8 17
b4 Rfd8 18 Nb3 Rxd1+ 19
Rxd1 Qa8 20 e5 Nd5 21 Nfd2
Nb8 22 Ne4 Nd7 23 f4 a6 24
Nd4 a5 25 f5 Nxe5



A picturesque central constellation of knights.

26 fxe6 Nc4 27 exf7+ Kxf7 28
Nf5 Bf8 29 Ng5+ Kg6 30 Qe6+
Nf6 31 Nh4+ Kh5 32 Qf7+ 1-0.

R Devenney - A Gillen

Round 1

QGD

1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 Nc3 Nf6 4
cxd5 exd5 5 Bg5 Nbd7 6 e3 Be7
7 Bd3 0-0 8 Qc2 c6 9 Nge2 Re8
10 0-0-0 b5 11 h3 a5 12 g4 Nf8
13 Ng3 a4 14 Nf5 Bxf5 15 Bxf5
Qa5 16 Rhg1 g6 17 Bd3 b4 18
Nb1 c5 19 b3 axb3 20 axb3
cxd4 21 Qb2 Ne6 22 f4 Rac8+
23 Bc2 Nxc5 24 fxc5 Ne4 25
Qxd4 Rxc2+ 26 Kxc2 Qa2+ 0-1

David Blair selflessly withdrew from the weekend to even up the numbers in the Senior, and played some enterprising chess.

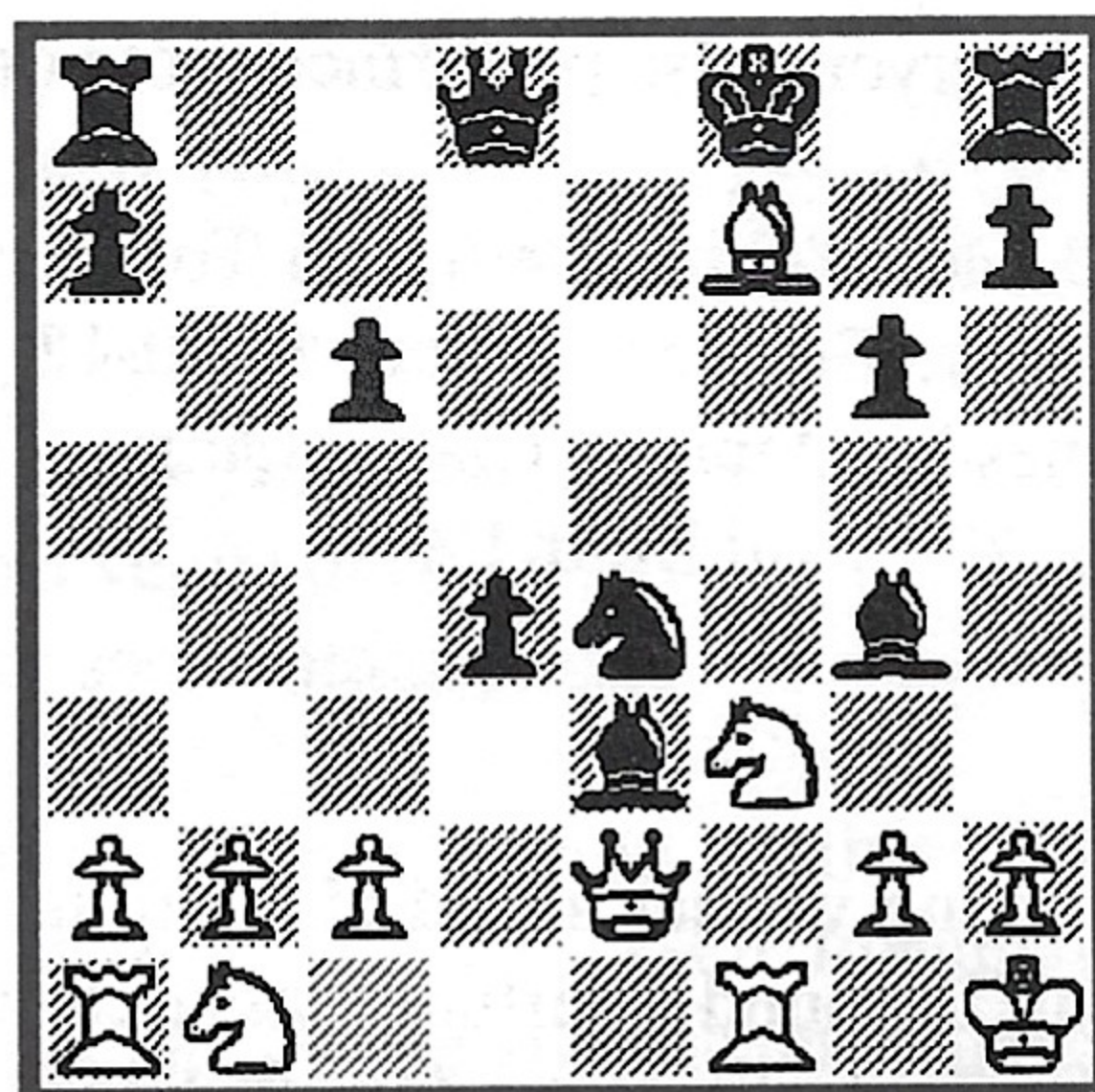
J McDonnell - D Blair

Round 2

Modern

1 e4 g6 2 d4 Bg7 3 Nc3 d6 4 f4
Nc6 5 Nf3 Bg4 6 Be3 e5 7 fxe5
dxe5 8 d5 Nd4 9 Bxd4 exd4 10

Bb5+ Kf8 11 Nb1 c6 12 Bc4
Nf6 13 dxc6 bxc6 14 0-0 Nxe4
15 Bxf7 Bh6 16 Qe2 Be3+ 17
Kh1



17...Qh4!?! 18 Qxe3 dxe3 19
Nxe4 Nf2+ 20 Kg1 Kxf7 21 Nc3
Kg7 22 h3 Bf5 23 Rfe1 Rhe8 24
Re2 Rad8 25 Rae1 Ne4 26 Rxe3
Nf6 27 Nxf5+ gxf5 28 Rxe8
Nxe8 29 Kf2 Kf6 30 Kf3 Nc7 31
Rd1 Rb8 32 Rd6+ Ke5 33 Rxc6
Ne6 34 Ne2 Rxb2 35 Ra6 Rxc2?
36 Rxe6+ Kd5 37 Ra6 1-0.

T Clarke - M Orr IM

Round 3

Budapest

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e5 3 dxe5 Ng4 4
Bf4 Bb4+ 5 Nc3 Bxc3+ 6 bxc3
Nc6 7 Nf3 Qe7 8 Qd5 Qa3 9
Rc1 f6 10 Rc2 Qe7 11 exf6
Nxf6 12 Qd1 d6 13 e3 0-0 14
Be2 Bf5 15 Rb2 b6 16 Nd4 Bd7
17 Nb5 Rac8 18 Bf3 Ne5 19
Bxe5 dxe5 20 Nxa7 Rcd8 21
Bd5+ Kh8 22 0-0 c6 23 Rxb6
cxd5 24 cxd5 Bg4 25 Qa4 Ra8
26 Nc6 Qc7 27 Qb5 Nxd5 28
Qxd5 Qxb6 29 Nxe5 Be6 0-1.

C Daly - N Carton

Round 3

NimzoIndian

1 d4 e6 2 c4 Nf6 3 Nc3 Bb4 4
Qc2 d5 5 cxd5 exd5 6 Bg5 h6 7
Bh4 0-0 8 e3 c5 9 dxc5 Be6 10
Bd3 Nbd7 11 Nge2 Nxc5 12
Bh7+ Kh8 13 Bf5 Qd7 14 Bxe6
fxe6 15 Nf4 Kg8 16 Ng6 Rfc8
17 Bxf6 gxf6 18 0-0 Qh7 19 Ne2
Ne4 20 Qa4 Bd6 21 Ngf4 Rc4
22 Qd1 Qf7 23 Nd4 Bxf4 24
exf4 Re8 25 Re1 Kh7 26 Qd3

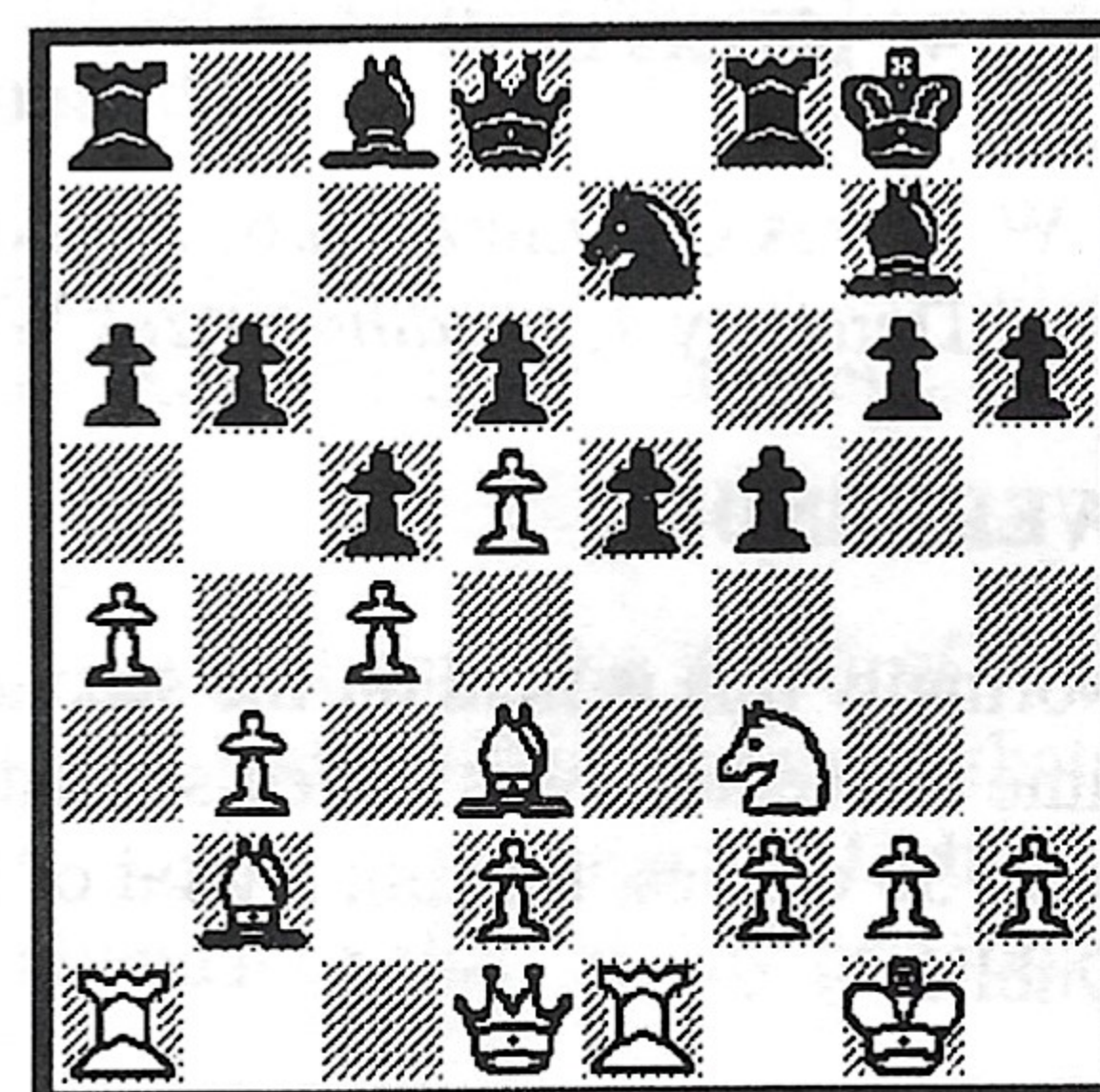
Qc7 27 Rad1 Qc5 28 Re3 Kg7
29 h4 Kf7 30 a3 Kg7 31 h5 f5
32 Rg3+ Kh7 33 Rg6 Qd6 34
Nxf5 Qxf4 35 Rxh6+ Kg8 36
Rg6+ Kh7 37 Rh6+ Kg8 38
Rg6+ Kh7 39 Rh6+ Kg8 40
Rg6+ Kf8 41 Qe3 Qxf5 42
Qh6+ Ke7 43 f3 Nc5 44 b4 Nd7
45 Qe3 Qe5 46 Qxa7 Rh4 47
Kf2 Qb2+ 48 Kg3 Rxh5 49 Re1
Kf7 50 Rg4 Qc3 51 Re3 Qc7+
52 Kf2 Qb6 53 Qa4 Nf6 54 Rf4
Re5 55 Rxf6+ Kxf6 56 Qxe8
Qxe3+ 57 Kg3 Qe1+ 58 Kh3
Qh1+ 59 Kg3 Rg5+ 60 Kf2
Qxg2+ 0-1.

T McCarthy - G McElligott

Round 3

Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 g6 4 0-0
Bg7 5 Re1 e5 6 Nc3 Nge7 7
b3 0-0 8 Bb2 d6 9 Nd5 Nxd5 10
exd5 Ne7 11 Bc4 a6 12 a4 b6 13
Bd3 h6 14 c4 f5



15 Nxe5?! dxe5 16 Bxe5 Nc6 17
Bxg7 Kxg7 18 Rb1 a5 19 dxc6
Qxd3 20 h4 f4 21 h5 Bf5 22
Rc1 g5 23 Re7+ Rf7 24 Qe1
Qd6 0-1.

J Joyce - M O' Cinneide

Round 4

NimzoIndian

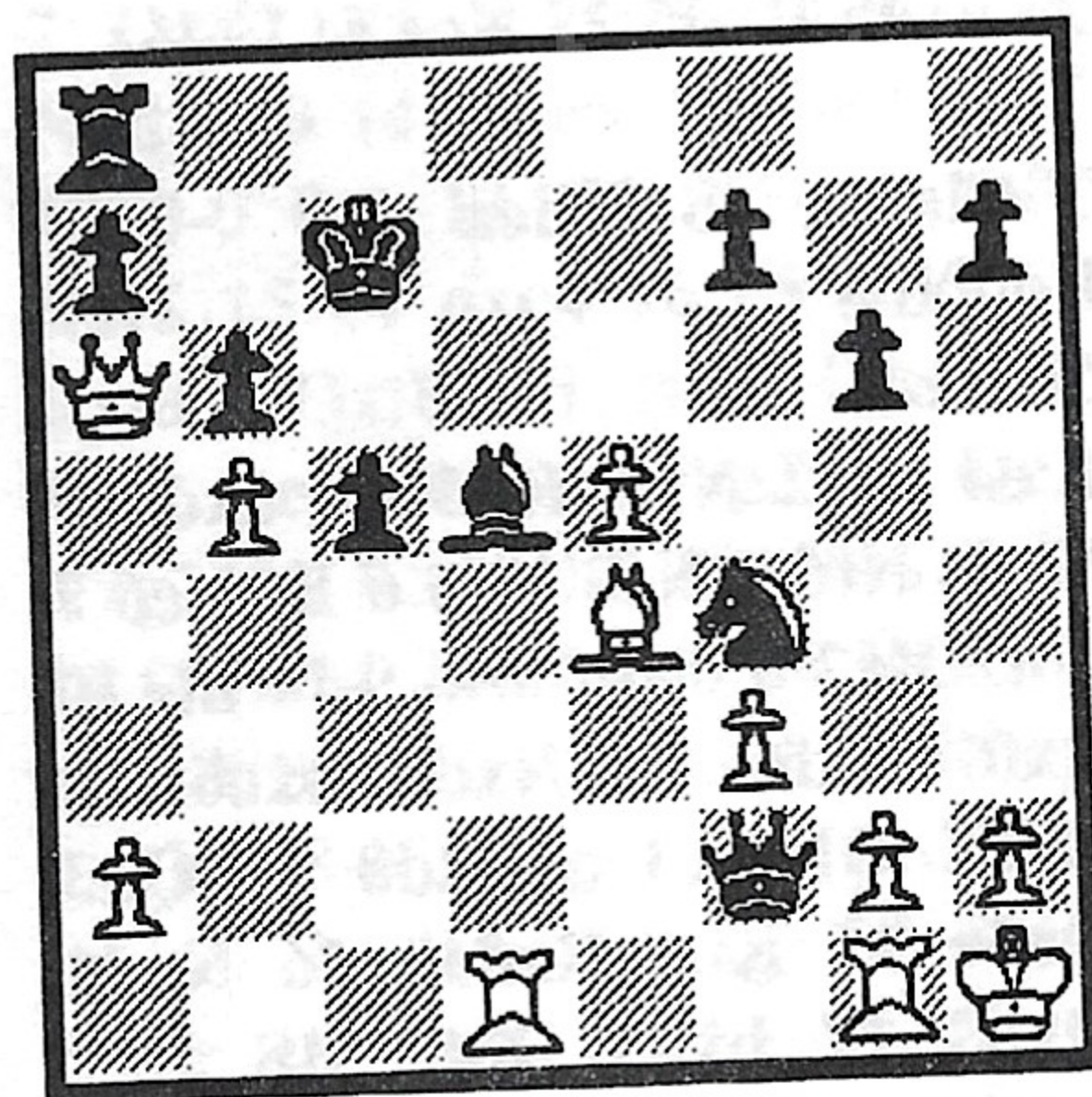
1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 Nc3 Bb4 4
Bg5 c5 5 d5 d6 6 e3 exd5 7 cxd5
Nbd7 8 f3 h6 9 Bh4 Qe7 10 e4
0-0 11 Bd3 Ne5 12 Nge2 Re8 13
0-0 Ng6 14 Bf2 Nh5 15 Qd2
Ne5 16 a3 Bxc3 17 Nxc3 Nxd3
18 Qxd3 Nf4 19 Qd2 Ng6 20
Rae1 b6 21 Bg3 Ba6 22 Rf2
Ne5 23 Bxe5 dxe5 24 f4 exf4 25
e5 Rad8 26 Qxf4 Bb7 27 Rd2

Qg5 28 Qxg5 hxg5 29 Kf2 Rd7 30 Kg3 Kh7 31 h4 Red8 32 d6 gxh4+ 33 Kxh4 Bc6 34 Red1 Kg6 35 Kg4 Rh8 36 Kf4 Rh4+ 37 g4 Rh3 38 Rd3 Rh2 39 R1d2 Rh1 40 Rd1 Rh2 41 R1d2 Rh1 42 Nd5 Rf1+ 43 Kg3 Kg5 44 Rd1 Rxd1 45 Rxd1 Rd8 46 Nc7 Bd7 47 Rf1 Kg6 48 Nd5 Rf8 49 Nf4+ Kh7 50 g5 Rd8 51 Rh1+ Kg8 52 Nd5 1-0.

A Gillen - T Clarke
Round 4

French

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 exd5 exd5 4 Nf3 Bg4 5 Bd3 Nc6 6 c3 Bd6 7 0-0 Qd7 8 b4 Nf6 9 Re1+ Ne7 10 Nbd2 0-0-0 11 Qc2 Rhe8 12 Ne5 Bxe5 13 dxe5 Nh5 14 Nb3 b6 15 Nd4 g6 16 Bg5 c6 17 f3 Be6 18 Qa4 Kb7 19 b5 c5 20 Nc6 Ra8 21 Bxe7 Rxe7 22 Nxe7 Qxe7 23 c4 Qh4 24 Qa6+ Kc7 25 cxd5 Qd4+ 26 Kh1 Bxd5 27 Rad1 Nf4 28 Be4 Qf2 29 Rg1



29...Bxe4? (Correct is 29...Nh3! 30 gxh3 Bxe4 31 fxe4 Qf3+ 32 Rg2 Qxd1+ 33 Rg1 Qf3+ 34 Rg2 Rd8 35 Qxa7+ Kc8 36 Qa8+ Kd7 37 Qc6+ Ke7 38 Qf6+ Qxf6+ 39 exf6+ Kxf6 with a better endgame for Black) 30 fxe4 Nh3 31 Rd7+ (White's saving move) 31...Kxd7 32 Qb7+ Ke6 33 Qd5+ Ke7 34 Qd6+ Ke8 35 Qc6+ Kf8 36 Qxa8+ Kg7 37 gxh3 Qf3+ 1/2-1/2.

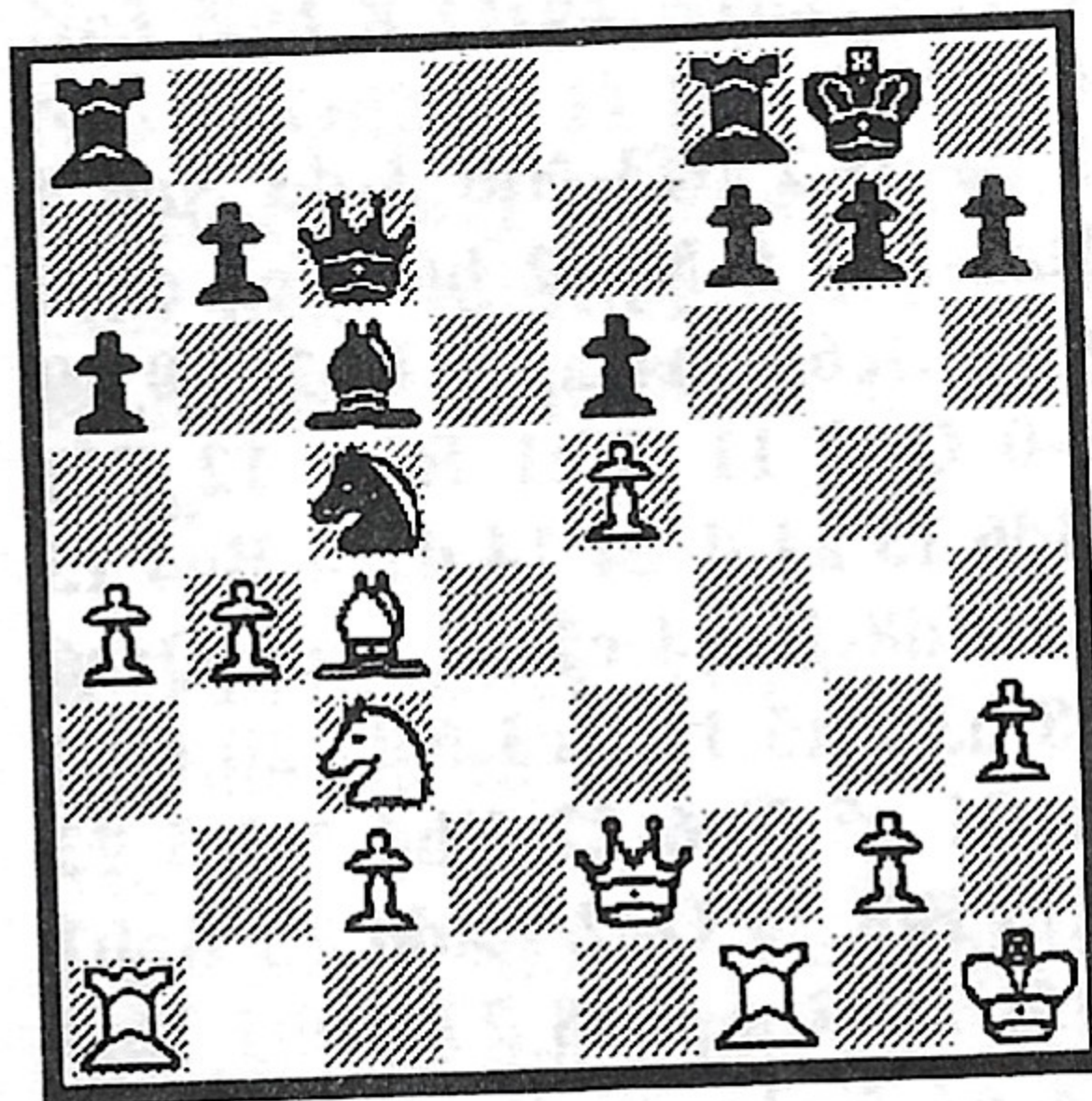
N Carton - B Kelly

Round 5

Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 d6 6 Bc4 Nc6 7

Be3 Be7 8 f4 a6 9 a4 Bd7 10 0-0 Qc7 11 Qe2 0-0 12 h3 Nxd4 13 Bxd4 Bc6 14 e5 dxe5 15 fxe5 Nd7 16 Kh1 Bc5 (!) 17 Bxc5 Nxc5 18 b4



Black had intended 18...Nxa4 with the possible continuation 19 Nxa4 Bxa4 20 Rxa4 b5 21 Bxb5 axb5 22 Rxa8 Rxa8 23 Qxb5 but then noticed a better move.

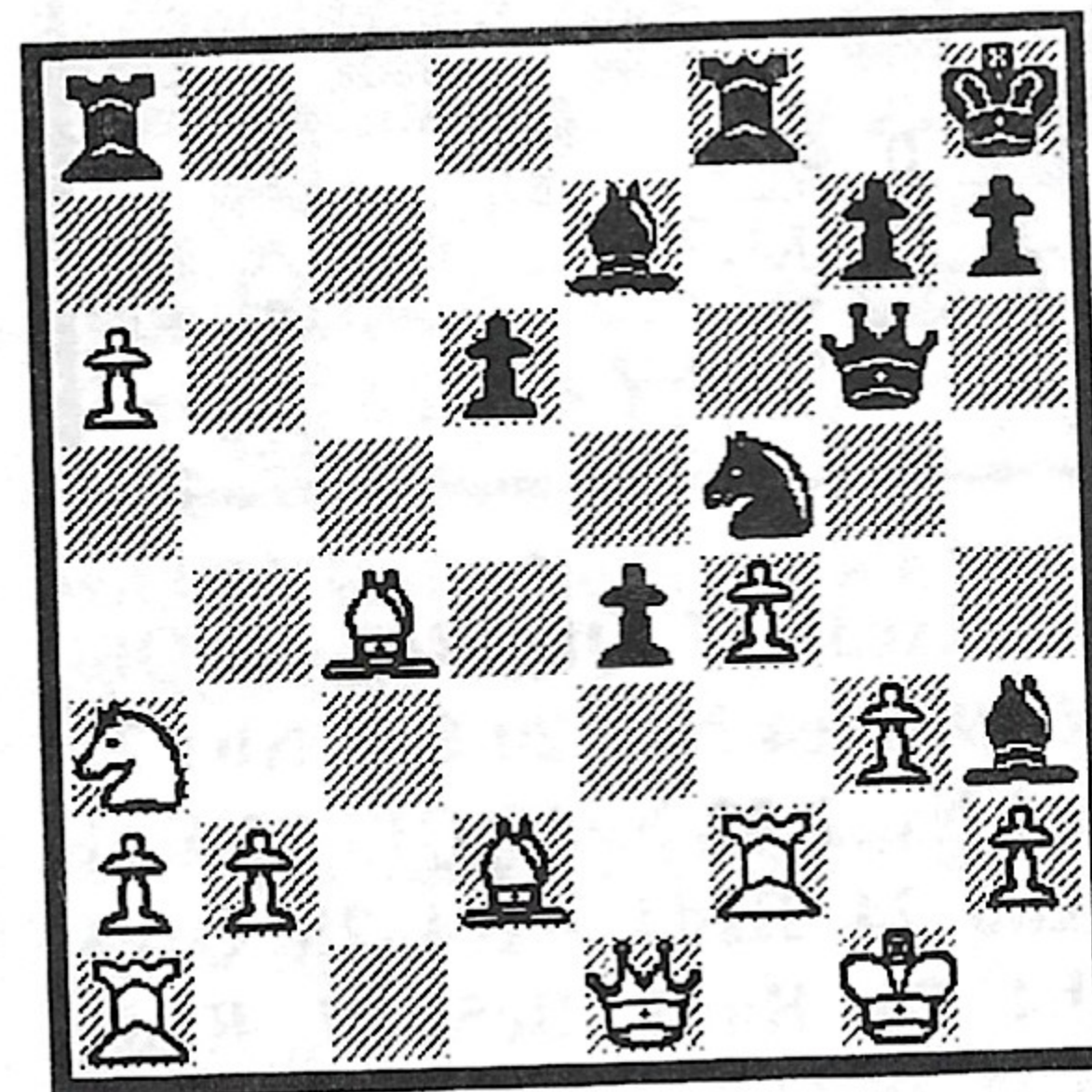
18...Nd7! 19 b5 Nb6! 20 bxc6 Qxc6 21 Rf4 Rac8 22 Ne4 Nxc4 23 Nf6+ gxf6 24 Rg4+ Kh8 25 Qf2 f5 26 Qh4 f6 0-1.

C Daly - R O'Donovan

Round 5

Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 e5 5 Nb5 d6 6 N1c3 a6 7 Na3 b5 8 Nd5 Nf6 9 Bg5 Qa5+ 10 Bd2 Qd8 11 Bg5 Qa5+ 12 Bd2 Qd8 13 Nxf6+ Qxf6 14 c4 Qg6 15 f3 Be7 16 g3?! f5 17 exf5 Bxf5 18 cxb5 Nd4 19 bxa6 0-0 20 Bc4+ Kh8 21 0-0 Bh3 22 Rf2 e4 23 f4 Nf5 24 Qe1



24...d5! 25 Bxd5 Nxc3 26 hxg3 Qxg3+ 27 Kh1 Bc5 28 Qxe4 Qxf2 29 Bxa8 Bf1 30 Rxf1 Qxf1+ 31 Kh2 Bg1+ 32 Kg3

Bf2+ 33 Kg4 h5+ 34 Kg5 Qh3 35 f5 Bh4+ 36 Kxh5 Be1+ 37 Kg6 Rf6+ 38 Kg5 Bxd2+ 0-1.

B Kelly - M Orr IM

Round 6

English

1 c4 e5 2 Nc3 Bb4 3 Nf3 Bxc3 4 dxc3 d6 5 c5 Nc6 6 cxd6 cxd6 7 g3 Nf6 8 Bg2 0-0 9 0-0 d5 10 Qb3 h6 11 Rd1 Qe7 12 Qa4 Be6 13 b3 Rfd8 14 Bb2 Qc7 15 Rac1 Qb6 16 Nd2 e4 17 c4 Ng4 18 e3 Nxe3 19 fxe3 Qxe3+ 20 Kh1 Qf2 21 cxd5 Rxd5 22 Bc3 e3 23 Ne4 Rxd1+ 24 Rxd1 Qc2 25 Re1 Rd8 26 Qb5 Rd3 27 Bf3 Rxc3 28 Nxc3 Qxc3 29 Rd1 Nd4 30 Qe5 e2 31 Bxe2 Qc6+ 32 Kg1 Nf3+ 33 Bxf3 Qxf3 34 Rf1 Qd3 35 Qf4 Bd5 36 Qf5 Qe3+ 37 Rf2 Qe1+ 38 Rf1 Qe3+ 39 Rf2 Qe1+ 1/2-1/2.

A Pinkerton - J Ryan

Round 6

Benko Gambit

1 d4 Nf6 2 g3 g6 3 Bg2 Bg7 4 e4 d6 5 Ne2 0-0 6 c4 c5 7 d5 b5 8 cxb5 a6 9 Nbc3 axb5 10 Nxb5 Ba6 11 Nbc3 Nbd7 12 f4 Qb6 13 0-0 c4+ 14 Kh1 Ng4 15 Qe1 Nc5 16 h3 Nd3 17 Qd2 Ndf2+ 18 Rxf2 Nxf2+ 19 Kh2 Nd3 20 Rb1 Rab8 21 b3 Nxc1 22 Qxc1 cxb3 23 Rxb3 Qf2 24 Qd1 Rxb3 25 axb3 Rc8 0-1.

M Orr IM - R O'Donovan

Round 7

KID

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 g3 Bg7 4 Bg2 0-0 5 Nc3 d6 6 Nf3 Nbd7 7 0-0 e5 8 e4 exd4 9 Nxd4 Re8 10 h3 a6 11 Re1 Rb8 12 a4 Ne5 13 b3 Bd7 14 Be3 Bc6 15 Qc2 h5 16 f4 Ned7 17 b4 Nf8 18 b5 Bd7 19 Rad1 Qc8 20 f5 axb5 21 cxb5 Ra8 22 Kh2 c6 23 b6 gxf5 24 Nxf5 Bxf5 25 exf5 d5 26 Qf2 Ng4+ 27 hxg4 Bxc3 28 Bd2 Rxe1 29 Rxe1 Bxd2 30 Qxd2 Qd8 31 Qd4 Qg5 32 gxh5 Qxh5+ 33 Bh3 Nh7 34 Kg2 Ng5 35 Bg4 Qh8 36 f6 Ne4 37 Rxe4 dxe4 38 a5 Qh6 39 Qd6 Qg5 40 Be2 Kh7 41 a6 Qe3 42 Kf1 Qxb6 43 Qe5 Qe3 44 Qf5+ Kh8

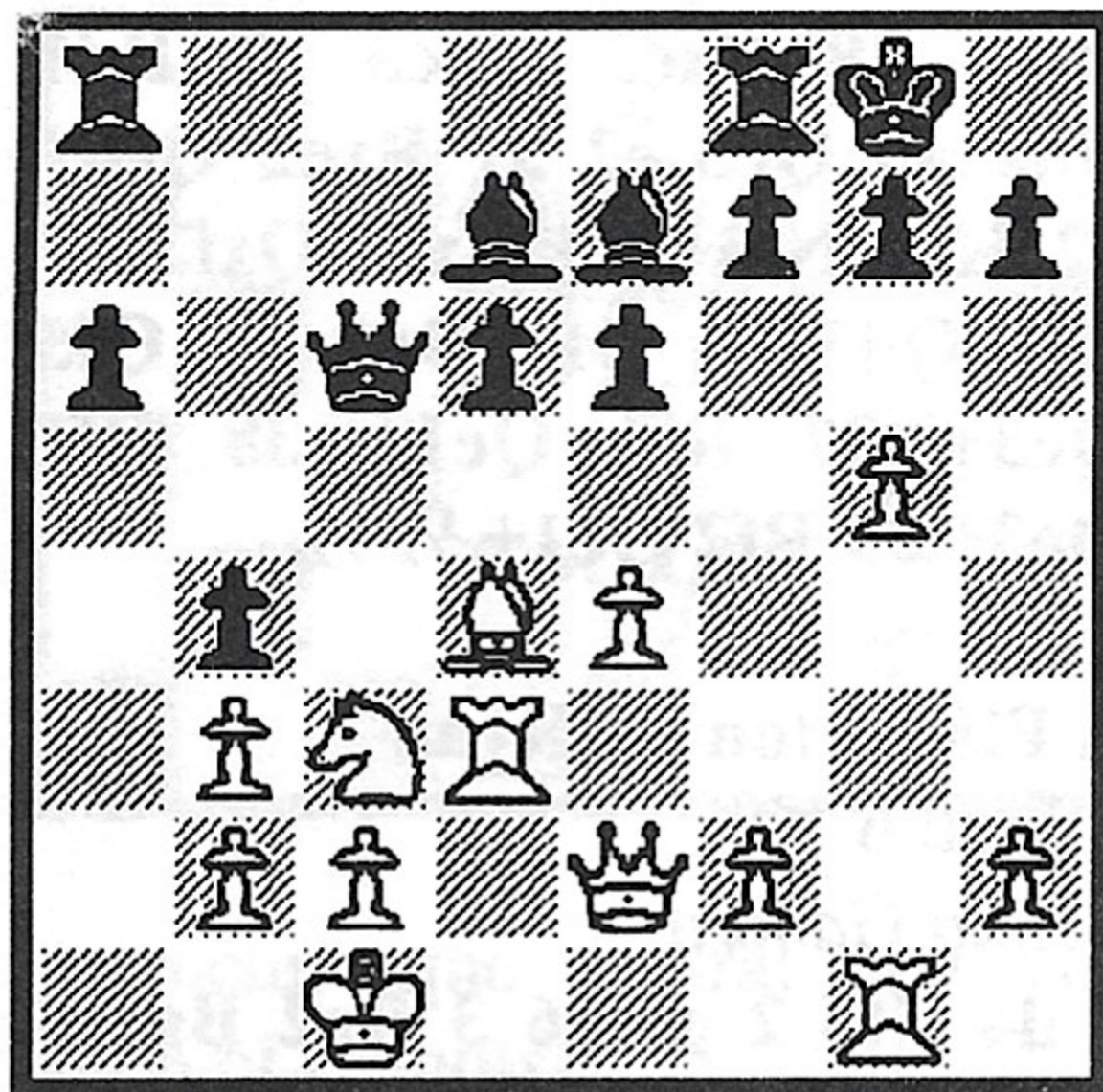
45 Qh5+ Kg8 46 Qg4+ Kf8 47 Qg7+ Ke8 48 Qg8+ Kd7 49 Qxa8 bxa6 50 Qb7+ Ke6 51 Qe7+ Kf5 52 Qxf7 Qxg3 53 Bg4+ 1-0.

T Clarke - B Kelly

Round 7

Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 d6 6 Bc4 Nc6 7 Be3 Be7 8 Bb3 0-0 9 Qe2 Qc7 10 0-0-0 a6 11 g4 Nd7 12 g5 Nc5 13 Rhg1 b5 14 Nxc6 Nxb3+ 15 axb3 Qxc6 16 Bd4 Bd7 17 Rd3 b4



18 Bf6 Rfe8 19 Na2 Bf8 20 Nxb4 Qc5 21 Qd2 a5 22 Na2 a4 23 b4 Qc4 24 Kb1 Qxe4 25 Bc3 e5 26 f3 Qc4 27 Nc1 Bf5 28 Rd5 Rec8 29 Rxd6 Bxd6 30 Qxd6 Re8 31 Re1 Re6 32 Qd7 a3 33 Qb7 Rea6 34 b5 R6a7 35 Qc6 Qxc6 36 bxc6 axb2 37 Kxb2 Rc7 38 Rxe5 Bg6 39 f4 Rxc6 40 f5 Rb8+ 41 Nb3 Rbc8 42 fxc6 Rxc3 43 gxf7+ Kxf7 44 Re2 Kg6 45 Rg2 R3c4 46 Kc1 Kh5 47 Kd1 Rg4 48 Rf2 Kxg5 49 Nd2 Kh4 50 Nf1 Rd8+ 51 Kc1 Rg6 52 Ne3 Kh3 53 c4 Rf6 54 Re2 Rdf8 55 c5 Rc6 56 Rc2 Rfc8 0-1.

J Nicholson - R Devenney

Round 7

Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 Nc3 d6 3 f4 g6 4 Nf3 Bg7 5 Bc4 Nc6 6 0-0 e6 7 d3 Nge7 8 Qe1 0-0 9 Qh4 Nd4 10 f5 Nec6 11 f6 Bxf6 12 Ng5 h5 13 g4 Ne5 14 Kg2 Nxc4 15 h3 Ne5 16 Bd2 Bg7 17 Qg3 Bd7 18 Rf2 b5 19 Bd5 Rb8 20 Raf1 b4

21 Nxf7 Rxf7 22 Rxf7 Nxf7 23 Qxg6 Qe7 24 Qxh5 bxc3 25 bxc3 exd5 0-1.

J Ryan - T McCarthy

Round 7

Petroff

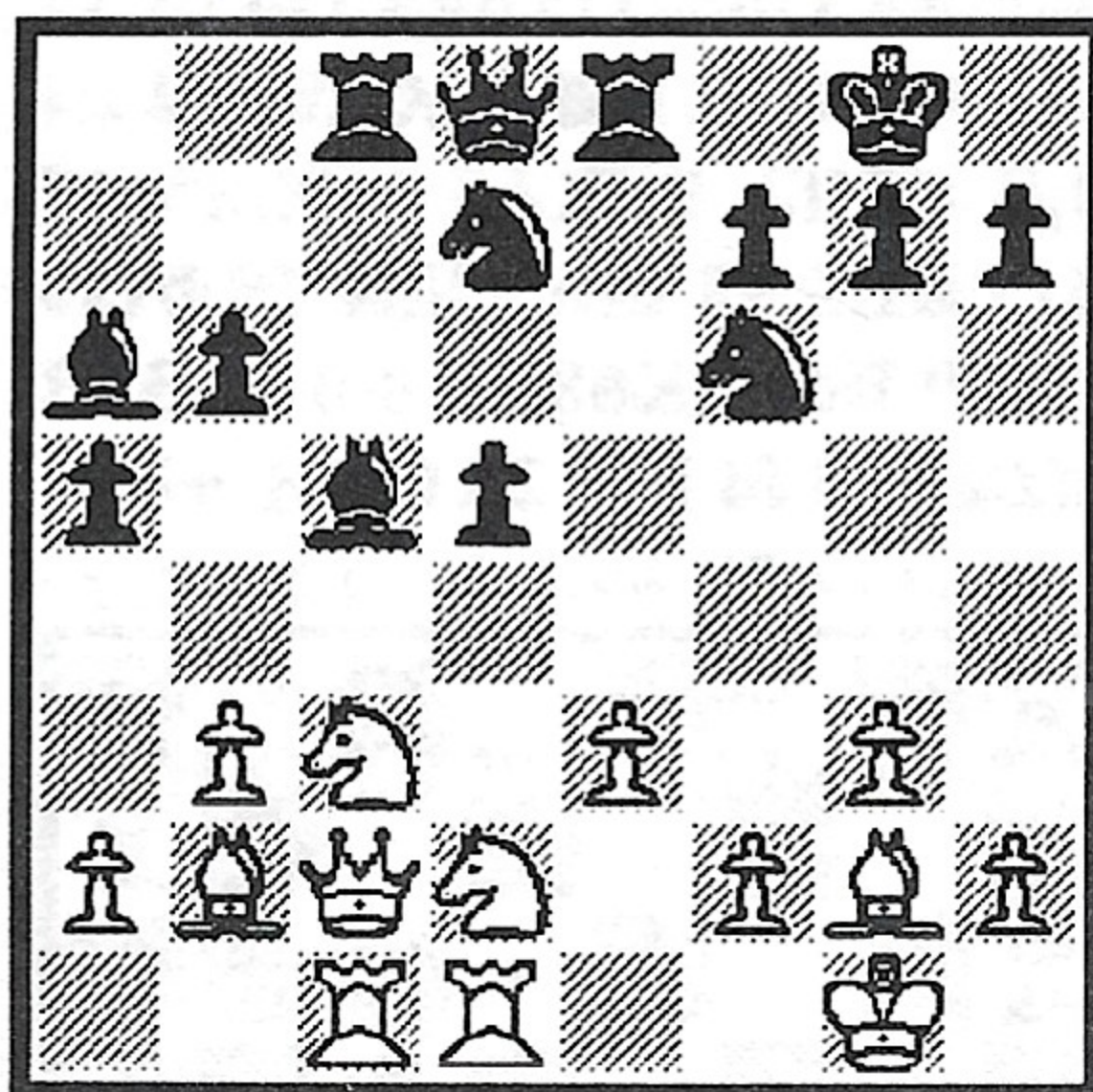
1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 d3 Nc6 4 Be2 Be7 5 Nbd2 h6 6 c3 d5 7 Qc2 Be6 8 b4 a6 9 Bb2 0-0 10 0-0 Qd7 11 Rfe1 Rfe8 12 Bf1 Bd6 13 a4 dxe4 14 dxe4 Bg4 15 b5 Nd8 16 c4 c5 17 bxc6 Qxc6 18 h3 Bh5 19 Bc3 Nd7 20 Qb2 f6 21 a5 Ne6 22 Nh4 Ndc5 23 Nf5 Bf8 24 Qa2 Rad8 25 Rab1 Nf4 26 Rb6 Qc8 27 Reb1 Rd7 28 g3 Ne2+ 29 Bxe2 Bxe2 30 Ne3 Rd3 31 Qc2 Qxh3 32 Ndf1 Bf3 33 Nh2 Bxe4 34 f3 Rxe3 35 fxe4 Rxc3+ 36 Kh1 Rxc3 37 Qe2 Re3 38 Qd2 Rd3 39 Qe2 Red8 40 R6b2 Nxe4 41 Kg1 Bc5+ 0-1.

M O'Connell - M Orr IM

Round 8

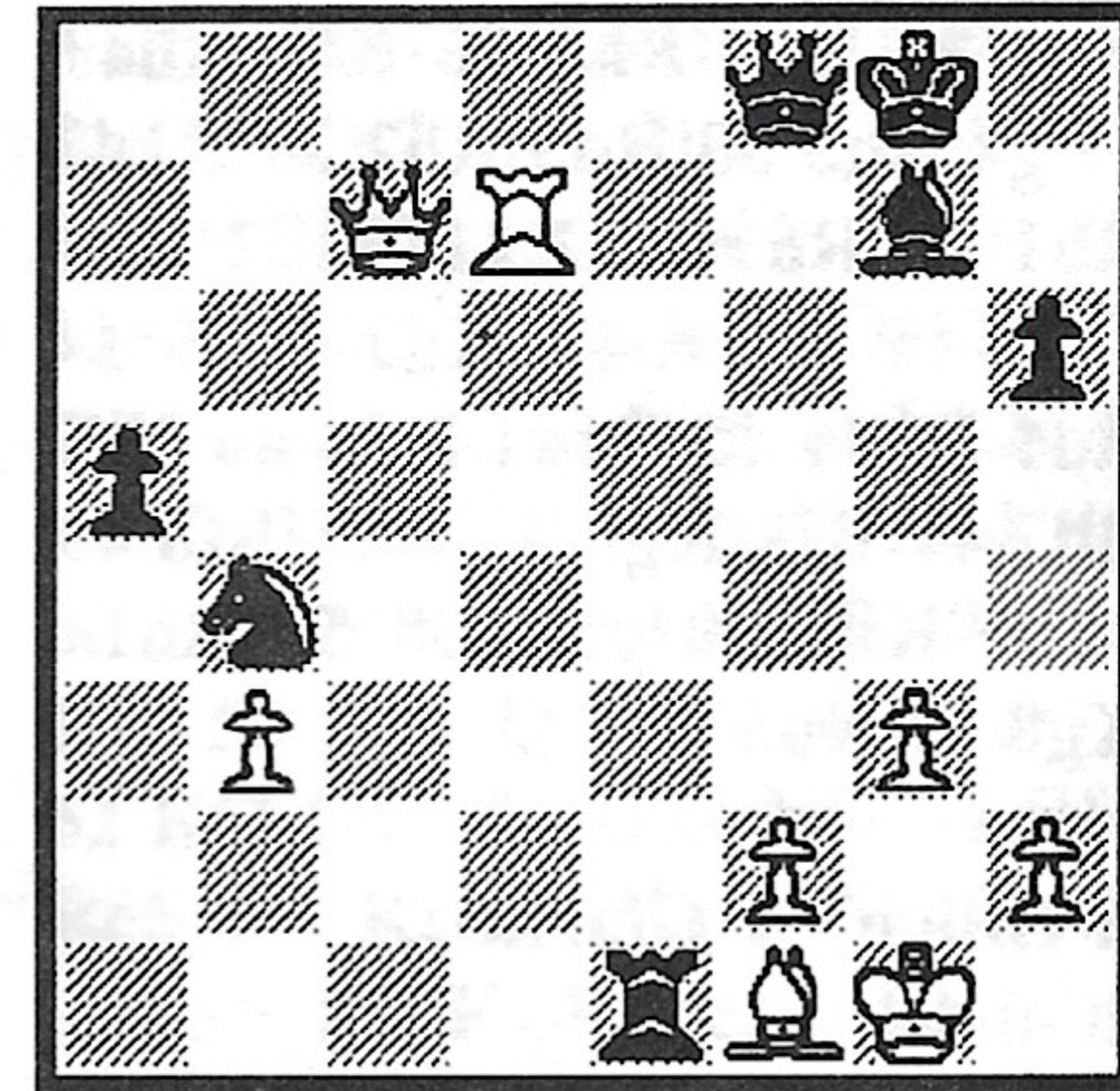
Reti

1 c4 e6 2 Nf3 d5 3 b3 Nf6 4 g3 a5 5 Nc3 c6 6 e3 Nbd7 7 Bg2 Bb4 8 Qc2 0-0 9 0-0 Re8 10 d4 b6 11 Rd1 Ba6 12 Nd2 Rc8 13 Bb2 c5 14 dxc5 Bxc5 15 cxd5 exd5 16 Rac1



16...Rxe3! 17 Qf5 Re5 18 Qf4 d4 19 Nce4 Nd5 20 Qf3 Nb4 21 Nc4 Nxa2 22 Ncd6 Qf8 23 Ra1 Bxd6 24 Rxd4 Rxe4 25 Qxe4 Nb4 26 Rad1 Be5 27 Rxd7 Bxb2 28 Qf5 g6 29 Qg5 h6 30 Qe3 Re8 31 Qxb6 Be2 32 R1d6 Bg4 33 Rxc6+ fxc6 34 Qxc6+ Bg7 35 Qxc4 Re7 36 Rd1 Qe8

37 Bf1 Re1 38 Rd7 Qf8 39 Qc4+ Kh8 40 Qc7 (time) 1-0.



B Kelly - A Gillen

Round 8

English

1 c4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Nc3 Nd4 4 e3 Nxf3+ 5 Qxf3 g6 6 b3 Bg7 7 Bb2 a6 8 Be2 d6 9 h3 Rb8 10 Rb1 Nh6 11 Nd5 e5 12 b4 cxb4 13 Nxb4 0-0 14 0-0 Nf5 15 Bc3 Be6 16 Rb2 Ne7 17 Rc1 f5 18 d4 e4 19 Qf4 a5 20 Nc2 Nc6 21 Na3 g5 22 Qh2 d5 23 Rcb1 Qe7 24 cxd5 Bxd5 25 Nc4 f4 1/2-1/2.

T Clarke - S Gillen

Round 8

Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 Nc6 6 Bg5 e6 7 Qd2 Be7 8 0-0-0 0-0 9 f4 h6 10 Bxf6 Bxf6 11 Nxc6 bxc6 12 Qxd6 Qb6 13 e5 Rd8 14 Qa3 Qe3+ 15 Kb1 Rxd1+ 16 Nxd1 Qxa3 17 bxa3 Rb8+ 18 Kc1 Be7 19 g3 Bxa3+ 20 Kd2 Rb4 21 Bg2 Bb7 22 Ne3 Kf8 23 Kc3 Rb5 24 Nc4 Bb4+ 25 Kd3 Rc5 26 Rb1 a5 27 a3 Ba6 28 axb4 Rxc4 29 Kd2! Rxb4 30 Rxb4 axb4 31 Bxc6 Bc4 32 Ba4 Ke7 33 Ke3 Kd8 34 Kd4 Be2 35 Kc5 Kc7 36 Kxb4 Bf3 37 Kc5?! Bd1! 38 h3 Bf3 39 Be8 Bg2 40 Bxf7 Bxh3 41 Bg6 Bg4 42 c4 Bh3 43 Kd4 Bg4 44 c5 Bh3 45 f5 exf5 46 e6 Kd8 47 Ke5 (47 c6!) 47...Ke7 48 Bxf5 Bg2 49 Bd3 g5 50 Bc4 h5 51 Bd5 Bxd5 52 Kxd5 h4 53 c6 h3 54 c7 h2 55 c8=Q h1=Q+ 56 Ke5 Qe1+ 57 Kf5 Qf1+ 58 Kg6! Qf6+ 59 Kh5 Qf3+ 60 g4 Qh1+ 61 Kxg5 Qd5+ 62 Kh6 Qh1+ 63 Kg7

Qa1+ 64 Kg8 Kf6 65 Qe8 (65 Qd7?? Qa8+ 66 Kh7 Qh1+ =) 1-0.

R Devenney - C Daly

Round 8

KID

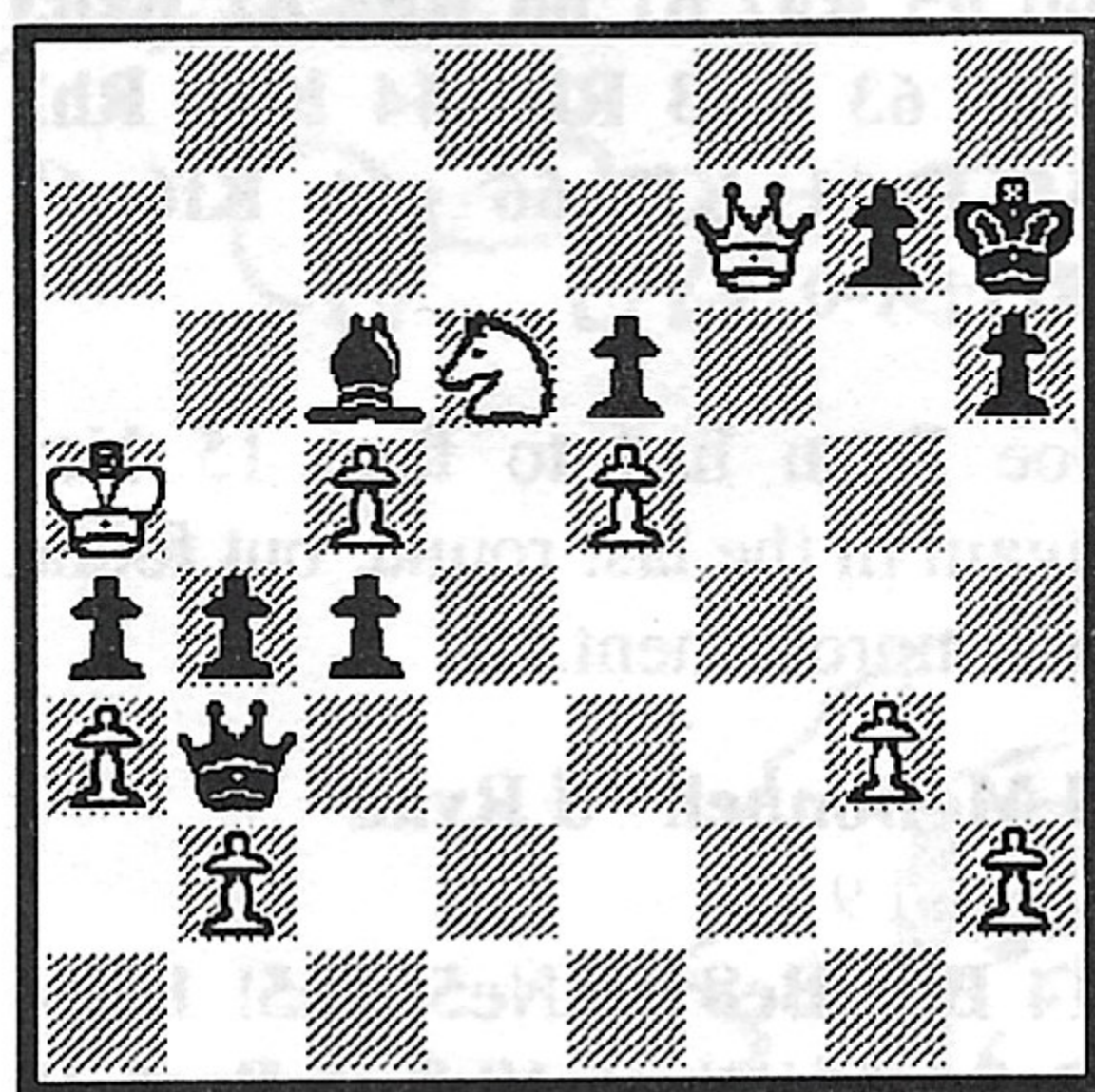
1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 Bg7 4 e4 d6 5 Nf3 0-0 6 Be2 e5 7 0-0 Nc6 8 d5 Ne7 9 Ne1 Ne8 10 Be3 f5 11 f3 f4 12 Bf2 h5 13 c5 g5 14 cxd6 cxd6 15 Nb5 a6 16 Na3 b5 17 Nac2 Bd7 18 b3 a5 19 a4 b4 20 Nd3 Nf6 21 Nb2 g4 22 Nc4 Nc8 23 Rc1 Qe8 24 Bh4 Qg6 25 Qe1 Nh7 26 Nxa5 Rxa5 27 Qxb4 Ra7 28 Qb8 g3 29 hxg3 fxc3 30 Na3 Bf6 31 Bxf6 Qxf6 32 Rxc8 Qh4 33 Rxf8+ Nxf8 0-1.

M Orr IM - A Gillen

Round 9

BogoIndian

1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 e6 3 c4 Bb4+ 4 Bd2 Qe7 5 g3 a5 6 Bg2 Bxd2+ 7 Qxd2 d5 8 Nc3 c6 9 Ne5 Nbd7 10 f4 Nxe5 11 fxe5 Nd7 12 0-0 0-0 13 Rf2 f6 14 exf6 Nxf6 15 e4 dxc4 16 e5 Nd5 17 Rxf8+ Qxf8 18 Ne4 Qb4 19 Qg5 Qe7 20 Qg4 Ne3 21 Qe2 Nxe2 22 Kxe2 b5 23 Nd6 Bd7 24 Qd2 a4 25 a3 Rf8 26 Rf1 c5! (Black tries to activate his bishop on the a8-h1 diagonal in order to molest the White king) 27 dxc5 Bc6+ 28 Kg1 Rxf1+ 29 Kxf1 Qf8+ 30 Ke1 Qf3 31 Qf2 Qh1+ 32 Kd2 h6 33 Kc3 Qd1 34 Kb4 Qb3+ 35 Ka5 b4 36 Qf7+ Kh7



37 Kb6! bxa3+ 38 Kxc6 (the biter bit) 38...axb2 39 Ne8 Qf3+ 40 Qxf3 b1=Q 41 Nd6 1-0.

B Kelly - M O' Cinneide

Round 9

Sicilian

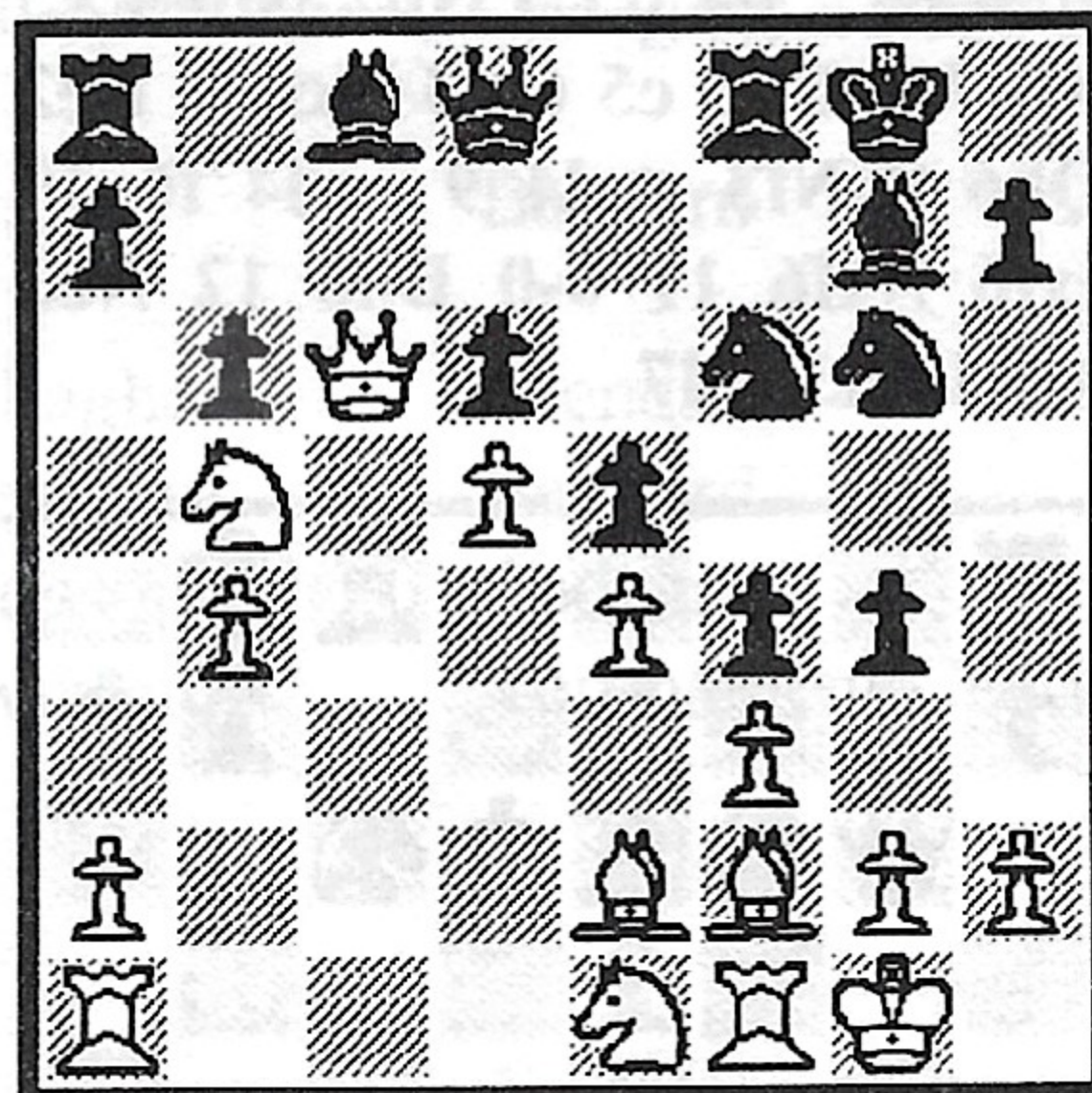
1 c4 c5 2 Nf3 g6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Bg7 5 e4 Nc6 6 Be3 Nf6 7 Nc3 Ng4 8 Qxg4 Nxd4 9 Qd1 Nc6 10 Qd2 h5 11 Be2 d6 12 0-0 Be6 13 Rac1 Qa5 14 f4 f5 15 exf5 Bxf5 16 Rfe1 0-0 17 a3 Rad8 18 Bf3 Rfe8 19 Qf2 e6 1/2-1/2.

K O'Driscoll - A Wright

Intermediate rd. 5

KID

1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 g6 3 c4 Bg7 4 Nc3 d6 5 e4 0-0 6 Be2 e5 7 0-0 Nc6 8 d5 Ne7 9 Ne1 Nd7 10 Be3 f5 11 f3 f4 12 Bf2 g5 13 Nb5 b6 14 b4 Nf6 15 c5 Ng6 16 Qc2 g4 17 cxd6 cxd6 18 Qc6



18...g3! 19 Qxa8 Nh5 20 hxg3 fxc3 21 Bxc3 Nxc3 22 Bd3 Qh4 23 Qxa7 Nf4 24 Qxb6 Nge2+ 0-1.

A White - K O'Driscoll

Intermediate rd. 6

Scandinavian

1 e4 d5 2 exd5 Nf6 3 c4 c6 4 dxc6 Nxc6 5 Nf3 e5 6 Nc3 Bf5 7 d3 e4 8 Nh4 Bg4 9 Be2 Bxe2 10 Qxe2 Nd4 11 Qd1 Bb4 12 0-0 exd3 13 Re1+ Ne2+ 14 Kh1 0-0 15 Bd2 Ng4 0-1.

R O'Mahoney - P O'Sullivan

Junior rd. 6

Scandinavian

1 e4 d5 2 exd5 Nf6 3 c4 e6 4 d4 exd5 5 c5 Bg4 6 Be2 Qe7 7 Be3 Bxe2 8 Qxe2 g6 9 Nf3 Bg7 10 Nc3 0-0 11 Bg5 Qxe2+ 12 Kxe2 Re8+ 13 Kd2 Ne4+ 14 Nxe4

dxe4 15 Rhe1 Nc6 16 d5 Bxb2 17 Rab1 Na5 18 Kc2 exf3 19 Rxe8+ Rxe8 20 Kxb2 fxc2 21 d6 cxd6 22 cxd6 Nc4+ 23 Kc3 Nxd6 24 Bh6 Ne4+ 25 Kb4 Nxf2 26 Rg1 Ng4 27 Bg5 Re2 28 h3 Ne5 29 Bh6 Nf3 30 Rc1 f5 31 Rc8+ Kf7 32 Rf8+ Ke7 0-1.

S Connolly - A Baburin

Weekender rd. 5

Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 a4 g6 7 Bc4 Bg7 8 0-0 Nc6 9 Be3 Ng4 10 Nxc6 bxc6 11 Qd3 0-0 12 a5 Nxe3 13 Qxe3 Rb8 14 Ra2 Rb4 15 Qd3 Rxc4 16 Qxc4 Be6 17 Qa4 Bxa2 18 Qxa2 Qb8 19 Qa3 Qb7 20 Na4 c5 21 Re1 Qb5 22 Nc3 Qc4 23 Re3 Rb8 24 b3 Bxc3 0-1.

M Waters - A Baburin IM

Weekender rd. 3

Alekhine

1 e4 Nf6 2 e5 Nd5 3 d4 d6 4 Nf3 Bg4 5 exd6 exd6 6 Bc4 Qe7+ 7 Kf1 Nb6 8 Bd3 Nc6 9 h3 Bh5 10 Bb5 a6 11 Bxc6+ bxc6 12 g4 Bg6 13 Kg2 Qd7 14 Re1+ Be7 15 Qe2 Kf8 16 c4 h5 17 g5 Bf5 18 h4 Bxb1 19 Rxb1 Nxc4 20 Bf4 Nb6 21 Rbc1 Nd5 22 Bg3 g6 23 Qc4 Kg7 24 Qxc6 Qxc6 25 Rxc6 Rhb8 26 b3 Kf8 27 Rc2 a5 28 Nd2 a4 29 Kf3 Rb7 30 Rec1 Raa7 31 Rc4 Ke8 32 Rxa4 Rxa4 33 bxa4 Kd7 34 Rb1 Ra7 35 Nb3 Rxa4 36 Rb2 Nb4 37 Nc1 Bf8 38 Rd2 Bg7 39 Bf4 Kc6 0-1.

A Baburin IM -

L Thiede

Weekender rd. 4

KID

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nf3 Bg7 4 g3 0-0 5 Bg2 d6 6 0-0 Nbd7 7 Nc3 c6 8 e4 e5 9 b3 Re8 10 h3 Qa5 11 Bd2 Qc7 12 Be3 exd4 13 Nxd4 Nc5 14 Qc2 Qe7 15 Rfe1 Nfxe4 16 Nxe4 Nxe4 17 Bxe4 Qxe4 18 Bd2 Qxe1+ 19 Rxe1 Rxe1+ 20 Bxe1 Bxd4 21 Qd2 c5 22 g4 Be6 23 Qg5 f6 24 Qf4 Rd8 25 Qe4 Kf7 26 Qxb7+ Rd7

27 Qb8 f5 28 g5 d5 29 cxd5
Bxd5 30 Bd2 Bf3 31 Qf4 Bc6
32 h4 Ke6 33 Be3 Be5 34 Qc4+
Bd5 35 Qxc5 f4 36 Bd2 Be4 37
Qc4+ Bd5 38 Qc8 Bb7 39 Qe8+
Re7 40 Qg8+ Kd7 41 Qc4 Bd6
42 Qd3 Be4 43 Qd4 Kc6 44
Bb4 Bxb4 45 Qxb4 Kd7 46
Qd2+ Ke8 47 Qxf4 Bc6 48 Qc4
Re1+ 49 Kh2 Rh1+ 50 Kg3 Bd7
51 Qe4+ 1-0.

L Thiede - K Greer
Weekender rd. 5

Reti

1 g3 d5 2 Bg2 Nf6 3 Nf3 c6 4 b3
Bg4 5 Bb2 Nbd7 6 c4 e6 7 0-0
Bd6 8 d3 0-0 9 Nc3 h6 10 Rc1
Re8 11 Rc2 Qe7 12 Qa1 Ba3 13
cxd5 Bxb2 14 Qxb2 Nxd5 15 a3
Rac8 16 Rfc1 N7b6 17 Ne4 e5
18 Nc5 f5 19 e4 fxe4 20 dxe4
Nf6 21 Nh4 Kh7 22 b4 Rc7 23
Nf5 Qf8 24 h3 Bxf5 25 exf5
Qd6 26 Rd2 Nbd5 27 Rcd1 e4
28 Ne6 e3 29 Rd3 exf2+ 30
Qxf2 Rf7 31 g4 Nxg4 32 hxg4
Rxe6 33 Bxd5 cxd5 34 Rxd5
Qf8 35 Qc2 Rc6 36 Qd3 Qc8
37 Rd8 Qc7 38 g5 g6 39 Rd5
Qf4 40 f6 hxg5 41 Qh3+ Qh4
42 Qxh4+ gxh4 43 R5d4 Rxf6
44 Rxh4+ Kg7 ½-½.

M Waters - G Lewis
Weekender rd. 5

Sicilian

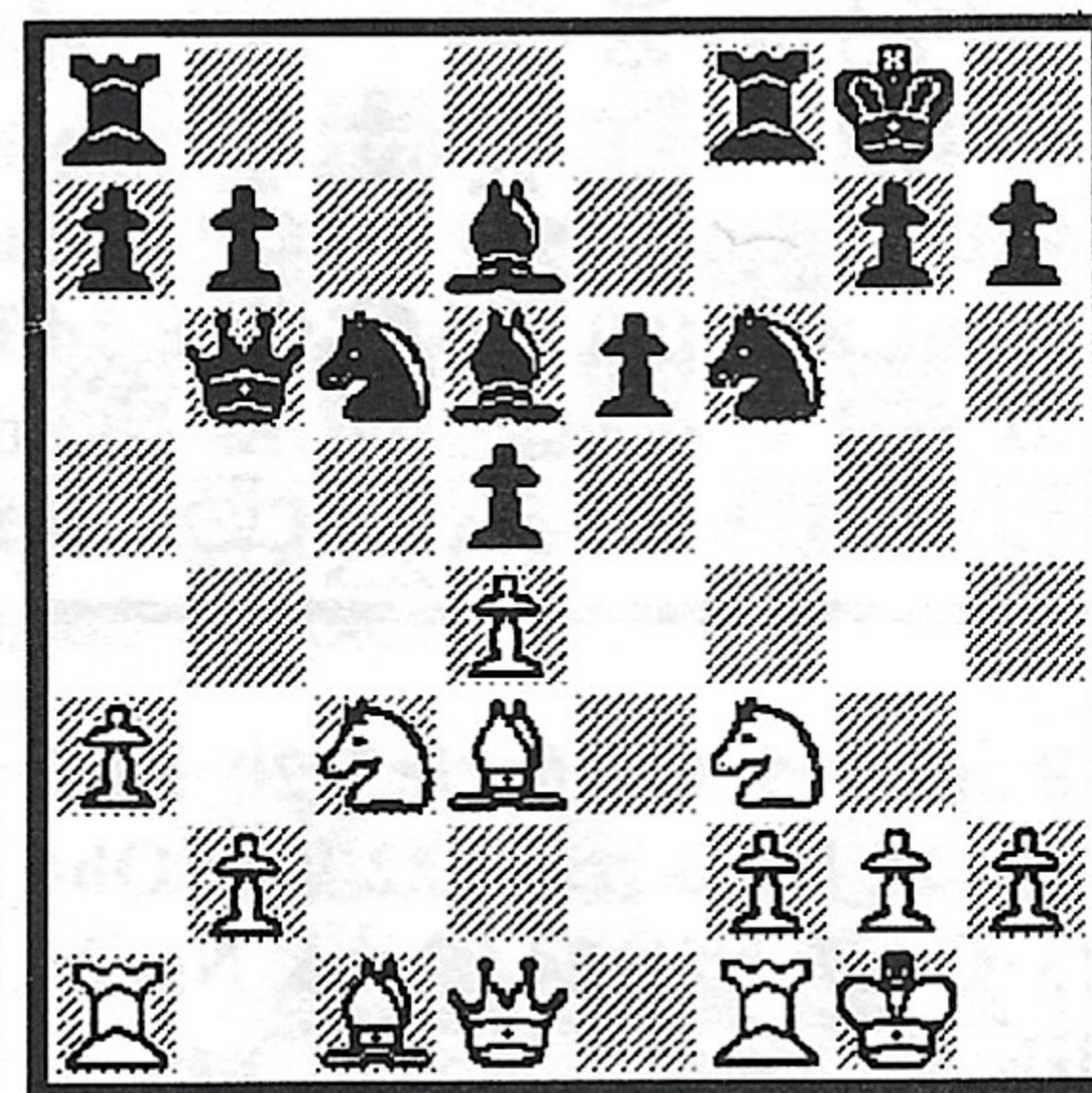
1 e4 c5 2 Nc3 Nc6 3 f4 g6 4 Nf3
Bg7 5 Bc4 e6 6 d3 Nge7 7 0-0
0-0 8 Qe1 d5 9 Bb3 dxe4 10
Nxe4 b6 11 Kh1 Nd4 12 Nxd4
cxd4 13 Bd2 Nd5 14 a4 Bb7 15
a5 Qc7 16 Qh4 Qc6 17 a6 Bc8
18 Rf3 f5 19 Ng5 h6 20 Nh3
Nf6 21 Bb4 Re8 22 Nf2 Nh5 23
Nd1 Kh7 24 c3 e5 25 Bf7 Be6
26 Bxe8 Rxe8 27 fxe5 Bd5 28
Qf2 Bxf3 29 gxf3 Nf4 30 Bd6
Bxe5 31 Bxe5 Rxe5 32 Qg3
Nxd3 33 cxd4 Re1+ 34 Kg2 g5
35 Qb8 Qc2+ 36 Kh3 Nf4+ 0-1.

TARRASCH FRENCH

Sometimes a tournament features a recurring opening, which happens to be particularly topical or part of the repertoire of a

number of players, or both. A while ago the Centre Counter was all the rage, but surfaced only occasionally in Armagh. But with a number of French Defence players present in Armagh (Colm Daly, Joe Ryan, Niall Carton, Tom Clarke) it could be expected that there would be some theoretical discussions in this area. Sure enough 1...e6 was essayed 11 times, being met with the King's Indian Attack and the Exchange variation once each, the Advance variation three times and the Tarrasch 3 Nd2 no less than six times (no 3 Nc3 at all). Four of the Tarrasch games followed the same path:

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Nd2 Nf6 4 e5
Nfd7 5 Bd3 c5 6 c3 Nc6 7 Ne2
Qb6 8 Nf3 cxd4 9 cxd4 f6 10
exf6 Nxf6 11 0-0 Bd6 12 Nc3
0-0 13 a3 Bd7



In the first round against Niall Carton, James McDonnell tried the standard plan of exchanging dark squared bishops by the manoeuvre Bg5-h4-g3.

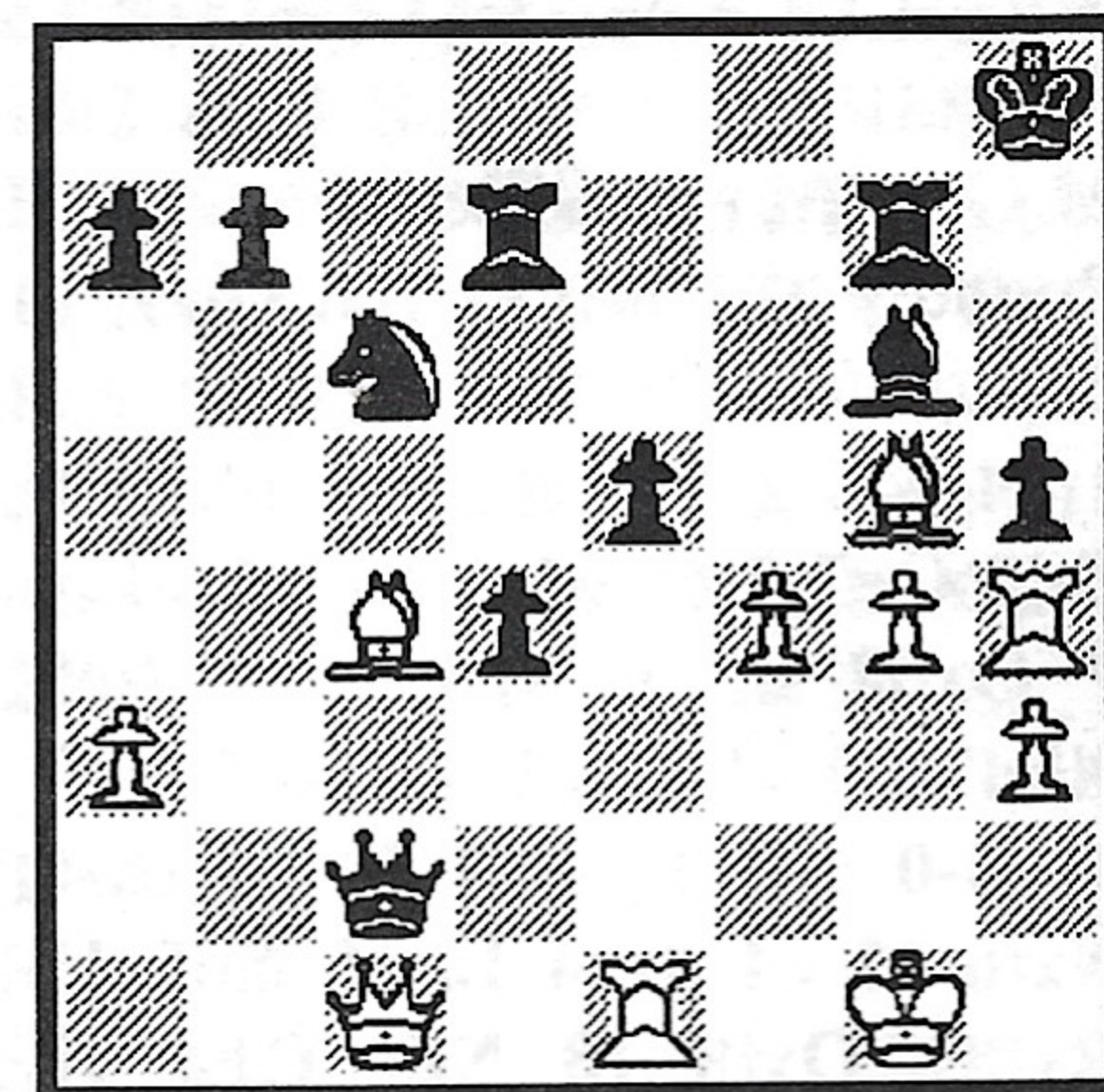
J McDonnell - N Carton
Round 1

14 b4 Qd8 15 Bg5 Qe8 16 Bh4
Qh5 17 Bg3 Bxg3 18 hxg3 Ng4
(White's plan is strategically good but tactically suspect) 19
Nh4 g5 20 Be2 e5 21 dxe5 gxh4
22 Qxd5+ Rf7 23 gxh4 Ncxe5
24 Bxg4 Bxg4 25 f3 Bxf3 26
gxf3 Kh8 27 Qe4 Rg8+ 28 Kh1
Nxf3 29 Rf2 Rg4 30 Qe8+ Kg7
31 Qxf7+ Qxf7 32 Raf1 Rxh4+
0-1.

In the fourth round Conor O'Shaughnessy tried the more direct occupation of e5.

C O'Shaughnessy - J Ryan
Round 4

14 Be3 Be8. (14...Qd8 15 Re1
Qe8 16 Rc1 ½-½ was O'Shaughnessy v Carton in round 8) 15
Ne5 Bxe5 16 dxe5 Qxb2 17 exf6
Qxc3 18 fxe7 Qxg7 19 Qd2 Rf7
20 Bh6 Qd4 21 Rad1 Kh8 22
Rfe1 e5 23 Be3 Qh4 24 Bb5 d4
25 Bg5 Qg4 26 h3 Qf5 27 Bd3
Qe6 28 Re4 Rg7 29 Rh4 Bg6 30
Bh6 Rgg8 31 Bb5 Rad8 32 Qc1
Bf7 33 Bg5 Rd7 34 Bd3 h5 35
Re1 Rg7 36 f4 Bg6 37 Bc4 Qf5
38 g4 Qc2



39 Rxh5+ Rh7 40 Bf6+ Rdg7 41
Rxh7+ Kxh7 42 f5 Qxc1 43
Rxc1 Rd7 44 fxg6+ Kxg6 45
Bh4 d3 46 Be6 Rd4 47 Bf2 Ra4
48 Bf5+ Kg5 49 Be3+ Kh4 50
Kg2 Rxa3 51 Rd1 Nb4 52 Bc5
Ra2+ 53 Kf3 Nc6 54 Bf2+ Kg5
55 h4+ Kf6 56 Be3 Ra4 57 Be4
Nd4+ 58 Bxd4 exd4 59 g5+ Ke5
60 h5 Ra2 61 h6 Rh2 62 Bxd3
Ke6 63 Kg3 Rh5 64 Kg4 Rh2
65 Re1+ Kf7 66 g6+ Kf6 67
Rf1+ 1-0.

Joe Ryan had to face 15 Ne5 again in the last round, but found an improvement.

J McDonnell - J Ryan
Round 9

14 Be3 Be8 15 Ne5 Bh5! 16 g4
Be8 17 f4 Nxe5 18 fxe5 Bxe5 19
g5 Bh5 20 Na4 Qc7 21 Be2
Bxh2+ 22 Kh1 Ne4 23 Rxf8+
Rxf8 24 Bxh5 Qg3 25 Qg4
Qxe3 26 Qxe6+ Kh8 27 Bg4
Qf2 0-1.