

ARMAGH REVISITED

A look back at some games from the Irish Championships.

Colm Daly
Richard O'Donovan
 Irish Ch (5)
 Armagh 1994

Sicilian Sveshnikov
 Notes by Richard O'Donovan

**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**

Repeating the position like this puts pressure on my opponent. Because of the substantial grading difference and the fact that Colm has the white pieces he has no choice but to play for a win.

13.Nxf6+

13.c4!? is an alternative continuation.

13...Qxf6

This was as far as my theoretical knowledge extended at the time.

14.c4

14.Bd3 is an alternative.

14...Qg6 15.f3 Be7 16.g3?!

This may not be as good as some other moves which have been tried in this position (16.cxb5; 16.Kf2!?, 16.Be3).

16...f5

In retrospect I think that 16...0-0 may be a better try for Black particularly in view of my suggested improvement for White on move 19. Barkauskas-Hilmer, Stockerau 1992 continued 17.cxb5 Nd4 18.Be3 and now 18...f5! 19.Bxd4 exd4 20.Bc4+ Kh8 21.0-0.

**17.exf5 Bxf5 18.cxb5 Nd4
 19.bxa6**

In my opinion 19.Bc4 offers a better fighting chance. The following variations serve as examples of the type of play that is likely to occur: 19...d5 (19...Bc2 20.Nxc2 Nxc2+ 21.Kf1 Nxa1 22.Qxa1 Qc2 23.Bc3 and I am inclined to

prefer White here.) 20.Bxd5 Rd8 (20...Bxa3 21.Bxa8 Bxb2 22.0-0 Bxa1 23.Qxa1) 21.Bc6+ Nxc6 22.bxc6 Bxa3 23.c7 Rxd2 24.Qxd2 Bd6 25.Rc1 0-0 26.Qd5+ Qe6 27.Qxe6+ Bxe6 28.Rc6 Bb4+ 29.Kf2 Bc8.

19...0-0

I can find no record of this move having been played before. Previous theory was 19...d5 as in Webb-Farrand, British ch 1977: 20.Bb5+ Nxb5 21.Nxb5 0-0 22.Nc7 Be4! 23.Qb3 (23.Nxa8 Bxf3 24.Qb3 Qxa6 25.Qe3 Bc5+) 23...Bxf3?? (23...Rxf3! 24.Be3 Raf8 25.Nxd5 Bxd5 26.Qxd5+ Kh8+) 24.0-0 Bc5+ 25.Be3 winning.

**20.Bc4+ Kh8 21.0-0 Bh3
 22.Rf2 e4 23.f4**

23.fxe4 Rxf2 24.Kxf2 Qxe4 25.Bf4 Qg2+ 26.Ke3 Bf6 and with White's King so exposed Black should win.

23...Nf5 24.Qe1

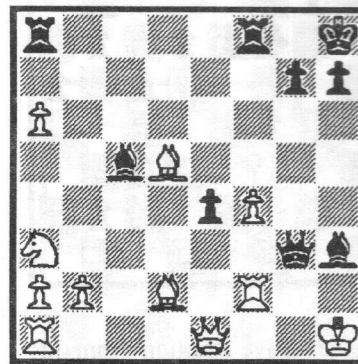
To prevent 24...e3.

24...d5!

Black opens the g1-a7 diagonal to allow his other Bishop to enter the attack. The alternative posting of the Bishop on the e1-h4 diagonal would not cause White too many problems.

**25.Bxd5 Nxc3 26.hxc3 Qxc3+
 27.Kh1 Bc5**

Another move was 27...Rxa6!?



28.Qxe4

28.Qg1! was the move to try. I

had thought that I could answer this with 28...Qh4 and that I would win because of the threats of 29...Bf2 or a discovered check with the bishop, however things are not so simple.

(a) 28...Qh4? 29.Bxa8 Bxf2 (29...h6; 29...Bg4+ 30.Qh2 Qxf2 31.Qxf2 Bxf2 32.Bxe4+-) 30.Qg5 Bg4+ 31.Qxh4 Bf3+ 32.Kh2 Bxh4;

(b) 28...Bxf2 29.Qxc3 Bxc3 30.Bxa8 (30.Bxe4!? Rxa6=+) 30...Rxa8 31.b4 Rxa6

(b1) 32.b5 Rxa3 33.b6 Bc8 (33...e3) 34.Rc1 Ba6-+;

(b2) 32.Nb5 Rh6 33.a4 (33.Kg1 Rg6 34.Kh1 Bf2 -/+) 33...Bf2;

(c) 28...Qxf2 29.Qxf2 Bxf2 30.Bxa8 e3 (30...Rxa8 31.Kh2 Bg4 32.Kg2 e3) 31.Bc3 Rxa8;

(d) 28...Qxc3+

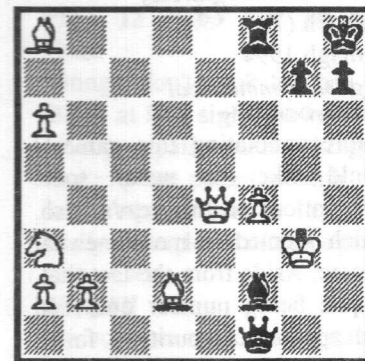
(d1) 29.Rxc3 Bxf2 (29...Rad8 30.Bc3 Rxd5 31.Bxc3+ Kg8 32.Bxf8+ Kxf8 33.Rh2 Bxc3 34.Kxc3 e3 35.Rxc3 Rd1+ 36.Kg2 e2 37.Nc2) 30.Bxa8 Rxa8 31.Rc1 Rxa6 Black may have enough to win here;

(d2) 29.Kxc3 Rad8.

**28...Qxf2 29.Bxa8 Bf1! 30.Rxf1
 Qxf1+**

30...Qh4+ 31.Kg2 Qg4+=.

31.Kh2 Bg1+ 32.Kg3 Bf2+



33.Kg4

33.Kh2 Qg1+ 34.Kh3 Qg3#;

33.Kf3 Be1+ and now

(a) 34.Kg4 h5+

(a1) 35.Kxh5 Qh3+ 36.Kg5
(36.Kg6 Qg4#) 36...Qh4+
37.Kg6 Rf6#;

(a2) 35.Kg5 Qg1+ and

(a21) 36.Kxh5 Qh2+
37.Kg4 (37.Kg5 Qh4+ 38.Kg6
Qh6#; 37.Kg6 Qh6#) 37...Qg3+
38.Kh5 Qh4+ 39.Kg6 Rf6#;

(a22) 36.Qg2 Qc5+
37.Bd5 Qe7+ 38.Kg6 (38.Kxh5
Qh4+ 39.Kg6 Qh6#) 38...Qf6+
39.Kxh5 Qh4+ 40.Kg6 Rf6#.

(b) 34.Ke3 Qf2+ 35.Kd3 Qxd2+
36.Kc4 Rxf4+ 37.Qxf4 Qxf4+.

33...h5+ 34.Kg5

34.Kf3 Bg1+ 35.Kg3 Qf2+
36.Kh3 Qh2#; 34.Kxh5 Qh3+
35.Kg6 (35.Kg5 Qh4+ 36.Kg6
Rf6#) 35...Qh6#.

34...Qh3

With the idea of 35...Qg4 mate.

35.f5

Not 35.Qg2 Qf5#; nor 35.Qf3
Qf5#.

35...Bh4+ 36.Kxh5

36.Qxh4 Qxf5#; 36.Kg6 Rf6+
transposes into the game; 36.Kf4
Qg3#.

36...Be1+

Or 36...Bf6+ 37.Kg6 (37.Qh4
Qxh4+ 38.Kg6 Qh7#)
37...Qh7#.

37.Kg6

37.Kg5 Bxd2+ wins.

37...Rf6+ 38.Kg5 Bxd2+

39.Qf4

39...Rxf5+ 40.Kg6 Qh7 is mate.

0-1.

Colm Daly

Conor O'Shaughnessy

Irish Ch (7)

Armagh 1994

English Symmetrical

Notes by Colm Daly

Before annotating this game, I would like to make some observations on this year's Irish, which seemed to me somewhat bizarre. Aside from the fact that, despite being number one seed and apparent favourite, I failed to win. Actually I had my worst result in this tournament in years.

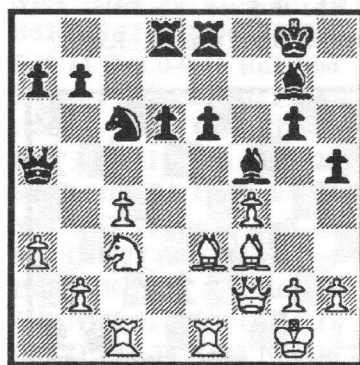
Although I played some interesting and eventful games, I

tended to throw away results in time trouble. In particular my games against Stephen Gillen, Richard O'Donovan and the game below against Conor revealed that something was lacking from my play. Not winning this game was a big blow; it felt more like a loss than a draw.

The tournament itself was well run and well organised, with both tournament director and two arbiters doing a most efficient and able job. Playing conditions were good and the prize fund generous. If only all tournaments were so good!

In the end the title went to Mark Orr, although strangely I don't think he showed his best form. As with all winners, he rode his luck very well. Despite being in trouble against Gerry MacElligott, Stephen Gillen, Tom Clarke Brian Kelly and Richard O'Donovan he still won four and drew one of these. Ironically his one moment of bad luck came after totally outplaying Mel O'Conneide and achieving a winning position, he lost on time. However it was in the last round game that he showed his strength, winning nicely against Adrian Gillen.

Brian Kelly had a great tournament, although inexperience cost him a share of the title.



In the above position from his game against Mel O'Conneide, a draw was agreed. Instead, 20 Nb5! was worth considering. It's

complicated, of course, and there's a lot of work still to be done, but it does give good chances of a win. Still he fully deserved his result. He has made a marked improvement in his play, and although he still has a lot to learn, he is clearly a player to be watched.

Mel O'Conneide put in a solid performance with solid play to register what must be his best result in Ireland to date. While his chess might be somewhat dull and technical, his competitiveness is getting results.

Tom Clarke was as usual up there at the death and might consider himself unlucky having to play me in the last round, when it was half expected that Mark Orr would be playing me. Still for Tom the critical game must have been against Brian Kelly, when he failed to break down his defences (Kelly's best game).

John Joyce is a player who with practice and more work could fit comfortably into the 2200+ sphere. Worthy of attention are his games against O'Conneide and O'Shaughnessy, also his game against Adrian Gillen was easily the most amazing of the tournament.

Of the others, Richard O'Donovan's result was the most notable, fading only towards the end.

Conor O'Shaughnessy disappointed but still didn't finish too badly. Niall Carton showed some disrespect for Kelly and O'Conneide, refusing a drawing line against the latter and was duly punished. He seems even more optimistic than myself and should try to learn something from losing four in a row.

Joe Ryan's disaster was puzzling considering his good form going into the event. He was apparently ill but his loss to Tim McCarthy had more to do with fine play by Tim who was also unlucky against O'Donovan.

1 g3 g6 2 Bg2 Bg7 3 c4 c5 4 Nc3 Nc6 5 a3 Nf6 6 Rb1 a5 7 d3 0-0 8 e4 d6 9 Nge2 Ne8 10 0-0 Nc7 11 Be3 Ne6 12 Nb5 Bd7 13 b3

There is no other way to slip in a useful move. Now Black in his turn must find a useful move. If 13...Rb8 interesting might be 14 d4 cxd4 15 Nxd4 Nxd4 16 Nxd4 Nxd4 17 Bxd4 Bxd4 18 Qxd4 when the standard break 18...b5 is not good because of just 19 e5! when the Bg2 becomes good and White has pressure in the centre. Probably best was 13...Nd4. The move played doesn't seem right, amounting to yet a further loss of time with the KN.

13...Nc7?! 14 Nxc7 Qxc7 15 Qd2 Rab8 16 Nc3 Nd4 17 b4 axb4 18 axb4 b5! 19 Nd5 Qd8 20 bxc5 dxc5 21 cxb5 Bxb5 22 Rfc1! e6 23 Rxc5! Ba6

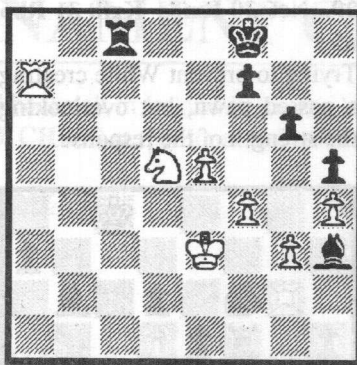
If instead Black had played 23...exd5 there would have followed 24 Rxd5 Qb6 25 e5! (not 25 R1xb5 Qxb5! or 25 Bxd4 Bxd4 26 Rxb5 Qxb5).

24 Rxb8 Qxb8 25 Nb4! Bb5 26 Qd1 Rd8

Black has play but not enough for a pawn.

27 Bf1 Qb7 28 Rc1 Ra8 29 Bg2! Ba4 30 Qe1 Re8 31 Rc4 Bb3 32 e5 Nf3+ 33 Bxf3 Qxf3 34 Re4! Ra8 35 Bc5 h5 36 h4 Rd8 37 d4 Rb8 38 Re3 Qd1 39 Qxd1 Bxd1 40 Kf1 Ba4 41 Ra3 Be8 42 Ke1 Rc8 43 Ra5 Bc6 44 Kd2 Bf3 45 Ke3 Bc6 46 f4 Bg2 47 Ra2 Bf1 48 Ra7 Bf8?! 49 Bxf8 Kxf8 50 d5! exd5 51 Nxd5 Bh3

I am happy playing this sort of position. With accurate play it is a win, which admittedly still takes some time. Against Gerry O'Connell in the first Telecom I reached a winning position after only 20 moves, but only clinched the win after 100 plus moves. However better than what I played now is 52 Kd4 with the idea 52...Rb8 53 Kc5 Rb3 54 Ra8+ Kg7 55 Kd6 Rxf3 56 Nf6 Rf3 57 Ke7 with mate to come.



52 Ra3? Be6 53 Nf6 Rd8 54 Ra7 Kg7 55 Ne4 Kf8 56 Ng5 Bc4

Now I should have played the intended 57 f5 gxf5 58 Kf4 Be6 (or 58...Rb3 59 Kxf5 Rxf3 60 Kf6 Ke8 61 Re7+ Kd8 62 Nxf7+ Bxf7 63 Rxf7) 59 Nxe6 fxe6 60 Kg5 and 61 Kf6 winning.

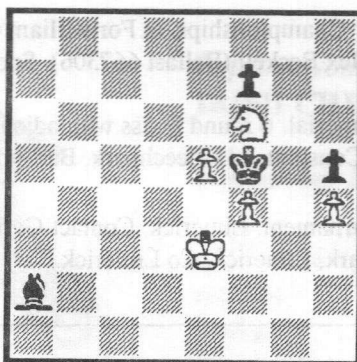
57 Ra3? Ke7 58 Rc3 Ba2 59 Rc7+ Kf8 60 Ne4 Be6 61 Nd6 Ra8 62 Rc3 Ra4 63 Ne4 Ke7 64 Nc5 Ra5 65 Kd4 Ra7 66 Re3 Ra1 67 Nd3 Ra4+ 68 Kc3 Ra3+ 69 Kd2 Ra2+ 70 Ke1 Bc4 71 Nc5 Ra5 72 Ne4 Ke6 73 Nf6 Kf5 74 Rc3 Be6 75 Kf2 Ra1 76 Ke3 Ra4 77 Kf3 Ra1 78 Ke2 Ra4 79 Kd3 Ba2 80 Kc2 Be6 81 Re3 Ra8 82 Rc3 Ra7 83 Kd3 Ra4 84 Ke3 Ra1 85 Kd4 Ra5 86 Re3 Ba2 87 Rf3 Be6 88 Rc3 Ba2 89 Re1!

The sealed move. During the break I found a winning plan.

89...Be6 90 Rc3 Ba2 91 Ng8! Ke6 92 Rc6+ Kd7 93 Rd6+ Ke8 94 Nf6+ Ke7 95 f5! Ra4+ 96 Ke3 gxf5

Hoping for 97 Nxf5 Re4+ =.

97 Rd4! f4+ 98 gxf4 Rxd4 99 Kxd4 Ke6 100 Ke3? Kf5 101 Kf3??



Move 101 turns out to be the decisive blunder! The way to win was 101 Nxf5 Kg4 102 Ng7 Kxh4 103 f5 Kg5 104 Kd4 Kf4 (104...f6 105 e6) 105 f6 Bb3 (only move) 106 e6 fxe6 107 Kc3! (107 f7 e5+) 107...Ba2 108 f7. After the move played it is just a draw.

101...Bb3 102 Kg3 Bd1 103 Nd5 Bb3 104 Ne7+ Ke4 105 Ng8 Bd1 106 Nf6+ Kf5 107 Nd5 Bb3 108 Ne3+ Ke4 109 Nf1 Bd5 110 Nd2+ Ke3 111 Nb1 Kd4 112 Na3 Bc6 113 Nc2+ Ke4 114 Ne1 Bb7 115 Nf3 Bd5 116 Ng5+ Kf5 117 Nh7 Bb3 118 Nf6 Bd1 119 Ne8 Ba4 120 Nd6+ Ke6 121 Kf2 f6 122 Nc4 fxe5 123 Nxe5 Kf5 124 Kf3 Bd1+ 125 Kg3 Ke4 126 Nf7 Bg4 127 Ng5+ Kf5 128 Nf3 Ke4 129 Ne5 Bd1 130 Nf7 Bg4 131 Nd6+ Kd5 132 Nf7 Ke4 1/2-1/2.

Colm Daly - Tom Clarke

Irish Ch (9)

Armagh 1994

French Advance

Notes by Colm Daly

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 e5

I don't usually play this but I felt that a change of opening might inspire me to play more carefully.

3...c5 4 c3 Nc6 5 Nf3 Qb6 6 a3 c4 7 Nbd2 f6

I think the standard 7...Na5 is best here.

8 Be2 fxe5 9 Nxe5 Nxe5 10 dxe5 Bc5 11 0-0 Ne7 12 b4! cxb3 13 Nxb3 0-0 14 Nxc5 Qxc5

Things don't look so bad for Black at first sight. However the bishop pair and kingside majority are potent enough. The weak c-pawn can be liquidated easily enough in most positions that arise.

15 Qd3!

An accurate move as the natural 15 Qd4 is well met by 15...Qc7 planning ...Nc6 or ...Nf5.

15...Ng6 16 Be3 Qa5 17 f4 Bd7 18 g3 Rac8 19 Bd4 a6 20 a4 Ne7 21 g4 Nc6 22 Be3 g5?!

In keeping with Tom's style. Best was 22...Ne7 when White would have to find some way to keep the struggle going apart from 23 Bd4 Nc6 24 Be3 Ne7 etc. Possibly 23 Bd4 Nc6 24 Ra3!? However full credit to Tom for trying to spice things up. Also of course a win would put him in with a chance of sharing first place.

23 Rab1 gxf4 24 Bxf4

Not 24 Rxb7 when there was a chance Black might bail out with 24...Nxe5 25 Qd4 Nc6 26 Qd3 Nc5 etc.

24...Be8 25 Rxb7 Bg6 26 Qe3 Nd8 27 Rb4

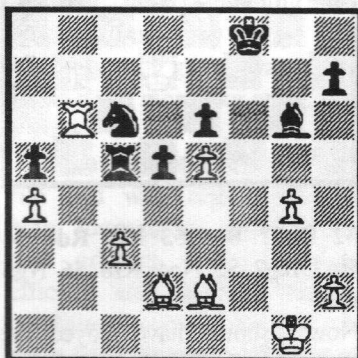
Here 27 Rg7+ looks like a shot but after 27...Kh8 White would be regretting it.

27...Qc5 28 Qxc5 Rxc5 29 Bd2

The question was which pawn to keep. The pawn on e5 only gets in the way.

29...Nc6 30 Rxf8+ Kxf8 31 Rb6 a5

Trying to prevent White creating a passed pawn, but overlooking the strength of the response.



32 Rb5!

White now wins material by force. The power of the two bishops in the endgame becomes readily apparent.

32...Rxb5 33 axb5 Nxe5 34 b6 Nd7 35 b7 e5 36 Be3 d4 37

cx d4 Be4 38 d5! Bxd5 39 Bb5 Bxb7 40 Bxd7 Bf3 41 Kf2 Bd1 42 Kg3 a4 43 Bf5 Kg7 44 Bc5 h6 45 h4 Bb3 46 Be4 Be6 47 Bd6 Kf6 48 h5 Bf7 49 Kh4 1-0.

NEXT ISSUE

Mark Orr IM on the Budapest Gambit

Mark Quinn gets an IM norm at Lloyds Bank

Adrian Gillen comes third in ECI tournament

Stephen Gillen scores 6/10 at British Championships

Three tie for City of Dublin

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 5 November | Active chess event at MCB. Contact Neil Green (Belfast 610407). |
| 12-13 November | Rathmines Tournament. 5 round Swiss. Contact John Crowley, 26 Killakee Way, Firhouse, Dublin 24 (phone Dublin 4521428). |
| 25-27 November | Kilkenny Tournament: 6 round Swiss. Contact Jack Lowry 056-67774 (H) or 056-22221 (W). See ad elsewhere in this issue. |
| 25-27 November | Ulster Intermediate & Junior Championships, at QUB. Contact David Houston (Belfast 660620). |
| 10-12 December | Active chess event at MCB. Contact Neil Green. |
| 27-30 December | Ulster Senior Championships, at Fortwilliam Golf Club. Controller Alex Beckett (Belfast 667306). Sponsored by BT. |
| 28-31 December | Mulcahy Memorial. 6 round Swiss with adjournments. Dates to be confirmed. Contact Pat Constant, 141 Beechpark, Ballincollig, Co Cork. |
| 24-26 February | Bunratty Tournament, Limerick. Contact Gerry Graham, 19 Woodview Close, Woodview Park, Limerick, Co Limerick. |