

IRISH CHAMPIONSHIPS 1997

Colm Daly offers a personal view and a round by round summary of this year's event, sponsored for the third year running by Morris Insulations

The winner of the 1997 Irish Championships held in the Teachers Club, Dublin during July was Dubliner Joe Ryan with an impressive 8½ out of 9 just ahead of Stephen Brady who was second with 8 out of 9. Third was yours truly with a barely respectable 7 points.

Joe was a slightly surprising outright winner but it is worth noting that since returning from the European Team Championships in Pula he has won Drogheda, the Bray active (jointly), and Benildus (jointly). He has clearly benefitted from his increased exposure to international chess, starting with the Leinster Masters and then playing on the Irish team in Pula. Although he was disappointed with his result from Pula he was enthused enough to work on his game and determined to learn from his experiences, this showed in the solidity of his play in the Irish.

Second placed Stephen could understandably feel a tad unlucky to blow a shared first place in the final round, when he couldn't beat Anthony Fox, but could also be pleased with what was his best result in five years. Third place on 7 was yours truly. This was very much a damage limitation exercise for me. Once again I failed to impose myself on an event that seems to haunt me every year, the consolation offered to me that Lendl never won Wimbledon still doesn't lessen my embarrassment. Having beaten both Stephen and Joe so convincingly a couple of weeks before in Benildus, perhaps I was too over-confident. *[Colm does not mention that the vagaries of the Swiss system gave him black against his two main rivals in successive rounds - Ed.]*

Last year's other joint winners Tom Clarke and Richard O'Donovan finished down the field. Tom wasn't playing well enough to feature in the proceedings, while Richard suffered from the fact that following his remarkable result last year his opponents this year took him more seriously and were determined to exact revenge with his defeat.

In general the tournament was somewhat disappointing as despite the first prize of £500 the field was one of the weakest in years. That said both Joe and Stephen did very well in scoring so high.

The first phase of the tournament saw the Big Three jostling for position with the scores after 3 rounds being Daly (3), Brady, Ryan, O'Donovan (2½). Phase two saw the decisive clashes of rounds 4 and 5 while phase three was the mopping up exercise with both Stephen and Joe being a point and a half clear of their nearest rival and in a sense the tournament was already over, as the only question now was which one of the two would falter and come second. This meant that the event was devoid of any tension or drama, except that is for the two leaders who had to match each other blow for blow every round. Still it has to be said that with all the really tough games behind them, both players must have been aware that as long as they kept their composure they should be able to win all their remaining games and until the last round that's exactly what happened. I did exactly the same, but could only watch helplessly as both maintained their comfortable lead, which they had fully deserved by both beating me.

In the final round Stephen let a share of the title slip by drawing with A. Fox while Joe won his game to win his first Irish title. Clearly Joe has reached new heights and no doubt will be a more potent force on the Irish chess scene. Stephen has improved his rating but may well have played all his aces this year, as it seems unlikely that such an opportunity to win will come his way in the next few years especially if as is hoped the likes of Kelly, Quinn, Orr, Heidenfeld [Baburin?] start to play, at least once every two years. As for myself. Well, the question "will Daly ever win an Irish?" remains. Knowing my sometimes erratic nature I wouldn't be surprised if I won it in a year with all of the above playing. Wishful thinking? We will see!

This year also saw the end of the three year sponsorship of the tournament by Morris Insulations so a new sponsor would be most welcome. I think efforts will be made to ensure that next year's Irish will have almost all if not all the top players playing, so it could turn out to be a very interesting and worthwhile event to sponsor and possibly the strongest ever.



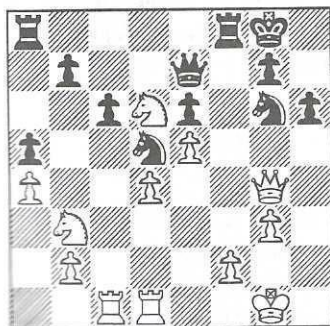
ROUND 1

The tournament started with most of the top seeds winning. Stephen Brady, Gerry O'Connell and myself won in style. Joe Ryan and Richard O'Donovan also won comfortably enough although Richard looked in trouble in the opening. Daire McMahon started poorly (with a draw) as did Tom Clarke who was beaten by late entry John Joyce.

Peter Cafolla – Stephen Brady
Round 1

QGA

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.e4 Nf6 4.e5 Nd5 5.Bxc4 Nb6 6.Bd3 Nc6 7.Be3 Be6 8.Nf3 Nb4 9.Be4 Bd5 10.Bxd5 N4xd5 11.0-0 e6 12.a4? Bb4 13.Bd2 a5 14.Bxb4 Nxb4 15.Nc3 0-0 16.Qe2 N6d5 17.Rfd1 h6 18.Nb5 Nc6 19.Rac1 Nce7 20.Qe4 Nf5 21.Nc3 Nfe7 22.Nb5 Qd7 23.Nd2 c6 24.Nd6? f5! 25.Qf3 Ng6 26.Nb3 Qe7 27.g3? f4! 28.Qg4 f3 29.h3 29.hxg3



29...Ngf4! 30.gxf4 Rxf4→
31.Qh3 Raf8 32.Nc5 Qg5+
33.Qg3?? Rg4+ 34.Nce4
R3g3+ 35.f3 Qe3+ 36.Kh2
Qe2+ 37.Kh3 Ne3 38.Re1 Qh5#
0-1.

ROUND 2

Already there were big clashes. Joe's preparation ensured an easy game as Black and in fact stood slightly better after he forced an endgame. However a draw always looked likely. Gerry grabbed a pawn unwisely in the opening and then ended up a

piece down. Richard had a nice win against Anthony Fox.

Stephen Brady – Joe Ryan
Round 2

French Tarrasch

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.Bd3 c5 6.c3 b6 7.Ne2 Ba6 8.Bb1 Nc6 9.Nf3 cxd4 10.cxd4 Bb4+ 11.Bd2 Bxd2+ 12.Qxd2 Qe7 13.0-0 Qb4 14.Qxb4 Nxb4 15.Re1 Bxe2 16.Rxe2 Re8 17.a3 Rc1+ 18.Re1 Rxe1+ 19.Nxe1 Nc6 20.Nf3 h6!? [24...Ke7 21.Bd3 f6 22.Rc1 Ndb8 23.Bb5 Rc8 24.Kf1 a6 25.Bd3 f5] 21.Bd3 Ndb8 22.Rc1 Kd7 23.Kf1 a6 24.Ke2 Rc8?!= [24...Rf8 with ideas of f6 and g5 ♖f4 when White is defending] 25.Ke3 b5 26.Nd2 Na5 27.Rxc8 Kxc8 28.f4 Nc4+ 29.Nxc4 dxc4 30.Bc2 Nc6 31.g4 Ne7 32.Be4 g6 33.h4 Kc7 34.Bf3 Kb6 ½-½.

Richard O'Donovan
Anthony Fox

Round 2

King's Gambit

1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.Nf3 d5 4.exd5 Nf6 5.Bc4 Nxd5 6.Bxd5 Qxd5 7.Nc3 Qd8 8.d4 Be7 9.Bxf4 0-0 10.Qd3 Nc6 11.0-0 Bg4 12.d5 Nb4 13.Qc4 Bxf3 14.gxf3 Na6 15.Rhg1 Kh8 16.Ne4 Bd6 17.Nxd6 cxd6 18.Qd4 f6 19.Rge1 Qc7 20.Rd3 Rfd8 21.Rc3 Qf7 22.Qc4 h6 23.Re6 Qf8 24.Qd4 Rd7 25.a3 Rad8 26.Re1 Nc7 27.Rd3 a6 28.Qb6 Qg8 29.Qxb7 Ne6 30.Qb4 a5 31.Qd2 Nxf4 32.Qxf4 Rb7 33.Re6 Rdb8 34.b3 Qc8 35.Rde3 Qc7 36.Re8+ Rxe8 37.Rxe8+ Kh7 38.Qf5+ g6 39.Qxf6 Qg7 40.Qxg7+ Kxg7 41.Re6 Rf7 42.Rxd6 Rxf3 43.Re6 Kf7 44.Re2 Rf6 45.c4 Rd6 46.Kd2 Rd8 47.Kc3 g5 48.Kd4 h5 49.c5 1-0.

Daire McMahon
Paul Dempsey
Round 2

QGD Bf4

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Be7 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.Bf4 0-0 6.e3 c6 7.Qc2 Nbd7 8.a3 a5 9.h3 Re8 10.c5 b6 11.cxb6 Nxb6 12.Ne5 Bb7 13.Be2 Nbd7 14.Na4 Nxe5 15.Bxe5 Nd7 16.Bg3 Rc8

17.Qb3 Ba8 18.Ba6 Rc7 19.Bxc7 Qxc7 20.Rc1 e5 21.dxe5 Qxe5 22.0-0 Bd6 23.g3 Qg5 24.h4 Qg4 25.e4 Ne5 26.f4 Rb8 27.Qe3 d4 28.Qf2 Rb3 29.Kg2 Ng6 30.Kh2 Nxf4 31.Nc3 dxc3 32.Rxc3 Rxc3 33.bxc3 Qh3+ 34.Kg1 Bc5 0-1.

ROUND 3

With both Richard and myself a half point ahead of our main rivals a win would see the victor take the lead. I got a clear advantage from the opening but wasted it and won later in a rather unimpressive manner. Joe and Stephen also won easily.

Colm Daly
Richard O'Donovan
Round 3

Sicilian Scheveningen

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 e6 3.Nf3 d6 4.d4 exd4 5.Nxd4 Nc6 6.g3 Be7 7.Bg2 Nf6 More accurate is first 7...Bd7 as now White can go into a favourable variation 8.Nxc6 bxc6 9.e5 Nd5 10.exd6 Bxd6 11.Ne4!? Instead castling first and then ♔e4 is known to be better for White 11...Ba6 Given as unclear by Hubner but I think White is just better. 12.Bf1! Bb4+ 13.c3 Instead 13.Bd2 is also promising. Black's problem is his pawn structure and the static features that are inherent in such positions. 13...Bxf1 14.Kxf1 Be7 15.c4? This throws away my advantage as I need to connect my ♖+♘ so as to avoid any possible tactics. 15.Kg2 first leaves Black very passive. 15...Nb6! 16.Qxd8+ Rxd8 17.b3 f5 18.Nd2 Bf6 19.Rb1 Although Black looks active he is only = as White has no weak points. 19...Kf7 20.Ke2 e5 21.Rd1 Nd7 22.Nf1 Nc5 23.Be3 Ne4 24.Rdc1! a6 25.f3 Ng5 26.Rd1 Ne6 27.Bb6 Nd4+? Now Black is just worse and seemed unaware of this fact as he follows up with some poor moves. [27...Rb8=] 28.Bxd4 exd4 29.Kd3 h5 30.h3 g5?! Now Black is certain of losing control of e4. More useful was 30...c5, when it is hard to make progress for White. 31.Re1 Rhe8

[31...g4 32.hxg4 hxg4 33.fxg4 fxg4 34.Re4] **32.c5!** Isolating the d4 pawn. I felt White was now winning, as Black has too many weaknesses. **32...Rxe1 33.Rxe1 Rd5 34.b4 Be5 35.g4!** Now Black is totally passive. **35...hxg4 36.hxg4 fxg4 37.fxg4 a5 38.a3 axb4 39.axb4 Ke6 40.Nd2 Kd7 41.Nc4 Bg3 42.Nb6+ Kd8 43.Rg1 Bf2 44.Rf1 Be3 45.Nxd5 cxd5 46.Rf7 1-0.**

ROUND 4

The big clash between the top four saw Stephen deservedly beat me after the opening turned out to be virtually winning for White, even though during the game we both thought Black had had the advantage in the opening phase. I should have contented myself in getting a draw but was too greedy. Joe played a fine game against Richard in what was his best game of the tournament.

Stephen Brady – Colm Daly

Round 4

French Advance

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Although Stephen has been playing $\text{\textcircled{d}}2$ on move 3 in recent times I was sure that he would revert to the Advance variation owing to my extensive experience with the Tarrasch. **3...c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3 Bd7 6.Be2 f6!?** An underrated move which I think ensures speedy equality. It has taken a few knocks though, notably Romanishin–Ivanchuk, Irkutsk 1986 and Ivanchuk!–Short, Novi Sad 1990. **7.0-0 fxe5 8.dxe5** Much more common is **8.Nxe5** but although at the time I understood that **Nxe5** was in fact virtually mandatory, now I think a simple transposition to lines with **Ne5** played is the best way to proceed for Black. There is no real drawback to **\text{\textcircled{e}}5**. **8...Qc7 9.Re1!** My only knowledge of this position was that after **9 Na3 a6 10.c4 d4 11.Nc2 Nh6** Black has a good position, but **10.Re1** allows White to keep the option of putting his $\text{\textcircled{e}}$ on e4 via d2

should I play ...d4? Afterwards I found a game Levitt–Lehtivaara. **9...0-0 10.c4 d4?** Amazingly both of us assumed Black was better from the opening, based on the perceived weakness of the $\text{\textcircled{e}}5$. However this $\text{\textcircled{e}}$ is in fact a tower of strength simply because of the plan of $\text{\textcircled{e}}f4$ – $\text{\textcircled{d}}d2$ –e4 with a3–b4 ideas. **11.Bf4 Nh6** I find it difficult to recommend or criticise moves in this position as after **10...d4** I think Black's position is awful. Neither one of us realized this during the game but having spent time looking at this opening I cannot find a good plan. **12.Nbd2 Nf7 13.Bd3! Be7** I understand that if I had offered a draw in the opening Stephen would have accepted. I actually thought about this during the game but was too overconfident and incorrectly judged the position. A huge mistake in retrospect. If **13...h6 14.Bg6!** and Black is totally tied up. **14.h4 Rdf8** [14...Kb8 15.Ne4 a5 This might have been a better plan. Simply taken useful preventative measures for a few moves] **15.a3 h6 16.Bg6!± Ng5** What else? **17.Bg3 Nxf3+ 18.Nxf3 Bd8** [18...a5!?!; 18...Kb8!?!] **19.b4 Be7!** The best practical try, forcing White to make a critical decision. Unfortunately for me Stephen chooses correctly.



20.Nd2!+– A hugely powerful move which leads to a speedy and decisive $\text{\textcircled{d}}$ attack [20.b5? Na5∞; 20.bxc5?! Bxc5∞] **20...cxb4 21.Ne4!** The point **21...bxa3** I might as well grab as much as I can, as I am unlikely to get to do much of anything soon! **22.c5 Qa5 23.Qc1 Be8 24.Bxe8 Rxe8 25.Rxa3 Qb4 26.Qa1 Qc4** Taken on c5 losses to $\text{\textcircled{a}}4$ **27.Rc1 Qd5 28.Nd6+** Curtains!

28...Bxd6 29.exd6 Kd7 [29...e5 30.Rxa7 Nxa7 31.Qxa7 with the idea of $\text{\textcircled{b}}1$ and $\text{\textcircled{a}}8$ check] **30.Qb1!** The quickest way, but also winning was $\text{\textcircled{b}}1$ – $\text{\textcircled{b}}8$ $\text{\textcircled{a}}b3$ **30...e5** Instead $\text{\textcircled{b}}8$ allows the $\text{\textcircled{a}}$ to penetrate with $\text{\textcircled{g}}6$. [30...Rb8 31.Qg6 Rhg8 32.Qf7+] **31.Qxb7+ Ke6 32.Ra6 Nb8?** [32...Rc8 33.Qxg7 wins anyway] **33.d7+ Nxa6 34.dxe8=Q+ Rxe8 35.Qxa6+ Kf5 36.Qxa7 g6 37.h5 gxh5 38.Qh7+ Kg5 39.Qg7+ Kf5 40.Qxh6 Qf7 41.Qd2 Qd5 42.c6 Rc8 43.Re1 Re8 44.Rxe5+ Rxe5 45.Qf4+ Kg6 46.Qxe5 Qc4 47.c7 d3 48.Qe8+ 1-0.**

Richard O'Donovan

Joe Ryan

Round 4

French Advance

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3 Bd7 6.Be2 Nge7 7.0-0 Ng6 8.Bg5 Qb6 9.b3 Rc8 10.h4 cxd4 11.cxd4 h6 12.Bc1 Be7 13.g3 0-0 14.h5 Nh8 15.Na3 f6 16.exf6 Bxf6 17.Bb2 Nf7 18.Nc2 a5 19.Ne3 Ng5 20.Ne5 Bxe5 21.dxe5 Nh3+ 22.Kg2 Nxf2 23.Nxd5 exd5 24.Qxd5+ Kh8 25.Qxd7 Rcd8 26.Qe6 Qe3 27.Qc4 Ne4 0-1.

ROUND 5

This round saw Stephen win a rather farcical game in which as Black he was winning very early on. A real disappointment considering that Eamon has drawn no less than three times in the Irish against Stephen. My own tournament challenge effectively came to an end when I made a horrendous positional mistake against Joe. I was frustrated when Joe played without ambition or conviction but by exchanging a lot of pieces early on he kept my advantage to slight. Still a draw should have been preferred to losing. After the game it was easy to see that my choice of opening was wrong despite having no problems in the opening. I should have opted for a more complicated game. The way was now truly open for

both Joe and Stephen to storm home.

Joe Ryan – Colm Daly

Round 5

Dutch Stonewall

1.d4 e6 2.Nf3 d5 3.c4 c6 4.e3 f5 5.Bd3 Nf6 6.0-0 Bd6 7.b3 Qe7 8.a4 a5 9.Ba3 Bxa3 10.Nxa3 0-0 11.Nb1 Na6 12.cxd5 exd5 13.Bxa6 Rxa6 14.Nbd2 [14.Ne5?! Ng4! 15.Nxg4 fxe4 when Black has a clear advantage due to his ♖side space and control of e4 in conjunction with his ♗side bind and ideas like ♗f5-e4+♗h4 ♗f6-h6] 14...Bd7 [It might have been better to play ♗e6 and follow up with ♗c8 b6-c5 when black has a slight plus. More space and options.] 15.Ne5 Be8 16.f4 Bh5 17.Qc2 Ng4 18.Nxg4 fxe4?? [This is positional suicide. It would be good if Black could control e4 and f5 but as this is not possible it is fair to say Black is now lost. Instead 18...Bxg4 would have been slightly better for Black for the reasons stated earlier, e.g. 18...Bxg4 19.Rfe1 Qb4! 20.Nf1 Bh5 21.Ng3 Be8 22.Ne2 Bd7 23.Kf2 b6 24.Nc1 Rc8 25.Nd3 Qd6 26.Recl c5 27.Ne5 Be6 28.Qb2 Ra7 29.Qa3 Rac7 Black has more space and his ♗ is no longer bad. White's only really good piece is his ♘ but he has no breaks to aim for.] 19.Rae1 Qd7 20.f5 Raa8 21.Rf4! Rae8 22.Nf1 g5? [This only speeds up the win that was inevitable for White as now there is another weakness to worry about.] 23.Rf2 Re7 24.Ng3 Be8 25.Qd2 Rg7 26.e4 dxe4 27.Nxe4 Qd8 28.Nc5 [There is no hope for Black in this position and resignation was a serious option, but I was just coming to terms with the fact that my hopes of winning the tournament were now history.] 28...Bd7 29.Nxb7 Qb8 30.f6 Rg6 31.Nc5 Qd6 32.Re7 Bc8 33.f7+ Kg7 34.Re8 g3 35.hxg3 Bg4 36.Rxf8 Kxf8 37.Qxa5 Bf5 38.Qa8+ Kxf7 39.Rxf5+ Kg7 40.Qa7+ Kh6 41.Ne4 Qd8 42.Qc5 Re6 43.Re5 Rg6 44.Rxg5 1-0.

ROUND 6

More of the same as the top two plus myself continued to win. In my own case rather lazily as after obtaining a totally winning position I failed to play the knock out blow and had to rely on a later mistake to win. Joe ground down Eamon in Karpovian fashion. While Stephen had an easy win after Richard turned down the chance to go into a drawn rook plus bishop of opposite colour ending Even though White would have had a very slight advantage it is hard to imagine any result other than a draw.

Stephen Brady

Richard O'Donovan

Round 6

Sicilian c3

1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Nc6 5.Nf3 cxd4 6.cxd4 e5 7.Nc3 Bb4 8.Bd2 Bxc3 9.Bxc3 e4 10.Ne5 Nxe5 11.dxe5 Ne7 12.Qa4+ Bd7 13.Qa3 Qe6 14.Qb4? White has simply lost a tempo in the opening as normal is 13.Qb4 or sometimes 13.Qa3 with a different follow up. Black should be equal now. 14...0-0?! Instead simply 14...Bc6 should have been played with the idea of ...a5 to follow; also interesting was 14...a5 immediately e.g. 15.Qxb7 Bc6 16.Bb5 0-0 17.Bxc6 Nxc6 18.Qc7 Rfe8. 15.Bc4 Nd5 16.Bxd5!± Qxd5 17.Rd1! Qb5 18.Qxe4 Bc6 19.Qe2 Qc5?! [19...Qxe2+ 20.Kxe2 A) 20...Rae8!= 21.Rhg1 f6 22.f4 fxe5 (22...f5!? with the idea of ♖f7 followed by ♗d8 g6 ♗e6 with a blockade.) 23.Bxe5? (23.fxe5 Rf4 the extra pawn is of little use.) 23...Rxf4+; B) 20...Bxg2? 21.Rhg1 B1) 21...Bc6 22.e6 g6 (22...f6 23.e7 Rfe8 24.Bxf6 Kf7 25.Bh4 h6 26.f4 g5 27.fxe5 Rxe7+ 28.Kd2±) 23.e7 Rfe8 24.Bf6+; B2) 21...Be4! 22.e6 Bg6 23.e7 Rfc8 (23...Rfe8 24.Rd7 f6 25.Rxb7 Kf7 26.Rd1±) 24.Rd7 f6 (24...b6 25.Rgd1 f6 26.Rd8+ Kf7 27.Rxc8 Rxc8 28.Rd8+→) 25.Rxb7 Kf7 26.Rd1 (26.e8=Q+ Kxe8 27.Rxg7±) 26...Ke8

27.Rd8+ Rxd8 28.exd8=Q+ Kxd8 29.Rxg7±] 20.Qg4 Bb5 21.Qd4 Qc8? [21...Qxd4±] 22.f3!± Qe6 23.a4 Ba6 24.Kf2 Rfc8 25.Rhe1 h6 26.Qd7 Qb6+ 27.Qd4 Qe6 28.a5 Bc4 29.Kg1 b5 30.Qe4 Qe7 31.f4 Rab8 32.f5 Bb3 33.f6+ Qe6 34.Rd6 Qc4 35.Rd4 Qc5 36.fxe7 b4 37.Bd2 Bc2 38.Qf4 Rc6 39.Be3 Qxa5 40.e6 Rb7 41.Qxh6 Bh7 42.exf7+ 1-0.

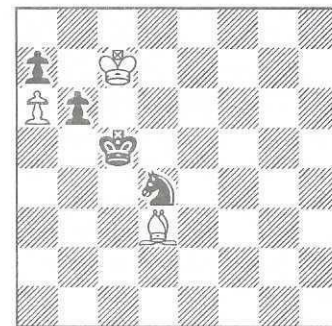
Gerry O'Connell

Anthony Fox

Round 6

QGD

1.d4 Nf6 2.e4 e6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Bg5 Be7 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Qc2 h6 7.Bh4 Ne4 8.Bxe7 Qxe7 9.e3 Nxc3 10.Qxc3 c6 11.cxd5 exd5 12.Bd3 Be6 13.0-0 Nd7 14.Rfc1 Rfc8 15.b4 Bg4 16.b5 c5 17.dxc5 Rxc5 18.Qd4 Bxf3 19.gxf3 Rac8 20.Rxc5 Rxc5 21.f4 g6 22.a4 Qf6 23.Qxf6 Nxf6 24.Kf1 Kf8 25.a5 Ke7 26.Ke2 Kd6 27.f3 Rc3 28.Kd2 Rc8 29.Rb1 Nd7 30.h4 h5 31.Rg1 Ne5 32.Bc2 Nd7 33.Bd3 b6 34.a6 Ne5 35.Be2 Nd7 36.e4 dxe4 37.fxe4 Ke7 38.Bd3 Nc5 39.Be2 Ne6 40.f5 Nd4 41.Bd1 gxf5 42.exf5 Rd8 43.Ke3 Nxf5+ 44.Kf4 Kf6 45.Bxh5 Rd4+ 46.Kf3 Nxh4+ 47.Ke2 Ng6 48.Rc1 Ne5 49.Rc7 Rd7 50.Rc8 Ke7 51.Ke3 Kd6 52.Ke4 f6 53.Be8 Rc7 54.Rxc7 Kxc7 55.Kf5 Kd6 56.Kxf6 Nf3 57.Bg6 Nd4 58.Bd3 Ke5 59.Ke7 Nxb5 60.Kd7 Nd4 61.Kc7



61...Nc6? [61...b5 62.Kb7 Kd6 63.Bxb5 (63.Kb8 b4 64.Kb7 b3 65.Kxa7 Kc7 66.Ka8 b2 67.Ka7 Nb5+ 68.Ka8 Kb6 69.a7 Kc7 70.Bb1 Nc3 71.Be4 Na4 with mate on b6) 63...Nxb5+] 62.Kb7 Kd6 63.Bb5 Nb4? [63...Nd4 64.Kxa7 Kc7 65.Bd3 b5 66.Bxb5 Nxb5+ 67.Ka8 Kc8

68.a7 Nc7#] 64.Kxa7 Kc7
 65.Be8 Nxa6? [65...Nc2 66.Ba4
 Nd4 67.Be8 b5 68.Bxb5?
 (68.Ka8 b4 69.Bf7 Nc6 when
 White still has to be careful)
 68...Nxb5+ 69.Ka8 Kc8 70.a7
 Nc7#] ½-½.

ROUND 7

Joe was lucky today as he was totally losing when his opponent allowed a back rank mate sequence. The opening transposed into a classical King's Indian but neither player played precisely and after playing a passive move instead of an attacking move Black was busted. The Stephen v Danny game was also odd in that the night before I was saying that Danny had about as much chance of a result as me becoming President of the USA, not knowing Danny was standing just behind me! However Danny knowing my tendency for sometimes overstating things took it all very well and I told him I hoped I was wrong and would buy him a pint if he was successful. In the event the game was a heartbreaker as after seven moves Danny had the option of forcing a winning position by simply grabbing pawns and demolishing Black's pawn structure. Sadly for him he didn't and eventually lost. My own game was amusing in that my opponent won a pawn and forced an endgame, but collapsed soon after he realised I had more than enough compensation for the pawn.

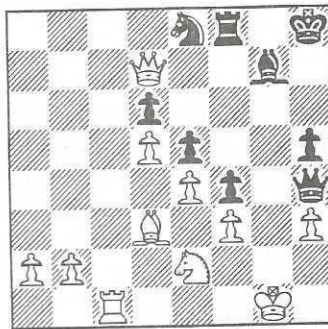
Daire McMahon - Joe Ryan

Round 7

KID Bd3

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4
 d6 5.Bd3 0-0 6.Nge2 Nc6 7.0-0
 Nh5 8.Be3 e5 9.d5 Ne7 10.Rc1
 f5 11.f3 f4 12.Bf2 g5 13.h3 Nf6
 14.c5 Ne8? [14...h5#] 15.Qb3±
 [15.Nb5±] 15...h5 16.Nb5 g4?!
 17.cxd6 cxd6 18.Nxa7 Ng6
 19.Nxc8 Rxc8 20.Rxc8 Qxc8
 21.Rc1 Qd8 22.Qxb7+- gxf3
 23.gxf3 Nh4 24.Bxh4

[24.Kh1!]? 24...Qxh4 25.Qd7
 Kh8



26.Rc8??-+ [26.Kf1! Nf6
 27.Qe6 and now (a) 27...Nh7
 28.Rc8 Ng5 29.Rxf8+ Bxf8
 30.Qf6+ Bg7 31.Qd8+ Kh7
 32.Ng1! Qg3 33.Qe8! Kh6
 34.Be2! Bf6 35.Qf8+ Kg6 36.a4
 Nxb3? 37.Qg8+ Bg7 38.Qe6+
 and 39.Qxh3+-; or (b) 27...Rg8
 28.Qf5! Nh7 29.Rc7 Ng5 30.Ng1
 Qg3 31.Be2⊕+-] 26...Qe1+
 27.Kg2 Rg8 28.Rxe8 Bf8+
 29.Qg4 hxg4 0-1.

ROUND 8

Joe won comfortably as he ground down Peter Cafolla in a composed and efficient manner. Stephen was very lucky when he beat Gerry from a position that was at first just better for Black, then much better, then equal, and then after being demoralised by missing many good lines Gerry failed to force a draw on many occasions. In short White was only better for about 5% of the game after being worse for about 85%. A win was a huge boost for Stephen. I played my first player below 2130 FIDE but found myself having one of my toughest games and having to play what was my best effort of the tournament.

Stephen Brady

Gerry O'Connell

Round 8

Sicilian c3

1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.d4
 cxd4 5.Nf3 e6 6.Bc4 Nb6 7.Bb3
 Nc6 8.cxd4 d5 9.0-0 Be7
 10.Nc3 Bd7 11.a3 a5 12.Qd3 a4
 13.Ba2 Na5# 14.Nd2 Re8 15.f4
 g6 16.Rf2 Nbc4 17.Nf1 Qb6
 18.Ne3 Nb3 19.Bxb3 Qxb3#

20.Nxc4 Rxc4 21.Be3 Bb5?!
 [21...b5!; 21...Bc6!]? 22.Qd2
 Bc6 23.Rf3 Qb6 24.Bf2 h5
 25.Rc1 Kd7 26.Nd1 Rxc1?
 27.Qxc1 Rc8# 28.Rc3 Qa6
 29.Qd2 Bb5 30.Rxc8 Kxc8
 31.Be1 Bc4 [31...Be2 32.Nc3
 Bc4!]? 32.Qe1 Qb6 33.Bc3 Kd7
 34.Qd2 Qb3 [34...Ba2!]? 35.Ne3
 Qa2 36.Qe1 Bd3? [36...Qb3;
 36...b5!]? 37.Bb4 Bxb4 38.axb4
 Qb1?? 39.Qxb1= Bxb1 40.Nd1
 Bd3 41.Nc3 b5 42.Kf2 Ke7
 43.Nd1 Kf8?! [43...Bf5=]
 44.Ne3 Kg7 45.g4 Kh6 46.Kg3
 hxg4 [46...Be2!]? 47.Nxg4+
 Kg7 48.Kh4 Be2?! 49.Nf6 Bd3
 50.Kg5 Be2? [50...Kf8 51.h4
 Ke7=] 51.h4 Bd3? [51...Kf8=]
 52.h5 gxh5 53.Nxh5+ Kf8
 54.Kf6+- Bf5 55.Ng3 Bg4
 56.Nh1 Bh3 57.Nf2 Bf5 58.Nd1
 Be4 59.Nc3 Bd3 60.f5 exf5
 61.Nxd5 Ke8 62.Nf4 Be4 63.d5
 Be2 64.Nh5 Be4 65.e6 fxe6
 66.dxe6 Bc6 67.Kxf5 Ke7
 68.Ke5 Bf3 69.Ng3 Bg4
 70.Nf5+ Kd8 71.Nd4 Ke7
 72.Nc6+ Ke8 73.Kd6 Bh3
 74.Nd4 Bf1 75.e7 Bc4 76.Nf5
 Kf7 77.Ng7 1-0.

ROUND 9

The last round started with certain matters already decided, for instance third place went to myself irrespective of any results. First and second was a private matter between Stephen and Joe, with Anthony Fox and Danny Roberts having a major say in the outcome.

In the end Joe won his game after some tense moments. He had started the game strongly and had a comfortable advantage when he became nervous and misplayed the position. With so much at stake it was understandable, but just when it looked as if it was slipping away he fought back and created winning chances. Danny lost the thread but it was all over before he knew what hit him.

Now it was time for the big wait to see if Stephen could beat Tony and grab a share of first. The game looked drawish for about

95% of the time but just when it seemed to be turning in Stephen's favour, his opponent started to play passively and allowed Stephen to build up a Q-side initiative. Soon the position was winning for Stephen (even if it had to be proved) but he went badly wrong and allowed a perpetual check. He finished with a still very good 8/9 and outright second place, the first time in five years he has broken through to the top 4 places and gaining a load of rating points for his efforts.

However it seemed Joe was a little more flexible and adaptable than Stephen and this might have been the difference ultimately, as it was felt by many onlookers that the last game of the tournament to finish exposed a major weakness in Stephen's game: that when he needed to win with black in the final round, the best he had was the Centre Counter. I have always felt this opening to be a good surprise weapon, or even a good try if you want a draw against a stronger player, but as the cornerstone of a repertoire it is dull, unambitious and certainly not a good choice against a 2000 player whom you must beat when he can steer the game towards a draw if he wants. No doubt Stephen may see it differently and he might be right but I would have fancied him to win if he had played almost any other opening.

Anthony Fox – Stephen Brady
Round 9

Scandinavian

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qa5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 Bf5 6.Bc4 e6 7.Bd2 c6 8.Nh4 Bg4 9.f3 Qh5 10.g3 Bh3 11.Qe2 Nbd7 12.0-0 Nb6 13.Bb3 0-0-0 14.Be1 g5 15.Ng2 Bxg2 16.Qxg2 Nfd5 17.Qe2 Nxc3 18.Bxc3 Bg7 19.Rd3 Rd7 20.Rhd1 Rhd8 21.a3 Qg6 22.Kb1 Bf6 23.Qe4 Kb8 24.Ka2 Qg7 25.Kb1 h5 26.h3 Nc8 27.g4 Nd6 28.Qe2 hxg4 29.hxg4 Nb5 30.a4 Nxd4 31.Bxd4 Rxd4 32.Rxd4 Rxd4 33.Rxd4 Bxd4 34.c3 Be5 35.Bc2

Kc7 36.Qe3 a6 37.Be4 f6 38.Kc2 Qe7 39.Qf2 Qd6 40.Qd2 Qc5 41.Qd3 Bf4 42.Qd4 Qe7 43.Qc4 Bd6 44.Qd3 Bc5 45.Qc4 Qd6 46.Qd3 Qe5 47.Bg6 Qh2+ 48.Kb3 Qe5 49.Kc2 Bd6 50.Be4 Kd7 51.Qd4 Qa5 52.Qxf6 Qxa4+ 53.Kb1 Qb5 54.Qg7+ Be7 55.Qd4+ Kc7 56.Bd3 Qd5 57.Qe4 b5 58.Qe2 Qb3 59.Qc2 Qd5 60.Be4 Qd6 61.Qf2 c5 62.Kc2 a5 63.Qe2 Kb6 64.Bd3? [64.c4=] 64...c4 65.Be4 Qc5 66.Ba8 b4 67.cxb4 axb4 68.Qxe6+ Ka7? [68...Bd6+] 69.Be4 b3+ 70.Kc3 Qb4+ 71.Kd4 c3+ 72.Ke3 e2 73.Qd7+ Kb8 74.Qe8+ Kc7 75.Qc6+ Kb8 76.Qa8+ Kc7 77.Qc6+ Kd8 78.Qa8+ Kd7 79.Qc6+ 1/2-1/2.

Joe Ryan – Danny Roberts
Round 9

Pirc

1.d4 g6 2.e4 Bg7 3.c3 d6 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.Bd3 0-0 6.0-0 c5 7.h3 cxd4 8.cxd4 Nc6 9.Nc3 e5 10.dxe5 dxe5 11.Be3 Be6 12.Bb5 Qa5 13.Bxc6 bxc6 14.Qc2 Nh5 15.Na4 Nf4 16.Kh2 Nd3 17.a3 Rfd8 18.Ng5 Bd7 19.Rfd1 Be8 20.b3 Nf4 21.Rxd8 Rxd8 22.Nb2 h6 23.Nf3 Ne6 24.Nc4 Qc7 25.Kg1 Nd4 26.Bxd4 exd4 27.Rd1 c5 28.Nb2 Bb5 29.Ne1 a5 30.a4 Ba6 31.Ned3 Bf8 32.Rc1 Rb8 33.Nc4 Bxc4 34.Qxc4 Qb7 35.Nxc5 Bxc5 36.Qxc5 Qxe4 37.Rd1 Rxb3 38.Rxd4 Qe1+ 39.Kh2 Kg7 40.Rd8 Qc3 41.Qf8+ Kf6 42.Rd6+ Kg5 43.Qe7+ f6 44.Rd5+ Kf4 45.Qd6+ Ke4 46.Qe6+ Kf4 47.Qg4# 1-0.



Tom Clarke

Gerry O'Connell

Irish Ch (3) 1997

Trompowsky

Notes by Tom Clarke

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 e6 3.e4 Be7 3...h6 is the main line but this is just as good. 4.e5 Nd5 5.Bd2 c5 6.c4 Nc7 Gerry didn't like 6...Nb6 because of 7.a4 but 7...d5 is fine for Black. In the game continuation Black is more cramped.

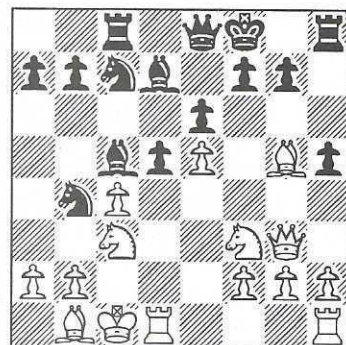
7.Qg4 Kf8

Too committal. 8...g6 or even 8...cxd4 should be considered. Definitely not 8...Bf8 9.Bg5 winning a pawn.

8.dxc5 Ne6 9.Nf3 Bxc5 10.Nc3 d5 11.0-0-0 Bd7 12.Bd3 h5 13.Qg3 Nb4 14.Bg5 Qe8?

This is a mistake. 14...Be7 or 14...Nxd3+ had to be played instead.

15.Bb1?! Rc8



16.Bf6!

Spectacular though it may also have worked on the previous move e.g. 15.Bf6 and (a) 15...Nxd3+ 16.Rxd3 and (a1) 16...Rg8 17.Ng5 gxf6 18.exf6 Rg6 19.Qxc7 Rc8 20.Qf4; (a2) 16...Rh7 17.Ng5 Rh8 18.Bxg7+ Kxg7 19.Nxe6+ Kh7 20.Qg7 mate; or (b) 15...gxf6 16.exf6 Rg8 17.Qxc7 Rc8 18.Qf4 Nxd3+ 19.Rxd3 Rg6 20.Ne5.

16...gxf6 17.exf6 Rg8 18.Ng5 Rg6 19.Bxg6 fxf6 20.a3

Not 20.f7 as this gives Black the e7 square for his bishop.

20...Nba6 21.b4

Here 21.Rhe1 retaining pressure is probably better. The game continuation gets a material advantage but exposes the white king position.

21...Nxb4 22.axb4 Bxb4 23.Qe5!

Preventing 23...e5 followed by ...Bf5.

23...Qd8!

This stops 24.f7 by 24...Bxc3 25.Qxc3 Qxg5+.

24.Rd3 Ne8 25.Rf3

Still 25.f7 is premature because of 25...Ng5-f5.

25...Qa5 26.f7 Qa1+ 27.Kc2 Ba4+ 28.Kd3 dxc4+ 29.Ke3 Qxh1 30.Nxe6+ Ke7 1-0.

Black lost on time but his position is gone anyway.

Colm Daly – Eamon Keogh

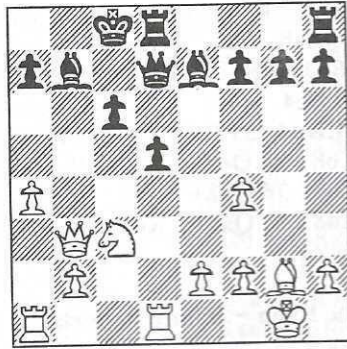
Irish Ch (1) 1997

English

Notes by Colm Daly

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Nf3 d6 4.d4 exd4? Black by playing ...d6 has restricted himself to playing a passive opening but this sudden abandonment of the centre makes his position simply bad **5.Nxd4 Nc6?!** It seems a bit too soon to commit the knight to this square. Now White has the chance to create some weak points in Black's position and develop in the best way to take advantage of these. Better for Black would have been 5...Bg7 or 5...g6 and 6...Bg7. **6.Nxc6 bxc6 7.g3!** The best way to develop, targetting the weak Q-side and controlling d5. **7...Bb7** Possibly better was 7...Bd7 and 8...Qb8 with the idea of ...a5 and ...Qb4 in conjunction with ...g6 and ...Bg7. **8.Bg2 Be7 9.0-0 Qd7?** This loses a whole tempo, so better was castling first. **10.Qb3 0-0-0** I must admit I had never even considered this move as on general principles it is bad. However working out a correct response was more difficult than I had imagined, Black has also K-side chances based on ...h7-h5 [10...Qc8 11.Qa4 Qd7 12.Bf4±; 10...Rb8? 11.Be3]. **11.a4!** This is an unnatural looking move but effective. The idea is a4-a5 followed by Ra4-b4, while waiting to see what Black does before committing the Be1. **11...d5** If 11...h5 12.a5 a6 (12...h4 13.a6 Ba8 14.Nb5!±) 13.Ra4 d5 14.Bg5 d4 15.Bxf6 gxf6 (15...Bxf6? 16.Rb4±) 16.c5!! and now (a) 16...Bxc5 17.Ne4 Be7 with a pleasant choice between (a1) 18.Rc1±; (a2) 18.Rb4! Bxb4 19.Qxb4 c5 20.Nxc5 Qb5 21.Bxb7+ Kb8 22.Nxa6++-; and (a3) 18.Nxf6 Qe6 19.Qxe6+ fxe6 20.Ne4 c5 21.Rc1 Rd5 22.Rac4; (b) 16...dxc3 17.Rb4 Qe6 18.Rxb7 Qxb3 19.Rxb3 Kd7 (19...cxb2?? 20.Bh3++-) 20.Rxc3±. **12.cxd5** Played so as to pin the d5 pawn to the Bb7 and soften the diagonal h1-a8 in general plus play on the c-file. **12...cxd5**

13.Bf4 Nh5 Well, what else? **14.Rfd1!** After the game my opponent suggested now 14.Bxc7 but this is not as good as it looks and in fact it becomes unclear who would have the advantage: 14.Bxc7 Qxc7 15.Nb5 Qa5 16.Rfc1+ Kb8 17.Rc7 Qb4. The text develops and adds great pressure on the centre while preparing a piece sac. **14...Nxf4 15.gxf4 c6**□



16.Nxd5! The point. **16...cxd5 17.Rxd5!** A most accurate move. The natural 17.Rc1+ gives Black slightly more options. This also gives Black the chance to go wrong as he becomes too preoccupied with controlling the c-file. **17...Qc7?** Better 17...Qxd5 18.Bxd5 Rxd5 19.Qc3+ (this takes advantage of having not already committed the rook to c1 thereby being able to check and then penetrate the K-side and go pawn hunting) 19...Kb8 20.e4 Rd7 21.Qxg7 Rhd8 22.Qxh7 Rd1+ 23.Rxd1 Rxd1+ 24.Kg2±. However the point of all this is that White would have had to play accurately to win. **18.Qh3+ Kb8** If 18...Rd7 19.Rxd7 Qxd7 20.Bxb7+ Kd8 21.Qf3±. **19.Rb5** Remember that pin I mentioned earlier. **19...Rd6 20.Bxb7** I could have won the Q for R+B (20.Rxb7+ Qxb7 21.Bxb7 Kxb7 22.Qb3+ Ka8 23.Qxf7±) but I decided that this way by giving Black the chance to save his queen he would overlook the fact that by allowing me to keep my bishop he would be defenceless to my attack on the light squares. **20...Rb6 21.Bg2 a6** Trying to make space for his king. **22.Rxb6+ Qxb6 23.Qf3 Ka7 24.Rc1** The last bit of

domination. **24...Rd8 25.a5!** It is always nice to finish off your opponent by merely pushing a pawn forward. Although Black is only a couple of pawns down (one doubled) his position is hopeless because of the vastly superior pieces. Just compare the respective queens, rooks and bishops. **1-0.**

Colm Daly

Sean O'Kearney

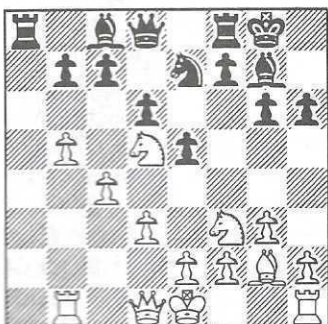
Irish Ch (8) 1997

English

Notes by Colm Daly

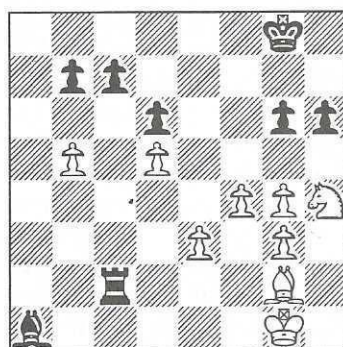
1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.d3 d6 6.Rb1 The idea of this move is to keep open all options as the rook usually goes here later anyway. Meanwhile Black must decide on a plan of development and depending on Black's choice White may opt for the setup of e3, Nge2; e4, Nge2; or Nf3. **6...a5 7.a3 Nf6 8.Nf3 0-0 9.Bg5** This move is an old favorite of mine, although I don't play it at the higher levels anymore as I think any advantage White gets is too small to exploit. Nevertheless it is difficult to meet for an unsuspecting opponent. **9...h6 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.Nd5** More normal here would have been castles but I feel it is better to secure a Q-side bind first. **11...Bg7 12.b4** This opening starts off very quietly but the middle games that result are usually very double-edged and complicated. **12...axb4 13.axb4 Ne7!** This is an improvement on the play of Matthew Sadler whom I played in the Dublin Zonal of 1993. In that game Black played 13...Nd4 but stood much worse soon and only won after my mishandling of the position later: 13...Nd4 14.Nxd4 exd4 15.b5 Bg4 16.h3 (16.0-0!±) 16...Bd7 17.Nb4 Qc8 18.Nd5?! (18.Ra1!±) 18...Kh7 19.h4∞ Re8 20.b6? Ra2± Daly-Sadler, Dublin Zonal 1993 (0-1,38). **14.b5!?** This is a very provocative move. A safer way would have been to take on e7 and castle followed by Nd2 or Ne1 or just castle first as taking on d5 would only help White

gain space and pressure down the c-file e.g. 14.Nxe7+ Qxe7 15.Nd2± c6 16.b5 Bd7 17.0-0± or 14.0-0 c6 15.Nxe7+ Qxe7 16.Ne1 (16.Nd2 Be6 17.b5 d5=) 16...Be6 17.b5 d5=.



14...e4?!∞ I have my doubts about this move but is a reasonable practical try. Black is trying to take advantage of the fact that White has not yet castled, but this might be overly optimistic. Taking on d5 is not great either. Best is 14...c6 and 15...Be6. 15.dxe4 Nxd5 16.cxd5 Not 16.exd5? Bf5 17.Rc1 Bb2± but maybe 16.Qxd5!?. 16...Bc3+ 17.Kf1 Forced and the point of Black's play. However it is not clear that the white king is in much danger, even if his K-side development is disrupted. Still White must be very careful! 17...f5! 18.Qc2 Bg7 19.Nh4! The crux of White's defensive counterplay! A surprisingly effective and devious move. Black's best now was 19...Qe8! when the position is truly unclear. 19...Qf6? In view of the missed chance White now has, this natural move must be criticised. 20.e3?!∞ A perfectly natural move but one which fails to take advantage of the knight on h4. Both players assumed White could not play 20.exf5 on account of 20...g5 21.Ng6 Bxf5, but this fails to 22.Qxf5! Qxf5 23.Ne7 check! If 22...Ra1 23.Be4!+- 20...fxe4 21.Bxe4 Bh3+ If 21...g5 22.Ng2±. 22.Bg2 A big moment for Black it is very tempting to try complicate by keeping the bishops on but taking seems to leave the position still unclear and forces White to defend further, plus Black is likely to win his pawn back. 22...Bg4!?

Better 22...Bxg2+ 23.Nxg2 Qf3 and now (a) 24.Rd1!? Ra5 25.Kg1 Rxb5 26.Nh4 Qf7 27.Rf1 Rb2 (27...g5 28.Ng6 Ra8 29.h4∞) 28.Qxg6 Rxf2 29.Qxf7+ R2xf7 30.Rxf7 Rxf7 31.Kg2±; (b) 24.Kg1!?!∞. 23.h3! This tame looking move starts a long series of forced play, the outcome of which seems to be a better ending for White despite being the exchange down. Not 23.f4 g5 24.Nf3 gxf4 25.gxf4 Rae8±. 23...Ra1! 24.f4□ Rfa8! 25.Rxa1 Qxa1+ If 25...Rxa1+ 26.Kf2 Rxh1 27.Bxh1 Bxh3 28.Nxg6 Bf5 29.Qxf5 Qxf5 30.Ne7+ Kf7 31.Nxf5. 26.Kf2 Ra2 The point of Black's play. 27.Rxa1 Rxc2+ 28.Kg1 Bxa1 29.hxg4

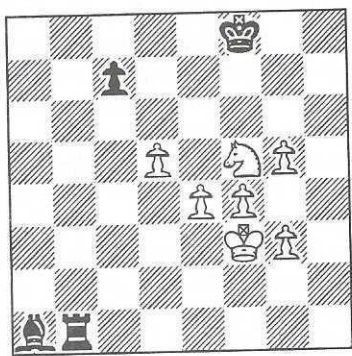


Now it is time to take stock. White has a pawn for the exchange plus space and good coordination between his pieces. Black's problem is that his rook and bishop do not work well together, also his K-side is weak. All in all a very complicated ending. 29...Kg7 30.Be4 Rc5 Checking only helps the White king come into the game: 30...Rc1+ 31.Kf2 g5 32.Nf5+ Kf6! 33.b6! (a vital resource. Notice how little the black bishop participates in the game) 33...cxb6 34.Nxd6±. 31.Nxg6 Rxb5 32.Nh4 Rb4 33.Nf5+ Kf6 At this point I now went into deep thought as it is another critical moment. It seems that I must retreat and regroup before I can make any progress, all the while keeping Black's play in check. 34.Bf3 Kg6 Here 34...h5 was possible, exchanging off one of White's pawn phalanx but accelerating White's K-side play. 35.Be2 The play now revolves around both

sides trying to make the best use of their strengths. In Black's case this means trying to promote his b-pawn. White must try to use his good coordination to win more K-side pawns and try stop Black's b-pawn. 35...Rb2 This seems to gain a tempo to push the b-pawn but in fact White intends to move his bishop to the b1-h7 diagonal anyway from where it can generate K-side threats and keep an eye on the b1 square. 36.Kf1! This is a clever move: White intends to play Bd3 but must be in a position to protect the B on this diagonal (b1-h7). If Black were to keep checking the white king he would only help the king arrive at f3 from where it could support the bishop. 36...b5 Consistent with earlier comments. 37.Bd3 Now White has some real threats (Nxd6+ etc.) while his king is now ready to defend the bishop if need be. Once again note how irrelevant the black bishop is to proceedings. 37...Rb3 Black is confined for the moment to the b-file to keep his b-pawn. 38.Ke2 Rb2+ [38...b4 39.Nd4+ Rxd3 40.Kxd3+-] 39.Kd1 [39.Kf3!?] 39...Rb3 [39...b4 40.Nxd6+ Kg7 41.Nf5+ Kg6 42.e4 b3 43.e5±] 40.Bc2 This was my reason for 39.Kd1: now when Black moves the bishop will be protected. 40...Rc3 Instead 40...Rb2 would block both the b-pawn's path and the Ba1. It is worth noting that White could now go into a drawing line if he so desired. 41.Be4 I spent a lot of time on this move as my choice of move now has far reaching consequences. Firstly I had to reject a long drawing line, and then I had to evaluate the position that is forced after the next 9 moves. The drawing line goes 41.Nxd6+ Rxc2 42.Kxc2 cxd6 43.Kb3 A) 43...h5!? 44.gxh5+ Kxh5 45.Kb4 (45.e4 Kg4 46.e5=) 45...Kg4 46.Kxb5 Kxg3 47.Kc6 Kf3 48.Kxd6 Kxe3 49.Ke6 (49.f5 Ke4 50.Ke6 Be5=) 49...Kxf4 50.d6 Kg5 51.d7 Bf6=; B) 43...Kf7 44.Kb4 Ke7 45.Kxb5 Kd7 46.Kc4 Ke7 47.Kd3 Kf6 48.g5+!? (48.Ke4=) 48...hxg5 49.Ke4 g4 (49...gxf4 50.gxf4 Bb2

51.Kf3 Ba3 52.Kg4 Bc1 53.e4 Bb2 54.e5+=) 50.Kd3 Kf5 51.e4+ Kf6 52.Kc4 B1) 52...Ke7 53.Kb5 Kd7= 54.Kc4 Kc7 55.Kd3 Kb6 56.e5 dx e5 (56...Kc5 57.Ke4±) 57.fxe5 Bxe5 58.Ke4 Bxg3 59.Kf5=; B2) 52...Bb2 53.Kb5 Bd4 54.Kc6 Bf2 55.Kxd6 Bxg3 56.e5+ B2a) 56...Kg6 57.Ke6 Bh4 58.f5+ Kh7 59.f6 B2a1) 59...Bg5 B2a11) 60.d6! g3 61.d7 g2 62.d8=Q g1=Q 63.Qe7+ (63.Kj7!±) 63...Kg6 64.Qg7+ Kh5 65.Kf7 (65.Qh7+! Bh6 66.Qf5+±) 65...Qa7+ 66.Kg8 Qb8+ 67.Qf8; B2a12) 60.f7 60...Bh6 61.d6 g3 62.d7 g2 63.d8=Q g1=Q 64.Qd3+; B2a2) 59...Kg8 60.d6 g3 61.d7; B2b) 56...Kf7 57.Kd7 Bxf4 58.e6+ Kg7 59.e7+-.

41...b4 Not 41...Rc4?? 42.Nxd6+-, 42.Nxd6+ Kf6 43.Nf5 b3 44.Nxh6 b2 Not 44...Rxe3? 45.g5+ Kg7 46.Nf5+ Kf8 47.Nxe3+-, 45.g5+ Kg7 46.Nf5+ Kf8 I now paused to consider the forced draw I could have now by 47.Bc2 Rb3 48.Bb1 Rc3 etc. However I was confident that the ending that was about to result instead was good for White even though I didn't know if it was winning. 47.Ke2 Rc1 48.Kf3 b1=Q 49.Bxb1 Rxb1 50.e4



We have reached the endgame I was playing for when I played 41.Be4. This is a most unusual type of endgame. During the game I thought it might be a draw with best play but now I am doubtful if Black can draw. Either way I much prefer White. 50...Re1 51.Ne3 The next phase sees White trying to make it to move 60 in time while not committing myself to any plan just yet. Meanwhile Black finds

it difficult to know what to do. 51...Bd4! 52.Nf5 OK so let's waste a move. Not 52.Nc2? Rf1+ 53.Ke2 (53.Kg2?? Rf2+-; 53.Kg4? Bc5 when the knight is cut off from any anchor) 53...Rf2+ 54.Kd3 Bc5 (54...Rxc2 55.Kxc2 Bf2 56.g4 Be3= 57.e5 Bxf4 58.d6) 55.Ne1 Rf1 56.Ke2 Rg1 (56...Rf2+! 57.Kd3 Bb4 58.Nc2 Rd2+ 59.Kc4 Rxc2+±) 57.Nd3 Bd4 58.Kf3 Rd1 59.Ke2 Rg1=. 52...Bb2 53.Nh4 Kf7?! I don't know if this is really much use as I now have a free move with Nh6 in many lines. 54.Nf5 Bc3 This doesn't seem to do anything: 54...Kf8! 55.Nh6+ Kg6 Again this looks active but maybe 55...Kf8 was safer. Now after Nf5 I am threatening Ne7-c6 when I would be in a position to support e4-e5. 56.Nf5 Kf7 57.Ne3 Bd4 We have returned to almost the same position we had a few moves ago with the subtle difference being that the black king is on f7 not f8 which allows my horse to gallop a different route. The Bishop has re-routed my parade! 58.Ng4 Rf1+ 59.Ke2 Rg1 60.Nh6+ Kg6 61.Nf5 Bc3 62.Kf2 Re1 63.Kf3 Once again we have what looks like the same position but again with another subtle difference. The black king has been lured forward to an awkward position and in this position it is Black who must move. 63...Bb2?! Black should have played 63...Kf7 reaching a position we had before when it would be up to White to make any real progress. The best try is (63...Kf7) 64.Nh4! Bd4 65.g6+ A) 65...Kg8 66.Nf5 (66.Ng2!? Rf1+ 67.Kg4 Rg1 68.Nh4 Bf2 69.Nf5±) 66...Bc3 (66...Rf1+ 67.Kg4±) 67.e5 Bxe5 68.fxe5 Rxe5 69.Kf4 Re1 70.Kg5 Re2 71.Kf6± Re1? 72.Ne7+-; B) 65...Kf6 66.Nf5 Bc3 67.g7 Kf7 68.e5 Bxe5 69.fxe5 Rxe5 70.Kf4! Re1 (70...Rxd5? 71.g8=Q+ Kxg8 72.Ne7+-) 71.g4!±. 64.Ne7+ Kf7 65.Nc6 This is one of the ideal setups that White is looking for as now e5 is supported by the knight and the pawn roller is beginning to move. 65...Bc3 66.Nd8+ Ke7 67.Nc6+ There is no harm in

repeating and it's a good way to compose oneself before committing to the final onslaught. 67...Kf7 68.e5 Finally the pawns begin to move. 68...Kg6 If 68...Rf1+ 69.Ke4 Re1+ 70.Kf5 Rd1 A) 71.d6!? cxd6 72.e6+ Ke8 73.Kg6 Rd5! 74.f5 Rc5 75.Nb8 Ke7 76.Nd7 Rc8 77.Nf6 Bxf6 (77...Rc5? 78.Ng8+ Kf8 79.e7+ Ke8 80.f6+-) 78.gxf6+ Kf8 (78...Ke8 79.g4 d5 80.g5 d4 81.Kh7 d3 82.g6 Kd8 83.g7 Kc7 84.f7 d2 85.f8=Q d1=Q 86.Qxc8+ Kxc8 87.g8=Q+-) 79.g4 d5 80.g5 d4 A1) 81.Kh7! A1a) 81...d3 82.g6+-; A1b) 81...Rc1 82.g6?? (82.e7+ Kf7 83.g6+ Ke8 84.Kg8+-) 82...Rh1#; A1c) 81...Rc7+ 82.Kh8! (82.e7+? Kf7 83.g6+ Kxf6+-) 82...Rc1 83.e7+ Kf7 84.g6+ Ke8 85.Kg8+-; A2) 81.e7+? 81...Ke8 82.Kg7 d3 83.f7+ Kxe7 84.f6+ Ke6? (84...Kd7 85.f8=Q Rxf8 86.Kxf8 d2 87.f7 d1=Q 88.Kg8 Qd5 89.g6 Ke7 90.Kh7 Qh1+ 91.Kg7 Qa1+ 92.Kg8 Qf6+-) 85.f8=Q Rxf8 86.Kxf8 d2 87.f7 d1=Q 88.Kg8=; B) 71.Nd8+ 71...Kg8 B1) 72.Ke6 Rg1 73.Nc6 Rxc3 B1a) 74.Kd7! Rg4 75.Kxc7? (75.e6! Rxf4 76.e7 Re4 77.e8=Q+ Rxe8 78.Kxe8 Kg7 79.Nd8 Kg6 80.Ne6 Kf5 81.Kd7 Ke4 82.Kc6+-) 75...Rxf4 76.e6 Re4 77.Kd7 Bd2 78.e7 Bxg5 79.d6=; B1b) 74.d6 74...cxd6 75.exd6 Re3+± 76.Kd5; B2) 72.d6 72...cxd6 73.e6 Re1 74.Kg6 B2a) 74...Ba5 75.f5? (75.Nc6 Rxe6+ 76.Kf5 Re1 77.Nxa5±) 75...Bxd8 76.f6 Kf8+-; B2b) 74...d5 75.f5 d4 76.f6 d3 77.e7+-.

69.Kg4! Re4? This makes it easy but Black was demoralized by his complete lack of options, in any event there seems to be no defence e.g. 69...Rd1 70.f5+ Kf7 (70...Kg7 71.f6+ Kf7 72.e6+ Kg6 73.Ne7+ Kh7 74.g6+ Kh6 75.g7+-) 71.f6 Rxd5 72.Kf5+- Rd3 73.g6+] 70.d6 cxd6 71.exd6 Black resigned. (1-0). I assumed because he saw that after 71...Bd4 72.d7 Bb6 73.d8=Q Bxd8 74.Nxd8 the knight and three pawns will win fairly soon. However it is arguable that he could have played on a few moves e.g. 74...Rc4 75.Ne6 Re4

76.Nf8+ Kf7 77.Nd7 Re1
78.Ne5+ Kg7 79.Nf3 Ra1
80.Nh4 Ra5 81.Kh5 Ra3 82.g4
Rh3 83.f5 Rh1 84.g6 Rh3 85.g5
Rh1 86.f6+ Kg8 87.g7 Kh7
88.Kg4 Rg1+ 89.Kf4 Rf1+
90.Ke5 Re1+ 91.Kd6 Kg8
92.Nf5 and it's the end.

Gerry O'Connell

Liam Porter

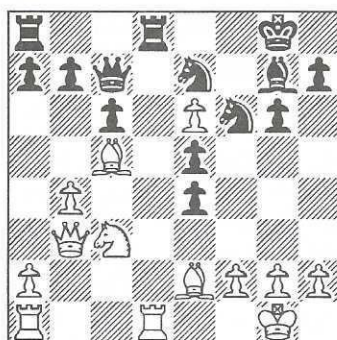
Irish Ch (9) 1997

King's Indian

Notes by Gerry O'Connell

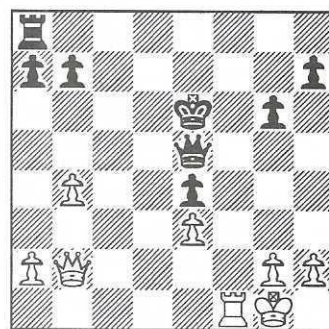
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4
d6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2 e5 7.0-0
Nc6 8.d5 Ne7 9.b4 The Bayonet
Attack is currently one of the
most popular variations of the
Classical KID. 9...Ne8 Here
9...Nh5 heading for f4 and 9...a5
are more common. 10.e5 f5!?
11.Ng5!? Theory indicates that
this leads to a slight advantage
for White, but the resulting
positions are so complicated that
such a conclusion is a little rash.
11...h6 12.Ne6 Bxe6 13.dxe6 c6
Other possibilities are (a)
13...Qc8 14.Be4 Kh7 15.Qb3±;
(b) 13...fxe4 14.Be3 possibly
transposing into the game; (c)
13...dxc5 14.bxc5 Qxd1 (if
14...Nc6 15.Qb3 Qe7 16.Nd5
Qxe6 17.Bc4 wins) 15.Rxd1 Nf6
16.Nd5±. 14.cxd6 Qxd6 If
14...Nxd6 15.Be3 fxe4 (15...b6
16.Ba6±) 16.Bc5 Nec8 17.e7

Qxe7 18.Nxe4 Rd8 19.Qc2±.
15.Qb3 fxe4 16.Be3 If 16.Nxe4
Qd4 17.Nc3 Nf6 18.Be3 Qh4∞.
16...Nf6 17.Rfd1 Qc7 18.Bc5
Rfd8



19.Rd7! Also possible is 19.b5
(threatening 20.b6) and if
19...cxb5 20.Bxa7 Rxa7 21.Nxb5
Rxd1+ 22.Rxd1 Qb6 23.Nxa7
Qxa7 24.Rd7± or 19...b6
20.Bxe7 Qxe7 21.bxc6±.
19...Rxd7 Forced. If 19...Nxd7?
20.Bxe7 wins. 20.exd7+ Ned5
21.Be7! Occupying the square
just vacated by an enemy piece.
21...Qxd7 22.Bxf6 Bxf6 23.Be4
e3?! If 23...Rd8 24.Rd1 Kg7
25.Bxd5 cxd5 26.Rxd5 Qc7
27.Rxd8 Bxd8 23.g3±. Best is
23...Kg7 24.Bxd5 cxd5 25.Nxd5
with a very slight advantage to
White. 24.fxe3 e4?! Continuing
a faulty plan. 25.Bxd5+ cxd5
26.Nxd5 Kg7 Not 26...Bxa1
27.Nf6+ winning the queen.

27.Nxf6 To bring the Black king
out into the open. 27...Kxf6
28.Rd1 The immediate 28.Rf1+
Kg7 29.Qc3+ Kh7 30.Qc4 Qd3
31.Qf7+ Kh8 32.Qxg6 Qxe3+
33.Kh1 Rg8 is unclear. 28...Qc7
29.Qb2+ Ke6 Offering more
resistance is 29...Kf7 but after
30.Rf1+ Kg8 31.Qf6 Qg7
32.Qe6+ Kh8 33.Rf7 Qa1+
34.Kf2 Rg8 35.Rxb7 White is
still winning. 30.Rf1 Qe5



31.Qb3+ Qd5 Or (a) 31...Ke7
32.Qf7+ Kd6 (32...Kd8 33.Rd1+
Kc8 34.Qd7+ Kb8 35.Qd8#)
33.Rd1+ Kc6 34.Qd7+ Kb6
35.Rd6+ Qxd6 36.Qxd6+ Kb5
37.Qc5+ Ka4(a6) 38.Qa5#; (b)
31...Kd7 32.Qf7+ Kc6 33.Re1+
Kb5 34.Qxb7+ Ka4 35.Qa6+
Kxb4 36.Rc4#; (c) Kd6 32.Qf7
Re8 33.Rd1+ Kc6 34.Qd7+ Kb6
35.Rd6+ and mate in three.
32.Rf6+ Ke5 33.Qb2+ Qd4
34.Qxd4# 1-0.

Senior: 1st Joe Ryan 8½/9; 2nd Stephen Brady 8; 3rd Colm Daly 7; 4th-5th Daire McMahon, Gerry O'Connell 5; 6th-7th Eamon Keogh, Anthony Fox 4½; 8th-14th Richard O'Donovan, Liam Porter, Peter Cafolla, Danny Roberts, Sean O'Kearney, John Joyce, Tom Clarke 4; 15th-16th Paul Dempsey, Cormac Brady 3½; 17th David Salter 2½; 18th Ray O'Rourke 1.

Intermediate: 1st Brian Fitzpatrick 5/6; 2nd Eric Bennett 4½; 3rd-4th Tom O'Brien, Gordon Freeman 4.

Junior: 1st Michael Dooley 5/6; 2nd-4th Alan Burns, David Path, David Smith 4½.

First Weekender: 1st-2nd Kevin Butler, Stephen Morris 4½/5; 3rd Brian Fitzpatrick 4. *Grading prizes:* Garth Fitzmaurice, Martin Wright.

Second Weekender: 1st-4th Kevin Butler, Ronan Dunne, Tom O'Brien, Roland McDermott 4/5.

Best Game Prize: Colm Daly for his game against Sean O'Kearney

Senior statistics: White wins 37%, Black wins 33%, draws 30% (compared to the national average of 22%). White opened 1.e4 in 48% of the games, 1.d4 in 37% and something else in 15%. No one opening dominated; normally the Sicilian Defence accounts for about a third of all the games, this year it was only a sixth.

Tournament Director: Michael Crowe