

Official Newsletter of the Irish Chess Union

IRISH CHESS JOURNAL

May 2011

Nigel Short in Wynn's Hotel 22 February 2011



Photography by: John O'Reilly

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The Irish Chess Journal is the official newsletter of the Irish Chess Union. The opinions expressed herein are strictly those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Irish Chess Union.

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The editor would like to express his gratitude to everyone who contributed to this issue, and apologise if I've forgotten anyone!

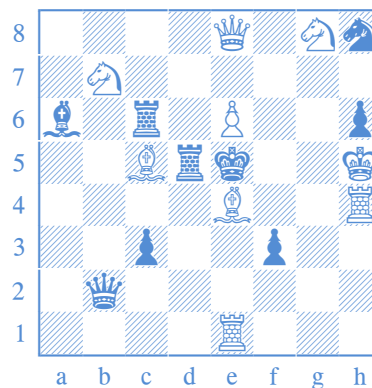
**CONGRATULATIONS TO
FM Ryan-Rhys Griffiths!!**

By surpassing the required rating (2300) recently in the Munster Chess Leagues Ryan has qualified for the Fide Master title.



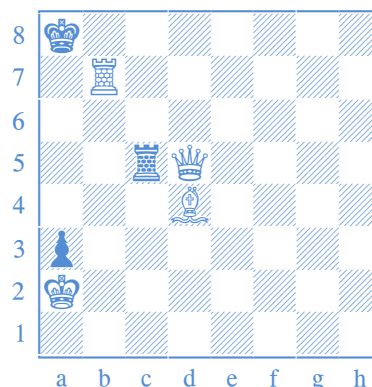
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**ARE YOU A
PROBLEM
SOLVER?**



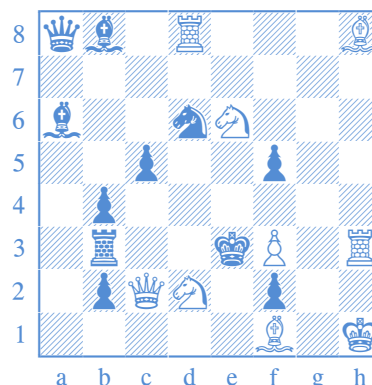
2# C. Mansfield

1st Prize "BCF" Tourney 134, 1974



3# N.G.G. van Dijk

'The Problemist' 1974



2# C.P. Sydenham

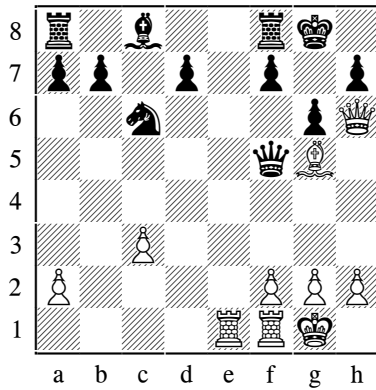
'The Problemist' 1974

Solutions on last page.

CHess MAGIC

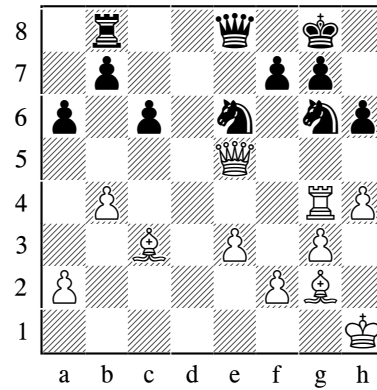
White to play and win

1



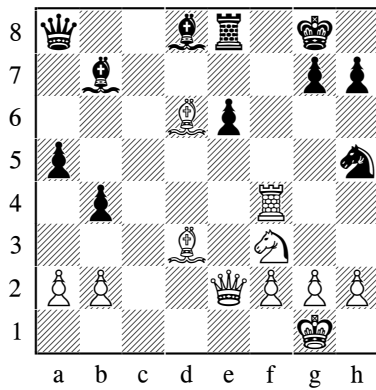
J. Polgar – Angelova
Thessaloniko Ol. 1988

4



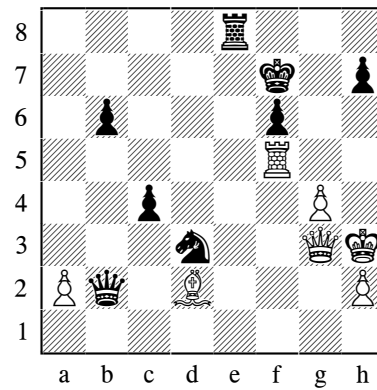
Ernst – Lobzhanidze
Schaakfestival Op Groningen,
2010

2



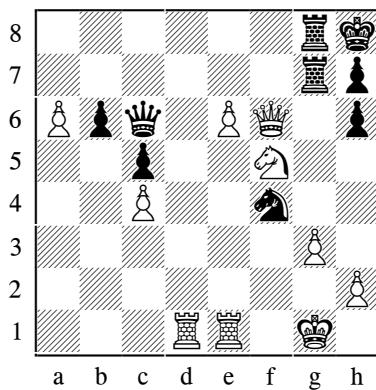
Serper – Shirov
58th USSR Ch, Moscow 1991

5



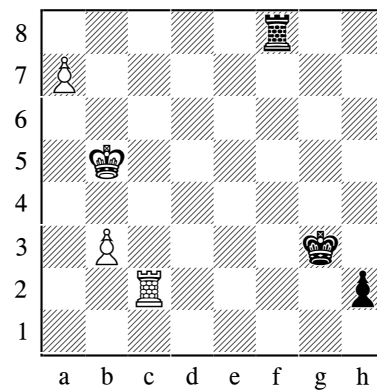
Jones - Avrukh
London Chess Classic Op, 2010

3



Ioseliani - Galliamova
Subotica Interzonal (W), 1991

6



E. Matsuura – Toth, C
77th ch-BRA sf Sao Paulo, 2010

Solutions to puzzles on last page.

Some Forgotten Bunratty Gems

Gerry Graham

Gerry Graham kindly presents, for your delight, a couple of forgotten gems from past Bunratty Chess festivals (Editor).

This game was played in the Bunratty Masters 1996 and it features Andy Hammond, a strong player who at the time of this game was rated 2240. He had White against the legendary John Nunn, nearly 400 points higher than him on the ELO list. Typical of John Nunn, he doesn't just play and hope his superior technique will see him through, he encourages it a bit! He plays a risky sacrifice to unbalance the position in the hope that he can make his way through the resulting maze of complications better than his opponent, and he does.

Hammond, Andrew (2240) – Nunn, John (2605)

Bunratty Masters 1996

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Be2 0-0 6.Nf3 e5 7.0-0 Nc6 8.d5 Ne7 9.Bd2

White has many possible moves here but the main lines are either 9. Nd2 or 9.Ne1, which both have the advantage of preventing the black knight from landing on the aggressive f4 square via h5.

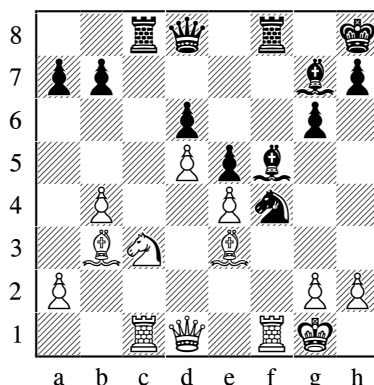
9...Nh5 10.b4

A much more popular continuation would have been 10.g3.

10...Nf4 11.c5 f5 12.Bc4 fxe4 13.Ng5 Kh8!

A common idea in the King's Indian. Black vacates the g8 square to allow the knight to regroup to f6, from where it will pressurize the important e4 square

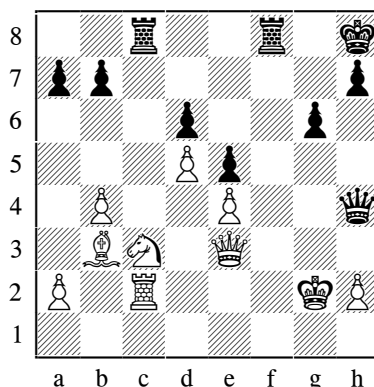
14.cxd6 cxd6 15.Ngxe4 Bf5 16.Be3 Ng8 17.Rc1 Rc8 18.Bb3 Nf6 19.f3 Nxe4 20.fxe4



20...Bh3!

Rather than retreating, the bishop attacks the g2 square. The point is that taking the bishop allows the devastating 21...Qg5+.

21.Rf2 Nxg2 22.Rxg2 Bxg2 23.Kxg2 Qh4 24.Qe2 Bh6 25.Rc2 Bxe3 26.Qxe3



If White is allowed to consolidate with moves such as 27.Ne2, then his two pieces will be superior to Black's rook, but. ..

26...Rxc3!!

This brilliant sacrifice leaves White's pieces so uncoordinated that he has no practical chance, given the limited time, of exploiting his extra bishop.

27.Rxc3 Qg4+ 28.Qg3 Qe2+ 29.Kh3 Rf4!

This is the key position that Nunn had to assess when making his sacrifice on move 26. Black's threats include 30... Qf1 31.Qg2 Rh4+,

however, White had a problem like saving move at this point.

30.Rc8??

And this isn't it! [He had to find 30.Qg1 Rxe4 [30...Qh5+ 31.Kg2 Qe2+ 32.Kh3] 31.b5 Qh5+ 32.Kg2 Re2+ 33.Kh1 Qf5 34.Re3.

30...Kg7 31.Rc7+

31.Rc3 doesn't save him, i.e. 31...Qf1+ 32.Qg2 Rh4+.

31...Kh6 32.Bc4 Qh5+ 33.Kg2 Rg4

The rest is simple.

34.Rxb7 Rxg3+ 35.hxg3 Qg4 36.Bb3 Qxe4+ 37.Kh2 Qe2+ 0-1

The following amazing game was played in the Bunratty Masters 1997, before Jonathan Rowson got his GM title and it features a number of Queen Sacrifices which always makes for a publishable game.

Speelman, Jonathan (2610) - Rowson, Jonathan (2445)

Bunratty Masters 1997

1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 Bg4 3.Bg2 Nd7 4.0-0 Ngf6 5.d4 e6 6.c4 c6 7.Nbd2 Bd6 8.b3 Qe7 9.Bb2 Ba3 10.Qc1 Bxb2 11.Qxb2 0-0 12.e3 Rac8

At this stage, we are out of known theory and the players are on their own.

13.b4 Bxf3 14.Bxf3 e5 15.Rac1 Rfe8 16.b5 exd4 17.exd4 Nf8 18.bxc6 bxc6 19.Qc3 Rcd8 20.Qa5 Ne6 21.Rfe1

This position is fairly equal and there are little signs yet of the fireworks that are yet to come.

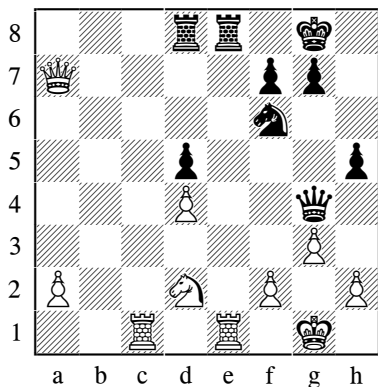
21...Qd7 22.cxd5 cxd5 23.Nb3 Ng5 24.Bg2 Nh3+ 25.Bxh3 Qxh3 26.Nd2 h5

26...Ng4? 27.Nf3 and White is better.

27.Qxa7

White is obviously playing for a win.

27...Qg4



28.Re5?!

Maybe not the best move here. A better option may have been 28.Qc5 and White has no issues with his a2 pawn.

28...Ra8 29.Qb7?!

This is a risky option, Black will quickly seize the 7th rank and, at least at this stage, it's hard to see what White will have in compensation. The safer option would have been 29.Rxe8+ Rxe8 30.Qc5 but then we'd have missed the up-coming fireworks!

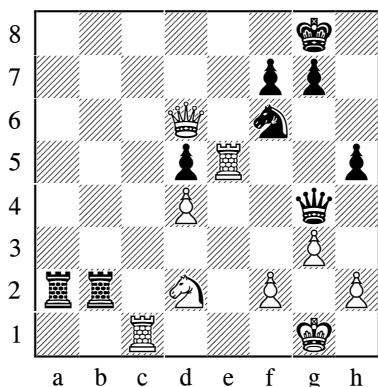
29...Reb8

Certainly not the immediate 29...Rxa2? 30.Rxe8+ Nxe8 31.Re1.

30.Qe7

30.Qc7?? Rc8.

30...Rxa2 31.Qd6 Rbb2

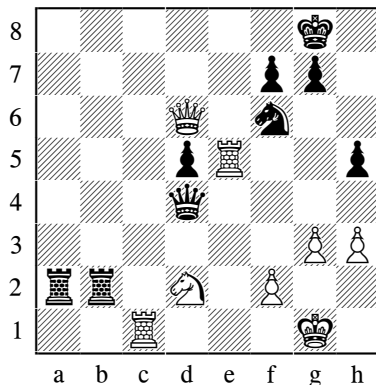


Things look difficult for White now and he has to dig deep to find the correct path.

32.h3!

The only move, but a good one, everything else loses.

32...Qxd4



This must have been very tempting but it's probably not the best continuation. A better option is suggested by Rybka, 32...Qd7! forces 33.Qxd7 Nxd7 34.Rxh5 Rxd2 35.Rc8+ Nf8 36.Rxd5.

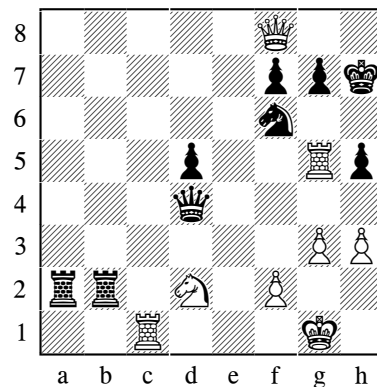
33.Qf8+!

A stunning move, Rowson admitted after the game that he nearly fell off his chair when he saw it. However, it's not the only good move at White's disposal. 33.Ne4! Found by a group of Limerick Chess Club members analyzing the game afterwards and I believe it wasn't seen by either player during the game. Had it been played, the game might have continued 33...Qxe4. [33...Nxe4?? 34.Rc8+ Kh7 35.Rxh5#] 34.Rxe4 Rxh2 35.Re8+ Nxe8 36.Qxd5 but the game would have been drawn anyway.

33...Kh7

Obviously not 33...Kxf8 34.Rc8+ Ne8 35.Rcxe8#.

34.Rg5



Now Black looks in trouble, doesn't he?

34...Qxf2+!

Again, a forced move, but a good one!

35.Kh1

35.Kxf2 Rxd2+ Going anywhere on the back rank allows perpetual check while 36.Kf3?? [36.Ke3 d4+ mates!]

36...Rd3+ 37.Kf4 Rf2+ 38.Ke5 Nd7+.

35...Qh2+ Forces a draw!

1/2-1/2

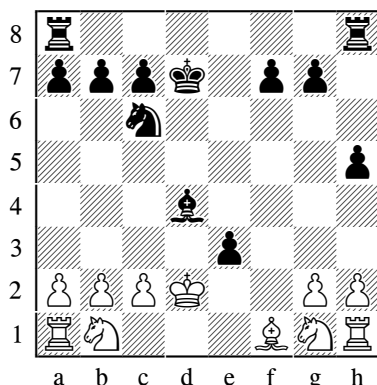


WE NEED YOU!



SOLUTIONS TO PR QUIZ *Seán Coffey*

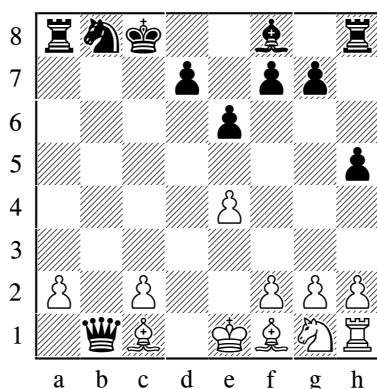
Problem 5.



White to play and mate (7)

7. Kd1, g4, g5, g6, gxf7, f8=Q, Bh3 mate.

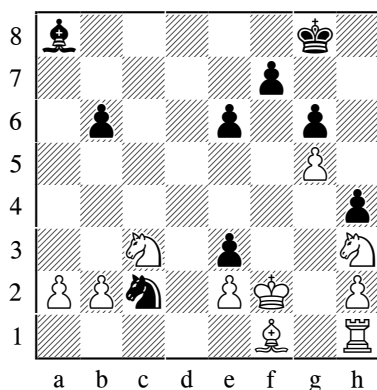
Problem 6.



White to play and mate (7)

7. h4, Rh3, Bc4, Rc3, Ke2, Bg5, Ba6 mate.

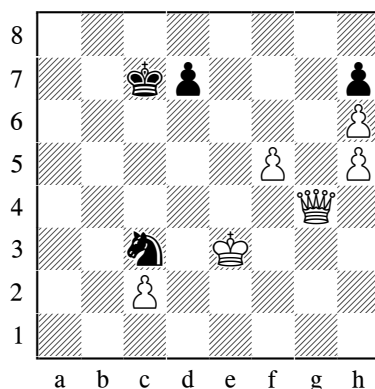
Problem 7.



White to play and mate (9)

9. Kg1, Nf4, Nxg6, Nxh4, Nf5, g6, g7, Nd5, Nf6 mate.

Problem 8.



Black to play (12)

Black has enough moves for the knight to be able to capture any White piece, but the major difficulty is that a capture of any of the queen or the f- or c-pawns gives check and ends the turn. For example, Ne4, Nf6, Nxg4+ allows White to capture the knight and promote the f-pawn, while Kd8, Ke7, Ne4, Nf6, Nxg4+ blocks the f-pawn promoting (since White would have to give check along the way, ending the turn) but leaves the way clear for the c-pawn. And the c- and f-pawns are exactly the two that can't be eliminated first.

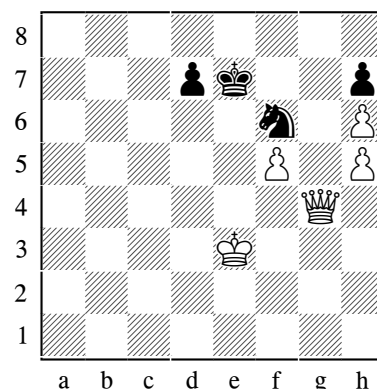
So the natural approach is to try to clear the h-file and promote the h-pawn. This is possible after Ne2, Ng3, Nxh5, Nf6, Ng8, Nxh6, Nf7, h5, hxg4, g3, g2, g1=Q+. Unfortunately White then wins with Ke4, c4, c5, c6, cxd7, d8=R! (=N also wins), Kd5, Ke6, Kxf7, Rg8, Rxd1, Rg6, Re6. Black can do better by (same first 9 moves, to hxg4), Kd6, Nh6, Nxf5+, with a draw.

Can Black do any better? One good try is the same first 9 moves (to hxg4), and then Ne5, Nc6, Kd6, Ke7, forming a blockade: White can't

promote either the f-pawn or c-pawn and will lose both on the next Black turn. There is only one flaw with this solution: Black has taken 13 moves to achieve it.

The solution lies in a completely different direction: Black forms a blockade, but without capturing the queen or clearing the h-file:

12. Ne4!, Kc6, Kc5, Kc4, Kc3, Kxc2, Kc3, Kc4, Kc5, Kd6, Ke7, Nf6:



White to play (13)

Now, amazingly, White can't make any headway. Any constructive approach involves giving check and ending the turn, leaving Black enough material to win. Black will be able to repeat the position until he has accumulated enough moves to clear the h-file and promote, and White is unable to prevent both this and a d-pawn promotion.

White would win easily if instead of a queen on g4, there was a rook, bishop, knight or pawn. But the queen is too powerful!

Chess Heroes from the Golden Past

Bruce Hayden

"Chess Review" 1956

I was looking out on the sea front of Hastings St. Leonards, Sussex, England and listening to the reminiscences of Grandmaster Ossip Bernstein, now the last to survive to play chess from the age of Lasker, Tarrasch, Pillsbury - and even the youthful Capablanca, Alekhine and Rubinstein, before the First World War.

Bernstein was one of the great players from this golden age of chess. He knew and played against them all - even notching wins against the mighty Lasker. From the great St. Petersburg Tournament of 1909 down to the present day is a long trek; yet, when the veteran returned to the international arena at Montevideo, in 1954, at the age of 71, he won the First Brilliancy Prize by hoisting Nadjorf on the wrong end of a brilliancy in a demonstration of how he and his old comrades in arms used to do their stuff back in the old days.

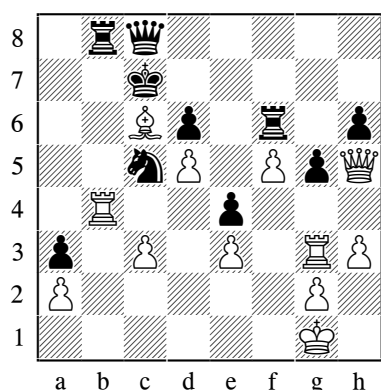
But imagine my surprise when I asked the great old warrior who was his favourite among the players of the past. "James Mason," he replied, "Not because he was the strongest but because he played my two favourite combinations."

Then he showed me them on the chess-board beside us.

Mason - Winawer

Vienna, 1882

From his favourite Giuoco Piano, Mason now continued with the following.



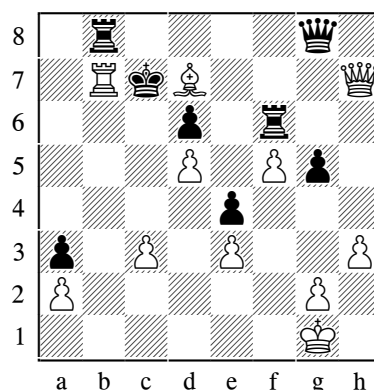
40.Rxg5 hxg5 41.Qh7+ Nd7

On 41...Kd8 White's eye embraces the board to win back the Queen Rook! 42.Qh8+ Ke7 43.Rxb8. With the text, he wins a Knight.

42.Bxd7 Qg8

If 42...Qxd7 then simply 43.Qxd7+ recovering the Rook - or, as Tartakover gives, 43.Rc4+ Kd8 44.Qh8+. The text meets with an immortal reply.

43.Rb7+!!



Here is the wonderful point of the combination which makes this Bernstein's favourite. It is one of the finest conceptions in the literature of the game, says Tartakover, who adds that the themes of Deflection by 43...Rxb7 44.Qxg8, of Disorganisation by 43...Kd8 44.Rxb8+ (44.Qxg8+ will also do) and Disjunction by 43...Kxb7 44.Bc8++! form part and parcel of the whole conception. A wonderful double offer of the Rooks.

43...Kxb7 44.Bc8++ Ka8

Black avoids 44...Kxc8 45.Qxg8+ Kc7 46.Qg7+ and a prompt resignation.

45.Qxg8 Rxf5 46.Qd8 Rxd5 47.Qd7 Rb1+ 48.Kh2 Rd2 49.Qc6+ Kb8 50.Qxe4 Rbb2 51.Be6 Kc7 52.Qc4+ Kb6 53.Bd5 g4 54.hxg4 Rf2 55.Qc6+ Ka7 56.Qc7+ Resigns.

There was an elegance about Mason's play at its best, and an elegance about his Victorian prose in his chess writings. But, 'tis said, he looked upon the bottle long and lovingly."

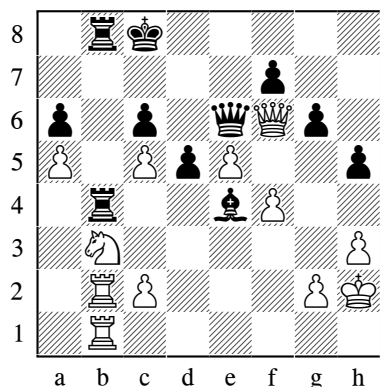
But he loved the game of chess, too, and Bernstein set up the pieces in the position which he won by a beautiful combination against that much feared attacking player, David Janowski.

Mason - Janowski

Monte Carlo, 1902

It is White to move, and Black is a Pawn down and has a "bad" Bishop. And Janowski was a fighter and is in position to seek counter-chances with his pressure on the

Queen Knight file on which White's Knight is pinned. What more natural then that Mason should now exchange Queens and plod along working for more exchanges of the pieces to liquidate into the ending.



But no. With great insight, Mason has planned to sacrifice his Queen, to reach a won ending quickly.

48.Qh8+ Kd7 49.Nd4!

It is the depth of this last move which arouses Bernstein's admiration.

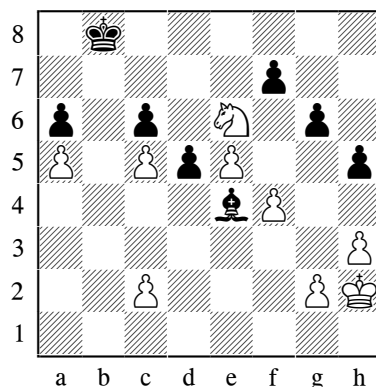
49...Rxb2

As a nice point, if the Knight is accepted (49...Rxd4), then mate follows 50.Rb7+. Of course, if 49...Rxh8 Black is helpless after 50.Rxb4.

50.Qxb8

Beautiful, simple and convincing. The Black Queen cannot escape, while White threatens to do so with check.

50...Rxb8 51.Rxb8 Kc7 52.Nxe6+ Kxb8



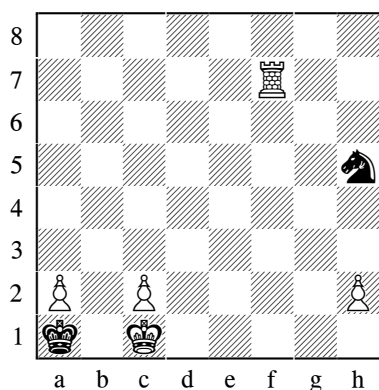
The positional point of all the fire-works is now revealed. White has quickly liquidated into the remote, won ending, which seemed so difficult to achieve a few moves ago. White's Knight, too, fits onto the situation like a glove! Now Mason demonstrates the win.

53.Nd4 Kc7 54.g4 h4 55.c3 Kd7 56.Kg1 Kc7 57.Kf2 Kd7 58.f5 gxf5 59.gxf5 Kc7 60.Ke3 Bg2 61.Nf3 Bxh3 62.Nxh4 Bg4 63.Kf4 Be2 64.Nf3 Bxf3 65.Kxf3 Resigns.

PUZZLED?

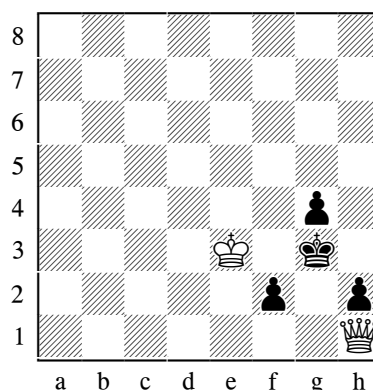
Instructional positions for the improving player.

When selecting these positions emphasis is placed on miniature compositions. These are easier to remember and to set up. So you can challenge your chess friends with this when you see them at the club.



P.A. Orlimont, 1928.

White to play and mate in four.



K.Gilg – K. Lamprecht

Karbitz, 18 August 1924

Black to play and draw!

Solutions on last page!

BUNRATTY CHESS FESTIVAL 2011

Gerry Graham

The Bunratty Chess Festival 2011 was held over the weekend of February 25th to 27th in the Bunratty Castle Hotel, Co. Clare. This event was sponsored by Blackthorn Transport of Heathrow in London. This is Gary O'Grady's company, and many thanks to Gary, without whom the Bunratty Chess Festival would not be what it is today. As well as being a financial supporter, Gary holds the second best attendance record of any player, he has competed in 16 of the 17 previous Festivals, a record beaten only by Paul Kiely of Waterford who has yet to miss one!

A total of 255 players competed for the four titles at stake, 103 in the Minor, 56 in the Major, 63 in the Challengers and 33 in the Masters. Top seed was the former world championship candidate Nigel Short, fresh from two successful simultaneous displays, one in Dublin and the other in Cork. While he did concede a few draws, Nigel kept his fine record in simuls unblemished. We had four other grandmasters playing, Tony Kosten (France), the Ginger GM, Simon Williams, Gawain Jones (both England) and Ireland's own Alexander Baburin. The international masters were there in force to compete also and they included Sam Collins, Mark Heidenfeld, (Ireland) as well as Malcolm Pein, Adam Hunt and Lawrence Cooper (England)

The first round clashes began at 8:00pm with Corkman Kieran Moynihan having the honour of facing Nigel Short.

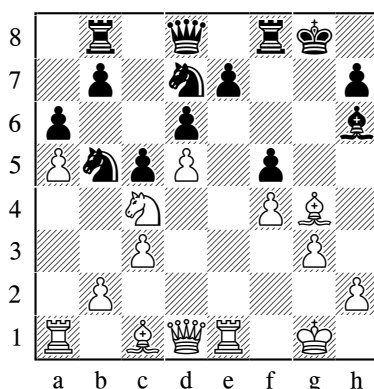
Short, Nigel - Moynihan, Kieran

Round 1

1.d4

This must have surprised Kieran a bit, Nigel is normally an 1.e4 man!

1...Nf6 2.Nf3 c5 3.d5 g6 4.Nc3 d6 5.e4 a6 6.a4 Bg7 7.Be2 0-0 8.0-0 Bg4 9.Re1 Bxf3 10.Bxf3 Nbd7 11.a5 Ne8 12.Nb1 Nc7 13.Nd2 Rb8 14.c3 Ne5 15.Be2 Bh6 16.g3 Nb5 17.f4 Nd7 18.Nc4 f6 19.Bg4 f5 20.exf5 gxf5



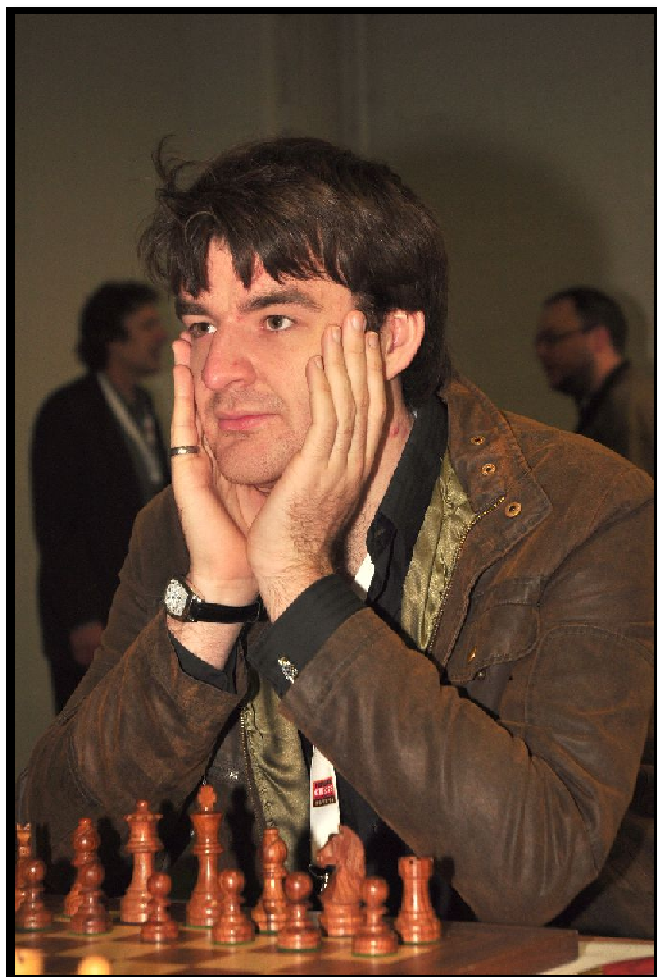
21.Bf3

21.Bxf5! Rxf5 22.Qg4+ Bg7 23.Qxf5. 21...Rf6 22.Qe2 Bf8 23.Bd2 Nc7 24.Qd3 Qe8 25.Re2 Qg6 26.Rae1 Rf7 27.b4 Rc8 28.Re6 Rf6 29.Rxf6

Nxf6 30.Ne3 Nce8 31.Nxf5 Ng7 32.Nxe7+ 1-0

There were no upsets in the first round, apart from a few draws on the lower boards, all the seeds came through smiling.

However, the titled players were starting to meet by the second round, when, if the results alone are to be believed, peace broke out at Bunratty. The top five boards were all drawn but they were all long, hard fought draws. Indeed, Adam Hunt vs Nigel Short was past 70 moves before they shared the point. (Ed. This is a must see game - Nigel



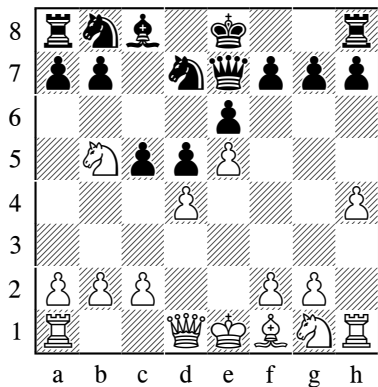
GM Gawain Jones

Short sacrificed a rook in the opening). So after 2 rounds only Sam Collins is on 2/2.

Hunt, Adam - Short, Nigel

Round 2

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Be7 5.e5 Nfd7 6.h4 c5 7.Bxe7 Qxe7 8.Nb5



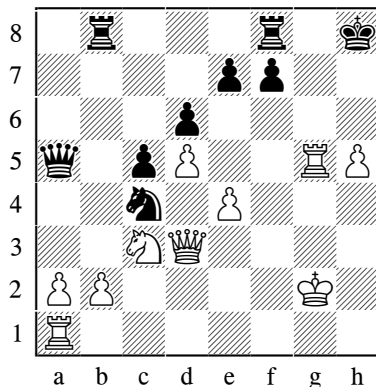
8...0-0 9.Nc7 Nc6 10.Nxa8 cxd4 11.Nf3 Qb4+ 12.Qd2 Qxb2 13.Rd1 Nc5 14.Bd3 Bd7 15.Nc7 Rc8 16.Nxd5 exd5 17.0-0 a6 18.Qf4 h6 19.Rb1 Qc3 20.Rfd1 b5 21.Kh2 Re8 22.g4 Ne4 23.Bxe4 dxe4 24.Qxe4 Qc5 25.Re1 Be6 26.Rbd1 Bd5 27.Qd3 Bxf3 28.Qxf3 Nxe5 29.Qe4 Re6 30.Qa8+ Kh7 31.Qe4+ g6 32.Kg2 Qc3 33.Qf4 Qc6+ 34.Qe4 Nd3 35.cxd3 Rxe4 36.dxe4 Qe6 37.Rxd4 Qxg4+ 38.Kf1 Qxh4 39.Re3 Kg7 40.Rd7 Qh1+ 41.Ke2 Qc1 42.e5 Qc2+ 43.Kf1 Qc4+ 44.Ke1 Qe6 45.Rd6 Qxa2 46.e6 Qb1+ 47.Ke2 Qc2+ 48.Kf1 Qc4+ 49.Kg2 fxe6 50.Rex6 Qg4+ 51.Kf1 h5 52.Rxa6 h4 53.Re7+ Kh6 54.Re3 h3 55.Raa3 Qg2+ 56.Ke2 h2 57.Rh3+ Kg7 58.Ra7+ Kg8 59.Rah7 Qe4+ 60.Kd2 Qd4+ 61.Ke2 g5 62.R7h5 Qe4+ 63.Kd2 Qf4+ 64.Ke2 b4 65.Rh8+ Kf7 66.Rf3 Kg7 67.Rfh3 Qe4+ 68.Kd2 Qd4+ 69.Kc2 Qxf2+ 70.Kb3 Qd4 71.R3h7+ Kg6 1/2-1/2

Short, Philip – IM Pein, Malcolm

Round 2

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.g3 c5 6.d5 b5 7.cxb5 a6 8.bxa6 0-0 9.Nge2 Bxa6 10.Nf4 Bxf1 11.Kxf1 Nbd7 12.Kg2 Qa5 13.h4 h5 14.f3

Ne5 15.g4 hxg4 16.fxg4 Nfxg4 17.h5 Rab8 18.Rh3 g5 19.Nd3 Bf6 20.Rg3 Nxd3 21.Qxd3 Ne5 22.Qc2 Kh8 23.Bxg5 Bxg5 24.Rxg5 Nc4 25.Qd3



25...Rg8 26.Rxg8+ Rxg8+ 27.Kh1 Qb4 28.Rb1 Rg5 29.Qe2 Kh7 30.Rf1 f6 31.Rg1 Rxg1+ 32.Kxg1 Nxb2 33.Qf3 Kh8 34.Qg3 Qd4+ 1/2-1/2

Round 3 Results:

Short, N-Collins 1-0

Cooper-Kosten 0-1

Williams-RR Griffiths 0.5-0.5

Heidenfeld-Jones 0-1

In round 3, Nigel Short beat Sam Collins on board 1 in a game that lasted 68 moves this time. Short's games were anything but short! (Sorry).

Lawrence Cooper had this to say about his game "I spent most of my game having my king chased around the board in a Trompovsky with castling on opposite sides, it briefly settled on b1 before two black rooks were sacrificed to mate it on g2. A nice game by Tony albeit a bit one sided."

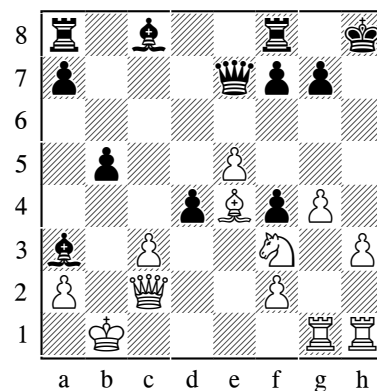
Ryan Griffiths produced a fine performance to draw with Simon Williams.

Cooper, Lawrence - Kosten, Tony

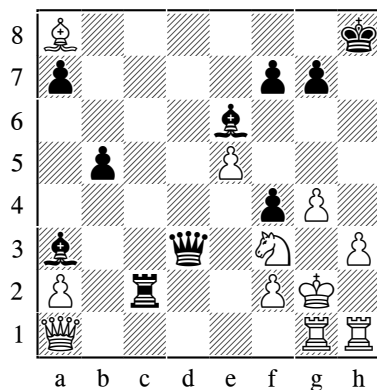
Round 3

1. d4 Nf6 2. Bg5 d5 3. Bxf6 exf6 4. e3 Bd6 5. c4 dxc4 6. Bxc4 O-O 7. Nc3 Nd7 8. Nf3 f5 9. Qc2 Nf6 10. h3 Qe7 11. O-O-O c6 12. Rdg1 Ne4 13.

g4 Nxc3 14. bxc3 f4 15. e4 Ba3+ 16. Kb1 b5 17. Bd3 c5 18. e5 cxd4 19. Bxh7+ Kh8 20. Be4



20...dxc3 21. Bxa8 Be6 22. Qe4 c2+ 23. Kxc2 Rc8+ 24. Kd1 Rc1+ 25. Kd2 Qd8+ 26. Qd4 Qa5+ 27. Kd3 Rc4 28. Qa1 Qd8+ 29. Ke2 Rc2+ 30. Kf1 Qd3+ 31. Kg2



31...Rxf2+! 32. Kxf2 Qe3+ 33. Kg2 Qe2# 0-1

GM Williams, Simon - Griffiths, Ryan Rhys

Round 3

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 d6 3.f4 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Bb5+ Bd7 6.Bc4 Nc6 7.0-0 e6 8.d3 Nge7 9.f5 exf5 10.Qe1 Ne5 11.exf5 Bxf5 12.Nxe5 dxe5 13.Ne4 0-0 14.Kh1 h6 15.Nxc5 Nc6 16.Qf2 Qc7 17.Nb3 Kh7 18.Be3 b6 19.a4 e4 20.a5 exd3 21.axb6 axb6 22.Bxb6 Qb7 23.cxd3 Ne5 24.Rxa8 Rxa8 25.Rd1 Rb8 26.Bd4 Nxc4 27.Nc5 Qd5 28.dxc4 Bxd4 29.Qxd4 Qxd4 30.Rxd4 Rxb2 31.h3 Rc2 32.g4 Be6 33.Nxe6 fxe6 34.Rd7+ Kg8 35.Rc7 e5 36.c5 e4 37.Kg1 e3 38.Kf1 g5 39.c6 Kf8 40.Rc8+ Ke7

Rxd8 27. Nb6 Be6 28. Bxc6 bxc6 29. Rxc6 Ra6 30. Rec1 g5 31. Kf1 Kg7 32. Ke1 Bf8 33. Kd2 Re8 34. Nc5 Bxc5 35. R1xc5 Rb8 36. Rb5 Ra7 37. Rb4 Rab7 38. Kd3 Bb3 39. Kxd4 Re7 40. e4 Rd8+ 41. Ke3 1-0

Round 5 results:

Kosten (3) v Jones (3.5) 0.5-0.5
Baburin (3) v Sam Collins (3) 1-0
Pein (3) v Adam Hunt (3) 0.5-0.5
N Short (2.5) v Fitzsimons (2.5) 0.5-0.5
Heidenfeld (2.5) v P. Short (2.5) 0-1

Leaders:

Baburin & Jones 4/5: RR Griffiths, Hunt, Kosten, Pein & P Short 3.5/5.

(Ed. Nigel Short was no longer the highest placed player with the surname Short.)

I should also mention Simon William's games against Peter Cafolla which opened 1 e4 c5 2 Nc3 g5 shock!

Cafolla, Peter - Williams, Simon Round 5

1. e4 c5 2. Nc3 g5 3. Bc4 Bg7 4. d3 e6 5. Nge2 a6 6. a4 Nc6 7. f4 gxf4 8. Bxf4 Qh4+ 9. Bg3 Qg5 10. Qd2 Qe7 11. Bf4 Ne5 12. Bxe5 Bxe5 13. O-O-O b5 14. axb5 axb5 15. Bxb5 Ra1+ 16. Nb1 Bg7 17. e5 Bxe5 18. c3 Nf6 19. g3 c4 20. Bxc4 Qc5 21. b4 Qa7 22. Rhf1 d5 23. Bb3 Ng4 24. d4 Bg7 25. h3 Bh6 26. Nf4 Nf6 27. Qe2 Ne4 28. Rf3 Nxc3 29. Qe5 f6 30. Qxf6 Qa3+ 31. Kc2 Ra2+ 32. Bxa2 Qxa2+ 33. Kd3 Ba6+ 34. c4 Bxc4+ 0-1

The final round pairings looked like this;

Round 6 Pairings

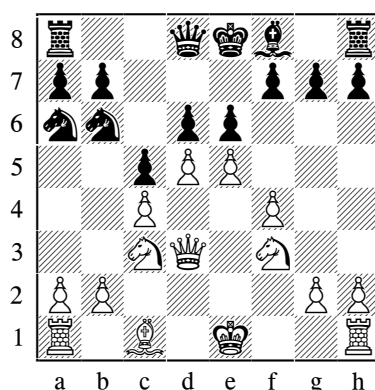
1 Jones (4)	Baburin (4)
2 Hunt (3.5)	Kosten (3.5)
3 Griffiths (3.5)	Pein (3.5)
4 N. Short (3)	P. Short (3.5)

On board 4, Nigel beat Philip Short (see how I managed to resist the many bad puns available for this encounter) while on board 3, Ryan Rhys Griffiths managed to beat Malcolm Pein, a great performance by the young Kilkenny man (See game below).

Board 2 was a bit of a disaster for Adam Hunt, he went wrong in a drawn ending in time pressure and lost to Tony Kosten but the game of the event has to be Gawain Jones first win against Alex Baburin, and what a time to score it.

Jones, Gawain - Baburin, Alex Round 6

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.c4 Nb6 5.f4 Bf5 6.Nf3 e6 7.Nc3 Na6 8.Bd3 Bxd3 9.Qxd3 c5 10.d5!



New. Usual is 10.Be3 Nb4.

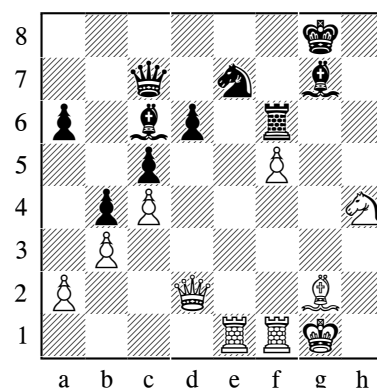
10...exd5 11.cxd5 Be7 12.0-0 0-0 13.Qe4 Nc7 14.Rd1 Qe8 15.f5 Kh8 16.Bf4 Rd8 17.f6 gxf6 18.exd6 Bxd6 19.Qf5 Bxf4 20.Qxf6+ Kg8 21.Qxf4 Qd7 21...Ncxd5 22.Nxd5 Nxd5 23.Qg5+ Kh8 24.Rxd5. 22.Ne5 Qe7 23.d6! 1-0

Griffiths, Ryan Rhys – IM Pein, Malcolm

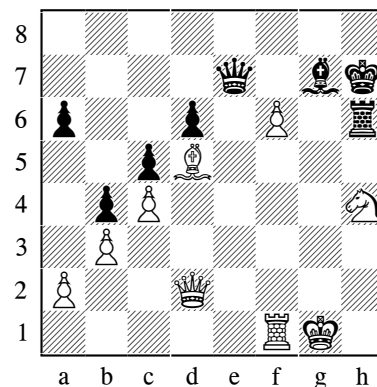
Round 6

1.c4 Nf6 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.Nc3 0-0 5.e4 d6 6.Nge2 c6 7.0-0 Nbd7 8.d3 a6 9.h3 b5 10.Be3 Rb8 11.b3 Nb6 12.Rc1 b4 13.Nb1 c5 14.d4 Qc7 15.d5 e5 16.dxe6 fxe6 17.f4 Bb7 18.Qc2 Nc8 19.g4 Ne7 20.Nd2 Bc6 21.Ng3 Rf7 22.Nf3 Nd7

23.Rcd1 h6 24.Nh4 Nf8 25.Qd2 Nc8 26.f5 exf5 27.exf5 g5 28.Nf3 Nd7 29.h4 gxh4 30.Nh5 Nf6 31.Nxf6+ Rxf6 32.Nxh4 Ne7 33.g5 hxg5 34.Bxg5 Rbf8 35.Bxf6 Rxf6 36.Rde1



36...Qd7 37.Rxe7! Qxe7 38.Bxc6 Rh6 39.Bd5+ Kh7 40.f6!



40...Rxf6 41.Qd3+ Kh8 42.Ng6+ Rxc6 43.Qxc6 Bd4+ 44.Kh1 1-0

Congratulations to Gawain on a great performance but also to Ryan Rhys Griffiths for a joint 2nd – 3rd place and to David Fitzsimons for the best non-titled Irish player award.

Final Standing Masters:

1st Gawain Jones 5/6: 2nd= Kosten and Griffiths 4.5: 4th= Baburin, Cooper, N. Short and S. Williams 4.

The winner of the Challengers event was Gonzaga's Cormac O'Brien on 6 out of 6! This was a fantastic performance from the 33rd seed and it means that, irrespective of rating,

Cormac can play in next year's Bunratty Masters if he wishes.

The Major event was won by Ljubisa Cirkovic who plays with Ennis but is from Croatia. He was the 16th seed and he won the event on 5.5 / 6.

The Minor event was won by Darren Rice of Castlebar again with a perfect score of 6 out of 6.

The traditional Blitz event was the highlight of Sunday evening and was well attended. As this event was attended by all 5 Shorts, Nigel



decided to blend in a bit with his other 4 namesakes, the kiblitzer in this game is none-other than Nigel!

But the winner of the Blitz was Mark Heidenfeld who beat Tony Kosten, Lawrence Cooper, Adam Hunt and

Gawain Jones in the knockout stages to win. He needed 3 tries to beat Tony Kosten and Gawain Jones had beaten Nigel Short in the other semi. Mark's prize for this remarkable achievement, our hearty congratulations! The fact that Gawain didn't win the Blitz allowed Peter Svidler to retain the honour of being the only player to win both the Masters and the Blitz at the same event!

CHESS WITH JIM OLNEY

Irish IM Sam Collins produced an impressive performance at the 34th San Sebastian Open to claim a share of second place. The 28-year-old Dubliner scored 7/9 to finish a half-point adrift of tournament winner IM Javier Moreno Ruiz of Spain.

Collins seeded 25th in the 173-player field, scored six wins, two draws and a solitary loss.

His total was equalled by IMs Misa Pap (Serbia), M R Venkatesh (India) and Frode Elsness (Norway).

The first of 10 competing grandmasters, Belgium's Alexandre Dgebuadze, could do no better than equal sixth with 6.5/9, while the top seed, GM Kevin Spraggett of Canada, finished in a large group on 6/9.

Collins began with two wins before suffering his only reversal to the tournament winner in round three. Here he was unlucky to go under in a complicated rook and pawn endgame. He recovered to record four wins and two draws over the closing six rounds and in the process claimed the grandmaster scalps of Ilmars Starostits (Latvia) and the legendary 80-year-old three-time world title challenger Viktor Korchnoi.

Korchnoi, Viktor (2557) - Collins, Sam E (2426)

(34 San Sebastian Open 2011)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 c5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.g3 Nc6 6.Bg2 Nf6 7.0-0 Be7 8.Be3 c4 9.b3 cxb3 10.Qxb3 0-0 11.Ne5 Na5 12.Qd3 Be6 13.Nc3 Rc8 14.Rab1 g6 15.Qd2 Nc4 16.Nxc4 Rxc4 17.Rxb7 Bb4 18.Rxb4 Rxb4 19.Bg5 Rc4 20.f4 h6 21.Bxh6 Qb6 22.h3 Rfc8 23.Kh2 Qxd4 24.Qxd4 Rxd4 25.Nb5 Ra4 26.f5 gxf5 27.Nd6 Rc2 28.Nxf5 Bxf5 29.Rxf5 Rxe2 30.Kg1 Raxa2 31.Bf1 Re6 32.Bf4 a5 33.Be5 Ne4 34.h4 Rg6 35.Rf3 a4 36.Rd3 Rd2 37.Ra3 Re6 38.Bf4 Rd4 39.Kg2 Rb6 40.Ra2 Rb3 41.Kh3 a3 42.Rc2 Rc3 43.Ra2 f6 44.h5 Rb4 45.Bg2 Rb2 46.Ra1 a2 47.h6 Rcc2 0-1

Irish Examiner / Saturday 14.05.2011

In Sam Loyd's Footsteps

Andy Soltis from "Chess Life" February 1980

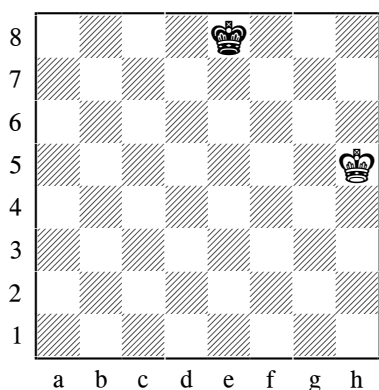
Many problemists remember Alain C. White, whose centenary we observe this year, as a pretty fair composer. I think of him in a more narrow vein: He introduced me to Sam Loyd.

And I'm not alone. White's 1913 book, "Sam Loyd and His Chess Problems," is one of the most popular of its kind. It holds up pretty well today, and the same goes for Loyd's best compositions.

What's remarkable about Loyd is that even many problem-haters-such as rabid tournament players – like his unusual conceptions.

Loyd's imitators are legion, and some of their works are almost as good as The Master's. Here are some modern Loyd-style posers, just waiting for a new Alain White to anthologize them:

[1.] Loyd was famous for his retract-a-move tasks-that is, problems in which you need to take back a move by one (or both) of the players to set up a more conventional mate. Retraction problems often begin with a position cluttered with pieces, but Julius Sunyer created this barebones version more than half a century ago:



Clearly, you can't prove what the last moves have been, although you can guess that something had to have been captured. The task: Take back one move by White and then one move by Black and you will have a

position in which a blunder by Black will permit mate in one move. How?

[2.] Loyd composed (or rather discovered) a most ingenious problem in 1866 when he demonstrated how a stalemate can result after only 10 moves of a game. Ten very strange moves, but still only 10.

(Editor's note: The moves are 1.e3 a5 2.Qh5 Ra6 3.Qxa5 h5 4.Qxc7 Ra6 5.h4 f6 6.Qxd7+ Kf7 7.Qxb7 Qd3 8.Qxb8 Qh7 9.Qxc8 Kg6 10.Qe61/2-1/2. Players often conspire to draw a game by playing these moves in a serious tournament game. IM Bernard Zuckerman played this game against Larry Gilden in the Eastern Open Chess Championship in Washington DC in 1962.)

Evgenii Gik, a Soviet composer in the Loyd style, went him one better and recently showed how after 19 moves both players can be stalemated. What 19 moves?

[3.] Another worthy successor to Loyd is Osmo Kaila of Finland who, some years ago, became the first man to hold three different FIDE titles, international master, international judge and international problem judge.

In 1973, Kaila offered this four part problem. Each part begins from the normal starting position.

1. How do you play so that after White's fourth move the two black-squared Bishops have exchanged places? (Black's Bishop moves to c1, Whites to f8.)

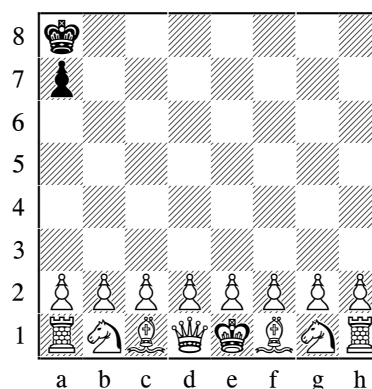
2. How, in four full moves, can the White KN and Black QN exchange places?

3. Using legal moves, of course, transfer the Queens on each other's starting squares in five full moves.

4. Finally, place a White Rook on h8 and a Black Rook on h1 in five moves.

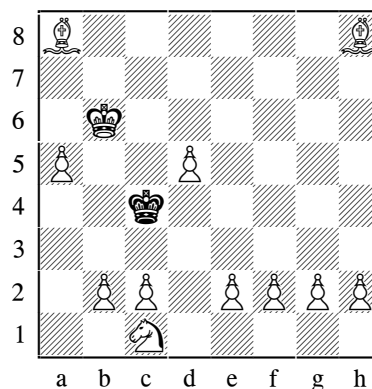
[4.] This one came in a few years ago from Bruce Kovalsky of Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif.:

What is the minimum number of moves it takes for Black to mate White?



White to move

[5.] And this offering improves in a way on Loyd's memorable joke about the asylum inmate who showed a position and then proved to a doubting Loyd that you can mate in half a move. That problem involved completion of castling, but the following is more devious.



M.Charosh 1937

White to mate in 0 moves

It won't be too much of a hint to say it takes a different kind of move.

Solutions on Page 17

Nigel Short's Irish Tour!

Before competing at the Bunratty Chess Festival, GM Nigel Short, the 45-year-old England number three gave simultaneous displays at venues in Dublin and Cork.



GM Nigel Short at Wynn's Hotel, O'Connell Street Dublin Tuesday 22 February 2011.
Photo by John O'Reilly

Wynn's Hotel, O'Connell Street, hosted the Dublin venue on Tuesday, February 22, where Short gave a lecture and simultaneous display. It was €25 to play and €10 for the lecture.

I leave it to John O'Connor to describe the Dublin affair:

"GM Nigel Short played 30 of our finest on Tuesday evening, beating 26 and drawing with Pierce Dunne, William Ffrench, Brian Gallagher and Tony Scannell.

After a very interesting talk on his game against Ye Jiangchuan from Taiyuan, 2004, he began his simul at 20:15, and finished the last game 5 hours later. To improve the competitive spirit, Gary O'Grady offered €100 to anyone who could beat Nigel. His stamina was amazing, and there was only one game where he was worse, but even there, he achieved a comfortable draw.

Many thanks go to Eamon Keogh for contacting Nigel and organising the meeting room, to Gary O'Grady for acting as chaperone and chauffeur, to Shane Lee for taking the entries, and managing the money, to John Delaney and the Blanchardstown Junior chess club for lending us boards and sets, and to all those who

turned up on the night to make it the success it was."

Tony Scannell now recounts his encounter with Nigel Short:

It was Short and it was not short

Four Rathmines players were involved in the Nigel Short simul on Tuesday night – Killian Delaney, Michael Kennedy, Ian Maloney, and myself, Tony Scannell. And what a night! Play started about 8.30pm, after a fascinating lecture from Nigel, and only finished around 1am. I sat for the entire time period and only had to play one game and yet was exhausted. Nigel looked shattered. He certainly gave good value for money. He won 26 of 30 games and drew just 4. Here's one of the draws... (which could have been a win, but read on...)

Short, Nigel, 2658 - Scannell, Tony, 1822

Sicilian Scheveningen

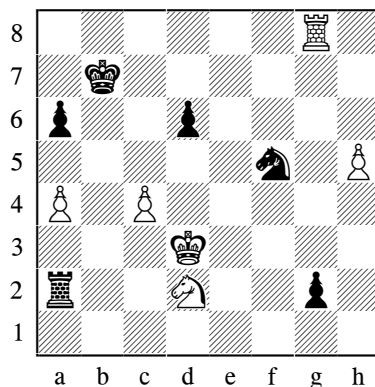
Notes by Tony Scannell

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 a6 6. Be2 Nc6 I wanted a relatively calm game, so this move avoids the current theory around 6... e5. **7. f4 Qc7 8. O-O Bd7 9. Be3 e6 10. Qe1 Be7** We have

transposed into a Sicilian Scheveningen. White has lots of space but black still has his compact e6, d6 little centre. **11. Qg3 g6** (11... O-O Castling into it is theory, but I didn't fancy defending this position! **12. Kh1 b5 13. a3 Nxd4 14. Bxd4 Bc6 15. Rae1 Qb7 16. Bd3 b4 17. axb4 Qxb4 18. Ne2** is one sample variation) **12. Rae1 h5 13. h3 O-O-O** This is a logical (if slightly risky) follow-up to g6: instead of hunkering down on the kingside, black aims to use his pawns to launch an attack against white there. **14. Qf2** Targeting b6 immediately **14...Rdg8 15. Nf3 Bd8 16. Rd1 Ne8** Petrosian would be proud. Black is struggling to contain white's threats. I wanted to play f6 and g5 and could find no other way to do it. Plus, the knight can defend d6. Aside from that, it is a terrible move. **17. Rd2** (17. e5 d5 (17... dxe5 18. fxe5 Nxe5 19. Nxe5 Qxe5 20. Bd4) 18. Na4 Ne7 19. Bb6 Qc6 20. Bxd8 Kxd8 21. Nc5) **17... Na5** To stop Na4 and to try for Nc4. A knight on the rim... **18. Rfd1 f6 19. Bd3** A mysterious move to me on the night and still I cannot fathom it. Was he being too subtle for his own good? **19... g5 20. f5 g4!** I was delighted to make this move, if only because my rooks are now activated

and I have threats that might make black think a little harder. He spent slightly longer over this next position than previously. **21. fxe6 Bxe6** (21... gxf3 22. Nd5 Rxc2+ 23. Qxc2 fxc2 24. Nxc7 Kxc7 25. exd7 Kxd7 26. Kxc2 wins for white) **22. Nd4 Qf7 23. Nxe6 Qxe6 24. h4 g3 25. Qf5** I couldn't believe it! I seemed to have survived white's middle game attack and was into an endgame. I knew he had a large advantage just 5 moves before but I felt more confident now. This move, to swap off queens, is objectively dubious, but probably absolutely the best thing for a GM to do against a patzer in a simul, hoping for technique to take over. **25... Qxf5 26. exf5 Rg4** Activity and threats! **27. Nd5 Nc4** I wanted to swap bishop for bad knight. And I thought that Rxh4, Bf4 was dubious for black but it actually looks quite interesting. If the h and g pawns can be pushed, the two rooks against the king would be very dangerous. (27... Rxh4 28. Bf4 Rg4 29. Re1 Nc6 30. Re4 h4 31. Rc4 h3 32. gxh3 Rxh3 and who knows?) **28. Bxc4 Rxc4 29. Bd4!** I had missed this in assessing Nc4. Suddenly, I am in a bind. His Nd5 dominates the board and the bishop targets f6 while also cutting off the rook from winning h4. b3 is a threat. **29... Ng7 30. b3 Rc6** Black is completely busted here. White is dominating 100%. I felt close to resigning, but thought I would get my money's worth by playing the endgame and seeing how he would beat me. **31. Rf1 Ne8 32. c4 Rg8 33. a4 Rg4** Activity! Threats! **34. Rf4?! Ng7 35. Rxc4 hxc4 36. Bxf6 Bxf6 37. Nxf6 b5!** Done to exploit white's weak back rank. Short stopped short (sorry!) and spent lots of time over his next move, probably the most of the game. He seemed to consider it very dangerous and it is indeed. **38. Rd4 Nxf5** Black is fully equal now, probably with better chances to win. White has to guard very carefully against the back rank threats. **39. Rxc4 bxa4 40. bxa4**

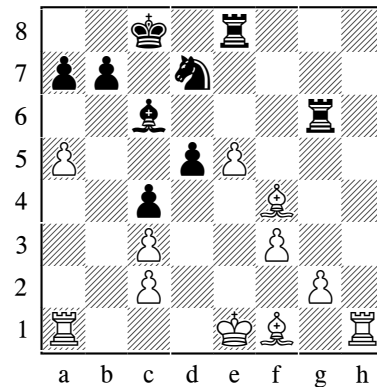
Rb6 Threatening mate! As Nigel himself said, avoiding mate is a rather good thing in chess. **41. Rg8+ Kb7 42. Kf1 Rb1+ 43. Ke2 Rb2+ 44. Kd3 Rxc2 45. Ne4?! Ra2! 46. h5 g2 47. Nd2??**



Wow!! Played quickly and a huge blunder. It is hard to see why it is a blunder, which is why, eh, I didn't spot it. But Karl McPhillips pointed it out to me afterwards, so spotters badge to him. I briefly considered the winning move (something in my unconscious prompted me) but immediately thought it was just daft. How could a GM let me win with such a quick move? And also, I saw a simple draw looming and was beyond thrilled to play for it. **47... Ra3+?** I always wonder if making a blunder or not spotting a blunder is the bigger mistake. (47... Ng3!! wins instantly. White can resign 48. Rxc3 (48. Nf3 Ra3+ 49. Kd2 Rxf3) (48. Rg7+ Kc6 49. h6 g1=Q 50. h7 Qf2 51. h8=Q Qxd2#) 48... Ra3+ 49. Ke2 Rxc3 50. Nf3 Rxf3 51. Kxf3 g1=Q). So I was one move from beating Nigel Short. But I'm not annoyed about it: it would have been a travesty if I had won! **48. Ke2 Rg3** 48... Ng3+ 49. Kf2 Nxe5 50. Rxc2 Rxa4 is still drawn. **49. Rxc3 Nxc3+ 50. Kf2 Nxe5 51. Kxc2** And GM Short offered me a draw, which I delightedly accepted. **1/2 – 1/2**

Short, Nigel - Godley, Sean
French Defence

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. e5 c5 5. a3 Bxc3+ 6. bxc3 Ne7 7. Ne2 c4 8. a4 Bd7 9. Ng3 Bc6 10. Nh5 Rg8 11. Qg4 Ng6 12. a5 Nd7 13. h4 h6 14. Nxg7+ Rxc7 15. h5 Qe7 16. Bxh6 Rg8 17. hxg6 Rxc6 18. Qh4 f6 19. exf6 Nxf6 20. Bf4 O-O-O 21. f3 Qf7 22. Bh2 Nd7 23. Qf4 Qxf4 24. Bxf4 e5 25. dxe5 Re8



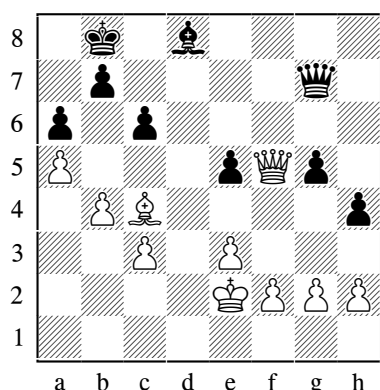
26. Kf2! Nxe5 27. Re1 Rge6 28. Rxe5 Rxe5 29. Bxe5 Rxe5 30. g4 Kc7 31. Be2 Kd6 32. Rh6+ Re6 33. Rxe6+ Kxe6 34. Ke3 Ke5 35. f4+ Kf6 36. Kd4 b6 37. axb6 axb6 38. Bf3 Ke6 39. f5+ Kd6 40. g5 Bd7 41. f6 Be6 42. g6 Bf5 43. g7 Be6 44. Bh5 0-1

The following night, Wednesday 23 February, Nigel Short was at Cork's Gresham Metropole Hotel, MacCurtain Street, where the format was a Q&A session (€5) followed by the simultaneous display (€25). The results of the Cork simultaneous display were - Total games 26. GM Short won 23 and drew 3..!

Short, Nigel - Bradley, Michael
Opening Richter-Veresov attack
Notes by Michael Bradley.

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nc3 d5 3. Bg5 g6 4. Bxf6 exf6 5. e3 Bg7 6. Nge2 Be6 7. Nf4 Nd7??
Free pawn for a GM ...not good.
8. Ncxd5 c6 9. Nxe6 fxe6 10. Nf4 Qe7 11. c3 e5 12. dxe5 fxe5 13. Ne2 O-O-O 14. Qc2 Rhf8 15. Ng3 Nf6 16. Be2 Qf7 17. O-O h5 18. Rad1 h4 19. Ne4 Nxe4 20. Qxe4 Bf6 21. Bc4 Qg7 22. a4 Kc7 23. b4

Rxd1 24. Rxd1 Rd8 25. Rxd8 Bxd8 26. Kf1 g5 27. Ke2 Kb8 28. a5 a6 29. Qf5



This is where I got lucky ... as Nigel was in a really strong position...

29... e4 30. Qxe4 Qxc3 31. Bd3 Qg7 32. g4 Be7 33. Kf1 1/2-1/2

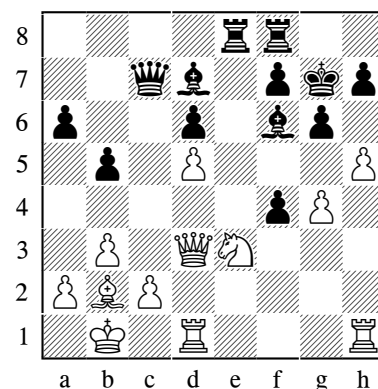
Nigel, Short – (2658) - Keegan O'Mahoney (1545)

Notes by Keegan O'Mahony

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 The Najdorf. **6.Qf3** A strange variation, I've never seen this before and didn't really know what to do against it. **6...e6** This is what I normally play on move. **6 7.b3** Another odd move. **7...Nbd7** I considered e5 here to block the a1-h8 diagonal where his bishop will probably be and I think it's the best move. **8.Bb2 Be7** 8...Ne5 or g6 might be slightly better here and I considered both but this is still fine.

9.0-0-0 Qc7 10.Qg3 I was expecting this. **10...0-0** This is a big mistake, b5 leaves black at least equal and if Qxg7 black has an advantage. I did see the possibility of giving up the pawn but didn't really want to (10...b5 I will follow it up with Bb7 or b4 or even g6 is good in some lines and if Qxg7.... 11.Qxg7 Rg8 12.Qh6 b4 13.Na4 Nxe4 Black is better here). **11.Nd5** I hadn't seen this, Qd8 is the only move to stay alive, the next best is exd5 but I'm still lost there (see variation.) **11...Nxd5** This actually leads to a mate in 5 which we both missed!! I'm sure he would have seen it in a proper game [11...exd5 12.Nf5 I saw this 12...Nh5 13.Nxe7+ Kh8 14.Qg4 Nh6 15.Nxd5 Maybe this isn't as bad as I thought at first but I'm still in big trouble.] **12.exd5 12.Nf5** This leads to mate 12...Bf6 13.Bxf6 Qxc2+ 14.Kxc2 Nb4+ 15.Kb1 g6 16.Nh6# Otherwise Qxg7 is mate. **12...e5** Here it's actually about equal again. **13.Nf5 Bf6** This is forced. **14.Bd3 Nc5** To trade off his strong bishop (it also attacks his knight on f5.) **15.Kb1 Nxd3 16.Qxd3 g6** This is the best move 17.Ne3 b5 Preventing Nc4, gaining space etc. I didn't really want to play Bg7 in case of h4 h5 and then I can play Kg7 to swing my rook over to the h file. **18.h4** I'm still at least equal here. **18...Bd7** This is a good move as it connects my rooks. My bishop

doesn't want to go to b7 as it isn't going to win the d pawn any time soon and it will need to prevent things like Ng4 on the kingside. **19.h5** This is where I start to play badly 19...Kg7 [19...Kg7 Preparing to bring my rook to the h file if hxg6. Rae8, Qc5, Rac8 etc would all be better here but I was scared of hxg6.] **20.f4** A good move by him, I'm still not lost. **20...Rae8** A good move by me. **21.g4 exf4** This is awful, the simple Kg8 was okay and despite my king getting very open it's not that bad.



22.Bxf6+ Kxf6 23.Qd4+ Re5 24.Qxf4+ Here if Ke7 I'm actually hanging on but am worse (+0.66). **24...Kg7 25.h6+** I had seen this but didn't realize he was mating me until now, I resigned. The mate goes Kg8 Qf6 and I can't prevent mate on g7. **1-0**

In Loyd's Footsteps

SOLUTIONS FROM PAGE 14

[1.] White's last move was Kg6xRh5. Black's move before that was Rh8xQh5. If, instead of taking the Queen, Black were to play 1...0-0 he would be mated by 2.Qh7#.

[2.] 1.e4 d5 2.e5 d4 3.c3 f6 4.Qf3 Kf7 5.Qxb7 Qd5 6.Kd1 Qxg2 7.Kc2 Qxf1 8.Qxc8 Qxg1 9.Qxb8 Rxb8 10.Rxg1 Rb3 11.Rg6 Ra3 12.Rh6 gxh6 13.bxa3 Kg7 14.Kb2 d3 15.e6 a5 16.h4 a4 17.h5 c5 18.f4 c4 19.f5!

[3.] 1) 1.b3 e6 2.Bb2 Ba3 3.Bxg7 Bc1 4.Bf8. 2) 1.Nf3 Nc6 2.Ne5 Nd4 3.Nc6 Nxe2 4.Nb8 Ng1. 3) 1.d4 c5 2.dxc5 f6 3.Qxd7+ Kf7 4.Qc7 Qd7 5.Qd8 Qd1+. 4) 1.h4

g5 2.Rh3 gxh4 3.Rg3 h3 4.Rxg8 h2 5.Rxh8 h1R! There are alternative solutions to these.

[4.] Can anybody improve on 1.h4 Kb7 2.Nh3 Kc6 3.f3 Kd5 4.Nf2 Ke5 5.b4 Kf4 6.b5 Kg3 7.b6 axb6 8.c4 Kf4 9.c5 bxc5 10.Bb2 Kg3 11.Bd4 cxd4 12.Nc3 Kf4 13.Nd5+ Kg3 14.Ne3 dxe3 15.Rg1 exf2? *

[5.] White turns the tables so to speak, by moving the board 180 degrees. The White pawn on d5 is then on e4 and is giving not only check but mate!

Cork Congress 2011

Simon Lawrence

The Cork Congress was held in the Gresham Metropole Hotel on 1st-3rd April. There were a total of 126 players, 46 in the Masters, 32 in the Majors and 48 in the Minors. The Finbarr Allison Masters Section was kindly sponsored by Cork City Council, in memory of Finbarr Allison, the local CCYMS player who also worked for the Council. Three Grandmasters, Simon Williams, Alex Baburin and Bogdan Lalic and three International Masters, Sam Collins, Mark Quinn and the present Irish Champion, Alex Lopez, were in the mix, along with Fide Masters Colm Daly and Philip Short.

The first round clashes began at 8 pm with local lad Tom Healy kicking off against the top seed, Simon Williams. There were no upsets for the titled players in the first round. In the second round games on the Saturday morning, the Cork Chess Club player Henk de Jonge got the first upset of the tournament with a draw with Colm Daly (see Colm's [website](#) for more details.)

In the third round the titled players began to meet, with the point shared between the Alex Lopez and Alex Baburin, and also between Bogdan Lalic and Philip Short, although there were wins for Simon Williams over Mark Quinn and Sam Collins beat John Joyce. Mark was at one stage a piece to the good against Simon, but unfortunately gave it back. More details can be found at Simon's [website](#)

Thus, only two players were left on maximum points going into the evening and in round 4 the point was shared on the top board. Alex Lopez beat Philip Short to join the leaders on 3.5 points, with Bogdan Lalic,



GM Simon Williams, Winner of the 2011 Cork Congress.

Mark Quinn and Alex Baburin just a half point behind going into the Sunday morning. The fifth round saw Simon Williams defeat Alex Baburin and Alex Lopez beat Sam Collins, (Alex has annotated this game for us) for them to both move to 4.5 points, half a point clear of Mark Quinn and Bogdan Lalic. In the final round a draw on Board two between Mark and Bogdan, meant that the point was soon shared on the top board too. In Cork we have a blitz play-off to decide the winner, and so, with honours even after the first two games, Simon triumphed in the third game to take the title. Congratulations to Simon on his first win in de real capital.

Masters 1st place tie = Simon Williams (won title on blitz, pictured left), Alex Lopez.

In the Major, the eighth seed Liam Murphy from Adare took the honours, with 5.5 from 6.

The Minors was also won by the eighth seed, Craig Gill from Cork, again with 5.5 from 6, having defeated his son Angus in the 5th round. They're still talking to each other!

Grading prizes went to Bartłomiej Cichonski, Simon Lawrence, Ray Woodhouse, Ben Cullen and Krzysztof Przestrzelski, with the prize for the best rating performance going to Eoin Minnock, whose performance was a staggering 330 points above his rating in the Masters! Definitely one to watch for in the future.

Baburin, A - Murray, D

Round 2

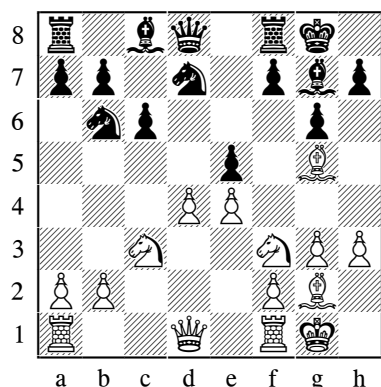
Notes by Alexander Baburin

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nf3 Bg7 4.g3 0-0 5.Bg2 d5 6.cxd5 Nxd5 7.0-0 c6

This move isn't very common, but it leads to positions playable for Black, while avoiding the main theoretical variations. [The main line is 7...Nb6

8.Nc3 Nc6 where Black puts pressure on the d4-pawn. (Instead of ..Nc6 Black can also play 8...c6 9.h3 Be6 10.e4 Qd7 11.Kh2 Na6 12.a4?! Rad8 13.a5 Na8 14.Be3 N8c7 15.Qe2 Qd6 16.Rfc1 Qb4 17.Ra4 Qb3 18.Ra3 Qb4 19.Ra4 Qb3 20.Ra3 Qc4 21.Bf1 Qxe2 22.Bxe2+/- Baburin-Dvoirys, Voronezh 1988.) ; Black can also play 7...c5 but this move is currently out of fashion.

8.e4 Nb6 9.h3 N8d7 10.Nc3 e5 11.Bg5



11...f6?!

After this move the g7-bishop becomes passive. [Black was OK in the game Baburin-Enders, Germany 2000, after 11...Qe8 12.d5 h6 13.Be3 cxd5 14.Nxd5 Nxd5 15.Qxd5 Nf6 16.Qxe5 Nxe4 17.Qc7 f5 but White probably should have taken on d5 with a pawn on move 14 and 15.

12.Qb3+!?

White is also better after 12.Be3 Nc4 13.Qb3 b5 14.a4 Kh8 15.axb5 Nxe3 16.fxe3 cxb5 but I wanted to keep the b6-knight in its place.

12...Kh8 13.Be3 Qe7 14.Rad1

Fritz12 recommends 14.d5!? cxd5 15.exd5 but I wanted to develop the a1-rook first.

14...exd4 15.Bxd4

15.Nxd4!?

15...c5?

This move creates serious structural weaknesses in Black's position, thus making it worse. Fritz claims that after 15...Ne5!? 16.Nxe5 fxe5 17.Bxb6 axb6 18.Qxb6 Bh6 Black

has adequate compensation for a pawn.

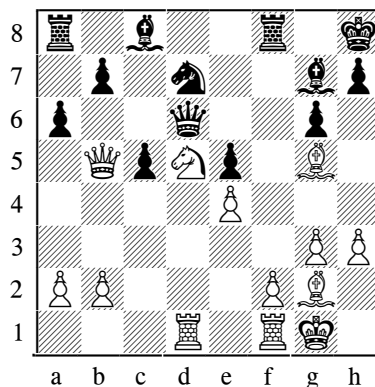
16.Be3 Ne5 17.Nxe5 fxe5 18.Qb5

18.Qa3!?

18...Nd7 19.Nd5 Qd6 20.Bg5

20.Rd2!?

20...a6



White is better, but he need to prevent ...Nf6, hence the following 'dance' of the queens:

21.Qb3! Qe6

With the idea of 21...Qc6.

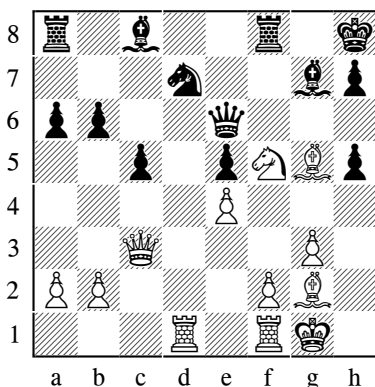
22.Qc3! Qc6 23.h4!

After this move White can activate his g2-bishop with Bh3 and also use the h-pawn to weaken Black's positions on the kingside.

23...b6

After 23...Nf6 White can choose between 24.Qxe5 (and 24.Nxf6 Bxf6 25.Rd5+!) 24...Nxd5 25.Qxd5 Qxd5 26.exd5+.

24.h5! gxh5 25.Ne7 Qe6 26.Nf5



Black is lost as White is ready to invade along the d-file with Rd1-d6 and Rf1-d1.

26...Qg6 27.Bh4 Bf6 28.Rd6 Qe8 29.Rfd1 Bxh4 30.Nxh4 Rf6 31.Nf5!?

Rb8 32.Qd2 Rb7 33.Rxf6 Nxf6 34.Qd8

After 34...Rf7 White can play 35.Nd6! 1-0

Astaneh Lopez, A - Collins, S

Round five

Notes by Alex Astaneh Lopez

I have chosen to annotate my game against IM Sam Collins. Be warned that the game is full of inaccuracies and full-blown mistakes by both players. But oftentimes, these are the games that offer the most food for thought and chances to improve, so when I was asked to annotate a game of mine for the report, I felt that this was the best choice. Hopefully the reader will agree!

1. Nf3 Nf6 2. g3 g6 3. Bg2 Bg7 4. O-O O-O 5. c4 d6 6. Nc3

6. d4 Of course this is the main, and objectively strongest, move. However, if I go in for this, we are transposing into the Fianchettoed King's Indian Defense. The theory on this is endless, with a lot of continuations for Black. As I am not a 1.d4 player, I didn't want to discuss the theory with a solid player like Sam.

6... e5 7. d3

7. d4 Nbd7 would transpose back into KID lines.

7... c6

7... Nc6 8. Rb1 a5 9. a3 Re8 10. Nd2 with standard manoeuvring plans like an English, although I have to admit that this is pretty unthreatening stuff. Black has pretty much equalised in my view.

8. c5!?

I'm not too sure if to award this a question mark, an exclamation mark, or no comment. The move aims to simply create an unbalanced position that will force both players to think concretely, rather than the more typical manoeuvring play.

8... h6

Sam avoids the sharper play arising after dxc5, and sets out to control the g5 square - an often necessary

prophylactic step before advancing f7-f5.

8... dxc5 9. Nxe5 Nd5 this is the critical line, and White has two interesting continuations in my view.

10. Nc4 This was a speculative P sacrifice that I thought was quite interesting at the time, though it's not an exciting prospect to find yourself a P down as White on move 11! [10. Nxd5 cxd5 11. d4! Without this move White would be in pretty bad shape. 11... cxd4 12. Nd3 and White has compensation for the sacrificed P.]

10... Nxc3 11. bxc3 Bxc3 12. Rb1 White has slightly more development, and a better P structure, in exchange for Black's extra pawn. I would assess the position as roughly equal, though I think there is somewhat more pressure on White to prove that he has full compensation. 12... Bg7 13. Bf4 Na6 14. Qd2 oo and Black's pieces are quite tied down.]

9.cxd6 Qxd6

Here, I felt White had achieved a very minor success due to the exchange of the c-pawn for the d-pawn.

10. Nd2 Be6 11. Qc2

It's very clear that White is going to be playing on the Q-side. This move eyes the c5-square among other things, such that Nce4-c5 may be a possibility in some lines.

11... Nbd7 12. a4

Seizing space on the Q-side, and it also contains some other ideas. For example a5-a6 can turn the g2-B into a very strong piece and collapse the black Q-side. Also, White can now play b3 (or even b4 in some lines) with the idea of Bc1-a3.

12... Nd5 13. a5

As it happens, the loss of control of the b4-square is not critical.

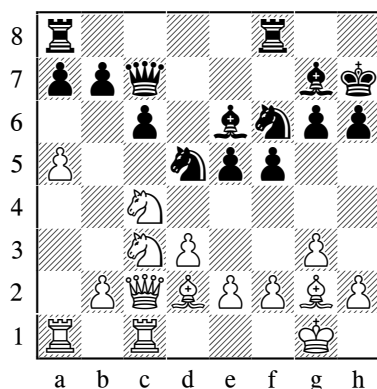
13... f5 14.Nc4 Qc7?!

This is the natural square for the Q, but I feel it's going to be a little misplaced here. Instead, Qe7 avoids any potential tactings along the c-file.

15. Bd2 Kh7 16. Rfc1

White's last moves have had a lot of purpose. He has gained space on the Q-side, placed his N on c4, put his Q and R on the c-file, and developed his c1B to d2, from where it eyes some important Q-side squares. Black has made natural moves as well, but his K-side expansion carries less venom than White's Q-side activity for the time being, in my opinion. Sam and I agreed that in this position White is a little more comfortable, though it's nothing major.

16... N7f6?!



This natural move allows White to make a favourable exchange of pieces due to a tactical motif.

17. Nxd5! cxd5?

The principled move, but it fails to a tactical stroke. 17...Nxd5 Best, and it leads to a long more or less forced line that is favourable for White but very difficult to win. [18. a6 b6 19. Ne3! Nxe3 20. Bxe3 Bd7 21. Bxc6 Rac8 22. Ba4 Qd6 23. Qb3 Rxc1+ 24.Rxc1 f4 25. Bxd7 fxe3 26. Bg4 exf2+ 27. Kf1 Qd4 28. Bf3 Qe3 29. Qd1 b5 30. Rc6 +/- and Black will have to show that the position can be held.] [17... Bxd5 18.e4! with an unpleasant position for Black.]

18. Nxe5! Qd6

18... Qxe5 19. Bf4 Qd4 20. Ra4 and the Q cannot escape.

19. Nf3

This position is of course completely winning, but from here, Sam succeeds in complicating the game, and what I thought would be an easy

win turns into a brand new game with chances for both sides!

19... Rf7 20. Bc3?!

This looked good at the time, but in hindsight, blocking the c-file and removing the B from control of the c1-h6 diagonal does not look so good!

20... g5 21. Qa4 Re8 22. Be5

22. e3 would have been simple and best, avoiding any problems on the e2-square.

22...Qf8 23. Bd4 Bd7 24. Qd1

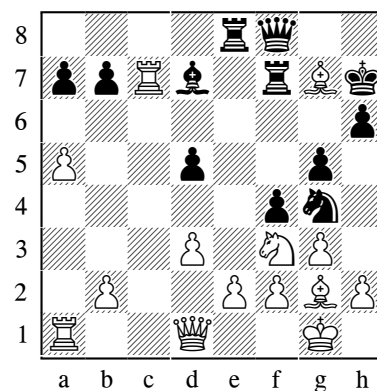
24. Qc2 This is the alternative, and again would have been a better square for the Q, especially because it would have hampered Black's main threat of Ng4. 24... Ng4 25. Bxa7.

24... Ng4 25. Rc7?!

Generally, one should not leave a piece en-prise like this! Of course, it does create concrete threats, but the game suddenly becomes far more double-edged.

25. Bxa7 Bxb2 is the problem with having the Q on d1 instead of c2. On c2 this would not have been an option!!

25... f4 26. Bxg7?



I wanted to simplify the game, but this only complicates things as Black's coordination is improved and my defence of the f2-square is suddenly a lot more difficult.

[26. Bc5 Qg8 27. Qd2 Would have been simplest. It was important to maintain White's dark-squared B, as it controls key K-side squares like f2.]

26... Qxg7 27. d4 Bb5

A strong move which I had underestimated. This makes it

difficult for me to carry out my plan of kicking out the g4-N and playing Ne5, forcing Black to give up material OR alternatively leaving myself with an extremely powerful central N.

28. Qc2+ Kh8 29. Rxf7?

29. Rc8! This would still have left White with a comfortable winning position.

29... Qxf7 30. h3?

Extremely risky.

30... Nxf2

30... fxc3 The move that worried me the most! 31. hxc3 [31. fxc3 Perhaps I would have had to reluctantly acknowledge that I can't take the N, and enter into this line instead. 31... Ne3 32. Qc5 Bxe2 33. Ne5 Qe6 34. Rc1 [34. Re1 Rc8] 34... Bc4 35. g4 with a highly complicated position. 35... Qf6 36. Qa3 Nxc2 37. Kxc2 Kg8 38. Qf3 +/- Material is equal, but White has the superior minor piece, and so it is only him that can aim for more than a draw.] 31... gxf2+ 32. Kxf2 Rxe2+ 33. Qxe2 Bxe2 34. Kxe2 Qf4 this was the position that worried me most during the game. The computer gives this as equal, but for the life of me I could not evaluate the position clearly during the game. Still now, I'm unsure as to whether this offers any winning chances at all for White, or whether he will need to try to hold the draw instead.

31. Ne5 Rxe5 32. dxe5 fxc3 33. Qc8+?

A pointless check, it would have been best to leave the black K on h8 and leave the possibility of giving the check at a later point.

33... Kg7 34. Qc5?

34. Rf1 Bxe2 35. e6! At this stage, both of us were quite short on time, and I missed the fact that Bxe2 was not possible due to this strong advance. 35... Qf4 36. Qd7+ Kf6 37. Qf7+ Ke5 38. Qxf4+ Kxf4 [38... gxf4 39. Re1!] 39. e7 Bb5 40. Bxd5 h5 41. Rc1 with an easy win despite Black's menacing K-side activity.]

34... Bxe2?!

This move allows White to win the extremely unpleasant g3P. [34... Qf5 35. Qe7+ Kg6 36. Qf6+ Qxf6 37. exf6 h5 38. Ra3 h4 39. Rf3 Kf7 40. Rf5 Bxe2 41. Bxd5+ Kf8 42. Bg2 g4 43. hxc4 Bxc4 44. Rb5 h3 45. Bxh3 Bxh3 46. Rxb7 a6 47. Rg7 Ne4 48. Re7 Nxf6 49. Ra7 Ng4 50. Rxa6 Ne5 51. Rf6+ Ke7 52. Rf4 Kd7 And this to me looks like a draw.]

35. Qe3 Bb5 36. Qxc3 Ne4 37. Bxe4?

Again, my desire to simplify matters only serves to complicate them! The g2-B was important for the defence of the K. Nonetheless, the position should still be winning. [37. Qe3!]

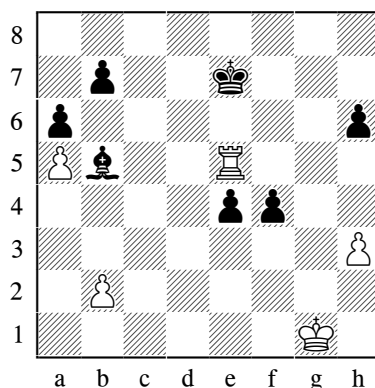
37... dxe4 38. Rc1 Kg6 39. Qf2 Qf4 40. Rc5

40. Rc8

40... a6?

40... Bd7 offered the greatest resistance. 41. Rc7 Bxh3 42. a6 bxa6 43. Rc6+ Kh5 44. Qxf4 gxf4 45. e6 e3 46. e7 Bd7 47. Rd6.

41. e6! Kf6 42. e7 Kxe7 43. Qxf4 gxf4 44. Re5+?!



This is the last recorded move, and it's interesting that this is actually a mistake. Instead, Rf5 would also have won a P, but the difference is that the remaining central P would have been left on a light square, making Black's defensive task much more difficult.

44... Kf6 45. Rxe4 Kf5 46. Re7 Bc6 Instead, now, Black's f4-P is a lot harder to target. Nonetheless, this position is winning, and indeed in the ensuing time scramble I managed to convert it. 1-0

Williams, S - Baburin, A

Round 5

Notes by GM Simon Williams

1. d4

A wise choice. I had left my computer back in England and I did not fancy taking on the Alekhine without doing a substantial amount of work beforehand.

1...d5 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. Nf3 c6

I have to admit that I was happy when Alex played this move. Generally the game gets pretty sharp now and somehow, I always manage to sacrifice my c4 pawn.

5. Bg5 Nbd7 6. Qc2!?

This is an old move of Korchnoi. The idea is to avoid the Cambridge Springs opening as 6...Qa5 is met by 7.Bd2! This is a very aggressive line as White will either sacrifice a pawn or castle queenside and go all in!

6...dxc4

The most critical move. E.Sveshnikov played 6...Be7 against me here but I gained a big attack after 7 e3 0-0 8 0-0-0!? with h4 etc. to follow.

7. e4 b5

A typical kind of structure and one which I seem to have very good results in. Black has won a pawn but White has gained a strong centre. After the next sequence of moves, Black will also find it hard to find a safe place to hide his king.

8. e5 h6 9. Bh4 g5 10. Bg3 Nd5

It may look like Black is just a pawn up and I am sure that most computer engines would prefer to be Black here. The problem that Black has is the positioning of his king. It will feel a bit exposed wherever it attempts to hide.

11. Be2

I had reached this position one time before against the Icelandic Grandmaster, Hannes Stefansson. We had a fascinating encounter and I came within a whisker of winning after: 11...Bb7 12 h4 (12 0-0!) g4 13 Nd2 Qb6 14 Nde4 Nb4 15 Qd2 Qxd4 16 Qf4 Qb6? 17 0-0 Rg8 18 Nf6+!

Nxf6 19 exf6 Nd5 20 Qe5 0-0-0 21 Ne4 Nc7? 22 a4 Rd5 23 Qf4 Rf5 24 Qd2 Nd5 25 b3! c3 26 Nxc3!!? Qa5 (26...Bb4 27 Nxd5) 27 Rfc1 Bb4 28 Nxd5! 28...Bxd2 29 Nxe7+ Kd7 30 axb5 with a big attack. The game ended in a draw.

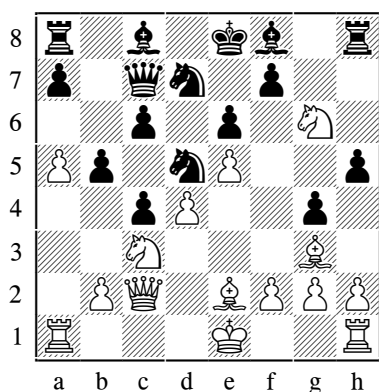
11...Qb6 12. a4 g4?!

This may have been Alex's main mistake in the game. This advance creates a lot of holes around the Black kingside. It would have been safer to continue development with something like 12...Bb7

13. a5

This move can be both good and bad. Good in that it takes the b6 square away from the Black pieces but bad in that I will now find it harder to open up Black's queenside pawn formation.

13...Qc7 14. Nh4! h5 15. Ng6!



Black is in serious trouble after this lunge.

15...Rh6

15...fxg6 16 Qxg6+ Kd8 17 Nxd5 cxd5 18 Bh4+ Be7 19 Bxe7+ Kxe7 20 Qg7+ picks up the rook on h8 with check.

16. Nxf8 Kxf8

The knight for bishop exchange has greatly helped me. Now the d6 square comes available for my knight and Black is left with some gaping holes on the kingside.

17. h3! gxh3 18. Rxh3 Kg7 19. Qd2

I expected to win very quickly from this position but Alex kept fighting on.

19...Nf8 20. Qg5+ Ng6

I had my biggest think of the game here. I wanted to play 21 Ne4 which

should also be good but I did not see a clear finish after 21...Qe7 22 Nf6 Qb4+ 23 Kf1 Qxb2 24 Re1 Qxd4. I assumed that I must have something simple here but I was a bit concerned that I had also given my opponent two passed pawns on the queenside. I am winning after 25 Ne8+ Kf8 26 Nd6 (I got this far in my calculations!) 26...Kg7 27 Nxf7! with an easy win.

21. Nxd5

This is also good and maybe the simplest way to win the game.

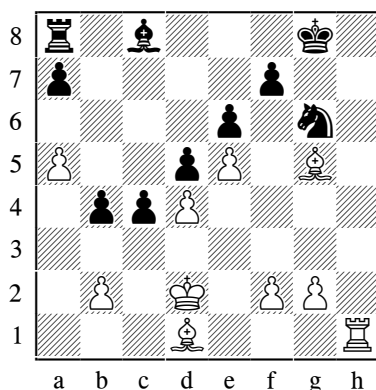
21...cxd5 22. Bf4 Rh8 23. Rxh5 Qe7 24. Rxh8

24 Qf6+ looked rather unclear to me. 24...Qxf6 25 exf6+ Kxf6 26 Rxh8 Nxf4. Black has some compensation in the form of his b and c pawns and the potential to break with ...e5.

24...Qxg5 25. Bxg5 Kxh8 26. Kd2

Aiming to play Kc3-Kb4.

26...b4 27. Rh1+ Kg8 28.Bd1!



This was my main intention when playing 21 Nxd5. My simple plan is to play Bc2, f4, g4, Bf6 and then f5.

28...Bd7 29. Bc2 c3+

Black aims to create some open lines for his pieces. 29...Rc8 would have been met by 30 Rh3.

30. bxc3 bxc3+ 31. Kxc3 Rc8+ 32. Kd2 Rc4 33. Be3 a6 34. Rb1 Bb5 35. Bd3 Ra4 36. Bxb5 axb5 37. Rxb5

The rest is just 'a matter of technique.'

37...Ne7 38. Rc5 Kf8 39. Kc3 Ke8 40. Kb3 Ra1 41. Bc1!

This forces Black's rook away from the a-file. After which, I can just push my a-pawn up the board.

41...Kd7 42. Bb2 Rf1 43. a6 Nc6 44. Rb5 Kc8

44...Rxf2 45 a7!

45. f3 Rf2 46. Bc3

The bishop controls Black's knight.

46...Rxg2 47. Rb6

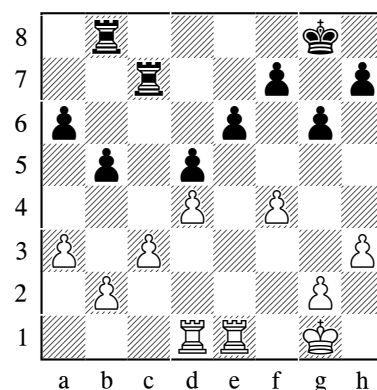
Alex resigned as the position is clearly lost. 1-0

A Weekend to Remember? – not!

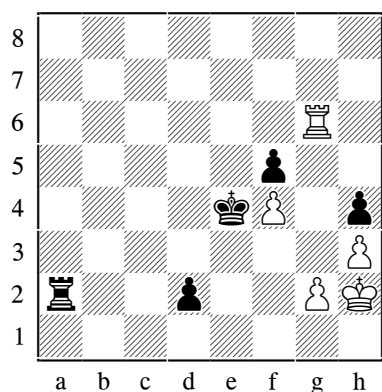
(Editor: The following is taken from Colm Daly's website www.dublinchess.com. It recounts Colm's experience (Nightmare?) at the 2011 Cork Congress and it brilliantly recreates that moment when with a won position you wonder why your opponent isn't resigning and then you just go and prove him right!)

So with a miracle escape from the first round I was keen to get going again and get a couple of wins under my belt. This was the position below I reached in round two, when after the opening had gone very well and left me with a nice little advantage. I had the prospect of it becoming a nice big advantage. What follows turns out to be a model of instruction of how to play this well known minority attack and how not to defend against it. All seemed straight forward until something quite amazing then happened.

Henk de Jonge – Colm Daly



Fast forward another 30 plus moves and we had the position below: This in hindsight is quite a curious moment. Objectively the best move now is the one I played and it leads to mate in no less than 11 moves by force with best play. However, as both of us were well aware of the stalemate theme in the position it is arguable that the best move now from a practical view point is actually just Ra1 supporting the d pawn and thus avoiding any stalemate chance. The question of whether it is better to be a whole Rook up or a whole Queen up in an endgame being a pretty absurd sort of debate. As it happens I was so aware of the stalemate theme that I knew that it would not happen, right? Well wonders never cease to amaze me! A very curious thing happened.

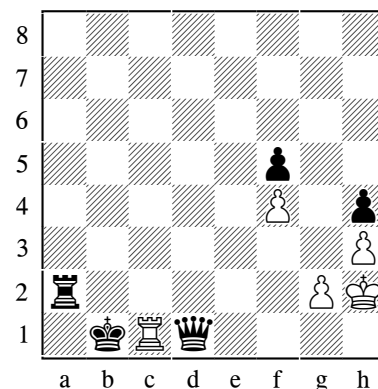


56...d1Q 57.Re6+ This has got to be one of the funniest [and also most painful] sequence of moves I have ever been a part of. One might wonder why it is that White does not resign because it is clear enough that I have seen the stalemate theme? So surely these last few checks are futile? Not quite! I always say there is nothing wrong with someone playing on in a lost position no matter how hopeless. Now to be fair, often there is nothing particularly right about playing on in such situations either,

but I do not think people should really be critical. After all, when you resign, it is over for sure! Whereas by playing on you can only make the other guy win, and you never know, there is always that one a million moment right? So after the game continued with **57...Kd3** [57...Kxf4 58.Re4+ I had seen this and even went a move further in my head so that I had seen that after Kg5 I reasoned that would be the end of it, but why even give White the chance to play this nice looking move? 58...Kg5 59.Rg4+ Qxg4 or (59...fxg4)] Only move for White is **58.Rd6+** and this was the moment when I really blew it. I had been waiting to see if my opponent was going to resign or just check me till they ran out, so when I looked up from the board and saw his hand moving, I thought he was resigning. When I instantly realized he had not resigned, but instead made a move on the board I was a bit flustered and embarrassed and with my hand still in mid air I quickly moved my king. Then thinking fast, I seen that he would check me on c6 and and then b6 after which there would be nothing left to do. In a nano second I also somehow recall thinking that as an amusing little side note Ke2 was probably better than Kc2 [as if it really should matter at all] because there was no chance of falling into any sort of swindle or hope for White.

58...Kc2 59.Rc6+

Of course I now moved instantly without thinking, as per my earlier thoughts about White checking on c6 and then b6, and I was all set to play kb1 and then Kc1 and then Qc2 after Rb6 Kc1, Rc6 check. Curiously enough Black has five legal moves now and four of them win but one of them leads to a draw! **59...Kb1??**



60.Rc1+! Well one can only imagine my horror when this was played, as soon as I had seen the rook not being moved sideways but instead backwards I knew I had done something insane and gifted my opponent the chance to play a beautiful move that ruins all my previous good play.

60...Kb2 Of course Black should just take the rook and that would be stalemate but being an eternal optimist at times and also reasoning that if I could blow a position a full queen up then sure anything was possible and I should be able to avoid losing anyway I might as well play on and at least see if I could put some pressure on White. Or as others were quick to note, I was playing for a loss now! Perhaps so, but often when a player has such a huge reversal and frustrating disappointment one of the ways to deal with it is to just go through the motions and just keep playing, out of inertia. This game turned out to be a huge blow to me and my confidence took such a knock that I did not recover in time to be stable for my next game which I lost quite stupidly in the next round after playing half way decently and getting but then throwing away a winning position.

CHESS SPY!

PETER CAFOLLA

Since my last report in December 2010 I have been fairly active chess wise playing in the Prague Open, Marianske Lazne, the National Club Championships, Bunratty, Cork and the Leinster Senior. The two Czech tournaments are excellent events and the Prague Open in particular is my favourite tournament of every season despite the fact that I rarely do very well there. <http://www.czechtour.net/> is the website for the Czech Tour and I particularly recommend the Prague Open which grows in strength and numbers year after year.

Now back to Irish events and as always Bunratty was strong, very well run and most enjoyable. The new venue is a huge improvement on the dilapidated Fitzpatrick's Hotel that we used to play in and the newly built tunnel that by-passes Limerick makes the journey much quicker and hassle free. The event itself was very strong with the usual sprinkling of GMs and IMs and this year we had the added bonus of having Nigel Short present even if he didn't play particularly well. For the first time an increment was used and this was a very welcome innovation even though I was completely unaware of its use until the beginning of round 5!! I hope though that the use of increments won't give organisers the licence to make games shorter. My own preference would be for games to be played at a minimum rate of 90 minutes per player with a 15 second increment from move one. I would also like to see 5 round weekenders instead of 6 as this would stop some of the farcical chess we are used to on a Saturday night and would give more time for socializing or for players to drive home if they so wished. I didn't play very well in Bunratty but had the unusual experience of harvesting 2.5/3 on the Saturday with a TOTAL of only 58 moves for the three games.

The National Club Championship is an event that has been growing in stature since its inception and hopefully will continue to do so. Why some Dublin clubs didn't bother their behinds to enter a team when the venue, the Green Isle Hotel, was so accessible is beyond me. The tournament itself was played in a good venue with adequate seating, lighting and space for the games as well as free car parking which is something that should be (but isn't) the norm at Dublin tournaments (LCU please note). Adare ran away with the title thanks to its band of mercenaries but it is nice to have titled players at Irish events so I won't complain.

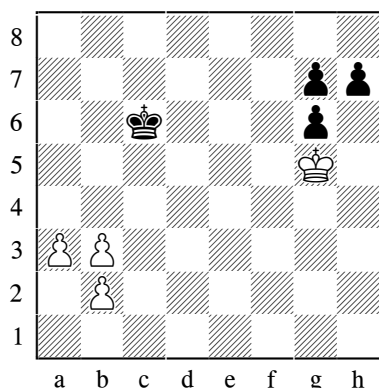
Cork is always one of my favourite tournaments. The venue is excellent unless you want to book a single room in which case you would need a second mortgage and the organisation is always friendly and efficient. For some reason Cork always seems to attract all our best junior players and this scares off some of our regular tournament goers but fools like me turn up year after year and freely distribute rating points to all and sundry. It is such an enjoyable tournament though that the rating loss is worthwhile. This year's event was particularly hard fought on the top boards with GMs Williams, Baburin and Lalic fighting it out with Irish IMs Collins, Lopez and Quinn. It was good to see Colm Daly and John Joyce make rare visits to a non Dublin tournament although neither fared particularly well. Incidentally, congratulations to John for winning the Leinster Senior a few weeks later.

The Leinster Championships were held in the Teachers Club, Dublin, over the Easter weekend. Sadly the entry in the top section was a meagre 12 players. With a very civilised programme of two games per day and generous time controls a good venue (except for parking) and nice playing conditions I don't know why this event is never as well supported as it deserves to be. As with most Irish tournaments these days the event was very well organised although I did hear that a couple of disputes arose in various sections. In the senior section the form book went out the window with top seeds Fitzsimons and Daly playing as badly as I can ever remember them doing but the tournament produced a very worthy winner in John Joyce from Bray Chess Club.



WHY STUDIES?

This study is by a well-known composer and a world champion.



Nadareshvili, G and Smyslov, V
""64"" 1986

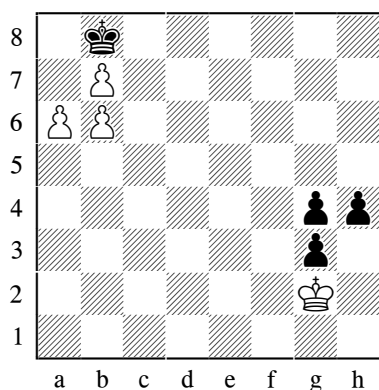
1.b4 Kb5 2.b3 Kb6 3.a4 Kc6 4.b5+ Kc5 5.b4+ Kb6

White's pawns cannot advance further without being lost. So White transfers the move to Black.

6.Kg4 h6 7.Kf4 g5+ 8.Kf5 g6+ 9.Kg4

Now Black's pawns are stymied just as White's were. The manoeuvre now repeats on both sides of the board, and since White's pawns are one rank further advanced, it is he who comes out on top.

9...Kb7 10.a5 Kc7 11.b6+ Kc6 12.b5+ Kb7 13.Kf3 h5 14.Kg3 g4 15.Kf4 g5+ 16.Kg3 Kb8 17.a6 Kc8 18.b7+ Kc7 19.b6+ Kb8 20.Kg2 h4 21.Kf2 g3+ 22.Kf3 g4+ 23.Kg2



Black is in total zugzwang and must start shedding pawns. The study finishes at this point, since the win for White is very clear cut (though after 23...h3+ 24.Kxg3 h2 25.Kxh2 g3+, White must, of course, avoid 26.Kxg3?? which is stalemate, and play 26.Kg1 g2 27.a7+ Kxb7 28.Kxg2).

Solutions:

Are you a problem Solver?

C. Mansfied

1.Be7! (2.Bf6#), 1...Kxe6+ 2.Bg5#, 1...Kd4+ 2.Bf5#, 1...Bxb7 2.Bc2#, 1...Qxb7 2.Bd3#.

N.G.G. van Dijk

1.Qf3! Zugzwang, 1...Rc6 2.Rb6 Ka7 3.Qxa3#, 1...Rd5 2.Rd7 Kb8 3.Qf8#, 1...Rc2+ 2.Rb2+ Rc6 3.Qxc6#. 1...R else 2.Ra7++ and 3. Mate.

C.P. Sydenham

1.Be5! (2.Bf4), 1...N random? 2.Qxc5#, 1...Nb7!? 2.f4#. 1...Ne4 2.fe#, 1...Nb5!? 2.Nc4#, 1...Nc4!!? 2.Qxb3#.

CHESS MAGIC

J. Polgar – Angelova,

17.Qxf8+! 1-0

Serper – Shirov,

1.Qxe6+! 1-0

Ioseliani – Galliamova,

31.Qxg7+! 1-0 (31...Rxc7 32.Rd8+ Rg8 33.Rxc7+ Kxc7 34.Ne7+)

Ernst – Lobzhanidze,

1.Rxc6! fxc6 2.Bh3 Qf8 3.Qxe6+ Kh7 4.Kg2 Re8 5.Qd7 Re7 6.Qd3 Rf7 7.a4 h5 8.a5 Qa2 9.e4 Qb3 10.Qd4 1-0

Jones – Avrukh,

37.Qc7+! Kg6 38.Rh5! Nf2+ 39.Kh4 1-0

Matsuura, E - Toth, C

51. Rxh2! [51. Rc1? Rf5+ 52. Ka4 Rf8] 51... Kxh2 52. b4! Rf5+ 53. Ka6 Rf6+ 54. Ka5 Rf1 55. b5 Rf8 56. b6 1-0

Puzzled?

P.A. Orlimont, 1928.

A deceptively simple problem. It's a mate in four. White needs to figure out how to force Black to take the a-pawn so White can mate him with the rook. As long as the knight is around, that can't happen. In the position, the knight is trapped, but it's not Black's move. So, White has to "untrap" the horse, but he can't let him run loose, either. White finds the right square for the rook to accomplish all his goals: **1.Rf5 Ng7 2.Re5 Nh5 2...Ne8 3.Rxe8 Kxa2 4.Ra8#; 2...Ne6 3.Rxe6 Kxa2 4.Ra6#; 2...Nf5 3.Rxf5 Kxa2 4.Ra5#; 2...Kxa2 3.Ra5#] 3.Rxh5 Kxa2 4.Ra5#** A tantalizingly close try is **1.c3 Nf4 [1...Kxa2 2.Kc2 Nf4 3.Ra7#] 2.Rxf4 Kxa2 3.Kc2 Ka3 4.h4 Ka2 5.Ra4#**

K.Gilg – K. Lamprecht

Few games have two consecutive queen sacrifices, but one example involving double promotion: Black played **68...f1Q 69.Qxf1 h1Q 70.Qxh1** stalemate.