

OPEN FILE



The Magazine of the UK Armed Forces Chess Association



GM MATTHEW SADLER'S NEW COLUMN

NATO 2019 - more selected games

Chess and Art

A Dave Onley attacking gem in the KID Sämisch variation

Kevin Thurlow and Dave Tucker write

Karpov v Portman - Should you meet your chess hero?

Games, puzzles, competitions and so much more

Ed torial



Never in the history of chess - save for the wars - has so much disruption occurred in the world of chess. At one point every face to face event in the world was cancelled. That's Covid-19 for you.

We had to (and still have to as I write) put up with no chess, or play online chess. We missed out on the UKAFCA Championships at RAF Scampton, and the NATO Finals in Belgium. Personally speaking I had to add the British Chess Championships to that duo.

It's all been a bit miserable.

It is fine if you only like online chess but our Association is built on a foundation of friendship, camaraderie and a few beers! For many if not all of us, meeting up for our chess fix is one of the highlights of the year. It is a shame, but there we are. If we have all come through it then we must be happy, and thus put chess in perspective.

However, let's get back to the royal game and in this bumper issue packed with a cornucopia of chess I am honoured to welcome GM **Matthew Sadler** as a columnist for OPEN FILE.

Each issue he will examine a game from one of our lucky members and see if it can 'pass muster'. He will help with his hints, tips and thoughts. We are very grateful to Matthew for giving of his time, voluntarily to support the Association. Matthew, I can say that if and when you meet the members, you'll be well looked after.

Pretty much the same contributors make up your issue again. If you don't like that, you know what to do. Covid is unwelcome of course, but it has given people more time to do other things - including submit a chess feature. Where's yours? The same people should not do all the work. I am here for you and I await your call, especially if your name isn't Kevin, Dave or Carl! Enjoy this issue and stay safe :-)

Nil desperandum

Carl

Front Cover

Scene depicting a chess match by Thomas Eakins (1876)

The players are Bertrand Gardel (left) and George Holmes. The artists father, Benjamin Eakins stands watching the match

Oil on panel

Photo from Commons Wikimedia



From the Chairman – Lt Cdr Dave Ross RN

Welcome to the Autumn 2020 edition of Open File.

Dear Chess Players,

I hope that this bumper edition of Open File finds you well. It is difficult to avoid comment on the current crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, so I will limit my comments to an apology that we have not had a 2020 Armed Forces Chess Championship, it is worthy of note that only the Falklands War (1982) has previously cancelled our amazing annual shindig. As soon as conditions allow we will start to prepare for the next Championship. The NATO event for 2020 has unsurprisingly also been cancelled and for those of you that hope to qualify I can confirm that the venue remains Floreal Blankenberge and the dates for your diary are 11 – 15 October 2021.

Due to an inability to conduct submarine operations from my bedroom I was forced to continue working normally during lockdown, but after 3 years working in Northwood, I have now changed jobs and am again Portsmouth based, I hope this will permit me more time to play chess. This edition sees some great articles including material from regulars such as Kevin Thurlow, Dave Tucker, Mike Fielding and Carl Portman, however perhaps the jewel in the crown of this edition is the game analysis from Matthew Sadler; I dearly hope we get a chance to entertain him at some point; I loved the book Game Changer, which he co-authored with Natasha Regan.

Reading through the games, I recall being in the room for Fielding vs Sauer and watching with excitement, Mike Fielding perched and contorted on the edge of his chair, both players looking a bit sweaty and crowds around the board to see the shock defeat of a German on home soil, if you weren't lucky enough to be there, I hope the tension and energy comes through in the commentary and I hope you enjoy reliving the games through the magazine as much as I have.

Finally we said goodbye to two old friends earlier this year. Bill Pettigrew will be known to many of you and Steve O'Neill has written a wonderful obituary for this edition. My own memories of Bill are part stereotypical Yorkshireman, gritty and determined, and part kind and generous gentleman who loved life and loved chess and his friendships through chess. Ben de Cat the wonderful Belgian player also passed away unexpectedly this year. Many of the Brits who have played in the NATO tournament will be familiar with Ben partly for his unconventional chess and partly because he typically went for a few beers after the games and we would end up in the same bars.

Both players will be sadly missed, rest in peace. Congratulations to the editor on his piece vs Karpov, I especially liked the national flag colour scheme of the title. Read on to find out which of our members has spent his recent spare time thinking about self-destructing enemies.

Stay safe and hope to see you over the board soon.

Dave

UKAFCA - Officers of the Association

Note: Officers will be happy to provide advice, but please note that emails might not be answered immediately. Committee Members will respond as and when they reasonably can.



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The Secretary must be informed of any changes to members contact addresses including emails. Failure to do this will result in the none arrival of correspondence.

Membership of the UK Armed Forces Chess Association is open to all serving and ex-serving members of HM Forces and MOD civilian staff. However, anyone may apply to the Secretary for a magazine subscription to Open File (£5 per annum) .



Please visit the UKAFCA website to check out what is happening and what chess activities are coming up. If you have any contributions or suggestions please contact Munroe who will be very happy to receive them. The address of the web site is:

<http://serviceschess.wixsite.com/home>

Do not forget that you can download copies of this magazine from the site too.

OPEN FILE DISTRIBUTION

We have moved from paper versions to online. Once I have completed the e-copy (after Dave Ross has proof read it) Dave will send it to our webmaster Munroe for posting onto the UKAFCA website.

Members will be notified when the magazine is uploaded. It is then your responsibility to access it.. Officially there will be two magazines per year. One for the UKAFCA Finals and one after the NATO Championships. However I intend to squeeze the occasional extra issue in if and when I am able to find the time and have the material. Contributions from members are obviously encouraged. **It is of great importance that changes to your email addresses should be sent to the Secretary or Chairman or even though we now publish the magazine electronically!**

You know what to do.



<http://ajedrezconhumor.blogspot.com/>

You may well have seen cartoons from 'Wadalupe' in the chess press. He is exceptionally talented and has designed a couple of personal commissions from me. He has kindly agreed to allow a cartoon to be featured in each edition of OPEN FILE so we thank him for that. Please visit his web site and check out (pun intended) the great artwork. He might even be available for a commission.



PART TWO

Ed, I confess that somewhere along the line I mislaid some games so Dave Ross and Dave Tucker sent the following three for inclusion in this issue. Apologies for any confusion—and I hope people enjoy the games. The first is clearly annotated by Michael Fielding.

Michael Fielding, UK (1760) - Marko Sauer Ger (2081)

30th NATO Chess Championship Berlin (1),
16.09.2019

Sicilian Defence

Now, if you have read my previous columns "Field (ing) Notes" you would have seen that my chess style was somewhat aggressive but in truth it's more like The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde. In one sphere I can play 'swinging for the fences' wild chess but in the other I'll play ultra-negative bore you to death chess. Coming into the NATO championship, I was coming off of the back of a strong season - I helped my club - North Bristol to promotion and was named MOD champion at the RAF Scampton qualifier but all was not well with my play. I stumbled through that tournament playing some ugly chess and I was getting a bit of stick/banter/grief

from the rest of the UK contingent in Berlin for my passive play so it was time to bring out Mr Hyde.

1. e4 c5 2. b3!?

It's common knowledge that a lot of 'booking up' goes on during the NATO Championship. If you'd ever bothered to look up my games online you'd have seen some dreadful performances from my 1.c4 / 1.d4 repertoire. I've never played 1.e4 in a competitive match but I took a quick look at it roughly 30 minutes before the start of play and thought that the 2.b3 variation can be aggressive and looks easy to play - so I took an uncalculated gamble that I could wing it more than my opponent. I could tell by his body language that he definitely wasn't expecting what I played, so I knew we were in for an unfamiliar game at least! Sometimes you've got to speculate to accumulate.

2...Nc6 3. Bb2 d6 4. f4 e5 5. Nf3 exf4

I had expected Nc6, d6 and e5 to come quickly to the try to blunt my bishop. Alas, the f-pawn is tempting bait though, and he took it. There were a few ideas behind this: I get quick development, the dark squared bishop comes back alive and stifles his kingside development and it isn't clear where he's going to put his king. Also, higher graded players will generally take a pawn and try to convert it in an endgame - I'm fairly good at defending pawn down endgames so I was content to cross that bridge if I had to come to it. I had a vision to castle queenside and breaking with d4.

6. Bc4 Be6 7. Qe2 Qd7

As this game will show, black neglected to develop his kingside whilst I managed to get fully developed and strike first. He doesn't have many options to develop - Nf6 and Be7 seem forced - and once I play Nc3 - Nd5 there could be some problems on the a1-h8 diagonal.

8. Nc3 Bxc4 9. Qxc4 Ne5 10. Qe2

This is an interesting position because I have four pieces developed to black's two. Also, what I notice is that I am the only player with a decent pawn break in the centre. Once I castle long I'm going to use my lead in development and bust open the centre to dramatic effect.

10...Ne7

I feel this was an incorrect move. His idea is to bolster the e5 knight but it is slightly too slow.

11. O-O-O O-O-O?

I really feel that black should have just tried to develop and castle kingside.

Even if it gives me an edge, it would have been better than queenside castling because my pieces can flow into his position quickly and he has no counter play.



12. d4

Let's open it up and start attacking.

12...cxd4 13. Rxd4

My thinking here was to put the rook on a4 because it'll be permanently threatening the queenside and cannot be kicked easily without black making weaknesses in his pawn structure. Black's pieces lack coordination and mine can all smoothly flow to the queenside. My plan was just move everything across!

13...N7c6 14. Ra4

14.Nxe5. I briefly looked at this line but didn't want to go into it. If Nxe5 then I'm simplifying a bit too much for my liking but if black takes the bait of d4 he's busted! In hindsight the tactic isn't too hard but I didn't want to take the risk messing it up during the game.

14...Be7 15.Nd5 f5?? 16. Rxa7

I think that there was an element of frustration in black's f5 push. He has no counter play and missed the Rxa7 motif. I think this all extends from his worse position from the opening and then trying to force the issue to get back into the game.

16...Qe6 17.Rxb7!! I challenge anyone out there to find a game where both sides had castled queenside and white plays Rd4 > Ra4 > Rxa7 > Rxb7 and black was powerless to touch the rook through the whole manoeuvre!

17...Rd7

17...Kxb7 All roads lead to Rome. 18.Qb5+ Ka7

a) 18...Ka8 19.Nc7+ Ka7 20.Qa6+ Kb8 21.Qb6+ Kc8 22.Nxe6;

b) 18...Kc8 19.Qa6+ Kb8 (19...Kd7 20.Qb7+ Ke8 21.Nc7+ Kf7 22.Nxe6) 20.Qb6+ Ka8 21.Nc7#;

19.Qb6+ Ka8 20.Nc7#]

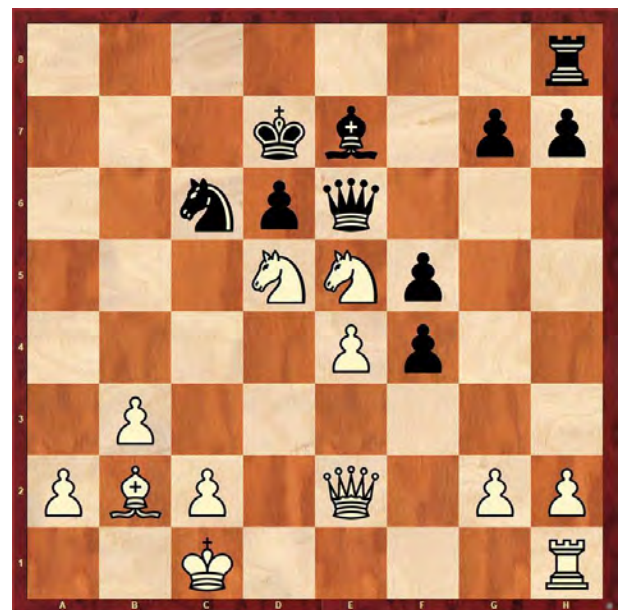
18. Rxd7

Stockfish recommends the ice cold Rb6 for a quick knockout but from a practical human point of view the damage is done - I'm a pawn up, two connected outside passed pawns, his king is exposed in the centre and I'm about to trade off and make his position worse. There is no need to waste time looking for ice cold computer moves.

18.Rb6 The battery of the rook and queen is deadly, threats of checkmate mean black's running out of moves. 18...Ra7 19.Qb5 Kd8 20.Nxe5 dxe5 21.Rxc6 Bd6 22.exf5 Qh6 23.Qb6+ Kd7 24.Rxd6+ Qxd6 25.Qxa7+ Kc6 26.Ne7+ Qxe7 27.Qxe7 Effectively forced checkmate after Rb6 but not a very human way to play.

18...Kxd7 19. Nxe5+

Qa6 was a serious alternative but I didn't want to give a chance for him to bring his rook into play with Rc8. Let's try to keep it simple.



19...dxe5

Horrible but necessary move - it opens the d-file against the king but the alternatives aren't better.

20. Rd1

Fundamentals. Line the rook up against the king with the powerful threat of discovered check.

20...Bd6 21. Nb6+ Ke7 22. Nc4 Bc7 23. Ba3+ Kf7 24. exf5 Qxf5 25. Nd6+ Bxd6



26. Qc4+!

This is the key move of the combination that wins a piece.

26...Qe6 27. Qxe6+ Kxe6 28. Rxd6+ Kf5 29. Rxc6

Now, we've transitioned to an endgame. I'm easily winning but I just need to be careful to watch out for the dangerous running black pawns. Even at this stage I'm thinking high level about how I could give the bishop up to achieve an easily winning rook + pawn endgame.

29...e4 30. Kd2

Stage 1 - get the king in front of the pawns to act as a defender.

30...g5 31. Rc5+ Kg4 32. Ke2 Ra8 33. Bb2 Rxa2 34. Bf6

Stage 2 - secure the queenside passed pawns and get the bishop active.

34...h6 35. Bg7 Ra6 36. b4

Stage 3 - get the passed pawns running!

36... Rd6 37. b5 f3+ 38. gxf3+ exf3+ 39. Ke1

I believe that this is the best technical way to play the king - keep in front of the pawn and don't allow the rook to infiltrate.

39...Re6+ 40. Re5

I think that Be5 is better in hindsight, but with my time starting to get short I took the quick practical decision to not get stuck in a pin. Be5 is better because black is almost in zugzwang - there are few moves for him and I can start to push the queenside pawns - and the bishop defends h2.

40...Rg6 41. Re7 Kh3 42. Be5

The plan was to plant the bishop on f2 and then trade the bishop for the black pawns and leave me with a winning rook + pawn endgame.

42...Kg2 43. Bg3

Preventing f2+...

43...h5 44. Bf2 g4 45. b6 h4 46. b7 g3 47. hxg3 hxg3 48. Bxg3 Rxg3

I did calculate that Re2+! was also a viable alternative but I was reluctant because it would allow a black pawn onto his 7th and it will still most likely trade off into a queen + pawn vs rook endgame. The variation that I chose was also winning on the account of both pawns promoting but the black rook and queen are disconnected and I have the first check meaning that there is a very high chance that I will either checkmate him or pick up one of the loose pieces.

49. b8=Q

This is winning for white but I thought just get the job done. If there is a mistake in time trouble I could potentially lose this. Don't be a hero, don't allow a pawn onto the 7th rank and keep it simple.

49...f2+ 50. Kd2 f1=Q 51. Re2+ Kh3 52. Qh8+

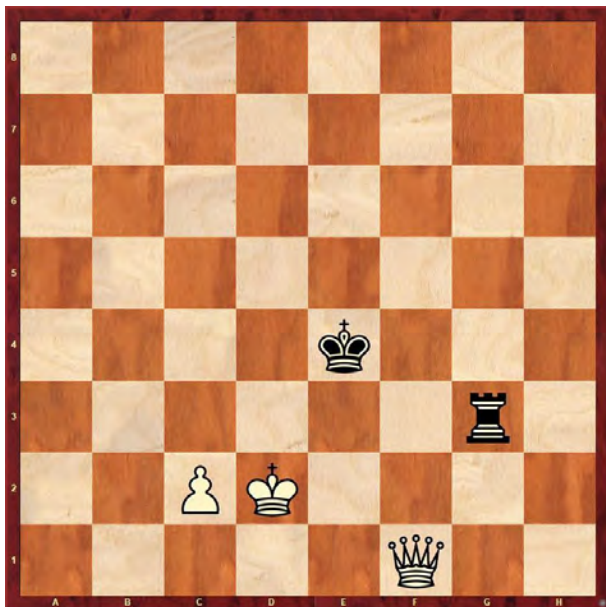
Qc8+ leads to checkmate but I was running out of time and took the easy route to pick up the loose Queen

52.Qc8+ Kh4 53.Re4+ Kh5 54.Qh8+ Kg6 55.Qg8+ Kh5 56.Qh7+ Kg5 57.Qg7+ Kf5 58.Re5+ Kf4 59.Qf6+ Kg4 60.Rg5+ Kh3 61.Qxf1+ Kh2 62.Rh5+ Rh3 63.Rxh3#.

52...Kg4 53. Qg7+ Kh4 54. Qh6+ Kg4 55. Re4+ Kf5 56. Qf8+ Kxe4 57. Qxf1

(see diagram opposite) Here black staggered on in the hope that I'd blunder but I managed to march the pawn up the board with little effort.

There were moments in the queen + pawn vs rook endgame where I could have traded the queen for the rook and pushed the pawn but then I thought - don't be a hero and grind it out - just walk the pawn up the board and don't get skewered and you'll be fine.



Ed, I am sure that Michael won't mind but I will give the rest of the moves to the game - as found on the ChessBase database. It certainly demonstrates as Michael says himself that he is a Jekyll and Hyde character at the chess board - and probably off it too - and one has to be very wary of which MF will arrive at the board. He is capable of losing a piece for no reason or simply wiping you off the board with a brilliant combination. I think the common sense advice would be to prepare for anything. Nice game.

57...Rg5 58. Qd3+ Kf4 59. Qd4+ Kf5 60. c4 Ke6 61. Kc3 Rf5 62. Kb4 Rf7 63. Qd5+ Ke7 64. c5 Rf1 65. Qd6+ Ke8 66. c6 Rb1+ 67. Ka5 Rc1 68. c7 Ra1+ 69. Kb4 Rb1+ 70. Ka3 Ra1+ 71. Kb2

1-0



A Titanic Struggle from Round 4 Notes by Dave Tucker

Darius Sycz POL (2215) - Dave Onley UK (2103)
30th NATO Chess Championship Berlin (4),
King's Indian Sämisch

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.f3 O-O

The Sämisch variation was once a fearsome weapon for white often leading to crushing kingside



attacks. It seems to have fallen out of favour in recent times. After the usual 6.Be3 an effective counter is 6...c5 which gives black a lot of play. GM Gufeld once wrote "ask the knight on g1 what he thinks about the Samisch" because it is often blocked in.

6.Nge2 e5 7.Be3 c6 8.d5 cxd5 9.cxd5 a6

This has been a popular line for around 60 years! The usual idea for white is to play either 10.Qd2 or 10.g4 and immediately start a kingside attack

10.a4?!

It is hard to see the point of this move. White must have regretted this later when he castled (queenside)

10...a5 11.Nc1 Nh5 12.Nd3 f5

It is vital to play actively as black in this opening.

13.Qd2 Na6 14.Bg5 Bf6 15.Bh6 Rf7 16.O-O-O f4 17.Kb1 Kh8 18.Be2 Qb6

It seems that Black has good possibilities on the queenside while White is somewhat stalled on the other flank.

19.g4 fxg3 20.Be3 Qd8 21.Rdg1 g2!

Dave avoids opening the h file by gxh2 although it might have been playable.

22.Rxg2 Nb4 23.R(g)-g1 Bg7 24.Nb5 Nxd3 25.Bxd3 Nf5 26.h4

After the initial skirmishes White stands better.

26...Qf8 27.Bc2?

White wants to preserve his two bishops. It appears that 27.Bxf4 is strong although one is generally reluctant to open the long black diagonal. Here 27...exf4 28.h5! Or 27...Rxf4 28.Nc7! Favour white according to the computer but both still lead to complex play.

27...Bd7 28.Nc7 Rc8 29.Ne6?

A faulty idea after which the advantage swings to Black.

29...Nxe6 30.dxe6 Bxe6 31.h5 gxh5 32.Bd1 Rfc7 33.Rxh5 Bg8?!

Understandable given the intention for White to double rooks on the h file. The computer gives 33...Rc1+ 34.Qxc1 Rxc1+ as best.

34.Rhg5 Qf7

Threat Qa2 mate.

35.b3 Qf6 36.Qf2

In a tense position with both players short on time, white weakens. 36.Qh2! might have been able to prevent the ensuing fiasco.

36...d5! 37.Bd2 b6 38.Rf5 Qe7 39. Kb2 Qc5 40.Rg5

What else? It's a massacre now.

40...Qd4+ 41.Kb1 Qd3+



42.Ka1 Rc1+ 43.Bxc1 Rxc1+ 44.Ka2 Qb1+ 45.Ka3 Bf8+ 0-1

A beautiful finish. I think this was the best game played by a UK participant at the tournament.

(Ed: If 46.b4 then simply 46...axb4 mate).

When castling, remember that you are giving your opponent your king's address...

anon

Francois Simard CAN (1755) - Dave Tucker NATO 5 (1997)

30th NATO Chess Championship Berlin (3), Queen's Pawn Opening

1. d4 c5 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. g3 g6 4. Bg2 Bg7 5. O-O cxd4 6. Nxd4 Nc6 7. c3

passive.

7...O-O 8. Nd2 d5

Black is already slightly better.

9. N2f3 Re8



10. e3?!

10.Qa4 or 10.Nxc6 would be more active.

10...e5 11. Nb3 a5 12. h3 a4 13. Nbd2 Bf5 14. Ne1 h5

White's passive play has left me active all over the board. How best to increase the advantage is another matter.

15. Ndf3 Qd7 16. Kh2 Bh6

A first false step. 16...a3 is strong.

17. Nc2 g5 18. Ng1

White defends in depth.

18...e4

The computer prefers 18...g4.

19. Nd4 Nxd4 20. exd4 Ra6

I envisaged swinging this over to the g file to support a K side attack.

21. a3 Kg7

22. Be3 Rb6 23. Qd2 Kg6 24. Kh1

White removes his King from a possible knight check on g4. Later in the game it goes back and forward on the h1 and h2 squares.

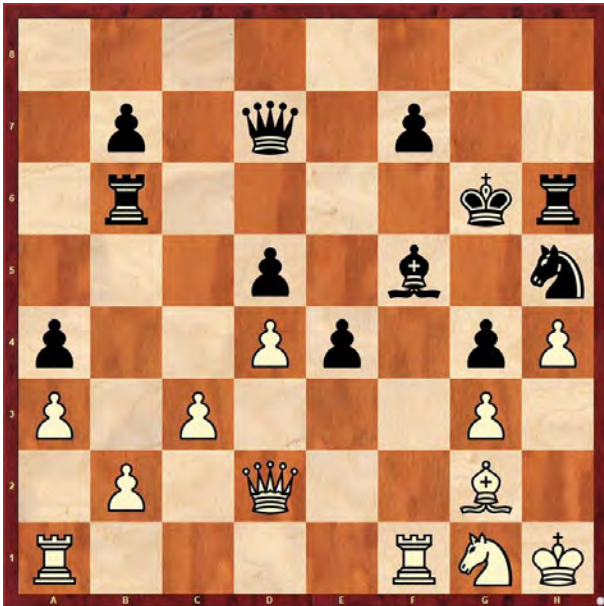
24...Rh8 25. f3 g4

25...Qc7!

26. fxc4 hxg4 27. Bxh6 Rxh6 28.h4

Despite previous weak play White has almost equalised here.

28...Nh5



29.Qg5+?

Played quickly. maybe White thought I had blundered a piece. 29.Ne2 was called for.}

29...Kh7 30. Kh2

either capture on f5 loses because of the knight fork on g3.

30...Ng7 31. Rf2 Rh5

31...Rbg6! was strong here.

32. Qe3 Qc7

threat Rxh4+.

33. Kh1 Bg6

Nf5 is in the offing.

34. Ne2 Rxb2 35. Nf4 Nf5!

decisive.

36. Qe1 Rxf2

36...Nxc3+ was stronger still.

37. Nxc5 Nxc3+ 38. Kg1 Rxc2+ 39. Kxc2 Nxc5

{Black has a decisive material advantage}

40. Rb1 e3 41. Rb4 Nf4+ 42. Kg1



42...Nh3+

no need to win the exchange with Ne3 because White's king is in a mating net.

43. Kf1 Bd3+

43...Qf4+ mates in 2.

44. Kg2 Be4+ 45. Kf1 Qf4+ 46. Ke2 Qf3# 0-1

Interlude



Ed: - I usually write the games into this magazine whilst listening to heavy metal. Could our esteemed Chairman Dave Ross have something to do with my latest treat. 'Ross the Boss' and their album 'Born of Fire' certainly get the juices flowing. You'll find it on YouTube (legitimately free) so do have a listen. The lead singer could well be our own Mr. Ross - on speed.

Laurence Cooper's 50th Birthday Blitz

16th July 2020

A report from Kevin Thurlow



IM Laurence Cooper in 2019

Many of you will remember Laurence Cooper performing with distinction in previous CSCA events. He usually celebrates his birthday by inviting friends round to his house for blitz events. Having realised that was not on for 2020, he decided to make use of Chess.com to run online events.

People logged in from far and wide to play some speed chess. The first three events were "Arena" style. You get paired with someone, finish the game and press a button to show you're ready to go again. Sometimes the pairing is immediate, which is a bit of a shock, but at least you have the option to go and make a cup of tea, before pressing the button. Obviously, the more games you play, the better the chance of winning the event.

The day started with a 55-player "5-minute Blitz" tournament, won by Marcus Harvey, who is 'only' a FM, but has a stratospheric Blitz rating. *(Ed, I coached him when he was about 9 years old and he was fast back then. Danny O'Byrne knows him well also).* Then came a 42-player 'bullet' tournament. In other words, players have one minute for all moves,

which was won by... Marcus Harvey. David Sedgwick bravely played in that.

The third event was a 46-player '3-minute Blitz' tournament, won by, yes, you guessed, Marcus Harvey. Your scribe finished 29th, having reduced a 5/7 start to 5/12, including a loss to David, who thus gained revenge for the previous online tournament we contested.

I was not planning to play the final event, a 9-round Swiss of '3-minutes + 2 seconds a move', partly as it is difficult to leave the computer, when the game might start without you. However, I then noticed that apart from the usual suspects, like Marcus Harvey, Keith Arkell etc, Matthew Sadler and Peter Svidler had entered. The latter is a strong Russian GM, who was introduced to cricket by Nigel Short, and now loves it. A week later, he was taking on Carlsen etc. in an online event. So I entered, in the hope of playing one of the GMs. Someone mentioned Peter in the message-board and I commented that I didn't expect him to play when England vs West Indies was on.

"As I won. I was actually ahead of Svidler at this stage"

He immediately replied that he had Cricinfo running in the background. 62 players started. I didn't see the results until afterwards, but Laurence got a nice birthday present of Cooper 1-0 Svidler in round 1 (and it was a proper game). As I won, I was actually ahead of Svidler at this stage!

A loss followed, then three more wins, so I was on 4/5, still ahead of Svidler, who had lost in Round 3 as well. At least some lower-rated players got the chance to play him. He quickly caught up, as I lost two more, then I drew in Round 8, before a final loss to Jovanka Houska. Matthew Sadler won with 7.5/9, ahead of Marcus Harvey and Peter Svidler on 7.

Quality players like Keith Arkell and Ameet Ghasi were on 6.5. and my 4.5 put me in 25th place, which was satisfactory given the strong opposition. Laurence scored 5 and finished 16th. Most of the games do not bear looking at, but there was some entertainment. I was playing under the name [JohanKjeldahl](#).

JohanKjeldahl (1891) - Alan Walton (2216) A91

Birthday Blitz 3/2 swiss. Chess.com (4), 16.07.2020
[kjt23]

1.c2-c4 f7-f5 2.d2-d4 Ng8-f6 3.Nb1-c3 e7-e6
4.g2-g3 Bf8-e7 5.Bf1-g2 0-0 6.e2-e3 d7-d6
7.Ng1-e2 c7-c6 8.0-0 e6-e5 9.b2-b3 Qd8-e8
10.Bc1-b2 Qe8-h5 11.Qd1-c2 Nb8-a6 12.a2-a3
Na6-c7 13.d4xe5 d6xe5 14.Ra1-d1 Bc8-e6
15.Nc3-b1 Nf6-d7 16.b3-b4 Be7-f6 17.Rd1-d2
Nd7-b6 18.c4-c5 Nb6-c4 19.Rd2-d1 Nc4xb2
20.Qc2xb2 Ra8-d8 21.Nb1-c3 e5-e4 22.Qb2-c2
Be6-c4 23.f2-f3 Bc4-d3 24.Qc2-b3+ Qh5-f7
25.Qb3xf7+ Kg8xf7 26.Rf1-e1 e4xf3 27.Bg2xf3
Bd3xe2 28.Nc3xe2 Rd8xd1 29.Re1xd1 Rf8-e8
30.Kg1-f2 Bf6-g5 31.Ne2-f4 Bg5xf4 32.e3xf4
Re8-e7



White has a slight advantage as the pawns are further advanced and he has bishop for knight with pawns both sides of the board, but it looks pretty level.

33.Rd1-d6 Nc7-b5 34.Rd6-d3 Kf7-e8 35.Bf3-h5+ g7-g6

And now the kingside pawns are attackable by the bishop.

36.Bh5-d1 Re7-d7 37.Rd3xd7 Ke8xd7

Fritz now thinks it is more level, but I think Black should have kept the rooks on.

38.a3-a4 Nb5-c3 39.Bd1-b3 Nc3-e4+ 40.Kf2-e3 Ne4-f6 41.Ke3-d4 Nf6-g4 42.h2-h3 Ng4-f2 43.h3-h4 Nf2-e4 44.Bb3-g8 Kd7-e7 45.Bg8xh7 Ke7-f6 46.Bh7-g8 Ne4xg3 47.Bg8-c4 Ng3-e4 48.Bc4-d3 Ne4-f2 49.Bd3-e2 Nf2-h3

And now the knight is running out of squares - Ne4 must have been better.

50.Kd4-e3 Nh3-g1 51.Be2-d1 Kf6-e6 52.h4-h5 g6xh5 53.Bd1xh5 Ke6-d5 54.Bh5-f7#

Oops. This is one great advantage of online chess. Over the board, you would have to shake hands, say, "hard luck old chap", and try to look sympathetic, whereas at home you can laugh out loud and generally celebrate.

JohanKjeldahl won by checkmate.

1-0

Accumulator73 (2049) - JohanKjeldahl (1905) [D53]

Birthday Blitz 3/2 swiss. Chess.com (5), 16.07.2020

1.d2-d4 Ng8-f6 2.c2-c4 e7-e6 3.Nb1-c3 d7-d5
4.Bc1-g5 Bf8-e7 5.e2-e3 0-0 6.Bf1-d3 h7-h6
7.Bg5-h4 Nb8-d7 8.Ng1-e2 c7-c5 9.Qd1-c2 b7-b6
10.f2-f3 Bc8-b7 11.0-0-0 Ra8-c8 12.c4xd5
Nf6xd5 13.Bh4xe7 Qd8xe7 14.Nc3xd5 Bb7xd5
15.d4xc5 Nd7xc5 16.Kc1-b1 Rf8-d8 17.Ne2-d4
e6-e5 18.Nd4-f5 Qe7-f6 19.e3-e4 Nc5xd3
20.Qc2xd3 Bd5xa2+ 21.Kb1xa2 Rd8xd3
22.Rd1xd3 Qf6-e6+ 23.Ka2-b1 Kg8-h7 24.Rh1-d1
g7-g6 25.Nf5-e3 a7-a5 26.Ne3-d5 Rc8-c5
27.Rd3-b3 b6-b5 28.Rb3-c3 Rc5xc3 29.Nd5xc3
b5-b4 30.Nc3-d5 Qe6-a6 31.Rd1-d2 b4-b3
32.Nd5-e3 Qa6-b6 33.Rd2-e2 Qb6-d4 34.Re2-e1
Qd4-d3+ 35.Kb1-c1 a5-a4

A neat Zugzwang, I thought. White cannot move any of his pieces, and he will soon run out of pawn moves. But now I have time to look, I could also just go a3 next move. 37.bxa3 Qc3+, 38. Kd1 b2, 39.Ke2 Qxe1+ 40.Kxe1 b1Q.] I have no idea who the opponent was, but he lives in Cape Town and we had a friendly chat afterwards! A couple of players from Australia took part as well, and Laurence must have been pleased with the turn-out.

JohanKjeldahl won by resignation. 0-1



Allan Nelder—always in the driving seat (or in this case, the cockpit) for this game.

Now for a delightful game, selected by Dave Tucker, which both he and Allan Nelder have made comments. One only has to invite Allan once to 'go for it' and he was happy to oblige here.

Comments by Allan unless marked Dave Tucker.

Vaidotas Bublys LIT (1863) - Allan Nelder (1645)
NATO 1

30th NATO Chess Championship Berlin (3),
English Opening

1. c4 Nf6 2. Nc3 g6 3. g3 Bg7 4. Bg2 d6 5. e3 e5
6. Nge2 c6 7. e4

a loss of tempo having played e3.

7...Be6 8. Qb3 Qc7

8...b5!?

9. a4 Nbd7 10. d3 Nc5 11.Qc2 Ng4?!

11...a5! would secure the knight on c5 with advantage to black - Dave Tucker.

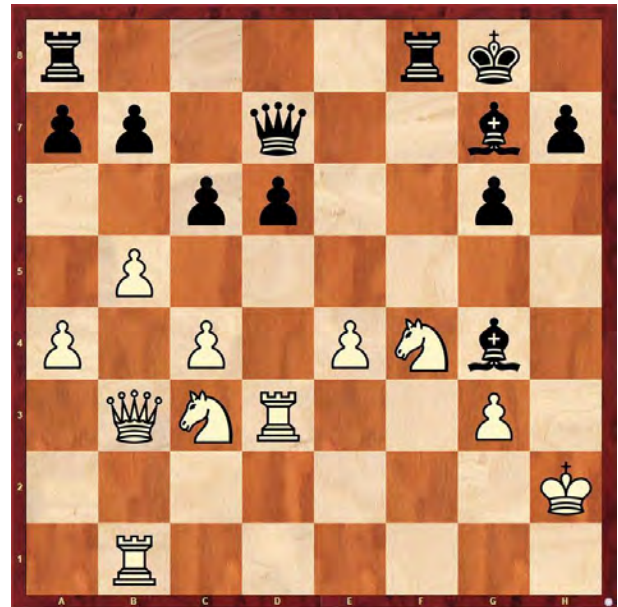
12. b4 Nd7 13. h3 Nh6 14. Be3 f5 15. Rb1 Nf6
16. Qb3 O-O 17. O-O Nh5 18. f4 Qd7 19. Kh2 Nf6

setting a little trap which wins a pawn.

20. b5??

up to here the game is roughly level with White even having some space advantage on the queenside but this move is a catastrophic oversight from which there is no way back. (Dave Tucker)

20...Nhg4+ 21. hxc4 Nxc4+ 22. Kg1 Nxe3 23. Rf3 Nxc2 24. Kxc2 fxe4 25. dxe4 Bg4 26. Rd3 Bh3+ 27. Kh2 exf4 28. Nxf4 Bg4



28...Be6!

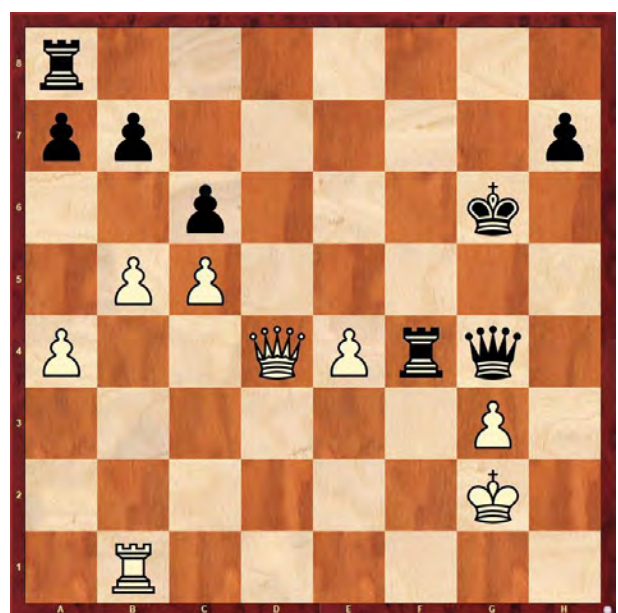
29. c5+ Kh8 30. Rxd6 Qe7

I have too many threats on the K-side to worry about his counterplay.

31. Kg2 Be5 32. Rxc6 Qd7! 33.Rxc6

Possibly forced, otherwise Qd2+ is curtains.

33...Qxc6 34. Nce2 Bxf4 35. Qc3+ Kg8 36. Qc4+ Kg7 37. Qd4+ Kg6 38. Nxf4+ Rxf4



The flurry of checks has not saved White - Dave Tucker. 39. Rh1 Raf8 40. Rh4 Rf2+ 0-1

Our front cover



Image from Commons Wikimedia

CHESS AND ART

I have made notes about a new book on chess in art later in this issue and the book prompted me to think about selecting a piece for our front cover.

Thomas Eakin's 'Chess Players' is a famous painting. The figure on the left of the chessboard, playing the white pieces, is Bertrand Gardel. The figure on the right, playing black is George W. Holmes. Finally there is Benjamin Eakins, the painter's father who connects the two protagonists, silently observing the game as he ponders the position on the board. The theme of Eakins's painting is not only a triple-portrait of intimates playing chess, but also of their studious deliberation of a particular game.

There are many paintings of chess players and they often illustrate imaginary encounters and rarely record games actually observed by the painter.

Most painters focused on the setting of the match, placing it in an exotic or a historical context, but

rarely did they offer legible details so that one might read the progress of the pieces on the board or distinguish a winning or losing position. Not so here. This is the position...



We do not know if it is white or black to move. If it is white the engine gives 0:00 but if it is black to move then black plays ...f3+ and is +7:49 up.

It could almost be a scene of long retired military officers in the mess!

50 YEARS AGO



Back in 1970 (was that really 50 years ago?) Boris Spassky was the Chess Champion of the World, but it would not last much longer. The meteor that was Bobby Fischer was hurtling towards the throne and the world would subsequently fall in love with chess.

Dave Tucker was—and is—a Fischer fan and plays classical chess very much in his style. He understands the openings very well and I would encourage UKAFCA members to speak to him about the Sicilian in particular if you get the chance at one of our tournaments. Just ask him - I promise he won't bite.

You'll learn something new, I guarantee it. Here is a game he played in 1970 and it makes me think how much I would love to see 'Tucker and Fischer' sitting down to analyse it.

Dave Tucker - Clive Tadiello

Chess Club Championship 1970

Sicilian Najdorf

Notes by Dave Tucker

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 a6 6. Bg5 e6 7. f4 b5



Carl posed a question as to which books had most influenced our members. In my case I would vote for 'My 60 Memorable Games' by Bobby Fischer. It was first published in 1969 and although largely written by Larry Evans, it contained extraordinary insights into the games of the great Bobby.

When compared to Alekhine's Best Games, where there are no losses and every game seems to be an inevitable result of superior play, the American gives three losses and also criticises many of his own moves. It was altogether a breath of fresh air. At the time of this game I was 17 years old and that was just about the time that the 'Fischer Boom' started in earnest and later reached a peak in 1972.

Everybody tried to play like Bobby, including myself. I was no prodigy then but this was my first win against a player over 180, who was the reigning club champion.

The Polugaevsky Variation. This can lead to razor sharp play and was never refuted in the originator's lifetime. It is not played nowadays at the top level which might suggest computers have spiked its gun. Other equally sharp ideas here are 7...Qb6 (Poisoned Pawn Variation) and 7...Be7 (The Main Line).

8. Qf3?!

Not very testing. My opening knowledge at that time was largely based on MCO 10th edition (1964).
8.e5! leads to mayhem}

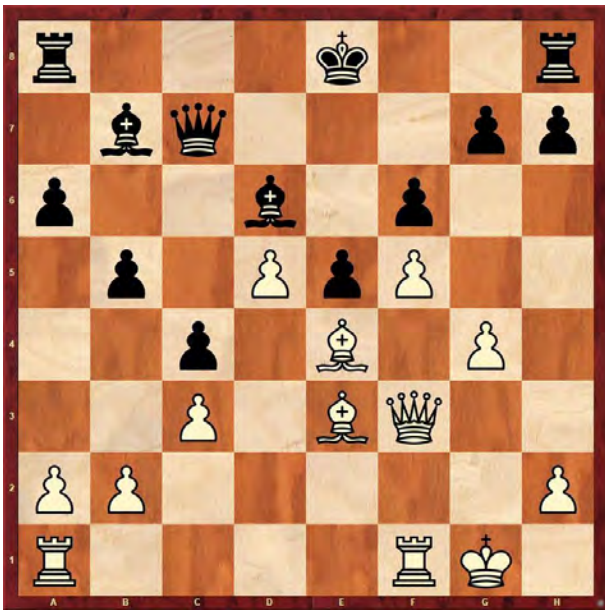
8...Bb7 9. Bd3 Be7 10. f5 e5 11. Nb3 Nbd7 12. Be3 Qc7 13. O-O Nc5?

Instead 13...b4! 14.Nd5 Nxd5 15.exd5 Nf6 and Black is better.

14. Nxc5 dxc5 15. Nd5 Nxd5 16. exd5 c4 17. Be4 Bd6? 18. c3

18.f6! would have been strong. Black now stops it.

18...f6 19. g4



The exuberance of youth. Many games that I have lost over the years have resulted from advancing pawns in front of my King.

19...h6 20. Rf2

I was thinking about an all-out assault if he castled short.

20...O-O-O 21. a4

(Ok, I will probe that side instead.)

21...Bc5??

Black is under pressure but this is a gross blunder.

22. axb5?

22.d6! wins a piece.

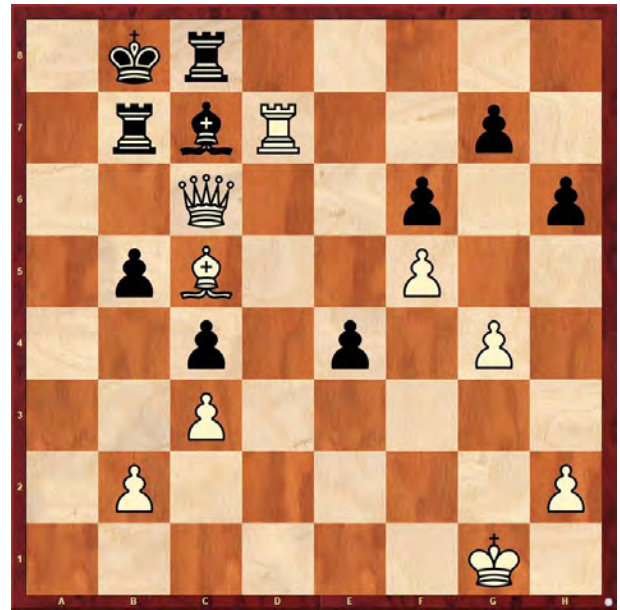
22...axb5 23. d6

I didn't miss it twice.

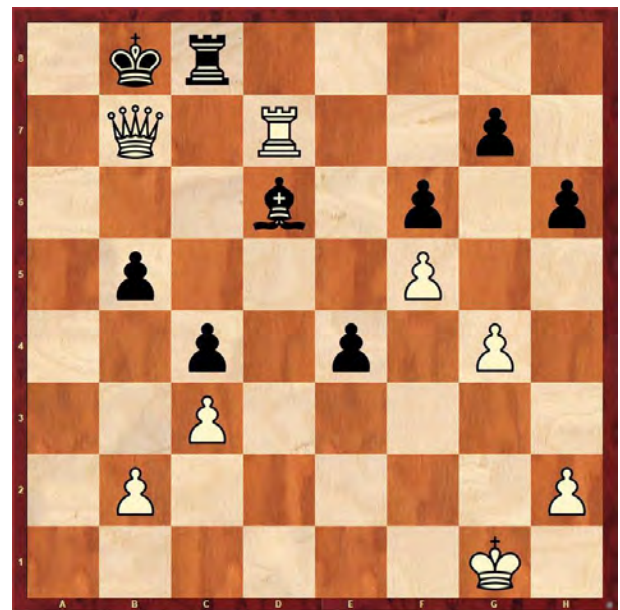
23...Bxd6

The weakest capture but the game is lost anyway.

24. Ra7 Rd7 25. Bxb7+ Qxb7 26. Rxb7 Rxb7 27. Qc6+ Bc7 28. Rd2 Kb8 29. Rd7 Rc8 30. Bc5 e4



I was thinking about an all-out assault if he castled short...



A last gasp effort; maybe I will overlook Bxh2+.

31. Bd6 Bxd6 32. Qxb7# 1-0

ANATOLY KARPOV V CARL PORTMAN



The Portman stare didn't bother Karpov at all, but the excited crowd stared at the board throughout.

PLACE: Chartres, France

DATE: 22 August 2019

Anatoly Karpov Russia (2617) - Carl Portman England (1868)

Simultaneous Exhibition as part of French Chess Championships 2019

Result - Karpov wins but Portman the last player to finish!

What, me? Go over the top on an article headline. Never!

Oh, okay then I admit it. I am proud and want to shout about it so please indulge me on this occasion. A dream of some 43 years was realised in August 2019 when I played former World Champion, and my childhood chess idol Anatoly Karpov.

I had attended a Karpov masterclass the day before when I asked him about chess in prisons and his answer was quite remarkable, but that's for another day. Forward to the evening of 22nd August and



The top six tables and the games are in progress

the main square in the magnificent city of Chartres in France. I was very lucky to be given a VIP place by the French Chess Federation to play Karpov. The square was packed and there were about 50-60 boards. It took some time to dawn on me that Karpov would only be playing 15 of these whilst two or three other masters would take on the rest, so I was really privileged. A good crowd had gathered, it was a warm evening and finally I was going not just to meet 'Tolya' but to actually play him.

If I am being totally honest, I have never warmed to him as a person, but that is besides the point. I always admired him for his chess prowess. He is a legend of the game after all.

I was the only Englishman in the contest and I just wanted to give him a good game. As it turned out, I did and I am proud to say that I was the very last board to finish. Playing Karpov 1-1 is something that I won't ever forget.

I am extremely grateful to the French Chess Federation for giving me a place in the line up. They showed that organising open air chess in a city square is possible with a great team of enthusiasts.

Anatoly Karpov RUS (2617) - Carl Portman Eng (1868)

Simultaneous Exhibition, Chartres, France

22 August 2020

QGD Semi-Slav Opening

1. c4

Naturally, I had prepared something against Anatoly, pretty much figuring that he would play 1...d4 which he does a lot these days. Therefore 1.c4 came as a disappointment to me but I thought I might still get to the position I wanted by transposition.

1...e6

A very flexible move waiting to see what White will play.

2. d4

Aha, now I have got what I wanted...

2...d5 3. Nc3 a6!?



The Janowski Variation of the Queen's Gambit Declined. This is what I had hoped for. I noted that none other than Magnus Carlsen had played it and I could actually understand why. White is certainly encouraged to take on d5 otherwise black is threatening to take on c4 and hold on to the pawn. Rather amusingly I had managed to play ...a6 against the former World Champion.

This is something that GM Tony Miles did with better success but on the first move, in 1980 in a very famous game. Karpov paused at my table after I played ...a6 then made his move. I wonder if he was thinking about that Miles game...

4. cxd5 exd5 5. Bf4 c6 6. e3 Bd6 7. Bg3



Chess is a funny old game. In my preparation I knew that I wanted to play my knight to e7 here followed by ...Bf5 but there was something about the 'live' situation with Karpov arriving quickly at my board that made me play a different move.

7...Nf6?!

7... Ne7 8. Bd3 Bf5 9. Nf3 O-O 10. O-O with a steady game.

7... Bf5 is also possible and if 8. Qb3 b5 showing how useful 3...a6 is.

8. Bd3 I was annoyed with myself. Now I cannot put my bishop on f5, but where should it go?

8...Be6 9. Nge2!

Who am I to give AK an exclamation mark, yet in the warmth of that French evening and with another 14 boards playing against him he instantly played this move which is better than 9.Nf3 because it is heading for f4. If I remove it, then White will retain the bishop pair.

9...Bxg3

I wasn't sure at all about this but again Karpov was at the board pretty quickly. With no passes allowed one is compelled to move instantly he arrives.

10. hxg3

I had no intention of castling short now that he had the open h-file. It would have been meat and drink for a former world champion to win quickly.

10...Nbd7 11. Nf4



My spider sense was in overdrive here and I sensed tactics for White and I could go down very quickly if not very careful.

11...Qe7 12. a3

Putting a stop to any incursion by the Black queen on b4.

12...b5

I knew this was a bit dodgy and the c-file would be good for White but I wanted to try to be active.

13. Na2

Who am I to give Anatoly Karpov an exclamation mark?

He played this quickly, and I did not expect it. Of course, it is perfectly logical. The steed wants to go to b4, hitting the c6 square. I was beginning to get that sinking feeling here but I chivvied myself up and reminded myself that there were still plenty of pieces on the board. I was hoping that the players on the other boards were giving him plenty to think about.

13...c5

Possibly giving me an isolated d-pawn if he takes, but again I wanted to try to be as active as I could.

14. dxc5 Nxc5 15.Nb4

Ganging up on the d-pawn of course. I could not select a move at this point but Karpov was only a couple of boards away. What to play, WHAT TO PLAY????}



15...Nxd3+

I knew this wasn't best, but it was a move and Karpov was already standing in front of me!

16. Qxd3 Qd7

The b7 square was a bit better here but there we are. We cannot be perfect.

17. Nh5!

Now I really was trying to think deeply, but again 'Tolya' was on the way. He had demolished a few boards already so time was getting ever shorter.

17...Nxf5

There was basically no choice. *17... O-O?? Would be a terrible mistake in the heat of the moment. It's easy to panic after all. 18. Nxf6+ gxf6 19. Qxh7# Truly an 'oops' moment.*

18. Rxf5

Which pawn? The h or g pawns?

18...g6?!

Not best and I knew it. Actually, even 18...f5 was possible but still not the best move which was probably 18...h6. I realised of course that my move opened up gaping holes on the dark squares on the K-side.

19. Nxd5

It had been coming but I refused to panic.

19...Bxd5

Forced as there were just too many good squares for the knight.

20. Rxd5 Qe7 21. Rd1 O-O 22. Rd7 Qf6 23. Qd4

He was coming around very quickly now and there really was little time to think. In principle I did not want to exchange queens. I would just be a pawn down against one of the legends of chess in rook and pawn endgame, and who wants that? On the other hand - he was on his way again like a hyena sniffing around a kill. I was going to put my queen on c6 aiming at g2 but as he appeared I played...

23...Qxd4

Which the engine thinks is probably best.

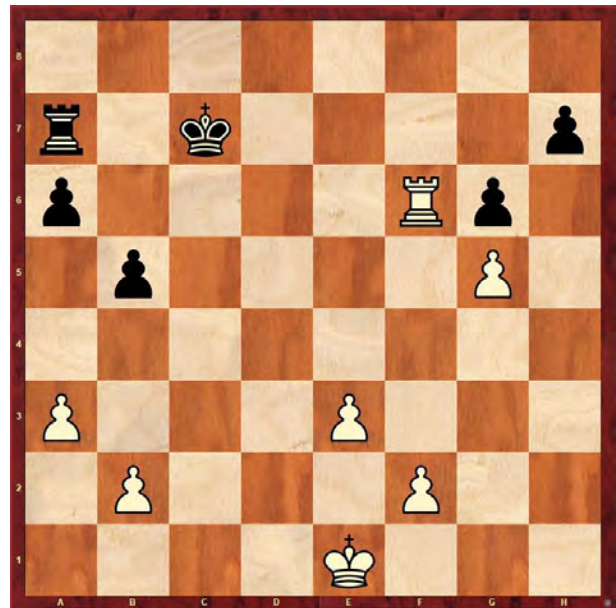
24. R1xd4

Okay, I am lost but I thought I would play a few more moves and see what happened. There were two boards left so it was a very quick turnaround time now.

24...f5 25. g4 fxe4 26. Rxe4 Rf7 27. Rg4 Ra7 28. Rxa7 Rxa7 29. Rd6

An example of a superior rook, being very flexible and controlling more squares than its adversary.

29...Kf7 30. Rb6 Ke7 31. g4 Kd7 32. g5 Kc7 33. Rf6



Now here, I knew of course that I had to keep the rooks on but **now suddenly it was one on one and I was the last board playing. A French organiser shouted out 'Ze Englishman is last to finish! And he smiled at me. Now it was just the two of us in a rook and pawn ending with crowd and TV watching.** I could not have dreamed it better. I was not at all nervous, in fact I was loving it, but I quickly made an error. I should have placed my king on d8.

33...Kc8??

33... Kd8 34. Rf8+ Ke7 35. Rf6 b4! 36. axb4 Rb7 37. Rf4 Rxa6 Rxb4 38. Ra7+ Ke6 39. Rxh7 White will win but there are still a few moves in it.

34. Rf8+ Kb7 35. Rf7+ Kb6 36. Rxa7 Kxa7 37. Kd2 Kb6 38. Kd3 Kc5 39. b4+ Kd5 40. f4 Ke6 41. e4 Kd6 42. Kd4 I now resigned.

1-0



A large crowd enjoyed the chess

Karpov only played 15 boards up 'this end'

The crowd gave AK a round of applause and a couple of folks were kind enough to shake my own hand, presumably for fighting hard. Reflecting on the game, I do not think my opening choice was bad at all for a simultaneous exhibition but it is important to know the different lines really well.

Karpov stopped and pondered at my board on several occasions, so I knew I was setting him some questions at least. Last to finish and a 42 move game, beaten but not crushed. I was very happy.

He is not very keen on signing autographs for people and he would only do so for the 15 participants so my signed copy of Karpov's memoirs is a particular treasure to me.

I did however sneakily get AK to autograph a poster from the event and I gave it to a very nice Frenchman to give to his very young son (and Karpov fan), so with that good feeling, and the really enjoyable chess experience I departed for a beer in a nearby bar (with the smell of bread and coffee still lingering in the square) and tried to commit as much of that special evening to memory as I could.

After 43 years I have achieved my goal. I never thought I actually would. The trouble is, what to dream about next? Thanks for listening!

KARPOV QUIZ

Welcome to my Anatoly Karpov quiz. I am going to ask 7 questions and I shall give a prize to the first correct winner drawn out of the hat by Mrs Portman.

- What is Karpov's Nickname?
- He played Victor Korchnoi in 1981 for the World Championship. Where was the match played?
- What is his sister's name?
- How old was he when he became world chess champion in 1975?
- Who is his favourite chess player of all time?
- What is his favourite hobby?
- What is his peak rating?



Anatoly Karpov in Chartres August 2020

Photo by Carl Portman

Note: The prize will be a glorious pint of your favourite beer when we next meet up. I can't afford to keep posting books.

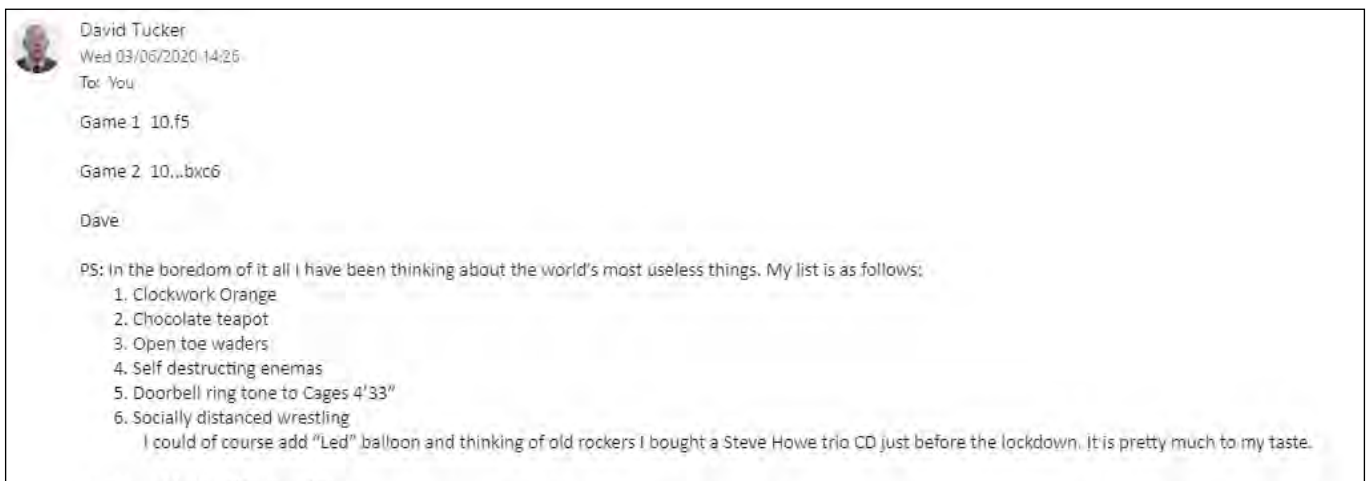
I will hold good to my promise with the beer :-)

Mr. Tucker during Covid lockdown...

The lockdown was a bit depressing, let's face it. I mean we chess players couldn't get our over the board fix and trying to find a toilet roll was something else.

Yet people kept in touch, through the power of the internet. Dave Tucker and I agreed to play a correspondence match with one white and one black each, just to stay in touch. I am sure that Dave will write about that but I wanted to share a very funny email that he sent me during June that clearly shows that he literally had too much time on his hands.

Here it is:



Now then. Let's get to the bottom of this. **Clockwork Orange**. I have been contemplating this one. Is a clockwork orange available on the market? If so is it in any way useful? Why would an orange be clockwork? No? I can't find an answer to that one either. What about a chocolate teapot. Now then, a **chocolate teapot** could be useful if it were for example given as an Easter 'egg' gift. They have all sorts of shapes and sizes. One would be silly to actually fill the receptacle with tea, but kids would love to eat it piece by piece so I am going to say that it might not be totally useless.

Open toe waders. Mmmmn. Well Moses had some didn't he? Were they not called 'sandals' by any other name. He must have walked into the sea at Galilee or somewhere whilst he was on holiday. Waders are meant to keep you dry - open toes means you are wet. I will give that one to Dave.

Self destructing enemas. First of all, I cannot account for where Dave's mind wanders off to whilst he is home alone. He may have been the recipient of a very nasty experience on this one or it could be that his sexual proclivities simply got the better of the man, but I am duty bound to take this head on (Oh-err) *Enema - a procedure in which liquid or gas is injected into the rectum, to expel its contents*.

Can an enema actually self-destruct? I mean it is a process rather than a thing isn't it? I mean, there is an instrument involved so maybe that's what Mr T is thinking about. But then if it self destructed it might explode. No, I am sorry - I have no idea where I am going with this so I am going to stand well back from it - with good reason. I can't get the image out of my head now, so moving on...

I had no idea what **Cages 4'33** actually was. I Googled it and now I do. I am leaving you to do the same dear reader and make your own mind up. Suffice to say it is crap.

Socially distanced wrestling is in my view, the best and funniest of the lot. I think we should try to set this up. It is either doable or it isn't. Dave Tucker v Mike Fielding would be utterly compelling.

Do me a favour Dave - take the **red** pill and see where you go from there.



Beware the Redhill Ripper

The Redhill Ripper, also known in some parts as Kevin Thurlow is a dangerous adversary. I cannot say for certain that it is he who walks the streets of old London Town on foggy gas-lit evenings but I can vouch for his surprise attacks at the chessboard.

He may come across as a quietly spoken man, with a keen sense of humour and a passion for the Royal game but his files reveal a disturbing past. The man likes owls, for one thing. Who can trust a man who likes, and has an impressive knowledge of these mysterious creatures of the night?

He enjoys cricket. Test him. There's almost nothing he doesn't know about that game. He'll bowl you over with his knowledge. You'll rarely get him stumped and I can tell you - he's a devil at the crease.

Then there is Leeds United. The man bears a grudge that they have rarely won anything—indeed they were cheating in several key games. And don't even mention snooker, he is a dead shot.

But we cannot judge the ripper for his predilections. We are here to enjoy the two chess games he submitted. This is how a (chess) killer goes about his work. Plotting, scheming...preparing.

Here's how he became Redhill club champion in 1988.

Kevin Thurlow (2050) - George Coomber (1990)

Redhill Club Championship 1988

Sicilian Pelikan (Sveshnikov)

Notes by Kevin Thurlow

I was reminiscing about my Redhill Chess Club days recently, and recalled a player originally from Poland called Emil. He was a great enthusiast and played until his death in his mid 80s, Every time he finished a game, he wanted to play another one.

We both played in Warsaw in a Rapidplay tournament and I pointed out old-timer Viktor Korchnoi at lunch, so Emil went over and said, "I can't understand why you're a better player than me - I was playing chess before you were born." Viktor laughed... Emil didn't care for niceties such as not disturbing a grandmaster.

Not quite in the same vein, he was congratulating me on the way I had played one game in a club match, and said, "You play very well, except when you play with arrogance." I was shocked by this assertion as you can imagine, but he was right of course.

Remembering this conversation, I then remembered the Club Championship final of 1988, (although I couldn't recall the exact year until I found the games) when I played two of the leading rivals in successive games. You have to be slightly arrogant to play the same opening system, but with different colours, against two people you have to beat.

Interestingly, Sveshnikov played at Guernsey a few years ago, and every time he had black, I looked at his opening position, but despite someone optimistically playing 1.e4 against him, he avoided playing his own system.

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5

The Sveshnikov (or Pelikan) Variation. Pelikan was a player, not a bird. This system was very popular then, and with Magnus Carlsen playing it, the popularity has returned. George had beaten me with it earlier in the season, so he decided to try it again.

Presumably, he did not fear any improvements. Obviously, white has the problem that he has to move the knight for a third time, but black has a horrible d-pawn and a big hole on d5. The next few moves are logical.

6. Ndb5 d6 7. Bg5 a6 8. Bxf6 gxf6 9. Na3 b5 10. Nd5 f5

Black undermines the centre. White has a great knight on d5, and a rather silly one on a3. Black really needs to develop his pieces, and find a safe space for the king somehow. White can play Bd3 here, or c3 then Nc2 - e3 (unless ...f4 has happened), or even c4, but then Black may be able to play Nd4, seizing a strong outpost. However, John Nunn had been playing a rather interesting idea, so I had spent some time preparing for this game.}

11. Bxb5!?

I played 11.Bd3 the first time.

11...axb5 12. Nxb5 Ra4

Probably best. e.g. 12...Qa5+ 13.b4 Nxb4 14.Nbc7+

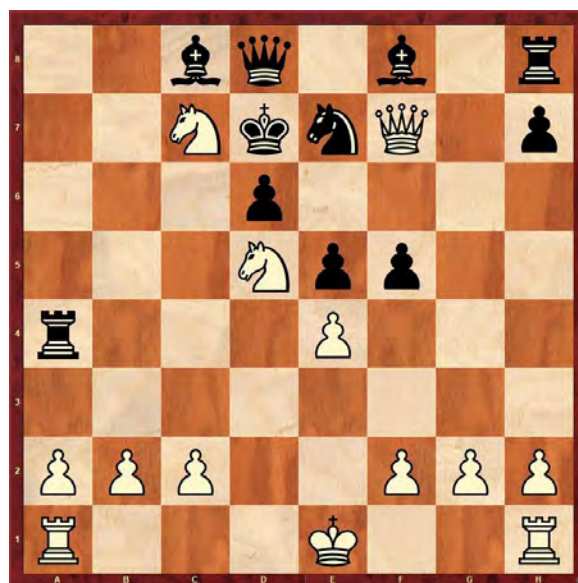
13. Nbc7+ Kd7 14. Qh5

14.0-0 is probably better.

14...Ne7

Modern theory recommends now 14...Rxe4+ 15.Kf1 Qh4.

15. Qxf7



15...Rg8?

15...Rxe4+ is still best.

16. Ne6 Qa5+ 17. b4 Rxb4 18. Nxf8+ Rxf8 19. Qxe7+ Kc6 20. O-O

The dust has settled and White is two pawns up, and Black has both rooks en prise.

20...Rg8 21. Nxb4+ Qxb4 22. c4 fxe4 23. Qxh7 Rg4 24. h3 Rf4 25. g3 Rf5 26. Qa7 e3 27. Qxe3 Be6 28. Rab1 1-0



Two weeks passed, and it was time for the next game...

Brian Valentine (1975) - Kevin Thurlow (2050)

Redhill Club Championship 1988

Sicilian Pelikan (Sveshnikov)

Notes by Kevin Thurlow

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nc6 5. Nb5 Nf6 6. N1c3 d6 7. Bf4 e5 8. Bg5 a6 9. Bxf6 gxf6 10. Na3 b5 11. Nd5 f5



George wandered past and looked thunderstruck. We have reached the same position as the earlier game, but taking a move longer as I went to e5 in two moves and he went Bf4, then Bg5. He loitered whilst Brian considered his next move. Brian had been absent when I played George.

George more or less pulled up a chair and watched the rest of the game!

12. Bd3

I knew Brian and his game pretty well by then. He generally tried to be a correct player and not play anything fanciful, so I never thought in a million years that he would play Bxb5, although I had of course prepared an answer.}

12...Be6 13. Qh5 Rc8 14. O-O Rg8 15. c4 fxe4 16. Bxe4 Rg4



Black really has to rely on piece-activity in the Sveshnikov.

17. f4 Rh4 18. Qf3

18.Qd1 f5 19.g3 is probably better.

18...Nd4 19. Qf2 Bxd5 20. Bxd5 Rxf4 21. Qe3 Bh6 22. Rxf4

22.Qh3 Rh4 23.Bxf7+ Kf8 24.Bd5+ Kg7 25.Qd3 is about equal.

22...Bxf4 23. Qd3 Qh4

And note that this time, White has the problem with development and activity.

24.g3 Qg5 25. Kg2

25.Rf1!

25...Nf5 26. cxb5 axb5

26...Ne3+. The game is now getting a bit rubbish, but it is complicated.}

27. Kh1? Bc1?

27...Bxg3 28.hxg3 Nxc3+ 29.Kh2 Qh4+ 30.Kg2 Nh5.

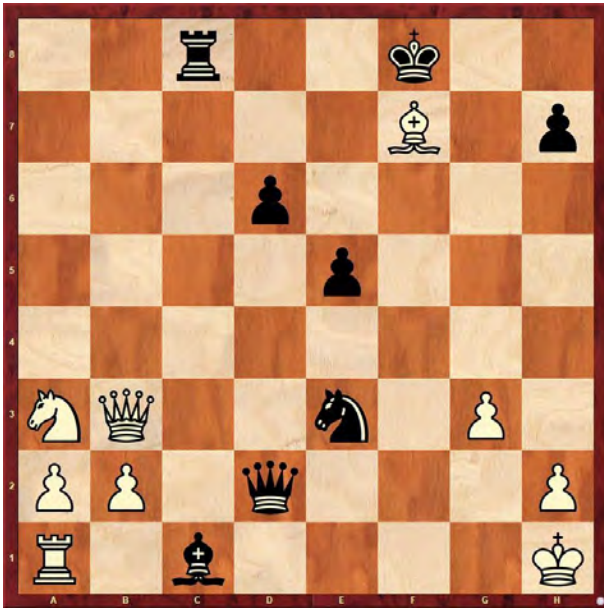
28. Qxb5+ Kf8 29. Qb3

29.Qd7 Nxc3+ 30.hxg3 Qh5+ 31.Kg1 Be3+ 32.Kf1 Rc5 is about equal apparently!

29...Qd2 30. Bxf7

30.Qf3 Qe1+ 31.Kg2 Ne3+ 32.Kh3 Nxd5 33.Qxd5 Qf1+ 34.Qg2 (34.Kh4 Qf5 35.Qxd6+ Kg7 36. Qe7 Rc6 wins) 34...Qxg2+ 35.Kxg2 Bxb2 wins.

30...Ne3



Threatening Qg2 and Qe1 Mate. 0-1

Ed - We extend our thanks to Kevin for sharing his moment of glory with us. It proves that just because these days players like Carlsen (I say 'like' Carlsen, he's pretty good actually) bring back openings that were once popular it does not mean that we should just accept today's lines as automatic improvements.

Some chess players when learning an opening tend to follow the latest lines played by top players. However, a cursory nod to the past can reveal some very interesting lines that when played over the board can totally bewilder your opponent.

Don't be afraid to turn back the clock and (as it were) try an old wrinkle on a new theme.

To finish this piece I have to say that I have personally known Kevin for several decades. Sometimes, we think we know someone - then you actually just Google them and all sorts of interesting information can appear.

We know him as the Redhill Ripper, but clearly the Countdown audience would find that too frightening so he has the interesting sobriquet 'Redhill Rocket' for the show.

Whatever, he's still 'Our Kev'. He looks so young here, and the full 'Walrus' moustache is yet to develop and unleash itself upon the world.

He's a clever chap, is our Octochamp.

Uk gameshows Wiki

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in: *Contestants*

Kevin Thurlow

Kevin John Thurlow (born 1 June 1953), from Redhill and nicknamed "The Redhill Rocket", was a finalist in Series 47 of *Countdown*.

He defeated **James Mosses** in his first game, scoring 123 points in the process – a score that was at the time the highest ever debut score on *Countdown*. He became an octochamp, beating future contestant Philip Jarvis and future semi-finalist **Peter Lee** during his run and returned for the final rounds in summer 2002 as #6 seed. He pulled off a minor upset by defeating #3 seed **Les Hatley** in the quarter-finals, but was defeated in the semi-finals by ultimate runner-up **Tom Hargreaves**. His own record of his experience on the show can be read on The Countdown Page [here](#).



Kevin Thurlow in his *Countdown* debut

Appearances Edit

- Brainteaser
- Countdown

Morning or afternoon?

...when is best for chess?

Kevin Thurlow comments...

Having endured my fourth visit to Wedmore Pharmacy in a failed attempt to get my latest prescription, my mind turned to other matters. I had a few magazines lying around with games I could put on ChessBase, and I started with the earliest, the RAF Chess Association's 'Open File' for Summer 1990, which contained some games from the Championship. This was an 8-round event, and it was interesting that the afternoon games were frequently better than the games played in the morning. There was plenty of entertainment, but I really enjoyed this game from the final round.

Paul Watson - Danny O'Byrne
 Combined Services Championship 1990
 Nimzowitsch-Larsen Opening
 Notes by Kevin Thurlow

1. b3



Larsen's opening - a good way to avoid normal lines, but it can transpose of course.

1...d6 2. Bb2 e5 3. c4 Nc6 4. g3 Bf5 5. d3 h5

Larsen said if you don't know what to do, play P-R4. But it has a definite point here, threatening to go to h4.

6. e4 Bg4 7. f3 Be6 8. Bg2 Qd7 9. Nc3 Be7 10. Nd5 Bg5 11. Ne2 f5 12. f4 exf4 13. Nxf4 Bxf4 14. Nxf4 fxe4 15. Bxe4 Bg4 16. Qd2 O-O-O 17. O-O Nf6

The immediate 17...h4 probably fails to 18.Ng6.

18. Bxf6 gxf6 19. h3 Bxh3 20. Nxb3 Nd4

20...Qxh3 21.Bf5+ wins the queen.

21. Qg2 c6 22. Rxf6 Rdg8

White is just winning now, but Black can still aim at the kingside, now he threatens Rxg3 then Ne2+.

23. Rg6 d5 24. Rxd8+ Rxd8 25. Re1

25.Bf3 Nxf3+ 26.Qxf3 Qxh3 And White is on the back foot.

25...dxe4 26.Rxe4 Nf5

Black is better here, despite the pawn deficit.

27. g4 Qxd3 28. g5 Ne3

And now it's just about equal.

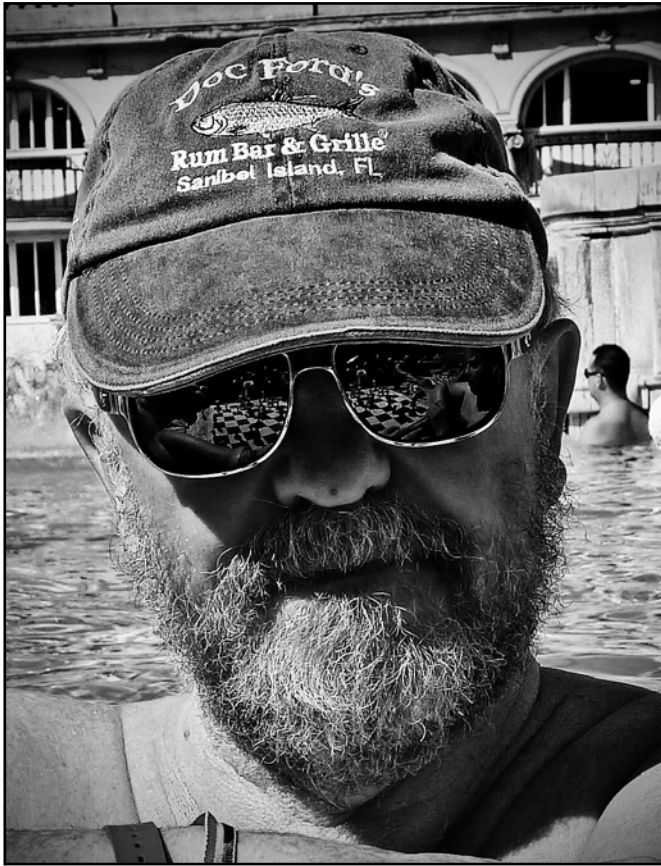
29. Qf3 Qb1+ 30. Kf2 Ng4+ 31. Kg3 Qxa2 32. Re2 Qb1 33. Re4 Rd8 34. Kh4 Qd3 35. Qf5+ Kb8 36. Nf4 Qf3



Paul Watson - always a very tough opponent

37. g6 Nf2 38. Re7

White has to defend g4 to prevent the mate.



Danny O'Byrne - he's truly been there, and done that.

38...Qh1+ 39. Kg5 Qg1+ 40. Kf6 Rf8+

Black wins with 40...Ng4+ 41.Ke6

a) 41.Kg7 Qd4+ 42.Kf7 (42.Kh7 Rh8#) 42...Nh6+;

b) 41.Kg5 Ne3+ 42.Kf6 Nxf5;

41...Qe3+ 42.Kf7 Nh6+ 43.Kf6 Nxf5 44.Rxe3 Nxe3

41. Rf7 Ng4+ 42. Ke7

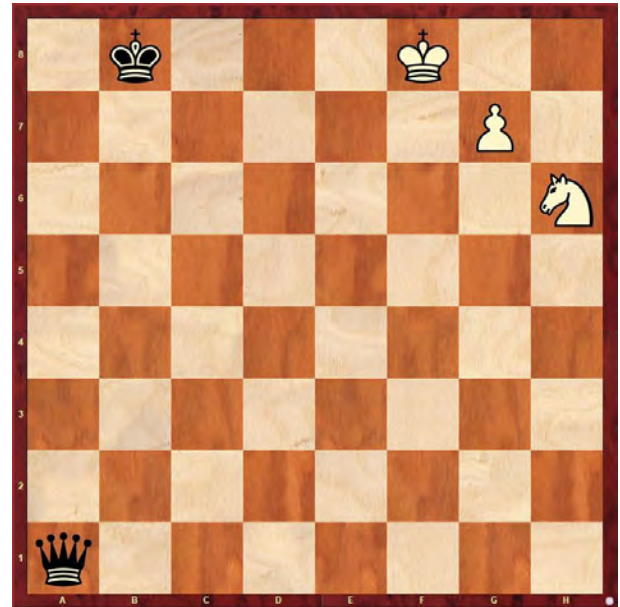
And now White is winning!

**42...Rc8 43. Ne6 Qe3 44. Qf4+ Qxf4 45. Rxf4 Nh6
46. Rf8 Rxf8 47. Kxf8 b5 48. cxb5 cxb5 49. Nd4**

White has drifted a bit in a really complicated position. 49.g7 h4 50.Ng5 a5 51.Nf7 h3 52.Nxh6 h2 53.g8Q h1Q is better for White, but not easy of course.

**49...h4 50.g7 h3 51. Nf3 a5 52. Nh2 a4 53. bxa4
bxa4 54. Ng4 h2 55. Nxh2 a3 56. Ng4 a2 57.Nxh6
a1=Q**

(See diagram of final position in next column)



and a draw was agreed. After 58.g8=Q Qf6+, then 59.Ke8 Qxh6 and 59.Qg7 Qxg7+ lead to a draw. After 59.Nf7, the endgame tablebases (which were not available in 1990) inform us that Black can play any move that doesn't lose the queen immediately and he draws. Tony Miles once told me, "If you can't

lose, play on', but there might be exceptions at the end of a long, tough tournament. A very entertaining game. I think a draw was a fair result, and really not the kind of game you want in round 8! **1/2-1/2**



Did you know? Danny is an awesome wildlife photographer.

Find his work on Flickr



Ed - The Covid-19 Pandemic cut short the 4NCL season but it did not dampen the spirits of the UKAFCA team 'War & Piece'. It's been a very successful enterprise and Dave Onley must be very proud to have realised his vision of putting it all together. It felt good to all be playing on the same team against others.

Dave has work to do and will not be available for up to two years (maybe more, who knows) so I want to record here that the Association is indebted to him for putting the rocket together and blasting us off.

We will need someone to take over the Captaincy. At the time I write this (June 2020) there are no names but let's hope that someone comes forward.

For now though let us look backwards. Dave Tucker has submitted two of his games (where are the rest of you lads??) for our delectation, so without any further ado, let's crack on.

Dave Tucker (185) - Jeff Rudge (188)

4NCL (4) 11.01.2020

Sicilian Kan Variation

Notes by Dave Tucker

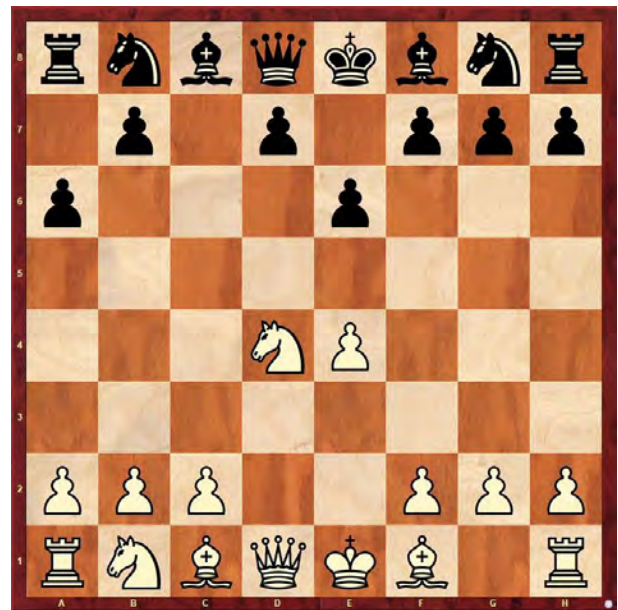
This game was played in Round 4 of the 4NCL at Maidenhead on 11th January 2020. It was my best effort for the team in this truncated season. My opponent was actually older than me (!) (*Goodness gracious me...ed*) and I recall he had beaten me in a county match about 30 years ago.

For once, I did actually do some pre-game preparation and I saw that he favoured the Sicilian as Black with 2...e6. I decided to play differently to the way I usually approach that line.

My plan was to build a strong centre and pressurise the Black 'd' pawn in Maroczy Bind style. Black however fought back strongly and might have won this fluctuating game.

He failed to act at the critical moment and the momentum swung back my way after which he went under as his time ran low.

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 a6



This is known as either the Kan Variation or Paulsen Variation. At this early stage Black has several options as to how to develop his pieces and many transpositions are possible. I have generally favoured the fianchetto of my King's Bishop 5.g3 etc but I felt I should play a more popular line for a change.

5. Bd3 Nf6 6. c4

This was my idea to clamp down on the freeing d7-d5. 6.O-O would be normal.

6...Qc7 7. Nc3 g6

This looked a bit suspicious to me. I would have expected either 7...Nc6 or 7..Bb4.}

8. O-O Bg7 9. Be3 d6 10. Rc1 O-O 11. h3

Not really necessary but I felt comfortable at this stage and wanted to rule out any Ng4 ideas from Black.

11...Nfd7?! This looked dubious, surely 11...Nc6 was better. I guess his idea is to play Ne5.}

12. Qe2

The computer prefers 12.Qd2 followed by doubling on the d file.

12...Nc6

Threatens to win a piece.

13. Nxc6 bxc6 14. Rfd1 Bb7 15. Rd2 f5!?

This came as a complete surprise. I was getting concerned about 15...c5! with ideas of Ne5, Nc6 and Nd4 to follow which would give Black the initiative. 15...f5!? aims to follow up with Rae8 and further pawn advances. I was not feeling comfortable now!

16. f4 e5 Premature, he should have prefaced this by 16...Rae8.

17. g3?!

A wimpish move weakening my Kingside. 17.exf5 was called for.}

17...Rae8



Black is better now.

18. Qf1?!

It is hard to suggest a good move for White here. Maybe Bb1.

18...Nf6?

Black lets me off the hook!. Either 18...exf4 or 18...fxe4 leaves Black in the driving seat.

19. exf5 e4?

Black might have thought he would lose a pawn after 19...gxf5 20.Bxf5 but 20...Nh5 gives strong counterplay. 19...Nh5 immediately is also feasible here given my weak g pawn.

20. Be2 gxf5 21. Rcd1

Finally I get to target his d pawn.

21...Rd8 22. Qf2 Qb8?

He cracks!. The threat of Bb6 needed to be addressed but 22...Qe7 was the move.

23. Ba7!

Forces the Queen to relinquish defence of d6.

23...Qc8 24. Bb6?!

The immediate 24.Rxd6 was better.

24...Qe6!

I completely overlooked this move, expecting instead Rd7. Now Black threatens e3 which made me panic a bit.

25. Qe3

Fritz thinks 25.Bxd8 is good but I wanted to nip that e3 move in the bud.

25...Rd7

So I don't win the d pawn after all.

26. Na4

Prevents 26...d5 because of 26.Nc5.

26...Qe7 27. Kh2

The situation here was that my opponent was getting short of time. Meanwhile I couldn't see what to do. Moves such as 27.Bd4 or 27.g4 were possibilities. When I was a young player I would often look for traps and I saw one here. For once a bit of psychology worked. If I played my King to a 'safer' square then maybe Black would follow suit.

27...Kh8

Most obliging.

28. Nc5! dxc5 29. Bxc5 Qe8

29...Qf7 was more resistant.

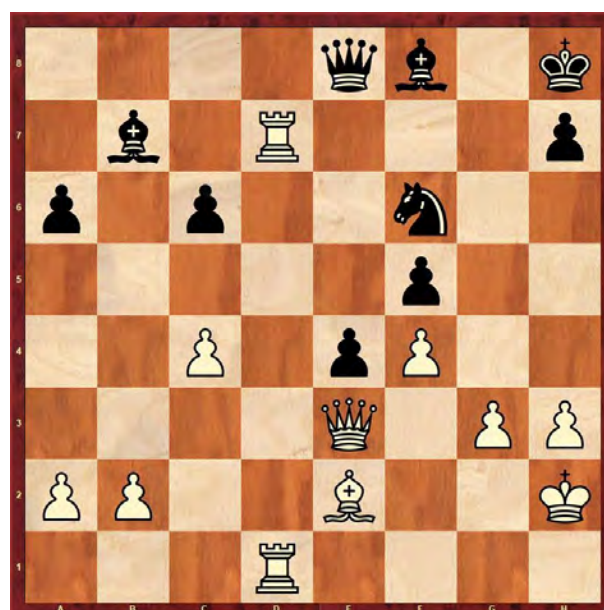
'A wimpish move - weakening my Kingside'

30. Bxf8

The trap is sprung. Black can't play the desirable 30...Rxd2 because of 31.Bxg7+.

30...Bxf8 31. Rxd7

In view of 31...Nxd7 32.Qd4+ when White wins easily. 1-0





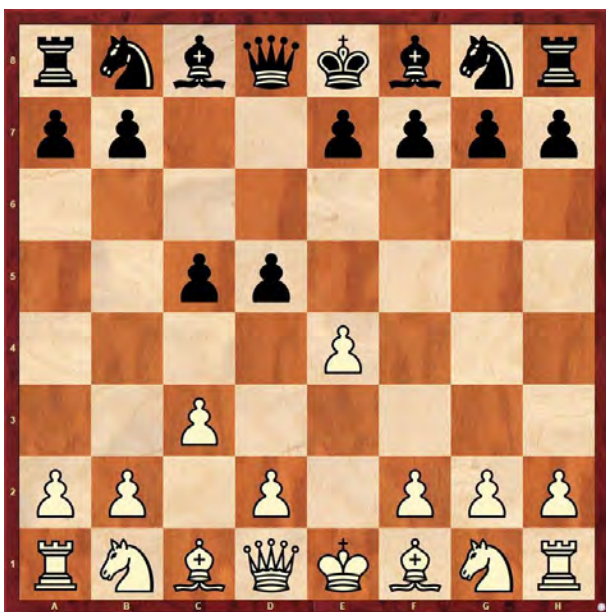
Ed - Now we turn to the second game which Dave played one month later, actually on my birthday which will explain why I did not play in this round.

D Flynn (160) - Dave Tucker (185)
 4NCL (5) 08.02.2020
 Sicilian 2.c3
 Notes by Dave Tucker

This game was played in Round 5 of 4NCL Division 4, again at Maidenhead on 8th February 2020. I had started very well for the team in the early games but had a massive setback in Round 4 where I completely lost the plot against a very low rated player, actually the lowest rated I have ever lost against in a serious game.

That shakes one's confidence no end but I was determined not to repeat the fiasco in the next outing. I was surprised to see a team based in Nottingham playing in Division 4 South but I guess they had their reasons.

1. e4 c5 2. c3 d5



This was my old favourite move. I have played 2..Nf6 here for a number of years and I think it might

be better but White players seem to be booked up. I have also had some outings with 2...d6 which is reasonable.

3. exd5 Qxd5 4. d4 Nc6

4...Nf6 is more popular.

5. Nf3

5.cxd5 is possible when I would have swapped Queens and tried for an active game as opposed to 5...Qxc5 which leaves the Queen a bit exposed.

5...cxd4

both 5...Bg4 and 5...Nf6 are alternatives.

6. cxd4 e5 7. Nc3

7. exd5?! Qxd1+ 8.Kxd1 Bg4 etc would leave the White King very exposed in the centre of the board.}

7...Bb4 8.Bd2

8.Be2!?! is a gambit idea originated by Milner-Barry.

8...Bxc3 9. Bxc3 e4 10.Ne5

The main line, 10.Nd2!?! has its merits and could lead to tricky play after for example 10...Nf6 11.Bc4 Qg5 12.d5 Ne5 13.Bb5 etc. White has a strong passed pawn but Black has definite counter chances.

10...Nxe5 11. dxe5 Ne7 12. Qe2

Several moves have been tried here in master play. ECO favours either 12.Qa4+ or 12.Be2. Black seems to hold on against all of them. The move played is the choice of my Fritz program and controls the g4 square (not so if 12.Qc2 was played instead) but looks a bit odd because it delays development of the bishop at f1.}

12...O-O 13. Rd1 Qc6

13...Qxa2 14.Bb4 is good for White.

14.Rd6

White is having fun. It looks like my e pawn could be captured soon but I have some tactics based on the poor position of the White King.

14...Qa4 15.Rd4?!

15.b3 and 15.Qc4 have been played at master level with unclear consequences.

15...Qxa2 16. Qxe4

16.Bb4?? Nc6 or 16.Rxe4?? Qb1+ would be embarrassing

16...Be6 17. Ra4

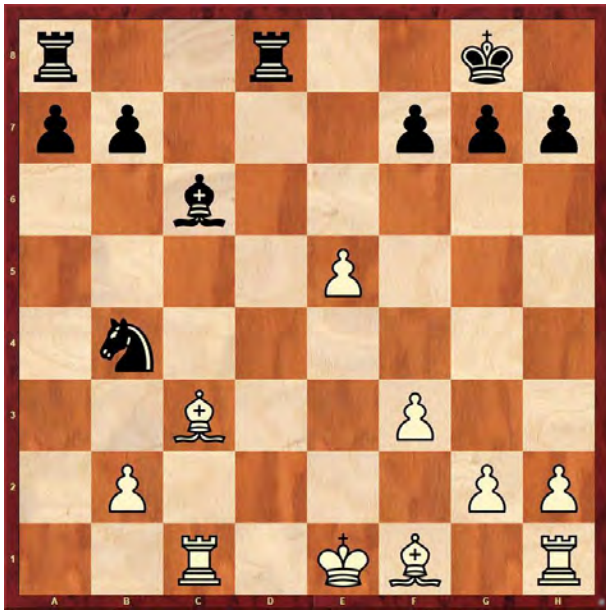
17.Qxb7?! Nd5 followed by Nxc3 is good for Black.

17...Bf5 18. Rxa2 Bxe4 19. f3 Bd5 20. Ra4?

better was 20.Ra1.

20...Bc6 21. Ra1 Nd5 22. Bd4 Nb4 23. Rc1 Rfd8

24. Bc3?



This move is a shocker. Despite losing some time with his Rook, White is still OK and 24.Bc5 Nd3+ will likely lead to a draw.

24...Na2!

This Knight fork will result in Black securing an outside passed pawn because the Rook has to move off the c file.

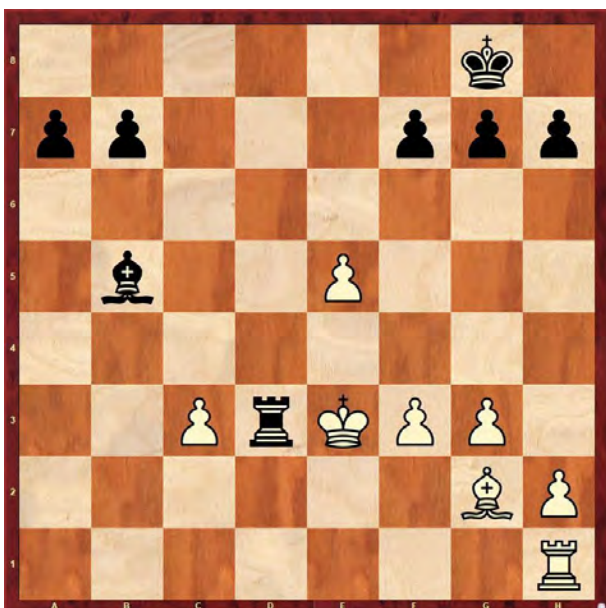
25. Rd1 Rxd1+ 26. Kxd1 Ba4+

26...Nxc3+ immediately was better.

27. Ke1 Nxc3 28. bxc3 Rc8 29. Kd2 Rd8+ 30. Ke3 Rd1

threatens 31...Bb5. If all the pieces are swapped off then the outside passed a pawn will be decisive.}

31. g3 Bb5 32. Bg2 Rd3+



White Resigned. I was a bit surprised that he threw in the towel here but he loses the c pawn and the two connected passed pawns on the Queenside must win the day eventually so perhaps he saved himself a futile effort in playing on. 0-1

Did you know? The 4NCL was founded in 1993 and had only six teams.



Ed - I came across this rather fetching Russian postcard image of two kings embracing. Apart from the fact that they are not social distancing (yawn) I am given to wondering if this handshake is before or after the battle.

I see no scars. I see no weapons. Indeed both gentlemen seem rather pleased. Perhaps then, they decided to call it a draw. But was that during a battle, or before it?

You can see how my mind works folks...

FROM THE SHED

Arthur Jackson



(Unsplash) Ethan Sexton

From the shed is the page where new columnist and chess lover **Arthur Jackson** visits to burn the midnight oil and chuckle about aspects of the game. His only reward for his lucubrations is seeing his name in print.

⚠ Warning - expect any kind of random nonsense but do get used to it because that is Arthur's style.

Arthur's doppelganger...



Dave Onley



Lee Marvin

I have a TV in the shed. I was watching the classic movie 'The Dirty Dozen' starring Dave Onley whilst simultaneously playing through some of the brilliant attacking chess games of Lee Marvin. Here they are (pictured).

I have spent much of the summer in the shed, not least because of the splendid isolation of Covid-19. My whippersnapper nephews have been talking to me (through the window) about their online chess exploits. Yet my old mate Bernard tells me he misses over the board chess greatly.

Online chess has many benefits but it also has cheats and I have played a couple who I think have cheated I am sad to say. Then again you don't get your opponent sneezing all over you or distracting you by slurping tea which is a pet hate of mine.

But going to the club means going out at night - and leaving the shed. I am not keen on that. You never know who is about.

Chess is truly a game for everyone so the bottom line is that you get your fun where you find it - online and/or in person over the board. As long as we enjoy it and express ourselves how we see fit on the 64 squares, who am I to judge?

Crikey - got to go. The missus is on her way down the path...and she's got one of those faces on.



War and Piece

There's not much to say.

The season was cut short because of the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Our skipper Dave Onley will be otherwise engaged for a couple of years so at the time of writing (June 2020) the team will be looking for a new Captain.

If you think that person is you then get in touch with our President or Chairman and say so. It would be a terrible shame for the team to fold now, since we have made our mark and the momentum is gathering.

<http://www.4ncl.co.uk/>

Weak pawns are a target

I read one of the chess classics in the summer. Emanuel Lasker's 'Manual of Chess' (or should that be Emanuel of chess?) is a smashing read with insights from a former World Champion. Actually, he remains the longest holder of the title.

In one chapter he discusses the weak f2 and f7 pawns at the start position. He gives a funny little illustrated game to accompany his illuminating prose and I thought I would share it - just for fun.

1. e4 e5 2. Bc4 Nf6 3. d4 c6 4. dxe5 Nxe4 5. Ne2 Nxf2

There's that weak f2 pawn. (see diagram in next column)

6. O-O

(don't you just love it, dear reader?)

6...Nxd1 7.Bxf7+

But there goes the weak f7 pawn—boing!

7...Ke7 8. Bg5#

1-0



Mackenzie - Amateur

After 5...Nxf2

Emanuel Lasker

'Search for the combination which brings home your advantage'.



Chess Books

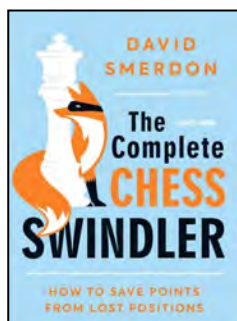
Carl Portman

PLEASE NOTE

I now have a blog page purely for chess book reviews. Here in OPEN FILE, I merely give the reader a taste of what the book is about but my **full reviews** can be read here:

<https://carlportman.blogspot.com/>

I hope they help you with regard to making your mind up if you might like to purchase a book or not.



The Complete Chess Swindler

GM David Smerdon

Published by New in Chess

Chess is a cruel game. We all know that feeling when your position has gone awry and everything seems hopeless. You feel

like resigning. But don't give up! This is precisely the moment to switch to swindle mode.

Master the art of provoking errors and you will be able to turn the tables and escape with a draw – or sometimes even steal the full point!

Swindling is a skill that can be trained. In this book, David Smerdon shows how you can use tricks from psychology to marshal hidden resources and exploit your opponent's biases.

In a lost position, your best practical chance often lies not in what the computer recommends, but in playing your opponent.

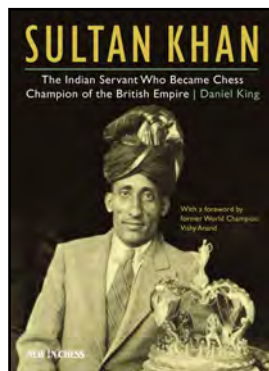
With an abundance of eye-popping examples and training exercises, Smerdon identifies the four best friends of every chess swindler: your opponent's impatience, their hubris, their fear, and their need to stay in control.

You'll also learn about such cunning swindling motifs as the Trojan Horse, the Decoy Trap, the Berserk Attack, and 'Window-Ledging'.

So, come and join the Swindlers' Club, become a great escape artist and dramatically improve your results. In this instructive and highly entertaining guide, Smerdon shows you how.

David Smerdon is an Australian chess grandmaster and behavioural economist.

(Ed - I loved it. Buy it and appreciate the beauty!)



Sultan Khan

The Indian Servant Who Became Chess Champion of the British Empire

GM Daniel King

Published by New in Chess

Hardly anyone paid attention when Sultan Khan arrived in London on April 26, 1929. He came from a village in the Punjab and spoke little English. He had learned the rules of Western chess only three years earlier, yet within a few months he created a sensation by becoming the British Empire champion.

He was taken to England by Sir Umar Hayat Khan, an Indian nobleman and politician who used Sultan Khan's successes to promote his own interests in the turbulent years before India gained independence.

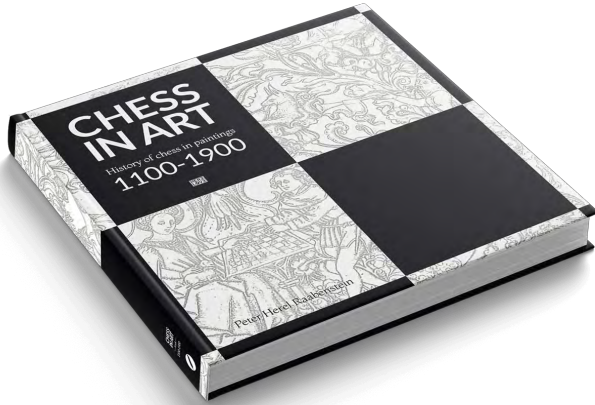
Sultan Khan remained in Europe for the best part of five years, competing with the leading chess players of the era, including World Champion Alexander Alekhine and former World Champion Jose Raul Capablanca. His unorthodox style often stunned his opponents, as Daniel King explains in his examination of the key games and tournaments in Khan's career.

Daniel King has uncovered a wealth of new facts about Khan, as well as dozens of previously unknown games. For the first time he tells the full story of how Khan, a Muslim outsider, was received in Europe, of his successes in the chess world and his return to obscurity after his departure for India in 1933.

Daniel King is an English chess grandmaster, coach, journalist and broadcaster. He is the author of many books and DVD's and is well known to the chess community.

(Ed - there has been a little controversy with this book by way of an open letter from Khan's granddaughter about factual accuracy - but don't let that put you off purchasing it. The chess games alone are worth the admission price!)

Chess in Art



Chess in Art

History of chess in paintings 1100-1900

Peter Herel Raabenstein

Published by Newlove

Chess in Art is the only book of its kind in the world. The book spans 800 years of art history, involving the “game of the kings” itself. It is the culmination of ten years of work by the famous artist Peter Herel, who was inspired by the galleries, museums, and games of chess that he encountered all over the world as he travelled and worked.

Originally, this book was created as a gift for Peter’s uncle who longed to have a book about chess and paintings. When Peter went to buy one for his uncle’s birthday, he discovered no such book existed. This was the inspiration to start working on Chess in Art.

We hope that this unique book will please not only Peter’s uncle, but also all lovers of art and the royal game. It is a perfect opportunity to enrich your library. When you open the book, you will breathe in 800 years of history in the company of 700 artists who loved chess, just as you do.



Ed - I do feel that I should make a couple of comments here. Chess players are notorious for not wanting to spend money, and this book certainly isn't cheap but it really is one of a kind and should last for a great many years. It is certainly one way of bringing chess into your conversations and of introducing people to the royal game through the medium of art. That, plus it is very interesting.

It's what inspired me to use art for the cover of this issue.

Do check out the website and have a look.

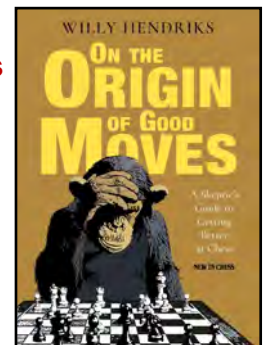
<https://chessinart.com/>

On the origin of good moves

A skeptic's guide to getting better at chess

IM Willy Hendriks

Published by New in Chess



The way a beginner develops into a strong chess player closely resembles the progress of the game of chess itself. This popular idea is the reason why many renowned chess instructors such as former World Champions Garry Kasparov and Max Euwe, emphasize the importance of studying the history of chess.

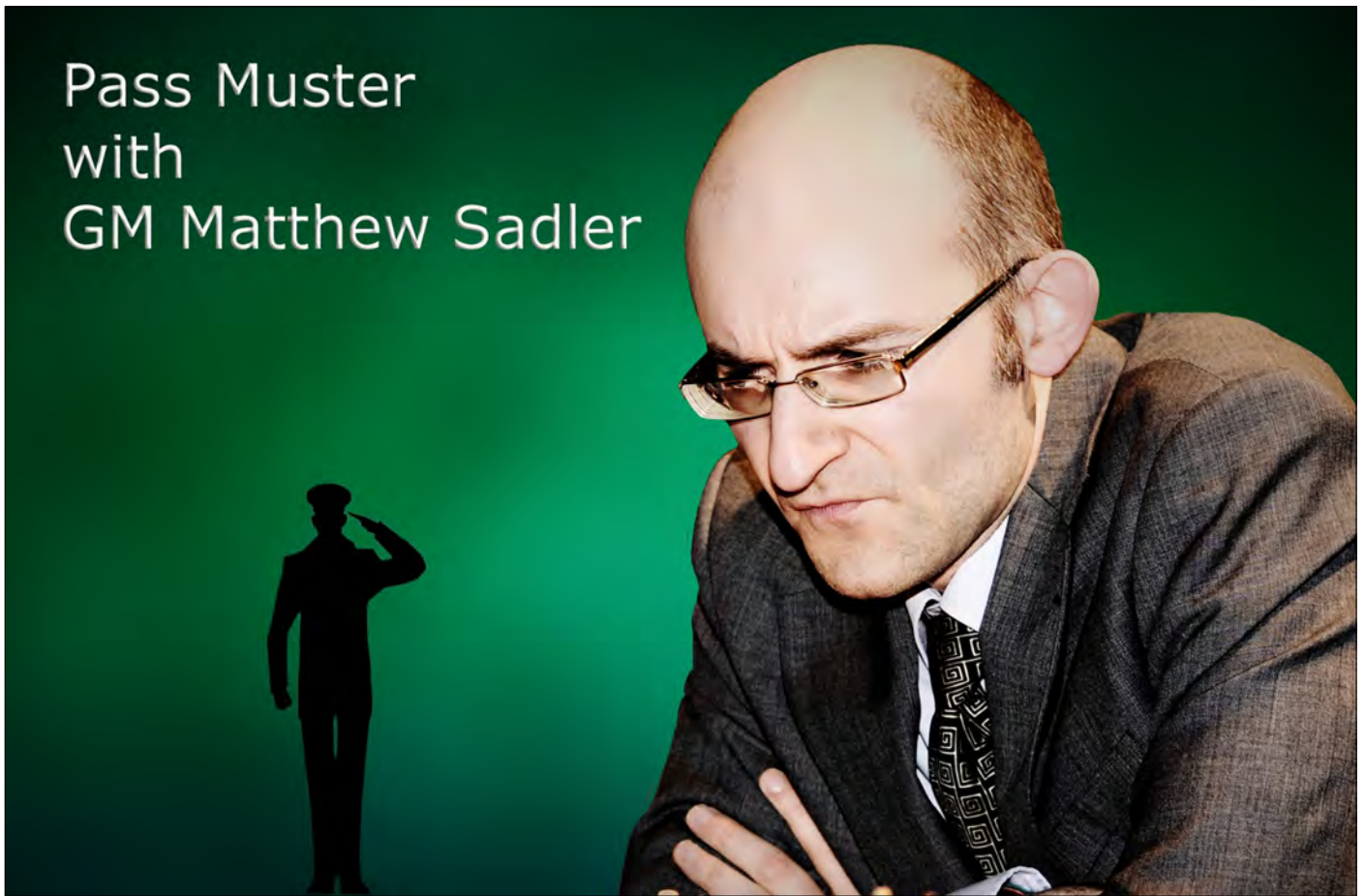
Willy Hendriks agrees that there is much to be learned from the pioneers of our game. He challenges, however, the conventional view on what the stages in the advancement of chess actually have been. Among the various articles of faith that Hendriks questions is Wilhelm Steinitz's reputation as the discoverer of the laws of positional chess.

In *The Origin of Good Moves* Hendriks undertakes a ground breaking investigative journey into the history of chess. He explains what actually happened, creates fresh perspectives, finds new heroes, and reveals the real driving force behind improvement in chess: evolution.

This thought-provoking book is full of beautiful and instructive ‘new’ material from the old days. With plenty of exercises, the reader is invited to put themselves in the shoes of the old masters. Never before has the study of the history of chess been so entertaining and rewarding.

*International Master [Willy Hendriks](#) has been working as a chess trainer for over 25 years. His acclaimed bestseller *Move First, Think Later* won the English Chess Federation Book of the Year Award.*

Pass Muster with GM Matthew Sadler



We are absolutely delighted to welcome GM Matthew Sadler into the United Kingdom Armed Forces Chess Association fold.

Matthew is of course one of our best known and much loved grandmasters and has played at the top level for many years, making the World's top 100 players. He is a two-time British Champion, (first at age 21) author of the award winning books 'Game Changer' with Natasha Regan, and the Queen's Gambit Declined, Olympiad member, a brilliant book reviewer and so much more. He has very kindly agreed to give of his time, at no charge to annotate one game per issue for us.

Can YOU pass muster? We begin this month with one of mine, to get the ball rolling but if you want one of YOUR games annotating to see what Matthew thinks then you'll need to send it to me please. You do not have to submit a victory. Indeed, if we want to learn more it might even be better to share a loss but that is your choice dear reader.

Naturally I expect several submissions and I can only send one at a time to Matthew. Therefore I shall have to take a view on which one I send each time, and live with that. Having a few games in hand means you will appear at some point!

I should like to thank Matthew for supporting Military chess in the UK and in particular for giving some of his time and expertise to the UKAFCA. Perhaps at some point, when the Covid situation is over, we will get an opportunity to know him better - maybe with a simul/lecture at one of our tournaments, or at least an invite to come and see us and say hello.

Until then Matthew begins with one of my games from the NATO Championships in Texas. I played a much stronger player (as Black) from the Greek team but I was in good fighting form and at one point I even refused a draw offer. *(Diagrams shown from Black's perspective)*

Konstantinos Mouroutis (2205) GREECE

Carl Portman (1886) UK (NATO A)

NATO Chess Ch'ships, Texas

Round 4 06.06.2018

Notes for OPEN FILE by GM Matthew Sadler

1. d4 d5 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. Bf4

The London System. One of my favourite openings as a child and a big favourite of such legends as Gata Kamsky and Magnus Carlsen.

Against normal development, White can easily build up a powerful attack with a simple but effective development scheme: e3, c3, Nbd2, Bd3, Ne5 and queen over to h3 via f3!

3...e6 4. e3 c5 5. c3 Nc6 6. Nbd2



6...cxd4

I tend to prefer keeping the tension in the centre for as long as possible to keep White guessing a little. 6...Bd6 challenging the bishop on f4 and fighting for the e5-square would be my choice here but the text is perfectly fine.

7. exd4 Be7 8. Bd3 Nh5

Chasing the bishop away from its favourite diagonal.

9. Be3 Nf6

Unfortunately the knight has to return back to f6. You always have to check an aggressive move like 9...f5, especially when it carries the threat of ...f4 trapping the bishop on e3 but after 10.Ne5 Nf6 11.Ndf3 or 11.Bb5 White has a very nice grip on the central dark squares.

10. Ne5 Bd6 11. f4

White has set up a strong Stonewall structure and is ready to castle kingside and then transfer his king's rook or queen to the kingside via f3. Black takes a risky course of action, delaying kingside castling and trying to gain some kingside space to stop White from attacking there.}

11...Bd7 12. O-O Qe7 13. a4

Expecting Black to castle queenside, White already starts moving his queenside pawns forward to be ready to unleash a pawn storm there. The placement of the king is a dilemma for Black: both on the queenside and the kingside Black is going to have to face down an attack. Black postpones the decision for now and grabs some kingside space.

13...h5 14. h3

14.Ndf3 was also an option but the text is the safe option, stopping ...Ng4.

14...h4 15. b4 Nh5



Heading for that tempting g3 square but...there's a problem!

16. Ng6

This neat tactic nets White a pawn.

16...fxg6 17. Bxg6+ Kd8 18. Bxh5 Qf6 19. Bg4 Ne7 20. Qb3

Certainly not a bad move, but I would be looking to bring my knight to e5 as quickly as possible in such a position starting with 20.Nf3.

20...Nf5 21. Bxf5 Qxf5 22. c4 Rh6 23. c5 Bc7 24.b5

Again 24.Nf3 really appeals to me. Once the knight comes to e5, it keeps the Black rook out of g6 which makes the White king feel much safer!

24... Ke7 25. Qb1 Rf8 26. Nb3

As you can imagine, this feels like the wrong direction for the knight for me!

26...Rg6 27. Qxf5 Rxf5

White's position is still very pleasant but without queens Black's king can breathe a little easier! At least it's not getting mated now! Black needs to find a way now to bring the light-squared bishop into the game to make full use of his 2 bishops.



28. Nc1 Rh5 29. Kf2 Rg3 30. Ne2 Rg6 31. Rfb1 Rf5 32. a5

A risky move, perhaps missing Black's surprising break. 32.Kg1 stepping out of the pin on the f4-pawn was much safer. White could then continue afterwards with a5 and b6. White dashes for the win but allows Black some counterplay.

32...e5 33. b6 axb6 34. axb6 exf4

A brave move that asks White to be brave in return!

35. Bd2

White blinks! (35. bxc7 fxe3+ 36. Kxe3 {looks a little nerve-wracking as Black has some checks and attacks but White's threat of Rxb7 ties the bishop down to defence giving White time to activate his other rook and knight. The move in the game however gives Black a fighting chance which Black doesn't miss!

35... f3

That's all it took! For the first time in the game all Black's pieces are coordinating wonderfully!

Diagram top of next column.



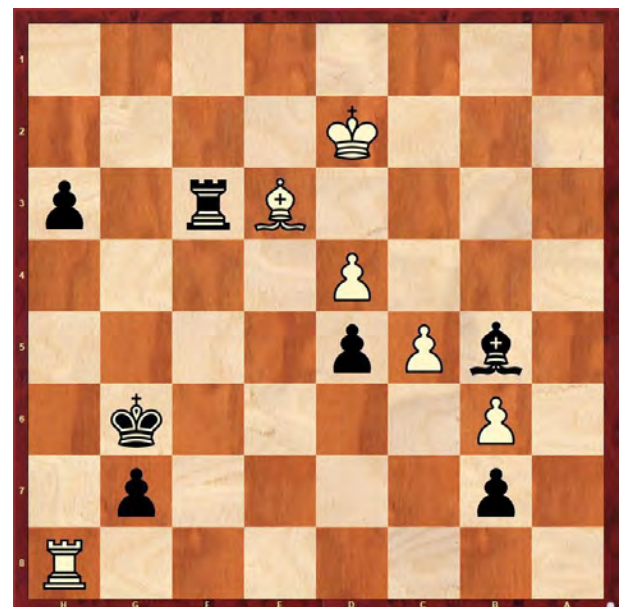
36. gxf3 Bg3+ 37. Nxc3 Rxc3 38. Re1+ Kf7 39. Re3 Rxc3

White even needs to be careful now! Black's weakness on b7 can easily be defended by the light-squared bishop while White's king needs to do some fancy stepping to avoid some nasty checks!

40. Ke2 Bb5+ 41. Kd1 Rxc3

Strong, but 41... Rh1+ 42. Re1 Rxe1+ 43. Bxe1 h3 was even stronger - that h-pawn won't be easy to stop!

42. Ra8 Rxe3 43. Bxe3 h3 44. Rh8 Rf3 45. Kd2 Rg3 46. Bf2 Rf3 47. Be3 Kg6



48. Rh4 Kf7

An unfortunate mistake allowing White to force a draw! 48...Rg3 was a good waiting move, simply asking White to weaken the defensive structure he has erected.

For example, } 49. Rh8 Kf5 50. Rh4 g5 and the king-side pawns start to roll!

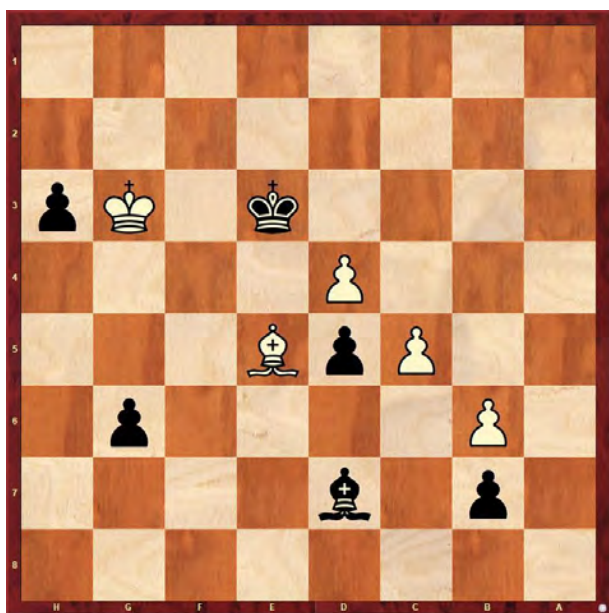
49. Rf4+

Now White manages to reach the safe haven of an opposite-coloured bishops draw!

49...Rxf4 50. Bxf4 Ke6 51. Be5 Kf5 52.Ke3 Kg4 53. Kf2

Black doesn't have the room to squeeze past the White king and since all White's pawns are on dark squares, they are very easy for White's bishop to defend!

53...g6 54. Bd6 Bd7 55. Bc7 Kf5 56. Kg3 Ke4 57. Be5 Ke3



1/2-1/2

*(Ed - thanks again to Matthew for becoming a columnist in OPEN FILE. The magazine may only be issued (normally) twice a year but **the magazine has been going in different guises since just after the middle of the last Century so it has endured.***

That's a success in itself given all of the other options for chess these days. Hard copy issues have long since gone, due to cost but having an electronic version allows for more pages, more colour and more photographs without the expense of print and postage.

I know that in the early years GM John Nunn used to write a column so it really is a coup to have another top British GM aboard.

Can you pass muster with Matthew? Don't worry. It's not a pass or fail test and just by having Matthew look at the game is going to get you through Muster. Remember it does not need to be a win (mine wasn't) but a game that you think will be better served having Matthew comment on it.?

Get your submissions to me as soon as possible.

How to confuse your chess engine

Carl Portman

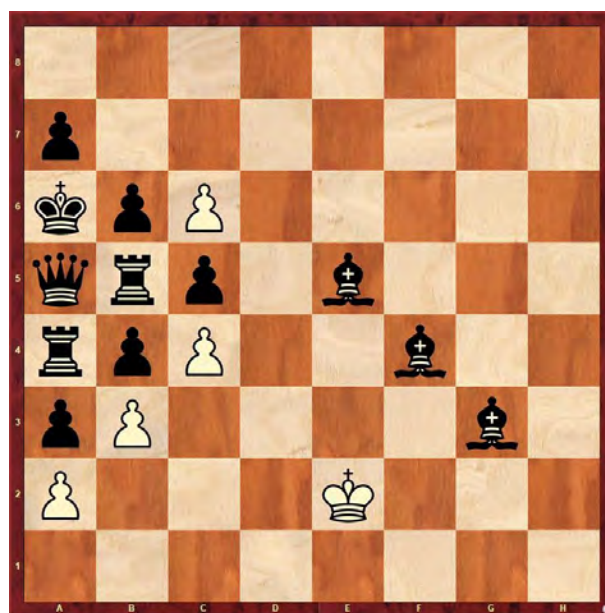


The puzzle below proves that we can outwit chess engines and that we should be very careful how we interpret what they are telling us..

Why?

Well, it is White to move - going up the board. All he has to do is keep moving his king, say from e2 to f3 and e2 etc. Black can only move his bishops, all of which are on dark squares so if the king stays on white squares and the white pawns stay on white squares then Black simply cannot win as all his other pieces are blocked. White could not push the pawn on c6 to c7, because the king gets out on b7, followed by the queen via a6, then White will be lost.

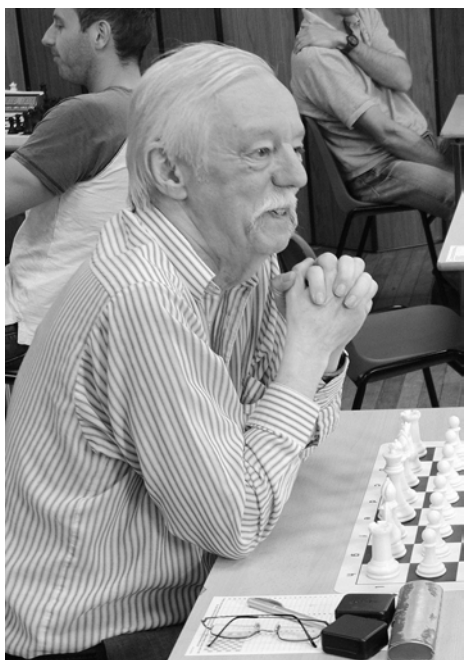
However the chess engine doesn't like to accept this 'draw' argument and stubbornly says that because Black has such overwhelming material he **MUST** be better. Well he **IS** better materially but not in terms of the position or the result. Actually, if Black was stupid, White could even win!



Here, I used the chess engine Komodo 13, which is very strong indeed. I left it on for 15 minutes to analyse and it still showed after that time that Black was better by +29.

Not so - the computer is not basing its findings on anything other than material, and a hope that Black might go wrong, surely?

So the message as ever is that it is one thing for a chess engine to declare the assessment of a given position but it is another to actually learn why.



Stay home Protect your grading Save Tube Fare

Says Kevin Thurlow

On the eve of when the 2020 UKAFCA championship was due to start, I find myself looking at ChessBase, not to prepare for forthcoming opponents, but to reflect on past glories if any.

I'm not so bored as to look at all 4848 of my games on the database, but I recalled one or two battles with Tim Pelling, a strong player – usually graded about 200. We had a couple of rapidplay games (30 minutes each), one win each, and played each other a further 21 times in real games, mainly in the Civil Service League, invariably on top board.

Tim won 8, there were 10 draws and I won 3, all between 1980 and 2006. There were probably some blitz and lightning games as well. We always had friendly chats whenever we met and usually a couple of beers. There was only one problem. For some reason, Tim used to default a lot.

Someone asked in the bar after one game, “You two have played a lot over the years – who’s in front?” I replied, “Tim’s leading on games played, but if you count defaults, I’m in front.” Tim was a bit startled and said, “Oh, I’ve only ever defaulted against you once or twice, surely?” “No, it’s at least six, maybe eight.” He didn’t believe it.

When I worked in Teddington, I drove to London (maybe 15 miles), parked in Smith Square or just off Horseferry Road, put an exorbitant amount in the meter, found food at a local café, and then wandered off to the venue. I used to arrive for matches and ask if he was there; on a negative response, I said, “I’ll leave my coat on then.” The opposition laughed. Half an hour later (the default time), I stomped off into the night and drove 20 miles home.

On one occasion, this happened, and the next day, one of my team mates reported that Tim had arrived two hours after he had lost on default, and then grumbled that I had gone home, and I was very rude to have done so, as he wanted to apologise for de-

faulting. As all the other times he defaulted he never turned up at all, it seemed a pretty forlorn hope that I would bother to hang around. This annoyed me a bit. None of his team-mates could work out why he defaulted so often, they thought he just forgot, and I was not the only victim.

It would be grossly unfair to give two of my four wins and none of my losses, but he can write his own article. Apart from a few short draws, the games have largely been entertaining.

Kevin Thurlow (2080) - Tim Pelling (2240)

Westminster Rapidplay 11.05.1991

English Opening

Notes by Kevin Thurlow

1. c4 Nf6 2. Nc3 b6

Inviting White to form a big centre, which he intends to undermine

3. e4 Bb7

3...d6 would leave a big hole on c6.}

4. e5 Ne4 5. d4 c5 6. d5 Nxc3 7. bxc3 d6

{Maybe 7...e6 and a laterb5 was better.}

8. Nf3 Nd7 9. Bf4 g6

Black wants to get at least one active bishop, but there is a problem. [9...Qc7 is better to immediately continue the fight for e5.]

10. e6 fxe6 11. dxe6 Nf6

11...Nb8 is sad but necessary. 12.Ng5 and White has ideas of Nf7, Bd3, Qg4 (with Nxh7 and Qxg6), or h4-h5 etc.

12. Qa4+



Oops!

Black loses a piece. As this was played in the last round, I assume I won the tournament. **1-0**

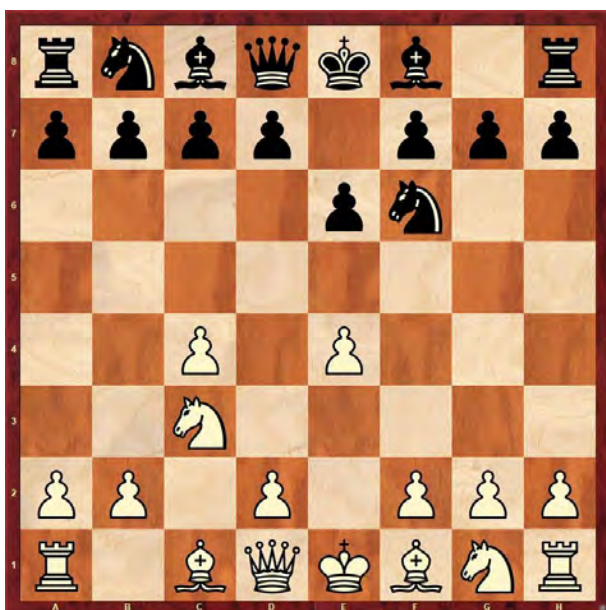
Kevin Thurlow (2025) - Tim Pelling (2160)

Gov't Chemists v GLC 1987

English Opening

Notes by Kevin Thurlow

1. **c4 Nf6 2. Nc3 e6 3. e4**



The Flohr-Mikenas attack, which is dangerous

for the unwary. It is noticeable that it is rarely played at grandmaster level, so presumably it is no good. Certainly in correspondence chess, White seems to get no advantage.

But I didn't know that in 1987.}

3...d6

3...d5 or 3...c5 are more usual and less passive.

4. d4 g6 5. Be3 Bg7 6. Be2 O-O 7. h4

The great hero Bent Larsen always said, "If you don't know what to do, move the rook pawn two squares." Obviously that doesn't apply here, I do know what to do, the threat of h5 is immediate and strong.

7...c5 8. e5 dxe5 9. dxe5 Nfd7 10. f4 f6

Opening up the king when behind in development doesn't seem a great idea to me, but the computer isn't offended by this move. [10...Nc6 first seems better.]

11. exf6 Bxf6 12. Nf3 Nc6 13. h5

There is an old Russian proverb, "He that says 'A' must say 'B'." In fairness, they probably call their letters something else, but the idea is sound enough.}

13...gxh5

I'm not convinced by this.

14. Rxh5 Nd4 Trying to get counterplay.

15. Nxd4 cxd4 16. Bxd4 Bh4+ 17. Kd2 Rxf4 18. Kc2 Nf8 19. Be5 Rf7

19...Qxd1+ 20.Rxd1 leaves Black with the insurmountable problem of how to rescue the rook and bishop.

20. Ne4 Bd7 21. Bd3 Ng6 22. Qg4 Rf5 23. g3 Rxh5 24. Qxh5 Qa5

Trying to defend laterally.

25. Nf6+ Bxf6 26. Bxg6!

If Black takes the bishop on e5, Qxh7+ and Qf7 mate.

26...hxg6 27. Qxg6+ Kf8 28. Bd6+ Be7 29. Rf1+

The last white piece joins in. Black kindly lets me have some fun!

29...Qf5+ 30. Rxf5+ exf5 31. Qf6+

And Black gets mated or loses even more material.

And we doubtless headed off for a beer.

1-0

Ed - sorry I could not fit diagrams in for this excellent game—but that should not diminish the reader's enjoyment of it at all. Sometimes, space dictates how I arrange the magazine.

CHECKMATE COVID-19

Kevin Thurlow reflects

Everyone will be aware that normal life was turned upside down in early 2020. It seems a minor irritation that normal chess came to a halt, but after 50+ years of attending a club more or less every week, it was quite a shock. At least nowadays chess is available online, and I had a few Correspondence Chess (CC) games to amuse me, which got more attention than usual.

Various people started organizing speed events on different platforms. This is not the same as playing face to face of course, but at least the computer records the games for you, so you can look at them afterwards, not that many bear close analysis. Top organizer Adam Raof did a weekly Chess960 event online (using Lichess) which gave a bit of light relief. One of my Surrey clubs ran a friendly Blitz event one evening a week.

Then ECF announced a charity event for the British Red Cross, a 24-hour chess marathon of 5-minute games. You didn't have to play for 24 hours, the event was 'arena' style, where you enter, then when you are ready, you press a button and the computer pairs you with somebody. When you finish that game, you can immediately push the button, or you can disappear for coffee or dinner or sleep, then resume when you want to.

You can actually play the same opponent several times. I played one opponent four times and got GM Keith Arkell three times, in one of which I stood better, before losing. Various organizations and individuals kindly donated prizes. The event was staged on Chess.com which has attracted criticism for denouncing some of its users as cheats, without saying what evidence there is, one factor being that people have performed better than their ratings.

Well, yes, it does happen. It has to be said Chess.com were very generous with prizes and made a sizeable donation to Red Cross, Anyway, 436 players entered. A feature of online chess is that people usually play under assumed names. Apparently, some grandmasters use online chess to practise different openings and want to stay anonymous, so people can't prepare for them in real games.

Amongst the opposition were Carl Portman (Yaroslav64), David Sedgwick (DRS44) and me (Johankjeldahl). I was slightly surprised to find that I couldn't play under the name Kjeldahl as there already was one. You got 2 points for a win, but that increased if you won several successive games.

My best winning streak was 7, so that must have helped. When the 24 hours elapsed...

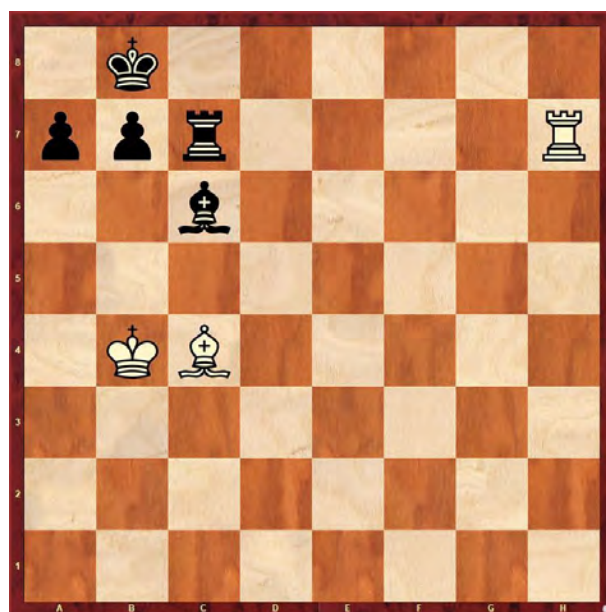
"Grieve72" (presumably Harry Grieve) was victorious with 517 points, (+151=14-33), ahead of "Carvillshill" (I think Danny Gormally) 516, (+139=10-10) and "Dhaydon19" 444, (+126=10-23). These are all very good scores. It is perhaps worth thinking for a moment that 24 hours is 1440 minutes, so if your 5-minute games go the distance, you get a maximum of 144 games.

So Grieve72 did pretty well to play 198 games... I managed a draw with him, which came down to K vs K when I had about 8 seconds left, and he had less than a minute. There were distinguished players further down, 50th was Yaroslav64 on 156 (59/109), 60th was DRS44 on 137 (54/115), 69th Johankjeldahl on 125 (46/85), with GM Michael Adams 110th on 81 (23/26) and GM Luke McShane 299th on 10 (4/6).

So the UKAFCA representatives (that I know about) showed those two GMs who is boss, although I expect if the GMs had played more games they would have overtaken us. It was a very enjoyable event and I told ECF that. I did play Yaroslav64 twice, scoring a win and a draw, and managed to beat DRS44. I also lost to someone who I know is graded about 100, but that's Blitz!

I was surprised to find that there were so many prizes that I actually won one, a book entitled, "One Bishop Saves the Day – A World Champion's Favourite Studies" by Sergei Tkachenko. This is actually a good prize as I never would have bought it myself as I am not that interested in studies. However, position 1 caught my eye! This was composed by Greco in 1621 and amended by Tkachenko.

White to play and draw.



1.Rh8+

1.Rxc7 Kxc7 2.Ba6 does not work, due to 2...b6! and black is winning.

1...Rc8 2.Rxc8+ Kxc8 3.Ba6!! bxa6

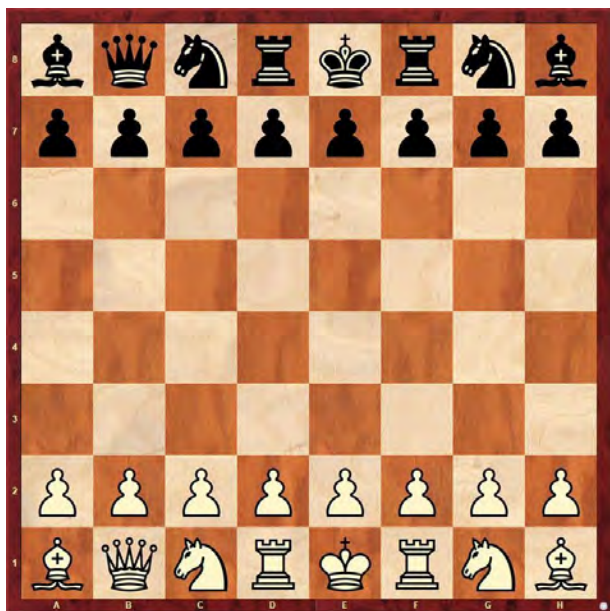
is a theoretical draw as black has the "wrong" bishop as it can't cover the queening square for the rook pawns. White just moves the king to a1 and it can't be removed from the corner. (3...Kc7 4.Bxb7 also draws by the same principle.)

-0-

Here is a Chess960 game from the other server.

JohanKjeldahl (1500) - Mergen97 (1500)

Pinpoint Learning Chess960 GP Arena lichess.org, 04.05.2020



1.g4 b6 2.Bxa8 Qxa8 3.Nf3 Nd6 4.b3 Nf6 5.g5 Nfe4 6.Nd3 g6 7.h4 Bxa1 8.Qxa1 a5

This just weakens Black's queenside.

9.Qe5 a4

And so does this.

10.Nb4 axb3 11.Nd5

Black resigned as White threatens 12.Qxe7 or 12.Nxc7 mate. 11...e6 loses to Nxc7+. What he forgot was castling! In Chess960, the king and rook end up on the normal castled position. Here 11...0-0 (i.e. putting the king on g8) still loses to 12.Ne7M. But 11...0-0-0 (i.e. putting King on c8) keeps him alive, but after 12.axb3 and then Ra1, he's still in trouble. Maybe he didn't know that Chess960

castling on the computer requires you to pick up the king and drop it on the rook. **1-0**

Kevin Thurlow

ECF's Checkmate Covid-19

Supporting



BritishRedCross

Further notes from Carl Portman (Yaroslav 64)

I echo Kevin's sentiments about the event. It was great to play so many strong players and to finish so well pleased me greatly. I might as well record it somewhere but I actually did the following.

- Beat IM (Filmsaboutghosts)
- Beat FM (Simon B4a)
- Beat FM Martin Matthiesen (Denmark)
- Beat Alan Walton 2205
- Beat Minckwitz 2255
- Drew with FM David Walker
- Drew with Victor the Coolboy 2369
- Drew with and beat Jasper Tambini
- **Drew with GM Keith Arkell**
- Only just lost to GM Danny Gormally in a very exciting game.

I have the games downloaded to look through when I can. They are also on a server somewhere, I am sure.

I did lose to some players lower graded (it happens) and for some reason Kevin proved to be my most difficult opponent of the whole event.

He is stronger than me, that's a given but I can beat stronger players. I put it down to his style which I personally find difficult to play against.

As well as giving a copy of my book (Chess Behind Bars) as a prize, I also managed to win a signed copy of 'Starting out: The Sicilian Grand Prix attack' by Gawain Jones.

It was an enjoyable event, for an excellent cause. What's not to like?

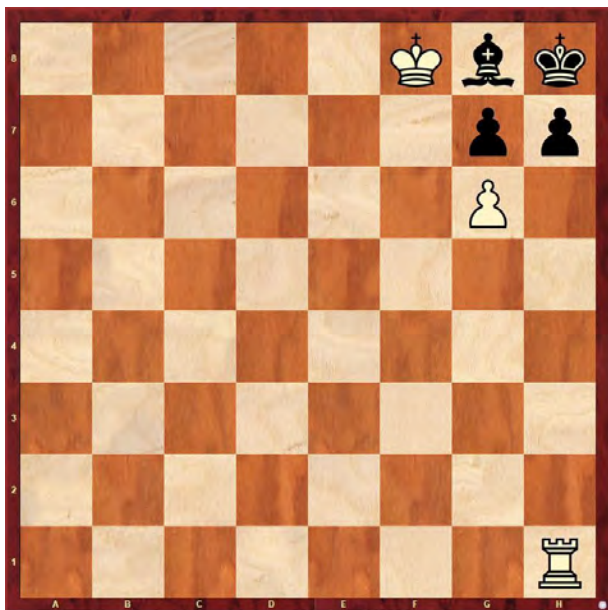
CHESS PROBLEMS

By Carl Portman

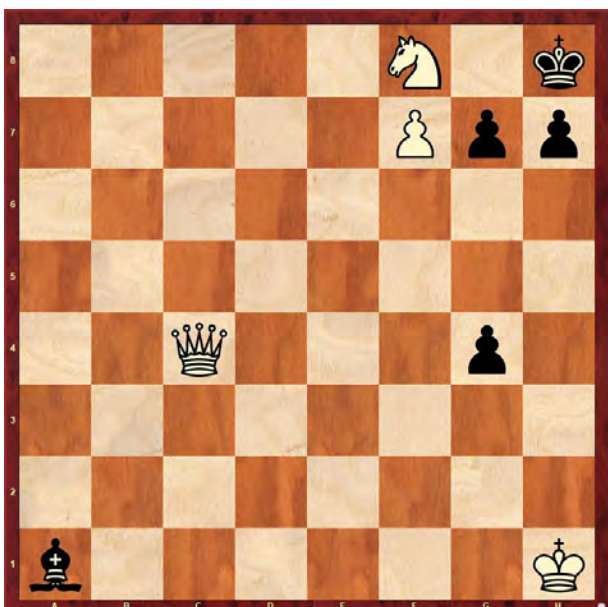


There is great beauty, geometry and art in these positions. Give them some time and enjoy the process of trying to find the answers. They are classic problems by very well known composers, including my personal favourite Kubbel. Sam Loyd was a magician at composing so you repay his time and effort by applying yourself seriously to these tests...

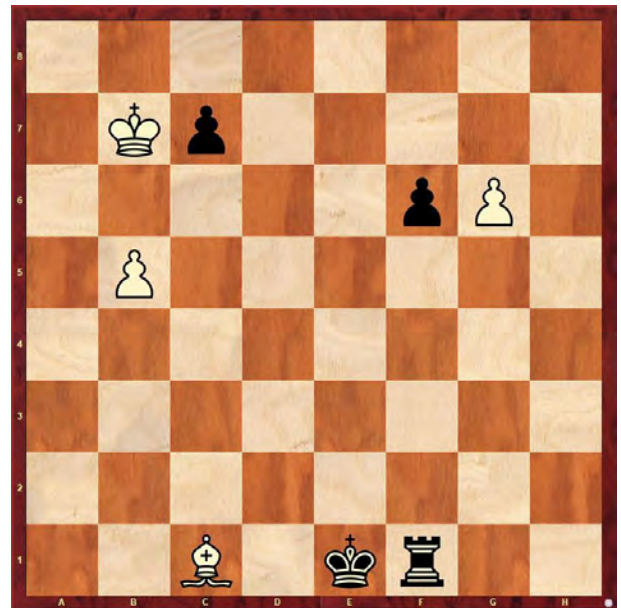
Position 1 (By Paul Morphy)
White to play and mate in 2.



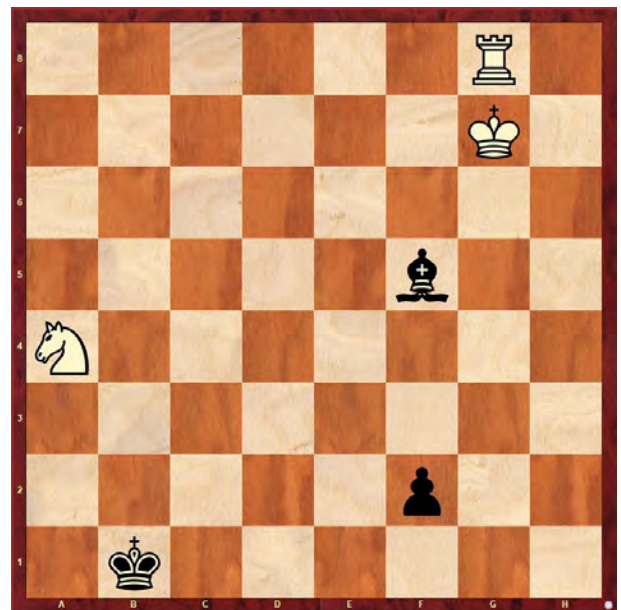
Position 2 (by Sam Loyd)
White to play and mate in 3.



Position 3 (by Henri Rinck)
White to play and win.



Position 4 (by Leonid Kubbel)
White to play and draw.



HOMEWORK
Do you know the difference between a chess puzzle, a study, a problem or a chess composition?

Find the four puzzle answers on page 52



British Chess Magazine - Doing Our Bit

Download BCM for free

The team at BCM has decided to try and help lift the current gloom by providing two free downloads of the BCM magazine while the lockdown continues.

We wish to offer our most sincere thanks for your marvellous dedication and the work you, our Armed Forces, are doing for the whole community at this difficult time. We hope you enjoy the read!

Shaun Taulbut and Stephen Lowe

BCM

www.britishchessmagazine.co.uk

Ed, you will find these copies on our website ready for download. Do enjoy benefitting from what was a very fine gesture from the Magazine, in these testing times.

<https://serviceschess.wixsite.com/home>

WELCOME TO 5asideCHESS



Your editor shows 5asideCHESS to two young local villagers (during covid-19 lockdown) on International chess day. Despite his dubious moustache, he did not scare them off and a jolly good time was had by all. It's safe to say that they have taken an interest in chess and their feedback about 5asideCHESS was very positive. They believe it is a good thing to take out and about.

5asideCHESS was set up as a social enterprise in 2015 by co-founders Ross Smith and Ian McKay as they were concerned about the levels of disconnection and inequality that they saw in society. The project has a huge mission - to tackle loneliness, social isolation and the mental ill health and depression that these issues can cause.

5asideCHESS was invented as a shorter, quicker version of the traditional game of chess. Chess is understood and played all over the world meaning that you can still engage and connect even if we don't speak the same language.

The mental health benefits of chess are well documented and we recently discovered that chess therapy dates back to a Baghdad hospital in the 9th century. Chess can be beneficial for conditions such as ADHD and dementia but also, being a metaphor for life, chess can help teach and reinforce important life skills.

We have given thousands of 5asideCHESS sets to community spaces, libraries, cafes and bars. We work with prisons, universities, youth groups, community centres and individuals of all ages helping them to make new friends, build confidence and develop new ways of thinking.

To put it very simply, 5asideCHESS is about Connection and Community and how we can get people to help themselves and others.

Visit the 5asideCHESS web site here and support them if you can!

<https://5asidechess.com/>

'The idea couldn't be simpler and yet couldn't be more important.'

IN MEMORIAM

Bill Pettigrew



It is with regret that I have to inform you that we lost one of our long standing and most colourful members in January, William, James Pettigrew, known affectionately to us all as 'Bill'.

Born in Eckington in 1927 he was brought up in the Sheffield Boys Working Home. At 16 he joined the Army, but rumour has it he joined the RAF first and then absconded, escaping punishment because he was at least still serving the King. Perhaps this vanishing act was his first foray into the Magic Circle. He specialised throughout the War as a builder of Bailey Bridges and a clearer of mine fields. He received several campaign medals including one for Korea. He left the Army in 1952 and joined the police force where he received the Distinguished Service Medal before finally retiring in 1982.

He married his wife Nora in 1949 and is survived by two daughters, Christine and Janet, and grandchildren, Catherine and John. Bill's tough upbringing in Sheffield and his subsequent roles in the Army and the Police forged a tough but caring man, even in

his late 80's he had a grip like a vice when you shook his hand over the chess board. He maintained a keen sense of discipline and was always immaculately dressed, as the picture shows. I think I can safely say that he will be fondly remembered by all our members for three things. Foremost, his love of chess, secondly, his skill and deep love of magic, he entertained many a Combined Services tournament with his close magic tricks. Last but not least, we will remember him for his sartorial elegance and immaculate dress sense.

My thanks go to his very good friend and fellow Army chess player, John Eddershaw, for helping me compile this memory of Bill. They were very close friends and inseparable at our annual events. My thanks and condolences also go to Bill's daughter, Christine and the family, for supplying much of the info above. Bill, may your magical skills continue to make your opponent's pieces disappear before their eyes,

Steve O'Neill
Ex Chairman

Combined Services 2002 Round 2

White Pettigrew, William Black Henderson, P.

1. Nc3 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 d6 4. dxe5 Nxe5 5. Nxe5 dxe5 6. Qxd8+ Kxd8 7. e4 Nf6 8. Bc4 Ke8 9. f3 Bc5 10. Bd2 Ke7 11. a3 Rd8 12. Bg5 h6 13. Nd5+ Kf8 14. Bxf6 gxf6 15. Nxc7 Rb8 16. Nd5 Rd6 17. Ke2 b5 18. Bd3 Be6 19. Nxf6 Rbd8 20. Rhd1 a6 21. a4 b4 22. Bxa6 Kg7 23. Rxd6 Rxd6 24. Ne8+ 1-0

IN MEMORIAM

Ben de Cat

(From the NATO Website)



Ben De Cat
Delcatto



Ben was known to all of us as a joyful and social chess player. His joie de vivre was appreciated by anyone who had the pleasure of playing a chess game or with whom he simply stopped for a friendly chat.

He did not shy away from playing unusual openings like Sokolsky (b4) and Grob's Attack (g4) with white.

As a black player, he sometimes took his opponent to unknown territory with unconventional continuations such as the St. George Defence (a6) or the Borg Defence (g5).

His most memorable match was probably during the NATO Chess Championship 2001, in which he raised his opponent's eyebrows with the Barnes Defence (f6).



designed by Ben De Cat



Recordholder with a total of 28 participations

Who ya gonna call?

We chess players need our kit. We get that warm fuzzy feeling when we purchase a new chess product, admit it. Well I thought I would make a little list of my most frequent visits (below). It's good to share - so what are you waiting for? Treat yourself today!



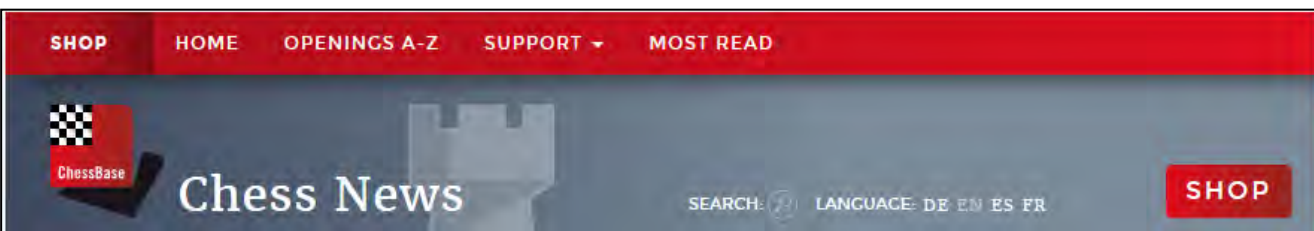
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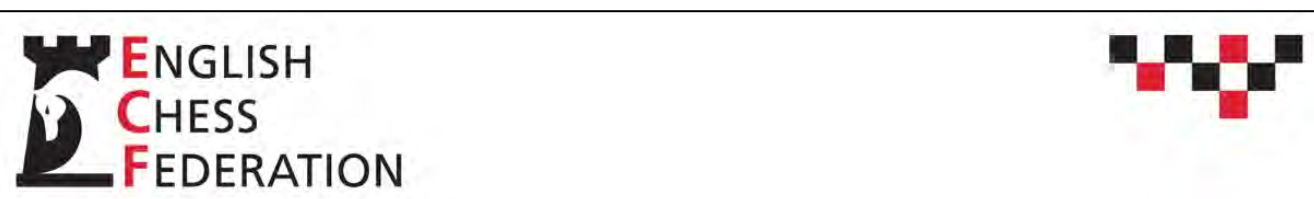
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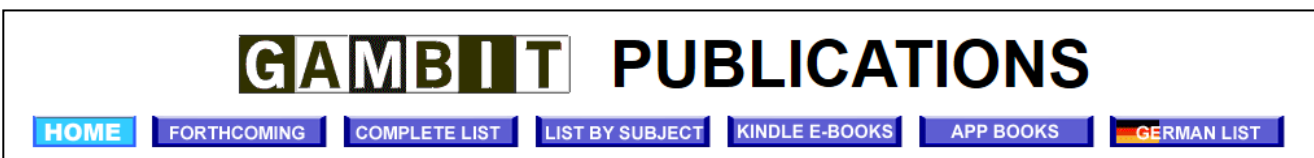
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Caption Competition



Let's have a witty caption for the photograph above.

If you don't want Dave Tucker to win it again—then you know what to do

BOOK PRIZE!!

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magazine
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THE
WINNER**

Editor's
decision is
final

Winner of the **Spring 2020** caption competition (below) was...

Dave Tucker with 'What did you expect to see, Fried Liver?'

You win a chess book—coming your way



SOLUTIONS TO CHESS PROBLEMS

Puzzle 1

1.Rh1-h6! g7xh6

(1...Bg8-d5, indeed bishop anywhere 2.Rh6xh7#)

2.g6-g7#

Puzzle 3

1.Bc1-e3! Rf1-f3 (1...Rf1-f5 2.g6-g7)

2.Be3-g5 f6xg5 (2...Rf3-g3 3.Bg5-h4)

3.g6-g7!

Puzzle 2

1.Qc4-f1 (the only move for mate in 3)

Now the various options below ↓

1. +- (#2): 1...Ba1-c3 2.Qf1-d3 g7-g6 3.Qd3xc3#
2. +- (#2): 1...Ba1-f6 2.Qf1-f5 Bf6-e7 3.Qf5xh7#
3. +- (#2): 1...Ba1-e5 2.Qf1-f5 g7-g6 3.Qf5xe5#
4. +- (#2): 1...h7-h5 2.Qf1-b1 g4-g3 3.Qb1-h7#
5. +- (#2): 1...g4-g3 2.Nf8-g6+ h7xg6 3.Qf1-h3#
6. +- (#2): 1...h7-h6 2.Qf1-b1 Ba1-e5 3.Qb1-h7#
7. +- (#2): 1...Ba1-b2 2.Qf1-b1 Bb2-a3 3.Qb1xh7#
8. +- (#2): 1...Ba1-d4 2.Qf1-d3 g7-g6 3.Qd3xd4#
9. +- (#1): 1...g7-g6 2.Qf1xa1#
10. +- (#1): 1...g7-g5 2.Qf1xa1#

Puzzle 4

1.Na4-c3+ Kb1-c2 2.Nc3-d1 Kc2xd1

(2...f2-f1Q 3.Nd1-e3+=)

3.Kg7-h8! f2-f1Q 4.Rg8-g1! Qf1xg1=

CHESS BEHIND BARS

CARL PORTMAN



QUALITY CHESS

'This is an original work and one that can be read and enjoyed on several different levels. All good books should make the reader think and perhaps even reassess their own take on certain issues and this one raises questions far away from our cosy 64—squared world. Carl is right when he says 'I do dream of better things and I am clear that actually doing something is a quantum leap from thinking about it'. His work in prisons is definitely making a difference, we just have to read the feedback to understand that—and this worthy book is required reading for anyone interested in the project.

Sean Marsh

Chess Monthly



day. Everyone is so encouraging and very helpful that I chose not to ever commit crime. Chess has improved my capabilities and increased my confidence because I learnt that I can do more. By noticing my progression on the board made me study more and my personal life improved significantly as well.

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