

Scottish Chess

Issues 288/289

June/August 2020



**FM Alan Tate lifts Scottish
Championship 2020 title!**

**Plus: - FIDE Olympiad - Glorney Festival - Scottish
Chess Tour - Portraits of Berlin - Game of the Month**

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Issue 288/289

June/August 2020

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Cover photo: FM Alan Tate, Scottish Champion 2020 in his chess room

Welcome August 2020

A bumper double issue of the magazine awaits and, for those who haven't heard, the delay is due to yours truly having a heart attack back in June.

Misfortune is as relative as anything else in this life, and chess in Scotland lost three of its greatest supporters—Hugh Flockhart, Bill Falconer and Paul McDonald all sadly passing away in recent months.

I will endeavour to pay tribute to all three in these and future pages.

Life, and chess, goes on of course and I hope you will enjoy the wide mix of tournaments, reports and articles in this issue. As always, the magazine can only continue with your support!



Andrew Burnett *Editor*

Contents

Scotland's juniors found their expected Glorney Festival trip to France replaced by a new play-from-home online tournament. IJD Ruairidh McKay reports back with games and notes from the players!



Scotland took their place among 163 nations in a newly-created, rapid game, online version of the Chess Olympiad.

The seeded KO-style tournament would allow any team the chance to be crowned global kings and queens, but how would our squad fare?



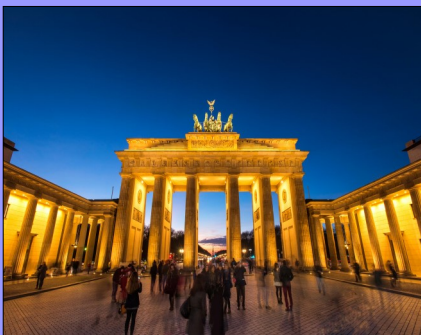


The Scottish Chess Tour has become a staple of the nation's weekend chess diet. As with every other event, of course, the Covid19 pandemic forced the organisers to rethink. [David Clayton](#) and [FM Hamish Olson](#) report on three of the many excellent online events the SCT came up with

The Scottish Championships is never a one-man show, be it from an organisation or winner's perspective. This year's online version, however, saw FM Alan Tate land a unique hat trick. Games and results from all the events, including the Girls, Allegro and Lightning Championships



The recurring combination of Berlin and chess recently inspired Jonathan Grant to muse on modern and historical matters. The BLM movement, Lasker, Kramnik and 19th Century Dundee - all appear in a very interesting article!



Portraits of Berlin – Equality in chess and life

by **Jonathan Grant**

After returning from the World Senior Teams in Prague on March 13, I rarely ventured out the house as the CoVid 19 lockdown was imposed.

In May a parcel of birthday presents from my family arrived from Chess & Bridge – arranged by Jim Fisher, well known to Crowwood and Oban players – which is still operating mail order in lockdown. Independent specialist chess retailers should be supported, especially at this tough economic time!

In this article I'd like to share thoughts on current events in the context of what I have been reading, with my experiences of Berlin a recurring theme.

Racism and Anti-Semitism

A few days after my birthday, a black man named George Floyd was murdered whilst in police custody in the US. Over the resulting weeks campaigners, using #BlackLivesMatter, asked communities across the world to consider their societal attitudes towards black people and make changes.

Scotland's colonialist past and its part in the slave trade was revealed showing continuing and systemic white privilege. On one of our lockdown family video chats, our daughter Elena, a recent History graduate from Oxford, expressed to Ketí and myself how troubled she is by this inequality and by school curriculums perpetuating society's attitudes.

As “winners”, Scotland and the UK have glossed over the dark secrets in its history. By contrast Germany and Japan set about transforming their societies after the tragedies of World War 2 by improving their education systems. I was impressed on my trips to Berlin with how it visibly confronts the hate and terror in its past.

So, holding up the mirror, how diverse and inclusive is the chess scene in Scotland? Is it representative of the wider population in Scotland?

At junior level there are many children of a BAME background and many girls playing. However the adult community is a different picture with a largely white and male dominated profile.

As a white middle aged male I’m not the right person to judge the extent of our problem. I don’t have exact statistics but superficially the answers appear troubling. I exhort Chess Scotland to take steps to find out why we are not more diverse and to improve our inclusivity to change this position.

Role models are a key influence. Vishy Anand becoming world cham-

ion had a seismic impact on Indian chess and this has influenced families in Scotland with Indian heritage. In March 2019 Magnus Carlsen and Anish Giri played an exhibition game as part of a campaign seeking to highlight and end racial discrimination. To highlight their point, Magnus and Anish decided to play with Black moving first for a change.



19th and early 20th Century Berlin

I learnt from **Neumann, Hirschfeld and Suhle (19th Century Berlin Chess Biographies with 711 games)** by Renette and Zavatarelli (McFarland, 2018) that “In the 19th century either Black or White could move first and sources generally cited which was chosen”. For notational convenience, White moving first has become the norm. So perhaps the Berlin Defence really started as 1.e5 e4 2.Nf6 Nc3 3.Bb4 Nf3...

By happy coincidence the authors identified in 2015 that they were working on parallel projects, with 19th Century Berlin being the common theme and pooled resources.

You are likely unfamiliar with the players although all three could lay claim to being at the summit, if only for brief periods – Neumann is best known in Scotland as winner of the Dundee 1867 tournament losing only to Steinitz – and many of the games are naïve to modern scrutiny.

Throughout the book one can find examples of great creativity and attacking ideas despite the lack of precision in calculation and defence. Here is one glorious example in the King’s Gambit as Neumann sacrifices a chess set in pursuit of mating the white king, which has wandered across a full board to b6, by ...♙c7.

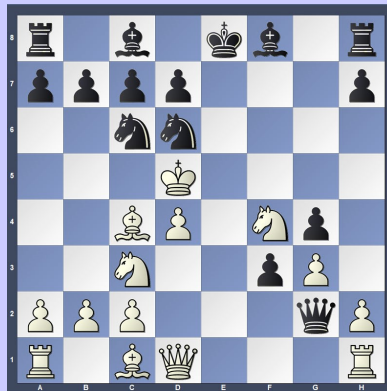
♠ Reich (?)

♣ Neumann, Gustav Richard

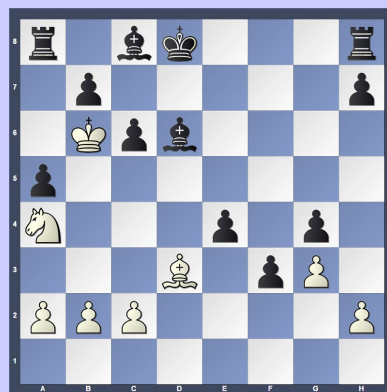
Berlin Casual Games, 1864

1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.♘f3 g5
 4.♙c4 g4 5.♗e5 ♚h4+ 6.♔f1
 ♞h6 7.d4 f3 8.g3 ♚h3+ 9.♔f2
 ♚g2+ 10.♔e3 f5 11.♗c3 ♞c6
 12.♗d3 fxe4 13.♗f4 ♞f5+

14.♔xe4 ♞d6+ 15.♔d5



15...♗b4+ 16.♔c5 a5 17.d5
 ♙g7 18.♖e1+ ♔d8 19.♗a4
 ♚f2+ 20.♙e3 ♞e4+ 21.♔b5
 c6+ 22.♔b6 ♙e5 23.d6 ♚xe1
 24.♚xe1 ♙xd6 25.♗e6+ dxe6
 26.♙g5+ ♞xg5 27.♖d1 ♞d5+
 28.♙xd5 exd5 29.♙d3 ♞e4
 30.♚xe4 dxe4



[30...dxe4 31.♙c4 ♖f8 32.b4
 ♖f5 with inevitable mate. 33.--
 ♙c7#]

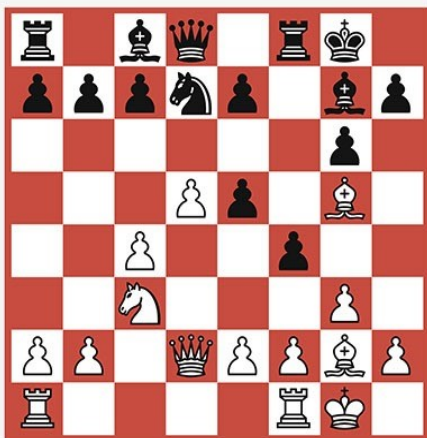
Efstratios Grivas

MONSTER

YOUR MIDDLEGAME

PLANNING

Volume 2



Chess
Evolution

More stimulating are the portraits of many strong professionals – I was players immersed in a romantic chess era. The community was certainly not diverse. Club members required a certain standing in society and professionals relied on the patronage of wealthy individuals.

Berlin Sommer 1991

Over the years I have combined my chess tournaments with the opportunity to learn about other cultures, particularly history and music. My first visit to Berlin was in the summer of 1991. After the fall of the Wall in 1989, I was keen to visit a city which was a focal point for 20th century history especially the Cold War and World War II. I spent 3 weeks playing and exploring - segments of the Wall could still be seen; the Cecilienhof was where the Potsdam Conference in 1945 shaped the world at the end of the war; and I had a chilling visit to the Sachsenhausen concentration camp.

In the early 90s both GMs and IMs of any rating could expect conditions for playing the Sommer Open. Held in July, it attracted a large entry with

fascinated to see Geller in action – including Motwani and McNab. In turn the number of players rated between 2200 and 2400 was higher with many norm seekers.

I remember being impressed by how quickly Geller played in the following game and how Black creates such dynamism with each move creating a strong threat.

♣ **Cosma, Ioan (2365)**

♠ **Geller, Efim P (2525)**

9th Berliner Sommer, 1991



Black to play

14...♙e7 15.♘d6 ♜xd6 16.♙xd6
 ♜fd8 17.♚c5 ♚xc5 18.♙xc5 ♘e4
 19.♞c1 d3 20.♙d1 d2 21.♞c4
 ♘xf2 22.♞f1 ♙f5+



...and Black wins in any number of ways, e.g. 23.♔a1 ♘xd1 [or 23...♙d3] 24.♞xd1 ♞a5 25.♞c3 ♞xc5 26.♞xc5 ♞b3+

0-1

I was surprised by a quote from GM Dragan Solak in **Chess Informant 124** from 2015. *“People who know me also know that I am serious when I say that the first round game is the most important game in an open tournament.”*

I had never thought too much about it. Too often I have eased myself in to a tournament having not played for some time before. Yet the generation of momentum early is important if you are to be successful. In Berlin the alphabetical lists on the wall showed which board you should play on and with which colour.

A female Yugoslav player hurried in just before the start of the round. After 6 moves I was optimistic about the situation on the board - an English (Botvinnik system) with Black shoving ...h5. At this point a confused German IM, Cladouras, arrived to point out the lady was on the wrong board.

His choice in the English 4 Knights was less to my taste – my optimism disappeared and I lost my way in the middlegame. A late rally meant a 5/9 finish but I felt dissatisfied with both my play and the level of opposition. I put my disappointment down to the swelteringly hot summer leading to an inability to sleep or concentrate in rooms without air conditioning rather than my patchy opening preparation and lack of focus at key moments.

Berlin Candidates 2018

Resurrecting the Candidates tournament as an all-play-all double rounder was one of FIDE’s better decisions that has led to fighting and exciting elite chess with Magnus’ last gasp triumph in London 2013 a highlight. Yekaterinburg during March 2020

will be remembered as the last major event to stubbornly proceed during the escalating Covid 19 pandemic before bowing to the inevitable at the halfway stage. Berlin 2018 remains the last Candidates to fully complete and propelled Caruana to a gruelling match with Carlsen.

In November 2019, the 2018 FIDE Book of the Year (also known as the **Averbakh/Boleslavsky Award**) was adjudged by Jussupow, Short and Averbakh to be **“Together With The Candidates”** by Alexey Kuzmin (Thinkers Publishing, 2018).

It takes inspiration from two classic books. Bronstein’s classic **“Zurich International Chess Tournament 1953”** brought to life that year’s Candidates tournament with its mid-game insights and approach to playing. Hort and Jansa’s **“The Best Move”** is a collection of puzzles from their own games, known in Russian as “Together with The Grandmasters”.

Kuzmin’s subtitle is Budapest 1950 to Berlin 2018 and he starts with a chapter combining crosstables and match results from all the events over the period with tests from each.

A personal favourite comes from the game Aronian-Kramnik, a swashbuckling attack from the 2018 Berlin event that wouldn’t have seemed out of place in the 19th Century!

Annoyingly for a book documenting historical records, the Moscow 2016 table is incomplete. The chess content is, however, excellent with challenging tests across chapters with titles such as “When The Opponent Attacks” and “Strategy in Action”. Kuzmin estimates that at one end of the scale, “The Primary School” is for players of 1900-2200, whilst of “Tests for Grandmasters” he says *“I do not think that even a very strong grandmaster could solve all of them completely”*.

In this latter chapter the Kramnik – Caruana clash features 5 tests which lead the reader through a fascinatingly complex Petroff.

Here is a simpler test from the tournament – **White to play and win.**

♣ **Kramnik, Vladimir (2800)**

♣ **Aronian, Levon (2794) [C50]**

FIDE Candidates Berlin (10), 2018

FRITZTRAINER

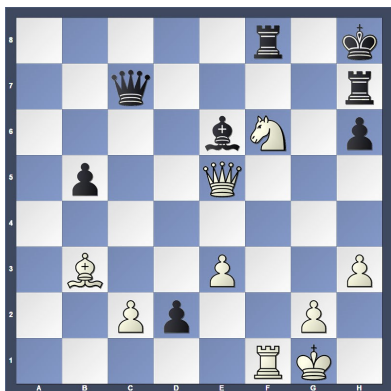
POWERPLAY

Powerplay 27:
The King's Gambit



DANIEL KING





Solution at end of article.

Kuzmin writes “Is it a real test? It is nothing more than a beautiful picture! If you think that, you are certainly right. Well I can only add: A beautiful and memorable picture!”

Present-day Berlin

In March 2019, Ketī was invited by her German club OSG Baden-Baden for the final weekend of the Frauen Bundesliga 2018/2019 season. The Bundesliga and Frauen Bundesliga weekends would be held concurrently with all the top players (Magnus a notable exception) participating in the excellent playing conditions hosted by Maritim Hotel, Berlin.

Next column: View of the playing hall, Maritim Hotel (3 Mar 2019).



See if you can spot Ketī (head in hands), Anand, Caruana, Aronian, MVL, Mamedyarov and many GMs...

I tagged along to see the chess first hand; to meet old friend and Berlin resident Harald Fietz who runs a chess school; and to explore the sights with the Berlin Philharmonic, Gemäldegalerie and Reichstag in easy walking distance. Ketī played three rounds in three days and also gave a talk in English, demonstrating one of her games, at Harald’s school.



Painting of chess players in the Gemäldegalerie, Berlin.

I spent a particularly informative afternoon at the Topography of Terror, an education centre on the site of the former Gestapo headquarters, documenting the horrors of Nazism. I was impressed by how the Germans had accepted their past and learnt from it.

Browsing at the bookstall in the hotel I found “**Emanuel Lasker I**” the first part of a trilogy edited by Forster, Negele and Tischbierek (Exzelsior Verlag, 2018). I was offered a copy autographed by two of the editors at the book signing launch the previous December. Having purchased a copy I went to the lift to leave the book in the hotel room. At the first floor Michael Negele and Raj Tischbierek entered.

“You’ve bought our book!” exclaimed Michael who I didn’t know and I nodded to Raj who I’d met previously. Michael saw that it was missing Raj’s signature, produced a pen and insisted he sign. “You will be the only one with all three signatures!” A funny coincidence!

I spent an hour with Negele, a bundle of energy, before he rushed off to a meeting of the Lasker society, dis-

cussing Lasker and his approach to research. The authors relied heavily on the goodwill and collaboration of chess historians around the world helping with local resources.

World Champion for 27 years, Lasker won almost every tournament he played until late in his career. At the end of the First World War he was in the unfortunate position of being both German and Jewish. This took a heavy toll on him and he decided to resign the World Chess Championship in favour of Capablanca.

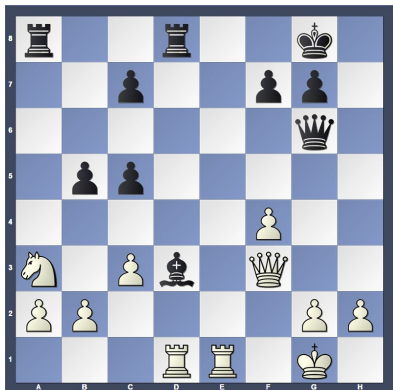
One chapter deals with his time in Manchester – he was coach to a chess club for a year whilst World Champion! In lockdown I am delighted to continue learning about Lasker with Ketj’s present of “**Emanuel Lasker II**” (Exzelsior Verlag, 2020) which contains fascinating chapters on his triumph at New York 1924 and the controversy behind his omission from New York 1927.

 **Lasker, Emanuel**

 **Von Scheve, Theodor**

Berlin (6), 24.07.1890

White to play. Black was doing fine but had just blundered with **24...c5??** **25.♖xd3! ♕xd3** If **25...♖xd3** then **26.♗xa8+-** **26.♖e8+** On **26...♔h7** (**26...♖xe8** **27.♗xd3+**) **27.♗h5#**



1-0

The Frauen Bundesliga 2019-2020 season was scheduled to conclude once again in Berlin in May 2020 but has been postponed because of the pandemic. Ketī may or may not have been selected but I hope we can soon visit vibrant Berlin again.

Lasker (below) was also a famous mathematician and had a sharp eye for geometry at the chess board.

Solution to Kramnik v Aronian
37.♗e8+ 1-0



Efstratios Grivas

GRIVAS OPENING LABORATORY

Volume 1

*Slav Defence
Gruenfeld Defence
Blumenfeld Gambit*



Chess
Evolution

SCT introduce 3 Week/6 Round Lockdown Online Tournament

writes [David Clayton](#)



After a few short tournaments, we decided that the Scottish Chess Tour would trial out a longer format to appeal to those players who would like a longer game.

We thought there might be demand for those stuck at home in the current pandemic and considered an 'after-school' time-slot, but decided on a more traditional evening event.

In order to accommodate those who may not be able to commit to all the rounds, we allowed a bit of flexibility by allowing two days to complete each round.

The playing time was set at 30 minutes with a 15 second increment from move 1 and the platform would be lichess.org.

The Tournament.

30 players entered the tournament, although one withdrew before the start of the event, but an entry after round 1 meant we played several rounds with 15 matches scheduled.

Alistair MacNaughton and Graeme Robertson were the leaders on maximum points after round 3, so they were paired in round 4. Unfortunately for Graeme it was a rather short game (<https://lichess.org/UxdEwSWk#0>).

Alistair then went on to draw his round 5 game against Douglas Will and with a win in the final round against Jonathan Fallman he secured the 1st prize of the tournament.

Results and crosstable are available here - <https://www.ayrshirechess.co.uk/www1st%20SCT%20online%20Standard/crosstablescore.html> and game replays are available here - <https://congress.popmalc.org.uk/node/62> Click on the board number to view the game on lichess.org.

Review.

All of our tournaments to date have been experimental and have proved to be a learning curve for us.

These events are obviously learning experiences for the players and the parents of the younger players who may be new to tournament chess, as well as online play.

Communication with players and for them with one another proved a lot more difficult than over the board tournaments, and this proved one of the most difficult challenges, especially when a player failed to logon to play their game.

[Editor: Overleaf are 4 positions taken from the SCT event...can you solve them?]

1st SCT online Standard

Cross Table at round 6															
Pos	T	NAME	Rtg	Fed	Origin	Pts	1	2	3	4	5	6	DirE	Mwns	MBik
1		Alistair Macnaughton	1756	SCO	CO	5.5	1	1	1	1	½	1	0.0	5	2
							21	10	8	3	2	5			
2		Douglas Will	1816	SCO	GM	5.0	1	½	1	1	½	1	0.0	4	3
							20	10	7	10	1	11			
3		Graeme Robertson	1816	SCO	FF	4.5	1	1	1	0	½	1	0.0	4	3
							11	18	6	1	13	12			
4		Isaac Browning	1412	SCO	WD	4.5	½	1	0	1	1	1	0.0	4	3
							12	25	5	21	14	13			
5		Jonathan Fallman	1514	SCO	ED	4.0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0.0	4	3
							17	6	4	7	15	1			
6		Aryan Munshi	1073	SCO	PO	4.0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0.0	4	3
							30	5	3	14	24	17			
7		Jainili Vadalla	646	SCO	PO	4.0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0.0	4	3
							16	13	2	5	10	14			
8		David Fowler	1161	SCO	GM	3.5	1	1	0	½	0	1	0.0	3	4
							28	27	1	11	12	15			
9		Bruce Malcolm	1385	SCO	ED	3.5	½	0	0	1	1	1	0.0	3	3
							22	14	15	23	25	20			
10		Mark Smith	1108	SCO	ED	3.5	1	½	1	0	0	1	0.0	3	3
							23	2	12	13	11	18			
11		Nivedita Suyal	897	SCO	CO	3.5	0	1	1	½	1	0	0.0	3	3
							1	10	11	6	10	2			

SCOTTISH CHESS TOUR

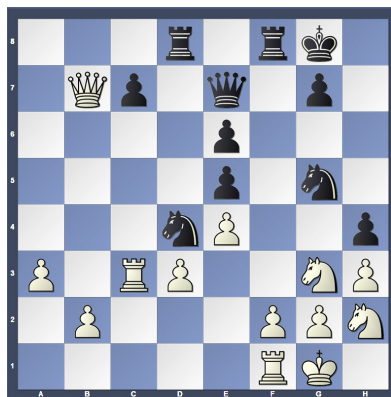
PUZZLE CORNER

Solutions on page 31

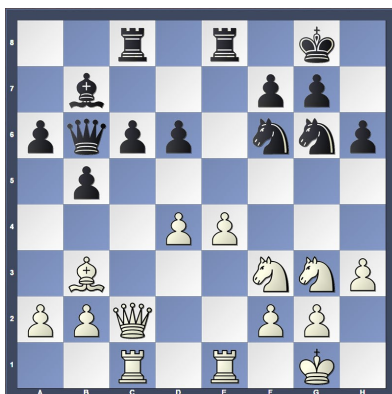
1



2



3



4



The Scottish Chess Tour: A Tale of Two Tournaments

Scotland is in lockdown but the Scottish Chess Tour continues, writes [Hamish Olson](#). I had the pleasure of participating in two of the tour's events online, which is a different atmosphere from otb.

I found it much less stressful (travelling from Aberdeen no longer being required) and the shorter time control allowed plenty of time to potter around the house doing the usual weekend tasks. worse or even lost. For some reason I won't be showing either of those games :D

The turnout was small for both events I played but the games were exciting and of fairly high quality, by my standards at least. In both events the open was an all play all and this also contributed to a more relaxed vibe as you knew who you were playing and when, and could discuss arrangements with the opponent in plenty of time.

In both events I also won all my games, but in each event I had to survive one game where I was much

In the first event the final standings were:

1st Scottish Chess Tour Online Allegro results 26 April 2020

Premier (All-Play-All 5 Rounds)

1st Hamish Olson 5

2nd Ali Roy 3½

Major U1450 (Swiss 5 Rounds)

1st Freddie Gordon 4½

2nd Pranav Saravanan 3½

3rd= Isaac Browning 3

Ishan Kumar

Stephen Heggie

Minor U1000 (Swiss 5 Rounds)

1st Shuban Kistareddy 5

2nd Jainill Vadalia 4

3rd= Rishab Anthuvan 3

Christopher Nield

Prachi Pardeshi

Iain Cullen

Finding the draw on the website was a bit tricky for me in the first round but Ali managed to work it out and challenge me. In later rounds I had no difficulties after David Burke pointed out the correct place in the website (not difficult - I am just stupid!).

I had an entertaining but scrappy game against the always dangerous Dougie Will:

♞ Will, Douglas

♜ Olson, Hamish

SCT 2020

1.e4 e5 2.♘c3 ♘f6 3.f4



I was a bit wary (although not surprised!) when he played this move as I didn't know much theory in it. Mostly Black can get by in e4 e5 side-lines with general principles and good calculation but it can get pretty scary!

3...d5 4.fxe5 ♘xe4 5.d3 ♘xc3 6.bxc3 ♙e6N Here I am on my own.

6...d4 This move scores well for Black apparently.

7.♘f3 ♙e7 8.♞b1 ♘d7 9.d4

9.♞xb7 ♘b6

9...c6?!

9...0-0 10.♙d3 (10.♞xb7 ♘b6 no ♞xe7 here :)) 10...c5 Perhaps I was nervous of castling into the attack against Dougie who is well known to be a fierce attacker.



10.♙d3

10. ♖xb7 Apparently it is a lot stronger here and is slightly better for White: 10...0-0! (10...♘b6 I expect I would have played this but apparently 11. ♕d3 ♕c8 12. ♖xe7+ ♔xe7 13.0-0 is just very good for White - in the region of +1. This makes sense when the computer tells me but I did not think of it. White has the bishop pair, no weaknesses, and a pawn for the exchange. Meanwhile, my development doesn't exist and castles kingside will get mated (I haven't worked out how but it's a fact.)

10...♔c7 11.0-0 h6 12.♔e1 0-0-0



This was the setup I had in mind after ...♕e6+, ...♘d7. It's a bit dodgy to put the king on the queenside like this in general, but all his pieces are pointing towards the kingside and his doubled pawns make advancing on the queenside a little harder for him. White should be better though.

13.a4!± The right way to play.

13...♘b6 Looking back, I played this move surprisingly fast. I guess I was confident getting the knight to c4 would generate a lot of counterplay.

14.a5 ♘c4 15.a6!



It's important to disrupt Black's queenside.

15...b5!?

15...b6!/? I guess I wanted to get ...♔b6 which is why I played b5.

16.♕xc4?!

16.♘d2!?±

16...dxc4 17.♘d2 ♔b6 18.♖a1 I spent a while trying to get ...♖xd4 or ...b4 ideas working.

18.♘e4 This makes more sense to me personally but ♖a1 has its logic too.

18...c5

18...b4? This just helps White to

open lines: 19.♘e4; 18...♖xd4??

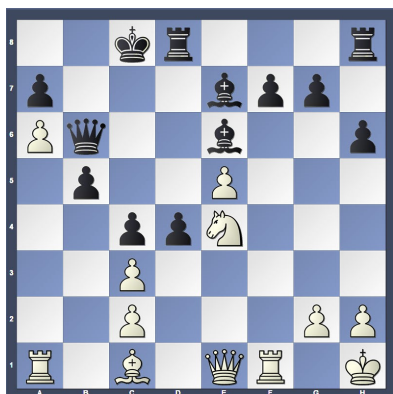
19.cxd4 ♕xd4+ 20.♗f2 ♗xa1

21.♗xa7 White's queen and a6-pawn wreak havoc.

19.♔h1?! The king isn't necessarily safer on this diagonal.

19.♗f3∞ was more circumspect.

19...cxd4 20.♘e4



20...f5?∞ This not only isn't needed, but apparently is too weakening. I thought the open lines would be very useful.

20...♔d5? White doesn't really have any compensation for the material, although Black will always have to be a bit careful.

21.exf6

21.♘d6+ This also would be very unclear practically speaking.

21...gxf6 22.♔a3?

22.cxd4 ♖hg8 The position is very random now.

22...♔xa3 23.♖xa3+ The rook on a3 is cut off from the rest of White's forces.

23...f5 24.♘g3

24...dxc3?!



24...d3 I seem to have a grudge against passed pawns - I don't quite value them as highly as I should.

25.♖xc3 ♖he8 26.♗e5 ♔d7
27.♗d5

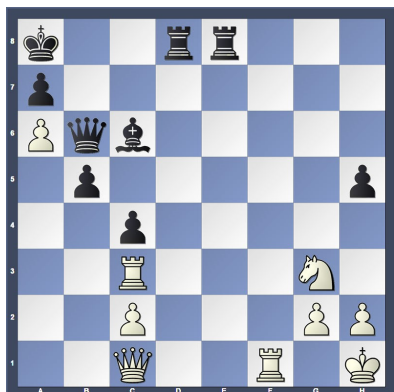
27.♗f4 This might have been harder to deal with.

27...♔c6 28.♗xf5+ ♔b8

The material is even but my king will be safe and his isn't.

29. ♖f4+ ♔a8

30. ♖c1 h5



31. ♖e1

31. ♖xh5 ♕xg2+ Hopefully this was my idea :) 32. ♔xg2 ♖e2+ 33. ♔h1 ♖c6+ 34. ♖cf3 ♖dd2

31... ♖f2

0-1

In the second event that I played in the results were :

Hamish Olson	5
Andrew Todd	3½
J Ross Brennan	2½
Alistair Mcnaughton	2
Robert Gibb	1
John Larkin	1

I had a tough game in round one against Andrew Todd, I used a hyper-modern opening and the strategy eventually triumphed. I also had a very narrow escape against Ross Brennan after choosing an ill-advised transposition to a Stonewall from a QGD. He outplayed me in a wild game but miscalculated in the time scramble at the end.

My game against Andrew Todd :

♞ Todd, Andrew

♜ Olson, Hamish

SCT 2020

1.d4 d6 I knew Andrew would play the London and I fancied something a bit offbeat as I know he can be very solid

2. ♖f3 ♖f6 3. ♖f4 ♖f5



OTB inspiration, not preparation.

Now the game is almost out of theory already - only 4 games in the lichess database! Caruana has played this ... ♕f5 approach against more main line d4 systems so I reckoned it must be fine here too and the almost -symmetry appeals to my sense of humour.

4.c4N A new position on move four already but otherwise a very normal position - in other words lots of fun without all that theory stuff :)

4...c6 5.♖b3 ♖b6 6.♗bd2 Maybe the knight is a bit dim on the rim here - the knight controls two less squares here than on c3. I too am guilty of putting my knights on d2 more often than I should so I am highlighting this even though it is hardly a decisive feature.

6.♕xb6!? In a lot of positions where the queens are facing each other on b3 and b6, it is unwise to release the tension like this as it gives Black an open file **6...axb6 7.♞c3** Here though Black's queenside pawns are quite static - hard to see Black getting ...b5 in any time soon although the position is still roughly equal.

6...♞a6

6...♕xb3!? **7.♞xb3** I thought ♞a5 possibilities might be a nuisance here

but e.g. **7...♞bd7 8.♞a5?!** is actually really dubious for White and even **8...e5!?** is tactically possible and would give Black a better position with more development and more centralisation.

7.a3 h6!? Continuing to mix things up a little bit, but also a sound move.

7...♕xb3 8.♞xb3 Funnily enough the extra tempo with ... ♞a6 doesn't really help Black here

8.h3 g5 9.♕h2



9...♞c7?!? I realised after making this move that ♕c3 was something I shouldn't've allowed although I didn't realise it was as much as +1

9...♕g7; 9...♕xb3

10.e3?!?

10.♕c3!± The knight on c7 makes my queen on b6 very bad.

10...♖xb3 11.♘xb3 a5

11...♘e6 Preventing c5 but I had decided c5 was interesting and fine for Black.



12.♘c1 This is also around -0.2 but I think d5 was maybe a better practical chance.

12.d5 I did not consider this move at all! 12...cxd5 13.c5 Very cool :) 13...♖d7 The computer still gives a slight edge for Black (around -0.2) but I am not sure how closely that evaluation corresponds to reality between two humans - I would not be terribly comfortable here although a pawn is a pawn... 14.cxd6 exd6; 12.c5 ♘e6 13.cxd6 exd6 Black's king might go to d7 and there is a nice imbalance to work with.

I wasn't sure how to evaluate this kind of thing in the game but the computer gives a slight edge for Black.

12...♖g7 13.♖d3

13.c5= ♖d7 14.♘d2 This is less passive than White's approach in the game - now it seems like the bishop on h2 actually does stuff.

13...♖xd3 14.♘xd3 ♘e4 15.♘d2

Exchanges suit Black fine here as I am a little short on space and the g7 bishop is great in the endgame whereas the one on h2 could be off-side.

15.♘g1! I didn't think of this move (but then I didn't have to) but it makes tonnes of sense and gives White some play with f3. If stuff starts happening in the middle and the kingside the h2-bishop will be more relevant.

15...♘xd2 16.♖xd2



16...♖d7 I remember a game where a junior (who was strong enough to know better) played 0-0 in a similar

situation. And then his next three moves were the equivalent of ... ♞d8 , ... ♜f8 and ... ♜e8 !

17.b4?! Now Black is definitely better as this weakens the light squares on the queenside. My knight on c7 is perfectly placed to exploit this.

17...♞a7 This allows White another chance at activity although it is debatable how good the chance actually is.

17...f5!?

18.♞hb1 I was relieved to see this move although objectively it is not a mistake. I am in control now and should have very good winning chances with minimal losing.

18.b5!?! I did at least consider this: 18...cxb5 19.cxb5 ♞xb5 20.♞hb1 ♞c7 I expect I just stopped here and thought White's compensation was unlikely to be full.

This would perhaps be harder for me to play than the game - looking at the position further with the computer suggests I would need to find precise moves to have a significant advantage whereas White's moves are quite easy (♞b6 , ♞ab1 , ♞b2-c4 , f4...)

18...axb4 19.axb4 ♞ha8 20.♞xa7

♞xa7 21.♞c2 b5 Fixing white's pawn on a dark square and seizing d5

22.♞b2?!

22.c5 This is a sad move to make but at least it maintains the pawn structure as one pawn island. 22...f5

22...bxc4

22...♞a3!?! Exploiting a different defect of ♞b2 - I took the better pawn structure whereas this exploits the fact the knight is bad on b2.

23.♞xc4 The point of the next two Black moves is to get the rook to a1, and if White does play ♞b1 opposing then his king is too far away to defend b4 after the exchange of rooks.



23...♞a2+ 24.♞b2 ♞a1

It's hard to know what to suggest for White. Stockfish (depth 23) just wants to give up a pawn with ♞b1 . Possibly White is lost.

25.♖d2

25.♖b1 ♖xb1 26.♔xb1 ♘d5 27.♔c2 ♘b4+ I'm not sure if I've ever had a 6 vs 5 endgame but if I had to guess I'd say this is winning (computer evaluation of -1.3 is on the fence).

25...♘b5 Black can't (shouldn't) win a pawn with 25...♖h1 26.♙g3 ♖g1 (26...f5 is still great for Black) 27.♘f3 ♖xg2 Black should be a bit worried about this with his rook semi-trapped.

26.♔b3 ♖a3+ Not allowing ♖a2

27.♔c2 f5 Slowly starting the advance now the counterplay is completely suppressed.

28.♖b3 ♖a2+ 29.♖b2 ♖a1 More small tactics to keep control - even in "dry" positions like this, tactics are so important.

30.♘f3

30.♖b1?? ♘a3+

30...♔e6

(see diagram next column)

I was aware of e.g. 30...f4!? with a huge initiative but Robin Moore's Shereshevsky Endgame lessons drilled into me the Soviet "Do Not

Hurry" advice for this kind of position and I mostly agree with it.



30...♙f6 This might be the best "do not hurry" move - discouraging the possibility of h4 discussed below.

31.♔b3

31.h4!? This is still +2 for Black but it does seem like a good idea with the point that 31...♙f6 (31...g4 This keeps control but makes ...f4 less easy to achieve) 32.hxg5 hxg5 33.g4 stirs up some mess although still +2 33...f4 The computer is forcing Black to go for a worse version of 30...f4.

31...♔d5 32.♖c2 ♙f6 Slowly building.

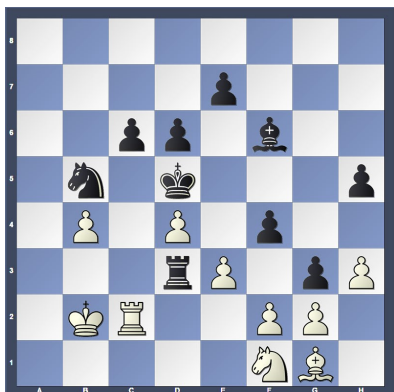
33.♔b2 ♖a4 34.♔b3 ♖a3+ 35.♔b2 ♖d3 36.♖c1

36.♙e5!? Not a move I considered at all but it gives White a glimmer of

hope: 36...dxe5 37.♖c5+ ♔e6
 38.dxe5 ♙g7 39.♞xc6+ ♔d7 Two
 pawns for the piece should be losing
 but there is still some hope.

36...f4 The next few moves I think
 Nimzo would have liked - I complete-
 ly tear apart White's centre without
 putting any pawns there - very hy-
 permodern.

37.♙g1 h5 38.♞c2 g4 39.♗h2 g3
40.♗f1



40...♞d1 One general principle says
 you should trade pieces when you
 are (about to be) up material, but
 another says if you are attacking the
 king you should keep the pieces on.

I had only a few minutes here
 whereas Andrew had 11 so it's prob-
 ably fair enough to keep things sim-
 ple with this move forcing the rooks
 off. Objectively it is even more win-
 ning to keep them on.

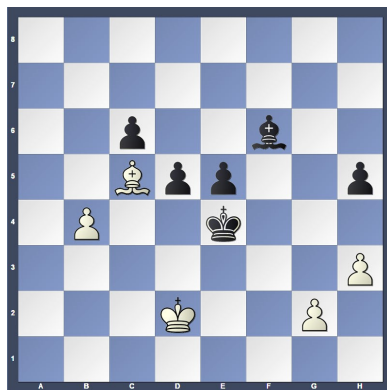
40...gxf2 41.♙xf2 fxe3 42.♗xe3+
 ♔e4 White's king on b2 is a bit wor-
 ried now on top of everything else,
 with ...♗d4+ ...♞b3+ ideas
 and ...♙xd4+, ♗c1 ...♞a3 ideas.

41.♞c1 ♞xc1 42.♗xc1 gxf2

42...♗c3 The idea of trapping on g1
 is very cool but won't happen after
 43.♗d2 although this of course wins
 for Black too.

43.♙xf2 fxe3 44.♗xe3+ ♔e4
45.♗c2 ♗xd4 46.♗d2 ♗xc2
47.♗xc2 Now the hypermodern
 ideal is achieved - occupying the cen-
 tre with pawns AFTER having oblite-
 rated the opponent's centre pawns.

47...d5 48.♗d2 e5 49.♙c5

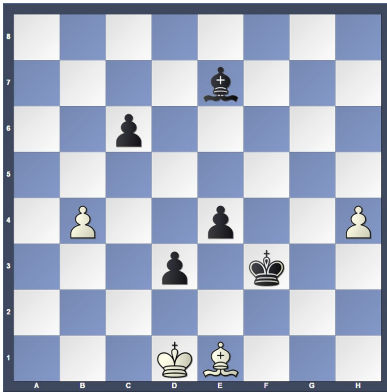


49...h4 Not really necessary but it is
 good technique to prevent the oppo-
 nent's counterplay (g4). Chapter 9 in
 Shereshevsky :)

50.♔e2 ♘g5 51.♘f2 d4 52.g3
 hxg3 53.♘xg3 d3+ 54.♔d1 ♘e7
 55.♘e1 ♔f3 56.h4 e4

My thanks to the organisers for setting up these events for us to enjoy at no small effort. I hugely appreciate the opportunity to play online against people I know in real life as I think it makes the games more real.

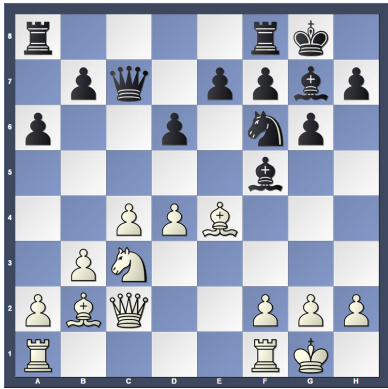
The events ran like clockwork thanks to their efforts and I honestly can't wait to play in the next event, workload permitting.



0-1

PUZZLE CORNER Solutions

1



Position after 16...♙e4?

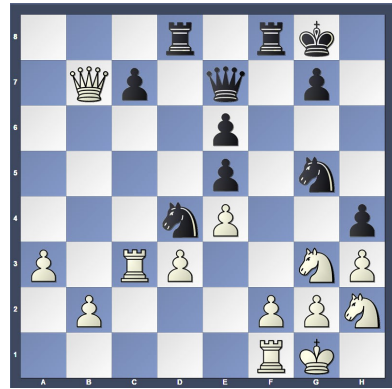
16.♙e2 would have preserved a small advantage for White, but the text falls prey to an unusual double pin...

16...♘xe4 17.♘xe4 d5!



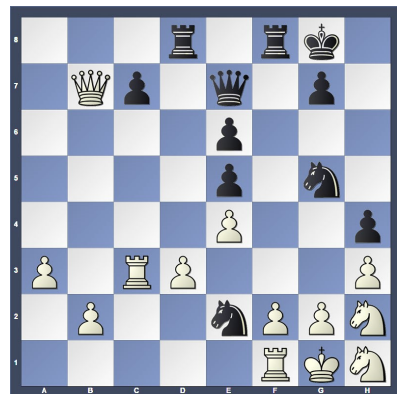
winning a piece as 18.cxd5 loses the queen so 0-1 in Munshi, A (GambitGuru1 (1073) - Robertson, G (mggot) (1816)

2



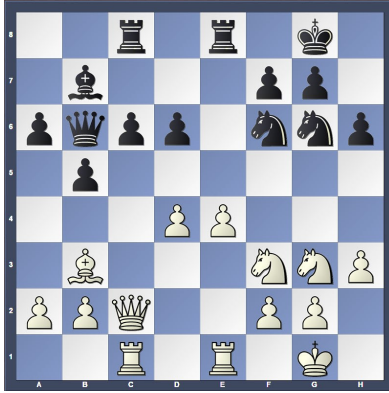
Position after 24...h4

25.♘h1?? Instead 25.♖xc7 ♙f6 26.♘h5 wins for White. Now, however, the point of Black's play becomes all too apparent...



25...♘e2# 0-1 in Ibrahim,Khan (ibrahim0908) (563) - Kai,Moroz

3

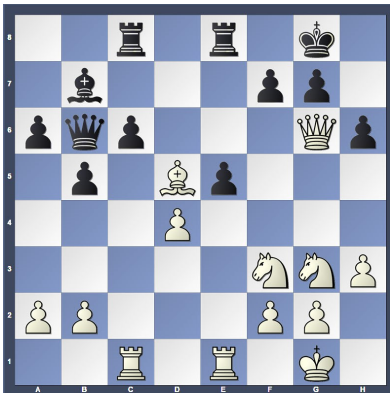


Position after 19...♖ac8??

Black will lose both knights within just 2 moves...

20.e5! dxe5 21.♙xg6 The pin on the diagonal costs him one knight...

21...♞d5? 22.♞xd5



and the pin along the sixth rank sees the other knight go! 1-0 in A, Connor (austinconnor) (1348) - K,Vundi (Happychess07) (981)

4



Position after 21.♞xh3

21...♞xh3+ 21...♙xh3 22.♙f1 defends, although Black is still better.

22.♞f1



22...♞xf2! 23.♙e3 23.♞xf2 ♙xh2+ 24.♞e3 ♞g5#

23...♙h3+ 24.♞g1 ♙g2# 0-1 J,Vadalla (Jainill) (646) - J,Fallman (ve9jonny) (1514)

Bill Falconer RIP

Bill Falconer died on 27th of May 2020 after suffering from heart problems earlier in the month, writes [Jim O'Neill](#). Bill was the epitome of what we called a “Staunch Dragon”, a “Stalwart” of the Wandering Dragons Chess Club.



Bill Falconer (2nd from left) with his C team league winning colleagues

At the Wandering Dragons, he was an active player and also was an Office Bearer over the years as well as being an Edinburgh and Lothian’s Council Member.

Bill was well known across Scotland playing in many events and is a sad loss to chess.

Bill had been a member of the Wandering Dragons almost from the be-

ginning. He was a third team player who took on the role of Captain many times over the years. Bill was a frequent reliable “up float” to the second team and sometimes the first team.

His dry sense of humour (sometimes black humour) and matter of fact personality meant you always knew where you stood with him and could have a laugh about anything. Bill was less well known for blindfold chess, which he was very good at.

Below there is a sample of anecdotes from his club mates and a game from 2017 against fellow Dragon, Richard Kynoch.

Alastair Forrester

“I bumped into Bill at Asda when I started a temporary job there in 2008. I mentioned to him that I used to play chess at school and had intended to join the University chess team but had ended up playing Bridge instead.

I had seldom played chess at University but had gone along to the Wandering Dragons Chess Club in a pub at the foot of Rodney Street a few times with friends in the late 70's to early 80's.

As a result, Bill got me back playing chess again. We started playing chess, either at my house or at his and Brenda's house, on Wednesday afternoons.

Bill was a supporter of both Chelsea and Rangers Football clubs and liked a bet on the horses. His favourite food was a curry from a restaurant down by the water of Leith at Hamilton Place. He will be missed.”

Walter Burnett

“I remember when I first moved to Edinburgh and was unpacking my stuff in the University accommodation. Nobody knew my address yet but there was a knock on my door.

Bill had somehow tracked me down and asked me to play for the Dragons! That was over 25 years ago. A true gentlemen who will be sadly missed!”

Alan Minnican

“I got to know Bill when I first joined. I always wondered why he took such a keen interest in my games. He had found out that I worked overseas and could get him good quality cheap cigars! He put regular orders in. Some boy and a good Dragon - I will miss him.”

♣ Kynoch, Richard

♣ Falconer, Bill

Edinburgh, 2017

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4
4.♙xd4 a6 5.♙e3 ♘f6 6.♘c3 ♘c6
7.♙d2 e6 8.♘d4 ♙d7 9.f3 ♙e7
10.g4 h6 11.0-0 ♖c8 12.♙b1 b5
13.♙d3 ♘xd4 14.♙xd4 e5 15.♙e3
♙e6



A double-edged game has arisen and here 15...b4 may be slightly better, not allowing the knight to access a4.

16.h4 b4 17.♘a4 d5? 18.♘b6?
18.g5+ dxe4 19.gxf6 (19.♙xa6
♙xd2 20.♙xd2 ♖a8)

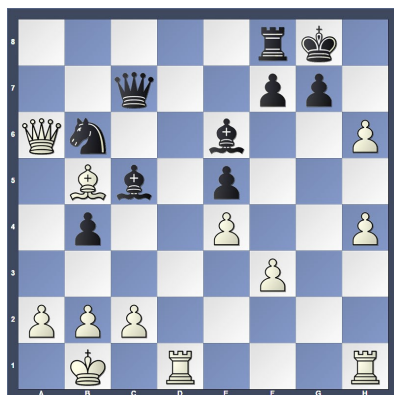
(see diagram next column)

18...d4? 19.♘xc8 dxe3 20.♙xe3
♙xc8 21.♙a7 ♙c5 22.♙xa6 ♙c7

22...♙xa6 would be more accurate and give Black an advantage after

23.♙xa6 ♙e7, but Bill always liked to hold the initiative.

23.g5 ♘d7 24.♙b5 0-0 25.gxh6
♘b6!!



The threat of winning the white queen is immensely strong, making Black's weakened kingside irrelevant.

26.♙e2 ♖a8 27.♙d3 ♙xa2+ 28.♙c1
♙c4 A clean finish, as 29.♙d2 allows 29...♖a1#

0-1

CHESSBASE

15

EDITION 2020

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LEHR-
Programm
gemäß
§ 14
JuSchG

Game of the Month!

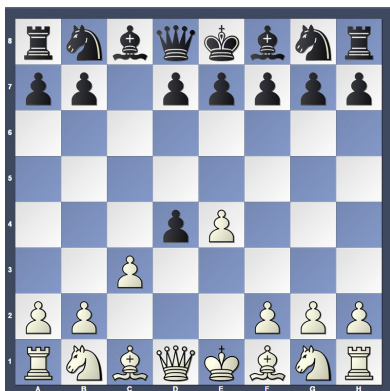
Game of the past 4 months would probably be more accurate, but since it was missed from the April issue, I thought we should give pride of place to Jim Stevenson's excellent win over Dr Jana Bellin at the World Senior Team Championships in Prague...notes by Jim

♠ Stevenson, James (2020)

♣ Bellin, Jana M (2020)

WSTCC 2020

1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3



In recent times I've happily returned to my old favourite. Apart from being a lot of fun to play, my ageing memory cells are pleased to eliminate about 98% of Sicilian theory.

3...dxc3 Always an interesting moment. Sometimes they snap of the c-pawn before my hand has actually released it. At other times I am met by 10 minutes of suspicious frowns before the gambit is declined. Happily for everyone, in this case the former - con brio.

4.♘xc3 e6 5.♗f3 ♕c5?!



In my view, an awkward square for the bishop - particularly after the follow up move ...d6.

Systems with ...♘c6/...a6/...♘ge7 are all the rage nowadays. Some optimistic souls consider that to be the final refutation of the Morra. In passing, may I recommend Marc Esserman's excellent book "Mayhem in the Morra".

6.♙c4 d6 7.0-0 a6 8.♚e2 b5 Call me old-fashioned, but I do like to get my pieces out and castle.

9.♙b3 ♘e7 10.♞d1 ♘bc6 Just about playable, though 10...♚c7 or even 10...0-0 11.e5!? d5 looks more palatable.

11.e5



11...♚c7? Too many opening liberties. 11...d5! was forced and after 12.♘e4 ♚b6 surprisingly neither 13.♘d6+ ♔f8! (On 13...♙xd6? 14.exd6 ♘f5 15.♙xd5 wins) nor 13.♘xc5 ♚xc5 14.♙e3 ♚b4 are particularly convincing.

12.exd6 ♙xd6 13.♘e4 ♙b4 or 13...♙f4 14.g3!

14.a3 ♙a5 15.♘d6+ ♔f8 16.♘g5 ♘d8



17.♚f3?! 17.♘(d6)xf7 ♘xf7 18.♘xe6+! ♙xe6 19.♚xe6 is more brutal.

The calm 17...♙e3! is very effective too. I was distracted by the metaphysical question as to whether ♚f3 first, to lure out the black queen, was preferable to the direct 17.♚h5. The agony of choice.

17...♚c6 18.♚h5 ♘g6 19.♙e3 ♙b7 20.♘xb7 ♚xb7 21.♙c2!

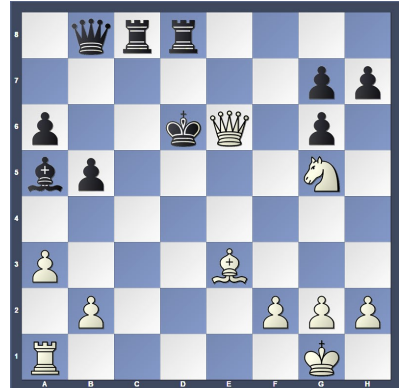
(see diagram next page)

My favourite move of the game, revealing white's idea of drawing away and then eliminating all black's key defenders, the queen and ultimately both black knights.



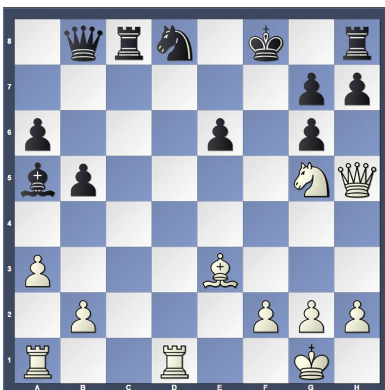
A suitable diagram for a 'White to play and win' puzzle. Only the ♘ on d8 stands between his king and mate.

24. ♖f3+ ♔e7 25. ♖xd8 ♜hxd8
26. ♖f7+ ♔d6 27. ♖xe6+



As Yasser Seirawan memorably said, one invites all the pieces to the party. Watch as the computer plus sign slowly rises....

21... ♖c8 22. ♙e4 ♜b8 23. ♙xg6
fxg6



I'd have liked Black to play one more move, 27...Kc7, to allow my final piece to join the attack: 28. ♖c1+ and mate in four.

1-0

Scottish Chess magazine endeavours to cover as wide a range of chess activities within Scotland, and concerning Scottish players, as possible and as such welcomes Feedback, suggestions, ideas for articles, tournament reports , annotated games, photos, etc. Please contact editor@chessscotland.com

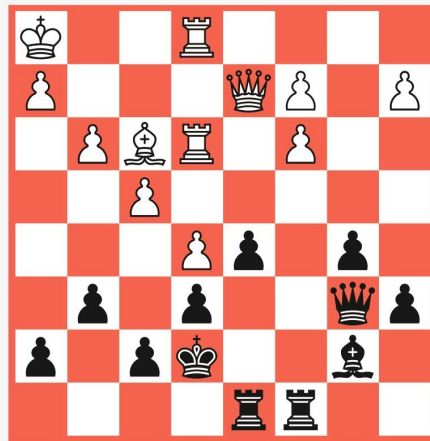
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MONSTER

YOUR MIDDLEGAME

PLANNING

Volume 1



Chess
Evolution



FM Alan Tate reports on his hattrick of Scottish titles and what goes through a player’s mind when forced to play ‘proper’ tournament chess on the internet.

We also have IA Andy Howie explaining what it all entails for an organiser, arbiter and Fair Play Commission member as the 2020 Championships go online!

‘I’m writing this having just accidentally deleted a well thought-out blurb’, writes **FM Alan Tate**, ‘so apologies for not showing the original but you would never have known unless I told you.’

Many chess players have complained about the lack of OTB action since lockdown - It's not the same they say - there's no tension and who knows what the players are up to sitting in the comfort of their own homes surrounded by openings books and chess software.

It's fair to say that the issue of cheating has become rather sizeable over the last few months, and if there is one thing that I have learned from the online tournaments that I have played, it's that you need to somehow accept that you will probably be cheated against online, and that they probably won't get caught.

Everyone reading this has (knowingly or not) been cheated against in online blitz, but facing a cheater in a classical game is a whole new level.

This happened to me in the first of my online tournaments, the Hersonnissos Online. The 1800 rated guy (who I could see on Zoom) played a rare line - played only once by Anand, I reacted badly and was completely crushed without getting to make a single active move in the entire game.

I've seen this tactic more than once by cheaters - they pick a slightly offbeat line to indicate that they work on chess, the opponent reacts sub-optimally and is subsequently crushed, all a logical course of events. At the end he took a concentrated look at my cam and now that I think about it, he was clearly deriving pleasure from the experience.

This last point is interesting to me because I have spent a fair bit of time pondering over what makes cheaters cheat. Sometimes I think they are the scum of the Earth, other times I have some kind of sympathy and imagine that they cheat to feel control in one aspect of their life as they have no control in the rest of it. Or maybe they have a family to feed. Or they are kids and don't know what they are doing. Or are they sociopaths who don't care about getting caught...

The reasons are endless but I'm still wondering if there is a certain psychological profile of cheaters. Probably I should Google.

Anyway, on a lighter note, online chess seems to be serving me rather well. I won all 3 Scottish titles - blitz, rapid (shared) and Classical. The blitz was particularly pleasing as it's my weakest discipline by far as I find it hard to play superficial moves with the aim of playing on the clock.

Although the competition was not the strongest, winning tournaments is a nice feeling and an important part of your development as a player. It's probably something that I did not do enough of in my earlier years, always a bit too keen to play the strongest possible opponents.

Winning is important because it builds confidence. If you are ever in a slump or wondering where your mojo has gone, winning is the only way to get it back.

My main rival in the blitz and rapid was Matthew Turner - a historically difficult opponent for me, but one whom I did the double over.

Here is the rapid game:

♣ Tate, Alan

♣ Turner, Matthew

Scottish Allegro 2020

1.d4 ♖f6 2.c4 e6 3.♗f3 b6 4.g3
♙a6 5.♚c2 ♘b7 6.♙g2 c5



A well-known and very interesting pawn sacrifice.

7.d5 exd5 8.cxd5 8.♗h4 ♗c6
9.cxd5 ♘b4 10.♚d1 ♙xd5
11.♙xd5 ♗bxd5 12.e4 ♗c7 13.e5
♗fd5 14.♗f5 feels good for White.

8...♗xd5 9.0-0 ♗b4? 10.♚b3
10.♚f5 ♚e7 (10...♚f6 11.♚xf6
gxf6 12.♗c3±) 11.♗c3 g6 12.♚b1
♙g7 13.♖d1 0-0 14.♙g5±

10...d5 11.a3

(see diagram next column)



11...♗4a6 A novelty. Previously seen was 11...♗4c6 12.♖d1 (12.♗c3) 12...♗a5 13.♚c2 ♙e7 14.♗c3 d4 15.b4+- ♗ac6 16.b5 (16.bxc5) 16...♗a5 17.e3 0-0 18.exd4 c4 19.♗e5 ♙xcg2 20.♙xcg2 a6 21.♚e4 ♖a7 22.♙f4 f5 23.♚f3 g5 24.♙e3 g4 25.♚e2 ax-b5 26.♙g1 ♚e8 27.♖ab1 ♗b3 28.♗xc4 bxc4 29.♚xc4+ ♚f7 30.♚xf7+ ♙xf7 31.♗b5 ♗xd4 32.♗xd4 ♗d7 33.♗xf5 ♙xa3 34.♗h6+ ♙e6 35.♙xb6 ♖a4 36.♖d4 ♖xd4 37.♙xd4 ♙d5 38.♖d1 ♙e6 39.♙g7 ♖c8 40.♖e1+ ♙d6 41.♗xg4 ♙c5 42.♙g2 ♖a8 43.♖e2 ♖a3 44.f4 h5 45.♗f6 ♗xf6 46.♙xf6 ♙e3 47.♙h3 ♙d5 48.♙e7 ♖b3 49.♙h4 1-0 (49) Gretars-son,H (2561)–Hjartarson,J (2566) Reykjavik 2015

12.♗e5 ♗c7 13.♗c3 ♙d6
13...♙e7 14.♖d1 (14.♙f4) 14...0-0
15.♗xd5 ♗xd5 16.♖xd5±
(16.♙xd5 ♙xd5 17.♖xd5 ♚c8±)

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SWINDLER

HOW TO SAVE POINTS
FROM LOST POSITIONS





14. ♖a4+ 14. ♕f4; 14. ♘f7! I had a feeling there was something here but couldn't bring myself to play it.

14... ♗xf7 15. ♘d5 ♗f8 (15... ♗e6 16. ♗f4) 16. ♖d1 (16. ♗f3+ ♗f6 17. ♗xf6 ♕xf3 18. ♗xh7+ ♖xh7 19. ♕xf3+-) 16... ♗c6 (16... ♗d7 17. ♗xc7 ♗xc7 18. ♕xb7) 17. ♗f3+- ♗e8 18. ♗e4+ ♗e7 19. ♗xc7+

14... ♗f8 15. ♗d3 ♗d7 15... ♗d7 16. ♗c2 ♗c6

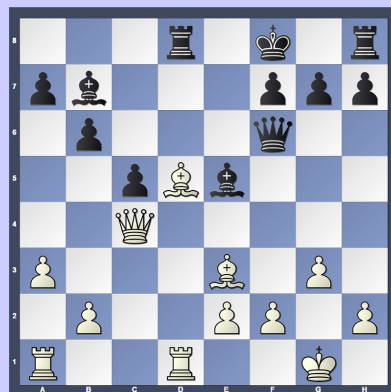
16. ♗f4 16. ♕f4 ♗f6 17. ♖ad1 ♗e6

16... ♗f6 17. ♖d1 ♕e5 17... ♗e8

18. ♗cxd5 ♗cxd5 19. ♗xd5 ♗xd5 20. ♗c4 20. ♗b3 ♗f6 21. ♕xd5 ♕xd5 22. ♖xd5 ♖e8 23. ♖d7 h5 24. ♕g5 ♗f5 25. ♗d5; 20. ♕xd5 ♕xd5 21. e4 ♗e8! (21... ♕d4 was what I saw)

20... ♗f6 20... ♕d4 21. e3 ♕f6 22. ♕xd5

21. ♕xd5 ♖d8 22. ♕e3 22. ♕g5 ♗xg5 23. ♕xb7



22... ♕xb2 22... ♕xd5 23. ♖xd5 h6 24. ♖ad1 ♖xd5 25. ♗xd5 (25. ♖xd5 ♕xb2 26. ♖d7 g5!) 25... ♗g8 26. b4 (26. ♗a8+ ♗h7 27. ♗e4+ g6 28. b4 cxb4 29. axb4 ♗e7 30. f4 ♕f6 31. ♗xe7 ♕xe7 32. ♖d7±) 26... cxb4 27. axb4 ♗h7 28. ♗e4+ g6 29. ♖d7

It's all about piece power here, and every one of White's is superior 29... a6 30. ♗b7

23. ♖ab1 ♕xd5 24. ♖xd5 ♕xa3 25. ♕g5

1-0

[Andy Howie was the mastermind behind the online versions of our national Championships this year, and I've borrowed from his insightful blog to give you an insider's view of running such an event...Ed.]

'It is really odd. Scottish without having to get through the marches to actually get to the venue. What a pleasant change,' writes [IA Andy Howie](#).

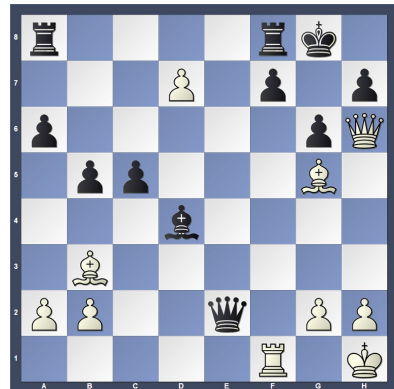
Last few weeks have been hard. Since 3rd July I have had 1 night where I have not been arbiting or working on congresses. Between the SCT events, Primary Individual, 4NCL Congress and the 4 event Scottish it has been a busy time. I have a week off after this and then the Glorney starts.

We are 4/7 of the way through the Scottish and have a couple of surprise leaders. Isaac Browning and Nihad Abdullazada are currently the joint leaders with FM Alan Tate and CM Andrew Green just behind them.

It does not come as a great surprise for me to see Nihad there. I remember him as a junior and he had a lot of promise.

There was an amazing position on Board 2 tonight. Isaac and Craig were playing and Craig had Isaac on toast when in what can only be described as a desperation move, Isaac played ♖xf7?!

(see diagram next column)



At first glance this is a meaningless move but the follow-up is really clever. Craig played ...♔e1+ letting Isaac reply ♖f1+! winning the queen. The simple ...♗xf7 was all that was needed and White could comfortably resign.

Out of interest, I wondered what the computer would make of that move. Would it see it a good trap to try in a desperate position. The answer is a simple no, the silicon monster says that the correct move is Rc1 and evaluates it 5 points stronger.

Who says computers know what they are doing :D

At the time of writing, both U1500 and U1800 reach their conclusions tomorrow and it is the start of the

#AtHyattRegency

Phones in the bathroom are a big no-no in chess events, but when it's an International Arbiter and Fair Play Commission member working at the FIDE Candidates event, exceptions can be made!

weekender. I have really enjoyed it so far. It has been quite busy.

I finish work at 4:30 and relax for an hour. Then I check everyone's Lichess handle in case there has been anything picked up from the Anti Cheating Screen from Lichess and publish the live games master for the evening (I can't put the links in until the games start).

I open as many tabs as I have games +1 so I can monitor the team chat channel and set each one to focus on the white player. Communicate with the players until it is time to start then don my headphones so I can listen for the clicks of each move.

Once the games have started, I reload to get the actual game link and paste it into the master on the web-



IA Andy Howie seen here alongside Chief Arbiter Nebojsa Baralic At the 2020 FIDE Candidates, one of the last live events to take place before the CoVid19 lockdown kicked in.

site and upload so people can follow. I monitor whatsapp, my mail and the team channel in case a player has to get a hold of me, create the PGN files so I can paste in when a game finishes and monitor the games. As each game finishes I put the result into Swiss Manager and upload and paste the game into the pgn.

This continues until a section is finished when I reopen the boards in order and check I have the right results in Swiss Manager. Then I upload the tournament to Chess-Results so the standings are shown.

This continues until all the games end at 10pm. I then spend the next hour doing visual checks on the games looking for indications of computer use, compile the master pgn file for a scan which takes me to about 11pm. Finally I run the draw for the next day, check and publish it and relax.

At the midway and end point of the tournament, I send the PGN files off to Ken to have them screened. It is certainly more demanding than OTB arbiting!! Normally by 11pm I am out on my feet. Why do I do this? Oddly I really enjoy it!

[Back to Alan Tate with another annotated game on the road to his Scottish triptych...Ed.]

Here is an important win against once promising junior Nihad Abdullazada in the classical portion:

♖ Tate, Alan

♜ Abdullazada, Nihad

Scottish Classical 2020

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 d5
4.cxd5 exd5 5.♙g5 ♙e7 6.e3 0-0
7.♙d3 h6 8.♙h4



8...♘bd7 He had only previously played the weird ...♙g4 here.

9.♘ge2 b6 10.f3 10.0-0 ♙b7

11.♖c1 ♖e4 (11...c5 12.♙b1 ♖e8) (31) Barsov,A (2517)–Draci,R (2228) Athens 2007
 12.♙xe7 ♗xe7 13.♘xe4 (13.♙xe4 dxe4 This would have been my first intention.) 13...dxe4 14.♙b5 White is better, the only question is by how much.

10...c5 11.♙f2



I saw this idea somewhere in my prep so I guess that's why it tempted me.

11...♙b7 12.g4 12.0-0 ♖e8
 13.♘g3 ♙f8 I thought he could play ... g6 in this situation.

12...♖e8 I keep transposing to the odd game by a GM;

12...cxd4 13.exd4 ♖e8 14.h4 ♙d6
 15.♘b5 ♙b4+ 16.♙f1 a6 17.♘bc3
 ♙d6 18.♘g3 ♙xg3 19.♙xg3 ♘c7
 20.g5 g6 21.♗c2 ♖e6 22.♙xg6
 ♘xd4 23.♙h7+ ♙h8 24.♗d3 ♘xf3
 25.♗xf3 ♙xh7 26.♙d6 ♖g8
 27.♖e1 ♘c5 28.♗f5+ ♖g6 29.h5
 ♗xd6 30.hxg6+ fxg6 31.♗f7+ 1-0

13.h4 g6?! 13...cxd4 14.exd4 ♙b4
 15.♖g1 ♘f8 16.♗d2 ♖c8 17.0-0-0
 ♖e7 18.g5 hxg5 19.♗xg5 ♖e8
 20.♙b1 ♖d7 21.♗g4 ♖c6 22.h5 a6
 23.♙h4 ♙e7 24.♙xe7 ♖xe7
 25.♘g3 ♙c8 26.♙f5 ♘f6 27.♗h4
 ♖e3 28.♗f4 ♖e8 29.♙xc8 ♗xc8
 30.♘f5 ♖e6 31.♗h6 ♘xh5
 32.♗xh5 ♖xc3 33.♖h1 f6 34.♘d6
 1-0 (34) Shomoev,A (2560)–
 Battulga,N (2395) Ulan Ude 2010

14.h5 14.g5 hxg5 (14...♘h5
 15.gxh6 ♙h7) 15.hxg5 ♘h5 might
 just be ok for him.

14...g5



I massively overestimated my position for the next while and felt noticeably more nervous and excited.

15.0-0 ♙f8 16.♘g3 a6 17.♖c1
 ♖c8 I believe this was a psychological moment.

The stronger player played ♖ to a file, so I wonder if the weaker player 'copied' him.

be he can use the open files, or maybe I can. But exchanges would favour him.

17...b5 18.♗f5 ♖c8 (18...♘b6 19.dxc5 ♘c4 I was a bit afraid of this but I can just protect the pawn 20.♙c2) 19.♙b1 ♘b6 I'm not sure what I'm meant to be doing.

21...♙a5 22.♗e2 b4 23.♗eg3 ♖e6 24.♖e1 ♖ce8 25.♙c2 b3 This felt like another concession but maybe he has a fortress now.

18.a4



I'm not sure how positionally correct my play is in this game, but here he has to spend a bit of time playing ...b5, or alternatively closing the centre with ...c4 which I thought would be bad but turned out ok for him.

26.♙b1 ♙b5 He started to play very badly from now. I think it was probably nerves.

27.♗e2 ♘b6 28.♗c3 ♙d7 29.♖e2 ♙c6 Or 29...♗a4 30.♗xa4 ♙xa4 31.♙e1 with suffering ahead.

30.♙d2 ♙b7 31.♖ce1 ♙a8 32.♙g3 ♘bd7 33.♖d1



18...c4 19.♙b1 19.♙f5 ♖a8!? (19...b5 20.axb5 axb5 21.♗xb5 ♙b6 22.♗c3 ♙xb2 23.♖b1 ♙xc3 24.♖xb7 This should be good for me but it's hard to evaluate.)

This may or may not create a threat of e4, but in any case it led to him possibly blundering. Create small possible threats against weaker guys, they might just collapse or see ghosts. Think how often you see ghosts! So, that's another method to add to the arsenal.

19...b5 20.axb5 axb5 21.♗f5 21.♗xb5 ♙b6 22.♗c3 ♙xb2 May-

FM Alan Tate had won the Scottish Championship title 'proper' twice already, and this year he added three online crowns to his tally



33...♙b7 34.♘b5 ♖c8 35.♘c7



35...♙b8 35...♙a4 36.♘xe6 fxe6 I think he saw that the knight is trapped and then made the wrong queen move. 37.♘d6 Oh! It's not trapped! So he doesn't have a square for the queen.

36.♘xe6

1-0

Scottish Online Championships 2020 Final Results

Championship

1st FM Alan Tate
 2nd = Nihad Abdullazada
 Craig Stout

U1600 GP Sam Coates

U1500

1st Tilak Ittigi
 2nd = + GP Janill Vafalia
 Mark Heron
 Anish Subramaniam
 Jack Egan

U1800

1st Andrew Todd
 2nd = Kylan Kanta
 Stuart Callison

Weekender

1st= Andrew Todd
 Frederick Gordon
 3rd Samuel Todd

GP= Thor Saemundsson
Anish Subramaniam
Ananth Subramaniam
Rishi Vijayakumar

1st Online Scottish Allegro and Lightning Championships

Allegro

Results

Joint winners and Scottish Online Allegro Champions,

1st = FM Alan Tate and Andrew Todd 4.5/5

3rd = GM Matthew Turner and Craig Stout 4/5

Grading Prize Rishi Vijayakumar 2.5 / 5

Lightning

Results

Winner and **Scottish Online Lightning Champion**

1st FM Alan Tate 8.5/9

2nd Frederick Gordon 8/9

Grading Prize Stuart Giulian 4.5/9

Chess Scotland Online Girls Championship – Results

Open Championship

1st Jennifer Feng 5/5 - Trophy & 1 year Chess Scotland Membership

2nd Nandini Dutta 4/5 - Medal & 3 months Chess Scotland Membership

3rd Oishani Dutta 4/5 - Medal & 3 months Chess Scotland Membership

Primary Championship

1st Lakshana Deepak 4/5 - Trophy & 1 year Chess Scotland Membership

2nd Carolina Espinosa Cancino 3.5/5 - Medal & 3 months Chess Scotland Membership

3rd Ashley Tandon 3.5/5 - Medal & 3 months Chess Scotland Membership

P5 and Under Championship

1st Mitali Peecha 4/5 - Trophy & 1 year Chess Scotland Membership

2nd Indrani Dutta 3/5 - Medal & 3 months Chess Scotland Membership

3rd Aaratrika Ghatkar 3/5 - Medal & 3 months Chess Scotland Membership

**Davorin
Kuljasevic**

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Value of Your
Pieces and
Discover the
Importance of
Time, Space and
Psychology in
Chess**



NEW IN CHESS



An even number year in the chess world without an Olympiad was unthinkable for most, so FIDE created an online version, with 163 teams participating on chess.com and Scotland, of course, among them.

With teams of six, including a minimum of two females and one player under 20, teams were separated into six seeded groups, with the chance to be promoted to the next division.

Theoretically, Scotland could have won their way through from a healthy division 3 start to top the world's nations. Here's FM and team captain [Alan Tate](#) with a report on what actually transpired...


'As mentioned earlier in my Scottish Championships report, I had quite a bit of experience with online tournaments, so when the position for Olympiad captain showed up, I felt like I had something to offer. Besides, it's good to give something back - and it never hurts to see things from a different perspective.

Around about the time when I became captain, I had been watching The Last Dance - a wonderfully motivating series about Michael Jordan. The most famous basketball player ever had an extraordinary will to win and this showed in his training and preparation.

So, first up for the squad was a series of training matches against Wales, Ireland and England which vice captain Andrew Greet and myself organised. The Wales and Ireland matches were quite disappointing but it got everyone used to Zooming and everything else.

The England match was terrific however, and we only(!) lost by something like 16–11 which was way above expectations.

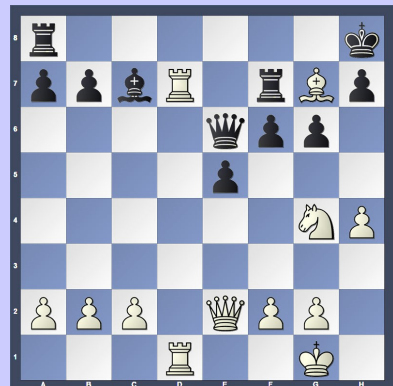
Among the results were Iain Gourlay's win over David Howell, Declan Shafi's win over Jonah Willow, Suzy Cooke's win and draw against Akshaya Kalaiyalahan, Murad Abulla's win and draw against Malcolm Pein, and my own slightly contentious win over Luke McShane (I'm taking it. Do you know how many huge positions I've had against strong players?)

 Tate, Alan FM

 McShane, Luke GM

Chess.com 2020

1.d4 e6 2.e4 d5 3.♘d2 c5 4.♘gf3 cxd4 5.exd5 ♔xd5 6.♙c4 ♔d7 7.0-0 ♘f6 8.♚e2 ♘c6 9.♘b3 ♙d6 10.♖d1 0-0 11.♘bxd4 ♘xd4 12.♗xd4 ♚e7 13.♘e5 ♘e8 14.♙d3 g6 15.♙h6 ♘g7 16.♖d1 ♙c7 17.h4 f6 18.♘g4 e5 19.♙c4+ ♔h8 20.♗d2 ♙e6 21.♙xe6 ♚xe6 22.♖d7 ♗f7 23.♙xg7+ and There-
isnof0rk won on time.



1-0

These matches combined with squad training tournaments and we were all set for the actual competition start.



Division 3 went well but a bumpy middle made for some nerve-wracking moments. The feeling of qualifying in third more than made up for it though!

Ranking crosstable

Rk.	Team	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	TB1	TB2	TB3
1	Portugal	*	2½	4	3	3½	3½	5	4½	3½	6	15	35,5	0
2	IPCA	3½	*	3	3	2	5	4½	4	5	6	14	36,0	0
3	Scotland	2	3	*	3	3½	4	5½	5	3½	6	14	35,5	0
4	Tajikistan	3	3	3	*	2	5	6	4	5	6	13	37,0	0
5	Sri Lanka	2½	4	2½	4	*	3	1	4½	4	6	11	31,5	0
6	United Arab Emirates	2½	1	2	1	3	*	3½	3½	3	6	8	25,5	2
7	Botswana	1	1½	½	0	5	2½	*	4	5	6	8	25,5	0
8	Chinese Taipei	1½	2	1	2	1½	2½	2	*	6	6	4	24,5	0
9	Angola	2½	1	2½	1	2	3	1	0	*	6	3	19,0	0
10	Nigeria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	0	0,0	0

Annotation:

Tie Break1: Matchpoints (2 for wins, 1 for Draws, 0 for Losses)

Tie Break2: points (game-points)

Tie Break3: The results of the teams in then same point group according to Matchpoints



Division 2 was a lot tougher how- The pleasure of a team win is ever and we struggled, although somehow greater than an individual win, and there is also something to be said about enjoying others' success :-)

Ranking crosstable

Rk.	Team	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	TB1	TB2	TB3
1	Hungary	*	4	5	5	2½	5	6	5	4½	6	16	43,0	0
2	England	2	*	3½	3½	4	5½	4	5½	4½	4½	16	37,0	0
3	Argentina	1	2½	*	4	5½	2	5	5	4½	3½	12	33,0	0
4	Colombia	1	2½	2	*	3	5½	4	3½	3½	5	11	30,0	0
5	Ecuador	3½	2	½	3	*	2½	4½	4½	4	5	11	29,5	0
6	Mexico	1	½	4	½	3½	*	5	3	3	4	10	24,5	0
7	Bolivia	0	2	1	2	1½	1	*	3½	2½	5	4	18,5	2
8	Costa Rica	1	½	1	2½	1½	3	2½	*	3½	3	4	18,5	0
9	Montenegro	1½	1½	1½	2½	2	3	3½	2½	*	2	3	20,0	0
10	Scotland	0	1½	2½	1	1	2	1	3	4	*	3	16,0	0

Annotation:
Tie Break1: Matchpoints (2 for wins, 1 for Draws, 0 for Losses)
Tie Break2: points (game-points)
Tie Break3: The results of the teams in then same point group according to Matchpoints

What I will say though is that if you are going to do it properly, a captain should never be a player. It's a totally different mindset and quite stressful trying to sort other people out whilst also being focused for your own games. And it's extremely time-consuming. I'm not even joking that in future competitions the captain should get paid.

Anyway, I will now stop typing now and let you enjoy the games as annotated by the players.



4...♘d4 5.♘c4 5.♙a4 is more common, when 5...c6 is a good and popular choice.

♣ Miguel, Sergio

♣ Greet, Andrew C48

Olympiad 2020 Div3, Pool B
Round1

This miniature against the top player from Angola certainly helped to calm the nerves and set both myself and the team on the path to a successful group stage.

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.♘c3 ♘c6
4.♙b5

(see diagram next column)

The Spanish Four Knights has a reputation as a pretty solid opening, but that did not quite prove to be the case in this game.

5...c6!?



It had been a long while since I encountered or looked at the 5.♘c4 variation, so I didn't think for too long and just punted the move I would have played with the bishop on a4. 5...♘c5 is more popular.

6.♘xe5?! Grabbing the pawn seems excessively risky, especially at a rapid

time limit which makes the initiative especially valuable.

6.0-0 would have been more practical, and just a stronger move overall I think. Let me show you an amusing trap: 6...d5? 7.exd5 cxd5 8.♘xd5! ♜xd5 9.♘xd4 exd4 10.♚h5 ♘e6 11.♖e1 and White wins back the piece while retaining his extra pawn.

This actually transposes to a trap in a Sicilian sideline (beginning 1. e4 c5 2. ♘c3 ♜c6 3. ♘b5). I realized all this at the time, and was in the process of deciding what to do after my opponent castled - but then I got a pleasant surprise as he ate the gambit pawn.

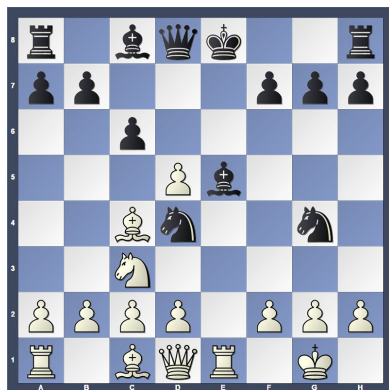
6...d5 7.exd5 ♘d6!



7...cxd5 isn't bad but I played the text move quickly - it just seemed more thematic to develop another piece with tempo rather than faffing around taking the d5-pawn.

8.0-0? My opponent miscalculates, thinking he can safeguard his king and offer a pseudo-piece-sac. 8.♘f3 was necessary, when Black can choose between 8...♚e7+, when White must forfeit the right to castle, and 8...♘xf3+ 9.♚xf3 0-0 with a significant lead in development; in both cases, Black has plenty of play for the modest material sacrifice.)

8...♘xe5 9.♖e1 The bishop is pinned, and White is poised to attack it again with f2-f4; but Black can use his dynamic advantages to refute White's scheme.



9...♘g4! When doing these annotations I checked the database and found a game where 9...0-0 10.♖xe5 ♘g4 was played. Black won quickly, but 11.♖e4! would have offered decent resistance if followed up correctly. I didn't see any of this of course - why give back the piece at all when I can simply defend it while launching a nasty attack?

10.g3 Pretty much any other plausible move would be met by the bone-crunching ...♖h4, which is why my opponent opted for this depressing move.

10...♖f6 10...0-0! was a tad more accurate, when 11.h3 (or 11.f3 ♖xh2!) 11...♖xf2! 12.♖xf2 ♕xh3 would be crushing; White still cannot take the bishop on e5 because of the simple fork on f6, and Black's pieces will charge in like a pack of hungry wolves and eat White's king alive; 10...h5!? is apparently just as effective if you are a machine.

11.f4 11.♗e4 ♖h6 does not really help White.

11...0-0 12.h3 12.fxe5 allows mate in two of course, and 12.♖xe5 ♖xe5 13.fxe5 ♖xe5 leaves Black an exchange up with a strong initiative to boot.



12...♕xf4 It looks like Black must be sacrificing a piece to get such an attack - but thanks to White's ill-fated sacrifice on move 8, I am only returning the extra piece that was gifted to me - while destroying White's kingside in the process.

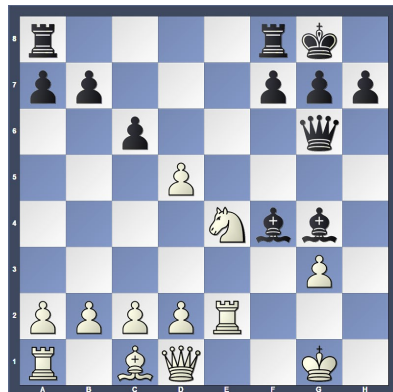
13.♗e4 13.hxg4 ♕xg3 and 13.gxf4 ♖xf4 are even more hopeless.

13...♖g6! Accurate, though not difficult - just anticipating the following sequence.

14.hxg4 There is no choice.

14.gxf4 loses the queen, and if White does not capture the knight, he will still be a piece down.

14...♕xg4 15.♕e2 ♖xe2+ 16.♖xe2



16...♕xe2 This was not forced of course, but I was happy just to take a simple route to victory.



IM Andrew Greet, an Olympiad stalwart for Scotland since 2014, pictured here during his debut in Tromsø, Norway.

♣ Sousa, Andre Ventura IM

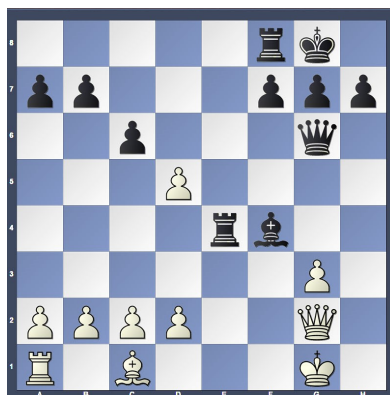
♣ Tate, Alan FM

Olympiad 2020 Div3, Pool B
Round5

When I first came back to chess around 2004 I was shocked to hear players and in particular juniors saying that they did not analyse their

17.♙xe2 ♖ae8 18.♙g2 18.d3 ♜xc1 19.♖xc1 cxd5 and White can resign.

18...♗xe4 My opponent either lost on time or disconnected instead of resigning. **0-1**



18...♗xe4 In the event of **19.gxf4** Black can win any way he pleases; **19...♖e1+ 20.♙h2 (or 20.♙f2 ♜e2+)** **20...♗h5+ 21.♙g3 ♖fe8** would have been my choice.

games but simply put them into Fritz to tell them the 'truth'. For a long time I still continued to analyse with my brain but over time the machine gradually and insidiously took over and at some point I became as lazy as those juniors in the early 2000s.

Technology is very useful when used wisely, but it also has the potential to make us lazy. In this game against Portugal I analysed first with my own

brain, and then used the 'Deep Analysis' function on Chessbase 15. It's not really that deep but it does allow you to not be present whilst it's analysing. So, I did my own analysis, then let the computer do its thing. It seems like a much healthier way to use technology and not be consumed by it.

In general the first line of analysis is usually mine, and the second will be Stockfish's. If there is weird use of language that is not me, and if there are numbers it is an evaluation followed by the number of moves deep it searched.

See if you can spot the difference between human and machine!

1.e4 g6 2.d4 ♘g7 3.♗f3 d6 4.♙c4 ♗f6 5.♚e2 0-0 6.e5 dxe5 7.dxe5 ♗d5 8.0-0 ♙g4 9.♗bd2 ♗b6! 10.♙b3 ♗c6 11.h3 ♗d4



12.♚e4 12.♚e3 seems wilder, e.g. 12...♗xf3+ 13.♗xf3 ♙xf3 14.♚xf3 c5 15.c3

12...♗xb3N Predecessor: 12...♗xf3 13.♗xf3 ♗xb3 14.axb3 c6 15.c4 ♚c8 16.♙g5 f6 17.♙e3 f5 18.♚h4 e6 1-0 (38) Ziska,H (2614)–Kukk,S (2312) Tallinn 2019

13.♗xb3 13.axb3 ♙f5 14.♚xb7 ♙xc2 15.♚xa7 ♚xa7 (15...♚b8 16.♚xb8 ♚fxb8 17.♚xc7 ♙d3 18.♚e1! ♗d5 19.♚c5 also looks playable. (19.♚d7± ♗b4 20.♗d4)) 16.♚xa7 ♚b8= I think this was my prep; 13.axb3 keeps more tension. 13...♙f5 14.♚xb7 ♙xc2 15.♚e1 ♙f5 16.♚xa7 ♚b8 17.♚xb8 ♚fxb8 18.♚xa8 ♚xa8 19.♗c4



13...♙xf3 I spent over a minute here, yet the only moves I considered seriously were ... ♙f5 and ... ♙xf3, and the latter immediately felt wrong. So I was basically daydreaming. It was worth spending a bit of

time here as it's an important decision whether to keep the bishop or not. 13...♙f5 14.♖xb7 ♘xc2 felt better for White 15.♙g5; 13...♙e6 may be better, keeping this nice bishop 14.♖xb7?

a) 14.♙f4

a1) ♖d5 15.♖e2 c5 16.♖fd1 ♖c6∞;

a2) 14...♙d5 15.♖e3 ♘c4 16.♖c3 ♙xf3 -0.05/21 (16...f6♣ 17.♙g3 fxe5 18.♘xe5 e6) 17.♖xf3;

a3) 14...♙d5!? 15.♖d3 ♙c4 16.♖xd8 ♖axd8=;

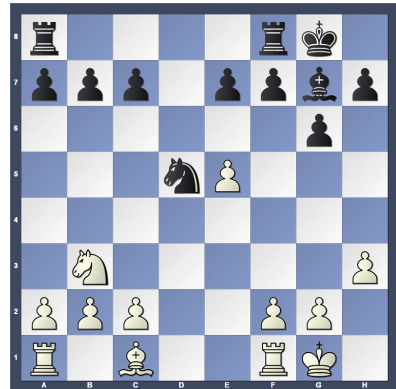
b) 14.♘bd4 14.♘bd2 0.00 - 0.88/19 14...♙d5 15.♖h4 -1.94/20 (15.♖f4♣ was worth a try.) 15...c5!;

c) 14.♖e1=;

14.♖xf3 ♖d5 14...♙xe5 15.♖xb7 ♖d5 16.♖xd5 ♘xd5 17.♘a5 (17.♖e1 ♙f6 18.c3 a5 19.a4 ♖fb8 20.♘c5 It feels like White has the initiative but maybe this is a kind of playable Catalan-type position) 17...♙f6 AT (17...♘b4; 17...♙g7=); 14...♘c4 I did not consider this. 15.♖xb7 ♘xe5 16.♙f4

15.♖xd5 ♘xd5

(see diagram next column)



I felt I would be slightly worse here but was willing to go for this because I believed my opponent to be a good player *eye roll* Edit: What a load of rubbish! You chose the best continuation for the wrong reasons and evaluated it incorrectly because of a lack of confidence.

16.♖e1 16.f4 Was what I expected. Maybe he wanted to keep the option of developing the bishop to g5. Also I can play ...f6 at some point when the f4 pawn looks ugly.

16...♘b4 16...♖fd8 17.c3=

a) 17.e6 17.c3 f5 18.♘c5 This was concerning but White doesn't have time. This sort of thing I would be able to see in a classical game, but with less time I gave in to ghosts (which isn't always the case in rapid, sometimes I just play intuitively and well) (18.c3♣ 18...♘b4!;

b) 17. ♖c5? 17. c3 b6 (17... ♖b4!≠
18. ♜e2 ♜d1+ 19. ♔h2 ♜d5)
18. ♖a6! Another ghost 18...c5;

c) 17. ♙g5 ♕f8 This looks fine.;

17. ♜e2 ♜fd8 18. ♙g5 ♜d5
19. ♜ae1 ♖c6

On 19... ♕f8 20. c4 ♜dd8 21. ♖c5

a) 21. e6 f6 22. ♙f4 ♖d3 23. ♙xc7
♜dc8

a1) 23... ♖xe1 24. ♙xd8 ♖d3
(24... ♜xd8≠ 25. ♜xe1 f5) 25. ♙a5
(Better is 25. ♜d2± ♜xd8 26. ♖c5)
25...f5 26. ♙c3 (26. ♙d2= is superior.)
26... ♙xc3 27. bxc3 It feels like
Black should be OK here;

a2) 23... ♖xe1≠ 24. ♙xd8 ♜xd8
25. ♜xe1 f5; 24. ♜d1 ♖xb2
(24... ♜xc7 25. ♜xd3 ♜xc4 26. ♜d7
Even this is better for White.)
25. ♜d7;

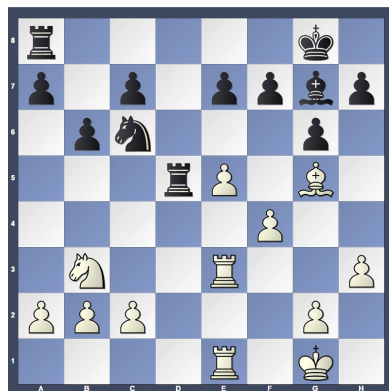
b) 21. e6≠ h6 22. ♙f4;

21...b6 Again, I was giving him 2
moves in a row to justify my decisions.
(21... ♖d3? 21...b6 22. ♖xb7)

20. f4 b6 21. ♜e3?

(see diagram next column)

And here I was too caught up in playing
fast, and missed his simple idea.



21... ♜ad8? 21...f6 22. exf6 exf6
23. ♙h4 ♕f7 This actually looks fine
(23... ♖b4≠ 24. ♜e2 ♜ad8) 24. ♜c3
♜d6; 21... ♖b4! 22. ♜c3

a) 22. ♜e4 22. ♜3e2; 22...c5!
(22... ♖xc2? 22...c5 23. ♜c1);

b) 22. ♜3e2≠;
22...c5 23. ♙xe7 ♖xa2 Is this really
what he wanted?; 21...f6≠ keeps the
upper hand. 22. ♙h4 ♖b4 23. exf6
exf6

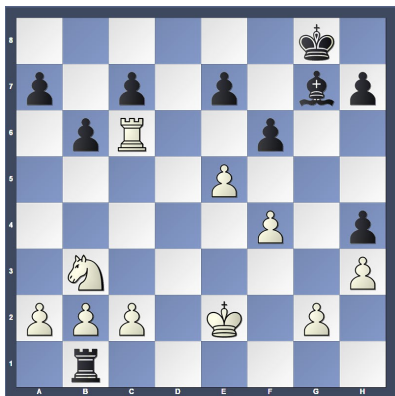
22. ♜c3± ♜d1 22...f6 23. ♙h4! g5
(23... ♖d4± might work better.)
24. ♙f2! (24. fxc5 24. ♙f2 ♖xe5
(24... fxc5= keeps the balance.
25. ♙xc5 ♖xe5) 25. ♜xc7 (25. gxf6±
exf6 26. ♜xc7) 25... fxc5! 26. ♙xc5
♖f3+!)

23. ♕f2 23. ♕f1 f6 24. ♙h4 (White
should try 24. exf6± exf6 25. ♙xf6
♙xf6 26. ♜xc6 Double Attack
26... ♙xb2 27. ♜xc7) 24...g5
(24... ♖b4±) 25. ♙f2

23...f6 24.♙h4 24.♖xc6?! ♜xe1
 25.♚xe1 ffg5±; White should play
 24.♖xd1± ♜xd1 25.exf6 (25.♖xc6
 ffg5 26.♖xc7 ♚f7±) 25...exf6
 26.♙xf6 (26.♖xc6 ffg5 27.♖xc7
 gfg4=) 26...♙xf6 27.♖xc6

24...g5 25.♖xd1 But not 25.ffg5?!
 ffg5 26.♙xg5 (26.♖xc6 gfh4
 27.♖xc7 ♜f8+ 28.♚e2 ♜xe1+
 29.♚xe1 ♙xe5±) 26...♜f8+ 27.♚
 e2 ♜xe1+ 28.♚xe1 ♜f5±;
 25.♖xc6+- 1.66/26 gfh4 26.♖xd1
 (26.♖xc7 ffe5 27.♖xe7 ♜xe1±)
 26...♖xd1 27.e6

25...♖xd1 26.♚e2 ♜b1 27.♖xc6
 gfh4



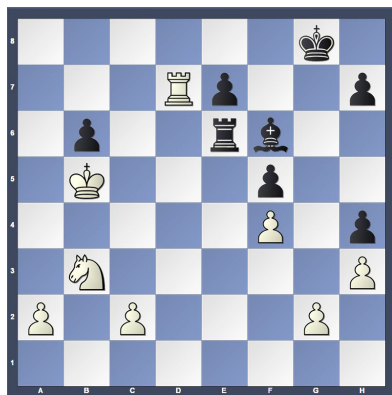
28.e6! Much weaker is 28.♖xc7?!
 ffe5 29.fxe5 ♜xb2=

28...f5 29.♖xc7 ♙f6 29...♖xb2?
 29...♙f6 30.♖xe7? (30.♜c8+! ♙f8
 31.♚d4 looks like it wins; 30.♜c8+!
 +- and the rest is easy. 30...♙f8
 31.♚d4)

30.♖xa7 ♜xb2 31.♚d3 ♜b1 32.♚
 c4! ♜e1 32...♖g1 33.♚b5 ♖xg2
 34.c4! ♖g3? (34...♖c2±) 35.♚xb6
 ♖xh3 was my original intention
 which doesn't seem to work either:
 36.c5 ♜c3 37.c6 h3 38.♖d7 h2
 39.♖d1 ♜xb3+ (39...♙h4 40.♖h1?
 (40.♚b7!+- is the precise move to
 win.)) 40.axb3 ♙d4+ 41.♚a6
 (41.♚b7 41.♚a6 41...♙g1 42.c7
 h1♖+) 41...♙g1 42.c7 h1♖ 43.c8
 ♖+--; 32...♜f1; 32...♖e1 33.♚b5
 ♖xf4 34.♚xb6(34.♖a4!+ ♜f2
 35.c4)

33.♚b5! ♜xe6 34.♖d7 I felt like
 this was a sub-optimal move but
 maybe there's nothing I can do.

34.a4 ♜e2? (34...♖e4!-) 35.♚xb6
 ♖xg2? (35...♜b2 3.33/22 36.c5
 ♙d4 37.♖xe7 ♙g1) 36.c5 Is tempi
 up on a previous line but with the
 not very relevant e6 pawn missing;



34...♚f7 34...♙c3; 34...♜e4
 35.♖d3 ♙e1 36.♚d4 ♜f6
 (36...♖e4± was necessary.) 37.♚c6

♙f2 38.♜xe7+ ♔f7 39.♞d5;
34...♞e4 35.♙xb6 ♞xf4 2.29/21
(35...♞a4± keeps fighting.) 36.♙b5!

35.a4 35.♞c7!±

35...♞e2? 35...♞e4 36.c4 ♞xf4
37.c5 (37.a5 37.c5) 37...bxc5!
38.♞xc5 ♞f2 39.a5 ♞xg2 40.a6
♞b2+! (40...♞a2? 40...♞b2+
41.♞a4) 41.♙c6 ♞a2 42.a7 ♙g5
43.♙b7 ♞b2+=; 35...♞e4= and
Black is okay.

36.♞d2? 36.♙xb6+- and now a5
would win. 36...♞xc2 37.a5

36...♞e4= 37.c4 ♞xf4 37...♞e3;
37...♞xf4 38.♞d4 ♙xd4 39.♞xd4

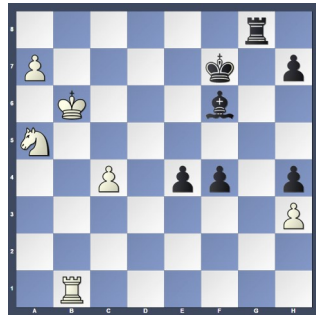
38.♞c2 38.c5 bxc5 39.♞xc5

38...♞f1! 39.♞c1? 39.c5 bxc5
40.a5±; 39.♞d2 ♞a1 40.♙xb6=;
39.♙c6 ♞b1 40.♞d2=; 39.♞c1
39.c5

39...♞f2 40.♞b1 ♞xg2 40...♞a2!
41.♙xb6 ♞xa4 42.c5! ♞b4+ 43.♙
c6! e5 (43...♙c3± 44.♙d7 ♞b7+
45.♙c6 ♞b8)

41.♙xb6 With the idea a5.

41...f4? 41...e5 41...♞g8 42.a5
e4? 4.32/21 (42...♙d8+± is tough-
er. 43.♙b5 ♞a2) 43.a6 f4 44.a7!
♞g8 45.♞a5?? (45.♞d2+- and all is
fine.)



(analysis diagram)

45...f3! 46.♞c6 # 46...♞a8?
(46...f2!-+ 47.♞b4 e3) 47.♞f1!;
41...♞g8!= and Black stays safe.
42.♙b7 (42.a5 ♞b8+ 43.♙c6
♞c8+=) 42...♙e5

42.a5 42.c5+

42...f3± 43.♞f1 43.a6± 0.56/24 f2
44.a7 ♞g1=

43...f2= 44.a6 a7 is the strong
threat.

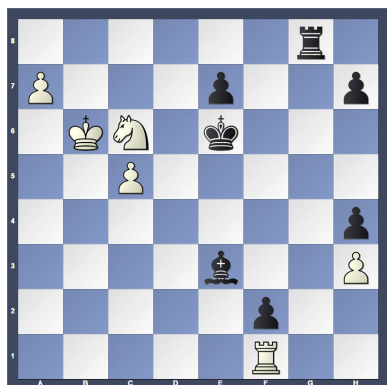
44...♙g5? 44...♞g3= 45.♞d2
♙d4+ 46.c5 ♞xh3=

45.a7+- ♙e3+ 46.c5 ♞g8 46...♞g1
47.♞xf2+ ♙xf2 48.a8♞

47.♞a5? 47.♙b7+- ♙e6 48.a8♞
♞xa8 49.♙xa8

47...♙e6!± 48.♞c6 aiming for Nb8.
White has compensation.

(see diagram next page)



48...Rxe8? A panic move as we had both been on seconds for ages. Instead, 48...Ra8= 49.Qb7 Rxa7+ 50.Qxa7 Qxc5+ 51.Qb7 Qd5 52.Nxe7+ Qe4 and Black draws quite easily.














49.Nb8+- Qd5 50.a8Q+

1-0



Guess The Mystery Team!

Some teams were able to play the Olympiad from a central location. Can you work out who the team above are? Answer at the end of this article!

Bo.	7	 Scotland	Rtg	-	8	 England	Rtg	1½:4½
5.1	FM	 Tate, Alan	2268	-	GM	 McShane, Luke J	2698	0 - 1
5.2		 Shafi, Declan	2166	-	GM	 Howell, David W L	2624	0 - 1
5.3	WFM	 Cooke, Suzie G.	1915	-	IM	 Houska, Jovanka	2317	½ - ½
5.4		 Roy, Ali	1879	-	IM	 Hunt, Harriet V	2391	½ - ½
5.5	FM	 Abdulla, Murad	2167	-	FM	 Willow, Jonah B	2168	½ - ½
5.6		 Espinosa Cancino, Monica	1563	-		 Jaufarally, Nadia	1613	0 - 1

As expected, the big battle against the 'Auld Enemy' England was a highly-anticipated test for the players and Declan, Suzie and Ali all chose to annotate games from this encounter.

 **Howell, David (2663)**










 **Shafi, Declan (2166)**





Olympiad 2020 Div2, Pool E
Round5

1.c4 g6 2.d4 f6 3.g3 c6 4.f3
d5 5.g2 g7 6.b3






The symmetrical fianchetto Grünfeld can sometimes lead to quite boring positions, but b3 is a way to keep it a bit more alive.

6...dxc4 7.bxc4 c5 8.b2 cxd4
9.xd4 0-0 10.0-0 b6 11.c1
bd7 11...d7 12.d2 c6
13.e3 ac8 is the main line, and it makes a lot more sense to try to put the knight on c6. On c5 the knight was a bit loose, as well as losing a bit of time.

12.d1 c5 13.c3 e5 14.c2



14...d7 14...h6 I did consider this move in the game, but xh6 is a

Declan is no stranger to tough games and big names, seen here with world title challenger Sergey Karjakin



move so my queen would be a little stranded. 15. ♖xh6 ♜xb2 16. ♖e3 ♜xc2 17. ♜ac1 ♖f5 18. ♖xc5

15. ♜b1 ♜c7 15... ♖a5 Was my original intention, but there is no satisfactory way to keep a hold of the c5 knight after 16. ♖a3; 15... ♖e6 is better, making ♘d5 less potent. 16. ♖a3 ♜ac8 17. ♖xc5 ♜xc5 18. ♜xb7 I was concerned about my b7 pawn in lines like this but here I have ... ♖xc4 and if he doesn't go quickly I can consolidate a little.

16. ♘b4 ♘d5 is very annoying

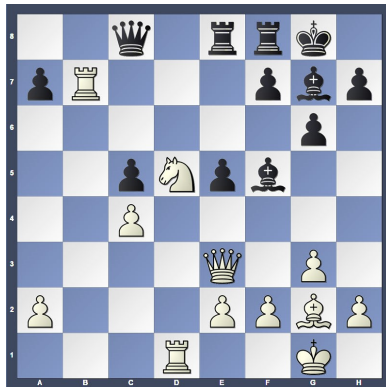
16... ♜ae8 17. ♖e3 ♖f5 18. ♘bd5 ♜c8 19. ♘xf6+ ♖xf6 20. ♘d5



20... ♖g7 20... ♖d8 protects a little against some of the threats in the game, although it is not a pleasant move to play 21. ♜bc1 It is probably best to move the rook out of the way which gives me a moment to pull the position together a little bit. (21. ♖a3 ♖xb1 22. ♖xc5 ♖xa2 23. ♖xf8 ♜xf8

Here there is no ♘e7+ fork) 21...f6 22. ♖a3 b6 ♖xc5 is less strong because there is no ♜b7. White still has a strong edge though.

21. ♖a3 b6 22. ♖xc5 bxc5 23. ♜b7

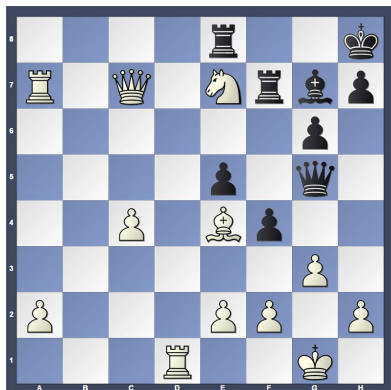


This was a nice tactic, although probably one I should have seen coming. I did promptly blunder my bishop to the same idea but the game is very hard anyway.

23... ♖d7 23... ♖xb7 24. ♘f6+ ♖xf6 25. ♖xb7 ♜b8 26. ♖d5 ♜fc8 may have been the best practical try, but White should win. 23... ♖h8 24. ♘e7 ♖e6 25. ♖xc5 It feels like my position is collapsing.

24. ♜xd7 The rest of the game isn't terribly interesting.

24... ♖h8 25. ♜xa7 f5 26. ♜a5 ♜d8 27. ♖xc5 ♖g5 28. ♜a7 f4 29. ♖c7 ♜g8 30. ♘e7 ♜g8 31. ♘d5 ♜g8 32. ♘e7 ♜g8 33. ♖e4 ♜f7



34. ♖xg6+ ♚xg6 35. ♚xf7 howitz-
er14 won by resignation

1-0

♣ Cooke, Suzy G (1915)

♠ Houska, Jovanka (2317)

Olympiad 2020 Div2, Pool E
Round5

1.d4 d5 2.♙f4 c5 3.e3 ♘c6 4.c3
♘f6



5.♙d3 5.♘d2 Is this a possibility
before ♙d3? Magnus Carlsen played
this against Radoslaw Wojtaszek in
2015 and won. The game continued
5...cxd4 (5...♙g4 6.♘gf3 (or
6.♚b3)) 6.exd4 ♙f5 7.♚b3 ♚c8
8.♘gf3=

5...♙g4 6.♘f3 e6 7.♘bd2 ♙d6
8.♙g3 0-0 9.0-0 ♙xg3 10.hxg3
♚e7 11.dxc5 I was concerned
about an IQP, but this move is a bit
rushed. 11.♚e1 was better.

11...♚xc5 12.e4 ♘e5 13.♘b3 ♚
b6 14.exd5 ♙fd8 15.♙e2 ♙xd5
16.♚c2 ♚c1 was better.

16...♙f5 17.♚c1 ♘d3?! 18.♙xd3
♙xd3



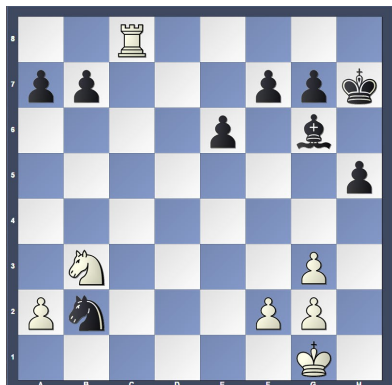
19.♚e1 I was worried about ...♘g4,
and was hoping that after ♘d4, I'd
be able to hold off/block e5. Possible
was 19.c4 ♚h5 20.♚d1 ♙e2
21.♚e1=

19...♘e4= 19...♙g4 20.♚d2 h5-+



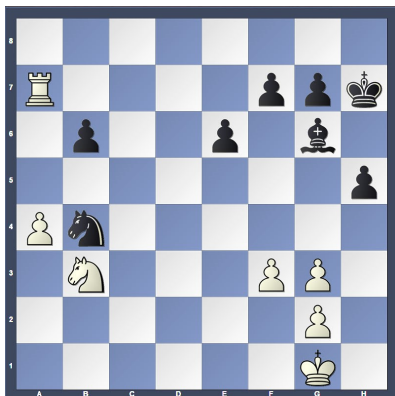
Suzy Cooke was one of three players who drew against the highly-rated English team in the Division 2 battle

20.♔e3 ♕xe3 21.♖xe3 ♜d6
 22.♞e5 ♙g6 23.c4 ♖xe5 24.♖xe5
 ♜xc4 25.♖c5 ♜xb2 26.♖ac1 h5
 27.♖c8+ ♖xc8 28.♖xc8+ ♕h7



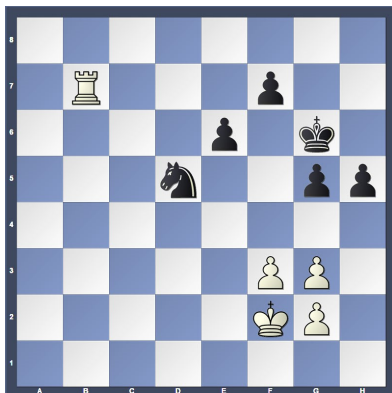
29.f3 I felt if I could hold onto the a-pawn, I may have winning chances, but I should have played 29.♖c7 ♙e4 30.♞c5 ♙d5 31.♞xb7

29...♞d3 30.♖c7 ♞b4 31.a3 ♞c2
 32.a4 b6 33.♖xa7 ♞b4



34.♖b7 34.♞d2! preserves serious winning chances.

34...♞d5 35.♞d4 ♙g8 36.♞c6
 ♙c2 37.a5 bxa5 38.♞xa5 g5
 39.♞c6 ♙g6 40.♞e5 ♙g7 41.♙f2
 ♙f6 42.♞d7+ ♙g7 43.♞e5 ♙f6
 44.♞xg6 ♙xg6 45.♖a7 ♙f6
 46.♖b7 ♙g6



I was unsure how to make progress and offered a draw. Looking after the game, this is a difficult endgame to win for White.

1/2-1/2



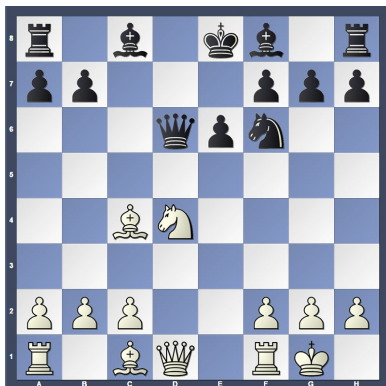
🏴 Hunt, Harriet (2249)

🏴 Roy, Ali (1738)

Olympiad 2020 Div2, Pool E
Round5

Scotland vs England - no pressure, right? I had previously lost to Harriet twice in our practice match for the Online Olympiad. Again, no pressure. I wasn't sure what to expect from this game but there had been so many disconnects/mouse slips/time issues that anything could happen. As you will see in a "big light square traffic jam" (credit to Iain G) on move 53!

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘d2 c5 4.exd5
♙xd5 5.♗gf3 cxd4 6.♙c4 ♖d6
7.0-0 ♗f6 8.♗b3 ♘c6 9.♗bxd4
♗xd4 10.♗xd4

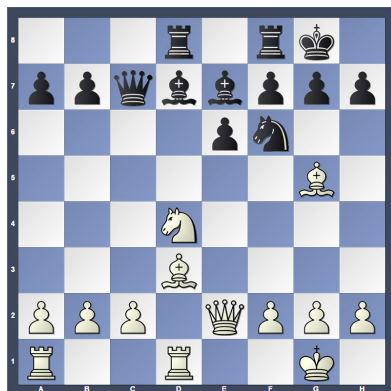


10...♙c7 10...a6 This is the most common move. However, Harriet and I played the same variation dur-

ing the Scotland v England practice match and I was curious to see if we would play the same line. We didn't...

11.♙b5+ 11.b3 a6 12.♙f3 ♙d6
13.h3 0-0 14.♙b2 b5 15.♙xa8
♙b7 16.♙xf8+ ♙xf8 This is how our previous game played out. Although Harriet won in the end, it's obviously looking better for Black.

11...♙d7 12.♙e2 ♙e7 13.♖d1 ♖d8
14.♙g5 0-0 15.♙d3



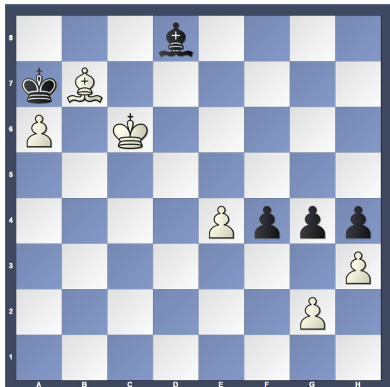
15...♙c6 This move is questionable. It invites white to play with the bishop pair. I did not like the knight sitting on d4 and it is difficult to hold back and manoeuvre pieces into good squares when time is so short.

16.♗xc6 ♙xc6 17.♙e3 h6
18.♙xf6 ♙xf6 19.c3 ♖d6 Yes, the a7 pawn is a free pawn. That's what happens when you switch off for one second. 19...a5 20.♙e2 This may



Ali Roy, a regular in the Scottish Olympiad team and close to a historic victory in her individual clash with English IM Harriet Hunt

Solution: 53...e4! and White's king winning the c-pawn after cxd5, but placement is doing him no justice. 54.fxe4 g4!



55.hxg4 (55.♔d7 f3 56.gxf3 g3 57.♔xd8 g2 58.e5 g1♗ 59.e6 ♔b8 60.e7 ♖d4+ 61.♔e8 ♔c7 62.♔f8 (62.♔f7 ♖d7 63.♔f6 ♔d6) 62...♗f6+ 63.♔e8) 55...h3 56.gxh3 f3 ♣

10.e3 ♘d7 11.♔d3 f5 Black is trying to gain much needed space, but this allows me to start eyeing up the e6 pawn and the e5 square.

♣ Lampard, Alice (1763)

♣ Castillo Morales, T (1846)

Olympiad 2020 Div2, Pool E
Round8

12.h3 I wanted a square to hide my bishop after g5, but it's actually not a threat because if 12.0-0 g5 13.♔xe4 I can just take the knight off first.

1.d4 e6 2.c4 ♘f6 3.♘c3 ♔b4 The Nimzo-Indian Defence.

4.♗c2 0-0 5.♘f3 ♔xc3+ This is a lot earlier than I expected.

6.♗xc3 ♘e4 7.♗c2 d5 8.♔f4 ♗e7 9.a3 c6 This removes the threat of

12...♘df6 13.♘e5 ♔d7 14.c5



I'm feeling good about my position at this point: I have the strong e5 square, Black's bishop is looking rather sad stuck behind the pawns, and I now have got c5 in, further restricting Black's space and supporting the d6 square of future use, with potential ideas of placing my bishop there.

14...♖h5 15.♙h2 ♘e8 16.♖f1 I wasn't keen on 0–0 here for fear of Black trying to get the queen in and creating a counter attack, but there is no threat and I was just seeing ghosts. Although, I am planning to start pushing my pawns up on the kingside to start an attack, so I probably want to castle queen-side anyway.

16...♗hf6 17.♙f4 I was looking to trap the knight on e4, removing its only free square. A cheapo which I probably played under time pressure and is not any use once the trick is avoided. 0–0–0 is a much more useful move, simply continuing with my plan.

17...♗d7 18.f3 ♗ef6 19.g4 ♖xe5 Although my knight is strong and seems threatening on e5, there isn't much I can do with it. Black is happy to swap off to get rid of pieces and try gain some space, but I am equally happy to get my bishop into action and make use of the d6 square.

20.♙xe5 ♗d7



21.♙g3?! 21.♙d6 I had seen this move, but I was worried about ... ♗h4+ and Black getting some counter-play. With little time remaining, I didn't have time to do any calculations so I decided to play it safe and not let Black try anything. But looking at it properly, Black has nothing. **21...♗h4+ 22.♖f2 ♖xf2+ 23.♙xf2 ♖f6 24.g5 ♖f7 25.h4**

21...e5 22.0-0-0 e4 22...exd4 23.exd4 ♖e3+ I was expecting Black to trying something like this, but I appear to be fine after **24.♙b1 ♖xd4 25.♙d6**

23.fxe4 fxe4 I'm happy to open up and take control of the f-file.

24.♙e2 ♖e6 25.♙d6 ♖xf1 26.♖xf1 ♙g6

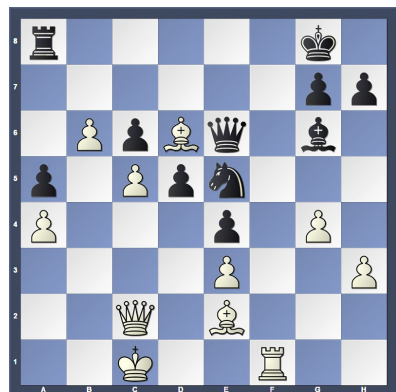
(see diagram next page)



27.b4 Just trying to secure my position and not allow Black any play trying to break up the queen-side. Perhaps jumping straight into the attack with ♖b3 might have been more proactive. Black seems to struggle to defend the queen-side pawns with the rook being restricted by my monster bishop.

27.♖b3 b5 (27...b6 28.♖a4 b5 29.♖a6) 28.a4

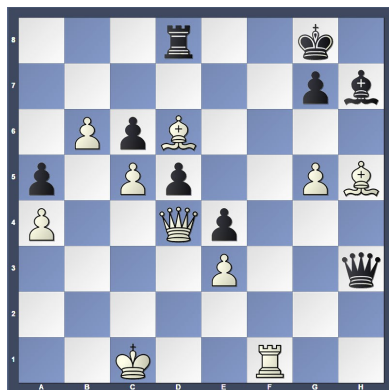
27...b6 28.a4 a5 29.b5 bxc5 30.dxc5 ♘e5 31.b6



31...♖c8? I think Black panicked due to lack of time and focused on stopping my pawn advancing. A better try would have been 31...♘d3+ 32.♔d2 ♖d7 33.♙xd3 exd3 34.♖b2 ♖b7

32.♙xe5 ♖b7 33.♙d6 With material up, a passed pawn, and complete dominance over the dark squares, this is an easy position to play on from.

33...♖d8 34.♖b2 h6 35.♖e5 ♖e8 36.♖d4 ♖d8 37.h4 ♙h7 38.g5 hxg5 39.hxg5 ♖d7 40.♙h5 ♖h3



41.♙e2 This move was played due to lack of time. Instead of calculating that Black has no attack, I decided to play it safe and ensure Black has absolutely no play before I start to attack the king. There is, however, a better move available, winning almost instantly. 41.♖f7 ♖h1+ 42.♔c2 ♖g2+ 43.♔b3 ♖xg5 44.♙e7 ♖h6 45.♙xd8

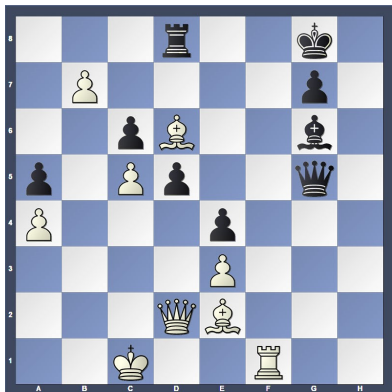
Alice Lampard's win helped the team to a draw against Costa Rica



41...♔g2 Again, over defensive due to little time on the clock.

♣ Gracia Alvarez, Gerardo An

42.♔d2 ♕g6 43.b7 ♖xg5



44.b8♖ I had a much better move here which would ensure I could keep the pawn promotion on the board. Can you see it? Answer at end of game.

♣ Gourlay, Iain D15

Olympiad 2020 Div2, Pool E Round9

My form was poor in this event and before this game I'd had several disasters, ruining 2 or 3 winning positions across the 2 weekends and even hanging my queen against a Portuguese IM after pressing for most of the game. So I was determined to finish the event by playing a half decent game! My opponent's rating was on chess-results as 2029 but a quick look before the game told me that's a typically unreliable rapid rating and he's a 2308 FM. So I expected a tough fight.

44...♖xb8 45.♕xb8 ♔d8 46.♕d6 1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.♘c3 dxc4 5.e4

1-0

Solution: 44.♖f8+ ♕x8 45.♖x8 ♖x8+ would have been a much nicer way to win. But again, due to the time control, I jumped on the simplest and most obvious win.



The Geller Gambit suggests he's out for blood!

5...b5 6.e5 The modern treatment seems to be **6.♙e2!?** and this might just be better than the more traditional attempts for White.

6...♘d5 7.a4 e6 8.axb5 ♘xc3 9.bxc3 cxb5 10.♘g5 ♙b7 11.♚h5 g6 12.♚g4 ♙e7 13.♙e2 **13.h4** is the main alternative.

13...♙d5 14.♙f3



This is an old line, with games from the 1950s reaching this position. Stockfish just thinks it's a load of nonsense and there don't seem to be any GMs taking the White side nowadays. I had studied it in Avrukh's book for Quality Chess on the Slav and was fairly sure **14...h5** is the move but couldn't remember the details, although I was pretty sure that **...♘c6** and **...b4** were involved.

14...h5 15.♚g3 ♘c6 16.♘e4 b4 Avrukh gives **16...h4 17.♚g4 b4 18.0-0 ♔f8** but I don't think there's much wrong with my move.

17.♘d6+? I expected **17.♙g5** Objectively Black is doing very well but in the heat of the moment I was a bit worried about my dark squares and this definitely seems to be White's best practical chance since he needs to drum up some compensation for the pawn and Black's queenside and central play.

I intended **17...♙xg5 18.♘xg5** and I could pretend I was ready with **18...♘e7** as in Reefschlaeger-Huebner, 1984(!) but actually I hadn't decided at all.

17...♙xd6 18.♙xd5 exd5 19.exd6 0-0 20.0-0 bxc3 20...a5 is better.

21.♚xc3 ♚f6 21...♚xd6? **22.♙a3** would still be great for Black but there's no need for this!

22.♖d1 22.♙a3!?; After **22.♖a6** Black has **22...♚xd6!** with the point that if **23.♙a3** there is **23...♘xd4!**

when the central pawns give Black a winning position, for example
 24. ♖xd6 ♞e2+ 25. ♔h1 ♞xc3
 26. ♖xf8 ♔xf8

22...a5 23. ♖a3

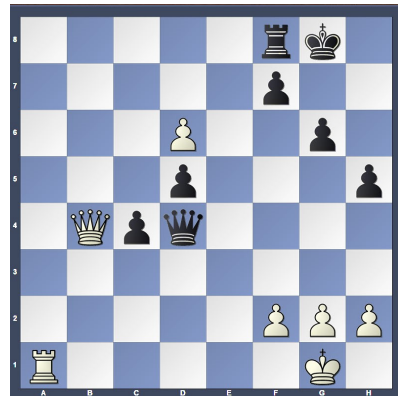


23... ♞b4?! This was the reason I played 22...a5 although objectively its not best. I underestimated white's resources in the ending that arises in the game.

Apparently it's better to play 23... ♖fb8 but I wanted to stop 24. ♖c5 as I thought that by keeping the d6 pawn white could hope for counterplay. Maybe the bishop is just a big pawn on c5 though. After 24... ♖b3 Black should be completely winning.

24. ♖xb4 axb4 25. ♖xb4 ♖xa1
 26. ♖xa1 ♖xd4

(see diagram next column)



27. ♖e1 I hadn't considered 27. ♖a5 covering d8, when it doesn't seem to be possible to round up the d6 pawn without dropping d5, e.g. 27... ♖f6 28. ♖d1 ♖xd6 29. ♖xd5 Now exchanging queens and playing ... ♖c8 looks kind of natural but the black king is far away from supporting the pawn. The typical plan of giving up the pawn while eating the kingside is also too slow since white hasn't made any pawn moves yet. So black should keep the queens on but this would have been much trickier than the game.

27... ♖d8 28. h3? Thankfully my opponent continued to play moves I'd considered in advance. The engine points out 28. ♖b7! with the same idea as 27. ♖a5 that Black will have to give up the d5 pawn in order to take d6. This is probably a better version for Black than after 27. ♖a5 but it would have required me to find some accurate moves: definitely not



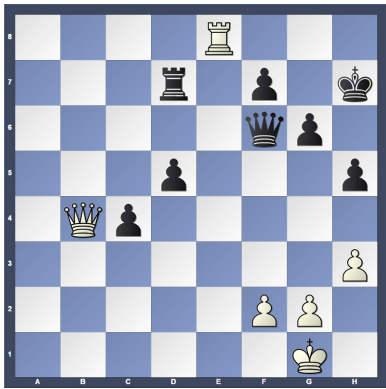
FM Iain Gourlay has represented Scotland in two previous Olympiads, Turin 2006 and Baku 2016

49 Scotland

TABLE 10

guaranteed especially as I was down to less a minute, with the 5 second increment by this point! 28...♖f4! (It's likely I would've missed this queen dance in time trouble and opted to get the king off the back rank in anticipation of d6–d7. After 28...♔g7 Black would still have to work hard to win.) 29.d7 (29.♖xd5 ♖xd6 should also win. Black's pieces are active so the pawn is well supported and White will have to take a move to give luft at some point.) 29...♖g4! 30.♖xd5 ♖xd7 and Black should be winning.

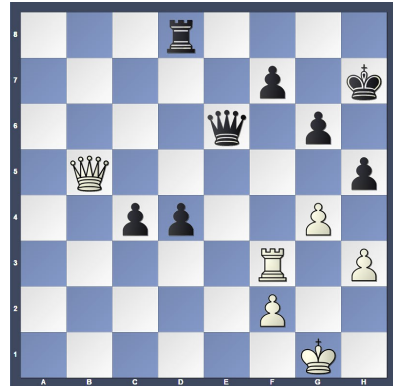
28...♖f6 29.d7 ♖xd7 30.♖e8+ ♔h7



I had reached this position in my analysis when I played 23...Nb4, while missing all White's sneakier tries along the way. I guess that's why they say calculating short lines accurately is more important! Luckily my opponent played all the obvious moves. Here he's run out of steam.

31.♖b5 31.♖f8 doesn't threaten anything so Black can just carry on with 31...d4

31...♖d8 32.♖e3 d4 33.♖f3 ♖e6 34.g4



34...h4 Here I was down to around 25 seconds and was worried I'd make a mess of another winning position, so I was just desperately trying to avoid open lines around my king.

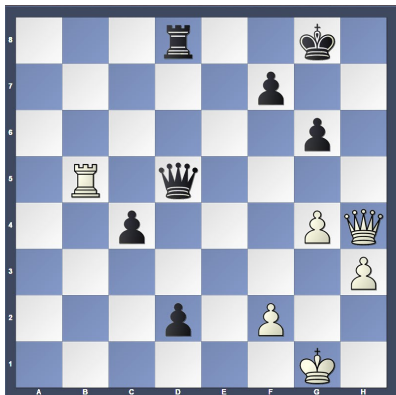
I very nearly played 34...d3 having seen that 35.gxh5 d2 wins immediately but just didn't trust myself with seconds left.

35.♖g5 ♖d7 Let's not leave any pieces hanging in this game!

36.♖xh4+ ♔g8 37.♖a3 ♖e1+ 37...♖d5 immediately works fine but I wanted to gain 5 seconds!

38.♔h2 38.♔g2 ♖e4+ 39.f3 ♖d5+ Stockfish also likes 39...Qe8 but I doubt I'd have played that.

38...♙e5+ 39.♔g1 ♚d5 40.♝a6 An obvious tactic but I enjoyed hanging
 d3 41.♞b6 ♜d8 42.♞b5 d2



43.♞xd5 ♜xd5

0-1

Did you work out who the mystery team was on page 70? It was, of course, Russia, playing from the Russian Chess Federation HQ in Moscow. Russia topped their group with 9/9 match wins and currently await their semi-final opponents.





In a year like no other, this was a Glorney Festival like no other reports International Junior Director, Ruairidh McKay. Before COVID-19 & lockdown struck, everybody was due to head to Paris for the Glorney in early August. It then became clear to most nations that an over-the-board tournament was not going to be feasible and planning switched to an online tournament instead. France chose not to take part and Belgium were invited to compete in their place.

A training day on the first weekend of July was run using Zoom which involved various Glorney squad members being sucked into Breakout Rooms at opportune moments. Many thanks to coaches Richard Jennings, Andrew Green, Hamish Olson, Ali Roy and David Robertson for your hard work and contributions to the day.

A 100% acceptance of offered places within a week of the invitations going out indicates how keen our top juniors were for a Glorney going

ahead after 3 months of lockdown cancelling virtually everything else.

What was different (as well as the small matter of not having to leave one's bedroom to take part in a Glorney) was that there would be a round of matches each evening spread across Monday 27th of July to Friday 31st. This would also be a squad tournament with up to 2 reserves allowed in teams. This allowed for more juniors to be selected and most to get at least one break within the week.

On Monday, it was a tough shift against the Netherlands. There were however wins for Jennifer Feng (see game below) in the Gilbert and Rishi Vijayakumar in the Stokes.

♠ Cordes, Jule (1718)

♣ Feng, Jennifer (1018)

Glorney Festival 2020 - Gilbert Cup

1.d4 e6 2.c4 d5 3.♖c3 ♗b4 4.e3 c5 5.♗ge2 dxc4



Taking the pawn to gain an advantage for the middlegame.

6.♞c2 ♘f6 I guess White's idea might be to win back the pawn on c4, after Bd2 and Ne4.

7.a3 ♕xc3+ This trading might not be a good idea. My plan was to break down White's queenside pawn structure.

8.♞xc3 cxd4 9.♗xd4 0-0 10.♕xc4 e5



White finally wins back the pawn. At this moment, both sides seemed quite equal, but I was able to push the pawn to attack the knight to gain more space, and open the way for my bishop.

11.♗f3 e4 12.♗d4 ♘bd7 13.b4 ♗e5 I was worried about White's bishop pair, so planned to get my knight into the game, either to trade with White's white-square bishop or push it back.

14.♕e2 ♕g4 Carrying on the idea of trading off the white-square bishop.

15.0-0 ♕xe2 16.♗xe2 ♗d3 I move my knight up to take central control, and prevent potential threats of a queen & bishop battery along the diagonal a1 to h8.

(see diagram next page)



17.♖d1 ♜c8 18.♚b3 ♛c7 My plan was to put pressure on the h2-pawn then follow it up by Ng4 to threaten checkmate. I also planned to move my queen to the seventh rank, so after a queen trade my rook will move to the seventh rank, putting pressure on White's pieces.

19.h3 ♛e5 But I changed plan, and instead brought the queen to e5 to threaten the rook, gaining tempo, and then move the queen to g5 in next steps.

20.♙d2 ♜fd8 Activating the f8-rook and strengthening my central control.

21.♘d4 ♞d5 22.f3 ♛g5

(see diagram next column)

Putting pressure on the g2-pawn and later threatening mate.



23.fxe4 ♞xe3 24.g4 If White chose Bxe3, I can play ...Qxe3+, and win a knight.

24...♛f4 I thought about Rxd4. But I saw a chance to move my queen to f4 for Qg3+, followed by Nf2#.

25.♘e2 ♛f2+ 26.♔h1

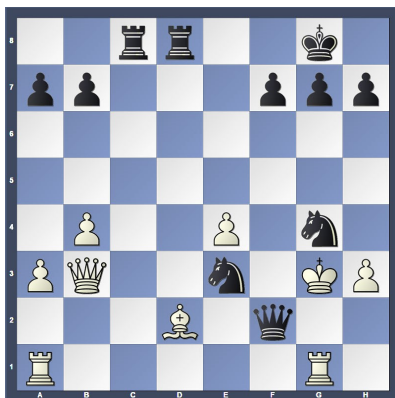


26...♛xe2 A blunder, missing the checkmate on g2, but I'm still in a winning position.

27.♖g1 ♞f2+ 28.♔h2 ♞fxg4+ A

double check with the queen and knight.

29.♔g3 ♚f2#



Finished off by a queen+knight checkmate

0-1

On Tuesday, we played Ireland and had somewhat more success in racking up some game points. In the Glorney, there were draws for Marco and Sambhav and a win for Jonathan. In the Gilbert, there was a win for Ashley Tandon.

In the Robinson, there were wins for Matthew and Freddy (see game below) and a draw for Ross. In the Stokes, there was a win for Morvin and a draw for Jainill.

♞ Coughlan, Cody (Ireland)

♜ Gordon, Frederick (Scotland)

Glorney Festival 2020 - Robinson Cup

1.d4 d5 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.♙f4 This move took me away from lines that I had studied, but I knew that it was close to the fast London and so I hoped to get it into that.

3...e6 4.e3 ♙d6 5.♙g3 0-0 6.♙d3 c5 Since this match I've learned a new variation that I prefer which goes ...b6 instead, with the idea to trade my bad bishop for his good one. But I didn't know that then!

7.c3 ♘c6 8.♚e2 I wasn't sure what my opponent was doing here. I thought White may be looking for e4, while I wanted to get my queen to c7. So I supported my c5 pawn.

8...b6 9.♘bd2 ♚c7 10.e4 dxe4



11. ♖xe4 I knew this was a bad move. I think White should have taken with the knight because this would have left me with some trouble of the bishop and queen pointing at my h7 pawn. You need to have a good reason to give up the bishop pair, plus White's not castled yet.

11... cxd4 12. ♘xd4 ♘xe4 13. ♚xe4 ♘xd4 14. cxd4 This is a big plus for me. I can stop White castling by activating my bishop and simultaneously defend my a8 rook. The e-file also looks dangerous for White.

14... ♖a6 15. a3 ♜ac8

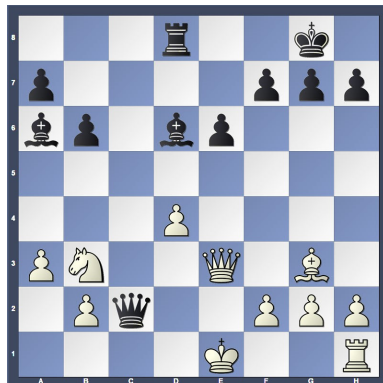


I am now threatening mate and starting to tie White down.

16. ♗b3 ♜fd8 I wish that I had seen ... ♚c4 here, which is crushing. Next time!

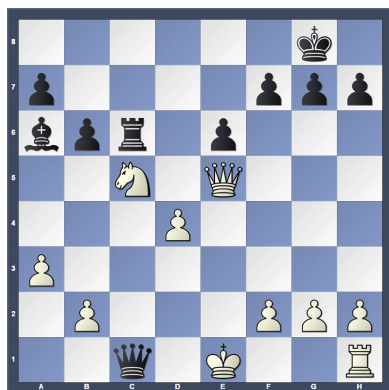
17. ♜c1 ♚d7 18. ♜xc8 ♚xc8

19. ♚e3 ♚c2



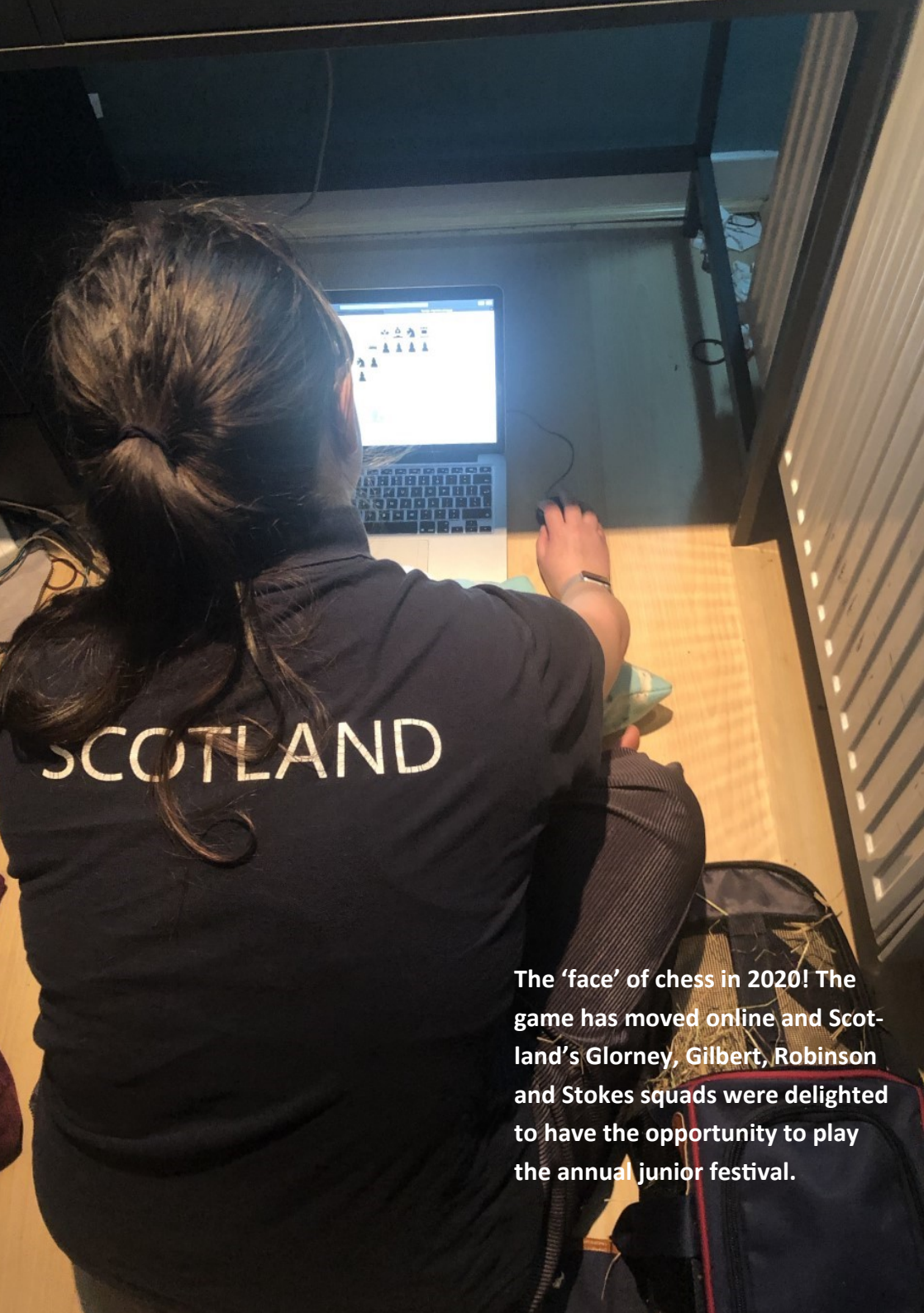
I was very happy that the c2-square became free, so I moved there immediately. I think after this my position is very strong and there's not much that White can do to stop me. Happily, White missed my mate.

20. ♖xd6 ♜xd6 21. ♚e5 ♜c6 22. ♗c5 ♚c1#



0-1

On Wednesday, we faced novel Glorney competition in the Belgians



SCOTLAND

The 'face' of chess in 2020! The game has moved online and Scotland's Glorney, Gilbert, Robinson and Stokes squads were delighted to have the opportunity to play the annual junior festival.

but no less tough. There were wins for Benjamin and Marco in the Glorney, another win for Jennifer in the Gilbert, draws for Callum (see game below) Ross and Kartike in the Robinson and draws for Jainill and Rishi in the Stokes.

♠ **Robertson, Callum (1601)**

♣ **Verboven, Wout (1885)**

Glorney Festival 2020 - Robinson Cup

This was my third round game against Belgium in the Under 14's event. Despite good positions I'd lost my first two games and was really determined to try to win this one!

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 d5
4.cxd5 exd5 5.♙g5 c6 6.e3 ♙f5
7.♖f3!



This is a known move which breaks up Black's pawn structure. I feel the resulting positions are easier to play for White.

7...♙g6 8.♙xf6 gxf6?! I was not expecting this one, I have played against ...♙xf6 before going into an endgame. With the queens still on, I felt confident as Black's king is less safe. 8...♙xf6 9.♙xf6 gxf6 10.h4!

9.♘ge2 9.h4! I think this is slightly better than what I played. The idea is to harass the bishop on g6 by going h5 next move.

9...♙b4 10.a3 ♙d6 11.♘g3



My idea is to place the knight on f5 where either my opponent will exchange with his nice light-squared bishop on g6 or leave it on this outpost controlling lots of squares.

11...♘d7 12.♘f5 ♘b6 13.♘g7+ To stop him castling.

13...♙f8 14.♘f5 ♙d7 15.♙d3 ♘c4

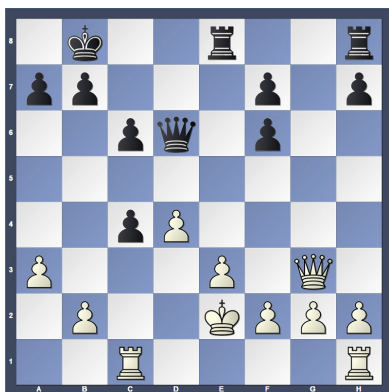
(see diagram next page)



16. ♖xd6 Here I went for a line exchanging minor pieces into an end-game where I have the advantage.

16... ♗xd6 16... ♘xd6? 17. ♕xf6±

17. ♕xc4 dxc4 18. ♘e4 ♕xe4
19. ♗xe4 ♖e8 20. ♗h4 ♔e7 21. ♔e2
♔d7 22. ♖ac1 ♔c8 23. ♗g4+ ♔b8
24. ♗g3



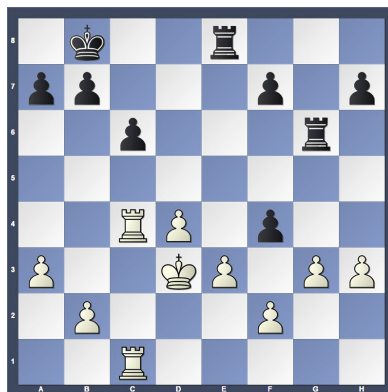
I force an exchange of queens because I knew I was winning a pawn and maintaining a better position.

24... ♖e6 24... ♗xg3 25. hxg3 b5
26. ♖h6±

25. ♖xc4 I can take his queen at any time.

25... ♗he8 26. ♗xd6+ ♖xd6
27. ♖hc1 I want to target the c6 pawn by playing b4, a4, b5 etc.

27... f5 28. ♔d3 ♖h6 29. h3 ♖g6
30. g3 f4



This was clever. He sacrifices another pawn in order to get control of an open file and potentially harass my king in the centre of the board.

31. exf4 ♖ge6 32. ♖4c2 ♖e4 33. b4
f5 34. ♖c5 ♖d8 35. ♖1c4 b5
36. ♖c2? 36. ♖xf5 just wins on the spot. I was annoyed I missed this!
36... bxc4+ 37. ♔xe4+-

36... ♖exd4+ Now he has counter-play.

Efstratios Grivas

MONSTER

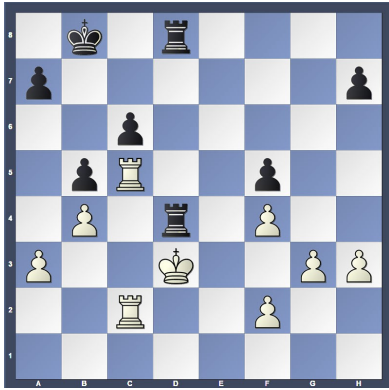
YOUR ENDGAME

PLANNING

Volume 1



Chess
Evolution



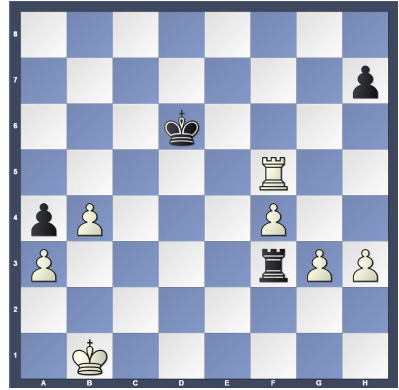
37.♔c3? I should have gone to the side of the board where I have more pawns and will use it to support them going forward. As IM Craig Pritchett said after he saw this game, 'Kings must generally remain active in almost all rook and pawn endgames!'

37...a5 38.♖xc6 a4 I saw the chance to win another pawn with ♖b6+, but I was low on time, and ended up being far too overcautious.

39.♔b2 39.♖b6+ ♔a7 40.♖xb5 ♖d3+ 41.♔b2 ♖b3+ 42.♔a2 ♖dd3 43.♖a5!+-

39...♖d3 40.♖6c3 ♖d1 41.♖c5 ♖8d5 42.♖xd5 ♖xd5 43.♖c5 ♖d2+ 44.♔b1 ♖d3 45.♖xb5+ ♔c7 46.♖c5+ ♔d6 47.♔b2 ♖b3+ 48.♔a2 ♖f3 49.♖xf5 ♖xf2+ 50.♔b1 ♖f3

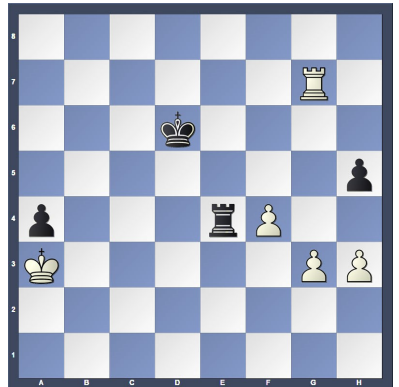
(see diagram next column)



51.♖g5?

51.♔b2 should have been preferred to save my a-pawn. 51...♖xg3 52.♖a5 ♖xh3 53.♖xa4 h5 54.♖a5 h4 55.♖h5 and with my rook behind the pawn and connected passed pawns on the queenside I should win this!

51...♖xa3 52.♔b2 ♖b3+ 53.♔a2 ♖xb4 54.♔a3 ♖e4 55.♖g7 h5



Now it's just a draw.

56.♖g6+ ♔e7 57.f5 ♕f7 58.h4
 ♚d4 59.♗h6 ♚d3+ 60.♕xa4 ♗xg3
 61.♗xh5 ♕f6 62.♕b4 ♗f3
 63.♗h6+ ♕xf5 64.h5 ♕g5 65.♗h8
 ♗h3 66.h6 ♗xh6 67.♗xh6 ♕xh6

I was disappointed not to win this but feel I've learnt something about rook and pawn endgames!

½-½

On Thursday, it was the Welsh. Ben Volland pulled off a smashing victory in the Glorney. In the Gilbert, Nivedita managed a draw. In the Robinson, Freddy won and Ross drew. And in the Stokes, there were wins for Morvin, Tilak and Neev with a draw from Michael.

On Friday, there is nothing like a match against the English to finish things off. There was a win for Ashley in the Gilbert, a draw for Pranav in the Robinson and a draw for Jainill in the Stokes. Many close matches throughout mostly against opposition 700-800 rating points above.

Many thanks to Alex Holowczak, David Thomas and Andy Howie for their organisation of everything. It was a well run tournament and all the different technical aspects of things ran extremely smoothly given how much there was to keep track of.

Scotland Squads

Glorney

Jake Sanger
 Ben Volland
 Marco D'Alessio
 Benjamin Ridge
 Sambhav Chadha
 Jonathan McKay
 Andrew McMillan

Gilbert

Florence Wilson
 Nivedita Suyal
 Jennifer Feng
 Ashley Tandon

Robinson

Oliver Whalley
 Callum Robertson
 Matthew Willder
 Frederick Gordon
 Pranav Arcot
 Ross Blackford
 Alasdair Sandham
 Kartike Sharan

Stokes

Morvin Gera
 Ishan Kumar
 Jainill Vadalia
 Unnabh Shrestha
 Tilak Ittigi
 Rishi Vijayakumar
 Michael Moroz
 Neev Lukhi

Alessio De Santis

THE HIPPOPOTAMUS DEFENCE



**A Deceptively Dangerous Universal
Chess Opening System for Black**

NEW IN CHESS



Chess Scotland
The home of Chess in Scotland

Covid 19 – Club Re-opening Guidelines

Chess Scotland, have reached out to the Scottish Government for guidance on when we can return to both club / league and tournament chess.

It looks like Clubs will be able to start back from 14th of September when the restriction on indoor events are lifted, however that date may change and is not set in stone.

There will be an upper limit to how many can meet indoors and that will determine whether leagues can start. Tournaments will not be able to start at this time. We gave indicative numbers we get at our events and they would be too big.

The SG agreed with the Guidance we have and said that would have to be in place as also agreed there should be the recording of who is there (names and addresses) in case someone in the clubs comes down with C-19 to allow track and trace.

So no clubs should be open at the moment. If they are, they are in breach of the SG guidelines.

For reference, to allow clubs to open hopefully on the 14th of next month, the following have to apply.

- Venues will be limited to **x number of people** (to be determined by the Government)
- **Players and Arbiters only** allowed in the playing hall. When matches finish, players must leave the hall
- **All equipment must be sanitised** before the start of play of play
- **Hand sanitizers** must be available

- **Face coverings to be worn at all times**
- Venues must have **adequate ventilation** to prevent virus load building up
- **Players must sign a declaration** that they do not have any **symptoms of Covid 19** before being allowed into the playing hall
- **Boards** have to be **separated by 1.5 - 2m**
- **Someone at the Club must be responsible** for recording the names and addresses of all attendees each evening.

This message is available to read on the **CS Forum** and **CS website Homepage**



Chess Scotland

The home of Chess in Scotland

The [Chess Scotland website](#) contains a wealth of information regarding chess activities in our country, so please check out the links below for more information...

The [Chess Scotland 100 Club](#) is a **lottery** that anyone is welcome to join. Half the cash collected every month is returned as **prizes**, the rest goes into **general fund raising** for the association.

FIDE ratings for our players are **updated monthly** courtesy of our Grading Officer Douglas Bryson and can be accessed [here](#) .

The [ChessBase Grand Prix leaderboards](#) and **rules** can be viewed [here](#) while the **Giant-killing** lists are [here](#)...

...and finally, **Alan McGowan's** excellent **history archive** can be found [here](#).

For more information about CS please feel free to contact the relevant officers listed [here](#).