

# Scottish Chess

Issue 293

April 2021



**The perfect pairing  
as arbiters Alex and  
Lara tie the knot!**

Csaba Balogh

# Greatest 440 puzzles

*The best online tactics of 2020*



Chess  
Evolution

The Magazine of  
Chess Scotland

[www.chessscotland.com](http://www.chessscotland.com)

Issue 293 April 2021

**Thanks to:** Andrew Douglas, Edinburgh Chess Academy, FM Neil Berry, Ilan Rubin, Graham Hamilton, Ian Marks, IA Andy Howie

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**Photos courtesy of:** Andy Howie, Ali Mortazavi, Various

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**Cover photo:** Two of our brightest and best-known arbiters, Alex McFarlane and Lara Barnes, pictured at their civil wedding ceremony

# Welcome! April 2021

This issue carries perhaps the most positive news of recent times, with our cover story wedding and main article on a £10,000 windfall for Scottish junior chess topping the headlines.

There's plenty more to celebrate, with 4NCL, online blitz challenges, memories of incredible games and encounters and the ever-popular Scottish Chess Tour week-enders still going strong.

I'll take this editorial opportunity to ask readers to please (pretty please!) consider submitting articles, reports and/or games. Without the help of the Scottish chess community it is very difficult to bring you a magazine worthy of its predecessors! OK, with that said, enjoy your April CS mag!




Andrew Burnett *Editor*

## Contents

Junior chess in Scotland has received a massive boost, with Skyscanner sponsoring Edinburgh Chess Academy's Junior Online tournament to the tune of **£10,000!**

Read all about the incredible event with details on how to enter and much more in our extensive article starting on page 5



ECA Scottish Junior Online  
**CHESS**  
TOURNAMENT

**£10,000 Prize Fund!**  
Register by June 1st at  
[www.edinburghchessacademy.com](http://www.edinburghchessacademy.com)



Scotland and England's oldest chess clubs may well be closed for the time being, but the online alternative allowed them to battle it out in a lichess blitz arena. FM Neil Berry brings you the best of the action!

The Scottish Chess Tour held its 12th weekender recently and David Clayton brings you the latest results, with an excellent and instructive annotated game from the most recent Open victor.



Season 3 of the 4NCL's online version recently concluded its opening stages. Find out how Scotland's teams got on, with



# Skyscanner sponsor Edinburgh Chess Academy online tourna- ment to the tune of £10,000

Junior chess in Scotland has just received a wind-fall in the form of £10,000 worth of sponsorship from Skyscanner, with junior coach Andrew Douglas securing the funding from the Edinburgh-based travel search giants to run the Edinburgh Chess Academy Scottish Junior Tournament (ECASJT) for children in Scotland.

ECA Scottish Junior Online

# CHESS TOURNAMENT

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**£10,000 Prize Fund!**

Register by June 1st at

[www.edinburghchessacademy.com](http://www.edinburghchessacademy.com)

As the founder of the Edinburgh Chess Academy, Andrew revealed the remarkable cash boost on social media, explaining: "I have just launched an online Scottish junior chess tournament through Edinburgh Chess Academy. The goal is to get more children playing chess. Please help spread the word.

Andrew added: "It is free to play in, for all levels and has a prize fund of £10,000 - generously sponsored by Gareth Williams (co-founder of Sky-scanner). To enter visit Edinburgh Chess Academy (FB page) or go to our website."

The website explains the thinking behind the event: "The tournament was started with the aim of getting more children to play chess in Scotland. For this reason the competition is completely free to play in, has the largest prize fund in the UK for an online junior competition and there are prizes for children of all levels.

It continues: "Chess has so many benefits...and is a perfect online activity that can be done at home. By running this tournament online we hope that parents and children see that

they can find a positive pastime that is cheap and can be played anywhere.

Andrew also explains some of the thinking of the man behind the generous sponsorship. “Gareth Williams (co-founder of Skyscanner) has sponsored the tournament as he believes chess is a fantastic way to get children

“There are so many online activities that children get absorbed in – chess is truly a positive one that can teach children so many

life skills that are transferable. It is our hope that children find a new passion for life by participating in this tournament.”

The event received another boost when *The Times* newspaper ran a feature on the event, relating it to the buzz caused by the recent Queen’s Gambit Netflix series.



In the article, Williams making risky decisions spoke of the concentra- and such-like. tion element of the game, describing it as Above all, while tech- “the opposite of the nology is going towards ADHD mindset where micromoments of stim- you flip about from ulation, where you thing to thing and you need a reward every 5 get bored within 10 seconds (to raise) the seconds.” dopamine levels, play- ing a proper game of He added: “It’s a com- chess is a feat of con- bination of skills that centration that kids, are useful in life: analy- less and less, are res- is; biding your time; quired to show.”





## Championship events

The £10,000 prizefund will be split over five separate tournaments, ranging from Open to under 900 rating level, as seen below.

As per the rules and regulations, “Players can only play in one championship event.

All players must be on zoom and share their screen while playing to ensure fair play.

“A total prize fund of £10,000 will be awarded. The prize fund may be allocated differently depending upon entries. Other prizes may be awarded.”

 <b>CHAMPIONSHIP 1</b>	 <b>CHAMPIONSHIP 2</b>	 <b>CHAMPIONSHIP 3</b>	 <b>CHAMPIONSHIP 4</b>	 <b>CHAMPIONSHIP 5</b>
Under 900	Under 1200	Under 1500	Under 1800	Open to any rating
Saturday 26th June	Saturday 26th June	Saturday 26th June	Sunday 27th June	Sunday 27th June
09:00 - 12:00	12:30 - 15:30	16:00 - 19:00	10:00 - 13:00	14:00 - 17:00
Tournament Format: Swiss	Tournament Format: Swiss	Tournament Format: Swiss	Tournament Format: Swiss	Tournament Format: Swiss
Time control: 15 minutes	Time control: 15 minutes	Time control: 15 minutes	Time control: 15 minutes	Time control: 15 minutes
<u>Prize Fund:</u> 1st: £500 2nd: £300 3rd: £200	<u>Prize Fund:</u> 1st: £750 2nd: £450 3rd: £300	<u>Prize Fund:</u> 1st: £1000 2nd: £600 3rd: £400	<u>Prize Fund:</u> 1st: £1250 2nd: £750 3rd: £500	<u>Prize Fund:</u> 1st: £1500 2nd: £900 3rd: £600

## Practice Qualifiers

Before that, however, there will be a chance for players to practice their skills. The weekend before the Qualifiers the organisers will run practice events.

As the website rules and regulations state, “These will be the exact same as the actual Qualifiers and the idea behind these is to let the players get used to the website and tournament format.”

 <b>QUALIFIER 1</b> Under 900 (Beginner) Saturday 5th June 10:00 - 11:30 Tournament Format: Arena Time control: 10 minutes + 1 second per move	 <b>QUALIFIER 2</b> Under 1200 (Novice) Saturday 5th June 13:00 - 14:30 Tournament Format: Arena Time control: 10 minutes + 1 second per move	 <b>QUALIFIER 3</b> Under 1500 (Tournament Player) Saturday 5th June 16:00 - 17:30 Tournament Format: Arena Time control: 10 minutes + 1 second per move	 <b>QUALIFIER 4</b> Under 1800 (Strong Tournament Player) Sunday 6th June 13:00 - 14:30 Tournament Format: Arena Time control: 10 minutes + 1 second per move	 <b>QUALIFIER 5</b> Open to any rating Sunday 6th June 16:00 - 17:30 Tournament Format: Arena Time control: 10 minutes + 1 second per move
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## Qualifiers

Next comes the actual Qualifying tournaments, with the top 20 in each Qualifier qualifying for the Championships.

The rules state that “If a player qualifies from one qualifier then they should not play in another.”

All games will be played on [www.lichess.org](http://www.lichess.org) a very popular website that is completely free to use. To take part, players must create a Lichess account and join the “ECA” team.

The organisers recommend that parents switch

on “Kid mode” which can be found under “Preferences” once logged in.

As they explain: “This mode means that children cannot message or be messaged – all they can do is play chess.”

 <b>QUALIFIER 1</b> Under 900 (Beginner) Saturday 12th June 10:00 - 11:30 Tournament Format: Arena Time control: 10 minutes + 1 second per move	 <b>QUALIFIER 2</b> Under 1200 (Novice) Saturday 12th June 13:00 - 14:30 Tournament Format: Arena Time control: 10 minutes + 1 second per move	 <b>QUALIFIER 3</b> Under 1500 (Tournament Player) Saturday 12th June 16:00 - 17:30 Tournament Format: Arena Time control: 10 minutes + 1 second per move	 <b>QUALIFIER 4</b> Under 1800 (Strong Tournament Player) Sunday 13th June 13:00 - 14:30 Tournament Format: Arena Time control: 10 minutes + 1 second per move	 <b>QUALIFIER 5</b> Open to any rating Sunday 13th June 16:00 - 17:30 Tournament Format: Arena Time control: 10 minutes + 1 second per move
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## **Fair Play Policy**

The issue of online cheating is present at almost every event played nowadays, and Andrew Green addressed these concerns in a reply to such a question on Facebook, stating: “We are very lucky to have Andy Howie from ChessScotland to ensure fair play.”

The website for the event also states quite clearly: “All parents/guardians must ensure players have read and understood our fair play policy.” We have reproduced the policy below in full.

All players should make their moves without any outside assistance. Moves suggested by parents/friends or a computer programme are not permitted.

Our Chief Arbiter will be Chess Scotland Executive Director and Anti-cheating expert Andy Howie.

## **Lichess Rules on Fair Play**

As the competition is being played on Lichess all players should review their [anti-cheating](#) rules.

The key points are:  
No cheating – using external assistance to gain an advantage.  
No Artificially inflating or deflating your rating.

No Spamming.  
Players who are currently banned from Lichess will be excluded from our competition. Players must not create a new Lichess account for the tournament and use their existing one. If Lichess detects a player cheating during one of our events then points will be redistributed by our Chief Arbiter to those affected.

If a player is banned for using computer assistance by Lichess then they must appeal to Lichess themselves. This is between the player and Lichess.

### **Further Measures to Deter Cheating**

As well as the Lichess detection we are employing the following to deter cheating:

Confirmed player identity. Every player that enters will have to provide information to confirm that they are a junior as well as contact information.

Post-game analysis of all the games by Chess Scotland and FIDE approved analysis software.

During the Championship events all players will have their webcams on and have to share screens. All the players will be watched by PVG'ed arbiters while they play.

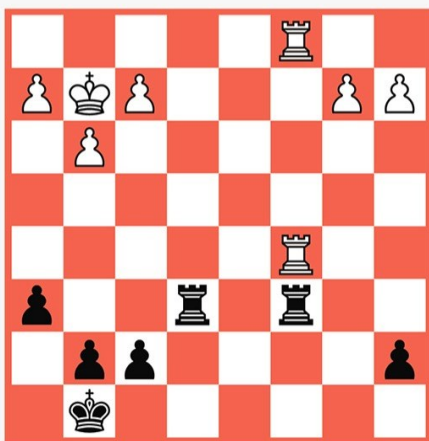
Efstratios Grivas

# MONSTER

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Players' explicit agreement to this fair play policy.

All players will be reminded regularly of our fair play policy.

### **Raising Fair Play Issues**

If you think a player has used assistance against you during a game then you must complain privately. Any "public shaming" will result in players being withdrawn from the tournament.

To report a player, click on a player's profile and click "Report to moderators". Lichess moderators will then review the player's games and make a decision. Furthermore, you can also raise your complaint with our Chief

Arbiter. Our chief arbiter will then investigate.

### **Sanctions**

Players that are found to have cheated or attempted to cheat will face the following sanctions:

**First Offence:** If the offender is under 14 years old they will receive a one year suspension from all ECA events (online and over the board).

**First Offence:** If the offender is under 18 years old they will receive a one year suspension from all ECA events (online and over the board).

**Second Offence:** Lifetime suspension from all ECA events (online and over the board).

Any player who is found to be cheating will be reported to Chess Scotland (CS). If a player is banned by Lichess during the tournament then they will not be able to continue playing in the tournament.



**Scotland and FIDE's leading anti-cheating arbiter, IA Andy Howie, will be in charge of monitoring the ECA event**



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## Alba come close as Scottish teams take on season 3 of the Online 4NCL

**S**eason 3 of the online 4NCL regular season ended at the end of April, reports [FM Neil Berry](#). Again the combined squads from Alba and Bon Accord had 3 teams competing, 2 in division 1 and the 3<sup>rd</sup> in Division 3. Each division is split into 4 sections, and to compete for the league title in the “post season”, you need to win your section.

The 1st team had some chances of topping our section, but ended up 2 points behind top seeds Celtic Tigers and Sharks in second place. We began our campaign with a “derby match” against Dundee City A.

♣ **Shafi, Declan (2166)**

♣ **Berry, N (2255) D23**

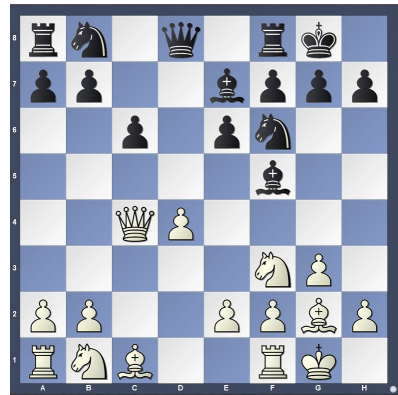
4NCL Online S3 Div1 2020  
lichess.org 26.01.2021

Playing another Scottish Team in the online 4NCL is a bit of a shame - I prefer to face different opponents rather than players I may face at Scottish events. On the other hand, this was my first time facing against Declan except for a couple of Wednesday night blitz games.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.♙c2 dxc4 5.♙xc4 ♕f5 6.g3 e6 7.♖g2 ♖e7 8.0-0 0-0

(see diagram next column)

9.e3 9.♘c3 ♘bd7 10.♖e1 ♘e4 11.♙b3 ♙b6 12.♘h4 was a fashionable line several years ago after Aronian defeated Anand.



9...♘bd7 10.♙e2 ♖g6 Black has a large number of options here, including 10...♘e4, 10...♖c8 and 10...c5.

11.♘c3 11.♘h4 is well met by 11...♕h5.

11...b5 12.b3 ♖c8 13.♕b2 a6 14.♖fd1 ♙b6 15.a4 15.♘e5!? ♘xe5 16.dxe5 ♘d5 17.♘e4 ♖xe4 18.♕xe4 leads to a double edged position.



(analysis diagram)

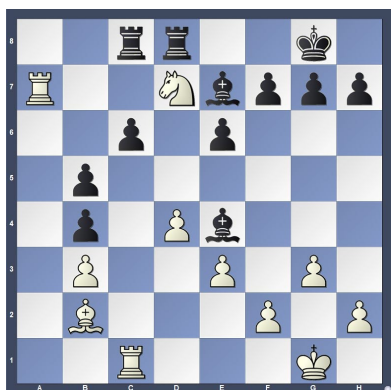
White has the ♕ pair and possible play on the kingside, while Black can try to push his queenside majority.

15...b4 16.a5 16.♞b1 is a decent alternative.

16...♞c7 17.♞a4 ♞xa5 18.♞c5 ♞b5  
19.♞xb5 axb5 20.♞xd7 ♞xd7 21.♞a7  
♞fd8 22.♞c1 ♞e4 22...♞f8 23.♞ca1  
c5 is good for Black.

23.♞e5 23.♞e1 ♞xg2 24.♞xg2 c5  
25.dxc5 ♞f8 and Black will take back  
on c5 with the ♞.

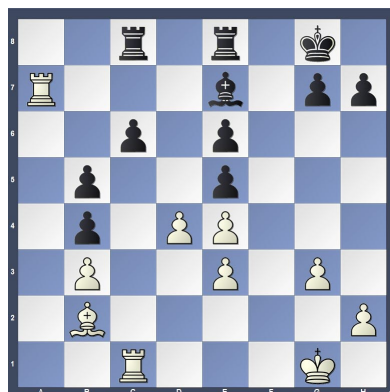
23...♞xg2 24.♞xd7 ♞e4



25.♞e5 I was initially worried about  
25.f3? , but I have 25...♞xf3 26.♞e5  
♞g5! 27.♞xf3 ♞xe3+ , and the rook  
and 3 pawns will overcome the 2  
pieces; 25.♞b6 ♞b8 26.♞xe7 ♞xb6  
is also good for Black.

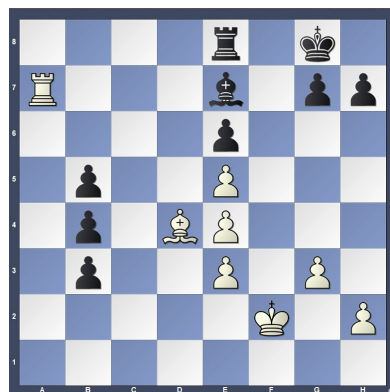
25...♞e8 26.f3 f6?! 26...♞d5! is much  
simpler - b3 cannot be defended.

27.fxe4 fxe5



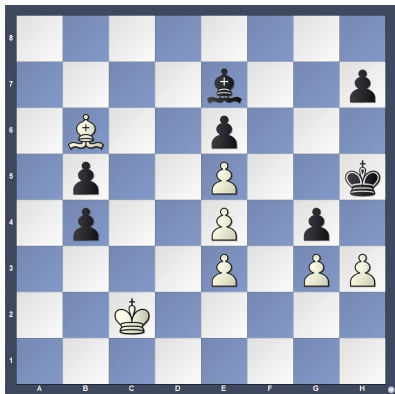
28.dxe5? The white bishop becomes  
a spectator for the rest of the game.  
Some move like 28.♞a6 should be  
preferred

28...c5 29.♞f2 ♞a8 30.♞ca1 ♞xa7 31.  
♞xa7 c4 32.♞d4 cxb3



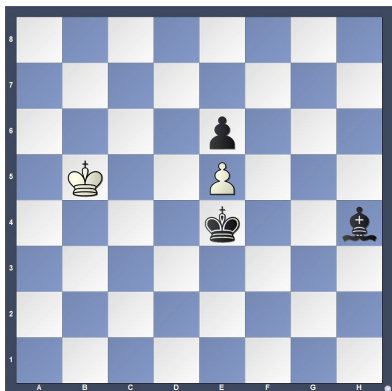
A picturesque position. One side hav-  
ing tripled pawns is unusual, never  
mind both of us. The b-pawns are  
very strong, in particular the pawn  
on b4 is well protected and White  
will need to defend passively.

33. ♖e2 ♜d8 34. ♔d3 ♚f7 35. ♝a1 ♞c8 36. ♞f1+ ♜g6 37. ♞f2 ♞c2 38. ♞xc2 bxc2 39. ♔xc2 ♚h5 40. h3 g5 41. ♙b6 g4



42. hxg4+ 42. h4 runs into 42... ♙xh4 , and again the pawns on e3 and e5 hamper White's Bishop and the king-side pawns run

42... ♔xg4 43. ♙c7 ♚xg3 44. ♙d6 ♙g5 45. ♙xb4 h5 46. ♙e1+ ♚f3 47. ♔b3 h4 48. ♙xh4 ♙xh4 49. ♔b4 ♚xe3 50. ♔xb5 ♚xe4



0-1

Our second Team finished 5<sup>th</sup> in their section, and Dundee City A finished in 6th. There was plenty of Scottish participation in the other leagues, in particular congratulations to the Grangemouth Gambiteers and Dundee City B for gaining promotion from Divisions 4 and 5 respectively.

[Your editor writes: When searching through hundreds of games for something interesting to share with you all, it always helps if the name Douglas Will pops up! Dougie has been playing the same openings since time immemorial, but they are not only sharp and dangerous, he knows and plays them very well. To wit, this sharp attacking game played in round 6 during Grangemouth Gambiteers 3-1 victory over Manchester Manticores1.

♞ Will, Douglas (1845)

♜ Lonsdale, Jon (1922) B23

4NCL Online Division 4 online  
(06.04.2021)

1. e4 c5 2. ♘c3 ♘c6 3. f4 e6 4. ♘f3 d5 5. ♙b5 I'm fairly sure I lost a game in this line to Douglas some 35 years ago!



I now have an antidote to the entire line, but that story is for another day.

5...♘ge7 6.0–0 a6



7.♙e2!? Slightly unusual. White usually opts for 7.♙xc6+ and after 7...♘c6 8.d3 one recent high-level encounter continued: 8...♙e7 9.♚e2 0–0 10.e5 f6 11.♘d1 ♙d7 12.♘f2 fxe5 13.fxe5 ♙e8 14.♘h3 ♙h5 15.c3 ♙g4 16.♘f4 ♖f5 17.♘xe6 ♚d7 18.♘f4 ♖af8 19.e6 ♚d6 20.h3 ♙xf3 21.♖xf3 ♘e5 22.♖f2 g5 23.d4 cxd4

24.cxd4 ♘c6 25.♚g4 ♙h8 26.♘d3 ♙xe6 27.♙d2 ♙e4 28.♖xf5 ♖xf5 29.♘e5 ♚xd4+ 30.♚xd4 1–0 Ivic,V (2581)–Le,T (2514) Chess.com INT 2020

7...♙e4 8.♘xe4 ♘f5 9.d3N Perhaps more precise was 9.c3 ♙e7 10.d3 0–0 11.♚e1 ♚d5 12.g4 ♘h6 13.♘f2 f5 14.h3 ♘f7 15.♙e3 e5 16.♙d1 exf4 17.♙xf4 fxg4 18.hxg4 c4 19.dxc4 ♚xc4 20.♙g3 ♙c5 21.♙g2 ♙xf2 22.♖xf2 ♚xg4 23.♘g1 ♚g5 24.♙b3 ♙f5 25.♚e2 ♖ae8 26.♙xf7+ ♙xf7 27.♘h3 ♚f6 28.♚c4+ ♙e7 29.♘f4 ♙d8 30.♖d1+ ♙c8 31.♘d5 ♚d8 32.♙g1 ♖e4 33.♚xe4 1–0 Bersamina,P (2397)–Atabayev,Y (2437) Ashkhabad 2017

9...♙e7 If Black wants to play 9...♘fd4 he should probably do so now.

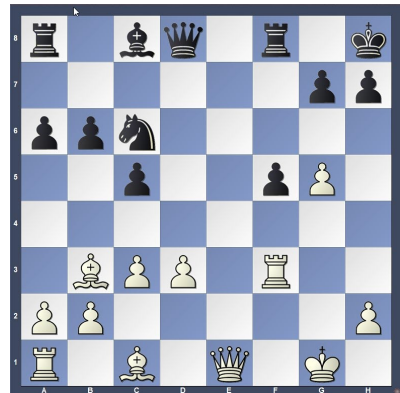
10.♚e1 ♘fd4 11.♙d1



For those who don't know the various versions of the Grand Prix Attack,

this bishop manoeuvre is perfectly normal! Not that this position is anything special for White, of course, but it will most likely be reasonably well-known to Dougie, whereas Black probably won't have faced it very often, if ever.

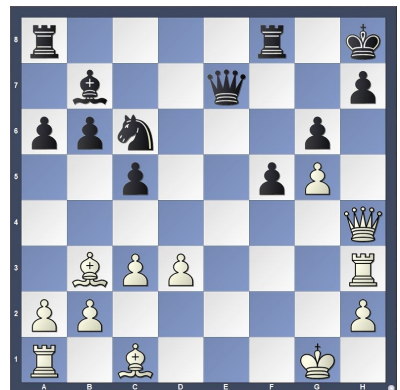
**11...0-0 12.c3 ♘xf3+ 13.♖xf3** White plans to swing the rook across into an attacking position.



**13...b6 14.♕c2 ♕h4 15.g3 ♕e7 16.g4 20...♕b7?** This move does nothing to defend the kingside. Black should have preferred either 20...♖a7 or 20...♞e7 with a defensible position in both cases.



**21.♖h3 ♖e7 22.♗h4 g6**



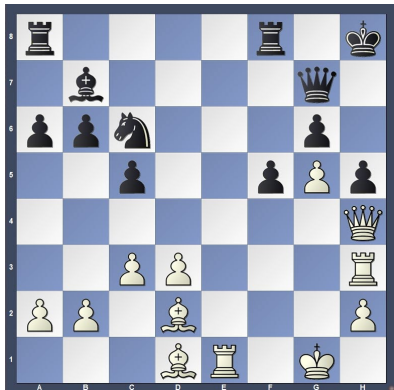
This is a good move, with Black staking out some space lest he get crushed, but White doesn't mind it either as he gets some extra open lines.

**17.gxf5 exf5 18.♕b3+ ♔h8 19.♞g5 ♕xg5 20.fxg5**

**(see diagram next column)**

**23.♕d2** Not bad, but it is surprising that Dougie doesn't find 23 ♕f4 immediately. 23...h5 (23...♞e5 24.♕xe5+) 24.♖e1. Perhaps he missed that 23...♖ae8 could be met with 24. ♕d6!)

23...h5 24.♖e1 ♔g7 25.♙d1!



Targeting the new weakness.

25...♔g8 26.♙b3+ 26.♖c4+ is the engine's way of taking control of the e-file: 26...♗f7 27.♙b3 ♖xc4 28.♙xc4+ ♔g7 29.♖e6

26...♔h8 27.♖he3 Dougie changes tack.

27...♖ad8 28.♖e6 ♖d7 29.♙f4 ♖xd3? Black cracks under severe pressure, but to be honest there was little to be done here in any event.



30.♖xc6! This tactic finishes the game.

30...♙xc6 31.♙e5 ♗xe5 32.♖xe5 ♖fd8 33.♗e1 A typically excellent attacking game from Dougie.

1-0

Season 4 of the Online 4NCL runs from August – December. If you are interested in representing a team, please check the 4ncl.co.uk website for team captain contact details.

Feedback, suggestions, ideas for articles, tournament reports , annotated games, photos, etc. are always welcomed. Please contact [editor@chesscotland.com](mailto:editor@chesscotland.com)



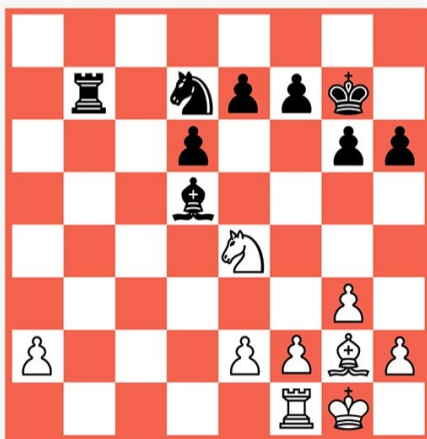
Efstratios Grivas

# MONSTER

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# PLANNING

Volume 2



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# Edinburgh v Liverpool



## Challenge Match



**This match was set up as a battle between two of the oldest clubs in the UK, writes FM Neil Berry. Edinburgh are the second oldest club in the world behind Zurich and will celebrate our bicentenary next year. Liverpool are the oldest club in England, and are 15 years our junior, having been established in 1837.**

The format was a lichess team "Arena", involving as many games as you can play against opposition players in 90 minutes (time control was 5 mins + 3 second increment).

The 12 top point scorers for each team are put forward for the Team total. The advantages of the format were to give the chance to play different players and it is easy for the

organisers as you don't need a specific number of players. On the downside it involved a bit of waiting around for a few Edinburgh players as we had a few more than Liverpool wanting to play.

Edinburgh fielded a strong lineup, including Neil Berry, Adam Bremner, Craig Thomson, Daniel McGowan, Graeme Kafka and Duncan Grassie.

Here are a couple of the more noteworthy games...

### ♠ mudbone (2233)

### ♠ Thomson, Craig (2305) E76

Liverpool v Edinburgh Team Battle  
lichess.org/ 13.04.2021

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 ♕g7 4.e4 d6  
5.f4 0-0 6.♘f3 ♘a6



7.♕e2?! to the best of my knowledge 7.e5 and 7.♕d3 are the most challenging options.

7...e5 8.fxex5 dxe5 9.d5 ♞c5 and defending e4 is awkward as...

10.♞c2? runs into...



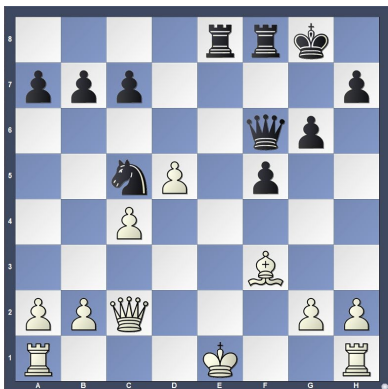
10...♞fxe4! 11.♞xe4 ♕f5 12.♕d3 ♕xe4!  
13.♕xe4 f5



The fork on e4 will win back the piece if the ♕ retreats to d3.

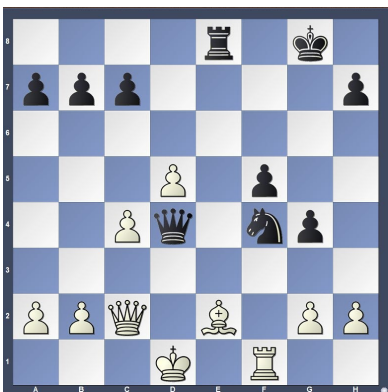
14. ♖g5?! 14. ♖xf5!? followed by castling is probably White's safest option.

14... ♖f6 15. ♖xf6 ♔xf6 16. ♖d3 e4 17. ♖e2 exf3 18. ♖xf3 ♖ae8+



The white ♔ will perish in the centre of the board. Craig finishes the job with ease.

19. ♖f1 g5 20. ♖e1 g4 21. ♖d1 ♖xe1+ 22. ♖xe1 ♖e8+ 23. ♖e2 ♔d4 24. ♖f1 ♖d3+ 25. ♖d1 ♖f4+



0-1

Top scorer was junior Freddy Gordon, who has been making huge strides during the pandemic.

♣ Gordon, Freddy (2332)

♣ BillyBob007 (2248) B22

Liverpool v Edinburgh Team Battle  
lichess.org/ 13.04.2021

1.e4 c5 2. ♖f3 e6 3.c3 d5 4.exd5 ♔xd5 5.d4 ♖f6 6. ♖d3 ♖c6 7.0-0 ♖e7

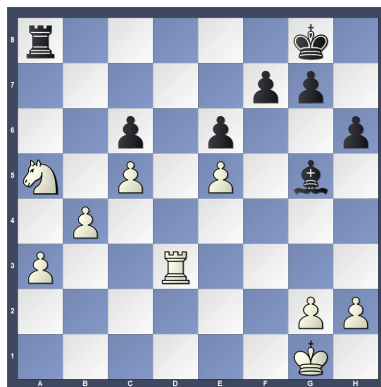


8. ♖e3 8.c4 ♔d8 9.dxc5 ♖xc5 10.a3 is another approach.

8...0-0 8...cxd4 9.cxd4 0-0 10. ♖c3 ♔d6 with a typical IQP position.

9.dxc5 ♔h5 9... ♖xc5 runs into the typical trick 10. ♖xh7+ ♔xh7 11. ♔xd5 and ♖xc5; 9... ♖d8!? is probably best.

10. ♖d4 ♔xd1 11. ♖xd1 ♖e5 12. ♖b5

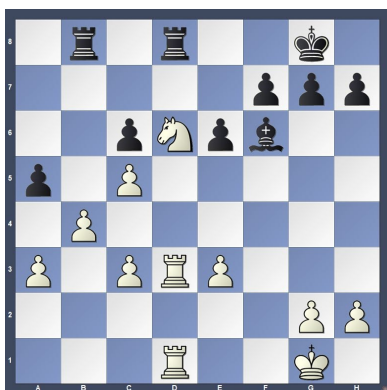


12...♞xd3 12...♞fg4!? going after the other ♔ may be an improvement, though I still like White after 13.♞d6

13.♞xd3 ♕d7 14.♞d6 ♞d5 15.♞a3 ♕c6 16.♞ac4 ♞fd8 17.♞e5 ♞xe3 18.♞xc6! bxc6 19.fxe3 ♞ab8 20.b4 a5 21.a3 ♕f6 22.♞ad1

28.♞a5! When c6 falls the queenside pawns will decide the game

28...♕c1 29.♞f2 ♕b2 30.♞e2 ♕xe5 31.♞xc6 ♕xh2 32.b5 ♕g1 33.b6 ♕xc5 34.b7 ♞f8 35.b8♞ ♞xb8 36.♞xb8 e5 37.♞d7 ♕d4 38.a4 f5 39.a5 ♞f7 40.a6 ♞e6 41.♞xd4



1-0

In the end we won a close match, 123-114.

Thanks to Liverpool President Jim Gallagher for the initial contact and help in setting up the match. Looking forward to a rematch!

White is a pawn up and has a dominating position to boot. Super impressive for a blitz game.

22...axb4 23.cxb4 ♞a8 24.♞c4 ♞d5 25.e4 ♞xd3 26.♞xd3 h6 27.e5 ♕g5

The lack of over the board chess has been hard for all of us, but online has at least opened up a few possibilities that might not otherwise have happened.

# How to Become a Candidate MASTER

ALEX DUNNE



A PRACTICAL  
GUIDE TO TAKE  
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LEVEL

NEW IN CHESS

# The Perfect Pairing!

**You may not always agree with their decisions, but this one gets a free pass, as two of our most experienced and respected arbiters took the plunge recently and tied the knot!**

Scotland's Principal Arbitrer, Alex McFarlane and ECF Chief Arbitrer, Lara Barnes, were joined in a civil partnership on the 12th of April in Alnwick, Northumberland after being together for 17 years.

Witnesses were Lara's brother Steven and her daughter Corrie (pictured above, with the happy couple).

All of us in Chess Scotland wish to send Alex



and Lara our warmest congratulations and wish them many more happy years together!

# CHESSBASE

# 15

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# The Best Game of Chess Ever: an outrageous tale of Grandmasters, Casinos and Assassins [by Graham Hamilton](#)



Probably the best game of chess I've seen in years... and since no-one can escape the: wide; varied and sometimes arbitrary restrictions, for "the lurgy" I've time to supply a back story... and drone on a bit... No don't look at the door... there's no escape; chess is just too "moreish".

You see I happened to find myself seated beside someone in the

"Queens" beer garden, not an accurate description really: seaside pub; good food; plenty of beer, no discernible garden... in the company of the Gormally; Williams; Eggleston party and I didn't know who this person was, but they seemed to know him and he struck me as quite an impressive individual...Speaks several languages; owns a high-tech wood business, with German technology,

that can melt cellulose and form with it. I qualified as a production engineer and that is a completely new technology to me.

He told us he spent three years at an institute learning chess... clearly understood how to do business in a pirate economy... later that evening he buys me a Turkish Delight, but that's not important...

Some two days later, he plays White in the game below. (see main photo!) The person playing Black. Well; I've already lost to him seven times, no wins, no draws and four days later I lose again (on time) in my very own opening, the "Loch Ness Monster" (LNM) aka "the Monster". Not that encouraging, really; I'm supposed to know it...

Don't fret for me tho'; it was one of the few high points in a dismal trip and anyway I fully intended to play him instead, at Backgammon! For money!! (Five bucks (\$5) a point, with doubling die; as previously agreed).

Unfortunately: "here" is a small island, relatively expensive (one where even M&S seems reasonably priced, I know!) I'm not that organised usually, but nothing was working on this trip; it had become clear I'd gone on holiday by mistake, so considered

myself lucky to even find a cardboard camera... much to the amusement of those using 21st century technology (not 19th). Taking pictures on a phone, with puzzlerush app (who knew?). I couldn't find a reasonably priced Backgammon set. Snakes and ladders? No.

Yes, what a trip it was: after booking (and paying for) a room, for a fortnight, in quite a nice hotel (and island casino), I was told I couldn't enter the main tournament (and what's worse I felt I had to agree, so FIDE is still a four letter word, to me); caught the flu just before I left; train strike on day of departure (so part of planned route simply disappeared); it did take over three hours to sail there ('this place is bigger than I thought', I thought); forgot cash-line numbers on the way... ever get the feeling luck isn't with you?

Even worse, the same hotel as Micky Adams GM; I should explain this and why it is that every time I see him I start looking out for falling anvils...

You see the first game of bullet chess I ever played (of course start at the top) I was invited to play the reigning British Champion, in the King's Head (my casino's local) and some joker decides to fix the clocks, so his flag falls... and let me tell you... Micky Adams does not like to lose! (but then who does?)

Well, of course, he didn't lose... but try telling him?!

Adams is clearly a great chess player, top of world rankings for decades (since then) and I actually quite like him; but we just cannot get along... and it gets worse... we also fell out at Oostende (a great tournament, held at Casino Kursaal, won by Tony Miles (who took the time to beat me at blitz; 0-1 Caro-Kann); Adams 2<sup>nd</sup>, superb venue and just one section, a very strong Open.

Round 1 I get swindled by IM McDonald (I'm left with two knights; with just kings). Motwani and McNab were both trying for a final GM norm, but had to wait: Colin kindly asked me why I didn't just queen the pawn and funny thing was I knew the exact position he meant... that white's rook falls to a knight fork; also, that he knew more about my game at a casual glance.

So it was already clear to me... and I blame fate for this... that Adams and I must never meet! So luckily, and with a bit of effort, we didn't. I did watch a few of the IOM games online, in room (avoiding crowds around the boards and the often alarmingly creaky floors). One evening it was Simon Williams (Ginger GM) in a rollercoaster draw; while eating great pizza (me, not him). I'd

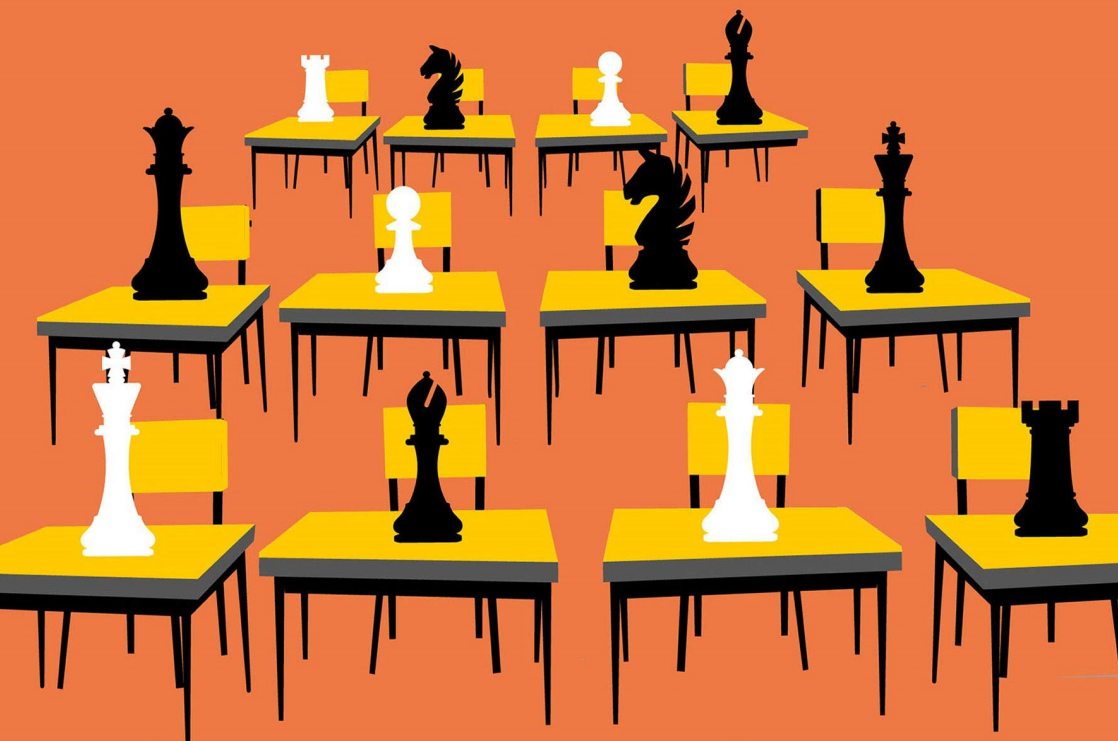
previously helped him "escape" from a casino, about even, after that late night at Queens and for once he couldn't manage to get himself banned; so my good deed for the night done.

I can tell you here that casino dealers can identify other dealers; it's because of the way croupiers handle chips. At one time I could legitimately call myself a Mayfair top-dealer, so the night before I was asked to detail my resume by the general manager who was curious. My career path seemed to amuse him; we share exactly the same opinion about 00 Roulette, which is...don't play it! He told me if he could choose the games 00 would be gone. I liked him and no chess players got banned.

So, I didn't know about the game below as I walked back to Villa Marina and actually met the winner, as he left the building... I said, Zdrasvooyte (Здравствуйте) which is a polite way of saying hello in Russian (although I can't spell it); told him GM William's was lucky to draw and asked how to pronounce his first name correctly. What an idiot...?! I forgot to ask about his game, but on this holiday from hell that was just par for the course, the game tho' I think speaks for itself.

KAREL VAN DELFT

# CHESS FOR EDUCATORS



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NEW IN CHESS

## Isle of Man Masters 2018

### Round 8

Ruy Lopez (Spanish): Fianchetto defence (C60)

#### [Arkadij Naiditsch v Hikaru Nakamura](#)

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 g6 4. d4 exd4 5. c3 Nge7 6. cxd4 d5 7. exd5 Nxd5 8. 0-0 Bg7 9. Bxc6+ bxc6 10. Bg5 Qd6 11. Re1+ Be6 12. Nbd2 0-0 13. Ne4 Qb4 14. Qc1 Rfe8 15 Bd2 Qb6 16. Nc5 Bf5 17. Ne5 Rad8 18. h3 Nf6 19. Nb3 Rd5 20. Nxc6 Rxe1+ 21. Bxe1 Bf8 22. Ne5 Be6 23. Nc4 Qb7 24. Ne3 Rh5 25. Nc5 Bxc5 26. dxc5 Bxh3 27. c6 Qc8 28. f3 Bxg2 29. Nxc2 Qh3 30. Bc3 Nd5 31. Bd4 f6 32. Qe1 Kf7 33. Rd1 Rg5 34. Qe2 Kg7 35. Bc5 Re5 36. Qf2 Rg5 37. Rd4 Qe6 38. Re4 Qxc6 39. Qd4 a5 40. a3 h5 41. Kh2 Kh7 42. Qc4 Qb7 43. Re7+ Kh8 44. Bd4 Rf5 45 Rd7 Qb8 46 Qc6 1-0

Now I don't really play 1.e4\*; so don't know much of any of the massive amounts of theory in the Ruy Lopez, and some of the tactics I don't fully understand. Some of the side lines I wouldn't even have considered, and I can't really compete at this level, but I regard this game as "inspirational stuff".

What impresses me most is the shift from attack to defence to (counter) attack; seeing what happens when the irresistible force meets the irre-

sistible force, and what makes me laugh is the number of times I'd have been checkmated (on either side).

What I noticed in the 2018 IOM Masters tournament was a preponderance of pawn gambits (fashion, or maybe they just come in preponderances, I don't know) but it's usually a gambit for an enduring initiative, real gambits (some created by engines I'd guess); not like that Queen's Gambit, people talk about, which isn't in fact a real gambit at all.

\*As I say; I did once open 1. e4. I'd hailed a cab by Krasny Plochet (Red Square) and told the driver my ambition. I want to play chess, where is the place called Moscow Central?

He took me to Gogolevsky Boulevard, but joining the Central Club of the Soviet Socialist Republics apparently requires an "audition".

I did notice outside their offices on the second floor: portraits of all the world chess champions along the top of one wall; most were Russian and in the big display case under that, to my surprise, featured a tribute to... why it was the American World Champion Bobby Fischer (circa 1972)... with pictures of him looking very Bobby Fischer indeed!

So I knock on the door and enquire; get taken to the inner office, Botvin-

nik's office; facing the door, I must be sitting in his chair; I have the White pieces, I'm to play three of their players one game of chess.

Of course, by now I've seen that display in the vestibule outside.

Unlike Fischer I usually open 1. d4.

Our game went as follows...

1.e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. Be2!? Nf6 4 c3! ... this line was so fashionable in the mid to late 80's that it merited a series of articles in the most excellent magazine "Chess" (Sutton Coldfield).

They ignored the "cheapo" after 4... Nc6 5. d4, declined the sharp tactics in the main-line gambit (which I wasn't too sure I knew that much about, except it's very sharp, I hear). So, the positional main-line... and at move 10... I believe the game was declared a draw; I could join and enter their category 1 tournament.

(Win a tournament; jump two categories, so that would make their International Master tournament the prize).

Of course with no negotiating power and a limited vocabulary, I accept.

So I'm leading their category 1 tournament with 7.5/9 when civil war breaks out (with tanks actually bombarding their own "White House"), just my luck.

Not sure if I'd have won this tournament, an all-play-all due to run for months; but my insurance company were not at all keen on this arrangement and although I still sometimes do miss architecture on the grand scale (even when they are shooting at some of it, with tanks) Moscow in the early 1990's was very much like Chicago 1930's (as portrayed in the movies) and after a year I left... for the straights of Malacca to work in a casino on a converted car ferry the pirates just couldn't catch...

In Moscow I had worked with a chap from Yugoslavia called Chedda, as one of casino troubleshooters (out of "Alexanders" in Kolony Zal). Well paid; not particularly good for one's life expectancy, perhaps, but Russian gangsters (our customers) seem to find me amusing, while I basically regard them as trouble with legs; glad I went tho'; also glad that casinos are (again) banned in Russia.

A fascinating city Moscow, best Metro/Underground I've encountered; spectacular architecture; their society has a great love for chess, but this city was extremely dangerous in the early 1990's.

Yep! Trouble every day... I mean night.

The game pictured below is another from IOM and features my preferred antidote to 1. e4. It's the starting position for the Loch Ness Monster (I hesitate to say attack, in this instance) as I seem to have a tiger by the tail.

The name (LNM) comes from the shape of Black's pawn structure... if you can see it!?... or maybe it's only me?! How we got in this position I can't say; but technically the LNM (B00) is similar in structure to the Stoltz variation White almost always plays against the Slav; the pawn on h6, the monster's "head", well sometimes it's better to play g6 (similar to the Spielman variation in the French defence. When I played for King's Head I asked Jon Spielman where he came up with that idea; he said, on the way to a football match... so now we know.)

In the excellent and sadly missed, award winning (well at least one, maybe more) "Chandler Cornered", it's inferred that the author, architecture and choice of name is crazy, while it seems to me that the LNM is sound. I can only reassure Geoff that these two concepts are not mutually exclusive. In one instance I was actually told "you're crazy!" by a Russian contract killer, who had made me very angry indeed. I told him... "Well,

you would know!", this is not something I would normally mention or recommend doing, but "Son of Psycho" (yes, his dad was a killer too) features albeit briefly later in this tale (how? I'll tell you.)

Anyway... the story so far: I've learned I must play ...Be7 before ... Nf6-d7 or like in a previous game, this chap directly refutes the LNM tactically (oops!). Knocked me right out the park he did, a previous fr-friendly; but online he plays to a large audience... entirely my fault that time; can't blame the monster for that one.

Anyway the engines "hate" the LNM... until about move 12 then they like it a whole lot more; it's lots of small moves, so suitable for bullet and in playing a type of Owen defence set up with 2.... b6 ... it sometimes, somewhat surprisingly, rejoins main lines in French / Sicilian; move 23 no captures yet is unusual in chess; but really the main intention is take opponents out of book; unless they play the King's Indian Defence (against everything)... no KIDdin'.

Accreditation for picture to A Mortazavi IM; if and when he stops laughing at my "advanced technology"...

When I wake up I play ...Qc7; spike

on K-side; ...0-0-0 ... but what are all these people doing in my bedroom?

I thought the 2018 IOM Masters was a well-run tournament upstairs, but downstairs, in the engine room, our playing hall was by now a buffet. Douglas (for me) is quite quiet, not enough tanks if you ask me; too many motorcycles revving at 7am off (TT) season; but there's something about the place, from perhaps a by-gone age, that I really like. Great online coverage of tournament, with live clock times. I talked with the "wizard in charge" of that department just after that game above and it seems things did not always run as smoothly as it looked...  
... so it ran smoothly then, I told him. First time I saw him laugh...  
I mean; clearly the important thing with this is not "what it is", it's "what it looks like" and I felt he should be congratulated as: dressed in a blazer, much like a character from The Prisoner, deceptively strong, as he levered spectators aside to record moves manually (during yet another system crash); really it all worked out quite well in the end. It still looks like magic to me, what he can do; I couldn't even see the wires.

In the (above) picture, the lady in purple (another Scot) kept getting ejected from the commentary room,

for making "helpful suggestions"; it seems there's no pleasing Danny King GM.

I captioned the above picture *American Chess Champion Grandmaster Hikaru Nakamura 1 BeanX Night Porter's Department 0* ... but I believe the game Naiditsch v Nakamura deserves its own name. (Quick!... tho' before all the good names are taken)  
Oh!... and BeanX later gets destroyed by flood, just after I quit (I have alibi)

So later this last night: I go the casino; I win a bit, but the currency isn't recognised on the mainland (of course) so had to get up early next day; I had heard one of their staff worked in Moscow; so I went to talk with him. Same club; same year... he took a step back; looked me up and down and asked, are you "The Scottish Guy"?  
... and I felt compelled to say, "Yes, I'm the Scottish Guy".

That exchange still makes me laugh... 25 years on, I find I had a name, but I had to go to the Isle of Man to discover it.  
He tells me "Son of Psycho" perished in a hail of bullets about a year after I leave Russia; killed some innocent bystanders; very unprofessional someone decided. I wouldn't look for a moral in that story there isn't any.



This building Kolony Zal, well it seems we worked in the Hall of Columns where Lenin and Stalin were laid in state, while thousands filed past to pay their respects... I didn't discover this until years later, clearly I live in a dream; with chandeliers and oil paintings on the walls... it did look nice.

... but here's a weird thing: Alexanders (arguably the best casino in Moscow) was on the second floor, in a room that has a circle of column's (6) and one night I simply shake hands with the wrong person, while dealing roulette, and two spins later I find myself lying under Roulette 2 trying to figure out what I'm looking at... luckily all the game inspectors then jumped on top of me, because I only had one idea in mind at the time (and with benefit of hindsight, it wasn't a particularly good idea... it was how to get yourself shot) However from the evidence above it seems entirely likely that: Lenin, me and Stalin have all been laid out in the middle of the same room...

I hope you liked my stories; they are unfortunately all true; I hope you can see, by now, just how much trouble chess (and Roulette) can get you into.

So yes I once nearly saw a great game of chess; once played an im-

portant 10 move game and I've a picture of the Loch Ness Monster. Later on Chris Donkin has to move this guy; somebody Anand... to get a good picture; then in a nearby pub Lawrence Trent IM makes me nearly fall off my seat using only two words, one of which was Hello... and the only chess player to visit the casino on the last night was GM Shirov who walked in, once around the room and straight back out...

...alas in the era of computer engines and large prizes (I won't win) it seems professionals must stay in their rooms and study; so it's not as sociable an atmosphere now; still there's kippers for breakfast and a mountain I didn't manage to climb (torrential rain, on rest day, of course)

I hope everyone is coping with these restrictions and keeping well. I appreciate the chess newsletters, but declined all invites to play online and have decided that 24-hour online blitz chess marathons are only a good idea until about hour 6; then they are an increasingly bad idea...

Would have liked to play the "Scottish" at Edinburgh Botanical Gardens; pick up a few gardening tips, it sounded like a great venue; while the venue for the "British" in Torquay (and town) is excellent, but

some distance away and Genting just closed the casino there, which frankly shocked me (and you can believe me when I say I'm not easily shocked).













I played in the one-day rapidplay; 12 rounds playing Indian teenagers at coffee-house chess was starting to give me "the yips", no point in winning frothy coffee if you can't keep the cup and spoon on the saucer... see I knew there would be some proverb turning up in this story somewhere and I still agree with the words of the great philosopher Cindi

Lauper, you just get out there and do the best job you can.

Maybe I should have led with this but in the spirit of the "[Outer Limits](#)"; we will now return control of your internet device to you. Shortly normality will resume, whatever that is... so good luck with that!

Hamish.

aka Y'know... Scottish guy, overseas wandering Dragon; keeper of monsters...TarlCabot on Lichess (I'm now officially a fictional character)

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The Scottish Chess Tour has continued to provide chess players with an outlet for their Caissaic desires during the coronavirus pandemic lockdown, with Dave Clayton and co putting on a total of twelve separate online weekend festivals.



The 12th edition saw our top junior prospects cross swords with many of our more established adult players. You'll find the latest results below, with a highly instructive game annotated by Open victor, Robin Moss.

### Weekend Standard

#### Open

1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Robin Moss</b>		
	Skor1964	5/5	
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Isaac Browning		
	HampshireHawk	4.5/5	
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Sanjith Madhavan		
	duckling234	3.5/5	

[Chess-Results Crosstable](#)

#### Minor U1300

1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Ryan Wood</b>		
	RyanWood01	4.5/5	
2 <sup>nd=</sup>	Karthikeya Vundi		
	Happychess07	4/5	
	Geoff Stewart		
	Stewart500	4/5	

[Chess-Results Crosstable](#)

### Sunday Afternoon Allegro

1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Ross Blackford</b>	
	Lancelot06	<b>4.5/6</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Alex Macdonald	
	Zeer	4/6
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Alistair MacNaughton	
	alimac61	3.5/6

[Lichess Results and Crosstable](#)

### Friday Evening Blitz

1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Frederick Gordon</b>	
	FREDERICKtheMATE	<b>9/9</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Daniel Kitaev	
	Hyper_Dragon	7.5/9
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Isaac Browning	
	HampshireHawk	7/9

[Lichess Results and Crosstable](#)

### Sunday Evening Junior U15 Allegro

1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Morvin Gera</b>	
	<b>MGAnon</b>	<b>5/5</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Daniel Kitaev	
	Hyper_Dragon	4.5/5
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Tushar Roul	
	TUSHAR1263	4/5

[Lichess Results and Crosstable](#)

### Friday Evening U15 Junior Blitz

1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Daniel Kitaev</b>	
	Hyper_Dragon	<b>4.5/5</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Abeer Gogia	
	xPulzify	4/5
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Rithvik Deepak Ambattu	
	FitBison	4/5

[Lichess Results and Crosstable](#)

### Saturday Evening Junior U11 Allegro

1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Jack Egan</b>	
	JackAttack27	<b>5.5/6</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Ollie Marenduzzo	
	UtmostTiger	4.5/6
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Rithvik	Deepak Ambattu
	FitBison	4.5/6

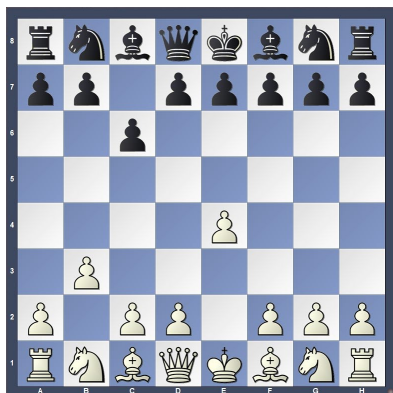
[Lichess Results and Crosstable](#)

♣ Moss, Robin

♣ Madhavan, Sanjith B10

12th SCT Weekend Standard Open,  
04.2021

1.e4 c6 2.b3



My pet line vs the Caro-Kann. The idea was once described by Kasparov as interesting but incorrect.

2...d5 3.♖b2 dxe4 4.♘c3 ♘f6 5.♘ge2 g6!? More normal are 5...♙f5 or 5...♙g4. Both moves lead to very interesting positions. These lines are definitely worthy of study, as they reach positions which are non-typical of the Caro-Kann with chances for both sides.

6.♘xe4 ♙g7 7.♘xf6+ exf6 8.d4

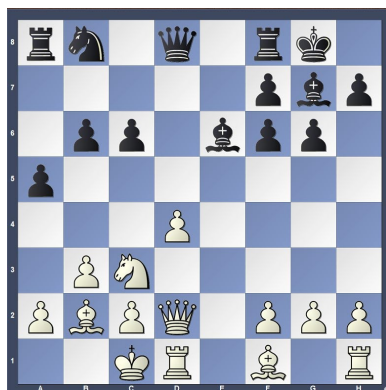
(see diagram next column)

I had this position a few weeks ago

during one of my study periods. My plan is simple: Qd2, 0-0-0, Nc3 and push d5 as quickly as possible. Black should play ...Na6-c7 and ...Be6 to stop this idea when it's close to equal.

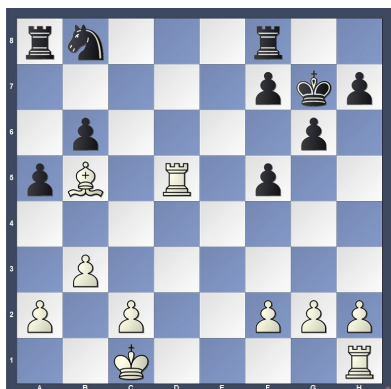


8...0-0 9.♙d2 b6? 10.0-0-0 a5  
11.♘c3 ♙e6



12.d5! cxd5 13.♘xd5 ♙xd5 Black should prefer 13...♘c6

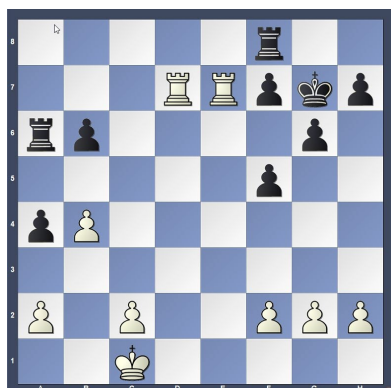
14.♙xd5 ♙xd5 15.♖xd5 f5 16.♙xg7  
♙xg7 17.♙b5



White has a clear and obvious advantage.

**17...♘a6 18.♖d6 ♜fb8 19.♞e1! ♞a7 20.♙xa6! ♞xa6 21.♞e7** Now it's close to being lost.

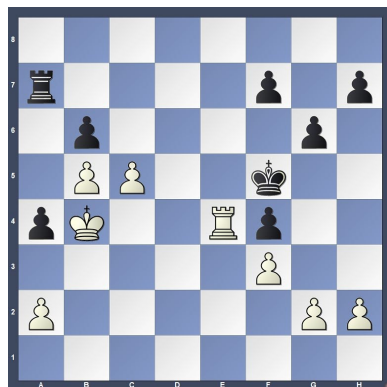
**21...a4 22.♖dd7 ♜f8 23.b4**



An important move and shows the benefit of vast experience. My plan is simple but deadly: c4, b5 Kb2–c3–b4 and push c5 - an exchange of one pair of rooks would benefit me.

**23...♞aa8 24.c4 ♜ac8 25.♞c7 ♞cd8 26.b5!** Black has little to no counterplay.

**26...♞d3 27.♞ed7 ♞xd7 28.♞xd7 ♞c8 29.♖d4 ♙f6 30.♙b2 ♙e5 31.♙c3 f4 32.f3! ♞c7 33.♞e4+ ♙f5 34.♙b4 ♞a7 35.c5**



It is now just lost and White converts easily.

**35...♞xc5+ 36.♙xc5 g5 37.b6 ♞a5+ 38.♙c6** Black resigns.

**1-0**

A fairly straightforward game. I avoid all tactics going for the much better endgame as soon as possible. Black must play ...Na6–c7, ...Be6 to stop d5 and obtain counterplay. The position is close to equal if he does this. Once White is allowed to push d5, he is much better and any ending will be heavily in White's favour due to the pawn structure.

Efstratios Grivas

# GRIVAS OPENING LABORATORY

Volume 6

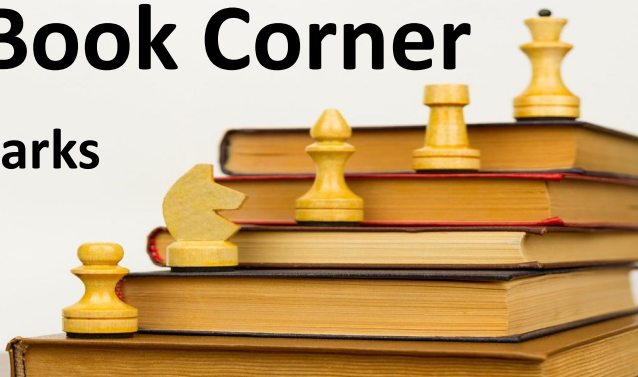
*Janowski Defence  
Orthodox Defence  
Cambridge Springs Defence  
Various Slav Systems  
Tartakower Defence*



Chess  
Evolution

# Chess Book Corner

with Ian Marks



This month sees Cumbernauld's finest, [Ian Marks](#), getting to grips with evolutionary theories of chess, with a deep look at Willy Hendriks' "On the Origin of Good Moves". According to Ian, "you will need a generous infusion of staying power and a well-filled coffee pot," to work through the book yourself, but first up you need to know what you're letting yourself in for...

**E**ight years after the Dutch IM and trainer's first book, *Move First, Think Later*, comes his second, a thoroughly and extensively researched look at the development of chess. Hendriks is not the first to try to get to grips with the evolution of the game.

Réti and Euwe did so in their time, and more recently Kasparov got on board with his *Predecessors* series. Big names, but Hendriks has no qualms about calling them out or disagreeing with them when he feels it is warranted.



**IM Willy Hendriks, author of the bestselling 2012 book 'Move First, Think Later'**



Writers on the history of the game usually start with Morphy, or perhaps Philidor, but Hendriks goes back to Greco in an interesting first chapter which makes a number of observations which set the style and tone of the book (e.g. “*If you play over all the games by Greco you cannot but be amazed by the enormous strength of this player and the importance and variety of his ideas.*”).

Hendriks divides his work into thirty-six chapters, in which he considers topics as diverse as...

How good/strong were the top players of yore?

How positionally savvy were players like Morphy and Anderssen?

Doubled c-pawn formations

The early days of chess magazines

The evolution of tournaments  
Stereotypes

Was Steinitz the father of positional chess?

...and many more besides. Some of his findings will raise an eyebrow. To take the first topic above, he takes “*a wild guess*” on p.318 that the top players of the earlyish 19<sup>th</sup> century were around 2000, rising to around 2400 at the end – and were prone to the most incredible blunders, e.g. in the 23<sup>rd</sup> game of his 1892 *World*

*Championship* match v Steinitz, Chigorin – under no time pressure – blundered a mate in two which would have embarrassed even your club bottom board. Based on the ‘evidence’ of the book, there is little doubt that a professional from 2020 would slaughter most of these guys if he could travel back in time. In fact Carlsen could probably have given a simul to a random dozen masters of the day.

There are lots of interesting insights along the way, e.g. in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century the noble way to settle a difference of chess opinion was through the pages of a magazine. Compared to a humorous exchange of tweets nowadays between, say, Magnus and Anish, some of the stuff which the likes of Steinitz and Zuckertort launched at each other is weapons-grade vitriol. We likewise learn of the fluke which gave the Winawer variation of the French its name (coincidentally answering a question I posed in a review back in 2013!)

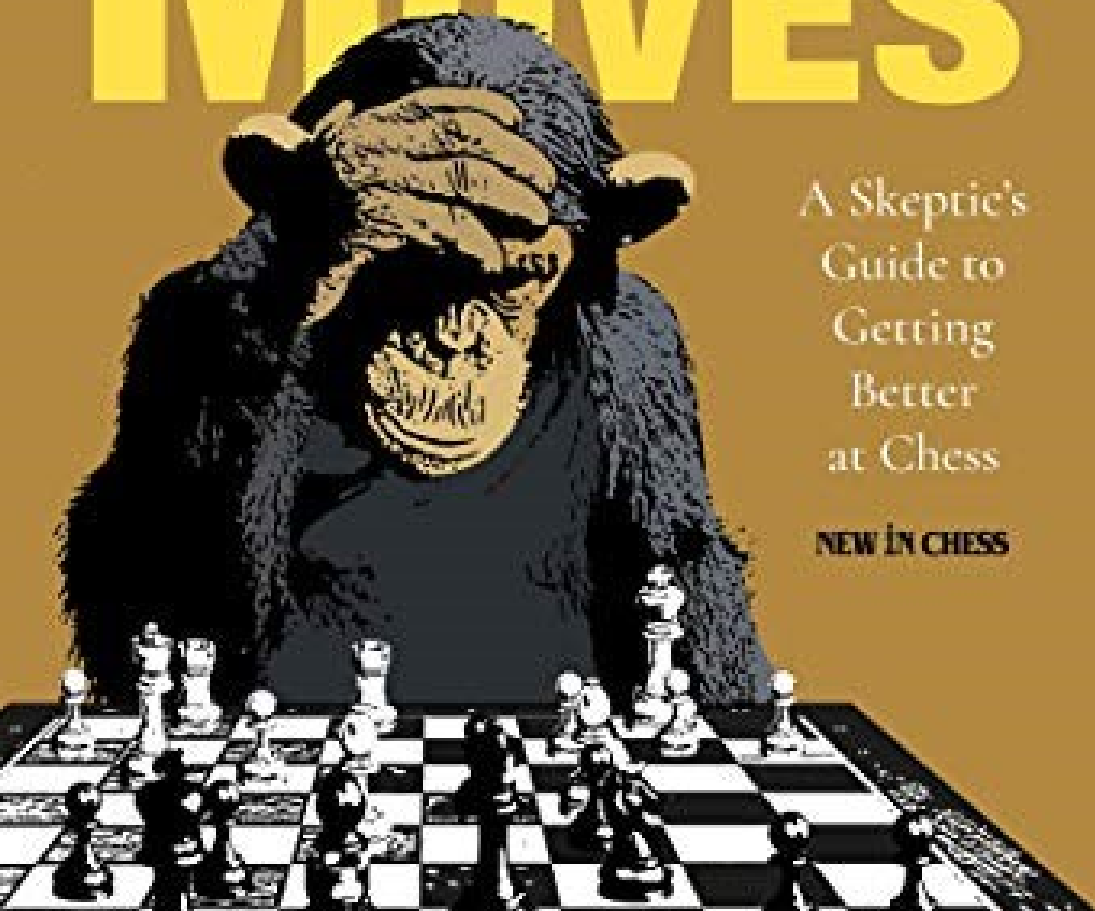
Hendriks stops his research somewhere around the end of the 19<sup>th</sup>/start of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. I suppose he had to draw conclusions somewhere, but it kind of leaves us wondering how he might have continued. Lasker is a sort of bridge over that period, so I surmise it’s because the

WILLY HENDRIKS

# ON THE ORIGIN OF GOOD MOVES

A Skeptic's  
Guide to  
Getting  
Better  
at Chess

NEW IN CHESS



players who followed suddenly 'got good' (to use Fischer's phrase), with geniuses like Capablanca, Rubinstein and Alekhine synthesising what had gone before. On the other hand, thinkers like Réti, Breyer and Nimzowitsch continued to challenge and refine previous thinking and/or push the boat out further. Chess didn't stop developing!

Perhaps the chapter which will cause most tut-tutting is no. 32, *Study Openings*. It is exactly that. When Hendriks says "*There is no better way to improve in chess than by studying openings*" I can imagine other coaches the world over reaching for the smelling salts, but when you read what he has to say, you can see his point. It reminded me of a pre-covid, pre-Hendriks interview I read earlier this year with an IM rated around 2400 (yes, a 2400!) – I forget who, I wish I had taken a note of it – who was asked the standard question "What do you recommend in order to improve?"

Quick as a flash he replied "Study openings", and went on to explain that all the usual things we are advised to do – study the classics, work on tactics, endings etc. – had taken him to around 2100, at which point he had stalled. Deciding that drastic action was necessary, he spent a summer working exclusively on

openings. Within two seasons he put on 300 points and gained a title. This proves nothing, of course, but having read Hendriks's chapter it struck a chord. There is more to studying openings than, well, studying openings.

The text reads smoothly overall, and, since no translator is credited, we have to assume that Hendriks wrote it in English, which is both impressive and makes the occasional linguistic wrinkle excusable. However a few things slipped through the net, e.g. on p.85 the reference to La Bourdonnais's magazine *Le Palamède* manages to get the definite article both right and wrong within the space of four lines, and while Hendriks might well have consulted Kmoch's *Die Kunst der Bauernführung* in the original German, it would have been a good idea to mention its English title, *Pawn Power in Chess*.

Instances of German word order (and resulting appalling English) also pepper the text, e.g. "*Strong would have been 32.Rxb7*", "*No good either was 14...g6 15.Rad1*" and the breathtakingly egregious "*Equally attractive looks 19...Nf3+ first*". It's the sort of stuff that could have come from the pen of Yoda. Clumsy it is, and easily remedied can it be, indeed things like this appear 'normally' elsewhere,

which makes examples like these grate all the more.

With eight years between books you expect something a bit special, and that is what you get. *On the Origin of Good Moves* is the antithesis of the conveyor-belt style of chess writing. It is an impressive piece of research (check the bibliography!) covering nearly 300 years of chess history, well structured and thoughtfully argued, an intelligent and ambitious piece of work which is not only full of great and often little-known chess, but introduces us to a number of hitherto walk-on characters on the chess stage such as Gustav Neumann, Elijah Williams and Marmaduke Wyvill. I wouldn't say it deliberately sets out to be polemic, but it casts many new lights on the history of the game, and forces the reader to rethink traditionally accepted views. In essence it is a very human book into which Hendriks has poured a lot of himself.

However, paradoxically and unfortunately, given the sheer amount and depth of research on display, the book's strength turns out to be its weakness: it has the inescapable air of an academic text. 'Gripping' is not a word I would use to describe it, and, I will admit, there were times when I found it hard to get back into it and pick up from where I'd left off.

Hendriks's style reminded me of that lecturer you had whose stuff was good, but in whose lectures you sometimes found yourself drifting, so that you finished up doodling instead of taking notes. It is not an easy text to get through; you will need a generous infusion of staying power and a well-filled coffee pot.

*On the Origin of Good Moves* would probably be of most interest to chess historians, and for readers who already have some knowledge of the great names and their place in the chess firmament. I doubt if you'd get much from it if you'd never heard of, say, Tarrasch or Lasker or where they were coming from. On the other hand, I still remember the buzz I got as a kid when I discovered Réti's *Masters of the Chessboard* and *Modern Ideas in Chess* (still two of my favourite chess books), so it would be nice to think that readers might enjoy a similar reaction to Hendriks's opus. Given the book's subtext that a player's development mirrors that of the game itself, will it help you improve? I'm not convinced. There are other books out there better designed to achieve that.

Before I go, I'd like to mention two things in particular. First, the creative, highly original cover echoing the play on Darwin. I loved it. If it's not in the running for the Chess Book Cover

of the Year award, there ain't no justice. Second, NiC's currently-favoured names-only index, which requires more considered comment. There are books where a names-only index might suffice. *On the Origin of Good Moves* is not one of them. It gives me no pleasure to say it, but its four-page, names-only index is hopelessly inadequate for a work of this nature and scope. Some specific examples.

Steinitz gets fifty-eight references across twenty columnar lines. There is no indication of what any of them refer to, nor is it necessarily the case with multiple pages (e.g. 181-185) that they refer specifically to Steinitz. (In fact, Steinitz only gets a few mentions on those pages. Neither of the two games references is his, while the photo on p.183 is of...Max Euwe. And, when you check 'Euwe' in the index, there's no mention of him on p.183!) There is no way of telling which page numbers are games references, tournament references, references to positional ideas, debates with other players – nothing.

There is no tournament index (the only overt reference to a tournament is in the contents, chapter seven – London 1851) or crosstables and, incredibly, no openings index. The

Evans and King's Gambits, to name but two, are discussed at length and in not inconsiderable depth in various chapters, but there is absolutely no way to find them. On one occasion when I went back to check a Sicilian by Anderssen I had no alternative but to flick back and forth around where I thought I had first seen it. It took me several minutes. Nor, in a book which discusses the historical handling and development of a wide range of positional and tactical features, e.g. the centre, pawn structures, various sacrificial ideas etc. etc., is there an index of themes. I'm currently reading a (non-chess) book which deals with the development of various societal issues, so comparable in its own area. It's about half the length, but has an index twice the size, eight pages, listing names, topics, themes, places etc., many complete with sub- and cross-references. It is a model of what would have done justice to *On the Origin of Good Moves*. NiC really need to address the matter of how they index their publications.

**ON THE ORIGIN OF GOOD MOVES** by Willy Hendriks,  
New in Chess, 429 pp., 2020

2021#3 USA \$14.99 EUROPE €13.99

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## Anish Giri

*'I so much love to work  
on chess that I don't  
need motivation'*



**LaVieve Mae Hines** – The story and mystery  
of 'America's first women's champion'

5 14 99  
ISBN 078-90-5691-950-4



**A** Scottish book connection that many likely don't know exists, writes your editor, involves chess publishing house **Elk and Ruby**, and we are very grateful to founder **Ilan Rubin** for the following extract from one of their latest books.

This month we get a sneak preview inside one of the latest releases, a detailed biography of two-time Soviet champion, Peter Romanovsky, written by Sergei Tkachenko with games annotated by IM Grigory Bogdanovich.

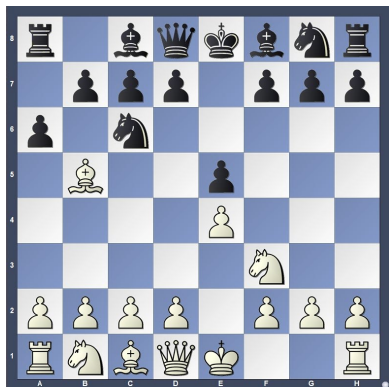
Here is Romanovsky's victory over Ernst Grünfeld, an excellent insight into the master's thinking and play...

♖ Romanovsky, Peter

♜ Grünfeld, Ernst

*Moscow International 1925*  
*Ruy Lopez*

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6



4.Bxc6

In other games at the tournament where I played White (with Rubinstein, Verlinsky, and Torre), I retreated the bishop to a4. Why would I go for the exchange variation against Grünfeld in the first place? Let me reveal a secret.

The winner of the 1924 international tournament in Meran, the founding father of the Grünfeld Defense (Samisch – Grünfeld, Piestany, 1922; Kostic – Grünfeld, Teplitz-Schonau, 1922; Rubinstein – Grünfeld, Carlsbad, 1923), grandmaster Ernst Grünfeld was looked up to at

that time as a top opening theoretician and chess player of strong technique, especially in the endgame.

In preparing for the tournament and analyzing games of my future foreign opponents, I decided to borrow a page from their book and take the battle to their creative platforms. I wanted to prove that as far as their favorite openings and methods of struggle were concerned, we – the followers and students of Chigorin – could and should be on top.

It was against Grünfeld, a connoisseur of the theory of weak squares, of the bishop pair's superiority, and a player of refined endgame technique, that I decided to go for an opening that would give my opponent the benefit of all those abstract positional pluses. My choice fell on the Ruy Lopez Exchange Variation.

My choice was backed up by some playing experience that I had got playing in the 4th All-Union Championship two months before the international tournament. In the annotations below, the reader will find one of those championship games that served as a kind of model when playing against Grünfeld.

#### 4...dxc6

But not, of course, 4...bxc6, with which Alekhine, among other players, had challenged Duras at the international tournament in Mannheim. It would have been way too sharp for Grünfeld's taste.

#### 5.Nc3



I played many games and devoted much time studying the theory of this continuation in the years 1924-1926. Later, I also employed this line on many occasions in an attempt to test some new considerations of mine. I need to admit, nevertheless, that one should not regard me as a proponent of the exchange variation.

I take an absolutely dim view of the move 5.d4 in the exchange variation, as I consider it a primitive and purely technical attempt to exploit

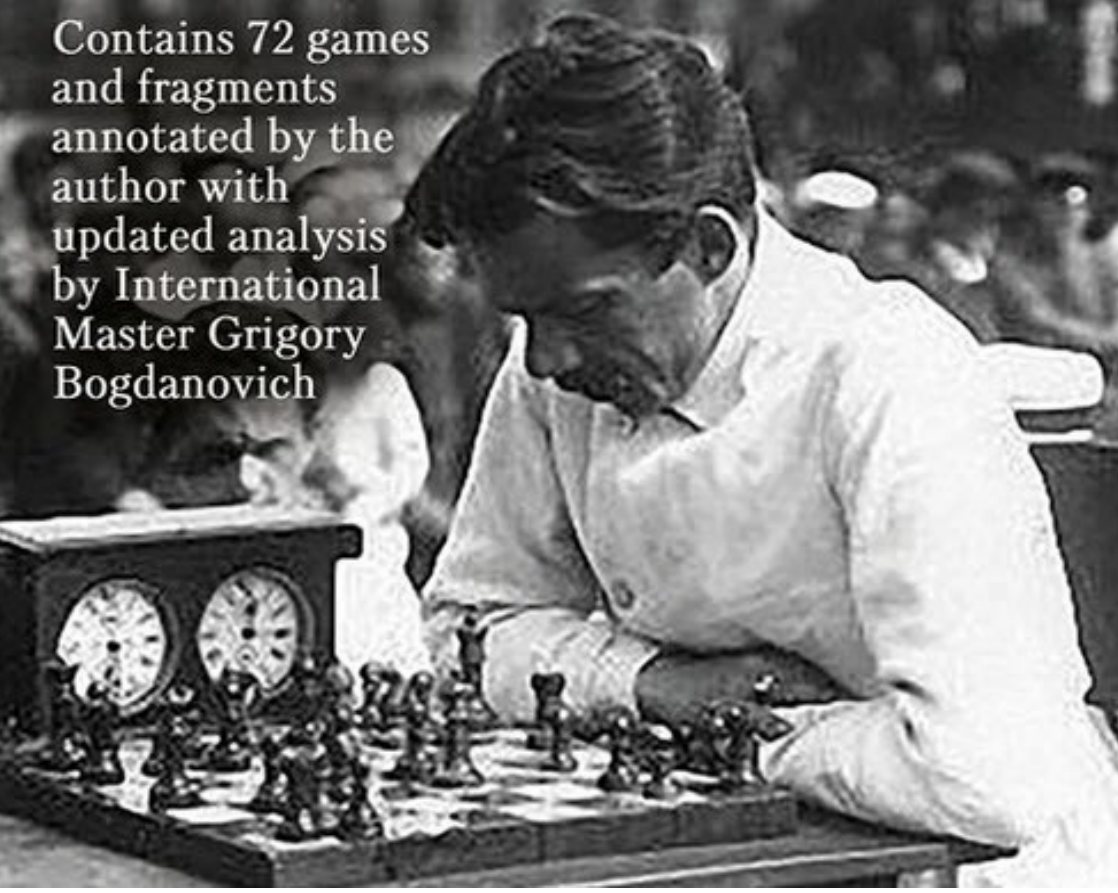


# Selected Games

**PETER ROMANOVSKY**

*With a detailed biography  
by Sergei Tkachenko*

Contains 72 games  
and fragments  
annotated by the  
author with  
updated analysis  
by International  
Master Grigory  
Bogdanovich



the extra pawn on the kingside. At the same time, I consider the

of the plan where White seeks to prove superiority of his five-pawn mass ranging from the d- to h-files over the four black pawns from the e- to h-files to be a completely sound one.

However, this plan needs to cover the entire board and you must not offer your opponent the exchange of queens at the first opportune moment. On the contrary, you should provoke your opponent into seeking the exchange of queens as a way for them to ease the struggle.

guided by the following considerations.

Having a superior number of pawns in the center, White should experience no problems in keeping it stable. The brunt of the battle shifts to the kingside, where White gears up for the g2-g4-g5 advance (after h2-h3). As the f6-pawn comes under attack, White also becomes active in the center, trying to mount threats against the e5-pawn, too.

Only when the f6 and e5 pawns have been eliminated one way or another does White stop dodging the exchange of queens, all the more so if the opponent comes forward to offer it himself.

**5...f6 6.d3**



I successfully implemented such a plan in three games, including this one.

**6...Bc5 7.Be3 Bxe3 8.fxe3 Nh6**

We were playing this game on 15 November. Grünfeld had no idea that in the 3rd round of the All-Union Championship, played on 13 August that year, I had played the following game against Sergeyev: 8...Be6 9.0-0 c5 10.Qe1 Nh6 11.Rd1 0-0 12.h3 Qe7

This seemingly modest move was the focus of my analysis in the exchange variation. In doing so, I was

13.g4 Rad8 14.Qg3 Nf7 15.Rd2 Kh8 16.Rg2 Rd7 17.Kh2 Re8 18.Nh4 c4 19.Nf5



**(analysis diagram)**

19...Qd8 (if 19...Qb4 I planned to play 20.d4, and if 20...Qxb2, then 21.Na4 and Nc5). 20.d4 c6 21.h4 exd4 22.exd4 Qc7 (Black went for the queen exchange himself – the same pattern as in the game against Grünfeld) 23.Qxc7 Rxc7 24.g5 Bxf5 25.Rxf5 fvg5 26.hxg5 Nd6 27.Rf4 g6 28.Kg3 Kg7 29.Kf3 Rf7 30.Rxf7+ Nxf7 31.Ne2 h6 32.gxh6+ Kxh6 33.Ng3 g5 34.e5 Kg6 35.Ne4 Kf5 36.Ke3 Re7 37.Rf2+ Kg6 38.Rf6+ Kg7 39.Ng3 Re8 40.Nf5+ Kg8 41.Rxf7, and Black resigned soon after.

**9.0-0 0-0 10.Qe1 Qe8 11.Qh4 Be6 12.h3 Nf7**

**(see diagram next column)**

**13.g4**



This is a trumpet call for the attack. The encounter with Sergeyev had made my game planning a much easier task. In my mind's eye I already envisaged attacking the f6 and e5 pawns, threatening the black king, and how my opponent would start looking to an exchange of queens as an escape into an inferior endgame.

**13...Rd8**

Sergeyev had stopped the d-pawn advance with c6-c5. As for Grünfeld, he obviously did his best to provoke it. It took me about 20 minutes to resolve the substantial strategic dilemma that I faced.

I only clearly realized that in allowing me to advance d3-d4, my opponent was counting on exploiting the weakening of the e4-square created in its wake. On the other hand, it seemed prudent to make use of

this favorable opportunity and, since d3-d4 was absolutely instrumental for White's plan, it should not be neglected.

#### 14.d4



I annotated this game for *Shakhmatny Listok* (No. 22, dated 25 November 1925) even as the tournament was underway.

This is what I wrote about this move: "This is a risky and sharp move. It enables Black to mount pressure along the e-file against the e4-square, something that White should have taken full stock of. Besides, Black's light-squared bishop can occupy the a6-f1 diagonal at an opportune moment.

White looked to combine pressure against the e5-square and the g4-g5 break as a way to make up for the drawbacks of his 14th

move. It is the latter point, as it happens, that goes on to define the entire course of the upcoming struggle."

These annotations, written under my first impressions of the game just finished, give a correct account of my deliberations over move 14. They are reflective of my creative outlook. I have taken risks in going for the deliberate weakening of my positions up to this very day for the sake of attaining the intended goal, for the sake of the plan. I have always approved of this creative approach to the chess struggle.

#### 14...Bc8

I generously awarded an exclamation mark to this move in the above-mentioned annotations of mine.

"Now I'm going to have a lot of bother with the e4-pawn," was my reaction during the game after Grünfeld's move.

In fact, I had expected 14...Bc4 15.Re1 a5 in this position, which would have been even more active.

#### 15.Qg3 Qe7 16.a3 b6 17.Rad1 a5

Black goes about his position in a very systematic, even if somewhat terribly slow and leisure-like manner. Grünfeld's next move simply stunned

me. I realized only later that it was in perfect alignment with his style. Grünfeld's patience is inexhaustible as he waits for his opponent to create enough positional weaknesses to come crushing down on them in a systematic way. Grünfeld was undoubtedly happy and encouraged after my 14th move. He must have reached an opinion that I was a perfect victim for his style of play and that all he needed to pocket the game was to tread water a little longer.

### **18.Rfe1**

Apprehensive of the storm, I attempted to provide reliable protection for the e4-pawn in advance, but nothing could be further from the truth. Grünfeld is not that sort of person!

### **18...Kh8**

Continuing in the same vein. In addition to the opportunity highlighted in my previous note, Black could still have gone active with 18...Bb7 and then c6-c5 (or preceded by exd4).

**19.Rd2 Kg8 20.Kh2 Rfe8 21.Rg2 Kh8 22.Reg1**

White's knights do a good job defending the center for the time be-

ing. They also had no problems to set White up for the second strategic advance g4-g5. Nevertheless, this did little to stop my sense of alarm, as I was still apprehensive of the b6-b5 advance, especially after moving the rook away from e1, which, objectively speaking, I should not have done. Well, that might be so from the objective point of view. The thing is, however, that Grünfeld's 18th, 19th and 21st moves proved so disorienting that I let my guard down, lulled into confidence that he would procrastinate further. The Nc3-d1-f2 maneuver would have apparently been more to the point for White now.

### **22...exd4?**

He should have played b6-b5, needless to say. I would have likely met it by returning the rook to e1, because g4-g5 seemed to lack any decisive venom in addition to leaving the e4-pawn to its own devices.

### **23.exd4**

After this move I was no longer worried about b6-b5, as the e4-pawn could be reinforced by the rooks and would turn from a liability into an asset. Likewise, the continuation 23...c5 24.Nd5 was also to Black's

disadvantage. 23...Bb7 is well met by **Rde6 28.e5 fxe5 29.dxe5 Rd8**

24.g5.

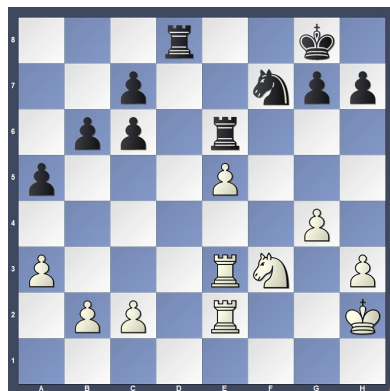
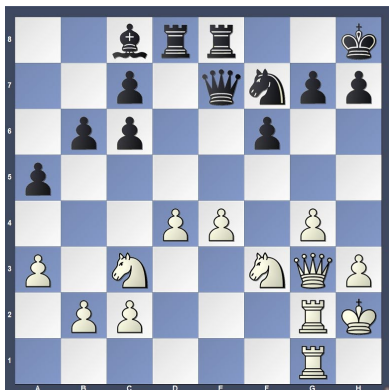
Of course, 29...Nd6? 30.exd6 Rxe3

Therefore, Black's 22nd move 31.Rxe3 Rxe3 32.d7 would have been should be condemned, although I a blunder.

failed to interpret its true im-  
portance.

**30.Ne2 Bxe2 31.R1xe2**

**23...Qd6**



That's the truth of it! Grünfeld was put off by the upcoming storm. This also reveals the purpose of Black's previous move.

**24.Qxd6 Rxd6**

With the e5-pawn eliminated, White no longer needs g4-g5 and instead turns to pushing the e-pawn as quickly as possible.

**25.Re2**

Having got the job done by scaring Black so much, both rooks resume their old positions to help create a passed pawn in the center.

**25...Kg8 26.Rge1 Ba6 27.Re3**

This is when Grünfeld offered me a draw. He embodied his rationale in the following wording: "Your positional superiority," he stated, "is beyond any doubt due to the passed pawn, but converting this advantage, I believe, is impossible. Black has more than enough resources to blockade the pawn." To that I answered that I evaluated my winning chances to be quite real and declined the draw offer for that reason.

White's further game plan envisages the following steps: 1) to exchange one pair of rooks; 2) to relieve the remaining rook of defensive duties related to the e5-pawn; 3) to

bring the king into the center, and 4) to exploit the passed pawn as a springboard for the offensive.

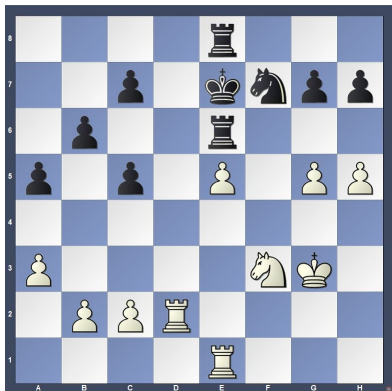
**31...c5 32.Kg3 Kf8 33.Kf4 Ke7 34.h4**

Although the king is in the center, he is not safe enough yet. White has in part fulfilled the task of untying the rooks from the e5-pawn's defense. White's following efforts come down to exchanging one of the rooks and making the remaining one completely active. The advance of the h- and g-pawns is designed to serve this objective.

**34...Rf8 35.Kg3**

As long as the black rook, harassing from the back rank, remains alive, it would be hard for White to hold his king in the center.

**35...Rd8 36.Re4 Rd1 37.Re1 Rd5 38.Kf4 Rd8 39.h5 Kf8 40.R4e2 Ke7 41.Rd2 Rf8 42.Kg3 Re8 43.g5**



**43...g6?**

This positional error testifies to the lack of safety guarantees behind such routine defensive maneuvering. At this very moment, when Grünfeld should have taken a wait-and-see approach by shuffling his rook between the e8 and f8 squares, he fails to keep to his strategy of passive observation of his opponent's actions. He should have continued 43...Rf8 44.Kg4 Re8, standing in White's way of defending the e5-pawn with his king. I would have had to return my d2-rook to e2 and start looking to reroute the knight to f4 or f5. There would have been much complex fighting ahead yet.

**44.h6 Rd8**

Black realized that there was no staving off the rook exchanges any longer. If, for example, 44...Rf8, then 45.Rd5, threatening Red1. 45...c6 does not help due to 46.Rd2 Re8 47.Kg4 Rf8 (47...Kf8 48.Kf4) 48.Re3 Re8 49.Red3 Nxe5+ 50.Nxe5 Rxe5 51.Rd7+ Kf8 52.Rxh7, and White should win. Black cannot ignore the d-file attack's potential and is forced to go for exchanges.

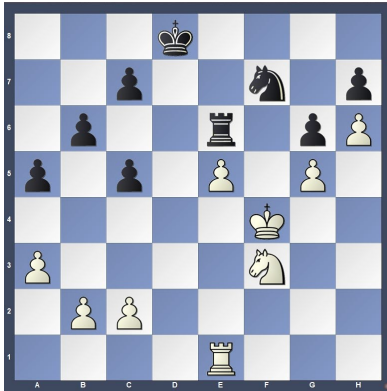
*In this line, instead of 49...Nxe5+ Black maintained the balance via*

49...Rxe5!

**45.Kf4 Rf8 46.Kg4 Rd8 47.Rxd8 Kxd8**

Black can no longer stop the white knight's invasion on f6.

**48.Kf4**



**48...Ke8**

*A decisive mistake. After 48...Re8 49.Nh2 Rf8 Black had good chances of drawing the game.*

**49.Nh2 Nd8 50.Ng4 Re7 51.Nf6+ Kf8 52.Rf1 Rf7**

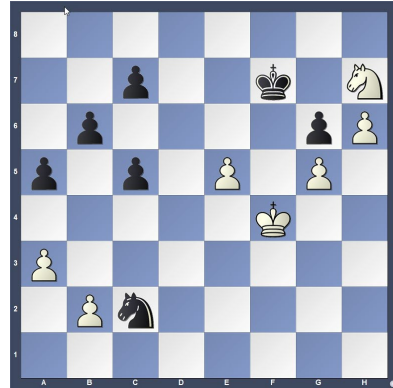
The h7-pawn drops no matter what Black plays. For example, 52...Ne6+ or 52...Nc6.

**53.Kg4 Ke7 54.Rd1 Nc6 55.Rd7+ Ke6 56.Rxf7 Kxf7**

Or 56...Nxe5+ 57.Kf4 Nxf7

58.Nxh7 Ke7 59.Nf6 c6 60.Ng4 Kd6 61.h7 Kd5 62.Ne5 Nh8 63.Nxg6, etc.

**57.Kf4 Nd4 58.Nxh7 Nxc2**



**59.Nf8!**

Now one of the pawns is quick to queen. Grünfeld sealed his move and resigned on the adjournment session day after four hours of trying to grind down Lasker in a game that had also been adjourned. That said, I was waiting patiently all the while.

When it turned out that I had arrived safe and sound, he informed me of his resignation. A Western professional's tool!

**Peter Romanovsky Selected Games by Romanovsky, Tkachenko and Bogdanovich from Elk and Ruby Publishing is available from all good chess bookstores as well as other mainstream book suppliers.**





**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 [Calendar](#) is updated regularly and contains details of all forthcoming events and detailed information of how to sign up to play.

The [online rating system](#) has regular updates and allows members to check their rating progress, check links to event crosstables and view several years of previous data.

[FIDE ratings](#) are updated on the 1<sup>st</sup> of every month and give players information on their latest world ranking.

The [Chess Scotland 100 Club](#) is a lottery that anyone (over 16) is welcome to join. Half the cash collected every month is returned as prizes, the rest goes into general fund raising for the association.

The [Chessbase Grand Prix Leaderboards](#) and rules can be viewed here while the [Giant-killing](#) lists are here. (The virus pandemic has impacted on updates here and we hope to return to more normal times as soon as possible).

...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](#).