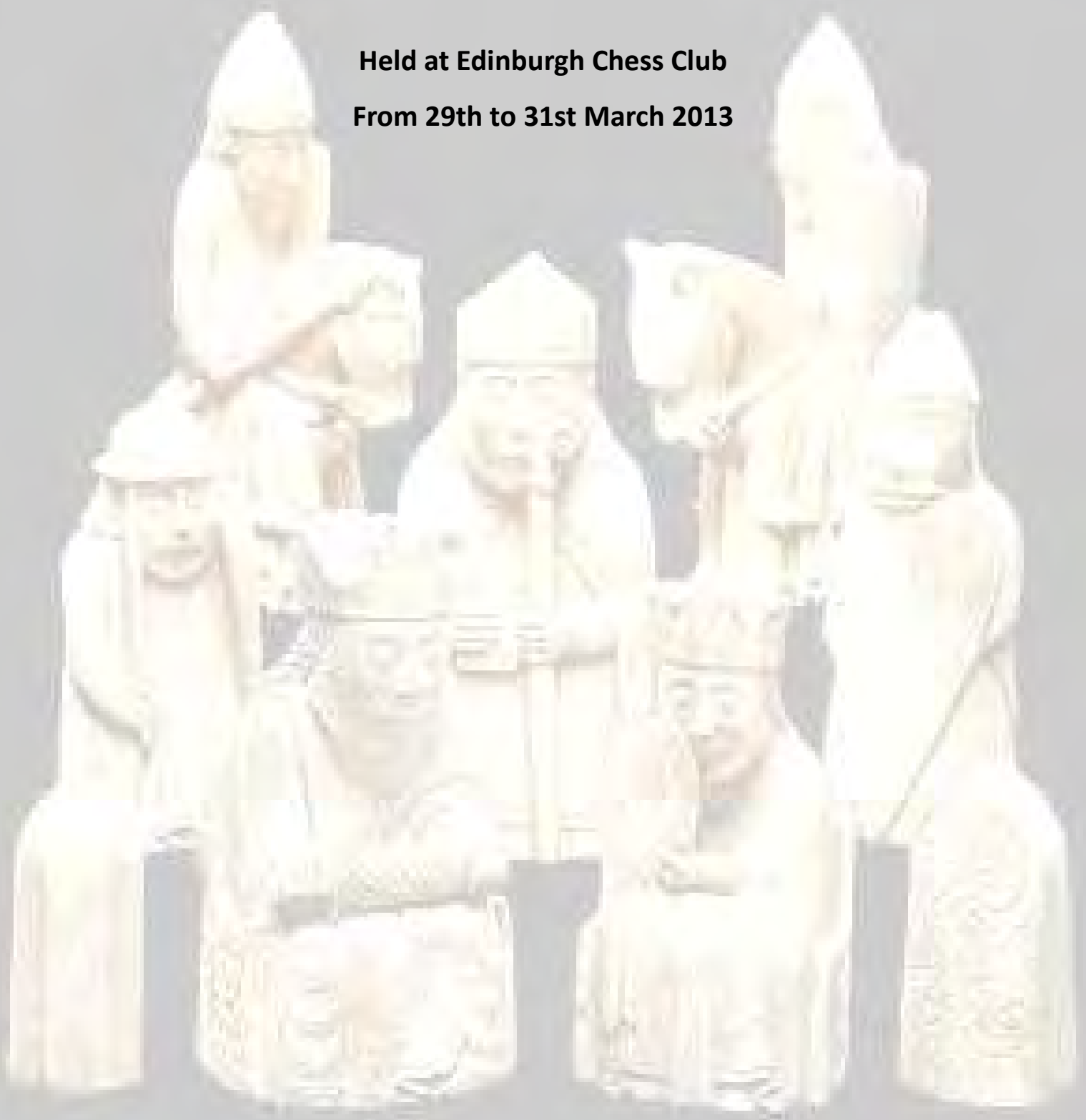


1st Elite Armageddon Championships

Held at Edinburgh Chess Club

From 29th to 31st March 2013



A Streetfighting Chess publication

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The Organisers Perspective



“In football, the playoff system used for promotion is one of the most exciting ways to end a campaign. As well as having a knockout finish (semi-final and final) it enables mid-table teams who have no chance of winning the league but hope of finishing sixth and sneaking into the playoffs, something to really strive for.

In chess, an Armageddon match (where Black has draw odds, but less time) is one of the most fascinating formats to play, as White must play for a win at all costs.

The thought process of possibly creating a combination of the playoff system and the Armageddon finish to create a thrilling chess event represented the very early stages of organising the Scottish Elite Armageddon Championships. The aim of the event was to create a strong tournament with an exciting finale”.

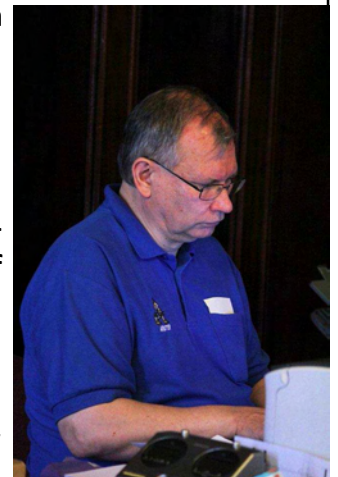
- David Oswald

The Arbiter's Perspective

“Apocalypse, catastrophe, disaster are but a few synonyms for Armageddon. In chess terms it is usually a method of tie-break in which White might have 6 minutes to Black's 5 with Black having the benefit of a draw allowing them to progress. I was arbiter at an unusual event held in Edinburgh Chess Club over the Easter weekend which was billed as an Armageddon.

The first 4 rounds were held as a normal Swiss but it finished with an Armageddon style event. Here the top four players were put into a 'knockout' section of 4 as were the next 4 with the others scheduled to complete the 5th round of the Swiss. As it turned out the next 4 also competed in an Armageddon by request.

The draw was seed 1 v seed 4 and seed 2 v seed 3. The two winners would play in the final and the two losers would meet to decide the lower placings. The seedings were decided by the number of wins, then the number of wins with Black and finally the number of moves in getting your wins! The colours were decided by bidding for the Black time with Black being given the benefit of a draw”.



- Alex McFarlane IA

The Contenders



FM Alan Tate: (2349 W. Dragons)

Calum MacQueen: (2272 Edinburgh CC)



Andrew Burnett (2249 W. Dragons)

Gabriel Petesch (2248 Edinburgh Uni)



FM Neil Berry (2216 Edinburgh CC)

Adam Bremner: (2194 Edinburgh Uni)



Andrew Green: (2159 Edinburgh CC)

David Oswald: (2048 Edinburgh CC)



Graeme Kafka: (2027 Edinburgh CC)

Jonathan Scott: (1988 Edinburgh CC)



Jonathan Edwards: (1987 Edinburgh Uni)

Hamish Olson: (2007 W. Dragons)



Shivan Murdochy: (1880 Edinburgh CC)

Andrew McHarg: (1723 Badgers Brook)



Round 1

Tate, Alan (FM)	½	v	½	Oswald, David
Kafka, Graeme	0	v	1	MacQueen, Calum
Burnett, Andrew	1	v	0	Olson, Hamish
Scott, Jonathan	0	v	1	Petes, Gabriel
Berry, Neil (FM)	½	v	½	Murdochy, Shivan
McHarg, Andrew	0	v	1	Bremner, Adam
Andrew Green	-		½	point bye
Jonathan Edwards	-		½	point bye

With an average rating difference of about 300 points separating the top half versus the bottom half one might have predicted a bit of a rout for the big boys. The underdogs, however, had different ideas! Messrs Oswald, Scott and Murdochy in particular proved there would be no push-overs in this event with spirited performances, all 3 having the better of things before a combination of discretion and time-scrambles pegged them back a little.

Elsewhere, Hamish blew a pawn in the opening against your scribe while Adam kept hammering away at McHarg's k-side until Andrew finally missed a shot. With 2 of the 'middle-tier' taking Friday night byes the tournament was already well and truly wide open, and with a youngish group of players with a weekend in Edinburgh ahead of them (and I don't just mean chess!) I felt sure there would be many adventures still to come. My own plan? Not to repeat last year's Scottish Blitz celebrations when they all drank me under the table!

(1) Tate, Alan (2249) – Oswald, David C (2048) Scottish Elite Armageddon Championships 03.12.2013

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Bc4 Bg7 7.h3 0-0 8.0-0 I've often played this variation as white, and 8.Be3 is considered the most correct move-order as white avoids 8.0-0 Nc6 9.Be3 Nxe4 10.Bxf7+ Kxf7! (10...Rxf7 11.Nxe4 Nxd4 12.Bxd4 e5 13.Bc5 d5 14.Nd6 and white is winning since f7 and d5 both hang) 11.Nxe4 Nxd4 12.Bxd4 e5 and now 13.Bc5 is not available as the rook on f8 still protects the black queen! This detail was discovered by the late GM Alexander Wojtkiewicz while languishing in jail! Once released, he shared his novelty with fellow Latvian Alexei Shirov who then used it to beat Michael Adams...a true story!] **8...Nc6 9.Re1 Nxd4 10.Qxd4 Bd7 11.Bg5 Ng4** A tempting move, but a superior version of the same idea occurs after 11...h6 12.Bh4 (12.Bc1!?) 12...g5 13.Bg3 Nh5 taking the dark-squared bishop. 'Weakening' the k-side like this is not generally a problem in these quieter variations but I can understand it not appealing to anyone who maybe hasn't seen it played before.] **12.Qd2 Ne5 13.Bb3 Re8 14.Nd5 Be6 15.f4 Nc6 16.c3 Na5 17.Qf2** [17.Ba4!? might prove to be more useful for white 17...Bd7 18.Bxd7 Qxd7 when both 19.e5 and 19.f5 force black to calculate difficult variations. **17...h6 18.Bh4 Nxb3 19.axb3 b6 20.b4 Qd7 21.Qf3 Rac8 22.Ra6 Bxd5 23.exd5 Rc7 24.Qd3 Kh7** Black has played well and the position is now fairly equal.

25.Re2 Qf5 26.Re4 e5 27.g4 Qc8 28.fxe5 Bxe5 29.Re2 Bd4+! A clever tactical shot which white would do well to refuse.



30.cxd4?! [30.Kg2 was safer] 30...Rxe2 31.Qxe2 Rc1+ 32.Be1 and here a draw was agreed.

½ v ½

Afterwards David expressed the opinion that he probably ought to have played on, but a draw as black against the top seed in the first round is an excellent result. Although he holds the advantage here, the position isn't 'safe' for black and in a qualification-type event such as this there is no need to push in every game.

Kafka, Graeme (2027)–MacQueen, Calum (2272)
 Scottish Elite Armageddon Championships 03.12.2013

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.g3 Bg7 7.Bg2 0-0 8.0-0 Nc6 9.Nxc6 bxc6 10.e5 dxe5 11.Bxc6 Rb8 12.Qxd8 Rxd8 13.Rd1 Rd6 14.Rxd6 exd6 15.Be3N A novelty, and not the best. Graeme had already used a lot of time by this point, something which would come back to haunt him later in the game. [RR 15.Nb5 had been played before and is a good move. After 15...Rb6 16.Nxa7 Bf5 17.Be3? (As in the game, this natural move is again a mistake. White should simply play 17.c4 keeping the b-pawn protected for the time being) 17...Rxb2 18.a4 Ng4 19.Bc1 Rxc2 20.Rb1 h5 0-1 Solidakis,N–Misedakis,D/Chania 1998/EXT 2000] 15...Rxb2 16.Bxa7 Be6 17.Ba4 Rb7 18.Be3 d5 19.Bc5 Rc7 20.Bb4 Rc4 21.a3 d4 22.Nb5 Nd5 23.Nd6 Rc7 24.Rb1 Bf8 25.Ne8 Ra7 26.Bc6 Bxb4 27.axb4 Nc3



28.Rb2?? A horrible blunder in desperate time-trouble. White's position was creaking anyway, but now his king falls to back-rank threats. 28...Bh3! and white resigned because 29.f4 is no help as 29...Ra1+ 30.Kf2 Rf1# still mates.

0-1

Burnett, Andrew (2249) – Olson, Hamish (2007)
 Scottish Elite Armageddon (29.03.2013)

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 a6 3.Nf3 e6 4.d4 b5 5.dxc5!? Probably not the most testing, but I at least had some ideas about how to play the resulting position whereas, had I played 5.d5, I feared I may be walking into Hamish's home preparation and/or previous experience in this line 5...Bxc5 6.Bd3 Nc6N 7.Qe2 Nge7 8.e5!? At the time I wasn't sure if this might be over-extending my position, but as usual some nice tactical ideas swayed me in its favour. 8...Ng6 9.0-0 0-0 10.a4



10...Qc7? Unexpected and simply bad. I have a feeling

Hamish was over-thinking things here. 10...b4 is a perfectly natural move when white attacks the q-side with a4. After 11.Ne4 Nd4 (11...Be7 is perhaps an even safer line to equality) 12.Nxd4 Bxd4 I hadn't decided whether 13.Nd6 was tactically sound or not. Grabbing the e-pawn is critical, but although white has some tactical counter-chances, I am not convinced black is worse in the following lines 13...Nxe5 (13...Bxe5 14.Bxg6 Bxd6 15.Bxh7+ (15.Be4 Ra7 16.Bxh7+ Kxh7 17.Qd3+ Kg8 18.Qxd6) 15...Kxh7 16.Qd3+ Kg8 17.Qxd6) 14.Bxh7+ Kxh7 15.Qe4+.

13.Ng5 followed by 14. Qh5 was another option which I was leaning towards. However, all this was rendered moot when Hamish played 10...Qc7. He had seen some of the tactical 'problems' with playing his knight to d4 so decided he simply couldn't use that square 11.axb5 Ncxe5 12.Nxe5 Qxe5 13.bxa6 Now white is winning if he can mobilise his queenside before black can drum up any central counter-play. 13...Qb8 14.Na4 Ba7 15.c3 d5 16.b4 Nf4 17.Bxf4 Qxf4 18.b5 Rb8 19.Rfb1 Qc7 20.Rb4 e5 21.b6! Breaking down the dark-square blockade. 21...Bxb6 22.Nxb6 Qxc3 A desperate bid to distract white, otherwise the a-pawn wins the day. 23.Rab1 Rxb6 24.Rxb6 e4 25.Bxe4 dxe4 26.Qxe4 Rd8 27.Rd6 Rf8 28.h3 Oh how I wish I'd been this sensible in the armageddon stages!! 28...Qa3 29.Qb4 Qa2 30.Qb5 Bf5? 31.Qxf5

1-0

Scott, Jonathan (1897)–Petesch, Gabriel (2248)
 Scottish Elite Armageddon Championships 03.12.2013

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Nf3 Be7 5.e3 0-0 6.Bd3 dxc4 7.Bxc4 b6 8.0-0 Bb7 9.b3 Nd5N 10.Nxd5 exd5 11.Bd3 Nd7 12.Ne5 Bd6 13.Bb2 Qe7 14.Nxd7 Qxd7 15.Qf3 f5 16.a4 Qe7 17.a5 a6 18.axb6 cxb6 19.Rfe1 b5 20.g3 Rae8 21.Bc3 Qd7 22.Ba5 Rf6 23.Rac1 g5 24.Re2 g4 25.Qg2 Kg7 26.Rec2 Re7 27.h4 gxh3 28.Qxh3 Ref7 29.Qh4 Rg6 30.Qd8 Qe6 Black's 'attack' on the k-side hasn't materialised and white now has a clear advantage on the queen-side. 31.Bc7 a5 32.Qxd6 Qxd6 33.Bxd6 Rxd6 34.Rc7 Rb6



35.Bxf5?! I don't like this move despite white retaining a large plus. Black's k-side pawns will always be weak so white should tidy up the q-side first. [35.Rxf7+ Kxf7 36.Ra1 a4 37.bxa4 bxa4 38.Rxa4 with a positionally won game (weak pawns and bad bishop for black/ same-colour bishops and no weaknesses for white.) 35...h6 36.Rxf7+ Kxf7 37.Kg2 Bc6 38.Kf3 a4 39.b4 Ra6 40.Bc8 Rb6 41.Kf4 Kf6 42.Rh1 Be8 43.Bf5 [43.Rxh6+ wins quite cleanly, but having allowed black a passed pawn on a4, calculations become more difficult in the allegro fin-

ish. 43...Bg6 44.Bf5 Kf7 45.Kg5! Bxf5 46.Rxb6 and it's game over.] 43...Ke7 44.Rc1 Kd6 45.f3 Ra6 46.e4 dxe4 47.fxe4 a3 48.Ra1 Kc6 and black went on to win on time some moves later. A shame for young Jonathan as he had convincingly out-played a very strong opponent.

0-1

Berry,Neil (2216) – Murdochy,Shivan (1880)

Scottish Elite Armageddon Championships 03.12.2013

1.d4 e6 2.c4 Nf6 3.g3 Bb4+ 4.Bd2 Be7 5.Bg2 d5 6.Nf3 c6 7.0-0 0-0 8.Qc2 b6 9.Bf4 Bb7 10.Rd1 Nbd7 11.Nc3 Rc8 12.Ne5 Nh5 13.Bc1 Nhf6 14.e4 dxc4 15.Nxc4 b5 16.Ne3 Qb6 17.a3N a5 18.e5 Nd5 19.Be4 f5



20.exf6?! I don't trust this move when white is lagging in development. 20.Bxd5 looks stronger followed by 20...cxd5 21.Qb3 with threats against b5 and possibly d5] 20...N7xf6 21.Bg2 c5! 22.Ncxd5 Nxd5 23.Qe2 Rce8 24.Nxd5 Bxd5 25.dxc5 Bxc5 26.Be3 Bxe3 27.Qxe3 Qxe3 28.fxe3 Bxg2 29.Kxg2 It seems that both players were happy to reduce to a drawn R&P ending. An excellent start from young Shivan; solid and not over-awed in titled company. 29...Rd8 30.Rac1 Rxd1 31.Rxd1 Rc8 32.Rd2 Kf7 33.Kf3 Rc4 34.Rd7+ Kf6 35.Ra7 Rc2 36.Rxa5 Rxb2 37.h4 g6 38.Ra7 h5 39.Rb7 Rb3 40.Kf4 Rxa3 41.Rxb5 Ra1 42.e4

1/2-1/2

McHarg,Andrew (1723) – Bremner,Adam (2094)

Scottish Elite Armageddon Championships 03.12.2013

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Bd2 0-0 5.e3 d5 6.Nf3 b6 7.Bd3 Bb7 8.a3 Bxc3 9.Bxc3 Ne4 10.Rc1 f5 11.0-0 Nd7 12.b4 Rf6!? No prizes for guessing what Black would like to do! 13.c5 c6



14.Ne5?! This knight exchange would seem to lead to serious problems for white. 14.Bb2 looks like a better move. It's not really a case of 'fiddling while Rome burns' because Rome is only slightly warm at the moment and this bishop retreat forces black to consider not only white's b5 push but also how he intends to progress his attack. 14...Nxe5 15.dxe5 Rh6 16.g3 Understandable, but it's hard to believe white can withstand the k-side attack with so many holes in his castled position. [16.Bd4?! doesn't help as 16...Qh4 17.h3 Ng5 is also very strong for black.; and after 16.Bxe4 black can insert the zwischenzug 16...Qh4 before recapturing on e4. If white has a long-term defensive plan available here then I'm afraid I for one can't see it.] 16...bxc5 17.Bxe4 fxe4 18.bxc5 Ba6 19.Re1 Qf8 20.Bd4 Qf5 21.Rc2 Rf8 22.f4 exf3 23.Rf2 Rg6 24.Qa4 Bb5 25.Qxa7 h5 26.Qe7 Rg4 27.Kh1 h4 28.gxh4 Rg2 29.Rg1



29...Qh3?? I don't know if time-trouble played its part here, but Black can mate with 29...Rxcg1+ followed by 30...Qb1+ 30.Rgxcg2?? And white can save his skin here with the queen sacrifice 30. Qxf8+ Kxf8 31. Rgxcg2 when the f-pawn is pinned. 30...fxg2+ 31.Kg1 Rxf2

0-1

Standings after round 1

Bremner, Burnett, MacQueen, Petesch	1
Berry, Edwards, Green	1/2
Murdochy, Oswald, Tate	
Kafka, McHarg, Olson, Scott	0

Round 2

MacQueen, Calum	1	v	0	Burnett, Andrew
Petes, Gabriel	1	v	0	Tate, Alan (FM)
Edwards, Jonathan	0	v	1	Berry, Neil
Murdochy, Shivan	½	v	½	Green, Andrew
Scott, Jonathan	½	v	½	Kafka, Graeme
Olson, Hamish	1	v	0	McHarg, Andrew
Adam Bremner	-		½	point bye
David Oswald	-		½	point bye

Saturday morning and the ‘big boys’ were squaring up already! Board 1 saw Calum improving on a recent game he played at Augsburg. A slight slip at the start of the middlegame had me thinking (a bit optimistically as is my forte!) of victory, but Calum is nothing if not tenacious and dangerous and he quickly turned the tables and found a sweet tactical finish. Gabe and Alan played a tough positional battle before a hidden blunder gave Gabriel the full point.

Elsewhere saw a solid draw on board 4 and it should have been accompanied by one on board 3 until Jonathan Edwards seemingly got tired of sitting about and went down quickly. Hamish was in trouble out of the opening (what do you expect when you play 1.b3 young man!?) but Andrew, in his first competition at this level it should be noted, got cold feet and let things slip away gradually.

As for Messrs. Scott and Kafka, a sharp opening clarified quite quickly—both sides castling then ‘uncastling’ their kings back to the centre almost immediately: a draw seemed fair given the symmetry of ideas, if not position!

MacQueen, Calum (2272) – Burnett, Andrew (2249)

Scottish Elite Armageddon 30.03.2013

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e5 4.Nc3 d6 5.g3 Nbd7 6.e4 a6 7.Bg2 Be7 8.Nge2N 0-0 9.0-0 Nh5 10.h3 g6 11.Bh6 Ng7 12.Qd2 Calum had previously played 12. Nc1?! here which allows the positionally desirable 12...Bg5 swapping off the dark-squared bishops. 12...Kh8 13.Rab1 13.Rae1 is a serious alternative 13...f5 14.f4 exf4 15.exf5?! 15.Nxf4 would appear to be much stronger, although the text move probably isn't as bad as we both thought at the time 15...f3 16.Bxf3 Ne5 17.g4 Nxc4 18.Qf4 b5 19.b3 Ne5 20.Ng3 Ra7 21.Nce4 Bh4 22.Bg2



Bxg3 After this things seem to go downhill for Black. Constructive ideas are hard to come by though – the position seems ok but in reality is hard to play. In the post mortem we thought chopping on f3 the move before was a better bet. 23.Nxg3 Raf7 24.Bg5 Qb6 25.f6 Ne8 26.Ne4 Bb7 27.Qd2 c4+ 28.Kh2 cxb3 [28...c3!? was the last chance to cause problems here 29.Qxc3 (29.Nxc3 Nxf6) 29...Bxd5] 29.axb3 Bc8 30.Bh6 Rg8 31.Ng5 Rxf6 32.Rxf6 Nxf6 33.Qf4 Nfd7 [33...Nfxg4+ would have led to a pretty finish. 34.hxg4 Nxg4+ 35.Qxg4! Bxg4 36.Nf7#



34.Qf7

(Petesch, Gabriel N (2248) – Tate, Alan (2271)
 Scottish Elite Armageddon Championships 03.12.2013

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.b3 g6 3.Bb2 Bg7 4.c4 0-0 5.g3 c6 6.Bg2 d5 7.d3 Re8 8.Nbd2 Nbd7! Probably this is fine, but I would have been looking at ways to keep ...Nc6 as a possibility in case of white exchanging in the centre. Perhaps 8...a5!? 9.0-0 a4 was also more combative. 9.cxd5 N cxd5 10.d4 b6 11.b4 a5 12.b5 a4 13.0-0 Bb7 14.Rc1 Qb8 15.Ba3 Bf8 16.Rc3 e6 17.Bxf8 Rxf8 18.Qb1 Qd6 19.Rfc1 Rfb8 20.e3 Ra5 21.Bf1 Ne8 22.e4 f6 23.exd5 exd5 24.h4 Ng7 25.Ne1 Nf8 26.Nc2 Raa8 27.Nb4 Nfe6 28.Nc6 Re8 29.Qd3 Rac8 30.Bg2 Nf5 31.Nf3 Rc7 32.h5 Kg7 33.Bh3?! Not a great deal has happened up to here. The usual jockeying for control of good squares has given white pressure on the q-side and black the notion of counterplay on the k-side. Here, however, Alan finds a nice shot to wrest the initiative from white.



33...Nxb3! 34.h6+ [34.Bxe6 Nxb3! 35.Bg4 Nf4 36.Qd2 Ne2+; 34.fxg3 Qxg3+] 34...Kxh6!? A difficult decision [34...Kh8?! looks a little dangerous, not least because the idea for black in the previous note comes badly unstuck, viz. 35.Bxe6 Nh5 (35...Ne4 36.Bh3 is still fairly level.) 36.Nce5 and the fork threatened on f7 wins too much material.; 34...Kf8!? would seem to be fine for black 35.Bxe6 Nh5] 35.Qd2+ Kg7 36.fxg3 Qxg3+ 37.Qg2 Qxg2+ 38.Bxg2 Nf4 39.Bf1 g5 40.Nd8 Rxc3 41.Rxc3 Rxd8 42.Rc7+ Kg6 43.Rxb7 Rc8?! Activating the rook is normal, but here Black's compensation lies mainly on the k-side. I would be tempted to defend my q-side weakness and then push the passed pawns. [43...Rd6!?] 44.Rxb6 Rc2 45.Ne5+ Kf5 46.Nd7 Rxa2 47.Nxf6 [47.Rxf6+! would allow the b-pawn to become a threat more quickly.] 47...a3 48.Ra6 Rb2 49.Ne8 a2 50.b6



h5?? this is a blunder which costs Alan the game. 51.b7 Kg4 52.Nd6 h4 53.Nb5 and now the b-pawn is unstoppable. 53...Rb1 54.Rxa2 Nh3+ 55.Kg2 Nf4+ 56.Kf2

Edwards, Jonathan (2076) – Berry, Neil (2255)
 Scottish Elite Armageddon Championships 03.12.2013

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 e5 4.dxe5 dxe5 5.Qxd8+ Kxd8



This line is a firm favourite of Scottish GM John Shaw. 6.Bg5 Be6 7.0-0-0+ Nbd7 8.Nf3 Kc8 9.h3 Bb4 10.Nd2N Bxc3 11.bxc3 Nc5 12.Re1 c6 13.Bc4 b5 14.Bxe6+ Nxe6 15.Bxf6 gxf6 Both sides have pawn weaknesses, but neither should be sufficiently bad for real winning or losing chances. 16.Re3 Kd7 17.Nf3 Rad8 18.Nh4 Nc5 19.Nf5 Rhg8 20.g3 Ke6 21.Rhe1 Rd7 22.g4 Rgd8 23.Rf3 Na4 24.h4 Rg8 25.Rg3 a5 26.a3 Nb6 27.Ne3 Na4 28.Nf5 Nc5 29.Nh6 Rg6



30.g5? A big mistake: white ought to have sat on the position and black has no way of breaking through. 30...fxg5 31.hxg5 f6 32.Rh1 Nxe4 33.Re3 Nxf2 0-1

Murdochy, Shivan (1870)–Green, Andrew (2152)
 Scottish Elite Armageddon Championships 03.12.2013

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.Qc2 Bb7 5.e4 bxc4 6.Bxc4 e6 7.Nc3 exd5 8.exd5 d6 9.Nge2 Be7 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Ng3 0-0 12.b3 g6N 13.Bb2 Nb6 14.Rad1 Nxc4 15.bxc4 Rb8 16.Rfe1 Ba6 17.Nce4 Nxe4 18.Rxe4 Bf6 19.Bc3 Rb6 was this really played? Now white could have played 20.Ba5 with a clearly winning position ½-½



Scott,Jonathan (1897) – Kafka,Graeme (2065)
 Scottish Elite Armageddon Championships 03.12.2013

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 dxc4 5.e3 b5 6.a4 Nd5
 7.e4 Nxc3 8.bxc3 e6 9.Bf4N Bb7 10.Rb1 Qa5 11.Qc2
 Nd7 12.axb5 Nb6 13.bxc6 Bxc6 14.Be2 Qa4 15.Bd1
 Qxc2 16.Bxc2 f6 17.0-0?! Be7 18.Nd2 0-0?!



27.Qc6 The safest way to play, ensuring his pieces dominate the position. 27...Qxc6 28.dxc6+ Ke7 29.Rd7+ Ke6
 30.Rcd1 Re7 31.a4 a5 [31...Rce8!?] 32.Rxe7+ Kxe7
 33.Rd7+ Kf8 34.Kd2 Ke8 35.Kc3 Rd8 36.e6 Rb8 37.e7
 b5 38.Rd8+! Again the simplest way, avoiding any unnecessary calculations. 38...Rxd8 39.exd8Q+ Kxd8
 40.axb5 Kc8 41.Kb3 Kb8 42.Ka4 Ka7 43.Kxa5 Ka8
 44.b6 cxb6+ 45.Kxb6 Kb8 46.c7+ Kc8 47.Kc6 e3
 48.fxe3 g5 49.fgx5 f4 50.g6

1-0

Standings after round 2

19.Ra1 [19.Bc7! seems to win a clear pawn unless black goes 19...Na4 when white can choose the simple 20.Ba5 or the complications of(20.d5 both of which should be in his favour.)] 19...Rfc8 20.Rfb1 Bd8 21.Bd6 a6 22.Bc5 Bb5 23.Bxb6 Bxb6 24.Ba4 Ba5 25.Rc1 Kf7 26.Kf1 Ke7 27.Ke2 Kd6 28.Kd1 10 moves ago these guys were castling to safety! 28...e5 29.d5 Bb6 30.f3 Bg1 31.h3 Be3 32.Rcb1 Rcb8 33.Bxb5 axb5 34.Rxa8 Rxa8 35.Rxb5 Bxd2 36.Rb6+ Kc5 37.Rc6+ Kb5 38.Kxd2 Ra2+ and black's activity ensures an easy draw. 39.Kd1 Rxc2 40.Rc8 Rf2 41.Rb8+ Kc5 42.Rc8+ Kb5 43.Rb8+ Kc5 44.Rc8+

1/2-1/2

MacQueen, Petesch	2
Berry, Bremner	1½
Burnett, Green, Murdochy, Olson, Oswald	1
Edwards, Kafka, Scott, Tate	½
McHarg	0

Olson,Hamish (2024) – McHarg,Andrew (1723)
 Scottish Elite Armageddon Championships 03.12.2013

1.b3 e5 [1...Nh6 2.Bb2 Rg8 was once played by IM Roddy McKay! 2...f6 is more sensible – see Petesch–Burnett in the Armageddon stages for a similar idea.] 2.Bb2 Nc6 3.c4 d6 4.Nc3 f5 5.e3 Nf6 6.d4 e4N 7.b4 Bd7 8.b5 Ne7 9.h4?! White's plan here doesn't look too convincing. Nh3 without h4 is better, with Be2–h5 to follow. 9...h5 10.Nh3 Ng6 11.Nf4 Nxf4 12.exf4 d5 13.cxd5 Bd6 14.g3 Qe7 15.Be2 Ng4 16.Qb3



I saw the game at this point and liked the idea of 0-0-0 with ...g5 and ...e3 to break through on the dark squares. 16...b6?! 17.Nd1 g6 18.Ne3 Kd8 19.Nc4 Bb4+ 20.Bc3 Bxc3+ 21.Qxc3 Bxb5 22.Ne5 Nxe5? I'm not sure why black rejected retreating the bishop to e8. Allowing white the mobile pawn centre in the game is asking for trouble. 23.dxe5 Bxe2 24.Kxe2 Qd7 25.Rhd1 Re8 26.Rac1 Rc8

Round 3

Petesch, Gabriel	1	v	0	MacQueen, Calum
Bremner, Adam	½	v	½	Berry, Neil
Burnett, Andrew	1	v	0	Murdochy, Shivan
Green, Andrew	½	v	½	Olson, Hamish
Tate, Alan	1	v	0	Edwards, Jonathan
Oswald, David	1	v	0	Scott, Jonathan
Kafka, Graeme	1	v	0	McHarg, Andrew

Round 3 in the afternoon was make or break time for a few players. Both Alan and myself were desperate for wins, Adam could really have done with one too as he was due for another bye the following morning and would have a poor tiebreak while Andrew McHarg could surely expect some reward for his play so far.

Game of the round, though, was definitely the top board clash between Calum and Gabriel; a murky, tactics-laden affair which I expected to finish much sooner than it did, Calum finding resources where none ought to have existed. Top-seed Alan finally played a game he could be happy with while I managed to overcome the youngest player in the field who was surprising me with his excellent play so far.

Of the others, Jonathan Scott once again built up a huge position only to see it disintegrate as the clock ticked ever downwards and Graeme Kafka took advantage of Andrew's lack of experience with the Sicilian Defence. Hamish seemed to miscalculate his sacrifice as it was only good enough for a draw from a promising position—life wasn't getting any easier for any of the players, and with a Saturday night out planned for the youngsters, the following morning could (and would!) be messy!

Petesch, Gabriel (2248)–MacQueen, Calum (2236) 17.f4 Ng4 18.Bc5 Qe8 Scottish Elite Armageddon Championships 03.12.2013

1.Nf3 g6 2.g3 Bg7 3.Bg2 Nf6 4.0-0 0-0 5.d4 d6 6.Nc3 a6 7.e4 Nbd7 8.e5 dxe5 9.dxe5 Ng4 10.e6 fxe6 11.Ng5 Nde5 12.Qe2 h6? 12...Qd4! Playing the moves in reverse order works better for black as his queen can remain active.



13.Nge4 [white missed a great chance here with 13.Rd1! and after 13...Qe8 14.Nh3 the twin threats of f3 and f4 are terminal as black's knights stumble over each other, e.g. 14...g5 15.f3 when 15...Nf6 blocks the defence of the Ne5.] **13...Qd4 14.b3 Nf6 15.Be3 Qd8 16.Rad1 Nd5** White has a clear advantage now as all his pieces are working well together while black still has to solve the problem of the Bc8 as well as his pawn weaknesses.

19.Rxd5! exd5 20.Nxd5 Bf5 21.Nxc7 Qc6 22.Nxa8 Rxa8 23.h3 Rd8 [Unfortunately for black 23...Bxe4 fails to the intermediate check 24.Qc4+ protecting the loose bishop on c5 before recapturing on e4.] **24.hxg4?!** [24.Qc4+ is more accurate since after 24...Be6 25.Qb4 the threats of taking on g4 and Nf6+ winning the queen are too much for black to meet.] **24...Bxe4 25.Qc4+ Bd5 26.Rd1 e6 27.Bf2 Rc8 28.Qxc6 Rxc6 29.Rxd5 exd5 30.Bxd5+ Kf8 31.Bxc6 bxc6** This type of position with opposite-colour bishops would be tenable, but with same-colour bishops it is simply lost. **32.Kg2 Ke7 33.Kf3 h5 34.gxh5 gxh5 35.Ke4 Ke6 36.Bd4 Bxd4 37.Kxd4 Kf5 38.Ke3** A very important game in the overall tournament and full credit to Gabriel for a convincing victory.

1-0

Bremner,Adam (2228) – Berry,Neil (2255)
 Scottish Elite Armageddon Championships 03.12.2013

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.g3 Nf6 7.Bg2 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Bg5 c4 10.b3 Qa5 11.Bd2 Bb4 12.Qc2 Bg4 [At the time I was wondering if 12...Bf5!?



was playable with the clever idea of 13.Qxf5 Bxc3 14.Bxc3 Qxc3 15.Rac1 Nxd4! but it seems as though the balance isn't really disturbed too much after 16.Rxc3 Nxf5 17.bxc4] 13.e3N Rac8 14.a3 cxb3 15.Qxb3 Nxd4 16.Nxd4 Bxc3 17.Bxc3 Rxc3 18.Qxb7 Rxa3 19.Nc6 Qa4 20.Rxa3 Qxa3 21.Qxa7 [21.Ne7+ Kh8 22.Nxd5 Nxd5 23.Qxd5 and this position slightly favours white as the black king-side is a little sensitive, meaning the a-pawn is more likely to be a target rather than asset.] 21...Qxa7 22.Nxa7 The scorched earth policy has led to a fairly life-less position.

1/2-1/2

Burnett,Andrew (2249)–Murdochy,Shivan (1880)
 Scottish Elite Armageddon Championships 30.03.2013

1.c4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.0-0 d6 6.Nc3 e5 7.d3 Nge7 8.Rb1 0-0 9.a3 a5 10.Nd5 [10.Ne1 is the accepted theoretical continuation, played by Kramnik amongst others!] 10...Be6 [I had already faced 10...Nxd5 this season and after 11.cxd5 Ne7 12.Nd2 I quite liked white's position in Burnett–Ziska, ELCA 2013 11.Nd2 Rb8 12.e3 b5 13.cxb5N Bxd5 14.Bxd5 Nxd5 15.bxc6 Ne7 16.Qa4 Qc7 17.Nc4 Nxc6?! [Neither of us noticed that 17...Qxc6! was very playable 18.Qxc6 Nxc6 19.Nxd6 Rfd8 20.Ne4 Bf8 21.Rd1 c4!] 18.Bd2 Ra8 19.e4 f5 20.f3 f4 21.Kg2 g5 22.Qb3 Rab8 [22...a4!? 23.Qb6 Qxb6 24.Nxb6 Ra7 25.Nd5 Nd4] 23.Qa4 Ra8 24.g4



24...Bf6 [24...Rfd8!? This logical idea wasn't considered by either of us during the game or afterwards. It definitely makes sense, but the preceding play had 'hidden' the

plan; white had twice said 'd5 is mine' with 19. e4 and the idea of Ne3–d5 and black had twice accepted this. This kind of thing happens all the time in chess games at amateur level!] 25.Rh1 Rf7? this move loses to the pin on the a–file. 26.b4 cxb4 27.axb4 Rff8 28.b5 Nb4 29.Bxb4 [29.b6! is the engines recommendation, but my move is a human choice which cuts out any nasty happenings. 29...Qc5 30.b7 Nxd3 31.Rhf1 (31.bxa8Q?? Qf2+ 32.Kh3 Qxf3#)] 29...axb4 30.Qxb4 Ra2+ 31.Rb2 Rxb2+ 32.Qxb2 d5 33.Nd2 dxe4 34.Nxe4 Bd8 35.Rc1 Qb8 36.Qb3+ Rf7 37.Qd5 [37.Qe6! was quicker 37...Qxb5 38.Qxf7+ but I missed this idea 38...Kxf7 39.Nd6+] 37...Kg7 38.Nd6

1-0

Green,Andrew D (2152) – Olson,Hamish (2024)
 Scottish Elite Armageddon Championships 03.12.2013

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 e5 4.Bc4 I was considering playing this line against Hamish myself on the Friday evening. 4...d6 White has sharp options against the alternative 4...Be7 e.g. 5.d3 Nf6 6.Ng5 0-0 7.f4 and black needs to be very careful. The game continuation is safer.] 5.d3 Be7 6.Nd2 Bg5 7.Nf1 Bxc1 8.Rxc1 Nf6 9.Ne3 a6 10.a4 0-0N 11.0-0 Be6 12.Ncd5 Bxd5 13.Nxd5 Nxd5 14.Bxd5 Qb6 15.Kh1 Ne7 16.Bb3 Kh8 17.f4 f5 18.Qe2 Rae8 19.fxe5 dxe5 20.Qh5 g6 21.Qh6 Qf6 22.exf5 [22.a5!? is an interesting idea. The a–pawn will be weak but in capturing it black's knight leaves the centre which gives white more options there. 22...Rd8 (22...Nc6 23.Ba4) 23.Rce1 Nc6 24.exf5 gxf5 25.Qxf6+ Rxf6 26.Ba4] 22...Nxf5 23.Qh3 Qg5 24.Rfe1?! The other rook ought to come to e1, removing it from the eyes of the black queen. [24.Rce1] 24...e4 25.dxe4 Rxe4 26.Rf1 Re3 27.g3



27...Rxc3?! This is only good enough for a draw so either Hamish miscalculated or hadn't realized the strength of his position. Black could keep up the pressure by 27...Rfe8 or; 27...b5] 28.hxc3 Nxc3+ 29.Kh2 Nxf1+ 30.Rxf1 Qe5+ 31.Kh1 Qe4+ 32.Kg1 Qd4+ 33.Kh1

1/2-1/2

Tate,Alan (2271) – Edwards,Jonathan (2076)
 Scottish Elite Armageddon Championships 30.03.2013

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 e5 7.Nb3 Be6 8.Qd2 Be7 9.0-0-0 0-0 10.f4 Ng4 11.g3 Nxe3 12.Qxe3 Nc6?!IN This may not be the best square for the knight. d7 works just as well (defending e5, ac-

cess to the q-side) without the drawback of being hit by a pawn coming to d5 as in the game. **13.Kb1 b5 14.Nd5 Rc8 15.h4 Bxd5 16.exd5 Nd4 17.Nxd4 exd4 18.Qxd4 Bf6 19.Qd2 b4 20.g4** [20.Bxa6!? may win a pawn and still be safe, but in a practical game white doesn't want to help his opponent open lines. Instead he plays thematically on the k-side, pausing to defend his own king only when strictly necessary. This is one area where strong players come into their own, balancing needs and desires accurately.] **20...Qb6** [20...Bxh4? 21.g5 wins the bishop] **21.g5 Bc3**



22.Qc1?! I was watching the game at this point and thought that Alan's move was simply winning as it threatens to capture the bishop now that b2 is covered against mate, but perhaps it's not so clear. **22.Qd3!** appears to be much cleaner when the combined ideas of taking on a6 (thereby allowing Qb5) and simply advancing on the king-side are impossible to meet adequately. **22...a5 23.h5 (23.bxc3)] 22...Rc5?** [22...Bd4 23.Rd3 (23.h5 Be3 turns the tables completely) and now 23...Rc7 with the idea of Rfc8 creates a certain lack of harmony in white's position.] **23.Rh3 Rfc8 24.bxc3 bxc3+ 25.Ka1 Ra5 26.Re3 g6 27.Re4 Rb8 28.Bc4 Ra4 29.Rde1 Qa5 30.Re8+**



and black resigned as his own king is now indefensible, e.g. **30...Rxe8 31.Rxe8+ Kg7 32.h5 gxh5 33.f5**

1-0

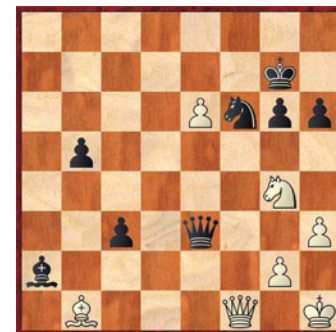
Oswald, David C (2064) – Scott, Jonathan (1897)
Scottish Elite Armageddon Championships 03.12.2013

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.c3 0-0 9.h3 Na5 10.Bc2 c5 11.d4 Qc7 12.Nbd2 Bd7 13.Nf1 Nc4 14.b3 Nb6 15.Bb2 Rfe8 16.Ng3 Bf8 17.Rc1 g6 18.Bd3 c4 19.Bb1 a5 20.Ba3

Rad8 21.dxe5 dxe5 22.Bxf8 Kxf8 23.Qe2 Be6 24.b4 axb4 25.cxb4



I was surprised to run this through the computer and find out that white was still ok here, but he will have to be very careful indeed as the q-side pawns are a massive long-term plus for black. **25...h6 26.Qe3 Kg7 27.Nxe5 Qxe5 28.Qxb6 Rd6 29.Qe3 Red8 30.f4 Qb2 31.Qc3 Rd2 32.Rc2 Rxc2 33.Qxc2 Qxb4 34.Rd1 Rxd1+ 35.Qxd1 c3 36.f5 Qc5+ 37.Kh1 Bc4 38.fxg6 fxg6 39.Qe1 Qd4 40.e5 Nd5 41.Nf1 Qf4 42.Nh2 Bxa2 43.e6 Qe3?!** a step in the wrong direction **44.Qf1 Nf6 45.Ng4!**



45...Qxe6?! **46.Bxa2 Qc6?? 47.Nxf6** [47.Qf4!! Going for the king immediately wins by force. **47...g5 48.Qe5 c2 49.Qe7+ Kg6 50.Bf7+ Kf5 51.Qe5#**] **47...c2??** and now black gets mated. **48.Nh5+**

1-0

Kafka, Graeme (2027) – McHarg, Andrew (1723)
Scottish Elite Armageddon Championships 03.12.2013

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 g6 5.c4 Bg7 6.Nc3 Nf6 7.Be2 0-0 8.0-0 Nc6 9.Nc2 Bd7 10.Be3 b6 11.f3 Rc8 12.Qd2 Ne5 13.b3



This is a fairly standard position. White is considered to have a slight edge because of his space advantage, but Black has no real weaknesses. **13...h5?!** [Less radical

alternatives here would be 13...Qc7 14.Rac1 Qb7 (aiming to play ...b5 and/ or in some cases ...d5) is a standard way of trying to break down white's Maroczy bind.; and 13...Re8 This is a normal prophylactic move here, defending e7 before it is attacked. On a basic level, the rook does more on e8 than it does on f8 – one of the goals when playing chess is getting your pieces to do more every time you make a move, even if it is a very slight improvement in quality.] 14.Rac1 Kh7N 15.h3 Bc6 16.Nd4 Bb7 17.Bd3 Nfd7 18.Bb1 Nc5 19.f4 Nc6 20.Nf3 f6?!



Standings after round 3

Petesch	3
Berry, Bremner, Burnett, MacQueen, Oswald	2
Green, Kafka, Olson, Tate	1½
Murdochy	1
Edwards, Scott	½
McHarg	0

This just looks wrong. 'Ugly' moves like this tend to need extra justification for being played, particularly when there are healthy alternatives available to black. [20...Kg8 the king is too exposed on h7 (Ng5+ / the Bb1 x-ray)] 21.Nh4 Qe8 22.Qe2 Bh6 23.Rcd1 Rg8 24.Nd5 Ne6? Now the position goes from bad to clearly lost. 25.e5 dxe5 26.Nxg6 Rxg6 27.Bxg6+ Kxg6 28.f5+ the tactical weakness of 24...Ne6. 28...Kh7 29.fxe6 Bxe3+ 30.Qxe3 Qg6 31.Nxf6+! White wraps the game up nicely. 31...exf6 32.Rd7+ Kh8 33.Rxb7 Rg8 34.Qf2 f5 35.Rd1 Nd4 36.Rxd4 exd4 37.Qxd4+ Rg7 38.Rxg7 Qxg7



39.Qxg7+! I always teach my students to avoid anything complicated when there is a straightforward technical win to hand. Here the K&P ending is simply winning. 39...Kxg7 40.Kf2 Kf6 41.Ke3 Kxe6 42.Kf4 Kf6 43.b4

Round 4

Berry, Neil	1d	v	0d	Petes, Gabriel
MacQueen, Calum	½	v	½	Oswald, David
Green, Andrew	0	v	1	Burnett, Andrew
Olson, Hamish	0d	v	1d	Tate, Alan
Murdochy, Shivan	½	v	½	Kafka, Graeme
Edwards, Jonathan	1	v	0	Scott, Jonathan
(Berry, Neil	½	v	½	Tate, Alan)
Adam Bremner	-		½ point bye	
McHarg, Andrew	-		1 point bye	

The history of Sunday mornings in the chess world is replete with tales of woe. With a mixture of the clocks going forward and a youthful bunch of lads in the field, I had a feeling that we might be adding a few more stories this weekend. Unfortunately, my own opponent turned up early, looking bright, focused and determined—not in the script. Andrew needed a win, I would probably get away with a draw...more of this later!

Qualification for the championship group of 4 and the Plate group of 4 looked very likely to come down to a mixture of mathematics and who had the most wins with black. At the end of play, Alan Tate had displaced Calum MacQueen from the top section of the Armageddon play-offs by virtue of winning his games on average 1 move quicker! A strange system, but one which had the playing hall buzzing all morning. On to the play...

MacQueen, Calum (2236) – Oswald, David C (2064) Scottish Elite Armageddon Championships 03.12.2013

1.d4 e6 2.c4 f5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e3 Bb4 5.Qc2 0-0 6.Bd3 b6 7.Nge2 Bb7 8.f3 c5 9.a3 Bxc3+N 10.Nxc3 Nc6



11.d5?! This doesn't look terribly convincing, so perhaps Calum should have opted for something like [11.dxc5 bxc5 12.b3 Ne5 13.Be2 and try to prove the bishop pair is strong in the middlegame] **11...Ne5 12.dxe6 Nxd3+ 13.Qxd3 dxe6 14.Qxd8 Rfxd8 15.Ke2 Ba6?!** This is a nice idea to use the slightly awkward white king for tactical purposes, but white can defend quite comfortably. The logical move 15...e5 would be a sensible alternative. The square d5 isn't a concern for black and he can con-

tinue with centralising the king and playing for ...a6, ...b5. It's not a serious advantage but certainly something to play with. **16.b3 Nd5 17.Na4 Ne7 18.Bd2 Rd7 19.Rhd1 Rad8 20.Rac1** [20.Bc3 with the idea of Nb2-d3 may have kept some life in the position. Certainly black would have to be a little more careful than white here.] **20...Rd3 21.Nc3 Nc6 22.Be1 Rxd1 23.Rxd1 Rxd1 24.Nxd1 Kf7 25.Bc3 g5 26.Nf2 Bb7 27.Nd3 a5 28.a4 Ke7 29.Ne5 Nxe5 30.Bxe5 ½-½**

Green, Andrew (2159) – Burnett, Andrew (2249) Scottish Elite Armageddon 31.03.2013

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.Nc3 cxd4 5.Nxd4 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 Nc6 8.Qd2 0-0 9.0-0-0 Nxd4 10.Bxd4 Qa5 11.Kb1 e5!? This is an old move often favoured by Eduard Gufeld. I figured that it would avoid much of the theory which Andrew might know, and it can often lead to fairly level endgames where he would have to take chances to push for the win he needed. **12.Be3 Be6 13.b3!?** **13.a3!?** might be a more appropriate continuation, but I doubt if there is much wrong with the game move – despite appearances, the weakening of the dark-squares around his king shouldn't be a problem. **13...Rfc8 14.Nd5 Qxd2 15.Nxf6+ Bxf6 16.Rxd2 Be7** [16...Rc3!? I didn't realise this was an option here.]

17.Kb2 a6 18.c4 Rc6



It was at this point that I realised Neil Berry and Alan Tate had been 're-paired' as their respective opponents (Petesch and Olson) hadn't turned up within the required time (1 hour). It was only when I checked how this would affect the qualification that I spotted both of them with 1's in their score column – they'd been given full point defaults and were only playing a graded 'friendly'!

This set the cat among the pigeons somewhat, as my 'draw is probably enough approach' now became 'a win at all costs' since my tie-break was now inferior to Alan's and Neil had just reached 3 points. After a bit of cursing I decided to clear my thoughts by checking with Alex McFarlane and David Oswald that they were correct in not re-pairing Neil and Alan in the tournament proper. Satisfied that they had no alternative according to the rules, I returned to my board – now my chosen opening looked like it had backfired!

If I had known that only a win would suffice I'd have played a much sharper line early on. Anyway, nothing else to be done other than eke what I could out of the endgame and hope Andrew would take some chances in his own desire to win. **19.Be2 f5 20.exf5!?** and he does so almost immediately. White's plan may be technically the correct way to try to prove an advantage, but it does mean that he will have to navigate a few tactical mines along the way. **20...gxf5 21.f4 Rac8 22.Rhd1 e4!?**



I really wasn't sure whether to play this or not as I had already seen white's correct reply, but since I had no serious way to play for a win otherwise I decided just to get on with it. **23.h3?!** [23.Kb1!? was the move I was afraid of as I have no tricks with the ...d5 push now that i can't check on the 7th. Andrew's move is part of his plan, but it should perhaps have been delayed a move.] **23...d5! 24.cxd5 Bxd5 25.Kb1?!** and now this move is just a little too late. 25.Bxa6!? is messy but may be best, but with only 10 minutes left for 10 moves it's hard to criticise white for avoiding this. **25...bxa6 26.Rxd5 Rc2+ 27.Kb1**

Bf6 (27...Rxc2 28.Rxf5 Rcc2 29.Bc1! Missed this idea.) **28.Bd4 e3 29.Bxf6 e2 30.Rd8+ (30.Re1 Rc1+ 31.Rxc1 Rxc1+ 32.Kxc1 e1Q+)** **30...Kf7 31.R1d7+ Kxf6 32.Rd6+=** An interesting drawing pattern] **25...Be6 26.g4 Rc3 27.Bd4 Rxc3 28.gxf5 Bxf5 29.Bc4+ Rxc4!** I wasn't too sure that this was absolutely necessary but the alternative seemed a bit dangerous at the time. **30.Rg2+ Kf8 [30...Kf7 may be slightly more accurate?!] 31.bxc4 Rd3!?** [31...e3+ 32.Ka1 e2 33.Rxe2 (33.Re1 Rd3?! (33...Bd3)) 33...Bg4]



32.Rxd3?! I was fairly confident that the resulting position was simply winning for black here. I couldn't see a defensive plan which would prevent black from exploiting the 2 passed pawns by infiltrating with the king. Andrew wasn't convinced, but I have failed to find a drawing line in analysis. **32...exd3 33.Kb2 h5 34.Kc3 h4 35.Be5?!** [35.Rb2 was the move I was expecting but after 35...h3 36.Bg1 a5! I don't think even the opposite-colour bishops save white. 37.Rxb7 Bb4+ 38.Rxb4 axb4+ 39.Kd2] **35...h3 36.Rb2 a5!** [36...Bh4! was also winning – the white pieces can't quite cover everything.] **37.c5 Bxc5 38.Rxb7 Bb4+ 39.Kc4 d2 40.Rb8+ Kf7 41.Rb7+ Be7 0-1**

Murdochy,Shivan (1870) – Kafka,Graeme (2065)
Scottish Elite Armageddon Championships 03.12.2013

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.cxd5 cxd5 5.Bf4 Nc6 6.e3 a6 7.Bd3 e6 8.Nf3 Be7 9.0-0 0-0 10.Rc1 Bd7 11.h3 A more aggressive set-up was seen in the following high-level encounter: 11.Ne5 Rc8 12.Qf3 Be8 13.Qh3 Kh8 14.Bg5 g6 15.Bh6 Rg8 16.f4 Nd7 17.Nxc6 Rxc6 18.e4 dxe4 19.Bxe4 Rb6 but Kramnik now went astray with 20.d5?! Nf6 21.dxe6?? although he somehow managed to draw this lost position in Kramnik,V–Kamsky,G 2007 **11...Qa5 12.Nd2N Rfc8 13.Nb3 Qd8 14.Ne2**



and after some thought and much calculation of the lead-board Graeme accepted the draw offer which qualified him for the 'B' final which he went on to win! 1/2-1/2

Edwards,Jonathan (2076) – Scott,Jonathan (1897)
 Scottish Elite Armageddon Championships 03.12.2013

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1
 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.c3 0-0 9.h3 Na5 10.Bc2 c5 11.d4 Qc7
 12.Nbd2 Bd7 13.dxe5 dxe5 14.Nf1 Nc4 15.Qe2 Rfe8
 16.b3 Nb6



17.Ng3?!IN Allowing black to play ...c4 can't be recom-
 mended. White should play c4 himself although black has
 probably equalised already. 17...c4 18.Be3 Bc5 19.Bg5
 Re6 20.Rad1 h6 21.Be3 a5 22.Nf5 a4 23.b4 Bf8 24.g4
 Rc6 25.Bxb6 Rxb6 26.Ne3 Re6 27.Nd5 Qb7 28.Nxf6+
 gxf6 29.Nh4 Ree8 30.Qf3 Be7 31.Nf5 Bxf5 32.Qxf5
 Rad8 33.Rd5!



White has taken control of the position and uses a small
 tactical nuance to increase the pressure. 33...Kg7
 [33...Rxd5? 34.exd5 Qxd5?? (34...Kf8 35.Be4 and white
 has a huge positional advantage) 35.Qh7+ Kf8 36.Qh8#]
 34.Red1 Qc6 35.h4 Qb6 36.Kg2 Rd6 37.Rxd6 Bxd6
 38.Rd5 Re6 39.Bd1 a3 40.Bc2 Qc6 41.Rd1?! Manoeu-
 vring his rook to f3, but this throws away most of his ad-
 vantage. White really wants to play g5 so should get his
 king out of the way by Kf3-e2. 41...Qb6 42.Rh1 Be7
 43.Rh3 Qd6 44.Rf3 Qd2 45.g5 hxg5 [45...Qxc2
 46.gxh6+ Kxh6 looks very scary but may be defensible.]
 46.hxg5 Kf8 47.Qh3 Ke8 48.g6



48...fxg6?? A horrible blunder. Now white's queen and
 rook prove too strong in attack. 49.Qxe6 Qxc2 50.Qc6+
 Kf7 51.Rh3 Qe2 52.Qd5+ Kg7 53.Qb7 Kf7 54.Qd5+
 Kg7 55.Rg3 Qxa2 56.Qe6 Bf8 57.Qf5 g5 58.Rh3 Kf7
 59.Qd7+

1-0

Berry,Neil (2255) – Tate,Alan (2271)

Scottish Elite Armageddon Championships 03.12.2013

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3
 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Be3 c5 8.Nf3 Qa5 9.Nd2 I hadn't seen this
 move before, although it seems to have been played by
 some very good players. 9...cxd4 10.Nc4N Qd8
 10...Qxc3+?? 11.Bd2 and the queen is trapped. 11.cxd4
 0-0 12.Be2 Nc6 13.d5



13...Na5?! [In general terms black won't want to take the
 exchange on a1 as he will then face serious problems
 with the dark squares around his king, but 13...Nb4!
 has a particular tactical point 14.0-0?! (14.Rb1 the fairly
 standard sacrifice of the a-pawn doesn't look so con-
 vincing here either as black's knight can return to c3
 which causes some problems. 14...Nxa2 15.Qd3 Nc3
 with ... b5 to follow.) 14...Bxa1 15.Qxa1 Nc2 and with the
 Be3 off the board black will have less to worry about on
 the k-side and therefore can press with his material ad-
 vantage on the q-side.] 14.Rc1 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 b5
 16.Be2 e6 17.0-0 exd5 18.exd5 18.Qxd5 is a serious
 alternative here with white trying to prove his develop-
 ment advantage is worth something. 18...Bd7 19.Bf3
 Qa5 20.Qb3 Rac8 21.Bc5 Bh6 22.Bxf8 Bxc1 23.Bb4
 Qc7 24.d6 Qc4 25.Bd5 Qxb3 26.axb3 Bb2 27.Re1 Rc1
 28.Rxc1 Bxc1

1/2-1/2

What happened to our two no-shows you might ask?
 Well, Mr. Olson appeared 7 minutes after his 1 hour ran
 out, very apologetic and not looking too much the worse
 for wear; bright-eyed and bushy-haired as they say! Ga-
 briel, on the other hand, finally phoned sometime after
 mid-day, wondering if he was still in the tournament!
 There was a bit of a discussion about how to approach
 this as the no-shows had a direct and negative effect on
 the entire competition. Although no action was taken, my
 own view is that anyone defaulting without a valid reason
 ought to be demoted to the next lowest group in events
 such as this. This and the re-pairing issue need a look at
 before the next event – rules in place (combined with
 common sense) are always a good idea!

So, after all this excitement, where did that leave us? We still had the Armageddon knockout section to go and this is how things looked.

Seedings after Round 4

Championship

- 1 - Burnett 3 / 4
- 2 - Petesch 3 / 4
- 3 - Berry 3 / 4
- 4 – Tate 2.5/ 4 (on tie-break)

With 1 v 4 and 2 v 3 this led to the following semi-final match-ups in the top section.

Semi Final

Tate	1 – 0	Burnett
Petesch	0 – 1	Berry

Tate, Alan (2349) – Burnett, Andrew (2249)

Scottish Elite Armageddon Semi-finals 31.03.2013

The armageddon matches were new to all of us and the bidding for black/white and time was a humorous affair! Basically, whoever bid the least amount of time would have Black with draw-odds. The trick was to bid low enough to ensure getting black, but high enough to give yourself enough time to play a decent game.

Some of us had other ideas however. My strategy all along had been that, if I make it to the play-offs, I would take white versus everybody (except Gabriel, for opening preparation reasons) and just play for the win from the start. I reckoned this would save me from even thinking about draws.

Apparently Alan Tate had the same idea and we both bid exactly 45 minutes, the full time allocation possible! We had to 're-bid', and this time Alan stuck with 45 minutes while I put in 44 minutes 59 seconds so Alan got white.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.c3 Alan had played this before and I recalled a win from his big success in Croatia when he played Yilmaz using this line. **3...Nf6 4.h3 Nc6 5.Bd3 g6 6.Bc2 Bg7 7.0-0 0-0 8.d4 Nd7** I generally prefer this structure to the one arising after **8...d5 9.e5 Ne4 9.d5 9.Be3** is the main alternative here. **9...Nce5 10.Nfd2 Nf6 11.f4N Ned7 12.a4 b6 13.c4 e6 14.Nc3 exd5 15.cxd5 a6 16.Nc4 Ne8**



17.Re1!? I was more worried about a simple plan involving **17.Qf3** and after **17...Rb8** simply **18.Qg3** when breaking with **18...b5?** is simply bad after **19.axb5 axb5 20.Na5!** meanwhile, white is free to develop naturally and black must beware the typical anti-Benoni break of **e5** and if **...dxe5** then **f5!** with a strong attack. **17...Qh4 18.Qe2** [18.Be3! guarding the dark squares looks a lot safer **18...Rb8 (18...f5!?)**] **18...Bd4+** now black gets a lot of counterplay **19.Kf1 Ndf6 20.Qf3 Ng4!**



I thought this was possibly winning outright and was sure there must be at least a forced draw (which would put me through to the final) somewhere in the complications. **21.Ke2** [the black knight is immune to capture, viz. **21.hxg4? Bxg4 22.g3 Qh5!** when white must either lose his queen or be mated.] **21...Nh2 22.Qd3**



22...Bg4+!? Perhaps this is the problem with playing black and having draw odds?! I felt that I should be able to find a perpetual in here somewhere, but if I HAD to win I would have looked more closely at [22...Qf2+! 23.Kd1 Qxg2 which I had seen, with the threat of ...Bxh3 and white is in trouble on both colour complexes because of black's bishops. The problem here was that I was giving white a 'free' move and he has a lot of pieces he can move! I chose the bishop sacrifice as it is more forcing, but I admit that the idea of forcing a DRAW was more in my mind than winning. 24.f5 (24.Nxb6? Bxh3) 24...Rb8 (24...Nf3 25.Rf1 Ne5 26.Nxe5 Bxe5)] **23.hxg4 Qxg4+ 24.Kd2 Qxg2+ 25.Qe2** [25.Kd1 is the engines preference, but 25...Ng4 looks very scary until you realise that now 26.Qe2 is playable. In any event, white is defending extremely well and probably has a slight advantage in a very unclear position.] **25...Nf3+ 26.Kd1 Nxe1 27.Kxe1 Qg1+ [27...Qg3+ may be slightly more accurate.] 28.Qf1 Qg3+ 29.Kd2 Nf6?** [29...Bxc3+ was what I really wanted to play but I was loathe to exchange off the bishop even though the thought of the knight retreat to e2 was annoying me. I had missed a couple of ideas though and this is where my title dreams ran aground! 30.bxc3 Rb8 The computer keeps suggesting this move and I have to admit I never ever considered it. White may be a touch better but black is still well in the game. **30.Ne2 Qh2**



Or not. The ♘ on f6 is effectively trapped (10...♘g8 11.♙xg7). Suddenly draw odds seemed less important...after seriously considering resigns, I resolved to try to create a mess. And White is supposed to be the one playing like a madman in Armageddon!

Some time later...



31.Ra3! Alan finds the move which kills off most of black's active hopes. The rook lift is one which i had missed although my previous ...Bxc3 idea would have inadvertently prevented it. **31...Nxd5??** this rather idiotic move compounds my problems! I noticed it was bad, analysed something else then played this move quickly. Of course, after **32.Rh3** Alan is simply a piece and a position to the good and went on to win very convincingly. Well played Alan but I shouldn't be too harsh on myself – I played some interesting chess and ran the top seed close – maybe next time!

1-0

Neil Berry takes up the story of the other semi-final..

Petesch,Gabriel (2248) – Berry,Neil (2216)

Scottish Elite Armageddon Edinburgh, 31.03.2013

I bid 28 minutes against Gabriel's 34. Playing Black with draw odds was fine as Gabriel is not so theoretical. On the other hand, he is an extremely good blitz player, so I didn't want to go too far behind on the clock. **1.Nf3 d5 2.b3** Improving over 1.b3 e5! (Petesch–Berry, Edinburgh League 2013). **2...Bg4 3.Ne5 Bf5 4.Bb2 Nd7 5.Nxd7 Qxd7 6.e3 Nf6 7.d3 e6 8.Be2** The opening has been a big success for Black, hasn't it? **8...Bd6 9.g4 Bg6 10.g5**

13.f6? This loses. White's most active piece gets exchanged and his pawns blockaded. Now I'll win the exchange back, then start pushing my a pawn. **13...Qd7+! 14.Qxd7+ Kxd7 15.Kh4 Ke6 16.Kh5 Kxe5 17.f7 Rf8 18.Kh6 Rxf7 19.Rd1 Bb3 20.Ne2 Bxd1 21.Rxd1 Rf2 22.Ng1 Rxh2+ 23.Kg5 Rg2+ 24.Kh4 Rxg1 25.Rxg1 a5 26.Rg5+ Kd6 27.Rg1 a4** Unbelievable. 0-1



Final

Tate 1 – 0 Berry

3rd/4th place play-off

Petesch 1 – 0 Burnett

Tate, Alan (2349) – Berry, Neil (2216)

Armageddon Edinburgh, 31.03.2013
[with notes by Neil Berry]

I bid 35 minutes to Alan's 38. I was fine with Black as I hadn't make much of a dent in Alan's Grunfeld in the morning game.

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 e5 4.Nf3 Nbd7 5.Bc4 Be7 6.0-0 0-0 7.a4 a6 I drew comfortably against GM John Emms from this position in the 4NCL the previous weekend. John didn't play 8.a5 because he was worried about the plan of ...exd4, ...♗e5, ...c5, ...♗c6 and ...♗xa5. I didn't quite manage to make that idea work in this game! **8.a5 h6 9.Re1 exd4 10.Nxd4 Ne5 11.Bb3 c5 12.Nf5** [12.Nf3 Bg4 is comfortable for Black.] **12...Bxf5 13.exf5 Qd7 14.Nd5 Nxd5 15.Bxd5**



15...Bf6 [15...Rfe8?? would not have been clever: 16.Rxe5 dxe5 17.Bxf7+] **16.g4 Rfe8 17.Be3 Nc6 18.c3 Re7 19.Qf3 Rae8 20.Red1 Qc7 21.Qg3 Bg5** [21...Nxa5 22.h4! shows the strength of the ♗d5 – white is going g5–g6 very quickly.] **22.Bxg5 hxg5 23.h4 Re2 24.b3?!** [24.hxg5] **24...Qe7 25.h5 Rc2 26.Kg2 Qe2 27.Re1 Qxe1 28.Rxe1 Rxe1 29.Qxd6 Ne5 30.Qd8+ Kh7**



31.Qxg5?? [31.f6! wins, e.g. 31...Ree2 32.fxg7 Kxg7 33.Qxg5+] **31...Ree2??** Returning the favour. [31...Nd3 32.Qh4 Nf4+ wins the ♗] **32.f6! Rxf2+ 33.Kg3 g6 34.hxg6+ Nxg6 35.Qh5+ Kg8 36.Qxg6+**
1-0

Petesch, Gabriel (2248) – Burnett, Andrew (2249)

Scottish Elite Armageddon 3rd/4th place play-off
31.03.2013

As mentioned earlier, Gabriel is the only player I had planned to play as black (same thinking as Neil!) so here I bid 25 minutes and got my way.

1.Nf3 d5 2.b3 Nh6 3.Bb2 f6



This is not a position you'll see every day! The idea of ...f6, preparing ...e5 has been played in similar positions by none other than Robert J. Fischer though! **4.c4N 4...c6 5.cxd5** A little premature I feel. **5...cxd5 6.d4 Nc6 7.e3 Bg4 8.Be2 e6 9.a3 Bd6 10.b4 0-0 11.Nc3 Bxf3 12.Bxf3 f5!**



This is the big idea for black. He has rid himself of the potentially bad bishop before locking the pawns in 'stonewall' formation. The Nh6 can be re-routed as required and white's bishop pair is not influential in this structure. **13.g3 Kh8 14.Ne2 Ng8 15.h4?!** This looks very weakening to me. **15...Nf6 16.Qb3 Ne4 17.Nc1 a5!?** also tempting was 17...Qc7 with threats of saccing something on f2 or g3. **18.Bxe4 fxe4 19.Na2 axb4 20.axb4 Rxa2** [again 20...Qc7 was serious option, but I preferred the technical approach as I had much less time than Gabriel and could easily use up lots of it trying to force a mating attack. 21.Ke2 (21.0-0 Bxg3 22.fxg3 Qxg3+ 23.Kh1 Qh3+ 24.Kg1 Rf6 25.Rxf6 gxf6 26.Re1 Rg8+) 21...Rf3 22.Nc3 Raf8 23.Rhf1 Bxb4 (23...Nxb4)] **21.Rxa2**

Nxb4 22.0-0 Nxa2 23.Qxa2 b5 [23...Qf6!? is probably better but see the previous note. 24.Qb3 Bxg3! I missed this specific variation)] **24.Qa6 Qb8 25.Kg2 Rc8 26.Ra1 Rc2??**



This is undoubtedly the worst blunder I can remember making in many, many years! I don't even have the excuse of serious time-trouble as I still had 6 minutes or so left. **27.Qxd6!** played instantly, exploiting black's back-rank weakness!

1-0

So Alan Tate, top seed and pre-tournament favourite, won the 1st Elite Armageddon Championships! Quite an achievement seeing as he only just scraped into the championship play-offs, but the cream generally rises to the top eventually!

Neil was as usual very solid and very strong, Gabriel and myself both showed good play but with a few rough edges, and Calum MacQueen was desperately unlucky to miss out on the top section – before the event I had him pegged as my most difficult prospective opponent and so it proved.

A few minutes after his win in the final over Neil, I offered my congratulations to Alan. He asked me when the next round was due to start? Hmmm, slightly baffled I explained to him that it was over, he had won the final, there IS no next round! Only then did he relax and realise what he had done.

Plate

Seedings:

5 – MacQueen (2.5/4)

6 – Bremner (2.5/4)

7 – Oswald (2.5/4)

8 – Kafka (2/4)

Semi Finals:

Kafka 1 – 0 MacQueen

Oswald 1 – 0 Bremner

7th/8th Playoff:

MacQueen 1 – 0 Bremner

Plate Final:

Kafka 1 – 0 Oswald

3rd Tier Seedings:

9 – Edwards (1.5/4)

10 – Olson (1.5/4)

11 – Murdochy (1.5/4)

12 – Green (1.5/4)

Semi-Finals:

Edwards 0 – 1 Green

Olson 1 – 0 Murdochy

11th/12th Playoff:

Edwards 1 - 0 Murdochy

Final:

Olson 0 – 1 Green

Consolation Cup:

McHarg 1 – 0 Scott

McHarg, Andrew (1723) – Scott, Jonathan (1897)
Scottish Elite Armageddon Championships 03.12.2013

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.f4 0-0 6.Nf3 Na6 7.Be2 c5 8.d5 Nc7 9.0-0 a6 10.a4 Rb8 11.Rb1?!N This curious move doesn't seem to fit in with white's standard plan in this position. He generally wants to attack in the centre and on the k-side, and the best way to hold back any q-side counterplay would seem to be 11.a5 when after 11...b5 12.axb6 Rxb6 13.Ra2 is possible, still eyeing the a-file, getting itself off the long diagonal while protecting the b-pawn and finally it might find itself able to join in the k-side later if required by b3 and rook along the 2nd when it's clear.

11...Bd7 12.b4 cxb4 13.Rxb4 a5 14.Rb3 Nxe4 15.Nxe4 Bxa4 16.Qd3 Bxb3 17.Qxb3 b5 18.Nfg5 h6 19.Qh3!?



It shouldn't work, but now black has to constantly worry about variations where it does! **19...f5 20.Bb2 fxe4 21.Bxg7 Kxg7 22.Qc3+ Kg8 23.Nxe4 b4 24.Qg3 Kh7 25.Bd3 Rf5?! [25...Qe8 bringing the queen across for defence seems better.] 26.Ng5+ Rxg5?** This looks like a time-trouble and/or panic response. [26...hxg5 is safe enough as white doesn't have the 2 moves in a row which he needs to create serious threats. 27.Bxf5 gxf5 28.Qxg5 e6 29.Qh5+ Kg7 30.Rf3 Qf6] **27.fxg5 Qg8 28.Qh3 [28.Qh4 was more accurate controlling d4 and attacking e7] 28...Qg7 29.gxh6 Qg8 [29...Qd4+ was a better defence although white is still well on top] 30.Qd7 Qe8 31.Qxc7 a4**

Unfortunately for black the pawns are no match for the active white pieces which now move in for the kill. **32.Re1 Kxh6 33.Rxe7 Qh8 34.Qa7 Qa1+ 35.Bf1 Rf8 36.Rh7+ Kg5 37.Qe3+ Rf4 38.h4+**

This certainly throws the cat among the pigeons!

From an organiser's perspective, I was just delighted it all ran smoothly. With the tournament being a new format, there was always a worry there was a significant flaw somewhere. However, the only significant flaw seemed to be the player's bids, as White got a huge score (9 wins, 3 losses). The bids ranged from a very ambitious (and perhaps totally doomed) three minutes up to the maximum 45 minutes, but probably averaged somewhere around 25 minutes. Judging by the results, I expect that next time we will probably see an increase on that figure.

Changes (Improvements?) For Future Event

Tie-Break System

With a new event and new format there is bound to be improvements to make for next time. The biggest change will be in the tie-break systems used. All the tie-break methods were based around trying to encourage attacking chess:

Number of wins

Number of Black wins

How quick the average number of moves in your wins

However, I don't really think the tie-break system had an influence on players playing styles. Therefore for next time, the following tie-breaks will be used:

1 - Number of wins

2 - Sum of opponents scores

3 - A five minute Armageddon match

The number of wins (or losses as GM Nigel Short pointed out in this year's Candidates!) will hopefully still encourage players to play some aggressive chess.

Round Times

The round times will be made later in the hope that more players from further afield can commute.

Length of Games

Some players found the 34 in 90 plus 15 minutes quite quick and therefore this will change to 34 in 90 plus 30 minutes.

Prize Fund

I was wary of advertising a prize fund based on 24 players with the event only being organised 3-4 weeks before the tournament. The prize fund was based on 18 players this time but hopefully with more publicity, later round times and more time for players to plan, 24 strong and competitive players will enter.

Publicity

Next time I will bring along a camera for photos, and potentially a microphone for post-match interviews!

Finally, thanks to everyone who supported the event and for those interested the 2nd Elite Armageddon Championships will take place on 28th-30th June at Edinburgh Chess Club. Hopefully see you there!

David Oswald

Tournament Organiser

Scottish Elite Armageddon Championships

Prizes:

1st – FM Alan Tate (£150)

2nd – FM Neil Berry (£75)

3rd – Gabriel Petesch (Free Entry to another Elite Armageddon Event)

Plate Winner – Graeme Kafka (Free Entry to another Elite Armageddon Event)

Final Standings:

1st Alan Tate

2nd Neil Berry

3rd Gabriel Petesch

4th Andrew Burnett

5th Graeme Kafka

6th David Oswald

7th Calum MacQueen

8th Adam Bremner

9th Andrew Green

10th Hamish Olson

11th Jonathan Edwards

12th Shivan Murdochy

13th AndrewMcHarg

14th Jonathan Scott

Edinburgh Elite Armageddon Grading Performance table

Pool	Name	Club	Status	Grade	PNUM	Pts	Plyd	Grading Performance					
								Opps	Act	Plyd	Exp	Diff	Perf
4	Petes, Gabriel N	EU	-	2248	23516	3	3	2218	3	3	1.601	1.399	2618
3	Burnett, Andrew B	WDGN	-	2249	3349	3	4	2101	3	4	2.717	0.283	2294
8	Oswald, David C	EDTC	-	2048	11175	2½	4	2218	2	3	0.887	1.113	2340
2	MacQueen, Calum	EDGI	-	2272	12082	2½	4	2143	2½	4	2.656	-0.156	2234
5	Berry, Neil M (FM)	ED	-	2216	3187	2½	4	2119	2½	4	2.456	0.044	2210
6	Bremner, Adam	BAED	-	2194	14033	2½	4	2005	1½	2	1.390	0.110	2198
1	Tate, Alan (FM)	WD	-	2349	6191	2	4	2130	2	4	3.050	-1.050	2130
9	Kafka, Graeme	EDLG	-	2027	4517	2	4	1988	2	4	2.182	-0.182	1988
14	McHarg, Andrew	BX	-	1723	20886	2	5	2058	1	4	0.494	0.506	1864
12	Edwards, Jonathan	EUBA	J20	1987	14530	1½	4	2199	1	3	0.755	0.245	2077
13	Murdochy, Shivan	ED	J17	1880	17940	1½	4	2163	1½	4	0.694	0.806	2072
10	Olson, Hamish	BAWD	J18	2007	15934	1½	3	2044	1½	3	1.342	0.158	2044
7	Green, Andrew D	EDTC	-	2159	15013	1½	4	2074	1	3	1.820	-0.820	1952
11	Scott, Jonathan	JGED	J17	1988	16254	½	5	2011	½	5	2.336	-1.836	1644