



1st
Edinburgh
Winter Chess
Festival

27th December 2013 to 5th January 2014

in Edinburgh Chess Club

The organiser's view

“ Scotland has had numerous talented young players reach 2200, but many of those talents struggle to make it much further. One of the reasons for this is thought to be the lack of opportunities to play against titled opposition in Scotland. Hence the idea to give our talent 2200-rated players a chance test themselves against strong opposition became appealing and ultimately led to the creation of the IM norm event.



The organisation was very challenging and probably too much to take on by myself, but it was very satisfying to see it all running smoothly and that Callum Kilpatrick gained an IM norm – a fantastic achievement and another historic moment for the club. Hopefully next year's tournament will build on this success. Might see you there!”

-David Oswald

Round 1



FM Iain Swan facing GM Colin McNab's favourite Modern Defence

Hamitevici, Vladimir	1/2-1/2	Steil-Antoni, Fiona
Burnett, Andy	0-1	Kilpatrick, Callum
Bremner, Adam	0-1	Berry, Neil
Michielsen, Joost	1-0	MacQueen, Calum
Swan, Iain	0-1	McNab, Colin A

So the tournament kicks off with the big boys against the norm chasers.; would any of the lower-half rise to the challenge? Well, it wasn't to be me! A good opening was followed by a dubious middle-game and Callum played very accurately to put me away. Good wins also from Neil, Joost and Colin seemed to have sealed the 1st round in favour of...the favourites!

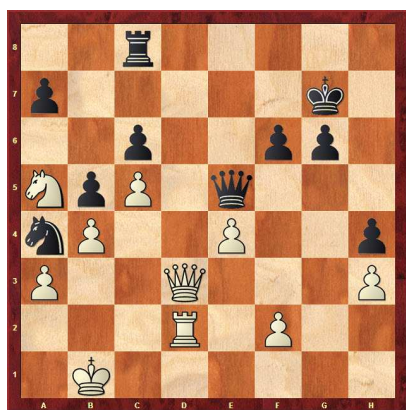
However, Luxembourg's top female player showed that when it comes to dealing with your boyfriend, on the chessboard she was at least a match. A topsy-turvy affair ended in a long draw, with Fiona missing a golden chance to win, but she proved that she was certainly no pushover despite being the lowest-rated player in the field. A first-round full of fighting chess - and exactly how it would continue .

(1) Hamitevici,Vladimir (2457) – Steil-Antoni,Fiona (2190) [D00]

Winter Chess Festival (1.1), 27.12.2013

The top board in the 1st round and we see the highest-rated player pitted against the lowest. Add in to the equation the fact that it is boyfriend versus girlfriend and we have all the makings of an interesting tussle. A short draw? Never!

1.d4 d5 2.♙g5 Vladimir seems to prefer non-theoretical tussles; his 2500-rating is off the back of strong middle-game play and the Trompovsky is ideal for creative, complex play. **2...♜f6 3.♙xf6 exf6 4.e3 ♕d6 5.g3 c6 6.♙g2 ♙f5 7.♜e2 ♖d7** **8.♜f4 ♙xf4** [8...g6 looks better. I would have preferred to delay the capture on f4 for as long as possible – if we continue as in the game... **9.a3 h5 10.♜d2 h4 11.c4 hxg3 12.hxg3 ♖xh1+ 13.♙xh1 ♙xf4 14.gxf4 dxc4 15.♜xc4 ♜a6** ...and black might find the h-file useful for her other rook at some point.] **9.gxf4 ♜a6 10.a3 h5 11.♜d2 h4 12.c4 ♖h6** this rook never seems to settle **13.♖b3 ♖g6 14.♙f3 dxc4 15.♜xc4 ♜f8 16.0-0-0 b5 17.♜a5 ♖c8 18.e4 ♙g4 19.f5 ♙xf3 20.♖xf3 ♖h6 21.b4 ♖e7 22.♜b2 ♜b8 23.h3 ♜d7 24.♖f4 ♜b6 25.♖c1 ♖d7 26.♖hd1** White has secured a decent space advantage and can claim to be slightly better so long as he prevents any black counter-play against his king. **26...♖h5 27.♖g4 ♖h6 28.♖f4 ♖h5 29.♖d2 ♜g8 30.♜a2 g6 31.fxg6** [31.♖g4 This move looks better to me, retaining the tension and letting black worry about her weaknesses on both sides of the board.] **31...♖e6+ 32.♜a1 fxg6 33.♖f3 ♜g7 34.♖c5 ♖xc5 35.dxc5 ♖e5+ 36.♜b1 ♜a4 37.♖d3?!** Time-trouble? White allows black a tactical shot



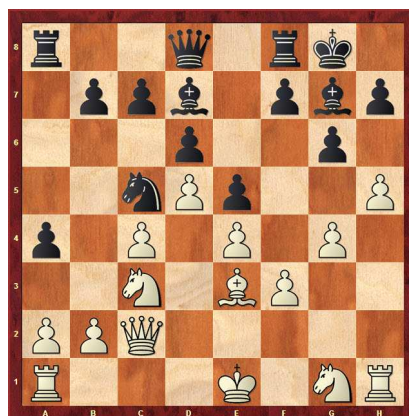
37...♖c7?! which Fiona misses! [37...♖xe4 38.♖xe4 ♜c3+ 39.♜c2 ♜xe4 regains the queen and wins a pawn, although white should still be fine because of the weakness on c6.] **38.♜c2??** and this is an outright blunder... **38...♖e6??** which black fails to spot! [38...♖b2+ 39.♜d1 ♜c3+ 40.♜e1 ♖c1+ wins fairly simply.] **39.♜b3 ♖e7 40.f3 ♖xh3 41.♜d4 ♖c8 42.f4** White's forces coordinate well now so it's a surprising time to offer a draw. perhaps Vladimir realised he'd got out of jail free a couple of moves ago and didn't want to tempt fate by playing on?! All-in-all an interesting game and one which set the mood of the tournament for hard battles and very few quick draws.

1/2-1/2

(2) Burnett,Andrew (2209) – Kilpatrick,Callum (2350) [E73]

Winter Chess Festival – Premier (1.2), 27.12.2013

1.d4 ♜f6 2.c4 g6 3.h4!? Readers of Chess Scotland magazine will notice that this move wasn't my preparation for playing Callum. There is a story behind this change of heart: Callum's arrival for the 1st round was delayed by over an hour – just before he finally appeared Clement Sreeves mentioned, "He'll be here soon – I've just spoken with him". Hmmm, would this be the same Clement who I had played a few weeks earlier, and on which game I had based my preparation for Mr Kilpatrick? If they are friends, and Callum has done any preparation at all for our game, then I guessed it might focus on my Grunfeld encounter with Clement. So....plan B, the aggressive 3.h4, which I had very briefly looked at the previous evening. **3...♙g7** [3...d5 The normal choice of a Grunfeld player such as Callum would not be so good immediately because after 4.cxd5 ♜xd5 5.e4 there is no knight on c3 for black to exchange, and otherwise white gets to develop comfortably, with h5 always being a threat.] **4.♜c3 0-0** [and now 4...d5 5.h5 is a little uncomfortable for black 5...♜xh5 6.cxd5 c6 7.e4 cxd5 8.e5 and black must go into reverse with 8...♙f8 because g4 threatens to win the stranded knight.] **5.e4 d6** So, my move order has brought us a King's Indian Defence where the inclusion of h4 is generally fine for white. If black wants to prove it weak or unnecessary, he should look for a different set-up here, perhaps involving ...c5 **6.♙e2 e5 7.d5 ♜bd7 8.♙e3 ♜c5 9.♖c2 a5 10.h5 ♜g4?!** I was pleased to see this move as I felt it gave me extra tempi for attacking on the k-side. **11.♙xg4 ♙xg4 12.f3 ♙d7 13.g4 a4**



14.♖d2?! but around here I start to drift. The position probably demands some concrete play already. I have set out my stall and should now play the obvious [14.hxg6 fxg6 15.♖h2 simply allowing the check on d3. Instead, thinking I had time to prepare my k-side attack, I actually dithered too long.] **14...♖e7 15.♜ge2 ♖fb8 16.♜g3 b5 17.cxb5 ♙xb5 18.♙xc5 dxc5 19.g5 ♙d7** white may still be fine here, but I wasn't comfortable **20.d6** [20.♖c1 a3 21.b3 c4 22.bxc4 ♖b2 doesn't exactly inspire confidence] **20...cxd6 21.♜d5 ♖d8 22.0-0?** [22.♜e2 intending to back up the knight on d5 is the only way to stay in the game] **22...♙e6 23.hxg6 hxg6 24.♖f2 ♙xd5 25.exd5 ♖b4!** Not only is black a pawn to the good, but d5 will fall soon and black's pieces will be very active.

26.♞e1 ♞d4 27.♞e3 ♞xd5 28.♟e4 ♞d4 29.f4 d5 30.♟xc5 exf4 31.♞h3 ♞a5 32.♞c1 ♞c4 33.♞xc4 dxc4 34.♞f3 ♞e8 35.♞xf4 ♞e1+ 36.♟g2 ♞xc5 37.♞xf7+ ♟h8 A rather discouraging start for me, but a very good example of Callum's play. Strategically strong and clinical to the end. 0-1

(3) Bremner,Adam (2189) – Berry,Neil (2242) [D31]

Winter Chess Festival – Premier (1.3), 27.12.2013

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♟c3 ♟b4 Neil's new wonder-weapon as black. A hybrid move of the Nimzo-Indian and Vienna variations, it forces white to think early on about what he wants from the opening. 4.e3 c5 5.dxc5 ♟f6 6.♟d2 ♟c6 7.♟f3 0-0 8.♟e2 dxc4 9.♟xc4 ♟xc5 10.0-0 e5 11.♟g5 ♟f5 12.♞b3 ♟g6 Black is already comfortably placed as white's B on d2 is a little awkward, as is the positional threat of Na5 followed by taking the bishop on c4. Adam seeks solace in a tactical solution. 13.♟a4 ♞xd2 14.♟xc5 ♟a5 15.♞a4 ♟xc4 16.♞xc4 ♞ac8 17.♞b5 ♞d5 18.b4 e4



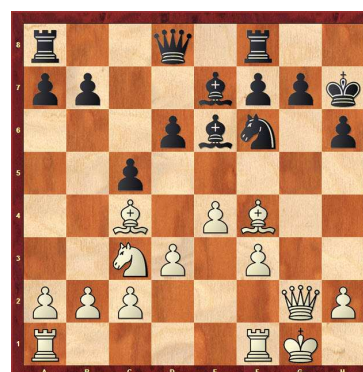
Which backfires as the twin threats of ...Qxg5 and ...b6, which wins the other knight, prove too difficult to counter. 19.♟h3 b6 20.♟f4 ♞f5 21.♞ac1 bxc5 22.bxc5 ♞e5 23.♞a5 ♞c7 24.♞c2 ♞fc8 25.♞fc1 h6 26.h3 ♟f5 27.♟e2 ♟d7 28.♟d4 ♟e6 29.♟b3 ♟xb3 30.axb3 ♞xc5 31.♞xc5 ♞xc5 32.♞xc5 ♞xc5 33.♞d8+ ♟f8 and now all that is required is a little patience and accuracy to bring home the point. 34.♞a8 ♞c1+ 35.♟h2 ♞c7+ 36.g3 ♞c2 37.♟g2 ♞xb3 38.♞xa7 ♞d1 39.♞a8 ♞f3+ 40.♟g1 g6 41.♞e8 ♟g7 42.♞e5+ ♟h7 43.h4 ♞f5 44.♞e8 ♟d7 and this move finishes things off; the extra knight re-emerges with deadly effect to f3 or g4 via e5. An excellent game typical of Neil's play with the black pieces. 0-1

(4) Michielsen,Joost (2343) – MacQueen,Calum (2240) [B30]

Winter Chess Festival –Premier(1.4), 27.12.2013

This was an interesting match-up. Calum on form might well be a contender for the IM norm score whilst Joost was a bit of an unknown quantity, though obviously a strong player. 1.e4 c5 2.♟f3 ♟c6 3.♟c3 e5 4.♟c4 ♟e7 5.d3 d6 6.0-0 ♟f6 7.♟g5 This aggressive move, designed to allow for the f4-break, has lost favour over the last few years. However, it is not easy for black to meet. 7...0-0 8.f4 ♟g4 9.♞e1 exf4 10.♟xf4 ♟d4 11.♞d2

[11.♞h4!? is an aggressive alternative, but not necessarily better than Joost's move in the game. 11...h6 (white's idea is seen in the following variation; not forced, but typical of the Grand Prix Attack-type of position which we have reached here. 11...♟xc2 12.♞ac1 ♟d4 13.♟xd6 ♞xd6 14.♞xf6 and h7 is critically weakened)] 11...h6 12.♟f3 ♟xf3+ 13.gxf3 ♟e6 14.♞g2 ♟h7



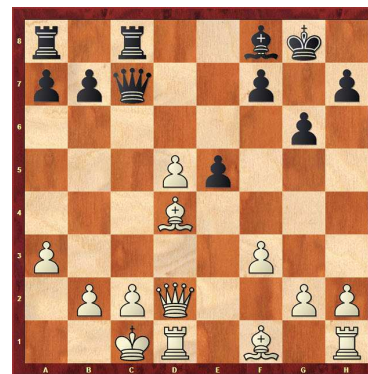
15.♟xe6N The first new move, but I don't think white should be in any hurry to exchange on e6 here. Should black eventually exchange on c4, then white has d6 as an easy target. [RR 15.♞ae1 ♞d7 16.♟xe6 fxe6 17.♟h1 ♞e8 18.♞g1 ♞f7 19.♟c1 a6 20.f4 ♟h5 21.♞ef1 b5 22.f5 b4 23.♟e2 e5 24.♞f3 ♟f6 25.♞h3 ♟f4 26.♟xf4 exf4 27.♟xf4 ♟e5 28.♟xh6 ♟g8 (28...gxf6 29.♞xh6+ ♟xh6 30.♞h3+ ♞h5 31.♞g6+ ♟h7 32.♞xh5#) 29.♟c1 ♞xa2 Guseinov,G (2571)-Pinheiro Lung,A/Dos Hermanas 2004/EXT 2005/1-0 (41); 15.♟h1 ♞d7 16.♞g1 ♞g8] 15...fxe6 16.♟d2 ♞d7 17.♟h1 ♞g8 [17...♞f7 might be a more flexible set-up for black here, as allowing the white queen access to g6 is hardly terminal – though obviously it is at least optically frightening. 18.♞g1 ♞af8 19.♞g6+ ♟h8 20.f4 b5 and black will have good counterplay.] 18.f4 g6 19.♞ae1 ♞ae8 20.♞f3 d5 21.f5 gxf5 22.exf5 exf5 23.♞xf5+ ♞xf5 24.♞xf5 ♟d8 [24...d4 25.♟b5 would present black with the same problems as in the game – his pawns are weaker and easier to attack.] 25.♟xd5 ♞xe1+ 26.♟xe1 ♟g6 27.♟xf6 ♟xf6 28.♞xc5 ♟xb2 29.♞b5 ♟d4 30.♞xb7 ♞e8 31.♟g3 ♞e2 32.♞c7 ♟f5 33.♞c4 ♟b6 34.a4 h5 35.h3! Joost snuffs out the last vestiges of black's activity – now when his rook goes wandering, the black king won't be allowed entry on the k-side. 35...♞d2 36.a5 ♟d8 37.♞c5+ ♟g6 38.♟g1 ♞d1+ 39.♟g2 ♞a1 40.♟f2 h4 41.♞c6+ ♟f5 42.a6 and black had seen enough. A very well-controlled game from Joost, which was to be a feature of his play throughout the tournament. 1-0

(5) Swan,Iain (2263) – McNab,Colin (2457) [B07]

Winter Chess Festival—Premier(1.5), 27.12.2014

1.e4 g6 2.d4 d6 3.♟c3 ♟g7 4.♟e3 ♟f6 5.♞d2 0-0 Avid readers of Chess Scotland magazine will notice that this opening was also part of my own preparation for playing Colin, so I was (unpleasantly) surprised to see him play 5...0-0 instead of his old favourite 5...c6 6.f3 This is Iain's usual response to the Pirc/Modern, often leading to an aggressive k-side display from white. 6...e5 7.d5!? I was

a little surprised by this move, although it's by no means bad. [7.♖ge2 exd4 8.♗xd4 d5 would have transposed directly into a line of the Philidor (Larsen's Variation) which is thought to be quite good for black.] 7...c6 8.0-0 cxd5 9.♗xd5 ♗xd5 10.♖xd5 ♕e6 Black sacrifices a pawn (at least) in order to launch a quick assault down the open files towards white's king. This may or may not be 'theoretically' viable, but in practice it is the kind of position that is hard to defend and in which Colin can display his excellent eye for the initiative. 11.♖xd6 [11.♖xb7 This may be a better way to take the material on offer as white's queen and rook are less passively placed. The tactics likely to appear, however, are quite difficult and scary to predict in advance. 11...♗d7 12.♖xd6] 11...♖a5 12.a3 ♖c8 13.♖d2 ♖c7 14.♗e2N [RR 14.♗d3 ♗c6 15.♗e2 b5 16.♗xb5 ♖b7 17.♗xc6 ♖xc6 18.♗c3 ♖b8 19.b4 ♗f8 20.♗d5 a5 21.♖d3 axb4 22.axb4 ♗xb4 23.♗h6 ♗xd5 24.♖xd5 ♗a3+ 0-1 Nevednichy,V (2537)-Delchev,A (2557)/Nice 2002/CBM 089 ext] 14...♗f8 15.♗c3 ♗c6 16.♗d5?! Iain either misses, or mis-assesses the resulting combination. [Both the counter-attacking 16.h4 and; the safety-first move 16.♗b1 are better options] 16...♗xd5 17.exd5 ♗d4 18.♗xd4? but only this move is completely wrong [again 18.♗b1 is a decent move, and after 18...♖xc2+ (18...♗xc2? 19.♖c1) 19.♖xc2 ♗xc2 20.♗g5 white can probably claim a slight advantage]



18...♗h6! 19.♗c3 ♗xd2+ 20.♖xd2 ♖d6 21.♗b4 ♖f6 22.d6 a5 23.♗c3 [23.d7!? might be a slight improvement as it leads to similar positions as the game, but without white's q-side pawns being disrupted. 23...axb4 24.dxc8 ♖+ ♖xc8] 23...♖xc3 24.bxc3 ♖d8 Black is now clearly winning and although Iain fights hard to the end, Colin's technique is up to the task. 25.♗b5 ♖xd6 26.♖xd6 ♖xd6 27.a4 ♖a3+ 28.♗d2 ♖e7 29.♗e2 ♖c5 30.♖e1 ♖xc3 31.♗f1 ♗g7 32.♖e2 f5 33.h3 ♖d4 white's pieces are as well-placed defensively as they can get, but black's pawn advances on the k-side will force white to make moves he would rather not make. 34.g3 ♗f6 35.♗g2 h5 36.♖f2 h4 37.♖e2 hxg3 38.♗xg3 ♖g1+ 39.♗h4 ♖g5# A very well-played game from Colin against a difficult opponent.

0-1



Photo by: David Oswald

All's fair in love and war. Vlad's Trompovsky met with strong resistance from girlfriend Fiona

Round 2



Photo: Fiona Steil-Antoni

'Chess is not a spectator sport'... said no-one ever at the Winter Festival!

Kilpatrick, Callum	1-0	Bremner, Adam
MacQueen, Calum	1-0	Burnett, Andy
McNab, Colin A	0-1	Michielsen, Joost
Steil-Antoni, Fiona	1/2-1/2	Swan, Iain
Berry, Neil	0-1	Hamitevici, Vladimir

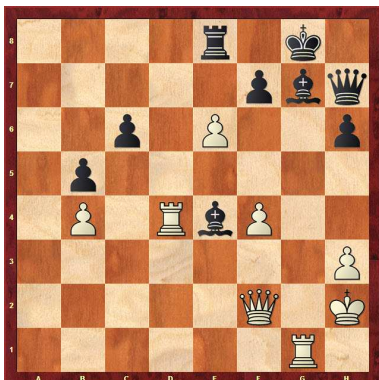
Today saw the first of the clashes between the top seeds. Colin played his usual English Opening and Joost responded aggressively in the early middle-game. A tactical exchange saw Colin lose the thread towards the time-control and Joost showed excellent technique to wrap up the full point. Elsewhere, Adam, Neil and myself all fell prey to tactical problems while Fiona and Iain had a short-ish, though interesting, draw.

Although still early in the tournament, it was obvious that Callum Kilpatrick and Joost (unknown quantities within Scottish circles) were in excellent form, while the rest of us were happily hacking away at each other!

(6) McNab,Colin (2457) – Michielsen,Joost (2343) [A26]

Winter Chess Festival – Premier(2.1), 28.12.2013

This was the first of the 'big boys' encounters and would give us all an idea of Joost's ability and Colin's form. Both had good victories in the 1st round. **1.c4 e5 2.♘c3 ♗f6 3.♗f3 ♗c6 4.a3** One of Colin's favourite little moves in the English 4 Knights variation **4...g6** A sensible reaction as white's previous move more or less dissuaded the bishop from heading to its usual squares of c5 or b4. **5.g3 ♗g7 6.♗g2 0-0 7.0-0 d6 8.d3 h6** My only quibble with white's opening here is that this position is often reached with a R on b1 instead of the pawn move a3. Both have the intention of pushing b4, but Rb1 seems more logical to me as it removes the rook from the long diagonal and makes it slightly more active in the process, plus if white wants to later play a4 he hasn't lost a tempo. Of course, the position with Rb1 instead can't be forced (and anyway Black is still fine there also), but this gives us the idea that perhaps white can't expect to have any advantage in this line?! Naturally this is not hugely important in the given game; as white Colin simply likes to reach 'his' kind of position and looks to outplay opponent's from there, but against strong opposition this isn't always (or ever) easy! **9.♗d2 ♗e6 10.b4 e4!?** Immediately trying to take advantage of the long diagonal and force some favourable pawn exchanges in the centre. **11.♗xe4N** [11.dxe4 ♗xc4 12.b5 ♗a5 (12...♗e5)] **11...♗xe4 12.dxe4 ♗xc4 13.♖c1 b5 14.♗e3 ♗e5 15.♗d2!?** [15.a4 is also a sensible idea, seeking to undermine the c4-bishop and giving black the problem of how to react.] **15...♗e6 16.h3 a5 17.f4 ♗c4 18.♗xc4 ♗xc4 19.e5 ax-b4!?** This bold move changes the nature of the game. [19...d5 was a decent – and more solid – alternative. 20.♗c5 ♖e8] **20.♗xa8 ♗xa8 21.axb4 dxe5 22.fxe5 ♖d8 23.♗e1 ♗e4 24.♗f2 ♗d5 25.♗h2 c6** This position shows the logic behind black's exchange sacrifice a few moves ago. He has a lock on the white squares, e5 is weak and the white king isn't too happy about matters. On the other hand, white has plenty of resources available to fight – all his pieces have scope and if he can kick black's queen away then his king won't be so vulnerable. **26.♖cd1 ♖e8 27.♗f4 g5!** Black keeps up the pressure – if he lets white comfortably re-organise he could be in trouble. **28.♖d4 ♗g6 29.e4?!** Interesting but possibly suspect. I imagine Colin wanted to randomise things somewhat at this point as retreating the bishop allows black easy play again. **29...gxf4 30.gxf4 ♗xe4 31.♖g1 ♗h7 32.e6!**



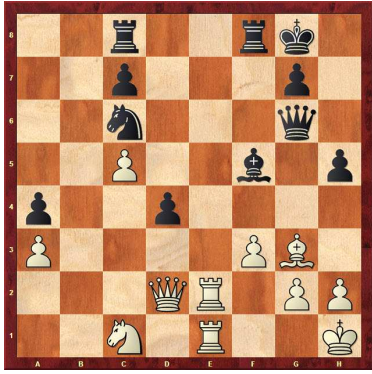
This was the real point behind Colin's e4 thrust – black's k-side comes under heavy pressure and his pieces are a little loose. **32...fxe6 33.♖d7** [33.♖xg7+! looks like it should be good enough to hold the draw easily. After **33...♗xg7 (33...♗xg7 34.♖d7+)** **34.♖xe4** the black pawns and king are probably too weak to entertain winning chances in any of the endings (Q&R, Q&P or R&P)] **33...♗g6 34.♗g2 ♗f7!** Black has found the best defensive manoeuvre and now white is struggling to show any compensation for the material investment. **35.f5 exf5 36.♗xc6 ♗h8 37.♗h1 ♗g8 38.♗xb5 ♖e5 39.♗xe5?? ♗xe5??** A double-blunder in time trouble. **39...Qa8+** would have ended the game immediately **40.♖xg8+ ♗xg8 41.b5 ♗e6** If white's king had some decent pawn cover this ending wouldn't be so trivial as the rook could harass the bishops and gain time, but in this situation the bishops always seem to have a time-saving check available. **42.♖d1 ♗f7 43.b6 ♗c8 44.♗g1 ♗e6 45.♗f2 ♗b7 46.♖d8 ♗e7 47.♖d3 ♗d6 48.♖b3 ♗e6 49.♖b5 ♗e5 50.♖b4 f4** and with white's b-pawn securely contained, the black f-pawn supported by the prelates wins the day. **51.♖a4 ♗d5 52.♖a5+ ♗d6 53.♗e2 ♗e4 54.♖a4 ♗d5 55.♖a5 ♗d4 56.♖a4 f3+** an excellent game by Joost whose 2 games so far have shown solid positional chess of a high quality, good technique and an ability to calculate accurately when required.

0-1

(7) Berry,Neil (2242) – Hamitevici,Vladmir (2508) [E27]

Winter Chess Festival -Premier (2.2), 28.12.2013

1.d4 ♗f6 2.c4 e6 3.♗c3 ♗b4 4.f3 The Samisch Variation of the Nimzo-Indian defence, currently popular but known to fall in and out of favour every few years. **4...0-0 5.a3 ♗xc3+ 6.bxc3 ♗e8!?** At first sight a curious retreat, but a move which often appears in this line as it allows black to a) retain a flexible pawn structure in the centre and b) gives his queen access to h4 which can be very annoying in some positions. More common however, are [6...d5 and; 6...c5] **7.e4** [RR 7.a4! is an interesting way to pre-empt the black plan of ...b6, ...Ba6 and ...Nc6-a5 (ganging up on the weak c4-pawn) 7...d6 8.e4 b6 9.a5 ♗a6 10.♗d3 ♗c6 11.axb6 axb6 12.♗h3 ♗a5 13.0-0 c5 14.d5 e5 15.f4 ♗e7 16.♗g5 exf4 17.♗xf4 ♗f6 18.♗e2 h6 19.♗f3 ♖fe8 20.♖ae1 ♗d7 21.e5 dxe5 and white's attacking chances are very good, which is what he is looking for to counter-balance his dubious pawn structure in this variation. Mamedyarov,S (2742)-Alekseev,E (2708)/Moscow RUS 2008/The Week in Chess 721/1-0] **7...f5N 8.♗d3 ♗c6 9.♗h3 ♗h4+ 10.♗f2 fxe4 11.♗xe4 ♗f6 12.0-0 ♗xe4 13.♗xe4 d6 14.♗e3 b6 15.♗f2 ♗h5 16.♖e1 ♗d7** [16...♗a6 The central situation has changed and the standard idea is no longer so effective: e6 is weakened and white also has the option of c5. 17.♗a4 ♗a5 18.c5] **17.c5 d5 18.♗d2 e5 19.♗b3 exd4 20.cxd4 a5 21.♗g3 ♖ac8 22.♖a2 ♗g6 23.♖ae2 h5 24.♗h1 ♗f5 25.♗d2 a4 26.♗c1** Both sides have their pluses and minuses in this position, but how to improve things? Vlad decides on a direct approach **26...bxc5!?** **27.dxc5 d4** will this pawn become strong or merely a bystander if white's pieces become active?

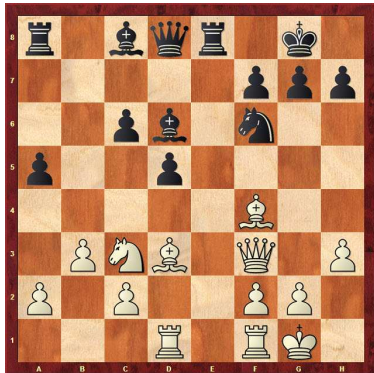


28. $\text{d}3??$ We won't find out because, unfortunately, Neil has overlooked something. This move simply blunders a piece. 28... $\text{xd}3$ 29. $\text{e}6$ $\text{f}6$ 30. $\text{xf}6$ $\text{gxf}6$ 31. $\text{e}6$ $\text{b}8!$ 32. $\text{xc}6$ $\text{b}1+$ 33. $\text{e}1$ $\text{e}8$ Tactical point number 1 behind ... $\text{Rb}8$ 34. $\text{a}2+$ $\text{h}7$ 35. $\text{e}6$ $\text{xe}1+$! and point number 2 – the back rank weakness proves fatal 36. $\text{xe}1$ $\text{xe}1\#$ 0-1

(8) Kilpatrick, Callum (2350) – Bremner, Adam (2189) [C47]

Winter Chess Festival -Premier (2.3), 28.12.2013

1. $\text{e}4$ $\text{e}5$ 2. $\text{f}3$ $\text{c}6$ 3. $\text{c}3$ $\text{f}6$ 4. $\text{d}4$ $\text{exd}4$ 5. $\text{xd}4$ $\text{b}4$ 6. $\text{xc}6$ $\text{bxc}6$ 7. $\text{d}3$ 0-0 8. 0-0 $\text{d}5$ 9. $\text{exd}5$ $\text{cxd}5$ 10. $\text{h}3$ $\text{c}6$ 11. $\text{f}3$ $\text{e}8\text{N}$ 12. $\text{f}4$ $\text{d}6$ 13. $\text{e}a1$ $\text{a}5$ 14. $\text{b}3$



I don't profess to know a lot about this opening from a theoretical perspective, but from a strategic point of view white will be looking to prove his q-side pawn structure is much better and in general would really like an endgame with just his knight against black's c8-bishop! Adam shows that he understands what black needs to do – exchange both sets of bishops and try to activate his rooks before white gets a bind on the q-side. However, he also needs to exchange queens if possible; if black wants to attack the q-side pawn structure, he needs to make sure white can't drum up a strong initiative elsewhere, so queens being off the board would aid this strategy. 14... $\text{a}6$ 15. $\text{a}4$ $\text{xd}3$ 16. $\text{cxd}3$ $\text{xf}4$ 17. $\text{xf}4$ $\text{e}2$ 18. $\text{c}1$ $\text{xa}2$ 19. $\text{xc}6$ $\text{h}6?$ This innocuous little safety move will cost black dearly! [19... $\text{b}8$ would fit in better with the strategies outlined above.] 20. $\text{b}6$ $\text{b}8$ 21. $\text{fc}1$ $\text{e}8$ 22. $\text{xd}5$ [22. $\text{c}8!$ would be even stronger] 22... $\text{xb}3?$ and after this the back rank is too weak and white finishes things off quickly. [22... $\text{e}2$ 23. $\text{h}1$ $\text{a}2$ 24. $\text{c}8$] 23. $\text{e}4$ $\text{b}8$ 24. $\text{c}8$ $\text{xc}8$ 25. $\text{xc}8$ $\text{a}1+$ 26. $\text{h}2$ $\text{d}6+$ 27. $\text{g}3$ a surprisingly quick finish given the opening

variation but it serves to show that even simple positions contain poisonous tactical possibilities. 1-0

(9) Steil-Antoni, Fiona (2190) – Swan, Iain (2263) [B40]

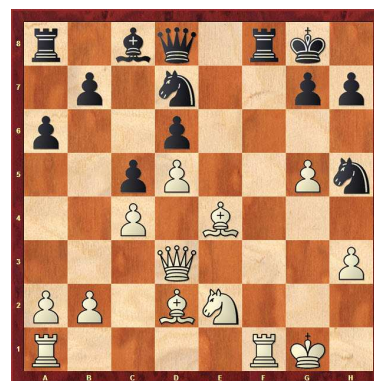
Winter Chess Festival -Premier(2.4), 28.12.2013

1. $\text{e}4$ $\text{c}5$ 2. $\text{f}3$ $\text{e}6$ 3. $\text{g}3$ $\text{d}5$ 4. $\text{exd}5$ $\text{exd}5$ 5. $\text{d}4$ $\text{c}6$ 6. $\text{g}2$ $\text{f}6$ 7. 0-0 $\text{e}6\text{N}$ 8. $\text{c}3$ [8. $\text{e}1$ $\text{e}7$ 9. $\text{d}5$ is too optimistic 9... $\text{g}4!$ and none of white's options here are terribly inspiring (9... $\text{xd}4$ 10. $\text{c}3$ $\text{h}6$ is also possible)] 8... $\text{h}6$ 9. $\text{e}1$ $\text{e}7$ 10. $\text{dxc}5$ $\text{xc}5$ 11. $\text{b}4$ $\text{b}6$ 12. $\text{b}5$ $\text{e}7$ 13. $\text{d}4$ $\text{xd}4$ 14. $\text{xd}4$ [14. $\text{cxd}4!$? This change in the pawn structure might give white a very small advantage, but black should be fine as e4 and c4 are both available for him to use. In the game continuation white would prefer a knight on d4 and his q-side pawns back where they started. 14... 0-0 15. $\text{a}4$ $\text{e}8$ 16. $\text{a}3$ (16. $\text{d}2$ $\text{c}8$ 17. $\text{f}3$ $\text{d}4$) 16... $\text{c}8$ 17. $\text{d}2$ $\text{f}5$ 18. $\text{d}3$ $\text{b}6$] 14... 0-0 15. $\text{a}4$ $\text{e}8$ 16. $\text{d}2$ $\text{f}5$ 17. $\text{d}3$ $\text{c}8$ 18. $\text{b}2$ $\text{d}6$ 19. $\text{d}4$ $\text{b}6$ 20. $\text{f}1$ $\text{c}7$ 21. $\text{e}a1$ $\text{g}4$ I would probably play on here as black, at least until white had shown that she could find good squares for her pieces. 1/2-1/2

(10) MacQueen, Calum (2240) – Burnett, Andrew (2209) [A56]

Winter Chess Festival -Premier (2.5), 28.12.2013

1. $\text{d}4$ $\text{f}6$ 2. $\text{c}4$ $\text{c}5$ 3. $\text{d}5$ $\text{e}5$ 4. $\text{c}3$ $\text{d}6$ 5. $\text{e}4$ $\text{a}6$ 6. $\text{g}3$ $\text{bd}7$ 7. $\text{g}2$ $\text{e}7$ 8. $\text{ge}2$ 0-0 9. 0-0 $\text{h}5$ 10. $\text{h}3$ $\text{g}5$ a prepared improvement over a previous game I had with Calum 11. $\text{f}4$ $\text{exf}4$ 12. $\text{gxf}4$ $\text{h}4$ 13. $\text{d}3$ $\text{f}5$ 14. $\text{d}2$ $\text{fxe}4!$? It's possible I should have delayed this capture by a move or 2. At the time I couldn't think of useful waiting moves, but both 14... $\text{h}8$ and; 14... $\text{b}8$ have their merits 15. $\text{xe}4$ $\text{df}6$ 16. $\text{d}5$ $\text{xg}5?$! I had analysed this position at home without the respective knights on h5 and e2. It turns out that the knight on h5 is a tactical liability in many variations, so this capture shouldn't work out well for black. 17. $\text{fxg}5$ $\text{d}7$ Positionally speaking, black is doing fine here, but unfortunately there are too many tactical possibilities available to white which don't allow black to set up his ideal piece configuration (strong-pointing a knight on e5 being the most important of these) 18. $\text{e}4$



$\text{g}6?$ I agonised for a long, long time over this move! I wanted to play [18... $\text{d}5$ 19. $\text{hx}7+$ $\text{h}8$ 20. $\text{e}4$ $\text{hx}3$ but couldn't get to the bottom of the calculations after 21. $\text{h}4?$ $\text{xf}1+$ 22. $\text{xf}1$ $\text{xf}1$ 23. $\text{hx}5$ I felt I was in real

danger of being mated here and I couldn't see clearly enough what would happen after 23...♙xe2 24.♖h1 but it appears that the same idea works (24.♖xe2? ♗xh7 25.♖h5+ ♗g8 26.g6 ♖h4!! not strictly necessary, but pretty 27.♖xh4 ♗f3+; 24.♖h3 ♗f3+ 25.♗f2 ♗xg5 wins for black) 24...♗f3+ 25.♗f2 ♗xg5 26.♙g6+ ♗g8 27.♙xg5 ♖xg5 28.♖h7+ ♗f8 29.♖h8+ ♗e7 30.♖xa8 (and not 30.♖xg7+ ♗d8 31.♗xe2 ♖e7+) 30...♖xg6 and black is clearly better here. Of course I'm not going to kick myself very hard for not being able to calculate all this, but the move I actually chose – trying to have my king on g7 instead of h8 in these lines, fails quite simply to an intermediate exchange on f8.] 19.♙xg6 ♗e5 [19...hxg6 This was the other option, and a much stronger one, although the post mortem had convinced us that white's attack is

very strong. 20.♖xg6+ ♗g7 21.♖xd6 ♖e8 22.♗g3! this move kept appearing, and black kept losing!] 20.♙xh7+ ♗g7 21.♖xf8! I had been calculating so many different possibilities that I forgot about this simple zwischenzug. Now 1 or other of my pieces is dragged to an awkward square. 21...♗xf8 22.♖e3 ♖e7 23.g6 ♗xc4 24.♖f3+ ♗g7 25.♙c3+ [25.♖xh5? ♗xd2] 25...♗h6 simply hoping that white will do something very stupid! He doesn't however. 26.♗g3 ♙g4 27.hxg4 ♖f8 28.g5+! ♖xg5 29.♖xh5+?! [29.♖xf8+ actually mates in 2, but of course the game is over regardless. A well-played game by Calum, but a very disappointing one for me given the preparation I had put in to these types of positions at home. 29...♗g7 30.♙xg7#]

1-0



Photo by: Fiona Steil-Antoni

Your scribe, Andrew 'the perfect face for radio' Burnett, wondering why he didn't open 1.b3?

Round 3

Photo by: Fiona Steil-Antoni



Chess Scotland President, Hamish Glen, making the ceremonial first move for Joost Michielsen

Bremner, Adam	$1/2-1/2$	MacQueen, Calum
Berry, Neil	$1/2-1/2$	Kilpatrick, Callum
Burnett, Andrew	$1/2-1/2$	McNab, Colin A
Michielsen, Joost	1-0	Steil-Antoni, Fiona
Hamitevici, Vladimir	$1/2-1/2$	Swan, Iain

The 3rd round saw our Dutch guest draw clear of the pack, though not without a great deal of trouble! A sharp opening and middle-game seemed to offer Fiona some counter-play for the exchange, but Joost managed to nullify the pressure and bring home the point at the time-control.

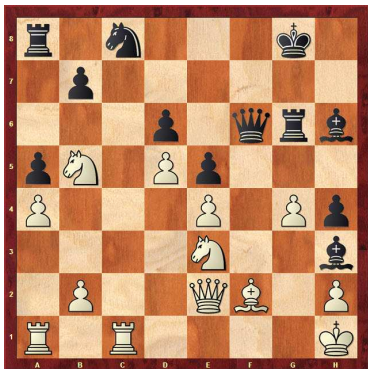
I finally got on the scoreboard with a hard-fought draw against Colin and it seemed that peace was generally the order of the day. Vlad and Iain split the point in a short-but-sharp game, Neil played well to secure the half-point against our English visitor while Adam and Calum hit each other until the referee called a halt!

Off-the board things were starting to spice up in Edinburgh as New Year got closer. What effect would the celebrations have on the players?

(11) Bremner,Adam (2189) – MacQueen,Calum (2240) [E60]

Winter Chess Festival -Premier (3.1), 29.12.2013

1.d4 ♖f6 2.c4 g6 3.f3 ♘g7 4.e4 d6 5.♙e3 0-0 6.♗e2 a6 7.a4N ♗c6 8.♞d2 a5 9.♗a3 [This could be delayed in favour of 9.♗ec3 but after 9...e5 10.d5 black has the thematic 10...♗d4! when white must avoid horrors such as 11.♙xd4 exd4 12.♞xd4?? ♗xe4 13.♞xe4 ♞e8] 9...♙d7 10.♗c2 e5 11.d5 ♗e7 12.c5 ♗h5 13.♗c3 f5 14.♙e2 ♗f4 15.0-0 [White can choose to retain his light-squared bishop in this line. He would much rather see it exchanged for black's bishop, as one of the main ideas behind black's aggressive play in the King's Indian is to use his own bishop to break through on the k-side later. 15.♙c4 ; 15.♙b5] 15...♗xe2+ 16.♞xe2 f4 17.♙f2 g5 18.cxd6 cxd6 19.♗b5 ♞f6 20.♗ca3 ♞g6 21.♗c4 ♗c8 22.g4!? A fairly typical, if unusual-looking response to black's attack. In this specific position, however, I'm not sure it's the best idea. [22.♞e1! combines play on both wings and now 22...g4 23.♙h4 gives white access to either c7 or the a5-pawn. Black will still have counterplay though, and in practice this is generally very serious counterplay.] 22...fxg3 23.♙xg3 ♙h3 24.♞fc1 h5 25.♗e3 g4 typically direct play from Calum, although there was something to be said for [25...♗b6 or; 25...♗a7 on the previous move, trying to resolve his q-side problems first. Normally, though, black just gets on with it as in the game.] 26.fxg4 h4 27.♙f2 ♙h6 28.♗h1 ♞f6



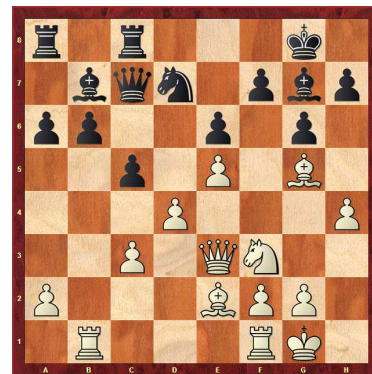
29.♗f5!? An interesting choice! White didn't need to sacrifice the exchange here, but the knight on f5 ought to be worth at least a rook in any event. 29...♙xc1 30.♞xc1 ♞g5 31.♞g1 ♗h7 32.♙xh4 [32.♗xh4! is correct as the same idea as in the game doesn't work 32...♙xg4? 33.♗xg6 ♙xe2 34.♞xg5] 32...♙xg4 33.♙xg5 ♙xe2 34.♞g3 ♙xb5 35.axb5 a4 36.h4 ♗b6 37.♗e7 [I can't understand why white didn't keep pushing here? 37.h5! ♞g8 38.♗xd6 and it's difficult to see how black defends now that d5 is a passed pawn.] 37...♞g7 38.♞c3 ♞f8 39.♗f5 ♞d7 40.♗g2 ♗xd5! The tables have turned somewhat – now black is close to winning! 41.exd5 ♙xf5 42.♞c4 e4 [42...♞d7 looks better. Giving up the e-pawn isn't necessary, at least not yet. Activating the rooks first is more important.] 43.♞xa4 ♞xd5 44.♞xe4 ♞xb5 45.b4 ♞e5 46.♞d4 d5 47.♗f3 ♗g6 48.♙f4 ♞e1 49.♗g4 ♞g1+ 50.♙g3 ♗f6 51.♗f3 ♗e6 52.♞g4 d4 53.♞e4+ ♗d5 54.♞xd4+ This might just be enough to save white 54...♗xd4 55.♙f2+ ♗c4 56.♙xg1 ♗xb4 [56...♞f7+! This intermediate check would force white's king to a less active square, or else see it cut off along the e-file, and force

white to play very accurately to hold the draw 57.♗e4 ♞h7 (57...♗xb4 58.♙e3 ♗c3 59.h5 ♞e7+ 60.♗f3 b5 61.h6 b4 62.♙g5 ♞f7+ 63.♗g4 b3 64.♙f4 (or 64.♙c1 ♗c2 65.♙a3 ♞a7) 64...♗c2 65.♙e5) 58.♙f2 ♗xb4 59.♙g3 (59.♗f5?? ♞f7+) 59...♗c4 60.♗f5 b5 61.♗g6 ♞h8 62.♗g7 ♞d8 63.h5 ♞d5! this rook manouevre is the best attempt to squeeze out a mistake, but it seems black can still hold if he is careful about where he puts his bishop 64.♗g6 b4 65.♙f4 (65.h6 b3 66.h7 b2 67.h8♞ b1♞+ and black wins because it's check and he gets first pop at the king!) 65...b3 66.♙c1 ♞d1 67.♙b2 ♞d2 68.♙a1 ♞a2 69.♙h8 ♞a6+ 70.♗g5 ♗d5 71.h6=] 57.♙e3 ♗c4 58.♗g4 ♗d5 59.♗f5 ♞f7+ 60.♗g6 ♞f3 61.♙g5 ♗e6 62.h5 b5 63.h6 ♞h3 64.h7 ♞xh7 [64...b4?? hoping for 65.♙f6 A very exciting and hard-fought draw! (65.♙h6!) 65...♞xh7 would be a horrendous blunder after] ½-½

(12) Berry,Neil (2242) – Kilpatrick,Callum (2350) [D85]

Winter Chess Festival (3.2), 29.12.2013

1.d4 ♖f6 2.c4 g6 3.♗c3 d5 4.♗f3 ♘g7 5.cxd5 ♗xd5 6.e4 ♗xc3 7.bxc3 c5 8.♞b1 0-0 9.♙e2 b6 10.0-0 ♙b7 11.♞d3 ♞c7 12.♙g5 e6 13.♞e3 ♗d7 14.e5 This opening variation has been tested at a very high level. White will basically look to mate black, or gain big concessions from black as he tries to prevent it, but to do so he white hold the centre together long enough to get his pieces into place on the dark squares. Black, in typical Grunfeld fashion, intends to blow open the centre and hopefully avoid a king-side disaster in the process. 14...a6N [RR 14...♞ae8 15.♙b5 ♙c6 16.♙xc6 ♞xc6 17.h4 f6 18.exf6 ♗xf6 19.♗e5 ♞c7 20.♞be1 ♗d5 21.♞g3 ♞f5 22.h5 gxh5 23.♙h6 ♗h8 24.c4 ♙xh6 25.cxd5 ♙f4 26.♞h3 ♙xe5 27.dxe5 ♞xe5 28.d6 ♞g7 29.d7 Halkias,S (2494)-Eljanov,P (2558)/Ohrid 2001/CBM 084/[Hecht]/1-0 (47)] 15.h4 ♞fc8



16.♞fc1 [In light of the game continuation, where black seems to defend with natural moves, I have been trying to make the alternative rook move work – as black won't have the useful ...Be4-f5 manouevre with tempo – but black seems to have plenty of resources available here too. 16.♞bc1 b5 17.♗h2 ♞a5! This move seems to create enough counterplay to dissuade white from attacking. It was also a decent option in the game. 18.♗g4 (18.♞d2 ♙d5 19.♙f3 ♗b6 20.h5 (20.♙xd5 ♗xd5 21.♗g4)) 18...♞xa2 19.♗f6+ ♗xf6 20.♙xf6 cxd4 21.cxd4 a5 22.h5 a4 23.♙xg7 ♗xg7 24.♞g5?? ♞xe2 25.♞f6+ ♗f8 and black should win] 16...b5 17.♗h2 ♗b6 [as mentioned

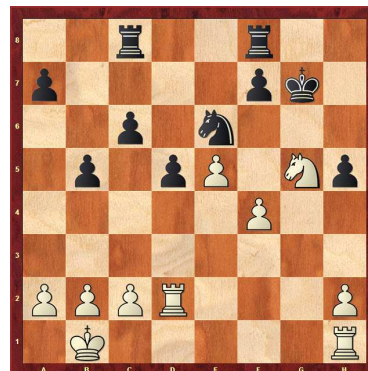
17...♖a5 is a reasonable alternative here] 18.♖g4 ♖d5 19.♗d2 h5! This is fine, but probably not even necessary. 20.♖f6+ ♖xf6 21.♗xf6 [21.exf6 black can cover all the dark squares after this move also, viz. 21...♗f8 22.♗h6 (22.♗f4 ♗d6 23.♗xd6 ♗xd6 24.♗h6 ♗f8) 22...♗d6 23.♗g7 ♗f4] 21...♗e4 22.♗a1 ♖h7 [22...♗xf6 23.exf6 ♗d8 24.♗f4 ♗f5 25.♗e5 ♗a7 intending ...Rac7 or d7 is also playable] 23.♗f4 ♗f5 24.♗xg7 ♖xg7 25.♗f3 ♗ab8 26.♗e1 [26.c4! This move still gives white the chance to play for an advantage.] 26...b4 27.♗e3 cxd4 28.cxd4 a5 29.d5 exd5 30.♗xd5 ♗c5 31.♗b3 ♗xe3 32.♗xe3 ♗c3 33.♗ae1 ♗b6 34.♗3e2 ♗e6 [34...♗a6!? may have been a better winning attempt. 35.♗a4 ♗e6] 35.♗xe6 ♗xe6 36.f4 ♗ec6 37.♖f2 ♗6c4 38.g3 ♗a3 39.♗d1! white has to activate his rooks to attempt to hold this position. 39...♗c7 [39...♗cc3 40.♗d7 ♗xg3 41.e6 ♗af3+ 42.♖e1 ♗g1+ (42...♗xf4?? 43.e7) 43.♖d2 ♗a3! is a very tricky try suggested by the engine. I couldn't see the initial point of it myself until I forced it to show me, after... 44.e7 ♗xa2+ 45.♖e3 (45.♖d3 ♗g3+ 46.♗e3 ♗a3+ 47.♖d4 ♗gxe3) 45...♗g3+ 46.♖f2 ♗g2+!! 47.♖xg2 ♗xe2+ 48.♖f3 ♗e1 and wins!] 40.♗d4 ♗ac3 41.♗d5 ♗a3 42.♗b5 ♗cc3 43.♗b7 ♖f8 [43...♗xg3! again black can try this variation 44.e6 ♗af3+ 45.♖e1 ♗g1+ 46.♖d2 ♗a3 47.♗xf7+ ♖g8 48.♗c7 ♗xa2+ 49.♗c2 ♗xc2+ 50.♖xc2 ♖f8 51.♗e5 (51.f5?! probably not advisable or necessary 51...gxf5 52.♗e5 a4) 51...a4 52.♗a5 b3+ (52...a3) 53.♖b2 ♗g2+ 54.♖b1 ♖e7 55.♗xa4 ♖xe6 56.♗b4 ♗h2 57.♗xb3 ♗xh4 and black wins. However, these lines are not so clear or easy to calculate.] 44.♗b8+ ♖e7 45.♗b7+ ♖e6 46.♗b6+ ♖d7 47.♗b7+ ♗c7 48.♗b6 ♗c6 49.♗b7+ ♖e6 50.♗b5 ♖d7 51.♗b7+ ♗c7 52.♗b6 ♗ac3 53.♗f6 ♖e7 54.♗a6 ♗3c5 55.g4?! White doesn't have to play this if he is content with the draw. [55.♗d2] 55...hxg4 56.♖g3 ♗7c6 [56...♗c1 keeps the game going but it's unlikely to change the result 57.♖xg4 ♗g1+ 58.♖h3 ♗f1 59.♗xa5 ♗xf4] 57.♗a7+ ♗c7 58.♗a6 ♗c1 59.♖xg4 ♗g1+ 60.♖f3 ♗f1+ 61.♖e4 ♗c4+ 62.♖d5 ♗fxf4 63.♗a7+ ♖f8 64.e6 fxe6+ 65.♗xe6 ♗fd4+ 66.♖e5 ♗xh4 67.♗f6+ ♖e8 68.♗xg6 ♗he4+ 69.♖d5 ♗ed4+ 70.♖e5 ♗e4+ Another extremely hard fought game and indicative of the approach the players took in this tournament. Calum showed again, as he did against me in the 1st round, that k-side attacks can be countered by a cool head and active counter-play in the centre and on the q-side. 1/2-1/2

(13) Burnett, Andrew (2209) – McNab, Colin (2457) [B07]

Winter Chess Festival -Premier (3.3), 29.12.2013

1.d4 d6 2.e4 g6 3.♖c3 ♗g7 4.♗e3 ♖f6 5.♗d2 0-0 So, as in his round 1 game with Iain Swan, Colin prefers castling to 5...c6. I hadn't really found time to look at this line which is apparent from the position I reach around move 12! 6.0-0-0 c6 7.♗h6 ♗a5 8.♗xg7 ♖xg7 9.f3 ♖bd7 10.g4 b5 11.♖b1 ♖b6 I wasn't overly happy with this position – the more I looked at it, the more attacking options I saw for black and the fewer I could find for myself, so I decided to bail out with a queen swap. 12.♖ce2 ♗xd2 13.♗xd2 e5! [I was more concerned about 13...♖c4 and the white rook is awkwardly placed.] 14.♖g3 exd4 15.♗xd4 d5 16.g5 ♖h5 17.e5! [17.exd5 was tempting, with the idea of 17...♖xd5 18.♗xb5 but I had already used up a fair amount of time and decided

that the game continuation was less likely to ask me awkward tactical questions.] 17...♖d7 18.♖xh5+ gxh5 19.f4 ♖c5 20.♗h3 h6 21.♗xc8 ♗axc8 22.♖h3 hxg5 23.♖xg5 ♖e6 24.♗d2 [24.♖xe6+?! seemed to offer me a much worse version of the endgame we actually reached.]

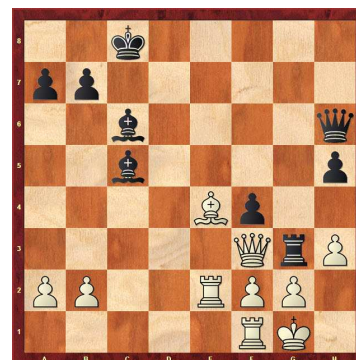


24...♖xg5 [24...♖xf4!? this move looked a bit too dangerous to both of us, but as usual the engines say it is fine! 25.♗g1 ♖g6 when 26.♗f2 or (26.♗dg2 both look awkward for black)] 25.♗g1 f6 26.exf6+ ♖xf6 27.♗xg5 ♗g8 28.h4 ♗ce8 29.c3 ♗xg5 30.fxg5+ ♖g7 31.a4!? and the game petered out to a draw [31.♗d4 ♗e2; 31.♖c2 a5] 31...bxa4 32.♗d4 a3 33.bxa3 ♖g6 34.c4 ♗e3 35.cxd5 cxd5 36.♖b2 ♗h3 37.a4 ♖f7 38.♗xd5 1/2-1/2

(14) Michielsen, Joost (2343) – Steil-Antoni, Fiona (2190) [C65]

Winter Chess Festival -Premier (3.4), 29.12.2013

1.e4 e5 2.♖f3 ♖c6 3.♗b5 ♗c5 4.0-0 ♖f6 5.♖xe5 ♖xe4 6.♗e2 ♖xe5 7.d4 ♗e7 8.♗xe4 ♖c6 9.♗g4 This variation seems to lead to some very messy positions and the present game is no exception. 9...♖xd4 10.♗xg7 ♗f8N 11.♖c3 c6 12.♗d3 f5 13.♗g3 d5 14.♗h6 Black really needs a couple of free moves to make this position viable so invests an exchange to get some play. 14...♗e6! 15.♗xf8 ♗xf8 16.♗ae1 0-0-0 17.♖e2 ♖xe2+ 18.♗xe2 ♗d7 19.c4! white has to create some targets for his rooks to latch onto. 19...f4 20.♗f3 h5 21.h3 ♗h6 22.cxd5 ♗g8 23.dxc6 ♗xc6 24.♗e4 with the white squares covered Black must try to prove something on the dark squares 24...♗g3!?



25.♗xc6! but Joost finds a strong riposte. ♗xf3 So black wins the white queen, but it will be the rooks who rule the roost in the resulting position 26.♗xf3 ♗b6 27.♗d1 ♗g6 28.♗ed2 The doubled rooks are very powerful and can attack h5 and b7 in conjunction with the unopposed bishop-

op 28...♖e8 29.♟d5 h4 30.♟d7 and now black resigned as 30...♖xd7 31.♟g4 is terminal, and otherwise b7 falls with the black king following soon thereafter 1-0

(15) Hamitevici,Vladmir (2508) – Swan,Iain (2263) [E04]

Winter Chess Festival -Premier (3.5), 29.12.2013

1.d4 e6 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.g3 d5 4.c4 dxc4 5.♙g2 a6 6.0-0 b5 7.♗e5 ♗d5 8.a4 ♙b7 9.b3 c3 10.axb5 axb5 11.♟xa8 ♙xa8 12.e4 b4! This move certainly looks the part but isn't entirely necessary. 12...♗f6 was a normal approach and if 13.♗xc3 b4] 13.exd5 ♙xd5 14.♙e3 ♙xg2 15.♗xg2 ♟d5+ 16.♟f3 f6

I am quite surprised that this position has been reached a few times before. It's quite clear that white will have to return the piece on c3 at some point and it's difficult to see what appeal the resulting position has for him as his dark-squared bishop will be the worst piece on the board. Not that he will be in any particular danger of losing, but still, it isn't very pretty.



17.♟xd5N [RR 17.♗c4 ♗c6 18.♟c1 ♗d7 19.♗xc3 bxc3 20.♟xc3 ♙b4 21.♟c2 ♟a8 22.♟c1 ♟a2 23.g4 ♗e7 24.♙f4 ♟xf3+ 25.♗xf3 ♗d5 26.♙e3 g5 27.h4 h6 28.hxg5 hxg5 29.♗e4 ♙d6 30.♗xd6 ♗xd6 31.♗d3 ♟b2 Ksieski,Z (2380)-Novikov,I (2460)/Poznan 1985/MCD/0-1 (89)] 17...exd5 18.♗d3 ♗d7 19.♟c1 and a draw was agreed 1/2-1/2



Photo by: Fiona Steil-Antoni

GM Colin McNab, who became Scotland's second GM in 1992, tries to remember his opening theory

Round 4



A view of the playing hall in Edinburgh's historic chess club

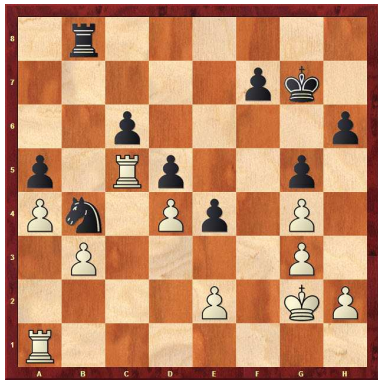
McNab, Colin	1-0	Bremner, Adam
MacQueen, Calum	0-1	Berry, Neil
Steil-Antoni, Fiona	1/2-1/2	Burnett, Andrew
Green, Andrew	0-1	Michielsen, Joost
Kilpatrick, Callum	1-0	Hamitevici, Vladimir

Another battle of the big guns today as Callum Kilpatrick played an excellent game to down top seed Vlad Hametivici. Vlad has only shown glimpses so far of his true strength and will be hoping for a better second half of the event. I survived, barely, in a tough game against Fiona while Colin and Neil both won cleanly. Neil's win in particular deserves a look. Unfortunately Iain Swan had to withdraw owing to illness (sadly, he would be joined in successive days by his west-coast counterparts in the Challenger's event) and it was Andrew Green who stepped up to the plate to face Joost. Andrew very nearly upset the form book too, but the flying Dutchman (yes, I know, apologies!) turned the game around and secured the full point.

(16) McNab, Colin (2457) – Bremner, Adam (2189) [A14]

Winter Chess Festival -Premier (4.1), 30.12.2013

1.c4 ♘f6 2.g3 e6 3.♘f3 d5 4.b3 ♙e7 5.♙g2 0-0 6.0-0 a5!? An interesting idea which I first saw in an old Gel-fand game I believe. Black forestalls some of white's q-side expansion plans. 7.♙a3 ♙xa3 8.♘xa3 ♖e7 9.♖c1 c6 10.♗b2 ♘a6 11.d3N Colin enjoys playing within this pawn structure. 11...♙e8 12.♙fc1 e5 13.cxd5 cxd5 14.♘b5 ♙d7 15.a4 ♙c6 16.d4 e4 17.♘e5 ♘b4 18.♖c3 Black has a perfectly decent position, but his next move is one of those 'casual howlers' which haunt us all from time to time. 18...♘d7?? 19.♘xc6 bxc6 20.♘c7 ♙ab8 21.♘xe8 ♖xe8 22.♙h3! g6 [22...♘f8 doesn't really help because the white bishop already has a new life, whether it gets exchanged or not.] 23.♙xd7 ♖xd7 24.♗e3 ♖c7 25.♙c5 ♘g7 26.♘g2 h6 27.g4 g5 28.♗g3 ♖xg3+ 29.fxg3!



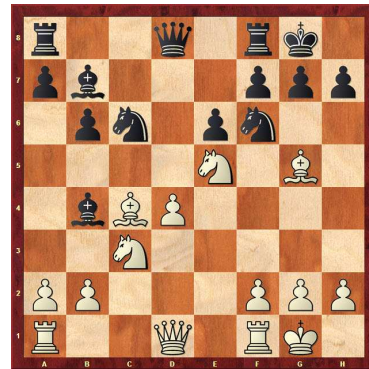
I like this recapture. White has rooks and rooks require files to play along. It also prevents any black action in the forthcoming R&P ending which doubtless Colin had foreseen. 29...♙a8 30.♙f1 f6 31.♘f2 ♘g6 32.♘e3 ♙a7 33.♘d2 ♙a8 34.h3 ♙a7 35.♘c3 ♙a8 36.♙xa5! The simplest way to break down black's blockade. 36...♘a2+ 37.♘b2 ♙xa5 38.♘xa2 c5 39.♘a3! Getting his own pawns moving while minimising the amount, or speed, of the opponent's counterplay is essential to good technique in R&P endings. 39...cxd4 40.b4 ♙a8 41.b5 ♙c8 42.b6 ♙c3+ 43.♘b4 ♙c2 44.♙b1 d3 45.exd3 e3 46.b7 e2 47.♘b3 [and not falling for 47.b8♗ e1♗+ 48.♙xe1 ♙b2+ although white should still win this. A big blunder from Adam, but good technique from Colin thereafter.] 1-0

(17) MacQueen, Calum (2240) – Berry, Neil (2242) [E54]

Winter Chess Festival -Premier (4.2), 30.12.2013

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♙b4 4.♘f3 ♘f6 5.e3 0-0 6.♙d3 c5 7.0-0 cxd4 8.exd4 dxc4 9.♙xc4 b6 10.♙g5 ♙b7 This is a position very-well known to theory. When I saw Calum play his next move I thought it was a bit unusual, and indeed it is only a minor side-line in this variation. I remember thinking at the time that Karpov must have played this position dozens of times as black and he wouldn't have done so if Ne5 followed by Qa4 were correct. Checking it now on ChessBase I see the line we are in (...cxd4, ...dxc4,...b6,...Bb7) is known as 'Karpov's Game!' Calum's approach may be just about ok (white

does generally have a little more leeway than black in most openings) but it is a bit too crude to refute such a well-documented line. 11.♘e5!? ♘c6



12.♗a4?! White attempts to immediately win material are rather dangerous, e.g. 12.♙xf6 ♖xf6 13.♘d7 ♖h4 14.♘xf8 ♙xf8 15.♘e2 ♙d8 16.♗a4 ♙d6 17.f4 ♘xd4 18.♘d4 ♙c5 19.♙ad1 ♖g4 20.g3 h5 and black had an extremely dangerous attack in Vidal – Cheparinov, Linares 2005] 12...♙xc3 [12...♙xd4] 13.bxc3 ♘xe5N 14.dxe5 ♖d7 These are the little tactical nuances which stronger players use all the time and which average players struggle to see far enough in advance to utilise them. 15.♗b3?! [15.♗xd7 is better but after 15...♘xd7 16.♙fe1 ♙fc8 black should be at least fine here as white's bishop pair have yet to find useful roles, whereas his c3 and e5 pawns are a bit sensitive.] 15...♗c6 16.f3 ♖c5+ 17.♘h1 ♖xe5 so black wins a pawn and still has most of the positional pluses. 18.♙h4 ♙ac8 19.♙ad1 ♘d5 [19...♘e4!? was also possible and shows the latent energy in black's position] 20.♙xd5?! Calum, perhaps dismayed at how quickly things have turned sour, fails to put up the strongest resistance. 20...♙xd5 21.♗a3 ♙xc3 22.♗xa7 ♖e2 I remember Neil spending quite a lot of time around here, but it was time well-spent as he plays very accurately to the end. 23.♗xb6?! which comes quickly after this move. 23...♙xf3! 24.♙fe1? and now it's just mate. [24.gxf3 would be little better 24...♙xf3+ 25.♙xf3 ♖xf3+ 26.♘g1 ♖xd1+] 24...♙f1+ 25.♙xf1 ♖xg2# A disappointing loss for Calum but another excellently played game by Neil who was probably wishing he was black in every game! 0-1

(18) Steil Antoni, Fiona (2190) – Burnett, Andrew (2209) [C41]

Winter Chess Festival -Premier(4.3), 30.12.2013

Notes by Fiona Steil-Antoni

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 e5 4.Nf3 Nbd7 I hadn't expected Andy to play the Philidor, but as I occasionally play this opening myself as Black I was lucky to be a little bit familiar with some plans. 5.Bc4 Be7 6.0-0 0-0 7.Re1 c6 8.a4 Qc7 [8...a5 is the most common move and also the one I play as Black myself, which is why after 8...♗c7 I had to pause and come up with a development plan.; 8...b6 is another option and probably the right move order if you want to play with b6. 9.d5 cxd5 10.Nxd5 There are still plenty of games in this position in the database.] 9.Ba2 b6 10.h3 a6 11.Bg5 Bb7 12.Nh4! I wasn't completely sure about this move during the game, but the computer considers it White's only option to get an ad-

vantage. **12...Rfe8** [I was expecting Andy to play $\Delta 12...g6$ and strangely enough the computer now recommends $13.Nf3$ ($13.f4!$? was the move I was intending to play.) $13...Rfe8$ $14.dxe5$ $dxe5$ $15.Qe2\pm$ With a slightly better position for White.] **13.dxe5 dxe5 14.Nf5** I was very happy with my position at this point. When going through our game later on Andy and I wondered where he had gone wrong, but I guess it might just be the slightly imprecise move order with $8...c7$ that led him to this unpleasant position. **14...Nc5 15.Qf3 Ne6**



16.Bxe6 [$\Delta 16.Nh6+$ was even stronger: $16...gxh6$ ($16...Kf8$ $17.Bxe6$ $fxe6$ $18.a5+-$) $17.Bxf6$ $Nf4$ $18.Bxe7$ $Qxe7$ $19.Ne2\pm$] **16...fxe6 17.Nxe7+ Rxe7 18.Bxf6 Rf8 19.Bxe5** [$\leq 19.Bxe7$ Andy told me afterwards that he had totally forgotten about this move, but when looking at this line during the game I thought that after $19...Rxf3$ $20.gxf3$ $Qxe7$ $21.Ne2$ $a5\infty$ Black would get enough counterplay as he will activate the bishop over $a6$.] **19...Qxe5 20.Qe3** I won a pawn, but converting my advantage into a full point turned out to be much trickier than I thought... **20...c5 21.Rad1 Bc6 22.Rd2** [$\Delta 22.Qd3$ is stronger as I am forcing the exchange of the queens: $22...Qf4$ $23.Qd6$ $Qxd6$ ($23...Qxf2+??$ $24.Kh1+-$) $24.Rxd6$ $Rc8$ $25.f3\pm$] **22...b5 23.axb5 axb5 24.f3 Ref7 25.Ne2 b4 26.Red1 Bb5 27.b3 Bxe2 28.Qxe2 Qg3 29.Rd8 g5?** So far everything had more or less gone according to plan, but being rather short on time I started losing the thread now: **30.Rxf8+?!** I was happy to exchange a pair of rooks to prevent any kind of sacrifice on $f3$, but this move turned out to be my first mistake. [$\Delta 30.Qa6$ with the same idea of exchanging the queens was stronger again. $30...Qe5$ $31.Qd6$ $Qxd6$ $32.R8xd6+-$ This endgame has to be winning for me.] **30...Rxf8 31.Qc4 Qe5 32.Qd3 Ra8 33.Qd7 h5?** [$\Delta 33...Ra1$ was better in order to force the rooks exchange. $34.Rxa1$ $Qxa1+$ $35.Kf2$ $Qe5\pm$ Although I am still a pawn up I guess that just as in the game Black should manage to hold a draw here.] **34.Qe7?!** Another inaccuracy as Black could have replied with $Ra1$ once again. [$\Delta 34.Kf2!$ was winning as Black doesn't have $Ra1$ any longer and I will just be able to improve my position. $34...Rf8$ ($34...g4$ was the move I was worried about but after $35.hxg4$ $hxg4$ $36.Qe7$ $g3+$ $37.Ke2$ I am simply winning.) $35.Qe7$ I am threatening to play $Rd7$ and after $35...Rf7$ $36.Qe8+$ $Kg7$ $37.Rd8$ $Qc3$ $38.Qh8+$ $Kg6$ $39.Rg8+$ $Rg7$ $40.Qxg7+$ $Qxg7$ $41.Rxg7+$ the endgame with a pawn up is of course winning.] **34...h4? 35.Rd8+?** The decisive mistake. I kind of realised that the queen endgame would only be a draw, but I only had seconds left and couldn't really come up with any other move... [$\Delta 35.Kf2!$ was still winning! $35...c4$ ($35...Qg3+$ $36.Kf1$ $Qe5$ $37.Rd7+-$) $36.Ke2+-$] **35...Rxd8 36.Qxd8+ Kf7**

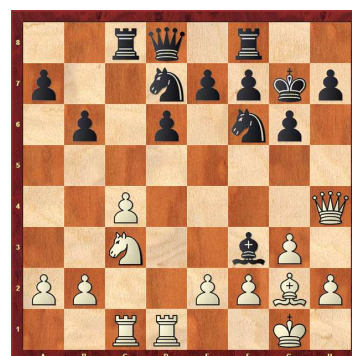
There is of course no way to win this endgame as my king is far too exposed. **37.Kf1 Qa1+ 38.Ke2 Qe5 39.Qd7+ Kg6 40.Qe8+ Kg7 41.Qe7+ Kg6 42.Qe8+ Kg7 43.Qh5 Qg3 44.Qg4 Qe5 45.Kf1** [I so upset with myself for spoiling my advantage that I even considered $45.g3$ as I wanted to find a way to play on at all costs. However after $45...hxg3$ $46.h4$ $Qc3$ ($46...Kf6$ is bad because of $47.Qh5\pm$) $47.Qxg5+$ $Kf7=$ the position is still only a draw.] **45...Qa1+ 46.Ke2 Qc1 47.Qxe6 Qxc2+ 48.Ke3 Qc3+ 49.Ke2** An interesting and well-fought game where I spoil my advantage when panicking in zeitnot, but Andy deserves all the credit for defending very tenaciously once he found himself in a rather difficult position.

1/2-1/2

(19) Green, Andrew (2148) – Michielsen, Joost (2343) [A30]

Winter Chess Festival -Premier(4.4), 30.12.2013

With Iain Swan unfortunately having to withdraw due to illness, Andrew Green was the first of the Challenger's players to step up and fill the gap. **1.d2f3 c5 2.c4 d2f6 3.g3 b6 4.g2 g2 b7 5.0-0 g6 6.d3 g7 7.d4 cxd4 8.cxd4 0-0 9.h4 d6 10.g6 h6 11.f3 d7 12.f4 d1 c8 12.g7 xg7 13.ac1 xf3N** I saw this move being played and instantly thought it just couldn't be good. $13...h6$ is less committal]



14.exf3! If the $Bg2$ were to be blocked in or side-lined then black's play would have some justification, however with $f4$ available white should be clearly better [$14.gxf3$ $d5$ is fairly equal as $c4$ is attacked as well as $f3$] **14...c5 15.d4 d4 b8 16.f4 g8 17.d2 fc8 18.f1 a6 19.e1 e8 20.b4 cc8 21.h3 c7 22.g4** white's plan is to gradually take away the squares from black's knights and then use his space advantage to build up an attack. Black will have to do something soon to avoid being pushed off the board. **22...d8 23.g5 h5 24.g2 e5!** and here it is, a well-timed counterthrust. **25.cxd6 dxf4 26.cxd7** [$26.h4$ looks to be necessary, restricting black's activity to the knight.] **26...xg5+ 27.g4 dxh3+ 28.f1 cxd2 29.xh3 g7 30.d1 g5?** white's main problem was his pieces being a bit loose, so black ought to have kept his queen active on $b2$ or $c2$ to restrict his opponent. **31.d5** [$31.d4!$ heading to $d6$ would win comfortably $31...c4$ $32.d6$] **31...c6 32.f3 h5 33.a4 e4 34.h3 d6 35.b1** [$35.b5$ fixing the weakness on $b6$ looks better, but time-trouble had reared its ugly head.] **35...b5** [$35...ed8!$ first would have avoided the fork we see in

the game] **36.axb5 axb5 37.♖c7 ♖e5 38.♗xb5 ♖d2 39.c5** [39.♗e3 would prevent black's next] **39...e3! 40.f3 ♗d8?** [40...♗e2! wins cleanly because after 41.♗e2 ♖d5 threatens ...Rd2 and the only sensible-looking defence 42.♖d1 allows 42...♗xd1 43.♗xd1 ♗g1+ 44.♗c2 e2 and the pawn queens] **41.♗d6 ♗a8 42.♗d7 ♗a2** [42...♗d5! again with the idea of taking on e2 looks to be very strong] **43.♖e1 ♗xe2?** but now it doesn't really work! **44.♗e8+?** or at least it shouldn't [44.♗xe2 ♗b1+ 45.♖e1 and the counter threats on f7 restrict black's activity 45...♗d3+ (45...♗a2 46.♗xf7+ ♗xf7 47.♗xf7 ♗xf7 48.♗e2 and my money would be on white to win—the 2 connected passed pawns being stronger than black's.) 46.♗g1 ♖g5+ 47.♗h1 ♗d5 48.♗e8+! now this would be a good move!] **44...♗h6 45.♗xe2 ♗b1+ 46.♖e1 ♗c2** and here is the difference; f7 is no longer attacked and black has time to combine against the white king. **47.♖e2 ♗c1+ 48.♖e1 e2+ 49.♗f2 ♗e3+ 50.♗g2 ♖g5+** An exciting game which Andrew should consider himself a bit unlucky to lose. **0-1**

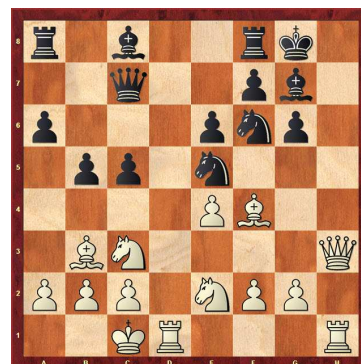
(20) Kilpatrick, Callum (2350) – Hamitevici, Vladmir (2508) [B06]

Winter Chess Festival -Premier (4.5), 30.12.2013

(Notes by Callum Kilpatrick)

1.e4 g6 2.d4 ♗g7 3.♗c3 c6 4.♗c4 d6 [Unsurprisingly, Hamitevici chose not to repeat his game against Williams in the European Club Cup 4...b5 5.♗b3 e6? 6.e5± where White already had a clear plus, although he ended up losing in: 0-1 Williams,S (2463)–Hamitevici,V (2490)/Rhodes GRE 2013 (56); 4...d5 this blunt option has also been essayed a few times, however 5.exd5 b5 6.♗b3 b4 7.♗f3± is very strong] **5.♗f3 e6 6.♗ge2** this set-up seems at first rather counter-intuitive but I was drawn to the idea of simply developing quickly and getting on with it. Although there is a risk of White's pieces getting in a tangle, Black is yet to get out of the starting blocks **6...♗f6 7.♗g5 ♗bd7 8.♗b3** useful prophylaxis against any potential tricks with ...d5 **8...♗a5 9.h4!?** a slightly artificial way of keeping the bishop on g5, already we were in relatively uncharted territory **9...0-0** [in one of the few games in this line 9...e5 was played by Krasenkow, but after 10.0-0-0 h6 11.♗xf6 ♗xf6 12.dxe5 dxe5 13.♖d6 ♗g4 14.♗d3 ♗xe2 15.♗xe2 ♗c7 16.♖d1 White had achieved an excellent position, although he soon lost his way 16...0-0 here 17.h5! would have caused big problems for the second player (17.g4?! 0-1 Robak,Z (2350)–Krasenkow,M (2605)/Augustow 1996/CBM 57 (34)) 17...♗xh5 18.♗f3! ♗f4 19.♖d7 ♗xe2+ 20.♗b1!+-; 9...b5? 10.e5!±] **10.♗d2** now the bishop drops back, mainly as I couldn't think of anything better to do... [10.0-0-0 b5 didn't really take my fancy, this time 11.e5 doesn't offer the same rewards as on the previous move 11...dxe5 12.♗xc6 ♖b8] **10...c5 11.0-0-0** already there is a lot going on in the position, and it is quite hard to say exactly who it favours – White can quite easily see his light-squared bishop getting ensnared by an eventual ...c4 **11...a6** [11...♗a6 12.h5 looks very promising for White since 12...c4 is just met by 13.Ba4; perhaps Black should change the character of the position with 11...cxd4 but 12.♗xd4 again looks promising for White who can push the h-pawn and eye Black's weak pawn on d6] **12.h5!** just getting on with it! **12...♗c7** this is consistent, but Black's plan of trapping the light-squared bishop seems

far too slow. Indeed the computer thinks White is almost winning here! **13.dxc5** it hadn't occurred to either of us that White could simply capture on g6, instead I opted to exchange these pawns and release the tension in the centre [13.hxg6! would have been simple and strong, after 13...c4 (13...hxg6 14.♗h3 with 15.Bh6 to follow) 14.gxh7+ ♗h8 15.♗h6 ♗e8 16.♗xg7+ ♗xg7 17.♗xc4 ♗xc4 18.♗g3+- is crushing, Black's extra minor piece is fairly irrelevant here!] **13...dxc5** [13...♗xc5 I had expected this recapture, but now White's bishop is safe from any ...c4 tricks 14.♗g5! looks very pleasant for White, who holds all the cards here] **14.♗f4** [14.hxg6! was again strong] **14...♗e5** [14...e5? loses to a neat sequence 15.♗g5 c4 16.h6! ♗h8 17.♖xd7!! ♗xd7 (17...♗xd7 18.♗xf6 cxb3 19.♗xh8 f5 20.♗g7+-) 18.♗d5+-] **15.hxg6 hxg6 16.♗h3** I thought I was close to winning after this move, however, I began to lose my way as I became increasingly frustrated at not being able to find a checkmate! [16.♗g3 was my original intention, which looked very tempting 16...♗h5 17.♖xh5 (17.♗h4!±) 17...gxh5 18.♗h6 f5 19.♗f4! is a neat retreat that did not occur to either of us, again this looks good for White (19.♗f4 ♗h7 in our post-mortem of the game, we decided Black had sufficient counterplay in these positions)] **16...b5**



17.a3 psychologically, an admission of defeat. Surprisingly, the computer still insists White is doing well though **17...c4** [17...b4 18.axb4 cxb4 19.♗a4 and Black's counterplay stalls, whilst White may continue with moves such as Bh6, f3, Kb1, etc.] **18.♗a2 ♖e8** over the board I started to run low on time as I couldn't see a clear win. However, just playing simple chess would have done the trick here **19.♗h2?** this throws away pretty much all of White's advantage [19.♗h6! I'm still not sure why this straightforward idea did not occur to myself nor Hamitevici 19...♗h8 20.♗g5! ♗g7 21.♗h4!+- and Black is just completely lost here] **19...♗h5 20.♗e3 ♗e7 21.f3 b4 22.♗b1?** [22.axb4 ♗xb4 23.♗b1 ♖b8 24.♗c1 although it looked incredibly grim, this would have allowed White to cling on, as 24...♗h6?? 25.♗xe5 simply leaves the knight hanging 25...♗xc1 26.♗xc1 ♗xb2+ 27.♗d2+-] **22...b3?!** this felt rushed [22...♖b8 just keeping the tension with 22...Rb8 looked better, it is hard to see what, if anything, White can do here] **23.cxb3 cxb3** [23...♗d3+ 24.♖xd3 cxd3 25.♗ec3 White seems to have some compensation here, at the very least I was grateful to see I am not getting mated!] **24.♗xb3 ♖b8** Hamitevici went in for this quite quickly, but White is now able to start untangling. White no longer seems to be worse **25.♗d4 ♖xb3** [White's pieces are shown to be surprisingly well co-ordinated in the following line 25...♗g5+ 26.f4 ♗h6 27.♗xe5 ♗xe5

28.♖d2 ♗xf4 29.♗xf4 ♖xf4 30.g4 ♖xh2 31.♖xh2 with a balanced position] 26.♗xe5 ♖c5+ 27.♗c3 by now we were both very short on time 27...♖e3+ 28.♖d2 [Ostensibly it looks risky but 28.♗c2 was stronger, since 28...♖xe2+ 29.♗xb3 e5 30.♗d2! secures the king's position after 30...♗e6+ 31.♗c2±] 28...♗d7? [28...e5 was possible] 29.♖g1 [29.g4! was strong, after the relatively forced sequence 29...♖eb8 30.♗xg7 ♗xg7 31.gxh5 ♖xb2 32.♖e5+ ♗g8 33.♖xb2 ♖xb2 34.♗xb2 ♖xf3 35.♖h2 ♖xe4 36.hxg6 fxg6 37.♖h3! White is on top] 29...♖xg1+ [29...♗h6 30.g4! would likely transpose] 30.♖xg1 ♗h6 31.g4 ♗f4 32.g5 ♗xe2+ 33.♖xe2 the dust has settled somewhat and now White is simply a pawn to the good 33...♗g7 34.♖d2 ♖b7 35.e5?! [35.♗f6! was just strong, I wasn't sure if this was wise so soon before the time control in case I miscalculated. However, the plan of meeting 35...e5 with 36.Nc3 and then doubling the rooks on the h-file is simple and winning by the looks of it] 35...♗c6 36.f4 this pawn structure looked tempting because after the inevitable dark-squared bishop exchange White has an almost risk-free position 36...♖c8 37.♗b4 ♗d5+ [37...♗f8 38.♗xf8 ♗e4+! this accurate move order would have probably saved Black, now 39.♗d1 (39.♗c3??

would result in tragedy 39...♖xc3+!/-+) 39...♗xf8 40.♗e2 ♗xb1 41.♖xb1 ♖b3 and Black has more than enough counterplay to hold] 38.♗c3 now White can consolidate 38...♖c4 39.♖f1 ♗f8 40.♗xf8 ♗xf8 41.♖ff2! [41.♗d1?? Even one move after the time control, it is never too late to be careless! 41...♖xc3!] 41...♗e7 42.♗d1 ♗c6 43.♗e2 ♖b3 44.♗e3 Black is just gradually being pushed back, White will continue with Rd4 and Rfd2 and trying to swap the rooks off. Hamitevici lashes out in desperation, but in reality it makes White's task much easier 44...♖xb2 45.♖xb2 ♖xc3+ 46.♗d4 ♖xa3 47.♖a2 ♖h3 48.♖xa6 ♗d5 49.♖a7+ ♗f8 50.♖c7 ♗g7 51.♖c8 ♖h4+- building a neat mating net, either by doubling the rooks on the back rank or the h-file 52.♗c5 ♖h3 53.♗d6 ♖a3 54.♖h2 ♖a6+ 55.♗c5 ♖a5+ 56.♗b4 ♖a8 57.♖xa8 ♗xa8 58.♗c5 White will simply march his king to e7 and then target Black's weak pawn on f7. Though this game was far from perfect it did have some interesting moments. Notable were the psychological shifts when White's and then Black's attacks both suddenly petered out. This game proved instrumental in helping me secure my final IM norm at a very well-organised and fun event in Edinburgh. 1-0



Photo by: David Oswald

Luxembourg's top female player, WIM Fiona Steil-Antoni, in play against the eventual tournament winner

Round 5



In the battle of the Cal(l)ums, white tries to play 2 moves at the start of the game

Bremner, Adam	1-0	Steil-Antoni, Fiona
Berry, Neil	0-1	McNab, Colin
Kilpatrick, Callum	1-0	MacQueen, Calum
Burnett, Andrew	1/2-1/2	Sreeves, Clement
Hamitevici, Vladimir	0-1	Michielsen, Joost

New Years' Eve (Hogmanay here in Scotland in case you didn't know) and the thoughts were part-chess/part-party! It would have been hard to guess from the play though as all the games went the distance with Adam and Colin squeezing out wins. The battle of the Cal(l)ums saw an English victory while I failed to convert a great-looking position against Clement Sreeves who was standing in for the still-ill Iain.

It was left to Vlad to try to halt the 'Joost Juggernaut', but his opening plan seemed to back-fire early on and resulted in Joost's smoothest win so far. As the player's left for a night of raucous celebration, Chief Arbiter Andy Howie had lost his voice completely! 'Speechless for the first time' was allegedly uttered by an anonymous source.

(21) Bremner,Adam (2189) – Steil-Antoni,Fiona (2190) [E12]

Winter Chess Festival -Premier(5.1), 31.12.2013

1.c4 e6 2.♘f3 b6 3.d4 ♘f6 4.♙f4 This move first came to prominence when English GM Tony Miles used it to defeat Boris Spassky in the 1978 Olympiad in Buenos Aires. It has no theoretical significance nowadays, but that's not particularly important anyway. 4...♙b7 5.e3 c5 [Miles-Spassky continued 5...♙e7 6.h3 0-0 7.♘c3 d5 8.cxd5 exd5 9.♙d3 c5 10.0-0 ♘c6 11.♘e5 a6 12.♙f3 and white had slightly preferable position.] 6.♙e2 ♙e7 7.♘c3 ♘h5 8.♙xb8 ♙xb8 9.d5 ♘f6 10.e4 exd5 11.exd5 0-0 12.0-0 d6 In general this type of position is better for white 13.♙d3 ♙c8 14.h3 ♙d7 15.a4 a5?! This move I don't like at all, apart from which it is unnecessary. [15...a6 is a standard way to react to a4.] 16.♘d2 ♙c8 17.♙f3 ♙e8 18.♙fe1 ♙f8 19.♙f1 ♙xe1+ 20.♙xe1 ♙d8 21.♙f5 ♙xf5 22.♙xf5 ♙d7 23.♙xd7 ♘xd7 24.f4!

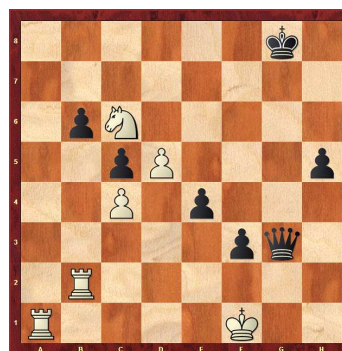


Strong positional play from Adam. He seems to know what the position demands – exchanges to highlight the weaknesses in black's structure, and then limiting the black pieces. Fiona has been too compliant. 24...♘f6 25.♘de4 [25.g4 is also a good move, gaining space.] 25...♘xe4 26.♙xe4 f5?! 27.♙e6 ♙f7 28.♘b5 [28.g4 I think this move ought to be played immediately 28...g6] 28...♙e8 [If 28...♙d8 then 29.g4 g6 30.g5 and white will at some point run black out of moves.] 29.♙xe8? White doesn't seem to have a way to win after this move, so he should have opted for [29.♘xd6+ ♙xd6 30.♙xd6 ♙e4 31.b3 ♙xf4+ 32.♙g1 when b6 falls and with it probably the game.] 29...♙xe8 30.g4 g6 31.♙f2 ♙e7 32.♙g3 ♙g7 33.b3 ffg4?! black should sit tight here when I doubt if white can win. [33...♙d7 and white has to show a winning plan, obvious tries fall short, e.g. 34.♘a7 (34.gxf5 gxf5 35.♙h4 ♙h6; 34.h4 h5 35.gxh5 gxh5 36.♘a3 ♙c3 37.♘c2 ♙e7; 34.♘a3 ♙b2 35.♘c2 ♙e7 36.♘e3 ♙d4 37.♘g2 ♙f6) 34...♙e7 35.♘c6+ ♙d7] 34.hxg4 ♙d7 35.g5 The problem for black now is that white will always be able to force an entry square for his king, and with the q-side pawns the way they are, black will almost certainly be zugzwanged at some point. 35...♙b2 36.♙g4 ♙g7 37.f5 gxf5+ 38.♙xf5 ♙b2 39.♙g4 ♙e5 40.♙h5 ♙g7 41.♘a3 ♙e7 42.♘b1 ♙f7 43.♘d2 ♙e5 44.♙h6 ♙g8 45.♘f3 ♙g3 46.g6 hxg6 47.♙xg6 ♙f8 48.♙f6 ♙e8 49.♙e6 ♙d8 50.♘d2 ♙c7 51.♘b1 b5 52.♘c3 [52.cxb5 also wins, but Adam shows that it's the zugzwang theme which is black's downfall. A very good game overall from Adam, despite the possibly costly mistake at move 28. Not one of Fiona's better efforts, but in general her play has impressed so far.] 1-0

(22) Berry,Neil (2242) – McNab,Colin (2457) [A42]

Winter Chess Festival -Premier (5.2), 31.12.2013

1.d4 d6 2.♘f3 g6 3.c4 ♙g7 4.♘c3 e5 5.e4 ♘c6 6.♙g5 ♙d7 7.♙e3 ♘f6 8.d5 ♘d8N I remember being very surprised by this move when I first saw it played. Where does the knight intend to go from here? b7, as in the game after b6 perhaps, but what do the queen and bishop c8 think about this? 9.♙e2 0-0 10.♘d2 c5 11.♙b1 b6 12.b4 [12.h3 looks like a sensible way to continue and I know Neil has played similar ideas in related King's Indian variations. The equivalent q-side move here, a3, is also sensible. The centre is blocked – a structure I know well from the black side – so matters move to wings. White has more space, and subsequently more scope for manoeuvre. 12...♘e8 13.g4] 12...♘b7 13.0-0 ♘e8 14.bxc5 dxc5 Although white can still claim an edge here, I don't think Neil has caused black as many problems as he might have done. This early exchange on c5 now allows black to use d6 for his other knight, something I would have been loathe to allow unless forced to do so. 15.a4 ♘ed6 16.♘b3 f5 17.f3 h5 18.a5 f4 19.♙f2 g5 20.axb6 axb6 21.♘d2 ♙a6 22.♙a1 ♘a5 23.♙c2 g4 The game has taken on many of the characteristics of a mainline King's Indian Defence, at least on the k-side. White should try to make some progress on the q-side now, which is more open than is usually the case. 24.♘b5! ♙f6 25.♘xd6 ♙xd6 26.♙h1 [26.♙a3 ♙g6 27.♙fa1 looks like a more active alternative. The white king isn't in immediate danger on g1 so isn't forced to move yet.] 26...♙g6 27.♙h4 ♙f7 28.♘b3 ♙f6 29.♙xf6 ♙xf6 30.♙fb1 g3 31.♙f1 [31.h3 ♙h4 32.♙f1 ♘xb3 33.♙xa6 (33.♙xb3 ♙xh3 34.gxh3 g2+ 35.♙xg2 ♙f2 36.♙b2 ♙xb2 37.♙xb2 ♙xa1+ 38.♙h2) 33...♘d4 34.♙a4 ♙xa6 35.♙xa6] 31...♙a7?! [31...♘xb3! This move, which allows the black knight to transfer to d4, would afford black good chances since 32.♙xb3 fails to 32...♙h4 33.h3 ♙xh3 as in the variation given above] 32.♘xa5 ♙h4 33.h3 ♙ag7!? This is Colin's big idea, forcing his way through by means of the typical device ...Bxh3 – it's interesting, but is it sound? 34.♘c6 ♙xh3 35.gxh3 g2+ 36.♙xg2 ♙xg2 37.♙xg2 ♙xg2 38.♙xg2 ♙g3+ 39.♙h1 well, it's certainly good enough for a draw as black could force a repetition here, but is there more? 39...♙xf3+ 40.♙h2 ♙e2+ 41.♙h1 ♙xe4+ 42.♙g1 ♙e3+ 43.♙h2 ♙g3+ 44.♙h1 ♙xh3+ 45.♙g1 f3! despite white's material advantage, it is black who wants to play on; the e- and f-pawns are incredibly dangerous when combined with the queen. 46.♙b2 ♙g3+ 47.♙f1 e4



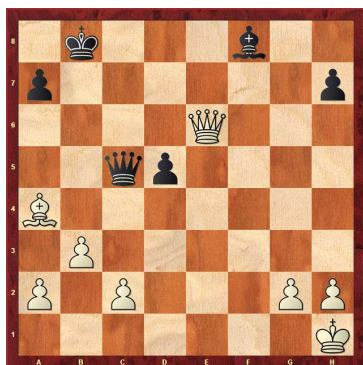
48.♘e7+?? This just loses unfortunately. Uniting and

activating the rooks was the only way to stay in the game as this limits black's actions, e.g. 48.♖a8+! ♕g7 49.♖ba2 ♖f4! avoiding any problems on the g-file and hoping for (49...e3?? 50.♖2a7+ ♕f6 51.♖f8+ ♕g5 52.♖g7+ ♕h4 53.♖xg3 ♕xg3 54.d6) 50.♖2a7+? (but 50.♖e8 looks like a good way of combining the rooks yet again against the black king. The pawns are scary, but white should have enough firepower to force a draw 50...e3 51.♖a7+ ♕h6 52.♕e5 e2+ 53.♕f2 ♖h2+ 54.♕xf3 e1♖ 55.♖e6+ ♕g5 56.♖g7+) 50...♕h6 51.♖h8+ ♕g5 52.♖g8+ ♕h4 when the king hides and black wins] 48...♕f8 49.♖e1 ♖h3+ 50.♕g1 ♖g4+ 51.♕f1 ♕xe7 and white is just lost 52.♖h2 ♖f4 53.♖xh5 e3 54.♖h7+ ♕f6 55.♖b1 ♖xc4+ 56.♕g1 ♖g4+ 57.♕f1 ♖g2+ 58.♕e1 ♖e2# A painful defeat for Neil, but a good example of Colin's abilities. Even from dubious-looking openings he is able to create problems for the opponent, and given half a chance he is generally deadly. 0-1

(23) Kilpatrick, Callum (2350) – MacQueen, Calum (2240) [B30]

Winter Chess Festival -Premier(5.3), 31.12.2013

1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 ♗c6 3.♖b5 e6 4.0-0 ♗ge7 5.b3 d6 [RR 5...♖c7 ; RR 5...♖b6] 6.d4 cxd4 7.♗xd4 e5! Perhaps this is known to the players in this game, but I confess to having never seen this before. [RR 7...a6 8.♗xc6 ♗xc6 9.♖xc6+ bxc6 10.♖b2 d5 11.exd5 cxd5 12.♗d2 ♖b7 13.♖e1 ♖d7 14.♖g4 h5 15.♖g5 ♖h6 16.♗f3 f6 17.♖e3 ♕f7 18.♖ad1 ♖e8 19.c4 ♖d6 20.♗h4 ♖b8 21.♖d2 g5 22.♗f3 Shaw,J (2454)–Hennigan,M (2400)/West Bromwich 2005,1-0 (44)] 8.♗xc6N bxc6 9.♖a4 ♖c7 10.f4! Not for any intrinsic value in the move, but simply to point out that continuing automatically with 10.♖b2 makes little sense after 10...♗g6 when the f4-break is hard to invoke and, without it, the Bb2 is misplaced. Having said a), don't just say b) because it's next in the alphabet! Look at what the position demands also! 10...exf4 11.♖xf4 ♗g6 12.♖d4 ♖d7 [12...♗xf4 looks natural; the bishop is very active on f4 13.♖xf4] 13.♕h1 ♖e7?! I don't really understand or see the need for this move?! [both 13...♖b6 14.♖e3; and 13...♗xf4 14.♖xf4 ♖b6 are preferable] 14.♖xg7 0-0-0 15.♖d4 ♗xf4 16.♖xf4 ♖e6 17.♗c3 d5?! and unfortunately for black this just doesn't work. 18.exd5 ♖xd5 19.♗xd5 cxd5 20.♖xf7 ♖c5 21.♖e5 ♖d6 22.♖e6+ ♕b8 23.♖af1 ♖hf8 24.♖xf8 ♖xf8 25.♖xf8+ ♖xf8



26.♖e8+ [26.♖c6! is an easier way to win as saving the d-pawn loses to 26...d4 27.♖e8+ ♕c7 28.♖d7+ ♕b6 29.♖b7+ ♕a5 30.b4+ ♖xb4 31.♖xa7#] 26...♕c7 27.♖d7+ ♕b6 28.♖d8+ ♕b7 29.♖d7+ ♕b6 30.♖e6+ ♕

c7 31.♖e2 ♖d4 32.♖b5 ♖c5 33.♖f1 ♕b6 34.♖d3 h5 35.g3 h4! It might have been a good idea to just sit on the position and ask white how he intended to make progress? [35...♕a5 36.♕g2 ♕b4 37.♖f3 and only now 37...h4] 36.♕g2 hxg3 37.hxg3 a5 38.a4 ♖e3 39.♖f6+ ♕b7 40.♖f7+ ♕b6 41.♖xd5 ♖d2+ 42.♕h3 ♖h6+ 43.♕g4 ♖g7+ 44.♖g5 ♖d7+ 45.♖f5 ♖d4+ 46.♕h3 ♖e3 47.♖g6+ ♕c7 48.♖e4 ♖f2 49.♖c6+ ♕d8 50.♖d5+ ♕c7 51.♖e5+ ♕d8 52.♖g5+ ♕d7 53.♖f5+ and with the queens coming off it's game over. 53...♖xf5+ 54.♖xf5+ ♕e7 55.g4 ♕f6 56.♕g3 ♕e5 57.♕f3 ♖b6 58.♖e4 ♖d8 59.♕e3 Kd5 1-0

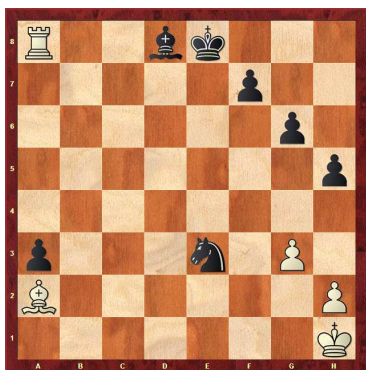
(24) Burnett, Andrew (2209) – Sreeves, Clement (2254) [A34]

Winter Chess Festival -Premier (5.4), 31.12.2013

Next competitor to step up to the plate replacing Iain was Clement: a bit of a surprise to be playing him as I had replaced him in the starting list when he realised he had too much study to catch up on! 1.c4 b6 A surprise! 2.♗c3 ♖b7 3.♗f3 e6 4.e4 c5 5.d4 cxd4 6.♗xd4 a6 Now we have transposed to a Sicilian Defence. My next move isn't particularly good, but the idea was to get Clement thinking at an early stage. 7.♖e2 ♖c7 [7...♗f6 8.g4!? was the idea. White takes on responsibility on both sides of the board but asks black to find an answer over-the-board.] 8.g3 g6!? I wasn't too impressed by this idea. A normal Scheveningen/Hedgehog-type structure should be fine for black, e.g. [8...d6 9.♖g2 ♗d7 10.♖d2 ♖c8 11.b3 ♖e7 12.0-0 ♗gf6] 9.♖g2 ♖g7 10.♖e3 ♗e7 11.0-0 d6 12.♖ad1 0-0 13.f4 ♗bc6 [13...♗d7 may be more accurate. The game move encounters some tricky little problems] 14.♗xc6 ♗xc6?! the other re-captures may look a little awkward, leaving the knight on e7 temporarily without a life, but this 'natural' move has a tactical flaw. 15.♖f2 and now b6 can't be defended, so... 15...♗e7 16.e5! [The initial plan had been 16.♖xb6 ♖xc4 17.♖xd6 but once I had spotted the text move I had a feeling it would be much more difficult to meet.] 16...dxe5 17.♖xb6 ♖c8 [17...♖xc4?? 18.♖xb7; 17...♖b8 is better] 18.♗e4 Clement took an age here and I convinced myself that I was already completely winning. 18...♖xe4 19.♖xe4 ♖b8 20.♖a7 ♖xc4 21.♖xb8 ♖xb8 22.♖a7!? Not a bad move, forcing the rook to go passive, but perhaps the original idea [22.fxe5 was better?! 22...♗f5 23.♖xf5 gxf5 24.b3 ♖c7 and although e5 falls, white should be much better if he is careful.] 22...♖e8 23.♖d3 ♖xa2 24.♖d7 ♕f8 25.fxe5 ♖xe5 26.♖de1 The position I was aiming for with 22.Qa7, but it's still not as clear as I had thought at the time. 26...♖xb2 [26...♖a5!? is also possible, but grabbing the b-pawn looks sensible.] 27.♖xe6



h5! this defence, which I had actually seen, throws the cat amongst the pigeons, particularly with time getting short. It is now white's king who is under threat! **28.♖d5?!** [28.♖xa6!? looked very risky, and as the clock ticked down I thought it would be safer to keep my queen close to hand.] **28...♗d4+ 29.♔h1 ♖xe1 30.♖xe1 ♗e3!?** [30...♗d2! is very difficult for white to meet. The plan is 31.♖a8+ ♔g7 32.♖e4 ♗f2 33.♖a1 ♗xg3 34.hxg3 ♗xg3+ forking king and queen, so white would have to ignore the bishop g3.] **31.♖f3?** going astray [31.♖a8+ ♔g7 32.♖e4! still holds out some hope of an advantage, the main point being that now 32...♗d2 33.♖xd4+ is check. I missed this detail and now black gains the upper hand.] **31...♗d2 32.♖e2 ♖c3 33.♗e4** [33.♗xa6 ♖c6+ 34.♔g1 ♗g4+ is deadly, but now the a-pawn becomes a serious threat.] **33...a5 34.♖b1 a4 35.♗d3 a3 36.♖xc3 ♗xc3 37.♖b8+ ♔e7 38.♖a8 ♗b4** [38...♗b2 looked more natural] **39.♗b1 h5 40.♖a7+ ♔e8?!** last move of the time-control and a serious error. The king should have stayed active. [40...♔f6 41.♗a2 ♗e7!] **41.♗a2 ♗e7 42.♖a8+ ♗d8**



43.♖xa3? Misjudging the ending after [43.♗xf7+! ♔xf7 44.♖xd8 ♗c2 45.♖a8 ♔e6 when I failed to realise that my king could head for the k-side pawns instead of heading for the knight c2. Black would have to give up the a-pawn and try to hold the 2vs 2 on the k-side, but this isn't easy at all. 46.♖a5 ♔d6 47.♔g2 ♔c6 48.♔f3 ♔b6 49.♖a8 ♔b7 50.♖a4 ♔b6 51.♔f4 ♔b5 52.♖a8] **43...♗g4 44.♖a8 ♗e5 45.♔g2 ♔e7 46.h3 ♗b6 47.♖a6 ♗c5 48.♗d5 ♗d4 49.♔f1 ♗c5 50.♔e2 ♗d4 51.♗a2 ♗c5 52.♗d5 ♗d4 53.g4 hxg4 54.hxg4 ♗b2 55.♗f3** what else? I hoped Clement would make a mistake around here, but the draw is actually very easy to hold. **55...♗xf3 56.♔xf3 ♗c3 57.♔e4 ♗b2 58.♔d5 ♗c3 59.♖c6 ♗b2 60.♖c2 ♗a1 61.g5** and now all black has to do is attack g5 and hide his king on g7. **61...♔f8 62.♖f2 ♔g7 63.♔d6 ♔f8 64.♔d7 ♗d4 65.♖f3 ♗b2 66.♖b3 ♗c1 67.♖b5 ♗d2 68.♖d5 ♗c1 69.♖b5** A hard-fought game, and very well-defended by Clement, but a big disappointment for me after the early-middle-game seemed to promise so much! Still winless and due to face the top 2 seeds in the next two rounds! Hmmm.... 1/2-1/2

(25) Hamitevici, Vladimir (2508) – Michiel-sen, Joost (2343) [C00]

Winter Chess Festival -Premier(5.5), 31.12.2013

1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 e6 3.g3 d6 Quite a tame response to white's KIA plans. More usual, if black hasn't played 2...d6 already, is to aim for the ...d5 break on one go. **4.♗g2 ♗f6 5.♖e2 ♗c6 6.0-0 ♗e7 7.c3 0-0 8.d4 d5 9.e5**

♗d7 [RR 9...♗e4 10.♖d1 ♗d7 11.♗e1 cxd4 12.cxd4 ♖b6 13.♗e3 f5 14.f3 ♗g5 15.♗c3 ♗a5 16.♗d3 ♗b5 17.♗xb5 ♖xb5 18.♖ac1 ♖ac8 19.♗f1 ♗f7 20.♗f4 ♖xe2 (RR 20...♖d7 21.♖b5 ♗c6) 21.♗xe2 ♗g5 22.♔f2 ♗xf4 23.♗xf4 ♖xc1 24.♗xc1 Spassky,B (2555)–Cramling,P (2545)/ London 1996, 1-0 (61)] **10.♖d1 ♖b8 11.h4 b5 12.♗bd2 b4 13.♗f1 bxc3 14.bxc3 ♖a5 15.♗d2 ♗b6** [Black has other possibilities here also, e.g. 15...♖b2 and; 15...♗a6 and it looks like his play is both slightly quicker than white's and also more meaningful. The rook on d1 is not great help.] **16.♗g5 ♗xg5 17.♗xg5 ♖xc3 18.♖ac1 ♗xd4! 19.♖g4 ♖b4 20.a3!?** [20.♗e7 is the most forcing move, hitting f8 and c5 simultaneously. But after 20...♗b5 21.♖xb4 cxb4 22.♗xf8 ♔xf8 It's fairly clear that white's position is still bad in terms of quality.] **20...♖a4 21.♗e3**



♗a6 [I'm not sure why Joost refrained from the obvious-looking 21...♗b3!? Perhaps he was afraid of the kamikaze variation 22.♖h5 ♗xc1 23.♖xc1 (23.♗g4 ♖xd1+ 24.♔h2 ♖c2 covers everything) 23...♖xa3 24.♗g4 Even here though white has no real immediate threat as the rook will hang on c1 with check in many lines, therefore black can defend quite easily. The game continuation is safer, though, so I'm being particularly critical here.] **22.♖xc5 ♗e2+ 23.♔h2 ♖xg4 24.♗xg4 ♗c4 25.♗f3 ♗c3 26.♖d4 ♖b3 27.♗e7 h5!** [and not falling for the ghastly trick 27...♖e8?? 28.♗f6+ gxf6 (28...♔h8 29.♗xe8) 29.♖g4+ ♔h8 30.♗xf6#] **28.♗xf8 hxg4 29.♗xg7 ♔xg7 30.♖xg4+ ♔f8 31.♖g5 ♗d2 32.♗h5 ♗ce4** and faced with even more material losses white resigned. Not Vlad's finest moment in Edinburgh, but yet another strong display from Joost who was now on 5/5! **0-1**

Round 6

Photo by: Fiona Steil-Antoni



Steely determination and excellent technical play were the hallmarks of Joost's success

Schwartz, Julius	0-1	Bremner, Adam
Steil-Antoni, Fiona	1/2-1/2	Berry, Neil
McNab, Colin	1/2-1/2	Kilpatrick, Callum
Michielsen, Joost	1-0	Burnett, Andrew
MacQueen, Calum	0-1	Hamitevici, Vladimir

After a day of rest, the players returned to battle. It was my turn to face Joost and hopefully kick-start my own tournament while ending his 100% score. Not to be, however, as an early mistake left me suffering all game and Joost's technique was up to the task.

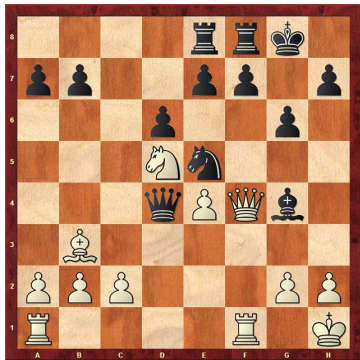
Neil Berry needed a win to have an outside chance of his 2nd IM norm, but he stood badly on both board and clock when he accepted the draw offer.

Vlad played the kind of game we were expecting from him to down Calum MacQueen while Adam won another game, this time at the expense of Julius Schwartz who was playing up from the Challengers event for the day. Colin and Callum evidently hadn't rested enough so took an extra time out after just 12 moves.

(26) Swartz,Julius (2039) – Bremner,Adam (2189) [B35]

Winter Chess Festival -Premier (6.1), 02.01.2014

It's an organiser's nightmare when somebody pulls out of an all-play-all. It had become clear that Iain Swan wasn't going to get better soon enough to rejoin the tournament, but fortunately the Challenger's players were all too happy to step into the arena with the top guys. This time it was Julius Schwartz's turn. **1.e4 c5 2.♟f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♞xd4 g6 5.♞c3 ♗g7 6.♗e3 ♞f6 7.♗c4 ♖a5 8.0-0 9.f3** I was trying to recall at this point if white had fallen into an opening trap here (there are a few in the Accelerated Dragon move orders) but he's probably ok. **9...♞c5 10.♗b3 ♞g4 11.fxg4 ♗xd4** [11...♞xd4? 12.♞d5! would be winning for white as now the pin works in his favour.] **12.♗xd4 ♞xd4+ 13.♞h1?** [13.♞xd4! with the idea of 13...♞xd4 14.♞d5 is the correct way to play for an advantage.] **13...d6N 14.♞f3 ♞e5 15.♞f4 ♗xg4 16.♞d5 ♖ae8** Black has an extra pawn and the better structure, so white will have to drum something up quickly here. Unfortunately his next move doesn't really help this plan.



17.h3 [The engine likes 17.♞g5 when the only obvious way to defend e7 is by 17...♞c6?? but this fails to (17...♗e2 is better but after 18.♞xe7+ ♖xe7 19.♞xe7 ♗xf1 20.♖xf1 white has to be doing fine with active queen, rook and bishop.) **18.♞xg4** [17...♗e2 18.♖f2 ♗c4 [18...♞xb2 looks to be a clear pawn for nothing; the queen still retains her activity.] **19.♗a4 b5 20.♗b3** [20.c3 ♞c5 21.♗c2 ♗xd5 22.exd5 ♞xd5 is still excellent for black.] **20...♗xd5 21.♗xd5 ♞xb2 22.♖af1 e6 23.♗b3 ♞d4 24.♖d2 ♞c5 25.♞h6 ♞c4?!** There is nothing objectively wrong with this move, but I would never play this unless absolutely forced as the knight is perfect on e5. [25...a5 looks good instead.] **26.♗xc4 bxc4 27.♞f4 ♖d8 28.♖fd1 ♞a3 29.h4 h5 30.g4?** Desperation or time-trouble or both! **30...♞h3+ 31.♞g1 ♞xg4+ 32.♞xg4 hxg4 33.♖xd6 ♖xd6 34.♖xd6 ♖b8 35.♖c6 ♖b4 36.♞g2 a5 37.♞g3 c3 38.♖xc3** [38.e5! would be the last real hope, but after 38...♖e4 39.♖c5 ♖e2 40.♖xc3 ♖xe5 41.♞xg4 black should still win comfortably enough.] **38...♖xe4 39.♖c5 ♖a4 40.c4 ♖xa2 41.♞xg4 ♖c2 42.♞g5 ♞g7 43.h5 gxh5** and here white resigned. **0-1**

(27) Steil-Antoni,Fiona (2190) – Berry,Neil (2242) [C00]

Winter Chess Festival -Premier (6.2), 02.01.2014

1.e4 e6 2.♞f3 d5 3.e5 c5 4.b4!? Probably not what Neil

wanted to see. He needed to win to have any chance of his IM norm. This might indicate that a sharp position is just what is required, but it's not how Neil approaches the game of chess. He tends to prefer protracted positional tussling where his feel for the simpler aspects of the position is very good. The text move leads to more random games. **4...cxb4 5.a3 bxa3 6.d4 ♞c6 7.c3 ♗d7 8.♗d3 h6 9.h4 a6 10.h5!?**N [The following game shows how quickly white can combine positional considerations with tactical play. Black finds himself only ever responding. **10.♗xa3 b5 11.♗xf8 ♞xf8 12.h5 ♞a5 13.♞h4 ♞c4 14.♞f3 ♞e7 15.♖h3 ♞f5 16.♞xf5 exf5 17.♞xd5 ♞c8 18.♗xc4 bxc4 19.♞d2 ♗b5 20.♖e3 ♖a7 21.♞d6+ ♞e8 22.♞f1 ♖d7 23.♞b4 ♞c6 24.e6 fxe6** Gajewski,G (2344)–Maslowski,M (2140)/Zakopane 2001,1-0 (31)] **10...♖c8 11.♞h4 ♞ge7 12.♗xa3 ♞f5 13.♞xf5 exf5 14.♗xf8 ♞xf8 15.♞b3 ♞e7 16.0-0**



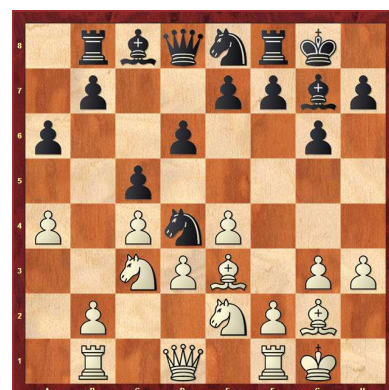
If white wanted to play for more she could have tried **16.♞xb7 ♞xd4 17.♖xa6** (17.cxd4!? isn't actually as bad as it looks **17...♖c1+ 18.♞e2 ♖xh1 19.♖xa6** and now Nc3-d5 gives good play as the black rook is offside and unlikely to re-enter the game anytime soon. After the text move 16. 0-0, Neil decided that shortage of time and an ugly-looking position was a bad combination and so accepted the draw offer.) **1/2-1/2**

(28) McNab,Colin (2457) – Kilpatrick,Callum (2350) [A36]

Winter Chess Festival -Premier (6.3), 02.01.2014

1.c4 ♞f6 2.g3 g6 3.♗g2 ♗g7 4.♞c3 0-0 5.e4 d6 6.♞ge2 c5 7.d3 ♞c6 8.0-0 ♖b8 9.h3 a6 10.a4 ♞e8 11.♗e3 ♞d4 12.♖b1 With Callum on course for his IM norm he has no good reason to decline a draw here. Colin, perhaps, just wasn't in the mood?

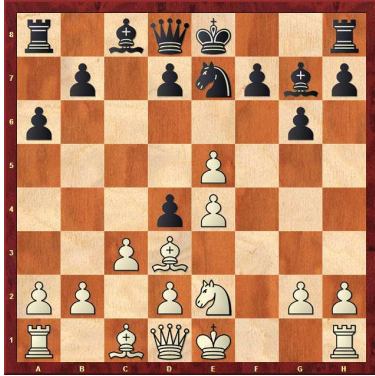
1/2-1/2



(29) Michielsen,Joost (2343) – Burnett,Andrew (2209) [B30]

Winter Chess Festival -Premier (6.4), 02.01.2014

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗c3 g6 4.♙b5 Unexpected! I thought Joost would transpose into a normal open Sicilian with d4. 4...♗d4 5.♗xd4 cxd4 6.♗e2 ♙g7 7.c3 a6 8.♙d3 e5!?N 9.f4 ♗e7 10.fxe5

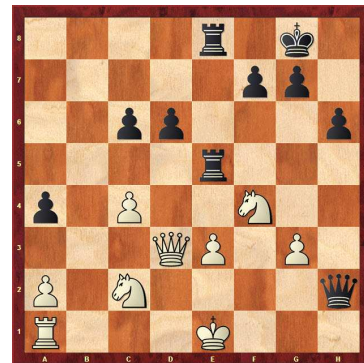


10...dxc3?! Varying from my rather interesting plan – unfortunately I was to do this too often in this tournament. The idea had been 10...♗c6 11.cxd4 0-0 12.0-0 and then either 12...♗xd4 or perhaps 12...d5 At the last second I changed my mind and played the text move, which really isn't very good as it aids white's development.)] 11.bxc3 ♗c6 12.0-0 0-0 13.♙a3 and now black has some serious problems. 13...♙b6+ 14.♔h1 ♗xe5 [I didn't much fancy 14...♙e8 15.♙c4 ♗xe5 16.♙d5 with d4 coming next, but the exchange sacrifice in the game doesn't really offer much hope either.] 15.♙xf8 ♗xf8 16.♙c2 ♗c7 17.♙b3 b5 18.♗f4 ♙b7 19.♙d5 ♙e8 20.d4! g5 Pretty much forced as [20...♗c4 allows 21.♗xg6+ hxg6 22.♙xf7+ ♔g8 23.♙xd7+] 21.♗h5 ♙xd5 22.exd5 ♗g6 23.♙f3 d6 24.a4!? Objectively a good move, but it does force white to also play quite accurately over the next few moves. 24...bxa4 25.♙xa4 g4 26.♙xg4 ♙xc3 27.♙d7 ♙e7 28.♙d8+ ♙e8 29.♙xd6+ ♔g8 30.♗xg7 ♔xg7 31.♙f6+ ♔h6 32.♙aa1! avoiding any back-rank pitfalls. 32...♙e2 33.d6 ♙e6 34.♙f3!? Joost doesn't mind putting in a long shift to collect the point. There were quicker ways to win, but this is safe and now he can show his technique. 34...♙xf3 35.♙xf3 ♔g7 36.♙f5 ♙xd6 37.♙a4 ♗e7 38.♙g5+ ♔f8 39.♙ga5 ♙d7 If I can swap my a-pawn for the white d-pawn, there are some reasonable chances of holding. Unfortunately I can't force this. 40.♙c5 ♙d6 41.♔g1 h6 42.♔f2 ♔g7 43.♔e3 ♗d5+ 44.♔e4 ♗f6+ 45.♔d3 ♗d7 46.♙ca5 ♔f6 47.♙a2 ♗b8 48.♔c4 ♙c6+ 49.♙c5 ♙e6 50.♙f2+ ♔e7 51.♙c7+ ♗d7 52.♙a7 ♙c6+ 53.♔d3 ♙d6 54.♙f5 ♔e6 55.♙a5 ♔f6 56.♔e4 [All white has to beware of is silly tactics such as 56.♙5xa6?? ♗c5+ 57.♔c4 ♙xa6 58.♙xa6+ ♗xa6] 56...♙e6+ 57.♔f4 ♗b8 58.♙f5+ ♔g6 59.♙fx7 ♙d6 60.♙g7+ ♔h5 61.♔e5 and black resigned. Another well-played game by the tournament leader. 1-0

(30) MacQueen,Calum (2240) – Hamitevici,Vladmir (2508) [E11]

Winter Chess Festival -Premier (6.5), 02.01.2014

1.d4 ♗f6 2.c4 e6 3.♗f3 ♙b4+ 4.♙d2 a5 5.g3 d6 6.♙g2 ♗bd7 7.0-0 e5 8.♙g5 exd4 9.♗xd4 h6 10.♙c1 [RR 10.♙f4 0-0 11.a3 ♙c5 12.♗c3 a4 13.♙c1 ♗b6 14.♙d3 ♙e8 15.♗e4 ♗xe4 16.♙xe4 ♙f6 17.♗b5 ♙e7 18.♗c3 ♔h8 19.♙g2 ♙f5 20.e4 ♙g6 21.♙fe1 c6 22.♙e3 ♙xe3 23.♙xe3 d5 24.cxd5 ♗xd5 Beliavsky,A (2648)–Suba,M (2537)/Bazna 2007/CBM 118 ext/½-½ (50)] 10...0-0 11.b3 a4N 12.♙b2 ♗e5 13.♗c2 ♙c5 14.♗c3 ♙d7 15.♗b5 [15.♙xb7 doesn't achieve anything in view of 15...♙b8 when white will not only lose the pawn on b3 but have a weak c-pawn for his efforts.] 15...♙c6 16.b4 ♙b6 17.♗ca3 Perhaps white should consider 17.♙xe5 when, after 17...dxe5 18.♙xc6 bxc6 19.♗c3 ♙d4 20.♗xd4 ♙xd4 he can play 21.♙d3 with a relatively level game. The text move isn't convincing.] 17...♙e8 18.♗c3 ♙xg2 19.♔xg2 ♙d7 20.b5 ♙c5 21.♗d5 [21.♗xa4 ♙xa3 22.♙xa3 ♗xc4 is not to be recommended for white whose q-side disintegrates rapidly.] 21...♗e4 [21...♗xd5 22.cxd5 ♙xa3 23.♙xa3 ♗c4 followed by taking on b5 looks very good for Vlad here. Instead he embarks on an ambitious and aggressive plan.] 22.♙xe5 ♙xe5 23.♗c2 ♗xf2!? 24.♙xf2 ♙xf2 25.♔xf2 ♙h3 Black's reasoning is that the white king is now vulnerable and his pieces are quite far from defence. 26.♙d3 [26.♔g1 doesn't help because of 26...♙h5] 26...♙xh2+ 27.♔e1 ♙ae8 28.e3 c6 29.bxc6 bxc6 This kind of position is horrible to defend 30.♗f4 [30.♗c3 was the other option when the same idea as in the game isn't so good, e.g. 30...♙xe3+ (but perhaps 30...♙xg3+ 31.♔d2 h5 would be difficult to meet, with the plan of simply pushing the h-pawn) 31.♗xe3 ♙g1+ 32.♔d2 ♙xa1]



30...♙xe3+! 31.♗xe3 ♙g1+ 32.♔d2 ♙xa1 33.a3 ♙e5 34.♗e2 ♙b8! switching entry points 35.♗c2 ♙b3 36.♙d4 h5! I don't know if white resigned here or if he lost on time (which would be unusual for a quick player like Calum)? A very good game by Vlad and it's not really clear where Calum's mistakes were to the human eye?

0-1

Round 7



FIDE International Arbiter Andy Howie receives his special prize for surviving 'manflu' and laryngitis

Bremner, Adam	0-1	Michielsen, Joost
Berry, Neil	1/2-1/2	Green, Andrew
Kilpatrick, Callum	1-0	Steil-Antoni, Fiona
MacQueen, Calum	1/2-1/2	McNab, Colin
Hamitevici, Vladimir	1-0	Burnett, Andrew

The leaders were due to face the tail-enders in this round. So far no-one had managed to take even half-a-point from Joost. Adam played the Exchange Variation of the Slav Defence, as draw-ish as it gets you'd think, but Joost found some clever ways to tip the balance in his favour and continue his incredible run.

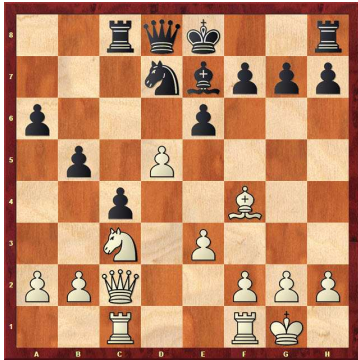
Callum Kilpatrick brought home the full point also to keep up the chase for 1st place and his final IM norm, although Fiona could well have held the ending. I mis-assessed the opening, fought back quite well but then *really* mis-assessed the endgame. Too many miss-es!

With the other games being steady and unremarkable draws, the tournament was now a 2-horse race and the finishing post was in sight.

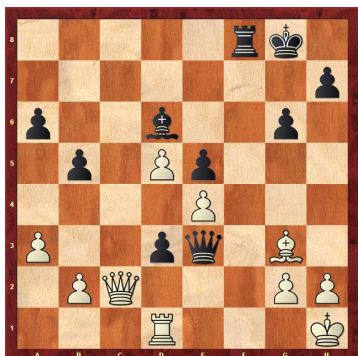
**(31) Bremner,Adam (2189) – Michiel-
sen,Joost (2343) [D10]**

Winter Chess Festival -Premier (7.1), 03.01.2014

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.cxd5!? As black I dread facing this move. Not only is it difficult to disturb the peace should white play conservatively, but most of the sharper options come from white's side! 3...cxd5 4.♟f4 ♘c6 5.e3 ♘f6 6.♘c3 ♟g4!? [6...a6 is more usual but the text move has been played by both Kramnik and Shirov in the past.] 7.♟b3 ♘a5 8.♟a4+ ♟d7 9.♟b5 e6 [RR 9...♘c6 10.♘f3 a6 11.♟xc6 ♟xc6 12.♟b3 e6 13.♘e5] 10.♟xd7+ ♘xd7 11.♘f3 [RR 11.♘b5?! looks premature after 11...♟c8 12.♘xa7 ♟c4 13.♟b5 ♟b4] 11...a6 12.♟c1 ♘c4N 13.♟c2 ♟c8 14.♘d2 b5 15.♘xc4 dxc4?! This move doesn't look correct to me at all!? [15...bxc4 follows the rule of capturing towards the centre, but ; 15...♟xc4 looks best and black should have no problems at all. 16.a3 b4 17.axb4 ♟xb4 18.0-0 0-0 19.♟d3 ♟a5 and Rfc8] 16.0-0 ♟e7 17.d5!?



The problem with black's choice of recapture on c4 is that it allows white a lot of leeway in the centre. If he were better developed this might not be a big issue as he will be able to make some inroads on the q-side, but he can't do that just yet. That being said, there is no clear way for white to cause serious problems – perhaps Joost simply wanted to play an unbalanced position with winning chances instead of a dour symmetrical struggle? Or perhaps Joost is simply more knowledgeable than me and his choice was correct all along! 17...e5 18.♟g3 0-0 19.♟cd1 ♟d6 20.e4!? ♘c5 21.a3 ♘d3 The complete blocking of the centre hasn't favoured white here and black has a certain initiative. 22.♘a2 g6 [It was also possible to play 22...f5!? immediately 23.exf5 ♟c5 24.♘c1 e4 and now I like black's position as every piece will find a role to play.] 23.♘c1 f5 24.f3 fxe4 [24...♟b6+ should transpose, but white must avoid 25.♟f2? when 25...♘xf2 26.♟xf2 ♟c5 pins and wins] 25.fxe4 ♟b6+ 26.♘h1 ♟e3 27.♟xf8+ ♟xf8 28.♘xd3 cxd3 and now white's back-rank weakness will lose him the game.

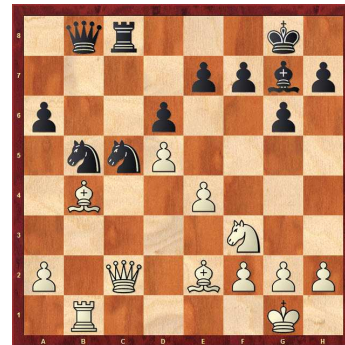


29.♟c6 d2 30.h4 [If 30.♟xd6 then 30...♟e1+ 31.♟xe1 (or 31.♟xe1 ♟f1#) 31...dxe1♟+ 32.♟xe1 ♟f1#] 30...♟xg3 31.♟xd6 ♟xh4+ 32.♘g1 ♟e1+ 33.♘h2 ♟xd1 34.♟e6+ ♘g7 35.♟e7+ ♟f7 36.♟xe5+ ♘h6 and with no perpetual available white resigned. An interesting game and worthy of study. The Michielsen Express rolls on! 0-1

**(32) Berry,Neil (2242) – Green,Andrew (2148)
[A57]**

Winter Chess Festival -Premier (7.2), 03.01.2014

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.♟c2 Not the most common choice here but a sensible side-line. 4...bxc4 5.e4 d6 6.♟xc4 g6 7.♘f3 ♟g7 8.0-0 0-0 9.♘c3 ♟a6 10.♘b5 ♘e8 11.♟d2N ♘c7 12.♟a5 ♟xb5 13.♟xb5 ♟c8 14.♟e2 ♘d7 15.♟ab1 ♟b8 16.b4 a6 17.bxc5 ♘xc5 18.♟xb8 ♟xb8 19.♟b1 ♘b5 20.♟b4 [20.a4 ♘a3 is nothing for black to worry about] 20...♟c8



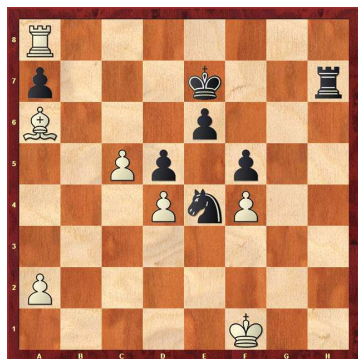
21.♟xb5 [21.a4 Now this move is more interesting 21...♘xa4 22.♟xa4 ♘c3 23.♟xc3 ♟xb1+ 24.♟e1 but it looks very awkward for white and I'm not surprised that Neil avoided it.] 21...♟xb5 22.♟e1 ♟d7 23.h3 ♟c7 24.♘d2 ♟b8 and black has managed to exchange off the most important pieces but still a useful example of solid chess from both players. ½-½

**(33) Kilpatrick,Callum (2350) – Steil-
Antoni,Fiona (2190) [B11]**

Winter Chess Festival -Premier (7.3), 03.01.2014

1.e4 c6 2.♘c3 d5 3.♘f3 ♟g4 4.h3 ♟xf3 5.♟xf3 e6 6.♟e2 ♘f6 7.0-0 ♟c5N 8...♘xe4 9.♟xe4 ♘d7 10.d4 ♘f6 11.♟e3 ♟d6 12.c4 0-0 13.b3 ♟e7 14.a3 e5 15.♟b2 ♟fe8 16.dxe5 ♟xe5 17.♟xe5 ♟xe5 18.♟xe5 ♟xe5 19.♟f3 ♘f8 20.♟f1 ♟ae8 21.b4 ♘e7 22.♘f1 ♟d8 23.c5 Short,N (2676)–Anand,V (2794)/Merida 2001, ½-½) 8.d3 0-0 9.♟g3 ♘bd7 10.♘a4 ♟d4 11.c3 ♟e5 12.f4 ♟c7 13.e5 b5! A well-timed counterpunch. Retreating the knight to e8 would have been too compliant. 14.exf6 ♟xf6 15.♟d1 ♟ac8 [15...♟ab8!? was interesting, with a couple of little tactical points 16.d4 (16.♟e3 bxa4 17.♟xa4 ♟xb2) 16...bxa4 17.♟xa4 ♘b6 18.♟xc6 e5] 16.♟e3 bxa4 17.♟xa4 ♟b6 18.d4 ♟g6 19.♟f2 [19.♟xg6 hxg6 20.b4 was a solid alternative to the text move.] 19...f5! The start of a good plan. 20.c4 ♘f6 21.c5 ♘e4 22.♟e2 ♟a5 [22...♘g3!? looks obvious but Black shouldn't give up the beautifully positioned knight unless she gains something real in return. 23.♟a6 ♘xf1 24.♟xf1 ♟c7 25.♟xc6 leaves black's pieces very restricted.] 23.♟a6 ♟d2 24.♟xd2 ♘xd2 25.♟f1 ♘e4 26.♟d3 ♟e8 27.b4 [27.♟xa7?? ♟a8

winning the bishop should be avoided!] 27...♞d7 28.b5 cxb5 29.♞xb5 ♞xb5 30.♟xb5 ♞c7 31.♟a6 ♟f7 32.♞b1 ♟e8 33.♟a3 ♟ee7 34.h4 g6 35.♞b8 White has managed to maintain a slight advantage, but progress won't be easy. 35...h6 36.♞ab3 g5 37.hxg5 hxg5 38.g3 gxf4 39.gxf4 ♟f6 40.♞f8+ ♟f7 41.♞xf7+ ♞xf7 42.♞b8 ♞g7+ 43.♟f1 ♟h7 44.♞f8+ ♟e7 45.♟a8



♟f6?! [I don't think black's position is defensible by normal means, so Fiona ought to have 'gone active' with 45...♞h2! as after 46.♞xa7+ ♟f6 47.c6?! she has 47...♞d2+ 48.♟e1 ♞f3+ when 49.♟f1 (49.♟d1? this even loses! The rook and knight combine very well together. 49...♞h1+ 50.♟c2 ♞xd4+) 49...♞d2+ 50.♟g1 ♞f3+ repeats] 46.c6 ♞c7 47.♟b7 ♞d6 48.♞xa7 ♞b5 49.♟a4 ♟e7 50.♞b4 ♞a7 51.♞b6 ♟d6 52.a4 ♞xc6 53.♟e2 ♞xb7 forced because [53...♟d7 54.♟xc6+ ♞xc6 55.♞xc6 ♟xc6 56.♟d2 ♟b6 57.♟c3 ♟a5 58.♟b3 ♟a6 59.♟b4 ♟b6 60.a5+ ♟a6 61.♟c5 wins easily] 54.♞xb7 ♞xd4+ 55.♟d3 ♞c6 56.♞b6 ♟c7 57.♞b5 [57.a5 transposes to the game after a few repetitions first 57...♞xa5 58.♞xe6 ♞c6] 57...♞a7 58.♞b1 ♞c6 59.♞b2 ♟d6 60.♞b6 ♟c7 61.a5 ♞xa5 62.♞xe6 ♞c6 63.♞f6 ♟d7 64.♟c3 ♟c7 65.♟d3 ♟b6 [65...♟d7 66.♟e3] 66.♞xf5 ♟c5 67.♞f8 ♞b4+ 68.♟e3 ♞c2+ 69.♟d2 ♞d4 70.♟d3 ♞c6 71.♞f6 ♞b4+ 72.♟e3 d4+ [72...♞c2+ looks like it will repeat, but Callum has simply been gaining time on the clock by occasionally repeating moves, a common tactic when using increments. 73.♟d2 ♞d4 74.f5] 73.♟e4 d3 74.♞f8 ♟c4 75.♞d8 ♟c3 76.f5 d2 77.f6 ♞a6 78.f7 ♞c5+ 79.♟e3 and black resigned as her d-pawn is lost and the f-pawn will queen shortly. 1-0

(34) MacQueen, Calum (2240) – McNab, Colin (2457) [A41]

Winter Chess Festival -Premier (7.4), 03.01.2014

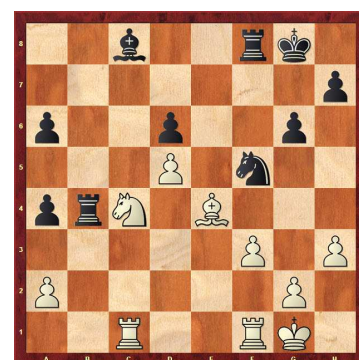
1.d4 d6 2.♞f3 g6 3.c4 ♟g7 4.e4 e5 5.♟g5 ♞e7 6.♞c3 h6 7.♟e3 ♞d7 8.dxe5N ♞xe5 9.♞xe5 dxe5 10.♞d5 [10.♞xd8+ ♟xd8 11.0-0-0+ ♟d7 12.c5 doesn't really promise white much after 12...f5] 10...c6 11.♞xe7 ♞xe7 12.♞d2 0-0 13.0-0-0 ♟e6 14.♟e2 ♞fd8 15.♞c2 b5 16.♟b1 a6 17.h3 ♟h7 18.♞xd8 ♞xd8 19.♞d1 h5 20.♞xd8 ♞xd8 21.♞d2 ♞c7 [21...♞xd2 22.♟xd2 bxc4 23.♟c2 and the extra pawn doesn't mean anything in real terms and will quite likely drop off in the long run.] 22.♞c3 ♞b7 23.f3 b4 24.♞d2 ♞e7 25.♟c2 ♟f8 26.b3 ♞c7 27.g4 hxg4 28.hxg4 ♟e7 29.♟d1 ♟g8 30.♟b1 ♞b8 31.♞h2 ♞d8 32.♞d2 When the queens come off white will only have to display a minimum of caution to avoid being worse but black can't make any real progress if he leaves them on. 32...♞xd2 33.♟xd2 ♟c5 34.♟c2 ♟g7 35.♟d3

♟f6 36.♟e2 a5 37.♟c1 ♟e7 38.♟h6 f6 39.♟d2 ♟d7 40.♟e1 f5 41.♟g3 fxg4 42.fxg4 ♟d4 43.♟h4 ♟b6 A game in which the balance was never really disturbed. Colin has probably won dozens of these endgames, but against a strong opponent who doesn't make a mistake it was never likely to happen here. ½-½

(35) Hamitevici, Vladimir (2508) – Burnett, Andrew (2209) [B53]

Winter Chess Festival -Premier (7.5), 03.01.2014

1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.♞f3 A tricky move—order to avoid my Dragon Variation! 3...d6 [3...♞c6 avoids the queen re-capture on d4 but allows 4.♞xd4 g6 5.c4 when I am playing the Accelerated Dragon, not my usual choice.] 4.♞xd4 a6 5.h3 ♞c6 6.♞e3 g6 7.c4 ♟h6?! I thought my plan here was quite clever – in general black would like a queen-less middlegame – but it turns out that my knights aren't well-enough placed in the resulting position. 8.♞c3 ♞a5 9.♞xa5 ♞xa5 10.♟xh6 ♞xh6 Knights on the rim are dim of course, but i didn't think this was a problem as nothing much looked to be happening and I would have time to re-route them. However... 11.♞c3 I now realised that white could build up a quick initiative with b4 and Nd5. 11...b6?! [11...f5 12.♞d5 is awkward; 11...♟e6 12.♞d5 ♟xd5 13.cxd5 would just defeat the whole purpose of my opening plan. White's bishop is no longer weak in any way and my knights are too far removed from play. At least one of them ought to be on d7!] 12.♞d5 [12.b4! would have been the more accurate move order as Vlad pointed out after the game.] 12...♞b8 13.b4 e6 Now the position is less clearly in white's favour. He should be better, but black will have counter-chances. 14.bxa5 exd5 15.cxd5 0-0 16.♟d3 f5 17.♞d2 fxe4 18.♟xe4 bxa5 19.0-0 ♞b4 White has probably been a little lack-a-daisical over the last few moves, but now he started to concentrate! 20.f3 a4 21.♞ac1 ♞f5 22.♞c4



♞xc4? This move is just embarrassingly bad at this level of chess for reasons which will become clear soon. [22...♟d7 23.a3 ♞b5 and black is still hanging in there.] 23.♞xc4 ♞e3 24.♞xa4 ♟d7 25.♞b4 ♞xf1 26.♟xf1 ♟b5+ 27.♟f2 ♞c8 28.a4 ♞c4 29.♞xc4 ♟xc4 30.a5! Of course! In my initial calculations it was ME who got to play ...a5! when the position is just drawn. 30...♟g7 31.♟e3 ♟f6 32.f4 g5 33.♟d4 ♟f1 34.fxg5+ ♟xg5 35.♟xh7 ♟xg2 36.♟d3 with the a-pawn going the game is over. 1-0

Round 8



Calum MacQueen prepares to do battle

Burnett, Andrew	1/2-1/2	Bremner, Adam
Michielsen, Joost	1/2-1/2	Berry, Neil
Sreeves, Clement	1-0	Kilpatrick, Callum
Steil-Antoni, Fiona	1/2-1/2	MacQueen, Calum
McNab, Colin	0-1	Hamitevici, Vladimir

Sometimes chess can be a strange game! Callum Kilpatrick needed only a draw for his final IM norm. He was playing his friend Clement Sreeves, who duly obliged with a draw offer after the opening. Callum -for reasons I have yet to discover –declined and promptly lost to an excellent combination!

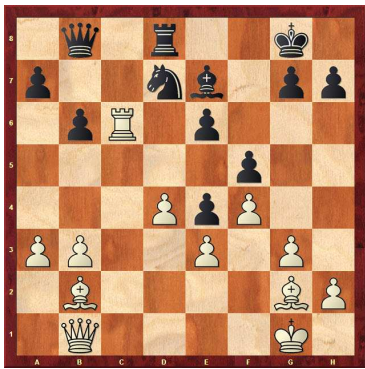
Joost’s run of victories was finally brought to an end by Neil Berry, whose play with the black pieces has been fantastic. The draw ensured tournament victory for the Dutchman however after Callum lost.

Fiona and Calum evidently had better things to do today, so halved out quickly, while I thought I had finally scored my first full point, only to have my dreams shattered by Adam’s creative and active defence. Vlad downed Colin and his notes to this game are well worth reading through.

(36) Burnett, Andrew (2209) – Bremner, Adam (2189) [E07]

Winter Chess Festival -Premier (8.1), 04.01.2014

1.♠f3 ♠f6 2.c4 e6 3.♠c3 b6 4.g3 ♠b7 5.♠g2 ♠e7 6.0-0 0-0 7.b3 d5 8.e3 c6 [8...c5 has been the most common choice here from my opponents. My recent games in the Prague Open 2014 saw this arise 3 times!] 9.♠b2 ♠bd7 10.d4 ♠c8 11.♠e1!?!N ♠c7 12.♠c1 ♠b8 13.a3 [13.e4?! ♠xe4 14.♠xe4 dxe4 15.♠xe4 c5 and the rook doesn't have a really good square to go to, whereas black's army is starting to look well-placed.] 13...♠a8 14.cxd5 cxd5!?! I really didn't like this move for black at the time, and I still don't! However, the engine seems to think it's ok so there is probably a tactical justification somewhere down the line! [14...exd5 15.♠h4 ♠fe8 16.♠f5 ♠f8 looks perfectly decent for black] 15.♠e5 ♠fd8 16.f4 ♠e4 17.♠xe4 dxe4 18.♠xc8 ♠xc8 19.♠b1 f5!?! Again I didn't approve of this move and again the engines tell me to shut up! 20.♠c1 ♠b8 21.♠c6 ♠xc6 22.♠xc6



♠c8? It's only this move which is a real mistake though. [22...♠b7! and here is the tactical justification for black's play I spoke of earlier. 23.♠xe6 (23.♠c2 ♠c5!) 23...♠f7 and the rook is trapped, although there are some interesting possibilities here for white, e.g. 24.♠xe4 fxe4 25.♠xe4 ♠c8 26.♠xh7 when I have 4 pawns for the rook and all the light squares are mine. I am not too disturbed by the engine's evaluations though – I'm playing a human with a clock ticking!] 23.♠c2?! [23.♠xe6 I am very disturbed at my decision not to play this though! I somehow failed to see that after 23...♠f7 24.d5 ♠c7 I had the very simple 25.♠c6 winning. If black can't control the c-file quickly then white has gained a very important pawn and black must be extremely careful not to fall prey to a quick sacrifice on e4.] 23...♠xc6 24.♠xc6 ♠d6 25.♠c8+ ♠f7 26.♠f1 ♠f6 27.♠c4 ♠d5 28.♠f2 ♠c7 29.♠a6 g5 30.♠c1 gxf4 31.gxf4 ♠d6 I have to be very careful here not to allow a sac on f4, although black could only draw after this of course. 32.♠b5 ♠f8 33.♠d2 ♠e7 34.♠xd5 ♠h4+ 35.♠f1 ♠h3+ 36.♠e1 exd5 37.♠xd5 ♠e7 [37...♠xa3!?! looks a bit dangerous after 38.b4] 38.♠c4 ♠g4 39.♠b4 ♠g1+ 40.♠d2 ♠xh2+ 41.♠c3 ♠g1 42.♠c8+? simply a bad move as I had missed that after [42.♠xe7+ ♠xe7 is likely drawn also] 42...♠g7 43.♠c4 [43.♠xe7 ♠c1+ picks up my queen!] 43...♠xb4 44.♠d7+ ♠f6 45.axb4 ♠xe3 46.♠d6+ ♠f7 47.♠d5+ and now white has to force a perpetual 47...♠f6 48.♠e5+ ♠g6 49.♠e6+ ♠g7 50.♠e5+ 1/2-1/2

(37) Michielsen, Joost (2343) – Berry, Neil (2242) [C67]

Winter Chess Festival -Premier (8.2), 04.01.2014

1.e4 e5 2.♠f3 ♠c6 3.♠b5 ♠f6 The Berlin Defence to the Ruy Lopez. This was Kramnik's 'wall' which Kasparov banged his head against in their World Championship match in 2000, and which now appears in the repertoire of almost every top player. 4.0-0 ♠xe4 5.d4 ♠d6 6.♠xc6 dxc6 7.dxe5 ♠f5 8.♠xd8+ ♠xd8 9.♠c3 ♠e8 10.h3 h5 11.a3N ♠e7 12.♠e1 ♠e6 13.♠g5 ♠d8 14.♠ad1 h4 15.♠xd8+ ♠xd8 16.♠e4 ♠xg5 17.♠xg5 ♠e7 18.♠xe6 ♠xe6 19.♠e2 ♠d8 20.♠f4+ ♠e7 21.♠f1 Another extremely solid game by Neil and this draw gave Joost outright tournament victory with a round to spare! A phenomenal effort! 1/2-1/2

(38) Sreeves, Clement (2254) – Kilpatrick, Callum (2350) [A36]

Winter Chess Festival -Premier (8.3), 04.01.2014

1.c4 ♠f6 2.g3 g6 3.♠g2 ♠g7 4.♠c3 0-0 5.e4 d6 6.♠ge2 c5 7.0-0 ♠c6 8.d3 This is the Botvinnik System in the English, an opening which Clement has been using with some success over the last few years. It's complex, positional basis suits him perfectly. 8...a6 9.a4 ♠b8 10.h3 ♠e8 11.♠e3 e5 12.♠d5 ♠c7 13.♠ec3N ♠e6 14.♠b1 Round about here Clement apparently offered a draw, which was rejected! When I heard this I was shocked as Callum only needed a draw for his final IM norm. Very strange if true?! 14...♠ed4 15.b4 cxb4 16.♠xb4 ♠e6 17.♠bd5 f5 18.exf5 gxf5 19.f4 both sides have played their typical thrusts on the k-side but the equilibrium hasn't really been disturbed. 19...♠h8 20.♠h2 ♠f7 21.♠d2 ♠g8?! I'm not overly-keen on this move as play is not restricted to the k-side. [21...♠d7 looks more natural when 22.♠b6 (22.♠b6 might still be best here, but things get very messy after 22...♠e8 23.♠fb1 ♠a5 24.♠xd4 exd4 25.♠b5!?! all very well and good if you are a chess engine, but not so simple for carbon life-forms!) 22...♠d8 doesn't particularly improve white's position. White still has a plus, naturally, as he has slightly more space, but it's nothing serious as of yet.] 22.♠b6 ♠f8 23.♠fb1 ♠g7 24.♠f2 h5 Black's major pieces are a little bit too remote from each other and white can exploit this immediately with 25.h4 [25.♠xd4 ♠xd4 26.♠xa6 although 26...h4!?! introduces some randomness into the equation, hence the safer text move.] 25...♠f7 26.♠b4 ♠c8



27. ♖xb7!? I saw this move as it was played and I feared for Callum at this point. If such a move works then it usually works very well! If it's simply bad, then it's doubtful if Clement would have even entertained it as he had a clear advantage anyway. 27... ♗xb7 28. ♜xc6 ♗xb1 29. ♜xb1 ♜xc6 30. ♜c3 [30. ♗e2!? ♜f7 31. ♜d5! is a nice motif, though not necessarily stronger than other moves here.] 30... ♜d8 31. fxe5 dxe5 32. ♜h6 ♜f7 33. ♜xf8 ♜xf8 34. ♗e2 Having cleared a few bits out of the way first, Clement proceeds to show much much stronger the queen is in this kind of position where the rooks have no clear purpose. 34... ♜f7 35. ♜d5! ♜xd5 36. ♜xd5 ♜g7 37. ♗xh5 ♜h6 38. ♗g5+ ♜h7 39. ♜e7 Queen and knight are a terrifying combination in attack, basically because between them they can produce the moves of ALL the pieces combined! 39... ♗g8 40. ♗h5 [40. ♜xg8 is winning also, but Clement reaches the time control first so he can think about what he wants to do without the clock distracting him.] 40... ♜cf8 41. ♜xg8 ♜xg8 42. ♜h3 ♜d8 43. ♗f3 ♜g6 44. ♗c6+ ♜h5 45. ♗f6! ♜g8 46. ♗xe5 ♜g4 47. ♗e8+ ♜g6 48. c5 ♜g4 49. c6 f4 50. ♗xg6+ and this simple move ties things up 50... ♜xg6 51. ♜xg4 fxg3 52. ♜xg3 an excellent game from Clement who definitely proved he would have been in the mix had he been able to play the whole tournament. Callum could still reach his IM norm score with a final round draw. 1-0

(39) Steil-Antoni, Fiona (2190) – MacQueen, Calum (2240) [B23]

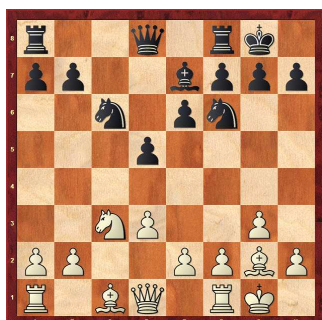
Winter Chess Festival -Premier(8.4), 04.01.2014

1. e4 c5 2. ♜c3 e6 3. f4 d5 4. ♜b5+ ♜d7 5. ♗e2 dxe4 6. ♜xd7+ ♗xd7 7. ♜xe4 ♜c6 8. ♜f3 ♜e7 9. d3 ♜f6 10. 0-0 11. ♜h1 1/2-1/2

(40) McNab, Colin (2457) – Hamitevi-ci, Vladmir (2508) [A11]

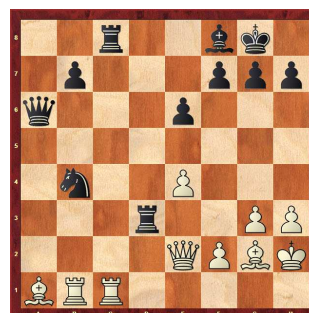
Winter Chess Festival -Premier (8.5), 04.01.2014
[notes by Vlad Hamitevic]

1. c4 c6 2. ♜f3 d5 3. g3 ♜f6 4. ♜g2 ♜g4 5. cxd5 ♜xf3 [after 5... cxd5?! 6. ♜e5 ♜f5 7. ♜c3 e6 8. g4 ♜g6 9. h4± black might face serious problems] 6. ♜xf3 cxd5 7. ♜c3 e6 black builds solid structure against light-square bishop 8. d3 recently Carlsen tried to get some advantage against Caruana with d4, but didn't succeed with that. [8. d4 ♜c6 9. 0-0 ♜e7 10. e3 0-0 11. b3 ♗a5 12. ♜b2 ♜a3 13. ♗c1 ♜xb2 14. ♗xb2 ♜fc8 = Carlsen, M (2864)–Caruana, F (2774)/Moscow RUS 2013] 8... ♜c6 9. 0-0 ♜e7 10. ♜g2 0-0

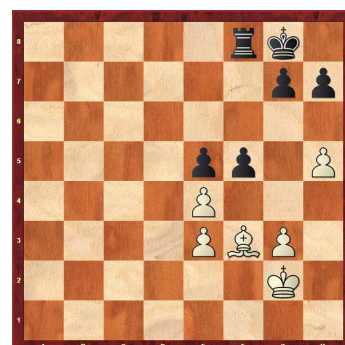


11. e4 here comes the idea of 8.d3, White tries to break the center and open up diagonal for bishop on g2, which

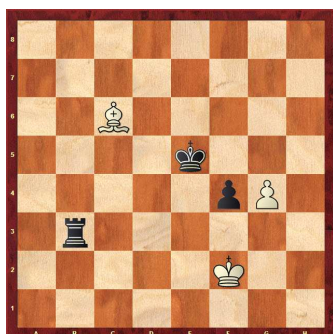
will give White decent advantage thanks to 2 bishops. 11... d4 typical reaction, game transformed to kind of reversed KID, but black has already open c-file plus exchange of light-square bishop for a knight looks like achievement 12. ♜e2 ♜c8 13. b3 [13. f4? would lead to 13... ♜g4 and Ne3 will be pretty annoying] 13... ♗a5 black threats to swap dark square bishops to penetrate faster on queen's side 14. a3 ♜fd8 simple prophylactic defence of d4 pawn 15. ♜b2 ♗b6 16. ♖b1 [16. b4 a5±] 16... a5 17. h3 ♜d7 knight comes to c5, and this is gonna be really hard for White to protect d3 and b3 at same time 18. ♜h2! very good move, White did the prophylactic to try to push f4 [18. f4? ♜c5 19. b4 axb4 20. axb4 ♜xb4 21. ♜xd4 ♜xd4 22. ♜xd4 ♜ca6] 18... ♜c5 [18... e5!? was an interesting option as well 19. f4 ♜c5 20. fxe5 ♗xb3 21. ♜f4 ♗xd1 22. ♜fxd1 ♜f8±] 19. b4 [19. ♜a1 passive defence doesn't look promising for White 19... ♗b5 20. ♜c1 ♜a4 21. ♜e2 ♜c3 22. ♜xc3 dxc3+ the difference of quantity active pieces between black and white is tremendous] 19... axb4 20. axb4 ♜a6 [20... ♗xb4 21. ♜xd4 ♗a3 22. ♜xc5 ♜xc5 23. ♖xb7 ♜xd3 this is a computer suggestion, but it feels that White is pretty close to hold this] 21. b5 ♗xb5 22. ♜xd4 ♜xd4 23. ♜xd4 ♜b4 black keeps extra 'b' pawn but at least white doesn't have any weaknesses and their bishops start to work 24. ♜a1 [24. ♜e3 looks more accurate 24... ♜xd3 25. ♗e2 ♗d7±] 24... ♜xd3 25. ♗g4?! losing of time 25... ♜f8 26. ♗e2 ♗a6 27. ♜fc1



♜dd8! black offers to exchange the queens, to get extra strong passed 'a' pawn, which will come to a2 pretty easy with support of Bishop on f8 and Knight on b4 28. ♗e3 ♜c2 29. ♗f4 b5 30. ♜b2 b4 31. h4 ♗a5 preventing h5 and taking control of d2 square for a rook. 32. ♜f3 b3 33. ♜g1 ♜a3 34. ♜a1 white tries to use last tricks, otherwise trade of bishops will be the end of a game [34. ♜xa3 ♗xa3 35. ♜h5 f6 36. ♜d1 e5 37. ♗f3 ♜xd1+ 38. ♜xd1 ♜d4] 34... ♜xa1 [34... e5 was more accurate, but Na1 is good as well] 35. ♜xa1 ♜c2! 36. ♜xa3 [36. ♜xa3 ♗e1+ 37. ♜h2 ♗xf2+ 38. ♜h3 ♜xb2] 36... ♜a2 37. ♜xa2 bxa2 38. ♜b2 a1 ♗+ 39. ♜xa1 ♗xa1+ 40. ♜g2 ♗d4 time control passed, Black got technically winning position 41. ♜h5 f5! pinning the white queen 42. ♜f3 ♜f8 White can't stop fxe4 and trading a queens 43. h5 e5 44. ♗e3 ♗xe3 45. fxe3



g6? beginning of the end :) with less pawns on a board white's chances to survive increase [45...fxe4 46.♙xe4 ♖f6 would lead to easy win, black's King will come or to g5 or d2] **46.hxg6 hxg6 47.exf5 gxf5 48.g4** [48.e4 fxe4 49.♙xe4 ♗g7 50.♙c6 ♗g6 51.♙e4+ ♗g5 52.♙d5 ♖d8 53.♙c4 ♗f5; 48.♙d5+!! ♗g7 49.g4! ♗f6 (49...f4 50.♗f3 ♗g6 51.♙e4+ ♗g5 52.♙f5 ♖a8 53.exf4+ exf4 leads to position what we got in the game, but unfortunately it's draw according to nalimov's tablebases) 50.gxf5 ♗xf5 51.♗f2 draw according to nalimov's tablebases] **48...f4?** [48...e4! only way to win 49.♙e2 f4 50.exf4 ♖xf4 51.♗g3 ♖f8+] **49.♙e4 ♗g7 50.♙f5 ♗f6 51.♗f3 ♗g5 52.exf4+ exf4 53.♙d7 ♖a8 54.♙f5 ♖a3+ 55.♗f2 ♗f6 56.♙e4 ♗e5** black's idea to put rook on g3 and provoke Bf3, then come back with King to g5 and bring king to h3 **57.♙c6 ♖b3**



58.♙a4?? [58.♙d7!= both of these moves should lead to a draw, black doesn't have breaking through the fortress of both pawns and bishop as a diagonal guard; 58.♙e8!=; 58.♙a8? here is black idea 58...♖g3 59.♙f3 ♗f6 60.♙e2 ♗g5 61.♙f3 ♗h4 62.♙d1 ♖a3 63.♙e2 **a)** 63.♙f3 ♖c3 64.♙e2 ♗h3+; **b)** 63.♗g2! best resistance 63...♗g5! black King goes back to e5 and White has no time to bring Bishop to play because after Bf3 black always has a check on a2, and after Be2 black will be in time to put rook on c3 to get control of c6 square to prevent Bc6 check, when King will come to e4 64.♗f2 (64.♙f3 ♖a2+; 64.♙e2 ♗f6 65.♗f2 ♗e5 66.♙b5! ♖a2+ 67.♗f3 ♖c2! 68.♙a4 ♖c1 69.♗f2 ♖c3 forcing white Bishop go to d1 70.♙d1 ♖a3! 71.g5 ♖g3+) 64...♗f6 65.♙f3; 63...♗h3 64.♙d1 ♖a2+ 65.♗f3 ♖d2 and white bishop is reach off the squares 66.♙a4 ♖d3+! 67.♗xf4 ♖d4+-+] **58...♖c3!** taking control of c2 and c6 squares and cutting up the bishop **59.♙d7** [59.♙d1 ♖a3 60.g5 ♖g3] **59...f3 60.♗g3 ♗e4 61.g5 ♖c5 62.♗f2 ♖c2+ 63.♗g3 ♖g2+ 64.♗h4 ♗f4**
0-1

Photo by: David Oswald



IM Vlad Hamitevici in his typical relaxed pose at the board

Round 9

Photo by: Fiona Steil-Antoni



Callum Kilpatrick's final IM norm is just minutes away

Berry, Neil	0-1	Burnett, Andrew
Kilpatrick, Callum	1/2-1/2	Michielsen, Joost
McNab, Colin A	1-0	Steil-Antoni, Fiona
Hamitevici, Vladimir	1/2-1/2	Bremner, Adam

The last round and a lot was at stake. Would Joost, already guaranteed outright first, force Callum to work for his norm? Would I finally manage to score a full point? Would Fiona, for that matter? I'd like to think we were both worthy of at least 1 win, but in the end Colin sunk Fiona's hopes while mine were finally realised in the last game to finish—a fiendishly tricky R&P end-game.

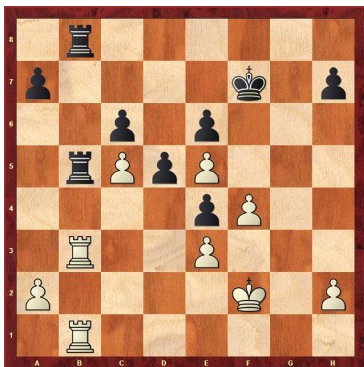
Joost decided that Callum deserved his norm and offered the early draw which this time Callum took! Excellent play by both and hopefully we'll see them north of the border again sometime soon.

Vlad tried and tried to win against Adam, but there seemed to be a stalemate trick in every variation -great defence by Adam secured the draw and so the tournament ended. A lot of exhausted and tired players (and not forgetting the 'arbiter without a voice' Andy Howie!) and a very happy organiser, David Oswald, who'd probably be mad to do it all again—but hopefully will!

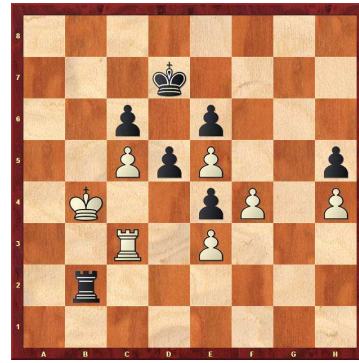
(41) Berry FM,Neil (2242) – Burnett,Andrew (2209) [A84]

Winter Festival Festival -Premier(9.1), 05.01.2014

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 c6 4.♘c3 f5 5.♙f4 ♘d6 6.e3!
White doesn't mind his pawns being disrupted if it gives him extra control over the e5 square 6...♞e7!? 7.♙d3 ♘f6 8.0-0 0-0 9.♞c2 ♘e4 10.♙xd6 ♞xd6 11.♘e5 ♘d7 12.f3 ♘g5 13.f4 ♘e4 14.c5 ♞e7 15.b4 ♘xe5 16.dxe5 [16.fxe5!? this seems to be a better way of recapturing although it does look like black will have some counter-play on the k-side.] 16...b6! although the engine prefers white I was more optimistic about my position now 17.♘e2 bxc5 18.♙xe4 fxe4 19.♞xc5 ♞xc5 20.bxc5 ♙a6 21.♙f2 g5 22.g3 ♞ab8 23.♞fb1 ♙xe2 24.♙xe2 gxf4 25.gxf4 ♙f7 26.♞b3 ♞g8?! I thought this was a very useful move to drag the white king one square further from any q-side action. However, in the K&P endings which might occur, forcing the king to f2 seems to allow white to at least draw by invading on the k-side. [26...♞b5! 27.♞ab1 (27.♞xb5 cxb5) 27...♞fb8 28.♞xb5 ♞xb5 29.♞xb5 cxb5 30.a3 a5 31.c6 ♙e7 32.f5 exf5 33.♙d2 ♘d8 34.e6 b4 35.axb4 axb4 36.♙c2 d4 37.exd4 e3 38.d5 b3+ 39.♙xb3 e2 40.d6 e1♞ 41.c7+ ♙c8 42.e7 f4] 27.♙f2 ♞b5 28.♞ab1 ♞gb8



29.♙e2?! [29.♞xb5 ♞xb5 30.♞xb5 cxb5 31.♙g3! This is the idea I had overlooked in my calculations. It looks too slow but in fact isn't. (31.♙e2 b4 32.♙d2 a5) 31...a5 32.c6 ♙e7 33.f5 exf5 34.♙f4 b4 (34...♙e6 35.c7 ♘d7 36.♙xf5 ♙xc7 37.e6 d4 38.♙xe4 dxe3 39.♙xe3 ♘d6 40.♙d4 b4 41.♙c4 ♙xe6 42.♙b5 ♘d5 43.♙xa5 ♙c5 44.♙a4 ♙c4 45.♙a5 h5 46.♙a4 ♙c3 47.h3 h4=) 35.♙xf5 a4 36.c7 ♘d7 37.e6+ ♙xc7 38.♙f6 b3 39.axb3 axb3 40.e7 b2 41.e8♞ b1♞] 29...a5 30.♙d2 ♙e8 31.♞xb5 ♞xb5 32.♞c1 [32.♞xb5 white can't take here as the black pawns break through easily. Compared to the earlier version, white's king is purely defensive here and can't help his own pawns to advance. 32...cxb5 33.c6 (33.♙c3 b4+ 34.♙b3 d4 35.exd4 e3 36.♙c2 a4) 33...b4 34.f5 exf5 35.e6 ♘d8 36.h3 h6 37.h4 h5 38.♙c2 a4 39.♙d2 b3 40.axb3 axb3 41.♙c3 f4 42.exf4 e3] 32...a4 33.♞c3 ♘d7 34.♞a3 ♞b4 35.♙c3 ♞c4+ 36.♙b2 h5 37.♞c3 ♞b4+ 38.♙a3 ♞b1 39.♙xa4 ♞b2 40.h4 [40.a3 ♞xh2 41.♞b3 ♙c7 42.♞b1 ♞h3 43.♞e1 h4 44.♙b3 d4+; 40.h3 ♞xa2+ 41.♙b3 ♞h2] 40...♞xa2+ 41.♙b3 ♞e2 42.♙b4 ♞b2+



43.♙a4 [43.♞b3? this move loses as again the white king can't cope with the 2 passed pawns black will have after the following sequence. 43...♞xb3+ 44.♙xb3 ♙e8 45.♙c2 (45.♙a4 d4; 45.♙b4 ♙f7 46.♙a5 d4) 45...♙f7 46.♙d1 ♙g6 47.♙e2 ♙f5 48.♙f2 ♙g4 49.♙g2 ♙xh4 50.f5 51.f6 (51.fxe6 ♙g6! it was important to not simply 'calculate' move by move, but to see the different ways to return to cover the white pawns. 52.♙g3 ♙g7 53.♙f4 ♙f8) 51...♙g6 52.♙g3 ♙f7 and also to spot that black can force white into zugzwang of sorts. 53.♙g2 h4] 43...♙e8 44.♙a5 ♙f7 45.♙a6 ♞b5 46.♞c1 ♞b3 47.♞e1 ♙e7 [47...♙g6 48.♞g1+ ♙f5 49.♞g5# is to be avoided.] 48.♞e2 ♘d7 49.♞g2 [49.♞e1 ♙c7 50.♞e2?? (50.♙a5 ♞b5+ 51.♙a4 ♞xc5 and finally an important pawn drops) 50...♞a3# is black's version of the mate] 49...♞xe3 50.♞g7+ ♙e8 51.♙b6 ♞d3 52.♙xc6 e3 53.♞g3 [53.♞g1 e2 54.♞e1 ♞d2 55.♙d6 d4] 53...e2 54.♞xd3 e1♞ 55.♞a3 ♞xh4 [55...♞e4 was my initial intention and might have been easier 56.♞a8+ ♙f7 57.♞a7+ ♙g6 58.♙d6 d4] 56.♞a8+ ♙f7 57.♞a7+ ♙g6 58.♙d6 ♞xf4 59.c6 ♞b4+ 60.♙d7 for a couple of minutes I thought I had blown the win, but it's clear now that black has many winning moves here. 60...♞c5 61.♞a2 [61.♞a1 would have been better in practice as the rook is on less vulnerable squares (a2/g2)] 61...d4 62.♞g2+ ♙f5 63.c7 ♞d5+ 64.♙e7 ♞xg2 65.c8♞ ♞g7+ 0-1

(42) Kilpatrick,Callum (2350) – Michiel-sen,Joost (2343) [B50]

Winter Chess Festival -Premier (9.2), 05.01.2014

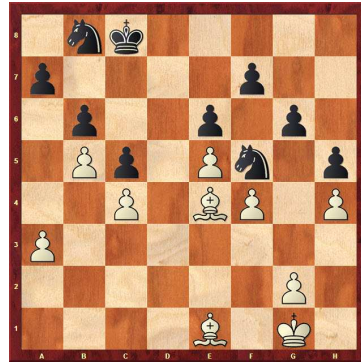
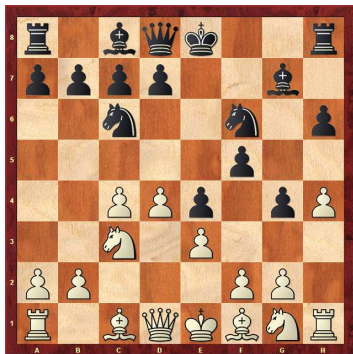
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.c3 ♘f6 4.♙e2 g6 5.0-0 ♙g7 6.♙b5+ ♙d7 Joost had already won the tournament outright and as an IM already he would know how much it means to finally clinch your 3rd norm, so sees no reason to make Callum sweat for his! Congratulations to both players on their excellent victories and generally splendid play and behaviour over the 9 days. ½-½

(43) McNab,Colin (2457) – Steil-Antoni,Fiona (2190) [A27]

Winter Chess Festival -Premier (9.3), 05.01.2014

1.c4 e5 2.♘c3 ♘c6 3.♘f3 f5 4.d4 e4 5.♘g5 ♘f6 6.e3 h6 [RR 6...♙b4 7.♙d2] 7.♘h3 g5 8.♘g1 ♙g7 9.h4 g4 10.h5!?!N [Colin already had a lot of experience in this line. Previously he had preferred 10.♙ge2 with very complex play also 10...♘h5 11.♘d5 ♘e7 12.♘df4 ♘xf4 13.♘xf4 h5 14.♞b3 ♞h6 15.c5 ♙f8 16.♙c4 ♞b8 (RR 16...♙g6 17.♙g8 ♞e7 18.♘d5 ♞d8 19.♘f4 ♘h8 20.♙d2

a5 21.a4 c6 22.0-0-0 ♟f6 23.♟c3 ♞b8 24.♟c4 b5 25.cxb6 ♞xb6 26.♞c2 d5 27.♟e2 ♞b8 28.f3 ♟g8 29.fxg4 fxe4 30.♞df1 ♟e7 31.g3 Mc Nab,C (2440)–Spencer,E (2128)/Hawick 2006,1-0 (51)) 17.♟f7 b6 18.♟xh5 ♞f6 19.f3 exf3 20.gxf3 ♟b7 21.c6 ♟xc6 22.♟d2 ♟a5 23.♟xa5 ♟xf3 24.♟b4+ c5 Mc Nab,C (2422)–Mason,D (2280)/West Bromwich 2004, 1-0]



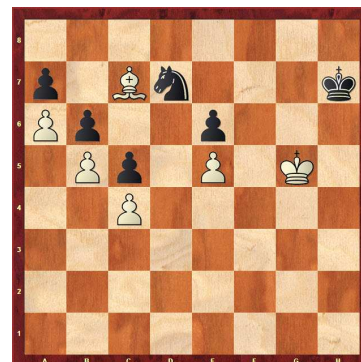
10...d5 11.♟ge2 ♟e7 12.♟f4 c6 13.♞b3 ♞b6 14.♟a4 ♞xb3 15.axb3 a6 [15...♞b8 is another way to meet the threat of Nb6] 16.♟d2 ♟d7 17.♟b4 b5! attempting a tactical solution to white's main threat [17...♟f7? allows the white threat here 18.♟xe7 ♟xe7 19.♟g6+; 17...♞h7 looks sensible enough, but you have to prefer white as the lack pieces will not co-ordinate well for a long time.] 18.♟c3 dxc4 19.♟xe7 ♟xe7 20.♟g6+ ♟f7 21.♟xh8+ ♟xh8 22.bxc4 b4 23.♟a4 ♟b7 24.c5! white will be able to find entry points for all his pieces eventually. All black can do is wait and hope he messes up. 24...♟f6 25.♟c4+ ♟e7 26.♟e2 ♟g5 27.g3 ♟d8 28.b3 ♟c7 29.♞a2 ♟f6 30.♟b6 and black resigned because of 30...♞a7 31.♟e6 when the pawns start going on the k-side. 1-0

(44) Hamitevici,Vladmir (2508) – Bremner,Adam (2189) [A45]

Winter Chess Festival -Premier (9.4), 05.01.2014

1.d4 ♟f6 2.♟g5 e6 3.♟d2 h6 4.♟h4 ♟e7 5.e3 d6N 6.♟d3 ♟bd7 7.♞e2 b6 8.c3 ♟b7 9.f4 White is happy enough to play a Stonewall set-up with his bishop outside the chain. 9...c5 10.e4 but changes his mind now as black chose not to play ...d5 last move. 10...♞c7 11.♟g3 0-0-0 12.e5 ♟d5 13.♟gf3 h5 14.h4 dxe5 15.dxe5 g6 16.a3 ♞b8 clearing a square for the knight 17.c4 ♟c7 18.0-0 ♟e8 19.♟e4 white has a clear spatial advantage here and good squares for his pieces. Black is solid enough, but I didn't really fancy his chances at this point as Vlad was starting to play very well. 19...♞c7 20.♟eg5 ♞f8 21.♟f2 ♟g7 22.b4 ♟b8 23.b5! I hesitate to criticise this but it is very committal [23.♞fb1 retains the flexibility of white's position.] 23...♞d7 24.♞fb1 ♟xg5 25.♟xg5 ♞fd8 26.♞d1 ♟f5 27.♟e4 [27.♟xf5 exf5 28.a4 is another plan] 27...♟xe4 28.♟xe4 ♞xd1+ 29.♞xd1 ♞xd1+ 30.♞xd1 ♞d7 31.♞e2 ♟d4 32.♞d3 ♟f5 33.♞c3 ♞d1+ 34.♞e1 ♞xe1+ 35.♟xe1

so the queens finally come off. Does white have a way to win this position? The b8-knight is awful, but the bishops are also limited by the pawn structure. 35...♟h6 36.a4 ♟d7 37.♟f1 ♟c7 38.♟e2 ♟f8 39.a5 ♟d7 40.♟d3 ♟f5 41.♟f3 ♟h6 42.a6!? ♟b8 43.♟e2 ♟d7 44.♟e4 ♟d8 45.♟f3 ♟e7 46.♟g3 ♟f5+ 47.♟h3 ♟h6 48.♟f3 ♟b8 49.♟f2 ♟d8 50.g4 Finally white has to try this break 50...hxg4+ 51.♟xg4 ♟xg4 52.♟xg4 ♟e7 53.h5 gxh5+ 54.♟xh5 ♟f8 55.♟h4 ♟g7 56.♟f6+ [56.♟d8!? looks as though it wins 56...♟d7 forced in view of the Bxb6 threat when the a-pawn queens 57.♟g5 ♟h7 (57...♟f8 58.♟c7 ♟e8 59.f5 exf5 (59...♟e7 60.♟d6+ ♟e8 61.fxg6 fxe6 62.♟g6 ♟d8 63.♟f7 wins) 60.♟xf5 ♟e7 61.♟d6+ ♟d8 62.♟g5 (62.e6? fxe6+ 63.♟xe6 ♟c8 64.♟e7 ♟e5! draws as 65.♟xe5 is stalemate!) 62...♟e8 63.♟h6) 58.f5 ♟g7 (58...exf5 59.♟xf5 ♟g7 60.e6 wins) 59.♟c7 (59.♟e7 ♟h7 and we are in a similar position to the game) 59...♟h7 60.fxe6 fxe6



61.♟b8!! a sensational winning attempt! 61...♟xb8 62.♟f6 ♟d7+! 63.♟xe6 ♟xe5!! the only way to draw! play will resemble the stalemate patterns of the game 64.♟xe5 ♟g6 65.♟e6 ♟g7 66.♟d7 ♟f7 67.♟c7 ♟e7 68.♟b7 ♟d7 69.♟xa7 ♟c7] 56...♟h7 57.♟g5 ♟d7 58.f5 ♟xf6 59.♟xf6 exf5 60.♟xf5 ♟g7 61.♟e4 ♟f8 62.♟d5 ♟e7 63.♟c6 ♟e6 64.♟b7 ♟d7! club-players often lose such endings because they forget what they are trying to do – draw! 65.♟b8 ♟d8 66.♟a8 ♟c8 67.♟xa7 ♟c7 68.♟a8 ♟c8 69.a7 ♟c7 70.e6 fxe6

1/2-1/2

Standings after round 9

1.	Michielsen, Joost (IM)	8/9
2.	Kilpatrick, Callum (FM)	6.5
3=	McNab, Colin A (GM)	5.5
3=	Hamitevici, Vladimir (IM)	5.5
4.	Berry, Neil M (FM)	4
5.	Bremner, Adam	3.5
6.	Burnett, Andrew B	3/9
7=	Steil-Antoni, Fiona (IM)	2.5/9
7=	MacQueen, Calum	2.5/8
	Sreeves, Clement	1.5/2
	Swan, Iain (FM)	1/3
	Green, Andrew D	0.5/2
	Schwartz, Julius	0/1

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Grading Performance

Pool	Name	Club	Status	Grade	PNUM	Pts	Plyd	Opps	Act	Plyd	Exp	Diff	Perf
5	Michielsen, Joost (IM)	XK	V	2343	24943	8	9	2290	8	9	5.142	2.858	2643
4	Kilpatrick, Callum (FM)	EN	V	2350	24942	6½	9	2298	6½	9	5.126	1.374	2465
8	McNab, Colin A (GM)	DV	-	2497	5190	5½	9	2270	5½	9	6.940	-1.440	2350
9	Hamitevici, Vladimir (IM)	XK	V	2508	24941	5½	9	2269	5½	9	7.055	-1.555	2349
2	Berry, Neil M (FM)	ED	-	2242	3187	4	9	2301	4	9	3.849	0.151	2262
1	Bremner, Adam	BAED	-	2163	14033	3½	9	2283	3½	9	3.183	0.317	2203
6	MacQueen, Calum	EDGI	-	2242	12082	3½	9	2318	2½	8	3.252	-0.752	2176
3	Burnett, Andrew B	WDGN	-	2248	3349	3	9	2309	3	9	3.823	-0.823	2187
10	Steil-Antoni, Fiona (IM)	XK	V	2190	24944	2½	9	2304	2½	9	3.234	-0.734	2137
12	Sreeves, Clement	ED	-	2248	17871	1½	2	2299	1½	2	0.864	0.636	2492
7	Swan, Iain (FM)	PY	-	2145	6171	1	3	2398	1	3	0.651	0.349	2276
11	Green, Andrew D	EDTC	-	2170	15013	½	2	2292	½	2	0.674	-0.174	2100
13	Schwartz, Julius	IV	-	1927	17850	0	1	2163	0	1	0.207	-0.207	1763

Pool	Name	Club	Status	Grade	PNUM	R1 Op	R1 Res	R2 Op	R2 Res	R3 Op	R3 Res	R4 Op	R4 Res	R5 Op	R5 Res	R6 Op	R6 Res	R7 Op	R7 Res	R8 Op	R8 Res	R9 Op	R9 Res	Pts	Plyd
1	Bremner, Adam	BAED	-	2163	14033	2w	0	4b	0	6w	½	8b	0	10w	1	13b	1	5w	0	3b	½	9b	½	3½	9
2	Berry, Neil M (FM)	ED	-	2242	3187	1b	1	9w	0	4w	½	6b	1	8w	0	10b	½	11w	½	5b	½	3w	0	4	9
3	Burnett, Andrew B	WDGN	-	2248	3349	4w	0	6b	0	8w	½	10b	½	12w	½	5b	0	9b	0	1w	½	2b	1	3	9
4	Kilpatrick, Callum (FM)	EN	V	2350	24942	3b	1	1w	1	2b	½	9w	1	6w	1	8b	½	10w	1	12b	0	5w	½	6½	9
5	Michielsen, Joost (IM)	XK	V	2343	24943	6w	1	8b	1	10w	1	11b	1	9b	1	3w	1	1b	1	2w	½	4b	½	8	9
6	MacQueen, Calum	EDGI	-	2242	12082	5b	0	3w	1	1b	½	2w	0	4b	0	9w	0	8w	½	10b	½	P	1	3½	9
7	Swan, Iain (FM)	PY	-	2145	6171	8w	0	10b	½	9b	½	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3
8	McNab, Colin A (GM)	DV	-	2497	5190	7b	1	5w	0	3b	½	1w	1	2b	1	4w	½	6b	½	9w	0	10w	1	5½	9
9	Hamitevici, Vladimir (IM)	XK	V	2508	24941	10w	½	2b	1	7w	½	4b	0	5w	0	6b	1	3w	1	8b	1	1w	½	5½	9
10	Steil-Antoni, Fiona (IM)	XK	V	2190	24944	9b	½	7w	½	5b	0	3w	½	1b	0	2w	½	4b	0	6w	½	8b	0	2½	9
11	Green, Andrew D	EDTC	-	2170	15013	-	-	-	-	-	-	5w	0	-	-	-	-	2b	½	-	-	-	-	½	2
12	Sreeves, Clement	ED	-	2248	17871	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3b	½	-	-	-	-	4w	1	-	-	1½	2
13	Schwartz, Julius	IV	-	1927	17850	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1w	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	1

Photo courtesy of: Fiona Steil-Antoni



Callum Kilpatrick (right) receiving his IM norm certificate from Winter Festival organiser David Oswald

Photo courtesy of: Fiona Steil-Antoni



Dutch IM Joost Michielsen receiving the winners trophy for his fantastic performance in Edinburgh.



Calum MacQueen strides down the playing hall in Edinburgh Chess Club