

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

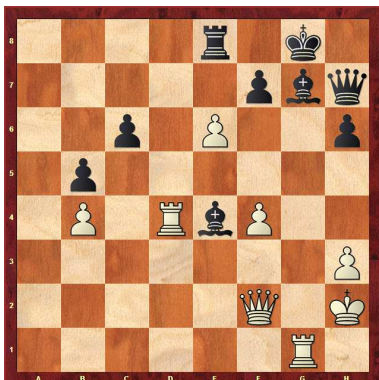
Today saw the first of the clashes between the top seeds. Colin played his usual English Opening and Joost responded aggressively in the early middle-game. A tactical exchange saw Colin lose the thread towards the time-control and Joost showed excellent technique to wrap up the full point. Elsewhere, 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!**



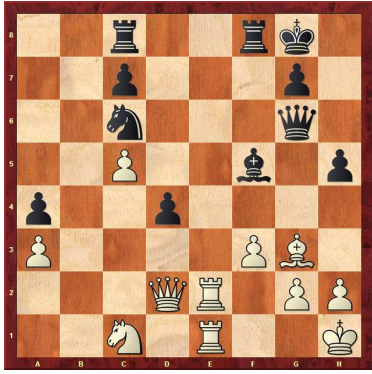
This was the real point behind Colin's e4 thrust – black's k-side comes under heavy pressure and his pieces are a little loose. **32...fxe6 33.♖d7** [33.♖xg7+! looks like it should be good enough to hold the draw easily. After **33...♗xg7 (33...♗xg7 34.♖d7+)** **34.♖xe4** the black pawns and king are 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, Vladimir (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?

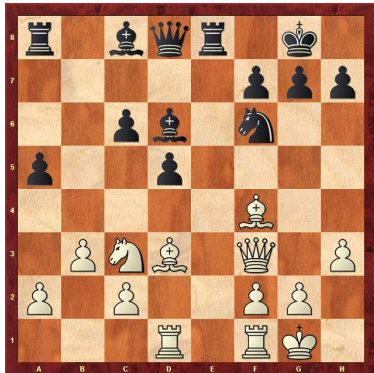


28. $\text{d}3??$ We won't find out because, unfortunately, Neil has overlooked something. This move simply blunders a piece. 28... $\text{xd}3$ 29. $\text{e}6$ $\text{f}6$ 30. $\text{xf}6$ $\text{gxf}6$ 31. $\text{e}6$ $\text{b}8!$ 32. $\text{xc}6$ $\text{b}1+$ 33. $\text{e}1$ $\text{e}8$ Tactical point 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. $\text{f}1$ $\text{a}2$ 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]

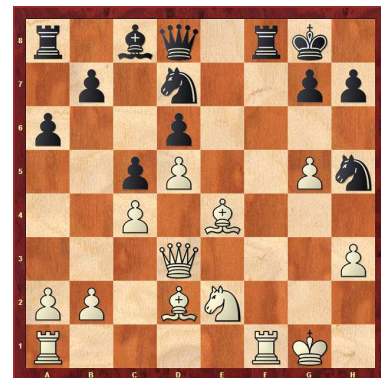
Winter Chess Festival -Premier(2.4), 28.12.2013

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 $\text{e}4$ and $\text{c}4$ are both available for him to use. In the game continuation white would prefer a knight on $\text{d}4$ 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 $\text{h}5$ and $\text{e}2$. It turns out that the knight on $\text{h}5$ 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 $\text{e}5$ 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?