

## Round 3

Photo by: Fiona Steil-Antoni



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

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

**T**he 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.

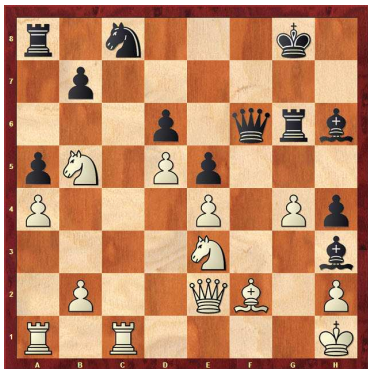
I finally got on the scoreboard with a hard-fought draw against Colin and it seemed that peace was generally the order of the day. Vlad and Iain split the point in a short-but-sharp game, Neil played well to secure the half-point against our English visitor while Adam and Calum hit each other until the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



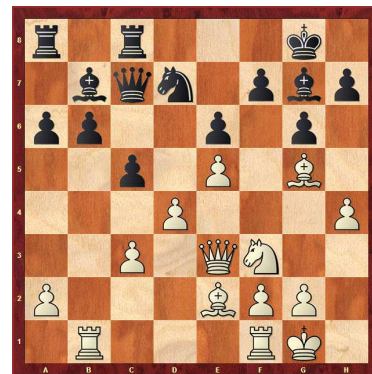
29.♗f5!? An interesting choice! White didn't need to sacrifice the exchange here, but the knight on f5 ought to be worth at least a rook in any event. 29...♙xc1 30.♞xc1 ♞g5 31.♞g1 ♗h7 32.♙xh4 [32.♗xh4! is correct as the same idea as in the game doesn't work 32...♙xg4? 33.♗xg6 ♙xe2 34.♞xg5] 32...♙xg4 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! ♞gg8 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



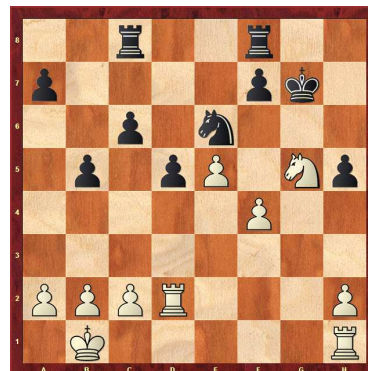
17...♖a5 is a reasonable alternative here] 18.♖g4 ♖d5 19.♗d2 h5! This is fine, but probably not even necessary. 20.♖f6+ ♖xf6 21.♗xf6 [21.exf6 black can cover all the dark squares after this move also, viz. 21...♗f8 22.♗h6 (22.♗f4 ♗d6 23.♗xd6 ♗xd6 24.♗h6 ♗f8) 22...♗d6 23.♗g7 ♗f4] 21...♗e4 22.♗a1 ♖h7 [22...♗xf6 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.]

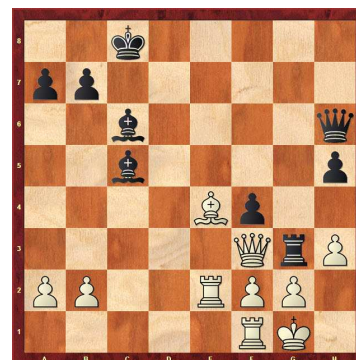


24...♖xg5 [24...♖xf4!? this move looked a bit too dangerous to both of us, but as usual the engines say it is fine! 25.♗g1 ♖g6 when 26.♗f2 or(26.♗dg2 both look awkward for black) ] 25.♗g1 f6 26.exf6+ ♖xf6 27.♗xg5 ♗g8 28.h4 ♗ce8 29.c3 ♗xg5 30.fxg5+ ♖g7 31.a4!? and the game petered out to a draw [31.♗d4 ♗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