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Bristol CHESS TIMES

The Magazine of the Bristol & District Chess League

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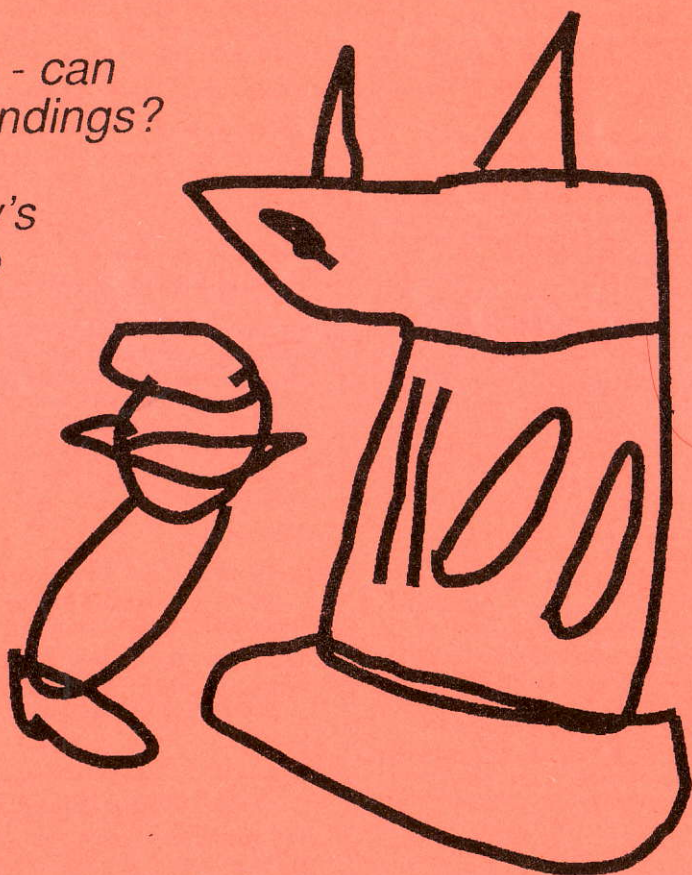
*Opening Moves - junior
chess takes off in Bristol*

*Computers - can
they play endings?*

*Alan Ashby's
memorable
games*

*League
Congress
Section 3*

*plus:
league
tables
and news*



Bristol CHESS TIMES

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Next issue: 7th March.

Editorial

Bristol mustn't miss its NCL opportunity

The National Chess League is getting nearer reality. Invitations for prospective teams to tender for one of the twelve places in this semi-professional league should come out this month. Applications have to be in by around April and the whole thing kicks off in October this year.

Your League Management Committee set up a working party to consider whether Bristol could enter a side. The working party thought we should try, otherwise Bristol could end up as a backwater of British chess. However, it will take a lot of sponsorship money to run a side (estimates suggest about £10,000) and this can be raised only by determination and hard work. We are looking for people with the time and skills to put together the Bristol bid. If you are interested in helping get Bristol into the National League, contact me today.

Short takes on the Tinman

As we go to press, Nigel Short prepares to take on Jan Timman (or Tinman, as the newspapers keep printing). We wish Short good luck in his bid to meet Kasparov for the world title. This match will give chess some welcome publicity - clubs should seize the opportunity to recruit new members.

Farewell 617, hello 378

Oracle's teletext franchise ran out at the end of 1992, and a new company took over. Shock at Oracle's C4 chess page 617 having been replaced by local cinema listings was eliminated by tracking the new chess page down to page 378 on ITV. The very good news for those of you with Teletext is that they are promising to bring us the Short-Timman games 'live' from 6pm each evening.

This issue

A new book review column starts this issue, and I hope to make it a regular feature, so I am looking for volunteers to act as reviewers.

This issue has twenty pages and has reduced the backlog of articles. The result is I have nearly run out of material. So, please send me more articles soon!

John Richards

The Front Cover

The picture of a knight and pawn was drawn by Joe Williams (son of the League's General Secretary, Alan Williams) on an Apple Macintosh computer.

Around the Clubs

The league championship race is poised to become one of the most exciting for years. Habitual winners CLIFTON A have had a poor start, losing to both HORFIELD A and SEA MILLS A. BATH has been the side to watch and look like leading at the halfway stage. The tables show Horfield A in a strong position with 100%, but this is misleading as they look likely to have picked up just one or two points from the last four matches. CLIFTON B and UNIVERSITY A are ready to pounce if Bath falter.

It's easier to see what's really happening outside Division One because more of the results are in (perhaps one benefit of not having adjournments). There do seem to be a large number of defaults this season, and one team is already in danger of being

thrown out of the league. Just seven more default penalty points and CLIFTON E will automatically be disqualified!

KEYNSHAM's Jeremy Hendy has had an excellent season so far, playing well above his rating of 128. In September, he took first place in the Golders Green Under 150 Rapidplay in London with a perfect six wins, and then, last month, he got a draw against GM Stuart Conquest in his simultaneous display (Conquest's, not Hendy's) at Horfield (see page 13).

CLIFTON's Dave Collier is the League's new Treasurer, taking over the post from his club colleague Adam Stirling.

DOWNEND have an excellent club newsletter called *Versus*. Editors Terry Hewitt and Nigel Wilcox produce a lively mix of results, articles, results and games.

continued on page 16

League Tables

Division 1

| | Pld | DP | Pts |
|-----------------|-----|----|-----|
| Bath | 5 | - | 9 |
| Horfield A | 4 | - | 8 |
| Clifton B | 6 | 1 | 8 |
| Clifton A | 6 | 5 | 8 |
| University A | 5 | - | 6 |
| Sea Mills A | 6 | - | 6 |
| Downend A | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| South Bristol A | 4 | - | 2 |
| Hanham A | 5 | - | 2 |
| Horfield B | 8 | 3 | 0 |

Division 4

| | Pld | DP | Pts |
|-----------------|-----|----|-----|
| Hanham B | 8 | - | 14 |
| Thornbury B | 7 | - | 10 |
| Harambee A | 8 | 1 | 9 |
| Horfield D | 8 | 1 | 9 |
| Keynsham B | 8 | 3 | 9 |
| University C | 9 | 1 | 7 |
| Grendel C | 9 | - | 6 |
| South Bristol C | 7 | 2 | 5 |
| Nailsea C | 6 | 1 | 3 |
| Gabot | 6 | 27 | 2 |

Division 2

| | Pld | DP | Pts |
|--------------|-----|----|-----|
| Grendel A | 9 | - | 18 |
| Sun Life A | 9 | - | 13 |
| Nailsea A | 8 | 1 | 10 |
| Thornbury A | 9 | 1 | 10 |
| Downend B | 8 | - | 8 |
| Cossham A | 9 | - | 7 |
| University B | 9 | 2 | 7 |
| Clifton C | 9 | - | 5 |
| Keynsham A | 7 | 3 | 5 |
| Clevedon A | 9 | - | 3 |

Division 5

| | Pld | DP | Pts |
|----------------------|-----|----|-----|
| Sun Life B | 10 | - | 15 |
| Clevedon C | 10 | 1 | 15 |
| Hanham C | 8 | - | 12 |
| Civil Service | 9 | - | 11 |
| University D | 8 | 3 | 7 |
| Grendel D | 7 | 5 | 6 |
| Downend D | 9 | 15 | 0 |
| Clifton E | 9 | 39 | 0 |
| All-Play-All 3 times | | | |

Division 3

| | Pld | DP | Pts |
|------------------|-----|----|-----|
| Cossham B | 9 | - | 14 |
| South Bristol B | 8 | 3 | 12 |
| Bristol Royals A | 8 | 9 | 12 |
| Horfield C | 9 | - | 11 |
| Clevedon B | 8 | - | 10 |
| Nailsea B | 9 | - | 10 |
| Grendel B | 8 | - | 7 |
| Clifton D | 8 | 5 | 4 |
| Downend C | 7 | 3 | 2 |
| Sea Mills B | 8 | - | 0 |

Division 6

| | Pld | DP | Pts |
|----------------------|-----|----|-----|
| Thornbury C | 10 | 1 | 15 |
| Bristol Royals B | 8 | - | 14 |
| Hanham D | 10 | - | 14 |
| Nailsea D | 9 | 1 | 12 |
| Downend E | 9 | - | 7 |
| Keynsham C | 8 | 3 | 6 |
| Grendel E | 10 | 1 | 1 |
| Harambee B | 6 | 9 | 1 |
| All-Play-All 3 times | | | |

DP = Default Penalty Points. One league point has been deducted for every ten DPs.

Hannover win the Exchange

Steve Boniface

For the exchange visit to Germany (2-4 Oct) this year's squad was: Huw Oliver, John Richards (Horfield); Paul Helbig (Bath); Dave Twine, Bob Bagshaw (South Bristol); Chris Hunt (Clifton); Ted Freeman (Sea Mills); and myself (Grendel). This represented a fair mix of clubs, strengths, experience of exchanges, linguistic ability, and personalities.

The early getaway meant we were able to participate in the traditional Friday evening quickplay. After a couple of brief opening speeches and the presentation of a genuine Bristol Blue glass goblet, the games started in earnest, enlivened by the presence of several crates of strong German beer.

Saturday lunchtime, after the civic reception, we had the first "kleine Spaziergang" (short walk) in a nearby park. Suitably exhausted, we arrived at the first match venue. Special mention must be made of Bob, who laid into his opponent (one of two Australian exiles!) and put us into an early morale-boosting lead. However, the real struggle soon began and, despite an excellent win by Paul, Hannover fought back to a 4-3 lead. Making frantic efforts in time trouble, Chris was unable to win with B+RP v N and we lost 4½ to 3½.

A quick look at a German grading list showed we were outgraded by at least 10 BCF points all the way down, so this was no disgrace. Any disappointment was soon forgotten in the evening when we visited several historical landmarks with a liquid connection and sampled the local "Hell" beer. We found out why it's so-called the next morning. Unfortunately, those of us who eventually reached the new Capablanca Chess Cafe were too tired to enjoy the facilities fully.

On Sunday, we again started well when I sprang a trap in the opening. Huw got a



(l to r): Ted Freeman, Steve Boniface and Bob Bagshaw take on the Germans

good draw against the German number one, and John was handing his opponent a second drubbing. Dave secured a half point after a dangerous middle game, but Ted went down against a very tough player on board 6.

Again we needed to win the final game to tie the match. This time Paul was in the hot seat and, despite an almost reckless attempt to win, had to settle for a draw in the ending. The match was again just lost, but there was little sadness as we went for a little walk to a large meal followed by a party.

The trip was most enjoyable, with the match results less important than the good friendships forged and renewed. We look forward to the return visit next year and hope that even more from both cities will participate. I welcome offers to act as hosts in 1993 any time from now onwards.



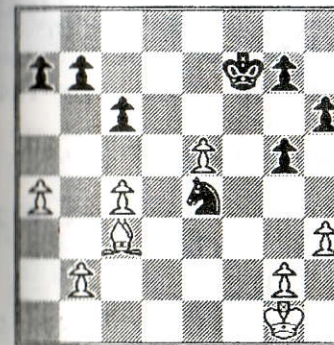
JUNIOR CHESS

Jerry Humphreys

Congratulations to Daniel Bateman, winner of this month's game. Daniel, 15, goes to Downend School and has been a member of Downend Chess Club for two years. He had only played in Division 6 until recently, so it was a big step to play as a reserve in Division 3. However, he played with a cool head and gave his experienced opponent some nasty shocks!

T Langdon - D Bateman
Cosham B-Downend C 1992

1.d4 d5 2.e3 c6 3.♘d3 e5 4.c3 ♘e7
5.♗e2 e4 6.♘b5 ♘d7 7.♘xc6 ♘xc6 8.0-0
♘b5 9.♗d2 ♘xe2 10.♘xe2 c6 11.a4 ♘d7
12.f3 exf3 13.♘xf3 ♗f6 14.e4 ♘g4
15.exd5 ♘xf3 16.♗xf3 ♗xd5 17.♗g5 f6
18.♞e1+ ♘e7 19.♗e6 ♗f7 20.♘d2 ♞ae8
21.♞e2 ♘d6 22.♞ae1 ♘e5!? 23.♗g5+
(better is 23.♗xg7) 23...fxg5 24.♞xe5
♞xe5 25.♞xe5 h6 26.c4 ♗f6 27.h3 ♞e8
28.♘c3 ♞xe5 29.dxe5 ♗e4



30.♗f1?

White now ends up with weak pawns on the queen's side. Better is 30.e6+! ♗xc6 31.♘xg7 with a probable draw.

30...♗xc3 31.bxc3 ♗e6 32.♗e2 ♗xe5
33.♗e3 h5 34.♗f3 ♗f5 35.♗e3? White
should play 35.g4 when he still has drawing
chances. 35...g4 36.hxg4+ ♗xg4 37.♗f2
h4 38.c5 h3 39.gxh3+ ♗xh3 0-1

Opening Moves

A new chess club has opened in Bristol, aimed at players aged 14 and under. It is called Opening Moves and meets every Sunday at Queen Elizabeth Hospital Theatre, in Jacobs Wells Road, Clifton.

So far, the club has attracted a great number of players, from beginners to League standard players. Beginners are taught the moves, rules such as castling and en passant, and skills such as how to keep a scoresheet. In the advanced section, players are given demonstrations of openings and master games, play five-minute tournaments and have a graded league based on the games they play at the club.

New players are always welcome - just turn up at 3.30 on a Sunday afternoon. The club also needs adults, not necessarily strong players themselves, who can coach the players or who have good ideas for new activities. For further information, phone Iain Bourne on 0272 668964 (eves).

Stroud Quickplay

Three Bristol League juniors played at the popular Stroud ½-hour tournament on 6th December. For Daniel Bateman (see above) and Darrell Rowbottom (Grendel's latest signing) it was their first ever tournament, and both managed to win games. The more experienced Cosham player Shane Roberts scored 4/6 in the under-161 section. Three other local juniors were present: Carl Bicknell (Clifton College), Paul Fell (KLB), and Richard Colfer (Marlwood). Richard managed the excellent score of 3½/6 in the under-131 section.

Christmas Teaser

How many knights do you need to force checkmate if your opponent has just a pawn on his/her R2, and your king is directly in front of it? Is the answer different if the pawn is missing? (Remember that you can get knights by promoting pawns.) Answer next issue.

Tuson wins out in combative Section 3

Richard Palmer

This section was keenly contested with four players in contention for the trophy. After two rounds only three players had 100% - Dave Francis (Horfield), A Johnson and J Tuson (both Grendel). Tuson had a half point bye in round 3 while Johnson beat Francis to take a clear lead. In round 4, Tuson demolished Johnson in 14 moves to leapfrog in front.

In the final round, Tuson (3½) played Francis (3), while Johnson (3) played S C Roberts (Central), who had managed three straight wins after losing to Tuson in the first round. Roberts had a convincing win while Francis-Tuson went to a very tricky rook + pawn ending where Tuson had the edge. In the quickplay scramble, Francis gave up his rook for a few pawns and then, in what should have been a winning rook v pawn ending, Tuson swapped off for a draw.

So Roberts and Tuson tied on 4/5, with the trophy going to Tuson on the second tie-break - his win over Roberts in Round One proved to be the decisive game of the section:

J Tuson - SC Roberts
Round 1, Dutch Defence

1.d4 f5 2.c4 ♟f6 3.♟c3 d6 4.♟g5 e6 5.e4 ♟e7 6.♟d3 0-0 7.♟ge2 fxe4 8.♟xf6 ♟xf6 9.♟xe4 c5 10.0-0 ♟d7 11.♟d3 h6?!

This leaves the light squares around the king very weak, but the alternative of ...g6 invites a strong attack by ♟f4, ♟e1-e3, and a sacrifice on g6.

12.♟f4 ♟b6 13.♟h7+ ♟f7 14.♟ae1 ♟e7?!

Walking into a fork, but White threatens a strong attack with 15.♟g6+ ♟e7

Section

3

Bristol League Congress

16.♟xe6+! ♟xe6 17. ♟e1. Best may be 14...e5 when after 15.♟g6+ ♟e7 16.♟fd5+ ♟xd5 17.♟xd5+ ♟d7 18.♟f5+ ♟c6 19.♟c2 ♟a5 Black is still in the game.

15.♟g6+ ♟f7 16.♟xf8 cxd4 17.♟xe6 ♟xe6 18.♟g6+

Stronger is 18.♟g6+ ♟e7 19.♟f5 ♟d7 20.♟d5+ winning a piece.

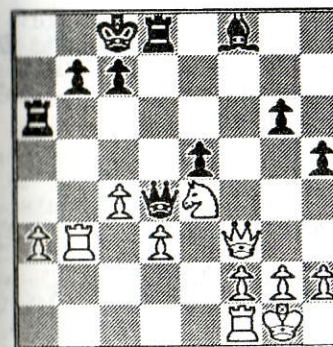
18...♟e7 19.♟d5+ ♟d7 20.♟e4 ♟xd5 21.cxd5 ♟f8 22.♟c1 ♟e8 23.♟f5+ ♟d8 24.♟c2

This should lead to a quick win - if 24...♟e7 or ...♟c7 25.♟c8+! ♟xc8 26.♟xc8+#!; if 24...♟c5 25.♟c7+ ♟e8 26.♟g6+

24...♟f7 25.♟g6? [25.♟e6 wins quickly] 25...♟d7 26.♟xe8 ♟xe8 and White eventually won on move 53. 1-0.

This game produced an attractive finish in Round 3:

E Turner - P Coy



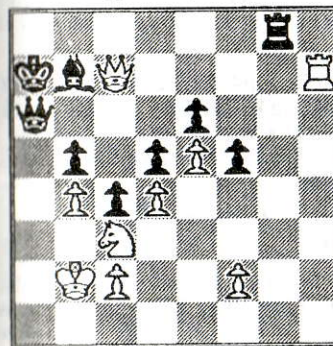
30.♟xb7!? ♟xb7? After this White wins by force. If Black declines the offered rook, e.g. 30...♟xd3, or ...♟xa3, White has no attack. 31.♟d6+ ♟b6 32.♟b7+ ♟c5 33.♟e4+ ♟xe4 34.dxe4 ♟c6

If 34...♟ad6 35.♟b5+ ♟d4 36.♟d1+ ♟c3 37.♟b4+ ♟c2 38.♟b1+ ♟c3 39.♟c1+ ♟d2 40.♟c2+#!

35.♟b5+ ♟d4 36.♟xc6 ♟xa3 1-0.

In the diagram position, White's best move is 30.♟c5 ♟c6 (30...♟xc5 or ...♟xc5 31.♟xb7+ ♟d7 32.♟xa6) 31.♟xb7 winning material. Black might try 31...e4 32.♟xd8 exf3 33.♟xc6 ♟f4 (33...♟g4 34.♟b8+ ♟d7 35.♟e5+ and ♟xg4) 34.g3 ♟d2 [otherwise 35.♟e1] 35.♟b8+ ♟d7 36.♟c5+ ♟e7 37.♟xg6+ and White should win.

The one that got away...



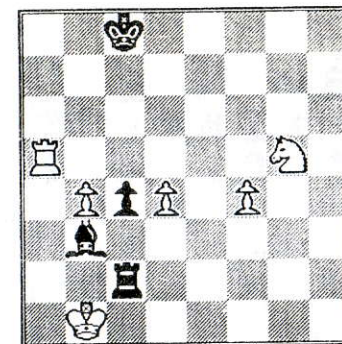
K Jones - G Cameron
Round 3

White has a strong attack. The clearest win is to switch the direction of attack by 45.♟h1. Black's only try is 45... ♟c8 after which White wins by 46.♟xb5+! ♟xb5 (46...♟a8 47.♟xc8+! ♟xc8 48.♟c7+ etc.) 47.♟a1+ ♟a6 48.♟xa6+ ♟xa6 49.♟a5+#!

The game, which was already into the quickplay finish, went 45.♟c5+ ♟b8 46.♟xb5 ♟c8 47.♟d6+ ♟xd6 48.exd6

Stronger is 48.♟xd6 ♟c7 49.♟h8+ ♟c8 50.♟xc8+ ♟xc8 51.♟xc8 ♟xc8 52.♟a3 ♟c7 53.b5 ♟b6 54.♟b4 with a won ending.

48...♟d8 49.♟e7 ♟c6 50.♟c7 ♟xd6 51.♟xe6 ♟c8 52.♟g7 ♟d8 53.♟e5 f4 54.♟e6+ ♟c8 55.♟xf4 ♟f6 56.♟h3 ♟f3 57.♟e3 ♟f7 58.f3 ♟h7 59.f4 ♟d7 60.♟g5 ♟h2 61.♟e5 ♟a4 62.♟xd5 ♟xc2+ 63.♟b1 ♟b3 64.♟a5



Now 64...c3 threatens at least a perpetual, but White has the resource 65. ♟e4. The game continued...

64...♟f2 65.♟e4 ♟f1+ 66.♟b2 ♟f2+ 67.♟c3?? ♟c2+ # 0-1

It is interesting to analyse the end position, a luxury that was not afforded to the players in the quickplay ending! If 67.♟c1 c3 [threat ...♟f1#] 68.♟c5+ ♟b8 [else the knight escapes with check] 69.♟xc3 ♟xe6 which should be drawn.

An interesting try by Black is 67...♟b8 68.♟c5 ♟c2+ 69.♟b1 c3 and Black has perpetual check.

After 64...f2 in the diagram position, White can try 65.c4 f4 66.c5 fxd4? 67.a8+ c7 68.c6+ b7 69.fxd4 xa8 70.fxb3 cxb3 71.b2 but the endgame is drawn.

SC Roberts - E Turner
Round 4, Guioco Piano

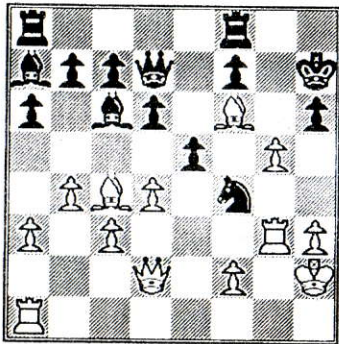
1.e4 e5 2.f3 c6 3.d4 f6 4.c3 d5 5.0-0 0-0 6.a3 a6 7.d3 d6 8.dg5 h6 9.dh4 dg4 10.h3 dh5 11.g4 dg6 12.fxd5 h7 13.b4 a7 14.c3 e7? 15.fxf6+ gxf6 16.dxf6 d7 17.d2 c6 18.h2 d8 19.fh4 e6 20.g5?!

Premature - after Black's next, White has no satisfactory way to defend h3. He should prepare g5 by either exchanging the knight on e6 or playing f1g1.

20...f4 21.f5 dxf5 22.f1g1

If 22.exf5 fxf5 White cannot defend h3.

22...dxe4 23.f1g3 dxc6? [23...d6 denies White any counterplay.] 24.d4



24...fh5 25.d5 d6? 26.d3+ dxd3 27.fxd3+ g8 28.gxh6+ 1-0.

In the diagram position White, a piece down, has a lot of threats and over the board he is likely to win. Detailed analysis shows that Black can hold on to a material advantage with best defence.

A critical line is 25...fxg3 26.dxc6 bxc6 27.fxg3 f5 28.f1g6 29.d3 e4 30.f4! exd3 31.f4 h4 f8 [hoping for 32.fxh6+ f7 33.gxh6 e2+] 32.fxd3! fxd3 33.fxh6+ g8 34.fh8+#, but

Black has 30...hxg5 31.fxe4 gxf4 etc. when with two rooks against the queen, Black has the better chances.

In this line if 26...fxc6 27.d3+ e4 28.fxg3 d5 29.f2e2 fxd3 30.f5 g8! 31.fxh6 (31.gxh6 e3 and the Black queen defends the kingside.) 31...f2e2+ 32.f1g1 f3+ with perpetual check.

After 24...fh5 in the diagram position, I think 25.d3+ wins for White, 25...e4 26.f1g4 fxf6 (26...exd3? 27.fxd3+ wins as in the game; 26...f5? 27.f1g4 wins 28.f2e2) 27.gxf6 f8 28.f1g4 f6 29.d2 fxf6 30.d4 e7 31.d5+ wins, or 29...ag8 30.d4 d8 31.d5 f8 32.f1g1 and White wins by f5-h5, or 32...h8 33.f1g6 f6 34.d6 g6 fxg6 35.fxh6+ etc.

In the diagram, 24...f5 is Black's best try. I can't see a forced win for White, though he has plenty of strong attacking possibilities.

A Johnson - SC Roberts
Round 5, Dutch Defence

1.d4 f5 2.c4 f6 3.c3 e6 4.dg5 d7 5.e3 b6 6.f3 d7 7.e2 0-0 8.0-0 d6 9.b4 b7 10.f3 e4 11.dxe7 fxe7 12.d5 e5 13.fxe4 fxe4 14.f2 d2 f6 15.f2c2 d8 16.fxe4?!

This puts the White queen in the firing line. However, Black has got much the better of the opening and it is difficult to find a decent move for White.

16...fxe4 17.fxe4 d5 18.f3 e4 19.f3g3 f6 20.d5?

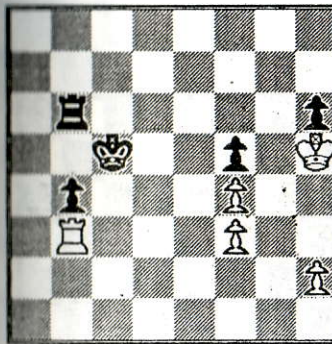
White's only chance to stay in the game is 20.f3 or f4 to provide a retreat for the queen.

20...f6 21.d4 f6 22.h3 f8 23.f2 d4 24.hxg4 f6 25.g3 f6 26.f2g2 f6 27.f3h3 g5 28.f2g2 h5 29.f3h3 h4 30.f2h2 hxg3+ 31.fxg3 f6 32.f4 f3+ 0-1.

D Francis - J Tuson
Round 5

This position was reached at the start of the quickplay finish with Black needing a win to gain first place outright. He had excellent

chances with his passed pawn, White's doubled pawns, and White's king out of play.



Play continued 43.f1b1 b3 44.f1xb3 [desperation?] 44...f1xb3 45.f1xh6 fxf6 47.h4 f1x3 48.h5 f3+ 46.f1g5 f1h3 47.f1xf5 f1xh2 48.f1e5 f1h5+ 49.f5 f1xf5+ 1/2-1/2

Black should win the ending by 48...f6 49.f6 c7 50.f5 d8 51.f6 e8 etc.

The endgame is very interesting to analyse. White's best try for a draw is 43.h4 c4 44.f1c3+! d5 [If the rook is captured, it is stalemate, and 44...d4? allows 45.f1c6 f1b5 46.f1b6]

(A) 45.f1d3+ e6 46.f1xh6 [After 46.f1c3+ f6 there are no useful checks] 46...b3 47.f1d1 b2 48.f1b1 f6 49.f1h7 (49.h5 f1b7 is zugzwang) 49...f1b8 50.h5 f1b7+ 51.f1g8 f1b6 52.f1h8 (other moves transpose) 52...f1b8+ 53.f1h7 f1f7 54.h6 f1f6 and the rook must move.

(B) 45.f1c5+ e6 46.f1e5+ f6 47.f1xf5+ g7 48.f1e5 b3 49.f1e1 b2 50.f1b1 f1b5+ 51.f1g4 f6 52.h5 f1b4 53.f1g3 f1f5 with an easy win.

(C) 45.f1b3 aiming for a draw by repetition 45...f6 46.f1g6! f1b5 47.f1e3+ d6 48.f1xh6 and White has at least a draw. Black must avoid the trap 46.f1xh6? f1f6! 47.h5 f1b7 48.f1b1 b3 49.f1g1 f1b8 (not 49...b2??) 50.f1g6+ f7 51.f1g7+ f6 52.f1xb7) 50.f1h7 b2 51.f1b1 f7 and Black wins as in line (A).

So, it appears that White can obtain a draw

by line (C).

Tuson was a worthy winner as the only points he dropped were a half point by and a drawn game which he had the better of. He had a convincing win over the other player on 4/5, and he was the only unbeaten player in the section.

Placings: 1-2 J Tuson (Grendel), S C Roberts (Central) 4; 3-4 D Francis (Horfield), G Cameron (Sun Life) 3½; 5-6 B S Radford (Omnibus), A Johnson (Grendel) 3; 7-9 K Jones, P Walters (Nailsea), S Finnermore (Horfield) 2½; 10-12 E Fletcher (Sea Mills), E Turner, P Martin (Horfield) 2; 13 R Studer (Clevedon) 1½; 14 P Coy (Nailsea) 1; G Wright (Harambee) withdrew.

Bristol KO Cup Results.

Round 1:
Clevedon 4½-3½ University
Downend 6 - 2 Harambee.

Round 2:
Clevedon 2½-5½ Sea Mills
Nailsea 3½-3½ South Bristol (+1)
Hanham 3 - 5 Thornbury
Grendel 2½-5½ Clifton
Civil Service 0 - 8 Horfield
Sun Life 0 - 6 Downend (+2)
Cossham 5 - 3 Keynsham
Bristol Royals 1½-6½ Bath

Cup Draws

The draw for the third round of the Bristol KO Cup is:
Cossham v Clifton (28th Jan)
Sea Mills v Thornbury (27th Jan)
Bath v Horfield (27th Jan)
Nailsea or South Bristol v Downend (25th or 26th Jan)

Bristol Individual KO Round 1 draw: R G Sully v J K Fawcett; G Strickland v S C Roberts; J Tuson v D C Pugh; R Phillips v M Bridgman; J W Nichols v A T Mordue; J Snell v R Gage; M Daniels v J E Richards; Shane Roberts v T Chinnick. All games to be played by 20th January.

Chess Computers and Endgame Studies

Brian Gosling

Over the last decade a revolution has been taking place which will have a profound effect on the way we play chess. Someone reading a chess magazine for the first time can be forgiven for thinking he has picked up the wrong magazine, for page after page is about Computers and Databases.

I, like many chessplayers, have mixed feelings about this new development. Where will it lead? Will it kill the enjoyment of the game?

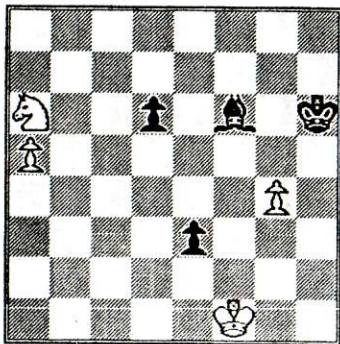
Well, recently I put my doubts behind me and I acquired a Fidelity Excel Mach III 68000 Chess Playing Computer. This model has been around for a few years and is by no means the most powerful computer that one can buy. I chose this model because it was in my price range and offered good problem solving ability. I wanted to see how useful it would be in my work as an adjudicator in checking analysis and giving a second opinion. To ascertain how good the 68000 was in endgame analysis one had to have a graded standard with which to compare it. The standard I chose was the set of graded studies in Speelman and Livshits' book, "Test Your Endgame Ability" (Batsford, 1988). So over the next few months I analysed 60 studies taken from all fields of endgame theory. They covered the complete ability range. The results, and some of the discoveries, were quite surprising.

Let us now look at some of the interesting positions that came to light during the project.

Study 1

V and M Platov, 1908

See next column.



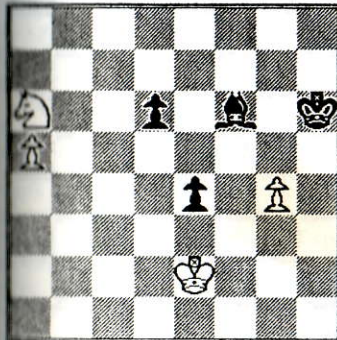
295 Speelman/Livshits Win?

A year after this study was published, the Platovs became famous by winning the third composing tourney in the Rigaer Tageblatt magazine. The prizewinning study was a particular favourite of Lenin's. In both studies, the knight played a central role. The Platov's solution to the above study is 1.g5+ ♖xg5 (1... ♖xg5 2.♖c7 ♖f6 3.♖e6 d5 4.a6 d4 5.♖e2 wins) 2.♖c5! ♖d4 (or ♖d8) 3.♖e6 wins. The a-pawn cannot be stopped from queening.

The computer did not like the move 1.g5+. Instead it played 1.♖c7 ♖d4 2.♖e2 ♖a7 3.♖f3 ♖g5 with no clear outcome. Why was this? Is the solution too difficult or is the study flawed?

I began to move the pieces around and then it occurred to me. After 1.g5+ ♖xg5 2.♖c5, Black has a strong counterattack with 2... ♖g4! If White now plays 3.a6, then ... ♖f3! wins for Black. The move 3.♖e2 is also no good because Black plays ... ♖d4(d8). It is no wonder the computer didn't like 1.g5+. The move gives a pawn away and helps Black in his counterattack. This study was indeed flawed, but it can easily be corrected.

V and M Platov, 1908 Correction by B Gosling, 1991



Win

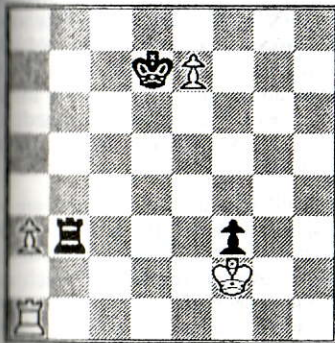
This study is corrected by placing the Black pawn on e4 and the White king on e2. The Black counterattack now does not work. This time the computer came up with the correct solution which was the Platov's idea of 1.g5+.

[I would like to acknowledge Timothy Whitworth's help in checking the original 1908 position.]

Study 2

The main line of the composer's solution is 1.♖e1 ♖e8 2.a4 ♖b2+ 3.♖xf3 ♖b3+ 4.♖g2! ♖b2+ 5.♖h1 ♖b4 6.a5 ♖b5 7.a6 ♖b6 8.a7 ♖a6 9.♖g1! ♖xe7 10.♖g8 ♖xa7 11.♖g7+ and wins the rook.

V Korolkov, 1948



313 Speelman/Livshits Win?

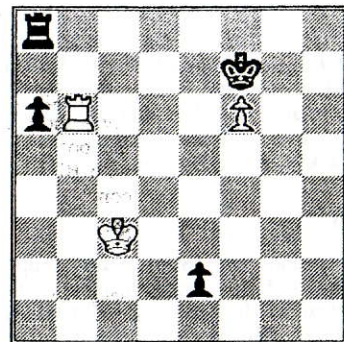
All this is very pretty but it has a fatal flaw. I had a suspicion that something was wrong. Black has an important defensive resource which the composer overlooked. Also the computer could not find the correct idea when playing at 3½ minutes per move. So I left it running overnight. I can understand why Botvinnik wanted to develop a chess playing computer. He has lost enough sleep analysing those adjourned games in the early hours.

The defensive idea which the computer found overnight is to play the black rook to the 6th rank where it is able to blockade the pawn.

After 1.♖e1 ♖e8 2.a4, the move 2... ♖b6! secures the draw. This is one of those rare positions where the rook is better positioned in front of the pawn rather than behind. Both the White pawns are weak, and the White king is too far away to defend them. Black has time to set up a defensive position to secure the draw. 3.♖c5 ♖a6. The pawn must not be allowed any further than the fifth rank, for then Black cannot draw. 4.a5 ♖f6. White can make no progress. 5.♖e4 ♖a6 6.♖a4 ♖xe7 7.♖xf3. It is a draw.

By reversing the colours and making White to move and draw, the study can be corrected.

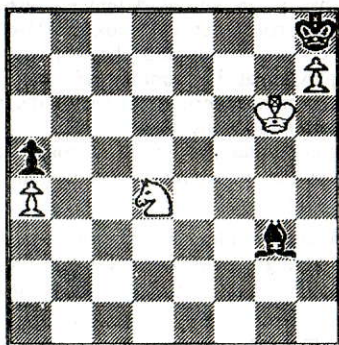
V. Korolkov, 1948. Correction by B Gosling, 1991.



1.♖d2 ♖e8 2.♖e1 a5 3.♖b3! ♖e4 (3... ♖xf6 4.♖f3+ ♖g5 5.♖a3 ♖e5 6.♖a2 ♖f4 7.♖xe2 ♖d5 8.♖d2=) 4.♖a3 a4 5.♖f3 ♖e5 6.♖a3 ♖a5 7.♖xe2 ♖xf6=.

Study 3

F Hey, 1913



272 Speelman/Livshits Win?

With White to move, the authors Speelman and Livshits give the following solution 1.♖e6! ♖c7 2.♘g5 wins. I've no way of checking the original, but I doubt if this is Hey's solution.

This study is a good example of corresponding squares. In order to give mate the knight has to get to f7. From e6, the knight can get to f7 from g5 and d8. So Black has only one move and that is 1...♖h4. The corresponding square for e6 is h4. A whole series of corresponding squares can be compiled.

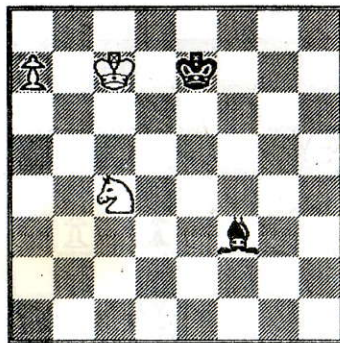
The solution is 1.♖e6 ♖h4!=. The computer showed that White's threats of mate and attack on the a-pawn can be met by accurate defence.

It is interesting to note that both Fine and Averbakh quote the same position. Fine gives the name 'O. Hey' and also analyses the position to a draw. Averbakh analyses with Black to move but comes to the same conclusion.

Study 4

To understand this position the computer needs to search to a depth of over 16 plies. This is near the theoretical limit for this type of machine. Because it cannot reach this search depth in the required time it fails to find the correct solution.

V Chekhover, 1950



283 Speelman/Livshits Win

The computer sees 1.♖b8? ♗d8 2.♘d6 ♖a8! 3.♗xa8 ♖c7! It fails to find the win for White. This position after 3...♖c7 is a well-known drawing position because the White king is trapped. The computer has enough 'understanding' to find the difficult draw. To find the win the computer needs to search deeper to overcome Black's defence. The winning idea is to obtain the same final position with Black to move! The win was shown by Horwitz in 1885 and it includes a fine knight manoeuvre.

1.♘a5 ♖a8 2.♖c8! ♖e8 3.♘c4 ♖e7 4.♖b8 ♗d8 5.♘d6 ♗d7 6.♘b7 ♖c6 7.♗xa8 ♖c7 8.♘d6! wins.

Conclusions

The final result from analysing ten groups of six studies was a 66% success rate in solving. Each group represented a different type of endgame. The playing level chosen gave an average response time of 3½ minutes per move. Studies solved by overnight analysis are not included in the result. Obviously, if these were counted, the result would be very much higher, in the order of 70-80%.

This is a brilliant result and indicates we are only a few years away from a 100% score. It means that most chessplayers have the possibility of owning computers which can play the endgame perfectly. These computers will have a grading in excess of 3000 ELO.

Some of you may ask, why do we need such computers? The study composers of the past got by without such machines. Look at Froitzky; when he worked out the theory of that very difficult ending - king and two knights v king and pawn - he didn't need the help of a computer. Yes, he was endowed with great mental ability which the majority of us do not have.

I think that players interested in the endgame will welcome such a machine. Very few of us have the luxury of spending more than a few evenings a week on chess matters. Such a machine will enable us to cover more theory and know that our compositions are technically perfect. The composer will be set free to concentrate on the other facets of his art. Composing will become more accessible to players who would otherwise be put off by the sheer volume of theory they need to know. Often awards are made to studies which are found later to be technically flawed. This need no longer happen. Hard pressed judges and adjudicators should welcome them with open arms. This doesn't belittle the judging process. The technical ability of the Judge still has to be second to none. I know that much of what I have written is controversial, but I put it before you for your consideration.

Chess computers have to be used wisely. To use them without understanding is like the schoolboy who has no idea how to do his maths when his calculator is taken away.

As a West of England Regional Coach, I am convinced of the importance of chess computers in the teaching of endgame theory. Analysing studies is a useful way to impart knowledge without tears. The challenge to all of us is to live creatively with computers so that they further enrich the Art of Chess.

I would like to acknowledge Terry Knight's help and advice and in supplying the computer from Competence, The Chess Computer Specialists, PO Box 759, Wimborne, Dorset, BH21 5YH.

© Brian Gosling, 1991

GM helps Horfield celebrate its 50 years

Horfield & Redland Chess Club held a simultaneous exhibition to celebrate its fiftieth birthday. Grandmaster Stuart Conquest took on 29 opponents, on Tuesday 1st December (exactly 50 years to the day the club was formed in 1942). Stuart scored 24 wins, 4 draws and just one defeat; against Phil Nendick (Horfield). Three of the four draws were also against Horfield players: Huw Oliver, John Richards and Alan Williams. This meant the four members of Horfield's first team who took part beat the GM by 2½-1½. The other draw was secured by J Henty of Keynsham Chess Club. The youngest players were Nick Jones, aged ten, and his sister Anna, 12, and Christopher Purnell, also 12.

Stuart was still recovering from tonsillitis, and so did exceptionally well to cope with the rigours of a simul lasting nearly five and a half hours.

Torbay draws the crowds

A record 229 competitors took part in the 27th Torbay Congress, 20-22 November (5 rounds).

Open: 1 P Rossiter 4½; 2= A P Lewis, J F S Menadue, F Parr 4.

Major: 1= M F Hill, A Greet, R J Barlow, R Burton, B Penaligon, J Coburn 4.

Intermediate: 1= D Cavalli, A Bowhill, K Jones 4½; 4 B Cooper 4.

Minor: 1= B S Radford (Bristol Royals), B Rolls, G Rowan 4½; 4= M Buchanan, N F Ingram, D S Tice 4.

Jingle buzzes

DOWNEND held a post-Christmas buzzer tournament on 29th December. Tyson Mordue was the outright winner with 5½/6. Second equal were Mike Brigden and John Richards with 5. Alan Williams was fourth with 4½. Duncan Brown and Richard Jarvis shared the Junior prize.

Letters to the Editor



Letters have been edited for the purposes of clarity and space.

Direct Member rep

■ I am pleased to inform you that I have been elected to serve as representative for BCF Direct Full Members, of which there are now more than 1,000 in Great Britain. Our strength gives us three voices on the BCF Council, which is the ultimate decision making body of the organization. It consists of approximately 100 representatives, up to half of whom attend the two regular meetings a year - an AGM and a Finance Meeting.

Above this sits the Management Board who formulate policy and make recommendations for the Council to adopt. Being such a large body, it is rare for Council to be in total agreement on any matter, and the substantial presence of Board members together with the unpredictable effects of proxy votes means that rejection of Board recommendations is not common.

Nevertheless, Council is a democratic, thinking, body. Ample evidence came forward at the AGM on 19th September. An attempt to remove the representative for Women's Chess from the Management Board, which had been pushed through Board, was defeated by a large majority. The President himself felt compelled to quit the chair to express his feelings. After this, the global motion to trim the Board to a more manageable size fell completely apart.

The item which generated most discussion was the proposed introduction of the Game Fee to replace the Levy System. Board wanted to launch a Pilot Scheme based on a payment of 12½p per game alongside a dying Levy charge. The full Game Fee was expected to be 20p per player per game when the Levy vanished. Almost every delegate had his own feelings

on the issue. Most vociferous were those areas who had disaffiliated and declared they would not rejoin until the Levy was dead. I spoke on the adverse effect the GF would have on Congresses (none of whom will be exempt even if they insist on registration!) and in favour of a two-tier direct membership scheme. This would have a basic level for registration and grading only. My fear is that any additional burden on independent tournaments on top of ever-escalating hall charges will kill off some events.

In the end, after several abortive attempts to amend the proposals, the original paper was adopted on the understanding that it would be reworked and re-presented to an extraordinary meeting early next year.

Until the Bristol League gets its own representative on Council, I shall be happy to carry forward any concerns you may have. As I am technically representing only Direct Members, can I ask that general matters be passed through the League Management Committee. Direct Members may contact me on 0272 515869. If there is enough interest, I will set up regular 'clinics' for DMs. My two co-delegates, from London and the North-East, will be acting similarly.

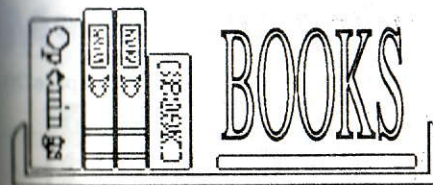
Steve Boniface *Lower Easton, Bristol*

Gradings are over-rated

■ With regard to the BCF Player Registration Scheme (BCT no 89), surely a simple questionnaire to each club secretary is the most democratic way of arriving at a solution. I feel it is quite possible that players in Divisions 5 and 6 have neither grading nor tournament aspirations and would be quite happy to forego their names in print to reduce the cost of their hobby.

After all, many of these players must be currently unemployed or retired but already have to pay high club subscriptions. If they are lost to the game, more clubs will fold. Furthermore, juniors will be pitched into league games against seniors far too strong for them and a string of defeats may see them also lost to the club.

Arthur Hicks, *Fishponds, Bristol.*



Secrets of Rook Endings, John Nunn, Batsford, Pbk. 300pp. £17.99.

This is the fourth book in Batsford's *Secrets...* series. As someone who has the earlier publications, I can testify they require a lot of work to reap the benefits contained in the texts. This latest volume is no exception.

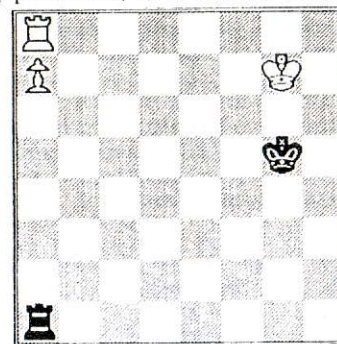
John Nunn has again been commissioned by the publishers; a wise decision, given the immense amount of raw material which had to be pulled together into a coherent format. Nunn has established his reputation as a front-line chess writer and has produced some notable works for Batsford. I am reminded particularly of his masterpiece *Secrets of Grandmaster Play*, co-authored with Peter Griffiths. I am singing Nunn's praises because his latest endeavour has clearly been a labour of love: the extra he has put in gives us more to take out.

I must point out straightaway that this book covers ♖ + ♜ v ♝ endings "only". In that case, is it worth the effort of study? Well, as Nunn says in his Introduction, "the theory of ♖ + ♜ v ♝ underpins the entire theory of rook endings" and is "fundamental" to understanding all rook endings. He demonstrates this statement conclusively as the book unfolds.

The Introduction makes fascinating reading. All the moves are "guaranteed to be accurate". For this we can thank the computer and an endgame database which works backwards from certain end (terminal) positions. The database calculates the result of each position arising until every legal position has been evaluated. Consequently, every start position can be accurately assessed as a win or a draw (with best play). Nunn's role has been to extract the most useful information from a mass of raw data, by means of a user-friendly interface,

and to act as an interpreter for the reader. He succeeds admirably.

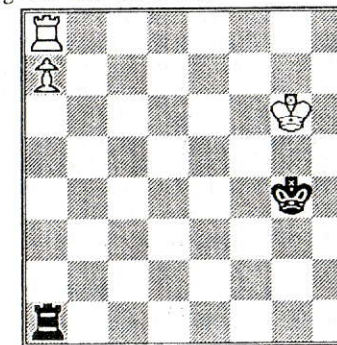
The book has four chapters. Each chapter examines positions with the pawn situated on its start square through to the seventh rank. The files a - d are investigated in turn. Playing through individual positions, I thought: "what did I learn from that?" My initial reaction was - not a great deal! After all, the positions demand best play from both sides and this is beyond most club players. However, a process of osmosis seeped in and I began to feel that a gradual learning curve was taking shape. This was aided by the sequence of positions - I began to see why a certain position is only a draw but the next with, say, minimally different king placements, is a win. For example:



This position is a draw. Analysis (abridged):

1. ♖f7 ♕f5 2. ♖e7 ♕e5 3. ♖d7 ♕d5
4. ♖c7 ♕c5 5. ♖b7 ♕b1+ 6. ♖c8 ♕a1
7. ♖c7 ♕a2 and White cannot progress.

However, move the kings one square along the g-file and it's a win:



1.♔f6 ♕f4 2.♖e6 ♗e4 3.♘d6 ♙d4
4.♚c6 and now matching the White king
with ♚c4 does not work this time because
5.♞c8! ♞xa7 6.♖b6+. Therefore, 4...♞c1+
5.♖b5 ♞b1+ 6.♗a4 ♞a1+ 7.♖b3 and the
Black king is too far from the pawn.

Working through this book, you will gradually acquire a thorough grounding in essential techniques and motifs (the tricks of the long and short sides, drawing zones, zugzwang for example). Nunn also introduces us to the concept of reciprocal zugzwang: Black to play loses, but White to play only draws! Two hundred and nine such positions are possible in this ending and they are all in the text.

Hold this book in your hand and it is intimidating - 300 pages and 534 positions! The sort a grandmaster carries for his adjournments, you might feel. Well yes; but there is also a great deal of value in it for the player (probably in the 150+ range) who is prepared to work hard on this aspect of the game. At £17.99 it is not inexpensive - look on it as an investment. This book deserves a good audience.

Martyn Sellars

King Marches in the Middlegame: The Good and the Bad! Josef Marsalek, translated by Vera Beranova, edited by Alan Ashby, AVBA Publishing, pamphlet, 9pp, £2.00 (inc p&p).

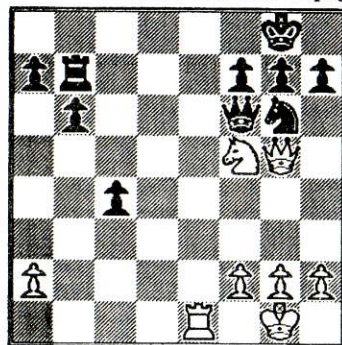
The spectacle of a king going walkabouts early in the game under the gaze of the enemy is often entertaining. I suppose it is because it is so rare that it seems so daring. The first publication from Alan Ashby's new venture is a translation of just one chapter from a Czech book which gives six examples of games with hyperactive kings. All these kings seem to prefer moving sideways and there are no examples of the king marching up the board to join the attack. In his Editor's Note, Alan reminds us of Short performing such a feat early last year, and I would have liked to have seen Alan perhaps add this game (and one or two other recent examples) in an appendix as it would enhance this pamphlet's value.

John Richards

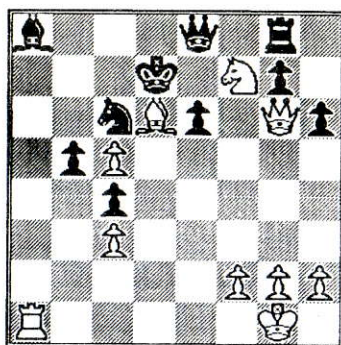
Copies can be ordered from Alan Ashby, 57 Cotham Brow, Bristol, BS6 6AW.

Find the Moves

An easier set this time. Answers on page 20.



A: A Alekhine - S Freeman
New York 1924
White to play and win



B: A Alekhine - E Bogoljubow
Wiesbaden 1929
White to play and win

Around the Clubs

continued from page 3

The HANHAM Congress organisers had to call it off after failing to find a suitable venue. Steve Boniface is trying to organise a mini event combined with an arbiters' training course for the same weekend (28-30 Jan). See the Diary for details.

The LEAGUE CONGRESS date has not yet been fixed. Keep an eye on club noticeboards.

My Seven Memorable Games

Alan Ashby

Alan Ashby concludes his tour through the seven of his own games he would most like to take to a desert island.

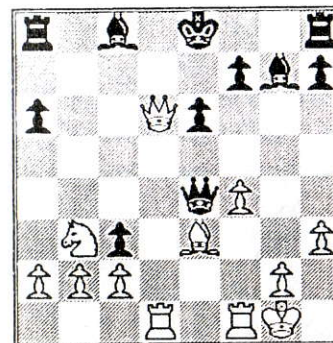
Game Four

George Botterill - Alan Ashby
Islington Open 1972
Sicilian Defence.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 a6
5.♗c3 ♗c7 6.♘d3 ♗e6 7.♘e3 ♗f6 8.0-0
b5 9.♗b3 ♗e5 10.h3 d6

An unnecessary weakening move. After the game, my opponent said he thought he'd seen Petrosian play 10...♘b7 11.f4 ♗g6 in this position.

11.f4 ♗c4 12.♘xc4 ♗xc4 13.e5 b4 [not
13...♗e4 14.♗f3±] 14.exf6 bxc3 15.fxg7
♘xg7 16.♗xd6 ♗e4 17.♞ad1



17...♘b7

Afterwards, my opponent suggested 17...♗f6 and was impressed when I pointed out 18.♘c5! The full subtlety now escapes me, but Botterill turned to Tim Harding, who was watching the post-mortem, and said 'There's one for your collection of dynamic waiting moves'.

18.♗d7+ ♗f8 19.♞f3 ♘d5 20.♞g3 h5
21.♗c5 ♗f5 22.♞g5 ♗f6 23.♞gxd5!

Played quickly, confidently, and intuitively.

23...exd5 24.♗xd5 ♞a7 25.♗e4 ♗e6
26.♗d8+ ♗e8 27.♘c5+ 1-0

An instructive loss. George Botterill is one of the most pleasant individuals I have come across in chess. A university philosophy lecturer, he once wrote the following profound words: "As games go, chess is very fair ... it compares very favourably with all the things that go under the designation 'real life', with all the stacked decks, silver spoons, nepotism, favouritism and disastrous misfortunes that attend. In comparison with the crazy unpredictability of most of human existence, playing chess is like a paradise of rationality."

Game Five

Simon Webb - Alan Ashby
Hendon-Islington, London League 1975
Reti

This game is included because IM Simon Webb is the strongest player I have ever beaten. The game also has its attractions, however.

1.♗f3 c5 2.e4 ♗c6 3.♗c3 g6 4.e3 d6 5.d4
♘g7 6.d5 ♗e5 7.♗xe5 dxe5!?

Black has no real compensation for his ruined pawn structure, but at least it's non-theoretical and interesting.

8.e4 b6 9.♘d3 ♗h6 10.♘g5

Better is 10.f3 and an early b4.

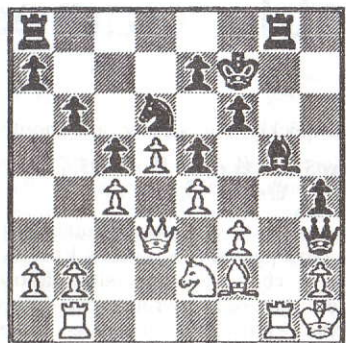
10...f6 11.♘h4 ♗f7 12.0-0 ♘h6 13.♗e2

Probably better is 13.♞ab1.

13...g5 14.♘g3 g4 15.♞ab1 ♘g5 16.♘c2
h5 17.♘a4+ ♗f8 18.f4 gxf3 19.gxf3 ♘h3
20.♞fd1 ♗d6

The knight finally reaches the Nimzovitschian blocking square.

21.♗h1 ♗f7 22.♞g1 ♞g8 [not 22...♗f8
23.♗xe5] 23.♗d3 ♘d7 24.♘xd7 ♗xd7
25.♗e2 h4 26.♘f2 ♗h3



27.b4?

White's best is probably to aim for equality with 27. ♖g4 ♗f4 28. ♖xf4 exf4 29. ♖bg1

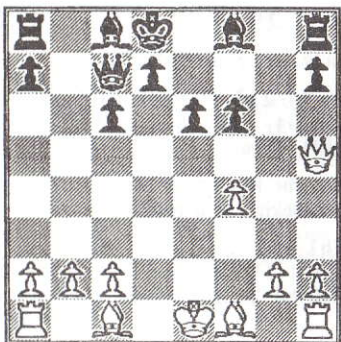
27... ♖xc4! 28.d6 ♖d2 29.bxc5 ♜xf3+ 30. ♜xf3 ♖xf3 31. ♖gd1 Sealed move. 31... ♖d2 32. ♖xd2 ♖xd2 33.dxe7 ♜xe7 34.h3 bxc5 35. ♗xc5+ ♖d7 36. ♖d1 ♖c6 37. ♗e7 ♗g5 38. ♖c3 ♖ac8 39. ♖d5 ♖b5 40. ♖b1+ ♖a4 41. ♖b7 ♖c1+ 42. ♖h2 ♖c2+ 43. ♖h1 ♖c1+ 44. ♖h2 ♗f4+ 45. ♖xf4 ♖c2+ 46. ♖h1 exf4 47. ♖xa7+ ♖b5 48. ♗xf6 ♖c1+ 49. ♖h2 ♖c2+ 50. ♖h1 f3 51. ♖b7+ ♖c6 52. ♖b1 ♖g3 0-1.

Game Six

Alan Ashby - George Wheeler
WECU Championship, Weymouth 1980
Sicilian Defence

This is my all-time favourite, without doubt.

1.e4 c5 2. ♖f3 e6 3.d4 exd4 4. ♖xd4 ♖f6 5. ♖c3 ♖c6 6. ♖xc6 bxc6 7.e5 ♖d5 8. ♖e4 ♜c7 9.f4 f5 10.exf6 ♖xf6 11. ♖xf6+ gxf6 12. ♜h5+ ♖d8



13. ♗d2

With the subtle threat of 14. ♗a5. If 13. ♜f7? ♗e7=

13...d5

Possibly more accurate is 13... ♖b8 e.g. 14. ♗a5? ♗b4+=, 14. ♜f7=, 14.a3!?. The aesthetic value of this game is not diminished by the fact that around this point my opponent nodded off, awoke with a start, and asked whose move it was!

14.g3

14. ♗d3 may be even stronger, though 14...a5 is possible.

14... ♖b8 15.a3!

Not 15. ♗c3? ♖xb2!

15... ♖xb2 16. ♗d3 ♜b6 17. ♗c3 ♖b1+

If 17... ♜e3+? 18. ♜e2!±

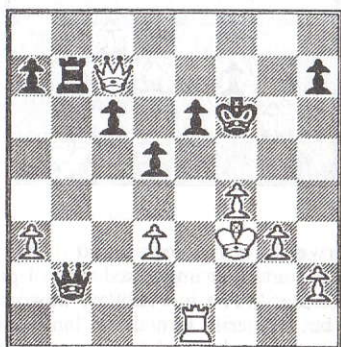
18. ♜e2 ♖xh1 19. ♗xf6+ ♗e7 20. ♗xe7+ ♜xe7 21. ♜g5+ ♖f7 22. ♜h5+ ♖e7 23. ♖xh1 ♗a6

If 23... ♜b2 24. ♜e5±

24. ♜g5+ ♖f7 25. ♜h5+ ♖e7 26. ♜e5 ♗xd3+ 27.cxd3 ♖b8 possibly better is 27... ♖f8. 28. ♖f3 ♜b2

If 28... ♜b3 29. ♖e1! ♜xd3+ 30. ♖g2±

29. ♜c7+ ♖f6 30. ♖e1 ♖b7



This position was published by Len Barden in his London Evening Standard column with the comments, 'White (to move) aimed for this simplified position but at first sight doesn't have much. However, his following

play justified his strategy and caused the watching experts to assess the game as the best of the tournament. What should White do next and how should the game go?'

31. ♖d6!

31. ♜xc6 only wins a pawn - but there is far more on offer.

31... ♖e7 32. ♖xe6+! ♖xe6 33. ♜f8+ ♖g6 34. ♖g8+ 1-0

The options are 34... ♜f5 or ♜h5 or ♜h6 35. ♖g5+#, 34... ♖f6 35. ♜h8+ winning the black queen, or finally 34... ♜g7 35. ♜xe6+ ♜h5 36. ♜h3+ ♖g6 37. ♜g4+ ♖f7 38. ♜xg7+ ♖xg7 39.d4 with a won king and pawn endgame.

Game Seven

Alan Ashby - Susan Arkell
Fagnton Premier 1987
French Defence

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3. ♖c3 ♗b4 4.e5 ♖e7 5. ♖g4

I had been playing this line for about 7 years on the advice of some London friends, Dave Lynch and Steve Berry. What I didn't know was that Susan Arkell had already defended this line many times in friendly games against her husband, Keith, and had improved on what theory there was.

6. ♖c3 6. ♖f3 exd4 7. ♖xd4 ♜c7

7. ♖g6 is also good, as Chris Weeks has shown against me.

8. ♗b5+ ♖d7 9.0-0 0-0 10. ♖xe6 fxe6 11. ♜xb4

It is essential that White throws in 11. ♗xd7 here. Black's knights become just too powerful.

11... ♖xe5 12. ♗g5

12. ♗c3 is better, though unattractive.

12. ♖7g6

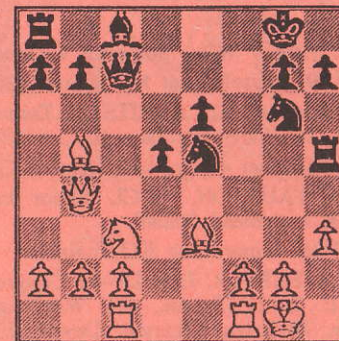
Black had spent only 16 minutes so far; White nearly 40.

13. ♖ac1

Susan criticised this in BCM (fame at last) as being too passive, but what else is there? My plan, pathetic though it is, was

eventually to play c4. Meanwhile, on the right bank...

13... ♖f5 14. ♗e3 ♖h5 15.h3

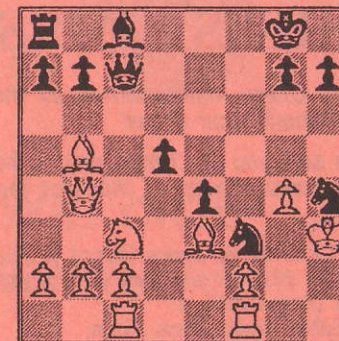


15... ♖xh3! 16.g3

If 16.gxh3 ♖f3+ 17. ♖g2 ♖gh4+±

16... ♖f3+ 17. ♖g2 ♖gh4+! 18. ♖xh3 e5+ 19.g4 e4 0-1

White sleeps with the fishes. A 'brilliant resignation'. If 20. ♖h1 h5 21. ♖cg1 ♗xg4+ 22. ♖xg4 ♜c8!±. Susan was quite shocked by my resignation as she hadn't seen 22... ♜c8! Sitting on the next board, her husband Keith was amazed she should sacrifice a rook without analyzing it. Intuitive sacrifices by women chess players. As Arthur Daley might have commented, 'What is occurring here?'



Diary

Use this column to advertise your events. It's free, but please send your entries in plenty of time to the Editor.

1993

Jan 16. Glos v Wilts, Somerset v Devon

Jan 25-29. Bristol Team KO quarter-finals.

Jan 30 (provisional). ARBITERS' Training Course. Tel: Steve Boniface, 0272 515869.

Feb 6. Somerset v Cornwall, Hants v Glos

Feb 13. TAUNTON. WECU Junior Jamboree at Ladymead School

Feb 22-26. Minor Club KO ½-finals.

Mar 5-7. EXETER. East Devon Congress. Contact: E G Sparke, 12 Westbourne Terrace, Budleigh Salterton, Devon, EX9 6BR. Tel: 0395 442585.

Mar 8-12. Bristol Team KO ½-finals.

Mar 13. Cornwall v Glos

Apr 9-12. WECU Easter Congress (venue to be fixed). Contact: Richard Rendell 0793 724039.

May 14-16. FROME Congress. Contact: G Jepps, 27 Lockey Rd, Shepton Mallett, Somerset, BA4 5RQ. Tel: 0749 344191.

Find the Moves - Answers

A: Alekhine announced mate in four by 1. ♖e8+ ♠f8 2. ♘h6+ ♜xh6 3. ♖xf8+ ♜x8 4. ♜d8+ 1-0.

This game was one of 26 played blindfold simultaneously by Alekhine.

B: 1. ♖e5+ 1-0. If 1... ♘xe5 2. ♖a7+ ♜c6 3. ♜e4+ #

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