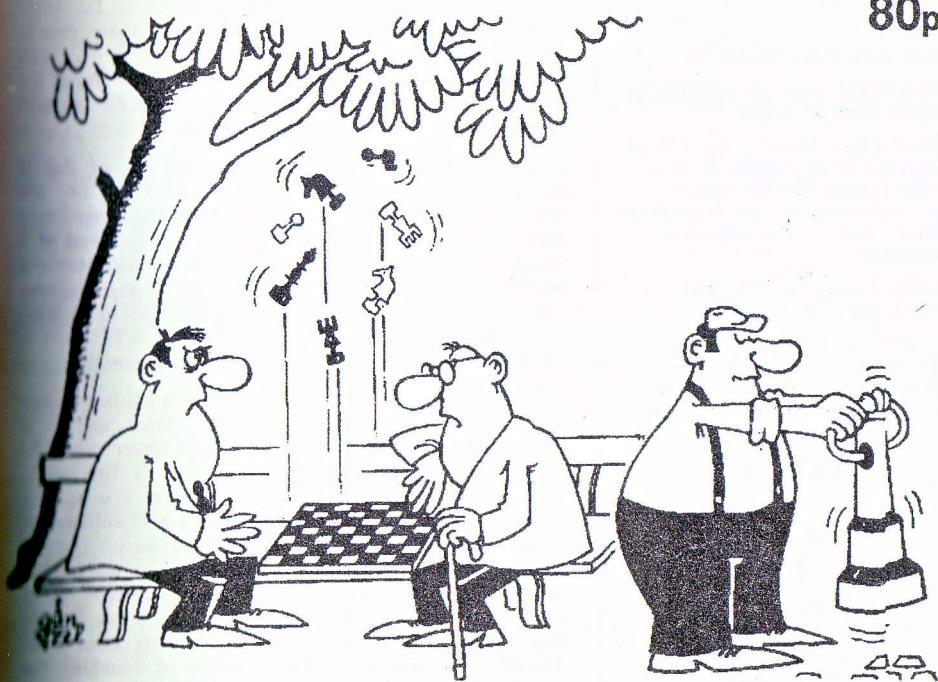


No: 92, March 1993

Bristol CHESS TIMES

The Magazine of the Bristol & District Chess League

80p



Short's triumph: will club chess reap the benefits?

BCF's Game Fee - crucial vote soon plus: all the league news and tables

Bristol CHESTIMES

Editor: John Richards
**7 Maycliffe Park, Bristol,
BS6 5JH. Tel: 0272 551912
Fax: 0272 351135**

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CONTENTS

2	Editorial
3	Around the Clubs
3	League Tables
4	Chess on the Radio
5	Junior Chess
6	Game Fee Pilot Scheme gets the go-ahead
6	League vote on Game Fee
7	Find the Moves
8	Close to the Edge
10	Arbiters learn the ropes
10	Frome pays tribute
11	Books
12	Bristol KO Cup results
13	Shaken and Stirred
16	Diary

Next issue: 7th May. Please send in articles, news, etc. for the next issue by 23rd April.

EDITORIAL

It's Manchester - or is it?

What are we to make of the pantomime being acted out over the World Championship? First, FIDE assign the match to Manchester, and then, four days later, Short and Kasparov announce they want to do their own thing. They complain they were not consulted, and say they are setting up their own organisation and invite new bids.

We are heading towards the sort of farce that afflicts boxing, with up to three people claiming to be world champion. The winner of the Short-Kasparov match, probably Kasparov, will claim the title. FIDE may well announce their own champion; possibly Timman has the best case. Meanwhile, the maverick Bobby Fischer will doubtless continue his own absurd claim.

The only positive thing that can come out of this is some fleeting media attention. In the long run, the world title is devalued and so is chess. It is also likely that this country's chess players will be deprived of a unique experience of seeing an Englishman contest the world crown in England. We don't really care that Short stands less chance of winning than the England cricket team does of beating India in a return match; Short is there and we feel we ought to support him.

My suspicion is that Short realises this is his big chance to set himself up for life, even if he loses, and he is disappointed by the size of the Manchester bid. The media kept saying he would be Britain's first chess millionaire if he beat Timman and he is now put out because he looks like becoming just a half-millionaire. I can understand that. But Short must weigh that up against other things that should count - like the respect accorded to the title of World Chess Champion. Most importantly, he should consider what the chess fans in this country will think of him in the long term if he deserts FIDE and denies us a chance of watching the match on his home turf.

Membership Spin-off: let's exploit it!

One of the benefits of Short's success is a renewed interest in chess. The League's General Secretary, Alan Williams, has been invited on to Radio Bristol twice recently. His first interview is printed in this issue. His second was even better but we don't have room for it; it lasted twenty minutes! Some clubs are reporting several new potential members. However, talking to some of these recruits, I get depressed by the number of times they say "I tried the --- and --- Chess Clubs and I was made to feel unwelcome." This is just crazy. Ask yourself: does your club make new people welcome?

John Richards

Around the Clubs

BRISTOL players take four places in England's top 50 in the January FIDE rating list. GM Stuart Conquest (Sea Mills) stays at 17th (2495). IM Michael Hennigan (University) goes from 33rd to 31st spot (2415), while new in at 40th is FM Andrew Law (Clifton, 2375) and up five places at 43rd is Chris Beaumont (Hanham, 2365). Cornwall's Michael Adams is doing all right as well. He has risen 13 places to 20th in the world and remains England's no. 2 with a rating of 2630.

While on the subject of ratings, Jack Rudd (South Bristol) is third highest rated thirteen-year-old in the 1992 BCF list with a BCF rating of 178 (Elo 2024).

BRISTOL ROYALS' Secretary Chris Evans has moved to 11 Lurgan Walk, Knowle, Bristol, BS4 1PP. Tel: 0272 636858.

League Tables

Division 1			Division 2			Division 3		
	Pld	DP Pts		Pld	DP Pts		Pld	DP Pts
Downend A	12	5 17	Grendel A	13	- 24	South Bristol B	14	3 24
Clifton A	10	5 16	Sun Life A	14	- 21	Cossham B	13	- 16
University A	13	1 15	Thornbury A	13	1 15	Bristol Royals A	12	9 15
Bath	11	- 14	Nailsea A	10	1 14	Grendel B	13	4 15
Horfield A	9	- 12	Downend B	12	- 14	Horfield C	13	- 15
Clifton B	9	1 10	Cossham A	12	- 11	Clevedon B	13	- 14
Sea Mills A	10	- 7	Keynsham A	11	6 10	Nailsea B	13	- 14
South Bristol A	6	- 4	University B	15	27 6	Clifton D	14	5 9
Hanham A	9	- 3	Clevedon A	14	- 6	Downend C	13	10 5
Horfield B	11	3 2	Clifton C	14	- 5	Sea Mills B	12	1 2
Division 4			Division 5			Division 6		
	Pld	DP Pts		Pld	DP Pts		Pld	DP Pts
Hanham B	14	- 25	Sun Life B	17	- 28	Thornbury C	16	2 25
Thornbury B	14	- 21	Hanham C	17	- 24	Bristol Royals B	15	- 22
Horfield D	14	1 16	Civil Service	13	- 17	Hanham D	16	3 22
Keynsham B	11	3 14	Clevedon C	16	2 17	Nailsea D	15	1 18
University C	15	2 14	Grendel D	14	6 15	Keynsham C	14	4 12
Harambee A	11	1 11	University D	15	5 12	Downend E	15	7 11
Nailsea C	13	7 9	Downend D	15	15 4	Harambee B	13	10 4
Grendel C	13	1 8	Clifton E	17	42 2	Grendel E	14	1 3
South Bristol C	14	3 6	All-Play-All 3 times			All-Play-All 3 times		
Cabot	13	37 5						

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

Derek Pugh of KEYNSHAM and BATH'S new signing J Bade shared second place at the Stroud quickplay, 6th December. Simon Ansell, Oxford, was first.

CLIFTON's Michael Furmston has been enjoying national success at correspondence chess. February's BCM reports he was a member of the British CC Society that won the BPCF's 1991/92 team championship. Professor Furmston has been a strong postal player for several years and has kindly supplied BCT with a couple of his best games that will appear in the next issue.

The title chase is hotting up: BATH and HORFIELD A have faded recently and DOWNEND A and CLIFTON A have taken up the hunt.

Defaults are on the increase. Last season's total of 234 Default Penalty Points has been passed already this season.

Chess on the Radio

Just after the finish of the Short-Timman match, Alan Williams got the chance to publicise local chess on Radio Bristol.

Interviewer: Back in the '70's who'd have thought that snooker would become a multi-million pound industry, but it has. What about chess, perhaps, in the '90's? The Grandmaster Nigel Short has become the first Briton in over a hundred years of world chess to reach the final. He beat the Dutchman Jan Timman at the weekend and in the autumn he'll be challenging Gary Kasparov for the World Championship. So what's it mean for British chess? Alan Williams is General Secretary of the Bristol Chess League. He's with me now. What will this do for your image, Alan?

Alan Williams: Well, the last time there was a match which caught the public's imagination was Fischer-Spassky back in '72 and chess took off in a big way then. We sort of more or less doubled the people following and we think with a Briton so close at home we'll have a good chance to really get a sort of popular culture going for chess in this country.

Int: Does this mean a lot more people simply taking up chess?

AW: Yes, I think so. There's an awful lot of people that play that don't play in clubs or get out there and do it and we want to get them to come out. There's a very good local league, for instance, which is based on clubs which provide a very good, cheap, sociable night out. We want to encourage people to come to these clubs and enjoy their game a bit more.

Int: Have you any idea how many people play chess in this area?

AW: We think it's about a million people nationally and the West Country is pretty good for playing chess.

Int: And yet in Britain we don't give chess headlines very often, do we?

AW: No, that's right. It's not really sort of hit the popular culture yet as in countries

like Germany and Holland and Spain where it gets national coverage, T.V. coverage; but we are going to try and do something about that on the back of Short's success. He's going to be playing for the World Championship in August in Barcelona and getting a lot of coverage for that. We're going to put together a National League with marketing and lots of razzamatazz and, hopefully, good coverage in the national media.

Int: Does razzamatazz really go with chess?

AW: It seems a little bit odd but you've got the T-shirts and the glossy brochures and the special events to get the public's interest. It's a difficult game to get into if you don't know the techniques, so you've got to provide some kind of popular side to it to make the game attractive.

Int: Getting into the schools, perhaps?

AW: Yes, getting into the schools. We are quite good in the Avon area in terms of school activity. We've got a good primary school network. There's a very good club for junior chess just started at the weekends called "Opening Moves" which is popularising chess at the junior level.

Int: And any Nigel Shorts on the way?

AW: We've got a very strong player, not actually in the Bristol area, but from the West Country: a guy called Michael Adams who's already making quite a bit of money out of professional chess, and there's quite a few youngsters coming up through the Bristol League. One is Jack Rudd who's doing very well and nearly beat me the other day in a league game so he can't be too bad!

Int: And if people want to find out more, finally, where do they find you? How do they get hold of you?

AW: Well, get in touch with me on Bristol 241082 and I can point them to their nearest club or to the Opening Moves club. Or go down to any library and pick up a leaflet called "Play Chess in Bristol".

Int: Alan, thank you. 241082 if you want to ring Alan to find out more about playing chess.

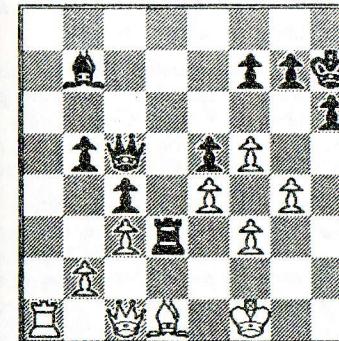


Jerry Humphreys

Horfield's latest signing is Junior League player Carl Bicknell. Carl is in the sixth form at Clifton College, and expects to play for Horfield this season and next season before going to University. In this issue's game, he stubbornly holds on to his position before launching a counter-attack with a piece sacrifice.

R Allen - C Bicknell
Clifton D-Horfield C 1993

1.e4 e5 2.Qf3 Qc6 3.Qb5 a6 4.Qa4 Qf6
5.0-0 Qe7 6.Qe1 b5 7.Qb3 d6 8.c3 Qa5
9.Qc2 c5 10.h3 0-0 11.d4 Qc7 12.Qbd2
Qe8 13.Qf1 h6 14.Qg3 Qf8 15.Qf5 Qe6
16.Qe3? Qh7? 17.dxe5 dxe5 18.Qc1
Qb7 19.Qh2 Qad8 20.Qg4 Qxg4
21.hxg4 Qd7 22.f3 Qe7 23.Qf2 Qed8
24.Qh1 Qxf5 25.gxf5 Qc6 26.a4 c4
27.axb5 axb5 28.g4 Qc5 29.Qd1 Qxd1
30.Qxd1 Qd3 31.Qxe5 Qxe5+ 32.Qf1



32...Qxe4! 33.fxe4 Qg3 34.Qf3 Qxf3+
35.Qe2 Qf2+ 0-1

Tournament Results

Oliver Bright *Keynsham* played at the Cardiff congress in January, scoring 2/5 in the Under 112 section. Thomas Bourne

Hotwells Primary School played in the same section and scored 1½. Oliver then went on to win the Under 10 section at the Frome Junior Congress with 5½/6, with Tom winning the Under 9 section. Ten other members of the Bristol junior club, *Opening Moves*, played in the tournament.

Nearly 90 players attended the County U11 selection tournament at Callicroft School on 6th February. Players were arranged in four teams, and each team member played against the same board of each other team, giving three games. Oliver Bright scored 2½/3 on top board, and Duncan Brown *Downend* scored 2½/3 on board 5.

Junior Survey

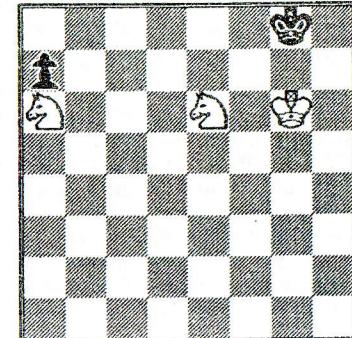
A survey of Bristol League clubs indicates that about 10% of club members are aged under 18. However, many clubs have not returned the forms yet. More details next issue.

Friendly Match

Downend's junior squad are playing a friendly match against University D in March. Results next issue. Any other club which would like to play a friendly, please let me know (Bristol 650097).

Two Knights (from last issue)

No, you cannot force mate with two knights against a lone king. You need three! But if you opponent has a pawn, you can win with only two. Trap him in the corner with one knight, then bring the other one over for checkmate. His pawn can move, so he will not get stalemate. It is very hard though - so make sure you have two bishops next time! White wins below after 1.Qac7.



Game Fee Pilot Scheme gets the go-ahead

Steve Boniface

At an Extraordinary Council Meeting of the British Chess Federation in Manchester on 6th February, proposals were discussed to replace the Levy and Affiliation Fees with a system of pay-as-you-go. Technically, the motions before the meeting were to:

- 1) Approve proposals for a pilot scheme
- 2) Allow payment of commission in order to recruit events
- 3) Give increased representation to those bodies newly registering under the system

The pilot scheme is scheduled to start on 1st May 1993, with registration starting on 1st March. In effect, this means Leagues and Congresses; with Counties and Unions being no longer mainly responsible for the raising of chess funding via the Levy Points allocation. Eventually, all events will have to pay the Game Fee, but for the duration of the pilot scheme, Leagues still paying the Levy will be exempt. There will be no exemptions for congresses; they are expected to raise the charge by increasing entry fees.

The charge would consist initially of 12½ pence per player per game (2½p quickplay), rising to 20p (5p quickplay) when the Levy is finally replaced. Direct Members will be exempt. Payment will be by 30th November for winter leagues, 30th June for those playing in summer, and within 30 days of the event for congresses.

Not unnaturally, the BCF got its way, though not without involved debate. I was representing Direct Members, though I spoke on behalf of congresses who would appear to suffer most from the proposals. As I had received no opinions from the Bristol League, I felt unable to argue any specific points. On the major item, the pilot scheme was approved, though only through the absent proxy votes of those unable or

unwilling to attend. As well as paying commission to intermediaries in the first year, the BCF agreed to consider discounts for early payments by leagues. Finally, the proposed universal representation on Council for all fee-paying events was referred back for further consideration.

Although this meeting was supposed to give full discussion for such an important change, less than four hours was barely enough time for all delegates' concerns to be fully debated. Once again the power of the Management Board and the invidious use of multiple proxy votes casts doubt on the democratic nature of the supposed decision-making body. In particular, the threatened watering-down of full representation at Council may give contributing bodies less than they might have expected.

Steve Boniface is a national representative of Direct Members on BCF Council.

League vote on Game Fee

John Richards

AS Steve Boniface describes in his own report, the BCF's proposed Game Fee is near reality following the acceptance of a pilot scheme.

The League will have to make a decision soon on what to do. If we join the pilot scheme, then clubs will have to raise the money from next season. If we do not join, then no League competitions will be graded.

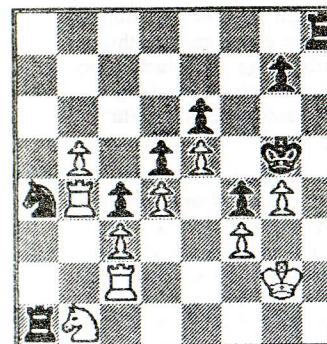
The League Management Committee has discussed the Game Fee on a number of occasions, and has met with BCF President John Poole to express its concerns; one of which is that the League is being asked to pay a fair amount of money to the BCF, but has no voice at the national level. The BCF has ensured the LMC that the League will be entitled to representation on BCF Council if it joins the scheme.

The LMC believes that a national body for chess is essential and that it should be properly funded. Only a minority of Bristol players have contributed anything to the

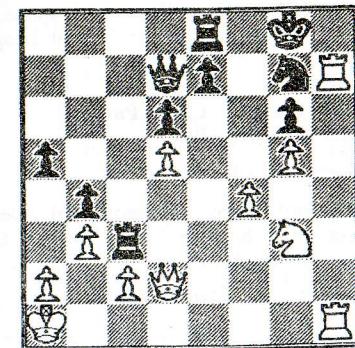
continued on page 12

Find the Moves

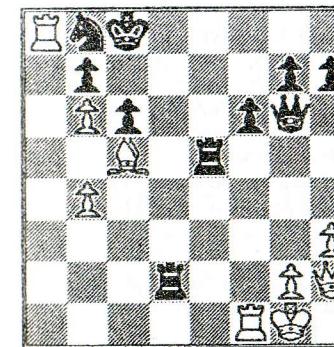
In each case, the player to move has a winning combination (the Editor apologises for including one of his own games). Answers on page 16.



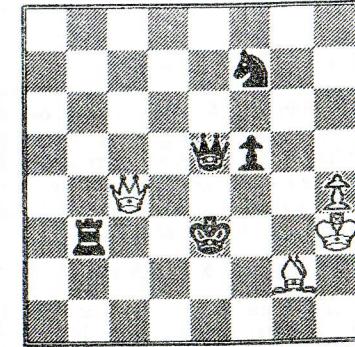
A: M Arkhangelsky - I Novikov
Berlin 1992
Black to play



B: J Richards - JK Fawcett
Bristol Individual KO round 2 1993
White to play



C: A Alekhine - S Reshevsky
Kemer 1937
White to play



D: I Dorfman - V Tseskovsky
USSR Championship, Tbilisi 1978
Black to play

Close to the Edge

Chris Parker & Tyson Mordue

THIS is an analysis of a game from last season in the Bristol League.

Danny Burke - Chris Parker
Bristol League, 1991

1.e4 c5 2.Qc4

This is not supposedly very good unless d4 is played, otherwise White loses a tempo when Black plays d5.

2... e6 3.Qc3 Qf6 4.Qf3??

4.e5 allows 4...d5! White needed to play 4.d4.

4...d5

Now Black picks up a tempo. Once Black plays d5 comfortably in a Sicilian he's equalised. Here Black is two tempi behind but White's next moves allow Black to gain these back, and White's d pawn still hasn't moved.

5.Qb5+ Qd7 6.exd5 Qxd5

6...exd5 is more *flexible*. It retains space and if 7.d4 then 7...c4 allows an outpost on e4. It is important to keep your options open, so when your opponent is cramped, avoid exchange of pieces. 6...Qxd5 is not very flexible although it is well placed and can be supported by Q-d7-f6.

7.Qxd7+ Qxd7 8.Qxd5 exd5

Now if White plays 9.d4 then Black can play ...c4 and if 10.b3 then 10...b5 and if 11.a4 then 11...a6, and if 12.axb5 axb5 13.Qxa8 Qxa8 Black still retains a space advantage. Black can also use his option of bypassing by playing ...c3.

9.0-0 Qe7 10.d4 c4

Black does better not to play with an isolated pawn once the position has simplified.

11.Qe1 0-0 12.Qf4 Qf6

Now each side has an outpost on K5 and each side can eliminate this with P-B3, but the advantage of Black's position is that Black can retreat his knight to d6 and the pawn on c4 prevents White's knight from doing similar.

Black has then the possibility of Qd6-b5 or f5 to pressure d4 and forcing White to play c3. Whereupon Black can play ...b5 and ...b4, exchanging on c3 and exposing the new pawn on c3 to attack from his bishop, possibly via b2.

13.b3 c3??

Now 13...b5 allows 14.bxc4 bxc4 15.Qb1 and Black can't play 15...Qb8 because of the bishop on f4.

13...c3??

13...Qc8 was more flexible.

14.Qe3 Qe4 15.Qe1

White is now trying to attack a pawn with major pieces, which is defended by minor pieces, which is an inefficient way of doing things! If 15.Qe2 White at least has the option of meeting ...Qe8 with Qe1. Also 15.Qe2 allows the queen a route out, vacates e1 for the knight, allows a future f3, and the possibility of Qh5 with Qh3.

15...b5

If 15.Qe2 had been played, this move would not have been possible.

16.Qe5 Qc8

This covers the weak square on c6 and the bishop is now able to play Qa3-b2 followed by Qa5 to attack the pawn on a2.

17.f3 Qd2 18.Qd3??

Here White could have considered

(i) 18.Qxc3 Qxc3 19.Qxd2 to relieve the pressure

(ii) 18.Qe2 retains his options with a possibility of an attack down the e file. Black's plan would have been to pressure the pawn at a2 with Qa3-b2 and Qa5.

(iii) 18.a4 may also have been possible but a future Qxb3 sac may have been playable after first playing b4.

18...Qg5

This whole game is an example of brinkmanship and now White gives in to temptation. Some possible alternatives for White would have been

A) 19.Qg3

B) 19.Qxg5

C) 19.Qe3 followed by f4,

however the main point is that Black's knight on d2 is not actually doing anything.

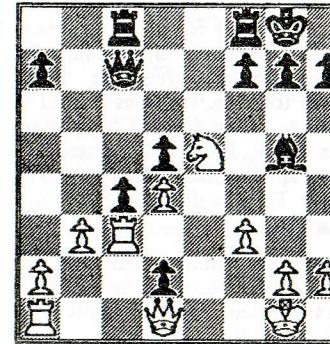
19.Qxd2 19...cxd2?? 20.Qd1 forced 20...Qc7

creating more pressure on c2. If now 21.c3 Black can play 21...b4 and if 22.c4 then 22...f6 and c4 collapses. If White had played Qc2 and not Qd3 then he would now have the option of Qd3.

21.c4?? bxc4

Now if 22.bxc4 then 22...dxc4 23.Qc3 Qb6!

22.Qc3



22...cx b3!!

Now White was gob-smacked!

If now 23.Qxb3 Qc1 24.Qab1 Qe3+ 25.Qxe3 Qxb1 26.Qxb1 Qc1+ wins. (25.Qf1 f6 would be followed by 26...Qc4)

23.Qxc7 Qxc7

A lot of tactics are based upon Qc1 and capturing towards the queenside, as follows:-

A 24.g3 Qc1 25.f4 Qxa1 26.Qxa1 Qc8 27.Qd3 Qc1+

Now if (i) 28.Qxc1 d1Q+ 29.Qmoves Qc2+ 30.Qmoves b2 wins the queen.

(ii) 28.Qxc1 dxc1Q+ 29.Qxc1 b2!

B 24.axb3 Qc1 and this rook cannot be taken. White is threatening 25...Qfc8 or 25...Qc3+

If 25.Qf2 Qxd1 26.Qxd1 Qc8 followed by ...Qc3-d3 with advantage to Black. This may be White's best defence, but the unexpected turn of events probably flustered him.

24.Qd3?? b2

If 25.Qxb2 Qc1 26.Qf2 Qxd1 27.Qxd1 Qc8 followed by ...Qc2

25.f4? Qxf4

Although Qxf4 is an example of rubbing salt in the wound, 25...bx1Q was even stronger.

26.Qc5?? bx1Q 27.Qxa1 Qe8 28.Qd3 Qc1+ 29.Qxc1 d1Q+

Instead, 29...Qe3+ and then 30...d1Q+ is mate!! The moral is, of course, when you see a good move, WAIT!, there might just be a better one!

30.Qf2 Qe1+ 31.Qf3 Qf1+ 32.Qg4 Qe4 33.Qc3 Qd2+ 34.Qg3 Qf4+ 35.Qh3 Qg4+ mate 0-1

Incidentally, did anyone notice 22...Qb6!

Arbiters learn the ropes

Steve Boniface

ON Saturday 30th January a training tournament was held for potential congress controllers at Hanham Folk Centre, Bristol. Eleven students attended from Devon, Somerset and Avon. A small quickplay event was put on for a dozen local players, run entirely by the trainees. Playing at a suicidal rate of 40 moves in 20 minutes with five minute sudden-death finishes, but recording all the moves ensured incidents in plenty for the trainees to deal with. Rather cruelly, when the organisers felt that things were going too well, nasty surprises were sprung to test the practical and theoretical skills of the participants. These included a player with a nose-bleed, a pawn which leaped from c3 to c5, and a tricky claim for repetition of position.

The students will have the opportunity to sit the Arbiter's examination on Sunday 21st March when a Senior BCF Controller will first instruct, and then set the formal paper. It is hoped that at least some of the attendees will achieve the pass mark and add to the woefully small pool of West Country Arbiters.

May I express my appreciation to the players of Hanham who willingly acted as guinea-pigs in this unique experiment; to the students who coped admirably in very testing circumstances; to Ian Biddick and the Hanham Club who provided the equipment and the venue; and to the Bristol Chess Educational Trust who very generously covered the accommodation costs of the day.

If anyone who did not attend the course would like to sit the exam, please contact me as soon as possible (see Diary section). The cost is £10 all-inclusive, but priority will be given to the participants of 30th January as space is limited.

■ The Teletext chess page has moved for the second time in two months. It's now back on Channel 4 on page 478.

People in glass houses...

"I'm a Conservative and Kasparov is an ex-Communist. Kasparov was a Communist when it suited him... When Gorbachev was in the ascendancy, he was an ardent Gorbachev supporter. When Gorbachev was going out and Yeltsin was coming in, he quickly switched. I would say the guy is a typical opportunist without any principles at all."

Nigel Short in The Guardian, 20th February 1993. The same article mentions in passing that our Nige was once an SDP supporter and now supports the Conservatives.

Do they know something we don't?

"Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future."

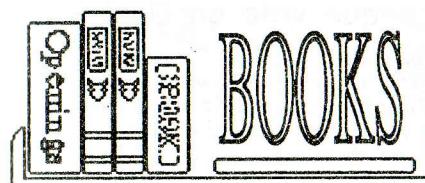
The small print in an Eagle Star ad about their sponsorship of Nigel Short and suggesting you buy their unit trusts.

Frome pays tribute to Robin Hillman

FROME Chess Club is holding a simultaneous display in memory of Robin Hillman, who has tragically died in his mid-forties and was for many years the club's leading player. The display will be by GM Michael Stean on Sunday 28th March at 1:30pm at the United Reformed Church, Whittox Lane, Frome.

There is an entry fee of £7.50; proceeds will go to national junior chess funds. GM Stean has generously agreed to provide his services for free. Cheques should be made payable to Frome Chess Club and sent to 69 Styles Close, Frome, Somerset, BA11 5JS. Places are limited, so early booking is advised. There will be a charge of 50p for spectators.

Parking is available in the Cork Street Car Park near the Westway Cinema, from which a footpath leads to the venue. For more details, ring 0373 461796.



Winning with the Petroff, Anatoly Karpov, Batsford, £10.99.

No, you are not going cross-eyed; it really is called *Winning with the Petroff*. Is the title justified? Using 26 key games, Karpov outlines the various lines of this tough defence. Seven are White wins, fifteen are draws, and only four are won by Black. Now as defences go, these are not bad statistics, but the large number of draws betray this defence's traditional role. What, for instance, is an aggressive Black player to do with this line? 1.e4 e5 2.Qf3 Qf6 3.Qxe5 d6 4.Qf3 Qxe4 5.Qe2 Qc7 6.d3 Qf6 7.Qg5 Qxe2+ 8.Qxe2 Qe7 9.Qc3 c6. Okay, so White is not going to win either, but this is a lifeless position.

Having said that, GMs Yusupov, Gelfand, and Kasparov have taken to the Petroff in recent years, and their ability to generate creative ideas has contributed much to this defence.

Although Karpov is a favourite of mine, his chess books have never impressed me. Unlike John Nunn, he is not quite as 'deep' with his analysis, leaving many unanswered questions for club and tournament players. A typical example of Karpov's rather vague approach: when discussing a particular line he says "...White knight moves to c3 or d2 promise little, as theory shows these variations to be fully acceptable for Black." Nowhere in this book is this 'theory' analysed, so the practical player is left to research these lines himself.

This is simply not good enough. If we are asked to fork out £11 on a book claiming to improve our opening repertoire, then we are entitled to the information. However, if I played the Petroff, I would buy this book as it contains the most important games played over the last ten years. If the Petroff is part of your arsenal, then this is for you. Chris Beaumont

New Ideas in the Four Knights' Opening, John Nunn, Batsford, £10.99.

So much analysis in opening books ends up with a symbol such as \pm that the practical player can be forgiven for wishing to see the complete game, to understand the nature of White's/Black's advantage. John Nunn uses 45 key games to analyse the Four Knights' Opening, and with over 100 other complete games, plus a wealth of original analysis crammed into 128 pages, here is a detailed account of the opening's revival over the last four years. This has been sparked largely by Nigel Short, followed by other British GMs, notably Chandler, Speelman and Hodgson. Nunn also includes games from Lasker's contemporaries, and it is Rubinstein who introduced the testing line 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bb5 Nd4!? which drove the defence out of fashion. (This is still a variation worth exploring by prospective players of the Black pieces, as shown by Nunn's defeat at the hands of Bareyev at Hastings).

Nunn has a rigorous and practical approach to chess and yet again he shows why he is our foremost theoretician. The analysis is deep enough to be used up to GM standard, although this contributes to the book's cluttered appearance.

So if you have not got a good reply to the Petroff, or the Ruy Lopez is too much to take on board, then you could do worse than taking up the Four Knights'. As with all of Nunn's books, this is good value.

Chris Beaumont

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Bristol KO Cup Results

Bristol KO Round 3:

Cosham	1 - 5	Clifton
Sea Mills	3½ - 4½	Thornbury
Bath	4 - 4	Horfield
Bath win on board count		
South Bristol	v	Downend

Minor Clubs KO Round 1:

Thornbury	7 - 1	Civil Service
Harambee	½ - 7½	Bristol Royals
Nailsea	5 - 3	Cosham
Keynsham	2 - 6	Sun Life

Bristol Individual KO Round 1: R G Sully lost to J K Fawcett; G Strickland lost to S C Roberts; J Tusón lost to D C Pugh; J W Nichols lost to A T Mordue; J Snell beat R Gage; M Daniels lost to J E Richards; Shane Roberts lost to T Chinnick.

Cup Draws

The draw for the semi-finals of the Bristol KO Cup is:

Clifton	v	South Bristol or Downend
Bath	v	Thornbury

The draw for the semi-finals of the Minor Clubs KO is:

Nailsea	3½ - 3½	Thornbury (+1A)
Sun Life	v	Bristol Royals

Bristol Individual KO Round 2: S C Roberts v A T Mordue; D C Pugh v T Chinnick; J E Richards beat J K Fawcett; R Phillips or M Bridgman v J Snell.

Bristol ChessBase Library

I have a collection of over 800 games I have put into a ChessBase database. Most are my own (which admittedly makes them less valuable), and most are from the Bristol League or local congresses. I would like to set up a collection of local games, which could then be distributed free to contributors. If anyone has ChessBase, and would be interested in donating some games and receiving more in return, please contact me on 0272 551912. John Richards

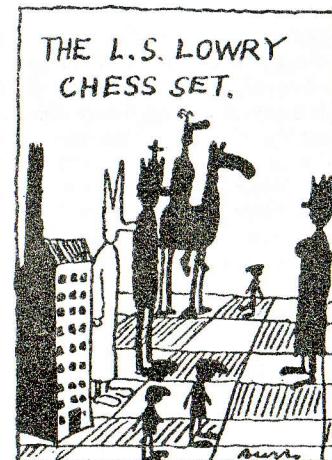
League vote on Game Fee

continued from page 6

BCF up to now, while counties like Gloucestershire and Somerset have had to pay out of all proportion to the amount of chess they organise. Game Fee has its drawbacks, but it is definitely a fairer system than the present one. Under the Pilot Scheme, the league player who takes part in 16 league matches and a couple of cup rounds will pay just £2.25 to the BCF for a season's chess, rising to £3.60 when the full scheme comes in.

The LMC has decided that the issue is so important that an Extraordinary General Meeting of the League should be called in advance of the AGM to debate this single issue and give plenty of time for discussion. At that meeting, the LMC is likely to propose a motion that the League join the Game Fee pilot scheme for the trial period and that a decision on whether to join the full scheme should be taken in a year's time.

Notice of the Extraordinary General Meeting, which probably will be at the Students' Union, Queen's Road in early May, will be sent to all club secretaries.



24th February: The Guardian's view of the choice of Manchester for the world title match, before it all went wrong.

Shaken and Stirred

Steve Boniface

A couple of Octobers ago, a letter dropped on to my doormat as it has done annually for the past twenty seasons. This was the pairing for the Counties Correspondence Championship, for which I have represented Devon because of my ten years' residence there and my great love for that County. Analysis of my over-the-board play reveals that I have scored more points for Devon whilst playing for Somerset than I did whilst directly representing them. But that, as they say, is another story...

The first shock was that, despite my wretched performance last time, I had been given board TWELVE, ahead of several people who would gladly use me as the chess equivalent of a doormat. However, this is the cunning of the foxy Devon captain who is clearly sacrificing me for the greater good of the team. Then comes the second shock - my opponent is A. Martin. Not A. Martin from Peterborough, graded 123, nor Another Martin from Salisbury, age 99 (see local grader for details) rated at 116, nor yet A.C.Martin from Camden & Finchley, graded an impressive (to me) 151. No, this is Andrew D. Flipping Martin, of Wood Green and Barbican, International Master, Pergamon Chess contributor, World Championship Commentator, with a grade almost as high as my Poll Tax - 228. I was shaken.

However, every cloud has a long ending, so I consoled myself with the thought that nobody would be surprised if I lost. Boosted by this stirring revelation, I awaited his first move eagerly, ready to lay down my life for only a few first class stamps. At the start of the game I asked Andrew for an article for the Bristol Chess Times, which he promised faithfully. little did I know he would annotate our own encounter ... [The

following sensible commentary and annotation marks are by Andrew (AM) while the trite observations *in italics* are by myself (SB).

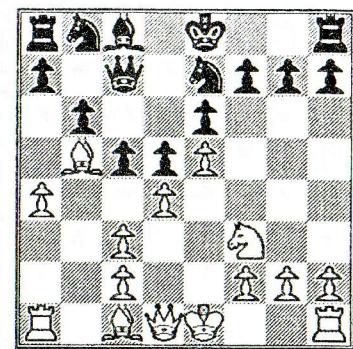
Andrew Martin - Steve Boniface
Essex-Devon, corr 1990

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Qc3 ♜b4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 ♜xc3+ 6.bxc3 ♜c7

Andrew generously gives this an '!', but it's all I know. (SB)

Trying to take the sting out of the awkward 7. ♜g4 lines, Black now plans to answer that move with either 7...f6!? or ...f5 when the queen defends along the second rank. The disadvantage of the move order is that sometimes Black might want his queen out on a5, or blockading on a4. I believe that 6...♜c7 is one of the best options available in the Winawer and as long as Black feels comfortable with 7. ♜g4 f5 8. ♜h5+! he can continue in good sound style, e.g., 7...f5 8. ♜g3 cxd4! 9.cxd4 ♜e7!, a system refined by Petrosian. (AM)

7. ♜f3 ♜e7 8.a4 b6 9. ♜b5+



9... ♜ec6?!

I wasn't expecting this! On closer inspection 9... ♜ec6 turned out to be a very interesting move. The positional idea is simply to play ... ♜a6 and get rid of the bad bishop. If

Black is allowed to do this unscathed then all the long term chances are his. To achieve total structural domination, Black must also keep the bishop on c1 well under control, but this is a more difficult task. It's not a new move, but consulting the theory books I found only a few sketchy references, poorly assessed, e.g.

a) 9... $\mathbb{Q}ec6$ 10.0-0 $\mathbb{A}a6$ 11. $\mathbb{Q}g5$ h6 12. $\mathbb{Q}h3\pm$ with the idea $\mathbb{Q}f4-h5$ and $\mathbb{Q}g4$ [Yudovich]. Yes, well thanks Yudo, but what about 12... $\mathbb{A}xb5$ 13.axb5 $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 14. $\mathbb{Q}f4$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 15. $\mathbb{Q}g4$ g6? I really don't see why White's advantage is so great here.

b) 9... $\mathbb{Q}ec6$ 10.0-0 $\mathbb{A}a6$ 11.c4± which is Bastrakov-Lein, RSFSR 1959. Another joy from ECO. Minev continues with Ady-Khan, London 1982; 11... $\mathbb{A}xb5$ (11...dxc4!?) his note) 12.axb5 $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ 13.cxd5 $\mathbb{Q}xf3+$ 14. $\mathbb{Q}xh3$ $\mathbb{B}b7$ 15. $\mathbb{Q}g4$ $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ 16. $\mathbb{Q}xg7$ $\mathbb{E}f8$ 17. $\mathbb{Q}g5!$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 18. $\mathbb{Q}fd1$ $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ (18... $\mathbb{B}b7$ 19. $\mathbb{Q}d6$ a6 20. $\mathbb{Q}ad1$ axb5 21.h3+) 19. $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ 20. $\mathbb{Q}xa7$? 1-0

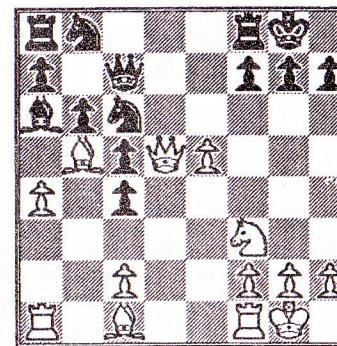
Sizing up the information and taking note of the fact that the Black knight had left the kingside rather bare, I decided on as quick a strike as possible. (AM)

By a strange coincidence I was visiting the Portsmouth Congress at this time and, to my horror, came across 'A Line for Black - Number 1 - The French Winawer' by Andrew Martin (TUI Books). AM says of 9. $\mathbb{Q}b5$, [This] move cuts across Black's plan and forces his bishop to d7. Now we have to look for counterplay in a different manner to the $\mathbb{Q}a6$ routine. Why?, I thought, I can use the other knight!. The difficulty with the French Defence is that such manoeuvres may leave Black dangerously behind in development, and an aggressive White player may blast him open before the second knight is touched. (SB)

10.0-0 $\mathbb{Q}a6$ 11.c4 dxc4!?

Minev's one mover, but afterwards Steve told me he had been playing the line for years [well, something similar (SB)] with what I assume has been success. (AM) Wrong! (SB)

12.d5 exd5 13. $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ 0-0

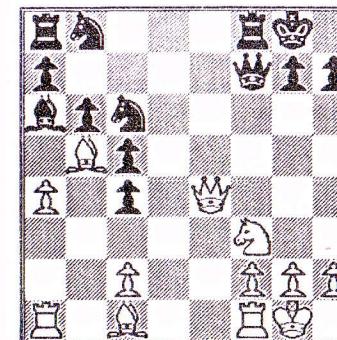


The only real move. Upon 13... $\mathbb{A}xb5$ 14.axb5 $\mathbb{Q}d8$ White just plays 15. $\mathbb{Q}c4$ (AM)

14.e6!

Suddenly, Black's bishop has become rather good and White must watch out for $\mathbb{Q}a6-b7!$ Hence, 14.e6, clearing the long diagonal and giving the queen some scope on the kingside. Be that as it may, Black should still play this move and chance 14... $\mathbb{Q}b7$ 15.exf7+ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ (15... $\mathbb{Q}xf7$? 16. $\mathbb{Q}xf7+$ $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ 17. $\mathbb{Q}xc4+$) 16. $\mathbb{Q}h5!$ $\mathbb{Q}xf7$ 17. $\mathbb{Q}h4!\infty$ (AM)

14... fxе6?! 15. $\mathbb{Q}xe6+$ $\mathbb{Q}f7$ 16. $\mathbb{Q}e4!$



Keeping the queens on is an essential component of the attack unless Black gives White the chance to sacrifice it! If now the plausible 16... $\mathbb{Q}e8$, I had planned 17. $\mathbb{Q}xc6!!$ with the following lines:

a) 17... $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ 18. $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ $\mathbb{Q}b7$ 19. $\mathbb{Q}xh7+$ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 20. $\mathbb{Q}g5$ and the threat of $\mathbb{Q}a3-h3$ or

g3 is too much to bear.

b) 17... $\mathbb{Q}xc6$ hoping for a counterattack. 18. $\mathbb{Q}xc6$ $\mathbb{Q}b7$ 19. $\mathbb{Q}d6$ $\mathbb{Q}xh3$ 20. $\mathbb{Q}xf3$ $\mathbb{Q}ad8$ (20... $\mathbb{Q}xf3$ 21. $\mathbb{Q}g3$) 21. $\mathbb{Q}g3$ $\mathbb{Q}e6$ 22. $\mathbb{Q}h1$ $\mathbb{Q}g6$ 23. $\mathbb{Q}h3$ and White slowly regains consciousness with $\mathbb{Q}e3$ and a rook to the centre.

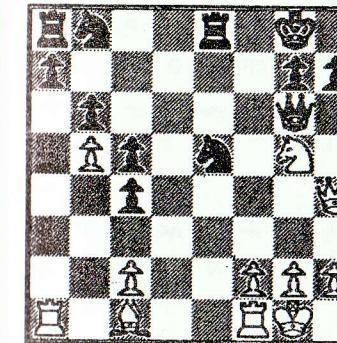
Contrast this with the other option 16. $\mathbb{Q}g5!$ $\mathbb{Q}xe6$ 17. $\mathbb{Q}xe6$ $\mathbb{Q}f7$ 18. $\mathbb{Q}b2$ $\mathbb{Q}xb5$ 19.axb5 $\mathbb{Q}a5$ 20. $\mathbb{Q}c3$ (20. $\mathbb{Q}ad1$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 21. $\mathbb{Q}fe1$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$) $\mathbb{Q}d7!$ 21. $\mathbb{Q}xa5$ $\mathbb{Q}xa5$ 22. $\mathbb{Q}xa5$ $\mathbb{Q}e8$ Δ ... $\mathbb{Q}b6$ and the trading of pieces has only helped Black. (AM)

16... $\mathbb{Q}xb5$ 17.axb5 $\mathbb{Q}e8$ 18. $\mathbb{Q}h4$ $\mathbb{Q}e5?$

The first, and last, real mistake. Steve perhaps played a bit too negatively at this point. He should try 18... $\mathbb{Q}d4!$ when White can maintain only a small edge, e.g. 19. $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ cxd4 20. $\mathbb{Q}xd4$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 21. $\mathbb{Q}a3!$ ± keeping a necessary eye on c5 and avoiding the typical trick 21. $\mathbb{Q}a4$ $\mathbb{Q}c5$ 22. $\mathbb{Q}xc4$ $\mathbb{Q}e4$. In the final position, either Black's c or a pawn is in imminent danger but he has plenty of chances against b5 or c2 himself. If this is true, then this unexplored backwater of the Winawer deserves further trials, if not in correspondence, then certainly over the board. (AM)

A strange thing happened at this point. I hadn't had a reply from Andrew for some time (he was abroad in a tournament) and I repeated my move. However, I'd not made a note of which square I'd put the knight on. Sadly, I confirmed the error on e5. (SB)

19. $\mathbb{Q}g5$ $\mathbb{Q}g6$



20.f4! h6

Unfortunate, but the threat of 21.f5 was too strong to tolerate. (AM)

21.fxe5 hxg5 22. $\mathbb{Q}xe4+$ $\mathbb{Q}e6$

22... $\mathbb{Q}e6$ 23. $\mathbb{Q}d5+-$; 22... $\mathbb{Q}h7$ 23. $\mathbb{Q}a3+-$ (AM)

23. $\mathbb{Q}xe6+$ $\mathbb{Q}xe6$ 24. $\mathbb{Q}d1$

The move that was missed back at 18.. $\mathbb{Q}e5$. Suddenly Black's forces are immobile, abjectly awaiting their fate. If White hadn't had this move he would have had to play 24. $\mathbb{Q}b2$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ with a likely draw. (AM)

At this point I'm blissfully unaware of any danger. This probably illustrates the difference between the master and the rank amateur. While I'm congratulating myself on having survived so long, swapped off the queens, and hoping to get a pawn moving on the queenside once my backward knight is developed, Andrew realises the problems this entails. (SB)

24... $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ 25. $\mathbb{Q}d8+$ $\mathbb{Q}f7$

Over the board, Black could continue with 25... $\mathbb{Q}h7$ 26. $\mathbb{Q}b2$ $\mathbb{Q}e2$ but at correspondence it's better to save the stamps. (AM)

26. $\mathbb{Q}b2$ $\mathbb{Q}e8$ 27. $\mathbb{Q}f1+$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$

This is what I'd banked on. There seems no way White can avoid an exchange of rooks or allow Black to get all his pieces into play. The ending would then be hard to win. (SB)

28. $\mathbb{Q}d5$

An extraordinary move. Suddenly, White is threatening everything. The best Black can hope for is to lose his kingside pawns and try to stop White's pair. Unfortunately White's bishop controls h8, so even technical draws seem out. As Andrew says, 22p per wasted move is expensive, so (SB)

28... Resigns.

From my end, not at all a conclusive refutation of 9... $\mathbb{Q}ec6$! and a game with some interesting points, at which future investigation might start. There's something fishy about the whole idea, but it wasn't proven here. (AM)

Diary

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

1993

Mar 8-12. Bristol Team KO ½-finals

Mar 12-14. BLACKPOOL. Contact: Geoff Jones 0942 604262.

Mar 13. Cornwall v Glos

Mar 14. GUILDFORD 1993 Rapid Play. Contact: Mike Adams, 0483 505635.

Mar 17. Full League Management Committee Meeting.

Mar 21. BRISTOL. BCF Arbiter's Examination. £10. Contact: Steve Boniface, 0272 515869.

Mar 28. FROME. Robin Hill Memorial Simultaneous Display by GM Michael Stean. 1:30-5pm. Frome United Reformed Church, Whittox Lane. £7.50; all proceeds to National Junior Chess Fund. Contact 0373 461796.

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

May 4. Full League Management Committee meeting.

May 14-16. FROME Congress.

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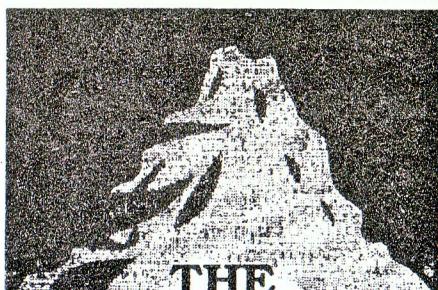
Find the Moves - Answers

A: 1...Qxc3!! 2.Qxc3 [2.Qxc3 Qah1+] 2...Qa2+ 3.Qg1 Qah2 0-1 if 4.Qf1 Qh1 5.Qe2 Q8h2#

B: 1.Qxg7+! Qxg7 2.Qd4+ 1-0
2...Qf8 (2...e5 3.dxe6+ Qf8 4.Qh8+ Qe7 5.Qf6+#) 3.Qh8+ Qf7 4.Qh7+#

C: 1.Qxb8+! Qxb8 2.Qxe5+ 1-0
2...fxe5 3.Qf8+ mates

D: 1.Qf2+ 2.Qxb3 Qg5+ 0-1
3.hxg5 Qh8+#



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