

Welsh Chess Chat

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

August 2024

ISSUE #2



Hull City Hall was the venue for the Glorney Cup as well as the British championships. The event took place inside the venue but they also have outdoor chess tables for members of the public to engage in the action! Photo by Melinda Wilde

Welsh chess players & tournament updates

**JONATHAN
BLACKBURN**

EDITOR



Firstly a massive thank you to all who have provided feedback on the first edition of this newsletter. Lots of people have been in touch wanting to contribute or to say what a good idea it is. Who knows how this will develop as it still takes a lot of time to put together but hopefully things will speed up with practice.

The latest news Welsh Glorney team push England all the way & British entries

by Jonathan Blackburn

The Glorney Cup (July 23rd-25th) is a big event these days with 20 juniors from each home nation competing it can be quite an effort to host. This year it was tagged onto the front of the British championships taking place in Hull (July 25th – August 4th). This would potentially save some funding and searching for venues and provided the players with a fantastic comfortable setting.

While we will take a sneak peak at the full results it is with great disappointment that only 1/20 of those juniors then decided to

play in the British immediately after. While I am not blaming individual players & parents here, (some did play a blitz on the Thursday after the last round) we still need to look at how we can improve this as a nation. Chess, while cheap to play, starts to mount up in accommodation costs and time very quickly. I can only imagine how a parent manages this and I would guess they have to choose which events to participate in. Additionally when you compare the strength of our players to the English I can understand why you wouldn't enter as the rating gap is quite large.

That being said these opportunities don't come around often and the only way to improve standards is to play against better players. Every time you don't play the gap gets bigger.

I have fond memories of playing in the Glorney and I hope our players were able to capitalise on that team camaraderie and enjoy the event. Hull is on the opposite side of the country so perhaps some were put off from the travel and if one or two take this approach then it can make fielding a team extremely tough. It's also worth noting some of our juniors were extremely young for the age section they were playing in.

There has been some excellent work in areas to get more children playing and you would think therefore a bigger pool to choose from. I look forward to seeing this translate to higher standards and well entered junior championships in the future.

I was asked to provide commentary on the last rounds of the Glorney and it was nice to see our under 18 team still in with a shout of coming 1st had they overhauled England A in the last round. In the penultimate round they were unlucky not to hold the International team to a draw and so had to settle for 3rd. Beating the Scottish, Irish & England B though is a good result and they can be very pleased.

The other sections were already over by that point as England A were dominant.

It will need some thought on how to approach the teams in future as our youngest group had 1 win 1 draw and 28 losses and I hope their confidence is not too damaged by this. Translating that pain into getting better is sometimes easier said than done and I feel for the people involved.

The British

As I write this the British has come to an end but I will hold back on more detail allowing those that played the opportunity to send games and analysis or maybe even a report to be included in the newsletter next month.

Apart from rapid & blitz events we had; Adam Sarwar U12, Stephen Williams, Sandra Blackburn, Sam Jukes, Dale Westcott, Joshua McKenna, Sven Zeidler, Michael Binks, William Phillips, Nigel Moyse & Ifan Rathbone-Jones. I hope that's everyone, big kudos for playing and I believe some managed to get over 15 longplay games of chess in!

Top 10 Welsh Chess Union ratings for 7thth August 2024

Player	zone	Grade	Title	Pld	New	Diff	Last played
Jose Camacho Collados	E1	2448	IM	9	2438	-10	10/07/2024
Daniel Kozusek	E1	2423	FM	9	2426	3	10/07/2024
Grzegorz Toczek	E1	2337	FM	9	2342	5	10/07/2024
Ioan Rees	E1	2341	FM	0	2341	0	
Howard Williams	D1	2320	FM	0	2320	0	
Richard Dineley	N1	2312	CM	0	2312	0	
Alexis Harakis	D1	2297	FM	0	2297	0	
Jonathan LB Blackburn	G1	2295	FM	0	2295	0	
Elijah Everett	N1	2281		0	2281	0	
Alex Bullen	E1	2243	CM	9	2240	-3	10/07/2024



WELSH CHESS OLYMPIAD BOUND

The Olympiad takes place from September 11th – 22nd in Budapest Hungary and the Welsh Chess Union are finalising selection for this event.

The Women's team (not in board order): Emma Kong, Kim Chong, WCM Lynda Smith, WFM Olivia Smith, WCM Imogen Camp with coach IM Brandon Clarke.

You can follow Olympiad games and results online and I do my utmost to do daily video catch-ups on twitch and youtube: @welshchesschat

Follow us on X, youtube and twitch – the handle for all accounts is @welshchesschat

Got a report? Want to let us know about an event? Email: WelshChessChat@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

13th - 15th August – ICCF Conference Llandudno

Our correspondance team are somewhat superstars fresh from winning the European title they host the conference to meet many of their opponents over the years. Llandudno used to host a regular weekend congress and has even held the British champs beforehand. One day we hope these events can return.

16th – 18th August Newport Chess Congress and the 8th Welsh Seniors Championships – Rougemont School, Malpas, Newport

This event was full last year and we are hoping for more of the same again with a fantastic effort from David Norris and team.

Chess, chess, y'all 29th August 8pm, Paradise Garden, Cardiff

As advertised on facebook there seems to be a few of these events around. Please go and support them!

September 10th – 23rd Olympiad Budapest

The Open & Women's team compete against the very best in the world. Look out for video recaps on the Welsh chess chat youtube channel.

September 14th – 15th – Autumn Congress

October 12th – South Wales Blitz

October 13th – WCPL/U1850 Round 1

Junior News

Junior Rapid Ratings Top 10 August 2024:

Name	R1	Pld	New	+/-
Ethan Chung	1902	5	1888	-14
Yuxuan Wu	1860	5	1876	16
Bence Szakmany	1862	5	1867	5
Yaroslav Sharhorodsky	1848	0	1848	0
Ellison Smith	1796	5	1800	4
Emma Kong	1693	10	1747	54
Daniel Chung	1744	0	1744	0
Tom Davies	1727	0	1727	0
Farouq Nasir	1680	5	1721	41
Lucas Zheng	1621	47	1713	92

The Southern Gigafinal took place before the events mentioned earlier in the newsletter and we had a few Welsh entrants. U10 boys featured Toby Reckless a credible 3.5/7 & Lucas Zheng 0.5/2. U12 boys Adam Sarwar 4/7, Idrhys Ibrahim 2.5/7 & Arush Murthy 4/7. Finally U14 Emma Kong 3.5/7.

Glorney

Rk.	Team	1	2	3	4	5	6	TB1
1	England	*	3½	4½	3½	4	3½	10
2	International	1½	*	3	3	5	4	8
3	Wales	½	2	*	4	4	3½	6
4	England B	1½	2	1	*	3½	3½	4
5	Ireland	1	0	1	1½	*	3½	2
6	Scotland	1½	1	1½	1½	1½	*	0

Highest scorer Yuxuan Wu 3.5/5

Gilbert

Rk.	Team	1	2	3	4	5	6	TB1
1	England	*	2½	2	3	3	2½	10
2	Scotland	½	*	1½	2	3	2	7
3	England B	1	1½	*	3	1½	3	6
4	Wales	0	1	0	*	2	3	4
5	Ireland	0	0	1½	1	*	3	3
6	International	½	1	0	0	0	*	0

Highest scorer Bronwen Tuson 3/5

Robinson U14

Rk.	Team	1	2	3	4	5	6	TB1
1	England	*	3½	3½	4	5	5	10
2	England B	2½	*	4	4½	4	4½	8
3	Scotland	2½	2	*	4	3½	4½	6
4	International	2	1½	2	*	3½	6	4
5	Wales	1	2	2½	2½	*	4½	2
6	Ireland	1	1½	1½	0	1½	*	0

Highest scorer David Belochkin 4/5

Stoke U12

Rk.	Team	1	2	3	4	5	6	TB1
1	England	*	5	5	5½	3	6	9
2	International	1	*	4	5½	3½	6	8
3	Ireland	1	2	*	3	3½	5	5
4	Scotland	½	½	3	*	3½	6	5
5	England B	3	2½	2½	2½	*	5½	3
6	Wales	0	0	1	0	½	*	0

JONATHAN BLACKBURN

EDITOR notes...

Seniors Team Championships 50+ and 65+

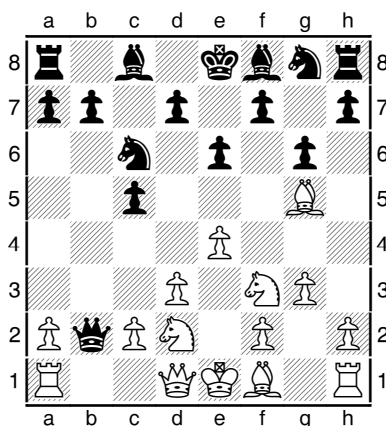
Taking place in Krakow, Poland over 9 rounds 10 Welsh players entered the fray.... Again!

In the 50+ Wales Silures eventually finished 27th with the event being won by USA and in the 65+ Wales Silures fared slightly better finishing 20th with the event being won by England 1's team of 5 Grandmasters!

Game analysis & comments by Rudy Van Kemenade

Wales: Van Kemenade,R. 1960 – Ireland 1: MacElligott, Gerard 1993 – World Seniors July 2024

1.e4, e6 2.d3, c5 3.Nf3, Nc6 4.g3, g6 5.Bg5
An idea of Luke McShane, also promoted and played by Gawain Jones. The idea is to disrupt Bl's normal thinking processes. Indeed in some games Bl's have even replied with the automatic Bg7 [5.Bg2 main] **5...Qb6 6.Nbd2 Qxb2**



There is one of those stories that a grandfather left all of his wealth to a grandchild on condition that they never took a b pawn with a Q [6...Bg7 7.Nc4 Qc7 8.a4] **7.Nc4 Qc3+?! Inaccuracy. Qg7 was best.** [7...Qg7 main 8.Rb1 b6 9.Bg2 Ba6 10.0-0 Bxc4 11.dxc4 Be7 12.Bd2]

8.Bd2 Qg7 9.Bg2 main. The pawn sacrifice is purely positional, there are no immediate tactical engagement, but Wh gains open lines and good placements for the pieces. [9.e5 expected by Black 9...b5 10.Nd6+ Bxd6 11.exd6 Ne5 12.Bg2 Bb7 13.0-0 Pinheiro-Putnam, Titled Tuesday 2022,1-0]

9...e5N [9...b5 10.Ne3 others 2.5-0.5, vk 2-1; 9...Be7 1.5-0.5]

10.0-0 [10.c3 d6 11.d4 f6 12.Rb1]

10...d6 11.Rb1[In terms of traditional principles, a pawn sacrifice is worth it if it gains 3 moves for the attacker. Here Wh has 6 developed pieces to two, while there are a number of weak squares in the Bl position. The text sees if Bl might play b6, which then weakens more wh squares] **11...f6** [hoping to disentangle his K side pieces, the drawback is that the bl square B becomes even badder]

12.Nh4 [12.c3 SF16.1- considered by White it opens up the position in the centre while the opposing K is still there. On the other hand Whites lead pawn is on e4, so the other way to create a companion on f4 and open the f file.]

12...Qc7 13.f4, Bg7 14.f5, Nge7 Black thought in retrospect this might have been an error [14...g5 looked at in post mortem analysis]

15.Ne3 15...Bd7 [15...0-0!?] **16.Nd5?!** [Inaccuracy. fxc6 was best. This is the lichess comment- Engines spot even miniscule tactical opportunities that most humans would miss.] [16.fxc6 hxg6 17.Nd5 Nxd5 18.Nxg6! not an easy move to find 18...Nc3 19.Bxc3 Rh7 20.Nh4 0-0-0 21.Bd2 SF16.1]

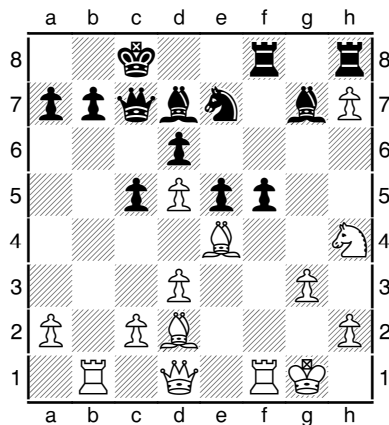
16...Nxd5 17.exd5 Ne7 18.Be4 [Bl had missed this. It is often the case that a slight change in pawn structure creates new opportunities for piece play.]

18...0-0-0 [SF16.1- Bl thought for a while about this, which to Wh was only move to make sense]

19.fxc6 [19.c3! and slowly opening up on the Q side, considered and pm analysis. 19...Kb8 SF16.1]

19...Rdf8?? [Blunder. hxg6 was best. As so often when one has been under pressure, for a while it is natural to try and be active at last. But care has to be taken as such an attempt arises from a position that is probably still inferior.] [19...hxg6 expected by Wh 20.Nxg6 Nxg6 21.Bxg6 Kb8=]

20.gxh7, f5 Freedom? But this shows up one of the latent powers of two Bishops- block one out and the other one jumps in. [20...c4 21.Qh5 f5 22.Rxf5+- SF16.1]



21.Bg5! fxe4?! [Inaccuracy. Bf6 was best.][21...Bf6 22.Bh6 Rf7 (22...Re8) 23.Nxf5 Nxf5 24.Bxf5 Bxf5 25.Rxf5 Bd8 26.Rxf7 Qxf7 27.Qg4+ lichess 27...Kb8 28.Qg7 Qxg7 29.Bxg7 Rxh7 30.Bf8 Kc7 31.Kg2+- SF16.1]

22.Bxe7 Rxf1+ [22...Re8 23.Rf7 Rxh7 24.dxe4+- SF16.1]

23.Qxf1 Be8?! [Inaccuracy. Rxh7 was best.] [23...Rxh7 24.Qf7 b6 25.dxe4 Rxh4 26.Bxh4 Bh6 27.Rf1 Kb7 28.Qe7 Ba4 29.Rf7]

24.Nf5 [24.Qf5+ Qd7 25.dxe4+- SF16.1 and Whites original idea]

24...Rxh7 [24...b6] **25.Bxd6** [25.Nxd6+ Kb8 (25...Kd7 26.Qf5+ Kxe7 27.Qe6+ Kd8 28.Qxe8#) 26.Rxb7+ Qxb7 27.Nxb7 Kxb7 28.Qb1+ Kc7 29.d6+ Kc8 30.Qe1+- SF16.1, looked at by Wh .But might take a while yet with Bl perhaps making a barricade with the wh squared B & R. Wh felt the position was probably worth holding onto in hope of more.]

25...Qd7 26.dxe4 [cementing the knight in] **26...Bg6 27.Ne7+ Kd8 28.Bxc5** [28.Nxg6 initial idea 28...b6 (28...Qxd6 29.Qf7 Qd7 30.Qg8+-) 29.Nxe5 lichess & SF16.1] **28...Bxe4 29.Qf7 Qh3** [29...Bxd5 30.Qxd5 Qxd5 31.Nxd5+-; 29...b5 30.Rxb5 Qxb5 31.Nc6+ Qxc6 (31...Kc8 32.Qe8+ Kc7 33.Qd8+ Kb7 34.Qd7+ Ka8 35.Qxa7#) 32.dxc6+-]

30.Nc6+ Kc8 [30...bxc6 31.Rb8+ Qc8 32.Qe7#]

31.Qxb7# [the B file, without the b2 pawn in the way, is decisive]

1-0

The 50+ team was made up of Mark Adams, Sven Zeidler, Anthony Hughes, Lee Davis & Gary Thomas.

The 65+ team was Peter Varley, Rudy Van Kemenade, John Fletcher, Peter Quinn & Anthony Hughes.

Coming Soon!

Women's chess update

Glorney historical report by Martyn Griffiths (not necessarily featured here)

Fantasy football code: **rh89mz**
<https://Fantasy.premierleague.com>

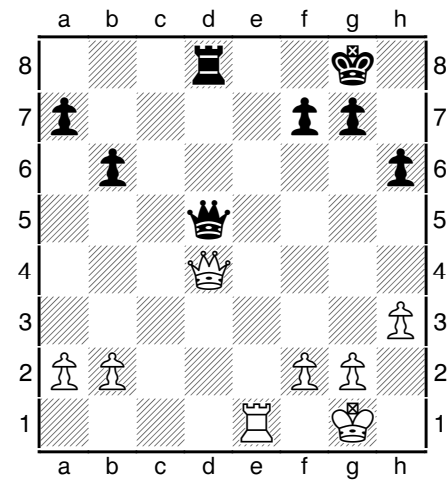
If you have a tactic please send it in to welshchesschat@gmail.com for it to be featured in the next issue! Happy to grow this section to be as big as possible!

Solutions on page 6

(1) Anon

Gilbert, 07.2024

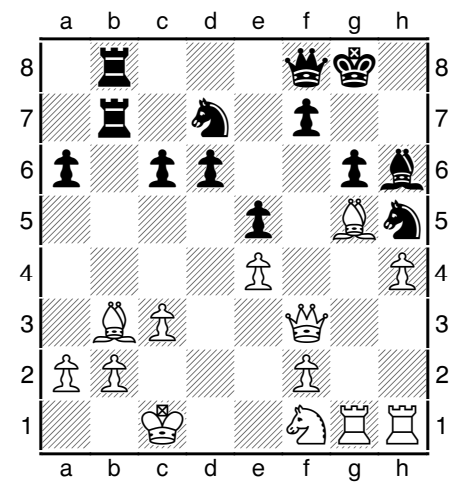
White to play



(4) Belochkin,D - Rath,S

Robinson, 07.2024

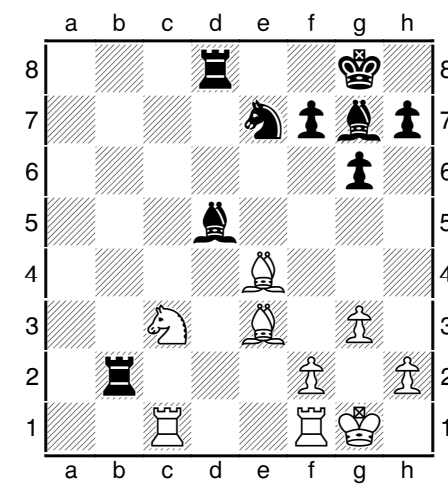
White to play



(7) MacDonald,D - Richards,G

South Wales International, 07.2024

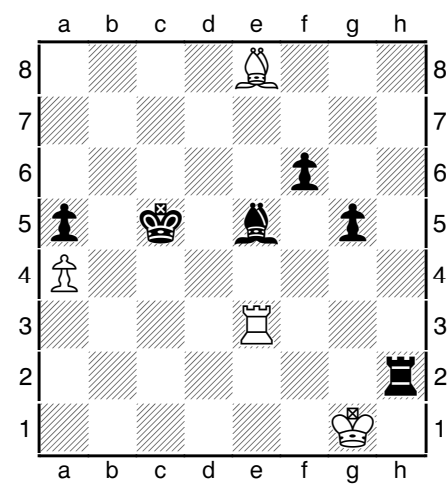
White to play



(2) Sai Dheeraj,V - Prabhu,V

Robinson, 07.2024

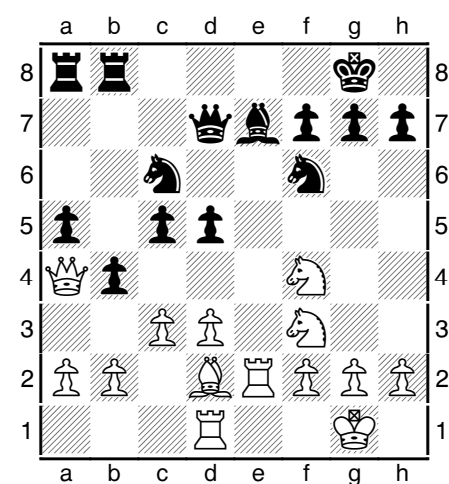
Black to play



(5) Shevchenko,D - Rastogi,N

Robinson, 07.2024

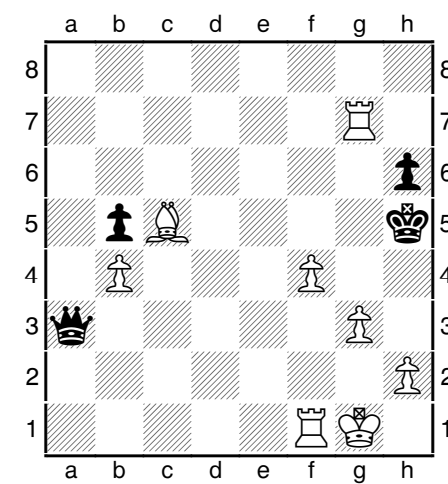
Black to play



(8) Wu,Y - Samarakoon,VR

Glorney, 07.2024

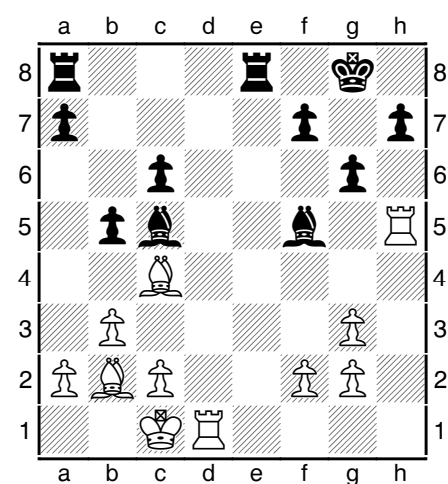
Black to play



(3) Ganti,S - Enoch,K

Robinson, 07.2024

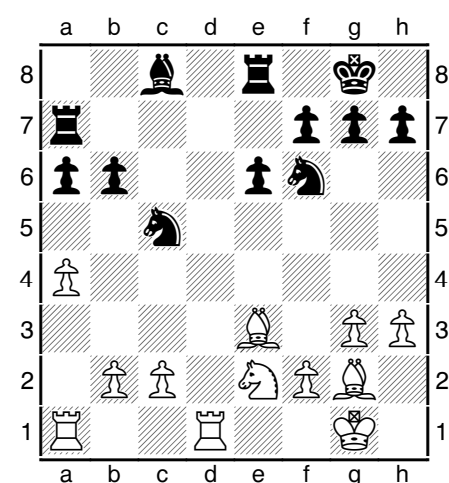
White to play



(6) Szakmany,B - Barnes,O

Glorney, 14.08.2024

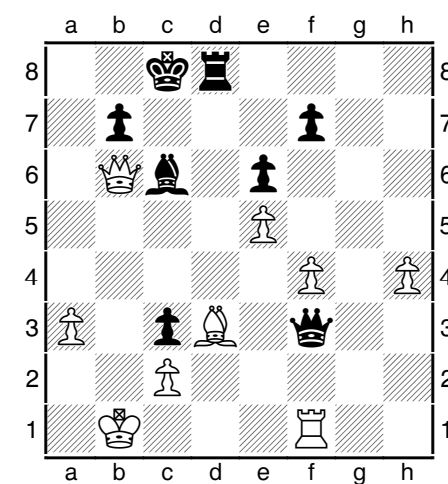
White to play



(9) Romkachess - Rees,I

Late Titled Tuesday, 08.2024

Black to play



ALEX BULLEN

Caro Club

Waterfield, Mark 1815- Bullen, Alex 2159 [B13]

South Wales International (4), 07.07.2024

I've chosen this game to demonstrate how players can compete with each other psychologically, and not just with the moves they play

1.e4 c6 2.d4 The first psychological blow. My opponent has exclusively played 2.Nf3 and 3.Nc3 previously, so demonstrates that he's come to our game prepared

2...d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.Bd3 Nc6 5.c3 Nf6 As soon as he played 2.d4, I already knew that I wanted to step away from his preparation and this is my chance. It's important to know which games you've played are in the databases, and I knew that I had only ever played ...Qc7 in this position. I assume he would have seen me misplay this line against Adam Musson in 2022 and would have hoped for the following...

[5...Qc7 6.Ne2 Bg4 7.0-0 e6 8.Qe1 Nf6 9.f3 Bh5 10.Qh4 where black is fine, but needs to tread carefully]

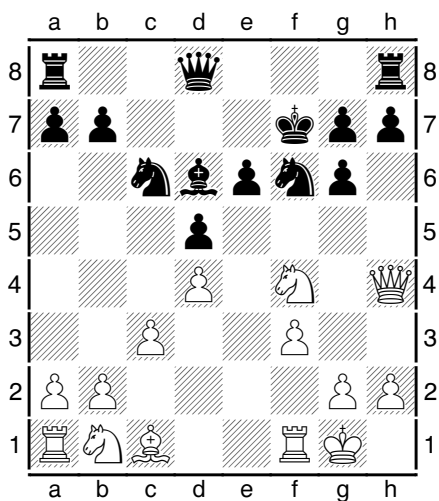
6.Ne2 Not best, confirming my suspicion that he prepared just this one line

[6.Bf4 Bg4 7.Qb3 Qd7 8.Nd2 e6 9.Ngf3 White is at least developed now]

6...Bg4 7.0-0 e6 8.Qe1 Still trying to play his preparation even in this different line!

8...Bd6 9.f3 Bh5 10.Qh4 Bg6 11.Bxg6 fxc6 12.Nf4

12... Kf7



Looks ugly, but this is a known defensive idea in this type of position]

13.Re1 [Here, my opponent has still played fairly quickly and is executing the same line he was planning against 5...Qc7. We have the same position except that I have played ...Bd6 rather than ...Qc7 which is clearly a much more useful move!]

13...e5 [My pieces are developed where as white hasn't even started on the Queenside, so now is the right time to open the position]

14.dxe5?! A human move, but the engines already think black is much better after this

[14.Nd3 exd4 15.cxd4 Qb6 16.Be3 and at least white is going to get developed even if it won't be fun to play

14...Nxe5 15.Nd2 Re8 16.Kh1 [Not 16.Nb3? g5 17.Qxg5 Nxf3+ 18.gxf3 Rxe1+--]

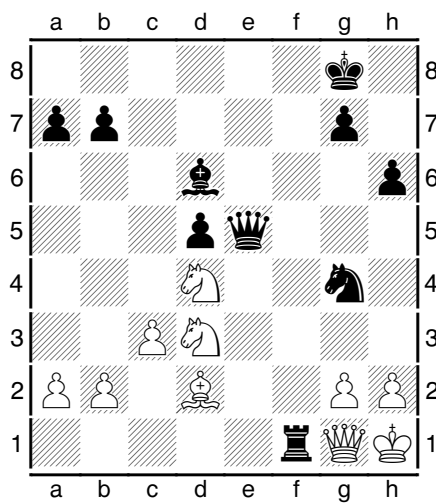
16...h6 17.Nh3 Nd3 18.Rxe8 Qxe8 19.Nb3 g5 20.Qd4 Qe1+ 21.Qg1 Re8 22.Bd2 Qe2 23.Rd1 g4! Only my knight on f6 isn't joining in the attack, so let's get it involved!

24.Nd4 Qe5 [24...gxh3 25.Nxe2 Rxe2 26.gxh3 Nf2+ 27.Kg2 Nxd1+ 28.Kf1 Rxd2 Is the engines flashier (and cleaner) conversion]

25.fxc4 Nxc4 26.Rf1+ Kg8 27.Nf4 Rf8 28.Nxd3??The final blunder, but blacks attack is already too much

[28.g3 g5 29.h3 Qe4+ 30.Qg2 Ngf2+--]

28...Rxf1



My opponent resigned here in light of 29.Nxe5 Nf2#

0-1

MARK ADAMS

Executive Director of the Welsh Chess Union

On behalf of the WCU, I'd like to congratulate Jonathan on this Newsletter initiative and echo his request from edition 1, for you to send in contributions. We rely so much on volunteers and need to support anyone who's willing to invest time and effort promoting chess in Wales.

August will see the 8th WCU Senior championships taking place at Rougemont school in Newport. The event will run alongside the 2nd Newport Congress. The venue looks excellent. Hopefully it will be a permanent fixture. It's the first time we've split the event into over 50s and over 65s.

Welsh players will be presented with their Gold Medals at this year's ICCF Congress (Llandudno 12th Aug 24) for winning the 11th European Team Championships. This was an unexpected result as Wales were seeded 13th and last with an average rating of 2409. Top seeds were Slovenia with a 2510 average. Players are A.Balshaw, J.Claridge, I.Jones, A.Lockwood, H.Sherwood, R.Sherwood, G.Yeo, M.Adams. Congratulations to all.

The WCPL website should be up and running in August for this year's entries. Keep your eyes on the WCU website and the WCU Facebook page for updates.

Editors note: the current website is www.welshchessunion.uk where you can find a list of officers who are all volunteers. You will see some names twice on the list as they are doing 2 roles. Anyone wishing to get involved should make contact.



Welsh Chess Chat is back
Thursday 22nd
August 10pm
U.K. time
 Join live on
 twitch
 @welshchessc
 hat or catchup
 on youtube

10 QUESTIONS WITH....

FM GRZEGORZ TOCZEK

Q When did you start playing chess ?

My dad taught me moves when I was 4 or 5 and we played one game monthly, but I started regular training at the age of 9 at primary school .

Q What do you like about chess?

Patience, Competition , Socializing on tournaments

Q If it wasn't chess, what would you be doing?

I always loved playing football and basketball so possibly I'd go that way but chess consumed majority of my free time in my childhood

Q Regular job?

I'm on computers, developer of Sage ERP X3 system.

Q Can chess make you happy?

Obviously, particularly now when in my 50s I can represent Wales in world class tournaments



Fide Photo.

Q Advice for other chess players?

Study chess when you are young. Later on it's much more difficult to make any progress forward (usually backward direction only)

The Welsh Chess chat would like to thank Grzegorz for his enthusiastic and detailed answers.

Q Favourite game?

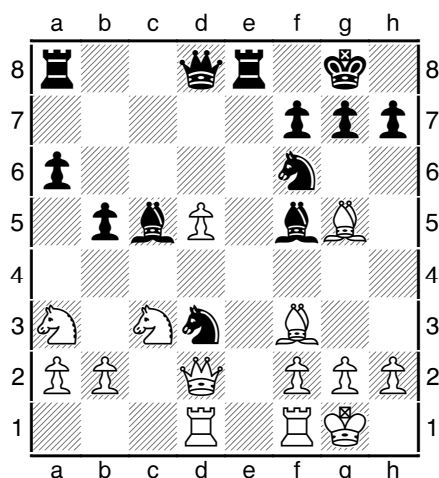
Karpov-Kasparov, 1985 WCH match Game 16

Editors note: For the reader the game is below, a great example of sacrificing a pawn for activity and piece placement. In the game Garry gets an 'octopus knight' on d3 which controls the board. White's pieces are scattered and uncoordinated, even the great consolidator Karpov cannot rearrange them quickly enough. When the knight is finally removed it is already game over as Kasparov moves in for the kill.

Karpov, Anatoly (2720) - Kasparov, Garry (2700) [B44]

World Championship 32th-KK2 Moscow (16), 15.10.1985

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nb5 d6 6.c4 Nf6 7.N1c3 a6 8.Na3 d5 9.cxd5 exd5 10.exd5 Nb4 11.Be2 Bc5 12.0-0 0-0 13.Bf3 Bf5 14.Bg5 Re8 15.Qd2 b5 16.Rad1 Nd3



17.Nab1 h6 18.Bh4 b4 19.Na4 Bd6 20.Bg3 Rc8 21.b3 g5 22.Bxd6 Qxd6 23.g3 Nd7 24.Bg2 Qf6 25.a3 a5 26.axb4 axb4 27.Qa2 Bg6 28.d6 g4 29.Qd2 Kg7 30.f3 Qxd6 31.fxg4 Qd4+ 32.Kh1 Nf6 33.Rf4 Ne4 34.Qxd3 Nf2+ 35.Rxf2 Bxd3 36.Rfd2 Qe3 37.Rxd3 Rc1 38.Nb2 Qf2 39.Nd2 Rxd1+ 40.Nxd1 Re1+

0-1

Q Favourite move?

1.e4 e5 2.Ke2 by Carlsen

(editors note: this is called the bongcloud opening originating in online games and is just being silly and not to be taken seriously!)

Q Favourite player?

Garry Kasparov

Q Future chess goals?

IM title if possible

Solutions:

1. Re8+ and if RxRe8, QxQd5! If Kh7 then RxRd8
2. Rh8 attacking the bishop and if it moves then black can follow up with Bd4 pinning the rook to the king. In the game black played Bd4 immediately and after KxRh2, BxR they were 2 pawns up in an endgame but with opposite coloured bishops and the game ended drawn
3. Rxh7 (threatening Rh8#), if KxRh7 then Rh1+, Kg8 and Rh8#
4. QxNh5 and white wins a piece, gxQ, BxBh6+ with BxQf8 to come
5. This is a sneaky one, Nd4! With a discovered attack on the white queen and after QxQd7 black inserts NxRe2+, NxNe2, NxQd7. A nice intermezzo.
6. A5! (b4 is also good) and black loses at least a pawn, if Rb7, axb6, Rxb6 and BxNc5 – the game continued a5, Nd7, axb6 and white won.
7. Black has just regained a pawn on d5 and missed the trick, Bxd5 (you could also start with Nxd5), NxBd5, NxNd5, RxDd5, Rc8+, Bf8 and Bh6 finishes black off.
8. Sorry Yuxuan but it's too good not to include. 1... Qe3+! And if the queen is captured its stalemate. If Kg5 just Qf2+, white has to capture the queen.
9. Ioan finished this off in style with QxRf1+, BxQ, Rd1+, Ka2, Bd5+ and white resigned because of Qb3, BxQ+, KxB and RxBf1 black is a rook up.

