

Scottish Chess

Issue 295

August 2021

**Freddie Gordon draws with GM
Mickey Adams in British Champion-
ships!**



CHESS SCOTLAND



**Plus: Glorney Cup – Online Olympiad – Wood
Green Invitational – Book reviews and more!**

Csaba Balogh

Greatest 440 puzzles

The best online tactics of 2020



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Thanks to: Ruairidh McKay, James Hartman, Jennifer Feng, Glorney/Gilbert/Robinson/Stokes teams and families, Csaba Balogh.

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Cover photo: 10 year-old Frederick Gordon, who finished joint 5th in the British Online Championships, with a win against GM Hebden and a draw with GM Adams.

Welcome! August 2021

As I write this there are signs that live chess events are a thing again - the Wood Green invitation that you can read about in these pages, as well as the Northumbria Masters currently being played near Newcastle. Neither are CS-run events, but with plenty of Scots participating we can hopefully follow suit with live tournaments north of the border in the near future.

In the meantime, we have plenty of online action to bring you, with success for Scotland's team in the Online Olympiad and the annual Glorney festival providing fun and games galore! Enjoy and hope to see you all at a tournament soon!



Andrew Burnett *Editor*

Contents

The Glorney Festival is the premier junior event held each year in the UK, and although it was online again this year, there was plenty of excitement among the junior squads. Read IJD Ruairidh McKay's report, with games annotated by the players!



GM Matt Turner and IM Andrew Greet were flying the saltire as live chess returned to UK shores, GM and IM norms up for grabs at the Wood Green Invitational. Check out how our guys got on!



The British Championships were held online this summer and Scottish players were out in force. Could any of them land a title or bag a huge scalp or two?

Scotland were seeded into Division 3 Pool C of the FIDE Online Olympiad. In a group of 10 teams chasing just three qualifying spots to Division 2, could our Olympic hopefuls get the job done?



Glorney Festival 2021



This year's Glorney Festival was online again due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, writes CS Junior Director, [Ruairidh McKay](#). Unlike previous years however, there were no continental nations taking part, which resulted in a 6-round event with Scotland, Ireland, Wales and England playing each other twice.

This year the platform used was Chess.com. Zoom calls and use of cameras, microphones and screen sharing were used to ensure Fair Play. We played with squads and reserves this year again allowing for rotation of teams each round.

Glorney Cup

CS Squad:

Jake Sanger

Frederick Gordon

Jonathan McKay

Luaidh Williams

Anish Subramaniam

Ross Blackford

James Hartman

It was a strong showing by the Irish this year in the Glorney which resulted in them putting in a serious challenge to England. Ireland trounced us both times they played us in a turnaround from when we had the upper hand in the Celtic Nations in December.

By contrast, when we played England it was a slightly closer affair particularly in Round 5 when we eventually lost 3.5 to 1.5 (3 draws and 2 losses) but both Jake Sanger on Board 1 and Jonathan McKay on Board 3 had winning chances in their eventual draws which could have resulted in an overall draw.

Ireland drew with England in Round 3 and this therefore set up a final showdown between the two in Round 6. England eventually turned up in Round 6 to beat Ireland 4-1 and take the Glorney title.

However, despite difficult results against Ireland and some chances against England, Scotland were utterly emphatic in our games against Wales winning 5-0 in Round 3 and 4.5-0.5 in Round 6 resulting in a clear 3rd place finish.

A special mention to Frederick Gordon, born in 2010, who could

have played for the Stokes squad but accepted the call to the full Glorney squad and did not look out of place at all, scooping 2 wins against the Welsh and a draw against Max Turner of England.



Freddy Gordon: Stepping up to the Glorney plate for Scotland



Luaidh Williams (above left) and Ross Blackford (above right) both performed admirably in the junior team calendar's flagship event.

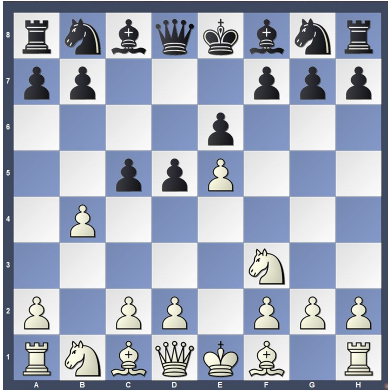
Here is James Hartman's final round effort against Wales, with notes by the winner.

♣ Jaberansari, Daniel

♣ Hartman, James

Glorney Cup 2021

1.e4 e6 2.♘f3 d5 3.e5 c5 4.b4

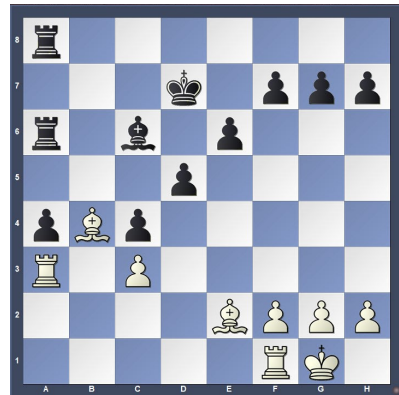


4...c4 5.a3 a6 6.c3 ♘c6 7.d3 b5
8.dxc4 bxc4 9.a4 ♖b7 10.♘a3
♙c7 11.♙f4 ♗ge7 12.♘c2 ♗g6
13.♙g3 ♗gxe5 14.♘xe5 ♘xe5
15.♘d4 ♙d6 16.b5 a5 17.b6
♙d7 18.♘b5 ♙b8 19.♘c7+ ♙xc7
20.bxc7



20...♙xc7?? 21.♙h5 Here I couldn't see a way to save the knight, so I decided to play Nf3 in order to try and weaken White's pawn structure or force the white queen back.

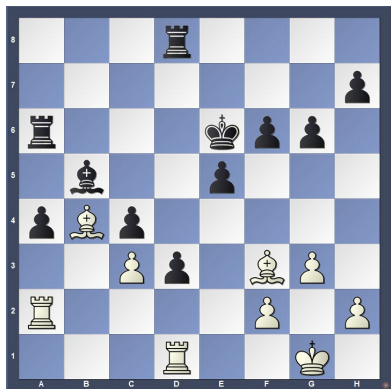
21...♘f3+ 22.♙xf3 ♙d7 23.♙f4
♙c6 24.♙c7 ♙xa4 25.♙xd7+
♙xd7 26.♙c7 a4 27.♙d6 ♙c6
28.♙e2 ♙d7 29.♙b4 ♙a6 30.0-0
♙ha8 31.♙a3



31...g6 The only way I could see of trying to make something out of this position was trying to gain space on the kingside and try and create another passed pawn with ideas of maybe playing ...d4 at some point.

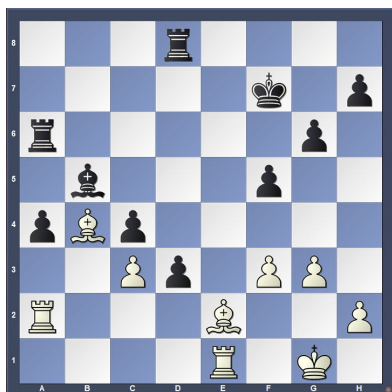
32.♙d1 ♙e8 33.♙f1 f6 34.♙g4
♙f7 35.♙e2 e5 36.♙f3 ♙e6
37.♙e2 ♙b5 38.♙f3 ♙d8 Continuing on with my plan to play d4 and creating a passed pawn.

39.♖a2 d4 40.♔g1 d3 41.g3



Now that I have another passed pawn on d3 I needed to find a way to apply more pressure to White and I decided to gain more space and to weaken White's bishop by going ...f5 with ideas of ...e4 and then ...e3.

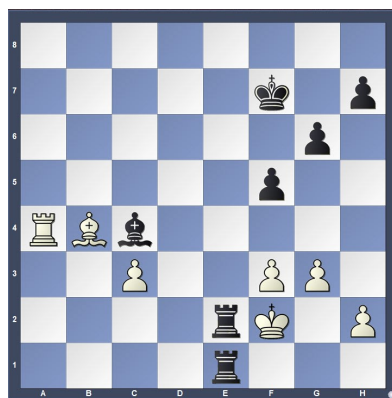
41...f5 42.♖g2 e4 43.f3 e3
44.♞e1 e2 45.♞f1 ♔f7 46.♞xe2



Here I did think about immediately capturing the bishop back with the pawn, but I saw that Whites' rooks get very active after that, so I ended up playing ...Re6 applying more pressure to the bishop and pinning it to the rook.

46...♞e6 47.♔f2 ♞de8 The bishop is still pinned to the rook and this move applies more pressure to the bishop.

48.♞xd3 ♞xe1 49.♞xc4+ ♞xc4
50.♞xa4 ♞8e2#



0-1



Daniel Kitaev: Robinson Cup team member and one of a number of promising young players.

Gilbert Cup

Squad:

Jennifer Feng

Ashley Tandon

Nivedita Suyal

Florence Wilson

Another tournament of development for this young and promising group of Scottish girls. Both the Irish and Welsh (as well as of course the English) continue to have really strong junior female squads. With our squad still having an average age of about 13, the future is still bright for female chess in Scotland.

A main highlight of our Gilbert effort was Jennifer Feng's victory over WIM Trisha Kanyamarala over Ireland in Round 1.

♖ Feng, Jennifer

♜ Kanyamarala, Trisha

Gilbert Cup 2021

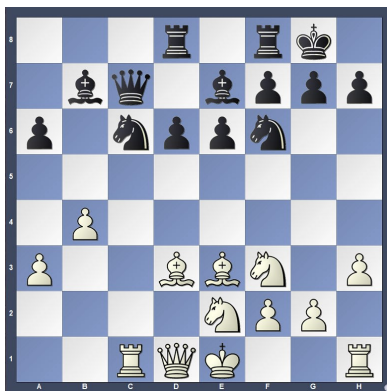
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 ♘c6 6.♘f3 e6 7.♙d3 ♙e7 8.♙e3 ♘g4 9.♙d2 0-0 10.h3 ♘f6 11.♙e3 a6



12.a3? In hindsight, 12.0-0 might have been a better move because in the endgame I had a lot of pressure over the safety of my king.

12...b5 13.b4 ♙b7 14.♘e2 with the idea to move Rc1 followed by c4, whilst trying to move the knight to the kingside.

14...♙c7 15.♖c1 ♖ad8 16.c4!? bxc4 17.♙xc4 ♘xe4 18.♙d3 ♘f6



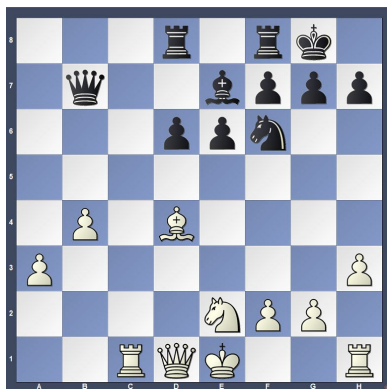
19.♘fd4? This was a mistake as it

allowed 22... Qxg2. 19. ♖ed4 was the better alternative as it stopped Qxg2 after 19... ♖d7 20. ♕xa6 ♘xd4 21. ♕xb7 ♘f5 22. ♕c6 ♘xe3 23. fxe3 ♖a7

19... ♖d7 20. ♕xa6 The idea here was to win back a pawn - if my opponent played

20... ♘xd4 However, if Black played 20... ♕xa6 then I would follow it up by 21. ♘xc6 winning a pawn which would equalize material and forking the d8-rook & e7-bishop.

21. ♕xb7 ♖xb7 22. ♕xd4



22... ♖xg2! then I thought I could follow it up by

23. ♖g1 and try to use the g file, perhaps getting a battery on the file.

However this move is losing.

23... ♖b7 24. h4? ♖h8 25. ♘g3 ♖c8 26. ♕b2 ♖xc1 27. ♖xc1 ♖c8 28. ♖g5 Not that great of a move as it's easy to defend against, however if left alone it could be quite a threat. For example: 28... ♖c2 29. ♘h5 ♘xh5 (However, it can be stopped by 29... ♖e4+ 30. ♔f1 ♖d3+ 31. ♔g2 ♘xh5 32. ♖xh5) 30. ♕xg7+ ♔g8 31. ♕f6+ ♔f8 32. ♖g8#

28... h6 29. ♖d2 ♖e4+ 30. ♘xe4
Black resigned

1-0

There were 1-2 days where the board positions swung in ways that we could have won 3-0 but somehow it finished in the other direction. But this is a group of girls that fight and fight and never give up.

I look forward to seeing them continue to develop at their chess over the next few years.

Robinson Cup

Squad:

**Sanjith Madhavan
Ananth Subramaniam
Rishi Vijayakumar
Aryan Munshi
Oliver Whalley
Matthew Willder
Morvin Gera
Daniel Kitaev**

Our Robinson squad had possibly the biggest claim to the mantle of most successful Scottish team at the Glorney Festival this year.

They ran the Irish close both times they played them, losing 4-2 and 3.5-2.5 respectively. Both games against the Welsh finished with resounding 5.5-0.5 wins. The English managed to win 5-1 in both Rounds 2 and 5. But in both rounds the man putting something on the board was Sanjith Madhavan against Edison Xu on Board 1.

Sanjith had the best record of all Scots throughout the squads winning 4 of his 5 games. But he also led what was a talented and exciting group of under-14s who will - I'm

sure - all be vying for Glorney Cup places and beyond over the next few years.

Special mention to Rishi Vijayakumar who will be taking part in the under-10 section of the FIDE Youth World Cup in August but fully merited his place in this Robinson squad. Like their Glorney counterparts, the Robinson squad finished a comfortable 3rd and perhaps were slightly closer to the possibility of catching the Irish in 2nd.

Stokes Cup

Squad:

**Raghav Palanivel
Jainill Vadalia
Drisith Palaniswamy
Georgios Tsagkarakis
Jonathan Turner
Unnabh Shrestha
Srinivas Ratha**

This Stokes squad boasted many new caps who had been excelling during the past year of online domestic competition. Although international junior level is a different prospect (in terms of both chess moves and psychology), our Stokes

squad gained valuable experience and showed at various times throughout the games, the quality they are capable of.

An example of how much our young Stokes squad grew into the competition was the difference between getting beaten 6-0 by the Irish in Round 1 but three days later running them very close in Round 4 and only just getting pipped 3.5-2.5.

Two 3-3 draws against the Welsh could have put it down to game points difference for third had the Welsh not also drawn with the Irish in Round 5. So beyond England, the difference in quality and strength between the Celtic Nations continues to be quite close.

Special mentions go to Drisith Palaniswamy for 3 wins from 5 and also to Srinivas Ratha, who on his first Scotland appearance managed to get 3 wins out of 4.

Srinivas is pictured (right, bottom) with his team-mate Raghav Palanivel (right, top)



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Wood Green Invitational 2021



Two of Scotland's highest-rated players took part in the recent Wood Green Invitational tournament, GM Matthew Turner and IM Andrew Green competing in the 10-round all-play-all norm event in Stafford.

Neither got off to the best of starts, early losses perhaps a sign of over-the-board rustiness at the end of a long pandemic lockdown, but both bounced back with wins in round 4. Matthew found a way to unlock his opponent's weaknesses in the endgame...

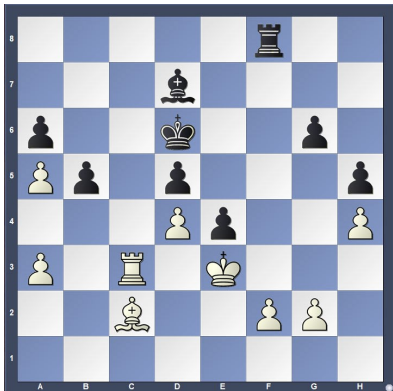
♖ Turner, Matthew (2509)

♜ Willow, Jonah (2396) A35

Wood Green Invitational (4), 2021

1.c4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♘c3 g6
4.e3 ♗f6 5.d4 cxd4 6.exd4 d5
7.cxd5 ♗xd5 8.♙b3 e6 9.♙g5
♙e7 10.♙h6 ♙f8 11.♙xf8 ♔xf8
12.♙b5 ♗a5 13.♙a3+ ♔g7

14.0-0 a6 15.♙e2 ♘c6 16.♞fd1
 ♚e7 17.♞b3 ♜d8 18.♞ac1 ♘a5
 19.♞a4 b6 20.♘e5 f6 21.♘xd5
 exd5 22.b4 fxе5 23.bxa5 b5
 24.♞c2 e4 25.♞c7 ♞a7 26.♞xe7+
 ♞xe7 27.♞c5 ♙b7 28.♞dc1 ♞f8
 29.♞c7 ♞ff7 30.♞xe7 ♞xe7
 31.♙f1 h5 32.♙e1 ♙f6 33.♙d2
 ♙e6 34.♙e3 ♙d6 35.♙d1 ♙c6
 36.♙b3 ♞f7 37.h4 ♙d7 38.♞c5
 ♙c6 39.♙d1 ♞f8 40.♙c2 ♞f7
 41.a3 ♞f8 42.♙b1 ♙d7 43.♙a2
 ♙c6 44.♙b3 ♞f7 45.♙c2 ♞f8 46.
 ♞c3 ♙d7



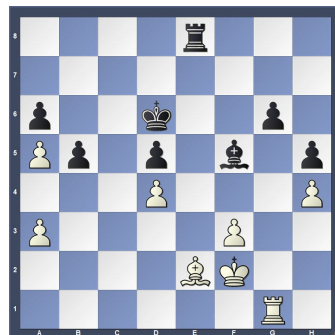
We join the game deep into an endgame, with Black's pawns all stuck on light squares, the same colour as the bishops. This means that almost all pure bishop and pawn endings will be lost for Black, so Matthew's job is to somehow get the rooks off while not allowing a blockade or fortress of any sort.

Easier said than done, but the first plan is to open up a ssecond front as the c-file alone won't win the game, given that Black can cover all the relevant access squares.

47.f3 exf3 48.gxf3 White's pawn structure is theoretically weakened, but he now has access to the semi-open g-file.

48...♞f6 it's not easy to play accurately when under pressure and with a time limit of all moves in 90 minutes + 30 seconds added from move 1. Black had to balance defence with the option of counterattack, and offer the exchange of bishops (not rooks!) whenever feasible. A sample line might go...

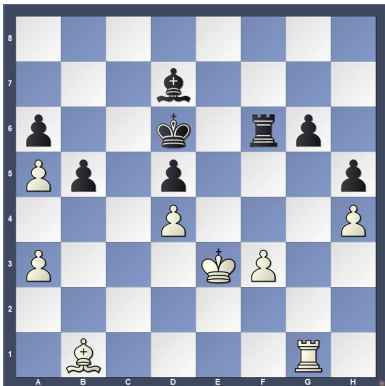
48...♙f5 49.♙b3 ♞e8+ 50.♙f2 ♞f8
 51.♞c1 ♙g4 52.♙d1 (52.♞c3 and no progress has been made.)
 52...♙f5 53.♙e2 ♞e8 and now
 54.♞g1?



allows 54...♖c8 and it is White who is in trouble.

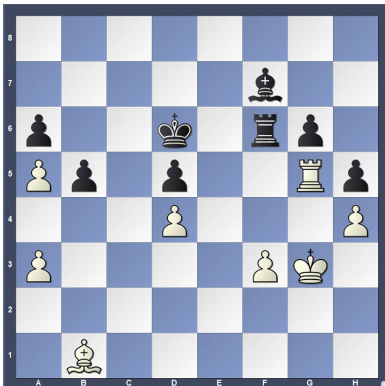
49.♔b1 ♕c6? The wrong diagonal. Now Black loses a move and gives White extra chances.

50.♖c1! ♕d7 51.♖g1



51...♕e8 Now 51...♕f5 fails to 52.♕xf5 gxf5 53.♔f4 with a decisive infiltration.

52.♖g5 ♖e6+ 53.♔f2 ♖f6 54.♖e5 ♕d7 55.♔g3 ♕e6 56.♖g5 ♕f7



57.f4?

White has the right idea, but the wrong execution. He should retrace his steps and play 57.♖e5 ♕e6 58.♕d3 ♕f7 (58...♔e7 59.f4) 59.f4 White wants to play this with the king cut off and the bishop undefended, forcing the rooks off as we see in the game. For example: 59...♕e6 60.♖g5 ♕f7 61.f5 gxf5 62.♔f4 (62.♖xf5 ♖g6+ 63.♖g5 ♖f6 64.♖e5 should also win.) 62...♖e6 63.♖g7 ♔e7 64.♕xf5 ♖c6 65.♔e5 ♖f6 66.♖g2 ♖c6 67.♖c2

57...♖e6 57...♔e7! This defensive idea may well save Black. 58.♖e5+ ♔f8 59.f5 gxf5 60.♖xf5 ♖g6+ 61.♖g5 ♖c6 and Black clearly has enough counterplay to hold, compared to the last variation.

58.♖e5 ♖f6 59.♕d3 ♔d7 We have already seen 59...♕e6 60.♖g5 ♕f7 61.f5



60.f5! The decisive break.

♣ Greet, Andrew (2417)

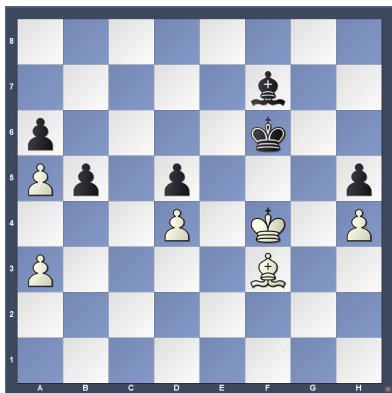
60...gxf5 61.♞xf5 ♔e7 61...♞g6+
62.♕f2 ♞g7 63.♞g5 also forces the
rooks off and wins.

♣ Blackburn, Jonathan (2235)

Wood Green Invitational (4), 2021

62.♞xf6 ♕xf6 63.♕f4 ♖e6 64.♖
e2 ♖f7 65.♖f3

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 ♔g7
4.♖g2 d6 5.♘c3 0-0 6.♘f3



This is the zugzwang position Matthew has been dreaming of since the endgame started! Black has to give way and White will win easily, so...Black resigned.

1-0

In Andrew's game, he pounced on a chance to sacrifice the exchange for pressure and the initiative, his opponent eventually erring decisively...



6...c6 6...♘c6 is one of the most popular moves in this King's Indian fianchetto opening, while the text move usually combines with ...Nbd7 in the mainline. Black soon decides to depart from the well-worn routes.

7.0-0 ♞b6 8.b3 e5 9.♖a3 White has a number of ways to play this position. A recent top-level encounter saw White come out on top after: 9.♖b2 e4 10.♘e1 d5 11.♘c2 ♖e6 12.♘a4 ♞d8 13.♘c5 ♖c8 14.f3 exf3 15.exf3 ♞e8 16.♞d2 ♘bd7 17.♘d3 dxc4 18.bxc4 ♘b6 19.♘e3



Black's position is already healthy enough to sacrifice the exchange.

19...♖xe3! 20.♔xe3 ♘xc4 21.♔e2 ♘d5 22.♘e5 ♘ce3 23.♖fe1 ♙f5 24.♖ac1 ♔b6 25.♖f2 ♘xg2 26.♙xg2 ♜d8 27.♙a3 a5 28.♙c5 ♔c7 29.♔b2 ♙h6 30.f4 ♙g7 31.♖e2 h5 32.♔b3 ♙e6 33.♔b2 ♔c8 34.♙g1 h4 35.♖b1 b5 36.♖be1 ♜e8 37.♘f3 hxg3 38.hxg3 ♜d8?



This allows 39.♖xe6 fxe6 40.♔c2 when White follows up with Ng5, simply winning on the dark squares.

White in Wei, Y-Movsesian, S Chess.com 2020 1-0

9...e4 10.♘g5N ♔a5 11.♔c1 e3



12.f4 12.fxe3?? Would be a blunder due to 12...♔xg5

12...c5? 12...♜d8 is the engine's suggestion, but it doesn't really inspire confidence. 13.b4 ♔c7 14.♔xe3 is a pawn and Black has yet to show any signs of compensation for it.

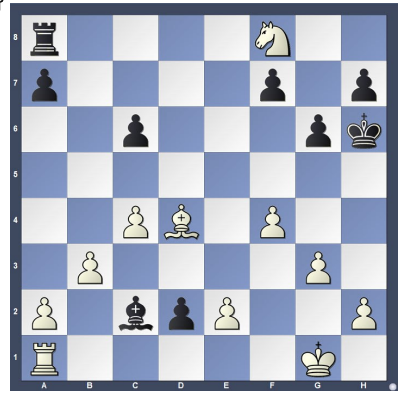
13.dxc5 The simple approach. 13.♘b5 was also possible.

13...dxc5 14.♙b2 The knight manoeuvre similar to the game is already possible as after 14.♘ge4 ♘xe4 (14...♘bd7 15.♙b2)

15.♘xe4 ♙xa1 16.♔xa1 White is winning quickly. A lucky escape for

14...♘c6 15.♙xc6 Again Andrew

plays a straightforward, positionally -advantageous move. However, here the alternative 15.♘d5 may have been stronger. It is also much murkier after 15...♘d4 though, with (15...♘d5 16.♙xg7 ♔xg7 17.cxd5 ♘d4 18.♚xe3 is very strong.) 16.♚xe3 ♙g4 which may not have been to Andrew's tastes. (16...♘c2 17.♚e7 ♘xd5 18.♙xd5 is killing.)



15...bxc6 16.♘ce4 ♘xe4



17.♘xe4 ♙d4 18.♞d1 ♙f5

19.♞xd4!?

This is tempting and appears very strong, although the engines prefer 19.♙xd4 cxd4 20.♞xd4 ♙xe4 21.♞xe4 with a two-pawn advantage after taking on e3.

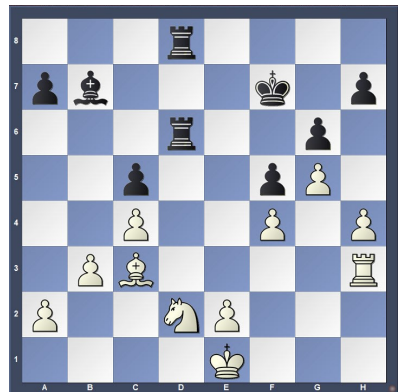
19...cxd4 20.♘f6+ ♔g7 21.♙xd4

d2 22.♘e8+ ♔g8 23.♘f6+ ♔g7
24.♚xd2 exd2 25.♘e8+
25.♘d7+?? runs into 25...♔h6 26.
♘xf8 26...♙c2!

25...♔g8 26.♘f6+ ♔g7 27.♘e4+
27.♞d1 may have been better.

27...f6 28.♘xd2 ♞ad8 29.♙c3
♞fe8 30.♔f2 c5 31.♞e1 ♙e4
32.g4 ♔f7 The position is probably
about even here.

33.♞g1 ♙c6 33...g5 would prevent



his kingside from becoming so vulnerable.

34.g5 f5 35.♖g3 ♜e6 36.h4 ♞ed6
37.♙e1 ♚b7 38.♞h3

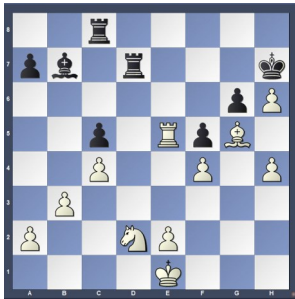
changed off, it is likely Black can hold this, although White is still for choice of course.

39.gxh6 ♔g8 40.♞e3 ♔h7
40...♞6d7 41.♙f6 ♞c8 42.♞e5 ♔h7
43.♙g5

38...h5?? A move that bears all the hallmarks of a panic reaction.

38...♞8d7 39.h5 gxh5 40.♞xh5
♔g8 doesn't feel comfortable, but with the white knight unable to join

the game with-
being out ex-



and Black is hog-tied; White will reroute his knight and target c5 and/or d5.

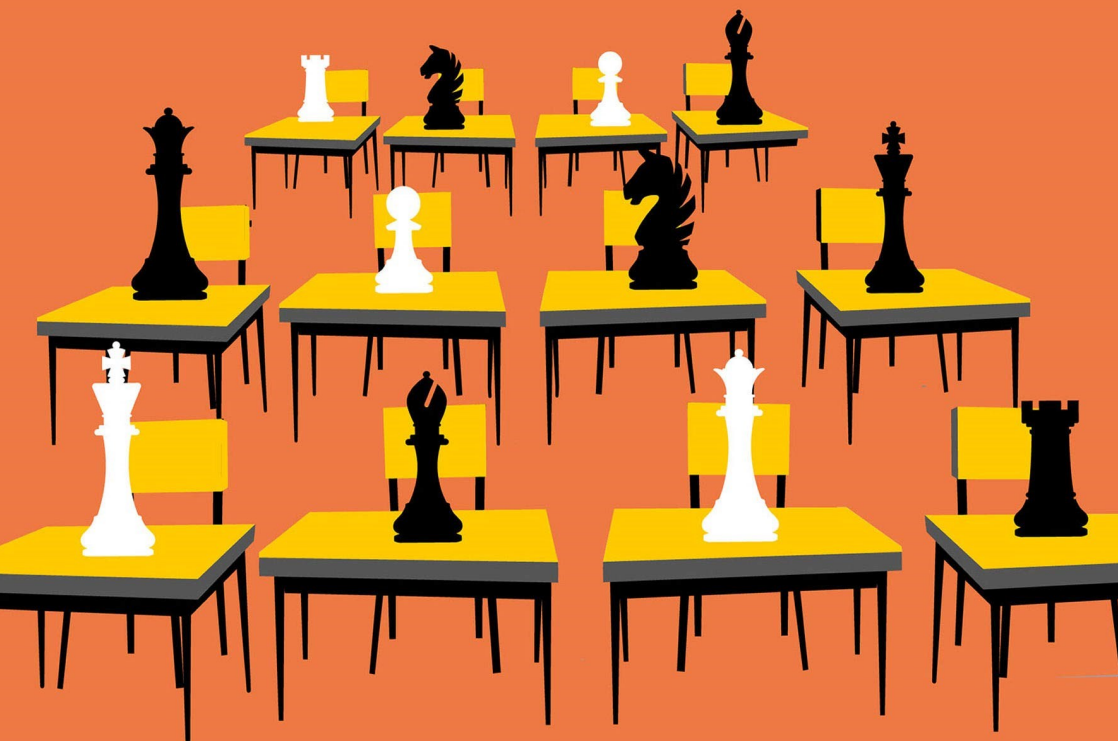
41.♞e7+ ♔xh6 42.♞xb7 a6 43.♙f3 ♔h5 44.♙f2 ♔g4 45.♙e5 ♞c6 46.♞g7 and Black resigned.

Final Ranking crosstable after 9 Rounds

Rk.		Name	Rtg	FED	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Pts.
1		IM Haria Ravi	2440	ENG	*	1	½	½	½	1	1	1	1	1	7,5
2		GM Fodor Tamas Jr	2520	HUN	0	*	½	½	½	1	1	1	1	1	6,5
3		GM Hebden Mark L	2453	ENG	½	½	*	½	1	1	½	½	½	1	6,0
		FM Harvey Marcus R	2440	ENG	½	½	½	*	½	1	½	½	1	1	6,0
5		GM Turner Matthew J	2509	SCO	½	½	0	½	*	½	½	1	½	0	4,0
6		IM Fitzsimons David	2324	IRL	0	0	0	0	½	*	1	½	½	1	3,5
7		IM Greet Andrew N	2417	SCO	0	0	½	½	½	0	*	0	½	1	3,0
		FM Willow Jonah B	2396	ENG	0	0	½	½	0	½	1	*	½	0	3,0
		FM Derakhshani Borna	2373	ENG	0	0	½	0	½	½	½	½	*	½	3,0
10		FM Blackburn Jonathan Lb	2235	WLS	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	½	*	2,5

KAREL VAN DELFT

CHESS FOR EDUCATORS



How to Organize and Promote a
Meaningful Chess Teaching Program

NEW IN CHESS



The 2nd British Online Championships took place over two weeks from 24th July to 8th August 2021 on Chess.com.

The event was run by the English Chess Federation, in collaboration with the Welsh, Scottish, Irish, Ulster, Jersey, Guernsey and Isle of Man Chess Federations / Unions and there was plenty of Scottish involvement – and success!

With several Championship GM Michael Adams along the events and numerous rapid and way! side events, two performances stand out.

First off, congratulations to Keti Arakhamia-Grant who added the Women's Championship title to her incredible career resume. Keti dropped only half-a-point on the way to her victory.

Next up was the sensational performance of 10-year old Freddy Gordon, who not only finished in a tie for 5th spot, but defeated GM Mark Hebden and drew with

Young Freddy also made a guest appearance on Matthew Sadler and Natasha Regan's championships commentary.

News on the grapevine is that Freddy's level of play outstrips Scotland's all-time leading player, GM Jonathan Rowson, at a similar

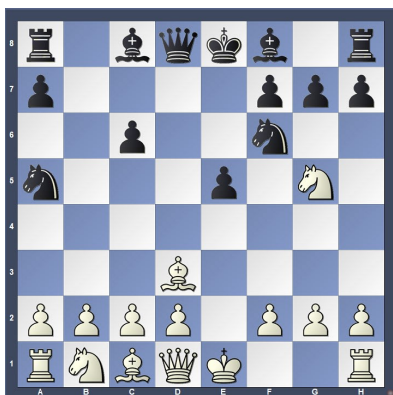
age. Here is Freddy's excellent draw with the highest-rated English player of all time...

♣ Gordon, Frederick (1456)

♣ Adams, Michael (GM 2716)

British Online Chess
Championship 2021
Chess.com (9)

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙c4 ♘f6 4.
♗g5 d5 5.exd5 ♗a5 6.♙b5+ c6
7.dxc6 bxc6 8.♙d3



Not White's most popular choice here but it still has a good number of games behind it. 8.♙f3 and 8.♙e2 are the main alternatives.

8...♗d5 This reply dates back to 1890 when Emil Schallop used it to defeat Henry Bird at the Manchester Congress. Paul Keres, Gary Kasparov and Sergei Karjakin have also all favoured it over the alternative ...h6.

9.♘f3 ♙d6 10.0–0 Black now has a choice here of whether to trade off White's d3-bishop, investing a pawn in the process, or to castle, which allows White to play Re1 and then tuck the bishop away on f1.



The engine (Stockfish14) has no real preference; Adams chooses the former, while Magnus Carlsen recently opted for the latter.

10...♘f4 Relevant: 10...0-0
 11.♖e1 f5 12.♘xe5 ♔f6 13.♘f3 g5
 14.c4 ♘f4 15.♙f1 g4 16.d4 gxf3
 17.♚xf3 ♘e6 18.♚c3 ♘b7 19.c5
 ♙c7 20.b4 a5 21.b5 ♚xd4
 22.♚xd4 ♘xd4 23.♙c4+ ♙e6
 24.♙xe6+ ♘xe6 25.♞xe6 ♘xc5
 26.♞e2 ♞fe8 27.♘c3 cxb5 28.♙e3
 ♙e5 29.♙xc5 ♙xc3 30.♞xe8+ ♞xe8
 31.♞b1 b4 32.♙f1 ♞e5 33.♙e3 a4
 34.♞c1 a3 35.g3 ♞b5 36.♞c2 b3
 37.axb3 ♞xb3 38.♙g2 ♙f7 39.♙d2
 ♙e5 40.♙f4

So, W (2770)-Carlsen, M (2862)
 chess24.com INT 2021 0-1

11.♖e1 ♘xd3 12.cxd3 0-0
 13.♘xe5 c5 14.♘c3 ♙b7 15.b3



White has his extra pawn while Black has the bishop pair and some useful open diagonals for them. Neither pawn structure on the queenside is anything to write home about, and an assessment of equal but offering chances to both sides seems appropriate.

15...♘c6 Adams likely saw or knew about the drawing line 15...♞e8 16.♘c4 ♞xe1+ 17.♚xe1 ♘xc4 18.dxc4 ♙xh2+ 19.♙xh2 ♚h4+ 20.♙g1 ♙xg2 but would perhaps hope or expect to outplay his much lower-rated opponent.

16.♘xc6 ♙xc6 17.♚h5 f5
 18.♙b2 ♞f6 Black's plan resembles certain lines of the Marshall Attack in the Ruy Lopez, an opening in which Mickey Adams is expert.

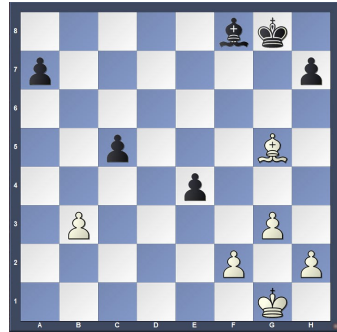
19.♚h4N



19...♖h6?! A surprising choice from England's highest-rated player.

chances for Black. For example: 29. ♖e2 ♜xa2 30. ♗c3 ♜c2 31. ♗xe4 ♜xc1+ 32. ♙xc1 fxe4 33. ♙xg5

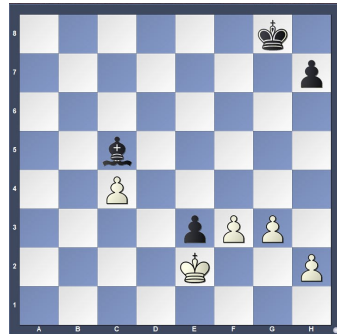
19...♙d7 keeping the queens on seems much more to the point given his choice to enter this position. 20. ♙c4+ ♖h8 21. ♜e2 and now 21...♜b8 seems to keep the balance in a very unbalanced kind of way! (21...♜h6 22. f4) 22. ♜ae1 ♜b4



20. ♙xd8+ ♜xd8 21. g3 ♙f8 22. ♗e2!? Freddy plays the safest move.

and here 33...c4 wins a piece but perhaps not the game after 34. bxc4 a5 35. ♙c1 a4 36. ♖f1 a3 37. ♙xa3 38. ♖e2 ♙c5 39. f3!? e3

22. ♜e3 ♜hd6 (22...f4 23. gxf4) 23. ♗a4 is the engine approach, but it's all a bit murky for humans. For example: 23...♜xd3 24. ♜xd3 ♜xd3 25. ♙c3 g5

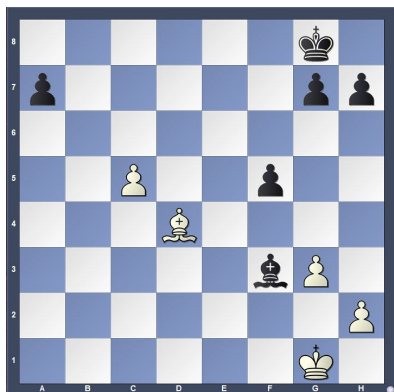


22...♜xd3 23. ♗f4 ♜xd2 24. ♙c3 24. ♙c1!? is an interesting move, particularly if Black tries to keep his rook active, as in the game: 24...♜c2 25. ♗g2 ♜g6 (25...♜h5 26. ♗e3 ♜c3 27. ♙b2 ♜d3 28. ♜ad1 and Black's forces are a little too disconnected for comfort.) 26. ♗e3 ♜c3 27. ♙b2 ♜d3 28. ♗xf5

Can Black win this? Answers on a postcard please! 40. g4 ♖f7 41. h4 ♖e6 42. f4

24...♜c2 25. ♜ec1 ♜xc1+ 26. ♜xc1 ♙e4 27. ♙d2 ♜a6 28. ♙e3 ♜xa2 28...g5 may offer slightly more

29. ♗e6 c4 30. bxc4 ♙a3 31. ♜d1 ♙e7 32. ♗d4 ♙f6 33. c5 ♜a4 34. f3 ♙xd4 35. ♜xd4 ♜xd4 36. ♙xd4 ♙xf3



Black has an extra pawn but the opposite-coloured bishops almost guarantee White the draw.

37.c6 a5 38.c7 ♖b7 39.♔f2 ♔f7
 40.h4 a4 41.♔e3 g6 42.♔f4 ♔e6
 43.♔g5 ♔d6 44.♔h6 ♔xc7 45.♔
 xh7 ♙c4 46.♔xg6 f4+ 47.♔g5
 fxg3 48.♙e5+ ♔c6 49.♙xg3 ♔d5
 50.♔f6 a3 51.♙e5 a2 52.♙a1 ♙
 d3 A remarkable show of compo-
 sure from young Freddy against one
 of the world's longest-serving elite
 players.

½–½

Some of the best performances
 by Scots are listed below:

Championship

Freddy Gordon (5th)

Jonathan McKay (19th)

Women's Championship

Ketevan Arakhamia-Grant (1st=)

Over 50 Championship

Rabindra Paul (8th)

Under 18 Championship

Jonathan McKay (2nd)

Under 12 Championship

Rishi Vijayakumar (3rd)

Under 8 Championship

Deepak Ambattu Rithvik (11th)

August 13 - September 15

chess.com/tv



Online
Olympiad

2021



Scotland's online Olympiad campaign got off to a flying start with a resounding top spot finish in their qualifying group, winning 8 matches and losing only one en route to victory in Division 3 Pool C.

Ranking crosstable

Rk.	Team	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	TB1	TB2	TB3
1	Scotland	*	2	5½	4	5½	4	5	5	4½	5½	16	41,0	0
2	Angola	4	*	2½	3	4½	4	4	5½	5	5½	15	38,0	0
3	Wales	½	3½	*	4½	2	5½	2½	3½	4½	3½	12	30,0	0
4	Zambia	2	3	1½	*	1½	4	3½	4½	5	5	11	30,0	0
5	Botswana	½	1½	4	4½	*	1½	4	3	5	5	11	29,0	0
6	Nigeria	2	2	½	2	4½	*	5	4	4	2	8	26,0	0
7	Kosovo	1	2	3½	2½	2	1	*	1	4½	3	5	20,5	0
8	United Arab Emirates	1	½	2½	1½	3	2	5	*	2	3	4	20,5	0
9	Palestine	1½	1	1½	1	1	2	1½	4	*	4	4	17,5	2
10	ICCD	½	½	2½	1	1	4	3	3	2	*	4	17,5	0

Annotation:

Tie Break1: Matchpoints (2 for wins, 1 for Draws, 0 for Losses)

Tie Break2: points (game-points)

Tie Break3: The results of the teams in then same point group according to Matchpoints

Teams for the Olympiad consist of six main players, including:

- Two open spots;
- Two women;
- At least one player U-20 (born in 2001 or later);

At least one girl U-20 (born in 2001 or later).

- The rules for the competition also state that “Teams may also have up to six reserves, following the same pattern.

Scotland made full use of that and put together a squad of 12:

Open players

GM Jacob Aagaard

IM Andrew Greet

Open reserves

FM Alan Tate

FM Murad Abdulla

Women Players

Keti Arakhamia-Grant

Suzie Cooke

Women reserves

Alice Lampard

Ali Roy

Junior U-20

Jake Sanger

Reserve

Freddy Gordon

Girl U-20

Jennifer feng

Reserve

Ashley Tandon

The goal was to take one of the top three placings, which would guarantee a spot in Division 2.

The team, captained by Alan Tate, got off to a flying start, winning all six games across the first two days of play.

That all but assured Scotland of a spot on the podium and two further match wins ensued, and even a last-round loss to Angola couldn't prevent us from taking first place.

A selection of the games follow, and news of how the team gets on in Division 2 will be available on the **Chess Scotland website**, with a full report in the next issue of Scottish Chess magazine.

☞ Arakhamia-Grant, Ketevan
(GM 2282)

■ Gabatshwarwe, Refilwe (1667)

2021 FIDE Online Olympiad
Chess.com (4.3), 28.08.2021



1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 a6
4.♙a4 ♘f6 5.0-0 ♙e7 6.♞e1 b5
7.♙b3 d6 8.c3 ♘a5 9.♙c2 c5
10.h3 0-0 11.d4 ♞c7 12.d5 c4
13.b4 cxb3 14.axb3 ♙d7 15.♙a3

16.♘xe5! ♘b7 17.♘f3 ♙f8
18.♙b2N Evidently someone else
had fallen for the tactic on e5 as
only this move is new.

This position had already been seen
in a high-level game, with US
Grandmaster Samuel Sevian choos-
ing: 15..♙d8 16.♘bd2 ♞b8 17.b4
♘c4 18.♘xc4 bxc4 19.♙a4 ♙b5
20.♙c1 h6 21.♘h4 ♙xa4 22.♞
xa4 ♘xd5 23.exd5 ♙xh4 24.♞g4
♞d8 25.♙xh6 ♙xf2+ 26.♘f1 ♞
f6 27.♙g5 ♞g6 28.♘xf2 f5 29.♞h4
f4 30.♘g1 ♞c2 31.♞aa1 f3 32.♞f2
♞xc3 33.♙e7 ♞f7 34.♙xd6 e4
35.♙c5 ♞e8 36.♞ad1 fxg2 37.♞xg2
e3 38.♞g3 ♞b3 39.d6 ♞a4 40.♙
xe3 ♞xb4 41.♞g4 ♞b5 42.♞c1 ♞
a5 43.d7 ♞d8 44.♞f1 ♞dx7 45.
♞xc4 Robson,R (2644)-Sevian,S
(2615) Saint Louis 2017 1-0

Predecessor: 18.♞d4 a5 19.♙b2
♘c5 20.♘bd2 a4 21.b4 ♘a6
22.♞d3 g6 23.♘d4 ♞b7 24.♘h2
♙g7 25.f4 ♘c7 26.g4 a3 27.♙c1
♘fxd5 28.♘2f3 ♘b6 29.♞xa3
♘c4 30.♞xa8 ♞xa8 31.♙b3 d5
32.e5 ♞e8 33.♙c2 ♞a7 34.♘g3
♘a8 35.h4 ♘ab6 36.h5 ♞b8
37.hxg6 hxg6 38.e6 fxe6 39.♞xg6
e5 40.♘g5 ♞e7 41.♞h1 1-0 (41)
Gunduz,U (2255) -Buker,M
(1978) Antalya 2019

15...♞fe8?? Black's choice has an
unfortunate tactical drawback

18...♘c5 19.♘bd2 g6 20.c4 ♙g7
21.b4 ♘b7

22.e5!



As usual, Keti goes for the most direct approach, opening the position for her better-prepared forces.

22...♖h5 23.exd6 ♗xd6 24.♙g7 ♖xg7 25.c5



Winning more material. Keti goes on to mop up efficiently.

25...♗xe1+ 26.♗xe1 ♗xd5 27.♙e4 ♗h5 28.♙xb7 ♗e8

29.♗f1 ♗e6 30.♗xa6 ♗xa6 31.♙xa6 g5 32.♙xb5 ♙e6 33.♙e4 ♗g6 34.♙exg5 h6 35.♙xe6 ♙xe6 36.♗d3 ♗f6 37.♗e4 h5 38.♙d3 ♙f8 39.c6 ♙c7 40.b5 ♙e8 41.b6 ♙d6 42.♗e5 ♗h6 43.c7 ♗c1+ 44.♙h2 ♗h6 45.♗d4 ♙b7 46.g3 ♗c6 47.♙e4 ♗e6 48.♙xb7

1-0

♣ Ermeni, Avni (2201)

♠ Aagaard, Jacob (2502) A00

2021 FIDE Online Olympiad
Chess.com (6.1), 28.08.2021

1.c4 ♙f6 2.g3 e5 3.♙g2 c6 4.d4 e4 5.♙c3 d5 6.cxd5 cxd5 7.f3 ♙b4 8.♙d2 ♙c6 9.fxe4 dxe4 10.e3?! 10.♙xe4

10...♙xc3 11.bxc3 0-0 11...♙e6 may have been more accurate.

12.♗c2 12.c4 prevents ...Be6 but Black still has easier play, the pawn on e4 will be a particular thorn in White's side (or centre!)

12...♙e6 13.c4 ♗c8 14.♗a4?



Developing with 14. Nxe2 was necessary.

14... Nxd4!



Jacob strikes, aiming to use his better-developed pieces in an attack against the white king stuck in the centre.

15. exd4 ♖xd4 16. ♖c1 ♘g4
17. ♘h3 ♘e5 18. ♘f4 g5 19. ♘e2
♘d3+ 20. ♙d1



Black has a choice of ways to finish off his opponent

20... ♙f2 20... ♙g4 is also very strong, but 20... e3?? leaves the queen en prise.

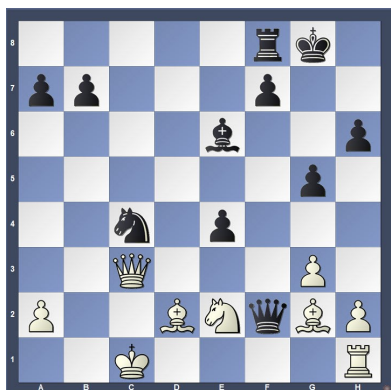
21. ♖c2 ♖xc4 21... ♙xg2 wins easily enough.

22. ♙a5 22. ♖xc4 ♘b2+ picks up the queen.

22... h6 Safety first.

22... ♖xc2; 22... ♙xg2 23. ♙xg5+ ♘h8 24. ♙f6+ is only a draw.

23. ♖xc4 ♘b2+ 24. ♙c1 ♘xc4 25. ♙c3 Black is still a piece down but White's forces are in no fit state to defend each other or their monarch.



25...♖c8 26.♔b1 ♕xe2 and with both bishop's hanging and mate not too far off, White resigned.

0-1

♖ Fowler, Hugo (1686)

♜ Gordon, Frederick (1415)

2021 FIDE Online Olympiad
Chess.com (5.5), 28.08.2021

1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 ♕xd5
4.d4 g6 5.♘f3 ♙g7 6.♘a3 cxd4
7.♙c4 ♕a5 This is a ropey-looking
alternative to the steady retreat
7...♕d8. For example: 8.cxd4 ♘f6
9.0-0 0-0 10.h3 a6 11.♘c2 b5
12.♙b3 ♙b7 13.♘e5 ♘c6 14.♙f4
♘a5 15.♖e1 ♖c8 16.♘e3 ♘xb3
17.axb3 ♘d5 18.♙g3 e6 19.♕d2
h5 20.♖ac1 ♘xe3 21.fx3 ♕d5

22.b4 h4 23.♙f4 ♙xe5 24.♙xe5
♕e4 25.♙f6 ♖xc1 26.♖xc1 ♖c8
27.♖xc8+ ♙xc8 28.♕f2 ♙b7 29.♙
xh4 e5 30.♙f6 exd4 31.♙xd4 ♙d5
32.♔h2 ♔h7 33.♕g3 ♙c6 34.♕g5
♙d5 35.♕g3 ♙c6 36.♕f2 ♙d5
37.g4 Mamedov,R (2654)-
Maghsoodloo,P (2698) Europe
Echecs INT 2021 1/2-1/2

8.♘xd4 White could already inflict
punishment with 8.♕b3 e6
(8...♘h6 9.♙xh6 ♙xh6 10.♙xf7+)
9.♘b5.

8...♘f6 9.0-0 0-0 10.♖e1 ♖e8?N
Predecessor: 10...e5 11.b4 ♕c7
(11...♕d8 again this is the best re-
treat square.) 12.♘db5 ♕e7
13.♙e3 b6 14.♕d6 ♕xd6 15.♘xd6
♘c6 16.♙g5 a6 17.♖ad1 b5
18.♙xf6 ♙xf6 19.♙d5 ♙d7
20.♙xf7+ ♔g7 21.♙b3 ♖a7
22.♘c2 ♖c7 23.♘e3 ♘e7 24.♘e4
♙f5 25.♘c5 1-0 Turner,M (2511)-
D'Costa,L (2155) Scarborough
2001

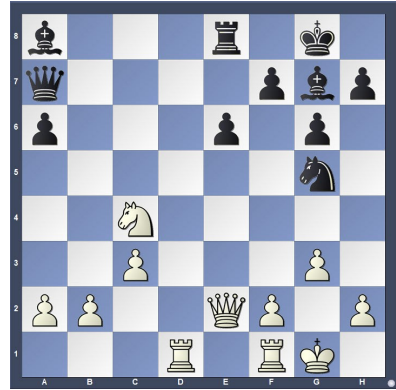
11.♕b3 e6 12.♙f4 a6

(see diagram next page)



13. ♖xb8! 13... ♗xe6 fxe6 14. ♘c4 ♗d8 15. ♘d6 is the engine's solution to punish Black's errors.

18. ♖f1 bxa6 19. ♗a4 ♘f6
 20. ♖ad1 ♗d7 21. ♗c2 ♗c6
 22. ♘c4 ♗d5 23. ♘e3 ♗a8 24. ♗e2
 ♘e4 25. ♘c4 ♘g5

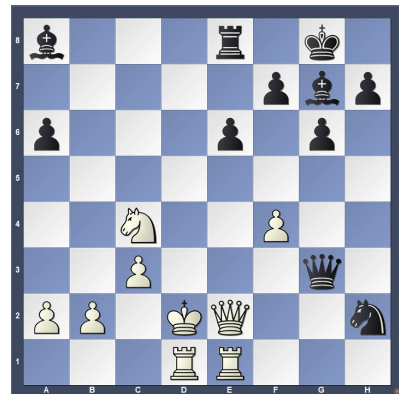


13... ♖xb8 14. ♘c6 ♗c7 15. ♘xb8 ♗xb8 White has emerged the exchange ahead and decides to add a pawn to his kitty, but this allows Freddy to turn the tables!

Some sort of light-squared disaster looks set to fall on White's house.

26. ♖fe1 ♘f3+ 27. ♖f1 ♘xh2+
 28. ♗g1 ♗b7 29. f4 ♗h1+ 30. ♖f2
 ♗g2+ 31. ♖e3 ♗xg3+ 32. ♖d2

16. ♗xa6?? ♘g4 17. g3 ♗a7



Now both f2 and a6 are attacked!

32... ♘f3+ 33. ♖c1 ♘xe1 34. ♖xe1
 ♗xf4+ 35. ♖b1 ♖b8 0-1

A good lesson in not giving up heart after a bad opening and/or a tactical blunder. If you can mess things up, so can your opponent! Here's another example from the same match against our Welsh cousins.

♠ Garcia, Jason (2067)

♣ Greet, Andrew (IM 2434)

2021 FIDE Online Olympiad
Chess.com (5.1), 28.08.2021

1.♘f3 d5 2.c4 d4 3.b4 g5 4.h3
♙g7 5.d3 h6 6.g3 e5 7.♘bd2
♜e7 8.♙g2 ♘d7 9.♙a3 c6
10.♘e4 ♘b8 11.0-0 f5 12.♘c5
b6 13.♘b3 ♘d7?! Missing or un-
derestimating the following tactical
line. Better was 13...0-0 14.b5 ♙b7

14.b5 c5 15.♘fxd4!



15...exd4 16.♙xa8 ♔c7



White is material up but Andrew has the makings of a dangerous attack. Is it enough to balance things out? The engine says no, but humans tend to struggle with defence, so...

17.♙c1 17.e3!? looks like it helps Black to open some lines until you see the follow-up 17...dxe3 18.♙h5+ ♔f8 19.♙ae1 exf2+ 20.♙xf2!



and Black's king is just as vulnerable as his white counterpart.

17...f4 18.g4 h5 Now Black's attack is practically unstoppable.

Black has broken through and Andrew finishes the game off quickly.

19.f3 ♖e5 20.♔g2 hxg4 21.fxg4

26.♞xe2 ♜xe2+ 27.♔xe2 ♙xg4+
28.♙f3 ♞g2+ 29.♔e1 ♙xf3



21...♙xg4! 21...♜xh3 is another winning breakthrough.

22.hxg4 f3+ 23.♔f2 Other replies get mated very (very!) quickly. E.g. 23.♞xf3 ♞h2+ 24.♔f1 ♞h1+ 25.♔f2 ♞h2+ or 23.exf3 ♞h2#

23...♞h2+ 24.♔e1 ♞g3+ 25.♔d2 fxe2



0-1

We are going to finish things off with a loss and a warning: if you don't want your losses to be shown, don't pique your editor's interest by playing the Sicilian Dragon!

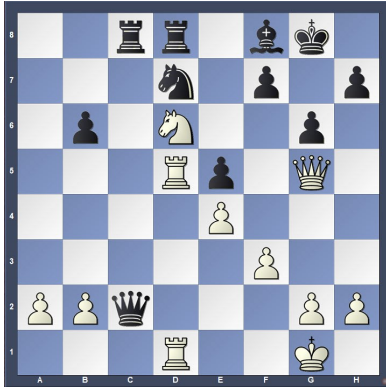
♣ Miguel, Sergio (2179)

♣ Abdulla, Murad (2167)

2021 FIDE Online Olympiad
Chess.com (9.2), 29.08.2021

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4
4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 g6 6.♙e3
♙g7 7.f3 0-0 8.♞d2 ♘c6 9.♙c4
♘xd4 10.♙xd4 ♙e6 11.♙b3 ♞a5
12.0-0 ♞ac8 13.♞ad1 ♞fd8
14.♞e3 ♙c4 15.♙xc4 ♞xc4 16.
♙xa7 ♘d7 17.♙d4 e5 18.♙a7 b6
19.♞xd6 ♞xa7 20.♞fd1 ♙f8
21.♞g5 ♞cc8 22.♞6d5 ♞c7
23.♘b5 ♞xc2 24.♘d6

(see diagram next page)



The key idea that would have allowed Black to bring home the full point. Unfortunately, having missed it, Black goes down rather quickly.

25. ♖xd6 f6 26. ♗g4 ♕c5+ 27. ♔f1 ♗c4+ 28. ♔f2 ♗c5+ 28...f5 would still hold on, although White has a big advantage in the ensuing queen and pawn endgame..

Murad is "completely winning" according to the engines, but (in a rapidplay game especially) an assessment of +6 means nothing if the route to victory is well-hidden.

29. ♔g3 ♖c7 30. ♗e6+ ♔g7 31. ♗e7+ ♔h6 32. ♗xd8 f5 33. ♗h4+ ♔g7 34. ♖xd7+ ♖xd7 35. ♖xd7+

24... ♕xd6 24... ♖b8! 25. ♖xc8 ♕c5+ 26. ♔h1 ♗xd1+

1-0



Scottish Chess wishes the team all the best as they attempt to make it through Division 2. Ireland and Wales also qualified from Division 3 while England were seeded into the top division.



Efstratios Grivas

GRIVAS OPENING LABORATORY

Volume 6

*Janowski Defence
Orthodox Defence
Cambridge Springs Defence
Various Slav Systems
Tartakower Defence*



Chess
Evolution

Chess Book Corner

with Ian Marks



This month our resident chess critic and bibliophile, Cumbernauld's very own [Ian Marks](#), reviews one of the latest *New In Chess* releases.

The Dutch publishing house is one of Chess Scotland's longest-serving sponsors and hopefully Scottish Chess magazine readers will consider reciprocating when choosing a new title for their chess libraries!

**HOW TO STUDY CHESS ON
YOUR OWN** by Davorin
Kuljasevic, *New in Chess*, 380
pp., publ. 2021

The author's first book, *Beyond Material*, was a bit different and one that I enjoyed, so I was keen to see what lay between the covers of this one. I was not disappointed.

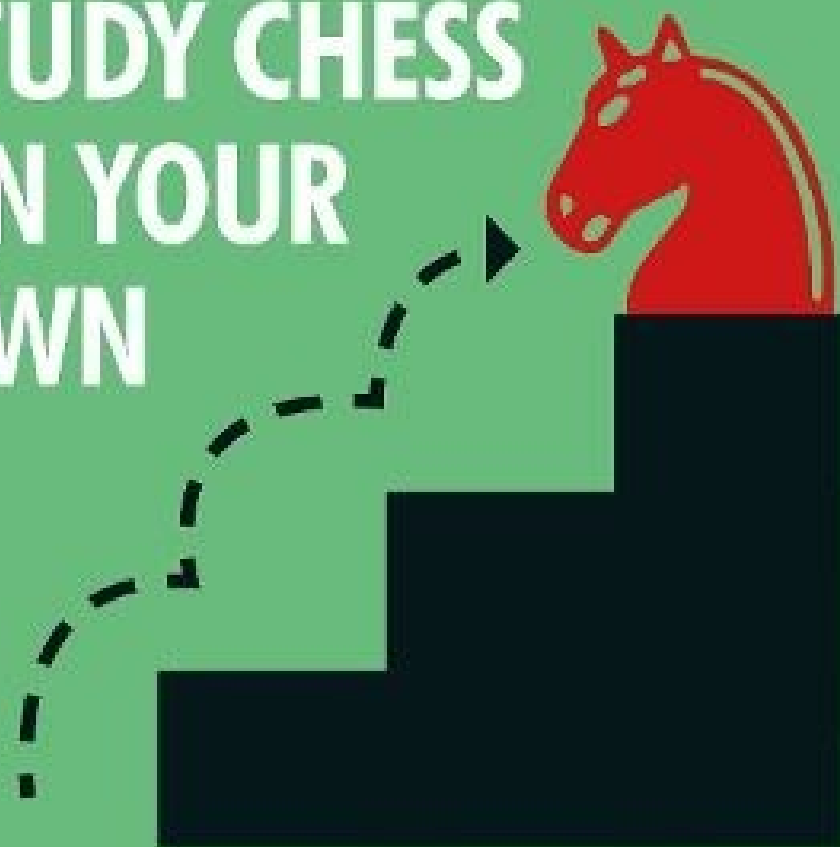
His basic premise is that things go better if you have some sort of structure to guide you. Everybody knows this, but not everyone sticks to it, for reasons real or imaginary.

If you find yourself in that category, his book may be for you. How he outlines and develops the topic can probably be best illustrated by a look at the chapter titles:

Davorin Kuljasevic

Creating
a Plan that Works...
and Sticking to it!

HOW TO STUDY CHESS ON YOUR OWN



NEW IN CHESS

- Do you study with the right mindset?
- Fifteen study methods
- Identify your study priorities
- Choose the right resources for your study plan
- Study your openings deeply
- ‘Dynamize’ your tactical training + tactics test

Make your endgame study more enjoyable

Systemize your middlegame knowledge + Test on exchanges

Get organized – create a study plan

Plus a final chapter containing solutions to the exercises.

The author cannot be accused of leaving stones unturned; this is a very wide range of topics, designed, he says, “***...so that anyone from a casual club player to a chess professional could... take away a reasonable number of original learning methods***”.

That is a very laudable aim, but there is a vast gulf between club player and pro. For one thing, club players tend to have a non-chess job, and the waking hours not devoted to it are probably devoted to the myriad family matters that we all have to deal with.

For example, the author talks about how he studied two books carefully for several months, analysing every single example for himself on a board and going over relevant passages again. Desirable, yes, but the sort of thing that Joe Average might find hard to factor into his schedule as he tries to juggle home and work commitments.

Likewise when he talks about one of his own study plans involving four to five hours a day during the week and six to seven a day at the weekend, you wonder how applicable this sort of thing can be to someone struggling to find even an hour a week.

Time allocations clearly have to be tailored to meet individual situations, and, to be fair, it is something of which the author is well aware:

“You should design your own study plans with a format and to the extent that is appropriate to your own taste, level of commitment, and resources”

and

*“It is highly unlikely that you will actually be able to execute your chess activities exactly as you had originally planned in your schedule because the circumstances in life inevitably change and cannot be predicted. Thus, **you want to always leave some room for adjustments in case of contingencies, in other words, plan dynamically.**”*

That said, the book is full of good advice. Here is an example from chapter five, ‘Study your openings deeply’:

“Keeping up with ever-increasing amounts of opening theory can be

*too time-consuming and ineffective for many chess players. Instead, a more practical approach is to focus on middlegame and endgame competence and learn only as much opening theory as you need to get a position you like, even if it is not the most critical by the highest opening theory standards. This, however, does not mean that you should go out of your way to avoid mainstream opening theory. In fact, **I would recommend playing as principled lines as possible.**”* He then gives a nod of agreement with Sam Shankland: *“...playing the middlegames that arise from mainline openings is an incredible learning experience for which there is no substitute.”*

This simple, yet profound, advice is only one part of one paragraph in one chapter. The book is oozing with such stuff. Here’s another example from chapter seven, ‘Make your endgame study more enjoyable’. He’s talking about players who don’t bother to look



Davorin Kuljasevic: According to our reviewer, the Croatian GM's latest book **HOW TO STUDY CHESS ON YOUR OWN** offers, "Simple, profound advice...the book is oozing with such stuff."

at endgames:

“The logic goes something like this: ‘I don’t get endgames much in my games, anyway. Why should I bother studying some theoretical endgame that I will maybe never get in a game?’... This kind of thinking is wrong on several levels. Firstly, it testifies to the study mindset of not being objective enough... Secondly, lack of endgame study will definitely affect your results adversely... weak endgame fundamentals decrease your overall potential as a chess player.”

If you liked these, you’ll like the book.

The main thing which strikes you is the amount of text. It is a heavy book, both in weight and content, but is highly readable. The author illustrates his points with lots of examples which, even if he recommends blindfold reading as one of his study methods, should definitely be pondered and gone over on a board.

Throughout, the author’s philosophy is very much that of teaching you to fish rather than giving you a fish, and, even if your study time is limited, there will be something between the covers that will be of benefit.

It is written in the same easy, conversational style as his previous book and, like that one, is different from the general run of chess books. It is well worth a look by players looking for a guide to how to structure their chess study and what to include in it.

Does it do what it sets out to do? With a bit of individual tailoring, certainly. Even if it gets you to draw up and work with a study plan of your own, whatever your time constraints, it will have achieved its objective. And it’ll make you think.

A final note. I’ve had a pop at NiC in the past for their indexes. I shall have to stop. I’ve just finished a 600+pp. non-fiction book the subject of which is not im-

portant to this review. When I'd finished I wanted to go back and re-read a couple of passages about one of the characters. I turned to the back of the book. There was no index. You heard. No index in a non-fiction work from a long-established, reputable publisher.

I won't repeat my reaction – there might be children reading – but what should have taken me a few seconds took over ten minutes' flicking and skimming.

So I shall henceforth be kinder to our friends at NiC. Yes, there's an index, names only.

Ian Marks July 2021



NewInChess, one of Chess Scotland's long-time sponsors, still produce their monthly magazine and you can check out all the latest issues and offers [here](#)

Tadej Sakelšek
Marko Tratar

DEFENSIVE TOOLS

*A tournament
player's manual*



Chess
Evolution

Time to brush up on your...

Defensive Tools!

This issue's book extract comes from yet another leading chess publishing house – Chess Evolution – whose founder GM Arkadij Naiditsch is known to many Scottish chess players from his visits to Edinburgh.

The book in question, authored by Tadej Sakelsek & Marko Tratar, is an excellent volume for those looking to tighten up their play and wanting learn how to save those crucial half points that slip away with alarming regularity.

Chapter 2. TYPICAL DRAWISH SITUATIONS

When is a game of chess heading for a draw? It may be useful to name and characterize those typical situations as one of them will invariably be the goal (or at least a dream) of the defender in a

difficult position and looking for rescue. Three of them (stalemate, perpetual check and repetition) will, if carried out on the board, finish the game in a draw according to the rules. The fourth one, the fortress, will drag the game out until the stronger side finally agrees that the win is not there.

It is peculiar how the four situations we are about to delve into very often overlap and help each other - all in the mission of avoiding defeat. Together they form a priceless survival kit every ambitious player should possess. Therefore, we will try to bring some useful tools to your attention.

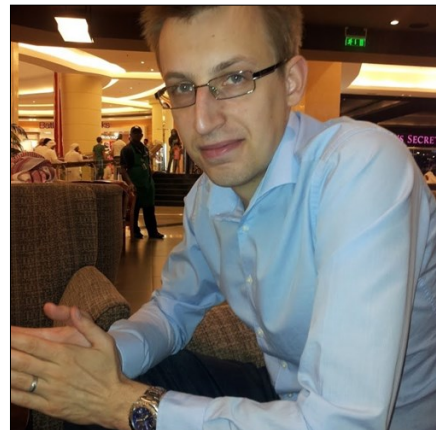
2.1. STALEMATE

One of the most controversial rules in chess is that stalemate, a situation when the party with the obligation to move is left with no legal moves while not being in check, leads to an equal sharing of the point. Should having no moves and thus being the inferior side of the game just ended really not count for anything? Be it fair or not, let us say that this just adds another piquant dimension to our beautiful game. Such are the rules and we should try to make the most of the situation.

Stalemate, much like perpetual check, has a thousand faces.



Slovenian GM Marko Tratar (above) and his fellow countryman IM Tadej Sekelsek (below) have produced an intriguing look at a much overlooked facet of the game.



Logically, chances of a stalemate rise dramatically in endgames, as

fewer pieces remain on the board. It seems to make sense to look separately at pawn, rook, and queen endgames (albeit sometimes with extra pieces). So, let us check some typical themes from them.

Pawn endgames

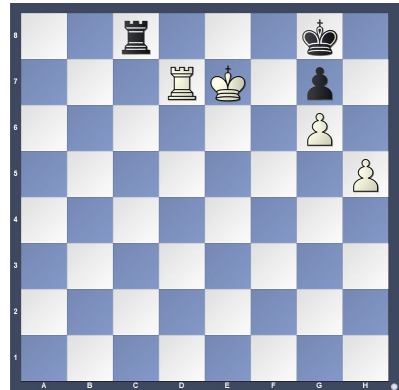
We will see that there exist a rather large number of stalemate motifs here, and it is best to get familiar with some of them. Such knowledge is very useful and simply forms a big part of what we like to call 'good technical play'. The term sounds fancy, but it is really about knowing and properly using such mini-tools.

Our first example is here to show that stalemate is often simply a natural end to a game.

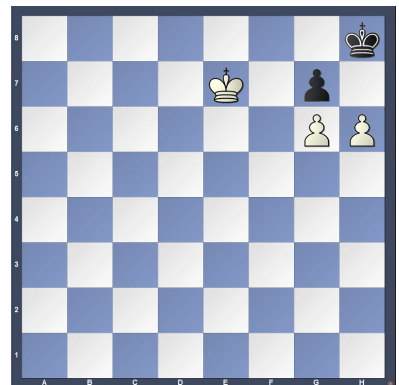
♞ **Jacobsen, Ernst**

♣ **Spielmann, Rudolf**

Copenhagen 1923



68.Rd8+ Rxd8 69.Kxd8 Kf8 70.Kd7 Kg8 71.Kd6 Kf8 72.Ke6 Kg8 73.Ke7 Kh8 74.h6
74...Kg8



74...gxh6?? 75.Kf7

75.h7+ Kh8 76.Kd6

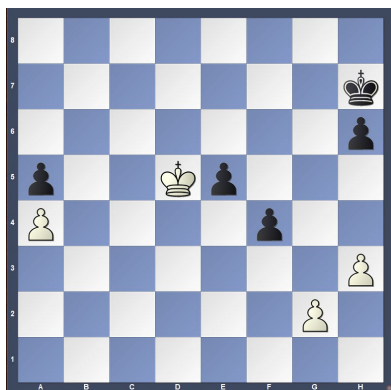
½-½

And now for some more challenging examples where the defender has to show some imagination:

♣ Hellers, Ferdinand

♣ Eingorn, Vereslav

Debrecen 1992



After having missed a win, Black must quickly get his act together and find a way to draw. There is one!

45...Kg6 46.Kxe5 Kg5 47.Ke4 h5

No choice here; Black builds a stalemate cage.

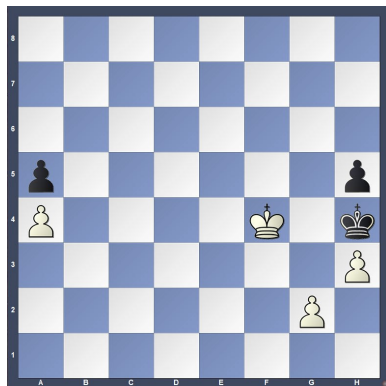
48.Ke5

48.Kf3 Kf5 49.g3 fxg3 50.Kxg3 Kg5

51.h4+ Kf5 52.Kf3 Ke5 53.Ke3 Kf5

54.Kf3=

48...Kh4 49.Kxf4



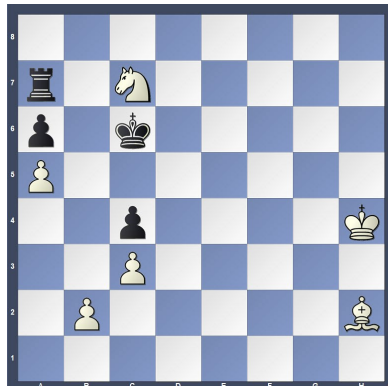
½-½

To help us memorize it well, here is a mildly different variation of the same pattern:

♣ Tiviakov, Sergei

♣ Sokolov, Ivan

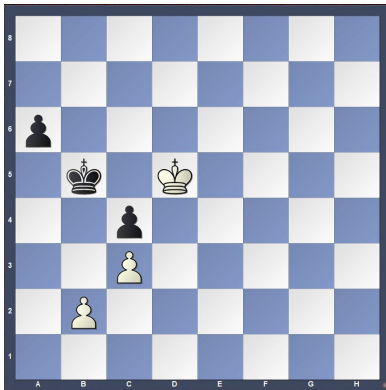
Linares 1995



49...Rxc7!

Although even ...Rb7 should draw reasonably easily, Sokolov correctly calculates the line ending in stalemate:

50.Bxc7 Kxc7 51.Kg4 Kc6 52.Kf4 Kb5 53.Ke4 Kxa5 54.Kd4 Kb5 55.Kd5



55...a5! 56.Kd4 Ka4! 57.Kxc4

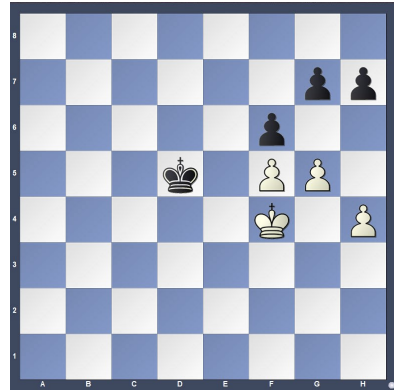
$\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$

We must of course mention the best-known example on the theme of pawn endgame stalemate; the defender, a world class player, regrettably and famously did not use this tool!

♣ Chigorin, Mikhail Ivanovich

♣ Tarrasch, Siegbert

Ostend 1905

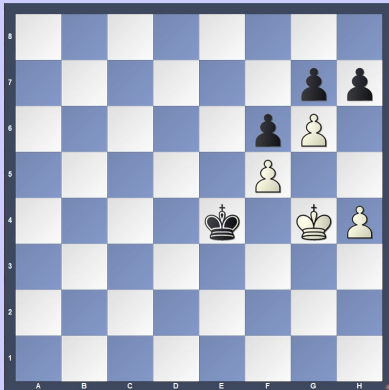


We see a familiar position from a famous game between two giants of the past. Today it is included in all endgame textbooks as it contains an incredibly useful saving tool. White seems to have overpushed it; Black will just push his king aside and collect the pawns, right? Not really!

50.gxf6??

Chigorin falls victim to an illusion! There was a stalemating haven available.

50.Kg3 Ke5 51.Kg4 Ke4 52.g6



And a variation on the same motif, probably much more frequent in tournament practice and therefore extremely important to know:

♣ Smejkal, Jan

♣ Stulik, Vlastimil

Bratislava 1967

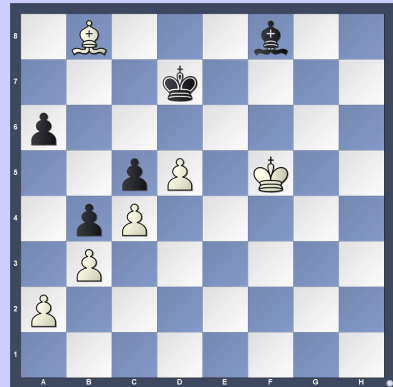
52...h6 (52...hxcg6 53.fxg6 f5+ 54.Kg5 f4 55.h5 f3 56.h6= and the pawns promote simultaneously.) 53.Kh5! and White is safe as Black cannot do anything but give stalemate; 50.Kg4 Ke5 51.g6= is the same.

50...gxf6 51.Kg4 Ke4 52.Kh3

52.Kh5 Kxf5 53.Kh6 Kg4?
 (53...Ke6! 54.Kxh7 f5 55.h5 f4 56.h6 f3 57.Kg6 f2 58.h7 f1Q 59.h8Q Qg2+ 60.Kh6 Qh3+ 61.Kg7 Qg4+ 62.Kh6 Qh4+ 63.Kg7 Qg5+ 64.Kh7 Kf7+) 54.Kxh7 f5 55.Kg6=

52...Kf4

0-1

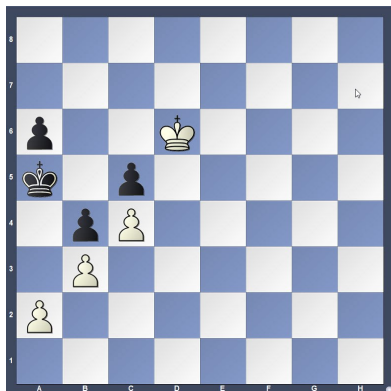


Having found no way to make headway (as there is none) White decides to finally go for the pawn endgame.

63.d6 Bxd6

Forced, as the white king was coming to help; it turns out that this is a simple draw!

**64.Bxd6 Kxd6 65.Kf6 Kc7 66.Ke5
Kc6 67.Ke6 Kb6 68.Kd6 Ka5!**



Simply occupying the stalemating cage that was waiting in case of need.

69.Kxc5

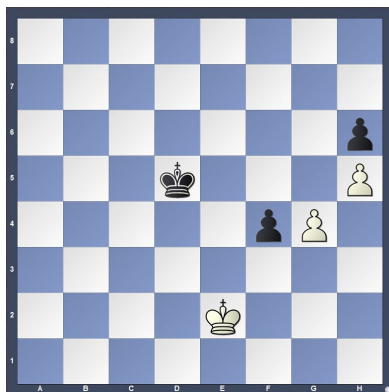
$\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$

Now let us draw your attention to a pretty, basic endgame where the weaker side saves the draw thanks to stalemate. We all kind of know it, but do we always know it?

 **Bernasek, Jan**

 **Simacek, Pavel**

Olomouc 2004



A basic endgame, but it is better to know it by heart and not let fatigue or time-trouble confuse us. It is just a draw.

57.g5 Ke6

There is no choice: 57...hxg5
58.h6+-

58.g6

58.gxh6 Kf7=

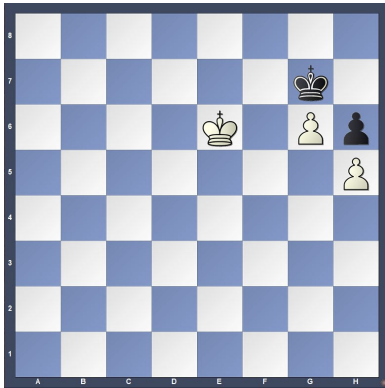
58...Kf6 59.Kf3 Ke6 60.Kxf4 Kf6

61.Ke4 Ke6

61...Kg7=

62.Kd4 Kf6 63.Kd5 Kg7 64.Ke6

(see diagram next page)



64...Kg8

64...Kf8 65.Kf6 Kg8 66.g7 Kh7
67.Kf7=

65.Kf6 Kh8

65...Kf8 66.g7+ Kg8 67.Kg6

66.Kf7

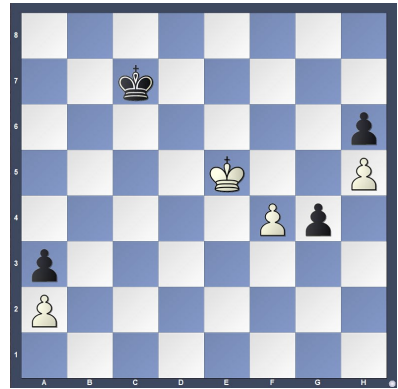
$\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$

And a less obvious variation of the same theme, pretty frequent in practice as well:

 **Zueger, Beat**

 **Rodriguez, Ruben**

Dubai 1986



Our first thought might be that

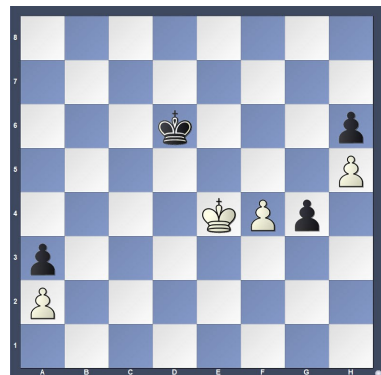
White is in trouble: Black has a dangerous outside passer which could, as usual, result in his king gaining more space with decisive effect. It is all true, except for one important detail...

It is all true, except for one important detail...

44.Ke4

White has no choice as 44.f5? g3
45.f6 Kd7 is useless.

44...Kd6



45.Ke3

again White has no choice:

45.f5 g3 46.Kf3 Ke5 47.Kxg3 Kxf5

—+ with an easy win, and 45.Kd4

Ke6 46.Ke4 Kf6 —+ is the same.

45...Kd5

45...Ke6 only gives White options:

46.Kf2 Kf6 now Black must wait

for White before approaching the

pawns while White can either wait too, or go for stalemate as in the game.

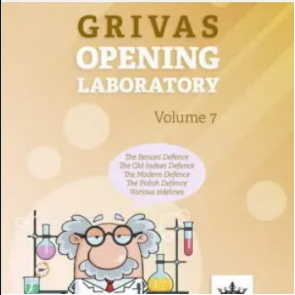


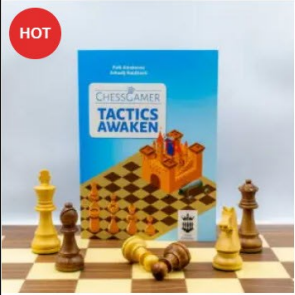


46.Kf2 Ke4 47.Kg3 Kf5

and Black offered the draw without testing the evident...

48.Kh4 Kxf4

½-½

Defensive Tools by Tadej Sakelsek & Marko Tratar is available direct from [Chess Evolution](#) or from all good chess book stockists.

 <p>Grivas Opening Laboratory Volume 7 €24,95 incl. tax</p>	 <p>Grivas Opening Laboratory Volume 6 €24,95 incl. tax</p>	 <p>HOT Tadej Sakelsek & Marko Tratar – Defensive Tools €24,95 incl. tax</p>
 <p>HOT Falk Aleskerov & Arkadij Naiditsch – Tactics Awaken €19,99 incl. tax</p>	 <p>HOT Csaba Balogh – Greatest 440 Puzzles €19,99 incl. tax</p>	 <p>Grivas Opening Laboratory Volume 5 €24,95 incl. tax</p>



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The [Calendar](#) is updated regularly and contains details of all forthcoming events and detailed information of how to sign up to play.

The [online rating system](#) has regular updates and allows members to check their rating progress, check links to event crosstables and view several years of previous data.

[FIDE ratings](#) are updated on the 1st of every month and give players information on their latest world ranking.

The [Chess Scotland 100 Club](#) is a lottery that anyone (over 16) is welcome to join. Half the cash collected every month is returned as prizes, the rest goes into general fund raising for the association.

The [Chessbase Grand Prix Leaderboards](#) and rules can be viewed here while the [Giant-killing](#) lists are here. (The virus pandemic has impacted on updates here and we hope to return to more normal times as soon as possible).

...and finally, **Alan McGowan's** excellent history archive can be found [here](#).

For more information about CS please feel free to **contact** the relevant officers listed [here](#).