

My Chess Revealed - Selected Games with Commentaries



Gillian Moore receiving the Gibraltar Cup from ECF official, Ian Stavely, Coventry 2015, for again winning the title of British Seniors' Ladies' Champion

By
Gillian A Moore

DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to each reader

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Foreword

In short, Gillian Moore is an inspiration. She is a compassionate, generous and spiritual person, as well as being a very accomplished chess player. I first met Gillian a number of years ago when we were both volunteering as Samaritans. I quickly learned that Gillian was not only committed to her various voluntary roles, but also to her chess. At an intellectual level, I shared this latter interest with Gillian. I have always found chess to be a fascinating enigma.

After working in the voluntary sector for over a decade, Gillian finally allowed herself the time to concentrate more fully on her chess. Incidentally, she was not only volunteering as a 'Sam', but also supporting bereaved relatives (both locally and internationally), and people with gender dysphoria.

With this shift of focus, Gillian has built upon her very solid position as a club player and has blossomed. Her standing as a player in her eighth decade of life is higher than it has ever been*. She also has the personal goal to take it even higher. Having said this, it comes as no real surprise to me, as this is the mark of Gillian the woman. She has a sharp and inquisitive intellect which is reflected both in her approach to chess and in our many discussions. Gillian has the rare gifts of insight, analysis, openness and a keen desire to broaden her understanding.

All these many abilities are encapsulated in her chess. However, the reader will also come to discover other aspects of Gillian's personality. She is witty and is not afraid to take the odd risk—witnessed by her love of the gambit. She will also never give up if she thinks she is in with a chance. Many a chess player will have tasted victory and then found the tables well and truly turned!

In short, I have come to value greatly my friendship with Gillian. She is at once an intellectual foil, my spiritual sister and, as mentioned above, an inspiration. I am in my seventh decade of my life and look to Gillian as beating the path which I intend to follow to yet greater accomplishments. Thus, as both a student of life and of chess, I commend this book to the reader—there is much to learn here.

Stephen Horton, Ph.D

* As at July 2018 since returning to chess in 2001

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am very grateful for and touched by the lovely *Preface* by my special friend, Dr Stephen Horton. He has also kindly proof-read all the text parts of the book. Stephen possesses more chess books than me, which is saying something! As well as chess, we share a deep interest in philosophy (he is a retired academic philosopher).

As to Chris Priest, I am greatly indebted for his long hours of voluntary labours in assisting me with the editing of this book, and for his overcoming formatting problems with the notation columns and the nice diagrams. The latter originally took up way too much disk space, but Chris has the software enabling him to cleverly snip away the unwanted hidden megabytes from the diagrams, to make the book file perfectly manageable.

I am also thankful for Michael Blake, our webmaster of Hampshire Chess Association, not only for publishing this book online but for his appreciation and constructive criticism of a few points that deserved attention.

Finally, I am forever grateful to the powers that be in all of us, and for the writers' muse inspiring me to play chess and to write and complete this book project over the past two years.

With best wishes to my readers

Gillian Moore

January 2020

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INTRODUCTION

“I never lose; I succeed and I learn”
~ Nelson Mandela

A lady does not have to say her age, but now in my senior years I am fortunate to still be in good health of body and mind and in constant good spirits! Hopefully, I might have many years yet with more of the same.

THE PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THIS BOOK

However, as with many people with the bulk of their lives behind them rather than ahead, I have some unfinished tasks to be completed. Sharing some of the pleasures and experiences of my chess life is one of them. My thoughts therefore turn to being creative, as a means of living on in my writings as well as in the hearts and minds of those who are close and dear to me.

This new book is a complement to my previous work, ‘My Chess Career and Holidays—A Book of Memoirs’ (published on the Hampshire Chess Association website <http://www.hampshirechess.co.uk/>). My purpose now is to share with chess players everywhere some carefully selected games, with my thoughts about them and chess in general.

The games herein occurred during the last eighteen years after returning to chess in 2001 following a long absence—I have been playing seriously on and off since age 13. Each with a different opponent, the matches took place at a variety of locations. They feature many different opening systems. As will be seen, from time to time I have taken up a new system. Most of the games presented here were wins for me, but I have included a few draws and losses for their interest value.

WHO AM I TO WRITE A CHESS BOOK?

The short answer is that I am your fellow chess lover, with a lot of experience to share. I am not intending to be didactic, and I crave the reader’s indulgence over my sins of omission and commission in this book.

In 2011 I was awarded the title of Club Master by the English Chess Federation, simply for having reached a grade of 145 or above. I do have an Elo rating with FIDE, the World Chess Federation, but I do not have any sort of title with it, such as Woman Master (WFM), and am unlikely ever to do so.

I would be thrilled to one day achieve an ECF grade of 170+, for which one is awarded the title of County Master. My grade as at July 2018 was 154 (dipped back to the 140s in July 2019), the highest I have been since returning to chess in 2001. This shows that we players can still aim for improved skill even in our 60s and beyond, so long as we still have the fitness and enthusiasm to pursue it. It also shows that despite there being so few serious level women players, we do exist and we can be just as keen as the men.

It is true that in my youth I won regional and national titles as a girl champion, and then the British Ladies Championship jointly with Margaret (‘Peggy’) Clarke in 1966 at Sunderland. More recently in 2013 at Torquay, I shared the title of British Seniors’ Ladies’ Champion with my friend Dinah Norman, who is also a former British Ladies’ champion from long ago (née Dinah Dobson). We each held the Gibraltar Cup for six months.

From 2014 to 2018 I was on my own holding the title of British Seniors' Ladies' Champion, so that the large Gibraltar Cup shone aloft my sitting room shelf for the last five years. I hasten to add that no other female player entered the British Seniors Championship in all this time, so that I won the title and trophy by default! The cover picture of this book shows me being presented with this trophy. I am happy to say that Dinah now holds the trophy, having beaten me by half a point in 2019.

MY CLUBS AND TEAMS

As my previous club, Woolston Community Centre Chess Club, no longer exists, I joined the Southampton Club in 2001. It is a venerable old club founded in 1883! Its large membership with a great range of playing strengths currently enters four teams, A, B, C and D, in the Southampton Chess League. I play for Southampton B which, for my sins, I am also the team captain of.

Just a few years ago I was invited to join the Gosport Chess Club, which I did and sometimes played for them in the Portsmouth and District Chess League. It is permissible to play for more than one club in different leagues, but not more than one club in the same league.

At county level I play for Hampshire in the Chiltern League championship, consisting of Hampshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire. Hampshire also used to compete in the West of England Chess Union (WECU) county matches. One more team game to be seen in these pages is Wessex 1 in the Four Nations Chess League (4NCL).

So, in the ensuing games involving competing teams, my affiliations are for the following:

- * Southampton in the Southampton League
- * Gosport (recently) and earlier Emsworth, both in the Portsmouth and District League
- * Hampshire county in the Chiltern League (currently)
- * Hampshire county in the West of England Chess Union (earlier)
- * Wessex in the Four Nations Chess League (4NCL).

IN CHESS AS IN LIFE

Years ago, once and once only, a female acquaintance criticized my chess playing by saying, "Gillian I thought you were more practical than that". I beg to profoundly differ with her non-comprehending view. Although chess is an intellectual pursuit, intellectual culture is a valid and vital aspect of human life, which does not prevent our dealing also with our multifarious down-to-earth tasks. What's more, if a non-chess player could peer behind the minds of the players concentrating upon the board before them, a lifelike arena appears of chessmen moving hither and yon.

I say that chess is not unrelated to the practical necessities of life! The ability to sit quietly and still for hours in deep concentrated study is surely a skill for life. As we stare at the board of 64 squares with its magical chessmen, imagination, logic, will power, planning and scheming, together with boredom-banishing engrossment are used and developed. Would anyone in their right mind suggest that these sterling human qualities have no practical use?!

Many emotions are there in our noble game, such as pleasure and pain, joy and sorrow, self-confidence and doubt, calmness and agitation, elation and frustration. Also in evidence are opposing qualities of human existence such as good and bad, strength and weakness. I find it fascinating to note these many pairs of opposites that exist in the outer world of duality that we call

reality, and which have no meaning without each other, also abound in chess. We even have light and dark squares and pieces, and male and female players (although the latter is not numerically balanced at competitive level!). Chess has a reality all of its own but also has many comparisons to life in general.

MY APPROACH TO CHESS

My attitude these days to the ups and downs of results is like that of the quote at the top of this Introduction. This motto of, “I never lose; I succeed and I learn” helps me to quickly get over the natural disappointment of bad results. As many of us do, I always analyse my games afterwards, aiming to turn the miserable results on their heads by determining what can be learned to help my future play. Sometimes it is a valuable general principle to be aware of or reminded of, or else a move in one of my openings that needs changing. Another help I find towards not taking disappointing results to heart is to remind myself of the other reason we play chess: for the love of it, with its enjoyment and the challenge of mental self-improvement.

By nature chess is an exciting game, but win or lose I work at remaining calm and in good cheer. Another passion of mine with its own world of endeavour and joy is the ancient science of kriya yoga meditation and its philosophy. This is as opposed to the physical exercise form of (hatha) yoga that is more familiar to us at adult education classes. This venerable form of yoga of mine that I’ve practised for decades is an ancient spiritual science that has benefited me in various ways. Beyond the scope of this book to enlarge upon, my form of yoga includes the purpose of, ‘*the hindering of the fluctuations of the consciousness*’, in other words even-mindedness, no matter what tests life throws at us. It also enables the devotee to manufacture a deep peace and happiness from within, irrespective of outer circumstances.

To me, life is a kind of chess and chess is a kind of life. I see many parallels.

THE ONE GREAT OPPONENT

Former world champion Vladimir Kramnik who retired as a professional chess player in January 2019 (at age only 43!), has said:

“I never tried to compete with others, I always competed with myself.”

Well, this remarkable statement resonates with me. Although of course I am competitive, my attitude is that no matter who is sitting opposite me at a match, whether man, woman or junior player, it strikes me that my one true opponent is always the same: myself. It is my own ability versus lack, wisdom competing with ignorance, skill with ineptitude, effort with sloth, one-pointed attention against a wandering mind.

ANALYSIS

Getting back down to the concrete contents of these pages, the reader is free to silently critique the play. All the bad moves and inaccuracies are there as well as good and correct ones, both mine and those of the opponents. My chess software, and indeed the games themselves, have pointed the finger or given me the thumbs up according to my varying level of play.

However, I have avoided giving a *complete* analysis in-line with the notation, preferring to leave the columns reasonably uncluttered for the reader. Besides, what ponderous task it would be for my humble self to provide a complete evaluation of moves as to whether they are good, excellent,

worth considering, of doubtful value, weak or a blunder, and to give lots and lots of alternative moves. I will leave that to the professional players in their admirable writings!

THE DIAGRAMS

As we players love to ponder chess positions, a diagram of a pertinent position of each game is added. Each diagram precedes and adds visual appeal to the notation and text that follows.

What to look for in the diagram position varies. It could be a move to win material, gain positional advantage or keep up the pressure, or it could be to dodge danger and keep chances open. The move that was actually played in the game is not necessarily the best one(s) to be found. In that case, I have put a note within the game notation to ‘See diagram comments above’.

In conclusion, I leave you with another quote so apt to us with a passion for our great game:

“For when the One Great Scorer comes to write against your name,
He marks—not that you won or lost—but how you played the Game.”

~ Grantland Rice in his 1908 poem ‘Alumnus Football.’

GAME 1

A Powerful Bishop Pair

White: **Andrew Price** Black: **Gillian Moore**

*British Seniors Championship, Torquay
4th August 2009*



They work well in tandem

Black to move 18...?

GAME 1

A Powerful Bishop Pair

White: **Andrew Price** Black: **Gillian Moore**

British Seniors Championship, Torquay

4th August 2009

ALEKHINE'S DEFENCE, MAIN LINE

I have an affinity with knights, as they are original and so am I. Am I not a woman chess player for a start? The Alekhine's Defence is an active knight opening that I have been playing since May of 2006. I previously played the Caro-Kann when White opened with 1. e4—see Games 12 and 13.

As we know, rooks are generally considered to be more powerful than bishops. Despite their great potential, however, how worrisome bishops can be to rooks in restricted places! In this game, my opponent's hapless queen's rook never got to move from his starting square.

The moral: powerful bishops might trap mighty rooks caught napping!

1. e4	Nf6	See Diagram.		42. Bf8	Rc8
2. e5	Nd5	18. . .	Ba3!	43. Bd6	Be4
3. d4	d6	19. Nf3	Bb2	44. h5	Rh8
4. Nf3	dx e5	20. Nd4	Bxa1	45. Nb3	Bf3
5. Nxe5	c6	21. Rxa1	Rfc8	46. g5	Rxh5
<i>My 5...c6 move is the Miles variation. Also playable are the 5...g6 Kengis variation, or the provocative, intensely theoretical 5...Nd7. [the 'sac' 6. Nxf7 Kxf7, 7. Qh5+ Ke6 can go either way, or White can force a draw by 8. Qg4+ Kf7, 9. Qh5+]</i>		22. Rd1	Bg6	47. Nxa5	Rxg5
6. Bc4	Nd7	23. Rd2	c5	48. Nb3	Rg2+
7. 0-0	Nxe5	24. Ne2	h6	49. Ke3	Bd1
8. dx e5	Bf5	25. f3	Kf8	50. Nc5+	Kc6
9. Qe2	e6	26. Kf2	Ke8	51. Nd3	Ba4
10. Rd1	Qc7	27. Nf4	Bh7	<i>[51...Re2+ and Black has triumphed, 52. Kf4 Re4+, 53. Kg3 Re3+, 54. Kf2 Rxd3, 55. Ke1-+]</i>	
11. c3	a5	28. Nh5	Kf8	52. Nf4	Rh2
12. Bxd5	cx d5	29. h4	Rb7	53. Be7	Rh8
13. Qb5+	Qc6	30. g4	c4	54. Kd4	Bb5
14. Qxc6+	bxc6	31. bxc4	Rxc4	55. Ke3	Re8
15. Be3	Rb8	32. Bd4	Rb1	56. Bb4	g5
16. b3	Be7	33. Nf4	Rc1	57. Nh5	Rh8
17. Nd2?	0-0	34. Ne2	Rc2	58. Ng3	Rh4
18. h3?		35. Ke3	Rxd2	59. Be7	Rc4
		36. Kxd2	Ke8	60. Ne2	Re4+
		37. a3	Ra4	White Resigns	
		38. Bc5	h5	<i>Black wins the knight and the e-pawn too.</i>	
		39. Nd4	hxg4	0-1	
		40. fxg4	Rc4		
		41. Bd6	Kd7		

GAME 2

Beating the Club Champ

White: **Oliver Gill** Black: **Gillian Moore**

*Southampton B v Southampton A
Southampton Chess League
18th January 2011*



The White queen will not feel so comfy

Black to play 12....?

GAME 2

Beating the Club Champ

White: **Oliver Gill** Black: **Gillian Moore**

*Southampton B v Southampton A
Southampton Chess League
18th January 2011*

ALEKHINE'S DEFENCE, SCANDINAVIAN VARIATION

Our 'Ollie', the Southampton club champion of 2012 and 2013, had given us a simultaneous display or two. It was a tradition at the time for the club champion to take on numerous players at once seated around the club room. Yet he still managed to beat most of us whilst on his feet and literally going around in circles!

This regular one-to-one game with Oliver, in which I was playing for my usual Southampton B team, is the only time I have beaten him. I have on occasion also played for Southampton A, when our two teams were not in the same Southampton Chess League Division 1 as they are currently.

We actually adjourned this game twice, taking up three club evenings before he finally gave up the ghost. Oliver beat me in another game later the same year, in which he played 7. h4! after the same opening moves as here. Then after 7...g4 8. Nf4 g6, my kingside was weakened.

1. e4	Nf6	13. Re3	h5	37. Nc3	Rbh8
2. Nc3		14. Nxf5	Rxf5	38. Bd1	Bh6
<i>The Scandinavian variation</i>		15. a3	Bd7	39. Nb1	g5
2. . .	d5	16. f4	Rh4	40. Nd2	Bc6
<i>Nowadays I tend to play 2...e5 in this line, inviting a Four Knights Game as in Games 27 and 28, or a Vienna as in Game 61.</i>		17. Qg3	Nd4	41. Rhf1	d4
3. e5	Ne4	18. Nxf5	Nf5	42. Bf3	Rh4
<i>I sometimes used to play 3...d4 here, attacking his knight on c3 as he is attacking mine on f6, but after the ensuing swap of knights and pawns I didn't like my resulting kingside pawn structure.</i>		19. Qe1	Qxe1+	43. Ra1	Bxf3
4. Nce2	f6	20. Rxe1	Rxf4	44. Nxf3	Rxg4
5. d3	Ng5	21. Nh3	Ra4	45. Rxa7+	Kb6
6. Bxg5	fxg5	22. Nf2	Bg5+	46. Rd7	Ra8
7. Ng3	e6	23. Kb1	0-0-0	47. Nd2	Bf8
8. Nh3	g6	24. g4	Nh4	48. Rh7	Rg2
9. Qg4	Be7	25. Be2	Rh8	49. Nc4+	Kc6
10. f3	c5	26. Ka2	b5	50. Rf3	Rg1
11. 0-0-0	Nc6	27. b3	Ra5	51. b4	cxb4
12. Re1?		28. Nd1	Ng2	52. h4	b3!
<i>See diagram</i>		29. Ref1	Nf4	<i>The b-pawn cannot be taken!</i>	
12. . .	Qa5!	30. Bf3	Kc7	53. hxg5	bxg2
		31. Nc3	b4	54. Kxc2	Rg2+
		32. Nb1	bxg3	55. Nd2	Ra2+
		33. Nxa3	Rh3	56. Kc1	Ba3+
		34. Kb2	Ra6	White Resigns	
		35. Rf2	Rb6	<i>Checkmate soon follows.</i>	
		36. Nb1	Rb8	0-1	

GAME 3

Poor Pompous Pawns

White: Colin Stanton Black: Gillian Moore

Somerset v Hampshire
West of England Chess Union (WECU), Mere
20th October 2012



How to free up White's position

White to play: 15. ?

GAME 3

Poor Pompous Pawns

White: **Colin Stanton** Black: **Gillian Moore**

*Somerset v Hampshire
West of England Chess Union (WECU), Mere
20th October 2012*

ALEKHINE'S DEFENCE, FOUR PAWNS ATTACK

My team affiliation for this match was, as usual, Hampshire county, and we had to travel to Mere to play the Somerset team. With car sharing though, it made a day out in congenial company.

I am not afraid of the grandiose-looking Four Pawns Attack. White can fall behind in development, and his pawns become weakened, as in this game. After my move 6...Nc6, Black had two knights developed and White had moved only pawns. What's more, he was then forced to make a defensive move—he correctly played 7. Be3—as I was threatening to win his backward d-pawn. White's normal follow up move in this line is 8. Nc3. His 8. Nf3 allowed one of my splendid knights to get entrenched with 8...Nb4, forcing another defensive move 9. Na3 to stop my fork on c2.

Diagram comments: No doubt feeling frustrated because he could not go here and he could not go there, White decided to free himself up by giving away his good rook for my good bishop, with 15. Rxf5? Sometimes an exchange sacrifice can be warranted in order to gain some other advantage. However, in this game my opponent could simply have continued reasonably by repositioning his grim knight to c3 via b5, or challenging my bossy knight on b4 by going 15...Nd3.

1. e4	Nf6	10. Be2	Be7	26. Bf1	h6
2. e5	Nd5	11. 0-0	0-0	27. Rd1	fxg3+
3. c4	Nb6	12. Ne1	Bg5	28. hxg3	Ne5
4. d4	d6	13. Qd2	Bxe3+	29. Nd4	Ng4+
5. f4	dxe5	14. Qxe3	Qe7	30. Kf3	Nh2+
<i>Experience has shown me the value of reducing his 4 central pawns to 3 in this way.</i>		<i>See diagram</i>		31. Kf2	Nxf1
6. fxe5	Nc6	15. Rxf5		32. Kxf1	Re3
7. Be3	Bf5	<i>See diagram comments above.</i>		33. Kg2	R3e4
8. Nf3	Nb4	15. . .	exf5	34. Nb1	Nxa2
9. Na3		16. Nf3	Rfe8	35. Kf2	b6
<i>Generally speaking, we know that the knights tend to play towards the centre on their first move. As the saying goes, "Knight on the rim is dim". However in this position White was obliged to protect his c2-square.</i>		17. d5	Nd7	36. Rd3	Nb4
9. . .	e6	18. Qf4	Nxe5	37. Rd2	g6
		19. Nd4	Ng6	38. Nc3	Re3
		20. Qf2	a6	39. Nce2	Rd3
		21. g3	Qe3	40. Nf3	Rxd2
		22. Re1	Qxf2+	41. Nxd2	
		23. Kxf2	f4	and White Resigns	
		24. Ra1	Re4	0-1	
		25. Nf3	Rae8		

GAME 4

Hanging Flag Syndrome

White: Mark Stone Black: Gillian Moore

*Major Tournament, Hampshire Congress
Eastleigh College
7th November 2014*



What to do about the pawn loss?

White to play 8. ?

GAME 4

Hanging Flag Syndrome

White: **Mark Stone** Black: **Gillian Moore**

*Major Tournament, Hampshire Congress
Eastleigh College
7th November 2014*

ALEKHINE'S DEFENCE, MAIN LINE

Knights, as we know, are the only chess pieces that do not move in a straight line. Thus they are tricky enough to trip up even strong players at times. My taking White's d-pawn with 7...Qxd4 must have surprised my opponent, as a cursory glance at such a capture looked like a gross blunder.

Mark got into bad time trouble later in the game. I've been there, done that myself. When we have so little time to think, then the mistakes are all there just waiting to pounce, as it were. By his move 28. Nxe4 he allowed me to pin his rook against his king winning the exchange, apparently due to the worry of his soon-to-fall flag. Actually, though, my Fritz gives 28. Nxe4 as White's best move as all other moves are worse.

Diagram comments: I think that White just had to accept the loss of the pawn after Black's 7...Qxd4, which he had failed to see, and play either 8. f4 or 8. Nf3. White's attempt to win back the pawn by the desperado move 8. Nxf7?! made an interesting try, but did not succeed.

1. e4	Nf6	11. Nc3	Qc2	27. f4	e4
2. e5	Nd5	12. Nxh8	Qxd1+	28. Nxe4	Bd4
3. d4	d6	13. Bxd1	Bf5	29. Nd6+	Kg8
4. Nf3	dxe5	14. g4	Bd3+	30. Kf2	Bxe3+
5. Nxe5	c6	15. Kg2	g6	31. Kxe3	Kh7
6. c4	Nb4	16. Ba4	Bxc4	32. f5	Rf8
7. a3?		17. Bg5	Nb3	33. Kf4	Nf6
<i>Correct was any of 7. Na3, Nd3 or Be3 to prevent Black's next move.</i>		18. Re1	Nd7	34. h6	Ng8
7...	Qxd4!	19. Re4	b5	35. b4	Nxh6
<i>See diagram</i>		20. Bxb3	Bxb3	36. Ke5	Kg7
8. Nxf7?!		21. h4	e5	37. Nb7	Rxf5+
<i>See diagram comments above</i>		22. Re3	Bd5+	38. Kd4	Rf3
8...	Qe4+	23. Kg1?	Bg7	39. Kc5	Rxa3
9. Be2	Nc2+	24. Nxg6	hxc6	White Resigns	
10. Kf1	Nxa1	25. h5	gxf5	<i>His position is hopeless.</i>	
		26. gxh5	Kf7	0-1	

GAME 5

Bearing Up, Not Giving Up

White: Paul Northcott Black: Gillian Moore

*Major Tournament, Castle Chess Congress
Fareham
22nd February 2015*



Fighting back is worthwhile here

Black to play 17...?

GAME 5

Bearing Up, Not Giving Up

White: Paul Northcott Black: Gillian Moore

Major Tournament, Castle Chess Congress

Fareham

22nd February 2015

ALEKHINE'S DEFENCE,* EXCHANGE VARIATION

As often happens with junior players, I see that Paul, then aged 11 or 12, is going from strength to strength. With a current ECF grade of 161 he is getting harder to beat.

Due to my negligence, my king's bishop was trapped on move 16. However, I kept my cool and discerned a way to get two pawns for it, and some good play as his king became exposed. In fact, he never really recovered from my ensuing attack, although I believe that he could have done.

1. e4	Nf6	16. g5	Bxh3	31. Rf2	Qd4
2. e5	Nd5	17. Re1		32. Raf1	Nxc4
3. d4	d6	<i>See diagram</i>		33. Bxc4	Qxc4
4. c4	Nb6	17. . . .	Nf5!	34. Kb2	a4
5. exd6	exd6	18. gxf6	Nxe3	35. Qc2	Qd4
<i>Nowadays I prefer to play</i>		19. fxe3	Qxf6	36. Rd2	Qe5
<i>5...cxd6 and aim to fianchetto my</i>		20. Kf2	g5	37. Rf5?	Rxc3!
<i>king's bishop on g7 – it still seizes</i>		21. Rg1	g4	38. Qxc3	Qxf5
<i>the long diagonal and is safer</i>		22. Ke1?		39. Qxc7+	Kg6
<i>there than in this game!</i>		<i>White had a much better move,</i>		40. Qxd6	Qe5+
6. Nc3	Nc6	<i>22. Bf1, for a distinct advantage.</i>		41. Qxe5	fxe5
7. Be3	Be7	22. . . .	Rxe3	42. d6	Rd8
8. h3	Bf5	23. Kd2	Rce8	43. Kc3	Kf7
9. a3	O-O	24. Kc2	Kh8	44. Kb4	Ke6
10. Nf3	Bf6	25. Nh2	h5	45. Kc5	g3
11. Be2	Re8	26. Nf1	Bxf1	46. Kb6	Rxd6+
12. b4	Rc8	27. Rxf1	Qe6	<i>After the exchange of rooks,</i>	
13. O-O	a5	28. d5	Qe5	<i>Black's g-pawn wins the day.</i>	
14. b5	Ne7?	29. Qd2	Kg7	White Resigns	
15. g4!	Be6	30. Bd3	f6	0-1	

* My favourite Alekhine book is by John Cox, *Starting Out: Alekhine's Defence*, publisher Everyman Chess 2004.

GAME 6

Preparations Pay Off

White: Gillian Moore Black: Ian Hall

*Buckinghamshire v Hampshire
Chiltern Chess League, Holmer Green
22nd November 2008*



The e4 pawn appears to be up for grabs

Black to play 8...?

GAME 6

Preparations Pay Off

White: Gillian Moore Black: Ian Hall

*Buckinghamshire v Hampshire
Chiltern Chess League, Holmer Green
22nd November 2008*

BENKO GAMBIT

I play for Hampshire team in this county competition of the Chiltern League, in which each team (currently Hampshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxon) has to play each county twice: once as the home team and once away.

I had come to grief with other opponents specialising in the Benko Gambit—one of them was a FIDE Master, so no surprise! Experience taught me that grabbing a second pawn with 5. bxa6 is a trifle too greedy, as the opponent will then have two splendid open files for attack. So I had a line prepared for the next time faced with this opening, which succeeded here.

Diagram comments: Black's 8...Nbd7 was okay. He would have fallen into a trap if he captured the e-pawn, 8...Nxe4, as 9. Qe2 would follow. If Black then retreats the threatened knight 9...Nf6, there follows 10. Bf4 and he is worse off. Defending his d-pawn with 10...Ra6 doesn't help stop his losing material after 11. Nxd6+ Rxd6 12. Bb5+. Or if he goes 9...Bf5, then 10. Bd3 is also good for White.

1. d4	Nf6	14. Rab1	Ne8	30. Nxc5	Bxf3?
2. c4	c5	15. a3	Nc7	31. gxf3	Qxf3
3. d5	b5	16. axb4	cxb4	32. Qxf3	Rxf3
4. cxb5	a6	17. Be3	Nc5	33. Bf2	Rxh3
5. Nc3		18. Nbd4	Ra7	34. Nd7	Bh6
<i>An alternative good move here is</i>		19. Rfc1	Rfa8	35. Rc4	Ra5?
<i>5. b6, allowing Black to regain his</i>		20. Ne1	e6		<i>This loses material to the forcing</i>
<i>pawn in due course. An example</i>		21. dxe6	Bxe4?		<i>sequence of checks that follow in</i>
<i>of this line is shown in the next</i>		<i>Black loses a pawn</i>			<i>the game. Better was 35...Rb3</i>
<i>game.</i>		22. exf7+	Kh8		<i>although Black should still lose.</i>
5. . .	axb5	23. Nd3	Nd5	36. Bd4+!	Kg8
6. e4	b4	24. Bxd5	Bxd5	37. Nf6+	Kf7
7. Nb5	d6	25. Nc2	Rxf7	38. Rc7+	Ke6
8. Bc4		26. Ncxb4	Bb7	39. Re1+	Kd6
<i>See diagram</i>		27. Nxc5	dx c5	40. Ne8+	Kd5
8. . .	Nbd7	28. Nd3	Qc6	41. Re5+	Kxd4
<i>See diagram comments above</i>		29. f3	Qf6	42. Rxa5	Be3+
9. Qe2				43. Kg2	Resigns
10. . .	Bb7	<i>Here Black embarks on the poor</i>		<i>White's material advantage is</i>	
10. Bf4	g6	<i>strategy of sacrificing his bishop</i>		<i>overwhelming.</i>	
11. Nf3	Qb6	<i>for White's Kingside pawns.</i>		1-0	
12. 0-0	Bg7	<i>Better was 29...Ba6 pinning the</i>			
13. h3	0-0	<i>White knight.</i>			

GAME 7

Knight Blindness

White: Gillian Moore Black: Tom Rixon

*Chiltern Chess League Jamboree
Berks, Bucks, Hants and Oxon
Crowthorne
10th April 2011*



White's mischievous pair of high-jumpers

Black to play 23...?

GAME 7

Knight Blindness

White: Gillian Moore Black: Tom Rixon

Chiltern Chess League Jamboree
Berks, Bucks, Hants and Oxon
Crowthorne
10th April 2011

BENKO GAMBIT

This Jamboree was the grand coming together of the four county teams in the Chiltern Chess League at the end of its match season. I was playing for Hampshire and my opponent for Buckinghamshire.

My first attempt with the 5. b6 line against the Benko was successful here. This move was recommended to me by FM (FIDE Master) Moses Kawuma. He also showed me a good way to follow up with Nd2-c4 and getting my pawn on f4, also played here to good effect.

In this game the white knights truly had their day. Then the rest of the army followed suit: pawns, bishops, rooks and queen quickly amassed to massacre the foe.

1. d4	c5	17. . .	Ne8	26. Nxc5	Bxc5
2. d5	Nf6	18. Rad1	f5	27. Qxc5	Ne4
3. c4	b5	19. e5	dx e5	28. Qd4	Bb7
4. cxb5	a6	20. fx e5	Nf7	29. Bf3	N8f6
5. b6	Qxb6	21. e6	Nfd6	30. Bxe4	fx e4??
6. Nc3	g6	22. Bf4	Bb7	<i>Better was 30...Nxe4 although Black should still lose.</i>	
7. e4	d6	23. Na4		31. Bh6!	Re8
8. Nf3	Bg7	<i>See diagram</i>		32. d6	e3
9. Qc2	Nbd7	23. . .	Bd4?	33. Qxe3	exd6
10. Be2	Ng4	<i>Thinking to protect the weak c-pawn. Better were 23...Rb8 or 23...Nf6 although I would still prefer White's position.</i>		34. Rf2	Ne4
11. 0-0	Nge5	24. Ncb6!		35. Rf7	Qa8
12. Nd2	0-0	<i>Threatening both the R on a8 and 25. Nd7 going after the other rook.</i>		36. Rdf1	Nf6
13. Kh1	Nf6	24. . .	Qd8?	37. Rf2	Kh8
14. f4	Neg4	<i>Better was 24...a5 although he still loses the exchange whatever he does.</i>		38. R7xf6	
15. Nc4	Qc7	25. Nxa8	Bxa8	<i>A rook down with checkmate on the way, so</i>	
16. h3	Nh6			Black Resigns	
17. Be3				1-0	

White could win a Black knight for a couple of pawns with 17. g4 here, but White's king would be left exposed.

GAME 8

Cliff-Hanger King Chase

White: Gillian Moore Black: Dominic Tunks

Open Tournament Hampshire Congress
Eastleigh College
3rd November 2007



Both sides poised to win

Black to play 26...?

GAME 8

Cliff-Hanger King Chase

White: Gillian Moore Black: Dominic Tunks

Open Tournament Hampshire Congress
Eastleigh College
3rd November 2007

BOGO-INDIAN

Dominic was a former Hampshire Champion, so I feel there is no shame in my losing to him, especially as I gave a good account of myself.

How many ‘Indian’ defences can we name besides the Bogo-Indian? I can think of four such (Kings-Indian ...), all made possible for Black after 1. d4 Nf6, 2. c4. Partly for this reason I have in recent years switched to playing the Trompowsky with 1. d4 Nf6, 2. Bg5, thus doing away with so many choices by my opponent with the black pieces! Now and then, though, I might still allow a Nimzo-Indian as I’m rather fond of it.

In this tense game, if Black’s king chase hadn’t resulted in checkmating me, I was poised to do the same to him. I had hoped for the checks to pause for just one move, but alas he never let up. Naturally, he started the harassment with the obvious check 26...Qa1+.

1. d4	Nf6	11. Bxd2	0-0	25. hxg7+	Kg8
2. c4	e6	12. 0-0-0	a6	26. Qh6	
3. Nf3	Bb4+	13. h4	Kh8	See diagram	
<i>This Bogo-Indian move is made possible because White played 3. Nf3 rather than 3. Nc3 (see games 37-38 for examples of the Nimzo-Indian).</i>		14. g3	Be6	26. . .	Qa1+!
4. Nbd2	Nc6	15. Be2	Qd7	27. Kc2	Nxd4+
5. a3	Be7	16. Bg5	b5	<i>Black’s killer move after which White’s poor king, fighting for his life, could no longer hold on. We could say that he fell over the cliff’ to his checkmate doom!</i>	
6. e4	d5	17. Bxe7	Qxe7	28. Kd2	Qxb2+
7. e5	Ne4	18. Qe3	Na5	29. Ke3	Qxe2+
8. cxd5	exd5	19. Qg5	Qd7	30. Kf4	Nxf3+
9. Bd3	f5	20. Qf4	b4	31. Rd4	Rxd4#
10. Qb3	Nxd2	21. axb4	Nb3+	0-1	
		22. Kb1	Qa4		
		23. h5	Rfb8		
		24. h6	Rxb4		

GAME 9

Spirit of the Gambit

White: Gillian Moore Black: Ted Black

*Gosport v Fareham A
Portsmouth and District Chess League
26th October 2015*



Regain the pawn or pursue the initiative?

White to play: 16. ?

GAME 9

Spirit of the Gambit

White: Gillian Moore Black: Ted Black

Gosport v Fareham A
 Portsmouth and District Chess League
 26th October 2015

BUDAPEST GAMBIT, ALEKHINE ATTACK*

For several years I have much enjoyed playing for the Gosport team in the Portsmouth and District Chess League. Sadly, Gosport is not able to field a team for this new season. In this home match for us, my opponent played for the visiting Fareham A team.

I feel that I betrayed the spirit of the gambit here, which is to willingly give up a pawn (or more) in order to gain compensating factors. In chess as in life, material value is not the only sort of wealth. Whether with people or the pieces, relationships, health, time and space also count for a lot.

Diagram comments: With 16. Nxc6 I get my pawn back the next move, but this freed up my opponent's position and I soon offered him a draw, as that is all it then seemed worth.

I could have kept the initiative with 16. c5! [If, for example, Black replies 16...dxc5, then White wins the exchange with 17. Nxc6 Bxc6, 18. Bxc5! If 16...d5, then 17. Nxc6 Bxc6, 18. Bd4 Qd8, 19. f5 with a distinct White advantage].

Other reasonable tries for a White advantage on move 16. seem to be b4, g3 or Nb5.

1. d4	Nf6	8. a3	Qxe4	15. Kg1	Bd7
2. c4	e5	9. Kf2		See diagram.	
3. dxe5	Ng4	<i>I allowed Black to have the e4-pawn, in order to gain the bishop pair (forced), attack the queen and get ahead in development.</i>		16. Nxc6	
4. e4				See diagram comments above	
<i>The Alekhine Attack variation.</i>				16. . .	Bxc6
<i>Other common choices are 4. Bf4 or 4. Nf3</i>		9. . .	Bxd2	17. Bxa7	Qd7
4. . .	Nxe5	10. Qxd2	0-0	18. Be3	Qg4
5. f4	Ng6	11. Bd3	Qc6	19. h3	Qg3
6. Be3	Bb4+	12. Nf3	d6	20. Qf2	Qxf2+
7. Nd2	Qe7	13. Nd4	Qe8	21. Kxf2=	
		14. Rhe1	Nc6	1/2-1/2	

* This line and many more are thoroughly dealt with in the excellent book by Timothy Taylor, 'The Budapest Gambit', published by Everyman Chess 2009.

GAME 10

Teamwork Does It

White: Gillian Moore Black: Ivor Kelly

*Hampshire v Berkshire
Chiltern Chess League, Basingstoke
29th October 2016*



Majestic and mighty!

White to play 20. ?

GAME 10

Teamwork Does It

White: Gillian Moore Black: Ivor Kelly

*Hampshire v Berkshire
Chiltern Chess League, Basingstoke
29th October 2016*

BUDAPEST GAMBIT, ALEKHINE ATTACK

As usual in these county matches, I was a member of the Hampshire team. This was a home match played at our then regular venue of the Basingstoke Chess and Bridge Club.

Early in the game the white pawns stood shoulder to shoulder like policemen on crowd control duty, ready to push back any unruly hordes; my four pawns on the 4th rank soon made their imposing presence felt to the detriment of my opponent.

The pawn-officers started pushing back the unwelcome knights. Next my queen was driven at top speed to make her supreme presence known in dramatic style where she was needed most. Various other officers then took up their positions, all united for the common cause of squashing the rebellion!

1. d4	Nf6	14. cxb5	Nce7	28. Qd3	d5
2. c4	e5	15. Bd4	c5	29. exd5	cxd5
3. dxe5	Ng4	16. bxc6	bxc6	30. Rf5	Re8
4. e4		17. f5	Bxf3	31. Bd4	Re4
<i>The Alekhine Attack. Apart from this 4. e4 line, White can choose either 4. Bf4 or 4. Nf3 here.</i>		18. fxg6	Bh5	32. Rff1	Qe8
		19. gxh7+	Kh8	33. Qc3	Kxh7
		<i>See diagram.</i>		34. Rae1	Rxe1
4. . .	Nxe5	20. Qh6!	f6	35. Qxe1	Qd8
5. f4	Ng6	21. Qxh5	Ra5	36. Rf3	Qd7
6. Be3	Bb4+	22. Qe2	Ng6	37. Qh4+	Kg8
7. Nd2	Nc6	23. Qf2	Ne5?	38. Bxf6!	gxf6
8. Bd3	d6	<i>This aggressive-looking move in fact loses Black more material.</i>		39. Qxf6	Qe8
9. Ngf3	Bg4	24. Bb6!	Qa8	40. Qg5+	
10. 0-0	Bxd2	25. Bxa5	Nxd3	<i>Checkmate in another two moves, so</i>	
11. Qxd2	0-0	26. Qd2	Ne5	Black Resigns	
12. b4	a6	27. Bc3	Nc4	1-0	
13. b5	axb5				

GAME 11

Humble Pawn Potential

White: Bob Cleave Black: Gillian Moore

*Under 125 Tournament, Hampshire Congress
Eastleigh College
2nd November 2002*



Keeping out intruders

White to play 36. ?

GAME 11

Humble Pawn Potential

White: **Bob Cleave** Black: **Gillian Moore**

*Under 125 Tournament, Hampshire Congress
Eastleigh College
2nd November 2002*

QUEEN'S GAMBIT DECLINED, CAMBRIDGE SPRINGS DEFENCE

My ECF (then BCF) starting grade back in July 2002 was 124, due to my long absence from serious chess. I was therefore eligible to compete in this Minor Under 125 tournament.

The Cambridge Springs is an active defence. I like the way the Black queen suddenly springs to a5 on move 7, unpinning the king's knight and gaining some initiative. I played this opening until 2007 when I switched to the Slav Defence. After 1. d4 d5 2. c4 my move then became 2...c6 instead of the 2...e6 as in this game.

Sometimes you cannot do a thing with an extra pawn in the endgame, but other times it will win, as here. I see the pawn, starting as the most powerless chess piece but with a chance to be very great, as an analogy for the human being. We are born as tiny helpless babies, then growing to maturity we are in for the chance of achieving many great and good things.

1. d4	d5	17. Ne5	Nf6	<i>Before this neglectful king move, the position offered roughly equal chances. 36. Bd3 would have been a better move, to stop Black's light-squared bishop from penetrating White's kingside and attacking his vulnerable light-coloured pawns.</i>
2. c4	e6	18. Qc5	Qxc5	
3. Nc3	Nf6	19. Rxc5	Be6	
4. Bg5	Nbd7	20. Rac1	Ne8	
5. e3	c6	21. h3	g5	
6. cxd5	exd5	22. g4	Kg7	
7. Nf3	Qa5	23. Kg2	Nd6	
8. Bxf6		24. Rc7	Rxc7	
<i>White probably didn't like the look of 8...Ne4, piling up on his knight on c3 as well as threatening his bishop on g5!</i>		25. Rxc7	Rc8	36... Ba6!
8... Nxf6		26. Rxc8	Bxc8	37. f4 Bf1
9. Bd3	Bb4	27. Bc2	b5	38. fxg5 hxg5
10. Qc2	0-0	28. Nd3	a5	39. Bf5 Bxh3
11. 0-0	Re8	29. Nc5	Nc4	40. Bc8 f6
12. a3	Bxc3	30. a4	b4	41. Bf5 Bg2
13. bxc3	Ne4	31. Kf1	Kf6	42. Kc1 Be4
14. c4	h6	32. Ke1	Ke7	43. Bc8 Kd6
15. cxd5	cxd5	33. Kd1	Nd6	44. Kb2 Bg6
16. Rfc1	Re7	34. Kc1	Nb7	45. Kb3 Bf7
		35. Nxb7	Bxb7	46. Ba6 Be6
		<i>See diagram</i>		47. Be2 f5
		36. Kb2?		48. gxf5 Bxf5
				White Resigns
				0-1+

GAME 12

Missing the Obvious

White: **Sherif Gonem** Black: **Gillian Moore**

*Southampton Club Championship,
9th April 2002*



Candidate moves needed

Black to play: 25...?

GAME 12

Missing the Obvious

White: **Sherif Gonem** Black: **Gillian Moore**

Southampton Club Championship,
9th April 2002

CARO-KANN DEFENCE, EXCHANGE VARIATION

The Southampton club meets every Tuesday from September to May yearly. The club championship takes place throughout these months, playing various opponents.

Grabbing the pawn with 25...Rxb2 looked reasonable enough, so that my queenside connected passed pawns, escorted by the rook, won in the end, but my analysis was lazy. The superior move **25...Rxe1+** was not hard to see. As players are prone to do, we both missed good moves, sometimes obvious ones.

*Maxim: "When you have found a good move, look around for an even better one!" **

1. e4	c6	14. Qxe4	Re8	<i>dxe1=Q+, 29. Kxe1 Rxe2+ and</i>
2. d4	d5	15. Bxe7	Qxd6	<i>Black has an overwhelming</i>
3. exd5	cx d5	16. Bxd6	Rxe4	<i>material advantage.</i>
4. c4		17. Rfe1	Bf5	26. Rxe8
<i>The Panov-Botvinnik attack.</i>		18. Ba3	Rae8	Kxe8
4. . .	Nf6	19. Kf1	Bh6	27. Nxf5
5. Nc3	Nc6	20. Bb4	f6	28. Rxd3
<i>The main line for Black is the</i>		21. Bd2	Bxd2	29. Rh3
<i>safe, solid 5...e6!</i>		22. Nxd2	Re2	30. Rxh7
6. Bg5	dx c4	23. Rad1	b5	31. Rb7
7. d5	Ne5	24. Nf3	Kf7	32. Rb5
8. Qd4	Nd3+	25. Nd4		33. h4
9. Bxd3	cx d3	<i>See diagram</i>		34. h5
10. Nf3	g6	25. . .	Rxb2	35. Ke1
11. Ne4	Bg7	<i>25...Rxe1+! forces checkmate in</i>		36. Kd2
12. d6	O-O	<i>at most 15 moves.</i>		0-1
13. O-O	Nxe4	<i>White's best response is 26.</i>		
		<i>Rxe1 d2, 27 .Ne2 Bd3, 28 .f3</i>		

* Thus said my special chess teacher so many years ago at school. In my previous book of memoirs, I have written at length about this teacher, Bertha C Weston, who became my good friend in adult life.

GAME 13

A Vision of Higher Things

White: **Tony Carter** Black: **Gillian Moore**

*Cosham v Emsworth
Portsmouth and District Chess League
3rd January 2004*



The Knight's ideal
Black to play 20...?

GAME 13

A Vision of Higher Things

White: **Tony Carter** Black: **Gillian Moore**

*Cosham v Emsworth
Portsmouth and District Chess League
3rd January 2004*

CARO-KANN DEFENCE, ADVANCE VARIATION

For a while I played for Emsworth team in the Portsmouth and District Chess League as in this match, away at the Cosham club. I later instead played for Gosport in that league.

With a clutter of minor pieces in the centre of the board, as at move 20 it was not easy for White to see what enemy pieces might be able to go where if given a chance. But the black knight penetrated the fog of uncertainty and saw clearly what he wanted.

This was my best win of the season, against Mr Carter graded 164; mine was just 123 at the time.

1. e4	c6	13. Qc3	f6	See diagram.
2. d4	d5	14. exf6	Nxf6	20... Bxe5!
3. e5	Bf5	15. bxc4	Ne4	There is no way for White to
4. Be2	e6	16. Qb3	Nf4	regain his piece now. If 21. dxe5
5. Nf3	Nd7	17. Bd1		Rxd1 and if 22. Raxd1 there
6. 0-0	Ne7			follows a very nasty knight fork
7. Be3	Qb6	<i>It would have been better for</i>		<i>(Black's knight ideal) at White's</i>
8. b3	Ng6	<i>White to play 17. Bxf4, getting rid</i>		<i>e2-square!</i>
9. Nc3	Be7	<i>of one of my menacing knights.</i>		21. g3 Nh3+
10. Qd2	0-0-0	17... g5		22. Kg2 Bf6
11. Na4	Qc7	18. Ne5	Bd6	23. g4 Nf4+
12. c4?		19. Nc3?		One possible continuation is 24.
12. Ng5! Bxg5, 13. Bxg5 f6 is		19... Nxc3		<i>Bxf4 gxf4, 25. gxf5 Bxd4, 26. Qh3</i>
<i>good for White giving him the</i>		20. Qxc3?		<i>Bxa1, 27. fxe6 Kb8, 28. Bh5 Qe5</i>
<i>bishop pair and open lines.</i>		<i>A better move, although still with</i>		<i>winning a rook.</i>
12... dxc4!		<i>a +/- advantage for Black, would</i>		White resigns.
		<i>be 20. Bxf4 gxf4, 21. Qxc3.</i>		0-1

* I started learning the Caro-Kann with the now battered little book by International Grandmasters Raymond Keene and Andy Soltis, plus International Masters Edmar Mendis, Jack Peters and Julio Kaplan, 'Understanding the Caro-Kann', American Publisher RHM Press 1980.

More recently I acquired the in-depth much thicker book by Cyrus Lakdawala, 'The Caro-Kann move by move', publisher Everyman Chess 2012.

GAME 14

Humpty Dumpty

White: Gillian Moore Black: W Peter Tickner

*Berkshire v Hampshire Under 200 Team
Chiltern Chess League, Crowthorne
29th January 2011*



Time to defend

Black to play 19...?

GAME 14

Humpty Dumpty

White: **Gillian Moore** Black: **W Peter Tickner**

*Berkshire v Hampshire Under 200 Team
Chiltern Chess League, Crowthorne
29th January 2011*

CATALAN

I played for my usual Hampshire team in this county match against Berkshire.

When is a Catalan not a pure Catalan? When it is a cross between a Catalan and a Bogo-Indian as here! In fact some writers would call this game a Bogo-Indian on account of Black's move 3...Bb4+, as opposed to developing the bishop more quietly to e7.

White's superior development conquered. By move 23, my pieces had such scope, and his so little, that Black's position was doomed. An optimised knight together with his comrades triumphed. It was a case of:

“With the king's fine horse and all the king's men,
The fallen one never was mended again!”
~ Gillian Moore

Diagram comments: Black's 19...g6 made his position worse. It stops an intrusion on f5 but allows his f6 knight to be pinned. He could have tried to shore up his position with moves such as 19...Qh6 or 19...Qg6 preventing his f6 knight from being pinned, followed by challenging White's domineering knight on d6.

1. d4	Nf6	13. e4	dx e4	25. Qe3!	Nc7
2. c4	e6	14. Nxe4	Ke7	<i>This move loses the exchange, but there was no way he could avoid material loss now.</i>	
3. g3		15. Qd2	a5	26. Nxa8	Nxa8
<i>This move in readiness to fianchetto White's king bishop signifies the Catalan.</i>		16. c5	Nf6	27. Qc3	a4
3. . .	Bb4+	17. Nd6	Qh7	28. Qa5	Bd7
4. Nd2	c6	18. h4	Rd8	29. d5!!	cx d5
5. a3	Qa5	19. Qf4		30. Bxd5	Qf8
6. Rb1	Bxd2+	<i>See diagram.</i>		31. Bxe6	Bxe6
7. Bxd2	Qf5	19. . .	g6?	32. Rxe6+	Kxe6
8. Nf3	Ne4	<i>See diagram comments above.</i>		33. Rxd8	Qh6
9. Bg2	Nxd2	20. Qg5	Qg7	34. Qe1+	Kf5
10. Nxd2	d5	21. Rfe1	Kd7	35. f3	
11. 0-0	Nd7	22. Rbd1	Ne8??	Black resigns	
12. e3	h5	23. Nc4	f6	1-0	
		<i>White missed 23. d5!! for a quick win.</i>			
		24. Nb6+	Ke7		

GAME 15

The Jaws of Defeat

White: Gillian Moore Black: Tony Roberts

*Southampton Club Championship
4th December 2012*



Killer move in sight!

Black to play 29...?

GAME 15

The Jaws of Defeat

White: Gillian Moore Black: Tony Roberts

Southampton Club Championship
4th December 2012

CATALAN OPENING

Tony is the former member of my Southampton club about whom I have written in my previous book, 'My Chess Career and Holidays—A Book of Memoirs'. In chapter 13 I relate the story of how the Gillian Moore Cup came about. This trophy is awarded to the highest scoring Hampshire lady at the annual Hampshire Chess Congress.

In this game I was neglectful enough to get into real danger of a monstrously fierce attack, but to my relief he overlooked his big chance and let me go. I really did snatch victory from the jaws of defeat. To err is human, but what a silly pair!

Diagram comments: Tony could have sent the monster of the deep swallowing me whole with 29...d4, with a dire double threat against my bishop at c3 and of even worse things at my g2! There was then no way for me to survive the ensuing bloodied onslaught.

1. d4	e6	White should have protected the	36. Qxg4	Rxg4
2. g3	d5	e-pawn with 25. Qe3 in order to	37. Bh3	Rg6
3. Bg2	Nf6	follow fxe5 with Qxe5. The move	38. Rf4	Ng5
4. Nf3	Nbd7	played gives Black a passed e-	39. Bg4	Ne4
5. 0-0	a6	pawn and 2 unprotected White	40. Bd4	Bd7
6. b3	b5	pawns on the 4 th rank.	41. Bh5	Rg5
7. Nbd2	Bb7	25. . . fxe5	42. Bf3	Nd2
8. Bb2	Nb6	26. Rxf8+ Rxf8	43. Bd1	g6
9. e3	Bd6	27. dxe5 Rf4	44. Be3	Ne4?
10. Qe2	Qe7	28. Bc3 Rxcg4	44...Nc4 holds the position.	
11. a4	c6	29. Rf1??	45. Rxe4!	dxe4
12. a5	Nbd7	29. Qe2 is best but White still has	46. Bxg5	hxg5
13. Ne5	0-0	the worst of it.	47. Kg2	Bc6
14. f4	Rfc8	See diagram.	48. Kf2	Kf7
15. g4	h6	29. . . Qg5	49. Ke3	Kg7
16. Qf3	c5	See diagram comments above.	50. Bc2	Kh6
17. c4	cxd4	30. Qf3 Be8=	51. Bxe4	Bxe4
18. exd4	Bb4	Having been given a stay of	52. Kxe4	Kg7
19. Rf2	Nxe5	execution and with now just a	53. Kf3	
20. fxe5	Nh7	pawn down, I refused his draw	So much quicker is 53. c6 and	
21. c5	Bxd2	offer as I had the bishop pair with	the pawn cannot be stopped!!	
22. Rxd2	Bc6	plenty of play left.	53. . . Kf7	
23. Rf2	Rf8	31. Bd2 Qg6	54. Kg4 Ke7	
24. Qd3	f6	32. Kh1 Re4	Black resigns	
25. b4?		33. Qc3 Rc4	1-0	
		34. Qf3 Re4		
		35. Bc3 Qg4		

GAME 16

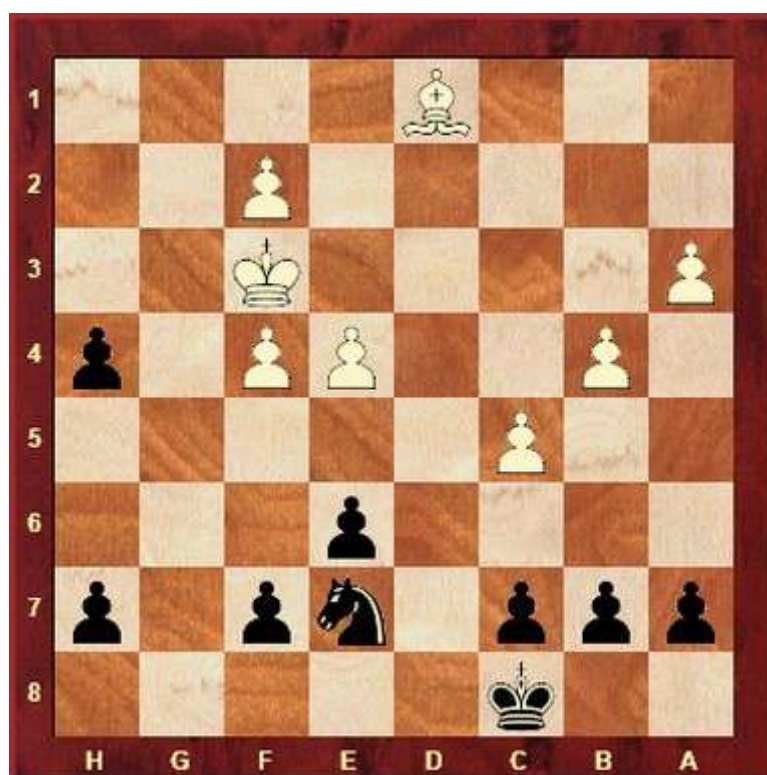
A Pleasing Draw

White: Raymond Ilett Black: Gillian Moore

Open Tournament, Castle Chess Congress

Portsmouth

24th February 2013



To have a slight edge

Black to play 30...?

GAME 16

A Pleasing Draw

White: **Raymond Ilett** Black: **Gillian Moore**

Open Tournament, Castle Chess Congress

Portsmouth

24th February 2013

CHIGORIN'S DEFENCE*

The Chigorin's Defence is another of my active knight openings as Black (the other one is the Alekhine's Defence). It is called a Defence, but I like the immediate counter-attack with the queen's knight on c6, on move 1 or 2.

Before I took up the Chigorin in August 2010, I used to aim for either a Slav or a Cambridge Springs when White opened with his queen pawn 1. d4.—see Games 11 and 48 for examples.

With a grade of 141 at this time, I was content to draw my last round of this strong Portsmouth Open tournament, especially as Mr Ilett was the joint Cambridgeshire Champion.

1. d4	Nc6	12. Nc5	Bb6	28. f4	Rxh4
<i>These days I prefer the move order: 1. d4 d5, 2. c4 Nc6.</i>		13. Bd3	Qh5	29. Rxh4	gxh4
2. Nf3	d5	14. Be4	Bxc5	30. Kf3	
3. c4	Bg4	15. Qb5	Nge7	<i>See diagram.</i>	
4. NC3		16. Qxc5	Qxc5	30. . .	Kd7
<i>Other common choices for White here are 4. cxd5 (see Games 18 and 19), 4. e3 or 4. Qa4.</i>		17. dxc5	Na5	<i>Black would have been slightly better off with 30...f5, making it harder for White to capture the extra h-pawn.</i>	
4. . .	e6	18. Bc2	Rd5	31. Kg4	Ng6
5. e3	Bb4	19. b4	Nac6	32. f5	exf5+
6. Qb3	Bxf3	20. Bb2	Rhd8	33. exf5	Ne7
7. gxf3	dx4	21. Bc3	g6	34. Ba4+	Kd8
8. Bxc4	Qf6	22. e4	Rh5	35. Bc2	b6
9. Ke2	0-0-0	23. h4	Nd4+	36. Kxh4	Ng8
10. a3	Ba5	24. Bxd4	Rxd4	Draw agreed.	
11. Ne4	Qf5	25. Ke3	Rd8	1/2-1/2	
		26. Rad1	Rxd1		
		27. Bxd1	g5		

* I now regularly dip into the full and complete book by Valery Bronznik, 'The Chigorin Defence', published in by Schacherlag Kania in 2005 – originally published in German.

GAME 17

A Deadly Skirmish

White: Gareth Jones Black: Gillian Moore

*Southampton Club Championship,
2nd April 2014*



Counter-attack called for

White to play 14. ?

GAME 17

A Deadly Skirmish

White: Gareth Jones Black: Gillian Moore

Southampton Club Championship,
2nd April 2014

CHIGORIN'S DEFENCE

Gareth was a valuable upper board player for my Southampton B team, before I lost him to our A team now that both teams are in Division 1 of the Southampton Chess League. There is a rule against sharing players in this way.

He is also current the joint club champion, and more usually beats me or we draw. In this game he came out more roughed up than me from middle game hostilities. Then my queenside pawn majority marched unopposed towards the finishing line.

1. Nf3	d5	19. Qxb2	Qd3+	<i>of queens and go for the</i>
2. g3	Nc6	20. Kg1	Qe3+	<i>endgame with a +/- distinct</i>
3. d4	Bg4	21. Kh1	Qb6	<i>advantage, as this felt safer to</i>
4. Bg2	e6	22. Nf6+?		<i>me. I was confident of my 3 to 1</i>
5. 0-0	Nf6	<i>White was hoping for a draw by</i>	32. Rxf1	Qe4+
6. b3	Be7	<i>perpetual check with his queen.</i>	33. Kg1	Qe3+
7. Bb2	Ne4	<i>My reply to his next move</i>	34. Qxe3	Rxe3
8. Nfd2	Nxd2	<i>prevented it.</i>	35. Rb1	b6
9. Qxd2	0-0	22... gxf6	36. Kf2	Ra3
10. e3	Bf6	23. Qxf6	e5	37. Rb2
11. c4	Qd7	<i>I could also have played 23...Qe3</i>	38. Rc2	Kg7
12. Nc3	dxc4	<i>and avoided the loss of my e-</i>	39. Ke2	c5
13. bxc4	Ne5	<i>pawn. Either way, I was now</i>	40. Kf2	Kg6
<i>See diagram.</i>		<i>comfortably better off.</i>	41. Rd2	a6
14. f3?!		24. Qxe5	Rae8	42. Kg2
<i>An interesting counter-attack.</i>		25. Qf5	Qe6	43. Rd6+
<i>White could also fight back with</i>		26. Qg5+	Qg6	44. Rd2
<i>any of 14. Qc1, 14. Qc2, 14. Nd5</i>		27. Qb5	Re7	45. Kh3
<i>or 14. Ne4. The question is open</i>		28. Rf1	c6	46. Rc2
<i>as to which is best.</i>		29. Qc5	Rfe8	47. Rb2
15... Nxc4		30. Rf5?	Re1+	48. Re2
15. Qe2	Nxe3	<i>Stronger is 30...Re5, 31. Qf2</i>		49. Re5
16. Ne4?		<i>Qxg4, 32. Rxe5 Rxe5.</i>		50. Rc5
<i>16.fxg4 was the right move.</i>		31. Bf1	Rxf1+	<i>Black will queen the c-pawn.</i>
16... Bxd4!		<i>Any of 31...R8e2, 31...h6 or</i>		White Resigns
17. fxg4	Nxf1+	<i>31...b6 is materially better for</i>		0-1
18. Kxf1	Bxb2	<i>Black. However I decided to give</i>		
		<i>up the exchange, force the swap</i>		

GAME 18

A Very Harassed Monarch

White: John Wiseman Black: Gillian Moore

*Southampton Club Championship
14th January 2014*



Don't let him escape!

Black to play 30...?

GAME 18

A Very Harassed Monarch

White: **John Wiseman** Black: **Gillian Moore**

Southampton Club Championship
14th January 2014

CHIGORIN'S DEFENCE

John Wiseman was a respected Hampshire Chess Association colleague as the Vice President until stepping down at this year's AGM. He was also a fellow Southampton club member and team mate for the Southampton B team, before he defected to another club. It was nothing personal—the new club is just much nearer to where he lives.

Ruthlessly pursued, seeking refuge and finding none, the White king was chased right across the board from f1 to a4 where, footsore and weary, he lost all hope and met a terrible end.

The king chase was long-winded but enjoyable. In chess as in life, the shorter route might take less time but the longer route can be more scenic! Is it not true also that humans are prone to get lost on some of their journeys?!

Diagram comments: I could have clinched the win much quicker with 30...Nh5! This would have blocked his f4 escape square and, after following up this move with 31...f6+, White would lose his queen. Also if 31.e5 after 30.Nh5 to prevent 31...f6+, there follows 31...Qh3, 32. Rg4 h6+, 33. Kxh6 Nf4+, 34. Rh4 Qxg3, 35. Rxh2 Nh3 and Black mates next move.

1. d4	Nc6	19. Qc2	g6	See diagram comments above.
2. Nf3	d5	20. Kf1	exd4	31. Rxb7 h6+?
3. c4	Bg4	21. Bxd4	Bxd4	The mating net has gone with this
4. cxd5	Bxf3	22. Rcx d4	Rxd4	move. 31...Qf2 for instance,
5. dxc6	Bxc6	23. Rxd4	Qe5	eyeing the g3 pawn, would have
6. Nc3	Nf6	24. Rb4	Rd8	kept the White king enmeshed!.
7. f3	e6	25. g3	Qd6	32. Kf4 g5+
8. e4	Bb4	26. Qc3??	Qd1+!	33. Ke5 Qg1
9. Be3	O-O	27. Kg2		34. Qxc6 Qxg3+
10. Bd3	Ba5			35. Kd4 Rd2+
11. O-O	Qe7	Interposing his queen with 27.		36. Kc4??
12. Rc1	Rad8	Qe1 would not have helped him		The White King walks into a
13. Na4	Bxa4	at all, with immediate heavy loss		Knight fork and is really lost this
14. Qxa4	Bb6	of material if not actual		time. Much better was 36. Bd3. .
15. Bb1	e5	checkmate, following my		36. . . Nd6+!
16. Rfd1	c6	27...Qxf3+.	Rd2+	37. Kb4 Rxb2+
17. Bf2	a6	27. . .	Qf1+	38. Ka5 Rxb7
18. Rc4	Ba7	28. Kh3	Rxh2+	39. Qxd6 Qxd6
		29. Kh4		White resigns.
		30. Kg5		0-1
Black missed the tactical chance	See diagram.	30. . .	Ne8	
of 18...Bxd4, 19. Bxd4 b5!				
winning material.				

GAME 19

A Welcome Change of Scene

White: **George Green** Black: **Gillian Moore**

*Berkshire v Hampshire Under 160 team
Chiltern Chess League,, Farley Hill
24th February 2018*



To swap or not to swap?

White to play 23. ?

GAME 19

A Welcome Change of Scene

White: **George Green** Black: **Gillian Moore**

*Berkshire v Hampshire Under 160 team
Chiltern Chess League,, Farley Hill
24th February 2018*

CHIGORIN'S DEFENCE

As ever in these county matches, I was in the Hampshire team. This was an away match to Berkshire.

When Black's queen was allowed to uproot to new territory on the other side of the board, to 23...Qe7 and 24...Qa3, an otherwise lacklustre position was livened up. Together with her men, in particular her excellent pair of rooks that penetrated on to the seventh rank, the queen enjoyed a welcome change of scene in which the opposition was soon overwhelmed.

Diagram comments: To swap or not to swap? That is indeed the question. I think that White would have been better to swap the queens with 23. Qxg5. The retreat of the white queen allowed the black one to pursue her own plans unhindered, with a pleasant change of scene on the other side of the board.

In the words of a very old song, if anyone else remembers, "Everyone gets into a dull routine, if they don't get a chance to change the scene! Monotonous."

1. Nf3	d5	<i>The rook is restive, having moved</i>	28. Rxb7?	Rxa4
2. d4	Nc6	<i>thrice in eight moves!</i>		<i>I now had a +/- decisive</i>
3. c4	Bg4	22. . . .	Bb7	<i>advantage.</i>
4. cxd5	Bxf3	22. Bc2	Qg5	<i>Faster was 28...Rd2 on this or the</i>
5. dxc6	Bxc6	<i>See diagram.</i>		<i>next move and White must give</i>
6. Nc3	e6	23. Qf2		<i>up his Queen to stop the pawn.</i>
7. e4	Nf6	<i>See diagram comments above.</i>		<i>E.g. 28...Rd2, 29. Qb3 Qc5+, 30.</i>
8. Bg5	h6	23. . . .	Qe7	<i>Kh1 c2, 31. Qxc2 Rxc2, 22. Bxc2</i>
9. Bxf6	Qxf6	24. Rb1	Qa3	<i>Qxc2.</i>
10. Qd2	Bb4	25. Bb3	b4	29. Rxc7
11. Qe3	0-0	<i>Better was 25...c5 winning a</i>		30. Rxc3
12. Bc4	Rfe8	<i>pawn after 26. dxc5 Rd2!</i>		Rd2
13. 0-0	Rad8	<i>After my 25...b4, if White now</i>		31. Qxa2
14. Rad1	Bxc3	<i>played 26. cxb4, I intended to</i>		Raxa2
15. bxc3	a6	<i>capture his d4 pawn, hopefully</i>		<i>Black has the "seventh rank</i>
16. Bb3	Qg6	<i>after 26...c6 first (26...Rxd4? and</i>		<i>absolute" (Nimzovich). Black's</i>
17. f3	Kh8	<i>his 27. Bxe6! would be</i>		<i>rooks have a big appetite to</i>
18. Qf4	Re7	<i>embarrassing).</i>		<i>gobble up White's pawns.</i>
19. Qh4	Red7	26. Qc2	bxc3	32. Rb1
20. Rde1	b5	27. Ba4??		33. Kf1
21. Rc1		<i>Better for White was 27. Qxc3</i>		34. Kg1
		<i>and he is still in the game.</i>		35. Rd3
		27. . . .	Rxd4	36. Rd7
				f6
				White resigns.
				0-1

GAME 20

Ambush!

White: Gillian Moore Black: Michael Stinton-Brownbridge

*Hampshire v Devon
West of England Chess Union (WECU), Wincanton
10th March 2007*



Can Black regain his pawn?

Black to play: 27...?

GAME 20

Ambush!

White: Gillian Moore Black: Michael Stinton-Brownbridge

Hampshire v Devon
West of England Chess Union, Wincanton
10th March 2007

COLLE SYSTEM

Wincanton, Somerset, was one of the longer drives that our Hampshire team had to do for a game of chess in the WECU competitions, and it made a nice day out in congenial company. Our opposing team was Devon, but the Wincanton venue was more doable than having to travel to Devon and back in a day.

This game was a rare use of the Colle by me. My opponent prevented my then usual Stonewall Attack (see Games 52-53) by his 3...Bg4.

On move 24. White's knight sprang forth under cover of his queen, like a tiger in the tall grasses, and grabbed Black's f-pawn, the poor thing! Black thought that by clever means he would get White's h-pawn for it. Alas it was folly, as White's queen herself lay in wait to execute a total conquest!

Diagram comments: No, Black cannot regain his pawn at this point. Rather than the blunder he played, Black could have kept going with 27...Qa5, although White would still have a distinct advantage. Simply taking my knight, 27...Kxf7, would make matters worse after 28. Qxf4+ Kg8; 29. Re7 and so forth.

1. d4	d5	15. Bxg6	hxg6	wrong, e.g. if 26...Kf8??, 27. Qg8
2. e3	Nf6	16. Rfe1	Qc7	mate. If 26...Kh7, 27. Qf7 and
3. Bd3	Bg4	17. Rac1	Nd5	taking the knight with 27...Kxh6??
<i>The often played 3...e6 allows the</i>		18. a3	Rfe8	looks tempting, whereupon White
<i>Stonewall set-up of 4. Nd2 soon</i>		19. Re2	Rxe2	is winning after 28. Re7!!.
<i>followed by f4, but here I had to</i>		20. Qxe2	Bf4	26... Qb6??
<i>cover up my queen.</i>		21. Re1	Bxg5	More hopeful for Black of equality
4. Nf3	Nbd7	22. Nxc5	Nf6?	is 26...Nd5, although after 27.
5. Nbd2	e6			Qxc7 Rxc7, 28. Ne5 White still
6. 0-0	Bd6	<i>Protecting the e8 square to</i>		has a +/- advantage.
7. c4	c6	<i>prevent mate but this loses a</i>		27. Qe4
8. cxd5	exd5	<i>pawn. Better was either 22...Qd7</i>		See diagram.
9. h3	Bh5	<i>or 22...Rf8 with even chances.</i>		27... Nxh3??
10. Qc2	0-0	23. Qe7!	Rc8	See diagram comments above.
11. e4	dxe4	24. Nxf7!	Nd5	28. gxh3 Kxf7??
12. Nxe4	Nxe4	25. Qe6	Nf4	29. Qe6+!!
13. Bxe4	Nf6	26. Qe7		Black resigns
14. Bg5	Bg6	<i>26. Nh6+ was more enterprising</i>		1-0
		<i>with more chances for Black to go</i>		

GAME 21

Lord of the Ranks

White: Gillian Moore Black: Peter Rowe

Wessex 1 v Cheddleton
4NCL at Sunningdale
3rd May 2008



Rook upliftment

White to play 34. ?

GAME 21

Lord of the Ranks

White: Gillian Moore Black: Peter Rowe

Wessex 1 v Cheddleton
Four Nations Chess League (4NCL) at Sunningdale
3rd May 2008

COLLE SYSTEM

I was invited to play on bottom board 8 of the Wessex 1 team in this prestigious Four Nations Chess league — the rules require either a female player or a junior on one of the boards of each team in Division 1.

Just as we humans are in our elements when we can fully express ourselves, whether in chess, art, vocation, relationships or whatever, so too the chessmen. The rooks enjoy lording it over the ranks (and files) and did so in this game. With equal material, my queenside majority of 3-2 and then 2-1 looked promising. Enter into the scene now my powerful rook uplifts to the 5th and 7th ranks. Finally with a 2-0 pawn majority, the ultimate success of one of the pawns became certain.

This win against such a strong player was also uplifting for me—his Elo rating with FIDE was 2057, much higher than mine. This game got me started with a rather good Elo rating of 1976. My rating has, however, gradually dropped over the years to a more realistic level, currently 1798.

1. d4	d5	<i>Either 18. Be3 or 18. Qe3 was better.</i>		<i>Black could have put up more of a fight with 34...Bd6, but now his position continues to deteriorate.</i>
2. e3	Nf6	18. . .	Bxf3	35. Rb5! Ba3
3. Bd3	c6	19. gxf3	cx d4	36. Ra1 Bb2?
4. Nd2	Bg4	20. Qxd4	Rfd8	37. Ra7 Ra6
5. Ngf3		21. Qe4	Qxe4	38. Rxb7 Rxa7
<i>Black's last bishop move prevented my then usual 5. f4 Stonewall set-up, (see Games 52-53) so I veered the game into a Colle instead.</i>		22. fxe4	Bb4	39. Bxa7 Kf8
5	e6	23. Rf1	a5	40. Kd3 h5
6. 0-0	Nbd7	24. Be3	a4	41. Rb8 Rxb8
7. e4	dxe4	25. f3	Kf8	42. Bxb8 Bd4
8. Nxe4	Nxe4	26. Kf2	Ke8	43. b4 g5
9. Bxe4	Nf6	27. Ke2	Rdc8	44. Bd6+ Ke8
10. Re1	Be7	28. Rc1	Ra5	45. h3 Kd7
11. c3	0-0	29. Rfd1	Rh5	46. c5 Kc6
12. Qc2	Nxe4	30. Bf4	Rhc5	47. Kc4 Bb2
13. Qxe4	Bf5	31. b3	axb3	48. b5+ Kd7
14. Qe2	c5	32. axb3	e5	49. Kd5 Bd4
15. Bf4	Bg4	33. Be3	R5c6	50. b6
16. Rad1	Qd5	<i>See diagram.</i>		<i>White can force checkmate in a few more moves.</i>
17. c4	Qf5	34. Rd5!		Black resigns.
18. Qd2?		<i>A beautiful square for a classical outpost!</i>	34. . . f6?	1-0

GAME 22

What a Swindle!

White: Alec Samuels Black: Gillian Moore

*Individual Championship
Southampton Chess League
31st December 2008*



Watch your step Ma'am!

White to play 38. ?

GAME 22

What a Swindle!

White: **Alec Samuels** Black: **Gillian Moore**

*Individual Championship
Southampton Chess League
31st December 2008*

ENGLISH OPENING, BREMEN (EARLY FIANCHETTO) SYSTEM

Alec is a valued former Southampton club member, who played in my B team. He kindly gave me lifts to matches or the club as needed.

Our games tended to be rather dull draws. This game is selected for the greater interest value. My bad moves together with his powerful bishop pair lost me material, but he then fell into my cheapo trap. The pawn he grabbed on move 38 wasn't just poisoned, it was fatally toxic. How annoying or funny is this whirlwind change of fortune, depending upon your point of view.

Diagram comments: Oops; Her Majesty has misplaced her footing! White should have played 38.g5 first before capturing my e-pawn with check on the following move, with a winning advantage.

1. c4	Nf6	<i>as Black now landed a strong</i>	25. . .	Qe6
2. Nc3	e5	<i>knight on f5, and gained the</i>	26. e4	Bc5
3. g3	d5	<i>bishop pair advantage.</i>	27. h4	Be7
4. cxd5	Nxd5	19. Nf5	Bxf5	
5. Bg2	Nxc3	<i>There was no safe place to move</i>	28. Bh6+	Kg8
6. bxc3	c6	<i>the queen to.</i>	29. Kh2	Rbd8
7. d3	BC5	20. Rxf5	g6?	30. Rf7
8. Qc2	Qe7	<i>This loses material because it</i>		Qxf7
9. Nf3	Bf5	<i>unprotects the f6 square and the</i>	<i>Desperation. White's attack will</i>	
10. 0-0	f6	<i>Queen and rook are on the same</i>	<i>be victorious now.</i>	
11. Kh1	Nd7	<i>diagonal. Better were 20...Rf8 or</i>	31. Rxf7	Kxf7
12. a4	Rb8	<i>20...Nf6 for instance.</i>	32. Qa2+	Kf6
13. a5	a6	21. Qa2+	Kg7	
14. Nh4	Be6	22. Bg5	Qe8	
15. f4	0-0	23. Rf3	Qg8	
16. Bd2	Ba7	24. Qd2	Re8	
17. Rab1	Rfd8	25. Rbf1		
18. fxe5	fxe5?	<i>25. Bh3 wins the knight which</i>	<i>See diagram.</i>	
		<i>must protect f6 and therefore</i>	38. Qxe5??	
		<i>cannot move or be protected.</i>	<i>See diagram comments above.</i>	
		<i>Bh3 continues as a threat in later</i>	38. . .	Bd6!!
		<i>moves.</i>	White resigns.	
			0-1	

18...Nxe5 was surely better for me than taking with the f-pawn,

GAME 23

Ever Had the Cramps?

White: **Dave Agostinelli** Black: **Gillian Moore**

*Southampton Club Knockout Tournament
7th December 2010*



A pile-up against the sensitive d3-square
White to play 20. ?

GAME 23

Ever Had the Cramps?

White: **Dave Agostinelli** Black: **Gillian Moore**

Southampton Club Knockout Tournament
7th December 2010

ENGLISH OPENING

Haven't we all experienced the frustration of a cramped chess position? Firstly the white queen could barely safely move, so she thought it best to sacrifice her rook for my knight, then finally the white knight had nowhere to go at all. The contest was over; Dave was knocked out of the competition.

Oh but what a way to treat a club mate who more recently came to my rescue with a domestic problem. I was going out that day, but my kitchen window was about to come off its hinges and just wouldn't shut. I couldn't go out and leave it like that. Then I remembered Dave's self-employed business in fitting and repairing windows. He promptly came to my home, fitted new hinges, and merely charged me for a family rate. "We chess players have to look after each other", he kindly exclaimed.

Diagram comments: White either needed to either move his queen to safety with 20. Qe2 or capture my menacing e-pawn with 20. dxe4 – a pile-up against White's sensitive d3 target was imminent!

1. c4	e5	17. Bc3	Bb3	<i>To stop the exchange of my bishop with 24. Bxb3+. However, stronger for me was either 23...Bxd1 or 23...Rb6 to support my bishop where he was.</i>	
2. g3	Nc6	18. Qd2	e4		
3. Bg2	f5	19. Nf4			
4. Nc3	Nf6		<i>White could have regained his pawn with 19. dxe4 fxe4, 20. Ng5 with the better pawn structure, although Black would have fine piece play for compensation.</i>		
5. Nh3	Bc5	19...	Rd8		
6. e3	0-0		<i>See diagram.</i>		
7. a3	a5	20. Bf1?			
8. 0-0	Ra6		<i>See diagram comments above.</i>		
9. Qc2	d6	21...	Nde5!		
10. Na4	Ba7		<i>The pressure is mounting against White's now two vulnerable spots (f3 is 'crying out')!</i>		
11. c5	Qe7		21. Bxe5	Nxe5	
12. Rd1?			22. Be2?		
<i>This loses White a pawn. 12. cxd6 was indicated.</i>			<i>The bishop is overworked, so:</i>		
12...	Bxc5		22...	exd3!	
13. Nxc5	dx c5		23. Bd1	Kf8	
14. d3	a4				
15. Bd2	Be6				
16. Rdc1	Nd7				
				<i>White gives up the exchange – he is so cramped.</i>	
				24. Kg2	Nc4
				25. Rxc4	
				25...	Bxc4
				26. Rc1	b5
				27. Rc3	g5
				28. Nh5	Bd5+
				29. f3	c4
				30. Kf2	Qf7
				31. f4	g4
					<i>His knight is now entombed. Game over!</i>
					White resigns.
				0-1	

GAME 24

Work in Progress

White: Fraser McLeod Black: Gillian Moore

*Southampton Club Knockout Tournament
26th January 2015*



Keep your good attacking pieces!

Black to play 13...?

GAME 24

Work in Progress

White: **Fraser McLeod** Black: **Gillian Moore**

*Southampton Club Knockout Tournament
26th January 2015*

ENGLISH OPENING, CARL'S BREMEN SYSTEM, KERES VARIATION

Fraser McLeod is a respected colleague in both the Hampshire Chess Association and the Southampton Chess League. He is a team captain in the HCA and Rules Secretary in the SCL. He is also a former Southampton League Individual Champion.

I lost this game, my first attempt at the Keres Variation gambit line that starts with Black's 3...c6. My old Modern Chess Openings book describes the Keres as, "A formidable central bulwark". Fraser encouragingly admired the opening line and he took a long time in some of his replies. An example of my success with it is given in game 25.

Diagram comments: I now realise my folly in exchanging queens. In future in this position I intend to play 13...Nc6, quickly finishing my development and maintaining the initiative. White's development lags behind and he would have to spend a tempo to ward off the threat of 14...Bb4.

"Experience is the name that we give to our mistakes" ~ Oscar Wilde

1. c4	e5	<i>See diagram comments above.</i>		33. Bxd6	Rexd6
2. Nc3	Nf6	14. bxc3	Bc2+	34. Nh3	Nc5+
3. g3	c6	15. Ke1	Ne6	35. Ke3	Ne6
4. Bg2	d5	16. Bf1	0-0-0	36. Rd1	Ke7
5. cxd5	cx d5	17. d4	Bg6	37. f4	R8d7
6. Qb3	Nc6	18. Nh3	Bg7	38. Ng1	Kf7
7. Nxd5	Nd4	19. Nf2	h5	39. Ne2	Re7
8. Nxf6+	gxf6	20. h4	Nc7	40. Nc3	Nc7
9. Qd3		21. Bd3	exd4	41. Nb5	Rdd7
9. Qd1 might have been slightly safer.		22. cxd4	Rhe8	42. Rdc1	Na6
9... Qc7		23. Kd2	Bf8	43. e5	
So far it is all going to plan and White is on the defensive.		24. Rb1	Nd5	<i>The rest of the game is not recorded due to less than 5 minutes left on my clock, in a quick play finish. This Knockout match had to be finished on the night, with no adjournments allowed. Some moves later</i>	
10. Kd1	Be6	25. Bxg6	fxg6	Black resigns.	
11. e3	Bg4+	26. Kd3	Re6	1-0	
12. f3	Bf5	27. Bd2	b6		
13. Qc3		28. Rhc1+	Kd7		
See diagram.		29. e4	Nc7		
13... Qxc3?		30. Bf4	Na6		
		31. Rc4	Ke8		
		32. a4	Bd6		

GAME 25

Discombobulated!

White: Christopher Smith Black: Gillian Moore

*Major Tournament, Hampshire Congress
Eastleigh College
6th November 2016*



Take care Your Majesty!

White to play 9. ?

GAME 25

Discombobulated

White: Christopher Smith Black: Gillian Moore

Major Tournament, Hampshire Congress
Eastleigh College
6th November 2016

ENGLISH OPENING, CARL'S BREMEN, KERES VARIATION*

Do you have any opening lines that fascinate you and you like to keep looking at? I do that with this system, the Keres Variation of the English Opening, in which I joyfully gambit my d-pawn in exchange for a great initiative with perhaps a fierce attack.

My thorough preparation paid off in dramatic style this time as opposed to a game the previous year – see game number 24 against Fraser McLeod. Christopher was clearly unfamiliar with the Keres line starting with 5...Nc6, became disorientated as he engaged with perils of the unknown and he quickly lost.

Diagram comments: White should have played either **9. Qd1** or **9. Qd3** straight away. In either case I would follow up with 9...Qc7, as I did in the game on the following move. After his 9. Qc3 he allowed me to develop my bishop to b4 with a free tempo (because if White takes the bishop with 10. Qxb4, a deadly knight fork follows at his c2!).

1. c4	e5	Beware: the gambit d-pawn is offered!	As often, my play was not perfect either. I had an even stronger move of 12...Bg4+ followed by 13...Rd8, in order to get his rook in due course without sacrificing my bishop for it.
2. Nc3	Nf6	7. Nxd5 Nd4!	13. Qb5+ Bd7
3. g3	c6	8. Nxf6+ gxf6	14. Qxb4 Rc8
4. Bg2	d5	See diagram.	15. Qc3??
5. cxd5	cx d5	9. Qc3?	15. Nf3 would have kept the game going, although I would still rather be Black than White in the position.
6. Qb3		See diagram comments above.	15... Qb6
Alternatively, play here might be 6. d4.exd4, 7. Qxd4 Nc6. I have had good games with this line with the following continuation, despite Black's isolated d-pawn that needs careful tending: 8.Qd1 d4, 9.Ne4 Nxe4, 10.Bxe4 Bc5!		9... Bb4!	White resigns
6... Nc6		10. Qd3 Qc7	0-1
		11. e3?	
		This just pushes the black knight where he wants to go.	
		11... Nc2+!	
		12. Ke2 Nxa1	

* Carl's Bremen System is notated In Batsford's *The Modern Chess Openings*, page 650 of 2000 version.

GAME 26

Beware of *That Square!*

White: **Brendan O’Gorman** Black: **Gillian Moore**

Major Tournament, Castle Chess Congress

Fareham

18th February 2017



Keeping one’s dignity.

White to play 15. ?

GAME 26

Beware of *That Square!*

White: **Brendan O’Gorman** Black: **Gillian Moore**

Major Tournament, Castle Chess Congress

Fareham

18th February 2017

ENGLISH OPENING, FOUR KNIGHTS VARIATION

Brendan O’Gorman plays a lot of chess around various congresses. We have played each other often and tend to draw. This short game proved to be the exception.

Years ago I came to grief in the English Opening when White’s forces were taking aim at my c6-square. With the fianchettoed king’s bishop holding sway over the long diagonal from his g2 and a major piece or two coming down the c-file, any piece of mine on the c6 square was in serious jeopardy. I was hurt by bad things that happened there in that old game.

It is said that revenge is sweet. I now set a trap on the c6-square which my opponent fell into, and, I imagine, with the white queen muttering, “We are not amused! What a mean thing to do to me! Where is the kindness and compassion these days?”

1. c4	e5	12. Bg5	15. . . .	Bxc6!!
2. Nc3	Nf6	<i>This and White’s next few moves are perhaps overly aggressive.</i>	<i>Black will now lose at least a piece due to the attack on his kingside as well as on the Queen.</i>	
3. Nf3	Nc6	<i>White is beginning to lose control of the position.</i>	<i>If the Queen captures the menacing bishop with 16. Qxc6, she meets an undignified end after the 16...Bxh2+ discovered attack reply.</i>	
4. e3	d5	13. . . .	Qg6	
5. cxd5	Nxd5	13. d5	a6	
6. Bb5	Nxc3	14. Bxc6	bxc6	
7. bxc3	Qf6	<i>See diagram.</i>		White Resigns.
8. Qa4	Bd7	15. dxc6??		0-1
9. 0-0	Bd6	<i>It looks like White’s best bet would have been 15. Rfe1, keeping the game alive.</i>		
10. d4	exd4			
11. exd4	0-0			

GAME 27

Knight in Shining Armour

White: Paul Hurn Black: Gillian Moore

*Friendly Match played at Gillian's home
21st July 2015*



‘Trouble over the other side, Your Majesty!’

White to play 39. ?

GAME 27

Knight in Shining Armour

White: Paul Hurn Black: Gillian Moore

Friendly Match played at Gillian's home
21st July 2015

FOUR KNIGHTS SPANISH, RUBINSTEIN GAMBIT

Paul is a friend and fellow member of the Southampton chess club who has been giving me lifts to the club for many years. We also have weekly friendly practice battles at my home when the club is closed during the holiday months of June, July and August.

Well matched, Paul and I have had many a good game together, formal or friendly, with varying results. They can be very long—we are both very pensive players—extending over one or even two adjournments. This game transposed into a Four Knights Spanish, via the Scandinavian Variation of the Alekhine (1 e4 Nf6; 2 Nc3 e5).

Diagram comments: My Fritz software is clear that 39. Ke3 is White's best move, for completely even chances. Bringing the king over towards the uprising makes sense. The move that White played, 39. cxb4, allowed my resplendent knight to carry out some dashing deeds!

1. e4	Nf6	14. Bd5	Bg4	See diagram.
2. Nc3	e5	15. Qc4	Qh5	39. cxb4?
3. Nf3	Nc6	16. f3	Be6	See diagram comments above.
4. Bb5	Nd4	17. Bxe6	Nxe6	39. . . . Nxd4!
<i>Black offers the e-pawn in exchange for piece activity. If 5. Nxe5, Black has either 5...Bb4 or 5...Qe7 to continue the dangerous excitement.</i>		18. Rab1	b6	40. c3 Nc2!
5. Ba4	Bc5	19. Rb5	c5	41. Bc1 axb4
6. Nxe5	Qe7	20. d4	d5	42. cxb4 Rxb4
<i>6...0-0 is more commonly played in this gambit line, offering a pawn to enhance Black's development. This sharp line has a better average outcome for Black than my 6...Qe7.</i>		21. Qe2	Rfe8	43. Rxb4 Nxb4
7. Nf3		22. Qd2	Nc7	44. Ke3 Ke6
<i>Nd3 is the normal move here, stronger than 7. Nf3.</i>		23. Rbb1	c4	45. Bb2 g6
7. . . .	Nxe4	24. Bd6	Rac8	46. Bc3 Na6
8. 0-0	0-0	25. Rfe1	Red8	47. Kd4 Kd6
9. Nxd4	Bxd4	26. Be7	Rd7	48. Ke3 f5
10. Qe2	Bxc3	27. Re5	Qg6	49. f4 Kc6
11. bxc3	Qh4	28. Rbe1	f6	50. Kd4 Nc7
12. Bb3	Nc5	29. R5e3	Qh6	51. Ke5 Kc5
13. Ba3	d6	30. Qe2	Re8	52. Bd2? d4!
		31. a4	Kf7	<i>My two connected passed pawns are now en route to certain glory!</i>
		32. Ba3	Rxe3	53. Bc1 c3
		33. Qxe3	Qxe3+	54. a5 Nb5
		34. Rxe3	Ne6	55. a6 Kc4
		35. Kf2	Rb7	56. h3 d3
		36. g3	a5	White resigns.
		37. Re1	b5	0-1
		38. Rb1	b4	

GAME 28

Lively Tactics

White: Alan Butler Black: Gillian Moore

Southampton B v Fareham B
Southampton Chess League
13th December 2016



Equal chances

White to play 22. ?

GAME 28

Lively Tactics

White: **Alan Butler** Black: **Gillian Moore**

Southampton B v Fareham B
Southampton Chess League
13th December 2016

FOUR KNIGHTS GAME, ITALIAN VARIATION*

I was playing for my usual Southampton B team in this home match at the Southampton club against the visiting Fareham B team.

His 5. Bxf7+ is more enterprising, I feel, than allowing my fork trick 5...d5 if he simply took the knight with 5. Nxe4. He gave me the bishop pair, but at the expense of my exposed king, although I managed to tuck him away safely in due course. The game result was just one pawn up for me, and that is all I needed, thanks to my queenside majority creating a passed pawn.

Diagram comments: His 22. Bh6 was not for the best. Nor would 22. Ng3 help, leading to loss of material after Black's 22...g5! Best appears to be 22. Nf6+, after which my Fritz program gives equal chances despite White being a pawn down for the endgame.

1. e4	Nf6	19. Qxf3	Rf8	34. . .	a5
2. Nc3	e5	20. Bf4	Qf7	35. Kd5	Bf2
3. Nf3	Nc6	21. Rf1	g6	<i>I need not have tarried to secure my c5-pawn like this. On this and the next few moves, a4, b3 then maybe a3 would queen a pawn fast and with gusto!!.</i>	
4. Bc4	Nxe4	See diagram		36. Ke4	a4
5. Bxf7+?		22. Bh6?		37. f5?	Bd4
<i>Better for equality was 5. Nxe4 d5, 6. Bd3 dxe4, 7. Bxe4.</i>		<i>See diagram comments above.</i>		38. fxg6+	hxg6
5. . .	Kxf7	22. . .	Qxf3	39. Bd2	b3
6. Nxe4	Be7	23. gxf3	Rf5	40. axb3	axb3?
7. c3	d5	24. Ng7	Rxe5	41. Bc1?	
8. Ng3	Be6	25. Nxe6	Rxe6	<i>41. Kc2 would stop the b pawn and make it much harder for Black to win. Instead, 40...a3 and the a-pawn queens very quickly!</i>	
9. Qb3	Rb8	26. f4	Re1	41. . .	Ke6
10. d4	e4	27. Rxe1	Bxe1	White resigns.	
11. Ne5+	Nxe5	28. Kf1	Bh4	0-1	
12. dxe5	c5	29. Ke2	b5		
13. 0-0	Rf8	30. Kd3	Kf7		
14. f4	exf3	31. b3	a6		
15. Rxf3+	Kg8	32. c4	dx4+		
16. Qd1	Qd7	33. bxc4	b4		
17. h3	Bh4	34. Ke4?			
18. Nh5	Rxf3	<i>Moving the king away from where the action is, on the 'a' and 'b' files.</i>			

* The entirety of The Four Knights opening is dealt with and, for me, in enjoyable style, clear and witty by Cyrus Lakdawala, 'The Four Knights move by move', published by Everyman Chess 2012.

GAME 29

Gambit Glory

White: Arthur Hibbitt Black: Gillian Moore

*Boniface 5-round morning Tournament
Devon Congress, Paignton
8th September 2011*



Maintaining the slight advantage

White to play 27. ?

GAME 29

Gambit Glory

White: Arthur Hibbitt Black: Gillian Moore

Boniface 5-round morning Tournament
Devon Congress, Paignton
8th September 2011

BIRD'S OPENING, FROM'S GAMBIT

As my reader will be discovering in these games, I have some gambits 'up my sleeve' for certain openings. From's Gambit is one of them, although I seldom have a chance to play it since White's first move 1. f4 is not so commonly met with.

This game demonstrates what can be received in return for the gambit pawn: initiative, imagination, double-edged danger, engrossing plans and schemes. Even after Black's move 3, White is threatened with checkmate in 2! I had the better chances after netting the exchange at move 31, but by move 44 most of my advantage had evaporated due to my negligence. So, I agreed to a draw.

Diagram comments: White needs to play 27. **Rh1** to protect his pawn on h2. His move 27. Rxc4 caused his rook boxed in after Black's 28...g5! After this, Black had the better chances.

1. f4	e5	18. Be3	Nc5	32. Bxg4	b6
2. fxe5	d6	19. Bxc5	dx c5	33. Bf5	Kc7
3. exd6	Bxd6	20. Kd2	Kb8	34. Rb1	Kd6
4. Nf3	g5	21. Rae1	Rh5	35. g4	Re7
5. g3		22. c4	Qe5	36. Rb3	Rh8
<i>The alternative 5. d4 gives White</i>		23. Qc3	Qxc3+	37. Rc3	Rc7
<i>the option, after 5...g4, of moving</i>		24. Kxc3	Rdh8	38. Re3	Ke5
<i>his knight to either g5 or e5.</i>		25. Rhf1	Be8	39. Rd3	Kd6
5. . . .	g4	26. Rf4	Re5	40. Kc3	Rc5
6. Nh4	Ne7	<i>See diagram.</i>		41. Kd4	
7. d4	Ng6	27. Rxc4?		<i>Fritz shows Black as slightly</i>	
8. Nxg6	hxg6	<i>See diagram comments above.</i>		<i>better here. 41...f6 next, holding</i>	
9. Qd3	Nc6	27. . . .	Rxh2!	<i>back White's e-pawn, is</i>	
<i>10...Nxd4 is threatened!</i>		28. Bf3	g5	<i>necessary to maintain this</i>	
10. c3	Qe7	29. b4	cx b4+	<i>advantage.</i>	
11. Nd2	Bf5	30. Kxb4	Bd7	41. . . .	Rh2
12. e4	0-0-0	31. a4	Bxg4	42. e5+	Ke7
13. Kd1	Be6	<i>The White rook at g4 wasn't</i>		43. Kc3	Rh1
14. Bg2	Nb8	<i>going anywhere, so attacking</i>		44. d6+=	
15. d5	Bd7	<i>moves of either 31...Rf2 or</i>		Draw agreed.	
16. Nc4	Na6	<i>31...Ra2 first before winning the</i>		1/2 - 1/2	
17. Nxd6+	cx d6	<i>exchange would increase Black's</i>			
		<i>advantage.</i>			

GAME 30

One Serious Slip

White: John Sellen Black: Gillian Moore

*Major Tournament, Hampshire Congress
Eastleigh College
10th November 2013*



How to save himself

White to play 46. ?

GAME 30

One Serious Slip

White: **John Sellen** Black: **Gillian Moore**

Major Tournament, Hampshire Congress
Eastleigh College
10th November 2013

BIRD'S OPENING, FROM'S GAMBIT*

This game shows the advantages and threats of having opened the h-file in my line of the From's Gambit. In this case, my doubled pawns did not matter, due to the piece play along the opened file.

After a lot of manoeuvring, with my rook entrenched on the seventh rank of the h-file and with my centralised queen, both poised for action, it was soon all over for him. Sometimes we can survive after a small mistake, a blip. However, on move 46 White lost his grip with just one serious slip!

Diagram comments: White is struck with disaster. He had a second chance to save himself by 46. Kb1, preventing an unwanted royal visitor appearing at his a2.

1. f4	e5	17. Be3	Qa5	32. Be3	Ng5
2. fxe5	d6	18. Kb1	Qa4	33. Rf2	Nf3
3. exd6	Bxd6	19. e5	Be7	34. Qf1	Bg5
4. Nf3	g5	<i>19...Bxe5 regains the pawn. If 20. dxe5 Bf5 wins the queen. With his queen within sight of my rook lurking on the d-file, fancy my oversight!</i>		35. Bxg5	Qxg5+
5. g3	g4	20. Qe2	Rdh8	36. Kb1	c6
6. Nh4	Ne7	21. Be4	Nd8	37. a3	Qf5+
7. d4	Ng6	22. Nb3	Ne6	38. Kc1	Qe6
8. Nxcg6	hxcg6	23. Qg2	Nd8	39. Nd2	Nxh2
9. Qd3		24. Rd2	Bb5	40. Qg1	Nf3
<i>Naturally, 9...Bxg3+ had to be prevented.</i>		25. Bd3	Bxd3+	41. Rxh5	Rxh5
9. . .	Bf5	26. Rxd3	Nc6	42. Nxf3	gxf3
10. e4	Qe7	27. Rd2	Qc4	43. Rxf3	Qd5
11. Bg2	Nc6	28. Qe2	Qe6	44. Qf1?	Rh2
12. c3		<i>28...Nxe5 regains the pawn. If 29. dxe5 Black plays 29...Qe4+ and 30...Qxh1+ winning the exchange.</i>		45. g4??	a6?
<i>The fight is on. 12. Kf2 0-0-0, 13. exf5 Bc5 would also have provided some fun!</i>		29. Kc1	Nd8	<i>I should have seized the chance to win his queen for my rook by playing 45...Qa2. See diagram.</i>	
12. . .	0-0-0	30. Bf4	Qf5	46. Qd1??	
13. Be3	Be6	31. Qg2	Ne6	<i>See diagram comments above.</i>	
14. Bf2	Qg5			46. . .	Qa2!!
15. Nd2	Bd7			White resigns.	
16. 0-0-0	Rh5			0-1	

* I have a delightful little paperback book by Eric Schiller, 'How to Play the From Gambit', published by Chess Enterprises in the USA 1992, which I picked up for a few pence at a second-hand book stall! If out of print, other books on this system are available on the Bird's Opening that include this gambit.

GAME 31

Offbeat Opening

White: **Gillian Moore** Black: **Gary Walker**

*Salisbury A v Southampton B
Southampton Chess League
23rd November 2010*



More development needed

Black to play 16...?

GAME 31

Offbeat Opening

White: **Gillian Moore** Black: **Gary Walker**

Salisbury A v Southampton B
Southampton Chess League
23rd November 2010

GROB FOR BLACK (BASMAN DEFENCE)

In this away match at the Salisbury club, I was playing for my regular Southampton B team.

In this peculiar sort of Grob's Opening with colours reversed – I've heard it called the Basman Grob - I just played the position with no pre-existing ideas. After his 1...h6 followed by 2...g5, I anticipated the 'dragon bishop' soon coming out at g7, and decided to make it 'bite on granite' when it does by my playing 2. c3. This strategy and my succeeding play turned out well.

Mind you, who am I to talk about peculiarity? I sometimes play strange-looking unconventional opening lines, such as 4. g4 in the Staunton Gambit and 3. h4 in the Trompowsky – see games later in this book. I am also familiar with Grob's Attack for White, starting with 1. g4. I do not play it in serious games, but it is good for a friendly or a blitz tournament, to get away from familiar lines.

The Grob's Attack for White often goes 1. g4 d4, 2. Bg2. If then Black takes the pawn 2...Bxg4, White starts an attack with 3. c4 putting pressure on Black's pinned d-pawn (because of his unguarded b7 and Queen's rook in the corner), and the White queen is looking to b3 for an imposing visit there at a suitable moment. It is a bit of fun!

1. d4	h6	<i>Black could have played a natural</i>	<i>Qxf8, 25. Nc5+ Kd8, 26. Nxe6+</i>
2. c3	g5	<i>developing move such as</i>	<i>and the queen is lost.</i>
3. e4	d5	<i>16...Qd7 or 16...Be6, or gained</i>	23. Bxd6 Nd7
4. exd5	Qxd5	<i>space with 16...a5 with equal</i>	24. Nf4 0-0-0
5. Qf3	Qd8	<i>chances.</i>	25. Bxf8 c5
6. Bc4	Nf6	17. Ne4! Rg6	26. Qe2 cxd4
7. Ne2	c6	18. Kd2 e6?	27. c4 Nf6
8. h3	g4	<i>Black's game is going pear-</i>	28. Rh8 Ne4+
9. Qd3	gxh3	<i>shaped. Preferable was either</i>	29. Ke1 e5
10. gxh3	Nbd7	<i>18...a5, or 18...h5 intending</i>	30. Qg4+ Kc7
11. Bf4	b5	<i>19...Bh6+.</i>	31. Nd5+ Bxd5
12. Bb3	Nc5	19. Rhg1 Rxg1	32. cxd5 Nf6
13. Qf3	Nxb3	20. Rxg1 Bb7	33. d6+ Kb6
14. axb3	Nd5	21. Rg8 Nb6?	34. Qh4
15. Be5	Rg8	<i>He is truly done for now, but he</i>	<i>Black resigns.</i>
16. Nd2		<i>prolonged the agony.</i>	1-0
See diagram.		22. Nd6+ Qxd6	
16. . .	Rg5?	<i>22...Kd7 doesn't save Black, as</i>	
		<i>23. Nxb7 Qe8, (23...Qc8, 24.</i>	
		<i>Qxf7+ Be7, 25. Nc5 #) 24. Rxf8</i>	

GAME 32

Between a Rock and a Hard Place

White: Gillian Moore Black: John Wilkinson

*Individual Championship
Southampton Chess League
8th January 2015*



'Breaking and entering'!

White to play 26. ?

GAME 32

Between a Rock and a Hard Place

White: Gillian Moore Black: John Wilkinson

*Individual Championship
Southampton Chess League
8th January 2015*

GRÜNFEELD DEFENCE, EXCHANGE VARIATION

John was a teammate: we both played for Gosport in the Portsmouth and District Chess League. He is also in my age group and one of the players I remember from when we were both young. Like me, John feels that he is playing as well as he ever has, with no sign of chess performance decline due to being a veteran. It is only fair to say that, despite his loss here, I consider John Wilkinson to be a better player than me.

This Grünfeld Defence game is a distinct example of the hypermodern approach for Black. He allows White to occupy the centre with pawns and contends for control of the centre with pieces and attacks on the central pawns. Thankfully, he released his grip on move 21 allowing me to smash through on the g-file with a knight sacrifice on move 26, and ending in a Win/Win situation for me.

1. d4	Nf6	<i>kingside as White's king is the</i>	25. Rbg1	Qc7
2. c4	g6	<i>more exposed.</i>	<i>See diagram.</i>	
3. Nc3	d5	18... Nb7	26. Nxf4!!	
4. cxd5	Nxd5	<i>Better for Black was 18...Bh3, 19.</i>	<i>The tipping point has been</i>	
5. e4	Nxc3	<i>Rfe1 g4, 20. fxg4 Qg5.</i>	<i>reached in my merciless assault</i>	
6. bxc3	Bg7	19. Kh1 Nd6	<i>against Black's king.</i>	
7. Bc4	c5	20. Rg1 Kh8	26... Bf7	
8. Ne2	Nc6	21. a4 h5?	<i>My opponent is defenceless. If</i>	
9. Be3	O-O	<i>Although superficially this looks</i>	<i>26...exf4, there follows 27. Qxf4</i>	
10. O-O	Na5	<i>like a good attacking move, it</i>	<i>Qh7, 28. Bd4!</i>	
11. Bd3	b6	<i>actually cedes control of the soon</i>	27. Ng6+ Bxg6	
12. Qd2	e5	<i>to be opened g-file to White with</i>	28. Rxg6 Rf7	
13. d5	f5	<i>disastrous effect. Better was</i>	29. Rh6+ Rh7	
14. f3	f4	<i>21...fxg3, 22. Rxc3 h6 blocking</i>	30. Rxf6 Qe7	
15. Bf2	c4	<i>White's path to Black's king.</i>	31. Re6 Qf8	
16. Bc2	Bd7	22. gxf4 gxf4	32. f4 exf4?	
17. Rab1	g5	23. Rg6 Be8	33. Bd4+	
18. g3?		24. Rg2 Bf6??	<i>With checkmate in a few moves.</i>	
<i>It was, perhaps, ill-advised for</i>		<i>Black's only realistic chance of</i>	<i>Black resigns.</i>	
<i>White to open up lines on the</i>		<i>survival was 24...h4 to allow Bh5</i>	1-0	
		<i>attacking the pawn on f3. Now</i>		
		<i>White just blows Black away.</i>		

GAME 33

Dynamic Duo

White: Gillian Moore Black: Len Walters

Southampton Club Championship,
30th March 2004



Damage limitation.

Black to move 31... ?

GAME 33

Dynamic Duo

White: Gillian Moore Black: Len Walters

Southampton Club Championship,
30th March 2004

KING'S GAMBIT

The King's Gambit has always attracted me, as gambits can be exciting to play, but I have seldom had the gumption to play it as it is double-edged, especially if Black accepts the f-pawn gambit leaving White's kingside open to attack!

In this rare appearance of the King's Gambit by me, my pair of neighbouring passed pawns advancing together proved to be unstoppable.

1. e4	e5	15. Rhf1	Re3	30. Rxd1	Qd8
2. f4	d5	16. Qd2	Qe8	31. Be4	
<i>The Falkbeer Counter-Gambit.</i>		17. Nd4	Rd8	<i>See diagram.</i>	
<i>Black's other choices include</i>		18. Nf5	Ne4	31. . . .	Rf6?
<i>accepting the gambit with</i>				<i>On this and the next 3 moves,</i>	
<i>2...exf4, or declining it with any of</i>				<i>Black should have played bxc4 to</i>	
<i>2...Nc6, 2...Nf6 or 2...Bc5.</i>				<i>prevent White from getting 2</i>	
3. exd5	e4	<i>Best was 18...b4 with counter</i>		<i>connected central passed pawns</i>	
4. Bc4	Nf6	<i>attack. White now regains the</i>		<i>with c5!</i>	
5. Nc3	Bd6	19. Nxe4	Rxe4	32. g3	Bg7
6. d3	exd3	20. Qc3	Bf8	33. Qc2	Bc8
7. Qxd3	0-0	21. Qxc7	Rd7	34. h4	Bf5
8. Nge2	Nbd7	22. Qc3	Qd8	35. c5!	Bxe4
9. Be3	Re8	23. Qg3	Qf6	36. Qxe4	Qc7
10. h3		24. Ne3	Qb6	37. b4	Rf5
<i>A wasted tempo – Black's knight</i>		25. Ng4	h5	38. d6	Qd8
<i>coming to g4 was not a real</i>		26. Ne5	Rd6	39. Rd5	
<i>threat. Stronger would have</i>		27. c4	g6	<i>I sealed my move 39. Rd5 and</i>	
		28. Bc2		<i>the game was adjourned. We</i>	
10. . . .	Nc5	<i>With 28. f5 White could have</i>		<i>were to resume play on 6th April,</i>	
11. Bxc5	Bxc5	<i>initiated a winning King-side</i>		<i>but my opponent resigned without</i>	
12. 0-0-0	a6	<i>attack. For instance, 28. f5 Re3,</i>		<i>further ado.</i>	
13. Kb1	b5	29. Rf3 h4, 30. Qf4 Rxf3, 31. gxf3		Black resigns	
14. Bb3	Bb7	Rf6, 32. Nd7 Qd6, 33. Nxf6+ etc.		1-0	
		28. . . .	Rd4		
		29. Qc3	Rxd1+		

GAME 34

Dispiriting

White: Gillian Moore Black: Mike Tunstall

British Seniors Championship, Coventry,
29th July 2015



White has a slight edge. How should Black defend?

Black to play 14...?

GAME 34

Dispiriting

White: Gillian Moore Black: Mike Tunstall

British Seniors Championship, Coventry,
29th July 2015

KING'S INDIAN DEFENCE

Why prolong the agony? My early queen-swap line makes good in this short game. He resigned as soon as I had two clear pawns up for the endgame, with no counter-chances.

I have had successes with this line in the King's Indian, which is mentioned in a footnote of the 2010 Modern Chess Openings book, rather than as a main line. I thought my exchange of queens idea followed by the Bg5 pin was therefore less tried and tested.

However, my more recent Fritz software program suggests that my moves 7, 8 and 9 for White are better than other options, so perhaps 'my' queen swap line is now coming into vogue, or will do.

1. d4	Nf6	Alternatively Black might play	16. dxc6 Bxc6, 17. Bd5 Ra7 and
2. c4	g6	9...c6 (to prevent the ferocious	Black can hold on.
3. Nc3	Bg7	10. Nd5). If then White replies	15. Be3 Rec8
4. e4	d6	10. Nxe5, Black's 10...h6 can	16. dxc6 Bxc6
5. Be2	O-O	lead to the regaining of his pawn.	17. Ng5 Rc7
6. Nf3	e5	Or 9...Nbd7 seems reasonable.	18. Rac1 Be8
7. dxe5	dxe5	10. Nd5 Nxd5	19. Rxc7 Nxc7
8. Qxd8	Rxd8	11. cxd5 c6	20. Rc1 Ne6?
9. Bg5!		12. Bc4 Bd7	21. Nxe6 fxe6
A key move in my plan		13. O-O b5	22. Bxe6+ Bf7
9... Re8		14. Bb3	23. Bxf7+ Kxf7
White options of either 10. Nd5		See diagram.	24. Rc7+ Kg8
with a double threat at both f6		14... Na6?	25. Rxa7
and d7, or 10. Nxe5 needed to be		The critical mistake after which	Black resigns.
defended against.		Black should lose a pawn. Much	1-0
		better was 14...a5, 15. Rfd1 a4,	

GAME 35

Good and Bad Bishops

White: Gillian Moore Black: Ken Retallack

Southampton B v Passed Pawn B
Southampton Chess League
13th October 2009



A smart combination

White to play 19. ?

GAME 35

Good and Bad Bishops

White: Gillian Moore Black: Ken Retallack

Southampton B v Passed Pawn B
 Southampton Chess League
 13th October 2009

MODERN DEFENCE

This match was a Robertson Cup knockout competition in the league. This was a home match of my usual Southampton B team. The visiting Passed Pawn B team is now called Hamble B—their club has been renamed Hamble.

I remember Ken as the good guy who initiated me into the mysteries of being Treasurer of the Hampshire Chess Association, when I took over this volunteer role from him in 2004. He was a skilled book-keeper and a good teacher.

This game was like, ‘My bishop is better than yours, see!’ In the end game, with king, pawns and a bishop each, my bishop had all the power over his pawns and his had none over mine. Oh but Gillian, why take the slow boat to my destination rather than the express train? I could have won his bishop in the middle game, as will be seen.

1. d4	g6	See diagram.	37. Rxb5	Rxb5
2. c4	Bg7	19. Bh4	38. axb5	Bb6
3. Nf3	c6	<i>I missed the nice combination 19.</i>	39. Kc4	Kc7
4. e4	e5	<i>Bxe7 Kxe7, 20. Rc7+ Bd7, 21.</i>	40. b3	Kb7
5. d5		<i>Rfc1 h5, 22. Bd1 Ke8, 23. Rxd7</i>	41. Bb2	Kc7
		<i>Rxd7, 24. Ba4 and Black has lost</i>	42. Ba3	Kd7
		<i>his light-squared bishop.</i>	43. Bc1	Ke7
<i>Of greater merit was 5. dxe5</i>		19. . . .	44. Bd2	Kd7
<i>either winning a pawn (if 5...Qe7,</i>		20. Be1	45. Kb4	Ke7?
<i>6. Qd6!), or gaining superior</i>		21. Rc7	46. Ka4	Kd7
<i>development (after 5...Qe7, 6.</i>		22. Bb4	47. Ba5	Be3
<i>Nc3 Bxe5, 7. Nxe5 Qxe5, 8. Be3!</i>		23. Bxb5+	48. b6	Kc8
<i>for instance).</i>		24. Rfc1	49. Kb5	Kb7
5. . . .	cxd5	25. R1c3	50. Bb4	Bxb6
6. cxd5	d6	26. h3	51. Bxd6	Bd4
7. Nc3	a6	27. Kf2	52. Be7	Bf2
8. Be2	Ne7	28. Ke2	53. Bxg5	Be1
9. 0-0	f5	29. Rb3	54. Bf6	Bc3
10. Qa4+	Nd7	30. Nxd7	55. d6	Kc8
11. Ng5	0-0	31. Rxd7	56. Kc6	Ba5
12. Ne6	Nc5	32. Bc3	57. d7+	Kb8
13. Nxd8	Nxa4	33. Rxb5	58. Bxe5+	Ka7
14. Nxa4	Rxd8	34. Kd3	59. Bc7	
15. Nb6	Rb8	35. Rb4	1-0	
16. Bg5	Kf7	36. a4		
17. f3	f4			
18. Rac1	h6			

GAME 36

Out of Sight and Out of Mind

White: Gillian Moore Black: Joseph Coburn

Southampton B v Fareham A
Southampton Chess League
1st March 2016



To keep the game alive

Black to play 26...?

GAME 36

Out of Sight and Out of Mind

White: Gillian Moore Black: Joseph Coburn

Southampton B v Fareham A
Southampton Chess League
1st March 2016

MODERN DEFENCE, AVERBAKH VARIATION

‘Joe’ was a fellow member of the Gosport team in the Portsmouth and District Chess League, as I also played for that team in that other league. In this match, I was playing for my main Southampton B team in the Southampton League against Joe in his Fareham team.

Black was generous to a fault. First his pawn, then his bishop was lost—sometimes we see ‘ghosts’ of pieces on the chess board, and other times we fail to see that which is tangibly there! Finally his poor queen had nowhere to go. I was greedy and gobbled up all his offerings, until I was fat with high hopes that indeed came to pass!

Diagram comments: Black has just sacrificed a piece in order to deliver checkmate at b2 in two moves with his queen and rook, so he thinks. However he is blind-sided by the white rook up aloft on d6 that can interpose at d2 supported by the bishop at h6. This illustrates how long distance pieces can combine for an effective defence, as their power can be overlooked.

White stands better, but to at least keep Black’s position alive he could have forced the exchange of queens and open up the a-file with 26...Qb4, or got his rooks active starting with 26...Rf3 perhaps followed by 27...Rc8 or 27...Raf8.

1. d4 d6	13. c5 fxe4	24. g4 Bxe4
2. c4 g6	14. Bc4+ Ned5	25. fxe4 a5
3. Nc3 Bg7	<i>Black’s weaknesses on the light-</i>	26. Qb5
4. e4 Nd7	<i>coloured squares are now tangible.</i>	<i>See diagram</i>
5. Nf3 c6	15. Ngxe4 Nxe4	26 Bh6??
6. Qc2 e5	16. Nxe4 Bf5	<i>See diagram comments above</i>
7. Be3 Ne7	17. f3 Kh8?	27. Bxh6
8. 0-0-0 Qc7	<i>17...Be6 or 17...Rad8 were better.</i>	27 Rf2
9. Kb1 0-0	18. Bxd5 cxd5	28. Rd2 Rxd2
10. Be2 f5?	19. Rxd5 Qa5	29. Bxd2 a4??
<i>Black now has a horrible ‘hole’ at</i>	20. Qd2 Qa4	30. Bc1
<i>e6.</i>	21. Qd3 Be6	Black Resigns
11. dxe5 dxe5	22. b3 Qa3	1-0
12. Ng5! Nf6	23. Rd6 Bf5	

GAME 37

The Bishop Sentry

White: Gillian Moore Black: Peter Bending

*Gloucestershire v Hampshire
West of England Chess Union, Urchfont
7th February 2015*



Block entry to that rook!

White to play 28. ?

GAME 37

The Bishop Sentry

White: Gillian Moore Black: Peter Bending

Gloucestershire v Hampshire
West of England Chess Union, Urchfont
7th February 2015

NIMZO-INDIAN DEFENCE, 4. f3 LINE

I hardly need to say, I was playing for my usual Hampshire team in this county match away to Gloucestershire.

In this 4. f3 line, White tries to achieve control over the central squares and with a strong pawn centre. The play often leads to a trade-off between Black causing White to be temporarily saddled with doubled c-pawns, yet White having the advantage of the bishop pair. Thus in this game, White's dark-squared bishop had no rival bishop to contend with.

In fact, aloof on the d6 lookout and keeping the black rook away from giving help to his king, White's extra bishop was pivotal to sealing my opponent's fate. This d6 square can also sometimes be a highly effective outpost for a knight—see game 57 entitled 'Octopus' as an example.

1. d4	e6	19. a4	Qg6	35. Rxf7	Rc8
2. c4	Nf6	20. Ba3	h5	36. e6	Nb8
3. Nc3	Bb4	21. f4	Re6	37. Be5+	Kg8
4. f3	d5	22. Rac1	Rb8	38. Rxb7	
5. a3	Bxc3+	23. Rf3	Qh7		<i>Fancy my trifling with a pawn,</i>
6. bxc3	0-0	24. h4	a5		<i>when I could have delivered</i>
7. e3	Nbd7	25. Rg3	g6?		<i>checkmate with 38. Nf5 and 39.</i>
8. Qc2	c5				<i>Nh6! Whether I was tired, thirsty</i>
9. Bd3	Qc7				<i>or running out of time I cannot</i>
10. cxd5	exd5				<i>say!</i>
11. Ne2	c4	26. Ne3	Ncb6	38. . . .	Nxa4
		27. f5	Rc6	39. Nxd5	Re8
				40. Rg7+	
					<i>40. Nf6+ and the rook gives mate</i>
					<i>the next move.</i>
				40. . . .	Kf8
				41. e7+	
					<i>41. Rf7+ and mate in another 2</i>
					<i>moves.</i>
				41. . . .	Rxe7
				42. Rxe7	
					Black resigns.
				1-0	

Black releases his grip on the centre and facilitates White's central e4 expansion anon.

Black has lost control of the centre. His pieces are cramped and underdeveloped.

25...Rg6 would have shown more fighting spirit. 25...g6 just gives White a target to attack.

See diagram

*28. Bd6! Re8
29. fxg6 fxg6
30. Rxc6+ Kh8
31. Rf1 Rg8
32. Rxc6+ Qxc6
33. Qf5 Qe8
34. Qf7*

Although this may not be the quickest way to win, the path to victory can be easily seen.

34. . . . Qxf7

GAME 38

Lock Up Before Leaving!

White: **Gillian Moore** Black: **Eric Key**

*Boniface 5-round morning Tournament
Devon Congress, Torquay
8th September 2015*



The a-pawn is tempting. Should Black take it?

Black to play 23...?

GAME 38

Lock Up Before Leaving!

White: **Gillian Moore** Black: **Eric Key**

*Boniface 5-round morning Tournament
Devon Congress, Torquay
8th September 2015*

NIMZO-INDIAN DEFENCE, 4. f3 LINE*

A problem arose for Black at his move 25—a king and rook fork with check was imminent at b4. So my opponent guarded the square with 25...Qa5, but with fatal consequences.

It is like his queen dutifully locked the front door, but alas the thief (my white queen) jumped in through the open back window (the back rank) and took what she wanted: checkmate in two moves!

1. d4	Nf6	16. Re1	Rc8	<i>After this move, Black should lose a knight and a pawn to White's continuation. 23...Qd7 was necessary to maintain equality, for instance 23...Qd7 (guarding e6), 24. d5 b5, 25. Bf2 Rxa3, 26. d6 Ra1, 27. Rxa1 Nxa1, 28. Kh1 Nb3, 29. Bxa7 Qxd6.</i> 24. Qe6+! Kf8 25. Qxc4 Qa5?? <i>Black could have tried 25...a5, although White would still have a happy position: 26. Bg3 g5, 27. Qe6 Kg7, 28. Bd6 for instance.</i> 26. Qc8+ Kf7 27. Qe8# 1-0
2. c4	e6	17. e4	dxe4	
3. Nc3	Bb4	18. Nxe4	Nxe4	
4. f3	d5	19. Rxe4	Rc6	
5. a3	Bxc3+	20. Bg5!		
6. bxc3	c5	<i>With this "stunning move" (my opponent's words), my very late-to-develop bishop was free at last and no longer up for exchange with his knight. And what freedom my bishop had!</i>		
7. cxd5	exd5	20. . . .	f6	
8. e3	Bf5	21. Bh4	Ra6	
9. Bd3	Bxd3	22. Rbe1	Rxe4	
10. Qxd3	0-0	23. Qxe4		
11. Ne2	c4	See diagram.		
12. Qc2	Nc6	24. . . .	Rxa3?	
13. 0-0	Na5			
14. Ng3	Nb3			
15. Rb1	Re8			

* For those interested, I have and can recommend an excellent little book by Yuri Yakovich, 'Play the 4 f3 Nimzo-Indian', Gambit Publications 2004.

GAME 39

The Gun Powder Plot

White: Trevor Passby Black: Gillian Moore

*Berkshire v Hampshire, Under 150 team
Chiltern Chess League, Crowthorne
1st March 2014*



The black king's ramshackle fortress!

White to play 17. ?

GAME 39

The Gun Powder Plot

White: Trevor Passby Black: Gillian Moore

Berkshire v Hampshire, Under 150 team
Chiltern Chess League, Crowthorne
1st March 2014

NIMZOWITSCH DEFENCE

I was playing here for the Hampshire B team, for those with grades under 150. The venue was the lovely Wellington College in Crowthorne amidst spacious grounds and greenery. It was all rather grand.

I experimented with the Nimzowitsch Defence for a while, and this game and the next are examples of my successes with it. As an Alekhine's Defence devotee, in which I play 1...Nf6 in response to 1. e4, this cheeky knight opening on the other side of the board appealed to me, with 1...Nc6 in response to 1. d4. Incidentally, this game transposed into a Scotch Game after move 3.

After mounting an attack to blow up my king's house of protective pawns and take him hostage, my opponent sacrificed his bishop for two of my pawns, thinking of my king's total powerlessness against checkmate or at least the loss of a knight to prevent the mate. Upon realising his attack didn't work on account of my forced exchange of queens, Mr Passby cried out, "oh pooh!" This was not from the stench of his intended smoking gun but from the whiff of his annoyed feelings, so to speak. Conversely, my unspoken thought was, "thank goodness!" White's plot was foiled.

Diagram comments: White could have simply retreated his bishop to f2; he would be a pawn up and rather better. His best move seems to be 17. Rfd1, guarding his d4 before pursuing his assault against Black's king. In that case, Black can try defending with 17...d6, but White stands better and can surely still break through.

1. d4	Nc6	13. Qxb2	0-0-0	22. R6b5	Ra8
2. e4	e5	14. Nc3	Qf6	23. Rc5+=	Kd6
3. Nf3	exd4	15. Rab1	Ne7	<i>I declined the draw offer—the position was too interesting.</i>	
4. Nxd4	Nxd4	16. Bxc5	Nc6	24. Rxa5	Rxa5
5. Qxd4	Qf6	<i>See diagram</i>		25. Rxb7	Rc8
6. Be3	c5	17. Bxb6?		26. Rb3	Ke6
7. Qc3	b6	<i>See diagram comments above</i>		27. Kg1	Kf7
8. Bc4	Bb7	17	axb6	28. Rb5?	Ra3
9. f3	Bd6	18. Qxb6	Qd4+!	<i>Or 28...Rxb5, 29. Nxb5 Rxc2 etc.</i>	
10. 0-0	Be5!	19. Kh1	Qxb6	29. Nd5	Rxc2
11. Qb3	Bxb2	20. Rxb6	Na5	30. Rb3?	Raxa2
12. Bxf7+	Qxf7?	<i>The opponent's distinct advantage had now vanished and our chances were dynamically balanced—he had three extra pawns for my extra knight.</i>		<i>Black's doubled rooks on the seventh rank win the day!</i>	
<i>What a dumb oversight I had: 12...Kf8 and Black wins the exchange! Now the advantage is handed back to White who starts plotting.</i>					
		21. Rfb1	Kc7	White Resigns	
				0-1	

GAME 40

Centralised Knight Supremacy

White: Rob Davies Black: Gillian Moore

Southampton v Fareham B
Portsmouth and District Chess League, Cole Cup
28th October 2014



Unguarded black pieces – loose pieces can drop off!

Black to play 18...?

GAME 40

Centralised Knight Supremacy

White: **Rob Davies** Black: **Gillian Moore**

Southampton v Fareham B
 Portsmouth and District Chess League, Cole Cup
 28th October 2014

NIMZOWITSCH DEFENCE

The Cole Cup is a knockout competition in the Portsmouth and District Chess League, comparable to the Robertson Cup in the Southampton Chess League. Southampton club had just one team in the Cole Cup, which I played for here.

Rob Davies used to volunteer as our honorary examiner for the Hampshire Chess Association, of which I am the treasurer. Each year he did a thoroughly good job of checking my books, vouchers and other information relating to my accounts.

In this game, Rob would have been better to castle kingside—I gained a pawn after he castled long. However, the folly was 50:50, as I neglectfully let the White queen take centre stage with 19. Qe4. My opponent then gained the bishop pair and good compensation for his pawn loss.

Diagram comments: I felt my queen to be safer off the hot f-file, but Black lost momentum with 18...Qe7 and it allowed White to fork my two bishops. It would have been better to force an exchange of queens with 18...Qf5, or 18....Bf5, maintaining the edge. Ah to err is human!

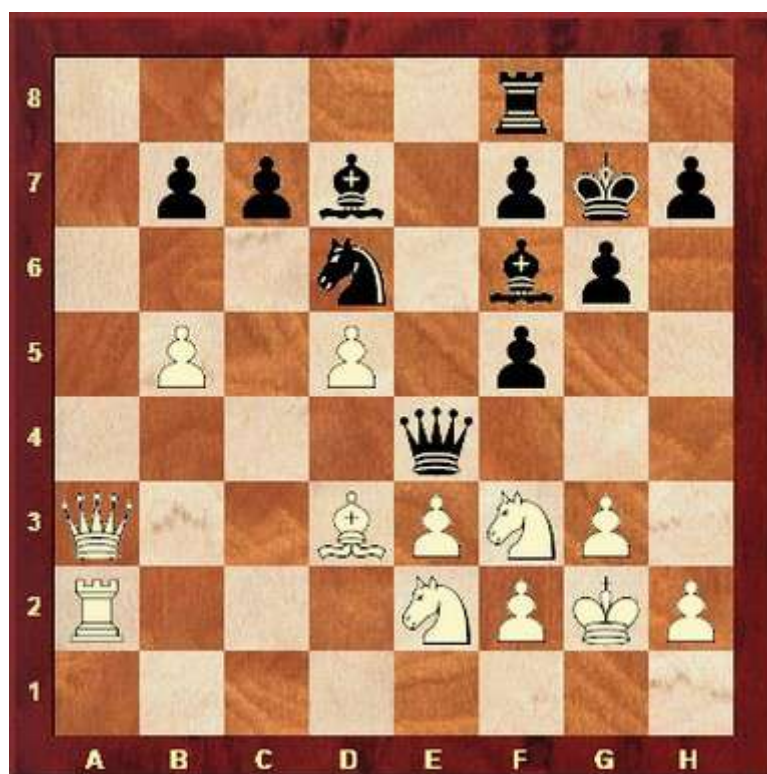
1. d4	Nc6	18. . .	Qe7?	35. Bh3	Kg7
2. c4	e5	<i>See diagram comments above.</i>		36. Be1	Bg5
3. d5	Nce7	19. Qe4!	Bxf3	37. Bf2	Ng8
4. Nc3	Ng6	20. Bxf3	Bh6	38. Be6?	
5. a3	a5	21. Bc3	Qg5	<i>This looks good but the bishop is doing nothing useful on e6 and is needed on White's side of the board.</i>	
6. g3	Nf6	22. Kc2	Rf7	38. . .	Nf6+
7. Bg2	Bc5	<i>There was nothing wrong with grabbing the pawn with 22...Qxg3 for a slight Black advantage.</i>		39. Kf3	
8. Ne4	Nxe4	23. Qg4	Qe3	<i>39.Kd3 giving some protection to the queen-side pawns was more sensible.</i>	
9. Bxe4	0-0	24. Qe4	b6	39. . .	e4+
10. Qc2	d6	25. Qxe3	Bxe3	40. Kg2	e3
11. b3	f5	26. Kd3	Bh6	41. Be1	Ne4!
12. Bg2	Qf6	27. Bg4	Rxf1	<i>The knight finally rules supreme. 42...Nd2 with loss of material is unstoppable. White felt that his end was inevitable although there is no immediate win.</i>	
13. Bb2	f4	28. Rxf1	Rf8	<i>White resigns.</i>	
14. Nf3	fxg3	29. Be6+	Kh8	0-1	
15. hxg3	Bg4	30. Bf5	Ne7		
16. 0-0-0?	Bxf2	31. Ke4	g6		
17. Rdf1	Be3+	32. Bh3	Rxf1		
<i>17...Bxg3 was better. A pawn is a pawn after all!</i>		33. Bxf1	Bc1		
18. Kd1		34. a4	h5		
<i>See diagram.</i>					

GAME 41

Poisoned Pawn Queen Trap

White: Gillian Moore Black: John Feavour

*British Seniors Championship, Sheffield
31st July 2011*



Pawn temptation!

Black to move 31...?

GAME 41

Poisoned Pawn Queen Trap

White: Gillian Moore Black: John Feavour

British Seniors Championship, Sheffield
31st July 2011

QUEEN'S BISHOP ATTACK (PSEUDO TROMPOWSKY)

The Queen's Bishop Attack, otherwise known as the Pseudo Trompowsky*, is one of my staple openings as White, when Black plays 1...d5 in response to my usual 1. d4. My next move is then 2. Bg5. Examples of the Trompowsky proper are given in games 53-59.

The merits of the 'Pseudo Tromp' include inhibiting the e-pawn, since the queen would then be taken if it moved to e6 on move 2, and the opponent may also not be very familiar with the opening. This win was a splendid 2nd round result for me, against Mr Feavour graded 177.

Diagram comments: Black was foolhardy to snatch the innocent-looking d5-pawn, with all my pieces strategically positioned nearby! Black really needed to retreat his queen, either to e7 to maintain equality, or even better to e8, and White's advanced, ill-protected b-pawn will fall.

1. d4	d5	19. Bb3	Rxa1	35. Nd5	Bc6
2. Bg5	Nf6	20. Rxa1	Nf6	36. Nxf6	Kxf6
3. Bxf6	exf6	21. d5	Qe7	37. Qb2+	Ke6
<i>This usual move of mine</i>		22. b5	Be5	38. Qe2	
<i>exchanging my bishop for his</i>		23. Nd4	Ne4		<i>I wonder why I didn't play the</i>
<i>knight, gives him the bishop pair</i>		24. Qb2	Qf6		<i>obvious 38. Qe5+ 38...Kd7, 39.</i>
<i>at the expense of his awkward</i>		25. Nfe2	Qd6		<i>Qg7 bagging a pawn in addition?</i>
<i>doubled f-pawns.</i>		26. Kg2	Bd7		<i>Simple!</i>
4. e3	Nc6	27. Bc4	Bf6	38. . . .	Ra8
5. c4	dxc4	28. Qa3	Qe5	39. Kh3	Bd5
6. Bxc4	Bb4+	29. Ra2	Nd6	40. Ng5+	Kf6
7. Nc3	0-0	30. Nf3	Qe4	41. Qd2	c6
8. Nge2	Qe7	31. Bd3!		42. Qd4+	Ke7
9. 0-0	Bd6	<i>See diagram.</i>		43. e4	fxe4
10. a3	a6	31. . . .	Qxd5??	44. Nxe4	Be6+
11. Qc2	f5	<i>See diagram comments above.</i>		45. Kh4	g5+
12. g3	g6	32. Nf4!!		46. Nxg5	b5
13. Nd5	Qd8	<i>The queen now has no escape.</i>		47. Qc5+	Kf6
14. Ba2	Kg7	32. . . .	Qxa2	48. Nxe6	Ra4+
15. b4	Ne7	<i>If 32...Nxb5, 33.Qxf8+! White</i>		49. Nf4	
16. Ndf4	a5	<i>wins a rook.</i>		Black resigns.	
17. Qc3	axb4	33. Qxa2	Nxb5	1-0	
18. axb4	Ng8	34. Bxb5	Bxb5		

* A comprehensive book on this opening is by James Plaskett, 'The Queen's Bishop Attack', published by Batsford Chess Books 2005.

GAME 42

Beyond the Stone Wall

White: Gillian Moore Black: Malcolm Roberts

*Boniface 5-round morning Tournament
Devon Congress, Paignton
5th September 2012*



Time to calculate
White to play 32. ?

GAME 42

Beyond the Stone Wall

White: Gillian Moore Black: Malcolm Roberts

Boniface 5-round morning Tournament

Devon Congress, Paignton

5th September 2012

QUEEN'S BISHOP ATTACK (PSEUDO TROMPOWSKY)

The annual Devon 'Paignton' Congress (now played at Torquay) consists of various tournaments for players of all grading bands, and with choices of morning or afternoon play. Every year I have been choosing the Boniface tournament, as games start at 9.30 am and finish by 1 pm at the latest, allowing me freedom for the rest of the day to enjoy my holiday in the Torbay area.

For 60 years the congress was played in the grand Oldway Mansion, Paignton, the former home of Isaac Singer of Singer sewing machines. I have written in detail about this ideal venue in my previous book of memoirs. It is a shame that the Devon Congress can no longer use Oldway Mansion with its glorious good looks set amidst flower beds, lawns and woods.

Diagram comments: Anxious to get rid of his queen for fear of being checked around, I swapped off queens with 32. Qxd7. This choice turned out really well, trouble-free. The obvious 32. Qxg6 might look stronger, as then White is doing the checking as well as picking up more pawns. However, I could not risk allowing the Black queen to penetrate my king's position from c6 or b7.

1. d4	d5	16. exf6	Nxf6	32. Qxd7+!
2. Bg5	h6	17. e4	dx e4	See diagram comments above.
3. Bh4	Nd7	18. Nxe4	Bd5	32... Kxd7
4. e3	Ngf6	19. Rae1	Nxe4	33. h4!
5. Nd2	e6	20. Bxe4	Bxe4	I am holding back Black's 3
6. f4	Be7	21. Qxe4	Rxf1+	kingside pawns with my 2. In
7. Bd3	c5	22. Rxf1	Rd8	effect I was a pawn up – my
8. c3		23. a3	Rd5	passed d-pawn!
Sweet freedom! Here with my		24. g3	Qd7	33... f4
pawns on c3, d4, e3 and f4, my		25. Qf4	Rf5	34. gxf4 Ke6
dark-squared bishop on g5 is not		26. Qb8+	Kf7	35. Ke3 Kd5
blocked in by my pawn wall as in		27. Rxf5+	exf5	36. Kf3 Kd6
the Stonewall Attack opening		28. Qe5	a6	37. Ke4 Ke6
starting 1. d4 d5, 2. e3 – see		29. Kf2	g6	38. d5+ Kd6
Games 52-53.		30. Qh8	h5??	39. Kd4 Kd7
8... c4				40. Ke5 Ke7
9. Bc2 b5				41. d6+ Kd7
10. Ngf3 Bb7				42. Kd5 Kc8
11. 0-0 Ng4				43. Kc6 Kd8
12. Bxe7 Qxe7				44. d7
13. Qe2 0-0		31. Qh7+	Ke6	Black resigns.
14. Ne5 Ngxe5				1-0
15. fxe5 f6		See diagram.		

GAME 43

The Hole in the Wall

White: Gillian Moore Black: Steve Pitts

*Hampshire v Berkshire
Chiltern Chess League, Open team, Basingstoke
27th October 2012*



Win a major piece!

White to play 11. ?

GAME 43

The Hole in the Wall

White: Gillian Moore Black: Steve Pitts

Hampshire v Berkshire
Chiltern Chess League, Open team, Basingstoke
27th October 2012

QUEEN'S BISHOP ATTACK (PSEUDO TROMPOWSKY)

This was a home match for my usual Hampshire team and accommodated at our then regular venue of the Basingstoke Chess and Bridge Club.

Black created such a hole in his king's house at g6, caused by the ugly f6 move (played in order to protect his queen from a marauding knight landing on e5), that it was so easy for any invader to spot and go after him. By simply castling 11. 0-0, I 'kindly' at least gave the poor king a chance to get out quick, so he went on quite a walkabout before his final surrender.

Diagram comments: White had a chance to win material at once with 11. Ne5!! If the queen moves to safety, White plays 12. Bg6 or 12. Qh5+ gaining at least a rook. If 11...fxe5, there follows 12. Bg6+ winning the queen. Or, the more obvious move 11. Bg6+ is almost as good as 11. Ne5.

1. d4	d5	18. h3	32. Bxc6+	Bxc6
2. Bg5	h6	<i>White has a faster way to build up</i>	33. Qxa7+	Ke8
3. Bh4	Qd6	<i>an attack with either 18.d5 or</i>	34. Qxb6	Bd7
4. c4	b6	<i>18.e4.</i>	35. f4	Kf7
<i>If 4...Qb4+ 5. Qd2. If then</i>		18. . .	36. Kh2	g5
<i>5...Qxc4, 6. e3 Qc6, 7. Nc3 with</i>		19. a3	37. Be1	h5
<i>good compensation for the pawn.</i>		20. Ne5	38. Qc7	Ba4
5. cxd5	Qxd5	21. dxe5	39. fxg5	Rg8
6. Nc3	Qd7?	22. Nb5+	40. h4	Rd8
<i>The Black queen would have</i>		23. Nd6	41. g6+	Kf8
<i>been safer at either a5 or h5.</i>		24. Nxc8	42. Kh3	Bc2
7. Nf3	f6	<i>Winning the exchange, but a</i>	43. Bg3	Be4
8. e3	Bb7	<i>smarter move was 24. Be2! Qg6</i>	44. Be1	Rd3
9. Bb5	c6	<i>(or Qg5), followed by 25. Nxb7!</i>	45. g7+	Kf7
10. Bd3	e6?	<i>winning the bishop. Black would</i>	46. g8=Q+	Kxg8
<i>See diagram.</i>		<i>recapture the knight 25...Kxb7 at</i>	47. Qxe7	Rxe3+
11. 0-0		<i>his peril, in view of 26. Ba6+ with</i>	48. Kh2	Rxe1
<i>See diagram comments above.</i>		<i>more White conquests!</i>	49. Qxe6+	Kg7
11. . .	Qf7	24. . .	50. Qf6+	Kg8
12. Qc2	Ne7	25. Bc4	51. Qg5+	Kf7
13. Ne4	Kd7	26. Rd2	52. Qd2	Rf1
14. Nc3	Kc7	27. Qa4	53. Qe3	Rc1
15. Bg3+	Kc8	28. Rcd1	<i>and Black resigns.</i>	
16. Rfd1	Nd7	29. Bb5	1-0	
17. Rac1	Kd8	30. Rd7		
		31. Rxd7		

GAME 44

Isolated and Backward Pawns

White: Gillian Moore Black: Ben McManus

Major Tournament, Hampshire Congress,
Eastleigh College
8th November 2014



Rounding upon the weak pawn.

White to play 15. ?

GAME 44

Isolated and Backward Pawns

White: Gillian Moore Black: Ben McManus

Major Tournament, Hampshire Congress,
Eastleigh College
8th November 2014

QUEEN'S BISHOP ATTACK (PSEUDO TROMPOWSKY)

Humans can find themselves in trouble when isolated and no one is around to help them when needed. Pawns are vulnerable too when deprived of their fellow pawns on adjacent files. For want of a good neighbour or nearby friend, a pawn on an adjacent file or a supportive piece, Black's isolated d-pawn became surrounded by enemies and was taken away.

If we walk in single file behind someone, we are limited by the movements of the person in front of us. My opponent's moves 21...g5 and 22...Kh7 were both positionally bad choices. Black's backward f-pawn lagging behind his neighbouring g-pawn, could also not be saved. Realising the further loss, Black resigned straight away.

1. d4	d5
2. Bg5	Bf5
3. c4	c6
4. cxd5	cx d5
5. Nc3	h6
6. Bh4	Nf6
7. Bxf6	exf6
8. e3	Bb4
9. Bb5+	Nc6
10. Nge2	0-0
11. 0-0	Rc8
12. Rc1	Ne7
13. a3	Bd6
14. Bd3	Bb8?

A reasonable move for Black is 14...Bxd3, 15.Qxd3 Qd7. Or he could try 14...Be6 or 14...Bd7

and 15...Bc6 overprotecting the isolated d-pawn. Also 14...Qd7 would help Black's defences better by at once clearing the way for a rook on d8 and protecting the bishop on f5.
See diagram.
15. Bxf5 Nxf5
16. Qb3!
Black will lose the b or d-pawn.
17... Qd6
17. g3 Rfd8
18. Nf4

Or, I could have captured the isolated d-pawn straight away on account of Black's back rank vulnerability. For example 18. Qxd5 Qxd5, 19. Nxd5 Rxc1, 20.

Rxc1 Rxd5, 21. Rc8+ regaining the piece. The b-pawn was still vulnerable too.

18... Ne7

19. Ncxd5

The 'isolani' is captured!

19... Rxc1

20. Nxe7+ Qxe7

21. Rxc1 g5?

22. Nh5 Kh7?

23. Qc2+

Black resigns.

If Black had played on and moved his king to the back rank, White's admirable move 24. Qf5 would follow and the f6 pawn is lost.

1-0

GAME 45

Entertaining the Spectators

White: **Leslie Allen** Black: **Gillian Moore**

Southampton Club Championship
24th March 2015



Winning advantage

White to play 48. ?

GAME 45

Entertaining the Spectators

White: **Leslie Allen** Black: **Gillian Moore**

Southampton Club Championship
24th March 2015

QUEEN'S BISHOP ATTACK (PSEUDO TROMPOWSKY)

'Les' is a former Southampton club member, and was a valuable member of my Southampton B team. Sadly he has now passed away.

We always had good exciting games; this one was no exception. I've had a reputation to be the last to finish, and this game was one such. At the end of the club evening keen onlookers gathered around the board at a discreet distance; my peering club-mates enjoyed the spectacle.

Diagram comments: In this complicated position White's strongest move was **48. Qxb7** for an overpowering attack, whether Black replies 48...Nxb7 or 48...Qxb7, but he let go of his tight grip with his 48. Nb6+. My opponent came out of the ensuing carnage only slightly better at move 51. Alas for me, I then blundered due to the mad time scramble. The End.

Well-known principle: Watch the clocks to avoid being compromised by lack of thinking time!

1. d4	d5	15. b4	Ng4	37. Qb2	Rc7?
2. Bg5	h6	16. b5	c5	38. Ra1	
<i>It was interesting to be Black playing against my own 'Pseudo Tromp' opening that I play as White.</i>		17. c4	Kb8	38. b6 wins quickly.	
3. Bh4	c6	18. cxd5	Bxd5	38. . . .	Qd4
4. e3	Qb6	19. Rc1	Qd6	39. Qa3	Kb8
5. b3		20. Bf5	Ngf6	40. b6	Rb7
<i>My preference here as White is 5.Qc1, aiming to play c4 when suitable followed by queenside expansion.</i>		21. dxc5	Nxc5	41. bxa7+	Ka8
5. . . .	e5	22. Qc2	Ne6	42. Rfd1	Qb4
6. c3		23. Qc3	Nd7	43. Qa2	Qb2
<i>If 6.dxe5, Qb4+ winning a piece. Les was much too smart to fall for this simple trap.</i>		24. a5	Rc8	44. Qd5	Qb6
6. . . .		25. Qb2	Ndc5	45. Nc4	Qc7
7. exd4	exd4	26. Ne5	Rhf8	46. Rdb1	Rd8
8. Bd3	Bd6	27. Ndc4	Bxc4	47. Qf3	Nd4
9. Nf3	Be6	28. Nxc4	Qd5	<i>See diagram.</i>	
10. 0-0	Nd7	29. Ne3	Qb3?	48. Nb6+?	
11. Nbd2	Ngf6	<i>29...Qd4 was the best defence.</i>		<i>See diagram comments above.</i>	
12. Bg3	g5	30. Qe5+!	Ka8	48. . . .	Qxb6
13. hxg3	Bxg3	31. Rb1		49. Qxb7+	Nxb7?
14. a4	0-0-0	<i>Much better was 31. a6.</i>		50. Rxb6	Nxf5
	Qc7	31. . . .	Qa4	51. Rf6	Rd7??
		32. a6	Rcd8	<i>After somehow surviving the lengthy torture, I could have kept alive with the obvious 51...Nfd6.</i>	
		33. axb7+	Kxb7	52. Rxf5	
		34. Qc3	Qd4	Black resigns.	
		35. Qa3	Qa4	1-0	
		36. Qc1	Rc8		

GAME 46

Impending Doom

White: Gillian Moore Black: Mike Edwards

*Fareham A v Southampton B
Southampton Chess League
15th December 2015*



Pawns can turn into queens!

Black to play 36...?

GAME 46

Impending Doom

White: Gillian Moore Black: Mike Edwards

Fareham A v Southampton B - Southampton Chess League
15th December 2015

QUEEN'S GAMBIT DECLINED, EXCHANGE VARIATION

This was an away match for my Southampton B team at the Fareham club, against their best A team that includes a FIDE Master. Luckily I didn't have to play that one.

After I had completely turned the tables on Mr Edwards, despite his being the exchange and a pawn up and his 30 grading point superiority over me—he was 169—the poor man was literally shaking with shock and the inescapable sense of impending doom. Upon losing the game he declared it to be, “An unbelievable game”! I take no pleasure in hurting a player personally, although I am naturally happy to get the better of his pieces. In a different situation I would rather offer him a cup of tea and a listening ear.

I always say that chess at serious level requires emotional self-control, as well as good, long mental concentration. It is easy to feel overconfident and relax our vigilance when a game is going our way. It is easy to feel hopeless when rolling downhill, and thus to stop the search for chances to climb back up or at least to stop any further decline. On this occasion I kept a cool head and a hopeful heart. I spied some good moves worth trying, and they worked very well indeed.

Diagram comments: Black made a mistake in exchanging queens with 36...Qxf6 thus allowing my e-pawn to promote. Black's best bet was to keep equal chances with either 36...h5 or 36...Rxb2.

1. d4	Nf6	19. f4	Nxe5	34. Qf6	Rc2+
2. c4	e6	20. fxe5	Qg6	35. Kf1	Bd3+
3. Nc3	d5	21. Ref1	Bd7	36. Ke1	
4. cxd5	exd5	22. Be2?	Nxg3!	See diagram.	
5. Bg5	c6	<i>Clever. If 23. Kxg3, 23...f4+ wins.</i>	36. . .	Qxf6??	
6. e3	Nbd7	23. Qb3	Nxf1	See diagram comments above.	
7. Bd3	h6	24. Rxf1	b6	37. exf6	Rgc7
8. Bh4	Be7	25. Bf3	Be6	38. f7	Rc8
9. Qc2	0-0	26. Qc2	Rf7	39. f8=Q+	Rxf8
10. h3	Re8	27. Ne2	Raf8	40. Rxf8+	Kg7
11. Nf3	Ne4	28. Ng3	g4	41. Rg8+	Kh7
12. Bxe7	Qxe7	29. hxg4	Qg5?	42. Ne4	h5
13. 0-0	f5	30. gxf5??	Bxf5	43. Nf6+	Kh6
14. Rae1	Rf8	31. Qxc6	Rg7	44. e4	Rxb2
15. g3	g5	32. Bxd5+	Kh8	45. Bf7	Re2+
16. Kg2	Ndf6	33. Rf3	Rc8?	46. Kd1	Rf2
17. Ne5	Qe6	<i>This lets Black's big advantage slip away. 33...Qh4!! would have conquered me.</i>	47. Rg6#	Checkmate!	
18. Rh1	Nd7			1-0	

GAME 47

The Happy Pawn

White: David Bell Black: Gillian Moore

Southampton Club Championship
8th November 2005



How to deal with the threatened rook

White to play 18. ?

GAME 47

The Happy Pawn

White: **David Bell** Black: **Gillian Moore**

Southampton Club Championship
8th November 2005

RÉTI OPENING, KINGS INDIAN ATTACK

Dave Bell, then graded 164, was the club champion, and this is the only time that I managed to beat him, and in style!

In chess as in life, material value is not the only worth. Happiness, health and potential count for a lot. In the opening, I let him have a pawn, continued developing and gained a good pair of bishops versus his bishop and knight. He soon had to give back his pawn, giving me an advanced passed pawn. I went on to win great deal more, although I admit to being ‘lucky’ as we both missed better moves.

Diagram comments: It was not good to allow Black to give check at b6. If I were White I would play 18. Rd5 getting my threatened rook active, and keeping my extra pawn.

“Pawns are the soul of chess” ~ Philidor

1. Nf3	d5	15. Qc2	Qa5	24. Rdc1	Rc8
2. g3	c5	16. Rfd1?	Bf5	25. a4	a5
3. Bg2	Nf6	<i>I missed 16...Rxb2 for an immediate advantage.</i>		26. Bd3	c2
4. 0-0	Nc6	17. e4	Bg4	<i>My passed pawn has almost reached the heights of his endeavour.</i>	
5. d4	cxd4	<i>See diagram.</i>		27. Kg1	Rc3
6. Nxd4	e5	18. f3?		28. Be2	Ba2
7. Nxc6	bxc6	<i>See diagram comments above.</i>		29. Kf2	Rb1
8. c4	Be7	18... Qb6+?		30. Raxb1	cxb1=Q
9. Bg5	Be6	19. Kh1	Qxb2	<i>Happiness: the pinnacle of success! Who says that the pawn is the chessman of least value?</i>	
10. Nc3	e4	20. Qxb2	Rxb2	White resigns.	
11. Qa4	0-0	21. Nd5	Be6	0-1	
12. Qxc6	dxc4?	22. Bf1	c3		
<i>12...Rc8 would have been stronger giving even chances.</i>		<i>The ‘humble’ pawn has big aims and the goal is within sight.</i>			
13. Bxf6	Bxf6	23. Nxf6+	gxf6		
14. Qxe4	Rb8				

GAME 48

Rooks Roll Along

White: Gillian Moore Black: John Rety

*British Seniors Championship, Great Yarmouth
5th August 2007*



The Black queen is feeling exposed

White to play 35. ?

GAME 48

Rooks Roll Along

White: Gillian Moore Black: John Rety

British Seniors Championship, Great Yarmouth
5th August 2007

SLAV DEFENCE

There are times when I feel sorry for my opponent, and I did so for Mr Rety. As ever, with chess opponents, my malevolence was restricted towards his pieces. His loss to me was his third in a row. The score chart showed a result for him that resembles queenside castling (0-0-0)! I know how depressing this can be. The next day the disappointed player had withdrawn from the tournament.

I knew that my opening move 3. c5 was very unorthodox, but it was a change from hackneyed old lines. I came out of the opening well. I have actually never played it since, as I think that the more usual moves in this line of the Slav are objectively better.

After he grabbed my offered b-pawn on move 34, my magic rooks really came into their own. Rooks are mysterious pieces with a double identity. They look like castles and often behave as such, as in castling the king to safety. However, rooks can suddenly transform to a most contrasting role, rolling freely along ranks and files like chariots*. In this game, they certainly behaved as such and they contributed hugely to winning the game.

1. d4	d5	19. Qc2	Bd7	32. . .	Qxa5
2. c4	c6	20. b5	Rc8	33. Nac6	Qb6
3. c5	e5	21. a4	c5	34. Qd4	Qxb5
4. e3	Qc7	22. Ba2	c4	<i>See diagram.</i>	
5. Qc2	f5	23. Rfd1	Rcf8	35. Ra1!	Qb7
6. dxe5	Qxe5	24. f4?		36. Rb2	Qc7
7. Nf3	Qc7	<i>Weakens the squares, e3 and e4.</i>		37. Ra7	Qd6
8. b4	Be7	24. . .	Re8	38. Rb6	Qf8
9. Bd3	Bf6	25. Kf2	Qc5	39. Rbb7	Nf7
10. Bb2	Bxb2	26. N2f3	Qa3	40. Ne7+	Kh8
11. Qxb2	Nh6	27. Ne5	Bc8	41. Nxd5	Rd8?
12. 0-0	0-0	<i>Better was 27...Nf7 pressuring</i>		<i>41...Bxd5 and black lives on.</i>	
13. Nbd2	Nd7	<i>white's limited control of the e-file.</i>		42. Nd7	Rxd7
14. Rac1	Ng4	28. Ndc6	Be6	43. Rxd7	Bxd7
15. Bb1	b6	29. a5	Na4	44. Nxf6	gxf6
16. h3	Nh6	30. Nxa7	Nb2?	45. Qxf6+	Kg8
17. Nd4	Rf6	31. Rd2	Qxa2?	46. Rxd7	
18. cxb6	Nxb6	32. Qxb2?		Black resigns.	
		<i>White should protect her a-pawn.</i>		1-0	

* In chess, the word rook comes from the Persian word *rukh*, meaning a chariot. Chess as we know it originates from the ancient Indian strategy game of *chaturanga*, meaning four-armed. This refers to the four aspects of the ancient Indian army, in which the royalty had chariots, elephants, horsemen and foot soldiers. The foot soldiers have become the pawns, the horsemen are the knights, and the elephants have somehow turned into bishops!

GAME 49

Getting Even with One's Betters

White: Gillian Moore Black: Mateusz Dydak

*Buckinghamshire v Hampshire
Chiltern Chess League, Open Team, Holmer Green
28th January 2012*



What to do about that g-pawn.

Black to play 4...?

GAME 49

Getting Even with One's Betters

White: Gillian Moore Black: Mateusz Dydak

Buckinghamshire v Hampshire
Chiltern Chess League, Open Team, Holmer Green
28th January 2012

DUTCH DEFENCE, STAUNTON GAMBIT

Hampshire, my team, was away to Buckinghamshire for this match, and they out-graded us on various boards.

The classical move in the Staunton Gambit is 4. Bg5. This is the first time I played the aggressive 4. g4 Tartakower line of the Staunton Gambit. Mr Dydak, graded ECF 187, studied the board for at least 20 minutes before replying to my cheeky pawn move. His dilemma was what to do about that menacing g-pawn threatening to push his f6 knight back home?

Because of my being within the last 5 minutes to finish, the last few moves were not recorded. Due to dangerously hanging flags we agreed a draw, as better than one of us losing by a pesky flag drop!

Diagram comments: Also worth considering are any of 4...e6, 4...d5 or 4...h6. Examples of 4...h6 are given in the next two Games. I would not like to give a definitive answer as to which is best.

1. d4	f5	21. dxe5	dxe5	34. b4	Kc7
2. e4	fxe4	22. Bc4	Bd6	35. c4	a5
3. Nc3	Nf6	23. Bf7	e4	36. b5	cxb5
4. g4		24. Rd1	Qe7	37. cxb5	Nd7
See diagram.		25. Qg4+	Kb8	38. Re4	Nf6
4. . .	c6	26. Bxd6	Rxd6	39. Rf4?	
See diagram comments above.		27. Rxd6	Qxd6	Another powerful attacking	
5. g5	Nd5	28. Rd1	Qf6	opportunity missed with White's	
6. Nxe4	d6	29. Qxe4	Qxf2	rook on the 7 th rank: 39. Re7+	
7. c3	Bf5	30. Qd4		Kb8, 40. Bb3 Rc8+, 41. Kb2 Rc7,	
8. Bd3	Qd7			42. Rf7 etc.	
9. Ne2	Na6	30. Qe5 was better. The passed		39. . .	Nd7
10. N2g3	e6	pawn on g6 would augur very		40. Ra4	b6
11. Qe2	Bxe4	well for White after 30...Qxh4,		41. Re4	Kd6
12. Nxe4	Nac7	31. Qxg7. Black's h6 pawn would		42. Re6+	Kc5
13. Bd2	0-0-0	lose the passed pawn race!		43. a4.	Kb4
14. 0-0-0	Ne7	30. . .	Qxd4	44. Re4+	Ka3
15. Bf4	Nf5	31. Rxd4	Kc8	45. Kd2	Nc5
16. h4	Be7	32. Kd2	Ne8?	46. Rf4	Rc8
17. Rde1	e5	33. Kc2?		47. Rc4	Rd8+
18. Ng3	Nxg3	White could have made much		48. Kc2	
19. Bxg3	h6	better progress with 33. Be6+		Draw agreed some	
20. g6	Rhf8	Kc7, 34. Rd7+ Kb6, 35. Rf7 Rh8		moves later.	
		and Black's g-pawn will fall.		1/2-1/2	
		33. . .	Nf6		

GAME 50

Flamboyant Fun

White: Gillian Moore Black: Michael Roberts

*Southampton Club Championship
22nd April 2014*



A crucial decision

Black to play 32...?

GAME 50

Flamboyant Fun

White: Gillian Moore Black: Michael Roberts

Southampton Club Championship
22nd April 2014

DUTCH DEFENCE, STAUNTON GAMBIT

Michael is another former valued member of the Southampton club and my B team, who has now sadly passed away.

Gung-ho, off to battle we go! In this daring and double-edged game with both our kings on the run, I showed myself to be more dangerous than danger. Once again my fancy foxy Tartakower 4. g4 line made good.*

A player with a more cautious style who stood watching my play thought it to be “not much of a game”. Really? I loved it and it worked, even finishing off with a pleasing queen trap! I realise that my flashy style of play here would not suit everyone, I had some oversights and my opponent missed stronger moves, but hey we are not grandmasters.

Diagram comments: Black should have heeded his queen’s danger. He would have done better to attack White’s queen with 32...Na4 or even better, it seems, with 32...Ng4 immediately challenging the enemies intent upon dark doings!

1. d4	f5	16. Qd3	Nh5+	29. Bf4	g6
2. e4	fxe4	17. Kf2	e6	30. Rb1	Ba5
3. Nc3	Nf6	18. Nge2	Nd7	31. Rb3	Nb6
4. g4	h6	19. Bg3	Bd6	32. Ng3	
5. f3	d5	<i>Development, the best way to take advantage of White’s poorly defended king.</i>		<i>See diagram.</i>	
6. g5	hxg5	20. Bh4+	Kc8	32. . . .	Rh8??
7. Bxg5	exf3?	21. Bg5	Rf8	<i>See diagram comments above.</i>	
<i>This just played into my hands, allowing access to Black’s vulnerable g6 square. Better for Black was 7...Nc6, 8. Qd2 Bf5, etc.</i>		22. Qe3	Nhf6	33. Nxf5!	exf5
8. Qd3!	f2+	23. Ke1		34. Be2!	
9. Kxf2	Ng4+	<i>White’s king is running scared now, but is none too safe where he tries to hide!</i>		<i>The queen now has no escape from her captors.</i>	
10. Kg3	Qd6+	23. . . .	Bb4	34. . . .	Qxc3
11. Bf4	Qc6	24. Kd1	Bg6	35. Rxc3	Bxc3
12. Bg2	Nf6	25. a3	Ba5	36. Qxc3	Ne4??
13. Qg6+	Kd8	26. b4	Bb6	<i>Distracted by having just lost his queen, my opponent missed my immediate threat of checkmate at his c7.</i>	
14. Bf3	Bd7	27. b5	Qc4	And Black resigns.	
15. Be5	Be8	28. Rg1	Bf5	1-0	

* The Tartakower line of the Staunton Gambit is explained by GM Nigel Davies in the ‘FOXY # 61 – Fighting Chess DVD Series: Dirty Tricks # 2’, available from Chess and Bridge at <https://shop.chess.co.uk/Foxy-Openings-DVDs-s/1827.htm>

GAME 51

‘Zugzwang’: the Compulsion to Move

White: Gillian Moore Black: Andrew Hill

*Buckinghamshire v Hampshire
Chiltern Chess League. Holmer Green
5th April 2008*



Black's end is nigh!

White to move 27. ?

GAME 51

‘Zugzwang’: the Compulsion to Move

White: Gillian Moore Black: Andrew Hill

*Buckinghamshire v Hampshire
Chiltern Chess League. Holmer Green
5th April 2008*

STONEWALL ATTACK

I was playing for Hampshire county, as usual, and it was an Under 180 team away to Buckinghamshire. What journeys some of us keen players undertake for a game of chess!

The Stonewall Attack is opening that is easy to remember and play. The dark-squared pawns at d4, e3, f4 and c3 form a solid protective wall for White, and they afford a good grip on the centre.

If all goes to plan, key squares for White’s pieces include: the king’s bishop gets posted at d3 and the king’s knight settles on the strong e5 square. White also aims for an e4 pawn break where desirable, opening up the power of his (or her) queen’s bishop, temporarily hindered by the pawn wall structure, to join in the attack. All these features and many more are seen in this game.

Diagram Comments: It was complex to work out, but Fritz tells me that 27. Ng5!! would give White a winning advantage!

1. d4	d5	17. Qg4	Nf8	33. Bxh7+
2. e3	Nf6	18. Nf3		<i>Less obvious, 33. h6 wins a</i>
3. Bd3	e6	<i>Opening up a double bishop</i>		<i>piece!</i>
4. Nd2	c5	<i>battery against the kingside.</i>		33. . . . Kxh7
5. c3	c4	18. . . . Qe8		34. Qxf7 Be8
<i>This weakens Black’s grip on the</i>		19. Bh6 Ng6		35. Qf3 Qd7
<i>centre and helps White’s e4</i>		20. Bd2 Ra7		36. g4 Bf7
<i>expansion.</i>		21. Rf1 b4		37. Kf2 Qe7
6. Bc2	Nc6	<i>A queenside counter-attack.</i>		38. Kg3 g6
7. f4	Be7	22. h4 b3		39. hxg6+ Bxg6
8. Ngf3	O-O	23. axb3 cxb3		40. Qf6 Qxf6
9. O-O	b5	24. Bd3 a4		41. exf6 Bf7
10. Ne5	Nxe5	25. h5 Nh8?		42. Kf4 Kg6
<i>My annoying knight is exchanged</i>		26. Bh6 Bf8?		43. Ke5 Bg8
<i>but my very useful f-file is opened</i>		<i>See diagram.</i>		44. g5 Bf7?
<i>up for rooks! My power potential</i>		27. Bc1		45. Kd6 Bg8??
<i>continues.</i>		<i>See diagram comments above.</i>		46. Ke7
11. fxe5	Ne8	27. . . . Be7		<i>Black has no move not ending in</i>
12. e4	a5	28. Ng5 Bxg5		<i>disaster. All hope is lost. He is in</i>
13. Rf3	f5	29. Qxg5 Rf7		<i>zugzwang.</i>
14. exf6 ep	Rxf6	30. Rxf7 Nxf7		Black resigns.
15. Rxf6	Nxf6	31. Qh4 Qc6		1-0
16. e5	Nd7	32. Qe7 Bd7?		

GAME 52

Play the Person, Not the Grade!

White: Gillian Moore Black: Andrew Footner

Premier Tournament, Devon Congress

Paignton

7th September 2009



Do not be pushed around!

Black to play 16...?

GAME 52

Play the Person, Not the Grade!

White: Gillian Moore Black: Andrew Footner

Premier Tournament, Devon Congress

Paignton

7th September 2009

STONEWALL ATTACK

I had to do some fresh thinking, as my opponent's play didn't allow my usual opening moves. For an example of how I played the Stonewall Attack opening the way I like, see the previous game 52.

My opponent played the opening well so as to counteract my usual Stonewall set-up—his 2...g6 immediately blunts the power of my anticipated d3 bishop attacking his king in due course, after he has castled kingside. After swapping off my good d3 bishop, I was left with my undeveloped 'bad' bishop compared with his good fianchettoed bishop. However I improved and by move 24 he was in serious trouble, then he blundered badly.

Mr Footner was graded 180, as opposed to my then modest 144, but I do not let myself be overawed by apparent big differences of playing strength. It would be over-imaginative to suggest that a grandmaster can be beaten by a patzer, but a reasonably strong club player has been known to beat a very strong club player as I sometimes do. Besides, don't worry, it can't be worse than fatal, ha ha!

Diagram comments: White is thinking about pushing the knight back and gaining space with 17. d5, which is what was allowed to happen in the game. If I were Black, I would give a shove of my own with 16...d5, pushing the white queen away and stopping White's central expansion nonsense! If the white queen goes 17. Qxd5, then Black regains the pawn with 17...Nxd4.

1. d4	d5	8. Bxf5	Nxf5	18. Bc3	Rfe8
2. e3	g6	9. Nb3	Nd6	19. Bxg7+	Kxg7
Another way to interfere with		10. 0-0	f6	20. Ng5	Rac8
White's Stonewall plan is by		11. Nc5	Qc8	21. Qd4+	Kg8
2...Nc6, intending a nice freeing		12. e4	dxe4	Black has trapped his own knight.	
move 3...e5, and also Black can		13. Nxe4	f5	22. Rae1	c6?
play 3...Nb4 attacking White's		14. Nxd6	exd6	22...c5 was necessary.	
bishop if 3.Bd3 is played.		15. Qc4+	Kh8	23. c4	cxd5
3. Nd2	Bg7	16. Bd2		24. cxd5	Qb5??
4. f4	Nh6	See diagram.		25. Qf6!!	
5. Bd3	Bf5	16...	Qd7	Black resigns.	
6. Qe2	0-0	See diagram comments above.		1-0	
7. Ngf3	Nc6	17. d5	Ne7		

Remember: Play the person, not the grade. Grades fluctuate and can be deceptive. Every game is a fresh chance. Keep calm and go for it with aplomb!

GAME 53

Bogey Player No More

White: Gillian Moore Black: Chris Priest

Southampton B v Passed Pawn B
Southampton Chess League
31st January 2012



Gaining momentum

White to play 16. ?

GAME 53

Bogey Player No More

White: Gillian Moore Black: Chris Priest

Southampton B v Passed Pawn B
Southampton Chess League
31st January 2012

TROMPOWSKY ATTACK*

What used to be called the Passed Pawn club is now the Hamble club. This was a home match at Southampton club for my Southampton B team against Hamble B.

Chris is a friend and colleague who kindly gives me lifts to committee meetings and matches. He is currently the President of the Hampshire Chess Association, Vice-Chairman of the Southampton Chess League and was a teammate for Gosport in the Portsmouth and District Chess League; Gosport has withdrawn its team from competition this current season.

As an opponent, for years Chris always beat me. Here I got him at last, and fear was a thing of the past. The spell is broken; there is no bogey. After his unwise queen move, 15...Qd6, his position collapsed and I soon had him all tied up and 'tromped'. Nothing personal of course!

1. d4	Nf6	13. Rc1	17. Qxb5+ Kf8?
2. Bg5	h6	<i>Black is hoping to keep the centre closed whilst attacking down the g-file. However, logical for White was now 13.e4! breaking open the centre leaving Black's king vulnerable.</i>	17...Qd7 was necessary, although 18. Rxc8+ Nxc8, 19. Qc5 Nd6, 20. Qxa7 for example, and White still has the advantage.
<i>Black wasted a tempo as I was likely to capture the f6 knight anyway in order to double his f-pawns. More usual moves here are any of 2...d5, 2...e6, 2...Ne4 or 2...c5.</i>		13. . . Ne7	18. Rxc8+! Nxc8
3. Bxf6	gxf6	14. Qb3	19. Qxb7 Nb6
4. e3	d5	15. Bh3	20. Rc1 Qe7
5. c4	c6	<i>Better for Black would have been 15...Qb6 or 15...f5. See diagram.</i>	21. Rc7 Qe8
6. Nc3	e6	16. Nb5	22. a4
7. g3	Bg7	<i>The e6 pawn is pinned against the rook on c8, so 16.Ncxd5 and 16.e4 are both good alternatives.</i>	<i>White threatens to push the b6 knight away followed by a fatal white queen check at b4. There is no defence against material loss, at least.</i>
8. cxd5	cxd5	16. . . Bxb5	Black resigns.
9. Bg2	Nc6		1-0
10. Nge2	Bd7		
11. 0-0	Rc8		
12. Nf4	Rg8?		

* The main books I have on this attacking repertoire are:

~ by Richard Palliser, 'Starting Out: the Trompowsky attack', Gloucester Publishers plc 2009 (formerly Everyman Publishers plc).

~ 'by Richard Pert, *Playing the Trompowsky: An Attacking Repertoire*', Publishers Quality Chess UK, first edition 2013

GAME 54

A Pleasing Finish

White: Gillian Moore Black: James Nicolson

*British Seniors Championship, Torquay
9th August 2013*



Threat and counter-threat

Black to play 39...?

GAME 54

A Pleasing Finish

White: Gillian Moore Black: James Nicolson

British Seniors Championship, Torquay
9th August 2013

TROMPOWSKY ATTACK

Mr Nicolson twice offered me a draw, but I played on as an even-looking position is not the same thing as a draw.

Fortunately for me, my opponent made a bad choice on move 38, and an even worse one on move 39 in a tricky position that was easy to trip up over. His position then fell to pieces with a pleasing finish for me.

1. d4	Nf6	<i>I refused the draw offer hoping for</i>	36. Rc2	Qd7
2. Bg5	Ne4	<i>better things to come.</i>	37. gxh6	gxh6
3. h4	d5	18. Bxd6	cxd6	38. Rc4
4. Nd2	Nd6	19. Rac1	Rhe8	b5?
<i>Black probably didn't like the</i>		20. f4	Be4	<i>This unwise move allowed fresh</i>
<i>alternatives of either exchanging</i>		21. Bxe4	dxe4	<i>air to circulate into the stuffy</i>
<i>his knight for my bishop on g5,</i>		22. Kc2	Kb8	<i>position! 38...Kb7 or 38...Ka8</i>
<i>giving me a nice semi-open h-file,</i>		23. Kb1	b6	<i>would have kept equal chances.</i>
<i>or allowing me to exchange</i>		24. h5	f5	39. Rc5!
<i>knight.</i>		25. g5		<i>See diagram.</i>
5. e3	Nc6	<i>White can gain space with a</i>	39. . . .	Nxe3??
6. Ngf3	h6	<i>promising centralised knight: 25.</i>		<i>Black might have survived with</i>
7. Bf4	Bf5	<i>gxf5 exf5, 26. d5 Ne7, 27. c4 Rf8,</i>		<i>either 39...b4 or 39...Kb7,</i>
8. c3		<i>28. Nd4.</i>		<i>although White would still have</i>
<i>Preventing a mischievous black</i>		25. . . .	Ne7	<i>the upper hand.</i>
<i>knight appearing on my b4!</i>		26. c4	Rc8	40. Qa5!
8. . . .	e6	27. Rhd1	Qb7	Nc4
9. Ne5	Ne7	28. Qd2	Red8	<i>If Black succumbs to the</i>
10. g4	Bh7	29. Qg2	Rg8	<i>temptation of taking the knight</i>
11. Bg2	f6	30. c5	dxg5	<i>with 40...Rxd4, he is punished</i>
12. Nef3	Qd7	31. dxc5	Nd5=	<i>with the loss of his queen after</i>
13. Qe2	0-0-0	32. Qd2	Rgd8	<i>41. Rxb5+.</i>
14. Nb3	Ne4	33. cxb6	Rxc1+	41. Rxb5+
15. Nfd2	Nxd2	34. Rxc1	axb6	Nb6
16. Kxd2	Nc6	35. Nd4	Rd6	42. Rxb6+
17. Bg3	Bd6=			Rxb6
				43. Qxb6+
				Kc8
				44. Qxe6
				Black resigns.
				1-0

GAME 55

Lion-Hearted, I Was Not

White: Gillian Moore Black: Robin Williams

*Southampton Club Championship,
28th March 2017*



Better than a perpetual check.

White to play 17. ?

GAME 55

Lion-Hearted, I Was Not

White: Gillian Moore Black: Robin Williams

Southampton Club Championship,
28th March 2017

TROMPOWSKY ATTACK

Apart from being a valued member of my club B team, Robin does a lot for chess. He holds office as both treasurer and webmaster of the Southampton Chess League. He is also one of the organisers of the annual Southampton Rapidplay tournament.

After this game he declared that he was “busted”. However, I didn't have the confidence of finding the right continuation as the position looked cluttered and complex. Besides, I was in the lead in the club championship, and couldn't afford to lose. I thought it prudent, therefore, to force the draw. On reflection, I was faint-hearted wasn't I?

Diagram comments: Oh Gillian, fancy your offering a draw in this position! You clearly should have played on with 17. Qc6 giving you a distinct advantage, or even better 17. Ndc4! Bxd6; 18. Nxd6 and so on for a winning game.

1. d4	Nf6	8. Nbd2	Na6	14. Qb5+!	Kd8
2. Bg5	e6	9. c3	b6	15. Nc6+	
3. e4	h6	10. d5	d6?	<i>White is attacking with just two pieces whilst there are another 4 at the back just waiting for their chance to join in!</i>	
4. Bxf6	Qxf6	11. 0-0-0		<i>15. Ndc4 g6, 16. Qc6 Rb8, 17. Rxd5 Rh7 etc.</i>	
<i>I am prepared to give up my bishop for his knight in this line after my 3.e4 (if he replies 3...h6), knowing that his queen will not be well-placed on f6, as shown here.</i>		<i>White could have played 11. Qb5+ Kd8, 12. Qc6 Rb8, 13. exd6 exd5, 14. Bxa6 Bxd6, 15. Bxc8 and White emerges a piece up.</i>		15. . . .	Ke8
5. Nf3	c5	11. . . .	Nc7	16. Ne5+	Kd8
6. e5	Qg6	12. exd6	Nxd5?	<i>See diagram.</i>	
<i>Alternatively Black could have retreated his queen, 6...Qd8.</i>		<i>This should lose quickly.</i>		17. Nc6+=	
7. Qd3	f5	13. Ne5!	Qf6	<i>See diagram comments above.</i>	
				Draw agreed.	
				1/2-1/2	

GAME 56

Seizing the Moment

White: Gillian Moore Black: Peter Dallas

Major tournament, Castle Chess Congress

Fareham

30th September 2017



Go after that king!

Black to play 33...?

GAME 56

Seizing the Moment

White: Gillian Moore Black: Peter Dallas

Major tournament, Castle Chess Congress

Fareham

30th September 2017

TROMPOWSKY ATTACK

Maybe I was foolish to castle kingside, allowing the opponent to marshal his forces down the files at my trembling king in his crumbling castle, but Black with inadvertent kindness allowed me to defend myself. Our endgame play left something to be desired, I suspect due to the time control.

Diagram comments: The move that Peter played unshackled my chains, and the position looked even chances. Sometimes the obvious move is the best—Black should have seized the chance of realizing a won game with 33...fxg3, and further very strong moves would present themselves!

1. d4	Nf6	24. . .	Rg5	43. Ng3	Rh4
2. Bg5	b6	25. Rab1	Rhh5	44. Rc2	e4?
3. Nd2	Bb7	26. Ne3	Bh3	<i>Black should be playing for a draw with his passed e4-pawn counter-balancing the h-pawn. This advance will just lose it.</i>	
4. Ngf3	c5	27. Rfe1	hxg3	45. Kf1	Bd4
5. e3	cxd4	28. fxg3	f5	46. Kg2	Rf4
6. exd4	h6	29. Bf1	Bxf1	47. Re2	e3
7. Bxf6	gxf6	30. Nxf1	f4	48. Nf1	Rf2+?
8. c3	Nc6	31. b4	Qg7	<i>Black needs to keep his pieces.</i>	
9. Bd3	Qc7	32. Qe4	Rh3	49. Rxf2	exf2
10. Qe2	e5?	33. Rb2?		50. Nd2	Kd7
<i>This gives Black a backwards d-pawn; a long-lasting structural disadvantage.</i>		<i>White should play 33. Rb3 for more protection to her king. See diagram.</i>		51. Ne4	Bc5?
11. d5	Ne7	33. . .	Qh6?	52. Nxf2	
12. c4	Bg7	<i>See diagram comments above.</i>		<i>Taking the bishop first would have won more quickly!</i>	
13. Nh4	0-0-0	34. Rg2	fxg3	52. . .	Ba3
14. Ne4	d6	35. Rxg3	Be7	53. h4	Ke7
15. Qg4+	f5	36. Qg2	Rgxg3	54. Kf3	Kf6
16. Nxf5	Nxf5	37. Nxc3	Bg5	55. h5	Bc5?
17. Qxf5+	Kb8	38. Nf5	Qh5	56. Ne4+!	Ke5
18. Qg4	f6	39. Qe2?		57. Nxc5	bxc5
19. Ng3	Rdg8	<i>White should play 39. Rf1 for a distinct advantage. The text should lose a piece after 39...Qg6, 40. Ng3 Bh4, and so on.</i>		58. a4	Kf5
20. Qe2	Bc8	39. . .	Qxe2	59. a5	Kg5
21. Qc2	Bf8	40. Rxe2	Kc7	60. b6	
22. 0-0	h5	41. Rg2	Rh5	Black resigns.	
23. Nf5	h4	42. b5	Bf6	1-0	
24. g3?					

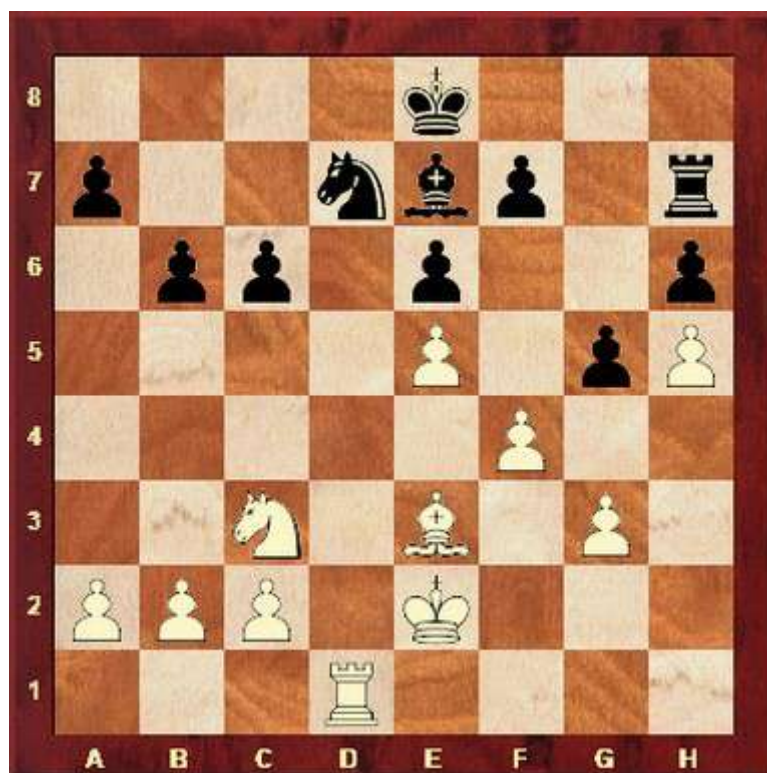
More potent was 24. a4 or 24. b4 starting my own aggression towards Black's king.

GAME 57

The Octopus Grip

White: Gillian Moore Black: Robin Atkins

Southampton B v Winchester A
Southampton Chess League
28th November 2017



Watch out, there's an octopus about!

Black to play 21...?

GAME 57

The Octopus Grip

White: **Gillian Moore** Black: **Robin Atkins**

Southampton B v Winchester A
 Southampton Chess League
 28th November 2017

TROMPOWSKY ATTACK

My usual Southampton B team was hosting the visiting team, Winchester A, at our club.

I had been reading about how fine a square d6 can be for a white knight, with its 'tentacles' all around the enemy like those of an octopus. So, I aimed for it, did it and my 23. Nd6+ move led to the win!

Diagram comments: If I were Black I would prevent that 'octopus' knight from getting too near me. There might be other ways to do it, but I would play 21...f5 to stop the White knight from getting up close and personal on d6 via the e4-square.

1. d4	Nf6	12. Bxh7	Qxd1+	21. . .	Rg7?
2. Bg5	Ne4	13. Rxd1	Rxh7	<i>See diagram comments above.</i>	
3. h4	h6	<i>The black rook is out of play here.</i>		22. Ne4	f5?
4. Bf4	d6	<i>He will be missed back home by his king and fellow rook.</i>		<i>Black could try 22...gxf4 for instance.</i>	
5. Nd2	Bf5	14. Ne2	Be7	23. Nd6+	Bxd6
6. Nxe4	Bxe4	15. Nc3	c6	<i>Had Black ignored the 'Octopus' knight and played 23. Kd8, White would still gain material starting with 24. Nxf5, followed by 25. e6.</i>	
7. f3	Bh7	<i>Conceding control of the d6 square to White. 15...a6 would be the better way to prevent a white knight landing on b5.</i>		24. Rxd6	gxf4
8. e4	Nd7	16. g3	Rd8	25. Bxf4	Ke7
9. e5		17. Ke2	Rxd1	26. Rxc6	Nb8?
<i>Perhaps premature? Some players might prefer to develop more pieces first before this central advance, but I didn't want Black to challenge me with his own 9...e5.</i>		18. Rxd1	g5	27. Rc7+	Kf8??
9. . .	dxe5	19. Be3	b6?	28. Bxh6	
10. dxe5	e6	20. h5	Nd7	<i>What a lovely finish!</i>	
11. Bd3	Nc5	21. f4		Black resigns	
		<i>See diagram.</i>		1-0	

GAME 58

The Poisoned Plan

White: Gillian Moore Black: Simon Pearson

Southampton Club Championship
12th December 2017



Stand firm oh king!

Black to play 37...?

GAME 58

The Poisoned Plan

White: Gillian Moore Black: Simon Pearson

Southampton Club Championship
12th December 2017

TROMPOWSKY ATTACK

We have all heard of poisoned pawns, but what about a poisoned plan? I had one and, alas for my opponent, he swallowed it after which his king didn't feel very well! He should have stood tall and firm where he was, not wandered off.

By playing 37...Kf4, Black thinks that after I capture his e-pawn his king can go after my h-pawn with 38...Kg3. Alas for my opponent, I had provoked him into this line of thought, the folly of which he discovered immediately afterwards to his horror.

1. d4	Nf6	17. Qg3	Ne6	32. Nc5	e3+
2. Bg5	g6	18. Rad1	Qc7?	33. Ke2	b6
3. Bxf6	exf6	19. Qxc7		34. Nd3	Ke6
4. e4	Bg7			35. g4?!	
5. Bc4	0-0	<i>What a simple oversight! I could have won the knight with 19. Rxe6 for a clear and easy advantage!</i>		<i>35.c4 was the move to play, keeping the black king from penetrating through the queen-side where White has a winning preponderance of pawns. E.g. 35. c4 Kf5, 36. Kf3 Ke6, 37. Nf4+ Kf7, 38. Kxe3 and White should win.</i>	
6. Ne2	d6	19. . . .	Nxc7	35. . . .	Kd5
7. 0-0	f5	20. a4	Re6	36. Nb2	Ke4
<i>A sound strategic plan by Black to get rid of his doubled f-pawns and open up the power of his king's bishop.</i>		21. Rxe6	Nxe6	37. Nd1	
8. exf5	Bxf5	22. g3	f6	<i>See diagram.</i>	
9. c3	Nc6	23. f4	Kf7	37. . . .	Kf4?
10. Ng3	Qf6	24. f5	Nc7	<i>He could have retained parity with any of 37...a6, a5 or b5.</i>	
<i>If I were Black, I would keep the bishop pair advantage by retreating the bishop to 10...Bd7.</i>		25. Re1	Re8	38. Nxe3	Kg3?
11. Nxf5	Qxf5	26. Rxe8	Nxe8	39. h5!!	
12. Bd3	Qd7	27. h4	Bh6	<i>If 39...gxh5, 40. Nf5+ wins the bishop and endgame</i>	
13. Nd2	d5	28. Nb3	Nd6	Black resigns.	
14. Qf3	Rfe8	29. fxg6+	hxg6		
15. b4	Nd8	30. Kf2	Ne4+?		
16. Rfe1	c6	<i>Better is 30...f5, with a good grip on e4 in preparation for posting his knight there.</i>		1-0	
		31. Bxe4	dxe4		

GAME 59

The More Bizarre the Better?

White: Gillian Moore Black: David Ross (Snr)

*Portsmouth v Southampton
Portsmouth and District Chess League, Cole Cup
21st March 2018*



Black's bishop has the fidgets

Black to play 7...?

GAME 59

The More Bizarre the Better?

White: Gillian Moore Black: David Ross (Snr)

Portsmouth v Southampton
Portsmouth and District Chess League, Cole Cup
21st March 2018

TROMPOWSKY ATTACK

This Portsmouth and District League knockout tournament was played at the Portsmouth club. Our Southampton team travelled there.

My move 3. h4 looks strange, but it is the Trompowsky expert GM Julian Hodgson's creative choice and he has had a very high rate of success with it. I thought that one irregular move like that 7...f6, creating a pothole, could be met with some of mine: my subsequent kingside pawn storm.

I know it is against the usual guidelines for opening play, to push pawns up before hardly developing any pieces. The wisdom we all learned about good opening strategy still holds good, but the results of the game show that there can be exceptions to the rule. In this case, in view of his kingside weaknesses, I mused "the more bizarre the better"!

Diagram comments: The black bishop had a sense of unease, but Black would have done better with either 7...e6 or 7...h6 to secure the bishop's safety. With either of those reasonable moves, I would probably have replied 8. g4 to push his bishop back somewhat, but would then certainly continue with normal, good development.

"Learn the rules like a pro so that you can violate them like an artist" ~ Picasso

1. d4	Nf6	11. Bg2	17. 0-0	cx d4
2. Bg5	Ne4	<i>Black is very weak on the white squares now. Also promising</i>	18. ex d4	Qb6
3. h4	d5	<i>would have been the obvious 11. Bc4 threatening checkmate and causing a breach of the peace.</i>	19. Na4	Qxd4+
4. Nd2	Nxg5	11. . . . f5	<i>Black should not be exchanging queens even though it corrects the nominal material imbalance. With his bishop and rook trapped on the back rank, he is effectively 2 pieces down.</i>	
5. hxg5	Bf5	12. gx f5	20. Qxd4	Rxd4
6. e3	Nd7	13. Bh3	21. Nc5	e5
7. f4		<i>A wasted tempo. I was overcautious about defending my f5 pawn or my g4 square. His e4 pawn is weaker. Better was 13. Ne2 Qd5, 14. Ng3 c6, 15. c3 0-0-0, 16. Qc2 Kb8, 17. Bxe4 and White is 2 pawns up, for instance.</i>	22. Ne6	Be7??
See diagram.	f6?	13. . . . Qd5	<i>22...Bd6 was the move.</i>	
7. . . .		14. Ne2	23. fxe5!	
See diagram comments above.		15. Nc3	<i>Much better than winning the exchange with 23.Nxd4, when Black gets some counterplay with his central pawns.</i>	
8. g4	Be4	16. a3	Black resigns.	
9. Nxe4	dxe4		1-0	
10. g6				
<i>Playing g6, if suitable, is one of the aims of this line of the Trompowsky where Black has captured the g5 bishop and thus opened the h-file for White.</i>				
10. . . .	h6			

GAME 60

Houdini

White: Kevin Sawers Black: Gillian Moore

Major Tournament, Hampshire Congress
Eastleigh College
4th November 2017



Black is done for
White to play and win 30. ?

GAME 60

Houdini

White: Kevin Sawers Black: Gillian Moore

Major Tournament, Hampshire Congress
Eastleigh College
4th November 2017

VIENNA GAME

Kevin is a fellow member of my Southampton club, where he currently holds the office of Secretary.

In this game, how could I become an amazing escape artist after being roped, weighted down and thrown into deep water, so to speak? This was a delightful finish for me, albeit distasteful for my opponent, in the last round of the Hampshire Congress.

Diagram comments: When I tried coming up for air, so to speak, on move 29...Qg5, imagine my relief when my opponent let me breathe by swapping off queens, when he could have easily pushed me back under again with **30. Rfg6+!** whereupon would follow 30...Qxg6, 31. Bxg6 fxc6, 32. Rxc6+ with a distinct advantage to White!

1. e4	Nf6	14. fxe5	Rxe5	start creeping in with both
2. Nc3	e5	15. b4	Bb6	players.
3. g3	Bb4	16. Nxb6	axb6	29. Bf5 Qg5?
4. Bg2	0-0	17. Qf2	Qe8	29...Nf8 was Black's best
5. Nge2	Nc6	18. d4	Re7	kingside defence here,
		19. Nc3	d6	unravelling my bishop and with
<i>In the light of later turn of events,</i>				my rooks ready to 'rock and roll'.
<i>d6 was better now or soon,</i>		<i>At last, but it is a bit too late.</i>		Lively tactics with chances both
<i>supporting the centre and giving</i>		20. b5	Nd8	sides would ensue.
<i>Black more options for piece</i>		21. Nd5	Rd7	See diagram.
<i>development.</i>		22. Qe3	Ne6	30. Qxg5+?
6. 0-0	Re8	23. Rf6		See diagram comments above.
7. d3	h6			30. . . Nxg5
8. a3	Be7	<i>Flashy, but there were many</i>		31. Bxc8 Rxc8
9. f4	Bc5+	<i>better moves.</i>		32. Rxd6? Rxa3
10. Kh1	Ng4	23. . .	Qd8	Black has survived the attack with
11. Qe1	Ne3	24. Rxh6	c6	a material advantage.
12. Bxe3	Bxe3	25. Nf6+	gxf6	33. Rd7?? Ra1+
13. Nd5	Bc5?	26. Rf1	Qf8	33...cxb5 immediately was a
		27. Rfxf6	Qg7	much more effective way to win,
		28. Bh3	Rc7	but the good result counts more
<i>This poor move invited a storm of</i>				than the speed of it.
<i>misfortune to howl at me. His</i>		<i>White has not been finding the</i>		34. Kg2 cxb5
<i>pawns and pieces started</i>		<i>best attacking moves and Black</i>		35. Rxb7 Rxc2#
<i>battering my position. Better was</i>		<i>has been defending without</i>		0-1
<i>13...exf5 followed by retreating</i>		<i>making a mistake. Now the errors</i>		
<i>my bishop 14...Bb6.</i>				

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