

**WESTWARD
HO!**

EDITOR:

RICHARD W. RENDELL.

**THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE
FOR THE
WEST OF ENGLAND CHESS UNION**

MAY 1991

The Tin Cottage
Blounts Court Nurseries
Studley
Calne
Wiltshire

29 August 1991

Dear Reader,

I must apologise for the late receipt of this edition. I have had problems with my photocopier and this has resulted in the non production of Westward Ho's. I have now bought a new machine and am now able to print again. I had thought that I should revamp the May 91 edition but this will take more time and I felt that I had kept you waiting long enough.

Whilst writing, I think I should advise you that I am about to buy a house in Swindon. I will advise you in due course of my change of address and new telephone number. What with this and the start of the new chess season, I am going to be rather busy over the next few weeks. Having said this, I have promised myself that I will get another edition out by mid November 1991.

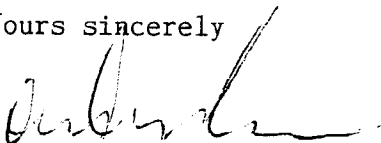
By the way, you will get the May 91 edition and 2 more for your subscription. I will then write again for renewed subscription.

Whilst writing, I would advise you the current BCF and WECU Grading lists are now on sale. BCF Price £8, WECU £2. They are slightly different. Unfortunately, the Bristol League Grader didn't get the Bristol League results to the BCF in time, resulting in these results not being included in the BCF Grading List. We have therefore got the BCF to include the Bristol League results and a new mastercopy printed. The new mastercopy has been used for the West of England List and is therefore slightly different to the BCF List, but actually more up to date.

Should you require a copy of either, please send me a cheque payable to "Westward Ho!"

Finally, I again apologise for the lack of editions over the past 12 months and the late receipt of the May 91 edition.

Yours sincerely



Richard W Rendell

W E C U JUNIOR JAMBOREE

This year's Junior Jamboree took place on Saturday 23 February 1991 at Ladymead School, Taunton and like the previous years was totally dominated by Hampshire whose Under 18s swept the board, scoring 12 out of 12. The other counties were left to score points off each other, resulting in Cornwall coming through to take second place and qualifying for the Minor Counties' place. Unfortunately, they felt the journey to Birmingham was too far and so Somerset were invited to represent the West of England.

The Girls' event was a three cornered contest, which was won easily by Hampshire, who qualified for the Under 18s Girl Championship, with Somerset, who finished second, qualifying for the Minor.

The Under 14's competition this year, as like last year, was split into two sections, an A and B section, and 2 rounds. For once, Hampshire were prevented from a clean sweep, as Wiltshire A stormed to victory and the trophy. A poor first round for Hampshire, only $2\frac{1}{2}$ from 8 points, left them with it all to do. $6\frac{1}{2}$ in round 2 lifted them from last to third. Devon finishing second.

In the B section, after round 1 Wilts lead by $1\frac{1}{2}$ points on 6 from 8 but a very poor second round saw them drop to third with Hampshire stealing in by half a point ahead of Devon. This tourney was the closest, with $1\frac{1}{2}$ points separating the top 4 teams.

Results:

	<u>Under 18</u>	<u>Under 18 Girls</u>	<u>Under 14 A</u>	<u>Under 14 B</u>
Cornwall	7	-	$4 + 3\frac{1}{2} = 7\frac{1}{2}$	
Devon	3	-	$4\frac{1}{2} + 5\frac{1}{2} = 10$	$2\frac{1}{2} + 6\frac{1}{2} = 9$
Dorset	3	-	$3 + 0 = 3$	
Glos	7	-	$5 + 3\frac{1}{2} = 8\frac{1}{2}$	$2\frac{1}{2} + 2\frac{1}{2} = 5$
Hampshire	12	5	$2\frac{1}{2} + 6\frac{1}{2} = 9$	$4\frac{1}{2} + 5 = 9\frac{1}{2}$
Somerset	6	4	$3 + 2\frac{1}{2} = 5\frac{1}{2}$	$4\frac{1}{2} + 3\frac{1}{2} = 8$
Wiltshire	4	0	$6 + 6\frac{1}{2} = 12\frac{1}{2}$	$6 + 2\frac{1}{2} = 8\frac{1}{2}$

National Final Results

	<u>Under 18 Major</u>	(out of 12)	<u>Under 18 Minor</u>	
1 Greater Manchester	$8\frac{1}{2}$		1 Oxfordshire	8
2 Surrey	$7\frac{1}{2}$		2 Northumberland	$7\frac{1}{2}$
3 Hampshire	$6\frac{1}{2}$		3 Somerset	$6\frac{1}{2}$
4 Lancashire	5		4 Bedfordshire	6
5 Suffolk	$2\frac{1}{2}$		5 Glamorgan	5
			6 Lincolnshire	3

<u>Girls</u>	<u>Under 18 Major</u>	(out of 6)	<u>Under 18 Minor</u>	
1 Middlesex	$4\frac{1}{2}$		1 Suffolk	5
2 Hampshire	$3\frac{1}{2}$		2 Somerset	2
3 Gwent	3		3 Lincolnshire	
4 Humberside	1			

Despite Hampshire's total domination of the Under 18 event, the standard of play was still very high with players going for the jugular from move 1.

Here is a sample of them:

M.Quinn v J.Thompson

1.e4 e5 ; 2.Nf3 Nc6 ; 3.Bc4 Bc5 ; 4.c3 Nf6 ; 5.d4 exd4 ; 6.cxd4 Bb4+ ; 7.Nc3 Nxe4 ; 8. 0-0 Bxc3 ;

The Giuoco Piano can be a very dangerous opening for Black unless he is very careful, playing the correct moves. These moves are all from one of the main lines. Black must find time to castle.

9.d5! Bf6! ; 10.Re1 Ne7 ; 11.Rxe4 d6 ;

Still all book although I wonder whether Black might be wise castling here, although 12.d6... can be awkward.

12.Bg5 Bxg5 ; 13.Nxg5 Bf5? ;

Black should have played 13...h6 ; where the book continues: 14.Qh5 0-0 ; 15.Rael Nf5 ; giving Black the advantage although White has compensation. The text move results in Black being unable to castle.

14.Bb5+ Kf8 ;

14...c6 ; 15.dxc6 0-0 ; 16.cxb7 Bxe4 ; 17.Nxe4 Rb8 ; 18.Nxd6... leaves White with a piece and 2 pawns for his rook but all the game. Instead he keeps the pressure on his opponent, but even this is short lived.

15.Qf3! h6 ; 16.Rael! c6 ; 17.Rxe7 hxg5 ; 18.Qxf5 Qxe7 ; 19.Rxe7 Kxe7 ; 20.Qxg5+ f6 ; 21.Qxg7+ Resigns.

The rook on h8 is lost.

D.Urwin v A.Greet

1.e4 e5 ; 2.Nf3 Nc6 ; 3.Bb5 a6 ; 4.Ba4 Nf6 ; 5.d4 d5!?;

Not mentioned in any of the books, but what an aggressive move! This game isn't going to last long!

6.Nxe5 Nxe4 ; 7.Nxc6 bxc6 ; 8.Bxc6+ Bd7 ; 9.Bxa8 Qxa8 ;

I gave Black a !? for his fifth move yet it would appear that he has boomed and given away the exchange. But he suckers his opponent into attacking the knight on e4.

10.Qe2 Bb5 ; 11.Qe3 Be7 ; 12.f3 Bg5! ; 13.f4 Bh4+ ; 14.g3 Bf6 ; 15.Nd2 0-0 ; 16.Nxe4 Re8! ; 17.Qf2 Rxe4+ ; 18.Kd1 Bxd4 ; 19.Qg2 Qe8 ; 20.c3 Re2 ; 21.Qxd5 Bxc3!! ; 22.Qxb5...

22.bxc3 Ba4+ ;

22...Qxb5 ; 23.bxc3 Qd3+ ; 24.Resigns.

C.Westrap v D.Hill

1.e4 d6 ; 2.d4 Nf6 ; 3.Nc3 g6 ; 4.f4 Bg7 ; 5.Nf3 c5 ; 6.Bb5+ Bd7 ; 7.e5 dxe5 ; 8.dxe5 Ng4 ; 9.Bxd7+ Qxd7 ; 10. 0-0 e6 ; 11.Ne4 Qxd1 ; 12.Rxd1 b6 ;

Black retains his pawn but gives up the right to castle. He was probably better off giving up the pawn. But his position has all

come about from 5...c5 which was played instead of ...e5 which was better.

13.Nd6+ Ke7 ; 14.Ng5 Nh6 ; 15.Be3 Nc6 ; 16.c3 Nf5 ; 17.Bf2 f6 ;
18.exf6+ Bxf6 ; 19.Nge4 Nxd6 ; 20.Rxd6 Rac8 ; 21.Rad1 Nb8 ;
22.b4 g5 ; 23.bxc5 bxc5 ; 24.Bxc5 Bxc3 ; 25.Rd7+ Ke8 ; 26.Re7+
Kf8 ; 27.Rc7+ Resigns.

C.Brookwell v J.Rudd

1.d4 f5 ; 2.c4 b6 ; 3.Nc3 Nf6 ; 4.Qc2 e6 ; 5.e4 fxe4 ; 6.Nxe4
Bb4+ ; 7.Nd2 0-0 ; 8.Nf3 Bb7 ; 9.Be2 Nh5 ; 10. 0-0 Nc6 ; 11.Bd3
h6 ; 12.Ne4 Nf4 ; 13.Be3 Qe8 ; 14.a3 Be7 ; 15.Nfd2 Qg6 ;

Black's second move is most unusual, yet he seems to have got a fluid position from the opening. Mate is now threatened on g2 and the powerful knight on f4 removed. This however loosens White's grip on d4 and allows Black to win it.

16.Bxf4 Rxf4 ; 17.Nc5 Nxd4 ; 18.Bxg6 Nxc2 ; 19.Bxc2 Bxc5 ;

Black has emerged a pawn up and an even better position with his two bishops aiming towards White's King.

20.Rae1 Raf8 ; 21.Re2 Rg4 ; 22.Ne4 Rff4 ; 23.Ng3 Rxc4 ;

Rate of play: 40 in 100 mins + 20 mins. Time taken: White 90 mins
Black 25 mins. Jack Rudd is reknown for his fast play and for his lack of time spent at the board (he is found skipping around in circles somewhere in the tournament hall!), as several adults found to their cost at the WECU Congress at Easter (see next edition for report), the most noteable of which was Ronnie Burton.

Jack has won 2 pawns with a totally won game, White must play a further 17 moves in 10 minutes and is quickly finished off:

24.Kh1 Rgf4 ; 25.f3 Bd6 ; 26.Ne4 Rxc2! ; 27.Rxc2 Bxe4 ; 28.Rc4
Bb7 ; 29.Rc2 g5 ; 30.Rd1 Rxf3! ; 31.Kg1 Rf5 ; 32.Rdcl h5 ;
33.Rd1 h4 ; 34.Rf1 Bc5+ ; 35.Rxc5 Rxf1+ ; 36.Kxf1 bxc5 ;
37.Kf2 Kg7 ; 38.g3 Kf6 ; 39.Resigns.

J.Cook v J.Symons

1.e4 c5 ; 2.Nf3 Nc6 ; 3.Bc4 e6 ; 4.Nc3 d6 ; 5. 0-0 Nf6 ; 6.d4 cxd4 ;
7.Nxd4 d5 ; 8.exd5 exd5 ; 9.Nxd5! Nxd5 ; 10.Qh5 Nxd4 ; 11.Bxd5
Qf6 ; 12.Re1+ Ne6 ; 13.Bxb7! Bc5? ;

13...Bxb7 ; 14.Qb5+... collects the piece back and stops Black castling. White has sacrificed a piece for two pawns to keep his opponent's King in the centre, however, this move simply gives the piece back, leaving his opponent two pawns up.

14.Qxc5 Bxb7 ; 15.Qb5+ Kf8 ; 16.Qxb7 Qd8 ; 17.Qf3 Rc8? ; 18.Rxe6...
and White won in 26 moves.

C.Fearn v R.Selbie

1.e4 e5 ; 2.Nf3 d6 ; 3.Bc4 Nc6 ; 4.d3 Bg4 ; 5.Bxf7+ Kd7? ;

5...Kxf7 ; 6.Ng5+ Qxg5! ; leaves White with problems! The text moves leaves Black with the problems.

6.Bd5 Nf6 ; 7.Bg5 Be7 ; 8.Bxc6+ Kxc6 ; 9.c3 b6 ; 10.Nbd2 Kb7 ;

11.a4 a5 ; 12.h3 Bh5 ; 13.Qc2 Rf8 ; 14.d4 h6 ; 15.Be3 Nd7 ;
 16.b4 Bf7 ; 17.d5 Qb8 ; 18.Nc4 c5 ; 19.bxa5 resigns.

This quite move leaves Black totally dead.

A.Gettings v M.Walker

1.e4 c5 ; 2.f4 d5 ; 3.exd5 Nf6 ; 4.Bb5+ Bd7 ; 5.Bxd7+ Nbx d7 ;
 6.c4 g6 ;

White's decision to retain the pawn leads him into trouble on the long diagonal which Black immediately makes his.

7.Nf3 Bg7 ; 8. 0-0 0-0 ; 9.Nc3 e6! ;

Black not only sacrifices a pawn but leads himself with an isolated pawn, but this is short lived.

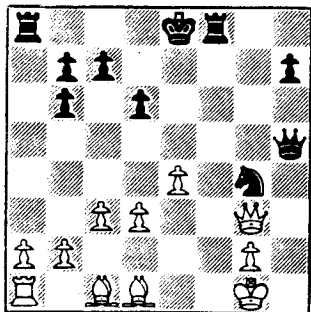
10.dxe6 fxe6 ; 11.Kh1 e5! ; 12.Nxe5 Nxe5 ; 13.fxe5...

Black gives up a second pawn for the advantage.

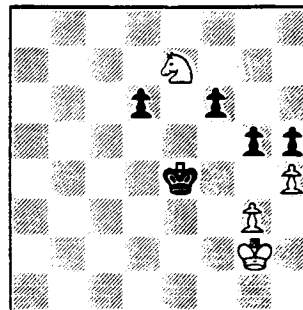
13...Ng4 ; 14.Rxf8+ Qxf8 ; 15.Qf3 Nxe5 ; 16.Qxf8+ Rxf8+ ; 17.g3 Nd3! ; 18.Kg2 Rf2+ ; 19.Kg1 Bd4! ; 20.Nb5 Rd2+ ; 21.Nxd4 Rd1+ ; 22.Kg2 cxd4 ; 23.Resigns.

The bishop is lost.

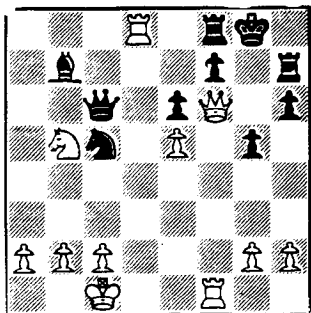
PROBLEM PAGE



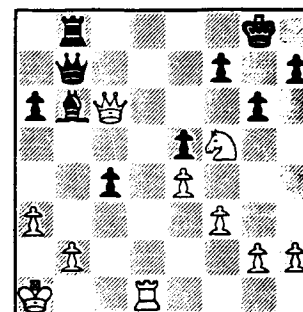
Black to play and win in 2



White to play and win in 2



White to play and mate in 3



White to play and win in 2

Answers on page 28

THE WESTWARD HO!

MAY 1991 EDITION

New Series No 11

INDEX

<u>Page</u>	<u>Details</u>
1 to 4	WECU Junior Jamboree
4	Problem Page
5	Index
5	Editorial
6	WECU County Championship Results
7	WECU Officers
8 to 23	Paignton Congress Report
24 to 28	How Good is your Chess?
28	Answers to Problems

EDITORIAL

The latest edition of Westward Ho! at long last!!! Yet again I am apologising for lateness. I can understand the reasons for the previous editor's non production. I simply lack time. I have further been hampered by the sale of my house and the moving back with my parents. I lack space and most of my belongings are in storage.

Please note my new address. I am not sure of my movements in the coming months, but one thing is sure, my parents wont be moving from this address and therefore I would guarantee that any correspondence will be safe if sent here.

This year I have made it to: Paignton Congress, Hanham Congress and the West of England Championships at Weston Super Mare. The main part of this edition is a report from the Paignton Congress; the next edition will largely feature the West of England Congress. I had hoped to include games and a report of the Hanham Congress in this edition but I am yet to receive these from the organisers, despite the Congress occuring in early November.

I have also attended the WECU Junior Jamboree as Controller and have been able to get access to the bulk of the games - see pages 1 to 4.

Due to the amount of space required, I have not printed all the County Match Results but have simply summarised them - see page 6. Perhaps in the next edition, I will have space to print the individual results from the final stages...

Incidentally, last week I went to the BCF finance meeting. Next year's levy will be £220 per levy point, an increase of £20 per point. This is because of the reduction of the total number of levy points, down from 219 to currently 191, but it is thought this will go down to around 180. Yorkshire and Durham have disafiliated; there are 3 counties yet to make any payment (including Devon) and 3 who have made partial payment (including Gloucestershire and Dorset).

I will keep you posted...

Finally, I hope that you will enjoy this edition. Please send me your views and thoughts. I trust it wont take you so long to read it as it took me to produce it!

WECU COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

HAROLD MEEK COMPETITION (1ST TEAMS)

	CORN	DEVON	DORSET	GLOS	HANTS	SOMS	WILTS	TOTAL	POS
CORNWALL	X	4½	5	3	6½	5	5½	0	7
DEVON	11½	X	9½	5½	9½	9½	9½	10	2
DORSET	11	6½	X	5	5½	8	8	4	5
GLOS	13	10½	11	X	10	8½	10½	12	1
HAMPSHIRE	9½	6½	10½	6	X	10½	10	8	3
SOMERSET	11	6½	8	7½	5½	X	7	3	6
WILTSHIRE	10½	6½	8	5½	6	9	X	5	4

WAYLING CUP COMPETITION (2ND TEAMS)

	CORN	DEVON	DORSET	GLOS	HANTS	SOMS	WILTS	TOTAL	POS
CORNWALL	X	2½	3½	5½	9½	2½	13½	6	5
DEVON	13½	X	7½	12½	6½	8	14	7	3
DORSET	10½	8½	X	8½	6	7½	10	8	2
GLOS	1½	3½	7½	X	6½	9½	15½	4	6
HAMPSHIRE	4½	9½	10	9½	X	11	12	10	1
SOMERSET	11½	8	8½	6½	5	X	8½	7	3
WILTSHIRE	1½	2	6	½	4	7½	X	0	7

Gloucestershire and Devon qualify in the BCF Counties Championships whilst Wiltshire and Dorset qualify for the Minor Counties Championships.

Hampshire II and Dorset II qualify in the BCF Second Teams Championship.

I regret I don't know who Glos I and Devon I and Devon II are playing (and in which round) but I know that Wiltshire are away to Peterborough and Huntingdon (last year's winners) in the quarter finals of the Minor, whilst Dorset I were due to play a Northern Minor county in the Preliminary round but have a walkover and are away to Worcestershire in the quarter finals.

Quarter finals are due to be played before 11 May 1991.

I believe there is a third team competition but do not know if the WECU will be represented in this.

WEST OF ENGLAND CHESS UNION OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Jim E FEWKES
8 Mildmay Drive, Queen Camel, Yeovil, BA22 7NZ
Tel: Marston Magna (0935) 850719

DEPUTY PRESIDENT

Ken J BLOODWORTH
550 Budshead Road, Whitleigh, Plymouth, Devon
Tel: Plymouth (0752) 779823

HONORARY LIFE PRESIDENTS

K J BLOODWORTH MRS J M PARKER

VICE PRESIDENTS

J ANDERSON	A C BROWN	MRS R M BRUCE
A W BUSBY	P H CLARKE	A HOLLIS
D C JARRETT	F C KINGDON	P L MARSHALL
R O POWIS	E G WALKER	L T WALKER

GENERAL SECRETARY

R (Bob) H JONES
40 Phillips Avenue, Exmouth, Devon.
Tel: Exmouth (0395) 273665

TREASURER

Richard W RENDELL
The Tin Cottage, Blount's Court Nurseries,
Studley, Calne, Wiltshire
Tel: Calne (0249) 812103

GRADING AND RECORDS OFFICER

No one at present
All correspondence to the President, Jim Fewkes

CONGRESS SECRETARY

Mrs Joan M PARKER
Sunnyside House, 44 Lee Road, Lynton, EX35 6BS
Tel: Lynton (0598) 53242

JUNIOR SECRETARY

Ralph L MAISHMAN
173 Berrow Road, Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset
Tel: Burnham-on-Sea (0278) 782781

FIXTURE SECRETARY

Frank C KINGDON
6 Blenheim Road, Weymouth, DT3 5AZ
Tel: Weymouth (0305) 812237

WECU COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

Cornwall

Roger J GRIME and Ian M GEORGE

Devon

Tim J HAY and R Victor CROSS

Dorset

Adrian D ROOKES and Paul FOSTER

Gloucestershire

Joe CLARK and Ron O POWIS

Hampshire

Len C WALTERS and Stuart DEAN

Somerset

Gerry N JEPPS and David G WOODRUFF

Wiltshire

Harbinder S BAHIA and Andrew C COOPER

Bristol League

E Ian S BIDDICK and A Tyson MORDUE

BCF MANAGEMENT BOARD AND COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

R (Bob) H JONES and Len C WALTERS

THE Devon County Chess Association 40th Annual PAIGNTON CONGRESS

This year's Paignton Congress was held as usual at Oldway Mansion Paignton from Sunday 2nd to Saturday 9th September 1990 by courtesy of Torbay Borough Council. Yet again, sponsored by F D Browning of Torquay.

As the previous two years, I managed to get a week off from work and played yet again in the Morning American section so that I could watch the Premier games and explore the area. I have written this report in the same mode as before - with some of my experiences.

Sunday 2nd September 1990

Round 1

This year's report should really start on Saturday 1st September. I drove down to Chichester early on Saturday morning to meet a chap from Fastprint whom had printed this year's WECU Grading List. I met him as arranged and was enjoying the drive back on a lovely Autumn morning on the M27. Alas the car blew its head gasket just as I reached the Southampton Services and I managed to limp into the Services with black smoke pouring out of the exhaust and a Police car on my tail (which I hadn't even seen!). I spent most of the afternoon at the Services but managed to get my car towed back to Melksham.

Alas I now had no transport and spent much time on Saturday evening trying to get a lift which in the end I secured with Ian Biddick. The next problem was how to get to Yate where he lived, some 25 miles away. My father agreed to provide this. Thus I left at 9.30 am from home to get to Paignton for a 5.30 start.

Thus I arrived at Paignton, not worrying about the fact that I had not played a game of chess for 4 months, simply because I had other things to worry about. Again in the American 'A' section against some old friends and some new.

Premier

Premier attracts 50 players although 2 late withdrawals reduces the numbers to 48, a nice manageable number. As this year is the Congress' Ruby Anniversary, the Organisers decided to make the Premier an open competition, thus allowing lower graded players to enter. Thus there were several players below the grade of 170 and two in the 120's! This resulted in there being two distinct groups of players and a multitude of 'easy' points in the early rounds for the top players.

The tournament as usual attracted the Arkells. Also: Mordue, Wiley, Hempson, Cooper and Moore, all 200 players. No Lane this year as he was in Belgium. The usual contingent from France and Holland.

1st Round winners: K.Arkell; Bowley; Buckley; Collier; Cooper; Cowling; Crombleholme; Helbig; H.Lamb; Moore; Mordue; Parr; Rogers; Simons; Walker; Wheeler; Davey; Finn; and Wiley.

All top boards winning as expected except: Susan Arkell who could only draw against Peters of Aylesbury (who I drew with last year in the American 'A' and should have beaten); Hempson who drew with local player, Lingham and Ashby who drew with Njotea.

Frank Parr, a regular at Paignton and one of the oldest in the Premier, met M Lamb, son of Harry and one of the youngest:

F.Parr v M.Lamb

1.f4...

Frank Parr is regular player of the Birds. However, the game soon gets into a well-known defence, but with colours reversed.

1...d5 ; 2.Nf3 c5 ; 3.e3 Nf6 ; 4.Be2 g6 ; 5.d3 Bg7 ; 6. O-O Nc6 ; 7.Qe1 O-O ; 8.Kh1 Re8 ; 9.d4 b6 ; 10.c3 Ne4 ;

Yes you've got it. The good old stonewall! This is an opening which I personally have a good joke about. Not that it is a bad opening, but each year at Paignton I met it at least twice in the American 'A' section and although I never know what to do against it, I have never lost against it.

11.Nbd2 f5 ;

Alas young Lamb falls into one of pits of the Stonewall. I don't believe you can afford to move the f-pawn. Once the pawn on d5 goes Black is going to be in great trouble on the a2-g8 diagonal. Furthermore, he cannot stop the knight nestling in on e5 and the f-file being opened up should he capture the knight. Better was 11...Nxd2.

12.Qh4 e6 ; 13.Qh3 Bd7 ; 14.g3 a6 ; 15.Qg2 b5 ;

An interesting manoeuvre which has allowed the White queen to reach g2, attacking on the long diagonal and the g-file. Black meanwhile has done very little, except weaken the c-pawn.

16.Nxe4 dxe4 ; 17.Nd2 Qe7 ; 18.Nb3 cxd4 ; 19.exd4 h6 ; 20.Be3 g5 ;

An interesting choice by White, allowing his opponent a passed pawn, and then converting his bishop into a pawn. However, this strengthens his control over c5 and the passed pawn is going nowhere. Black with his pawn moves is simply weakening his position. White now eyes c4 for his bishop and goes about securing it.

21.a4 bxa4 ; 22.Nc5 Bf6 ; 23.Nxa4 Reb8 ; 24.Ra2 Qd8 ; 25.Nc5 a5 ; 26.Bc4 Qe8 ; 27.fxg5 Resigns.

A swift resignation you may think, but what can Black do. The White pieces are rampant. E.g. 27...hxg5 ; 28.Rxf5 Kg7 ; 29.Rf1... and the e4 pawn is also lost, followed by the e6 pawn.

M.Simons v J.Soesan

1.e4 c5 ; 2.d4 cxd4 ; 3.c3 dxc3 ; 4.Nxc3 Nc6 ; 5.Nf3 e6 ; 6.Bc4 d6 ; 7. O-O Nf6 ; 8.Qe2 Be7 ; 9.Rd1 Qa5 ; 10.Bf4 O-O ;

Black wisely decides to return the gambited pawn in order that he can get his King to safety. However, White has the advantage as well as equal material.

11.Bxd6 Bxd6 ; 12.Rxd6 e5 ; 13.h3 Qc5 ; 14.Rd2...

Very wise. Not 14.Rad1... as 14...Nd4 ; picks up the exchange.

14...Nd4 ; 15.Nxd4 exd4 ; 16.Nd5! ...

As mentioned before, there are several weaker players in the Premier this year and this game highlights the difference in strength. On Board 17, Simons is graded 188, his opponent around 150. Black doesn't understand the point of this move and falls into a well set trap.

16...Nxe4? ; 17.Qxe4 Qxc4 ; 18.Rxd4 Qc5 ; 19.Ne7+ Kh8 ; 20.Qxh7+!! Resigns.

Premier

After a rather boring 1st round last night, the Premier hotted up in this round with several good games, including the game which won the best game prize:

P.W.Hempson v S.G.Peters

1.d4 d5 ; 2.c4 dxc4 ; 3.Nf3 Nf6 ; 4.e3 e6 ; 5.Bxc4 c5 ; 6. 0-0 a6 ;
7. Qe2 b5 ; 8.Bb3 Bb7 ; 9.a4 Qb6 ; 10.dxc5 Bxc5 ; 11.Nc3 Qa5 ;
12.e4 b4 ; 13.e5! bxc3 ; 14.exf6 Qb6 ; 15.Bc4 gxf6 ; 16.bxc3 Nd7 ;
17.Bf4 Rg8 ;

Black gives up any hope of castling. He cannot on the kingside with the g-file half open and queenside would be suicide. Despite this inconvenience, Black still has good chances himself, what with his two bishops aiming at the White King's defence.

18.Rab1 Qc6 ;

The threat is beginning to grow. Now Black threatens 19.Qxf3 etc. White decides to cancel out this threat and also to deflect the Black Queen as he has aspirations of his own.

19.Rxb7! Qxb7 ; 20.Bxe6!! fxe6 ;

20.Kf8 ; allows 21.Bh6+...

21.Qxe6+ Kf8 ; 22.Bh6+ Rg7 ; 23.Rd1 Nb6 ; 24.a5 Qf7 ; 25.Qf5 Na4 ;
26.Rd7 Be7 ; 27.Qe4 Rc8 ; 28.Qxa4 Rxc3 ; 29.Qd4 Rc8 ; 30.g3 Qe6 ;
31.Bxg7+ Kxg7 ; 32.Rxe7+! Resigns.

32...Qxe7 ; 33.Qg4+ and Qxc8 leaves White a knight and pawn up.

On the next board:

S.Arkell v A.J.Tredinnick

1.e4 c5 ; 2.c3 d5 ; 3.exd5 Qxd5 ; 4.d4 Nc6 ; 5.Nf3 Nf6 ; 6.dxc5...

Leaving Black a choice. Either he recaptures the pawn and leaves his opponent the d-file or swap queens, stopping his opponent from castling but at the expense of a pawn. He chooses this option.

6...Qxd1+ ; 7.Kxd1 e5 ; 8.b4 Bg4 ; 9.Kc2 Be7 ; 10.Bb5 Nd7 ;
11.Re1...

Despite being unable to castle White has a clear advantage. Indeed the King is very safe where it is and even more so on b2. The black king is much more in danger. All the White pieces have a purpose and Black must give up his white squared bishop to stem the flood.

11...Bxf3 ; 12.gxf3 f5 ;

A little too adventurous. Better was castles or f6.

13.Nd2 Kf7 ; 14.Nc4 Kf6 ;

A strange place for the King but he must defend the e-pawn and Bf6 allows Nd6+.

15.Bb2 Rac8 ; 16.Rad1 Rhd8 ; 17.Bxc6 Rxc6 ; 18.Rxd7! Resigns.

18...Rxd7 ; 19.Nxe5 Rcc7 ; 20.Nxd7 Rxd7 ; 21.c4+...leaves White 2 pawns up and a totally won position.

J.Walker v F.Parr

1.d4 f5 ; 2.e4 fxe4 ; 3.Nc3 Nf6 ; 4.Bg5 Nc6 ;

Not 4...d5? ; 5.Bxf6 exf6 ; 6.Qh5+ g6 ; 7.Qxd5 Qxd5 ; 8.Nxd5... threatening c7 and f6 (followed by e4).

5.Bc4 d5! ; 6.Bxf6 dxc4 ; 7.Be5 Bf5 ; 8.Nge2 Nxe5 ; 9.dxe5 e6 ; 10. 0-0 Bc5 ; 11.Ng3 ...

Black has won a pawn although he has weak pawns on c4 and e4. He has managed to get castled and open files to attack along. This move is a mistake, which Black punishes.

11...e3 ; 12.Qf3...

A further error. Surely he had to take the pawn and be a pawn down. He gets little counterplay for his 2 pawns.

12...exf2+ ; 13.Kh1 0-0 ; 14.Rad1 Qh4 ; 15.Nxf5 Rxf5 ; 16.Qxb7 Raf8 ; 17.Ne4 Rh5! ; 18.h3 Qg4! ;

Again Black offers the bishop but it cannot be taken. First mate on h2, now on h3: 19.Nxc4 Rxh3+! ; 20.gxh3 Qxh3++. It is interesting to note that Black only had this move to continue his attack and it was hardly obvious.

19.Kh2 Qf4+ ;

20.Kh1... allows simply 20...Qxe5 or even 20...Bb6 and then Qxe5.

20.g3 Qf5 ; 21.g4 Qxg4 ; 22.Resigns.

The following game won the best junior game prize, on the board next to Hempson v Peters ! :

P.Helbig v J.Rogers

1.c4 Nf6 ; 2.g3 d5 ; 3.cxd5 c6 ; 4.dxc6 Nxc6 ;

A gambit which you don't see very often.

5.Bg2 e5 ; 6.Nc3 Bc5 ; 7.Nf3? e4! ; 8.Ng5...

7.Nf3... is a bad mistake which allows Black a cheapy from which White never really recovers. He had to get in d3 before this move.

8...Bxf2+! ; 9.Kxf2 Ng4+ ; 10.Kg1 Qxg5 ; 11.Nxe4...

White retains his extra pawn but he has a poor position.

11...Qe5 ; 12.h3 Qd4+ ; 13.e3 Nxe3! ; 14.Qe2...

Of course, not 14.dxe3 Qxd1+ ;

14...Nxc6 ; 15.Kxc6 0-0 ; 16.d3 Ne5 ; 17.Rf1 b6 ; 18.Bd2 Bb7 ; 19.Kh2 Nxd3 ;

From a pawn down Black is now a pawn up and it would appear he is cruising to victory.

20.Ng5 h6 ; 21.Nxf7!? Rxf7 ; 22.Rxf7 Kxf7 ; 23.Rf1+ Kg8 ; 24.Qe6+ Kh7 ; 25.Rf7 Nf4!! ;

Just when it looked as if White had turned the tables, Black finds a great reply. If 26.Rxf4 Qxd2 ; if 26.Bxf4 Qf2+ ; if 26.gxf4 Qxd2+ etc.

26.Qf5+ Kh8 ; 27.Qxf4...

Not 27.Rf8+ Rxf8 ; 28.Qxf8+ Kh7 ; 29.Qf5+ Kh8 ; 30.Qf8+... as I

originally thought as Black can play 29.Kg8 ; stopping the perpetual.

27...Qd5 ; 28.Rxb7 Qxb7 ; 29.Bc3 Kg8 ; 30.Qc4+ Qf7 ; 31.Qd4 Re8 ;
32.Qd2 Qf3 ; 33.Resigns.

Arkell beat Harry Lamb, Buckley beat Collier, Wiley beat Simons and A.Crombleholme beat Bowley to join Parr and Rogers on 2 points. Messrs Cooper, Mordue and Moore were all held to a draw by lower graded players.

On a personal note, I managed to win my first game against a Mr P Wilson of Guernsey, who was the second highest graded player in the section. Surprise, surprise the game was a Stonewall played by White (him). This was the first time I had won my first round game and I felt my luck was with me yet again at Paignton. A tactical draw was taken after only a few moves in game 2. Will I rue this decision - I was just beginning to get the advantage?

Tuesday 4th September 1990

Round 3

Premier

Arkell continued his progression to winning as usual by beating Rogers. An unfortunate pairing of Buckley and Crombleholme resulted in a draw after only 12 moves. Apparently, unknown to the controller Mr Crombleholme was Mr Buckley's main tutor in chess. Wiley drew with Parr and thus Arkell was in the clear after only 3 games. A round of draws really helped Arkell establish his position. He was helped by Susan's draw with Moore, Finn with Hempson and Davey with Mordue who all moved to 2 points. There was one exception:

L.Cooper v J.Wheeler

1.e4 e5 ; 2.Nf3 Nf6 ; 3.Nxe5 d6 ; 4.Nf3 Nxe4 ; 5.c4 Be7 ; 6.d4 0-0 ;
7.Bd3 d5 ; 8.0-0 Bf5 ; 9.cxd5 Qxd5 ; 10.Bxe4 Bxe4 ;

Not 10...Qxe4? ; 11.Re1... dropping the bishop. But this still leads to problems for Black. He should have retreated the knight when he could.

11.Nc3 Bxf3 ; 12.Nxd5! Bxd5 ;

Black has had to give up his queen for two pieces as 12...Bxd1 ;
13.Nxe7+ Kh8 ; 14.Rxd1... leaves him a piece down. At least this way he still has 2 bishops to fight with.

13.Bf4 c6 ; 14.Re1 Bb4 ; 15.Re3 Rc8 ;

I can't fathom this move. What does it achieve? Does Black intend 16...c5? He never gets the chance.

16.Qg4 Na6 ; 17.Be5 Bf8 ; 18.Bxg7! Resigns.

18...Bxg7 ; 19.Rg3... and mate follows.

This moved Cooper up to 2½ points and the honour of playing Arkell in the next round.

I played Dr Bramley for the first time. I am advised that he was a very good player in the past but like many age had deminished his prowess. Alas despite the better of the game, another draw, yet I am still in equal first with Dr Bramley and two others with 2 from 3 points. Brian Turner looked good, a second impressive

win. Incidentally, he preferred to watch the Newton Abbot races yesterday rather than play and conceded his game. Playing the other co-leader, Eden tomorrow, with White. Must win.

Spent a very pleasant evening in the pub with Ian and Ann Biddick getting slowly drunk.

Wednesday 5th September 1990

Round 4

Premier

L.Cooper v K.Arkell

1.e4 c6 ; 2.d4 d5 ; 3.exd5 cxd5 ; 4.c4 Nf6 ; 5.Nc3 g6 ; 6.Qb3 Bg7 ;

This sort of sacrifice is a hallmark of Arkell's play. He knows he will obtain the advantage and through pressure will recover his pawn later on.

7.cxd5 0-0 ; 8.g3 Nbd7 ; 9.Bg2...

Black is going to gang his pieces up on the pawn at d5 and eventually collect it. It might therefore have made sense to give it back immediately with 9.d6... which leaves Black with 3 options: either ignore it by e6 or by Re8 (and allow the swop and remaining a pawn down) or take it; evening up the position. I suppose Black can attack down the open e-file but White should be alright. He will also have the option to play Bg2 or Bc4. By playing the text move he allows Black to capture with the queen on d6.

9...Nb6 ; 10.Nge2 Bf5 ; 11. 0-0 Bd3! ;

The threat is 12...Bc4 and take the pawn on d5. Thus:

12.d6 Qxd6 ; 13.Bxb7 Rad8 ;

White remains a pawn up but Black now aims him attack on the pawn on d4.

14.Bf3 Bc4 ; 15.Qc2 Nfd5 ; 16.Bg5 h6 ; 17.Nxd5 Bxd5 ; 18.Bxd5 Nxd5 ; 19.Bd2 Qa6 ; 20.Rfe1 e6 ; 21.Bc3 Rc8 ; 22.Red1 Rfd8 ;

Black has completed his development and has reduced White to playing for a draw by simply trying to stop Black from doing anything positive. There comes therefore a period of moving the pieces round and round.

23.Qd3 Qb7 ; 24.Qf3 Rd7 ; 25.Qd3 Rd6 ; 26.Rac1 Ra6 ; 27.Rca1 Rd8 ; 28.Qc4 Rc6 ; 29.Qb3 Rb6 ; 30.Qc4 Rc6 ; 31.Qb3 Qa6 ;

Black chooses not to take the draw by repetition.

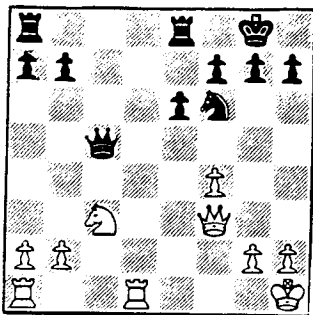
32.Qc2 g5 ; 33.Qd3 Qb7 ; 34.Rab1 Rcd6 ; 35.Qf3 R8d7 ; 36.Qd3 e5 ;

At last Black gets in e5. Now if 37.dxe5 Nf4 ; leads to the winning of the queen or mate on g2. Thus he cannot take the pawn and White has been short of time for some time now.

37.Qc4 exd4 ; 38.Ba5 d3 ; 39.Nc3 Ne7 ; 40.Qb4...

On making his 40th move, White's flag fell and he lost on time. In anycase he had a lost game.

This game was typical of Arkell's play this year. Nothing very fancy but he kept winning. This put him on 4 points. Wiley moved up to 3½ points by beating Crombleholme and he was joined by Buckley when his opponent, Parr fell for the following cheapy:



21.Qxb7 Ng4 ; 22.Ne4 Qe3 ;

This threatens the f-pawn but also sets a trap which White falls into:

23.h3? Qxe4! ; 24. Resigns.

24.Qxe4 Nf2+ ; 25.Kg1 Nxe4 ; leaves Black a whole piece up.

P.Helbig v G.Moore

1. c4 g6 ; 2.g3 Bg7 ; 3.Bg2 e5 ; 4.Nc3 Nc6 ; 5.Rb1 a5 ; 6. a3 Nf6 ; 7.Nf3 O-O ; 8. O-O Re8 ; 9. b4 axb4 ; 10.axb4...

Paul Helbig is one of these players who play zany openings and consequently does well against strong players. For once he was drawn in the top half of the draw and won his first round game very comfortably. A loss in round 2 - all be it to the best junior game - was followed by another comfortable win against a much weaker player.

Gerald Moore meanwhile had secured a comfortable win in round 1 followed by draws against John Wheeler and Susan Arkell.

For once Paul plays a usual opening which allows Gerald to play his favoured Modern defence. However, Paul continues with his usual advancement of his wing pawns. Gerald responds in the centre and the game hots up:

10...d5 ; 11.cxd5 Nxd5 ; 12.Nxd5 Qxd5 ; 13.b5 Na7 ;

I spent a lot of time on Wednesday afternoon watching this game. Moore spent nearly half an hour on this move and still surprised me - I thought this was the last square the knight would be moved to. I was hooked as to see what the plan was.

14.Ng5 Qd8 ;

I was surprised that Paul didn't simply push the pawn on. Perhaps this is what Gerald wanted him to do, bringing the rook on to b6. But this allows pressure on b7 and c6. The text move allows Black to cover the b6 square.

15.Ne4 Bd7 ; 16.Nc3 e4!?

This move cuts off the bishop from its attack on b7. If 17.Bxe4 Bxc3 ; 18.Bxb7 Rb8 ; wins a piece. If 17.Nxe4 B(or N)xb5.

17.b6 cxb6 ; 18.Nxe4 Nb5 ; 19.Bb2 Bc6 ; 20.d3 Nd4 ;

Black is left with a double isolated (but passed!) pawns. However, the knight has suddenly become very active. A strange manoeuvre: Nc6-a7-b5-d4 !

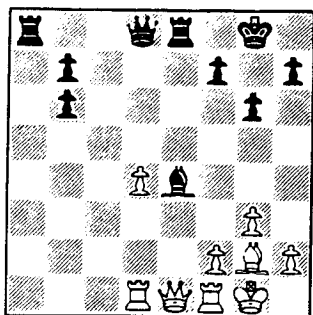
21.e3? ...

The mistake Black was looking for. The knight was very strong on d4 but White cannot try to chase it away like this.

21...Ba4! ; 22.Qe1 Bc2! ;

It would appear that Black obtains a rook for 2 pieces. But look a bit harder!

23.Bxd4 Bxd4 ; 24.exd4 Bxd3 ; 25.Rd1 Bxe4!! ;



The point of the whole combination. Black recovers his piece leaving him a pawn up, together with pressure on the d-pawn.

White chooses a different line:

26.Bxe4 f5 ; 27.Bxb7?! Rxe1 ;

Both players by this time are very short of time - about 2 minutes each to play a further 13 moves. Everything becomes a mad scramble to reach the time control. Black however plays very accurately.

28.Rfxe1 Rb8 ; 29.Bc6 b5 ; 30.d5 Qd6 ; 31.Re6 Qc5 ; 32.Rde1 b4 ;
That blasted doubled pawn is being to make a telling contribution.
33.R6e2 b3 ; 34.Rb2 Qc3 ; 35.Reb1 Qd3 ; 36.Kg2 Kf8 ; 37.Kg1 Rb4 ;
38.Kg2 Ke7 ; 39.Kg1 Kd6 ; 40.Kg2 g5 ;

Time control reached. White seals but resigns without continuing. He has nothing he can do.

This brought Moore back into the reckoning on 3 points along with Mordue who beat Bowley. Thus after 4 rounds, the leaders were: Arkell 4 ; Buckley and Wiley 3½ ; Moore, Mordue and Finn 3. There were no less than 13 players on 2½ points, including Susan Arkell who drew again.

Yet another draw in the morning. Played terribly (with the White pieces as usual). However, despite playing badly, still remain unbeaten and in second equal on 2½ points. Brian Turner beat Dr Bramley with style to go clear first on 3 points. He has already offered me a draw for tomorrow's game as he wishes to go racing again! I cannot afford another draw. Strung him along for a while. Perhaps he won't turn up tomorrow and I will win on default. Good record against him, Played 2, won 2.

As mentioned above, spent the afternoon watching the Helbig/Moore game. Very entertaining. I loved the knight's canter up the board.

In evening went to the Mayor's reception and introduced to the Mayor. She spoke to me but seemed more interested in meeting the next person than actually talking. Shoke her up by mentioning the death of a local Mayor at Easter when the WECU Congress was at Paignton. Didn't go down very well, but at least it sparked a conversation before she hurriedly moved on to the next person. Got a piercing glare from Alan Crickmore (Congress Chairman)!

Spent the rest of the evening in the local pub. Hatched a plan to have a bit of fun on Saturday, when I play my old friend, Jack Speigel, in the last round. More about this later. It would appear that I have no option but to run the quickplay again on Friday night - its John Vasey's first wedding anniversary on Friday and he wishes to go out. Pity, I was looking forward to a cuntry with the Congress Crew.

It was Wiley's turn to draw the short straw and play Arkell:

K.Arkell v T.Wiley

1.d4 d5 ; 2.c4 c6 ; 3.Nf3 Nf6 ; 4.Nc3 dxc4 ; 5.a4 a5 ; 6.e4 Bg4 ;
7.Bxc4 e6 ; 8.Bg5 h6 ; 9.Bh4 Bb4 ; 10.Qd3 Bxf3 ;

White chooses to remove his queen from the pin, allowing Black to double his pawns. However, he must give up his white squared bishop to do so. White forces Black's hand here with this move otherwise the knight moves and the bishop will come under attack.

11.gxf3 Nbd7 ; 12.f4 Qc7 ; 13.e5 Nd5 ; 14.f5!...

White has a clear advantage in the centre and now makes use of the space. It would appear that neither side can afford to castle as the Kings will come under attack. So they remain in the centre. Which is safer?

14...N7b6 ; 15.Bxd5 Nxd5 ; 16.Rg1 Rg8 ; 17.Kf1...

White chooses to move the King rather than castle. This frees the knight and consequently the queen.

17...exf5 ; 18.Qxf5 Nxc3 ; 19.bxc3 Bxc3 ; 20.Rc1 Bb4 ;

White has given up a pawn and offers another, which Black declines.
21.Qh7!...

White comes up with a blockbuster of a move. Now you can understand Black's decision not to take the d-pawn. 20...Bxd4 ; 21.Qh7 Kd7 ; 22.Rxg7 Rxg7 ; 23.Qxg7... and e7 becomes very weak.

This is a very strange move but chops Black up. His forces are split in two and never work together.

21...Rf8 ; 22.Rxg7 Qd7 ; 23.Qe4 Be7 ; 24.e6!...

A delicate move. The pawn cannot be taken as Black drops a piece on e7.

24...Qd6 ; 25.Bxe7 Kxe7 ; 26.Re1 Kf6 ; 27.Rxf7+ Resigns.

27...Rxf7 ; 28.Qf3+ Kg5 ; 29.Qxf7 Rf8 ; 30.Re5+ wins.

Thus Buckley had the chance to go clear second if he could beat Mordue:

G.Buckley v A.T.Mordue

1.d4 Nf6 ; 2.c4 g6 ; 3.Nc3 Bg7 ; 4.e4 d6 ; 5.f4...

Mordue, like Moore, is another one who favours the Modern/King's Indian defence. 5.f4..., the 4 pawn attack always leads to a lively encounter.

5...0-0 ; 6.Nf3 c5 ; 7.d5 e6 ; 8.Be2 exd5 ; 9.cxd5 Re8 ; 10.e5...

This move leads to White have 2 pawns on d5 and e5 but they are easy to attack and you get the feeling White has been lulled into advancing too far forward too early.

10...dxe5 ; 11.fxe5 Ng4 ; 12.Bg5 Qb6 ; 13.0-0...

White gets castled before it is too late but e3 looks a very weak square.

13...Bf5 ; 14.d6 c4+ ; 15.Kh1 Nc6 ; 16.Nd5 Qxb2 ; 17.Bxc4 Rxe5! ;
Black chooses to capture with the rook despite having ample pieces
to take the pawn with. Of course the threat was 18.Nc7... forking
the two rooks. He can also recover the exchange later with ...Nf2+
etc. White chooses not to take it but still collects the exchange.
18.Ne7+ Rxe7 ; 19.dxe7...

The pawn reaches e7 but can go no further.

19...Nf2+ ; 20.Rxf2 Qxf2 ; 21.Bh4 Qb2 ; 22.Rc1 Bf6 ; 23.Bb3 Re8 ;
24.Ba4 Rxe7 ; 25.Bxc6 bxc6 ; 26.Rxc6 Bxh4 ; 27.Nxh4 Bg4 ;

This gains a tempo as the bishop cannot be taken (otherwise he is
mated) and the knight has no where to go.

28.Qd8+ Kg7 ; 29.h3 Re1+ ; 30.Kh2 Qe5+ ; 31.g3 Re2+ ; 32.Kh1 Qa1+ ;
33.Resigns.

G.Moore v S.Finn

1.e4 d6 ; 2.d4 Nf6 ; 3.Nc3 g6 ; 4.f4...

Always the best line I think - and the one I most fear in the Pirc.
The bishop is free to come to c4 and wreak havoc.

4...Bg7 ; 5.Nf3 O-O ; 6.Be2 c5 ; 7.dxc5 Qa5 ; 8. O-O...

Not 8.cxd6? Nxé4!

8...Qxc5+ ; 9.Kh1 Bg4 ; 10.Bd3 Nc6 ; 11.Qe1....

Unpinning the knight but inviting Nb4.

11...Nb4 ; 12.f5! Bxf3 ; 13.Rxf3 Nxd3 ; 14.cxd3 Ng4 ; 15.Qh4!
Bxc3 ; 16.Qxg4 Rac8 ; 17.Bh6 Bxb2 ; 18.Raf1 Bg7 ; 19.Bxg7 Kxg7 ;
20.Qh4...

The dust settles and Black has gained a pawn. However, White has
gained the initiative and has united forces bearing down on the
King's defence. Of course Black cannot afford to take the pawn
on f5 and White bides his time waiting for the best opportunity.
There is a strange sort of status quo, which will be broken up
at any time.

20...Qe5 ; 21.Rh3 h5 ; 22.Rhf3 b5 ; 23.Qf2 Qc5 ; 24.d4 Qc2 ;
25.Qh4 Qd2 ; 26.fxg6...

At last he can take. Unfortunately it cannot be recaptured as
the e-pawn is en prise and Black's position will simply crumble.

26...Rc2 ; 27.Rg3 f6 ; 28.Qxh5 Rh8 (forced) ; 29.Qd5 Qf2 ;
30.Qf7+ Kh6 ; 31.Ra1 Qxd4 ; 32.Rg1 Rd2 ; 33.g7 Rh7 ; 34.g8=N mate!

A neat finish.

D.Collier v S.Arkell

1.b3...

A big attempt to get Susan out of the book openings, I fear! I
wonder how often the top players have to counter these sorts
of openings and how often they are successful.

1...e5 ; 2.Bb2 Nc6 ; 3.e3 d6 ; 4.Bb5...

Totally out of the book by now. Surely it is not the intention to
chop the knight off?

4...Bd7 ; 5.Nf3 e4?! ;

A little premature I would have said. This is the sort of error I think Collier must have been waiting for. Whilst it attacks the knight, it might be difficult to defend and more importantly it opens up the long diagonal bringing the bishop on b2 into play.

6.Bxc6!? bxc6 ; 7.Nd4 Qg4 ; 8.Rg1 d5 ; 9.Qe2 Bd6 ; 10.f4 Qh4+ ; 11.g3 Qh3 ; 12.Nxc6!? Bxc6 ; 13.Bxg7 f6 ; 14.Bxh8 Kf7 ;

The bishop is trapped and when collected Black will have the bishop pair unopposed but White has 3 pawns as well as the rook.

15.Nc3 Ne7 ; 16.Bxf6 Kxf6 ; 17.g4 Qh4+ ; 18.Qf2 Qxf2+ ; 19.Kxf2...

White decides to swop queens and keep his king on the kingside. The pawns are ready to roll forward. Black must open up the centre for his minor pieces.

19...d4 ; 20.Ne2 d3 ; 21.Nd4 Bd7 ; 22.cxd3 exd3 ; 23.Ra1 c5 ; 24.Nf3 Nd5 ; 25.a3 Rb8 ; 26.Rb1 Re8 ; 27.Kg3 h6 ; 28.Rg1 Bc6 ; 29.Ne5 Bxe5 ; 30.fxe5+ Kxe5 ; 31.Rxc5 Kd6 ; 32.Rc4 Nxe3!?

White has managed to remove one of Black's bishops and retain his material advantage. He now had 3 sets of 2 v 1 pawns and a won endgame. Black therefore decides to sac the piece for 2 pawns but more importantly chases the King away and has a very strong passed pawn on d3. White declines the piece offer.

33.Rd4+ Nd5 ; 34.Rxd3 Re2 ; 35.a4 Ke5 ; 36.h4 Ke4 ; 37.Rf3 Rxd2 ; 38.Rel+ Kd4 ; 39.Re6 Nb4 ; 40.Rf4+ Kd5 ; 41.Rxh6 Resigns.

Thus after 5 rounds Arkell had a clear point lead with both Moore and Mordue having come into the reckoning on 4 points. On 3½ : Buckley, Collier, Simons (who beat Barton) and Wiley.

S.Peters v A.Ashby

1.d4 Nf6 ; 2.c4 c5 ; 3.d5 e6 ; 4.Nc3 d6 ; 5.g3 exd5 ; 6.cxd5 g6 ;

White delays e4 but instead strengthens his control of the white squares.

7.Bg2 Bg7 ; 8.Nf3 O-O ; 9. O-O Na6 ; 10. e4 Nc7 ; 11.Nd2 Rb8 ; 12. a4 a6 ; 13.Nc4...

This move invites 13...b5 but White has a sac planned.

13...b5 ; 14.Nxd6! Qxd6 ; 15.e5!...

15...Qxe5 ; 16.Bf4 Qe7 ; 17.d6... recaptures the piece and White has a very strong pawn on c7 and the rook has little room for escape.

15...Qd8 ; 16.exf6 Bxf6 ; 17.Be3 b4 ; 18.Ne4 Bxb2 ; 19.Rb1 Bd4 ; 20.Bxd4 cxd4 ; 21.Qxd4 f5?! ;

The knight is very strong on e4 and must be chased away but this move opens him up making the white squares as well as the black squares round his King very weak.

22.Nc5 a5 ; 23.d6 Na6 ; 24.Bd5+...

This move is killing.

24...Rf7 ; 25.Bxf7+ Kxf7 ; 26.Qc4+ Resigns. White picks up the piece on a6 leaving him a rook up.

In the morning I played very well and felt I was winning with a bishop pair against bishop & knight. Unfortunately I rather stupidly allowed the game to go into an opposite coloured bishop ending. I still thought I was winning and annoyed Brian Turner who knew it was a draw and thought I was mucking him about (he wanted to

Newton Abbot races). So yet another draw. I am still in with a chance as Spiegel beat Bramley and he and Turner lead on 3½ points with me third on 3. Speigel plays Turner tomorrow. I play my old friend Sandercock who won the Best game prize last year. Two white games left. Must win both to stand any chance. Definitely running the quickplay on Friday night. Tomorrow and Saturday all play in the morning. A full hall, must not it put me off. Despite 4 draws & only 1 win, feeling in good form.

Friday 7th September 1990

Round 6

A very disappointing round, although only 3 draws in the top 13 boards. Arkell lost his 100% record when Mordue comfortably held him to a draw.

This game Moore the chance to get within half a point of Arkell and set up an interesting last round pairing.

T.Wiley v G.Moore

1.e4 c5 ; 2.c3 e6 ; 3.d4 d5 ; 4.e5...

The game has reverted from a Sicilian into a French.

4...Nc6 ; 5.Nf3 Bd7 ; 6.Be2 f6 ; 7. 0-0 Qc7 ; 8.Re1 0-0-0 !? ;

A surprising choice to castle queenside. I would have thought this was asking for trouble.

9.Bf4 Nge7 ; 10.Na3...

White begins to hound the Black queen.

10..Ng6 ; 11.Bg3 fxe5 ; 12.Nb5 Qb6 ; 13.dxe5 Ncxe5 ; 14.Nxa7+!
Qxa7 ; 15.Nxe5 Nxe5 ; 16.Bxe5...

White recovers his piece and has control of the black squares round his opponent's King. Black has control of the centre. But his queen is in a very strange position.

16...Qb6 ; 17.b4!...

Sacking a pawn to open his opponent's position up.

17...Bd6 ; 18.bxc5 Bxc5 ; 19.Rb1 Qa7 ;

The queen returns to the a7 square. 19...Qc6 ; 20.Bb5... wins the queen for rook & bishop.

20.Bd4 Bxd4 ; 21.cxd4 Kb8 ; 22.Bg4 Rhe8 ; 23.Qd3 Rc8 ; 24.Qg3+
Rc7 ;

Not 24...Ka8 ; 25.Rb3... Black is being given the runaround. He still cannot get his queen from the a7 square.

25.Qe5 g6 ; 26.h4 Rec8 ; 27.Rb4 Ka8 ; 28.Bxe6 Bxe6 ; 29.Qxe6 Qxa2 ;

Black at last moves the queen but this opens up the a-file as is not very advisable. However, he would have dropped 2 pawns and little choice.

30.Rbb1 Kb8 ; 31.Ra1 Qb2 ; 32.Qxd5 Rc4 ; 33.Ra1 Resigns.

Either Black loses his queen or he gets mated on b7.

Thus Moore missed his chance. Buckley beat Barton to join Mordue on 4½ points. On 4 points: Hempson (who beat Collier), Moore, Bowley, Cooper, Crombleholme, Hills, Davey and Finn. This left Buckley to play Arkell and Wiley to play Mordue in the last round.

S.Finn v J.Rogers

1.e4 e5 ; 2.Nf3 d5 ; 3.Nxe5 Bd6 ; 4.d4 dxe4 ; 5.Nc3 Nf6 ; 6.Bg5 Bf5 ; 7.Bc4 O-O ; 8.Nd5 Nbd7 ; 9.Nxd7 Qxd7 ; 10.Bxf6 c6 ; 11.Bxg7 Kxg7 ; 12.Ne3 Bg6 ;

At the end of this flurry of activity White has won a pawn and his opponent is in disarray. However, the player who can regroup the quickest will win.

13.Ng4 Qf5 ; 14.Ne3 Qa5+ ; 15.Qd2 Bb4 ; 16.c3 Be7 ; 17.O-O Qh5 ; 18.f4 exf3 ep ; 19.Rxf3 Kh8 ; 20.Raf1 Rae8 ; 21.Nf5 Bg5 ; 22.Qf2 Rg8 ; 23.Nd6 Qh6 ; 24.Bxf7 Be3 ; 25.Rxe3 Rxe3 ; 26.Bxg6! Qxg6 ; 27.Nf7+ Kg7 ; 28.Qxe3 Rf8 ; 29.Qe5+ Kg8 ; 30.Qh8++.

On a personal note, I had to win to stand any chance. Here's my game:

R.Rendell v E.Sandercock

1.d4 Nf6 ; 2.c4 e5 ; 3.d5...

I hate the Budapest. This probably stems from a lost in 9 moves in a County Match against Andrew Borkowski. Thus I decide to push and try and get into the King's Indian.

3...Bc5 ; 4.Nc3 O-O ; 5.e3 a5 ; 6.Bd3 d6 ; 7.Ne2 Nbd7 ; 8.Ng3 Bb4 ; 9.Bd2 Nc5 ; 10.Bc2 Re8 ; 11.a3...

White at last relieves the pressure and now with bishops on c2 and c3 begins some of his own. His last few moves have been to enable him to play e4 but after the exchange he cons his opponent into pushing the pawn opening up the long diagonal.

11...Bxc3 ; 12.Bxc3 e4? ; 13. O-O Qe7 ; 14.Qd2 a4 ; 15.Bd4 b6 ;

It would appear that White is trying to break through on the queenside and so Black defends. However, White is setting up a Kingside attack.

16.Qc3 Kh8? ;

The threat was 17.Bxf6 Qxf6 ; 18.Qxf6 gxf6 ; 19.Nh5... but this move takes the king out of the frying-pan into the fire!

17.f3!...

White opens up the f-file when it suits him most.

17...e4xf3 ; 18.Rxf3 Bg4?? ; 19.Rxf6! Qd7 ; 20.Rf4...

I looked at 20.Rh6! here, which actually wins immediately but it looked to risky and having won a piece I didn't intend to throw the game away.

20...f6 ; 21.Bxf6 gxf6 ; 22.Qxf6+ Kg8 ; 23.Qg5+ Qg7 ; 24.Qxg7+ Kxg7 ; 25.Rxg4+ Kh8 ; 26.Rf1 Rxe3 ; 27.Rf7 Nd3 ; 28.Nf1 Ne5 ; 29.Rxh7++.

Jack Speigel did me a great favour (as well as himself) when he came back from a pawn down to win against Brian Turner. This left him on 4½ and me second on 4. If I could beat him in the last round I would win!

In the evening I ran the Quickplay. A late start meant that I had to make each draw within 10 mins if we were going to finish by 10 pm. Thus the draws were done extremely fast and after 4 rounds there were 6 leaders, including local player, Aston, Arkell and Buckley. As Buckley was due to play Arkell in the Premier the next morning, he cleverly took a draw in round 5, which left

Aston to play Arkell in the last round. Not surprisingly Aston blundered very quickly and Arkell took first prize. Buckley won his last round to take second prize. We also finished by 9.50 which meant that I managed to do the 5 draws in just 10 minutes. I certainly enjoyed myself as I think did everyone else.

As I was the last to leave I was able to plant my practical joke on Jack Speigel. I stuck his King and Queen to the board with bluetack so that when he moves these pieces he will knock over the whole board. I am looking forward to the following morning!

Saturday 8th September 1990

Round 7

R.Rendell v J.Speigel

1.d4 d5 ; 2.c4 e6 ; 3.Nc3 f5 ;

What a surprise! I think Jack's favourite opening is the stone wall defence. This the second time he has played it against me.

4.Bf4 c6 ; 5.e3 Nf6 ; 6.h3 Ne4 ; 7.Nf3 Nd7 ; 8.Be2 Be7 ; 9.Ne5 Nxe5 ; 10.Bxe5 Bf6 ; 11.Bh2 Bd7 ;

A whole hour had gone and still he had not moved his King or Queen. I am one of these players who cannot sit still for more than 5 minutes when waiting for my opponent to play. Thus I am like a cat on a hot tin roof. Jack told me later that he was waiting for me to decide which side I was going to castle before he did.

12. 0-0 0-0 ;

I don't believe it! Nothing happened. He simply castled. I don't think he could understand what the big joke was! Someone must have removed the bluetack. It must have been Steve Boniface, our controller. And I had tried to help him overnight, when he paired Brian Boomsma with his great 'friend' Chris Peters. Boomsma refused to play. I went round to leave Steve a message late last night. Oh well, better get back to playing the game:

13.Rc1 Bg5 ; 14.Nxe4 fxe4 ; 15.Qb3 b6 ; 16.Bg4 Rf6 ; 17.Be5 Rh6 ;

A strange square for the rook. This is a bit adventurous. Black would surely be better contesting the f-file.

18.a4 Bf6 ; 19.Bf4 g5 ;

Again a bit too adventurous.

20.Bd6 Qe8 ; 21.f4!...

Like the last game, opening the file to my advantage. F8 looks very inviting. 21...exf3 ep ; 22.Rxf3... followed by 23.Rcfl... is overwhelming, whilst 21...gxf4 ; 22.Rxf4... and 23.Rcfl... is the same.

21...e5 ; 22.Bxd7 Qxd7 ; 23.fxe5 Be7 ; 24.Bxe7 Qxe7 ; 25.cxd5...

This cannot be taken as Qxd5+ wins the rook on a8. Thus not only does White win three pawns but he has a string of passed pawns.

25...Rc8 ; 26.Rxc6 Rxc6 ; 27.dxc6+ Kg7 ; 28.Qd5 Qe6 ; 29.Qd7+ Kg8 ; 30.Qd8+ Kg7 ; 31.Qf8+ Kg6 ; 32.Rf6+ Resigns.

Note the rook is left totally on a limb on h6.

This win left me in first place on 5 points, with Speigel 2nd on 4½ points, Brian Turner took a draw to take 3rd on 4.

Premier

K.Arkell v G.Buckley

1.d4 Nf6 ; 2.Nf3 g6 ; 3.c4 Bg7 ; 4.Nc3 O-O ; 5.g3 d6 ; 6.Bg2 Nbd7 ;
7. O-O e5 ; 8.Qc2 Re8 ; 9.b3 c6 ; 10.Rd1 e4 ; 11.Ng5 e3! ;

Black sacrifices a pawn for pressure on the e-file.

12.fxe3 Nf8 ; 13.e4 Qe7 ; 14.e3 h6 ; 15.Nf3 Nxe4 ;

Black recovers his pawn and keeps the pressure on the e-file.

16.Qxe4 Qxe4 ; 17.Nxe4 Rxe4 ; 18.Ng5...

18.Ne5 Rxe5 ; 19.dxe5 Bxe5 ; 20.Rb1 Bg4 ; 21.Rd2... leaves Black
a rook for a piece and pawn down but good counterplay.
White chooses a more defensive line.

18...Re8 ; 19.Ne4 Bg4 ; 20.Rf1 Rad8 ; 21.Bd2 $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$.

This result gave Arkell victory and put Buckley on 5 points,
leaving the door open for Wiley or Mordue for clear second place
if they could beat each other:

T.Wiley v A.T.Mordue

1.e4 c5 ; 2.c3 d5 ; 3.exd5 Qxd5 ; 4.d4 e6 ; 5.Nf3 Nf6 ; 6.Na3
Nc6 ; 7.Be2 cxd4 ; 8.Nb5 Qd8 ; 9.Nbxd4 Nxd4 ; 10.Qxd4 Qxd4 ;
11.Nxd4 Be7 ; 12.Nb5 O-O ; 13.Be3...

This move leaves Black with problems. 13...a6 ; 14.Nc7 Rb8 ;
15.Ba7... loses the exchange whilst the a-pawn is attacked twice.
Black decides to give up the pawn in the hope of catching his
opponent's King in the centre.

13...Nd5 ; 14.Bxa7 Nf4 ; 15.g3 Nxe2 ; 16.Kxe2 Bd7 ; 17.a4 Rfc8 ;
18.Rfc1 e5 ; 19.b3 f5 ; 20.c4 g5 ;

Black has obtained freedom for his pawn and mounts an advance on
the kingside where he has plenty of space.

21.Bb6 Rc6 ; 22.Nc7 Rac8 ; 23.Nd5 Bf8 ; 24.Rd1 Be8 ; 25.Kf1
Bh5 ; 26.Re1 Bf3 ; 27.a5...

White has a 3 to 1 advantage on the queenside and must continue
his advance here. However, the b-pawn can hold the 3 pawns for
some time. Black with his bishop pair continues to attack on
the kingside.

27...Rh6 ; 28.Re3 e4 ; 29.Ke1 Rxh2 ;

I must admit I don't understand White's choice of moves. Surely
29.Kg1 was much better. I suppose he was afraid that his King
could get trapped on the Kingside.

30.Rc1 Rc6 ; 31.b4 f4 ;

31...Rh1+ ; 32.Kd2 Rxc1 ; 33.Kxc1 Rxc4+ ; wins a pawn but Black
finds something better than this.

32.gxf4 gxf4 ; 33.Rxf3...

33.Nxf4 ? Bxb4+ ; 34.Kf1 Rh1 ; is mate.

33...Rh1+ ; 34.Kd2 Rxc1 ; 35.Rc3 Ral ;

Black has won the exchange and has an outside passed pawn. But
White still has queenside pressure.

36. b5 Ra2+ ; 37.Kc1 Rh6 ; 38.Kb1 Rd2 ; 39.Rc2 Rh1+ ; 40.Kb2
Bg7+ ; 41.Nc3 Bxc3+ ; 42.Kxc3 Rxc2+ ; 43.Kxc2 Kf7 ; 44.Bd4 Ke6 ;

45.b6 Kd6 ; 46.Be5+ Kxe5 ; 47.a6 Rg1! ; 48.Resigns.

This rook can get back in time to stop the pawn and then the h-pawn marches. This brought Mordue second prize on top of his draw against Arkell.

C.Bowley v P.Hempson

1.d4 e6 ; 2.Nf3 f5 ; 3.g3 Nf6 ; 4.Bg2 Be7 ; 5. 0-0 0-0 ; 6.c4 c6 ; 7.b3 a5 ; 8.Nc3 d5 ; 9.Qc2 Ne4 ; 10.Ne5 Nbd7 ; 11.Nxd7 Bxd7 ; 12.Nd1 Bf6 ; 13.Bb2 Qe7 ; 14.f3 Nd6 ; 15.Nf2...

Yet another Stonewall. White has prepared e4 well and Black must look out. He decides to sacrifice a pawn to stop this and half open the f-file, where he hopes to obtain his pressure.

15...f4?! ; 16.gxf4 Nf5 ;

Another advantage to the pawn sacrifice is that the knight obtains a central square.

17.Qd2 Nh4 ; 18.e3 Nxe2 ; 19.Kxe2 Be8 ; 20.Kh1 Bg6 ; 21.a4 Rf7 ; 22.Ba3 Qc7 ; 23.Ra1 Bh4 ; 24.Ng4...

The knight recommences its journey. E5 looks a good square to enlighten on.

24...Bf5 ; 25.Qg2 Kh8 ; 26.Ne5 Rf6 ; 27.e4...

White at last gets in e4 and Black's position looks decidedly rocky.

27...Rg6?! ; 28.Nxe6+ Bxe6 ;

Black has had to give up the exchange to get rid of the troublesome knight. Note that White has no less than 5 pawns on the 4th rank, 4 of them on c4, d4, e4 & f4.

29.Qg4 Be7 ; 30.Bxe7 Qxe7 ;

Now Black has had to give up his only salvation - his bishop pair to stop the White queen evading in. It is funny how Black's position tends to fall apart in the stonewall if he is not too careful.

31.f5! exf5 ; 32.exf5...

White's pawn advance continues unabated. He is not worried about the doubled pawn - he has the e-file to roll his rooks down.

32...Bf7 ; 33.c5 Qf6 ; 34.Rc1 Rf8 ; 35.Qf4 Bg6! ;

This move nets him a pawn but White's pieces just crash through.

36.Qe5 Qxf5 ; 37.Qxf5 Rxf5 ; 38.Re7 Rf4 ; 39.Rxb7 Kg8 ; 40.Re1 Rxf3 ; 41.Re1 Be4 ; 42.Kg1 Resigns.

This win brought Bowley up to 3rd equal on 5 points with Buckley and they were joined by: Finn (who beat Cooper) and Moore (who beat Hills). Susan Arkell beat Lingham to finish with many on 4½.

Games from the other sections will be featured in future editions - space permitting.

Incidentally, I found out later that I got the row wrong and the bluetac was planted on Paul Foster's board! Thus he was not impressed when he came to castle and even less impressed when he moved his queen later on! He thought that the Weymouth clan had set him up and thought it quite funny. My apologies to him.

Finally, I managed to get a lift back to Bath from Tyson Mordue but unfortunately I could only get a bus to Trowbridge and then had to take a taxi back to home. I got back extremely late in the evening. Let's hope next year's Congress won't be so complicated!

45.b6 Kd6 ; 46.Be5+ Kxe5 ; 47.a6 Rg1! ; 48.Resigns.

This rook can get back in time to stop the pawn and then the h-pawn marches. This brought Mordue second prize on top of his draw against Arkell.

C.Bowley v P.Hempson

1.d4 e6 ; 2.Nf3 f5 ; 3.g3 Nf6 ; 4.Bg2 Be7 ; 5. 0-0 0-0 ; 6.c4 c6 ; 7.b3 a5 ; 8.Nc3 d5 ; 9.Qc2 Ne4 ; 10.Ne5 Nbd7 ; 11.Nxd7 Bxd7 ; 12.Nd1 Bf6 ; 13.Bb2 Qe7 ; 14.f3 Nd6 ; 15.Nf2...

Yet another Stonewall. White has prepared e4 well and Black must look out. He decides to sacrifice a pawn to stop this and half open the f-file, where he hopes to obtain his pressure.

15...f4?! ; 16.gxf4 Nf5 ;

Another advantage to the pawn sacrifice is that the knight obtains a central square.

17.Qd2 Nh4 ; 18.e3 Nxe2 ; 19.Kxe2 Be8 ; 20.Kh1 Bg6 ; 21.a4 Rf7 ; 22.Ba3 Qc7 ; 23.Ra1 Bh4 ; 24.Ng4...

The knight recommences its journey. E5 looks a good square to enlighten on.

24...Bf5 ; 25.Qg2 Kh8 ; 26.Ne5 Rf6 ; 27.e4...

White at last gets in e4 and Black's position looks decidedly rocky.

27...Rg6?! ; 28.Nxe6+ Bxe6 ;

Black has had to give up the exchange to get rid of the troublesome knight. Note that White has no less than 5 pawns on the 4th rank, 4 of them on c4, d4, e4 & f4.

29.Qg4 Be7 ; 30.Bxe7 Qxe7 ;

Now Black has had to give up his only salvation - his bishop pair to stop the White queen evading in. It is funny how Black's position tends to fall apart in the stonewall if he is not too careful.

31.f5! exf5 ; 32.exf5...

White's pawn advance continues unabated. He is not worried about the doubled pawn - he has the e-file to roll his rooks down.

32...Bf7 ; 33.c5 Qf6 ; 34.Rce1 Rf8 ; 35.Qf4 Bg6! ;

This move nets him a pawn but White's pieces just crash through.

36.Qe5 Qxf5 ; 37.Qxf5 Rxf5 ; 38.Re7 Rf4 ; 39.Rxb7 Kg8 ; 40.Re1 Rxf3 ; 41.Re1 Be4 ; 42.Kg1 Resigns.

This win brought Bowley up to 3rd equal on 5 points with Buckley and they were joined by: Finn (who beat Cooper) and Moore (who beat Hills). Susan Arkell beat Lingham to finish with many on 4½.

Games from the other sections will be featured in future editions - space permitting.

Incidentally, I found out later that I got the row wrong and the bluetac was planted on Paul Foster's board! Thus he was not impressed when he came to castle and even less impressed when he moved his queen later on! He thought that the Weymouth clan had set him up and thought it quite funny. My apologies to him.

Finally, I managed to get a lift back to Bath from Tyson Mordue but unfortunately I could only get a bus to Trowbridge and then had to take a taxi back to home. I got back extremely late in the evening. Let's hope next year's Congress won't be so complicated!

HOW GOOD IS YOUR CHESS ?

Imagine yourself sitting beside a Grand Master, guessing each move before he makes it.

Cover the text below the first diagram with a sheet of paper, lowering it gradually to uncover s line at a time. Whenever Black has moved, stop and try and guess White's reply which will usually be on the next line.

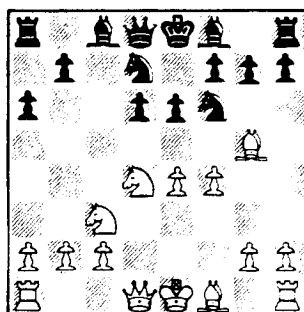
This article will enable you to estimate your standard of middle game play. Alternatively, if you prefer, you may simply enjoy a bright game and the notes.

You have White, alongside IM Bela Perenyi of Hungary. Your opponent is the Bulgarian IM, Krum Georgiev. The game was played in an international tournament in Budapest in May 1985.

B.Perenyi v K.Georgiev

1. e4 c5 ; 2.Nf3 d6 ; 3. d4 cxd4 ;
4.Nxd4 Nf6 ; 5.Nc3 a6 ; 6.Bg5 e6 ;
7. f4 N(b)d7 ;

Now start guessing!



8.Qf3...

3 points. We are not yet out of the "book". As Qe2, Qd2 and Bc4 have all been tried and led to well-contested games, each gain 3 points. Qe2 only 1 unless you had a subsequent g4 and Bg2 in mind.

For Be2 2 points, Bd3 1 point as 8...Qb6 ; 9.Nb3... would leave White weak in the diagonal of black squares to his g1.

8... Qc7 ;

9. 0-0-0...

3 points. Bxf6 or Bd3 earns 1 point.

9...b5 ;

10.Bxb5!?!...

6 points. To a natural player this might look too speculative. This line is well known - see David Levy's 'Sacrifices in the Sicilian'. Stean has said of it "Although it is difficult to believe that such a sacrifice is technically sound, it certainly presents Black with some tricky defensive problems". Here, the prospects are as favourable as they could be, in that (a) Black's last move means that a knight arriving at b5 gains a tempo by attacking the queen and (b) by postponing Be7, Black has made it cumbersome for his King to castle and get away from the centre. For 10. g4 2 points; 10. e5 1 point.

10... axb5 ;

11.N(d)xb5...

2 points. To capture with the other knight would leave the all important d-file blocked and each knight "hanging" on the other's support.

1 point for 11. e5...

11... Qb8 ;

12.e5...

3 points.

An extra 2 points if you realised that you are now threatening to win a piece by 13.Qxa8... as well as 13.exf6...; yet 2 more points if you foresaw this when playing 10.Bxb5.

1 point for 12.R(h)e1 or Bxf6. Nothing else scores.

12...Ra5 ;

For some time, 12...Bb7 ; was naturally considered Black's best move here. Trial revealed it as inferior to this but you had to consider it seriously. 2 points if you did so.

Give yourself 1 to 4 points more accordingly as you foresaw some or all of the continuations:

13.Qe2 dxe5 (d5; 14.exf6 gxf6; 15.f5 fxf5; 16.fxe6 Nf6; 17.Rhf1 Be7; 18.exf7+ Kxf7; 19.Rde1... with a fine game for White or if 13...Be7; 14.Bxf6 Nxf6; 15.exf6 Bxf6; 16.Nxd6+ Kf8; 17.Nxc8 Qxc8; 18.Qe4... again in White's favour); 14.Qc4 Be7 (or Bc5; Bxf6 gxf6; 16.Rxd7!...); 15.Bxf6(Nc7+ Kf8; 16.Rxd7 Nxd7; 17.Rd1 Bxg5; 18.fxf5 Bc8; 19.N(3)b5 g6; with an obscure situation) Nxf6; 16.Nc7+ Kf8; 17.fxe5 Nd5; 18.N(3)xd5 exd5 ; 19.Nxd5... and White's 3 extra pawns more than compensate for Black's extra Bishop with his misplaced King and cramped king's wing.

Be honest now!

13.exf6...

2 points. For 13.exd6 (13...Rxb5!) nothing. 13.Nd4 has been tried and also earns 2 points as 13...Bb7; 14.Qh3 dxe5 ; 15.Nxe6... leads to obscure situations with good prospects for White possibly as good as in the game.

13...gxf6 ;

With only a pawn in it and two white pieces en prise, White has to find some way of maintaining his attack.

In fact, Stean announced in 1976 that "White's attack now fizzles out." How could it be kept going?

14.Bh6!!...

This is it! It took the grand masters about 5 years to find. At the cost of a piece for a pawn, it drags the black king out and weakens Black's centre.

5 points.

14.Bh4, Nxd6+ and Bxf6 - 2 points each. 1 extra point if you checked up on 14...Rxb5; and decided that you would be quite happy as White after Bxf8 Rxf8; 16.Nxb5 Qxb5; 17.Rxd6...

14...Bxh6;

15.Nxd6+...

1 point. Nothing else scores.

15...Ke7;

16.Kb1...

4 points.

This quiet move is the best as it unpins the pawn on f4 and ensures if it were to be captured by B or Q, it would not be with check.

An extra point if you had noticed that it freed White to play N(3)e4 without losing the pawn on a2.

Either 16.g4... or 16.Rhe1 would be quite sound and score 3 points.

16...Rg8 ;

17.Rhe1...

2 points only - it is clearly the best move now. 1 point for 17.g4... as a further g5 or f5 might be effective, retaining the possibility of Qh5 keeps Black under useful pressure for a while.

Did you consider 16...Rd8 as an alternative for Black? Tried recently, it failed against 17.Qe4! (threatening 18.Qxh7) Nf8; 18.Nf5 Rxd1+; 19.Rxd1 Rc5; 20.Qd4 Nd7; 21.Nd6... Award yourself 1 to 4 points according to how much of this went through your head.

17...f5 ? ; Probably not the best move.

18.Qh5...

3 points. Deduct 2 points for any other move. To threaten 19.Qxf7+, 19.Qxh6 and Nxf5+ in one go is not the sort of opportunity to pass up.

18...Rg6 ;

19.Qh4+...

4 points. Deduct 3 points for 19.Nxf5+ which actually puts White in difficulties after the reply 19...Kf8. After 20.g4 for instance Black has 20...Qxf4!

19.g4... is interesting (19...Rxf4; 20.Qxh6... or 19...fxg4??; 20.Qxa5... or 19...Bxf4; 20.gxf5...) and earns 3 points.

Give yourself a further 2 points if you considered these two alternatives and rejected them for 19.Qh4+.

19...f6 ;

1 point more if you saw that 19...Nf6; would fail again 20.Nd5+... with the Black king hopelessly exposed. If 20...Kxd6; 21.Nxf6+... Hence Black must play 20...Rxd5; leaving White at least even on material but with a good attack still.

20.g4!...

8 points. Possibly the best move of the game. No other continuation of the attack is so deadly. Without it, White's attack would falter; so no credit for anything else.

20.Rxe6+... fails to 20...Kxe6; 21.Qe1+ Ne5.

The move chosen threatens 21.Nxf5+ and gxf5, so Black is in serious trouble.

20...Qxd6;

Desperation.

21.Rxd6...

1 point. Deduct 20 points for anything else!

21...Kxd6 ;

Here you can pick up 3 more points by answering a new sort of question: What is the overwhelmingly important unusual strategic factor in the situation which grossly reduces the effectiveness of Black's pieces?

22.b4...

It is, that Black's entire pieces' force is split into two, by his own central pawn stodge. They never co-operate together again.

White's move seizes the opportunity to rob the pawn on f5 of rook support.

4 points.

3 points for 22.g5... if you saw 22...fxg5; 23.fxg5 Bxg5(Bf8; 24.Qxh7...) 24.Qb4+... when Black loses the exchange and his King remains exposed.

Deduct a point for 22.Rd1+ which would drive the king to a slightly safer square at e7. Deduct 2 points for 22.gxf5? Rxf5.

Nothing else scores.

22...Ra6 ;

23.gxf5...

Even 1 point is kind; the move is so obvious. Nothing else scores. Now, the Black king will never reach the king's side, with its marginally greater safety. Score another point if you had noticed this. There is strategy in chess as well as tactics.

23...exf5 ;

24.Qf2...

3 points.

Obviously the queen must come into action. This rules out a black knight move but 24.Qh3 or 24.Qh5 (each 3 points) would equally threaten a queen check on the file and keep the black rook on g6 tied to defending the bishop as well. 24.a4... would also win but much more slowly - 1 point.

24...Rg8 ;

25.Qd4+...

3 points.

Nothing for anything else, except that the alternative 25.Nb5+ would deny Black a retreat to c7 and after 25...Kc6; 26.c4... threaten 27.Re6+ so is certainly worth 2 points.

Note that the whole of White's piece force is confronting only three fifths of Black's.

25...Kc7 ;

26.b5...

4 points.

White is going to win a rook by 27.Qc4+... Without this intermediate move Black could reply 26...Rc6 ; and salvage a knight from the wreckage. Black could still try 26...Ra3; Hence 3 points for 26.Qc4+ intending simply 27.Qxg8 when Black would still probably resign for the same reasons as in the game: totally unco-ordinated forces and an exposed king.

Black resigns.

NOW TOT UP YOUR POINTS!

Scores over the page.

Be honest now!

80-90 GM
70-79 IM
60-69 180+
50-59 155 to 179
40-49 120 to 154
30-39 100 to 119
Under 29 Keep trying!

ANSWERS TO PROBLEMS

For problems - see page 4

(1) Black not only wins in 2 but mates in 2 with:

1...Qh1+ !! ; 2.Kxh1 Rf1++ ;

(2) White has to be careful as he has only two pawns left to play with. However, he can promote one with:

1.g4!...

Now whichever way Black captures, a pawn marches down the h-file to queen.

(3) This is a little more tricky but once you find the first move it falls into place. Which is Black's weakest square? Why, f7 of course. Thus:

1.Qg6+ !!...

Now if 1...Kh8 ; 2.Rxf8++. if 1...Rg7 : 2.Rxf7!... leads to mate on either g7 or f8. Thus:

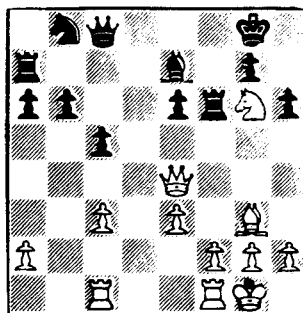
1...fxg6 ; 2.Rdxf8+ Kg7 ; 3.Rlf7++

(4) Black has a back row weakness, no escape squares for his king and all his remaining pieces on the b-file. How can White exploit all of these things?

1.Rd8+ !!...

Now Black has problems. If 1...Bxd8 ; 2.Qe8... is mate; whilst 1...Rxd8 ; 2.Qxb7... leaves him a queen for rook down.

Now try this problem:



White to play and win

First correct answer out of the bag on 31 ^{August} ~~May~~ 1991 wins f5.