

Chess notes by J.H.J.

LAST week the study by Horwitz, with White to move and win, was 8/8/8/8/8/1Q3pp/p6p1/k6K1.

Clearly White has two problems: avoid the stalemate that may arise once Black's f and g pawns are removed, and force a situation in which black may be mated.

Since Black will (eventually) promote a pawn at g1, White must start by controlling that square. 1. Qb6!, f2+; 2. Kxg2, f1=O+; 3. Kxf1, g2+; 4. Ke2!, g1=O; 5. Qxg1+, Kb2; All forced!

Now White must operate against the Black King and the imminent promotion of the pawn at a2. 6. Kd2!, a1=O; 7. Qb6+, Ka3; (7... Ka2; fails to the quiet move 8. Kc2!) 8. Qa5+, Kb2; 9. Qb4+, Ka2; 10. Kc2! and again Black is left with no resource (1:0).

The Cole Plate semi-finals went very much as expected. Paulsgrove A 3, IBM B 2 and Portsmouth A 4½, Fareham C ½. This leaves the final to be contested by Portsmouth A (who as likely runners-up in the League Division I are very much the favourites) against Paulsgrove A (who, as probable winners of the League Division IV, are the ante-post underdogs) and this match must be concluded by the end of May.

If you are tactically inclined then the Marshall Gambit can be a powerful weapon under any time conditions: at quick-play it can (on occasion) be irresistible.

White: D. A. Bloxson. Black: J.H.J. 1. e4, e5; 2. Nf3, Nc6; 3. Bb5, a6; 4. Ba4, Nf6; 5. OO, Be7; 6. Re1, b5; 7. Bb3, OO; 8. c3, d5!?: (Played by F. G. Marshall against J. R. Capablanca in Round 1, New York, 1918. Marshall had kept his preparation secret since being drubbed 8-1 (with 14 draws) in his match with Capablanca in 1909.) 9. exd5, Nxd5; 10. Nxe5, Nxe5; 11. Rxe5, Nf6; 12. d4, (The seminal game continued 12. Re1?, Bd6; 13. h3, Ng4!; 14. Qf3!, Qh4; 15. d4!, Nxf2; 16. Re2?, Bg4; better 16... Ng4!; 17. Re8, Nf6; 18. Rxf8+ . Kxf8; 19. Nd2, Rb8; 20. Nf1, = Tartakover and after some alarms and excursions White won in 36 moves) Bd6; 13. Re2, (13. Re1, Ng4; 14. h3, Qh4; 15. Qf3, Nxf2; 16. Bd2, Bb7; 17. Qxb7, Nd3; 18. Re2, Qg3; 19. Kf1, Qh2; 20. g4! proves insufficient for Black) Bxh2+!?: (Capablanca gave 13... Nh5; 14. Qd3, Qh4; 15. g3, Qh3; 16. Bd5!, (which is why later analysts considered 11... c6 to be superior) Bf4; 17. Qe3, Rad8; 18. Bg2, with advantage to White) 14. Kxh2, Ng4+; 15. Kg3?, (15. Kg1!) Qd6+; 16. Bf4, (16. f4?, Qh6;) Qg6; 17. Kf3, Bb7+; 18. d5, Rfe8; 19. Rxe8+, (19. Nd2, Qh5;) Rxe8; 20. Bc2, Qh5; 21. Kg3, Qh2+; 22. Kxg4, (22. Kf3, Ne5+;) Qxg2+; 23. Bg3, (23. Kh4, Bc8;) f6; 24. Bf5, Re5; 25. Be6+, Kf8; (25... Rxe6; probably leads to a win 26. dxe6, h5+; 27. Kh4, g5+; 28. Kxh5, Bf3+;) 26. Nd2, (26. Qf3?, h5+;) Bxd5; 27. Bxd5, h5+; 28. Kh4, g5+; 29. Kxh5, Qh3+; 30. Kg6, Qf5+; 31. Kh6, Re7; (0:1).