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## Index of Games, Stories and Anecdotes

Game No in Bold & Page No in brackets	Year	Opponent	Opening	C O L O U R	M O V E S	R E S U L T
<b>Early Competitive Games</b>						
<b>1</b> (17)	1975	D J King	Sicilian Pelican	W	22	W
<b>2</b> (18)	1975	Pos	Sicilian Najdorf	W	22	W
<b>3</b> (19)	1976	J Van der Wiel	1..b6 Basman's/Owen Def	B	31	L
<b>4</b> (20)	1977	R F Holmes	1..b6 Basman's/Owen Def	B	15	L
<b>5</b> (22)	1976	P Taylor	French Adv Nimzo 4 Qg4	W	35	W
<b>(25) My First Tournament Success</b>						
<b>6</b> (26)	1974	I Capes	Sicilian Nimzowitsch	W	23	W
<b>7</b> (28)	1974	R MacBrayne	Sokolski/Dutch	B	53	W
<b>8</b> (30)	1974	A J Miles	Ruy Lopez/Boden Var	B	54	W
<b>9</b> (33)	1975	Carr	Modern Benoni	B	16	L
<b>10</b> (35)	1975	C K D Holland	Modern Benoni	B	26 +	L
<b>11</b> (36)	1980	A Cullinane	Sicilian Wing Gambit	B	32	W
<b>(40)</b>						
<b><u>The Kings Gambit</u></b>						
A juvenile approach to 'hacking' the Fischer variation 1 e4 e5 2 f4 ef 3 Nf3 d6 4 d4 g5 5 h4 g4 6 Ng5!?! h6 7 Nxf7!						
<b>12</b> (40)	1976	S Popham	Kings Gambit 7 Nxf7!	W	28	W
<b>13</b> (41)	1976	C Purdon	Kings Gambit 7 Nxf7!	W	33	W
<b>14</b> (44)	1976	J Wilcox	Kings Gambit 7 Nxf7!	W	27	W
<b>(45) The British Championship Qualifying (Pre 1982)</b>						
<b>15</b> (46)	1980	G H James	Sicilian Rossolimo 3 Bb5	B	58	W
<b>16</b> (49)	1982	P Stevenson	Sicilian Scheveningen	W	43	W
<b>17</b> (50)	1983	A Vickers	Pirc Defence	W	32	W
<b>18</b> (53)	1974	R T W Thorpe	Kings Gambit Declined	W	12	W
<b>19</b> (54)	1981	S J Wood	Modern Benoni	B	20	W
<b>(55)</b>						
<b>Fracas in Chester British Championship 1979</b>						

<b><u>'My Specialist Opening System No 1'</u></b>						
<b>(57) <u>'Come &amp; Get Me'</u></b>						
A psychological challenge to get your opponent to come out and play! Black develops early on the 'Rook Files' with move combinations of 1..a5 or 1...h5 with ideas of 2..a4 or 2..h4 followed by early Rook deployments with for example 3..Ra6 or 3...Rh5 dependent on White's responses						
20 (58)	1995	J Newman	'Come & Get Me'	B	47	D
21 (62)	1992	M Williams	'Come & Get Me'	B	31	W
22 (64)	2002	C Duncan	'Come & Get Me'	B	37	W
23 (66)	1997	M Franklin	'Come & Get Me'	B	36	D
<b>(70)</b>						
<b>Lewisham Chess Club (Founded 1886) And It's Players and Personalities</b>						
<b>(73)</b>						
<b><u>Ted Mason (+ game v Latin American Master)</u></b>						
<b><u>'My Specialist Opening System No2'</u></b>						
<b>(79) <u>The Mason variation of the Philidor Defence</u></b>						
<b>1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 Nd7 4 Bc4 Qf6!? 5 Nc3 c6</b>						
24 (80)	1994	K Harman	Mason's Philidor	B	27	W
25 (80)	2004	C Briscoe	Mason's Philidor	B	32	W
26 (83)	1993	B Connell	Mason's Philidor	B	35	W
27 (85)	2002	S Terry	Mason's Philidor	B	28	W
28 (87)	2000	P Chaplin	Mason's Philidor	B	35 +	W
29 (88)	1998	Mel Buckley	Mason's Philidor	B	31	W
30 (89)	1993	M Twyble	Mason's Philidor	B	34	W
31 (92)	2000	G Leyton	Mason's Philidor	B	43	L
<b>(96) My Competitive encounters with other leading Lewisham Personalities</b>						
32 (98)	1983	N R Oliver	Petroff Defence	B	36	L
33 (99)	1978	N R Oliver	Philidor 6 Bxf7+	W	28	W
34 (101)	1978	M J Pitt	QGD Camb Springs	W	34	W
35 (103)	1984	Z Mehmit	Caro Kann Advanced	W	35	W
36 (104)	1983	R Morrison	Ruy Lopez Breyer	W	40	W
37 (107)	1983	R Morrison	Modern Benoni	W	27	W
38 (109)	1981	J R Richardson	Ruy Lopez Breyer	W	21	L
39 (111)	2000	J R Richardson	Caro Kann Advanced	W	31	L
40 (113)	1983	L J Smart	Sicilian Kan	W	26	W
41 (115)	1985	R W O'Brien	French Advanced	B	28	L
42 (117)	1978	K J Wicker	French Winawer	W	35	W
43 (118)	1976	K J Wicker	Modern Defence	W	31	W

44 (119)	1986	K J Wicker	French Winawer	W	27	W
(121)	<b><u>Len Pickett</u></b>					
	<b><u>'My Specialist Opening System No 3'</u></b>					
(122)	<b><u>The Pickett Variation against the French Winawer</u></b>					
	1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 Bb4 4 e5 c5 5 a3 Bxc3+ 6 bc Ne7 7 Qg4 Qc7 8 Qxg7 Rg8 9 Qxh7 cd 10 Ne2 Nbc6 11 h4!					
45 (124)	1987	L Webb	French - Winawer Pickett	W	22	W
46 (125)	1996	D Gold	French - Winawer Pickett	W	23	W
47 (126)	1999	E M Player	French - Winawer Pickett	W	29	W
48 (128)	1994	A Harrikis	French - Winawer Pickett	W	32+	W
49 (131)	1990	T Davis	French - Winawer Pickett	W	17+	W
50 (132)	2001	M Anderton	French - Winawer Pickett	W	26	W
51 (134)	1996	C Purdon	French - Winawer Pickett	W	18+	W
52 (134)	1994	S D Brown	French - Winawer Pickett	W	16+	L
(136)	<b>Summary of Pickett variation against the French Winawer</b>					
(137)	<b>Charlton – Lewisham History of Rivalry &amp;</b>					
(138)	<b>The Final that <i>Never Was!</i> &amp;</b>					
(140)	<b>The Final that <i>Was !</i></b>					
53 (141)	1987	A J Stebbings	Sicilian Kan	W	30	W
(144)	<b>A Recent History of Slough Chess Club</b>					
54 (146)	1998	Jovanka Houska	Sicilian 3 Bb5	B	32	L
55 (147)	2000	Ivana Houska	QP Stonewall	B	36	L
56 (149)	1988	S Finn	Sicilian Scheveningen	W	18	W
(150)	<b>The Mighty George Trent</b>					
(155)	<b>Fawly Towers Brush with the Law (Part 1)</b>					
57 (158)	1989	J Way	Sicilian English Attack	W	32	W
(161)	<b>'A Norman Conquest' Brush with the Law (Part 2)</b>					
(166)	<b>'What Goes Around Comes Around!' Part 1 – (1998)</b>					
58 (166)	1998	C 'Fuckit'	Kings Gambit Accepted	B	33	L



<b>(171) 'What Goes Around Comes Around!'</b> <b>Part 2 – (1999)</b>						
<b>59 (171)</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>C 'Fuckit'</b>	<b>1 e4 e5 2 Nc3 Qf6?!</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>W</b>
<b>60 (176)</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>C Cuartos</b>	<b>Sicilian Richter Rauser</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>W</b>
<b>(179) <u>My Specialist Opening No 4</u></b>  <b><u>The Sicilian 'Smith (my) System'</u></b>  <b>Effective against the Najdorf, Classical &amp; Scheveningen Sicilian Defences</b> <b>1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cd 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 (or Nc6) 6 Bg5 e6 7 Be2 &amp; 8 Qd3</b>						
<b>61 (180)</b>	<b>1992</b>	<b>M Sadler</b>	<b>Sicilian (my system)</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>L</b>
<b>62 (182)</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>B Lalic</b>	<b>Sicilian (my system)</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>63 (184)</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>Harriet Hunt</b>	<b>Sicilian (my system)</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>W</b>
<b>64 (188)</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>J M Plaskett</b>	<b>Sicilian (my system)</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>W</b>
<b>65 (191)</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>N D Short</b>	<b>Sicilian (my system)</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>L</b>
<b>66 (194)</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>Harriet Hunt</b>	<b>Sicilian (my system)</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>W</b>
<b>67 (197)</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>M Rich</b>	<b>Sicilian (my system)</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>W</b>
<b>68 (199)</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>R Abayasekera</b>	<b>Sicilian (my system)</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>W</b>
<b>69 (201)</b>	<b>1982</b>	<b>R Britton</b>	<b>Sicilian (my system)</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>W</b>
<b>70 (203)</b>	<b>1982</b>	<b>J G Gallagher</b>	<b>Sicilian (my system)</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>W</b>
<b>71 (208)</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>J G Gallagher</b>	<b>Sicilian Rauser</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>72 (212)</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>L McShane</b>	<b>French Winawer</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>W</b>
<b>73 (214)</b>	<b>1988</b>	<b>M Adams</b>	<b>Sicilian Keres Attack</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>L</b>
<b>74 (218)</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>M P Cook</b>	<b>Ruy Lopez (Steinitz)</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>W</b>
<b>75 (219)</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>R Granat</b>	<b>Kings Gambit Accepted</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>W</b>
<b>(224) <u>My 2 Favourite Games</u></b> <b>1 Robert Richmond</b> <b>2 Colm Daly</b>						
<b>76 (225)</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>R Richmond</b>	<b>Kings Gambit Accepted</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>W</b>
<b>77 (228)</b>	<b>1992</b>	<b>C Daly</b>	<b>Sicilian Keres Attack</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>W</b>
<b>(236) Dabbling in Weekend Chess</b>						
<b>(237) The Perils of Weekend Chess Poverty</b>						
<b>(239) <u>'Specialist Opening System No 5'</u></b>  <b><u>Watering the Fire of the Dragon</u></b> <b>1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cd 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 g6 6 Nd5!?</b>						
<b>78 (240)</b>	<b>1986</b>	<b>Goddard</b>	<b>Sicilian Dragon 6 Nd5</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>W</b>
<b>79 (242)</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>C Duncan</b>	<b>Sicilian Dragon 6 Nd5</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>W</b>
<b>80 (244)</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>S Tiviakov</b>	<b>Sicilian Dragon 6 Nd5</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>L</b>
<b>81 (247)</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>I Snape</b>	<b>Sicilian Dragon 6 Nd5</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>W</b>
<b>83 (254)</b>	<b>1986</b>	<b>S D Singh</b>	<b>Sicilian Dragon Yugoslav</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>W</b>

84 (257)	1975	K N Parker	Sicilian Dragon Yugoslav	W	29	W
85 (260)	1982	P A Aston	Sicilian Najdorf 6 f4	W	44	W
(264) Recollections of St Brides Institute and The London League						
86 (265)	1977	C R Davis	Sicilian 3 Bb5	B	40	W
(269) The advantage of losing an Adjudication						
87 (270)	1986	Smart-Hodgson	English		20	
88 (271)	1986	A Kosten	French Winawer	B	45	D
(273)						
<b><u>'Specialist Opening System No 6'</u></b>						
<b><u>The 'Haldane Hack' against the Classical French Defence</u></b>						
1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 e5 Nfd7 5 Qh5!?						
89 (274)	1987	M Ali	French Haldane Hack	W	14	W
90 (275)	1998	C Hanley	French Haldane Hack	W	29	W
91 (279)	1999	D McDonald	French Haldane Hack	W	22	W
92 (280)	1998	D Bronstein	French Haldane Hack	W	43	W
93 (284)	1998	Heather Richards	French Haldane Hack	W	28	W
94 (285)	1998	C Harris	French Haldane Hack	W	26	W
95 (286)	1997	P Benson	French Haldane Hack	W	35	W
96 (288)	1995	A Spice	French Haldane Hack	W	27	W
97 (289)	2004	D Okike	French Haldane Hack	W	33+	W
(291)						
<b><u>'Specialist Opening System No 7'</u></b>						
<b><u>The Centre Attack (Game)</u></b>						
1 e4 e5 2 d4 ed 3 Qxd4!? Nc6 4 Qe3						
99 (293)	1989	J E Littlewood	The Centre Attack	W	29	W
100 (299)	1988	B Eley	The Centre Attack	W	55	W
101 (300)	1988	A P Law	The Centre Attack	W	60	L
102 (301)	1994	T Upton	The Centre Attack	W	50	W
103 (303)	1999	M Ferguson	The Centre Attack	W	54	W
104 (304)	1998	M Ferguson	The Centre Attack	W	38	L
105 (306)	1999	L Cooper	The Centre Attack	W	27	W
106 (307)	1988	K Norman	The Centre Attack	W	27	W
107 (308)	2000	M Ferguson	The Centre Attack	W	24	L
108 (311)	2001	M Goodyer	The Centre Attack	W	32	W
109 (312)	2003	Heather Lang	The Centre Attack	W	34	W
110 (314)	1987	R Burton	The Centre Attack	W	25	W
111 (316)	2003	J Rogers	The Centre Attack	W	29	L
112 (318)	2001	R Richmond	The Centre Attack	W	34	W
113 (320)	2002	R Richmond	The Centre Attack	W	29	W
114 (321)	1986	S Finlayson	The Centre Attack	W	44	W
115 (322)	80's	M Sadler	The Centre Attack	W	33	D
116 (323)	1984	S Berry	The Centre Attack	W	27	L
117 (325)	2001	R Valenti	Kings Indian Attack	B	90	D
(329) My encounters with Jim Plaskett (GM)						
118 (330)	90's	J Plaskett	Sicilian Kan	W	10+	W

119 (333)	1997	J Plaskett	Sicilian Pelican	W	57	W
120 (337)	1997	G Buckley	Modern Benoni	B	43	L
<b><u>A Random selection of Games and Stories</u></b>						
121 (339)	1993	D Sands	Sicilian Richter Rauser	W	58	W
122 (341)	1999	K C Arkell	Caro Kann Advance 3 e5	W	33	L
123 (344)	1981	K C Arkell	Caro Kann 2 Ne2	W	54	W
124 (347)	1999	A Gilmour	<u>Position</u> wef move 42	B	(56)	W
125 (352)	1999	P Georghiou	Caro Kann	W	26	D
126 (355)	1993	J Goldberg	Modern Benoni	B	27	L
127 (357)	1986	C Beaumont	Benoni/English	B	38	W
128 (358)	1990	C Beaumont	Pirc Defence	W	42	W
129 (361)	1980's	M Prizant	Sicilian 3 Bb5	B	40	W
130 (363)	1993	M Prizant	Philidor Defence	B	(58)	W
131 (368)	1983	J Flesch	Modern Benoni	B	28	W
132 (369)	2000	V Vaisman	Sicilian Kan	W	41	W
133 (372)	1987	B Eley	English	B	55	D
134 (375)	1997	G D Lee	Caro Kann - Panov	W	38	W
135 (378)	1999	'A Pratt'	Philidor Defence	W	36	W
136 (381)	1989	K Berg	Centre Counter	W	40	L
<b><u>A collection of Brevities</u></b>						
137 (385)	1998	N Alfred	Sicilian 3 Be2 (trans)	W	21	W
138 (386)	1986	M P Cook	Budapest Gambit	B	23	W
139 (387)	1986	A J Stebbings	Ruy Lopez 3..g6	B	24	W
140 (389)	1995	N Dickinson	Sicilian - Closed	B	18	W
141 (390)	2000	A Dunnington	Modern Defence	W	32	W
142 (392)	1980's	E M Teichmann	Modern Benoni	B	19	W
143 (393)	1985	W Godenzie	Benoni/English	B	9	W
144 (394)	1996	J H Hodgson	French 3 Nd2 c5	B	37	W
145 (395)	1988	J Poulton	French Winawer	W	18	W
146 (396)	1983	S J Rodericks	French Advance (4 Qg4)	W	28	W
147 (397)	1988	V Small	Sicilian Pelican	W	19	W
148 (398)	1983	S Spivack	French 3 Nd2 c5	B	34	W
149 (400)	1982	F. Kwaitkowski	French 3 Nd2 c5	B	28	W
150 (401)	1986	N Lazonby	Evans Gambit	B	14	L
151 (403)	1997	G Wall	Kings Indian Attack	B	11	W
152 (404)	1997	R M Webb	Grunfeld	W	20	W
153 (406)	1986	L Gurr	Steinitz Gambit	W	24	W
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## Introduction

### Chess – The Greatest Game of All Time!?

Chess *really* is a great game! Is it the ‘Greatest Game of All Time ?’

It must be - it has stood the test of time! Such is the game’s charisma, it was banned by the communist regime of China’s Chairman Mao for its perceived radicalism to inspire independent thought, leading perhaps to opposition to the government’s policies – but actively encouraged and used as a propaganda tool by successive Russian regimes of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, to demonstrate the intellectual supremacy of Communism over Capitalism.

The game has evolved over centuries and is so old, that it’s precise origins are unknown although it is speculated that it was invented in the years before Christ either in India or Persia. It has survived through centuries, and despite the recent intrusion of ‘computer programmes’ delving deep into the game’s secrets, I am sure it will continue to thrive! With rare exceptions, because the virtual infinity of moves, no two games are ever the same. Each game played by whoever you are, whatever your standard of play, is unique and can be of interest.

**None of us will live forever, but our chess games can.** I like to think that long after I am gone, my chess games can still be enjoyed and whilst I am conscious that ‘game collections’ are only usually published by top class or famous players, I feel that mine have something of interest. (But apologies in advance for any errors and treat all my analysis with ‘a pinch of salt’ as its all unchecked by computer engine)

Chess is both a ‘Sport’ because of it’s competitive nature usually establishing a ‘winner’, and an ‘Art’ because of it’s beauty! There is no doubt that an individual chess game can be appreciated hundreds of years later in the same way that a painting or a poem can! Yes! In my opinion, a chess game really can be a work of Art!

I can still recall the wonderment and joy of playing through the score of the following game :

#### The ‘Evergreen Game’ Adolph Andersson – Jean Dufresne (Berlin 1852)

**1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bc4 Bc5 4 b4 !?**

The so called Evans Gambit because it was first played in the 1800’s by Captain Evans. In recent years it has even been ‘championed’ by no other than the great Gary Kasparov!

**4..Bxb4 5 c3 Ba5 6 d4 cd 7 0-0 d3 !? 8 Qb3 Qf6 9 e5 Qg6 10 Re1 Nge7 11 Ba3 b5!? 12 Qxb5 Rb8 13 Qa4 Bb6 14 Nbd2 Bb7 15 Ne4 Qf5 16 Bxd3 Qh5 17 Nf6+! gf 18 ef Rg8**

So a position is reached with latent possibilities for both players. White has threats down the central files whilst Black, who is a piece up, has definite ambitions of landing a mating blow on the g2 square. Because of the pin by the Rook on the g file, Black’s immediate threat is 19..Qxf3. Or is it ?! In playing his next move, if he hadn’t already done so when playing 17 Nf6+!, Andersson must have envisaged the sequence of moves that lead to checkmate on move 23 !

**19 Rad1 !!! (?)**

What's this ? Has the great Adolph Anderssen overlooked the obvious threat ? The exclamation marks are for the impact, sheer beauty, brilliance of the move and the overall concept of the mate that follows! The (?) is because I understand that it may not be the *best move* – but who cares!

**19..Qxf3?**

One can be grateful to Mr Dufresne for overlooking the magnificent mating combination of his opponent, because even now, 150 years later, we can appreciate its beauty, like we can a real work of art. Black now threatens 20...Qxg2 mate, but never gets a chance to play it !

**20 Rxe7+! Nxe7****21 Qxd7+!!! Kxd7 22 Bf5+ Ke8 23 Bd7+ Kf8 24 Bxe7 mate!! (Fantastic!)**

Even though it had been played more than 150 years ago, this game was like a 'Work of Art' evolving before my very own eyes. When Anderssen delivered the 'coup de grace' 21 Qxd7+!!!, I was left mesmerised and stunned in amazement! It is one of the few instances where I recall immediately resetting the pieces, and playing through it again to savour and to try and fully appreciate what had really happened! It would be stating the obvious to say that the quality of my games cannot in any way approach the level of beauty displayed by these chess geniuses - it is a bit like drawing a comparison between the quality 'broadsheet press' and a 'red top' tabloid newspaper but I hope they can at least offer a little bit of entertainment.

I recall Keith Arkell saying to me once that he finds the pain of losing a game far outweighs any pleasure he gets from winning but then again, if he had lost as often as I have, he might be able to appreciate the 'wins' more readily!

For me, Chess has been a passion since I was a young teenager and I have played it almost continuously. I never cease to be amazed when I hear that people give up playing and following the game. For me, I enjoy it too much, even though a string of successive losses can be frustrating – even depressing!

Chess introduced me to travel – I have been to lots of places that I would not have been had it not been for Chess - and I have made many friends through playing.

My mum taught me to play chess when I was about 6, and I remember that all of our games commenced 1.d4 d5 2.Bg5!?. About 25 years ago I remember looking back almost with amusement at the foolishness of our Opening play! Why play 2 Bg5!?. – what does it do? Then a certain Julian Hodgson came along and developed this opening into a lethal weapon and I was able to look back with wonderment at my mum's foresight and deep understanding of the game! My mum was ahead of her time!

However, it was not until the staging of the classic Fischer-Spassky World Championship Match that I really became interested in Chess and at the age of about 13 or 14, I eventually persuaded my half brother, Mike Pitt to introduce me to Lewisham Chess Club. From the very first evening, I was captivated by the game and the smoky atmosphere of the Club itself, the personalities and of course the Bar downstairs that stayed open until the early hours of the morning!

The following effort is the **my first ever competitive game and was played in 1973** when I was 13 years old.

**R J Burman – A P Smith**

*Lewisham III v South of Thames, Stevenson Cup (Kent League) 1973*

***Queen's Gambit Declined***

**1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 Nc3 d5**

Despite my success in this game, I don't think I ever played the QGD again. From here, I moved onto the more dynamic Benoni and Kings Indian Defences as Black.

**4 Bg5 Nbd7 5 cd ed 6 e3 c6 7 Bd3 Be7 8 Nf3 0-0 9 0-0 Re8 10 Qc2 Nf8 11 Ne5 N6d7 12 Nxd7 Bxd7 13 Bf4 Be6 14 Rad1 Ng6 15 Bxg6?! hg 16 e4 de 17 Nxe4 Bf5 18 f3 Qb6 19 Qf2 Rad8 20 Be3 Qc7 21 Ng5?! f6 22 Ne4**



**22...Kf7!?**

Not the most obvious or logical plan that springs to mind but with full development, two Bishops and play against an isolated QP, how else could I improve my position. I was probably stuck for a plan so when in doubt, play for mate!

**23 Qe1 Rh8 24 g3 Bh3 25 Rf2 Rh7 26 Bf4 Qc8 27 Rc2 g5 28 Be3 Rdh8 29 d5 Qf5 30 Qe2 cd 31 Nc5 b6 32 Nb3 g4! 33 f4 Qe4 34 Rd4 Qe6 34 Rcd2**

My previously strong central control displayed in the previous diagram has evaporated and White simply threatens to capture my isolated 'd' pawn. A time therefore to create confusion and 'muddy the waters' !



**35...Bg2! 36 f5!**

Trying to deflect my Queen from attacking the potentially loose e3 Bishop.

**36..Qe5! 37 Rf4?**

A losing blunder. 37 Bf4 should keep White in the game.

**37..Rxb2 38 Qxg2? Rxb2+ 39 Rxb2 Qxe3+ 0-1**

What is disconcerting about this game is that I am not sure I could improve on my play if I were playing the game now! I don't seem to have improved at all! I blame my half-brother Mike for buying me, as a Christmas present, W.H. Cozens book of Mikhail Tal's games from 1961! I played through each game in turn and was truly mesmerised by his attacking play, after which my solid pragmatic play "went out the window" and was replaced by the type of games that follow in this book!

My first ever grade was 145, which was amended a few weeks later to 150 because some results had been omitted. I then spent 2 or 3 years hovering in the 160's before jumping to the 190's and then low 200's where I remained. In 1993 I did manage to acquire the FM title at a time when my ELO was 2300+.

Since those early years at Lewisham Chess Club, I have played for many other different teams although having joined Slough Chess Club in 1988, it became my 2<sup>nd</sup> 'real' Club and I have enjoyed representing them in the European Club Cup (in Slovakia, Paris and Estonia), National Club Competitions, 4NCL and local leagues. I now also play for my local club, Bourne End in Buckinghamshire. These are the only 3 clubs that I consider truly having been attached to. What do all these clubs have in common? Good teams, good spirit and camaraderie, reasonably successful – the answer to all these questions is YES, but most importantly, they all have a good Bar at the venue – essential sustenance after a hard evening!

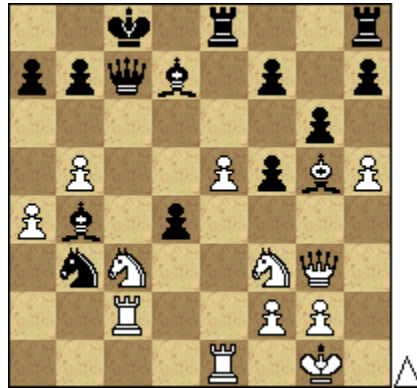
**10 h4**

A thematic Nimzowitsch move to attack a Black piece that is disputing e5 strongpoint

**10.. 0-0-0 11 h5 Nge7 12 c3**

Around here, my play departs from Nimzowitsch's thematic strategy and the position deteriorates into a mess!

**12.. g6 13 Bg5 Re8 14 b4 Nf5?! 15 Bxf5! ef 16 b5 Na5 17 a4 Nb3 18 Ra2 dc 19 Rc2 Bb4 20 Nxc3! d4?**



Black makes a serious error! This move appears to win a piece but there is the little matter of Black's rather exposed King!

**21 b6!!**

The start of a great little combination – if I say so myself!

**21.. ab 22 Nd5!**

Black no doubt thought this Knight could not move because it was pinned by his Queen against the White Rook but it turns out that in actual fact, it is the White Rook that is pinning the Black Queen to it's Monarch! Black has no option but to accept this temporary Rook sacrifice - so he does!



**22.. Qxc2**

Forced! No doubt Black now expected me to continue 23 Nxb6+ Kb8 which is likely to favour him because my Rook on e1 is still 'en-prise' to his Bishop on b4 and he can tuck his King away safely in the corner. However, the sting in the tail of my combination presents Black with a nasty surprise!





Let battle commence! Both sides have built up the type of positions they were aiming for. White is Taking control of the Centre, hoping to exploit Black's weakened pawn structure whilst Black is hoping to deliver Mate on the Kingside. Now the crisis point has arrived, with Geoffrey electing to open the centre with the pawn thrust 18 d4 and now threatening to blow my position away. The time for action has arrived! I now worked out an almost forced sequence of 9 (!) moves ending with 26...Nh3+ 27 Kh1. It looked good!

**18...cd 19 cd g4! 20 hg Bxc4 21 bc ed 22 Nxd4 Bxd4 23 Qxd4 f3! 24 Qxd6 Qxg4 25 Qh2**

Not 25 Qg3? Qxg3 26 fg f2+ winning for me.

**25...Nf4 26 g3 Nh3+ 27 Kh1**

Now what? The end of the forcing sequence which had begun with 18...cd.



**27...Re5! 28 Bd8!**

To meet 28...Rh5 with 29 Bh4 holding off my attack.

**28...Rxd8 29 Rxd8+ Kf7 30 Rb1 Rh5 31 Rb7+ Ke6 32 c5!**

Devious!

**32... Rxc5**

An easy trap for me to have fallen into, particularly given the time pressure, would have been 32...Nxf2+? 33 Kg1 Rxh2? 34 Rd6+ Ke5 35 Re7 mate!

**33 Re8+ Kd6 34 Rd8+ Ke5 35 Re8+ Kd4 36 Rd8+ Kc4**

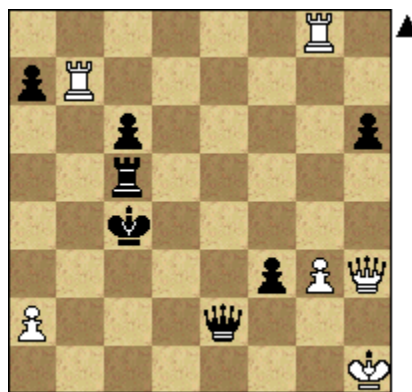


**37 Rg8! Qxe4! 38 Qxh3 Qe1+ 39 Kh2 Qxf2+ 40 Kh1 Qe1+ 41 Kh2 Qf2+**

After a flurry of moves played in time pressure to reach the time control at move 40, here the game was adjourned and I sealed this move 41...Qf2+. I now had the opportunity to analyse the position at my leisure to see if I was still winning or whether I had ‘botched’ it up! Of course there were no computer programmes available at that time, just me! The adjournment was played mid-week at my home in Lewisham and as Geoffrey lived far away in Sussex he had a potentially horrendous journey home if the game had finished late.

Fortunately I helped him out by correctly analysing (unusual for me!) and simplified an apparently complicated position into a clearly won Rook and Pawn ending. It struck me as ironic that a complex game like this would finish this way.

**42 Kh1 Qe1+ 43 Kh2 Qe2+! 44 Kh1**



**44.... Rh5!**

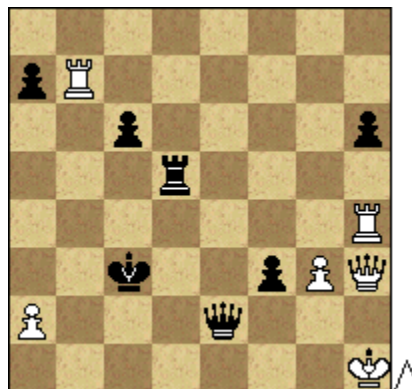
A lovely move for me to have available. I am a whole Rook down for just 2 pawns and my King has been chased into White’s half of the board, but because White’s pieces are so uncoordinated, my mating threats are difficult to meet. Perversely, whilst White’s King is tucked away on h1 and Black’s King is exposed in the middle of the board, it is White who is in serious trouble!

**45 Rg4+**

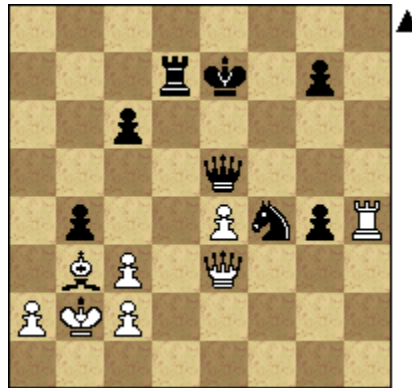
Perhaps White was a little lucky to have this resource.

**45...Kc3 46 Rh4 Rd5!**

The attack persists – even with a roving King and still a Rook down!



In view of what happens, maybe 33 Rh1?! defending the back rank is better but Black has a dangerous passed g pawn for White to contend with and may continue 33...g3 as 34 Qxg3 is met by 34...Nd3+! 35 Qxd3 Rxd3 36 cd Qxc3+ 37 Kb1 Qxd3+ followed by 38..Qxe4 and Black is winning on material.



**33...Rd1!**

Black threatens 34... bc+ 35 Qxc3 Rb1+ winning the White Queen.

**34 a4**

Creating a flight square for his King so as to meet 34....bc+ with 35 Ka2



**34..Nd3+! 35 Ka2**

If 35 cd then 35...Qxc3+ wins or 35 Qxd3 Rxd3 36 cd Qxc3+ 37 Ka2 Qd2+ 38 Kb1 Qe1+ winning the Rook on h4.



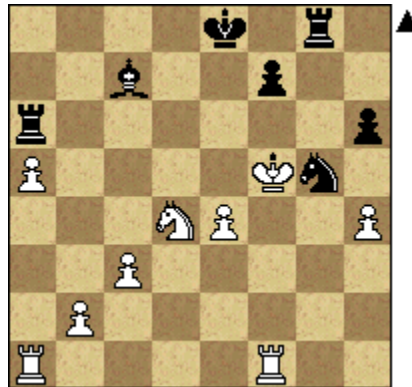
**35....Ra1+!**

A nice finish because if 36 Kxa1 Qxc3+ 37 Ka2 Qb2 Mate! So....0-1

Sneaky! Setting up a lovely tactic! By preparing to unmask my Rook's control of the g file by moving my Knight, I think I had seen a vague picture of the mating net, but I wasn't certain, so I played 27..Rg8! anyway, to try and finalise my analysis in my opponents time. Suspecting nothing untoward, my opponent replied 28 h4 immediately, so I was left to work it all out in my own time after all !

**28 h4?**

Losing! But it took me a few minutes of calculation to confirm it was really true!



Whilst I considered this position, my opponent got up and left the board, perhaps a little impatiently, wondering what on earth I was thinking about. It was a 40 minute quickplay tournament game so most moves are played at a steady pace to maintain a rhythm. He no doubt expected a normal retreat of my attacked Knight with say 28..Ne6 when he can get on with mobilising his passed pawns or 28..Nh7 (threatening 29..Rf6 mate) when 29 e5 is more or less forced and the game would probably continue 29..Rxa5 30 Rxa5 Bxa5 31 Ra1 Bd8 and now White has the choice of playing either 32 Ra8 or 32 Nc6 (threatening 33 Nxd8 Kxd8 34 Ra8+ winning the Rook on g8) or 32 Rh6 winning the h6 pawn. All of these moves are awkward for Black and lead to an unclear position, but thankfully, there was no need to trouble myself with these trivialities – all now becomes clear !

**28...Rf6+!!!**

A bolt from the blue!

**0-1**



Winning! Because if 29 Kxf6 Nxe4+ 30 Kf5 Ng3+ 31 Kf6 Rg6 mate or 29 Kg4 Nxe4+ 30 Kh3 (30 Kh5 Ng3 mate) Nf2+ 31 Rxf2 Rxf2 with either 32..Rg3 mate or 32.. Rh2 mate to follow. A pleasing finish although I have to admit that I needed just a smidgeon of help from my opponent!

**(Game 44)**  
**A P Smith v K J Wicker**  
*Lewisham Chess Club, 100th Year Anniversary Tournament 1986*  
**French: Winawer variation**

**1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 Bb4 4 e5 b6 5 g4?!**



Kevin was a very strong positional player so I felt the best way to play him was to randomise the position (even more than usual!) as soon as possible. I knew he would be expecting 5 Qg4 Bf8 and he actually wrote down 5 Qg4 before noticing the strange vision of a pawn on g4 instead! I played it purely for psychological impact!

Knowing Kevin's style, he would very soon be playing h5 in order to secure the f5 square for his Knight so I thought 5 g4?! would upset the flow of his game!

**5..h5!?**

Anyway! My move 5 g4?! was supposed to deter 5..h5 but Kevin was never one to shirk a challenge! I was happy though! I was dragging Kevin into the type of game that in my opinion, did not really did not suit him!

**6 gh! Qh4 7 Bb5+ c6 8 Be2 Ba6 9 Bf3 Rxh5?**

Bad judgement on Kevin's part. Why worry about recovering his sacrificed pawn? After this, my pieces all 'rocket out' developing a huge initiative!

**10 Bxh5 Qe4+ 11 Be3 Qxh1 12 Qg4**

Planning Qxe6+. Mission accomplished! After 12 moves I think it is random enough. There is not going to be much call for positional manoeuvring from hereon in!



**12...g6?!**

I am not sure what Black should do but one thing I am sure of is that this is not it! The very provocative but obvious alternative 12...Kf8 also seems to fail after 13 0-0-0 (threatening to trap the Queen with 14 Nf3) 13..Bxc3 14 Nf3 Bxb2+ 15 Kxb2 Qxd1 16 Bxf7! Ne7 ( also bad is 16..Kxf7 17 Ng5+ followed by 18 Qxd1 capturing the loose Queen on d1) 17 Bxe6 Ke8 18 Qh5+ Kd8 19 Qh8+ Kc7 20 Qe8 Qxf3 21 Qxe7+ Nd7 22 Qxd7+ Kb8 23 Qxc6 Qf8 24 Bxd5 Qb4+ 25 Bb3 and I'm winning.

**13 Bxg6!**

No hesitation! I didn't need to think twice about this move!

**13.. fg 14 Qxg6+ Kf8 15 0-0-0 Bxc3 16 bc Bc8?!**

A luxury in this position to undevelop one of only 2 developed pieces! But what else?

17 Nh3 Qe4 18 Bh6+! Nxb6 19 Qxb6+ Ke8 20 Rg1 Kd8 21 Qf8+ Kc7 22 Rg7+ Bd7 23 Ng5 Qf5 24 Nf7



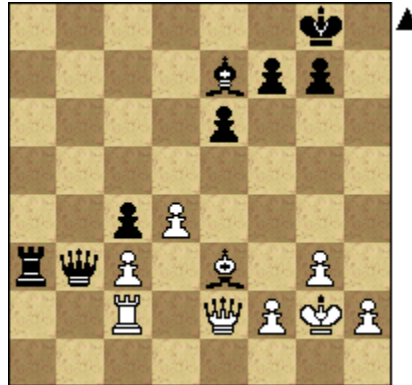
Despite having an extra piece, Black is paralysed! The threat now is 25 Qd8+ Kb7 26 Nd6+ winning the Queen. So in the absence of any useful moves to make, Black decides to move the only piece that is not paralysed, and capture a pawn.

24..Qxf2 25 Qd8+ Kb7 26 Nd6+ Ka6 27 Rxd7



What can Black do? If 27..Nxd7 28 Qxa8 wins as there is no defence to 29 Qb7 mating or 27...Qf1+ 28 Kb2 and there are no more Black checks and his problems remain the same. If he plays 27...Qxh2 to restore material equality, then 28 Qc8+ Ka5 29 Qxb8! Rxb8 30 Rxa7 is Mate! So...**1-0**

## A GILMOUR - APS

**42 Bc1 Ra1?**

Not best but this was the last hurried move before the time control. My opponent had offered me a draw a few moves before this position, even though he was a pawn up, so psychologically, I was looking for ways to create winning chances – usually a recipe for disaster! The clocks were now set back 30 minutes for the quickplay finish.

**43 Rb2 Qa4**

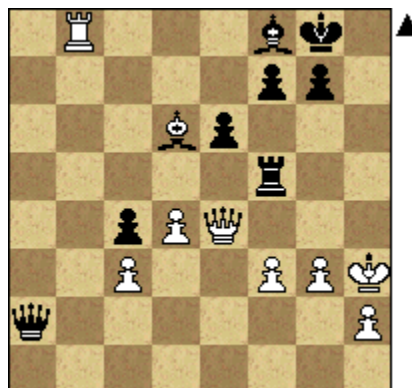
Clearly not 43..Qxc3? as 44 Rb8+ Bf8 45 Bb2 wins

**44 Rb8+ Bf8 45 Bf4 Qc6+ 46 Kh3 Ra5 47 f3 Rh5+ 48 Kg2 Rf5 49 Qe4! Qa4?**

Losing – or should do! Instead 49...Rd5 stays in the game.

**50 Bd6**

It was probably around here that my opponent's confidence began to be evident as he finally really sensed that he could win this game. Having reached the time control at move 42, the clocks were set back and I had time to realise my desperate plight. I could now see my hopes for one of the 2 British Championship places finally being extinguished ! Oh well ! Might as well play a check and see what happens !

**50..Qa2+ 51 Kh3**

Hang on! I can win his Queen now! Great! Brilliant! Shame about the time situation though – will I have time to win it ? Both players now have less than 2 minutes left to complete the game.



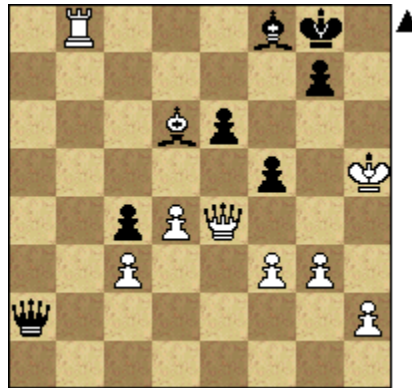
## A GILMOUR - APS

**51.... Rh5+ 52 Kg4 f5+**

Here I thought I had 'turned the tables' and 'wangled' a win from a 'lost' position and initially I could tell that my opponent also thought he was lost.

**53 Kxh5!**

Suddenly I think he noticed that far from being lost, he had stumbled into a winning Queen sacrifice variation!



Now it dawned on me! S\*\*\* ! I cant take the Queen with 53... fe because 54 Kg6! and White mates! Alternatively, if 53...Qxh2+ then 54 Qh4! wins. Oh well 'Plan C'- look for cheapo's ! After all, his King is rather awkwardly placed.

**53...Kh7!**

Only try. It threatens 54...fe taking the Queen

**54 Qh4!**

An all purpose move that :

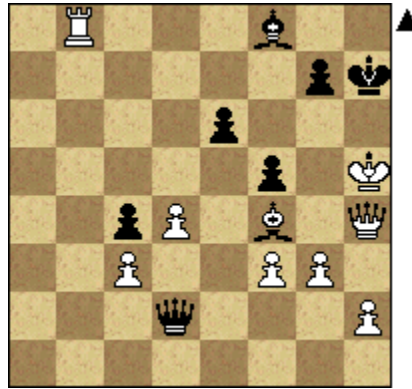
- (a) Takes the Queen "off prise",
- (b) Guards the h2 pawn
- (c) Threatens mate with 55 Kg5 discovered check followed by 56 Rxf8 mate!

**54...Qd2!**

Best try! It threatens 55... Qh6 mate as well as preventing White giving a discovered check with 55 Kg5+! but I have now used up all but a few seconds of my remaining time!

**55 Bf4!**

Prevents ...Qh6 mate. Another winning move for White is 55 f4!



**55...Be7!!**

With only seconds left on my clock, and my flag about to fall, I laid one last desperate trap and in doing so, offered a draw for good measure! My opponent's time position was not a great deal better than mine, but he could see that he was clearly winning and that I was about to lose on time. He saw that if 56 Bxd2?? then 56...g6! is mate! Of course the simple win is 56 Qxe7! Qxh2+ 57 Qh4 g6+ 58 Kg5 *discovered check* and the game's up for me! No British Championship for me this year! Laurence Cooper told me afterwards he had already mentally worked out the last round 'Pairings' on the basis I was completely lost – but.. just one moment....

**56 Bg5 ??**

On playing this, there was suddenly a stifled guffaw and chuckle from the audience that was easily identifiable to me as emanating from Tony Miles – even without looking up. This momentarily "threw me" and my intended response went straight out of my mind!

I desperately scanned the board looking for the move that I knew was there when I set the trap on my previous move, but with my flag about to fall, I just couldn't remember what it was...! Panic.... Suddenly I saw it – Bang ...

**56..g6 mate!!**

Checkmate! Phew! Just in the nick of time. Knife edge stuff and what a relief! ! It took a moment for everyone, including myself, to fully comprehend that it was really mate, given the obscurity of the position. But yes it was! A huge slice of luck!

Unfortunately it was a disaster for my opponent who must have momentarily harboured hopes of qualifying for the British Championship himself. How did I get away with that ?!

For the record I then went on to win the 6<sup>th</sup> (last) round game against Laurence Cooper and claimed one of the two British Championship places ! (For this, see game 105, page 306 in the 1 e4 e5 2 d4 *Centre Attack Game* section)

## An Incredible Position!

(See after 22...Qxh1)

(Game 125)

A P Smith v P Georghiou

*Lewisham Quickplay (30 minutes per player) 1999*

**Caro-Kann: Advance variation**

The amazing thing about this game is that it followed my game against Keith Arkell (see 3 games earlier) and that Black made the same apparently disastrously mistake of allowing 9 Qa4! (ironically Black did not lose either game and scored 1.5 from 2!)

In this game, Black generated counterplay by sacrificing, not mere pawns, as Keith did, but real hardcore material!

We reached a truly amazing position after Black's 22nd move when all 8 squares on the h-file are occupied. The game was eventually drawn by perpetual check but clearly White should have won.

**1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 e5 c5 4 Nf3 Nc6 5 Bb5 Bg4 6 dc e6 7 Be3 Nge7 8 c3**

Still following A P Smith v Keith Arkell played the week before!

**8...Nf5??**

The same blunder that Keith made!

**9 Qa4! Bxf3**

Finally varying! Keith took the Bishop and played 9...Nxe3.

**10 Bxc6+ bc 11 Qxc6+ Ke7 12 Bg5+!?**



Taking advantage of the fact that Black had left this Bishop on the board.

**12.. f6 13 ef+ Kf7!**

If 13...gf then 14 Qb7+ Ke8 15 Bxf6 winning further material.

**14 Qb7+**

If 14 fg Qxg5 White can't then play 15 gh=Q because of 15...Qc1 mate!

**14...Kg6 15 fg!? Qxg5**



**16 gh=N+! Kh5**

Amazing! Now what to do? Black threatens 17...Qc1 mate.

To take stock of the position:

- (i) I am the "exchange" and 3 pawns up.
- (ii) Black's King is exposed on h5.
- (iii) Black has a Rook and Bishop "en prise".
- (iv) I have a choice of checks on h7 and f7.

Despite these accumulated advantages for White, it is still not an easy position to play in quickplay chess.

**17 gf!**

Taking a piece and parrying the mate threat!

**17...Bh6!**

Defending the check on h7, preventing 18 Nd2 and threatening 17...Qc1+ 18 Ke2 Qc2+ 19 Kf1 (19 Nd2 Qxd2+ 20 Kf1 Qd3+ is also very dangerous!) 19...Qd1+ 20 Kg2 Nh4+ 21 Kg3 Qxf3 mate. So what to do?

**18 Qxa8?!**

Greedy and definitely not best, as Black will now have the option to bail out with perpetual check starting with ...Qc1+, but I am 2 Rooks and 3 pawns up!

**18...Qc1+ 19 Ke2 Qxb2+?!**

19...Qc2+ with the option of checking on d3 is better.

**20 Kf1**

If 20 Kd3 Qb5+ 21 Kc2 Qa4+ is equal.

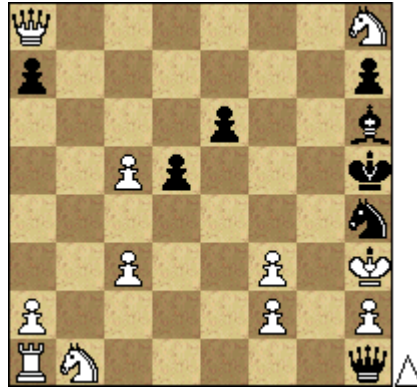
**20...Qc1+ 21 Kg2**

Now 21...Qg5+ draws but...

**21...Nh4+?**

Very risky! Black should probably take the perpetual check with 21...Qg5+ but in the spirit of quickplay he continues to play for a win!

**22 Kh3! Qxh1**



Amazing! What a position! Just look at the line of pieces on the h-file! A piece is on every square.

**23 Qe8+ Kg5**

Should be losing! Why not 23...Ng6! stopping all checks and threatening 24...Qxf3 mate. White is virtually forced to play 24 Nd2 and then 24...Qxa1 25 Nxc6 hg and then maybe 26 Qh8!? keeping the game going or 26 Qxe6 Bxd2 27 Qg4+ drawing! Ironically in this position, after having been so much material up, White is now a piece down!

**24 Qe7+ Kf5**

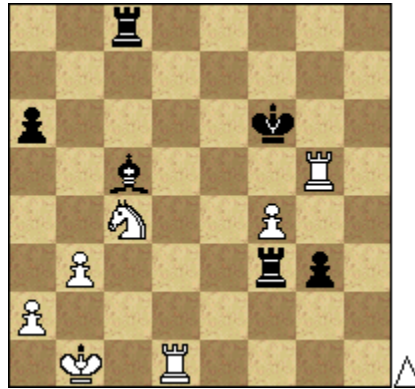


**25 Qxh4??**

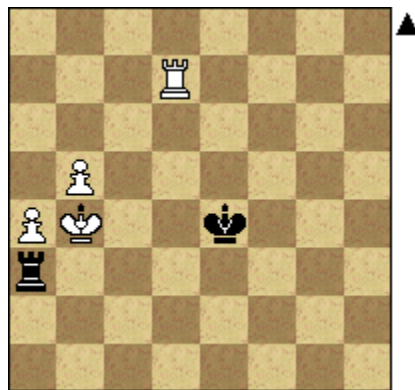
Throwing the win away! Winning was 25 Qf7+ Ke5 (25...Kg5 26 f4 mate) 26 f4+ Bxf4 (26...Ke4 27 Nd2+ wins the Queen) 27 Qg7+ Kf5 28 Qg4+ Ke5 29 Nf7+ wins. I was thinking that after 25...Qxf3+ 26 Qg3 Qh5+ 27 Kg2 was winning! Unfortunately the Black Queen can harass me from another direction ....

**25...Qf1+ 26 Kg3 Qg1+ Draw**

There is no way of avoiding the perpetual check!



And with the quickplay finish reaching it's conclusion, I stopped writing moves down. My position had spiralled downhill with alarming speed until I recall reaching a position something like this:-



As Black, it is not a promising situation to be in, with the match score showing Slough 2-3 down and needing to win this game to clinch the match 3-3 on the "board count" rule!

White's b-pawn had advanced to the 5th rank and was now supported by his a-pawn on the 4th rank.

However, prior to this position being reached, my opponent had been suffering from the inconvenience of numerous checks given by my Rook but he had finally got his King to a position where there were no more checks I could give without losing the Rook.

We were now deep into the quickplay finish and I only had about 2 minutes left to my opponents 4 to 5 minutes. In the tradition of quickplay finishes both players were now playing moves instantly with play being watched over by members of both teams, and in particular, David Sedgwick who although playing for Mushrooms, may have had some jurisdiction as an arbiter.

Anyway, White having now ruled out any sensible checks had his hand poised over the "a" pawn to push it forward to join its colleague on the 5th rank.

The White King had attacked Black's Rook, the sole remaining piece, and it would now be forced to move away without giving check. This would give White the opportunity to push one of connected passed pawns closer to the promotion squares.

As my opponent expected, I moved my Rook away from the square on which it was attacked, whilst his hand poised over the 'a' pawn to advance it to the fifth rank. I moved the Rook away to an alternative random square when, horror of horrors, I noticed in that instant, that I had placed the Rook "en prise" on d3 to the White Rook!

However, in the spirit of quickplay finishes, White hadn't really looked to see exactly which square I had placed the Rook on, expecting it to be on a safe square, and his hand, which had been hovering above the a-pawn, now went down to move it!

He barely touched the "a" pawn before lifting his hand back up, but touch it he did! His hand returned to the hovering position above the a-pawn and I could almost sense his dilemma as to whether now to capture my Rook with his Rook and pretend he hadn't touched the "a" pawn or do the honourable thing and move the "a4" pawn thereby losing his Rook!

I didn't flinch - I barely moved a muscle and I certainly didn't look at him as I sensed his agony!

I wondered what the reaction would be of all the other players, who were now spectators, if White now captured my Rook and denied having touched the a-pawn.

David Sedgwick, as an International Arbiter, playing for the other team, would have been in a particularly difficult position.

In fact, the touch on the "a" pawn had been so fleeting I wondered if anyone else had actually seen it.

White hesitated still further! I wasn't sure if this was a good sign or not! Perhaps he was considering resignation? No surely not – with the time remaining on my clock, he still had chances! He was obviously a little shocked and froze whilst he considered this "catch 22" situation.

In some ways I was happy for him to hesitate, as it ate into his 2 or 3 minute time advantage and I wasn't sure I could win the game anyway as a King supporting 2 connected passed pawns on the 5th rank is not an easy position to defeat with only about 2 minutes on the clock and a time disadvantage.

On the other hand, I just wanted him to get on with it and move the a-pawn so that I could remove his Rook. What would he do?

After about 2-3 minutes hesitation, with his hand continuing to hover, he did the honest thing by moving the 'a' pawn. In a flash, I captured his Rook, and whilst it was still a difficult position I think his nerves were in tatters from the shock of this sudden turn of events and I think he actually lost on time.

Nobody from his team challenged him as to why he had moved the a-pawn so presumably, everybody did see his hand fingertip the a-pawn.

One of their team, Rory O'Kelly, made the slightly disconsolate observation, "that's the trouble with quickplay finishes" and that "it was time for a pint".

Once again Slough had won by our usual score, 3-3 on board count which at the time, was a standing joke amongst the team as we only ever won our National Club matches on 'board count'.



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