

NEW ENGLANDER

Chess Club Update – August 2010

Chairman's Chatter

The "London Chess Classic" tournament runs from 8 - 15th December (see www.londonchessclassic.com). As the weekend was very busy last year, does anyone fancy a club outing on a weekday to see this event?

Paul Hanks

Eye Opener

This month, an apt game came from close to home.

P Hanks v Fritz 11

1 d4 d5 2 c4 dxc4 3 e4

This aggressive system was a favourite with Marshall - perhaps not a good choice against a computer.

3 ... Nc6 4 Be3 Nf6 5 Nc3 e5 6 d5 Na5 7 Nf3 Bd6 8 Qa4+

I was calculating 8 ... c6 9 Rd1 when ...



8 ... Bd7

What's this? After some time and finding nothing conclusive, I decided I had to accept to see the consequences. After all, this was a training game.

9 Qxa5 a6 10 Na4

I overlooked 10 b4 b6 (10 ... cxb3?? 11 axb3 frees the a2 square) 11 Qa3 a5 12 Qc1 (or 12 Qb2) 12 ... axb4 13 Ne2 b5. Black retains a strong initiative and the games in Fritz's opening book were all won by Black.

10 ... Qe7

Black shifts the focus of the tactics from b6 to b4. 10 ... Nxe4?! is not ideal due to 11 Bxc4 Qe7 (11 ... b5 12 Bd3) 12 0-0 b6 13 Nxb6 cxb6 14 Qxb6

11 Bd2

I wanted to play 11 Qd2 but after 11 ... Bxa4, it is hard to protect e4. The immediate 11 a3 is better. After 11 ... Nxe4 12 Bxc4 0-0 13 Bd3 b6 14 Nxb6 cxb6 15 Bxb6, Fritz gives Black a slight but debatable edge.

11 ... Nxe4

11 ... b6 12 Qc3 Bxa4 13 Qxc4 is roughly equal.

12 a3

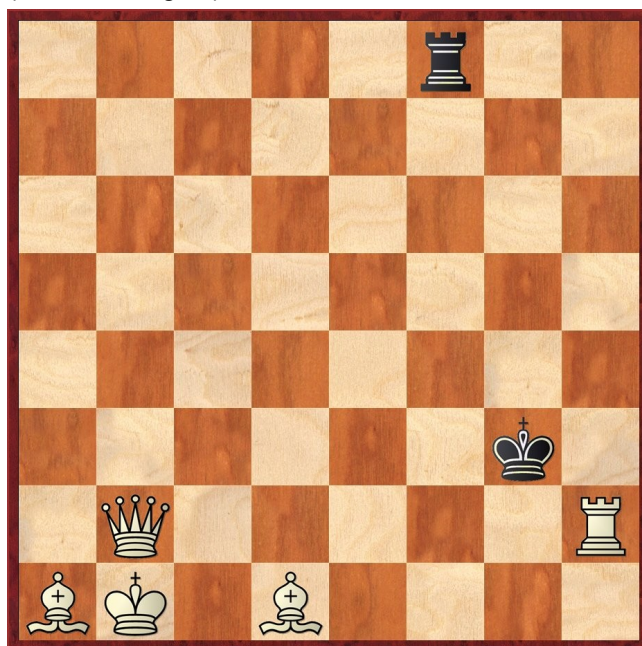
This is now unnecessary but 12 Bxc4 Nxd2 13 Nxd2 0-0 (13 ... b6 14 Nxb6 Bb4 15 Qxb4 Qxb4 16 Nxa8 Qb7) 14 0-0 b6 15 Nxb6 Bb4 16 d6 Qxd6 17 Qd5 leaves White with an uphill struggle

12 ... b6 13 Nxb6 cxb6 14 Qxb6 Bc5

Another change of direction and it is the f2 square that is White's downfall. Black went on to win with ease.

Puzzle Problem

White to play and mate in 2. This problem comes from the Berks & Bucks Chess Congress entry form (28 - 30th August). See Francis for more information.



Last Month's solution

Position: 8/8/8/K2n4/8/8/N4QN1/3k4

1 Qb2 N any 2 Nc3# 1-0

Website to Watch

From 8th to 15th August, www.nhchess.com features a team of "Rising Stars" taking on the "Experience" veterans. I know which side I should be supporting!

Diary Dates

Here is advance notice that the club's AGM will take place on 8th September starting at 7-30pm.

Match of the Month

I recently played in London at the Golder's Green Rapidplay tournament - 6 rounds in total with 30 minutes on the clock. I wanted some practice in tactical chess under Rapidplay conditions. I didn't want to do this with my board as this slows things up. Yet I accomplished a victory in another strong rapidplay tournament playing blindfold with 5½/6 ... walking away joint 1st with International Master Mark Ferguson! Yes, I assure you, I did this without my Braille set, Braille clock...with nothing! With over 30 participants in the Open section, with a range of strengths, I coolly waltzed my way through the ranks and took the prize money with some aesthetic chess.

Believe me, some of the games got very messy and complicated... Maintaining concentration and keeping in mind the positions and the complex variations was rather strenuous! I achieved an ECF rating of 220 (equal to FIDE 2350) and clearly within the FIDE master boundaries.

Rounds 1 and 5 were rather scrappy affairs. I was Black and had to defend for long periods. Nothing inspiring but playing quickly and solidly, I eventually won both on time. So, let's forget them and look at the most interesting games.... When playing through these, remember the time restraints and the blindfold issues. I think this is a good performance... Enjoy...

Chris Ross (2205) v Amy Hoare (2060)
Golder's Green Rapid Play Rd 2, 12.06.2010

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 4 Ba4 Nf6 5 0-0 b5 6 Bb3 Bc5 7 c3 d6 8 d4 Bb6 9 a4 Rb8 10 axb5 axb5 11 Na3

So, all according to theory so far. Now, my opponent was a 13 year-old girl, who had an incredibly strong rating. I am usually worried by juniors, as their grades are generally under-rated. This girl blitzed out the opening, which gave me the impression that she knew what was going on and was more than happy to enter into this variation that gets very messy indeed.

11 ... Ba6

Played after more than 10 minutes thought! A remarkable amount of time to spend in the opening at a rapidplay tournament. The quality of her play thereafter is a clear demonstration of her natural ability. After suffering from this serious time-lapse, I was genuinely impressed with the skill and ability she displayed for the remainder of the game.

The bishop doesn't belong on a6, of course. Defending the pawn is a tame way to continue the position. This was surprising from a tactical player. The b5 pawn is often sacrificed to disrupt the coordination of the white pieces but I've now seen too many games by Shirov in this variation to allow disarray among my pieces to bewilder me too much!

See the bottom of the article for opening references.

12 Re1 0-0
13 Bg5 h6
14 Bh4 Re8
15 d5

Played specifically to put the tactical player under pressure in time restraints - good practical chess. The bishop on b6 becomes more active, but the tactics and tension through the centre have been eliminated and Black has to find good squares for her pieces.

15 ... Na5
16 Bc2 Ra8

Black correctly judges that there is trouble down the a file. Tactics with Nb1 and b2-b4 are looming.

17 Bd3

Smoothly developing the bishop to a more active square. The disconnected b5 pawn becomes a huge target. Black's pieces are simply not working together.

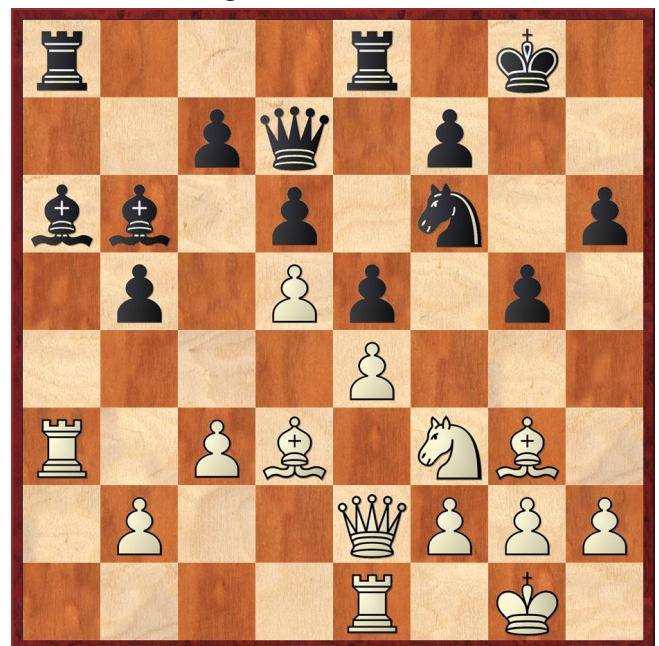
17 ... Nc4
18 Qe2

Cool pressure. b2 is defended and c4 is hit once again. The tactics are going to flow for White...

18 ... Nxa3
19 Rxa3 g5

The breaking of the pin is essential if Black is to hope to cling onto her b5 pawn, which has become a huge positional target.

20 Bg3 Qd7



21 Rea1

Played within 10 seconds but this response is too automatic. Although my speed and confidence during the tournament put my opponents under pressure, 21 Rxa6! is a neat tactical flourish winning a piece.

21 ... Bb7

Giving up the b5 pawn hoping for tactical salvation. However, the tactics that favour White not Black! I always maintain, that if you have a good positional set-up, the tactics will almost play themselves. In this case, they do, but it is far from simple.

22 Bxb5 c6

OK, White has won a pawn but the centre is about to collapse and the e4 pawn is very vulnerable.

23 dxc6 Bxc6?

This was the time for precise calculation but poor time management in the opening is coming back to haunt Black. 23 ... Rxa3 maintains the tension and Black can hope to survive.

24 Rxa8

Winning the exchange! Black can't recapture with the bishop on c6. Now, the bishop pair become annoying.

24 ... Bxb5
25 Rxe8+ Qxe8
26 c4 Bc6
27 Nd2 Bd4
28 Rb1

Too passive. 28 Ra2 or 28 Nb3 is preferable. I wanted to launch my queenside pawns but, with the bishop pair exerting excellent pressure, White has to play very accurately here if Black is not to equalise.

28 ... Qa8

Suddenly, e4 cannot be defended. Black has played extremely resourcefully and I applaud her every effort. She has shown remarkable resilience to put up such a fight. White has to find the right plan or he's in trouble!

29 h4!

The key to the whole position for several reasons. To begin probing on the kingside, the unpinning of the f2 pawn is essential. Also, if Black gets in Bxg2 and Bh1, White may even get mated! So, the h2 square is vital for the white king, allowing the rook to control h1 and to unpin the f2 pawn. On h2, the white king should be fine. With about 2 minutes left, my opponent couldn't find a decent plan. White has consolidated and is beginning to exploit his material advantage.

29 ... Nxe4
30 Kh2 Nxd2
31 Qxd2 Be4

Black should be seeking counter-activity with 31... Qa2, but she had no time now to play accurately.

32 Re1 Bg6

No, I can't explain this. My opponent had little time left whereas I had just under 10 minutes at this point.

33 hxg5 hxg5
34 b4 Kg7
35 c5

To undermine the centre, the e5 pawn and all of the dark squares. Things are just about over now.

35 ... Qc6
36 cxd6 Qxd6
37 Qxg5

Fine, automatic but I missed the cute tactic 37 Qxd4!

37 ... Qf6
38 Bxe5

Another neat exploitation of tactics! Not only are the queens exchanged, but also the dark-squared bishops. The position is now lost for Black. Time was up also for my young opponent.

38 ... Bxe5+
39 Qxe5 1-0

Jaime Movil v Chris Ross (2205)

Golder's Green Rapid Play Rd 3, 12.06.2010

1 e4 c5 2 d3 e6 3 g3 d5 4 Nd2 Nf6 5 Bg2 Be7 6 f4 Nc6 7 e5 Nd7 8 Qg4

Aggressive. White is obviously intent on a kingside attack. This is fine if developed consistently.

8 ... 0-0
9 Ngf3

It's hard to define but White's set-up looks strange to me. The queen - outside the pawn chain, on g4 - looks a bit precarious. Blocking her like this gives her little scope for manoeuvre. Note how White uses the queen throughout this game i.e. very obscurely.

9 ... f5
10 Qh5 Qe8

Instinct more than anything told me that White wouldn't exchange queens. I gained the impression, correctly, that White wanted to hack me up. Going for a slow grind in any ending wasn't his style. So, I decided to activate my queen and force White's to a horrible square. Any attacking possibilities have been squashed and White should sit and grovel for a while.

11 Qh3?

A horrible square for the queen. She does not emerge for a long time!

11 ... Nb4

This plan wastes a couple of tempi but it is justified because White is forced to give up several with his king on his own account. While White is busy, I can initiate a counter-attack on the queenside. In classical style, White wants to mate me on the kingside and I want to play positionally on the queenside.

12 Kd1 Rb8
13 a3 Nc6
14 Ke2 b5
15 Re1 Nb6
16 c3 a5

Black is already well on the way to a large advantage. His queenside advances and active pieces there will soon exploit all the light-square weaknesses.

17 Kf2 a4
18 Kg1 Ba6
19 d4 cxd4
20 cxd4 b4
21 Nf1 bxa3
22 bxa3 Nc4
23 Kh1 N6a5

So, what has happened here? White has taken loads of time to shuffle his king all the way into h1. In that time, he hasn't even initiated kingside proceedings. Meanwhile, I have opened files and diagonals, have weaknesses on the light-squares to target (b3, c4 etc) and a vulnerable pawn on a3 to attack.

24 Ra2 Nb3
25 g4

At last! An aggressive move on the kingside.

25 ... g6
26 g5?

And now he goes and spoils it! White had to take on f5, or move the queen, play h2-h4-h5 and hope that a hack can reveal something. Blockading like this just gives more time for Black to play on the queenside.

26 ... **Nxc1**
27 **Rxc1** **Rb3**

This b3 square is haunting White. The knight on f3 is pinned against that miserable queen on h3 and the a3 pawn is dropping off. White is in a hopeless position.

28 **N1d2** **Nxd2**
29 **Rxd2** **Bc4**

Occupation of vital squares is essential. The c file is blocked but my a pawn is ready for a future advance.

30 **Qg3** **Bxa3**
31 **Rcd1** **Bb4**
32 **Rf2** **a3**

Very clinical chess. All the positional objectives by Black have been accomplished without any difficulties on the kingside. Naturally, avoiding tactics has been paramount, but success must be guaranteed now.

33 **h4**

How long has this taken?

33 ... **Rf7**

Bringing the last major piece into the play on the queenside. The rook is lifted to give support to the a pawn. The other pieces on the queenside are well placed, so they can stay just where they are. Also, if the h file is going to be opened up, Rh7 ideas may be necessary. Good defensive and attacking duties are done by the rook horizontally.

34 **h5** **Ra7**
35 **Bf1** **Bxf1**
36 **Rxf1** **a2**

Ramming the pawn home.

37 **Ra1** **Rba3**

Precise to the finish. 37 ... Bc3 may fall into tactics with Nd2 as the rook on b3 is not well protected. So, doubling of the rooks secures the a2 pawn and permits Bc3.

38 **Qg2** **Bc3**
39 **Nh4** **Bxa1**
40 **Rxa1** **Kg7**

OK, I have won material on the queenside but a defensive barrier is needed on the other flank. White cannot be permitted any tactical opportunities to compensate for his hopeless position. The g6 square must be defended, as I'm going to block the kingside and then put the finishing touches to the queenside.

41 **Qh2** **Ra8**

Zugzwanging White. I wanted the 1st rank controlling, as I saw White's last gasp chance. I wanted the protection of the d8 square, as my queen will soon control the 2nd rank. Neat stuff!

42 **Qg2** **gxh5**
43 **g6** **hxg6**

Greedy stuff as 43... h6 did equally as well but I wanted to lure the queen in.

44 **Qg5** **Qf7**

And White has nothing!

45 **Kg1** **Rb8** **0-1**

with the threat of 46 ... Rb1+ which will bring the house down.

Chris Ross (2205) v **Mark Ferguson** (2393)
 Golder's Green Rapid Play Rd 4, 12.06.2010

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 f5 4 d3 fxe4 5 dxe4 Nf6 6 Nc3 d6 7 a3

Ha, a novelty! Or is it?... There are indeed games in the database with this, even played by grandmasters! See below for references. I didn't know this position and was reckoning that my International Master opponent did. I vaguely know the 6 ... Bc5 lines, but have never seen 6 ... d6 before. So, what's its purpose, I ask myself? Well, presumably, to snare the light-squared bishop. This seems like a good plan, as the black dark-squared bishop on f8/e7 doesn't seem amazingly brilliant. So, don't I want to exchange light-squared bishops and go for that good knight v bad bishop ending? So, I create a flight square for the bishop, and begin queenside expansion. Do I recommend it? Probably not. There are better ways to play the position, but it flummoxed my opponent enough!

For nearly 5 minutes (on move 7!), he thought about the position. Afterwards, he said that he had never seen this idea and he did actually state that the light-square exchange for the queen's knight was a plausible objective. He couldn't decide now on where the black pieces belonged. Very interesting!

7 ... **Bg4**
8 **Be3** **Be7**
9 **0-0** **0-0**
10 **Be2!**

At this point, I had played quickly and confidently, using little time on the clock. Indeed, my opponent now sat for some time considering the position, clearly in an unhappy frame of mind.

This neat bishop retreat unpins my knight on f3 and allows me to re-organise my forces. Naturally, the knight on f3 is a target and Black has kingside attacking possibilities with this half-open f file. So, I need to secure up my kingside and begin operations on the queenside.

But the light-squares that are the most important here, of course. I would love to exchange my light-squared bishop, as described above. So, here is my plan.

10 ... **Qe8**

Black has no way to bring his forces into the kingside quickly enough. 10 ... Qd7 was refuted by 11 h3! as 11 ... Bh5 drops a pawn to 12 Nxe5! and 11 ... Be6 drops the bishop pair with 12 Ng5. So, how else can Black get his queen into the kingside and connect the rooks?

11 **Nd2**

The plan. The e4 pawn is supported, and the c4 square is targeted. This will allow either Nc4 or more

importantly, Bc4 if the black light-squared bishop retreats to e6. 11 Ng5 looked attractive but I didn't think the knight was well placed out there. Traps with Bc4+ are easily refuted and the knight is out on a limb on g5, especially if I am to play my planned f2-f3. Where would the knight retreat, to h3? No, not the right plan.

11 ... Qg6
12 f3

Securing the kingside and the e4 pawn. All according to my positional plan so far! Naturally, exchanges on g4 just allow the knight's recapture, which is terminal.

12 ... Bh3
13 Rf2

This is actually not so bad a square for the rook, as it defends along the 2nd rank, but has Rd2 in future, when I gather my forces down the d file. Also, it frees up the f1 square for a defensive knight, which will transfer to e3 and d5, or go via g3 to f5. All in order.

13 ... Kh8
14 Kh1 Be6
15 Bc4

Achieving my main positional plan of exchanging the light-squared bishops. All very smooth and correct. White now has a clear, but small advantage.

15 ... Qf7
16 Bxe6 Qxe6
17 Nf1 Rae8

At which point, my International Master opponent offered me a draw!

I had him tell me the time and he had 10 minutes left and I had 20. So, what a dilemma...should I push my IM opponent or not? Analysing the position, I saw that White was very solid but anything can happen in a quickplay game. I had control of d5 and was going to play Ng3 to hold up the black kingside expansion. Ideas for him with Nh5/Nf4 would then be held up. So, what can Black do, play Bd8 and Ne7, or Nd8/Ne6?

In a long-time game, I would play on as White here, but then I considered the tournament situation. Drawing with the IM would give us both 3½/4, joint leaders in the tournament. Two final wins would guarantee us of top spots. Should I really risk losing?

So, in the end, after 5 minutes thought, I took the draw. Afterwards, my opponent explained that he was not overly happy with his position and could see little to do. White was well-placed and had everything under control. Queenside expansion was coming and he said that my 7th move had caught him by surprise!

½ - ½ Good result...

Chris Ross (2205) v Peter Batchelor (2115)
Golder's Green Rapid Play Rd 6, 12.06.2010

1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 Nd2 dxe4 4 Nxe4 Bf5 5 Ng3 Bg6 6 h4 h6 7 Nf3 Nd7 8 h5 Bh7 9 Bd3 Bxd3 10 Qxd3 Ngf6 11 Bd2 e6 12 Qe2 Qc7 13 0-0-0 0-0-0 14 Ne5 Nxe5

A strange decision - it allows White to strangle Black. The pawn on e5 is going to exert pressure on Black's

kingside. With a pawn already on h5, White can claim a large space advantage. 14 ... Nb6 is usual.

15 dxe5 Nd5
16 c4

Deciding to dislodge the knight immediately from his nice outpost on d5. If Black can maintain the outpost, Black is doing very well.

16 ... Nb4
17 Kb1 Na6

And yes, this has occurred before (see below).

18 Bc3 Be7
19 Ne4

Bringing the knight back into play. I'm also clearing the way for the kingside pawns to advance.

19 ... Nc5
20 f4

20 Nd6+ and then Bc3xg7 is possible, but I couldn't decide whether it was decisive enough. I thought I would just continue with my expansion plan.

20 ... Nxe4
21 Qxe4 Rd7
22 g4 Rhd8
23 Kc2

The exchange of rooks helps White. In any endgame, White is better placed with the space advantage and of course, the same-coloured bishops also help. The focus of the game is, of course, g7!

If Black could put the h6 pawn back to h7 and play g7-g6, a lot of his problems would be solved. But it advanced in the opening, and now the dark-squared bishops are very important to me. The exchange of knights has only helped me in many ways. With the rooks off, life is that much easier for me.

23 ... Rxd1
24 Rxd1 Rxd1
25 Kxd1 Qb6

And this is the only annoying thing about the position. With queens on, Black has a fighting chance for perpetuals or picking up stray pawns on the kingside. Black is threatening Qg1+ with Qxg4. c4, f4 and g4 are dodgy pawns to protect simultaneously. So, I need to secure my king first and the queen-side pawns before advancing any further with f4-f5.

26 Qe2 Bh4

What a strange square for the bishop! Surely, Black doesn't want the exchange of queens, does he? The ending is that much easier then, as I won't have to worry about annoying queen infiltrations. No, he doesn't want the queen exchange...but if he doesn't, then, what is the point of Bh4 when it could be perhaps trapped with g4-g5 tactics?

27 Kc2 Qf2?

He does want the exchange! Poor decision really. To survive, Black must keep the queens on when White would have to play all that bit slower.

28 Qxf2 Bxf2
29 Kd3 Kd7

30 Bb4

Forcing another black pawn on a dark square. Black cannot permit Bf8, not at all.

30	...	c5
31	Bc3	Bh4
32	Ke4	b6
33	b3	a5
34	Bd2	

Setting up my tactical finish. My plan now is to advance with f4-f5 and then f5-f6, forcing g7xf6, at which point, I won't recapture, but will play Bxh6 and then Bg7 and march the h pawn home. There's little Black can do to stop this really!

34	...	Be7
35	Be3	

Not necessary. White should get on with his plan, but I was just playing quickly and my opponent was very low on time. Finding plans for him isn't easy. He has to be so careful to avoid dropping pawns.

35	...	Kc6
36	f5	exf5+
37	gxf5	f6

Good, my opponent saw the tactical f5-f6 idea. Now to force my king into d5 by zugzwanging Black.

38	Bf4	fxe5
39	Kxe5	

Played for the clock more than anything. My opponent now had to think about the K + P ending if he is to play 39 ... Bd6+. I had calculated that it would take me 9 moves to promote either my a or c pawns, and it would take him 9 to promote his g pawn. However, it would be White to move and I would be able to steal his last queenside pawn and have Q + 2 v Q + 1. A clear advantage, but a nightmare to calculate when you only have a few minutes on the clock! So, naturally, my opponent backed out of it.

39	...	Kd7
40	Kd5	Bg5

Oh well, this made for a swift finish. 40 ... Bf6 41 Be5 was my plan and we will enter into that K + P ending I was striving for.

41	Bxg5	hxg5
42	f6	1-0

Crashing home. 42 ... gxf6 allows 43 h6 promoting, and 42 ... Ke8 43 fxc7 Kf7 44 h6 is elementary. Nice finish to a well-played tournament.

Opening references:

Round 2. Ross-Hoare

A 12 ... h6 13 Nc2 Bb7 14 Ne3 0-0 15 Nf5 Ne7 16 Nxh6+ gxh6 17 Bxh6 Ng6 18 Ng5 Qe7 19 Qd3 Nh7 20 Qg3 Qf6 21 Rad1 Nxc5 22 Bxg5 Qg7 23 h4 Kh8 24 Qe3 Nf4 25 g3 f6 26 Bxf4 exf4 27 Qxf4 Z Almasi (2590) v B Lalic (2590) Pula 1995 [1/2-1/2 (63)]

B 14 ... b4 15 Nc2 Bc8 16 Ba4 Ne7 17 dxe5 dxe5 18 Nxb4 Qxd1 19 Bxd1 Bb7 20 Nxe5 g5 21 Bg3 Nxe4 22 Nd7 Ra8 23 Bf3 f5 24 Bxe4 fxe4 25 Nxf8 Rxf8 26 Re2 h5 27 Rd1 h4 28 Bxc7 Bxc7 29 Rd7 Z

Almasi (2590) v V Zvjaginsev (2585) Wijk aan Zee 1995 [1-0]

C 14 ... Qe7 15 Nc2 Bc8 16 Ne3 g5 17 Nxc6 exd4 18 Nf5 Bxf5 19 exf5 Qd7 20 Ne6 1-0 Wang Pin (2504)-Xu Yaping (2050) Beijing 2001

Round 3. Movil-Ross

A 7 Ngf3 b6 8 0-0 Ba6 9 Ne5 Bb7 10 Nxc6 Bxc6 11 e5 Nd7 12 c3 Qc7 13 Qe2 d4 14 c4 0-0 15 Ne4 Rab8 16 g4 Kh8 17 g5 f5 18 exf6 gxf6 19 Ng3 Bxg2 20 Kxg2 Qc6+ 21 Qe4 Qxe4+ B Abramovic (2465) v C Lutz (2410) Berlin 1989 [1/2-1/2 (50)]

B 8 Ngf3 h6 9 h4 b6 10 a3 b5 11 c3 Nb6 12 b4 Na4 13 Qc2 Bb7 14 Nb3 cxb4 15 cxb4 a5 16 bxa5 Nxa5 17 Nxa5 Qxa5+ 18 Bd2 Qb6 19 d4 Qc6 20 Qb3 Qc4 21 Rb1 Qxb3 22 Rxb3 0-0 23 Bf1 J Borissov (2026) v F Haug (1967) Alta 2001 [1/2-1/2 (43)]

C 8 Ngf3 0-0 9 h3 f6 10 exf6 Bxf6 11 0-0 e5 12 Nh2 Nb6 13 Ndf3 exf4 14 gxf4 Be6 15 Kh1 Qd7 16 Qe1 Bxh3 17 Qg3 Bxg2+ 18 Qxg2 Be7 19 Rg1 Bd6 20 Qg5 Rf5 21 Qg4 Raf8 22 Nh4 R5f7 C Klug,C (1636) v P Gohlke (1233) Dortmund 2005 [0-1 (33)]

D 8 Ne2 b5 9 Nf3 a5 10 g4 h5 11 h3 hxg4 12 hxg4 Rxh1+ 13 Bxh1 b4 14 Kf2 Ba6 15 Bg2 a4 16 Qh1 b3 17 Qh8+ Bf8 18 Ng5 bxc2 19 Ng3 Qe7 20. Bxd5 Ndx5 21 fxe5 exd5 22 Nf5 Qxe5 M Hennigan (2455) v S Knott (2381) Birmingham 2000 [0-1 (35)]

Round 4. Ross-Ferguson

A 7 ... Be6 8 Ng5 Bg8 9 f4 a6 10 Bxc6+ bxc6 11 fxe5 dxe5 12 Qxd8+ Rxd8 13 Be3 Bd6 14 0-0-0 h6 15 Nf3 Bh7 16 Rhe1 Ke7 17 Nd2 Ke6 18 Bg1 Be7 19 Nc4 Rxd1+ 20 Kxd1 Rd8+ 21 Kc1 Ng4 22 Kb1 N Firman (2505) v Y Kryvoruchko (2372) Lvov 2003 [1-0 (31)]

B 8 h3 Bh5 9 Bg5 Be7 10 g4 Bg6 11 Qe2 0-0 12 0-0-0 Nxe4 13 Nxe4 Bxe4 14 Qxe4 Bxg5+ 15 Kb1 Bf6 16 c3 Qe7 17 h4 g6 18 g5 Bg7 19 h5 Rf4 20 Qd5+ Qf7 21 Bxc6 bxc6 22 Qxc6 Rb8 P Kelly v T Rieling Isle of Man 1993[0-1 (72)]

Round 6. Ross-Batchelor

A 17 ... Be7 18 a3 Nd3 19 Bc3 Nc5 20 Ne4 Nxe4 21 Qxe4 Rhe8 22 f4 Qb6 23 Kc1 Qb3 24 Qe3 Kb8 25 Rd4 Rxd4 0-1 D Kirsanova v O Kuznetsova Russia 2004

B 17 ... Be7 18 Bc3 Rxd1+ 19 Rxd1 Rd8 20 Ne4 c5 21 a3 Nc6 22 Rxd8+ Qxd8 23 Qf3 Qd7 24 Ka2 Bf8 25 Qe3 b6 26 Qf3 a6 1/2-1/2 M Golubev (2465) v P Bogumil (2360) Katowice 1992

C 19 ... Rhg8 20 Rxd8+ Rxd8 21 Rd1 Nc5 22 Nd6+ Bxd6 23 exd6 Rxd6 24 Rxd6 Qxd6 25 Bxg7 Qf4 26 a3 Nd7 27 Bc3 Nf6 28 Qe5 Qxe5 29 Bxe5 Ng8 30 Bd4 a6 31 g4 Kd7 32 f4 f6 33 c5 e5 34 fxe5 E Fatalibekova (2000) v V Kozlovskaya (2315) Riga 1975 [1/2-1/2 (40)]

Chris Ross