

New Englander

Chess Club Update – February 2019

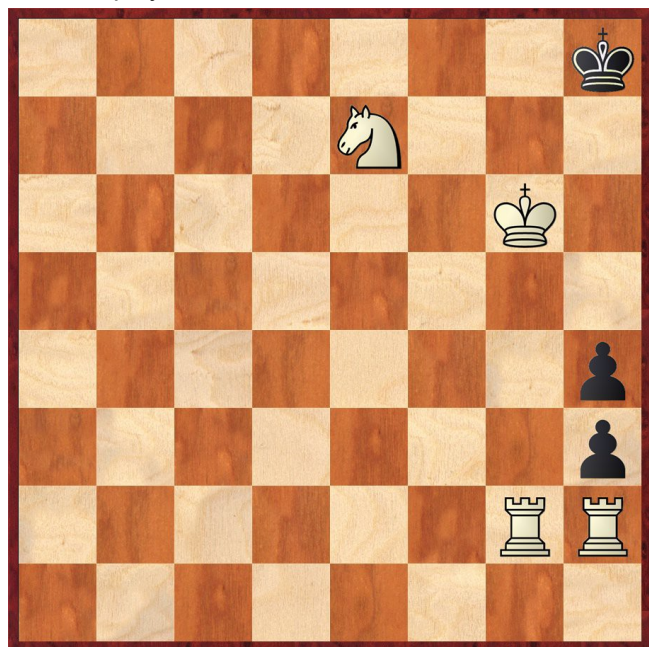
Chairman's Chatter

There is a boxing cliché that styles make fights. This month's featured game has been submitted by Chris Ross whom some of our newer recruits may not know. Awarded honorary membership of the club, he played on top board for several years - particularly in 2012-13 when we won the Cambridgeshire title. His commentary differs from the usual fare. He makes plans based on the board position rather than the variations ahead. You should find it very instructive.

Paul Hanks

Puzzle Problem

White to play and mate in 2



Last Month's solution (Kubbel 1958)

Position : 8/8/5R2/8/6k1/5N2/6PK/7R

1 Rg1 Kh5 2 g4#

Diary Dates

- 20th February New date for Round 7 of the Club Championship
- 27th February Fenland 550 Plate semi-final Patriots v Cambridge
- 20th March Lancaster Club AGM. We lose use of the room at our venue for the evening
- 23rd-24th March EACU Congress to determine the regional champion at Whittlesford with Open, U-170 and U-130 sections
- 31st May-2nd June Newmarket Congress.

Entry forms for the latter two events can be found at www.eacu.org.uk under "Fixtures and Events".

Result Round-up

New England Club Ladder

White		Black	
M Tarabad	1	0	J Sadler
J Sadler	1	0	N Wedley
D Lane	0	1	M Tarabad
E Smith	0	1	J Parker

Position	Change		Player	Record @ 30/01/19
	Month	Overall		
1	-	+2	P Walker	½,1,½,1,0,1
2	-	-	J Parker	0,0,1
3	+10	10	J Sadler	0,1
4	-2	+6	N Wedley	0,1,0,0
5	-1	+3	R Ilett	1,1,1
6	-1	-5	P Spencer	1,½,½,1
7	-1	-3	T Ingram	0,1
8	-1	-2	M Tarabad	1,0,1,1,1,1
9	-1	+2	E Smith	0,0,0
10	-	-1	D Lane	0,1,0,0
11	-2	-6	P Hanks	0
12	-	-	P Weinberger	0
13	-2	-6	P O'Gorman	0

Cambridgeshire County Chess Leagues

St Neots A	2½	New England A	2½
A Chapman	0	J Dillely	1
P Brown	1	P Walker	0
R Palumbo	0	P Hanks	1
P Barkas	1	R Ilett	0
C Emery	½	C Russell	½

Peterborough A	4	New England A	1
A Timoshenko	½	J Dillely	½
I Bin-Suhayl	1	R Ilett	0
C Tandy	1	P Turp	0
F Bowers	½	P Spencer	½
D Browning	1	P Weinberger	0

New England B	1½	Warboys B	2½
P Spencer	0	N Greenwood	1
P Turp	0	P Baddeley	1
R Jones	½	P Wells	½
C Russell	1	D Bentley	0

New England B	P	St Neots B	P
Re-arranged for 17 th April 2019			

Spalding	P	New England B	P
Re-arranged for 19 th March 2019			

Team 550 Competition

NE Cavaliers	1½	Spalding	2½
P Turp	1	T Nottingham	0
R Jones	0	P Szutkowski	1
E Knox	0	J Smith	1
M Tarabad	½	R Coats	½

NE Cavaliers	4	Godmanchester	0
P Spencer	1	J Wright	0
J Sadler	1	M English	0
E Knox	1	A Ellul	0
M Tarabad	1	B Smith	0

Club Championship

Round 3			
C Russell (1)	1	0	J Sutherland (1)
P Weinberger (1)	P	P	D Lane (1)
R Jones (½)	P	P	P O'Gorman (1)
P Hanks (1½)	P	P	M Tarabad (½)

Round 4			
P Hanks (1½+ P)	1	0	P Walker (3)
N Wedley (1)	P	P	R Jones (½+ P)
D Lane (1+ P)	P	P	P O'Gorman (1+ P)
R Ilett (2)	P	P	P Spencer (3)

Round 5			
P Walker (3)	1	0	R Ilett (2+ P)
D Lane (1+ 2P)	0	1	E Smith (1)
S Wozniak (2)	1	0	J Parker (0)
C Russell (2½)	P	P	J Sadler (2+ P)
J Sutherland (1½)	P	P	J Sadler (2)
T Ingram (1+ P)	P	P	P O'Gorman (1+ 2P)
P Spencer (3+ P)	P	P	P Turp (2½)
R Jones (½+ 2P)	P	P	P Hanks (2½+ P)

Round 6						
T Ingram (1½+ P)	0	1	P Hanks (2½+ 2P)			
P Weinberger (2+ P)	0	1	C Russell (2½+ P)			
M Tarabad (1½+ P)	1	0	N Wedley (1+ P)			
P Turp (2½+ P)	1	0	S Wozniak (3)			
J Parker (0)	½	½	S Walker (1½)			
E Smith (2)	0	1	R Ilett (2+ P)			
J Sadler (3+ 2P)	P	P	P Walker (4)			
E Knox (3)	P	P	P Spencer (3+ 2P)			
D Lane (1+ 2P)	P	P	R Jones (½+ 3P)			
J Sutherland (1½+ P)	P	P	P O'Gorman (1+ 3P)			

New England Grand Prix

<i>Player</i>	<i>Champ</i>	<i>Ladder</i>	<i>League</i>	<i>Cup</i>	<i>550 Team</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>TPR*</i>
P Spencer	3	3	3		3	12	146
M Tarabad	2½	5		0	3	10½	116
R Ilett	3	3	1½	2	1	10½	160
P Walker	4	4	1			9	167
C Russell	3½		4	0	1	8½	124
P Hanks	3½	0	1½	1	1	7	164
P Turp	3½		½	0	2	6	137
P Weinberger	2	0	1		2½	5½	98
J Sadler	3	1			1	5	134
S Walker	2		1		1½	4½	87
S Wozniak	3				1	4	120
E Knox	3				1	4	101
J Dilley			3			3	207
D Lane	1	1			1	3	96
J Parker	½	1			1	2½	69
N Wedley	1	1		½		2½	85
J Sutherland	1½				1	2½	106
T Ingram	1½	1				2½	89
E Smith	2	0			0	2	62
R Jones	½		½		0	1	95
P O'Gorman	1	0				1	74
M Ingram				½		½	91

* Tournament Performance Rating is approximate

Website to Watch

If the Aeroflot Open taking place in Moscow from 19th to 27th February is not your cup of tea (see http://ruchess.ru/en/championship/detail/2019/aeroflot_open_2019/), you might like to follow some of

Britain's best talent in Ireland's Bunratty International Chess Festival from 22nd to 24th February (www.bunrattychess.com may not carry live games).

Match of the Month

There are two intriguing points in the following encounter. The first is the formation that Black adopts in the Ruy Lopez. Understanding the basic set-up of this opening is fundamental in establishing a constructive strategy in the middle game.

The second interesting point is that not all rook-pawn endings are drawn! With best play, Black could have put up more resistance but White also failed to execute the endgame as accurately as possible. Despite that, the pawn structure imbalance was the single factor that empowered White to push for, and ultimately gain, the full point.

Chris Ross v Brian Valentine

Northampton A v Leighton Buzzard; 18.12.2018

1	e4	e5
2	Nf3	Nc6
3	Bb5	a6
4	Ba4	Nf6
5	d3	

The quieter approach to tackling the Spanish defence. White plans to build slowly by developing his pieces and expanding with a future d3-d4 only once suitably prepared. This gradual development offers Black the opportunity to react positively to White's slightly delayed play in the centre.

5	...	b5
6	Bb3	Bc5

Initiating the Arkhangelsk variation of the Ruy Lopez, a perfectly acceptable set-up against White's formation. This active placement of the bishop has been tried and tested throughout the decades and is considered favourably by many strong players. Black aims to restrict the expansion in the centre with pressure on the d4 square, forcing White to consider carefully how he wishes to continue his strategy against this defensive structure. The standard build-up of c2-c3 and d2-d4 has its followers but Black will attempt to attack the centre from afar with his minor pieces (akin to ideas seen in the Alekhine Defence).

7	c3	
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Preparing the expansion through the centre and providing a flight-square for the light-squared bishop. The d4 square is under control having eliminated Black's possible occupation of that square.

7	...	d6
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A critical decision and one that has very serious consequences for Black's structure. An innocuous looking move but with deep positional implications. The move itself cannot be criticised, as it has no apparent defects, but it does not have any inherent purpose within Black's grander scheme.

Here, when playing the Ruy Lopez, people need to appreciate the subtle differences in how Black's formation needs to be constructed. With the black

dark-squared bishop having been developed outside the pawn chain (c7-d6), there are other positional consequences - namely, the king's knight on f6. With the bishop on c5, there are future pins for White with Bc1-g5. To break such a pin, Bc5-e7 will have to be played but with the pawn on d6, this retreat is not possible.

A further consideration is the contest in the centre. Black has developed his minor pieces to control the d4 square and as a result, White is not able to play d3-d4 easily. Black should then be striving to occupy the centre himself. This slow d7-d6 does not challenge the centre and avoids any tension.

In brief, with the black dark-squared bishop being on c5,

- Black should be striving for d7-d5 as his standard plan, with ideas of Re8 to defend the e5 pawn and having Bc5-f8 as a future retreat.
- Also, with the pawn on d5, Black has a possible Qd6 to unpin any knight on f6.
- Naturally, the d5 pawn will require defence if any pin on the knight on f6 is likely to arise. With the black pawn on d5, the tension surrounding the e4 pawn will keep White occupied and prevent him from expanding with d3-d4 without due preparation.

Of course, there are exceptions but as a general rule, Black should either have pawn d5 with Bc5 or pawn d6 and Be7. This may seem unimportant but, as the game shows, one single tempo can mean a great deal.

8	Nbd2	0-0
9	Nf1	

Since the centre is closed, White need not waste time by castling as there is no direct danger to his king. The standard plan of 0-0, Re1, Nf1 is not necessary. White can begin the manoeuvre without having to commit the king's rook, as the rook on f1 may prove to be useful if a future f2-f4 is deemed crucial.

9	...	h6
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Black considers the future pin on the knight on f6 too difficult to resolve and so prevents the white dark-squared bishop from landing on g5. White's obvious development for the piece is therefore to eliminate the imposing presence of the black counterpart.

10	Be3	
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Other plans are available for White (see opening references below) e.g. the bishop on c5 can become a future target for a d3-d4 push.

10	...	Bxe3
11	Nxe3	Be6

Black challenges the centre and holds up any White occupation of the d5 square; White may have had ideas of Nd5. The black light-squared bishop had little other choice when it comes to an active role. g4 has been ruled out and on b7, the bishop would only be biting on the fortified e4 pawn.

12 0-0 d5

Black realises that White's slow play in the centre allows him to expand there himself. However, this has cost one tempo having played d7-d6 initially.

13 Re1

Indirectly defending the e4 pawn. Black can't really snatch the pawn as there will be nasty discoveries down the e file. White will have too much development for Black to maintain the extra pawn and his lack of piece activity to give him serious problems in the late middle game.

13 exd5 Nxd5 14 Nxd5 Bxd5 is better for White, but gives little prospect for any discernible advantage. The text-move gives Black pause for thought, as he has to calculate to whether the pawn on e4 is indeed catchable.

13 ... Re8

Black decides that the pawn is too hot for him to snatch. The critical line is 13 ... dxe4 14 dxe4 Bxb3 15 axb3 Nxe4 and now the difficult move to see is 16 Qd5.

Such moves are hard to spot, for most of us consider captures, avoidance of exchanges etc. especially in calculating variations. Moving towards another piece that can be captured is not a notion that comes easily. Here, the queen moves to attack both black knights, forcing a more favourable exchange of queens for White i.e. 16 ... Qxd5 17 Nxd5 and the discovery on the knight on e4 will regain the material, either on e5 or the loose pawn on c7.

14 Nf1

Black has defended against tactics down the e file so the e4 pawn needs protection. White can exchange down with 14 exd5 Nxd5 15 d4 which gives him a slight edge, but Black should be able to consolidate easily enough.

The text-move appears to be slow, but has the intention of re-routing the knight via g3, defending the e4-pawn and having ideas of jumping into f5 if the opportunity arises.

14 ... dxe4
15 dxe4 Qe7

It is becoming apparent that Black has weaknesses in his pawn structure, in comparison to White who has a very solid formation. The pawn on e5 is vulnerable and the black queenside pawns are unconnected and easily attacked. The pawn c7 is also a target and the chain can be challenged with a2-a4 at any moment.

If instead 15 ... Qxd1, 16 Bxd1 Red8 17 a4 already gives Black problems to solve.

16 Qc2

On c2, the queen is not easily attacked and defends the e4 pawn whilst keeping an eye on the queenside. The potential pawn on b3 (after the exchange of light-squared bishops) will need protection. e2 is the natural square for her but before landing there, she needs to defend the e4 pawn while another white piece is reactivated.

16 ... Rad8
17 Ne3

Re-developing the knight and e3 is the better square for it because :-

- it eyes up the d5 square and the f5 outpost
- the knight has a possibility of landing on g4 if g7-g6 is played, to target the h6-pawn
- a future Nd5 is possible, as captures on d5 followed by e4xd5 may drive away the knight on c6 and then e5 will fall
- it is important to defend the queen on c2 as future play shows that Nb4 by Black needs to be prevented.

On g3, where it was potentially aimed, it only has the purpose of defending the e4 pawn and focussing on f5. g7-g6 would resolve the f5 outpost and reduces the knight to very little activity on g3.

17 ... Bxb3

Re-routing this bishop back to c8 and b7 is possible, but this would leave the bishop on b3 unchallenged and powerfully placed. Black can't hunt this bishop down with Na5 as the e5 pawn would be left weak. The loose nature of the black pawns is becoming ever more evident. Black's choices for continuing are becoming more limited. With this capture though, Black creates more pressure on his already vulnerable queenside pawns.

18 axb3 a5

Defending his a pawn (though the b5 pawn has become loose) but putting an overload duty on the knight on c6, which has to defend both e5 and a5.

19 g3

White must not rush here. Black has little to do. His pieces are well placed but are only carrying out passive duties. The white forces are poised to exploit any future breaches in the defence. In the meantime, future breaks are prepared on the kingside. The white king is given a flight square from the back rank and any future Nh5/Nf4 manoeuvres by Black are ruled out. White may use his h pawn to create weaknesses on the kingside. All of which are slow, but Black, restricted as he is, must find moves and a plan, whereas White can slowly but methodically improve his position.

19 ... Qc5

The only active square for the queen. Now it is apparent why the white queen needs protection, for Black would have had Nb4 ideas in the offing if the white knight had been on g3.

20 Kg2 Re6

Again, Black is seeking active play. He decides that the knight on c6 needs protection for future queenside activity. There are ideas of doubling up on the d file as well. White has improved the position of his king, so another stage in the grand plan needs to be executed.

21 Re2

With the exclusive purpose of exchanging the rook. Currently, the rook on e1 has little scope for activity, so its exchange will limit the power of the black major pieces down the open d file. Swapping it on d1 would only misplace a white knight or move the active rook from the a file. Therefore, the rook is shifted to the d2 square where an exchange is more favourable for White.

21 ... **b4?**

A very serious positional inaccuracy. This makes White's progress a lot easier. Black should have sat tight with 21 ... Rd6 and asked White to prove his hand. The text-move is an attempt to liquidate the position, forcing exchanges which will make defending the endgame more manageable.

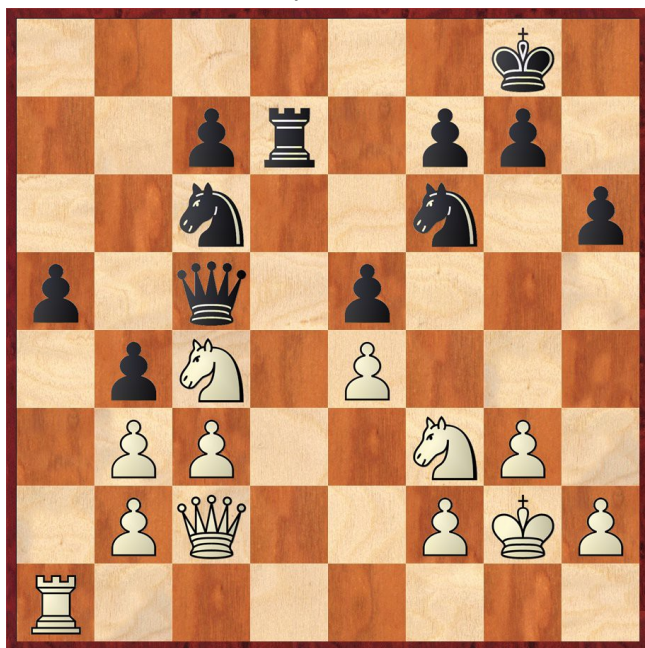
The two major deficiencies of the move are the c4 square and less obviously, the backward nature of the c7 pawn. Although seemingly insignificant, this latter observation about pawn structure proves crucial in the future endgame. The decisions that we take in the opening and middle-game regarding our pawn formation, don't always prove to be critical in the endgame. The vision of the endgame though should always be in a player's mind as not all endgames can be drawn (especially so, rook-and-pawn endings!)

22 Nc4 **Re7**

The only way in which Black is able to double up on the d file.

23 Rd2 **Red7**
24 Rxd7 **Rxd7**

Played too automatically. Re-captures can often be instinctive but when a recapture can be made by more than one piece, you should pause for consideration. Here, the knight on f6 needs a route into the queenside for defensive purposes. 24 ... Nxd7 25 Rd1 Qf8 is a defensive attempt for Black.



25 **Qe2**

Missing a simple tactic. 25 Nfxe5 snatches a clear pawn. - 25 ... Nxe5 26 Rxa5 recovers the piece.

25 ... **Qb5**

The power of the pin is often underestimated, but it lacks potency if the pinning piece is undefended. Here, the pin on the c4 knight is annoying but tactics are available due to the queen on b5 not having a secure platform.

26 **Nfd2**

Once again, the e5 pawn can be snatched here, but with less of an impact. 26 Nfxe5 Re7 27 Nxc6 Qxc6 28 Nxa5 and the e4 pawn will fall.

26 ... **Rd8**

Black vacates the d7 square for the knight, which only demonstrates that the recapture on d7 by the rook was too hastily played.

27 **Qf1**

Defending the white queen and making tactics even more possible on the loose queen on b5. Ideas of Ra4 and Qa1 for White with pressure on the a5 pawn are also possible.

27 ... **Nd7**

Black should remove the queen from the pin as soon as possible. 27 ... Qc5 needed to be played and White would have to reassess how to make progress.

28 **Ne3**

Aiming for the endgame, where the black queenside pawns will prove vulnerable. Tactics still allow White to exploit the loose nature of the black queen with 28 Nxa5 Qxf1+ 29 Kxf1 but Black has play with 29 ... Nc5 and the endgame is not that easy for White.

28 ... **Qxf1+**
29 **Kxf1**

The rapid approach of the king towards the centre is yet another slight advantage that White has for the endgame. Coupled with the loose nature of the black queenside pawns, this will prove very telling.

29 ... **Nb6**

With the idea of protecting the d5 square, as a future Nd5 for White may target the loose c7 pawn. However, Black should be seeking activity against the b3 pawn with 29 ... Nc5 and a possible Nd3 may tie White down to defending his b pawns.

30 **Ke2** **f6**
31 **Ndc4** **Nxc4**
32 **Nxc4** **bxc3?**

Once again, played too automatically. Black sees a way in which to liquidate pieces, in the attempt to reach a seemingly equal endgame. 32 ... Rb8 33 Nxa5 Nxa5 34 Rxa5 bxc3 35 bxc3 Rxb3 36 Rc5 gives White the better of it, but with much work still to do to convert the victory.

33 **bxc3** **Rb8**
34 **Ra3**

Had the pawns not been exchanged on c3, this move would not be possible. As it is, White's advantage has risen significantly.

34 ... **Kf7**

A simple glance should suggest that the position is level. White, however, has two very tiny advantages and their accumulation will prove Black's undoing. The first is that the white king is one square closer to the centre than its black counterpart. Small as this is, it is very important to the penetration potential of each monarch. But critically, the disjointed black queenside pawns cannot be defended simultaneously. Were these pawns connected, White would have no discernible advantage and the game would peter out to a draw. As it is, once the b3 pawn is defended by the white king, the white rook and knight can begin probing and pressurising the weak a5 and c7 pawns.

35 **Kd3** **Ke7**
36 **Ne3** **Kd7**

Black has difficulties on both sides of the board. Nf5 ideas by White are possible as the pawns on the kingside will need protection. With h7-h6 having been played, g7-g6 to respond to Nf5 is not possible. Again, a seemingly innocuous h7-h6 move in the opening is to haunt Black in the endgame.

37 **Kc4** **g6**
38 **Ra2**

Now the b3 pawn is defended, the rook and knight can begin coordinating. The rook's principal job though will be to check on the d file and prevent the black king from occupying the d6 square, stopping any further penetration by the white king.

38 ... **Ke6**
39 **Nd5** **Rb7**
40 **Kc5**

Winning a pawn. The knight cannot remain and it is the guard and shield to the vulnerable black queenside pawns. Even if this king penetration had not been possible, White always had the plan of playing b3-b4 and using the pawn as a battering ram to open White's invasion by Ra6.

40 ... **Ne7**

Black has no option but to enter into an inferior rook-and-pawn ending. Any other retreat by the black knight would allow Rxa5 and if Black captures with Rxb3, Nxc7+ comes with check and the retreat Nd5 will defend the c3 pawn. With the white king so far advanced and the white rook and knight coordinating, further material loss will be inevitable.

41 **Nxe7** **Kxe7**
42 **Kc4**

Simply defending the b3 pawn and demonstrating that the a5 pawn cannot be defended. A loss of a pawn is now forced. Black's resistance is waning.

42 ... **Ra7**
43 **b4** **a4**

Although passed, the a pawn can't go anywhere. In the meantime, White can use his own passed pawns to restrict the Black forces.

44 **Kb5**

White has a number of ways to play the position. He can simply run for the a pawn with 44 b5 and then Kb4. Either way, the resulting rook/king endgame is easily won for White.

44 ... **Ra8**
45 **Kc6**

Once again, demonstrating to how powerful the white king's penetration is. The comparison between the two monarchs shows why White has the winning advantage. The black king is reduced to a defensive restricted position, whereas the white king probes, attacks and supports his own passed pawns.

45 ... **Ra7**
46 **b5** **a3**
47 **c4** **Ra4**

Black desperately seeks activity. White is not concerned about the e4 pawn or any of his kingside pawns, for the oncoming passed pawn will soon cost Black his rook.

48 **c5** **Kd8**

Black tries to bring his king back to hold up the passed pawn. White must not allow the black king that luxury.

49 **Kb7**

Cutting off the black king. The passed pawns will now crash through unhindered.

49 ... **Rc4**
50 **b6** **cxb6**

50 ... Rxc5 51 Rd2+ Ke7 52 bxc7 and the pawn queens.

51 **cxb6**

Strictly speaking 51 c6 will queen the pawn quicker, but Black may play on with the chance getting two connected queenside pawns. Although White is still winning, he will have to run the king all the way back to snaffle the queenside pawns and then rush to the kingside to defend that side of the board. Simple enough but it will cause White another 30 moves with Black have some kind of hope. The text-move gives Black more reason to think and find a suitable defensive plan.

51 ... **Ra4**
52 **Kc6**

Once again, White has a number of ways to play this. 52 Kb8 to push the pawn to b7 before forcing the black king away is also possible.

52 ... **Rc4+**

With time against him, Black does not find the most resistant way to continue. Having been under pressure for all of the game, it is not surprising that he collapses without any further fight.

52 ... Kc8 would certainly give White more difficulties to win. He would probably have to run the king to the kingside via the sixth rank, giving up the b6 pawn for the a3 pawn. A more laborious way to win, but the more advanced nature of the white king will ensure the victory.

53 Kb5 Rc3

Again, the switch to the sixth rank by the white pieces will give him the path to victory. 53 ... Rxe4 54 Rxa3 Kc8 55 Rc3+ Kb8 56 Rc6 and the kingside is doomed.

54 Kb4

Not the most accurate, but offering Black the greater scope of going astray. Played quickly to put the question to Black who duly folded. 54 Ka6 Kc8 55 Ka7 shepherds the pawn home with Rc2+ deflecting the black king away.

54 ... Rf3

Losing immediately. 54 ... Rc6 55 Ka5 Kc8 56 Ka6 Kb8 and White can win the a3 pawn. It requires more time to push the extra pawn home and White will again probably have to run the king across the sixth rank to ensnare the black kingside pawns.

55 Rc2

Shutting out the black king and promoting the b pawn. The game is over. A clinical demonstration of accumulating tiny advantages, the exploitation of which will always offer excellent winning chances.

55 ... Rd3
56 b7 1-0

Opening references :-

A 9 ... d5 10 Qe2 d4 11 cxd4 Nxd4 12 Nxd4 Qxd4 13 h3 Rd8 14 Bc2 Bb4+ 15 Nd2 Bb7 16 Qe3 Qxe3+ 17 fxe3 c5 18 a3 Bxd2+ 19 Bxd2 c4 20 dxc4 Bxe4 21 Rc1 bxc4 22 Bc3 Rd5 23 0-0 Bxc2 24 Rxc2 Ne4 D Suarez Pousa (2398) v D Adla (2410); Linares 2018 (0-1 in 53 moves)

B 9 ... d5 10 exd5 Nxd5 11 Ng3 f6 12 0-0 Be6 13 Ne4 Be7 14 d4 exd4 15 Nxd4 Nxd4 16 Qxd4 Bf7 17 Re1 Re8 18 Be3 c6 19 Ng3 Bf8 20 Bd2 Qd7 21 Bc2 c5 22 Qh4 Bg6 23 Bxg6 hxg6 24 Rad1 F Caruana (2799) v W So (2788); London 2017 (½-½)

C 10 Ng3 Be6 11 0-0 Bb6 12 h3 d5 13 Qe2 Re8 14 Rd1 a5 15 Be3 a4 16 Bc2 d4 17 Bc1 a3 18 Bb3 Nd7 19 Bxe6 fxe6 20 Qc2 Qe7 21 cxd4 Nxd4 22 Nxd4 Bxd4 23 Ne2 Bb6 24 bxa3 Rf8 25 Be3 I Smikovski (2558) v F Amonatov (2634); Serpuhov 2008 (½-½ in 41 moves)

D 10 Ng3 Re8 11 0-0 Bb6 12 h3 Na5 13 Bc2 c5 14 Nh2 Nc6 15 Qf3 d5 16 Nf5 Bxf5 17 Qxf5 dxe4 18 dxe4 c4 19 Rd1 Qe7 20 Nf1 Rad8 21 Be3 Bc5 22 Bxc5 Qxc5 23 Ne3 Ne7 24 Qf3 Rb8 25 Rd2 I Abdelnabbi (2428) v V Sanal (2533); Khanty-Mansiysk 2017 (0-1 in 59 moves)

E 10 Ng3 Ne7 11 0-0 Ng6 12 d4 Bb6 13 Be3 Rb8 14 Qc2 c5 15 a3 c4 16 Ba2 Bg4 17 Ne1 Nh5 18 Nhx5 Bxh5 19 f3 Ne7 20 Bf2 Bg6 21 Qe2 Nc6 22 Rd1 Qc7 23 Nc2 Rfe8 24 Rfe1 f5 A Burn v J Baird; New York 1889 (1-0 in 55 moves)

Chris Ross

Eye Opener

Some opening variations are so well known, it is easy to forget how simple it is to go astray. Here is an ominous reminder...

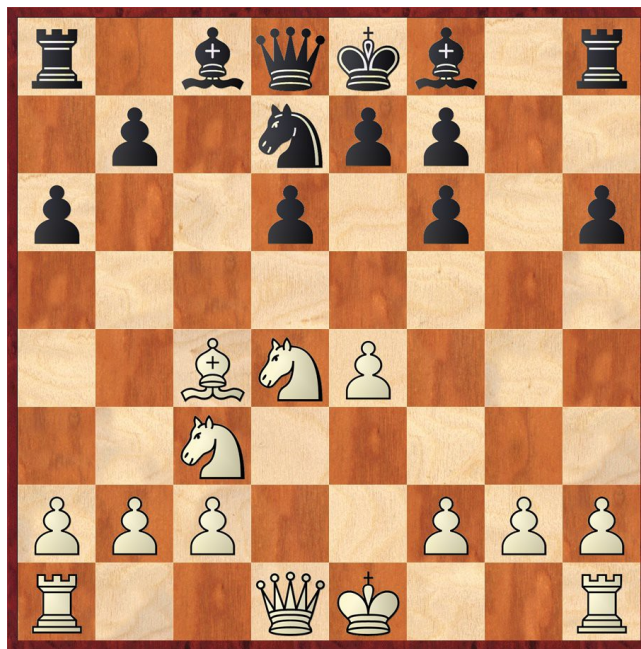
A Vooremaa v V Zakharian
Minsk 1964

1	e4	c5
2	Nf3	d6
3	d4	cxd4
4	Nxd4	Nf6
5	Nc3	a6
6	Bg5	Nbd7
7	Bc4	

These days, with Fischer time controls, you would possibly reach this position with more time on the clock than when you started the game!

7	...	h6
8	Bxf6	gxf6

An unusual way to recapture which most of us would intuitively avoid. The reason it is wrong is perhaps more savage than you might imagine.



9	Bxf7+	Kxf7
10	Qh5+	Kg8

If 10 ... Kg7, 11 Ne6+ is worse than a fork because 11 ... Kh7 12 Qf7+ or 11 ... Kg8 12 Qg6+ both mating.

11 Qg6+

Actually 11 Ne6 is even stronger because the threats of 12 Qg6+ means Black cannot even get a piece for his queen.

11	...	Bg7
12	Ne6	1-0