



director.juniorchess@englishchess.org.uk

## Successful Trip to Lithuania

**Junior Squad to Vilnius Feb 2009**  
**Friday 13th February**

Despite the date, no one had any travel problems and everyone was on time at Gatwick. Check in was actually very efficient although the plane was 30 minutes late taking off. There were 12 players with Glynis South and Peter Purland as leaders. We changed at Riga and were in Vilnius about 15 minutes late. Here we were met by Richard, the Lithuanian Junior trainer, and taken on the No. 1 bus to our hotel, the Panorama, just opposite the station. After dropping our bags in our rooms we went over to McDonald's for our first meal. We then had a quick team talk and were straight off to bed.

**Saturday 14th February**

We were up at 0830 and down to



**The successful "A" Team**

breakfast at 0900. We then walked through the old town passing various churches, the town hall, market hall, Gedimanas Square and the Cathedral before walking down Gedimanas Prospekt to the chess club. The tournament had six teams, three from Lithuania, one from Latvia and our two. A French team had pulled out at the last minute (what a surprise).

Each team consisted of three U14s, two U12s, and a girl. Our "A" team was James Holland, Gordon Scott, James Abrams, Roy Zhang, Peter Batchelor and

Polly Lambert whilst the "B" team was Ben Slater, Dominic Pozzo, Jamie Horton, Felix Haxby, Adam Taylor and Jennifer Ehr.

Round one saw England A v Vilnius 2, England B v Vilnius 3 and Vilnius 1 v Riga. England A. England B and Vilnius 1 all won 5-1. We then went to a local restaurant for lunch and returned for our "A" v "B" match. Vilnius 1 were playing Vilnius 3 and Vilnius 2 played Riga. There were some interesting results. Our game was predictably 5-1 to the A with draws on 3 and 6 but Vilnius 3 beat their first team 3½ - 2½ and Riga also won by the same score.

We then walked across the river to the Europa shopping centre where we were shown a very nice self service and pizza restaurant where the players had a good meal before getting the bus back to the hotel where we chatted for a bit before heading off for bed.

### Sunday 15th February

We had an earlier breakfast eating at 0830 and leaving at 0920 for a trolleybus ride to Gedimanus Prospekt and the short walk to the chess club. For many of the party this was their first trolleybus ride.

The morning pairings were Vilnius 2 v Vilnius 3, England A v Riga and Vilnius 1 v England B. Vilnius 3 continued to defy their seeding beating their second team 3½ - 2½ whilst our A team saw off Riga 5½ - ½. The B team fought hard but was unable to match Vilnius 1 and went down 4½ - 1½, Adam with a win and Fe-

lix getting our points.

We had lunch in a soup and salad restaurant and this was probably the best of our 4 lunch venues. In the afternoon Vilnius 1 played Vilnius 2, England A played the rampant Vilnius 3 and England B played Riga. Our B team was the first to finish with a resounding 5-1 success (two draws) followed by a 4-2 success for Vilnius 1 against the unfortunate Vilnius 2. Vilnius 3 were really making a fight of it but eventually our class told and we ran out 5½ - ½ winners. This meant we only needed one game point on Monday to be sure of the victory. Obviously we would not be satisfied with anything less than a win!



"A" Team v "B" Team

We again walked up to the Europa Centre and did a bit of shopping before dinner. Roy gained his silly hat award whilst Adam was still eating his pizza when we got on the bus. We had our usual meeting then had a game of *Millionaire*. This was on a room by room basis and the convincing winners were Polly and Jennifer who sailed through the sports questions after three of the five boys rooms failed on rugby and soccer!

*continued on page 5*



## EDITOR'S FOREWORD AND BASIC ADVICE

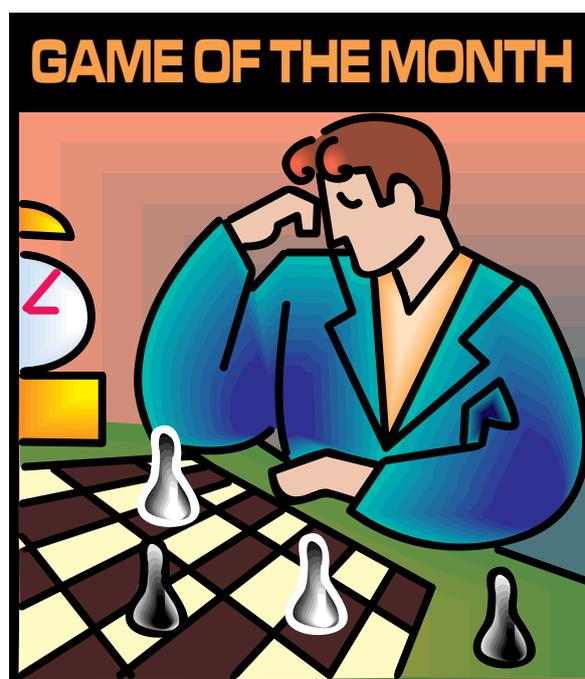
by **Andrew Martin**  
International Master

Welcome to the May Edition of *The Right Move*. I hope we have some goodies to keep you entertained. You will have already seen Peter Purland's report on the Junior Squad trip to Vilnius. Trips such as these take place frequently throughout the year, providing valuable experience for all concerned. If you are selected for a squad trip, try your very best to go!

Jonathan Hunt has kindly sent in an article about chess at Winchester College. If you would like your school and chess activities showcased in *The Right Move* you have only to send me the information by the 15th of any month and I will be pleased to help. That is why we are here!

[a.martin2007@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:a.martin2007@yahoo.co.uk)

*Andrew*

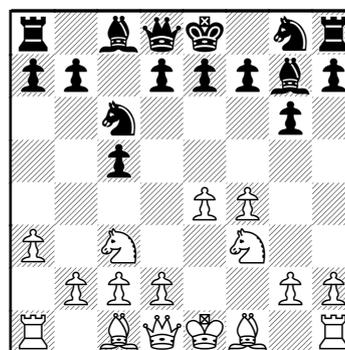


**Rendle, Thomas (2363) - Gordon, Stephen (2508)**

[B23]

British Championship, July 2008

1.e4 c5 2.♘c3 ♘c6 3.f4 g6 4.♘f3  
♙g7 5.a3!?



What shall we call this: not the Grand Prix Attack? It is certainly a peculiar fusion of the f4 Sicilian and the Wing Gambit.

**5...a6!?**

Other moves are most unclear:

5...d6 6.♙b5!?. Now White is mixing THREE systems. I would have thought Bc4 or b4 connected better with a2-a3. 6...♙d7 7.0-0 a6 8.♙c4 ♘d4 9.d3 e6

10. ♖xd4 cxd4 11. ♗e2 ♖e7 12. ♘b3 0-0 13. ♕e1 a5 14. ♗f2 ♗b6 15. a4 ♖c6 16. f5 (16. ♗g3 f5 17. exf5 gxf5 18. ♗h5 ♘h6 19. ♘d2 ♖ae8 20. ♖ae1±) 16...exf5!? 17. ♗g3 f4 18. ♘xf4 ♖e5 19. ♖a3 ♘e6 20. ♗d2= Eingorn, V–Liang Jinrong/Ma- nila 1992;

5...e6 6. ♘b5!? (This time 6.b4 makes more sense to me: 6...cxb4 (6...♗xb4 7.axb4 cxb4 8.e5 bxc3 9. ♘a3 cxd2+ 10. ♗xd2∞) 7.axb4 ♖xb4 8. ♘a3♞) 6...♗ge7 7. ♘xc6 ♖xc6 8. 0-0 d6 9. d3 0-0 10. ♗e1 ♖d4 11. ♖xd4 cxd4 12. ♗e2 f5 13. ♗g3 ♘d7 14. ♘d2 a5 15. ♖c1 ♗b6 16. b4 a4 17. ♖h1 ♘b5 18. ♗f2 ♖ac8= Walraven, M–Poncin, P/Leiden 2003.

### 6.b4!?!N

6. ♘c4 b5 7. ♘a2 seems to be in keeping with White's opening idea. I am not sure what to make of it.

### 6...b6?!

How does White answer 6...♗xb4! 7.axb4 cxb4 Could 8.d4 bxc3 9. ♘c4 be the idea. This is virgin ground as far as I know.

### 7. ♖b1 d6 8. b5 axb5 9. ♘xb5±

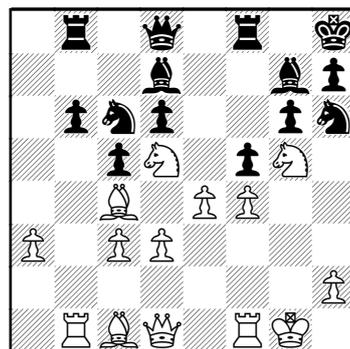
White has been allowed to carry out b2–b4 in peace without the need to sacrifice and I believe he stands a bit better. He has more space in the centre and faster development.

### 9...♘d7 10. 0-0 ♗h6 11. ♖d5! e6 12. ♖e3 0-0 13. d3 ♖c8 14. g4

Very bold, although with the Knight sidelined on h6 perhaps this is not quite as risky as it seems. In view of the threat of g4–g5, Black's next is more or less forced.

### 14...f5 15. gxf5 exf5 16. ♘c4+ ♖h8 17. ♖g5

17. ♖d5 is a decent alternative. 17...♖d4 18. c3 ♖c6 19. ♖d5 ♖b8



### 20. ♗e1

A traditional Queen placement in this case additionally useful thanks to the protection of c3.

### 20...♖e7 21. ♖e3

21. ♖xe7 ♗xe7 22. ♖f2 ♖g4 (22...fxe4 23.dxe4 ♖g4 24. ♖fb2 h6 25. ♖f3 ♘c6 26. ♘d3 c4 27. ♘c2 b5 28. ♖h4↑) 23. ♖e2 is a viable way to maintain the edge: 23...fxe4 24. ♖xe4±

### 21...b5 22. ♘a2

If 22. ♘e6, 22...♗c8 repels boarders.

### 22...fxe4 23. dxe4 c4!

Gordon is an extremely strong positional player and he understands the Bishop on a2 has to be imprisoned, at least for the time being.

### 24. ♗h4 ♖eg8! 25. ♖d5?!

It is a little too soon to occupy this square.

25. ♖d1! is probably the best move: 25...♗c7 (25...♖f6 26. ♖xd6 ♖xe4 27. ♖xd7 ♗xd7 28. ♖xe4 ♖be8∞) 26. ♖d5 ♗c5+ 27. ♖h1 ♖f6 28. ♘e3! ♗xa3 29. ♖xf6 ♖xf6 30. ♘d4.

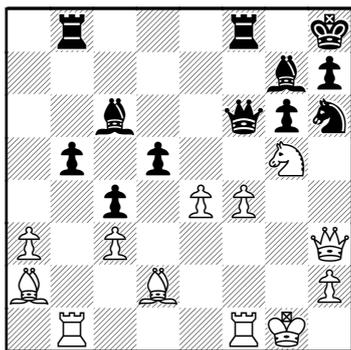
### 25...♘c6 26. ♗h3 ♖f6 27. ♖xf6

27. ♖e6 ♗d7 28. f5 ♘xd5 29. ♖xf8 ♖xf8 30. exd5 ♖xf5♞

### 27...♗xf6 28. ♘d2 d5

Lithuania continued from page 2

**Monday 16th February**



**29. ♖e6?**

29.e5 seems to be better. 29... ♖e7  
30. ♕c1 ♕d7 31. ♖g2 ♖c5+ 32. ♖f2 ♖xf2+  
33. ♖xf2 ♖be8 white's dilemma is there  
for all to see: how does he untangle the  
Bishop on a2?

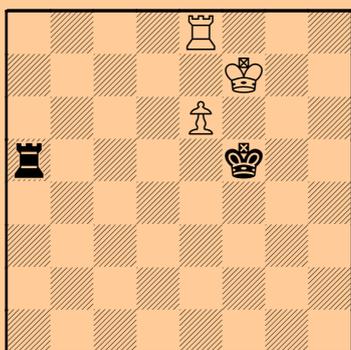
**29... dxe4 30. ♖xg7**

30. ♖xf8 ♕xf8! 31. ♕e3 ♖f5 32. ♖bd1  
♖a8! 33. ♕b1 ♖xa3-+

**30... ♖xg7 31. a4 ♖f5 32. axb5 ♕xb5  
33. ♖fe1 ♖fd8 34. ♕c1 ♖d3-+ 35. ♖g4  
♖b6+ 36. ♖h1 e3 0-1**

As far as the opening play goes, I really cannot believe that 5.a3 is any good long-term. White can try to meld the cheeky pawn advance in with any one of Bc4, b4 or Bb5, but to me it seems like improvisation or a surprise weapon at the very best.

**The MAY PUZZLE (2009)**



Another test of your technique.  
Black to play and draw!

This was Lithuanian Independence Day and the final round of the tournament. The only noticeable thing at 0830 when we left for the venue was a decided lack of people! The final pairings saw our "A" team v Vilnius 1, "B" team v Vilnius 2 and Riga v Vilnius 3. Riga were first to finish winning 4-2, our B team drew 3-3 thus ensuring 3rd place whilst the A team won 4½ - 1½ giving them a clean sweep and a rather large trophy.

The final table was England A 10, Vilnius 1 6, England B 5, Vilnius 3 4, Riga 4, Vilnius 2 1. Board prizes were won by James Holland, Gordon Scott, Roy Zhang and Peter Batchelor. We then tried a third place for lunch, nice but insubstantial, and then walked down to the Cathedral where we had a good look round. We next did our souvenir shopping before walking up through the old town with Richard pointing out various sites before getting a trolleybus back to the hotel. Richard then kept the group entertained for an hour with some very interesting compositions. Some of them were absolutely fascinating. We then had some free time before going over to McDonalds after which we had a good chat about various chess related topics. What was clear apart from anything else was that they all seem to have enjoyed themselves.

**Tuesday 17th February**

We were up at 0800, breakfast at 0845 and heading for the blitz at 0915. As well

as our 12 there were 16 Lithuanians and we had 7 rounds. Going into the final round we had Gordon (5½) v Felix (4½), Dominic (4½) v James Holland (5) as well as Adam, Peter, Jamie and Roy on 4 points. A win for Gordon saw him claim first place, James did likewise to come second whilst Peter, Jamie and Roy all ended up on five (in that order on tie break). This was a very pleasing result as in the past we have done badly at this type of chess. We then tried our fourth



**Gordon with prize**

different place for lunch after which we went to the KGB museum (which was closed) and carried on to the castle where

they had the traditional guided tour and a good chat about sieges, armour and weapons. We did have the luxury of going up on a funicular! After our visit we let the players have a snowball fight although they soon got cold and we got the trolleybus back to the hotel. When we had all warmed up we paid a final visit to the Europa Centre for last minute shopping and a final meal before packing and having an early night.

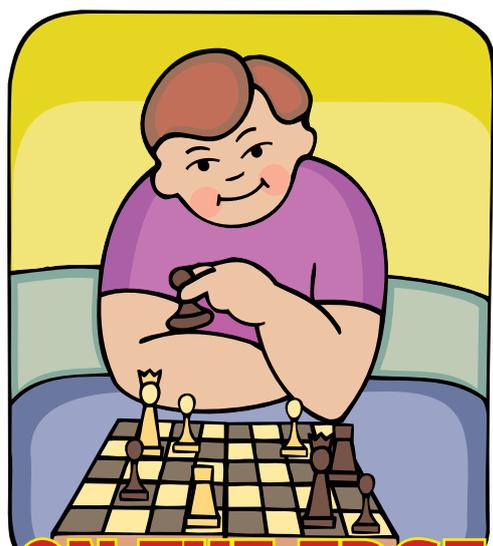
### **Wednesday 18th February**

We were up at 0600, had a packed breakfast and headed for the airport. Despite deep snow everything was running to time and we had a smooth transfer at Riga and, in fact, we landed 10 minutes early in Gatwick, the luggage was prompt (for once) and all the parents were there on time. Everyone thanked us and a happy band dispersed.

**Peter Purland**



**Winchester College — Chamber Court (photo: Jonathan Hunt)**



## ON THE EDGE IN THE FRENCH

by Andrew Martin

Smerdon, David (2463) - Lukey, Stephen G (2247)

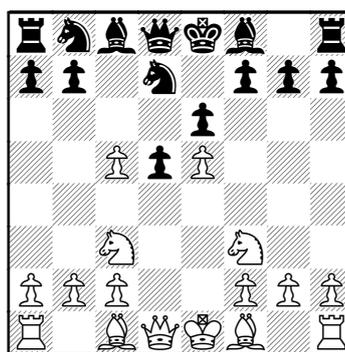
[C11]

Queenstown op, Jan. 2009

A recent theoretical competition at Chess Publishing led me to write the following original article, which it is quite in order to place in "The Right Move". Stefan Bucker, the German chess pioneer invited discussion of an old Steinitz line if the French, which I'm guessing he thinks is better than its reputation. I have some misgivings about this whole variation from White's point of view. An English player of master strength, Chris Baker, used to play this line all the time and as I used to meet him regularly around the English weekend circuit, I thought it would be a good idea to devise a decent response. I never had the chance to show what I prepared, so this is a good opportunity. **Before one can combat the enemy successfully, one has to understand what he is trying to do.** With the system under discussion, White gets

relatively easy development, but the position that he reaches is not that flexible. It seems to me he depends on Black to play ...f7-f6 for most of his ideas. White then focusses on the e-file and in particular the e5-square. Behind a piece lodged on e5, he may then start an attack. First let's see this idea in operation.

1.e4 e6 2.♘f3 d5 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.e5  
♘fd7 5.d4 c5 6.dxc5



6...♘c6 7.♙f4 ♙xc5 8.♙d3 f6?!

I am really not keen on this move, although I am sure Black gets a decent position with it. I think 8...f6 plays into White's hands.

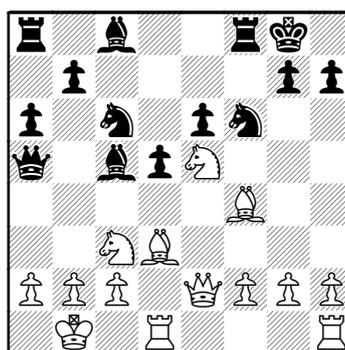
9.exf6 ♘xf6

There has been plenty of excellent discussion about this and alternatives so far. I don't want to intrude on that.

10.♙e2 0-0 11.0-0-0!?

An option White rarely takes in the French.

11...♙a5 12.♘b1 a6 13.♘e5



Here we go! White has cleared the e5-square and gives himself attacking chances by so doing.

**13...♘d4**

Tactics arise favouring White after 13...♘xe5 14.♙xe5 b5? (14...♙d7 15.f4 b5 16.g4→) 15.♙xf6 ♖xf6 (15...gxf6 16.♚g4+ ♔h8 17.♙xh7 ♔xh7 (17...♖a7 18.♙g6±) 18.♖d3) 16.♘e4!! dxe4 17.♚xe4 ♖b8 18.♚xh7+ ♔f7 19.♚h5+ g6 20.♚xc5+-

**14.♚d2 b5 15.h4 b4**

15...♘d7 16.♘xd7 ♙xd7 17.♙e3 b4 18.♘e2 ♘xe2 19.♚xe2 ♙xe3 20.♚xe3 ♖f6 is reasonable for Black, although it is hard to see him winning. I think this points up another defect of the earlier ...f7-f6. White can often steer for exchanges thanks to the newly-opened lines and take a lot of the fun out of the game for Black.

**16.♘e2 ♘b5**

16...♘e4!? 17.♙xe4 ♘xe2 18.♚xe2 ♖xf4 (18...b3 19.cxb3 ♖xf4 20.♙xh7+ ♔xh7 21.♚c2+ ♔g8 22.♘d3±) 19.♖xd5!

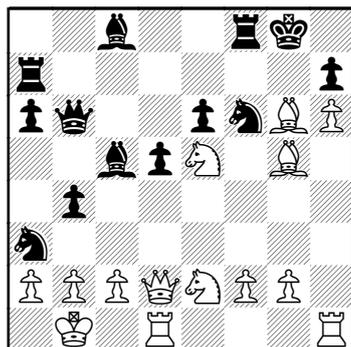
**17.h5 ♚b6 18.h6! g6 19.♙xg6**

Crunch! This is possible thanks to the powerful Knight on e5.

**19...♖a7**

19...hxg6 20.♚d3 ♖a7 21.♚xg6+ ♔h8 22.♘c6! ♚xc6 23.♙e5 looks rather horrid for Black.

**20.♙g5 ♘a3+**



Does nothing.

**21.♔a1 ♙d6 22.♙xf6 ♖xf6 23.♙d3! ♔h8 24.♚g5 ♖xf2 25.♖hf1**

Black's King is looking airy!

**25...♖e7 26.♘g4 ♖xf1 27.♖xf1 ♖b7 28.♙xh7! ♚c7 29.♚g8#**

Smerdon assessed his opponent rather well and conducted the attack with skill. Black was drawn away from a sharper variation of the French into a line he probably only had an outline in his head about what to do and got blown away.

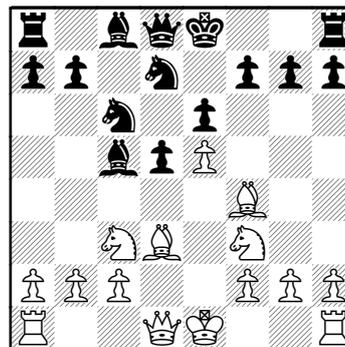
**Otchiyev,Arslan (2225) - Pavlov,Sergey1 (2443)**

[C11]

Kiev-ch, Jan. 2009

There are many games like the Smerdon effort, so this led me to thinking whether Black could delay or even OMIT ...f7-f6. I didn't see any worrying pawn breaks for White such as f2-f4 or c2-c4 on the horizon, just clumsy white pieces in the way. Moreover, Black's position is still very flexible and crucially, Black has not yet committed his King.

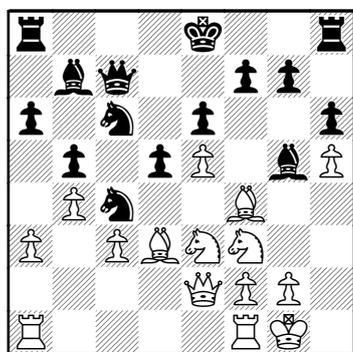
**1.e4 ♘f6 2.♘c3 d5 3.e5 ♘fd7 4.d4 c5 5.♘f3 ♘c6 6.dxc5 e6 7.♙f4 ♙xc5 8.♙d3**



**8...h6!**

So in the modern style of the French, I believe this to be a much better way of tackling the line. Black could equally play 8...a6 and follow up with ...h7-h6. Should White castle short, Black can easily launch a pawn-storm on the K-side.

8...a6 9.♖e2 h6 sees the alternative move-order in action; it doesn't make much difference. 10.h4 ♖b6 11.♘d1 ♖c7 12.0-0 b5! Not only does this allow...Bb7, it makes it far more difficult for White to contemplate c2-c4. 13.c3 (13.a4 is well met by 13...b4. Who is to say Black will castle long; he may well go short!) 13...♙e7 14.h5 ♙b7 15.b4 ♘b6 16.a3 ♘c4 17.♗e3 **Van de Oudeweetering,A (2345)-Timman,J (2594)/Amsterdam 2006**. Most accurate appears to be 17...♙g5!



18.♗xg5:

a) 18.♙xc4 dxc4 19.♗xg5 hxg5 20.♙g3 ♗xe5 (20...0-0-0 21.a4 ♖h6! 22.axb5 axb5 23.f4 ♖dh8→) 21.a4 f6∞;

b) 18.♙g3 ♙xe3 19.fxg3 0-0!; 18...hxg5 19.♙xg5 ♖xe5 20.♗xc4 dxc4 21.♖xe5 ♗xe5

**9.♙g3 a6 10.0-0**

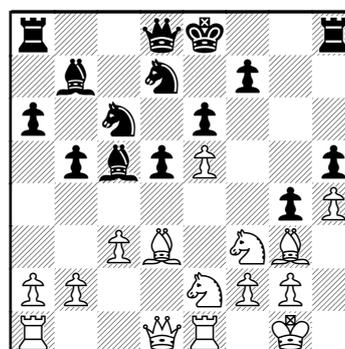
10.♖e2 b5 still leaves White with a dilemma about his King. If he goes long, Black's attack is well-advanced. Mean-

while if he goes short, he risks something similar to the game.

**10...b5 11.♖e1 ♙b7 12.♗e2 g5!**

Quite so! This is the type of thing I was looking forward to playing against Baker. Of course **this type of idea is common in the French, but whilst not original here, it is certainly not very well documented in the thoretical manuals**. It is the perception that Black can play successfully without ...f7-f6 that is important.

**13.c3 h5 14.h4 g4**



I would not want to be in White's shoes now.

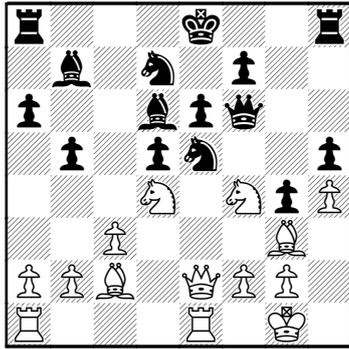
**15.♗fd4**

Stefan Bucker suggested that 15.♗g5 was a little better for White. I am not sure I believe that, as after 15...♗cxe5! 16.♙c2 (16.♗d4 ♖f6; 16.♗f4 ♖f6 17.♙c2 0-0-0 18.a4 b4) 16...♖f6! Black is in good shape.

**15...♗cxe5 16.♗f4 ♖f6 17.♖e2 ♙d6**

Black is a pawn up, well developed, has a safe King, and is nicely centralized. White is more or less forced to play for tricks. I am not sure what more one could want.

**18.♙c2**



18...♘f3+!?

18...♘c4! is most effective: 19.♘d3 (19.♙f5 0-0-0! 20.b3 ♘ce5) 19...♙xg3 20.fxg3 0-0! 21.♘f4 ♖h6 22.♙g6!? ♘f6!;

18...♖c8; or 18...0-0-0 were also decent possibilities. Black makes the fundamental mistake of trying to decide a strategically won position in a tactical manner.

19.gxf3 ♙xf4 20.♙xf4 ♖xf4 21.♘xe6!

It had to come to this. White makes a spirited try to save the game.

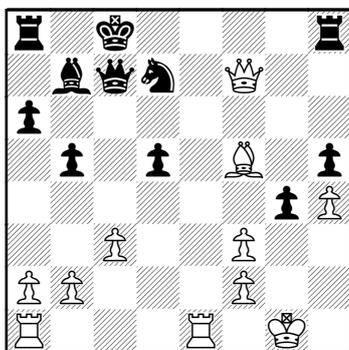
21...fxe6

Why not?

22.♖xe6+ ♔d8 23.♙f5 ♖c7

23...♙c8! is a better defence under the circumstances.

24.♖f7 ♔c8



25.♖e7?

If White had found 25.♙xd7+ ♖xd7

26.♖e7 ♖c6 27.♖ae1 he could have turned the whole game around.

25...♙c6! 26.♖d1 ♖d8

Normal service has just been resumed.

27.♖xd5 ♙xd5 28.♖xd5 ♖a7 29.♖e6 ♔b8 30.♖d6 gxf3 31.♙e4 ♖c4 32.♖f5 ♖g8+ 33.♔h2 ♖c5 0-1

To summarize Black's approach:

1) Black omits ...f7-f6;

2) He tries to demonstrate the white piece set-up is inflexible, lacking pawn breaks to bring his pieces to life;

3) With ...a7-a6 and ...h7-h6 Black does not commit himself to anything, but he would very much like to start a K-side attack, using ...h7-h6 as the starting point. But he can still castle short.

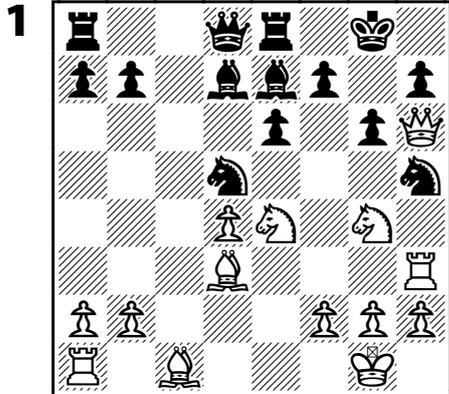
I'm not a fan of this inelastic line.



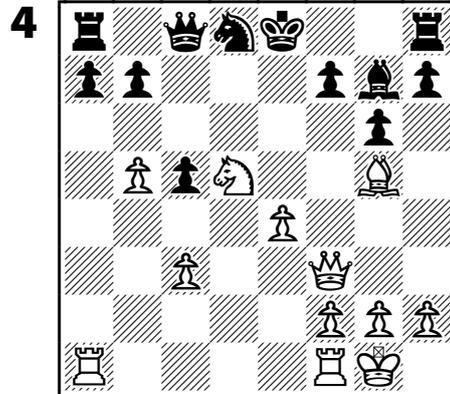
2008 Southampton League Division 4 Trophy (photo: Jonathan Hunt)

# The POPULAR CHESS QUIZ PAGE

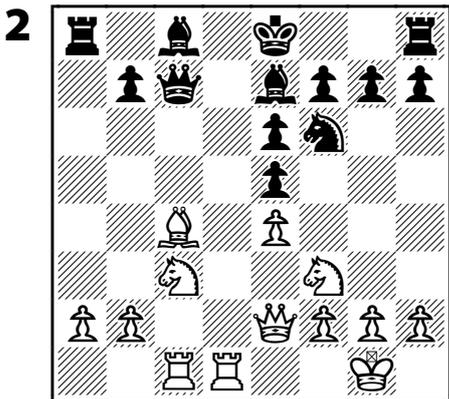
Find the best win!



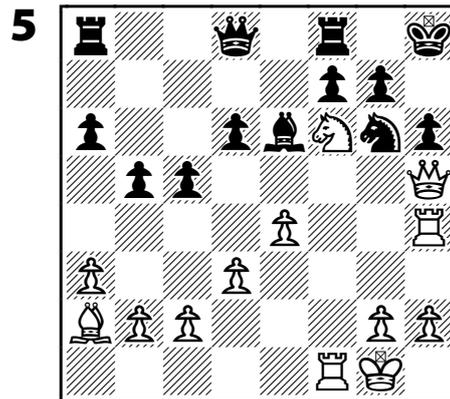
White to move and win.



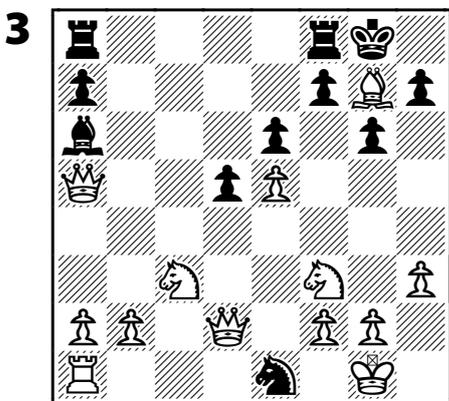
White to move and win.



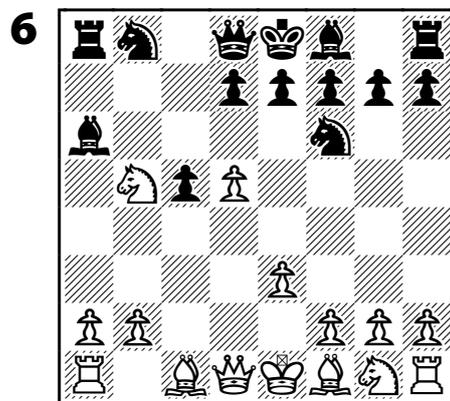
White to move and win.



White to move and win.



White to move and win.



Black to move and win.

Answers are on the last page

# RIDING HIGH: SCHOOL CHESS AT WINCHESTER

*Jon Hunt*

School activities like chess ebb and flow over the years, as teachers and pupils come and go. We were at something of a low ebb at Winchester College three years ago. The National Schools Championship wasn't being well supported in our area, and indeed we had dropped out of the competition some years previously because of the difficulties of travelling long distances for "local" zone matches, in spite of having five zone winners' clocks to our credit from the previous ten years. In fact, we had all but given up competitive play, except for a couple of longstanding friendlies each year against schools like Wellington College—which we would win easily. The club itself consisted of a few of our scholars, who would play without any clear idea of how they were going to improve.

How, then, to change a culture like this and get some serious chess going again in the school? This was the problem I faced, and it was a daunting one, not least in view of the fact that my own chess experience didn't extend beyond a tentative appearance for my Oxford college on bottom board at the tender age of 18. When I took over the club, I had only

one thing in my favour—a candidate for chess captain who loved the game, and who wanted the school to have a winning team again at least as much as I did.

Truth be told, though, we didn't have a lot of players in my first year of running the club. Half of the existing clientele left in disgust at the thought of taking chess seriously. And most of the rest were keen first-years who had no previous experience. But I had been advised—and what good advice it turned out to be—to enter a team into the local (adult) evening league, and so we put together our first four-player team. It consisted of: the captain, a top-year with fluent Russian (which I reckoned was qualification enough), a German sixth-form entrant (who had begun of his own accord voraciously reading all five of the chess books in the library), and a young mathematical prodigy who was finding chess "interesting" (he's captain now). To begin with they weren't match fit—a concept much underrated, in my opinion, in schools chess—but pretty quickly they began winning games, and by the end of the season we realised that our team was more than likely to win the division the next year.

National Schools was a tougher pros-



2008 Hampshire Megafinal - School (photo: Jonathan Hunt)

pect that first year. After one school defaulted (staff changes), we ended up playing Eton in our first game. We put up a good show, but we could see from their grades that we didn't stand a chance. Nevertheless, I'm glad we entered that year, because we needed to see close up the mountain we were proposing to climb. Also, for this six-player team I had drafted in a lapsed player whose grade had once been 110, but he didn't enjoy playing, and I soon realised that I didn't enjoy making him suffer. It was becoming clear that recruitment was all-important. I needed to spot good players as soon as they arrived at the school, and give them a reason to keep playing.

That September we had a new boys' chess tournament, and it was won by

one of four England squad players who arrived that year, Ilya Iyengar. My only claim to fame in respect of Ilya is that I beat him the first time I played him in our club. That won't happen again. Suddenly, though, we had critical mass, and with two teams in National Schools it was our B team—the luck of the draw entirely—who made it to the quarter-finals of the Plate competition that year. We also had the pleasure of watching our new Board 1, soon after his arrival, win a brilliant game against the captain of the evening league champions in a cup competition.

But it hasn't been that easy since for Ilya or for the rest of the team. Players, too, come and go, and we felt the loss of each original team member. At the

highest level schools chess is as tough as ever, and we now face the challenge of muscling our way into that highest level. A good win against Torquay Boys' Grammar School last month was, in my view, the pinnacle of our team's achievement to date. It all came down to Ilya's board in the end, and he came through. But it's difficult for him, perhaps more difficult than for anyone else in the team. He plays top board of a team which is often (our A team is now in Division 3 of a five-division adult league) the underdog, and that is a tough place to have to play. Fortunately, he likes a challenge. He recently scored a very satisfying victory in the local derby, where we faced the city's A team, demoted (temporarily, as it turns out) to our division. We didn't win the match, but we did at least win top board. Ilya's game appears below, with his own analysis.

It hasn't been easy, either, to find games against other schools within range of Winchester. Fortunately, more Hampshire schools are entering National Schools now, and hopefully this becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy. Even so, we think nothing of travelling an hour away to find a good game of chess, and we play clubs, such as Basingstoke CC and Richmond Juniors, and weekend tournaments, including the excellent Richmond Rapidplays, as often as schools. We've invested time (and money) in county chess, reckoning that the benefits of doing so cut both ways, and one of my greatest pleasures is that Winchester is becoming something of a Mecca for chess in the south of Hampshire, with pupils from

other schools attending both our primary schools club on Thursday afternoons and our main school club as well. Details of these clubs can be found on the county junior chess website:

[www.hampshirejuniorchess.co.uk](http://www.hampshirejuniorchess.co.uk).

I suppose, however, that my first loyalty has to be to our school and its pupils. School chess is thriving to the point of not being universally scoffed at (wow!), and we have fiercely contested junior and senior house competitions, with solid silver cups—it's amazing what you can get second hand, and boys who hope to win them can be very accommodating in helping to find the funds! Our players go to all sorts of tournaments on weekends (we're a boarding school, after all), and they are also the backbone of Hampshire's reinvigorated U18 and U16 sides and the junior half of the Chiltern U-100 League team. Even I've got the bug and, although I probably never thought I would, I'm playing competitively, both for the school in the evening league (B team bottom board at present) and for the county (U-100 League). My record this season is won 4, drawn 1, lost 1. Some of Mr. Martin's coaching must be sinking in!

I've tried to make the most of each small victory on the road to where we are now. Players have received Headmaster's Commendations—and, of course, parties—for their major successes, and sometimes even parties for their near misses. Everyone wants to be a part of something successful, and so the message that there are opportunities to play at every level, and that we can win at every level, has

been an important one to establish and to convey. The club is sociable and fun, but there are always some serious games at stake. And we have regular coaching, from some excellent prepared sessions by this year's captain and vice-captain to fortnightly professional coaching from Andrew Martin.

So what has happened to chess at Winchester College in three years? Well, we have a 50-strong school chess ladder, for one thing. The school team has won a trophy (Southampton League Division 4) and will swap it for another (the B team in Division 5) at the end of the season. We've gone to tournaments including the British Rapidplay and seen our players win prizes there. We have three school chess competitions, as well as running two UK Chess Challenge qualifiers and hosting the county Megafinal, where this year we're defending several 'Supremo' titles. For the second year running we have a team through to the national stages of National Schools. We now draw to Eton—and lose to Wellington.

Written out like this it seems like a lot, but the truth is it's only a point on the map on the way to where we want to be. Like every other school with a good team, we want to win National Schools (or 4NCL Junior, or Millfield). To do that, we'll have to keep riding the ebb and flow, and hope that one year things will go our way. We'll be ready.

*Jon Hunt is the Master i/c Chess at Winchester College, and also Manager of the Hampshire U18 & U16 sides.*

**Iyengar, Ilya - Esmat, Khaled**

[E94]

Winchester A - Winchester College, 2009

*Ilya Iyengar*

**1.d4 d6 2.c4 e5 3.Nf3 exd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.e4 Bg7 7.Be2 0-0 8.0-0 Re8 9.f3 c6**

Black clearly has a plan of ... d5, freeing himself.

**10.Nc2**

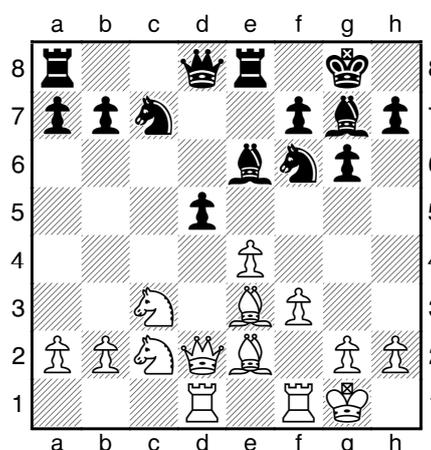
Waiting to find the best place for the dark-squared Bishop.

**10...Na6 11.Be3 Nc7 12.Qd2 d5?!**

This looks slightly premature, as White gets quite a nice position in a few moves.

12...Qe7 13.Rad1 Rd8 14.b4 Be6 looks like it maintains the balance.

**13.cxd5 cxd5 14.Rad1 Be6**



**15.e5! Nd7 16.f4±**

Now White has a firm space advantage, a nice outpost on d4 for his pieces and an isolated d-pawn to attack; meanwhile, the black position is rather cramped.

**16...Qe7N**

RR 16...f6 17.exf6 Nxf6 18.Bd4 (RR 18.Bf3 Kh8 19.Bd4 Qe7 20.Be5 Rad8 21.Qd4 b6 22.Qa4 Ng4 23.Bxg7+ Kxg7 24.Qd4+ Nf6 25.Rfe1 Qc5 26.b4 Qc4

27.Ne3 Qxd4 28.Rxd4 Bf7 29.Nc2 Rxe1+ 30.Nxe1 Ne6 31.Rd2 Nxf4 32.g3 Nh3+ **Solakian, J (2281)–Toulzac, P (2262)/France 2000.** 18...a6 19.Ne3 Qe7 20.g4 Rad8 21.f5 gxf5 22.gxf5 Bf7 23.Rf3 Bh5 24.Rg3 Bxe2 25.Qxe2 Kh8 26.Kh1 Rg8 27.Rdg1 Nb5 28.Nxb5 axb5 29.Qf3 Qf7 30.Rxg7 Rg7 31.Rxg7 **Kockum, A (2200)–Orndahl, M (2078)/Taby 2007;**

RR 16...Nb6 17.b3 Rc8 18.Kh1 Qh4 19.Nd4 Bg4 20.Ndb5 Bxe2 21.Qxe2 d4 22.Bxd4 Nxb5 23.Nxb5 Rcd8 24.Qf2 Qg4 25.Qf3 Qxf3 26.Rxf3 a6 27.Nc3 Nd5 28.Rff1 Bh6 29.g3 Bf8 30.Ne4 Be7 31.Bg1 **Aymerich Rosell, P (2123)–Borras Duran, P (2170)/Benidorm 2003.**

**17.g4!**

This is aggressive, and turns out to be quite complicated as well.

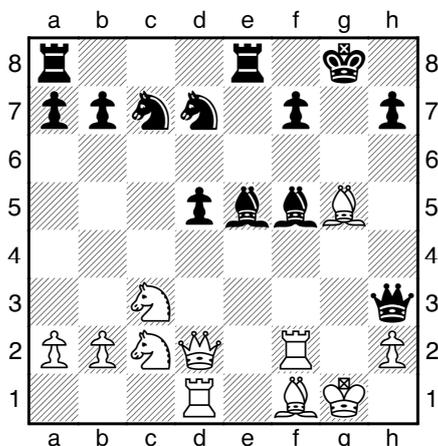
**17...Qh4 18.f5!?**

Really going for it!

**18...Bxe5 19.Rf2**

Perhaps not the best, but fairly practical, since it causes problems for Black with his vulnerable Queen.

**19...gxf5 20.gxf5 Bxf5 21.Bg5 Qh3 22.Bf1**



**22...Qh5?**

This is certainly the wrong move.

22...Qg4+ 23.Rg2 Qh5 looks risky with

the discovered check looming, but with accurate play should hold, e.g. 24.Be2 Qh3 25.Nd4 Nf8 26.Nxf5 Qxf5 27.Nxd5 Nxd5 28.Qxd5 with an interesting and dynamic position requiring care.

**23.Rxf5!+- Qg4+ 24.Qg2 Qxf5 25.Bd3!**

This is probably the move Black missed, as discovered checks beforehand could be answered with ...Qg6.

**25...Bxh2+ 26.Kxh2 Qe5+ 27.Bf4+ Qg7 28.Qxg7+ Kxg7 29.Bxc7**

This position is fairly simple now — three pieces easily outweigh the Rook and three weak pawns.

**29...Rac8 30.Nxd5 Nf6 31.Rg1+ Kh8 32.Nxf6 Re6 33.Ba5 Rxf6 34.Bc3 Rxc3 35.bxc3**

This position is resignable.

**35...Rf3 36.Rg3 Rf6 37.Nd4 Rf2+ 38.Kh3 Rf6 39.Nf5 Re6 40.Re3 Rg6 41.Re8+ Rg8 42.Rxg8+ Kxg8 43.Nd6 b6 44.Nc8 1-0**

[Ed.: Thanks to Jonathan for the various photos.]

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Editor:

Andrew Martin

[a.martin2007@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:a.martin2007@yahoo.co.uk)

ECF Director:

of Junior Chess & Education:

Peter Purland.

[director.juniorchess@englishchess.org.uk](mailto:director.juniorchess@englishchess.org.uk)

Proofers:

Bob Long, Andrew Martin.

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## PRIZE PUZZLE APRIL 2009



C.S. Kipping  
White to Play and Mate in 3

## Best Quiz Answers for page 11

1. 1. Rxh5 gxh5 2. Nef5+
2. 1. Nb5 Qb8 2. Nc7+
3. 1. Bf6
4. 1. Bf6 (again!)
5. 1. Qh6+
6. 1. Qxh6+ (with check)

## CS KIPPING – SOLUTION

1.♔a5!!

The most suicidal move on the board, or so it seems...

1.♔b5 will not do! 1...♖g8!! 2.♔b6 ♖c8!! If you found this defence, give yourself a pat on the back!;

1.♙xg2? e1♚; 1.♘d4+ ♔a7 2.♘f3 (2.♘c2 ♖g1; 2.♘xe2 ♖xe2) 2...♔xa6.

1...e1♚+

1...♖g8 2.♘d4+ ♔a7 3.♘b5# is the beautiful reason why 1 Kb5 cannot be played.

2.♔b6

An unstoppable mate, despite the Black checks.

1-0



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