My Chess Revealed - Selected Games with Commentaries



Gillian Moore receiving the Gibraltar Cup from ECF official, Ian Stavely, Coventry 2015, for again winning the title of British Seniors' Ladies' Champion

By
Gillian A Moore

DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to each reader

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Foreword

In short, Gillian Moore is an inspiration. She is a compassionate, generous and spiritual person, as well as being a very accomplished chess player. I first met Gillian a number of years ago when we were both volunteering as Samaritans. I quickly learned that Gillian was not only committed to her various voluntary roles, but also to her chess. At an intellectual level, I shared this latter interest with Gillian. I have always found chess to be a fascinating enigma.

After working in the voluntary sector for over a decade, Gillian finally allowed herself the time to concentrate more fully on her chess. Incidentally, she was not only volunteering as a 'Sam', but also supporting bereaved relatives (both locally and internationally), and people with gender dysphoria.

With this shift of focus, Gillian has built upon her very solid position as a club player and has blossomed. Her standing as a player in her eighth decade of life is higher than it has ever been*. She also has the personal goal to take it even higher. Having said this, it comes as no real surprise to me, as this is the mark of Gillian the woman. She has a sharp and inquisitive intellect which is reflected both in her approach to chess and in our many discussions. Gillian has the rare gifts of insight, analysis, openness and a keen desire to broaden her understanding.

All these many abilities are encapsulated in her chess. However, the reader will also come to discover other aspects of Gillian's personality. She is witty and is not afraid to take the odd risk—witnessed by her love of the gambit. She will also never give up if she thinks she is in with a chance. Many a chess player will have tasted victory and then found the tables well and truly turned!

In short, I have come to value greatly my friendship with Gillian. She is at once an intellectual foil, my spiritual sister and, as mentioned above, an inspiration. I am in my seventh decade of my life and look to Gillian as beating the path which I intend to follow to yet greater accomplishments. Thus, as both a student of life and of chess, I commend this book to the reader—there is much to learn here.

Stephen Horton, Ph.D

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* As at July 2018 since returning to chess in 2001

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am very grateful for and touched by the lovely *Preface* by my special friend, Dr Stephen Horton. He has also kindly proof-read all the text parts of the book. Stephen possesses more chess books than me, which is saying something! As well as chess, we share a deep interest in philosophy (he is a retired academic philosopher).

As to Chris Priest, I am greatly indebted for his long hours of voluntary labours in assisting me with the editing of this book, and for his overcoming formatting problems with the notation columns and the nice diagrams. The latter originally took up way too much disk space, but Chris has the software enabling him to cleverly snip away the unwanted hidden megabytes from the diagrams, to make the book file perfectly manageable.

I am also thankful for Michael Blake, our webmaster of Hampshire Chess Association, not only for publishing this book online but for his appreciation and constructive criticism of a few points that deserved attention.

Finally, I am forever grateful to the powers that be in all of us, and for the writers' muse inspiring me to play chess and to write and complete this book project over the past two years.

With best wishes to my readers

Gillian Moore

January 2020

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INTRODUCTION

"I never lose; I succeed and I learn"
~ Nelson Mandela

A lady does not have to say her age, but now in my senior years I am fortunate to still be in good health of body and mind and in constant good spirits! Hopefully, I might have many years yet with more of the same.

THE PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THIS BOOK

However, as with many people with the bulk of their lives behind them rather than ahead, I have some unfinished tasks to be completed. Sharing some of the pleasures and experiences of my chess life is one of them. My thoughts therefore turn to being creative, as a means of living on in my writings as well as in the hearts and minds of those who are close and dear to me.

This new book is a complement to my previous work, 'My Chess Career and Holidays—A Book of Memoirs' (published on the Hampshire Chess Association website http://www.hampshirechess.co.uk/). My purpose now is to share with chess players everywhere some carefully selected games, with my thoughts about them and chess in general.

The games herein occurred during the last eighteen years after returning to chess in 2001 following a long absence—I have been playing seriously on and off since age 13. Each with a different opponent, the matches took place at a variety of locations. They feature many different opening systems. As will be seen, from time to time I have taken up a new system. Most of the games presented here were wins for me, but I have included a few draws and losses for their interest value.

WHO AM I TO WRITE A CHESS BOOK?

The short answer is that I am your fellow chess lover, with a lot of experience to share. I am not intending to be didactic, and I crave the reader's indulgence over my sins of omission and commission in this book.

In 2011 I was awarded the title of Club Master by the English Chess Federation, simply for having reached a grade of 145 or above. I do have an Elo rating with FIDE, the World Chess Federation, but I do not have any sort of title with it, such as Woman Master (WFM), and am unlikely ever to do so.

I would be thrilled to one day achieve an ECF grade of 170+, for which one is awarded the title of County Master. My grade as at July 2018 was 154 (dipped back to the 140s in July 2019), the highest I have been since returning to chess in 2001. This shows that we players can still aim for improved skill even in our 60s and beyond, so long as we still have the fitness and enthusiasm to pursue it. It also shows that despite there being so few serious level women players, we do exist and we can be just as keen as the men.

It is true that in my youth I won regional and national titles as a girl champion, and then the British Ladies Championship jointly with Margaret ('Peggy') Clarke in 1966 at Sunderland. More recently in 2013 at Torquay, I shared the title of British Seniors' Ladies' Champion with my friend Dinah Norman, who is also a former British Ladies' champion from long ago (née Dinah Dobson). We each held the Gibraltar Cup for six months.

From 2014 to 2018 I was on my own holding the title of British Seniors' Ladies' Champion, so that the large Gibraltar Cup shone aloft my sitting room shelf for the last five years. I hasten to add that no other female player entered the British Seniors Championship in all this time, so that I won the title and trophy by default! The cover picture of this book shows me being presented with this trophy. I am happy to say that Dinah now holds the trophy, having beaten me by half a point in 2019.

MY CLUBS AND TEAMS

As my previous club, Woolston Community Centre Chess Club, no longer exists, I joined the Southampton Club in 2001. It is a venerable old club founded in 1883! Its large membership with a great range of playing strengths currently enters four teams, A, B, C and D, in the Southampton Chess League. I play for Southampton B which, for my sins, I am also the team captain of.

Just a few years ago I was invited to join the Gosport Chess Club, which I did and sometimes played for them in the Portsmouth and District Chess League. It is permissible to play for more than one club in different leagues, but not more than one club in the same league.

At county level I play for Hampshire in the Chiltern League championship, consisting of Hampshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire. Hampshire also used to compete in the West of England Chess Union (WECU) county matches. One more team game to be seen in these pages is Wessex 1 in the Four Nations Chess League (4NCL).

So, in the ensuing games involving competing teams, my affiliations are for the following:

* Southampton in the Southampton League
* Gosport (recently) and earlier Emsworth, both in the Portsmouth and District League
* Hampshire county in the Chiltern League (currently)
* Hampshire county in the West of England Chess Union (earlier)
* Wessex in the Four Nations Chess League (4NCL).

IN CHESS AS IN LIFE

Years ago, once and once only, a female acquaintance criticized my chess playing by saying, "Gillian I thought you were more practical than that". I beg to profoundly differ with her non-comprehending view. Although chess is an intellectual pursuit, intellectual culture is a valid and vital aspect of human life, which does not prevent our dealing also with our multifarious down-to-earth tasks. What's more, if a non-chess player could peer behind the minds of the players concentrating upon the board before them, a lifelike arena appears of chessmen moving hither and yon.

I say that chess is not unrelated to the practical necessities of life! The ability to sit quietly and still for hours in deep concentrated study is surely a skill for life. As we stare at the board of 64 squares with its magical chessmen, imagination, logic, will power, planning and scheming, together with boredom-banishing engrossment are used and developed. Would anyone in their right mind suggest that these sterling human qualities have no practical use?!

Many emotions are there in our noble game, such as pleasure and pain, joy and sorrow, self-confidence and doubt, calmness and agitation, elation and frustration. Also in evidence are opposing qualities of human existence such as good and bad, strength and weakness. I find it fascinating to note these many pairs of opposites that exist in the outer world of duality that we call

reality, and which have no meaning without each other, also abound in chess. We even have light and dark squares and pieces, and male and female players (although the latter is not numerically balanced at competitive level!). Chess has a reality all of its own but also has many comparisons to life in general.

MY APPROACH TO CHESS

My attitude these days to the ups and downs of results is like that of the quote at the top of this Introduction. This motto of, "I never lose; I succeed and I learn" helps me to quickly get over the natural disappointment of bad results. As many of us do, I always analyse my games afterwards, aiming to turn the miserable results on their heads by determining what can be learned to help my future play. Sometimes it is a valuable general principle to be aware of or reminded of, or else a move in one of my openings that needs changing. Another help I find towards not taking disappointing results to heart is to remind myself of the other reason we play chess: for the love of it, with its enjoyment and the challenge of mental self-improvement.

By nature chess is an exciting game, but win or lose I work at remaining calm and in good cheer. Another passion of mine with its own world of endeavour and joy is the ancient science of kriya yoga meditation and its philosophy. This is as opposed to the physical exercise form of (hatha) yoga that is more familiar to us at adult education classes. This venerable form of yoga of mine that I've practised for decades is an ancient spiritual science that has benefited me in various ways. Beyond the scope of this book to enlarge upon, my form of yoga includes the purpose of, '*the hindering of the fluctuations of the consciousness'*, in other words even-mindedness, no matter what tests life throws at us. It also enables the devotee to manufacture a deep peace and happiness from within, irrespective of outer circumstances.

To me, life is a kind of chess and chess is a kind of life. I see many parallels.

THE ONE GREAT OPPONENT

Former world champion Vladimir Kramnik who retired as a professional chess player in January 2019 (at age only 43!), has said:

> "I never tried to compete with others, I always competed with myself."

Well, this remarkable statement resonates with me. Although of course I am competitive, my attitude is that no matter who is sitting opposite me at a match, whether man, woman or junior player, it strikes me that my one true opponent is always the same: myself. It is my own ability versus lack, wisdom competing with ignorance, skill with ineptitude, effort with sloth, one-pointed attention against a wandering mind.

ANALYSIS

Getting back down to the concrete contents of these pages, the reader is free to silently critique the play. All the bad moves and inaccuracies are there as well as good and correct ones, both mine and those of the opponents. My chess software, and indeed the games themselves, have pointed the finger or given me the thumbs up according to my varying level of play.

However, I have avoided giving a *complete* analysis in-line with the notation, preferring to leave the columns reasonably uncluttered for the reader. Besides, what ponderous task it would be for my humble self to provide a complete evaluation of moves as to whether they are good, excellent,

worth considering, of doubtful value, weak or a blunder, and to give lots and lots of alternative moves. I will leave that to the professional players in their admirable writings!

THE DIAGRAMS

As we players love to ponder chess positions, a diagram of a pertinent position of each game is added. Each diagram precedes and adds visual appeal to the notation and text that follows.

What to look for in the diagram position varies. It could be a move to win material, gain positional advantage or keep up the pressure, or it could be to dodge danger and keep chances open. The move that was actually played in the game is not necessarily the best one(s) to be found. In that case, I have put a note within the game notation to 'See diagram comments above'.

In conclusion, I leave you with another quote so apt to us with a passion for our great game:

"For when the One Great Scorer comes to write against your name,
He marks—not that you won or lost—but how you played the Game."

~ Grantland Rice in his 1908 poem 'Alumnus Football.'

GAME 1

A Powerful Bishop Pair

White: **Andrew Price** *Black:* **Gillian Moore**

British Seniors Championship, Torquay
4th August 2009



They work well in tandem

Black to move 18...?

GAME 1

A Powerful Bishop Pair

White: **Andrew Price** *Black:* **Gillian Moore**

British Seniors Championship, Torquay
4th August 2009

ALEKHINE'S DEFENCE, MAIN LINE

I have an affinity with knights, as they are original and so am I. Am I not a woman chess player for a start? The Alekhine's Defence is an active knight opening that I have been playing since May of 2006. I previously played the Caro-Kann when White opened with 1. e4—see Games 12 and 13.

As we know, rooks are generally considered to be more powerful than bishops. Despite their great potential, however, how worrisome bishops can be to rooks in restricted places! In this game, my opponent's hapless queen's rook never got to move from his starting square.

<u>The moral</u>: powerful bishops might trap mighty rooks caught napping!

1.e4 Nf6
2.e5 Nd5
3.d4 d6
4.Nf3 dxe5
5.Nxe5 c6

My 5...c6 move is the Miles variation. Also playable are the 5...g6 Kengis variation, or the provocative, intensely theoretical 5...Nd7. [the 'sac' 6. Nxf7 Kxf7, 7. Qh5+ Ke6 can go either way, or White can force a draw by 8. Qg4+ Kf7, 9. Qh5+]

6.Bc4 Nd7
7.O-O Nxe5
8.dxe5 Bf5
9.Qe2 e6
10.Rd1 Qc7
11.c3 a5
12.Bxd5 cxd5
13.Qb5+ Qc6
14.Qxc6+ bxc6
15.Be3 Rb8
16.b3 Be7
17.Nd2? O-O
18.h3?

See Diagram.

18... Ba3!
19.Nf3 Bb2
20.Nd4 Bxa1
21.Rxa1 Rfc8
22.Rd1 Bg6
23.Rd2 c5
24.Ne2 h6
25.f3 Kf8
26.Kf2 Ke8
27.Nf4 Bh7
28.Nh5 Kf8
29.h4 Rb7
30.g4 c4
31.bxc4 Rxc4
32.Bd4 Rb1
33.Nf4 Rc1
34.Ne2 Rc2
35.Ke3 Rxd2
36.Kxd2 Ke8
37.a3 Ra4
38.Bc5 h5
39.Nd4 hxg4
40.fxg4 Rc4
41.Bd6 Kd7
42.Bf8 Rc8
43.Bd6 Be4
44.h5 Rh8
45.Nb3 Bf3
46.g5 Rxh5
47.Nxa5 Rxg5
48.Nb3 Rg2+
49.Ke3 Bd1
50.Nc5+ Kc6
51.Nd3 Ba4

[51...Re2+ and Black has triumphed, 52. Kf4 Re4+, 53. Kg3 Re3+, 54. Kf2 Rxd3, 55. Ke1-+]

52.Nf4 Rh2
53.Be7 Rh8
54.Kd4 Bb5
55.Ke3 Re8
56.Bb4 g5
57.Nh5 Rh8
58.Ng3 Rh4
59.Be7 Rc4
60.Ne2 Re4+
White Resigns

Black wins the knight and the e-pawn too.

0-1

GAME 2

Beating the Club Champ

White: **Oliver Gill** *Black:* **Gillian Moore**

Southampton B v Southampton A
Southampton Chess League
18th January 2011



The White queen will not feel so comfy

Black to play 12....?

GAME 2

Beating the Club Champ

White: **Oliver Gill** *Black:* **Gillian Moore**

Southampton B v Southampton A
Southampton Chess League
18th January 2011

ALEKHINE'S DEFENCE, SCANDINAVIAN VARIATION

Our 'Ollie', the Southampton club champion of 2012 and 2013, had given us a simultaneous display or two. It was a tradition at the time for the club champion to take on numerous players at once seated around the club room. Yet he still managed to beat most of us whilst on his feet and literally going around in circles!

This regular one-to-one game with Oliver, in which I was playing for my usual Southampton B team, is the only time I have beaten him. I have on occasion also played for Southampton A, when our two teams were not in the same Southampton Chess League Division 1 as they are currently.

We actually adjourned this game twice, taking up three club evenings before he finally gave up the ghost. Oliver beat me in another game later the same year, in which he played 7. h4! after the same opening moves as here. Then after 7...g4 8. Nf4 g6, my kingside was weakened.

1.e4 Nf6
2.Nc3
The Scandinavian variation
2... d5
Nowadays I tend to play 2...e5 in this line, inviting a Four Knights Game as in Games 27 and 28, or a Vienna as in Game 61.
3.e5 Ne4
I sometimes used to play 3...d4 here, attacking his knight on c3 as he is attacking mine on f6, but after the ensuing swap of knights and pawns I didn't like my resulting kingside pawn structure.
4.Nce2 f6
5.d3 Ng5
6.Bxg5 fxg5
7.Ng3 e6
8.Nh3 g6
9.Qg4 Be7
10.f3 c5
11.O-O-O Nc6
12.Re1?
See diagram
12... Qa5!
13.Re3 h5
14.Nxh5 Rxh5
15.a3 Bd7
16.f4 Rh4
17.Qg3 Nd4
18.Nxg5 Nf5
19.Qe1 Qxe1+
20.Rxe1 Rxf4
21.Nh3 Ra4
22.Nf2 Bg5+
23.Kb1 O-O-O
24.g4 Nh4
25.Be2 Rh8
26.Ka2 b5
27.b3 Ra5
28.Nd1 Ng2
29.Ref1 Nf4
30.Bf3 Kc7
31.Nc3 b4
32.Nb1 bxa3
33.Nxa3 Rh3
34.Kb2 Ra6
35.Rf2 Rb6
36.Nb1 Rb8
37.Nc3 Rbh8
38.Bd1 Bh6
39.Nb1 g5
40.Nd2 Bc6
41.Rhf1 d4
42.Bf3 Rh4
43.Ra1 Bxf3
44.Nxf3 Rxg4
45.Rxa7+ Kb6
46.Rd7 Ra8
47.Nd2 Bf8
48.Rh7 Rg2
49.Nc4+ Kc6
50.Rf3 Rg1
51.b4 cxb4
52.h4 b3!
The b-pawn cannot be taken!
53.hxg5 bxc2
54.Kxc2 Rg2+
55.Nd2 Ra2+
56.Kc1 Ba3+
White Resigns
Checkmate soon follows.
0-1

GAME 3

Poor Pompous Pawns

White: **Colin Stanton** *Black:* **Gillian Moore**

Somerset v Hampshire
West of England Chess Union (WECU), Mere
20th October 2012



How to free up White's position

White to play: 15. ?

GAME 3

Poor Pompous Pawns

White: **Colin Stanton** *Black:* **Gillian Moore**

Somerset v Hampshire
West of England Chess Union (WECU), Mere
20th October 2012

ALEKHINE'S DEFENCE, FOUR PAWNS ATTACK

My team affiliation for this match was, as usual, Hampshire county, and we had to travel to Mere to play the Somerset team. With car sharing though, it made a day out in congenial company.

I am not afraid of the grandiose-looking Four Pawns Attack. White can fall behind in development, and his pawns become weakened, as in this game. After my move 6...Nc6, Black had two knights developed and White had moved only pawns. What's more, he was then forced to make a defensive move—he correctly played 7. Be3—as I was threatening to win his backward d-pawn. White's normal follow up move in this line is 8. Nc3. His 8. Nf3 allowed one of my splendid knights to get entrenched with 8...Nb4, forcing another defensive move 9. Na3 to stop my fork on c2.

Diagram comments: No doubt feeling frustrated because he could not go here and he could not go there, White decided to free himself up by giving away his good rook for my good bishop, with 15. Rxf5? Sometimes an exchange sacrifice can be warranted in order to gain some other advantage. However, in this game my opponent could simply have continued reasonably by repositioning his grim knight to c3 via b5, or challenging my bossy knight on b4 by going 15...Nd3.

1.e4 Nf6
2.e5 Nd5
3.c4 Nb6
4.d4 d6
5.f4 dxe5

Experience has shown me the value of reducing his 4 central pawns to 3 in this way.

6.fxe5 Nc6
7.Be3 Bf5
8.Nf3 Nb4
9.Na3

Generally speaking, we know that the knights tend to play towards the centre on their first move. As the saying goes, "Knight on the rim is dim". However in this position White was obliged to protect his c2-square.

9... e6
10.Be2 Be7
11.O-O O-O
12.Ne1 Bg5
13.Qd2 Bxe3+
14.Qxe3 Qe7

See diagram

15.Rxf5

See diagram comments above.

15... exf5
16.Nf3 Rfe8
17.d5 Nd7
18.Qf4 Nxe5
19.Nd4 Ng6
20.Qf2 a6
21.g3 Qe3
22.Re1 Qxf2+
23.Kxf2 f4
24.Ra1 Re4
25.Nf3 Rae8
26.Bf1 h6
27.Rd1 fxg3+
28.hxg3 Ne5
29.Nd4 Ng4+
30.Kf3 Nh2+
31.Kf2 Nxf1
32.Kxf1 Re3
33.Kg2 R3e4
34.Nb1 Nxa2
35.Kf2 b6
36.Rd3 Nb4
37.Rd2 g6
38.Nc3 Re3
39.Nce2 Rd3
40.Nf3 Rxd2
41.Nxd2
and White Resigns
0-1

GAME 4

Hanging Flag Syndrome

White: **Mark Stone** *Black:* **Gillian Moore**

Major Tournament, Hampshire Congress
Eastleigh College
7th November 2014



What to do about the pawn loss?

White to play 8. ?

GAME 4

Hanging Flag Syndrome

White: **Mark Stone** *Black:* **Gillian Moore**

Major Tournament, Hampshire Congress
Eastleigh College
7th November 2014

ALEKHINE'S DEFENCE, MAIN LINE

Knights, as we know, are the only chess pieces that do not move in a straight line. Thus they are tricky enough to trip up even strong players at times. My taking White's d-pawn with 7...Qxd4 must have surprised my opponent, as a cursory glance at such a capture looked like a gross blunder.

Mark got into bad time trouble later in the game. I've been there, done that myself. When we have so little time to think, then the mistakes are all there just waiting to pounce, as it were. By his move 28. Nxe4 he allowed me to pin his rook against his king winning the exchange, apparently due to the worry of his soon-to-fall flag. Actually, though, my Fritz gives 28. Nxe4 as White's best move as all other moves are worse.

Diagram comments: I think that White just had to accept the loss of the pawn after Black's 7...Qxd4, which he had failed to see, and play either 8. f4 or 8. Nf3. White's attempt to win back the pawn by the desperado move 8. Nxf7?! made an interesting try, but did not succeed.

1.e4	Nf6	11.Nc3	Qc2	27.f4	e4
2.e5	Nd5	12.Nxh8	Qxd1+	28.Nxe4	Bd4
3.d4	d6	13.Bxd1	Bf5	29.Nd6+	Kg8
4.Nf3	dxe5	14.g4	Bd3+	30.Kf2	Bxe3+
5.Nxe5	c6	15.Kg2	g6	31.Kxe3	Kh7
6.c4	Nb4	16.Ba4	Bxc4	32.f5	Rf8
7.a3?		17.Bg5	Nb3	33.Kf4	Nf6
Correct was any of 7. Na3, Nd3 or Be3 to prevent Black's next move.		18.Re1	Nd7	34.h6	Ng8
7...	Qxd4!	19.Re4	b5	35.b4	Nxh6
See diagram		20.Bxb3	Bxb3	36.Ke5	Kg7
8.Nxf7?!		21.h4	e5	37.Nb7	Rxf5+
See diagram comments above		22.Re3	Bd5+	38.Kd4	Rf3
8...	Qe4+	23.Kg1?	Bg7	39.Kc5	Rxa3
9.Be2	Nc2+	24.Nxg6	hxg6	White Resigns	
10.Kf1	Nxa1	25.h5	gxh5	*His position is hopeless.*	
		26.gxh5	Kf7	0-1	

GAME 5

Bearing Up, Not Giving Up

White: **Paul Northcott** *Black:* **Gillian Moore**

Major Tournament, Castle Chess Congress
Fareham
22nd February 2015



Fighting back is worthwhile here

Black to play 17…?

GAME 5

Bearing Up, Not Giving Up

White: **Paul Northcott** *Black:* **Gillian Moore**

Major Tournament, Castle Chess Congress
Fareham
22nd February 2015

ALEKHINE'S DEFENCE,* EXCHANGE VARIATION

As often happens with junior players, I see that Paul, then aged 11 or 12, is going from strength to strength. With a current ECF grade of 161 he is getting harder to beat.

Due to my negligence, my king's bishop was trapped on move 16. However, I kept my cool and discerned a way to get two pawns for it, and some good play as his king became exposed. In fact, he never really recovered from my ensuing attack, although I believe that he could have done.

1.e4	Nf6
2.e5	Nd5
3.d4	d6
4.c4	Nb6
5.exd6	exd6

Nowadays I prefer to play 5...cxd6 and aim to fianchetto my king's bishop on g7 – it still seizes the long diagonal and is safer there than in this game!

6.Nc3	Nc6
7.Be3	Be7
8.h3	Bf5
9.a3	O-O
10.Nf3	Bf6
11.Be2	Re8
12.b4	Rc8
13.O-O	a5
14.b5	Ne7?
15.g4!	Be6
16.g5	Bxh3
17.Re1	

See diagram

17...	Nf5!
18.gxf6	Nxe3
19.fxe3	Qxf6
20.Kf2	g5
21.Rg1	g4
22.Ke1?	

White had a much better move, 22. Bf1, for a distinct advantage.

22...	Rxe3
23.Kd2	Rce8
24.Kc2	Kh8
25.Nh2	h5
26.Nf1	Bxf1
27.Rxf1	Qe6
28.d5	Qe5
29.Qd2	Kg7
30.Bd3	f6
31.Rf2	Qd4
32.Raf1	Nxc4
33.Bxc4	Qxc4
34.Kb2	a4
35.Qc2	Qd4
36.Rd2	Qe5
37.Rf5?	Rxc3!
38.Qxc3	Qxf5
39.Qxc7+	Kg6
40.Qxd6	Qe5+
41.Qxe5	fxe5
42.d6	Rd8
43.Kc3	Kf7
44.Kb4	Ke6
45.Kc5	g3
46.Kb6	Rxd6+

After the exchange of rooks, Black's g-pawn wins the day.

White Resigns
0-1

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* My favourite Alekhine book is by John Cox, *Starting Out: Alekhine's Defence*, publisher Everyman Chess 2004.

GAME 6

Preparations Pay Off

White: **Gillian Moore** *Black:* **Ian Hall**

Buckinghamshire v Hampshire
Chiltern Chess League, Holmer Green
22nd November 2008



The e4 pawn appears to be up for grabs

Black to play 8...?

GAME 6

Preparations Pay Off

White: **Gillian Moore** *Black:* **Ian Hall**

Buckinghamshire v Hampshire
Chiltern Chess League, Holmer Green
22nd November 2008

BENKO GAMBIT

I play for Hampshire team in this county competition of the Chiltern League, in which each team (currently Hampshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxon) has to play each county twice: once as the home team and once away.

I had come to grief with other opponents specialising in the Benko Gambit—one of them was a FIDE Master, so no surprise! Experience taught me that grabbing a second pawn with 5. bxa6 is a trifle too greedy, as the opponent will then have two splendid open files for attack. So I had a line prepared for the next time faced with this opening, which succeeded here.

Diagram comments: Black's 8...Nbd7 was okay. He would have fallen into a trap if he captured the e-pawn, 8...Nxe4, as 9. Qe2 would follow. If Black then retreats the threatened knight 9...Nf6, there follows 10. Bf4 and he is worse off. Defending his d-pawn with 10...Ra6 doesn't help stop his losing material after 11. Nxd6+ Rxd6 12. Bb5+. Or if he goes 9...Bf5, then 10. Bd3 is also good for White.

1.d4 Nf6
2.c4 c5
3.d5 b5
4.cxb5 a6
5.Nc3

An alternative good move here is 5. b6, allowing Black to regain his pawn in due course. An example of this line is shown in the next game.

5... axb5
6.e4 b4
7.Nb5 d6
8.Bc4

See diagram

8... Nbd7

See diagram comments above

9.Qe2
10... Bb7
10.Bf4 g6
11.Nf3 Qb6
12.O-O Bg7
13.h3 O-O
14.Rab1 Ne8
15.a3 Nc7
16.axb4 cxb4
17.Be3 Nc5
18.Nbd4 Ra7
19.Rfc1 Rfa8
20.Ne1 e6
21.dxe6 Bxe4?

Black loses a pawn

22.exf7+ Kh8
23.Nd3 Nd5
24.Bxd5 Bxd5
25.Nc2 Rxf7
26.Ncxb4 Bb7
27.Nxc5 dxc5
28.Nd3 Qc6
29.f3 Qf6

Here Black embarks on the poor strategy of sacrificing his bishop for White's Kingside pawns. Better was 29...Ba6 pinning the White knight.

30.Nxc5 Bxf3?
31.gxf3 Qxf3
32.Qxf3 Rxf3
33.Bf2 Rxh3
34.Nd7 Bh6
35.Rc4 Ra5?

This loses material to the forcing sequence of checks that follow in the game. Better was 35...Rb3 although Black should still lose.

36.Bd4+! Kg8
37.Nf6+ Kf7
38.Rc7+ Ke6
39.Re1+ Kd6
40.Ne8+ Kd5
41.Re5+ Kxd4
42.Rxa5 Be3+
43.Kg2 Resigns

White's material advantage is overwhelming.

1-0

GAME 7

Knight Blindness

White: **Gillian Moore** *Black:* **Tom Rixon**

Chiltern Chess League Jamboree
Berks, Bucks, Hants and Oxon
Crowthorne
10th April 2011



White's mischievous pair of high-jumpers

Black to play 23...?

GAME 7

Knight Blindness

White: **Gillian Moore** *Black:* **Tom Rixon**

Chiltern Chess League Jamboree
Berks, Bucks, Hants and Oxon
Crowthorne
10th April 2011

BENKO GAMBIT

This Jamboree was the grand coming together of the four county teams in the Chiltern Chess League at the end of its match season. I was playing for Hampshire and my opponent for Buckinghamshire.

My first attempt with the 5. b6 line against the Benko was successful here. This move was recommended to me by FM (FIDE Master) Moses Kawuma. He also showed me a good way to follow up with Nd2-c4 and getting my pawn on f4, also played here to good effect.

In this game the white knights truly had their day. Then the rest of the army followed suit: pawns, bishops, rooks and queen quickly amassed to massacre the foe.

1.d4	c5
2.d5	Nf6
3.c4	b5
4.cxb5	a6
5.b6	Qxb6
6.Nc3	g6
7.e4	d6
8.Nf3	Bg7
9.Qc2	Nbd7
10.Be2	Ng4
11.O-O	Nge5
12.Nd2	O-O
13.Kh1	Nf6
14.f4	Neg4
15.Nc4	Qc7
16.h3	Nh6
17.Be3	

White could win a Black knight for a couple of pawns with 17. g4 here, but White's king would be left exposed.

17...	Ne8
18.Rad1	f5
19.e5	dxe5
20.fxe5	Nf7
21.e6	Nfd6
22.Bf4	Bb7
23.Na4	

See diagram

23...	Bd4?

Thinking to protect the weak c-pawn. Better were 23...Rb8 or 23...Nf6 although I would still prefer White's position.

24.Ncb6!

Threatening both the R on a8 and 25. Nd7 going after the other rook.

24...	Qd8?

Better was 24...a5 although he still loses the exchange whatever he does.

25.Nxa8	Bxa8
26.Nxc5	Bxc5
27.Qxc5	Ne4
28.Qd4	Bb7
29.Bf3	N8f6
30.Bxe4	fxe4??

Better was 30...Nxe4 although Black should still lose.

31.Bh6!	Re8
32.d6	e3
33.Qxe3	exd6
34.Rf2	Ne4
35.Rf7	Qa8
36.Rdf1	Nf6
37.Rf2	Kh8
38.R7xf6	

A rook down with checkmate on the way, so

Black Resigns
1-0

GAME 8

Cliff-Hanger King Chase

White: **Gillian Moore** *Black:* **Dominic Tunks**

Open Tournament Hampshire Congress
Eastleigh College
3rd November 2007



Both sides poised to win

Black to play 26...?

GAME 8

Cliff-Hanger King Chase

White: **Gillian Moore** *Black:* **Dominic Tunks**

Open Tournament Hampshire Congress
Eastleigh College
3rd November 2007

BOGO-INDIAN

Dominic was a former Hampshire Champion, so I feel there is no shame in my losing to him, especially as I gave a good account of myself.

How many 'Indian' defences can we name besides the Bogo-Indian? I can think of four such (Kings-Indian …), all made possible for Black after 1. d4 Nf6, 2. c4. Partly for this reason I have in recent years switched to playing the Trompowsky with 1. d4 Nf6, *2. Bg5*, thus doing away with so many choices by my opponent with the black pieces! Now and then, though, I might still allow a Nimzo-Indian as I'm rather fond of it.

In this tense game, if Black's king chase hadn't resulted in checkmating me, I was poised to do the same to him. I had hoped for the checks to pause for just one move, but alas he never let up. Naturally, he started the harassment with the obvious check 26...Qa1+.

1.d4 Nf6
2.c4 e6
3.Nf3 Bb4+

This Bogo-Indian move is made possible because White played 3. Nf3 rather than 3. Nc3 (see games 37-38 for examples of the Nimzo-Indian).

4.Nbd2 Nc6
5.a3 Be7
6.e4 d5
7.e5 Ne4
8.cxd5 exd5
9.Bd3 f5
10.Qb3 Nxd2
11.Bxd2 O-O
12.O-O-O a6
13.h4 Kh8
14.g3 Be6
15.Be2 Qd7
16.Bg5 b5
17.Bxe7 Qxe7
18.Qe3 Na5
19.Qg5 Qd7
20.Qf4 b4
21.axb4 Nb3+
22.Kb1 Qa4
23.h5 Rfb8
24.h6 Rxb4
25.hxg7+ Kg8
26.Qh6

See diagram

26... Qa1+!
27.Kc2 Nxd4+

Black's killer move after which White's poor king, fighting for his life, could no longer hold on. We could say that he fell over the cliff' to his checkmate doom!

28.Kd2 Qxb2+
29.Ke3 Qxe2+
30.Kf4 Nxf3+
31.Rd4 Rxd4#
0-1

GAME 9

Spirit of the Gambit

White: **Gillian Moore** *Black:* **Ted Black**

Gosport v Fareham A
Portsmouth and District Chess League
26th October 2015



Regain the pawn or pursue the initiative?

White to play: 16. ?

GAME 9

Spirit of the Gambit

White: **Gillian Moore** *Black:* **Ted Black**

Gosport v Fareham A
Portsmouth and District Chess League
26th October 2015

BUDAPEST GAMBIT, ALEKHINE ATTACK*

For several years I have much enjoyed playing for the Gosport team in the Portsmouth and District Chess League. Sadly, Gosport is not able to field a team for this new season. In this home match for us, my opponent played for the visiting Fareham A team.

I feel that I betrayed the spirit of the gambit here, which is to willingly give up a pawn (or more) in order to gain compensating factors. In chess as in life, material value is not the only sort of wealth. Whether with people or the pieces, relationships, health, time and space also count for a lot.

<u>Diagram comments</u>: With 16. Nxc6 I get my pawn back the next move, but this freed up my opponent's position and I soon offered him a draw, as that is all it then seemed worth.

I could have kept the initiative with 16. c5! [If, for example, Black replies 16...dxc5, then White wins the exchange with 17. Nxc6 Bxc6, 18. Bxc5! If 16...d5, then 17. Nxc6 Bxc6, 18. Bd4 Qd8, 19. f5 with a distinct White advantage].

Other reasonable tries for a White advantage on move 16. seem to be b4, g3 or Nb5.

1.d4 Nf6
2.c4 e5
3.dxe5 Ng4
4.e4

The Alekhine Attack variation. Other common choices are 4. Bf4 or 4. Nf3

4... Nxe5
5.f4 Ng6
6.Be3 Bb4+
7.Nd2 Qe7
8.a3 Qxe4
9.Kf2

I allowed Black to have the e4-pawn, in order to gain the bishop pair (forced), attack the queen and get ahead in development.

9... Bxd2
10.Qxd2 O-O
11.Bd3 Qc6
12.Nf3 d6
13.Nd4 Qe8
14.Rhe1 Nc6
15.Kg1 Bd7

See diagram.

16.Nxc6

See diagram comments above

16... Bxc6
17.Bxa7 Qd7
18.Be3 Qg4
19.h3 Qg3
20.Qf2 Qxf2+
21.Kxf2=
1/2-1/2

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* This line and many more are thoroughly dealt with in the excellent book by Timothy Taylor, *'The Budapest Gambit'*, published by Everyman Chess 2009.

GAME 10

Teamwork Does It

White: **Gillian Moore** *Black:* **Ivor Kelly**

Hampshire v Berkshire
Chiltern Chess League, Basingstoke
29th October 2016



Majestic and mighty!

White to play 20. ?

GAME 10

Teamwork Does It

White: **Gillian Moore** *Black:* **Ivor Kelly**

Hampshire v Berkshire
Chiltern Chess League, Basingstoke
29th October 2016

BUDAPEST GAMBIT, ALEKHINE ATTACK

As usual in these county matches, I was a member of the Hampshire team. This was a home match played at our then regular venue of the Basingstoke Chess and Bridge Club.

Early in the game the white pawns stood shoulder to shoulder like policemen on crowd control duty, ready to push back any unruly hordes; my four pawns on the 4th rank soon made their imposing presence felt to the detriment of my opponent.

The pawn-officers started pushing back the unwelcome knights. Next my queen was driven at top speed to make her supreme presence known in dramatic style where she was needed most. Various other officers then took up their positions, all united for the common cause of squashing the rebellion!

1.d4 Nf6
2.c4 e5
3.dxe5 Ng4
4.e4

The Alekhine Attack. Apart from this 4. e4 line, White can choose either 4. Bf4 or 4. Nf3 here.

4... Nxe5
5.f4 Ng6
6.Be3 Bb4+
7.Nd2 Nc6
8.Bd3 d6
9.Ngf3 Bg4
10.O-O Bxd2
11.Qxd2 O-O
12.b4 a6
13.b5 axb5
14.cxb5 Nce7
15.Bd4 c5
16.bxc6 bxc6
17.f5 Bxf3
18.fxg6 Bh5
19.gxh7+ Kh8

See diagram.

20.Qh6! f6
21.Qxh5 Ra5
22.Qe2 Ng6
23.Qf2 Ne5?

This aggressive-looking move in fact loses Black more material.

24.Bb6! Qa8
25.Bxa5 Nxd3
26.Qd2 Ne5
27.Bc3 Nc4
28.Qd3 d5
29.exd5 cxd5
30.Rf5 Re8
31.Bd4 Re4
32.Rff1 Qe8
33.Qc3 Kxh7
34.Rae1 Rxe1
35.Qxe1 Qd8
36.Rf3 Qd7
37.Qh4+ Kg8
38.Bxf6! gxf6
39.Qxf6 Qe8
40.Qg5+

Checkmate in another two moves, so

Black Resigns
1-0

GAME 11

Humble Pawn Potential

White: **Bob Cleave** *Black***: Gillian Moore**

Under 125 Tournament, Hampshire Congress
Eastleigh College
2nd November 2002



Keeping out intruders

White to play 36. ?

GAME 11

Humble Pawn Potential

White: **Bob Cleave** *Black***: Gillian Moore**

Under 125 Tournament, Hampshire Congress
Eastleigh College
2nd November 2002

QUEEN'S GAMBIT DECLINED, CAMBRIDGE SPRINGS DEFENCE

My ECF (then BCF) starting grade back in July 2002 was 124, due to my long absence from serious chess. I was therefore eligible to compete in this Minor Under 125 tournament.

The Cambridge Springs is an active defence. I like the way the Black queen suddenly springs to a5 on move 7, unpinning the king's knight and gaining some initiative. I played this opening until 2007 when I switched to the Slav Defence. After 1. d4 d5 2. c4 my move then became 2...c6 instead of the 2...e6 as in this game.

Sometimes you cannot do a thing with an extra pawn in the endgame, but other times it will win, as here. I see the pawn, starting as the most powerless chess piece but with a chance to be very great, as an analogy for the human being. We are born as tiny helpless babies, then growing to maturity we are in for the chance of achieving many great and good things.

1.d4	d5
2.c4	e6
3.Nc3	Nf6
4.Bg5	Nbd7
5.e3	c6
6.cxd5	exd5
7.Nf3	Qa5
8.Bxf6	

White probably didn't like the look of 8...Ne4, piling up on his knight on c3 as well as threatening his bishop on g5!

8...	Nxf6
9.Bd3	Bb4
10.Qc2	O-O
11.O-O	Re8
12.a3	Bxc3
13.bxc3	Ne4
14.c4	h6
15.cxd5	cxd5
16.Rfc1	Re7
17.Ne5	Nf6
18.Qc5	Qxc5
19.Rxc5	Be6
20.Rac1	Ne8
21.h3	g5
22.g4	Kg7
23.Kg2	Nd6
24.Rc7	Rxc7
25.Rxc7	Rc8
26.Rxc8	Bxc8
27.Bc2	b5
28.Nd3	a5
29.Nc5	Nc4
30.a4	b4
31.Kf1	Kf6
32.Ke1	Ke7
33.Kd1	Nd6
34.Kc1	Nb7
35.Nxb7	Bxb7

See diagram

36.Kb2?

Before this neglectful king move, the position offered roughly equal chances. 36. Bd3 would have been a better move, to stop Black's light-squared bishop from penetrating White's kingside and attacking his vulnerable light-coloured pawns.

36...	Ba6!
37.f4	Bf1
38.fxg5	hxg5
39.Bf5	Bxh3
40.Bc8	f6
41.Bf5	Bg2
42.Kc1	Be4
43.Bc8	Kd6
44.Kb2	Bg6
45.Kb3	Bf7
46.Ba6	Be6
47.Be2	f5
48.gxf5	Bxf5

White Resigns
0-1+

GAME 12

Missing the Obvious

White: **Sherif Gonem** *Black***: Gillian Moore**

Southampton Club Championship,
9th April 2002



Candidate moves needed

Black to play: 25...?

GAME 12

Missing the Obvious

White: **Sherif Gonem** *Black***: Gillian Moore**

Southampton Club Championship,
9th April 2002

CARO-KANN DEFENCE, EXCHANGE VARIATION

The Southampton club meets every Tuesday from September to May yearly. The club championship takes place throughout these months, playing various opponents.

Grabbing the pawn with 25...Rxb2 looked reasonable enough, so that my queenside connected passed pawns, escorted by the rook, won in the end, but my analysis was lazy. The superior move **25...Rxe1+** was not hard to see. As players are prone to do, we both missed good moves, sometimes obvious ones.

Maxim: "When you have found a good move, look around for an even better one!" *

1.e4 c6
2.d4 d5
3.exd5 cxd5
4.c4

The Panov-Botvinnik attack.

4... Nf6
5.Nc3 Nc6

The main line for Black is the safe, solid 5...e6!

6.Bg5 dxc4
7.d5 Ne5
8.Qd4 Nd3+
9.Bxd3 cxd3
10.Nf3 g6
11.Ne4 Bg7
12.d6 O-O
13.O-O Nxe4
14.Qxe4 Re8
15.Bxe7 Qxd6
16.Bxd6 Rxe4
17.Rfe1 Bf5
18.Ba3 Rae8
19.Kf1 Bh6
20.Bb4 f6
21.Bd2 Bxd2
22.Nxd2 Re2
23.Rad1 b5
24.Nf3 Kf7
25.Nd4

See diagram

25... Rxb2

25...Rxe1+! forces checkmate in at most 15 moves.
White's best response is 26. Rxe1 d2, 27 .Ne2 Bd3, 28 .f3 dxe1=Q+, 29. Kxe1 Rxe2+ and Black has an overwhelming material advantage.

26.Rxe8 Kxe8
27.Nxf5 gxf5
28.Rxd3 Rxa2
29.Rh3 a5
30.Rxh7 b4
31.Rb7 Ra3
32.Rb5 b3
33.h4 Kf7
34.h5 Kg7
35.Ke1 a4
36.Kd2 Ra2+
0-1

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* Thus said my special chess teacher so many years ago at school. In my previous book of memoirs, I have written at length about this teacher, Bertha C Weston, who became my good friend in adult life.

GAME 13

A Vision of Higher Things

White: **Tony Carter** *Black***: Gillian Moore**

Cosham v Emsworth
Portsmouth and District Chess League
3rd January 2004



The Knight's ideal

Black to play 20...?

GAME 13

A Vision of Higher Things

White: **Tony Carter** *Black***: Gillian Moore**

Cosham v Emsworth
Portsmouth and District Chess League
3rd January 2004

CARO-KANN DEFENCE, ADVANCE VARIATION

For a while I played for Emsworth team in the Portsmouth and District Chess League as in this match, away at the Cosham club. I later instead played for Gosport in that league.

With a clutter of minor pieces in the centre of the board, as at move 20 it was not easy for White to see what enemy pieces might be able to go where if given a chance. But the black knight penetrated the fog of uncertainty and saw clearly what he wanted.

This was my best win of the season, against Mr Carter graded 164; mine was just 123 at the time.

1.e4 c6
2.d4 d5
3.e5 Bf5
4.Be2 e6
5.Nf3 Nd7
6.O-O Ne7
7.Be3 Qb6
8.b3 Ng6
9.Nc3 Be7
10.Qd2 O-O-O
11.Na4 Qc7
12.c4?

12. Ng5! Bxg5, 13. Bxg5 f6 is good for White giving him the bishop pair and open lines.

12... dxc4!
13.Qc3 f6
14.exf6 Nxf6
15.bxc4 Ne4
16.Qb3 Nf4
17.Bd1

It would have been better for White to play 17. Bxf4, getting rid of one of my menacing knights.

17... g5
18.Ne5 Bd6
19.Nc3?
19... Nxc3
20.Qxc3?

A better move, although still with a -/+ advantage for Black, would be 20. Bxf4 gxf4, 21. Qxc3.

See diagram.

20... Bxe5!

There is no way for White to regain his piece now. If 21. dxe5 Rxd1 and if 22. Raxd1 there follows a very nasty knight fork (Black's knight ideal) at White's e2-square!

21.g3 Nh3+
22.Kg2 Bf6
23.g4 Nf4+

One possible continuation is 24. Bxf4 gxf4, 25. gxf5 Bxd4, 26. Qh3 Bxa1, 27. fxe6 Kb8, 28. Bh5 Qe5 winning a rook.

White resigns.
0-1

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* I started learning the Caro-Kann with the now battered little book by International Grandmasters Raymond Keene and Andy Soltis, plus International Masters Edmar Mendis, Jack Peters and Julio Kaplan, *'Understanding the Caro-Kann'*, American Publisher RHM Press 1980.

More recently I acquired the in-depth much thicker book by Cyrus Lakdawala, *'The Caro-Kann move by move'*, publisher Everyman Chess 2012.

GAME 14

Humpty Dumpty

White: **Gillian Moore** *Black:* **W Peter Tickner**

Berkshire v Hampshire Under 200 Team
Chiltern Chess League, Crowthorne
29th January 2011



Time to defend

Black to play 19...?

GAME 14

Humpty Dumpty

White: **Gillian Moore** *Black:* **W Peter Tickner**

Berkshire v Hampshire Under 200 Team
Chiltern Chess League, Crowthorne
29th January 2011

CATALAN

I played for my usual Hampshire team in this county match against Berkshire.

When is a Catalan not a pure Catalan? When it is a cross between a Catalan and a Bogo-Indian as here! In fact some writers would call this game a Bogo-Indian on account of Black's move 3...Bb4+, as opposed to developing the bishop more quietly to e7.

White's superior development conquered. By move 23, my pieces had such scope, and his so little, that Black's position was doomed. An optimised knight together with his comrades triumphed. It was a case of:

"With the king's fine horse and all the king's men,
The fallen one never was mended again!"
~ Gillian Moore

Diagram comments: Black's 19...g6 made his position worse. It stops an intrusion on f5 but allows his f6 knight to be pinned. He could have tried to shore up his position with moves such as ***19...Qh6 or 19...Qg6*** *preventing his f6 knight from being pinned, followed by challenging White's domineering knight on d6.*

1.d4 Nf6
2.c4 e6
3.g3
This move in readiness to fianchetto White's king bishop signifies the Catalan.
3... Bb4+
4.Nd2 c6
5.a3 Qa5
6.Rb1 Bxd2+
7.Bxd2 Qf5
8.Nf3 Ne4
9.Bg2 Nxd2
10.Nxd2 d5
11.O-O Nd7
12.e3 h5
13.e4 dxe4
14.Nxe4 Ke7
15.Qd2 a5
16.c5 Nf6
17.Nd6 Qh7
18.h4 Rd8
19.Qf4
See diagram.
19... g6?
See diagram comments above.
20.Qg5 Qg7
21.Rfe1 Kd7
22.Rbd1 Ne8??
23.Nc4 f6
White missed 23. d5!! for a quick win.
24.Nb6+ Ke7
25.Qe3! Nc7
This move loses the exchange, but there was no way he could avoid material loss now.
26.Nxa8 Nxa8
27.Qc3 a4
28.Qa5 Bd7
29.d5!! cxd5
30.Bxd5 Qf8
31.Bxe6 Bxe6
32.Rxe6+ Kxe6
33.Rxd8 Qh6
34.Qe1+ Kf5
35.f3
Black resigns
1-0

GAME 15

The Jaws of Defeat

White: **Gillian Moore** *Black:* **Tony Roberts**

Southampton Club Championship
4th December 2012



Killer move in sight!

Black to play 29...?

GAME 15

The Jaws of Defeat

White: **Gillian Moore** *Black:* **Tony Roberts**

Southampton Club Championship
4th December 2012

CATALAN OPENING

Tony is the former member of my Southampton club about whom I have written in my previous book, 'My Chess Career and Holidays—A Book of Memoirs'. In chapter 13 I relate the story of how the Gillian Moore Cup came about. This trophy is awarded to the highest scoring Hampshire lady at the annual Hampshire Chess Congress.

In this game I was neglectful enough to get into real danger of a monstrously fierce attack, but to my relief he overlooked his big chance and let me go. I really did snatch victory from the jaws of defeat. To err is human, but what a silly pair!

Diagram comments: Tony could have sent the monster of the deep swallowing me whole with ***29...d4,*** *with a dire double threat against my bishop at c3 and of even worse things at my g2! There was then no way for me to survive the ensuing bloodied onslaught.*

1.d4 e6
2.g3 d5
3.Bg2 Nf6
4.Nf3 Nbd7
5.O-O a6
6.b3 b5
7.Nbd2 Bb7
8.Bb2 Nb6
9.e3 Bd6
10.Qe2 Qe7
11.a4 c6
12.a5 Nbd7
13.Ne5 O-O
14.f4 Rfc8
15.g4 h6
16.Qf3 c5
17.c4 cxd4
18.exd4 Bb4
19.Rf2 Nxe5
20.fxe5 Nh7
21.c5 Bxd2
22.Rxd2 Bc6
23.Rf2 Rf8
24.Qd3 f6
25.b4?

White should have protected the e-pawn with 25. Qe3 in order to follow fxe5 with Qxe5.The move played gives Black a passed e-pawn and 2 unprotected White pawns on the 4th rank.

25... fxe5
26.Rxf8+ Rxf8
27.dxe5 Rf4
28.Bc3 Rxg4
29.Rf1??

29. Qe2 is best but White still has the worst of it.
See diagram.

29... Qg5

See diagram comments above.

30.Qf3 Be8=

Having been given a stay of execution and with now just a pawn down, I refused his draw offer as I had the bishop pair with plenty of play left.

31.Bd2 Qg6
32.Kh1 Re4
33.Qc3 Rc4
34.Qf3 Re4
35.Bc3 Qg4
36.Qxg4 Rxg4
37.Bh3 Rg6
38.Rf4 Ng5
39.Bg4 Ne4
40.Bd4 Bd7
41.Bh5 Rg5
42.Bf3 Nd2
43.Bd1 g6
44.Be3 Ne4?

44...Nc4 holds the position.

45.Rxe4! dxe4
46.Bxg5 hxg5
47.Kg2 Bc6
48.Kf2 Kf7
49.Ke3 Kg7
50.Bc2 Kh6
51.Bxe4 Bxe4
52.Kxe4 Kg7
53.Kf3

So much quicker is 53. c6 and the pawn cannot be stopped!!

53... Kf7
54.Kg4 Ke7
Black resigns
1-0

GAME 16

A Pleasing Draw

White: **Raymond Ilett** *Black***: Gillian Moore**

Open Tournament, Castle Chess Congress
Portsmouth
24th February 2013



To have a slight edge

Black to play 30...?

GAME 16

A Pleasing Draw

White: **Raymond Ilett** *Black***: Gillian Moore**

Open Tournament, Castle Chess Congress
Portsmouth
24th February 2013

CHIGORIN'S DEFENCE*

The Chigorin's Defence is another of my active knight openings as Black (the other one is the Alekhine's Defence). It is called a Defence, but I like the immediate counter-attack with the queen's knight on c6, on move 1 or 2.

Before I took up the Chigorin in August 2010, I used to aim for either a Slav or a Cambridge Springs when White opened with his queen pawn 1. d4.—see Games 11 and 48 for examples.

With a grade of 141 at this time, I was content to draw my last round of this strong Portsmouth Open tournament, especially as Mr Ilett was the joint Cambridgeshire Champion.

1.d4 Nc6

These days I prefer the move order: 1. d4 d5, 2. c4 Nc6.

2.Nf3 d5
3.c4 Bg4
4.Nc3

Other common choices for White here are 4. cxd5 (see Games 18 and 19), 4. e3 or 4. Qa4.

4... e6
5.e3 Bb4
6.Qb3 Bxf3
7.gxf3 dxc4
8.Bxc4 Qf6
9.Ke2 O-O-O
10.a3 Ba5
11.Ne4 Qf5
12.Nc5 Bb6
13.Bd3 Qh5
14.Be4 Bxc5
15.Qb5 Nge7
16.Qxc5 Qxc5
17.dxc5 Na5
18.Bc2 Rd5
19.b4 Nac6
20.Bb2 Rhd8
21.Bc3 g6
22.e4 Rh5
23.h4 Nd4+
24.Bxd4 Rxd4
25.Ke3 Rd8
26.Rad1 Rxd1
27.Bxd1 g5
28.f4 Rxh4
29.Rxh4 gxh4
30.Kf3

See diagram.

30... Kd7

Black would have been slightly better off with 30...f5, making it harder for White to capture the extra h-pawn.

31.Kg4 Ng6
32.f5 exf5+
33.exf5 Ne7
34.Ba4+ Kd8
35.Bc2 b6
36.Kxh4 Ng8
Draw agreed.
1/2-1/2

---

* I now regularly dip into the full and complete book by Valery Bronznik, *'The Chigorin Defence'*, published in by Schacherlag Kania in 2005 – originally published in German.

GAME 17

A Deadly Skirmish

White: **Gareth Jones** *Black***: Gillian Moore**

Southampton Club Championship,
2nd April 2014



Counter-attack called for

White to play 14. ?

GAME 17

A Deadly Skirmish

White: **Gareth Jones** *Black***: Gillian Moore**

Southampton Club Championship,
2nd April 2014

CHIGORIN'S DEFENCE

Gareth was a valuable upper board player for my Southampton B team, before I lost him to our A team now that both teams are in Division 1 of the Southampton Chess League. There is a rule against sharing players in this way.

He is also current the joint club champion, and more usually beats me or we draw. In this game he came out more roughed up than me from middle game hostilities. Then my queenside pawn majority marched unopposed towards the finishing line.

1.Nf3 d5
2.g3 Nc6
3.d4 Bg4
4.Bg2 e6
5.O-O Nf6
6.b3 Be7
7.Bb2 Ne4
8.Nfd2 Nxd2
9.Qxd2 O-O
10.e3 Bf6
11.c4 Qd7
12.Nc3 dxc4
13.bxc4 Ne5

See diagram.

14.f3?!

An interesting counter-attack. White could also fight back with any of 14. Qc1, 14. Qc2, 14. Nd5 or 14. Ne4. The question is open as to which is best.

15... Nxc4
15.Qe2 Nxe3
16.Ne4?

16.fxg4 was the right move.

16... Bxd4!
17.fxg4 Nxf1+
18.Kxf1 Bxb2
19.Qxb2 Qd3+
20.Kg1 Qe3+
21.Kh1 Qb6
22.Nf6+?

White was hoping for a draw by perpetual check with his queen. My reply to his next move prevented it.

22... gxf6
23.Qxf6 e5

I could also have played 23...Qe3 and avoided the loss of my e-pawn. Either way, I was now comfortably better off.

24.Qxe5 Rae8
25.Qf5 Qe6
26.Qg5+ Qg6
27.Qb5 Re7
28.Rf1 c6
29.Qc5 Rfe8
30.Rf5? Re1+

Stronger is 30...Re5, 31. Qf2 Qxg4, 32. Rxe5 Rxe5.

31.Bf1 Rxf1+

Any of 31...R8e2, 31...h6 or 31...b6 is materially better for Black. However I decided to give up the exchange, force the swap of queens and go for the endgame with a -/+ distinct advantage, as this felt safer to me. I was confident of my 3 to 1 queenside pawn majority.

32.Rxf1 Qe4+
33.Kg1 Qe3+
34.Qxe3 Rxe3
35.Rb1 b6
36.Kf2 Ra3
37.Rb2 Kg7
38.Rc2 c5
39.Ke2 Kg6
40.Kf2 a6
41.Rd2 b5
42.Kg2 c4
43.Rd6+ Kg7
44.Rd2 b4
45.Kh3 a5
46.Rc2 Rc3
47.Rb2 Rd3
48.Re2 c3
49.Re5 c2
50.Rc5 Rc3

Black will queen the c-pawn.

White Resigns
0-1

GAME 18

A Very Harassed Monarch

White: **John Wiseman** *Black***: Gillian Moore**

Southampton Club Championship
14th January 2014



Don't let him escape!

Black to play 30...?

GAME 18

A Very Harassed Monarch

White: J**ohn Wiseman** *Black***: Gillian Moore**

Southampton Club Championship
14th January 2014

CHIGORIN'S DEFENCE

John Wiseman was a respected Hampshire Chess Association colleague as the Vice President until stepping down at this year's AGM. He was also a fellow Southampton club member and team mate for the Southampton B team, before he defected to another club. It was nothing personal—the new club is just much nearer to where he lives.

Ruthlessly pursued, seeking refuge and finding none, the White king was chased right across the board from f1 to a4 where, footsore and weary, he lost all hope and met a terrible end.

The king chase was long-winded but enjoyable. In chess as in life, the shorter route might take less time but the longer route can be more scenic! Is it not true also that humans are prone to get lost on some of their journeys?!

*Diagram comments: I could have clinched the win much quicker with **30...Nh5!** This would have blocked his f4 escape square and, after following up this move with 31...f6+, White would lose his queen. Also if 31.e5 after 30.Nh5 to prevent 31...f6+, there follows 31...Qh3, 32. Rg4 h6+, 33. Kxh6 Nf4+, 34. Rh4 Qxg3, 35. Rxh2 Nh3 and Black mates next move.*

1.d4	Nc6
2.Nf3	d5
3.c4	Bg4
4.cxd5	Bxf3
5.dxc6	Bxc6
6.Nc3	Nf6
7.f3	e6
8.e4	Bb4
9.Be3	O-O
10.Bd3	Ba5
11.O-O	Qe7
12.Rc1	Rad8
13.Na4	Bxa4
14.Qxa4	Bb6
15.Bb1	e5
16.Rfd1	c6
17.Bf2	a6
18.Rc4	Ba7

Black missed the tactical chance of 18...Bxd4, 19. Bxd4 b5! winning material.

19.Qc2	g6
20.Kf1	exd4
21.Bxd4	Bxd4
22.Rcxd4	Rxd4
23.Rxd4	Qe5
24.Rb4	Rd8
25.g3	Qd6
26.Qc3??	Qd1+!
27.Kg2	

Interposing his queen with 27. Qe1 would not have helped him at all, with immediate heavy loss of material if not actual checkmate, following my 27...Qxf3+.

27...	Rd2+
28.Kh3	Qf1+
29.Kh4	Rxh2+
30.Kg5	

See diagram.

30...	Ne8

See diagram comments above.

31.Rxb7	h6+?

The mating net has gone with this move. 31...Qf2 for instance, eyeing the g3 pawn, would have kept the White king enmeshed!.

32.Kf4	g5+
33.Ke5	Qg1
34.Qxc6	Qxg3+
35.Kd4	Rd2+
36.Kc4??	

The White King walks into a Knight fork and is really lost this time. Much better was 36. Bd3. .

36...	Nd6+!
37.Kb4	Rxb2+
38.Ka5	Rxb7
39.Qxd6	Qxd6

White resigns.
0-1

GAME 19

A Welcome Change of Scene

White: **George Green** *Black***: Gillian Moore**

Berkshire v Hampshire Under 160 team
Chiltern Chess League,, Farley Hill
24th February 2018



To swap or not to swap?

White to play 23. ?

GAME 19

A Welcome Change of Scene

White: **George Green** *Black***: Gillian Moore**

Berkshire v Hampshire Under 160 team
Chiltern Chess League,, Farley Hill
24th February 2018

CHIGORIN'S DEFENCE

As ever in these county matches, I was in the Hampshire team. This was an away match to Berkshire.

When Black's queen was allowed to uproot to new territory on the other side of the board, to 23...Qe7 and 24...Qa3, an otherwise lacklustre position was livened up. Together with her men, in particular her excellent pair of rooks that penetrated on to the seventh rank, the queen enjoyed a welcome change of scene in which the opposition was soon overwhelmed.

*Diagram comments: To swap or not to swap? That is indeed the question. I think that White would have been better to swap the queens with **23. Qxg5**. The retreat of the white queen allowed the black one to pursue her own plans unhindered, with a pleasant change of scene on the other side of the board.*

In the words of a very old song, if anyone else remembers, "Everyone gets into a dull routine, if they don't get a chance to change the scene! Monotonous."

1.Nf3 d5
2.d4 Nc6
3.c4 Bg4
4.cxd5 Bxf3
5.dxc6 Bxc6
6.Nc3 e6
7.e4 Nf6
8.Bg5 h6
9.Bxf6 Qxf6
10.Qd2 Bb4
11.Qe3 O-O
12.Bc4 Rfe8
13.O-O Rad8
14.Rad1 Bxc3
15.bxc3 a6
16.Bb3 Qg6
17.f3 Kh8
18.Qf4 Re7
19.Qh4 Red7
20.Rde1 b5
21.Rc1

The rook is restive, having moved thrice in eight moves!

22... Bb7
22.Bc2 Qg5

See diagram.

23.Qf2

See diagram comments above.

23... Qe7
24.Rb1 Qa3
25.Bb3 b4

Better was 25...c5 winning a pawn after 26. dxc5 Rd2!.
After my 25...b4, if White now played 26. cxb4, I intended to capture his d4 pawn, hopefully after 26...c6 first (26...Rxd4? and his 27. Bxe6! would be embarrassing).

26.Qc2 bxc3
27.Ba4??

Better for White was 27. Qxc3 and he is still in the game.

27... Rxd4
28.Rxb7? Rxa4

I now had a -/+ decisive advantage.
Faster was 28...Rd2 on this or the next move and White must give up his Queen to stop the pawn. E.g. 28...Rd2, 29. Qb3 Qc5+, 30. Kh1 c2, 31. Qxc2 Rxc2, 22. Bxc2 Qxc2.

29.Rxc7 Qxa2
30.Rxc3 Rd2
31.Qxa2 Raxa2

Black has the "seventh rank absolute" (Nimzovich). Black's rooks have a big appetite to gobble up White's pawns.

32.Rb1 Rxg2+
33.Kf1 Rxh2
34.Kg1 Rhc2
35.Rd3 a5
36.Rd7 f6
White resigns.
0-1

GAME 20

Ambush!

White: **Gillian Moore** *Black:* **Michael Stinton-Brownbridge**

Hampshire v Devon
West of England Chess Union (WECU), Wincanton
10th March 2007



Can Black regain his pawn?

Black to play: 27...?

GAME 20

Ambush!

White: **Gillian Moore** *Black:* **Michael Stinton-Brownbridge**

Hampshire v Devon
West of England Chess Union, Wincanton
10th March 2007

COLLE SYSTEM

Wincanton, Somerset, was one of the longer drives that our Hampshire team had to do for a game of chess in the WECU competitions, and it made a nice day out in congenial company. Our opposing team was Devon, but the Wincanton venue was more doable than having to travel to Devon and back in a day.

This game was a rare use of the Colle by me. My opponent prevented my then usual Stonewall Attack (see Games 52-53) by his 3...Bg4.

On move 24. White's knight sprang forth under cover of his queen, like a tiger in the tall grasses, and grabbed Black's f-pawn, the poor thing! Black thought that by clever means he would get White's h-pawn for it. Alas it was folly, as White's queen herself lay in wait to execute a total conquest!

*<u>Diagram comments</u>: No, Black cannot regain his pawn at this point. Rather than the blunder he played, Black could have kept going with **27...Qa5**, although White would still have a distinct advantage. Simply taking my knight, 27...Kxf7, would make matters worse after 28. Qxf4+ Kg8; 29. Re7 and so forth.*

1.d4 d5
2.e3 Nf6
3.Bd3 Bg4

The often played 3...e6 allows the Stonewall set-up of 4. Nd2 soon followed by f4, but here I had to cover up my queen.

4.Nf3 Nbd7
5.Nbd2 e6
6.O-O Bd6
7.c4 c6
8.cxd5 exd5
9.h3 Bh5
10.Qc2 O-O
11.e4 dxe4
12.Nxe4 Nxe4
13.Bxe4 Nf6
14.Bg5 Bg6
15.Bxg6 hxg6
16.Rfe1 Qc7
17.Rac1 Nd5
18.a3 Rfe8
19.Re2 Rxe2
20.Qxe2 Bf4
21.Re1 Bxg5
22.Nxg5 Nf6?

Protecting the e8 square to prevent mate but this loses a pawn. Better was either 22...Qd7 or 22...Rf8 with even chances.

23.Qe7! Rc8
24.Nxf7! Nd5
25.Qe6 Nf4
26.Qe7

26. Nh6+ was more enterprising with more chances for Black to go wrong, e.g. if 26...Kf8??, 27. Qg8 mate. If 26...Kh7, 27. Qf7 and taking the knight with 27...Kxh6?? looks tempting, whereupon White is winning after 28. Re7!!.

26... Qb6??

More hopeful for Black of equality is 26...Nd5, although after 27. Qxc7 Rxc7, 28. Ne5 White still has a +/- advantage.

27.Qe4

See diagram.

27... Nxh3+??

See diagram comments above.

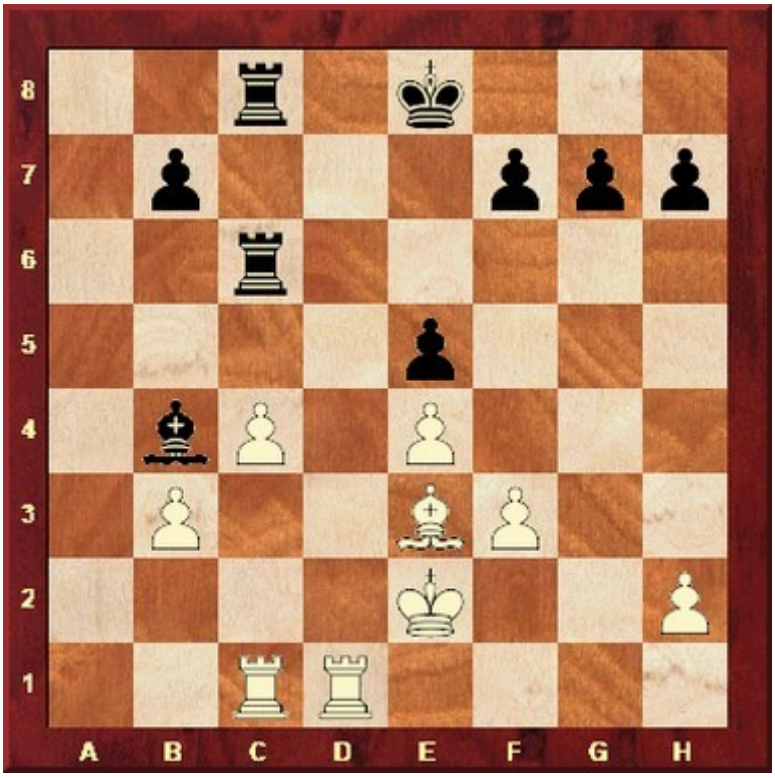
28.gxh3 Kxf7??
29.Qe6+!!
Black resigns
1-0

GAME 21

Lord of the Ranks

White: **Gillian Moore** *Black:* **Peter Rowe**

Wessex 1 v Cheddleton
4NCL at Sunningdale
3rd May 2008



Rook upliftment

White to play 34. ?

GAME 21

Lord of the Ranks

White: **Gillian Moore** *Black:* **Peter Rowe**

Wessex 1 v Cheddleton
Four Nations Chess League (4NCL) at Sunningdale
3rd May 2008

COLLE SYSTEM

I was invited to play on bottom board 8 of the Wessex 1 team in this prestigious Four Nations Chess league — the rules require either a female player or a junior on one of the boards of each team in Division 1.

Just as we humans are in our elements when we can fully express ourselves, whether in chess, art, vocation, relationships or whatever, so too the chessmen. The rooks enjoy lording it over the ranks (and files) and did so in this game. With equal material, my queenside majority of 3-2 and then 2-1 looked promising. Enter into the scene now my powerful rook uplifts to the 5th and 7th ranks. Finally with a 2-0 pawn majority, the ultimate success of one of the pawns became certain.

This win against such a strong player was also uplifting for me—his Elo rating with FIDE was 2057, much higher than mine. This game got me started with a rather good Elo rating of 1976. My rating has, however, gradually dropped over the years to a more realistic level, currently 1798.

1.d4 d5
2.e3 Nf6
3.Bd3 c6
4.Nd2 Bg4
5.Ngf3

Black's last bishop move prevented my then usual 5. f4 Stonewall set-up, (see Games 52-53) so I veered the game into a Colle instead.

5 e6
6.O-O Nbd7
7.e4 dxe4
8.Nxe4 Nxe4
9.Bxe4 Nf6
10.Re1 Be7
11.c3 O-O
12.Qc2 Nxe4
13.Qxe4 Bf5
14.Qe2 c5
15.Bf4 Bg4
16.Rad1 Qd5
17.c4 Qf5
18.Qd2?

Either 18. Be3 or 18. Qe3 was better.

18... Bxf3
19.gxf3 cxd4
20.Qxd4 Rfd8
21.Qe4 Qxe4
22.fxe4 Bb4
23.Rf1 a5
24.Be3 a4
25.f3 Kf8
26.Kf2 Ke8
27.Ke2 Rdc8
28.Rc1 Ra5
29.Rfd1 Rh5
30.Bf4 Rhc5
31.b3 axb3
32.axb3 e5
33.Be3 R5c6

See diagram.

34.Rd5!

A beautiful square for a classical outpost!

34... f6?

Black could have put up more of a fight with 34...Bd6, but now his position continues to deteriorate.

35.Rb5! Ba3
36.Ra1 Bb2?
37.Ra7 Ra6
38.Rbxb7 Rxa7
39.Bxa7 Kf8
40.Kd3 h5
41.Rb8 Rxb8
42.Bxb8 Bd4
43.b4 g5
44.Bd6+ Ke8
45.h3 Kd7
46.c5 Kc6
47.Kc4 Bb2
48.b5+ Kd7
49.Kd5 Bd4
50.b6

White can force checkmate in a few more moves.

Black resigns.
1-0

GAME 22

What a Swindle!

White: **Alec Samuels** *Black***: Gillian Moore**

Individual Championship
Southampton Chess League
31st December 2008



Watch your step Ma'am!

White to play 38. ?

GAME 22

What a Swindle!

White: **Alec Samuels** *Black***: Gillian Moore**

Individual Championship
Southampton Chess League
31st December 2008

ENGLISH OPENING, BREMEN (EARLY FIANCHETTO) SYSTEM

Alec is a valued former Southampton club member, who played in my B team. He kindly gave me lifts to matches or the club as needed.

Our games tended to be rather dull draws. This game is selected for the greater interest value. My bad moves together with his powerful bishop pair lost me material, but he then fell into my cheapo trap. The pawn he grabbed on move 38 wasn't just poisoned, it was fatally toxic. How annoying or funny is this whirlwind change of fortune, depending upon your point of view.

*Diagram comments: Oops; Her Majesty has misplaced her footing! White should have played **38. g5** first before capturing my e-pawn with check on the following move, with a winning advantage.*

1.c4 Nf6
2.Nc3 e5
3.g3 d5
4.cxd5 Nxd5
5.Bg2 Nxc3
6.bxc3 c6
7.d3 Bc5
8.Qc2 Qe7
9.Nf3 Bf5
10.O-O f6
11.Kh1 Nd7
12.a4 Rb8
13.a5 a6
14.Nh4 Be6
15.f4 O-O
16.Bd2 Ba7
17.Rab1 Rfd8
18.fxe5 fxe5?

18...Nxe5 was surely better for me than taking with the f-pawn, as Black now landed a strong knight on f5, and gained the bishop pair advantage.

19.Nf5 Bxf5

There was no safe place to move the queen to.

20.Rxf5 g6?

This loses material because it unprotects the f6 square and the Queen and rook are on the same diagonal. Better were 20...Rf8 or 20...Nf6 for instance.

21.Qa2+ Kg7
22.Bg5 Qe8
23.Rf3 Qg8
24.Qd2 Re8
25.Rbf1

25. Bh3 wins the knight which must protect f6 and therefore cannot move or be protected. Bh3 continues as a threat in later moves.

25... Qe6
26.e4 Bc5
27.h4 Be7
28.Bh6+ Kg8
29.Kh2 Rbd8
30.Rf7 Qxf7

Desperation. White's attack will be victorious now.

31.Rxf7 Kxf7
32.Qa2+ Kf6
33.Bh3 Bc5
34.Bg5+ Kg7
35.Bxd8 Rxd8
36.Qe6 Ba3
37.g4 Nf6

See diagram.

38.Qxe5??

See diagram comments above.

38... Bd6!!
White resigns.
0-1

GAME 23

Ever Had the Cramps?

White: **Dave Agostinelli** *Black***: Gillian Moore**

Southampton Club Knockout Tournament
7th December 2010



A pile-up against the sensitive d3-square

White to play 20. ?

GAME 23

Ever Had the Cramps?

White: **Dave Agostinelli** *Black***: Gillian Moore**

Southampton Club Knockout Tournament
7th December 2010

ENGLISH OPENING

Haven't we all experienced the frustration of a cramped chess position? Firstly the white queen could barely safely move, so she thought it best to sacrifice her rook for my knight, then finally the white knight had nowhere to go at all. The contest was over; Dave was knocked out of the competition.

Oh but what a way to treat a club mate who more recently came to my rescue with a domestic problem. I was going out that day, but my kitchen window was about to come off its hinges and just wouldn't shut. I couldn't go out and leave it like that. Then I remembered Dave's self-employed business in fitting and repairing windows. He promptly came to my home, fitted new hinges, and merely charged me for a family rate. "We chess players have to look after each other", he kindly exclaimed.

Diagram comments: White either needed to either move his queen to safety with 20. Qe2 or capture my menacing e-pawn with 20. dxe4 – a pile-up against White's sensitive d3 target was imminent!

1.c4 e5
2.g3 Nc6
3.Bg2 f5
4.Nc3 Nf6
5.Nh3 Bc5
6.e3 O-O
7.a3 a5
8.O-O Ra6
9.Qc2 d6
10.Na4 Ba7
11.c5 Qe7
12.Rd1?

This loses White a pawn. 12. cxd6 was indicated.

12... Bxc5
13.Nxc5 dxc5
14.d3 a4
15.Bd2 Be6
16.Rdc1 Nd7
17.Bc3 Bb3
18.Qd2 e4
19.Nf4

White could have regained his pawn with 19. dxe4 fxe4, 20. Ng5 with the better pawn structure, although Black would have fine piece play for compensation.

19... Rd8

See diagram.

20.Bf1?

See diagram comments above.

21... Nde5!

The pressure is mounting against White's now two *vulnerable spots (f3 is 'crying out')!*

21.Bxe5 Nxe5
22.Be2?

The bishop is overworked, so:

22... exd3!
23.Bd1 Kf8

To stop the exchange of my bishop with 24. Bxb3+. However, stronger for me was either 23...Bxd1 or 23...Rb6 to support my bishop where he was.

24.Kg2 Nc4
25.Rxc4

White gives up the exchange – he is so cramped.

25... Bxc4
26.Rc1 b5
27.Rc3 g5
28.Nh5 Bd5+
29.f3 c4
30.Kf2 Qf7
31.f4 g4

His knight is now entombed. Game over!

White resigns.
0-1

GAME 24

Work in Progress

White: **Fraser McLeod** *Black***: Gillian Moore**

Southampton Club Knockout Tournament
26th January 2015



Keep your good attacking pieces!

Black to play 13...?

GAME 24

Work in Progress

White: **Fraser McLeod** *Black***: Gillian Moore**

Southampton Club Knockout Tournament
26th January 2015

ENGLISH OPENING, CARL'S BREMEN SYSTEM, KERES VARIATION

Fraser McLeod is a respected colleague in both the Hampshire Chess Association and the Southampton Chess League. He is a team captain in the HCA and Rules Secretary in the SCL. He is also a former Southampton League Individual Champion.

I lost this game, my first attempt at the Keres Variation gambit line that starts with Black's 3...c6. My old Modern Chess Openings book describes the Keres as, "A formidable central bulwark". Fraser encouragingly admired the opening line and he took a long time in some of his replies. An example of my success with it is given in game 25.

*Diagram comments: I now realise my folly in exchanging queens. In future in this position I intend to play **13...Nc6**, quickly finishing my development and maintaining the initiative. White's development lags behind and he would have to spend a tempo to ward off the threat of 14...Bb4.*

"Experience is the name that we give to our mistakes" ~ Oscar Wilde

1.c4	e5
2.Nc3	Nf6
3.g3	c6
4.Bg2	d5
5.cxd5	cxd5
6.Qb3	Nc6
7.Nxd5	Nd4
8.Nxf6+	gxf6
9.Qd3	

9. Qd1 might have been slightly safer.

9...	Qc7

So far it is all going to plan and White is on the defensive.

10.Kd1	Be6
11.e3	Bg4+
12.f3	Bf5
13.Qc3	

See diagram.

13...	Qxc3?

See diagram comments above.

14.bxc3	Bc2+
15.Ke1	Ne6
16.Bf1	O-O-O
17.d4	Bg6
18.Nh3	Bg7
19.Nf2	h5
20.h4	Nc7
21.Bd3	exd4
22.cxd4	Rhe8
23.Kd2	Bf8
24.Rb1	Nd5
25.Bxg6	fxg6
26.Kd3	Re6
27.Bd2	b6
28.Rhc1+	Kd7
29.e4	Nc7
30.Bf4	Na6
31.Rc4	Ke8
32.a4	Bd6
33.Bxd6	Rexd6
34.Nh3	Nc5+
35.Ke3	Ne6
36.Rd1	Ke7
37.f4	R8d7
38.Ng1	Kf7
39.Ne2	Re7
40.Nc3	Nc7
41.Nb5	Rdd7
42.Rdc1	Na6
43.e5	

The rest of the game is not recorded due to less than 5 minutes left on my clock, in a quick play finish. This Knockout match had to be finished on the night, with no adjournments allowed. Some moves later

Black resigns.
1-0

GAME 25

Discombobulated!

White: **Christopher Smith** *Black***: Gillian Moore**

Major Tournament, Hampshire Congress
Eastleigh College
6th November 2016



Take care Your Majesty!

White to play 9. ?

GAME 25

Discombobulated

White: **Christopher Smith** *Black***: Gillian Moore**

Major Tournament, Hampshire Congress
Eastleigh College
6th November 2016

ENGLISH OPENING, CARL'S BREMEN, KERES VARIATION*

Do you have any opening lines that fascinate you and you like to keep looking at? I do that with this system, the Keres Variation of the English Opening, in which I joyfully gambit my d-pawn in exchange for a great initiative with perhaps a fierce attack.

My thorough preparation paid off in dramatic style this time as opposed to a game the previous year – see game number 24 against Fraser McLeod. Christopher was clearly unfamiliar with the Keres line starting with 5...Nc6, became disorientated as he engaged with perils of the unknown and he quickly lost.

*<u>Diagram comments</u>: White should have played either **9. Qd1 or 9. Qd3** straight away. In either case I would follow up with 9...Qc7, as I did in the game on the following move. After his 9. Qc3 he allowed me to develop my bishop to b4 with a free tempo (because if White takes the bishop with 10. Qxb4, a deadly knight fork follows at his c2!).*

1.c4 e5
2.Nc3 Nf6
3.g3 c6
4.Bg2 d5
5.cxd5 cxd5
6.Qb3

Alternatively, play here might be 6. d4.exd4, 7. Qxd4 Nc6 . I have had good games with this line with the following continuation, despite Black's isolated d-pawn that needs careful tending: 8.Qd1 d4, 9.Ne4 Nxe4, 10.Bxe4 Bc5!

6... Nc6

Beware: the gambit d-pawn is offered!

7.Nxd5 Nd4!
8.Nxf6+ gxf6

See diagram.

9.Qc3?

See diagram comments above.

9... Bb4!
10.Qd3 Qc7
11.e3?

This just pushes the black knight where he wants to go.

11... Nc2+!
12.Ke2 Nxa1

As often, my play was not perfect either. I had an even stronger move of 12...Bg4+ followed by 13...Rd8, in order to get his rook in due course without sacrificing my bishop for it.

13.Qb5+ Bd7
14.Qxb4 Rc8
15.Qc3??

15. Nf3 would have kept the game going, although I would still rather be Black than White in the position.

15... Qb6
White resigns
0-1

---

* Carl's Bremen System is notated In Batsford's *The Modern Chess Openings*, page 650 of 2000 version.

GAME 26

Beware of *That* Square!

White: **Brendan O'Gorman** *Black***: Gillian Moore**

Major Tournament, Castle Chess Congress
Fareham
18th February 2017



Keeping one's dignity.

White to play 15. ?

GAME 26

Beware of *That* Square!

White: **Brendan O'Gorman** *Black***: Gillian Moore**

Major Tournament, Castle Chess Congress
Fareham
18th February 2017

ENGLISH OPENING, FOUR KNIGHTS VARIATION

Brendan O'Gorman plays a lot of chess around various congresses. We have played each other often and tend to draw. This short game proved to be the exception.

Years ago I came to grief in the English Opening when White's forces were taking aim at my c6-square. With the fianchettoed king's bishop holding sway over the long diagonal from his g2 and a major piece or two coming down the c-file, any piece of mine on the c6 square was in serious jeopardy. I was hurt by bad things that happened there in that old game.

It is said that revenge is sweet. I now set a trap on the c6-square which my opponent fell into, and, I imagine, with the white queen muttering, "We are not amused! What a mean thing to do to me! Where is the kindness and compassion these days?"

1.c4	e5
2.Nc3	Nf6
3.Nf3	Nc6
4.e3	d5
5.cxd5	Nxd5
6.Bb5	Nxc3
7.bxc3	Qf6
8.Qa4	Bd7
9.O-O	Bd6
10.d4	exd4
11.exd4	O-O

12.Bg5

This and White's next few moves are perhaps overly aggressive. White is beginning to lose control of the position.

13...	Qg6
13.d5	a6
14.Bxc6	bxc6

See diagram.

15.dxc6??

It looks like White's best bet would have been 15. Rfe1, keeping the game alive.

15... Bxc6!!

Black will now lose at least a piece due to the attack on his kingside as well as on the Queen. If the Queen captures the menacing bishop with 16. Qxc6, she meets an undignified end after the 16...Bxh2+ discovered attack reply.

White Resigns.
0-1

GAME 27

Knight in Shining Armour

White: **Paul Hurn** *Black***: Gillian Moore**

Friendly Match played at Gillian's home
21st July 2015



'Trouble over the other side, Your Majesty!'

White to play 39. ?

GAME 27

Knight in Shining Armour

White: **Paul Hurn** *Black***: Gillian Moore**

Friendly Match played at Gillian's home
21st July 2015

FOUR KNIGHTS SPANISH, RUBINSTEIN GAMBIT

Paul is a friend and fellow member of the Southampton chess club who has been giving me lifts to the club for many years. We also have weekly friendly practice battles at my home when the club is closed during the holiday months of June, July and August.

Well matched, Paul and I have had many a good game together, formal or friendly, with varying results. They can be very long—we are both very pensive players—extending over one or even two adjournments. This game transposed into a Four Knights Spanish, via the Scandinavian Variation of the Alekhine (1 e4 Nf6; 2 Nc3 e5).

*<u>Diagram comments</u>: My Fritz software is clear that **39. Ke3** is White's best move, for completely even chances. Bringing the king over towards the uprising makes sense. The move that White played, 39. cxb4, allowed my resplendent knight to carry out some dashing deeds!*

1.e4 Nf6
2.Nc3 e5
3.Nf3 Nc6
4.Bb5 Nd4

Black offers the e-pawn in exchange for piece activity. If 5. Nxe5, Black has either 5...Bb4 or 5...Qe7 to continue the dangerous excitement.

5.Ba4 Bc5
6.Nxe5 Qe7

6...0-0 is more commonly played in this gambit line, offering a pawn to enhance Black's development. This sharp line has a better average outcome for Black than my 6...Qe7.

7.Nf3

Nd3 is the normal move here, stronger than 7. Nf3.

7... Nxe4
8.O-O O-O
9.Nxd4 Bxd4
10.Qe2 Bxc3
11.bxc3 Qh4
12.Bb3 Nc5
13.Ba3 d6
14.Bd5 Bg4
15.Qc4 Qh5
16.f3 Be6
17.Bxe6 Nxe6
18.Rab1 b6
19.Rb5 c5
20.d4 d5
21.Qe2 Rfe8
22.Qd2 Nc7
23.Rbb1 c4
24.Bd6 Rac8
25.Rfe1 Red8
26.Be7 Rd7
27.Re5 Qg6
28.Rbe1 f6
29.R5e3 Qh6
30.Qe2 Re8
31.a4 Kf7
32.Ba3 Rxe3
33.Qxe3 Qxe3+
34.Rxe3 Ne6
35.Kf2 Rb7
36.g3 a5
37.Re1 b5
38.Rb1 b4

See diagram.

39.cxb4?

See diagram comments above.

39... Nxd4!
40.c3 Nc2!
41.Bc1 axb4
42.cxb4 Rxb4
43.Rxb4 Nxb4
44.Ke3 Ke6
45.Bb2 g6
46.Bc3 Na6
47.Kd4 Kd6
48.Ke3 f5
49.f4 Kc6
50.Kd4 Nc7
51.Ke5 Kc5
52.Bd2? d4!

My two connected passed pawns are now en route to certain glory!

53.Bc1 c3
54.a5 Nb5
55.a6 Kc4
56.h3 d3
White resigns.
0-1

GAME 28

Lively Tactics

White: **Alan Butler** *Black*: **Gillian Moore**

Southampton B v Fareham B
Southampton Chess League
13th December 2016



Equal chances

White to play 22. ?

GAME 28

Lively Tactics

White: **Alan Butler** *Black*: **Gillian Moore**

Southampton B v Fareham B
Southampton Chess League
13th December 2016

FOUR KNIGHTS GAME, ITALIAN VARIATION*

I was playing for my usual Southampton B team in this home match at the Southampton club against the visiting Fareham B team.

His 5. Bxf7+ is more enterprising, I feel, than allowing my fork trick 5...d5 if he simply took the knight with 5. Nxe4. He gave me the bishop pair, but at the expense of my exposed king, although I managed to tuck him away safely in due course. The game result was just one pawn up for me, and that is all I needed, thanks to my queenside majority creating a passed pawn.

Diagram comments: His 22. Bh6 was not for the best. Nor would 22. Ng3 help, leading to loss of material after Black's 22...g5! Best appears to be ***22. Nf6+****, after which my Fritz program gives equal chances despite White being a pawn down for the endgame.*

1.e4 Nf6
2.Nc3 e5
3.Nf3 Nc6
4.Bc4 Nxe4
5.Bxf7+?

Better for equality was 5. Nxe4 d5, 6. Bd3 dxe4, 7. Bxe4.

5... Kxf7
6.Nxe4 Be7
7.c3 d5
8.Ng3 Be6
9.Qb3 Rb8
10.d4 e4
11.Ne5+ Nxe5
12.dxe5 c5
13.O-O Rf8
14.f4 exf3
15.Rxf3+ Kg8
16.Qd1 Qd7
17.h3 Bh4
18.Nh5 Rxf3
19.Qxf3 Rf8
20.Bf4 Qf7
21.Rf1 g6

See diagram

22.Bh6?

See diagram comments above.

22... Qxf3
23.gxf3 Rf5
24.Ng7 Rxe5
25.Nxe6 Rxe6
26.f4 Re1
27.Rxe1 Bxe1
28.Kf1 Bh4
29.Ke2 b5
30.Kd3 Kf7
31.b3 a6
32.c4 dxc4+
33.bxc4 b4
34.Ke4?

Moving the king away from where the action is, on the 'a' and 'b' files.

34... a5
35.Kd5 Bf2

I need not have tarried to secure my c5-pawn like this. On this and the next few moves, a4, b3 then maybe a3 would queen a pawn fast and with gusto!!.

36.Ke4 a4
37.f5? Bd4
38.fxg6+ hxg6
39.Bd2 b3
40.axb3 axb3?
41.Bc1?

41. Kc2 would stop the b pawn and make it much harder for Black to win. Instead, 40...a3 and the a-pawn queens very quickly!

41... Ke6
White resigns.
0-1

---

* The entirety of The Four Knights opening is dealt with and, for me, in enjoyable style, clear and witty by Cyrus Lakdawala, '*The Four Knights move* by move', published by Everyman Chess 2012.

GAME 29

Gambit Glory

White: **Arthur Hibbitt** *Black*: **Gillian Moore**

Boniface 5-round morning Tournament
Devon Congress, Paignton
8th September 2011



Maintaining the slight advantage

White to play 27. ?

GAME 29

Gambit Glory

White: **Arthur Hibbitt** *Black***: Gillian Moore**

Boniface 5-round morning Tournament
Devon Congress, Paignton
8th September 2011

BIRD'S OPENING, FROM'S GAMBIT

As my reader will be discovering in these games, I have some gambits 'up my sleeve' for certain openings. From's Gambit is one of them, although I seldom have a chance to play it since White's first move 1. f4 is not so commonly met with.

This game demonstrates what can be received in return for the gambit pawn: initiative, imagination, double-edged danger, engrossing plans and schemes. Even after Black's move 3, White is threatened with checkmate in 2! I had the better chances after netting the exchange at move 31, but by move 44 most of my advantage had evaporated due to my negligence. So, I agreed to a draw.

*<u>Diagram comments</u>: White needs to play **27. Rh1** to protect his pawn on h2. His move 27. Rxg4 caused his rook boxed in after Black's 28...g5! After this, Black had the better chances.*

1.f4 e5
2.fxe5 d6
3.exd6 Bxd6
4.Nf3 g5
5.g3

The alternative 5. d4 gives White the option, after 5...g4, of moving his knight to either g5 or e5.

5... g4
6.Nh4 Ne7
7.d4 Ng6
8.Nxg6 hxg6
9.Qd3 Nc6

10...Nxd4 is threatened!

10.c3 Qe7
11.Nd2 Bf5
12.e4 O-O-O
13.Kd1 Be6
14.Bg2 Nb8
15.d5 Bd7
16.Nc4 Na6
17.Nxd6+ cxd6
18.Be3 Nc5
19.Bxc5 dxc5
20.Kd2 Kb8
21.Rae1 Rh5
22.c4 Qe5
23.Qc3 Qxc3+
24.Kxc3 Rdh8
25.Rhf1 Be8
26.Rf4 Re5

See diagram.

27.Rxg4?

See diagram comments above.

27... Rxh2!
28.Bf3 g5
29.b4 cxb4+
30.Kxb4 Bd7
31.a4 Bxg4

The White rook at g4 wasn't going anywhere, so attacking moves of either 31...Rf2 or 31...Ra2 first before winning the exchange would increase Black's advantage.

32.Bxg4 b6
33.Bf5 Kc7
34.Rb1 Kd6
35.g4 Re7
36.Rb3 Rh8
37.Rc3 Rc7
38.Re3 Ke5
39.Rd3 Kd6
40.Kc3 Rc5
41.Kd4

Fritz shows Black as slightly better here. 41...f6 next, holding back White's e-pawn, is necessary to maintain this advantage.

41... Rh2
42.e5+ Ke7
43.Kc3 Rh1
44.d6+=

Draw agreed.
1/2-1/2

GAME 30

One Serious Slip

White: **John Sellen** *Black*: **Gillian Moore**

Major Tournament, Hampshire Congress
Eastleigh College
10th November 2013



How to save himself

White to play 46. ?

GAME 30

One Serious Slip

White: **John Sellen** *Black*: **Gillian Moore**

Major Tournament, Hampshire Congress
Eastleigh College
10th November 2013

BIRD'S OPENING, FROM'S GAMBIT*

This game shows the advantages and threats of having opened the h-file in my line of the From's Gambit. In this case, my doubled pawns did not matter, due to the piece play along the opened file.

After a lot of manoeuvring, with my rook entrenched on the seventh rank of the h-file and with my centralised queen, both poised for action, it was soon all over for him. Sometimes we can survive after a small mistake, a blip. However, on move 46 White lost his grip with just one serious slip!

Diagram comments: White is struck with disaster. He had a second chance to save himself by 46. Kb1, preventing an unwanted royal visitor appearing at his a2.

1.f4 e5
2.fxe5 d6
3.exd6 Bxd6
4.Nf3 g5
5.g3 g4
6.Nh4 Ne7
7.d4 Ng6
8.Nxg6 hxg6
9.Qd3

Naturally, 9...Bxg3+ had to be prevented.

9... Bf5
10.e4 Qe7
11.Bg2 Nc6
12.c3

The fight is on. 12. Kf2 0-0-0, 13. exf5 Bc5 would also have provided some fun!

12... O-O-O
13.Be3 Be6
14.Bf2 Qg5
15.Nd2 Bd7
16.O-O-O Rh5
17.Be3 Qa5
18.Kb1 Qa4
19.e5 Be7

19...Bxe5 regains the pawn. If 20. dxe5 Bf5 wins the queen. With his queen within sight of my rook lurking on the d-file, fancy my oversight!

20.Qe2 Rdh8
21.Be4 Nd8
22.Nb3 Ne6
23.Qg2 Nd8
24.Rd2 Bb5
25.Bd3 Bxd3+
26.Rxd3 Nc6
27.Rd2 Qc4
28.Qe2 Qe6

28...Nxe5 regains the pawn. If 29. dxe5 Black plays 29...Qe4+ and 30...Qxh1+ winning the exchange.

29.Kc1 Nd8
30.Bf4 Qf5
31.Qg2 Ne6
32.Be3 Ng5
33.Rf2 Nf3
34.Qf1 Bg5
35.Bxg5 Qxg5+
36.Kb1 c6
37.a3 Qf5+
38.Kc1 Qe6
39.Nd2 Nxh2
40.Qg1 Nf3
41.Rxh5 Rxh5
42.Nxf3 gxf3
43.Rxf3 Qd5
44.Qf1? Rh2
45.g4?? a6?

I should have seized the chance to win his queen for my rook by playing 45...Qa2.
See diagram.

46.Qd1??

See diagram comments above.

46... Qa2!!
White resigns.
0-1

---

* I have a delightful little paperback book by Eric Schiller, '*How to Play the From Gambit*', published by Chess Enterprises in the USA 1992, which I picked up for a few pence at a second-hand book stall! If out of print, other books on this system are available on the Bird's Opening that include this gambit.

GAME 31

Offbeat Opening

White: **Gillian Moore** *Black*: **Gary Walker**

Salisbury A v Southampton B
Southampton Chess League
23rd November 2010



More development needed

Black to play 16...?

GAME 31

Offbeat Opening

White: **Gillian Moore** *Black*: **Gary Walker**

Salisbury A v Southampton B
Southampton Chess League
23rd November 2010

GROB FOR BLACK (BASMAN DEFENCE)

In this away match at the Salisbury club, I was playing for my regular Southampton B team.

In this peculiar sort of Grob's Opening with colours reversed – I've heard it called the Basman Grob - I just played the position with no pre-existing ideas. After his 1...h6 followed by 2...g5, I anticipated the 'dragon bishop' soon coming out at g7, and decided to make it 'bite on granite' when it does by my playing 2. c3. This strategy and my succeeding play turned out well.

Mind you, who am I to talk about peculiarity? I sometimes play strange-looking unconventional opening lines, such as 4. g4 in the Staunton Gambit and 3. h4 in the Trompowsky – see games later in this book. I am also familiar with Grob's Attack for White, starting with 1. g4. I do not play it in serious games, but it is good for a friendly or a blitz tournament, to get away from familiar lines.

The Grob's Attack for White often goes 1. g4 d4, 2. Bg2. If then Black takes the pawn 2...Bxg4, White starts an attack with 3. c4 putting pressure on Black's pinned d-pawn (because of his unguarded b7 and Queen's rook in the corner), and the White queen is looking to b3 for an imposing visit there at a suitable moment. It is a bit of fun!

1.d4 h6
2.c3 g5
3.e4 d5
4.exd5 Qxd5
5.Qf3 Qd8
6.Bc4 Nf6
7.Ne2 c6
8.h3 g4
9.Qd3 gxh3
10.gxh3 Nbd7
11.Bf4 b5
12.Bb3 Nc5
13.Qf3 Nxb3
14.axb3 Nd5
15.Be5 Rg8
16.Nd2

See diagram.

16... Rg5?

Black could have played a natural developing move such as 16...Qd7 or 16...Be6, or gained space with 16...a5 with equal chances.

17.Ne4! Rg6
18.Kd2 e6?

Black's game is going pear-shaped. Preferable was either 18...a5, or 18...h5 intending 19...Bh6+.

19.Rhg1 Rxg1
20.Rxg1 Bb7
21.Rg8 Nb6?

He is truly done for now, but he prolonged the agony.

22.Nd6+ Qxd6

22...Kd7 doesn't save Black, as 23. Nxb7 Qe8, (23...Qc8, 24. Qxf7+ Be7, 25. Nc5 #) 24. Rxf8 Qxf8, 25. Nc5+ Kd8, 26. Nxe6+ and the queen is lost.

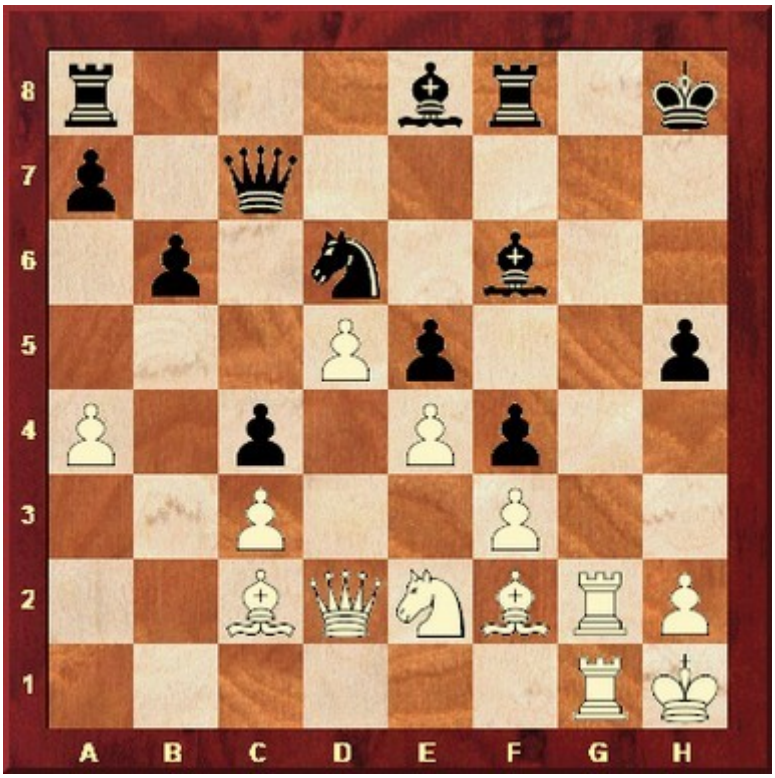
23.Bxd6 Nd7
24.Nf4 O-O-O
25.Bxf8 c5
26.Qe2 cxd4
27.c4 Nf6
28.Rh8 Ne4+
29.Ke1 e5
30.Qg4+ Kc7
31.Nd5+ Bxd5
32.cxd5 Nf6
33.d6+ Kb6
34.Qh4
Black resigns.
1-0

GAME 32

Between a Rock and a Hard Place

White: **Gillian Moore** *Black*: **John Wilkinson**

Individual Championship
Southampton Chess League
8th January 2015



'Breaking and entering'!

White to play 26. ?

GAME 32

Between a Rock and a Hard Place

White: **Gillian Moore** *Black*: **John Wilkinson**

Individual Championship
Southampton Chess League
8th January 2015

GRÜNFELD DEFENCE, EXCHANGE VARIATION

John was a teammate: we both played for Gosport in the Portsmouth and District Chess League. He is also in my age group and one of the players I remember from when we were both young. Like me, John feels that he is playing as well as he ever has, with no sign of chess performance decline due to being a veteran. It is only fair to say that, despite his loss here, I consider John Wilkinson to be a better player than me.

This Grünfeld Defence game is a distinct example of the hypermodern approach for Black. He allows White to occupy the centre with pawns and contends for control of the centre with pieces and attacks on the central pawns. Thankfully, he released his grip on move 21 allowing me to smash through on the g-file with a knight sacrifice on move 26, and ending in a Win/Win situation for me.

1.d4 Nf6
2.c4 g6
3.Nc3 d5
4.cxd5 Nxd5
5.e4 Nxc3
6.bxc3 Bg7
7.Bc4 c5
8.Ne2 Nc6
9.Be3 O-O
10.O-O Na5
11.Bd3 b6
12.Qd2 e5
13.d5 f5
14.f3 f4
15.Bf2 c4
16.Bc2 Bd7
17.Rab1 g5
18.g3?

It was, perhaps, ill-advised for White to open up lines on the kingside as White's king is the more exposed.

18... Nb7

Better for Black was 18...Bh3, 19. Rfe1 g4, 20. fxg4 Qg5.

19.Kh1 Nd6
20.Rg1 Kh8
21.a4 h5?

Although superficially this looks like a good attacking move, it actually cedes control of the soon to be opened g-file to White with disastrous effect. Better was 21...fxg3, 22. Rxg3 h6 blocking White's path to Black's king.

22.gxf4 gxf4
23.Rg6 Be8
24.Rg2 Bf6??

Black's only realistic chance of survival was 24...h4 to allow Bh5 attacking the pawn on f3. Now White just blows Black away.

25.Rbg1 Qc7

See diagram.

26.Nxf4!!

The tipping point has been reached in my merciless assault against Black's king.

26... Bf7

My opponent is defenceless. If 26...exf4, there follows 27. Qxf4 Qh7, 28. Bd4!

27.Ng6+ Bxg6
28.Rxg6 Rf7
29.Rh6+ Rh7
30.Rxf6 Qe7
31.Re6 Qf8
32.f4 exf4?
33.Bd4+

With checkmate in a few moves.

Black resigns.
1-0

GAME 33

Dynamic Duo

White: **Gillian Moore** *Black*: **Len Walters**

Southampton Club Championship,
30th March 2004



Damage limitation.

Black to move 31... ?

GAME 33

Dynamic Duo

White: **Gillian Moore** *Black*: **Len Walters**

Southampton Club Championship,
30th March 2004

KING'S GAMBIT

The King's Gambit has always attracted me, as gambits can be exciting to play, but I have seldom had the gumption to play it as it is double-edged, especially if Black accepts the f-pawn gambit leaving White's kingside open to attack!

In this rare appearance of the King's Gambit by me, my pair of neighbouring passed pawns advancing together proved to be unstoppable.

1.e4 e5
2.f4 d5

The Falkbeer Counter-Gambit. Black's other choices include accepting the gambit with 2...exf4, or declining it with any of 2...Nc6, 2...Nf6 or 2...Bc5.

3.exd5 e4
4.Bc4 Nf6
5.Nc3 Bd6
6.d3 exd3
7.Qxd3 O-O
8.Nge2 Nbd7
9.Be3 Re8
10.h3

A wasted tempo – Black's knight coming to g4 was not a real threat. Stronger would have been for me to castle either side.

10... Nc5
11.Bxc5 Bxc5
12.O-O-O a6
13.Kb1 b5
14.Bb3 Bb7
15.Rhf1 Re3
16.Qd2 Qe8
17.Nd4 Rd8
18.Nf5 Ne4

Best was 18...b4 with counter attack. White now regains the advantage and is 2 pawns up.

19.Nxe4 Rxe4
20.Qc3 Bf8
21.Qxc7 Rd7
22.Qc3 Qd8
23.Qg3 Qf6
24.Ne3 Qb6
25.Ng4 h5
26.Ne5 Rd6
27.c4 g6
28.Bc2

With 28. f5 White could have initiated a winning King-side attack. For instance, 28. f5 Re3, 29. Rf3 h4, 30. Qf4 Rxf3, 31. gxf3 Rf6, 32. Nd7 Qd6, 33. Nxf6+ etc.

28... Rd4
29.Qc3 Rxd1+
30.Rxd1 Qd8
31.Be4

See diagram.

31... Rf6?

On this and the next 3 moves, Black should have played bxc4 to prevent White from getting 2 connected central passed pawns with c5!

32.g3 Bg7
33.Qc2 Bc8
34.h4 Bf5
35.c5! Bxe4
36.Qxe4 Qc7
37.b4 Rf5
38.d6 Qd8
39.Rd5

I *sealed my move 39. Rd5 and the game was adjourned. We were to resume play on 6th April, but my opponent resigned without further ado.*

Black resigns
1-0

GAME 34

Dispiriting

White: **Gillian Moore** *Black*: **Mike Tunstall**

British Seniors Championship, Coventry,
29th July 2015



White has a slight edge. How should Black defend?

Black to play 14...?

GAME 34

Dispiriting

White: **Gillian Moore** *Black*: **Mike Tunstall**

British Seniors Championship, Coventry,
29th July 2015

KING'S INDIAN DEFENCE

Why prolong the agony? My early queen-swap line makes good in this short game. He resigned as soon as I had two clear pawns up for the endgame, with no counter-chances.

I have had successes with this line in the King's Indian, which is mentioned in a footnote of the 2010 Modern Chess Openings book, rather than as a main line. I thought my exchange of queens idea followed by the Bg5 pin was therefore less tried and tested.

However, my more recent Fritz software program suggests that my moves 7, 8 and 9 for White are better than other options, so perhaps 'my' queen swap line is now coming into vogue, or will do.

1.d4 Nf6
2.c4 g6
3.Nc3 Bg7
4.e4 d6
5.Be2 O-O
6.Nf3 e5
7.dxe5 dxe5
8.Qxd8 Rxd8
9.Bg5!

A key move in my plan

9... Re8

White options of either 10. Nd5 with a double threat at both f6 and d7, or 10. Nxe5 needed to be defended against.

Alternatively Black might play 9...c6 (to prevent the ferocious 10. Nd5). If then White replies 10. Nxe5, Black's 10...h6 can lead to the regaining of his pawn. Or 9...Nbd7 seems reasonable.

10.Nd5 Nxd5
11.cxd5 c6
12.Bc4 Bd7
13.O-O b5
14.Bb3

See diagram.

14... Na6?

The critical mistake after which Black should lose a pawn. Much better was 14...a5, 15. Rfd1 a4, 16. dxc6 Bxc6, 17. Bd5 Ra7 and Black can hold on.

15.Be3 Rec8
16.dxc6 Bxc6
17.Ng5 Rc7
18.Rac1 Be8
19.Rxc7 Nxc7
20.Rc1 Ne6?
21.Nxe6 fxe6
22.Bxe6+ Bf7
23.Bxf7+ Kxf7
24.Rc7+ Kg8
25.Rxa7

Black resigns.

1-0

GAME 35

Good and Bad Bishops

White: **Gillian Moore** *Black*: **Ken Retallack**

Southampton B v Passed Pawn B
Southampton Chess League
13th October 2009



A smart combination

White to play 19. ?

GAME 35

Good and Bad Bishops

White: **Gillian Moore** *Black*: **Ken Retallack**

Southampton B v Passed Pawn B
Southampton Chess League
13th October 2009

MODERN DEFENCE

This match was a Robertson Cup knockout competition in the league. This was a home match of my usual Southampton B team. The visiting Passed Pawn B team is now called Hamble B—their club has been renamed Hamble.

I remember Ken as the good guy who initiated me into the mysteries of being Treasurer of the Hampshire Chess Association, when I took over this volunteer role from him in 2004. He was a skilled book-keeper and a good teacher.

This game was like, 'My bishop is better than yours, see!' In the end game, with king, pawns and a bishop each, my bishop had all the power over his pawns and his had none over mine. Oh but Gillian, why take the slow boat to my destination rather than the express train? I could have won his bishop in the middle game, as will be seen.

1.d4 g6
2.c4 Bg7
3.Nf3 c6
4.e4 e5
5.d5

Of greater merit was 5. dxe5 either winning a pawn (if 5...Qe7, 6. Qd6!), or gaining superior development (after 5...Qe7, 6. Nc3 Bxe5, 7. Nxe5 Qxe5, 8. Be3! for instance).

5... cxd5
6.cxd5 d6
7.Nc3 a6
8.Be2 Ne7
9.O-O f5
10.Qa4+ Nd7
11.Ng5 O-O
12.Ne6 Nc5
13.Nxd8 Nxa4
14.Nxa4 Rxd8
15.Nb6 Rb8
16.Bg5 Kf7
17.f3 f4
18.Rac1 h6

See diagram.

19.Bh4

I missed the nice combination 19. Bxe7 Kxe7, 20. Rc7+ Bd7, 21. Rfc1 h5, 22. Bd1 Ke8, 23. Rxd7 Rxd7, 24. Ba4 and Black has lost his light-squared bishop.

19... g5
20.Be1 Bd7
21.Rc7 Ke8
22.Bb4 Bb5
23.Bxb5+ axb5
24.Rfc1 Bf8
25.R1c3 h5
26.h3 h4
27.Kf2 Ng8
28.Ke2 Nf6
29.Rb3 Nd7
30.Nxd7 Rxd7
31.Rxd7 Kxd7
32.Bc3 Be7
33.Rxb5 Bd8
34.Kd3 b6
35.Rb4 b5
36.a4 Ba5
37.Rxb5 Rxb5
38.axb5 Bb6
39.Kc4 Kc7
40.b3 Kb7
41.Bb2 Kc7
42.Ba3 Kd7
43.Bc1 Ke7
44.Bd2 Kd7
45.Kb4 Ke7?
46.Ka4 Kd7
47.Ba5 Be3
48.b6 Kc8
49.Kb5 Kb7
50.Bb4 Bxb6
51.Bxd6 Bd4
52.Be7 Bf2
53.Bxg5 Be1
54.Bf6 Bc3
55.d6 Kc8
56.Kc6 Ba5
57.d7+ Kb8
58.Bxe5+ Ka7
59.Bc7
1-0

GAME 36

Out of Sight and Out of Mind

White: **Gillian Moore** *Black*: **Joseph Coburn**

Southampton B v Fareham A
Southampton Chess League
1st March 2016



To keep the game alive

Black to play 26...?

GAME 36

Out of Sight and Out of Mind

White: **Gillian Moore** *Black*: **Joseph Coburn**

Southampton B v Fareham A
Southampton Chess League
1st March 2016

MODERN DEFENCE, AVERBAKH VARIATION

'Joe' was a fellow member of the Gosport team in the Portsmouth and District Chess League, as I also played for that team in that other league. In this match, I was playing for my main Southampton B team in the Southampton League against Joe in his Fareham team.

Black was generous to a fault. First his pawn, then his bishop was lost—sometimes we see 'ghosts' of pieces on the chess board, and other times we fail to see that which is tangibly there! Finally his poor queen had nowhere to go. I was greedy and gobbled up all his offerings, until I was fat with high hopes that indeed came to pass!

Diagram comments: Black has just sacrificed a piece in order to deliver checkmate at b2 in two moves with his queen and rook, so he thinks. However he is blind-sided by the white rook up aloft on d6 that can interpose at d2 supported by the bishop at h6. This illustrates how long distance pieces can combine for an effective defence, as their power can be overlooked.

White stands better, but to at least keep Black's position alive he could have forced the exchange of queens and open up the a-file with 26...Qb4, or got his rooks active starting with 26...Rf3 perhaps followed by 27...Rc8 or 27...Raf8.

1. d4 d6
2. c4 g6
3. Nc3 Bg7
4. e4 Nd7
5. Nf3 c6
6. Qc2 e5
7. Be3 Ne7
8. 0–0–0 Qc7
9. Kb1 0–0
10. Be2 f5?

Black now has a horrible 'hole' at e6.

11. dxe5 dxe5
12. Ng5! Nf6
13. c5 fxe4
14. Bc4+ Ned5

Black's weaknesses on the light-coloured squares are now tangible.

15. Ngxe4 Nxe4
16. Nxe4 Bf5
17. f3 Kh8?

17...Be6 or 17...Rad8 were better.

18. Bxd5 cxd5
19. Rxd5 Qa5
20. Qd2 Qa4
21. Qd3 Be6
22. b3 Qa3
23. Rd6 Bf5
24. g4 Bxe4
25. fxe4 a5
26. Qb5

See diagram

26 Bh6??

See diagram comments above

27. Bxh6
27 Rf2
28. Rd2 Rxd2
29. Bxd2 a4??
30. Bc1

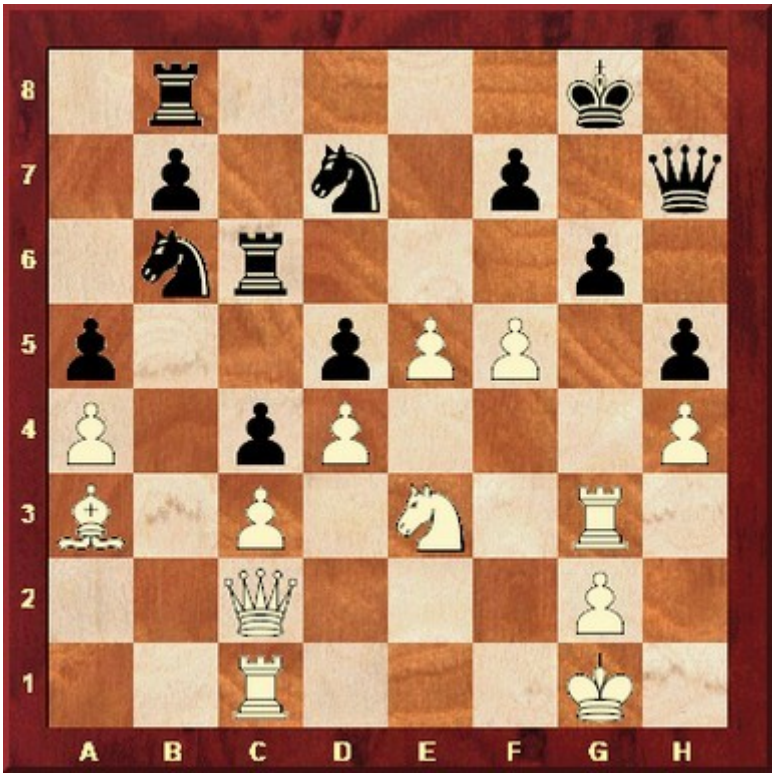
Black Resigns
1–0

GAME 37

The Bishop Sentry

White: **Gillian Moore** *Black*: **Peter Bending**

Gloucestershire v Hampshire
West of England Chess Union, Urchfont
7th February 2015



Block entry to that rook!

White to play 28. ?

GAME 37

The Bishop Sentry

White: **Gillian Moore** *Black*: **Peter Bending**

Gloucestershire v Hampshire
West of England Chess Union, Urchfont
7th February 2015

NIMZO-INDIAN DEFENCE, 4. f3 LINE

I hardly need to say, I was playing for my usual Hampshire team in this county match away to Gloucestershire.

In this 4. f3 line, White tries to achieve control over the central squares and with a strong pawn centre. The play often leads to a trade-off between Black causing White to be temporarily saddled with doubled c-pawns, yet White having the advantage of the bishop pair. Thus in this game, White's dark-squared bishop had no rival bishop to contend with.

In fact, aloof on the d6 lookout and keeping the black rook away from giving help to his king, White's extra bishop was pivotal to sealing my opponent's fate. This d6 square can also sometimes be a highly effective outpost for a knight—see game 57 entitled 'Octopus' as an example.

1.d4 e6
2.c4 Nf6
3.Nc3 Bb4
4.f3 d5
5.a3 Bxc3+
6.bxc3 O-O
7.e3 Nbd7
8.Qc2 c5
9.Bd3 Qc7
10.cxd5 exd5
11.Ne2 c4

Black releases his grip on the centre and facilitates White's central e4 expansion anon.

12.Bf5 Nb6
13.O-O Re8
14.Ng3 Bd7
15.Bxd7 Qxd7
16.e4 Qc6
17.e5 Nfd7
18.Nf5 Nc8

Black has lost control of the centre. His pieces are cramped and underdeveloped.

19.a4 Qg6
20.Ba3 h5
21.f4 Re6
22.Rac1 Rb8
23.Rf3 Qh7
24.h4 a5
25.Rg3 g6?

25...Rg6 would have shown more fighting spirit. 25...g6 just gives White a target to attack.

26.Ne3 Ncb6
27.f5 Rc6

See diagram

28.Bd6! Re8
29.fxg6 fxg6
30.Rxg6+ Kh8
31.Rf1 Rg8
32.Rxg8+ Qxg8
33.Qf5 Qe8
34.Qf7

Although this may not be the quickest way to win, the path to victory can be easily seen.

34... Qxf7
35.Rxf7 Rc8
36.e6 Nb8
37.Be5+ Kg8
38.Rxb7

Fancy my trifling with a pawn, when I could have delivered checkmate with 38. Nf5 and 39. Nh6! Whether I was tired, thirsty or running out of time I cannot say!

38... Nxa4
39.Nxd5 Re8
40.Rg7+

40. Nf6+ and the rook gives mate the next move.

40... Kf8
41.e7+

41. Rf7+ and mate in another 2 moves.

41... Rxe7
42.Rxe7
Black resigns.
1-0

GAME 38

Lock Up Before Leaving!

White: **Gillian Moore** *Black*: **Eric Key**

Boniface 5-round morning Tournament
Devon Congress, Torquay
8th September 2015



The a-pawn is tempting. Should Black take it?

Black to play 23...?

GAME 38

Lock Up Before Leaving!

White: **Gillian Moore** *Black*: **Eric Key**

Boniface 5-round morning Tournament
Devon Congress, Torquay
8th September 2015

NIMZO-INDIAN DEFENCE, 4. f3 LINE*

A problem arose for Black at his move 25—a king and rook fork with check was imminent at b4. So my opponent guarded the square with 25...Qa5, but with fatal consequences.

It is like his queen dutifully locked the front door, but alas the thief (my white queen) jumped in through the open back window (the back rank) and took what she wanted: checkmate in two moves!

1.d4	Nf6	16.Re1	Rc8	*After this move, Black should lose a knight and a pawn to White's continuation.* ***23...Qd7*** *was necessary to maintain equality, for instance 23...Qd7 (guarding e6), 24. d5 b5, 25. Bf2 Rxa3, 26. d6 Ra1, 27. Rxa1 Nxa1, 28. Kh1 Nb3, 29. Bxa7 Qxd6.*
2.c4	e6	17.e4	dxe4	
3.Nc3	Bb4	18.Nxe4	Nxe4	
4.f3	d5	19.Rxe4	Rc6	
5.a3	Bxc3+	20.Bg5!		
6.bxc3	c5	*With this "stunning move" (my opponent's words), my very late-to-develop bishop was free at last and no longer up for exchange with his knight. And what freedom my bishop had!*		
7.cxd5	exd5	20...	f6	
8.e3	Bf5	21.Bh4	Ra6	
9.Bd3	Bxd3	22.Rbe1	Rxe4	
10.Qxd3	O-O	23.Qxe4		
11.Ne2	c4	*See diagram.*		
12.Qc2	Nc6	24...	Rxa3?	
13.O-O	Na5	24.Qe6+!	Kf8	
14.Ng3	Nb3	25.Qxc4	Qa5??	
15.Rb1	Re8	*Black could have tried 25...a5, although White would still have a happy position: 26.Bg3 g5, 27. Qe6 Kg7, 28. Bd6 for instance.*		
		26.Qc8+	Kf7	
		27.Qe8#		
		1-0		

* For those interested, I have and can recommend an excellent little book by Yuri Yakovich, '*Play the 4 f3 Nimzo-Indian*', Gambit Publications 2004.

GAME 39

The Gun Powder Plot

White: **Trevor Passby** *Black*: **Gillian Moore**

Berkshire v Hampshire, Under 150 team
Chiltern Chess League, Crowthorne
1st March 2014



The black king's ramshackle fortress!

White to play 17. ?

GAME 39

The Gun Powder Plot

White: **Trevor Passby** *Black*: **Gillian Moore**

Berkshire v Hampshire, Under 150 team
Chiltern Chess League, Crowthorne
1st March 2014

NIMZOWITSCH DEFENCE

I was playing here for the Hampshire B team, for those with grades under 150. The venue was the lovely Wellington College in Crowthorne amidst spacious grounds and greenery. It was all rather grand.

I experimented with the Nimzowitsch Defence for a while, and this game and the next are examples of my successes with it. As an Alekhine's Defence devotee, in which I play 1...Nf6 in response to 1. e4, this cheeky knight opening on the other side of the board appealed to me, with 1...Nc6 in response to 1. d4. Incidentally, this game transposed into a Scotch Game after move 3.

After mounting an attack to blow up my king's house of protective pawns and take him hostage, my opponent sacrificed his bishop for two of my pawns, thinking of my king's total powerlessness against checkmate or at least the loss of a knight to prevent the mate. Upon realising his attack didn't work on account of my forced exchange of queens, Mr Passby cried out, "oh pooh!" This was not from the stench of his intended smoking gun but from the whiff of his annoyed feelings, so to speak. Conversely, my unspoken thought was, "thank goodness!" White's plot was foiled.

*<u>Diagram comments</u>: White could have simply retreated his bishop to f2; he would be a pawn up and rather better. His best move seems to be **17. Rfd1**, guarding his d4 before pursuing his assault against Black's king. In that case, Black can try defending with 17...d6, but White stands better and can surely still break through.*

1. d4 Nc6
2. e4 e5
3. Nf3 exd4
4. Nxd4 Nxd4
5. Qxd4 Qf6
6. Be3 c5
7. Qc3 b6
8. Bc4 Bb7
9. f3 Bd6
10. 0–0 Be5!
11. Qb3 Bxb2
12. Bxf7+ Qxf7?

What a dumb oversight I had: 12...Kf8 and Black wins the exchange! Now the advantage is handed back to White who starts plotting.

13. Qxb2 0–0–0
14. Nc3 Qf6
15. Rab1 Ne7
16. Bxc5 Nc6

See diagram

17. Bxb6?

See diagram comments above

17 axb6
18. Qxb6 Qd4+!
19. Kh1 Qxb6
20. Rxb6 Na5

The opponent's distinct advantage had now vanished and our chances were dynamically balanced—he had three extra pawns for my extra knight.

21. Rfb1 Kc7
22. R6b5 Ra8
23. Rc5+= Kd6

I declined the draw offer—the position was too interesting.

24. Rxa5 Rxa5
25. Rxb7 Rc8
26. Rb3 Ke6
27. Kg1 Kf7
28. Rb5? Ra3

Or 28...Rxb5, 29. Nxb5 Rxc2 etc.

29. Nd5 Rxc2
30. Rb3? Raxa2

Black's doubled rooks on the seventh rank win the day!

White Resigns
0–1

GAME 40

Centralised Knight Supremacy

White: **Rob Davies** *Black*: **Gillian Moore**

Southampton v Fareham B
Portsmouth and District Chess League, Cole Cup
28th October2014



Unguarded black pieces – loose pieces can drop off!

Black to play 18...?

GAME 40

Centralised Knight Supremacy

White: **Rob Davies** *Black***: Gillian Moore**

Southampton v Fareham B
Portsmouth and District Chess League, Cole Cup
28th October2014

NIMZOWITSCH DEFENCE

The Cole Cup is a knockout competition in the Portsmouth and District Chess League, comparable to the Robertson Cup in the Southampton Chess League. Southampton club had just one team in the Cole Cup, which I played for here.

Rob Davies used to volunteer as our honorary examiner for the Hampshire Chess Association, of which I am the treasurer. Each year he did a thoroughly good job of checking my books, vouchers and other information relating to my accounts.

In this game, Rob would have been better to castle kingside—I gained a pawn after he castled long. However, the folly was 50:50, as I neglectfully let the White queen take centre stage with 19. Qe4. My opponent then gained the bishop pair and good compensation for his pawn loss.

Diagram comments: I felt my queen to be safer off the hot f-file, but Black lost momentum with 18...Qe7 and it allowed White to fork my two bishops. It would have been better to force an exchange of queens with ***18...Qf5, or 18….Bf5****, maintaining the edge. Ah to err is human!*

1.d4 Nc6
2.c4 e5
3.d5 Nce7
4.Nc3 Ng6
5.a3 a5
6.g3 Nf6
7.Bg2 Bc5
8.Ne4 Nxe4
9.Bxe4 O-O
10.Qc2 d6
11.b3 f5
12.Bg2 Qf6
13.Bb2 f4
14.Nf3 fxg3
15.hxg3 Bg4
16.O-O-O? Bxf2
17.Rdf1 Be3+

17...Bxg3 was better. A pawn is a pawn after all!

18.Kd1

See diagram.

18... Qe7?

See diagram comments above.

19.Qe4! Bxf3
20.Bxf3 Bh6
21.Bc3 Qg5
22.Kc2 Rf7

There was nothing wrong with grabbing the pawn with 22...Qxg3 for a slight Black advantage.

23.Qg4 Qe3
24.Qe4 b6
25.Qxe3 Bxe3
26.Kd3 Bh6
27.Bg4 Rxf1
28.Rxf1 Rf8
29.Be6+ Kh8
30.Bf5 Ne7
31.Ke4 g6
32.Bh3 Rxf1
33.Bxf1 Bc1
34.a4 h5
35.Bh3 Kg7
36.Be1 Bg5
37.Bf2 Ng8
38.Be6?

This looks good but the bishop is doing nothing useful on e6 and is needed on White's side of the board.

38... Nf6+
39.Kf3

39.Kd3 giving some protection to the queen-side pawns was more sensible.

39... e4+
40.Kg2 e3
41.Be1 Ne4!

The knight finally rules supreme. 42...Nd2 with loss of material is unstoppable. White felt that his end was inevitable although there is no immediate win.

White resigns.
0-1

GAME 41

Poisoned Pawn Queen Trap

White: **Gillian Moore** *Black*: **John Feavyour**

British Seniors Championship, Sheffield
31st July 2011



Pawn temptation!

Black to move 31...?

GAME 41

Poisoned Pawn Queen Trap

White: **Gillian Moore** *Black*: **John Feavyour**

British Seniors Championship, Sheffield
31st July 2011

QUEEN'S BISHOP ATTACK (PSEUDO TROMPOWSKY)

The Queen's Bishop Attack, otherwise known as the Pseudo Trompowsky*, is one of my staple openings as White, when Black plays 1...d5 in response to my usual 1. d4. My next move is then 2. Bg5. Examples of the Trompowsky proper are given in games 53-59.

The merits of the 'Pseudo Tromp' include inhibiting the e-pawn, since the queen would then be taken if it moved to e6 on move 2, and the opponent may also not be very familiar with the opening. This win was a slendid 2nd round result for me, against Mr Feavyour graded 177.

Diagram comments: Black was foolhardy to snatch the innocent-looking d5-pawn, with all my pieces strategically positioned nearby! Black really needed to retreat his queen, either to e7 to maintain equality, or even better to e8, and White's advanced, ill-protected b-pawn will fall.

1.d4 d5
2.Bg5 Nf6
3.Bxf6 exf6

This usual move of mine exchanging my bishop for his knight, gives him the bishop pair at the expense of his awkward doubled f-pawns.

4.e3 Nc6
5.c4 dxc4
6.Bxc4 Bb4+
7.Nc3 O-O
8.Nge2 Qe7
9.O-O Bd6
10.a3 a6
11.Qc2 f5
12.g3 g6
13.Nd5 Qd8
14.Ba2 Kg7
15.b4 Ne7
16.Ndf4 a5
17.Qc3 axb4
18.axb4 Ng8
19.Bb3 Rxa1
20.Rxa1 Nf6
21.d5 Qe7
22.b5 Be5
23.Nd4 Ne4
24.Qb2 Qf6
25.Nfe2 Qd6
26.Kg2 Bd7
27.Bc4 Bf6
28.Qa3 Qe5
29.Ra2 Nd6
30.Nf3 Qe4
31.Bd3!

See diagram.

31... Qxd5??

See diagram comments above.

32.Nf4!!

The queen now has no escape.

32... Qxa2

If 32...Nxb5, 33.Qxf8+! White wins a rook.

33.Qxa2 Nxb5
34.Bxb5 Bxb5
35.Nd5 Bc6
36.Nxf6 Kxf6
37.Qb2+ Ke6
38.Qe2

I wonder why I didn't play the obvious 38. Qe5+ 38...Kd7, 39. Qg7 bagging a pawn in addition? Simple!

38... Ra8
39.Kh3 Bd5
40.Ng5+ Kf6
41.Qd2 c6
42.Qd4+ Ke7
43.e4 fxe4
44.Nxe4 Be6+
45.Kh4 g5+
46.Nxg5 b5
47.Qc5+ Kf6
48.Nxe6 Ra4+
49.Nf4
Black resigns.
1-0

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* A comprehensive book on this opening is by James Plaskett, '*The Queen's Bishop Attack*', published by Batsford Chess Books 2005.

GAME 42

Beyond the Stone Wall

White: **Gillian Moore** *Black*: **Malcolm Roberts**

Boniface 5-round morning Tournament
Devon Congress, Paignton
5th September 2012



Time to calculate

White to play 32. ?

GAME 42

Beyond the Stone Wall

White: **Gillian Moore** *Black*: **Malcolm Roberts**

Boniface 5-round morning Tournament
Devon Congress, Paignton
5th September 2012

QUEEN'S BISHOP ATTACK (PSEUDO TROMPOWSKY)

The annual Devon 'Paignton' Congress (now played at Torquay) consists of various tournaments for players of all grading bands, and with choices of morning or afternoon play. Every year I have been choosing the Boniface tournament, as games start at 9.30 am and finish by 1 pm at the latest, allowing me freedom for the rest of the day to enjoy my holiday in the Torbay area.

For 60 years the congress was played in the grand Oldway Mansion, Paignton, the former home of Isaac Singer of Singer sewing machines. I have written in detail about this ideal venue in my previous book of memoirs. It is a shame that the Devon Congress can no longer use Oldway Mansion with its glorious good looks set amidst flower beds, lawns and woods.

<u>Diagram comments</u>: Anxious to get rid of his queen for fear of being checked around, I swapped off queens with 32. Qxd7. This choice turned out really well, trouble-free. The obvious 32. Qxg6 might look stronger, as then White is doing the checking as well as picking up more pawns. However, I could not risk allowing the Black queen to penetrate my king's position from c6 or b7.

1.d4 d5
2.Bg5 h6
3.Bh4 Nd7
4.e3 Ngf6
5.Nd2 e6
6.f4 Be7
7.Bd3 c5
8.c3

Sweet freedom! Here with my pawns on c3, d4, e3 and f4, my dark-squared bishop on g5 is not blocked in by my pawn wall as in the Stonewall Attack opening starting 1. d4 d5, 2. e3 – see Games 52-53.

8... c4
9.Bc2 b5
10.Ngf3 Bb7
11.O-O Ng4
12.Bxe7 Qxe7
13.Qe2 O-O
14.Ne5 Ngxe5
15.fxe5 f6
16.exf6 Nxf6
17.e4 dxe4
18.Nxe4 Bd5
19.Rae1 Nxe4
20.Bxe4 Bxe4
21.Qxe4 Rxf1+
22.Rxf1 Rd8
23.a3 Rd5
24.g3 Qd7
25.Qf4 Rf5
26.Qb8+ Kf7
27.Rxf5+ exf5
28.Qe5 a6
29.Kf2 g6
30.Qh8 h5??

The seemingly innocuous losing move. For equality Black should play Qd5, penetrating on the long diagonal with counterplay (Qh1! is threatened).

31.Qh7+ Ke6

See diagram.

32.Qxd7+!

See diagram comments above.

32... Kxd7
33.h4!

I am holding back Black's 3 kingside pawns with my 2. In effect I was a pawn up – my passed d-pawn!

33... f4
34.gxf4 Ke6
35.Ke3 Kd5
36.Kf3 Kd6
37.Ke4 Ke6
38.d5+ Kd6
39.Kd4 Kd7
40.Ke5 Ke7
41.d6+ Kd7
42.Kd5 Kc8
43.Kc6 Kd8
44.d7

Black resigns.
1-0

GAME 43

The Hole in the Wall

White: **Gillian Moore** *Black:* **Steve Pitts**

Hampshire v Berkshire
Chiltern Chess League, Open team, Basingstoke
27th October 2012



Win a major piece!

White to play 11. ?

GAME 43

The Hole in the Wall

White: **Gillian Moore** *Black:* **Steve Pitts**

Hampshire v Berkshire
Chiltern Chess League, Open team, Basingstoke
27th October 2012

QUEEN'S BISHOP ATTACK (PSEUDO TROMPOWSKY)

This was a home match for my usual Hampshire team and accommodated at our then regular venue of the Basingstoke Chess and Bridge Club.

Black created such a hole in his king's house at g6, caused by the ugly f6 move (played in order to protect his queen from a marauding knight landing on e5), that it was so easy for any invader to spot and go after him. By simply castling 11. 0-0, I 'kindly' at least gave the poor king a chance to get out quick, so he went on quite a walkabout before his final surrender.

*Diagram comments: White had a chance to win material at once with **11. Ne5!!** If the queen moves to safety, White plays 12. Bg6 or 12. Qh5+ gaining at least a rook. If 11...fxe5, there follows 12. Bg6+ winning the queen. Or, the more obvious move 11. Bg6+ is almost as good as 11. Ne5.*

1.d4 d5
2.Bg5 h6
3.Bh4 Qd6
4.c4 b6

If 4...Qb4+ 5. Qd2. If then 5...Qxc4, 6. e3 Qc6, 7. Nc3 with good compensation for the pawn.

5.cxd5 Qxd5
6.Nc3 Qd7?

The Black queen would have been safer at either a5 or h5.

7.Nf3 f6
8.e3 Bb7
9.Bb5 c6
10.Bd3 e6?

See diagram.

11.O-O

See diagram comments above.

11... Qf7
12.Qc2 Ne7
13.Ne4 Kd7
14.Nc3 Kc7
15.Bg3+ Kc8
16.Rfd1 Nd7
17.Rac1 Kd8
18.h3

White has a faster way to build up an attack with either 18.d5 or 18.e4.

18... Rc8
19.a3 f5
20.Ne5 Nxe5
21.dxe5 Kc7?
22.Nb5+ Kb8
23.Nd6 Qh5
24.Nxc8

Winning the exchange, but a smarter move was 24. Be2! Qg6 (or Qg5), followed by 25. Nxb7! winning the bishop. Black would recapture the knight 25...Kxb7 at his peril, in view of 26. Ba6+ with more White conquests!

24... Kxc8
25.Bc4 Qf7
26.Rd2 c5
27.Qa4 Nc6
28.Rcd1 Be7
29.Bb5 Qe8
30.Rd7 Qxd7
31.Rxd7 Kxd7
32.Bxc6+ Bxc6
33.Qxa7+ Ke8
34.Qxb6 Bd7
35.f4 Kf7
36.Kh2 g5
37.Be1 h5
38.Qc7 Ba4
39.fxg5 Rg8
40.h4 Rd8
41.g6+ Kf8
42.Kh3 Bc2
43.Bg3 Be4
44.Be1 Rd3
45.g7+ Kf7
46.g8=Q+ Kxg8
47.Qxe7 Rxe3+
48.Kh2 Rxe1
49.Qxe6+ Kg7
50.Qf6+ Kg8
51.Qg5+ Kf7
52.Qd2 Rf1
53.Qe3 Rc1
and Black resigns.
1-0

GAME 44

Isolated and Backward Pawns

White: **Gillian Moore** *Black:* **Ben McManus**

Major Tournament, Hampshire Congress,
Eastleigh College
8th November 2014



Rounding upon the weak pawn.

White to play 15. ?

GAME 44

Isolated and Backward Pawns

White: **Gillian Moore** *Black:* **Ben McManus**

Major Tournament, Hampshire Congress,
Eastleigh College
8th November 2014

QUEEN'S BISHOP ATTACK (PSEUDO TROMPOWSKY)

Humans can find themselves in trouble when isolated and no one is around to help them when needed. Pawns are vulnerable too when deprived of their fellow pawns on adjacent files. For want of a good neighbour or nearby friend, a pawn on an adjacent file or a supportive piece, Black's isolated d-pawn became surrounded by enemies and was taken away.

If we walk in single file behind someone, we are limited by the movements of the person in front of us. My opponent's moves 21...g5 and 22...Kh7 were both positionally bad choices. Black's backward f-pawn lagging behind his neighbouring g-pawn, could also not be saved. Realising the further loss, Black resigned straight away.

1.d4 d5
2.Bg5 Bf5
3.c4 c6
4.cxd5 cxd5
5.Nc3 h6
6.Bh4 Nf6
7.Bxf6 exf6
8.e3 Bb4
9.Bb5+ Nc6
10.Nge2 O-O
11.O-O Rc8
12.Rc1 Ne7
13.a3 Bd6
14.Bd3 Bb8?

A reasonable move for Black is 14...Bxd3, 15.Qxd3 Qd7. Or he could try 14...Be6 or 14…Bd7 and 15...Bc6 overprotecting the isolated d-pawn. Also 14...Qd7 would help Black's defences better by at once clearing the way for a rook on d8 and protecting the bishop on f5.
See diagram.

15.Bxf5 Nxf5
16.Qb3!

Black will lose the b or d-pawn.

17... Qd6
17.g3 Rfd8
18.Nf4

Or, I could have captured the isolated d-pawn straight away on account of Black's back rank vulnerability. For example 18. Qxd5 Qxd5, 19. Nxd5 Rxc1, 20. Rxc1 Rxd5, 21. Rc8+ regaining the piece. The b-pawn was still vulnerable too.

18... Ne7
19.Ncxd5

The 'isolani' is captured!

19... Rxc1
20.Nxe7+ Qxe7
21.Rxc1 g5?
22.Nh5 Kh7?
23.Qc2+
Black resigns.

If Black had played on and moved his king to the back rank, White's admirable move 24. Qf5 would follow and the f6 pawn is lost.

1-0

GAME 45

Entertaining the Spectators

White: **Leslie Allen** *Black*: **Gillian Moore**

Southampton Club Championship
24th March 2015



Winning advantage

White to play 48. ?

GAME 45

Entertaining the Spectators

White: **Leslie Allen** *Black*: **Gillian Moore**

Southampton Club Championship
24th March 2015

QUEEN'S BISHOP ATTACK (PSEUDO TROMPOWSKY)

'Les' is a former Southampton club member, and was a valuable member of my Southampton B team. Sadly he has now passed away.

We always had good exciting games; this one was no exception. I've had a reputation to be the last to finish, and this game was one such. At the end of the club evening keen onlookers gathered around the board at a discreet distance; my peering club-mates enjoyed the spectacle.

Diagram comments: In this complicated position White's strongest move was **48. Qxb7** for an overpowering attack, whether Black replies 48...Nxb7 or 48...Qxb7, but he let go of his tight grip with his 48. Nb6+. My opponent came out of the ensuing carnage only slightly better at move 51. Alas for me, I then blundered due to the mad time scramble. The End.

Well-known principle: Watch the clocks to avoid being compromised by lack of thinking time!

1.d4 d5
2.Bg5 h6
It was interesting to be Black playing against my own 'Pseudo Tromp' opening that I play as White.
3.Bh4 c6
4.e3 Qb6
5.b3
My preference here as White is 5.Qc1, aiming to play c4 when suitable followed by queenside expansion.
5... e5
6.c3
If 6.dxe5, Qb4+ winning a piece. Les was much too smart to fall for this simple trap.
6... exd4
7.exd4 Bd6
8.Bd3 Be6
9.Nf3 Nd7
10.O-O Ngf6
11.Nbd2 g5
12.Bg3 Bxg3
13.hxg3 O-O-O
14.a4 Qc7
15.b4 Ng4
16.b5 c5
17.c4 Kb8
18.cxd5 Bxd5
19.Rc1 Qd6
20.Bf5 Ngf6
21.dxc5 Nxc5
22.Qc2 Ne6
23.Qc3 Nd7
24.a5 Rc8
25.Qb2 Ndc5
26.Ne5 Rhf8
27.Ndc4 Bxc4
28.Nxc4 Qd5
29.Ne3 Qb3?
29...Qd4 was the best defence.
30.Qe5+! Ka8
31.Rb1
Much better was 31. a6.
31... Qa4
32.a6 Rcd8
33.axb7+ Kxb7
34.Qc3 Qd4
35.Qa3 Qa4
36.Qc1 Rc8
37.Qb2 Rc7?
38.Ra1
38. b6 wins quickly.
38... Qd4
39.Qa3 Kb8
40.b6 Rb7
41.bxa7+ Ka8
42.Rfd1 Qb4
43.Qa2 Qb2
44.Qd5 Qb6
45.Nc4 Qc7
46.Rdb1 Rd8
47.Qf3 Nd4
See diagram.
48.Nb6+?
See diagram comments above.
48... Qxb6
49.Qxb7+ Nxb7?
50.Rxb6 Nxf5
51.Rf6 Rd7??
After somehow surviving the lengthy torture, I could have kept alive with the obvious 51...Nfd6.
52.Rxf5
Black resigns.
1-0

GAME 46

Impending Doom

White: **Gillian Moore** *Black*: **Mike Edwards**

Fareham A v Southampton B
Southampton Chess League
15th December 2015



Pawns can turn into queens!

Black to play 36...?

GAME 46

Impending Doom

White: **Gillian Moore** *Black*: **Mike Edwards**

Fareham A v Southampton B - Southampton Chess League
15th December 2015

QUEEN'S GAMBIT DECLINED, EXCHANGE VARIATION

This was an away match for my Southampton B team at the Fareham club, against their best A team that includes a FIDE Master. Luckily I didn't have to play that one.

After I had completely turned the tables on Mr Edwards, despite his being the exchange and a pawn up and his 30 grading point superiority over me—he was 169—the poor man was literally shaking with shock and the inescapable sense of impending doom. Upon losing the game he declared it to be, "An unbelievable game"! I take no pleasure in hurting a player personally, although I am naturally happy to get the better of his pieces. In a different situation I would rather offer him a cup of tea and a listening ear.

I always say that chess at serious level requires emotional self-control, as well as good, long mental concentration. It is easy to feel overconfident and relax our vigilance when a game is going our way. It is easy to feel hopeless when rolling downhill, and thus to stop the search for chances to climb back up or at least to stop any further decline. On this occasion I kept a cool head and a hopeful heart. I spied some good moves worth trying, and they worked very well indeed.

Diagram comments: Black made a mistake in exchanging queens with 36...Qxf6 thus allowing my e-pawn to promote. Black's best bet was to keep equal chances with either ***36...h5 or 36...Rxb2****.*

1.d4	Nf6	19.f4	Nxe5	34.Qf6	Rc2+
2.c4	e6	20.fxe5	Qg6	35.Kf1	Bd3+
3.Nc3	d5	21.Ref1	Bd7	36.Ke1	
4.cxd5	exd5	22.Be2?	Nxg3!	*See diagram.*	
5.Bg5	c6	*Clever. If 23. Kxg3, 23...f4+ wins.*		36...	Qxf6??
6.e3	Nbd7	23.Qb3	Nxf1	*See diagram comments above.*	
7.Bd3	h6	24.Rxf1	b6	37.exf6	Rgc7
8.Bh4	Be7	25.Bf3	Be6	38.f7	Rc8
9.Qc2	O-O	26.Qc2	Rf7	39.f8=Q+	Rxf8
10.h3	Re8	27.Ne2	Raf8	40.Rxf8+	Kg7
11.Nf3	Ne4	28.Ng3	g4	41.Rg8+	Kh7
12.Bxe7	Qxe7	29.hxg4	Qg5?	42.Ne4	h5
13.O-O	f5	30.gxf5??	Bxf5	43.Nf6+	Kh6
14.Rae1	Rf8	31.Qxc6	Rg7	44.e4	Rxb2
15.g3	g5	32.Bxd5+	Kh8	45.Bf7	Re2+
16.Kg2	Ndf6	33.Rf3	Rc8?	46.Kd1	Rf2
17.Ne5	Qe6	*This lets Black's big advantage slip away. 33...Qh4!! would have conquered me.*		47.Rg6#	
18.Rh1	Nd7			Checkmate!	
				1-0	

GAME 47

The Happy Pawn

White: **David Bell** *Black***: Gillian Moore**

Southampton Club Championship
8th November 2005



How to deal with the threatened rook

White to play 18. ?

GAME 47

The Happy Pawn

White: **David Bell** *Black*: **Gillian Moore**

Southampton Club Championship
8th November 2005

RÉTI OPENING, KINGS INDIAN ATTACK

Dave Bell, then graded 164, was the club champion, and this is the only time that I managed to beat him, and in style!

In chess as in life, material value is not the only worth. Happiness, health and potential count for a lot. In the opening, I let him have a pawn, continued developing and gained a good pair of bishops versus his bishop and knight. He soon had to give back his pawn, giving me an advanced passed pawn. I went on to win great deal more, although I admit to being 'lucky' as we both missed better moves.

Diagram comments: It was not good to allow Black to give check at b6. If I were White I would play 18. Rd5 getting my threatened rook active, and keeping my extra pawn.

"Pawns are the soul of chess" ~ Philidor

1.Nf3 d5
2.g3 c5
3.Bg2 Nf6
4.O-O Nc6
5.d4 cxd4
6.Nxd4 e5
7.Nxc6 bxc6
8.c4 Be7
9.Bg5 Be6
10.Nc3 e4
11.Qa4 O-O
12.Qxc6 dxc4?

12...Rc8 would have been stronger giving even chances.

13.Bxf6 Bxf6
14.Qxe4 Rb8
15.Qc2 Qa5
16.Rfd1? Bf5

I missed 16...Rxb2 for an immediate advantage.

17.e4 Bg4

See diagram.

18.f3?

See diagram comments above.

18... Qb6+?
19.Kh1 Qxb2
20.Qxb2 Rxb2
21.Nd5 Be6
22.Bf1 c3

The 'humble' pawn has big aims and the goal is within sight.

23.Nxf6+ gxf6
24.Rdc1 Rc8
25.a4 a5
26.Bd3 c2

My passed pawn has almost reached the heights of his endeavour.

27.Kg1 Rc3
28.Be2 Ba2
29.Kf2 Rb1
30.Raxb1 cxb1=Q

Happiness: the pinnacle of success! Who says that the pawn is the chessman of least value?

White resigns.
0-1

GAME 48

Rooks Roll Along

White: **Gillian Moore** *Black:* **John Rety**

British Seniors Championship, Great Yarmouth
5th August 2007



The Black queen is feeling exposed

White to play 35. ?

GAME 48

Rooks Roll Along

White: **Gillian Moore** *Black:* **John Rety**

British Seniors Championship, Great Yarmouth
5th August 2007

SLAV DEFENCE

There are times when I feel sorry for my opponent, and I did so for Mr Rety. As ever, with chess opponents, my malevolence was restricted towards his pieces. His loss to me was his third in a row. The score chart showed a result for him that resembles queenside castling (0-0-0)! I know how depressing this can be. The next day the disappointed player had withdrawn from the tournament.

I knew that my opening move 3. c5 was very unorthodox, but it was a change from hackneyed old lines. I came out of the opening well. I have actually never played it since, as I think that the more usual moves in this line of the Slav are objectively better.

After he grabbed my offered b-pawn on move 34, my magic rooks really came into their own. Rooks are mysterious pieces with a double identity. They look like castles and often behave as such, as in castling the king to safety. However, rooks can suddenly transform to a most contrasting role, rolling freely along ranks and files like chariots*. In this game, they certainly behaved as such and they contributed hugely to winning the game.

1.d4	d5	19.Qc2	Bd7	32...	Qxa5
2.c4	c6	20.b5	Rc8	33.Nac6	Qb6
3.c5	e5	21.a4	c5	34.Qd4	Qxb5
4.e3	Qc7	22.Ba2	c4	*See diagram.*	
5.Qc2	f5	23.Rfd1	Rcf8	35.Ra1!	Qb7
6.dxe5	Qxe5	24.f4?		36.Rb2	Qc7
7.Nf3	Qc7	*Weakens the squares, e3 and e4.*		37.Ra7	Qd6
8.b4	Be7	24...	Re8	38.Rb6	Qf8
9.Bd3	Bf6	25.Kf2	Qc5	39.Rbb7	Nf7
10.Bb2	Bxb2	26.N2f3	Qa3	40.Ne7+	Kh8
11.Qxb2	Nh6	27.Ne5	Bc8	41.Nxd5	Rd8?
12.O-O	O-O	*Better was 27...Nf7 pressuring white's limited control of the e-file.*		*41...Bxd5 and black lives on.*	
13.Nbd2	Nd7	28.Ndc6	Be6	42.Nd7	Rxd7
14.Rac1	Ng4	29.a5	Na4	43.Rxd7	Bxd7
15.Bb1	b6	30.Nxa7	Nb2?	44.Nxf6	gxf6
16.h3	Nh6	31.Rd2	Qxa2?	45.Qxf6+	Kg8
17.Nd4	Rf6	32.Qxb2?		46.Rxd7	
18.cxb6	Nxb6	*White should protect her a-pawn.*		Black resigns.	
				1-0	

* In chess, the word rook comes from the Persian word *rukh*, meaning a chariot. Chess as we know it originates from the ancient Indian strategy game of *chaturanga*, meaning four-armed. This refers to the four aspects of the ancient Indian army, in which the royalty had chariots, elephants, horsemen and foot soldiers. The foot soldiers have become the pawns, the horsemen are the knights, and the elephants have somehow turned into bishops!

GAME 49

Getting Even with One's Betters

White: **Gillian Moore** *Black*: **Mateusz Dydak**

Buckinghamshire v Hampshire
Chiltern Chess League, Open Team, Holmer Green
28th January 2012



What to do about that g-pawn.

Black to play 4...?

GAME 49

Getting Even with One's Betters

White: **Gillian Moore** *Black*: **Mateusz Dydak**

Buckinghamshire v Hampshire
Chiltern Chess League, Open Team, Holmer Green
28th January 2012

DUTCH DEFENCE, STAUNTON GAMBIT

Hampshire, my team, was away to Buckinghamshire for this match, and they out-graded us on various boards.

The classical move in the Staunton Gambit is 4. Bg5. This is the first time I played the aggressive 4. g4 Tartakower line of the Staunton Gambit. Mr Dydak, graded ECF 187, studied the board for at least 20 minutes before replying to my cheeky pawn move. His dilemma was what to do about that menacing g-pawn threatening to push his f6 knight back home?

Because of my being within the last 5 minutes to finish, the last few moves were not recorded. Due to dangerously hanging flags we agreed a draw, as better than one of us losing by a pesky flag drop!

Diagram comments: Also worth considering are any of 4...e6, 4...d5 or 4...h6. Examples of 4...h6 are given in the next two Games. I would not like to give a definitive answer as to which is best.

1.d4 f5
2.e4 fxe4
3.Nc3 Nf6
4.g4

See diagram.

4... c6

See diagram comments above.

5.g5 Nd5
6.Nxe4 d6
7.c3 Bf5
8.Bd3 Qd7
9.Ne2 Na6
10.N2g3 e6
11.Qe2 Bxe4
12.Nxe4 Nac7
13.Bd2 O-O-O
14.O-O-O Ne7
15.Bf4 Nf5
16.h4 Be7
17.Rde1 e5
18.Ng3 Nxg3
19.Bxg3 h6
20.g6 Rhf8
21.dxe5 dxe5
22.Bc4 Bd6
23.Bf7 e4
24.Rd1 Qe7
25.Qg4+ Kb8
26.Bxd6 Rxd6
27.Rxd6 Qxd6
28.Rd1 Qf6
29.Qxe4 Qxf2
30.Qd4

30. Qe5 was better. The passed pawn on g6 would augur very well for White after 30...Qxh4, 31.Qxg7. Black's h6 pawn would lose the passed pawn race!

30... Qxd4
31.Rxd4 Kc8
32.Kd2 Ne8?
33.Kc2?

White could have made much better progress with 33. Be6+ Kc7, 34. Rd7+ Kb6, 35. Rf7 Rh8 and Black's g-pawn will fall.

33... Nf6
34.b4 Kc7
35.c4 a5
36.b5 cxb5
37.cxb5 Nd7
38.Re4 Nf6
39.Rf4?

Another powerful attacking opportunity missed with White's rook on the 7th rank: 39. Re7+ Kb8, 40. Bb3 Rc8+, 41. Kb2 Rc7, 42. Rf7 etc.

39... Nd7
40.Ra4 b6
41.Re4 Kd6
42.Re6+ Kc5
43.a4. Kb4
44.Re4+ Ka3
45.Kd2 Nc5
46.Rf4 Rc8
47.Rc4 Rd8+
48.Kc2

Draw agreed some moves later.

1/2-1/2

GAME 50

Flamboyant Fun

White: **Gillian Moore** *Black*: **Michael Roberts**

Southampton Club Championship
22nd April 2014



A crucial decision

Black to play 32...?

GAME 50

Flamboyant Fun

White: **Gillian Moore** *Black*: **Michael Roberts**

Southampton Club Championship
22nd April 2014

DUTCH DEFENCE, STAUNTON GAMBIT

Michael is another former valued member of the Southampton club and my B team, who has now sadly passed away.

Gung-ho, off to battle we go! In this daring and double-edged game with both our kings on the run, I showed myself to be more dangerous than danger. Once again my fancy foxy Tartakower 4. g4 line made good.*

A player with a more cautious style who stood watching my play thought it to be "not much of a game". Really? I loved it and it worked, even finishing off with a pleasing queen trap! I realise that my flashy style of play here would not suit everyone, I had some oversights and my opponent missed stronger moves, but hey we are not grandmasters.

*Diagram comments: Black should have heeded his queen's danger. He would have done better to attack White's queen with **32...Na4** or even better, it seems, with **32...Ng4** immediately challenging the enemies intent upon dark doings!*

1.d4 f5
2.e4 fxe4
3.Nc3 Nf6
4.g4 h6
5.f3 d5
6.g5 hxg5
7.Bxg5 exf3?

This just played into my hands, allowing access to Black's vulnerable g6 square. Better for Black was 7...Nc6, 8. Qd2 Bf5,etc.

8.Qd3! f2+
9.Kxf2 Ng4+
10.Kg3 Qd6+
11.Bf4 Qc6
12.Bg2 Nf6
13.Qg6+ Kd8
14.Bf3 Bd7
15.Be5 Be8
16.Qd3 Nh5+
17.Kf2 e6
18.Nge2 Nd7
19.Bg3 Bd6

Development, the best way to take advantage of White's poorly defended king.

20.Bh4+ Kc8
21.Bg5 Rf8
22.Qe3 Nhf6
23.Ke1

White's king is running scared now, but is none too safe where he tries to hide!

23... Bb4
24.Kd1 Bg6
25.a3 Ba5
26.b4 Bb6
27.b5 Qc4
28.Rg1 Bf5
29.Bf4 g6
30.Rb1 Ba5
31.Rb3 Nb6
32.Ng3

See diagram.

32... Rh8??

See diagram comments above.

33.Nxf5! exf5
34.Be2!

The queen now has no escape from her captors.

34... Qxc3
35.Rxc3 Bxc3
36.Qxc3 Ne4??

Distracted by having just lost his queen, my opponent missed my immediate threat of checkmate at his c7.

And Black resigns.
1-0

* The Tartakower line of the Staunton Gambit is explained by GM Nigel Davies in the '*FOXY # 61 – Fighting Chess DVD Series: Dirty Tricks # 2'*, available from Chess and Bridge at https://shop.chess.co.uk/Foxy-Openings-DVDs-s/1827.htm

GAME 51

'Zugzwang': the Compulsion to Move

White: **Gillian Moore** *Black*: **Andrew Hill**

Buckinghamshire v Hampshire
Chiltern Chess League. Holmer Green
5th April 2008



Black's end is nigh!

White to move 27. ?

GAME 51

'Zugzwang': the Compulsion to Move

White: **Gillian Moore** *Black*: **Andrew Hill**

Buckinghamshire v Hampshire
Chiltern Chess League. Holmer Green
5th April 2008

STONEWALL ATTACK

I was playing for Hampshire county, as usual, and it was an Under 180 team away to Buckinghamshire. What journeys some of us keen players undertake for a game of chess!

The Stonewall Attack is opening that is easy to remember and play. The dark-squared pawns at d4, e3, f4 and c3 form a solid protective wall for White, and they afford a good grip on the centre.

If all goes to plan, key squares for White's pieces include: the king's bishop gets posted at d3 and the king's knight settles on the strong e5 square. White also aims for an e4 pawn break where desirable, opening up the power of his (or her) queen's bishop, temporarily hindered by the pawn wall structure, to join in the attack. All these features and many more are seen in this game.

*Diagram Comments: It was complex to work out, but Fritz tells me that **27. Ng5!!** would give White a winning advantage!*

1.d4 d5
2.e3 Nf6
3.Bd3 e6
4.Nd2 c5
5.c3 c4

This weakens Black's grip on the centre and helps White's e4 expansion.

6.Bc2 Nc6
7.f4 Be7
8.Ngf3 O-O
9.O-O b5
10.Ne5 Nxe5

My annoying knight is exchanged but my very useful f-file is opened up for rooks! My power potential continues.

11.fxe5 Ne8
12.e4 a5
13.Rf3 f5
14.exf6 ep Rxf6
15.Rxf6 Nxf6
16.e5 Nd7
17.Qg4 Nf8
18.Nf3

Opening up a double bishop battery against the kingside.

18... Qe8
19.Bh6 Ng6
20.Bd2 Ra7
21.Rf1 b4

A queenside counter-attack.

22.h4 b3
23.axb3 cxb3
24.Bd3 a4
25.h5 Nh8?
26.Bh6 Bf8?

See diagram.

27.Bc1

See diagram comments above.

27... Be7
28.Ng5 Bxg5
29.Qxg5 Rf7
30.Rxf7 Nxf7
31.Qh4 Qc6
32.Qe7 Bd7?
33.Bxh7+

Less obvious, 33. h6 wins a piece!

33... Kxh7
34.Qxf7 Be8
35.Qf3 Qd7
36.g4 Bf7
37.Kf2 Qe7
38.Kg3 g6
39.hxg6+ Bxg6
40.Qf6 Qxf6
41.exf6 Bf7
42.Kf4 Kg6
43.Ke5 Bg8
44.g5 Bf7?
45.Kd6 Bg8??
46.Ke7

Black has no move not ending in disaster. All hope is lost. He is in zugzwang.

Black resigns.
1-0

GAME 52

Play the Person, Not the Grade!

White: **Gillian Moore** *Black*: **Andrew Footner**

Premier Tournament, Devon Congress
Paignton
7th September 2009



Do not be pushed around!

Black to play 16...?

GAME 52

Play the Person, Not the Grade!

White: **Gillian Moore** *Black*: **Andrew Footner**

Premier Tournament, Devon Congress
Paignton
7th September 2009

STONEWALL ATTACK

I had to do some fresh thinking, as my opponent's play didn't allow my usual opening moves. For an example of how I played the Stonewall Attack opening the way I like, see the previous game 52.

My opponent played the opening well so as to counteract my usual Stonewall set-up—his 2...g6 immediately blunts the power of my anticipated d3 bishop attacking his king in due course, after he has castled kingside. After swapping off my good d3 bishop, I was left with my undeveloped 'bad' bishop compared with his good fianchettoed bishop. However I improved and by move 24 he was in serious trouble, then he blundered badly.

Mr Footner was graded 180, as opposed to my then modest 144, but I do not let myself be overawed by apparent big differences of playing strength. It would be over-imaginative to suggest that a grandmaster can be beaten by a patzer, but a reasonably strong club player has been known to beat a very strong club player as I sometimes do. Besides, don't worry, it can't be worse than fatal, ha ha!

<u>Diagram comments</u>*: White is thinking about pushing the knight back and gaining space with 17. d5, which is what was allowed to happen in the game. If I were Black, I would give a shove of my own with* ***16...d5,*** *pushing the white queen away and stopping White's central expansion nonsense! If the white queen goes 17. Qxd5, then Black regains the pawn with 17...Nxd4.*

1.d4 d5
2.e3 g6
Another way to interfere with White's Stonewall plan is by 2...Nc6, intending a nice freeing move 3...e5, and also Black can play 3...Nb4 attacking White's bishop if 3.Bd3 is played.
3.Nd2 Bg7
4.f4 Nh6
5.Bd3 Bf5
6.Qe2 O-O
7.Ngf3 Nc6
8.Bxf5 Nxf5
9.Nb3 Nd6
10.O-O f6
11.Nc5 Qc8
12.e4 dxe4
13.Nxe4 f5
14.Nxd6 exd6
15.Qc4+ Kh8
16.Bd2
See diagram.
16... Qd7
See diagram comments above.
17.d5 Ne7
18.Bc3 Rfe8
19.Bxg7+ Kxg7
20.Ng5 Rac8
21.Qd4+ Kg8
Black has trapped his own knight.
22.Rae1 c6?
22...c5 was necessary.
23.c4 cxd5
24.cxd5 Qb5??
25.Qf6!!
Black resigns.
1-0

<u>Remember</u>*: Play the person, not the grade. Grades fluctuate and can be deceptive. Every game is a fresh chance. Keep calm and go for it with aplomb!*

GAME 53

Bogey Player No More

White: **Gillian Moore** *Black*: **Chris Priest**

Southampton B v Passed Pawn B
Southampton Chess League
31st January 2012



Gaining momentum

White to play 16. ?

GAME 53

Bogey Player No More

White: **Gillian Moore** *Black*: **Chris Priest**

Southampton B v Passed Pawn B
Southampton Chess League
31st January 2012

TROMPOWSKY ATTACK*

What used to be called the Passed Pawn club is now the Hamble club. This was a home match at Southampton club for my Southampton B team against Hamble B.

Chris is a friend and colleague who kindly gives me lifts to committee meetings and matches. He is currently the President of the Hampshire Chess Association, Vice-Chairman of the Southampton Chess League and was a teammate for Gosport in the Portsmouth and District Chess League; Gosport has withdrawn its team from competition this current season.

As an opponent, for years Chris always beat me. Here I got him at last, and fear was a thing of the past. The spell is broken; there is no bogey. After his unwise queen move, 15...Qd6, his position collapsed and I soon had him all tied up and 'tromped'. Nothing personal of course!

1.d4 Nf6
2.Bg5 h6

Black wasted a tempo as I was likely to capture the f6 knight anyway in order to double his f-pawns. More usual moves here are any of 2...d5, 2...e6, 2...Ne4 or 2...c5.

3.Bxf6 gxf6
4.e3 d5
5.c4 c6
6.Nc3 e6
7.g3 Bg7
8.cxd5 cxd5
9.Bg2 Nc6
10.Nge2 Bd7
11.O-O Rc8
12.Nf4 Rg8?
13.Rc1

Black is hoping to keep the centre closed whilst attacking down the g-file. However, logical for White was now 13.e4! breaking open the centre leaving Black's king vulnerable.

13... Ne7
14.Qb3 Bc6
15.Bh3 Qd6?

Better for Black would have been 15...Qb6 or 15...f5.
See diagram.

16.Nb5

The e6 pawn is pinned against the rook on c8, so 16.Ncxd5 and 16.e4 are both good alternatives.

16... Bxb5
17.Qxb5+ Kf8?

17...Qd7 was necessary, although 18. Rxc8+ Nxc8, 19. Qc5 Nd6, 20. Qxa7 for example, and White still has the advantage.

18.Rxc8+! Nxc8
19.Qxb7 Nb6
20.Rc1 Qe7
21.Rc7 Qe8
22.a4

White threatens to push the b6 knight away followed by a fatal white queen check at b4. There is no defence against material loss, at least.

Black resigns.
1-0

* The main books I have on this attacking repertoire are:

~ by Richard Palliser, '*Starting Out: the Trompowsky attack*', Gloucester Publishers plc 2009 (formerly Everyman Publishers plc).
~ 'by Richard Pert, *Playing the Trompowsky: An Attacking Repertoire*', Publishers Quality Chess UK, first edition 2013

GAME 54

A Pleasing Finish

White: **Gillian Moore** *Black*: **James Nicolson**

British Seniors Championship, Torquay
9th August 2013



Threat and counter-threat

Black to play 39...?

GAME 54

A Pleasing Finish

White: **Gillian Moore** *Black*: **James Nicolson**

British Seniors Championship, Torquay
9th August 2013

TROMPOWSKY ATTACK

Mr Nicolson twice offered me a draw, but I played on as an even-looking position is not the same thing as a draw.

Fortunately for me, my opponent made a bad choice on move 38, and an even worse one on move 39 in a tricky position that was easy to trip up over. His position then fell to pieces with a pleasing finish for me.

1.d4 Nf6
2.Bg5 Ne4
3.h4 d5
4.Nd2 Nd6

Black probably didn't like the alternatives of either exchanging his knight for my bishop on g5, giving me a nice semi-open h-file, or allowing me to exchange knights.

5.e3 Nc6
6.Ngf3 h6
7.Bf4 Bf5
8.c3

Preventing a mischievous black knight appearing on my b4!

8... e6
9.Ne5 Ne7
10.g4 Bh7
11.Bg2 f6
12.Nef3 Qd7
13.Qe2 O-O-O
14.Nb3 Ne4
15.Nfd2 Nxd2
16.Kxd2 Nc6
17.Bg3 Bd6=

I refused the draw offer hoping for better things to come.

18.Bxd6 cxd6
19.Rac1 Rhe8
20.f4 Be4
21.Bxe4 dxe4
22.Kc2 Kb8
23.Kb1 b6
24.h5 f5
25.g5

White can gain space with a promising centralised knight: 25. gxf5 exf5, 26. d5 Ne7, 27. c4 Rf8, 28. Nd4.

25... Ne7
26.c4 Rc8
27.Rhd1 Qb7
28.Qd2 Red8
29.Qg2 Rg8
30.c5 dxc5
31.dxc5 Nd5=
32.Qd2 Rgd8
33.cxb6 Rxc1+
34.Rxc1 axb6
35.Nd4 Rd6
36.Rc2 Qd7
37.gxh6 gxh6
38.Rc4 b5?

This unwise move allowed fresh air to circulate into the stuffy position! 38...Kb7 or 38…Ka8 would have kept equal chances.

39.Rc5!

See diagram.

39... Nxe3??

Black might have survived with either 39...b4 or 39...Kb7, although White would still have the upper hand.

40.Qa5! Nc4

If Black succumbs to the temptation of taking the knight with 40...Rxd4, he is punished with the loss of his queen after 41. Rxb5+.

41.Rxb5+ Nb6
42.Rxb6+ Rxb6
43.Qxb6+ Kc8
44.Qxe6
Black resigns.
1-0

GAME 55

Lion-Hearted, I Was Not

White: **Gillian Moore** *Black*: **Robin Williams**

Southampton Club Championship,
28th March 2017



Better than a perpetual check.

White to play 17. ?

GAME 55

Lion-Hearted, I Was Not

White: **Gillian Moore** *Black*: **Robin Williams**

Southampton Club Championship,
28th March 2017

TROMPOWSKY ATTACK

Apart from being a valued member of my club B team, Robin does a lot for chess. He holds office as both treasurer and webmaster of the Southampton Chess League. He is also one of the organisers of the annual Southampton Rapidplay tournament.

After this game he declared that he was "busted". However, I didn't have the confidence of finding the right continuation as the position looked cluttered and complex. Besides, I was in the lead in the club championship, and couldn't afford to lose. I thought it prudent, therefore, to force the draw. On reflection, I was faint-hearted wasn't I?

Diagram comments: Oh Gillian, fancy your offering a draw in this position! You clearly should have played on with ***17. Qc6*** *giving you a distinct advantage, or even better* ***17. Ndc4!*** *Bxd6; 18. Nxd6 and so on for a winning game.*

1.d4 Nf6
2.Bg5 e6
3.e4 h6
4.Bxf6 Qxf6

I am prepared to give up my bishop for his knight in this line after my 3.e4 (if he replies 3...h6), knowing that his queen will not be well-placed on f6, as shown here.

5.Nf3 c5
6.e5 Qg6

Alternatively Black could have retreated his queen, 6...Qd8.

7.Qd3 f5
8.Nbd2 Na6
9.c3 b6
10.d5 d6?
11.O-O-O

White could have played 11. Qb5+ Kd8, 12. Qc6 Rb8, 13. exd6 exd5, 14. Bxa6 Bxd6, 15. Bxc8 and White emerges a piece up.

11... Nc7
12.exd6 Nxd5?

This should lose quickly.

13.Ne5! Qf6
14.Qb5+! Kd8
15.Nc6+

White is attacking with just two pieces whilst there are another 4 at the back just waiting for their chance to join in! 15. Ndc4 g6, 16. Qc6 Rb8, 17. Rxd5 Rh7 etc.

15... Ke8
16.Ne5+ Kd8

See diagram.

17.Nc6+=

See diagram comments above.

Draw agreed.
1/2-1/2

GAME 56

Seizing the Moment

White: **Gillian Moore** *Black*: **Peter Dallas**

Major tournament, Castle Chess Congress
Fareham
30th September 2017



Go after that king!

Black to play 33...?

GAME 56

Seizing the Moment

White: **Gillian Moore** *Black*: **Peter Dallas**

Major tournament, Castle Chess Congress
Fareham
30th September 2017

TROMPOWSKY ATTACK

Maybe I was foolish to castle kingside, allowing the opponent to marshal his forces down the files at my trembling king in his crumbling castle, but Black with inadvertent kindness allowed me to defend myself. Our endgame play left something to be desired, I suspect due to the time control.

Diagram comments: The move that Peter played unshackled my chains, and the position looked even chances. Sometimes the obvious move is the best—Black should have seized the chance of realizing a won game with ***33...fxg3,*** *and further very strong moves would present themselves!*

1.d4 Nf6
2.Bg5 b6
3.Nd2 Bb7
4.Ngf3 c5
5.e3 cxd4
6.exd4 h6
7.Bxf6 gxf6
8.c3 Nc6
9.Bd3 Qc7
10.Qe2 e5?

This gives Black a backwards d-pawn; a long-lasting structural disadvantage.

11.d5 Ne7
12.c4 Bg7
13.Nh4 O-O-O
14.Ne4 d6
15.Qg4+ f5
16.Nxf5 Nxf5
17.Qxf5+ Kb8
18.Qg4 f6
19.Ng3 Rdg8
20.Qe2 Bc8
21.Qc2 Bf8
22.O-O h5
23.Nf5 h4
24.g3?

More potent was 24. a4 or 24. b4 starting my own aggression towards Black's king.

24... Rg5
25.Rab1 Rhh5
26.Ne3 Bh3
27.Rfe1 hxg3
28.fxg3 f5
29.Bf1 Bxf1
30.Nxf1 f4
31.b4 Qg7
32.Qe4 Rh3
33.Rb2?

White should play 33. Rb3 for more protection to her king. See diagram.

33... Qh6?

See diagram comments above.

34.Rg2 fxg3
35.Rxg3 Be7
36.Qg2 Rgxg3
37.Nxg3 Bg5
38.Nf5 Qh5
39.Qe2?

White should play 39. Rf1 for a distinct advantage. The text should lose a piece after 39...Qg6, 40. Ng3 Bh4, and so on.

39... Qxe2
40.Rxe2 Kc7
41.Rg2 Rh5
42.b5 Bf6
43.Ng3 Rh4
44.Rc2 e4?

Black should be playing for a draw with his passed e4-pawn counter-balancing the h-pawn. This advance will just lose it.

45.Kf1 Bd4
46.Kg2 Rf4
47.Re2 e3
48.Nf1 Rf2+?

Black needs to keep his pieces.

49.Rxf2 exf2
50.Nd2 Kd7
51.Ne4 Bc5?
52.Nxf2

Taking the bishop first would have won more quickly!

52... Ba3
53.h4 Ke7
54.Kf3 Kf6
55.h5 Bc5?
56.Ne4+! Ke5
57.Nxc5 bxc5
58.a4 Kf5
59.a5 Kg5
60.b6
Black resigns.
1-0

GAME 57

The Octopus Grip

White: **Gillian Moore** *Black*: **Robin Atkins**

Southampton B v Winchester A
Southampton Chess League
28th November 2017



Watch out, there's an octopus about!

Black to play 21...?

GAME 57

The Octopus Grip

White: **Gillian Moore** *Black*: **Robin Atkins**

Southampton B v Winchester A
Southampton Chess League
28th November 2017

TROMPOWSKY ATTACK

My usual Southampton B team was hosting the visiting team, Winchester A, at our club.

I had been reading about how fine a square d6 can be for a white knight, with its 'tentacles' all around the enemy like those of an octopus. So, I aimed for it, did it and my 23. Nd6+ move led to the win!

Diagram comments: If I were Black I would prevent that 'octopus' knight from getting too near me. There might be other ways to do it, but I would play ***21...f5*** *to stop the White knight from getting up close and personal on d6 via the e4-square.*

1.d4 Nf6
2.Bg5 Ne4
3.h4 h6
4.Bf4 d6
5.Nd2 Bf5
6.Nxe4 Bxe4
7.f3 Bh7
8.e4 Nd7
9.e5

Perhaps premature? Some players might prefer to develop more pieces first before this central advance, but I didn't want Black to challenge me with his own 9...e5.

9... dxe5
10.dxe5 e6
11.Bd3 Nc5
12.Bxh7 Qxd1+
13.Rxd1 Rxh7

The black rook is out of play here. He will be missed back home by his king and fellow rook.

14.Ne2 Be7
15.Nc3 c6

Conceding control of the d6 square to White. 15...a6 would be the better way to prevent a white knight landing on b5.

16.g3 Rd8
17.Ke2 Rxd1
18.Rxd1 g5
19.Be3 b6?
20.h5 Nd7
21.f4

See diagram.

21... Rg7?

See diagram comments above.

22.Ne4 f5?

Black could try 22...gxf4 for instance.

23.Nd6+ Bxd6

Had Black ignored the 'Octopus' knight and played 23. Kd8, White would still gain material starting with 24. Nxf5, followed by 25. e6.

24.Rxd6 gxf4
25.Bxf4 Ke7
26.Rxc6 Nb8?
27.Rc7+ Kf8??
28.Bxh6

What a lovely finish!

Black resigns
1-0

GAME 58

The Poisoned Plan

White: **Gillian Moore** *Black*: **Simon Pearson**

Southampton Club Championship
12th December 2017



Stand firm oh king!

Black to play 37...?

GAME 58

The Poisoned Plan

White: **Gillian Moore** *Black*: **Simon Pearson**

Southampton Club Championship
12th December 2017

TROMPOWSKY ATTACK

We have all heard of poisoned pawns, but what about a poisoned plan? I had one and, alas for my opponent, he swallowed it after which his king didn't feel very well! He should have stood tall and firm where he was, not wandered off.

By playing 37...Kf4, Black thinks that after I capture his e-pawn his king can go after my h-pawn with 38...Kg3. Alas for my opponent, I had provoked him into this line of thought, the folly of which he discovered immediately afterwards to his horror.

1.d4 Nf6
2.Bg5 g6
3.Bxf6 exf6
4.e4 Bg7
5.Bc4 O-O
6.Ne2 d6
7.O-O f5

A sound strategic plan by Black to get rid of his doubled f-pawns and open up the power of his king's bishop.

8.exf5 Bxf5
9.c3 Nc6
10.Ng3 Qf6

If I were Black, I would keep the bishop pair advantage by retreating the bishop to 10...Bd7.

11.Nxf5 Qxf5
12.Bd3 Qd7
13.Nd2 d5
14.Qf3 Rfe8
15.b4 Nd8
16.Rfe1 c6
17.Qg3 Ne6
18.Rad1 Qc7?
19.Qxc7

What a simple oversight! I could have won the knight with 19. Rxe6 for a clear and easy advantage!

19... Nxc7
20.a4 Re6
21.Rxe6 Nxe6
22.g3 f6
23.f4 Kf7
24.f5 Nc7
25.Re1 Re8
26.Rxe8 Nxe8
27.h4 Bh6
28.Nb3 Nd6
29.fxg6+ hxg6
30.Kf2 Ne4+?

Better is 30...f5, with a good grip on e4 in preparation for posting his knight there.

31.Bxe4 dxe4
32.Nc5 e3+
33.Ke2 b6
34.Nd3 Ke6
35.g4?!

35.c4 was the move to play, keeping the black king from penetrating through the queen-side where White has a winning preponderance of pawns. E.g. 35. c4 Kf5, 36. Kf3 Ke6, 37. Nf4+ Kf7, 38. Kxe3 and White should win.

35... Kd5
36.Nb2 Ke4
37.Nd1

See diagram.

37... Kf4?

He could have retained parity with any of 37...a6, a5 or b5.

38.Nxe3 Kg3?
39.h5!!

If 39...gxh5, 40. Nf5+ wins the bishop and endgame

Black resigns.
1-0

GAME 59

The More Bizarre the Better?

White: **Gillian Moore** *Black*: **David Ross (Snr)**

Portsmouth v Southampton
Portsmouth and District Chess League, Cole Cup
21st March 2018



Black's bishop has the fidgets

Black to play 7...?

GAME 59

The More Bizarre the Better?

White: **Gillian Moore** *Black*: **David Ross (Snr)**

Portsmouth v Southampton
Portsmouth and District Chess League, Cole Cup
21st March 2018

TROMPOWSKY ATTACK

This Portsmouth and District League knockout tournament was played at the Portsmouth club. Our Southampton team travelled there.

My move 3. h4 looks strange, but it is the Trompowsky expert GM Julian Hodgson's creative choice and he has had a very high rate of success with it. I thought that one irregular move like that 7...f6, creating a pothole, could be met with some of mine: my subsequent kingside pawn storm.

I know it is against the usual guidelines for opening play, to push pawns up before hardly developing any pieces. The wisdom we all learned about good opening strategy still holds good, but the results of the game show that there can be exceptions to the rule. In this case, in view of his kingside weaknesses, I mused "the more bizarre the better"!

*Diagram comments: The black bishop had a sense of unease, but Black would have done better with either **7...e6** or **7...h6** to secure the bishop's safety. With either of those reasonable moves, I would probably have replied 8. g4 to push his bishop back somewhat, but would then certainly continue with normal, good development.*

"Learn the rules like a pro so that you can violate them like an artist" ~ Picasso

1.d4 Nf6
2.Bg5 Ne4
3.h4 d5
4.Nd2 Nxg5
5.hxg5 Bf5
6.e3 Nd7
7.f4

See diagram.

7... f6?

See diagram comments above.

8.g4 Be4
9.Nxe4 dxe4
10.g6

Playing g6, if suitable, is one of the aims of this line of the Trompowsky where Black has captured the g5 bishop and thus opened the h-file for White.

10... h6
11.Bg2

Black is very weak on the white squares now. Also promising would have been the obvious 11. Bc4 threatening checkmate and causing a breach of the peace.

11... f5
12.gxf5 Nf6
13.Bh3

A wasted tempo. I was overcautious about defending my f5 pawn or my g4 square. His e4 pawn is weaker. Better was 13. Ne2 Qd5, 14. Ng3 c6, 15. c3 0-0-0, 16. Qc2 Kb8, 17. Bxe4 and White is 2 pawns up, for instance.

13... Qd5
14.Ne2 O-O-O
15.Nc3 Qa5
16.a3 c5
17.O-O cxd4
18.exd4 Qb6
19.Na4 Qxd4+

Black should not be exchanging queens even though it corrects the nominal material imbalance. With his bishop and rook trapped on the back rank, he is effectively 2 pieces down.

20.Qxd4 Rxd4
21.Nc5 e5
22.Ne6 Be7??

22...Bd6 was the move.

23.fxe5!

Much better than winning the exchange with 23.Nxd4, when Black gets some counterplay with his central pawns.

Black resigns.
1-0

GAME 60

Houdini

White: **Kevin Sawers** *Black*: **Gillian Moore**

Major Tournament, Hampshire Congress
Eastleigh College
4th November 2017



Black is done for

White to play and win 30. ?

GAME 60

Houdini

White: **Kevin Sawers** *Black*: **Gillian Moore**

Major Tournament, Hampshire Congress
Eastleigh College
4th November 2017

VIENNA GAME

Kevin is a fellow member of my Southampton club, where he currently holds the office of Secretary.

In this game, how could I become an amazing escape artist after being roped, weighted down and thrown into deep water, so to speak? This was a delightful finish for me, albeit distasteful for my opponent, in the last round of the Hampshire Congress.

*Diagram comments: When I tried coming up for air, so to speak, on move 29...Qg5, imagine my relief when my opponent let me breathe by swapping off queens, when he could have easily pushed me back under again with **30. Rfg6+!** whereupon would follow 30...Qxg6, 31. Bxg6 fxg6, 32. Rxg6+ with a distinct advantage to White!*

1.e4 Nf6
2.Nc3 e5
3.g3 Bb4
4.Bg2 O-O
5.Nge2 Nc6

In the light of later turn of events, d6 was better now or soon, supporting the centre and giving Black more options for piece development.

6.O-O Re8
7.d3 h6
8.a3 Be7
9.f4 Bc5+
10.Kh1 Ng4
11.Qe1 Ne3
12.Bxe3 Bxe3
13.Nd5 Bc5?

This poor move invited a storm of misfortune to howl at me. His pawns and pieces started battering my position. Better was 13...exf5 followed by retreating my bishop 14...Bb6.

14.fxe5 Rxe5
15.b4 Bb6
16.Nxb6 axb6
17.Qf2 Qe8
18.d4 Re7
19.Nc3 d6

At last, but it is a bit too late.

20.b5 Nd8
21.Nd5 Rd7
22.Qe3 Ne6
23.Rf6

Flashy, but there were many better moves.

23... Qd8
24.Rxh6 c6
25.Nf6+ gxf6
26.Rf1 Qf8
27.Rfxf6 Qg7
28.Bh3 Rc7

White has not been finding the best attacking moves and Black has been defending without making a mistake. Now the errors start creeping in with both players.

29.Bf5 Qg5?

29...Nf8 was Black's best kingside defence here, unravelling my bishop and with my rooks ready to 'rock and roll'. Lively tactics with chances both sides would ensue.
See diagram.

30.Qxg5+?

See diagram comments above.

30... Nxg5
31.Bxc8 Rcxc8
32.Rxd6? Rxa3

Black has survived the attack with a material advantage.

33.Rd7?? Ra1+

33...cxb5 immediately was a much more effective way to win, but the good result counts more than the speed of it.

34.Kg2 cxb5
35.Rxb7 Rxc2#
0-1

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