

INTRO

I'll be off to Hamburg next week to make a couple of DVD's with my friends at Chessbase, so this column is appearing a little early. As usual, if you have any comments or suggestions you are welcome to post them at the relevant section of the English Chess Forum:

<http://www.ecforum.org.uk/viewforum.php?f=41>

□ **Bosboom, Manuel**

■ **Gurevich, Mikhail**

Corus-B Wijk aan Zee (10) 27.01.2001

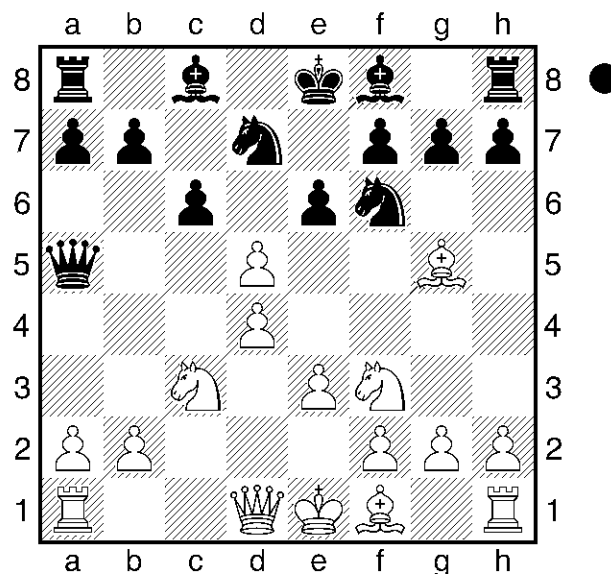
CATASTROPHE

One of the upcoming DVD's will feature the Queens Gambit Declined, where I'll be focusing amongst other lines, on the Cambridge Springs. I was surprised whilst researching this solid variation just how many traps there are for White to avoid. **1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 e6 5.Bg5 Nbd7 6.e3 Qa5 7.cxd5**

(Diagram)

One of the main lines, but not especially dangerous for Black. As usual in the Queens Gambit, it's the development of his queenside pieces that gives Black a headache. Gurevich is attentive to this situation and shows the correct way. **Nxd5 8.Qd2 Bb4 9.Rc1 h6! 10.Bh4 c5! 11.e4**

A00



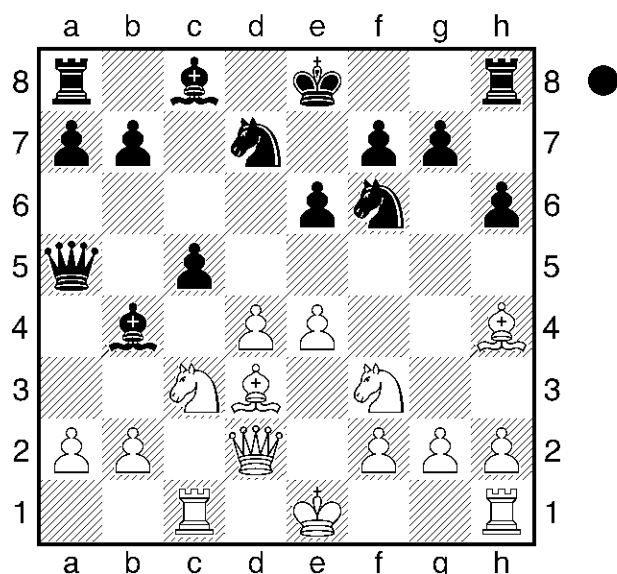
[11.Bd3 b6 12.a3 Bxc3 13.bxc3 Bb7 14.c4 Qxd2+ 15.Nxd2 N5f6 16.0-0 Rc8 sees Black's idea in full flow with the queenside pieces coming into the action. 17.a4 0-0 18.a5 Rfd8 19.axb6 cxd4 20.exd4 Nxb6 21.Nb3 Ba6 22.Bxf6 gxf6 23.Ra1 Bxc4 24.Bxc4 Rxc4 25.Rxa7 Rb4= Andonovski, L (2270)-Miljkovic, M (2442)/Plovdiv 2009]
[Meanwhile 11.a3 Bxc3 12.bxc3 b6 is another popular continuation.]

11...N5f6 12.Bd3??

(Diagram)

It's amazing that such a natural move might lose, but lose it does! Basically, White cannot switch on autopilot mode against the Cambridge Springs in any variation and that is what makes this line ideal for club players. **g5!** Believe it or not, White is losing a piece! **13.a3**

[13.d5 is nowhere near good enough; it's just another desperate try: gxh4 14.dxe6 fxe6 15.0-0 e5 16.Nxh4 Nf8 17.f4 c4 18.fxe5 Ng4 19.Bc2 Qxe5 20.Ba4+ b5 21.Bxb5+ Qxb5 22.Nxb5 Bxd2 23.Nc7+ Kd8



24.Nxa8 Be3+ 25.Kh1 Bxc1
26.Rxc1 Bb7 0-1 Alcon Herrero,J
(2073)-Gomez Anadon,D (2222)/San
Jose 2003]

[13.Bg3 g4 14.Ne5 cxd4-+]

13...Bxc3 14.Rxc3 gxh4 15.dxc5
h3! Gurevich has iron technique and
therefore wraps up the game in a
professional manner. **16.0-0 Qc7**
17.Rfc1 Ne5 18.Qf4 Nxf3+ 19.Qxf3
Qe5 20.c6 Rg8 21.Qxh3 bxc6
22.b4 Bd7 23.Rc5 Qf4 24.g3 h5
25.Qg2 Qd2 26.Qf3 h4 Eliminating
his possible isolated pawn weakness
by using the pawn as a battering ram
to weaken White's King position.
27.Ba6 Qh6 28.Bb7 Rd8 29.Rd1
hgx3 30.hgx3 Rh8 31.Qg2 Nxe4!
32.Qxe4 Qh2+ 33.Kf1 Qh1+

Once the queens come off and the
Rooks are exchanged on d1, theres a
discovered check which picks up the
Bishop on b7.

These days Mikhail Gurevich is very
active as a prominent trainer, working
with the newly-established FIDE
Training Commission. In my opinion
this is an organisation which should be
fully supported by all chessplayers.
To learn more, visit: <http://trainers.fide.com/trg-council.html>

fide.com/trg-council.html
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2741
2680
2nd London Chess Classic (5) 12.12.2010

There are two important, interlinked
components which help a competitor to
keep in form. You have to play a lot
and you have to play with inspiration.
Don't underestimate the second item
on the shortlist. Without inspiration it's
easy to become jaded and results can
nosedive at this point.

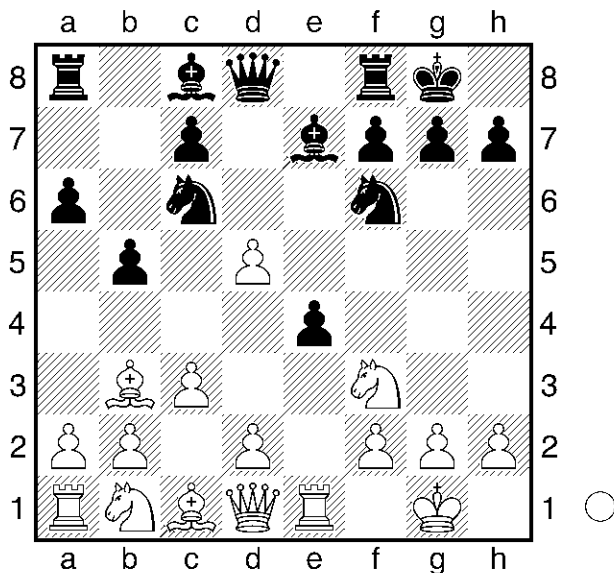
I've only had the opportunity to visit the
London Chess Classic once, which is a
great shame as it is a wonderful event.
Malcolm Pein and his team have
provided the British chess community
with a much-needed shot in the arm.
Whilst there, I couldnt help but notice
that Nigel Short seemed to be lacking
inspiration and at this level, any
weakness is going to be exploited.
Perhaps he has been travelling too
much, perhaps he feels the onset of
the ageing process, perhaps he has
unseen difficulties, I don't know. The
coming game is indicative of his loss of
form. You just can't get away with sub-
standard lines against world-class
opposition.

Now it would be easy to say that Nigel
is playing to please the crowd by
adopting all manner of old-fashioned
romantic openings. But for the time
being, I dont think he quite believes in
himself at this level. The openings are
an attempt to mask this lack of
confidence.

But his form and self-belief will return;

of that I am convinced. He is a fantastic player.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 0-0 8.c3 d5 9.exd5 e4?!

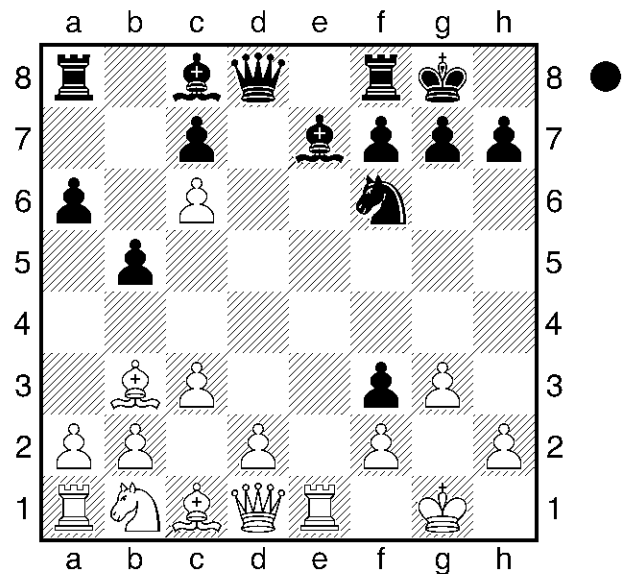


The Herman Steiner variation, considered very dubious, but of course, very unclear. It takes a great player like Nakamura to expose it.

10.dxc6 exf3 11.g3!?

[Instead, after 11.d4 Black also has it all to prove: fxg2 12.Qf3 Re8 13.Bg5 a5 (13...Bg4 14.Qxg2 Bh5 15.Nd2 Qd6 16.Re5 Bg6 17.Rae1 Kf8 18.Bh4 Ng8 19.Bg3 Qf6 20.Ne4 Bxe4 21.Qxe4 Qg6 22.Qe2 Rad8 23.d5 f6 24.Bc2 Qf7 25.Re6 Rxd5 26.Bb3 Rg5 27.Re3 1-0 So,W (2669)-Shukuraliev,A (2376)/Guangzhou 2010) 14.Nd2 a4 15.Bc2 Be6 16.Rxe6 fxe6 17.Qh3 g6 18.Re1 Qd6 19.Rxe6 Qd5 20.Nf3 Bd8 21.Rxf6 Bxf6 22.Bxf6 Rf8 23.Bxg6 hxg6 24.Qh8+ Kf7 25.Qg7+ Ke6 26.Qe7+ Kf5 27.Nh4+ Kg4 28.Qe2+ Kh3 29.Qe3+ 1-0 Shirov,A (2726)-Lahno, K (2488) /Benidorm 2008]

Different. Both 11 d4 and 11 Qxf3 are



more common. Instead of surprising Nakamura, the ball is now on the other foot. White's plan is win the pawn on f3 at his leisure and remain a solid pawn up. Black, as usual in the Marshall, must look to development to compensate him.

It's very easy to see why 11 g3 has been more or less ignored for so long. It's a ugly move which seems to expose weak light squares around the White King. But Short never even gets to close to getting in. **11...Re8 12.d4** [12.Qxf3 Bc5]

12...Bg4 13.Bg5 h6

[13...Qd6 14.Qd3 h6 15.Bxf6 Bxf6 16.Nd2 Qxc6 17.Qg6 Be6 18.Qh5]

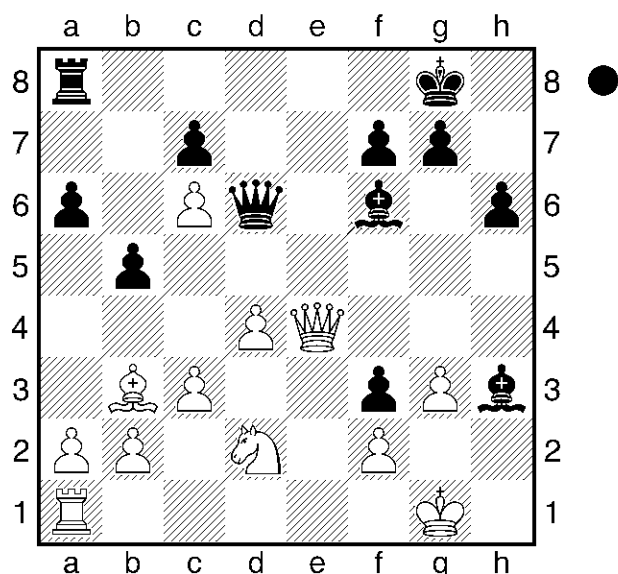
14.Bxf6 Bxf6 15.Nd2 Qd6 16.h3!

Very good timing. Far from helping Black, the pawn on f3 is simply getting in his way! **Bh5**

[Or 16...Rxe1+ 17.Qxe1 Bxh3 18.Qe4! which is an effective centralization

(Diagram)

] [16...Bxh3 17.Qxf3+-]
17.Qc2 Bg5 18.Ne4 Qxc6



[18...Qg6 19.Qd3 intending Bc2, is very good for White.]

19.Nxg5 hxg5 20.Qf5 Rxe1+

[20...Qg6 21.Qxg6 Bxg6 22.Bd5]

21.Rxe1 Re8 22.Re5! Control of the position is what all strong chessplayers desire and this is what 22 Re5! gives to Nakamura.

[22.Rxe8+ Qxe8 23.Qe5 Qxe5 24.dxe5 might give Black some drawing chances.]

22...Rxe5 23.dxe5 Bg6

[23...Qg6 24.Qxg6 Bxg6 25.Bd5]

24.Qxg5 Qe4 25.Qd8+ Kh7 26.Qh4+ Qxh4 27.gxh4 f6

[27...Bh5 28.Kh2 Kh6 29.Kg3 mops up, with the help of Bd1xf3.]

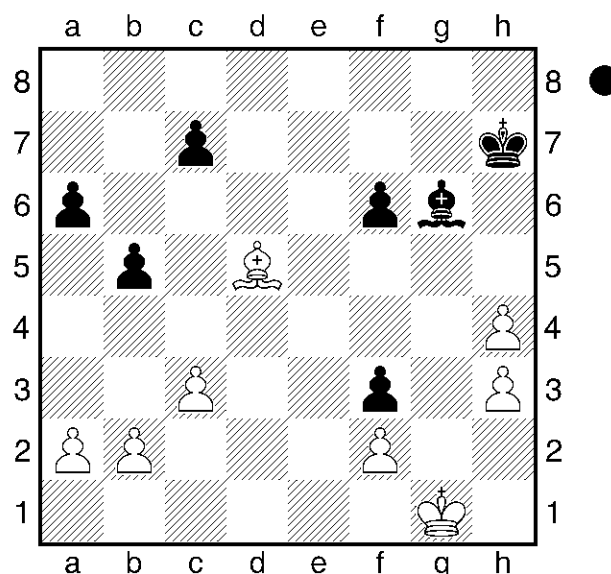
28.exf6 gxf6 29.Bd5

(Diagram)

You could say that this was the culmination of White's plan which began with 11 g3. **a5 30.b4 axb4 31.cxb4 Bd3 32.Kh2 Bc4 33.Be4+** [33.Bxf3 Bxa2]

33...Kh6 34.a3 Easy does it.

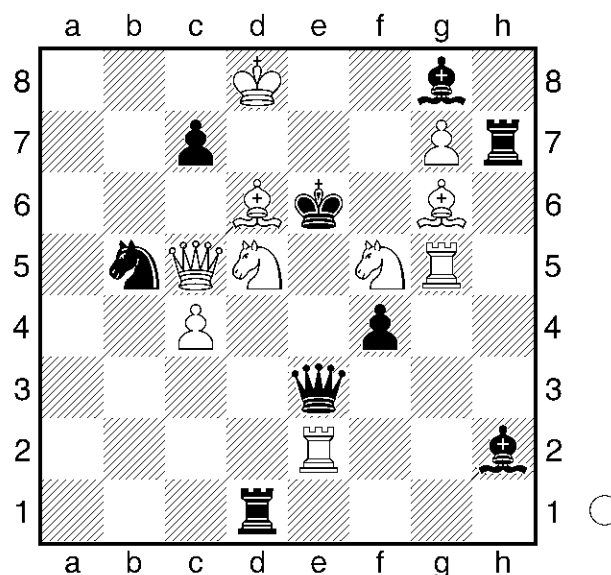
You may have wondered who this fellow Herman Steiner was. Here's the info : <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>



Herman_Steiner.

1-0

MIGHTY MINDS 2011



David Brown 1972 White to play and mate in two.

Mike Basman has introduced a problem-solving competition for kids alongside the UK Chess Challenge; a very welcome development. He has circulated some promotional literature and the problem above is one of four

puzzles kids are asked to try to solve as a preliminary exercise.

I found this pretty difficult,so God knows what the average 8 year old is going to make of it. I suppose it could be an actual game position between two little kids, come to think of it.

The solution next time and NO CHEATING by switching on the analysis engine. Anyone can do that.

For more information go to: <http://www.theproblemist.org/> or contact Basman at : 7 Billockby Close, Chessington, Surrey, KT9 2ED