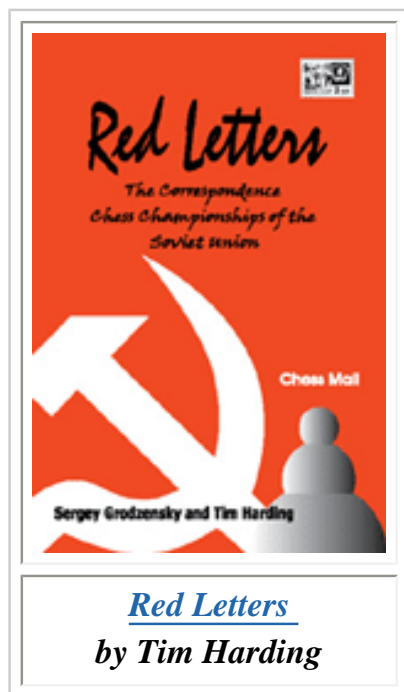




COLUMNISTS

The Kibitzer

Tim Harding



Red Letters
by Tim Harding

Queens of Chess: Not Deadlier than the Male?

I have noticed an increase in interest in the topic of women's chess in the last year or two. A lot of the old writing on the topic of women and chess proceeds from a common assumption that females are "obviously inferior" to males at chess, with the main question therefore arising: why should this be? Until the 1960s, hardly any women had even reached international master strength. According to Jeremy Gaige's *Personalia*, the historical ELO of the strongest pre-WW2 female player Vera Menchik was just 2350, though she was capable of playing better than this at her best (maybe high 2400s?).

The (unisex) grandmaster title was awarded to Nona Gaprindashvili in 1980, though she hadn't formally completed her qualification (the rules were being changed). The next women's world champion Maia Chiburdanidze followed in 1984, but it was only with the rise of the Polgars and the Chinese that there emerged a significant crop of strong-IM/GM female players and even now only Judit Polgar has made it into the world top ten.

In correspondence chess the situation was similar. Female participation, at least until recently, has been low with some of the women only competing in female-only events. A couple of scandals involving men masquerading as female to play in women's events have not helped and (in a parallel with Judit Polgar in FIDE events) the strongest female player, Olita Rause, refuses to play for the Women's CC World Championship, which she would probably win comfortably. However, it should be mentioned that Mrs. Luba Kristol of Israel (twice women's world champion at correspondence chess) also qualified for and played in a (unisex) world championship final.

Not only have women rarely reached the heights in competition, their contributions to chess theory and literature also appear rather slight and their games tend not to be considered of particularly high quality either, again speaking of the pre-Polgar years. However, I have not investigated this thoroughly. Maybe some readers can give me examples of important opening novelties discovered and played by women players? Again, there have been some notable female chess problem composers (e.g. Mrs. Baird in England in the late 19th century) and women involved in chess journalism and

organisation, but they have tended to be overshadowed by the men. In correspondence chess there have been several women who played significant roles in organising clubs and tournaments: most notably the late Bertl von Massow in ICCF.

Of course there were, in all historical periods since the mid-19th century, far fewer women than men playing chess: but was this cause or effect? There is now quite a lot to be found about women's chess on the Internet, some of it posted by women, and I have been doing some researches of my own. The more you look into it, the bigger the subject becomes, so this article can only skim the surface.

Next month I propose to write about the first women's international tournament, held in London in 1897, and later in the year I shall return to this topic, giving readers an opportunity to send in feedback. Meanwhile I am also planning a "Women in Correspondence Chess" special issue of my *Chess Mail* magazine, which will appear in the Fall.

It is hard to choose a starting point for this article. Probably as good as any is the recent discussion in *British Chess Magazine*, in the *Quotes and Queries* series now being edited by Chris Ravilious. Last year (August 2004 issue, page 442) he ran an item numbered Q&Q 5684 which stimulated some responses and the column has since returned to this point.

As Chris wrote, the first ladies-only chess club appears to have been the Penelope Club in Kennington, South London, founded in late 1847 but probably only lasting a few months. Then there was a club in the Philadelphia suburb of Germantown, founded 1864, followed by the Ladies College Chess Club in London circa 1879-81, in which the members of the Down family were prominent, but that club had a mixed membership. Later the Rev. G. A. MacDonnell observed that the club closed because all the unmarried members found husbands.

The doings of the Ladies College CC were frequently reported in the chess column of *BRIEF: The week's news* written by Francis C. Collins. For example on 24 January 1879, I read:

CHECK-MATE

We have heard a stern chess-player remark that "many ladies liked and practised the game of chess with gentlemen opponents, but that the ladies were not sufficiently appreciative of this mental exercise to practise it with each other." There are a few who have this mistaken idea, and the lady chess-player does not care to which sex her opponent belongs, her greatest desire being a hard-fought and well contested game. The Misses Rudge frequently played together at chess, and now a chess match is being played between Miss H. C. and

*F. Down, in which the latter has won five and the former two games.
The winner of first seven games to count as victress.*

On May 9 the same year, Collins reported that on 29th April, W.N. Potter played a “mixed doubles” simul at ladies CCC in Holborn, eight games in each of which a lady was paired with a gentleman. He won 7 and lost 1 (to Miss Rosch and Mr. H. F. Down). Among the spectators were Blackburne, Zukertort and Mason.

John Richards, from Bristol, has been researching the life of one of the sisters mentioned above, Miss Mary Rudge, winner of the aforementioned London tournament, and he has made some interesting discoveries, especially about the part of her life spent in the Bristol and Clifton area. He kindly sent me a draft of an [article](#) that can be found on the Internet.

At the time I saw this article it only included nine of Mary Rudge’s games, some of which he obtained from *Chess Notes* that had some items on Mary Rudge a year or so ago. As Richards wrote, there are certainly more to be found and you can see two further ones below. I am concentrating on her visits to Ireland and her correspondence chess activities; my researches into these are ongoing and I am not ready to write about them yet.

The next ladies’ chess club seems to have been in New York (founded 1894), followed by London (1895) and Manchester.

Richards then asked *Quotes & Queries* which was the first club to admit women as subscribing members. If we disregard possible 18th century precedents, the answer (as Richards believed) is that it possibly was the Bristol & Clifton club, which voted to admit women as associates in 1872. The City and County of Dublin Chess Club could have been first, as it formed a special committee to consider the matter in 1867. However, as A. A. Luce’s history of the club reports (on page 7): “after a debate the club resolved that, ‘It would be an innovation to admit Lady members to a chess club, and as the Club was so recently established, it would be better to decide the question in the negative.’ Beneath the diplomatic wording one detects a wistful undertone,” Luce remarked.

The fact that the Dublin committee thought it would be an “innovation” tends to support the case in favour of Bristol. However this is inconclusive, as I don’t rule out discovering evidence of mixed membership at a chess club in a mechanics’ institute or literary institute somewhere in England at an earlier date. Also, Jackie Levy has found some other references (mentioned in *BCM* recently) to women involved in chess matches prior to 1872, but they aren’t conclusive as to whether they were members of clubs.

But should Purssell’s be disregarded? After I pointed out a reference from

Sergeant's *A Century of British Chess* to Ravilious, he commented rather sniffily in the December 2004 *BCM*: "...But how relevant are observations about 18th-century coffee house culture to the very different ethos of the 19th-century chess club?"

I am no expert on the eighteenth century, but I would have thought the whole point of Parsloe's was that it was formed (partly with the objective of providing an income and stage for Philidor) by a select group of people as a place where you had to be a member to be admitted, as opposed to a coffee-house where anyone could walk in. When Philidor returned to England in 1872 he found the circle of chess players who used to frequent Slaughter's in St.Martin's Lane has transferred to the Salopian in Charing Cross. There was then a new migration to Parsloe's with a restricted membership of 100 and a subscription of three guineas.

It seems to me therefore that Parsloe's was a true club, and anyway there was no single "ethos of the 19th-century chess club" as they varied tremendously between those with permanent premises and club servants, those which were open daily but attached to some other middle-class institution (such as the St George's Club in its glory years at the Polytechnic) and those which just rented a room for an evening or two, perhaps in a town hall or public library.

By the way, Ravilious mentions that "Benjamin Franklin's friend Mrs. Howe" was a member of Parsloe's. She was the sister of a politician, Lord Howe, and her chess meetings with Franklin (who was in London as a representative of the American colonies) were used as cover by the two men. They provided an informal channel of communication between the colonists and a faction in the Westminster government that hoped to change the misguided policy that led to the American War of Independence. When they were unsuccessful, Franklin went to Paris. Willard Fiske wrote a good account of this and I should like to know if anyone has done more research on Franklins European expedition and chess career in recent times.

Inadequate Book on this Topic

In the March 2005 issue of *BCM*, the *Quotes & Queries* column returned to the topic of women's chess again, reminding readers of the excellent article on women's chess in the September 1981 *BCM* by Jackie Eales, who is the sister of GM Raymond Keene (actually the byline in 1981 was Jacqueline Levy, as she was then Mrs. David Levy). This article is still well worth reading, but more recently she has written an as yet unpublished conference paper that those of us interested in this topic are eagerly awaiting. She wrote to me: "I gave a paper about women chess players at Royal Holloway College, London University about 3 or 4 years back at a conference on women and brainpower, but this was very much an attempt to integrate women's chess into a wider historical framework of attitudes towards women in the past. I hope to publish this at some point."

The item in the March 2005 *BCM* ended with these words from Chris Ravilious: "...isn't it time we had an authoritative book-length history of women's chess?" – whereupon John Graham (in *BCM*'s May 2005 issue) reminded *BCM* readers that he had already written one, *Women in Chess: Players of the Modern Age* published in 1987: "I would like it to be known that the women had supporters even twenty years ago."

In fact I came across this book some time ago, but I re-read it for this article, and a rather disappointing and inaccurate work it is too, apart from the fact that recent developments have made it seriously out of date. So the operative word in Chris Ravilious's call for a new book must be "authoritative." I don't know if Mrs. Eales is interested in writing such a book; she would perhaps be the best-qualified person to do so right now.

Indeed, one of my worries would be that some publisher would be tempted to commission another quick pot-boiler from some random IM in search of a book contract, whereas what is really needed is a solidly researched and detailed book that would take some years to do properly. Certainly this would be an excellent inter-disciplinary PhD topic for someone, covering areas in psychology, sociology and history.

The problems with the Graham book are on several levels. Even when it came out, it wasn't well received, the *BCM* for June 1987 (page 240) pointed out that the mixture of game scores in algebraic and descriptive notations suggested a "scissors and paste" production. The *BCM* reviewer (probably Bernard Cafferty, who was then editor) pointed out that some statistics which Graham said were "not known" had been published in Bob Wade's *Soviet Chess* in 1968 and that the Israeli player Alla Kushnir (who lost three women's world championship matches) was from Moscow, not from Georgia as implied in the book.

I doubt if the author was happy with *BCM*'s description of this volume as a history of women's chess. Graham said he was not really writing a history book as it "with a few exceptions, speaks of women who are in active play, some of whom have not reached their peak..." However, the really big breakthrough for women's chess (with Judit Polgar and Xie Jun in particular) was still over the horizon; Judit was not even a teenager when he was writing. So he wasn't wrong to say that women's chess was improving, but the book came out a little too early to cover the Polgar phenomenon properly.

The most reliable part is the middle section, from Vera Menchik to Nona Gaprindashvili and Maia Chiburdanidze, but even here Graham leaves some things out. For example, Menchik's main rival Sonja Graf is cursorily dismissed, but recently some good research on her has been published. A much-travelled German player, who spent some time in Ireland and Argentina, Ms. Graf ended up in Hollywood married to an American. (For

details see the articles by Michael Negele in the German magazine *Karl* and by Jennifer Shahade in *New In Chess* 7/2004.) I recently came across a postal game by Sonja Graf, which I shall be reprinting in my *Chess Mail Ladies'* Issue. Graf was not in the same class of play as Menchik, but she had a very interesting life.

I noted some other flaws in the Graham book myself. For example, writing about leading British women players of the post-WW2 period (before the Sheila Jackson generation), he mentions "Pat Sunnucks and Rowena Bruce" but not Eileen Tranmer or Elaine Pritchard who were at least as important. (Ms. Sunnucks, whom I played on a couple of occasions in tournaments, is in fact usually known as Anne, though Patricia was indeed her first name according to *Personalia*.)

On page 48 there is a reference to Leonard Barden writing in the *Manchester Guardian* in 1984; the title of this newspaper had become the *Guardian* at least a decade earlier and was published in London long since. On page P42 there are references to women's Olympiads in 1981 and 1983 (but the correct even-numbered dates are given on p70). The early section dealing with the pre-20th century era mentions Frideswide Beechey and Mrs. Rowland without making the connection that this was actually one individual (although that was clear in the *BCM* article by Jackie Eales which Graham cited as a source).

So casual and sloppy is this book, in fact, that I was surprised to find that it was published by McFarland, who nowadays are recognised to be the most historically reliable publisher of quality chess books in the English language. I don't want to go on at any further length about this book, but I hope I have made it clear that anyone tackling this subject anew must do it from the ground up and not take anything they see in Graham as gospel.

A more interesting, and much more recent work, is Marilyn Yalom's *Birth of the Chess Queen*, a popular history which mainly deals with the mediaeval period. (Yalom's previous books include *History of the Wife* and *History of the Breast*). Her aim, broadly, is to find a link between the increased powers of the queen in Renaissance/modern chess with social changes affecting women, and she examines literary and archaeological evidence (including design of chess sets etc.) that have a bearing on this topic. I am not sure she fully makes her case, but certainly anyone writing a new book on women's chess would have to take her thesis on-board. However, Yalom is not really writing about recent times and has little to say on 19th and 20th century chess.

Not having that book in-hand today, I am unsure whether it includes the following nice quotation from the 18th century. The August 1794 issue of *The Sporting Magazine* included an account of the *Origin of the Game of Chess*, translated from the French of M. Frevet. When he came to the

increased powers of some pieces in the modern game he wrote (page 257):

The constraint upon the lady of chess was displeasing to our forefathers. They looked upon it as a sort of slavery, more suitable to the jealousy of the Eastern people, than to the liberty which the ladies have always enjoyed amongst us. They extended therefore the steps and prerogatives of that piece, and in consequence of the gallantry so natural to the Western people, the lady became the most considerable piece of all the game.

And a little further on the same page, M. Frevet notes an absurdity in promotion rule, that a soldier could be promoted to vizir, first minister or general “but if the fierge be a lady or a queen or the king’s wife, by what odd metamorphosis does the pawn change his sex, and become a woman that was a soldier before?”

“Why can’t a Woman be More Like a Man?”

This was the complaint of Professor Higgins in *My Fair Lady*. In the chess context, I can quote another sentence from that *BCM* review of Graham’s book: “The mystery of why women play worse than men is investigated once again.”

There are many ways of approaching this question. One of them, in this post-Polgar era if we can call it that, is to directly challenge the principal assumption and say that they don’t necessarily play worse than men. Judit Polgar has risen very high in the chess hierarchy and would have beaten Kasparov in a famous game if the latter hadn’t got away with cheating (changing his move after he had let go of the piece.)

In correspondence chess, Olita Rause from Latvia also got into the world top five and could conceivably have become world champion had she not been trying to raise two teenage daughters and earn a doctorate at the same time. So, given that females represent quite a small percentage of the total number of people involved in competitive chess, the fact that in the past 20 years they have come close to producing the top player in both modes of competition is not bad at all. The real question should therefore be, why don’t more of them play? If 50% of all chess players were female, then one would certainly expect some female world champions to emerge, and maybe we shall see that happening in the 21st century even though the percentage of women players will probably never be anything like 50%.

All kinds of reasons can be given, and have been given, to explain the “achievement gap” that existed between men and women (with a few exceptions like Menchik and Gaprindashvili) until recent years.

Here are some generic possibilities (some of these points may be related to

one another); just because I state them here does not imply I agree with them!

Maybe:

- Women don't play chess (or don't play as well as men) because their brains work differently, i.e. male brains are better at a type of reasoning needed for chess, women's brains are better at other things; or
- Because their hormones make them less aggressive (which could be manifested in style of play, opening choices etc.) and/or less consistent performers; or
- Because they don't have an Oedipal desire to kill the king (GM Reuben Fine's Freudian theory in a nutshell – does anybody take such stuff seriously these days?); or
- Because they just don't see the point of the game (see for example the recent Joanna Trollope novel *Brother & Sister* where one, male, character is a chess-obsessive.); or
- Child-bearing and child-rearing holds them back; or
- Daughters aren't given the same early introduction and training in the game as sons (though the Polgar parents are an obvious exception here); or
- Girls didn't have female chess role models (well now they do, but not a generation ago); or
- Potentially strong women players are held back by playing in female-only events and for female master titles, where the standard required for success is lower; or
- A woman could play socially, but not go to the clubs, coffee-houses and "divans" where men honed their skills in a sea of a tobacco smoke (in the 19th century especially); or
- Serious, let alone professional, chess-playing was considered an unsuitable occupation for a woman.

That is probably not a complete list of reasons/excuses that have been suggested!

I think that in recent years social and gender-stereotyping theories have been preferred to the old-fashioned psychological type of argument, and that in the last few years the arguments are starting to evolve around the first point. Can it perhaps really be true that the female brain differs from the male brain in some way that gives men an advantage for chess? Or is such a theory considered to be "politically incorrect?"

It is complicated by arguments such as that of Cambridge researcher Simon Baron-Cohen, who is studying autism. He claims (see the *Guardian* of Thursday April 17, 2003) that "the female brain is predominantly hard-wired for empathy, and that the male brain is predominantly hard-wired for

understanding and building systems.” However he also finds a “balanced brain” and that some males have female brains and vice versa. Very confusing!

A more recent [paper](#) available on the Internet is *The Difference Between the Male and Female Brain* by Mark Kastleman.

However the aims of his research appear different from Baron-Cohen’s as this article is mostly about pornography and differing emotional and sexual responses between the genders.

There is a reference to the Polgar sisters in the [article](#) *Male vs. Female Brain: Aptitude and Intelligence* by Edward T. Babinski.

English chess player Ruth Sheldon, writing in the weekly *New Statesman* last month (23 May) said: “In the swirl of media hype surrounding the number puzzle Sudoku, one surprising fact has gone unnoticed - the large numbers of women and girls who are confessing to the addiction. As a female player competing in the chauvinistic world of chess, I find this genuinely exciting.”

I also looked for relevant material in some sources that aren’t generally available on the Internet unless you have access through a subscriptions service at a university library or similar research institute. For example, I see that Harry Milburn Turner wrote a 1971 psychology thesis at the University of Georgia, USA, *On An Experiment To Alter “Achievement Motivation” In Low-Achieving Male Adolescents By Teaching The Game Of Chess*.

Unfortunately no abstract is available, but doesn’t the title say it all? In 2005, I doubt if anyone could get this topic accepted at a university because it excludes the gender dimension by concentrating solely on males.

By comparison, Terry L. Anderson wrote his Ph.D. thesis in 2004 on *The relation between gender, age, giftedness, and chess activity and attention in middle school students*.

I haven’t read the thesis thus far, but I gather from the thesis abstract that he didn’t find any significant gender differences yet did find differences between the school students with respect to age and giftedness (I don’t know how he defined the latter).

I also noted that, in the field covered by Marilyn Yalom’s book, Dr. Jenny Adams wrote her 2000 University of Chicago Ph.D. thesis on *Gender, play, and power: The literary uses and cultural meanings of medieval chess in thirteenth and fourteenth centuries*. If Dr. Adams and Dr. Anderson and Mr. Anderson are reading this article, will they please contact me?

In the final chapter of Graham's book, he criticised British chess organiser Louise McDonald for saying women players have special needs, saying "It is unfortunate that these ideas persist even among those doing their best to help the cause of women's chess." Unfortunately, though he printed a long quotation from Ms. McDonald, he gave no source reference. Perhaps opinion is moving back to her point of view?

I should be interested to receive up-to-date serious references to any scientific papers dealing with this issue, or with sociological and psychological approaches to the problem.

More Internet References

About the 19th century American player [Mrs. Ellen Gilbert](#) (née Strong).

About the mid-20th century US ladies' champion [Gisela Gresser](#).

I found a British Women's Chess Association [website](#), but on closer inspection it was written in 2003...

Likewise Claire Summerscale's [article](#) as BCF Directory for Women's Chess, which is another well-meaning initiative gone by the wayside, it seems.

Also googling "Women's Chess," I found a [blog](#) (Mig Greengard's ChessNinja.com) writing about the last Women's World Championship contest (2004).

He points out that the tactical style of play and level of errors in top-level female events proves nothing about women's play as such, but is typical of that level of play (circa 2400 ELO) whatever the gender of the persons playing. These games can be more exciting than the safety-first games of 2600+ grandmasters.

Mary Rudge in Action

I conclude with two rediscovered games by Mary Rudge, among several that I have found in recent weeks by working through old newspaper columns in libraries.

Miss Mary Rudge – Mr. T. Harries

Bristol-Clifton club match, England, 11 June 1889

Italian Game (C57)

Notes based on those by T. B. Rowland in the Dublin Evening Mail of 20 June 1889.

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bc4 Bc5 4 0–0 Nf6 5 Ng5

A departure from the old line. Mr. Felden, playing for Bristol, in a match against Rev. W. Wayte, for the St. George's, continued as follows: 5 d3 d6 6 Bg5 h6 7 Bh4 g5. This line has also been frequently played by Steinitz with success.

5...d5 6 exd5 Nxd5 7 Qf3 Qxg5 8 Qxd5 Qe7 9 Bb5

This opening is of an exceptionally lively kind, and reflects much credit on the fair opponent. Her ninth move gains a decided advantage.

TH: I wonder would that be the modern view?

9...Qd6 10 Bxc6+ bxc6 11 Qf3 f5

11...0-0 followed by ...h6 – if the opportunity permits – is safer. The text move exposes the king to danger.

12 d3 0-0 13 Nc3 Be6 14 Be3 Bd5 15 Qe2 Bb6 16 f3



16...f4

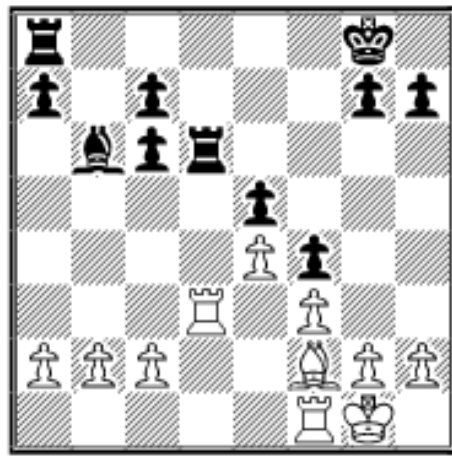
TH: tempting, but possibly a mistake, giving White access to e4. I slightly prefer Black prior to this.

17 Bf2 Rf6 18 Ne4 Bxe4 19 dxe4 Rg6 20 Qc4+ Qe6

Offering to exchange thus is altogether to White's advantage.

21 Qxe6+ Rxe6 22 Rad1 Rd6 23 Rd3

TH: White now proceeds methodically to exploit her opponent's queenside pawn weaknesses.



**23...Rad8 24 Rfd1 Bxf2+ 25 Kxf2 Rd4
26 Rxd4 exd4 27 Ke2 Kf7 28 Kd3 Ke6
29 Kc4 Ke5 30 Rd3 Rd6 31 Ra3**

It is White's game from this point onwards.

31...g5 32 Rxa7 Rd7 33 a4

33 Kc5 would have given a speedier victory.

TH: presumably White did not want to calculate the complications of 33...d3.

**33...h5 34 b4 g4 35 Ra5+ Kd6 36 Rxd5 Rg7 37 Rf5 gxf3 38 gxf3 Rg2 39
h4 Rxc2+ 40 Kxd4 1-0**

Miss Mary Rudge – Mr. W. D. Gwynne

Bristol & Clifton v South Wales London, 1892

French Defence (C01)

Dublin Evening Mail 10 March 1892; notes possibly from the Cambrian, a Swansea paper.

A LADY CHAMPION'S GAME. The following game was played at Newport in the recent match between Bristol and Clifton v South Wales, which the former won by 30 games to 20. This was the first contest in which Miss Rudge has taken part against South Wales.

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 exd5 exd5 4 Bd3

4 Nf3 is considered better.

4...Nf6 5 Bg5

Contrary to the spirit of the opening.

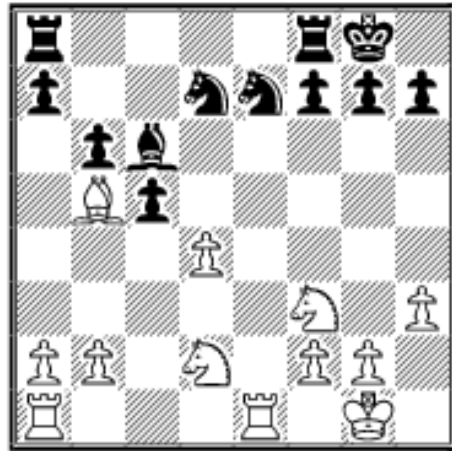
5...Be7 6 h3 Be6 7 Nd2 Nfd7 8 Bxe7 Qxe7 9 Qe2 0-0 10 Ngf3 b6

10...c6 would be stronger, as the effect of throwing these pawns forward will be to weaken this side. Perhaps Black thought the game looked dull; and the Welsh mind likes excitement, whereas apparently Bristol players seek a quiet game.

11 0-0 c5 12 c4

This move seems quite congenial to her style of play.

12...Nc6 13 cxd5 Bxd5 14 Qxe7 Nxe7 15 Bb5 Bc6 16 Rfe1



16...Bxb5

We should have preferred KR to K sq.

TH: But 16...Rfe8? (Rowland) loses two pieces for a rook: 17 Rxe7 Rxe7 18 Bxc6.

17 Rxe7 Nf6 18 dxc5

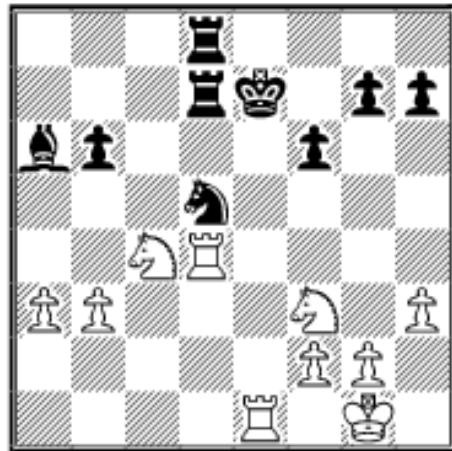
Now or never.

18...Nd5

Black loses a pawn. No discredit, however, against such a steady player as Miss Rudge is known to be.

19 Re5 Rad8 20 cxb6 axb6 21 a3 Bc6 22 Nc4 Rd7 23 Rc1 Bb7 24 Rd1 Rfd8 25 Ree1 f6 26 Rd4 Kf8 27 Red1 Ke7 28 b3 Ba6 29 Re1+

White establishes herewith an advantage in position by driving back the king.



29...Kf7 30 Nfd2 Bxc4 31 Nxc4 b5 32 Ne3 Nxe3 33 Rxd7+ Rxd7 34 Rxe3

All these changes are against Black, and should have been avoided.

34...Rd1+ 35 Kh2 Rd2 36 Kg3 Rd5 37 Kf3 Rd6

It would have been better to play there at once.

38 Ke2 Re6

Under a misapprehension that he could draw, but there was a better chance by keeping the rook.

39 f4 Rxe3+ 40 Kxe3 Ke6 41 Kd4 Kd6 42 g4 g6 43 h4 h6 44 a4

This brings matters to a speedy termination.

44...Kc6 45 axb5+ Kxb5 46 Kd5 1-0

The lady champion has played in her best style and well deserves the victory over her strong opponent.

We shall see more of Mary Rudge's games next month when I discuss her triumph at London 1897.

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