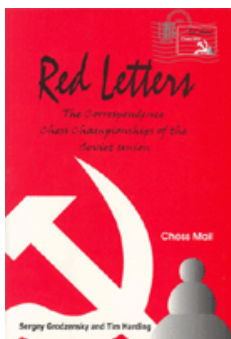




COLUMNISTS

The Kibitzer

Tim Harding



CHESTHEATRE

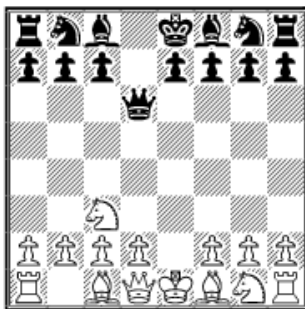
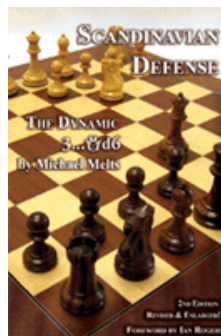
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New Chess Books for Spring

Many years ago, Michael Melts, a Ukrainian master who emigrated to the United States, wrote an article for my magazine *Chess Mail* about his pet line in the Center-Counter. He later developed it into a book and now the second edition is out: *Scandinavian Defense: the Dynamic 3...Qd6* by Michael Melts (Russell Enterprises; ISBN 978-1-888690-55-2, 300 pages including indexes). The line in question arises via 1 e4 d5 2 exd5 Qxd5 3 Nc3 Qd6, instead of 3...Qa5 which is reckoned to be the main line of the defence.



Doing a search in my databases, I was quite surprised to find well over 4,600 over-the-board games played with this variation up to the end of 2007 in ChessBase's *Mega Database 2008*, and more than 1,000 in my own correspondence chess database *Ultracorr2* (available from www.chessmail.com). I am a bit wary of statistics, but apparently White wins 39%, 30% of the games are drawn and 31% are won by Black. Timeline analysis shows that the 3...Qd6 variation was virtually unknown until the late 1980s, low peaks around 1990 and 2000 followed by great interest from 2002 so that this has perhaps now become the main line of 1...d5.

By far the most popular continuation, especially in recent years, has been 4 d4 Nf6 5 Nf3 a6 (now preferred to the old 5...c6 and other possibilities) and if White plays 5 Bc4 instead, then again ...a6 is usual. However, a recent *New In Chess Yearbook* (see below) has an article on a different treatment.

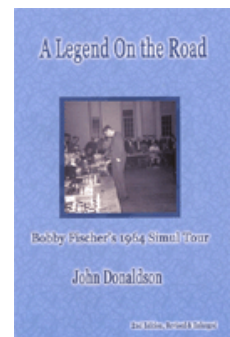
Csaba Berczes - Attila Czebe
Balatonlelle open 2006
Scandinavian [B01]

1 e4 d5 2 exd5 Qxd5 3 Nc3 Qd6 4 d4 Nf6 5 Nf3 g6 6 g3 Bg7 7 Bg2 Qa6

To prevent kingside castling for the time being: see move eleven for the consequences!

8 Bf4 c6 9 Qd2 0-0 10 Ne5 Rd8 11 Bf1 b5 12 Bg2 Nh5 13 0-0 Bf5 14 Rfe1 Qb6 15 Rad1 f6

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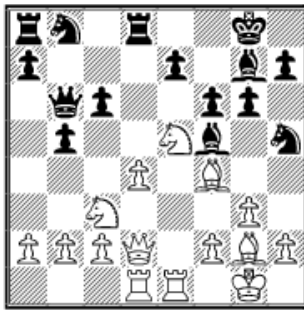
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Forcing a crisis.

16 Nxc6!?

White seizes a tactical opportunity rather than retreat.

16...Nxc6 17 Nd5 Rxd5

Best, in view of the fork 17...Qa6 18 Nc7.

18 Bxd5+ Kh8 19 Rxe7?

Greedy; 19 Be3 is best.

19...Nxf4 20 Qxf4 Rc8

20...Nxe7 21 Bxa8 is about equal.

21 Bxc6?

Why exchange the good bishop for a knight rather than his opposite number? 21 Re2 was required.

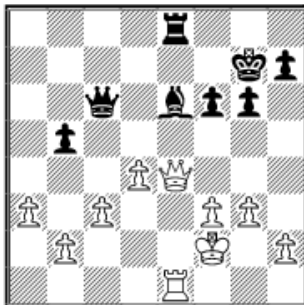
21...Qxc6 22 c3 Bf8 23 Rxa7 Qb6

Now the rook is trapped.

24 Rf7 Kg8 25 Rxf8+

The rook could also be exchanged for the other bishop but Black stands better in either case: 25 g4 Kxf7 26 gxf5 Re8.

25...Rxf8 26 Re1 Qc6 27 f3 Be6 28 a3 Kg7 29 Kf2 Re8 30 Qe4



30...Qd7

With a piece for three pawns, Black's winning chances are to be found in attack, not an endgame.

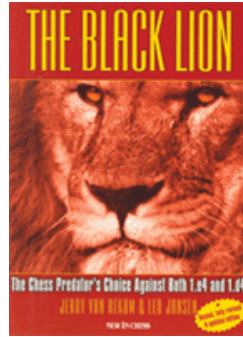
31 Qf4 Bc4 32 Rxe8 Qxe8 33 Qd2 Qe6 34 Qc2 Qh3 35 Ke3 Qf1 36 Qd2 g5

White has hardly any moves left.

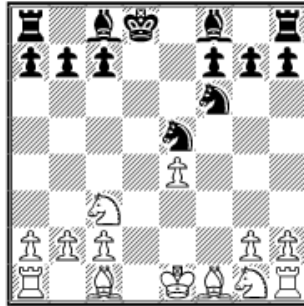
37 d5 Qg1+ 38 Ke4 Kg6 39 g4 Qc5 40 f4 gxf4 41 Kxf4 Qd6+ 42 Ke3 Qe5+ 0-1

White resigned, as the d-pawn falls.

Late last year, New In Chess published an openings book written by two little-known Dutch players, Jarry van Rekom and Leo Jansen, with the aggressive-sounding title *The Black Lion: The Predator's Choice Against Both 1 e4 and 1 d4* (ISBN 978-90-5691-257-4), 280 pages. This defence is actually a hybrid of the Pirc and Philidor Defences, playing 1...d6 against both 1 e4 and 1 d4.

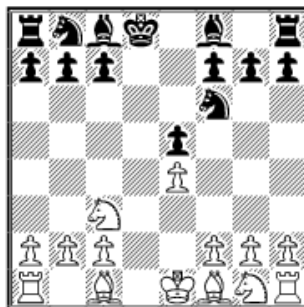


From that title you would never guess that in this opening the queens can disappear like lightning and the black king arrive on d8, all by move seven! This can happen via **1 e4 d6 2 d4 Nf6 3 Nc3 Nbd7 4 f4 e5 5 dxe5 dxe5 6 fxe5 Nxe5 7 Qxd8+ Kxd8**. There must be something in this idea, because this is the second English edition and there have been four in Dutch.



This idea of playing ...e5 early and offering White an instant endgame is not new, but can still surprise some opponents – though not in the Netherlands. Barendregt used to play this way sometimes in the 1960s and I remember seeing a Dutch club expert play the Lion all the time in the 1970s, though he did not call it that; I forget his name now. If Black likes endgames, it can be a kind of psychological trap. White is tempted by the chance of taking away Black's castling rights, only to find it is not so simple, and the king can actually be quite safe on c7 (or he may return to e8). Consequently White sometimes prefers to keep queens on and the d-file closed, with 4 Nf3 e5 5 Bc4, expecting a regular main line Philidor to arise, but the 'Lion' avoids that – by not castling kingside.

In another variant, the sub-variation they call the Lion's Yawn, the exchange can happen even earlier: **1 e4 d6 2 d4 Nf6 3 Nc3 e5 4 dxe5 dxe5 5 Qxd8+ Kxd8**.



That looked familiar. If you have *New In Chess Yearbook 22* (published in 1991), you will find an article on pages 37-41 entitled 'Invitation to a Philidor'. That deals with this variation and was compiled by yours truly.

After 1 e4 d6 2 d4 Nf6 3 Nc3, the move 3...Nbd7 aims at a more complex game than 3...e5. The authors do not mention the earliest game in this line; perhaps they do not know it if they overlooked my article, or they just chose to disregard it. Marshall-Alapin, Ostend 1905, continued 4 f4 e5 5 Nf3 c6 6 Bc4.



Now, starting on page 68, the authors say Black should play 6...exd4 followed by 7...d5 after either recapture. Instead Alapin played 6...b5?, which was met by 7 Bd3, White eventually winning. Jansen and van Rekom say that 7 Bxf7+ instead would give White a winning attack.

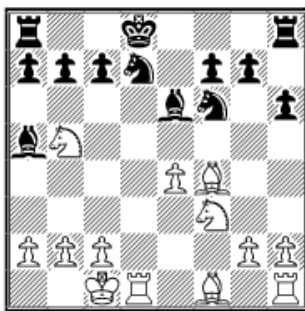
So this opening may appeal to defenders who don't like their opponents to have queens, but I do recommend you look out my old article which has some other games the authors don't mention in the 3...e5 line, and also with 3...Nbd7. In Chandler-Wahls, Novi Sad Olympiad 1990, White met 3...e5 by 4 f3 and there are other possibilities; the authors barely mention anything except 4 dxe5 in reply.

Pawel Stempin - Zbigniew Pyda

47th Polish Championship, Warsaw 1990

Black Lion [B07]

1 d4 d6 2 e4 Nf6 3 Nc3 e5 4 dxe5 dxe5 5 Qxd8+ Kxd8 6 Bg5 Be6 7 0-0-0+ Nbd7 8 f4 exf4 9 Nf3 h6 10 Bxf4 Bb4 11 Nb5 Ba5



12 Ne5

The "Lion" book (p. 213) only mentions 12 Nbd4 in a game leading to equality.

12...Bb6?

12...g5! is more active.; 12...Kc8 is also possible.

13 Bc4

Threatening Nxf7+.

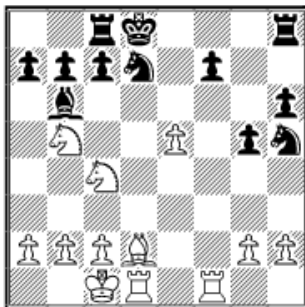
13...Bxc4

This makes matters worse as Black's forces lose all co-ordination. 13...Re8 sets a trap 14 Nxf7+ Ke7, but White has the edge with a normal move like 14 Rhf1, developing the last piece.

14 Nxc4 Rc8

Because of the weakness at c7, for if instead 14...Ke7 15 Nxb6 axb6 16 Nxc7 Rxa2 17 Kb1 Ra4 18 Bd6+ Kd8 19 e5.

15 e5 Nh5 16 Bd2 g5 17 Rhf1



17...Rh7

Another grovelling move with a rook; the collapse is now total.

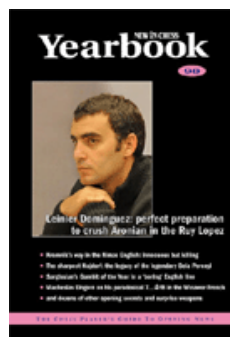
18 e6! fxe6 19 Bxg5+! hxcg5 20 Rf8+ Ke7 21 Rxc8 Nf4?

Missing the final tactic; he is lost but ...Nhf6 is a better try.

22 Nxb6 cxb6 23 Rxd7+ 1–0

An example of how *not* to play the defence.

Since *New In Chess Yearbook* has been mentioned, it is worth noting that this opening theory series still continues. Numbers 89 (2008) and 90 (2009) were sent to me for review. Following the usual format, each issue begins with a Forum where readers can send in queries and ideas. These are often quite thought-provoking.



Next comes grandmaster Genna Sosonko's column and then more than thirty surveys, each typically of five to seven pages in length, about a variety of topics in opening variations. Finally there are some book reviews by GM Glenn Flear. In *Yearbook 90*, he delivers something of a health warning about the Black Lion. It is refreshing that the publishers are not afraid to include criticism of one of their own books. In particular, he focuses on the line **1 e4 d6 2 d4 Nf6 3 Nc3 Nbd7 4 f4 e5 5 Nf3 exd4 6 Qxd4 c6 7 Be3 d5 8 exd5 Bc5 9 Qd3**.



Flear points out that the authors previously recommended 9...Qe7 here, when 10 dxc6 is critical. Now they suggest 9...Qe7 but the position after 10 Nd4, although complicated, is 'shaky for White' in Flear's opinion. See the book and the *Yearbook* for details.

This *Yearbook* series is very attractive if you are a regular tournament competitor at a reasonably high level, or play by correspondence, but you have to put in some work of your own. Of course the temptation is to keep switching your openings to try out each new fascinating idea, but if you have problems in your repertoire, then you just might find solutions here.

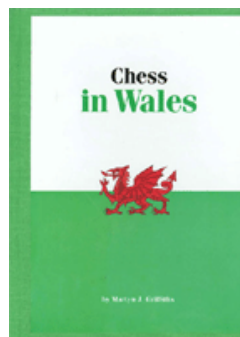
Club players might enjoy looking at the analysis and the writers' lively comments but would probably have little opportunity to put the more cutting-edge survey variations into practice. The lines that come up in the Forum, on the other hand, can be quite useful for rapid-play events. In *Yearbook 90*, Bram van der Tak takes a look at Arjen Oudheusden's refutation of the Berliner line in the Two Knights, considered last September in [Kibitzer no. 148](#), and agrees it looks like a bust.

Players who enjoy Larsen-style adventures with flank pawns might like to take a look at **1 e4 g6 2 d4 d6 3 Nc3 c6 4 h4!?** (in *Yearbook 90*) and, even more extravagantly, the same advance in the Grünfeld Defence: **1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 d5 4 h4!?**, as proposed by Thomas Neuer.

Two books have arrived from Moravian Chess; both are new, not reprints.

The first is reviewed extensively in this article, being the first published on the subject of Welsh chess. The other is in Czech, by the publisher Vlastimil Fiala, so I shall only deal with it briefly towards the end of the column. These books can be ordered through the usual specialist chess outlets, or via the Moravian Chess website.

Chess in Wales by Martyn J. Griffiths (338 pp. hardback, ISBN 978-80-7189-595-4) covers Welsh chess up to about 1970. The book stops before Welsh chess devolution and Welsh achievements on the international stage could be discussed. Griffiths says he chose this stopping point because the Welsh chess magazine *Y Ddraig* ('The Dragon') began in 1970-1 and so documentation from that point is more readily available.



His book is most welcome because hitherto no book on the subject has been published. There are 32 games and over 60 illustrations, although the image reproduction quality of most of these is not very good and some are awful. (The paper used may be partly responsible, but really all the images ought to be re-scanned at 300 pixels per inch for any future edition.)

I shall do my best to be positive about this book, which filled many gaps in my knowledge and which I am sure will be of great interest to Welsh players, but I do have to censure the author for failing to include any reference notes or bibliography. These omissions make it difficult for any future researchers to verify the information contained, or to know where to start in search for new facts. Even the most popular works of history these days, except those intended for children, usually contain some source notes and a bibliography, however brief. I am surprised that the publisher did not press the author to provide something of this kind.

Most of the work is based on original research by the author (a senior Welsh chess administrator), examining primary sources such as Welsh chess columns and club records. However, specific source references would have made the work more valuable as an historical record. The author's way of thanking those who assisted him is also somewhat unsatisfactory. Buried in his introductory chapter on pages 9-10, there is the recognition that he 'picked the brains of over 300 individuals', some of whom are listed, and my name is included in a supplementary list, but there should really be a definite page of Acknowledgments in the preliminaries of the book. For example, I believe A. J. Gillam did editing

work on the text but he is not mentioned. Moreover, when a major specific piece of information was supplied by somebody it is normal to credit them explicitly; Griffiths does this sometimes but not always. He emailed me at various times – both around 2004-5 and again last year when completing the text – seeking information about some Welsh players. He also provided me with some answers to my questions, duly acknowledged in my thesis, and they will be again in the work I am currently writing for McFarland.

The book takes a mixture of thematic and chronological approaches. The opening chapter, in particular, has a piecemeal structure. The text was mostly written up to 1977, when a typescript was deposited at Swansea Public Library and a few copies distributed, but until now it was never properly published. In some places it has been updated, but a total rewrite of the opening chapter was really needed.

As Griffiths recognises, research in chess columns provides a wealth of material, especially where minute books and the like are lacking, and he includes a useful list of the Welsh columns he has found. Has he read them all, however? For example, for the important early column in the *Cardiff Weekly Mail*, he just repeats the dates given in Ken Whyld's *Chess Columns: A List*, implying a span from 1871-90. However, anyone who reads the 1871 microfilm of this paper immediately becomes aware from the numbering of problems that the column actually began in 1870, in the very first issue of 12 February to be precise. The column ended with problem 168 on 24 May 1873 and then a new column began on 1st March 1884. Clearly there is more work to be done here, either by the author in a new edition, or by somebody building on the start he has made.

When Griffiths first tackled this subject in 1977, he had not yet had the opportunity to read *The Cambrian* (the first English-language newspaper in Wales, published in Swansea from the 1820s) but some articles he wrote since 1977 for Welsh chess magazines were based on what he found there, and this edition of his book incorporates that material. It is useful that *The Cambrian* has been indexed for many of the early decades, but I found some chess references were missed by the indexer and also by Griffiths.

In Wales, as in Ireland, legends tell that the medieval Celts played some board games. A limited amount of information survives about these in old texts, which Griffiths mentions but his treatment is not fully authoritative. The modern word for chess in the Welsh language, *gwyddbwyll*, was originally the name of a quite different game, about which the author has no information. However, if (as Celtic scholars believe) *gwyddbwyll* was the same game as the early Irish *fidchell*, then it was of a different character than Griffiths suggests, and may have been a version of the game known to have been played by Romans in Britain, *ludus latrunculorum*. On page 12 Griffiths expresses surprise (with an exclamation mark) that Richard Fenton, in his *Historical Tour Through Pembrokeshire* (1811) mentions the Romans, but there could be a grain of truth in that.

The other game mentioned by Griffiths, *tawlbwrdd*, was definitely a different game from *gwyddbwyll* and was probably of Viking origin. Griffiths might usefully have consulted, for example, Harold Murray's *History of Board Games Other Than Chess*, unreliable though it is over Irish games. One source he definitely seems to have been unaware of is the article by Frank Lewis, 'Gwerin Ffristial a Thawlbwrdd', in *Transactions of the Honourable Society of Cymmrodorion*, Session 1941 (London 1943), pages 185-205. This paper is mostly in English. It is quite useful although Lewis (who had corresponded with Murray) also, like Griffiths and some other writers, wrongly suggested the two Welsh games were the same. There is actually a considerable body of literature on early board games. I hope to clear up some misconceptions on the subject of Irish and Welsh games in an article accepted for publication next year in *Irish Historical Studies*.

Moving on to the early development of 'real' chess, Griffiths correctly states on page 12 that it would be wrong to look at the chess events of the past without considering the social context and the great changes that took place in Wales during the nineteenth and first half of the twentieth centuries. There is some good background on this; many Welsh people are descended from English immigrants who came to (mostly South) Wales in search of jobs in the coal mines and steel works during the late nineteenth century.

There follows a short section, for which Gordon Cadden is credited, about Thomas Bowdler, the expurgator of Shakespeare, who on at least one occasion managed to draw a game with Philidor. Bowdler was English but went to live in Wales in 1810 and is buried near Swansea. The excuse for including him in the book is therefore somewhat thin but most readers will find this part of interest.

Griffiths resumes his pen on page 26 for the six-page section on Captain William Davies Evans, of Pembrokeshire, inventor of the gambit that bears his name. In some respects, Griffiths's treatment is an advance on the standard article about Evans by W. R. Thomas, in the January 1928 *British Chess Magazine*, and he includes some additional information I gave him. Thomas's article did include a few details that he elicited by writing to the Post Office. There is more to be discovered in its archives, but also some gaps. However, the definitive treatment of Evans's career has yet to be written, and some details of his later life may be hard to confirm as, after he left the P.O in 1840, he spent a lot of time abroad. I hope nevertheless to provide a more complete and rounded picture of Evans in a future work.

Next, Griffiths jumps directly to a chapter on the development of chess in south Wales, which culminated in the formation of the South Wales Chess Association on the 3rd of November 1888. By that time, this was one of the most heavily industrialised regions of the United Kingdom and, like most urbanised regions in western Europe, chess developed there too. During this chapter, Griffiths traces the early development of chess and Welsh clubs in the previous decades, and this is where the book really begins to get interesting and to include information not available elsewhere.

As Griffiths stresses, the opening in 1886 of the railway tunnel under the Severn greatly reduced the time needed to travel between the Bristol area and the most densely populated parts of Wales, and in particular it stimulated even more interaction between the Welsh and Bristolians than had been customary before. This chapter continues with accounts of the development of leagues and championships up to the mid-twentieth century, before jumping back to consider postal chess, starting on page 82. In this section the author does acknowledge that some information was supplied by me. However, I did manage to find later some information about even earlier correspondence chess in Wales that eluded Griffiths, and I will include those discoveries in my book for McFarland. Also, there is a lot more known about the later life of the Rev Evan Griffiths (see page 84), who won the 1908-12 *British Chess Magazine* correspondence tournament, but this was mostly discovered by Brian Denman, an historian of chess in Sussex, with whom Martyn Griffiths apparently did not make contact.

When it comes to the post-World War One period, the author is dealing with material that I have not researched in the same depth. So far as I can judge, he has done an excellent job. Most of the points I have criticised above concern areas that nobody without specialist knowledge would see anything wrong, and the level of detail provided seems appropriate for the presumed (largely Welsh) readership. Scottish readers would also be interested in what Griffiths has discovered about John Dillon Chambers (pp. 96-102) who lived his last years in Penarth and was one of the strongest players in south Wales at this time. Chambers' career, which included winning the first Scottish correspondence championship, went

back to the 1880s. Those interested in women's chess will be delighted with the discoveries in this book about Mrs Mary Houlding of Newport (and previously of Wagga Wagga in Australia) who won the British Ladies' Championship three times when in her sixties.

The third chapter of the book deals with the Welsh Chess Union, which was founded in 1954, and in the mid-1960s the author himself comes into the picture as player and organiser. In 1969 he took over running the Welsh Correspondence Championship. Thanks to his personal interest, the book has more information about postal chess history than works of this kind generally contain.

In 1964 many Welsh sought to secede from the British Chess Federation, seeing that they were getting little value for money and Scotland had achieved chessic independence. Eventually in 1969 a motion was passed to this effect, thanks to a kind of coup, and following further negotiations the Welsh were able in 1970 to obtain membership of FIDE while remaining, like the Scots, loosely affiliated to BCF. In the early 1970s the Welsh national team was quite strong, led by Howard Williams, Iolo Jones, John Copper of new talent of master or near-master strength (including British Champion George Botterill who was a lecturer at Aberystwyth for some years).

Yukio Miyasaki - Howard Williams

Skopje Olympiad 1972

Pirc Defence [B09]

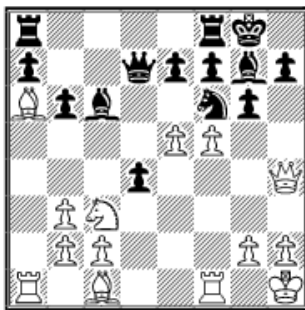
1 e4 Nf6 2 Nc3

Since his opponent had written a book (with Richard Eales) on Alekhine's Defence, White prefers to invite a Vienna (2...e5) or Scandinavian (2...d5) but Williams prefers to transpose to the Pirc.

2...d6 3 d4 g6 4 f4 Bg7 5 Nf3 0-0 6 Be2 c5 7 dxc5

Hardly the critical line of the Austrian Attack; attention at this time focused on 6 Bd3 and the ultra-sharp 6 e5; later 6 Be3 became fashionable.

7...Qa5 8 0-0 Qxc5+ 9 Kh1 Nc6 10 Nd2 Na5 11 Nb3 Nxb3 12 axb3 Bd7 13 Qd3 Qc7 14 Qg3 Bc6 15 Bd3 b6 16 f5 Qb7 17 Qh4 d5 18 Ba6 Qd7 19 e5 d4



The situation becomes critical. White has a promising attack but Black's resources are not to be underestimated.

20 fxg6?!

Probably 20 exf6 Bxf6 21 Bg5 is better.

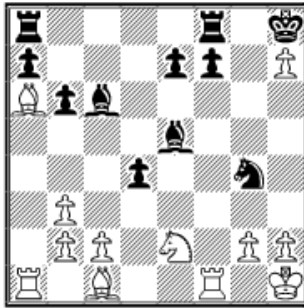
20...Qg4 21 gxh7+

21 Qxg4 Nxg4 22 gxf7+ Rxf7 23 Bc4 Nxe5 24 Bxf7+ Nxf7 25 Ne2 e5 is unclear, White's nominal material advantage being hard to assert in the face of Black's bishop pair and passed e-pawn.

21...Kh8 22 Qxg4

22 Qf2 looks better.

22...Nxg4 23 Ne2 Bxe5



24 Bf4?

This wastes time and achieves nothing. 24 c3 had to be tried.

24...Bg7 25 Rad1 e5 26 Bc1 f5

Black is clearly well on top now.

**27 h3 Ne3 28 Bxe3 dxe3 29 Rd6 Be4 30 Bd3 Bxd3 31 Rxd3 f4 32 Nc3
Rad8 33 Rdd1 e4 34 Rxd8 Rxd8 35 Rxf4 Rd1+ 0-1**

Later, Wales also obtained separate membership of the International Correspondence Chess Federation but it was too dependent on a few individuals. A few years ago the organisation collapsed and Wales ceased to be members. Is anybody trying to revive this aspect of Welsh chess?

The rest of the book (page 193 onwards) deals with the various regions in Welsh chess, providing detailed documentation (there are numerous lists) but not very exciting reading. However this will all be most valuable information as an archive of Welsh chess and for somebody who might in future write a more analytical history of Welsh chess in the twentieth century. Also, this part of the book is not all lists and facts as it includes biographies of little-known leading Welsh players such as William Locke Holt (1851/2-1907), James Walter Francis Greenleaf (1892-1954) and Arthur William Daniel (1878-1955). Greenleaf was the mainstay of Monmouthshire chess, and had an excellent record in postal matches, while Daniel was a noted problemist and also had successes in postal play in his youth.

The earliest telephone chess match in Wales was played on 19 March 1884 between the Cardiff and Swansea clubs. Griffiths rightly says (p. 274) that the claim sometimes made that this was the earliest phone game in Great Britain was incorrect, but as an earlier Kibitzer article shows, the one he mentions in 1880 was not the earliest either. Telephone chess history is a topic that has been fraught with erroneous claims in the past, and it was one of the last topics that the late Professor Carlo Pagni was researching before his death in February this year,

Oldrich Duras: Zivot a dilo is the latest substantial work by Vlastimil Fiala, who tells me an English translation is in preparation. It deals with the career of Duras from his birth in 1882 up to 1905 when he shared first prize at Barmen with Rubinstein, thus demonstrating he was one of the strongest of the new generation of masters in Europe. Although he lived to 1957, Duras played little after the First World War, apparently because he married a rich wife, if



Golombek's *Encyclopaedia* can be believed.

Kurt Petzold – Oldrich Duras

Hauptturnier-A Barmen (5), 1905

Spanish [C77]

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 4 Ba4 Nf6 5 Nc3 Bc5 6 0-0 b5 7 Bb3 d6 8 h3 h6 9 d3 g5



10 Nxg5??

Nowadays novices are taught to play this 'sacrifice' when their opponent has castled and they have not. In this case it is the other way around! Duras conclusively demonstrates the folly of opening lines against your own king. There is little discussion of alternatives in the book: 10 Nh2 and 10 Nd5 are briefly mentioned, but 10 Bd5 is another possibility.

10...hxcg5 11 Bxg5

Threatening Nd5 but when making his 'combination' White must have overlooked the overlooked the reply.

11...Rg8!

11...Be6 does not save the piece because of 12 Nd5 Bxd5 13 Bxd5 and Black must choose which knight to abandon.; 11...Nb4 reduces the force of Nd5 but instead White can play 12 Qf3.

12 h4

Again Fiala does not analyse alternatives. If 12 Bd5 Bd7 or 12...Bb7 and White has to meet the threat to his bishop. If 12 Bh4 Qd7 (even stronger than ...Bxh3 perhaps) 13 Kh1 b4 and then if 14 Bxf6 bxc3, or 14 Nd5 Nxd5 15 Bxd5 Rh8 and Black consolidates the extra material while retaining attacking threats. Or 14 Na4 Rxc2 15 Qf3 Rg6 16 Nxc5 dxc5 17 Bxf6 Nd4 and again White loses material.

12...Nd4!



This leads to some pretty play. 12...Qd7, as the book points out, is also strong, for if 13 Bxf6 Rxc2+ 14 Kxc2 Qh3+ 15 Kg1 Bg4 Black wins.

13 Nd5

White tries to execute his 'threat'.

13...Rxc5

Forced, but also strong.

14 hxc5 Nxd5 15 Bxd5

Now White has rook and two pawns for two minor pieces (approximately equal) and if the attacked rook moves then 16 c3 drives back the knight with good chances.

15...Qxc5!



15...c6 is playable, but then Black has to defend for a while because of 16 Bxf7+ Kxf7 17 Qh5+ followed by 18 c3.

16 c3

This is hopeless. The book says Black should answer 16 Bxa8 by 16... Bg4, threatening ...Ne2+ and ...Qh4 mate, although probably 16...Bh3 is also catastrophic for White.

16...Bh3 17 g3 Ne2+!

17...Bg4 is not as immediately decisive, since White might struggle on by 18 cxd4 Bxd1 19 Raxd1 although here too Black wins in the long run by 19...Bxd4 20 Bxa8 Qxc3+ 21 Kh1 Bxf2 22 Rxf2 Qxf2.

18 Kh2

If 18 Qxe2 Qxc3+ 19 Kh1 Qg2 mate.

18...Qh5 0-1

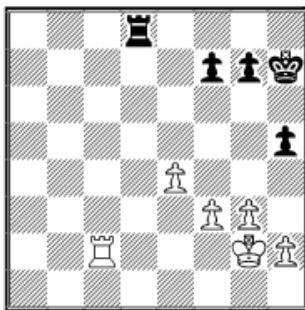
Finally, Batsford have issued a very strange book that tries to be humorous and a little instructive at the same time, and sometimes succeeds.

Kasparov: How his Predecessors Misled him about Chess by Tibor Károlyi and Nick Aplin (ISBN 978-1-906388-26-3, 270 pages) annotates a number of Kasparov's losses as if he had written the notes himself. These Kasparov games are compared with ones by previous world champions, in which similar positions occurred – but reversing the order, so that Karpov is first and Steinitz last. The joke is that Kasparov appears to follow the tactics of his mentors, but ideas that worked for them fail for him. Some of the comparisons are rather far-fetched but others are quite instructive.



For example, three pawns against four on the kingside in a rook ending are usually said to be drawn so long as the defender plays ...h5 (assuming he's Black) before White can play g4. Thus Karpov comfortably held

Game 5 of his ending against Korchnoi in the Merano world championship match, 1981, and the position Kasparov had to defend against Piket in an Internet tournament in 2000 at first sight seems very similar. However, this was a one-hour game with no time increment and at a fatal moment Kasparov forgot or diverged from Karpov's example.



40 f4 g6 (“Karpov also had his pawn on g6.”) **41 e5 Rd3**

“I’m just following Karpov, who kept his rook on the third rank, did nothing and held easily,” writes pseudo-Kasparov.

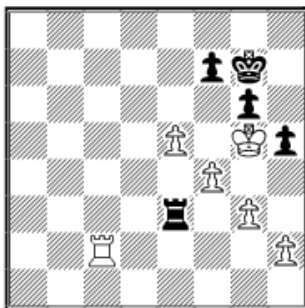
42 Kh3

“Korchnoi did not try anything like this – and Korchnoi was a really strong endgame player.”

42...Re3

“I just keep moving like my predecessor before me.”

43 Kh4 Kg7 44 Kg5



“Here I deviated from Karpov and removed the rook from the third rank.”

44...Re1?

“This was my independent idea – but it loses. Correct was 44...Ra3! 45 Rc7 Ra5.”

45 Rc7 Re2 46 Re7! Ra2 47 f5! gxf5 48 e6! h4 49 Rxf7+ Kg8 50 Kf6 1-0

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