

Michael Adams



Short boosts Guildford in Four Nations

The 4NCL continues to be in rude health. Players from the sadly defunct Pride and Prejudice, who won the title last year, have popped up in other teams and Guildford have also strengthened, enlisting Nigel Short and calling up top French player Maxime Vachier-Lagrave in an attempted ambush of favourites Wood Green HK.

The Stonewall doesn't often enable you to roll your opponent off the board with your central pawns, but with a bit of imagination many things are possible.

15.c4xd5 **O-0-0**

15...e6xd5 16.e3-e4 again opens lines effectively.

16.d5xe6 **Kc8-b8**

17.Ra1-c1

17.Qg4-e2 Kb8-b7 18.Qe2-c4 redeploying the queen was best.

17... **Rd8-d5**

The tactical resource 17...Na6-c5 gives some chances of survival. Now it is one-way traffic.

18.Rf1-f7 **Qe7-e8**

19.Qg4-f3 **c7-c6**

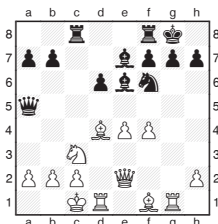
20.Qf3-f6 **Bf8-h6**

21.e6-e7 **Bh6-g5**

22.Qf6xh8 **Qe8xh8**

23.Rf7-f8+

1-0



M. Adams - G. Morrison
4NCL 2012

15... **Rc8xc3**

Although I was unaware of it during the game, 15...Be6-c4 also allows a tactical dénouement:

16.Rg1xg7+ Kg8xg7

17.Qe2-g2+ Kg7-h8

18.Bf1xc4 Rc8xc4 (18...Rf8-g8 19.Qg2-e2) 19.Rd1-g1,

Black should have settled for 15...g7-g6.

16.Bd4xc3 **Qa5xa2**

17.f4-f5 **Be6-d7**

18.Rg1xg7+ **Kg8xg7**

19.Qe2-g4+

White also wins with 19.Qe2-g2+ Kg7-h8 20.Bf1-c4 Qa2-a1+ 21.Kc1-d2 Rf8-g8 22.Bc3xf6+ (22.Qg2xg8+ Kh8xg8 23.Rd1xa1 Nf6xe4+ gives Black hope) 22...Be7xf6 23.Qg2xg8+ Kh8xg8 24.Rd1xa1.

19... **Kg7-h8**

20.Qg4-h4

After the natural 20.Qg4-g5 Qa2-a1+ 21.Kc1-d2, Black has the surprising resource 21...Qa1-a5.

20... **Rf8-c8**

Following 20...Rf8-g8

21.Bc3xf6+ Be7xf6

22.Qh4xf6+ Rg8-g7 23.Qf6-

d8+ Rg7-g8 24.Qd8xd7

White emerges a piece

up, 20...Rf8-e8 is similar

to the game 21.Bc3xf6+

Be7xf6 22.Qh4xf6+ Kh8-g8

23.Bf1-c4 Qa2xc4 24.Rd1-

g1+ Kg8-f8 25.Qf6xd6+

Re8-e7 26.Qd6-h6+ Kf8-e8

27.Rg1-g8 mate.

21.Bc3xf6+ **Be7xf6**

22.Qh4xf6+ **Kh8-g8**

23.Bf1-c4

Decisively completing

development, this threatens

to take on f7 as well as

preparing Rd1-g1+.

23... **Qa2-a1+**

Capturing the bishop leads to immediate doom:

23...Qa2xc4 24.Rd1-g1+

Kg8-f8 25.Qf6xd6+ Kf8-e8

26.Rg1-g8 mate.

24.Kc1-d2 **Qa1-a5+**

25.c2-c3

1-0

S. Williams - G. Jones
4NCL 2011

1.e2-e4 **c7-c6**

2.Bf1-c4 **d7-d5**

3.Bc4-b3 **d5xe4**

4.Qd1-h5 **g7-g6**

5.Qh5-h4 **Bf8-g7**

6.Nb1-c3 **a7-a5**

7.Nc3xe4

After 7.a2-a4 Nb8-a6

8.Nc3xe4 Ng8-f6, Black

has already grabbed the initiative.

7... **a5-a4**

8.Bb3-c4 **b7-b5**

9.Bc4-e2 **Ng8-h6**

10.g2-g4

It was time to save face

with 10.Ng1-f3 Nh6-f5

11.Qh4-f4.

10... **a4-a3**

11.Ra1-b1

White's position is a wreck

after 11.c2-c3, but he

doesn't lose immediately.

11... **Qd8-d5**

12.Ne4-c3 **Qd5xh1**

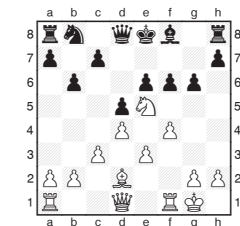
13.Ke1-f1 **Bg7-e5**

14.Be2-f3 **Qh1xh2**

15.Ng1-h3 **Nh6xg4**

16.Bf3xg4 **Be5-f6**

O-1



D. Smerdon - E. Player
4NCL 2012

White is in good shape if he retreats the knight but, noting Black's indolent approach to deploying his pieces, decides to go straight for the jugular.

12.Qd1-g4 **Qd8-e7**

12...f6xe5 13.Qg4xe6+ Bf8-

e7 14.f4xe5 doesn't look

healthy.

13.c3-c4

Again spurning the less

adventurous 13.Ne5-d3.

13... **f6xe5**

14.f4xe5 **Nb8-a6**

14...Nb8-c6 15.c4xd5 e6xd5

16.Ra1-c1 Nc6-d8 17.e3-e4

also looks pretty dangerous.