

**Michael Adams**



## Mixing it up produces the magic moves

Nigel Short continued his globetrotting run of first places, by winning the Edmonton International. Nigel has made a radical but very effective alteration to his openings in the computer age, mixing his choice of variations more regularly than a cocktail shaker - it helps that he is adept at outwitting his opponents in the resulting fresh positions.

**N. Short - R. Gardner**  
Edmonton 2012

- 1.e2-e4** **d7-d6**  
**2.Nb1-c3** **g7-g6**  
**3.f2-f4** **Bf8-g7**  
**4.Bf1-c4** **e7-e6**

4...c7-c5 is good here, but Pirc players are often reluctant to transpose to Sicilian sidelines.

- 5.Ng1-f3** **c7-c5**

It was more consistent to try 5...Ng8-e7.

- 6.d2-d4**

Seizing a favourable moment to open the centre after Black's excessive pawn moves.

- 6...** **c5xd4**  
**7.Nf3xd4** **a7-a6**  
**8.Bc4-b3** **Nb8-c6**  
**9.Nd4xc6** **b7xc6**  
**10.Bc1-e3** **Ng8-e7**  
10...Ng8-f6 was better.  
**11.Qd1-d2** **O-O**  
**12.O-O-O** **d6-d5**  
**13.Be3-c5** **Rf8-e8**  
**14.Qd2-e3**

14.e4-e5 blunting Black's bishop was also very tempting.

- 14...** **Ra8-b8**  
Black had to try 14...a6-a5, as Nigel is poised to unleash

a kingside pawn storm.

- 15.h2-h4** **Qd8-a5**  
15...h7-h5 16.g2-g4 h5xg4  
17.h4-h5 doesn't help much.

- 16.h4-h5** **d5xe4**  
**17.h5xg6**

Black holds on for now after 17.Nc3xe4 Ne7-d5 18.Qe3-g3 Nd5-f6.

- 17...** **h7xg6**

The computer points out the hidden resource

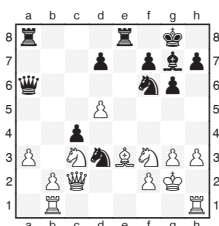
17...Ne7-f5 18.g6xf7+ Kg8xf7 19.Qe3-f2 Rb8xb3 20.c2xb3 Bg7xc3 21.b2xc3 Qa5xc3+ 22.Kc1-b1 e4-e3 with some practical chances. Now with the 'h' file open, the Black king's days are numbered.

- 18.Nc3xe4** **Ne7-f5**  
**19.Qe3-h3** **Nf5-h6**  
**20.Bc5-d6**

20.Qh3-h4 preparing Ne4-f6+ is a cleaner kill, but it doesn't change much.

- 20...** **Rb8-b5**  
**21.g2-g4** **f7-f5**  
**22.Ne4-f6+** **Bg7xf6**  
**23.Qh3xh6** **Kg8-f7**  
**24.Qh6-h7+** **Bf6-g7**

- 25.Rh1-h6**  
1-0



**R. Wang - N. Short**  
Edmonton 2012

- 20...** **Re8xe3**  
It's hard to resist this move, removing the useful bishop and weakening White's structure.

- 21.f2xe3** **Ra8-e8**  
**22.Rb1-d1** **Re8xe3**

It would require extremely accurate calculation to find the strong

- 22...Nf6-h5, justified by the line 23.g3-g4 Re8xe3 24.g4xh5 Re3xf3 25.Kg2xf3 Qa6-f6+ 26.Kf3-g2 Qf6-g5+

- 27.Kg2-f1 Qg5-f5+ 28.Kf1-g1 Bg7-d4+ 29.Kg1-h2 Qf5-f4+ 30.Kh2-g2 Qf4-g5+ 31.Kg2-f1 Qg5-f5+ 32.Kf1-g2 Nd3-f4+ winning.

- 23.Rd1-d2** **Qa6-a8**  
**24.Rd2-e2** **Re3xf3**

Hard to resist, but the simple 24...Re3xe2+ 25.Qc2xe2 Nf6-h5 was definitely worth

- considering.  
**25.Kg2xf3** **Nf6xd5**  
**26.Qc2-a4** **Qa8-b7**  
**27.Qa4-b5**

Wang should have forced the exchange of queens with 27.Re2-e8+ Bg7-f8 28.Qa4-b5 Nd5-b6+ 29.Nc3-d5.

- 27...** **Nd5-b6+**  
**28.Nc3-d5** **Qb7xd5+**

The neat retreat 28...Qb7-a8 keeping the queens on decides.

- 29.Qb5xd5** **Nb6xd5**  
**30.Re2-e8+** **Bg7-f8**

Although Black has a lot of material, the outside passed pawn is a tricky foe for the knights.

- 31.a3-a4** **f7-f5**  
**32.Re8-b8** **Kg8-f7**  
**33.a4-a5** **Nd3-e5+**  
**34.Kf3-e2** **Ne5-c6**  
**35.a5-a6**

White is doing fine after 35.Rb8-b7, as 35...Nc6xa5 36.Rb7-b5 wins a piece.

- 35...** **Nd5-c7**  
**36.Rb8-b7** **Nc7xa6**  
**37.Rb7xd7+** **Bf8-e7**  
**38.Rh1-c1**

38.Rh1-a1 activating the rook was a better try.

- 38...** **Nc6-e5**  
**39.Rd7-d5** **Kf7-e6**  
**40.Rd5-b5** **Na6-c5**  
**41.Rc1-a1** **Be7-d6**  
**42.Ra1-a7** **h7-h5**

The immediate 42...Ne5-c6 43.Rb5xc5 Nc6xa7 44.Rc5xc4 Bd6xg3 was good enough.

- 43.Ke2-f1**  
The final chance was 43.Ra7-a8 Nc5-e4 44.Ra8-e8+ Ke6-f6 45.Rb5-b6.

- 43...** **Nc5-e4**  
**44.Kf1-g2** **Ne4xg3**  
**45.Ra7-a6** **Ng3-e4**  
**O-1**