

**Michael Adams**



## Short and Jones on form

The British Championships, sponsored by Darwin Strategic, begin on Monday at Ponds Forge Sports Centre in Sheffield – and several of the participants have been in good form recently.

Nigel Short and Gawain Jones shared first in the Commonwealth Championship, held in South Africa. Gawain won a special prize of a seven-night holiday for 10 near the Kruger National Park due to his superior tie-break, and this crucial last-round win thanks to a far-sighted sacrifice.



**G. Jones - A. Gupta**  
Gauteng 2011

### 19.f4-f5

Black seemed to have this thrust well-covered, but the immense power of White's bishop once it is planted on f6 more than compensates.

**19...** Ng7xf5  
**20.Be3-g5** Qe7-c5  
**21.Nd4xf5** Bd7xf5  
**22.Nf3-d4**

The cool knight-move keeps Black's pieces locked out of the action.

**22...** Bf5-e4

This looks very natural, but 22...Bf5-d7 would have

prevented the exchange sacrifice idea that proves very effective in the game.

**23.Bg5-f6** Rf8-e8  
**24.Qd1-d2** Rb8-b7

24...Bb6-a7 was better, clearing the rook's path down the 'b' line.

### 25.Qd2-f4

The immediate 25.Re1xe4 d5xe4 26.Nd4-f5 was possible, but there is no need to hurry.

**25...** Qc5-f8

25...Bb6-a7 was still a better try.



**26.Re1xe4** d5xe4  
**27.Nd4-f5**

The knight leaps into a perfect post and there is no longer any good defence.

**27...** h7-h5

27...Qf8-c5 28.Ra1-f1 bringing the last piece into the attack is even worse.

**28.Bf6-g7** Qf8xg7  
**29.Nf5xg7** Kg8xg7

With Black's pieces disorganised, Gawain's queen mops up.

**30.Qf4-f6+** Kg7-g8  
**31.Ra1-f1** Re8-f8

**32.e5-e6** Bb6-c5  
**33.e6xf7+** Kg8-h7

**34.Qf6xc6** e4-e3  
**35.Qc6xb7** e3-e2

**36.Rf1-e1** Rf8xf7  
**37.Qb7-b5**

1-0

Matthew Sadler briefly jumped out of retirement to win a weekend tournament in Holland, showing little rust from his infrequent play. He is a pawn down in

the position below, but a relentless assault creates too much pressure for his opponent.



**M. Sadler - P. De Roode**  
Haarlem 2011

**19.d4-d5** e6xd5

My cold-blooded computer recommends 19...Qb6-b4. There was also a case for 19...Rc8xc4, now things get very hairy as White's forces become highly active.

**20.Rc1-b1** Qb6-e6  
**21.Bc4xd5** Qe6xg4+  
**22.Qd1xg4** Bd7xg4  
**23.Rb1xb7** Ng6-f4

Black had to exchange the powerful light-squared bishop with 23...Bg4-e6 now his king is driven from pillar to post.

**24.Bd5xf7+** Ke8-d8  
**25.e5-e6** Nf4xe6  
**26.h2-h3** Rc8-c4  
**27.Ne4-d2** Rc4-f4

27...Rc4-b4 28.Rb7xb4 Bf8xb4 29.h3xg4 Kd8-e7 30.Bf7xe6 Ke7xe6 gives some fighting chances, keeping more material on the board is disastrous as White's development is much superior.

**28.h3xg4** Rf4xg4+  
**29.Kg1-h1** Ne6-f4  
**30.Nd2-f3** Kd8-c8  
**31.Rb7-a7** Kc8-b8  
**32.Ra7-a4** Bf8-d6

Now with a flurry of checks, all White's forces combine for a pretty mate.

**33.Rf1-b1+** Kb8-c7  
**34.Ra4-a7+** Kc7-c6  
**35.Nf3-d4+** Kc6-c5  
**36.Rb1-b5**  
mate