

Michael Adams

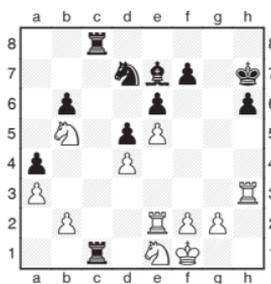


He does like to be beside the seaside

David Howell won the 100th British Championships in fine style with a very chunky 9.5/11. It was his second victory, and both times in Torquay.

The additional side events to the landmark edition created some interest, but a large Swiss event seems an increasingly unsatisfactory format for the Championships as there is now a very soft underbelly to the field.

Mark Hebden also had a good tournament, scoring a neat win against his eternal rival:



M. Hebden - K. Arkell
British Championships 2013
Torquay

32.f2-f4

White has the superior structure and stronger minor piece, advantages Mark enlarges with judicious exchanges.

32... **Rc1-d1**
33.Rh3-d3 **Rd1xd3**

There was a good case for 33...Rd1-c1.

34.Ne1xd3 **h6-h5**
35.g2-g3

Active measures with 35.f4-f5 were possible, but Hebden is happy to slowly improve his position.

35... **Kh7-g6**

36.Kf1-f2 **Rc8-c4**
37.Nd3-e1 **f7-f6**

The knights cover a lot of squares as in the line 37...Kg6-f5 38.Ne1-c2, threatening a nasty fork.

38.Re2-c2 **Rc4xc2+**
39.Ne1xc2 **f6xe5**
40.f4xe5 **Be7-g5**

After more exchanges, Black's bishop has emerged, but the unfortunate knight on d7 remains a spectator to the end.

41.Nb5-c3 **b6-b5**
42.Nc3xb5 **Bg5-c1**

43.Nc2-e1 **Bc1xb2**
44.Ne1-d3 **Bb2-a1**

45.Nd3-f4+ **Kg6-f5**
46.Kf2-f3 **Nd7-f8**

46...Ba1xd4 47.Nb5xd4+ Kf5xe5 48.Nd4xe6 Nd7-b6 might have created a few practical problems.

47.Nf4xh5 **Ba1-b2**
47...Kf5-g6 48.Nh5-f4+ Kg6-f7 is scarcely any better,

but unexpectedly Mark is preparing a mating net.

48.Nh5-f4 **Bb2-c1**
49.Nb5-d6+ **Kf5-g5**
50.Nd6-f7+ **Kg5-f5**

51.g3-g4
mate

It's not very common to see such a conclusion, which is why Keith sportingly played on to the end.



C. Ward - D. Howell
British Championships
Torquay 2013

10.Ng1-f3 **f7-f6**

Undermining the powerful central pawn.

11.e5xf6 **Ng4xf6**
12.Bc1-e3 **e6-e5**
13.Ra1-d1

Avoiding 13.Nf3xe5 Nc6xe5 14.Qc3xe5 Rf8-e8 15.Qe5-c3 Nf6-g4, which allows

Black to grab the initiative.

13... **Qd8-e8**
14.Bf1-e2 **Bc8-g4**
15.h2-h3 **Bg4xf3**
16.Be2xf3 **Nc6-d4**
17.Rd1xd4

The knight leap is quite powerful, as 17.Bf3xb7 Ra8-b8 is too dangerous, and 17.Be3xd4 e5xd4+ wins White's queen. Hence Chris decides to give up the exchange for a pawn, relying on his strong bishop pair.

17... **e5xd4**
18.Qc3xd4 **c7-c6**

19.O-O **Qe8-e7**
20.b2-b4 **Rf8-d8**

21.Qd4-c5

As White's king is more secure than Black's, it was wiser to keep queens with 21.Qd4-c3.

21... **Qe7xc5**
22.Be3xc5 **Rd8-d3**

David seizes the opportunity to activate his rooks.

23.b4-b5 **Nf6-d7**
24.Bc5-b4 **a7-a5**
25.b5xa6

It was better to enter the tactical mêlée 25.b5xc6 a5xb4 26.c6xd7 b4xa3 27.Bf3xb7 Ra8-b8 28.Bb7-d5+ Kg8-f8 29.Rf1-e1 with drawing chances.

25... **Ra8xa6**
26.c4-c5 **Rd3xa3**

Another strong move: giving up the exchange leaves the White pawn on c5 exposed as it can't be defended by the light-squared bishop.

27.Bf3-e2
The problem remains that after 27.Bb4xa3 Ra6xa3 28.Rf1-c1 Ra3-a5, the two connected pawns on the queenside should be enough.

27... **Ra3-a4**
28.Bb4-c3

It was better to try 28.Be2-c4+ Kg8-f8 29.Bc4xa6 Ra4xb4 30.Ba6-d3 g7-g6 31.Rf1-c1 Rb4-d4, but Black should still be winning.

28... **Ra6-a8**
29.Rf1-d1 **Nd7xc5**
O-O