

## Michael Adams



## Nice guys, nice result

Gawain Jones and Stephen Gordon, two of the nice guys of chess, both compiled a hefty 9/11 at the British Championships, with Gawain winning a scrappy play-off to secure his first title. Stephen could also be proud of his efforts, winning eight games during the event with precise positional play.

Bf8xc5 34.b4xc5 as he has several pieces covering the advanced pawn.

**32...** **Rc8-c4**  
**33.f2-f3** **c3-c2**  
**34.Be3-c5**

Exchanging pieces isn't wise, the stronger 34.h2-h4 has some aggressive intent and makes a safe spot for the king on h2.

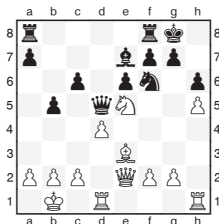
**34...** **Bf8xc5+**  
**35.b4xc5** **Qb7-b2**  
**36.Qg4-g5** **Qb2-d4+**  
**37.Kg1-h1** **h7-h6**  
**38.Qg5-f5**

The losing error 38.Qg5-g3 was essential, when White has just enough counterplay 38...Qd4-b2 (38...Qd4-d1 39.Ne4-d6 rebounds) 39.h2-h3 Rd8-d5 with a complex position. White has the last word after 39...Qb2xc1 40.Re1xc1 Rd8-d1 + 41.Kh1-h2 Rd1xc1 42.Ne4-f6+.

**38...** **Qd4-d1**  
**39.Ne4-d6**

The last try, as 39.h2-h3 Qd1xe1+ 40.Rc1xe1 Rd8-d1 is trivial, but Stephen has a pleasing liquidation available to decide the game.

**39...** **Rd8xd6**  
**40.c5xd6** **Qd1xe1+**  
**41.Rc1xe1** **c2-c1Q**  
**42.Qf5-e5** **Qc1-d2**  
**43.h2-h3** **Rc4-c6**  
**0-1**



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**18...** **a7-a5**

White is ahead in the pawn storm race, so the previously played 18...Be7-

d6 challenging the knight looks wiser.

**19.g2-g4** **a5-a4**  
**20.g4-g5**

Not 20.f2-f4 Nf6-e4 with good counterplay.

**20...** **h6xg5**  
**21.h5-h6** **g7-g6**  
**22.h6-h7+** **Kg8-h8**

Black can't capture, as 22...Nf6xh7 23.f2-f4 prepares Qe2-h2.

**23.Be3xg5**  
 Sometimes a pawn on the seventh can provide valuable cover for the opposing king to hide behind, but here the instability of Black's pieces remains problematic.

**23...** **a4-a3**  
 If 23...b5-b4 24.Qe2-e3 and the queen heads to f4.

**24.b2-b3** **Ra8-a7**  
 24...Nf6-e4 rebounds after 25.Bg5xe7 Ne4-c3+ 26.Kb1-a1 Nc3xe2 27.Be7-f6 mate.

**25.f2-f3** **Be7-d8**  
**26.Ne5xc6**

Gawain cashes in a bit early. 26.Qe2-d2 quickly builds a decisive attack: 26...c6-c5 27.Qd2-f4 Nf6-h5 28.Rh1xh5 g6xh5 29.Bg5-f6+ Bd8xf6 30.Qf4xf6+ Kh8xh7 31.Rd1-h1.

**26...** **Qd5xg5**  
 26...Qd5xc6 27.Qe2-e5 Kh8-g7 28.Bg5-h6+ wins. Gawain wraps up the game with his extra material.

**27.Nc6xa7** **b5-b4**  
**28.Qe2-e5** **Qg5xe5**  
**29.d4xe5** **Nf6-d5**  
**30.Na7-b5** **Bd8-e7**  
**31.Rd1-d3** **Rf8-b8**  
**32.c2-c4** **b4xc3**  
**33.Nb5xc3** **Nd5-b6**  
**34.Rd3-d4** **Rb8-c8**  
**35.Nc3-e4** **Nb6-d5**  
**36.Rd4-c4** **Rc8-d8**  
**37.Rc4-c6** **Be7-f8**  
**38.Ne4-g5**  
**1-0**

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White would be in great shape if his bishop was on d4, but without a clear way to improve his position he decides to open the centre.

**25.e3-e4** **d5xe4**  
**26.Nc3xe4** **Ra8-c8**  
**27.Ne4-g3** **Be7-f8**  
**28.Bf4-e3** **c4-c3**

Stephen correctly judges that, practically, Black's chances are much better once the pawn gets to the seventh rank.

**29.Ng3-e4** **f6-f5**  
 Black has to give up a pawn to keep the game going, as 29...Be8-g6 30.Qg4-e6+ Bg6-f7 31.Qe6-g4 repeats.

**30.Qg4xf5** **Be8-g6**  
**31.Qf5-e6+** **Bg6-f7**  
**32.Qe6-g4**

White could have played 32.Qe6-f5 c3-c2 33.Ne4-c5