

Michael Adams

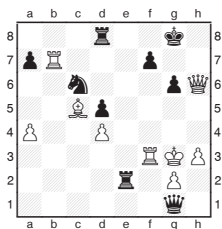


Queen of the board looks back

Books with a personal touch are often the most enjoyable, and so it proves in *How I Beat Fischer's Record* by Judit Polgar (www.qualitychess.co.uk), the first in a trio of books she is writing about her career. The games are annotated very well with a few key variations, and a lot of highly instructive comments.

In my games with Judit I have experienced to my cost how dangerous she is in bad positions where she often manages to generate hidden tactical possibilities from unpromising situations.

To achieve this you need well-honed instincts and the book details how a regime of blindfold games and tactical problem-solving helped with her development in this aspect of the game, as we see in the sharp bits of play from the book below:



J. Polgar - L. Bo Hansen
Vejstrup 1989

32.Kg3-h4

The game should end in a draw after 32.Rb7xf7 Re2xg2+ 33.Kg3-h4 Qg1-e1+ 34.Rf3-f2

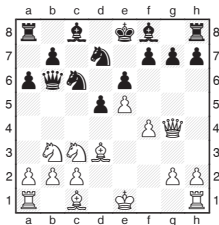
Qe1-e4+ 35.Rf7-f4 g6-g5+ 36.Qh6xg5+ Rg2xg5 37.Rf4xe4 d5xe4 38.Kh4xg5 Nc6xd4, but this is trickier.

32... Qg1xg2

Black could hold with 32...Re2-e4+ 33.Kh4-g3 Re4-e2 or 32...Nc6-e7, but figured he would end up in the variation above, overlooking a key point.

33.Qh6-g7+

caused Black to resign, as 33...Kg8xg7 34.Rf3xf7+ Kg7-h8 35.Rf7-h7+ Kh8-g8 36.Rb7-g7 is mate. It's worth noting 33.Qh6-h7+ is equally good.



M. Wahls - J. Polgar
Munich 1991

10... a6-a5

A very strong move with an unusual tactical justification which is not easy to see, as pins across a rank are quite rare.

11.a2-a4

Although this loses a pawn, my computer sees nothing better.

11... Qb6-b4

Thanks to the insertion of the two pawn moves, the 'e' pawn cannot be saved, as if Wahls moves his queen, 12..d5-d4 wins a piece, but here White looks to have better chances for counterplay after 12.Bc1-d2 retaining the option to castle queenside in some variations.

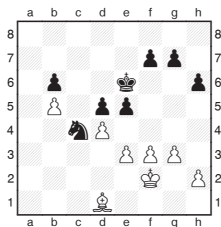
12... Nc6xe5

13.Qg4-e2 Ne5xd3

For the rest of the game you will have to see the book, but Black went on to win.

Another stylish effort is *Break the Rules!* by Neil McDonald (www.everymanchess.com), which focuses on his own playing experiences, with a number of well-chosen examples from other players.

I was struck by the following instructive tale about a game which Neil watched live in his junior days:



R. Keene - A. Miles
British Championship
Torquay 1982

37... Nc4-d6

Neil mentions in the book that he couldn't understand why Miles didn't win with 37...e5xd4 38.e3xd4 Nc4-d6 39.Bd1-e2 39...Nd6-f5 picking up a pawn. The answer is that 39.Bd1-a4 Nd6-f5 40.g3-g4 Nf5xd4 41.Kf2-e3 traps the knight.

38.d4xe5

Keene also missed this well-concealed resource. White had better chances to draw with 38.Bd1-a4 as in the last variation.

38... 39.f3-f4+ Ke6xe5 40.Bd1-b3 Ke5-e6 41.Kf2-g2 Nd6-e4+

White resigned at the adjournment, as he will lose the 'b' pawn and the game after 41...Ke6-d6.