

Michael Adams



Jones flies the flag for England

Gawain Jones gave a smooth performance to become the first English player to win the Hastings tournament outright since Matthew Sadler in 1997/98.

Both the games below are from players who tied for second, and feature fearsome Black bishops.

A better practical chance was 38.Qc2-e2 b5xa4 39.b3xa4 Qf4-c1+ 40.Qe2-f1 (40.Kg1-h2 e4-e3 is decisive), Black wins with the not easy to see 40...Qc1-d2 41.a4-a5 Ba7xf2+ 42.Qf1xf2 e4-e3.

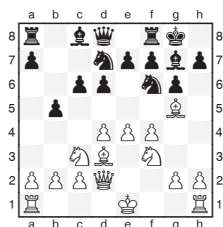
38... e4-e3
39.Nb7-c5 b5xa4

Now White can't deal with the problems on both sides of the board.

40.Kg1-f1
40.f2xe3 Qf4xe3+ 41.Kg1-f1 a4-a3 is no better.

40... a4-a3
The simplifying 40...Ba7xc5 41.b4xc5 a4-a3 is also good enough, but retaining the powerful bishop is more thematic.

41.Nc5-d3 Qf4-c4
42.Kf1-e2 e3xf2
0-1



T. Rendle - S. Sulskis
Hastings 2012/13

9.f4-f5
An interesting idea, but castling before starting aggressive measures was sounder.

9... b5-b4
10.Nc3-e2 d6-d5

In hyper-modern style, Black fights back by undermining the centre.

11.e4xd5
Another tempting idea, maintaining the central pawns was 11.e4-e5 Nf6-e4 12.Bd3xe4 d5xe4 13.Nf3-h4.

11... c6xd5
12.f5xg6

This exchange helps Black. 12.Qd2xb4 Ra8-b8 13.Qb4-a3 forces Black to show compensation for the pawn.

12... h7xg6
13.h2-h4

There was still a case for 13.O-O.

13... Nf6-e4
14.Qd2xb4

It's surprising how quickly Black grabs full control after this. 14.Qd2-f4 leaves all to play for.

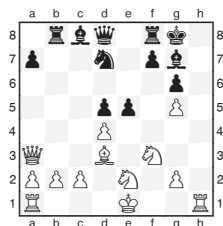
14... Ra8-b8
15.Qb4-a3

15.Qb4xe7 Qd8-a5+ also looks very dangerous.

15... Ne4xg5
16.h4xg5

Black's dark-squared bishop riles the roost after 16.Nf3xg5 e7-e5 17.O-O-O, but at least White's king is out of the centre.

16... e7-e5
Having eroded White's central presence, Black takes the chance to clear and dominate the long diagonal.



Yang-Fan Zhou - A. Sumets
Hastings 2012/13

35.Nb2-c4
It was better to disrupt Black's pieces with 35.Nb2-d3, now Sumets comes up with an inspired idea.

35... b6-b5

The obvious 35...e5-e4 36.Qc2-b2 is less challenging.

36.Nc4xa5

This sends the knight too far from the kingside. The best defence was 36.Nc4-b2 e5-e4 37.a4xb5 (or 37.Nb2-d1) 37...e4-e3 38.Nb2-d3 e3xf2+ 39.Kg1-f1. The ending 36.a4xb5 a5-a4 37.Qc2-d2 a4-a3 38.Qd2xf4 e5xf4 39.Nc4xa3 Bc5xa3 looks difficult.

36... e5-e4
37.Na5-b7

After 37.a4xb5 e4-e3, the weak dark squares are decisive.

37... Bc5-a7
38.b3-b4

17.d4xe5 Nd7xe5
18.Qa3xa7

18.Nf3xe5 Bg7xe5 19.Qa3xa7 hangs on a little longer.

18... Ne5xd3+
19.c2xd3 Rb8xb2

20.Ke1-f1 Rf8-e8

The simple 20...Rb2-b7 21.Qa7-a4 Bg7xa1 22.Qa4-h4 Rb7-b1+ 23.Nf3-e1 Rf8-e8 24.d3-d4 Kg8-f8 is sufficient, but Black's initiative can't be contained in any case.

21.Ne2-d4

The alternative 21.Ra1-e1 Bc8-g4 22.Qa7-a4 Bg4xf3 23.g2xf3 Qd8-e7 24.Rh1-h2 Qe7-e3 25.Rh2-f2 Bg7-f8 26.Qa4-d4 Rb2xe2 is no better.

21... Qd8-d6
22.Ra1-e1 Re8xe1+

23.Nf3xe1 Qd6-g3
24.Nd4-c6 Bg7-c3

25.Nc6-e7+ Kg8-g7
0-1