

Michael Adams



Norwood still has the magic

My predecessor in this column, David Norwood, hasn't played too much chess since giving up his writing duties aside from a number of blitz games on the internet and some sporadic clock-bashing in the London Chess Classic VIP room. (One encounter there with Nigel Short provided enough uproar that the amusement overwhelmed the commentary next door, to the bafflement of many tuning in on the internet.)

These days he enjoys a more laid-back lifestyle in sunny Andorra, where he has taken the opportunity to try his luck at his new local tournament.

This year there were more than a few flashes of the old magic in his games.

pieces spring into life.

19.e4xd5 Qd8-d7
20.Qd1-h5 g7-g6
21.Qh5-f3 Rc8-d8

Black should have played 21...Be7-g5 22.Re1xe8+ Rc8xe8 23.Nd2-e4 Bc4xd5. Now Dave niftily exploits the long dark-square diagonal by clearing the way for his bishop.

22.d5-d6 Be7-g5

There is no good defence 22...Qd7xd6 23.d4-d5 Bc4xd5 24.Qf3xd5 Qd6xd5 25.Bg2xd5 Rd8xd5 26.Re1xe7 leads to a back-rank calamity.

23.d4-d5 Qd7xd6

23...Bg5xd2 24.Qf3-f6 is rather unfortunate.

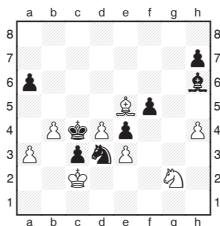
24.Qf3-c3 f7-f6

25.Qc3xa5 Bc4xd5

26.Re1xe8+ Rd8xe8

27.Qa5xb5

Black resigned, as 27...Re8-d8 28.Qb5xd5+ Qd6xd5 29.Bg2xd5+ Rd8xd5 30.Rc1-c8+ Kg8-f7 31.Nd2-e4 leaves him a piece down for nothing.



B. Macias Murillo -

D. Norwood

Andorra 2013

44.Be5-f6

It was better to play 44.Be5-d6, but White thinks he has an opportunity to remove the advanced 'c' pawn.

44... Bh6-f8

45.d4-d5 Bf8xb4

No such luck! Dave mops up three pawns for the bishop and his king seizes pole position.

46.a3xb4 Nd3xb4+

47.Kc2-b1 Nb4xd5

48.Bf6-g5

48.Bf6-d8 Kc4-d3 is not much better.

48... Kc4-b3

49.Ng2-e1 Nd5-b4

50.Kb1-c1

There is little to do, as 50.Bg5-f6 c3-c2+ 51.Kb1-c1 Nb4-a2+ forces promotion.

50... Nb4-d3+

51.Ne1xd3 e4xd3

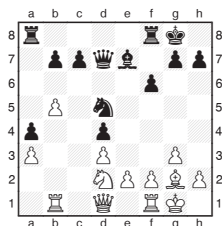
The pawns are unstoppable.

52.Bg5-d8 d3-d2+

53.Kc1-d1 c3-c2+

54.Kd1xd2 Kb3-b2

0-1



D. Norwood - M. Massoni

Andorra Open 2013

18.Qd1-c2 Nd5-c3

It was better to try

18...Rf8-d8.

19.Bg2xb7 Ra8-b8

20.Bb7-c6 Qd7-g4

21.Nd2-f3 Be7xa3

After 21...Nc3xb1

22.Rf1xb1, White dominates the board.

22.Rb1-a1 Ba3-b4

23.Ra1xa4

Forcing the exchange of Black's only effective piece.

23... Nc3xa4

24.Qc2xa4 Bb4-c3

25.e2-e3

Exploiting the cross pin on the queen.

25... Rb8-b6

26.Qa4-c4+ Kg8-h8

27.e3xd4 Rb6xc6

27...Bc3-b2 28.Qc4-c5 is also very undesirable.

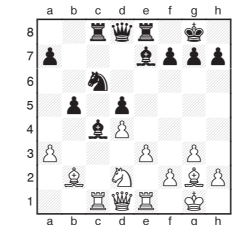
28.Qc4xc6 Bc3xd4

29.Nf3xd4 Qg4xd4

30.Qc6xc7 Qd4xd3

31.b5-b6

Black resigned, as there is no way to halt the pawn. For instance, 31...Qd3-d8 32.Qc7xd8 Rf8xd8 33.b6-b7 Rd8-b8 34.Rf1-c1 Rb8xb7 35.Rc1-c8 mate.



D. Norwood -

J. Arizmendi Martinez

Andorra Open 2013

18.e3-e4

Undermining Black's bishop, which is gluing his position together.

18... Nc6-a5

After 18...d5xe4 19.Nd2xc4

b5xc4 20.Rc1xc4, all White's