



SUNCOAST CHESS CLUB NEWSLETTER

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Last month it was indicated that we would look at ratings divisions this month, but lack of space will see it in the September issue.

On the subject of ratings though, the latest ACF list contained a number of results from Suncoast Club tournaments, which in combination with other events saw a significant shift in player's ratings. Congratulations to **Dominique Patissier** and **Alan Runciman** who both made the Most Improved Player list increasing their ratings by 95 and 93 points respectively. Well done!!

Courtesy of the number of tournaments, Noosa players **Darren Trethewy** and **Wolf Koch** got their name in lights in the Busiest Player list with 45 and 41 rated games respectively.

Tournament Results Section Quite a few club tournaments to report on this month as the editor forgot to include the results last month!

Buderim Mid-Year Tournament (30 mins)

1st **Derrick Jeffries** (7/8)
2nd-3rd **Ramon Norton** and **John Potts** (6/8)

Buderim Winter Tournament

1st **Derrick Jeffries** (6.5/8)
2nd **Ben Goodwin** (4.5/6)
3rd **John Potts** (4/6)

Noosa Handicap Lightning 3

1st **Otto Mehlreter** (5/6)
2nd **Paul Summers** and **Kevin M^cColl** (4/6)

Noosa Doubleplay Rapid (2 x 30 minute games per opponent per round)

1st **Otto Mehlreter** (6/6)
2nd **Paul Summers** (4/6)
3rd **Gerry O'Connor** and **Allan Wilkes** (3/6)

Noosa Handicap Lightning 4

1st **Paul Summers**
2nd **Allan Wilkes**
3rd **Otto Mehlreter**

Only one Grand Prix tournament to report, with **Paul Summers** competing with the juniors (!!) in the Gold Coast Open finishing with 5/7 to share the A group rating prize with 3 others.

Games Section Sometimes, a thread runs the entire game. Such is the case in this friendly game, where the recognition of the correct strategic course of action was essential for both sides. After mistakes from both sides in the opening, Black gains a minimal strategic plus and must carefully nurture that plus through to the endgame. White, unfortunately, does not recognise that Black has this minimal advantage and assists Black both strategically and tactically to increase that advantage.

So the focus of the notes for this game will be on the identification of the correct strategy (the plan), rather than the tactical sequence of the moves. Cover the balance moves as you play through the game to gain most assistance from the notes.

White: **Dominique Patissier**
Black: **Paul Summers**
Opening: **A40 QUEEN'S PAWN OPENING**

1 d4 g6 2 Nf3 Bg7 3 e3 c5 4 c3 e6 5 Bd3 d5 6 Nbd2 b6 7 e4 cxd 8 cxd Ba6?? 9 Bxa6 Nxa6 10 e5?? There are 3 reasons why this move is a mistake, one tactical and two strategic. Try and identify them before reading on.

Tactically, White does not take advantage of Black's 8th move mistake by playing 10 Qa4+, which wins the Na6. Our purpose though in this game is to consider strategy, so ignoring the immediate tactical play, after 10 e5 White allows Black to set the strategic course of play and obtain a minimal positional plus. Before reading on, try and identify the strategic course this game will take.

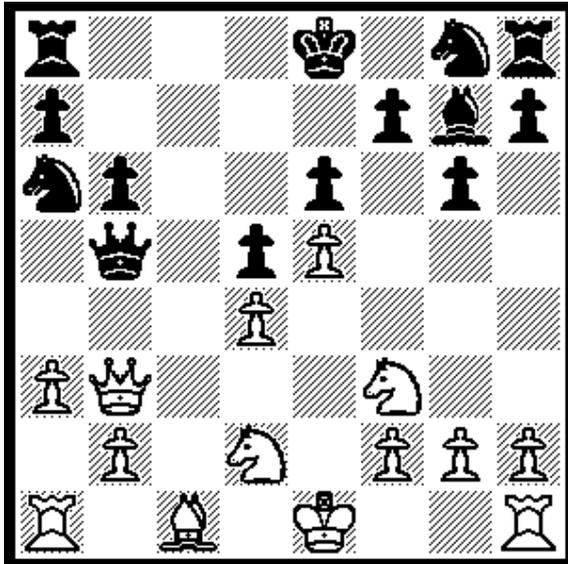
So why is 10 e5 a strategically doubtful move? There are two reasons, first it fixes play on the open c-file which Black can occupy before White. Secondly, having exchanged the WBs, White fixes pawns on the same colour square as his remaining B. Now again before reading on identify for yourself what White and Black should be playing for.

If you have identified that White should playing to reduce Black's influence on the c-file you are partly right. In addition, Black needs to play to exchange the B because towards the endgame, Black's B will be significantly better than White's, even though it currently *bites on granite*. So even this far out, we can identify the complete strategic course of the game

10...Qd7 11 a3?! Now you know the two strategic themes in this game, you should be able to identify what is wrong with this move.

Simply it places another pawn on a Black square 11...Qb5 12 Qb3?! (Diagram 1) Once again using our strategic understanding of the game, what is wrong with this move?

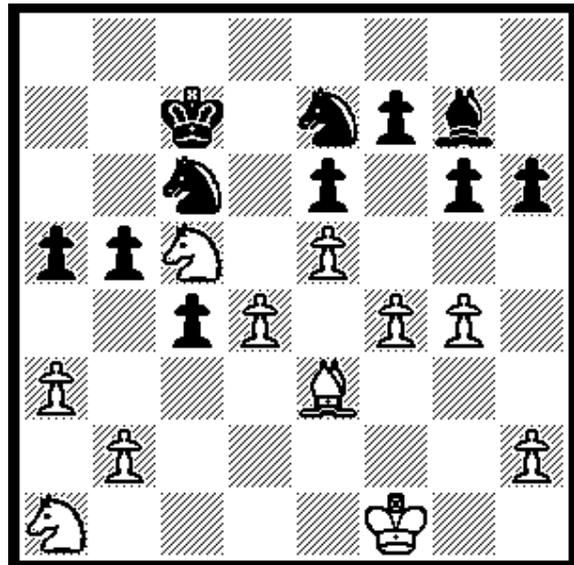
Diagram 1 Position after 12 Qb3?!



It reduces White's influence on the c-file, because there is now no control over the entry square, c2. In addition, after the exchange of Qs the WN will fix the b-pawn on a Black square, as Black must lose time to remove the N. 12...Qxb3 13 Nxb3 Rc8 14 OO Ne7 15 Bg5 Rc2 The R enters on the square that could have been controlled by the WQ and it immediately attacks the weak b-pawn. Note how White must now defend the pawn with a R leaving it controlling that square and the first rank only. Rs of course belong on files 16 Rab1 Kd7 17 Rfc1 Rhc8 18 Rxc2 Rxc2 19 Kf1?! Black thought this an excellent move, but it does little to assist the positional disadvantage of lack of control on the c-file and the holding the weak pawn at d4. In the coming course of play, there are many tactical threats to this weak pawn, which assist Black in bringing pieces to the Q'side 19...h6 20 Ne1 Rc4 21 Be3 Should White have exchanged the weak B? Tactically, no as it is a good defender of the weak d-pawn, but strategically yes, for two reasons. First, the B will have to defend the pawn from e3, limiting its scope. Secondly, Black's N at e7 will remain stronger than the B due to the number of WPs on Black squares 21...Nf5 22 g3?! You should be right now, what is wrong? Yet another pawn on a White square 22...Nb8 Black does not exchange the strong N for the weak B, but instead creates pressure on the weak d-pawn 23 Rc1 Nc6 24 Nf3 a5 25 g4 This would have

been better at move 22 25...Nfe7 26 Nfd2 Ra4! White's occupation of the c-file is now ineffectual 27 Na1 The N finally clears the b3 square, but can only go to a corner square from where its effect on the balance of the game is negligible 27...b5 28 Ndb3?! Aiming for the new hole at c5, but for what purpose? 28...Rc4! Now a pawn at c4 can be supported by the b-pawn, so Black does not fear the exchange 29 Nc5+ Kc7 30 Rxc4 dxc4 31 f4 (Diagram 2)

Diagram 2 Position after 31 f4



Now look at the position, as another pawn moves onto a Black square. Black's B is out of play, but so is White's N and in addition, the White B is very weak. In effect, Black now plays a piece up. Also note that in the course of the last 10 or so moves, Black's pieces have gradually moved to the Q'side to support the strategic ideas along the c-file, but using tactical threats on White's d-pawn to achieve the shift of the pieces 31...Nd5 32 Ke2 Bf8 Suddenly, Black's weak B comes to life 33 Ne4 b4 34 axb axb 35 Nc2 Kb6 36 h4 Kb5 37 h5 gxh 38 gxh Ka4 39 Nc5+ Bxc5 40 dxc5 Nxe3 41 Kxe3 Finally the weak WB is exchanged to strengthen the Black K 41...Kb3 42 Nd4+ Kxb2! 43 Nxc6 c3 44 Nd4 b3 45 c6 c2 46 Nxc2 bxc2 47 c7 and White resigned before Black queened. Notice how it was the c-pawn that would have queened. The endgame win then relied on the strategic theme of c-file control played throughout the game from move 10.