

### **Individual European Small Nations Tournament - Liechtenstein September 2022.**

I was fortunate to be selected to represent Guernsey in the Individual European Small Nations Tournament.

There were 10 players from 10 countries and we played in an all-play-all round robin. It was a tough tournament with a high standard of play with 2 Grandmasters present. I finished in 7<sup>th</sup> position with 2 wins against players from San Marino and Liechtenstein, 2 draws against players from Jersey and Malta, and 5 losses.



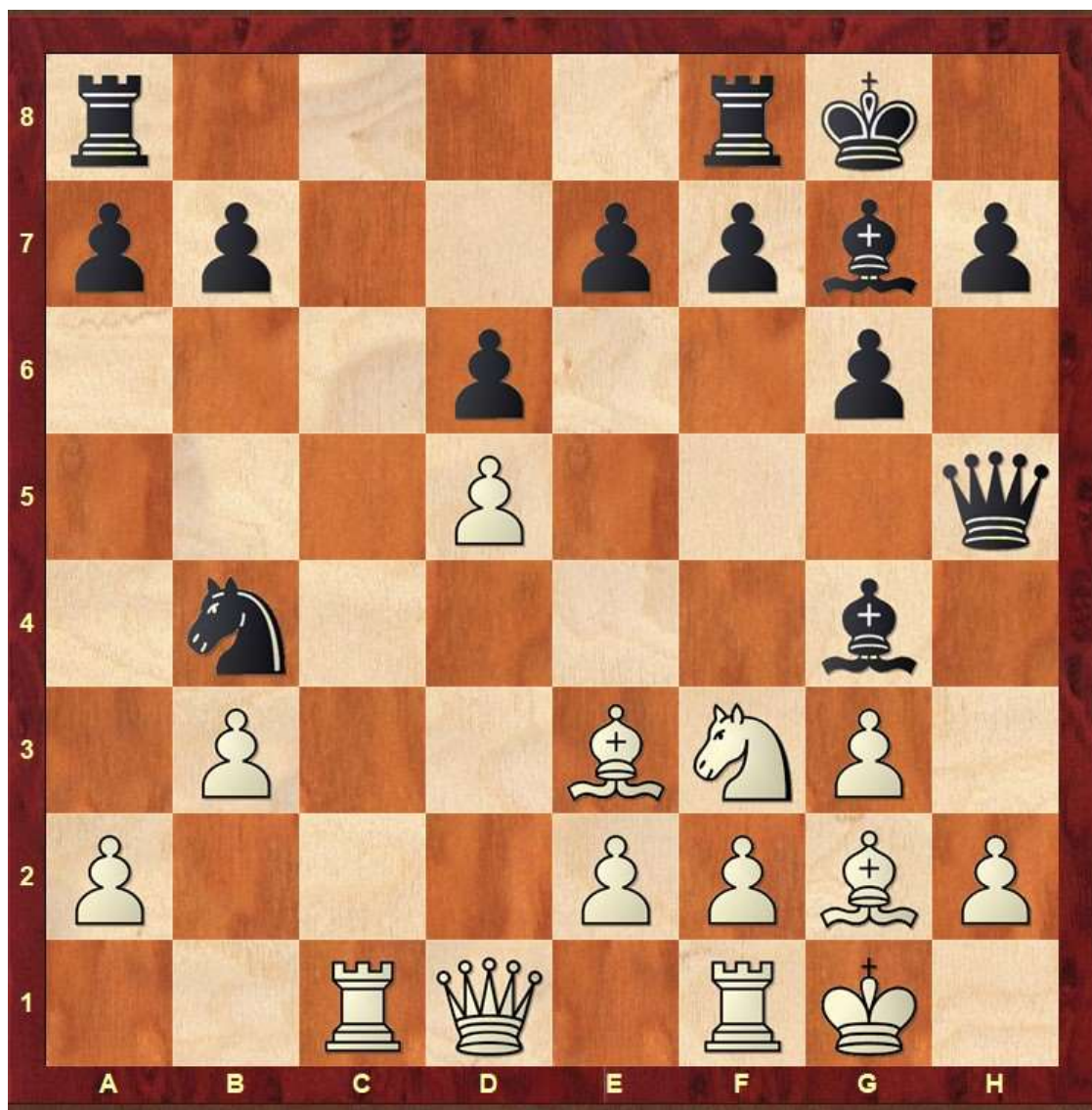
*vs Jack Mizzi of Malta the game ended in a quick draw*



*vs Danilo Volpinari of San Marino.*

I had mis-played a minority attack, and White had a strong knight on c5, but I went on to win the endgame after a time scramble.

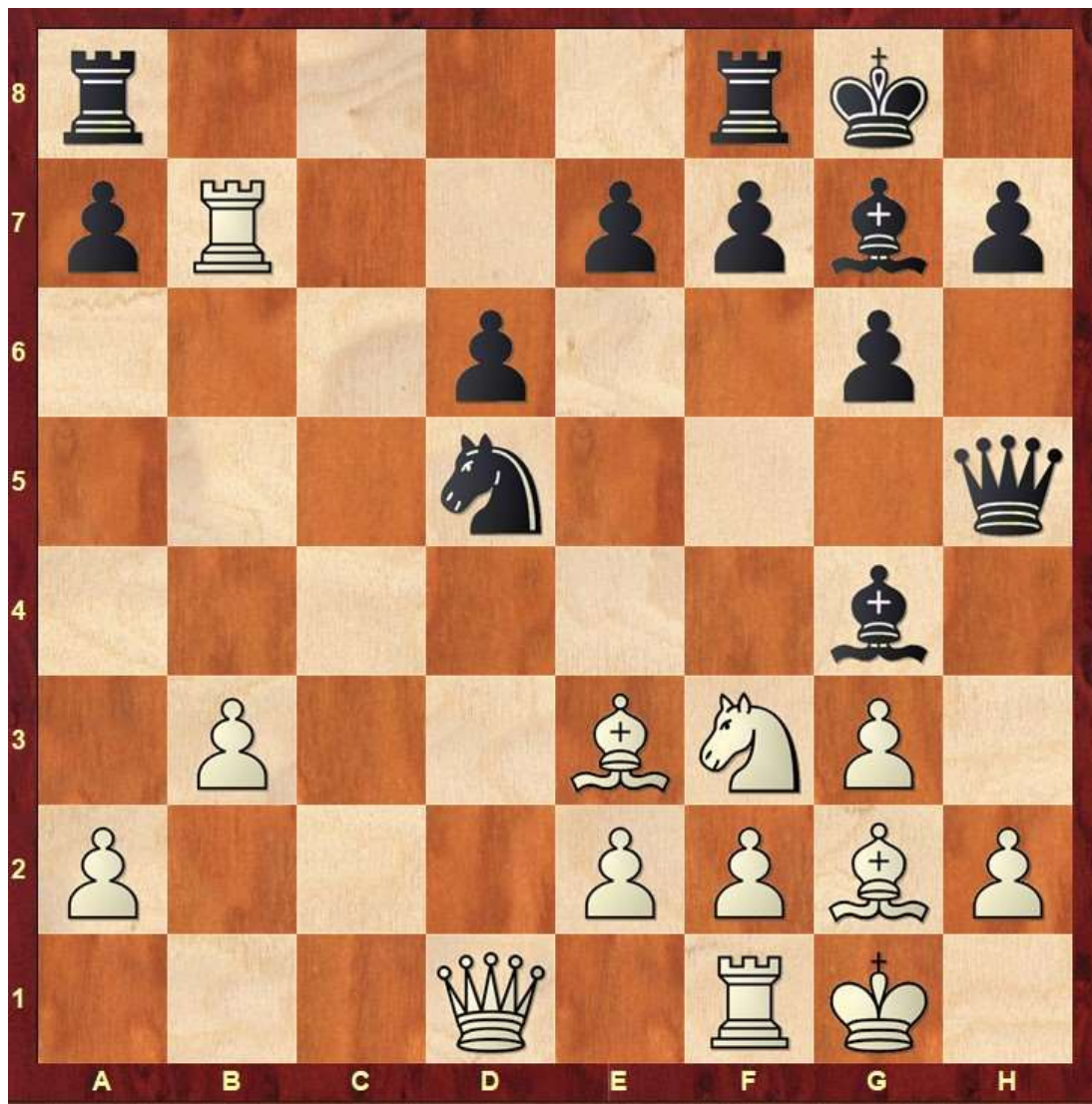
I had an interesting game against the Luitjsen Akselsson Apol from the Faroe Islands where the computer showed some possibilities missed by the players early in the game. On Move 13 as White I reached the following position :-



White can obtain an advantage with 13. H3 Bxh3 14. Ng5 ! (surprising move) Nxa2 15. Bf3 Bg4 16. Rc4 Bxf3 17. Exf3 and the Black queen is trapped.

In the game 13. Rc7 Nxd5 14. Rxb7 was played and we reached the following position.





Black could now win with 14... Bc8 (Backward Bishop move was difficult to find), 15. Rb5 Nxe3 16. Rxh5 Nxd1

Liechtenstein Chess Federation had organised 2 excursions during the tournament, firstly to the ski resort of Malbun where we saw some early snow.



In Malbun we visited the Galina Falconry centre, and were given a talk on birds of prey.



Lance Henderson de la Fuente from Andorra was volunteered to hold the Golden Eagle.



We also visited Vaduz Castle and were given a reception by Prince Alois of Liechtenstein.



*Renato Frick (Organiser and Liechtenstein player) with Prince Alois*



*Peter Kirby (Guernsey player) with Prince Alois*





*View from Vaduz Castle over Vaduz*

On our return journey we had a few hours to wait for our flights at Zurich Airport, so we arranged an impromptu blitz tournament. We didn't keep accurate score but I think Paul Carpenter from Jersey won more games.





*Paul Carpenter (Left) vs Adrian Mizzi – Jack Mizzi's father (Right).*

A Thank-you to Renato Frick and Liechtenstein Chess Federation for a great tournament.

Peter Kirby

September 2022.