

# Knights before Bishops

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*An intermittent newsletter for the Guernsey Chess Club*

Hi everyone! This is the beginning of great things to come in the world of print. Chess magazines the world over are quaking in their boots! I present to you a review of the Guernsey chess world in 2010 and 2011....plus a couple of extras:

## Division 2

**Cycle 2 2009/10 season - January to March 2010**

This was a tough division to get out of in early 2010. It was unclear who the favourite was with Dave Smith, Terry Harnden, Richard Le Maitre, Steve Naftel, Dave Reynolds and Colin Goman all strong contenders. However, it was Dave Smith who ran away with it in the end scoring a fantastic 10½ out of 11.

There was a close tussle for the second promotion spot with Colin Goman edging out Dave Reynolds on tiebreak with 9 wins and 2 losses.

**Smith – Chauval Division 2 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2010**



Easy one to start off with.  
White to play and win.  
Answer at the end of the newsletter.

*Position after black's 36<sup>th</sup> move*

## Cycle 1 2010/11 season – September to December 2010

Tom Moriarty, Rick Le Maitre, Bogdan Nalichowski and a returning Oli Rowe notably played well in a really tough division. However, Jon Bridel grabbed the only promotion spot  $\frac{1}{2}$  a point ahead of Steve Naftel.

### Steve Naftel – Keith Hodder Division 2 9th November 2010



OK – let's get your brains working.

White is clearly better here being 2 pawns up.

- 1) What is black's best try and why?
- 2) How can white disagree with this idea maintaining his advantage?

Answers are at the end of the newsletter.

*Position after white's 18th move*

## Cycle 2010/11 season – January to April 2010

This division is still ongoing as I go to print with a mass of players scrapping for top spot and Interinsular places. I will show the Bateman v Spicer encounter later in the issue but another highly entertaining game was Nalichowski v Bateman which eventually ended in a draw.



An endgame puzzle for you:

This is a position from **Nalichowski v Bateman Division 2 5<sup>th</sup> April 2011.**

White played 74. g6.

- 1) Why is this a mistake?
- 2) What is the move white should play to equalise the game?

Answers later.

## Division 1

### Cycle 2 2009/10 season - January to March 2010

Fred Hamperl flew through early 2010 unbeaten in the league scoring 8 points from 9 games. The only draws he conceded were against Jon Cummins and Jonathan Spicer.

Cummins, Hale, Brookfield and Rowe were a few points off the pace with Hills and Kirk further behind but showing improvement.

The relegation scrap was between Tom Moriarty, Jon Bridel and Jonathan Spicer. Jonny Spicer managed to just stay up helped by a crucial win against Jon Bridel.

### Brookfield – Kirk Division 1 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2010



White to play.

Black is threatening to play c4 trapping the bishop.

Or is he?

What was now played?

Give some variations to show it all works.

*Position after black has played 14....c5*

### Cycle 1 2010/11 season – September to December 2010

Tim Knight returning to playing at the club gave the division 11 players.

Fred made the running in the winter league scoring an excellent 8 out of 10. Matt Kirk scored an impressive 6 points demonstrating his rapid improvement.

Colin Goman and Jonathan Spicer were relegated.

## Cycle 2 2010/11 season – January to April 2011

The top places in the championship have now been decided: Fred Hamperl is Guernsey Champion (well played!) with Peter Rowe in the runner up spot. I made third edging Andy Hale into fourth.

The 2 form players of this cycle were Andy and I scoring 7 and 7½ out of 9 respectively - not quite enough to catch up Fred and Peter overall.

The relegation spot is still undecided.

## The Interinsular 2010

This took place at the Charrieres Hotel on the 24<sup>th</sup> April 2010 on enemy soil. The Guernsey team was captained by our board 1 Fred.

Volcanic eruptions internally and externally meant that Jersey were without Jonny Hawes, Tony Fulton and Graeme Boxall. Guernsey had no Mark Ozanne or Chris Holland and had to contend with a late drop out by Jon O'Connor.

However, this was turned to our advantage with a heroic performance by Colin Goman. Colin, as first reserve, was forced to play Board 9 against the Jersey Captain Louis Jouault because of O'Connor's absence. His inspired win paved the way for a memorable Guernsey victory:

### (10) Goman,Colin - Jouault,Louis [B07]

Interinsular, 24.04.2010

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.Nbd2 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Bd3 0–0 6.0–0 c5 7.d5 Re8 8.c3 a6 9.a4 e6  
10.dxe6 Bxe6 11.Ng5 Nc6 12.f4 d5 13.Nxe6 fxe6 14.e5 Nd7 15.Nf3 c4 16.Bc2 Rf8?!

[16...Qb6+ 17.Kh1 Rad8+/= according to my computer]

17.Ng5! Qe7 18.Qg4 (Diagram next page)



### 18...Ndx5?

[18...Bxe5!? looks like a good try 19.fxe5 (19.Bd2 is a good alternative; 19.Qxe6+? Qxe6 20.Nxe6 Rfe8= the difference in this line is that Bxe5 has covered c7 temporarily stopping the rook fork) 19...Qc5+ 20.Be3! Qxe3+ 21.Kh1 Rxf1+ (21...Rae8! 22.Nxh7! Ncxe5 (22...Kxh7 23.Qxg6+ Kh8 24.Qh7#) 23.Qh4 Rxf1+ 24.Rxf1 transposes to the 21....Rxf1 line) 22.Rxf1 Re8 23.Nxh7! is an amazing line which Fritz initially gives as level but I suspect isn't so. For example: 23...Ncxe5 24.Qh4 Qd2 25.Nf6+ Nxf6 26.Qxf6 Qxc2 27.Qxe5 Qd3 28.Qf6+- with the idea of h3, Rf4, Rh4 and Rh8 mate]

### 19.Qxe6+

[19.fxe5 Qc5+ 20.Be3! Qxe3+ 21.Kh1=]

19...Nf7 20.Qxe7 Nxe7 21.Ne6 Rfc8 22.Nxg7 well....not sure about this move. Wasn't the knight awesome? 22...Kxg7 23.f5!? gxf5 24.Bxf5 Nxf5 25.Rxf5 Rd8 26.Be3 Rd7 27.Raf1 Re8 28.Bd4+ Kg6?

[28...Kg8 white is better but black is still fighting]

### 29.Rf6+!+- Kh5 30.Rxf7

[30.R1f5+! Kg4 (30...Ng5 31.Bf2 Re4 32.h3 Rde7 33.g4+ Rxg4+ 34.hxg4+ Kxg4 35.Rf4+ Kh3 36.Rh6#) 31.h3+ Kg3 32.Bf2#]

30...Rxf7 31.Rxf7 Re1+ 32.Rf1 Re2 33.Rb1 b5 34.axb5 axb5 35.b3 Re7 36.bxc4 bxc4  
37.Rb5 Rd7 38.Kf2 Kg4 39.h3+ Kf4 40.Rb8 Ke4 41.Re8+ Kd3 42.Re3+ Kc2 43.g4 Kd2  
44.g5 Rf7+ 45.Rf3 Re7 46.h4 Re4 47.Kg3 Rxd4 48.cxd4 c3 49.Kf4 c2 50.Rf2+ Kd3



51.Rxc2! Kxc2 52.Ke5 1-0

What's great about this game is that both players play a majority of moves which the computer gives as best. Quality.



Most of the victorious Guernsey Inter Insular Team 2010



## Other News

At the 2010 AGM Joan Galliot, Tom Moriarty and Eric Palmer were made life members of the club. This is a thoroughly deserved honorary for 3 members whom have supported the club for so long.

Guernsey fielded a 5 man team in the 39<sup>th</sup> Chess Olympiad in Khanty-Mansiysk in Siberia: Peter Kirby, John Cummins, myself, Peter Rowe and Jon Bridel plus Captain and Coach Robert Bellin. I wrote several articles which were published in the Guernsey Press so I won't repeat myself here – except to say we acquitted ourselves well and it was a fantastic, intense, chess experience (JC is still pretty spry over 3 flights of stairs!).

The 2011 Interinsular is on the 14<sup>th</sup> May at the Grange Lodge Hotel. The next AGM is on the 17<sup>th</sup> May.

Finally, we are also going to send a 5 man team to the Faeroe Islands in the summer of 2011: Fred Hamperl, Andy Hale, Peter Kirby, Peter Rowe and Dave Smith. Good luck guys!



Gerry Chauval, Sam Smith, Jonathan Spicer and Steve Naftel at the Grange Lodge April 2011

## Opening Titbit – 5...Be7 and 6...exd4!? in the Evans Gambit

The origin of the Evans Gambit lies in the chess cafe and club society of the 1820's. Captain W D Evans, a sea captain who commanded the Royal Mail steamer from Milford Haven to Waterford thought of the gambit in 1824 during his usual run from South Wales to Ireland. He first tried it out in William Lewis's chess rooms in St Martin's Lane beating A McDonnell in 20 moves.

Now 187 years later, in a must win game, Kerry Bateman unleashed it in the Guernsey Chess Club Division 2. However, his opponent Jonathan Spicer matched him in the opening - even though he did eventually lose the game.

### Bateman, Kerry - Spicer, Jonathan [C51]

Winter League Div 2, 12.04.2011

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.b4!?



This is the starting position for the Evans Gambit. Originally Capt Evans played b4 on move 5 but it was subsequently discovered that playing it one move earlier, as Kerry does in this game, is strongest.

### 4.....Bxb4 5.c3 Be7

[there are 2 other options: 5...Ba5 there are many lines here which fall beyond the scope of this opening snippet. One of my favourites is the Compromised Defence where black takes everything and then tries to hang on: 6.d4 exd4 7.0-0 dxc3!? 8.Qb3 Qf6 and the materialistic computer gives black as slightly better but white has rather a lot of compensation!!; 5...Bc5 is the other main idea]



**6.d4 exd4!** [6...Na5 is the main line.] **7.cxd4** again the best response - the other moves don't work as well:

[7.Qb3 Na5! 8.Bxf7+ Kf8 9.Qa4 Kxf7 10.Qxa5 c5! forcing a queen exchange into an ending where black has the bishop pair and a queenside pawn majority e.g. (10...d5! also works) 11.Qxd8 Bxd8 12.cxd4 d6 (12...cxd4=/+ ) 13.Bf4 Ba5+ 14.Nbd2 Nf6 15.0-0 Bc3 16.Rad1 cxd4 17.Bxd6 Re8 eventually ended in a black win 0-1 Kleinschmidt - Richter 1981; 7.0-0?! Nf6 8.e5 Ne4 9.cxd4 d5 10.Be2 0-0-/+]

**7...Nf6** (diagram position)



Best here is 8.e5! Ne4 9.d5!? this is untested but interesting (9.Bd5 Bb4+ 10.Kf1 Nc3 11.Nxc3 Bxc3 12.Bxf7+ Kxf7 13.Qb3+± regaining the piece is a typical tactic) 9...Na5 10.Be2 Bb4+ 11.Kf1!± (11.Bd2 Nxd2 12.Nbxd2 0-0=/+)

**8. Ng5 d5! 9.exd5 Na5=**

[9...Bg4! 10.f3 Nxd5! 11.Nxf7! (11.fxg4 Bxg5) 11...Kxf7 12.fxg4 Bb4+ 13.Bd2 Re8+ -/+ great line!]

I end my very brief opening analysis here. Here are the remaining moves of the game for you to enjoy:

10.Qa4+ c6 11.dxc6 Nxc6 12.Bxf7+ Kf8 13.Be3 h6 14.Ne6+ Bxe6 15.Bxe6 Bb4+ 16.Nd2 Ne4 17.d5 Bxd2+ 18.Bxd2 Nxd2 19.Qf4+ Qf6 20.Qxf6+ gxf6 21.dxc6 Ne4 22.cxb7 Rb8 23.Bc8 Nd6 24.Rd1 Nxb7 25.Bd7 Nc5 26.0-0 Rh7 27.Bf5 Re7 28.Rd5 Na4 29.Rc1 Kg7 30.g4 Rb2 31.Rc2 Rxc2 32.Bxc2 Nc3 33.Ra5 Ne2+ 34.Kf1 Nd4 35.Bf5 Nc6 36.Rc5 Nb4 37.a3 Na6 38.Rd5 Nb8 39.Rd8 Nc6 40.Rd7 Kf7 41.h4 Ne5 42.Rxe7+ Kxe7 43.Kg2 Nf7 44.f4 Kf8 45.Kf3 Ke7 46.Ke3 Nd6 47.Bd3 Kd7 48.Kd4 Kc6 49.g5 fxg5 50.fxg5 hxg5 51.hxg5 Ne8 52.Bc2 Kd6 53.Ke4 Ke6 54.Bb3+ Ke7 55.Ke5 Kf8 56.g6 Kg7 57.Bf7 Nc7 58.a4 Na8 59.Kd4 Nb6 60.a5 Nc8 61.Kc5 a6 62.Kc6 1-0

# The cavalry against the castle – Fred learns the hard way

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## Two knights versus rook, a Guernsey story

**Lesson 1:** The Story begins on 26 May 2007 in Neuchatel Switzerland. I'd travelled to this tournament with Peter Kirby to try and get some experience and enjoy some continental European culture as well. It was round 3 and I was paired against a young unrated girl Megane Miralles. I knew she would be good as she was the daughter of a French grandmaster Gilles Miralles also playing in the tournament.

I was rated 2038, I was going to say I was still a real chess novice at this point but when I listed the tournaments I'd played in other than normal domestic events it came to 15. To boot I was a Fide Master from my performances in the Torino Olympiad; this made what was about to happen a real lesson that I would never forget and which would stand me in good stead in future games.

To the game: it opened as a centre counter gambit. I got a huge advantage and was clearly winning with the white pieces. I misplayed the late middle game and had to sacrifice material to stop black queening her pawns.

So we arrived at the position in the diagram below. I was in immense time trouble about 10 seconds on my clock, she had a little more, with no increment in this tournament, so I've had to recreate the position from memory as our score sheets didn't record the last few moves.



Diagram 1

White to play, Rf8+



Diagram 2

White to play, Black has just interposed Rf6

A small but very knowledgeable crowd had gathered around us as we were the last game still playing and the position was so interesting. Israeli grandmaster Leonid Gofshtein is stood behind me, friendly to us, following him playing in Guernsey the October before this event. Peter Kirby is stood near him and central to the board on my right is English grandmaster Mark Hebden, I think my opponents French grandmaster father was behind her.

I played a move like Rf8+ and she replied with Rf6, we'd been blitzing moves and so I robotically moved my rook away again. However on doing that I could sense a real amusement in the crowd. I resigned as I had no time left to play on. As soon as I resigned Gofshtein and Hebden laughed out loud.

This didn't help my embarrassment to having just lost to a young girl. They explained to me I could have just taken her rook on f6 and stopped the clock and claimed a draw as two knights and king against a lone king cannot mate unless the opponent greatly assists them.

Although you are not technically allowed to stop the clock in this situation the worst that could happen to you is your opponent is awarded 2 minutes on their clock and only after persistent offences could you default the game. The arbiter may ask you to demonstrate for a few moves that you know how to draw the position but with 10 seconds on my clock I may have got the sympathy of the arbiter after a couple of reasonable moves and been awarded a draw.

Anyway this was the first lesson learned: that a professional player wouldn't think twice about doing this and from now on neither would I.

**Lesson 2:** This embarrassment led me to look up two knight endings and learn a little bit about them. I find the best way to remember these things is to have memory hooks from situations in your own games. I now have several for two knights.

The only way she could have mated with the two knights was for me to have fallen into diagram 3 below and after Nc3+ play Ka1 and then be mated with Nc2#, but play Kc1 and the arbiter would feel obliged to give a draw to White after a claim.



Diagram 3 Black to play, Nc3+ Kc1 drawn



Diagram 4 Mate if White plays Ka1 after Kc3+

What is absolutely fascinating about two knight endings though, is that if the opponent has extra material it aids your chances, for example look at the position below where white now has an extra pawn.



Diagram 5



Diagram 6

Diagram 5 Black plays Nd3 to trap the White king forcing White to play e7 then Nc3+ Ka1 forced then Nb4, e8= new queen and then Nc2# resulting in Diagram 6.

**Lesson 3:** 18 months later I'm at the Dresden Olympiad playing a big smiley chatty Angolan wearing a bright Hawaiian shirt. He's a strong player though at 2198 rating with me now at 2076. The game opened as a declined Benoni and went into a Colle set-up for White. We eventually arrived at the position in diagram 7 (see next page) with two knights against his rook.

I realised I was bossing this endgame but from my lesson in Neuchatel the year before (GM's laughter in my head) I realised the only way I could win was with at least one of my black pawns or if he had to sacrifice his rook for my pawns and he was left with at least one pawn.

Unfortunately he knew that too and so he played g4 to liquidate all the pawns asap. However, f3 with the same idea was better. I attempted to gang up on his f2 pawn as I knew if I could get that I was winning. Following my studies in this ending, I knew he couldn't sacrifice his rook for my last pawn (diagram 8) to force the draw as we could arrive in the positions per diagrams 5 and 6 above where his pawn is actually a hindrance to him.

He kept offering draws and started to get annoyed as I turned each one down, he began to insist the position was drawn, but I've learned the hard way at Olympiads the player on the weaker side has to prove the draw. But eventually he was able to pseudo-sacrifice his f-pawn and get my pawn with his king and sacrifice his rook for one of my knights to draw the game. It's a nice way to draw having an extra piece it clearly shows who was enjoying the endgame most.



Diagram 7 White to play, g4



Diagram 8 Black to play, White can't sacrifice his rook for the last black pawn

Lesson 4, Guernsey festival round 5, 21 October 2010 White against Ton Goris from Holland. The game opened as a Waitzkin French and I not entirely accurately sacrificed for an attack on the black king and Black was close to dynamic equality (see Diagram 9 on next page). I was faced with a stark reality that if I check him with Rf6+ he would interpose with Re6 and after swapping off I'd be in two knights versus rook ending yet again.

With some previous experience in these endings I decided I would go for it and of course I had an h-pawn here and we know how notoriously bad knights are at stopping rooks pawns.



Diagram 9: White plays, Rf6+ Re6, Rxe6 Kxe6, Rg6+ Kd5, Rxa6 Nc3, Ra8 Kxd4



Diagram 10: White plays, h4

This time I was the one with rook (diagram 10). I knew immediately if things went wrong all I had to do was to sacrifice my rook on his lone b-pawn to draw, but I was a bit concerned if I only had one pawn left I could get caught in the diagrams 5 and 6 mate. Also if he built a bridge with his king and a knight behind the pawn I could be in trouble, so I had to push my h-pawn to make sure Black didn't have time to do that.

When I went out to the foyer several of the strong 2200 players said to me, "had I finished and it was a draw, right?" I just answered "no I'm going to win you'll see".

In fact it was possible for Black to draw; he had to guide his b-pawn with his king and force me to sacrifice my rook on it and then blockade the white pawns. The drawing line from diagram 10 would go 39...Nd5 40.h5 Kc3 41.h6 Nf6 42.Kg2 b3 43.Kg3 and here Black would need to find the idea of Nd6.

This is much harder for Black to play as coordinating the knights has to be precise whereas it is fairly obvious what White needs to do, keep an eye on the b-pawn with the rook from b-file, push the h-pawn and improve his king. So I was very confident this was a win for white in practical chess, despite the possibility of there being a technical drawing line in existence for Black.



Once again there was quite a crowd watching the endgame as two knights versus rook it always an interesting one to watch.



Diagram 11

We reached the position in diagram 11. I had got my king into the square of the black b-pawn and now my rook was free to harass the knights. Black had to make a dive for the white pawns with his king but after 54...Kd4 I replied 55.Re8 cutting his king off immediately.



Diagram 12



Diagram 13

The black king has to walk down the d-file to the white rook while the white king snaffles the black pawn on b3. Now in diagram 12 after 58...Ng5 I had to find the pretty 59.Rg6. White is then able to keep gaining a tempo to march his king into the position and the game is over (diagram 13). All of those doubting 2200 players congratulated me for how well I'd played the endgame, after the game that was a nice feeling. I told them all this long saga of mine with knights and rooks at the bar over a beer.

# Tics and Tacs

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A) White found a beautiful move what was it?



B) White to play and win



C) Black to play and gain a material advantage



D) White to play and win

# Solutions

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Page 1

**Smith – Chauval 37. Qf8+! Rxf8 38. Rxf8# 1-0** also 37 Rf8+ does the job.

Page 2

**Naftel – Hodder** (analysis)

- 1) The best try is 18...c4! hoping for 19.Bxc4? 19...Qc5+= giving black a chance;
- 2) 18...c4 19.a3! cxb3 20.axb4 Qxb4 21.cxb3 Qxb3 22.Nd5 Rhg8 23.Rxa7! would be the perfect riposte

**Nalichowski v Bateman** (analysis)

- 1) 74 g6? Is a mistake because of 74...e2+! 75 Kd2 Bc3+! and 76...e1Q can't be stopped
- 2) White should have played 74 Re8 drawing e.g. 74...e2+ 75 Kd2 Kxg5=

Page 3

**Brookfield, Toby - Kirk, Matt**

**15.Bxh6! gxh6** [15...c4 16.Qg5 g6 17.Qh4! cxd3 18.Bg5 Kg7 (18...dxe2 19.hxg6 Nxg6 20.Qh7#)] 19.Bxe7+ -] **16.Qxh6 c4 17.Rh3! f6** [17...f5 18.Nf4] **18.Nf4 cxd3** [18...Kf7 19.Rg3 Ke8 20.Nxe6 Qb8 21.Rg7 cxd3 22.Nxf8 Nxf8 23.Qxf6+ -] **19.Nxe6 Nf5 20.exf5 Qe7 21.Rg3+ Kf7 22.Qg6# 1-0**

**Tics and Tacs**

**A) Naumkin,Igor (2466) - Hamperl, Fred (2084)**

Ischia, 19.07.2010

**32.Rxd2!! Qxd2 33.Qxf6 Qe3 34.Qh6 f6 35.Qg6+ Kf8 36.Qxf6+ Kg8 37.d6 Rxe4 38.Qg6+ Kf8 39.f6 Rd4 40.Qg7+ Ke8 41.f7+ 1-0**

**B) Brookfield, Toby - Hakizimana,Jean Baptist**

Olympiad Khanty-Mansiysk, Guernsey v Rwanda 01.10.2010

**24.Bxh6! gxh6** [24...Rxc3 25.Bxg7+ (25.Bg5+ Qxh3! 26.Qxh3+ Rxh3 27.gxh3 =/+)] 25...Kxg7 26.Qh7+ Kf8 27.Rh6+ -] **25.Rf6 Qxf6** [25...Rxc3 26.Rh6+ Kg7 27.Qh7+ Kf8 28.Qh8+ Ke7 29.Rxe6+ fxe6 30.Qg7+ Kd8 31.Rh8#; 25...Qd7 26.Rh6+ Kg7 27.Qh7+ Kf8 28.Qh8+ Ke7 29.Rxf7+ Kxf7 30.Qf6+ Ke8 31.Rh8#] **26.exf6** and mate in 3 **1-0**

C) **Bateman, Kerry - Spicer,Jonathan** (analysis)

Winter League Div 2, 12.04.2011

29...Nc3! 30.Rd2 (30.Rxc3 Re1#) 30...Ne2+ 31.Rxe2 Rxe2 turns the tables. In the game 29... Kg7 was played and white went on to win.

D) **Hamperl, Fred (2084) – Safranska,Anda (2288)**

Ischia, 25.07.2010

27.Ng5! fxe5 28.Qh7# 1-0

And that's it! Thanks to everyone who supplied me with material.

I hope you enjoyed it. In truth it turned out rather bigger than planned!

Remember....

*"Chess is a sea in which a gnat may drink and an elephant may bathe"*

Cheers!

Toby Brookfield

April 28<sup>th</sup> 2011