



**The Irish Women's Team** competing at Budapest. (From left to right) **WIM Trisha Kanyamarala** (Board 1), **Dr Alice O'Gorman** (Board 2), **Lara Putar** (Board 5), **Captain Diana Mats** (Irish Women's Champion 2024), **Antonina Gora** (Board 4) & **WFM Diana Mirza** (Board 3). Congratulations to the team on a gutsy performance in Budapest. Congratulations also to Alice who recently qualified as a doctor and best of luck on her medical career in Australia. Both Antonina (**Tosh Queen**; 7.9k followers) and Diana (**DianaMirza**; 8.6k followers) stream regularly on Twitch. Their Twitch channels are well worth checking out if you haven't already!



## Welcome to the first issue of the Chess Bud Bulletin

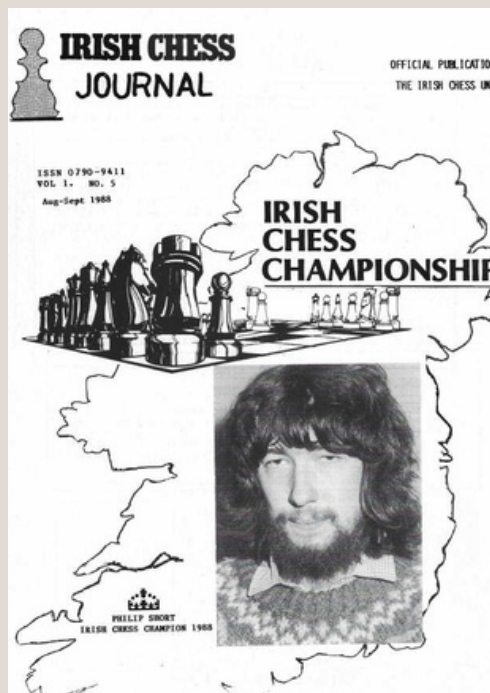
Back in the day, long before the age of the internet, there was an **Irish Chess Journal (ICJ)** edited by the late Michael Crowe, which reported on Irish Chess Events and included chess puzzles, annotated games and news from Irish and International Events.

As a young chess player, I eagerly awaited every new edition of the ICJ to see the games of the leading Irish players and to read about the latest news in Irish Chess. The ICJ ceased publication many years ago, so the Chess Bud Bulletin hopes to pick up where Michael's publication left off.

The Chess Bud Bulletin differs from the former ICJ, however, in that it is designed according to the principle of integrated learning.

My aspiration is that the Bulletin will become a valuable free learning resource for individuals of all levels passionate about the game, as well as for primary and secondary school teachers in Ireland who are currently running chess clubs in schools or hoping to start one.

Each bulletin will include a number of regular columns on the opening, the middlegame and the endgame. Each article is written for a specific level of player and categorised accordingly in the Table of Contents on page 2 of every edition. .



*The 1988 August/ September issue of the ICJ showing the newly crowned Irish Champion Philip Short from Cork. One of Ireland's most naturally gifted players., Philip won the Irish Championships on no less than five occasions.*

There are also four puzzles sections where readers can test their problem solving ability. The solutions to the puzzles will be provided in the next bulletin and most if not all will be accompanied by a clickable link to a video explanation on the Chess Bud Ireland Youtube Channel.

To illustrate how this will work, if you go to the **Advanced Puzzles Section** on page 14, you will find two puzzles from the games of the Irish Board 1 players from the recently completed Budapest Chess Olympiad. If you click on the link below the puzzles, you will get an International Master's take on these positions as well as more details about the games the puzzles are drawn from.

The Bulletin will be published twice monthly and is downloadable for free from **chessbud.ie** Schools or companies with chess clubs are welcome to distribute them through Aladdin or other internal communication systems, should they so wish. I hope you enjoy the first issue of the Bulletin,

Is mise le meas,

**IM Mark Quinn, PhD**  
**Editor, The Chess Bud Bulletin**



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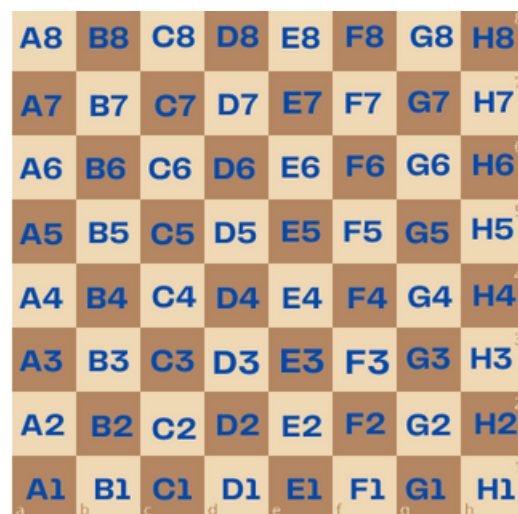


**Watch Chess Bud's latest training videos on youtube**  
**[www.youtube.com/@ChessBudIreland](https://www.youtube.com/@ChessBudIreland)**




## How to Read Chess Notation: The Lowdown on Algebraic Notation!

- A chessboard has **64 Squares**.
- **Every square has a specific co-ordinate** which allows players to pinpoint the square they move a piece to.
- This helps players to write down the moves of their games and also to read and play through the games of other players in magazines, newspapers or books.
- **At the beginning of a game, the a1 square is always occupied by a white rook** and all of the other white minor pieces and the white king and queen are lined up on the first rank with the other white rook resting on h1. The white pawns start on the second rank from a2-h2.
- **Similarly, the black rooks always sit on a8 and h8 at the beginning of a game.** The black minor pieces and the king and queen are lined up on the eighth rank and the black pawns sit on the seventh rank from a7-h7.
- When a chess piece captures another piece, i.e. a white rook on a1 captures its black counterpart on a8, **the letter 'x' is used to indicate that the capture** of a piece has taken place, i.e. **Ra1 x Ra8**.
- Players who are used to notating their games, will often shorten this to **Rxa8**, indicating that a white rook has captured whatever black piece stood on a8. This is the short-hand notation used in every chess publication including this bulletin.
- If the white rook had taken its black counterpart on a8 with check, you add a plus sign to denote the check, i.e. **Rxa8+**
- **Castling Kingside** (short castling) is denoted by **0-0**
- **Castling Queenside** (long castling) is denoted by **0-0-0**
- Pro-tip. When writing down a pawn move, such as opening the game with the white king's pawn and moving it two squares, i.e. **1. e2-e4**, you can simply write down **1. e4**. If black were to respond with the Scandinavian Defence and move his or her d-pawn two squares, this would be denoted by **1...d5** (as in the diagram on the right and the illustrative game below).
- When making a move with a knight, bishop, rook or queen you must always specify which piece moved to that square, i.e. Rc3, Qa4, Nxe6 & Bc4+.



## Master the Skill of Reading and Annotating Chess Games in Three Easy Steps!

1) [Play through the world's oldest known game - Francesco di Castellvi vs Narciso Vinyoles, Valencia, Spain, 1475 - on Chess.com by clicking here](#) 

2) Then try to play the game yourself on a real chess board by reading the game score below from 549 years ago!

1.e4 d5 2. exd5 Qxd5 3. Nc3 Qd8 4. Bc4 Nf6 5. Nf3 Bg4 6. h3 Bxf3 7. Qxf3 e6 8. Qxb7 Nbd7 9. Nb5 Rc8 10. Nxa7 Nb6 11. Nxc8 Nxc8 12. d4 Nd6 13. Bb5+ Nxb5 14. Qxb5+ Nd7 15. d5 exd5 16. Be3 Bd6 17. Rd1 Qf6 18. Rxd5 Qg6 19. Bf4 Bxf4 20. Qxd7+ Kf8 21. Qd8# 1-0

3) [Finally practice and learn how to master the co-ordinates of a chess board by clicking on this link to complete the Lichess Notation Challenge!](#)





# Beginner's Corner No. 1

## The Wayward Queen Attack & The Magic Square

### 1. e4 e5 2. Qh5

The **Wayward Queen Attack**. This is a blunt attacking system that can prove fatal for black especially when a player has only recently taken up the game.



The e5 pawn must be protected, otherwise, white will grab it the next move. From her perch on h5 the white queen is also eyeing up the vitally important f7 square, a.k.a. **the magic square**, which at the beginning of a game is only protected by one piece - the black king.

*If white can attack that square twice and one of those pieces happens to be a white queen, then white will be able to deliver mate on f7. The Magic Square Definition.*

### 2...Nc6



The most logical way to defend the pawn on e5. Black develops a knight towards the centre and defends the pawn on e5.

Now 3. Qxe5+? would miss the point of black's second move when the b8 knight moved to c6 to defend the e5 pawn, as the simple 3...Nxe5! would bag the white queen.

*Always double-check (no pun intended) that any piece your queen is about to take is not defended!*

### 3. Bc4



A deceptively simple but potentially deadly developing move. From c4 the white bishop attacks f7 - *the magic square* - beside the black king. The white queen is already attacking the magic square. This means that white now has two pieces attacking f7 while black only has one defending. White is therefore threatening checkmate.

### 3...Nf6?



A terrible blunder which allows white to win on the spot. If I had a penny for every time I have seen this position arise in beginner's tournaments I would be a very rich man indeed!

### 4. Qxf7! #



**The white queen delivers mate on f7.** The black king cannot take the white queen as it is protected by the white bishop on c4 and a king can never move to a square that is attacked or take a piece that is defended as this is deemed to be an illegal move.

### Defend against Scholar's Mate!

The simplest way for black to stave off calamity on f7 is to move the black queen to either f6 or e7 so that it protects the black f7 pawn.

### 3...Qe7!



The white bishop on c4 and the white queen on h5 are still attacking f7. The key difference, however, is that black is also protecting the f7 square twice. The black queen on e7 and the black king on e8 ensure that were white to capture on f7, after a series of forced exchanges, white would only have a pawn for a bishop. This would represent a 'bad trade', as pawns are worth one point, while bishops are worth three points.

Position 1

Reja Neer Manon (2417) vs Mphane Thabang (1799), Rd. 1, Budapest Olympiad 2024



White to play.

White has a simple tactic to win material. Clue: Look for an unoccupied square deep in the black position. What white piece stands primed to pounce?

Position 3

Lucrece Wefang vs Lara Putar (1911), Cameroon vs Ireland, Rd. 1, Budapest Olympiad 2024



Black to play

How did black now win material immediately and prepare the path of the b-pawn to queen.



Patron: Michael D. Higgins, President of Ireland

Looking to start up your own school or company club. You can purchase tournament boards, sets and clocks from the Irish Chess Union at cost price. [www.icu.ie/shop](http://www.icu.ie/shop)

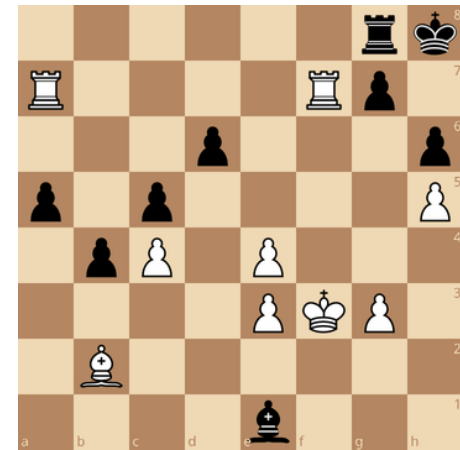
Wondering where to find your closest Junior or Adult Chess Club? [www.icu.ie/clubs](http://www.icu.ie/clubs)

Ready to play your first over-the-board chess tournament? [www.icu.ie/events](http://www.icu.ie/events)

To play in an ICU event and gain an over-the-board rating, you need to join the Irish Chess Union. [www.icu.ie/shop](http://www.icu.ie/shop)

Position 2

Alice O'Gorman (1996) vs WCM Sylviane Koukam Magne (1587), Ireland vs Cameroon, Rd.1 Budapest Olympiad 2024



White to play

White has many ways to deliver mate in a few moves. Play out the position and see if you can find the quickest way!

Position 4

Antonina Gora (1943) vs Sasinat Tawankanjana (1612), Ireland vs Thailand, Rd.2, Budapest Olympiad 2024



White to play

White has a nice move to win one of the black knights. Can you see how?



The Irish Chess Union hosted the European Schools Chess Championships last June. The editor (IM Mark Quinn) and UL's most famous eternal student snapped a selfie with the Chairperson of the ICU and Chief Organizer of the event Desmond Beatty on the day of departure after the tournament. The success of the ESCC at UL demonstrated that Ireland has both venues and organizers that can organise world class chess events. The only question remaining is, 'What will the ICU bid for next?'

Learn more about the ESCC 2024 at UL. [escc2024.ie/](http://escc2024.ie/)

Dangerous Opening Ideas No. 1  
King's Pawn, Four Knights: The Glek System 4. g3

The Bulletin's regular opening column begins with the third-round encounter between the well-known Streamer **Diana Mirza (Elo 1981)**, an experienced International and former world under-age champion who was playing white against **Lorena Putar (Elo 1444)** who comes from one of Ireland's most famous chess playing families. Lorena's brother Leon and her sister Lara are very talented players. Both competed in the Irish Senior Open Championships this August. Their dad Slavko is also a strong player in his own right. The following encounter took place in Round 3 of the the Irish Women's Championships last month.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3

White declines to open up the position with 3. d4 (The Scotch Game) or The Ponziani (3. c3 followed by 4. d4) and steers the game towards a positional closed game.

3...Bc5

An unusual move-order. The Glek system most commonly materialises on the board after black plays 3...Nf6 4. g3

4. g3



The **Glek System**, named after the Russian **GM Igor Glek**, who has not one but two opening variations named after him. Glek played a closed Grandmaster Norm Event in Dublin in 2018. I had black against the amiable Russian but chose the Sicilian when playing him. I don't recall anyone having the courage to allow Glek play his famous fianchetto in the Four Knights variation. A wise move, methinks!

4...Nf6

White's plan is simple. Fianchetto the bishop, i.e. place it on g2 on the long white-squared diagonal that spans from h1-a8. Then get castled. Play d3, Kh1, Nh4 and an eventual f4. White also retains the idea to chase down the powerful black bishop on c5 by Na4.

5.Bg2 0-0 6.0-0 d6 7.d3



A critical moment. Here, black should create an escape square on a7 for her dark-squared bishop by the prophylactic a6-a5.

7...h6



The most recent high-level game in this line took place at the recent **Superbet Classic in Bucharest 2024** and featured the Indian World Championship contender **Gukesh** taking on and defeating his compatriot **Praggnanandhaa**. Gukesh managed to get the ideal white attacking set up on the kingside after 7...a5! 8.h3 Re8 9.Kh2 a4 10.Bd2 Nd4 11.Nxd4 Bxd4 12.Rb1 c6 13.Ne2 Bb6 14.f4! with an unclear game.

Chess Legends No. 1.

Chess legend **Friedrich Sämisch** was born on 20th September 1894. One of a handful of players to receive the Grandmaster Title in 1950 when the title was first introduced, Sämisch was a renowned theoretician and has not one but four opening variations named after him!



Several of Sämisch's opening strategies still regularly appear at the highest level more than a century after he first introduced them. Below is the starting position of his line against the **King's Indian Defence**.

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. e4 d6 5. f3!



The latest top-level game in Sämisch's Anti-King's Indian variation saw two IMs do battle in the Women's Olympiad in Budapest last week.

5 ... O-O 6. Nge2 a6 7. Be3 Nbd7 8. Qd2 b5 9. h4 c5 10. h5 Qa5 11. Bh6 e5 12. Bxg7 Kxg7 13. dxc5 Nxc5 14. Qxd6 Ncd7 15. hxg6 fxg6 16. Nc1 bxc4 17. Bxc4 Rb8 18. Nd3 Re8 19. O-O Qb6+ 20. Qxb6 Nxb6 21. Bb3 h5 22. Rad1 a5 23. Nc5 Re7 24. Rd8 Nfd7 25. Ne6+ Kh7 26. Rd1 Bb7 27. Rxb8 Nxb8 28. Nf8+ Kg7 29. Nxg6 1-0

**Mai Narva (2420) vs Eline Roebers (2340)**, Rd. 3, Estonia vs Holland, Budapest Olympiad 2024



#### 8. Na4!

Encircling the black bishop on c5. This exchange is favourable to white as it makes the f2-f4 push easier to achieve and the two white bishops will grow in strength as the position opens up.

#### 8...Bb6 9.Nxb6 axb6 10.Nh4!



Mirza already seems to have everything she could possibly have hoped for here, when playing 4. g3. There is a saying, 'A knight on the rim is dim!' Not here though!

#### 10...Ne7 11.f4

White achieves the desired push of the f-pawn and Lorena's position immediately comes under pressure.

#### 11...exf4 12.gxf4 Bd7 13.f5!



The white f-pawn advances still further restricting the options for black's minor pieces. Note how pushing the white f-pawn brings white's dark-squared bishop on c1 into the game without it having moved! White has much the easier game and here black immediately got into difficulty after ...

#### 13...Ra5? 14.Bd2 Rb5 15.a4 Rc5 16.b4 Rc6 17.c4 b5 18.axb5 Rb6 19.Be3

...when Putar lost the exchange and Mirza went on to win in 47 moves.

(1-0)

[Click here to see Jonzer & Marko's analysis of the above game during a Chess Bud Lunchbox Stream!](#)

## Autumn Term Commences 1st October 2024

**Enrol for Mark's Experienced  
Beginners After-School Class on  
Tuesdays 5-6pm**



Mark analysing with an opponent during a simultaneous display at the **Custom House, Dublin**, as part of **World Car Free Day**, 22nd September 2024

**Book an individual 60 or 90  
minute lesson with CCIM  
Jonathan O'Connor (a.k.a. Jonzer).**

**Book an individual 60 or 90  
minute lesson with IM Mark  
Quinn (a.k.a. Marko).**

**Reserve a place at the Kilkenny  
Sunday Morning Kids Camp**

**Looking to set up a Chess Club  
in your Company or Organize a  
Chess Event or Lecture with  
Chess Bud? Get in touch here.**

## The ChessBud Lunchbox! with Jonzer & Marko

### Olympiad Report - Part 1

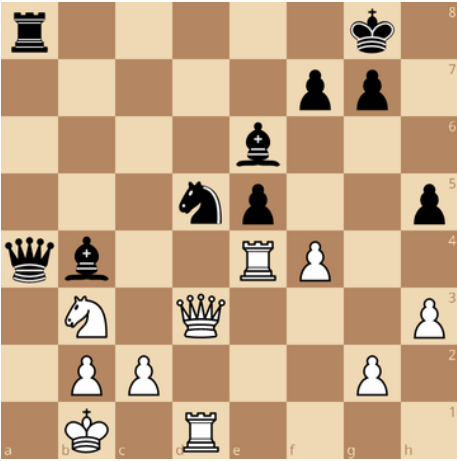
Live on Twitch & Youtube: Tuesday, the 1st October, 12-2pm  
<https://twitch.tv/chessbudireland>



Jonzer has just returned from Budapest where he was the Irish FIDE delegate at a highly contentious FIDE Congress. If you are interested in getting the inside track on the political machinations happening behind the scenes in Budapest, as well as a review of the Irish Team's Performances, not to mention India's tremendous double-gold in the Open and Women's Sections, be sure and join us for the next two editions on the Chess Bud Lunchbox!

Position 1

**Yash Krishen Maharaj (1847)** vs **IM David Fitzsimons (2315)**, Fiji vs Ireland, Rd. 1, Budapest Chess Olympiad 2024



**Black to play**  
Mate in three.

Position 3

**Sechaba Khalema (1779)** vs **Rahman Mohammed Fahad (2419)**, Budapest Olympiad 2024



**Black to play**  
Can you see how black wins a pawn here?

Position 2

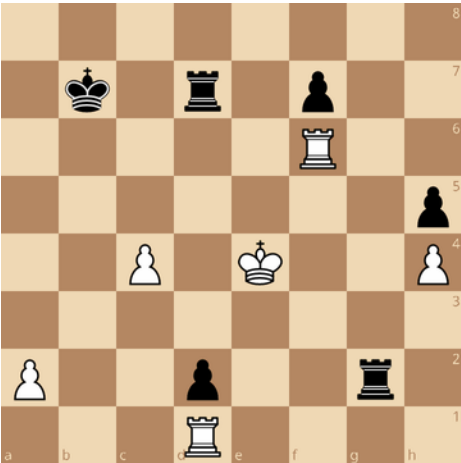
**IM Tarun Kanyamarala (2361)** vs **Ronald Terubea (1836)**, Ireland vs Fiji, Rd. 1, Budapest Olympiad 2024



**White to play**  
Can you see the nice mate in 2?

Position 4

**Margarita Zaritovskaya (2009)** vs **Lara Putar (1911)**, Sweden vs Ireland, Rd. 9, Budapest Olympiad 2024



**Black to play**  
The endgame is materially balanced. Can you see the simple strategic idea black now uses to win a white rook. Clue: Black's d-pawn is but one square away from queening. Hmmm!?

Sligo Town played host to the Best from the West recently with a six round U12 Section, a five round all-play-all U16 section & a three round Open Section. The U12 Section was won by **Riyansh Agarwal** with 5.5/6. The U16 Section saw **Keshav Rohila** take the honours from the rest of the field by half a point on a score of 4/6. **Evan Roe, Christopher Woods, James Carolan & Finn Cummins** shared joint 1st in the Open with perfect scores of 3/3.

[Connaught Chess Championships - Full Results Here](#)



Irish Junior Internationals **Kenny Perkin** (foreground) and **James Horgan** (background) gearing up for the last round of the **Connaught Championships 2024**  
Photo: Shan Perkin

If you compete in the Irish Leagues or were a participant at the Connaught Championships or any recent over-the-board tournament in Ireland and played a nice game or combination or had an interesting endgame we would love to see it! We may be able to include it in a future tactics section or feature it in a regular column. Attach a photograph of your scoresheet to an email and send it to the editor at [mark@chessbud.ie](mailto:mark@chessbud.ie)





The Irish Open Team competing at Budapest. (From right to left) **IM Conor Murphy** (Board 1) , **IM Tarun Kanyamarala** ( Board 3), **IM Tom O'Gorman** (Board 4) & **IM David Fitzsimons** (Board 5). Ireland's Board 2 in Budapest **GM Alexander Baburin** is pictured below. Irish Open Team **Captain Conor O'Donnell** (absent) may well have taken this photo.



The Chess Bud Lunchbox's very own **CCIM Jonathan O'Connor** with **GM Erald Dervishi**, President of the Albanian Chess Federation. A full-time lawyer, Dervishi is one of the world's most consistent amateur players and competed in one of the strongest ever editions of the Kilkenny Masters.



Ireland's only Grandmaster and chess coach **GM Alex Baburin** (Board 2) in action for Ireland in Budapest. Alex's many students will be delighted that the Olympiad is now over and he can get back to focusing on their game! For Alex's latest events and courses, see [www.alexbaburinchess.com](http://www.alexbaburinchess.com)

## Photo of the Fortnight!



### Kilkenny Chess Club jumpers on tour...

**Maurice Buckley**, the **Captain of Kilkenny Chess Club** was kind enough to pass on this picture of French **GM Matthieu Cornette** (background left) and **GM Sebastian Maze** (background right) competing in Reykjavik, Iceland last summer. Both jumpers and their inhabitants will be back to compete at the **CRH Kilkenny International Masters** from the **22nd-24th November**.

If you would like to submit an interesting photograph from a recent Irish Tournament for a future bulletin email the editor at [mark@chessbud.ie](mailto:mark@chessbud.ie)

The countdown to this year's **CRH Kilkenny Congress** at the Ormonde and Club House Hotels in Kilkenny City is well and truly on! There is already a impressive field for this year's International Masters with strong showings from France and England.

The French contingent is led - as per usual - by Kilkenny regulars - GM Sebastian Maze and GM Matthieu Cornette. This year seen the return of IM Sophie Milliet after the absence of some years and IM Kevin Terrieux who competed in last year's event.



GM Matthew Turner competing in the CRH International Masters 2023.

The current holder of the English and British Championships titles GM Gawain Jones leads the British challenge and is accompanied by GM Matthew Turner (pictured above) and IM Lawrence Trent.

The Irish challenge will be led by GM Alex Baburin, WIM Trisha and IM Tarun Kanyamarala, newly crowned Irish Champion IM David Fitzsimons and Kilkenny's resident IM and Club Coach Mark Quinn.

**Prize Fund - €4,800**

**Contact**

**Maurice Buckley, 0872451039**

**Sections:**

**International Masters** (1950+)

**Kilkenny Major** (1550-1999)

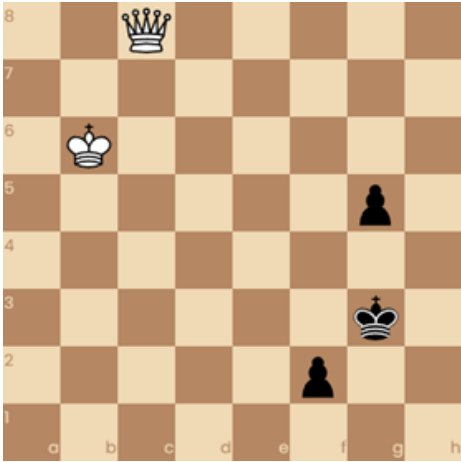
**James Mason Challenge** (1150-1599)

**The Challengers** (Under 1200)

**[Click here for more information and to enter the CRH Kilkenny Chess Congress](#)**

**Endgame Focus No. 1: Stalemating Tricks & Endgame Technique**  
**Stella Li vs Orla Dorman, Rd. 4,**  
**Irish Women's Championships 2024**

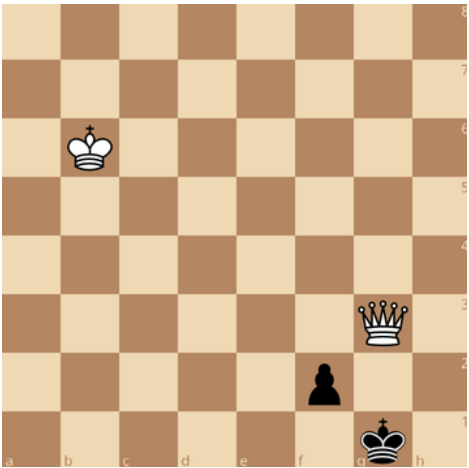
An interesting and highly instructive Queen, Pawn and King ending occurred during **Round 4** of the recent **Irish Women's Championships** in Dublin. After a tremendous struggle lasting several hours, **Stella Li** playing white queened her c-pawn **73. c8 = Q+** checking the black king on g4. Her opponent **Orla Dorman** responded by advancing her king **73...Kg3** after which the two players reached the following critical moment.



The game quickly petered out to draw after Li played **74. Qc3+?** and Dorman was able to force the f-pawn home to create a new queen. The game continued **74... Kg2 75. Qc6+ Kg1 76. Qc1+ f1= Q 77. Qxg5+ Qg2 78. Qxg2 Kxg2 (1/2- 1/2)**

Li is in fact winning in the above position, however, and might have done so, had she had the time to find the correct plan. When you are short of time and have been playing for several hours, it can be exceptionally difficult to win tricky endings.

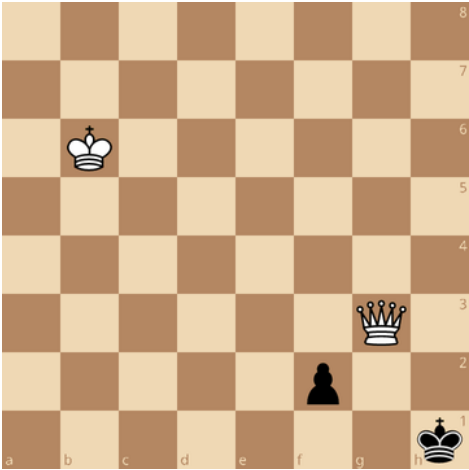
One thing I have learned down the years in similar situations, is that it can be helpful not to initially look for the strongest move or the best continuation, but rather to quickly assess the position drawing down on your knowledge of basic endings first. There is a famous stalemating position in queen and pawn endings that all serious students of the game are familiar with.



Chess Professionals are brilliant at joining up the dots in double-quick time when in a time scramble. Over the years, they develop the knack of focusing in on the right idea, by training themselves to ask the right question any position. I have no doubt that both Li and Dorman would have been thinking about the above simple edning. The trick, however, is to be able to quickly visualise the above position in your mind's eye and imagination, then contextualise it with reference to the position you are confronted with in your game.

The white queen has just placed the black king in check **1. Qg3+.** If black wants to hold on to the pawn, black has to move the king in front of the pawn by **1...Kf1** The problem for black is that the black king would then be blocking the queening square, which the black pawn on f2 dreams of landing on.

**1...Kh1!**



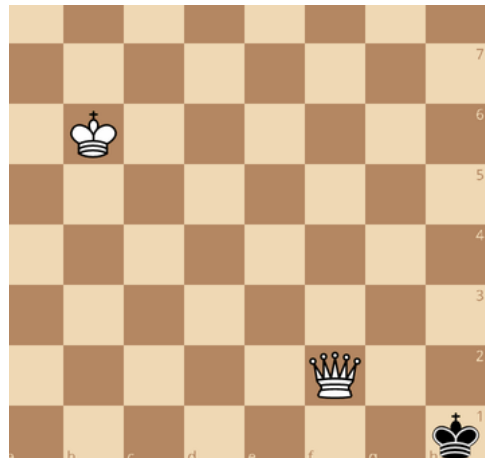
The drawing strategy for black is to jettison the pawn and move the black king into the corner!



Endgame Focus No. 1: Stalemating Tricks & Endgame Technique  
Stella Li vs Orla Dorman, Rd. 4,  
Irish Women's Championships 2024 (Contd.)

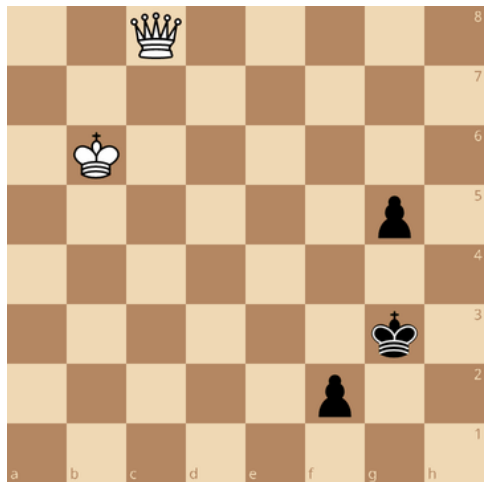
Now the white queen is obliged either to take the pawn on f2 or go to either h3 or f3 with check. Then black can simply slide the king to g1 threatening to promote the pawn and the position repeats itself. White has nothing better than to capture the pawn.

2. Qxf2 stalemate!



The game is drawn as the black king has no legal move and isn't in check. Stalemate! Let's return to the original position under discussion.

So how might recalling the fundamental Queen and Pawn endgame featured earlier, prove useful when attempting to find the right path in the above position? Especially, when in time pressure at the end of an incredibly long game.

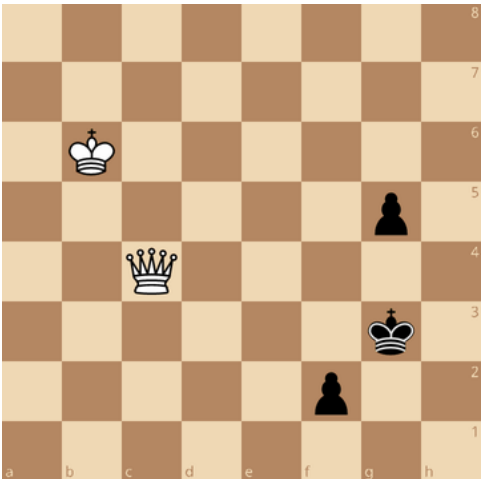


White to play

Let's play a game of 'Spot the Difference'. How do the two positions, the Li-Dorman endgame and the well-known stalemating Position in the corner differ?

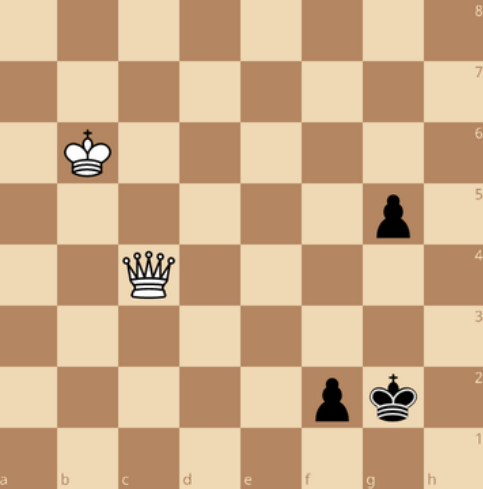
The obvious and important difference is that black has not one but two pawns. Usually, having more pawns is a good thing, here, however, black's extra pawn gives white a chance to win with precise play. The point is that there is no stalemate in the corner if black has a pawn on g5! Let's see how Li could have won after the clever...

74. Qc4!



The white queen exerts control over the queening square giving white the option to occupy it should the need arise. There are two ways black can try to save the game. Here is black tries 74... Kf3 white wins after the forcing line 75. Qf1 g4 76. Kc5 g3 77. Kd4 g2 78. Qd3+ Kg4 79. Qe2+! Kg3 80. Qe3+ Kh2 81. Qxf2 Kh1 82. Qh4+ Kg1 83. Ke3! Kf1 84. Qf2 mate! So black's best bet is...

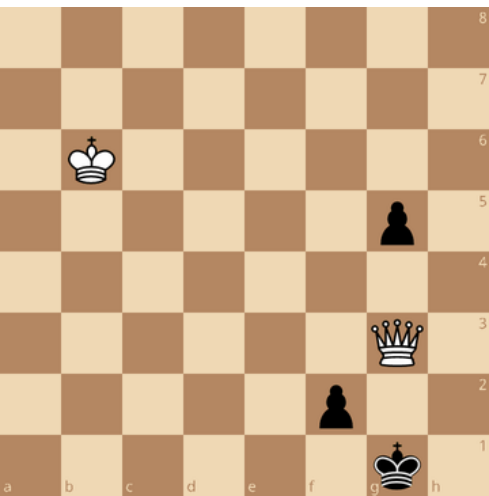
74... Kg2



When the black king threatens to assist the queening of the pawn. This time, however, white has an extra-resource, the black g-pawn!

Below is the position we looked at earlier, with one essential difference!

75. Qg4+ Kh1 76. Qf3+ Kg1 77. Qg3+

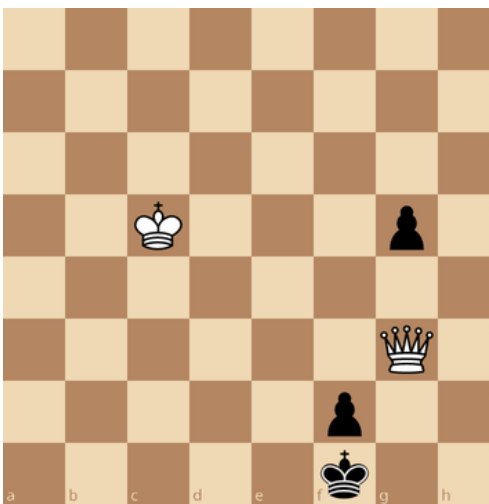


Now, if the black king heads into the corner by 77...Kh1 white can capture the f-pawn Qxf2, then the position isn't stalemate owing to the black g5 pawn. Black is forced to push the pawn, after which the white queen picks it up after the simple Qh4+ and Qxg4+ win a simple King and Queen versus King win. Black's problem is that after...

77...Kf1

White can simply bring the king closer and help the white queen mate black.

78. Kc5!



It requires a bit of technique - easier said than done - especially when in time pressure, but white is now winning. White's strategy is to keep forcing the black king back to f1, then approach with the king one square at a time until mate is possible! Why not try playing out the position yourself? Best of luck!



# Intermediate Strength Puzzles!

The **Ulster Championships**,  
**Queen's University**,  
**24th-26th August 2024**

## Position 1

**Tom O'Gorman (2353) vs Andrew Heron (2026)**, Ireland vs Liechtenstein, Rd. 6, Budapest Olympiad 2024



### White to play

How does white generate an attack that takes advantage of black's uncastled king?

## Position 3

**Andrew Campbell (1826) vs Stephen Scannell (2063)**, Rd. 2, Ulster Championships 2024



### Black to play

The white queen stands ready to capture the h6 pawn with a slam-dunk mate on h8 to follow. How did black pip white to the post?

## Position 2

**Scott Crockart (2109) vs Gareth Annesley (1979)**, Rd. 3, Ulster Championships 2024



### White to play

White now found a creative way to force a series of exchanges and win more material. Can you find this year's Ulster Champion's nice idea?

## Position 4

**Ethan Cole (1879) vs Finn Cummins (1717)**, Ulster Chess Championships 2024



### White to play

How did white now force black's resignation in a matter of moves?

The **Ulster Chess Championships** was held in **Queen's University Belfast** at the end of the summer holidays. **Scott Crockart** won the Senior Section by the slimmest of margins, finishing a half a point ahead of **Stephen Scannell**. The decisive encounter came in round 4 when Scannell uncharacteristically blundered a piece early in the opening against Crockart, leaving the path open for Crockart to take a quick draw against **Andrew Campbell** in the last round.

[Find complete results and games from the Ulster Senior Championships here](#)



Irish Junior International **Ethan Cole** deep in thought during a recent simultaneous game against Irish **IM Alex Lopez** in Belfast. Ethan played Board 2 for the Irish Team in last Summer's **Stokes Cup** in Hull and finished 9th in this year's Ulster Championships.

## Save the Date!

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# Middlegame Magic!

## Attack like a Master No. 1: Anna Lissowska (Elo 2220 ) vs Bozena Sikora Gizynska (Elo 2230) Polish Women'Championships, Konin, 1990

The first **Attack like A Master Column** focusses on an exciting sacrificial and tactical middlegame in the super-solid **Queen's Gambit Declined (QGD), Exchange Variation**.

The game in question demonstrates the optimum minor piece placement for black to launch a devastating attack against the castled white king. Let's assess the position just after white retreated her knight to d1 and all black's pieces are primed to do battle.



Seasoned QGD players with white or black will immediately recognise the Exchange Variation Pawn Structure. Tell-tale signs are the battery formed by the white queen on c2 and the white bishop on d3. We can also divine that white has attempted to launch a **minority attack** by Rb1 and b2-b4, only for black to stop the attack by a timely b7-b5. The presence of a black rook on a3 signifies that white's attempt to gain a positional advantage on the queenside has failed. Only the white knight on b3 - ready to jump into c5 - seems to have prospects on the queenside.

Black's pieces are developed much more harmoniously. The black queen and the rook on e8 control the e-file and black's knights and bishop on d7 are all trained on the white kingside. White's h3 pawn in particular represents a tempting target. With all of her pieces primed for attack, Gizynska now embarks on the most principled course.

**21... Nxh3! +**

In for a penny, in for a pound!

**22. gxh3 Qg5+**



It makes sense to follow up with a check rather than the immediate 22...Qh4 or the obvious 22...Bxh3. The latter capture would allow white to play f4 in a bid to sacrifice the rook on f1, thereby enabling the white queen to scoot over from c2 along the second rank to assist the defence of the white king.

**23. Kh2 Qh4!**



Now black threatens to take the h3 pawn with the d7 bishop after which black will have an exceedingly nasty discovered check lined up.

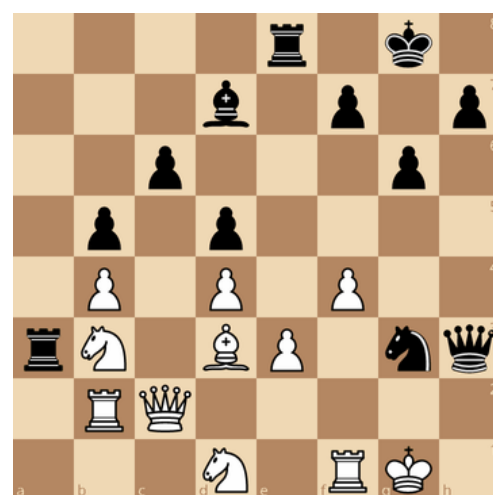
**24. f4 Qg3+**

Very precise and much stronger than the immediate capture on g3. The white king is forced to h1, setting up a potential knight fork on g3.

**25. Kh1 Qxh3+ 26. Kg1**

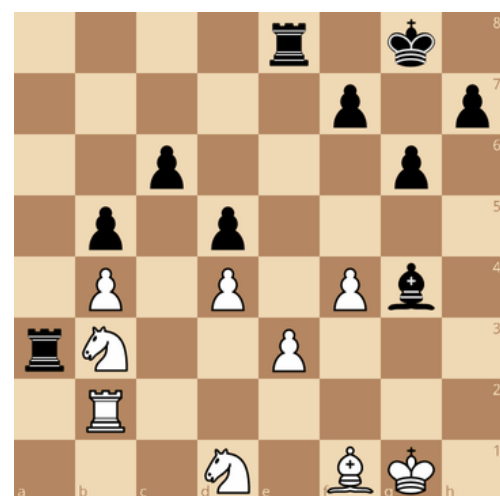
26. Qh2 is not possible owing to 26...Ng3+ winning the exchange.

**26...Ng3!**



Winning the exchange as 27. Rf2 allows immediate mate on h1 and black gets a winning attack after 27. Re1 Qh1+ 28. Kf2 Qh4 29. Kg1 Ne4! 30. Rf1 Bh3! So white must force the exchange of queens with

**27. Qg2 Nxf1 28. Qxh3 Bxh3 29. Bxf1 Bg4!**



The key move or idea that black may or may not have visualized when playing 1...Nxh3+ If Gizynska had seen this far when contemplating her knight sac, her thinking process might have been. If f2-f4 is forced to stave off mate, the e3 pawn will be chronically weak. It will only be protected by a knight on d1 so if I can attack the knight on d1? Ah, yes the bishop can drop back to g4. I will give 1...Nxh3+ a punt! Nothing ventured...

**30. Nf2 Rxe3 31. Nxd4 Rxe3!**

Black has three pawns and a rook for a knight and bishop and went on to win the game. **(0-1)** in 82 moves.

## Position 1

**Fernando Peralta (2558) vs Fabiano Caruana (2798),** Argentina vs US, Rd. 5, Budapest Olympiad 2024



**Black to play**

*How can white force mate or win material*

## Position 3

**Oleiny Linares Napoles (2201) vs Trisha Kanyamarala (2179),** Cuba vs Ireland, Rd. 8, Budapest Olympiad 2024



**Black to play**

*One of Ireland's top tacticians now created a winning attack. How?*

[Click here to see Mark's video explanation of this puzzle](#)

## Position 2

**Conor Murphy (2453) vs Jonas Buhl Bjerre (2648),** Ireland vs Denmark, Rd. 5, Budapest Olympiad 2024



**White to play**

After an enterprising pawn-sacrifice, Ireland's Open Team Board 1 in Budapest missed a chance to win the black knight. Can you see how?

[Click here to see Mark's video explanation of this puzzle](#)

## Position 4

**Andre Machado Mendez (2122) vs Levon Aronian (2729),** Panama vs US, Rd. 1, Budapest Chess Olympiad 2024



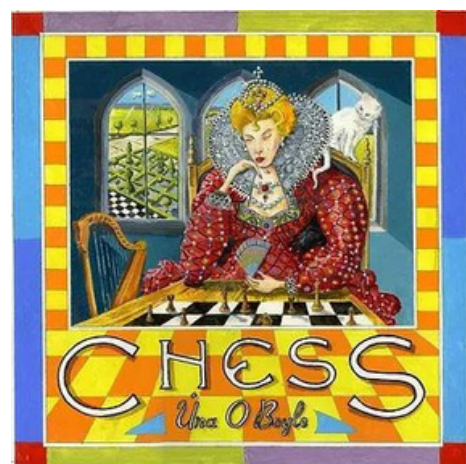
**Black to play**

White wisely declined to enter the above position by playing Qa5. Mendez had spotted a fantastic tactical resource that black could now play. What was it?

Any chessplayers interested in learning chess through Irish need look no further than Úna Boyle's ground-breaking chess primer for beginners 'Fícheall'.



Una's Chess Primer proved to be such a success in Irish, that she translated it into English. I myself (The editor) have used both books to learn how to teach chess through Irish.



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