



BISHOP'S STORTFORD CHESS CLUB



Simultaneous: Ieuan Vs All 26th September 2019

This year's simultaneous had a twist – to prevent losses on time, most players started the game 6 moves in. I had the advantage of white, but my opponent got to choose the opening. The only proviso was that the position had to be at least equal for white.

I am not sure whether this idea worked or not! A couple of games where my opponent moved very quickly (Nathan and Hanako) ended up with me having under 5 minutes, whereas my game against Adam (usually a guy who tries to win on time!) became the last one still going when we both had 20 minutes remaining on the clock.

The theme of the night from my point of view was a lot of tactical oversights; mostly on my part, and usually not particularly difficult ones. Since such tactics essentially decided the game in most cases, I shall present as many of those as I can remember below.

Let's start with some one-movers:



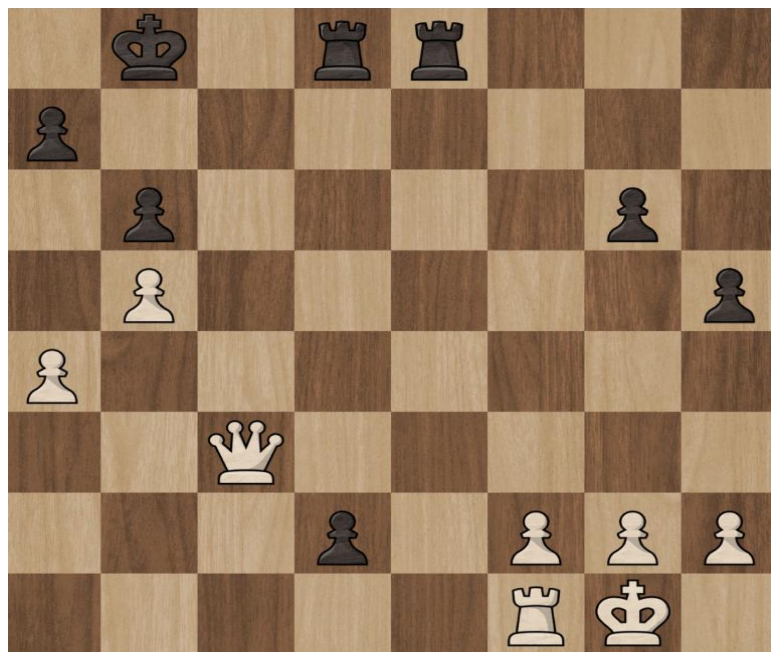
White to play and win.

Nowhere near the exact position but the same tactic that won the game against **Michael**. His defence after this was admirable, but this slip was enough. **1 – 0**



White to play and win. Something similar to this happened against **Hanako**. **2 - 0**

Against **Dave**, I was allowed to infiltrate his queenside with abandon and started lopping off piece after piece. Once the dust had settled, I was able to gather my pieces and deliver checkmate. **3 - 0**



Guess what black (**Nathan**) is threatening? Well, having told myself that the rook and queen defend e1, I played h3! Luckily I can play Rxd1 after queening and play on. My annoying queen eventually won one of the rooks, so the blunder was not so painful. **4 - 0**

Now for some simple combinations, that were missed.

First, I cannot remember the position against **Laurie**, but the threat of a knight fork of his rooks led to him sacrificing the exchange. I was able to win a pawn and then a piece, so ended up a rook to the good. **5 - 0**

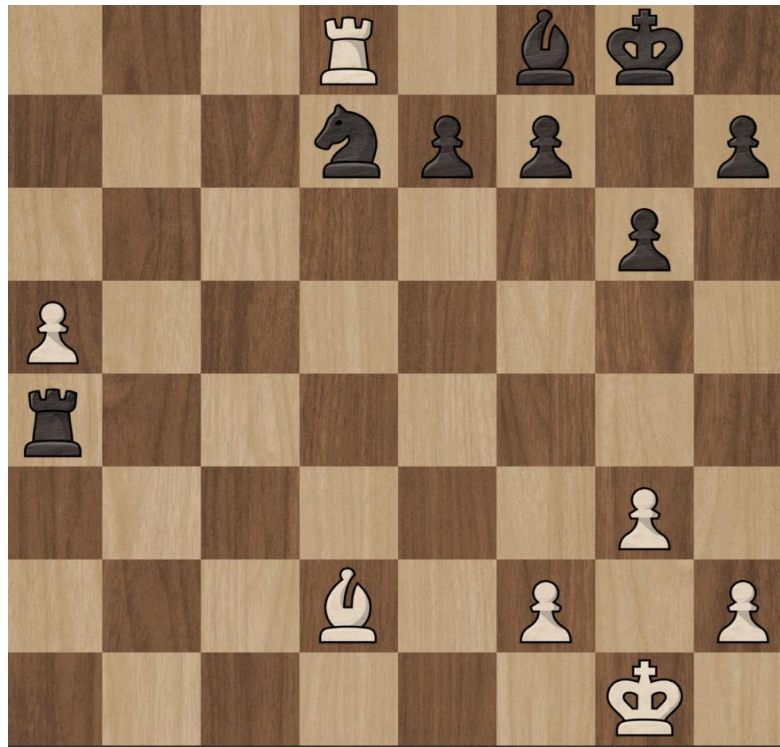


Gary had a good game and was better throughout (probably a dodgy opening!). I had tried simplifying but even with opposite coloured bishops he was completely winning. Here I played Qxd5, thinking that if he played Qg5 I could cover the g1 square by moving my bishop. Somehow missing that Qg2 was checkmate! 5 – 3

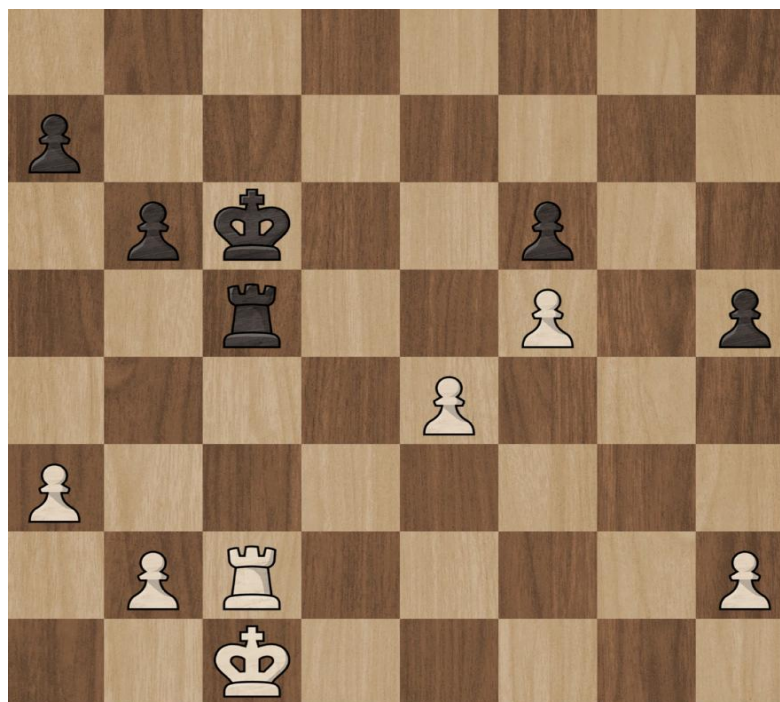


Against **Andrew**, after returning an exchange sacrifice to go into what I thought was an easy endgame (it wasn't as I missed a queen retreat covering all my entry squares), we reached something like this, where instead of bringing his rook back into the game, he grabbed a pawn on a4. My queen got into a8, my rook to d8 and his king got mated. 6 – 3

Against **Lara** I was two pawns up but Lara had all the active pieces. I thought I could get my pieces out by giving back one of the pawns, but when this didn't work I sacrificed a piece thinking I might get it back. Turned out I didn't, but I got a scary passed pawn that persuaded Lara to take the draw. This is the final position I believe:-

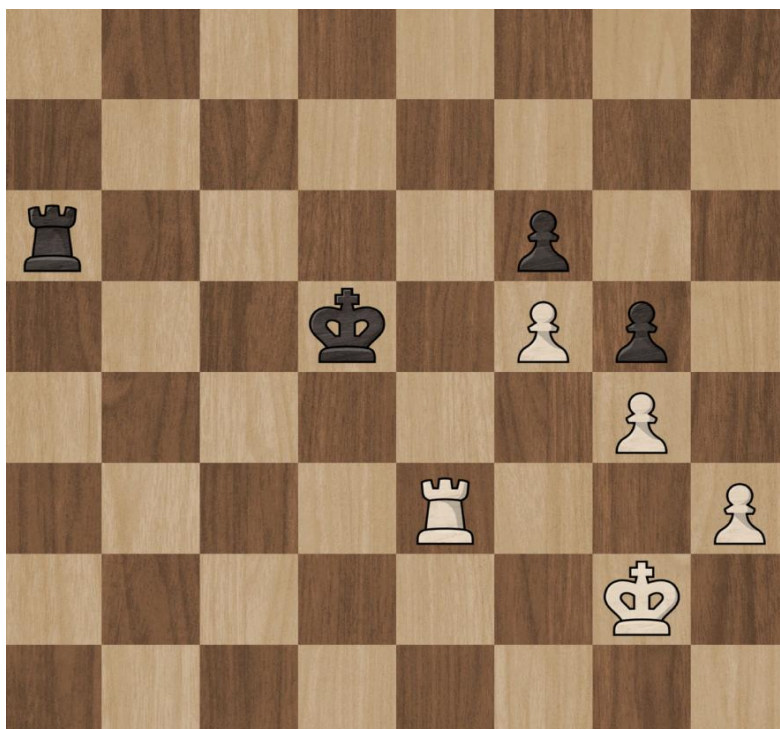


6.5 – 3.5



Charles pretty much went straight into an endgame on move 6! Although I won a pawn, it came down to a rook each plus some pawns and he created good chances to get the pawn back and possibly draw. As it was, we swapped into a winning king and pawn ending from something akin to the abovediagram. Once he ran out of moves, his king had to vacate e5 and let my extra pawn make the difference. **7.5 – 3.5**

Lee played a very solid game. Each time I thought I had a chance to create something he snuffed it out. I eventually won a pawn and ended up in a rook and pawn ending, with a b-pawn for me and f,g& h pawns for both. It was completely winning, but I was too scared to march my king over and abandon the kingside pawns. What resulted was the following position, which I assumed was an automatic draw, though the computer suggests otherwise. Eventually I won the f6 pawn giving me enough push to victory. **8.5 – 3.5**



Finally, we have **Adam**. Despite playing typical Sicilian-type moves, I ended up losing an important pawn on d5. We simplified down to a R + B + 6P vs R + B + 7P ending. As there were opposite coloured bishops I thought I should be able to draw, but kept the rooks on in the hope of something more.

As it was, Adam played the ending well and never gave me a sniff of counter-play. Right at the end I was sure I had a draw, so tried for a last minute swindle – two problems with this were:

- a) the swindle didn't even work
- b) it messed up the draw! (see diagram).

Adam converted brilliantly, for the only non-first team victory. Well done!



Final Score - 8.5 – 4.5

Final score was a little down on usual, so perhaps that was a sign that the changes helped?! 13 games is like playing a whole season in one night, with the entire range of middle-games and endings. Maybe the battering sharpened me up for the season! (Indeed, my first game of the season was a 19 move win vs a 190 opponent!)

I shall have my revenge, in this season or the next! Thanks for the games everyone.

Ieuan Ward

9th October 2019