

MK Phoenix Report Weekend 2 2018-9

4NCL came to Bedford! No hotel bookings this time. It turned out to be a reasonably good part of the world for an MKP venue. On Saturday both teams won, meaning many of us wandered up the high street for a good evening in an Indian restaurant. So distracted was I that I forgot to take a screen grab of the division 3A league table with the first team clearly leading. On Sunday both teams were heavily outrated and we only broadly played to rating. That table still looks good, but not outstanding enough to publish here.

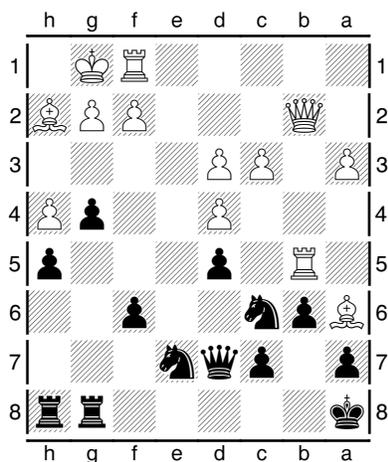
MK Phoenix 1	2047	CSC 2	1912
321 w Tippleston, Charles E	c 2098 ½ - ½	Rice, Chris B	1998
322 b Fraser-Mitchell, Jeremy N	2067 ½ - ½	Lawson, Maurice E	1965
323 w Habershon, Paul F	2038 0 - 1	Fowler, David	1929
324 b Brown, Alan M	2056 1 - 0	Vlcek, Marek	1927
325 w Smith, Graham	2026 1 - 0	Vachtfeidl, Petr	1836
326 b Freeman, Richard C P	2000 ½ - ½	Towers, Nigel S	1822

3½ - 2½

Charles' game was fairly even throughout, both players missing opportunities to consolidate on small advantages.

Jeremy's game was an exciting encounter, well worth looking through if you like the raw meat of two players attacking castled kings on opposite sides. The drawback is that Jeremy missed a rather more prosaic win of a piece before things got too exciting.

Lawson v Mitchell-Fraser, Black to play

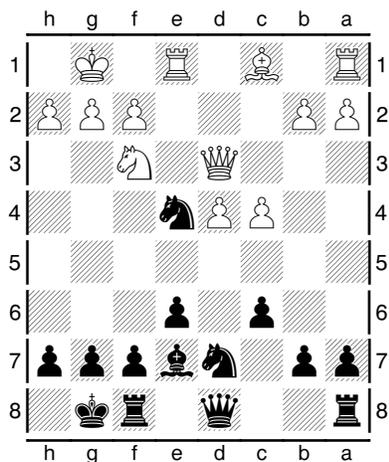


Here Jeremy played 22...Ng6, which turns out to be the wrong knight in the wrong direction. 22...Nb8 wins the bishop since it can only be defended by the rook 23.Ra5, but after 23...Nec6 it cannot continue the defence without the second knight reaching b8 after it takes the bishop. Thank goodness I get computer assistance! The game ended with bare kings.

Paul marched his king into mid board and his position fell apart around the monarch.

Alan struck early in an innocuous looking position.

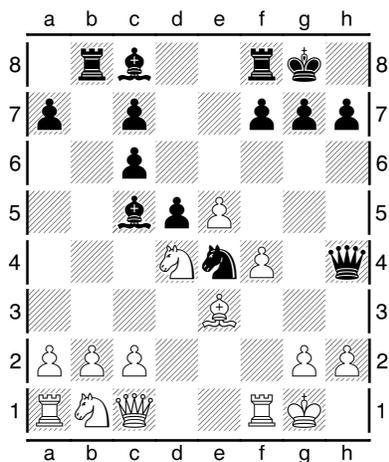
Marek v Brown, white to move



Marek recaptured with 12. Re4?, missing 12....Nc5.

Graham must have confused his opponent

Smith v Vachtfeidl, White to move



Graham decided that sacrificing the exchange was better than winning a pawn. Instead of 14. Nxc6 he played 14.Nc3 assessing correctly that after 14. Nxc6 Rb6 Black would have a free pass to a vicious k-side attack. After 14.Nc3 Ba6, he rejected 15. Re1 in favour of 15 Ne4 Bf1 16.Nc5 . This N position is known to be a nightmare configuration for black. It's not clear it is worth the exchange, but my assistant

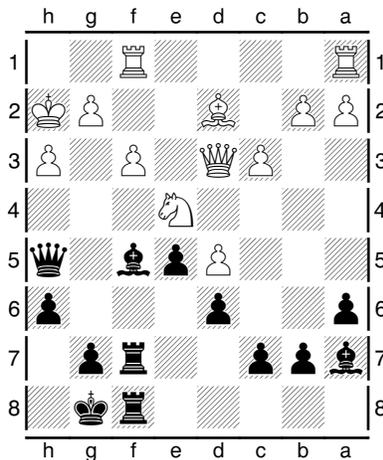
thinks white has an advantage, especially with the impending N-fork on d7. Graham proceeded with an original plan of entombing both his R and K before releasing his pawns on both flanks.

Richard had a hard fought 16 move draw.

Shropshire 3		1737	MK Phoenix 2		1812
481 w	Lewis, Christopher D	1900 e ½ - ½	Valentine, Brian J	1961	
482 b	Taylor, Alex B	1877 c ½ - ½	Williamson, Kevin J	1867	
483 w	Tarr, Steve F	1795 e 0 - 1	Matthews, Adrian M S	1809	
484 b	Ross, Stuart	1712 e 0 - 1	Obi, Marc On	1835	
485 w	Raghaven, Rajeev P	1592 c 0 - 1	Miller, Max C	1697 e	
486 b	Jones, Andrew	1547 c ½ - ½	Shaw, John S	1707	
1½ - 4½					

I had the misfortune to analyse the right lines at the wrong time. In the position why else is the BQ on h5?

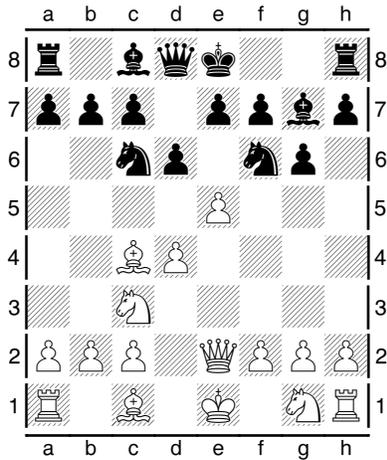
Lewis v Valentine, Black to move



Here I played 28....Qg6?! when the position is crying out for 28....Bxh3! with 29. Ng3 Bf5+ or 29. gxf3 Rxf3. The game soon petered out in equality.

I was amazed how quickly Kevin got a bad position! The next day he divulged what went on.

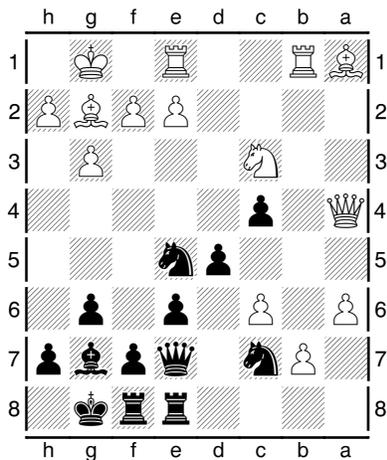
Williamson v Taylor, Black to move



The main justification for this line is that white gives up his queen for three pieces after 6...Nxd4 7.exf6 Nxe2 8.fxg7 Rg8 9.Ngxe2, whereupon my assistant thinks it equal but white has scored 70% on my database. However Black played 6...dxe5 7.dxe5 Nd4. Now white can continue down the main line with a pawn to the good. Kevin convinced himself that the now open d-file conferred an advantage to Black and played 8. Qd1?? Bf5? 9. Bd3? and struggled thereafter although he managed to extract a draw in the end. The main idea is still available with 9.exf6 Nxc2+ 10.Qxc2 and favours white.

As an aside Adrian is making a habit of winning dirty. Here is a game from 2019:

Jackson v Matthews, Royston Black to play

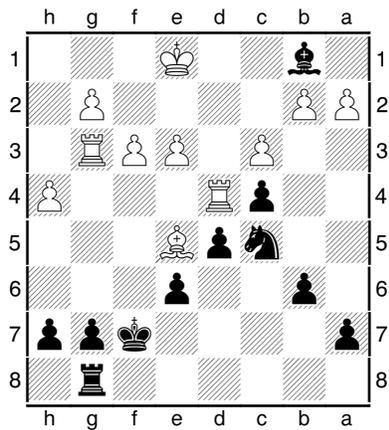


At this point, I agreed with Kevin to take Adrian home and off Kevin went with me expecting a pretty instant resignation. It's a funny old game! This one continued:

26...Nxa6 27.Qxa6 Qc5 28.Rb6 Ng4 29.Rf1 Bd4 30.Na4 Bxf2+ 31.Kh1 Qe3 32.Bf3 f5 33.c7 Bxg3 34.Bxg4 fxg4 35.Rxf8+ Rxf8 36.c8Q Qe4+ 37.Kg1 Bf2+ 38.Kf1 Qh1#

He was on the Femi juice for this one as well.

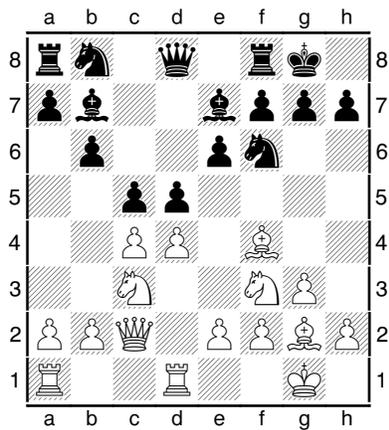
Tarr v Matthews, Black to move



You would expect a long grind ending inevitably badly. Enter Femi juice: 34...Nd3+ 35. Kd2?? Nxe5 36.e4 Nc6 0-1.

Another innocuous opening suddenly blows up our way:

Obi v Ross, Black to move:



10...Nh5 11.Be3 Qc7? 12.cxd5 cxd4 13.Nxd4 e5 14.d6 Bxd6 15.Ndb5, 1-0

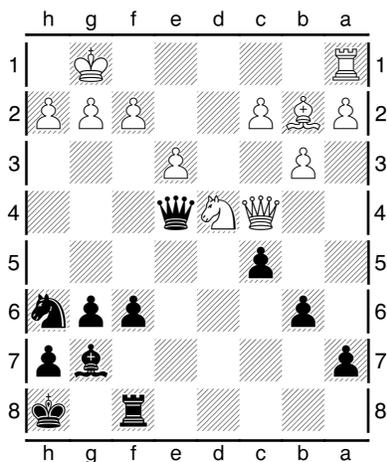
Max pulled of a commendable double for us over the weekend, but I think it best if a veil is passed over his game here. John was not well in his game, but held himself together when his opponent gave him the opportunity to save a totally lost position.

Kings Head		2176	MK Phoenix 1		2027
311 w	Tukpetov, Evgeny	2233	0 - 1	Habershon, Paul F	2038
312 b	McMichael, Richard J c	2173	½ - ½	Fraser-Mitchell, Jeremy N	2067
313 w	Kwiatkowski, Feliks J c	2225	1 - 0	Smith, Graham	2026
314 b	Okike, David	2162	1 - 0	Brown, Alan M	2056
315 w	Lewis, Alex	2172	½ - ½	Elwin, Adrian G	1978
316 b	Gilfillan, Andrew	2095 e	½ - ½	Freeman, Richard C P	2000

3½ - 2½

Paul pulled off a famous victory. I wanted to show something from the difficult ending he converted, but my assistant keeps changing assessments (i.e. it was tricky); let's stick to the key moment. Paul is a pawn down with a bit of compensation:

Tukpetov v Habershon, white to move



The Leighton Buzzard player got a bit too far North with 21. Qe6 only to find a piece going west after 21...f5!

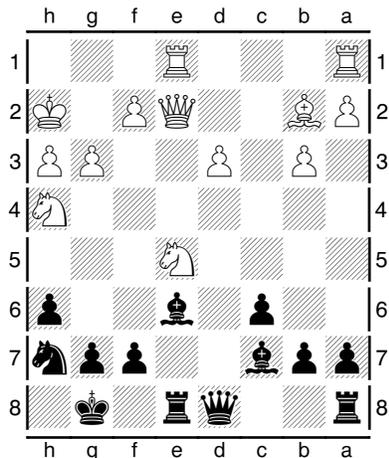
Jeremy was in a combative mood, but spent most of the game on the back foot. He centralised his knights (on e1 and d1!) and from there they could only jump into life. Eventually he gave one up to open up his opponent's king. The activity generated forced a draw.

Graham's game was the rare example from this weekend where a quiet opening blew up in our face.

Alan played a model queen's pawn game and held a noticeable edge for most of the game. I suspect this effort consumed a lot of time, since he erred on move 33 in a complex position.

Adrian gained a very promising position but accepted a draw by repetition. It's not easy to see, but there was a big opportunity.

Lewis v Elwin, Black to move



All eyes are investigating that potentially loose knight on h5, but 20....Ba5! appears to unlock the position. After the WR moves the BN goes to g5 along with a dislodging of the Ne5 with f6. The white squares around the WK are now vulnerable.

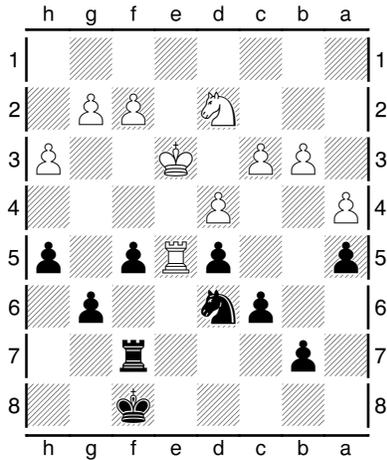
Richard had a hard fought 25 move draw.

	MK Phoenix 2	1851	West is Best 3	1956
441 w	Valentine, Brian J	1961	0 - 1 Freeland, Alex	2036
442 b	Williamson, Kevin J	1867	0 - 1 Stephens, John KF	1963
443 w	Meichel, Eric B	1937	c ½ - ½ Davies, Matthew	1945
444 b	Obi, Marc On	1835	0 - 1 Jukes, Sam	1914
445 w	Whiteside, Robert	1809	½ - ½ Hurley, Jake	1929
446 b	Miller, Max C	1697	e 1 - 0 Gregory, Andrew M	1951
			2 - 4	

I found a bad plan and never recovered.

Kevin was the last to finish. He had a difficult position throughout, but when I left seemed to be comfortable.

Stephens v Williamson, Black to move.



Later Kevin explained that here exchanging rooks would have equalised. He chose to exchange knights with 49...Ne4. The computer likes 49...Rf6 planning ...Nf7, but 49....Re7 is fine. After exchanging Ns the WR becomes very active from e8 and Kevin's position soon became untenable.

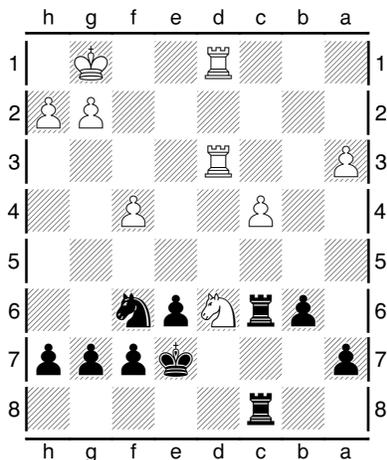
Eric was worse for choice in the opening, but steadily met any threats and Blacks advantage dissipated.

Marc got a very poor position from the opening and his opponent played a very sound game from there.

Rob agreed a draw after 18 moves with more than sufficient compensation for a pawn deficit.

Max came in as a replacement for John (hope you are getting better, John!). He won a pawn in the opening and handled the transition to winning ending efficiently

Gregory v Miller, Black to move.



The computer favours grovelling here, but when outrated 250+ points there is nothing wrong with: 28...Rxd6 29. Rd6 Nd5 30. Rxe6+ fe6 31. cxd5 Rd8 giving a riskless rook ending with the pawn advantage retained. Max converted for our only double of the weekend.