



Delgado-Ramirez – Cubas, Spain 2012. Black, to play, found a neat tactic to win the game. What did he play?

The annual Cowley Summer Blitz will be held from 7.15pm on Monday 26th June at its usual venue, Rose Hill Methodist Church on Rose Hill. All chess-players are welcome to compete in this 10 round 5-minute chess tournament. Players who have not pre-registered are asked to be at the venue by 7pm at the latest. During the evening the Oxfordshire Chess Association team and individual prizes will be awarded for the season just concluded.

Congratulations to Witney 1 who are one of the prize-winning teams having just secured the Frank Wood Shield title - defeating my team City 1 in the final. City, who hosted the final, were missing some key personnel and I was apprehensive when Witney arrived with Grandmaster Peter Wells and Marcus Harvey heading a beefed-up side boasting an average rating over BCF 200. City had overcome a similarly daunting obstacle in defeating University 1 in the semi-final - but repeating the feat proved too much and Witney won the match convincingly. On board 1, I was at first over-ambitious and then thoroughly outplayed.

White: Matthew Rose
Black Peter Wells

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Nc6 *In a previous game we'd had 3...Bd7 4.Bxd7+ Qxd7 5.0-0 Nc6 6.Qe2 Nf6 7.Rd1 g5!?*

4.0-0 Bd7 5.Re1 Nf6 6.c3 a6 7.Bf1 Bg4 8.h3 Bxf3 *A concession - but the alternative 8...Bh5 9.g4 Bg6 10.d4!? cxd4 11.cxd4 is promising for White. Black cannot take the pawn, for example 11...Bxe4? (11...d5 is better) 12.Rxe4! Nxe4 13.d5 and White wins a piece.*

9.Qxf3 e6 *9...g6 is a good alternative.*

10.Na3!? Be7 11.Nc2 0-0 12.d3 Rc8 13.g4!? *Such a move can sometimes provoke an overreaction by an opponent - but this was a bit much to expect from Peter and some key squares have been weakened.*

13...Ne8 14.Be3 e5!? 15.Rad1 Bg5 16.a3?! *A timewaster. 16.Bxg5 Qxg5 17.Ne3 Nc7 18.Nf5 is a bit dull, but maintains the balance.*

16...Nc7 17.d4 *Consequent - but now Black is well placed for the opening up of the position.*

17...cxd4 18.cxd4 Bxe3 19.Qxe3 Qh4! 20.dxe5?! *Played because I hated the look of the stodgy 20.d5 Ne7 21.Rc1 Ng6 22.Red1 - but this was the wiser course.*

20...dxe5 21.Bc4 Ne6! *This was the move I feared. Black accept the damaged structure in return for excellent attacking chances against White's weakened kingside.*

22.Bxe6 fxe6 23.Rd6? *I spent a lot of time deciding between this blunder and 23.Rd7 - eventually tossing a mental coin which came down on the wrong side. Peter thought I should try to bale out with 23.Qg3 but after 23...Qxg3+ 24.fxg3 Rf3 25.Re3 Nd4! 26.Rxf3 Nxf3+ 27.Kf2 Rxc2+ 28.Kxf3 Rxb2 Black has an extra pawn and good winning chances.*

23...Na5! *I'd totally missed this.*

24.Qe2 Qxh3 25.Rd3 *Not 25.Rxe6? Rxc2! 26.Qxc2 Qxg4+*

25...Qh4 26.Kg2 Rfd8 27.Red1?! *Much better was 27.Nb4!*

27...Rxd3 28.Rxd3 Nc6 29.Rd7 Ne7! *En route for f4 and it can't be headed off.*

30.Qf3!? Rf8 31.Qg3 Qg5 32.Ne1 Ng6 33.Nf3 Qf6 *Threatening 34...Qxf3+*

34.Nd2 Nf4+ 35.Kf1 Rc8 36.Nb3 Qh6 37.Qf3 Qh2 38.Rd2 a5 39.a4 h6 *There's absolutely nothing I can do to improve my position so Peter takes his time.*

40.Rd7 Rf8 41.Nc5 *Setting one last trap.*

41...b6! *Not 41...Nh3?? 42.Rxg7+! winning for White! 0-1*

Answer to chess puzzle: Black played 31...Ng3!! And White resigned since after 32.Qxg6 Rd1+! 33.Kh2 Nf1+ 34.Kg1 Nxe3+ 35.Kh2 Nf1+ 36.Kg1 fxg6 he ends up a piece down