

## Ray Starkie Best Game Prize 2018-19

There were 5 entries for the Ray Starkie Best Game competition. All five games were finely played by the winners - but I think Ray would have most enjoyed his team mate Will Burt's fine sacrificial attack against yours truly and I gave this game the top honour. Here are the games in no particular order with some light annotations.

### **Ward,Gareth - Rumsby,Steve**

Oxon v Berks U150, 19.01.2019

**1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.e3 Bg7 4.Nbd2 0-0 5.Bd3 d6 6.c3 Nbd7 7.0-0 c5 8.Re1 b6 9.e4 e5 10.d5 Nh5 11.Nf1 Nf4 12.Ng3 Nxd3 13.Qxd3 a5 14.a4 Nf6 15.Bg5 h6 16.Bc1 Nh7 17.b3 f5 18.Ra2 f4 19.Nf1 g5 20.h3 Qe8 21.N3h2 h5 22.c4?** This move means that White can't get any counter-play on the queenside and must just await his fate on the kingside. Generating anything on the queenside would anyway have been difficult – but if any move seals Black's fate, it's this one.

**22...Qg6 23.f3 Nf6 24.Rae2 Bd7 25.Nd2 Rf7 26.Rf1 Raf8 27.Kf2 g4 28.fxg4 hxg4 29.hxg4 Bxg4 30.Nhf3 Bh5 31.Ke1 Qg3+ 32.Kd1 Ng4 33.Nb1 Ne3+ 34.Bxe3 fxe3 35.Qxe3 Bxf3 36.gxf3 Rxf3 37.Rxf3 Rxf3 38.Qc1 Rf1+ 0-1.** A convincing game by Black – but his attack was for free because White didn't generate any real distractions. As a Kings Indian addict myself – nice to see such a thematic and well played KID attack.

### **Hardwick,Alexander - Waugh,Bob**

Univ 2 v Cowley 3, 02.05.2019

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.f4 e6 7.Be3 b5 8.Qf3 Bb7 9.Bd3 Nbd7 10.g4 Nc5 11.g5 Nfd7 12.0-0!?** Castling the other way seems more natural.

**12...Be7 13.b4 Nxd3 14.cxd3 0-0 15.Qh5 d5 16.Rf3 Re8 17.f5 e5? 18.f6?** Instead 18.g6! fxg6 19.fxg6 h6 20.Bxh6 would have won for White!

**18...g6** (18...Bxf6!)

**19.Qh4 exd4 20.Bxd4?** 20.fxe7! Qb6! 21.Bf2 dxe4 is unclear.

**20...Bf8 21.Rh3 h5 22.gxh6 Kh7 23.exd5 Ne5?! 24.Ne4? 24.Re1! Bd6 25.Rhe3** is unclear again.

**24...Qxd5!** Defending f7 and attacking g2. Now it's over as Black has the extra piece and the more dangerous attack.

**25.Bxe5 Rxe5 26.Rc1 Qd4+ 27.Kf1 Bxe4 28.dxe4 Rxe4 29.Qg3 Rf4+ 0–1** Black defended well – but White missed his big chance and Black counterattacked effectively. Fighting chess by both players.

**Truran, Mike - Kaodwala, Nalin**

Witney 1 v Cowley 1, 15.04.2019

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Be3 0–0 8.Rc1 c5 9.Qd2 e5 10.d5 b6 11.f3 f5 12.exf5!?** A bit inconsistent given White's previous move.

**12...gxf5 13.Bg5 Qe8 14.Bc4 b5 15.Bb3 c4 16.Bc2 Nd7 17.Ne2 Qf7?!** Completing development would seem the most pressing requirement.

**18.0–0 Nf6 19.d6 f4?!** Losing control of an important square.

**20.g3 h6 21.Bxf6 Bxf6 22.Be4 Rb8 23.gxf4 Bh3 24.Bd5 (24.Kh1!) Be6 25.Rfd1 Kh8 25...Bxd5! 26.Qxd5 Qxd5 27.Rxd5 exf4** might have hung on.

**26.Bxe6 Qxe6 27.f5 Qxf5 28.Qxh6+ Kg8 29.Ng3!** After 29.Kf2? Bg5! would have turned the tables.

**29...Qd7 30.Ne4** This well placed knight and an extra pawn give White a huge advantage.

**30...Bg7 31.Qh5 Rf5 32.Qg4 Rbf8 33.Rc2 a5 34.Rg2 R8f7 35.Nc5 Qa7 36.d7**

**1–0** Well played by White and another real fight of a game. I could feel the tension and the high premium on each move. White did especially well to avoid the tempting trap 29.Kf2.

## Rose, Matt - Burt, Will

Cowley 1 v Oxford City 1 Rose Hill Methodist Church (1), 11.03.2019

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.c3 d6 6.a4 a5 7.0-0 h6 8.Na3 0-0 9.Nc2 Be6  
10.Bb5?! Ne7 11.d4 Bb6 12.Re1 Ng6 13.d5?! Bg4 14.h3 Bh5!?! 15.Qd3? (diagram) Played  
after long think (never think too long!) and because I couldn't see any advantage in 15.g4 Nxg4  
16.hxg4 Bxg4 17.Ne3 Bxe3 18.Bxe3 f5.



15...Nxe4!! Ouch! 16.Qxe4 f5 17.Qc4 Bxf3 18.gxf3 f4! 19.Qf1 Nh4 20.Kh1!?! Rf5! 21.Bd3!  
Rh5 22.Re2 Played to free e1 for the knight - but it doesn't work. 22.Be4 Qd7 and now 23.Kg1  
Rg5+ 24.Kh1 Rg2 would cost White his queen - but might be the only defence.

22...Nxf3 23.Ne1 Nxe1! 24.Rxe1 Qd7 25.Kh2 Bxf2 26.Re2 Qg4! 27.Bf5 Rxf3+!

0-1 Black's 15<sup>th</sup> was a great sacrifice and well followed up. The finish was very nice.

## Ian Bush - Peter Tickner

Bucks v. Oxon Bd 13 Farley Hill, Bucks, 02.03.2019

1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 d3 4.Bxd3 Nc6 5.Nf3 d6 6.h3 h6!?! 7.c4 e6 8.Nc3 Be7 9.Be3 a6 10.0-0  
g5 11.Nd2 Ne5 12.Be2 Bd7 13.f4 Ng6 14.f5 Nf4 15.Bxf4 gxf4 16.Rxf4 Qb6+ 17.Kh1 Bg5  
18.Rf3 Nf6 19.fxe6 fxe6 20.e5! dxe5 21.Nde4 Nxe4 22.Nxe4 Be7 23.Rb3 Qc6 24.Bh5+ Kd8  
25.Bf3 Qa4 26.Rd3 Kc7 27.b3 Qc6 28.Nf6 Bxf6 29.Bxc6 Bxc6 30.Qh5 Raf8 31.Rf1 Rhg8  
32.Rxf6 Rxf6 33.Qxe5+ Kb6 34.Rd5 Rfg8 35.Qd4+ Kc7 36.Rf7+ Kc8 37.Qa7 Rg1+  
38.Qxg1 Rxf6 39.Kxg1 exd5 40.cxd5 Bxd5 41.Rh7 Be4 42.Rxh6 Bb1 43.a3 Ba2 44.b4 Bd5  
45.Rh7 Kd8 46.Kf2 Ke8 47.Ke3 Kf8 48.Kd4 Bc6 49.Kc5 Kg8 50.Rc7 1-0. I liked the 20.e5,  
21.Nde4 concept. 26.Rxb7! would have ended the game sooner - but denied the fans the  
entertaining finish.