

READERS' LETTERS

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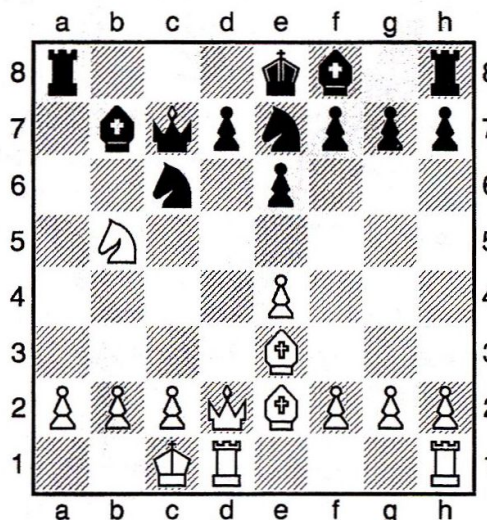
In the Times of May 31st, 1999, a correspondent wrote that "excellent postal players generally lose in over-the-board encounters against moderately strong opposition". We would, of course, take issue with that. On July 4th, BCCS member Alexander Baron won first prize in a Rapidplay at Kensington (Under 145) scoring five and a half points out of six.

The previous month he took outright first in another Under 145 Rapidplay at Brent, June 5th, this time scoring seven and a half out of nine.

In round 8 he drew with fellow member Chris O'Bee who was joint third. Below is Baron's 11 move demolition of runner up, Kevin White.

1.e4 c5 2.d4 e6 3.♘f3 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘c6 5.♘c3 a6 6.♙e3 ♖c7 7.♙d2 [7. ♙e2 b5 8.♙d2 ♙b7 9.0-0-0 ♘a5 10.f3 ♘c4 11.♙xc4 ♙xc4 12.♘dxb5 d5 13.♘d4 e5 14.♘b3 d4 15.♙xd4 exd4 16.♙xd4 ♙xd4 17.♙xd4 ♙d8 18.♙xd8+ ♙xd8 19.♙d1+ ♙c7 20. ♘a5 ♙a8 21.♘d5+ ♙xd5 22.♙xd5 ♘e7 23.♙d4 g6 24.♙a4 ♙h6+ 25.♙d1 ♙d8+ 26.♙e1 ♙d2 27.♘b3 ♙xc2 28.♙xa6 ½-½ Lewalder, P-Mueller, M/RL-chJ U17 Bad Marienberg 1993/GER 05 (28)] 7...b5 8.0-0-0 ♙b7 9.♙e2 ♘ge7?? 10.♘dxb5! axb5

11.♘xb5



and Black resigns.

Alexander Baron

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*I have to say, Alexander, that this is something that truly p*ss*s me off. CC players are considered second class citizens. The truth is that OTB players can often escape with shoddy opening preparation and rely on laughable tactics that they hope the opponent will overlook. 'Good' players have written books based on this premise. An OTB player who thought himself (and justifiably) better than your average OTB player was allowed in to the BFCC final, leapfrogging those in the candidates and reserves. He finished mid-table. Need I say more...!? - Ed.*