

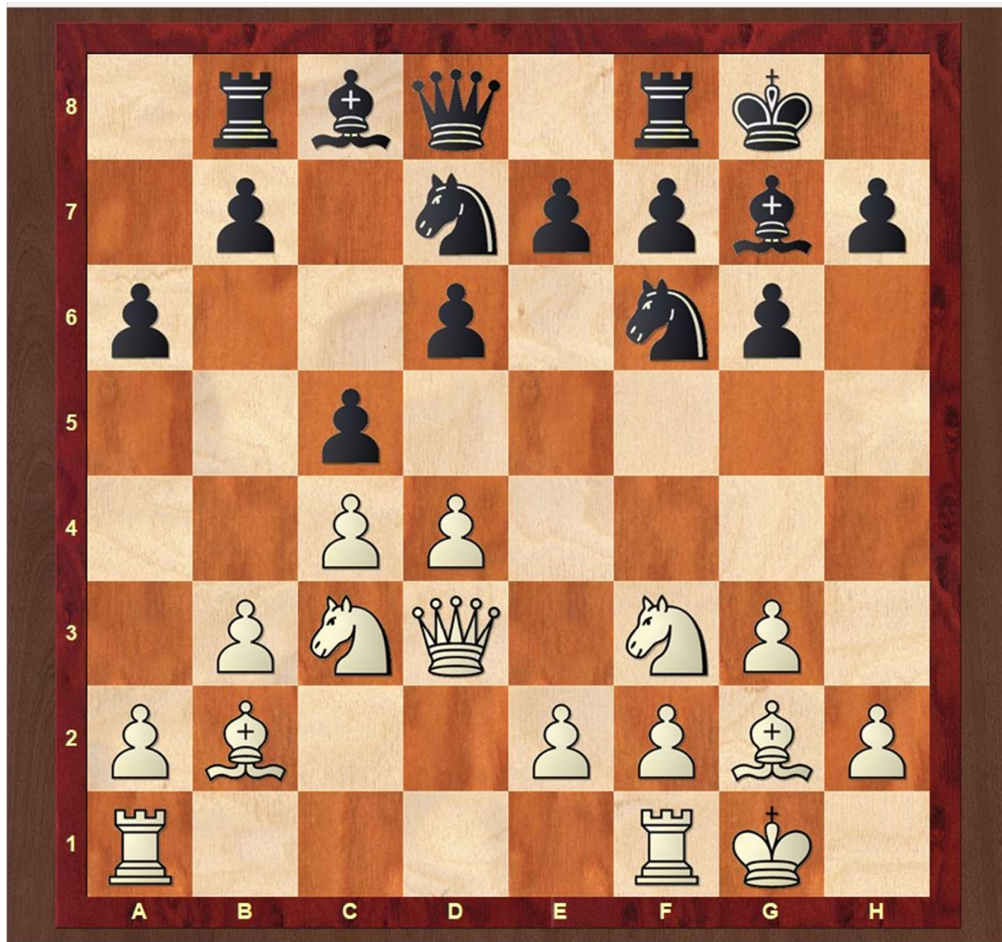
## Guernsey at the World Chess Seniors in Krakow July 1<sup>st</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> 2024

Guernsey entered a team in the World Seniors limited to players over age 50 for the first time in Krakow.



*Figure 1: Guernsey Team : Left to Right Peter Kirby, Peter Rowe, Jamie Morgan & Colin Goman. (Toby Brookfield missing)*

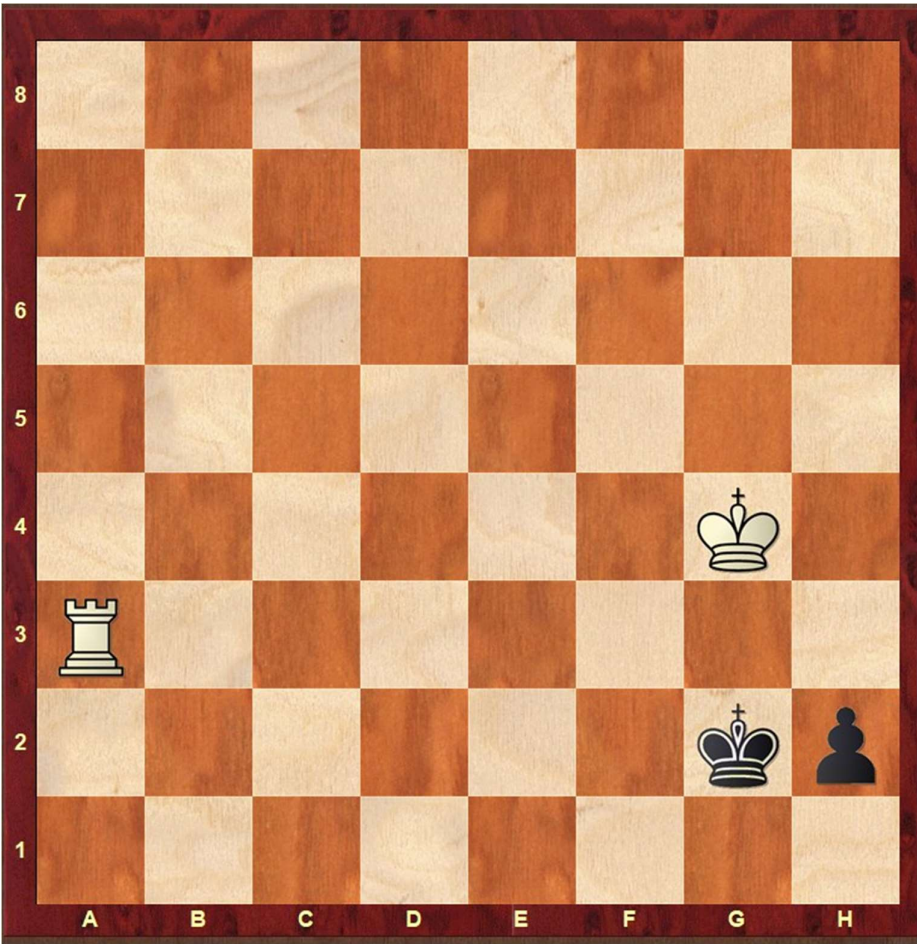
In most matches Guernsey were the underdogs and playing against countries with much larger populations, and the first three rounds were lost to teams from Norway, Poland & Brazil. Although we lost 4-0 to Brazil the match was closer than the scoreline suggests, and Colin Goman was close to a draw in his game after making a pawn sacrifice in the position below :-



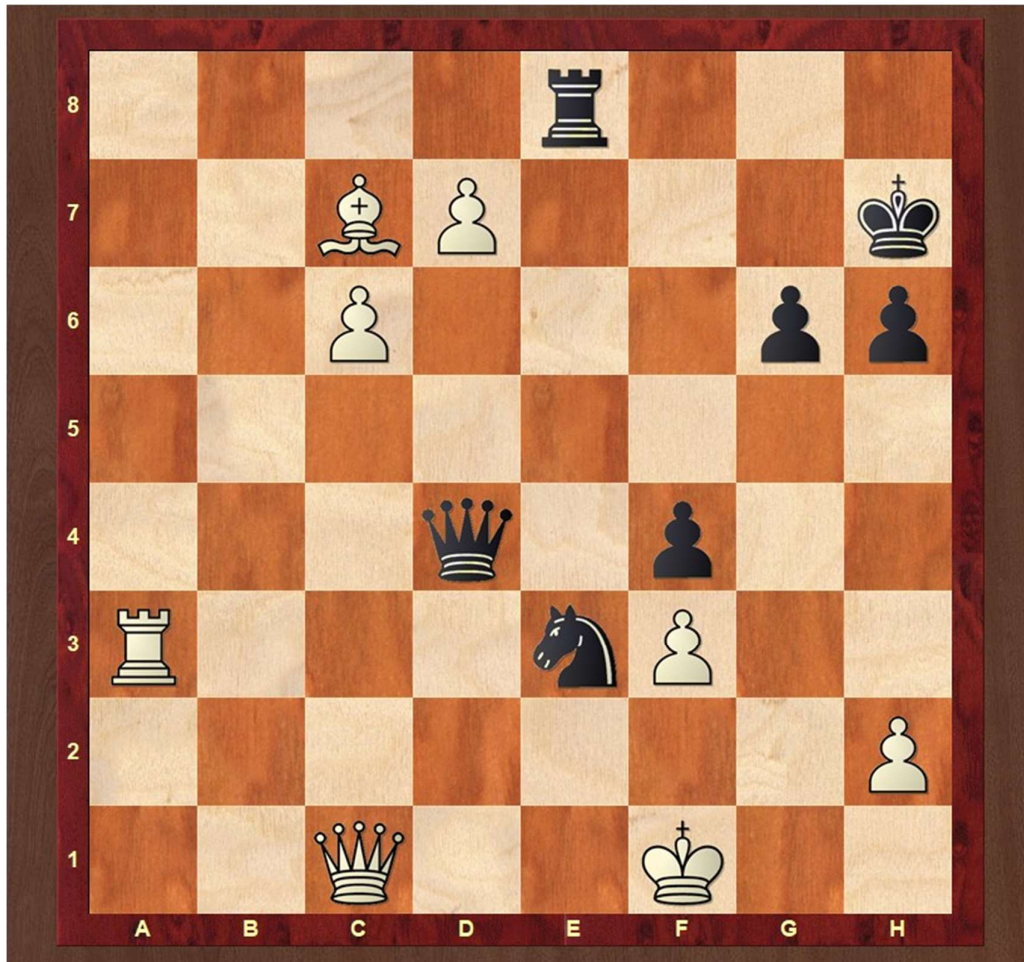
Black played b5, and the game continued 12. cxb5 axb5 13. Nxb5 Ba6 14. a4 and Black has full compensation for the pawn.



In Round 4 Guernsey won convincingly 3-1 against a local team from Poland with wins from Peter Rowe and Jamie Morgan. In the position below Peter after a long game found the only winning line for White 68. Ra2+ Kg1 69. Kg3 h1(N)+ (underpromotion as promoting to Q loses to Ra1#) 70. Kf3 and knight is trapped and lost.



In Round 6 it was a bit disappointing to lose to England 4<sup>th</sup> team, Peter Kirby on Board 1 had many chances to win before we reached the complex position below with White to play. Black has a dangerous attack on the White king, but White is about to gain a new queen on either d8 or e8.



The game continued 47. Rxe3 Rxe3 48. Qxe3 (temporary queen sacrifice) Qd1+ (a bit of a surprise refusing the queen sacrifice) 49. Qe1 Qxf3+ with a draw.

There was a win with 48. d8(Q) Rxf3+ 49. Kg2 Rf2+ 50 Kg1 ! (ignoring the threat of a discovered check as the queen is attacked)

A win was also missed on the next move with 49. Kg2! (insisting on the queen sacrifice) fxe3 50. d8(Q) e2 this looks very dangerous for White as the pawn can't be stopped, but White now shifts to mating attack on the black king with 51. Qe7+ Kg8 52. Qe8+ Kh7 53. Qf7+ Kh8 54. Be5#.



The organisers arranged for a walking tour of Krakow city on the Free Day between Rounds 6 & 7.



Figure 2: Gate on the City Walls



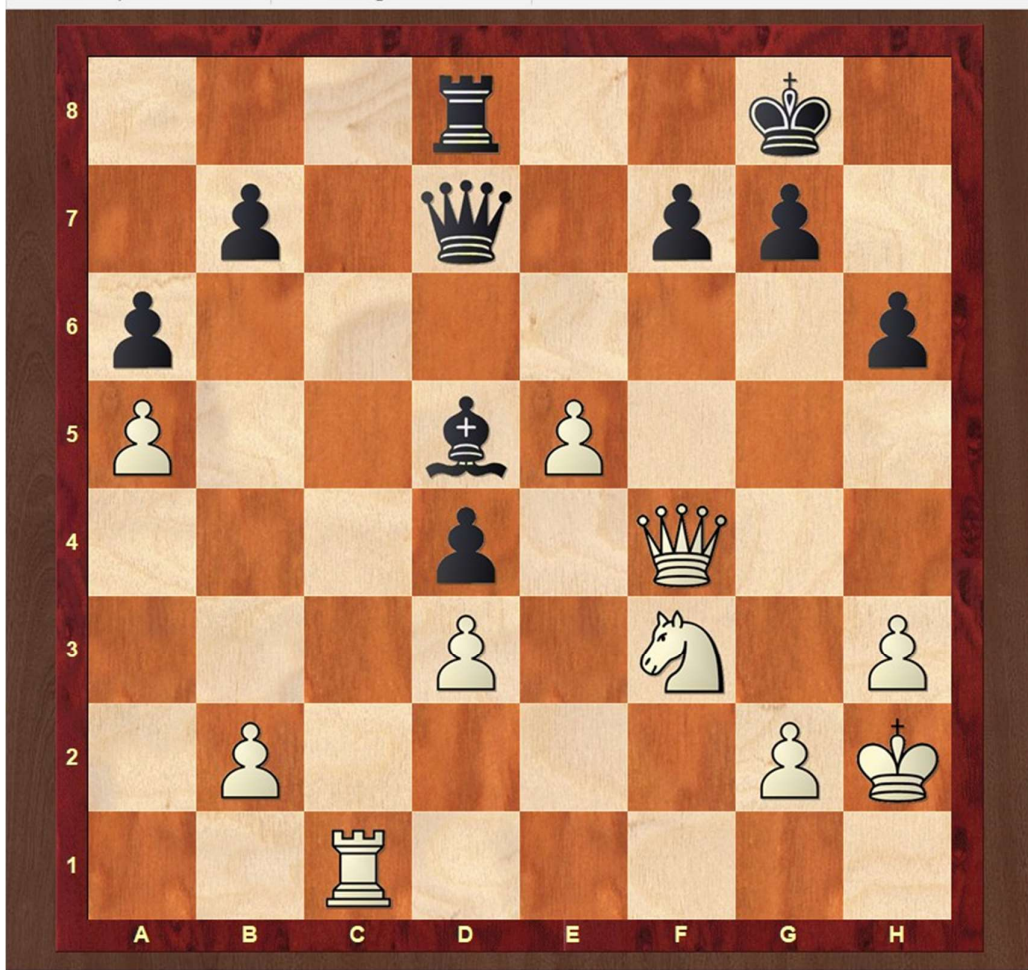
*Figure 3: Cloth Hall in the Main Square of Krakow*



In Round 8 Guernsey won their 2<sup>nd</sup> match convincingly against Luxembourg 3 ½ – ½ with wins from Rowe, Brookfield and Morgan. Jamie Morgan won in only 6 moves for his quickest ever win in competitive chess, after his opponent blundered as Black in the position below with 5... Qf6 missing 6. Nd5.



In the last round we lost narrowly to Germany women's team 2 ½ to 1 1/2. Toby Brookfield drew his game but missed a difficult tactic in the position below :-



White can play 27. Nxd4 Bxg2 28. Nf5 Bc6 29. Nxh6+! Gxh6 30. Rg1+ Kf8 31. Qxh6+ Ke7 32. Qf6+ Kf8 32. e6 !



The Organisers made a lot of effort to make the event special, we even had customised place mats for meals.....



Peter Kirby  
July 23<sup>rd</sup> 2024