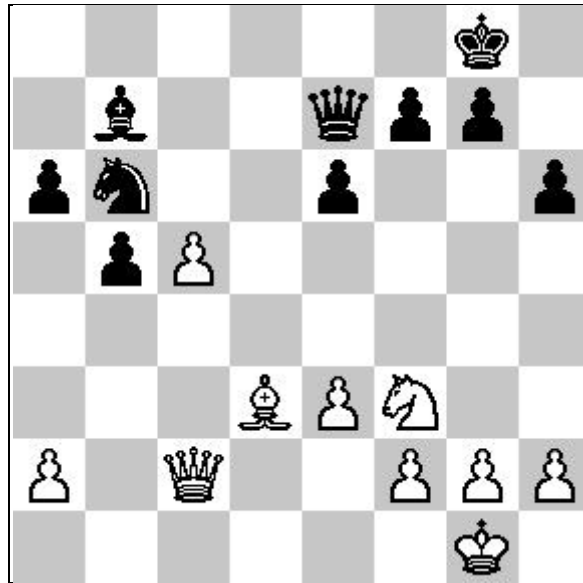


The Power of the Passed Pawn.

The position below was reached in a game I played against Gerard Buckley, of the Malahide Chess Club at the 2010 Kilkenny Chess Congress in round 5 of the Majors Section.

On my 22nd move, following exchanges of rooks on the c file, I recaptured a black rook on c5 with my pawn on d4 creating a passed pawn in the process that is supported by the Queen on c2 and is also attacking the black knight on b6.

Fitzsimons v Buckley, Kilkenny Majors November 2010.



The game illustrates the points made earlier about the power of a passed pawn and the need to “push and support it” (PAST). The creation of the passed pawn on the c file proves to be the key turning point of the game. Can you see why ?

There are a number of points to note as follows:

- The white c pawn is only 3 moves from queening;
- It is supported/defended by the white Queen on c2;
- The white bishop and knight stand well placed to further support/defend the pawn from their current locations;
- The pawn attacks the black knight and is poised to attack the black bishop on b7 on its next move to c6;
- Black is forced to concentrate on stopping the advance of this pawn thus tying down his pieces in passive (non-threatening positions);

Can you guess some of the following moves of the game ?