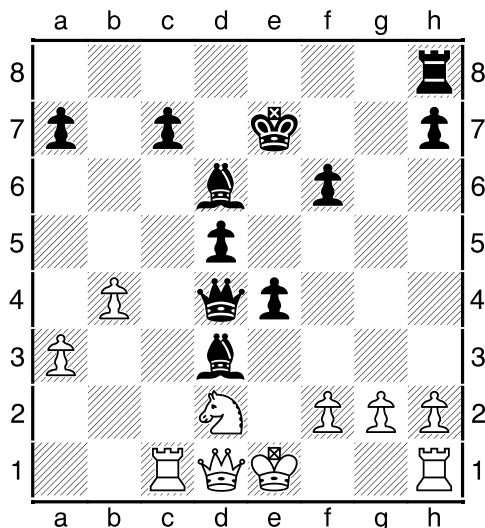




Advanced Lecture – Imagination and Tactics

by IM Robert Jamieson

Tactics are the life-blood of chess. Many years ago, back in 1970, it was lunchtime at Monash University so, as usual, I went to the chess club to play some lightning chess. I was playing an old school chum when, half-way through the game, I screamed out "scoresheet". This was what we did when we played a good game or combination and wanted to save it for posterity. Everyone came rushing to wonder at the pretty finish of the game.



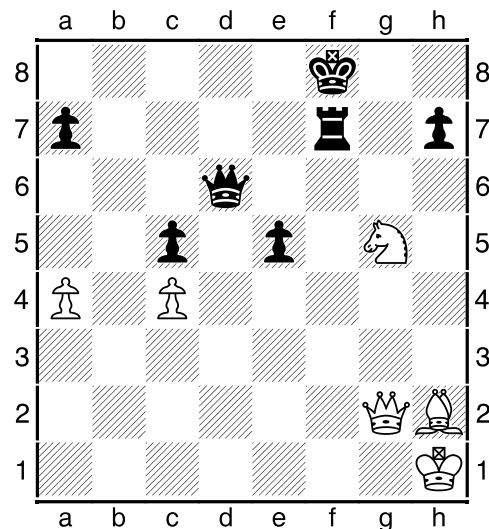
Applebe v Jamieson 1970

Here I played 1...Rg8 2.g3 Rxc3! 3.hxc3 Qe3+!! 4.fxe3 Bg3#.

Very pretty but unfortunately not original. I had seen a similar finish in an old copy of *Chess World* some years earlier.

Most combinations are like this - we have the pattern stored in our memory bank and we recognise the pattern that allows the combination.

Today I want to show you some combinations which are probably not recognised patterns, but require the player to use his imagination to find a winning line.



Petrosian v Simagin 1956

Black has just captured a pawn on d6 allowing White to win the exchange by 1.Nxf7. Unfortunately this leads only to a draw as 1...Qd1+ 2.Bg1 Qh5+ is perpetual check. What can White do?

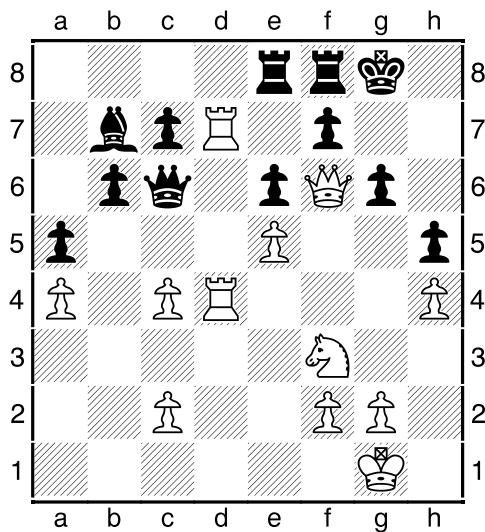
1.Qa8+ Kh8 2.Bxe5+! Kxe5 3.Qh8+!! Kxh8 4.Nxf7+ and wins.

Very pretty indeed. Perhaps some players saw 2.Qh8+ but Black can play 2...Kg6 and is then OK. It takes a lot of imagination to see both Qh8+ and Bxe5+ to create the combination. Using Purdy's old adage of "examine all checks and captures" would help you find the combination.





In the next example White seems to have Black all tied up but cannot increase the attack to finish Black off. Also he must consider if Black can take his unprotected "a" pawn.



Short v Timman

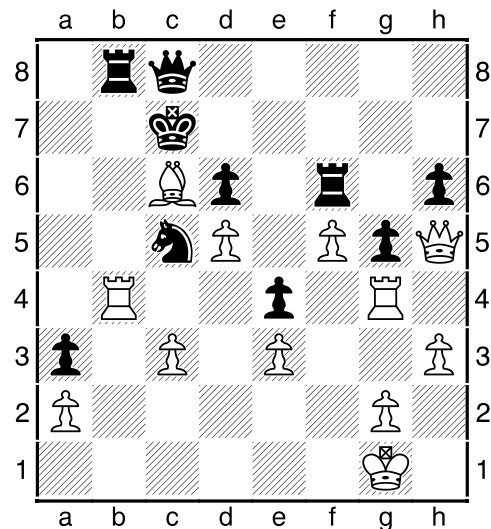
What is White to do?

Short decides to "pass" and just plays 1.Kh2 whereupon Timman decides to make Qxa4 a real threat by playing 1...Rc8 to protect the "c7" pawn. He should have played 1...Bc8.

Can anyone spot Short's combination? It's one of the most remarkable ever played.

After 1.Kh2 Rc8 Short played 2.Kg3!! and Black is powerless. Play continued 2...Rce8 3.Kf4 Bc8 4.Kg5 1-0 as Black has no defence to 5.Kh6. A rare example of an attacking King.

To finish, here is a real beauty from the 19th century.



Mason v Winawer 1882

White is attacking but Black seems to have set up a solid defence, so how can White press home the attack?

1.Rxg5! hxg5 2.Qh7+ Nd7
 Not 2...Kd8 3.Qh8+ Kd7 4.Qg7+ Rf7 5.f6+
3.Bxd7 Qg8!
 If 3...Qxd7 4.Rc4+ Kd8 5.Qh8+ Qe8
 6.Qxf6+ Qe7 7.Qh8+ Qe8 8.Rb4! etc
4.Rb7+!! Kxb7 5.Bc8+!!
 Not 5...Kxc8 6.Qxg8+
5...Ka8 6.Qxg8 Rxf5 7.Qd8 Rxd5 8.Qd7
Rb1+ 9.Kh2 Rd2 10.Qc6+ Kb8 11.Qxe4
 and white won.

That certainly took a lot of imagination. It's clear that one must look at "silly" moves like 4.Rb7+ and 5.Bc8+ in order to find the unexpected brilliancy.

If you don't look you don't see!

