

Game of the Summer!

The summer months have seen visits by the RAC Chess Circle to various exotic locations, none more so than our inaugural visit to the Capablanca Club of Havana, Cuba, named after Jose Raoul Capablanca, the chess champion of the world in the 1920s and one of the greatest ever players of the game. Here the RAC's Carlo Banchero faces a much higher rated opponent determined to throw all his pieces into the attack.

White: Joaquim Mestre (Capablanca)
Black: Carlo Banchero (RAC)

1. e4 e5
2. Nf3 Nc6
3. d4 exd4
4. Bc4 h6
5. c3 Nf6
6. Qb3 Qe7



The "book" move now is 7 0-0 and after 7...dxc3 8 Nxc3 d6 9 Nd5 white has a good attack for his sacrificed pawn. In

playing 7 e5, white clearly hoped that he could take advantage of the position of black's queen by playing Re1, pinning the queen against the black king. Carlo bravely accepts the pawn sacrifice and follows up with a nice queen manoeuvre to ensure the safety of black's king and queen.

7. e5?! Nxe5
8. Nxe5 Qxe5+
9. Kd1 Qh5+!
10. f3 d5!

Blocking the a2-g8 diagonal, so white can no longer threaten Bxf7+, and also allowing the bishop on c8 to develop.



11. Re1+ Be7
12. Bd3 dxc3

White has no immediate threats, so let's take another white pawn....

13. Bf4 cxb2

.....and another! Now white has to recapture, giving black the chance to develop his queen's bishop and block the e-file, so the white rook can't invade.

14. Qxb2 Be6
15. Re5 g5



16. Qb5+

White might be better playing 16. Qxb7, but black can just castle into safety: 16...0-0 17. Qxc7 Bd8! 18. Qb7 Bb6 threatening 19...Bd4. Although black is only now a pawn ahead, white's development is worse, his king is stuck in the centre and black has many different threats.

16. Nd7

17. Rxe6

Desperation! But black was threatening Bf6 skewering the white rooks.

17. fxe6

18. Bxc7 Bf6

19. Nc3 Bxc3

20. Rc1 d4

21. Be5 Ke7



Carlos is happy to return the exchange (22 Bxh8 Rxh8) to get rid of white's bishop pair. White declines the offer and goes for a last speculative sacrifice.

22. Rxc3 dxc3

23. Qb4+ Kf7

24. Qxb7 Rhd8

25. Bb5 Ke7

26. Kc1 Qe8

Bringing the queen back to ensure that everything is adequately defended.

27. Qe4 Qf7

28. Qb4+ Ke8

29. Qe4 Kf8

30. Bd6+ Kg8

31. Bc4 Re8

32. Bb4 Qf4+



to exchange queens, so leaving his opponent out of attacking ammunition so white resigned. Well played, Carlo!

Note: the moves are shown in algebraic notation, which is now the standard required by FIDE. You can copy and paste into any computer chess program. An explanation of algebraic notation can be found in this link:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Algebraic_notation_\(chess\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Algebraic_notation_(chess))

