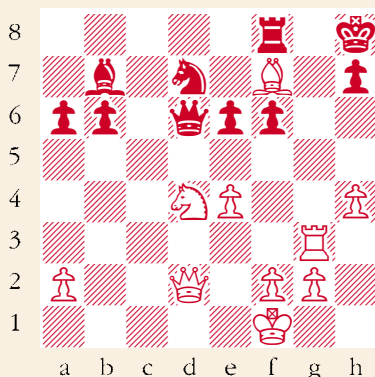


## Karate Raymond Keene

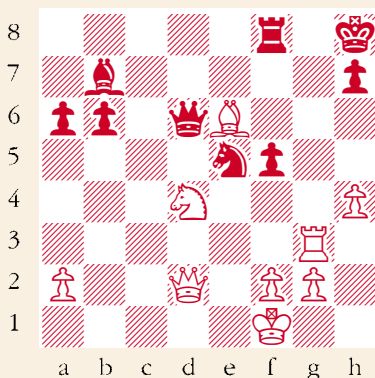
Karate literally means a style of martial art with 'empty hand' — there is a chessboard equivalent. Most sacrifices take place on an occupied square. However the Dutch have perfected the art of sacrificing for an attack on an empty square. Here is a sample from the Staunton Memorial.

**Werle–Wells:** *Staunton Memorial, London 2008; Queen's Gambit Accepted*

**1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 Nf3 d5 4 Nc3 dxc4** The Vienna Variation is one of the sharpest and most deeply analysed lines of the Queen's Gambit. **5 e4 Bb4 6 Bg5 c5 7 Bxc4 cxd4 8 Nxd4 Bxc3+ 9 bxc3 Qa5 10 Bb5+ Nbd7** The alternative is 10 ... Bd7. This is also razor-sharp, but its reputation has never fully recovered from the battering it took in the game Kasparov–Hjartarson, Tilburg 1989, which went as follows: 10 ... Bd7 11 Bxf6 gxf6 12 Qb3 a6 13 Be2 Nc6 14 0-0 Qc7 15 Rab1 Na5 16 Qa3 Rc8 17 Rfd1 Qxc3 18 Qd6 Qc7 19 Nf5 exf5 20 Qxf6 0-0 21 Rd3 f4 22 Rd5 h6 23 Qxh6 f5 24 Rb6 Bc6 25 Rxa5 Qh7 26 Qxf4 Black resigns. **11 Bxf6 Qxc3+ 12 Kf1 gxf6 13 h4 a6 14 Rh3 Qb4 15 Be2 0-0 16 Rb1 Qd6 17 Rg3+ Kh8 18 Qd2 Rg8 19 Rbb3 Rvg3 20 Rvg3 b6** Apparently a novelty, but one which both players had analysed before the game. **21 Bh5 Bb7 22 Bxf7 Rf8** (diagram 1)



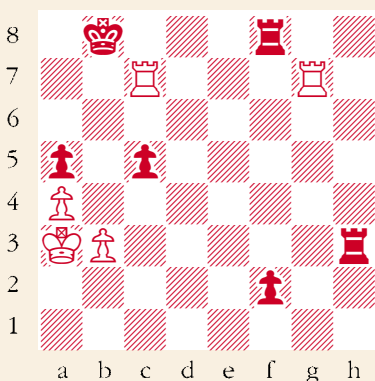
Remarkably, both players had had this very position on the board (or screen, to be strictly accurate) in their pre-game preparation! Werle now struck with a pawn sacrifice that Wells had apparently not examined. **23 e5 Nxe5** The novelty has its effect. Wells presumably rejected 23 ... Qxe5 because of 24 Bxe6 Nc5 25 Bf5, which looks dangerous, but it is not clear that Black is actually in any danger after 25 ... Be4. **24 Bxe6 f5** Another error, this time fatal. 24 ... Be4 is better, although White has a strong attack after 25 Qh6. Now Werle crowns the game with a series of beautiful sacrifices. (diagram 2)



**25 Rg7 Be4** If 25 ... Kxg7 26 Nxf5+ wins the queen. **26 Qh6 f4 27 Qf6** Black resigns. The second sacrifice, again on an empty square, leaves Black defenceless against mate.

The tournament itself was won in fine style by Grandmaster Mickey Adams, Britain's highest-ranked player. He scored an unbeaten 8 points from 11 games, finishing ahead of van Wely, Smeets, the Dutch champion, Timman and Nigel Short. Over the course of six years the Staunton Memorial has now been won three times by Jon Speelman (twice with a shared victory), twice by Adams and once each by Sokolov, Levitt (shared) and King, also shared. This year's event was the strongest tournament to have been held this century in the UK.

### Puzzle No. 34



Black to play. This position is a variation from Cherniaev–Adams, Staunton Memorial 2008. White is desperately trying to give perpetual check with his rooks. How can Black scupper this plan? Answers to me at The Spectator by Tuesday 26 August or via email to victoria@spectator.co.uk or by fax on 020 7961 0058. The winner will be the first correct answer out of a hat, and each week I shall be offering a prize of £20.

**Last week's solution:** 1... Bb4

**Last week's winner:** Peter Rawcliffe, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire