

## Ish's Opening Statistics

(2008-2009 Season)

### Introduction

This season, I have decided to take Webb's advice from Chess for Tigers and do a statistical analysis of my openings. I have arranged them by opening, written the opening outcome (advantage to white, black or equal), and outcome of the game. I have included some tips for preparing to play me. Unfortunately, I'll be in China next year, so you won't have the chance to use this stuff to thrash me just yet!

### White Pieces

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Total	2	3	8	8	1	0	0	10	6	7	23
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White Summary

Games: 23 (+3)

Average Opponent= ECF 123.1 (New 136.0)

**Performance= ECF 130 (New 143)**

Overall, openings with white are going well. Need to look at the c3-Sicilian from a middlegame perspective because something is wrong with my play in the main line.

## Black Pieces

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Total	3	1	4	5	5	1	7	13
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## Black Summary

Games: 13 (-2)  
Average Opponent= ECF 116.6 (New 138.0)  
**Performance= ECF 109 (New 130)**

Openings with black have been extremely successful, apart from the Sicilian Defence. Probably need a completely new defence to 1.e4, or a complete overhaul of my Sicilian knowledge.

## Overall Summary

Games: 36 (+1)  
Average Opponent= ECF 121 (New 136.7)  
**Performance= ECF 122 (New 138)**

**My new grade will drop by 5 points. My old grade would have dropped by 1 point.**

I would recommend that everyone do this, it's quite a useful exercise. Took me about an hour. Then again, I like stats...

## Tips for Ish's Opponents

- If you want to beat Ish, play 1.e4 as white. You'll probably get a Sicilian.
- Ish plays 1.e4
- If you like the Sicilian, play it. You'll score well. Be prepared to face the Alapin.
- Don't play the French! He has two annoying systems which he scores well with (not included here is a blitz win against Andy Boyne).
- If you like the English, prepare for a Caro-Kann or Slav. He plays 1...c6.

## More Chess Stats

### Where were my games won and lost?

Average game length= 37 moves  
Average win length= 38 moves  
Average draw length= 26 moves  
Average loss length= 35 moves

Not much to tell from this then, other than the fact that my draws were often shorter.

Let's look at the losses...

6	4	3	13

And the wins...

1	3	3	7	14

Where a draw was agreed...

1	0	6	7

The state of play when the draw was agreed...

3	2	1	1	7

### Conclusions

It is clear, given that I have done well out of the opening on most occasions (see 'Opening Stats'), that I'm losing far too many games early on in the middlegame. The reasons for this must be looked at in more detail. When the game is going on longer in terms of the phase, I tend to do better. This implies my endgame is relatively healthy.

When the game changes into an endgame quickly, it often leads to a draw (no surprise here). The average draw was only 26 moves, but almost all of those were endgame positions.

I took draws at suitable points in all cases (where I was better, the draw ensured me the tournament win).

## Early Middlegame Changes

This season, I didn't lose any games in the opening. This is clearly a good thing. However, many games are being lost soon after that. Let's look at the changes. First, a reminder where I started off my early middlegames...

### White and Black Combined

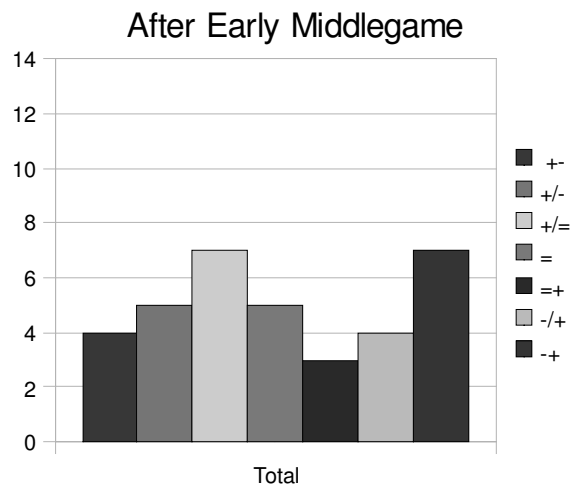
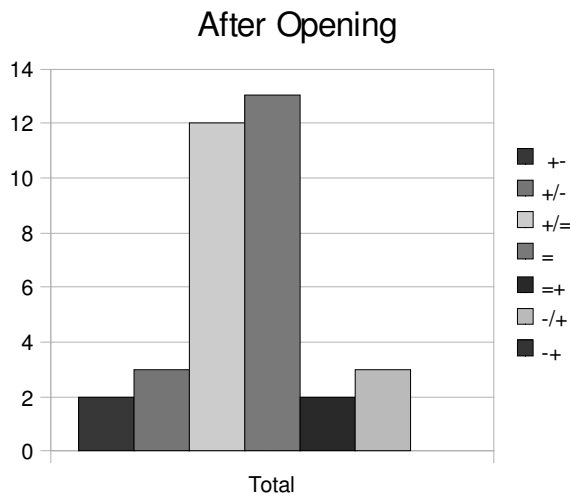
(NB, all scored are relative to me, so +- means I gained significant advantage, regardless of colour).

<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>36</b>
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And now, the outcome of my early middlegames. One game was resolved as a win in the opening (my opponent dropped a rook: 1.e4 e6 2.b3!? g6!? 3.Bb2 f6?! (Nf6) 4. f4!? f5??)

<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>35</b>
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7 games were resolved in the early middlegame, (+2 =1 -3). In practice, another 6 (+2 -4) were already decided.



As you can see from the graphs, there have been two significant changes:

- The results show a much larger spread after the early middlegame. This is to be expected to an extent, as there has by now been more opportunity for the players to go wrong, especially now that they have been out of book for a while.
- The results have shown a large shift to the right. This indicates that I have been outplayed in the early middlegame far more often than I have outplayed my opponents.