Rank & File

The magazine of the Southern California Chess Federation

July-August 2011 Volume XXXV, No. 4 $3.00

Cy & Jack
SCCF Candidates
5th, 6th, and 7th Metro FIDEs

Memorial Day:
Khachiyan Takes First

33rd Annual Southern California Open
September 3-5, 2011

AT THE CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL (see www.cp-sandiego.com)
2270 Hotel Circle North, San Diego CA 92108

$20,000 PRIZE FUND

100% of each prize guaranteed

6 Rd Swiss in 5 Sections, 40/2, G/1, +5 second delay per move
Or for 2 day option, first 3 games are G/60, then merges with 3 day

1. OPEN SECTION: 1st $2,600, 2nd $1,800, 3rd $1,200, 4th $900,
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Unrated players must play in Booster or go for place prizes only in the Open
Plus Best Game Prizes: $75, $50, $25, one reserved for non-Open Sections

Directions: Hwy 5 to Hwy 8 East, take first exit, Taylor St/Hotel Circle
Reg.: 3-day: 8:00 to 9:30 AM Sat, Sept official rating list used, W, NS, NC
2-day: 8:00 to 9:00 AM Sunday
Rounds: 3-day: 10 AM & 5 PM on Sat & Sun, 9 AM & 4 PM on Monday
2-day: 9:30 AM, 11:45 & 2 PM Sun, then merges in round 4

Entry Fee: $100 if received by 8/14, $120 at door. Only $75 if rated under 1400 or unrated. Free entry for GMs or IMs, and no entry fee deducted from winnings! Open Section will be FIDE rated. Unrated must play in Open (eligible for place prizes only) or in Booster (eligible for unrated prize only). Re-entry Fee from 3 day to 2 day: $75, available for non-Open sections only.

Mail entries to: SDCC, PO Box 120162, San Diego CA 92112, or enter online at the SCCF website *www.scchess.com* SCCF Membership Required For All Players ($18 Adult/$10 Junior)
Two Half Pt Byes OK in Rds 1-6, must be requested at least 1 hr before round, but a last round bye must be requested at registration and is irrevocable.
More Info: (619) 239-7166 or visit *http://sdchessclub.multiply.com*.

Hotel: Special rate of only $110 single or double, 619-297-1101, or 1-800-227-6963 if booked by 8/14/11, must reserve at least 2 nights, please book ASAP, as rates will likely go up soon and rooms may sell out. Hotel has nice restaurant, sushi bar, heated pool, fitness room, Whirlpool spa, free shuttle service and is close to airport, Sea World, San Diego Zoo, Gaslamp District.

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Positions

E-mail your letters to: RankAndFileEditor@gmail.com

Metropolitan Chess

Metropolitan Chess, Inc., was voted **2011 Chess Club of the Year** by United States Chess Federation.

Also, NM Ankit Gupta, Chief Organizer of Metropolitan Chess, was voted **2011 Organizer of the Year** by the USCF.

Congratulations to Metro and Ankit! We appreciate the opportunities for FIDE tournaments and norms in Southern California, which have always been in scarce local supply.

By July's end, ***nine*** tournaments with FIDE norms have been on the schedule, since just last November!

We especially look forward to August 17th, which starts the **1st Metropolitan International** tournament. Local players GM Melikset Khachiyan, IM Enrico Sevillano, IM Andranik Matikozyan, IM Levon Altounian, IM Jack Peters, Joel Banawa, and many, many others will get to take care of business against some strong visitors.

These visitors include GMs Michael Adams, Loek van Wely, Ilya Smirin, Timur Gareev, Varuzhan Akobian, and Mark Paragua, to name just a few.

The latest news on the much anticipated 1st Metropolitan International lineup is found online at: **metrochessla.com/players.php**.

Alina Markowski 1910-2011

It is with great sadness that I report the passing of Alina Markowski on June 28, 2011, 20 days short of her 101st birthday. Her niece said she had recurring health issues and passed quietly in her sleep. Private services were arranged.

Although I have known Alina for 36 years, I seldom had the opportunity to discuss her past with her. We always preferred to discuss chess and the chess related activities. Nevertheless, I can relate some scanty information.

Alina was born on July 18, 1910 in what is now Poland, and her family immigrated to the United States when she was quite young.

Unfortunately, we must now fast forward to later decades. She spent many years as the registrar for the University of Toledo in Ohio. She began playing tournament chess after her marriage. In the year 1958, I believe, she was the women's open champion of Ohio.

After her husband passed away, she moved to Escondido in 1975 at the age of 65. She joined the Escondido Chess Club (later renamed the North County Chess Club at her suggestion) and became the Secretary – Treasurer until 2006.

Soon afterwards, she joined the San Diego Chess Club and began a long association with players in both clubs.

Alina was both an OTB and Correspondence player.

She was an extremely active OTB player, playing over 200 games a year. She led US women in games played for many years.

Alina was a lifelong member of the Correspondence Chess League of America (CCLA), being a captain of the Kalifornia Kings, winners of several CCLA national team tournaments. She even graced the cover of CCLA's magazine "The Chess Correspondent".

She was active in the USCF, especially the Women's and Senior Committees, and spent many years on the Board of the SCCF including a stint as president.

She will be remembered by her friends and acquaintances for her friendly smile, welcoming disposition and always joyful nature.

Those of you who know her through weekenders, the SCCF, San Diego Chess Club, Escondido (Glooskap) Chess Club and the North County Chess Club will remember her as the lover of chess, always the kind lady with the smile.

May she always rest in peace.

Mike Nagaran

I spoke to Alina regularly for years when she wanted publicity for her tournaments. She was always cheerful, with an infectious positive attitude.

mn

Alina Markowski on July 17th 2010, one day before her 100th birthday!

What was less obvious was her determination. I remember her playing some of the longest games in a tournament and still looking fresh at the end.

And I remember her pride in competing into her 80s and 90s. I'm sure she was delighted to reach 100! I feel privileged to have known her.

Jack Peters

I have some wonderful remembrances of Alina Markowski as she recruited me to play in women's postal chess, then in women's team tournaments from 1992 through 1996, and the Region XI Women's Championship in 1992. We both participated in the 1995 U.S. Open in California, the 1997 U.S. Open in Florida, and shared a room at the 100th U.S. Open in 1998 in Reno, Nevada.

She was a dedicated chess player and always had a positive outlook on life. I looked up to her as my chess role model.

Barbara McCaleb
SLO Chess Club

Here is an amusing Alina story:

I was Alina's chess teacher for many years. She was set in her ways but very kind. I don't remember her following a single piece of advice given to her!

One tournament in the early 90s, I was paired with Alina in the first round. I boldly played 1.e4?! and in response to her reply 1...e5, I played 2.f4?! in the hopes of a quick win and some rest. Alina dropped a rook for zero comp around move 12. She didn't resign. By move 16, queens were off the board and no resignation.

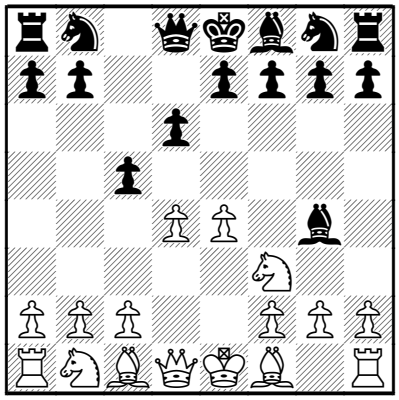
She used all her clock time to reach move 40 in a hopelessly futile ending. Surely she would resign now that she had reached time control.

Sigh...no, she played on until mate!

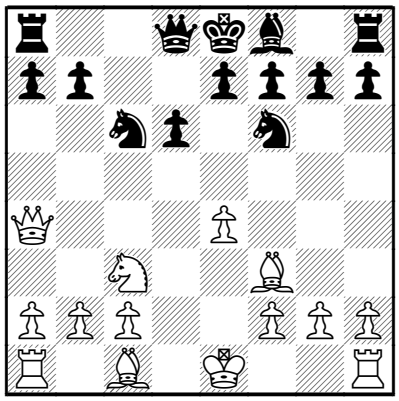
Incredulous, I asked her after the game why she didn't resign on move 12. She told me that she had paid her entry fee and "wanted her money's worth!"

Cy Lakdawala

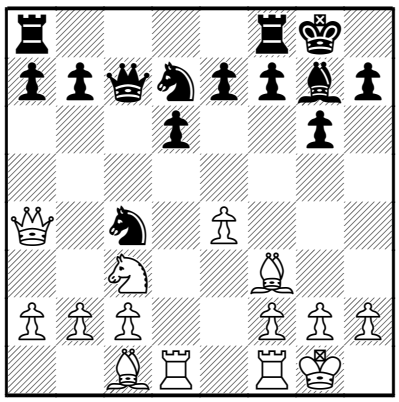
Markowski,Alina (1519) - Henderson,Daniel (1037)
[B53] Sicilian Defense
Palomar 129 (5), 04.10.2004
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Bg4



4.Be2 Bxf3 5.Bxf3 cxd4 6.Qxd4 Nc6 7.Qa4 Nf6 8.Nc3



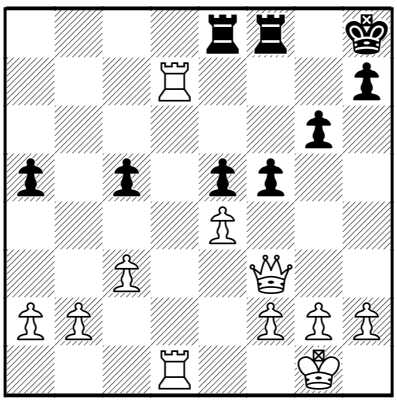
8...g6 9.0–0 Bg7 10.Be3 0–0 11.Qb3 Qc7 12.Rad1 Na5 13.Qa4 Nc4 14.Bc1 Nd7



15.Nd5 Qc6??

If 15...Ncb6, best was 16.Nxc7 Nxa4 17.Nxa8+- and White wins.

16.Nxe7+ Kh8 17.Nxc6 bxc6 18.Qxc4 Ne5 19.Qe2 Nxf3+ 20.Qxf3 Rad8 21.c3 Be5 22.Be3 Rde8 23.Bd4 c5 24.Bxe5+ dxe5 25.Rd7 a5 26.Rfd1 f5



27.exf5 Rxf5 28.Qb7 Kg8 29.Rxh7 Kf8 30.Rh8 mate

Alina Markowski loomed large in San Diego county and American women's chess. We don't know what you have for copy on her for "Here and There" but we thought we'd send on some pictures of her and a couple of her games.

Allanté Terrapinin

These photos were taken by Alex Goddard during the "age 90 versus age 9" game at left. Thanks, Allanté! - Ed.

ag

SCCF Board Member Elections: Candidate's Statements to the Voters

SCCF Annual Board Election

Six members will be elected to the 12-member SCCF Board of Directors, with mail-in ballots included with this month's Rank & File, and in-person voting at the Southern California Open on Labor Day weekend, in San Diego.

One of these seats is currently vacant; the others are held by Mick Bighamian, Phil Chase, Chuck Ensey, Randy Hough, and Elliot Landaw.

Each candidate has supplied a statement for you.

Phil Chase

Dear Southern California chess players: I would appreciate your support as a candidate for the SCCF board of directors this year. I recently returned to the chess world after a long hiatus, and I am really concerned that we have come to accept the decline of chess among adults as irreversible. I believe there are enough visionary people and enough organizational memory that the times when Southern California hosted the largest US Open in history, the American Open with over 500 players, the US Men's Championship (and Women's Championship), the Lone Pine tournaments, and many other fantastic chess celebrations, is not just an ephemeral memory from a time of giants. With imagination and dedication, we can make the So. Cal. chess world more than a haven for scholastic prodigies, but indeed a brand that once again says we are the most golden of states.

Chuck Ensey

I am Vice President of the San Diego Chess Club, a chess player since the 1970's, a frequent contributor to Rank and File and a local tournament director. Along with NM Bruce Baker, I have actively supported the Gambito Open chess events, now on # 524 and still going strong nearly every single Saturday in Balboa Park for over 10 years. Along with other SDCC board members, I have helped grow the San Diego club into one of the biggest and best clubs in the country. I also have organized and promoted the Southern California Open when it has been held in San Diego: at the Pechanga Casino in 2007, the Crowne Plaza hotel in 2009 and I hope you will join us again in a repeat, but enhanced, performance in 2011 - the $20,000 prize fund is guaranteed this time and we have added a faster 2-day schedule to the normal 3-day schedule. The Crowne Plaza in Mission Valley is an excellent venue and I hope to see you all once again this Labor Day weekend, 9/03-9/05/11. I have been on the SCCF board for many years and hope to continue the revitalization of the organization after the untimely death of John Hillery. Thank you for your support.

Ankit Gupta

Ankit Gupta is the current chief organizer of Metropolitan Chess, Inc. He is also a United States Chess Federation (USCF) Life Master of chess. Within the span of a few months, he helped grow Metropolitan Chess, Inc. to one of the most popular chess clubs in the Southern California area. He is primarily responsible for the creation, organization, and vision of a series of sponsor-supported international events run by Metropolitan Chess, Inc. He is also primarily responsible for helping bring the first 2700 FIDE rated player into the greater Los Angeles area for a tournament in decades. Due to his efforts he was recognized by USCF as the 2011 Organizer of the Year, and under his guidance Metropolitan Chess, Inc. was also recognized as the 2011 Chess Club of the Year. He is determined to bring some positive change to the Southern California Chess Federation through the experience he has and continues to gain as an organizer, player, director, and promoter of chess endeavors.

Elliot Landaw

My family has enjoyed much from studying and playing chess, aided by friendships with many SCCF members. In gratitude, I have served on the Board since 2004. I hope to continue helping SCCF address issues of interest and importance for this great chess community.

FM Takashi Iwamoto

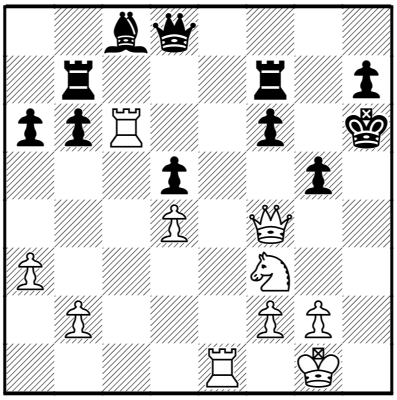
As a former SCCF board member, I served from 2006-2010. I was requested to run to fill in a vacant spot. My background is working with Academic Chess since April of 2000. I am doing my best to promote chess in the South Orange County area.

Randall Hough

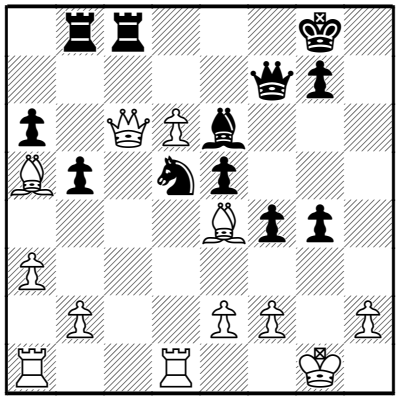
30 years service on the Board, currently Treasurer and Membership Secretary. I'm willing to continue if the voters so desire.

Inside Moves

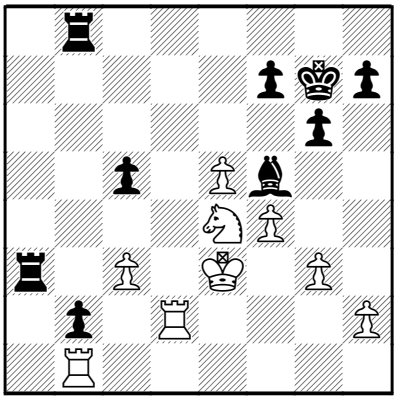
A ***tactical warmup*** might be a good way to start reading. Start with an easy one, and then work up to the tougher ones. Solving problem 4 completed an IM norm. Some day, it might be you. Even if you are a beginner and can't solve the problems, just playing through the solutions on page 51 will open up your tactical vision. - Ed.



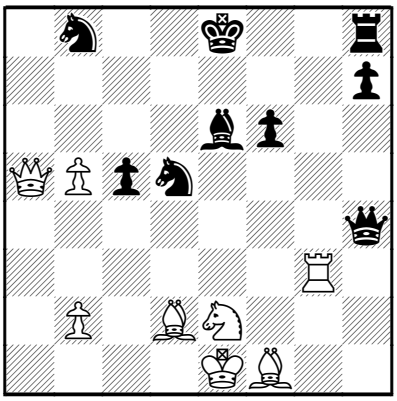
1. White to Play



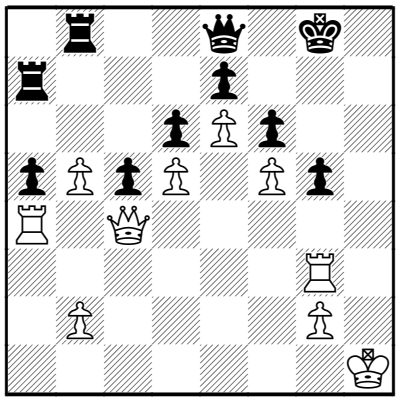
2. White to Play



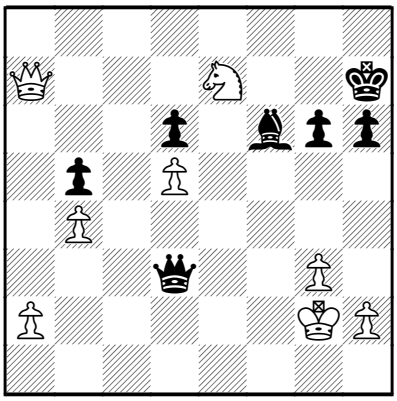
3. Black to Play



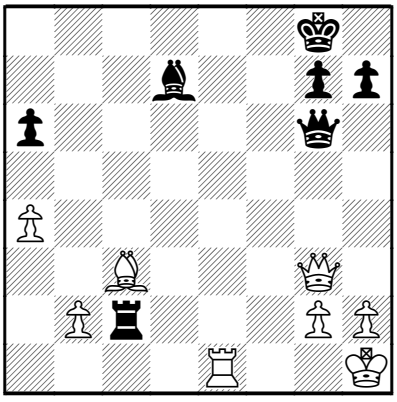
4. White to Play



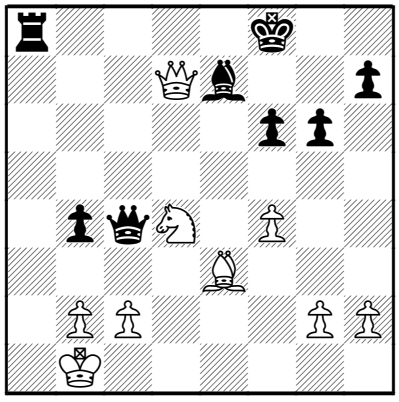
5. White to Play



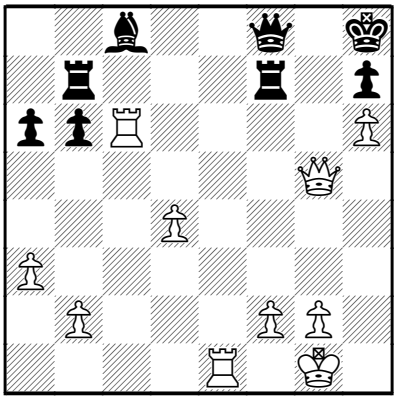
6. White to Play



7. White to Play



8. Black to Play



9. White to Play

Cy & Jack

By IM Jack Peters and IM Cyrus Lakdawala

Both Jack Peters and Cyrus Lakdawala annotated one of their own games and then provided commentary on the other's game and notes.

We've all had that experience in a strong position, when we are thinking about how our opponent might try to keep us from exploiting our advantage and winning. We try to anticipate and thwart, in order to win. But soon, our thoughts may change. We realize that it's our *opponent* who has the advantage, and now we are worried about how he might try exploit *his* advantage and win. We try to anticipate and thwart, in order to make the save. We experience such a shift in Jack's game with Melikset Khachiyan. We get a Rook versus Bishop lesson, first when the Rook is better, and then when the Bishop is better, all in the same game!

Cy's game with Dr. Anthony Saidy is a lesson on playing the Black side of the Slav Exchange Variation. Black soon gets a clear and permanent advantage, which makes it possible to maneuver at length. Watch for a Black Knight settling on c4 at move 26, which permanently attacks a blocked pawn on a3. It's painful to see. I think I would rather just lose a Rook. The pain would be over sooner.

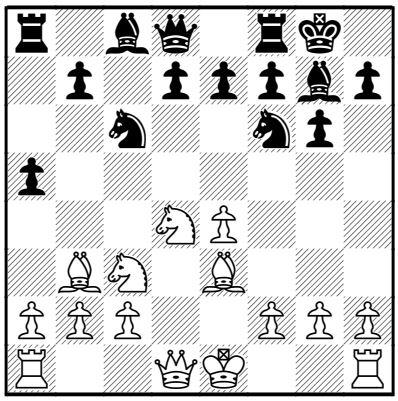
We hope you enjoy the games, the lessons, the commentary, and sometimes, the disagreements! - Ed.

Peters,Jack (2370) - Khachiyan,Melikset (2492)
[B35] Sicilian Defense, Accelerated Fianchetto
Memorial Day Classic (3)
Los Angeles, 29.05.2011

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 g6 5.Nc3

Jack: When Zhanibek Amanov played the Accelerated Fianchetto against me in February, I chose 5.c4, the Maroczy Bind. This time, I picked the other main line.

5...Bg7 6.Be3 Nf6 7.Bc4 0–0 8.Bb3 a5



9.a4

Jack: This is one of White's three usual replies. I have studied the most fashionable line, 9.0–0 a4 10.Nxa4 Nxe4 11.Nb5, which probably gives White a small edge, but I had intended 9.f3.

In 1995, John Donaldson tried the Uogele variation 9...d5!? and I succeeded with 10.exd5 Nb4 11.d6!? Qxd6 12.Ndb5 Qe5 13.Qd4, an idea that remains mostly unexplored.

Inexplicably, I chose 9.a4, the variation I know least about.

Cy: I choose to remain silent since my knowledge of these Accelerated Fianchetto lines is zippo.

9...Ng4 10.Qxg4 Nxd4 11.Qh4

Jack: Sharpest. White can avoid the damaged pawn structure by 11.Bxd4 Bxd4 12.Qg3, but the Dragon Bishop looks formidable.

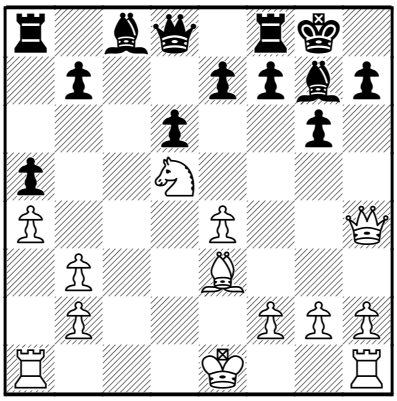
And I do not care for 11.Qd1?! Nxb3 12.cxb3 d6, when White does not have enough piece activity to make up for the doubled pawns.

11...Nxb3 12.cxb3 d6

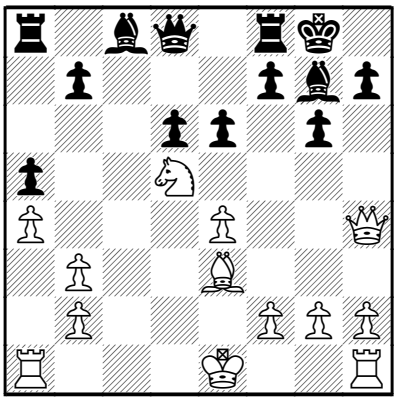
Jack: Theory frowns on this natural move. Black introduced 12...Ra6 13.0–0 Re6 about 20 years ago, and it nearly equalizes.

The older 12...Bf6 13.Bg5 Bxg5 14.Qxg5 d6 15.h4 seems to favor White slightly.

13.Nd5



13...e6!?



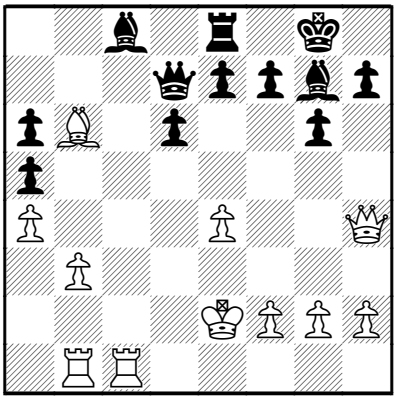
Jack: This caught me by surprise. For a moment, I thought Khachiyan had blundered. But he has excellent judgment, and I realized that he preferred to sacrifice the exchange rather than experience the discomfort of 13...Bxb2? 14.Nxe7+ Kh8 15.0–0! Bg7 16.Rad1±.

Or 13...f6?! 14.Bb6 Qd7 15.Rc1±.

Another way to do it is 13...Re8 14.Bb6 Qd7 15.Nc7 Bxb2 16.Rb1 Bc3+ 17.Ke2 Ra6 18.Nxa6 bxa6, although 19.Rhc1 looks more promising for White than the game.

Cy: Maybe I'm crazy, but I actu-

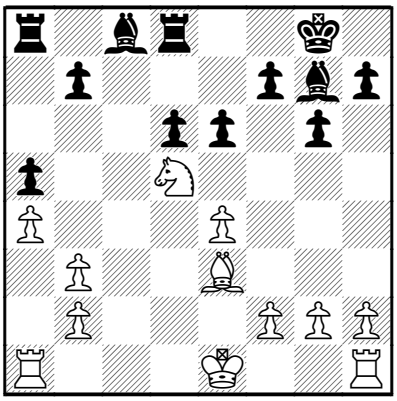
ally wouldn't mind playing Black in that last line. I like those Bishops. Let's look: 19...Bg7!



a) 20.Bxa5 d5! 21.Kf1 dxe4 22.Qxe4 Bb7 23.Qe3 Qd5 (doubleattacking a5 and g2) 24.Qf3 Qe4! (Threat: 25... Qxb1!) 25.Qh3 Bc8! 26.Qe3 Qxe3 27.fxe3 Bf5 28.b4 Bxb1 29.Rxb1 Be5, and Black should be okay.

b) 20.Rc7 Qe6 21.Be3 Bd7 22.Rd1 Bf6 23.Qg3 Rb8 24.Rd3 Rb4, with lots of play for the exchange.

14.Qxd8 Rxd8



15.Nc7

Jack: I couldn't resist the lure of material gain. Oddly, I looked at declining the offer a move later, but didn't consider it at move 15.

In retrospect, 15.Nb6!?, hoping for 15...Rb8 16.0–0–0, appears to give Black the most trouble. If Black grabs a pawn by 15...Bxb2 16.Ra2 Bc3+ 17.Ke2 Rb8, then 18.Rc2 Bg7 19.Rc7 threatens to win the Bishop by 20.Rhc1. Black must suffer with 19...e5 20.Nxc8 Rdxc8 21.Rhc1 Rxc7 22.Rxc7±.

Cy: Welcome to the dark side, Jack. At last, you understand the beauty inherent in greed.

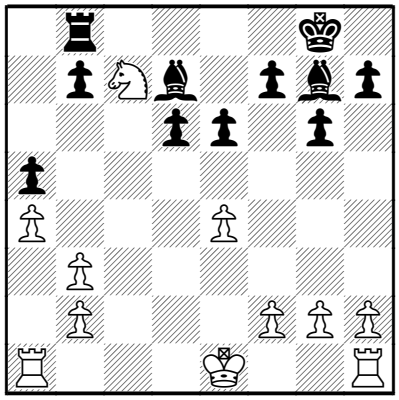
15...Rb8 16.Ba7

Jack: White is committed to greed. Neither 16.0–0–0?! b6 nor 16.Bb6?! Bxb2 17.Ra2 Bc3+ 18.Ke2 Bd7∓ is effective.

16...Bd7

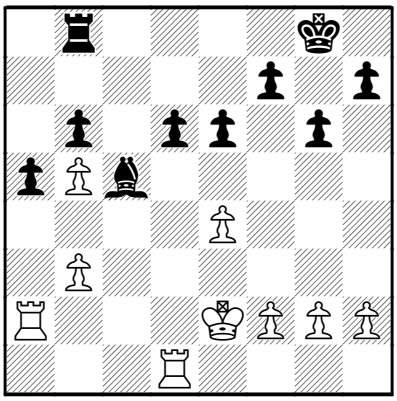
Jack: We both regarded 16... Bxb2 as inaccurate. Indeed, 17.Ra2 Bc3+ 18.Ke2 Bd7 19.Bxb8 Rxb8 gives White attractive options of 20.Nb5 and 20.Rc2 Bb4 21.Nb5.

17.Bxb8 Rxb8

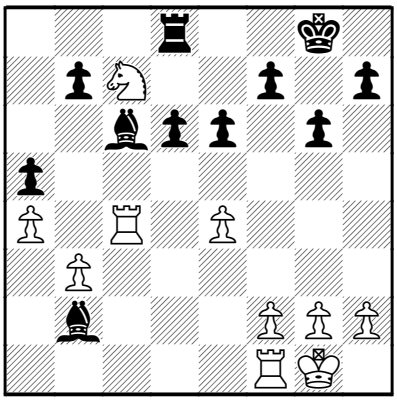


18.Rc1

Jack: To prove an edge, White has to exploit the c-file. In Pedzich - Bilinskas, Poland 1992, Black barricaded the Queenside after 18.Nb5 Bxb5 19.axb5 Bxb2 20.Ra2 Bd4! 21.Ke2 b6 22.Rd1 Bc5=:



18...Bxb2 19.Rc4 Bc6 20.0–0 Rd8



Cy: Objectively, this must be +=, but stylistically, I feel that Black has full comp for the exchange and would rather play Black if given a choice.

Jack Peters: couldn't resist the lure of material gain. ap

Jack: I optimistically assessed 20...d5 21.exd5 exd5 22.Rc2 Bf6 23.Rd1 d4 24.Nb5 as "good winning chances," but 24...Rd8 seems safe. Black may follow with ...Bc6-d5.

21.Nb5

Jack: The possibility of Na7xc6 compels Black to act.

Cy: ! Nice maneuver! White must strive to remove one of those nasty Bishops from the board.

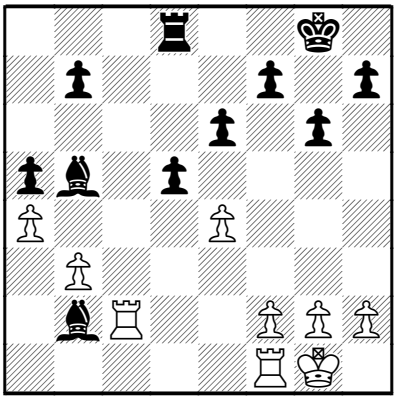
21...d5

Jack: This is not the right time for 21...Bxb5?! 22.axb5 b6 because 23.Rd1 Ba3 24.Rc7 invades. After 24...Bc5 25.Rd3, White can dream of threatening f7 or h7 by f2-f4-f5.

22.Rc2?!

Jack: I thought this was a simpler version of 22.Rd1 Bf6 23.Rc2, which threatens 24.Na7 and might induce 23...d4 24.f3±.

22...Bxb5



23.axb5?!

Jack: Two "obvious" moves in a row, and two mistakes! If I had seen Black's idea, I could have preserved a tiny advantage by 23.Rd1!. Even if Black gains a pawn by 23... Bxa4 24.bxa4 Ba3, White is the one striving for more than a draw. After 25.exd5 Bb4 26.Rc4 b6, Fritz's tricky recommendation 27.Rc6 Bc5 28.d6 is worth a try, or 27.Rcd4 Bc5 28.R4d3.

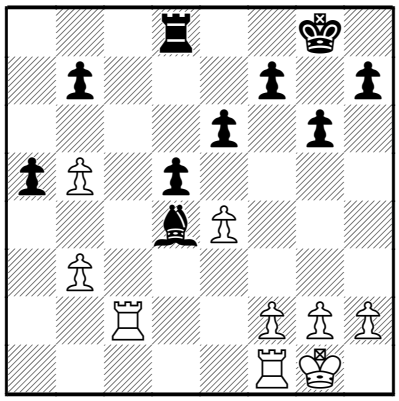
Cy: In the last line, I think White is the one fighting for the draw after 28...e5:

1. White's passed d-pawn will be blockaded.

2. Black has majorities on both wings.

3. He can play ...f7-f5 and march his King up the center.

23...Bd4!=



Jack: I expected only 23...Be5? 24.Rd1±.

Now I paused and took a fresh look at the position. I realized that Black threatened to get his Rook to d5 and pick off my b-pawn, but I didn't adjust fully to the changed situation. I should have concluded that I no longer had any hope of winning and that I should seek a draw.

24.Re1?

Jack: White could achieve that objective by trading Rooks: 24.Rfc1! Kg7 (or 24...dxe4 25.Rc8) 25.Rc7 b6 26.Rc8 Rd6 27.R1c6 Rd7 28.R8c7 Rxc7 29.Rxc7 dxe4 30.Kf1, and Black cannot capitalize on his extra Kingside pawns.

24...dxe4

Jack: If 24...e5, White would have a second opportunity to find the draw by 25.Rec1!=.

25.Rxe4 Rd5 26.Kf1 e5∓

Jack: Most direct.

If Black first withdraws the Bishop, by 26...b6 27.f4 Bf6, White can exchange a weak pawn by 28.b4! Rxb5 29.bxa5 bxa5, and then 30.Rc7∓ should draw.

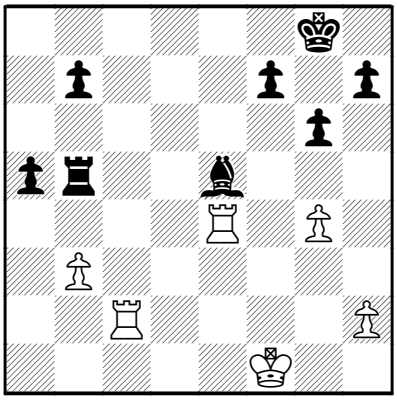
27.f4

Jack: Maybe I should have tried 27.b6!? Rb5 (not 27...Bxb6? 28.Rc8+ Kg7 29.Rb8±) 28.f4 Rxb3 29.fxe5 Bxb6 30.e6 fxe6 31.Rxe6 to trade more pawns and open lines for my Rooks.

27...Rxb5

Jack: Correctly avoiding 27...f5? 28.Re1 Rxb5 (worse are 28...exf4?? 29.Re7+- and 28...e4?? 29.Rd1+-) 29.Rc7, when White will try to sneak his other Rook to the seventh or eighth rank.

28.fxe5 Bxe5 29.g4!



Melikset Khachiyan: a hidden idea. **ap**

Jack: Restraining ...f7-f5 and ...h7-h5. I felt that White should hang on to draw, but I wasn't supremely confident. I fancy myself a fairly good endgame player, but Khachiyan is better, and he has tortured me in endings before.

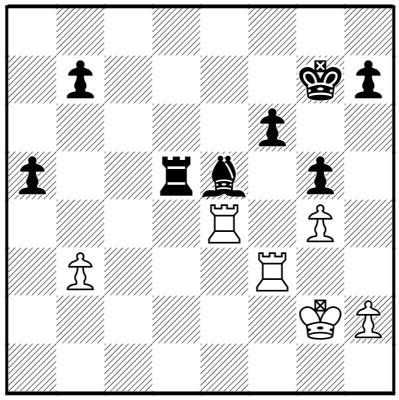
Cy: My sense is that this is a perpetual =+ position and White will be fighting for the next 30 moves or so to hold the draw.

29...g5

Jack: Surprisingly committal. I expected Black to press forward slowly by 29...h6 and 30...Kg7. However, there is little chance that his King will reach g5, so he will eventually need to push ...g6-g5 and ...f7-f6 to safeguard his pawns.

Cy: A correct assessment. I don't like 29...g5?! which weakens his light squares.

30.Kg2 Kg7 31.Rf2 f6 32.Rf3 Rd5



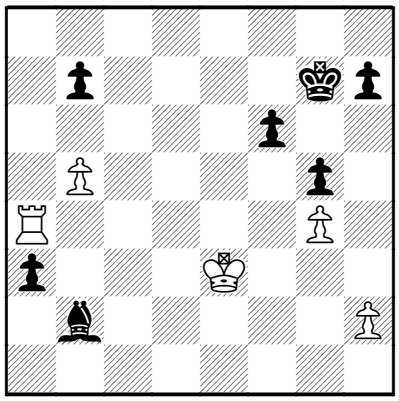
Jack: Now I imagined two plans for Black against passive defense. He could create a passed pawn by ...b7-b5, ...Rd5-d7-a7, and ...a5-a4, or try to encircle b3 by ...b7-b5-b4 and ...Be5-c3. In addition, he can always prepare ...h7-h5, trying to get a passed f-pawn. How menacing are these ideas? I could not be sure, but I opted for a more active defense.

33.b4!? a4

Jack: After 33...b6 34.bxa5 bxa5 35.h3∓, White can maintain control of a4.

34.b5! Rxb5

Jack: Black has one important alternative. I calculated 34...Rd2+ 35.Rf2 Rxf2+ 36.Kxf2 a3 37.Ra4 Bb2 38.Ke3



and dismissed 38...Kg6 39. Ke4= as harmless, but I was concerned about 38...Kf7 39.Kd3 Ke6 40.Kc2. Postgame analysis persuaded me that White does manage to draw after 40... f5 41. exf5+ Kxf5 42. Ra7, or 40...Kd5 41.Ra7 b6 42.Kb3 Kc5 43.Rxh7 Kxb5 44.h4 gxh4 45.Rxh4.

Later, I thought of 38...h5!? 39. Ra7 Kg6 40.gxh5+ Kxh5. Again, White escapes by 41.b6! f5 42.Kd3 g4 43.Kc2 Bd4 44.Rxa3 Bxb6 45.Rb3 Bg1 46.Rxb7 (also 46. h3 draws) Kg6 47.Kd3 Bxh2 48.Ke3, drawing.

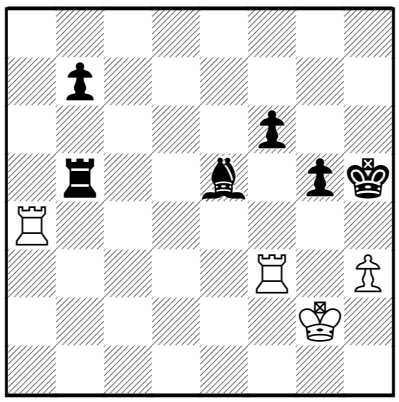
35.Rxa4 Kg6

Jack: I felt, rightly or wrongly, that the trade of pawns reduced Black's winning chances. White would welcome more trades by 35... Rb2+ 36.Rf2 Rxf2+ 37.Kxf2 Bxh2 38.Ra7, clinching a draw.

36.h3 h5 37.gxh5+

Jack: I thought it would be easier to defend a pawn at h3 than one at g4.

37...Kxh5



38.Ra8?!

Jack: This might not be fatal, but I missed the drawing idea that I used a few moves later: 38.Raa3!, intending Rf3-b3.

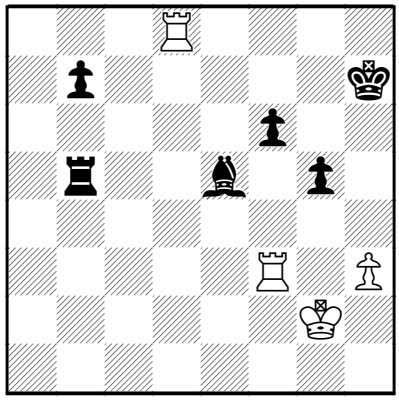
38...Kg6

Jack: After 38...Rb2+!? 39.Rf2 Rb4 40.Rf3 b5, it's too late for 41.Raa3?! because Black can avoid the Rook trade with 41...Rc4 42.Rfb3 b4 43.Ra4?! Rc2+ 44.Kf1 Bc3, winning.

39.Rg8+ Kh7

Jack: Not 39...Kf7? 40.Rxg5.

40.Rd8



40...Kg7?!

Jack: Perhaps Khachiyan's only weak move of the game, but it lets White survive. To keep winning prospects, Black had to play 40... Rb2+ 41.Rf2 Rb4 42.Rf3 b5∓. **Cy**: My feeling is that Black should be able to convert this to the full point with accurate play.

41.Rdd3!

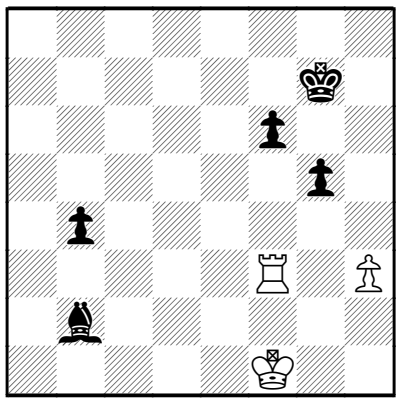
Jack: Forcing the trade of Rooks.

Cy: ! Getting that Black Rook off the board is White's golden ticket to securing the draw.

41...Rb2+ 42.Kf1

Jack: Even better is 42.Rf2 Rb4 43.Rff3. Then 43...g4 44.hxg4 Rxg4+ 45.Kh3 costs Black the b-pawn after 45...Rb4 46.Rb3.

42...b5 43.Rb3 b4 44.Rxb2 Bxb2



45.Rd3!

Jack: White needs to put his Rook behind the b-pawn, and 45.Rf5? Be5 wouldn't do it.

45...Kg6

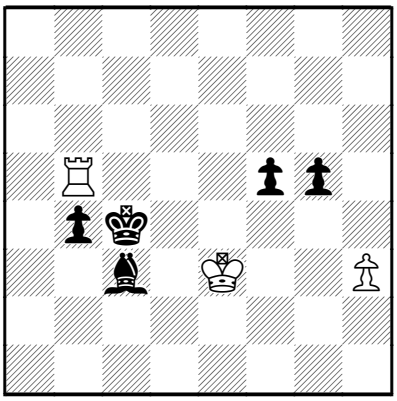
Jack: Against 45...Bc3, easiest appears 46.Ke2 Kg6 47.Kf3. Soon Black will have to allow White a Rook check that will transfer the Rook to the b-file.

Or, if 45...Be5, White draws with 46.Rd7+ Kg6 47.Rb7 **Cy**: ! Accurate defense.

46.Rd5 Bc3 47.Rb5 Kf7 48.Ke2 Ke6 49.Ke3 f5

Jack: Black would prefer to leave his pawn protected at f6, but his King alone cannot accomplish anything by 49...Kd6 50.Kd3 Kc6 51.Kc4=.

50.Rb6+ Kd5 51.Rb5+ Kc4

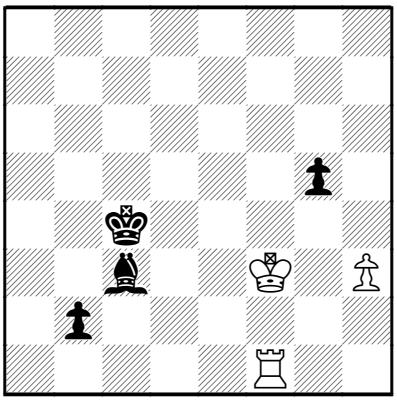


Jack: Setting a last trap.

52.Rxf5 b3 53.Rf1

Jack: After 53.Rxg5?? b2, the Rook cannot capture the pawn: 54.Rg1 Bd4+, or 54.Rg4+ Kd5! 55.Rg5+ Be5 56.Rg1 Bd4+ 57.Kd3 Bxg1 58.Kc2 Bd4–+.

53...b2 54.Kf3 ½–½



Jack: Black ends up with the h-pawn and wrong Bishop after 54.Kf3 Kd3 55.Rb1 Kc2 56.Rxb2+ Bxb2 57.h4 gxh4 58.Kg2.

Cy: As I recall, you swindled me once out of a win by handing me Bishop and wrong colored Rook pawn versus your lone King. This has to stop!

Saidy,Anthony - Lakdawala,Cy
[D10] Slav Defense Exchange Variation
Memorial Day Classic G/60 (1)
Los Angeles, 1998

Cy: My buddy, IM Dr. Tony Saidy, whom I have known for 30 years, owes me an apology. In my misspent youth, I read his terrific book *Battle of Chess Ideas*, and got so inspired and so worked up into a lather by the book that I decided to take chess seriously and got the fool notion into my head to become a chess professional--not the brightest of ideas for a low-talent teen who would probably have been better suited as a Walmart door greeter, or perhaps a shepherd.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.cxd5 cxd5 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.Bf4

Cy: Very fashionable. White delays development of his g1 Knight.

Question: What would be the point to this idea?

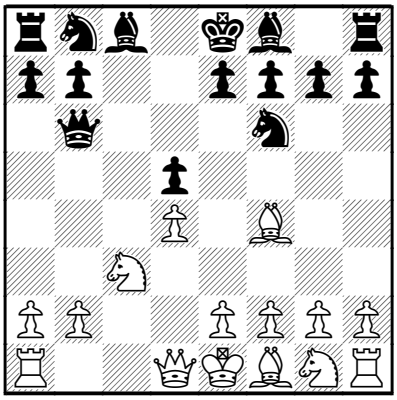
Answer: Several points:

1. White realizes that if he plays e3 followed by Nf3, then ...Bg4, pinning, is normally an equalizer for Black.

2. If Black develops his Bishop to g4, waiting for a White Knight to chop, then White has f3 options.

3. If White gets in f3 he may want to play Ne2, Ng3 and then play for e4.

5...Qb6!?



Cy: Ah, the audacity of hope! What I like most about this line is the disruptive element. White's only chance for advantage lies in sacking his b-

Cy Lakdawala: thirteen years after, at the National Open. cr

pawn. In this game we examine the declined lines, which are all inferior for White, and thankfully very common, since a lot of players are taken aback by Black's fishing expedition!

And in case you think I have gone off the edge suggesting a nutty line, Black scores 57% from this position! I have never lost from this position either and have come close to beating several GMs with it.

If your goal is to equalize and draw, then the following line is a good way to do so: 5...Nc6 6.e3 a6 7.Bd3 Bg4! 8.Nge2 (8.Qb3 is met with 8...Na5) 8...e6 9.0–0 Be7 (Gelfand is not afraid of f3 and refuses to take the Knight unprovoked.) 10.Rc1 0–0 11.Na4 Nd7 12.f3 Bh5 13.Qb3 Ra7! 14.Bg3 (intending Nf4) 14...Bg6 15.Nf4 Na5 16.Qd1 b5 17.Nc3 (17.Nxg6 hxg6 18.Nc3 Qb6 also looks fine for Black.) 17...Bxd3 18.Nxd3 Nc4 19.Qe1 Bd6! (Principle: When the opponent has the Bishop pair, eliminate it.) 20.b3 Bxg3 21.hxg3 Nd6 and the players agreed to a draw here. J. Granda Zuniga - B. Gelfand, Khanty Mansiysk 2010.

6.Qc2?!

Cy: Tony responds with the audacity of nope! His refusal to hand over his b-pawn for a development lead leaves him worse. I feel that White is struggling for equality in all the declined lines.

Other possibilities:

a) 6.Qd2?! Lame! (**Jack***: Wait a minute! You can easily persuade me that White must sacrifice the b-pawn to try for an advantage, but I refuse to believe that a natural move like 6. Qd2 would favor Black! After all, the pawn structure is symmetrical, and White does not trail in development.*) 6...Nc6 7.e3 Bf5 8.Bd3 Bg6 9.Nge2 e6 10.0–0 Be7 11.Bxg6 hxg6 12.Rfc1 (**Jack**: *Looks equal to me.)* 12...0–0 13.f3 Rac8 14.Na4 Qd8 15.a3 Qd7 16.Nc5 Bxc5 17.Rxc5 (**Jack**: *Still looks equal.)* 17...b6 18.Rc2 (**Jack**: *I think White starts to slip here. Instead, 18.Rc3 should preserve safe equality.)* 18...Na5 19.Rd1 Rxc2 20.Qxc2 Rc8 21.Qd2 Nc4 22.Qb4 Nh5 23.e4 Nxf4 24.Nxf4 dxe4 25.fxe4 Ne3 26.Rd3 Rc1+ 27.Kf2 Ng4+ 28.Kg3 Nf6 29.e5 g5! White's King was in serious trouble. Griffith - Lakdawala, Gambito 2009.

b) 6.Qb3?! Also lame! 6...Qxd4! 7.Nb5 Qxf4 8.e3 Qe4 9.Nc7+ Kd8 10.Nxa8 e6 11.a3 Nc6 12.Nf3 Bd6 13.Bd3 Qg4. That Knight on a8 will never see the light of day ever again. B. Roselli Mailhe - C. Matamoros Franco, Dresden 2008.

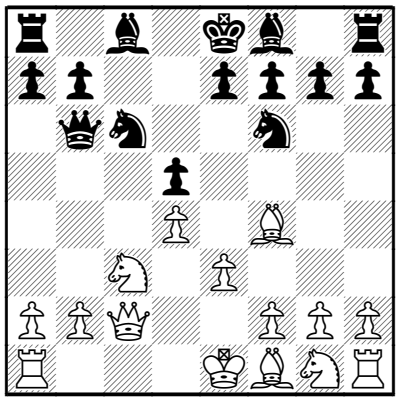
c) White ups the stakes with 6.e3 Qxb2 7.Bb5+ Nc6 8.Nge2 as in I. Ivanov - Lakdawala, San Diego 1993 and Yermolinsky - Lakdawala, Gambito 2005. Needless to say, in such positions an inch of study beats a mile of improvisation at the board.

Next game we examine 6.Rc1 Bd7! Gulko - Sherbakov, Helsinki 1992.

6...Nc6

Cy: And before you even ask, 6...Qxd4?? 7.Nb5! ends the game.

7.e3



Cy: *Planning Exercise*: The geometry is unfavourable for White on the Queenside. Find a trick to exploit it.

Answer:

7...Bf5!

Cy: Gaining a tempo, since White's Queen can't leave b2 unguarded.

8.Qd2

Cy: 8.Qxf5?? Qxb2 9.Rb1 Qxc3+ is disastrous for White.

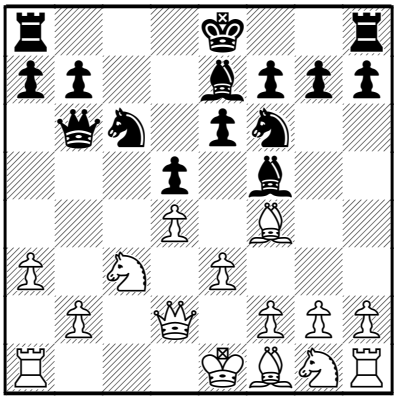
8.Qb3 Qxb3 9.axb3 leaves White without compensation for his damaged structure.

8...e6 9.a3

Jack: White is a tempo behind Cy's game against Griffith. He needs to develop quickly, and I'm suspicious of a purely defensive move such as 9.a3.

Even though 9.Bd3!? Bxd3 10.Qxd3 Qxb2 11.Rb1 Qa3 costs White a pawn, as he cannot stand 12.Rxb7?? Bb4 13.Ne2 Ne4, I think White gets fair compensation from 12.Nge2. At the least, White would put more pressure on Black than in the game.

9...Be7



Cy: *Question*: Why didn't you go after his Bishop with 9...Nh5 10.Bg5 h6 11.Bh4 g5 12.Bg3 Nxg3 13.hxg3 Bg7?

Answer: Most Slav players tend to be unreasonably biased in favour of our beloved Knights. We tend to sneer at Bishops, especially in closed positions like this one. Perhaps you are right though and the position may later open up for Black's Bishop pair.

10.Bb5!?

Cy: In difficult positions you sometimes just have to pick your poison. Tony didn't like the line 10.Nf3 0–0 11.Be2 Na5 12.Na4 Qd8 13.Qd1 Rc8 14.Rc1 Ne4. Still, this is the way I would have played it as White. Black's advantage isn't as concrete as the one I got in the game.

Jack: I agree with Tony! I would rather make a small concession now than submit to a one-sided game where Black can do whatever he wants.

10...0–0 11.Bxc6 Qxc6

Cy: The problem is that White has a low white blood cell count now. That was his good Bishop.

12.h3

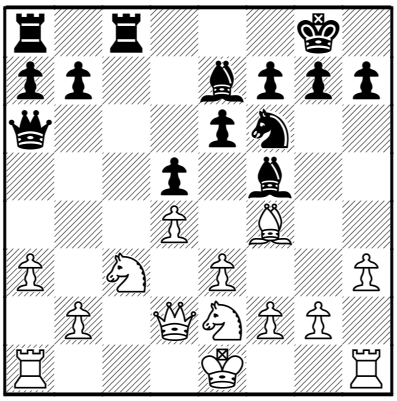
Cy: Hanging on to the Bishop I don't want!

Jack: Another waste of time! I think White's disadvantage is tolerable after 12.Nge2 Nh5 13.0–0∓.

12...Rfc8

Cy: The correct Rook. The other one may be needed on the a-file later after ...b5 and ...a5 have been played.

13.Nge2 Qa6!



Cy: Principle: When strong on one color then play on that color.

Black's advantages:

1. Bishop pair.

2. White's position is riddled with light squared holes on the Queenside. b3, c4 and c2 are all weak.

3. Black is first on the c-file.

4. Black leads in development.

5. Black's last move opens a path for the Rook to c4.

14.0–0

Jack: The opening ends with a significant advantage for Black, who controls the c-file and the light squares.

How startling to see a fine strategist like Saidy reach this miserable position in the Exchange Slav, a "safe" opening. This is a tribute to 5...Qb6.

14...Rc4

Cy: If he plays b3 it will only loosen his pawn front on the Queenside.

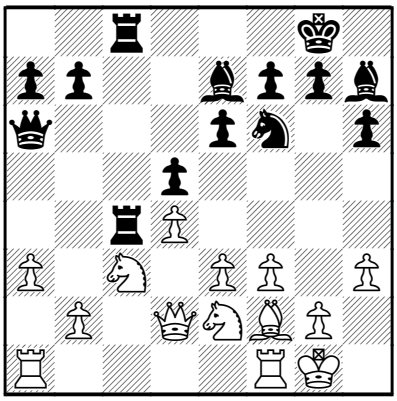
15.f3 Rac8 16.Bg5

Jack: I don't care for this move, but the alternatives are just as bad. Perhaps White should settle for 16.Rac1∓, with a vague thought of trading Rooks.

16...h6 17.Bh4

Jack: I tried to find something for White with 17.Bxf6 Bxf6 18.e4? dxe4 19.fxe4, but 19...Bg5! (much stronger than 19...Bh7? 20.Rxf6! gxf6 21.Qxh6⩲) 20.Qd3 Bg6 is practically decisive. White cannot survive 21.Nf4?! Bxf4 22.Rxf4 Qb6, while 21.Qg3 Qb6 22.h4 Be7 23.Kh1, trying to set up Ne2-f4, is refuted by 23...Qxb2 24.Rfb1 Qd2 25.Rd1 Rxc3! 26.Rxd2 Rxg3 27.Nxg3 Bxh4 28.Kh2 Bxg3+ 29.Kxg3 Bxe4, with three pawns for the exchange.

17...Bh7 18.Bf2



Cy: White defends d4 so he can contemplate e3-e4. He also sidesteps tricks with ...Nf6-e4.

Planning exercise: Come up with a plan to increase Black's advantage.

Answer:

18...b5

Cy: Intending to move the Queen from a6 and play ...a5 and maybe later ...b4. This ejects White's Knight from c3 and allows a potential Rook infiltration on c2.

Black also has the plan to maneuver a Knight to d6 or b6 and threaten to infiltrate on c4.

19.Rfc1 Qb7

Cy: *Question*: What about 19... Qc6 tripling on the c-file, intending ...a5 and ...b5?

Answer: Your suggestion is a huge blunder which loses to the simple 20.b3. When you are working out your plan, watch what your opponent can do too!

20.Nf4

Cy: Dreaming of Nd3, b4 and Nc5. To his credit Tony finagles a way to do so later.

Jack: A much better chance than 20.Ng3 a5 21.Qe1. White will not achieve e3-e4. One attractive answer for Black is 21...b4 22.axb4 axb4 23.Na4 Bc2.

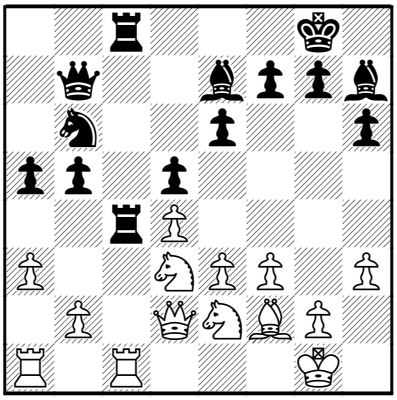
20...a5 21.Nd3 Nd7 22.Ne2

Dr. Anthony Saidy: thirteen years after, at the National Open. **cr**

Cy: 22.b4? Simply drops a pawn to 22...Bxd3 23.Qxd3 axb4 24.axb4 Bxb4.

Jack: I liked White's maneuver of the Knight to d3 and I think Nc3-e2 has to be part of White's plan to cope with Black's Queenside buildup. But I suggest 22.Be1∓ first, pointing the Bishop toward a5 and b4.

22...Nb6



Cy: c4, here I come!

23.b3

Cy: 23.Nc5 Bxc5 24.dxc5 Rxc1+ 25.Rxc1 Nc4 26.Qe1 b4 also looks rough for White.

Jack: Agreed. Maybe 25.Qxc1 improves slightly, but White is not close to saving the game.

23...Rxc1+ 24.Nexc1!

Cy: In order to recapture on d3 with a Knight.

24...Qa6?!

Cy: A case of commitment phobia and a wasted tempo. (**Jack**: *You are your own worst critic! Black's position is already so strong that White cannot exploit the lapse.)* 24...a4 25.b4 Nc4 26.Qd1 leads to a position similar to the game without wasting a move.

25.Ra2

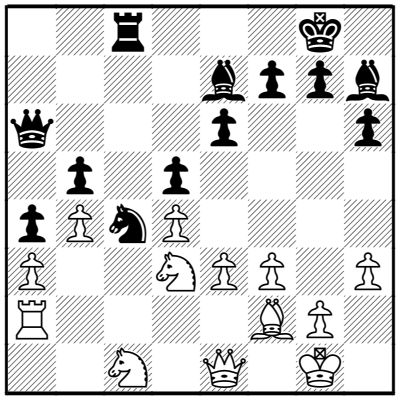
Jack: The desperate 25.e4? dxe4 26.Nc5 should be met calmly by 26... Qa8 27.fxe4 Bxe4 28.Nxe4 Qxe4 29.Qxa5 Nd5, when Black retains his positional advantages and starts to eye White's King. For example, 30.Qxb5 loses at once to 30...Ne3.

Inverting the moves, by 25.Nc5 Bxc5 26.dxc5 Rxc5 27.e4, is a little tougher, but still unpromising. Fritz analyzes 27...Rc8 28.Nd3 dxe4 29.Nc5 Qa8 30.fxe4 Rd8 31.Qe2 Nd7 32.Nxd7 Rxd7 33.Qxb5 Rd2∓.

25...a4 26.b4 Nc4

Cy: There is a vacancy sign over c4 and this Knight becomes an irremovable splinter in White's hand.

27.Qe1



Cy: *Planning Exercise*: Make progress.

Answer:

27...Bd6

Cy: Idea: ...Bb8 and ...Qd6, targeting h2.

28.Nc5

Cy: He attains the countersquare, but this isn't a worry since his Knight doesn't attack anything on c5, and I just work around it.

28...Qc6 29.Ne2

Cy: I think White has better chances with the plan 29.N1d3 Re8 30.Nb2 (**Jack**: *My thoughts exactly! White has to get rid of Black's Knight.)* 30...e5 (**Jack**: *White would not mind 30...Nb6?! 31.Bg3*∓) 31.Nxc4 bxc4 32.Qd2 exd4 33.exd4.

29...Re8

Cy: Principle: Open the position when you have the Bishop pair.

30.Qc3 f6

Cy: To have the option of recapturing with a pawn on e5.

31.Ra1 Bg6!

Cy: Idea, ...Bf7. If I play ...e5 too early he may take the pawn and get counterplay on my d5 pawn with a Rook on d1, and a Knight on c3.

Jack: All of Black's pieces are actively placed, which makes it tempting to strike at once, before White gets his Rook to d1. In fact, Fritz recommends 31...e5 32.Rd1 e4, which I do not trust. What can Black do after 33.f4, closing diagonals and files?

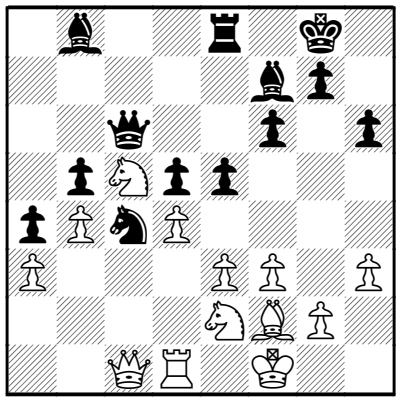
I like Cy's decision to maneuver before the crucial advance ...e6-e5.

32.Rd1 Bb8 33.Kf1 e5 34.Qc1

Cy: Covering e3 and clearing c3 for his Knight. The Queen is tied to the railroad tracks, Perils of Pauline style.

Jack: White should consider 34.e4!? Rd8 (White would not mind 34...dxe4?! 35.d5∓) 35.exd5 Rxd5 36.Rc1, with the annoying threat of 37. Nxa4.

34...Bf7



Cy: White's troubles:

1. Black has the Bishop pair.
2. Black controls more space.
3. Black owns the dark squares.
4. There is a potential for infiltration along the h2-b8 diagonal.
5. White's Queen must babysit the pawn on a3.
6. Black's Knight on c4 rules.
7. Many White pawns are on the same color as his remaning Bishop.
8. Black is ready to either play ...e4 or take on d4 and his Rook is behind the e-pawn.

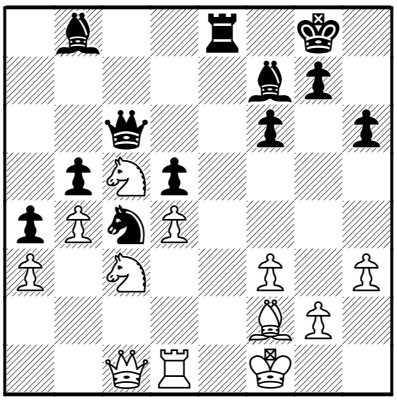
Conclusion: White is close to strategically lost, if not already there. Houdini misassesses, giving Black a measly .41 advantage.

35.Nc3

Jack: You should not expect a machine named Houdini to reveal the secrets of its magic! However, we can guess that it thought White could tolerate 35.e4! Rd8 36.dxe5 Bxe5 37.Nd4. Black still has the Bishop pair and a superbly placed Knight, but White's pieces are finally working.

I regard 35.Nc3? as the error that gives Black a winning position.

35...exd4 36.exd4



Cy: I planned ...Ba7 in response to a recapture with the Rook.

Planning Exercise: Make progress.

Answer:

36...g5!

Cy: Immediately taking advantage of the lack of coverage on f4.

1. Black intends ...Bf4 and infiltration into e3.

2. Black also considers going after White's King with ...h5 and a pawn storm.

37.Re1 Bf4

Jack: Absolutely crushing, even if the Rooks go off the board.

38.Qa1

Cy: The Queen is taken hostage and shoved into a closet on a1. She must continue to defend the weakling on a3.

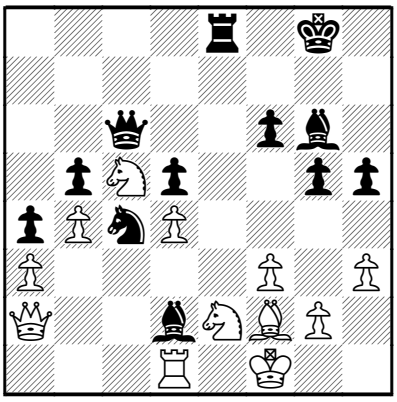
38...h5 39.Ne2

Jack: I suspect Tony was very short of time! He had to trade Rooks. Letting Black control the e-file should lose quickly.

39...Bd2 40.Rd1 Bg6

Cy: Threat: ...Bc2.

41.Qa2



Cy: White's Queen is now a POW interned on a2. Churchill once wrote: "A prisoner of war is a man who tries to kill you and fails, and then asks you not to kill him!" I am not as bloodthirsty as Churchill and don't have any wish to harm White's Queen. Keeping her prisoner will do just fine.

Planning Exercise: Make progress.

Answer:

41...Be3!

Cy: *Question*: Why on earth would you want to swap your powerful Bishop for White's bad Bishop?

Answer: White's humble Bishop also covers key dark squares. It's a good idea to eliminate it. Black can also try 41...Qd6 with ye olde cheapo 42.Rxd2?? Bb1! winning.

Jack: I strongly prefer 41...Qd6! , which sets up ...Qd6-h2-h1 and then ...Nc4-e3+. In contrast, 41...Be3? is unconvincing.

42.Kg1

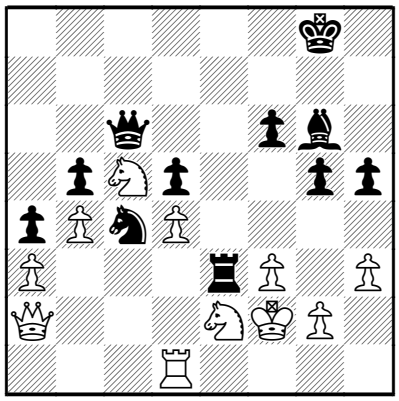
Cy: Now a3 falls. After 42.Nc3, Black wins by infiltrating the dark squares on the Kingside: 42...Bxf2 43.Kxf2 Re3 44.Qa1 Qd6 45.Qc1 (**Jack**: *Unfortunately for White, Black refutes 45.Re1 by 45...Rxf3+!*) 45...h4 46.Kg1 Qg3 47.Rf1 g4! 48.hxg4 h3 49.Rf2 h2+.

Jack: White can still resist by 42.Nc3! Bxf2 43.Kxf2 Re3 44.Rc1!, which hopes to embarrass the Rook at e3 by a trick involving Rc1xc4. More realistically, White may gain time for Qa2-a1 and Rc1–e1, exchanging Rooks.

42...Bxf2+

Cy: Planning to exploit the puncture on e3.

43.Kxf2 Re3



Cy: The game is over, since a3 falls. White's Queen had been tied down to a3 in perpetuity, but perpetuity isn't as long as it used to be!

This game is one of those rare pure strategic battles with almost no tactics involved. Younger players these days are enamored with attacks and tactics, and tend to ignore skills like the strategic build up and assessment of a position.

The tactician who is weak strategically is like a powerful warrior who carries an axe and sword into battle--except he is blind!

Jack: That's true. A good player needs both skills.

44.Ra1 Qe8

Cy: There is no rush. The a3 pawn is not going anywhere. Lasker's "The threat is stronger than the execution" is one of the best pieces of chess advice around.

45.Ng3 f5!

Cy: ...f4 is coming.

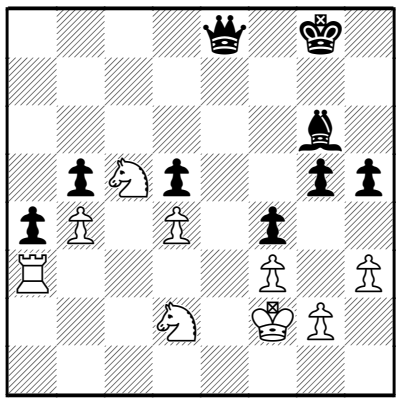
46.Nf1 Rxa3 47.Qxa3

Cy: 47.Qb1 f4 48.Qd1 Rxa1 49.Qxa1 a3 is also utterly hopeless.

47...Nxa3 48.Rxa3 f4

Cy: Denying access to e3.

49.Nd2



Cy: *Planning Exercise*: You are almost there. Find the knockout punch plan.

Answer:

49...Qe7

Cy: There is no way to protect d4.

Jack: Nicely done!

50.Rc3 Qf6

0–1

Cy: Summary: After 6...Qb6 White must sac. The declined lines stink. White doesn't even get equality. ♜

Roman Yankovsky Wins Sean Christian Reader Memorial

May 11-15, 2011

After a first round loss, Roman Yankovsky won seven games in a row to win the 5th Metro FIDE Invitational in downtown Los Angeles and earn his third and final IM norm. Second, one half point behind and earning his first IM norm, was Utah's 13-year old Kayden Troff. Finishing third at 6 was IM David Prues. Thanks to Ankit Gupta and Roman Yankovsky for a recap and games. - Ed.

ap

Roman Yankovsky: now an IM Elect!

By Ankit Gupta

The Sean Christian Reader Memorial concluded last month on May 15th. It was organized by Ankit Gupta and directed by Randy Hough and Michael Belcher. NM Kayden Troff and SM Roman Yankovsky both achieved IM norms with a minimum required score of 6.5 and 7.0 out of 9.0, respectively. SM Roman Yankovsky was also able to claim clear first, while earning his final norm making him an IM-elect. This was NM Kayden Troff's first norm.

The tournament was named after Sean Christian Reader -- our deepest respect and appreciation goes to Sean Christian Reader, who loved chess, and his family in their selfless efforts to support youth chess talent and interest in the greater Southern California area.

The tournament was sponsored by California Market Center, Fashion Business, Inc, MonRoi, Chess.com, LawyerFy, and Betty Bottom Showroom.

Full standings from this tournament are fully updated on the website on the schedule page of the Metropolitan Chess website at www.metrochessla.com/schedule.php

The participants included: IM Zhanibek Amanov (KAZ), IM Timothy Taylor (USA), IM David Pruess (USA), FM Pedram Atoufi (IRI), FM

Joel Banawa (USA), FM Michael Casella (USA), SM Roman Yankovsky (RUS), NM Kayden Troff (USA), NM Konstantin Kavutskiy (USA), and Janyl Tilenbaeva (KGZ).

Alongside this event, we ran the 3rd Metropolitan Chess FIDE Qualifier concurrently. This new qualifier series is meant to give opportunities to players under 2200 FIDE to qualify into the International Master norm round robins and to give opportunities to players with no FIDE ratings the chance to achieve FIDE performance norms. NM Craig Clawitter (USA) won this qualifier and earned a place in a future invitational.

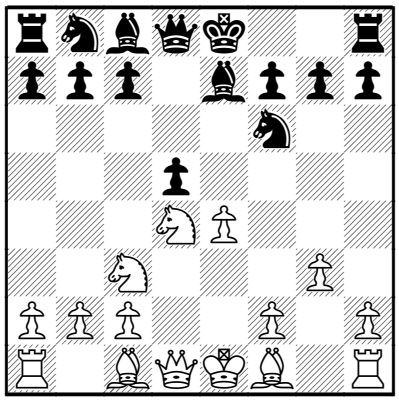
We have included a few games annotated by SM Roman Yankovsky below for your viewing from the Sean Christian Reader Memorial.

Please join the Metropolitan Chess e-mailing list to keep updated on our events at www.metrochessla.com. Metropolitan Chess will run several more closed round robins this year before leading up to our main event, the 1st Metropolitan International, which will include the participation of super-GM Michael Adams. ♜

Amanov,Zhanibek (2364) - Yankovsky,Roman (2363)
[C41] Philidor's Defense
5th Metro FIDE (2)
Los Angeles, 12.05.2011

Notes by Roman Yankovsky.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Be7 6.g3 d5



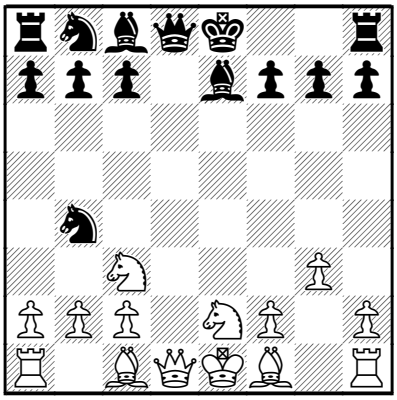
7.exd5?!

White doesn't try to get any advantage. The main line is 7.e5±. For example, 7...Ng4 8.e6 Nf6 9.exf7+ Kxf7 10.Bg2 c6 11.0–0± Geller,E (2550)-Giorgadze,T (2535)/Minsk 1979/URS-ch (52).

7...Nxd5= 8.Nde2?!

This move gives Black an additional opportunity. ⌓8.Ndb5 forcing 8...Nxc3 9.Qxd8+ Bxd8 10.Nxc3 Bf5 11.Bg2= with dynamic equality. Spassky,B (2551)-Fressinet,L (2575)/Paris 2001/CBM 083.

8...Nb4!

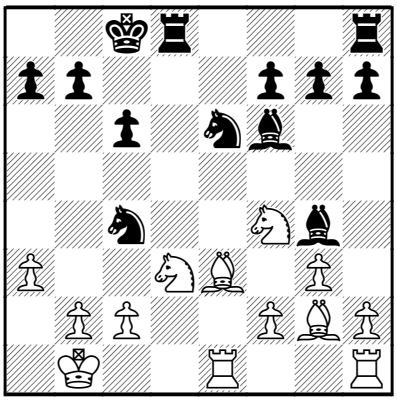


Now White loses the opportunity to castle.

9.a3 Qxd1+ 10.Kxd1 N4a6!

Black needs to be able to push c6.

11.Nd5 Bd8 12.Be3 c6 13.Nb4 Nc7 14.Kd2 Bg4 15.Bg2 Bf6 16.Nd3 Nd7 17.Rae1 Ne6 18.Kc1 Nb6 19.Kb1 0–0–0 20.Nef4 Nc4∓



Move by move Black has seized the initiative, and now he is slightly better.

21.Bc1

The risky 21.Bxa7!? was also possible: 21...Nxf4 22.gxf4 Bf5 23.Ne5 (23.Be4?? Bxe4 24.Rxe4 Nd2+–+) 23...Bxe5 24.fxe5 Rhe8∞ (24...Rd2? 25.Be4 Bxe4 26.Rxe4, and the 'f2' pawn is protected!). This position is unclear; White has to return the pawn, and now 25.f4? is bad due to 25...b6! 26.Bxc6 Re7 27.Bxb6 Nxb6∓, and the extra piece is stronger than three pawns.

21...Nxf4 22.Bxf4 Rhe8 23.Re4

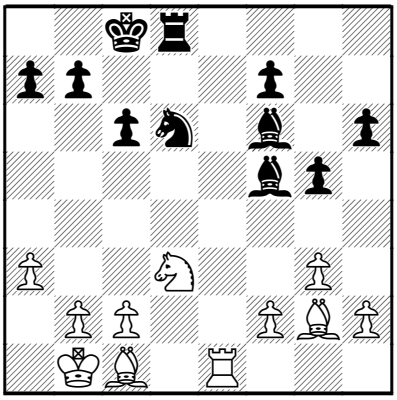
	Round by Round Pairings, Colors, and Scores		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Tilenbaeva, Janyl	KGZ	W10	X2	B3	W4	B5	W6	B7	W8	B9
	2068		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	Casella, Michael	USA	W9	X1	W10	W3	B4	W5	B6	W7	B8
	2259		**1**	**2**	2	2	2	2½	3½	4½	5
3	Taylor, Timothy	USA	W8	B9	W1	B2	W10	W4	B5	W6	B7
	2296		**1**	1	2	3	3½	3½	3½	3½	4
4	Yankovsky, Roman	RUS	W7	B8	W9	B1	W2	B3	W10	W5	B6
	2363		0	1	2	3	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**7**
5	Banawa, Joel	USA	W6	B7	W8	B9	W1	B2	W3	B4	W10
	2399		0	½	½	1½	2½	3	4	4	4
6	Troff, Kayden	USA	B5	B10	W7	B8	W9	B1	W2	B3	W4
	2255		**1**	**2**	**2½**	**3½**	3½	4½	4½	5½	6½
7	Kavutskiy, Konstantin	USA	B4	W5	B6	B10	W8	B9	W1	B2	W3
	2190		**1**	1½	2	2	3	3	4	4	4½
8	Amanov, Zhanibek	KAZ	B3	W4	B5	W6	B7	B10	W9	B1	W2
	2364		0	0	1	1	1	1½	1½	2½	3
9	Atoufi, Pedram	IRI	B2	W3	B4	W5	B6	W7	B8	B10	W1
	2281		0	1	1	1	2	3	4	4	5
10	Pruess, David	USA	B1	W6	B2	W7	B3	W8	B4	W9	B5
	2358		**1**	1	2	3	3½	4	4	5	6

Time control: 40 moves / 90 minutes + SD / 30 minutes + 30 second increment throughout.

Rxe4 24.Bxe4 g5 25.Bc1 h6 26.Re1 Nd6!

Pushes away the Bishop.

27.Bg2 Bf5



28.Bf1

Too passive; stronger was 28.Ne5. I was sure that 28...Re8 was strong, but actually 29.Nxf7!! changes the situation on the board: 29...Bxc2+ (if 29...Rxe1, then 30.Nxd6+ Kd7 31.Nxf5+-) 30.Kxc2 Rxe1 31.Nxd6+ Kd7 32.Ne4±.

28...Bd4 29.f3 c5

Black has more space, and plays aggressively.

30.h4?!

White is already in danger, but 30.g4 Bg6 31.f4 was still fine, as 31...f6 32.f5 Bf7 33.c3 Bg1 is very unclear.

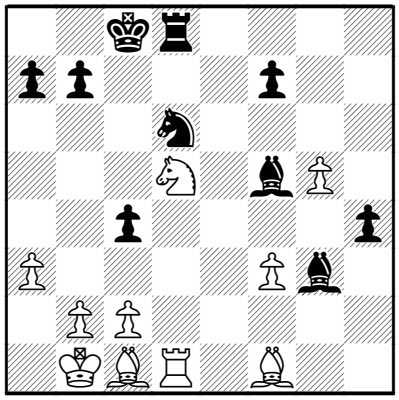
30...c4 31.Nb4 Bf2 32.Rd1 Bxg3 33.hxg5 h5∞

cr

Kayden Troff: shown here at the 2009 American Open, he earned his 1st IM norm in the Sean Reader Memorial.

Black has a passed pawn, but the victory is still very far ahead.

34.Nd5 h4!



Black pushes his passer!

35.Nf4

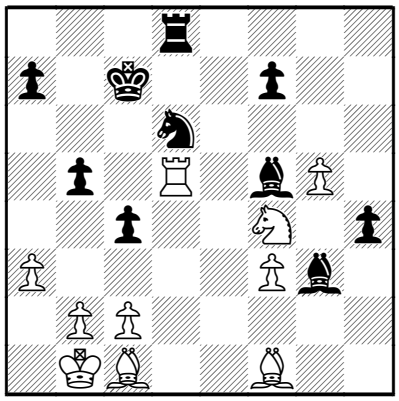
35.Ne7+ is not dangerous: 35...Kc7 36.Rxd6? Rxd6 37.Nxf5 Rd1 38.Ne3 Re1∓.

35...b5

Protects the 'c4' pawn. Both White Bishops are rather limited.

I also saw 35...Re8!? 36.Rxd6 (actually White can just play 36.Bd2∓) 36...Re1 37.Rf6 Bxf4 38.Rxf5 Rxc1+ (38...Bxc1 39.Bh3∓) 39.Ka2 Rxf1 40.Rxf4 h3 41.Rxc4+ Kd7 42.Rh4 Rxf3, but I wasn't sure that I could win here.

36.Rd5 Kc7



37.Nh5?!

Ugly.

Better was 37.Ne2∓. I had planned 37...Kc6 (37...Bf2?! 38.Nd4 Bc8 39.Bf4) 38.Rd1 Bf2 (38...Nb7?? 39.Rxd8 Nxd8 40.Nd4++-) 39.Nd4+ Bxd4 40.Rxd4 Rh8 41.Bf4 Nb7, but I guess White has good chances to equalize here.

37...Bf2

37...Rh8! was much stronger. 38.Nxg3 hxg3 39.Bf4 Rh1 40.Rxd6 Kc8! (I missed this option, seeing only 40...g2 41.Rd2+ and 42.Rxg2) 41.Bxg3 Rxf1+ 42.Ka2 Bxc2 (threatening Bb3 mate.) 43.b4™ cxb3+ 44.Kb2 Rxf3∓.

38.Bf4 Kc6 39.Rd2 Bc5∓

The position has become more or less stable. Black is better.

40.Rh2 Bg6!

Freeing the square for the Knight.

41.Nf6

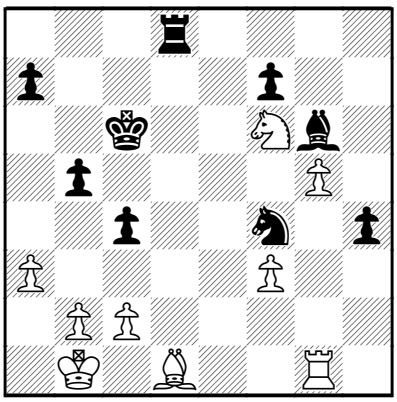
Not 41.Rxh4?? Rh8–+.

41...Nf5∓ 42.Be2 Bg1!

Black forces the position after the 45th move.

42...Nd4 was also possible. After 43.Ne4 Bxe4 44.fxe4 Nxe2 45.Rxe2 Rd1+ 46.Ka2∓ Black should be winning.

43.Rh1 Nd4 44.Bd1 Ne6! 45.Rxg1 Nxf4–+

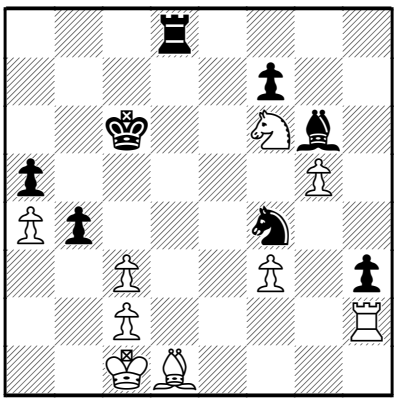


The game is almost over. White's Bishop is paralyzed.

46.Kc1 h3 47.Rh1 a5!

Black plans b4, c3 and Rd2, winning. This plan works with the White Rook on h2 also.

48.Rh2 b4 49.a4 c3 50.bxc3



50...bxc3

50...b3?! was pretty, but after 51.cxb3 Nd3+ 52.Kc2 Nf2+ 53.Ne4 Nxd1 54.Rxh3∓, White can still hope for a draw.

51.Ne4

Otherwise Black plays Rd2.

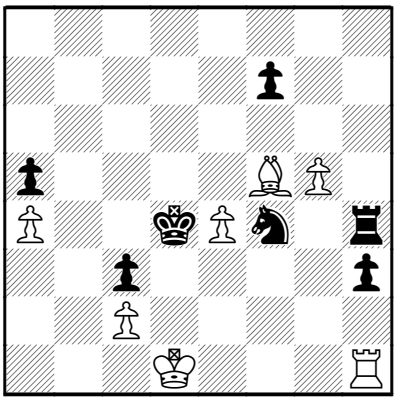
51...Bxe4 52.fxe4 Kd6!

The best move. Black blocks the pawn and activates the King.

53.Bg4 Ke5 54.Rh1

If 54.Bxh3 then Rh8–+.

54...Rh8 55.Kd1 Rh4 56.Bf5 Kd4!



The King goes to e3, and, if possible, to g2.

57.Bd7

After 57.Rh2 Ke3 58.Ke1, the Black Rook goes to the other wing, winning: 58...Rh8 59.Bd7 (otherwise Rb8) 59...Rd8 60.Bg4 Rd2–+.

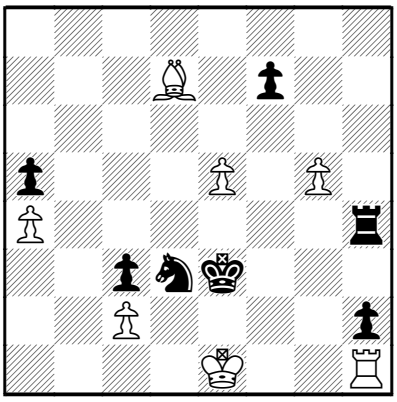
57...h2 58.Ke1 Ke3 59.e5

Allowing a nice finish.

If 59.Kf1, then Rh8 60.e5 Rd8–+.

59...Nd3+!

0–1



White resigned, for if 60.cxd3, then c2; and if 60.Kf1, then Nf2.

Zhanibek Amanov cr

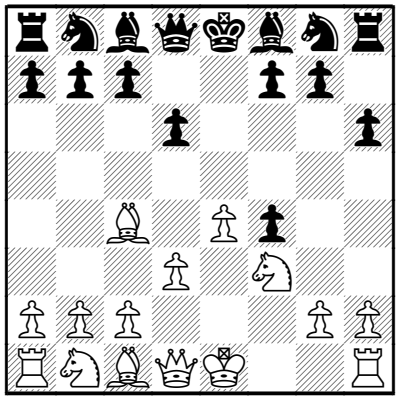
Taylor,Timothy (2296) - Yankovsky,Roman (2363)
[C34] King's Gambit
5th Metro (6), 14.05.2011

Notes by Roman Yankovsky.

1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.Nf3 h6 4.Bc4 d6

The immediate 4...g5?! is risky, due to 5.Ne5.

5.d3?!

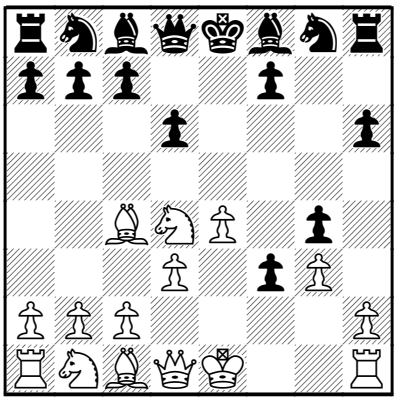


A strange choice.

Playing King's Gambit, it's logical to continue with 5.d4∞, getting a strong pawn center. However, I don't think that White has a full compensation for the pawn.

Here is an example of a game in this line, after 5.d4: 5...g5 6.c3 Nc6 7.h4 Bg7 8.Qb3 Qe7 9.0–0 g4 10.Nh2 f3 11.Nxg4 Bxg4 12.Qxb7 Nxd4 13.Qxa8+ Kd7 14.Rf2 Nf6 15.Qxa7 Nxe4 16.cxd4 Nxf2 17.Bb5+ Kd8 18.Nc3 Qe1+ 19.Bf1 Nd3 20.Qa8+ Bc8 21.Qe4 Qf2+ 22.Kh2 Bxd4 23.Be3 Bxe3 24.Nd1 Qg1+ 0–1 Rodriguez Vila,A (2556)-Schneider,D (2454)/ Osasco 2004/ CBM 103.

5...g5 6.g3 g4 7.Nd4 f3!∓



After this move, Black just has an extra pawn.

7...Bg7 seems to be weaker, because White can transfer his Knight to f4: 8.Ne2 f3 9.Nf4, threatening Nh5. After the move in the game, this Knight has no good square to occupy.

8.Be3

I expected my opponent to try something like 8.0–0 Bg7 9.Nxf3 gxf3 10.Qxf3 Nf6 11.Nc3 0–0, although White definitely doesn't have full compensation.

But not taking this line, I don't see any reason to play the King's Gambit. Now Black just gets a better position without any complications.

8...Bg7 9.c3

9.Nc3 looks more natural, but here Black can play 9...Nc6 (forcing the trade) 10.Nxc6 bxc6, and Black is better. But I didn't really want to double my pawns, since I was thinking about castling Queenside, so I would've probably chosen 9...Ne7 first, planning to take on c6 with the Knight.

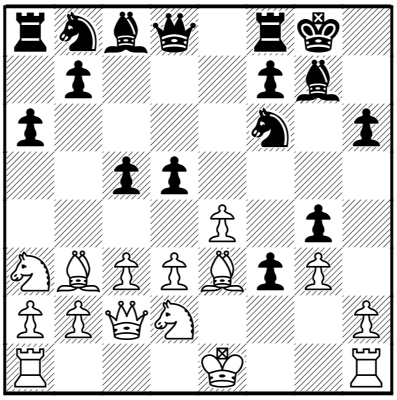
9...Nf6 10.Nd2 d5!

Black opens the center.

11.Bb3 0–0!

Black is not afraid of the Kingside attack, because his central threats are much stronger.

12.Qc2 c5 13.Nb5 a6 14.Na3



14...d4

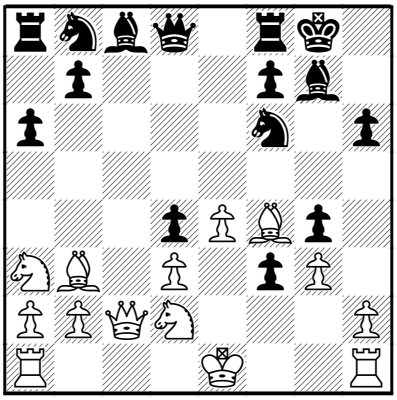
Black has a lot of opportunities here.

I was also thinking about 14...c4 15.dxc4 dxe4 16.0–0–0 Qd3∞, but I didn't like this position. White can continue with Rhe1, c5, Nc4, Nb6 or Nd6, and so on, while Black seems to be unable to push his 3 (!) extra pawns on the Kingside.

15.cxd4

This opens the 'c' file for Black, but I'm not sure if 15.Bf2 is any stronger, since after 15...dxc3 16.bxc3 Qe7 17.0–0–0 b5, Black's attack is much more dangerous.

15...cxd4∓ 16.Bf4



16...b5?

This is a mistake.

I wanted to control the 'c4' square. Also, for some reason, I assumed that White would castle Queenside anyway, so I missed my opponent's reaction.

After the simple 16...Nc6 17.0–0–0 Nb4 18.Qc4 (I didn't like this move) 18...a5∓ Black is much better, maybe almost winning.

17.h3!

A strong move. White opens the 'h' file for his Rook.

17...h5

Also possible was 17...f2+ 18.Kxf2 gxh3, but I don't think it really changes anything.

18.hxg4 Bxg4?!

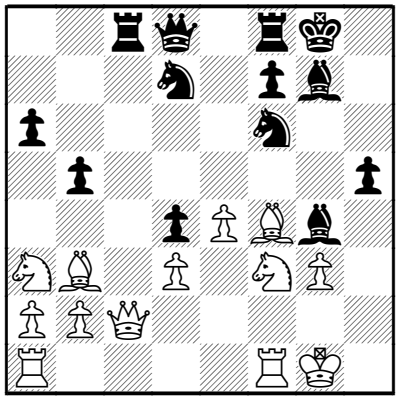
I knew that 18...hxg4∓ should be stronger, but I didn't like the position after 19.0–0–0, since White plays Nf1 and Qh2, getting some attack. But at least Black keeps an extra pawn.

19.0–0

Now White gets his pawn back and gets a strong attack on the opened 'f' file. Fortunately, Black still has good resources.

Of course, now after 19.0–0–0? Nbd7 20.Kb1 Rc8–+, Black just wins a piece.

19...Nbd7 20.Nxf3 Rc8



Black needs to get rid of the Bishop on b3. Otherwise the 'f7' pawn will just fall.

21.Qf2?!

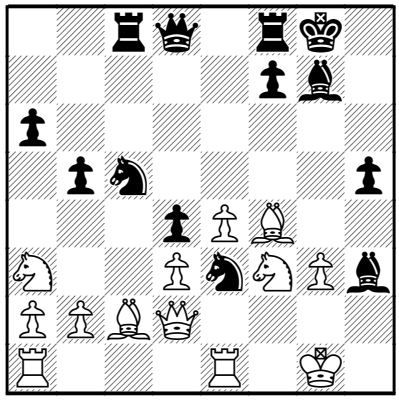
Looks very good, but probably 21.Qd2, keeping the 'd3' pawn protected, was stronger. as after 21... Nc5, the position is unclear.

21...Nc5 22.Bc2?

This move gives all the initiative to Black.

White should have played 22.Bg5∞ with a very unclear position. The computer then gives 22...Nxd3 as a winning move: 23.Qd2 (If 23.Qe2, then Ne5–+.) 23...Nxe4! 24.Qxd3 Nxg5–+, but I don't think that 22... Nxd3 can be played in a real game. I didn't even consider this move - it looks too risky. As far as I remember, I planned 22... Qb6 (getting out of the pin) 23.e5 Nfd7 24.Be7, with very unclear variations.

22...Bh3 23.Rfe1 Ng4 24.Qd2 Ne3∓



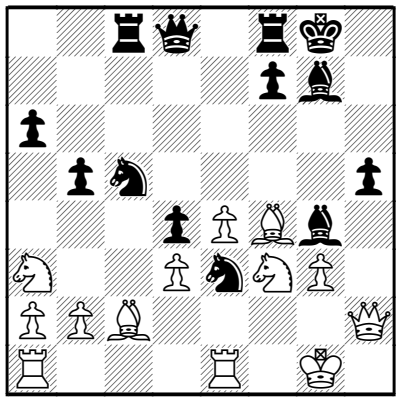
Now Black controls the whole board.

25.Qh2?

This move just loses. Probably White missed my 26th move.

The only chance was to sacrifice a piece, playing 25.Bxe3 dxe3 26.Qxe3 Bxb2 27.d4 Ne6 28.Rad1 Bxa3 29.Bb1∓. Objectively, Black is winning, but White has some attacking opportunities, like Qh6 and e5, so Black should be still careful, especially taking into consideration the upcoming time pressure. In the game, White loses without any chances.

25...Bg4



26.Ne5?!

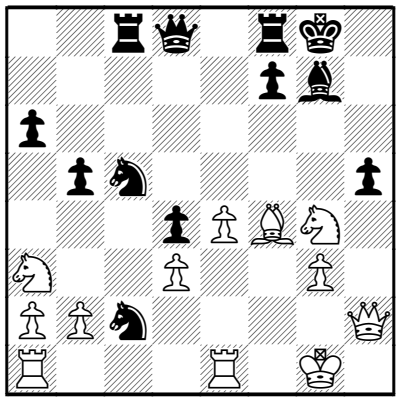
The best option was to sacrifice the exchange after 26.Rf1∓. Maybe Black doesn't even need to take it: 26...Nxc2 27.Qxc2 (27.Nxc2 Nxd3∓) 27...Nxe4∓ seems to be stronger and easier.

26...Nxc2–+

26...Bxe5 was also possible. I didn't want allow some extra opportunities like 27.Bxe5 Nxc2 28.Qd2, threatening Qh6.

Of course, Black is winning easily, but the move in the game simply doesn't allow anything like this.

27.Nxg4!?



I expected this move, although Black is winning in any case.

27.Nxc2 loses without any struggle: 27...Bxe5 28.Bxe5 Nxd3 29.Bxd4 Rxc2!–+;

Or if 27.Qxc2, then Bxe5 28.Bxe5 Nd7!–+, winning a piece.

27...Nxe1 28.Qxh5 Ncxd3!

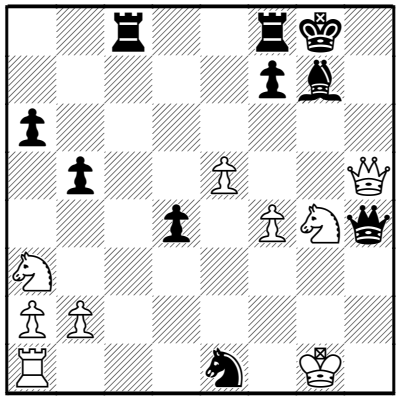
This keeps the White Rook isolated.

28...Nexd3 gives White an opportunity Kg2 and Rh1, now or later. I don't know if it works, but there is no need to calculate, if the move in the game cuts this option.

29.e5

Nothing works, neither 29.Nh6+ Bxh6 30.Bxh6 Qd6–+ nor 29.Bh6 Rc6–+.

29...Nxf4 30.gxf4 Qh4!



The easiest way to win. Black forces the Queen's trade and keeps an extra Rook.

31.Qf5

During the game I saw the following line: 31.Qxh4 Nf3+ 32.Kf2 Nxh4 33.Rg1 Nf5 34.Nf6+ Kh8 35.Rh1+ Nh6 36.Ng4 Rc6 37.f5 Kg8, and Black keeps all his extra material.

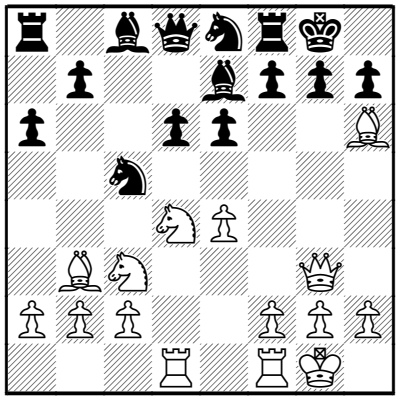
31...Qg3+ 32.Kf1 Qd3+ 0–1

Amanov,Zhanibek (2364) - Troff,Kayden (2255)
[B86] Sicilian Defense Najdorf Variation
Sean Reader Memorial (4)
Los Angeles, 13.05.2011

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bc4 e6 7.0–0 Be7 8.Bb3 0–0 9.Qf3

The main line is 9.f4 b5 10.Be3.

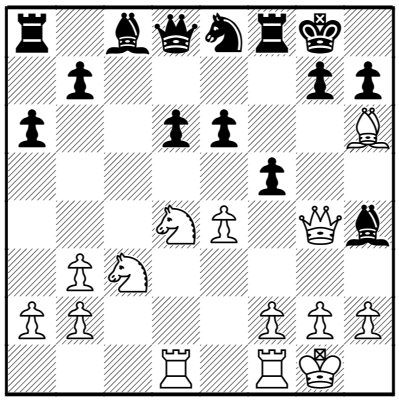
9...Nbd7 10.Qg3 Nc5 11.Bh6 Ne8 12.Rad1?



A reasonable looking move. But it's bad. When I tell non-players about chess, I say, "Sometimes, a move looks really good, but it's actually bad. Other times, a move looks really bad, and yeah, it's actually bad. That's what chess is like."

The Bishop must retreat.

12...Nxb3 13.cxb3 Bh4 14.Qg4 f5!



Black wins a piece. The Queen can't maintain the Bishop on h6.

15.exf5 exf5 16.Qf3 gxh6 17.Rfe1 Bf6 18.Ne6 Bxe6 19.Rxe6 Qd7 20.Re2 Bxc3 21.bxc3

When you are a piece ahead, trade!

21...Ng7 22.c4 Qc7 23.Qf4 Rae8 24.Rxe8 Rxe8 25.h3

Black's pawn on d6 was protected by White's back rank weakness.

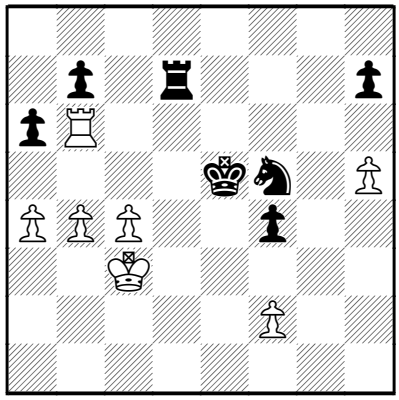
25...Re6 26.Rd5 Qe7 27.Qd4 Re5

Black offers a pawn for a Queen trade.

28.Rxd6 Re1+ 29.Kh2 Qe5+ 30.Qxe5 Rxe5 31.Rxh6 Ne6

The Rook's a target now.

32.g4 Kg7 33.g5 Re2 34.Kg3 Nxg5 35.Rb6 Re7 36.h4 Ne6 37.b4 Kf6 38.Kf3 Ke5 39.Ke3 f4+ 40.Kd3 Rd7+ 41.Kc3 Nd4 42.a4 Nf5 43.h5



After this pawn push, the Rook once more is the target.

43...Nd6 44.f3

The f-pawn risked a Knight fork.

44...Nc8

Progress is also made by 44...Ne4+ 45.Kc2 (if 45.fxe4 f3–+) 45...Nd2.

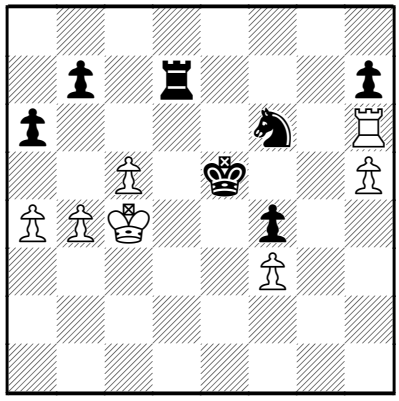
45.Rh6 Nd6

The Rook is forced to the other side. Now it's trapped on h6 instead of b6.

46.c5 Nf5 47.Rb6 Ne3

Another fork is threatened on d5. If the King moves now, Black still plays 48...Nd5 49.Rh6 Nf6 with the same result.

48.Rh6 Nd5+ 49.Kc4 Nf6 0-1



The Rook is trapped on h6 again, and the Black King gets it.

Khachiyan Wins Lina Grumette Memorial Day Classic

May 28-30, 2011

With 5 of 6, GM Melikset Khachiyan won the 32nd running of the heritage event. Tied for second, a half point behind, were IM Andranik Matikozyan, IM-Elect Roman Yankovsky, and Julian Landaw. Khachiyan yielded draws to IM Jack Peters, covered in this issue's *Cy and Jack* feature, and to Yankovsky in the final round.

The event drew 122 players in five sections, with the Open Section attracting 42. Vincent Nguyen won the 21-player Under 2000 section with a 5-1 score, and Vartan Shamirian and Robert Oesterlein tied for first in the 29-player Under 1800 section, also scoring 5-1 each.

In the 13-player Under 1600, Shun-Lin Sam Chou scored 5½-½ to take first and in the Under 1400, which attracted 17 players, Nicky Korba won it with 5-1. Anthony Ong directed.

There were other events as well. The Hex event featured a 3 round one-day tournament with a time control of Game/90, won by Jeff Phillips 2½-½ over seven other players. The 19-player Action event, at Game/30, was won by B-player Kele Perkins, with a score of 4-1, earning him a 76 point rating boost. Both were directed by Anthony Ong.

The scholastic events attracted 40 players in two sections. The Open K-12 was won by Karl Tolentino, with a score of 4½-½; Evyn Machi took the K-6 section, also with 4½-½. Dr. Robert Minoofar, assisted by Michael Belcher, directed the scholastic events.

IM Jack Peters has selected and annotated four games from this tournament.

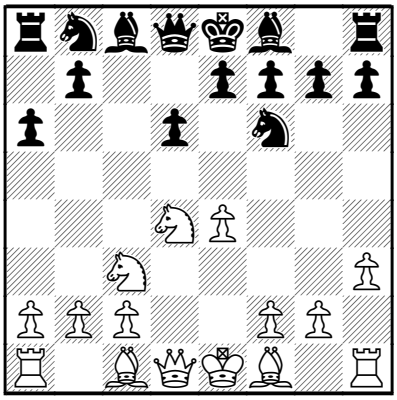
ap

Directing a tournament is serious business!

Yankovsky,Roman (2363) - Adelberg,David (2197)
[B81] Sicilian Defense
Memorial Day Classic (3)
Los Angeles , 29.05.2011

Notes by IM Jack Peters.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.h3



Recently, this old system against the Najdorf has been revived by Hikaru Nakamura and others.

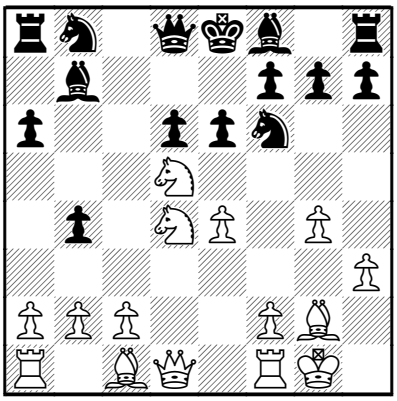
6...e6 7.g4 b5

Black's sharpest reply. Alternatives are 7...d5 8.exd5 Nxd5, 7...Be7, 7...Nc6, and 7...h6.

8.Bg2 Bb7 9.0–0 b4?!

Provoking a dangerous sacrifice. Safer are 9...Qc7 10.Re1 Be7 and 9...Nfd7 10.Be3 Be7. However, 9... Be7? drops material to 10.e5 Bxg2 11.exf6.

10.Nd5!



Played 22 times!

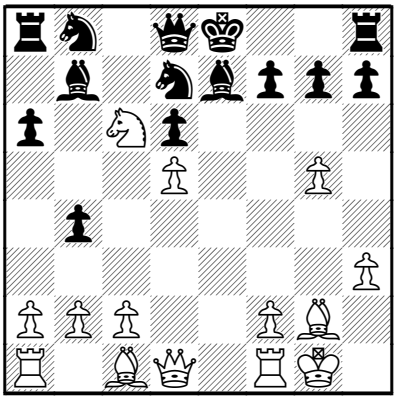
10...exd5 11.exd5

White's main threat is 12.Re1+ Be7 13.Nf5.

11...Be7 12.g5 Nfd7

Clearly the critical test of White's sacrifice. Instead, 12...0–0 13.gxf6 Bxf6 14.Bf4 favors White after 14... Be5 15.Qd2 Nd7 16.Nc6±.

13.Nc6



13...Bxc6

Apparently a new move. Many games have continued 13...Qc7 14.Nxe7 Kxe7 15.Re1+ (Nakamura won with the less convincing 15.Qd4?! Kf8 16.Bf4 a5 17.Rfe1 Nb6 18.Re8+! Kxe8 19.Qxg7) 15...Kf8 16.Qe2 when Black's only chance is to return the piece by 16...Ne5 17.f4 Nbd7 18.fxe5 Nxe5.

14.dxc6 Nb6 15.Qd4

Threatening both 16.Qxg7 and 16.Be3.

15...Qc7

Black could save a tempo with 15...0–0 16.Be3 Nxc6 17.Qxb6 Qxb6 18.Bxb6 Rac8, although 19.f4± still leaves him suffering.

The future: A view of the scholastic action.

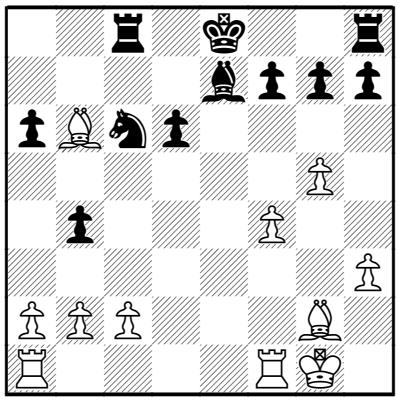
ap

If 15...d5, both 16.Be3 and 16.Qxg7!? Rf8 17.Bf4 Nxc6 18.Rfe1 are very promising for White.

16.Be3 Nxc6

This puts up the most resistance. If Black hangs on to the extra piece by 16...Nc8?! 17.Qxg7 Rf8, then 18.c3! Nxc6 19.cxb4 sets up Ra1–c1, with overwhelming compensation.

17.Qxb6 Qxb6 18.Bxb6 Rc8 19.f4±

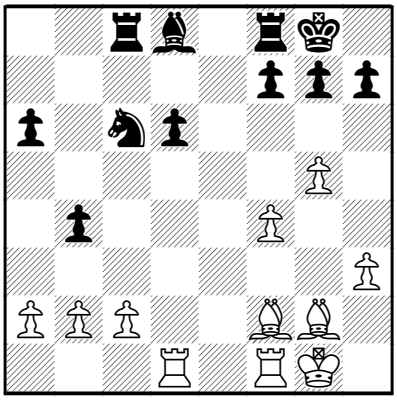


White's Bishops are too powerful. With careful play, White should win.

19...0–0 20.Rad1 Bd8

Inviting a stabilizing exchange, but White won't cooperate. The plausible 20...Rfe8 21.Rfe1 Kf8 22.Rd2 appears no better.

21.Bf2



21...Na5

The other bid for counterplay, 21... Ne7 22.Rxd6 Rxc2, lets White make progress by 23.Rfd1 Bc7 24.Rd7 Ng6 25.Be4 Rc4 26.Bd5 Rc2 27.Bb3 Rc6 28.f5 Ne5 29.Re7+-, when 29...Nf3+?! 30.Kg2 Nxg5 loses the Knight to 31.h4.

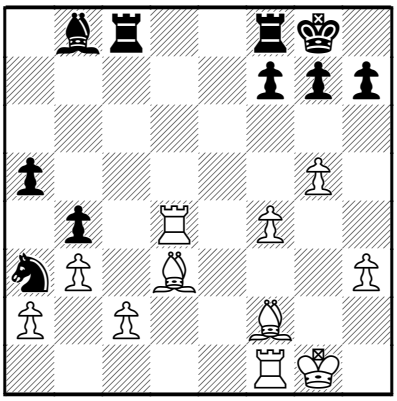
22.Be4 Nc4 23.b3 Na3 24.Rxd6 Bc7

Not 24...Nxc2? because 25.Rc1 wins a piece by 25...Be7 26. Rd7 or 25...Bc7 26.Rc6 Bxf4 27.R1xc2+-.

25.Rd4 a5

If 25...Bxf4, White can obtain a winning endgame by 26.Bf5 Bxg5 27.Bxc8 Rxc8 28.Rxb4 Nxc2 29.Rc4 Rxc4 30.bxc4+-.

26.Bd3 Bb8



27.Rd5?!

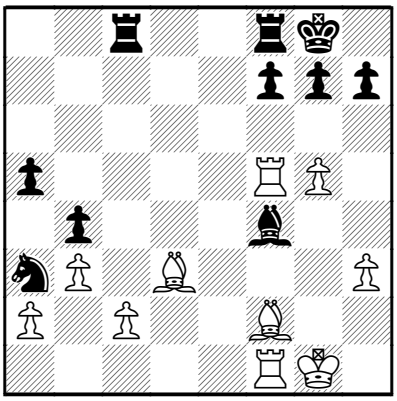
White's only slip in a fine performance.

The computer suggests the following intricate line: 27.Kg2 Nxc2 28.Rd5 Na3 (Not 28...Bxf4? 29.Kf3! Bb8 30.Bc5+-) 29.Rxa5 Bc7 30.Rd5 Rfd8 31.Rxd8+ Rxd8 32.Rd1 Nb5 33.Re1 Nc3 34.Bc4 Bxf4 35.Re7 Bxg5 36.Rxf7 Kh8 37.Bd4 Bh6 38.a4! Ne4 39.Re7+-. Black is too tied up to cope with the passed a-pawn.

27...Bxf4

Welcoming 28.Bc5?? Rxc5 29.Rxc5 Be3+.

28.Rf5



28...Bd2?!

Now White wins without difficulty. Not so clear is 28...Bc7, meeting 29.Bc5?! by 29...g6! 30.Bxf8 gxf5 31.Be7 Bb6+ 32.Kh1 Nxc2±. Probably White should try the more patient 29.Ba7 g6 30.Rc5.

29.Rd1 g6 30.Rxa5 Bf4 31.Kg2 Nxc2 32.Kf3 Bc7 33.Rd5 Bb8

Or 33...Na3 34.Bc5 Rfd8 35.Be4, and the pawn at b4 falls.

34.Rd2 Rfd8?

A blunder, but the sturdier 34... Na3 35.Bc5+- won't last much longer.

David Adelberg ap

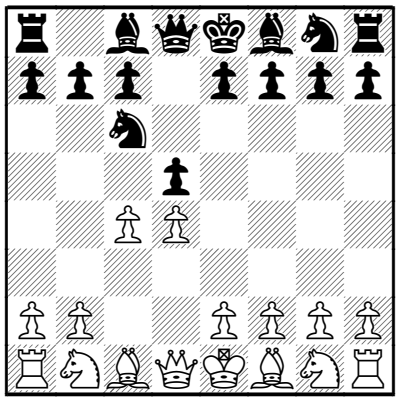
35.Rxc2 Rxd5 36.Rxc8+ Kg7 37.Rxb8 Rxd3+ 38.Be3 1–0

Nita,Marian Nick (2068) - Field,Frederick (1918)
[D07] Chigorin's Defense
Memorial Day Classic (3) G/60
Los Angeles (3), 29.05.2011

Notes by IM Jack Peters.

The following victory by Marian Nita Jr. won the best game prize.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 Nc6



Chigorin's Defense. Despite its superficial resemblance to stodgy lines of the Queen's Gambit Declined, the Chigorin often gives Black an opportunity to counterattack against d4 in the manner of hypermodern openings.

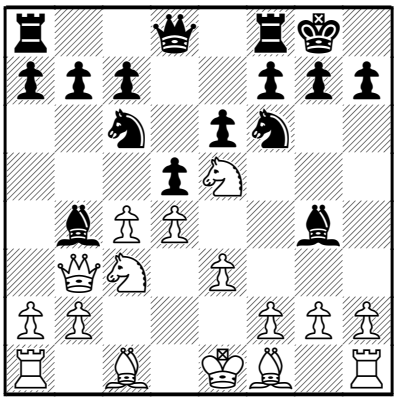
3.Nf3 Bg4 4.Nc3 e6

Probably necessary, as 4...e5?! 5. cxd5 is unsound and 4...Nf6 5.cxd5 Nxd5 6.e4 clearly favors White.

5.e3 Nf6 6.Qb3 Bb4

Preferable seems 6...Bxf3 7.gxf3 Bb4=.

7.Ne5 0–0



8.Nxg4

White should eliminate the other Bishop by 8.Nxc6 Bxc3+ 9.Qxc3 bxc6 10.f3 Bf5 11.Be2, securing a small advantage.

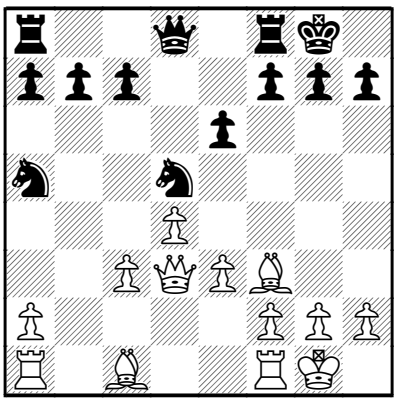
8...Nxg4 9.Be2 dxc4! 10.Qxc4 Nf6?!

Too defensive. Black could solve his opening problems with 10... Qh4=.

11.Bf3 Bxc3+

A little better is 11...Nd5 12.Bd2 Nb6 13.Qe2 Bxc3 14.bxc3 Na5±.

12.bxc3 Nd5 13.0–0 Na5 14.Qd3±



Black is in trouble. White can boast of his mobile pawn center and two mighty Bishops, while Black cannot generate counterplay.

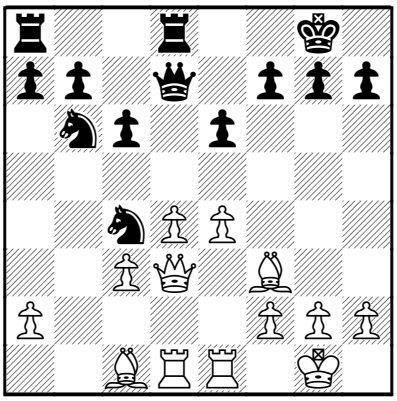
14...c6 15.e4 Nb6 16.Re1

The immediate 16.e5± would rule out both ...e6-e5 and ...c6-c5 (as 16... c5? loses to 17. Ba3).

16...Qd7 17.Ba3 Rfd8 18.Rad1?

An error that Black fails to exploit. Instead, 18.Bb4 Nac4 19.e5+- would give White unchallenged control of the center.

18...Nac4 19.Bc1



19...c5?

Missing 19...Ne5! 20.Qe2 Nxf3+ 21.Qxf3 Nc4±, when Black should survive.

20.e5!

All is in order, from White's point of view. He will build up a Kingside attack, using e4 for a Bishop or Rook. Black has no pieces to defend his King and no way to seriously threaten d4.

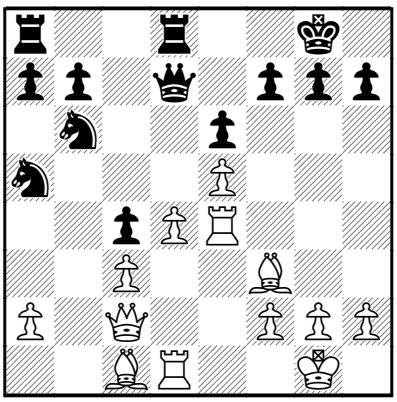
20...Na5

It doesn't seem right to retreat his best-placed piece, but what can Black do? White's attack runs smoothly after 20...Rac8 21.Be4 h6 22.Qg3 Kf8 23.Rd3, intending 24.Qg4 and 25.Rg3.

21.Re4

This Rook lift also supports d4, nullifying Black's threat of ...Na5-c6.

21...c4 22.Qc2



22...Qa4

Forestalling a threat to h7, but White will shift his attention to g7.

Not much better is 22...Nd5 23.Rh4 f5 24.exf6 Nxf6 25.Bg5, when Black's Kingside is shaky and White may open more lines with d4-d5.

23.Qd2 Nd5

Or 23...Nd7 24.Qg5→.

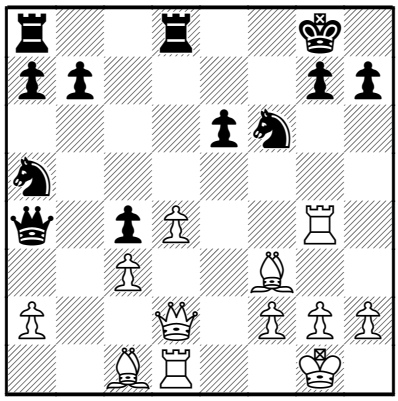
24.Rg4

Threatening 25.Qh6 g6 26.Rh4.

24...f5

The attempt 24...Ne7 proves insufficient after 25.Be4 Nf5 (Or 25...Ng6 26.h4+-) 26.Re1 Nc6 27.Bxf5 exf5 28.Rxg7+! Kxg7 29.Qh6+ Kg8 30.Qg5+ Kf8 31.Qf6, with the deadly threat of 32.e6.

25.exf6 Nxf6



26.Rxg7+!! Kxg7 27.Qh6+ Kf7

The sequel shows that Black cannot flee. However, 27...Kg8 28.Qxf6 Qd7 drops material to 29.Qg5+ Qg7 30.Qxa5, while 28...Rd7 runs into 29.Qxe6+ Kh8 30.Bh6, intending 31.Qe5+ Kg8 32.Bd5+.

28.Bg5 Ke7

Useless are 28...Ng8 29.Bh5 mate, and 28...Nd5 29.Qxh7+ Kf8 30.Bh6+ Ke8 31.Bh5 mate.

29.Qg7+

Quickest is 29.Qxf6+ Kd7 30.Qe7+ Kc8 31.Qxd8 mate.

29...Ke8

Or 29...Kd6 30.Bf4+ e5 31.Bxe5+ Ke6 32.Qxf6+ Kd7 33.Qd6+ Ke8 34.Bh5 mate.

30.Bh5+ Nxh5 31.Qe7 mate

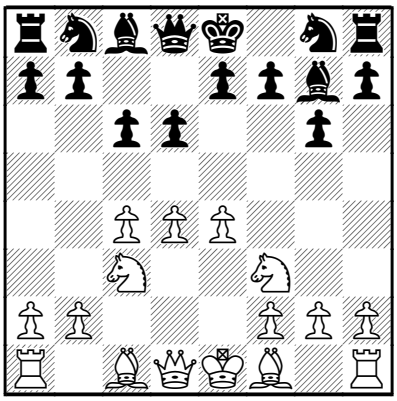
Khachiyan,Melikset (2492) - Kretchetov,Alexandre (2344)
[A42] Modern Defense
Memorial Day Classic (4)
Los Angeles, 29.05.2011

Notes by IM Jack Peters.

1.e4 c6 2.d4 g6 3.c4 Bg7

Sometimes Black tries 3...d5.

4.Nc3 d6 5.Nf3



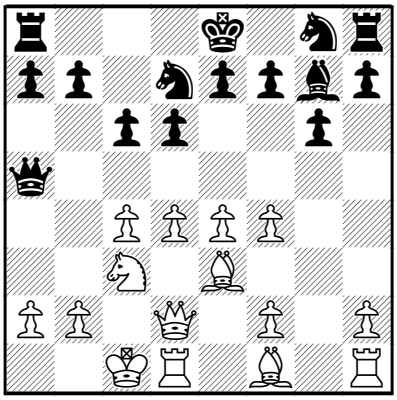
5...Bg4?!

One of the less reliable branches of the Modern Defense. With 5...Nd7 or 5...Ngf6, Black could aim for transposition to a traditional King's Indian Defense.

6.Be3 Qb6 7.Qd2 Bxf3 8.gxf3 Nd7 9.0–0–0±

Most forceful. Black's surprise opening has failed.

9...Qa5 10.f4



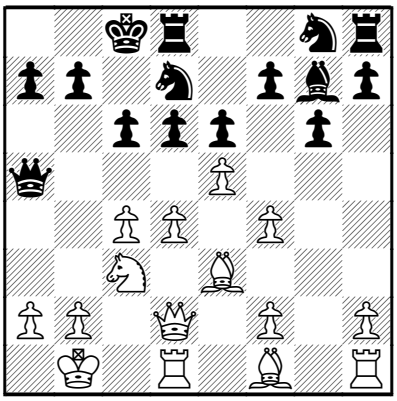
Alexandre Kretchetov ap

What a center! Black's position is so cramped that it's difficult to imagine how he will fight back.

10...0–0–0 11.Kb1 e6

As good as any. Black cannot stand 11...e5? 12.dxe5 dxe5 13.Bh3 Ngf6 14.fxe5 Qxe5 15.Bf4+-.

12.e5!

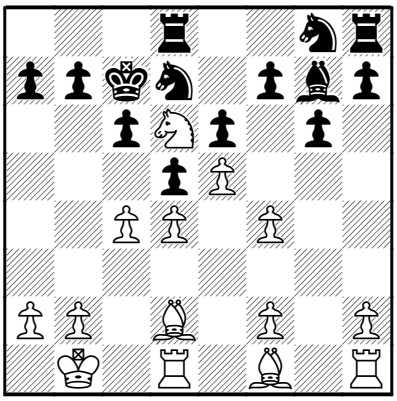


Opening e4 for his Knight.

12...d5?

Black had to try 12...dxe5 13.dxe5 Nh6, although 14.Ne4 Qxd2 15.Rxd2± is very unpleasant.

13.Nb5! Qxd2 14.Nd6+ Kc7 15.Bxd2



ap

Enrico Sevillano

ap

Serious chess action in the Scholastic event.

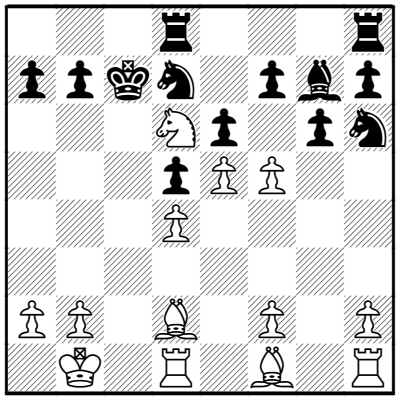
15...Nh6

The ugly 15...Rf8 holds out a little longer.

16.cxd5 cxd5

Similar is 16...exd5 17.f5!+-.

17.f5!



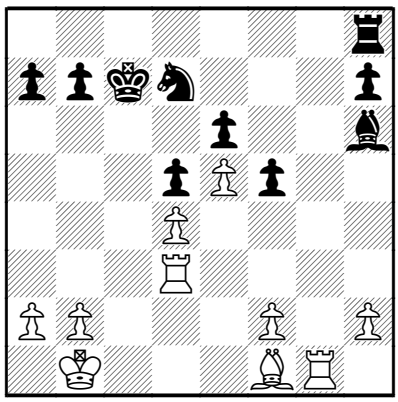
17...gxf5

Black might as well give up two exchanges by 17...Nxf5 18.Nxf7 Nxd4 19.Nxd8 Rxd8 20.Bg5 Bxe5 21.Bxd8+ Kxd8, although the Rooks will begin to work after 22.f4 Bg7 23.h4 and h4-h5.

18.Bxh6 Bxh6 19.Nxf7 Bf4 20.Nxh8 Rxh8 21.Rg1! Bh6

White does not mind 21...Bxh2 22.Rg7 because he threatens both 23.Bb5 and 23. Re7.

22.Rd3 1–0



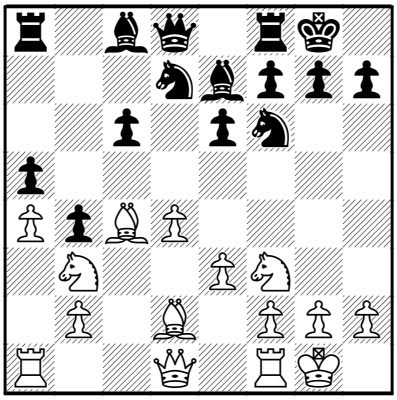
Sevillano,Enrico (2510) - Khachiyan,Melikset (2492) [D15]
Memorial Day Classic (5)
Los Angeles, 30.05.2011

Notes by IM Jack Peters.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e3

Harmless. The main line begins 5 a4.

5...b5 6.a4 b4 7.Na2 e6 8.Bxc4 Be7 9.0–0 0–0 10.Bd2 a5 11.Nc1 Nbd7 12.Nb3



Black's pawns look more ragged than White's, but ...c6-c5 will take care of that problem. The pawn at b4 is quite annoying, denying White the use of c3. Chances are even.

12...c5

Most popular is 12...Bb7 13.Qe2 c5 14.Rfd1 Qb6. Black has a very comfortable position, with good squares for all of his pieces. White cannot say the same about his dark-square Bishop.

13.Rc1

Sevillano was consuming a lot of time figuring out these moves, while Khachiyan, who had studied the variation, was moving very quickly.

13...Nb6!?

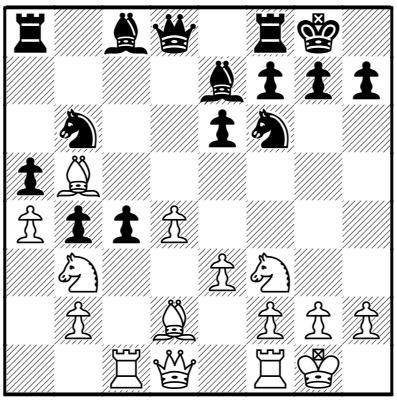
Sharper than the alternatives

13...Bb7 and 13...Qb6, which lead to equality. The variation to avoid is 13...cxd4?! 14.Nfxd4 Bb7 15.Bb5, when Black has worries at c6.

14.Bb5

Not 14.Nxc5? Bxc5 15.dxc5 Nxc4 16.Rxc4 Ba6∓.

14...c4!



15.Nc5

Forced, as White must avoid 15.Bxc4? Nxc4 16.Rxc4 Ba6∓.

15...Nfd7?!

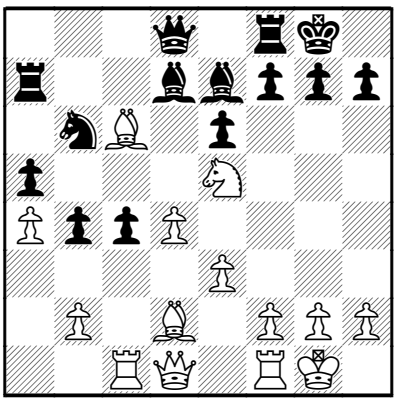
This mistake wins the game!

Objectively, the correct continuation is 15...Qc7 16.Nd3 (Also interesting is 16.e4 Rd8) 16...Ba6 17.Bxa6 Rxa6 18.Nde5 Ne4 19.Qe2 Qb7 20.Nxc4 Nxa4=.

16.Nxd7?

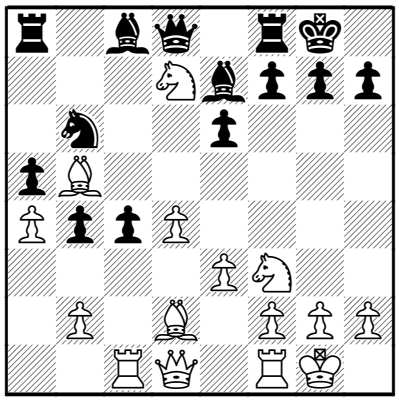
Letting Black take command of the Queenside.

Both players overlooked the finesse 16.Bc6! Ra7 17.Nxd7 Bxd7 18.Ne5!



Black must yield material, probably by 18...Bf6 19.Nxd7 Rxd7 20.Bxd7 Qxd7, because 18...Rc7 19. Bxd7 Nxd7? 20. Nxc4 is hopeless.

Chess action in the Action Chess event. ap

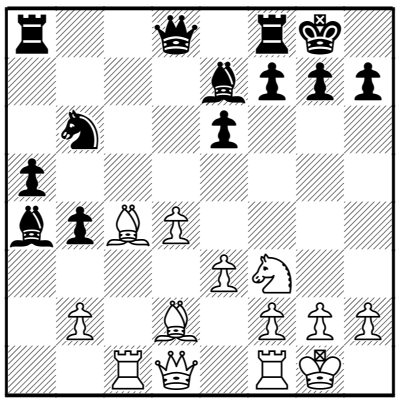


16...Bxd7∓ 17.Bxc4

Now Black can meet 17.Ne5 strongly by 17...Bxb5 18.axb5 Qd5∓.

Nor is 17.Bxd7 Qxd7 18.Ne5 Qd5 19.Qe2 Rac8 20.Rfd1 f5∓ satisfactory for White.

17...Bxa4



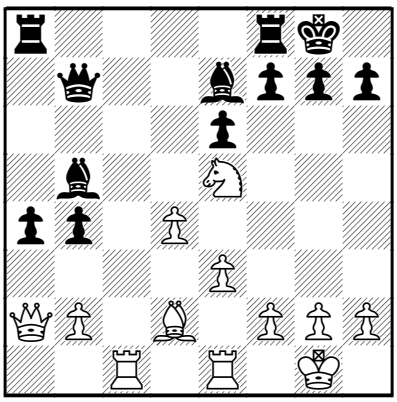
18.Qe2

Neither 18.b3 Nxc4 19.bxa4 Rc8∓ nor 18.Bb3 Bb5 19.Re1 a4∓ helps.

18...Nxc4 19.Qxc4 Qb8 20.Rfe1 Bb5∓ 21.Qa2 Qb7 22.Ne5

White's last, slim hope is 22.e4.

22...a4



23.b3

Understandably, White does not want to wait for Black to play ...f7-f6, ...Bb5-d3, ...b4-b3 and ...a4-a3. But his attempt to clarify the Queenside pawn structure allows a quicker finish.

23...Qd5 24.Rb1 f6 25.Nf3 Bd3! 26.Rb2 0-1

White resigned before Black could play 26...a3.

The "defense" 26.Ra1 axb3 27.Qb2 Ra2 28.Rxa2 bxa2–+ would not have saved White either.

Amanov Wins 6th Metropolitan FIDE Invitational 7-2

Congratulations to IM Zhanibek Amanov, who scored 7-2 to win the 6th Metro FIDE Invitational in downtown Los Angeles. Second, one-half point behind, were Philip Wang, Andranik Matikozyan, and Joel Banawa. Banawa and Wang earned IM norms. *June 1-5, 2011*

We thank Metropolitan Chess for providing the following recap by Ankit Gupta. - Ed.

cr

By Ankit Gupta

The 6th Metropolitan Chess FIDE Invitational concluded last month on June 5th. It was organized by Ankit Gupta and directed by Randy Hough and Michael Belcher. FM Philip Xiao Wang and FM Joel Banawa both achieved IM norms with a minimum required score of 6.5 out of 9.0. IM Zhanibek Amanov was able to claim clear first. This was FM Joel Banawa's final norm and FM Philip Xiao Wang's second norm.

The tournament was sponsored by California Market Center, Fashion Business, Inc, MonRoi, Chess.com, LawyerFy, and Betty Bottom Showroom.

Full standings from this tournament are fully updated on the website on the schedule page of the Metropolitan Chess website at www.metrochessla.com/schedule.php

The participants included: IM Zhanibek Amanov (KAZ), IM Timothy Taylor (USA), IM Andranik Matikozyan (ARM), Alessandro Steinfl (ITA), FM Joel Banawa (USA), FM Harutyan Akopyan (USA), CM Giovanni Carreto (MEX), FM Pedram Atoufi (IRI), NM Ankit Gupta (USA), and FM Philip Xiao Wang (USA).

Alongside this event, we ran the

4th Metropolitan Chess FIDE Qualifier concurrently. This new qualifier series is meant to give opportunities to players under 2200 FIDE to qualify into the International Master norm round robins and to give opportunities to players with no FIDE ratings the chance to achieve FIDE performance norms. SM Jeff Arnold (USA) won this qualifier and earned a place in a future invitational.

We have included a game annotated by IM Zhanibek Amanov below for your viewing from the 6th Metropolitan Chess FIDE Invitational.

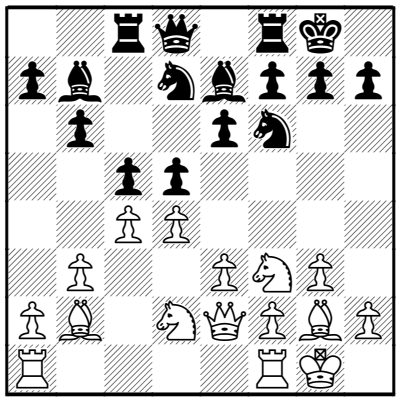
Please join the Metropolitan Chess e-mailing list to keep updated on our events at www.metrochessla.com. Metropolitan Chess will run several more closed round robins this year before leading up to our main event, the 1st Metropolitan International, which will include the participation of super-GM Michael Adams. ♜

Amanov,Zhanibek (2364) - Akopyan,Harutyan (2224)
[E17] Queen's Indian Defense
6th Metropolitan FIDE (4)
Los Angeles, 03.06.2011
Notes by IM Zhanibek Amanov.

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.b3

I tried to stay away from main lines.

3...d5 4.g3 Be7 5.Bg2 0–0 6.0–0 b6 7.Bb2 Bb7 8.e3 Nbd7 9.Qe2 c5 10.d4 Rc8 11.Nbd2

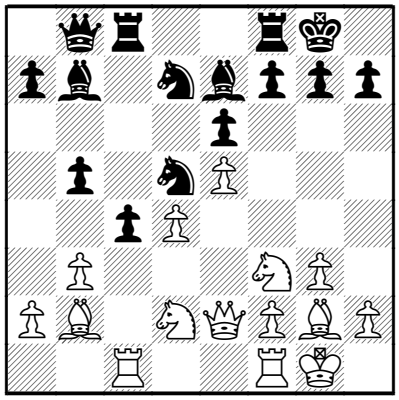


Actually, White doesn't have any advantage

11...Qc7 12.Rac1 Qb8

Black wants to play Qa8.

13.cxd5 Nxd5 14.e4 N5f6 15.e5 Nd5 16.Nc4 b5! 17.Ncd2 c4!

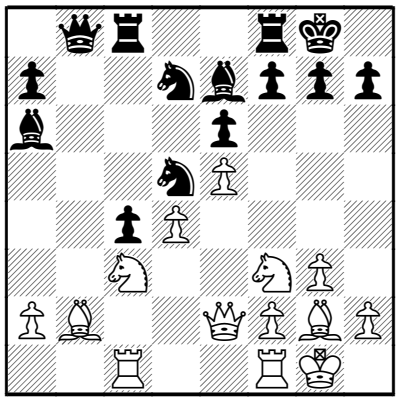


I underestimated this plan.

18.Ne4

Taking on c4 isn't possible: 18.bxc4 bxc4 19.Nxc4? Ba6–+.

18...Ba6 19.bxc4 bxc4 20.Nc3

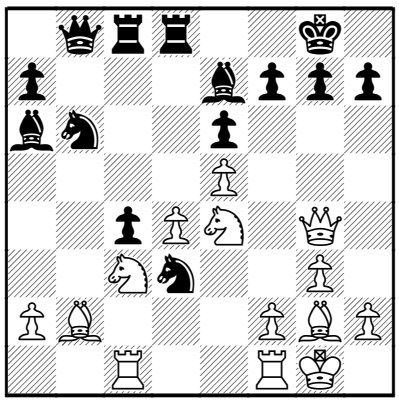


White has to blockade the c4-pawn.

20...N7b6 21.Nd2 Rfd8 22.Nde4 Nb4

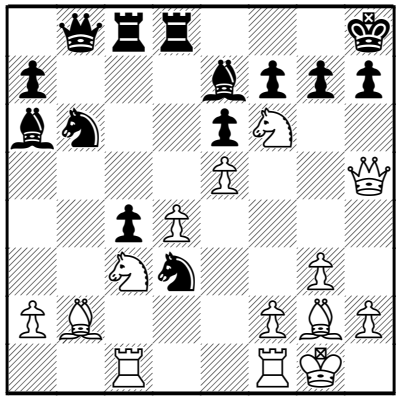
Looks very natural, but in fact this move gives White strong counterplay.

23.Qg4 Nd3?!



Black underestimated White's threats; he had to go back with Nb4-d5.

24.Nf6+ Kh8 25.Qh5!



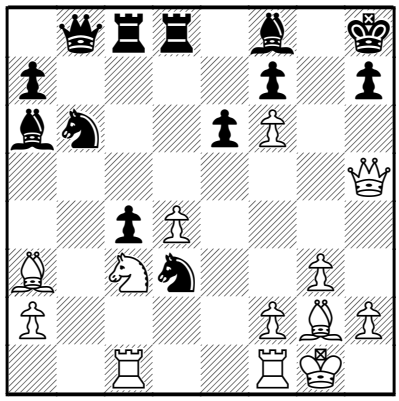
25...gxf6

If 25...Bxf6 26.exf6 Nxb2, then 27.Ne4! Nd5 28.fxg7+ Kxg7 29.Ng5 Qc7 30.Qxh7+ Kf8 31.Rfe1! with deadly threats. For example: 31... Rd6 32.Qh6+ Ke7 33.Bxd5 Rxd5 34.Rxe6+ fxe6 35.Qxe6+ Kf8 36.Qxd5+-.

26.exf6 Bf8

26...Bxf6 loses immediately to 27.Be4 Kg8 28.Qxh7+ Kf8 29.Ba3+ Rd6 (Of course not 29...Ke8 30.Qg8+ with checkmate soon.) 30.Bxd3 cxd3 31.Ne4+-.

27.Ba3!



27...Nd5

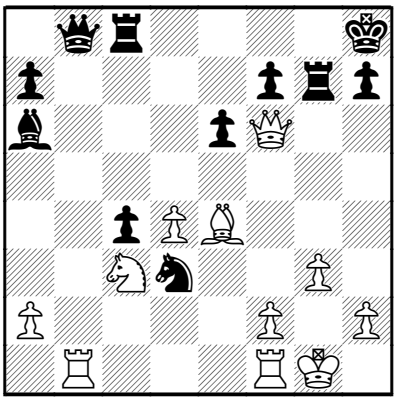
If 27...Bxa3??, then 28.Be4 with an inevitable checkmate.

Or if 27...Rxd4, then 28.Be4 Rxe4 29.Nxe4 Qe5 30.Ng5 Qf5 31.Bxf8 Qg6 32.Qxg6 hxg6 33.Ba3 Nxc1 34.Nxf7+ Kg8 35.Nh6+ Kh7 36.Bxc1±.

28.Bxf8 Rxf8 29.Qh6 Rg8 30.Be4 Nxf6 31.Qxf6+ Rg7 32.Rb1±

Round by Round Pairings, Colors, and Scores		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1 Wang, Philip Xiao	USA	W10	W2	B3	W4	B5	W6	B7	W8	B9
2350		**1**	**2**	2½	3	**4**	**4½**	**5½**	5½	6½
2 Atoufi, Pedram	IRI	W9	B1	W10	W3	B4	W5	B6	W7	B8
2281		½	½	½	½	1	1½	2½	3½	3½
3 Matikozyan, Andranik	ARM	W8	B9	W1	B2	W10	W4	B5	W6	B7
2458		**1**	**2**	2½	**3½**	**4**	**4½**	4½	5½	6½
4 Banawa, Joel	USA	W7	B8	W9	B1	W2	B3	W10	W5	B6
2399		**1**	**2**	**3**	**3½**	**4**	**4½**	5	5½	6½
5 Carreto, Giovanni	MEX	W6	B7	W8	B9	W1	B2	W3	B4	W10
2243		**1**	**2**	2	2½	2½	3	4	4½	4½
6 Gupta, Ankit	USA	B5	B10	W7	B8	W9	B1	W2	B3	W4
2272		0	0	0	0	0	½	½	½	½
7 Akopyan, Harutyan	USA	B4	W5	B6	B10	W8	B9	W1	B2	W3
2224		0	0	1	1	1	2	2	2	2
8 Taylor, Timothy	USA	B3	W4	B5	W6	B7	B10	W9	B1	W2
2296		0	0	1	2	3	3	4	5	6
9 Steinfl, Alessandro	ITA	B2	W3	B4	W5	B6	W7	B8	B10	W1
2174		½	½	½	1	2	2	2	2	2
10 Amanov, Zhanibek	KAZ	B1	W6	B2	W7	B5	W8	B4	W9	B5
2364		0	1	2	3	3½	**4½**	5	**6**	**7**

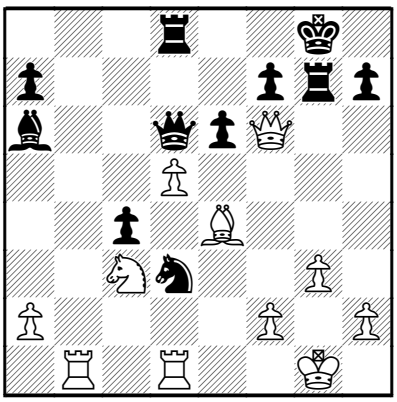
Time control: 40 moves / 90 minutes + SD / 30 minutes + 30 second increment throughout.



After the tactical shootout, White preserves an advantage.

Black has a problem with coordination, mainly with the Bishop on a6.

32...Qd6 33.Rfd1 Rd8 34.d5 Kg8



35.Kf1!?

This is a simple waiting move, as Black cannot improve his position.

Sometimes it's a good idea to give your opponent an opportunity to make a mistake, especially when your opponent has no improving moves and is in time-trouble.

35...Qc5??

1–0

Here, my opponent almost ran out of time and played the first move he saw. Unfortunately, this move loses the game immediately. He resigned before I could play 36.Qxd8+.

35...Kh8 or 35...Rf8 would continue the game, but White is still much better.

We conclude with three interesting wins by IM Timothy Taylor, who followed a slow start of two losses with six wins in the final seven rounds.

Notes to the first game were provided by Jack Peters, and the final two by the editor.

All three games feature a sudden shift in the initiative. And, come to think of it, a decisive combination at the finish.

We hope you find them as interesting as we did. - Ed.

Carreto,Giovanni (2243) - Taylor,Timothy (2296)
[C56] Two Knights Defense
6th Metropolitan FIDE (3)
Los Angeles, 02.06.2011

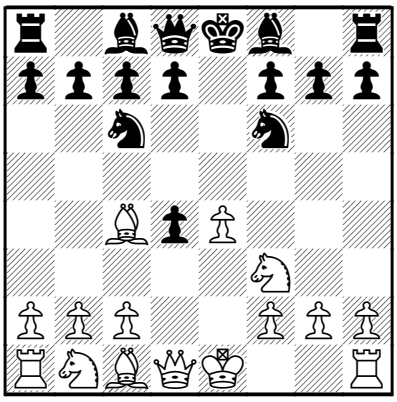
Notes by IM Jack Peters.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d4

Fashionable for years, but its popularity is beginning to fade.

Lately, White has tried to prove an advantage with 4.Ng5 d5 5.exd5 Na5 6.Bb5+ c6 7.dxc6 bxc6 8.Qf3, a greedy attempt to hold the gambit pawn.

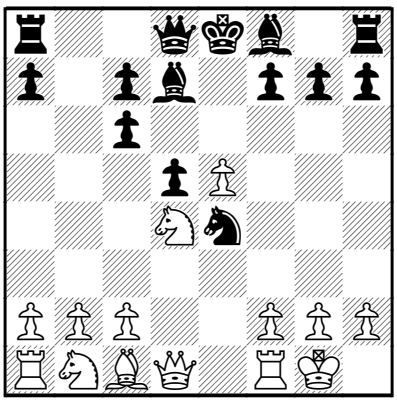
4...exd4



5.e5

The old main line, 5.0–0 Nxe4 6.Re1 d5 7.Bxd5 Qxd5 8.Nc3 Qa5 9.Nxe4 Be6=, is now considered harmless.

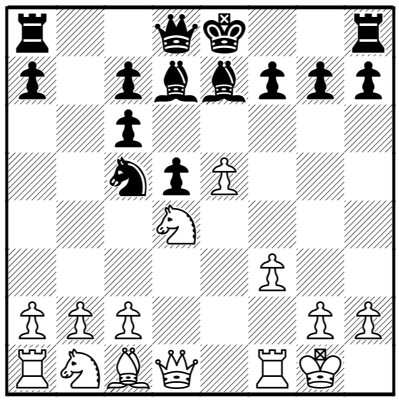
5...d5 6.Bb5 Ne4 7.Nxd4 Bd7 8.Bxc6 bxc6 9.0–0



9...Be7

This and 9...Bc5 have been tested for decades. The newer idea 9...c5!? 10.Nb3 c6 11.f3 Ng5 bolsters Black's Queenside but leaves him more vulnerable to f3-f4-f5.

10.f3 Nc5



11.Be3?!

Too slow. To justify his sharp choice of opening, White must continue boldly with 11.f4!? 0–0 12.f5 Ne4 13.Nc3, staking everything on a Kingside attack involving f5-f6.

11...0–0 12.Nc3

If Black does not react, White could obtain the advantage on the Kingside (by f3-f4-f5-f6) or the Queenside (by taking control of c5 with Nd4-b3 and Nc3-a4).

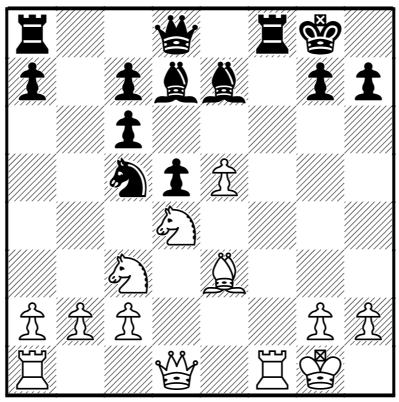
12...f6!⇄

Taylor is not the sort to overlook an opportunity to fight for the initiative.

13.f4

Accepting a feeble isolated e-pawn. However, the alternative 13.exf6 is more unpleasant for White. After 13...Rxf6 14.Re1 Ne6∓, Black's Bishops have great potential, and he already threatens ...c6-c5.

13...fxe5 14.fxe5



14...Rxf1+

Also good is 14...Qe8.

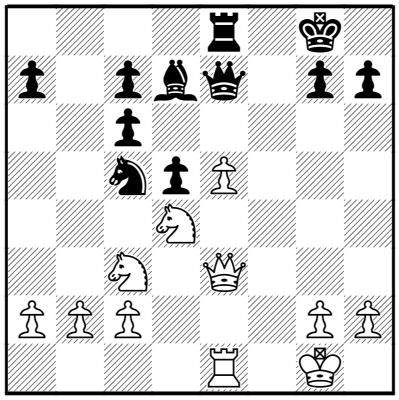
15.Qxf1 Bg5 16.Qf2 Bxe3 17.Qxe3 Qe7=

The trade of Bishops does not disturb White, but Black can next develop his Rook effectively at e8 or f8.

18.Re1

Black could meet 18.b4 Ne6 19.a3 conveniently by 19...a5.

18...Re8



19.Re2

Now is the moment for 19.b4 Ne6 20.Nxe6 Bxe6 21.a3, as 21...a5 22.bxa5 Qxa3 23.Nxd5 Qxa5 24.Nf4 maintains equality.

19...a5 20.a3 h6

Black is in no danger, but how to create winning chances? If Black were content to draw, he could even lose control of c5 by 20...Ne6 21.Nxe6 Bxe6 22.Na4, yet hold the balance with 22...Bg4 23.Re1 Bf5 24.Qc3 Be4 25.Qxc6 Qxe5=.

21.Qg3?!

The Queen should continue to observe c5.

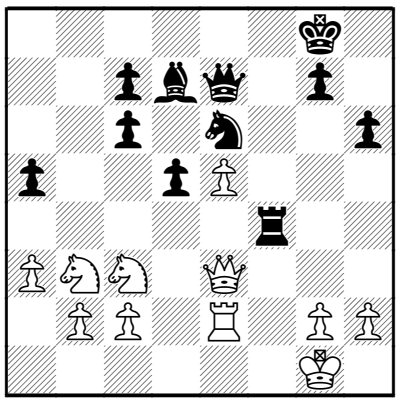
21...Ne6 22.Nb3

After 22.Nf5 Qg5 23.Qxg5 hxg5!, Black will pick off the e-pawn by ...Ne6-f4-g6. Probably toughest is 22.Nxe6 Bxe6 23.Na4, although Black parries the threat of Qg3-c3 with 23...d4∓.

22...Rf8! 23.Qe3?!

The computer recommends 23.Re1∓.

23...Rf4!∓



Threatening 24...d4 while preparing Kingside mayhem.

24.Qa7?

White's position has become too difficult to hold, but he could try for a swindle with 24.Qd2.

Then the plausible 24...Bc8 25.Rf2 Rxf2 26.Qxf2 Qg5 would be met by 27.h4! (Not 27.Nxa5?? Qc1+ 28.Qf1 Qxb2–+, as Black threatens one Knight directly and the other by 29... Qb6+.) 27...Qxe5 28.Nxa5, with hope of survival.

Black should answer 24.Qd2 with 24...Be8∓.

24...a4

Diverting a Knight before the invasion. The immediate 24...Qf7 25.Rf2 d4–+ does the job too. If 26.Ne4, the crushing 26...Qh5! anticipates the economical finish 27.Rxf4 Nxf4 28.Nxd4 Qxe5 29.Ng3 Qe3+ 30.Kf1 Nh3! 31.Nh1 Bg4, setting up 32...Qc1 mate.

25.Nxa4 Qf8?

The only blemish on Taylor's fine performance.

He should have clinched the win by 25...Qf7 26.Re1 Qg6–+.

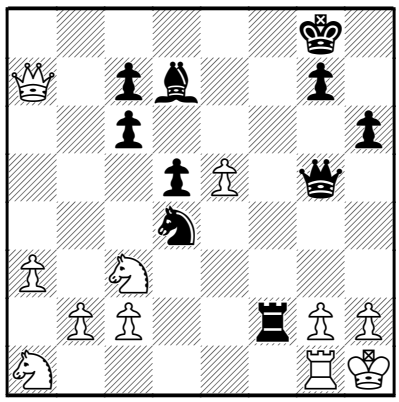
26.Re1 Qf5 27.Na1?

White does not realize his luck. He could kill the attack by 27.Nac5 Qxc2 28.Nxd7 Qxb3 29.Qb8+ Qxb8 30.Nxb8∓, with a likely draw.

27...Nd4

Again, Black is winning. He threatens 28...Ne2+.

28.Nc3 Qg5 29.Kh1 Rf2 30.Rg1



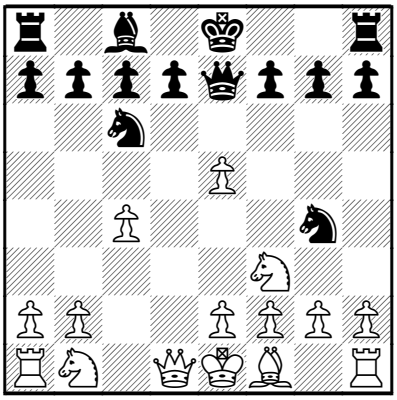
30...Bh3! 0–1

Black calculates 30...Bh3! 31.gxh3 Qf4 32.Rxg7+ (or 32.Rg3 Rf1+ 33.Rg1 Qf3 mate) 32...Kxg7 33.Qxc7+ Kg6 34.Qd6+ Kh5, mating.

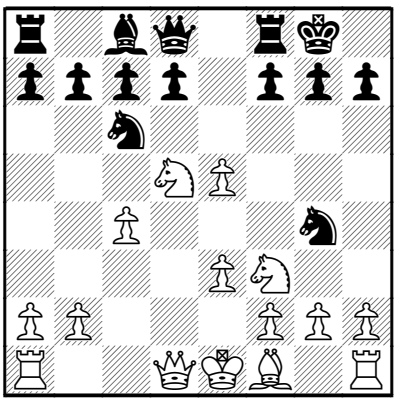
In the next game, Phillip Wang was just one point away from another IM norm with two rounds to go. This was his only loss in the tournament, but he did win in his final round. This game featured several twists and concluded with a difficult endgame with Queen, Bishop and two pawns against two Rooks and a Bishop.

Finally, we present a short win to fill our remaining space. (Thanks, Tim!)

Wang,Philip Xiao (2350) - Taylor,Timothy (2296)
[A52] Budapest Gambit
6th Metropolitan FIDE (8)
Los Angeles, 05.06.2011
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e5 3.dxe5 Ng4 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Bg5 Be7 6.Bxe7 Qxe7

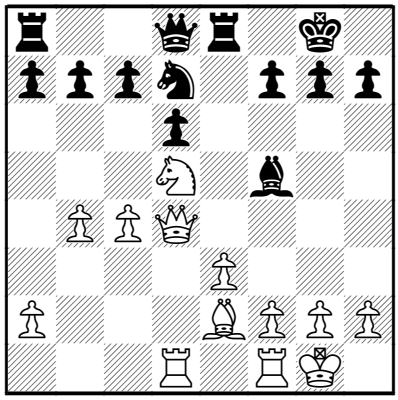


The Budapest is not like other openings.
7.Nc3 0–0 8.Nd5 Qd8 9.e3



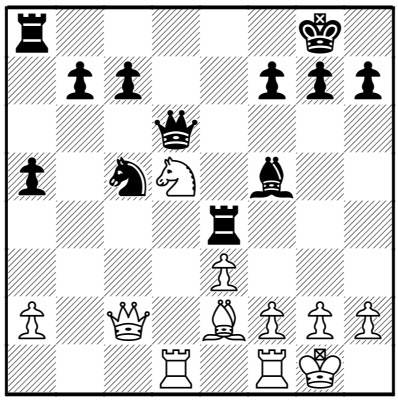
This line has been highly successful for White, but Fritz thinks it's just a normal, slight advantage.

Black plays a new move now.
9...Re8 10.Be2 Ngxe5 11.Nxe5 Nxe5 12.0–0 d6 13.Qd4 Bf5 14.Rad1 Nd7 15.b4



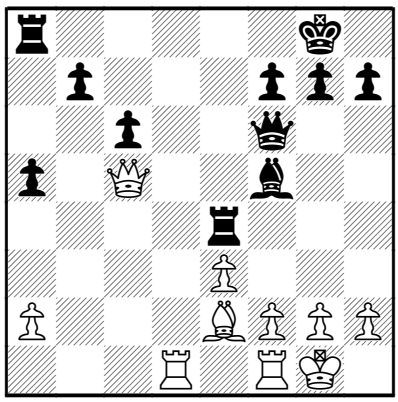
The action heats up, while White's center is strong.
15...a5

This interesting move certainly mixes it up.
16.c5 Re4 17.Qd2 dxc5 18.bxc5 Nxc5 19.Qc2 Qd6!

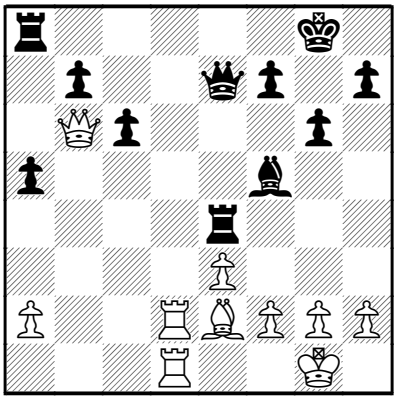


20.Nf6+

Keeping a balance was 20.Nc3 Rh4 (20...Qg6 21.Nd5 Qd6 22.Nc3 repeats the position) 21.Rxd6 Bxc2 22.Rd2 Bg6 23.Nd5, and Fritz thinks it's at least equal. The Black Rook seems out of play, while White's pieces are ready to mobilize, so that's presumably the compensation for White's pawn down.
20...Qxf6 21.Qxc5 c6



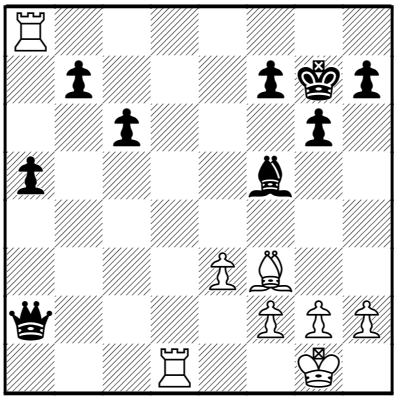
Now Black has a pawn plus and White has still to activate all his pieces.
22.Rd2 g6 23.Rfd1 Qe7 24.Qb6



Continuing on with same position was 24.Qc1 Be6 25.Bf3 but any optimism is sure to evaporate after 25... Ra4 26.Qa1.
24...Rb4!

The Queen is trapped. But at least White makes it complicated. Before, it looked like a slow death.
25.Rd8+

Black winds up with Queen and Pawn against two Rooks, but quickly gets an extra pawn.
25...Kg7 26.Qxb4 Qxb4 27.Rxa8 Qb2 28.Bf3 Qxa2



The smoke clears with a Queen against two Rooks material imbalance. Material imbalances are interesting.

Queens enjoy distant, unprotected enemy pieces and pawns. Come to think of it, the Black Queen just did enjoy an unprotected enemy pawn.

Also, Queens are happy with friendly pieces and pawns to cooper-

ate with; the more the better. Here, the Queen should be quite happy with the Black Bishop and Queenside pawns to team up with.

Rooks like to cooperate with each other, doubling on a critical rank or file. In this position, it's not nearly so easy to find something for them to do that will keep up any pressure.

For example ,the Black King seems to be able to escape, if necessary, from any doubled White Rook activity.

29.g4 Be6 30.g5

It looks like White was thinking the same thing. Now, it's looking like it a back rank Rook doubling would be fearsome.

30...f6

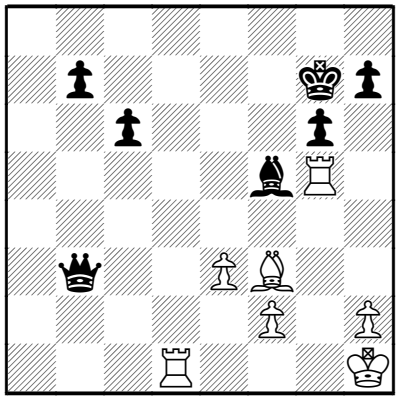
The alternative luft 30...h6!? would both shield the Black King from the side and maintain a strong point at e6. On the other hand, if White responds with 31.h4 hxg5 32.hxg5, maybe it's OK only if you are a computer, and see 32...Bb3 33.Rdd8 Qa1+! 34.Kg2 Qe5 35.Rg8+ Kh7.

Now White can't check on h8 because of the Queen for two Rook trade, Black's pawns are protected, and White's vital g5 pawn is about to go down. Everything's perfect. But without the computer's 33...Qa1+ idea, 30...h6 won't work.

31.Ra7 Qb3 32.Rxa5 fxg5 33.Rxg5 Bf5

White has picked up a pawn, but at the cost of reducing cooperation between the Rooks to a distant possibility.

34.Kh1



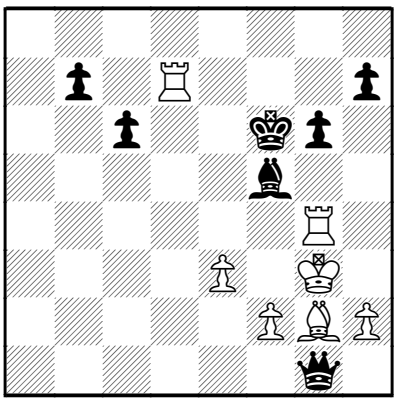
34...Be4

Now would be a good time to advance on the Queenside with 34... c5 35.Rgg1 b5, since the further those pawns get, the better they look.

After 34...c5, White might sacrifice the Exchange for a pawn with 35.Rxf5 gxf5 36.Rd7+ Kf6 37.Rxb7, but Black has 37...Qd3, and this still looks winning, as White has to pause to stop the mate.

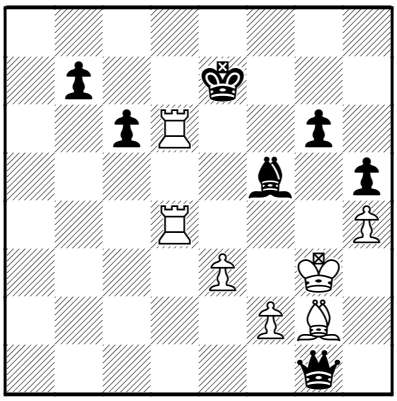
Instead, Black attacks in a manner that seems likely to provoke a mistake in the defense. Don't underestimate the Fear Factor when going after vital organs.

35.Rd7+ Kf6 36.Rg3 Qb1+ 37.Kg2 Bd3 38.Rg4 Qf1+ 39.Kg3 Qg1+ 40.Bg2 Bf5



Look at what White has to endure, with no likely reward in sight.

41.Rd6+ Ke7 42.Rgd4 h5 43.h4



White has been surviving quite well. But notice that those Black Queenside pawns have not gone away.

43...g5 44.hxg5 c5 45.Rd1

Now Black has to survive, too!

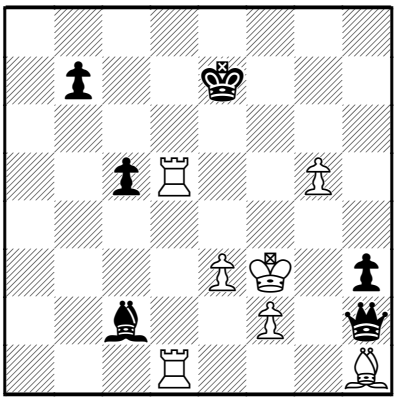
45...h4+ 46.Kf3 Qh2 47.R6d5 h3 48.Bh1

For if 48.Rxf5 then 48...Qxg2+ 49.Ke2 Qg4+ 50.Rf3 h2 and Black wins quickly.

cr

Timothy Taylor: Don't underestimate the Fear Factor.

48...Bc2!



More hassles for White.

The Bishop on h1 needs constant protection from the Rook, which will have to stay on the first rank. But it now has to move off the d-file, and the Rooks can no longer work together.

This alone creates great difficulties. Fritz thinks Black has just a slight advantage. Well, that's fine, if you're a computer.

49.Rc1

Checking won't work, as after 49.Rd7+ Ke6 50.R1d6+, Black wins this ending by trading down with 50...Qxd6 51.Rxd6+ Kxd6 52.Kg3 b5, and Black is better placed to advance his pawns and defend against White's pawn advances. One possible line is 53.e4 b4 54.g6 Ke6 55.f4 b3 56.f5+ Kf6 57.e5+ Kg7 58.e6 Bxf5! and Black is winning pawns and maintaining his Queening threat.

49...b6

White can't move his Bishop, and the Rook on c1 can't abandon it to capture the Black Bishop, for if now 50.Rxc2, Qxh1+ wins the Bishop back plus an additional Rook.

50.e4 Bb3! 51.Rf5

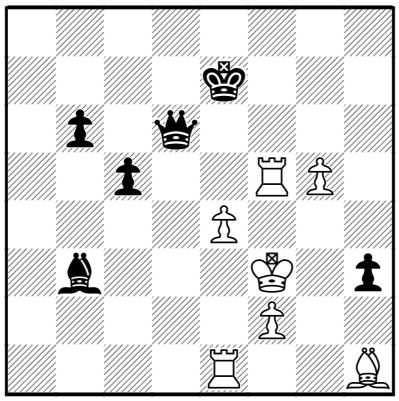
More stubborn was 51.Rd3 Be6! 52.Ke3 c4, but then those Black pawns can begin to move.

51...Qd6!

At last, the Queen is mobilized again. White will not be able to consolidate.

White, at long last, makes a big mistake. But the end was perhaps not so far off anyway.

52.Re1?



52...Bd1+! 53.Ke3 Qd4+ 54.Kf4 Qxf2+ 55.Ke5 Qxe1 56.Bf3 Qc3+ 0–1

Having won the Rook on e1, Black will win the Bishop on f3, too.

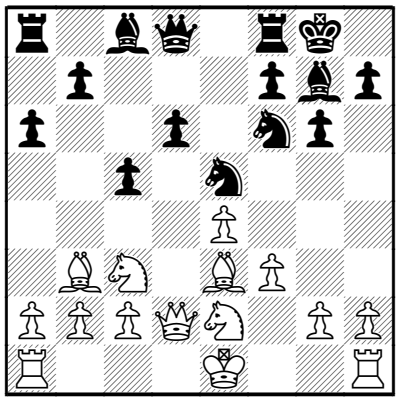
White's vigorous attacking activity paid off. It worked.

Akopyan,Harutyun (2224) - Taylor,Timothy (2296)
[C50]
6th Metropolitan FIDE (5)
Los Angeles, 03.06.2011

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 g6 5.Nc3 Bg7 6.Be3 Nf6 7.Bc4 d6 8.f3 0–0 9.Nde2

More usual is 9.Qd2 Ne5 10.Be2 d5 11.exd5 Nxd5 12.Nxd5 Qxd5, but it looks like Black is going to be at least equal here.

9...a6 10.Qd2 Ne5 11.Bb3 c5



Very direct. Black comes after the Bishop at the expense of making a backward pawn on an open file. It's an interesting call.

12.a4 c4 13.Ba2 b5 14.Rd1

It's very tempting to go with the strong point in your position.

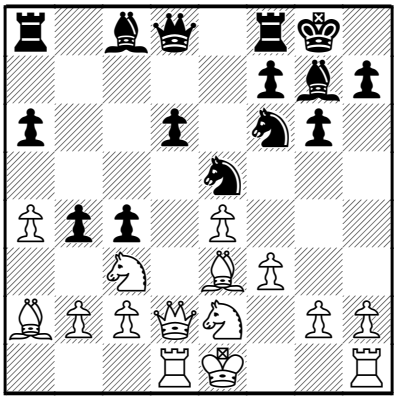
However, this is another good looking Rook move that is actually bad.

Two possibilities offer some complications, but it's hard to claim any advantage for White.

One line is 14.Nf4 b4 15.Ncd5 Nxd5 16.Nxd5. White has to be surprisingly careful on that recapture, for if 16.exd5, then 16...c3!!, and this pawn is deadly. Taking it with 17.bxc3 meets with the devastating 17...Nxf3+ 18.gxf3 Bxc3 and the Queen is lost.

Another try is 14.axb5 axb5 15.Nxb5 d5 16.0–0, and it's an unbalaced position.

14...b4!∓



15.Nd5??

Another reasonable looking move, but now it's all over.

The Knight's only other square would survive longer: 15.Nb1 Rb8 16.b3∓. But it would be painful to play.

15...Nxd5–+ 16.Qxd5

Or 16.exd5 b3! and if 17.cxb3, then cxb3 18.Bxb3 Rb8 19.Bc2 Nc4, and Black is on the verge of big material gains.

16...Be6 17.Qxd6

Other tries aren't any better.

One example is 17.Qb7 b3! 18.Bb1 (18.cxb3 cxb3 19.Bb1 Nc4 results in a cruel, never ending initiative, for example 20.Bc1 Qa5+ 21.Kf1 Bxb2 22.Bxb2 Nxb2 23.Re1 Qc5 and it doesn't end.) 18...Qh4+ 19.Bf2–+; 17.Qd2 c3 18.Qxd6 cxb2.

17...Nd3+! 0–1

White resigns, instead of going for 18.Rxd3 cxd3 19.Qxd8 Rfxd8 20.Bxe6 fxe6 21.cxd3 Rxd3 22.Bc1 Rb3, and White's weak Queenside pawns combined with Black's advantages in material, development, and initiative add up to a win. ♜

Amanov Wins 7th Metropolitan FIDE Invitational 7-2

Congratulations to IM Zhanibek Amanov, who scored 7-2 to win the 7th Metro FIDE Invitational in downtown Los Angeles. Second, one point behind, was 13-year-old Yian Liou. Third, at 5½, was Joel Banawa, and Andranik Matikozyan finished fourth at 5. *June 15-19, 2011*

We thank Metropolitan Chess for providing the following recap by Ankit Gupta. - Ed.

cr

By Ankit Gupta

The 7th Metropolitan Chess FIDE Invitational concluded last month on June 19th. It was organized by Ankit Gupta and directed by Randy Hough and Michael Belcher. No norms were achieved. Going into the final round NM Yian Liou (USA) had norm chances still if he would have been able to defeat SM Aghasi Inhants. However, he was held to a draw. IM Zhanibek Amanov was able to claim clear first with 7.0 out of 9.0.

The tournament was sponsored by California Market Center, Fashion Business, Inc, MonRoi, Chess.com, LawyerFy, and Betty Bottom Showroom.

Full standings from this tournament are fully updated on the website on the schedule page of the Metropolitan Chess website at www.metrochessla.com/schedule.php

The participants included: IM Zhanibek Amanov (KAZ), IM Timothy Taylor (USA), IM Andranik Matikozyan (ARM), SM Aghasi Inants (ARM), NM Samuel Sevian (USA), FM Joel Banawa (USA), WIM Lorena Zepeda (ESA), NM Konstantin Kavutskiy (USA), NM Ankit Gupta (USA), and NM Yian Liou (USA).

Alongside this event, we ran the

5th Metropolitan Chess FIDE Qualifier concurrently. This new qualifier series is meant to give opportunities to players under 2200 FIDE to qualify into the International Master norm round robins and to give opportunities to players with no FIDE ratings the chance to achieve FIDE performance norms. SM Jeff Arnold (USA) won this qualifier and earned a place in a future invitational.

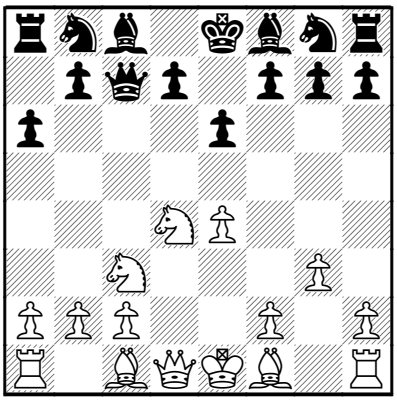
We have included a game annotated by IM Zhanibek Amanov below for your viewing from the 7th Metropolitan Chess FIDE Invitational.

Please join the Metropolitan Chess e-mailing list to keep updated on our events at www.metrochessla.com. Metropolitan Chess will run several more closed round robins this year before leading up to our main event, the 1st Metropolitan International, which will include the participation of super-GM Michael Adams.

Amanov,Zhanibek (2364) -
Liou,Yian (2273)
[B43]
7th Metropolitan FIDE (5)
Los Angeles USA, 17.06.2011
Notes by IM Zhanibek Amanov.

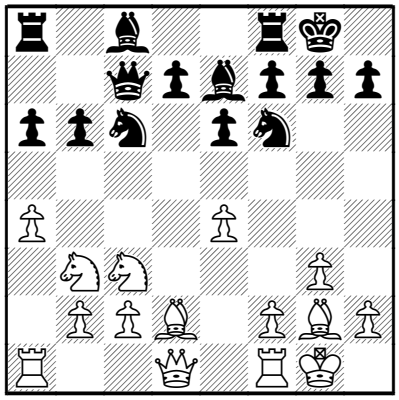
This was a game against a major competitor who fell behind by half a point but had a good chance to get a norm.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.Nc3 a6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Qc7 6.g3



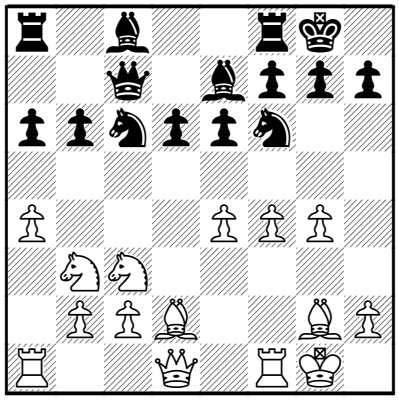
I love this move.

6...Bb4 7.Bd2 Nf6 8.Bg2 0–0 9.0–0 Be7 10.a4!? Nc6 11.Nb3 b6



Black should not allow White to play a5, after which White can put pressure on the Queenside. I like this system because White can play on the Kingside and also on the Queenside.

12.f4 d6 13.g4!



When White stops Black's game on the Queenside, White can afford to attack on the Kingside.

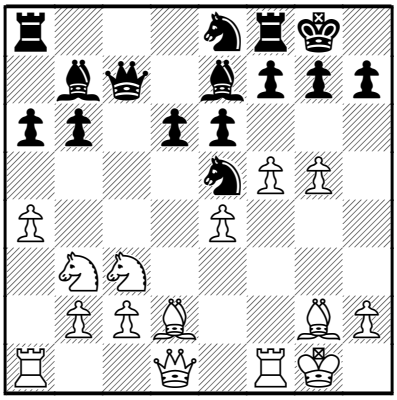
13...Bb7 14.g5 Ne8?

A very passive move. It would have been much better to play Nd7 instead.

15.f5

White's game on the Kingside runs very easy.

15...Ne5



Here I found out that Black doesn't have a good plan. The only counterplay is associated with the b6-b5 break. All I had to do was prevent this break.

16.Qe2!

If White continues to attack with 16.h4, for example, Black has 16...b5!

Round by Round Pairings, Colors, and Scores		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1 Taylor, Timothy W	USA	W10	W2	B3	W4	B5	W6	B7	W8	B9
2296		½	½	½	1	1	1	1½	1½	2
2 Liou, Yian	USA	W9	B1	W10	W3	B4	W5	B6	W7	B8
2273		½	1½	2	3	3	4	4½	5½	6
3 Kavutskiy, Konstantin	USA	W8	B9	W1	B2	W10	W4	B5	W6	B7
2190		½	1	2	2	3	3	3½	3½	4
4 Amanov, Zhanibek	KAZ	W7	B8	W9	B1	W2	B3	W10	W5	B6
2364		**1**	**2**	**3**	**3½**	**4½**	**5½**	**6**	**6½**	**7**
5 Zepeda, Lorena	ESA	W6	B7	W8	B9	W1	B2	W3	B4	W10
2185		**1**	1	1	2	3	3	3½	4	4
6 Matikozyan, Andranik	ARM	B5	B10	W7	B8	W9	B1	W2	B3	W4
2458		0	½	1	1½	2	3	3½	4½	5
7 Gupta, Ankit	USA	B4	W5	B6	B10	W8	B9	W1	B2	W3
2273		0	1	1½	2	3	3½	4	4	4½
8 Inants, Aghasi	ARM	B3	W4	B5	W6	B7	B10	W9	B1	W2
2290		½	½	1½	2	2	2	2½	3½	4
9 Sevian, Samuel	USA	B2	W3	B4	W5	B6	W7	B8	B10	W1
2168		½	1	1	1	1½	2	2½	2½	3
10 Banawa, Joel	USA	B1	W6	B2	W7	B3	W8	B4	W9	B5
2399		½	1	1½	2	2	3	3½	4½	5½

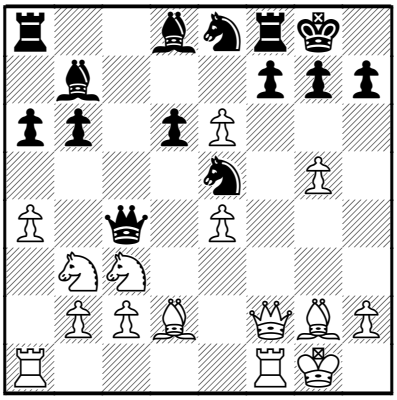
Time control: 40 moves / 90 minutes + SD / 30 minutes + 30 second increment throughout.

17.axb5 Qb6+ 18.Kh2 axb5⇄ with counterplay.

16...Qc4

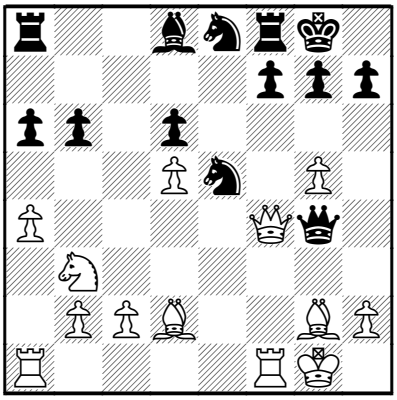
Black has to do something.

17.Qf2 Bd8 18.fxe6!



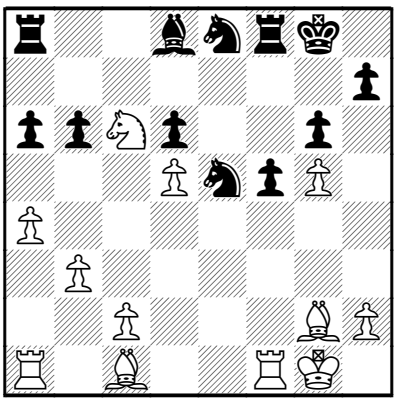
White immediately takes advantage of his strength on the f-file to obtain the d5 square for the Knight, for if 18...fxe6, then 19.Qxf8 mate.

18...Qxe6 19.Nd5 Bxd5 20.exd5 Qg4 21.Qf4!



White can now offer the exchange of Queens, as after a White Knight jumps to c6, Black's position becomes difficult.

21...Qxf4 22.Bxf4 Nc4 23.Bc1 f5 24.Nd4 g6 25.b3 Ne5 26.Nc6!

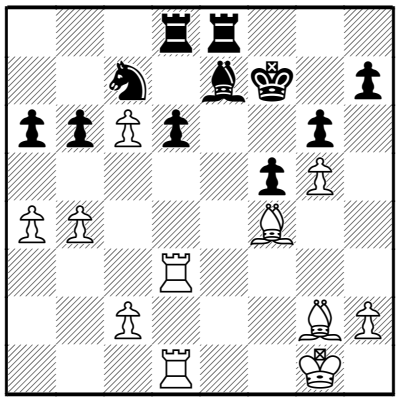


After this move Black's position can be considered hopeless.

26...Nxc6 27.dxc6 Nc7 28.Bf4 Be7 29.Rad1 Rad8 30.Rd3

Black doesn't have any counterplay at all.

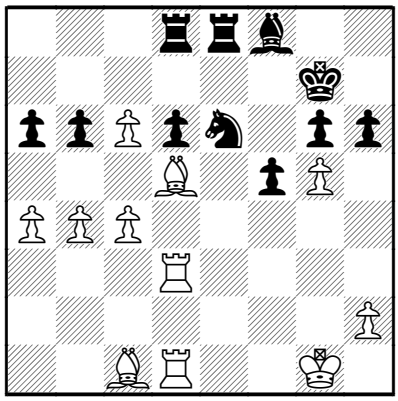
30...Rfe8 31.Rfd1 Kf7 32.b4



Here I could already pick up the pawn on d6.

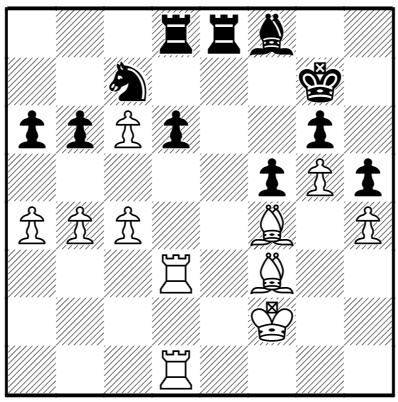
(But why, if you can extend the enjoyment of the position?)

32...Bf8 33.c4 Ne6 34.Bd5 Kg7 35.Bc1 h6



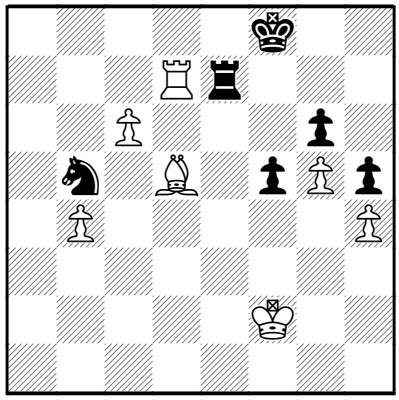
White threatened Bb2+.

36.h4 Kh7 37.Kf2 Nc7 38.Bf3 h5 39.Bf4 Kg7



And here I started to get tired and decided that it was time to end the game.

40.Bxd6 Bxd6 41.Rxd6 Rxd6 42.Rxd6 Re7 43.Bd5 b5 44.cxb5 axb5 45.axb5 Nxb5 46.Rd7 Kf8



47.Bc4 Nc7 48.b5

1–0

Black resigned.

Three examples of what could have happened are:

48...Rxd7 49.cxd7 Ke7 50.b6+-;

48...Na8 49.Rd8+ Re8 50.Rxa8!+-;

and 48...Ke8 49.Rxe7+ Kxe7 50.b6+-. - Ed.

Notes to the following game were provided by Jack Peters. It was one of those games in which a complicated line had been previously refuted, and one player probably knew it. It happens sometimes.

Zepeda,Lorena (2185) - Matikozyan,Andranik (2458)
[B81] Sicilian Defense Najdorf Variation
7th Metropolitan FIDE (1)
Los Angeles, 15.06.2011

Notes by IM Jack Peters.

This first-round upset had a profound effect, as tournament favorite Matikozyan never got rolling and did not challenge for first place.

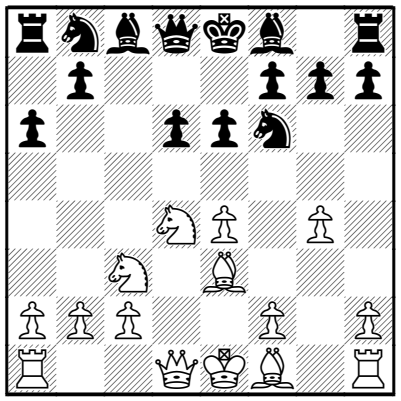
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3

One of White's most aggressive treatments of the Najdorf Sicilian.

6...e6

Black chooses a Scheveningen formation. Also popular is the Najdorf-style 6...e5.

7.g4!?



7...b5

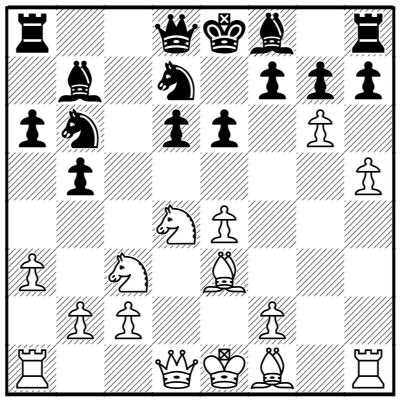
Transposing to an inferior variation of the Keres Attack against the Scheveningen. Black formerly grabbed material by 7...e5 8.Nf5 g6 9.g5 gxf5, but White has scored well with the speculative 10.exf5.

The latest battleground is 7...h6.

8.g5 Nfd7 9.h4 Bb7 10.a3 Nb6

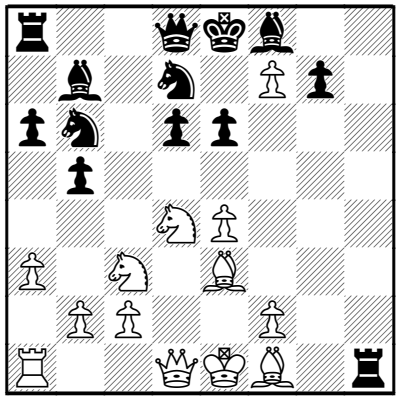
A standard maneuver that just doesn't work. It seems Black must settle for 10...Nc6.

11.h5 N8d7 12.g6!



This idea shatters Black's position by undermining e6. The older 12.Rh3 d5 may be acceptable for Black.

12...hxg6 13.hxg6 Rxh1 14.gxf7+



14...Ke7

Not much better is 14...Kxf7 15.Qf3+ Nf6 16.Qxh1 because White can threaten Black's exposed King and his vulnerable e-pawn.

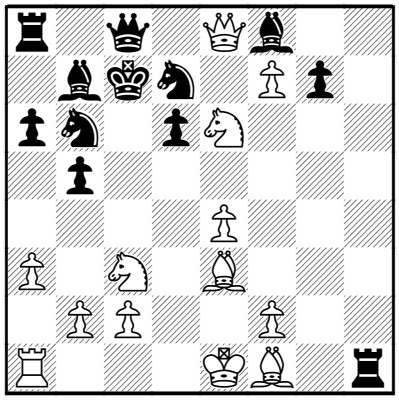
The game Peter Svidler - Mikhail Nepomniashchy, St. Petersburg 1996, continued 16...Qc7 17.Nf3 Kg8 18.Ng5 Re8 19.0–0–0 d5 20.Qh3 Bc8?! 21.Bxb5, and Black resigned before 22.Rh1 set up checkmate.

Or, if 14...Kxf7 15.Qf3+ Qf6 16.Qxh1 Ne5?!, White gains a pawn by 17.Nxe6 Qxe6 (Not 17... Nf3+? 18.Qxf3 Qxf3 19.Ng5+) 18.Bxb6, as in the 1991 Michael Adams - Curt Hansen game that introduced 12. g6!

15.Qg4 Qc8

Forced, as 15...Nc5 loses the Queen to 16.Bg5+.

16.Qxe6+ Kd8 17.Qe8+ Kc7 18.Ne6+



18...Kc6

Black has no satisfactory move.

If 18...Kb8 19.Nxf8 Nxf8 20.Bxb6, White has the best center pawn (e4), a dangerous passer (f7) and a very annoying Bishop (b6) in return for Black's non-functioning Rook at a8.

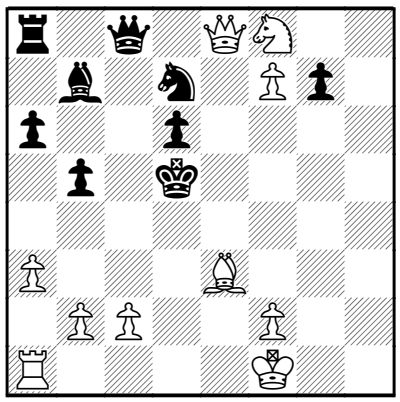
19.Nd5!

Threatening primarily 20.Nb4 mate.

19...Rxf1+

After 19...Nxd5, Black gets mated by 20.exd5+ Kxd5 21.0–0–0+ Kc6 22. Bg2+. In this line, if 21...Ke5, then 22.Nd8+ and if 21...Ke4, then 22.Ng5+.

20.Kxf1 Nxd5 21.exd5+ Kxd5 22.Nxf8



22...Kc6

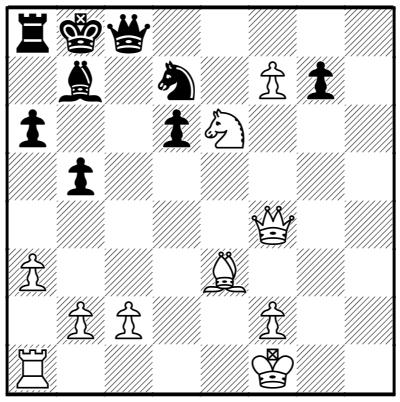
In Vassilios Kotronias - Krum Georgiev, Karditsa 1994, Black resigned after 22...Ne5 23.Rd1+ Ke4 24.Rd4+ Kf5 25.Rf4+ because he foresaw 25...Kg5 26.Qe7+ Kh5 27.Rh4 mate;

The only way to prolong the game is to yield material by 22...Qxe8 23.fxe8Q Rxe8 24.Nxd7 Kc6 25.Nb6 Rxe3 26.fxe3 Kxb6, which is obviously hopeless for Black.

23.Qe4+ Kc7

Or 23...d5 24.Qe6+ Kc7 25.Bf4+.

24.Ne6+ Kb8 25.Qf4 1-0



Black must lose a piece for the f-pawn. Matikozyan appropriately resigned.

In a 1993 game in Switzerland, Black played 25...Qc4+ 26.Qxc4 bxc4 27.f8Q+ Nxf8 28.Nxf8 Be4 29.Ne6 Kb7 30.Nd4 before throwing in the towel.

Prior games were quoted up until the end of this game, and even beyond. It must be tough to realize that you played into a known bad line. On the other hand, it's probably nice to win a game like this. -Ed.

SCCF Candidates Tournament Qualifies Five for the Championship Finals

June 25-26, 2011

By Randall Hough

The annual event to qualify five (this time) players for the State Invitational Championship was held June 25-26 at the Beverly Hills Chess Club. **IM Tim Taylor** and **Josh Gutman** tied for first at 3-1, but the real action was in the 2½ score group, with young **Vincent Huang** and **Michael Brown** (our representatives in the Denker and Barber tournaments of scholastic champions) drawing quickly to assure qualification.

FM Eugene Yanayt made a short draw with Taylor to snare the final spot. Craig Clawitter and Roger Norman came up short in the tiebreak (FM Gregg Small also scored 2½, but would have been unable to play in the finals anyway).

The five players will join **IM Jack Peters**, **IM-elect Roman Yankovsky**, and newly-minted **WGM Tatev Abrahamyan** in the finals, to be held August 13-14 and 27-28 at the same venue (8950 Olympic Blvd., Suite 210, Beverly Hills 90211). Spectators are welcome. ♜

Pair Num	Player Name / USCF ID / Rtg (Pre->Post)	Total Pts	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4
1	TIMOTHY W TAYLOR	3.0	W 9	D 4	W 7	D 3
CA	10153557 / R: 2345 ->2352	N:M				
2	JOSHUA GUTMAN	3.0	W 13	D 5	W 6	H 0
CA	12880989 / R: 2168 ->2189					
3	EUGENE YANAYT	2.5	W 16	L 7	W 13	D 1
CA	12598805 / R: 2306 ->2305	N:C				
4	GREGG H SMALL	2.5	X 0	D 1	W 11	U 0
CA	10228972 / R: 2257 ->2264					
5	MICHAEL WILLIAM BROWN	2.5	W 8	D 2	H 0	D 7
CA	13289023 / R: 2250 ->2254					
6	CRAIG CLAWITTER	2.5	D 11	W 15	L 2	W 12
CA	12800135 / R: 2237 ->2235	N:C				
7	VINCENT HUANG	2.5	W 10	W 3	L 1	D 5
CA	12871188 / R: 2224 ->2235	N:C				
8	ROGER NORMAN	2.5	L 5	W 9	D 12	W 11
CA	12558636 / R: 2150 ->2158	N:C				
9	CHRISTIAN TANAKA	2.0	L 1	L 8	B 0	W 15
CA	12870021 / R: 2182 ->2177					
10	YUSHENG XIA	2.0	L 7	D 16	D 15	W 13
CA	13471910 / R: 2126 ->2130	N:1				
11	ALBERT LU	1.5	D 6	W 12	L 4	L 8
CA	13919220 / R: 2085 ->2086	N:1				
12	WILLIS A KIM	1.5	W 15	L 11	D 8	L 6
CA	12416646 / R: 2062 ->2064	N:1				
13	DANIEL JACOB GIORDANI	1.0	L 2	W 14	L 3	L 10
CA	13713402 / R: 2077 ->2073					
14	KONSTANTIN KAVUTSKIY	0.5	H 0	L 13	U 0	U 0
CA	12742780 / R: 2290 ->2277					
15	VADIM KUDRYAVTSEV	0.5	L 12	L 6	D 10	L 9
CA	13315303 / R: 2211 ->2183					
16	TAKASHI KUROSAKI	0.5	L 3	D 10	U 0	U 0
CA	12501916 / R: 2162 ->2156					
17	ALEJANDRINO BALURAN	0.0	F 0	U 0	U 0	U 0
CA	12218060 / R: 2126 ->2126					

We are pleased to present three games by the winners, two by Timothy Taylor and one by Joshua Gutman. Notes are by the Editor.

Taylor,Timothy (2296) - Tanaka,Christian (2098)
[D42] Queen's Gambit Declined Semi-Tarrasch
SCCF Candidates (1)
Beverly Hills, 25.06.2011

1.e4 d5

The Center Counter. This game takes a number of opening turns.

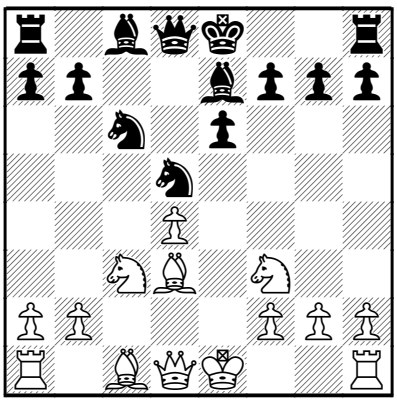
2.exd5 Nf6 3.c4 c6

This is an interesting gambit by Black that is best not to accept.

4.d4 cxd5 5.Nc3 e6

The Panov-Botvinnik Attack of the Caro-Kann.

6.Nf3 Be7 7.cxd5 Nxd5 8.Bd3 Nc6

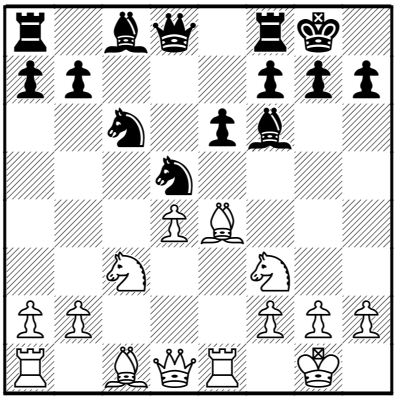


And finally, the position that the Chessbase opening classifier uses to designate this game as a Semi-Tarrasch. From that point of view, here is one route to this position: 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 c5 5.cxd5 Nxd5 6.e3 Be7 7.Bd3 cxd4 8.exd4 Nc6.

A look at the games with this position among the top rated players shows that the most frequently seen route is via the Caro-Kann.

However, our research turned up one prior example of this game's particular Center Counter move order between grandmasters: Gulko - Kaidanov, Key West, 1994.

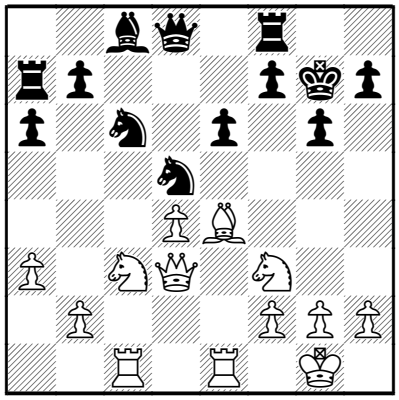
9.0–0 0–0 10.Re1 Bf6 11.Be4



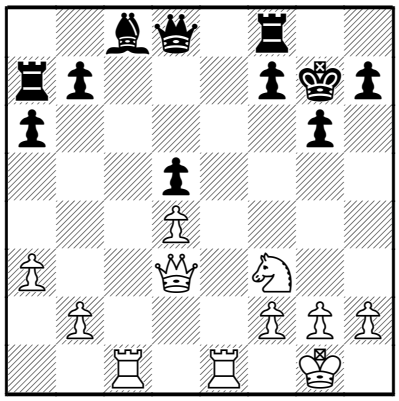
11...a6

With Black, Karpov has been here several times and each time played 11...Nce7 12.Qd3 h6.

12.a3 Ra7 13.Qd3 g6 14.Bh6 Bg7 15.Bxg7 Kxg7 16.Rac1



16...Nce7 17.Bxd5 Nxd5 18.Nxd5 exd5



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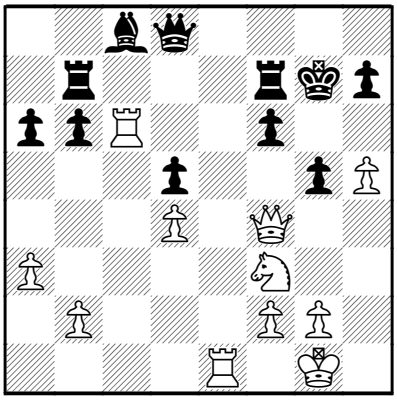
White has far superior pieces, and now goes to work on the Black position.

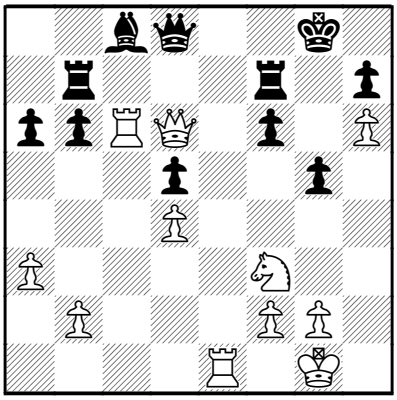
19.Qe3 b6 20.h4 f6 21.Rc6 Rff7 22.Qf4 Rab7 23.h5 g5



24.h6+! Kg8

Black has no choice but to retreat and then worry about the back rank, for if 24...Kxh6, then 25.Qxg5 mate!

25.Qd6



25...Qf8??

With the weakened King situation, it's better with the Queens off. Black had to play 25...Qxd6 26.Rxd6 Rf8± 27.Rxd5 and try to hang on a pawn down. At least the King would have been of some use, for example, with 27...Kf7.

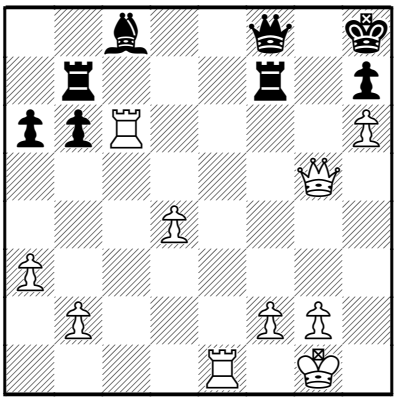
26.Qxd5

White has s gained a pawn, but those White pieces are not yet done. The Queen still has quite a bit more work to do.

26...Kh8 27.Rec1

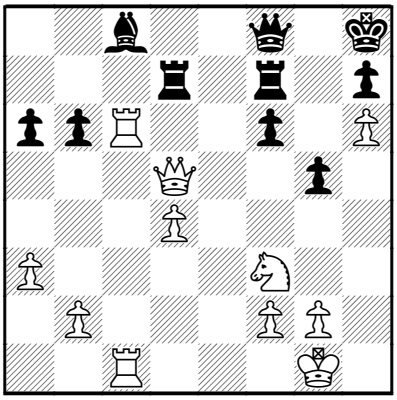
More heat.

Totally ***not*** like a human would have been the computer's line 27.Ne5! fxe5 28.Qxe5+ Kg8 29.Qxg5+ Kh8, which deserves a diagram:



Now it's time for the amazing 30.Re8!! Qxe8 31.Qe5+!! Qxe5 32.Rxc8+ with mate in two.

27...Rbd7



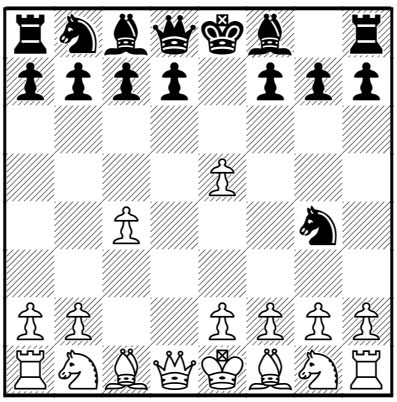
Even if 27...Bd7, White has 28.Rxf6!! Rxf6 29.Qxb7.

28.Qxf7!! 1–0

For if 28...Qxf7, then 29.Rxc8+ Qg8 30.Rxg8+ Kxg8 31.Rc6+- with a piece and two pawns extra.

Huang,Vincent (2128) - Taylor,Timothy (2296)
[A52] Budapest Gambit
SCCF Candidates (3)
Beverly Hills, 26.06.2011

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e5 3.dxe5 Ng4



4.Nf3

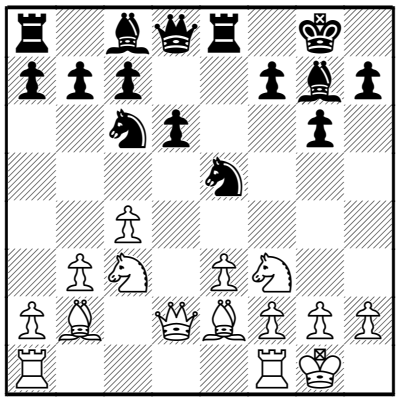
More of a main line is 4.Bf4 Nc6 5.Nf3 Bb4+ 6.Nbd2 Qe7 7.e3 Ngxe5 8.Nxe5 Nxe5 9.Be2 0–0 10.0–0, and now 10...Ng6 11.Bg3 Bd6 12.Bxd6 Qxd6 has seen decent results with Black. These types of positions are not much like other openings.

4...Nc6 5.Nc3 Ngxe5 6.e3

White still has to respect ...Bc5, which would come after 6.e4.

But stronger is 6.Nxe5 Nxe5, and now Fritz the computer likes two moves that don't even make his own book: 7.Bf4 and 7.g3. For more information on this opening, you can't do better than the recently published *The Budapest Gambit* by Timothy Taylor. [Hey, wait. That's you, Tim!]

6...d6 7.Be2 g6 8.b3 Bg7 9.Bb2 0–0 10.0–0 Re8 11.Qd2



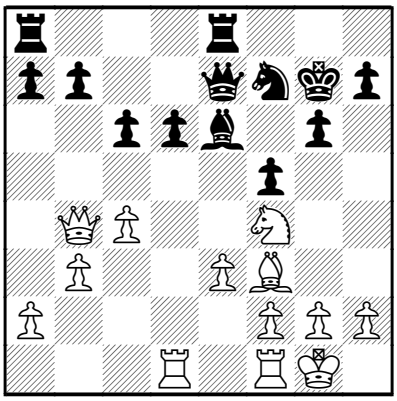
Vincent Huang: also qualified. cr

Both sides have nearly completed their development.

11...Nxf3+ 12.Bxf3 Ne5 13.Be2 f5N 14.Nd5 c6 15.Nf4 Nf7

Black has ousted the White Knight and weakened his d6 pawn. However, the Knight is assigned to hold the pawn and cover the d-file.

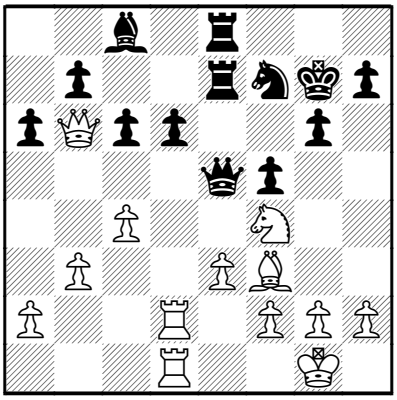
16.Rad1 Qe7 17.Bxg7 Kxg7 18.Bf3 Be6 19.Qb4



cr

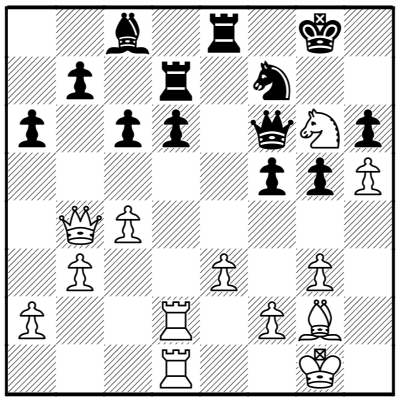
Inside the Beverly Hills Chess Club: At the tournament.

19...Rab8 20.Qa3 a6 21.Rd2 Rbd8 22.Rfd1 Bc8 23.Qa5 Qe5 24.Qb4 Re7 25.Qb6 Rde8



White has some more space and holds the center, so an advance on the Black Kingside seems justified.

26.h4 Qf6 27.g3 Kg8 28.Bg2 Rd7 29.Qb4 h6 30.h5 g5 31.Ng6



Other than the two Queens, and the Rook on e8, the only piece on the board that is not protected is the h5 pawn. If Black can't ever get at it, though, it's all right. It seems quite safe for now, right?

31...Rdd8 32.Qa3??

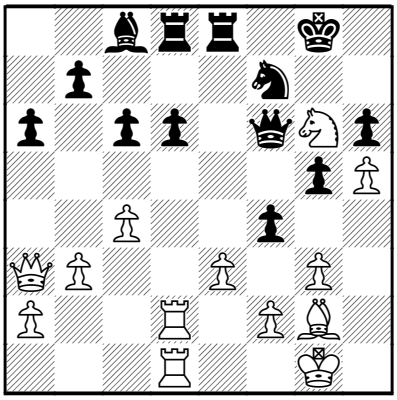
There was a threat, but also a defense to it.

cr

Timothy Taylor: a diagonal is opened.

White maintains his strong position with 32.Rd3, since 32...f4 can be cleverly answered by 33.exf4 Bg4 34.Bf3! as the Rook on d3 assists the Bishop.

32...f4!



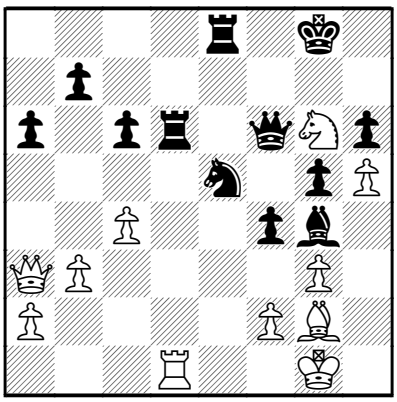
Suddenly, this game has changed. A diagonal is opened, and Black's Bishop is all excited about those sensitive White d1 and h5 squares. The unprotected h-pawn is now on center stage, and the White Knight is understandably quite worried.

This turn of events seems quite abrupt, and Black's 31st move may have looked innocent at the time, but there was only one remaining obstruction between the Black Bishop on c8 and the important g4 square.

33.e4 Bg4 34.e5 Nxe5

Black still gets the Knight with 34...Qe6 35.f3 Bxh5.

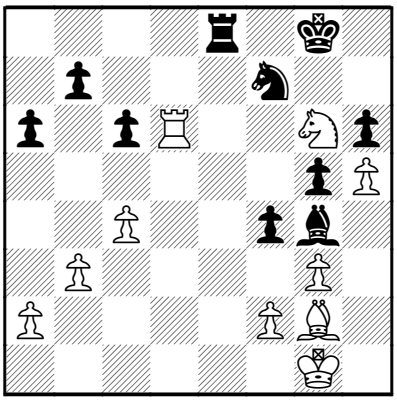
35.Rxd6 Rxd6



36.Qxd6

The other recapture, 36.Rxd6, is shockingly answered with 36...Nf3+!! 37.Bxf3 Bxf3! and the mate threats are deadly.

36...Qxd6 37.Rxd6 Nf7



38.Rd7??

The endgame is lost for White. But he can still save the Knight with the amazing 38.Rd4! Bxh5 39.Re4!! Rxe4 (better than 39...Rd8 as White still saves the Knight with 40.Ne7+ Kg7 41.Nf5+ Kf6 42.Nd4 Bg6 43.Re6+ Kg7) 40.Bxe4.

38...Bxd7 0–1

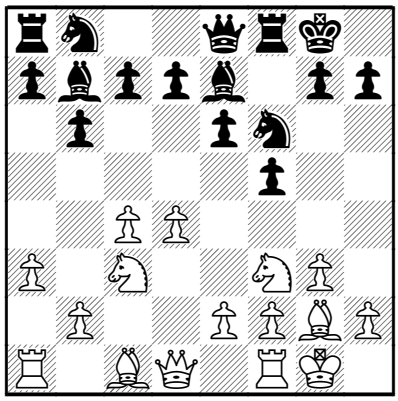
Black just takes the Rook.

The backward diagonal defensive move is probably the most frequently overlooked idea in practical play.

Joshua Gutman: tied for first. as

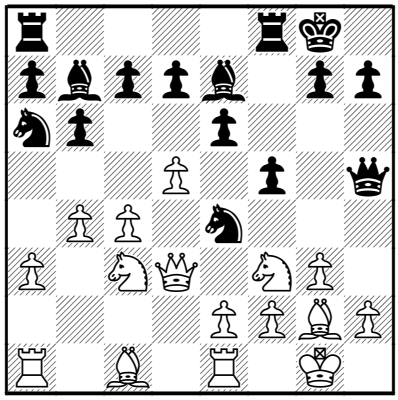
Gutman,Joshua (2095) - Clawitter,Craig (2107)
[A40] Unusual Replies to 1 d4
SCCF Candidates (3)
Beverly Hills, 26.06.2011

1.d4 e6 2.c4 b6 3.a3 Bb7 4.Nf3 f5 5.g3 Nf6 6.Bg2 Be7 7.0–0 0–0 8.Nc3 Qe8



A Classical Dutch Defense.

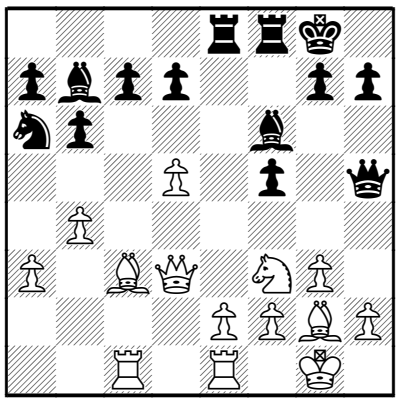
9.d5 Qh5 10.Re1 Na6 11.b4 Ne4 12.Qd3



12...Bf6

More trouble for White is created with 12...Nxc3 13.Qxc3 Bf6.

13.Bd2 exd5 14.cxd5 Rae8 15.Rac1 Nxc3 16.Bxc3±



White enjoys a nice advantage, considering the Black Knight's distant post and the Black Bishop duty to protect it from the Queen, at least for a while.

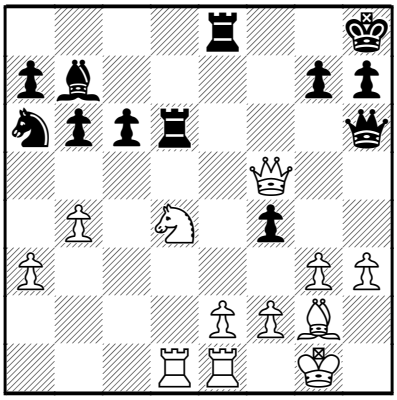
16...f4 17.Bxf6 Rxf6 18.Rcd1 Kh8 19.h3 Rd6 20.Nd4 c5?

White has a great reply.

21.dxc6 dxc6 22.Qf5!

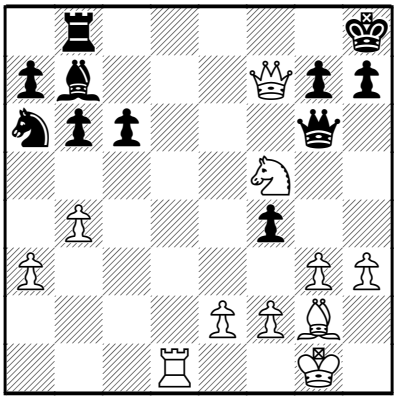
Suddenly, White has a winning advantage.

22...Qh6?



This leads to a quicker end. 22... Qg6 23.Qxf4 Rf6+- should hold out longer.

23.Qf7! Rb8 24.Nf5! Rxd1 25.Rxd1 Qg6



26.Qxb7!!

It's a weak Black back rank!

26...Qxf5

For if 26...Rxb7, then 27.Rd8+ with a mate.

27.Qxb8+!! 1–0

White mates after 27...Nxb8 28.Rd8+.

Good luck to all at the SCCF Championship Final! And we hope everyone enjoys the hospitality at the Beverly Hills Chess Club. ♜

Here and There

Local News and Events Around the Southland

*With "***Here and There***" in your subject line, please send your club or tournament news and notices to the editor at:* RankAndFileEditor@gmail.com.

photo credit: Daa Mahowald

Chess at the Thunder On The Lot Festival

La Palma

La Palma Chess Club

Unrated newcomer Santy Villanueva and Joanne Koong tied for first place in LPCC's School's Out Swiss with a score of 4.5-0.5.

The 25-player event was held at La Palma's Central Park and ended June 3, 2011.

Other prize winners were Mark Jackson, best U1800; Daniel Rozsa, best U1600; and Tony Gray, best U1400. Rozsa also won the biggest upset prize for his 392 point upset of Sid Somasundaram. Complete standings and a schedule of events is posted at the club's website: www.lapalmachess.com.

- Chris Roberts

Lancaster

The 17th Annual Thunder on the Lot Festival (the largest non-profit fundraising event in the Antelope Valley) included an all-day Chess Event.

Of the thousands who attended the festival, it's estimated that almost two hundred participated in the various chess activities at the Antelope Valley Fairgrounds on Sunday, June 12.

Those activities included two Chess Workshops, lots of casual chess, a Simultaneous Exhibition, and two chess tournaments.

Sponsors of the chess event included The AV Chess House, Challengers Chess League, and the Chess Club of the High Desert.

See www.ThunderOnTheLot.com *for more on this festival, which raises funds to support Kids Charities of the Antelope Valley. - Ed.*

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: these are this year's remaining dates for the **AV Chess House** first-Saturday-of-every-month, rated QUADs: August 6, September 3, October 1, November 5, and December 3.

10am – 2pm: LOC AV Chess House, Lancaster CA. TC G/30. PZ 1st $30; 2nd $15. EF $20. RDs 10:15, 11:30, 12:45. USCF req. Must email preregister – no walk-ins accepted: daa@mahowald.org

Chess Meet Ups in the Antelope Valley

The Chess Club of the High Desert meets for casual play twice a week:

Mondays: 7:30-10pm, at BeX (706 Lancaster Blvd., Lancaster CA)

Wednesdays: 8-10am at the Bandstand Coffeeshop (706 Lancaster Blvd., Lancaster CA)

Just show up or contact organizer Robert Huizer robh.2010@yahoo.com for more details or visit MeetUp.com/ChessClub.

AV Vets Chess Club

U.S. Veterans' Chess Club. October 20, 2011 – April 12, 2012. Thursdays, 6:30-8pm at the William J. "Pete" Knight Veteran's Home of California, 45221 30th St. W., Lancaster CA 93556. Free. Registration required at site. Bring your DD214 or other proof of veteran status. (Active Duty Personnel also welcome.) Contact: Mark.Chapa@va.gov

Chess Club for Mentally Disabled Adults

A club designed specifically for mentally disabled adults (and their adult relatives) is being organized. For 20 weeks, beginning in October, the club will meet 4-5:30pm at the Lancaster Moose Lodge.

Contact: Bob or Myriam Marshall 661-547-5169 info@chesslighthouse.com

Checkmate Chess Club

Thursdays, 3:30-5pm at the old Fire Station, 44806 Cedar Ave., Lancaster CA 93534. Free. All ages and skill levels are welcome to learn and/or play in a supportive atmosphere.

The Checkmate Chess Club began August 19, 2010 and met at the Lancaster Library every week for 10 months. Increasingly, the library's meeting room became busier and the club cannot use the room consistently anymore. However, because the Solid Rock Bible Church has generously offered to host the club, we can continue to meet at the same time and the same day of the week, just in the new location which is just one block south of the library.

Contact: daa@mahowald.org

Alondra Park
4 miles SE of LAX

Alondra Park Chess Club

After taking clear first in Alondra Park's first tournament of 2011, Matt Trass shared first place in Alondra's second tournament of the year. Also first with 5-1 was Michael Bynum who lost to Matt in the second round. Sharing 3-4 were Ted Roth, who beat Trass in round 3, and top expert Matt Robertson. Thirty three players participated with Richard Meller sharing director duties with Robertson.

Matt Trass: First, again. ap

Top A Julian Lin mixed things up in April, sharing first at 5-1 with Matt Robertson. Expert Joseph Roth, who beat Lin in round 5 and lost to Robertson in round 6 finished with 4 1/2. Very equitably sharing 3-6 place with Roth were an A-player (Joseph's father Ted), top B Richard Varela and Top C Guy Hocker. Richard Meller directed 37 players.

Matt Robertson: Tied for first in April. ap

The Alondra Park Chess Club meets Tuesday evenings in the clubhouse at 3850 W. Manhattan Beach Blvd., Lawndale. For more information contact Richard Meller at RichardMeller@yahoo.com or the club's Website: http://www.alondraparkchessclub.com/

- Al Pena

Pasadena

Pasadena Chess Club

Sandy He, Mike Carlson, and 10-year-old Albert Lu tied for first in the top section of the **Pasadena City Open**. Terrence Sun (Under 2000); and Christopher Hung, Gerald Ruiz, and Annie Wang (Under 1800) earned class prizes.

In Section Two, George Situ scored 5-0 for first, with Robert Head, Rob Minoofar, and Shaileja Jain taking class prizes. The player total was 55.

The **Mount Wilson Open** drew 50 players, with Jesse Victoria and Jonathan Homidan splitting honors in Section One and Wendell Salveron and Vachagan Hovsepyan getting class laurels.

Section Two saw Roberto Queiro and Razmik Gevorgyan tied for first; Tim Deng, Jim Marshall, and Jennifer Lu equal Under 1500; Winston Qian first Under 1300; and Hugo Medina and Giao Nguyen splitting Under 1100.

Along the way, one-night **Quick tournaments** were won by Alen Melikadmian (a 10-0 sweep) and Sandy He (an 8-0 whitewash). Each event had 30 players.

The Pasadena Club meets Fridays at 7 pm, Boys and Girls Club, 3230 East Del Mar. Its website is: tim-thompson.com/pasadena.html.

- Randall Hough

Santa Monica

Santa Monica Bay Chess Club

Elusive Bonus Prize Remains "Up for Grabs"

Allan Karman 2119 won the Santa Monica Bay Chess Club's **"C-Note Swiss"** held in June with a score of 3½ out of 4. Pete Savino 1638 took the Class B Prize with a 2 point score while Raymond Montalvo 1599, with 2½ points, took the Class C prize.

The $100 Bonus Prize remained unclaimed as the event failed to produce a perfect score. This resulted in the $100 bill bonus being carried over to the July Swiss Tournament, which is currently underway. If it also does not produce a perfect score, the August Swiss will offer the bonus prize. That $100 bonus would go to the player who wins clear 1st Place without losses or draws.

Santa Monica Bay Chess club will hold that **August 4 round Swiss Tournament** on Monday evenings

from August 8 to August 29, 2011.

Rounds begin at 7:10 p.m. continuing no later than 11:00 p.m. Time control is G/1:55. Registration begins 7:00 p.m. on August 8, 2011. Entry fee is $10 with Club membership ($40 at this point in the year). The event is USCF rated. Cash prizes, including class prizes, will be awarded based on number of entries.

The Club is located in the St. Andrew's Church Library at 11555 National Blvd. West Los Angeles at corner of Federal/Barry Ave. at National Blvd. Contact: TD Pete Savino (310) 827-2789.

Website and e-mail: SantaMonicaBayChessClub.sports.officelive.com, smbchess@yahoo.com.

San Diego

San Diego Chess Club

The 6 week **Gary Tuttle Tournament** concluded on May 25th and was split into a Fast Section (G/90) with 41 players, and a Slow Section (40/90,SD/60) with 32 players, for a total of 73 players. Having a choice of time controls is a big plus for our members, as some players refuse to play "fast" games, while others want to get home at a reasonable hour.

Nikolay Arutyunov, a fast rising Expert, won the Fast Section ahead of 2 Masters who came in Second Place, David Hart and Bruce Baker. Alejandrino Baluran was BU2200, Ron Rezendes BU2000, Daniel Cook BU1800, Morgan Fox BU1600. Bill Murray and Daniel Sun tied for BU1400.

In the Slow Section, it was Todd Smith on top, trailed by Carl Wagner and George Zeigler, who was BU2200. Gary Tuttle tied for BU2000 with Tim McGuiness. Shaun Sweitzer and Steve Perry tied for BU1800. John Huey was BU1600.

- Chuck Ensey

Super Gambito Opens

The **June Super Gambito Open** boasted a large turnout of 40 players. Bruce Baker and Cyrus Lakdawala tied for First Place, while Nikolay Arutyunov won BU2400. Hin Tsang and Aaron Wooten tied for BU2200 and Fawsi Murra Jr was BU2000. In the Reserve section, Tom Kuhn and Jerry Qu both won all four of their games to tie for First Place. Claire Negus was BU1600 and Thomas Diem BU1400.

At the **July Super Gambito 33** players fought for prizes. Bruce Baker won clear First Place, while Kyron Griffith, Cyrus Lakdawala and Martin Nilsson tied for 2nd Place and BU2400. Enrico Balmaceda and Nikolay Arutyunov split BU2200 and Buddy Morris and Madhavan Vajapeyam tied for BU2000 with the same score. In the Reserve Section, Jerry Qu once again took First Place, but this time all by himself. Scott Householder was 2nd Place and the young, but fast rising Zechariah Zhu was BU1600. Libano Rodriguez came up from Mexico to claim 2nd U1600.

Once a year, the SDCC hosts a two-day event known affectionately as the ***Super Double Gambito Open***. 8 rounds is a lot of chess and can really wear you out, but this year I was pleased to notice that very few players took byes; they were there to do battle.

This event used to be held at the end of the year, but we moved it to the summertime, when more vacationing students are likely to play. This worked well, as 46 players, a near record, gathered in Balboa Park over the weekend of July 9-10th. There were 23 players in the Open section and 23 in the Reserve and a $2,000 Guaranteed Prize Fund.

Kyron Griffith and Nikolay Arutyunov tied for First/2nd Place, pocketing $250 each by scoring 6 out of a possible 8 points.

With this victory Nikolay finally broke through the 2200 barrier to earn a Master's rating of 2202.

Kyron also pushed his rating up to a new high of 2297 and celebrated his 17th birthday a few days later.

Kyron made an especially strong impression in his last 3 games by defeating Venkat Iyer in ***27*** moves, Bruce Baker in ***16*** moves, and Nikolay Arutyunov in ***17*** moves! His two losses were to Romeo Ignacio and Peter Graves, the two players who finished tied for 3rd Place.

SDCC Club Champion Raoul Crisologo won BU2200 and there was a 3-way tie for 2ndU2200 between Venkat Iyer, Daniel Grazian and Jamieson Pryor.

Ben Barquin and Sridhar Ramanujam split the BU2000 prize, while Elkaei Rivera was 3rd U2000.

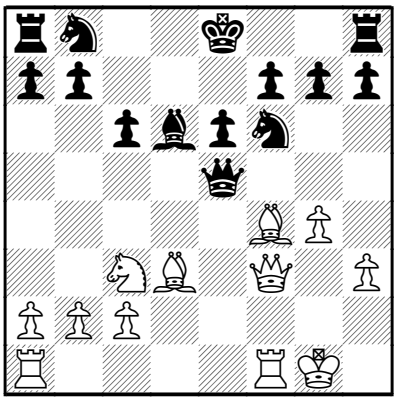
In the Reserve section, Romeo's brother, Rolando Ignacio, tied with Anthony Whitt for First/2nd Place with a solid 6 points, just like the winners in the Open Section. Jerry Qu and Albert Dumaran won 3rd Place with 5 ½ and Arnel Rivera made the same score to win BU1600.

Jay Choi won 2nd U1600 with 5 points, while Zechariah Zhu and Fred Cleveland were 3rd U1600. Two very young players, Mark Negus and Daniel Zhu tied for BU1400.

See the SDCC website for more details on both Super Gambito Opens on the 1st Saturday of every month with $700 in Guaranteed Prizes and the regular Gambito Opens on the rest of the Saturdays.

- Chuck Ensey

Harbone,Anthony (1600) - Moman,Aaron (1449)
[D00] Blackmar-Diemer Gambit Gambito #524 (4), 02.07.2011
1.d4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.e4 dxe4 4.f3 exf3 5.Nxf3 Bg4 6.h3 Bxf3 7.Qxf3 c6 8.Bd3 Qxd4 9.Be3 Qe5 10.0–0 e6 11.g4 Bd6 12.Bf4



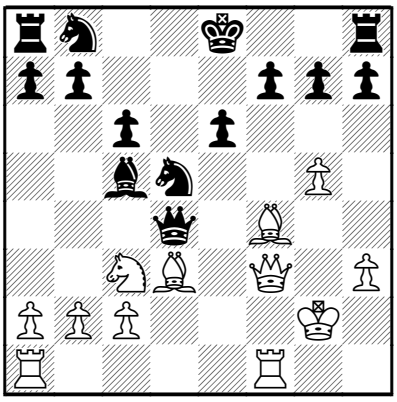
12...Bc5?+

Now is a great opportunity to trade down, when 2 pawns up: 12... Qxf4 13.Qxf4 Bxf4 14.Rxf4–+.

13.Kg2?

This is not the very best square. 13.Kh1! Qd4 14.g5 Nd5 15.Nxd5 cxd5 16.c3 Qa4 and finally 17.Bxb8+-.

13...Qd4 14.g5 Nd5



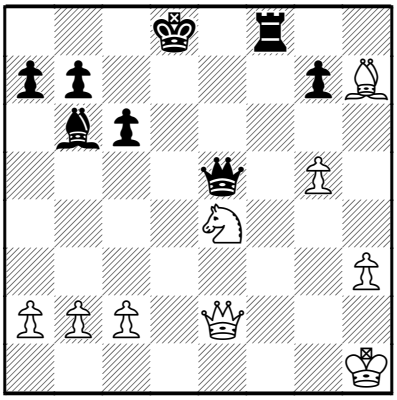
15.Bxb8

Required was 15.Nxd5 first, and White can force the rest: 15...Qxd5 16.Be4 Qd7 17.b4 Bxb4 18.Rab1 Qe7 19.Bxb8 Rxb8 20.Rxb4 Qxg5+ 21.Kh1 0–0 22.Bxc6 b6 23.Rd4±.

15...Ne3+!+-

The King's on the wrong square.

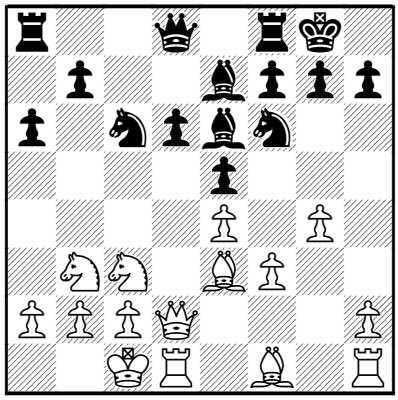
16.Kh1 Nxf1 17.Rxf1 Rxb8 18.Qxf7+ Kd8 19.Rd1 Rf8 20.Qxe6 Re8 21.Qf7 Rf8 22.Qb3 Qe5 23.Bxh7+ Kc7 24.Ne4 Bb6 25.Qc4 Rbd8 26.Rxd8 Kxd8 27.Qe2



27...Qxb2 28.Nd6 Qc1+ 29.Kg2 Qg1 mate.

Ma,Jason (1868) -
Arutyunov,Nikolay (2184)
[B90] Sicilian Defense
Najdorf Variation
Gambito #520 (3), 04.06.2011

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.f3 e5 7.Nb3 Be6 8.Be3 Nc6 9.Qd2 Be7 10.0–0–0 0–0 11.g4

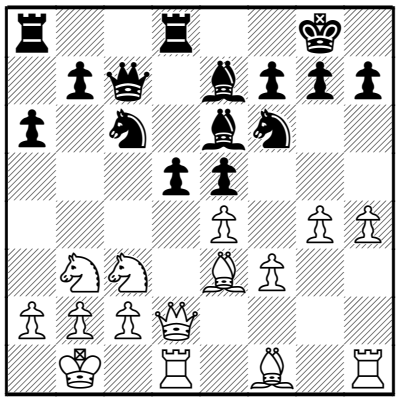


White scores very highly from this position.

11...Qc7 12.Kb1 Rfd8 13.h4

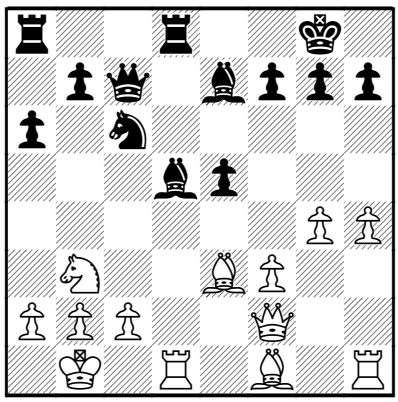
This gives Black time for his center push. Better was 13.Nd5 Bxd5 14.exd5 Nb8, with a big advantage for White, who has many good options.

13...d5!



Fritz thinks Black is already winning here.

14.exd5 Nxd5 15.Nxd5 Bxd5 16.Qf2



16...Bxb3! 17.Rxd8+ Rxd8 18.axb3 Rd1+ 19.Bc1 Nb4 20.Bg2

Or 20.c3 Nd3 21.Bxd3 Rxh1, with the Exchange up.

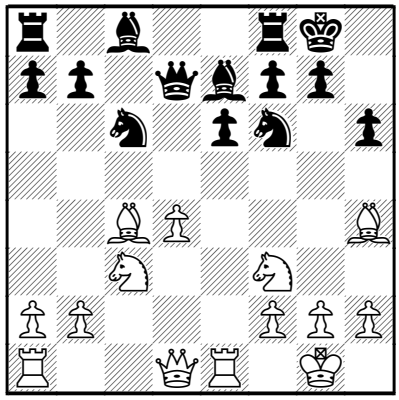
20...Qa5

0–1

It's mate next move.

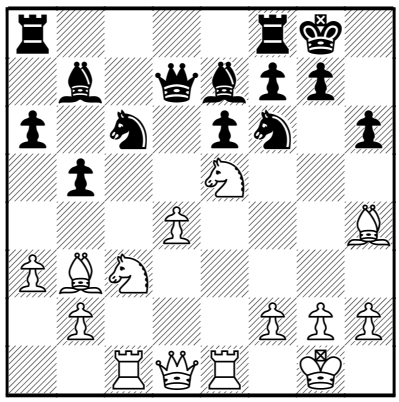
Narevsky,David (1552) -
Householder,Scott (1730)
[E54] Nimzo-Indian Defense
Gambito #520 (3), 04.06.2011

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.e3 Nf6 6.Be2 cxd4 7.exd4 dxc4 8.Bxc4 Bb4 9.0–0 0–0 10.Bg5 h6 11.Bh4 Be7 12.Re1 Qd7?!



This causes Black difficulties with coordination. Worth a try is 12...b6 13.Rc1 Bb7, with a faster development.

13.Rc1 a6 14.a3 b5 15.Bb3 Bb7 16.Ne5

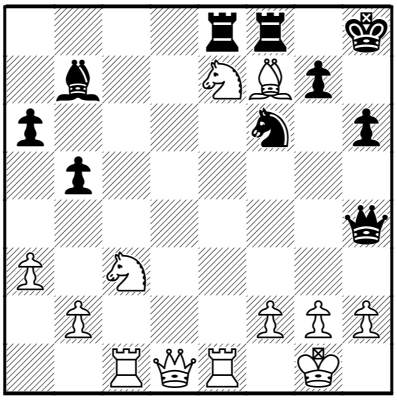


Can't Black just take the d-pawn?

16...Qxd4 17.Nxc6!

White has the answer!

17...Qxh4 18.Nxe7+ Kh8 19.Bxe6! Rae8 20.Bxf7



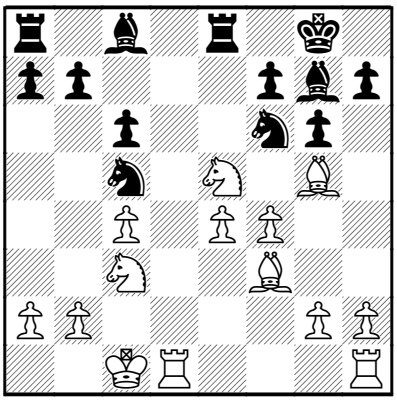
White has all the fun.

But at least a test is 20...Rxe7, and White would have had only two ways home: death or victory. White's only win would have been 21.Rxe7 Ng4 22.Rxb7, and Black can't mate.

20...Ng4?? 21.Ng6+
1–0

In the next game, a theme emerges.

Lakdawala,Cy (2550) - Nilsson,Martin (2200)
[E92] King's Indian defense
Gambito #524 (2), 02.07.2011
1.Nf3 g6 2.d4 Nf6 3.c4 Bg7 4.Nc3 0–0 5.e4 d6 6.Be2 e5 7.dxe5 dxe5 8.Qxd8 Rxd8 9.Bg5 c6 10.Nxe5 Re8 11.0–0–0 Na6 12.f4 Nc5 13.Bf3

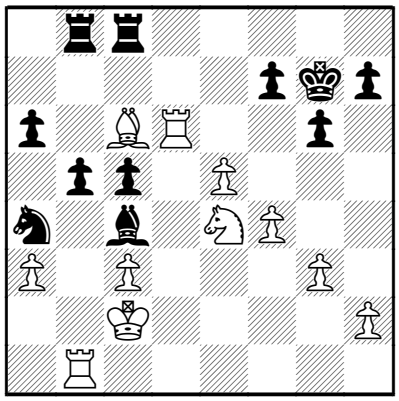


This position has occurred several times between some very strong players. Now Black gets the two Bishops.

13...Ne6 14.Bxf6 Bxf6 15.Ng4 Bxc3 16.bxc3 Kg7 17.g3 Nc5 18.Nf2 Be6 19.Rd4 Na4 20.Kc2 Rab8 21.Rb1 c5 22.Rd6 Bxc4 23.e5 b5 24.a3 Rec8 25.Bc6

Better was 25.Ra6!+-.

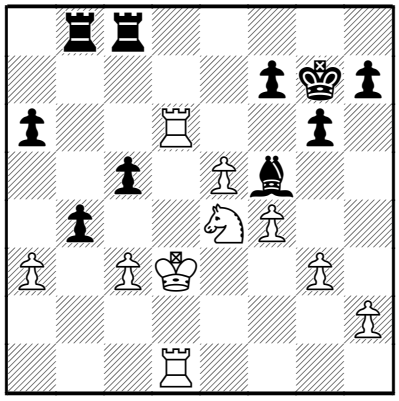
25...a6 26.Ne4?



26...Ba2?

A shot: 26...Rxc6! ends it, for if 27.Rxc6, then Bd5–+.

27.Rbd1 Nb6 28.Bd7 Nxd7 29.Rxd7 Be6 30.R7d6 Bf5 31.Kd3 b4

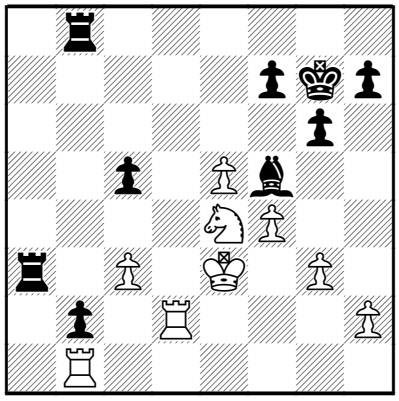


32.Re1

Fritz likes 32.Ke3=.

Always unpin. - C.J.S. Purdy.

32...b3! 33.Ke3 b2 34.Rb1 Rb3 35.Rxa6 Rcb8 36.Rd6 Rxa3 37.Rd2



37...Ra4

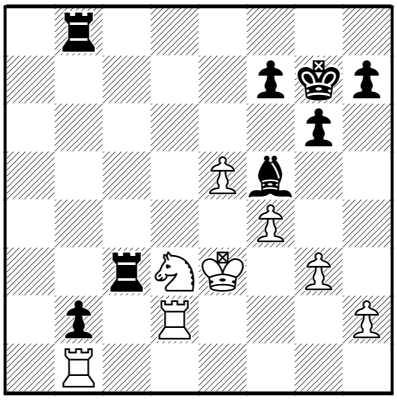
The best way to exploit the pin was 37...Rb4! Actually, two pins!

Pin 'em and win 'em!

38.Nxc5! Rc4 39.Nd3

Better was 39.Rbxb2 Rxb2 40.Rxb2 Rxc5 41.Kd4, but Fritz says Black is still winning.

39...Rxc3



More pinning!

40.Ke2 Rbb3 41.Rbxb2 Rxd3 42.Rxb3 Rxb3

And Black won a few moves later.

A quote for the day:

The pin is mightier than the sword.
- Fred Reinfeld

Solutions to Outside Shots!

From the back cover.

1. Black forces it with 16...Bxb3! 17.Rxd8+ Rxd8 18.axb3 Rd1+ 19.Bc1 Nb4. See Ma - Arutyunov page 48.

2. White's starting shot is 17.Nxc6! followed by 17...Qxh4 18.Nxe7+ Kh8 19.Bxe6! Rae8 20.Bxf7. See Narevsky - Householder on page 48.

3. White rolls with 23.Qf7! Rb8 24.Nf5!! in Gutman - Clawitter on page 44.

4. Black breaks it with the deadly line opener 32...f4! in Huang - Taylor starting on page 42.

5. Black can win with 30...Qxe5, 30...Qf4, and even 30...Qh4, but only 30...Bh3!! mates. See Carreto - Taylor on page 31 for the leadup.

6. White breaks the Black King's fortress with 26.Rxg7+!! Kxg7 27.Qh6+. See the finale in the prize-winning Nita - Field on page 25.

Upcoming Events in Southern California

August 27

San Luis Obispo County Championship

State Championship Qualifier
6 Grand Prix Points
California, Southern

4SS, G/60. 2 sections.
Masonic Lodge
859 Marsh St.
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Take elevator right outside Founder's Bank to 2nd floor.
Open: EF: $45 by 8/25. $$ (625 b/20, top 2 Gtd.) 200-125, Top A,B,C, $100 each (min. 2 each class, else combined).
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EF $10 more at site, $5 less to SCCF members. Reg. 9-9:30 a.m.
Rds. 10, 12:30, 3, 5:30 p.m. Info & online entry: www.slochess.com.

September 3-5

33rd Annual Southern California Open

State Championship Qualifier
150 Grand Prix Points (enhanced)

See the full page flyer on the inside front cover for information!

September 25

Beverly Hills Chess Club Open (30 Entrants Max)

3-SS, G/90. Bring Clocks!
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(Free Parking).
Prizes: 75% of EF (1st/2nd: 30%, 20% - Under 1600: 1st/2nd: 15%, 10%) $300 Gtd!
Reg.: 12:30-12:45. Rds.: 1, 4, 7pm.
EF: $40 rec'd 2 days prior, $50 onsite (Cash) - SCCF Mem $5 off - BHCC Mem $20 off.
Reg: www.bhchessclub.com, 310-274-7873 (V/MC).
Info: Dr. Robert Minoofar: bhchessclub@hotmail.com.

October 7-9 or 8-9

CCA 8th Annual Los Angeles Open

GPP: 100 Enhanced
California, Southern

5SS, 40/2, SD/1 (2-day option, rds 1-2 G/75).
Sheraton Four Points LAX, 9750 Airport Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90045. Special parking $5/day. $$20,000 based on 230 paid entries (re-entries & $60 off entries count half), $16,000 (80% each prize) minimum guaranteed.
In 6 sections.
Open: $2000-1000-600-400, clear or tiebreak winner $100 bonus, top Under 2400/Unr (not a section) $600-300. FIDE.
Under 2300: $1500-800-400-200, top Under 2100 (not a section) $500-250. FIDE.
Under 2000: $1500-800-400-200, top Under 1800 (not a section) $500-250.
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Under 1000: $700-400-200-150, trophies to top3, 1st Under 800, Under 600, unrated. Unrated may not win over$200 in U1000, $300 U1400, or $500 U1700.
Top 5 sections EF: 3-day $113, 2-day $112 mailed by 9/29, all $115 online atchesstour.com by 10/4, $120 phoned to 406-896-2038 by 10/4 (entry only, no questions), $130 (no checks, credit cards OK) at site.
GMs free; $100 deducted from prize. EF for all in U1000 or unrated in U1400: $60 less.
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Mailed, phoned or paid at site, Adult $40, Young Adult $30, Scholastic $20.
Re-entry $60; not available in Open Section.
3-day schedule: Reg ends Fri 6 pm, rds. Fri 7 pm, Sat 11 & 6, Sun 10 & 4:15.

2-day schedule: Reg ends Sat 10 am, rds. Sat 11, 2:30 & 6, Sun 10 & 4:15.
All: Half point byes OK all, limit 2, Open must commit before rd 2, others before rd 3.
HR: $89-89, 1-800-529-4683, 310-649-7025; reserve by9/24 or rate may increase.
Car rental: Avis, 800-331-1600, AWDD657 633, or reserve car online through chesstour.com.
Ent: Continental Chess, Box 249, Salisbury Mills, NY 12577. $15 service charge for refunds.
Questions: www.chesstour.com, 845-496-9658. Advance entries posted at chesstour.com.
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6SS, G/61. EF: $45 ($35 memb).
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Prizes: 1/2 collections.
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EF: $30 ($20 memb).
Reg.: 5-6 pm.
Rds.: 6, 7, 8 pm.
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August 14-21
Sunday G/61

Los Angeles, CA
3SS, G/61. ($320 b/20), $100/50/30; U1800-1200: $50/40/30/20.
EF: $25 ($20 memb, $10 no prizes).
Reg.: 11-12 pm.
Rds.: 12, 2, 4 pm.

Solutions to Inside Moves

From page 7.

1. White mates with 25.Qxg5. Black avoided this in Taylor - Tanaka, which starts on page 40.

2. The end came with 27.Qxd5! Kh8 (for if 27...Bxd5, then 28.Bxd5) 28.Qxe5 Re8 29.Qg5 Kg8 1–0 in Banawa - Akopyan, 6th Metropolitan FIDE 2011.

3. Decisive would have been 37... Rb4! (Pin 'em and win 'em!) in Lakdawala - Nilsson on page 49.

4. White saw the double attack 25.Qa7! and then 25...Rg8 26.Qxb8+ Kd7 27.Qb7+ Kd6 28.Qc6+ Ke5 29.Qxc5 Rxg3 30.Bf4+ Qxf4 31.Nxf4 Kxf4 32.Qd6+ 1–0, Troff - Yankovsky, Sean Reader Memorial 2011, and Troff earned his 1st IM norm.

5. White methodically broke up the Kingside with 37.Qh4! Qf8 38.Rag4! Qg7 39.Rxg5 fxg5 40.Rxg5 Rxb5 41.Rxg7+ Kxg7 42.Qg5+ 1–0 in Hough - Bangalore, Memorial Day Classic Los Angeles 2011.

6. White patiently closed in on the Black King with 30.Nf5+ Kg8 31.Qb8+ Kf7 32.Qc7+ Kg8 33.Qc8+ Kh7 34.Qd7+ Kg8 35.Qe8+ 1–0, in Casella - Atoufi, Sean Reader Memorial, Los Angeles 2011.

7. Long moves started White's sequence of 39.Qb8+! Kf7 40.Qb3+ Be6 41.Qb7+ Ke8 42.Qc8+ Kf7 43.Rf1+ 1–0, in Peters - Hall, Memorial Day Classic, Los Angeles 2011.

8. Execution came with a chopping, back and forth Queen motion on a single diagonal: 34...Qf1+ 35.Bc1 Qa6 36.c3 Qd3+! and White resigned. If 37.Nc2, then it's the Queen *again*: 37...Qxd7, in Carreto - Wang, 6th Metropolitan FIDE 2011.

9. Heavy sacrifices by 30.Re8!! Qxe8 31.Qe5+!! Qxe5 32.Rxc8+ set up a mate in two. A computer variation from Taylor - Tanaka, page 40.

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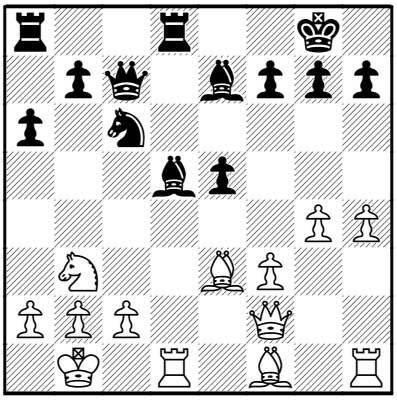
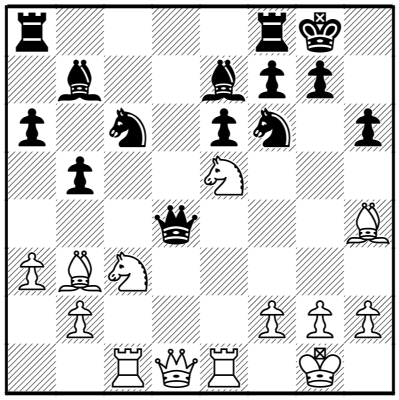
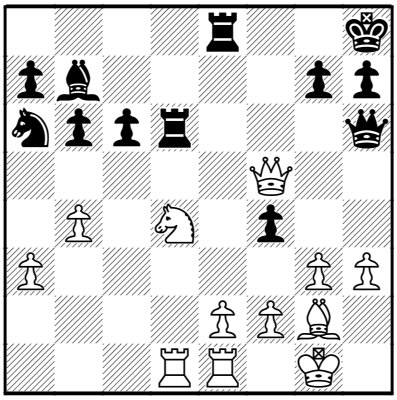


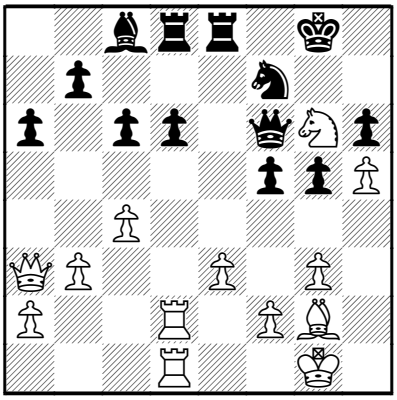
1. Black to Play



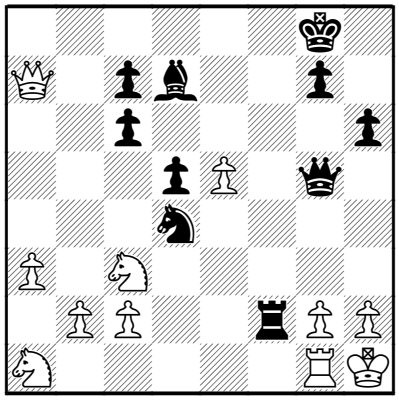
2. White to Play



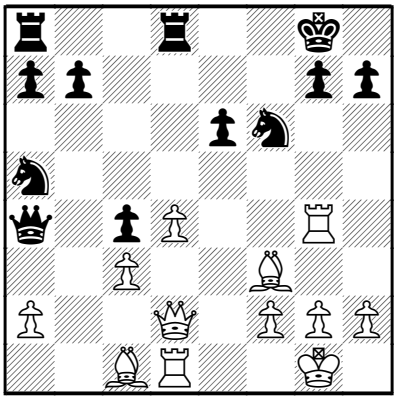
3. White to Play



4. Black to Play



5. Black to Play



6. White to Play

See page 49 for solutions.