Rank & File

The magazine of the Southern California Chess Federation

September-October 2011 Volume XXXV, No. 5 $3.00

Cy & Jack

51st Pacific Southwest

Landon Brownell Memorial

9th Metro FIDE

Timothy Taylor: Two Sacrificial Victories

Michael Adams Wins First Metropolitan International

ChessPalace products are now available online.

Visit us at:
www.chesspalacestore.com

JUNIOR OPEN
SCHOLASTIC CHAMPIONSHIP

COMING SOON
12.04.2011

Annual Amateur Open Championship
November 20, 2011

@ ChessPalace, 5246 Lampson Ave. Garden Grove, CA 92845
4-round USCF-rated event, G/45min, rd 1 @ 12:30 pm

Open to all players U2200
Two sections: Amateur (U2200) & Booster (U1500)

Prizes: In each section, 1st trophy + free entry to 2011 American Open
2nd $100 ChessPalace gift certificate
3rd $50 ChessPalace gift certificate

Champions will be inducted to the ChessPalace Hall of Champions

Entry fee: $25 by 11/13, $35 after, $40 on site, $3 less to SCCF members

USCF-rated Blitz Tournament follows @ 7:30 pm

www.chesspalace.com/amateuropen.htm

Join the 47th annual American Open Chess Championship

www.americanopen.org

American Open Chess Championship

Southern California Chess Federation

President Chuck Ensey
Vice President Elliot Landaw
Secretary Steve Morford
Treasurer Randy Hough

Executive Board
Jim Bullock, Mike Nagaran
Anthony Ong, Isabelle Minoofar
Ankit Gupta, Takashi Kurosaki
Michael Belcher, Phil Chase

Rank & File

Publisher David Argall

Editor Lawrence Stevens
P. O. Box 5671
Pasadena CA 91117
RankAndFileEditor@gmail.com

Contributing Editors
Jack Peters
Cyrus Lakdawala
Timothy Taylor

Contributors
Kostya Kavutskiy

Subscriptions/Address Changes
Randy Hough
Membership Secretary
P.O. Box 205
Monterey Park CA 91754
(626) 282-7412
randallhough@yahoo.com

Rank & File — ISSN 8750-9164 USPS 59, published bimonthly in January, March, May, July, September, and November by the Southern California Chess Federation, 1300 Ballista, La Puente CA 91744. POSTMASTER: Send changes of address to SCCF, PO Box 205, Monterey Park CA 91754.
SCCF Memberships: $18 adult, $10 youth (19 years old).
Magazine subscription only: $10.
Copyright © SCCF 2011. One-time only publication rights have been obtained from signed contributors. All other rights are hereby assigned to the authors. The opinions expressed are strictly those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the SCCF, its officers or members.

Rank & File

September-October 2011 **Volume XXXV, No. 5**

4 **Inside Moves**
It's a warm up quiz. We'll start you out easy.

5 **Cy & Jack**
by IM Jack Peters and IM Cyrus Lakdawala. Cy and Jack each annotated one of their own games, and then commented on each other's game and notes.

12 **Yankovsky, Matikozyan, and Bryant in 3-way tie for 51st Pacific Southwest**

15 **Landon Brownell Memorial: Banawa and Matikozyan Tie in 8th Metro FIDE**

16 **Amanov Wins 9th Metro FIDE Invitational 7-2**
Way to go, Zhanibek!

18 **Michael Adams Takes 1st Metropolitan International 7-2**

19 **Two Sacrificial Victories!**
By IM Timothy Taylor

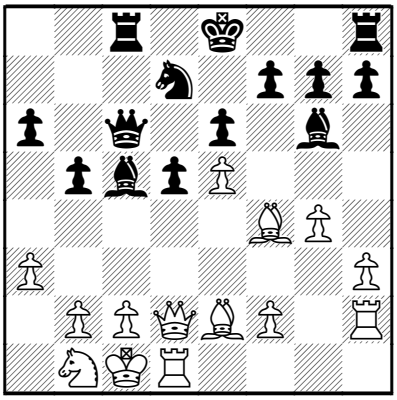
28 **Here and There**
Local club news, notices, and activities around Southern California.

Editor's Note: A late restriction to 32 pages for Rank & File, due to an SCCF financial necessity, results in a mix of short and long articles this month. Because the much larger issues in the past year have proved too costly to print, the SCCF board is considering several options in this area of service to its members.

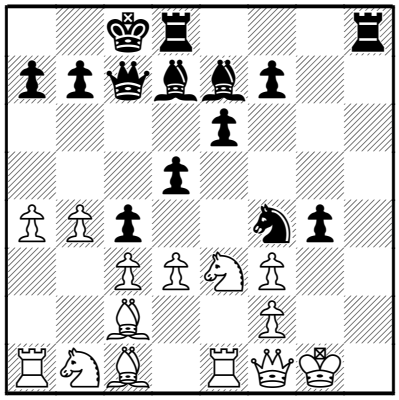
Cover Photo: Chris Roberts
Other photos:
cr: Chris Roberts

Inside Moves

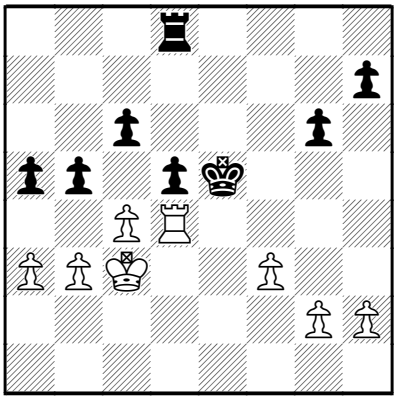
A ***tactical warmup*** might be a good way to start reading. Start with an easy one, and then work up to the tougher ones. Even if you are a beginner and can't solve the problems, just playing through the solutions on page 14 will open up your tactical vision. - Ed.



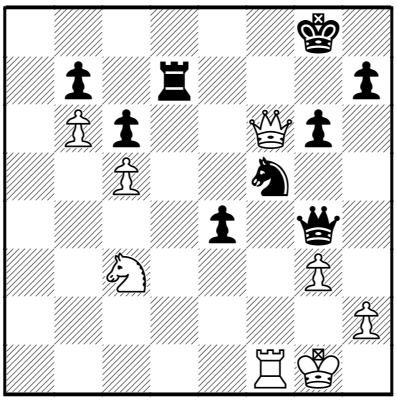
1. Black to Play



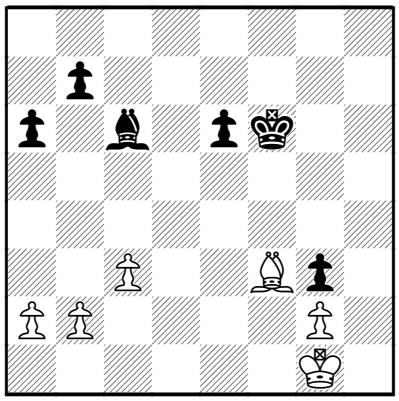
2. Black to Play



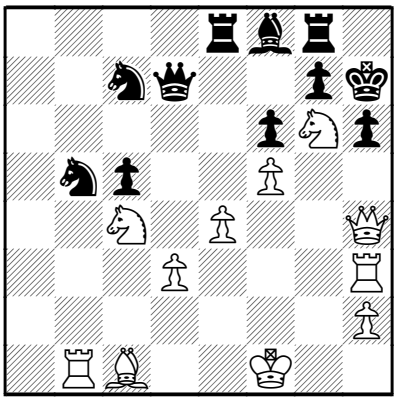
3. Black to Play



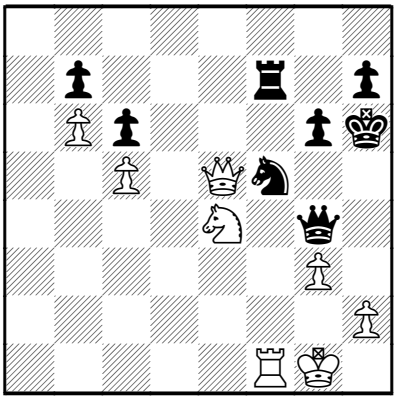
4. White to Play



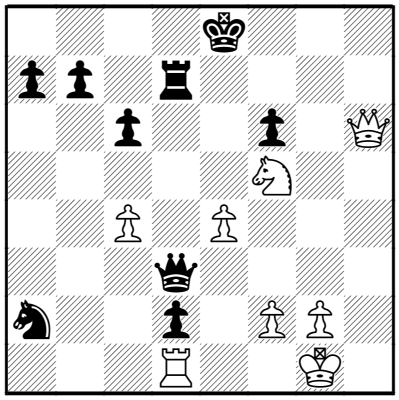
5. Black to Play



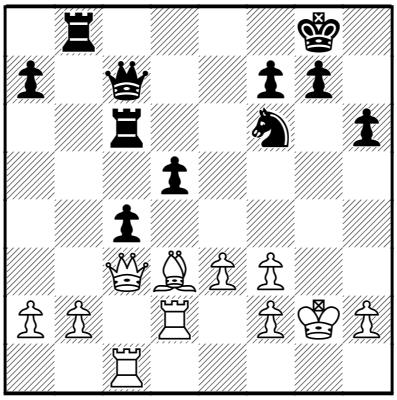
6. White to Play



7. White to Play



8. White to Play



9. Black to Play

Cy & Jack

By IM Jack Peters and IM Cyrus Lakdawala

This month, another interesting variation of the Slav is presented from the Black side, one in which White looks much better than he really is. Playing Black, that's exactly the kind of opening variation I like. In the game, White shocks with a sacrifice, but eventually, Cy survives with a draw.

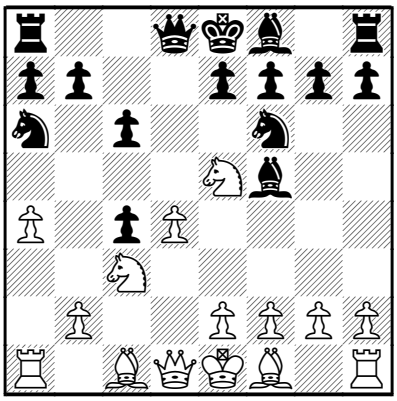
In the second game, Jack is also playing Black. Early, after just a few subtle, tricky moves, both sides miss a winning move for White. Eventually Jack survives as did Cy, and manages to turn the tables with a victory.

As always, we hope you enjoy the games, the different ways of looking at the positions, and even the disagreements! - Ed.

Shulman,Yuri (2548) -
Lakdawala,Cyrus (2434)
[D17] Slav Defense
Koltanowski Memorial (7)
San Francisco, 20.12.2000

Cy: This one is from *The Slav, Move by Move*.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.a4 Bf5 6.Ne5 Na6!?



Cy: GM Tony Miles and I heavily analyzed this move over the ICC before his death. Black wastes no time in occupying b4 with a Knight rather than his Bishop.

7.e3!

Cy: The only move to play for the advantage. Many of my opponents have played the tempting but dubious line 7.f3?!.

Question: Can White try a gambit to get a development lead with 7.e4 ?

Answer: Let's look: 7...Nxe4 8.Bxc4 e6.

Now White can regain the pawn at a high cost with 9.Bxa6 bxa6 and now 10.Nxc6? fails to 10...Nxc3! 11.bxc3 Qd5 picking off the g-pawn.

Or 9.Nxc6 bxc6 10.Bxa6 Qb6 11.Qe2 Bb4 Black takes over the initiative.

Instead, if he continues to develop with 9.0–0 I just don't buy that White has compensation.

7...Nb4

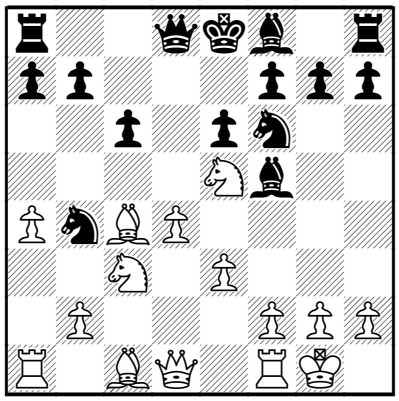
Cy: *Question*: What will White do about Black's threat to fork on c2!?

Answer: Ignore it! Mate on f7 takes precedence.

8.Bxc4! e6

Cy: Let's all try to avoid 8...Nc2+?? 9.Qxc2! Bxc2 10.Bxf7 mate.

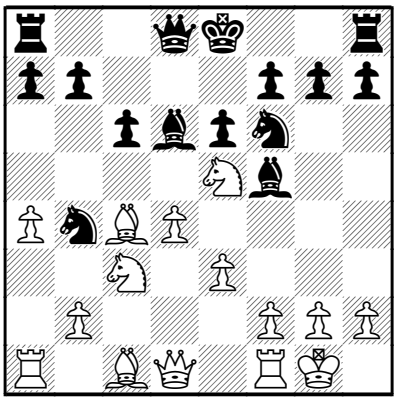
9.0–0



Cy: This position is the reason that the books say 6...Na6 is a dubious line. However, after Black's next move the line looks fully acceptable. After about a week of analysis I convinced Tony Miles that the line was playable and he began using it in his own games. It's always a triumph when you successfully proselytize a friend over to your own religion!

Jack: The position is deceptive. It looks terrific for White, but probably White has only a small advantage. A patient player, as Black, could use this variation as a winning attempt, expecting that White will overreach while trying to punish Black for losing control of the center.

9...Bd6!



Cy: This is an old discarded idea which I hope to revive. The move adds pressure to the Knight with ideas like:

1. ...Qc7

2. Or, more likely, ...Qb8, to stay off the c-file and White's Rook on c1.

3. ...c5 where White can't take due to his hanging Knight on e5.

4. ...Nd7.

5. In some cases we may just chop the Knight with our Bishop, although this is not very common.

Also possible is 9...Be7, but I don't

much like the passive positions Black gets after 10.f3 Bc2!? 11.Qe2 0–0 12.Na2 Nxa2 13.Rxa2 Bg6 14.Rd1, and White got exactly what he wanted:

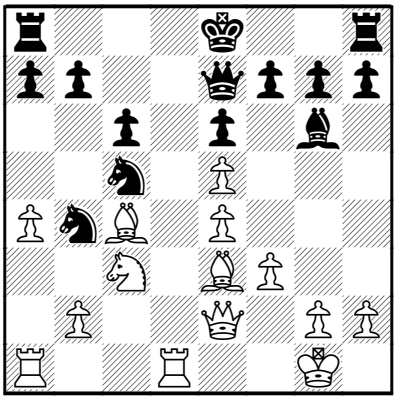
1. Space, with e4 to follow.
2. The Bishop pair.

Karjakin,S - Kramnik,V Nice 2008.

10.Qe2 h6!

Cy: My favorite move in the position. It is only this move in conjunction with 9...Bd6! which may revive this line for Black theoretically. Black preserves his light squared Bishop and gives it a cozy corner to hide on h7. Black has several alternatives here and I don't like a single one of them!

a) 10...Bxe5?! 11.dxe5 Ne4 (11...Ng4?? is a trap for Black. 12.e4 Qh4 13.h3 Nxe5 14.exf5 Nxc4 15.Ne4! which threatens Bg5! trapping Black's Queen, as well as Black's loose Knight on c4.) 12.Rd1 Qe7 13.f3 Nc5 14.e4 Bg6 15.Be3



Zhu Chen - Nimmy,A Gibraltar 2006. Clear advantage to White:

1. Black's Bishop is buried on g6.
2. White has the Bishop pair.
3. White controls key dark squares.
4. Black is cramped and his Queenside pawn majority is pretty meaningless at this point.

b) 10...Nc2?! 11.Ra2!? Nd5 (If Black thought he had a draw I'm positive Grischuk would have played 11...Nb4 12.Ra1 Nc2 13.Rb1! and Rd1 and e4 will follow sooner or later, with an edge to White.) 12.a5! giving his Rook an extra safe haven on a4. 12...0–0 13.g4! Bxe5 14.gxf5 Now Black felt compelled to make a dubious sac with 14...Bxh2+ (since 14...Bc7 15.Bxd5! also wins material.) 15.Kxh2 Qh4+ 16.Kg2 Qg5+ 17.Kh3! Black's attack is at a dead end and there is no perpetual check either. Grischuk,A-Sriram,J Khanty Mansiysk 2009.

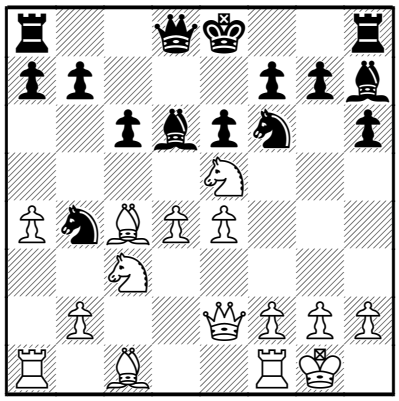
c) 10...c5? 11.Bb5+ Ke7 12.e4! Bg6 13.Nxg6+ hxg6 14.e5 cxd4 15.Rd1! Bc7 16.exf6+ gxf6 17.g3 Once again Black didn't have enough for the piece. Menchik,V-Euwe,M Hastings 1931.

d) 10...0–0?? Whatever you do, don't do this! 11.e4 Bg6 (11...Bxe5 12.dxe5 Bg4 13.f3 Qd4+ 14.Kh1 doesn't help Black a bit.) 12.Nxg6 hxg6 13.e5 and Black can hang it up since he drops a piece for only a pawn. Kinsman,A-Halldorsson,B Hafnarfjordur 1997.

e) 10...Nbd5?! 11.f3! Nb6 (11...Bg6 12.e4 Qb6 13.Qf2! Keeps control of the position for White.) 12.e4 Bg6 13.Bb3 Bxe5 14.dxe5 Qd4+ 15.Qe3! Qxe5 16.f4 Qc7 17.f5! Black was getting kicked around. Rogozenco,D-Atalik,S Eforie Nord 2000.

Jack: And one more: 10...Ne4 11.f3 Nxc3 12.bxc3 Bxe5 13.cxb4 (Necessary, as 13.dxe5? Bd3 14.Bxd3 Qxd3 seems all right for Black.) 13...Bf6 14.Rd1. Soon White will advance e3-e4, securing a small but clear advantage.

11.e4 Bh7

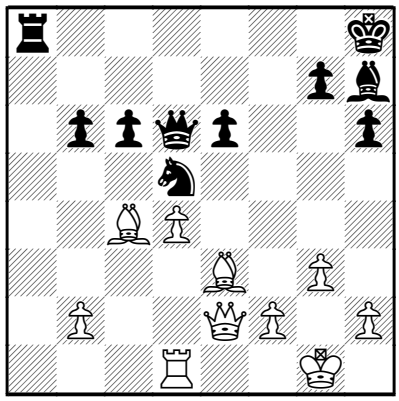


12.Bf4

Cy: Shulman realizes that his e5-Knight could become a target later or could be undermined eventually with a well-timed ...c5, so he backs up the Knight with his Bishop.

Question: I see a powerful sac for White with 12.Nxf7 Kxf7 13.e5. Isn't Black getting crushed?

Answer: Not at all. In fact, I think Black actually stands better after 13...Re8! 14.Rd1 Nbd5 15.exd6 Qxd6 16.g3 (**Jack**: *Fritz suggests 16.f3, setting up Nc3-e4.*) 16...Kg8 17.a5 Kh8 18.Be3 b5 19.axb6 axb6 20.Rxa8 Rxa8 21.Nxd5 Nxd5:



White's Bishops don't work all that well in such static structures. Atalik,S-Lakdawala,C Internet Chess Club 2007.

Jack: I was skeptical of your claim at first, but now I think you're right. What can White try except for attacking e6, which Black can easily defend? If White trades Bishops, his remaining dark-square Bishop will be outplayed by the Knight.

However, I suspect White can improve earlier. His position after 15. exd6 still looks slightly favorable to me.

The position after 12. Bf4 reminds me of ones in the Petroff and Alekhine's Defense where a player tries to maintain his Knight in the center and the opponent manages to obtain counterplay against it.

Instead, White can retreat the Knight and keep a valuable positional trump (the pawns at d4 and e4).

I tried to carry out this modest plan in several ways. First, with 12.Ng4 Nxg4 13.Qxg4 Bg6 14.Bxe6 Nc2 15.Rb1 Nxd4 16.Bc4 which looks attractive because Black's King must linger in the center. Admittedly, the loss of d4 disturbed me.

Then I investigated 12.Nf3 Bc7 13.Rd1 0–0, preserving the center

pawns, but where will White put his dark-square Bishop?

I concluded that White should place a pawn at f3 to shut in Black's light-square Bishop and to enable Bc1–e3, so my next attempt was 12.Rd1 0–0 13.f3, but 13...Qc7 starts bothering the Knight and looking toward h2.

With 12.Rd1 0–0 13.Nd3, I felt I was closing in on the solution. Then 13...Nxd3 14.Rxd3 (Black gets plenty of counterplay from 14.Bxd3?! e5⇄) 14...Bc7 15.f3 came to mind. White plans to complete development by Bc1–e3 and Ra1–d1. Black will have to play ...a7-a5 soon, lest White repair his Queenside by b2-b4. After Rd3-d2, White can maneuver patiently to threaten d4-d5 or possibly e4-e5. Black cannot use his Bishop at h7. If Black tries ...e6-e5, the reply d4-d5 should leave White in command of the Queenside.

I think this approach should give White the better of a "can't-lose" position. Nevertheless, I wouldn't play it! I think 12. Bf4, a more natural and aggressive treatment, gives White the best chance of obtaining a significant advantage.

12...0–0 13.Rad1

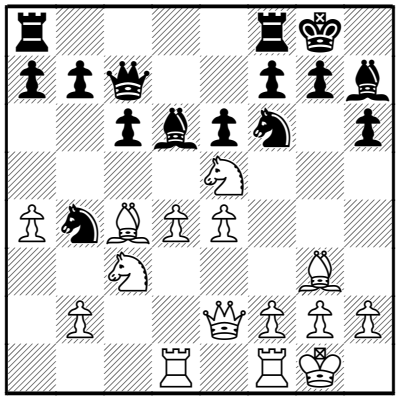
Cy: An aggressive decision. Such a move reveals something about Shulman's style. He wants to keep a Rook where it is on f1 to prepare f4 for an attack on Black's King.

A more positional approach would be 13.Rfd1 Qc7 14.Rac1 a6! 15.Bg3 c5!? (I wouldn't make this break this early and would probably opt for 15...Rae8. **Jack**: *I agree that 15...c5 seems premature, but why this Rook? If you try 15...Rfe8, you can develop the other Rook to c8 or d8 before pushing ...c6-c5.*) 16.Bb3 (**Jack**: *White must have an edge after 16.Ng4 Nxg4 17.Qxg4*±) 16...Rad8 17.Kh1 Kh8 18.Nxf7+!? Qxf7 19.e5. Now instead of 19...Bd3?! Nikolov,S - Galunov,T Vidin 2009, Black looks good after 19...Bc7! 20.exf6 Bxg3 21.fxg7+ Qxg7 22.hxg3 cxd4.

13...Qc7

Cy: Now that White commits his a1–Rook to d1, I don't need to worry about Rc1 as much, so I place my Queen on c7 rather than the more awkward b8 square.

14.Bg3



Cy: Preparing f4.

Question: Your position looks bad. White has a big space advantage. What is your compensation?

14...Rae8!

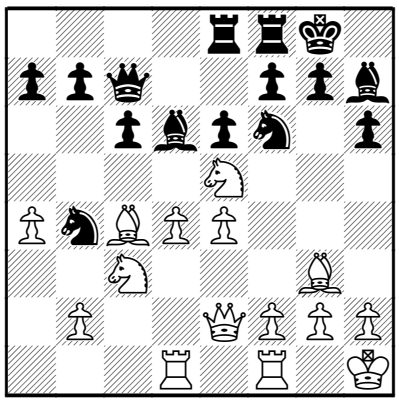
Cy: *Answer*: I admit that White has an edge due to his space, but argue that Black's position is not nearly as bad as it looks. He has the following pluses in his favour:

1. A weakness free position.

2. A hole for a Knight on b4.

3. Potential for counterattack with ...c5 and with my last move even ...f5 later on.

15.Kh1



15...Nd7

Cy: Black has a couple of other plans in this position:

a) Rybka points out the atonal comp move 15...Nfd5!? which may actually be worth a try since Black regains his piece after

a1) 16.exd5 exd5 17.Bb3 f6

a2) 16.Bb3 f6! The second point of the move is that it clears the way for ...f6, evicting White's prize Knight on e5. 17.Ng4 (**Jack**: *Black isn't having much fun after 17.Nc4 Bxg3 18.hxg3*±) 17...Nf4 18.Qe3 Qb8 with a strange, yet playable position for Black.

b) 15...a6 plans to hit back in the centre with ...c5. 16.f4 c5 17.Bb3 (**Jack**: *Perhaps 17.Bf2 cxd4 18.Bxd4 keeps a tiny edge. But it's hard to imagine White arranging f4-f5 without running into trouble on the e-file.*) 17...cxd4 18.Rxd4 b6 19.Bc4 Bc5 20.Rd2 Qb7 and the pressure on e4 gives Black counterplay.

16.f4 Kh8 17.Qh5 Nf6 18.Qf3 Ng8

Cy: Thinking about ...f5!

19.Bb3

Cy: Perhaps he should just surge with 19.f5!? f6 (**Jack**: *Not 19...exf5? 20.exf5 because White threatens 21. Nxf7+ and 21. Ne4.*) 20.Ng6+ Bxg6 21.Bxd6 Qxd6 22.fxg6. At some point Black must find an effective strike in the centre with ...c5 ...e5 or ...f5.

Jack: I also like 19.f5, which frees both White Bishops. If White refrains from f4-f5, he will lose control of d5 anyway after Black's ...f7-f5.

19...f5!

Cy: The time has arrived to fight back in the centre.

20.Nc4 Qb8

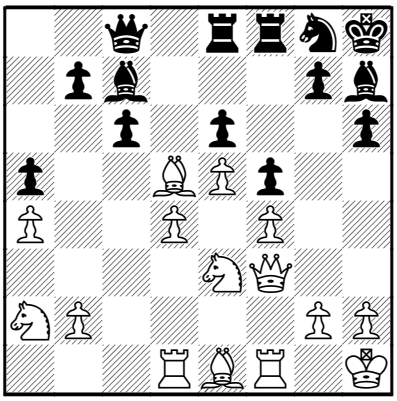
Cy: 20...fxe4!? 21.Nxe4 Bxe4 22.Qxe4 Nf6 is also playable but I considered it risky to give up so many light squares in the vicinity of my King.

21.e5

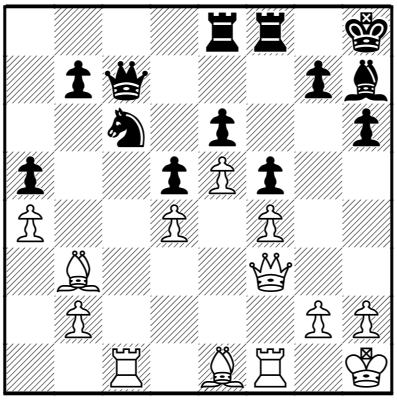
Cy: White doesn't get much either after 21.Nxd6 Qxd6 22.e5 Qd7 23.Be1 Ne7 24.a5± idea Na4 and Nc5 24...Ned5 25.Nxd5 (25. Na4 may have given White a slight edge.) 25...Nxd5 26.Bxd5 cxd5.

We agreed to a draw at this point in Yanayt - Lakdawala S Cal Championship 2006.

21...Bc7 22.Ne3 Qc8 23.Be1 a5 24.Na2 Nd5 25.Bxd5!?



Cy: GM Shulman is in a combative mood. I expected 25.Nxd5 cxd5 26.Nc3 Qd7 27.Nb5 Ne7 28.Rc1 Nc6 29.Nxc7 Qxc7

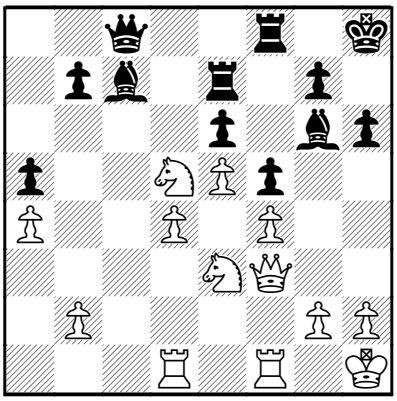


I am used to such French-style positions. One key factor in Black's favour is that g4, White's only real chance for an attack, would unleash my dormant light squared Bishop.

25...cxd5 26.Bh4! Ne7 27.Bxe7

Cy: He unloads his bad Bishop before Black's Knight reaches c6.

27...Rxe7 28.Nc3 Bg6 29.Ncxd5!?



Cy: This is somewhat mean-spirited!? Shulman hits me with a brick he finds lying around! I thought I stood at least equal before this move. He planned this sac to gain two powerful central passers all along.

Question: And now?

Answer: All hell broke loose and I didn't have a clue if I was winning or losing!

Jack: This is certainly a daring sacrifice! White could have kept the position quiet with 29. Nb5.

29...exd5 30.Nxd5 Rd7

Jack: Black can hang on to the extra piece by 30...Ref7 31.Rc1 Re8 32.Rfe1 (or 32.Qc3 Re6!) 32...Re6, but 33.Nc3 and next d4-d5 gives White more than enough compensation.

31.e6

Jack: White cannot stand 31.Rc1?? Bh5! 32.Qxh5 Rxd5−+.

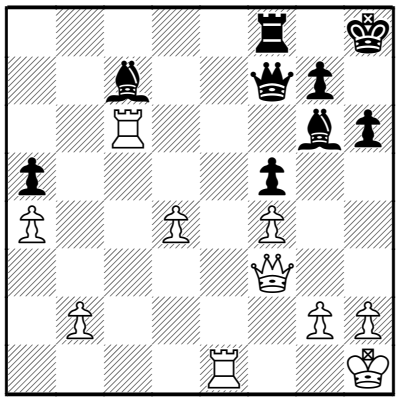
31...Rd6 32.Rc1

Cy: The point of Shulman's sac. Black must cough up an exchange to ease the pressure.

32...Rc6 33.Ne7 Qxe6 34.Nxc6 bxc6 35.Rfe1

Jack: With 35.Qxc6, White forces 35...Bd6, but Black seems safe.

35...Qf7 36.Rxc6



Cy: *Question*: Could you assess the situation?

Answer:

1. The material balance: White got Rook and two pawns for Black's two Bishops, normally a fair deal. But here the Black a-pawn, for now, holds back two White pawns.

2. White's d-pawn is passed and if it surges forward Black can get tied down.

3. Black has two Bishops on the open board, but right now they don't have stable perches.

Conclusion: I prefer Black but maybe the position is dynamically balanced.

Jack: I do not trust White's position. He has to accomplish something very soon, before Black activates the Bishops and blocks the d-pawn. If Shulman foresaw this position and thought he had winning chances, he is a very brave fellow, and quite optimistic!

36...Rd8

Jack: Black needs to observe d5 and d6, so this move feels right. I tried two ways to remove the Bishop from g6, with less success:

Black can nearly force a draw with 36...Bh5 37.Rxc7 Qxc7 38.Qxh5 Qxf4 39.Rd1 Rd8 40.h3 Rxd4=.

Or 36...Bh7 37.d5 Rd8 38.Rd1 Bd6∓, which is similar to the game but with the Bishop at h7 instead of h5.

37.d5!?

Cy: He can also prevent my next move with 37.Qc3! Rd7 38.d5.

Jack: I agree that this position is better for White than the game continuation. White may threaten h6 by Re1–e6, and Black must avoid 38...Bxf4?? 39.Rxg6 Qxg6 40.Qc8+ Kh7 41.Qxd7+-.

Against 37.Qc3!?, the sharp reply 37...Bxf4!? 38.Qxa5 Bg5 (Not 38...Rxd4?? because of the double attack 39.Qb6) 39.Qc3 Bf6 40.Rc8 Rxc8 41.Qxc8+ Kh7 produces a confusing position that Fritz assesses as favorable to Black. White's Queenside pawns look dangerous, but Black may be able to expose White's King by ...f5-f4-f3.

37...Bd6!

Cy: Heading for b4 where the Bishop:

1. Finds a stable home.

2. Blockades White's Queenside pawn majority.

3. Keeps an eye on the blockade square d6.

Jack: Getting the Bishop to b4 is very desirable, but tactics complicate the mission. Therefore the simpler 37...Kh7 38.h3 Qd7 makes sense. Black will follow with either ...Bc7-d6-b4 or ...Bg6-f7.

38.Re6 Bh5 39.Qe3

39...Bb4?!

Jack: ? It's hard to believe, but this move, the culmination of Black's plan, nearly loses the game. Sometimes chess is just too difficult.

Cy: I have noted that many inaccuracies are committed in situations where you are 100% certain your move is the best!

I missed a subtlety. Rybka gives the unnatural, but powerful line 39...Bf8! (Covering g7.) 40.Qe5 Qd7! and White can't play 41.Rxh6+? Kg8 42.Rhe6 (42.Rxh5?? Qxc6! wins.) 42...Bf7 and Black is winning.

Jack: I doubt any human would find 39...Bf8! and 40...Qd7!.

40.Qe5!

Cy: A powerful centralizing move:

1. Adding coverage to d6 where he would like to push his pawn.

2. Threatening Rxh6+.

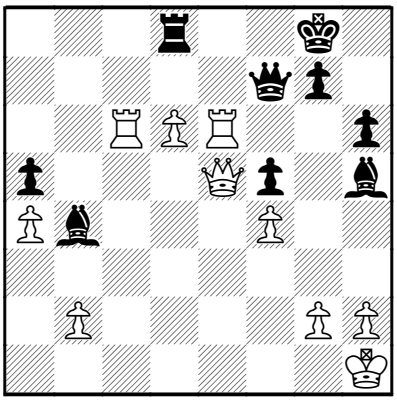
3. Threatening Rc7, which hits Black Queen on f7 and also the g7 pawn.

40...Kg8

Jack: Best. But the advantage has shifted to White, and Black must play precisely to hang on.

Cy: I can no longer play 40...Qd7?? because White wins instantly with 41.Rc7!.

41.d6!



Cy: Stay calm! Don't panic! Think happy thoughts!

Training Exercise: There is a plan for Black which eliminates that obnoxious d-pawn. Give yourself ten minutes to see if you can find it.

Answer:

41...Qf8!

Jack: Again, the only move. White would overcome most alternatives by 42. h3, 43. Rc7, and 44. Ree7.

42.h3

Cy: Black also survives 42.Re7 Qf6! 43.Rcc7 Rxd6 44.Rxg7+ Kf8.

42...Rd7!

Cy: Threatening to chase the e6-Rook away with ...Bf7! This threat forces White's next move which trades the deadly d-pawn for Black's f5 pawn.

43.Re7 Rxe7 44.dxe7 Qxe7

Cy: Blue skies and sun return! The much feared pawn reaches the 7th only to be declared dead on arrival.

On the other hand, it turns out I'm alive and feel much better now, thank you. Please unhook the IVs and turn off the morphine drip.

45.Rc8+

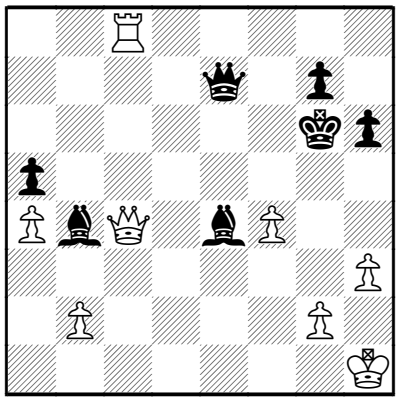
Jack: White cannot improve his position with 45.Qxf5 Be8 46.Rc8 Qe3=, and Black is too tied up to try anything. Draw!

45...Kh7 46.Qxf5+ Bg6 47.Qd5 Be4

Jack: Black again has the edge.

48.Qg8+ Kg6 49.Qc4

½–½



Cy: I accepted Shulman's draw offer here.

Jack: Prudent! After your harrowing adventure, and with your King wandering around, it would be reckless to go for the full point.

Cy: *Question*: Wasn't that a bit of a cowardly decision on your part? It looks like Black stands better.

Answer: Let's not forget the talent discrepancy between me and my opponent! Black would have to take risks to win like 49.Qc4 Bd6 50.Qe2 Kf6!? (Rybka's psycho choice, not mine!) which I wasn't prepared to take.

Question: It sounds like you are rationalizing a bad decision.

Answer: That wasn't even a question! Besides, I was sick of everyone calling me "FM Lakdawala" and needed a draw to skate into an IM norm.

Summary: In my opinion (and Tony's) 9...Bd6! followed by 10...h6 revives a theoretically dubious line into a fully playable weapon for Black.

"Indecision is the key to flexibility," perhaps, applies in the next game at Black's 9th move. - Ed.

Banawa,Joel (2374) -
Peters,Jack (2377)
[E17] Queen's Indian Defense
9th Metropolitan Invitational (3)
Los Angeles, 28.07.2011

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6

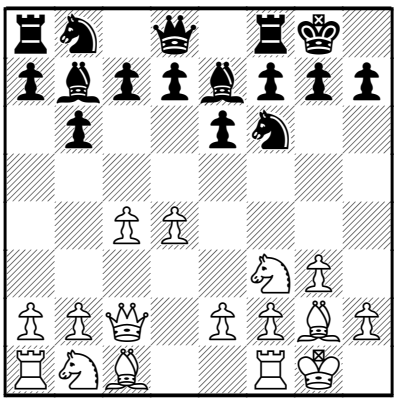
Cy: What? No King's Indian?

3.Nf3 b6 4.g3 Bb7 5.Bg2 Be7

Jack: A rather stodgy variation of the Queen's Indian Defense.

Cy: Also a sign that Jack has great respect for Banawa's handling on the White side of King's Indian.

6.0–0 0–0 7.Qc2



Jack: I knew nothing about this sideline. Black must react before 8. Nc3 takes control of e4.

The main line begins 7.Nc3 Ne4 and Black tries to keep control of e4.

7...c5

Jack: A logical reply because White cannot continue 8. d5.

Against 7...Be4 Banawa intended 8.Qd2 and 9. Nc3, chasing the Bishop. White may follow with b2-b3 and Bc1–b2.

Cy: The alternative is to go for a classical hanging pawns position with 7...d5.

8.dxc5 bxc5 9.Nc3 Qb6

Jack: I wasn't sure what to do with the d-pawn, so I looked for some other useful move. Think of it as inspired procrastination.

Cy: So I am not the only one with this problem.

Jack: I did not trust 9...d5?! 10.cxd5 exd5 11.Rd1.

And I did not want to commit myself to the modest 9...d6.

The most common choice is 9...Nc6 10.Rd1 d6.

10.Be3

Jack: This rules out ...d7-d5 (because Nc3-a4 will hit c5) and sets up b2-b4.

Cy: ! A novelty, according to my database, and possibly an improvement over 10.b3, 10.Rd1 and 10.Bf4.

Now Black must watch out for b4, as well as Na4.

Jack: I expected 10.Rd1, as White's Bishop may find a home at e3, f4, g5 or even b2. My intention of 10...Rd8 does not equalize.

10...d6?!

Jack: I wasn't alarmed by 11. b4. A more prudent player would have stopped it by 10...Nc6.

Cy: Jack looks for adventure. I would have played 10...Nc6.

11.b4!

Cy: !

11...Ng4?

Jack: I had mistakenly counted on this reply.

Also unreliable is 11...Na6?! 12.b5±.

Black should settle for a small disadvantage with 11...Nbd7 12.Rab1 Qc7±.

Cy: I don't like Black's last move either.

12.Bg5!

Cy: !

Jack: I dismissed 12.bxc5 Nxe3 without much thought, but White can get some advantage from 13.fxe3 Qxc5 14.Ng5! Bxg5 15.Bxb7 Nc6 16.Bxa8 Bxe3+ 17.Kh1 Rxa8 18.Ne4±.

Cy: I like Black's game after the exchange sac and don't believe the += assessment.

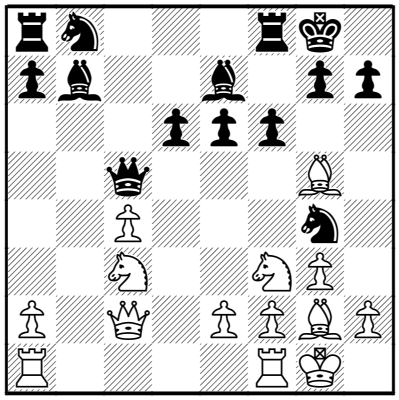
Jack: White drops a pawn by 12.Ng5? Bxg5 13.Bxg5 Bxg2 14.Kxg2 cxb4.

More complicated is 12.Ng5? Bxg5 13.bxc5, when Black does best with 13...Nxe3 14.cxb6 Nxc2 15.Bxb7 Nd7! 16.Bxa8 Nxb6∓.

12...f6

Jack: Forced. Black cannot stand 12...Bxg5? 13.Nxg5 Nf6 14.bxc5 dxc5 15.Rab1+- or 12...Nc6? 13.Bxe7 Nxe7 14.Ng5 Nf6 15.bxc5+-.

13.bxc5 Qxc5



14.Na4?

Jack: We both overlooked 14.Rab1! which refutes 11...Ng4. Black would be in serious trouble after 14...Bc6 15.Ne4 Qa5 16.Bf4 Ne5 17.Nd4

Cy: You are right. Black is busted here.

14...Qc8

Jack: I wanted to defend e6 in case White tried Bg2-h3.

Cy: ! The e6 square must be held or Black collapses.

15.Bd2

Jack: Fritz claims White can keep an edge with 15.Rab1!, as Black must avoid 15...Bd5?! (**Cy**: *I don't see any advantage for White after 15... Bc6.*) 16.Bf4 Qxc4? 17.Qxc4 Bxc4 18.Nd4+-.

15...f5

Jack: The old theme - control e4. I thought my pawns at d6 and e6 were vulnerable, but White's isolated c-pawn could become a target too.

Cy: Black looks okay now.

16.Rac1

Jack: I welcomed 16.Nd4?! Bxg2 17.Kxg2 Nc6∓, when Black solves his development problems.

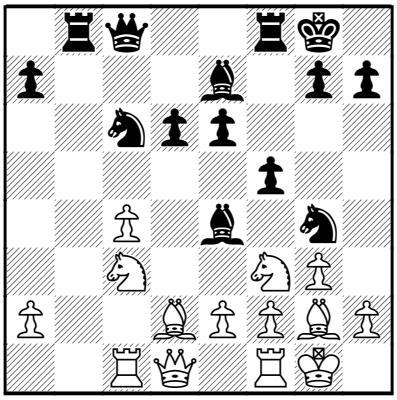
16...Be4 17.Qd1 Nc6

Jack: This cuts off the Bishop's retreat and lets White exchange a Knight for the Bishop.

But I didn't like putting the Knight at a less active post on d7 or a6.

Cy: !? Wow, what a difference in styles. I would have played ...Nd7, to preserve the light squared Bishop in a heartbeat.

18.Nc3 Rb8



Jack: I've been studying Tal's games (**Cy**: *Not a good idea! Tal has a corrupting influence on everyone who is not Tal!*), and I'm trying to follow his recipe: make the pieces work, and you don't have to worry about the pawn structure.

Cy: This directly contradicts my chess philosophy: make the pawn structure work, and you don't have to worry about the pieces!

19.h3

Jack: A critical line begins 19.Nxe4 fxe4 20.Ne1. I probably overestimated 20...e3 21.Bxe3 Nxe3 22.fxe3 Bg5, which seems in White's favor.

Cy: Let's look: 23.Rxf8+ Qxf8 24.Qd2 Qf5! 25.h4 Bh6 26.Bxc6 Qc5 27.Ng2 Qxc6 28.Nf4 White stands slightly better but Black should be able to hold the game.

Jack: Against 19.Nxe4 fxe4 20.Ne1, Fritz recommends an idea that I didn't consider, 20...Qe8. (**Cy**: *20...Qe8! is hard to see otb.*) Then Black can meet 21.h3 Nf6 22.Bc3 comfortably by 22...Qg6.

19...Nf6 20.Bg5

Jack: Black has nothing to fear from 20.Nxe4 Nxe4 21.Be3 Qa6, when White's loose Queenside comes under pressure.

20...h6

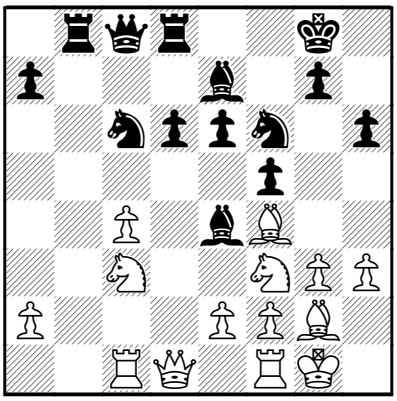
Jack: I was reluctant to trade pieces by 20...Rd8 21.Nxe4 Nxe4 22.Bxe7 Nxe7, although Black seems fine after 23.Nd4 e5=.

21.Bf4

Jack: We both considered 21.Bxf6 Bxf6 22.Nxe4 fxe4 23.Nd2 e3 satisfactory for Black, but it was White's last chance for an advantage. I had not worked out an exact sequence if White grabbed a pawn by 21.Bxf6 Bxf6 22.Qxd6?!, but I assumed that 22...Rd8 would give Black sufficient compensation.

Cy: More than sufficient - Black looks better after 23.Qa3 Be7! 24.c5 Bxf3 25.Bxf3 Nd4 26.Nb1 Nxf3+ 27.Qxf3 Bxc5.

21...Rd8



22.Nb5??

Jack: Now White gets too optimistic. For the first time, I felt that the position had tilted in Black's favor.

Cy: I would label White's move ?!, not ??

Jack: It's still nearly even after 22.Nxe4 Nxe4 23.Nd2.

22...e5 23.Be3

Cy: ? This is the real blunder. White should play 23.Bd2! when he is struggling, but perhaps not busted.

23...d5

Cy: ! Now White cannot save himself. Black's initiative gets out of hand.

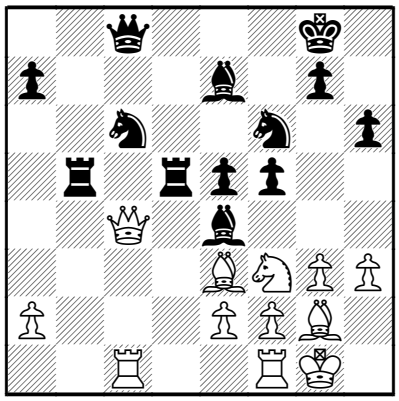
24.cxd5

Jack: Joel called this a blunder, but White has no satisfactory continuation. He cannot recover from his 22nd move.

During the game, I assumed White could safely move his Queen. However, 24.Qa4 is no solution, as 24...d4 25.Bd2 a6 26.Na3 Nd7–+ is miserable for White.

I expected 24.Nxa7 Nxa7 25.Bxa7 Rb7 (probably 25...dxc4 26.Qa4 Rb4 is stronger) 26.Be3 dxc4 27.Qa4 Rb4, with no good hiding place for White's Queen.

24...Rxd5 25.Qb3 Rbxb5 26.Qc4



26...f4!

Jack: To distract White's Bishop from c5.

Cy: ! Jack is deadly in such positions and never lets you rest when down.

Jack: I was suspicious of giving back material by 26...Rbc5 27.Bxc5 Bxc5 because 28.Rfd1 creates lots of threats. However, 28...Na5! wins anyway.

27.gxf4

Jack: The problem with 27.Nxe5 is 27...Bxg2 28.Kxg2 (Not 28.Nxc6 Qxh3 29.Nxe7+ Kf7, mating.) 28...fxe3 29.Nxc6 Qe6, keeping an extra piece.

27...exf4 28.Bxf4

Jack: Tougher is 28.Bd4, forcing Black to find 28...Rbc5 29.Bxc5 Bxc5 30.Rfd1 Na5!–+. Then 31.Qa4 Rxd1+ 32.Qxd1 Qf5 evades all tricks while keeping the decisive advantage of two pieces against a Rook.

28...Rbc5 29.Qb3 Na5–+

Jack: Now Black should win routinely.

30.Qa4 Bc2 31.Qa3 Bf8 32.Nd2 Rd8?

Jack: Here I made a typical thinking error that jeopardized the win.

Cy: ?! The move doesn't throw the win away. But it does make it more difficult.

Jack: I wanted to play 32...Rf5, threatening the Bishop and 33...Rc3, but I convinced myself White's Queen would move to protect the Bishop.

Then I gave up on 32...Rf5 and chose the "safe" alternative 32...Rd8 with no more than a couple of seconds of calculation.

Actually, White has no good answer to 32...Rf5, as 33. Qg3? Nh5 and 33. Qf3? g5 lose at once, and 33.Qe3 Nd5 34.Bxd5+ Rfxd5–+ won't hold out long.

Cy: Convincing.

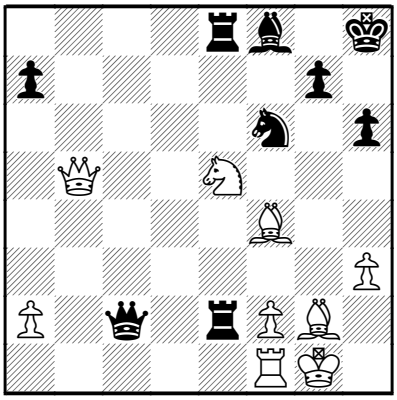
33.Rxc2 Rxc2 34.Qxa5 Kh8

Jack: Short of time and a bit rattled by my oversight, I made a safe move to get off the a2-g8 diagonal. More forceful was 34...Bd6 35.Be3 Bc7 36.Qb4 Kh8, intending ...Nf6-d5.

35.Nf3

Jack: Or 35.e4 Bc5–+.

35...Rxe2 36.Ne5 Re8 37.Qb5 Qc2



38.Bf3?

Jack: This mistake is truly a blunder. And just when White had a little hope of drawing!

The computer's plausible suggestion, 38.Be3 Qxa2 39.Ng6+ Kg8 40.Nf4 Rb2 41.Qxe8 Nxe8 42.Bd5+ Qxd5 43.Nxd5 a5, would make Black work for the full point.

Cy: This is a losing error. I don't believe White can hold it after the superior 38.Be3.

38...R2xe5!

Cy: Winning.

39.Bxe5 Qf5 40.Bc6

Jack: Or 40.Re1 Qxf3, leaving Black a Knight ahead. 40.Bg4 sets the trap 40...Nxg4?? 41.Bxg7+, but 40...Rxe5 or 40...Qxe5 wins.

40...Rxe5 41.Qb8 Ng8 0–1

Cy: Hey, you need to look at some more Tal games! Tal would never have taken the Knight back home. Why not to d5 or e4? ♜

Yankovsky, Matikozyan, and Bryant in 3-way Tie for 51st Pacific Southwest

July 2-4, 2011

IM Andranik Matikozyan, IM-elect Roman Yankovsky, and FM John Daniel Bryant tied for first in the long running classic, scoring 5-1. Matikozyan and Yankovsky both drew in round 3 and faced each other in the final round, and drew to ensure a piece of first. Bryant caught them with a last round victory over IM Jack Peters in one of those tricky Knight and Pawn endings.

In this 56 player Open Section, four players tied for fourth: Kostya Kavutskiy, Marian Nita, Jeremy Stein, and Cheston Gunawan. Kavutskiy's upset of GM Melikset Khachiyan is featured below.

The Under 1800 Section, also with 56 players, also had a 3-way tie for first at 5-1, by Sos Hakobyan, Aaron Chang, and Jackson Stallings. Another four way tie for fourth included Michael Chaney, Rex Xu, Timothy Chou, and Alexander Wang.

Anthony Ong directed.

Two scholastic sections, attracting 42 players, were directed by Takashi Iwamoto.

The Open Section was won by Ethan Minoofar and Joaquin Perkins, who tied with a 4½-½ score. Third at 4-1 was Eli Minoofar, and fourth was Ankur Gupta scoring 3½-1½.

In the Under 1000 Section, Dario Sani and Brendan Gibson scored 4½-½ to tie for first. Third was a tie with Sabrina Shenker and Vipul Gupta both scoring 3½-1½.

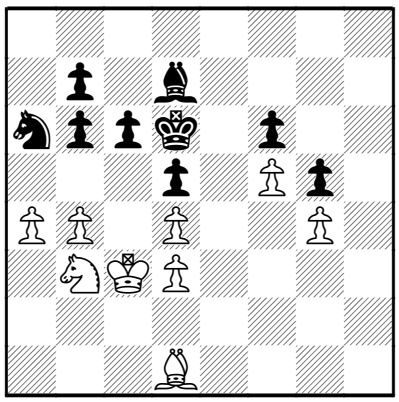
Khachiyan,Melikset (2505) - Kavutskiy,Kostya (2190)
[A11] English Opening
2011 Pacific Southwest Open (4)
Los Angeles 03.07.2011

Notes by Kostya Kavutskiy.

This game was played in round 4. Both Melik and I had 2½ out of 3, while IM Jack Peters and FM William Duckworth were playing on the first board, each with a perfect 3/3 so far.

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 d5 3.Bg2 Bf5 4.0–0 e6 5.d3

This Reti-type opening system is one of Melik's main weapons with White, and he has beaten several strong players with it. Previously, he played it against me last year and we drew after a long and tense endgame -- the first time I had ever drawn with a grandmaster: 5.c4 c6 6.Qb3 Qb6 7.Nc3 Nbd7 8.d3 Nc5 9.Qxb6 axb6 10.Be3 h6 11.Nd4 Bh7 12.cxd5 exd5 13.Bh3 Bd6 14.f4 0–0 15.f5 Na4 16.Nxa4 Rxa4 17.Nc2 Re8 18.b3 Ra6 19.a4 Bc5 20.Kf2 Raa8 21.Bd4 Nd7 22.e3 Bxd4 23.exd4 Kf8 24.Rfe1 Rxe1 25.Rxe1 Re8 26.Rxe8+ Kxe8 27.g4 Ke7 28.Kg3 Nb8 29.Kf4 f6 30.Bg2 Na6 31.h4 Nc7 32.Ne3 g5+ 33.hxg5 hxg5+ 34.Kf3 Kd6 35.Nc2 Bg8 36.Ke3 Bf7 37.Kd2 Na6 38.Kc3 Nb8 39.Bf3 Na6 40.Bd1 Be8 41.Na1 Bd7 42.b4 Nc7 43.Nb3 Na6 44.Nd2 Nc7 45.Nf1 Be8 46.Ng3 Ke7 47.Bb3 Kd6 48.Ne2 Bd7 49.Kd2 Na6 50.Kc3 Nc7 51.Bd1 Be8 52.Nc1 Na6 53.Nb3 Bd7 ½–½

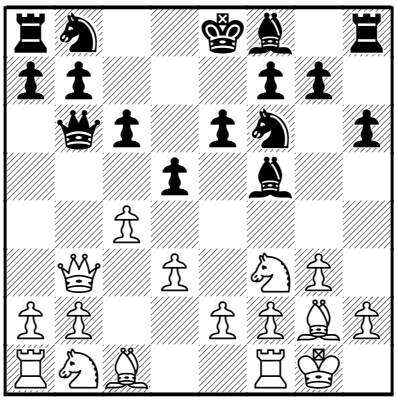


Khachiyan, M (2542) - Kavutskiy, K (2100) / Los Angeles 2010.

5...h6

I have very little knowledge of the theory in this line -- but I'm fairly familiar with the ideas. Playing h6 is important because otherwise White might steal the bishop-pair with Nh4. For example: 5... c6 6.Nh4 Bg4 7.h3 Bh5 8.g4 Bg6 9.Nxg6 hxg6.

6.c4 c6 7.Qb3 Qb6



The only move -- Qc8 is extremely passive

8.Be3!?

It's interesting to note that in our previous game, Melik opted to give me the doubled b-pawns -- but after not getting any advantage in that encounter, he changed his strategy and took the doubled b-pawns for himself!

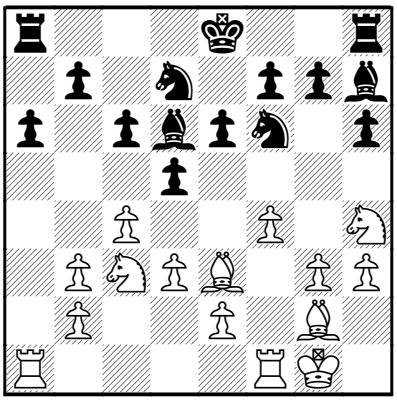
8...Qxb3 9.axb3 a6 10.h3 Nbd7 11.Nc3 Bd6

11...Be7 is also OK, but I felt that control over the e5 square would be important, as well as the whole b8-h2 diagonal.

12.Nh4?!

This move allows Black to get a great position, better would be 12.g4 Bh7 13.Nd2 0–0 14.f4 with a more pleasant position for White -- although with good play Black should be able to equalize here too.

12...Bh7 13.f4



13...g5!

Turns out I also could have played 13...dxc4 14.bxc4 Nh5! 15.g4 (15.Kh2 g5∓) 15...Nxf4 16.Bxf4 Bxf4 17.Rxf4 g5 18.Rff1 gxh4 with at least equality for Black, but White still has plenty of play with b2-b4-b5.

14.fxg5

14.Nf3 Nh5 15.fxg5 Nxg3 16.Rfe1 hxg5 17.Nxg5 Bg6∓.

14...Bxg3 15.gxf6

15.Nf3 is objectively the best move, but White is the one who is playing for a draw. GM Khachiyan did not become a strong Grandmaster by backing down in sharp positions and playing for a draw, so he found a way to heavily complicate matters!

The game could then have continued with 15...hxg5 16.Bxg5 (16.Nxg5 Bg6∓ (16...Bf5 allows 17.cxd5 cxd5 18.Nxd5)) 16...Rg8∓.

15...Bxh4 16.cxd5

16.Bxh6 Bxf6 17.Rxf6 Nxf6 18.Bg7 Ke7 19.Bxh8 Rxh8∓ is definitely better for Black, as the h3 pawn is quite weak.

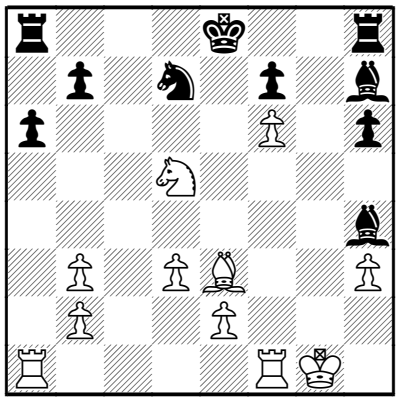
16...exd5

After 16...cxd5 17.Nb5 White has the initiative.

17.Bxd5!?

I can't say I was afraid of this sacrifice, but I certainly wasn't pleased to see a GM snap off my reliable d5-pawn.

17...cxd5 18.Nxd5



18...Bg3

What's interesting about defending this position is that Black's King is actually safe in the center. Castling in either direction would have thrown away the win:

a) 18...0–0 19.Bxh6 Rfe8 20.Ra4 Re5 21.Nc7 Rc8 22.Rxh4 Rxc7 23.Bf4±.

b) 18...0–0–0 19.Rfc1+ Kb8 20.Bf4+ Ka7 21.Be3+ Kb8 22.Bf4+.

After the game continuation, White is playing for an attack on the dark squares and activating all of his pieces against my King.

Black is simply trying to get all of his pieces into the game, particularly his light squared Bishop. Once all of the pieces become activated, White's two pawns will not be enough compensation for the extra Bishop.

18...Rc8 would have been good too.

19.Rac1

If 19.Bxh6, Bg6∓ and my Rook is activated along the h-file.

19...Kd8!

I was really happy to find this move as I couldn't see any good way to defend the c7 square -- the success of the sacrifice in this game was dependent upon which side could control more key squares such as the c-file and my seventh rank. Another idea is to play Rc8 and Re8 and defend against all the threats, consolidating my position completely.

20.Bf4

20.Bd2 was an interesting alternative. I was planning 20...Re8 21.Ba5+ b6! sacrificing a pawn to trade off one of White's dangerous minor pieces. It isn't difficult to realize that with 2 Rooks and 2 Bishops I can always attack the White King on an open board, regardless of how many extra pawns belong to the other side.

20...Rg8!

GM Khachiyan admitted after the game that he had missed this simple and strong move. Now I can activate my Rook via the 5th rank and cut off the White King

21.Kh1

Played with a draw offer.

21...Bxf4

Of course it would have been very immature of me to accept the draw. After trading off a strong attacking piece, I'm much closer to realizing my advantage and winning the game. The more trades I can make, the better.

To accept a draw in a position where you are nearly up a full piece just shows a lack of confidence in yourself and stunts your growth. Not to say GM Khachiyan was "bluffing" with his piece sacrifice, but next time I'm sure he'll think twice before giving me extra material!

Also, the draw-offer is a dead giveaway that your opponent thinks very little of his own position, so playing on was quite an easy decision to make.

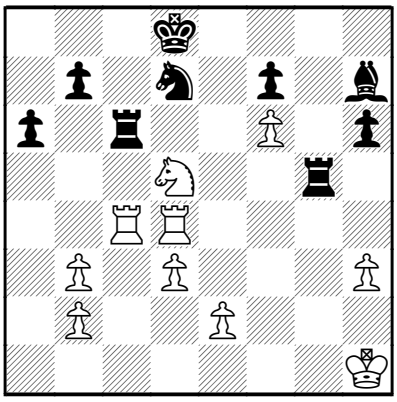
22.Rxf4 Rg5 23.Rd4

The best chance. On 23.e4 I was considering 23...Rxd5 (23...Ne5 is much stronger, though, and hopefully I would have found it.) 24.exd5 Ne5 with great winning chances, as all of White's pawns are weak.

23...Rc8

The fight for the c-file begins...

24.Rcc4 Rc6!



Here my once pathetic Rook on a8 controls the c-file and the 6th rank -- a monster defender.

24...Rxc4 25.bxc4 is still winning for Black, but why undouble White's pawns when you can make the trade on your own terms?

25.e4

25.Ne7, with the idea to play Rc8 mate, is simply met by 25... Rxf6–+.

And after 25.Rxc6 bxc6 26.Nb6 Bf5, with a cut-off King, White can resign.

25...Bg6

I just want to play Bh5-f3 to harass the King or Bd1–b3 to completely neutralize the attack.

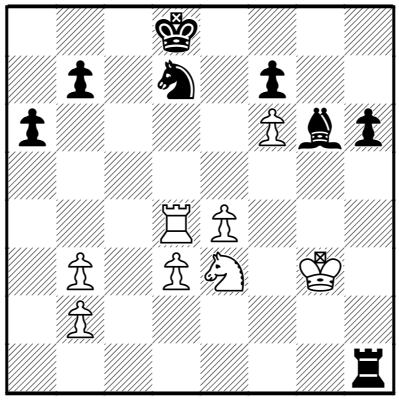
26.Kh2

And here I realized... White has no moves!

Both Rooks are stuck, and the Knight is glued to the f6 pawn, which is White's only source of compensation at this point. Time to win the game.

Again the tactics work for Black, for if 26.Rxc6 bxc6 27.Nb6 Kc7 28.Nxd7 c5! 29.Nxc5 Rxc5. Here, White has three pawns for the Bishop, but I have no problem activating all three of my pieces and winning pawns.

26...Rd6 27.h4 Rg4 28.Ne3 Rxh4+ 29.Kg3 Rxd4 30.Rxd4 Rh1



Now White only has one pawn for the sacrificed piece, and I have a nice maneuver to replace my monster defender on the c-file.

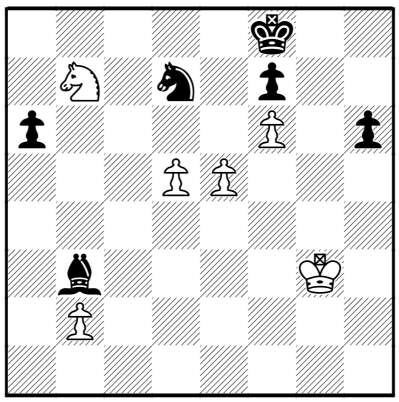
31.Nd5 Rc1 32.Nb6 Rc7 33.e5 Ke8 34.Nc4 Kf8 35.Rd6

Or 35.Nb6 Bf5–+.

35...Bf5 36.d4 Rc6

After the trade of Rooks I'll blockade the center pawns on the light squares and win by activating my King and promoting my h-pawn.

37.d5 Rxd6 38.Nxd6 Bc2 39.Nxb7 Bxb3 0-1



Now if 40.d6, Bd5 forces the Knight offside and I can start winning all the pawns.

In view of this, GM Khachiyan resigned.

It felt fantastic to win my first game against a Grandmaster. I had to work really hard to find some key defensive ideas and convert my advantage.

This win helped me finish the tournament in 4th place with 4½ out of 6, and boost my rating to 2300 for the first time -- a surely memorable experience!

Solutions to Inside Moves

From page 4.

1. Black wins the Queen with 17... Be3! "If I had to pick one move to call my favorite, this is it. If the Bishop is captured by anything, the White King will be checkmated quickly." 18.c3 Bxd2+. Boldway - Tim Thompson, U.S. Air Force Worldwide Championship, 1974.

2. It's a mate: 21...Ne2!+ 22.Qxe2 Qh2+ 0–1. Sheng - Robertson 7th Metropolitan Qualifier, Los Angeles, 2011.

3. Black wins the Rook with 32...b4+ 0–1. Next might have been 33.axb4 axb4+ 34.Kd3 dxc4+ and the Rook is lost. Polsky - Richter, 8th Metropolitan Qualifier Los Angeles, 2011.

4. Sudden death by 33.Ra1!! is on the table. Amanov - Liu, Landon Brownell Memorial Los Angeles, 2011.

5. Black decisively contains White's King with 38...Bb5! 39.Bxb7 Bd3 40.b3 e5 0–1. Nunez Hirales - Coleman, 9th Metropolitan Invitational, Los Angeles, 2011.

6. The game ended immediately with 40.Bxh6! 1-0, for if 40...gxh6, then 41.Nxf8+ Kg7 42.Nxd7. Or, if 40...Rh8, then 41.Bxg7+ Kg8 (if 41...Kxg7, 42.Nxh8+-) 42.Qxh8+ Kf7 43.Nge5+ fxe5 44.Qh5+ leads to mate. Amanov - Yankovsky, Landon Brownell Memorial, Los Angeles, 2011.

7. White exploited the position of the Black Queen with ***36.h3! Qxh3*** (If 36...Qe2, the incredible 37.Ng5!! wins.) ***37.Qf4+ Kg7 38.Ng5 Qxf1+*** (Or 38...Qh6 39.g4!) ***39.Qxf1 1–0***. Amanov, - Liu, Landon Brownell Memorial Los Angeles 2011.

8. White frog marches the Black King all around the board to mate with 36.Qh8+ 36...Kf7 37.Qg7+ Ke6 38.Qg8+ Ke5 39.Qe8+ Kf4 40.g3+ Kf3 (or 40...Kg4 41.Qg6+ Kf3 42.Nh4+) 41.Nh4+ 1–0. Mate comes by 41... Kg4 42.Qg6+ Kh3 43.Qf5. Nunez Hirales, - Liu, 9th Metropolitan Invitational, Los Angeles, 2011.

9. Black's front line charges forward with ***23...d4! 24.Qc2*** (If 24.Qxd4, cxd3 wins a piece. Of no help is 24.exd4 Nd5! 25.Qc2 Nb4 26.Bh7+ Kh8 27.Qf5 g6–+.) ***24...c3! 25.Re2*** and now 25...cxb2!! would have finished best. Or, if 25.bxc3 then 25... Rxc3–+. And if 25.Rdd1 Rxb2 26.Qa4, then 26...dxe3 is the easiest win. Mateer, - Amanov, 9th Metropolitan Invitational, Los Angeles, 2011.

Advertising Rates: Full page $80, half-page $45, ¼ page $25, 1/8 page $15, back cover (¾ page) $80. (All rates are for camera-ready copy.) Flyer insert $50 (advertiser must supply flyers). 50% discount for tournaments requiring SCCF membership. Payment should be sent to the Treasurer at P.O. Box 205, Monterey Park CA 91754. Display ads should be sent to the Editor, and flyers to the Publisher (addresses at right). SCCF reserves the right to reject any advertising.

Banawa, Matikozyan Tie in Landon Brownell Memorial FIDE Invitational, 6½-2½

July 20-24, 2011

IM-elect Joel Banawa and IM Andranik Matikozyan tied for first in the Landon Brownell Memorial FIDE tournament, the eighth FIDE invitational tournament held at the Metropolitan Chess Club since just last fall. Second was Roman Yankovsky, also an IM elect, one point behind. Both Banawa and Yankovsky have earned IM norms at the Metropolitan club in the last year.

Landon Brownell (1989-2009), unicycle rider, chess master, was National High School Champion in 2006. He also won the 2007 Redmond Cup, a national youth tournament in Go. He died in April 2009, at age 19, while driving alone at night, apparently falling asleep at the wheel. All who knew him were devastated.

"I hope everyone will remember Landon as a bright, kind, and gentle young man who treated everyone with respect and decency." - Robby Adamson, USCF online.

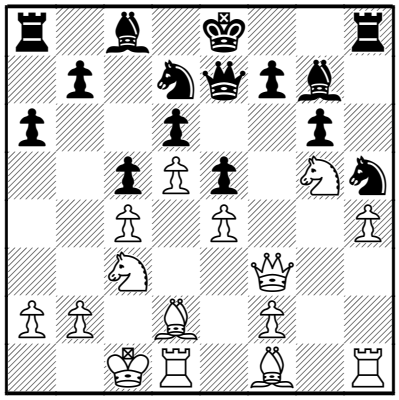
Tied for fourth were Teddy Coleman and IM Zhanibek Amanov at 5, followed by IM Timothy Taylor and Elliott Liu at 4½. Eighth at 4 was Dale Haessel. At 2½ was Samuel Sevian, and Craig Clawitter scored one point, against Sevian.

The two winners had different paths. Matikozyan was undefeated, with two wins at the start and two other wins in the last three rounds. Banawa lost at the start but followed with four wins. After another loss, he won two more.

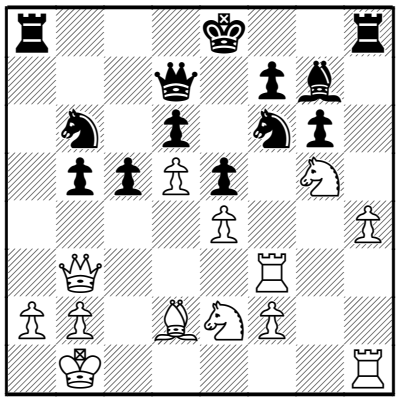
Dale Haessel beat both Amanov and Yankovsky in the final two rounds, after they were tied for first with Matikozyan and Banawa after seven rounds. Here we present his eight round upset.

Haessel,Dale (2211) -
Amanov,Zhanibek (2382)
[A44] Benoni Defense
Landon Brownell Memorial (8)
Los Angeles, 24.07.2011

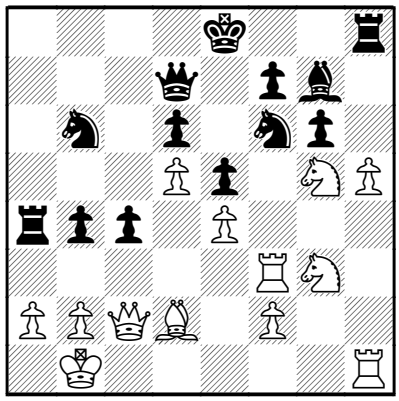
1.d4 c5 2.d5 g6 3.c4 Bg7 4.Nf3 e5 5.e4 d6 6.Nc3 Nd7 7.g4 a6 8.g5 h6 9.h4 hxg5 10.Nxg5 Ngf6 11.Qf3 Qe7 12.Bd2 Nh5 13.0–0–0



13...Ndf6 14.Bh3 Bxh3 15.Rxh3 b5 16.Ne2 Nd7 17.cxb5 axb5µ 18.Kb1 Nb6 19.Qb3 Qd7 20.Rf3 Nf6 21.Rh1=



21...Ra4 22.Ng3 b4 23.h5 c4 24.Qc2±



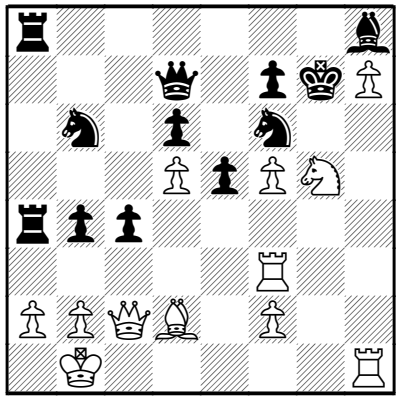
24...0–0?

Better was 24...Rxa2, but White just replies 25.Bxb4±.

25.h6! Bh8?

Still, if 25...Rfa8 then 26.Bxb4! Rxa2 27.Ba3+-.

26.h7+ Kg7 27.Nf5+ gxf5 28.exf5 Rfa8



29.Ne6+! fxe6 30.fxe6 Rxa2

If 30...Kf8, then 31.Rxf6+ Ke7 32.Rf7+ leads to mate.

31.Bh6 mate.

Amanov Wins 9th Metropolitan FIDE Invitational 7-2

Congratulations to IM Zhanibek Amanov, who scored 7-2 to win the 9th Metro FIDE Invitational in downtown Los Angeles. Second, one point behind, were IM Andranik Matikozyan and IM Jack Peters. Tied for fourth were Teddy Coleman and Elliott Liu at 5½-3½. *July 27-31, 2011*

Amanov and Matikozyan were both undefeated in the tournament, and Peters lost only to Liu.

Finishing sixth at 4½-4½ was IM Timothy Taylor, and tied for 7th at 4-5 were Joel Banawa and Garush Manukyan.

The last two places were Alejandro Nunez, 9th at 1½-7½, and Amanda Mateer, 10th at 1-8.

After draws at the start against Peters and Banawa, Amanov concluded with five wins and two draws, for his third(!) Metro FIDE 7-2 first place. He previously scored 7-2 in both the 6th and 7th invitationals.

Peters led the field by a full point with 4½ after 5 rounds, but a loss in round 7 and three draws allowed Amanov's strong finish to prevail.

Jack annotates an interesting win for Rank & File. ♜

Nunez Hirales, Juan (2078) - Peters,Jack (2377)
[B30] Sicilian Defense
9th Metropolitan Invitational (5)
Los Angeles, 29.07.2011

Notes by IM Jack Peters.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 e6 4.Qe2

So much for my preparation.

4...a6 5.c3

Reasonable, although I expected 5. a4 or 5. d3.

5...Be7 6.Bb3 d5 7.exd5?!

White gives up his strong point in the center. After 7.d3 Nf6 8.0–0, chances remain about even.

7...exd5 8.d4 Nf6!?

A bit risky. Mostly I wanted to avoid the symmetry of 8...cxd4 9.cxd4, when White can develop his Knight smoothly to c3.

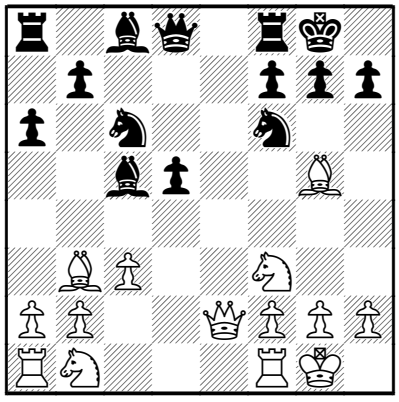
9.0–0

9.dxc5 0–0 10.Be3 White sometimes plays similarly in the French Tarrasch, but here Black can recover his pawn at once by 10...Re8.

9...0–0 10.dxc5

If 10.Bg5 I considered 10...cxd4 11.cxd4 Re8 12.Nc3 Bg4, but I was more tempted by 10... Re8!?, trying to refrain from capturing on d4.

10...Bxc5 11.Bg5



When I foresaw this position at move 8, I judged it good for Black because ...Rf8-e8 would gain a tempo. When it appeared on the board, though, I took a closer look and wasn't as confident.

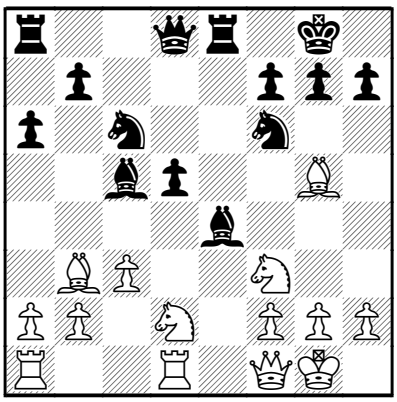
11...Bf5?!

After examining various awkward attempts to hang on to the isolated d-pawn, I decided (correctly, I believe) to abandon it and concentrate on piece activity. I chose 11... Bf5 to keep White off the b1–h7 diagonal and make ....Rf8-e8 a stronger threat.

I rejected the superior 11...Bg4! because of 12.Nbd2 Re8 13.Qd3, which eyes the d-pawn and sets up Bb3-c2. But the computer points out 13...Ne5! 14.Nxe5 Rxe5, hitting the Bishop and threatening 15...Be2. Black definitely comes out on top.

12.Bxf6?

My opponent accepts the pawn sacrifice. Frankly, I was relieved! While he thought, I worried about 12.Rd1 Re8 13.Qf1 Be4 14.Nbd2∞



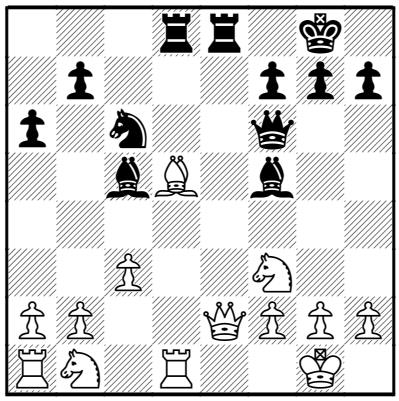
White's minor pieces are working, and Black hasn't solved the problem of protecting d5.

12...Qxf6 13.Bxd5 Rad8 14.Rd1?

A natural reply, because it avoids a possible X-ray with ...Bf5-d3.

However, White should rely on 14.Be4 Bxe4 15.Qxe4 Rfe8 16.Qc2, when it's not easy for Black to exploit his lead in development. Fritz claims Black has more than enough compensation after the bizarre 16...h5.

14...Rfe8



15.Qf1?!

During the game, I felt fairly sure that White had to venture 15.Qc4 and I tried, unsuccessfully, to find a shot for Black after 15...Be4? 16.Qxc5 Bxf3 17.gxf3.

I probably would not have found the best continuation, 15.Qc4 Ne5! 16.Nxe5 (White cannot stand 16.Qxc5? Nxf3+ 17.gxf3 Qg6+ 18.Kh1 Bh3 19.Rg1 Bg2+! 20.Rxg2 Re1+) 16...Bxf2+! 17.Kh1 Rxe5∓, which recovers the pawn with a substantial advantage.

15...Ne5!

Winning. Black's lead in development is too much.

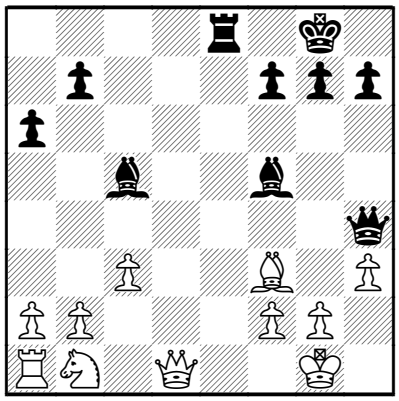
16.h3

Addressing the threat of 16...Ng4. White could not guard f2 without encountering problems on the d-file or his first rank. For example, 16.Nxe5 Rxe5 17.Bf3 loses material to 17...Bd3.

16...Bc2?!

Only fourth-best, according to Fritz.

To end the game quickly, Black should play 16...Nxf3+ 17.Bxf3 Rxd1 18.Qxd1 (or 18.Bxd1 Bd3! 19.Qxd3 Qxf2+ 20.Kh2 Qg1+ 21.Kg3 Re3+) 18...Qh4!



This was the idea I missed.

If now 19.Qd2 then Bxf2+ 20.Qxf2 Re1+!.

17.Rd2 Bxb1 18.Bxf7+

As good as any. Not 18.Rxb1 because the Rook at d2 hangs after 18... Nxf3+ 19.gxf3 Qg5+.

18...Kxf7 19.Nxe5+ Qxe5 20.Rxd8 Rxd8 21.Rxb1

White's two pawns aren't enough for the Bishop. Moreover, Black can keep threatening f2.

21...Rd2 22.Qc4+

Tougher is 22.Re1. I did not trust my first thought of 22...Qd5 23.Re2 Rd1 24.Re1 Rxe1 25.Qxe1 Qxa2 because 26.Qe5 threatens many checks, but I doubt I would have picked the computer recommendation of 22... Qd6 23.Re2 Kf6.

22...Kf8 23.b4

Hopeless is 23.Rf1 Rxb2−+.

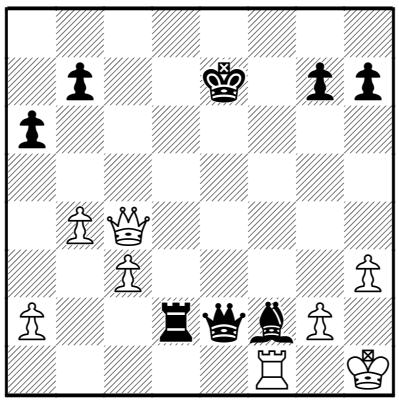
23...Bxf2+ 24.Kh1 Ke7

Making ...Rd2-e2-e1 a threat. The immediate 24...Re2 25.Rf1 Re1? allows counterplay by 26.Qc8+.

25.Rf1

Against 25.Qc8, I planned to finish with 25...Qe4 26.Rf1 Rd8 27.Qc7+ Rd7 28.Qc8 Qe2.

25...Qe2 0–1



Solutions to Outside Shots!

From the back cover.

1. White sacrifices the Queen for a forced mate: 24.Qxh7+!! 1–0, Liu - Mateer, 9th Metropolitan Invitational 2011. If 24...Kxh7, then 25.Rh1+ Nh4+ 26.Rxh4+ Kg6 27.Rh6 mate.

2. Black exploits the busy Rook on h7 with 36...Qh5+! 37.Kg2 (if 37.Rxh5 then Bxe5+ comes out a Rook ahead.) 37...Qf3+ 0–1, Amanov - Bojkov, 1st Metropolitan International, Los Angeles 2011. If now 38.Kh2, then Qxf2+ 39.Kh3 Qf1+ 40.Kh4 Qh1+ 41.Kg3 Qf3+ 42.Kh2 Rc2+, and the King is finally mated.

3. White wins big material with 25.Nf5+! 1–0, Peters - Coleman, 9th Metropolitan Invitational, Los Angeles, 2011. If 25...exf5, then 26.Rfe1+ Ne5 27.Rxe5+! dxe5 28.Rxd7+ Kxd7 29.Qxf6 and 30.Qxb6.

4. White breaks it open with ***25.Bxf5! exf5 26.Rxf5+ Bxf5 27.Qxf5+ Ke8*** If 27...Kg7, then 28.Rd7 Qxd7 29.Qxd7+ and White soon picks up the loose Rook on c2. If 28...Rc7 then 29.Qg5+ wins. ***28.Qg6+ 1–0***, Atoufi - Tilenbaeva, Sean Reader Memorial, Los Angeles, 2011. If now 28...Qf7, then simply 29.Qxc2 does it.

5. Black ends it with 41...Qf1+ 42.Bg1 Qf3+ 43.Kh2 Qe2+ 44.Kh1 Qe4+ 0–1, Hungaski - Adams, 1st Metropolitan International Los Angeles, 2011. See the next page for the rest of this game.

6. White made the big sac with 22.Qxe7+! 1–0, Gareev - Van Wely, 1st Metropolitan International, Los Angeles, 2011. White is a piece up after 22...Kxe7 23.Ba3+ Ke8 24.Ba4+ Nd7 25.Bxd7+ Kd8 26.Bc6+ Qxd1+ 27.Rxd1+ and 28.Bxa8.

Forcing the trade of all the major pieces. Maybe this game looks like an easy victory for Black, but I felt that I barely coped with the complications of moves 8 to 15. ♜

Michael Adams Wins First Metropolitan FIDE International

August 17-21, 2011

England's GM Michael Adams scored 7½-1½ to win the First Metro FIDE International at the Downtown Sheraton in Los Angeles. Second, one point behind, were GM Loek Van Wely from the Netherlands, GM Timur Gareev from Uzbekistan, GM Robert Ruck of Hungary, GM Dejan Bojkov of Bulgaria, GM Mesgen Amanov of Turkmenistan, and IM Conrad Holt of the USA.

This was the ***tenth(!)*** FIDE norm tournament organized by Metropolitan Chess and Ankit Gupta in less than one year. What's next? time will tell.

Best game prizes were awarded in each round; some of them found their way into this month's problems.

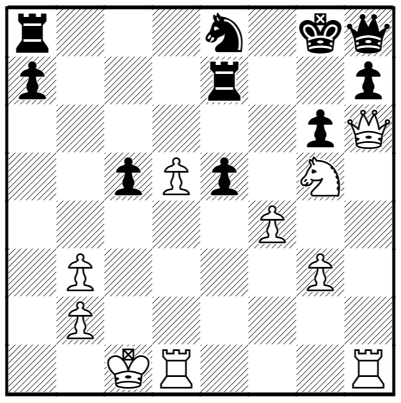
We present two games here.

IM Robert Hungaski won the 4th New York International Tournament in June, earning his second GM norm. Fate paired him against the top two players here.

There's GM strength, but there's also super-GM strength!

Van Wely,Loek (2683) -
Hungaski,Robert (2495)
[E90] Benoni Defense
1st Metropolitan International (3)
Los Angeles, 18.08.2011

1.d4 g6 2.Nf3 Bg7 3.c4 c5 4.d5 d6 5.e4 Nf6 6.Nc3 0–0 7.h3 Na6 8.Be2 Nc7 9.Bf4 Nfe8 10.Qd2 e5 11.dxe6 Nxe6 12.Bh6 Bd7 13.h4 Bxh6 14.Qxh6 Qf6 15.g3 Bc6 16.0–0–0 Nd4 17.Qe3 Nxe2+ 18.Qxe2 Nc7 19.h5 b5 20.Qe3 b4 21.Nd5 Bxd5 22.cxd5 Rfe8 23.hxg6 fxg6 24.Qh6 Re7 25.Ng5 Qh8 26.f4 Ne8 27.e5 b3 28.axb3 dxe5



White now finishes the win.

29.d6 Rd7 30.Qh3 Rad8 31.Qe6+ Kf8 32.fxe5 Ng7 33.Nxh7+ 1–0

The next game is from the last round. Robert needed a win to earn his third GM norm.

It looked like he played with caution at the start.

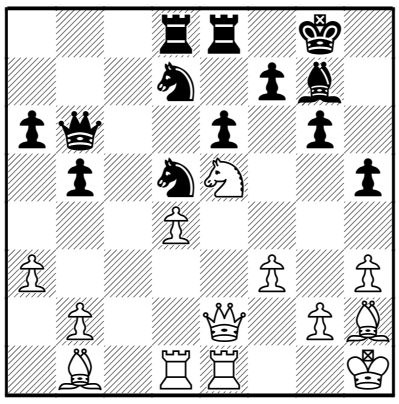
But Adams gradually came out of his hedgehog position, and by the time control at move 40, he had clinched his tournament win by a full point.

Hungaski,Robert (2495) -
Adams,Michael (2715)
[E43] Nimzoindian Defense
1st Metropolitan International (9)
Los Angeles, 21.08.2011

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 b6 5.Bd3 Bb7 6.Nf3 0–0 7.0–0 c5 8.Na4 cxd4 9.exd4 Re8 10.Bg5 Be7 11.Re1 h6

A new move here.

12.Bf4 Bf8 13.Rc1 d6 14.h3 Nbd7 15.Nc3 a6 16.Bg3 d5 17.cxd5 Nxd5 IQP 18.Bb1 g6 19.Qd3 N5f6 20.Rcd1 Bg7 21.a3 b5 22.Ne5 Rc8 23.f3 Qb6 24.Kh1 Rcd8 25.Qe2 Bd5 26.Nxd5 Nxd5 27.Bh2 h5



28.g4

This looks like a dubious weakening of the White Kingside.

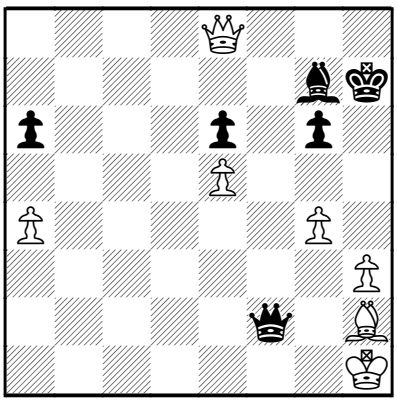
28...hxg4 29.fxg4 Nxe5 30.dxe5 b4 31.Qf3 bxa3 32.bxa3 Rc8 33.Be4 Rc3 34.Rd3 Rxd3 35.Bxd3 Qb2 36.a4 Nb4 37.Rf1?

Better was 37.Rb1 and it's still a fight. Now White is winning, as Black's King is much safer than White's.

37...Nxd3 38.Qxf7+ Kh7 39.Qxe8 Nf2+ 40.Rxf2

Forced, for if 40.Kg2 then Nxg4+ wins quickly.

40...Qxf2



41.Qxe6??

Losing quickly. Slower would have been 41.Qd7 Qf1+ 42.Bg1 Qxh3+ 43.Bh2 Qf1+ 44.Bg1 Qf3+ 45.Kh2 Qxg4–+.

41...Qf1+ 42.Bg1 Qf3+ 43.Kh2 Qe2+ 44.Kh1

White has to give up the Queen, for if 44.Kg3 Bxe5+ 45.Kh4, then Qe1+ 46.Kg5 Qd2+ 47.Kh4 Qh6 mate.

44...Qe4+ 0-1

45.Kh2 Bxe5+ wins the Queen. Congratulations, Mickey!

TWO SACRIFICIAL VICTORIES!

"This is why we endure all those blunders, the losses, the humiliation of bad positions, in the hope that someday we will come up with something like this." Such were my thoughts when going over the first game of this article, with its Queen sacrifice for two connected passes pawns on the seventh rank. Nice Play!

Both of these July games at Metropolitan feature sacrifices, and the notes relate the background in not only the openings, but the middle game plans and positional breakthroughs. Familiarity and originality work together.

The second game was a last round affair, and the other games were drawn fairly quickly. Not so this game. Most of the players soon left, but a few of the fans stayed to watch what seemed like a blocked up position, and wondered if there was going to be yet another draw.

On the contrary, and as the notes will show, there was quite a bit of intention still left in the tournament. And you can update your repertoire for White when playing against the seldom seen Owen's Defense. - Ed.

By IM Timothy Taylor

In the last two Metro Internationals, I was able to defeat IM elect Joel Banawa both times—in the first with a Queen sacrifice, and in the second by sac'ing only a Bishop! Following is a little "color commentary" on these victories.

Banawa, Joel -
Taylor,Timothy
[D10] Winawer Counter Gambit
Landon Brownell Memorial
8th Metropolitan FIDE
Los Angeles, 23.07.2011

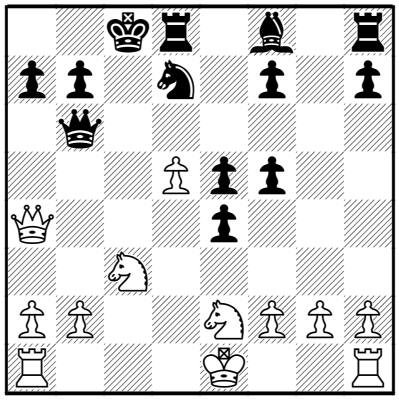
Before the game started, Joel politely asked, "Do you mind if I listen to music?" I thought the music would distract him, so I readily agreed, and he put on his headphones.

1.c4 c6 2.Nc3 d5 3.d4 e5

Seeing this move set Joel to dancing! I wondered if the music was working already — after spinning around the room a bit, he came back and bashed out the next eight moves with lightning speed!

Then I surmised that it wasn't the music that inspired his footwork, but rather my opening, the famous Winawer Counter Gambit. Could it be he thought this was a bad opening?

Winawer got his name attached to this by savagely beating Frank Marshall with it, and Marshall was one of the best in the world at that time: here's the game. 4.cxd5 cxd5 5.e4 dxe4 6.d5 Nf6 7.Bg5 Qb6 8.Bxf6 gxf6 9.Bb5+ Bd7 10.Bxd7+ Nxd7 11.Nge2 f5 12.Qa4 0–0–0



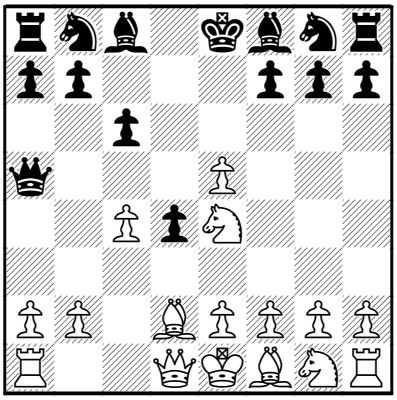
Black is already much better. 13.d6 Kb8 14.Qc4 Nc5 15.0–0 Qxd6 16.Qxf7 Qg6 17.Qc4 Rg8 18.g3 Qe6 19.Qxe6 Nxe6 20.Rad1 Nd4 21.Kg2 Bc5 22.Na4 Be7 23.Nac3 h5 24.Nxd4 exd4 25.Ne2 Bf6 26.b3 Be5 27.Rfe1 d3 28.Ng1 h4 29.Nh3 Rc8 30.Rc1 hxg3 31.Rxc8+ Rxc8 32.hxg3 Rc2 33.Nf4 Bd4 34.Rf1 Bxf2 35.Kh3 Rxa2 36.Kh4 d2 37.Rd1 Bd4 38.Ne2 Ra1 39.Rxd2 Be3 40.Rd8+ Kc7 0-1
Marshall,F - Winawer,S /Monte Carlo 1901.

This is far from the only high profile win with this gambit—even the great Anatoly Karpov was leveled by the fierce Winawer in the hands of the world class Evgeny Bareev: 4.dxe5 d4 5.Ne4 Qa5+ 6.Nd2 (the old main line) Nd7 7.e6 *(it's not wise to hold the pawn—7.f4? creates a weakness at e3 that Black can exploit as follows: 7...Nh6 8.Ngf3 Nf5 9.Qb3 Nc5 10.Qa3 Qb6 11.g4 Ne6 12.Qd3 Nxf4 13.Qe4 Ne3 14.Qxf4 Nc2+ 15.Kd1 Nxa1 16.Qe4 Bb4 17.h3 Be6 18.Qb1 0–0–0 19.Qxa1 h5 20.g5 Bxd2 21.Bxd2 Bxc4 22.b3 Bd5 23.Bg2 d3 24.e3 Qc5 25.Qc1 Bxf3+ 26.Bxf3 Qxe5 27.h4 Qg3 28.Rf1 Qh3 29.Rf2 Qxh4 30.Ke1 Qxg5 31.Qc4 Qg1+ 32.Rf1 Qg3+ 33.Kd1 Qh3 34.Rf2 Qe6 35.Qf4 f6 36.Rh2 g5 37.Qb4 Qe5 38.Rxh5 Rxh5 39.Bxh5 Qa1+ 40.Bc1 d2 0–1 Winzbeck,F - Naiditsch,E / Germany 2008)* 7...fxe6 8.g3 e5 9.Bg2 Ngf6 10.Ngf3 Be7 11.0–0 Qc7 12.Qc2 0–0 13.b3 Re8 14.Bb2 Bf8 15.Ng5 Nc5 16.h3 g6 17.g4 Bg7 18.Nde4 Nfxe4 19.Nxe4 Ne6 20.b4 Nf4 21.e3 Nxg2 22.Kxg2 a5 23.a3 Rf8 24.Rad1 axb4 25.axb4 dxe3 26.f3 Qe7 27.Bc1 Bh6 28.Rde1 Be6 29.Bxe3 Bxe3 30.Rxe3 Qxb4 31.Rb1 Qe7 32.Nf2 Qf7 33.Qb2 Bxc4 34.Qxb7 Qf4 35.Qxc6 Qxe3 36.Qxc4+ Kh8 37.Rb3 Qd2 38.Qc5 Rae8 39.Rd3 Qf4 40.Qc3 Rc8 41.Qb2 Rc4 42.Qe2 h5 43.Ne4 h4 44.Re3 Rfc8 45.Qf2 Rc2 46.Re2 Rxe2 47.Qxe2 Kg7 48.Qf2 Qc1 49.Qxh4 Rc2+ 50.Nf2 g5 51.Qg3 Qe1 52.h4 Kg6 53.hxg5 Kxg5 54.f4+ exf4 55.Qf3 Rd2 56.Kh3 Qf1+ 57.Qg2 Rxf2 0–1 Karpov,A - Bareev,E /Linares 1992.

One would expect Tal to enjoy such a gambit, and you would not be disappointed: Tal scored after 4.cxd5 cxd5 5.dxe5 d4 6.Ne4 Qa5+ 7.Nd2 Nc6 8.Ngf3 Nge7 9.g3 Ng6 10.Bg2 Ngxe5 11.Nxe5 Qxe5 12.0–0 Bc5 13.Nb3 Bb6 14.Bf4 Qf6 15.Rc1 0–0 16.Qd2 Re8 17.Nc5 Bg4 18.Ne4 Qg6 19.h3 Bxh3! 20.Bxh3 Qxe4 21.Rc2 Rad8 22.Bg2 Qe6 23.Bxc6 bxc6 24.Qd3 h6 25.b4

Qd5 26.a4 g5 27.Bc1 Re6 28.Rd1 a5 29.b5 c5 30.e3 Qf3 31.exd4 Re1+! 0–1 Dzindzichashvili, Roman - Tal, Mihail, New York (rapid) 1990—maybe the Roman Forum was closed that day!

But supposedly all this fun came to an end after the following game which continued from our basic gambit position after 3...e5 with 4.dxe5 d4 5.Ne4 Qa5+ 6.Bd2



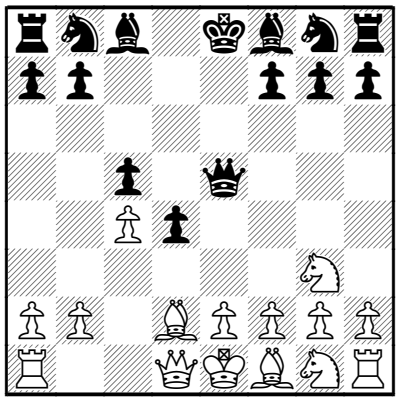
A new move at the time. 6...Qxe5 7.Ng3 Qd6 8.Nf3 Nf6 9.Qc2 Be7 10.0–0–0 0–0 11.e3 dxe3 12.fxe3 Qc7 13.Bc3 Bg4 14.Bd3 Nbd7 15.Bf5 Bxf5 16.Nxf5 Rfe8 17.Nxg7 Kxg7 18.Qf5 Nf8 19.h4 h6 20.g4 Qc8 21.Qxc8 Raxc8 22.g5 N8h7 23.e4 Rcd8 24.Rdf1 Kf8 25.gxf6 Bxf6 26.e5 Bg7 27.Rhg1 c5 28.Kc2 Re6 29.Rg4 Bh8 30.b4 b6 31.bxc5 bxc5 32.Rb1 Ra6 33.Rb2 Bg7 34.Rb7 Rxa2+ 35.Kb3 Ra6 36.e6 Rxe6 37.Rxg7 1–0 Kasparov,G -Nikolic,P / Manila 1992.

Now since the winner was then World Champion Kasparov, the opening was pronounced "refuted" and most of the books fell in line and nobody played the Winawer Counter Gambit any more—except for people who could think for themselves, that is!

4.dxe5

Joel follows Kasparov and commences to blitz.

4...d4 5.Ne4 Qa5+ 6.Bd2 Qxe5 7.Ng3 c5!



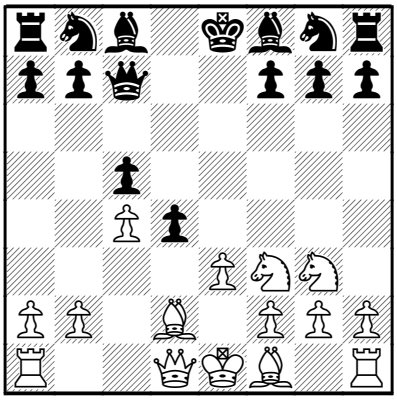
My improvement on the famous Kasparov win, where Nikolic had played 7...Qd6. I was sure this was the best move back in 1992, but strangely, never had a chance to play it until now. Clearly Black should solidify his center and give his Queen's Knight the c6 square rather than move his Queen again without purpose! I was not the only one to see this: one sees that many independent thinkers, including GMs, have played it, especially notable being Women's World Champion Antoaneta Stefanova!

Unmoved by my improvement, Joel continued to blitz—evidently my opening was "refuted" in this line too!

8.Nf3 Qc7

While White optically leads in development, he only has one well placed piece: the Queen's Bishop and the Knight on g3 will need to move again to be effective.

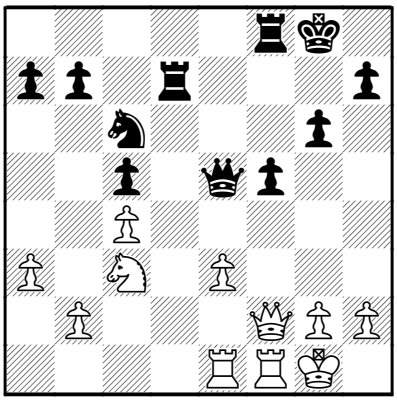
9.e3



9...Nc6

An alternative is 9...dxe3 and now:

10.fxe3?! Nf6 11.Qc2 g6 12.Bc3 Bg7 13.Ne4 Qe7 14.Bd3 0–0 15.0–0 Nc6 16.Bxf6 Bxf6 17.Nxf6+ Qxf6 18.Be4 Qe7 19.Nd2 Bd7 20.Rae1 Nb4 21.Qb1 Bc6 22.a3 Rad8 23.Bxc6 Nxc6 24.Ne4 f5 25.Nc3 Qe5 26.Qc2 Rd7 27.Qf2



½–½ Shabalov,A - Formanek,E /Chicago 1994. Obviously Black is much

Timothy Taylor, IM, Chess Instructor

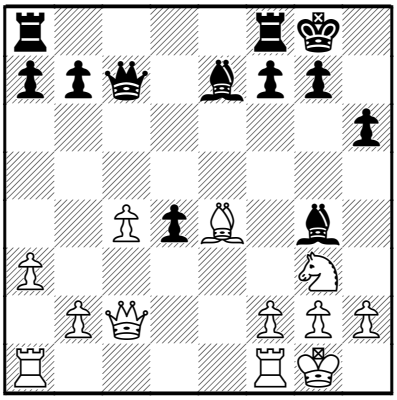
As a former US Open Champion and Southern California Open Champion, my play, with emphasis on attack is well known.

I've also been teaching for many years, and I am always ready to teach anyone who really wants to learn, regardless of their present rating. Many of my students have gained 200 rating points or more. If you are interested, contact me for serious chess lessons!

Email: pikearts@yahoo.com
Phone: 310 – 497 – 0792
Website: www.TimothyTaylorArtist.com

better in view of the pawn structure, Fritz says about a full point or clear advantage, with the best continuation being 27...Qe6 28.Nd5 Ne5 and White is in real trouble due to the threats to d3 and c4—nonetheless Black gave his high rated GM foe a courtesy draw!)

10.Bxe3 Nf6 11.Bd3 Be7 12.0–0 0–0 13.Qc2 Nc6 14.a3 Bg4 15.Ng5 h6 16.N5e4 Nxe4 17.Bxe4 Nd4 18.Bxd4 cxd4.

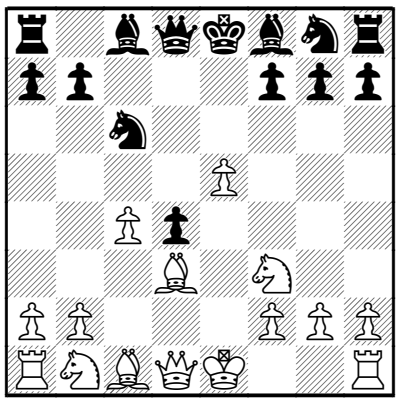


Miss Stefanova has a good game, much like mine, with her passed pawn in the center. 19.Bd5 Be6 20.Qe4 Bxd5 21.cxd5 Rfd8 22.Qxd4 Bf6 23.Qd3 Bxb2 24.Rab1 Be5 25.Rfc1 Qd7 26.Nf5 g6 27.Ne3 b6 28.g3 h5 29.Rc4 Rac8 30.a4 Rxc4 31.Qxc4 Bd6 32.Rd1 Bc5 33.Kg2 Qe7 34.Qf4 a6 35.Nc4 b5 36.axb5 axb5 37.Ne5 Re8 38.d6 Bxd6 39.Nxg6 Bxf4 40.Nxe7+ Rxe7 41.gxf4 Rb7 42.Rb1 b4 43.Rb3 Kg7 44.Kg3 Kf6 45.Kh4 Rb5 46.f5 Rxf5 47.Rxb4 Rxf2 48.Kxh5 Rxh2+ 49.Kg4 Rg2+ 50.Kf3 Rc2 51.Rd4

½–½ Prudnikova,S - Stefanova,A / Belgrade 1995. Unfortunately Black's extra pawn is not enough to win.

10.exd4 cxd4

Tartakower's line of the Albin Counter Gambit goes as follows: 1.d4 d5 2.c4 e5 3.dxe5 d4 4.Nf3 c5 5.e3 Nc6 6.exd4 cxd4 7.Bd3

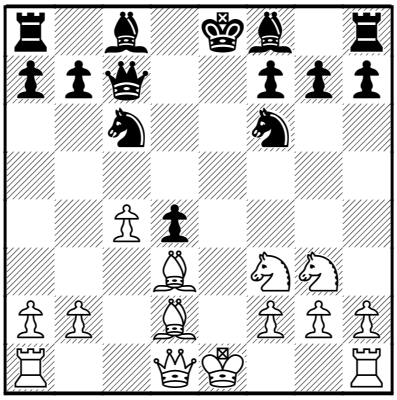


Timothy Taylor: The Winawer Counter Gambit lives!

cr

Black has a similar structure to my game, but is a pawn down, which tips the scales in favor of White, who won stylishly here: 7...Nge7 8.Nbd2 Bg4 9.Qb3 Qc7 10.0–0 0–0–0 11.Re1 Ng6 12.h3 Be6 13.Be4 Ngxe5 14.Nxe5 Qxe5 15.Nf3 Qc5 16.Bf4 Bd6 17.Bxc6 bxc6 18.Bxd6 Rxd6 19.Ne5 Rhd8 20.Qa4 d3 21.b4 Qd4 22.Nxc6 Rxc6 23.Qxc6+ Kb8 24.c5 d2 25.Red1 Bf5 26.Qb5+ Kc7 27.Qa5+ Kb8 28.b5 Bc2 29.b6 Rd7 30.bxa7+ Ka8 31.c6 Rd5 32.c7! Bf5 33.c8Q+! Bxc8 34.Qc7 Rb5 35.Qxc8+ Kxa7 36.a4 Rc5 37.Qg4 Qxa1 38.Rxa1 Rc1+ 39.Qd1 1–0 Tarrasch,S - Tartakower,S /Berlin 1920.

11.Bd3 Nf6



At this point Joel suddenly stopped blitzing and actually looked at the position. I imagine that whatever repertoire book or computer program he was following ended here with some such note as "Black's game is in its last throes."

However, what do we really have? While Fritz does evaluate the position as plus equals (hardly decisive or refuted) any human can see that Black has free development of both Bs and a strong passed central pawn only three squares from Queening. One might say Black has a good Tartakower Albin, with no missing pawn.

12.0–0 Be7 13.Qc2

I was worried about 13.b4 during the game, thinking White might win a pawn, but on reflection Black simply allows this and then after 13...Bxb4 14.Bxb4 Nxb4 15.Qa4+ Nc6 16.Rfe1+ Be6 17.Nxd4 0–0 18.Nxe6 fxe6 19.Rxe6 Rad8 has good compensation, with pressure on the d and f files.

The only game to reach the game position after 12...Be7 in the MegaBase continued 13.Qc1 0–0 14.Bf4 Bd6 15.Bxd6 Qxd6 16.c5 Qc7 17.a3 Be6 18.Qg5 h6 19.Qh4 Rfd8 20.Ne4 Nxe4 21.Qxe4 g6 22.Nh4 Qe5 23.Rfe1 Qxe4 24.Bxe4 Bd5 25.Nf3 f5 26.Bxd5+ Rxd5 27.Rad1 a5 28.Kf1 Rad8 29.Rc1 Kf7 30.Rc4 g5 and Black's passed pawn and Kingside space advantage eventually led to a win in Shahin, W - Brauer, C /Leutersdorf 2002.

13...0–0 14.h3 Bd7 15.a3 a5 16.Rae1 Rad8 17.Bg5?!

The evil machine says that 17.Re2 maintains the plus equals, e.g. 17... Rfe8 18.Rfe1 h6 19.Qc1 Bf8 20.Bf4 Qb6 but it's not clear if White's temporary initiative amounts to anything—if Black can just exchange all the Rooks on the open file, the d pawn will start calling louder.

17...h6

Now it's already difficult for White to find a constructive move.

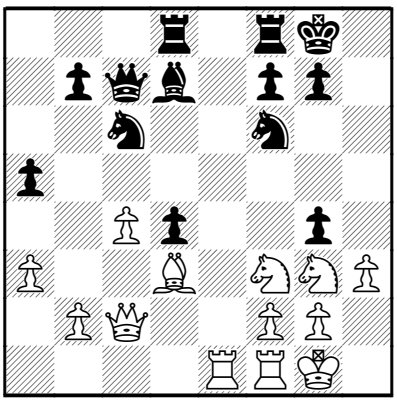
18.Rxe7

Leads to a favorable exchange for Black, but if 18.Bxf6 Bxf6 19.Nh5 Be7 and White has nothing. If 18.Bh4!? Be6! 19.Nf5 Bxf5 20.Bxf5 (not 20.Rxe7 Bxd3 21.Rxc7 Bxc2 winning for Black) 20...Nh5 21.Bxe7 Nxe7 and Black has equalized with exchanges but the passed d pawn is still with us. This is probably the best White has but an equalizing line is not what White wants when facing a "refuted" opening!

18...hxg5

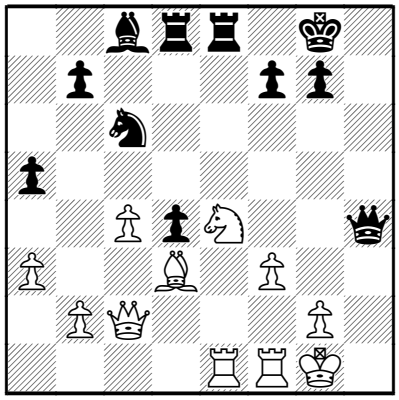
Of course not 18...Nxe7? 19.Bxf6 gxf6 20.Qd2 Kg7 21.Nh5+ with a winning attack.

19.Ree1 g4



Black has not just equalized but stands slightly better in view of his passed pawn and space advantage.

20.hxg4 Bxg4 21.Ng5 Qf4 22.N5e4 Rfe8 23.f3 Bc8 24.Nxf6+ Qxf6 25.Ne4 Qh4!



The Queen's correct square is h6, where it monitors the h file and White's weakness at e3, but before I go there I want to induce White to weaken his Kingside.

26.g3

White should probably not allow himself to be provoked, and try 26.Nf2 Ne5 27.Re4 with chances to equalize.

26...Qh6 27.c5

As always, Banawa seeks relief in the tactical complications in which he excels, but strategically the move is extremely suspect for White's back rank will be weakened. On the other hand, there is not much by way of alternatives, e.g. 27.Qc1 Qxc1 28.Rxc1 Ne5 29.Rcd1 Be6 30.b3 a4 and the ending is much better for Black as White's Queenside collapses.

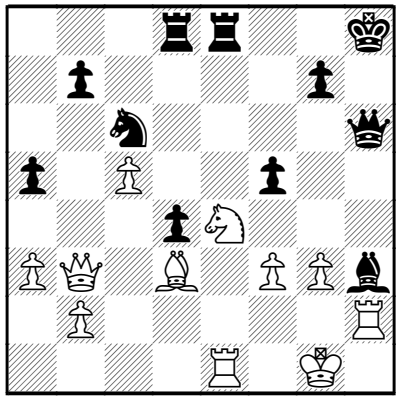
27...Bh3!

This was the point of inducing g3–-now the Rook on e1 will lack defense.

28.Rf2 f5 29.Qb3+ Kh8

Objectively, best may be 29...Kf8 30.Bf1 Bxf1 31.Rexf1 a4 32.Qc4 *(not 32.Qxa4 fxe4 33.fxe4+ Kg8 34.Qb3+ Qe6 and Black holds the extra piece)* 32...Qe6 33.Qxe6 Rxe6 34.Nd6 b6 35.g4 g6 36.gxf5 gxf5 37.Nxf5 bxc5 38.Rh2 and while Black is clearly better due to his strong passed pawn, White has some drawing chances in view of the reduced number of pawns—all well and good, but no fireworks!

30.Rh2



Combinations don't come out of nowhere. I have already mentioned that one of Black's main strategical pluses is his passed d pawn, just three squares from Queening. White is clearly planning to release the blockade with Bf1 if Black takes a piece with fxe4–-but this means Black can get two connected passed pawns! And both backed up by Rooks!

Then clearly the coming Queen sacrifice is justified due to these positional factors.

30...fxe4!! 31.Bf1 d3 32.Rxh3 Qxh3 33.Bxh3

Black has only a Rook for his Queen—but check out those passed pawns!

33...d2!

The pawns need to advance—this is the whole point!

Instead, the Knight attack would lead to disaster: 33...Nd4? 34.Qa4 Nxf3+ 35.Kf2 Nxe1 36.Kxe1 e3 37.Qh4+ Kg8 38.Be6+! Kf8 39.Qf4+ Ke7 40.Qf7 mate.

34.Ra1?!

This and the following move cost White the game.

While it's extremely difficult to orient oneself after such a sacrifice, White needs to keep two things in mind: first, the pawns must be blockaded as long as possible, so 34.Rd1 is correct, and two, White's only hope of a draw is some kind of perpetual or repetition.

A counterattack such as he tries in the game is hopeless in view of the power of Black's passed pawns.

After 34.Rd1 e3 Fritz gives the following draws: 35.Bf1 (35.Qc4 e2 *(35...*

Nd4 36.Bf1 e2 37.Bxe2 Rxe2 38.Kf1 Rh2 39.Qa4 draws as the Rd1 is held; but in the note below when the White Rook is on a1, the same line loses) 36.Qh4+ Kg8 37.Qc4+ Kf8 38.Qf4+ Kg8 *(38...Ke7 39.Qg5+ Kf7 40.Qf4+)* 39.Qc4+) 35...e2 36.Bxe2 Rxe2 37.Qc3 Rd5 38.g4 Ne5 39.Kf1 Rh2 40.g5 Ng6 41.Kg1 *(not 41.b4 Rh1+ 42.Ke2 Nf4+ 43.Ke3 Rxd1 and Black wins)* 41...Re2 42.Kf1 Rh2=.

This means that by computer logic Black should have played 29...Kf8 and reached a better ending—but the art of chess is different from computer objectivity. In a real game between people, there are psychological factors like "sacrificial shock" that occur over and over. I am a great believer in this effect of the unexpected sacrifice, as Spielmann pointed out so many years ago in his classic *The Art of Sacrifice in Chess*.

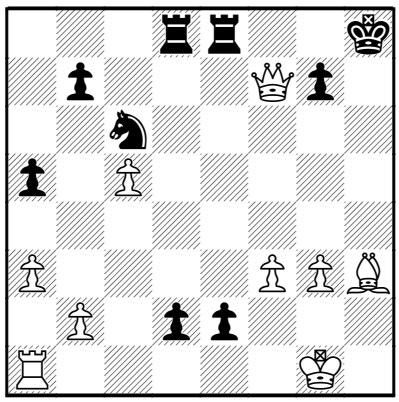
While I might have won the better ending after 29...Kf8, equally likely I would have drawn given Joel's renowned stubborn defense.

However, by boldly sacrificing my Queen I won in a few moves, as my opponent became disoriented, lost his way and the game.

34...e3 35.Qf7?!

White's last hope is 35.Qc4 Nd4 36.Bf1 e2 37.Bxe2 Rxe2–+ 38.Kf1 Rh2 39.Kg1 (39.Qa4 of course this is now senseless, as 39...Rh1+ 40.Kg2 Rxa1 wins) 39...Nxf3+ 40.Kf1 d1Q+ 41.Rxd1 Rxd1 mate; 35.Bf1 Nd4 36.Qa4 e2 37.Bxe2 Rxe2 38.Kf1 Rde8 39.Qxd4 Re1+ 40.Kg2 R8e2+ 41.Kh3 Rxa1 42.Qd8+ Kh7 43.Qh4+ and White may have just enough squares for a perpetual.

35...e2



My Everyman editor GM John Emms said, after he saw this game, that he has never had two pawns on the seventh in the middle game in his whole career!

Black is now winning not only psychologically but also objectively and even Mr. Fritz is happy! The pawns are going through and there is no perpetual.

36.Qh5+ Kg8 37.Bf5 e1Q+ 38.Kh2 Qe5!

Simple and clear—Black is a Rook up and the checks run out: 39.Qh7+ (On 39.Rd1 I was planning the forcing 39...g6! 40.Qxg6+ Qg7 41.Be6+ Kh8 and White has no good moves as 42.Qh5+ is killed off by Qh7) 39...Kf8 40.Qh8+ Ke7 41.Qh4+ Qf6 42.Qe4+ Kf8 and no checks can be found but Black still has a passed d pawn, not to mention an extra Rook!

Much more complicated is the greedy computer recommendation (instead of 38…Qe5) 38...Qxa1!? 39.Qh7+ Kf7 40.Qh5+ (40.Qg6+ Kf8 wins as there are no more checks) 40...Kf6 41.Qh4+ Kxf5 42.g4+ Kf4 43.Qg3+ Ke3 44.f4+ Kd4 45.Qc3+ Kd5 46.Qxd2+ Kxc5 47.Qf2+ Nd4 48.b4+ axb4 49.axb4+ Kb6 with finally a clear win for Black, but again, Black had no need of such calculations.

After my clearly winning 38…Qe5 White took his clock down to two seconds and then resigned.

0–1

The Winawer Counter Gambit lives!

Just a week later, I faced Joel again, and new adventures occurred.

Taylor, Timothy -
Banawa, Joel
[B00] Owen's Defense
9th Metropolitan FIDE (9)
Los Angeles, 31.07.2011

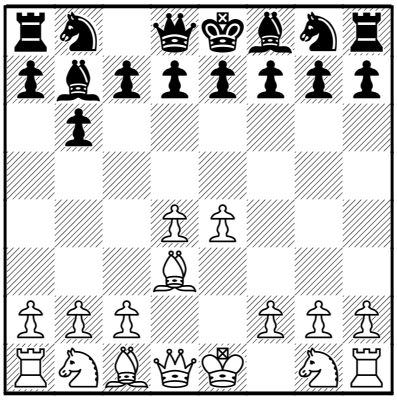
1.e4 b6

Here Joel goes for the offbeat opening!

However, I was quite happy to see this, as I will explain: Everyman Books published the French GM Christian Bauer's book *Play 1...b6* in 2005, and naturally I immediately snapped up a copy, as I am always looking to expand my repertoire with new, unusual—and one hopes—sound openings. But a cautionary note quickly appeared: the truthful GM Bauer wrote, "To be honest, I don't think Black can equalize as quickly with 1...b6 as he sometimes does in standard openings, and he may suffer against a well prepared opponent."

I studied the opening and tried to make it work—and even played it in a few games against lower rated opposition—but I just couldn't find a good path against the critical line seen in this game. With the tables turned in my favor, all I could do was smile and say to myself, "*I am the well prepared opponent!*"

2.d4 Bb7 3.Bd3

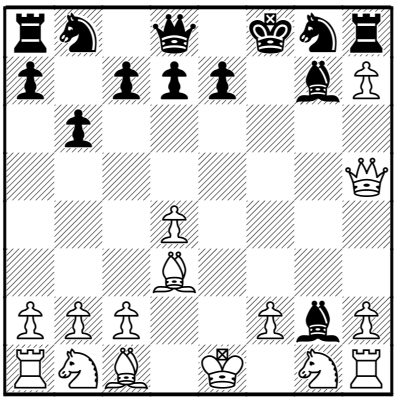


One of the few games in which I tried 1...b6 went as follows: 3.Nc3 e6 4.Nf3 Bb4 5.Bd3 c5 6.0–0 Bxc3 7.bxc3 c4 8.Bxc4 Bxe4 9.Re1 Nf6 10.Ba3 and now I am in serious trouble, unable to castle with no dark square Bishop. I tried 10...Qc7 11.Bd3 Bxd3 12.Qxd3 Nc6 13.d5 Na5 14.dxe6 dxe6 (Now after 15.Ne5 White would have had a huge advantage with the Black King caught in the center, but instead I got lucky) 15.Rad1? Nc4 16.Bc1 0–0 Black has (fortunately!) now emerged from the opening with the better game due to White's doubled pawns. 17.Ng5 Rad8 18.Qh3 Rxd1 19.Rxd1 Rd8 20.Rxd8+ Qxd8 21.Qd3 Qd5 22.Nf3 h6 23.Kf1 e5 24.Nd2 Nxd2+ 25.Bxd2 Qxa2 and Black won the ending in Henderson,R-Taylor,T/Los Angeles 2005.

3...e6

I saw the young Ken Regan draw with a very surprised GM Lombardy with the following crazy line—but as Bauer points out, and Fritz 12 con-

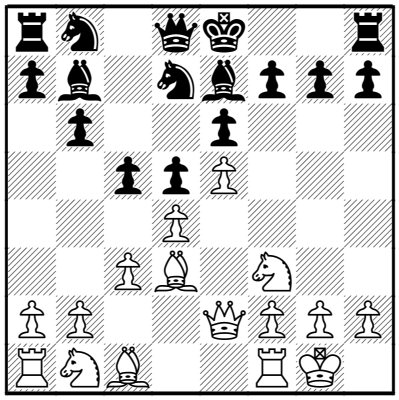
firms, Black just can't get away with such nonsense—at least not against a prepared opponent! 3...f5?! 4.exf5 Bxg2 5.Qh5+ g6 6.fxg6 Bg7 (Bauer suggests Black should save energy and go for 6...Nf6 7.gxh7+ Nxh5 8.Bg6 mate.) 7.gxh7+ (Simpler than Bauer's convoluted 7.Qf5 Nf6 8.Bh6 Bxh6 9.gxh7 which may also favor White) 7...Kf8



8.hxg8Q+? Kxg8 9.Qg4 Bxh1 10.Nc3 Qf8 11.Be3 Qf6 12.h3 Qh4 13.Qg6 Nc6 14.0–0–0 e6 15.Nge2 Ne7 16.Qg5 Bf3 17.Rg1 Qxg5 18.Bxg5 Nf5 19.Bxf5 exf5 20.Nf4 Kf7 21.Rg3 Bb7 22.Nb5 a6 23.Nxc7 Rac8 24.Ncd5 Bxd5 25.Nxd5 Bxd4 26.Rf3 Rhe8 27.c3 Re5 28.Nb4 Kg6 29.h4 Re4 30.Nd3 Bf6 31.Be3 Bxh4 32.Bxb6 Bg5+ 33.Kd1 Rh8 34.Rg3 Rh1+ 35.Kc2 f4 36.Rg2 Re2+ 37.Kb3 Kf5 38.Bd4 d6 39.Kc4 Rd2 40.Nb4 a5 41.Nc6 a4 42.Nb4 Rxb2 43.Kb5 Rh3 44.Kxa4 Rb1 45.Kb5 f3 46.Rxg5+ Kxg5 47.a4 Rh7 48.a5 Ra1 49.a6 Kf5 50.Nc6 Ke6 51.a7 Ra3 52.Kb4 Ra6 53.Kb5 Ra3 54.Kb4 Ra6 55.Kb5 ½–½ Lombardy,William James (2529) - Regan,Kenneth (2104) US Open New York (3), 1974.

Best is 8.Nf3! White simply develops with attack, as the Rook is immune: 8...Nf6 *(8...Bxh1 9.Ne5 Qe8 10.hxg8Q+ Rxg8 11.Qf5+ Bf6 12.Bh6+ Rg7 13.Bxg7+ Kxg7 14.Qh7+ Kf8 15.Ng6+ wins)* 9.Qg6 Bxf3 (*9... Bxh1 10.Bh6 Ne8 (10...Rxh7 11.Ng5) 11.Qf5+ Nf6 12.Bxg7+ Kxg7 13.Qg6+ Kf8 14.Qh6+ Kf7 15.Ng5+ Ke8 16.Bg6 mate*) 10.Rg1 Rxh7 11.Qg3 and White gets material plus attack, e.g. 11... Be4 12.Bxe4 Nxe4 13.Qf3+ Kg8 (13... Nf6 14.Qxa8) 14.Qxe4 Nc6 15.d5 Na5 16.Be3 c5 17.Nc3 Qf8 18.h4 Kh8 19.Rg6 Qf7 20.0–0–0 Rf8 21.Rdg1 Nb7 22.Qg4 Bxc3 23.bxc3 Qxd5 24.Bh6 Rxf2 1–0 Rosenberger,F-Kessler,A/Polch 1993.

4.Nf3 c5 5.c3 Nf6 6.Qe2 Be7 7.0–0 d5 8.e5 Nfd7

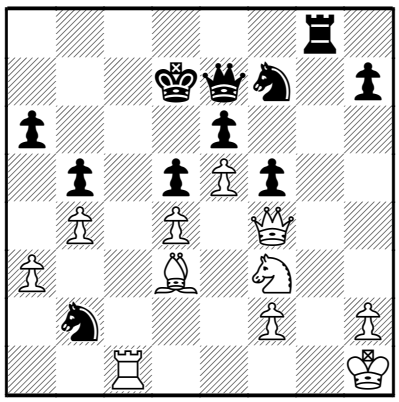


In my previous researches, from the Black side, I found I just didn't like this position—and I feel it objectively favors White—as Black essentially has a bad French with the Queen's Bishop misplaced (in a regular French Black would have tried to exchange it on a6).

I would still be willing to give 1... b6 a go if an improvement can be found somewhere before this move.

9.Bf4

Bauer gives the following powerful White win in his book, which certainly shows his objectivity, but made me think twice about playing the opening in a serious contest! 9.Nbd2 Nc6 10.Rd1 cxd4 11.cxd4 Nb4 12.Bb1 Rc8 13.Nf1 Ba6 14.Qd2 Bxf1 15.Rxf1 Qc7 16.a3 Nc6 17.b4 b5 18.Bd3 a6 19.Qf4 Nb6 20.Qg4 g6 21.Bh6 Nc4 22.Qf4 f5 23.g4 Nd8 24.Bg5 Nf7 25.Bxe7 Qxe7 26.gxf5 gxf5 27.Kh1 Rg8 28.Rg1 Kd7 29.Rac1 Nb2 30.Rxg8 Rxg8



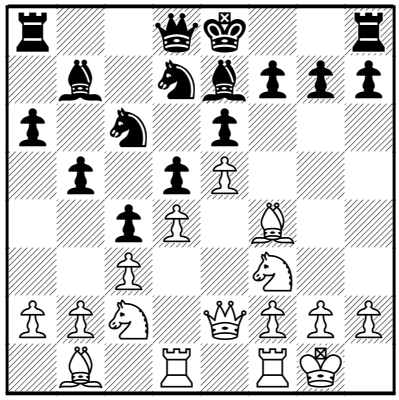
31.Bxf5! Note this thematic Bishop sacrifice, which will also surface in the main game. 31...Rf8 32.Bxe6+ Qxe6 33.Ng5 Nxg5 34.Qxf8 Nc4 35.Rg1 h6 36.f4 Qg6 37.f5 Qh5 38.e6+ Kc7 39.Qc5+ Kb8 40.Qxd5 Nb6 41.Qc6 Nc8 42.Rc1 1–0 Sermek,D - Minasian,A /Cannes 1996.

While this was great, I also like my played Nimzovichian overprotection, where the White pieces don't get in each other's way.

9...Nc6 10.Na3 a6

I didn't mind doubled pawns: If 10...cxd4 11.cxd4 Bxa3 *(11... Nb4 12.Nb5 Nxd3 13.Qxd3 Ba6 14.Nd6+ Bxd6 15.Qxa6 Be7 16.Rac1 0–0 17.Rc2 Rc8 18.Rxc8 Qxc8 19.Qxa7 and White wins a pawn)* 12.bxa3 is good for White as is 10...c4 11.Bc2 Bxa3 12.bxa3. In both cases Black's weak dark squares outweigh White's pawn weaknesses.

11.Rad1 c4 12.Bb1 b5 13.Nc2

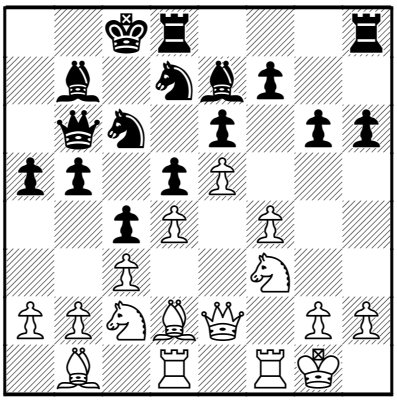


Correct! The White Knight heads for e3, while the White Queen monitors b2. In short, White has a harmonious position with a space advantage. My opponent may have been guided by the following game, when after 13.Qe3?! h6 14.Nd2 Nb6 15.Bc2 b4 16.Nab1 a5 17.Rde1 Ba6 18.a3 b3 19.Bd1 Na4, Black won the b pawn and the game in Barbitskij,A - Turikov,V St Petersburg 2002.

13...a5 14.Bd2

"The elasticity of the overprotector is manifest" as Nimzovich would say!

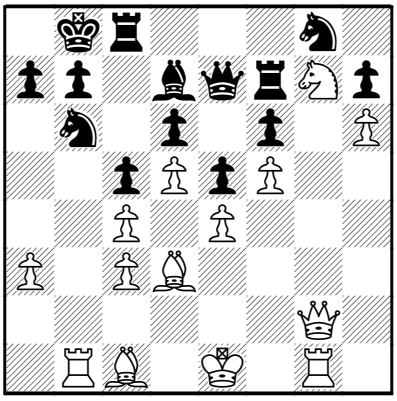
14...h6 15.Nfe1 Qb6 16.f4 g6 17.Nf3 0–0–0



Black castles on the "strong side" of his pawn chain, but on the other hand his advanced Queenside pawns are easy targets for line opening levers, while Black has no space to do any damage on the Kingside.

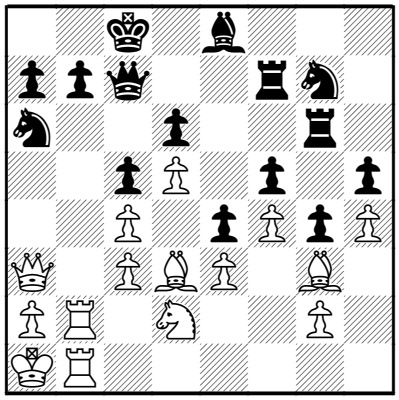
This game reminded me of a previous encounter with Joel and also of Capablanca's famous win over Ragozin: 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4:

Capa played the Saemisch and triumphed as follows: 4.a3 Bxc3+ 5.bxc3 d6 6.Qc2 0–0 7.e4 e5 8.Bd3 c5 9.Ne2 Nc6 10.d5 Ne7 11.f3 Nd7 12.h4 Nb6 13.g4 f6 14.Ng3 Kf7 15.g5 Ng8 16.f4 Ke8 17.f5 Qe7 18.Qg2 Kd8 19.Nh5 Kc7 20.gxf6 gxf6 21.Ng7 Bd7 22.h5 Rac8 23.h6 Kb8 24.Rg1 Rf7 25.Rb1



The open Queenside file and Kingside space advantage are decisive. 25... Qf8 26.Be2 Ka8 27.Bh5 Re7 28.Qa2 Qd8 29.Bd2 Na4 30.Qb3 Nb6 31.a4 Rb8 32.a5 Nc8 33.Qa2 Qf8 34.Be3 b6 35.a6 Qd8 36.Kd2 Qf8 37.Rb2 Qd8 38.Qb1 b5 39.cxb5 Nb6 40.Qa2 c4 41.Qa3 Qc7 42.Kc1 Rf8 43.Rbg2 Qb8 44.Qb4 Rd8 45.Rg3 Rf8 46.Ne6 Bxe6 47.dxe6 Rc7 48.Qxd6 Ne7 49.Rd1 1–0 Capablanca,J - Ragozin,V /Moscow 1935.

The other game continued 4.Bg5 c5 5.d5 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 h6 7.Bh4 d6 8.Nf3 Qe7 9.e3 e5 10.Qc2 g5 11.Bg3 Nh5 12.Bd3 Ng7 13.Nd2 f5 14.f3 h5 15.0–0–0 Na6 16.h4 g4 17.Kb2 Bd7 18.Ka1 0–0–0 19.Rb1 Rdf8 20.Qb2 Be8 21.Qa3 Qc7 22.Rhe1 Rf7 23.Rb2 Rh6 24.Reb1 Rg6 25.f4 e4



Black has no counterplay on the Kingside, and can only wait for the decisive blow to land on the Queenside—note again the importance of the open b file. 26.Bc2 Rh6 27.Ba4 Bxa4 28.Qxa4 Rh7 29.Rxb7! (White crashes through) Qxb7 30.Rxb7 Rxb7 31.Qxa6 Ne8 32.Nb3 Kd8 33.Na5 Rbc7 34.Nc6+ Rxc6 35.dxc6 Rc7 36.Be1 Ng7 37.Bd2 Ne6 38.Bc1 Ke7 39.Qb7 Kf7 40.Ba3 a5 41.Kb2 Kf6 42.Kb3 1–0 Taylor,T - Banawa,J/Los Angeles 2008.

With these games in mind, it was easy to formulate a plan.

18.Ne3 Rdg8 19.Kh1 Nd8

Black can't play on his weak side (19...g5 20.f5 or 20.fxg5!? hxg5 21.Ng4 are both very good for White) but White has such a strong position and central space that I can play on both sides.

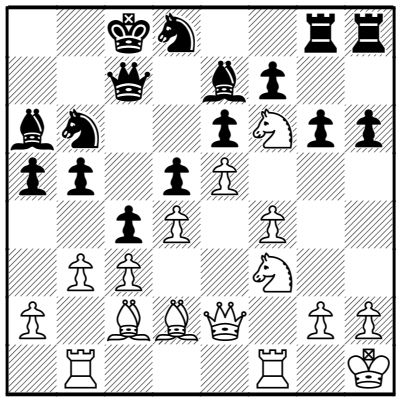
20.Bc2 Qc6 21.b3!

Capablanca style! White opens a Queenside file.

21...Nb6 22.Rb1 Ba6 23.Ng4 Qc7

If 23...b4 24.Rfc1 Qb7 25.bxc4 Bxc4 26.Bd3 and too many lines open against the Black King.

24.Nf6!



Again I follow Capablanca by obtaining a far advanced Knight outpost on the Kingside.

24...Rf8

If 24...Bxf6 25.exf6 White gets the giant square at e5 for the remaining Knight.

25.a4 bxa4 26.bxa4 Nc6 27.Rb2 Nd7 28.Rfb1

White has full board play.

28...Ba3

A typical winning attack would occur after 28...Nxf6 29.exf6 Bxf6 30.Ne5 Nxe5 31.dxe5 Be7 32.Rb6 Qa7 33.Qe3 Qa8 34.Bxg6 fxg6 35.Qh3 Rf5 36.Rxe6 Kd8 37.Qe3. Notice how White uses his central control to switch back and forth between the Kingside and Queenside.

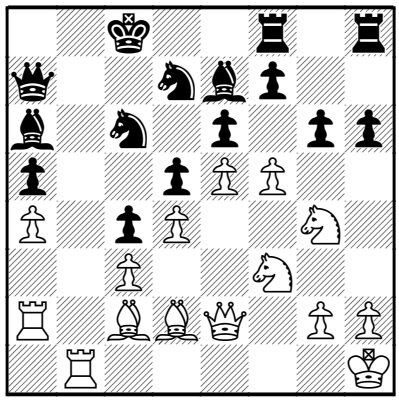
29.Ra2 Be7 30.Ng4!

I didn't even think of repeating with 30.Rab2 Ba3.

30...Qa7

Better is 30...h5 31.Ne3 but then White will gradually break through against Black's weakened Kside.

31.f5!



The thematic break.

31...gxf5 32.Nxh6 f6

Provoking a crisis, but I hardly

hesitated. I knew the sac on f5 was thematic, and in any case, this is my kind of position!

33.Bxf5!! exf5 34.e6 Nb6 35.Nxf5

White has two pawns for the piece, one of which is passed on the sixth, plus attacking chances on the b file and h2–b8 diagonal—in short, way more than enough for the piece.

35...Rh5 36.N3h4!

36.g4 is not bad but nonetheless weaker, as White wants a Knight on the f5 square.

36...Rxh4

Or 36...Rfh8 37.Qg4 and White infiltrates.

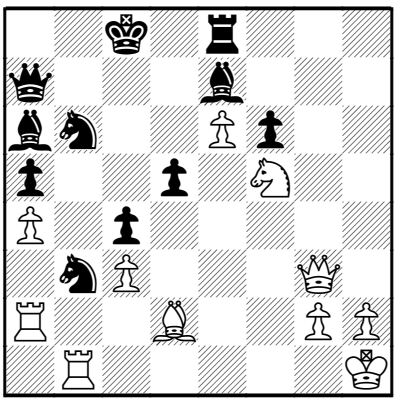
37.Nxh4 Nxd4!

A spirited try, quite in Banawa's style, but the position favors White too much for such random tactics to work.

38.Qe3

Simple and good, though Fritz finds the silicon solution 38.cxd4 c3 39.Qh5 cxd2 *(39...Bc4 40.Rc2 cxd2 41.Rxd2+–)* 40.Ng6 Rd8 41.Nxe7+ Qxe7 42.Rxb6 Qc7 43.Rxd2 Qxb6 44.e7 and wins.

38...Nb3 39.Nf5 Re8 40.Qg3



40...Qc7

The time control has been reached, and now game 30 loomed. White has the big Knight on f5, the even bigger passer on e6, and not even any material inferiority (R + P vs. 2 pieces). In short, White has decisive advantage.

Note that 40...Nxa4? fails to 41.Rxa4 Nxd2 42.Qg6 Kd8 (42...Rd8 43.Qf7) 43.Rxa5 Nxb1 44.Rxd5+ Kc7 45.Qxe8 with a winning attack.

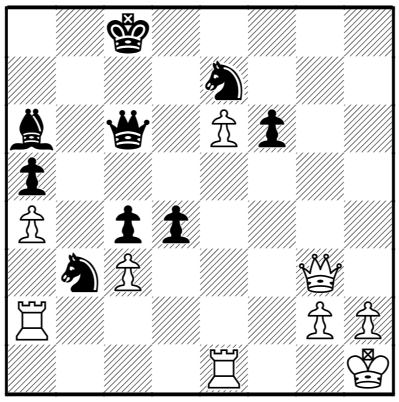
41.Bf4 Qc6 42.Re1!

Rooks belong behind passed pawns! Black has no serious defense to the coming Bd6.

42...d4

Still hoping for tactical opportunities!

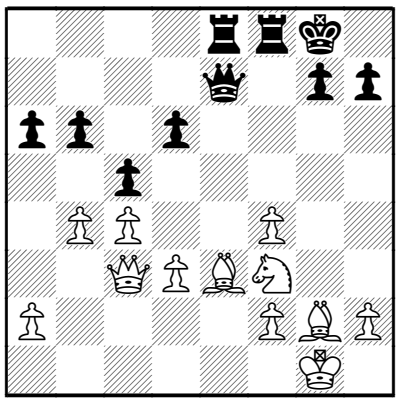
43.Bd6 Nd5 44.Bxe7 Rxe7 45.Nxe7+ Nxe7



Capa's three pieces beat Alekhine's two Rooks in Nottingham but there White had great positional advantage, not the case here.

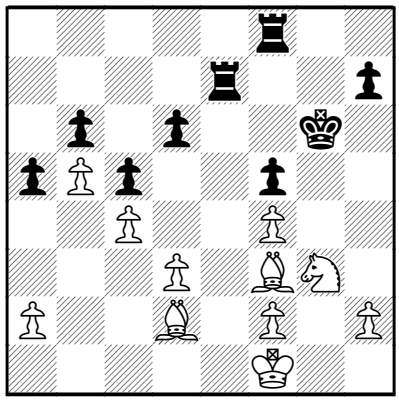
This is what Black wishes he had:

1.d4 e6 2.Nf3 f5 3.g3 Nf6 4.Bg2 Be7 5.0–0 0–0 6.c4 Ne4 7.Qb3 Bf6 8.Rd1 Qe8 9.Nc3 Nc6 10.Nb5 Bd8 11.Qc2 d6 12.d5 Nb4 13.Qb3 Na6 14.dxe6 Nac5 15.Qc2 Nxe6 16.Nfd4 Nxd4 17.Nxd4 Bf6 18.Nb5 Qe7 19.Be3 a6 20.Nd4 Bd7 21.Rac1 Rae8 22.b4 b6 23.Nf3 Nc3 24.Rd3 f4 25.gxf4 Bf5 26.Qd2 Bxd3 27.exd3 c5 28.Rxc3 Bxc3 29.Qxc3



The three pieces beat the two Rooks, which have no good open files—while Capa finds wonderful squares for his minor pieces.

29...Qf6 30.Qxf6 gxf6 31.Nd2 f5 32.b5 a5 33.Nf1 Kf7 34.Ng3 Kg6 35.Bf3 Re7 36.Kf1 Kf6 37.Bd2 Kg6



1–0 Capablanca,J - Alekhine,A /Nottingham 1936.

White will bring his Knight to d5 when Black won't be able to hold his weaknesses at b6 and f5.

46.cxd4 Nxd4

47.Qf4

47.Qh4! would have won more quickly, e.g. 47...Nb3 (47...c3 48.Qxd4 c2 49.Rc1) 48.Qxf6 etc.

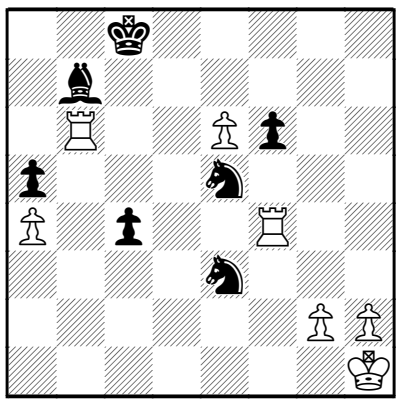
47...Ndf5 48.Rb2 Qc7 49.Qe4 Qc6

If 49...Bb7, then 50.Rxb7 Qxb7 51.Qxc4+. I was aiming for this kind of technical position, when Black has no counterplay.

50.Qxc6+ Nxc6 51.Rb6 Bb7 52.Re4 Ne5

Once again, if 52...Kc7, then 53.Rxb7+ with the same idea as above: eliminate the Black Bishop and the passed pawn, and White should win cleanly after 53...Kxb7 54.Rxc4 Kc7 55.Rf4 Nce7 56.h3 Kd6 57.g4 Ne3 58.Rxf6 etc.

53.Rf4 Ne3



54.Rxb7!

Excelsior!

54...Nd5 55.e7

55.Rg7 is fancier but also quick-

er: 55...Nxf4 *(White wins tactically after both 55...Nc7 56.Rxf6 c3 57.Rf8+ Kb7 58.Rxc7+ Kxc7 59.e7 c2 60.Rc8+ Kxc8 61.e8Q+ Kb7 62.Qb5+ Kc8 63.Qc5+ Kd7 64.Qxc2 and 55... c3 56.Rh4 Nc7 57.Rh8+ Kb7 58.Rhh7 Nc6 59.Rxc7+ Kb6 60.Rxc6+ Kxc6 61.Rh3)* 56.Rg8+ Kc7 57.e7 and mates soon.

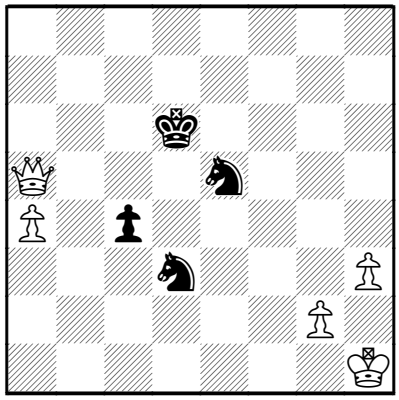
Of course the text, with a new Queen, is good enough!

55...Kxb7

Rather than resigning this obviously lost position, Joel begins a fierce resistance hoping to profit from my time pressure: about 3 minutes for the rest of the game.

However, I also had an increment of 30 seconds added after each move, so I knew as long as I kept my head there was nothing to fear.

56.e8Q Nxf4 57.Qe7+ Kc8 58.Qxf6 Nfd3 59.Qa6+ Kc7 60.Qxa5+ Kd6 61.h3



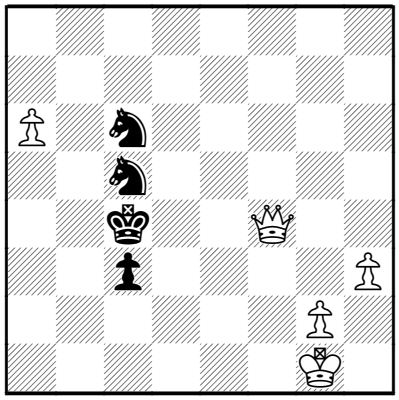
Rank and File editor Larry Stevens (who was spectating) pointed out after the game that 61.h4 was quicker, and the computer backs him up: 61... Nf2+ 62.Kg1 Ne4 63.h5 c3 64.h6 c2 65.Qb6+ Nc6 66.Qb2 and wins.

Nonetheless, my actual move, with the plan of bringing the King over to defend against the c pawn—while also advancing my a pawn with a view to exchanging it for that dangerous pawn—is equally effective, if rather slow.

61...Nf2+ 62.Kg1 Ne4 63.Qa8 Nc5 64.Qd8+ Ned7 65.Qh8 Ne5 66.Qh6+ Kd5 67.a5 c3 68.a6!

White's pawn is now as big a threat as Black's—now if I can accomplish the exchange, I will be able to win technically with the Kingside passers.

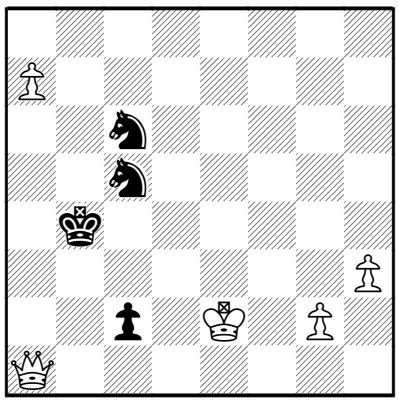
68...Nc6 69.Qg5+ Kc4 70.Qf4+



70...Kb5

If Black advances with 70...Kb3 his Knight will be too slow on the Kingside: 71.a7 Nxa7 72.Qb8+ Kc4 73.Qxa7 c2 74.Qa2+ Kc3 75.Qa1+ Kb3 (75...Kd2 76.Qd4+) 76.h4! Nd3 77.h5 c1Q+ 78.Qxc1 Nxc1 79.h6 Ne2+ 80.Kf2 Nf4 81.h7 Ng6 82.Ke3 Kc4 83.Ke4 Kc5 84.Kf5 Nh8 85.Kf6 (The Knight in the corner is helpless) 85... Kd6 86.g4 Kd7 87.g5 Ke8 88.g6 and Queens soon.

71.Qf1+ Kb4 72.Qa1 Na4 73.Kf2 c2 74.Ke2 Nc5 75.a7!



Completely and totally decisive, though my opponent did not agree!

75...Nxa7

Also 75...Nb3 76.a8Q Nxa1 77.Qxa1 Kc4 78.Kd2 Nd4 79.Qxd4+ Kxd4 80.Kxc2 is a simple win.

76.Qd4+!

Of course not 76.Qb2+ Nb3 77.Qxc2 Nd4+ 78.Kd3 Nxc2 79.Kxc2 Kc4 with a draw.

76...Kb5

My plan is illustrated by the variation 76...Kb3 77.Qxc5 Kb2 78.Kd2 and the White King arrives just in time.

77.Qb2+

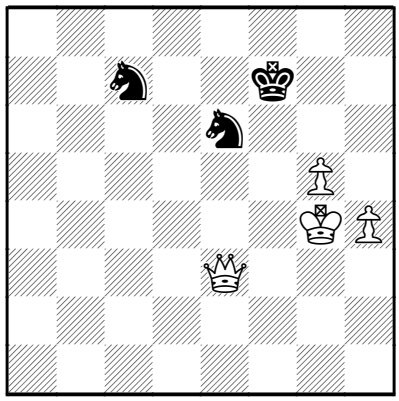
This switchback maneuver shows the power of the Queen: the Black King has been driven back so 77... Nb3 fails.

77...Kc6 78.Qxc2

Now the position has clarified, and as far as I can see, Black has no rational hope without his passed pawn. As GM Yudasin once said to me, "Black's best move is resigns!"

Nonetheless, my opponent decided to continue the game.

78...Nb5 79.Qg6+ Kd5 80.Qg5+ Kd6 81.Ke3 Nc7 82.Qd8+ Kc6 83.h4 Nd5+ 84.Kf3 Ne6 85.Qa8+ Kd6 86.g4 Ndc7 87.Qa3+ Ke5 88.Qe3+ Kf6 89.g5+ Kf7 90.Kg4



White methodically advances his passers, while staying away from checks.

90...Nd5

Against normal moves the pawns just go through, e.g. 90...Ne8 91.h5 N8g7 92.g6+ Kf6 93.Qc3+ Ke7 94.h6 Ne8 95.g7 Kf7 96.h7 N6xg7 97.h8Q.

91.Qf3+ Ndf4 92.Qxf4+ Nxf4 93.Kxf4

This could also be a good time to resign!

93...Kg6 94.Ke5 Kg7 95.Kf5 Kf7 96.g6+ Kg8 97.Kf6 Kh8 98.g7+ Kg8

Now 99.Kg6 is stalemate! But somehow I avoided this trick!

99.h5! 1–0

Resignation finally came here, as checkmate is coming shortly: 99... Kh7 100.Kf7 Kh6 101.g8Q Kxh5 102. Qg3 Kh6 103.Qh4 Mate.

Can 1...b6 be saved? ♜

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.

Irvine

The National Youth Action (NYA) - West is coming to California on December 9-11, 2011 at the Hyatt Regency in Irvine. Play nine games in two days at G/30 for a National title on Saturday, 12/10, and Sunday, 12/11.

The main event will see each of the four sections (K-3, K-6, K-9, K-12) award 20 individual trophies, 10 team trophies, and 3 class trophies.

For complete info go to chessweekend.com/nya11/index.html.

TDs feel free to contact us. We are also looking for volunteers to staff our information booth at the event.

- Glenn Panner
glenn@chessweekend.com

La Palma

La Palma Chess Club

With an undefeated score of 5-1, newcomer Santy Villanueva won La Palma Chess Club's 6-round Get Bent, Larson Swiss that ended on July 22nd. Second place at 4-2 was Chris Roberts. Tying for third place at 3.5-2.5 were Mike Henebry & Joe Warhula.

In the lower section, Mark Jackson & Dr Harold Valery tied for first place with 4.5-1.5 and Daniel Rozsa won the U1400 trophy.

Joe Warhula won the biggest upset prize and Mike Henebry's last round win over Villanueva won the best game prize.

See the club's website for standings, a schedule of events, and games at www.lapalmachess.com.

- Chris Roberts

Lancaster

No Stress Basic Chess For Seniors 11:15am-12:15pm Fridays, September 16 through October 21. LOC AV Chess House. This class is specially designed for the laid back

learning style of those in their Golden Years. Six-session class only $29. Contact: daa@mahowald.org

Parent & Tot Chess Time 10-11am Fridays, September 16 through October 21. LOC The AV Chess House. This fun-filled class is specially designed for 3-5 year-olds and their parents. In tot-sized bites, Professional Chess Teacher Ms. Daa uses songs, rhymes, and hands-on activities to teach the Royal Game of Chess. Six-session class only $29 per parent/child pair. Contact: daa@mahowald.org

[To receive *Chess in the Antelope Valley*, a free email PDF newsletter covering local chess events, send your request to daa@mahowald.org. - Ed.]

Santa Monica

Santa Monica Bay Chess Club

The JULY C-NOTE SWISS, held from July 11 to August 1, awarded a $100 bonus to the player with a perfect score. It took long time Club member, NM Tibor Weinberger, coming out of a hiatus of several years to finally lay claim on the "C-Note" Perfect Score Bonus offered repeatedly this summer, but not won until now.

Tibor, a past Santa Monica Bay Chess Club Open Champion, won all four rounds, with a final round win vs. Simon Kogan who had drawn against GM Var Akobian in this year's Club Simul.

Ray Montalvo 1588 took 2nd with 3 wins, finishing ahead of seven higher rated players!

Results: Open: 1st-Tibor Weinberger 4 pts.; 2nd – Raymond Montalvo 3pts.; U-1600: 1st/2nd – Ruben Barbalace & Dmitry Cherkasky 2 pts.; Perfect Score Bonus - Tibor Weinberger 4-0 $100

The 2011 BEACH BLITZ was held Sunday, July 24th, at Santa Monica Pier's Chess Park. The event commenced immediately following Chess Palace's 7th Annual Summer Fiesta Scholastic Tournament, annually held concurrently.

Thirteen players engaged in the 12 round G/5 Round Robin featuring Chess Park regulars and SMBCC members. The unrated melee, open to all comers, had a $60 prize fund raised by the $5 entry fee. But the 30-20-10 prize structure was split evenly, among the three 10 point scorers comprising of beach blitz veterans: Edward Forster, Jeff Heriot, and Darin Stoytchev. Number 4, new SMBCC member Dmitry Cherkasky, was barely out of the money with 9 points, nonetheless ahead of fellow Club member and frequent Chess Park blitz champ, Carl Hyne, who was 5th with 8 points.

The SECOND 2011 BEACH BLITZ was held at the Santa Monica Pier's Chess Park on August 28th. The unrated round-robin, game in 5 minutes, 16 round tournament was won by Carl Hyne and Balnit Nagy who tied with scores of 10½.

The Monday nights AUGUST SWISS held from August 8-29 at the Club concluded with a perfect score victory of 4 by Dmitry Cherkasky. When a newly calculated provisional rating is applied to this unrated player his name will shoot from the bottom of

the opening round pairing list to the top. His victims included the top 3 seeds of this 12 player tournament.

Second place was shared by David Baran 1938 and Jack O'Donnell 1783 with 3 points each.

Ray Montalvo 1588 and Ruben Barbalace 1545 took 1st and 2nd for the U-1600 prize with scores of 2½ and 2, respectively.

OCTOBER SWISS 10/3, 10/10, 10/17, & 10/24, 2011

Santa Monica Bay Chess club will hold a 4 round Swiss Tournament on Monday evenings from October 3 to 24. 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 October 3. Entry fee is $10 with Club membership ($20 for remainder of year). The event is USCF rated. Cash prizes, including open and class, 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,
www.santamonicabaychessclub.sports.officelive.com

Garden Grove

Chess Palace

In July, NM Jeff Phillips and Qinhong Chen tied for first in the top group of a ***6-Pak*** as Yale Warsaw completed a 3/3 sweep in the second group. Expert Jim Diamond and Anthony Whitt won their group in another ***6-Pak***. Expert Sergey Yurenok and Alan Chu scored a perfect 4/4 to claim the guaranteed prizes of the Super 2x based on points instead of place finish. Yurenok, again, swept the top ***Ocho*** group as Alan Chu and Jonathan Quach shared top honors in their group. In another ***Ocho*** event, Craig Hilby, Zachary Chandler, and Yale Warsaw won their groups with 2.5/3. Nic Reiner won the Wednesday Knight July Open with 3/4. Wednesday Knights is a month-long tournament with one game every Wednesday at 7:30pm.

August drew many upsets and surprises. Expert Jim Diamond took first twice in two ***6-Paks***; one, taking clear first with 3/3 and the other, splitting 2.5/3 with fellow Expert Simone Liao and class B Michael Chaney. Second group for the 6-Pak had a 3 way tie with Zachary Chandler, Yale Warsaw, and Jonathan Quach, each with 2/3. The ***Super 2x*** had only 2 winners, NM Jeff Phillips and 11 year old Expert Kiana Arab to clinch the three points prize. Timmy Chou cleaned out his section with 3/3 the following week in the ***6-Pak***. Finally, Qinhong Chen rounded up a perfect 3/3 in the last ***Ocho*** of the month to take clear first. Aaron Chang and Yale Warsaw divided 1st and 2nd with 2.5/3. ChessPalace hosts USCF-rated tournaments every Saturday, from three to four-round events.

Neil Bershad scored a 4/5 to claim the ***Wednesday Knight August Open*** with 4/5.

On fifth Saturday of October, 10/29 (and any other months with five Saturdays) ChessPalace will host a ***"Square 1.d4" tournament.*** It is just like any other tournament but 1.d4 must be moved! Hope to see you there.

ChessPalace 21st Anniversary Tournament

Chess Palace celebrated its 21st Anniversary on August 14th. Established in 1990, the chess club continues to march with friendly play and competitive tournaments.

Chess Palace: 21st Anniversary

The winner was IM Zhanibek Amanov with 4.5 points. The IM's draw was against NM Jeff Phillips who tied for second with FM Ortiz and experts Alex King and Nicanor Navarro.

In the scholastic section, Siddarth Somasundaram went undefeated with a perfect 5/5, followed by Justin Kao for second and Jacob Wiczyk for third.

The last round was no easy feat for the top players. The top 4-rated masters were on boards 1 and 2 as they battled it out. Alex King won his final game against a fellow expert to cash in on some prize. Craig Hilby finished with 3.5/5 to claim the class A prize and Christopher Kao scored the same by winning his last game against a strong class A to complete his stellar performance and take the class-B prize and 65 rating points!

More than 50 players joined in on the celebration and competitive chess, which included 4 masters, 5 experts, 10 class-A, 9 class-B, 5 class-C, 6 class-D and -E, and 14 scholastic juniors.

Visit chesspalace.com/21stAnniversaryRecap.htm to see all the results and lots of photos.

Gandhi, Belair, and Jin Knighted in ***Scholastic Regionals Part I***

Edward Jin of Beyond Chess, Scott Belair of Chess Palace, and Shyam Gandhi of Irvine Arts and Music championed K-3, K-6, and K-12 sections respectively. In light of the pre-American Open warm-up tournament, these three will battle out two more warm-ups as they compete to win the Fellowship award.

A four-way tie in the K-3 section for second demonstrated the competitive group of scholastic players. Neil Tendolkar, Malik Castro-DeVarona, Victoria Pau, and Keith Daniels accumulated 3.0/4 points.

A similar tie for second in the K-6 went to Andrea Roy, Eric Lu, Kendryuk Wu, and Ethan Pau all with 3.0/4 points. Closely trailing in second and third place in K-12, both Noah Daniels and Siddarth Somasundaram won three games, and losing against the section's champion.

Class prizes recognized the under-

dogs playing in the high-rated sections. Topping the U1200,Daniel Yap was able to reach a threshold performance, increasing his rating to highest ever into 4 digit mark. With the same score, Daniel Nguyen won the U1000.

In K-6, Alex Kravec overpowered an important last round victory to win on better tie-breaks and collecting 80 rating points. In the same section, Matthew Kelley topped the U600.

For the last but most valued prize amongst the beginners - trained through the California Youth Chess League (it is worth mentioning, CYCL is scheduled to host a pre-tournament camp during the American Open on Thanksgiving weekend) Natasha Merten clinched U400.

The tournament was themed under the chess games most chivalrous Knight, dubbed "The Never Yielding Knight" in order to motivate the young players to never yield no matter how grim the challenges may look at first glance. A Knight Tour challenged the active young minds. The winner who occupied all 63 squares of the chessboard, only leaving one square behind, was Alex Liu.

This Part I session was successful in attracting representatives from as far north as Santa Clarita to the south San Diego area.

For club team winners, CYCL of Santa Clarita County won the K-3, Chess Palace the K-6, and St. Jeanne the K-12 -- both of Orange County. Visit http://chesspalace.com/regionals.htm for a complete report, photos, and details for Part II & III.

Amateur Open

ChessPalace October Amateur Open will be on 10/23. The tournament is open to all players U2200. It's a 4-round USCF-rated event. Rd 1 starts at 12:30 pm. The tournament will be followed by a 5-double-round (10 games!) USCF-rated blitz event starting at 7:30 pm. Visit http://chesspalace.com/amateuropen.htm for details and registration. ChessPalace is located at 5246 Lampson Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92845 near the 405, 22, and 605 freeway. Call us at 714.899.3421 or visit www.chesspalace.com.

Scholastic Regionals Part II: October 2, 2011

Format: 4 rounds, Game 30 minutes. USCF rated. Rounds: 11:30, 1:30, 3, 4:30 PM. Prizes: Top three in Open sections. Class prize to top U1200, U1000, U800, U600, U400. Top team/club.

Fees: $20 by Sept 15th, $25 after, $30 onsite. Register at http://chesspalace.com/regionals.htm

Sections: Primary K-3, Elementary K-6, Middle & High School K-12

ChessPalace October Super Sunday, October 16, 2011

5246 Lampson Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92845

5 rounds, USCF-rated event. $650 projected prize fund (50% guaranteed b/o 30 players)

Two sections: Master/Expert (2000 & above) and U2000. Time control: G/30 + 10 second increment starting on move one. Prizes: $200-100-50; U2000 $100-50 U1800, U1600, U1400 $50 each. Entry fee: $30 if registered by 9/17, $2 less to SCCF members, $10 more on site. GMs and IMs free with one day notice. Rounds @ 12:30pm, 2:15, 4, 5:45, 7:15. September supplement used. Register at http://chesspalace.com/supersunday.htm. On site registration ends at 12:15 pm.

Scholastic Regionals Part III: October 30, 2011

Format: 4 rounds, Game 30 minutes. USCF rated. Rounds: 11:30, 1:30, 3, 4:30 PM

Prizes: Top three in Open sections. Class prize to top U1200, U1000, U800, U600, U400. Top team/club.

Fees: $20 by Sept 15th, $25 after, $30 onsite. Register at http://chesspalace.com/regionals.htm

Sections: Primary K-3, Elementary K-6, Middle & High School K-12.

San Luis Obispo

2011 San Luis Obispo County Championship

The 2011 San Luis Obispo County Championship was held August 27th. It was a 4-round G/60 tournament with an Open and Reserve (U1400/unr.) sections. We had a great turn out and full prizes were paid out to the top finishers with 23 players in the Open and 11 players in the Reserve section.

Taking first place in the Open Section was Senior Master Andrey Chumachenko 4-0 of Sacramento. Second place was shared by Master Eduardo Ortiz of Santa Maria 3-1, losing only to Chumachenko, and local Michael D'Acri having the tournament of his life, also with 3-1.

The "A" prize was shared by locals Solomon Ruddell and Taylor McCreary, each scoring 2.5-1.5. The Top B player was local Mark Donovan, 2.5-1.5, and the Top C-D-E prize went to Michael D'Acri.

Two players shared First and Second place prizes in the Reserve Section, Robert Jertberg and Stan Liao, each scoring 3.5-.5. Mike Bess and Will Bensky each scored 2-2 to share the Top U1000 prize, and Saul Lopez Monzon was the Unrated winner at 2-2.

Michael D'Acri became the San Luis Obispo County Champion for 2011. Two players qualified for the next State Championship: Eduardo Ortiz of Santa Maria, and Michael D'Acri of San Luis Obispo.

San Diego

San Diego Chess Club

77 players competed in the 12 round ***Leonard Sussman Double Header***, played in June and July, which featured a G/45 format against the same opponent twice on one night with alternating colors.

Bruce Baker edged out Martin Nilsson by ½ a point to win the Open Section. Ben Barquin was BU2200 and Buddy Morris BU2000.

Chuck Ensey won the Reserve section ahead of Kenneth Xu.

In the Booster Section there was a 3-way tie between John Huey, Zechariah Zhu and Mark Lawless.

To appease those who prefer a slower time control, we also offered a "Slow" (40/90, SD/60) Section, and here, Todd Smith edged out Paul Agron, while Mario Amodeo placed 3rd.

In the Slow Reserve, it was Steve Perry with a perfect 6-0 score over runner up Eliza Eggert with 4 ½. David Palmer and Ron Stanard tied for BU 1400.

Next up, in July and August, was the 6 round ***Bill Murray Open*** (we name our events after existing long term club members) which had 3 sections, all at G/100 with 19 second time delay.

76 players competed, not including house players, and expert Tim McGuiness came out ahead of NM Todd Smith, NM Kyron Griffith and near-master Peter Hodges. Tim credits his recent marriage to club member Monica Ness for inspiration. Ben Barquin, Lennart Mathe and Paul Agron tied for BU2100, while Fidel Gonzalez and Joel Batchelor tied for BU1900.

In the Premier Section (U1900), Jason Ma and Jerry Qu, two of our promising young players, tied for first place. Jerry recently went over 1800 rating, having gained 400 points over the last year and a half. Bruce Charnov was BU1700, followed by Darren Himeles and then Anthony Harbone in third place.

In the Reserve Section (U1500), fast rising Zechariah Zhu dominated with 5½ followed by Glenn Rich and younger brother Daniel Zhu. Maria Murra tied for BU1300 with Daniel Litowsky-Ducasa. BU1000 was won by the 3rd brother of the chess playing family, Stephen Zhu.

- Chuck Ensey

San Diego County Championships

72 players met over the first weekend in August for the annual County Championships. The event was in 3 sections with 27 in the Open, 26 in the Reserve (U1800) and 19 in the Booster (U1600). The full $3,500 prize fund was paid as it was based on 70 players.

IM Dionisio Aldama won the event with a perfect 5-0 score for a nice $500 prize, but being from out of state, the County Championship title went to Bruce Baker on tie breaks over Peter Graves, a former SD County Champion, and Shirin Navabi, a newly arrived FIDE Master on the scene.

Last year's Champ Peter Hodges tied with 5 other players with 3 points: NM Romeo Ignacio, NM Martin Nilsson and Experts Jamieson Pryor, Leonard Sussman and Paul Agron.

This event included 7 Masters and 14 Experts and was one of the strongest ever. We have good hopes that trend will continue; chess seems to be surging, despite the poor economy - or maybe because of it: we can get away from the recent gloom and doom with this exciting board game!

In the Reserve Section, Vincent Nguyen of Scottsdale AZ won $300 for his 4 ½ score. William Wijaya of San Diego was BU1900 with 4 and Alex Wang of Irvine was BU1800 with 3 ½ along with Class A player Karl Tolentino of Chatsworth, who placed 2nd. Todd Arone of Solana Beach tied for BU1700 with Daniel Shevelev of Arizona.

In the Booster section, unrated Sheila Rodriguez from Mexico made her debut winning 4½ and a book prize. Glenn Rich took First place with 4, Dr. Mark Allen won Second Place and Sharon Lu of Fremont was BU1500. Claire Negus won BU1400.

As you can see, the event attracted players from all over and that is what is needed for a successful event these days: good advertising, the internet and word of mouth. Now all we need is a few good corporate sponsors!

See our webpage or facebook for more details and photos of our events.

- Chuck Ensey

Southern California Open

This event was held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in San Diego's Mission Valley, and attracted 180 players (including 1 re-entry), helped mainly by the $20,000 Prize Fund guarantee and an added 2-day option.

The Open Section was won by GM Varuzhan Akobian, and IM Dionisio Aldama of Arizona took clear second.

In the U2000 Section, Vincent Nguyen tied for First with Alexander Xie.

First in the U1800 Section was Brian Glover, in the U1600 section it was Theo Caen, and the Booster Section, was won by Avi Jannol.

Bruce Baker directed.

- Chuck Ensey

Look for more SCO coverage in the next issue of Rank & File. - Ed.

Pasadena

Pasadena Chess Club

An experimental eight-round format generated a robust 64 player turnout for the Liberty Open over the months of July and August. John Hale almost got away with a perfect "double Swiss gambit"; despite a first round bye and second round loss, he found himself with a chance for clear first, but was unable to convert a tricky piece-up ending against Gregg Fritchle in the finale. Jesse Victoria joined them in the 6-2 first place tie.

Albert Lu, John Wright, Ron Jabali, Jonathan Homidan, Terrence Sun, and Kelly Zhang trailed by a half-point; all but two could have joined the first place tie with a win. Robbie Queiro was best Under 1800; Scott Xue and Alex Hung tied for top Under 1600; Winston Qian and Shaileja Jain split Under 1400 honors; Sean Nguyen was top Under 1200; and Vincent Lin won the Unrated prize.

The Pasadena Club meets Friday nights at the Boys and Girls club, 3230 East Del Mar. See our webpage http://www.tim-thompson.com/pasadena.html for details and calendar.

- Randy Hough

Arcadia

Arcadia Chess Club

Arcadia Chess Club held the ***Bill Smith Open*** Mondays 7/11 to 8/8. Michael Cooper 2037 swept the 5 round 63 player tournament with an undefeated 5-0. Five experts and A-players tied for second with 4 points. Christopher Hung 1741 won B prize with 3.5. Steven Niles 1527 also scored 3.5 gathering 79 points and the C prize. U/R Robert Sandoval scored 3 points gaining 173 provisional points and the D-E-U/R prize.

The 6 round ***Oaktree Open*** is presently underway; the 6 round ***Istvanyi Open*** begins Oct. 3.

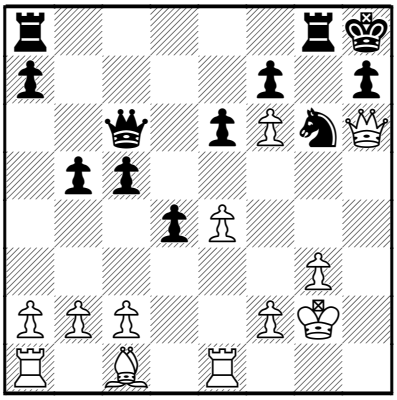
The Arcadia Chess Club meets Mondays at 6:30 P.M. at the Senior Citizens Building 405 S. Santa Anita in Santa Anita Park. Visit our website, arcadiachessclub.com.

SCCF
PO Box 205
Monterey Park, CA 91754

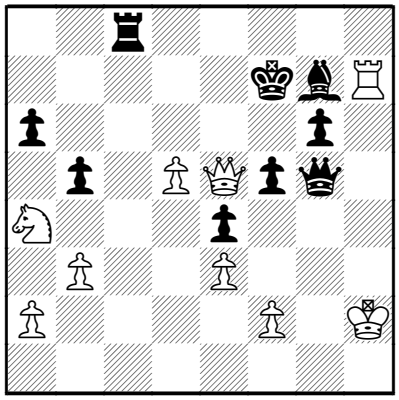
Change Service Requested

Presorted Standard
US Postage Paid
Industry, CA
Permit 4201

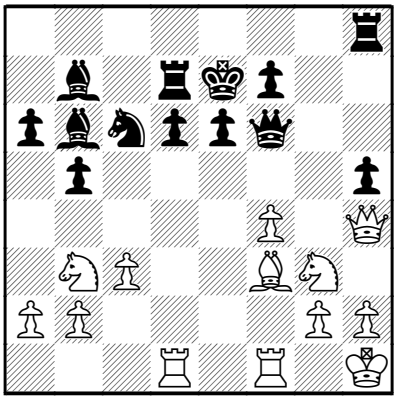
Outside Shots!



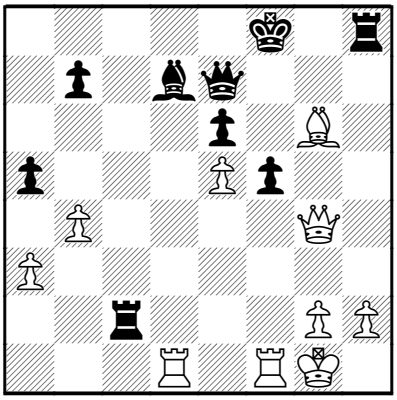
1. White to Play



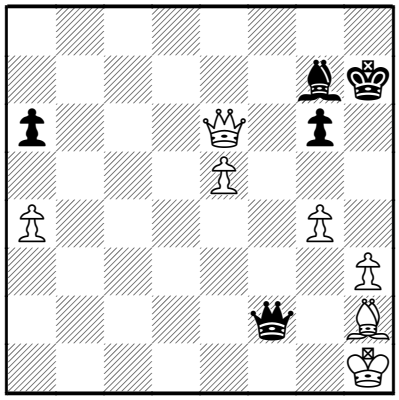
2. Black to Play



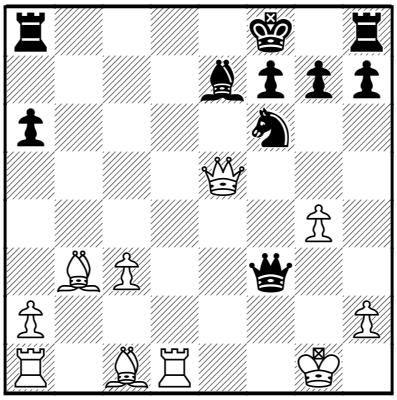
3. White to Play



4. White to Play



5. Black to Play



6. White to Play

See page 17 for solutions.