Rank & File

The magazine of the Southern California Chess Federation

November-December 2011 Volume XXXV, No. 6 $3.00

Cy & Jack

33rd Southern California Open

11th Metro FIDE

Roman Yankovsky Wins 23rd Southern California State Championship

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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.
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Positions

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

Editor's note:

We hope you enjoy the games, quizzes, and other features this month.

Two of the SCCF's traditional tournaments are covered, and together, they provided 8 of the 15 positions in our quizzes. Usually, we try to use positions from only recent local games in these quizzes, but you just might find one that is recent but not local. It was too good to pass up!

We provide all the games from the Southern California State Championship. From the Southern California Open we have the three prize winning games, plus the biggest upset.

And we encourage all you hard working tournament directors to try to provide carbon copy score sheets for those decisive late-round games to make it easier for those moves to find their way onto these pages.

Please take a look at the two games from the 11th Metro this month. When your opponent tries to trap your Queen, you might never look at it the same way, ever again!

Until next issue, good luck in your chess! - *Ed.*

51st Pacific Southwest

Dear Mr. Stevens,

First of all, I would like to congratulate you on another quality issue of R&F magazine. I have noticed the recent improvements in the publication, and I think the chess community in Southern California benefits from your efforts, as well as those of your publisher, contributors, et cetera. Please pass my congratulations on to them.

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.

I was a bit disappointed to see that the article on the ***51st Pacific Southwest*** event made absolutely no mention of either of the scholastic sections. I don't just mean that the winners weren't listed; there was no mention that there had been any scholastic sections at all! Perhaps it was an oversight stemming from the fact that the ratings reports for the scholastic sections were submitted separately (i.e. as a separate event officially directed by FM Iwamoto), and maybe the article was written in part from a cursory look at the ratings report for the higher (open and U1800) sections. But if so, I would hope such oversights are not repeated, because I think the dues-paying (parents of) SCCF scholastic players deserve some mention of those sections in R&F.

Again, great job on the magazine overall -- keep it up!

Kele Perkins
via e-mail

Sorry! We had some late constraints in time and space when making up the issue, in addition to lack of awareness of a few things, too.

It's certainly our intent to cover scholastic events. It's the future of chess!

And thanks for your kind words, we appreciate them.

Here are the winners of the 42-player event; the web version of the issue will be updated, too. -Ed.

Pacific Southwest Open Scholastic winners:

Open Section

First at 4½-½: Ethan Minoofar and Joaquin Perkins.

Third at 4-1: Eli Minoofar

Fourth at 3½-1½: Ankur Gupta

Under 1000

First 4½-½: Dario Sani and Brendan Gibson.

Third at 3½-1½: Sabrina Shenker and Vipul Gupta.

Solutions to Outside Shots!

From the back cover.

1.The decisive breakthrough was 13.Bxg6! hxg6 14.Qxg6+ Kh8 15.Ng5 fxg5 16.hxg5 mate, in Caen - Jensen, Southern California Open (5). This earned 3rd prize for the best game.

See page 26 for the whole game.

2.White takes advantage of Black's Queen placement to break open the center. 11.Bxc4! dxc4 12.d5 Qg6 13.dxc6 0–0 14.c7 +/-. See the rest of the game in Yankovsky - Clawitter, 23rd Southern California Ch. (5). See page 19 for the whole game.

3.Black's exposed King is exploited with 29.Nxc6! bxc6 30.Bxg7 Kxg7 31.Qd4+ Kg8 32.Qxc5 Qf8 33.Nd3 Nf5, and *again* with 34.Bxd5+! 1–0, in Peters - Yankovsky, 23rd Southern California Ch. (6). See page 20 for the whole game.

4.White scores with 29.Re6! Kxh7 30.Qg6+ Kg8 31.Re8+ Rf8 32.Re7 1–0, Taylor - Abrahamyan 23rd Southern California Ch. (6).

A defense that lasts longer, and shows more of White's resources, was 29...Nc7 30.Re7 Rxe7 31.Qxe7 Qb5 32.Rg1 Ne6 33.Qxe6 Qb8 34.Qf7 Qf8 35.Qxf8+ Bxf8 36.Rg8+ +-.

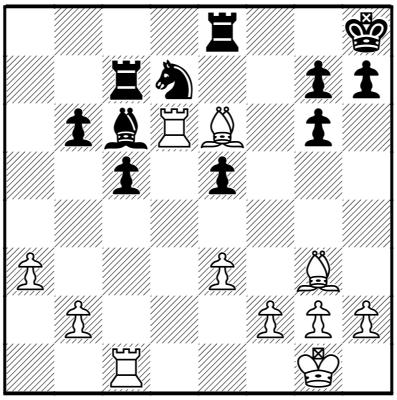
See page 20 for the whole game.

5.White breaks through with 40.Qb7+ Ke8 41.Qc8+ Ke7 42.c5 0-1; the Queenside play could not be stopped in Abrahamyan - Gutman, 23rd Southern California Ch. (5). See page 18 for the whole game.

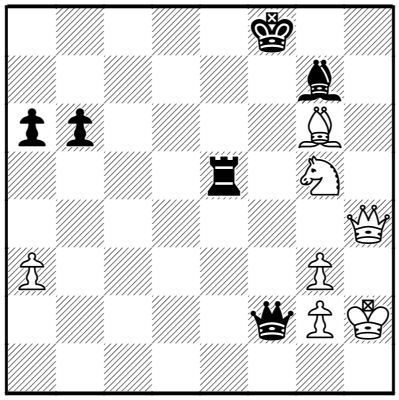
6.White started the finish with 20.Nxf6+!! Qxf6 21.Rxe5+ Kf7 22.Qc4+! Kg7 and closed the deal with 23.Rf1! Rd1 24.Rxd1 Qxe5 25.Rd7+ Kg6 26.Qf7 mate, in Avila - Sagart, Southern California Open (4), winning second prize for the best game. See page 25.

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 19 will open up your tactical vision. - Ed.



1. White to Play



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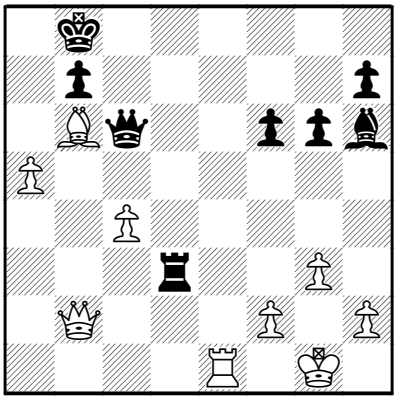

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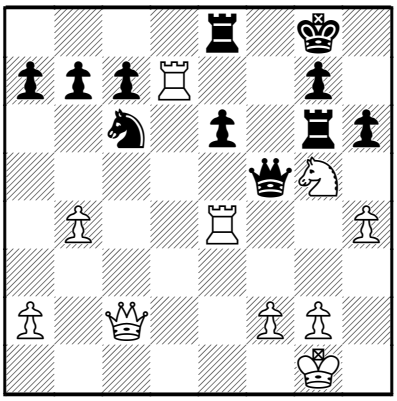
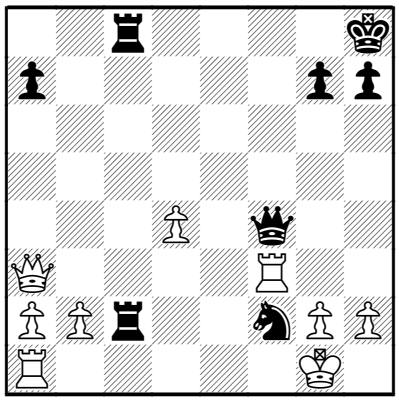
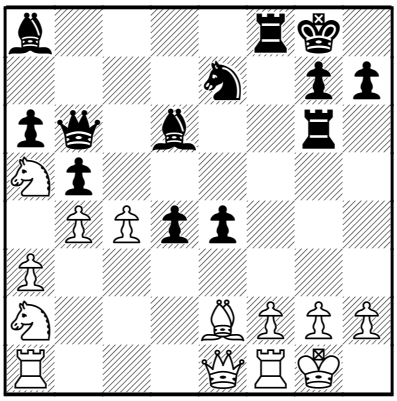


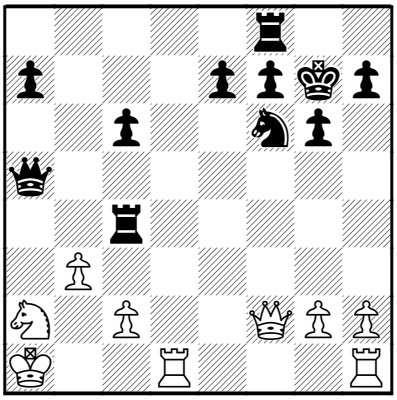
4. White to Play



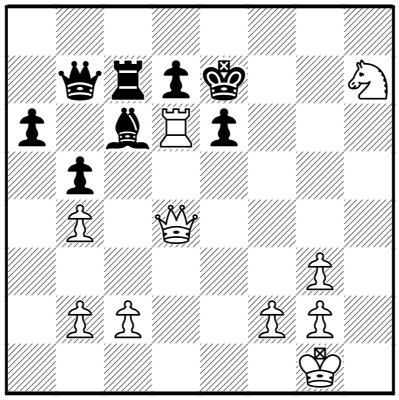
5. Black to Play



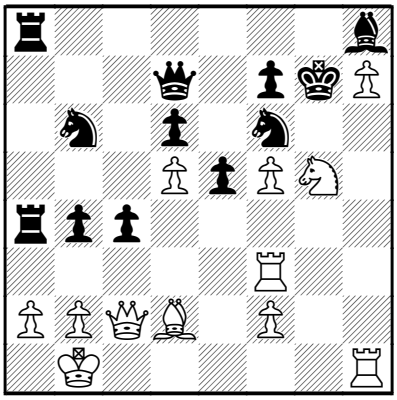
6. Black to Play



7. Black to Play



8. White to Play



9. White to Play

Cy & Jack

By IM Jack Peters and IM Cyrus Lakdawala

Cy deviates from his usual Slav this month. Instead, he contributes a game in which he gave the "1...d6 Universal" defense a tryout. You don't need to look at what White does until move 2. In the game, Jack immediately finds White's play objectionable, but Cy finds it tough to beat if played in a conservative manner. But first, we get to see Jack's last round game in the SCCF State Championship, in which he also played Black. His opponent, Yanayt, was tied with Yankovsky for first at 4½-1½, with Tim Taylor half a point behind. Jack was a full point back at 3½-2½, needing a win, so he chose to play the Benoni. And it did get pretty wild at a few points.

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

Yanayt,Eugene (2236) - Peters,Jack (2377)
[A60] Benoni Defense
23rd Southern California Ch. (7)
Beverly Hills, 28.08.2011

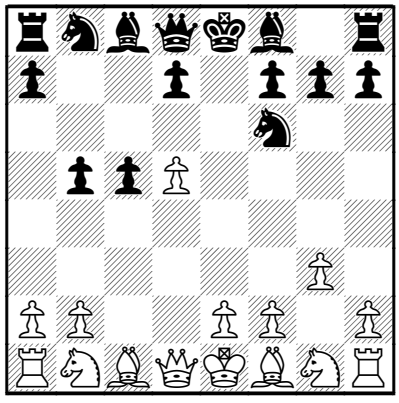
Jack: My opponent shared first place entering the last round, while I was hoping just to achieve a respectable score.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 c5

Cy: With this move order Black avoids some of the really scary lines of the Benoni.

Jack: In 2008, I chose 3...d5 and we drew a dull game. In the 1st Metropolitan International, I tried the less explored 3...Bb4+ 4.Bd2 Be7 and we eventually reached a Dutch Stonewall. Black had an edge for a while, but I was lucky to draw.

4.d5 exd5 5.cxd5 b5!?



Jack: This attempt to improve on the Modern Benoni (5...d6 6. Nc3 g6) has a good theoretical reputation.

6.Bg2

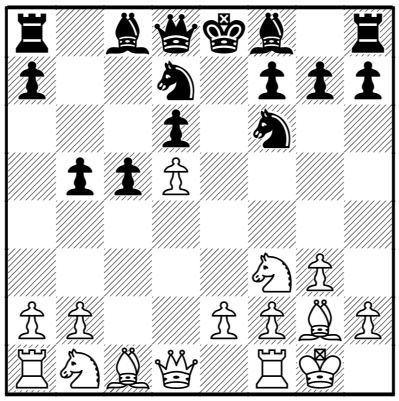
Jack: Most natural. Sharpest is 6.e4!? Nxe4 7.Qe2 Qe7 8.Bg2 f5 9.Be3, when White has adequate compensation for the pawn.

6...d6 7.Nf3

Jack: Sensible, although not very dangerous to Black. Instead, White could provoke ...b5-b4 by 7.a4 or 7.Nc3.

But I was most concerned by the wild 7.b4!? cxb4 8.Nf3 Bb7 9.Nd4 Qb6 10.0–0. White's Knight may settle on c6 or f5, and I did not trust snatching the d-pawn.

7...Nbd7 8.0–0



8...Be7

Jack: At e7, the Bishop will do little other than defend d6. However, I did not care for 8...g6 9.e4 (**Cy**: *The simple 9.Bf4 may also prove annoying for Black.*) 9...Bg7 10.Bf4 Qb6 11.e5 dxe5 12.Nxe5 Nxe5 13.Bxe5 0–0 14.Nc3, as in Pavel Kotsur - Rasul Ibrahimov, Dubai 2005. Black is nearly even, but I considered the d-pawn more of an asset than a liability.

9.Re1 0–0 10.e4 Nb6

Jack: Preventing e4-e5 by indirect means, as d5 would hang.

11.Qc2

Jack: Fritz suggests 11.a4!? Nxa4 12.e5, which I never considered. The sacrifice appears promising after 12... Ne8 13.Na3!? a6 14.Nc4.

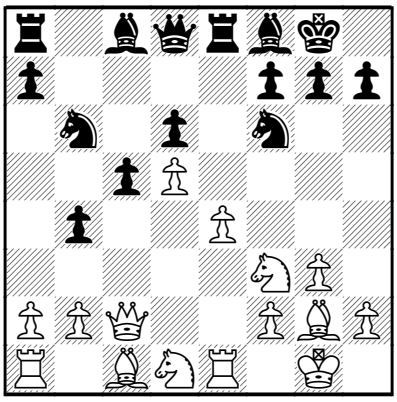
White must avoid 11.b3? Nxe4 12.Rxe4 Bf6∓.

But 11.Nbd2 Bd7 12.b3 assures White of safe equality.

11...Re8 12.Nc3 b4 13.Nd1

Jack: White wants to plant a Knight at c4 after Nd1–e3 and Nf3-d2. But White cannot execute this plan because of tactical problems on the e-file.

13...Bf8



14.h3?!

Jack: After this wasted tempo, Black obtains the advantage.

White correctly rejected 14. Ne3? Nxe4 and 14. Nd2? Nfxd5, but he could still maintain equality by 14.a3! a5 15.axb4 axb4 16.Rxa8 Nxa8 17.b3 Nb6 18.Nb2 g6 19.Nc4=.

14...a5 15.a3 Ba6∓

Cy: I would play 15...b3 16.Qb1 (16.Qxb3 Nxe4) 16...Ba6.

16.b3

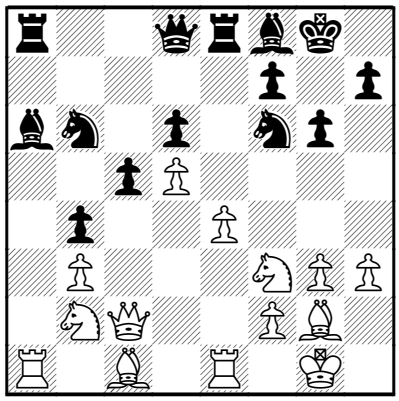
Jack: White should make the small concession of Bishop for Knight to minimize Black's edge: 16.Bg5 h6 17.Bxf6 Qxf6 18.Ne3.

16...g6 17.axb4

Jack: Opening the a-file helps Black. White should try 17. Nb2 first.

The obvious 17.Bb2 Bg7 does not solve White's problem with the clumsy nag at d1.

17...axb4 18.Nb2



18...Bg7?!

Jack: After long thought, I convinced myself that 18...Bd3! 19.Rxa8 Bxc2 20.Rxd8 Rxd8 was good for White because 21.Bg5 Bg7 22.Nd2 defended White's weak pawns and threatened the Bishop by 23. Rc1. But this is completely wrong. Black can refute the idea by 22... h6! 23.Bxf6 Bxf6 24.Nd1 (or 24.Rc1 Bxb3! 25.Nxb3 Bxb2−+) 24...Ra8 25.Ne3 Bc3 26.Nxc2 Ra2!∓ **Cy**: *The Benoni structure, in general, tends to favor Black in any ending.*

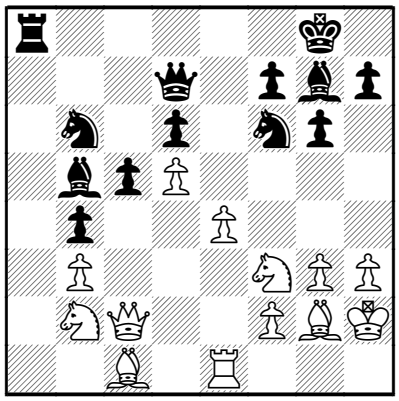
19.Ra2

Jack: Too uncomfortable is 19.Bf1?! Bxf1 20.Rxa8 Qxa8 21.Kxf1 Qa2∓.

19...Qd7

Cy: Black also makes headway after 19...Bb5 20.Rxa8 Qxa8 21.Qb1 Qa6.

20.Kh2 Bb5 21.Rxa8 Rxa8



22.Nc4?

Jack: Chess is a lot like life. White accomplishes his long-sought goal, and it doesn't help.

Cy: Stop being such a downer, Jack.

Jack: Nor can White stand 22.Nd2?! Ra2 23.Qb1 Qa7∓. But 22.Nd3!∓ should defend.

22...Bxc4! 23.bxc4 Qa4∓

Cy: ! Any ending will be very tough for White to hold.

24.Qd3

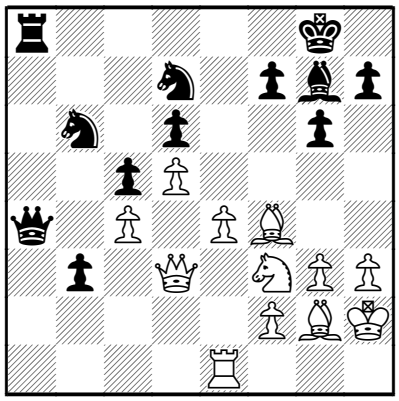
Jack: White cannot hold c4 and deal with the b-pawn. White has no active continuation after 24.Qxa4 Rxa4 25.e5 Ne8∓.

24...Nfd7

Jack: I was tempted by 24...b3? 25.e5? Qxc4! 26.Qxc4 Nxc4 27.exf6 Bxf6−+ until I realized that 24...b3? 25.Nd2 Nfd7 26.Qxb3 escapes.

Cy: I am not so sure about that. Black looks like he has sustained pressure after 26...Qxb3 27.Nxb3 Nxc4.

25.Bf4 b3!−+



Jack: Welcoming 26. Bxd6 Nxc4. White's central pawns won't matter if Black controls e5.

Cy: The river branches into a smaller stream. 25...Qa3! to chase off White's Queen is also very strong.

26.Nd2

Jack: In post-game analysis, we thought White had some hope with 26.Rb1 b2 27.Bf1 but Black wins convincingly with 27...Qb4! 28.Bd2 Qa3. For example, 29.Qxa3 Rxa3 30.Be3 runs into 30...Ra1 31.Nd2 Bc3−+.

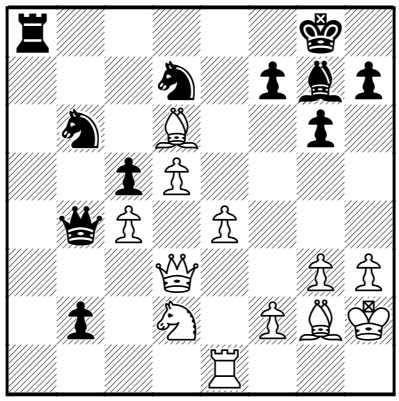
26...b2

Cy: ! One soldier who grabs the high ground is worth three below. Protection of d6 is irrelevant. The b-pawn smashes through, like a tire iron through an old pumpkin.

27.Bxd6

Jack: Or 27.Bf1 Ne5 28.Bxe5 Bxe5−+.

27...Qb4



28.Bf1?!

Jack: Toughest is 28.Rb1 Ra1 29.Bf1. Fritz shows the persuasive line 29...Be5 30.Be7 Rxb1 31.Nxb1 Qe1 32.Kg2 Bd4 33.Qc2 Ne5 34.d6 Bxf2! 35.Qxb2 Bd4 36.Qc2 Qe3−+.

28...Be5!

Cy: The immediate 28...Nxc4! is also a game ender.

29.f4

Jack: Black's idea is 29.Be7 Bc3 30.Bg5 Ne5 31.Qe2 Bxd2 32.Bxd2 Qxd2 33.Qxd2 Nf3+ 34.Kg2 Nxd2−+.

29...Bxd6 30.e5 Nxc4! 0–1

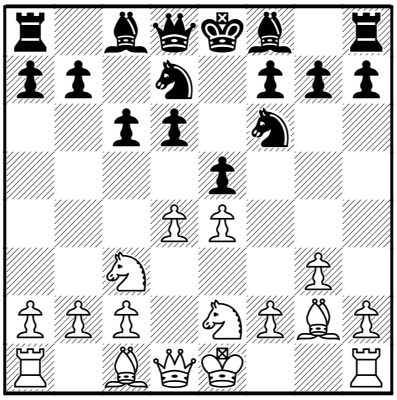
Baker,Bruce (2310) - Lakdawala,Cy (2539)
[B07] 1...d6 Defense
Gambito #451 (3)
San Diego, 09.01.2010

Cy: This game is a shortened version from my book *1...d6: Move by Move*.

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 Nbd7 4.g3 e5 5.Nge2

Jack: I don't like this system for White, mostly because of the Knight at e2. It can't do anything unless Black cooperates by capturing on d4. And f2-f4 loses some of its punch without the Knight at f3, attacking e5.

5...c6 6.Bg2



Cy: With the Fianchetto line, insidiously difficult to meet, White hopes to build up a Kingside attack slowly, with 0–0, h3, f4 and sometimes g4.

I find it a tough line to beat when White plays it conservatively.

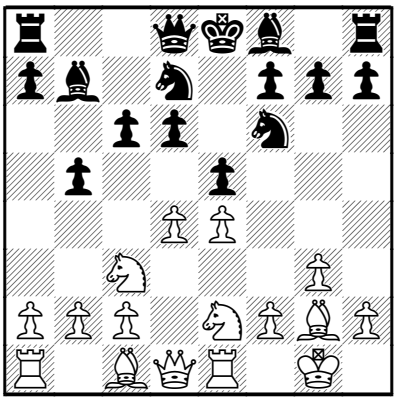
But remember, people also claimed the Titanic was unsinkable. Any opening, no matter how solid, can be broken down and beaten if you understand the structure.

Jack: The choice is 6.a4.

6...b5

Cy: I won't give him a chance to later change his mind and toss in a4, so I play the expansion immediately.

7.0–0 Bb7 8.Re1



Cy: *Question*: You said White plays for h3 and f4 earlier. Wouldn't it have been more logical to leave his rook on f1 if he plans f4?

Answer: His move is good since it reinforces e4. Black's counterplay often comes via counterplay on his e4 pawn, similar to Black's strategy in Chapter 3. If he keeps his Rook on f1 his e-pawn may be vulnerable to the setup: ...Bb7 ...Be7 ...0–0 ...Re8 ...Bf8 ...a5 ...b4 (chasing the defender away from c3) ...exd4 and ...c5.

8...Be7

Jack: Black obtains a very favorable form of the Philidor. Less logical is the King's Indian idea 8...g6?! because White can open the d-file and exert pressure on d6 by 9.d5! b4?! 10.dxc6 Bxc6 11.Nd5±.

9.h3 0–0

Cy: *Question*: You talked earlier in the game about the two philosophies for White on the Queenside. What about the same for Black? Can you play 9...h5 to curb White's kingside expansion ambitions?

Answer: Having studied the position further, I think you are right. Black should play ...h5!, despite the risk of compromising my Kingside castling position.

Jack: I'm shocked! I wouldn't consider g3-g4 much of a threat, and I wouldn't weaken my Kingside to stop it. I admit, though, that I don't see how White can exploit this weakening.

10.a3

Cy: *Question*: You said White doesn't want to get drawn into a Queenside fight. Why start pushing Queenside pawns now?

Answer: He wants to stabilize e4 by ensuring that his c3-knight gets to remain where it is. But, in a sense you are right. It is a Queenside pawn move and a3 makes it easier for Black to create trouble on the queenside. Still, I feel his move is necessary.

Jack: It's sad to see an attacker like Bruce Baker reduced to pitiful defensive moves. His position is poor, and he has to change the course of the game now. I suggest 10.d5 cxd5 11.Nxd5 Nxd5 12.exd5$\mp$, accepting some inferiority in the center in the hope that f2-f4 will eventually give White a chance to bring his Knight to d4.

10...Re8

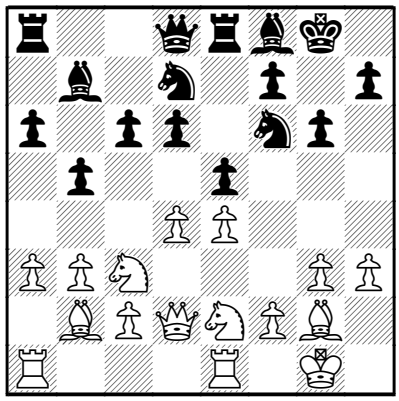
Cy: *Question*: If he develops his Bishop to e3 he weakens his e-pawn. How can White develop that piece?

Answer: By fianchettoing it.

11.b3! Bf8 12.Bb2 a6

Cy: Thinking about a sudden ...exd4 followed by ...c5.

13.Qd2 g6



Cy: Timing is the key. Black should avoid the premature 13...exd4?! 14.Nxd4 c5 15.Nf5, when he gets tied down to the weakness on d6.

14.dxe5

Cy: The Wyatt Earp philosophy: Leave your guns aside at the Tombstone city limits. This was a final round game with my opponent and I tied for first. He plays to simplify.

His e-pawn comes under fire if he maintains the central tension for too long. For example: 14.Rad1 Qc7 15.f4 Rad8 16.g4 exd4 17.Nxd4 c5;

Jack: I agree that White should bolster e4, but I think White should delay d4xe5 until Black's Bishop goes to g7. For example, 14.g4 h6 15.Rad1 Qc7 16.Ng3 Bg7 17.dxe5 dxe5 18.Qd6 Qb6 19.Bc1$\mp$ makes it more difficult for Black to use c5.

14...dxe5 15.Rad1 Qb6 16.Nc1

Cy: Preparing to redeploy to the more effective d3 square.

16...Rad8 17.Qe2 a5 18.Nb1!

Cy: Steinitz approved. White gets out of the way of Black's Queenside pawns and gives him no real targets.

Jack: White never gets his Knight to d3. This was a good moment for it.

18...b4!?

Cy: *Question*: You just handed over control of c4. Why?

Answer: I admit my last move was a risky decision. I weakened the c4 square in order to make spatial gains on the queenside. If I don't take action the position is drawish. Remember, we talked about Fischer's motto: One must give up squares in order to get squares.

Jack: I approve of all three Black Queenside pawn moves. The most apt motto applies to White: "Passive positions lose!"

19.Qf3

Jack: The Knights need repositioning more urgently than the Queen. I prefer 19.axb4 axb4 20.Nd3, which Fritz mistakenly calls equal. White is still struggling, but he can hope to bring his Knight at b1 to c4 or f3.

19...c5

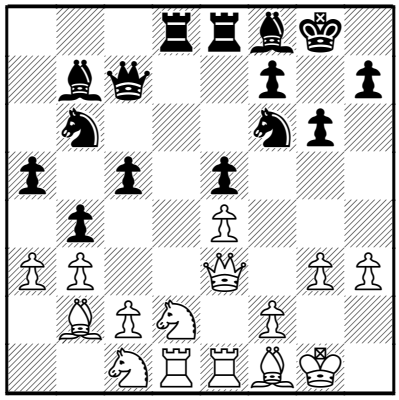
Jack: Possibly premature, as White no longer has to worry about ...Nd7-c5 or ...Bf8-c5. If White can restrain ...c5-c4, he should survive.

20.Nd2 Qc7 21.Qe3

Cy: Avoiding the trap 21.Nc4? Nxe4! 22.Rxe4? f5.

Jack: White gets too tangled by 21.Bf1?! Bh6, but 21.Nd3 Bh6 22.Qe2∓ isn't too bad.

21...Nb6 22.Bf1?



Jack: So desirable, but Cy's last sneaky move introduced another element. White had to pause for 22. Nd3.

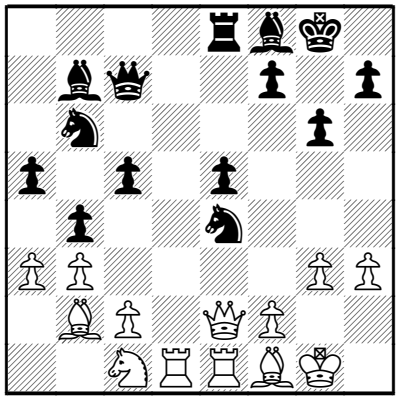
Cy: *Exercise* (planning): White's last move was too positional! Come up with a plan for Black to grab the initiative.

Answer:

22...Rxd2!

Cy: Black gets big compensation for the exchange.

23.Qxd2 Nxe4 24.Qe2



Cy: *Exercise* (combination alert): Maybe this doesn't constitute a real combination since Black doesn't sac anything. Perhaps it should be titled: Find a forcing line that wins.

If 24.Qe3??, then c4 opens up c5 for the Bishop.

24...c4?!

Cy: But not this way!

Answer: 24...bxa3! 25.Ba1 (25. Bxa3 Nc3 regains the exchange plus one pawn.) 25...Ng5 26.Bg2 Bxg2 27.Kxg2 Qc6+ 28.f3 e4 wins.

Jack: Agreed. This is Black's best way to win.

25.Bg2

Cy: *Exercise* (critical decision): ...c3 or not ...c3--that is the question?

25...f5?

Answer: Tragically, your writer remains initiative challenged and generally sucks in those rare moments when he actually has it! I lack what Barack Obama called "the fierce urgency of now" and tend to putz around, tinkering with some subtlety. But if not now, then when? I make the reader a promise: I will change my indecisive ways and from now on take bold action at every opportunity...starting tomorrow!

Of course I should have buried his Bishop with 25...c3!;

Jack: You're too harsh! Although 25...c3 succeeds against 26.Bxe4? cxb2 27.Nd3 Bxe4 28.Qxe4 bxa3–+ Black still has plenty of work to do after 25...c3 26.Ba1 Nd2 (not 26...Ng5? 27.h4 as the e-pawn drops) 27.Bxb7 Qxb7 28.Rxd2 cxd2 29.Qxd2 bxa3, when his initiative is gone and he has to rely on his passed pawn at a3.

One last idea is 25...c3 26.Ba1 Nxf2!? 27.Kxf2 Bc5+ 28.Kf1 Re6, with a fierce attack. But I prefer the clarity of 25...f5, which keeps Black's positional advantages without risk.

26.Bxe4 fxe4!?

Cy: The plan: Apply pressure on f2 with ...Bc5 and ...Rf8.

Jack: This plan appeals to me. Rely on your pieces!

Cy: Or 26...Bxe4 to keep the diagonal open.

27.axb4 Bxb4?!

Cy: Once again I should push the c-pawn with 27...c3! Elvis was right: "A little less conversation, a little more action please!" 28.Bxc3 Qxc3 29.Na2 Qc6 30.bxa5 e3 gives Black a strong attack.

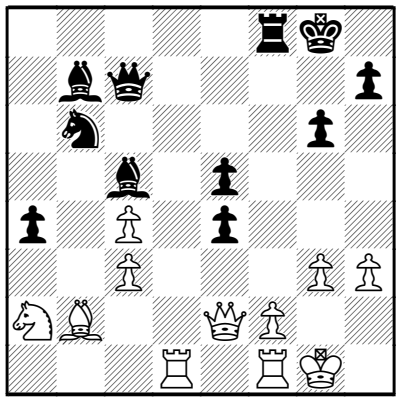
Jack: Maybe, but those three passers shouldn't be dismissed! Your decision to refrain from 27...c3 seems right to me.

28.c3!?

Cy: It's understandable that he wanted to avoid 28.Rf1 c3.

Jack: Or 28.Rf1 Qc6.

28...Bc5 29.bxc4 Rf8 30.Rf1 a4 31.Na2



Cy: Black's advantages, all for the low price of an exchange:

1. Black's bishops focus their angry gazes on the White King.

2. White fights pressure down the f-file.

3. White experiences vulnerability on f3.

4. Black's a-pawn keeps White worried about its further advance.

5. c4 is teetering and on the brink of falling.

Conclusion: White's game is a disaster.

Please turn to page 23, ***Cy & Jack***.

Yankovsky Takes 23rd Southern California State Championship

August 13-14 & 27-28, 2011

by IM Jack Peters

The best player won. Isn't that the primary goal of a tournament, to determine the best player?

In the 23rd edition of the Southern California Championship, 19-year old Roman Yankovsky led from start to finish. He defeated dangerous rival Tatev Abrahamyan in the first round and co-leader Tim Taylor in the third round, and he clinched first place by outlasting Josh Gutman in a long last-round endgame.

Anyone who followed Yankovsky's string of successes since he arrived in Los Angeles last year would have tabbed him as the pre-tournament favorite. He's already a polished professional, and he's improving steadily. Let's hope he stays in Los Angeles!

Two others nearly kept pace with the winner. Tim Taylor had a disappointing performance in the 2009 state championship, but he returned to show his best qualities this year. He led the event with five wins.

Eugene Yanayt, a quiet fellow who belongs in any discussion of the best local players, always plays sensibly and solidly, the perfect style for round robins. He had the best chance of catching Yankovsky in the last round.

This year, the state championship was sandwiched around the 1st Metropolitan International. Hardly an ideal arrangement, but not a conflict either. Six players (all but Yankovsky and Gutman) took the opportunity to compete in both tournaments.

The warm hospitality of the Minoofar family made everyone comfortable at the Beverly Hills Chess Club. I urge more spectators to attend next year! ♜

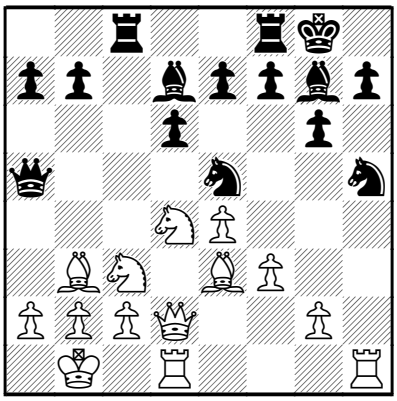
We present each of the tournament's 28 games below, with notes provided by Jack Peters for three of the games. In addition, Joshua Gutman comments on his win against Jack. Finally, please note the use of FIDE ratings in the tables and games, instead of USCF ratings. - Ed.

Round by Round Pairings, Colors, and Scores	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1 Yankovsky,Roman	B6	W5	W2	B4	W8	B3	W7
2400	**1**	**2**	**3**	**3½**	**4½**	**4½**	**5½**
2 Taylor,Timothy	B5	W3	B1	W7	B4	W6	B8
2279	**1**	**2**	2	3	3	4	5
3 Peters,Jack	W8	B2	B7	W6	B5	W1	B4
2377	**1**	1	1	2	2½	3½	4½
4 Yanayt,Eugene	B7	W6	B5	W1	W2	B8	W3
2236	**1**	1½	2	2½	3½	**4½**	4½
5 Brown,Michael W.	W2	B1	W4	B8	W3	B7	W6
2121	0	0	½	1	1½	1½	2½
6 Abrahamyan,Tatev	W1	B4	W8	B3	W7	B2	B5
2343	0	½	1½	1½	2½	2½	2½
7 Gutman,Joshua	W4	B8	W3	B2	B6	W5	B1
2107	0	0	1	1	1	2	2
8 Clawitter,Craig	B3	W7	B6	W5	B1	W4	W2
2118	0	1	1	1½	1½	1½	1½

Round 1, August 13th

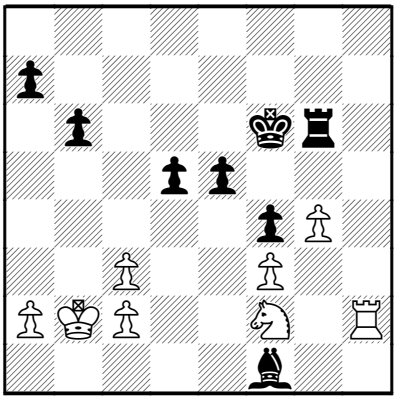
Game 1
Abrahamyan,Tatev (2343) - Yankovsky,Roman (2400)
[B77] Sicilian Dragon

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 Nc6 8.Qd2 0–0 9.Bc4 Bd7 10.h4 Rc8 11.Bb3 Ne5 12.h5 Nxh5 13.0–0–0 Qa5 14.Kb1



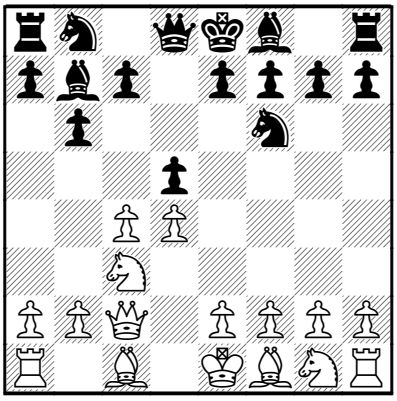
14...Rxc3 15.Qxc3 Qxc3 16.bxc3 Rc8 17.Kb2 b6 18.Rhe1 Nc4+ 19.Bxc4 Rxc4 20.Ne2 f5 21.exf5 gxf5 22.Bd4 Nf6 23.Nc1 Kf7 24.Nd3 Rc7 25.Nb4 Be6 26.Re3 f4 27.Ree1 Bc4 28.Nd3 Bb5 29.Nb4 e5 30.Bf2 Ke6 31.Bh4 Bc4 32.Bxf6 Bxf6 33.Nd3 Bg5 34.Rh1 Rg7 35.Nf2 d5 36.Rde1 Kf5

37.Rh3 Bb5 38.g4+ Kf6 39.Reh1 h6 40.Rxh6+ Bxh6 41.Rxh6+ Rg6 42.Rh3 Bf1 43.Rh2



43...Be2 44.Rh5 Bxf3 45.Rf5+ Ke6 46.Nd3 Be4 47.Rxe5+ Kf6 48.Re8 Bxd3 49.cxd3 Kg5 50.Kc2 Kxg4 51.Kd2 Kf3 52.a4 Rg2+ 53.Kd1 Ra2 54.Re5 Rxa4 55.Rxd5 Ke3 0–1

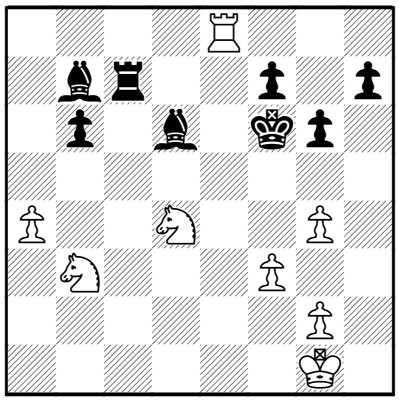
Game 2
Brown,Michael W. (2121) -
Taylor,Timothy (2279)
[A50] Queen's Indian Defense
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 b6 3.Nc3 Bb7 4.Qc2 d5



5.Nf3 g6 6.Bf4 Bg7 7.e3 0–0 8.Bd3 Na6 9.Qe2 c5 10.0–0 cxd4 11.Nxd4 Nb4 12.Rfd1 Nxd3 13.Qxd3 Rc8

IM Timothy Taylor

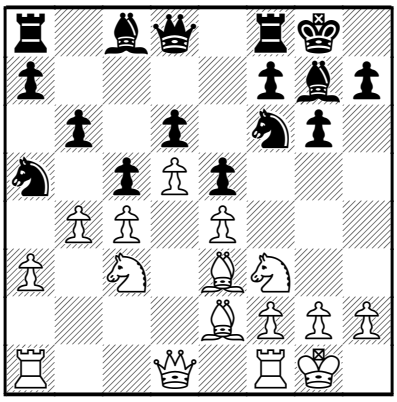
14.Ndb5 Rxc4 15.Nxa7 Qa8 16.Nab5 Rfc8 17.f3 Nh5 18.Bg3 Nxg3 19.hxg3 Qa5 20.Nd4 Qb4 21.Qd2 e5 22.Nb3 d4 23.exd4 exd4 24.Ne2 Qd6 25.Rac1 d3 26.Rxc4 Rxc4 27.Qxd3 Qxd3 28.Rxd3 Bxb2 29.Rd8+ Kg7 30.Rb8 Rc7 31.a4 Be5 32.Re8 Kf6 33.g4 Bd6 34.Ned4



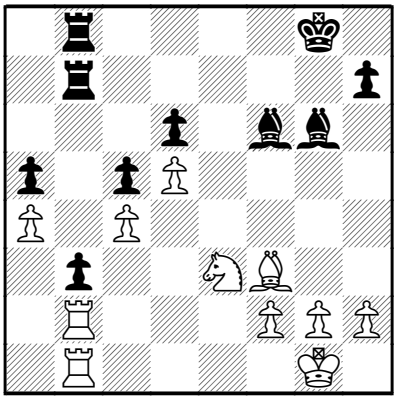
34...Rc4 35.a5 bxa5 36.Nxa5 Rxd4 37.Nxb7 Bg3 38.Kf1 Rd1+ 0–1

	Cross Table		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	T
1	Yankovsky,Roman	2400	*	1	0	½	1	1	1	1	5½
2	Taylor,Timothy	2279	0	*	1	0	1	1	1	1	5
3	Peters,Jack	2377	1	0	*	1	½	1	0	1	4½
4	Yanayt,Eugene	2236	½	1	0	*	½	½	1	1	4½
5	Brown,Michael W.	2121	0	0	½	½	*	1	0	½	2½
6	Abrahamyan,Tatev	2343	0	0	0	½	0	*	1	1	2½
7	Gutman,Joshua	2107	0	0	1	0	1	0	*	0	2
8	Clawitter,Craig	2118	0	0	0	0	½	0	1	*	1½

Game 3
Gutman,Joshua (2107) -
Yanayt,Eugene (2236)
[E91] King's Indian Defense
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0–0 6.Be2 c5 7.0–0 Nc6 8.d5 Na5 9.Be3 e5 10.a3 b6 11.b4

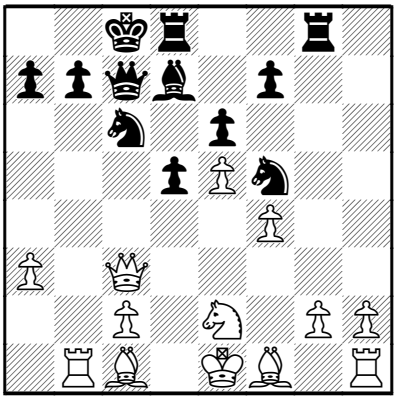


11...Nb7 12.Ne1 Ne8 13.Nd3 f5 14.a4 g5 15.exf5 Bxf5 16.Qc1 e4 17.Bxg5 Qc8 18.Ne1 cxb4 19.Nd1 Nc5 20.Rb1 a5 21.Bh5 Nf6 22.Bxf6 Bxf6 23.Qf4 e3 24.Rc1 Ne4 25.Qxe3 Qc5 26.Qe2 Ra7 27.Ne3 Bd7 28.Ng4 Bg5 29.Qxe4 Bf5 30.Nd3 Bxe4 31.Nxc5 bxc5 32.Ne3 b3 33.Bf3 Bg6 34.Rb1 Rb7 35.Rb2 Bf6 36.Rfb1 Rfb8

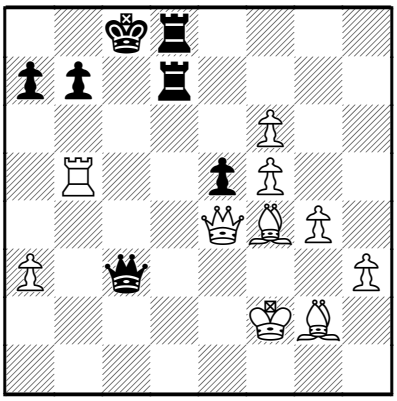


37.g4 Rb4 0–1

Game 4
Peters,Jack (2377) -
Clawitter,Craig (2118)
[C18] French Winawer
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 Ne7 7.Qg4 Qc7 8.Qxg7 Rg8 9.Qxh7 cxd4 10.Ne2 Nbc6 11.f4 Bd7 12.Qd3 dxc3 13.Qxc3 0–0–0 14.Rb1 Nf5



15.h3 d4 16.Qc5 Be8 17.g4 Rd5 18.Qc4 Nh4 19.Ng3 f6 20.exf6 Bf7 21.Ne4 Ng6 22.Qb3 e5 23.f5 Nf4 24.Qf3 d3 25.c3 Rgd8 26.Rh2 Na5 27.Rf2 Nc4 28.Bg2 R5d7 29.Rb5 d2+ 30.Rxd2 Nxd2 31.Bxd2 Bd5 32.Bxf4 Bxe4 33.Qxe4 Qxc3+ 34.Kf2

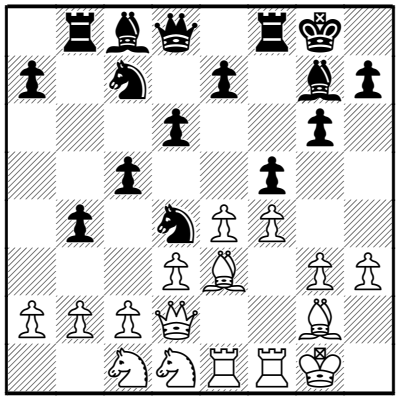


34...Rd2+ 35.Bxd2 Rxd2+ 36.Kg1 Qc1+ 37.Kh2 Qc7 38.Qxb7+ 1–0

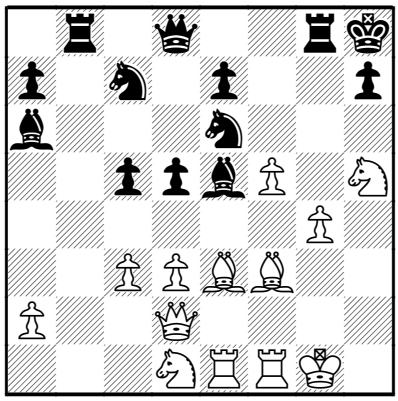
IM Jack Peters

Round 2, August 13th

Game 5
Clawitter,Craig (2118) - Gutman,Joshua (2107)
[B26] Closed Sicilian
1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.d3 d6 6.Be3 Nf6 7.h3 0–0 8.f4 Ne8 9.Nge2 Nd4 10.Qd2 Nc7 11.0–0 Rb8 12.Rae1 b5 13.Nc1 b4 14.Nd1 f5

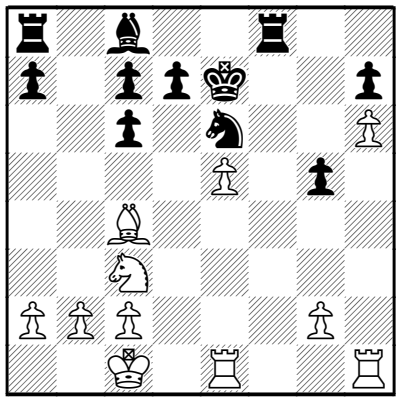


15.c3 bxc3 16.bxc3 Nde6 17.Ne2 Ba6 18.exf5 gxf5 19.g4 Kh8 20.Ng3 fxg4 21.hxg4 Rg8 22.Bf3 d5 23.f5 Be5 24.Nh5



24...Qe8 25.Kh1 Ng7 26.Nxg7 Bxg7 27.Bxc5 Qc6 28.Bxe7 Rbe8 29.g5 Qd7 30.f6 Bxd3 31.fxg7+ Rxg7 32.Bf6 1–0

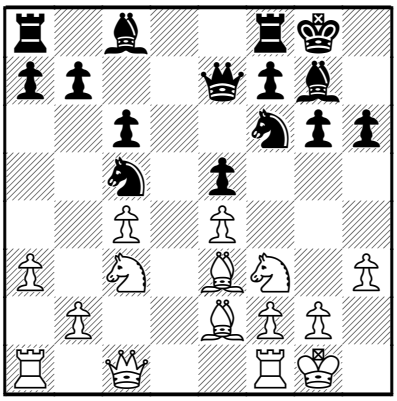
Game 6
Taylor,Timothy (2279) - Peters,Jack (2377)
[C46] Three Knights Defense
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 g6 4.d4 exd4 5.Nxd4 Bg7 6.Be3 Nf6 7.Nxc6 bxc6 8.e5 Ng8 9.Qe2 Qe7 10.f4 f6 11.Bd4 fxe5 12.Bxe5 Bxe5 13.Qxe5 Qxe5+ 14.fxe5 Nh6 15.0–0–0 Rf8 16.Re1 Ke7 17.Be2 Nf7 18.Bc4 Ng5 19.h4 Ne6 20.h5 g5 21.h6



21...a5 22.Ne4 Rf5 23.Bxe6 dxe6 24.Nf6 Bd7 25.Nxh7 Rh8 26.Nf6 Be8 27.Rh3 Kf7 28.h7 Ke7 29.Ra3 Rf2 30.g4 Rh2 31.Rxa5 Bg6 32.Rc5 Bxh7 33.Rxc6 Bg6 34.Rxc7+ Kd8 35.Rc4 Rh1 36.Rxh1 Rxh1+ 37.Kd2 Rh2+ 38.Ke3 Bxc2 39.Rd4+ Kc7 40.Rd7+ Kc6 41.Rd6+ Kb5 42.Rxe6 Bb1 43.Rd6 Bxa2 44.Rd2 Rh3+ 45.Kd4 Rg3 46.Rd3 Rg2 47.b3 Bb1 48.e6 Re2 49.Re3 1–0

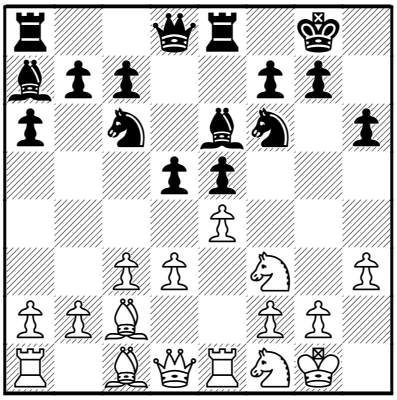
Eugene Yanayt

Game 7
Yanayt,Eugene (2236) - Abrahamyan,Tatev (2343)
[E94] King's Indian Defense
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0–0 6.Be2 e5 7.0–0 Na6 8.Be3 Ng4 9.Bg5 Qe8 10.dxe5 dxe5 11.h3 h6 12.Bd2 Nf6 13.Be3 Qe7 14.a3 c6 15.Qc1 Nc5

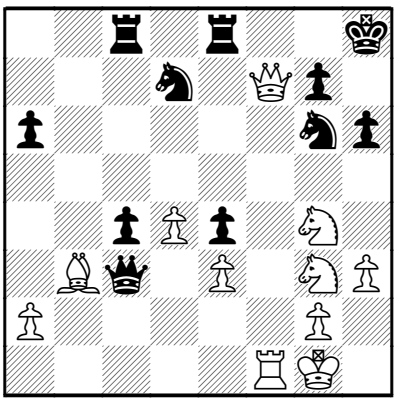


16.Nd2 Ne6 17.Nf3 Nc5 18.Nd2 Ne6 19.Nf3 Nc5 ½–½

Game 8
Yankovsky,Roman (2400) - Brown,Michael W. (2121)
[C54] Giuoco Pianissimo
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 Bc5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.0–0 d6 6.c3 a6 7.Bb3 Ba7 8.Nbd2 0–0 9.h3 h6 10.Re1 Re8 11.Nf1 Be6 12.Bc2 d5



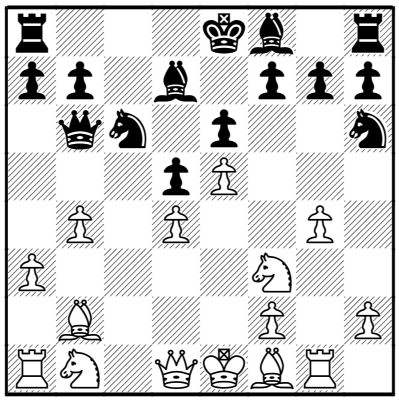
13.Qe2 Qd7 14.Ng3 Rad8 15.Nh2 Ne7 16.Be3 Bxe3 17.fxe3 Ng6 18.exd5 Bxd5 19.Qf2 c6 20.Rf1 e4 21.d4 Qe6 22.b3 b5 23.Rfc1 Rc8 24.Bd1 c5 25.Ng4 Nd7 26.c4 bxc4 27.bxc4 Bxc4 28.Rxc4 Qxc4 29.Bb3 Qc3 30.Qxf7+ Kh8 31.Rf1 c4



32.Nf5 Rg8 33.Qxg6 Nf8 34.Qf7 cxb3 35.Ngxh6 Qc4 36.d5 Ne6 37.Qg6 Ng5 38.Qxg5 Qe2 39.Nf7+ Kh7 40.Qh4+ Kg6 41.Ne5 mate.

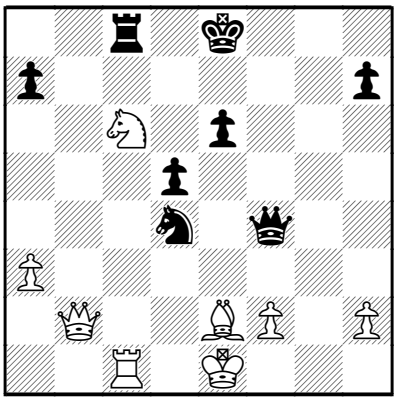
Round 3, August 14th

Game 9
Abrahamyan,Tatev (2343) - Clawitter,Craig (2118)
[C02] French Advanced
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Qb6 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.a3 Nh6 7.b4 cxd4 8.cxd4 Nf5 9.Bb2 Bd7 10.g4 Nh6 11.Rg1



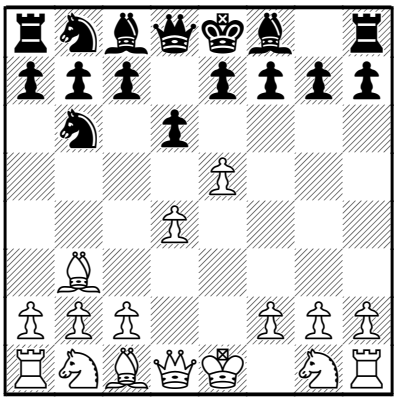
11...f6 12.exf6 gxf6 13.Nc3 Nf7 14.Na4 Qc7 15.Nc5 Bxc5 16.dxc5 Qf4 17.Rg3 Rg8 18.Be2 Rxg4 19.b5 Ne7 20.Rxg4 Qxg4 21.Bxf6 Nf5 22.Qb3 Rc8 23.Rc1 Qf4 24.Qb2 N5d6 25.Be5 Nxe5 26.Nxe5 Nf5 27.c6 bxc6 28.bxc6 Bxc6 29.Nxc6 Nd4

WGM Tatev Abrahamyan



30.Bh5+ Kd7 31.Qb7+ Rc7 32.Nb8+ Kd8 33.Qxc7+ 1–0

Game 10
Yankovsky,Roman (2400) - Taylor,Timothy (2279)
[B03] Alekhine's Defense
Notes by IM Jack Peters.
1.e4
This was a battle of the leaders - each started 2–0.
1...Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.Bc4
Instead of the usual 4.Nf3 or 4.c4.
4...Nb6 5.Bb3



5...d5!?
You have to admire Tim for following the recommendation he published in *Alekhine Alert*. Many authors only disclose their secrets after they abandon an opening.
Most common is 5...dxe5 6.Qh5 e6 7.dxe5, which may favor White.
Lev Alburt used to play 5...Bf5, anticipating 6.Qf3 Qc8, but Tim suggests 6.e6!? to disrupt Black's development.
6.c3 e6
Tim calls this a "solid French structure" with a "misplaced Bishop on b3."

I prefer 6...Bf5, hoping for the French structure and a trade of light-square Bishops.

7.Nf3 Be7 8.Bc2 Bd7 9.0–0 c5 10.a3 a5

Squelching b2-b4.

Black may also consider 10...cxd4 or 10...c4.

11.Re1 Nc6?!

An inaccuracy that White fails to exploit. Instead, Black should seize more light squares with 11...a4.

12.Nbd2?!

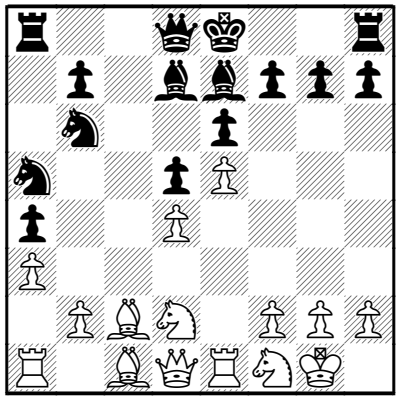
White could obtain a very promising position with 12.dxc5! Bxc5 13.a4, intending Nb1–a3-b5 and inviting 13...0–0? 14.Bxh7+!.

12...cxd4 13.cxd4 a4

Most logical.

I do not trust 13...g5 14.h3 h5 15.Nf1 g4 16.hxg4 hxg4 17.N3h2 Qc7 18.Nxg4 0–0–0, although Fritz claims Black has adequate compensation.

14.Nf1 Na5 15.N3d2



15...Nc6?

A serious loss of time. Either 15... Rc8 or 15...Bb5 improves. Black has at least equal chances.

16.Qg4 g6 17.Nf3 Nc4?!

Now the game turns into a battle of attacks on opposite wings, which suits White because his threats involve Black's King.

Black would suffer on the dark squares after 17...Qc7?! 18.Bg5±, but he can get substantial counterplay from 17...Rc8, or 17...h5 18.Qg3 Rc8, not fearing 19.Bxg6 Rg8.

18.Bh6!

Correctly offering the b-pawn to strengthen his grip on the Kingside.

18...b5

After 18...Nxb2 19.Ne3, White plans Qg4-f4 or Re1–b1.

19.Qf4

One threat is 20.Bg7 Rg8 21.Qh6. Black stops it by attacking d4.

19...Qb6 20.Ne3 Nxb2 21.Bg5!

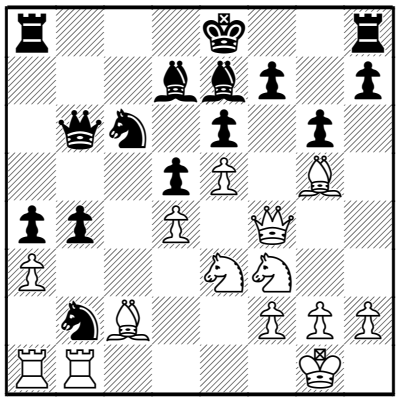
Well-timed, as 21...Nxd4? would lose to 22.Bxe7 Nxf3+ 23.Qxf3 Kxe7? 24.Qf6+.

21...b4

Most alternatives lose to 22.Ng4.

The desperate 21...Bxg5 22.Nxg5 0–0–0 23.Nxf7 Qxd4 gets a little compensation for the exchange.

22.Reb1?



Right idea, wrong order of moves.

White should transpose to the game by 22.Bxe7 Nxe7 23.Reb1+-.

22...bxa3?

Black's last chance is 22...Nxd4! 23.Qxd4 (not 23.Bxe7?? Ne2+) 23... Qxd4 24.Nxd4 Bxg5 25.Rxb2 b3. Black's two passers and unchallenged dark-square Bishop negate White's advantage in material.

23.Bxe7 Nxe7 24.Rxa3

Winning.

24...Qb4

Worse is 24...0–0? 25.Ng4+-.

White can refute 24...Rb8 by 25.Ng4, or 25.Ra2 a3 26.Rxa3.

25.Ra2 a3 26.Rbxb2

Another tempting course is to postpone material gain and continue attacking with 26.Qf6!? Rf8 27.Ng5.

26...Qxb2

After 26...axb2 27.Rxa8+ Bc8 28.Bb1 Qc3 29.Nc2+-, Black runs out of threats. Next White will pick off the b-pawn by Ra8-b8 and Qf4-d2.

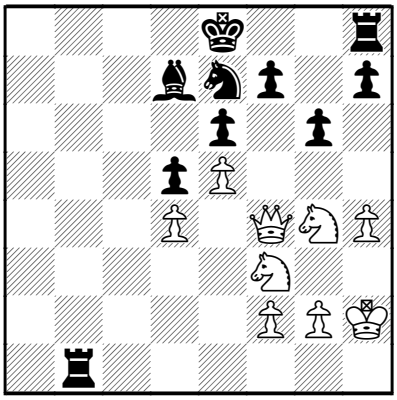
27.Rxb2 axb2 28.h4

Not as clear is 28.Nd2?! Ra1+ 29.Bb1 Bb5.

28...Ra1+ 29.Kh2 b1Q

Black has more chances to swindle White after 29...Rc1 30.Nd2 h5.

30.Bxb1 Rxb1 31.Ng4+-



White no longer has to worry about Queenside counterplay. His Queen and Knights can attack relentlessly.

31...Nf5

31...h6 Fritz considers 32.Nxh6 Nf5 33.Nxf5 exf5 toughest. However, Black is too vulnerable on the dark squares.

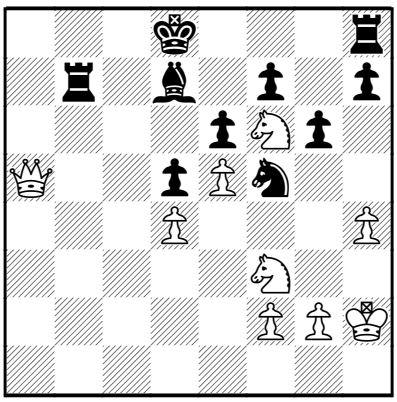
32.Nf6+ Kd8 33.Qd2

Threatening 34.Qa5+, with the possible finish 34...Ke7 35.Qc7 Rd8 36.Qc5+.

33...Rb7

If 33...Rb5 White invades on the Kingside by 34.g4 Ne7 35.Qh6+-.

34.Qa5+



34...Kc8

If 34...Ke7 35.g4 Nh6, White picks up more material by 36.Qa6 Rc7 37.Qd6+ Kd8 38.Nxd7 Rxd7 39.Qb8+ Ke7 40.Qxh8+-.

Against 34...Rc7 35.Ng5 Nh6 White's quickest win begins 36.Nge4!

dxe4 37.d5+-.

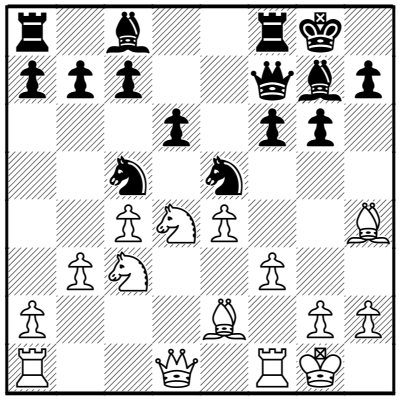
35.g4 Ne7 36.Qa8+ Rb8 37.Qa6+ Kd8

No better are 37...Kc7 38.Qd6+ and 37...Rb7 38.Nxd7.

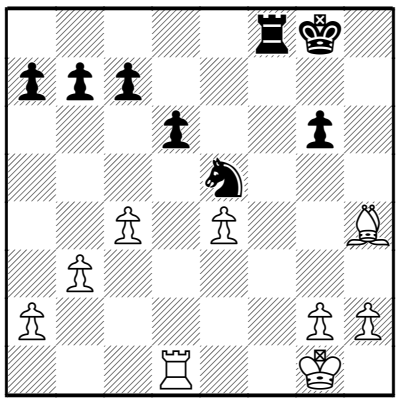
38.Qa7! 1–0

Game 11
Brown,Michael W. (2121) -
Yanayt,Eugene (2236)
[A42] Modern Defense

1.d4 g6 2.c4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.e4 e5 5.Nf3 Nd7 6.Be2 Nh6 7.Be3 0–0 8.Qc1 Ng4 9.Bg5 f6 10.Bh4 exd4 11.Nxd4 Nc5 12.0–0 Qe8 13.Qd1 Ne5 14.f3 Qf7 15.b3



15...Ne6 16.Nxe6 Bxe6 17.f4 Nc6 18.f5 Bd7 19.Nd5 Rac8 20.Bg4 Ne5 21.fxg6 hxg6 22.Nxf6+ Bxf6 23.Rxf6 Bxg4 24.Rxf7 Bxd1 25.Rxf8+ Rxf8 26.Rxd1



26...Nc6 27.Bg3 Re8 28.Re1 Nb4 29.Re2 Nd3 30.Re3 Ne5 31.h3 a5 32.Kf2 b6 33.Bf4 Kf7 34.g4 Ke6 35.Kg3 Rh8 36.h4 a4 37.g5 axb3 38.Bxe5 Kxe5 39.axb3 Ra8 40.Kg4 Ra1 41.h5 Rg1+ 42.Rg3 gxh5+ 43.Kh4 Rh1+ 44.Rh3 Rg1 45.Kxh5 Kxe4 46.g6 c6 47.Kh6 d5 48.cxd5 cxd5 49.Rh4+ Ke3 50.Rb4 d4 51.g7 d3 52.Rxb6 d2 53.Rd6 d1Q 54.Rxd1 Rxd1 55.g8Q Rh1+ 56.Kg7 Rg1+ ½–½

Game 12
Gutman,Joshua (2107) -
Peters,Jack (2377)
[E39] Nimzoindian Defense

Notes by Joshua Gutman.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6

This move came totally unexpected to me. I knew Jack had played it a few times before, but I still did not expect it.

3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2

I've had bad results with Qc2, but I was hoping to avoid any reverse preparation.

4...c5 5.dxc5 0–0 6.Bf4!?

A rare move.

6...Bxc5 7.e3 Nh5 8.Bg3 Nc6 9.Be2 Nxg3 10.hxg3 g6?!

It's unnecessary for Black to weaken the dark squares even if it might not immediately be an issue.

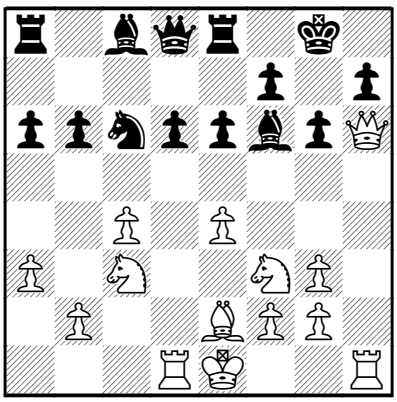
11.Nf3 b6 12.Rd1 a6 13.a3 Be7 14.Qd2

Simply trying to disrupt Black's development. Now Bb7 is difficult to achieve.

14...d6?

A mistake.

15.e4 Bf6 16.Qh6 Re8



17.e5?!

Probably unnecessary, simpler was 17.Qxh7+ Kf8 18.Qh6+ Bg7 19.Qd2±.

17...Nxe5 18.Ne4 Nxf3+ 19.Bxf3 d5 20.Kf1

With my last few moves I've really muddied the waters. The position is no longer clear at all.

20...Bxb2 21.cxd5 exd5 22.Ng5 Qe7 23.Kg1 Bb7 24.Rxd5! Bg7 25.Qxh7+

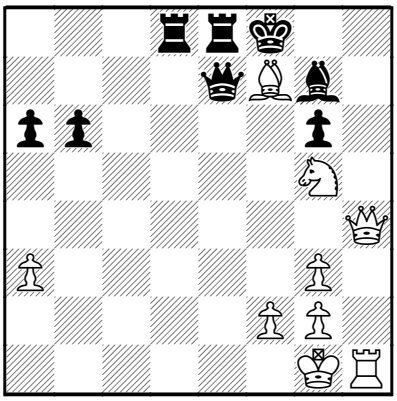
Finally the pawn on h7 is captured, 8 moves after the first opportunity.

as

Joshua Gutman

Michael Brown

25...Kf8 26.Qh4 Bxd5 27.Bxd5 Rad8 28.Bxf7

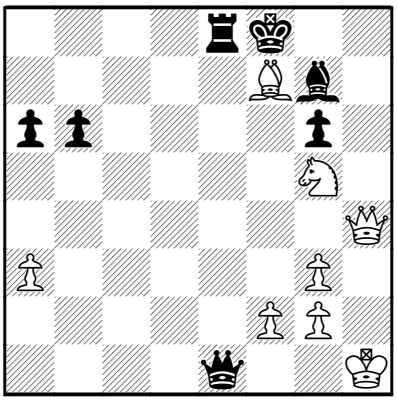


28...Rd1+?!

Both players missed a strong opportunity for Black: 28...Rd4 29.f4 29...Rd1+ 30.Kh2 Qe1 31.Rxe1 Rexe1 32.Kh3 Rh1+ 33.Kg4 Rxh4+ 34.gxh4∓ with an advantage for Black.

After 28...Rd4, 29.Qh7 may seem tempting, but is impossible due to the following combination: 29... Rd1+ 30.Kh2 Rxh1+ 31.Kxh1 Qxf7! 32.Nxf7 Kxf7–+ and the White Queen is trapped.

29.Kh2 Rxh1+ 30.Kxh1 Qe1+



31.Kh2 Re5?

31...Qe5 32.Bxe8 Kxe8± still retained drawing chances for Black.

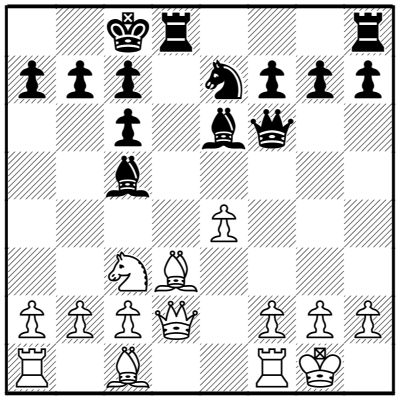
32.Bxg6 Qxf2? 33.Ne6+! 1-0

For if 33...Rxe6, then 34.Qd8+ Re8 35.Qxe8 mate, and if 33...Kg8 then 34.Qh7 mate.

Round 4, August 14th

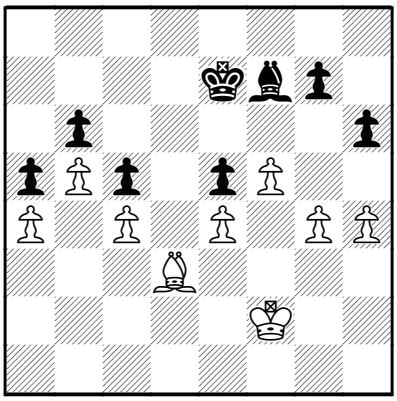
Game 13
Clawitter,Craig (2118) -
Brown,Michael W. (2121)
[C45] Scotch Opening

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Bc5 5.Nxc6 Qf6 6.Qd2 dxc6 7.Nc3 Be6 8.Bd3 Ne7 9.0–0 0–0–0



10.Kh1 Qg6 11.Qg5 Qxg5 12.Bxg5 f6 13.Bh4 Bd4 14.f4 c5 15.Be1 Nc6 16.a3 Rhe8 17.Rd1 a6 18.b3 Bf7 19.h3 Bg6 20.f5 Bf7 21.Ne2 Ne5 22.Nxd4 cxd4 23.b4 Nc4 24.Ra1 Re7 25.a4 b6 26.Bf2 Kb7 27.Rfd1 Red7 28.g4 h6 29.Kg2 Ne5 30.Bg3 Re7 31.Rab1 Ka7 32.b5 a5 33.Bf2 Kb7 34.Rd2 Be8 35.Rbd1 c5 36.Bg3 Bf7 37.Be2 Red7 38.Bxe5 fxe5 39.c4 d3 40.Rxd3 Rd4 41.h4 Kc7 42.Kf2 Kd6 43.Rg1 Ke7 44.Rgd1 Rxd3 45.Rxd3 Rxd3 46.Bxd3

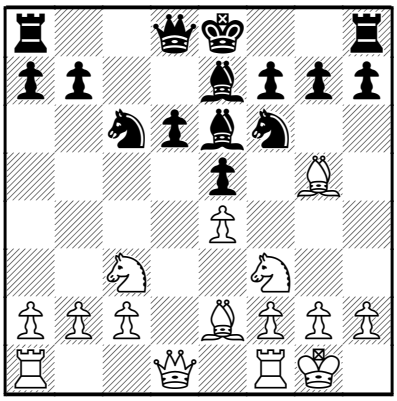
Craig Clawitter



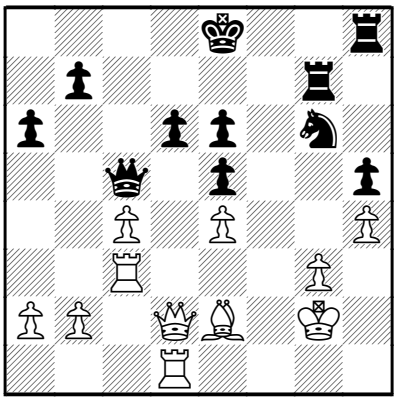
½–½

Game 14
Taylor,Timothy (2279) -
Gutman,Joshua (2107)
[B58] Sicilian Defense

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Be2 e5 7.Nf3 Be7 8.Bg5 Be6 9.0–0



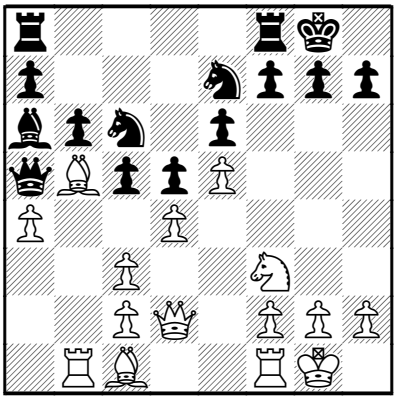
9...a6 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.Nd5 Ne7 12.Nxf6+ gxf6 13.Qd2 Qc7 14.Rfd1 Rd8 15.c4 Ng6 16.Rac1 Rd7 17.g3 h5 18.h4 f5 19.Ng5 f4 20.Nxe6 fxe6 21.Rc3 Qc5 22.Kg2 fxg3 23.fxg3 Rg7



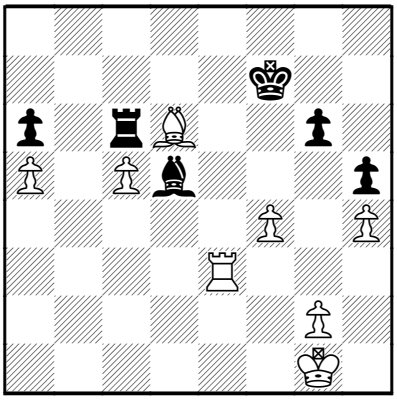
24.Qxd6 Qxd6 25.Rxd6 Ke7 26.Rb6

Nf4+ 27.Kf1 Nxe2 28.Kxe2 Kf6 29.Rf3+ 1–0

Game 15
Peters,Jack (2377) -
Abrahamyan,Tatev (2343)
[C19] French Winawer
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 Ne7 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 c5 7.Nf3 Nbc6 8.a4 Qa5 9.Qd2 b6 10.Bb5 Ba6 11.Rb1 0–0 12.0–0

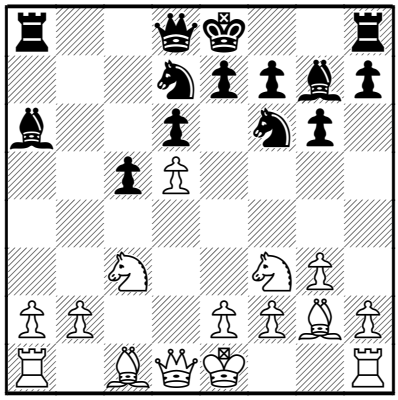


12...f6 13.exf6 Rxf6 14.Qe2 Bc8 15.Ne5 Nxe5 16.dxe5 Rf8 17.Bg5 Ng6 18.c4 dxc4 19.Qxc4 a6 20.Bc6 Nxe5 21.Qe4 Nxc6 22.Qxc6 Ra7 23.Qxb6 Qxb6 24.Rxb6 Bd7 25.a5 Rf5 26.Be3 Bb5 27.Rc1 Rd5 28.h3 Rad7 29.Rxe6 c4 30.Kh2 Kf7 31.Rb6 c3 32.Ra1 Be2 33.Rc6 Rb5 34.Rxc3 Rb4 35.Bc5 Rc4 36.Rxc4 Bxc4 37.Ra4 Bd5 38.Rf4+ Ke6 39.c4 Bc6 40.Rh4 h6 41.Rg4 Kf7 42.h4 Ba4 43.Bd4 Kg8 44.Be5 Re7 45.f4 Bc2 46.Rg3 h5 47.Kg1 g6 48.c5 Re6 49.Rc3 Be4 50.Rb3 Rc6 51.Bd6 Kf7 52.Re3 Bd5

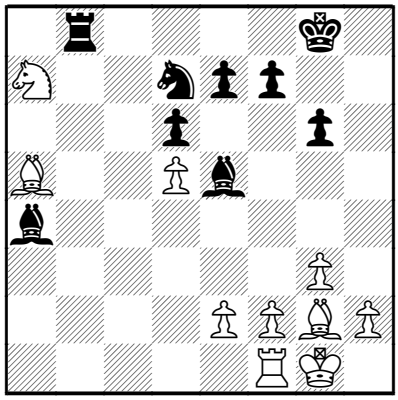


53.Kf2 Rc8 54.Re7+ Kf6 55.Ra7 Rc6 56.g3 Bh1 57.Ke3 Bg2 58.Kd4 Bf3 59.Rh7 Bg2 60.Rh8 Bf3 61.Rf8+ Ke6 62.Be5 Bg2 63.Bg7 Bh3 64.Bh6 Ke7 65.Ra8 Bg2 66.Ra7+ Ke6 67.Bf8 Kf6 68.Bd6 Ke6 69.Bc7 Bf3 70.Bb6 70...Bg2 71.Rxa6 1–0

Game 16
Yanayt,Eugene (2236) -
Yankovsky,Roman (2400)
[A58] Benko Gambit
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.cxb5 a6 5.bxa6 Bxa6 6.Nc3 g6 7.g3 d6 8.Nf3 Bg7 9.Bg2 Nbd7

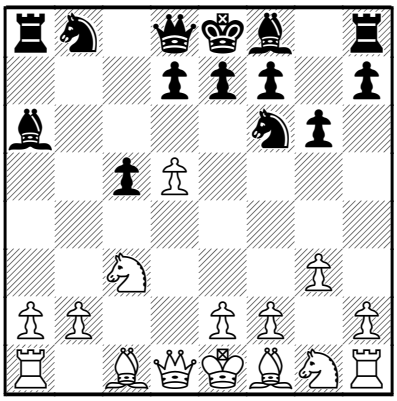


10.Rb1 0–0 11.0–0 Qa5 12.Bd2 Rfb8 13.Qc2 Ng4 14.b3 Nge5 15.a4 c4 16.Nxe5 Bxe5 17.bxc4 Bxc4 18.Rxb8+ Rxb8 19.Nb5 Bb3 20.Qxg6+ hxg6 21.Bxa5 Bxa4 22.Na7 ½–½



Round 5, August 27th

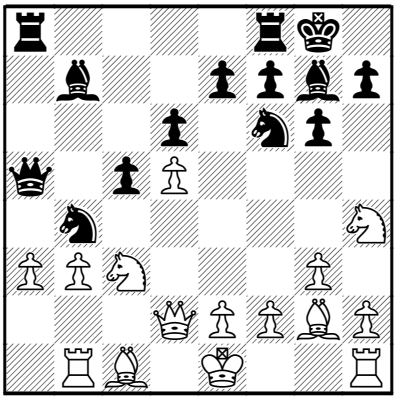
Game 17
Brown,Michael W. (2121) -
Peters,Jack (2377)
[A58] Benko Gambit
Notes by IM Jack Peters.
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.cxb5 a6 5.bxa6 g6 6.Nc3 Bxa6 7.g3



A reliable system against the Benko Gambit.
7...d6 8.Bg2 Bg7 9.Nf3 0–0 10.Rb1
Quite reasonable, although White often prefers 10.0–0 Nbd7 11.Rb1.
10...Bb7
I didn't know the current theory and "invented" a rarely-seen move.
Customary is 10...Nbd7 11.0–0 (Future stars Radjabov and Carlsen tested 11.b3 Qa5 12.Bd2 Bb7 13.0–0 in 2006, with a hard-fought draw.) 11...Qa5 12.Bd2±.
11.b3?
Faulty, as White's Bishop will not reach b2.
The correct 11.0–0 Nbd7 12.Re1± favors White.
I intended 11.0–0 Na6?!, which appears worse after 12.e4 Nc7 13.Re1±.
11...Na6!∓
White can parry 11...Qa5 with 12.0–0!?, foreseeing 12...Qxc3 13.Bd2 Nxd5□ 14.Bxc3 Nxc3, a less effective Queen sacrifice than the one Black used in the game.
12.Qd2
Trying to prepare Bc1–b2. We can dismiss most alternatives quickly.
First, White must avoid 12.Bb2? Nb4∓ and 12.0–0? Nb4∓.
Also 12.e4? e6 13.0–0 exd5 14.exd5 Nb4∓ is great for Black.
The plausible 12.a3 Nc7 13.Nh4 seems sturdy until Black finds 13... Nd7 14.Bb2 (*If 14.Na4 Nb5 15.0–0 Nb6, White has worries at a3 and c3.*) 14...Rxa3! 15.Bxa3 Bxc3+ 16.Kf1 Qa8, with plenty for the exchange.

Finally, White does not drop material with 12.a4 Nb4 13.Nh4 Qd7 14.0–0 h6⩱, but he must loosen his pawn structure with 15. e4 or 15. f4 to meet the threat of 15...g5.

12...Nb4 13.Nh4 Qa5 14.a3



14...Nbxd5?

I thought I was winning and didn't anticipate White's reply.

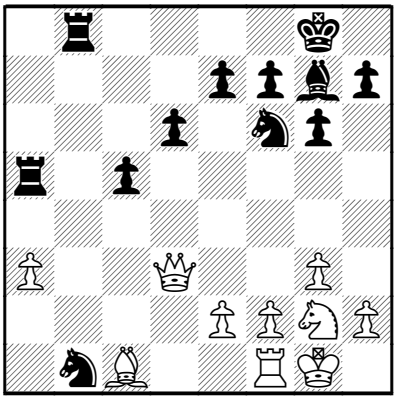
Michael saw Black's best response: 14...Nc2+! 15.Qxc2 (not 15.Kf1? Nxa3 16.Ra1 Nc4!–+) 15...Nxd5. White cannot survive 16. Bd2? Bxc3, but 16.0–0! Qxc3 17.Qd1 Qd4 18.Bb2 Qxd1 19.Rfxd1 e6⩲ holds Black to a tiny plus.

15.b4!

For a moment, I thought I would lose a piece.

Fortunately for me, Black has a resource.

15...Nxc3□ 16.bxa5 Nxb1 17.Qd3 Bxg2 18.Nxg2 Rfb8 19.0–0 Rxa5



Now I optimistically imagined Black's Knight retreating to safety and the c-pawn advancing.

20.Ne3±

The truth is that the position still favors White slightly.

20...Rab5 21.Nc4?

With 21.a4! Rb3 22.Qc2, White poses difficult problems. Neither 22... Na3?! 23.Bxa3 Rxa3 24.Nc4 Rab3 25.a5± nor 22...Nc3? 23.a5 d5 24.a6 c4 25.Bb2! Rxb2 26.a7!+- qualifies as a solution.

However, Black should meet 21.a4! Rb3 22.Qc2 by 22...d5! 23.Qxc5 e6 24.a5 Nc3∞.

21...Rb3?

Failing to take advantage of White's mistake.

I considered 21...d5! 22.Nb2 but missed 22...Ne4! 23.Qxb1 Bxb2 24.a4 Rb3 25.Bxb2 Rxb2 26.Qd3 e6⩲, when Black has excellent winning chances.

22.Qc2

Now White threatens both 23.Bb2 and Nc4-a5-c6, hitting e7.

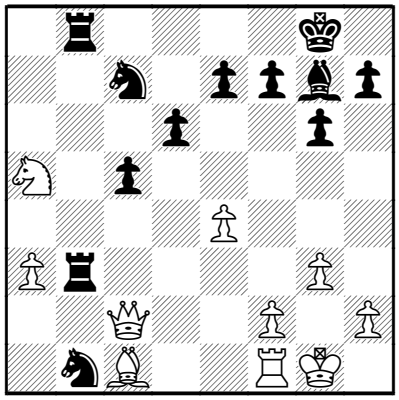
22...Nd5 23.e4 Nc7

24.Na5

White's last winning attempt is 24.e5!?, hoping for 24...dxe5?? 25. Bb2+-.

Black must counterattack with 24...d5!? 25.Na5 R3b6 26.Qxc5 Ne6! or with 24...Ne6!? 25.exd6 exd6 26.Nxd6 Be5 27.Nc4 Nd4 28.Qe4 Nc3 29.Qg4 f5 30.Qh3 Bf6∞.

24...R3b6 25.Nc4 Rb3 26.Na5

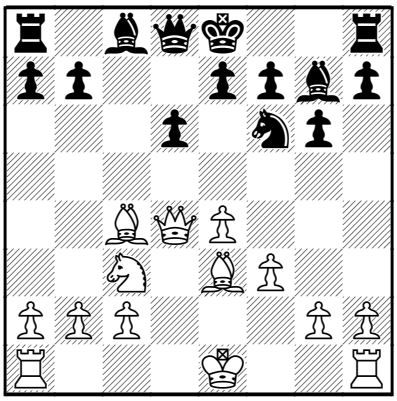


Accepting repetition. I think both of us were relieved to draw!

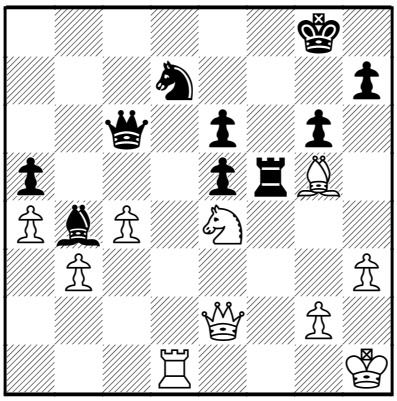
26...R3b6 27.Nc4 Rb3 ½–½

Game 18
Abrahamyan,Tatev (2343) - Gutman,Joshua (2107)
[B57] Sicilian Defense

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.f3 Nxd4 7.Qxd4 g6 8.Be3 Bg7 9.Bc4



9...0–0 10.Qd2 Bd7 11.Bb3 b5 12.0–0 Qc7 13.Bd4 a5 14.a4 b4 15.Ne2 e5 16.Be3 Be6 17.Bxe6 fxe6 18.c3 b3 19.Nc1 Rab8 20.Ra3 d5 21.Rxb3 dxe4 22.Rxb8 Rxb8 23.fxe4 Ng4 24.b3 Qc6 25.h3 Nf6 26.c4 Ra8 27.Rd1 Bf8 28.Nd3 Qxe4 29.Nf2 Qc6 30.Bg5 Bb4 31.Qe2 Nd7 32.Ne4 Rf8 33.Kh1 Rf5



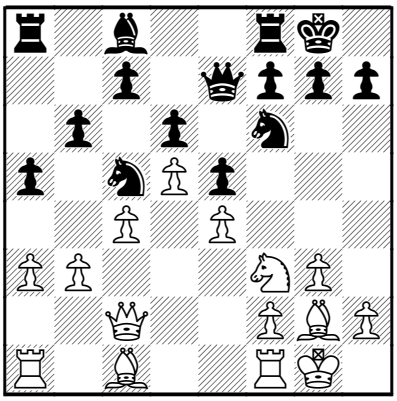
34.Rxd7 Qxd7 35.Nf6+ Rxf6 36.Bxf6 e4 37.Qxe4 Qd1+ 38.Kh2 Kf7 39.Be5 Qxb3 40.Qb7+ Ke8 41.Qc8+ Ke7 42.c5 1–0

Yanayt moved past Taylor and into second place with the following win. Another win in the next round placed him temporarily in a tie for first.

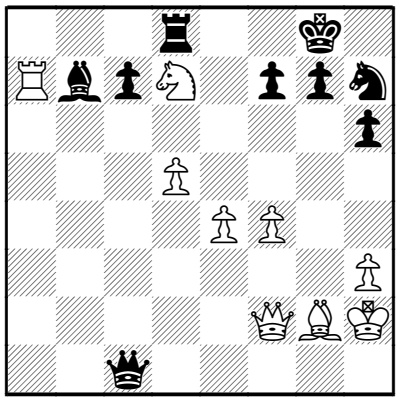
A blocked center ultimately gets free in this game. -Ed.

Game 19
Yanayt,Eugene (2236) - Taylor,Timothy (2279)
[E33] Nimzoindian Defense

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 Nc6 5.Nf3 d6 6.a3 Bxc3+ 7.Qxc3 Qe7 8.Qc2 e5 9.d5 Nd8 10.e4 0–0 11.g3 a5 12.b3 b6 13.Bg2 Nb7 14.0–0 Nc5



15.Nd2 Ba6 16.b4 axb4 17.axb4 Ncd7 18.Nb3 h6 19.h3 Nh7 20.Be3 Ng5 21.Ra2 Bb7 22.Rfa1 Rxa2 23.Rxa2 Qf6 24.Ra7 Rb8 25.f4 exf4 26.gxf4 Nh7 27.c5 dxc5 28.bxc5 bxc5 29.Nxc5 Qb6 30.Nxd7 Qxe3+ 31.Qf2 Qc1+ 32.Qf1 Qe3+ 33.Qf2 Qc1+ 34.Kh2 Rd8



35.Nc5 Bc8 36.Rxc7 Qb1 37.e5 Nf8 38.Qh4 Re8 39.Ne4 Qb6 40.Rc6 Qe3 41.Nd6 g5 42.Qg3 Qxg3+ 43.Kxg3 gxf4+ 44.Kxf4 Ng6+ 45.Kg3 Nxe5 46.Nxe8 Nxc6 47.dxc6 Kf8 48.Nd6 Be6 49.c7 Ke7 50.c8Q
1–0

Solutions to Inside Moves

From page 5.

1.White wins a piece with 28.Rxc6! 1–0, Brown - Abrahamyan, 23rd Southern California Ch. (7). See page 21 for the whole game.

2.White forces mate with 33.Ne6+ 1–0, Gutman - Peters, 23rd Southern California Ch. (3). If 33...Kg8, then 34.Qh7 mate, and if 33...Rxe6, then it's 34.Qd8+ Re8 35.Qxe8 mate. See page 15 for the whole game.

3.White wins material with 31.Qe2!. The game finished with 31... Rd7 32.Qe8+ Qc8 33.Qxc8+ Kxc8 34.Re8+ Rd8 35.Rxd8 mate, Peters - Saidy, 1st ACA Open, Glendale.

4.The instant end was 25.Rxe6! 1–0, Aronian - Anand, 4th Final Masters Sao Paulo/Bilbao BRA/ESP (9). If 25...Qxc2, 26.Rxe8 is mate. If 25... Qxe6, then 26.Nxe6 Rgxe6 27.b5 Ne5 28.Rxc7+-.

5.Black gets the checkmate with 28...Nh3+ 29.Kf1 Rf2+! 30.Ke1 Qd2 mate, Hilby - Roberts, La Palma CC Sweet Summer Endgame (5).

6.Black performs the Ginsu gut trick on the White Kingside with 26...Bxh2+! 27.Kxh2 Rxg2+!! 28.Kxg2 Qg6+ 29.Kh3 Qh6+ 30.Kg2 Qg5+ 31.Kh3 Rf6 0–1, Crisologo - Hodges, San Diego County Championship (3).

7.Black inches in with 21...Ne4 22.Qe1 Nc3 0–1, Zhang - Khachiyan, 1st ACA Open Glendale (1). White has to give up the Queen to stop mate on a2.

8.White has a very nice forced mate with 33.Qf6+ Kxd6 34.Qf8+ Ke5 35.Qf4+ Kd5 36.Nf6 mate, Jackson - Bellinger, La Palma CC Sweet Summer Endgame (5).

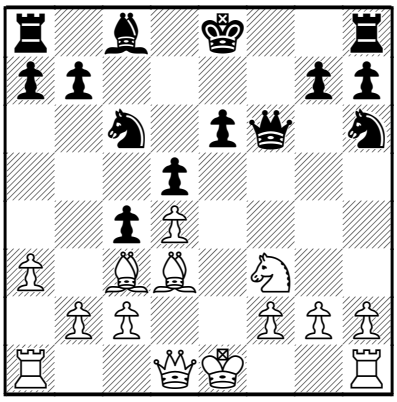
Starting the sequence with 33.Qg7+ works, too.

9.White forces mate with 29.Ne6+! fxe6 30.fxe6 Rxa2 31.Bh6 mate, Haessel - Amanov, Landon Brownell Memorial (8).

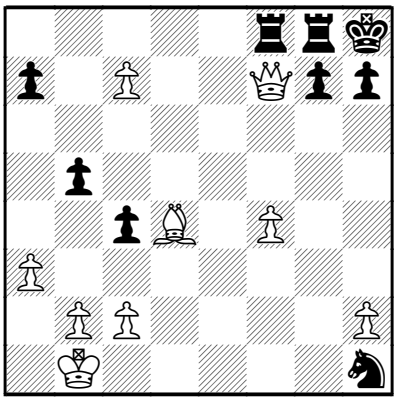
Other tries don't save Black, for if 30...Kf8 then 31.Rxf6+! Ke8 32.exd7+ Nxd7 33.Re6+ Kd8 34.Qxc4 Nc5 35.Qb5 Nxe6 36.dxe6 R4a7 37.Bg5+ Kc8 38.Qc6+ Kb8 39.Rc1+-.

In this line, if 31...Bxf6, then 32.h8Q+ Bxh8 33.Rxh8+ Kg7 34.Qh7+. Or if 31...Ke7, then just 32.Rf7+ does the job.

Game 20
Yankovsky,Roman (2400) - Clawitter,Craig (2118)
[C17] French Winawer
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.Bd2 Nh6 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Bd3 f6 8.exf6 Qxf6 9.a3 Bxc3 10.Bxc3 c4



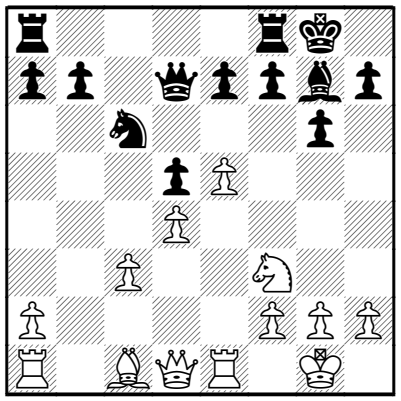
11.Bxc4 dxc4 12.d5 Qg6 13.dxc6 0–0 14.c7 b5 15.Qe2 Bb7 16.0–0–0 Bd5 17.Qe3 Nf5 18.Qc5 Qxg2 19.Nd4 Qg5+ 20.Kb1 Bxh1 21.Nxe6 Qg4 22.Rxh1 Rfe8 23.f4 Ng3 24.Ng5 Qf5 25.Be5 Nxh1 26.Qd5+ Kh8 27.Nf7+ Qxf7 28.Qxf7 Rg8 29.Bd4 Raf8



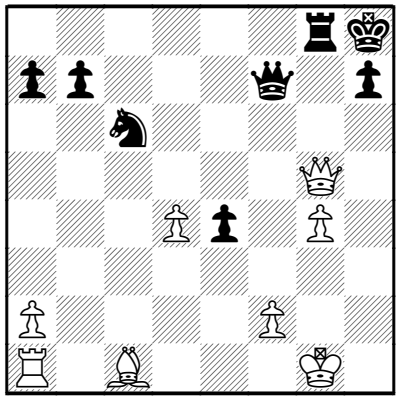
30.Bxg7+ 1–0

Round 6, August 27th

Game 21
Clawitter,Craig (2118) - Yanayt,Eugene (2236)
[B50] Sicilian Defense
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.c3 Nf6 4.Be2 g6 5.0–0 Bg7 6.Bb5+ Bd7 7.Bxd7+ Qxd7 8.Re1 Nc6 9.d4 cxd4 10.cxd4 d5 11.e5 Ne4 12.Nc3 Nxc3 13.bxc3 0–0

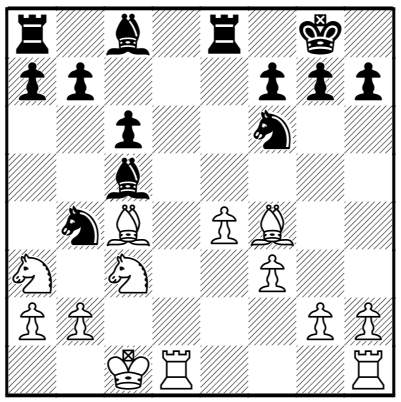


14.h4 Rfc8 15.e6 fxe6 16.h5 gxh5 17.Ng5 e5 18.Qxh5 Qf5 19.Re3 e4 20.Rg3 Rf8 21.Qh4 Rf6 22.Nh3 Rg6 23.Rxg6 Qxg6 24.Nf4 Qf5 25.g4 Qf7 26.Qg5 e5 27.Nh5 exd4 28.Nxg7 Qxg7 29.Qxd5+ Qf7 30.Qg5+ Kh8 31.cxd4 Rg8

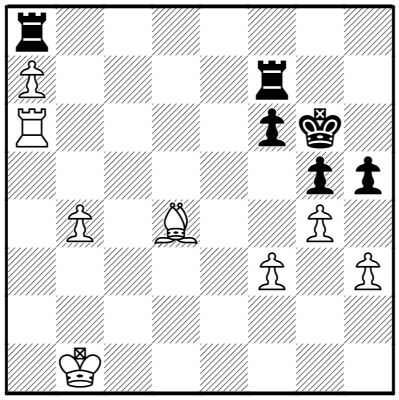


32.Qc5 Rxg4+ 33.Kf1 Qf3 34.Be3 Rh4 35.Ke1 Rh1+ 36.Kd2 Rxa1 0–1

Game 22
Gutman,Joshua (2107) -
Brown,Michael W. (2121)
[D20] Queen's Gambit Accepted
1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.e4 e5 4.Nf3 exd4 5.Qxd4 Qxd4 6.Nxd4 Bc5 7.Nb5 Na6 8.Bxc4 Nf6 9.N5c3 Nb4 10.Na3 0–0 11.Bf4 c6 12.f3 Re8 13.0–0–0

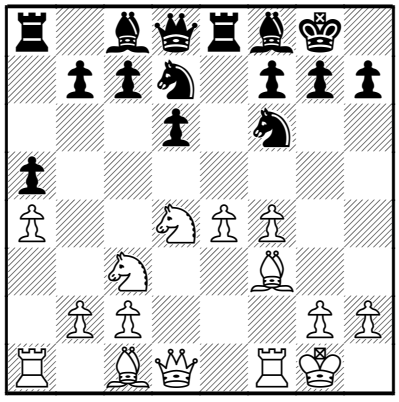


13...Be6 14.Bd6 Nd7 15.Rhe1 b5 16.Bxe6 Rxe6 17.Bg3 Nf6 18.Nc2 a5 19.Nd4 Bxd4 20.Rxd4 c5 21.Rd2 c4 22.Nxb5 Nd3+ 23.Kb1 Rb6 24.a4 Nxe1 25.Bxe1 Rc6 26.Rd4 g5 27.Nd6 Rd8 28.e5 Ne8 29.Bxa5 Ra8 30.Nf5 Rc5 31.Ne7+ Kg7 32.Bc3 Ra7 33.Nf5+ Kg6 34.g4 Rxe5 35.Rxc4 Re2 36.a5 f6 37.h3 Ng7 38.Rc6 Ne6 39.a6 h5 40.Nd4 Nxd4 41.Bxd4 Rf7 42.a7 Re8 43.Ra6 Ra8 44.b4

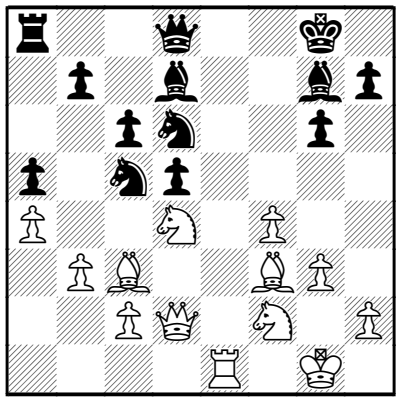


44...Rb7 45.Rxf6+ Kh7 46.Bc5 Kg7 47.Rf5 Kg6 48.Kb2 1–0

Game 23
Peters,Jack (2377) -
Yankovsky,Roman (2400)
[C41] Philidor's Defense
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Be7 6.Be2 0–0 7.0–0 Re8 8.f4 Bf8 9.Bf3 Nbd7 10.Nb3 Nb6 11.a4 a5 12.Nd4 Nbd7

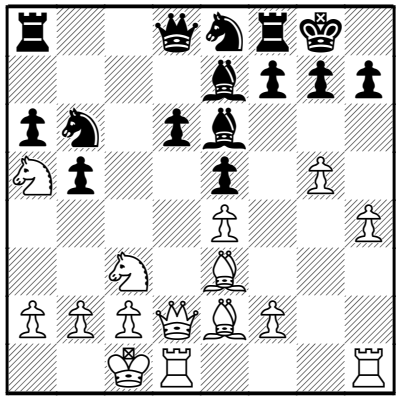


13.Ndb5 Rb8 14.Re1 Nb6 15.b3 c6 16.Nd4 d5 17.e5 Nfd7 18.Nce2 g6 19.Bd2 Ra8 20.Bc3 Nc5 21.Ng3 Nbd7 22.Nh1 Bh6 23.g3 f5 24.exf6 Nxf6 25.Nf2 Bd7 26.Rxe8+ Nxe8 27.Qd2 Bg7 28.Re1 Nd6

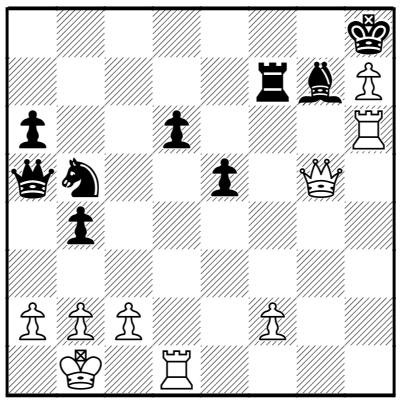


29.Nxc6 bxc6 30.Bxg7 Kxg7 31.Qd4+ Kg8 32.Qxc5 Qf8 33.Nd3 Nf5 34.Bxd5+ 1–0

Game 24
Taylor,Timothy (2279) -
Abrahamyan,Tatev (2343)
[B92] Sicilian Najdorf
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be2 e5 7.Nb3 Be7 8.Be3 0–0 9.g4 Be6 10.g5 Ne8 11.Qd2 Nd7 12.0–0–0 b5 13.h4 Nb6 14.Na5



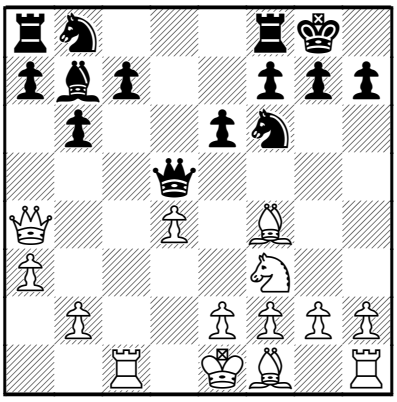
14...Rc8 15.Kb1 b4 16.Nd5 Nxd5 17.exd5 Qxa5 18.dxe6 fxe6 19.h5 Nc7 20.Bg4 Rfe8 21.g6 Bf8 22.gxh7+ Kh8 23.h6 Nb5 24.hxg7+ Bxg7 25.Bh6 Rc7 26.Bxe6 Rxe6 27.Qg5 Rxh6 28.Rxh6 Rf7



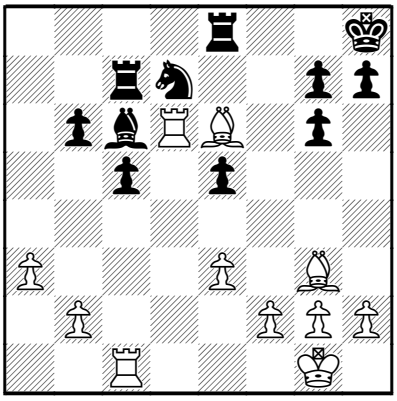
29.Re6 Kxh7 30.Qg6+ Kg8 31.Re8+ Rf8 32.Re7 1–0

Round 7, August 28th

Game 25
Brown,Michael W. (2121) - Abrahamyan,Tatev (2343)
[E36] Nimzoindian Defense
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 0–0 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.Qxc3 d5 7.Nf3 dxc4 8.Qxc4 b6 9.Bf4 Ba6 10.Qa4 Qd5 11.Rc1 Bb7

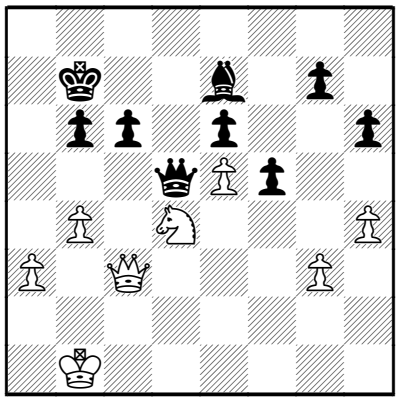


12.e3 c5 13.dxc5 bxc5 14.Be2 Nbd7 15.0–0 e5 16.Rfd1 Qe6 17.Bg3 Rab8 18.Nd2 Nb6 19.Qa5 Nfd7 20.Nc4 Kh8 21.Nxb6 axb6 22.Qd2 Bc6 23.Qd6 Rfe8 24.Bc4 Qg6 25.Qxg6 fxg6 26.Rd6 Rbc8 27.Be6 Rc7



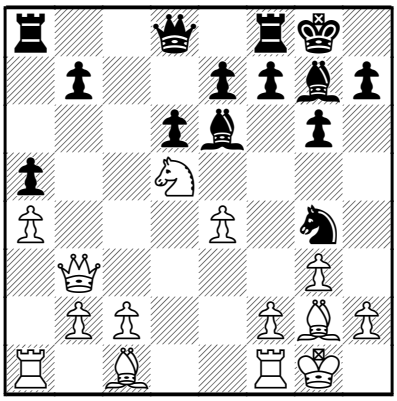
28.Rxc6 1–0

Game 26
Clawitter,Craig (2118) - Taylor,Timothy (2279)
[A45] Trompowsky Attack
1.d4 Nf6 2.f3 d5 3.e4 e6 4.Bg5 h6 5.Be3 dxe4 6.Nd2 Nd5 7.Qe2 Nc6 8.c3 exf3 9.Ngxf3 Nxe3 10.Qxe3 Bd6 11.Bd3 Qe7 12.0–0–0 Bd7 13.Rhf1 0–0–0 14.Nc4 Kb8 15.Kb1 Rhe8 16.Rd2 Qf8 17.Nfe5 Nxe5 18.dxe5 Bc5 19.Qf4 Bb5 20.b4 Be7 21.Rdd1 Bg5 22.Qf3 f5 23.Na5 Bxd3+ 24.Rxd3 c6 25.Rfd1 Rd5 26.Nb3 Qe7 27.Nc5 Red8 28.c4 Rxd3 29.Rxd3 Qe8 30.a3 Rxd3 31.Qxd3 Qe7 32.g3 b6 33.Nb3 Qc7 34.Nd4 Qd7 35.c5 Qd5 36.cxb6 axb6 37.Qc3 Kb7 38.h4 Be7



39.Nf3 c5 40.b5 Qd1+ 41.Kb2 Qe2+ 42.Nd2 Qxb5+ 43.Ka2 Qe2 44.Ka1 g5 45.hxg5 hxg5 46.Nc4 b5 47.Nb2 Qe4 48.Qb3 Qh1+ 49.Nd1 Kc7 50.Kb2 Qd5 51.Qxd5 exd5 52.Ne3 Kd7 53.Nxd5 Bd8 54.Nc3 Bc7 55.Nxb5 Bxe5+ 0–1

Game 27
Yankovsky,Roman (2400) - Gutman,Joshua (2107)
[B70] Sicilian Defense
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.g3 Nxd4 7.Qxd4 g6 8.Bg2 Bg7 9.0–0 0–0 10.Qb4 a5 11.Qb3 Ng4 12.a4 Be6 13.Nd5



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[A58] Benko Gambit	17 Brown-Peters
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[B50] Sicilian Defense	21 Clawitter-Yanayt
[B57] Sicilian Defense	18 Abrahamyan-Gutman
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[C46] Three Knights Defense	6 Taylor-Peters
[C54] Giuoco Pianissimo	8 Yankovsky-Brown
[D20] Queen's Gambit Accepted	22 Gutman-Brown
[E33] Nimzoindian Defense	19 Yanayt-Taylor
[E36] Nimzoindian Defense	25 Brown-Abrahamyan
[E39] Nimzoindian Defense	12 Gutman-Peters
[E91] King's Indian Defense	3 Gutman-Yanayt
[E94] King's Indian Defense	7 Yanayt-Abrahamyan

GM Timur Gareev Wins 11th Metropolitan FIDE Invitational 7-2

August 23-27, 2011

GM Timur Gareev of Uzbekistan scored 7-2 to win the 11th Metro FIDE Invitational in downtown Los Angeles. This event, which had three grandmasters and seven international masters competing, was held right after the First Metropolitan International, which attracted many foreign titled players. Second place, one half point behind at 6½-2½, was GM Dejan Bojkov of Bulgaria. IM Zhanibek Amanov was third, at 5½-3½. Next, at 4½-4½, were IM Siddharth Ravichandran of India and IM Raja Panjwani of Canada.

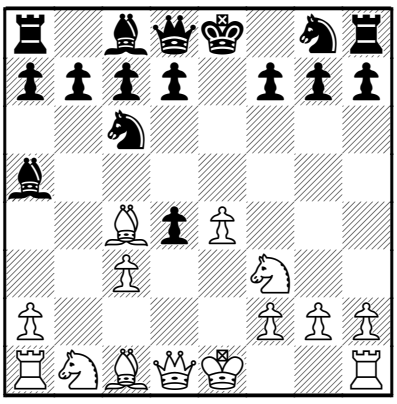
At 4-5 were GM Melikset Khachiyan, IM Andranik Matikozyan of Armenia, and IM Mackenzier Molner. IMs Levon Altounian and IM Mark Ginsburg finished with 2½-6½.

Gareev's victory came just after his second place finish in the Metropolitan International. After his only loss in round 5 to Panjwani, his strong finish of three wins and a draw was just enough to take first.

We present two games from the event. In both, we see a Queen facing the possibility of getting trapped. But foresight and creativity prevail!

Molner,Mackenzie (2447) - Gareev,Timur (2613)
[C52] Evans Gambit
11th Metropolitan Invitational (1)
Los Angeles, 23.08.2011

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.b4 Bxb4 5.c3 Ba5 6.d4 exd4



More usual is 6...d6 7.Qb3 Qd7 8.dxe5 Bb6 9.Nbd2.

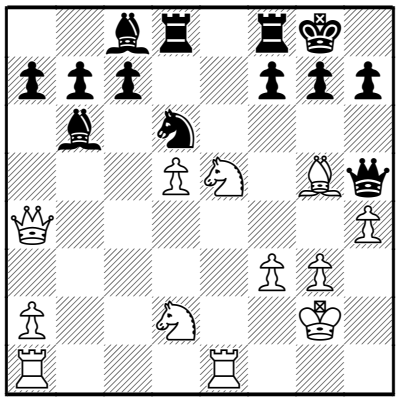
7.Qb3 Qf6 8.0–0 Bb6 9.e5 Qg6 10.cxd4 Nge7 11.Re1

Black is also doing well with 11.Bd3 Qh5 12.Bb2 d6 13.exd6 cxd6 14.Nbd2 Be6 15.Qa3 0–0∓.

11...Na5 12.Qc3 Nxc4 13.Qxc4 0–0 14.d5

Black gets the advantage, but after 14.Nc3 d6 15.exd6 Qxd6 16.a4 Be6 17.Qd3∓, Black is fine, too, enjoying both the pawn and the compensation, with the two Bishops and better pawns.

14...d6 15.Bg5 Nf5 16.Bf4 dxe5 17.Nxe5 Qf6 18.Nd2 Nd6 19.Qa4 Qh4 20.g3 Qh5 21.h4 Bh3 22.Kh2 Bf5 23.Kg2 Rad8 24.f3 Bc8 25.Bg5

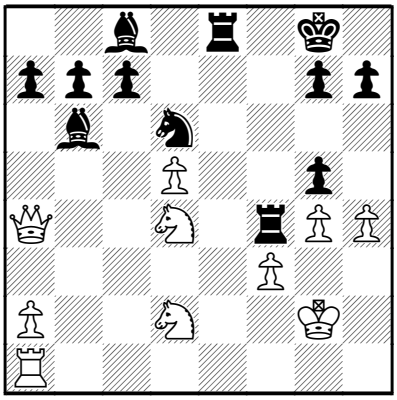


White is ready to play 26.g4 and trap the Queen, but Black has prepared a powerful response.

25...f6!! 26.g4 Qe8 27.Nc6 fxg5!!

Black gets material compensation...

28.Rxe8 Rdxe8 29.Nd4 Rf4!

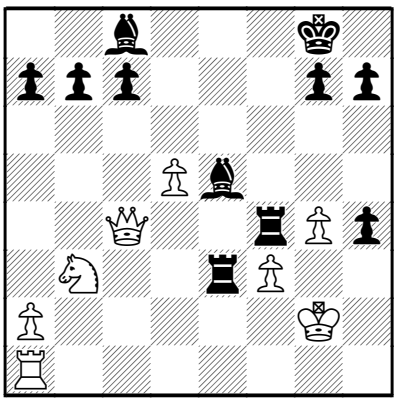


And all Black's pieces are active.

30.N2b3 gxh4 31.Qb4 Re3

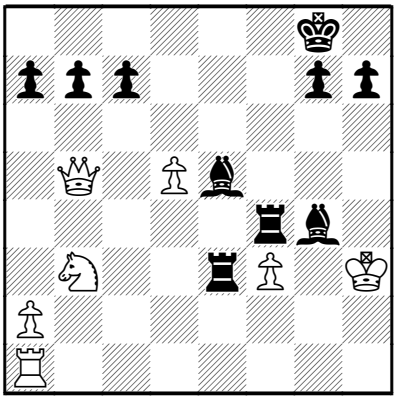
White can save the Knight, but the attack still rages. The King's protection is about to crumble.

32.Qd2 Nc4 33.Qc1 Bxd4 34.Qxc4 Be5



The game is now about two Rooks and two Bishops attacking the King.

35.Qb5 h3+ 36.Kxh3 Bxg4+



It's going to be mate or worse.

37.Kg2 Bxf3+ 38.Kg1 Bh5 0-1

Nice play, GM Gareev!

The next game was two rounds and just 24 hours later. Molner is on the other side of it this time, and sees that his own Queen might be trapped. He is more than equal to the task. Perhaps he learned from his game with Gareev, because he responds with a somewhat similar idea.

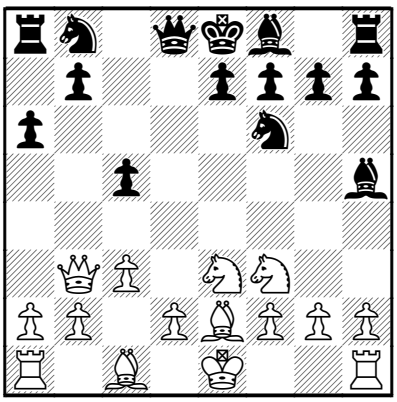
Molner,Mackenzie (2447) - Ginsburg,Mark (2387)
[B28] Sicilian Defense
11th Metropolitan Invitational (3)
Los Angeles, 24.08.2011

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 a6 3.c3 d5 4.exd5 Qxd5 5.Na3

Rarely played.

The main line could be considered 5.d4 e6 6.Be2 Nf6 7.0–0 Nc6 with over a hundred games in the db.

5...Nf6 6.Be2 Bg4 7.Nc2 Qd8 8.Ne3 Bh5 9.Qb3



9...Qc7

Fritz likes 9...Nc6! 10.0–0 (10. Qxb7?? Na5–+; 10.g4 Bg6 11.g5 Nd7=) 10...e6 11.d4 cxd4 12.cxd4 Be7 13.Rd1=.

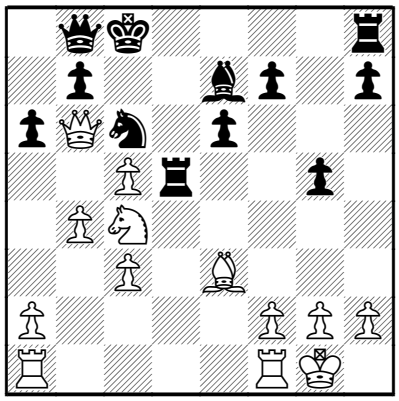
10.d4 Bxf3?!

White also gets a good game if Black tries to develop with 10...cxd4 11.cxd4 e6 12.0–0 Nc6 13.d5±.

11.Bxf3 Nc6 12.dxc5

Now White keeps this pawn.

12...e6 13.Qb6 0–0–0 14.Nc4 Nd5 15.Bxd5 Rxd5 16.Be3 Be7 17.0–0 g5 18.b4 Qb8

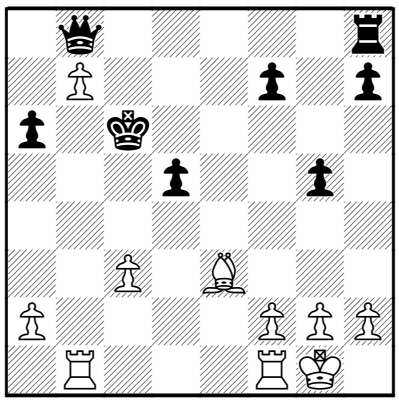


Black has made room for 19...Bd8, trapping the Queen. But White plays something even better than 19.Na5 Bc8 20.Nxc6!+-, or 19...Ne5 20.c6!.

19.b5!! Bd8

The theme is, let the Queen be captured! After all, there's a fork ahead.

20.bxc6!! Bxb6 21.Nxb6+ Kc7 22.Nxd5+ exd5 23.Rab1! b5 24.cxb6+ Kxc6 25.b7!



The unanswerable threat is 26.Rb6+ Kd7 27.Rfb1 and 28.Rxa6+-.

25...Qc7 26.Ba7 1–0

As before, the material imbalance transformed the game into a rout! ♜

Cy & Jack, concluded from page 9.

Jack: That's a lot of evidence to support your decisions at moves 25, 26 and 27.

Cy: *Exercise* (planning): Can you do better than I did? Come up with the most effective winning plan.

31...Ba6?

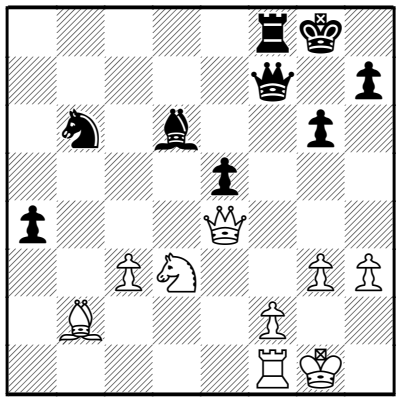
Cy: Ready. Set. Wait ... I'm not quite ready to go! I hate myself! True to form I played it safe and rushed to regain material equality.

Answer: I should play 31...Rf3! threatening to take on g3. If 32.Kh2, then Qf7 33.Rd2 Nxc4 34.Rc2 e3 annihilates White.

32.Nb4 Bxc4 33.Qxe4 Bxf1 34.Rxf1

Jack: Black retains an undeniable advantage, but 31...Rf3! would have been much stronger.

34...Qf7 35.Nd3 Bd6



36.Bc1?!

Cy: He should try his luck in the following ending. 36.Nxe5! Qe6 37.c4 Bxe5 38.Qxe5 Qxe5 39.Bxe5 Nxc4 40.Ba1 a3 A win for Black is not so automatic here.

36...Qc4 37.Qxc4+

Jack: White could set the trap 37.Qb7!? Rb8 38.Qa7 Qxd3?? 39.Bh6 but Black should head for the endgame with 38...Qf7.

37...Nxc4

Cy: The passed a-pawn wins.

38.Kg2 e4 39.Nb2 Nxb2 40.Bxb2 a3 41.Bc1

Cy: Blockading at a1 also fails to save him. 41.Ba1 Bc5 42.f3 exf3+ 43.Rxf3 Rb8 wins.

41...Bc5 42.h4 Rf3 0-1

Cy: The a-pawn costs White a piece. ♜

GM Varuzhan Akobian Wins 33rd Southern California Open

September 3-5, 2011

GM Varuzhan Akobian won his first 5 games and drew in the last round with IM-Elect Roman Yankovsky to take first prize with a score of 5½-½. IM Dionisio Aldama finished second with 5-1, being perfect except for his 4th round loss to Akobian. Six players tied for third at 4½ - 1½. Chuck Ensey reports. - Ed.

Two years ago, this event was held in the same location, The Crowne Plaza Hotel in San Diego's Mission Valley, and attracted 131 players. This year there were 3 major tweaks: 1) the $20,000 Prize Fund was guaranteed, 2) a 2-day option was added and 3) IMs and GMs played for free, with not even prizes deducted. Although only 4 players took advantage of the last perk, the other two factors seemed to have had a big effect and attendance jumped to 180 players (including 1 re-entry).

About half the players were locals and half were from out of San Diego County. It was not quite the 200 total we were looking for, but we are hopeful that next time, we will far surpass 200 as word spreads about this great event.

The 59 player Open Section included 21 Masters and 30 Experts. GM Varuzhan Akobian was the highest rated by far, so it was no surprise that he won First Place ($2,600) and gave up only a last round draw to the recently crowned Southern California State Champion Roman Yankovsky.

IM Dionisio Aldama of Arizona took clear Second Place ($1,800) with his only loss being to Var. A critical game for Dionisio was the last round duel with Gregg Small which ended up being the last game of the event. Gregg appeared to have the upper hand for most of the six hour game, but he somehow went astray against the strong IM, who gamely battled back to win a nice endgame with a big sigh of relief. The players laughed and shook hands at the end in a great show of sportsmanship.

Six other players scored 4½ and took home $800 each: Roman, as mentioned, along with Howard Chen of Washington state, Shijie Chen, a new young player from China, rated only 1989, but no doubt soon to skyrocket, GM Melikset Khachiyan, and local players Ali Morshedi and Alan Tsoi. Six other masters trailed with 4 points, good for $266 each: Gregg Small, Eugene Yanayt, Giovanni Carreto, Ronald Bruno, Kyron Griffith and Ryan Porter.

In the U2000 Section, Vincent Nguyen tied for First with Alexander Xie; Richard Yang was Third Place while Paul Duncan, Alex Wang, Kenneth Xu and Bobby Avila tied for 4th.

GM Varuzhan Akobian: Here, he is at work in the National Open

We had a clear winner in the U1800 Section with Brian Glover of Los Angeles winning $1,000 for his 5½ point score, young Annie Wang was the only one to nick him for a draw in round 4. Nicky Korba tied with Poker Star Allen Cunningham for 2nd/3rd Place ($500 each), with 5 points; Alan lost only to Nicky, and Nicky only to Brian. Charlie Berkman was 4th Place.

The U1600 section also had a clear $1,000 winner in young Theo Caen who scored 5½ with a last round draw against Ajay Krishnan. Sam Kennedy, Blake Borskey and David Bonner tied for 2nd- 4th ($400 each). All 3 of these players lost to Theo!

Finally, in the Booster Section, Avi Jannol won clear First, although he was tied by an unrated player who also scored 5, Fridha Becerra of Mexico. John Carson, James Holder, Roy Benson and Daniel Sun tied for 3rd-4th with 4 points and Anthony Wong won BU1300, also with 4. Young Gia Petersen was 2nd U1200.

Bruce Baker directed the event which went off smoothly, on time and with no major issues or complaints.

There was a bit of noise for a while from a raucous wedding across the hall on one night, but it mostly affected the third room with the lowest rated boards; the other two rooms were fairly well soundproofed. Most of the players were complimentary about the excellent conditions, lighting and logistics. - *Chuck Ensey*

Three best game prizes were awarded. We present each game below, with some observations. - Ed.

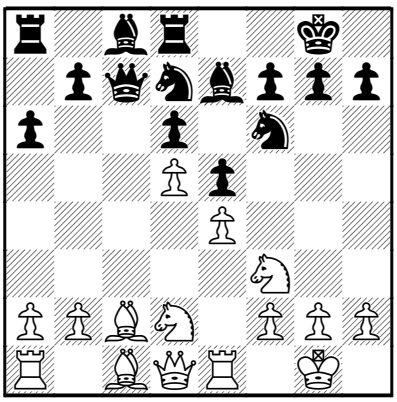
Best Game: 1st Prize
Sheng,Joshua (2027) -
Griffith,Kyron (2288)
[B51] Sicilian Moscow
Southern California Open (1)
San Diego, 03.09.2011
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Nd7 4.0–0 e5 5.c3 Ngf6

A more frequently seen move order has been 4...Ngf6 5.Re1 e5.

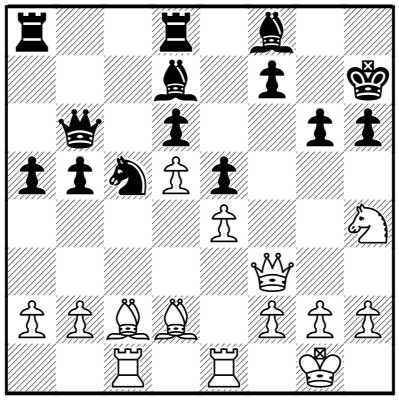
6.Re1 Be7 7.d4 Qc7 8.Nbd2 a6 9.Ba4

It looks like White loses a tempo, compared to 9.Bd3 0–0 10.a4, as 10.a4 looks useful.

9...0–0 10.Bc2 cxd4 11.cxd4 Rd8 12.d5



12...b5 13.Nf1 a5 14.Ng3 Nc5 15.Bg5 h6 16.Bd2 Bd7 17.Rc1 Qb6 18.Qe2 Bf8 19.Nh4 Kh7 20.Nh5 Nxh5 21.Qxh5 g6 22.Qf3



22...Be8??

This allows White to get a large, permanent advantage.

Black must guard f7 with the King here: 22...Kg8 23.Qg3 Kh7 24.Nf3 Bg7±.

23.Nxg6!

The positional damage hurts Black far more than the loss of material, for White can take his time to maneuver his pieces and prepare his attack.

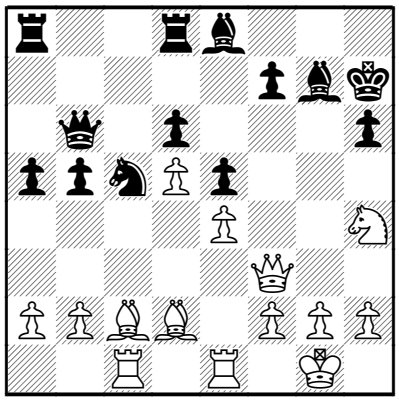
23...Bg7

After 23...fxg6 24.Qxf8, White has a huge positional advantage due to the weak Black Kingside:

Trying to hold onto the pawn won't work: 24...g5 25.h4!, and if 24...h5, then 25.Bg5 Qc7 26.f4 Qg7 27.Qxg7+ Kxg7 28.Bxd8 +-.

And, if 24...Rd7, then 25.Qxh6+ Kg8 26.Qg5 Qd8 27.Qg3 Qf6 28.f4+-.

24.Nh4



24...b4

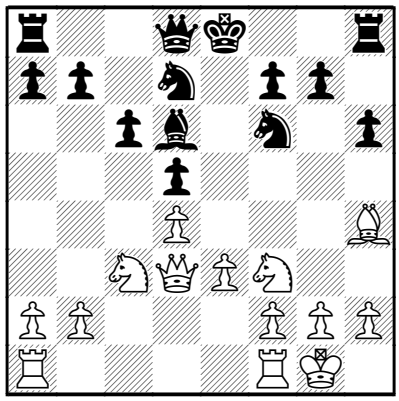
White can maneuver decisively no matter what Black plays; here are two examples:

24...Qc7 25.Nf5 f6 26.Bxh6 Bxh6 27.Qh3 Qg7 28.Nxg7+-,

and 24...Bd7 25.Qxf7 Qa7 26.Qg6+ Kh8 27.Nf5 Be8 28.Qg4+-.

25.Nf5 Bd7 26.Nxh6 Bxh6 27.Qh5 Rh8 28.Bxh6 f6 29.Re3 Be8 30.Qf5+ Bg6 31.Qxf6 1–0

Best Game: 2nd Prize
Avila,Bobby (1981) -
Sagart,Pejman (1832)
[D35] Queen's Gambit Declined, Exchange Variation
Southern California Open (4)
San Diego, 04.09.2011
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Nc3 c6 6.Bg5 h6 7.Bh4 Bf5 8.e3 Nbd7 9.Bd3 Bxd3 10.Qxd3 Bd6 11.0–0



After a normal opening, White enjoys a slight advantage, being a little ahead in development.

11...g5

Black is not content to continue in the usual manner with 11...0–0 12.Rab1 a5, after which White has tried many different 13th moves.

12.Bg3 Bxg3 13.fxg3 Qe7 14.Ne5

Also good was 14.Rae1 0–0–0±.

14...Nxe5 15.dxe5 Nd7

It was good to avoid 15...Qxe5 16.Rf5 Qe6 17.Raf1 Nd7 18.e4 0–0–0 19.exd5 cxd5±, with many options for White.

16.Rf5

This allows Black to castle Queenside safely.

To continue with middle game play while Black is still in the opening, 16.e6 Qxe6 17.e4 dxe4 18.Nxe4 0–0 19.Rae1 gets White some compensation for the pawn, in the form of better development and a safer King.

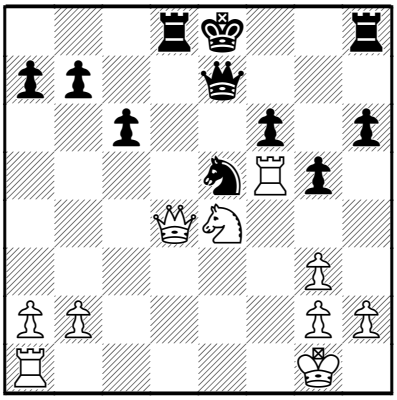
16...Nxe5

This move is asking for too much out of the position.

Instead, Black should be content with the fact that White's e-pawns are weak. With this philosophy, Black can play 16...0–0–0 17.Qd4 Kb8, as he gets castled and is developed.

Sometimes, less is more. But not always.

17.Qd4 f6 18.e4 dxe4 19.Nxe4 Rd8??



Black should not have delayed castling any longer. Better was 19...0–0 20.Raf1 Nd7±.

20.Nxf6+!

Chop 'em and rock 'em!

20...Qxf6 21.Rxe5+ Kf7 22.Qc4+ Kg7 23.Rf1!

An admirable Rook over.

23...Rd1 24.Rxd1 Qxe5 25.Rd7+!

Check 'em and wreck 'em! It's a mate.

25...Kg6 26.Qf7 mate.

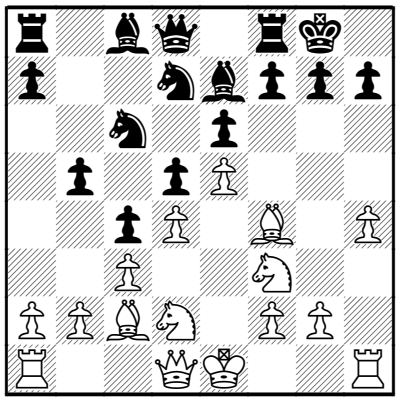
Best Game: 3rd Prize
Caen,Eric (1799) -
Jensen,Chris (1703)
[D02] London System
Southern California Open (5)
San Diego 05.09.2011
1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Bf4 e6 4.e3 c5 5.c3 Nc6 6.Bd3

Among the strongest players, we see 6.Nbd2 Bd6 7.Bg3 0–0 8.Bd3, and now the main lines are 8...Qe7 9.Ne5 Nd7 and 8...b6 9.0–0 Bxg3 10.hxg3.

6...c4 7.Bc2 Be7 8.Nbd2 0–0 9.e4 b5

If Black doesn't want the Advanced French pawn chain, his last chance is 9...dxe4 10.Nxe4 Nd5 11.Bd2=.

10.e5 Nd7 11.h4!



White has closed the center and is happy that his Rook is still on h1, and now starts the attack.

In addition, the Queen and at least three minor pieces are ready to help build the Kingside assult.

I doubt very much if it's possible to defend this position.

11...f6

White can answer 11...h6 with 12.Ng5!. And if 11...f5, it's 12.Ng5! again.

12.Qb1?!

This move is a bit soft.

Still strong is 12.Ng5! and the Knight can't be taken, for 12... fxg5 13.Bxh7+ Kxh7 14.hxg5+ Kg8 15.Rh8+ Kxh8 16.Qh5+ Kg8 17.g6 Nf6 18.exf6 Rxf6 19.Qh7+ Kf8 20.Qh8 is mate.

12...g6?

This loses a pawn.

If 12...h6, then 13.Bxh6 also gets a pawn for White, for if 13...gxh6, then 14.Bh7+ Kh8 15.Qg6 and White's attack works, for example, 15...Rg8 16.Qxh6 Qf8 17.Qh5 Rg7 18.Bf5+ Kg8 19.Bxe6+ +-.

But even after 12...fxe5, White still has a great position, since after 13.Bxh7+ Kh8 14.Bxe5 Ndxe5 15.dxe5 b4 16.Qg6 Rf5, White is up material with great chances to win. One insane computer variation continues with 17.Ng5! Nxe5! 18.Qh5 Nd3+ 19.Kd1 Nf4 20.Bxf5+! Nxh5 21.Nf7+ Kg8 22.Nxd8 Bxd8 23.Bc2+/-.

13.Bxg6 hxg6?

It was best to leave the Bishop alone, although 13...fxe5 14.Ng5 is going to win, too.

14.Qxg6+!

It's a mate in two.

14...Kh8 15.Ng5 fxg5 16.hxg5 mate.

The next game was the tournament's biggest upset. The 2011 Southern California Champion gets into trouble. Notes are by the winner. -Ed.

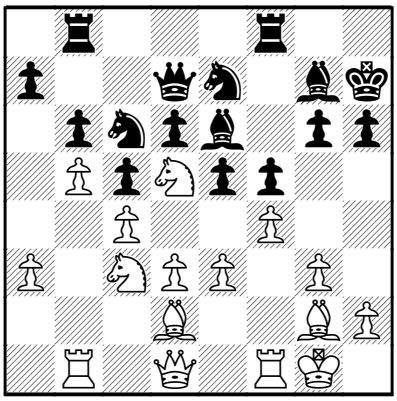
Small,Gregg (2270) -
Yankovsky,Roman (2520)
[A36] English Opening
Southern California Open (2)
San Diego, 03.09.2011
1.c4 c5 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.Nc3 Nc6 5.a3 d6 6.Rb1 e5

Black should consider 6...a5 to clamp down on White's Queenside play.

7.b4 Nge7 8.e3 0–0 9.Nge2 f5 10.d3 Rb8 11.0–0 Be6 12.Nd5 Qd7 13.Bd2 b6 14.Nec3 h6 15.f4

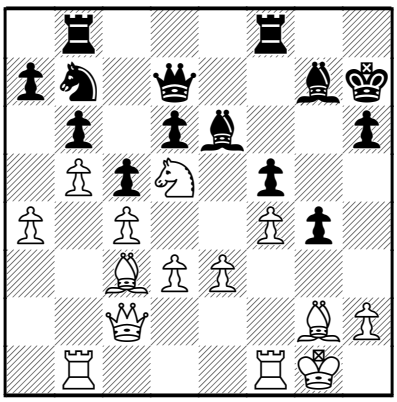
White needs to prevent f4 by Black.

15...Kh7 16.b5



This is a thematic idea, to initiate Queenside play via a4 and a5. By forcing the Knight to d8, White further exerts control of d5.

16...Nd8 17.a4 Nxd5 18.Nxd5 exf4 19.gxf4 Nb7 20.Qc2 g5 21.Bc3 g4?



Please turn to page 28, ***So. Cal. Open.***

Upcoming Events in Southern California

November 24-27 or 25-27
47th Annual American Open

A Heritage Event!
An American Classic!

GPP: 120 Enhanced California, Southern.

8SS, 40/2, SD/1.

Doubletree Hotel Anaheim/Orange County. 100 City Dr., Orange, CA 92868. $$50,000 b/o 500 entries, $25,000 gtd.

In **6 sections**. **Open**: $5000-2400-1000-300-150, U2400/Unr. $1000-300-150, U2300/Unr. $600-180-150.

U2200, **U2000**, **U1800** Each $4000-2000-1000-300-150.

U1600 $3000-1500-700-300-150.

U1400/Unr: $2500-1000-500-200-150, U1200 $1400-400-150 (not a separate section; U1200s also eligible for U1400 prizes), Unrated: $500-200 (Unrateds in this section eligible for these prizes only). Plus score bonus ($2,000 in chess store gift cards) in addition to any other prizes, every player who finishes with 4-1/2 points or better who didn't place in the money prize wins a $20 gift certificate - redeemable only onsite.

EF: $165 if rec'd by 11/12, $20 more after, $50 more for players rated under 2000 playing in Open, U1600 & U1400 save $10, Unrated save $65. All: $50 more at door. No checks at door - cash only, credit card accepted for a $7 fee.

SCCF membership $18 required for So Cal residents. 4-day schedule: Reg. closes 11am on 11/24, (Rounds 12:30-7:30, 12:30-7:30, 10:30-5, 10-4:30). 3-day schedule: Reg. closes 9:30am on 11/25, Rounds. 11-2:30-5-8pm (G/60 min), schedules merge in Rd 5 and compete for common prizes. Two byes max with advance notice. CCA minimum ratings and TD discretion used to protect you from improperly rated players.

November Rating Supplement used. Lectures and videos.

LOW room rates! Five minutes away from Disneyland Theme Park. HR: Mention AAO for $89 single or double, rates may go up after. Call Doubletree (714) 634-4500. Don't be shut out; surrounding hotels in the area may be as high as $199/night; make your reservations early and be sure to ask for the special AAO rates; Doubletree sells out most weekends. Free customer gift bag on check-in. Cutoff for special hotel rate/offer is Oct 26th. Rates may be as high as $119 a night later. RESERVE NOW! Credit card or one night room deposit will be required to hold reservation, may be canceled 72 hours in advance without penalty. Parking only $6.

Info: organizing club - Chess Palace 714-899-3421, play@americanopen.org.

Ent: American Open, 5246 Lampson Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92845 or www.americanopen.org. NS, W, F. Chess Magnet School JGP.

November 26 or 26-27
American Open Scholastic

Doubletree Anaheim/Orange County, 100 City Dr., Orange, CA 92868.

Hotel rate $89 only. Main Event: Brand new netbook prize for each Varsity champion and Saitek chess computer prize for each Junior Varsity winner. Trophies to top 10 players and top 3 teams, in each section. Finalist medals to all above-mean scorers.

9 Sections based on grade and rating: Varsity K-3, K-6, K-9, K-12; Junior Varsity K-1, K-3 rated U600, K-6 rated U800, K-9 rated U1000, K-12 rated U1200. Pre-Registration only (onsite reg. pay more and receive 1st round bye):

Round Times: Saturday & Sunday 9am, 12:15, 3:15pm for Varsity sections; and Saturday 9, 10:45, 12:15, 1:45, 3:15pm for Junior Varsity sections.

Time Controls: All rounds will be G/75 for Varsity and G/30 for Junior Varsity sections.

EF by 10/26: Varsity $55, Junior Varsity $35, after late fees may apply. Play-up +$5. Register in advance by 10/15 save $5. Limited space for onsite reg +$30!

Side events: Blitz (Fri Reg: 5:30-6pm, Games 6:30-8:30pm) and ***Bughouse*** (Sat Registration: 5:30-6pm, Games 6:30-8:30p) in 3 sections (K-3, 4-6, 7-12). EF: Blitz $15, Bughouse $15. USCF Membership required for all sections. November 2011 Supplement & TD discretion to place players accurately.

National Tournament Director: Randall Hough. More info, register online & flyer: americanopen.org/scholastic.htm. Inquire: play@americanopen.org. Chess Magnet School JGP for Varsity Sections.

December 9-11
2011 National Youth Action (West)

California Southern

9SS, G/30. Hyatt Regency, 17900 Jamboree Blvd., Irvine, CA 92614, 949-975-1234, $109 (Single - Quad).

Four Sections: K-3, K-6, K-9, K-12.

Entry Fee: $50 by 11/10/11 USPS (or $50 on-line by 11/10, 6pm cst); $70 by 11/20/11 USPS (or $70 on-line 11/10/11, 6:01pm cst - 11/20/11, 6pm cst); $85 USPS 11/21-11/30 (or $85 on-line 11/20/11, 6:01pm cst - 12/8, 6pm cst); $85 by 12/9/11 6pm on site (entries after 12/9/11 6pm cannot be guaranteed pairing for round 1, instead they may receive 1/2 point bye round 1).

Must be current USCF member by 8:30am, 12/10 to be paired. Checks payable only to Chess Central.

Awards: Individual: 1st - 20th Place in each section (K-3, K-6, K-9, K-12).

Class Awards: 1st-3rd Place, K-3: U800, U600, U400, Unr. K-6: U1000, U800, U600, Unr. K-9: U1200, U1000, U800, Unr. K-12: U1400, U1200, U1000, Unr. Teams: 1st-10th Place in each section. Special Sportsmanship trophy!

Schedule: Opening Ceremony Sat., Dec. 10 at 9:30am. Rds. 1-5 Sat., 10am, 12 noon, 2pm, 3:30pm & 5pm. Rds. 6-9 Sun., 10am, 12 noon, 2pm & 3:30pm.

Side Events:

Bughouse Tournament - Fri, Dec. 9, 6:30pm. EF: $20 per team ($10 for individuals and we help you create a team). On site registration only. Registration closes at 5pm, Fri, Dec. 9. One section only, K-12. Bughouse Awards: 1st-10th Place.

Blitz Tournament - Sat, Dec. 10, K-6 & K-12, 6:30pm, $15 postmarked by 11/30/11, $20 on-site ($15 on-line by 11/30/11, 6pm cst, $20 on-line 11/30/11, 6:01pm cst - 12/08/11 6pm cst) Registration closes at 5pm, Sat, Dec. 10. Blitz Awards: Individual: 1st-20th in each section. Team: 1st-10th in each section.

Puzzle Solving Contest: Sat. Dec. 10, 6:30pm, Puzzle Solving Prizes: 1st-5th overall; 1st-5th U1000, EF: USPS: $15 postmarked by 11/30/11 (On-line: $15 until 12/08/11, 6pm cst) $20 at the site by 5pm.

Awards Ceremony for Blitz/Bughouse/Puzzle Solving: Sun, 9am.

NYA Awards Ceremony: Sun, Dec. 11, 5:30-7pm. Club Teams allowed! Master simuls and analysis scheduled.

Hyatt Regency, 17900 Jamboree Blvd., Irvine, CA 92614, 949-975-1234, $109 (Single - Quad) reserve rooms by following links at http://chessweekend.com.

Enter tournament on line (except Bughouse) at http://chessweekend.com. Checks payable only to Chess Central (no checks to USCF): Mail registrations with name-contact info-grade-birthday-team/school-uscf ID & exp.-address-city-zip-e-mail address-coach name & contact info to: Chess Central (Please, no checks payable to USCF), 37165 Willow, Gurnee, IL 60031.

Updated info/Hotels/On-Line Entries: http://chessweekend.com.

$10 service charge for on-site section/roster changes, and all refunds.

Bookdealer scheduled.

January 14-16 or 15-16, 2012
Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial

FIDE Rated!
50 Grand Prix Points

Irvine, CA.

6SS 40/2 SD/1 (2-day rds 1-3 G/60 merge in rd 4).

Hyatt Regency, 17900 Jamboree Rd., Irvine, CA 92614. HR $99. $10,000 b/197, 50% guaranteed.

3 Sections:

Open (2000+ FIDE rated): 2000-1000-500-200, top U2300 300-100, top U2100 200-100. **1500-1999**: 1000-500-300-100-100, top U1800 400-200, top U1600 200-100. **U1500**: 1000-500-200-100, top U1300 400-200, top U1100 200-100.

Unr max $200 except in Open.

EF: $85 3-day, $84 2-day by 1/10, onsite +$10, Playup +$10. r/e $30.

EF Econ Opt: $69 & 2/3 of calc prize (not avail in Open).

SCCF membership ($18, $10 jrs) required for rated Southern Californians. GMs/IMs free: prize-EF. Jan 2012 Supp, CCA min & TD discretion to place players.

Schedule: 3day Reg Sat 10-10:30, Rds Sat/Sun 11:15-6, Mon 10-4:40; 2-day Reg Sun 9-9:30, Rds Sun 10-12:30-3-6, Mon 10-4:40.

Max two 1/2-pt byes w/ adv notice. Rfnd fee $20.

Ent: SCCF, PO Box 205, Monterey Park, CA 91754.

Info, online entry: www.scchess.com.

NS, NC, W.

Chess Magnet School JGP.

Please check the TLA in Chess Life for corrections, updates or changes.

January 15, 2012
Grade Level Championship

Hyatt Regency, 17900 Jamboree Rd., Irvine, CA 92614.

Trophies: Top 7 players & Top 5 clubs in each section. 8 sections based on grade: KG, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7-12.

Sched: Reg. 9-9:30am.

KG-Gr 3: 5xG30 games 10, 11:30, 1, 2:15, 3:30.

Gr 4-12: 4xG45 games 10, 11:45, 1:45, 3:30.

EF: $20 by 1/10, $30 onsite.

Info: BayAreaChess.com/scgrade.

NS, NC, W.

Please check the TLA in Chess Life (or Chess Life for Kids) for any corrections, updates or other changes.

So. Cal. Open., concluded from page 26.

The White pieces are superior, which makes Kingside action by Black risky.

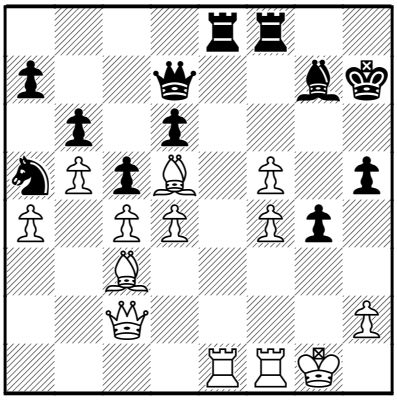
This move begs for a classic center response by White, which further increases his positional advantages.

22.e4 h5 23.Rbe1 Rbe8 24.exf5

White opens the position to take advantage of Black's misplaced Knight.

24...Bxd5 25.Bxd5 Na5 26.d4

Clearing the b1–h7 diagonal.



26...Rxe1 27.Rxe1 Bf6 28.dxc5 dxc5 29.Re6 Qd8 30.Bxf6 Rxf6 31.Qe4 Qf8 32.Qe5 Kg7 33.Re7+ Kh6 34.Bg8 Rxf5 35.Re6+ 1–0

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.

Ridgecrest

The ***Columbus Day Scholastic*** chess tournament at Las Flores Elementary School in Ridgecrest, California drew 112 students in five sections (K-1, 2-3, 4-5, 6-8, and 9-12).

The unrated tournament was free for all students, and everyone received an award. There were 70 trophies awarded. The monthly tournaments usually average over 100 students per tournament. Games are usually G/15, and students usually play 4-6 rounds.

Tournament director, Dwight Morgan (dmorgan178@yahoo.com) has been running chess tournaments in the Ridgecrest area for over 20 years.

The next tournament is Friday, November 11, Veteran's Day, at Pierce Elementary School (674 N. Gold Canyon, Ridgecrest).

Registration is from 8:30 - 9:00 am., and awards are given out around 12:30 p.m. (sidenote: **GM Hikaru Nakamura** lived in Ridgecrest for a few years as a child, and was probably first exposed to chess here!).

San Luis Obispo

The ***San Luis Obispo Scholastic Fall Fiesta*** tournament is scheduled for December 10th at Sinsheimer Elementary School in San Luis Obispo. It will be a one-day 5-round SS G/30 tournament for K-12 kids. There will be at least one rated section (more if number of entries allow) and one non-rated section for beginning players. Trophies and prizes to be awarded to top players.

Full tournament description and rules can be found at www.slochess.com.

The **San Luis Obispo Chess Club** will hold a non-rated "Just for Fun" quick chess tournament on Thursday, November 10, G/15, Quads, no entry fee. Winner of each Quad will receive a $10 Carl's Jr. gift card.

Arrive by 6:45 pm. for games beginning at 7:00 p.m. at Carl's Jr., 195 North Foothill in SLO.

San Diego

Summer at the San Diego Chess Club

71 players tested out their skills in the 6 round ***Anthony Harbone Precision Shootout*** this August and September. Anthony is our beloved octogenarian who still plays a mean game with his recent rating ranging from 1700 to his floor at 1600. I said some nice things about him on our website and then he turns around and beats me the next week, so I am not going to sing his praises today!

The Shootout had 4 sections and we used a different type of pairing system than the normal Swiss. I won't explain all the rules of Precision Pairing, but the main one is you play the person closest to you in rating, even in the first round.

The Gunslinger Open was the top section, won by John Funderberg, with 5 points. Bruce Baker was 2nd and Raoul Crisologo won BU2200. In the Sniper Section (U2000), Allan Virtue scored 5½, an impressive result since this was only his 2nd event since 1995. Chris Wonnell was 2nd and Hector Gonzalez won BU1800.

We also had two sections playing at a G/90 time control. The Sharpshooter Open was won by Robert Defore with 5; Pejman Sagart was 2nd with 4½ and Jerry Qu won BU1800 with 4. In the Bounty Hunter Section, Zechariah Zhu tied with John Huey for First Place with 5 while Daniel Zhu won BU1400 and Ronald Stanard won BU1200.

On October 1st, a special 5 round ***Super Gambito Open #534*** attracted 33 players going for $2,000 in guaranteed prizes. With 9 Masters, including 2 IMs, it was an exceptionally strong field for this local event. IM Dionisio Aldama tied with Ron Bruno for 1st place. Varun Krishnan won BU2400 while Craig Faber and Jamieson Pryor tied for BU2200. Chris Wonnell won BU2000.

Jason Arbeiter won First place in the Reserve section; Rolando Ignacio was 2nd and Albert Dumaran 3rd. Jay Choi won BU1600, Ajay Krishnan was 2nd U1600 and Wili Rivera and Cassidy Liu tied for BU1400.

The Gambito Open is usually just 4 rounds of G/40 with 5 second delay and has been held almost every single Saturday for over 10 years. So far this year, 121 different players have won a combined total of over $22,000 in prizes.

Please see our website at sdchessclub.multiply.com for more details and photos. - *Chuck Ensey*

Simi Valley

The Simi Valley Chess club has "lost its lease" and no longer will meet at the YMCA in Simi. We are currently seeking new quarters and will keep Rank & File notified as information is known.

Contact: John Williams, (805) 529-1816 / leventhfish@hotmail.com

Garden Grove

A new event called Saturday Special held on the third Saturday of each month is hoping to promote chess through sponsorships. The

event format is a one section with a single time control plus an increment starting on move one.

Any player who signs up for a USCF and/or SCCF membership on site will get a **free entry**.

The 1st ***Saturday Special*** was kicked off by ChessPalace with several waived entry fees. Neil Bershad swept the field with a perfect 4/4 en route to picking up 42 rating points. Three players tied for second with 3/4: Shyam Gandhi, Qinhong Chen, and Fausto Oviedo. Nineteen players participated.

In the 2nd ***Saturday Special*** in October, Fausto Oviedo sponsored the lunch for all 15 players. He just came from a big win in the Los Angeles Open U1700 section. Joseph Bellinger claimed top honors with 3/3. Leo De Vries, Neil Bershad, Mark Jackson, Qinhong Chen, and Shyam Gandhi tied for second with 2/3.

Sponsorships can be made towards a player, prize fund, or all.

The 3rd ***Saturday Special*** will be on November 19.

Lancaster

October QUADS - an Intense Adventure for 8: The eight competitors met at the AV Chess House at 10 am on Saturday, October 1. The next four hours were rife with intense concentration, sudden flurries of fast moves, and occasional errors. At the end, only one player won all her games. 19-year-old Morgan Mahowald took clear 1st. However, 2nd Place was hotly contested and resulted in a four way tie between adults Robert Huizar, Jerry Stone, and Kyle Wright as well as 7-year-old Eric Chen.

Next month's QUADs are November 5 and will be directed by Master Matt (National Master Matt Mahowald) since Ms. Daa will be at a workshop. Registration is $15 on-or-before Thursday, November 3 but $20 after that. Registration is only accepted via email: daa@mahowald.org.

Monthly USCF-rated QUADs 10am – 2pm 1st-Saturday-of-every-month. LOC AV Chess House in Lancaster. TC G/30. PZ 1st $30; 2nd $15. EF $15 on-or-before the Thursday preceding the tourney; $20 after that. Pre-REG req – no walk-ins accepted. RDs 10:15, 11:30, 12:45. USCF req. Contact: daa@mahowald.org

Antelope Valley Represented in 8th Annual Los Angeles Open

Christian Mercado and Jerry Stone III, both Palmdale residents, competed in the 8th Annual ***Los Angeles Open*** chess tournament October 7-9 which was held at the Sheraton Four Points LAX hotel. There were 22 competitors in the Under 1000 Section where Jerry won 3rd Place and Christian won Best Upset.

Antelope Valley Represented in Chicago Chess Tournament

Palmdale's Cimarron Elementary School fielded a team in the 6th Annual ***Polgar World Open Chess Championship*** held in Chicago October 7-10. Cimarron's team is coached by Richard Peterson and the team members are his children: Dante, 10, Gia, 8, and Jayani, 6.

Gia took 1st Place and Jayani took 6th Place out of 12 girls in the K-3 Girls section. Dante took 8th Place out of 33 boys in the Grades 4-5 Boys Section. Also, their dad said, the three of them won Cimarron "the school team title."

The Polgar Open was created and is organized annually by the Susan Polgar Foundation. Susan Polgar, now 42, runs the Susan Polgar Institute for Chess Excellence at Texas Tech University.

Casual Chess at Starbucks

Recently, Starbucks has become a place to play casual chess. At random times, you'll find people playing at the *1845 West Avenue I Starbucks in Lancaster*.

In addition, up to 10 chess players are meeting alternating Sundays and Mondays at the *39570 Lowes Drive Starbucks in Palmdale*. Their schedule for the rest of 2011 is:

Monday: 11am-3pm November 7 and 21, and December 5 and 19.

Saturday: November 123 and 27, and December 11.

For more info, contact John Buck, 661-816-1423.

AV VETS CHESS CLUB

Starts October 20: Antelope Valley now boasts its own weekly Veterans Chess Club exclusively for veterans and on-duty personnel from any branch of the U.S. military service!

The first meeting is 6:30–8pm Thursday, 10/20/11. Subsequent meetings are 6:30 – 8pm Fridays. (Note: no meeting November 25 or December 23rd.)

At William J. "Pete" Knight Veterans Home of California, 45221 30th St. W., Lancaster CA 93536.

Info: daa@mahowald.org.

Casual Chess at BeX

There's a different kind of chess option in the Antelope Valley. Adults can pick up casual games of chess while sipping a beer or two at BeX Bar & Grill (705 West Lancaster Blvd., Lancaster).

Sponsored by the Chess Club of the High Desert, this causal meet-up is on Mondays, 7:30 - 10pm. The chess is free but check the BeX menu for beer pricing. And be sure to bring your own chess set and clock if you have them. Chess players of varying skill levels, from novice through USCF National Master drop in on this weekly chess get together.

Occasionally, a USCF-rated G/30 tourney ($10 entry fee) is also held at BeX on Mondays, 6:30 - 10pm.

Contact Rob Huizar, robh.2010@yahoo.com, for more information.

La Palma

With an undefeated score of 4½-½, Mehrdad Miralaie won La Palma Chess Club's ***Sweet Summer Endgame Swiss*** that ended on September 30th. Craig Faber, who recently returned to the club after working in Paso Robles for the last two years, took second place at 4-1.

In the lower section, Mark Jackson, Chris Zalecki and Neil Bellinger tied for first place with 4-1. Sid Somasundaram won the U1600 trophy and newcomer Robert Martin won the U1300 trophy. Martin also won the biggest upset prize for his 442 point upset of Phil Beilin.

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

Pasadena

Pasadena Chess Club

The traditional ***San Gabriel Valley Championship*** attracted 62 players, with five emerging on top at 5-1: John Hale, Yusheng Xia, Robert Xue, Feiyue Yang, and Richard Yang (no relation). Xia, with a half-point bye in the first round, was unable to beat Hale (who had drawn with Randy Hough) in the finale. Xue lost to Feiyue, who in turn was one of Xia's victims. Richard Yang suffered his loss against Jesse Victoria – but as an A player earned more than those with whom he tied!

Brian Cheng, rated 1323, tallied three upsets to score 4-2 and take Under 1800 (!) honors. Kevin Qian, Jennifer Lu, Alex Hung, and Tim Deng (son of the famous coaching team) split Under 1600 money with 2½. Vincent Lin and Sean Nguyen were top U1400, Cory Chen and Kyle Li U1200, and James Jen was the only Unrated (but scored a creditable 3 points).

The Pasadena Club meets Friday evenings at 7pm at the Boys and Girls Club, 3230 East Del Mar. See webpage http://www.tim-thompson.com/pasadena.html.

"A Rose for Your Queen," a three-rounder in multiple sections, will take place December 2 – 16; for information contact Randy Hough, 626 282-7412 or randeallhough@yahoo.com.

Hemet

52 players participated in the ***Hemet Chess Club 3rd Annual Championship***. The 5 round Swiss at G/30 provided some very entertaining and exciting chess. Ken Arnold, the defending club champion, was 1/2 point behind his brother going into the last round. Jeff Arnold, the point leader at 3-1/2 out of 4, fell victim to a deadly attack by Art Silbar, an expert. Ken won his last round game and defended his club title.

Art Silbar won the U2100 trophy, Dake Huang won 1st U1600, 2nd U1600 was Conrado Castellanos, 1st U1000 was Benjamin B. DE Guzman, and Daniel Serna took 2nd U1000. There was also an unrated section and a scholastic section. The scholastic chess players displayed a toughness which is needed for tournament chess.

The tournament took place at Valley Wide Recreation in San Jacinto, and Valley Wide was a great host to our slowly expanding chess club.

The Hemet Chess Club meets regularly on Sunday evenings at Steve's Burgers in Hemet. For more information visit www.hemetchessclub.blogspot.com

Arcadia

Arcadia Chess Club

An expert experience!

The 62 player ***Oak Tree Open*** ended Monday Sept. 26 at Arcadia Chess Club. Alex(pert!) Xie finished alone with 5½/6, propelling him into the expert category at 2027. Experts Mike Carlson and Greg Fritchle shared second place with experts Matthew Hayes and Randall Hough ½-point behind. Michael Bond never said die, and gained 80 points and the B prize, snuffing two experts in the process.

The six round ***Istvanyi Open*** started Oct. 3, and will end Nov. 7.

The ***Richard Morris Memorial*** begins Nov. 14, ending Dec.19.

Arcadia Chess Club meets every Monday at 6:30pm.

We welcome all players, young and old, male and female, from beginners to masters.

We run tournaments throughout the year. Most tournaments last for six weeks and attract anywhere from forty to sixty players.

We have a good blend of promising youngsters, experienced experts and masters, and many players in-between.

Whatever your rating or ability, you will find people to play at Arcadia Chess Club.

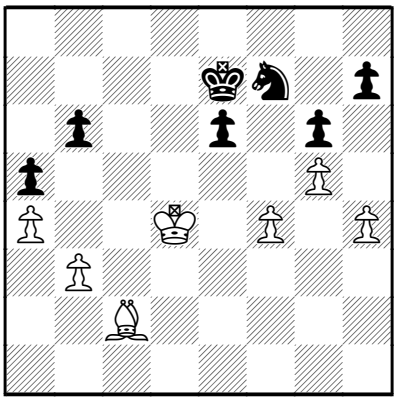
Address: Senior Citizens Building (next to the bowling greens)

405 S. Santa Anita Ave, Arcadia, CA 91006.

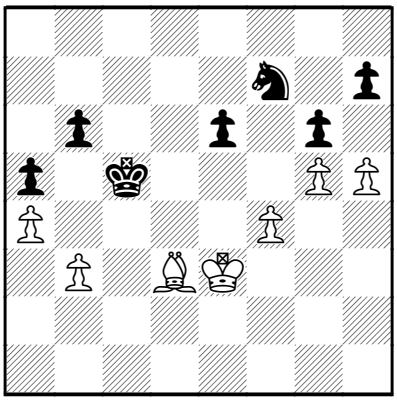
Also visit our website at arcadiachessclub.com.

SCCF Champ., concluded from page 21.

13...Re8 14.Ra2 Rc8 15.Qd3 Nf6 16.c4 Nd7 17.b3 Nc5 18.Qc2 Bxd5 19.exd5 Qb6 20.Ra3 Qb4 21.Rd1 Qc3 22.Qb1 Ra8 23.Bd2 Qb2 24.Qxb2 Bxb2 25.Ra2 Bf6 26.Rb1 Ra6 27.f4 Rea8 28.Kf1 Rb6 29.Ra3 Nd3 30.Be4 Nc5 31.Bc2 e6 32.dxe6 fxe6 33.Be3 Bc3 34.Rd1 Rf8 35.Kg2 Rc6 36.h4 b6 37.Kf3 Rd8 38.Bd4 Bxd4 39.Rxd4 d5 40.Ra1 Rcd6 41.Re1 dxc4 42.Rxc4 Rd4 43.Rxd4 Rxd4 44.Rd1 Rxd1 45.Bxd1 Kg7 46.Ke3 Kf6 47.Kd4 Nb7 48.g4 Nd6 49.Bc2 Nf7 50.g5+ Ke7



51.Bd3 Kd6 52.Bc4 Ke7 53.Bb5 Nd6 54.Bd3 Nf7 55.Be2 Nd6 56.Bg4 Nf7 57.Bd1 Nd6 58.Bc2 Nf7 59.Bd3 Kd6 60.Ke3 Kc5 61.h5



61...e5 62.hxg6 hxg6 63.Bxg6 exf4+ 64.Kxf4 Nxg5 65.Kxg5 Kb4 66.Be8 1–0

Game 28
Yanayt,Eugene (2236) -
Peters,Jack (2377)
[A60] Benoni Defense

This game is fully annotated in our Cy&Jack *feature, page 6. - Ed.*

SCCF
PO Box 205
Monterey Park, CA 91754

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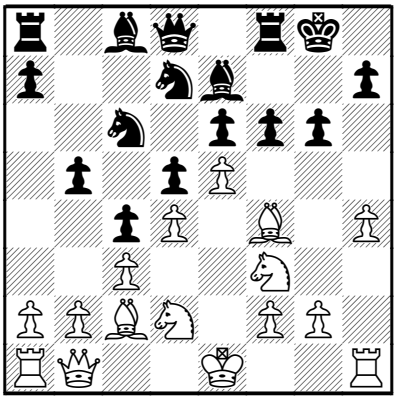
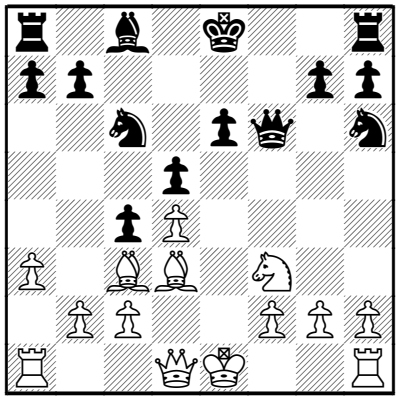
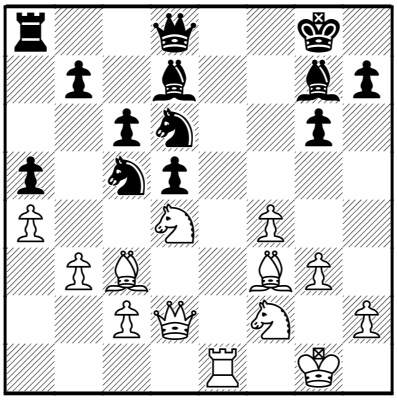


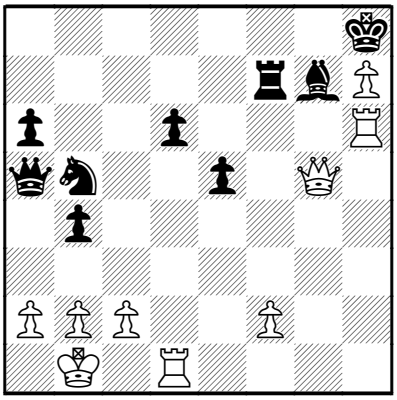
1. White to Play



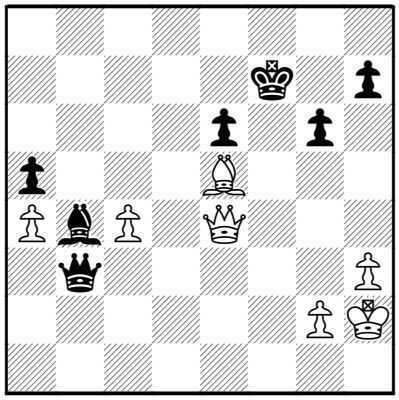
2. White to Play



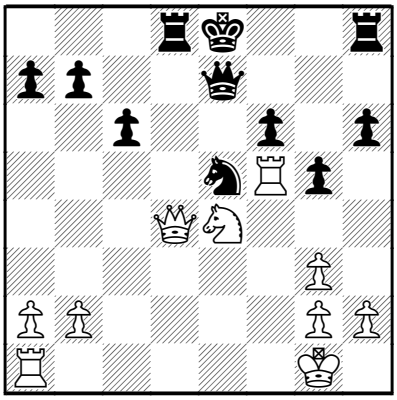
3. White to Play



4. White to Play



5. White to Play



6. White to Play

See page 4 for solutions.