Rank & File

The magazine of the Southern California Chess Federation

November-December 2012 - January 2013 Volume XXXVI, No. 5 $4.50

Cy & Jack

Sevian, FM Liou Win 20th Metro FIDE

4 Tie in Pacific Coast Open

IM Peters, Krishnan 1st in SCCF Championship Final

Vishy at 2nd Metro Camp

IM Dionisio Aldama Wins 2nd Metro International

FM John Daniel Bryant Tops Southern California Open

WGM Tatev Abrahamyan on the 40th Olympiad in Istanbul

Enrico Sevillano Wins 21st Metro FIDE, Earns Final GM Norm!

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Rank & File — ISSN 8750-9164 USPS 59, published quarterly in February, May, August, 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).

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View back issues of *Rank & File* at ***www.scchess.com.***

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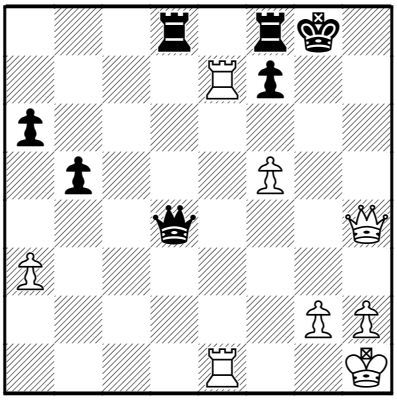
Inside Moves

A ***tactical warmup*** might be a good way to start reading. Begin with an easy one, and then work up to the tougher ones. But watch out for 7, 8, and 9, the really hard ones. Even if you are a beginner and can't solve them, just playing through the solutions on page 29 will open up your tactical vision. - Ed.



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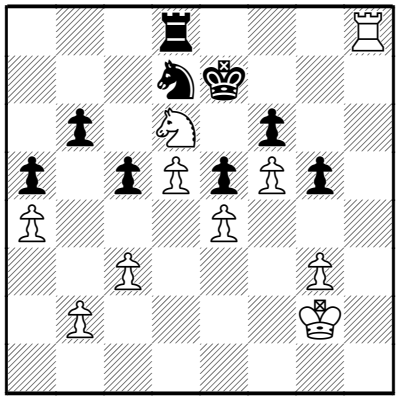

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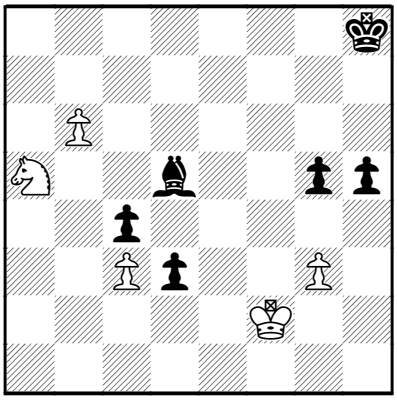

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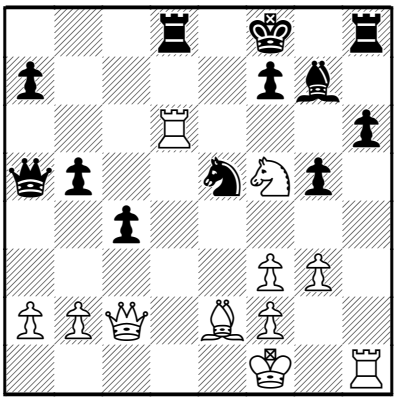

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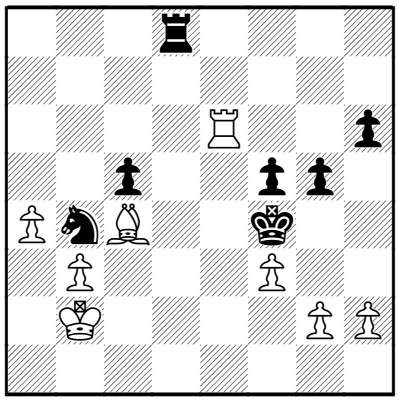

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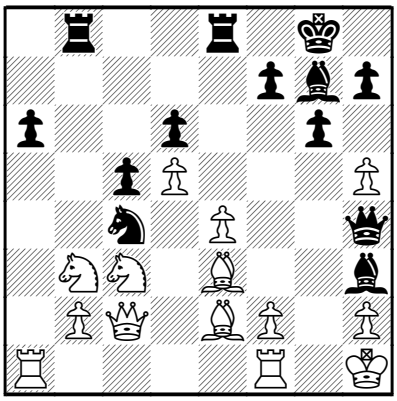

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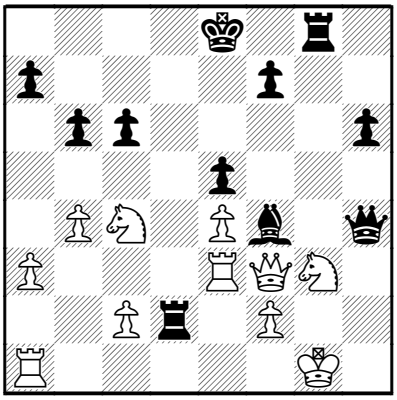

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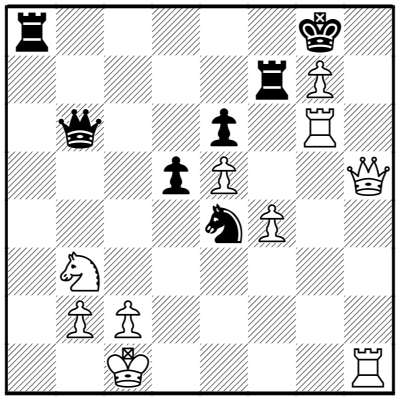
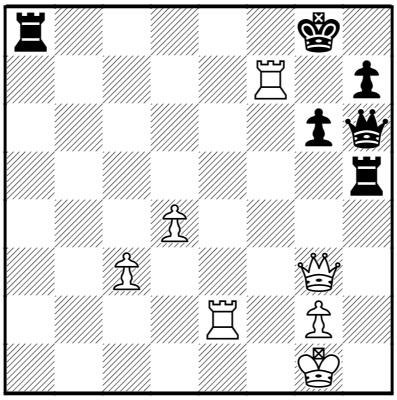


8. Black to Play



9. Black to Play

Cy & Jack

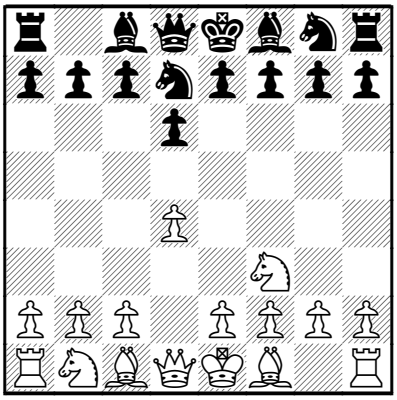
By IM Jack Peters and IM Cyrus Lakdawala

Cy presents a wild Pirc from an unusual line, which soon goes out of control. Only good fortune down the time tunnel saves the day! Jack's game gives us a valuable lesson in a Rook and Pawn ending, with a photo finish. It's his 3rd round Southern California Championship win against Co-Champion Varun Krishnan. - Ed.

Lakdawala,Cy (2525) - Aldama,Dionisio (2555)
[B07] Pirc Defense
Gambito 565 (5),
San Diego, 26.05.2012

Cy: This game is from my book *The Modern Defence: Move by Move*.

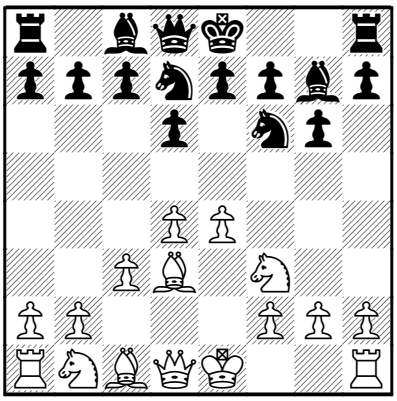
1.Nf3 d6 2.d4 Nd7



Cy: *Question*: Does this still count as Modern?

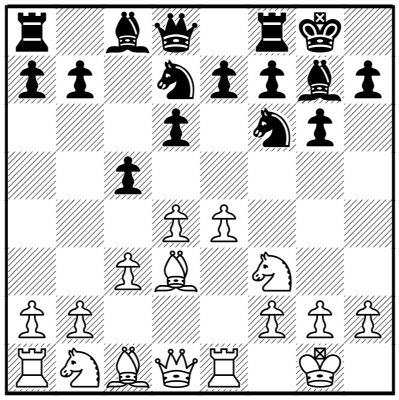
Answer: Yes, an early ...d6/...Nd7/...g6 transposes to Modern, just as long as Black holds off on an early ...Nf6, which would turn the game into Pirc.

3.e4 g6 4.c3 Bg7 5.Bd3 Ngf6



Cy: Back to Pirc. **Jack**: I think of the Pirc as 1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3, but this position could arise from 3.Bd3.

6.0–0 0–0 7.Re1 c5!?



Cy: *Question*: This move is a bit odd, correct?

Answer: Correct. IM Aldama is gifted tactically but often shaky when it comes to theoretical disputes, so he tosses in an odd move to try and throw off and provoke his easily confused opponent--and it works like a charm! The move ...c5 itself isn't so weird. Moro played it, but only in conjunction with ...Nc6. The combination of the more passive ...Nd7 and ...c5 is the odd part.

Jack: With the Knight at d7, Black won't apply much pressure to d4. It looks like he will have to advance ...e7-e5 also, and that will make d5 a potential White outpost.

Cy: 7...e5 is normal here, but expect a boring game!

Jack: I strongly prefer 7...e5, following the usual King's Indian Defense scheme. White has chosen the harmless Colle System formation, and even White's extra tempo (his pawn reached e4 in one move, rather than two) shouldn't affect the evaluation - equal, and rather dull.

8.e5!?

Cy: Going for a refutation. However, Black's position cannot be run over so easily.

8.h3 may be White's best move. (**Jack**: *Oh no! I caution my students not to make such wasted moves. Almost any developing move has to be better - 8.Nbd2, 8.Na3, 8.Bf4, or 8.Qe2. I will concede that the do-nothing 8.h3 may be superior to 8.d5 and 8.e5, which reduce White's control of the center.*) 8...e5 (*White may get a tiny edge in the line 8...cxd4! 9.cxd4 e5 10.Nc3 exd4 11.Nxd4 a6 Still, Black's d6 isn't so weak and his pieces remain active.*) 9.dxe5 dxe5 (**Jack**: *Probably 9...Nxe5 improves, as Black would welcome a trade to eliminate a White Knight that dreams of reaching c4 or d5.*) 10.a4 Qc7 11.Na3 h6 12.Bf1 I prefer White, who may be able to make something of the weak light squares c4 and d5, in P. Neuman - D. Navara, Czechia 2006. **Jack**: Agreed, although White should choose a more active move than 12. Bf1.

8...Nd5!

Cy: I originally thought my opponent had blundered when he played this new move. But it proved to be a clear improvement over the passive 8...Ne8 in Koziol-K. Bester, LSS email 2008.

9.exd6

Jack: I was tempted by the violent 9.e6?! fxe6 10.Ng5 Nc7 11.Nxe6 Nxe6 12.Bc4!, but 12...Nb6 13.Bxe6+ Bxe6 14.Rxe6 Qd7∓ favors Black. White, who traded off two of his developed pieces, now trails in development.

9...exd6 10.dxc5

Jack: White can keep an edge with 10.Bg5±.

10...Nxc5!

Cy: Piece activity matters more than structure.

Jack: Now we're on the same page!

11.Bc2

Cy: *Question*: Did both players miss 11.Bxg6 which wins a pawn?

Answer: That was my original intention but then realized my opponent offered a pawn sac when he played 8...Nd5! and so I chickened out. If I take the pawn he gets tons of play after 11...hxg6 12.Qxd5 Be6.

For the pawn Black gets:

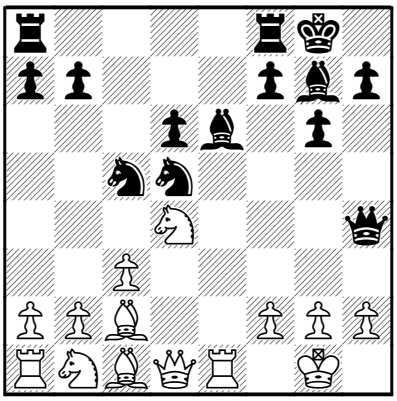
1. The Bishop pair.
2. A grip on the light squares.
3. A development lead.

Jack: I would guess that chances are even.

11...Be6 12.Nd4!?

Cy: I originally intended 12.Nbd2 planning on Nb3 and Nbd4, but then panicked when I saw the trick 12... Bxc3! White can't immediately take the Bishop since the Queen gets trapped. But what I missed was the counter trick 13.Rxe6! *(making air for my Queen)* 13...Bxd2 14.Re2 Bxc1 15.Rxc1 Nf6 16.Rd2 but even here, this is nothing special. The position is probably equal.

12...Qh4!?



Cy: An ominous shadow begins to envelop my King's vision. Black's pieces begin to loiter around my King, at first more with insinuation than direct menace.

13.Na3

Cy: I should play 13.g3! Qh3 14.Nd2 Nf6 15.Nxe6 fxe6 16.Qe2 Rae8, when we reach a classic dynamic versus static advantages/disadvantages position. White holds the Bishop pair and light square control, while Black's aggressive piece placement on the kingside may make trouble for White.

Question: Whose position do you prefer?

Answer: I would prefer White but this is a stylistic bias. Here we may witness a collision of expectations derived through alternative assessments. White thinks he stands better--and so does Black! In my opinion, White's long term benefits outweigh the risks to his King.

Jack: After 13.g3! Qh3 14.Nd2 Nf6 15.Nxe6, White can handle the dangerous 15...Ng4!? by 16.Nf1 fxe6 17.f3 Ne5 (*Black has no follow up to 17...Nxh2? 18.Nxh2 Qxg3+ 19.Kh1 Be5 20.Re2 as 20...Rxf3? loses to 21.Rg2*+-) 18.f4 Ng4 19.Qe2 (*avoiding 19.Qxd6?! Nxh2!*⇄) 19...Rfe8 20.Ne3±. Without the Knight at g4, Black cannot bother White's King.

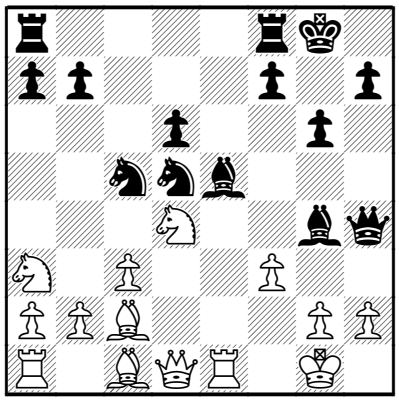
13...Bg4!

Cy: Very annoying, provoking pawn weakness around White's King.

14.f3

Jack: Houdini claims 14.Nf3 Qh5 15.h3 Bxf3 16.Qxf3 Qxf3 17.gxf3 is equal, but it doesn't look attractive for White. It's easy to imagine a Black Knight settling on f4.

14...Be5!



Cy:

Exercise (critical decision): In ancient societies, the threatened curse of the local shaman played the role of filling the void of a lack of a criminal justice system. The position suddenly smells and tastes like a Ruy Lopez Marshall Gambit. Aldama, an attack junkie, just shed a piece as casually as an insect would its outer skin.

White has a choice:

a) Take the hanging Bishop on g4 and allow Black into h2.

b) Play 15.g3 Bxg3 and then toss in the unexpected zwischenzug 16.Re2.

One of the lines is unclear; the other clearly favors Black. Can you do better than your confused writer?

15.fxg4?!

Cy: Now White's position begins to sag like a melted candle.

One is reminded of the lyrics from the Bowie song Scary Monsters: "She opened strange doors that we'd never close again!"

I mistakenly thought this would lead to a quick draw but grossly underestimated Black's attacking potential. It's a tough thing to fully divorce yourself from philosophical beliefs seeded into your mind as a child. Unfortunately, I find it impossible to escape the ghost of Aaron Nimzovich, whose theories continue to haunt me to this day.

No matter how hard I try, I continually underestimate a position's dynamic potential and tend to overthink/overestimate strategic considerations. **Jack**: I also grew up reading Nimzovich's books, but I think Frank Marshall or Alexander Alekhine influenced me more.

Cy: Correct was Answer: b) 15.g3! Bxg3 16.Re2! I actually saw this move during the game because it reminded me of Capablanca's amazing 16.Re2!! (coincidentally also played on the 16th move!) in his Marshall Gambit game against Marshall himself from their famous 1918 encounter. But somehow I mistakenly thought the same idea didn't apply here. But it does. 16... Rae8 17.Bd2 with mutual chances.

Jack: Finding the subtle moves 16.Re2 and 17.Bd2 isn't easy, and then White has to trust that his Bishops will thrive after 17...Be5 18.fxg4 Bxd4+ 19.cxd4 Qxg4+ 20.Rg2 Qxd4+ 21.Rf2 Qxb2 22.Nc4±.

Choosing a) 15.fxg4 seems easier, even though it's objectively weaker.

15...Qxh2+ 16.Kf1 Qh1+ 17.Kf2 Qh4+ 18.Kf1

Jack: Playing 18.Kg1 makes no difference because Black can reach the promising position pointed out by Cy with 18...Bh2+ 19.Kf1 Bg3 20.Nf3 Qh1+ 21.Ng1 Rae8→.

18...f5?

Jack: Tempting, but a faulty way to bring a Rook into the attack.

Cy: Now White has two good continuations. Unfortunately, I played continuation number three!

The correct path is 18...Bg3! 19.Nf3 Qh1+ 20.Ng1 Rae8! with a strong attack.

19.g5??

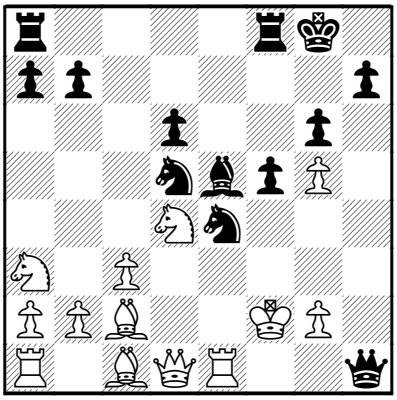
Cy: By now my fevered mind conjured threats - real and imagined - everywhere, the way a schizophrenic sees threatening images as he looks into a candle flame.

I was just about to play the correct a) 19.Nf3! but then impulsively changed my mind and banged out the moronic move I played in the game. And after 19...fxg4 20.Qxd5+ Kg7 21.Ke2! gxf3+ 22.gxf3 Rae8 23.Be3 it's a totally unclear situation. I don't believe White's chances are any worse.

White also has b) 19.gxf5! and Black has nothing better than to take perpetual check with 19...Qh1+ 20.Kf2 Qh4+.

Jack: Also c) 19.Nxf5 is all right. I'm afraid your 19.g5?? ranks a lot lower than third-best.

19...Qh1+! 20.Kf2 Ne4+!



Cy: Crushing! I considered resignation but hubris mixed with embarrassment wouldn't allow it in just 20 moves. So I played on.

21.Rxe4

Cy: A theatrical gesture, mainly for show.

21...fxe4+ 22.Nf3

Cy: *Exercise* (planning/combination alert): The comps say it's mate in 14 moves. How would you continue Black's attack?

Answer: Destroy White's last defender. The trampled battlefield of White's kingside is by now scorched and blackened by fire, and stained by blood.

22...Rxf3+! 23.gxf3

Cy: An abundant stockpile of wealth is of little comfort to a lonely, dying man. My harried King, with little time to mourn, buries the Knight in a hastily constructed makeshift grave and moves on, hoping to outdistance his pursuers.

23...e3+?!

Cy: Still winning but 23...Qh2+! 24.Kf1 Qh3+! mates, since he brings his Bishop into the attack with check. I saw this line during the game as my life flashed before my eyes.

24.Ke2

Cy: The wounded animal in the forest seeks out a cave to curl up and lie still, preserving its precious remaining life energy while it recuperates from its injury.

Question: A two part question:

1. Is there a chessbase symbol for "Adverse reaction to medication?"

2. Can we return the book to get our money back?

Answer: First, I wish I could scapegoat the pharmaceutical industry for my bad position, but lack of chess talent seems to be the core issue here. Second, no, you can't get your money back. All sales of this book are final!

Not 24.Bxe3?? Qh2+! 25.Ke1 Bg3+ 26.Kf1 Nxe3 mate!

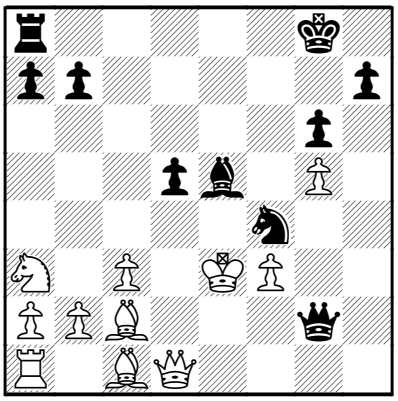
24...Qg2+ 25.Kd3 Nf4+! 26.Kxe3

Cy: The only move. Getting dealt unlucky tarot cards means nothing to an unbeliever of prophecy. One thought which comforted me during the game: Each moment the smirking abomination on e3 is allowed to live unchallenged is an insult to my opponent!

I saw the line 26.Kc4 and felt Black's win would be too easy after 26...e2 27.Qe1 Qxf3 28.Bxf4 Bxf4 29.Qg1 Re8, when that advanced e-pawn would cost White a full Rook.

Jack: Yes, you have to give the opponent an opportunity to make a mistake, and 26. Kc4 won't do it.

26...d5!



Cy: *Question*: Why an exclam? Black's last move threatens nothing.

Answer: Galileo was simply shown the instruments of his (future) torment to extract a signed confession. Black cleverly cut off all escape routes for my poor, tired King. White is totally helpless since more than half his army is on strike, picketing the queenside, demanding higher wages and better working conditions.

Question: Can you remind the reader just what it is about this line which appeals to you from the White side?

Answer: I admit that my enthusiasm for the White side had indeed dampened somewhat by this point in the game!

27.Bb3 Kg7

Jack: Imagine Mr. Aldama's plight. He knows he's winning but doesn't have time to calculate deeply. Probably he couldn't tell whether his Rook belongs at e8 or d8, and then he saw a useful move which would postpone the decision. But either Rook move was better!

Cy: 27...Rd8! 28.Nb5 Bb8! clearing the e-file is curtains for White.

28.Bxd5

Jack: The same philosophy as move 26. Play the boldest move and hope the opponent fails to refute it.

28...Rd8

Cy: 28...Re8! 29.Be4 Rd8! 30.Qe1 Nh3! ends the game.

29.c4 Qxg5

Cy: I'm still totally busted.

30.Kf2 Nh3+?

Jack: This get-well card deserves ??.

Cy: If there are too many members of a conspiracy, the secret always leaks out. Perhaps Aldama's problem throughout the game is that he got confused from having too many wins! Thank God for our mutual time trouble.

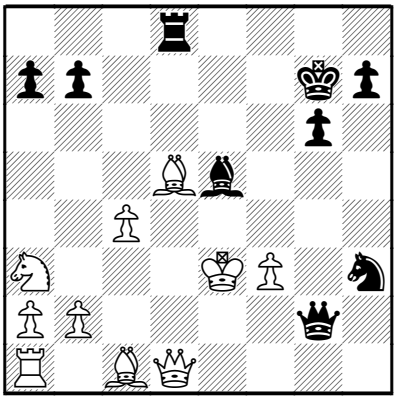
My opponent missed 30...Qh4+! 31.Ke3 Nxd5+! 32.cxd5 Bf4+! 33.Ke2 Qh2+ 34.Kf1 Qh1+ 35.Ke2 Qg2+ 36.Kd3 Rxd5+.

31.Ke2?

Cy: In his current schizoid state, the White King feels a pull in many directions.

After 31.Ke1! Qh4+ 32.Kd2 it's anybody's game.

31...Qg2+ 32.Ke3



Cy: He had eight seconds on his clock and I had about a minute and a half. Essentially we were both living off the five second time delay, praying that our clocks didn't run any lower.

Certainly not 32.Kd3?? Nf2+ forking.

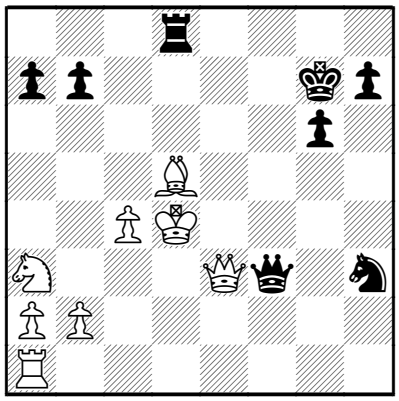
32...Bf4+?

Cy: He chases my King to safety. His last chance to victory lay in 32...Nf4! **Jack**: Agreed. Black would again threaten ...Qg2-g5. But, with eight seconds left, Black can only guess at the strongest move.

33.Kd4 Bxc1 34.Qxc1 Qxf3??

Cy: It isn't easy to find good moves in what has essentially degenerated into a glorified bullet game! He either missed or rejected the perpetual check after 34...Nf4! 35.Qxf4 Qxb2+ 36.Ke3 Re8+ 37.Kd3 Qxa3+ 38.Kd4 Qb2+ 39.Kd3 Qe2+ 40.Kd4.

35.Qe3



Cy: The Queen and King grip arms and hug in warm reunion. Praise Buddha! To my utter shock, I realized White is winning.

Jack: Quite an escape! When Houdini was contemplating 20...Ne4+ and before it spotted the forced mate, it claimed you were 39 points behind. Is that a record?

35...Qg4+ 36.Kc3 Rf8? 37.Qe5+?

Cy: Sigh... Aldama and I both wish to issue a joint apology to the reader for our bad moves. We both missed 37.Qe7+!.

37...Kh6 38.Rh1 Rf5? 39.Qe3+ Kg7 40.Rxh3 1–0

Cy: Summary: Black seems to achieve dynamic equality after Aldama's novelty 8...Nd5!

Peters,Jack (2355) - Krishnan,Varun (2146)
[B51] Sicilian Defense
24th Southern California Ch. (3)
Monterey Park, 15.07.2012

Jack: This game turned out to be the clash of the co-winners. At the time, though, both of us trailed Alexandre Kretchetov.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 d6

Jack: A solid answer.

4.0–0

Cy: On the rare occasion I open with 1.e4?!, I normally go for the line 4.Bxc6+ bxc6 5.0–0 e5 6.c3 Nf6 7.Re1 and play for a quick d4, hoping White's better development overrides Black's Bishop pair.

4...Bd7 5.c3 Nf6 6.Re1 a6 7.Bf1

Jack: The approved retreat, tested by Kasparov and Anand.

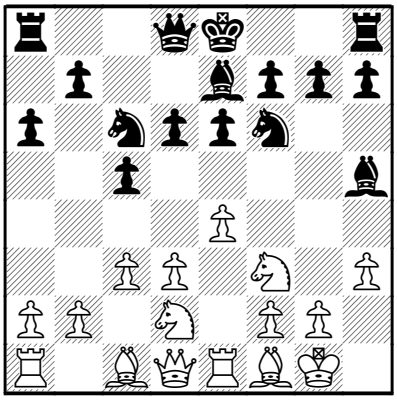
In the late 1970s, I played 7.Ba4 b5 8.Bc2 against Browne, Pytel and Quinteros, and won all three games. Despite the pleasant memories, I no longer have a high regard for 7.Ba4, and I decided to follow the crowd.

The other popular choice is 7.Bxc6 Bxc6 8.d4!? but I think Black has little to fear after 8...Bxe4 9.Bg5 Bg6.

7...Bg4 8.d3 e6

Jack: A good choice, keeping options of ...d6-d5 and ...e6-e5.

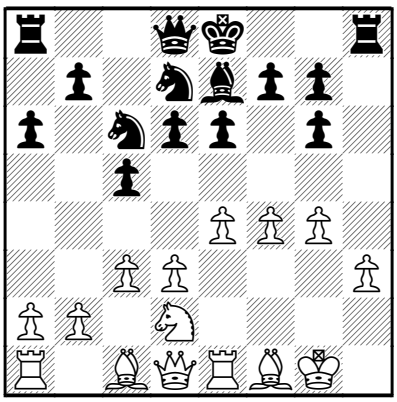
9.Nbd2 Be7 10.h3 Bh5



11.Be2

Jack: Dreaming of Nd2-f1–g3. **Cy**: This is much too slow to try and extract an edge. I would go for 11.g4, aired out King or not.

Jack: White has scored well with 11.g4 Bg6 12.Nh4 Nd7 13.Nxg6 (*in Anand - Carlsen, Amber Blindfold, Nice 2009, White suffered because of a drafty Kingside after 13.Ng2 h5 14.f4 hxg4 15.hxg4 Qc7 16.Nf3 0–0–0*) 13... hxg6 14.f4:



but the computer reveals an effective defense: 14...Bh4 15.Re2 g5 16.f5 (**Cy**: *Perhaps White can try the admittedly scary 16.Nf3 gxf4 17.Nxh4 Qxh4 18.Bxf4.*) 16...Nde5∓.

11...d5 12.a3?!

Jack: I planned b2-b3, Bc1–b2, and eventually either b3-b4 or c3-c4. Already I was kicking myself for choosing such a feeble opening.

Perhaps White can maintain equality by 12.exd5 exd5 (*rather dull is 12...Nxd5 13.Nc4 0–0 14.Nce5=*) 13.Nf1.

12...c4?

Jack: This miscalculation costs Black a pawn.

Cy: Hmm. This is a mighty huffy move, where he hopes to remove himself from commonality, determined to achieve great things, with a move which suggests, if not effrontery, then at least recklessness. However, Black exaggerates the import of the slight and responds with excessive force.

Cy I already prefer Black's position if he inclines toward the practical, dismissing speculation with the simple 12...0–0, as White has played the not-so-dangerous Bb5, Bf1 and Be2, taking three moves to end up on a passive square!

13.e5!

Cy: The e-pawn wags his forefinger in an "Oh-no-you-don't!" gesture.

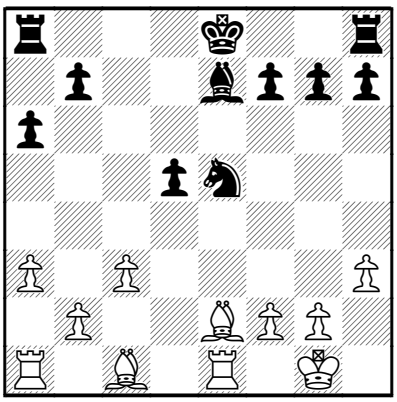
13...Nd7

Jack: Black cannot stand 13... cxd3?? 14.exf6 dxe2 15.fxe7+-.

14.dxc4 Bxf3?!

Jack: Houdini suggests 14...Nb6 15.cxd5 Nxd5 16.Nb3 Qc7 17.Nfd4 Bxe2 18.Qxe2±, but Black does not have much compensation for the pawn. **Cy**: Not exactly the inspiring rallying cry Black had hoped for, but at least it's something.

15.Nxf3 Ndxe5 16.Nxe5 Nxe5 17.cxd5 Qxd5 18.Qxd5 exd5



19.Bxa6?!

Jack: I wanted a material advantage and did not anticipate the difficulties I would encounter in trying to exploit it.

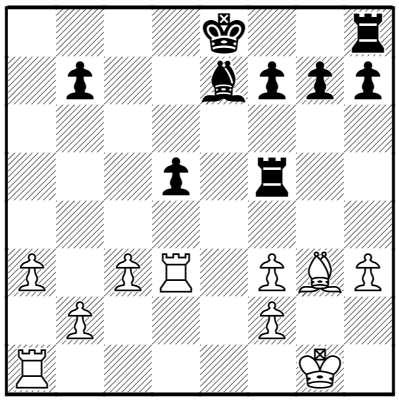
Cy: Now both White Bishop and Black Knight, divested of reason, go mad and commit suicide to some cause known only to themselves.

Jack: Stronger would be 19.Bf4! Nc6 20.Rad1 Rd8 21.Bc7! Rd7 22.Bb6 0–0 23.Bg4 f5 24.Bf3±, when Black will have to yield a pawn without gaining any piece activity.

19...Nf3+□ 20.gxf3 Rxa6 21.Bf4 Re6 22.Red1 Rf6 23.Bg3 Rf5±

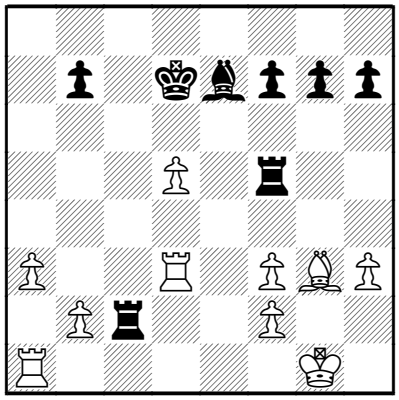
Jack: A useful post. I expected to win the d-pawn, but even that may not be decisive.

24.Rd3



24...h5

Jack: Black can reach a superior version of the game by 24...Kd7 25.c4 Rc8! (*not 25...Kc6 26.Rc1±*) 26.cxd5 Rc2⇄.



Then 27.Rb3 Bd6! 28.Rxb7+ Kc8 29.Rb3 Bxg3 30.fxg3 Rxd5, and Black threatens 31...Rdd2 and seems to force 31.Rc3+ Rxc3 32.bxc3 Rd3 33.Kf2 Rxc3, with fair chances to draw.

25.Re1 Kd7 26.c4 Rc8 27.cxd5 h4?!

Jack: Black should limit White's advantage with 27...b5 28.Re5 Rxe5 29.Bxe5 f6±.

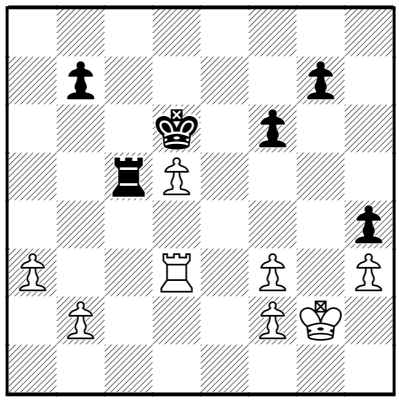
28.Re5?!

Jack: I don't remember exactly why I rejected 28.Rb3! hxg3 29.Rxb7+, but I mistakenly believed that any plausible series of moves would win.

28...Rxe5 29.Bxe5 Rc1+ 30.Kg2 f6 31.Bc3?!

Jack: I looked at 31.Bf4 Rc2 32.d6 Bd8 but didn't foresee 33.Rb3 Kc6 34.Be3!±, which stops ...Bd8-b6 and sets up 35.Rb4 g5 36.f4.

31...Bc5 32.Bd4 Kd6 33.Bxc5+ Rxc5



34.f4?

Jack: Still oblivious to danger. "He won't take the d-pawn," I thought, "because then I'll trade Rooks and use my outside passer."

The right way is 34.Rd4! Rxd5 (*after 34...g5 35.f4± White can bring his King to g4*) 35.Rxh4. If 35...Rd2, both 36.Rb4 and the energetic 36.Rh7 Rxb2 37.Rxg7 Ra2 38.Rxb7 Rxa3 39.h4± should win.

34...Rxd5

Cy: Now Black regroups, after having been repulsed in the original insurgency.

35.Rb3

Jack: Only now did I realize that White does not get an outside passer from 35.Rxd5+?? Kxd5 36.Kf3 because 36...Kc4 wins both Queenside pawns.

35...Kc6 36.Kf3 f5±

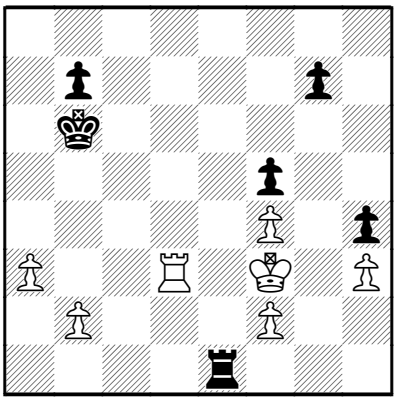
Jack: Denying White's King access to Black's Kingside pawns.

The game should finish in a draw. I began to wonder if I had become a pawn-odds player.

37.Ke3 Rd1 38.Rc3+ Kb6 39.Rd3 Re1+!

Jack: Black need not allow 39...Rh1?! 40.Kd4 Re1 41.Re3 Rf1 42.Ke5±.

40.Kf3



40...Re6?

Jack: On the final move of the time control, Black chooses a "safe" move and spoils his resourceful defense.

Cy: The golden rule of Rook and pawn endings: Remain active at all costs.

Jack: Instead, 40...Rb1⇄ keeps the Rook active. After 41.Rd5, Black's simplest drawing method is 41...g6 42.Rd6+ Kc5 43.Rxg6 Rxb2 44.Rf6 Rb3+ 45.Kg2 Rxa3 46.Rxf5+ Kc4= . If White snatches the h-pawn by 47.Rh5 b5 48.Rxh4, then 48...b4 49.f5+ Kc3 will make White sacrifice his Rook for the b-pawn: 50.Rh8 b3 51.Rc8+ Kd3 52.f6 Ra7 53.Kg3 Rf7 54.Rb8 Kc2 55.h4 Rxf6 56.h5 b2 57.f4 b1Q 58.Rxb1 Kxb1 59.Kg4 Kc2 60.Kg5 Rf8 61.f5 Kd3 62.f6 Ke4, drawing.

41.Rd7± g6

Jack: Useless is 41...Rg6 42.Rf7±, while 41...Re1 42.Rxg7 Rb1 43.Rg5 Rxb2 44.Rxf5 Rb3+ 45.Kg4 Rxa3 46.Re5+- leaves White far ahead in the race to Queen.

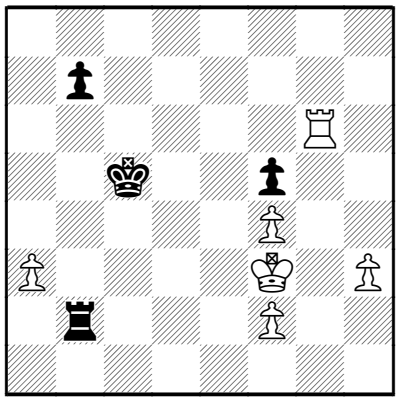
42.Rh7 Rd6 43.Rxh4 Rd2

Jack: Counterplay again, but Black has lost several tempi.

44.Rh6 Rxb2 45.Rxg6+

Cy: Now White's passed h-pawn is a terrible danger for Black.

45...Kc5



46.Rf6?

Jack: White's top two goals should be to preserve the a-pawn and to tie down Black's Rook by advancing the h-pawn.

Instead, I rushed to capture the f-pawn, underestimating the trouble Black would cause with his b-pawn.

After 46.Kg2!+- the variations are long but convincing: 46...Rb3 (*Black's King cannot accomplish anything on the Kingside by 46... Kd5 47.h4 Ke4 48.h5 Rc2 49.h6 Rc8 50.h7 Rh8 51.Rg7 b5 52.Kg3+-*) 47.Rg3 Rb6 48.h4 Rh6 49.Kh3 Kd5 50.Rg5 Ke4 (*against the completely passive 50...Ke6 White makes progress by 51.h5 b5 52.Kh4 Kf6 53.f3! Rh8 54.Rg6+ Kf7 55.Kg5+-*) 51.Kg3 Ra6 52.f3+ Kd4 53.Rxf5 Rxa3 (similar to the game, except that White's pawns and King have a head start) 54.h5 Kc4 (*or 54...Ra1 55.Rb5+-*) 55.h6 b5 56.h7 Ra8 57.Rh5 Rh8 58.Kg4 b4 59.Kg5 b3 60.Kg6 b2 61.Rh1+-.

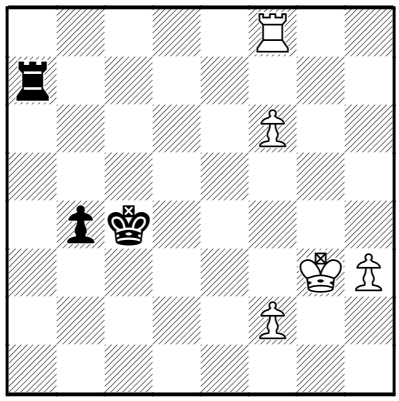
46...Rb3+ 47.Kg2 Rxa3 48.Rxf5+ Kc4± 49.Rf8

Jack: It's likely that Black will exchange his pawn for one of White's f-pawns, producing the dreaded f- and h-pawn position that sometimes draws. Both players must strive for the most favorable transition to this endgame.

49...b5 50.f5 b4 51.f6 Ra7 52.Kg3

Jack: Probably the best try, although Black should draw anyway.

I rejected 52.f7?! because of 52... Rc7, but Black draws most convincingly with 52...Kb3! 53.h4 Ka3 54.h5 b3 55.h6 b2 56.h7 (*or 56.Rb8 Rxf7*) 56...b1Q 57.h8Q Qg6+.



52...b3?

Jack: Now 52...Rb7? is too slow because 53.f7 forces 53...Kb5. However, I did not calculate the crucial variation 54.Kg4 b3 55.Kg5 b2 56.Re8 b1Q (*relatively simple is 56...Rxf7 57.Rb8+ Kc5 58.Rxb2+-*) 57.Re5+! Ka4 58.f8Q Qg1+ 59.Kh4 Rh7+ 60.Rh5+-.

But 52...Kd5! definitely draws. If 53.Rb8 Ke5 54.Rb6, Black obtains a drawn version of the f- and h-pawn position by 54...Kf5! 55.h4 b3 56.f4 b2 57.h5 b1Q 58.Rxb1 Kxf6=.

Cy: All well and good, but these f- and h-pawn "draws" are not so easy to demonstrate over the board. **Jack**: True! I've failed to hold the draw twice.

53.Rc8+?

Jack: Giving Black another chance to draw.

White can win with 53.Rb8! Rf7 54.Rb6 Kc5 55.Rxb3 Rxf6 56.f4+- as Black's King does not blockade the pawns. Note that White would gladly give up his Rook in the variation 53.Rb8! Kc3 54.Kg4 b2 (*Black does not have time to promote after 54...Ra4+ 55.Kg5 Rb4 56.Rxb4 Kxb4 57.f7+-*) 55.Kg5 Kc2 56.Kg6 b1Q 57.Rxb1 Kxb1 58.f7 Ra8 59.Kg7 Kc2 60.f8Q Rxf8 61.Kxf8+-.

53...Kd5!

Jack: Correctly abandoning the b-pawn. Black's King belongs at f6!

Cy: Black's King continues close surveillance, like a dog's tail. He sketches in his defensive plan against the foreground of the drawn (but not so easy!) f and h-pawns.

54.Rb8 Ke6 55.Rb6+

Jack: The direct 55.Rxb3?! Kxf6 draws.

55...Kf7

Jack: Easier is 55...Kf5! keeping White's King from advancing. Then 56.f4 b2 57.Rxb2 Kxf6 should draw.

56.Kg4 b2 57.f4

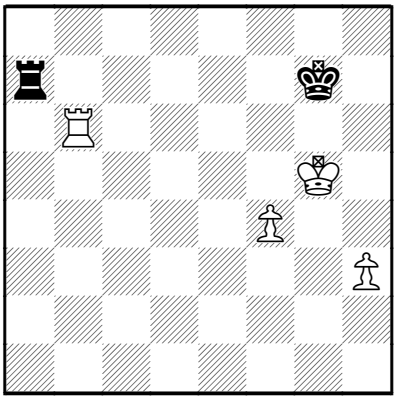
Jack: Also 57.Kg5 Ra5+ 58.Kh6 lets Black draw with 58...b1Q 59.Rxb1 Kxf6.

57...b1B?

Jack: Losing. The proper defense is 57...Ra1! 58.Rxb2 Kxf6 59.Rb6+ Kg7, drawing. For example, White makes no progress with 60.h4 Rg1+ 61.Kf5 Ra1 62.h5 Ra5+ 63.Kg4 Ra1=.

Cy: The subtlety of this ending is amazing. A tiny extraction of evidence can result in illumination, the way a DNA expert merely requires a single drop of blood or saliva to decode genetic predispositions. Now the fates are unkind to my student Varun, who after a heroic defense, gets the expectancy of the draw rudely yanked away, as if by a purse snatcher.

58.Rxb1 Kxf6 59.Rb6+□ Kg7 60.Kg5□+-



Jack: The key to this endgame is that Black's Rook cannot leave the seventh rank without letting White's Rook chase Black's King to the back rank. Nearly all "absolute seventh rank" positions win for White.

60...Rc7

Jack: If 60...Ra3 61.Rb7+ Kg8 62.h4 Black cannot restrain the pawns by 62...Rg3+ 63.Kf5 Rh3, because 64.h5! imagines 64...Rxh5+? 65.Kg6 Rh1 66.Rb8 mate.

61.f5 Ra7 62.h4 Rc7 63.h5 Ra7 64.h6+

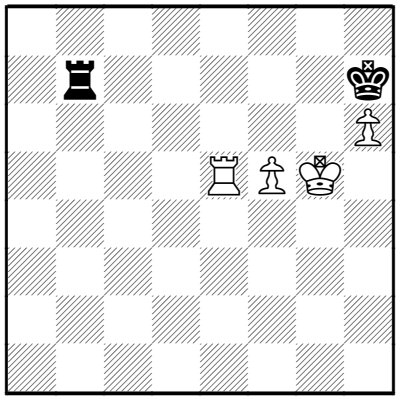
Jack: Winning in 29 moves, according to the Tablebase. Advancing the h-pawn does create stalemate possibilities.

White can win in one move less by 64.f6+ Kf7 65.Rb5□.

64...Kh7

Jack: After 64...Kf7?! 65.Rb8+-, White will advance the h-pawn.

65.Re6! Rb7 66.Re5!



Jack: This maneuver shields White's King while setting up f5-f6 and Re5-e7+.

Cy: Nice! Black's unfortunate King finds himself under the sway of the White Rook's artful, practiced smile.

66...Ra7

Jack: Black lasts longest with 66...Rb1, but White would carry out the most familiar winning procedure: 67.Re7+ Kg8 68.f6 Rg1+ 69.Kf5 Rf1+ 70.Ke6 Re1+ 71.Kd7 Rf1 72.Re8+! Kh7 (*or 72...Kf7 73.h7 Rd1+ 74.Kc6+-*) 73.Ke7 (*also 73.Re6 wins efficiently*) 73...Re1+ 74.Kf8 Ra1 75.f7 Ra7 (*or 75...Kxh6 76.Kg8+-*) 76.Re6+- and next White's King emerges.

67.f6

Jack: The threat of 68. Re7+ chases Black's Rook off the seventh rank.

67...Ra1 68.f7 Ra8

Jack: Or 68...Rf1 69.Rf5 Rg1+ 70.Kf6+-.

69.Re8

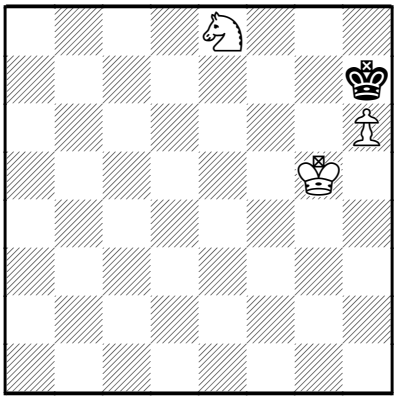
Jack: I hesitated in playing this move, just to make sure that I didn't fall for a stalemate.

The Tablebase correctly prefers 69.Re7! Kh8 (*as 69...Rf8 70.Kh5! is Zugzwang, while 69...Ra5+ 70.Kf4 Ra4+ 71.Ke3 soon escapes the checks*) 70.Re8+ Kh7 71.f8Q Ra5+ 72.Qf5+! Rxf5+ 73.Kxf5 Kxh6 74.Re7 Kh5 75.Rh7 mate.

69...Rxe8

Jack: Against 69...Ra5+, the quickest win begins 70.Kf6 Ra6+ 71.Kf5 Ra5+ 72.Re5 Ra8 73.Kg5 Rb8 74.Re7 as in the variation with 69. Re7.

70.fxe8N□



Cy: ! Oh, the unalloyed joy of underpromotion! Now the dejected lone defender can only watch from the periphery with impotent rage as his King is swept aside.

70...Kh8 71.Kg6 Kg8 72.Nd6 Kh8 73.Nf7+ 1–0

cr

White's 70th: Oh, the unalloyed joy of underpromotion!

Sevian, FM Liou Win 20th Metropolitan FIDE

They earn IM norms, too!

July 11-15, 2012

Youth prevails! Eleven-year-old Samuel Sevian and 15-year-old Yian Liou tied for first with 7-2 in the 20th Metropolitan FIDE Invitational tournament. Sevian, with his second Metro win in a row, earned his second IM norm, and Liou earned his first. They drew with each other in the first round, and after both players won in round 4, they were tied for first and continued that way through the end. Third at 5½-3½ were IMs Zhanibek Amanov and Andranik Matikozyan. Amanov led through round 5, but did not keep pace with the youngsters, even losing to 12-year-old Kesav Viswanadha in the next to last round.

Fifth at 5-4 was IM Larry Remlinger, who must be 71 by now! WGM Tatev Abrahamyan finished sixth with 4-5, FM Mark Duckworth and Garush Manukyan tied for seventh with 3½-5½. Ninth was Kesav Viswanadha with 3-6, and tenth was Ignacio Sainz Aguirre with 1-8.

We present one game each by the winners. The first, won by Liou, is a lesson on spotting weak squares and calmly improving the position. Also, it shows how we have to guard squares on our side of the board.

Nearly opposite in style is the second game in which Sevian successfully sacrifices a piece on a castled King position in a French Winawer.

Liou,Yian (2322) - Manukyan,Garush (2276)
[B06] Modern Defense
20th Metropolitan IM (4)
Los Angeles, 13.07.2012

Notes by the Editor.

White continuously finds weak squares, gets his pieces there, and improves his position until Black can't defend his weak pawns.

It's a lesson for us all. Watch for those weak squares, and keep our own position from getting them. It looks so easy in this game.

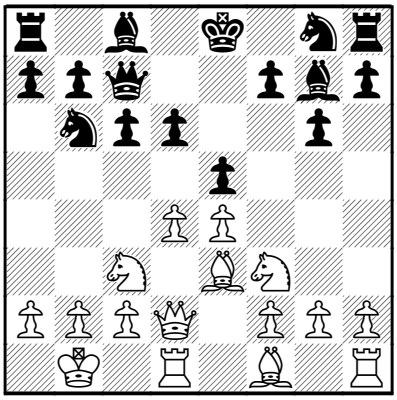
1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nf3 d6 4.Nc3 Nd7 5.Be3 c6 6.Qd2 e5

More usual has been 6...b5 7.Bd3 Qc7 (*or 7...Nb6 8.h3*) 8.0–0 Ngf6 9.Bh6 0–0.

7.0–0–0 Qc7

A little better might be 7...Qe7 and White would choose between 8.Bd3±, 8.h4 Ngf6±, and 8.dxe5 dxe5±.

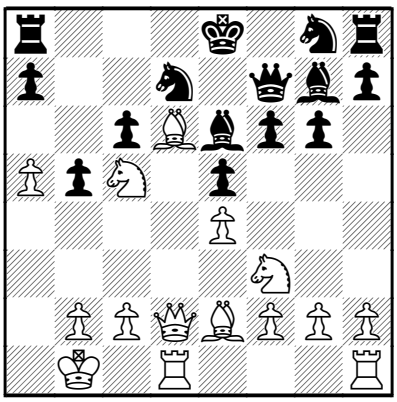
8.Kb1 Nb6



9.Be2

Patient. But his 10th move plan can be tried now: 9.dxe5 dxe5 10.Bc5 Bh6 (*Or 10...f6 11.Bd6 Qd7 12.a4, putting the screws to the Knight on b6, and if 12...a5 then 13.Qe3*+-) 11.Qd6 Qxd6 12.Bxd6 winning a pawn, for if 12...f6? then 13.Nxe5.

9...Bd7 10.dxe5 dxe5 11.Bc5 f6 12.a4 Be6 13.Bd6 Qf7 14.a5 Nd7 15.Na4 b5 16.Nc5



	Round by Round Pairings, Colors, and Scores		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Amanov, Zhanibek	KAZ	W10	W2	B3	W4	B5	W6	B7	W8	B9
	2284		**1**	**1½**	**2½**	**3**	**3½**	4	5	5	5½
2	Sevian, Sam	USA	W9	B1	W10	W3	B4	W5	B6	W7	B8
	2281		½	1	2	**3**	**3½**	**4½**	**5½**	**6½**	**7**
3	Duckworth, Mark	USA	W8	B9	W1	B2	W10	W4	B5	W6	B7
	2302		**1**	1	1	1	2	2½	3	3½	3½
4	Matikozyan, Andranik	ARM	W7	B8	W9	B1	W2	B3	W10	W5	B6
	2407		½	**1½**	2	2½	3	3½	4½	5	5½
5	Manukyan, Garush	ARM	W6	B7	W8	B9	W1	B2	W3	B4	W10
	2276		½	1	1½	1½	2	2	2½	3	3½
6	Remlinger, Larry	USA	B5	B10	W7	B8	W9	B1	W2	B3	W4
	2333		½	**1½**	2	3	3½	4	4	4½	5
7	Abrahamyan, Tatev	USA	B4	W5	B6	B10	W8	B9	W1	B2	W3
	2320		½	1	1½	2½	3	3	3	3	4
8	Viswanadha, Kesav	USA	B3	W4	B5	W6	B7	B10	W9	B1	W2
	2015		0	0	½	½	1	1½	1½	2½	3
9	Liou, Yian	USA	B2	W3	B4	W5	B6	W7	B8	B10	W1
	2322		½	**1½**	2	**3**	**3½**	**4½**	**5½**	**6½**	**7**
10	Sainz Aguirre, Ignacio	MEX	B1	W6	B2	W7	B3	W8	B4	W9	B5
	1985		0	0	0	0	0	½	½	½	1

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

This game is a study in weak squares for White's pieces.

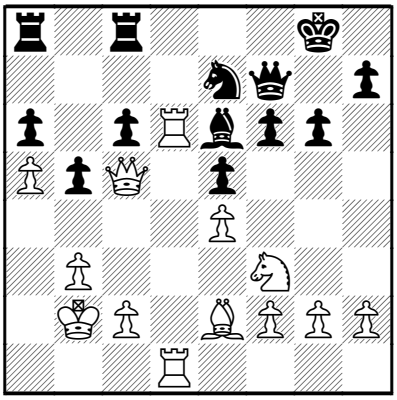
16...Nxc5 17.Bxc5 Bf8 18.Qb4 Bxc5 19.Qxc5 Ne7

Black can't oppose the Queen until he first guards c6. But if 19...Rc8 White can maneuver his Knight to c5: 20.Ne1 Qe7 21.Nd3 Qxc5 22.Nxc5 Ke7 23.Rd2±.

20.Rd6 0–0 21.Rhd1 Rfe8 22.b3

White just improves his position.

22...a6 23.Kb2 Rec8



24.Ne1

White can decisively open up the position with 24.Nxe5 fxe5 25.Qxe5 Bxb3 26.Rf6 Qg7 27.Kxb3 Rf8 28.Qe6++-.

24...Rc7 25.Nd3

But White can also decisively improve his pieces!

25...Re8 26.Nb4

White makes it look so easy.

26...f5 27.f3 1-0

Even here, White did not hurry, just holding e4 and maintaining the decisive threats on a6 and e5, and now Black's position caves in. If 27... Bc8 then 28.Qb6 Rb7 29.Qxa6+-.

Next is a different kind of game:

Sevian,Samuel (2281) - Abrahamyan,Tatev (2320)
[C18] French Defense
20th Metropolitan IM (8)
Los Angeles, 15.07.2012

Notes by the Editor.

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 Ne7 7.Qg4 0–0 8.Bd3 Nbc6 9.Bg5

This has been played by Shirov, Bologan, and others with success.

Most frequently seen was 9.Qh5 Ng6 10.Nf3 Qc7 11.Be3 c4 12.Bxg6 fxg6 13.Qg4 Qf7 14.Ng5, with over 25 games by 2500+ rated players, White scoring almost 65 percent.

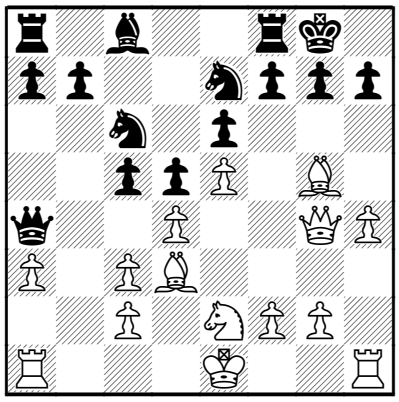
9...Qa5 10.Ne2

Houdini likes Black a little bit, but it's hard to trust a computer in a closed position like this, unless it actually sees a forced win. Among strong players, White has scored 75% in 13 games, according to my db.

10...Qa4 N

Usual has been 10...Ng6 11.0–0 Qa4 and 11...c4 12.Bxg6 fxg6 13.a4.

11.h4



11...c4

Houdini likes 11...Ng6 12.Qg3 *(We need to watch out for movement on a seemingly closed rank: 12.h5? Ngxe5 13.dxe5?? Qxg4, losing the Queen. This sort of thing happened to me one time.)* 12...c4 13.Bxg6 fxg6 14.Ra2=.

12.Bxh7+

Going for it! Most of Black's pieces are out of play, after all.

It looks like a computer-assisted win for White with 12.Bf6! Ng6 (*after 12...g6 13.Qg5 cxd3 14.g4! White continues the winning plan to mate on g7*) 13.h5 cxd3 14.hxg6 fxg6 15.Qh3 Qxc2 16.Qxh7+ Kf7 17.Qxg7+ Ke8 18.Qxg6+ Kd7 19.0–0 Qxe2 20.Rae1 Qb2 21.Qh7+ Ke8 22.Re3 Qxa3 (*if 22... d2 then 23.Rg3 followed by Rg7* +-). Simplest is now 23.Qg6+ Kd7 (*23... Rf7 24.Rh3*) 24.Qg7+ Ke8 25.Rh3+-.

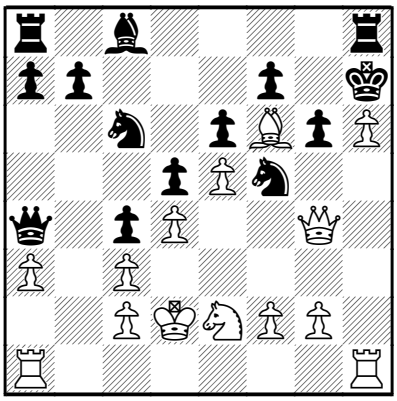
12...Kxh7 13.Kd2 Rh8 14.h5 Nf5

There are alternatives, but White's position is too good!

If 14...Rf8 then 15.Qf4 (with the idea of h6 and Bf6, as in the game) 15...f5 (to stop it) 16.Qh4±.

Or 14...f5 15.Qh4 Kg8 16.Bxe7 Nxe7 17.Qxe7 Qd7 18.Qg5+-.

15.h6! g6 16.Bf6



White weakened f6 and now powerfully occupies it, demonstrating the downside of Black's 13th.

16...Rg8 17.Ng1!

If the Knight gets to g5, it's over.

17...Ncxd4

Black has to take some sort of disruptive action.

18.Rc1 Nb5

This is not an answer to Nf3-g5, but there is no saving move. If 18... g5 then 19.Nh3+-.

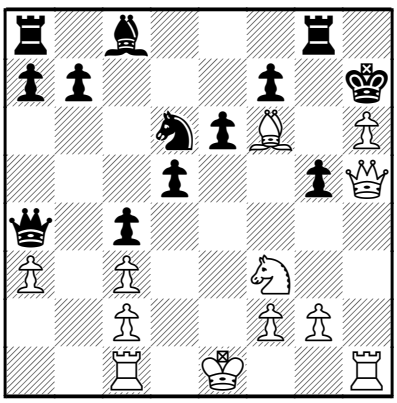
19.Nf3 g5

Black can only delay the breakthrough and pawn promotion, and only with ruinous cost of material: 19...Rh8 20.Ng5+ Kg8 21.h7+ Kf8 22.Bxh8+-.

20.Qh5

Even stronger was 20.Bg7 with the threat of 21.Nxg5+ Kg6 22.Qh5 mate.

20...Nbd6 21.exd6 Nxd6 22.Ke1 1-0



The King sidesteps Black's ...Ne4+. White still threatens 23.Nxg5+, but Black can't stop it with 22...Ne4 because of 23.Qxf7+. ♜

Four Way Tie in 17th Pacific Coast Open

July 19-22, 2012

IM Roman Yankovsky took first on tiebreaks in the 17th Annual Pacific Coast Open held at the Sheraton Agoura Hills Hotel. Tied with him at 4½-1½ were IM Dionisio Aldama, FM John Daniel Bryant, and Steven Breckenridge. The Under 2300 prize went to Kyron Griffith, Vadim Kudryavtsev, Pablo Pena, Takashi Kurosaki, and Marian Nita who all scored 3½-2½.

In the other sections, Joshua Sheng, Daniel Lin, and Nicky Korba won the Under 2100 with a score of 5-1. And, with 6-0, Abhishek Handigol swept the Under 1900, gaining over 100 rating points in the process

William Sokurski, Cody Fisher, and Julia Sevilla tied for the Under 1700 with 5-1, and Gabriel Sam won the Under 1500 by scoring 5½-½. The Under 1200 section was won by Ata-Alp Suren and Christopher James Romero with 5-1, and the Under 900 section was won by Kevin Yang with the same score.

There was some confusion due to a number of players from the People's Republic of China, since there were some names identical to existing US player names. There was also the difficulty in placing players into the right sections, due to the unfamiliar foreign ratings. But, from the tournament website notes by Chief TD Steve Immitt, much was learned for next time.

Two wins by Yankovsky are presented. Both games feature an unusual opening variation, a complicated struggle, and a sudden winning combination.

We hope you enjoy them. - Ed.

Breckenridge,Steven (2349) - Yankovsky,Roman (2568)
[B22] Sicilian Defense
17th Pacific Coast Open (3)
Agoura Hills, 21.07.2012

Notes by the Editor.

1.e4 c5 2.c3 d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.dxc5

This move was seen in 17 games among 2500+ players, with Black having six wins against *no* losses.

White has had normal results with 4.Bd3 g6 5.Nf3 Bg7 6.0–0.

4...Nc6 5.Bc4 Nxe4 6.Bxf7+ Kxf7 7.Qd5+ e6 8.Qxe4 d5 9.Qf3+ Kg8

Azmaiparashvili - Topalov, Elenite 1995, a 31 move draw, continued with 9...Qf6 10.Be3 b6 11.cxb6 axb6 12.Bd4 Nxd4 13.cxd4 Ra4.

10.b4N

Sveshnikov - Tseshkovsky, Frunze 1981 Soviet Championship saw a quick win for Black starting with 10.Be3 b6 11.cxb6 axb6 12.Qd1 Bc5 13.Ne2 Bxe3 14.fxe3 Qh4+ 15.Ng3 Ba6 16.Na3 h5.

10...a5 11.b5 Ne5 12.Qg3 Qf6 13.Be3

Or 13.Ne2 Bxc5 14.0–0=.

13...Nd3+ 14.Ke2 Nxc5 15.Bd4 Qf5 16.Nd2 Bd7 17.Rb1??

Better was 17.Bxc5 Bxc5 18.Rb1 Rf8 19.Ngf3 e5, but Black's Bishops, the open position, and the centralized White King comprise a big advantage.

Black now puts it all together:

17...Ne4! 18.Qe5

White can't survive. 18.Nxe4 Qxe4+ loses the Rook on b1.

After 18.Qc7 e5 19.Qxe5 Nxc3+ 20.Bxc3 Re8–+ Black wins the Queen with a strong attack on the centralized White King.

Black is a piece up after 18.Qh3 e5 19.Qxf5 Bxf5 20.Bxe5 Nxd2.

It's also a piece up for Black after 18.Qf3 e5 19.Qxf5 *(19.Bb6 allows a fork on c3 after 19...Qxf3+ 20.Ndxf3 Nxc3+)* 19...Bxf5 20.Bxe5 Nxd2.

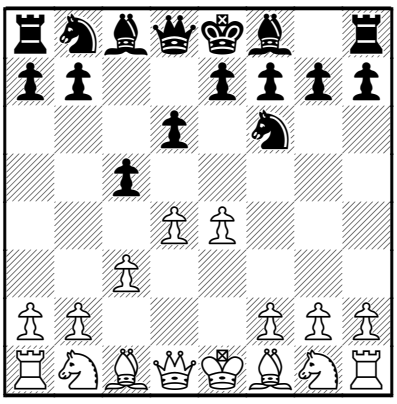
18...Qg4+! 19.Ngf3

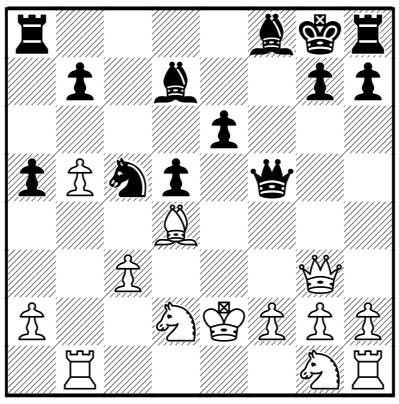
19.f3 drops big material starting with 19...Qxg2+ 20.Ke1 Qxd2+.

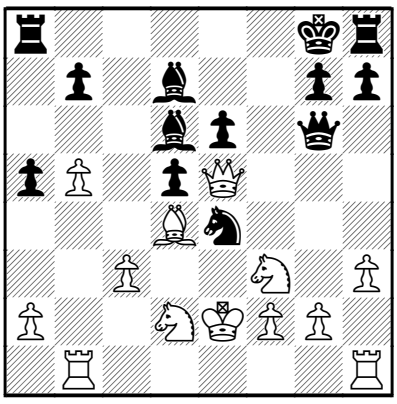
19...Bd6!

The Queen is trapped.

20.h3 Qg6







White has to give up a piece.

21.Qxg7+ Qxg7 22.Bxg7 Nxd2 23.Bxh8 Nxb1 24.Bd4 Bxb5+ 25.Kd1 Rc8 26.Re1 Nxc3+ 27.Bxc3 Rxc3 0–1

Yankovsky,Roman (2568) - Bryant,John Daniel (2508)
[B06] Modern Defense
17th Pacific Coast Open (4)
Agoura Hills, 21.07.2012

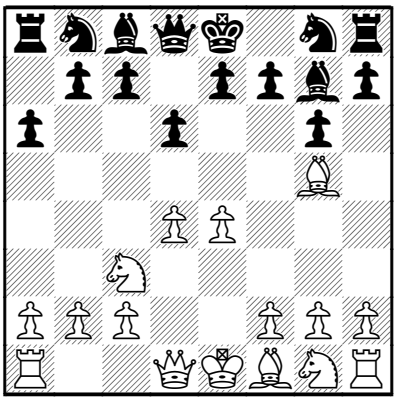
Notes by the Editor.

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.Bg5

This position has occurred 65 times among very strong players, with White getting +9.

By far, the three most popular options among 2500+ players have been 4.Be3, 4.f4 and 4.Nf3.

4...a6



We've seen 20 games among strong players, and six with Azmaiparashvili as Black.

5.a4 Nf6 6.Bc4N

Ulibin - Tkachiev, Biel 2003 continued 6.Qd2 h6 7.Be3 Ng4 8.Bf4 Nc6 9.h3 e5 10.dxe5 Ngxe5 11.Be3 1-0 / 33.

6...Nbd7

Black can complicate things with the old fork trick: 6...Nxe4 and now:

7.Bxf7+ 7...Kxf7 8.Nxe4 Rf8 9.Nf3 Kg8 10.0–0=.

7.Nxe4 d5 8.Bb3 dxe4 9.Ne2 Nc6 10.c3 h6 11.Be3=.

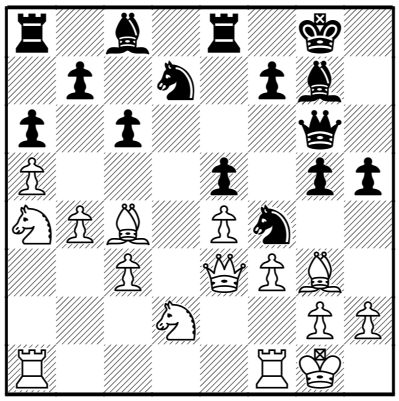
7.Nf3 e5 8.dxe5 dxe5 9.0–0 h6 10.Bh4 0–0 11.Qe2 c6 12.a5

Black starts to claim b6.

12...Qc7 13.b4 Re8 14.Na4 Nh5

Black maneuvers and gains space on the Kingside.

15.Nd2 Nf4 16.Qe3 g5 17.Bg3 Qd6 18.c3 Qg6 19.f3 h5



Black has made some progress on the Kingside, yet still there are permanent weaknesses on the Queenside, and his development is behind, too.

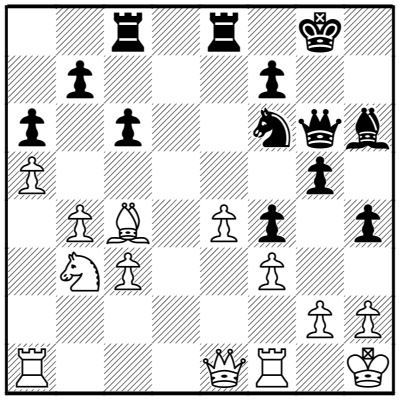
20.Kh1 Bh6 21.Qe1 Nf6 22.Nb6

Black gives up the b6 square to head for the Kingside.

22...Rb8 23.Nxc8 Rbxc8

Gaining the two Bishops is a respectable goal.

24.Nb3 h4 25.Bxf4 exf4



The Black Knight on f4 was well posted in front of the White King, so it was worth the Bishop.

26.Rd1 h3

Not 26...g4? 27.Qxh4.

27.gxh3 Bf8 28.Nc5

It's hard to resist the idea of doubling the White pawns and getting rid of a Knight on your own side of the board.

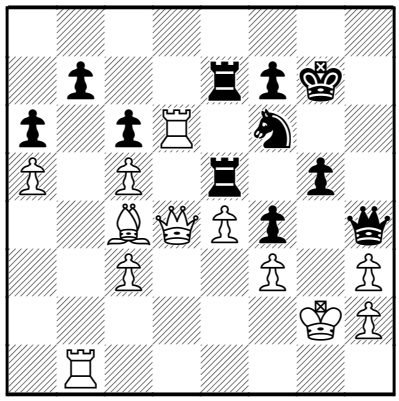
28...Bxc5 29.bxc5

But now White has both the d6 square and the b-file to work with.

29...Re5 30.Qf2 Rce8 31.Rd6 Kg7 32.Rb1 R8e7 33.Qd4

White has found activity for all of his pieces.

33...Qh5 34.Kg2 Qh4



35.Bf1

It's too soon for 35.Rxb7 Rxb7 36.Qxe5 because of 36...Rb2+.

35...Ne8??

It's over after this, as White demonstrates.

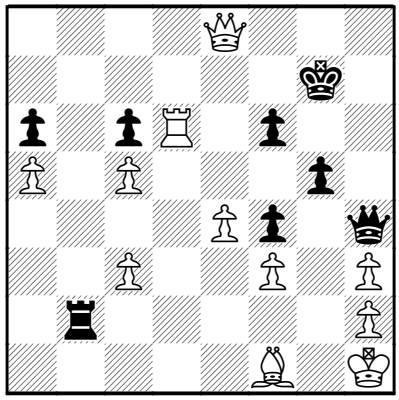
Black needed to stay put with 35... R5e6 try to hold the position for a while. White has no pawn breaks and no obvious ways to make progress, although he certainly enjoys an advantage in space, material, and options.

Now it really is time for Rxb7.

36.Rxb7 Rxb7

Also losing is 36...g4 37.Rxe7 Qxe7 38.Rxc6.

37.Qxe5+ f6 38.Qxe8 Rb2+ 39.Kh1



39...Rxh2+

This comes very close to forcing a perpetual check, but White takes advantage of his Rook's control of d1 by means of a sequence of accurate moves.

40.Kxh2 Qf2+ 41.Bg2 Qg3+ 42.Kg1 Qe1+ 43.Bf1 1-0

After 43...Qg3+ 44.Kh1 Qxf3+ 45.Bg2, it's *buenos no-checks* for White. Precise play concludes the contest. ♜

IM Peters, Krishnan 1st in 24th Southern California State Championship

July 14-29, 2012

IM Jack Peters and Varun Krishnan tied for first with 5½-1½ in the Southern California State Championship, with Peters taking first on tie-breaks. Third at 4-3 was early leader FM Alexandre Kretchetov, and FM Harutyun Akopyan was fourth with an even 3½-3½ score. Tied for fifth at 2½-4½ were IM Timothy Taylor, FM Eugene Yanayt, and Craig Clawitter. Jeremy Stein finished eighth at 2-6.

Kretchetov started well with three wins and a draw, but losses followed to Taylor and Krishnan. His previous tries were in 2008, where he tied for first, and in 2009, placing third.

Krishnan started slowly, with an even score after his only loss, to Peters in round three. See this game in this month's *Cy & Jack*. But Varun finished with four straight wins to clinch the tie for first place.

This was the ninth title for Peters, who first won it in 1977 and most recently in 2000! It's the first time in the finals for Krishnan.

Stein's appearance was also his first, and the second for Akopyan and Yanayt. Way back in 1999, Akopyan was 6th, and just last year Yanayt tied for third.

cr *Varun Krishnan: closed like a freight train!*

cr *IM Jack Peters: his ninth title!*

Round by Round Pairings, Colors, and Scores	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1 Peters,Jack	W4	B5	W2	B3	W8	B7	W6
2432	**1**	1	2	2½	**3½**	**4½**	**5½**
2 Krishnan, Varun	B7	W6	B1	W5	W4	B3	W8
2304	**1**	1½	1½	2½	**3½**	**4½**	**5½**
3 Kretchetov, Alexandre	B8	W7	B6	W1	B5	W2	W4
2444	**1**	**2**	**3**	**3½**	**3½**	3½	4
4 Akopyan, Harutyun	B1	W8	W5	W7	B2	W6	B3
2295	0	0	1	2	2	3	3½
5 Taylor, Timothy	B6	W1	B4	B2	W3	B8	W7
2381	0	1	1	1	2	2½	2½
6 Yanayt, Eugene	W5	B2	W3	B8	W7	B4	B1
2322	1	1½	1½	2½	2½	2½	2½
7 Clawitter, Craig	W2	B3	W8	B4	B6	W1	B5
2191	0	0	½	½	1½	1½	2½
8 Stein, Jeremy	W3	B4	B7	W6	B1	W5	B2
2146	0	1	1½	1½	1½	2	2

Clawitter finished 8th in both 2008 and 2011, and Taylor appeared in 2004, 2007, and 2010, and placed second in 2011.

This year's tournament was hosted by Chess Amp in Monterey Park and directed by Randall Hough.

Timothy Taylor annotates two of his wins; both were against the current tournament leader. The first is Peters' only loss in round 2. The second is against Kretchetov in the fifth.

In addition, we present games with notes by Jack Peters, by Craig Clawitter, and by co-champion Varun Krishnan, who comments on two of his super-sharp wins. - Ed.

To Book or Not to Book, That is the Question

By Timothy Taylor

I don't think there's anything wrong with a chess author recommending one move in a book, and then some time later, actually playing another move.

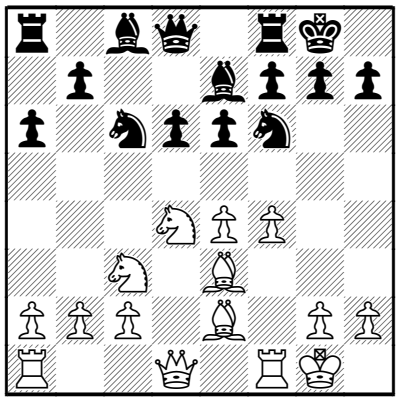
There can be several reasons for such a switch. The most common is simply this: a book is a moment in time. At that moment, the author may honestly believe that a particular move is best. For example, in my book, Bird's Opening, which was published in 2005, I have since revised my position on a certain subvariation, and rather than play the move I thought was best then, I would, if I got that position now, play a move I actually disparage in the book!

Another reason might be to experiment, and a further reason is seen in one of the games below: to avoid the opponent's preparation!

On the other hand (hard as it may be to believe!) some people do not read my books. In that case, if the chess author still believes in the move recommended (as I do in most cases) then not only should the "book" move be played, it's even stronger, as the author has studied this move and the opponent has not.

The following two games from the recent State Championship explain why in one case I deviated from my own book, while in the other I followed my own recommendation to the letter!

Taylor, Timothy (2381) – Peters, Jack (2432)
[B85] Sicilian Defense, Scheveningen Variation
Southern California State Championship (2)
Monterey Park, 14.07.2012
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 d6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Nf6 6.Be2 e6 7.Be3 Be7 8.0–0 0–0 9.f4 a6



This is a common Sicilian position, and in my most recent book, Slay the Sicilian, I give the following two games: the key element of both is the White Queen maneuver Qe1-g3.

10.Qe1 Nxd4 11.Bxd4 b5 12.a3 Bb7 13.Qg3 and now:

a) 13...Bc6 14.Rae1 Qd7 15.Bd3 a5 16.Rf3 b4 17.Nd5 exd5 18.exd5 Bxd5 19.Bxh7+ Kxh7 20.Qh4+ Kg8 21.Rxe7 Qg4 22.Qxg4 Nxg4 23.Rg3 Be6 24.h3 Rfc8 25.hxg4 Rxc2 26.f5 Bd5 27.g5 Rc1+ 28.Kh2 Rf1 29.f6 Rf4 30.Bb6 gxf6 31.Bc7 bxa3 32.gxf6+ Kh7 33.Rxa3 Rxf6 34.Bxa5 Rf2 35.Rh3+ Kg6 36.Rg3+ Kf6 37.Be1 Rxg2+ 38.Rxg2 Bxg2 39.Bh4+ 1–0, Kupreichik - Langeweg, Dortmund 1975.

b) 13...g6 14.Bd3 a5 15.Rae1 b4 16.axb4 axb4 17.Nd1 d5 18.e5 Ne4 19.Qe3 Qc7 20.Nf2 Nxf2 21.Rxf2 Ba6 22.Ref1 Bxd3 23.cxd3 h5 24.f5 exf5 25.Qh6 g5 26.Rxf5 Qd8 27.e6 f6 28.Rxg5+ 1–0, Koch - Relange, French Team Championship 2002.

And I still think this is objectively best—but …

10.Nf3

I played this, which according to the Mega Database, has never been played by a master before, and is in fact, objectively not best, but rather dubious!

Why then did I not play the stronger move that I myself had recommended? The answer is obvious to diligent Rank and File readers: home preparation. Jack had previously fired a twenty move home preparation at me (as Cy Lakdawala commented, "Using Tim's own book against him!") in the Yandemirov Gambit, and only a miracle save got me a draw. I wasn't about to face that kind of preparation again!

Timothy Taylor: defeating the leaders!

One thing about Jack is that I know he reads my books. He has been kind enough to give me rides to various tournaments of late, and has often asked me the most obscure and penetrating questions about lines in my books, so I know he's not just reading, but delving deep.

I was sure he was ready for my "book" line.

Now, however, he has to face something he has no doubt never seen before.

10...b5

Ambitious! From my point of view, I wasn't too worried, as now we were clearly both in uncharted territory, and I feel confident in uncharted waters.

Probably Black should simply play 10...Ng4 11.Qd2 Nxe3 12.Qxe3 Qc7 13.a3 (*better than either 13.e5 dxe5 14.fxe5 Nb4 or 13.g4 b5*) 13...b5 14.Bd3 Bb7 with a marginal edge due to latent plus of the 2 Bishops.

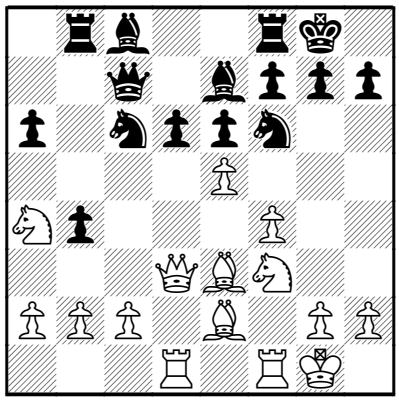
11.Qd3 b4 12.Na4 Rb8

Black's idea is to shut my "Knight on the rim" out of play but this is hard to completely accomplish in such a dynamic position.

13.Rad1

The computer likes 13.Nd2 Qc7 14.Rac1 Rd8 15.c3 with equality, but I am ambitious too, aiming for unclear pawn sacrifices to attack the Black King!

13...Qc7 14.e5!?



As I often said in my book *Pawn Sacrifice!*, this is "Unapproved!" by our friend Mr. Fritz—but in a practical game the move has great value. It gains time on the board and on the clock with confusing attacking possibilities—plus there is the positional point that the square c5 is now weakened, where my outside Knight may jump in, as indeed eventually happens with great effect.

14...Nd5

If Black accepts with 14...dxe5 15.Nxe5 Nxe5 16.fxe5 Nd7 (*16... Qxe5 17.Bf4 winning the exchange is the main tactical point*) 17.Bf4 Nxe5 18.Qe4 f6 does White have enough for the pawn in the computer age? Probably not, if one's opponent is in fact a computer! But against a human, White has real practical chances with 19.Bd3.

15.exd6 Bxd6 16.Ng5

Black has centralized pieces and the only center pawn, while White's far flung Knights are curiously placed indeed ...so objectively, for the moment, Black is better. But the chaotic position suits my temperament more, and Jack makes an inaccuracy right here.

In retrospect, gaining the two Bishops early (10... Ng4) might have been a more solid approach.

16...f5?!

Now White has a new weakness, the backward pawn on e6, to play against. Correct is the sharp 16... g6, when I was planning the even sharper attack 17.f5!? (*on the prosaic 17.g3 Rd8 18.Qd2 Qa5 19.b3 Bf8 20.Bd3 Bg7 Black is better with dark square play*) when Black has many chances to go wrong, e.g. 17...Nxe3 18.Qxe3 Bxh2+ 19.Kh1 gxf5 20.Qh3 f6 21.Nxe6 Bxe6 22.Nc5 Qe5 23.Nxe6 Qxe6 24.Bd3 Nd4 25.Bxf5 Nxf5 26.Rxf5 Kh8 27.Kxh2, and White emerges from the morass with an edge, but it seems 17… gxf5! keeps the pawn when despite the weakness of the Kingside, there is no clear continuation of the attack—though of course in human terms there are practical chances.

17.g3

I shore up my Kingside. It's too late to finally gain the 2 Bishops, for if 17...Nxe3 then 18.Qxe3 eyeing the weakness at e6, which means Black might be tempted to play 18...e5. But then 19.Bc4+ Kh8 20.Nf7+ Rxf7 21.Bxf7 Qxf7 22.Rxd6, and White wins the exchange.

I was hoping for this trick during the game, but Jack carefully dodged it!

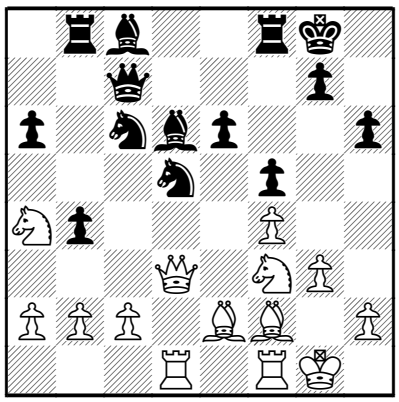
17...Nce7 18.Bd4

The spurned dark square Bishop centralizes himself!

18...h6 19.Nf3 Nc6

Black's last chance to take advantage of my Knight on the rim was 19...Bd7! when I have to play the awkward 20.b3.

20.Bf2



Now I'm determined to keep this good Bishop! But not only that, White has finally fully organized his position. I have a solid Kingside pawn chain, while Black has a hole at e5 and a weakness at e6. The Knight on the rim is ready to jump into c5 (thanks to my bold and risky 14.e5). Black still has not developed his Queen Bishop. All in all, White has come through the difficulties and complications and is ready to take over the advantage on a single misstep.

20...Rd8 21.Qc4 a5?

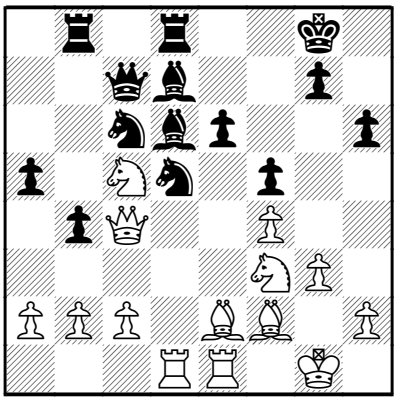
This loses control of b5, and thus of c5 as well.

Best is 21...Rb5! (shutting out the White Knight) 22.Qb3 (*but not 22.Nc5?? as Bxc5 23.Bxc5 Na5 wins a piece*) 22...Na5 23.Qd3 Nc6 24.Qb3 Na5 with a curious repetition draw, not what my opponent wanted I'm sure. Sometimes it's hard to admit that the advantage is gone, when you know you were better before.

22.Rfe1

Now White is just much better, with every piece in play (the errant Knight really is—finally--coming to c5) while Black's undeveloped Queen Bishop can't find a good development, as the White Knight hits it whether it goes to b7 or d7.

22...Bd7 23.Nc5!



The scorned White Knight is now way too strong and must be taken, for if 23...Nb6 24.Nxe6! Qc8 (*24... Nxc4 25.Nxc7 Bxc7 26.Bxc4+ Kh7 27.Nh4+–*) 25.Nxd8+ Nxc4 26.Bxc4+ Kh7 (*after 26...Kf8 27.Rxd6 Nxd8 28.Ne5 White has a winning attack with the threat 29.Ng6 mate*) 27.Rxd6 Nxd8 (*27...Qxd8 28.Red1 Rb7 29.Rxc6 also wins*) 28.Re7 Qxc4 29.Rdxd7 and the attack goes through, e.g. 29... Ne6 30.b3 Qxc2 (or *30...Qe2 31.Nd4*) 31.Rxe6 and wins.

23...Bxc5 24.Qxc5

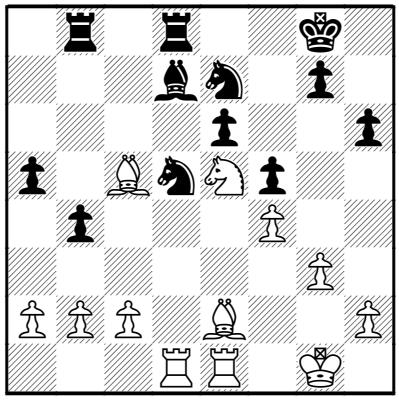
Now White has the two Bishops and, in general, an overwhelming positional advantage. For example, Black is stuck with the weak backward pawn on e6 while White has outposts at c5 and e5 in Black's territory. Note that the heroes who gave White this winning position are the White

Queen Knight (which could have been eliminated by 19...Bd7) and the White Queen Bishop (which could have been eliminated by 10...Ng4) Black waited so long to take these "bad" pieces that he only got the Knight under most unfavorable conditions, while the Bishop is now too strong.

24...Nce7 25.Ne5 Qxc5

Or 25...Rbc8 26.Qxc7 Rxc7 27.Rd2±.

26.Bxc5



26...Rbc8?

A time pressure blunder in a lost position. Better is 26...Nc6 27.Nc4 but even then Black has too many weaknesses to survive for long.

27.Bxe7! 1–0

A piece goes, and after 27… Nxe7 28.Nxd7 Black doesn't even get a pawn for it, for if 28...Rxc2 then 29.Nf6+.

And so Jack was unbooked!

Nonetheless he pulled himself together to convincingly win the tournament: Congratulations!

Taylor, Timothy (2381) – Kretchetov, Alexandre (2444)
[E77] King's Indian Defense
Four Pawns Attack
Southern California State Championship (5)
Monterey Park 28.07.2012

It's a couple of rounds later, and I'm playing Alexandre Kretchetov, who most definitely *does not* read my books. For example, in one game he followed exactly, for nineteen moves, a line I had given in Bird's Opening as completely winning for White—the only problem was, he was following the line with Black!

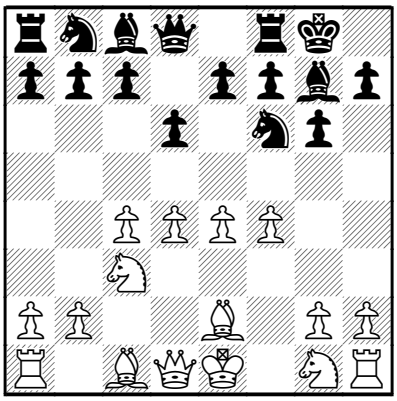
Take a look: 1.f4 e5 2.fxe5 d6 3.exd6 Bxd6 4.Nf3 g5 5.g3 g4 6.Nh4 Ne7 7.d4 Nbc6 8.c3 Ng6 9.Nxg6 hxg6 10.Qd3 Bf5 11.e4 Qe7 12.Bg2 0–0–0 13.Be3 Rxh2 14.Rxh2 Bxg3+ 15.Kd1 Bxh2 16.exf5 Re8 17.fxg6 "The point: White returns the piece to get a pawn to the seventh," is my comment on page 139. 17...Qxe3 18.Qxe3 Rxe3 19.gxf7 Bd6 Now in the book I give the accurate 20.Nd2 (with the threat of Nc4 winning) 20...Bf8 (*20...Kd7 21.Nc4 would win instantly as Black doesn't have ... Rf3*) 21.Bxc6 bxc6 22.Kc2 Re2 23.Rf1 "and White should win with the extra pawn and superior minor piece" which Fritz 12—I was back on Fritz 8 at the time of the Bird book—confirms is still correct: here are a few variations to back that up. 23...Kd7 (*if 23...g3 24.Kd3 Rg2 25.Re1 wins material*) 24.Kd3 Rh2 25.Nc4 g3 (*or 25...Ke6 26.Ne5 Rxb2 27.Nxg4 Rxa2 28.Ne5 c5 29.Ng6 etc.*) 26.Ne5+ Ke6 27.Ng6 Rf2 28.Rxf2 gxf2 29.Ke2 Kxf7 30.Nxf8 Kxf8 31.Kxf2 and wins.

Going back to the actual game, I knew I was supposed to take on c6, but under rapid conditions, I forgot the precise move order (sometimes I think Jack knows my books better than I do!) and played 20.Bxc6 bxc6 21.Nd2 With the White King Bishop off the board, White no longer has a second minor to control f3, which means Nc4 is not such a big threat, and thus White is down a tempo compared to my book line.

Play continued 21...Kd7 22.Kc2 Ke7 23.Rf1 Kf8 24.Nc4 Rh3 25.Kd2 and now it's clear that because of White's bobble, Black has some drawing chances. He could play 25...Rh7 26.Ke3 Rg7! with hopes for survival as White may have to go for a R + 4 vs. R+3 ending on the same side—but Black must avoid 26...Rxf7 27.Rxf7+ Kxf7 28.Nxd6+ cxd6 29.Kf4 and White wins the pawn ending.

Unfortunately for Alexandre, he missed his chance to take advantage of my memory lapse, and the game ended abruptly after 25...g3 26.Ke2 c5 27.dxc5 Bxc5 28.Ne5 g2 29.Nd7+ Kg7 30.Rg1! Bd6 31.f8Q+ Bxf8 32.Rxg2+ Kf7 33.Rf2+ and White won a piece: 1–0 Taylor-Kretchetov, Los Angeles 2006.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Be2 0–0 6.f4



6...e5

In another previous game, Alexandre followed a line I gave in a different book—Beating the King's Indian and Grunfeld—to the point where White gains a big advantage, but unfortunately, once again, he was following the line with Black! 6...Na6 7.Nf3 e5 8.fxe5 dxe5 9.Nxe5 c5 10.Be3 Ng4 11.Nxg4 cxd4 12.Nh6+ Kh8 and now in my book (note on page 77) I point out how White gets a big advantage with 13.Bf2! and quote the following game: 13…Nb4 14.Nd5 Nxd5 15.exd5 Qa5+ 16.Kf1 Bxh6 17.Bxd4+ Kg8 18.Bc3 Qc5 19.Qd4 Qxd4 20.Bxd4 Re8 21.Kf2 Bf5 22.Bf3 Rac8 23.b3 b6 24.Rhe1 Bg7 25.Bxg7 Kxg7 26.Rxe8 Rxe8 27.b4 Rc8 28.Rc1 Kf6 29.c5 bxc5 30.bxc5 Ke5 31.Re1+ 1–0 Komarov-Georgiev, Benasque 1996.

Unfortunately my memory was once again faulty and (this was another rapid game) I quickly played 13.Nb5 which was still good enough for a small edge. After 13...Qh4+ 14.Bf2 Qxh6 15.Bxd4 Qh4+ 16.g3 Qxe4 17.Bxg7+ Kxg7 18.Qd4+ Qxd4 19.Nxd4 my Queenside majority carried the day in the ending: 19...Bd7 20.0–0–0 Rac8 21.Kb1 Nc5 22.Bf3 b6 23.Rhe1 Rfe8 24.b3 f5 25.Nc2 Rxe1 26.Rxe1 Re8 27.Rd1 Re7 28.Kb2 g5 29.Kc3 Kf6 30.b4 Ne6 31.Ne3 Nc7 32.Rd3 f4 33.gxf4 gxf4 34.Ng2 Bf5 35.Rd6+ Ke5 36.Rd2 Ne6 37.Re2+ Kf6 38.Bd5 Bh3 39.Rf2 Bxg2 40.Rxg2 Ng5 41.h4 Re3+ 42.Kd4 Ne6+ 43.Bxe6 Rxe6 44.c5 bxc5+ 45.bxc5 Re1 46.Rc2 Kf5 47.c6 Rd1+ 48.Kc5 Rd8 49.c7 Rc8 50.Kd6 Kg4 51.Kd7 Rf8 52.c8Q Rxc8 53.Kxc8 Kxh4 54.Rh2+ 1–0 Taylor-Kretchetov, Los Angeles 2007.

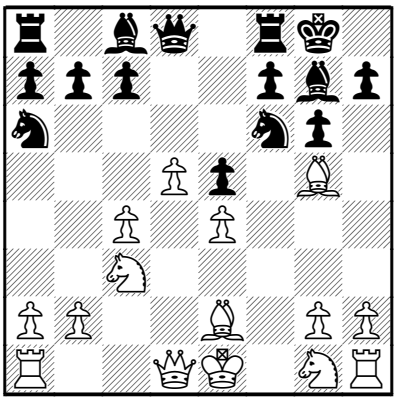
So I was sure I didn't have to worry about prepared lines, and I felt

that if I could remember my own recommendations (!) I had good chances of advantage.

7.fxe5 dxe5 8.d5 Na6

Although my "Beating" book is six years old now, I recalled I had noted this sideline, I remembered my recommendation and happily played it.

9.Bg5!

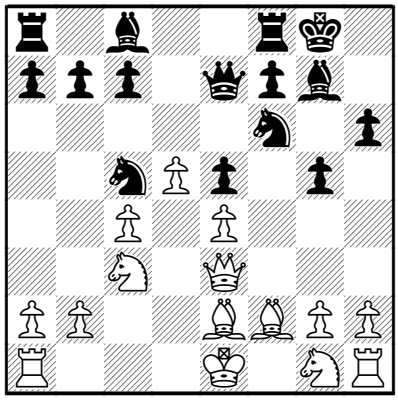


I noted on page 82 that the text was played by Martz (the father of this 4 Pawn attack variation). I don't give the moves of the game in the book, but they are quite instructive and thematically similar to the my main game—in both cases White's present Queenside advantage (space and pawn majority) finally switches to a mating attack down the f-file. Here is the nice Martz win: 9...c6 10.Qd2 Nc5 11.Rd1 Qa5 12.Nf3 Re8 13.0–0 a6 14.Ne1 Ncd7 15.Nd3 Qc7 16.Rf2 b5 17.dxc6 Qxc6 18.cxb5 axb5 19.Nb4 Qc5 20.a3 Rb8 21.Rc1 Qd4 22.Qc2 Bb7 23.Nxb5 Qb6 24.Nc3 Rbc8 25.Qd3 Nc5 26.Qe3 A key central square for the White Queen, also seen in the main game. 26...Qe6 27.Bxf6 Bxf6 28.Ncd5 Be7 29.Bc4 One sees the ideas: Queenside play with the pawn majority followed by an f-file attack on the Black King. 29...Qd6 30.Rcf1 Ne6 31.Rxf7 Decisive here and in the main game! 31...Bg5 (*or 31... Rxc4 32.Qh6 and mates*) 32.Qh3 h6 33.Ba2 Ba6 34.Nxa6 Qxa6 35.Ne7+! Bxe7 (*35...Rxe7 36.Rxe7 Bxe7 37.Bxe6+ is another clean win*) 36.Qxh6 1–0 Martz-Portisch, Wijk aan Zee 1975.

9...h6

I could see that Alexandre, unlike Jack, was unprepared for the (or my!) book line.

10.Bh4 Qe7 11.Qd2 g5 12.Bf2 Nc5 13.Qe3



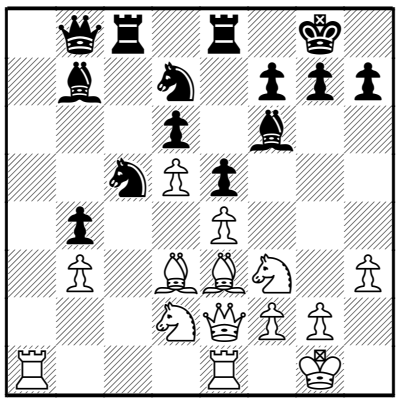
The key Queen move (as played by Martz) shuts off Black's counterplay. If White can consolidate, the wedge at d5 and the Queenside pawn majority will give an enduring advantage.

13...b6 14.h3 a5 15.g4

This is to prevent Black's typical King's Indian counterplay with …f5—if Black can't break somewhere, he will be smothered by White's space advantage.

15...Bd7

At this point my mind wandered back to the decisive 21st match game between Spassky and Petrosian, 1969, when Boris won a crucial victory on his way to the World Championship. Here is the game; note the critical position on move 25: 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0–0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 0–0 8.c3 d6 9.h3 Nd7 10.d4 Bf6 11.Be3 Na5 12.Bc2 Nc4 13.Bc1 Bb7 14.b3 Ncb6 15.Be3 Re8 16.d5 Rc8 17.Nbd2 c6 18.c4 cxd5 19.cxd5 Qc7 20.Rc1 Qb8 21.a4 Nc5 22.axb5 axb5 23.Ra1 b4 24.Qe2 Nbd7 25.Bd3

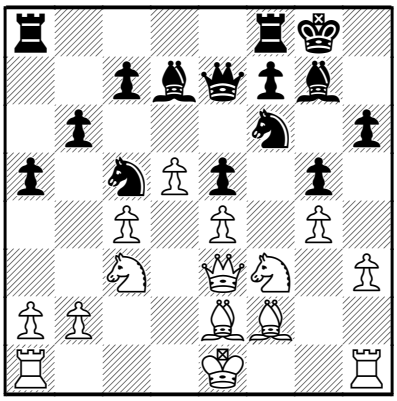


At this point, Petrosian—much like Kretchetov, nearly smothered by White's space advantage—must sac a piece with 25… Bxd5 with complicated and tricky counterplay. Spassky commented afterward that even if the complications after the sac could not be worked out, Black still must play this way, for anything else "leads to inevitable defeat."

However, Spassky opined that Petrosian rejected the move—even though it was his best chance—because it led to "sharp and confused play." So Tigran played the quiet 25…Nxd3 and was mercilessly ground down: 26.Qxd3 Ba8 27.Nc4 Nc5 28.Bxc5 Rxc5 29.Ra4 h6 30.Qd2 Be7 31.Rea1 Bb7 32.Qxb4 f5 33.Ra7 Rc7 34.exf5 Qc8 35.Ne3 e4 36.Nd4 Bf6 37.Rf1 Ba6 38.Rxc7 Qxc7 39.Qa4 Ra8 40.Rd1 Qb8 41.Nc6 Qb7 42.Qxe4 Qxb3 43.Re1 Bc3 44.Rb1 Qa2 45.Nb4 Qa4 46.Qe6+ Kh8 47.Qxd6 Be2 48.Nc6 Qa2 49.Rb8+ Rxb8 50.Qxb8+ Kh7 51.Qg3 Bh5 52.Kh2 Be1 53.f6 1–0 Spassky-Petrosian, Moscow 1969.

As Tal has said, every player has a "chess character" and Alexandre, like Petrosian, prefers positional play and generally avoids "sharp and confused play." So I made my move …

16.Nf3



Knowing that it gave Black a chance to sacrifice—but I didn't expect my opponent to go for it, and I was right!

Like Petrosian, Kretchetov is simply obliged (as any other move leads to inevitable defeat) to enter "sharp and confused play" with the piece sacrifice (of the same Black Queen Bishop!) on g4.

The best and indeed only try is 16...Bxg4! with incalculable results, although our friend Mr. Fritz finally comes up with 17.hxg4 Nxg4 18.Qd2 Nxf2 19.Kxf2 f5 20.Nh2 fxe4+ 21.Kg2 Rf4 22.Ng4 Kh7 23.Raf1 with a slight advantage to White. Nonetheless, Black is still playing in that final position, and has many alternatives earlier.

Now if the colors had been reversed, I would have snapped off the g-pawn immediately, knowing it was an intuitive sac that could not be calculated—and knowing that was Black's only chance. However, my opponent burned a lot of time (perhaps trying to calculate the incalculable) and finally played the quiet …

16… a4?

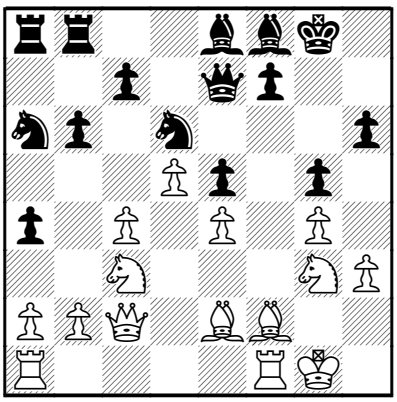
I responded with the consolidating …

17.Nd2

And now Black has no counterplay and must just watch to see how White will build up the attack.

I was sure at this point that I would win the game if I just avoided blunders (which plagued me in this event). I felt that all I had to do was build up and Black's position would fall of its own weight—and as will be seen, this explains why I avoided some tactical opportunities on the way.

17…Ne8 18.Nf1 Nd6 19.Ng3 Rfb8 20.0–0 Be8 21.Qd2 Bf8 22.Qc2 Na6



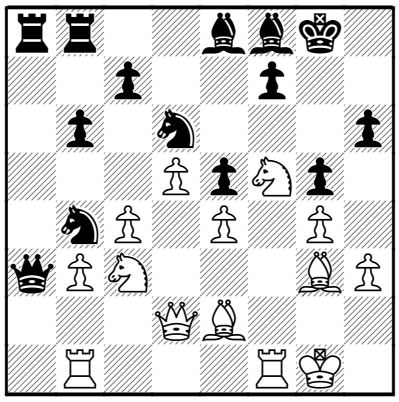
23.b3

Possible is 23.Nxa4!? Nb4 24.Qd2 Rxa4 25.b3. I saw this trick perfectly well but avoided it: in view of White's overwhelming positional superiority, there was no special reason for tactics. I resolved to continue simply.

23…Nb7 24.Nf5 Qa3 25.Rab1

Keeping it simple again: the computer likes 25.Nb1!? with complications favoring White after 25...axb3 26.Qc3 but again, while I saw the idea, I felt there was no need for such tricks.

25…axb3 26.axb3 Nb4 27.Qd2 Nd6 28.Bg3



Another simple move, but now it's clear that the weaknesses in Black's position can no longer be held. Strategically, one sees that Black's demonstration on the Queenside--on the wrong side of the pawn chain--left his pieces out of touch and unable to defend his King when White returned to direct attack.

28…Nxf5

Black can't defend in any normal way: if 28...f6 then 29.Nxd6 cxd6 30.Rxf6 wins.

29.Rxf5 Bg7

With mate in the air, now I was willing to calculate!

Of course I was hoping for 29... Bd7 30.Rxg5+ hxg5 31.Qxg5+ with a winning attack, e.g. 31...Kh7 (*31... Kh8 32.Bxe5+ and 31...Bg7 32.Bxe5 both lead to quick mates*) 32.Qh5+ Kg8 (*another mating line is 32... Kg7 33.Bxe5+ f6 34.Bxf6+ Kxf6 35.Rf1+ Ke7 36.Qe5+ Kd8 37.Rxf8+ Be8 38.Qxe8#*) 33.Bxe5 Bc5+ 34.Kg2 f6 (*Black lasts no longer with 34... Kf8 35.Qh8+ Ke7 36.Bf6+ Kd6 37.e5 mate.*) 35.Bxf6 Be8 36.Qh8+ Kf7 37.Qg7 mate.

Also losing is 29...Bd6 30.h4 Bd7 (*or 30...gxh4 31.Qxh6 f6 32.Qxf6*) 31.Rf6 Bf8 32.hxg5 wins.

Again, note how helpless the Black pieces are, piled up on the Queenside.

30.Bxe5 Bxe5

Now 30...Bd7 is even worse, 31.Rxg5 winning immediately.

31.Rxe5 Na2

31...Bd7 32.Re7 Rd8 33.Rf1 is another simple win.

32.Nxa2 Qd6

Desperation.

The alternative 32...Qxa2 33.Rb2 Qa3 34.Rf5 gives White a simple, pawn up winning position.

33.Rf5 Qg3+ 34.Kf1 Qxh3+ 35.Ke1 Qh1+ 36.Rf1 Qxe4 37.Nc3 Qe5 38.Qd3 Bd7 39.Kd2 Re8

Timothy Taylor, IM, Chess Instructor

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

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

Email: pikearts@yahoo.com
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Website: www.TimothyTaylorArtist.com

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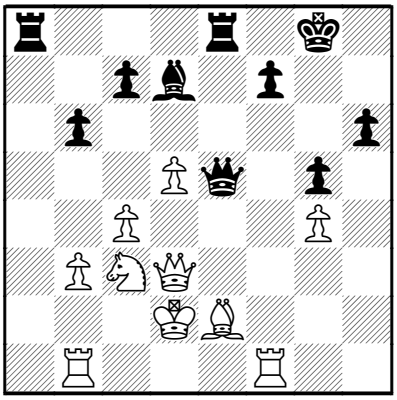
Serious round three chess action: left to right, it's Peters, Krishnan, Stein, Clawitter, Taylor, Akopyan, Kretchetov, and Yanayt.



40.Rbe1

A safe move to make the time control, though 40.Rxf7 could actually have been played here instead of on the next move.

40...Kg7

Black can make a lot of checks to no avail with 40...Ra2+ 41.Nxa2 Qb2+ 42.Qc2 Qd4+ 43.Kc1 Qa1+ 44.Qb1 Qd4 45.Qb2 Qe3+ 46.Kb1 Qe4+ 47.Qc2 Qe7 48.Nc3 Kg7 49.Kb2 and White consolidates with his extra material.

41.Rxf7+! 1-0

Just as in the Martz game, White breaks through to f7. If 41...Kxf7 then 42.Qh7+ Kf6 43.Rf1+ wins the Queen for starters, so Black resigned.

The book is still good!

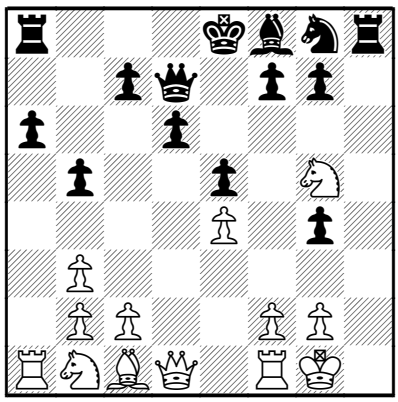
* * * * *

We continue with Varun Krishnan's fourth round win. Starting with this game, he closed out the tournament with four straight wins. - Ed.

Krishnan,Varun (2304) - Taylor,Timothy (2381)
[C72] Ruy Lopez
24th Southern California State Championship (4)
Monterey Park, 15.07.2012

Notes by Varun Krishnan.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 d6 5.0–0 Bg4 6.h3 h5 7.d4 b5 8.Bb3 Nxd4 9.hxg4 Nxb3 10.axb3 hxg4 11.Ng5 Qd7



The Yandemirov gambit, which I was expecting him to play.

12.Qd3

Gashimov's novelty vs. Grischuk; I followed his analysis in the megadatabase.

12...c6

Gashimov's game continued 12...Rb8 13.Rxa6 f6 14.Nc3 fxg5 15.Bxg5±, 1–0 in 30 moves, Gashimov-Grischuk, Baku 2008.

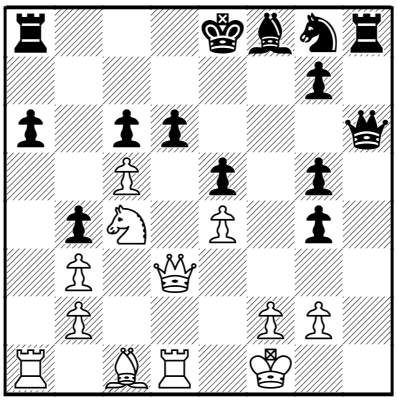
13.c4 b4 14.c5 f6 15.Nd2!

Gashimov gave this as the best move. It looks illogical, but when I looked into this position I realized that White gets a strong positional bind.

15...fxg5 16.Nc4 Qe6

Gashimov gave 16...Qf7 in Chessbase, but during the game, I wasn't sure whether it was Qf7 or Qe6. I couldn't really see the difference, so I played the same way regardless. Now 17.Rd1 Qh5 18.Kf1! (his recommendation) 18...Qh1+ would have transposed to the game.

17.Rd1 Qh6 18.Kf1



18...Qh1+?

This essentially loses the game. I hadn't fully calculated it, but I was confident of Gashimov's analysis (the same position could be reached after 16...Qf7) and he said the position was clearly better for White: 18...d5 19.exd5 Bxc5 20.d6 (*Houdini likes 20.Nxe5 Qd6 21.Nc4 Qe7 (*21... Qh6 22.Ra5+*-) 22.Be3 Bxe3 23.d6 Qe6 24.Qxe3*± *-Ed.*) 20...Qh1+ 21.Ke2 Qxg2 22.Qf5 Qf3+ 23.Qxf3 gxf3+ 24.Kxf3±.

19.Ke2 Qxg2 20.cxd6

The pawn on d6 is unstoppable. I realized that this is winning, as Black has no counterplay after 20... g3 21.d7+ Kd8 22.Be3+-.

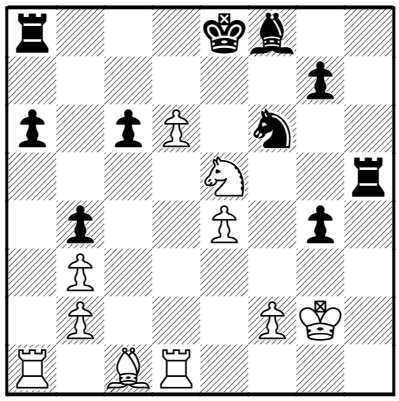
20...Qf3+

Or 20...Rh3 21.Be3!

21.Qxf3 gxf3+ 22.Kxf3+-

White is down two pawns, yet he is completely winning. This is because of the combination of the beautiful Knight on c4, the pawn on d6, and Black's despicable pawn structure.

22...g4+ 23.Kg2 Nf6 24.Nxe5 Rh5



25.Bf4

Possible is 25.d7+ Nxd7 26.Nxd7 Rd8 27.Rxa6, but I wasn't too sure about how to get rid of the pin. I had no intention to cash in right away; I simply wanted to give him no counterchances.

25...g5 26.Bg3 0–0–0

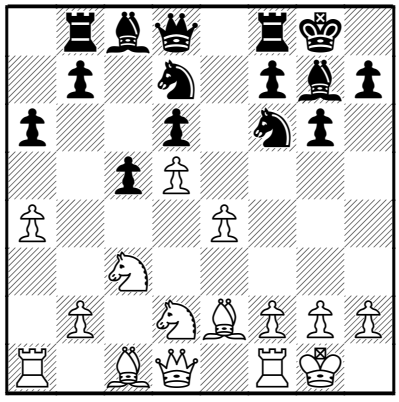
Desperation, but it simply hastens the defeat.

27.Nxc6 Re8 28.e5 Nd7 29.Nxb4 Nxe5 30.Bxe5 Rxe5 31.d7+ 1–0

Yanayt,Eugene (2322) - Clawitter,Craig (2191)
[A74] Benoni Defense
24th Southern California State Championship (5)
Monterey Park, 28.07.2012

Notes by Craig Clawitter.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.Nc3 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.Nf3 g6 7.Nd2 Nbd7 8.e4 Bg7 9.Be2 0–0 10.0–0 a6 11.a4 Rb8



I knew that 11...Re8 was the theoretically approved move, but after a first weekend filled with disappointment, my goal for the final three games was to play as enterprisingly as possible. Another justification I gave myself was that I could see nothing wrong with Black's play after 11...Rb8 and wanted to give it a try. Usually such play meets with tragedy, but as you'll see I received a little help from lady luck in this game. Fortune does actually favor the brave...sometimes.

More usual is 11...Re8 12.Qc2 Ne5 13.Ra3 (*13.f4!? Neg4 14.Nc4 Nxe4 15.Nxe4 Bd4+ 16.Kh1 Nxh2 17.g3 Nxf1 18.Bxf1 Bf5 19.Ncd2 Qe7 20.Bd3 Qf8 21.Nf3 Qh6+ 22.Nh2 c4 0–1, in Kahn-Parkanyi 2000 Budapest, because 23.Qxc4 Rxe4 is more than hopeless for White*) 13...g5 was a Petrosian favorite (as White) and a more reliable line for Black.

12.a5 b5 13.axb6 Nxb6 14.Nb3!

Not a novelty, but a very strong move. The idea is, of course, instead of the knight going it's usual route to c6, (c4-a5-c6) it takes a more "scenic" route (b3-a5-c6).

14...Re8 15.Qc2

In my database Black somehow won both games that reached this position. I was not as pleased with my position and lashed out with:

15...Nh5 N 16.g4!?

(?!) To be honest, I did not even consider this move, and it does not seem necessary as, 16.Na5 Ra8 (*16... Qh4 was actually my intention but it is weaker because of 17.Nc6 Ra8 18.Qb3!*±) 17.Bxh5 gxh5 18.Re1 Bd7

cr *Craig Clawitter: enterprising!*

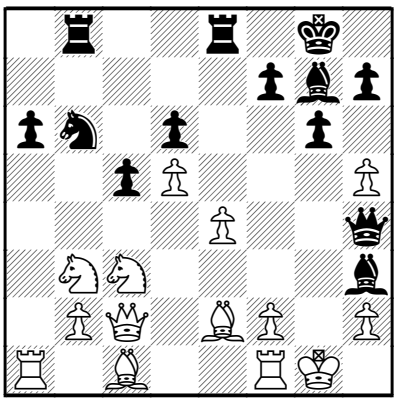
19.Qd3 f5 20.Qg3 Qf6 21.Bg5 Qg6 22.Nc6 is good enough for an advantage, but I have to agree Black has chances to "mix it up".

16...Qh4

Again, enterprising! (See the note to Black's 11th move.) I took a stroll with another of the candidates after playing this move almost instantly, as I wanted to seem confident and I thought otherwise I'd have a depressing position. Besides, I was already getting short on time.

Objectively 16...Nf6 17.g5 Nxe4 18.Nxe4 Nxd5 19.Bf3 Bf5 20.Re1 Nb4 21.Qd2 Re6∞ is a better course of action.

17.gxh5 Bh3



18.Be3?

All my swashbuckling play paid off; it's hard to believe such a natural move is a huge mistake.

Better was 18.Rd1 Bxc3 19.Qxc3 Rxe4 20.Bh6 f6. Possibly I was too hard on the soundness of Black's sacrifice, as this position is not at all clear, e.g. 21.Re1 Na4 22.Qg3 Qxg3+ 23.hxg3 Rxb3 24.f3 Rd4 25.Bd1 Rxd1 26.Raxd1 Kf7 with a very unclear ending.

Or 18.Re1 Nxd5!! 19.Nxd5 (*not 19.exd5?? Qg4+!! 20.Bxg4 Rxe1 mate*) 19...Rxe4, again with an absolutely insane position.

After 18.h6 Be5! (*18...Bxf1?! 19.Bxf1 Bxc3 20.Qxc3 Qg4+ 21.Qg3 Rxe4 22.Rxa6 c4 23.Nd2 Qxg3+ 24.fxg3 Re1 25.Ra1 Ra8 26.Rb1*±) 19.f4 Bxf1 20.fxe5 (*20.Bxf1 Bxf4 21.Bxf4 Qxf4 22.Qd2 Qg4+ 23.Kh1 Nd7*) 20... Bxe2 21.Qxe2 Nd7 22.e6 fxe6 23.Nd2 Nf6 is unclear to say the least, but I wouldn't be surprised if 18. h6 was White's best try for an advantage.

18...Nc4!

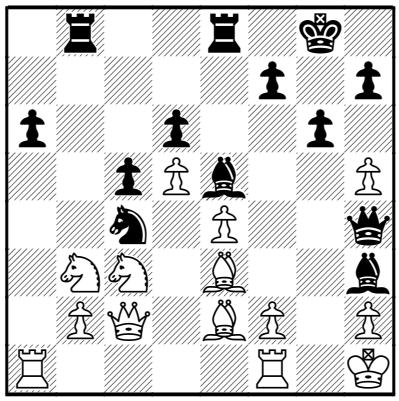
18...Bxc3 19.bxc3 Rxe4 20.Kh1 Bxf1 21.Bxf1 Nxd5 was also an interesting course.

19.Kh1?

A mistake, but it's hard for me to believe that there are many (computer-less) humans that can defend such positions.

Best was 19.hxg6! Bxc3! 20.bxc3 (*not 20.Qxc3? Qxe4 21.gxf7+ Kxf7 22.Bh5+ Kg8 23.f3 Qxe3+–+*) 20...Rxb3! 21.f3 (*21.Qxb3? Qxe4! 22.gxf7+ Kxf7 23.Bh5+ Kg7 24.f3 Qxe3+ 25.Rf2 Qe1+ 26.Rf1 Qd2 27.Rf2 Re1+ 28.Rxe1 Qxe1+ 29.Rf1 Qxf1 mate*) 21...Bxf1 22.Rxf1 (*22.Bxf1? Rb2–+*) 22...Nxe3 23.Qxb3 Qg5+ 24.Kf2 Nxf1 25.gxf7+ Kxf7 26.Bxf1 Qh4+ 27.Ke3 Qh6+ 28.Kd3 Qxh2, and there is still a technical task for Black.

19...Be5



Of course, and now the point of 18...Nc4! is revealed: 20. f4 hangs the Bishop on e3.

20.Bxc4?

Allowing a nice mate, but it was no longer possible to save White's position.

After 20.Rg1 Bf1 21.Rg3 Nxe3 22.Qc1 (*not 22.Rxe3?? Qxh2 mate*) 22...Bg2+ 23.Kg1 Rxb3 24.Qxe3 Bf4 25.Qd3 Bxe4 26.Qxa6 Bxg3 27.fxg3 Qg5 28.Rf1 Rxb2 29.Qc6 Qe3+ 30.Rf2 Rf8 31.Nxe4 Qxe4, Black should mop up.

20...Bg2+! 21.Kxg2 Qxh2+ 22.Kf3 Qxh5+ 23.Kg2 Qg4+ 24.Kh1 Qh3+ 25.Kg1 Qh2 mate

An enjoyable game!

Two very wild games conclude our coverage. In the first, Jack takes that risky third sacrificed pawn. It's touch and go after that!

In the final game, we see Varun's shocking but sound Queen sacrifice! Be sure to take a look at the wild variations at the end. - Ed.

Clawitter,Craig (2191) - Peters,Jack (2432)
[B23] Sicilian Defense, Grand Prix Attack
24th Southern California Championship (6)
Monterey Park, 28.07.2012

Notes by IM Jack Peters.

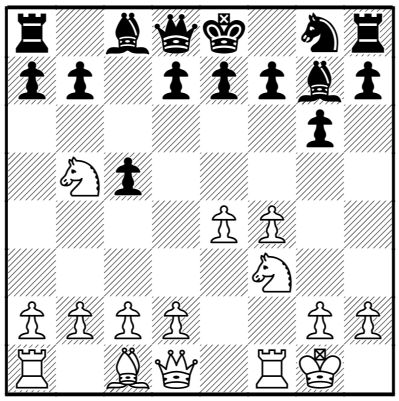
1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.f4 g6

A safe response to the Grand Prix Attack.

4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Bb5 Nd4 6.0–0 Nxb5

Black has no worries after 6...a6 7.Bd3 d6, but I hoped to save time by doing without ...a7-a6.

7.Nxb5



7...Nf6?!

I should know better than to provoke an attacker! At least it led to an exciting game.

Reliable is 7...d6 8.c4 Nf6 9.d3 0–0= as played by Kudrin.

The sharper 7...d5!? 8.exd5 a6 9.Nc3 Nf6 10.d4 Nxd5 11.dxc5 Nxc3 looks promising too. Against 7...d5 Khachiyan used the murkier 8.e5 d4!? 9.c3 a6 10.Na3 to defeat John Donaldson in the 2009 Pacific Southwest Open. However, Black's position remained satisfactory after 10...d3 11.b4 cxb4 12.cxb4 Nh6 13.Bb2 0–0∓.

8.e5 Nd5 9.d4! Nc7

Also 9...Qb6 10.c4± favors White.

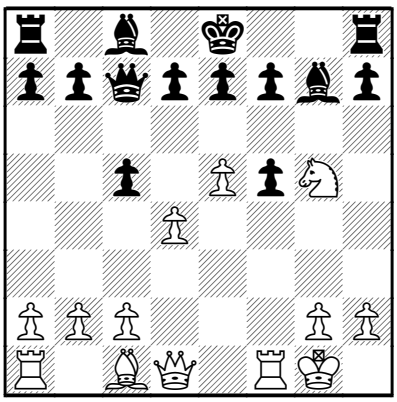
10.Nxc7+

White can keep an edge with 10.a4 cxd4 11.Qxd4 d6 12.Qc4.

10...Qxc7 11.f5!?

I expected 11.d5 d6=.

11...gxf5 12.Ng5!⩱



Suddenly White has dangerous threats. The first is 13.Qh5.

12...d5

Black could go wrong with:

a) 12...h6?? 13.Nxf7! Kxf7 14.Qh5+ Kg8 15.Rxf5+-.

b) 12...e6? 13.Qh5 d5 14.exd6 Bxd4+ 15.Kh1 Qd7 16.c3 Be5 17.Re1 Bxd6 18.Rd1! (*even stronger than 18.Nxe6*) 18...Qe7 19.Rxd6 Qxd6 20.Nxf7+-.

c) 12...0–0? 13.Qh5 h6 14.Rxf5→.

But 12...Qb6 13.Rxf5 Qg6 might hold, as 14.Rxf7?! Bh6 15.Rf3 lets Black sacrifice his Queen by 15...Bxg5 16.Rg3 Bxc1! 17.Rxg6 Be3+ 18.Kh1 hxg6=.

13.c3

The most critical variation begins 13.Qh5 e6 14.Nxh7. I had assumed that 14...cxd4 would solve Black's problems, but 15.Bg5 (*intending 16. Bf6*) 15...Bxe5? (*Black must rely on the precarious 15...Bd7! 16.Bf6 Bxf6 17.Nxf6+ Ke7 18.Qg5 Kf8*∞) 16.Rae1 leaves Black helpless against 17.Qh6 and 18.Nf6+.

13...cxd4 14.cxd4 Qb6 15.Kh1 Bd7

I refrained from 15...h6 because 16.Nh3 Bd7 17.Nf4⩲ repositions the Knight very strongly.

16.Rf3!

White still has adequate compensation. I imagined the Rook giving me trouble from b3, c3, g3, or h3. And where am I going to hide my King?

16...Rg8!?

Trying to use one of Black's few assets, the half-open g-file.

I did not care for 16...Rc8 17.Rb3 Qa6 18.Ra3 Qg6 19.Rg3.

17.Rb3 Qa6 18.Bd2?!

Houdini claims full equality after 18.Rg3.

18...h6

Not 18...Ba4? 19.Qh5.

19.e6□ hxg5

Perhaps 19...Bxe6 20.Nxe6 fxe6 improves. I feared 21.Rc1 Bxd4 22.Rc7, overlooking the defense 22... Bb6−+. White should try 21.Rg3 instead of 21.Rc1.

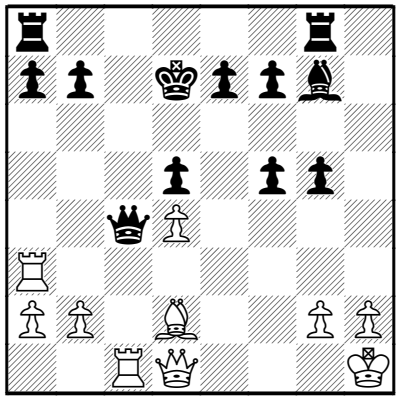
20.exd7+ Kxd7 21.Ra3

The active 21.Qh5! Raf8 22.Rc1 keeps Black under pressure.

21...Qc4??

I wanted to avoid repetition by 21...Qb6 22.Rb3 Qa6 23.Ra3, but the right way to do it is 21...Qd6! 22.Qa4+ (*or 22.Bxg5 Bxd4*∓) 22...Qc6 23.Qb3 Rgc8!, stopping Ra1–c1. Even so, Black must return material with 24.Ra5!? e6 25.Rc5 Qa6 26.Ra5 Qc4 27.Qxb7+ Qc7∓.

22.Rc1!



22...Qxd4

Violating one of my most cherished maxims: never take the third pawn. Now White can renew his attack, and, for the first time, demonstrate an advantage.

But 22...Qb5? wouldn't help, as White breaks through with 23.Rb3 Qa6 24.Rxb7+!, foreseeing 24... Qxb7?! 25.Qa4+ Kd6 26.Bb4+ Ke6 27.Rc6+.

23.Qc2??

Hitting c7 and f5 while setting up Ra3-d3. This looks terrific, but it's actually an error that should lose.

After the correct 23.Qb3!, Black cannot stand 23...Qxd2? 24.Qxb7+ Ke6 25.Ra6+ Ke5 26.Qc7+ Ke4 27.Ra4+ or 23...Qxb2? 24.Qa4+ Kd8 25.Be3, threatening 26.Bb6+. Only 23...Qb6! 24.Qxd5+ Ke8 puts up a fight, and I would still bet on White after 25.Rd3 Kf8□ *(not 25...Rd8? 26.Ba5! Rxd5 27.Rxd5+-)* 26.Bxg5→.

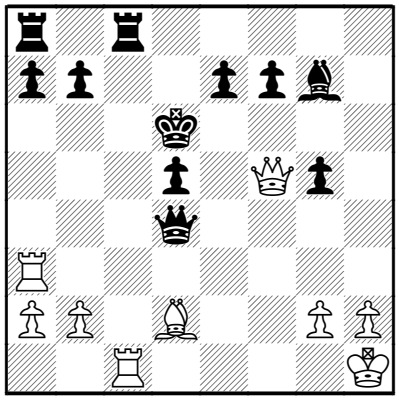
23...Rgc8?

I spotted the winning idea but carried it out inaccurately. Black should use the other Rook, 23...Rac8!, so he can parry 24.Rc3 Rxc3 25.Qxf5+ Kd6□ 26.Bxc3 by 26...Qf4! 27.Qc2 Bxc3 28.Qxc3 e5∓, consolidating.

24.Qxf5+?!

Black would not mind 24.Rc3! Rxc3 25.Bxc3? Qe4 26.Bxg7 because 26... Qxc2 27.Rxc2 f6 traps the Bishop. But 25.Qxf5+! Kd6 26.Bxc3 saves White.

24...Kd6!



25.Rxc8??

Short of time, White overlooks Black's quick counterattack.

Instead, 25.Rac3! would force Black to find 25...Qxd2! *(useless is 25...e6? 26.Qxg5±)* 26.Rxc8 e6! 27.Qc2 Qxc2 28.R8xc2 f5∓ to keep a shred of advantage.

25...Qxd2−+ 26.g3

Other pawn moves lose too:

26.h3 Qe1+ 27.Kh2 Bd4−+.

26.h4 Qe1+ 27.Kh2 Qe5+ 28.Qxe5+ Bxe5+ 29.Kh3 Rxc8−+.

26.g4 Rxc8 27.Qxc8 Qe1+ 28.Kg2 Qe2+ 29.Kh3 Qf1+ 30.Kg3 Be5 mate.

26...Qe1+ 27.Kg2 Qe2+

White can stop mate only by abandoning the Rook at c8.

28.Kh3

Or 28.Kg1 Rxc8 29.Qxc8?! Bd4+ 30.Kh1 Qf1 mate.

28...e6 29.Qc2 Qf1+ 30.Kg4 Rxc8 31.Qxc8 Qf5+ 32.Kh5 g4+ 0–1

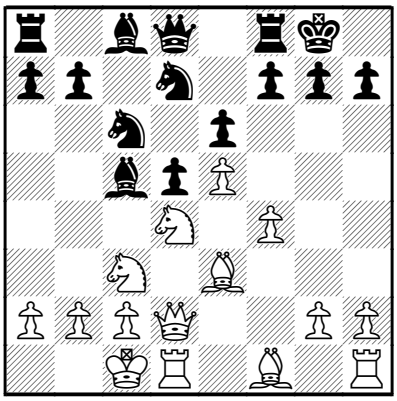
Krishnan,Varun (2304) - Stein,Jeremy (2146)
[C11] French Defense
24th Southern California State Championship (7)
Monterey Park, 29.07.2012

Notes by Varun Krishnan.

1.e4 e6

A total surprise. I was expecting a Sicilian instead.

2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.f4 c5 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Be3 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Bc5 9.Qd2 0–0 10.0–0–0



This is one of the main lines of the French system with 4.e5. These opposite-wing castling positions very often lead to complications.

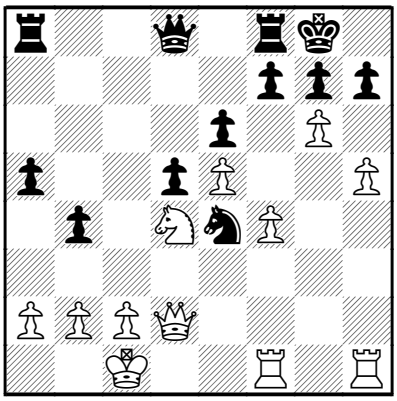
10...a6 11.h4 Nxd4 12.Bxd4 b5 13.h5 b4 14.Ne2 a5 15.g4 Ba6 16.g5 Bxd4

This was the first departure from theory: Bxe2, Qb6, and Qc7 have all been played before.

17.Nxd4 Bxf1 18.Rdxf1

I thought I had a slight advantage here because my pawns were slightly more advanced than his.

18...Nc5 19.g6! Ne4



20.h6!

The 2013 State Championship

by Jack Peters

As you know, the SCCF Board has announced that the 2012 Southern California Championship was the SCCF's last invitational state championship. The Board says it cannot afford to run the eight-player invitational, which costs about $2,300 annually, and therefore the highest-scoring Southern California resident in the 2013 Southern California Open (the Labor Day weekend tournament) will be considered the 2013 state champion.

This is a gigantic step backward. The SCCF started the series of invitational state championships in 1989 precisely because the Southern California Open was not suited to determining the state's best player. It's an excellent tournament, but no large Swiss-system event with non-local entrants could possibly do the job properly in a state filled with worthy contenders. Today, when Southern California can boast three grandmasters, eight IMs who play frequently, and a fine crop of young talents, we need an invitational championship more than ever.

Perhaps you remember the USCF's decision to kill the U.S. Championship in 2000, and Yasser Seirawan's efforts to preserve the tournament. He recruited donors who paid for an improved U.S. Championship for several years. Later, they returned control of it to the USCF. We can do the same in Southern California.

Let's preserve the state championship, the Candidates tournament, and the SCCF's system of qualifying events. Randy Hough has volunteered his services as TD for a Candidates tournament, and I think we can find a low-cost or free playing site. That leaves money as the only major obstacle.

It's not well known, but much of the money for the state championship customarily comes from donations by chess fans. Inexplicably, the SCCF did not conduct an effective fundraising drive for the 2012 championship. For 2013, I will take over the job of fundraiser, and I promise that the state championship won't cost the SCCF a penny. Don't be surprised if I buttonhole you at the next tournament, asking for your contribution. Let's make it a great tournament!

A Queen sac. I saw this move and couldn't resist it, especially when I saw the game continuation, which wins for White.

20.Qd3± didn't look forceful enough. I was looking for some wild tactics, because that was what I was in the mood for!

20...fxg6!

The only defense.

After taking the Queen with 20... Nxd2, 21.gxh7+ leads to a forced win for White: 21...Kxh7 (*or 21...Kh8 22.hxg7+ Kxg7 23.h8Q++-*) 22.hxg7+ Kg8 23.gxf8Q+ Kxf8 24.Rh8+ Ke7 25.Rxd8+-.

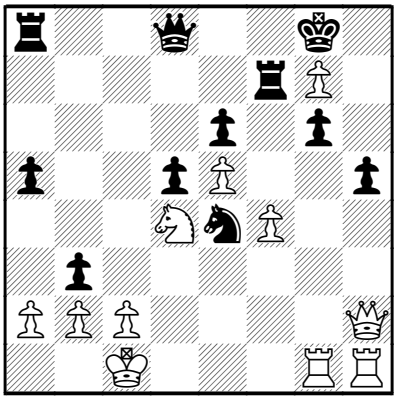
21.Qh2

The crucial moment of the game. Black has 3 possible defenses: Rf7, gxh6, and Re8. It is impossible for anyone but Mr.Houdini to choose which one, and Black made the wrong choice.

21...Re8?

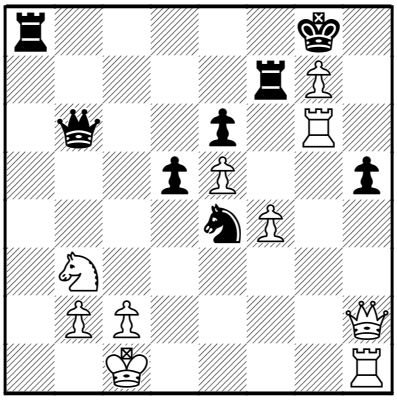
21...gxh6 leads to a clear White advantage: 22.Nxe6 Qe7 23.Nxf8 Rxf8 24.Rd1±. Not 24.Qxh6? Ng3=.

21...Rf7 was actually the best move, however, but insane: 22.hxg7 h5 23.Rfg1. I thought this was winning (as in the game), but Black has a totally illogical and insane 'shocker' which both of us missed: 23...b3!!



What's the point of this move, you might wonder. Well, White doesn't have the time to play 24.Rxg6 because of 24...bxa2 25.Qxh5 a1Q mate.

a) 24.axb3 is the crucial line: 24... a4 25.Rxg6 axb3 26.Nxb3 Qb6!



Black gets counterplay connected with the-a file and the e3 square. Now it is White who has to be very careful: 27.Rh6! (*Not 27.Qxh5?? which shockingly leads to a forced mate for Black. See* ***Inside Moves No. 8****, page 4.*) 27...Ra1+ 28.Nxa1 Qe3+ 29.Kb1 Nd2+ 30.Qxd2 Qxd2 31.Nb3 Qxf4 32.R6xh5. This is a totally unclear ending, but objectively it probably is dynamically balanced.

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Jeremy Stein: his first final

b) If instead 24.cxb3 (*after 23... b3!!*) then Rxg7 25.Nxe6 Qc8+. This is why Black opened the c-file!

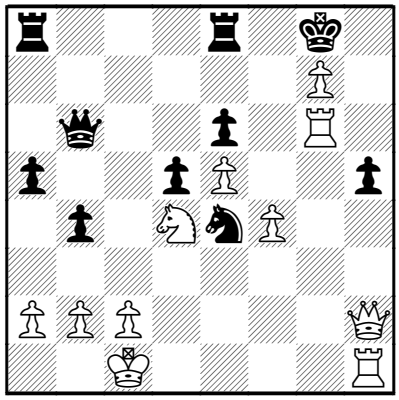
c) If 24.Nxb3 then 24...Rxg7 and maybe White has the slightest of pulls here but nothing major.

d) *Houdini reveals 24.a3! and even if 24...Qb6 25.c3 Nxc3! 26.bxc3 Rc8, he continues with 27.Qd2! Rxc3+ 28.Qxc3 Rc7 29.Qxc7 Qxc7+ 30.Kb2 Qa7 31.Rd1 Qxg7 32.Rc1, and claims White is winning. - Ed.*

22.hxg7

Now White is winning in short order. If Black tries 22...b3 then White just mates with 23.Qxh7+ Kf7 24.g8Q.

22...h5 23.Rfg1 Qb6 24.Rxg6!



This is mate.

24...Qxd4 25.Qxh5 Kf7 26.g8Q+ Rxg8 27.Rxg8+ Kxg8 28.Qg6+ Kf8 29.Rh8+ 1–0 ♜

Solutions to Final Points

From page 55.

1.White wins a piece from the overworked Black Queen. ***27.Bxg6! Qxg6 28.Qxd7+ Qf7 29.Qc6 Re6 30.Qc3+ Kh7 31.Rd1 h5 32.Rd8 Qf6 33.Qd3+ Kh6 34.Rd7 Qg6 35.Qc3 Rc6?? 36.Qh8+ 1–0***. Williams - O'Donnell, SMBCC July Quads (2), 2012.

2.The backwards diagonal does it: ***41.Be8! d4 42.cxd4 Ra7 43.d5 Ra8 44.Bxa4 Rxa4 45.d6 Ra5 46.Rd1 1–0***. Peters - Akopyan, SCCF State Championship, Monterey Park 2012.

3.It all comes together with ***39...b2! 40.Rxe4 b1Q+ 41.Kg2 Qxe4+ 42.f3 Nxe3+ 0–1***. Stein - Yanayt, SCCF State Championship, Monterey Park 2012.

4.White can win a piece with 31.Rdc1! since the Knight can't be guarded, and 31...Nd6 *(31...e5 32.Qd5 only delays it)* meets with 32.Rxc7 Qxc7 33.a7, and the Queening threat decides. White played ***31.Qd8+*** instead and eventually lost. Stein - Yanayt, SCCF State Championship, Monterey Park 2012.

5.Best is ***29.d7!*** Also winning was 29.dxe7+ Bxe7 *(29...Kxc7 30.exf8Q)* 30.e6 *(threatening 31.Ra7)* 30... Bxe6 31.Rxe7 Kxe7 32.Bxb8+-. ***29... Kxc7 30.e6+ Kd8 31.Bxb8 fxe6 32.dxc8Q+ Kxc8 33.Be5 1–0***. Akobian - Pruess, 2nd Metropolitan International, Los Angeles 2012.

6.White walks the King in with ***35.Ka6! Rbb8*** (35...Rc7 36.exf6 Rcc8 37.Rxg7++-; 35...Rb6+ 36.Ka7 establishing a bind on the Queenside pieces 36...dxe5 37.fxe5 fxe5 38.Bxe5+-; 35...Re7 36.exf6 Ree8 37.Rxg7+ Rxg7 38.Rxg7+ Kf8 and now White exploits the bind with 39.Re7 Rd8 40.Kb7 c4 41.Ba5 winning the Knight.) ***36.e6+ Kf8 37.Ka7! 1-0***. White concludes elegantly. If now 37...Rb5 *(37...Re8 38.Bxf6+-)* then best is 38.Bxf6 Nc7 39.Bxg7+ Ke7 40.Bf6+ Kxf6 41.Rxg8 Nxd5 42.R1g6+ Kf5 43.Rf8+ Ke4 44.f5. Arnold - Altounian, 21st Metro GM Los Angeles 2012.

7.Black goes after the Queen with ***17...Ne4! 18.Qe5*** If 18.Nxe4, Qxe4+ loses the Rook on b1, and after 18.Qc7 e5 19.Qxe5 Nxc3+ 20.Bxc3 Re8, Black wins the Queen followed by a strong attack on the centralized White King. Finally, after 18.Qh3 e5 19.Qxf5 Bxf5 20.Bxe5 Nxd2 Black's a piece up. ***18...Qg4+! 19.Ngf3*** 19.f3 drops big material starting with 19...Qxg2+ 20.Ke1 Qxd2+. ***19... Bd6!*** The Queen is trapped. ***20.h3 Qg6*** and Black won after ***21.Qxg7+ Qxg7 22.Bxg7 Nxd2 23.Bxh8 Nxb1 24.Bd4 Bxb5+ 25.Kd1 Rc8 26.Re1 Nxc3+ 27.Bxc3 Rxc3 0–1***. Breckenridge - Yankovsky, 17th Pacific Coast Open, Agoura Hills 2012. See page 14 for the whole game.

8.It's tricky, but White can win it with 29.Rd4! and now: **a)** 29...Qc1+ 30.Re1. **b)** 29...Qxh4 30.Rxd8 mate. **c)** 29...Rxd4 30.Qxd4+- and Black's King situation is fatal, with no help from 30...Be6 31.h4 Qg6 32.Bxe6. **d)** 29...Rf8 30.Qf4! *(heading for c7)* Qxf4 *(30...Be6 31.Rxe6 Rae8 32.Qf3+- guarding the back rank mate)* 31.Rxf4 b5 32.Rh4!, and the mate threat is deadly. White eventually lost after ***29.Qxg5***. Clawitter - Krishnan, SCCF State Championship, Monterey Park 2012.

9.This one wasn't hard for Houdini. White recovers the use of his Bishop with 41.Bc6!! *(not 41.Rg8?? Qxf2+=)* 41...Qxf2+ *(If 41...Rxc6 then 42.Qxe7+ forces mate, and if 41... Rf7 then 42.Rg8 Qf6 43.Rg7+ wins big material.)* 42.Bg2 and now that the White King is safer, White can continue the winning attack on the Black King. Play might continue 42...Qb2 43.Rg8 Qe5+ 44.Kg1 Qa1+ 45.Bf1, and Black has no answer to the threat of Qg6 mate. White lost after playing ***41.Kg2***. Yanayt - Kretchetov, SCCF State Championship, Monterey Park 2012.

Enrico Sevillano Tops 21st Metro FIDE, Gets Final GM Norm

August 3-7, 2012

IM **Enrico Sevillano** took first in the 21st Metropolitan FIDE Invitational and earned his third GM norm with a score of 6-3. He won his final three games after losses earlier to his lowest and highest rated opponents. IM Roman Yankovsky and GM Robert Hess finished a half-point behind at 5½-3½. Yankovsky started strong, losing twice in the first five rounds without dropping out of first, but did not quite keep up with Sevillano.

Third, a full point behind, was 19-year-old GM-Elect Marc Arnold at 5-4, who led the tournament most of the way, only to lose in the final round to Hess.

Finishing fifth with 4½-4½ were GM Dejan Bojkov and IMs Mackenzie Molner and Levon Altounian. Eighth at 3½-5½ were GM Melikset Khachiyan and IM Andranik Matikozyan. Tenth was FM Alexandre Kretchetov.

The tournament, held at the Radisson LAX, featured three GMs, one GM-elect, and five IMs.

Marc Arnold of New York had a great summer, scoring his final GM norm at the World Open, and winning the US Junior Championship a few weeks later in St. Louis. He's invited to the US Championship next year.

FIDE officially awarded GM titles to both Sevillano and Arnold at the September assembly.

Bojkov,Dejan (2556) -
Sevillano,Enrico (2526)
[C05] French Defense
21st Metro GM (2)
Los Angeles, 04.08.2012

Notes by the Editor.

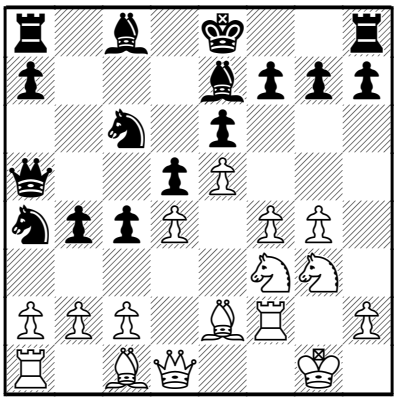
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.f4 c5 6.Ngf3

By far, the most often played line is 6.c3 Nc6 7.Ndf3 Qb6.

6...Nc6

This position is often seen, but not between two 2500+ players.

7.Nb3 c4 8.Nbd2 b5 9.Be2 Qa5 10.0–0 b4 11.Rf2 Nb6 12.Nf1 Na4 13.g4 Be7 14.Ng3

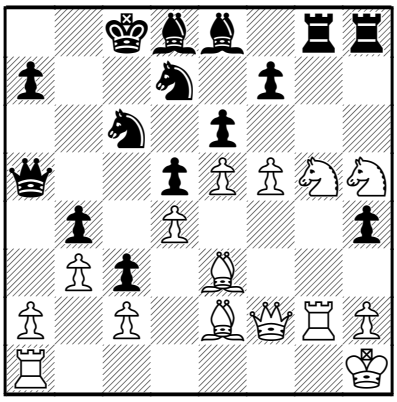


Both sides carry out their plans, White advancing on the Kingside, Black on the Queenside.

14...g6 15.Rb1 Bd7 16.Be3 0–0–0

Both sides have now castled on opposite wings, with their pawn protection far forward.

17.Kh1 Rdg8 18.Qf1 h5 19.gxh5 gxh5 20.Ng5 h4 21.Nh5 Be8 22.Rg2 Nb6 23.Ra1 Nd7 24.b3 c3 25.Qf2 Bd8 26.f5



White continues the Kingside advance, confident of the King's protection with the closed center.

	Round by Round Pairings, Colors, and Scores		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Arnold, Marc	USA	W10	W2	B3	W4	B5	W6	B7	W8	B9
	2540		**1**	1½	**2**	2½	**3**	**4**	**4½**	**5**	5
2	Molner, Mackenzie	USA	W9	B1	W10	W3	B4	W5	B6	W7	B8
	2491		½	1	1½	2	2½	3	3½	4½	4½
3	Matikozyan, Andranik	ARM	W8	B9	W1	B2	W10	W4	B5	W6	B7
	2400		0	½	1	1½	2	2½	2½	3½	3½
4	Khachiyan, Melikset	USA	W7	B8	W9	B1	W2	B3	W10	W5	B6
	2478		½	½	1	1½	2	2½	3	3	3½
5	Sevillano, Enrico	USA	W6	B7	W8	B9	W1	B2	W3	B4	W10
	2526		0	1	**2**	2	2½	3	4	**5**	**6**
6	Kretchetov, Alexandre	RUS	B5	B10	W7	B8	W9	B1	W2	B3	W4
	2343		**1**	1	1	1	1½	1½	2	2	2½
7	Bojkov, Dejan	BUL	B4	W5	B6	B10	W8	B9	W1	B2	W3
	2556		½	½	1½	2	**3**	3	3½	3½	4½
8	Yankovsky, Roman	RUS	B3	W4	B5	W6	B7	B10	W9	B1	W2
	2468		**1**	**2**	**2**	**3**	**3**	3	4	4½	5½
9	Hess, Robert	USA	B2	W3	B4	W5	B6	W7	B8	B10	W1
	2624		½	1	1½	2½	**3**	**4**	4	4½	5½
10	Altounian, Levon	USA	B1	W6	B2	W7	B3	W8	B4	W9	B5
	2431		0	1	1½	2	2½	3½	4	4½	4½

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

26...Qb6 27.f6

Taking on e6 opens up Black's Bishop on e8: 27.fxe6 fxe6 28.Nxe6 Rxg2 29.Qxg2 Bxh5 30.Bxh5 Rxh5 31.Qxd5 Ne7 with a piece for two pawns.

27...Bc7

According to Houdini, best is the extremely complicated 27...Ndxe5 28.Ng7 *(also possible is 28.dxe5 d4 29.Bf4 d3 30.Be3 Qa5 31.Bxd3 Rxh5 32.Ne4 Rxg2 33.Nd6+ Kd7 34.Qxg2±)* 28...h3 29.Rg3 Nd7 30.Nxe8 Rxe8 31.Nxf7 *(31.Rxh3?! Rxh3 32.Nxh3 Bxf6∓)* 31...Bxf6 32.Nd6+ Kb8 33.Nxe8 Rxe8 34.Qf4+±.

28.Ng7+- Nd8 29.Bh5 Nf8

Black has managed to position three minor pieces on the back rank!

30.Nxe8 Rxh5 31.Nxf7 Rxg2 32.Qxg2 Nxf7 33.Qg8 Nd8

Black can take on e5 a move early with 33...Rxe5 34.Qxf7 Nd7 35.Qg8 Kb7 36.dxe5 Qxe3 37.Nxc7±.

34.Qxf8?

White can trade down with a pawn up with 34.Nxc7! Qxc7 35.Qxf8 a5 36.Qe7 Rh8 37.Qxc7+ Kxc7 38.Rg1+-.

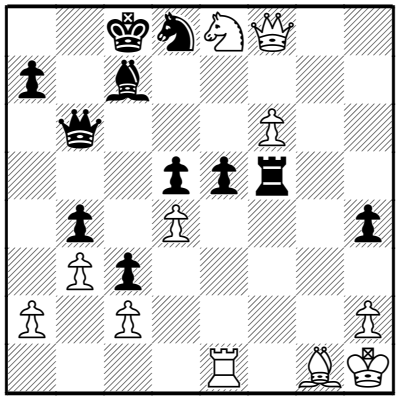
34...Rxe5! 35.Bg1

35.dxe5 Qxe3 will allow Black too many checks!

35...Rf5 36.Re1

36.a3 bxa3 37.Qxa3 keeps a plus.

36...e5??



36...Bb8 keeps it close after 37.Qe7 Rf4 38.Ng7 Bd6 39.Qe8 Rxf6 40.Nxe6 a6 41.Nxd8 Qxd8 42.Qc6+ Bc7 43.Qa8+ Bb8.

37.dxe5??

White can win it with 37.Qg7! threatening to pin Black's Rook and to advance the f-pawn, and also to capture the pawn on e5.

a. 37...exd4 38.Qg4, pinning the Rook.

b. 37...Qc6 38.Nxc7 Qxc7 39.Qg4 Qd7 40.dxe5, and Black's unprotected pawns lose it for him.

c. 37...Rf4 38.dxe5 d4 39.Nxc7 Qc6+ 40.Qg2 Kxc7 41.e6+-.

d. 37...e4 38.Qg4 Qe6 39.Ng7 Rf4 40.Qxf4 Bxf4 41.Nxe6 Nxe6 42.Rf1 Kd7 43.f7 Bh6 *(43...Ke7?? 44.f8Q+ Kxf8 45.Be3+-)* 44.Rf5 with a winning ending.

e. 37...Ne6 38.Qg8 Kb7 39.dxe5 d4 40.Nd6+ Bxd6 41.Qh7++- picking up the Rook.

37...d4!

The only move, but good enough. Everything else loses! Black threatens mate on the long diagonal.

38.Qg8 Qc6+ 39.Qg2

And the Knight on e8 is loose, too.

39...Qxe8 40.Bxd4 Qe6 41.Bxa7 Rxe5 42.Rd1 Re1+ 43.Rxe1 Qxe1+ 44.Bg1 Qe6 45.Bc5 h3 46.Qf3 Nf7 47.Bf2 Ne5

Black wins the f6 pawn, deciding this very difficult game.

48.Qe4 Qxf6 0–1 ♜

Solutions to Inside Moves

From page 4.

1.It's a backward attacking move: ***30.R7e4 1-0***. The threat of 31.Rg4+ is going to cost Black big material. Asaria - Saputra, Pacific Coast Open U2100, Agoura Hills 2012.

2.White picked up the Exchange with ***45.Nc8+! Rxc8 46.Rxc8***. Anand - Hall, Simul at 2nd Metropolitan Camp, Los Angeles, 2012.

3.Black takes the quickest route, exploiting two passed pawns: ***45...d2! 46.Ke2 h4*** One must now Queen. ***47.gxh4 gxh4 0–1***. Black resigns, for nothing can be done about 48... h3. Duckworth - Amanov, 20th Metro IM, Los Angeles 2012.

4.White won a piece with ***21.Qc3!! Qc7***. Not 21...Qxc3?? 22.Rxd8 mate. The Queen must protect the d8 Rook. ***22.Rxd8+ Qxd8 23.Nxg7 Kxg7 24.Qxe5+ Qf6 25.Qxb5 1–0***. Shankland - Bhat, 3rd Konig Memorial, San Francisco 2012.

5.White goes after the King: ***54.Be2!*** The first threat is a pawn mate on g3. ***54...g4 55.g3+ Kg5 56.h4+! Kh5*** Not 56...gxh3? 57.f4 mate. ***57.fxg4+ fxg4 58.Bb5! 1-0***. Black has no answer to 59.Be8+, forcing an easily won ending. Hess - Sevillano, 21st Metro GM, Los Angeles 2012.

6.Black aims at h2 with ***19...Be5!***. White can't push the f-pawn without dropping the Bishop on e3, with a Knight fork too. ***20.Bxc4 Bg2+!*** forcing mate. Yanayt - Clawitter, SCCF State Championship, Monterey Park 2012. For the game, see page 23.

7.Black could have won with 31... Bxe3 32.Qxe3 Rxf2!. See the game and complete notes on page 33. Bojkov - Peters, 2nd Metropolitan International, Los Angeles 2012.

8.This is an amazing forced mate starting with the Rook sac: ***27... Ra1+!! 28.Nxa1 Qe3+ 29.Kb1 Nd2+ 30.Kc1*** Or 30.Ka2 Ra7 mate. ***30...Nb3+ 31.Kb1 Qc1+ !! 32.Ka2*** Or 32.Rxc1 Nd2+ 33.Ka2 Ra7 mate. ***32...Ra7+ 33.Kxb3 Rb7+ 34.Ka4 Qxf4+*** and Black mates in two more moves. A variation in Krishnan - Stein, SCCF State Championship, Monterey Park 2012. See the game and notes on page 25.

9.It's the second, non-check, non-capture move that's hard to see: 33...Rh1+ 34.Kf2 Qc1!! Black not only threatens ...Rf1 mate, he threatens to check on f1 and safely capture the Rook on f7. Black has all the answers: **a)** 35.Qf3 just loses the Queen to 35...Rf1+; **b)** 35.Qe5 loses the Rook to 35...Rf1+ 36.Kg3 Rxf7; **c)** No better is 35.Rg7+ Kxg7 36.Qe5+ *(36.Re7+ Kg8–+)* 36...Kh6–+; **e)** The Rook's lost after 35.Qd3 Qf1+ 36.Kg3 Qxf7; **d)** Black also gets the Rook after 35.Ree7 Rf1+ 36.Ke2 Qd1+ 37.Ke3 Rxf7 38.Rxf7 Re8+ 39.Kf4 Kxf7. The game ended with ***33...Kxf7 34.Qf3+ Rf5 35.Qb7+ Kf6?? 36.Qe7 mate***. Taylor - Amanov, Southern California Open, San Diego 2012.

Vishy Leads Instruction at 2nd Metropolitan Chess Camp

By Ankit Gupta

August 9-13, 2012

The date was August 13th, 2012, the location was Craft Restaurant, and the instructors from the 2nd Metropolitan Chess Camp and a few invited guests had gathered for a private dinner before World Champion Viswanathan Anand's coming departure from Los Angeles.

GM Melikset Khachiyan started off a round of toasts, recalling a conversation we had at the start of the year:

"Ankit called me and told me, 'I'm going to try to get Anand in Los Angeles...' I didn't believe it would be possible, yet three months later he called me again and told me, 'Anand is coming!'"

cr

Those few words give a glimpse into the several months of preparation that were involved in getting World Champion Anand's confirmation for the 2nd Metropolitan Chess Camp, held August 9th to 13th. A few days before this dinner, on August 5th, after a nearly 24-hour flight with a single stop in Frankfurt, Vishy Anand, his wife Aruna, and their 16-month-old son Akhil arrived at the Los Angeles International Airport. They were shuttled to the beautiful Terranea Resort in Palos Verdes, Los Angeles' primary oceanfront resort, where they enjoyed a brief vacation courtesy of Metropolitan Chess, Inc.

cr *Greeting IM instructors Armen Ambartsoumian and Zhanibek Amanov.*

The camp itself had over 100 attendees from throughout the Southern California area, and from countries as far away as Norway and Singapore. The United States was also well-represented with attendees from various States: Connecticut, New Jersey, Texas, New York, Idaho, Arizona, Washington to name a few.

On the first day, Anand gave a meet and greet session. During the next few days, he gave customized instruction over 5 hours per day, before concluding the final day with a 20 board simul, in which he scored 15 wins and 5 draws.

Unlike ordinary simultaneous exhibitions, the event did not limit the participant ratings, and many of the players were actually over 2300.

Also, this was the first time that a Chess.com 'Vote Chess' board was added to a simultaneous exhibition, as usually, these boards are considered difficult.

Holding Vishy to a draw were Michael Brown, Nicky Korba, Karthik Ramachandran, Elliott Neff, and Chess.com's Vote Audience.

One of the senior instructors at the camp, GM Robert Hess, had

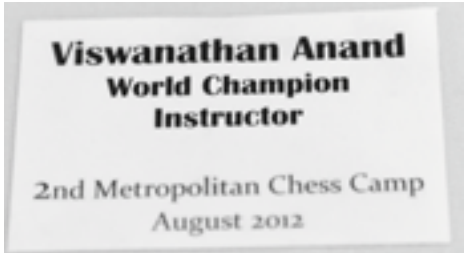
this to say about the entire event: "The chess camp was phenomenal. Vishy Anand was a very special instructor and the kids were mesmerized... they sat there paying total attention... and every word he said they were taking in. It was awesome for these kids to get a chance to meet Vishy and also for me to do the same. It was a wonderful experience overall."

If you weren't able to attend, you can still catch selections of video instruction from World Champion Anand's instruction on Metropolitan Chess' mobile app starting in November 2012. Details can be found at www.mchessapp.com.

And for those of you who want to get the chance to meet World Champion Anand in person -- you can see him in July 2013 for the 3rd Metropolitan Chess Camp, where he will again be serving as lead instructor.

More pictures from the events can be found at www.

Also present were Akhil and Aruna.



GM Robert Hess in session.

Instructors GM Melikset Khachiyan and IM Andranik Matikozyan, with class!

4 Questions

With Ankit's help, *Rank & File* forwarded a few questions to Vishy after he left, and he got back to us:

1. Have you ever fallen in love with an opening, either when you were young or now?

Yes, at various times, I was in love with the Sicilian, KID, French, Semi-Slav etc. I would play these non-stop, till it wore off, but I often return to my favourites.

2. Please name a few games played in the last 20 years by other players that especially impressed you, about the play or the ideas in them.

1) Carlsen - Anand, Linares 2009. Against someone less gifted than Magnus, I would have made an easy draw.

2) Gelfand - Shirov, Polanica Zdroj 1998, keep in mind that computers were much weaker then, Boris had to work out a lot himself!

These two games came off the top of my head.

3. Please name a few games that you were especially pleased to have played, too.

1) Kramnik - Anand, Investbank, Belgrade 1997.

2) Both my wins against Lautier from Biel 1997. (It was a good year!)

3) Aronian - Anand, World Championship, Mexico City 2007.

4. Are there any tournament games in which you were totally lost against a very strong player, but you got a swindle to work?

1) Anand - Kasparov, 4th blitz game, Geneva 1996. (The video says it all.)

2) Leko - Anand, Morelia 2008.

IM Dionisio Aldama Wins 2nd Metro International

August 14-18, 2012

IM Dionisio Aldama of Mexico won the 2nd Metropolitan International tournament by drawing with black in the single-game rapid tiebreaker with GM Timur Gareyev, now of the USA. Both scored 7-2. Tied for third in the 56-player event, scoring 6½-2½, were GMs Varuzhan Akobian and Alexander Shabalov. Fourteen-year-old FM Kayden Troff scored 5½-3½ for his third and final IM norm and only needs to raise his rating to 2400 to get the title.

In the 20-player under 2100 section, Craig Hilby scored 4-1 to take first, while Dylan Quercia and Leo Creger tied for second at 3½-1½. Timothy Chou won the 7-player under 1700 with a score of 4-1.

The Armageddon tie-break, the final battle, decided the tournament when Aldama saw he could not win, and took a perpetual check. Eventually, he realized that by drawing with Black, had won the tie-break and the trophy, pictured here with organizer and presenter Ankit Gupta.

Some players from foreign federations cancelled out and some GMs took byes and left early, so it was not as easy as it might have been to get paired with sufficient foreign players to earn a norm. But Kayden Troff managed to get both the opponents and the points to do it.

Randall Hough directed the three events, assisted by Damian Nash.

The tournament started right after the Second Metropolitan Chess Camp, at the same location, the Radisson LAX Hotel.

We present five games from the tournament, with notes by IM Jack Peters. Whatever you do, ***don't miss*** Sevillano's brilliancy on page 38!

Aldama: happy with the trophy! th

The final battle! Timur, Jack Peters, Ashot Salvaryan, Ankit Gupta, and Dionisio. th

We start with GM Timur Gareyev's first win. Next, the draw between IM Jack Peters and GM Dejan Bojkov, with notes, is a semester class for us, but it was a final exam for Jack! - Ed.

Jayakumar,Adarsh (2292) - Gareyev,Timur (2658)
[E15] Queen's Indian Defense
2nd Metropolitan International (1)
Los Angeles, 14.08.2012
Notes by IM Jack Peters.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.g3 Ba6 5.Qc2 c5 ***6.d5!?***

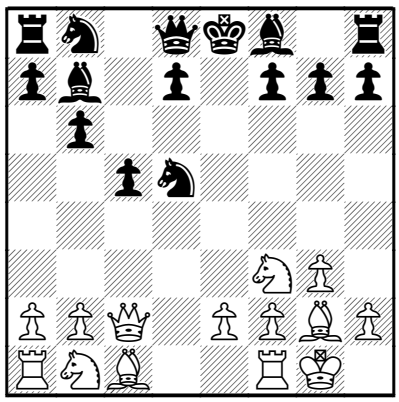
To challenge Black's aggressive opening, White must sacrifice a pawn.

The meek 6.Bg2 Nc6 7.dxc5 Bxc5= is harmless.

6...exd5 7.cxd5 Bb7 8.Bg2

As 8.e4 Qe7 threatens to capture at e4 or d5.

8...Nxd5 9.0–0⩱



Hundreds of master games have shown that White has adequate compensation for the pawn.

9...Be7 10.Rd1 Nc6

Relying on 11. Rxd5?? Nb4.

Also popular is 10...Qc8 11.a3 Nf6 12.Bg5, although the natural 12... d5?! favored White after 13.Bxf6 Bxf6 14.Nc3 Bxc3 15.bxc3 Na6 16.Nh4 g6 17.Bxd5± in Topalov - Anand, Bilbao 2008. Black comes closer to equalizing with 12...0–0.

11.Qf5 Nf6 12.e4 g6 13.Qf4 0–0 14.Nc3

This move and White's next do not put enough pressure on Black.

Famous grandmasters prefer 14.e5. After 14...Nh5 Aronian introduced 15.Qh6, Carlsen tried 15.Qg4, and Gelfand opted for 15.Qc4. In all cases, chances appear about even.

14...d6 15.Be3?!

Black handles 15.e5 effortlessly by 15...dxe5 16.Nxe5 Qc8∓.

Maybe 15.b3 Re8 16.Bb2⩱ keeps enough compensation.

15...Re8∓ 16.Nb5?

An oversight in an uncomfortable position.

Amusingly, Houdini claims that White's best move is 16.Bc1.

Even the more active 16.g4 h6∓ looks very attractive for Black.

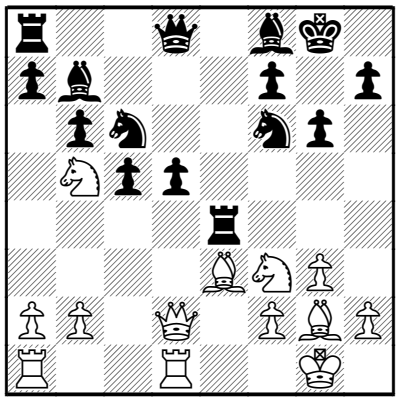
16...Nh5! 17.Qh6

Not 17.Qg4?? Bc8, trapping the Queen.

17...Bf8

The discovery gains a second pawn.

18.Qg5 Rxe4 19.Qd5 Nf6 20.Qd2 d5–+



Simplest. Black offers to return one of his extra pawns.

21.Bg5

If 21.Nc3 Re8 22.Nxd5 Qxd5 23.Qxd5 Nxd5 24.Rxd5, Black reasserts command by 24...Na5! (*more convincing than 24...Nd4?! 25.Nxd4 Bxd5 26.Bxd5∓*) 25.Rdd1 (*neither 25.Rd7 Bc6 nor 25.Rd2 Nc4 helps White.*) 25...Bg7–+, when White has no convenient way to defend b2.

21...d4 22.Ne1

Hopeless, as is 22.Nfxd4 Rxd4 23.Nxd4 cxd4 24.Rac1 Rc8 25.Qf4 Nd5–+.

22...Re6 23.Qf4 h6! 24.Bxh6 24...a6?!

Most precise is 24...Bxh6 25.Qxh6 a6 26.Na3 Qe7–+, leaving White without a shred of compensation.

25.Na3?!

White should try 25.Bxf8! axb5 (*Black must avoid 25...Qxf8?? 26.Nc7 Nh5 27.Nxe6*) 26.Bh6, hoping for dark-square counterplay. Nevertheless, Black should win with 26...Nd5 27.Qd2 Ne5–+.

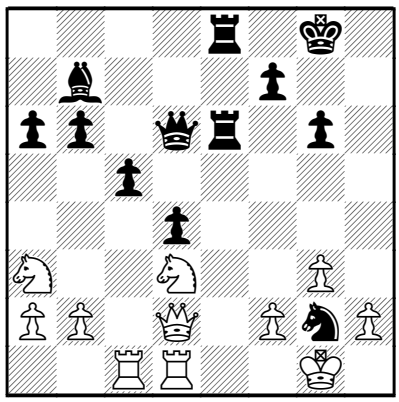
25...Nd5 26.Qd2 Ne5 27.Bxf8 Qxf8 28.Rac1 Rae8

Now it's very clear - Black has a valuable extra pawn at d4 and better-placed pieces.

29.Nf3?!

Allowing Gareyev to finish neatly.

29...Ne3! 30.Nxe5 Nxg2 31.Nd3 Qd6



Black's trapped Knight has destroyed the best defender of White's King. Black plans to put his Queen on c6 or d5 to create mating threats.

32.Qg5 Qc6 33.Nb4 Qf3 0-1

Bojkov,Dejan (2556) - Peters,Jack (2355)
[B31] Sicilian Defense
2nd Metropolitan International (2)
Los Angeles, 15.08.2012
Notes by IM Jack Peters.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 g6 4.Bxc6

Bobby Fischer helped make this popular by trying it twice against Boris Spassky in their 1992 rematch.

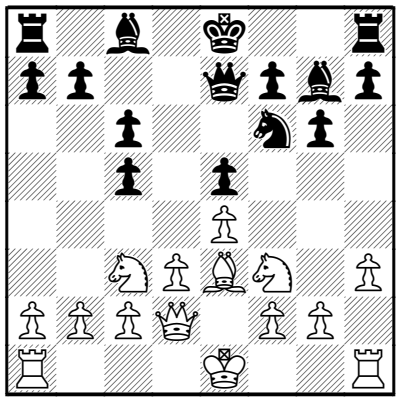
4...dxc6

Safer than Spassky's 4...bxc6 when Black's development lags.

5.d3 Bg7 6.h3 Nf6 7.Nc3 e5 8.Be3 Qe7

Often Black chooses 8...Nd7 starting the Knight on its journey to f8, e6 and d4.

9.Qd2



A typical position in the variation beginning 4...dxc6. White usually follows with Be3-h6, and then he may choose to castle Kingside and open a file with f2-f4, or castle Queenside and launch a Kingside pawn storm with g2-g4 and later h2-h4-h5.

9...h6

Crossing White's plan, but what will Black do with his King? More common is 9...0–0 or 9...Nd7.

10.0–0 g5N

I like this crude move. Black has weaknesses everywhere, but he can try to grab the initiative.

A second sharp try is 10...Nh5!? with thoughts of ...Nh5-f4 and ...f7-f5.

11.a3

White intends b2-b4, exploiting his undeniable advantage on the Queenside.

The defensive 11.Nh2 makes sense too. After 11...g4 12.h4 Black cannot open a Kingside file, and White has plenty of time to operate on the Queenside.

11...g4

It's all or nothing for Black!

White would welcome 11...b6?! 12.b4↑.

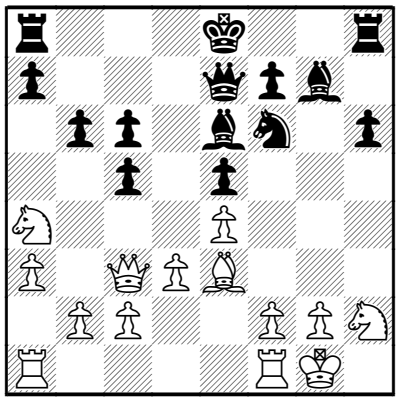
Nor does 11...a5 help Black much. After 12.b4 axb4 (*or 12...cxb4 13.axb4 Qxb4 14.Rfb1 Qe7 15.Bb6*±) 13.axb4 Rxa1 14.Rxa1 cxb4 15.Na4 Nd7 16.Nb6 Nxb6 17.Bxb6±, White will recover the pawn by Ra1–a5 and Bb6-c5.

12.hxg4 Bxg4 13.Nh2 Be6 14.Na4

This move and White's next may be too ambitious, as Black can cut his Queenside losses to one pawn while beginning serious counterplay on the g-file.

I thought 14.b4! c4 would solve Black's problems, but Houdini still prefers White (by "0.22") after 15. Rfd1.

14...b6 15.Qc3



Preparing b2-b4 by eyeing c6.

This time, 15.b4 c4 appears safe for Black.

15...Nh5!?

An enterprising pawn sacrifice, and possibly the best move in the position.

I would like to claim I understood what was happening, but I settled on this move only after incorrectly assessing my first two choices.

I dismissed 15...Nd7 because of 16.f4?! but 16...f5! would open the position for Black's Bishops. Black can still castle Queenside without much danger.

I had planned 15...Rg8 but changed my mind because I thought White could get away with 16.Qxe5 Ng4 17.Qh5 Nxe3 18.fxe3. However, Black has fair compensation for the pawn. Even 15...Rg8 16.Qxe5 0–0–0 is promising for Black.

16.b4 Rg8 17.Qd2

I expected 17.bxc5 b5 18.Nb2 Nf4⩲ when Houdini claims White can survive 19.Kh1 Bh8 20.Qd2 Nxg2 21.Rg1 Bh3 22.a4=. Houdini prefers 17.bxc5 b5 18.Nb2 Bh8, meeting 19.Kh1 strongly by 19...f5↑.

Supporting g2 by 17.f3?! Nf4 18.Rf2 looks feeble after 18...Bf6→.

17...c4

Now Black can attack on the Kingside without losing a Queenside pawn.

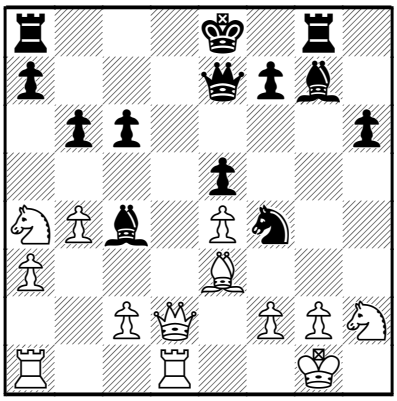
18.dxc4

White cannot stand 18.d4? exd4 19.Bxd4? Bxd4 20.Qxd4 Qg5 21.g3 Nxg3–+.

18...Bxc4 19.Rfd1?!

The other Rook belongs at d1. Black has nothing special after 19.Rfe1 Nf4 20.Rad1.

19...Nf4



Most of Black's pieces are working, and White must watch for threats against g2. The opening has ended successfully for Black.

20.Nb2

The computer suggestion 20.Kh1 Be2 21.Re1 is tougher, though uninspiring for White.

20...Be2 21.Re1 Rd8 22.Qc3 Qe6

Also 22...Rd6 gives White trouble.

23.Nf1?

The start of a phase of sloppy calculation by both players.

Only 23.Kh1 Bh8 24.Rg1∓ hangs on.

23...Nxg2?

I used 22 of my remaining 46 minutes on this poor decision.

I did not appreciate the strength of 23...Bh8 24.Ng3 h5!–+ which could lead to the entertaining finish 25.Nxe2? (*or 25.Rxe2? Rxg3!*–+) 25... Rxg2+ 26.Kf1 Qh3 (*threatening 27... Rg3 mate*) 27.Nxf4 exf4 28.Qxh8+ Rg8+ 29.Ke2 f3 mate.

If White meets 23...Bh8 24.Ng3 h5! by 25.Qb3 then Black breaks through with 25...Qg4 26.Bxf4?! exf4 27.Rxe2 fxg3–+.

24.Kxg2?

A relief to me because I saw nothing more than a draw after 24.Rxe2 Nh4 25.Rd2 Bh8+ 26.Ng3

Nf3+ 27.Kg2 Nh4+ 28.Kf1 Qh3+ 29.Ke2 Qg4+ 30.Kf1.

I was considering 24.Rxe2 Nf4 25.Ng3□ Qh3?! (*Houdini reveals the stronger 25...Bf6! 26.Bxf4 exf4 27.e5 Bh4 28.Nd3 fxg3 29.f3*∓) 26.Bxf4 exf4 27.e5 fxg3 28.Qxc6+ Kf8 29.f4 when White chose the losing move 24.Kxg2.

24...Qg4+

Now I was sure that I was winning. As you will see, that doesn't guarantee that I will score the full point!

25.Ng3

Or 25.Kh2 Bxf1 forcing mate.

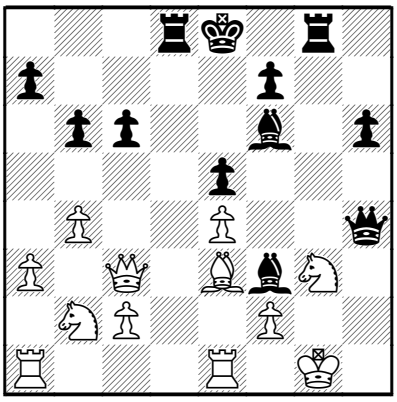
25...Bf3+ 26.Kh2

I spent my time looking at 26.Kg1 Qh3 27.Qxc6+. First I considered 27... Kf8? 28.Bc5+ bxc5 29.Qxc5+ Ke8 30.Qb5+ Rd7 31.Qf1, and then I tried to figure out 26.Kg1 Qh3 27.Qxc6+ Rd7! 28.Qc8+ Ke7□ 29.Nf5+ Qxf5□ 30.Bc5+ bxc5 31.Qxc5+ Kf6□ 32.exf5 Bf8+ 33.Kf1 Bxc5 34.bxc5 Rg4–+ with the deadly threat of ...Rg4-h4-h1. I saw most of this line, but my certainty that I was winning was shaken by the number of possible resources for White.

26...Qh4+

I did not think of the preparatory 26...Rd6!–+.

27.Kg1 Bf6??



When White surprised me with 26.Kh2, I knew that 27...Qh3! would produce the same position as 26. Kg1 Qh3.

But now I thought there might be an easier way, and I persuaded myself that 27...Bf6??, threatening 28... Qh1 mate, would win without gambling on a long, tricky calculation.

28.Bg5!

I anticipated 28.Qxc6+?? Rd7 (*even better is 28...Kf8*) 29.Qc8+ Bd8 winning. I was so focused on the White Queen coming to c6 that I forgot it was lined up for a discovery on the Bishop at f3.

28...Bxg5

I went from ecstasy to despair in moments. Isn't chess wonderful?

29.Qxf3 Bf4

Gradually I realized that Black has some compensation for the lost piece. My mood shifted again, and I was almost carefree. It's easy to play after you've given up hope - things can only get better.

30.Re3 Rd2

This is the best Black can do after 28.Bg5. Amazingly, Houdini says Black has a small edge. I still felt lost.

31.Nc4?

This natural move is a serious mistake.

According to Houdini, White's best defense is 31.Rc3 Rxf2 32.Kxf2□ (*not 32.Qxf2?? Bxg3*–+) 32...Rxg3 33.Qxg3□ Bxg3+ 34.Rxg3 Qxe4!? (*more ambitious than 34...f5 35.exf5 Qd4+ 36.Kg2 Qxb2 37.Rf1*=) 35.Rd3. This unbalanced position is difficult to evaluate. Houdini prefers Black after 35...Qh4+ 36.Kg2 Qg4+ because Black will either pick off the pawn at c2 or start advancing his central passers.

31...Rd4?

I had not adjusted to the changed situation and I eagerly hoped for repetition by 32. Nb2 Rd2.

But 31...Bxe3 32.Qxe3 Rxf2! would win for Black. If 33.Qxf2 (*the same position arises from 33.Kxf2 Qh2+ 34.Kf1 Rxg3 35.Qf2 Qh3+*) 33... Rxg3+ 34.Kf1 Qh3+ 35.Ke1 Black must foresee the cold-blooded 35...f5! 36.Rd1 (*or 36.exf5 Rg2*–+) 36...Rg2 37.Nd6+ Kd8□ 38.Nxf5+ Kc7–+ winning White's Queen.

Secondly, 31...Bxe3 32.Nxe3 runs into 32...Qf4! 33.Kg2 h5!–+ and White cannot save his pinned Knight.

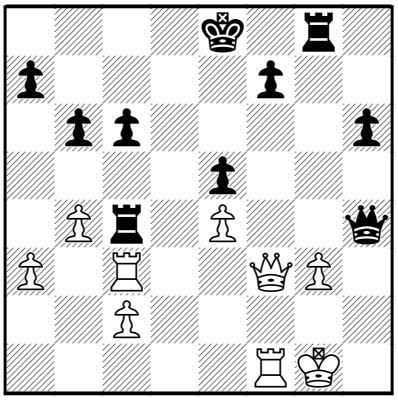
32.Rc3?

Another mistake, and this time I realized it. I regained my ambition, a sure sign that disappointment awaits.

32...Bxg3 33.fxg3 Rxc4!∓

White's overworked Rook cannot defend c4 and g3.

34.Rf1



34...f5?!

Third best. Both 34...Rg7 35.Re3 Rxc2 36.Qxf7+ Rxf7 37.gxh4 Rxf1+ 38.Kxf1 Rh2 39.Rg3 Rxh4∓ and 34... f6 35.Rd3 Rxc2 36.Rfd1 Qh2+ 37.Kf1 Qh3+ 38.Kg1 Kf7 39.Rd7+ Kg6 40.Rxa7 Qh5∓ offer Black better winning prospects.

35.Qxf5?!

Not 35.Rd3? f4–+, but 35.Kf2! Qh2+ 36.Ke1 sets the trap 36... Rxe4+?! 37.Kd1 Rxg3?! 38.Qxg3 Qe2+ 39.Kc1 Qxf1+ 40.Kb2, when Black barely salvages a draw with 40...Re1 41.Qg8+ Ke7 42.Qg7+ Ke8.

If 35.Kf2! Qh2+ 36.Ke1 Rxc3 37.Qxc3 Qxg3+ 38.Qxg3 Rxg3 39.Rxf5 Rxa3 40.Rxe5+ Kf7 41.Kd2∓ I doubt that Black can capitalize on his extra pawn.

35...Rxg3+ 36.Rxg3 Qxg3+ 37.Kh1 Qh4+ 38.Kg1 Qg5+ 39.Qxg5 hxg5 40.Rf5 Rxe4 41.Rxg5 Kf7∓

Keeping White's Rook off the seventh rank. I imagined Black's King hiding at d5 while Black's Rook goes after White's vulnerable pawns.

42.Rh5 Ke6

White can probably hold the draw after 42...Kg6?! 43.Rh3 Rc4 44.c3∓.

43.Rh7!

White needs counterplay. Bojkov thinks for 11 minutes and finds the best method.

The attempt to activate the King would fail: 43.Kf2 Rc4 44.Ke3 Rxc2 45.Kd3 Ra2 46.Ke4 Rxa3 47.Rh6+ Kd7 48.Rh7+ (*as 48.Kxe5 Re3+ 49.Kd4*

Re7–+ lets Black secure his two-pawn advantage) 48...Kd6 49.Rh6+ Kc7 50.Rh7+ Kb8 51.Kxe5 Rd3 52.Rg7 Rd5+ 53.Ke6 Rd4–+.

43...a5

Ineffective is 43...Rc4? 44.Rxa7 Rxc2 45.Ra6 b5 46.a4 bxa4 47.Rxa4∓.

44.Rb7!

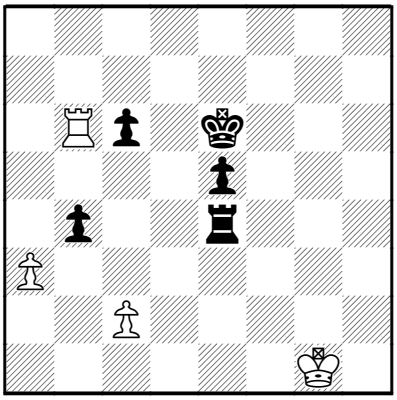
After 44.bxa5 bxa5–+ White must lose another pawn.

44...axb4

Good, although I again felt that Black had squandered the advantage.

Actually, Black has two ways to win. We both considered 44...b5! 45.bxa5 Ra4 46.Ra7 Rxa3. I feared that White could trade the a-pawn for the e-pawn and guard his pawn at c2, but Black can thwart that idea with the precise sequence 47.Kf1 Ra2 48.a6 Kd6 (*Black has no time for 48... Rxc2?? because 49.Ra8 Ra2 50.a7 Kd7 loses to 51.Rh8 Rxa7 52.Rh7+*) 49.Ra8 (*or 49.Ke1 Rxc2 50.Ra8 Ra2 51.a7 Kc7–+*) 49...Kc5 (*truly threatening to capture at c2*) 50.Re8 Kb6! 51.Rxe5 (*51.Rb8+ Ka7! does not help White*) 51...Rxc2–+.

45.Rxb6



45...Kd5??

This is the moment when Black throws away the win.

Correct is 45...bxa3 46.Rxc6+ Kd5 47.Ra6 Re1+! 48.Kf2 Ra1 49.Ke2 a2 when White cannot cope with the separated passers. After 50.Kd2 e4 51.Ke2 (*or 51.Kc3 e3 52.Kb2 Rh1–+*) 51...e3, White dare not move his King or his pawn (which would allow the X-ray ....Ra1–h1–h2+). Black makes progress by inching his King forward via b4 and c3 to capture the c-pawn. Then retreating the King leaves White helpless against ...Ra1–h1 and the X-ray.

46.axb4 Rc4 47.Kf2

With 47.b5 White would clinch the draw.

47...Kd4

Black could stop b4-b5 by 47... Rxc2+ 48.Ke3 Rb2. However, White draws anyway with 49.Kd3 e4+ 50.Kc3 e3!? 51.Rb8! Ra2 (*against 51... e2 one clear path to a draw is 52.Rd8+ Ke6 53.Re8+ Kd7 54.Re4 Ra2 55.Kb3 Rd2 56.Kc3*=) 52.Re8 Ra3+ 53.Kb2 Rd3 54.Kc2 Rd4 55.Rxe3 Rxb4 56.Rh3.

48.Ke2 Rxc2+ 49.Kd1 Rc4 50.b5! c5 51.Rd6+ Ke3

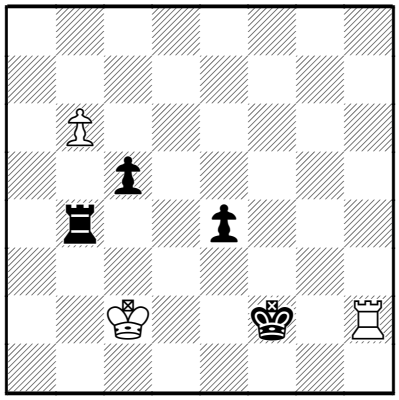
No better is 51...Kc3 52.Rd5 e4 53.b6. Black will have to yield the c-pawn for the b-pawn, and White's King will block the e-pawn, drawing.

52.b6 Rb4 53.Kc2!

Easiest.

Although 53.Rd5 e4 54.Rxc5 Rb1+ 55.Rc1 Rxb6 56.Rc8 should draw, White's margin for error is slim. If 56...Rb1+ 57.Kc2 Re1 he must find three good moves 58.Rh8□ Rg1 59.Re8□ Kf3 60.Kd2□ to draw.

53...e4 54.Rh6 Kf2 55.Rh2+



55...Kg3

After 55...Kg1 both 56. Rh6 and 56.Re2 Kf1 57.Re3 Kf2 58.Rb3 Rxb3 59.Kxb3 e3 60.b7 e2 61.b8Q e1Q 62.Qf4+ draw.

56.Rh6 Kf2 57.Rh2+ Kg3 ½–½

Next are victories by Hess in an Evans Gambit, Sevillano in a brilliancy, and Peters, with another semester of chess instruction. - Ed.

Hess,Robert (2624) - Amanov,Zhanibek (2380)
[C51] Evans Gambit
2nd Metropolitan International (3)
Los Angeles, 15.08.2012

Notes by IM Jack Peters.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.b4!?

The ancient Evans Gambit still serves modern grandmasters as a surprise weapon.

4...Bxb4 5.c3 Be7

A lively choice. Theory regards Lasker's Defense, 5...Ba5 6.d4 d6 7.0–0 Bb6=, as a reliable but drawish response.

Computers advocate the hardly-tested 5...Bd6 6.d4 Nf6.

6.d4

White gets nothing from 6.Qb3 Nh6 7.d4 Na5 8.Qa4 Nxc4 9.Qxc4 exd4=.

6...Na5

Black could allow 6...exd4 7.Qb3 because 7...Na5 8.Bxf7+ Kf8 9.Qa4 Kxf7 10.Qxa5∞ keeps chances about even.

7.Be2 exd4 8.Qxd4 d5!?

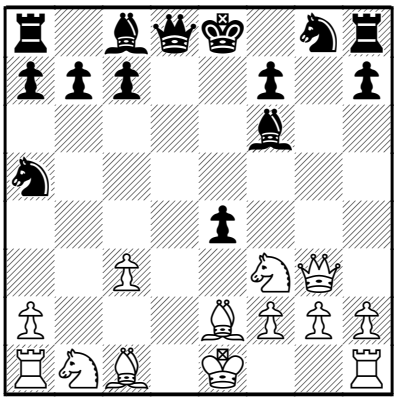
Admirable boldness. Black wants activity, not a passive position with an extra pawn.

Kasparov - Anand, Riga 1995, the game most responsible for the revival of the Evans Gambit, continued 8...Nf6 9.e5 Nc6 10.Qh4 Nd5 11.Qg3 g6 12.0–0=. Black has a satisfactory position, but Kasparov won in brilliant style.

9.Qxg7

Black would welcome 9.exd5 Nf6 10.c4 0–0=.

9...Bf6 10.Qg3 dxe4



I suspect both players were satisfied with the opening. Black has

equalized without falling under attack, while White has managed to create an interesting and nearly unknown position found in only two games in the database.

11.Nfd2

New.

The previous games varied with 11.Ng5 Bf5= and 11.Nd4 Ne7=.

11...Bf5= 12.Qe3

Threatening 13.Nxe4 and 13.Qc5.

12...Qe7

Stopping both threats, but a different approach is more appealing.

With 12...Ne7 13.Nxe4 Bxe4 14.Qxe4 Qd5 Black returns the gambit pawn to mobilize his pieces. He has the edge after the plausible 15.Qa4+ Nac6 16.0–0 Rg8! 17.g3 0–0–0∓, thanks to his better development.

13.0–0 Qe6

Clearing e7 for his Knight. White must act quickly.

14.Na3?!

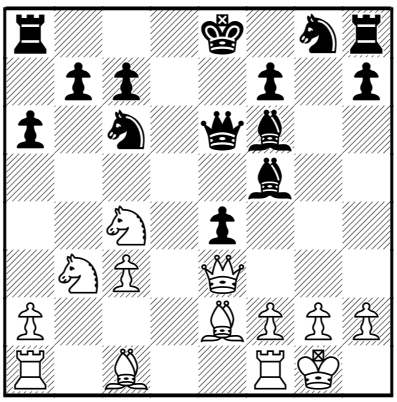
Too slow!

But 14.Nb3! improves. Then 14...Nxb3 *(stronger than 14...Nc4 15.Qc5 Nd6 16.Bf4⩱)* 15.axb3 Ne7! 16.Rxa7 0–0 17.Rxb7 Nd5 produces a sharp position with about even chances. Note that 15...Qxb3? is too greedy. White might continue 16.Nd2 Qxc3 17.Nxe4! Qxe3 18.Nxf6+ Nxf6 19.fxe3 Bg4□ 20.Bc4 Nd7 21.Bxf7+ Ke7 22.e4⩱, with more than enough for the pawn.

14...a6?!

Black gets the edge from 14...Ne7! 15.Nb5 Nd5, forcing 16.Qc5 Be5 17.Nc4 b6 18.Qa3 Nxc4 19.Bxc4 c6 20.Nd4 Qg6 21.Nxf5 Qxf5∓.

15.Nac4 Nc6 16.Nb3



Again, White has enough compensation to balance the chances. He intends 17. Nc5.

16...b5?!

Aggressive, but Black should be thinking about completing development and hiding his King.

Most reliable is 16...Be7= intending ...Ng8-f6.

The computer considers 16...b6 17.Qg3 Ra7= equally effective, but it appears much too defensive.

17.Ncd2 Qe5 18.a4!

Calmly ignoring Black's threat.

18...b4

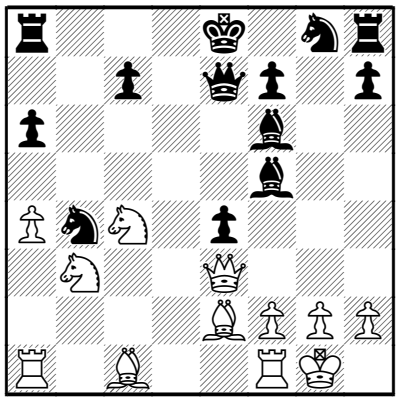
Black would drop material by 18...Qxc3? 19.axb5 Qxe3 20.fxe3 Bxa1 21.bxc6+-, as both Bishops hang.

19.cxb4 Nxb4?!

Each Black move makes sense, but the overall effect is neglected development. His troubles increase as White activates his Queenside pieces.

Probably Black can survive 19...Nge7 20.Nc4 Qc3, although 21.Rb1↑ is troublesome.

20.Nc4 Qe7?!



Now Black's problems are insurmountable.

He had to resort to 20...Qe6 21.Nd4 Qd7 22.Nxf5 Qxf5, meeting 23.Bf3! desperately with 23...Nd5 24.Qe1 Nge7 25.Bxe4 Qe6±.

21.Ba3!

In the spirit of the gambit!

21...Bxa1 22.Rxa1+-

Winning, mostly because of the pinned Knight. But watch how White also makes threats against Black's unprotected Rooks and Bishop.

22...Rb8

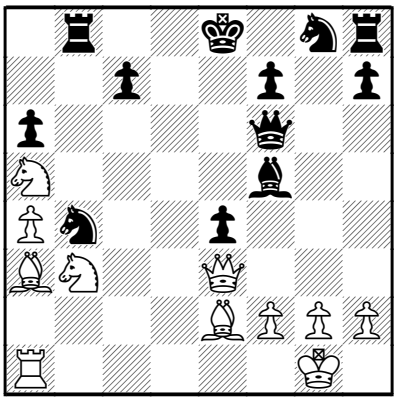
Black cannot escape with 22...Nc2 23.Qc3+-.

GM Robert Hess: ancient gambit, modern grandmaster.

23.Nca5

Another way is 23.Nba5+-, refuting 23...c5 by the double attack 24.Qf4.

23...Qf6



The flaw in 23...Rb6 24.Qc3 Nf6 is 25.Bxb4! Qxb4 *(or 25...Rxb4 26.Nc6+-)* 26.Bb5+! Rxb5□ 27.Qxf6+-.

24.Qd2??

Nearly spoiling a fine performance.

White should conclude the game with 24.Qc5! Ne7 *(worse is 24...Nd3 25.Qf8+ Kd7 26.Qxb8+-)* 25.Bxb4 Rg8 26.Rd1+-. His chief threat is 27.Qxc7.

24...Nc6??

Missing his opportunity.

The unexpected 24...e3! 25.Qxe3+ *(or 25.fxe3? Nc2∓)* 25...Ne7 26.Qd2 Nc2 would make White seek a draw.

25.Bb2+-

Back on track.

25...Ne5

White refutes 25...Nxa5!? 26.Bxf6 Nxb3 neatly by 27.Qb2 Nxf6 28.Qxf6 0–0 29.Qxf5 Nxa1 30.Qg5+ Kh8 31.Qf6+ Kg8 32.Qxa1+-.

26.Qc3

Easiest is 26.Bxe5 Qxe5 27.Nc6 Qe6 28.Nxb8 Qxb3 29.Nxa6+-, with equal material and an overwhelming position.

26...Nd7?!

Black loses "only" a piece by 26...Ng6 27.Qxf6 Nxf6 28.Bxf6 Rg8 29.Bxa6+-.

27.Qc1! Qe6

As 27...Ne5 permits 28.Qxc7+-.

28.Bxh8 Rxb3 29.Bc4! Qg6 30.Nxb3 1–0

Moradiabadi,Elshan (2570) - Sevillano,Enrico (2526)
[A70] Benoni Defense
2nd Metropolitan International (7)
Los Angeles, 17.08.2012

Notes by IM Jack Peters.

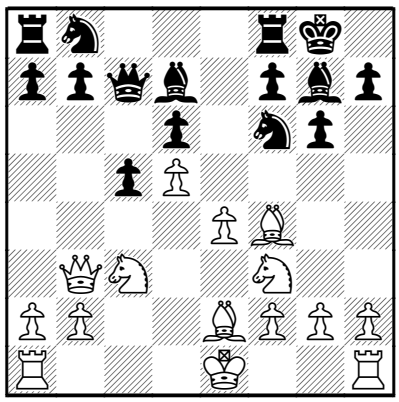
1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 c5 3.d5 e6 4.c4 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.Nc3 g6 7.Bf4

One of White's many good answers to the Modern Benoni.

7...Bg7

Black could rule out White's Queen maneuver by 7...a6 8.a4 Bg7, but 7...a6 8.e4 b5 9.Qe2 introduces a whole new set of problems.

8.Qa4+! Bd7 9.Qb3 Qc7 10.e4 0–0 11.Be2±



This position has been tested since the 1950s but became fashionable only after Portisch - Fischer, Palma de Mallorca 1970.

11...b5!?

An enterprising approach typical of the Modern Benoni. Instead of defending, Black counterattacks!

Fischer chose 11...a6 12.e5 dxe5 13.Bxe5 Qc8 14.0–0±, and Black had to struggle to draw.

Black has also tried 11...Re8 12.Nd2 a6 and 11...Nh5 12.Be3 a6, without great success.

12.Bxb5

Against the sharp 12.e5!? Black obtains counterplay with 12...Nh5! 13.Be3 *(worse is 13.exd6?! Qa5 14.Be3 c4 15.Qd1 b4 16.Ne4 Bxb2∓)* 13...c4 14.Qb4 dxe5 15.Nxb5 Bxb5 16.Qxb5 Nf4⇄.

White may keep a tiny edge with 12.Nxb5 Bxb5 13.Bxb5 Nxe4 14.0–0.

12...Nxe4 13.Nxe4 Qa5+ 14.Nc3

Probably best.

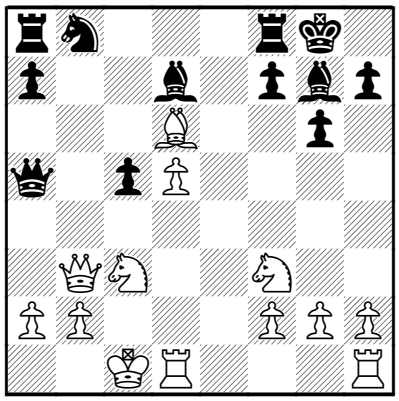
The forcing line 14.Bd2 Qxb5 15.Qxb5 Bxb5 16.Nxd6 Ba6 17.0–0–0 achieves little, as 17...Be2 18.Rde1 Bxf3 19.gxf3 Nd7= sets up ...Nd7-b6 and ...Nd7-e5.

14...Bxb5 15.0–0–0 Bd7

Black cannot equalize with 15... Bxc3 16.Qxc3 Qxc3+ 17.bxc3 Be2 because 18.Rd2 Bxf3 19.gxf3 Rd8 20.Re1 activates all of White's pieces.

But 15...Ba6 16.Bxd6 Re8∞ is a worthy alternative.

16.Bxd6



White had used only nine minutes to reach this position.

16...Na6!?

Upping the stakes.

This sacrifice is doubly startling because the more conservative 16... Re8 17.Rhe1 Na6 works fairly well with less risk. The position could still erupt with 18.Ne5 Nb4! 19.Nxd7 Rxe1 20.Rxe1 Nd3+ 21.Kd2 Nxe1 22.Kxe1 Qd8, when Black anticipates recovering material by 23.Qb7 Qe8+ 24.Kf1 Rd8∓.

17.Bxf8

Moradiabadi thought five minutes and grabbed the material, but then used 34 minutes on his following turn. Sacrificial shock?

The most critical position arises from 17.Ne5! Rfb8!? 18.Bxb8 Rxb8 19.Nc4□ Qd8 20.Qa3. Although Houdini claims an edge for White, the verdict "unclear" seems appropriate after 20...Nb4. White must worry about threats on the b1–h7 and c1–h6 diagonals.

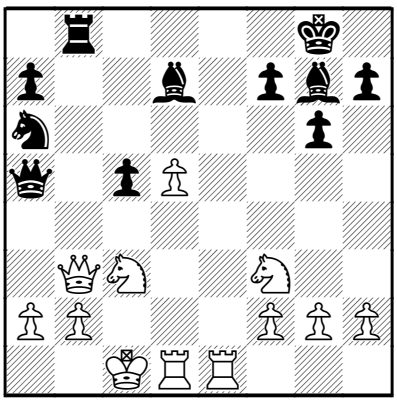
17...Rxf8 18.Rhe1??

Underestimating the speed of Black's counterattack on the b-file.

Nor can White stand 18.Qc4?? Rb8 19.a3 Nb4! 20.axb4 20...cxb4–+.

Only 18.Nd2 hangs on. Then 18... Rb8 19.Nc4□ transposes to the variation beginning 17. Ne5 Rfb8. However, Black can do better with 18...Nb4! 19.Nc4 Qa6, which makes 20...Bxc3 a deadly threat and forces 20.Ne3 Nd3+ 21.Rxd3 Qxd3=.

18...Rb8



And suddenly Black is winning!

19.Qc4

Black refutes 19.Qc2 Nb4 20.Qd2 easily by 20...Nxa2+ 21.Nxa2 Qxa2, as b2 will fall.

19...Rb4 20.Qd3 c4 21.Qe3

The problem with 21.Qd2 Rxb2! 22.Kxb2 Qb4+ 23.Kc2 is 23...Bf5+. Or, if 22...Nb4 23.Qb1, Black conquers c3 by 23...Nxd5!

21...Rxb2! 22.Rd2

Both 22.Kxb2 Qb4+ 23.Kc1 Qa3+! 24.Kb1 Bf5+ and 22.Ne5 Bxe5

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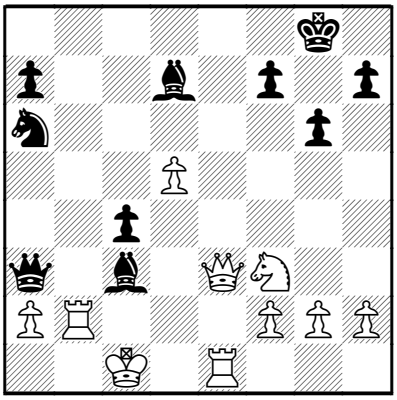
Enrico Sevillano: getting ready to play 18...Rb8, winning!

23.Qxe5 Qa3 24.Nb1?! Rc2+! 25.Kxc2 Nb4+ end in checkmate.

The "best" defense, 22.Ne5 Bxe5 23.Qxe5 Qa3 24.Rd2□, drops material nicely to 24...Nc5! (*the routine 24...Rb3+ 25.Kd1 Rxc3 also wins*) 25.Nb1 Rc2+! 26.Kd1 (*avoiding 26.Kxc2 Ba4 mate*) 26...Qc1+ 27.Ke2 Rxd2+ 28.Nxd2 Qxe1+ 29.Kxe1 Nd3+ 30.Ke2 Nxe5–+.

22...Bxc3 23.Rxb2 Qa3 0-1



The finish could be 24.Qe2 Nb4 25.Rd1 Nxa2+ 26.Kb1 Bf5+ or 24.Ree2 Bxb2+ 25.Rxb2 c3.

Krishnan,Varun (2146) - Peters,Jack (2355)
[B80] Sicilian Defense
2nd Metropolitan International (8)
Los Angeles, 18.08.2012

Notes by IM Jack Peters.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e6 6.Be3 Nc6 7.f3

White chooses the English Attack against the Scheveningen.

7...Be7 8.Qd2 d5?!

Overly ambitious.

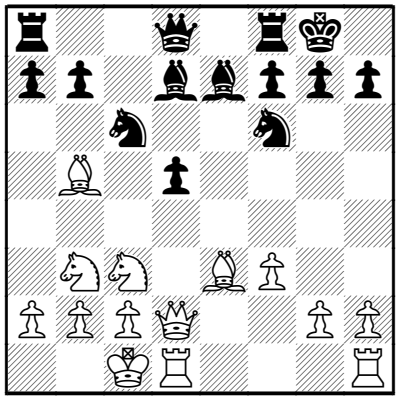
Black obtains a superior version of this central thrust with 8...0–0 9.0–0–0 d5, as played by Anand and Ivanchuk. Then 10.exd5 Nxd5 11.Nxd5 Qxd5= is fine for Black.

I rejected 8...0–0 because 9.g4 prevents central counterplay. Nevertheless, Black could still reply "normally" with 9...a6 10.0–0–0 Nxd4 11.Bxd4 b5⇄.

9.Bb5 Bd7 10.exd5 exd5

The refinement 10...Nxd5 11.Nxd5 exd5 lessens the impact of g2-g4-g5.

11.0–0–0 0–0 12.Nb3



Obviously a critical line, although I was more worried about 12.g4 Bb4 13.g5±.

12...Be6

I considered 12...a6 13.Be2 but not 13...Re8! 14.Nxd5 Nxd5 15.Qxd5 Be6!, with apparently sufficient compensation. If White guards his loose Bishops by 16.Qd2 Rc8 17.Bd3, Black equalizes with 17...Nb4 18.Kb1 Nxd3 19.Qxd3 Qxd3 20.cxd3 (*or 20.Rxd3 Bf5 21.Rd2 Bb4*) 20...Bxb3 21.axb3 Bd6 22.Bd4 Re2⩱.

13.g4 Ne5 14.Qg2!?

A surprise. White rules out ...Ne5-c4 and strongly threatens 15.g5, followed by 16.f4.

I was ready for 14.Be2 Nc4=, and I spent most of my time trying to work out the consequences of 14.g5 Nxf3 15.Qe2 Ng4 16.Bf4□ (*not 16.Qxf3?? Nxe3 17.Qxe3? Bxg5*–+) 16...Nh4 17.Rhg1 (*I overlooked the powerful 17.Nd4!*) 17...Ng6.

Best of all, though, is 14.Nd4 Bb4 15.a3±.

14...Ne8?

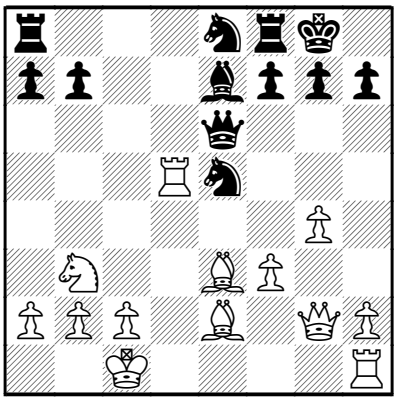
The idea of ...Ne8-d6-c4 attracted me, and I was willing to give up the d-pawn to carry out the maneuver. But the idea won't stand up to scrutiny.

Black should react by 14...Bb4! 15.Bd4 *(or 15.g5 Nh5=)* 15...Nc6=.

15.Be2 Qc8

It's too late for 15...Nc7? because 16.f4 Nc6 17.Bf3± will win the d-pawn anyway, without giving Black any compensation.

16.Nxd5 Bxd5 17.Rxd5 Qe6



Counting on a discovery against the Bishop at e3.

18.Rd2±

All right, but 18.Rhd1! calls Black's bluff. After 18...Nxg4 19.fxg4 Qxe3+ 20.Kb1↑ White's threat of 21. Rd7 is very annoying.

18...Nd6!

Again, 18...Nxg4?! 19.fxg4 Qxe3 20.Kb1 cedes White the initiative.

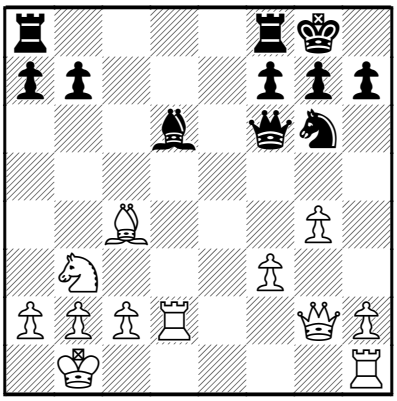
19.Bf4 Ng6 20.Bxd6 Bxd6

Black controls f4 and e5, but that's not quite enough to balance White's extra pawn.

21.Bc4

The simpler 21.Kb1± keeps a larger edge.

21...Qf6 22.Kb1



White generously offered a draw. I guessed that I stood slightly worse, but my poor 3½-3½ score dictated my decision to play on. I would win or drop out and go home early. Either way, a pleasant resolution!

22...Bf4 23.Rdd1 a5 24.h4?!

Needlessly returning the pawn.

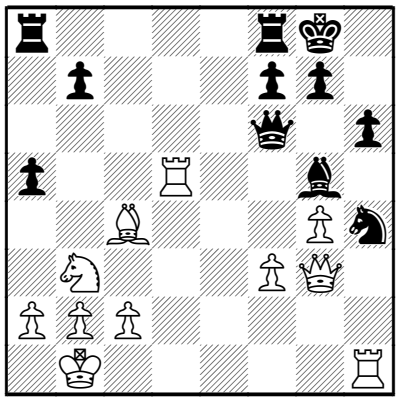
After 24.a4± White can use b5 and d5 as outposts.

24...Nxh4 25.Qh3 Bg5 26.Rd5?!

The sharp 26.Nc5!? threatens forks at d7 and e4. Black must reply 26...Qxf3□ 27.Bd5 Qxh3 28.Rxh3 Ng6 with a nominal disadvantage.

I assumed 26.Bd5!? a4 27.Nc5 a3 was strong for Black, but Houdini's recommendation of 28.c3! Rad8 29.Ne4 Qg6 30.bxa3! h6 31.Ka1 still looks promising for White.

26...h6 27.Qg3?!



27...Qxf3?!

Settling for equality. I did not realize that the advantage had shifted to Black.

With 27...Rfc8! 28.Be2 a4 29.Nd4 Rd8 30.Rxd8+ Rxd8∓, Black completes development and prepares the disruptive ...a4-a3.

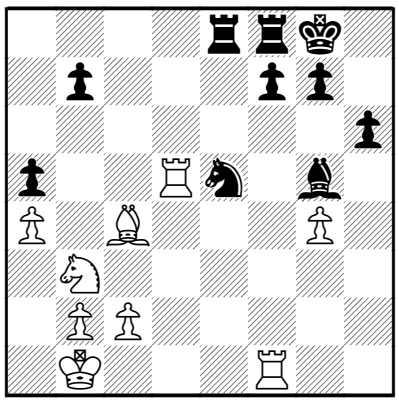
28.Qxf3 Nxf3

Threatening 29...a4 and a fork at d2.

29.Rf1?

White maintains equality with 29.Be2! Nh4 30.Nxa5.

29...Rae8 30.a4 Ne5∓

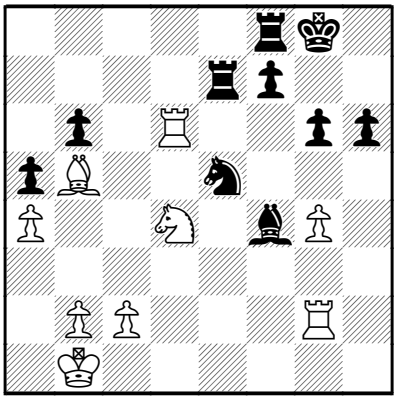


A great square. The Knight hits g4, guards f7, and keeps White's Rook from reaching d7. Now I overestimated Black's advantage. Black does not have a passed pawn yet.

31.Bb5 Re7 32.Rg1 b6 33.Nd4 g6 34.Rd6 Be3 35.Rg3?

Necessary is 35.Rg2, although 35...Bxd4 36.Rxd4 Kg7∓ prepares ...f7-f5.

35...Bf4 36.Rg2



36...Nf3?!

I searched for a clear and forcing continuation. Probably none exists.

I refrained from 36...Nxg4 37.Rxb6 because I feared that my a-pawn would fall and White would also get three passers. Indeed, that occurs in the computer's suggestion of 37...Re1+ 38.Ka2 Ne3 39.Re2 Rxe2 40.Nxe2 Be5 41.Ra6 h5 42.Rxa5 h4 43.Bd7 f6∓. The position remains wild, but Black's plan of advancing ...g6-g5-g4 and ...h4-h3-h2 appears faster than anything White can do on the Queenside.

37.Rd5 Re1+ 38.Ka2 Rd1?

My attempt to clarify the position overlooks White's reply and loses my extra pawn.

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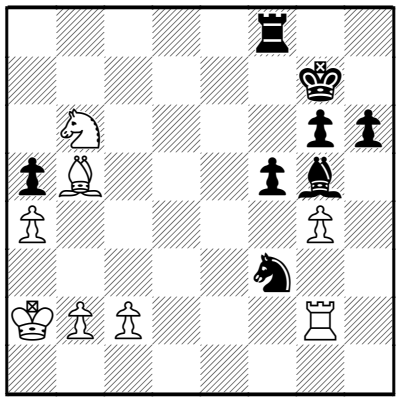
After the correct 38...Nxd4 39.Rxd4 Be3 40.Rd7, the opposite Bishops become a factor. Even so, Black can hope to make progress with 40...Bc5 and soon ...Re1–e7.

39.Nc6! Rxd5 40.Ne7+ Kg7 41.Nxd5 Bg5 42.Nxb6 f5



A new phase begins. I felt Black could still claim an edge because he immediately creates connected passers, but that may be too optimistic.

43.gxf5

Houdini prefers 43.Nd7 Rf7 44.gxf5 Rxf5 45.c3, assessing it as equal.

43...Rxf5 44.Nc4 Bd8 45.Nd6?!

I thought White had to engineer the advance b2-b4. There are two ways to do it.

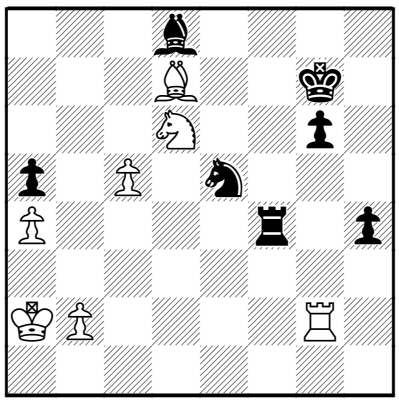
I expected the direct 45.c3 h5 46.b4 axb4 47.cxb4 h4. But 48.Bc6! h3 49.Rf2 h2 50.Bxf3 h1Q 51.Bxh1 Rxf2+ 52.Kb3 should be fine for White.

The finesse 45.Be8!? may improve, as 45...g5 46.c3 temporarily slows the h-pawn.

45...Rf4 46.c4 h5 47.c5

I don't think 47.Nb7 Bc7 48.b4?! axb4 49.a5 should save White. Black's Bishop can always sit on b8 to stop the a-pawn.

47...h4∓ 48.Bd7 Ne5



Returning to the favorite square of Scheveningen devotees. This time, though, it's merely a harmless waste of time.

49.Bh3?!

Unless White replies incorrectly!

After 49.Bb5□, Black has nothing better than repeating with 49...Nf3 50.Bd7 and trying 50...g5∓.

49...g5–+

Good enough.

However, 49...Rf3! 50.Rh2 Nd3 51.Nb7 Bf6 52.Nxa5 Nxc5 53.b3 g5–+ appears strongest. White's pawns are stymied and he must beware of checkmate.

50.Nf5+ Kg6 51.Ne3 Rf3 52.Nd5!

A better chance than 52.Ng4 Nd3–+.

52...Kh5?

A more serious inaccuracy. I will make several others as the position degenerates into chaos.

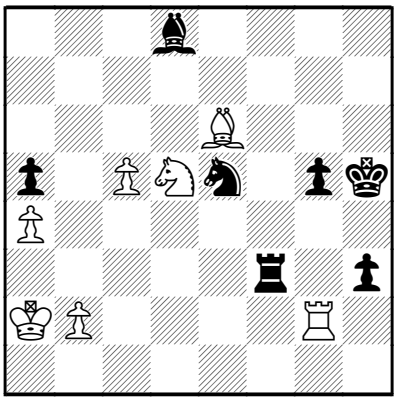
Certainly not 52...Rxh3?? 53.Nf4+, but 52...Nd3! 53.Bc8 Nxc5–+ kills White's counterplay, allowing Black to concentrate on regaining control of g4.

I rejected 52...Nd3! because of 53.Bg4, but I looked only at 53...Rg3? and not the correct 53...Rf2! 54.Rxf2 Nxf2 55.Bc8 g4 56.Nf4+ Kf6–+.

53.Be6?!

Tougher is 53.Bc8, when 53...h3? 54.Re2 Nc6?! lets White escape by 55.Re4 Rd3 56.Bg4+ Kg6 57.Bxh3! Rxh3 58.Re6+ Kf5 59.Rxc6=. Black should meet 53.Bc8 with 53...Rd3∓.

53...h3–+



Black has a winning position, but only six minutes (plus 30 seconds per move) for the rest of the game.

54.Re2 Nc6?

Black could clinch victory by 54... Nd3! (hitting c5 and c1) 55.Re4 Nf2! 56.Re3 (else the h-pawn advances) 56...Rxe3 57.Nxe3 g4–+.

55.Bd7!

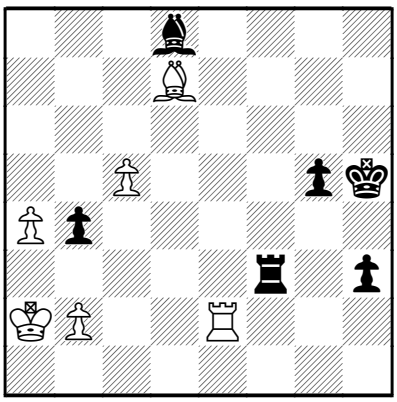
This excellent move nearly saves the game.

I expected 55.Re4?! Rg3 56.Bd7 Nb4+, transposing to the game.

55...Nb4+?!

Houdini recommends 55...Nb8∓, which never occurred to me.

56.Nxb4 axb4



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Varun Krishnan vs. Jack Peters: many phases to this game!

57.Re4?!

White spent seven of his remaining 12 minutes to select this second-best move.

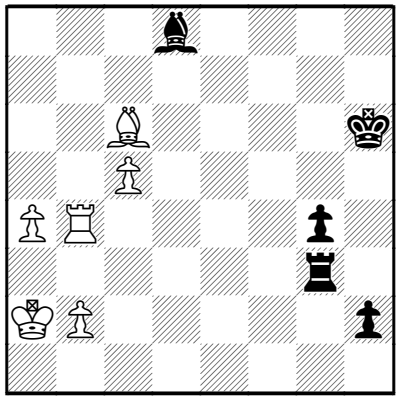
White does not have time for 57.Re8? Bf6 58.a5 h2 59.Re1 g4 60.a6 g3 61.a7 because of 61...Rf2! 62.Kb3 Rxb2+ 63.Kc4 Ra2–+.

However, the surprising 57.a5! Bxa5 58.Re8∓ will win one of Black's Kingside pawns, almost certainly drawing.

57...Rg3 58.Rxb4 h2

I no longer tried to assess the position. My "plan" was to push my pawns and see what happens.

59.Be8+ Kh6 60.Bc6 g4



Threatening 61...Rf3.

61.Rb8?

With only three minutes left, Varun misses the hidden path to the draw.

White can slow, but not stop, Black's pawns by 61.Rb3? Rg1 62.Rd3 Bc7 63.Rd7 Bf4 64.Be4 g3 65.Rh7+ Kg5 66.Rg7+ Kf6–+.

Only 61.Rf4! Rg1 (*not 61...Rf3?? 62.Rxf3 h1Q 63.Rf6+ Bxf6 64.Bxh1* +-) 62.Rf8 resists. I think Black must try 62...Bh4 63.Rh8+ Kg5 64.a5 Rc1! 65.b4 g3, but White salvages a draw by 66.Rg8+ Kf4 67.Kb3 (*avoiding 67.a6?? g2! 68.Bxg2 Rc2+ 69.Kb3 Rxg2*–+) 67...Rg1 68.a6 g2 69.Rxg2□ h1Q□ 70.Rf2+□ Bxf2 71.Bxh1 Rxh1 72.Kc4 Ra1 73.Kb5, as Black will have to give up his Rook to stop the a-pawn. Naturally, I saw none of this during the game.

61...Bf6 62.a5?!

If 62.Rb3 Rg1 63.a5, only 63...Bd4! wins. I doubt I would have found it.

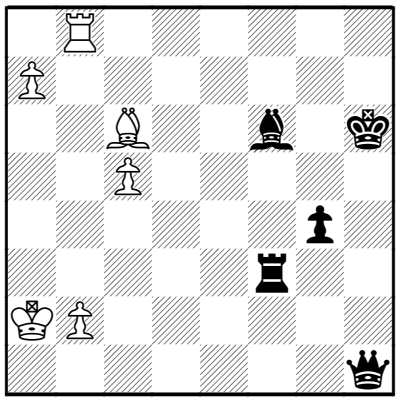
62...Rf3–+

Finally I attain a position I can figure out. Black needs to foresee only one surprising move.

63.a6

Against 63.Bxf3 gxf3 64.a6 h1Q 65.a7, simply 65...f2 66.a8Q Qxa8+ 67.Rxa8 f1Q wins.

63...h1Q 64.a7



64...Ra3+!

According to Houdini, Black obtains a larger advantage from 64... Qf1! 65.Bxf3 (*as 65.a8Q Qc4+ 66.b3 Rf2+ 67.Ka3 Bb2+ leads to mate*) 65...Qa6+ 66.Kb1 gxf3 67.a8Q Qxa8 68.Rxa8 f2–+. Maybe so, but my choice is easier, at least for a human.

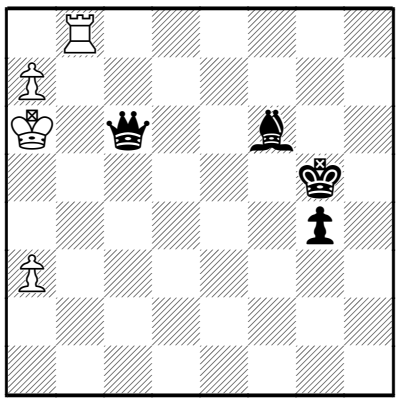
65.bxa3 Qa1+ 66.Kb3 Qc3+ 67.Ka4

Or 67.Ka2 Qc2+.

67...Qc4+ 68.Ka5

Or 68.Rb4 Qa6+ 69.Kb3 Qxc6–+.

68...Qxc5+ 69.Ka6 Qxc6+ 70.Rb6 Qc8+ 71.Kb5 Kg5 72.Rb8 Qd7+ 73.Ka6 Qc6+



74.Ka5

White cannot stand 74.Rb6 Qc8+ 75.Kb5 Bd4–+.

74...Bc3+ 75.Rb4 Bxb4+ 76.axb4 Qb7 0–1 ♜

Solutions to Outside Shots!

From the back cover.

1.Black ended it with ***35...Qxg4+!*** Whoa, crunch, crunch! ***36.Kh1 Qxe4 0-1*** Munch, munch! If White takes the Queen, it's a mate, and White can't stop 37...Rxf3 mating, too. Bellinger - Keefe, LPCC The Knight's Tour (2), La Palma 2012, the Best Game prize winner!

2.Black gives it the Istanbul Double Chopalicious: ***47...Rxf3!! 48.gxf3 Qxe1+! 0-1***. After 49.Qxe1 Nxf3+ 50.Kf2 Nxe1 51.Kxe1 g5!, it's a winning King and pawn ending. See the whole game on page 46. Kurbonboyeva - Abrahamyan, 40th Olympiad, Istanbul 2012.

3.It's one heck of a cruncher: ***42... Rxf3+! 43.Ke1*** White guarded the Queen. But now it's time for the real deal: ***43...Qg1+!! 44.Rxg1*** It's a quicker mate after 44.Bf1 Rxf1+ 45.Ke2 Bg4. ***44...Rxg1+ 45.Bf1 Rfxf1+ 46.Ke2 Bg4+ 47.Ke3 Rg3 mate***. All the Black pieces do their job! Hung - Xie, San Gabriel Valley Open, Pasadena 2012.

4.This time, it's a quiet move that forces a collapse: ***50.Qc5!! Nf6 51.Qxe7+! 1–0***. If 51...Qxe7 then 52.Nxf5+. Black didn't have a defense after White's 50th, for if 50...Kg8 then 51.Nxf5 Re8 52.Kxg4. Or if 50...Re8 then 51.Ra7, and if 50...Ne3 then 51.Qd4+ Kg8 52.Ra8+. Duckworth - Viswanadha, 20th Metro FIDE, Los Angeles 2012.

5.White just needs to bring that unused Bishop into the attack. It takes several moves, but he's holding Black down: ***28.c5! Ra7 29.b3! Re8 30.Bc4 1–0***. Hess - Arnold, 21st Metro FIDE, Los Angeles 2012.

6.Black starts it with a Rook sac! ***21...Rxb2! 22.Rd2 Bxc3 23.Rxb2 Qa3!! 0-1***. Moradiabadi - Sevillano, 2nd Metropolitan International, Los Angeles 2012. See it all with notes on page 38.

FM John Daniel Bryant Tops 34th Southern California Open

By Chuck Ensey *September 1-3, 2012*

The Southern California Open in September drew 161 players, down from 181 players last year. The Crowne Plaza hotel in San Diego's Mission Valley was once again the setting, as it will be next year. There were tons of prizes with a $20,000 guaranteed prize fund, so I won't bore you with all the details (which can be found on the San Diego Chess Club website). Here are the highlights: John Daniel Bryant scored 5 points out of 6 to take home the coveted first place prize of $2,600. Earlier this summer, he earned a GM norm at the World Open and tied for first at the US Open, earning an invitation to next year's US Championship! Five others scored 4½-1½ which was good for $1,000 each: Kyron Griffith, IM Tim Taylor, GM Enrico Sevillano, IM Zhanibek Amanov and Varun Krishnan.

Romeo Ignacio and Sharin Navabi won Best Under 2300 while Vanessa West and Marian Nita split Best Under 2200, all with 4-2.

The Premier (U2000) section featured a tie between two young talented players: Kenneth Xu and Michael Taylor, both with 5-1.

The Amateur Section had a clear winner in Boris Kitapszyan with 5½, although he got lucky in the last round when Blake Borskey, shocked by a move, prematurely resigned in a position that was actually won for him. Lesson learned: take your sweet time before resigning! Maybe there is a resource or you are overlooking something obvious. It's not the first time this has happened and Caissa knows it won't be the last. Once you utter those words, "*I resign*", you can't take them back!!

The Reserve (U1600) Section had a tie for first between Jerry Cupat and 11-year-old Dante Peterson, both with 5 out of 6. Finally the Booster (U1400) Section also had two 5-1 winners tie for first: Kevin Yang and Darryl Woodson.

Vanessa West won the best game prize for her win over Varun Krishnan, and Timothy Taylor won 2nd best game prize for his somewhat flawed but nice time pressure win over Zhanibek Amanov. Brett Becker won the non-Open best game prize for his win over Shaun Sweitzer.

We are looking forward to the ***Recession Buster Open, February 16-18***, to be held at a new location, the Marriott San Diego Airport/Liberty Station. ***See the attached flyer for all the details!***

Krishnan,Varun (2372) - West,Vanessa (2189)
[B80] Sicilian Defense
Southern California Open (2), San Diego, 02.09.2012

Notes by the Editor.

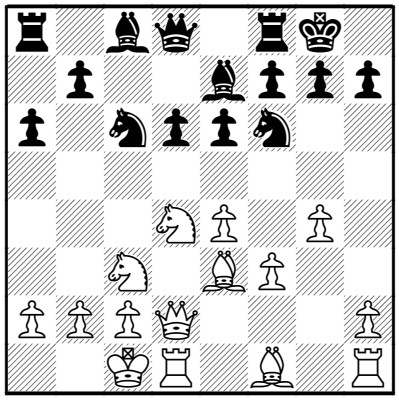
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.f3 e6 7.Be3

The English Attack.

7...Be7 8.Qd2 0–0

Krishnan-Peters on page 39 continued 8...d5 9.Bb5 Bd7 10.exd5.

9.0–0–0 a6 10.g4



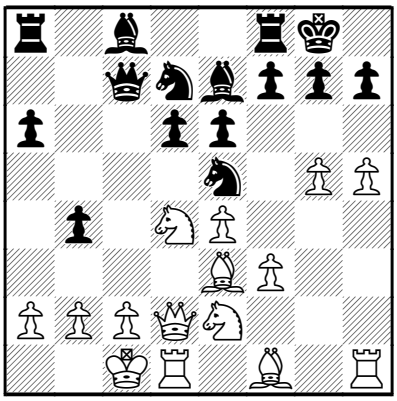
In these opposite side castling games you have to attack the King! You hope to be the first with a threat that must be answered, and to continue making threats. The side that is required to answer threats again and again will usually lose. Unlike same side castling games, when you advance pawns on the opposing King, your own King's protection is not harmed.

10...Qc7

By far, the most usual line is 10... Nxd4 11.Bxd4 b5.

Less often seen is 10...Nd7 11.h4, and either 11...Nde5 or 11...Nxd4 12.Bxd4.

11.g5 Nd7 12.h4 b5 13.h5 b4 14.Nce2 Nce5



15.Ng3

Continuing the Kingside strategy.

Houdini sees insufficient compensation for Black's pawn after 15.Qxb4! Nc5 *(threatening Ncd3+ winning the Queen)* 16.Kb1 Bd7 17.h6 g6 18.Qc3 Rfc8 19.f4 Qb7 20.fxe5 Na4 21.Qa3 *(if 21.Qb3 then Qxe4=)* dxe5 22.Qb3± and now either:

22...Qc7 23.Nxe6 Qc6□ 24.Nc5 24.N6d4 exd4 25.Nxd4 Qc7 26.Qd3,

or 22...Qxe4 23.Ng3 Nc3+ 24.Qxc3 Rxc3 25.Nxe4 Rxe3 26.Bg2 exd4 27.Nf6+ Bxf6 28.Bxa8 Be5 29.c3 Kf8 30.cxd4 Bf4.

It's fine if you're a calculator.

15...Nb6 16.b3 Bd7

Houdini likes the center break with 16...d5 17.Kb1 dxe4=.

17.Bh3

This move is not quite forcing.

Houdini likes the forcing move 17.f4 right away, actually encouraging the Knight to go to g4. Now 17... Ng4 *(If 17...Nc6 then 18.Nxc6 Bxc6 19.h6 g6 20.Qd4+- with a double attack on g7 and b6. Or if 17...Nbc4 then 18.bxc4 Nxc4 19.Bxc4 Qxc4 20.Kb1 and Houdini likes White's material.)* 18.Bg1 gives a big advantage to White. If now 18...a5 then 19.Bh3 a4 20.Kb1, or if 18...Rfe8 then 19.Rh4+-.

17...a5

Better was 17...Rfc8 18.g6 *(If 18.Kb1 then Nbc4 19.bxc4 Nxc4 20.Qd3 Na3+ 21.Ka1 Qa5=. Or 18.f4 Nec4 19.bxc4 Nxc4 20.Qf2 Rab8=.)* 18...hxg6 19.hxg6 Nxg6=.

18.f4 a4! 19.Kb1

Both sides realize that taking the Knight is not as good. If 19.fxe5 then axb3 20.axb3 dxe5∓.

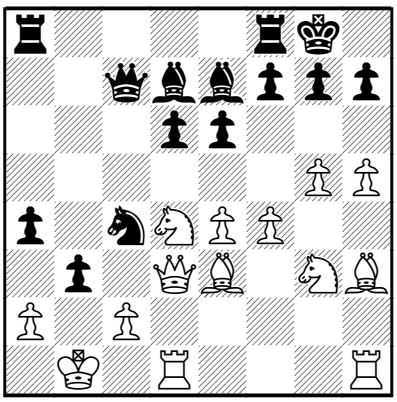
19...Nbc4

Better was taking the opportunity to open the a-file with 19...axb3 20.cxb3, and then play 20...Nbc4 21.bxc4 Nxc4 22.Qc1 Rfc8, threatening ...Qa5 followed by ...Na3+. Then, after 23.Bf1 Na3+ 24.Ka1 Qb7, Black is much better.

20.bxc4

Forced, for example, if 20.Qf2 then 20...axb3 21.Nxb3 Nxe3 22.Qxe3 Rxa2!-+.

20...Nxc4 21.Qd3 b3



22.cxb3–+

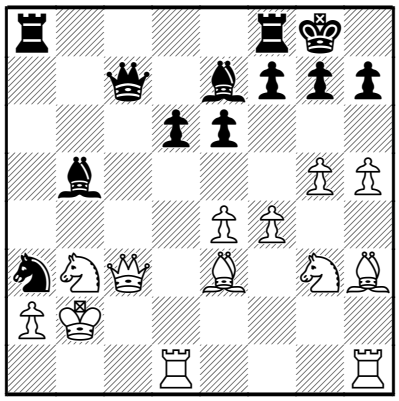
This allows the a-file to open, which is advantageous for Black.

More tenacious was 22.Rc1 b2 23.Rcg1 Rfb8 *(Or 23...d5=. But if 23...a3? then 24.h6! and White's winning attack takes over.)* 24.g6 and White survives.

22...axb3 23.Nxb3 Na3+ 24.Kb2 Bb5

Another Black piece enters the game, while White's Knight on g3 and Bishop on h3 are not active.

25.Qc3

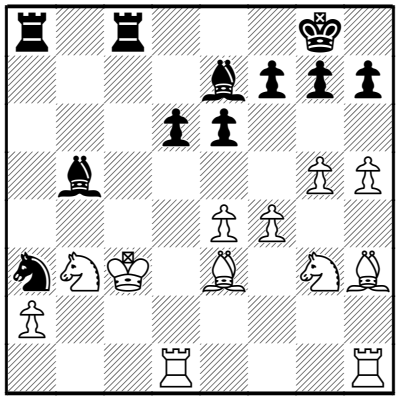


25...Qxc3+!

The right decision, exchanging Queens even when down a piece.

If Black tries to keep Queens on with 25...Qb7 then White is quite well placed to resume the Kingside attack with 26.h6! gxh6 27.gxh6 Nc4+ 28.Kc1 e5 29.Nf5+-.

26.Kxc3 Rfc8+



White's a piece up for the moment, but Houdini says Black is winning.

27.Nc5

White returns the material in a worse position. It will still take time to return the Bishop on h3 and the Knight on g3 to activity.

It might seem that White can now survive by running away with the King and heading for f2. What could go wrong?

Not 27.Kd4? Ra4 mate.

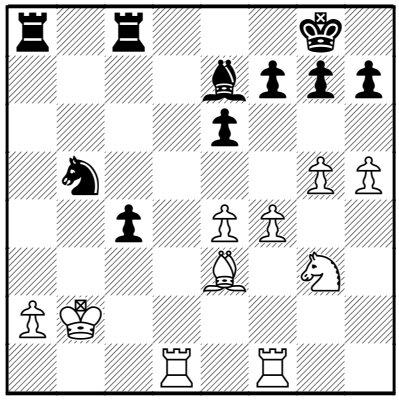
If 27.Kd2 then Nc4+ 28.Ke1 *(28. Ke2 Rxa2+ 29.Kf3 Nxe3 30.Kxe3 Rc3+ will mate)* 28...Nxe3 29.Rd2 Bd8 30.Rhh2 Ra4 31.Kf2 Bb6, and Black's pieces are much better, and White suffers from a weakened Kingside.

Staying on the Queenside has it's problems, too. If 27.Kb2 then Nc4+ 28.Ka1 Nxe3 29.Rc1-+. Material is even here, but the Black King is much safer than his counterpart. So Black will be able to make use of the two Bishops and is free to go after the advanced Kingside pawns, starting with 29...Rc4.

27...dxc5 28.Bf1 Bxf1

With 28...c4, Black's threat of 30...Rab8 and 31...Bb4+ is deadly. If 29.Rc1 then 29...Rd8 30.Be2 Ba4 followed by 31...Rab8 and 32...Bb4+, and the White King is decisively confined.

29.Rhxf1 Nb5+ 30.Kb2 c4



31.Rf2

Now it's over. This is a really unlucky square, as Black shows.

But even 31.Rd7 c3+ 32.Kc2 Rxa2+ 33.Kd3 Kf8 is still losing.

31...Rxa2+!

A shot!

32.Kxa2 Nc3+ 33.Ka1 Ra8+ 34.Kb2 Nxd1+ 35.Kc1 Nxe3 36.Re2 Bc5 37.e5 Nd5 38.Ne4 Bd4 39.Rc2 Ne3 40.Re2 Ra1+ 41.Kd2 Rd1 mate

Very nicely played, and well deserving of the prize for the best game. Trading Queens was a nice touch. Thank you, Chuck, for organizing this tournament! - Ed. ♜

WGM Tatev Abrahamyan on the 40th Olympiad in Istanbul

August 27-September 10, 2012

Istanbul hosted the 40th Chess Olympiad which attracted more than 1500 players and coaches from around the world. Teams from 152 countries competed in the open event, won by Armenia, and 122 countries in the women's, won by Russia. The US team placed 5th, led by Hiraku Nakamura, and the US women's team placed 11th, led by Anna Zatonskih. Also on the women's team, coached by Melikset Khachiyan, were Irina Krush, Sabina Foisor, Rusudan Goletiani, and Tatev Abrahamyan. We asked Tatev, the only player from Southern California, to tell us about her trip! -Ed.

Well, first of all, I have to say that the Olympiad is my all-time favorite tournament. It's not just a tournament; it's a big festival and a celebration of chess. There is really nothing negative I can say about it. Somehow everything surrounding it is positive. It's the only major tournament that's a team tournament, which means it's one of the very few times when it's not just about the individual result. It's a great feeling to play for one's country, but it's a lot of pressure at the same time.

Everyone who's anyone is there. You can play one of the lowest boards and walk around the playing hall and see Kramnik, Aronian, etc,, playing in the same playing hall as you. How often does THAT happen? During one of the earlier rounds, when the stronger teams play relatively weaker ones, I was trying to walk to the top boards to see how the US team was doing and couldn't get past the middle boards because it was so crowded and I couldn't understand. I looked to see who was playing, and it was just Kramnik playing Shirov. No big deal.

Also, it is one of the rare tournaments where there are almost as many women playing as men, which is an extremely rare occurrence in chess. It's just a celebration of everything positive about the game.

My journey started with adventures as usual. My flight to Amsterdam was delayed by several hours, so I missed the connection to Istanbul and arrived there at around 2 a.m. instead of 5 p.m., so I had to skip the first round. We were staying very close to the playing venue, about a 15 minute walk, but the organizers also provided rides. I had very high expectations from this Olympiad when I heard that it was going to be in Istanbul, as I imagined being in a large city with plenty to do and plenty to see. I was very disappointed when I was brought to a hotel one train stop away from the airport with really nowhere to go.

It was very much like playing in a tournament by LAX, which of course gives the wrong impression of how Los Angeles really is. Downtown Istanbul (at least what I thought what downtown Istanbul was) was about 7 or 8 subway stops away, which is virtually impossible to do during a serious tournament like the Olympiad.

We did have some days off and nights out, but personally I find it very difficult playing long tournaments in such isolated places, which can become a problem for someone who doesn't eat meat. I know a lot of chess players prefer those isolated locations, but personally I like being in a lively place.

The hotel was supposedly a 5 star hotel, but was far from it, but overall I think the event was pretty well organized despite some minor things.

For example, the first round was kind of a disaster. All players are required to wear name badges, and although there are 5 players on each team, they were given only 4 green cards, which the 4 playing members carried with them each day. For some reason, before the first round, it was really hard for the players to get in, as I guess the entrances for players and the general public weren't clearly marked. It was rumored that some teams were forfeited because they couldn't get through security on time, and lost due to the zero tolerance rule. Everything was a lot smoother after the first round.

mw

On to the tournament... this Olympiad wasn't as great for our team this year. We more or less had the same people on our team for the past 3-4 Olympiads and our team has finished in top 5, so I had high hopes.

But from the very beginning we started struggling against the lowest rated teams, which was not a good sign. In round 3 we were playing Uzbekistan, who ended up doing really well, but we were 200 points higher rated on every board! I got a really bad position, so I looked to see how our team was doing and I realized that we could lose 0-4!

Somehow, we managed to pull a draw, with Anna Zatonskih and me

pulling miraculous wins, but I remember I thought we were going to lose for sure and I was going to be first to lose! On top of that, it was Sabina's birthday that day, so it was really unfortunate that she lost, but at least the team didn't lose.

At the end of the day, we had a small celebration and forgot all about the disaster.

Our first loss came 2 rounds later against an underrated but very solid Vietnam team and even though we won our next three matches in a row, we had probably lost all realistic chances to medal.

All hope was lost after we lost to Ukraine in round 9, which was the only higher rated team we played. It was really disappointing that we only played up once.

Except for Irina Krush, who had a strong result, it seemed like that no one was in good form. I think everyone got into a better form as the tournament progressed and if we could do it all over again, I think we'd have a much better result.

Overall the tournament was a lot of fun despite being stressful. Our days were very structured and tame. They basically consisted of eating, preparing, eating, playing the games, having dinner, relaxing for a little while, having a team meeting and going to sleep.

Everyone worked really hard, especially our coach and captain. Besides delivering Starbucks to us at the games from across the street (because the coffee at the playing area tasted like poison), Melik also worked very hard researching our opponents and doing prep work by the time we woke up and had breakfast.

Both my teammates and all our supporters and sponsors deserve a lot of credit for their hard work, dedication, fighting spirit and their deep belief in our team.

Overall it was still a great experience, and my favorite part was when the whole team, both men and women, got together for dinner regardless of how good or bad the round went and it's a really nice way to unwind and to either forget the day's disappointment or celebrate the victory.

I also have to mention how great the men's team did, especially being the only team to defeat Russia. Even though the loss against China was truly heartbreaking, I think they deserve a lot of respect and praise for their amazing result, finishing fifth, and their great team spirit.

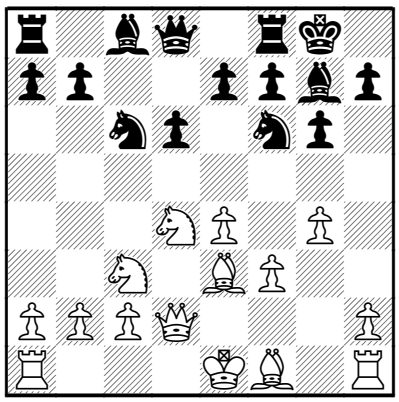
I also have to mention how heartwarming it is to see Armenia win, since I have known some of the players since I was a little kid and I know what a big celebration it is for Armenians all over the world to see their victory and what genuine happiness it brings to the whole nation.

- Tatev

Abrahamyan,Tatev (2303) - Narva,Regina (2042) Estonia
[B76] Sicilian Dragon
40th Olympiad Women (2)
Istanbul, 29.08.2012

This was the first game I played, and it's always good to start the tournament on a good note.

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.g4



9...Re8?

This move is too slow. Black can't afford to make moves like this in the Dragon. Now every position we get, Black is just going to be down a tempo. 9...Be6 10.0–0–0 Nxd4 11.Bxd4 Qa5 12.a3 Rfc8 13.h4 Rab8 is a standard way of continuing the game.

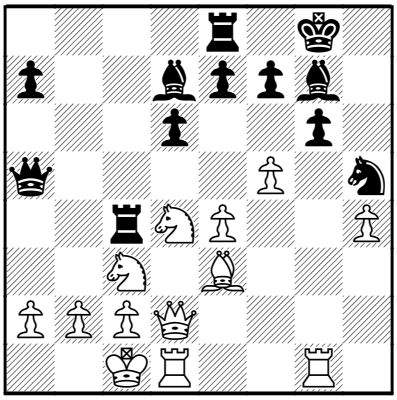
10.h4 h5 11.gxh5 Nxh5 12.0–0–0

My idea is very simple. I want to play Rhg1, Be2 and f4.

12...Ne5 13.Rg1 b5

Out of desperation, Black feels the need to do something hectic. After 13...Be6 14.Nxe6 fxe6 15.Be2, f4 is unstoppable.

14.Bxb5 Bd7 15.Be2 Rc8 16.f4 Nc4 17.Bxc4 Rxc4 18.f5 Qa5



19.fxg6 f5

Obviously, this position is completely winning for me, but I was so fixated on the idea that after the g-file opens the game will be over in few moves, that I completely forgot that Black can prevent it! It's a little silly, but I was completely shocked by my opponent's move. I spent about 30 minutes calculating long lines that didn't work, but I convinced myself to just make normal moves since I'm still going to be up 3 pawns!

20.Rg5

20.Nb3 Bxc3 21.Qe2 Bxb2+ 22.Kxb2 Qc3+ 23.Kb1 Rec8 was one of the lines I was focused on, but then decided to not give away pawns for no reason. The rest of the game is easy and straight forward.

20...Nf6 21.Nxf5 Bxf5 22.Rxf5 Qa6 23.e5 Ng4 24.Rdf1 e6 25.Rf7 Nxe5 26.Bh6 Rc7 27.Qg5 Rxc3 28.Rxg7+ Kh8 29.Rh7+ Kg8 30.Rh8+ 1–0

Kurbonboyeva,Sarvinoz (2143) Uzbekistan - Abrahamyan,Tatev (2303)
[E97] King's Indian Defense
40th Olympiad Women (3)
Istanbul, 30.08.2012

This is the painful match against Uzbekistan, where we managed to pull out a miraculous draw.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0–0 6.Be2 e5 7.0–0 Nc6 8.d5 Ne7 9.b4 c6 10.Ba3

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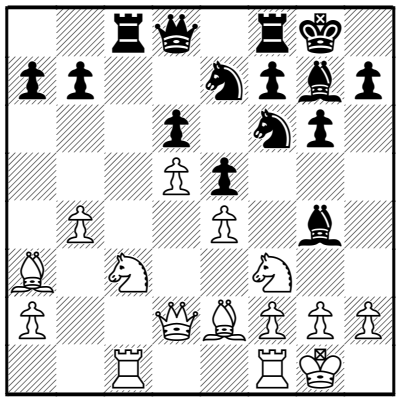
8...Ne7. Later, all the stars lined up!

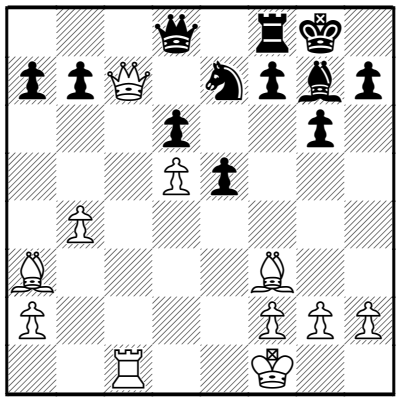
cxd5 11.cxd5 Bg4 12.Qd2 Rc8 13.Rac1



13...h5?!

A bad reaction on my behalf.

I should have played more actively with 13...Rxc3 14.Qxc3 Nxe4 15.Qc4 Bxf3 16.Bxf3 Nd2 17.Qc7 Nxf1 18.Kxf1.

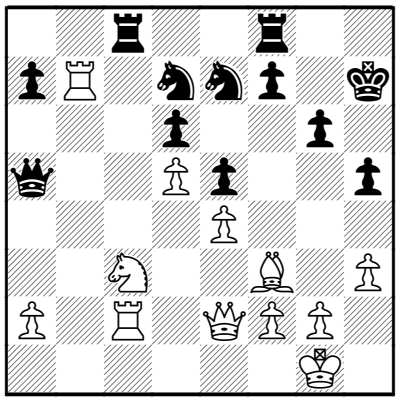


During the game I didn't like this position, but the computer finds 18... Qe8! 19.Qxb7 (*If 19.Qxd6 then 19...Nf5 playing for activity.*) 19...Qa4. In the game, I couldn't find a good plan and my opponent slowly built up her position.

14.h3 Bxf3 15.Bxf3 Kh7 16.Rc2 Bh6 17.Qe2 Qb6

My pieces are already uncoordinated. I have traded my light square Bishop (French player's habit?), so I can forget about any attacking ideas. The Bishop on h6 is kind of nice, but it is going to be traded for the a3 Bishop, and my Kingside can become quite weak.

18.Rb1 Nd7 19.Bc1 Bxc1 20.Rbxc1 Qxb4 21.Rb1 Qa5 22.Rxb7



22...Rfd8

After this move I realized how horrible my position is. I can't move any of my pieces. In order to regroup, I have to play Kg7, Ng8, Nc5. My whole 7th rank is weak.

This is also the point where I looked at our other games and realized that we might very well lose on every board.

Better would have been 22...Rxc3 23.Rxc3 Qxc3 24.Rxd7 Nc8.

23.Qe3

Better was 23.Nb5 Rxc2 24.Qxc2 Nc8 25.Be2 with the strong threat of Rxd7 and Qxc8. I can't untangle my pieces without losing at least a pawn.

23...Rc7 24.Rxc7 Qxc7 25.Bd1

My opponent let me get out of the pins. Now I have a nice square on c5 for my Knight, and White's light square Bishop is useless, since so many of White's pawns are on light squares

25...Qb7 26.Rc1 Nc5 27.Rb1 Qd7 28.Be2 Kg7 29.Qg3 Kh7 30.Qe3 Rf8

I think around this point we were already down to 0–2 and Anna was down an exchange but her position wasn't very clear, so we both needed to win somehow!

31.f4 exf4 32.Qxf4 f6 33.Nb5 Nc8 34.Rc1

Again, my pieces are tangled. Now the pawn on d6 is weak.

34...Re8 35.Qxf6 Rxe4 36.Bf3 Re7 37.Nd4?

Objectively, it's not that bad of a move. But her team is winning, so all she needs to do is play safe to secure the team win with 37.Nxd6 Qxd6 (*37... Nxd6 38.Rxc5 is even worse*) 38.Qxd6 Nxd6 39.Rxc5, with a better endgame for White (and less losing chances).

Luckily, my opponent was very young and probably not very experienced, so I think she still wanted to squeeze the advantage she had earlier.

37...Rf7 38.Qg5 Qe7 39.Qd2 Nb6 40.Re1 Qh4 41.Ne6 Nxe6 42.Rxe6

Or 42.dxe6 Nc4 43.Qe2 Re7, which I thought was a better option for White, with the annoying pawn on e6.

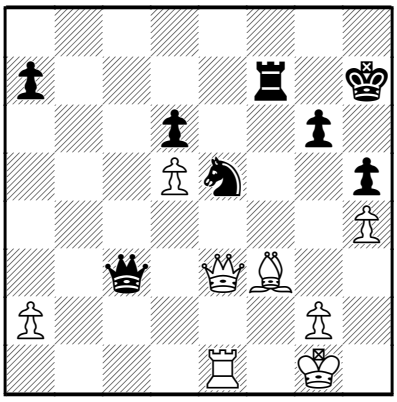
At this point, Anna had either won the Exchange back or was in the process of getting it back, so there was some hope...

42...Nc4 43.Qf2 Qg5 44.h4 Qc1+ 45.Re1 Qc3

I foresaw the ending of the game few moves ago, but then I realized the trap wouldn't work because it would require White to "give away" a move. But then my opponent played her next move, and all the stars lined up.

46.Qe2 Ne5 47.Qe3??

White's position is already bad. She should play 47.Rf1 Qd4+ 48.Qf2 Nxf3+ 49.gxf3 Qxd5 and try to hold this.



47...Rxf3!! 48.gxf3 Qxe1+ 0-1

Please turn to page 54, ***Tatev***

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.

Coming Soon

Brooklyn Castle, coming soon to a theatre (that may not be) near you!

Hopefully by the time this issue of *Rank & File* is in your hands, you will still have a chance to see this fun and inspirational documentary about Brooklyn's **Intermediate School 318** and their amazing chess team. Winners of the ***National High School Championships*** in Minneapolis in 2012, this Brooklyn middle school (up to 8th grade) boasted two players rated over 2300, an Expert, and an A-player!

To watch the trailer and find the closest theatre, please visit **www.brooklyncastle.com**

- Jay Stallings

Los Angeles

The third edition of the ***Metropolitan Chess Camp*** will run from July 10th to 14th, 2013. Metropolitan Chess, Inc. will have the pleasure of again hosting World Champion Viswanathan Anand as one of the lead instructors. Other instructors already committed include GM Melikset Khachiyan, IM Andranik Matikozyan, IM Armen Ambartsoumian, and IM Zhanibek Amanov. More special instructors will be added and announced periodically.

Metropolitan Chess, Inc. will increase the frequency of ***Grandmaster norm round robin events*** it runs in 2013. In addition, we will also be adding a GM norm Round Robin (RR) invitation possibility to all future qualifiers. The next qualifier, which is the 24th in the series, will be from December 21 to 23, 2012. It will be for players higher rated than 1900 USCF up to a rating no greater than 2399 FIDE. Instead of two qualification spots being for IM norm RR invitations as usual, the top spot will win an entry to either a GM or IM norm RR (winner's choice). The second spot, for players under 2200 FIDE only, will win an entry for an IM norm RR.

For more information, please contact Ankit Gupta, President of Metropolitan Chess, Inc. at ankit.gupta@metrochessla.com or visit www.metrochessla.com.

Glendale

In an effort to help restore the landscape of scholastic chess tournaments in the L.A. area and some unity between local scholastic chess programs, the **American Chess Academy** (ACA) successfully hosted their first ever rated scholastic event, the ***2012 ACA Scholastic Fall Championship*** on Sept. 23rd in Glendale. The festive one day event took place at the beautiful and luxurious Armenian Society of Los Angeles with an unrated section and 3 rated sections. Pizza, sandwiches and beverages were on sale during the five round Swiss event.

The turnout was a greater than expected 160 participants, ages 5 to 16 years old, with many of the spirited young chess players coming from as far as San Diego, Santa Barbara, Santa Clarita and the San Gabriel Valley areas.

ACA, California Youth Chess League and BEYOND CHESS's scholastic chess programs were very well represented. Other notable programs included Glendale's AAA Chess Club, Burbank's All Star Youth Chess (ASYC), West L.A.'s LACC and the Conejo Valley Chess Club.

Southern California organizer and local club TD Jerry Yee and ACA Founder IM Armen Ambartsoumian directed with only a few mishaps,

One hundred sixty participants turned up at the ACA Scholastic Fall Championship! **jy**

which was understandable considering they only expected 90 to 100 players. Overall, it was a tremendous success and an important step toward reassuring many chess families and coaches in Southern California that there still are great scholastic events in Los Angeles. Yee and Ambartsoumian are also planning to organize a citywide ***L.A. Scholastic Championship*** that would take place in January or February. (Details to be announced.)

ACA will continue to host regular scholastic tournaments every 3 months, with the next event taking place on Dec. 16th.

For information please contact Jerry Yee at 818-915-5572 or email him at **jyee6@socal.rr.com**.

La Palma

Craig Hilby and Leigh Hunt tied for 1st place in the top section of **La Palma Chess Club's** 5-round ***Big Fish, Little Fish Swiss*** with a score of 4-1. The 28-player event held at La Palma's Central Park ended July 20th. In the lower section, Christopher Zalecki and Dr. Harold Valery tied for first place with 4-1. Dr. Valery also won the biggest rating gain prize for his increase of 53 points. Leigh Hunt won the best game prize for his win over Barry Lazarus.

With an undefeated score of 4½-½, national master Craig Faber won the 5-round ***Surfing on the 7th Rank***. Tying for second place at 4-1 were Leigh Hunt and Sid Somasundaram. The 32-player event held at La Palma's Central Park ended August 31st. 1166 rated Shrini Jayakumar won the biggest rating gain prize for an increase of 68 points, a 1556 performance. Brian Scanlon won the best game prize.

With an undefeated score of 4-1, Craig Hilby won the 5-round ***The Knight's Tour***. Second place at 3½-1½ was Craig Faber and Robert Hutchinson. The 35-player event held at La Palma's Central Park ended October 5th. In the lower section, Peter Holzer and Yoshio Dupree tied for first place with 4-1 and Stuart Kusdono won the biggest rating gain prize. Chris Keefe won the best game prize for his win over Neil Bellinger.

See the club's website at **www.lapalmachess.com** for wall charts, games, pictures and a schedule of events.

Antelope Valley

So Much Fun at the ***Chess Mini-Game Tournament*** (Don't tell the kids it was educational, too!)

21 children participated in a Chess Mini-Game Tournament on Saturday, Sept. 22. During the day, each of them commented frequently about how much fun they were having.

Numerous research studies have found that the pattern recognition utilized in chess generalizes to both the pattern recognition skills needed in reading as well as those necessary to do arithmetic and math.

But let's skip that and talk about the chess fun! The youngest participant was three-year-old Lavhona Brown. She came with her Mom who brought Lavhona's two older sisters. Although her Mom hadn't intended to have Lavhona participate, the tot was drawn to the games and eagerly joined in.

Other participants ranged from age 4 through 12, each of them with a different chess knowledge level, from knowing nothing at all about the game through beginners, beyond beginners, and intermediates.

In a large-group lesson presented by professional chess teacher Ms. Daa, one chess piece at a time was introduced, participants learned how to move the piece then were presented with a Chess Mini-Game which uses that piece.

After that they ran ("Walk, please," Ms. Daa had to remind the excited kids often) to the chess boards for immediate hands-on play and practice of that piece. They would play as many as a dozen 2 to 5 minute games of that Chess Mini-Game, then return for the next lesson. This repeated for each of the six chess pieces so that by the end of the day, every child was experienced and capable with all of the chess pieces.

Note: The Chess Mini-Games© are the copyright property of Ms. Daa.

For more information, contact AV Chess House owner Daa (pronounced day) Anne Mahowald daa@mahowald.org 661-466-6907.

Valencia

Gary Sauer (1935 – 2012)

If you were fortunate enough to have played Gary over the years (most likely at the Chess Palace or at the LA Chess Club) then you probably learned that it was okay to not take chess too seriously. Gary usually laughed with his opponent as he shook his head after losses and smiled after wins. At one time rated over 2000, Gary's enthusiasm for the game never faltered.

In the summers, Gary would travel to Paris for two months, where he would play chess in Luxembourg Garden each day for hours.

He started the Valencia Chess Club in the late 1980's and continued to support chess in the area after it folded in 1993. In the mid-90's he offered support, mentoring and transportation to young players who otherwise could not get to tournaments in Los Angeles. He even chaperoned trips to the U.S. Open in Florida and Virginia.

mm

On Sunday, September 30th, while visiting his son in Colorado, Gary simply did not wake up. Gary was 77 years old. We will miss his unsolicited kindness and youthful exuberance.

- Jay Stallings

Rancho Cucamonga

Get your chess kicks on Route 66!

Two Southern California chess teams did just that! A team match took place Sunday, September 23, 2012 just a short distance from the famed Route 66 in Rancho Cucamonga, California. The visiting La Palma Chess Team battled their hosts, the Inland Empire Chess Team. All games were G/120 with alternating colors determined by coin toss. The match was won 7 to 5 by Inland Empire with the two point edge coming on forfeits. The ten contested games featured exciting chess with the teams trading blows throughout the day. The matchups and results were:

La Palma		**Inland Empire**
1 Craig Faber 2205	½-½	Hugo Villanueva 2271
2 John Rinaldo 2100	1-0	Albert Lu 2178
3 Wes White 1980	0-1	Simone Liao 2123
4 Leigh Hunt 1949	½-½	David Pensoneau 2126
5 Joe Warhula 1911	½ -½	Romeo Reario 2004
6 Shyam Gandhi 1905	1-0	Annie Wang 1978
7 Mike Henebry 1888	1-0	Tom Scharwark 1970
8 Vic Alfaro 1835	0-1	Kele Perkins 1728)
9 Brenda Nardi 1725	0-1	Joaquin Perkins 1727
10 Brian Scanlon 1621	½-½	Charles Clark 1520

Both clubs have participated in other matches this year. La Palma, with its long established club history, finished 2nd in the team championships at Chess Palace of Garden Grove, California in January, while Inland Empire, a new team formed just this year, was victorious in March against a strong team from Hemet, California. Both teams enjoyed today's event and plan to participate in more team matches in the future.

Chess action on board 3: Simone Liao vs. Wes White

Meanwhile, Inland Empire team organizers are hard at work trying to grow the club team match concept to include more California clubs and adding a scholastic element to the mix. Contact the author at asimov35@live.com if you are interested in setting up a match.

A new club **ChessStart** meets 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sundays in the Rancho Cucamonga Community Center, 11200 Baseline Rd. No dues. Weekly rated tournaments for adults and scholastics, casual play, blitz. Contact Taras McKey at (909) 292-7522 or at asimov35@live.com.

Chess action on board 1: Craig Faber vs. Hugo Villanueva

San Diego

In July and August, 75 players played 5 rounds of the ***John Funderburg Open*** which was split into 3 sections. In the Open Section, Nikolay Arutyunov, Kyron Griffith and George Zeigler tied for first with 3½-1½, followed by Raoul Crisologo and Aaron Wooten with 3.

In the Premier Section, Santi Pinon won clear 1st place with perfect 5-0 followed by Joel Batchelor, Harold May, and Gregory Ingolia with 4. Allan Virtue and Alfredo De Leon scored 3½ and Best Under 1800 was won by Jonathan Patriarca and Donald Klaas, both with 3-2. In the Reserve Section, John Huey also scored a perfect 5-0, ahead of Aaron Cook, Joe Sanna and Andrew Liu with 3½. Tom Lavoy took Best Under 1400 with the same score while Mike Smith and Maria Murra were Best Under 1200 with 2-3.

In August and September, 66 players competed in the ***David Saponara Precision Shootout***. There was a 5-way tie at 3½-1½ in the top Gunslinger Open Section between Raoul Crisologo, Aaron Wooten, Nikolay Arutyunov, Peter Hodges and Tom Fries

Tom has returned to the club triumphantly after suffering a stroke last year. He has been beating everyone lately (including Experts Mario Amodeo and Raoul Crisologo) and had a clear draw against George Zeigler in the last round, which would have won him clear first place, but he proved he was still human by fum-

bling the ball at the one yard line, allowing a pawn to Queen when he could have just taken it for a draw. Tom still won Best Under 2000, followed by Guru Gopalakrishnan, Pejman Sagart and Joel Batchelor.

In the Sniper Section Bruce Charnov dominated with 4½-½, and Carl Newell was 2nd with 4. Rocio Murra and Darryl Woodson were Best Under 1600 with 3-2 and Ron Stanard Best Under 1400 also with 3. David Palmer was 2nd Under 1400 while Michael Swift and Maria Murra tied for Best Under 1200 with 2. All these games were played at 40/90, SD/60, d/5 which is our standard time control at the **San Diego Chess Club**.

But, we also had two sections of G/90, the Sharpshooter Open, which was won by Shaun Sweitzer and Chuck Ensey. Jerry Qu was Best Under 1800, followed by Hector Gonzalez. In the Bounty Hunter Section (U1600), Robert Henderson won clear first with 4½ followed by Mark Lawless with 4. There was a 4-way tie for Best Under 1400 between Tom Lavoy, Tygan Zeng, Joshua Chung and Daniel Sun. Patrick Edwards and Wendell Payne won Best Under 1200.

Next up is the ***Mario Amodeo Team Tournament*** and then the ***Bruce Baker Class Championships*** to finish out the year. The **SDCC** is one of the largest clubs in the country with 163 current members and plays on Wednesday nights at 7 PM at 2225 Sixth Avenue in Balboa Park, about a mile from downtown San Diego.

A ***September Gambito Open*** was held on Sept. 15th instead of the usual 1st of the month due to the Southern California Open. With 3½-½, Dionisio Aldama and Cyrus Lakdawala tied for 1st out of a 22 player Open Section with 7 Masters, 8 Experts and 7 Class A. Ken Arnold and Peter Graves were Best Under 2400. Paul Agron won Best Under 2200 and Chris Wonnell was Best Under 2000.

In the 13 player Reserve Section Chuck Ensey won 1st with 3½-½, followed by Gary Weeks and Datris Robinson at 3-1. Claire Negus was Best Under 1600 and Ganesh Dekate Best Under 1400.

A few weeks later, the ***October Super Gambito*** was swept 4-0 by Dionisio Aldama, Ronald Bruno was 2nd with 3-1 and Cyrus Lakdawala 3rd with 2½-1½ with Craig Clawitter, who won Best Under 2200. Pejman Sagart and Ajay Krishnan tied for Best Under 2000. In the Reserves, Ben Keltner and Nicholas Wolff tied for 1st and Best Under 1600.

On ***National Chess Day*** (October 13th) we held special 4 round ***Gambito*** with $860 in prizes. Cyrus Lakdawala, scoring 7½-½, came out on top this time with Dionisio Aldama 2nd at 7-1. Jamieson Pryor at 6-2 won Best Under 2400 and then there was a 3-way tie for Best Under 2200 between Paul Agron, Ben Barquin and Bud Stamper at 5-3. Kiran Yalamanchi scored the same as those 3, but won Best Under 2000. Best Under 1800 was split between Marco Gonzalez and Jerry Cupat, who was playing in his first Gambito. Nicholas Wolff was Best Under 1600 and Fred Cleveland Best Under 1400.

I overheard a player recently say the Gambito Open was the highlight of the week for him and he always looks forward to it. As a director, that was music to my ears, as I feel the same way and we always try to do whatever we can to make the playing conditions as ideal as possible. But I think the main thing is just the camaraderie of the players and the thrilling ups and downs of the games themselves. It is always nice to win, but even when I lose, I like to think I am learning something that will help me in future contests.

One thing I have noticed is that chess is a good indicator about the state of your mental health. If you are distracted by outside worries, or just not properly focused, your results will let you know right away that something is wrong! "Getting your mind right" with a confident, relaxed and positive attitude is a big part of a successful strategy in my experience.

The ***San Diego County Championship*** in August drew 58 players in 3 sections. This unique event has prizes for every 100 rating point level, from 2400 to 1400.

The Open Section was won by Dionisio Aldama with 4 out of 5, his lone loss being to Ronald Bruno (Best Under 2400). Ron tied with Varun Krishnan (2nd), Martin Nilsson (Best Under 2300) and Bruce Baker (2nd U2400), all with 3½. Varun won the County Championship title on tie breaks (Dionisio is from out of state). Peter Graves was 2nd U2300 with 3, while Alaa-addin Moussa and Jim Humphrey split the U2200 prize. Ben Barquin won Best Under 2100.

In the Premier Section (U2000), Santi Pinon was 1st with an impressive 4½-½. Harold May won Best Under 1900 with 3½, followed by six others with 3 for 2nd U1900: Albert Dumaran, Kenneth Xu (he was the only one to mar Santi's record with a draw in round 3), Jay Choi, Daniel Collins, Zechariah Zhu and Edgar Lopez. Three players also scored 3 to tie for Best Under 1800: Eliza Eggert, Ajay Krishnan and Daniel Shevelev. Best Under 1700 was Daniel Zhu and Gregory Ingolia.

In the Reserve Section, Alex Costello scored 4½-½ for clear First Place U1600. Andrew Liu was Best Under 1500 with 4 and Kevin Yang Best Under 1400 with 3½. Stephen Zhu was 2nd U1600. David Kim won 2nd U1500 while Cassidy Liu and Matthew Wang tied for 2nd U1400.

SDCC also has a kids club on Friday night at 7 PM and play the Gambito Opens on Saturday at 10:30 AM. Bruce Baker manages the club, Ron Rezendes is President and Chuck Ensey Vice President. Tom Kuhn is our Treasurer, Jeff Turner is the Secretary and Mark Lawless is the Sergeant-At-Arms. Rounding out the board are members-at-large Martin Nilsson and Bruce Charnov.

- Chuck Ensey

Pasadena

The eight-round ***Liberty Open***, during July and August when players are most likely to need byes, attracted 63 players. Club champ Yusheng Xia, John Hale, Albert Lu, and Feiyue Yang (who went 4-0 before taking four byes while overseas) tallied 6-2 to tie

for first. Phil Chase and Wendell Salveron split Under 2000 honors, while Steven Niles and Edward Wu (both under 1600) tied for both Under 1800 and Under 1600/ Other class prizes were earned by Jeffrey Chou (Under 1400) and Winston Qian, Kyle Li, and Arden Wang (Under 1200).

The ***San Gabriel Valley Open***, with 59 players, saw the first appearance in memory of a titled player. IM Tim Taylor topped the first section with 4½-½ (the half being a bye). Yusheng Xia and Jesse Victoria (who was first Under 2100) trailed with 4-1. Anthony Hung and Tony Kukavica tied for Under 1900, as did Hamlet Tovmasyan and Justin Chang for Under 1700.

Section Two went to Jeffrey Chou and Tim Deng (another tie). Julian Chang took Under 1500 honors; Winston Qian, Victor Yen, and Kendryek Wu split Under 1300; and Nicholas Mendez and Michael Zhang tied for Under 1100.

The club will mark the end of the year with ***"A Rose for Your Queen,"*** a four-rounder in three sections, Nov. 30 - Dec. 21.

The club meets Friday nights (holiday weekends excepted) at 7 pm at the Boys and Girls Club, 3230 East Del Mar. See our web page: **tim-thompson.com/pasadena.html** for fuller details, or contact Randy Hough at drandallhough@yahoo.com, (626) 282-7412.

San Luis Obispo

San Luis Obispo Chess Club has resumed meeting at Carl's Jr at 195 Santa Rosa Street every Thursday beginning at 6:30 p.m., following the recent remodel of the site, offering both casual chess play and twice-monthly lectures by chess expert Victor Hendricks.

The San Luis Obispo County Annual Chess Championship Tournament, hosted by the Morro Bay Recreation and Parks Department, will be held at the Morro Bay Community Center on Saturday, November 17. Details about this 4-round tournament and a concurrent 5-round scholastic tournament with sections for both rated and non-rated players can be found at www.slochess.com or the online USCF TLA section.

Santa Clarita

National Chess Day: Chess-a-palooza!

National Chess Day (Saturday, October 13th this year – it is always the 2nd Saturday of October) was celebrated in Santa Clarita by something that was not possible just a couple of years ago – ***Boy Scouts earning the Chess Merit Badge!***

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This free event was organized by the California Youth Chess League and held at Albert Einstein Academy in Santa Clarita (near Magic Mountain). Ten volunteers (all USCF players) were kept plenty busy by 40 Boy Scouts and 14 Cub Scouts for nearly 8 hours! In the end, 37 Merit Badges were earned and 14 Cub Scouts earned either a Belt Loop or a Pin. The Chess Merit Badge was introduced in 2011.

For more information on the Chess Merit Badge, please email Jay Stallings at coachjay@cycl.org.

Ridgecrest

Our second ***unrated scholastic chess tournament*** of the school year attracted 164 students from 5 to 16-years-old. Our tournaments are free, and everyone gets an award - which explains the large turnout for this small community in the high desert. Richmond Elementary School topped the K-1 section, Gateway and Las Flores Elementary Schools tied for first in the 2-3 section, Pierce Elementary School dominated the 4-5 section, Murray Middle School topped the 6-8 section, and Burroughs High School easily won the 9-12 section.

Tournament Director Dwight Morgan was especially pleased that seven schools reached double figures in their attendance this month.

Individual champions for the tournament included Cayden Houck and Amanda Huynh in the K-1 Section, Rachel Huynh in the 2-3 Section, Dillon Bling and Emilio Villegas in the 4-5 Section, Jerry Korman in the 6-8 Section, and Mick Peterson, Torin Fuller, and Gregory Ostrom in the 9-12 Section.

Tournament Director Dwight Morgan is hoping to begin expanding soon to include rated USCF tournaments as part of the tournaments offered in the Ridgecrest area. Contact Dwight Morgan at dmorgan178@yahoo.com or (760) 377-0034 for more information.

Hemet

The Hemet Chess Club recently moved to a new location. Our new home is a 2400 sq.ft. building which is not far from our previous location at Marie Callender's in Hemet. The Hemet Chess Club is now located at 817 West 9th St., San Jacinto CA. 92583.

We are excited to have a lot more space for our chess players, and our own location to allow for tournaments on other days during the week. We've had a few new players join our club recently, and they are enjoying our friendly atmosphere. Sunday's are our main events.

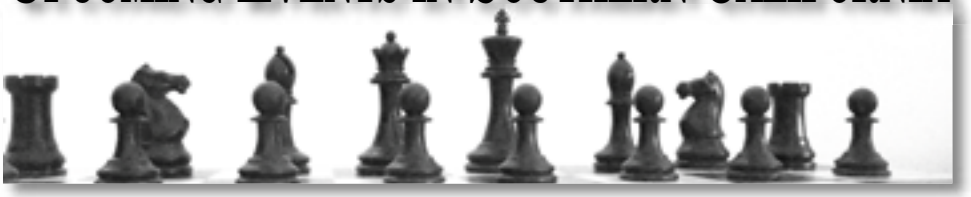
We now start our tournaments on ***Sundays at 3pm*** and the club is open from 2-9pm. A blitz tournament usually follows.

On Thursday October 11th we held our club's first Thursday tournament.

The club phone is 951-654-9200. Marcos Montes handles the club email at **hemetchessclub2009@gmail.com** and can be reached at (951) 252-5926. Our Hemet Chess Club website is **hemetchessclub.blogspot.com**. Please check our website tournament calendar for schedule updates.

- Jeff Arnold

Upcoming Events in Southern California



***** Please see uschess.org for the complete TLA for each event.***

November 22-25 or 23-25
48th Annual American Open
A Heritage Event!
An American Classic!
120 Grand Prix Points Enhanced

8SS, 40/2, SD/1. **Doubletree Hotel Anaheim / Orange County**, 100 City Dr., **Orange**, CA 92868. $$50,000 b/o 500 entries, $25,000 guaranteed. 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). **EF**: $165 if rec'd by 11/11, $20 more after, $50 more for players rated under 2000 playing in Open, U1600 & U1400 save $10, Unrateds save $65. All: $50 more at door. **No checks at door - cash only, credit card accepted for a $10 fee**. **SCCF membership** $18 **required** for So Cal residents. **4-day schedule: Reg. closes 11am on 11/22**, (Rounds 12:30-7:30, 12:30-7:30, 10:30-5, 10-4:30). **3-day schedule: Reg. closes 9:30am on 11/23**, Rounds. 11-2:30-5-8pm (G/60 min), schedules merge in Rd 5 and compete for common prizes. **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 24
American Open Blitz (QC)

5 round double swiss, G/5. Projected prizes $1000, 80% Guaranteed! $300-100; U2200, U2000, U1800, U1600, U1400, Unr. each $100.

Nov 24 - 25, 2012
2012 American Open Scholastic

Doubletree Anaheim/Orange County, 100 City Dr., **Orange, CA** 92868. (714) 634-4500. Hotel rate $92 only (must mention group code AAO for discount).

Main Event: 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**): **Rds**.: Saturday & Sunday 9am, 12:15, 3:15 for Varsity sections; and Sunday 9am, 10:45, 12:15, 1:45, 3:15 for Junior Varsity sections. **Side events**: ***Blitz*** (Fri Reg: 5:30-6pm, Games 6:30-8:30p) and ***Bughouse*** (Sat Registration: 5:30-6pm, Games 6:30-8:30p) in 3 sections (K-3, 4-6, 7-12). Blitz EF: $15, Bughouse $15.

USCF Membership required for all sections. **Info**: americanopen.org/scholastic.htm. Inquire: play@americanopen.org. Chess Magnet School JGP for Varsity Sections.

November 25, 2012
American Open Action

5 round SS, G/30. Projected prizes $500, 80% Guaranteed!

January 11-13 or 12-13
Century West Open
A Renewed SCCF Event!
A FIDE Event!

5SS, 40/2, SD/1, d/5 (2-day option, rds 1-2 G/75, d/5). Site: **Radisson LAX**, 6225 West Century Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90045. Prizes: $$10,000 b/165, 80% of each prize guaranteed!

In 5 sections. **Open**: $$1700-750-400-300-200, U2400 400, U2200 700-300-200. **Premier** (under 2000): $$750-300-200-100. **Amateur** (Under 1800): $$750-300- 200-100. **Reserve** (Under 1600): $$750-300-200-100. **Booster** (Under 1400/unrated): $$400-200-100, U1200 150, Unr 150. (Unrated may win Unrated prizes only.) **EF**: $99 by 12/10, $105 by 01/01 $109 at door. GM/IM free, $99 from prize. Booster (U1400) section EF: $80 by 12/10, $87 by 01/01, $95 door. Re-entry $60 in all sections. **3-day schedule**: Reg ends Fri 6 pm, rds. Fri 7 pm, Sat 11 & 6, Sun 10 & 4:15. **2-day schedule**: Reg ends Sat 10 am, rds. Sat 11, 2:30 & 6, Sun 10 & 4:15. All: Half point byes OK all, limit 2, must commit before rd 3. **SCCF membership required for rated Southern Californians**. **HR**: $99-99, 1-(800) 333-3333, code Metropolitan, ***reserve by December 20th***. Parking $11/day. Free wireless in public areas, 24-hour airport shuttle. **Info**: info@metrochessla.com. Web site, On-line entry: www.metrochessla.com Ent: Metropolitan Chess, PO Box 25112, Los Angeles, CA 90025-0112. $15 service charge for refunds.

January 12
CWO Scholastics

5-SS, G/30. **Radisson LAX**, 6225 West Century Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90045 Open to gr. **12-below**. In two sections: **Open**: Trophies to top 5, top 3 U1200, top 2 Unrated. **Grade 6/below U1000**: Trophies to top 5, top 3 U700, top 2 Unrated. **Reg**.: 8:30-9. **Rds**.: 9:30-11-12:15-1:45-3. **EF**: $20 if received by 01/01, $25 door. Info: info@metrochessla.com. On-line ent: www.metrochessla.com. Ent: Metropolitan Chess, PO Box 25112, Los Angeles, CA 90025-0112.

February 16-18
The Recession Buster Open
150 Grand Prix Points Enhanced

Marriott San Diego Airport/Liberty Station (see **marriott.com/sanal**) 2592 Laning Rd, San Diego CA 92106 tel: (619) 221-1900. $18,000 prize fund, 100% guaranteed. 6 Rds, **4 Sections**: Open, U2100, U1700, U1300. ***See flyer*** for all details.

March 8-10 or 9-10
20th annual Western Class Championships
Trophies Plus
100 Grand Prix Points Enhanced

5SS, 40/2, SD/1, d/5 (2-day option, rds. 1-2 G/75, d/5). Sheraton Agoura Hills Hotel, 30100 Agoura Rd., Agoura Hills, CA 91301. 26 miles west of Burbank.

In 7 sections. **Master** (over 2199): $2000-1000-500-300, clear or tiebreak winner $100 bonus, top U2300 $800-400. FIDE. **Expert** (2000-2199): $1500-800-400-200. **Class A** (1800-1999): $1500-800-400-200. **Class B** (1600-1799): $1500-800-400-200. **Class C** (1400-1599): $1400-700-400-200. **Class D** (1200-1399): $1200-600-300-200. **Class E** (1000-1199): $600-300-200-100, trophies to top U1000, U800, U600, Unr. Rated players may play up one section. **Questions**: chesstour.com, 845-496-9658, **Director@Chess.US**. Ent: **chessaction.com** or Continental Chess, PO Box 249, Salisbury Mills NY 12577. Director@Chess.us, 845-496-9658. $15 service charge for refunds. Advance entries posted at chessaction.com.

April 26-28 or 27-28
Western Pacific Open
A Heritage SCCF Event!
FIDE Rated!

5SS, 40/2, SD/1, d/5 (2-day option, rds 1-2 G/75, d/5). Site: Radisson LAX, 6225 West Century Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90045. Prizes: $$10,000 b/165, 80% of each prize guaranteed! 5 sections. **Open**: $$1700-750-400-300-200, U2400 400, U2200 700-300-200. **Premier (under 2000)**: $$750-300-200-100. **Amateur (Under 1800)**: $$750-300- 200-100. **Reserve (Under 1600)**: $$750-300-200-100. **Booster (Under 1400/unrated)**: $$400-200-100, U1200 150, Unr 150. (Unrated may win Unrated prizes only.) EF: $99 by 03/10, $105 by 04/01 $109 at door. **Info**: info@metrochessla.com. On-line entry: www.metrochessla.com Ent: Metropolitan Chess, PO Box 25112, Los Angeles, CA 90025-0112. $15 service charge for refunds.

April 27
WPO Scholastics

5-SS, G/30. Radisson LAX, 6225 West Century Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90045 Open to gr. 12-below. In two sections: **Open**: Trophies to top 5, top 3 U1200, top 2 Unrated. **Grade 6/below U1000**: Trophies to top 5, top 3 U700, top 2 Unrated. Reg.: 8:30-9. Rds.: 9:30-11-12:15-1:45-3. EF: $20 if received by 04/01, $25 door. ♜

Continued from p. 47, ***Tatev***

A very lucky game for me.

Clearly, our opponents were underrated but I think some luck is needed to be successful in events of this type.

Abrahamyan,Tatev (2303) - Docena,Jedara (2061) Philippines
[B00] Nimzovich Defense
40th Olympiad Women (8)
Istanbul, 05.09.2012

This is a pretty nice game I won, where my opponent played really carelessly and got punished pretty quickly.

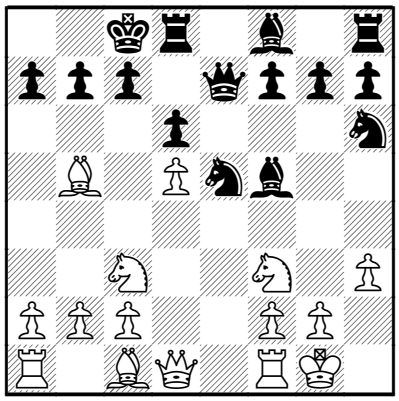
1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.e5 Ng4 4.d4 d6

When I was preparing for the game, Melik and I were looking at my opponent's games and she had a game in this line where her opponent took on d6. We both agreed that after h2-h3 instead, Black's position has to be just bad and didn't elaborate. I was surprised when she repeated it.

5.h3 Nh6 6.Bd3

Apparently 6.Bb5 a6 7.Bxc6+ bxc6 8.0–0 e6 9.Bg5 is the way to go, but I thought that Black should absolutely not be allowed to play Nf6-g4-h6 and get away with it, so my position had to be good if I just made natural moves.

6...Bf5 7.0–0 Qd7 8.Nc3 0–0–0 9.exd6 exd6 10.d5 Ne5 11.Bb5 Qe7



12.Be3

12.Nd4 would have been better. For some reason it didn't occur to me that trading the Knight was beneficial for Black. I could continue with Be3 and Nc6 and just throw all my pieces at Black's King. None of Black's pieces are doing anything.

12...a6 13.Be2 Nxf3+ 14.Bxf3 Qh4 15.b4

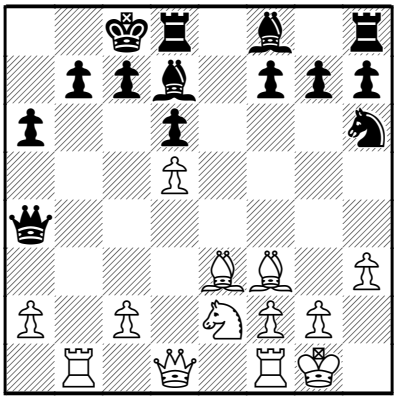
I don't know if this move is any good. I think Black shouldn't take and try to play actively with g5 or develop with Be7. I felt like my advantage was slipping and I needed to do something drastic.

A normal move would be 15.Re1, and now there is no 15...Be7 because of 16.g3 Qxh3 17.Bxh6. But 15...Rg8 16.Qd2 g5 is possible.

15...Qxb4 16.Ne2

I don't have any immediate threats but I want to slowly build up an attack with Nd4, Rb1, Qd2 with a threat of Nc6.

16...Bd7 17.Rb1 Qa4



18.Qd2

18.Nc3 Qh4 19.Ne4 Be7 20.Qd4 was a quick win. Black shouldn't allow the Queen d4, otherwise Qa7 becomes too big of a threat.

18...a5??

If 18...Nf5, 19.Rb4 Qa5 20.Rfb1 b6 21.Bxb6 cxb6 22.Rxb6 is also a nice win. I think Black's position is hopeless.

19.Nc3

Now the Queen is trapped.

19...Qh4 20.Bg5 Qc4 21.Be2 Qc5 22.Be3 Qa3 23.Rb3 Qxb3 24.axb3 Nf5 25.Nb5 Bxb5 26.Bxb5 b6 27.Qd3 Nxe3 28.Bc6 1–0 ♜

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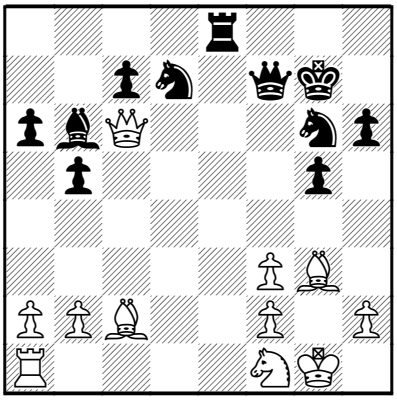
Final Points

We hope you have enjoyed this issue. Since there are three months until the next one, here is another quiz page. ***Watch out for those last three***, they just might be a lot of work. These positions are all from recent games played right here in Southern California. Many thanks to our organizers, directors and players! And keep submitting those scoresheets! See page 27 for solutions. - Ed.



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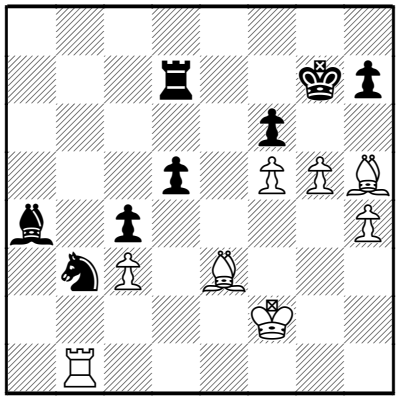
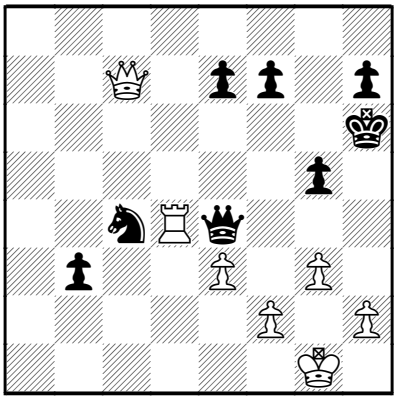
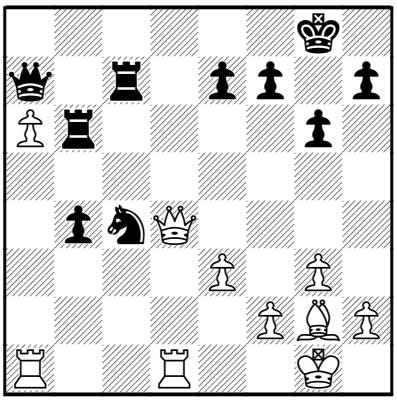


2. White to Play



3. Black to Play



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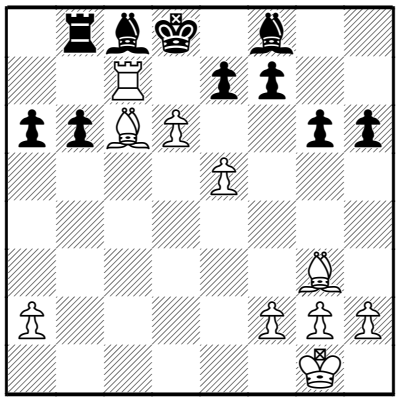

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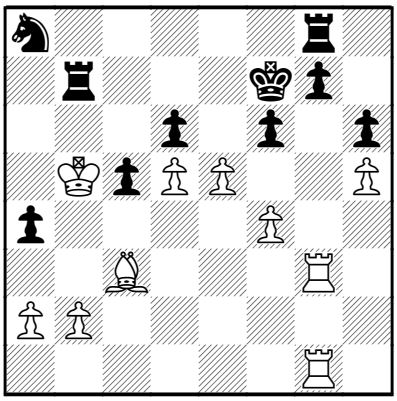
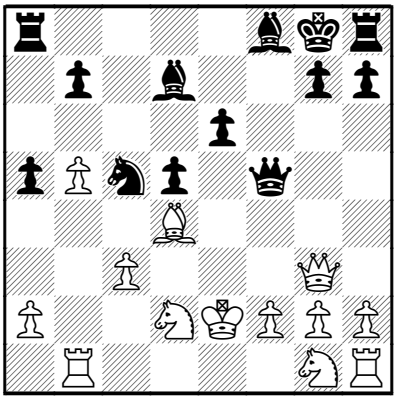
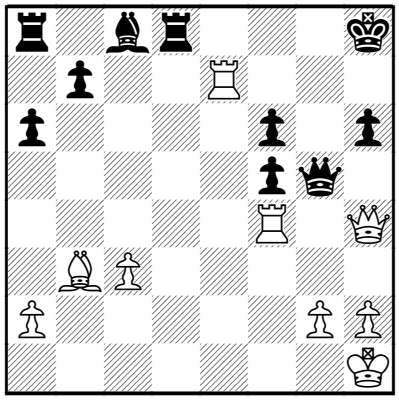


6. White to Play



7. Black to Play



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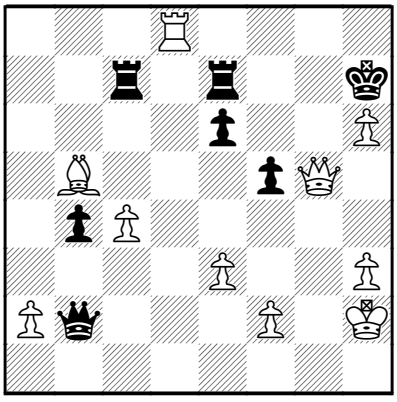

9. White to Play

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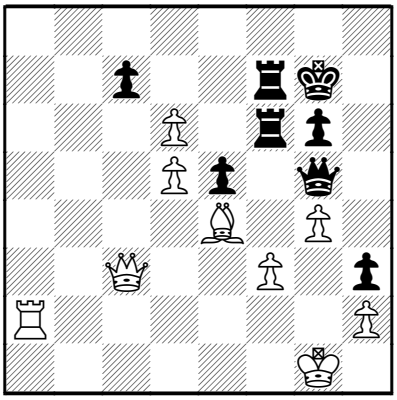
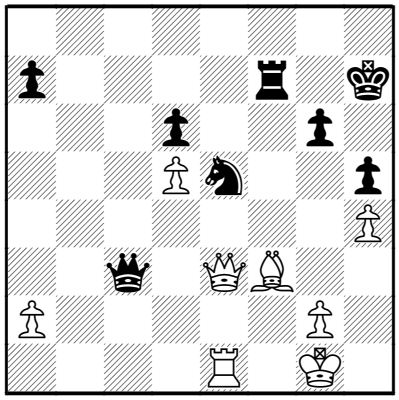
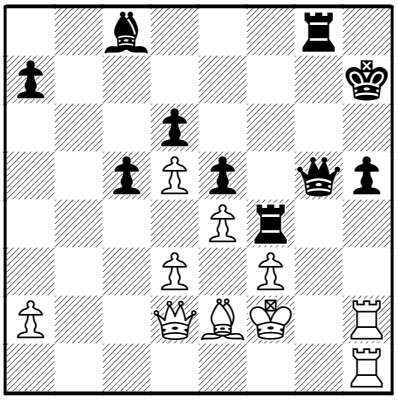


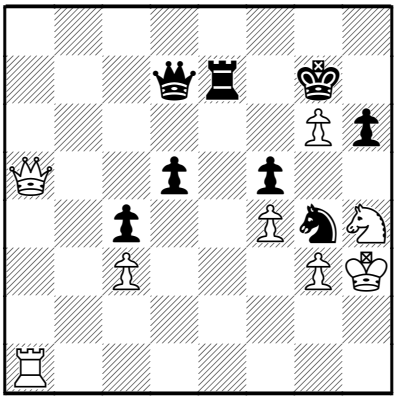
1. Black to Play



2. Black to Play



3. Black to Play



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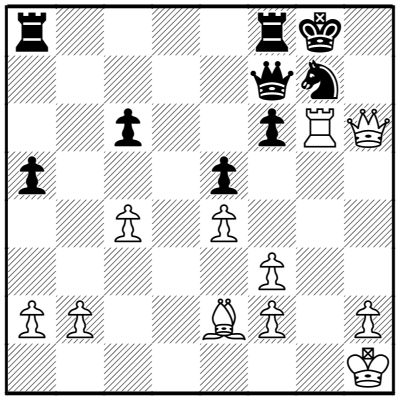
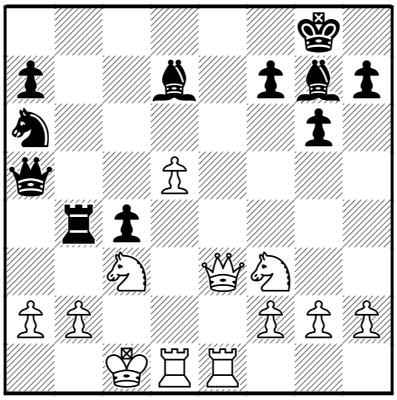


5. White to Play



6. Black to Play

See page 42 for solutions.