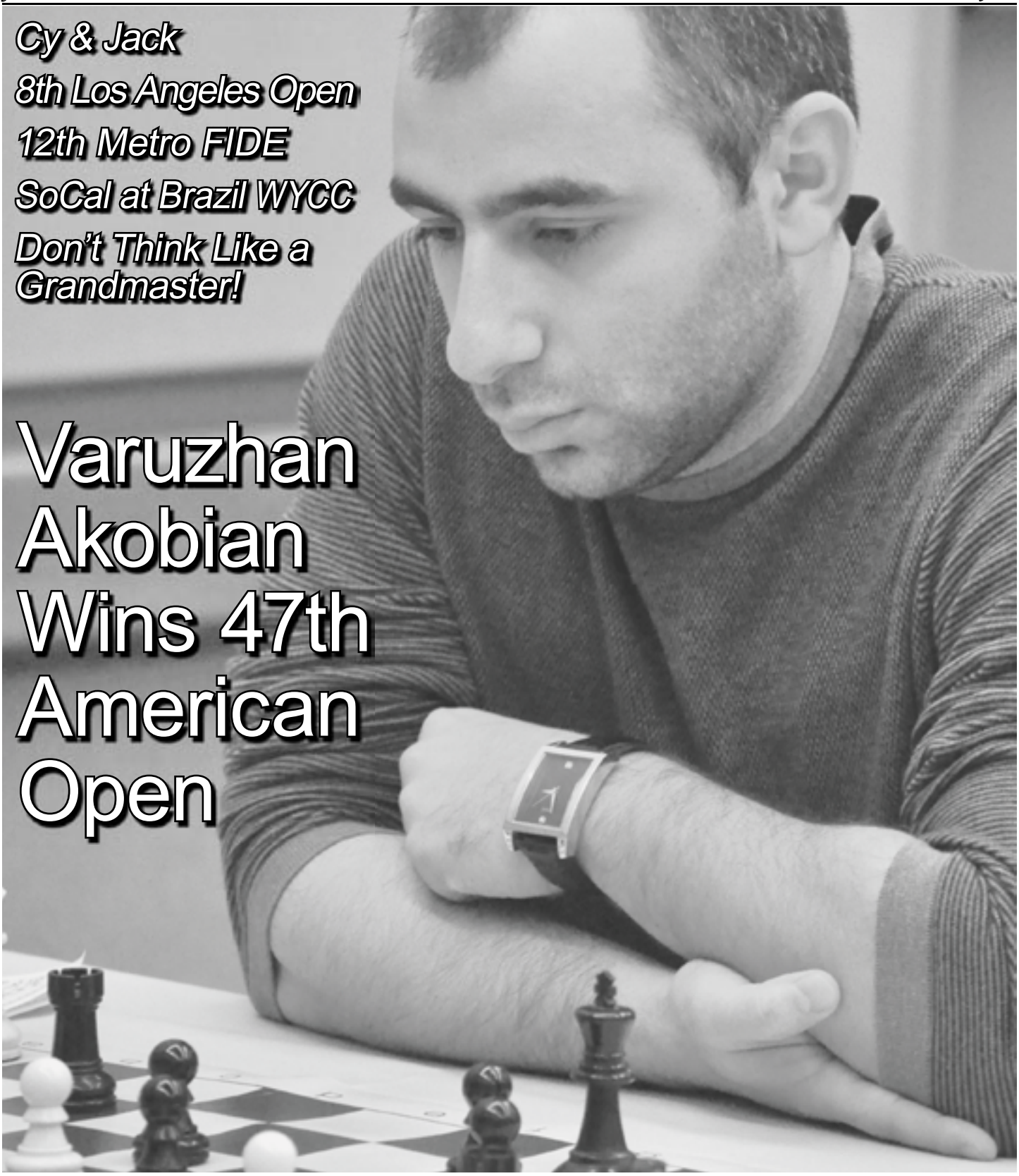
Rank & File

The magazine of the Southern California Chess Federation

January-February 2012 Volume XXXVI, No. 1 $3.00



Cy & Jack

8th Los Angeles Open

12th Metro FIDE

SoCal at Brazil WYCC

Don't Think Like a Grandmaster!

Varuzhan Akobian Wins 47th American Open

The ***Recession Buster*** Open
February 18-20, 2012

SATURDAY, SUNDAY & MONDAY (PRESIDENTS' DAY HOLIDAY)
AT THE SHERATON MISSION VALLEY SAN DIEGO HOTEL
(see www.sheraton.com/sandiegomv) 619-260-0111
1433 Camino Del Rio South, San Diego CA 92108

$20,000 PRIZE FUND, 100% guaranteed

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

1. OPEN SECTION: 1st $2,600, 2nd $1,800, 3rd $1,200, 4th $900, 5th $600, 6th $500, 7th $400; BU2300 $800, 2nd $400
   BU2200: 1st $1,000, 2nd $600, 3rd $400, 4th $200
2. Premier (U2000): 1st $1,000, 2nd $600, 3rd $400, 4th $200
3. Amateur (U1800): 1st $1,000, 2nd $600, 3rd $400, 4th $200
4. Reserve (U1600): 1st $1,000, 2nd $600, 3rd $400, 4th $200
5. Booster (U1400): 1st $600, 2nd $400, 3rd $200, 4th $100
   Best Under 1200: $300, 2nd $150, Best Unrated $100

Plus Best Game Prizes: $75, $50, $25, one reserved for non-Open Sections

Directions: Hwy 5 to Hwy 8 East, go right on Mission Center Rd., then left on Camino Del Rio South, one block up on right hand side. It's easy to find!

Reg.: 3-day: 9:00 to 10:30 AM Sat, Feb official rating list used, W, NS, NC
2-day: 9:00 to 10:00 AM Sunday

Rounds: 3-day: 11 AM & 6 PM Sat & Sun, 10 AM & 4:30 PM on Monday
2-day: 10:30 AM, 12:45 & 3 PM Sun, then merges in round 4

Entry Fee: $100 if received by 2/12, or $120 at door. Only $75 if U1400 (or unr) and received by 2/12, or $90 at door. Also: special rate for GMs or IMs, $20 if received by 2/12, or $60 at door. Unrated players are allowed in any section, but they are subject to prize restrictions ($100 in Booster, $300 in all other sections except the Open, where they are also eligible for place prizes.)
Re-entry Fee: from 3 day to 2 day is $75, for non-Open sections only!

Mail entries to: SDCC, PO Box 120162, San Diego CA 92112, or enter online at the SCCF website www.scchess.com
SCCF Membership Required For All Players ($18 Adult/$10 Junior) Two Half Pt Byes OK in Rds 1-6, but must be requested at least 1 hr before round, and last rounds byes must be requested before Rd 1 and are irrevocable. (You can't change your mind!)
More Info: (619) 239-7166 or visit http://sdchessclub.multiply.com

Hotel: Special rate of only $110, 619-260-0111, if booked by 2/12/12, book early, rates will go up and rooms may sell out. Big parking lot allows large vehicles to be just steps away. Also: fitness facility, pool, nearby shopping.

State Championship Qualifier, 150 Grand Prix Points (enhanced)

Southern California Chess Federation

President Steve Morford
Vice President Isabelle Minoofar
Secretary Anthony Ong
Treasurer Randy Hough

Executive Board
Jim Bullock, Mike Nagaran
Elliot Landaw, Chuck Ensey
Ankit Gupta, Takashi Iwamoto
Dewain Barber, Phil Chase

Rank & File

Publisher David Argall

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

Contributing Editors
Jack Peters
Cyrus Lakdawala

Contributors
Michael William Brown
Ruben Ondangan Jr.

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

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

Rank & File

January-February 2012 **Volume XXXVI, No. 1**

4 **Positions**
Your letters are welcome.

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

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

12 **GM Khachiyan Takes 8th Los Angeles Open**

16 **FM Akopyan and IM Amanov Tie in 12th Metropolitan FIDE**

19 **GM Akobian Wins 47th American Open**

24 **From Southern California to the Brazil WYCC**
And back.We present two games from the World Youth Championships.

25 **Don't Think Like A Grandmaster!**
by IM Jack Peters. An endgame fooled some enthusiastic amateurs.

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

31 **Upcoming Events in Southern California**

Cover Photo: Al Peña
Other photos:
cr: Chris Roberts
ao: Anthony Ong
All other photos: Al Peña

Back issues of Rank & File are now available on ***www.scchess.com.***

Positions

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

Editor's note:

Congratulations to our local competitors in the World Youth Championships in Brazil! See the article for two games from the event.

This year, the USA Team Tournament West is held February 18-20th in Santa Clara, up the coast. Teams composed of determined individuals will be there! If you don't go, you have the Recession Buster in San Diego; see the ad inside our front cover.

Until next issue, Happy Chess New Year! - *Ed.*

Mike Henebry Retires from La Palma Chess Club

The best chess club organizer I ever saw.

cr

In 1975 Mike Henebry organized a chess club in Cerritos, CA. What started as a few chess players gathering each week in a Cerritos school library expanded steadily into a club of over 50 players. We outgrew that library pretty quickly and then moved to a larger hall in Artesia. Later we moved on to La Palma.

Mike always worked to bring in new players. He is a great salesman, very outgoing, comfortable talking to anyone, and very imaginative in doing outreach. For example, before any internet was available, he would visit public libraries and put club flyers in their chess books.

Inside the club, Mike was the head tournament director for years. He also imaginatively designed the tournaments for a good variety, and to keep players coming back.

Through Mike's efforts, two world champions have played simuls at the La Palma chess club: Vassily Smyslov and Nona Gaprindishvili. Grandmasters hosted by the club include Larry Evans, James Tarjan, Varuzhan Akobian, and Eduard Gufeld.

Mike's own games are often amazing. He is a solid A player. But what really distinguishes his play is his eagerness to press dangerous attacks. Consequently, over the years he won 3 best game prizes at La Palma, a best game prize in the 2005 Southern California Open, and has had several games published in the LA Times and Chess Life.

He has written two books on chess. The first was a book on organizing a chess club, written around 1979.

Mike's second book, published in 2010, is *Chess Words of Wisdom*. This is a terrific combination of chess history and tips on playing, with quotations and advice from all the world's greatest players. Most importantly, it is a thoroughly enjoyable read.

Mike is also an accomplished musician. He composes music, has a jazz band, and plays clarinet.

We're really going to miss this guy.

- Brian Scanlon

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

Metropolitan Chess, Inc.

A Year in Review

It's been just a year since Metropolitan Chess, Inc. held its first event in November 2010 – the 1st Metropolitan Chess FIDE Invitational. Since then, we have run a total of 14 International Master and Grand Master round robin events and one super-swiss event, which was attended by none other than super-Grandmaster Michael Adams, former world #4. During the course of the year, we have also run 15 FIDE rated norm qualifier events.

Through the progression of these events numerous norms have been achieved, from the following people:

Enrico Sevillano (1 GM norm), Philip Xiao Wang (2 IM norms), Joel Cholo Banawa (3 IM norms), Roman Yankovsky (1 IM norm), Harutyan Akopyan (1 IM norm), Kayden Troff (1 IM norm), Michael Lee (1 IM norm), Faik Aleskerov (1 IM norm), and Pedram Atoufi (1 IM norm).

Also, several players have established FIDE ratings for the first time through our qualifier and other events:

Mher Mikayelyan, Udit Iyengar, Ruben Ondangan, Pablo Pena, Jeffrey Arnold, Albert Lu, Alejandro Ruiz, and Dylan Quercia.

…and numerous more players have partially achieved FIDE ratings through our events and should have established ratings shortly.

These efforts culminated when Metropolitan Chess, Inc. was awarded 2011 United States Chess Federation Chess Club of the Year. Also, during the course of 2011, National Master Ankit Gupta, President of Metropolitan Chess, Inc., was awarded 2011 USCF Organizer of the Year and achieved all his International Organizer and FIDE Arbiter norms.

All these achievements and many more we have not listed have been possible through the support and

guidance of the local and abroad chess community. We thank each and every one of you for your continued support.

2012 Plans

With the new year soon to be upon us, we wanted to let you all know our plans and the direction of Metropolitan Chess, Inc. going into the next year. We are proud to announce that we plan to run another 15 norm events throughout 2012, including an expectation of three GM norm events. Beyond this norm tournament schedule, we have many new plans that we are excited to share.

Metropolitan Chess Publishing

We just started the Metropolitan Chess Publishing imprint, partnering with several large scale mainstream distributors, and several books are already under development by top authors, including several Grandmasters. The first of these books will be released starting in the summer of 2012. We strive to bring about the best quality possible, having put together a strong team of writers, editors, designers – and even programmers for this project.

Moreover, through a creative partnership with the people behind IceHat Creative – Christine Hartman and Christian Glawe – we will be releasing a line of high quality chess DVDs in the upcoming few months.

Metropolitan Chess Library

Through the extraordinarily heartfelt donations and contributions of many chess enthusiasts we have amassed a library of nearly one thousand books, many of which are otherwise out of print and near impossible to find. We are in the process of cataloging all of these books and will have them available for check-out for the local community by early 2012.

Metropolitan Chess Mobile Applications

Through several of the best programmers that I have had the privilege of personally getting to know, I have also assigned a team of developers to produce several mobile platform chess applications on the Apple iOS, Android, and Windows Mobile platform. These applications have been under beta development for the past few months and will serve a wide range of purposes where we have felt there is either a lack of development or room for improvement and be widely available commercially by the middle of 2012 as well.

Metropolitan Chess Equipment

For the past few weeks, several trial productions have been underway for our soon to be released signature ebony wood board and pieces set – one which will be offered at a fraction of price compared to other places. In keeping with the high quality synonymous with Metropolitan Chess, Inc., we have only decided to use high grade ebony and other woods for the production of this and other sets. By acting not only as a distributor, but also a manufacturer, we will be able to bring you – the chess community -- the lowest possible prices on a wide range of chess products.

Other

We are also proud to announce that we have added International Master Zhanibek Amanov to our full-time staff as our In-Residence International Master. In doing so, we have strengthened our commitment to providing at least one norm tournament per month. In a sense, also, IM Zhanibek Amanov will serve as our ambassador to the chess community providing a host of group and individual private lessons on behalf of Metropolitan Chess, Inc. Moreover, we will be adding a slew of other events and programs throughout 2012:

1. Monthly one-day and two-day workshops headed by IM Zhanibek Amanov, IM Andranik Matikozyan, FM Konstantin Kavutskiy, NM Ankit Gupta and special guests. These workshops, guided by personal experiences in a plethora of titled events, will convey all the necessary tools for one to become stronger, starting at any level.

2. One-day game/40 rapid events, potentially FIDE rated, will be organized throughout the year as well with an emphasis on providing a more relaxing and casual atmosphere. FIDE has recently decided to add rapid events and a new FIDE rating category for rapid events.

3. Simultaneous exhibitions by Metropolitan Chess, Inc. staff and special Grandmaster guests will be run regularly.

4. Later in the summer, we will also be welcoming another 2700+ FIDE rated player into our club as our guest, who for the time being we will keep as a mystery. Full details will be announced by early 2012.

Future Vision

Through the continued support of the local and abroad chess community, we foresee Los Angeles as becoming a chess mecca in the United States. We believe, through the continued prevalence of these titled events, more norms will be achieved by USA players – as well as local players – and within a few years, the local titled player-base – both GM and IM – and local FIDE player base will increase several times over, making Los Angeles eventually comparable to many top chess cities in Europe.

We are excited to have shared these thoughts, new plans, and future visions with you and hope that you are equally excited to see the fruits of our labor as we progress into the new year.

If you have any questions, comments, and/or inquiries, you can let us know at ankit.gupta@metrochessla.com.

With warm regards,

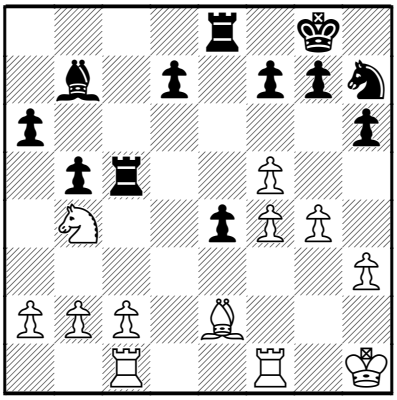
Ankit Gupta, President
Metropolitan Chess, Inc.

The Metropolitan Club has provided a great local path for developing players that can take them from expert to IM, or even beyond, without having to travel too much to do it! There is an incentive to keep getting stronger, in contrast to tournaments which may award a large prize to a below average player.

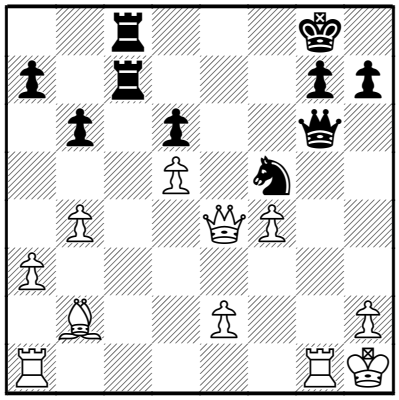
Southern California is the place to be! - Ed.

Inside Moves

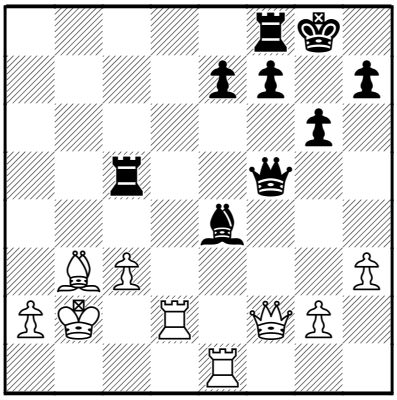
A ***tactical warmup*** might be a good way to start reading. Start with an easy one, and then work up to the tougher ones. Even if you are a beginner and can't solve the problems, just playing through the solutions on page 30 will open up your tactical vision. - Ed.



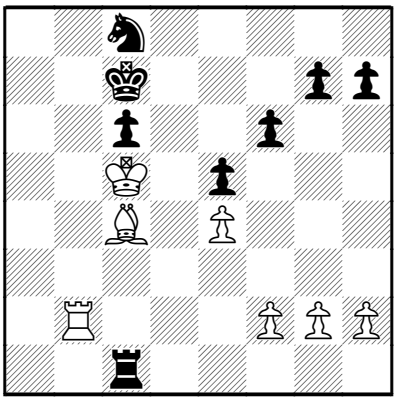
1. Black to Play



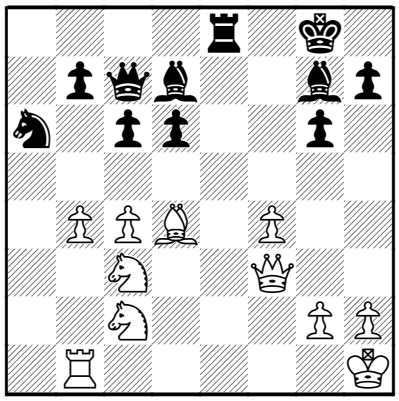
2. Black to Play



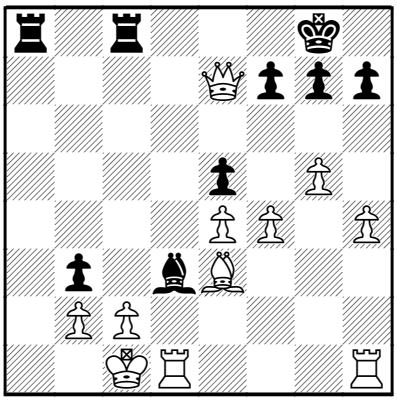
3. White to Play



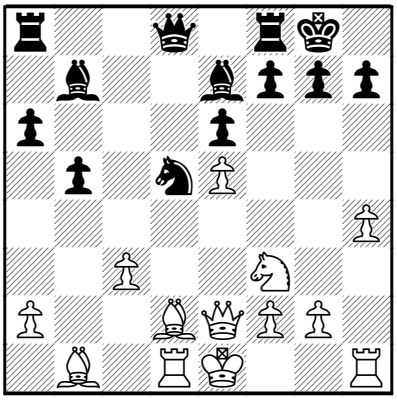
4. Black to Play



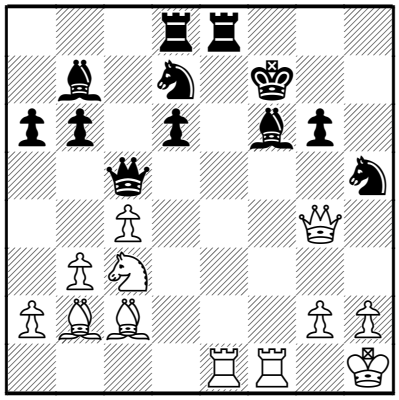
5. Black to Play



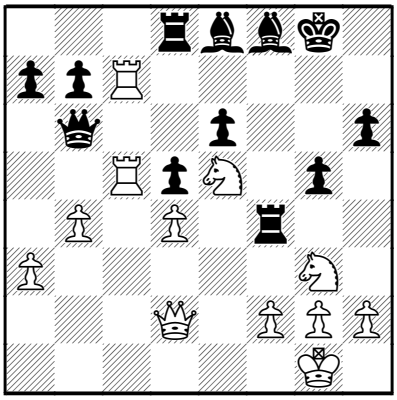
6. Black to Play



7. White to Play



8. Black to Play



9. White to Play

Cy & Jack

By IM Jack Peters and IM Cyrus Lakdawala

Cy's game is a lesson in the Panov-Botvinnik Attack from Black's side, which features both an isolated Queen's pawn and, later, hanging pawns. There's also a lesson in the ending in a position which seems easy, but the first moves you think of all have some problem. Cy shows us what it takes.

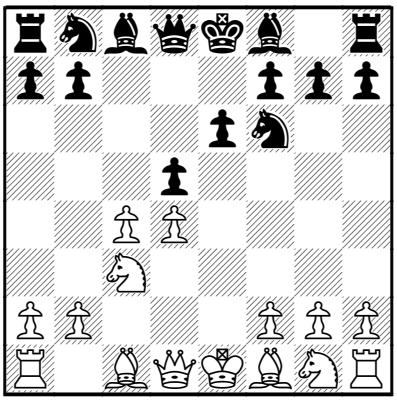
Jack's game features the Breyer Defense to the Ruy. The move 11.c3-c4 was played many times by top players in the 1950's through the 1970's. (Jack's win against Lombardy is in *The Best of Lone Pine*.) And maybe it's back, as just last June, Nakamura played it in Romania against Carlsen at the Bazna Kings super-GM tournament. Jack's game is from November's American Open. It's a lesson in key squares, but culminates in a Kingside attack.

We hope you enjoy the games and the commentary by masters with such differing styles. - Ed.

Cunningham,Robin (2288) - Lakdawala,Cy (2559)
[B14] Caro-Kann Defense
Bagby Memorial G/40 (3)
San Francisco, 28.07.2011

Cy: This game is from my book *The Caro-Kann: Move by Move*, coming out next year.

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.c4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e6



Jack: I've played both sides of this position. I like 5...e6 for Black more than the fashionable 5...Nc6.

6.Nf3

Cy: If 6.Bg5 then 6...Be7. This time we develop our Bishop to e7 in order to deal with the pin. 7.Nf3 0–0 8.Bd3 (*If White tries to clamp you with 8.c5 react energetically and chip away quickly with 8...b6 9.b4 a5 10.a3* (10. Na4 Nfd7 11.Bxe7 Qxe7 Ponizil,C - Pakhomov,A Brno 2009. Black threatens both ...axb4 and also ...e5 opening the position when White is unprepared.) *10...Ne4 11.Bxe7 Qxe7 12.Na4 axb4 13.axb4 bxc5 14.Nxc5 Rxa1 15.Qxa1 e5! left White behind in development and struggling. Vulfson,V-Braslavsky,A Moscow 1994*)

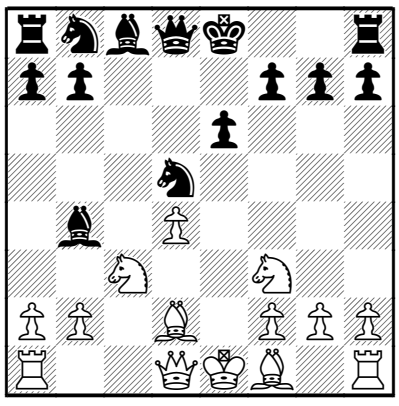
8...Nc6 9.0–0?! Natural, but it allows Black to either gain a tempo or pick off White's powerful light squared Bishop. (*He should play 9.a3 dxc4 10.Bxc4 Nd5! Every trade helps Black. 11.Bxe7 Ncxe7 12.Nxd5 Nxd5 13.0–0 b6 I already preferred Black, who managed to swap two sets of pieces. FYI, this game arose from a Nimzo-Indian move order. Shamkovich,L - Kasparov,G La Valetta 1980.*)

9...Nb4 10.c5 (*White couldn't stomach the tempo loss incurred with 10.Be2 dxc4*) 10...b6 This breaks up White's dream of following through with a future b4. 11.cxb6 Nxd3 12.Qxd3 Qxb6 Black stands better with a Bishop pair, a target isolani on d4, and possible Queenside pressure due to the open b and c-files. Nagaran,M - Lakdawala,C San Diego 2004.

6...Bb4

Jack: Also very reasonable is 6... Be7.

7.cxd5 Nxd5 8.Bd2

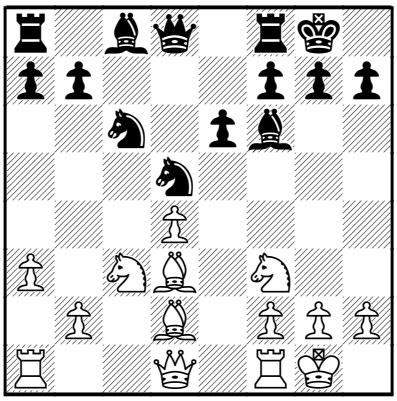


8...0–0

Cy: *Question*: Why not 8...Nc6 first?

Answer: To maximize options. Of course 8...Nc6 is perfectly playable but it is certain Black will castle Kingside, so why not castle? In some lines the Knight's services may be required on d7. Also, if you bring your Knight out early to c6 it gives White Bb5 options.

9.Bd3 Nc6 10.a3 Be7 11.0–0 Bf6



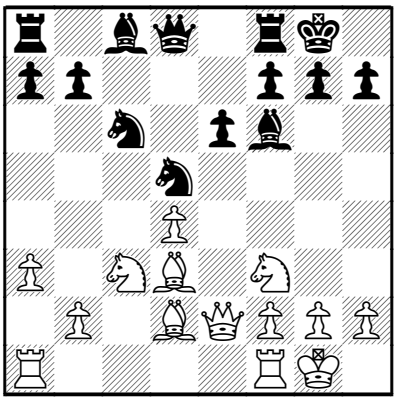
Cy: A standard maneuver. Black adds heat to d4 and clears e7 for his Knight to help out his King.

Jack: I've tried both 11...Nf6 and 11...Bf6. I'll concede that White should get an edge in either case, but Black's solid position is very reliable.

Cy: Or 11...Nxc3 12.bxc3 b6 Sokolovs,A-Rustemov,A Morso 2002. When handing my opponent the hanging pawns, I find it's more flexible with my Knight on d7 rather than c6. But maybe this is just a personal quirk. Strong GMs like Rustemov don't seem to have a problem with

a Knight on c6. **Jack**: Unless Black can plant a Knight on c4, this pawn structure is terrific for White. He can direct his pieces toward h7 without worrying about d4 being vulnerable, and he can dream of c3-c4 and d4-d5 if Black commits his pieces to Kingside defense.

12.Qe2!



Cy: Daring Black to take d4. I prefer this to the alternative setup of playing to c2, with an immediate attack on h7: 12.Qc2 g6 13.Bh6 Re8 14.Rad1 Nxc3 15.bxc3 Bd7 16.Qd2 e5! The central counter to the wing attack gives Black dynamically equal chances. Riazantsev,A - Bologan,V Warsaw 2005. **Jack**: Agreed. But I suspect White can improve with 16.Nd2.

12...g6

Cy: *Question*: Does White really have enough initiative for the pawn if you grab on d4?

Answer: It simply doesn't win a pawn. White regains it immediately after 12...Nxd4 13.Nxd4 Bxd4 14.Bxh7+! Kxh7 15.Qe4+ Kg8 16.Qxd4 Adams,M - Speelman,J Hastings 1991. It's hard to see Black winning this one due to the opposite coloured Bishops. I had to play for a win versus my FM opponent, since there were two other IMs in the tournament, both with perfect scores at the time.

Jack: The greedy 12...Bxd4 doesn't work either. After 13.Nxd5 Qxd5 (*clearly, 13...exd5 14.Bxh7+ Kxh7 15.Qd3+ Kg8 16.Nxd4± favors White*) 14.Be4 Qd6 15.Rfd1 e5 16.Rac1, White's threat of 17. Bxc6 and 18. Bb4 recovers material.

13.Bh6 Bg7

Cy: *Question*: Doesn't this trade weaken the dark squares around your King?

Answer: Yes, a bit, but swaps are Black's healing balm in all isolani and hanging pawns positions. I could also play 13...Re8 14.Rfd1 Nxc3 15.bxc3 Bd7 16.Ne5 (*16.Rab1 and 16.Bf4 are alternatives*. **Jack**: *Better ones!*) 16...Nxe5! 17.dxe5 Bh8 and I prefer Black's long term structure over White's immediate attacking chances. Collinson,A - Speelman,J Birmingham 2000.

14.Bxg7

Cy: 14.Qd2 b6 15.Rae1 f6 (I'm not sure he needs this move just yet; I would play 15...Bb7.) 16.Bxg7 Kxg7 17.Re4 Nce7 18.Rfe1 White has the edge with a potential for an attack and endless probing of Black's weakened pawn front. Varavin,V - Bets,A Alushta 2001.

14...Kxg7

Cy: Believe it or not, this most natural of moves is a novelty. After 14... Nxc3 (**Jack**: *This helps White more than Black.*) 15.bxc3 Kxg7 16.Be4 Bd7 17.c4 Qf6 18.Rfd1 Rac8, the players agreed to a premature draw in Frhat,A-Nanu,C Tanta 2003. White may have a shade of an edge but the position is acceptable for Black.

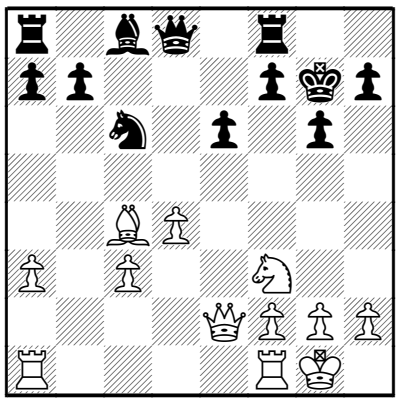
15.Bc4

Jack: ?! Challenging the blockading Knight makes sense, but not in this manner! I prefer 15.Be4±.

15...Nxc3

Jack: One of the few times I approve of this exchange. White will have to spend a precious move retreating his Bishop.

16.bxc3



Cy: *Question*: This is no longer an isolani position, correct?

Answer: Correct. Now we get its twin, the hanging pawns stucuture--two pawns, shoulder to shoulder, with no pawns on either side of them.

The good news is our strategy against hanging pawns is identical to isolani defensive strategy, and number three is especially important:

1. Blockade them.
2. Simplify and swap pieces whenever possible.
3. Don't get mated!

16...b6 17.Rfd1 Bb7

Jack: White has missed his chance, and Black may even have a small advantage. If Black gets his Rooks to c8 and d8, White's dynamic pawn structure turns into a static weakness.

18.Ba2

Cy: After the game an IM observer told me I was in big trouble after 18.d5 based on the principle: create confrontation when leading in development. Houdini doesn't agree and neither do I.

Let's look: 18...exd5 19.Bxd5 (*Or 19.Rxd5 Qf6 20.Rd7 Na5 21.Nd4 Rae8 22.Qa2 Re7 when I prefer Black's position, mainly due to the superior structure. I just don't believe White's activity compensates.*) 19... Qf6 20.c4 Rfe8 21.Qc2 Na5 22.Rac1 Rac8, and the c4 pawn could become a target.

18...Qf6

Cy: *Question*: Why play to f6 and not c7 to pressure his pawns?

Answer: My King is short on defenders and weak on dark squares. The Queen fulfills both duties, as well as discourages White from playing c4.

19.Rac1 Rfd8 20.Qe3

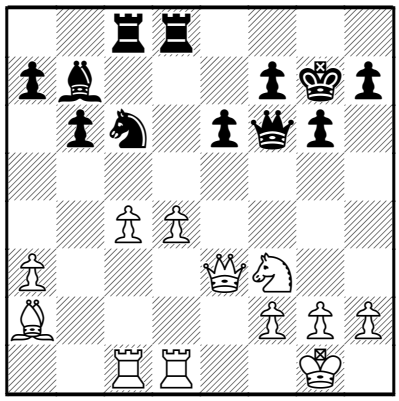
Cy: His goal of course is to activate his central pawns with c4. The trouble with hanging pawns though is that the further they are pushed the weaker they tend to get.

20...Rac8

Jack: Black no longer trails in development. He has the better pawn structure.

Conclusion: ∓

21.c4?



Cy: *Exercise*: White's last move couldn't have been more natural. After all, if a player fails to act, he loses purpose and tends to drift. Yet it was mistimed. How does Black exploit the geometry with an unctuous plan to deprive White of material?

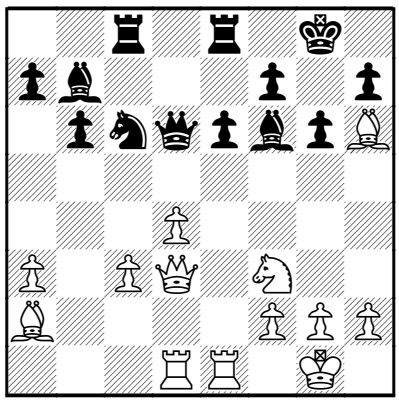
Jack: White should try 21.a4∓ discouraging Black from moving his Knight because a4-a5 would trade White's feeble a-pawn for a healthy Black pawn.

Cy: *Answer*: Surprisingly, White is unable to hold his centre together:

21...Ne7!

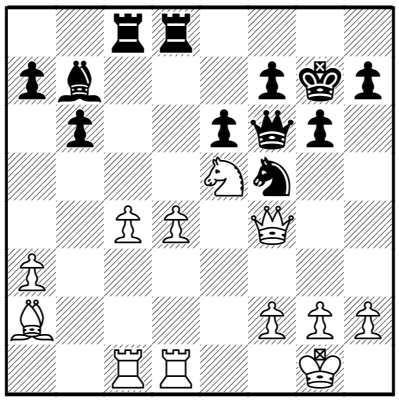
Cy: An idea borrowed from Karpov in another Caro-Kann game. ...Bxf3 is a serious strategic threat.

Jack: Karpov borrowed it too. Rudolf Spielmann played ...Nc6-e7-f5 with the threat of ...Bb7xNf3 against Pirc at Bled in 1931. And how about this one: Florian,Tibor - Lengyel,Levente, 8th Hungarian Ch. Budapest (1), 15.11.1952:



White mistakenly advanced 20.c4? and Black punished him with 20... Red8 21.Be3 Ne7!–+ 22.Ng5 Nf5 23.d5 exd5 24.Bc1 h6 25.Nf3 dxc4 26.Qe2 Qc6 27.Rxd8+ Bxd8 28.Bb2 Bf6 29.Bxf6 Qxf6 30.Ne5 b5 31.Qb2 Rc5 32.Bxc4 Bxg2 33.Bxf7+ Kg7 34.Kxg2 Nh4+ 35.Kg3 Nf3 36.Re3 Nxe5 37.Be6 Qxe6 38.Qd4 Rd5 39.Qe4 Qf5 40.Qh4 Qg5+ 41.Qxg5 hxg5 42.f4 Rd3 43.Rxd3 Nxd3 44.fxg5 Nb2 0–1

22.Ne5 Nf5 23.Qf4



Cy: *Exercise* (combination alert): Black has a trick and the math is not difficult. Hint: It involves the subtraction of one of White's pawns!

Answer:

23...g5!

Cy: Step One: Deflect the Queen from her coverage of e5.

24.Qg4

Cy: Step Two: Theme: Removal of the defender. Cut the legs out from under the e5-Knight.

24...Nxd4!

Cy: The law of supply and demand falls apart if theft is added to the equation. When a clerk fails to return the correct change after a purchase, I always assume larceny over simple error!

Jack: And I thought you were such a trusting fellow!

25.Rxd4 Qxe5 26.Rcd1 Rxd4 27.Qxd4

Cy: I could only dream about 27.Rxd4?? Qe1 Mate!

27...Qxd4 28.Rxd4 Rc7

Cy: Of course we must cover the seventh rank invasion.

Jack: After Black prevents counterplay, his extra pawn becomes the decisive factor. White is also hampered by the isolated c-pawn, all that remains of his ill-fated hanging pawns.

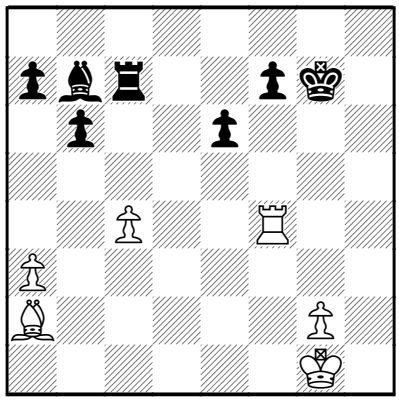
29.h4

Cy: A good move, following the principle: The pawn-down side benefits if pawns are reduced from the board.

29...h6 30.hxg5 hxg5 31.f4 gxf4

Cy: Perhaps I should have considered 31...g4 32.Kf2 f5 but I was nervous about placing too many of my pawns on the same colour as my remaining Bishop. **Jack**: You would have to see that 33. c5 bxc5 34. Rd6 c4 and 33.Rd6 Kf6 34.c5 Bc8! 35.cxb6 Rc2+ clinch Black's win. Your choice of 31...gxf4 should win quickly with less calculation.

32.Rxf4



Cy: *Exercise* (planning): The aftermath leaves an ugly residue. White scrambles to nurse three sickly pawns. When James Bond's enemies have him at a disadvantage, they always blunder by concocting convoluted methods of murder, often involving conveyor belts and lasers. The Bond villains should heed my wise counsel: just shoot him. It's so much simpler that way. I have a simple way to win another pawn. Instead, I get cute and allow White to live on. How does Black win a pawn without any fuss?

32...Rc5?!

Cy: Answer: 32...Rd7! The dual threats ...Rd2 and ...Rd3 force White to hand over another pawn. For example: 33.Rg4+ Kf6 34.Rg3 I got to this point in my analysis, where White covers both g2 and a3. Now I missed the simple 34...Rd1+! 35.Kh2 Ra1 and White drops a3 after all.

33.Kf2 Ra5 34.Rg4+ Kf6 35.Rg3 Rg5

Cy: Perhaps technically not the best, but I saw a clear path to the win through the removal of Rooks. In

time trouble, the best line must often give way to the clearest path.

Jack: Clearest is best!

Cy: Black probably wins faster with 35...Be4 36.Ke2 Ke5.

36.Rxg5 Kxg5

Jack: A master can handle this sort of endgame fairly well even in time pressure. All Black has to do is watch out for c4-c5 and don't get stuck with the Bishop and "wrong" a-pawn.

37.g3 Kf5

Cy: Avoiding 37...f5?! 38.c5! and 37...e5?! 38.c5!.

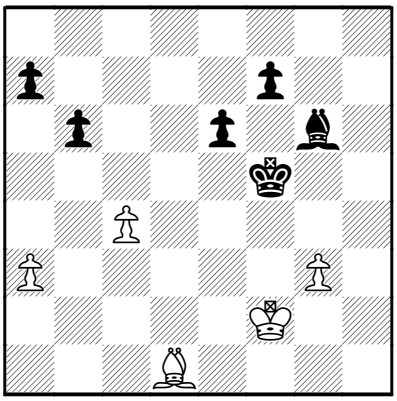
38.Ke3 Kg4

Cy: Just testing.

39.Kf2 Be4 40.Bb3 Bg6

Cy: Step One: In order to push ...e5 without fear of White reducing the pawns further with c5!

41.Bd1+ Kf5



Cy: Time to regroup. Black isn't getting anywhere on the Kingside.

42.Ke3 Ke5 43.Bf3 Kd6 44.Kd4 e5+

Cy: Taking control over c5.

45.Kc3 Kc5

Cy: Step Two: Black's King reached c5 forcing White's King into passivity.

46.Be2 f6 47.Bf1 Bf7

Cy: Step Three: Tie White down to c4. White's Bishop and King are in urgent need of a good lawyer.

48.Bd3 Be6 49.Be2 f5

Cy: Step Four: Activate the Kingside pawns.

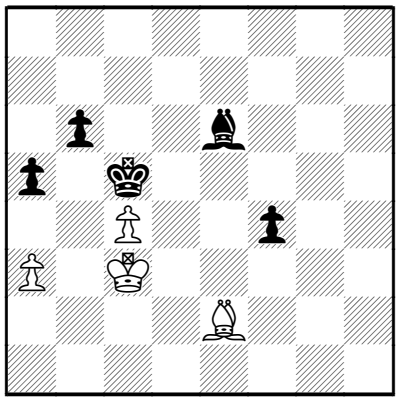
50.Bd3 f4

Cy: Step Five: Create a Kingside passer which distracts either his King or Bishop from the defense.

All my games are marathons; never sprints. We stopped writing moves at this point since both of us were under the five-minute mark.

I sincerely hope I am not making up the remainder of the game, reconstructed from my rather pitiable memory!

51.gxf4 exf4 52.Be2 a5



Cy: Principle: Place your pawns on the same colour as your remaining Bishop.

53.Bd3 f3 54.Bf1 f2 0–1

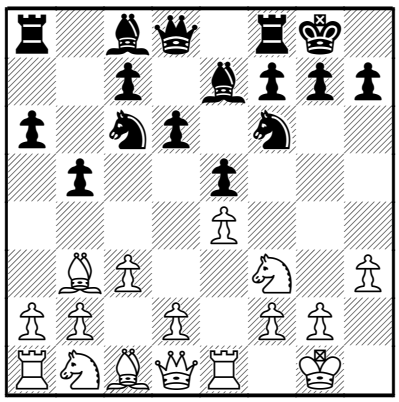
Cy: Zugzwang. Summary: Perhaps White gets a tiny edge in the hanging pawns position after move 15. Your understanding of the hanging pawns positions which arise is critical to who comes out ahead in the end.

Peters,Jack (2360) -
Zavadsky,Peter (2283)
[C95] Ruy Lopez
American Open (2)
Orange, 24.11.2011

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5

Cy: Of course, the correct move here is 3.Nc3! It is never too early to pre-order my book on the Four Knights.

3...a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0–0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 0–0 8.c3 d6 9.h3



9...Nb8

Jack: The Breyer Defense. This was the most popular response to the Ruy Lopez in the 1970s until superseded by the Zaitsev variation, 9...Bb7.

10.d4 Nbd7 11.c4!?

Jack: This neglected move was once endorsed by Bobby Fischer.

Cy: 11.c4 changes the flavor of the game to an Old Indian position, but keep in mind, more than a move down, since White took two moves to achieve c4 and Black got in ...a6 and ...b5 with tempo. White's Bishop on b3 looks better placed than on e2, the normal spot in an Old Indian, but is it really worth all that time?

Jack: The main line is 11.Nbd2 Bb7 12.Bc2 Re8 13.Nf1 Bf8 14.Ng3.

11...Bb7

Jack: The most natural reply. I've faced it four times in my five ventures with 11. c4. Not bad is 11...c5 12.dxe5 Nxe5 13.Nxe5 dxe5 14.Nc3, with no more than a tiny edge to White. The game Peters - Ed Cohen, USAT West, Los Angeles 2001, continued 14...Bd7 15.Qe2 Qb6 16.f4! Bd6 17.f5 Bc6 18.g4 b4 19.Nd5 Nxd5 20.exd5 Bd7 21.Bc2 f6 22.Be4± and White eventually broke through with g4-g5.

When I studied this variation 35 years ago, the books recommended 11...c6. Petrosian showed that the tempting 12.c5?! Qc7 13.cxd6 Bxd6 14.Bg5 gets nothing if Black accepts a mangled pawn structure with 14... exd4! 15.Bxf6 gxf6 16.Nxd4 Ne5=. (**Cy**: *This looks like a position right out of the Semi-Slav.*)

But White should answer 11...c6 with 12. Nc3 or 12.Qc2.

Cy: Black also equalizes after 12.Nc3 b4 13.Na4 c5! 14.d5 Re8 15.Bc2 Nf8 16.a3 a5 17.b3 Ng6 18.Nb2 Bd7 19.Nh2 h6 Nakamura,H-Carlsen,M Medias 2011.

12.Nc3 c6

Cy: Or 12...b4 13.Nd5 a5 14.a3 c6.

13.a3

Jack: Best, according to theory. But I always have to talk myself into playing it! So far, I have managed to resist the lure of repeating my first victory with 11.c4, against William Lombardy in Lone Pine in 1977. I

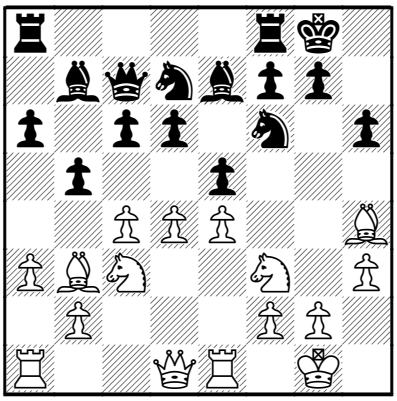
chose the supposedly inferior 13.Bg5 b4 14.Na4. My opponent could have nearly equalized with 14...c5!, but he chose 14...exd4 15.Nxd4 g6? 16.c5! dxc5?! 17.Nf3 and I won a brilliancy.

13...Qc7

Jack: I have faced 13...h6 twice. In Peters - Longren, Santa Barbara 1989, Black got into trouble with 14.Ba2 Qb8 15.Nh4! Rd8? 16.Nf5 Bf8 17.cxb5 cxb5? 18.Qb3 and had to give up a pawn.

In Peters-Kraidman, London 1978, I also won a pawn by 13...h6 14.Be3 exd4?! (**Cy**: *Better is 14...Re8 15.Qc2 Bf8 Gharamian,T - Harikrishna,P Germany 2011.*) 15.Nxd4 Nc5 16.Nf5 Nxb3 17.Qxb3 Bc8 18.Nxe7+ Qxe7 19.cxb5 axb5 20.Rad1 Re8?! 21.Qb4, but I only drew the opposite-Bishop endgame.

14.Bg5 h6 15.Bh4



15...Rfe8

Cy: Inaccurate since his Queen must play to b8, blocking in his a8-Rook.

Jack: I prefer 15...Rad8 16.Rc1 Qb6, when 17.c5?? dxc5 18.dxe5 doesn't work because of 18...Nxe5.

16.Rc1 Qb8

Cy: 16...Qb6?! may be met with 17.c5!

***17.Ba2*±**

Jack: I felt that the opening favored White, and I was encouraged by Black's jumbled Queenside pieces.

However, I did not foresee Black's next maneuver.

17...Bd8!

Cy: I once played over an Old Indian where Morozevich played this exact maneuver. The Bishop is well placed on b6.

18.Rc2

Jack: Heading for the d-file while guarding b2. I rejected 18.b4 because Black could activate his Rook by 18... a5 19.cxb5 axb4 20.axb4 cxb5 21.Bb3. But Fritz claims "±," and the position does look promising for White.

18...exd4?

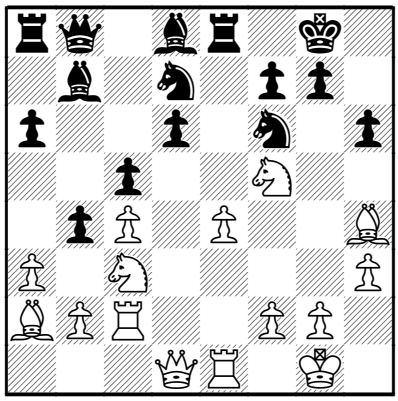
Jack: Opening the position must favor White, as several Black pieces are inactive. I expected 18...Bb6±.

Cy: Black hasn't quite equalized after 19.cxb5 axb5 20.Rd2, but I agree that it is better than exchanging pawns on d4.

19.Nxd4 c5

Cy: ?! Maybe 19...g6!? is too loosening, but that is the move I would have played. White's Knight must be kept away from f5.

20.Nf5 b4!



Jack: I wasn't concerned about my e-pawn because of White's threat against d6. But only now did I notice that Black may also threaten the double attack ...b4-b3.

21.Nxd6?

Jack: A mistake that should relinquish White's advantage. To refute 18... exd4, White must find 21.axb4 cxb4 22.Nxd6 bxc3 (Black drops material after 22...Re6 23.c5!+-) 23.Nxe8 Nxe8 24.Qxd7 Bxh4 25.c5!, conquering f7.

21...bxc3 22.Nxe8 Nxe8

Jack: The presence of the pawns at c4 and c5 saves Black, as White's Bishop cannot attack f7.

23.Bxd8

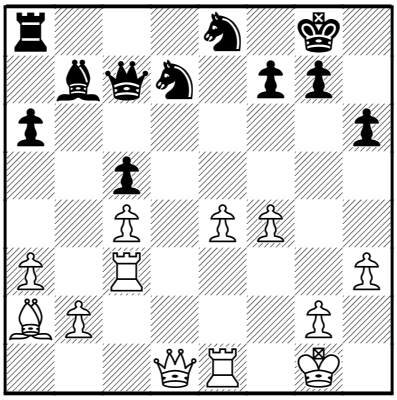
Jack: Not 23.Bg3 Qc8 24.Rxc3? (**Cy**: *24.bxc3! and White controls d4 and is ready to push on the Kingside. Objectively, the position remains approximately even.*) 24...Ba5.

23...Qxd8 24.Rxc3

Jack: The Rook and two pawns might outplay Black's Knights in an endgame, but Black should have fair chances in this middlegame.

Cy: I would think the position is dynamically balanced. If Black gets a Knight to d4, he may take the initiative.

24...Qc7 25.f4?!



Jack: Probably too aggressive. I felt I had to act before a Black Knight reached e5 or d4 and buried my Bishop behind an immobile pawn at e4.

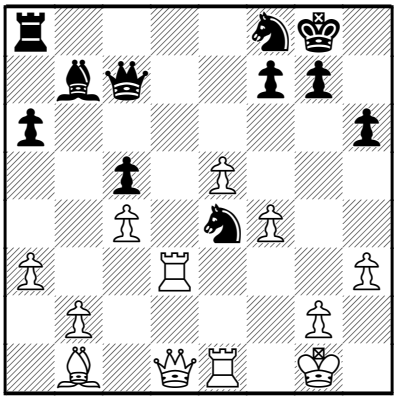
25...Nef6?

Jack: Now all goes well for White. Much stronger is the computer recommendation 25...Nf8! (**Cy**: *Yes, the key to the defense of Black's King is Knight access to d4.*) 26.e5 Ne6 27.Qg4 Rd8, when Black's centralized pieces are far more effective than their White counterparts.

26.e5 Ne4

Jack: Black cannot stand 26... Qc6 27.Rg3 Ne4?! 28.Rxe4 Qxe4 29.Qxd7+-.

27.Rd3 Nf8 28.Bb1



Please turn to page 15, ***Cy&Jack***

GM Melikset Khachiyan Takes 8th Los Angeles Open

October 7-9, 2011

GM Melikset Khachiyan won the 8th Los Angeles Open by a full point, scoring 4½-½. Second place was FM John Daniel Bryant, followed at 3-2 by IM Andranik Matikozyan and IM Enrico Sevillano. As shown in the table, Khachiyan defeated Bryant, Chen, Sevillano, and Remlinger, and drew only with Matikozyan in round 2. He also gained 36 rating points!

The top section featured some distinguished visitors. Seventy year old IM Larry Remlinger played in his first USCF rated event since the 1996 World Open. Welcome back! Howard Jen Chen visited from Seattle; he won the Washington State Championship earlier this year. Tied for second place in that tournament was another visitor, WGM Katerina Rohonyan, who was a member of the bronze medal 2008 American Olympiad team.

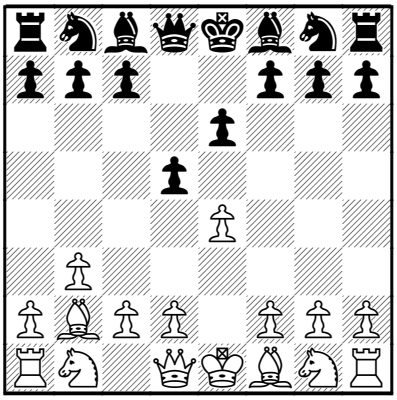
FM Harutyun Akopyan won the Under 2300 section with a score of 4½-½, one-half point ahead of Michael William Brown and Edward Formanek, who tied for second. In the U2000 section, Romeo Reario and Dylan Quercia tied for first with 4½-½. Fausto Oviedo won the U1700 section with 4½-½. The U1400 and U1000 sections were swept 5-0 by Tom Chamberlain and Cory Chen, respectively.

The six sections attracted a total of 155 players between them, the biggest being the U2300 at 41 and the U2000 at 43. The tournament was held at the Four Points by Sheraton LAX by the Contintental Chess Association, and directed by Steve Immitt who was assisted by Randall Hough.

We present three of the games provided by Randy, all won by Black. The first is an excellent win from the Open section by FM Kostya Kavutskiy, who strikes decisively at the first opportunity. The second is a Najdorf win by Edward Perepelitsky from the U2200 section, and the third is an Evans Gambit won by Harutyun Akopyan from the U2300 section. ♜

	Player Name State / Rtg (Pre->post)	T	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5
1	Melikset Khachiyan CA / R: 2522 -> 2558	4½	W2	D3	W6	W4	W10
2	John Daniel Bryant MO / R: 2454 -> 2468	3½	L1	W10	W11	W7	D3
3	Andranik Matikozyan CA / R: 2523 -> 2524	3	W7	D1	D4	D6	D2
4	Enrico Sevillano CA / R: 2507 -> 2510	3	D10	W11	D3	L1	W6
5	Roman Yankovsky CA / R: 2523 -> 2499	2½	L8	W9	L7	D11	B0
6	Howard Jed Chen WA / R: 2409 -> 2411	2½	W12	W8	L1	D3	L4
7	Tatev Abrahamyan CA / R: 2336 -> 2339	2½	L3	B0	W5	L2	D8
8	Konstantin Kavutskiy CA / R: 2324 -> 2331	2½	W5	L6	W9	L10	D7
9	Varun Krishnan CA / R: 2235 -> 2241	2½	H0	L5	L8	W13	W11
10	Larry Allen Remlinger CA / R: 2476 -> 2467	2	D4	L2	H0	W8	L1
11	Katerina Rohonyan WA / R: 2333 -> 2318	1½	B0	L4	L2	D5	L9
12	Julian M Chan CA / R: 2165 -> 2161	1	L6	B0	U0	U0	U0
13	Jamieson Pryor CA / R: 2104 -> 2098	0	U0	U0	U0	L9	U0

Yankovsky,Roman -
Kavutskiy,Konstantin
[C00] French Defense
Los Angeles Open (1)
Los Angeles, 07.10.2011
1.e4 e6 2.b3 d5 3.Bb2



This gambit first appeared, according to the database, in Reti-Maroczy 1920. Spielmann won with it in 1928 and 1930. Is it an opening of the future or of the past? Time will tell.

3...Nf6

Very strong players have also gone with 3...dxe4 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.Qe2 Be7 6.0–0–0 0–0 7.Nxe4 a5, and Fritz likes Black.

4.exd5

Neither Fritz nor experience recommends this move. The most recent game with 2500+ rated players continued 4.e5 Nfd7 5.Qg4 f5 6.Qg3 Nc5 7.Nh3 Nc6 8.Bb5 Bd7 9.Bxc6 Bxc6 10.d3 ... 1–0/39 Christiansen(2585) - Kraai(2502), ICC INT 2010.

4...exd5 5.Qe2+ Be6 6.Qb5+?!

White interrupts development to win a pawn.

6...Nbd7 7.Qxb7 Rb8 8.Qa6

More time is lost with 8.Qxa7 Bc5 9.Qa6 Rb6 10.Qe2 0–0, and Black is in business, for example if 11.d4 then 11...Bf5 12.dxc5 Re6–+.

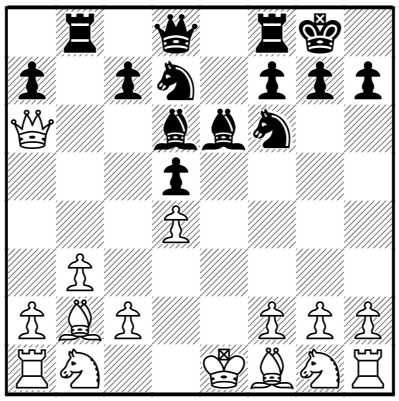
8...Bd6

Or 8...Rb6 9.Qxa7 Bc5 10.Ba3 d4∓.

9.d4

Better was 9.Nf3 0–0 10.Nc3. Black is limited to a slight plus after 10...Re8 11.Be2 Bg4 12.0–0 Re6 13.Qd3 Rb4 14.Na4 Qb8 15.Bxf6 Rxf6 16.Rae1 (if 16.Qxd5 c6–+) 16...Bxf3 17.Bxf3∓.

9...0–0



Black is in the middle game, but White is still in the opening!

10.Qd3

White cannot afford to wait any longer to complete his development.

Turning it into an opposite side castling game with 10.Nc3 Ne4 11.Nxe4 dxe4 12.0–0–0 survives the opening after 12...Nf6 13.Kb1 Nd5 14.h4∓.

10...Re8 11.Be2 c5 12.Nf3 Nh5 13.Bc1

A disappointing necessity. White has to guard f4, for if 13.0–0, then 13...Nf4 14.Qd2 Bh3!–+.

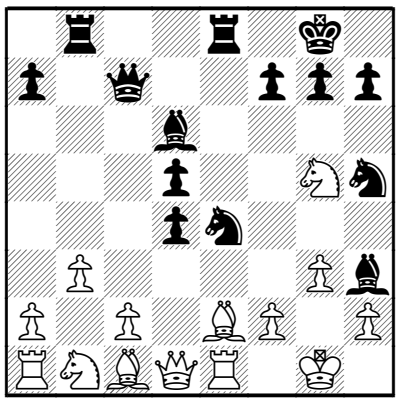
13...cxd4 14.0–0 Qc7 15.g3 Nc5 16.Qd1 Bh3 17.Re1

Not 17.Nxd4 Nxg3! 18.hxg3 (*if 18.Re1 Nge4–+*) 18...Bxg3! 19.Nc3 (*if 19.Re1, Bxf2+ is a mate*) 19...Rb6–+ and Black's attack gains even more strength.

17...Ne4

White's Queenside pieces can't help in the defense.

18.Ng5



18...Nxf2! 19.Qd2

19.Kxf2 Bxg3+ is a mate, for example 20.Kg1 20...Bxh2+–+ and 20.Kf3 Qe5, threatening 21...Qf6+.

19...Bxg3 20.Nf3

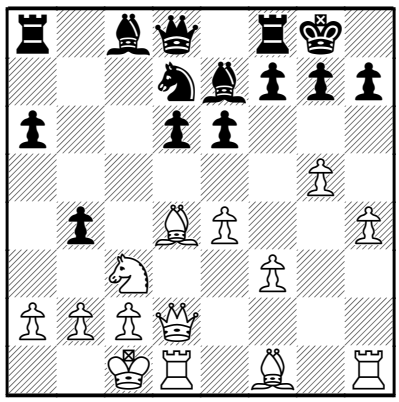
Or 20.Nxh3 Nxh3+ 21.Kh1 Bxe1 and Black is up a great amount of material.

20...Bxh2+ 0–1

Hilby,Craig -
Perepelitsky,Edward
[B80] Sicilian Najdorf
Los Angeles Open (1), 07.10.2011
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 e6 7.f3

The world's best played both sides of this position about 10 years ago.

7...Be7 8.Qd2 0–0 9.0–0–0 Nc6 10.g4 Nxd4 11.Bxd4 b5 12.h4 Nd7 13.g5 b4



14.Ne2

In a game from the 1992 match, Bobby continued with 14.Na4 Bb7 15.Nb6 Rb8 16.Nxd7 Qxd7 17.Kb1 and won in 35 moves, Fischer - Spassky, Belgrade 1992.

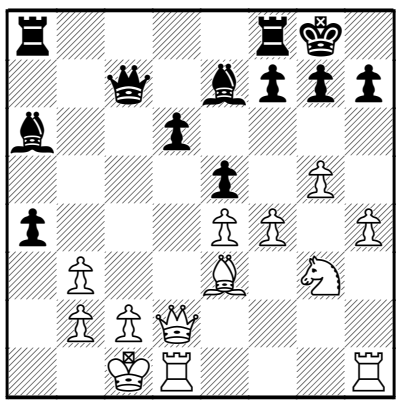
14...a5 15.Ng3 Qc7 16.Bd3 Ne5 17.f4 Nxd3+

Also possible is 17...Nf3 18.Qe3 Nxd4 19.Qxd4 e5=.

18.Qxd3 e5 19.Be3 Ba6

19...a4 gets it moving; so does 19...Bg4 20.Rd2 a4 21.Nf5 Rfc8=.

20.Qd2 b3 21.axb3 a4



22.Qc3

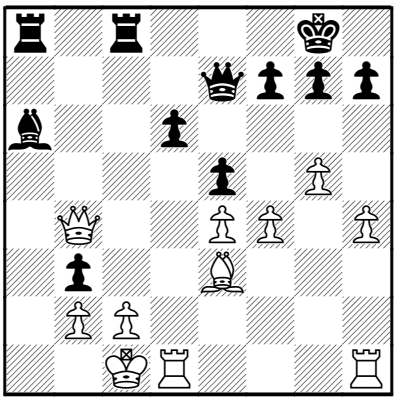
Better was trying to keep the Queenside files closed with 22.b4 Rfc8. If 22...a3, then 23.bxa3 Bb7 24.Kb2±.

Also possible: 22.bxa4 Bb7 23.b3±.

22...Qb7 23.Nf5 Rfc8

Now Black is winning, being able to attack with tempo gains.

24.Nxe7+ Qxe7 25.Qb4 axb3



26.Qxd6 Qb7!

Also curtains is the shot 26...Bd3! for if 27.Qxe7 (*or 27.Qxd3 bxc2*–+) 27...Rxc2+ 28.Kb1 Rh2+!! 29.Rxd3 Ra1+ 30.Kxa1 Rxh1+ with a mate.

27.Qxe5

If 27.Qd5, then Rxc2+ 28.Kb1 Bd3!! 29.Qxb7 Rh2+!! 30.Rxd3 Ra1+ and it's the same mate again.

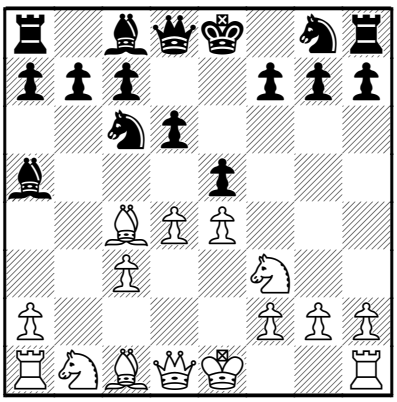
27...Rxc2+ 28.Kb1 Bd3 29.Qd6 Rc6+ 30.Rxd3

Of no help is 30.Qxd3 Ra1+ 31.Kxa1 Qa8+–+.

30...Rxd6 31.Rxd6 Qxe4+ 0–1

Carreto,Giovanni - Akopyan,Harutyun
[C52] Evans Gambit
Los Angeles Open (4), 09.10.2011

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.b4 Bxb4 5.c3 Ba5 6.d4 d6



7.Qb3

Avoiding Lasker's Defense, 7.0–0 Bb6, which he played twice successfully against Chigorin in 1895 and 1897. That position hasn't been played between two of the word's best since 1899.

7...Qd7 8.dxe5 Bb6

Returning the pawn.

Keeping the pawn with 8...dxe5 is also played. Two lines are then frequently seen: 9.0–0 9...Bb6 10.Rd1 Qe7; and 9.Ba3 Bb6 followed by either 10.Bb5 or 10.Nbd2.

9.Na3

Everyone plays this Knight to d2, not a3, but the game transposes back to the main line when White recaptures on c4 at move 11.

9...Na5

Trying to exploit White's 9th is not so simple.

After 9...Nxe5 10.Nxe5 dxe5, it seems like Black is consolidating the extra pawn until we look at 11.Bg5. Then Black cannot develop normally: 11...Nf6 (*or 11...Qg4 12.Bxf7+ Kf8 13.Be3 Qxg2 14.0–0–0*∞) 12.Bxf6 gxf6 13.Rd1 yet Black does better in the complications after 13...Qg4 14.0–0 (*or 14.Bxf7+ Ke7 15.0–0 Qg7*∓ *intending ...Bh3.*) 14...0–0∓;

Best might be 9...dxe5 10.Bb5=.

10.Qc2 Nxc4 11.Nxc4

Now we've returned to the main line.

11...d5 12.exd5 Qxd5 13.Ncd2

Two other moves have been played here by strong players:

13.Qa4+ Bd7 14.Nxb6 cxb6 15.Qb4 Bb5 16.Bg5 ... 0–1/71 Kurnosov (2550) - Sargissian,G (2630), Warsaw 2005.

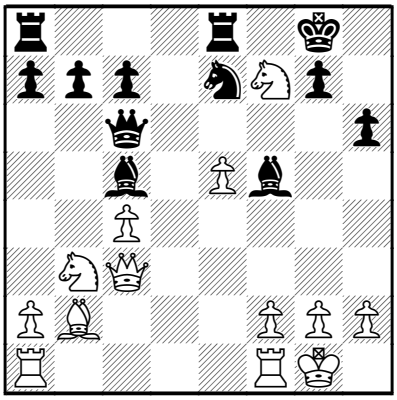
13.Ne3 Bxe3 14.Bxe3 Ne7 15.Rd1 Qc4... 0–1/28 Li (2548) - Ni Hua (2641), Manila 2007.

Fritz suggests 13.Nxb6 axb6 14.0–0±.

13...Bc5 14.0–0

Also possible is 14.Ba3, to trade an undeveloped piece for a developed piece. It might continue with 14...Bxa3 15.Qa4+ Bd7 16.Qxa3 Ne7 17.0-0±, or 14...Ne7 15.Bxc5 Qxc5 16.0–0±.

14...Ne7 15.c4 Qc6 16.Nb3 0–0 17.Ng5 Bf5 18.Qc3 Rfe8 19.Bb2 h6 20.Nxf7



20...Be6!

Best. Taking the Knight is answered by 20...Kxf7 21.e6+! and now all three captures lose:

21...Bxe6 22.Qxg7 mate.

21...Qxe6 22.Qxg7 mate.

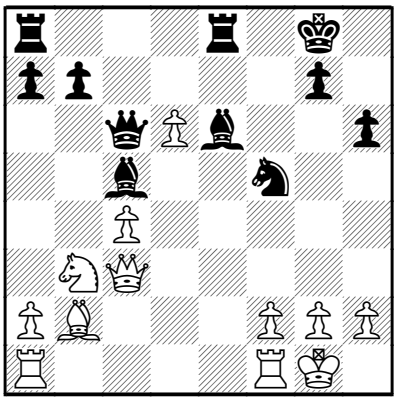
21...Kxe6 is best answered by 22.Nxc5+ Qxc5 23.Rad1, and Black doesn't have a good answer to the threat of 24.Rfe1, as 23...Rg8 24.Rfe1+ Kf7 25.Ba3 is decisive.

The King moves are bad, too!

21...Kf8 22.Qxg7 is mate

21...Kg6 is the longest line, leading to a King hunt after 22.Qxg7+ Kh5 23.Qf7+ Bg6 24.Qf4 Bf5 25.g3 (*25.Bf6? Bd6*=) 25...Rg8 26.Qh4+ Kg6 27.Nxc5 Qxc5 28.Qf6+ Kh5 29.Qf7+ Ng6 30.Ba3 Qe5 31.Rfe1+-.

21.Nd6 cxd6 22.exd6 Nf5



23.g4?

A tragedy for White. It was necessary to trade on c5 first. After 23.Nxc5 Qxc5 24.g4 Qxc4 25.gxf5 Qxc3 26.Bxc3 Bxf5, Fritz rates this equal. Perhaps White's separated pawns and the White square weakness on the Kingside are somewhat offset by White's well guarded advanced d-pawn. It would be interest-

ing to see what a GM thinks about it, and what plans are suitable.

23...Bb4!

Deflecting the Queen from her g7 pressure ***and*** from her Kingside defense. Everything works, and Black wins.

24.Qxb4

Otherwise, Black just keeps the piece and is up decisive material: 24.Qe5 Bxd6 25.Qc3 Bb4 26.Qe5 Bd7–+, or 24.Qh3 Nxd6–+ and eventually winning the c-pawn, too.

24...Nh4!

Black wins Kingside wood due to the mate threat.

25.f3 Nxf3+ 26.Rxf3 Qxf3

Black is up the Exchange for a pawn, but White's exposed King and his pawn weaknesses make it a decisive advantage.

27.Qc3 Qxg4+ 28.Qg3 Qxg3+ 29.hxg3 Bxc4

Black winds up with both the Exchange ***and*** the pawn.

30.Na5 Bd5 31.Rd1 Bf3 32.Rd3 Re2 33.Bc3 Be4 34.Rd4 Rf8 0–1 ♜

Cy&Jack, concluded from page 11.

Jack: White controls the only open file, and Black's Knight at e4 is more target than attacker.

28...f5 29.Qh5

Jack: A difficult decision. I considered 29.Qh5 the safest choice. I did not trust 29.exf6 Nxf6 30.Rd6, although White retains a valuable initiative. Nor did 29.g4 g6 appeal to me, because of White's drafty Kingside. **Cy**: I like White's position after 30.Rd5! Qf7 31.gxf5 gxf5 32.Bxe4 fxe4 33.Qg4+ Kh7 34.Rd6.

29...Qc6?

Jack: Maybe Black miscalculated. Against 29...Qf7 I planned 30.Qxf7+ Kxf7 31.Rb3 Ra7 32. Rb6, but 32.Rd1 Ke7 33.g4± seems strongest.

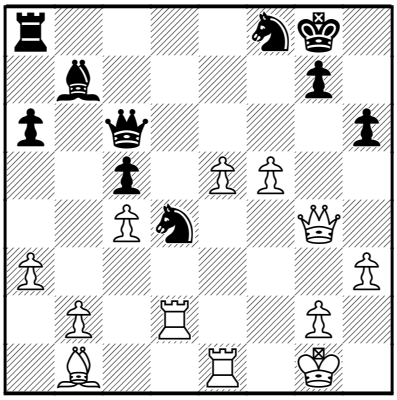
I was less sure about another Queen trade: 29...Qb6 30.b3 Qg6 31.Qxg6 Nxg6, which gives Black hope of counterplay. But White can win with the sharp 32.Rd7 Rb8 33.e6! Nf8 34.Re7 Bc6 35.Re3+-, renewing the idea of g2-g4.

Fritz suggests keeping the Queens on the board with 29...Qb6 30.b3 Qe6. But what does Black do after 31.Red1, when Rd3-d8 is in the air?

30.Qxf5

Jack: Winning easily. Black cannot exploit his lineup against g2.

30...Nd6 31.Qg4 Nf5 32.Rd2 Nd4 33.f5



Jack: The pawns are irresistible, and White's Bishop will play a role in the coming attack.

Cy: IM Jon Yedidia counseled me decades ago: "Never give Jack the attack. He always finds a way to mate!"

33...Rd8 34.Rf2

Jack: Simpler than 34. e6 Ndxe6 35. Be4.

34...Nh7 35.f6 Ng5

Jack: Or 35...Qc7 36.e6 (threatening 37. e7 and 38. Qxg7 mate) 36... Nxf6 37.Rxf6+-.

36.h4 Nge6

Jack: Similar is 36...Bc8 37.Qg3 Nge6 38.Qg6+-.

37.Qg6 1-0

Jack: White checkmates quickly after 37...Qc7 38.Qh7+ Kf8 39.fxg7+. ♜

Solutions to Outside Shots!

From the back cover.

1.The cruncher was 21...Nxf4! 0-1, for if 22.exf4, then Qxf4 mates quickly, in Haessel - Kavutskiy, 12th Metropolitan FIDE (5).

If 22.Bb1, Qg5+ 23.Qg4 Nxh3+ wins the Queen. Trying to defend with 22.Kh1 meets with 22...Nxd3 23.Qxd3 (*or 23.Rc2 Re4 24.f3 Rh4 25.f4 Rxh3+ 26.Rh2 Qf5*–+) 23... Qf3+ 24.Kg1 Qxh3 25.f4 Rxe3–+.

Also, if 22.Be2 Qh4 23.Bg4 Nxh3+ 24.Bxh3 Qxh3 25.Re1 (*or 25.f4 Rxe3*) then Black executes the classic mate 25...Bh2+ 26.Kh1 Bg3+ 27.Kg1 Qh2+ 28.Kf1 Qxf2. In this line, if 24.Kg2 then simply 24...Rxe3 does it.

2.White combines many positional factors to win a piece: ***14.g4! Bg6*** (if 14...Bd7, then 15.Rf4 Qe5 (*or 15...Qh6 16.Rf5*+-) 16.Re4 Qxd5 17.Rxe7+) ***15.h5***, Akopyan - Taylor, 12th Metro FIDE (4). See page 17.

3.The most efficient move is ***23.Qd6!+***, winning material quickly, in Brown - Andal 2011 WYCC, U14 Open (4), Brazil, 2011.

If 23...Ke8, then 24.Rxc6 Qxd6 (*or 24...Rxc6 25.Qb8*++-) 25.Rxc8+ Kd7 26.Bb5+ Kxc8 27.Bxd6+-. Or 23...Bd7 24.Qxf6+ Nxf6 25.Nxf7+ Ke8 26.Rxc8+ Bxc8 27.Nxh8+-. See the actual finish on page 24.

4.Black spots a tactical flaw, and wins with a few very accurate moves: ***23...Bb4! 24.Qxb4*** (If 24.Qe5, then Bxd6 25.Qc3 Bb4 26.Qe5 Bd7. Black keeps the piece and the attack. Or if 24.Qh3, Nxd6 does it, too.) ***24...Nh4!-+***, rocking the Kingside in Carreto - Akopyan, Los Angeles Open (4), 2011. See page 14 for the game.

5.It's the Veg-O-Matic for the Kingside with ***18...Nxf2! 19.Qd2*** (If 19.Kxf2, then Bxg3+ is a quick mate, for example, after 20.Kg1 Bxh2+, or 20.Kf3 Qe5! threatening the deadly 21... Qf6+.) ***19...Bxg3 20.Nf3*** (Or 20.Nxh3 Nxh3+ 21.Kh1 Bxe1 and Black is up huge material.) ***20...Bxh2+ 0–1***. Yankovsky - Kavutskiy, Los Angeles Open (1) 2011. (page 13.)

6.White executes an underpromotion theme with the accurate ***29.Rxh7+ Kxh7 30.Qh4+ Kg7 31.Qg5+ Kh7 32.Qh5+*** (At last, the f-pawn is guarded by the Queen, preventing a King capture.) ***32...Kg7 33.Ne8+ Rxe8 34.fxe8N+ 0-1***, forking King and Queen for the second move in a row. Kavutskiy - Rand, American Open (7) Orange, 2011.

Akopyan and Amanov Tie in 12th Metropolitan FIDE

November 9-13, 2011

IM Zhanibek Amanov and FM Harutyun Akopyan tied for first in the 12th Metropolitan FIDE Invitational Tournament with 6½-2½. This is the fourth first for Amanov, who won the 6th, 7th, and 9th Metro FIDEs, but the first victory and first IM norm for Akopyan.

Zhanibek Amanov: a win streak to tie

Akopyan led from the 6th round on, but Amanov had a slow start, not getting his first win until round 5. However, he kept on winning and caught Akopyan in the final round, when he drew.

Third with 5½ was the rapidly improving FM Konstantin Kavutskiy. He had a slow start, identical to Amanov, and finished with three wins and 2 draws in the last five rounds.

Tied for fourth were IM Timothy Taylor and WGM Tatev Abrahamyan at 5-4.

Taylor had a particularly unlucky tournament. He led the first seven rounds, and even *two* losses, one of them on a gross blunder, did not drop him out of first.

Sixth at 4½-4½ was Vadim Kudryavtsev, seventh at 4-5 was IM Andranik Matikozyan, and tied for eighth at 3-6 were FM Michael Casella and FM Kayden Troff, followed by FM Dale Hassel with 2-7.

Below, Jack Peters has annotated two games by Harutyun Akopyan, and the editor presents a nice King's Gambit win by Tim Taylor.

We thank the Metropolitan Chess Club for the tournaments and the games!

	Round by Round Pairings, Colors, and Scores		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Matikozyan, Andranik	ARM	W10	W2	B3	W4	B5	W6	B7	W8	B9
	2457		½	1	1½	2	2½	3	3	3½	4
2	Kavutskiy, Konstantin	USA	W9	B1	W10	W3	B4	W5	B6	W7	B8
	2303		0	½	1	1½	2½	3½	4	5	5½
3	Amanov, Zhanibek	KAZ	W8	B9	W1	B2	W10	W4	B5	W6	B7
	2411		0	½	1	1½	2½	3½	4½	5½	**6½**
4	Haessel, Dale	CAN	W7	B8	W9	B1	W2	B3	W10	W5	B6
	2211		0	0	1	1½	1½	1½	1½	2	2
5	Casella, Michael	USA	W6	B7	W8	B9	W1	B2	W3	B4	W10
	2268		0	0	½	1½	2	2	2	2½	3
6	Kudryavtsev, Vadim	RUS	B5	B10	W7	B8	W9	B1	W2	B3	W4
	2097		**1**	1	1	1½	2½	3	3½	3½	4½
7	Taylor, Timothy	USA	B4	W5	B6	B10	W8	B9	W1	B2	W3
	2296		**1**	**2**	**3**	**3**	**4**	**4**	**5**	5	5
8	Abrahamyan, Tatev	USA	B3	W4	B5	W6	B7	B10	W9	B1	W2
	2264		**1**	**2**	2½	**3**	3	3	4	4½	5
9	Troff, Kayden	USA	B2	W3	B4	W5	B6	W7	B8	B10	W1
	2279		**1**	1½	1½	1½	1½	2½	2½	2½	3
10	Akopyan, Harutyun	USA	B1	W6	B2	W7	B3	W8	B4	W9	B5
	2233		½	1½	2	**3**	3	**4**	**5**	**6**	**6½**

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

Two by Akopyan

By IM Jack Peters

Harutyun Akopyan achieved his first IM norm at the 12th Metropolitan Invitational. Harut (his preferred name, although many people know him as Harry) has been a master since he was a junior star in the 1990s. He plays less frequently now, spending most of his chess time coaching kids with the AAA Chess Club.

Harut is a well-rounded player with a classical style. Watch how he applies pressure to Kayden Troff's vulnerable pawns, and then see how he trips up dangerous attacker Tim Taylor in an ancient opening.

Akopyan,Harutyun (2233) - Troff,Kayden (2279)
[B52] Sicilian Defense, Moscow Variation
12th Metropolitan Invitational (8)
Los Angeles, 13.11.2011
Notes by IM Jack Peters

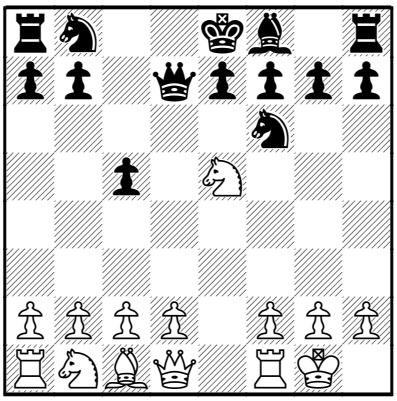
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Bd7 4.Bxd7+ Qxd7 5.0–0 Nf6

White has more options against 5...Nc6.

6.e5!?

White gets very little from 6.Re1 Nc6 7.c3 e6 8.d4 d5 9.e5 Ne4=.

6...dxe5 7.Nxe5



This line was formerly considered harmless to Black, but White often obtains a lead in development.

7...Qc8

Not bad is 7...Qc7 8.Qe2 Nc6 9.Nxc6 Qxc6 although Black does not quite equalize with 10.b3 e6 11.Bb2 Be7 12.Na3 0–0 13.Nc4±.

8.Qf3 Nc6

Approved by Fritz, but Black's pawn structure will be a permanent liability. Preferable seems 8...Nbd7 9.Nc4 b5 10.Ne3 e6±.

9.Nxc6 Qxc6 10.Qxc6+ bxc6 11.d3

White's Knight will settle on c4.

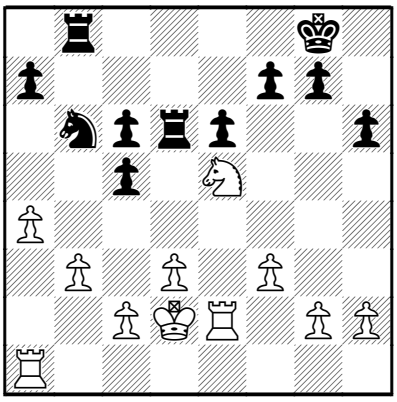
11...e6 12.a4 Nd5 13.b3 Be7 14.Bb2 Bf6 15.Bxf6 Nxf6 16.Re1 Rd8 17.Nd2 Rd5 18.Nc4

Black has an uncomfortable task, trying to defend a completely passive position.

18...0–0 19.f3 Rb8 20.Kf2 h6 21.Re2 Nd7 22.Ke1 Nb6

A trade of Knights would help Black. Of course, White will not cooperate.

23.Ne5 Rd6 24.Kd2



24...f6?

Black cannot resist the temptation to chase the Knight from its splendid post.

He should stand fast with 24...Nd7 25.Nc4 Rd4 26.Rae1 g6±, challenging White to make progress.

25.a5!

Very alert! White agrees to trade Knights, but inflicts more punishment on Black's ailing pawn structure.

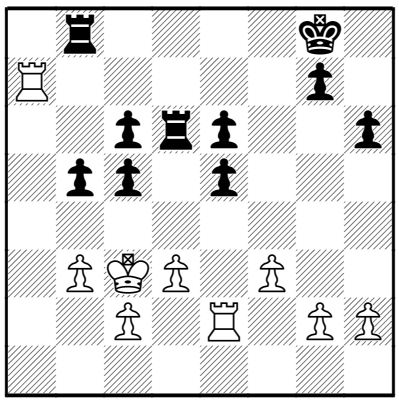
25...fxe5

Forced, as Knight moves drop the e-pawn to 26. Nc4.

26.axb6 axb6 27.Ra7±

White will recover one pawn and continue to attack the others.

27...b5 28.Kc3



28...Rd5?

Black's last hope to resist is 28... Rf8 29.Rxe5 Rf5 30.Re4 Kf8±, intending ...Rf5-f7.

29.Re7

Now two pawns must fall.

29...c4 30.dxc4 bxc4

Black can threaten mate by 30... b4+ 31.Kb2 Rd1 32.Rxe6 Ra8 but White would simplify with 33.c3 Rda1 34.Re8+! Rxe8 35.Kxa1 bxc3 36.Kb1 Kf7 37.Kc2, winning routinely.

31.bxc4!

Preparing the harvest. White could go wrong by 31.Kxc4?! Rbb5 32.Rxe6?? Rbc5+ 33.Kb4 Kf7.

31...Ra5 32.Rxe6 c5

Black accomplishes nothing with 32...Ra3+ 33.Kd2 Rd8+ 34.Kc1+-.

33.R6xe5 Rb4? 34.Rxc5 1-0

Akopyan,Harutyun (2233) - Taylor,Timothy (2296)
[C45] Scotch Game
12th Metropolitan Invitational (4)
Los Angeles, 11.11.2011
Notes by IM Jack Peters

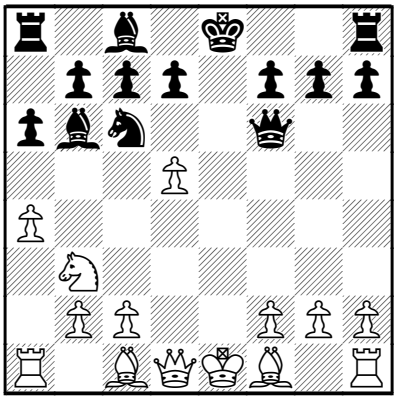
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4

The Scotch Game has enjoyed a bit of popularity since Garry Kasparov revived it in the 1990 world championship.

4...Bc5 5.Nb3

The old move. The modern treatment is 5.Nxc6 Qf6 6.Qd2.

5...Bb6 6.a4 a6 7.Nc3 Nge7 8.Nd5?! Nxd5 9.exd5 Qf6!



Solving Black's problems.

10.Qe2+ Ne7 11.a5 Ba7 12.h4 d6?

This natural move restores White's edge.

Instead, 12...h6 lets Black refute 13.Bg5?? by 13...hxg5 14.hxg5 Qxf2+. A more critical test of 12... h6 is 13.Ra4 0–0 14.Rf4 Qd6 15.c4 Qb4+ 16.Qd2! (not 16.Nd2? Nxd5–+) 16...Re8! (avoiding the Queen trap 16...Qxb3?? 17.Rf3 Qa2 18.Ra3 Qb1 19.Bd3+-) 17.Be2 Qxd2+ 18.Bxd2 Ng6 19.Rf3 d6∓ when several White pieces are awkwardly placed.

13.Ra4!↑

Threatening 14. Bg5 Qe5 15. Re4.

13...Bf5??

The only defense is 13...Qf5 14.Re4 Qd7±.

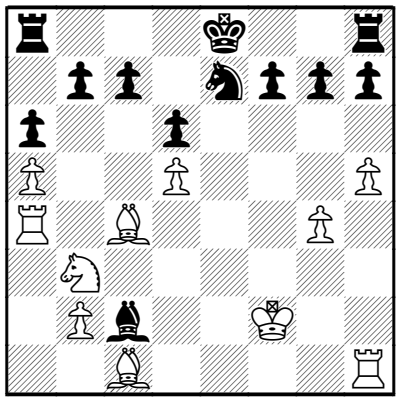
14.g4+-

Winning. Black must yield a piece.

14...Bg6

If 14...Bd7 White removes the defender of the pinned Knight by 15.Rf4! (not 15.Bg5?? Qxf2+ 16.Qxf2 Bxf2+ 17.Kxf2 Bxa4–+) 15...Qg6 16.h5 Qh6 17.Re4 Qf6 18.g5.

15.h5 Qxf2+ 16.Qxf2 Bxf2+ 17.Kxf2 Bxc2 18.Bc4

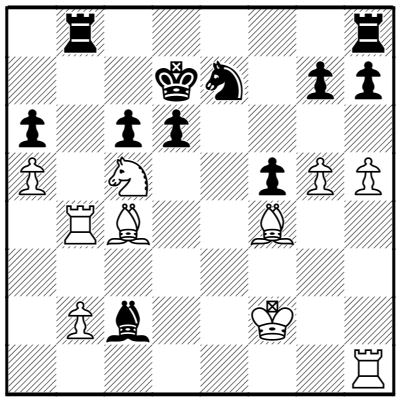


With two pawns for the Bishop, Black can hang on a while, but he has hardly any chance of saving the game.
18...f5 19.g5 Kd7 20.Rb4 Rab8 21.Bf4

Now White can answer quiet moves by 22. Nd2 and 23. Rc1, embarrassing the Bishop.
21...c5?!

A faulty attempt at counterplay.
22.dxc6+ bxc6?

Only the hopeless 22...Nxc6 23.Rb6+- postpones further loss of material.
23.Nc5+! 1-0



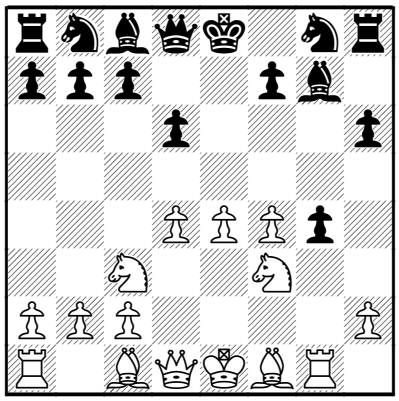
Next is a reminder of the wild Muzio Gambits of old. Notes by the editor.

Taylor,Timothy (2296) - Casella,Michael (2268)
[C37] King's Gambit
12th Metropolitan Invitational (2)
Los Angeles, 10.11.2011
1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.Nf3 h6 4.d4 g5 5.Nc3 Bg7 6.g3 d6

More usual is 6...fxg3 7.hxg3 d6 8.Bc4 Bg4 9.Rf1 as in Shabalov - A. Ivanov, Seattle 2000, which continued 9...Qd7 10.Qd3 Nc6 11.Be3 a6

Harutyun Akopyan: first IM norm!

12.0–0–0, ½–½/29.
7.gxf4 g4 8.Rg1



8...gxf3?!

Black is not getting the extra piece, as in the Muzio Gambit.

Theoretical was 8...Kf8 9.Be3 Nc6 10.d5±, played just five months ago in Shirov - Alekseev, Lublin 2011. It continued with 10...Nb4 11.a3 gxf3 12.axb4 Qh4+ 13.Rg3 Nf6 14.Qxf3 Nh5 15.Be2 Nxg3 16.hxg3 Qd8, 1–0/35.

Fritz has a few other tries. They all remind me of the Muzio Gambit:

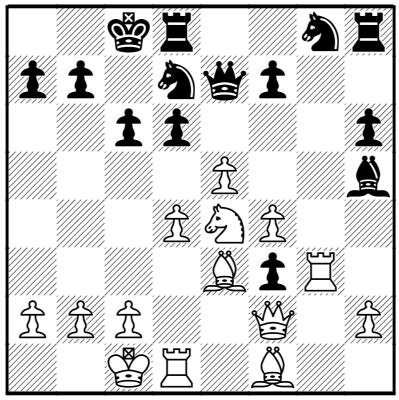
8...Rh7 9.e5 (9.Be3 gxf3 10.Qxf3±) 9...gxf3 10.Qxf3±.

8...Bf6 9.e5 Be7 10.Be3 gxf3 11.Qxf3 Bh4+ 12.Bf2±.

Maybe best is 8...Bf8 9.Be3 gxf3 10.Qxf3±.
9.Rxg7 Qh4+ 10.Rg3± Bg4

Of no help is 10...f2+ 11.Kxf2 Nf6 12.f5+-.
11.Qd2 Bh5 12.Qf2

Threatening the Queen with Rxg8+.
12...Qe7 13.Be3 c6 14.e5 Nd7 15.0–0–0 0–0–0 16.Ne4



The d6 square is won, and the Knight does a tour of squares.
16...d5 17.Nd6+ Kb8 18.Bh3 Nb6 19.Nf5 Qb4 20.a3 Qa4

The Knight continues its work.
21.Ng7 Bg6 22.f5 Bh7 23.Rxf3

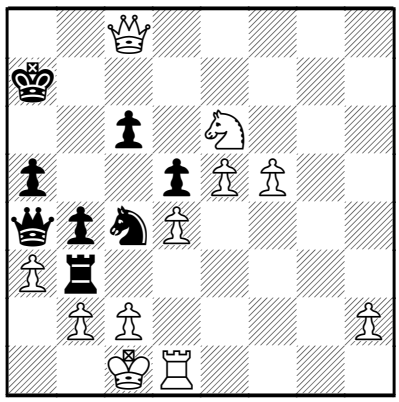
It's finally equal material, but Black's pieces are disorganized.
23...Ne7 24.Bf4 Ka8 25.Bg3 Nc4 26.Bh4 Nc8

White at last wins material. Black doesn't have any reasonable moves:

26...Rd7 27.f6+-.

26...Qb5 27.Rb3+-.

26...Rdg8 27.Bxe7 Rxg7 28.b3+-.
27.Bxd8 Rxd8 28.Qh4 Rg8 29.Qxh6 Rh8 30.Qh5 b5 31.Qxf7 b4 32.Rb3 a5 33.Ne6 Bg8 34.Qg7 Rxh3 35.Qxg8 Rxb3 36.Qxc8+ Ka7 1-0



The end would be 37.Nc7 (*threatening mate in two with 38.Qa8+ Kb6 39.Qb8*) 37...c5 38.Qa8+ Kb6 39.Nxd5+ Kb5 40.Qb7+ Nb6 41.Qxb6+ Kc4 42.Qxc5 mate. ♜

GM Varuzhan Akobian Wins 47th American Open

November 24-27, 2011

Scoring 7-1, GM Varuzhan Akobian won the American Open by a full point. Second at 6-2 was former winner GM Joshua Friedel, and tied for third were IM Zhanibek Amanov and former winner IM Enrico Sevillano, at 5½-2½.

In the next scoring bracket, at 5-3 and tied for fifth, were former winners GM Melikset Khachiyan (6-time!) and IM Larry Remlinger (1972!), as were FM Harutyun Akopyan and Edward Perepelitsky.

All the leaders drew in the last round.

Akobian, also a previous winner, had built his one point lead by drawing only with Friedel in round 3, and winning the rest of his games. Friedel had also yielded draws to Sevillano and Khachiyan.

Perepelitsky and Akopyan shared the Under 2400 honors, while Steven Breckinridge took the Under 2300 prize with 4½-3½.

The tournament was hosted by the DoubleTree Hotel in the City of Orange. The seven sections attracted a total of 235 players, and was ably directed by Anthony and Aaron Ong.

Director Anthony Ong reports on the supporters, as well as the Scholastics, Action, and Blitz events. - Ed

The **American Open supporters** deserve recognition:

Dr. Neil Bershad contributed for the scholastic special prizes which include chess computers to provide the young winners top technology to further their chess career.

Dr. Richard E. Martin's support aided more than 100 scholastics with reduced fees.

Fernando Sevilla contributed to the prize fund that helped attract top GMs into the open section.

Alejandro Baluran and Arsenio Caccam sponsored Filipinos who could not otherwise afford their entrance fees.

Chess.com, with representative IM Daniel Rensch, sponsored the popular lecture and provided pens for the tournament.

American Open Scholastic

The American Open Scholastic took on a new format this year, which proved popular. Taking place on Thanksgiving weekend, November 26th-27th, with many prizes and new sections from last year, the event attracted 210 students playing in the rated sections and over 100 beginners playing in the unrated Booster sections.

The varying sections allowed for the players to compete in an even playing field. Many took advantage of this and performed well. A total of 19 players won a 1st place award, more than one hundred placed through 10th place, and many earned a finalist medal.

Class A player Karl Tolentino dominated the toughest section in the high school K-12 varsity section. Tolentino got a perfect score of 6-0 clinching the expert title.

In the Varsity Junior High K-9, Sachil Verma and Stuart Kusdono co-championed with 5-1. Both reached their maximum rating gain, totaling over 100 points in one tournament.

GM Joshua Friedel: second place, winner last year.

cr

IM Enrico Sevillano: tied for third, also won last year..

In the Elementary K-6, two top players, Jerry Qu and Qinhong Chen drew only against each and won all the others to tie for first. Kevin Chor won 6-0 in the K-3 section.

Junior varsity was most popular. Many individuals fell into the mediocre levels where each subdivision in the Junior Varsity strictly imposed rating limits to properly group the players. The JV winners are the following:

JV High School K-12 - Ted Zhu

JV Junior High K-9 - Victor Chai

JV Elementary K-6 - Kenneth Jiang, Raajkiran Komirisetty, Kevin Wang

JV Primary K-3 - Eric Zhou

K-1 Ethan Pau

Chess competitions can be scary for many starters, especially when they have to play against experienced opponents. The Booster section gives opportunity for even first time tournament players to excel. Novice players are formed into groups based on grade level and matched together. The winners are the following:

Kindergarten - Alton Qian

1st grade - Nathan Xie

2nd grade - Stanley Chang and Jeffrey Chou

3rd grade - Bence Endresz

4th grade - Alexander Chen

5th grade - Mathew Bodeen

6th grade - Jennifer Ganbaatar

7th grade - William Sheu

8th grade - Simren Lakhotia

10th grade - Andy Gonzalez

11th grade - Michael Brady

Many Southern California teams and clubs came out to support the tournament. *Beyond Chess* of Arcadia took many prizes including top team in Kindergarten through 2nd grade in the Booster, Primary through High School in the JV, and K-9 in the Varsity. *California Youth Chess League (CYCL)* topped 3rd, 5th, 8th, 10th in the Booster and K-1 section. *Hanley Chess Academy (HCA)* won first in the Varsity K-3 group. *The Chess Magicians* won in the Varsity K-6.

All Star Youth Chess (ASYC) earned Bronze in the JV Elementary. *St. Jeane* won team prizes in both Varsity and JV High School. *Team House* won first in the Varsity K-9 school team award. Among teams who competed, many placed in the top three and they are the following: *West LA, Chess Palace, All American Chess Association, American Chess Academy.*

ASYC. From L to R: Ethan Aquino (with the stripes), Alexander Levin (with glasses), Brett Fragosa (with the trophy), Bryan Reyes (standing tall), and Rushikesh Pande (bent over).

The scholastic was made possible by a team of volunteers and staff. Anthony Ong directed with the TDs Sam Chou and Jim Bullock, assistants Stewart Yanez, and volunteers Kim Mosser, Scott Belair Sr., Jay Stallings, and Sarah Lu. The successful attendance could not have been possible without the dedicated coaches who motivated their students to compete. The coaches are Ben Deng from *Beyond*, Jay Stallings from *CYCL*, Maya Dovdon from *West LA*, Kevin Bulone from *ASYC*, Darrell Yap from *St. Jeanne*, Alfred Ong from *Chess Palace*, Joe Hanley from *HCA*, and Armen Ambartsoumian from *ACA*.

Action Chess

Through the hectic Sunday of 16 ongoing sections with about 485 players, the American Open Action drew 24 players.

IM Cyrus Lakdawala swept the field with a last round draw for 4½/5. From the 4 experts and one master, 3 were able to put up a good fight against the IM. Expert Pablo Pena was the closest, draining all but 2 seconds (with delay) of Lakdawala's time. Brendan Purcell and Pablo Pena claimed the 2nd and U2200 prize with 4 points. Igor Kukavica

2011 American Open Winners

Open Section
1st: GM Varuzhan Akobian, 7-1
2nd: GM Joshua Friedel, 6-2
3rd: IM Enrico Sevillano, IM Zhanibek Amanov, 5½-2½

Under 2400: Edward Perepelitsky, FM Harutyun Akopyan 5-3.
Under 2300 Steven Breckinridge 4½-3½

U2200 Section
1st: Hermenegildo Duhaylungsod Jr., 7½-½
2nd-3rd: Lawrence Wolfley, Jonathan Homidan, 6-2

U2000 Section
1st-4th: Neil Bershad, Jeffrey Ding, Fernando Sevilla, Wes White, 6-2

U1800 Section
1st-3rd: Abzal Nurlanov, Leo Creger, Ruben Burciaga, 6½-1½

U1600 Section
1st: Thomas Hart, 7-1
2nd: Trey Michaels, 6½-1½
3rd-5th: Blake Borskey, David King, Sloan Setiadikurnia, 6-2

U1400 Section
1st: Amado Ancheta, 8-0
2nd: Gevorg Khachatrian, 6-2
3rd-4th: Rick Sun, Kenneth Carter, 5½-2½
Under 1200: Anthony Wong, Thomas Michaels Jr., 5-3
Unrated: Kenneth Carter, 5½-2½

Scholastics:

Varsity High School K-12
1st: Karl Tolentino, 6-0

Varsity High School K-9
1st-2nd: Sachil Verma and Stuart Kusdono, 5-1

Varsity High School K-6:
1st-2nd: Jerry Qu, Qinhong Chen, 5½-½

Varsity High School K-3
1st: Kevin Chor, 6-0

Junior Varsity Winners
High School K-12: Ted Zhu
Junior High K-9: Victor Chai
Elementary K-6: Kenneth Jiang, Raajkiran Komirisetty, Kevin Wang
Primary K-3: Eric Zhou
K-1: Ethan Pau

Blitz:
1st: FM Robby Adamson, 9½-½

Action:
1st: IM Cyrus Lakdawala, 4½-½

ao

Cy Lakdawala and Alfredo Ong

scored 3½ for U2000. Joanne Koong, Michael Taylor, and Robert Dolan split the U2000 2nd with 3 points, leaving Al Pena to enjoy the clear U1800 prize. James Jen claimed the U1600. Special Best Upset prize went to Willie Roy with 318 points!

Blitz Chess

The 5-round double swiss blitz held on Saturday night attracted 48 quick players including 3 FM's. Coming from Arizona, FM Robby Adamson clinched clear first with 9½/10, only drawing with 2nd place winner, Steven Breckenridge (8½/10). Adamson was able to avoid top seed 17 year old FM Howard Chen from Washington, who lost two games to NM Jeff Phillips during the third round. With 7½/10, Craig Clawitter claimed the U2200, Romeo Rearios won the U2000 with 7-3, and the U1800 was a 4-way tie at 5-5 for Kenneth Carter, Albert Dumaran, Carlos Salazar, and Bud Stamper. Matthew Shuben took U1600, also with 5-5. Ricard Shu won the U1400 with 4 points and Luke Spear won the Unrated prize.

Four-time American Open Champion IM Jack Peters annotates the following game with this year's winner.

Akobian,Varuzhan (2612) - Peters,Jack (2360)
[E18] Queen's Indian Defense
American Open (6)
Orange, 26.11.2011

Notes by IM Jack Peters.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.g3 Bb7 5.Bg2 Be7 6.0–0 0–0 7.Nc3 Ne4 8.Bd2 f5 9.Qc2

Reserving d1 for a Rook.

The more common 9.d5 Bf6 10.Rc1 Na6 seems acceptable for Black.

9...Nxc3

Probably better is 9...Bf6 10.Rad1 Nxc3 11.Bxc3 Be4, as in Shulman - Onischuk, US Championship, Tulsa 2008.

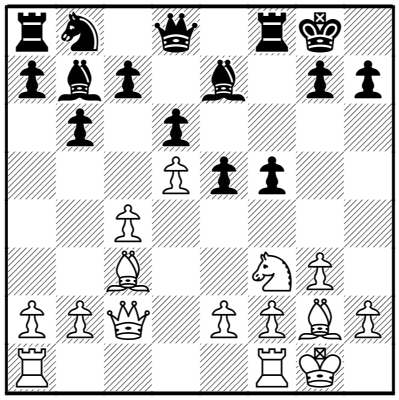
Not attractive is 9...Nxd2 10.Qxd2 Bf6 because 11.d5± gives White control of most of the center.

10.Bxc3 d6?

This "normal" move leads to unexpected problems.

Black can stand 10...Be4 11.Qd2 d6±, with the usual small disadvantage. Both 11...d5 and 11...Bf6 seem satisfactory too.

11.d5! e5



I had no premonition of disaster. I expected White to continue quietly with 12.b4 or 12.e4, and I thought Black was close to equalizing.

12.c5!!

The best move I've faced in many years.

Black's position crumbles at once. I cannot allow c5-c6 and b2-b4, which would trap Black's Knight, so I must choose one of the three undesirable captures.

The only sharp variation I anticipated, 12.Nxe5 dxe5 13.d6 Bxg2 14.dxe7 Qxe7 15.Kxg2, seemed harmless to Black after 15...Nc6=.

12...Bxd5

After 12...bxc5 13.Nxe5±, White intends to maneuver his Knight to f4 and e6. Perhaps 13...Nd7 14.Nd3 Bg5, trying to eliminate the Knight, puts up the most resistance.

Varuzhan analyzed 12...bxc5 13.Nxe5 dxe5 14.Qb3! Bd6 15.Qxb7 Nd7 16.e4±, which is also very uncomfortable for Black.

13.cxd6 cxd6

Black cannot stand 13...Bxd6 14.Nxe5 Bxe5 (The problem with 14...Bxg2 is 15.Qb3+! Kh8 16.Nf7+ Rxf7 17.Qxf7, gaining the exchange.) 15.Rad1 c6 16.Bxe5±.

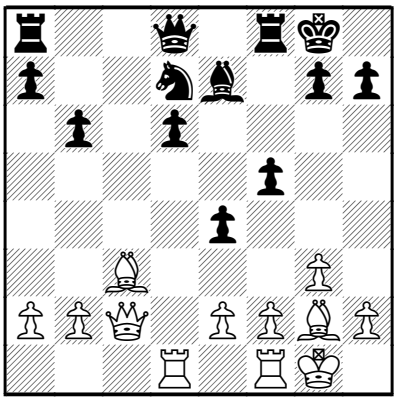
14.Rad1!

Now 14.Nxe5?? dxe5 15.Rad1 fails, to 15...e4.

14...Bxf3

Else Black drops the pawn at e5.

15.Bxf3 e4 16.Bg2 Nd7



17.g4!

Even stronger than 17.f3 exf3 18.Rxf3±.

17...Rc8 18.gxf5 Rxf5 19.Qxe4 Rg5±

Black has stopped White's immediate threats, but he cannot repair his weakened pawn structure or obtain serious counterplay.

20.f4 Rg6 21.Kh1 Kh8 22.Bh3 Rc5

cr

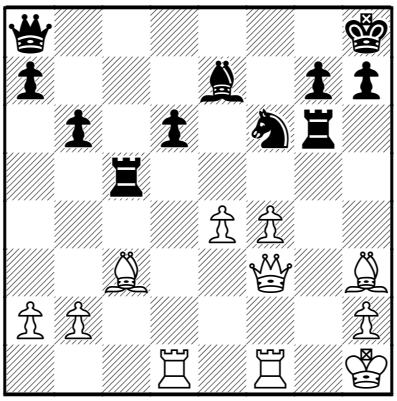
GM Varuzhan Akobian: first!

As good as any. I dreamed of doubling Rooks at h6 and h5. No chance!

23.Qf3 Nf6

Desirable, except for e2-e4-e5. A little tougher is 23...Nf8±.

24.e4 Qa8



Now I expected 25. Bg2, but White has two better alternatives.

25.Bf5

As Varuzhan pointed out later, best of all is 25.e5! Qxf3+ 26.Rxf3 Ne4 27.Be1 Rh6 28.Bf5 d5 29.Rfd3+-, winning easily.

25...Rh6 26.e5 Qxf3+ 27.Rxf3 Nd5

Black holds out longest with the miserable 27...Ng8.

28.Bd4+- Rc4

Instead, 28...Ra5 29.a3 will cost Black his Rook because of b2-b4.

29.b3 Rc7 30.exd6 Bxd6 31.Be5! Bxe5 32.fxe5 Ne7

Or 32...g6 33.Be6, winning the Knight because 33...Ne7 allows 34.Rd8+ Kg7 35.Rf7 mate.

33.Rd8+ Ng8 34.Be4 Rg6

Giving White a chance to go wrong with 35. Rff8?? Rc1+.

Not worth playing is 34...g5 35.Rff8 Rg7 36.Bd5 Rhg6 37.Bf7.

35.Bxg6 1–0

*The players in the next game have a total of **ten** American Open firsts between them. Peters won in 1977, 1982, 1984, and 1988. Khachiyan won in 2001, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2009, and 2010. (The record is 7 wins, shared by David Strauss and Walter Browne.)*

It's a Schliemann, and tactics rule! We hope you enjoy this battle and Fritz's variations! - Ed.

Peters,Jack (2360) - Khachiyan,Melikset (2474)
[C63] Ruy Lopez, Schliemann Defense
American Open (3)
Orange, 25.11.2011

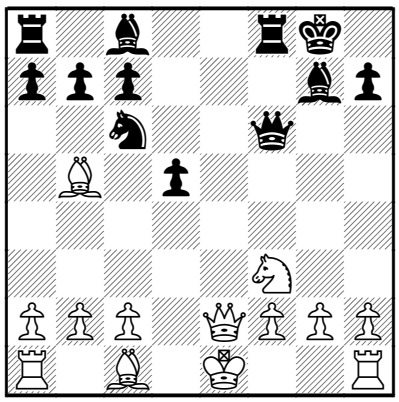
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 f5 4.Nc3 fxe4 5.Nxe4 Nf6 6.Qe2

From the database, the alternative 6.Nxf6+ Qxf6 7.0–0 has had very good practical results.

6...d5 7.Nxf6+ gxf6 8.d4 Bg7 9.dxe5 0–0 10.exf6

More usual are 10.Bxc6 bxc6 11.e6 Re8 12.0–0=, and 10.e6 Ne5 11.Bf4 c6 12.Bd3 Nxd3+ 13.Qxd3 Bxe6±.

10...Qxf6



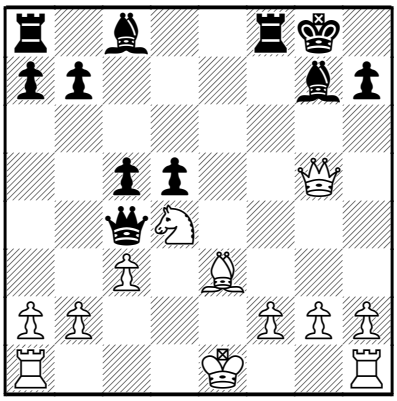
A tough position to play. The White King would like some shelter, but it's hard to come by, and Black always seems to come up with threats.

The problem with castling is 11... Bg4. One way might be to try 11.h3 first, but Black can still prevent Kingside castling with 11...Qg6 12.Nh4 Qf6 13.Nf3 Qg6=. But maybe it's best.

11.Qd1 Nd4! 12.Qxd4 Qe7+ 13.Qe3

The alternative try also allows very confusing complications: 13.Ne5 Bxe5 14.Qxd5+ Kh8 15.Be2 Bg4 16.f3 Rxf3 17.Bxf3 Bg3+ 18.Kd1 Rd8∓.

13...Qb4+ 14.c3 Qxb5 15.Nd4 Qa6 16.Qg5 Qc4 17.Be3 c5



18.Nb3

Possible is 18.Nf3 Bf5∓ but Black is developing and White still can't consolidate.

And 18.Ne2 runs into the sharp 18...Bg4 19.f3 Rae8 20.Qxg4 Qxg4 21.fxg4 Rxe3 22.Rf1 Rfe8 23.Rf2 Rxc3∓.

White can try to go after the Black King with 18.Rd1 cxd4 19.Bxd4, but Black has the entertaining reply of 19...Re8+ 20.Kd2 Qe2+ 21.Kc1 Qg4 22.Qxg7+ Qxg7 23.Bxg7 Kxg7 24.Rxd5. White has three pawns for the piece, with two Rooks each, and Fritz likes Black very much after 24...Be6∓.

Cy Lakdawala, Jeremy Silman, Jack Peters, and Melik Khachiyan: all smiles!

18...b6

Fritz claims a win with the forcing 18...Bg4 19.f3 Rxf3 20.gxf3 Bxf3–+ 21.Kf2 Qe2+ 22.Kg1 h6□ 23.Qg3 (*not 23.Qg6 Qxe3+ 24.Kf1 Rf8 with a mate*) 23...Qxe3+ 24.Qf2 Qg5+ 25.Qg3 Qxg3+ 26.hxg3 Bxh1 27.Kxh1 c4 and Black has a winning ending.

19.Rd1

There is no route to a good game, as Fritz's best, 19.f3 is answered with 19...h6 20.Qg3 d4 (*Black has to keep up the pressure, for a developing move like 20...Bf5 allows 21.Kf2 with equality.*) 21.Bd2 Re8+ 22.Kf2 Re2+ 23.Kg1 Kh7 24.Re1 a5 25.h4 a4 26.Kh2 axb3 27.axb3 Qe6∓.

19...Bf5 20.Qh5 d4?

Jack says Melik saw that the seemingly winning 20...Bg4?? was answered by 21. Qxd5+, but at this point hallucinated that his Queen would still defend his Bishop after 20...d4? 21. cxd4 Bg4??.

Now White has a chance.

Instead, 20...Rae8 leads to a win: 21.Qe2 (*or 21.Nd2 Qg4 22.Qxg4 Bxg4–+*) 21...Qxe2+ 22.Kxe2 Be6 23.Rd2 (*or 23.Nc1 d4 24.cxd4 Bc4+ 25.Nd3 cxd4–+*) 23...d4 24.cxd4 Bxb3 25.dxc5 Bc4+ 26.Kd1 Bxa2 27.cxb6 axb6–+, and now if 28.Bxb6?? then 28... Bb3+.

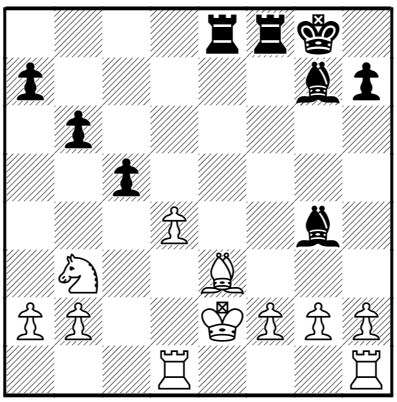
21.cxd4 Rae8 22.Qe2

White also has a way out with 22.dxc5 Bd3, after which Fritz rates it equal with several alternatives for both sides, for example:

23.Nc1 Re5 24.Qxe5 Bxe5 25.Nxd3 Bd4 26.Bxd4 Qxd4 27.0–0 bxc5 28.b3=.

23.h3 Bxb2 (*or 23...Qe4 24.Qg4 Rf4 25.Qg5 Rf5 26.Qg4*=) 24.Qg4+=.

22...Qxe2+ 23.Kxe2 Bg4+



24.f3

Equalizing was 24.Kd3 Bxd1 25.Rxd1, with enough compensation for the exchange, says Fritz.

24...Bh6 25.Rd3 c4 26.Kd2

Or 26.Rc3 Bf5 27.Kf2 Bxe3+ 28.Rxe3 Rxe3 29.Kxe3 cxb3 30.axb3 Re8+∓ and Black's Bishop beats the separated White pawns.

26...Rxe3 27.Rxe3 cxb3 28.axb3 Be6 29.b4 Rc8

It would not surprise me if both players were short of time, but Jack notes that Melik had plenty!

30.Rhe1 Bb3

With 30...Bf5! 31.Kd1 Bxe3 32.Rxe3 Rc4 Black wins material.

31.Kd3 Bc4+ 32.Kd2 Kf7 33.g3 Bxe3+ 34.Rxe3 Bd5 35.f4

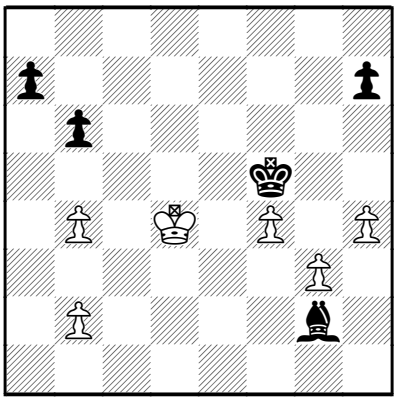
Now Black gains some time and wins a pawn.

An alternative keeps the pawn, at least for a while: 35.Re5 Bb3 36.Re3 Be6 37.Ra3 Rc7 38.Ke3∓.

35...Rc4 36.Ra3 Rxd4+

Now if the King moves, Black can check with the Rook and defend a7. Black consolidates his advantage.

37.Rd3 Rxd3+ 38.Kxd3 Ke6 39.Kd4 Bg2 40.h4 Kf5 0-1



Time control is reached, and Black gets to the Kingside pawns. ♜

American Open Champions Year by Year

1965	Pal Benko
1966	Larry Kaufman, Robion Kirby
1967	Anthony Saidy
1968	James Lazos
1969	Ray Martin
1970	Robert Byrne
1971	Carl Pilnick, Larry Evans, Walter Browne, Ross Stoutenborough, David Strauss
1972	Larry Remlinger
1973	James Tarjan
1974	Kim Commons, Peter Biyiasas
1975	Kim Commons, David Strauss
1976	Walter Browne, Yasser Seirawan, John Pike
1977	Jack Peters, Cicero Braga
1978	David Strauss, Paul Whitehead
1979	Perry Youngworth
1980	Walter Browne, John Grefe, David Strauss
1981	Nick de Firmian, John Watson
1982	Jack Peters, James Tarjan, Ian Rogers
1983	Larry Christiansen, David Strauss, Nikolai Minev
1984	Jack Peters, Igor Ivanov
1985	Yasser Seirawan, Igor Ivanov, David Strauss
1986	Lev Alburt, Walter Browne, Boris Gulko
1987	Yasser Seirawan
1988	Jack Peters
1989	Gata Kamsky, Larry Christiansen, Maxim Dlugy, Walter Browne, Nick de Firmian
1990	Walter Browne, Igor Ivanov
1991	Joel Benjamin
1992	Cris Ramayrat, Jeremy Silman, David Strauss, Anthony Saidy
1993	Loek Van Wely
1994	Dmitry Gurevich
1995	Igor Ivanov
1996	Alex Yermolinsky
1997	Alex Goldin, Igor Ivanov, Walter Browne
1998	Cyrus Lakdawala, Pavel Blatny
1999	Eduard Gufeld
2000	Andranik Matikozyan
2001	Melikset Khachiyan
2002	Pavel Blatny, Yuri Shulman
2003	Suat Atalik, Varuzhan Akobian, Pavel Blatny
2004	Melikset Khachiyan
2005	Vladimir Mezentsev
2006	David Pruess, Melikset Khachiyan
2007	Alex Yermolinsky
2008	Melikset Khachiyan
2009	Melikset Khachiyan, Andranik Matikozyan, Julian Landaw
2010	Joshua Friedel, Enrico Sevillano, Melikset Khachiyan
2011	Varuzhan Akobian

From Southern California to the Brazil WYCC

The World Youth Chess Championships were held in Caldas Novas, Brazil, November 18-26. That's nearly 6,000 miles from Los Angeles, or almost one quarter of the way around the world! There were 12 sections, with 9 rounds each. For ages Under 18, 16, 14, 12, 10, and 8, there were both an Open section and a Girls section. Congratulations to the Southern California players who participated! They are:

Under 14 Open

Varun Krishnan, 14th with 6½

Michael William Brown, 28th with 5½

Under 12 Girls

Agata Bykovtsev, 8th with 6½

WFM Simone Liao, 11th with 6

Under 10 Open

Albert Lu, 12th with 6½

Under 10 Girls

WFM Annie Wang, 10th with 6

Under 8 Open

Ajay Krishnan, 45th with 4½

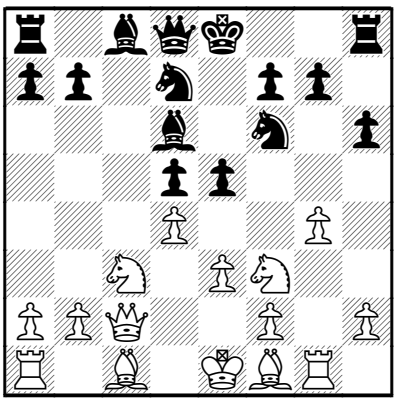
With thanks to Michael and Annie, we present two of their games.

Brown,Michael William (2296) - Andal,Tibor Kende (2352)
[D45] Semi-Slav Defense
World Youth Chess Championships
U 14 Open (4)
Caldas Novas, Brazil, 20.11.2011

Notes by Michael William Brown.

Here is a game I played against the Bronze Medalist, which put me to 3½/4 at the time, getting me on a streak of winning until I lost to the gold medalist from Russia.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c6 4.e3 Nf6 5.Nf3 Nbd7 6.Qc2 Bd6 7.g4 h6 8.Rg1 e5 9.cxd5 cxd5



This is one of the main lines of the Semi-Slav, and I knew this well during the game.

10.g5 hxg5 11.Nxg5 Qe7 12.Nb5 e4

It was dubious for Black to play Qe7 and e4 both. Now White gets a slight advantage.

13.h3 Nb6 14.Nxd6+ Qxd6 15.b3 Nh5?

This is a very bad mistake that allows me to develop my pieces with tempo and Black cannot even get in his plan at all.

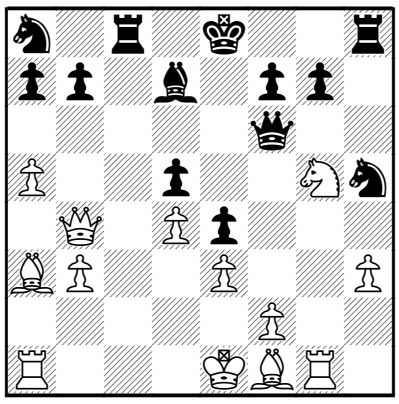
16.a4!

With the threat of Ba3, Black faces tremendous threats if he tries to trap my Knight. He is already lost.

16...Bd7 17.Ba3 Qf6 18.a5

Pushing his forces backward, White is starting to gain a big advantage that will eventually win material.

18...Rc8 19.Qd2 Na8 20.Qb4



At this point, I have a huge advantage and Black is in big trouble.

20...Bc6 21.a6 b6 22.Rc1

Black has to succumb to lose material at this point because White has way too many threats for him to cope with.

22...Kd8 23.Qd6+

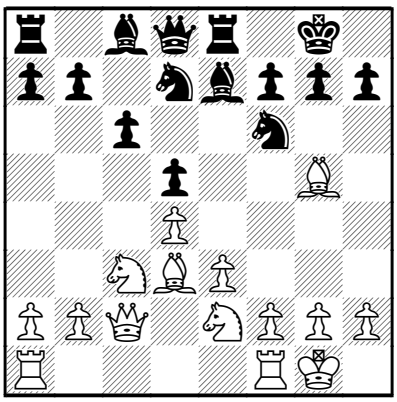
With this move, White wins material, and soon he wins the game, eventually up three pawns.

23...Qxd6 24.Nxf7+ Kd7 25.Nxd6 Rcf8 26.Nb5 Rf6 27.Nxa7 Nc7 28.Nxc6 Rxc6 29.Rxc6 Kxc6 30.Rg6+ Nf6 31.Rxg7 Rh6 32.Be7 Nfe8 33.Bg5 Re6 34.Re7 Rg6 35.h4 Nd6 36.Bf4 Rg8 37.h5 b5 38.h6 Nxa6 39.h7 1–0

Wang,Annie - Schneider,Jana
[D36] Queen's Gambit Declined, Exchange Variation
World Youth Chess Championships
U 10 Girls (6.1)
Caldas Novas, Brazil, 23.11.2011

Notes by the editor.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Bg5 Nbd7 6.e3 Be7 7.Bd3 0–0 8.Nge2 c6 9.Qc2 Re8 10.0–0



10...b5

The main line is 10...Nf8 11.f3 Be6 12.Rad1 Rc8 13.Kh1.

11.a3 a5 12.f3 Nb6 13.b3

Not 13.Bxf6 Bxf6 14.Bxh7+ Kh8 15.Bd3 Rxe3∓.

Please turn to page 30, ***Brazil.***

Don't Think Like a Grandmaster!

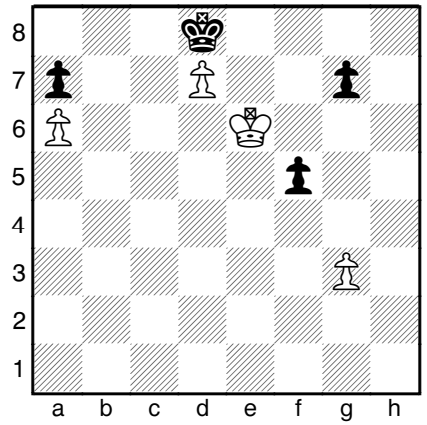
by IM Jack Peters

This endgame, which appeared to be a win for White, resulted in a draw. We players at the Metropolitan club looked at it, and found a subtle win for White which interested others, too. So we shared the endgame with Jack.

But we were quite wrong about the position. - Ed.

Alexander Kotov, author of *Think Like a Grandmaster*, advised players to pick two or three candidate moves and analyze each one accurately on first inspection. No backtracking! That method works well for many positions, but you should beware of exceptions.

Consider this position from Vignesh Panchanathan – Agata Bykovtsev, 14th Metropolitan Qualifier, Los Angeles 2011. It's White's turn.



A Kotov disciple would struggle with this one because there are too many variations and sub-variations to comprehend in one gulp.

Instead, you should slowly weed out unsatisfactory variations, returning to earlier positions and renewing the search for candidate moves for whichever side needs an improvement. Expect the evaluation to shift with the discovery of each hidden nuance. Until you are confident that you have found them all, try not to form an opinion of the proper outcome. Calculation first, verdict later!

White's first thought should be 1.Kd6, which limits Black's choice. However, the reply 1…g5 2.Ke5 f4! forces liquidation by 3.gxf4 gxf4 4.Kxf4 Kxd7, with a certain draw.

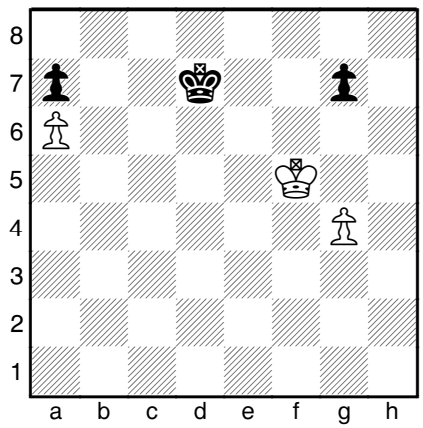
White can reject 1.Kf7?? instantly, as 1…g5 2.Kf6 f4 will give Black a new Queen.

That leaves 1.Kxf5 as White's only winning attempt. It would succeed if Black turns the game into a race by 1…Kxd7 2.Kg6 Kc6? 3.Kxg7 Kb6 4.g4, because White will promote first.

Thus, Black needs a different plan on his second move. He cannot protect his g-pawn. All that's left is a counterattack against White's g-pawn by 2…Ke6 3.Kxg7 Kf5. When White rushes his King toward a7 by 4.Kf7 Kg4 5.Ke6 Kxg3 6.Kd6, Black's King arrives just in time: 6…Kf4 7.Kc7 Ke5 8.Kb7 Kd6 9.Kxa7 Kc7, drawing.

Next, we look for an improvement for White after 1.Kxf5 Kxd7 2.Kg6 Ke6. But 3.g4 Ke5 4.Kxg7 Kf4 5.Kf6 Kxg4 6.Ke5 Kg5 7.Kd6 Kf6 and 3.g4 Ke5 4.g5 Kf4 also draw.

Can White improve on his second move? After 1.Kxf5 Kxd7 2.g4,



Black's attempt to protect g7 would fail: 2…Ke7? 3.Kg6 Kf8 4.Kh7 Kf7 5.g5! Kf8 6.g6 Ke7 7.Kxg7, and White wins. In this variation, 4…g5 (instead of 4…Kf7) would not help, as 5.Kg6 Kg8 6.Kxg5 Kg7 7.Kf5 Kf7 8.Ke5 Kg6 9.Kd6 wins for White.

Before you assume that 1.Kxf5 Kxd7 2.g4 clinches White's victory, look for a different plan for Black. Instead of trying to save his g-pawn, he might circle around to attack White's g-pawn. Indeed, it's a draw after 2…Kd6! 3.Kg6 Ke5 4.Kxg7 Kf4 5.Kf6 Kxg4.

Not done yet! Reconsider 1.Kxf5 Kxd7 2.g4 Kd6! from White's point of view. Instead of 3.Kg6, he might try 3.g5, thwarting the counterattack 3…Kd5? 4.Kg6 Ke5 5.Kxg7 Kf5 because 6.g6 preserves the pawn.

But Black can vary too. After 3.g5, he should defend g7 with 3…Ke7! 4.Kg6 Kf8 5.Kh7 Kf7. We reached this position earlier, but with Black to move. With White to move, he cannot make progress. He must reject 6.g6+??, which would lose to 6…Kf6. A plausible finish is 6.Kh8 Kg6 7.Kg8 Kxg5 8.Kxg7 Kf5 9.Kf7 Kg5 10.Ke6 Kg6 11.Kd6 Kf6, drawing.

A diligent annotator would sum up this lengthy investigation with the succinct "1.Kxf5 Kxd7 2.g4 (or 2.Kg6 Ke6 3.Kxg7 Kf5 =) Kd6! 3.g5 Ke7! =." ♜

The game continuation was 1.Kxf5 Kxd7, and soon White captured on g7 and headed for a7, but Black managed to capture on g3 and reach c7 just in time to draw. Our convincing but mistaken "win" was 1.Kxf5 Kxd7 2.g4 Ke7? 3.Kg6 Kf8 4.Kh7 Kf7 5.g5!+-. - Ed.

Here and There

Local News and Events Around the Southland

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

Irvine

The ***2011 Great Park Staser Chess Tournament*** took place on November 19 in the city of Irvine at the renovated WWII hanger just across from the Orange Balloon and beside the new Carousel. Although some players had games that went up and down others went round and round. It was fun for all with a building that was updated to handle groups.

Special thanks go to Jason Toma, GP coordinator, all the volunteer TDs, including the four helpers from the Great Park staff. Special mention should be made regarding Michael Chen and the TD staff from Citrus College.

The winners were:

K: 1st Benjamin Hamp, 2nd Levite Huang, 3rd Charlie Cohn

1st Grade: 1st Aubrey Lim, 2nd Alex Gevdzhyan, 3rd Eliana Hamp

2nd Grade, Sec. 1: 1st Alburt Simonyan, 2nd Arthur Aleksanian, 3rd David Ho & Keith Bauer

2nd Grade, Sec. 2: 1st Ryan Gumlia, 2nd York Tang, 3rd Sean Pham

2nd & 3rd Grades: 2nd G-1st Jessica Chao, 2nd Lucas Deramo, 3rd Haan Jun Lee; 3rd G-1st Kiel Messinger, 2nd Monte Sider, 3rd Dorian Quimby

3rd Grade, Sec. 1: 1st Joshua Yang, 2nd James Carp, 3rd Isabella Kurdzhukyan

3rd Grade, Sec. 2: 1st Brandon Xia, 2nd Hunter Laws, 3rd Allen Bableyan

4th Grade, Sec. 1: 1st Cory Chen, 2nd Shrinidhi Jayakumar, 3rd Daniel Dermody

4th Grade, Sec. 2: 1st Aaron Yi, 2nd Preetham Pangaluru, 3rd Cameron Tae & Matthew Powley

4th Grade, Sec. 3: 1st Brandon Hendrie, 2nd Soham Bose, 3rd Ethan Niu

5th Grade, Sec. 1: 1st Roshan Mandayam, 2nd Larson Sevilla, 3rd Nathan Chen

5th Grade, Sec. 2: 1st Andrew Li, Kaeshav Chandrasekaya, Ryan Serrano, 2nd Ethan Chao, 3rd Paul Anderson

5th Grade, Sec. 3: 1st Joshua Yoo, 2nd Zack Barry, 3rd Christopher Vargas

6th Grade, Sec. 1: 1st Arsen Abelyan, 2nd Matt Kelly, 3rd Alex Royal

6th Grade, Sec. 2: 1st J. Dyke, 2nd David Pham, 3rd Rubin Ruiz

7th Grade: 1st Sarah Young, 2nd Nicholas Bugarin, 3rd Erica Chao

8th Grade, Sec. 1: 1st Caleb Laguna, Jeremy Mittman, 2nd Daniel Yap, 3rd Jonathan Chen

8th Grade, Sec. 2: 1st Sachil Verma, 2nd Alex Liu, 3rd Zachary Farris

9th Grade: 1st Yangsoo Kim, 2nd Vincent Sacharske, 3rd Ben Chow

10th Grade: 1st David Chow, 2nd Hurout Harutunyan, 3rd Alex Kim

12th Grade: 1st Andrew Kao, 2nd Jun Kawa

- Dewain Barber

The ***2011 National Youth Action West*** attracted a total of 228 players in five sections, on December 10-11 at the Hyatt Regency in Irvine.

Joshua Sheng took first on tiebreak over Prashantha Amarasinghe in the K12 event, both scoring 8-1. Feiyue Yang with 7½-1½ also took it on tiebreak over Tom Polgar-Shutzman in the K9 Section. Albert Lu won the K6 with 8-1, and Joaquin K Perkins did the same in the K3.

Tom Polgar-Shutzman is the son of Susan Polgar. Another notable participant was 14-year old actor Nicky Korba, *Shameless (TV Series)*, who scored an undefeated third place 7-2 in the K9.

Lancaster

Both the **AV Vets Chess Club** and the **Checkmate Chess Club** were in danger of ceasing to exist for lack of regular participation and lack of appropriate locations. However, by combining the two clubs and moving them to the AV Chess House, a new, hopefully better, club has been formed. This free Checkmate Chess Club is open to all ages and skill levels and meets Wednesdays, 5-6:30pm at the AV Chess House, 3710 Neola Way (near 37th & West Avenue J). Chess sets are provided. Please park across the street from the building. For more information, contact daa@mahowald.org

December's ***First-Saturday-of-the-month QUADs*** tournament had great excitement and interesting games. The top 4 players formed a quad which was handily won by USCF National Master Ruben Gumagay Ondangan Jr.

The other six players played a 3 round Swiss. William Urbano Brito took first in that section with Jerry Stone II and Christian Anthony Mercado tied for second.

The fee for these first-Saturday-of-every-month tourneys is $15 if registered on-or-before the previous Thursday and $20 after that. This tournament does NOT accept walk-ins. For more information or to register for the next QUADs, contact daa@mahowald.org

The First Annual AV Masters Open, held December 11 at

the Lancaster Masonic Lodge, drew twenty competitors, with 8 competing in the Open Section and 12 in the Under 1600 Section.

In the Open Section, 1st Place was a tie between Ruben Ondangan (2171) and FM John Daniel Bryant (2448) of Tehachapi. They each scored 3½ of 4. In a 3rd round surprise, Ondangan drew with Bryant.

2nd Place in the Open Section was a four-way tie between Eric Sakurai (2004), Bruce Bowe (2011), Sergio Marcelo (2000) and Arthur Williams (1928). They each won 2 of 4 rounds.

In the Under 1600 Section, Ryan Cundiff (1252) won all 4 of his rounds. 2nd Place was a tie between Eric Chen (868) and Christian Mercado (940) who each won 3 of 4.

Here is the 3rd round matchup of the first place finishers:

Ondangan,Ruben (2165) - Bryant,John Daniel (2454)
[A04] King's Indian Attack
1st Annual AV Masters Open (3), Lancaster, 11.12.2011

Notes by Ruben Ondangan

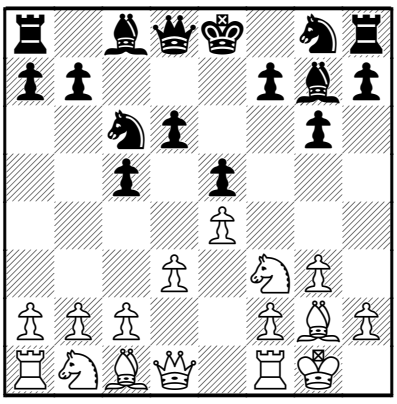
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6

I know that he's a Najdorf specialist; I remember his games against GM Ray Robson and Gregory Young from last year's US Junior Championship which went all the way to the very final minutes. And although he lost both games, his mastery of the Najdorf is quite telling.

3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.0–0 Nc6 6.d3

It seems that 6.c3 is more flexible with the idea of d4 and central play for White.

6...e5



A formation favored by the mighty Botvinnik, adopted by Fischer, and polished by Kasparov.

7.Nbd2 Nge7 8.a4

The idea is to post a Knight on c4 without being bothered by Black's ...b5 move.

8...0–0 9.Nc4 h6!?

Prophylactic thinking by Black, a target for White. Bryant's idea is to play ...Be6 without allowing the annoying Ng5.

10.c3

Preventing any piece jumping on d4 or b4.

10...Be6 11.h3!

Black's idea is to prepare ...Qd7 to exhange light squared Bishops and create light square weaknesses in White's camp. Therefore, White prevents it.

11...Qd7

Black proceeds with his plan, for 11...Bxc4 12.dxc4 strengthens White's center and renders d6 a permanent weakness.

12.Kh2 Rad8 13.Qe2 Rfe8

Bryant's deployment of his forces to their central squares is quite remarkable so when the game opens up, his pieces are well-placed.

14.Ne3!

An attacking move; White maneuvers his Knight towards the h6 weakness!

14...d5!

An equally strong move.

15.Ng4!!

But g4 is twice defended by Black, isn't it? Or is it?

15...Kh7

If 15...Bxg4 16.hxg4 Qxg4, then 17.Bh3! and Black's Queen is checkmated!

16.Re1!

A subtle positional move with the idea of keeping the center under control; any opening of central lines will benefit Black, who is better placed.

16...d4

Bryant's idea is to force the opening of central files and lines, which will tremendously benefit Black, and to trap White's g4 Knight which has no retreat square.

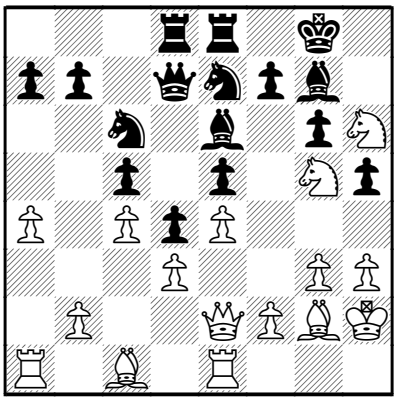
17.c4!!

Closing the center and disregarding the threat to my g4 Knight. But is it really a threat?

17...h5?

OK, my g4 Knight can't retreat, but who says it can't go forward for the attack?

18.Ng5+ Kg8 19.Nh6+



And here I offered a draw with about 8 minutes left on my clock and 23 minutes on his.

The draw offer was probably a little bit premature as there are ways for Black to go wrong here, like 19...Kf8 20.Nh7 mate, while 19...Kh8 20.Nhxf7+ wins the exchange and a pawn.

I honestly looked only at the line 19...Bxh6 20.Nxe6 Qxe6 21.Bxh6, with White having the Bishop pair in a closed position.

After a few minutes he accepted the offer.

½–½

I hope the readers enjoyed going through this game, as it brought me so much satisfaction!

Grace Resource Center has partnered with the AV Chess House to provide free **Chess Workshops for Tots** aged 3 to 5 and their adults on Fridays, 8-9am at the AV Chess House, 3710 Neola Way, Lancaster.

To register for a free Chess Workshop, contact daa@mahowald.org

No Stress Basic Chess for Seniors for those born during or before 1962

Grace Resource Center has partnered with the AV Chess House to provide free Chess Workshops for seniors on Fridays, 9:15-10:15 am at the AV Chess House, 3710 Neola Way, Lancaster. To register for a free Workshop, contact daa@mahowald.org

San Diego

Fun and Games at the San Diego Chess Club

This year we tried a *team tournament* for the first time. All the players present were listed in rating order and the 14 highest rated players were designated as Team Captains. Then the lowest rated captain picked first in the draft, just as the NFL's last place teams pick first. It was a lot of fun, although it delayed the start of the first round for about 45 minutes.

The next week two additional teams were added so that we ended up with a total of 16 teams and 64 players.

The event was named ***The Murra Family Team Tournament*** after our beloved chess playing family from Mexico. The father (Fawsi), son (Fawsi Jr) and two daughters (Rocio and Mayra) formed one team, but their mother had to play on a different team.

After 6 rounds, there was a tie for First Place between the Team led by Jim Humphrey (plus Shaun Sweitzer, Anthony Harbone and Dustin Movius) and the Team led by Lennart Mathe (plus Pejman Sagart, Tom Kuhn and Stephen Zhu), each team scored 4 ½.

There was also a tie for 3-4th place between Team Zeigler (George Zeigler, Fred Deleon, Mark Lawless and Darryl Woodson) and Team Morris (Buddy Morris, Chuck Ensey, Erik Marquis and David Palmer).

We also awarded prizes for Best Boards: Board 1 was Bruce Baker and Jim Humphrey, Board 2 was Pejman Sagart, who scored the only perfect score of 6 wins, Board 3 was David Pino and Board 4 was Daniel Zhu.

More details can be found on our multiply website. We are currently playing the Class Championships where 79 players are striving for those elusive and beautiful trophies to be awarded in 7 different Classes, all the way from Master to Class E.

The ***November Super Gambito Open*** event (#539), drew 34 players and was won by Expert Ben Barquin, who out-pointed 5 Masters (Cyrus Lakdawala, Bruce Baker, Kyron Griffith, Varun Krishnan and Peter Graves) to score the $125 First Place prize. Although Ben's unusual 3rd round bye was controversial, as he dodged having to play Cyrus, he did beat Kyron in the first round and Experts Agron and Sussman in rounds 2 and 4.

Lakdawala, Baker, and Griffith tied for 2nd Place/BU2400. Aaron Wooten was BU2200, while Aaron Householder and Elkaei Rivera tied for BU200.

In the Reserve Section, Rolando Ignacio and Jay Choi tied for First Place and Andrew Negus won BU1600.

At the ***December Super Gambito***, (#543), a big turnout of 42 players (including 2 IMs and 5 other Masters) allowed us to break it into 3 sections, Open: M/E, Reserve: Class A/B and Booster: Class C/D.

The $130 First Place was claimed by Dionisio Aldama. Cyrus Lakdawala was 2nd Place and Ron Bruno was BU2400. Paul Agron won BU2200. Four players tied for 2nd U2400/2ndU2200: Peter Graves, Jamieson Pryor, Craig Clawitter and Raoul Crisologo.

In the 15 player Reserve section, Bud Stamper, formerly from Indiana, and now a military man, scored 3½ to take First Place while Boris Polonsky of Canada won Second Place. New player Chris Calvin was 2nd U2000 and Rolando Ignacio won 2nd U1800.

In the Booster Section, Aaron Moman scored 4 wins, beating Octavio Rodriguez and David Narvesky by a full point. Thomas Diem was BU1400 with 2 points, ahead of Claire and Mark Negus, both with 2 points.

We are looking forward to the ***Recession Buster Open*** in February, with a $20,000 guaranteed prize fund to be held at a new location, the Sheraton Mission Valley in San Diego. See our advertisement now inside the front cover, or in Chess Life, for details.

- Chuck Ensey

Pasadena

Pasadena Club's *Crown City Open* attracted 59 players. Jesse Victoria, Robert Xue, and Richard Yang (breaking 2000 for the first time) topped the first section, with Asatour Dovlatyan, George Situ, and Hovanes Salvaryan earning class prizes. Jason McKeen was clear first in the second group, and Felix Gao and Richard Shu took class honors.

Forty-six players took part in the calendar-dictated three round ***"A Rose for Your Queen."*** Jonathan Homidan; Jeffrey Ding and Annie Wang; Rolando Tenoso and Ron Morris; Shaileja Jain; and Theo Pringle were section winners.

The club meets Friday nights at 7 pm at the Boys and Girls Club, 3230 East Del Mar in Pasadena.

The new year begins with the six round ***Richard Lewis Memorial***, one round each night January 6 - February 10. For details contact Randy Hough, (626) 282-7412 or randallhough@yahoo.com.

Santa Monica

The Santa Monica Bay Chess Club's *November Swiss* was won by Dmitry Cherkasky (2007). Srikanth Bangalore (1900) took 2nd Place, Jack O'Donnell (1765) won the U-1800 prize, and George Witcomb (1593) won the U-1600 prize.

December was a short month for the Club with 2 nights of ***unrated G/30 tournaments*** open to all. Winners were Dmitry Cherkasky on Dec. 5, and David Baran on Dec. 12.

Upcoming Events:

Santa Monica Bay Chess club will hold a ***4 round Swiss Tournament*** on **Monday** evenings from January 23 to February 13. Rounds begin at 7:10 p.m., continuing no later than 11:00 p.m. Registration begins 7:00 p.m. on January 23. Entry fee is $10 with Club membership ($60 per year). Time controls are G/1:55. The event is USCF rated. Cash prizes, including open and class, will be awarded based on number of entries.

On February 27 the Club will hold an ***Unrated Game/30 tournament*** (3 rounds). Entry fee is $10, the event is open to non-members.

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

Hemet

The Rise of the Youth

Miguel Rangel, a local youngster, has gained a few hundred points in the last couple of months. Miguel won the ***HCC Samuel H. Reshevsky Tournament*** on 11/20/11 with a perfect 3-0. Miguel is now a 1500 player.

Dake Huang, a local high school student, performed well at the ***HCC December Club Booster*** on 12/11/11, and climbed into the Class B category with a win over a 1900 player. Dake is now a 1600 player.

The Hemet Chess Club had the largest Steve's Burgers turn out for our ***HCC 7 Days Till Xmas tournament*** held on 12/18/11. There were 10 players in the open section, and 6 players in the U1000 section.

Jeff Arnold won the open section, going 3-0. Ken Arnold, Charles Gelinas, and Jorge Paz tied for 2nd place with 2-1 scores.

In the U1000, another rising youth, Adion Hartfield, scored a perfect 3-0, and gained over 100 rating points. Tied for 2nd place were Eli Rangel and Mark Stone.

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

- Jeff Arnold
USCF Life Master
Hemet Chess Club Vice President
/T.D.

Arcadia

The Istvanyi Open tournament concluded on Monday Nov. 8 with a two way tie for first place. Congratulations to Dave Matson (1988) and Michael Cooper (2009) who both scored 5/6.

This tournament was a milestone for both players as Cooper reached a new rating high of 2044 and Matson regained his expert status with room to spare, achieving a new rating of 2015.

The 50 player ***Richard Morris Memorial*** came to a dramatic conclusion Dec. 19 at Arcadia Chess Club as six players tied for first place. Melandro Singson (2126), Mike Carlson (2091), Gregg Fritchle (2049), Matthew Hayes (2017), Dane Hinrichsen (2000), and John Anderson (1771) all finished on 4/5 and shared the spoils.

This is Anderson's first ever first place finish in Arcadia; congratulations, John! Not only a great tournament result but also a terrific win over strong expert Jesse Victoria to boot.

A new tournament, the ***Winter Open***, will start January 2. The ***Arcadia Club Championship*** begins February. 27.

The club meets at the Senior Citizen's Building (next to the bowling green) in Arcadia, in the park on the west side of Santa Anita Avenue, just south of Huntington Dr., 405 S. Santa Anita Ave, Arcadia, CA 91106. Also visit us at ArcadiaChessClub.com.

For more info, contact David King at KingMontrose@yahoo.com.

Garden Grove

Chess Palace
Amateur Open Championship

Experts Craig Faber and Alexander King finished with 3½/4 to share the 2011 Amateur Champion title. The event was U2200 and attracted a strong field of seven experts, five class A, and four class B totaling 16 in the section. Second went to class A RC Rice and expert Peter Vancouvering with 3½/4.

The U1500 section attracted 10 players with Richard Shu winning with 3½/4. Christina Kao and Leo Peng tied for second with 3/4.

A Blitz tournament followed the Amateur Open with 12 players including five experts, and NM Jeff Phillips who went 10-0 en route to picking up 92 quick-rating points! Craig Faber finished second, and Takashi Kurosaki and Peter VanCouvering finished tied for third. Mark Adams won the U1800.

Karl Tolentino is crowned 2011 Junior Champion

Karl capped off the final year of scholastic status with a bang. Despite all the college applications he had to turn in, he completed 2011 with an American Open Scholastic title (netbook included) and the ***2011 Junior Open*** title. Karl swept the field with a perfect 4/4 and crossed over to expert title.

For Karl, it was no easy feat as he fared against previous ChessPalace scholastic champions including the Regionals Trilogy winner Shyam Gandhi who finished second with 3/4. Red-hot Steven Molotnikov tied for second with the same score and picking up more than 141 rating points. Steven was more 400 points lower when he won the Summer Scholastic in July.

Timothy Chou and Sachil Verma took fourth and fifth, respectively to round out the top 5. Leo Peng, Gabriel Sam, and Neil Tendolkar tied for first in the Booster section. Edward Jin and Max Peng tied for fourth with 2/4.

Neil Bershad is the 2011 ChessPalace club Champion for the fourth straight time (the last three taking clear first). He edged out NM Jeff Phillips by a point. Phillips had to take a half-point bye, succumbed a draw, and lost unexpectedly in the final round. Bershad picked up 14 points as he gets back to expert rating and maintains it. Bershad also came from a fresh win in the large winner's circle for the U2000 in the American Open.

Phillips and RC Rice tied for second with 4/6. Rice himself is inching closer to expert as he picks up a few rating points and tops off at 1975 after the event.

IM Zhanibek Amanov won the ***2011 Blitz Championship*** with

10/12 to take clear first and was crowned the blitz champion. Expert Alex King took second with 9/12 and Shyam Gandhi won clear third/U2000 with 7½/12.

The U1800 section went to Joaquin Perkins who's been on a rampage for his opponents' rating points including 2-0 wins against a class A, and splitting with two experts.

The U1600 prize went to Doug Ecks.

The event saw three masters and three experts in the top boards and totaled at 16 players.

Check out the ChessPalace website for additional club info and event dates, including a four-club match between ChessPalace, Hemet Chess Club, San Diego Chess Club and La Palma Chess Club, a scholastic team tournament, and Chess Marathon event.

- Alfred Ong

Lawndale

The Alondra Park Chess Club concluded its ***2012 Championship*** December 13 with 28 players taking part, down slightly from last year's 32 participants. Results tracked ratings pretty closely, with top-rated Matt Robertson white-washing the field with a 6-0 score.

Four and a half points were good enough for second place and the Top A prize for Richard Meller. Richard also found time to direct the tournament in between moves.

Five players finished with four points: Ted Roth and Howard Lefevre shared 4-5 place and 2nd-3rd A.

Al Peña took top B on tie-breaks over Richard Varela and Ed Englehaupt. Jeff Yoshida was top C with 3½-2½

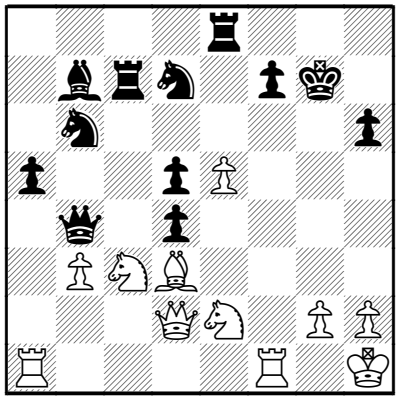
The Alondra Park Chess Club meets Tuesday evenings in the clubhouse at 3850 W. Manhattan Beach Blvd., Lawndale.

For more information contact Richard Meller at 310.227.2873 or Richard Meller@yahoo.com.

Back issues of Rank & File are now available on ***www.scchess.com.***

Brazil, concluded from page 24.

13...h6 14.Bh4 Ba6 15.Kh1 Bb7 16.e4 Rc8 17.e5 Nfd7 18.Bxe7 Qxe7 19.Qd2 Rc7 20.f4 b4 21.axb4 Qxb4 22.f5 23.f6! cxd4 24.fxg7 Kxg7



25.Ng3

Even stronger is Fritz's 25.Nxd4! Qxd4 26.Nb5 Qxe5 27.Rae1+-.

25...Rxe5

Taking the Knight allows a forced mate after 25...dxc3 26.Nf5+ Kg8 27.Nxh6+ Kh8 28.Qg5.

Black can try to hang on with 25...Rc6! 26.Nf5+ Kf8 27.Nxh6 Rxe5 28.Nxf7 Re3, but White still has a big advantage.

26.Qf4!

White has assembled a formidable attacking force! If Black takes the Knight now, it's a mate in two.

26...f6 27.Nb5 Qxb3??

The Queen is taken out of the defense, but White's King position is decisively weak already.

28.Nf5+! Rxf5 29.Qxf5 Rc5 30.Qg6+Kf8 31.Nd6Ne5 32.Rxf6+ Ke7 33.Qg7+ Nf7 34.Qxf7+ Kd8 35.Nxb7+ Kc8 36.Nxc5 Nd7 37.Qxd7+ Kb8 38.Rf8 mate. ♜

Solutions to Inside Moves

From page 6.

1.Black traps the Knight with 23...a5! in Arauco - De Vera, American Open (2) U1600 Orange, 2011.

2.Black wins the Queen with 30...Ng3+! 0–1, in Haessel - Akopyan 12th Metropolitan FIDE (7), Los Angeles, 2011.

3.Black's Bishop is hanging, since his Queen is overworked. So 26.Rxe4! would have won quickly in Zavadsky - Rand, American Open (1), 2011. If 26...Qxe4 then 27.Qxc5.

4.Black played 31...Nd6!, attacking the Bishop, and the end was 32.Rb4 Nxe4 mate, in Adelberg - Akobian, American Open G/60 (1) Orange, 2011.

5.Black wins a piece with 28...Bf5! 0–1, because if 29.Rc1, then Bxc2 30.Rxc2 Bxd4 wins. If 29.Bxg7, Bxc2 wins, too. Kavutskiy - Remlinger, American Open(2), Orange, 2011.

6.Black forces mate with 27...Rxc2+ 28.Kb1 Rh2+!! 29.Rxd3 Ra1+ 30.Kxa1 Rxh1+. A variation from Hilby - Perepelitsky, Los Angeles Open (1), 2011. See page 13 for the whole game.

7.The old h7 sacrifice works! ***17.Bxh7+ Kxh7*** (if 17...Kh8 then 18.Ng5 g6 19.h5+-) ***18.Ng5+ Bxg5 19.hxg5+ Kg6 20.Qh5+ Kf5 21.g6+ 1-0***, in Sevillano - Zavadsky, American Open (6), Orange, 2011. After 21...Ke4, 22.Bc1 is the quickest mate.

8.Decisive was 22...Rxe1! and if 23.Qxg6+ Kf8 24.Rxe1, then 24...Qf2! 25.Rg1 Re8, for 26.Qxh5 allows 26...Qxg2+ 27.Rxg2 Re1 mate. Amanov - Akopyan, 12th Metro FIDE (5), Los Angeles, 2011.

Instead, after ***22...Nf8*** Amanov won this game and the rest, tieing Akopyan in the final round for first.

9.White wins big material with ***24.Qc2! Bf7*** (if 24...Bg7 White has 25.Rxg7+ Kxg7 26.Rc7+ Kf8 (*26...Kf6 27.Qh7 is the same.*) 27.Qh7, and Black can stop mate only by giving up the Queen.) ***25.Rxf7 Rxf7 26.Nxf7 Kxf7 27.Rc7+ 1–0***, Akopyan - Abrahamyan, 12th Metropolitan FIDE (6), Los Angeles 2011.

Black resigned because of 27...Be7 28.Qh7+ Kf8 29.Qxe7+ Kg8 30.Qxd8 mate. Other tries also end quickly: 27...Kf6 28.Nh5 mate; 27...Ke8 28.Qg6 mate; and 27...Kg8 28.Qh7 mate.

Upcoming Events in Southern California

January 14-16 or 15-16, 2012

Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial

FIDE Rated!

50 Grand Prix Points

Irvine, CA.

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

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

3 Sections:

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

Unr max $200 except in Open.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Info, online entry: www.scchess.com. NS, NC, W. Chess Magnet School JGP.

January 15, 2012

Grade Level Championship

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

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

Sched: Reg. 9-9:30am.

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

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

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

Info: BayAreaChess.com/scgrade.

NS, NC, W.

February 4, 2012

38th Annual Morrison Scholastic Chess Tournament

Ladera Vista Junior High Multipurpose Room & Gym, 1700 E. Wilshire Ave, Fullerton, CA 92831, (714) 447-7765.

Directions: Take 91 Fwy to State College, go north to Commonwealth Ave., turn left and go to Acacia Ave., turn right to E. Wilshire on the corner of Acacia Ave. and Wilshire Ave.

Registration: Grades K - 12: Send your registration by e-mail to Amchesseq@aol.com. Please provide name, grade and school. There is NO entry fee as the tournament is FREE to all scholastic players (K-12). In addition, this tournament requires no USCF membership to be able to play and will not impact any national ratings. Site registration is permitted, but not recommended.

All equipment will be provided.

The tournament will run as a Round Robin event. All players will be separated into sections by grade level and during the tournament they will play against every person in their section.

The tournament play will be from 10:00 AM - 12:00 Noon, at which time the tournament hall will be closed and players released for a 1 hour lunch break. Play will continue from 1:00 PM until 3 PM.

Prizes: A trophy will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place players in each section of each grade. Trophies will be given out as sections complete all of their games.

Further Information: Mr. Barber: (714) 998-5508 or E-Mail: Amchesseq@aol.com. American Chess Equipment, Inc. will have chess supplies for sale at site.

Sponsored by Fullerton Host Lions Club & American Chess Equipment, Inc.

February 18-20, 2012

The Recession Buster Open

$20,000 prize fund guaranteed!

San Diego. See the full page advertisement inside the front cover.

February 18-20, 2012

29th Annual U.S. Amateur Team Championship West

A Heritage Event!

Hyatt Regency, 5101 Great America Pkwy., Santa Clara, CA 95054.

Please see the Tournament Life Announcement in Chess Life Online, or Chess Life. - Ed.

March 9-11 or 10-11, 2012

19th Annual Western Class Championships

100 Grand Prix Points

Enhanced California, Southern

5SS, 40/2, SD/1, d/5 (2-day option, rds.1-2 G/75, d/5), Sheraton Agoura Hills Hotel (formerly Renaissance), 30100 Agoura Road, Agoura Hills CA 91301 (US-101 to Reyes Adobe Road exit).

$20,000 in prizes, based on 230 paid entries.

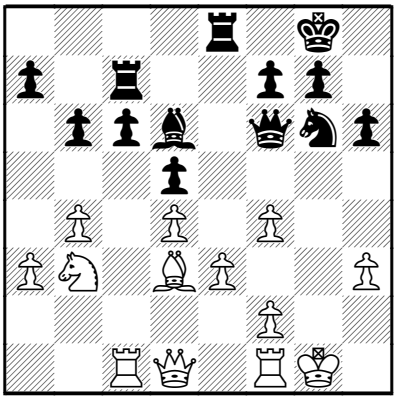
Please see the USCF TLA announcement for the complete information. -Ed.

SCCF
PO Box 205
Monterey Park, CA 91754

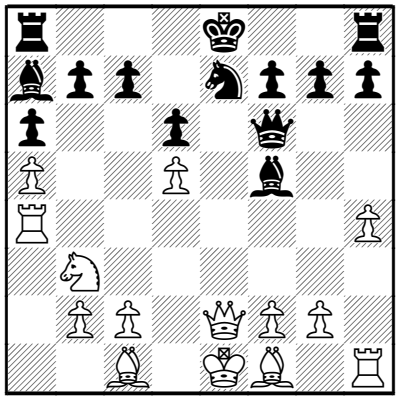
Change Service Requested

Presorted Standard
US Postage Paid
Industry, CA
Permit 4201

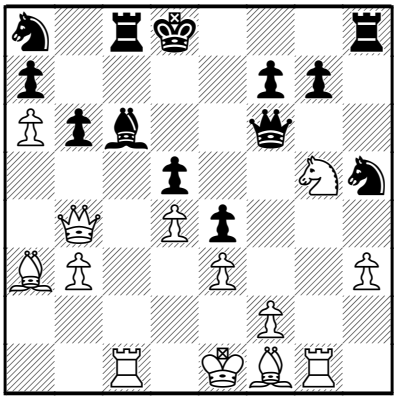
Outside Shots!



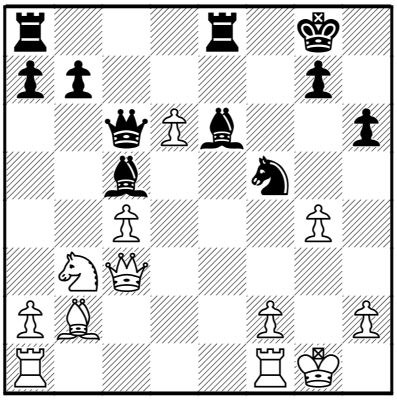
1. Black to Play



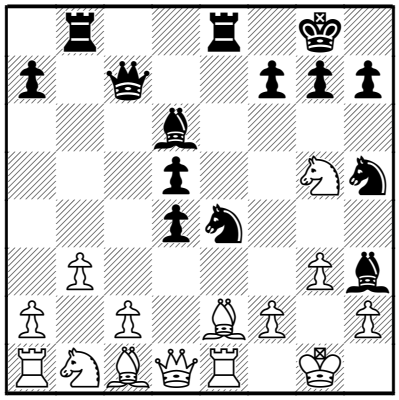
2. White to Play



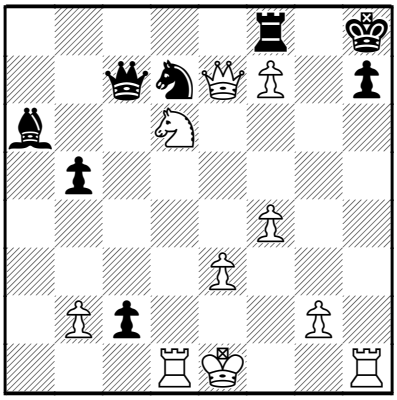
3. White to Play



4. Black to Play



5. Black to Play



6. White to Play

See page 15 for solutions.