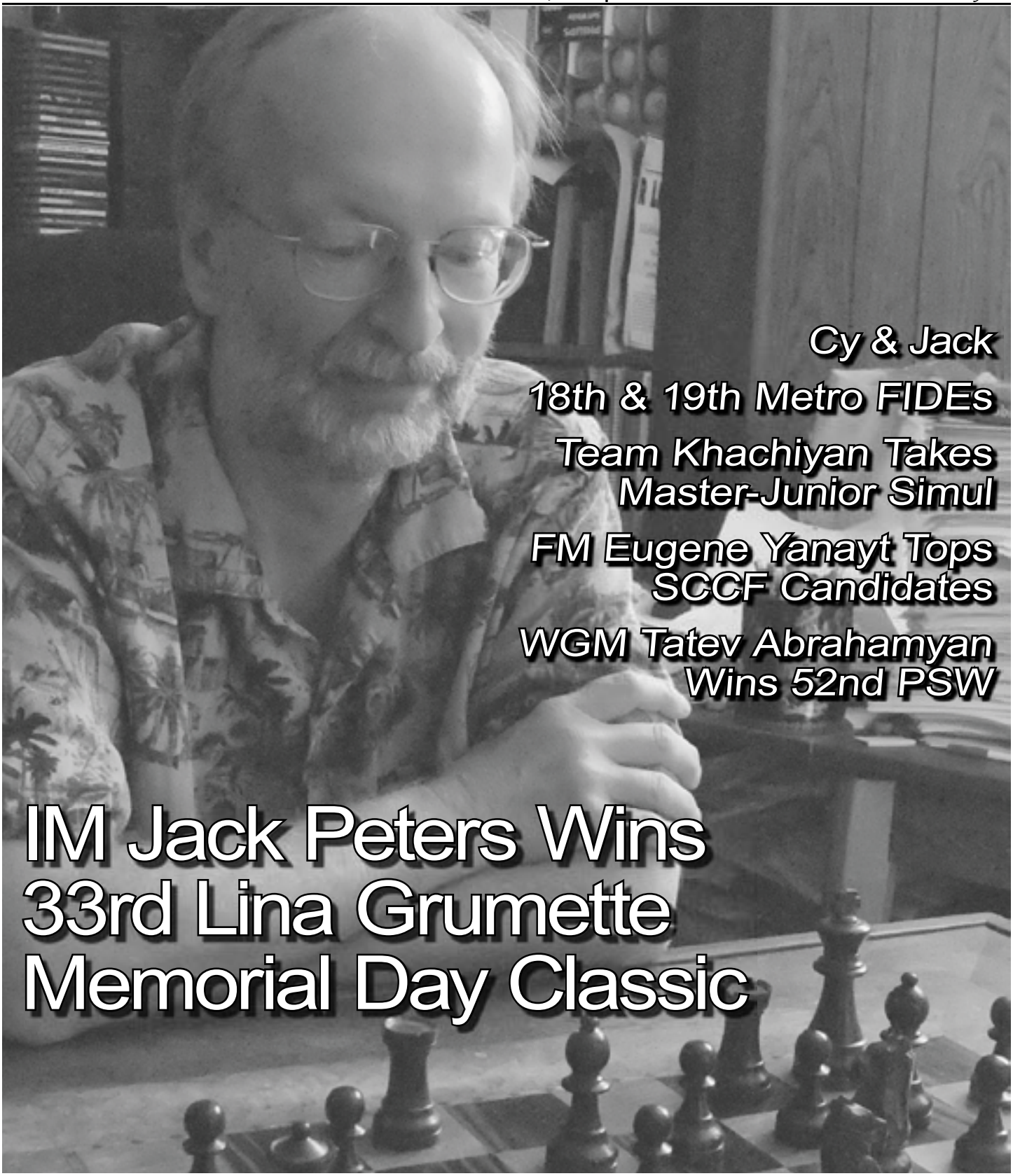
Rank & File

The magazine of the Southern California Chess Federation

August-September-October 2012 Volume XXXVI, No. 4 $3.00



Cy & Jack

18th & 19th Metro FIDEs

Team Khachiyan Takes Master-Junior Simul

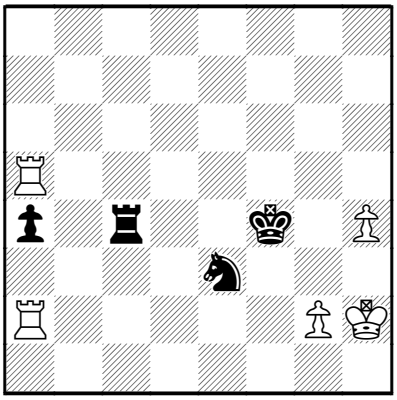
FM Eugene Yanayt Tops SCCF Candidates

WGM Tatev Abrahamyan Wins 52nd PSW

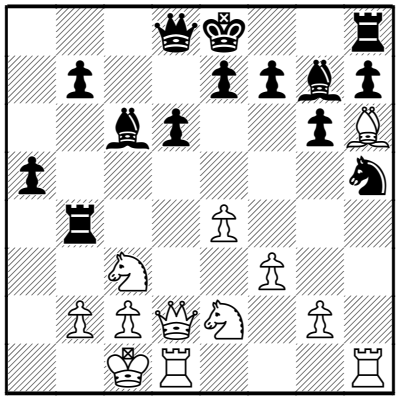
IM Jack Peters Wins 33rd Lina Grumette Memorial Day Classic

Inside Moves

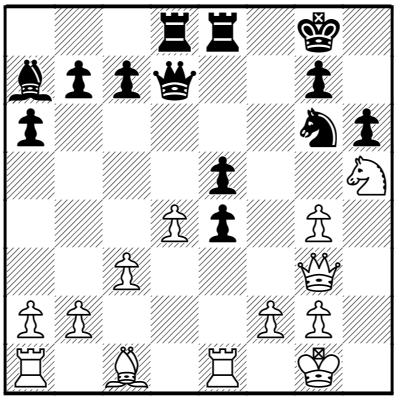
A ***tactical warmup*** might be a good way to start reading. Begin with an easy one, and then work up to the tougher ones. Even if you are a beginner and can't solve them, just playing through the solutions on page 40 will open up your tactical vision. For most players, studying combinations is the fastest way to improve! - Ed.



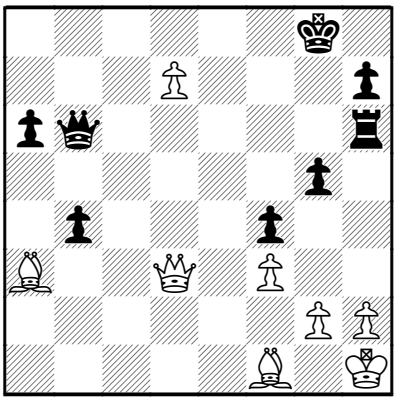
1. Black to Play



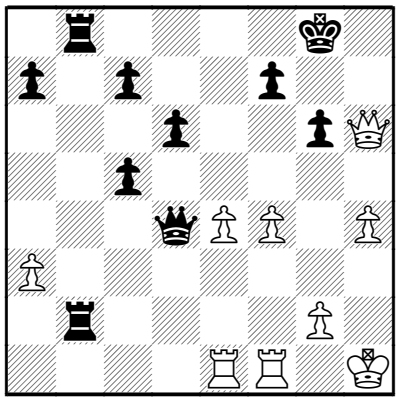
2. White to Play



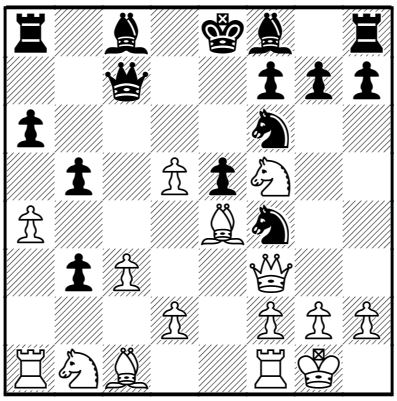
3. White to Play



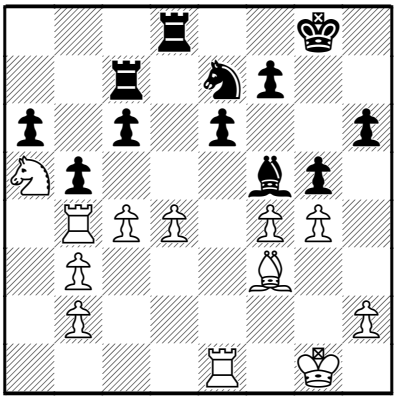
4. Black to Play



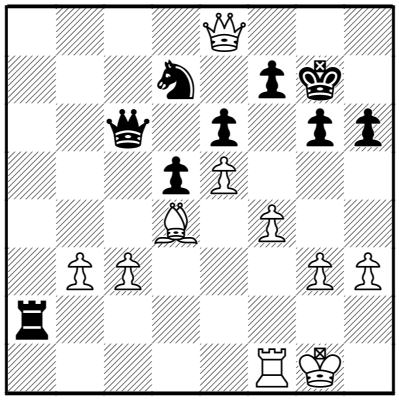
5. Black to Play



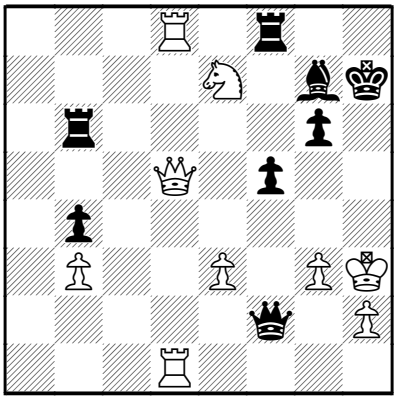
6. Black to Play



7. Black to Play



8. White to Play



9. Black to Play

Southern California Chess Federation

President Steve Morford
Vice President Isabelle Minoofar
Co-secretaries Jim Bullock, Ankit Gupta
Treasurer Randy Hough

Executive Board
Anthony Ong, Mike Nagaran
Dr. Elliot Landaw, Chuck Ensey
Takashi Iwamoto, Phil Chase
Dewain Barber

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
Tatev Abrahamyan
Matthew Beelby
Varun Krishnan
Victor Shen
Jay Stallings

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 quarterly in February, May, August, and November by the Southern California Chess Federation, 1300 Ballista, La Puente CA 91744. POSTMASTER: Send changes of address to SCCF, PO Box 205, Monterey Park CA 91754.
SCCF Memberships: $18 adult, $10 youth (19 years old).

Copyright © SCCF 2012. 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

August-September-October 2012 Volume XXXVI, No. 4

2 Inside Moves
It's a warm up quiz. We'll start you out easy. But No. 9 may be too hard.

4 Cy & Jack
By IM Jack Peters and IM Cyrus Lakdawala. This month, the two games feature Jack in one game, and Capablanca in the other!

10 IM Yankovsky Wins 18th Metropolitan FIDE
We present two interesting games by the top finishers.

13 Master-Junior Simul: Team Khachiyan Wins It!
Masters and juniors team up, and *everyone* must do their best!

15 IM Jack Peters Takes 33rd Lina Grumette Memorial Day Classic
Jack presents his only loss; check out the prize winner and two others!

21 Sevian, Shen, and Sharma Tie in 19th Metropolitan FIDE
With games by the winners.

26 FM Eugene Yanayt Tops SCCF Candidates
Krishnan, Clawitter, Stein, IM Taylor, and FM Akopyan also qualify.

28 WGM Tatev Abrahamyan Wins 52nd Pacific Southwest Open
Stephanie Shao completes a ***women's sweep*** by taking the under-1800!

35 Chess in Europe!
By Jay Stallings, who visited a few Chess landmarks.

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

41 Upcoming Events in Southern California
See you at the Southern California Open!

43 Final Points
Another quiz to work on, until our next issue.

Back Cover: Outside Shots!
They are often from inside games.

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

Photo credits:
cr: Chris Roberts
th: Tim Hanks
ja: Jeff Arnold
js: Jay Stallings

Cy & Jack

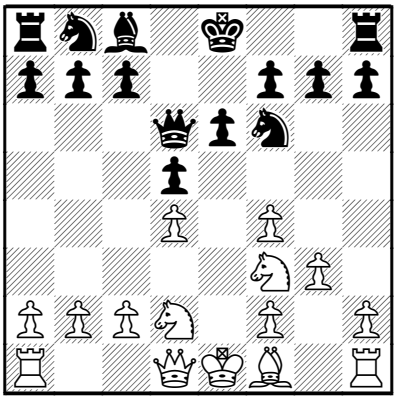
By IM Jack Peters and IM Cyrus Lakdawala

This month features the London System, with remarks about it that might seem unkind, though Cy evidently found it much to his taste in the past. Jack contributes a victory with Black from the Memorial Day Classic, with a new position as early as move 6. Cy's game is a win with Capablanca as Black, from his book being published right now! In keeping with tradition, Cy does contribute one of his own London wins, in the notes to Jack's game. - Ed.

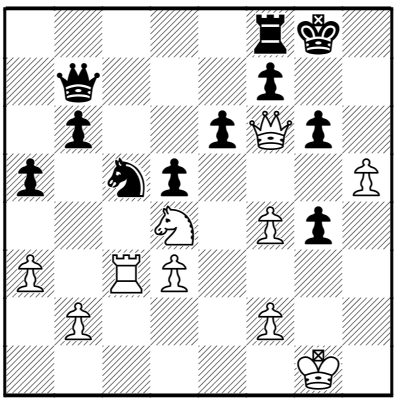
Xia,Yusheng (2208) -
Peters,Jack (2420)
[A46] London System
Memorial Day Classic (5)
Ontario, 28.05.2012

1.d4

Cy: The structure White gets in Jack's game can be quite dangerous. Here is an example from one of my games: 1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 e6 3.Bf4 Bd6 4.e3 Nf6 5.Nbd2 Bxf4 6.exf4 Qd6 7.g3



7...0–0 8.Bd3 b6 9.Qe2 a5 10.0–0 Ba6 11.Rac1 Bxd3 12.cxd3 c5 13.Rc2 Na6 14.a3 Rac8 15.Rfc1 Qb8 16.Ne5 Qb7 17.Ndf3 Nd7 18.Rc3 Nxe5 19.Qxe5 g6 20.h4 h5 21.Qf6 cxd4 22.Nxd4 Rxc3 23.Rxc3 Nc5 (23...Rc8?? 24.Nxe6!+-) 24.g4! hxg4 25.h5!

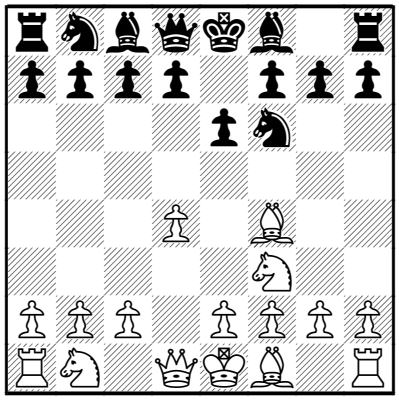


White has a winning attack. 25...gxh5 26.Qg5+ Kh7 27.b4 axb4 28.axb4 Na4 29.f5!+- Rg8 30.Qxh5+ Kg7 31.Qg5+ Kh7 32.Qh4+ Kg7 33.Rc6 Nb2 34.Nxe6+ fxe6 35.Rxe6 1-0, Lakdawala-Ilfeld, Koltanowski Memorial, San Francisco 2000.

1...Nf6 2.Nf3 e6

Cy: Of course, this is a double question mark move against a lower rated player, since it allows Colle, Torre or London System.

3.Bf4



Jack: The London System, a specialty of my co-author. My young opponent said he had studied Cy's book.

Cy: In that case, your opponent is an awesome champion with excellent taste, and I predict a brilliant chess career ahead of him! It gladdens my heart to be corrupting youth with a legacy of tedium!

3...Be7

Jack: A spur of the moment idea. In my opinion, the London System leads to a lot of dull, drawish middlegames, so I wanted to try a less examined move that might produce a livelier position.

Cy: All true, but the London is also the ideal opening for the dull and the talentless since it takes all the fun out of the game for Black.

4.e3

Cy: This is probably not such a good idea to allow Black ...Nh5.

Jack: If White wanted to preserve his Bishop, he would play 4.h3.

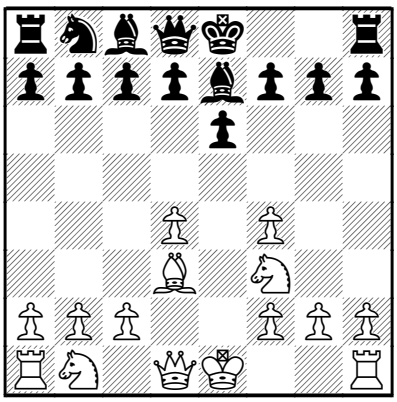
4...Nh5

Jack: Probably not a strong move, but it will gain the "minor exchange" and make the position less balanced.

5.Bd3!?

Against 5.Bg3, I planned 5...d6 6.Bd3 Nd7, trying to delay the capture on g3 until there was no danger on the h-file.

5...Nxf4 6.exf4



Jack: An unexplored position, never reached in the MegaBase. The doubled f-pawns could prove very handy supporting a Knight at e5. I decided to keep the option of ...d7-d6.

6...b6

Jack: I rejected 6...0–0 because 7.h4!? would set up Nf3-g5 or even a sacrifice with Bd3xh7+.

7.Be4!?

Jack: White spends two tempi to induce ...d7-d5 and open e5 for his

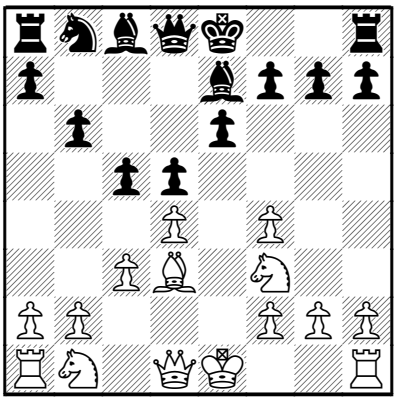
Knight. The price seems high, but my reaction fails to secure an edge.

Cy: White's move is excessive. Two tempi is too high a cost to provoke a move from Black which increases his central control.

Jack: White has many alternatives, including 7.c4, 7.Nbd2, and 7.Qe2.

Cy: GM Pavel Blatny plays this kind of position as White. He sets up with Nbd2 and 0–0–0!?.

7...d5 8.Bd3 c5 9.c3



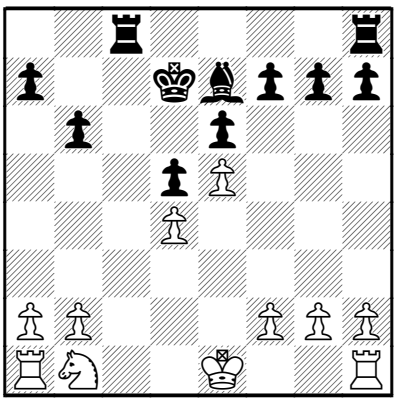
Jack: Most natural, but 9. c4 looks attractive too.

Cy: Attractive for whom? Black can then just castle since the open center negates most of White's attacking ideas. 9.c4 0–0!∓.

9...Nc6 10.0–0

Jack: A good move, but I was relieved that White would no longer threaten h2-h4 and an attack on the h-file.

White could straighten out his pawns by 10.Bb5 Bd7 11.Qa4 Qc7 12.Ne5 Nxe5 13.fxe5, but Black would have a favorable form of the French Defense after 13...cxd4 14.Bxd7+ Qxd7 15.Qxd7+ Kxd7 16.cxd4 Rac8∓



Cy: Black stands clearly better in the ending, with a lead in development and the superior minor piece. Also, if you are playing a kid, then the assessment gets upgraded to "–+", simply because it is an ending, the place all kids flop!

10...Bd7 11.Re1 0–0 12.Ne5

Jack: I was satisfied with the opening, but I thought White had equal chances or a bit more. He's not far from a sacrifice at h7, possibly preceded by Re1–e3.

Cy: Behold the awesome power of the London! White gave up Bishop for Knight and then wasted two tempi, yet still nearly stands equal!

12...Nxe5

Jack: I played this reluctantly, mostly because I did not trust my Kingside if the Knight remained at e5.

For example, White has at least a draw after

a) 12...Rc8 13.Qh5 g6 14.Nxg6 fxg6 15.Bxg6 and

b) 12...Rc8 13.Qh5 h6 14.Ng4 Bd6 15.Nxh6+ gxh6 16.Qxh6.

Cy: I would go for

c) 12...g6 A single note fails to constitute a melody. I just don't believe in White's attack, since Black controls the dark squares.

13.fxe5

Jack: Perhaps White should consider 13.dxe5. He may threaten f4-f5, and he can post his Knight at d4 if Black ever advances ...c5-c4. **Cy**: Black would stand better after 13...b5!

13...f5

Jack: I wanted to block the b1–h7 diagonal and I didn't mind putting another pawn on the light squares because my Bishop at d7 is already bad.

Cy: The Bishop is bad for now. The structure is fluid enough for it to emerge as a good piece later on.

14.Nd2

Jack: I expected 14.exf6 and I wasn't sure how to recapture. Now it appears that 14...Bxf6∓ is clearly best. Black would have an undeniable advantage after 15.Qc2 g6 16.dxc5 bxc5 17.Nd2 e5.

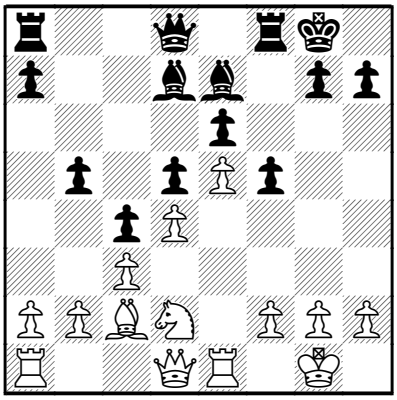
Cy: White must pick his poison. This just looks like a sour French for White.

14...c4

Cy: !

Jack: For me, a very difficult decision because now Black's winning chances rest solely on the lever ...b6-b5-b4. I would prefer to keep the option of ...c5xd4. Eventually I realized that ...b6-b5 would let White capture on c5 and plant his Knight on d4.

15.Bc2 b5



16.b4?!

Jack: Helping Black attack c3.

White should sit tight with 16.a3 a5 17.f4 Qb6 18.Nf3∓, challenging Black to make progress. I would guess that Black has fair chances to succeed with 18...Ra6, tripling on the a-file, and finally pushing ...b5-b4. (**Cy**: You can also just play the immediate 18...b4 with a clear edge.)

16...cxb3

Cy: The opening of the Queenside is a bad omen for White. Why is it that bad omens come true at astonishingly high percentage rates, while good omens hardly ever come true?

Also very tempting is to just play 16...a5! 17.a3 and pile up major pieces along the a-file.

17.axb3

Cy: The child inherits the father's debt. Defense of c3 remains a big issue for White.

17...a5

Jack: Else White might try b3-b4, then shield the c-pawn by Nd2-b3-c5.

18.f4

Cy: ? The frayed thread snaps as White builds a fortress upon a crumbling foundation. After this, pockets

of open rebellion break out in principalities across the Queenside, the sum of which White is unable to subdue. Now Jack's pieces take a leftward lurch.

Jack: Maybe the computer's recommendation of 18.Bd3 Qb6 19.Nf3∓ is sturdier. White's Bishop only gets in the way on c2.

Cy: This is the only way to play it. But even after scrubbing down c3 in an attempt to keep it clean, the filthy residue remains.

18...Qb6 19.Nf3 Rfc8 20.Qd3?

Cy: Now the seconds on the time-bomb tick down.

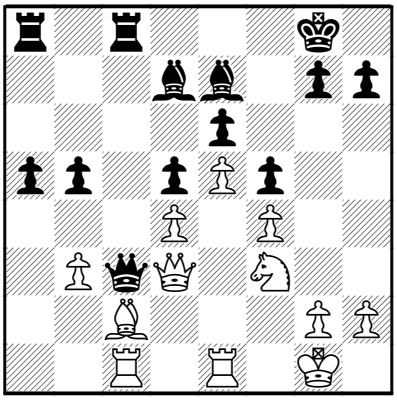
Jack: Dropping the c-pawn.

White had to play 20.Re3, although 20...b4 or first 20...Ra7 would open the c-file for Black's Rooks. I doubt that White can defend.

20...Qc7 21.Rac1?!

Jack: Even the superior 21.Re3 b4∓ would not save White.

21...Qxc3 0-1



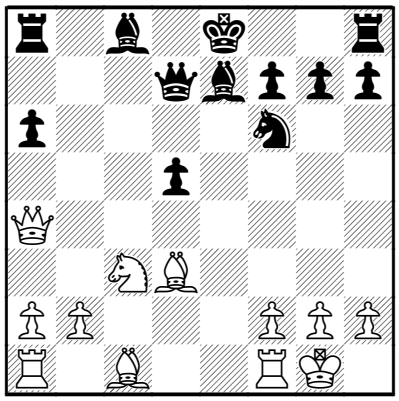
Jack: Black's threat of 22...Ba3 gains more material.

Kline,Harry P -
Capablanca,Jose Raul
[A46] London System
New York National (7)
New York, 1913

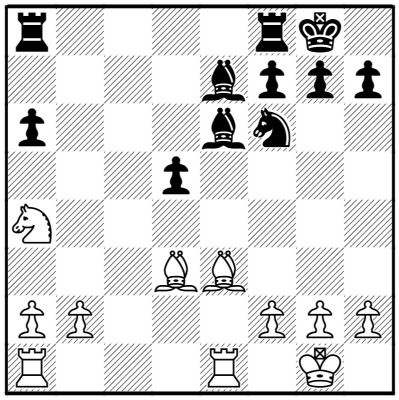
Cy: This game is from my book Capablanca: Move by Move.

1.d4

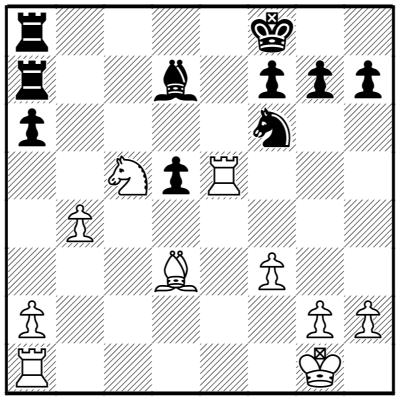
Exercise: Compare Capa's strategic decisions to Bobby Fischer's in this classic game: 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.Bd3 Nc6 6.Nxc6 bxc6 7.0–0 d5 8.c4 Nf6 9.cxd5 cxd5 10.exd5 exd5 11.Nc3 Be7 12.Qa4+ Qd7



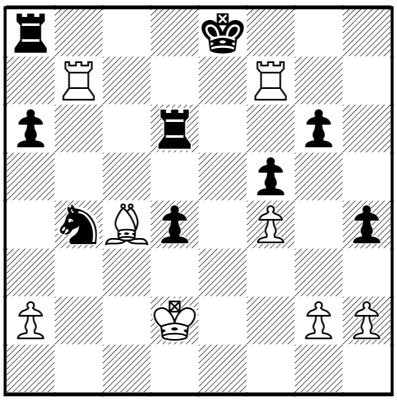
13.Re1!! (*Fischer spurns the exchange sac 13.Bb5 axb5 14.Qxa8 0–0 because Black takes over the initiative after ...d4 and ...Bb7.*) 13...Qxa4 14.Nxa4 Be6 15.Be3 0–0



16.Bc5! Eliminating Black's best piece and weakening the dark squares, just as Capa did in this game. 16...Rfe8 17.Bxe7 Rxe7 18.b4! Kf8 19.Nc5 Bc8 20.f3 Rea7 21.Re5 Bd7



22.Nxd7+!! A brilliant decision. Fischer exchanges off Petrosian's bad Bishop, just as Capa did in this game! 22...Rxd7 23.Rc1 Rd6 24.Rc7 Nd7 25.Re2 g6 26.Kf2 h5 27.f4 h4 28.Kf3 f5 29.Ke3 d4+ 30.Kd2 Nb6 31.Ree7 Nd5 32.Rf7+ Ke8 33.Rb7 Nxb4 34.Bc4



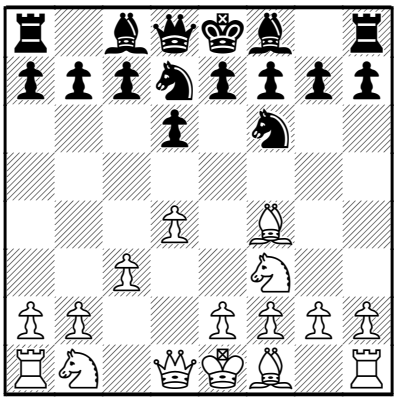
Black Resigns, Fischer - Petrosian, Candidates Game 7, Buenos Aires 1971.

Jack: This game made a great impression on me at the time. I remember reading that Najdorf, watching in the press room, criticized 22.Nxd7 and then changed his mind a few moves later. Petrosian and Suetin, annotating the game for "Chess Informant," gave 22.Nxd7 two exclamation points.

Even grandmasters hesitate to trade a valuable piece like Fischer's Knight at c5! But it's a classic illustration of transformation of advantages; White gives up his powerful Knight but immediately takes the c-file and gets his Rook to c6 or c7.

Another lesson is that what counts is what's left on the board. Interestingly, Houdini rates 22.Nxd7 as second-best, behind 22.a4.

1...Nf6 2.Nf3 d6 3.c3 Nbd7 4.Bf4



Cy: The London System is probably one of the most hated openings

in chess, and formerly one of my main weapons as White. As the unchallenged king of tedium, I wrote a book on the London System, the perfect weapon for the dull and talentless.

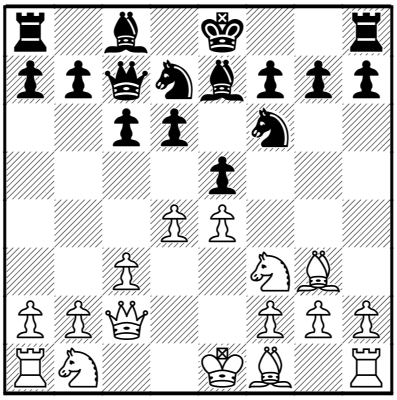
4...c6 5.Qc2!? Qc7

Cy: Not a very good move. Black's Queen shouldn't stay on the same diagonal as White's dark squared Bishop.

6.e4

Cy: A true, red blooded Londoner always moves his e-pawn to e3! The move made here is not in the spirit of the London, which requires a more cowardly response, like 6.h3 e5 7.Bh2.

6...e5 7.Bg3 Be7

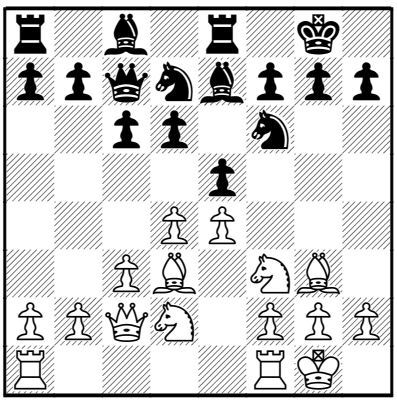


Jack: Capablanca chooses the solid, slightly cramped formation that Black adopts in the Philidor Defense or the Old Indian. Against White's tame opening, this is enough to equalize.

8.Bd3

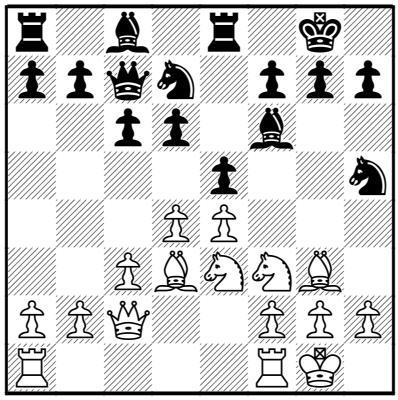
Jack: Here and later, White could preserve his Bishop by h2-h3. I don't think the evaluation would change - almost anything maintains equality.

8...0–0 9.Nbd2 Re8 10.0–0



Jack: I love the "ideal pawn center" with pawns at d4 and e4, but I'll admit that White's e-pawn might be more valuable at e3. He doesn't need it on e4 to control f5 or restrain ...d6-d5, and it obstructs his Bishop on the b1–h7 diagonal. Most of all, it makes f4 an inviting outpost for a Black Knight, a fact that Capablanca immediately exploits.

10...Nh5 11.Nc4 Bf6 12.Ne3



Jack: Why should White retreat his best-placed piece? Black won't let the Knight reach g4. From c4, it aims at d6, Black's only weak square. I prefer 12. a4 or most Rook moves.

12...Nf8!

Cy: Destination: f4.

Question: Why isn't Black capturing on g3?

Answer: Black is more interested in landing a piece on f4. If he takes on g3, then after hxg3, Black loses control over f4.

13.dxe5

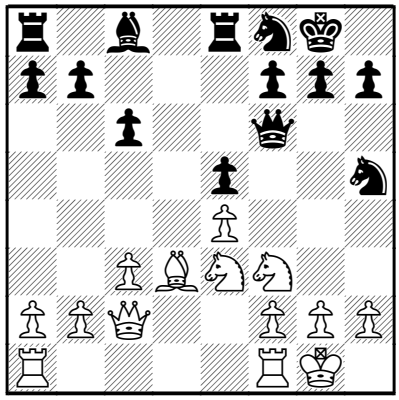
Cy: Relieving the tension only helps Black.

Jack: Agreed! I think this is the decision that gives White his first tangible disadvantage. He loses the benefits of the "ideal pawn center" and makes it easier for Black to occupy f4. If Black ever had to recapture ...e5xf4, he would retain control of e5 because White lacks a pawn at d4.

13...dxe5 14.Bh4

Jack: Trading Bishops solves nothing. White should think of his other Bishop, which obviously belongs on c4.

14...Qe7! 15.Bxf6 Qxf6



Cy: Capa was a century ahead of his time in his sensitivity to color complexes. In this case White is weak on the dark squares.

Question: Really? I don't see any weakness at all on dark.

Answer: f4, a dark square, is weak. Watch how Capa milks this.

Question: Enough for victory in such symmetry?

Answer: Enough to take the initiative.

Jack: That's right.

A modern grandmaster could probably hold White's position, but it appears that Kline isn't even aware of danger.

16.Ne1

Cy: *Question*: Why an unforced retreat?

Answer: In order to play g3. But Capa beats him to it.

Jack: White retreats his Knight and blocks his Rook to set up an undesirable move! There is much less to fear after 16.Rfd1 Nf4 17.Bf1 (but not 17.Bc4?? because of 17...Nxg2! 18.Kxg2 Bh3+!).

16...Nf4 17.g3

Cy: Weakening, but White can't tolerate a piece embedded in his territory forever.

Jack: Tolerance is a modern virtue. A century ago, xenophobia ruled.

17...Nh3+

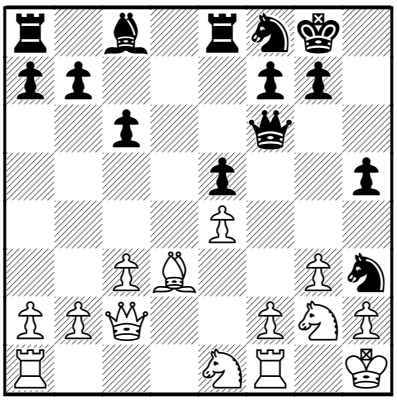
Cy: Perhaps he should take on d3, since White's light squares around his King look tender.

18.Kh1 h5! 19.N3g2

Cy: Intending f4.

Jack: He should use the inactive Knight: 19.N1g2 Ne6 20.Bc4∓ still seems defensible. Black cannot

charge ahead with 20...Qf3? 21.Be2 Nxf2+?? 22.Rxf2 Qxf2 23.Rf1+-.



19...g5?!

Cy: A rare strategic overreach from Capa. Desire for the elusive "more" is a bottomless pit.

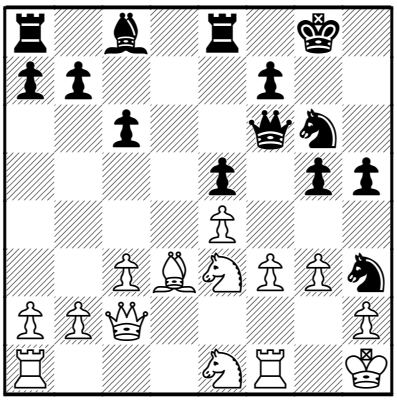
Question: Doesn't this weaken f5?

Answer: It does, but Capa probably talked himself into the move by reasoning that the weakening of f5 is outweighed by the fact that Black gains space and threatens attack.

Question: How would you play it?

Answer: Well, with the hindsight of a century, I would play 19...Ne6 and if 20.f4 exf4 21.gxf4 Qh6! 22.f5 Nc5 when White's position stands at the cusp of overextension.

20.f3 Ng6 21.Ne3



21...h4?!

Cy: Ah, conceit, that magical elixir which never fails to induce dubious plans!

Now Capa gives up control over g4. Capa often treated non-GM strength opponents with utter contempt, as he displayed in this game. The trouble is he always got away with it!

Capa was especially prone to a chess disease I call "power blindness," which is when the much stronger player plays recklessly/carelessly, as if anything wins.

But in defense of Capa's decision, I quote GM Nicholas Rossolimo: "When one plays a weaker rival, one should always play for beauty for the benefit of both players and the spectators, or else the game is a waste."

Jack: Too bad we don't know how much time Capablanca spent on moves 17-21. He had a reputation for playing very quickly, and he may have chosen these moves without due consideration. I don't want to criticize his judgment too harshly because it worked! Maybe he guessed how his opponent would react.

22.g4?

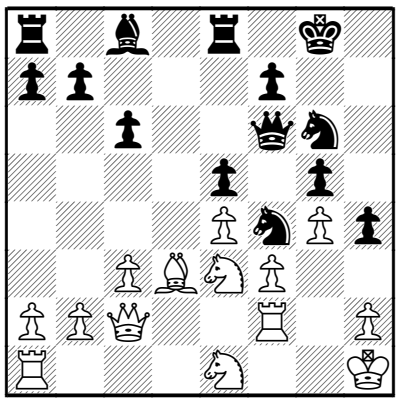
Cy: Creating a gigantic lesion on f4. Once you open Pandora's box, it never closes again. This is a hideous strategic error by today's standards but in 1913, even strong players happily banged out such nauseating moves.

Of course he should retain control over f4 by playing 22.Ng4 Qh8 23.Kg2! **Jack**: It's hard to believe that Capablanca would willingly steer for this position. Now Black has to sacrifice a piece: 23...hxg3 24.hxg3 (threatening 25. Rh1) 24...Ngf4+ 25.gxf4 Nxf4+ 26.Kg1 Bxg4 27.fxg4 Qh3 28.Rf3 Qxg4+ 29.Kf2 Rad8 30.Bf1 Re6 31.Rg3 Qh5. Houdini says equal, which looks plausible. I can imagine Topalov speculating on Black's attack, but not Capablanca!

22...Nhf4

Cy: Thanks for inviting me into your home!

23.Rf2



23...Nxd3!!

Cy: A profoundly deep strategic decision, which reminds me of the game where Fischer shockingly exchanged off Petrosian's bad Bishop for a Knight and went on to win with a Bishop versus Knight imbalance.

Question: Wasn't that White's bad Bishop?

Answer: It was, but keep in mind these factors:

1. White's Bishop may get activated on c4.

2. Capa wanted a Bishop versus Knight imbalance with so many target White pawns fixed on light squares.

3. Black controls f4 but he has two Knights which may go there. So logically, he removes the redundancy.

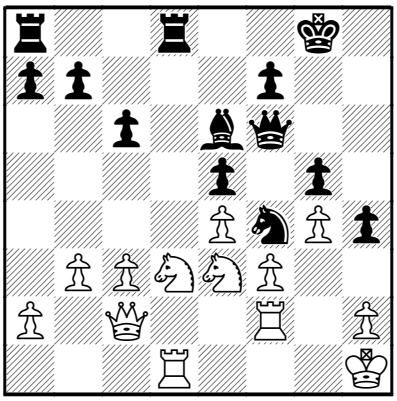
Jack: You didn't mention the biggest difference between this move and Fischer's 22.Nxd7. Fischer's move forced Black into a poor position, while Capablanca's merely gave a weak opponent an opportunity to drift into trouble. Capablanca played some terrific moves later, but I think he won because his opponent continued to play aimlessly.

By the way, Houdini brands 23... Nxd3 as a weak move that loses Black's advantage. I disagree, but I wouldn't claim that exchanging Knight for Bishop is any more effective on move 23 than it would have been on move 17.

What should Black have played? At first, I was tempted by 23...Be6 24.Bc4 b5?! 25.Bxe6 fxe6 but all the Rooks will be traded on the d-file, and I don't think Black can invade.

But this gave me the idea of 23... a5. If White allows ...a5-a4 and ...b7-b5, Black can post his Bishop at e6. At the least, this will strengthen Capablanca's idea of ...Nf4xBd3. And, if White replies 24.a4, then Black can bring his Queen to c5, followed by ...Bc8-e6. Whether or not the Rooks are exchanged, White will have difficulty guarding his a-pawn and the hole at b3.

24.Nxd3 Be6 25.Rd1 Red8 26.b3 Nf4



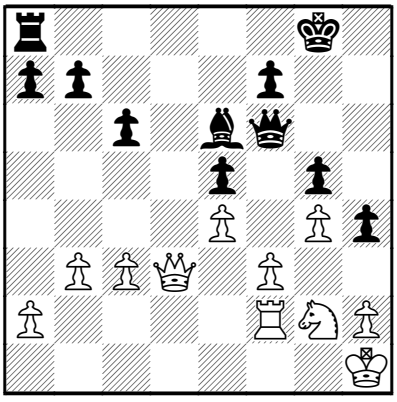
27.Ng2

Cy: *Question*: Something is amiss. Nobody pours ketchup over oatmeal. Why didn't White occupy f5?

Answer: Matters are not so simple. After 27.Nf5 Rxd3 28.Rxd3 Bxf5 29.exf5 Nxd3 30.Qxd3 Rd8, Black controls the only open file. Now if White plays 31.Qe3?? intending to challenge with Rd2 next, he gets clobbered after 31...Rd1+ 32.Kg2 h3+! 33.Kxh3 Rg1! mating.

Jack: I agree with Houdini's suggestion of 27.Nxf4 Qxf4 (or 27...exf4 28.Rxd8+ Rxd8 29.Nd1= intending Rf2-d2.) 28.Ng2 Qf6 29.h3. Black has the edge, but he won't be able to control the d-file or create significant threats against White's King. White should manage to draw.

27...Nxd3 28.Rxd3 Rxd3 29.Qxd3



29...Rd8

Cy: *Question*: Why didn't Black take on g4? Nimzowitsch also pointed out this omission.

Answer: He should have. Capa hated messy complication of any sort, but in this case they are clearly in his favor after 29...Bxg4! 30.Nxh4 Rd8 31.Qc2 Bh3 32.Nf5 g4! 33.fxg4 Qg5 when White can barely move.

Jack: This analysis is convincing, but I didn't spot 32...g4! in advance. Black's advantage doesn't appear overwhelming unless one foresees that important move. And Capablanca's choice is good too, although less dramatic.

30.Qe2 h3!

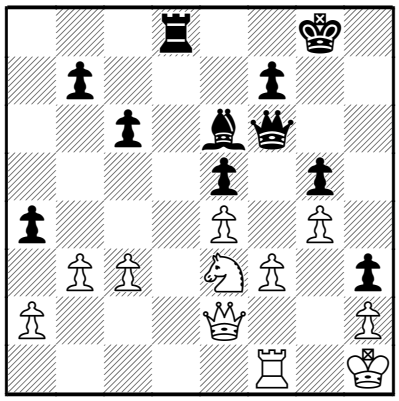
Cy: Creating back rank issues for White.

Jack: From this point, Capablanca makes the most of his advantage. If he imagined this sort of position when he gave up his Knight for the "bad" Bishop, his judgment is vindicated. But White had to play feebly to land in this mess! Black's 23...Nxd3 would not have succeeded against an alert modern defender.

31.Ne3 a5! 32.Rf1

Jack: If 32.Qf1, Black doesn't have to defend h3. Instead, he creeps forward by 32...Qf4 33.Nf5 (*33.Nc2 allows the breakthrough 33...Bxg4! 34.fxg4 Qxe4+ 35.Kg1 Qxg4+ 36.Kh1 Rd1 37.Ne1 Qe4+*) 33...Bxf5 34.exf5 Qe3, leaving White helpless. The game could finish nicely with 35.c4 Rd1 36.Qxd1 Qxf2 37.Qg1 Qxf3+, mating.

32...a4



33.c4

Cy: Weakening another dark square, d4.

Jack: Sturdier is 33.Rb1 axb3 34.axb3 Qf4 35.Nf1∓, but I have no faith in White's passive position. Black may bring his Rook to a3 or even d3 (after ...c6-c5-c4) to pick off a loose pawn.

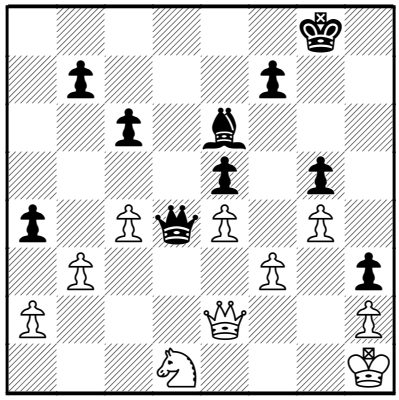
33...Rd4 34.Nc2 Rd7!

Cy: Note that Black just gained a tempo.

35.Ne3 Qd8 36.Rd1 Rxd1+ 37.Nxd1?

Cy: White's King is not so secure. He should try and take Queens off the board with 37.Qxd1 Qb6 38.Qd3.

37...Qd4!



Cy: Sparks shoot out from the sorceress' fingertips as she gathers power on d4. The puncture on d4 attests to White's distress. Just look at the competency differential between Black's Queen and Bishop and White's sorry Queen and Knight.

38.Nf2

Cy: *Exercise* (critical decision): An assessment of the imbalances:

1. Black's Queen flaunts her wealth like an heiress with an obscenely expensive diamond ring. She rules on d4, on the chronically weakened dark squares,

2. Black's Bishop is superior to White's Knight since it menaces so many fixed pawn targets.

3. White must be careful of back rank issues.

You can make a Queen check on a1, but look around. There is something much stronger.

Answer: Confrontation. When a foreign entity introduces itself to a closed ecological system, all hell tends to break loose on the native flora and fauna.

38...b5!

Jack: The tempting 38...Qa1+? loses the advantage to 39.Qd1□ Qxa2 40.Qd8+ Kh7 41.Nxh3=.

Please turn to page 34, ***Cy&Jack***

IM Yankovsky Wins 18th Metropolitan FIDE

April 11-15, 2012

IM Roman Yankovsky took first with 7½-1½ in the 18th Metropolitan IM Norm invitational tournament. Two points back at 5½-3½ was IM Zhanibek Amanov, while FMs Konstantin Kavutskiy and Yian Liou tied for third place at 5-4. FM Mark Duckworth was fifth at 4½-4½.

At sixth, scoring 4-5, were NM Garush Manukyan of Armenia and FM Visweswaran Kameswaran of India. IM Larry Remlinger and FM Harutyun Akopyan tied for eighth at 3½-5½. NM Brendan Purcell was tenth at 2½-6½.

This Metro tournament was sponsored by California Market Center, Fashion Business, Inc, Chess.com, MonRoi, LawyerFy, the Law Offices of Steinfl & Bruno, and Betty Bottom Showroom.

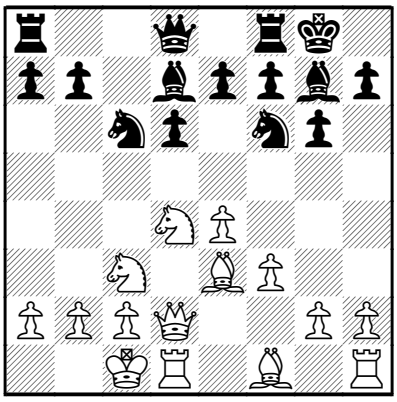
We present one game each by the top two finishers, both from the first round, with notes by the Editor. The first one is a Dragon, and the second game is a Giuoco Pianissimo, being two contrasting debuts.

IM Roman Yankovsky

	Round by Round Pairings, Colors, and Scores		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Akopyan, Harutyun	USA	W10	W2	B3	W4	B5	W6	B7	W8	B9
	2243		½	½	1	2	2	2	2½	3½	3½
2	Kameswaran, Visweswaran	IND	W9	B1	W10	W3	B4	W5	B6	W7	B8
	2281		**1**	**2**	**3**	**3**	3½	4	4	4	4
3	Amanov, Zhanibek	KAZ	W8	B9	W1	B2	W10	W4	B5	W6	B7
	2404		**1**	1½	2	**3**	**4**	4½	4½	5	5½
4	Duckworth, Mark	USA	W7	B8	W9	B1	W2	B3	W10	W5	B6
	2317		½	1	2	2	2½	3	3½	4½	4½
5	Liou, Yian	USA	W6	B7	W8	B9	W1	B2	W3	B4	W10
	2293		0	1	1½	2	3	3½	4½	4½	5
6	Yankovsky, Roman	RUS	B5	B10	W7	B8	W9	B1	W2	B3	W4
	2438		**1**	**2**	2	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**6½**	**7½**
7	Kavutskiy, Konstantin	USA	B4	W5	B6	B10	W8	B9	W1	B2	W3
	2302		½	½	1½	2	2½	3	3½	4½	5
8	Remlinger, Larry	USA	B3	W4	B5	W6	B7	B10	W9	B1	W2
	2399		0	½	1	1	1½	1½	2½	2½	3½
9	Purcell, Brendan	USA	B2	W3	B4	W5	B6	W7	B8	B10	W1
	2015		0	½	½	1	1	1½	1½	1½	2½
10	Manukyan, Garush	ARM	B1	W6	B2	W7	B3	W8	B4	W9	B5
	2279		½	½	½	1	1	2	2½	3½	4

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

Liou,Yian (2293) - Yankovsky,Roman (2438)
[B76] Sicilian Dragon, Yugoslav Attack
18th Metropolitan IM (1)
Los Angeles, 11.04.2012
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 Nc6 8.Qd2 0–0 9.0–0–0 Bd7

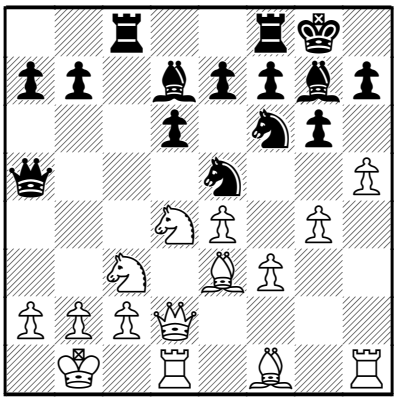


An alternative to the theoretically highly regarded 9...d5.

10.h4 Rc8 11.g4 Ne5 12.h5 Qa5

Over a dozen games between 2400+ players are in the database.

13.Kb1



What happens next is just an ordinary day for a Dragon player!

13...Nxf3 14.Nxf3 Rxc3 15.Qxc3 Qxc3 16.bxc3 Nxe4

Also seen is 16...Bxg4 17.Bg2 Nxe4. Black has given up a whole Rook for just three pawns, for the moment, but Black's not finished. White cannot keep all the material.

17.hxg6?!

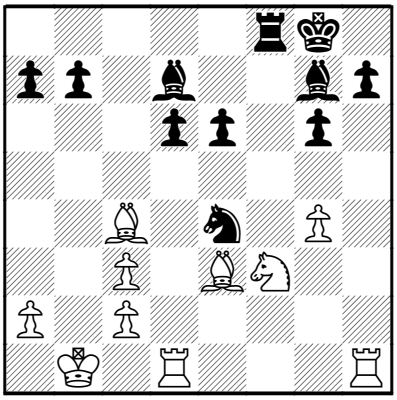
Better was 17.Rd3 Bxg4 18.Nd4 Bxh5 19.Bg2, and Houdini likes White.

17...fxg6

This recapture opens up Black's remaining Rook for business.

18.Bc4+ e6=

White wins big after 18...Kh8?? 19.Rxh7+ Kxh7 20.Rh1++-.

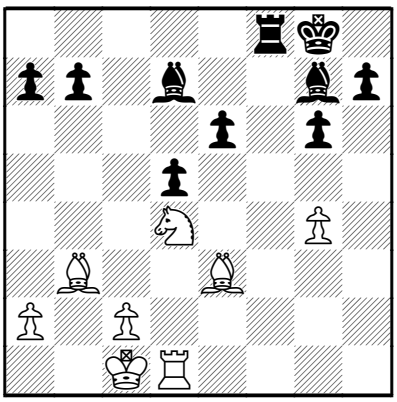


Black now has just two pawns for a Rook. Still, material recovery is on the way.

19.Nd4

It would be nice not to give back the exchange and a pawn with the fork on c3, but after 19.Rdf1 guarding the Knight, there is a new fork on g3. After 19...d5 20.Bd3 Ng3 21.Ng5 Rxf1+ 22.Rxf1 Nxf1 23.Bxf1 Bxc3, Black has three pawns for the piece.

19...Nxc3+ 20.Kc1 Nxd1 21.Rxd1 d5 22.Bb3



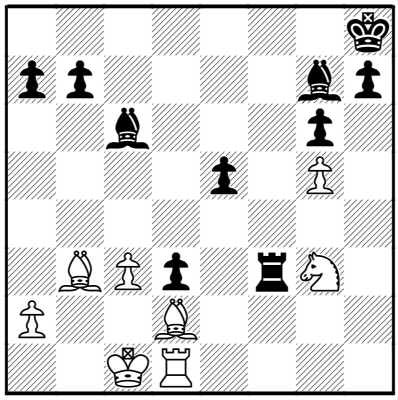
Now Black has three pawns for the White Knight.

22...Kh8 23.Ne2± e5 24.g5?

It's best to take on d5, with 24.Bxd5 Bxg4 25.Re1 b6±. Houdini likes White, but it's easier for a human, as Black, to keep creating threats.

Now Black keeps his strong center.

24...d4= 25.Bd2 Bc6 26.c3 d3 27.Ng3 Rf3



28.Rg1?

The only way to keep equality was 28.Nf1 e4 29.Ne3, and White controls e3 for now, blockading the Black center pawns.

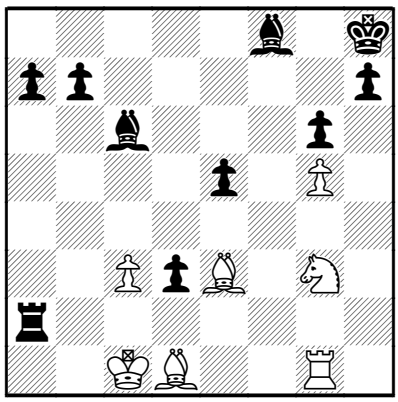
28...Bf8!

Now this Bishop has opportunities on two diagonals, at c5 and a3.

29.Bd1 Rf2

This comes with a nasty threat of ...Ba3+.

30.Be3 Rxa2∓



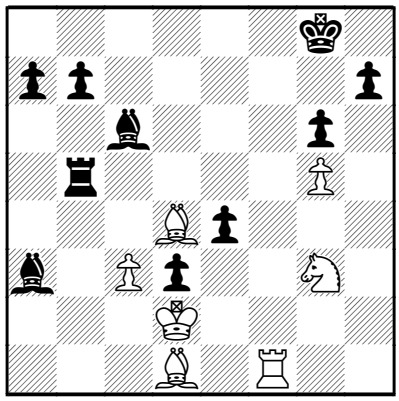
Houdini says it's only a slight advantage for Black, but it sure looks like Black is going to win, with the material and play that he has.

31.Kb1 Ra5 32.Rf1 Rb5+ 33.Kc1 Ba3+ 34.Kd2 e4??

Black tries to keep the d3 pawn, but gives up control of d4.

Better was 34...a5 35.c4 (*Not yet 35.Kxd3 because of Rd5+*) 35...Rb1 36.Kxd3=.

35.Bd4+! Kg8



36.Ke3??

But the follow up is 36.Bg4! threatening mate. Since Black's White square Bishop has to stop it, the e4 pawn falls: 36...Bd5 37.Nxe4!+- and the d-pawn goes, too, for if 37...Be7 then 38.Kxd3, and if 37...Bc4?? then White coordinates all his pieces with 38.Nf6+! Kf7 39.Nd5+ Ke8 (*not 39... Kg8 40.Be6 mate*) 40.Nc7+ to fork Black's King and Rook.

36...Bc1+!

Totally crushing. Backward diagonal attacking moves are often overlooked.

37.Kf2 e3+

Taking the easy pawn with 37... Bxg5 was fine, too.

38.Kg1

If 38.Bxe3, then Black attacks from another highway with 38... Rb2+, and White has to give up one of his Bishops.

38...Rb2 39.Rf6 e2 0-1

It is because of games like this that those determined individuals keep playing the Dragon.

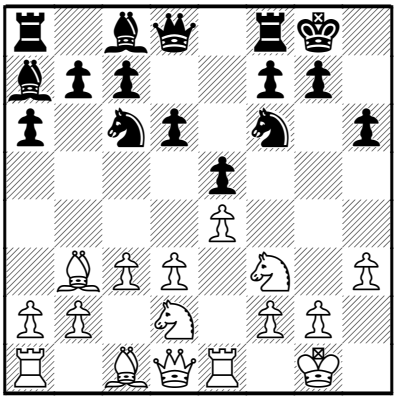
Next is a supposedly more stable, calm, quiet, and positional opening, the Giuoco Pianissimo. Black completes his development first, but after a few more moves, some weak squares appear in the Black camp. White soon strikes, wiping out the entire Black Kingside!

Amanov,Zhanibek (2404) - Remlinger,Larry (2399)
[C54] Giuoco Pianissimo
18th Metropolitan IM (1)
Los Angeles, 11.04.2012

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.c3 a6 6.Bb3 Ba7 7.0–0 h6

Seldom seen, but Kamsky played it in 2010.

8.Nbd2 0–0 9.h3 d6 10.Re1

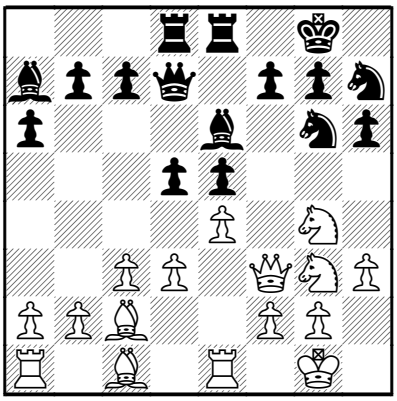


The game has transposed into public property, with well over 200 games between 2400+ players.

10...Be6

Most often seen has been 10...Nh5 11.Nf1 Qf6 12.Be3 Nf4.

11.Bc2 Re8 12.Nf1 d5 13.Qe2 Qd7 14.N3h2 Ne7 15.Qf3 Nh7 16.Ng4 Ng6 17.Ng3 Rad8=

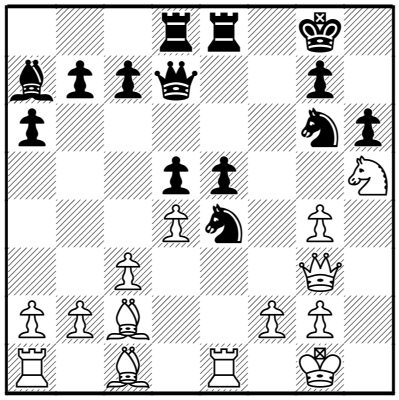


Black completes his development first and has an enviable pawn center, but can't take advantage of it without useful open lines.

18.Nh5 f5 19.exf5 Bxf5 20.Qg3 Bxg4 21.hxg4= Ng5?! 22.d4± Ne4

If 22...e4 then White exploits the unprotected Knight on g6 with 23.f4 Nh7 24.f5 Ngf8 25.Bf4±.

IM Zhanibek Amanov cr



23.Bxe4

Houdini's version of this idea is even stronger, reserving the c2 Bishop for mating net duty: 23.Rxe4! dxe4 24.Bxh6! and if 24...exd4 as in the game, then the Bishop does it quickly with 25.Bb3+ Kh7 (*or 25... Kh8 26.Bxg7+*) 26.Bg5, threatening mate with 27.Nf6+ gxf6 28.Qh3+. This mate can't be stopped without giving up big material, and if 26... Kh8, then 27.Nf6 gxf6 28.Qh3+ Qh7 29.Bxf6 mate.

Here are a few other lines, after 23.Rxe4!! dxe4 24.Bxh6!

a) 24...Qf7 25.Bb3 Rd5 26.Bxd5 Qxd5 27.Bxg7 Qe6 28.Re1+-.

b) 24...Qe7 25.Bb3+ Kh7 26.Bxg7 Qd6 27.Bf6+- threatening 28.Qh3.

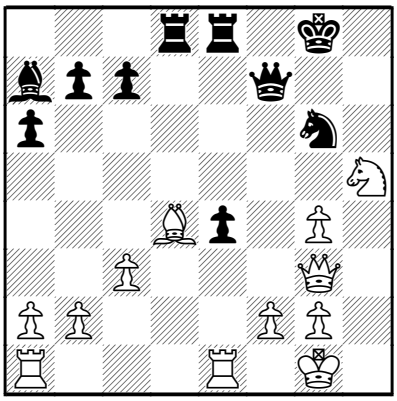
c) 24...Re7 25.Bxg7 Rf7 26.Nf6+ Rxf6 27.Bxf6+- threatening Bb3+ and Qh3, in either order.

d) 24...Rf8 25.Bb3+ Rf7 (*Black has to give back material now or it gets even worse, for example 25...Kh7 26.Bg5 (*threatening 27.Qh3) *26...Rf7 27.Bxd8+-*) 26.Bxg7+-.

23...dxe4 24.Bxh6! exd4 25.Bxg7 Qf7

A little better was 25...Qd6 26.Qxd6 Rxd6 (*after 26...cxd6 27.Bxd4 Bxd4 28.cxd4 Kf7, White is two pawns up*) 27.Nf6+ Rxf6 28.Bxf6 d3+- and White is the Exchange and a pawn up but Black does have some activity.

26.Bxd4



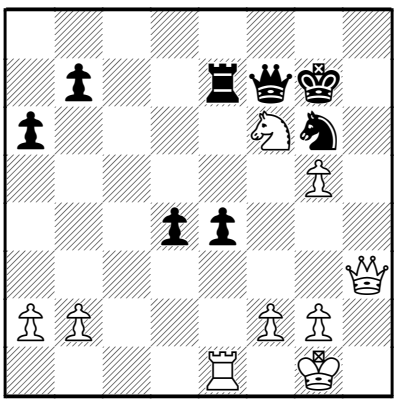
26...Rxd4

Or 26...Bxd4 27.cxd4 Rxd4 28.g5 threatening Nf6+, with both the extra pawn and the compensation. It might continue 28...Red8 29.Nf6+ Kg7 30.Qh3 Rh8 31.Nh5+ Kg8 32.Rad1+-.

27.cxd4 Bxd4 28.g5 Re7 29.Rad1 c5 30.Nf6+ Kg7

Or 30...Bxf6 31.gxf6 Qxf6 32.Rd6, winning more material.

31.Rxd4 cxd4 32.Qh3 1-0



Stopping the Qh6 mate with 32... Kf8 33.Rc1 Rc7 34.Qh6+ loses big material, and after 32...Qe6 33.Qh7+ Kf8 34.Qxg6 the Knight goes.

2012 Sean Christian Reader

Master-Junior Simul: Team Khachiyan Wins It!

By Jay Stallings

April 22, 2012

A Master-Junior Simul is a unique and fun event, but don't let anyone tell you that it isn't hard work! After 48 grueling games between some of the best Southern California players against the majority of Southern California's promising juniors, a draw by young Expert Daniel Giordani against IM Enrico Sevillano gave Team Khachiyan the victory that he had wanted for the past 3 years.

The **Sean Christian Reader Master-Junior Simul** is sponsored each year by Sean's Fund, a non-profit foundation that honors a fallen preteen chess player who once played in the event. This fantastic event is an excellent opportunity for mentoring and gives the young players amazing role models as they advance their chess.

The format for this event pits 4 teams against each other in a two-round Swiss. Each team consists of a strong master (IM or GM in this case) and 6 promising juniors (average rating around 2000). In each round, the master plays simultaneously against the 6 juniors while his junior teammates do the same with the opposing master. So the master plays 6 games and each of his six juniors plays 1 game, for a total of 12 possible points by a team if they have an unlikely sweep. It takes 6½ points to win the round.

This year's masters were GM Melik Khachiyan, IM Enrico Sevillano, IM Armen Ambartsoumian, and IM Andranik Matikozyan. Team Sevillano had won in 2010, then Team Matikozyan was victorious in 2011, with each of them trying to earn a second title this year.

In Round 1, GM Khachiyan swept his games which meant he only needed a half-point from his team of juniors. State Junior High Champion Simone Liao earned the honors with a win over IM Matikozyan.

Khachiyan	R1	**Matikozyan**
GM Melik	1-0	Ankit Gupta
GM Melik	1-0	Daniel Mousseri
GM Melik	1-0	Shaurya Jain
GM Melik	1-0	Agata Bykovtsev
GM Melik	1-0	David Minasyan
GM Melik	1-0	Sammy Kennedy
Simone Liao	1-0	IM Andranik
Daniel Giordani	0-1	IM Andranik
Nicky Korba	0-1	IM Andranik
Stephanie Shao	0-1	IM Andranik
Christopher Hung	0-1	IM Andranik
Isaac Ruddell	0-1	IM Andranik
Team Khachiyan wins 7-5		

js

In the other matchup, IM Ambartsoumian gave up three points (one on a time forfeit in a won game), while his juniors could only muster a draw by NM Christian Tanaka against IM Sevillano.

Sevillano	R1	**Ambartsoumian**
Albert Lu	1-0	IM Armen
Jonathan Homidan	1-0	IM Armen
Joshua Sheng	0-1	IM Armen
Leo Creger	0-1	IM Armen
Jerry Qu	0-1	IM Armen
Stan Liao	1-0	IM Armen
IM Enrico	1-0	Michael Brown
IM Enrico	½-½	Christian Tanaka
IM Enrico	1-0	Daniel Lin
IM Enrico	1-0	Solomon Ruddell
IM Enrico	1-0	Annie Wang
IM Enrico	1-0	Jackson Stallings
Team Sevillano wins 8½-3½		

After a fantastic catered lunch with chocolate chess-themed desserts, the second round started with Team Khachiyan battling Team Sevillano while Team Matikozyan faced Team Ambartsoumian.

In impressive style GM Khachiyan completed the first 12-0 two-round sweep in recent years, but was still in danger of losing the title since a drawn match would give 1st Place to Team Sevillano on tie-breaks (individual game points – Team Sevillano had grabbed 8.5 in Round 1, while Team

Khachiyan	R2	Sevillano
GM Melik	1-0	Albert Lu
GM Melik	1-0	Jonathan Homidan
GM Melik	1-0	Joshua Sheng
GM Melik	1-0	Leo Creger
GM Melik	1-0	Jerry Qu
GM Melik	1-0	Stan Liao
Simone Liao	0-1	IM Enrico
Daniel Giordani	½-½	IM Enrico
Nicky Korba	0-1	IM Enrico
Stephanie Shao	0-1	IM Enrico
Christopher Hung	0-1	IM Enrico
Isaac Ruddell	0-1	IM Enrico
Team Khachiyan wins 6½-5½		

Matikozyan	R2	Ambartsoumian
IM Andranik	½-½	Michael Brown
IM Andranik	1-0	Christian Tanaka
IM Andranik	½-½	Daniel Lin
IM Andranik	½-½	Solomon Ruddell
IM Andranik	1-0	Annie Wang
IM Andranik	1-0	Jackson Stallings
Ankit Gupta	½-½	IM Armen
Daniel Mousseri	0-1	IM Armen
Shaurya Jain	0-1	IM Armen
Agata Bykovtsev	1-0	IM Armen
David Minasyan	0-1	IM Armen
Sammy Kennedy	½-½	IM Armen
Team Matikozyan wins 6½-5½		

js

Team Khachiyan: Daniel Giordani, Simone Liao, Stephanie Shao, Melik Khachiyan, Isaac Ruddell, Nicky Korba, Christopher Hung, and the author.

Khachiyan had only earned 7 points). But, as mentioned above, Daniel Giordani drew, and the match went to a very happy Team Khachiyan.

This invitation-only event was free to all. Invitations go out to Southern California juniors who are both highly rated for their age and possess above average sportsmanship. Also taken into consideration is their participation at the State Scholastic Championships.

Sean's Fund (www.seansfund.org) also helps to cover the costs of students involved in classes, camps, and events produced by the California Youth Chess League (www.cycl.org) and provides very nice chess backpacks (software, Drueke magnetic set, lesson book, hat, stuffed animal, etc.) to kids at Children's Hospital Los Angeles.

This event was organized by Jay & Michel Stallings with Chan Reader, with direction and selection help from Randy Hough. Special thanks to the **Metropolitan Chess Club** who generously donated the time and space for the event (NM Ankit Gupta even filled in for a player who could not make it at the last minute). Thank you!

See Inside Moves #4 and Final Points #9 for some nice play by Sammy Kennedy and IM Andranik! - Ed.

Solutions to Outside Shots!

From the back cover.

1.White creates a mating net with ***26.Qh7+ Kf8 27.f5! Rxe5*** If 27...f6 White wins the Queen with 28.Qh8+ Kf7 (*28...Ke7 29.Qxf6 mate*) 29.Bb3+, and the attack still rages after 29... Qd5 30.Bxd5+ Rxd5 31.Qh7+. If the King tries to run, it's 27...Ke7 28.f6+ Ke6 29.Qf5+ Kd5 30.e6+ and the Queen is lost, with more material to follow. ***28.f6 1-0***. The Black Queen blocks the King's escape, so the only way to stop the mate is to give up the Queen. Bryant - Korba, Pacific Southwest Open, 2012.

2.White's ***29.Rh3!*** is the only winning move, but good enough to break through. ***29...Bxc3 30.Rxh5+ Kg8 31.Rh8+*** with a mate. See the whole game on page 32. Abrahamyan - Taylor, Pacific Southwest Open, 2012.

3.White takes advantage of the uncastled King and weak back rank with ***25.Ng5!***. Mate is threatened on f7 and the defender on c6 is about to be removed. ***25...Qxg5*** If 25...Qf6 26.Bxc6+ Qxc6 27.Qxc6+ wins the Rook on h8. If 25...Qd7 then 26.Bxc6 is almost the same thing. Finally, if 25...Rf8 then 26.Bxc6+ bxc6 27.Qxc6+ Qd7 (*27...Rd7 28.Ne6+-*) 28.Rb8+ Ke7 29.Qc5+ Kf6 30.Nxh7+ wins the Rook on f8. ***26.Bxc6+ bxc6 27.Qe6+!*** and White won. See the whole game, starting on page 18. Beelby - Hale, Memorial Day Classic, 2012.

4.By far the best course of action is ***25...Qe8+! 26.Kxd4 Qe4+***. Now it's a King hunt. There's no place to hide. ***27.Kc3 d4+! 28.Kb4*** 28.Kxc4 Be6+ is a mating net. ***28...a5+*** and Black has a mate. See the next page for the whole game. Peters - Beelby, Memorial Day Classic, 2012.

5.Black breaks open the center with ***18...Nxe4! 19.Nxe4 Bxd5***. See page 22 for Remlinger - Sevian, 19th Metropolitan FIDE, 2012.

6.White starts the breakup of the protective pawns around the Black King with ***12.e6! fxe6***. After 12...f6 13.exd7+ Qxd7 14.Bxd4 White is up a piece for a pawn. It's the same after 12...Nh6 13.exd7+ Qxd7 14.Bxd4. And after 12...dxc3 13.exf7+ Kf8 14.Ne6+ Kxf7 15.Nxd8+ Rxd8 16.bxc3, White is up a Queen for two Knights. ***13.Nxe6 dxc3 14.Qd3!***. The threat of Qxg6+ and Nxd8 gives White the next breakthrough. See page 20 for Krishnan - Clawitter, Memorial Day Classic, 2012, which won the prize for the tournament's best game.

IM Jack Peters Takes 33rd Lina Grumette Memorial Day Classic

May 26-28, 2012

IM Jack Peters finished with three straight wins to score 5-1 and take first place in the 33rd Lina Grumette Memorial Day Classic. Second at 4½-1½ were Yusheng Xia, FM Matthew Beelby, who dealt Peters his only loss, and Varun Krishnan, who won the best game prize.

In the other sections, Daniel Lin swept the Premier (under 2000) with 6-0, with John Anderson and Adler Ribaya tieing for second at 4-2. Aaron Chang scored 5-1 to win the Amateur (under 1800), and Theodore Pringle finished second at 4½-1½. Steven Dahl won the Reserve (under 1600) with 5½-½, and Joaquin Perkins was second at 5-1. Luke Riel swept the Booster Section (under 1400) with 6-0 and Thomas Scharwark Jr. was a point behind at 5-1.

The five sections were hosted at the Hilton Ontario Airport and attracted a total of 112 players. In the side events, Melandro Singson won the 15-player Action Swiss with a score of 4½-½, and Shawn O'Connor won the MDC Hex scoring 2½-½. TDs Anthony Ong, Ankit Gupta, and Marcos Montes Sr. directed.

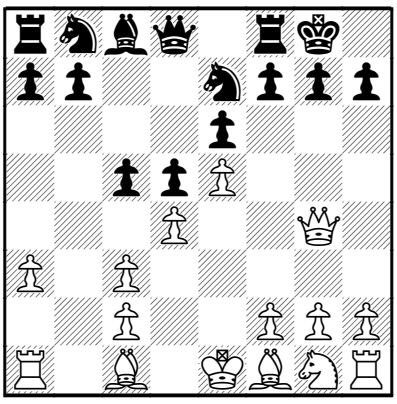
The Scholastic events attracted 51 players in two sections. Panitan Satamalee won on tiebreak with Anthony Hung in the K-12 Open section, both scoring 4½-½. Justin Hodroff swept the K-6 under 1000 with 5-1. Randall Hough and Taras McKey directed.

We present a loss and a win by Jack Peters, a second fine attacking win by Matthew Beelby, and Varun Krishan's prize winning game that everyone was talking about. For Jack's 5th rounder, see *Cy&Jack*.

Peters,Jack (2420) - Beelby,Matthew (2370)
[C18] French Defense, Winawer Variation
Memorial Day Classic (3)
Ontario, 27.05.2012

Notes by IM Jack Peters.

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



This fashionable line has supplanted 7...Qc7 8.Qxg7 Rg8 9.Qxh7 cxd4 10.Ne2.

8.Bd3 f5

Reducing White's attacking chances at the cost of weakening the dark squares, particularly e5 and h6.

Black has tried postponing ...f7-f5, but there are drawbacks.

Very popular is 8...Nbc6 9.Qh5 Ng6 10.Nf3 Qc7 11.Be3 c4 12.Bxg6 fxg6 13.Qg4 when White attacks with h2-h4-h5.

Against 8...c4 White has been successful with 9.Bh6 Ng6 10.Bxg6 fxg6 11.Be3 Nc6 12.h4.

Sharpest is 8...Qa5 9.Bd2 Nbc6 10.Nf3 f5 11.exf6 Rxf6 12.Qh5 Nf5∞.

9.exf6 Rxf6 10.Bg5 Rf7 11.Qh5

Allegedly best.

11...g6

Black usually refrains from 11... h6 although neither 12. Bh7+!? Kxh7 13. Qxf7 hxg5 14. Nf3 nor 12.Bg6 Rf8 13.Nf3 seems completely convincing.

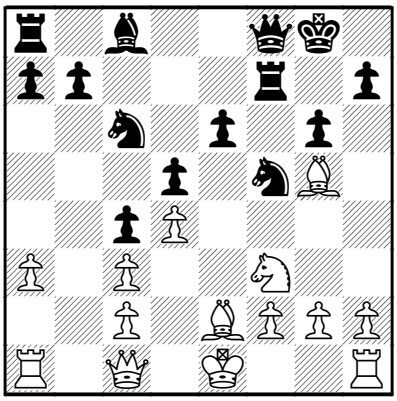
12.Qd1± Nbc6 13.Nf3 c4?!

Theory calls this premature and recommends 13...Qa5 14.Bd2 c4 15.Be2 Nf5.

14.Be2 Qf8 15.Qc1!?

I rejected 15.Qd2 Nf5 because Black's Knight could reach e4 via d6. However, 16.h4 Nd6 17.h5 Ne4 18.Qe3± still seems favorable to White.

15...Nf5



16.g4

White's more effective approach was shown in Anand - Timman, Dortmund 1999: 16.h4 h6 17.Bf4 Bd7 18.Ne5 Nxe5 19.Bxe5±.

16...h6?!

Bold, but not entirely correct. Perhaps Beelby thought, as I did, that White would dominate after 16...Nd6 17.Bh6 Qd8 18.Ng5 Rf6 19.Qe3. But Black can counterattack with 19... Qa5 20.0–0 Nb5∞.

17.gxf5!

Stronger than my original intention of 17.Bd2 Ng7 18.Ne5 Nxe5 19.dxe5±.

17...hxg5 18.Qxg5

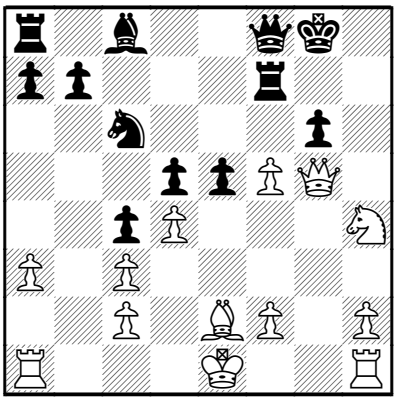
Not 18.fxg6?? Rxf3 19.g7 Qf7–+.

18...e5!

Activating his Bishop. I had anticipated only 18...exf5? 19.h4, and 18... Rxf5 19.Qxg6+ Kh8 20.Rg1, which give White an uncontested initiative.

19.Nh4

The double attack 19.fxg6?? Rxf3 20.Qh5? fails, to 20...Rh3−+.



19...exd4??

During the game, I considered 16...h6 a decisive mistake and assumed that White was winning after 19.Nh4. Beelby's perception was much closer to the truth. He said after the game that we would discover that both players made several mistakes.

Black should play 19...Bxf5 20.Nxf5 Rxf5 21.Qxg6+ Kh8 22.Rg1 Rf6 23.Qg5 Re8 24.Rg4 Re7, guarding his King and holding White to a small advantage.

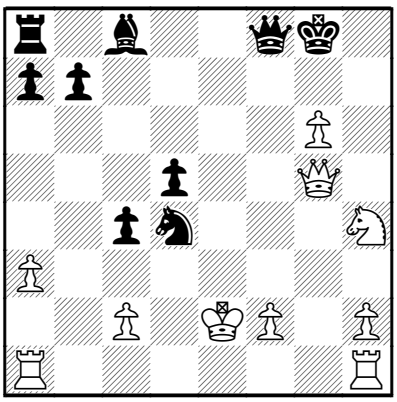
20.fxg6??

Botching the attack. The right way is 20.f6! Rxf6 21.Nxg6 Qd6 22.Rg1, but I thought Black would escape by 22...Kf7 because I missed the devastating 23.Qh5!+-. Then one plausible sequence is 23...Be6 24.Nf4+ Kf8 (*also 24...Ke7 25.Rg7+ Rf7 26.Qg5+□ Kd7 27.Bg4!+- costs Black material*) 25.Nxe6+ Qxe6 26.Qh8+ Ke7 27.Qxa8 d3 28.Qxb7+ Kd6 29.cxd3 cxd3 30.Ra2+-.

20...Re7

Threatening 21...d3 and welcoming 21.Qxd5+ Be6.

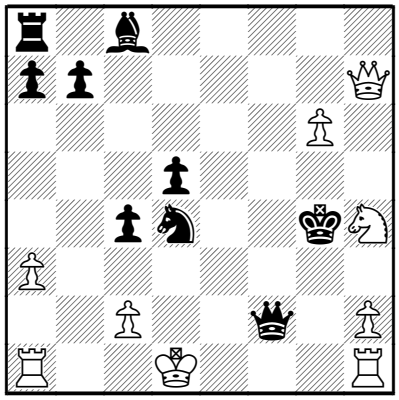
21.cxd4 Rxe2+ 22.Kxe2 Nxd4+



23.Ke3??

After long and hard thought, I concluded White was lost, and I picked this move which conforms to the evaluation.

I rejected 23.Kd1□ Qxf2 24.Qd8+ Kg7 25.Qe7+ Kh6 26.Qh7+ Kg5 27.Qe7+ Kh5 28.Qh7+ because I thought Black could evade checks by 28...Kg4:



However, White can still draw with 29.g7 (*also 29. h3+ and 29. Ra2 should work*) 29...Bf5 30.g8Q+ Rxg8 31.Qxg8+ Kh5□ (*avoiding 31...Kxh4? 32.Qg3+ Qxg3 33.hxg3+ Kxg3 34.Ra2±*) 32.Qh8+ Kg5 33.Qd8+ Kh5 34.Qh8+.

It's easier to dismiss 23.Kf1?? Bh3+ 24.Ng2 Qf3 25.Re1 Nxc2−+ and 23.Ke1?? Qe8+ 24.Qe3 Nxc2+−+.

23...Nxc2+??

Giving White a second chance to salvage a draw.

Black can win with 23...Qe8+! 24.Kxd4 Qe4+ 25.Kc3 d4+ 26.Kb2 c3+ 27.Kb1 Qxh1+ 28.Qc1 Qc6−+.

24.Ke2

Restoring equality, although I still believed that Black was winning.

If 24.Kd2? Qxf2+ 25.Kc1 Nxa1 26.Qd8+, Black can frustrate White's attempt for perpetual check by 26...Qf8! 27.Qxd5+ Kg7 28.Qe5+ Qf6 29.Qc7+ Kf8 30.g7+ Kg8−+, retaining the extra piece.

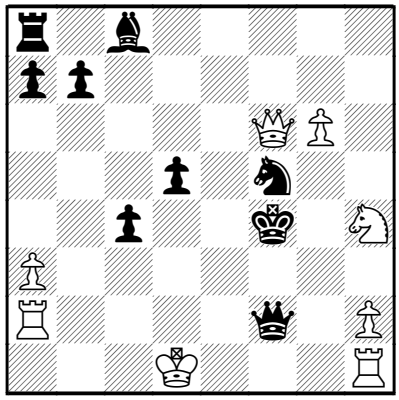
24...Nd4+

If 24...Bg4+ 25.Qxg4 Re8+ 26.Kd1□ Qxf2, White saves a draw with 27.Nf5□ Re4 (*or 27...Nxa1 28.Nh6+ Kg7□ 29.Qd7+ Kxh6□ 30.Qh7+ Kg5 31.h4+ Kg4 32.Qd7+□ Kh5□ 33.Qh7+, drawing.*) 28.Qh3, when neither player can avoid the forced variation 28...Ne3+□ 29.Nxe3□ Rd4+□ 30.Kc1 Qd2+□ 31.Kb1 Qd3+□ 32.Kc1□ Qc3+ 33.Kb1□ Qd3+.

25.Ke3??

I saw the reply but hoped my opponent would settle for repetition by 25...Nc2+.

Again, White could unexpectedly eke out a draw with 25.Kd1 Qxf2 26.Qd8+ Kg7 27.Qe7+ Kh6 28.Qh7+ Kg5 29.Qe7+ Kf4 30.Qf6+ Nf5 (not 30...Bf5?? 31.Ra2!+-) 31.Ra2!



31...Qxa2□ (*not 31...Qxh4?? 32.Rf1+ Kg4 33.Rg2+ Kh3 34.Qc3+, mating.*) 32.Rf1+ Kg4 (*not 32...Ke4?! 33.Nxf5±*) 33.Rg1+ Kf4□ (*not 33...Kh3?? 34.Qc3+*) 34.Rf1+, repeating.

25...Qe8+! 26.Kxd4

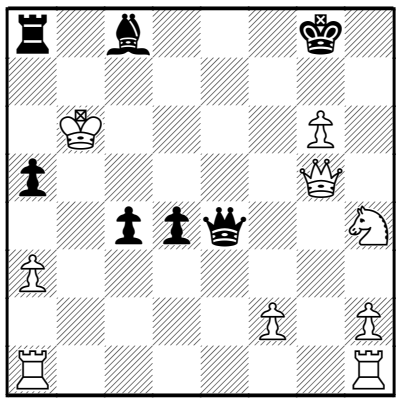
Now I felt like one of Morphy's hapless opponents, except that I knew the end was near.

Worse are 26.Kf4 Qe4+ 27.Kg3 Ne2 mate, and 26.Kd2 Qe2+ 27.Kc3 Nb5+ 28.Kb4 Qb2+ 29.Kc5 Qd4+ 30.Kb4 (*or 30.Kxb5 Qb6+ 31.Ka4 Bd7 mate*) 30...a5+ 31.Kxb5 Bd7 mate.

26...Qe4+ 27.Kc3 d4+ 28.Kb4

Or 28.Kb2 c3+−+.

28...a5+ 29.Kc5 b6+ 30.Kxb6



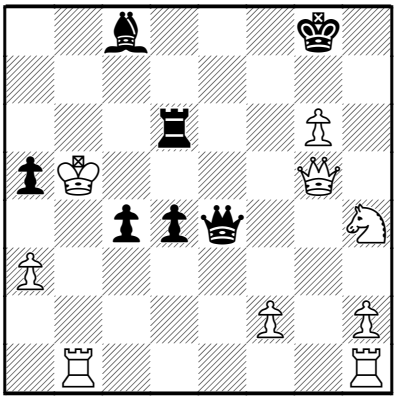
30...Ra6+

Good enough. The computer points out a forced mate in 11 moves, beginning 30...Bd7 31.Qg2 (*or 31.Qc5 Rb8+ 32.Kc7 Rb7+ 33.Kd6 Qe6 mate*) 31... Qe6+ 32.Kc5 Rc8+ 33.Kxd4 Qb6+ 34.Kc3 Qf6+ 35.Kd2 Qd4+. Humans are not required to see this.

31.Kc5 Rc6+ 32.Kb5 Rd6!

Other moves give White some hope.

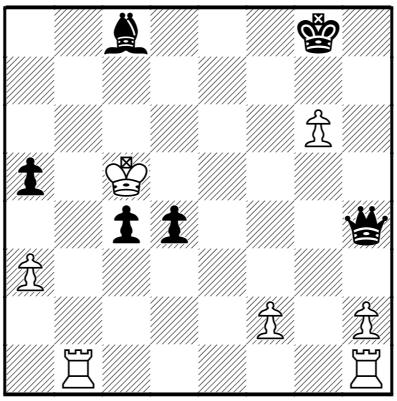
33.Rab1



33...Rd5+

Again, quite sufficient, although Black passes up a more conclusive method. Quicker was 33...Qc6+ 34.Kxa5 Qa6+ 35.Kb4 Rb6+ 36.Kc5 Qa5+ 37.Kxc4 Rc6+ 38.Kd3 Qxg5–+.

34.Qxd5+ Qxd5+ 35.Kb6 Qd8+ 36.Kc5 Qxh4



Now Black has plenty of material and White could safely resign.

37.Kxc4 Be6+ 38.Kc5 Qxf2 39.Rhf1 Qe3 40.Rbe1 Qc3+ 41.Kb6 Bc4 42.Rg1 d3 43.g7

A last gasp, threatening 44. Re8+.

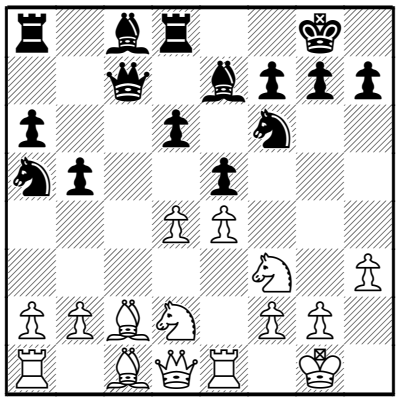
43...Qd4+ 44.Kb7 Qd7+ 45.Kb6 Qd6+ 46.Kb7 Bd5+ 47.Kc8 Bc6 0–1

After this discouraging loss, Beelby told me, "I hope you win the rest of your games." So I did!

Peters,Jack (2420) -
Brown,Michael W. (2351)
[C99] Ruy Lopez
Memorial Day Classic (6)
Ontario, 28.05.2012

Notes by IM Jack Peters.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0–0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.c3 0–0 9.h3 Na5 10.Bc2 c5 11.d4 Qc7 12.Nbd2 cxd4 13.cxd4 Rd8



One of Black's better defenses to the Ruy Lopez. By menacing ...d6-d5, he hopes to induce d4-d5, which lets Black operate on the Queenside without distractions in the center.

14.Nf1

Probably harmless.

But I did not want to repeat 14.d5 Bd7 15.Nf1 Rdc8 16.Ne3 Nb7 17.Nh2 Nc5 18.Qf3 b4, which was fine for Black in our previous encounter in 2011.

And 14.b3 Nc6 15.Bb2 Bb7 16.Rc1 Qb6 brought me no advantage against Vincent Huang in 2010.

14...exd4 15.Bf4

Black would welcome 15.Nxd4 d5! 16.e5 Ne4⇄.

15...Nc4

Several games have tested 15... Nc6 16.Rc1 Qb6 17.Ng3 g6, with apparent equality.

16.b3 Ne5

Very sensible.

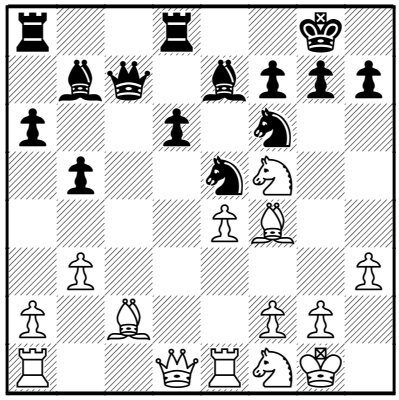
During the game, I thought 16... Na3?! 17.Bd3 Qb6 18.Ng3 g6 was equally good. Later, the computer convinced me that Black has some worries after 19.Bg5±, preparing the maneuver Qd1–c1–f4.

The *Zwischenzug* 16...d3?! actually loses time, to 17.Bxd3 Ne5 (not 17...Nb2?? 18.Qc2) 18.Rc1 with a lead in development.

17.Nxd4 Bb7

Safer is 17...g6 18.Rc1 Bb7 19.Qd2 Rac8=.

18.Nf5±



18...Ng6!

Almost certainly best.

I expected 18...Bf8 19.Bg5 Ned7 20.Rc1±.

The computer prefers 18...Bf8 19.Bg5 d5!? but Black's Kingside looks permanently vulnerable after 20.Bxf6 gxf6 21.exd5 Rxd5 22.Qe2±.

19.Be3?!

There goes White's short-lived advantage!

Correct was 19.Nxe7+ Qxe7 20.Bg3±, but I didn't want to part with my wonderful Knight at f5.

19...d5!

Too shaky is 19...Nxe4?! 20.Bd4 d5 (Black cannot stand 20...Nf6? 21.Nxe7+ Nxe7 22.Bxf6 gxf6 23.Rc1 Qd7 24.Qh5, as 24...Ng6 25.Bf5 traps Black's Queen.) 21.Bxg7±.

20.e5 Ne4 21.Bd4?!

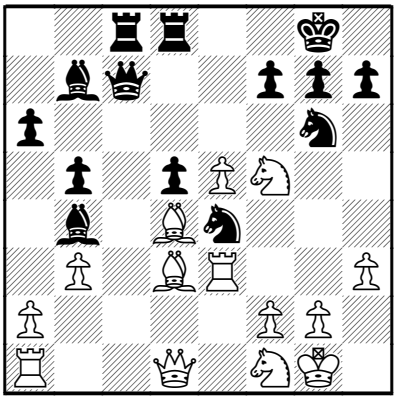
I wanted to keep Black's Bishop at b7 buried behind the d-pawn. But Black can bring the rest of his forces into action, with at least even chances.

White should settle for a slightly more comfortable position after 21.Nxe7+ Qxe7 22.Bb6 (or 22.Bd4 Qg5=) 22...Re8 23.f3 Ng5 24.Bxg6 hxg6 25.Qd2 Rac8

26.Rad1=, although White cannot claim more than an insignificant advantage.

Black would meet 21.f3?! strongly by 21...Bb4!

21...Bb4 22.Re3 Rac8 23.Bd3



23...Bc5?

Striking at the foundation of White's center, but there is a flaw.

I did not fear 23...Nxe5! because I thought White would create many threats with 24.Qh5. However, Black can safely reply 24...Nxd3 25.Rxd3 g6 26.Nh6+ Kf8∓.

Also the tricky 23...Nxe5! 24.Nxg7!? Kxg7 25.f4 f6 26.fxe5 fxe5 27.Bxe4 dxe4 28.Rg3+ Kh8 29.Rc1 Qd6!∓ is satisfactory for Black.

Alternatively, Black can defend solidly with 23...Bf8= or 23...Nf4 24.Qg4 Ne6=.

24.Rc1

This pin won't last, but White will gladly give up a Rook for the valuable Bishop.

24...Qd7

White treats 24...Qb8 similarly with 25.Rxc5! Nxc5 26.h4, gaining a very powerful attack. The computer suggests 26...Ne6 27.Qg4 Nxd4 28.Qxd4 Re8 29.h5 Nxe5, but then reveals the refutation 30.Rg3 g6 31.Qf4+-.

Tougher is 24...Qb8 25.Rxc5! Nxc5 26.h4 Re8 27.h5 Nxe5, but White comes out on top with 28.Qd2! Nexd3 (or 28...Ncxd3 29.Rxd3+-) 29.Rg3 Qf4 30.Bxg7! Qxd2 31.Be5+ Kf8 32.Bd6+ Re7 33.Bxe7+ Ke8 34.Nxd2 Kd7 35.Bxc5 Nxc5 36.Rg7±.

Naturally, I did not foresee these variations, but I suspected that White would have more than adequate compensation for the exchange.

25.Rxc5! Qxf5

Best, holding White to a small edge.

Black would not survive 25... Nxc5? 26.Nxg7!. Against 26...Ne6, White can choose either 27. Nh5 or 27.Nxe6 Qxe6 (27...fxe6 28.Rg3+-) 28.Ng3+-, with thoughts of Bd3-f5 and Ng3-h5-f6. Black's tiny material advantage does not matter because his Queenside pieces cannot assist his King.

26.Rxc8 Qxc8

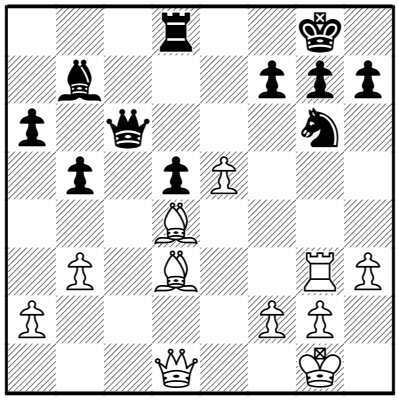
Inserting 26...Qxf2+? loses material to 27.Kh1 Rxc8 28.Rxe4 Qxa2 29.Re2+-.

27.Ng3 Nxg3

A bit cooperative.

After 27...Nf4± Black's Knight reaches e6, fortifying the Kingside.

28.Rxg3 Qc6



29.Kh2

I wanted to avoid the trade of Queens, which Black could set up by ...Rd8-c8.

But there was a much simpler method. With 29.Qd2 Rc8 30.Bb2±, White would keep the Queens on while preparing f2-f4-f5.

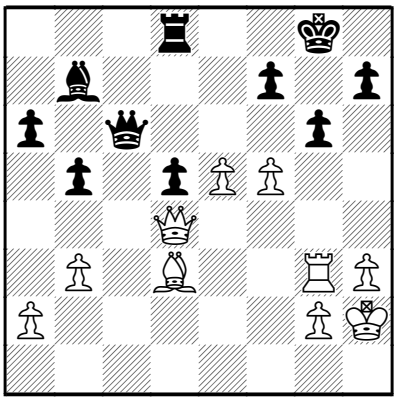
29...Nf4?

Too late! Black should hang on with 29...Re8 30.Qg4 Bc8 31.Qg5 Qe6±, when the impetuous 32.f4? h6 throws away White's advantage.

30.Qg4

Convincing, although I spent a lot of time looking for a speedier knockout with 30.e6 or 30.Qf3.

30...Ne6 31.f4 g6 32.f5 Nxd4 33.Qxd4+-



Black cannot stop e5-e6, undermining g6.

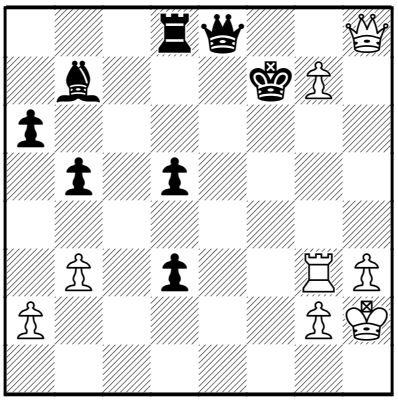
33...Qe8 34.e6 fxe6 35.fxg6 h6 36.g7

Another way is 36.Qf6, meeting 36...Qf8 with 37.Qxe6+ Kg7 38.Qe5+ Kg8 39.Qc7+-.

36...e5 37.Qh4 e4

Against 37...Rd6, I intended 38.Bh7+ Kxh7 39.g8Q+ Qxg8 40.Qe7+, which the computer considers only third-best! I overlooked the prettiest answer to 37...Rd6, a mate in four moves beginning 38.Qe7!

38.Qxh6 exd3 39.Qh8+ Kf7



40.Rf3+!

More efficient than 40.g8Q+?! Qxg8 41.Rxg8?! Rxg8 42.Qh7+ Rg7 43.Qxd3.

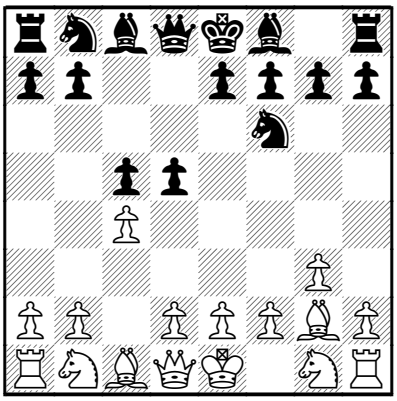
40...Kg6

Or 40...Ke7 41.Re3+.

41.g8Q+ Qxg8 42.Rf6+ Kg5 43.Qh6 mate

Beelby,Matthew (2370) - Hale,John (2142)
[A34] English Opening
Memorial Day Classic (2) Ontario, 26.05.2012
Notes by FM Matthew Beelby.

1.c4 c5 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 d5

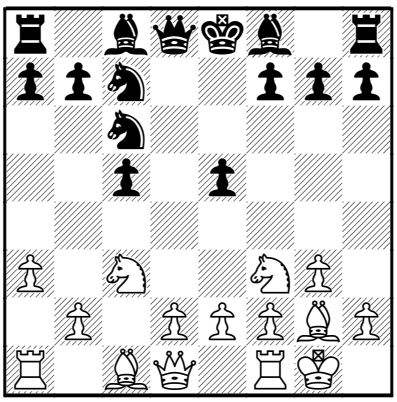


We now have the Rubinstein variation, highly respected system of the English opening that I have played with both colors. The idea is to remove White's monopoly of the d5-square that the pawn on c4, the Bishop on g2, and the Knight on c3 are aiming at. In return for this change in the pawn structure, the g2-Bishop becomes a powerhouse as it patrols the h1–a8 diagonal.

4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.Nc3 Nc7 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.0–0 e5

Many chess writers describe this position as a reverse Maroczy.

8.a3



White will try to prove that Black's spatial advantage is temporary by attacking with the pawn levers b2-b4, d2-d4, and f2-f4. Black, of course, will attempt to make those levers ineffective.

8...Be7

8...Rb8 and 8...f6 are variations that I have greater familiarity with.

9.b4

And not the slow 9.Rb1?! as in the classic and well known game Polugaevsky - Korchnoi, Russia 1972, which continued 9...f6 10.b4 cxb4 11.axb4 a6 12.Na4 Nb5, and Korchnoi won in 27 moves.

9...cxb4

Perhaps 9...0–0 is a better representation of this variation.

10.axb4 Be6

My opponent wisely avoids 10...Bxb4 11.Nxe5 Nxe5 12.Qa4+ Nc6 13.Bxc6+ bxc6 14.Qxb4, leading to a unpleasant defensive position for Black.

11.b5 Nd4 12.Rb1 f6?!

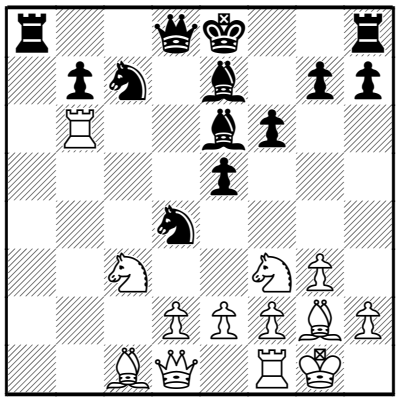
After 12...Nxf3+ 13.Bxf3 Bc8! Black has a passive position, but it is probably defendable. Not 13...Rb8? 14.Qa4, for White has a double attack against the a7 pawn and the a4-e8 diagonal.

13.b6!?

Hindsight now leaves me with the impression that this move should eventually be played, if given the opportunity, but not on this move.

More accurate would be 13.e3 Nxf3+ 14.Qxf3 with a solid edge for White.

13...axb6= 14.Rxb6



14...Ra7

Missing 14...Na6! 15.Na4 Nxf3+ 16.Bxf3=. And not 15.Rxb7? Nc5 (with the idea of invading with ...Bb3) 16.Rxe7+ Kxe7 17.Nxd4 exd4 18.Bxa8 Qxa8, and the advantage has been handed over to Black.

After 14...Na6! Houdini finds 15.Nxd4! Qxb6 16.Nxe6 Qxe6 17.Bxb7 Ra7, and claims both 18.Qa4+ and 18.Bd5 are ±. - Ed.

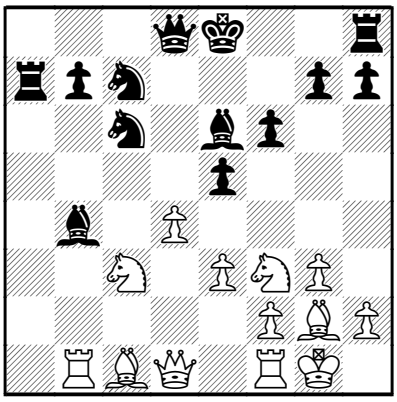
15.e3?!

I had originally planned 15.Nxd4 exd4 16.Nb5 Nxb5 17.Rxe6. Yet, as I was staring at the board and thinking about my move, I had a chess hallucination thinking that Black could play 17...Nd4!! which I thought would win immediately for my opponent. I was stunned that I had missed his "resource" and only noticed later when I reviewed this game that 17...Nd4 is an illegal move!

15...Bc5?!

Black should take the reprieve that was offered to him with 15...Nc6 with equality.

16.Rb1 Nc6 17.d4 Bb4



18.Bd2

Missing the true strength of 18.Nxe5! fxe5 19.Bxc6+ bxc6 20.Rxb4+-. I suppose the light square weaknesses around my Kingside made me biased against this course of action.

18...Bc4

Black is in desperate need to castle, so 18...0–0 19.Qc2 Be7 20.Rfd1± is preferable.

19.Ne2

This is inferior to 19.dxe5 Ba3 20.exf6 Qxf6 21.Ne4± which also caught my attention.

19...Nd5?

Better was 19...Be7, for 20.Re1 is equal, while after 20.dxe5 fxe5 21.e4, Black's dynamic play is more than adequate to compensate for his distorted pawn structure.

20.dxe5

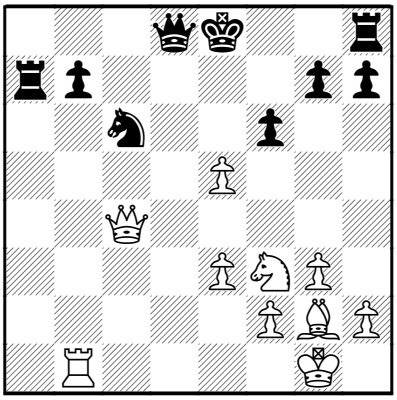
It was my appraisal that if I was unable to win from this position, I could only blame myself for weak play.

20...Bxd2

Black also has the option of entering an untenable endgame after 20...

fxe5 21.e4 Nb6 22.Bxb4 Qxd1 23.Rfxd1 Bxe2 24.Rd2 Bxf3 25.Bxf3+-.

21.Qxd2 Bxe2 22.Qxe2 Nc3 23.Qc4 Nxb1 24.Rxb1



My evaluation of this position, during the game, was that White had insurmountable threats and therefore a winning position.

24...fxe5

A tactical puzzle appears on the board.

If 24...Qd7 with the idea of blocking the a2-g8 diagonal with Qf7, White's 25.e6 maintains a vigorous initiative.

Also, 24...Rf8 25.e6 Qd6 26.Nh4 g6 27.Rxb7! Ra1+ 28.Bf1 is very impressive for White.

25.Ng5! Qxg5

25...Qf6 26.Bxc6+ is clearly winning for White.

26.Bxc6+ bxc6 27.Qe6+! Kd8 28.Rd1+ Kc7 29.Qd7+

A faster checkmate begins with 29.Qd6+.

29...Kb6 30.Rb1+ Kc5 31.Qxa7+ Kd5 32.Qd7+ Ke4 33.Rb4+ 1-0

I would like to thank John Hale for being a challenging opponent and to the reader for somewhat tolerating this far from perfect game.

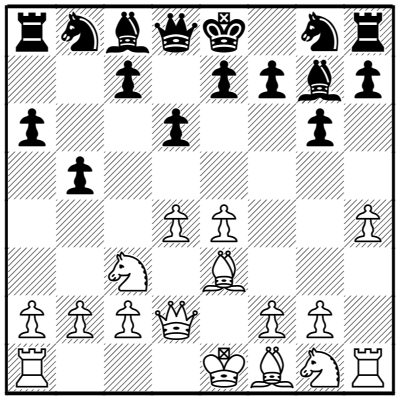
The best game prize was awarded for the following attack. Quick development and opening the center paved the way for mate! - Ed.

Krishnan,Varun (2307) - Clawitter,Craig (2195)
[B06] Modern Defense
Memorial Day Classic (3)
Ontario, 27.05.2012
Notes by Varun Krishnan.

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.Be3 a6

The Tiger's Modern.

5.Qd2 b5 6.h4

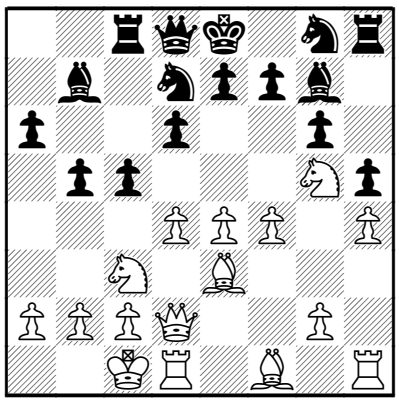


This is in fact a very dangerous line, utilizing the fact that Black must block the pawn or else his Kingside will come under fire. Once he blocks, however, key squares will be weakened.

6...h5 7.Nh3 Bb7 8.Ng5

The Knight has secured a very nice outpost. It will be difficult to chase away (if ...f6, then Ne6) and it also does a very good job of attacking from this spot.

8...Nd7 9.0–0–0 Rc8 10.f4 c5?



This move looks good for Black, but it turns out that the tactics favor White. My database gives 5 games with 10.f4, and all of them featured 10...Nh6. For instance, 11.e5 Nf8 12.Bd3 Qd7 13.Rhe1± 1–0 (31) Berg-Veng, Helsingor 2009.

11.e5!

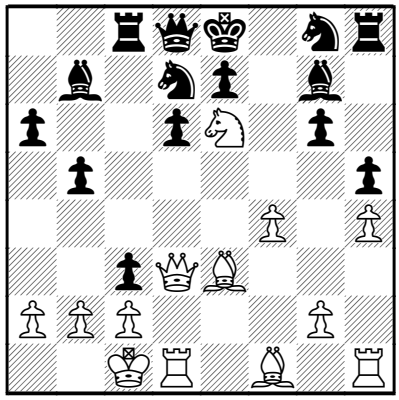
A crucial breakthrough. Unfortunately for Black, he has no way to support the e6 square.

11...cxd4?!

11...Nh6 was absolutely essential at this point. Then 12.e6 Nf8 13.exf7+ Nxf7 14.Nxf7 Kxf7± is bad for Black, but at least he can still continue to fight.

11...e6 results in a nice line: 12.Nce4 Bf8 13.dxc5 Bxe4 14.Nxe4 d5 15.Nd6+ Bxd6 16.cxd6+-. Quite a pawn wedge!

12.e6! fxe6 13.Nxe6 dxc3 14.Qd3!

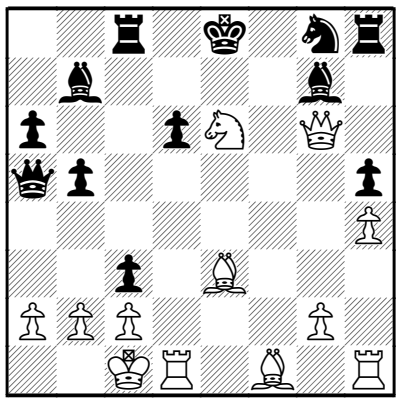


This move is the key point I had calculated after 11.e5. The twin threats on Black's Queen and his pawn on g6 cause his doom.

14...Ne5

Black found the only way to prevent checkmate, but unfortunately White will just take the Knight and Black will still get into big trouble.

15.fxe5 Qa5 16.exd6 exd6 17.Qxg6+



The rest is very easy; the attack will culminate in checkmate.

17...Ke7 18.Nxg7 cxb2+ 19.Kb1 Bd5 20.Nf5+ Kf8 21.Qxd6+ Ke8 22.Qe5+ Kf8 23.Qg7+ Ke8 24.Nd6+ Kd8 25.Bg5+ Ne7 26.Qxe7 mate 1–0

Sevian, Shen, and Sharma Tie in 19th Metropolitan FIDE

All three earn IM norms!

June 6-10, 2012

Samuel Sevian, Victor Shen, and Arun Sharma tied for first with 6½-2½ in the 19th Metropolitan FIDE invitational tournament. FM Shen earned his second IM norm, and NMs Sevian and Sharma each earned their first. Shen was still 2-2 after four rounds, but closed with 4½ out of 5 to get the first place tie and the norm.

Fourth at 5½-3½ was IM Andranik Matikozyan. Tied for fifth at 5-4 were Alexander King and early leader IM Zhanibek Amanov. Finishing seventh at 3½-5½ was FM CJ Arvind from India, eighth at 3-6 was IM Larry Remlinger, ninth at 2-7 was FM Kayden Troff, and Vadim Kudryavtsev was tenth at 1½-7½.

The tourney was sponsored by California Market Center, Fashion Business, Inc, Chess.com, MonRoi, LawyerFy, the Law Offices of Steinfl & Bruno, EventForte Inc, and Betty Bottom Showroom. It was organized by Ankit Gupta, FA, IO, and the chief arbiter was Randy Hough, IA.

IM Jack Peters provides a review of Sevian's tactics, with notes on his second round win; Victor Shen annotates his seventh round win against Arun Sharma, the tournament leader at that point, and finally, we present Sharma's 5th round win. - Ed.

Victor Shen cr

Samuel Sevian cr

Arun Sharma cr

	Round by Round Pairings, Colors, and Scores		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Kudryavtsev, Vadim	RUS	W10	W2	B3	W4	B5	W6	B7	W8	B9
	2142		**1**	1	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½
2	Sharma, Arun	USA	W9	B1	W10	W3	B4	W5	B6	W7	B8
	2331		½	**1½**	**2½**	3	**4**	**5**	5	5½	**6½**
3	Matikozyan, Andranik	ARM	W8	B9	W1	B2	W10	W4	B5	W6	B7
	2411		**1**	**1½**	2	2½	3½	4	4½	5	5½
4	Amanov, Zhanibek	KAZ	W7	B8	W9	B1	W2	B3	W10	W5	B6
	2401		½	**1½**	**2½**	**3½**	3½	4	4½	5	5
5	King, Alexander	USA	W6	B7	W8	B9	W1	B2	W3	B4	W10
	2211		**1**	1	2	2½	3½	3½	4	4½	5
6	Shen, Victor	USA	B5	B10	W7	B8	W9	B1	W2	B3	W4
	2333		0	1	2	2	3	4	5	5½	**6½**
7	Sevian, Samuel	USA	B4	W5	B6	B10	W8	B9	W1	B2	W3
	2247		½	**1½**	1½	2½	3½	4½	**5½**	**6**	**6½**
8	Arvind, CJ	IND	B3	W4	B5	W6	B7	B10	W9	B1	W2
	2317		0	0	0	1	1	1½	2½	3½	3½
9	Remlinger, Larry	USA	B2	W3	B4	W5	B6	W7	B8	B10	W1
	2355		½	1	1	1½	1½	1½	1½	2	3
10	Troff, Kayden	USA	B1	W6	B2	W7	B3	W8	B4	W9	B5
	2276		0	0	0	0	0	½	1	1½	2

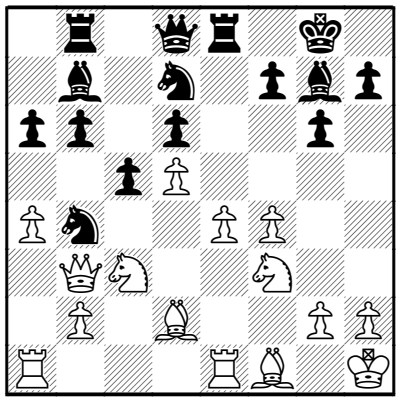
Time control: 40 moves / 90 minutes + SD / 30 minutes + 30 second increment throughout.

By IM Jack Peters

How did 11-year old Samuel Sevian tie for first place in the 19th Metropolitan IM tournament? Mostly he relied on excellent calculating skills, probably developed by his habit of solving composed endgames.

Watch how he exploits an almost imperceptible error by a veteran:

Remlinger - Sevian, Round 6, position after 16...Bc8-b7:



A sharp middlegame, typical of the Modern Benoni.

17.Be3?

Chances remain about even after 17.Bc4=.

17...Nf6 18.Bf2?

White has no good way to protect his e-pawn.

Even 18.Nd2?! fails, to 18...Nxe4! 19.Ndxe4 Rxe4 20.Nxe4 Bxd5 21.Bc4 Bxc4 22.Qxc4 d5∓.

cr

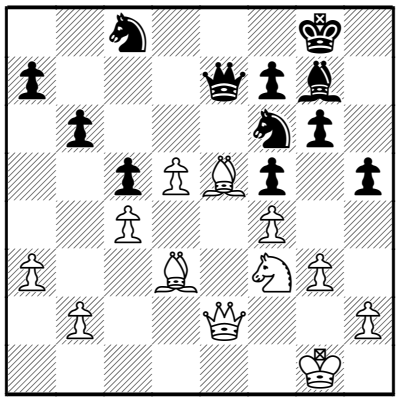
IM Larry Remlinger

The best response is 18.e5! Ng4! (*avoiding 18...Nfxd5? 19.Bc4 Nxe3 20.Bxf7+ Kh8 21.Rxe3=*) 19.Bg1 dxe5 20.h3, but Black keeps an edge with 20...e4! 21.Ng5 Nf6 22.Rad1 Nd3 23.Bxd3 exd3 24.Rxe8+ Nxe8 25.Rxd3 Nd6∓.

18...Nxe4!–+ 19.Nxe4 Bxd5 20.Bc4 Bxc4 21.Qxc4 d5 22.Qb3 dxe4 23.Ng5 Qd5, and Black capitalized on his advantage without trouble.

In the next game, Vadim Kudryavtsev relied on a pin. But Samuel had seen further.

Sevian - Kudryavtsev, Round 7, position after 34.Ng5-f3:



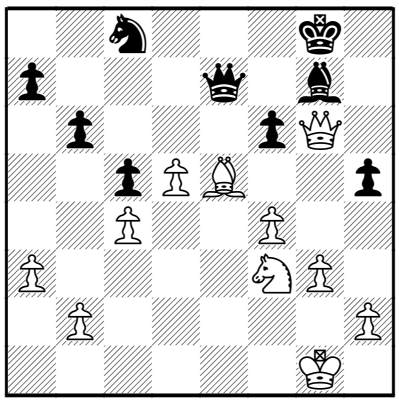
Black held his own in the maneuvering phase leading to this position. White's advantage is minimal, but Black erred with

34...Ne4?

Instead, 34...Nd6± or 34...b5!? 35.cxb5 Nxd5± should defend.

35.Bxe4 fxe4 36.Qxe4 f6 37.Qxg6

Winning.



37...Nd6

Obviously, Black had expected to gain a piece by 37...fxe5. But White wins anyway with 38.Ng5! (*threatening the Bishop by 39. Qh7+ and 40. Ne6+*) 38...Qf6 39.Qh7+ Kf8 40.Ne6+ Kf7 41.Qxh5+ Ke7 (*or 41...Kg8 42.Qe8+*) 42.Nxg7 Qxg7 43.fxe5+- because his pawns will overwhelm the Knight.

38.Bxd6 Qe3+

White refutes 38...Qxd6 by 39.Ng5!+-.

39.Kg2 Qe2+ 40.Kh3 Qxf3 41.Kh4 Qe2 42.h3

White has built a new fortress for his King. The rest is easy.

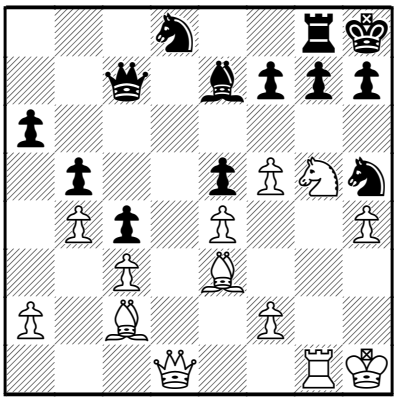
42...Qxc4 43.Qe8+ Kh7 44.Qxh5+ Kg8

Or 44...Bh6 45.Bf8+-.

45.Qe8+ Kh7 46.Qf7 1–0

Our final example illustrates Sevian's imaginative and aggressive play in a more complicated position.

Sevian - Arvind, Round 5, position after 28.Qf1-d1:



28...g6?!

Black has few worries after 28... Nf6=.

29.Qd5± f6

Probably Black feared 29...Rf8 30.Rd1, giving White the d-file.

30.Nxh7!?

The retreat 30.Nf3 seems of comparable value, but one cannot argue with the result!

30...Qc6?

Hopeless.

Black had to accept the sacrifice. After 30...Kxh7 31.fxg6+ Kh8 (*certainly not 31...Rxg6? 32.Rxg6 Kxg6*

because of 33.Qg8+ Ng7 34.h5+ Kxh5 35.Qh7+ Kg4 36.Bd1 mate) 32.Bd1 Ng7 33.Qd2!, White's Queen eyes h6. A likely continuation is 33...Qc6 34.Bc5! Qxe4+ 35.Rg2 Nf5 36.Bxe7 Rxg6 37.Bxf6+! Kh7 38.Bg5±, when 38...Nxh4? loses to 39.f3 Nxf3 40.Qd7+ Rg7 41.Qh3+ Kg8 42.Bxf3+-.

But 30...Kxh7 31.fxg6+ Kg7! 32.Bh6+ Kh8! is much tougher. Then 33.Bd1 Ng7 34.h5 Bf8 35.Bg4⩲ leaves Black tied up, but he may have a better 34th move.

Against 30...Kxh7, the alternative 31.Rxg6 Rxg6 32.fxg6+ Kh8□ 33.Bd1 can be handled by 33...Ng7 34.h5 Qb7! 35.h6 Qxd5 36.hxg7+ Kxg7 37.exd5 Kxg6, with excellent drawing chances.

31.fxg6+- Qxd5 32.exd5 Bd6 33.Bd1! 1–0

Sevian,Samuel (2247) - King,Alexander B. (2211)
[C67] Ruy Lopez, Berlin Defense
19th Metropolitan IM (2)
Los Angeles, 07.06.2012

Notes by IM Jack Peters.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.0–0 Nxe4 5.d4 Nd6

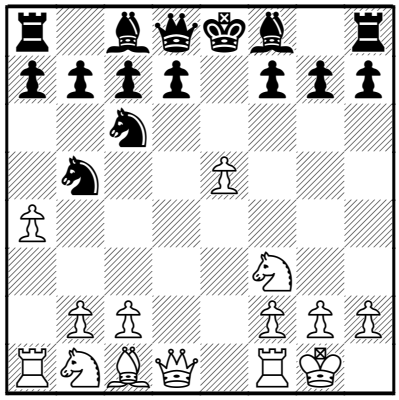
By far the most popular line of the Berlin Defense.

6.dxe5

An attacking idea from the 1880s.

Usually White permits the Berlin Wall by 6.Bxc6 dxc6 7.dxe5 Nf5 8.Qxd8+ Kxd8.

6...Nxb5 7.a4



7...Nd6?

Justifying White's treatment.

Pillsbury's ancient remedy 7...d6! 8.e6 (or 8.axb5 Nxe5 9.Re1 Be7=) 8...Bxe6 9.axb5 Ne5= still works.

Black has also defended successfully with 7...Nxe5!? 8.Nxe5 Nd6 9.Nc3 Be7□ 10.Nd5 0–0= and 7...Nbd4 8.Nxd4 Nxd4 9.Qxd4 d5 10.exd6 Qxd6 11.Qe3+ Be6=.

8.Bg5!

Black would not mind 8.exd6? Bxd6 9.Re1+ Be7 10.Nc3 0–0∓.

8...f6

Most natural, especially if Black does not foresee the reply.

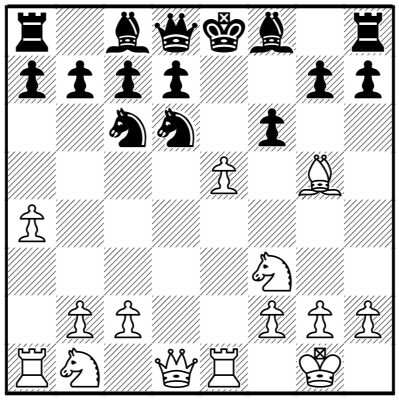
Black has too many problems completing development after 8...Be7 9.Bxe7 Qxe7?! 10.exd6 Qxd6 11.Re1+ Kf8 12.Qxd6+ cxd6 13.Nc3±.

Probably best is 8...Be7 9.Bxe7 Nxe7 10.exd6 cxd6 11.Qxd6 0–0±.

9.Re1!

This is the move that launches White's attack.

Black could survive 9.exd6?! Bxd6 10.Re1+ Be7 11.Qd5!? d6 (not 11...fxg5?? 12.Nxg5 Rf8 13.Nxh7+-) 12.Bf4 Ne5.



9...fxg5?

Losing.

The plausible 9...Nxe5? 10.Nxe5 Be7 does not shield Black's King because of 11.Bxf6! gxf6 12.Qh5+. After 12...Kf8 13.Ng6+ hxg6 14.Qxh8+ Kf7 15.Qh7+ Kf8 16.Nc3, the Knight joins the attack, and Black's position will collapse: 16...Nf7 (or 16...c6 17.Ne2! g5 18.Ng3+-) 17.Nd5 Bd6 18.Qxg6+-.

Only 9...Be7 10.exd6 cxd6 resists. White keeps a persistent initiative with 11.Bf4 Ne5 12.Nd4±.

10.exd6+ Kf7

Useless is 10...Be7 11.dxe7 Nxe7 12.Qd5+-.

11.Qd5+ Kg6

Not 11...Kf6? 12.Qxg5+ Kf7 13.Qf5+ Qf6 14.Ng5+ Kg8 15.Qd5+.

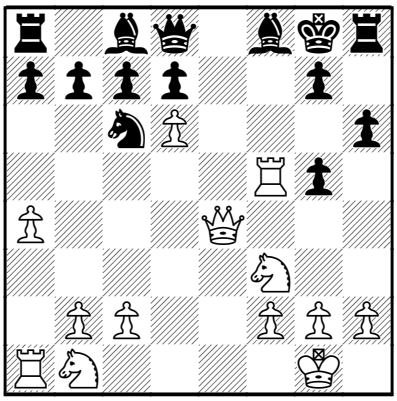
12.Re5! h6

As 12...Bxd6 13.Rxg5+ forces Black to give up his Queen.

13.Qe4+ Kf7

Not 13...Kh5 14.g4 mate.

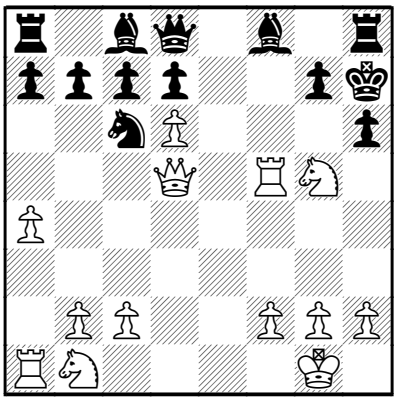
14.Rf5+ Kg8



15.Qd5+?!

The immediate 15.Nxg5! is most effective because, if Black gives up his Queen by 15...Qxg5 16.Rxg5 hxg5, White keeps attacking with 17.Qc4+! Kh7 18.Ra3 g4 19.Qxg4+-.

15...Kh7 16.Nxg5+!



16...hxg5?

Black must try 16...Qxg5 17.Rxg5 hxg5 18.dxc7 (or 18.Ra3 g4) 18...Be7 although he has little hope of saving the game.

17.Ra3! Ne5

Other moves allow a quick checkmate.

18.Rxe5

The computer points out the most direct win, 18.Rh3+ Kg6 19.Qe4!, with the possible finish 19...Rxh3 20.Rf3+ Kh6 21.Rxh3 mate.

18...Kg6

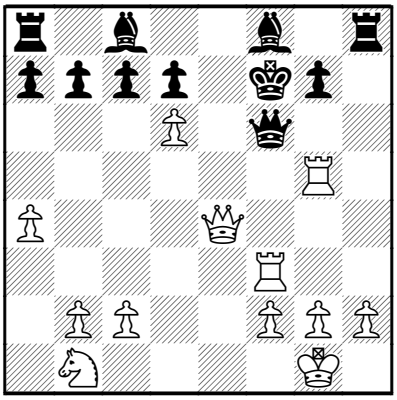
If 18...Bxd6 19.Rh3+ Kg6, Black

has no answer to 20.Qe4+ Kf7 21.Rf5+.

19.Qe4+ Kf7 20.Rf3+ Qf6

Or 20...Kg8 21.Qd5+ Kh7 22.Qf7, forcing mate.

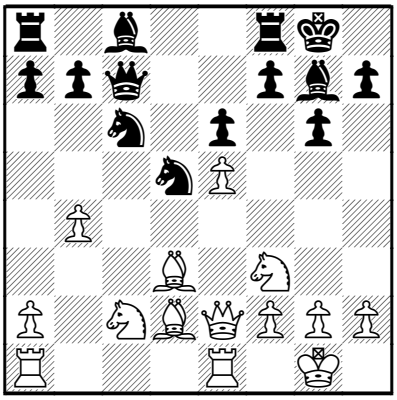
21.Rxg5 1-0



Shen,Victor - Sharma,Arun
[B40] Sicilian Defense
19th Metropolitan IM (7)
Los Angeles, 09.06.2012

Notes by Victor Shen.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.c3 d5 4.e5 d4 5.Bd3 Nc6 6.0–0 Nge7 7.Re1 g6 8.Na3 Bg7 9.Nc2 0–0 10.b4 dxc3 11.dxc3 Qc7 12.Qe2 Nd5 13.Bd2 cxb4 14.cxb4



White has emerged out of the opening with a slight advantage. Several plans are available - the obvious being an expansion on the Queenside. Black must parry the threat of b5 followed by the activation of the c2 Knight.

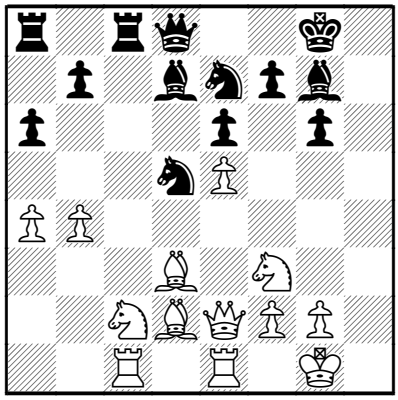
14...a6 15.a4 Bd7

Now b5 is premature, as it allows some exchanges - White should calmly improve the position.

16.Rac1 Rfc8

Here b5 is quite possible, but as soon as I saw the Rook move away from the Kingside, I couldn't resist pushing the h-pawn.

17.h4 Qd8 18.h5 Nce7 19.hxg6 hxg6



Now White is at the crossroads - he can either push forward, or take a moment to protect the hanging a-pawn.

20.Ng5

Of course. After 20.a5 Nc3 21.Qe3 Bb5, Black is unraveling.

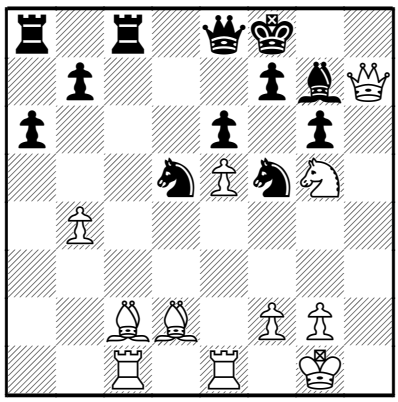
20...Bxa4

If Black doesn't bite, then White has an attack for free.

21.Qf3 Qe8 22.Qh3

It was also possible to bring the Knight into d4 first. Either way, the positions remain unclear, but I really liked White's attacking chances during the game.

22...Bxc2 23.Bxc2 Nf5 24.Qh7+ Kf8



Arun seemed confident here, and I realized that my "strong attack" wasn't so simply decisive. Black is extremely solid, and try as I might, I couldn't make g4 ideas work - Black's Knight was coming into d4 and getting too active. And that's when I hit upon the right idea:

25.Nf3!!

Perhaps two exclamation marks is overdoing it, but it even took my computer more than half an hour to realize that this is a strong move, and the best move!

25.Ne4 was the alternative, but I was loath to part with my powerful e5 pawn. 25...Bxe5 26.Ng3! And crazy complications ensue where White comes up on top. Black is probably forced to sacrifice the exchange, but this is all just insane 26...Rxc2 27.Rxc2 Bg7 28.Nxf5 gxf5 29.Bg5±.

25...Rc4

Black must stop g4

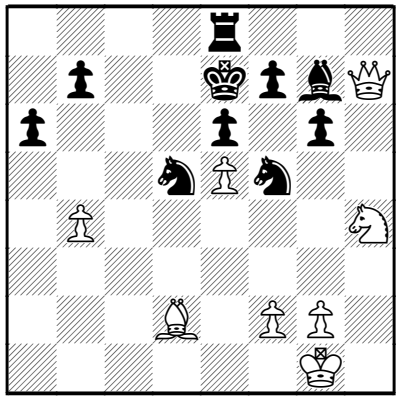
26.Ba4

Tempting, but there was even better: 26.Bb3. The threat of removing the great Knight on d5 gives White a decisive attack.

26...Rxc1!

Better than 26...Qc8, which is answered by 27.Bb3 Rxc1 28.Rxc1 Qd8 29.Bg5 Qb6 30.Rc4, stopping Nd4 once again! Now g4 comes with decisive effect.

27.Bxe8 Rxe1+ 28.Nxe1 Rxe8 29.Nf3 Ke7 30.Nh4



30...Bxe5

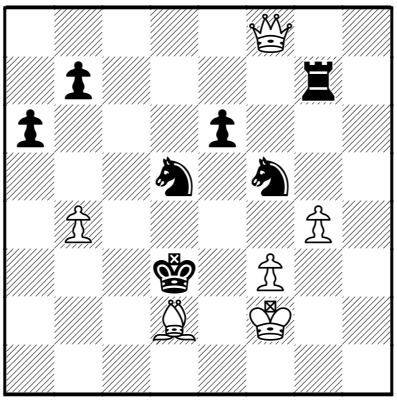
Missing a really cool idea. 30... Kf8 was the only defense, but a brilliant one. White should now retreat with 31.Nf3 Ke7 32.Qh3, and then try Qh3-g4-e4. Black has chances to hold, however.

31.Nxg6+ Kf6 32.Nxe5?!

Much quicker was 32.g4 with a pretty mate after 32...fxg6 33.g5#.

32...Kxe5 33.Qxf7 Re7 34.Qf8

Kd4 35.g4 Rg7 36.f3 Kd3 37.Kf2 1-0



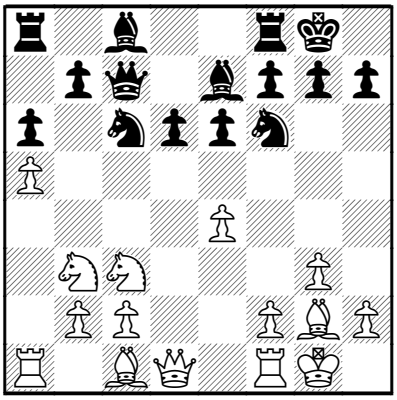
A very fighting game - Arun and I agreed that it was pretty well played by both sides.

We conclude with a game by the third winner. -Ed.

Amanov,Zhanibek (2401) - Sharma,Arun (2331)
[B80] Sicilian Defense
19th Metropolitan IM (5)
Los Angeles, 08.06.2012

Notes by the Editor.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.Nc3 a6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 d6 6.g3 Nf6 7.Bg2 Be7 8.0–0 0–0 9.a4 Qc7 10.a5 Nc6 11.Nb3



White's a4 pawn and fianchettoed King's Bishop try to hold down Black's Scheveningen formation.

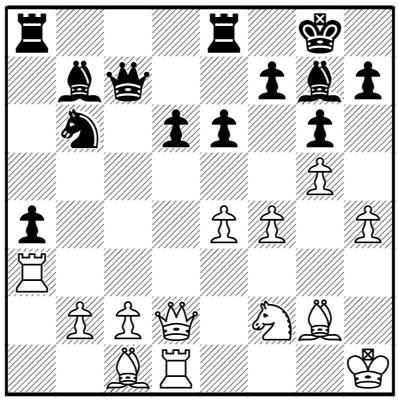
11...Nd7 12.Be3 b5 13.axb6 Nxb6 14.Qe2 Ne5 15.f4 Nec4 16.Bc1 Bb7= 17.g4 Rfe8 18.Qf2 Nd7 19.Kh1 Bf6 20.Nd1

Houdini thinks that maneuvering the Knight to the Kingside with 20.Nd4 and Nde2 keeps it equal.

20...g6 21.g5 Bg7 22.h4

White has advanced the Kingside pawns, but his pieces are not quite ready to follow up. Black has time to press on the Queenside.

22...a5∓ 23.Nd2 Nxd2 24.Qxd2 Nc5 25.Nf2 a4 26.Ra3 Nd7 27.Rd1 Nb6



28.h5

Allowing the Knight fork on c4.

Not 28.Qxd6? Qxd6 29.Rxd6 Nc4 with the same fork on c4.

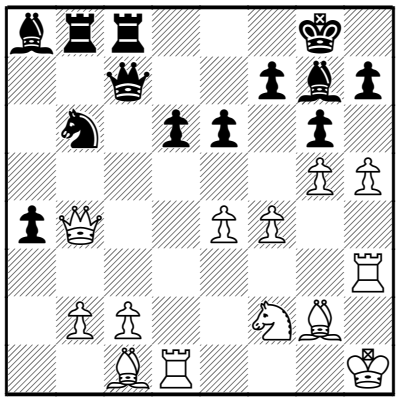
28...Rec8

But it looks like the fork is good: 28...Nc4 29.Rc3 Rec8 30.Qd3 Bxc3 31.Qxc3 gxh5–+ 32.Qh3 a3 33.bxa3 (*If White tries to play for mate, Black can wait until the last minute to defend: 33.Qxh5 a2 34.Ng4 a1Q 35.Qh6* (or 35.Nf6+ Kf8-+*) 35...f5*–+) 33... Nxa3 34.Qxh5 Qxc2–+.

29.Qb4 Rab8

Black also has a center break with 29...d5! for if 30.e5? then 30...Bf8. And if 30.h6 Bf8 31.Qd4, Black can choose either 31...e5∓ or 31...Qc5∓.

30.Rh3 Ba8



31.Qe1?!

It might last longer if White tries to hold the Queenside with 31.c3 Nc4 32.Qxa4 Rxb2∓ (*or 32...Nxb2 33.Bxb2 Rxb2 34.Ng4*∓).

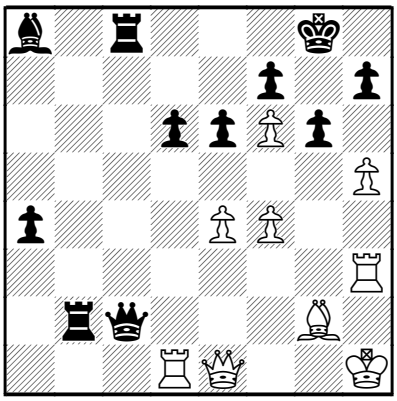
31...Qxc2–+

Now Black has his way.

32.Ng4 Nc4! 33.Nf6+ Bxf6 34.gxf6 Nxb2!

Black threatens ...Qxd1 and makes it easy.

35.Bxb2 Rxb2



There's no time for White to pursue the attack down the h-file.

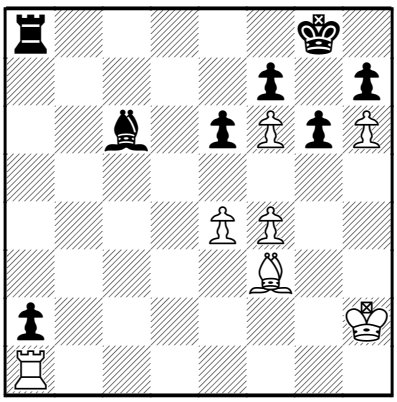
36.Bf3 Qf2

36...Rc3 ends it quickly, by threatening 37...Rxf3. If 37.Rxd6, then 37... Rd3! 38.Rxd3 Qxd3, and three deadly threats are too much to handle: 39... Bxe4, 39...Rb1, and 39...a3.

37.Qxf2 Rxf2 38.Kg1 Rb2 39.Rxd6 a3

But now the a-pawn does it.

40.Rd1 a2 41.Rh2 Rxh2 42.Kxh2 Bc6 43.h6 Ra8 44.Ra1



The Queenside bind gives Black time to decisively improve his position.

44...Kf8 45.Kg3 Ke8 46.Kh4 Kd7 47.Rd1+ Kc7 48.Ra1 Kb6 49.Bg2 Ra5 50.Bf3 Kc5 51.f5 gxf5 52.exf5 Bxf3 53.fxe6 Bd5 54.Rc1+ Kb4 55.e7 Ra8 0–1

FM Eugene Yanayt Tops SCCF Candidates Invitational

June 23-24, 2012

Eugene Yanayt scored 4-0 to take first place in the SCCF Candidates Tournament in Monterey Park. Also qualifying for the finals of the SCCF State Championship were Varun Krishnan, Craig Clawitter, and Jeremy Stein, all scoring 2½. Yanayt, having secured qualification, was talked out of taking a zero-point bye in the last round, and beat IM Timothy Taylor, who still qualified on tiebreaks with 2-2.

Also at 2-2, FM Harutyun Akopyan qualified when defending champion IM Roman Yankovsky opted out. These six join IM Jack Peters and FM Alexandre Kretchetov in the eight man round robin final in July.

Eugene Yanayt cr

Only twelve players turned out, despite the many who qualified by doing well in SCCF tournaments over the past year.

Thanks to Jeff Schwartz for donating the use of the ChessAmp office in Monterey Park for both the candidates and the finals.

We regret to report that this is the last of the SCCF State Championship cycles, which have been held annually since 1989.

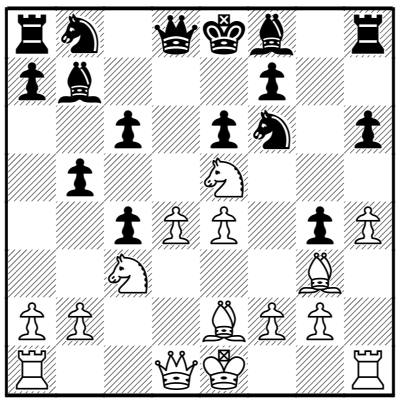
Next is a game from this tournament with some very interesting moments!

Varun Krishnan cr

Castro,Henry (2104) - Krishnan,Varun (2312)
[D43] Semi-Slav Defense
SCCF Candidates 2012 (3), Monterey Park, 24.06.2012

Notes by the Editor.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c6 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.Bg5 h6 6.Bh4 dxc4 7.e4 g5 8.Bg3 b5 9.Be2 Bb7 10.h4 g4 11.Ne5



From this position, there are over 150 games in the database between players above 2400.

11...h5

Hotter these days are 11...Nbd7 and 11...Rg8.

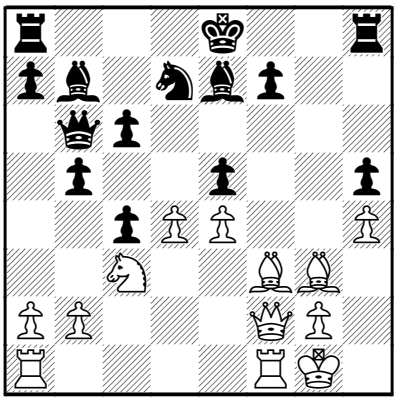
12.0–0 Nbd7 13.f3

More often seen is 13.Qc2 Nxe5 14.Bxe5 Bg7 15.Rad1 0–0.

13...Nxe5 14.Bxe5 Nd7 15.Bg3

Not 15.Bxh8?? g3 with the threat of ...Qxh4.

15...Be7 16.Qe1 Qb6 17.Qf2 gxf3 18.Bxf3 e5



19.Bxh5

19.Ne2 maintains equality.

Now Black castles and tries to be first to get at the opponent's King.

19...0–0–0 20.Qxf7 exd4 21.Qxe7 21...dxc3+?!

Still equal is 21...Rxh5, for example 22.Rad1 Rhh8 23.Kh2 Rhe8 24.Qh7 Rh8 25.Qe7 Rhe8=.

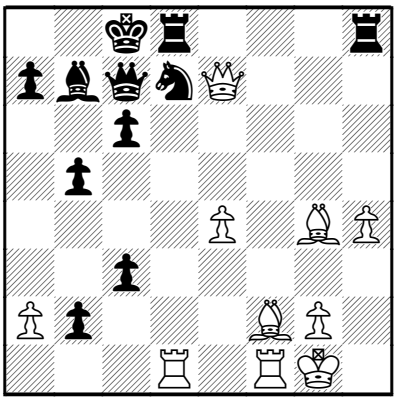
22.Bf2

It's a little better to keep the Bishop at g3: 22.Kh2! White threatens not only 23.Bg4 but also 23.Rad1, with the idea of 24.Rxd7 Rxd7 25.Qe5.

Then Black's best is 22...Rxh5 23.Rad1 (*threatening 24.Rxd7 Rxd7*

25.Qe8+ picking up a Rook.) But Black has a save with 23...Qc5 24.Rxd7 Qxe7 25.Rxe7 cxb2 26.Rc7+ Kb8 27.Rh7+ Ka8 28.Rxh5 c3, and Black's Queenside pawns force White to give back a Rook.

22...Qc7 23.Bg4 cxb2 24.Rad1 c3



25.Qg7??

White stops those advanced pawns and gets the advantage with 25.Qc5! Rhg8 (*Not 25...Kb8?? 26.Rxd7 Rxd7 27.Bxd7 Qxd7 28.Qe5+, winning a Rook.*) 26.Bf5±.

But after the text move, White threatens 26.Rxd7 Rxd7 27.Qxh8+. It's a dangerous position, but now Black plays it accurately all the way to the end.

25...Rhg8!

This is the only move, but it wins!

26.Bxd7+

Also of no help was 26.Rxd7 Rxg7 27.Rxg7+ Kb8 28.Rxc7 c2! 29.Bg3 Ka8□ and Queens.

26...Qxd7!!

Once again, the only move.

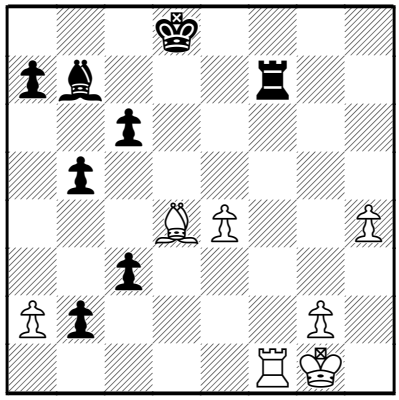
27.Rxd7

Or 27.Qxc3 Qxd1! 28.Rxd1 Rxd1+ 29.Kh2 b1Q and Black is a Rook up.

27...Rxg7 28.Rxd8+

Another try was 28.Rxg7 c2–+ 29.Bg3 Rh8 30.Rff7 but now Black plays two accurate moves to win: 30...c1Q+□ 31.Kh2 (*threatening a mate starting with 32.Rc7+ Kd8 33.Rxb7*) 31...Qe3□ defending the King. 32.Rc7+ (*or 32.Rxb7 Qb6□–+*) 32...Kb8 33.Rxb7+ Ka8 and Black's Queen covers a7.

28...Kxd8 29.Bd4 Rf7!



Another shot! Taking the Rook allows a pawn promotion, and all Black's pawns are ready to march, anyway.

30.Re1 b4 31.h5 c5 0–1 ♜

Solutions to Final Points

From inside back cover.

1.With ***22.Qxf6!!*** White wins the Rook, because 22...gxf6 23.Rxf8 is mate. Baluran - Zaydenberg, Senior/Junior Open, 2012

2.Black has only one way to save this game, and that's with a Queen sacrifice to get a mate: 6...Qc1+ (*6...Qa1+ also works.*) 7.Kg2 Qg1+ 8.Kh3 Qf1+!! 9.Bxf1 Bxf1 mate. White resigned a move before this started. Hayes - Faber, Arcadia Spring Open, 2012.

3.The often overlooked backward diagonal attacking move wins the Queen: ***24...Qh8! 25.f3*** or 25.Kf1 Rh1+ ***25...Rh1+ 26.Kf2 Rxd1-+***. Ortiz - Stein, SCCF Candidates 2012.

4.Black wins a Rook with ***44...Qf3+!*** and White resigns, for if 45.Kh2 then 45...Rxe7 and White can't recapture due to the pin on the Rook. Kudryavtsev - Shen, 19th Metropolitan FIDE, 2012.

5.A 900 rating point upset is earned with ***22...Ne3! 23.fxe3 Bxe3+ 24.Rcf2 Bxf2+ 25.Rxf2 Qxf2+ 26.Kh1 Qe1+*** and White resigns, for if 27.Kg2 then 27...Rf2+ 28.Kh3 Qd2–+. Saccuzzo, - Smith, Senior/Junior Open, 2012.

6.It's a Point to remember: ***21...Nd2!!*** This move instantly wins the Queen, as it threatens 22...Nxf3+ forcing mate in one. ***22.hxg4 Nxb3*** and Black is up decisive material. Tsoi - Akopyan, SCCF Candidates 2012.

7.An interesting ending! Black has only one way to close this deal: ***54... Be1! 55.Bf3*** If 55.Be4 then 55... f5! 56.Bf3 Rf1. For example 57.Ne7 (*Black threatens to Queen the h-pawn with the idea of 57...Rf2+ 58.Kb1* (or 58.Kd3 Rxf3+ 59.Kc4 h1Q) *58... Rxf3 59.Rxe1 Rg3!*) 57...Kf6 58.Ng8+ Kg5 59.Bc6 f4! 60.Rd1 f3 61.Bxf3 Rf2+. ***55...Rf1 56.Ne7*** Or 56.Be4 f5! 57.Bg2 Rf2+ winning the Bishop and Queening the pawn. The game ended with: ***56...Kf8 57.Nf5 Rxf3 58.Rxe1 Rxf5 59.Rh1 Rh5 60.b4 Ke7 61.Kc3 Kd7 62.Kc4 Kc6 63.b5+ Kb6 0–1***. Viswanadha - Bryant, Pacific Southwest Open, 2012.

8.The computer puts it all together and finds the surprising **23.Rxd7!! Rxd7** - *The e8 Rook is now unprotected because of this deflection* - **24.Bxh7+ Kxh7** (*24...Kh8 25.Qh5 Qd8* (or 25...g6 26.Bxg6+ Kg8 27.Bxe8) *26.Bg6+ Bh6 27.Bxe8 and White has the extra piece and compensation, too.*) **25.Qh5+ Kg8** (*or 25...Bh6 26.Qxa5*) **26.Qxe8+ Kh7 27.Qxd7 Bxe3 28.Qd3+** and White is a piece ahead in a winning ending. A position from Taylor - Tsoi, SCCF Candidates 2012.

9.White goes on the attack with ***21.Nf6+ Kh8***. If 21...Bxf6, 22.exf6 gaining time by attacking the Queen. Now 22...Qd8 23.fxg7 Re8 *(or 23... Kxg7 24.Qg4+ Kh8 25.Rxe6!! fxe6 26.Be5+ Rf6 27.Qg6+-*) and White forms a deadly attacking formation: 24.Qh5 Qf6 25.Bxh6 Qg6 26.Ne4 Bb7 27.Qxg6 fxg6 28.Nf6+ Kf7 29.Nxe8 Rxe8 30.Bh3+-.

Or, if 21...gxf6, 22.Qg4+! Kh8 23.exf6, also attacking the Queen, 23...Rg8 24.Qh5 and Black threatens both the Queen and the h6 mate.

The game concluded with ***22.Qh5 Rb8 23.Bxh6! gxf6 24.exf6 Bxf6 25.Bg5+ Kg7 26.Qh6+ Kg8 27.Bxf6 1–0***. Matikozyan - Giordani, 2012 Sean Reader Master-Junior Simul.

WGM Tatev Abrahamyan Wins 52nd Pacific Southwest Open

June 30-July 1, 2012

Tatev Abrahamyan scored 4½ of 5 to take first place in the 52nd annual Pacific Southwest Open in Woodland Hills. She scored 2½-½ against IMs in the final rounds. Tied for second at 4-1 were IM Enrico Sevillano, IM Roman Yankovsky, and FM John Daniel Bryant.

Bryant went to the World Open, and just seven days after this tournament ended, he finished with 6-3 against very strong competition to raise his rating from 2455 back to above 2500.

The Women Sweep!

Stephanie Shao completed a sweep by women players, winning the Amateur (under 1800) section by 4½-½, too! Tied for second at 4-1 were Russell Bik, Vachagan Hovsepyan, Matthew Shuben, and Mike Owen.

Forty-one players played in the Open, and the Amateur section attracted 39.

In the 46-player PSW Scholastic, Gabriel Sam won the Open section with 4½-½ and second at 4-1 was Noah Daniels. Daniel Dermody swept the under 1000 section with 5-0, and the four-way tie for second at 4-1 included Benjamin Joo, Ethan Aquino, Jay Martinez, and Noah Estiva.

Randall Hough and Jerry Yee directed. The Warner Center Marriott in Woodland Hills hosted.

Perhaps in keeping with the success of the ladies, IM Jack Peters has annotated two of his games against women opponents. And in addition, we present Abrahamyan's final two victories.

Peters,Jack (2428) -
Azimova,Karina (2028 P5)
[C41] Philidor Defense
Pacific Southwest Open (2)
Woodland Hills, 30.06.2012

Notes by IM Jack Peters.

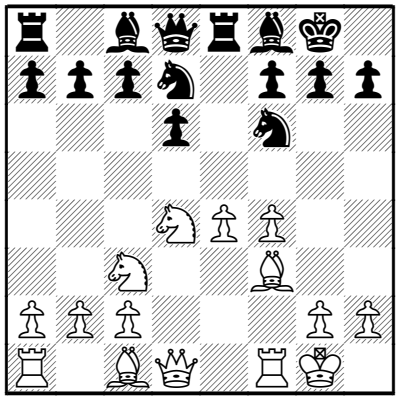
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Be7

This is the Antoshin variation of the Philidor.

6.Be2

Quiet. White is content with a solid position and a little more space.

6...0–0 7.0–0 Re8 8.f4 Bf8 9.Bf3 Nbd7



10.Re1

I played 10.Nb3 Nb6 11.a4 a5 12.Nd4 against Roman Yankovsky last year.

10...Nc5

Probably Black comes closer to equalizing with 10...c6 11.Be3 g6 12.Qd2 a5 13.Rad1 Qc7, soon followed by ...Nd7-c5.

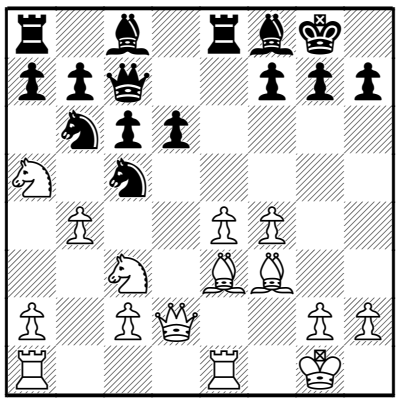
11.Nb3!± Nfd7

This impedes Black's Queenside development. Black should settle for 11...Nxb3 12.axb3 c6±.

12.Be3 c6 13.Qd2 Nb6

Better is 13...a5 14.Rad1 Qc7±.

14.Na5 Qc7 15.b4



15...Ncd7?!

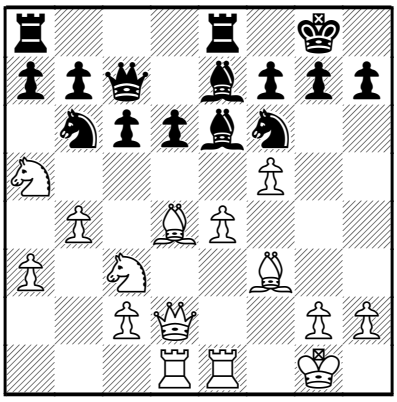
White's advantage remains minimal after 15...Nca4 16.Nxa4 Nxa4.

Even 15...Ne6 16.f5 Nd8 17.a3 f6± isn't too bad, as Black can dream of ...Nd8-f7-e5.

16.a3 Nf6 17.Bd4 Be7?!

Black should ignore White's threat to capture at f6. With 17...Be6 18.f5 Bc4 19.Bxf6 gxf6 20.Qf4 Re5, Black gets a valuable central post to compensate for the doubled pawns.

18.Rad1 Be6 19.f5



19...Bc8?!

Losing.

Black had to try 19...Bc4, although White gains a pawn by 20.e5 dxe5 21.Bxe5 Qc8 22.Bxf6 Bxf6 23.Rxe8+ Qxe8 24.Nxb7±.

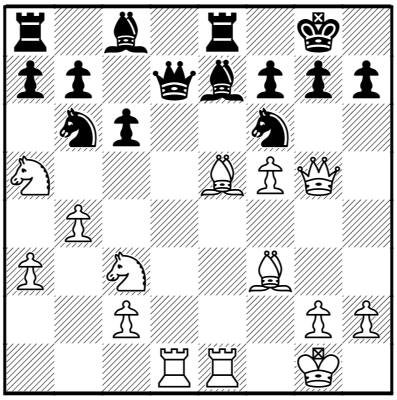
20.e5+- dxe5

Black cannot stand 20...Nfd7 21.exd6 Qxd6 22.Ne4 Qc7 23.f6!+-, either.

21.Bxe5 Qd7

If 21...Qd8?, White gains a piece by 22.Qxd8 Rxd8 (*or 22...Bxd8 23.Bxf6+-*) 23.Rxd8+ Bxd8 24.Bxf6 gxf6 25.Re8+ Kg7 26.Rxd8+-.

22.Qg5!



"Game over!," I thought to myself. I had no inkling of the torment I was about to suffer.

22...h6

The best try, and a surprise to me.

I had counted on winning a piece by the back rank trick 22...Qxf5 23.Bxf6 Qxf6 24.Rxe7!+-.

23.Rxd7??

Flustered, I missed the right idea and threw away all of my advantage.

White can still exploit the vulnerable Rook at e8 by 23.Qg3 Qxf5 24.Bxf6 Qxf6 25.Ne4 Qh4 (*or 25...Qg6 26.Qxg6 fxg6 27.Nd6*+-) 26.Qxh4 Bxh4 27.Nf6+ Bxf6 28.Rxe8+.

23...hxg5= 24.Rd2

Black has no problems after 24.Rdd1 Bxf5 25.Nxb7 Rac8=.

24...Bxf5 25.Nxb7

If 25.Rde2, the clever 25...Rec8!= saves Black.

25...Nc4 26.Rde2 Nxe5?!

With 26...Rec8!, which threatens 27...g4, Black has at least even chances.

27.Rxe5± Be6?!

Natural, but now White can increase his advantage.

Instead, 27...Bf8! 28.Rxe8 Rxe8 29.Rxe8 Nxe8 30.Bxc6 Nd6 31.Nxd6 Bxd6± gives Black good chances to draw because of her two Bishops or the possibility of an opposite colored Bishops ending after 32.Be4 Be5! 33.Bxf5 Bxc3.

28.Bxc6?!

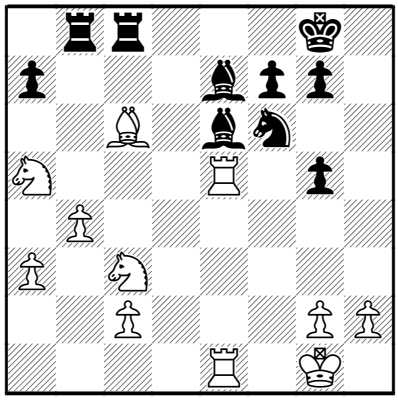
The right way is 28.Nc5! Bxc5+ 29.Rxc5±, which reduces Black's counterplay.

Note that White can refute 28.Nc5! Bd6 by 29.Bxc6! Bxe5 30.Rxe5+-.

28...Rec8 29.Na5?!

Again, I squander my advantage. But even the superior 29.Nd5! Nxd5 30.Bxd5 Bxd5 31.Rxd5 Bf8 32.Nc5 a5± looks drawish.

29...Rab8=



30.Rb5?!

Only now did I realize that White cannot easily capitalize on his Queenside pawns. I had intended 30.Nb5 until I spotted 30...Bd8!⇄.

Even worse is 30.Rxg5?? Bd8∓.

Perhaps 30.Nd1 Bd6 (*or 30...Bd8 31.Ba4*) 31.Rxe6 fxe6 32.Rxe6 Bc7 33.Nc4∞ lets White try to win without much danger. But I chose the "simplifying" 30.Rb5, completely overlooking Black's powerful reply.

30...Rb6! 31.Ne2

Best. Black has just a little advantage, but I had to fight the feeling that I was losing.

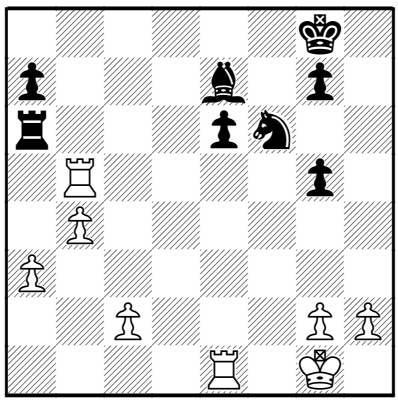
31...Rbxc6

More troublesome is 31...Bd8! 32.Kh1 Rxb5 33.Bxb5 Bxa5 34.bxa5 Rxc2 35.Nd4 Rc5∓.

32.Nxc6 Rxc6 33.Nd4 Ra6

Also acceptable is 33...Rc3 34.Nxe6 fxe6 35.Rxe6 Bd8=, parrying 36.Rb8 with 36...Kf7.

34.Nxe6 fxe6



35.c4

I had recovered my optimism and decided to try again to win. I rejected 35.Re3 because 35...Rc6 36.Re2 Ra6= repeats.

Not 35.Rxg5 Rxa3 36.Rxe6? because of the discovery 36...Ra1+ 37.Kf2 Ne4+ 38.Rxe4 Bxg5∓.

35...g4?!

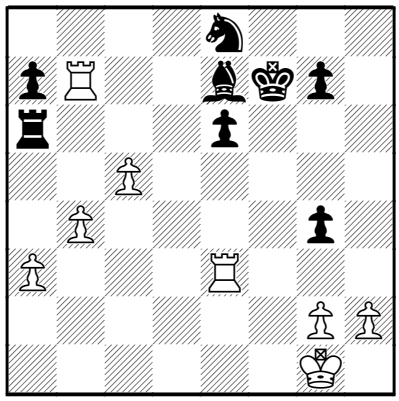
This pawn is not valuable.

Black has few worries after 35...Rxa3 36.Rxe6 Kf7 37.Re1 Bd6=.

36.Re3± Kf7 37.Rb7 Ne8?!

This was the moment to reactivate the Rook by 37...Rc6! 38.c5 (*or 38.Rxa7 Rxc4 39.Kf1 Nd5*=) 38...a5. Fritz shows the plausible variation 39.Rb6!? Rc8 40.Rbxe6 Nd5 41.R3e4 axb4 42.axb4 Bf8 43.R6e5 Nxb4 44.Rf5+ Kg8□ 45.Rxb4 Bxc5+ 46.Rxc5 Rxc5 47.Rxg4 Kf7, drawing.

38.c5



38...Rc6?

Hopeless, as Black cannot restrain three passers. It's uncertain if White can make progress after 38...Nf6 39.Kf1 Nd5 40.Rd3±.

39.Rxa7+- Nc7 40.Kf1 Nd5 41.Rb3

Good enough, but the subtle 41.Rd3 Kf6 42.Rd2! would keep Black's King from advancing and enable White's King to head for c4 or e4.

41...Kf6 42.a4 Ke5 43.a5 Kd4 44.Rb7?!

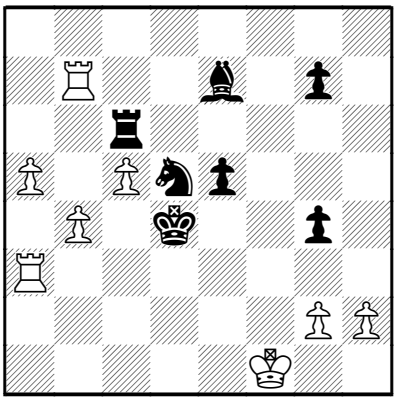
I could not work out the tricky winning line 44.a6 Kc4 45.Ra3 Kxb4 46.Ra1 (*not 46.Rxe7?? Kxa3 47.a7 Rc8*=) 46...Bxc5 47.Rb7+ Kc4 48.a7 Bxa7 49.Rc1+! Nc3 50.Rxa7+-.

44...e5

I foresaw 44...Kc4 45.Ra3 Ra6 but not the computer's suggestion 46.g3!,

which waits for the Bishop to move. Then 46...Bf6 (*or 46...Bf8 47.Rb8 Be7 48.b5 Ra7 49.b6*+-) 47.b5 Ra8 48.a6 Kxc5 49.a7 (*threatening 50. Rb8*) 49...Be5 50.Ra6± won't save Black, if White is alert.

45.Ra3



45...Ne3+?

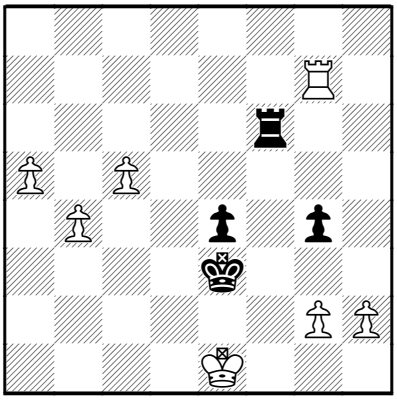
Much tougher is 45...Ra6□ when I planned 46.Ra4!. However, I wasn't sure about the continuation 46...Kc3 47.Rxe7 Nxe7 (*a simpler position arises from 47...Kb3!? 48.Rxe5! Kxa4 49.Rxd5 Kxb4 50.Rg5*+-) 48.b5 Ra8. Fritz claims a White win by 49.a6 Kb3 50.Rxg4.

46.Rxe3?!

I was so eager to eliminate the minor pieces that I disregarded the easier winning method 46.Ke2! Nc2 47.Ra4+-, which threatens 48.b5+, 48.Rxe7, and 48.a6.

46...Kxe3 47.Rxe7 Rf6+ 48.Ke1 e4 49.Rxg7

1-0



Black's resignation put an abrupt end to this nerve-wracking game.

I was still worried about 49...Rf2 50.Rxg4 Rb2 51.Rg3+□ (*not 51.Kd1?? Kd3 52.Kc1 e3! 53.Rg3 Rxb4 drawing.*) 51...Kd4, but 52.c6 wins convincingly: 52...Rb1+ 53.Ke2 Rb2+ 54.Kd1 Rb1+ (*or 54...Rxb4 55.c7 Rc4 56.Rg7*+-) 55.Kc2 Rxb4 56.Rc3! Rb8 57.c7 Rc8 58.a6 e3 59.Rd3+! Ke4 60.Rd7+-.

Peters,Jack (2428) -
Abrahamyan,Tatev (2401)
[C19] French Defense
Winawer Variation
Pacific Southwest Open (4)
Woodland Hills, 01.07.2012

Notes by IM Jack Peters & WGM Tatev Abrahamyan.

Old Guy Draws
Tournament Winner

1.e4 e6

Jack: Our fifth battle in the French Defense.

2.d4 d5 3.Nc3

Tatev: I was expecting Nd2 and must admit was much happier to see this move instead.

Jack: Once we tested 3.Nd2 Be7.

3...Bb4 4.e5 Ne7

Jack: Twice we followed the popular line 4...c5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 Ne7 7.Qg4 0–0.

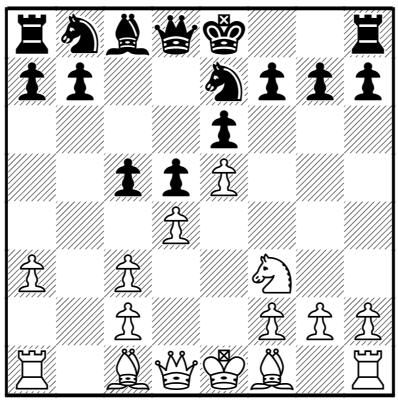
5.Nf3

Jack: A reasonable alternative to 5. a3.

5...c5 6.a3

Jack: Returning to familiar territory. The experimental 6.dxc5 did not appeal to me after either 6...Nbc6 or 6...Nd7.

6...Bxc3+ 7.bxc3



7...b6!?

Jack: Preparing to exchange the "bad" Bishop by ...Bc8-a6. In last year's state championship, White obtained an edge from 7...Nbc6 8.a4 Qa5 9.Qd2 b6 10.Bb5 Ba6 11.Rb1±.

In addition, Black often chooses 7...Bd7, 7...Qc7, or 7...Qa5.

8.Bb5+

Jack: The course of this game makes me question the value of luring Black's Bishop to d7. Maybe 8.a4 Ba6 9.Bb5+ is more effective. **Tatev**: but now 9...Bxb5 10.axb5 Qc7 11.0–0 0–0 looks pretty harmless to me.

8...Bd7

Jack: The customary response.

During the game, I wondered about 8...Nec6 9.0–0 Ba6. Fritz claims that White should reply 10.a4 Bxb5 11.axb5 Na5 12.Rxa5!? bxa5 13.dxc5, which does look promising.

Tatev: Well, after 8...Nec6 9.0–0 Black might try ...c4 with ...a6, forcing White to trade the Bishop for a Knight, but I wanted to try a different line.

9.Bd3 c4

Jack: Also tempting is 9...Ba4 10.dxc5 bxc5 11.0–0 c4 12.Be2 0–0. I love to bash the French Defense, but I have to admit that I prefer Black in this position.

10.Bf1

Jack: Heading for h3.

After 10.Be2 the Bishop sometimes emerges on g4. **Tatev**: Now 10...Ba4 11.h4 h6 12.h5 Kd7 13.Nh4 Qg8 14.Bg4 Qh7 15.Ra2 Na6 has happened twice and something very similar could have happened in our game if White played h4-h5 first.

10...Ba4

Jack: Completely stifling White on the Queenside. If Black had hesitated, I would have pushed a3-a4 to give my Bishop a chance to work on the a3-f8 diagonal.

11.g3

Jack: White does not have a wide choice of plans. I went for the obvious one of f2-f4-f5.

White could get rid of his awful Bishop by 11.Bg5 Nbc6 12.g3 h6 13.Bxe7 Nxe7 14.h4, thinking of Bf1–h3, h4-h5, Nf3-h4 and eventually f2-f4-f5. I don't feel confident in judging this position, but I would guess that White is doing better than in the game.

11...Nbc6

Jack: If Black was worried about Bc1–g5, she could prevent it by 11...h6.

Tatev: 11...h6 might have been

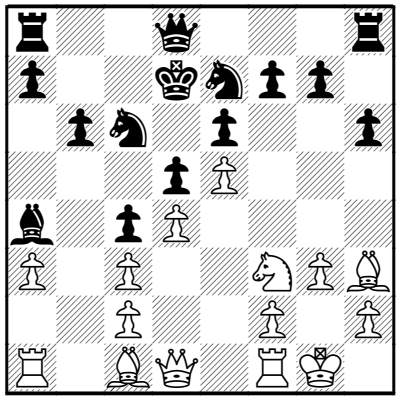
more accurate, as Black has the idea of playing Na6-c7-b5 where it puts a lot of pressure on the Queenside pawns.

12.Bh3

Jack: Probably second best, although Nick de Firmian has tried it twice.

Now I think White should first gain space with 12.h4 h6 13.h5, reaching a position that appears 10 times in the MegaBase. The pawn at h5 leaves Black fewer Kingside options by discouraging ...g7-g6 and preventing ...h6-h5. **Tatev**: and now 13...Kd7 14.Bh3 Qg8 15.0–0 Qh7 16.Ra2 is similar to the line I pointed out earlier, except my Knight would probably be better on a6, where it could protect the e6 pawn which will become weak after White's f4-f5, and jump to b5 when neccessary.

12...h6 13.0–0 Kd7!



Jack: This maneuver, introduced by Gerald Hertneck of Germany in 1986, accomplishes two goals. It clears the eighth rank so Black can maneuver her major pieces and it brings the King toward a safe haven at c7.

Tatev: I had seen this idea before but couldn't remember a lot of theory during the game. I decided to try it out and see what happens.

14.Nh4 Qg8 15.Ng2

Jack: I prudently rejected 15.f4, but for the wrong reason. Black should reply, as in the game, with 15...g6.

Both of us considered 15.f4 Qh7 16.f5, which should favor White. After the game, we looked at 16...Raf8 and mistakenly tried to force matters by 17.g4? (*the sensible 17.Rf2 lets White build up more slowly*) 17...h5? (*Black should take the initiative with 17...g5! 18.fxg6 fxg6 19.g5 hxg5 20.Bxg5 Nf5*) 18.Bg5, which can be evaluated appropriately as "unclear."

Tatev: I was planning on letting White play f5 as I thought it would give me good counterplay with the eventual g5 breakthrough. I didn't want to put my pawn on g6, even though I did in the game.

15...Qh7 16.Ne3

Jack: I fantasized that White could break open the center by Qd1–e2, Ne3xd5, and Qe2xc4. Black's reply kills that dream.

Tatev: I didn't like this idea for White. I think if White wanted to play f4-f5, then he had to do it immediately. Now, moving the Knight becomes even harder, since the c2 pawn is always hanging.

16...Kc7

Tatev: Away from trouble.

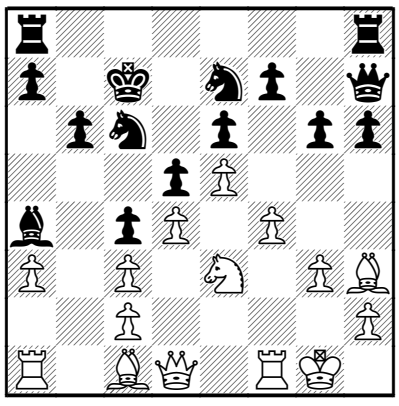
17.f4?!

Jack: Not a blunder, but poor timing.

The cumbersome maneuver Qd1–e2, Bc1–b2, Ra1–e1, Qe2-d1, Bb2-c1, and Re1–e2 would get White's Rook into action before he commits himself to f2-f4. If Black tries ...f7-f6 in the meantime, White's Bishop may be able to work from f4. And the idea of ...h6-h5-h4 can usually be met by g3-g4.

Tatev: I think that plan might be too slow for White. My idea is to play Rag8, g5 and h5 and if White plays f4, then take on f4 and open the g-file. So something like: 17.Qe2 Rag8 18.Bb2 g5 19.f4 gxf4 20.Rxf4 h5 21.Raf1 Rg7.

17...g6!



Jack: Clearly best. Somehow I assumed that Black would not block in her Queen or accept a hole at f6, but stopping f4-f5 takes precedence over these considerations.

Tatev: I really hated playing this move. At the time I thought that playing g6 was pretty much admitting that my whole plan was silly, as now my Queen is completely blocked. However, it is hard to see how White is going to continue. Also, sometimes White can advance the Kingside pawns even with the King on g1 (Bg2, h3, g4, f5) but it's not an option now, since opening the h-file will be too dangerous.

18.Rf2

Jack: For the single-minded 18.g4?! h5 19.gxh5?! Qxh5 20.Qxh5 Rxh5 21.Bg4 Rh7 22.Rf2 to succeed, White would have to arrange h2-h4, double Rooks on the h-file, and then advance h4-h5. That's not realistic.

18...h5

Jack: I think the evaluation should be "∓." At the time, though, I was still optimistic. I planned to move my Knight to g5 and Bishop to f3, then advance h2-h3, place my Rooks at g2 and h2, and finally open a file with g3-g4.

19.Ng2 Nf5 20.Rf3

Jack: I realized that my original intention of 20.Ne1 would permit 20...h4! 21.g4 Ng3. I looked briefly at 22.Rf3 Ne4 23.Bg2 and concluded that White would not benefit from Rf3-e3 and Bg2xe4 because Black's other Knight would reach d5 and her Bishop would take over the a8-h1 diagonal. Tatev mentioned 20.Ne1 h4 21.g4 Ng3 22.Bg2!? h3!? when 23.Bxd5 exd5 24.hxg3 seems a safer way for White to snatch a pawn.

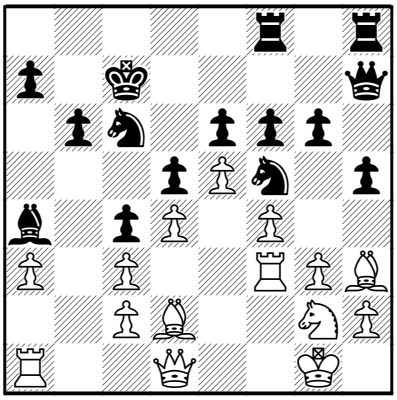
Tatev: During the game I calculated 20.Ne1 h4 21.g4 Ng3 22.Bg2 h3 23.hxg3 hxg2 24.Rxg2 Qh1+ 25.Kf2 Rh2 26.Qf3 Rah8 27.Bb2 Rxg2+ 28.Nxg2 Qh2 29.Rc1 Ne7 and thought this was probably a draw since neither side has any chances of improvement.

20...Raf8

Tatev: Now that my position

is completely safe, I want to break through with f6.

21.Bd2 f6

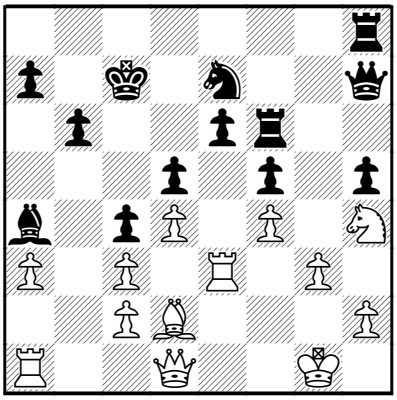


22.Bxf5

Jack: My best decision of the game. I realized that I wasn't going to win and I looked for a way to guarantee a draw.

22...gxf5 23.exf6 Rxf6 24.Nh4 Ne7 25.Re3

½–½



Jack: After 25...Nc8 (*or 25...Ng6 26.Nxg6 Qxg6 27.h4 and Bd2-e1, Black cannot break through.*) 26.Nf3 Nd6 27.Ng5 Qg6 28.h4 Ne4 29.Be1 (*not 29.Nxe4?? fxe4 30.Kh2 Rg8 because White must abandon the c-pawn to parry the threat of 31...Rxf4.*) the draw seems inevitable, as Black obtains no useful open lines with 29... Nxg5 30.hxg5.

Tatev: After 25...Nc8 26.Nf3 Nd6 27.Ng5 Qg6 28.h4 Ne4 29.Be1, I thought my position was better here but didn't see a way to improve. It's the kind of position where Black has to try to build up slowly and try to break through on the Kingside, but I didn't see a way of doing that so a draw was agreed.

Next is the final round contest that decided the tournament. - Ed.

Abrahamyan,Tatev (2401) - Taylor,Timothy (2369)
[C41] Philidor's Defense
Pacific Southwest Open (5)
Woodland Hills, 01.07.2012

Notes by the Editor.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 d6 4.d4

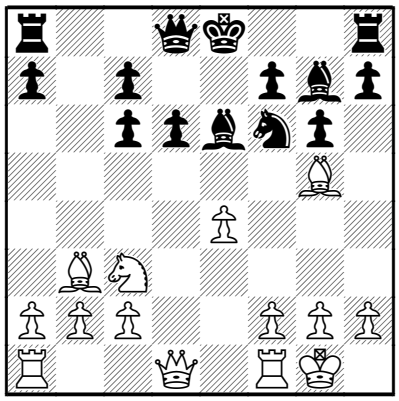
It's a Philidor.

Another way is 4.c3 with many possible replies.

4...exd4 5.Nxd4 g6

Mihail Marin advocated this line in ChessBase Magazine #127, according to his notes to Tiviakov-Marin, Porto Mannu 2009. They drew in 48 moves. Marin was trying to avoid symmetry and develop as in a Pirc.

6.0–0 Bg7 7.Nxc6 bxc6 8.Nc3 Be6 9.Bb3 Nf6N 10.Bg5



Tiviakov developed this Bishop to e3 and his f-pawn to f3, which is less active than the text move with 11.f4.

10...0–0 11.f4 Qb8

The classic Queen maneuver with Black's Queenside pawn formation.

12.f5 Qb6+ 13.Kh1 Bxb3 14.axb3 Rae8 15.Qd3

White's aggression has resulted in the trade on b3, opening the a-file.

15...Re5

Provoking some action.

16.Be3

Or, 16.Ra6 Qb7 (*not 16...Qc5?? 17.Be3 Qb4 18.Bd4 Ree8 19.Rxc6+-*) 17.Bxf6 Bxf6 18.fxg6 fxg6 19.Qc4+± uses White's space advantage to combine Kingside and Queenside action.

16...c5

Otherwise, the a7-pawn falls.

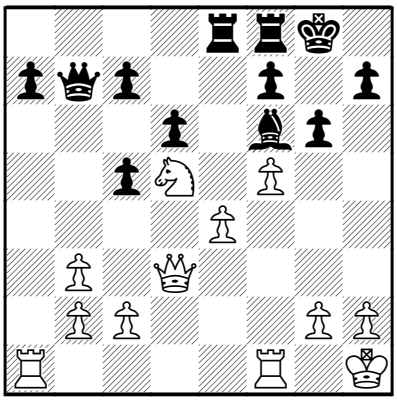
17.Bf4 Ree8

The Rook has to go all the way back, for if 17...Re7 then d5 is a Knight fork square: 18.Bg5! Re5 19.Bxf6 Bxf6 20.fxg6 fxg6 21.Nd5+-.

18.Bg5

Now White is ready to use d5 for the Knight.

18...Qb7 19.Bxf6 Bxf6 20.Nd5



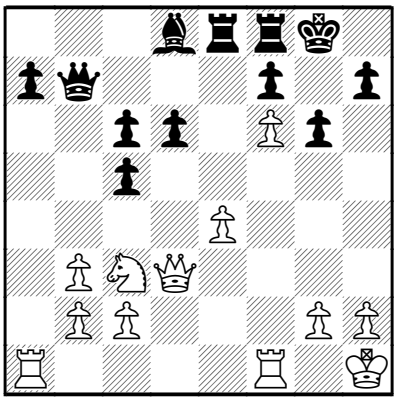
20...Bd8±

But taking the pawn looks fine, to a computer. 20...Bxb2 gets compensation for the broken Queenside pawns and having less space. If now 21.Rab1, then Bh8= and Black can play ...c6 to evict the Knight, or if 21.Ra4 then c6 22.Ne3 Bd4=.

21.f6

This allows Black to strike in the center. Better was 21.Rf3 c6 22.Nc3 Qd7 23.Rd1±.

21...c6!= 22.Nc3



22...Qd7

Black can activate the Rook with 22...Re6! 23.e5 Rxe5 24.Qxd6 (*Or 24.Ne4 d5 25.Nxc5 Qc8= 26.Rxa7? Rfe8*∓ *with compensation for the pawn in the form of a strong e-file and pressure on f6.*) 24...Bc7 25.Qd2 Rh5=.

23.Rad1 Re6 24.Qh3!

Guarding the f-pawn with a pin.

24...Qe8

If instead 24...Bxf6?? then 25.Rxf6 and Black's Rook can't recapture.

25.Qh4

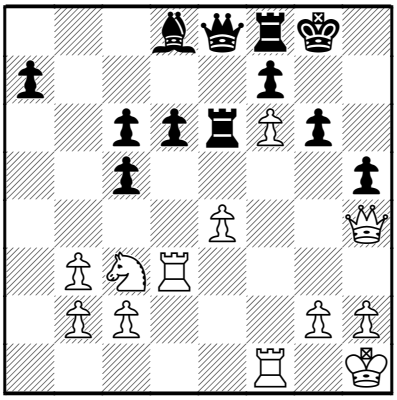
White protects the f6 pawn.

The plausible 25.e5 is answered with 25...h5! (*but not 25...dxe5?? 26.Ne4!+- and if now 26...h5 then 27.Rf5!!+-*) and if White tries for mate on g7 with 26.Qe3? it's foiled by 26...Bxf6!.

25...h5 26.Rd3?!

This weakens the back rank just a bit and allows Black a way out.

Better was 26.h3 Qd7 27.Qg5 keeping the clamp.



26...Ba5?

Black breaks the bind with 26...d5! 27.exd5, and the weak back rank is revealed in the computer variation 27...Rxf6 28.Rxf6? Bxf6∓. So White has to play either 28.Rg1 or 28.Qe1 with equality.

Now White wins it.

27.Qg5! Qd8??

Better, but not good enough, was 27...Bd8 28.Rdf3. The threat of 29.Qh6 forces Black to eventually get rid of the f6 pawn at the cost of the Bishop.

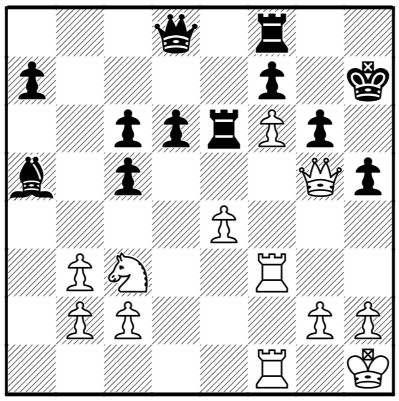
If Black now tries 28...d5 then 29.e5! (*Not 29.Qh6 Bxf6 30.Rxf6 Rxf6 31.Rxf6 d4*±) 29...Rxe5 30.Qh6 Bxf6 31.Rxf6+-.

Or 28...Kh7 29.Rh3 Kg8 30.g4 (*30.Rxh5? Bxf6!*∓) 30...Bxf6 31.Rxf6+-.

28.Rdf3!

White's mate threat of Qg5-h6-g7 can only be stopped by capturing the f6 pawn, but this time it will cost a Rook.

28...Kh7



29.Rh3!

Other tries don't work: after 29.g4 Re5 30.Rf5 Rg8 31.Rxe5 dxe5 32.gxh5 Qd7±, White's attack stalls.

29...Bxc3

White replies to 29...Re5 the same way as in the game.

Even giving up the Rook with 29...Rxf6 30.Rxh5+ gxh5 31.Rxf6 would cost still more material.

30.Rxh5+! Kg8 31.Rh8+ 1-0

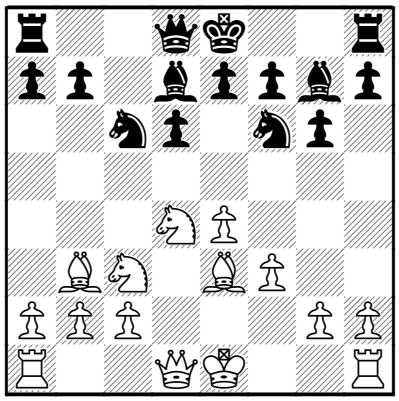
It's a mate after 31...Kxh8 32.Qh6+ Kg8 33.Qg7.

Finally, we present Abrahamyan's interesting third round win. She gets a measure of revenge from a previous defeat. - Ed.

Abrahamyan,Tatev (2401) - Yankovsky,Roman (2571)
[B75] Sicilian Defense, Dragon Variation
Pacific Southwest Open (3)
Woodland Hills, 30.06.2012

Notes by the Editor.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 Nc6 8.Bc4 Bd7 9.Bb3



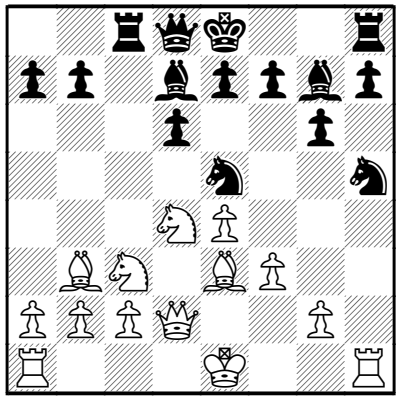
9...Rc8

Most often seen is 9...0–0 10.Qd2, transposing to the usual Yugoslav Attack.

10.h4 Ne5N 11.h5

White reaches the Black Kingside position before either side has castled. The main line Soltis Variation could still be reached with 11.Qd2 h5 12.0–0–0 0–0.

11...Nxh5 12.Qd2



12...a5

Black delays castling, too.

These same opponents played the position after 12...0–0 in the first round of last year's SCCF championship, continuing with 13.0–0–0 Qa5 14.Kb1 Rxc3 15.Qxc3 Qxc3 16.bxc3 Rc8 17.Kb2 b6, and Yankovsky won in 55 moves.

Another idea is Houdini's 12...Ng3 13.Rg1 h5 14.Bf2 h4∓. Or 12...Ng3 13.Rh2 Nc4 14.Bxc4 Rxc4 15.Kf2 Nh5∓, and Black has the two Bishops and an extra pawn.

Also possible is 12...Qa5∓. White has sacrificed a pawn, but the Kingside attack is not yet in progress. The game might continue with 13.0–0–0, and Houdini still likes the idea of 13...Ng3 14.Bh6 Bxh6 15.Rxh6 Nc4 16.Bxc4 Rxc4=.

Computers like an extra pawn.

13.a4

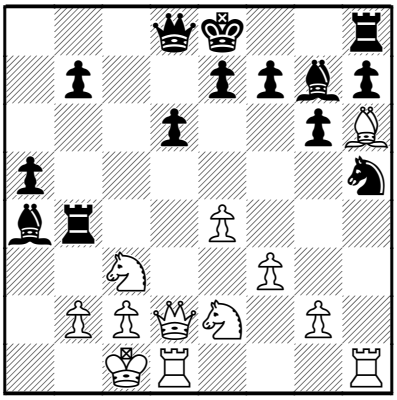
After 13.g4 Nf6 14.0–0–0, Black can mix it up on the Queenside with 14...b5 15.Ncxb5 a4 16.Bxa4 Nc4 17.Qe1 Nxe3 18.Qxe3 Qa5=.

13...Nc4=

Here again, the computer likes 13...Ng3!? 14.Rh2 Nc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4∓ seeing Black as slightly better.

14.Bxc4 Rxc4 15.Nde2 Rb4 16.0–0–0 Bxa4 17.Bh6

Another way was 17.g4 Nf6 18.e5 Nd7 19.exd6 Bc6 20.Rdf1 (*20.Rhf1?! Ne5 21.dxe7 Qxd2+ 22.Rxd2*∓) 20... Ne5=.



17...Bc6?

Missing White's threat.

Still in the game is 17...Bxh6 18.Qxh6 Qc7 19.Rxh5 (*or 19.g4 Nf6 20.Nf4 Rc4 21.Rd3 Qc5*=) 19...gxh5=.

18.Rxh5!+- gxh5 19.Bxg7 Rg8 20.Qh6

White wins some material and Black's King is still in the center.

20...Kd7 21.e5 Kc7 22.Qxh7

Black's King gets away, but White is in control.

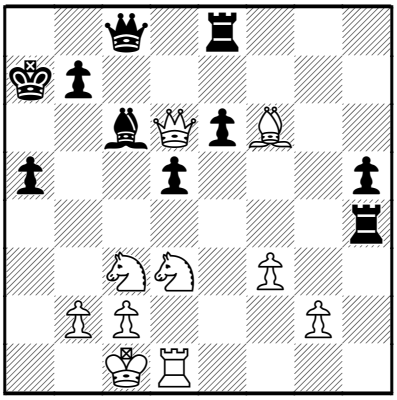
22...d5 23.e6 fxe6

With Black's loose pawns, exposed King, and less active pieces, White has many ways to keep the advantage.

24.Nf4 Qc8

Not much better was 24...Rxf4 25.Be5+ Kd7 26.Bxf4+-.

25.Be5+ Kb6 26.Qxe7 Re8 27.Qd6 Ka7 28.Nd3 Rh4 29.Bf6 1-0



Black can't avoid decisive loss of material, for if 29...Rc4 30.b3 Rxc3 31.Bxc3+-, White is up a Knight for a pawn. ♜

***Cy&Jack**, concluded from page 9.*

39.cxb5

Cy: Or 39.Nxh3 bxc4 40.bxc4 f6, when c4 falls. Black then simply pushes his passed c-pawn down the board.

39...axb3

Cy: Houdini gives 39...Bxb3!! and then follows with some ridiculously complex maneuvers to prove the win. Capa's move is much simpler!

40.axb3 Bxb3!

Cy: Black continues to prosper on the Queenside at White's expense.

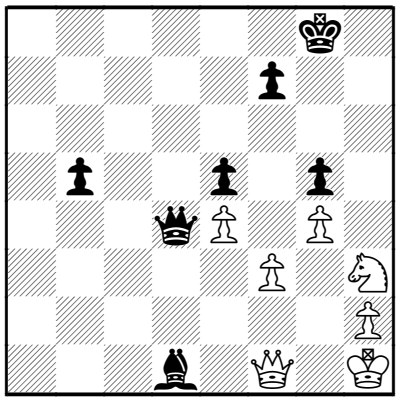
41.Nxh3

Cy: 41.bxc6?? loses on the spot to the back rank check 41...Qa1+.

41...Bd1!

Jack: Also winning is 41...Bc4 42.Qe1 cxb5−+.

42.Qf1 cxb5



43.Kg2

Cy: Frustratingly, White finds himself in a situation where many attempts on Black's King are possible but none are probable. After 43.Nxg5 Qd2 44.Nh3 b4 45.Ng1 b3 46.Qb5 Qc3 and there is no perpetual check for White.

Jack: Houdini says Black should refute 43.Nxg5 with 43...Ba4! 44.h4 Qd1−+, and the b-pawn runs.

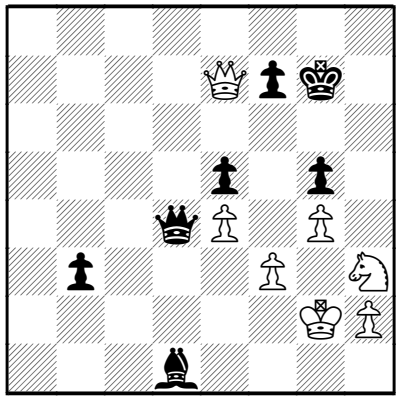
The flaw in 43.Nxg5 Qd2? is 44.h4 b4 45.Qg1, with the disturbing threat of 46.Qa7. If 45...f6, then 46.Qb6 fxg5 47.Qg6+ saves White.

43...b4 44.Qb5

Jack: White puts up more resistance with 44.Nf2 Ba4 45.Qc1 f6∓.

44...b3 45.Qe8+ Kg7 46.Qe7

Cy: 46.Nxg5?? is nothing more than a failed assassination attempt. 46...Qd2+ 47.Kg3 Qxg5.



Cy: *Exercise* (calculation): Calculate the consequences of 46...b2. Does White have a perpetual check?

Answer: He doesn't.

46...b2!

Cy: "The forward march of the pawn is irresistible," writes Capablanca.

47.Nxg5

Cy: Or 47.Qxg5+ Kf8 48.Qh6+ Ke7 49.Qg5+ Kd7 50.Qf5+ Kd6 51.Qf6+ Kc5 52.Qe7+ Kb6 53.Qf8 Bxf3+! 54.Kxf3 Qd3+ 55.Kf2 b1Q, when Capa's joke wears thin.

There is no perpetual as Black's King runs to d1.

47...Bb3

Cy: Yet another game where Capa's exposed King escapes mate or perpetual check.

48.Nxf7!?

Cy: White decides to die defiant, with a curse on his lips.

Stringing together the final remnants of will power, the panther gathers for for one last futile charge, pouncing on and attacking a tree.

48...Bxf7

Cy: The Bishop slaps the Knight on the back with false bonhomie.

49.Qg5+ Kf8 50.Qh6+ Ke7 51.Qg5+ Ke8 0-1

Cy: No perpetual. ♜

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 on page 3). SCCF reserves the right to reject any advertising.

Chess in Europe!

by Jay Stallings

Chasing the Ghost of Ossip Bernstein

Over 100 years ago, Ossip Bernstein and other masters objected to José Raúl Capablanca's participation in the great tournament in San Sebastián, Spain, as at least two third prizes in very strong master tournaments had been required for entry. He had been invited because he had decisively defeated US Champion Frank Marshal in their 1909 match. But not only did Capablanca win the first brilliancy prize prize for his opening round victory over Bernstein, he won the tournament, too!

Visiting the site of the great victories by Capablanca (1911) and Akiba Rubinstein (1912) had always been on my list of chess excursions, so it was no surprise that it was indeed a surreal experience to see the magnificent building where they once played.

San Sebastián 1911 was here. js

Nonetheless, the highlight of our visit to San Sebastián's chess scene undoubtedly existed not in this noble edifice and its nearby chess tables, but rather in the warm welcome that had eluded Capablanca a century earlier.

In June, my son, Jackson, and I ventured uninvited to a simul by former World Champion **Ruslan Ponomariov** at an upscale San Sebastián restaurant, where we were enthusiastically received by the members of the Gros Xake Taldea (Gros Chess Team). The young and energetic club member, Iñigo Galarza, immediately greeted us with a smile and a handshake, and extended an invitation to play Grandmaster Ponomariov. Club officer Fernando Markina overheard me inquire about club shirts for sale and called to have someone bring the shirts for us. When I asked what I owed, club president Eliseo Argandona replied "Son regalos" ("They are gifts").

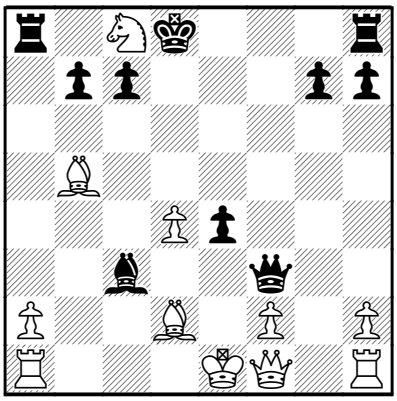
Regarding Ruslan, he and his wife Inés were charming and social with constant smiles throughout the event. Ruslan seemed unfazed by the intermittent clatter of the restaurant downstairs as he cruised to a 27-0 sweep in just over 2 hours.

Comrades in Chess: Eli, Jay, Iñigo, and Fernando. js

At the end, he was coming to the board so quickly, I didn't have time to consider resignation until it was obvious.

Ponomariov,GM Ruslan - Stallings,Jay
[C63] Ruy Lopez, Schliemann Defense
Simul, San Sebastián, 16.06.2012

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 f5 4.Nc3 fxe4 5.Nxe4 d5 6.Nxe5 dxe4 7.Nxc6 Qg5 8.Qe2 Nf6 9.Nxa7+ Kd8 10.Nxc8 Qxg2 11.Qf1 Qf3 12.d4 Bb4+ 13.Bd2 Nd5 14.c3 Nxc3 15.bxc3 Bxc3



16.Be2! Bxd2+ 17.Kxd2 Qf6 18.Qc1 Kxc8 19.Ke1 Rf8 20.Qe3 Ra4 21.Rg1

GM Ruslan Ponomariov went unscathed (27-0). js

Rxd4 22.Rd1 Rxd1+ 23.Bxd1 Rd8 24.Rg3 Qe7 25.Bb3 h6 26.Kf1 Kb8 27.Kg2 g5 28.Rg4 Rd3 29.Qxe4 Qxe4+ 30.Rxe4 c5 31.Re8+ Kc7 32.Re3 Rd4 33.Bg8 Rh4 34.f3 h5 35.Re4 Rxe4 36.fxe4 Kd6 37.Bf7 b5 38.Bxh5 Ke5 39.Kf3 Kd4 40.Kg4 Kxe4 41.Kxg5 1–0

After the game, he mentioned that he had studied the Schliemann a few months before, but had forgotten the lines. As a result, he played it smart, choosing a slightly off-beat but solid variation.

While we wished we could have stayed long enough in San Sebastián to visit one of the regular club meetings, it was on to arguably the greatest city on earth, Paris. Rick Steves' guide to Paris encourages visits to The Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame, the Arch of Triumph and yes, chess in Luxembourg Garden.

Southern Californian, Gary Sauer, a daily summer veteran at the **chess tables at Jardin du Luxembourg**, explained the way things worked:

1. Try to get in when someone loses.

2. Winners stay at the board.

3. Winners play with the Black pieces (and stay in the case of a draw).

4. If you play at the table with the bell, you ring it when you are sure that you will win!

Tennis courts, fountains, statues, gazebos, and more make the Jardin du Luxembourg a popular place for both tourist and locals, but our focus stayed mostly on the 64 squares.

My opponents were pleasant and complimentary, but Jackson encountered the spirit of Ossip Bernstein (yes, he lived in Paris for many years) as a gaggle of 3-minute woodpushers reluctantly consented to the wish of the teenage tourist who they probably guessed might use up as much as 5 or 6 minutes of their quality chess time.

Like Bernstein and his cohorts in 1911, these stodgy Parisians fell one by one until all had been conquered. After finally losing, Jackson's words of thanks went unanswered and we sauntered off.

For the real chess enthusiast, we encountered a few chess sets of differing levels of interest. At the Toy Museum in Figueres (famous for the Dali Museum) we saw a set that had been carved by a man in a concentration camp. In Roncesvalles, where Charlemagne's nephew Roland (of the Song of Roland) fell in battle, there is a display titled "Charlemagne's Chess Set." It wasn't. It is a ornate jewelry box that was made to honor Charlemagne. Very nice, but not what we had hoped to see.

We rebounded from that disappointment when we encountered the chess set of Louis XVI (see photo) in Paris at the Musée Carnavalet.

Enjoying chess abroad turns a vacation into more than a slideshow for the neighbors. It helps you to create a bond with the people of that country or region. In most cases it is a feeling of camaraderie, but don't be surprised if you find yourself feeling a little national pride as you demonstrate that American chess is not quite deserving of its reputation!

Jackson (stripes) encountered some resistance in Paris. js

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.

Mexico City

Southern California had one participant in the May 31 - June 4 ***North America Youth Chess Championships***, Joaquin Perkins, who took first place in the under 8 section with a score of 6½-½, earning the title of Candidate Master. Earlier this year, he scored 5-0 to sweep the 8 and under section of the March 3-4, 2012 US Junior Chess Congress in Burlingame, and also became one of the youngest players to defeat a master, at Chess Palace on April 13th.

Nice going, Joaquin!

Los Angeles

Vadim Kudryavtsev, with a score of 4½-½, won the top section (under 2300) of the ***Western Amateur Championship***, held by Continental Chess at the Sheraton Four Points Hotel at LAX May 4-6. Joshua Gutman and Vanessa West tied for second with 4-1.

In the under 2000 section, Michael Joseph Taylor and Louie Rivera won with 4½-½. Taylor played 1.Na3 and 2.Nh3 in the final round against 4-0 Nicky Korba, who moaned, after his loss, "*I forgot the theory!*"

Mark Dolson took the under 1700 section, also with 4½-½. Four tied for first in the under 1400 section with 4-1: Luke Riel, Evan Anthopoulos, Elijah Mackey, and Hector Valdez. Finally, Isaiah Reza-Soto scored 4½-½ to win the under 1100 section.

Hemet

The **Hemet Chess Club** now meets at Marie Callender's at 3969 W. Florida Avenue, Hemet, CA 92545 on Sundays from 5-9pm. We hold G/25 +5sec delay action tournaments and occasionally a blitz tourney.

I want to give a special thanks to Steve's Burgers in Hemet for allowing us to play in their restaurant for several years.

Our final chess tournament at Steve's Burgers was held in honor of

ja

our 89 year old chess player, **Paul Hinrichs**. The tournament on May 20th, ***HCC VP-211-P-2***, points to Paul's World War II seaplane and the unit he served with. When Paul was younger, he served in the Navy on a VP-211 airplane that flew between the coasts of Africa and South America. Paul is still a fighter on the chessboard! He has been with the Hemet Chess Club now for over 7 years. The Hemet Chess Club's website is:

hemetchessclub.blogspot.com.

- Jeff Arnold

San Diego

The ***May Super Gambito Open*** ended with a tie between Dionisio Aldama and Varun Krishnan. Bruce Baker and Kyron Griffith were BU2400, Ben Barquin and Aaron Wooten BU2200. Because we have been getting a large number of Masters and Experts in the Open Section, we have been putting the A's in the Reserve Section lately. Here Alexander Blank was BU2000, Jerry Qu was BU1800 and Cepheus Martinez BU1600.

In the ***June Super Gambito Open***, with 41 players total, we had enough to use 3 sections. IM Dionisio Aldama took first place over IM Cyrus Lakdawala, who had to settle for an unaccustomed second place. Dionisio seems to have set up shop in San Diego lately and has been giving Cyrus fits. Ben Barquin won BU2400, followed by Peter Graves and Nikolay Arutyunov. Raoul Crisologo, Aaron Wooten and Bud Stamper tied for BU2200. Edgar Lopez won the Premier Section, edging out Chris Wonnell, while Rolando Ignacio was BU1800. In the Reserve Section, Jesse Wang won BU1600 and Cassidy Liu won BU1400.

In the summer, even regular Gambito Opens, held every Saturday, can draw nice turnouts: Gambito #567 on June 9th had 8 Masters and 8 Experts.

The ***July Super Gambito Open*** had 42 players in 3 sections. There was an unusual five-way tie for First Place between Kyron Griffith, Cyrus Lakdawala, Tim McGuiness, Ronald Bruno and Aaron Wooten, all with 3 points, so they split 5 different prizes for $88 each. In the Premier (U2000) section, Kenneth Xu won clear First while Jason Ma and Pejman Sagart were 2nd. Eliza Eggert won BU1800 and her victories pushed her over 1800 for

the first time. In the Reserve Section (U1600), Jesse Wang and far traveling young Muscovite Martin Stukan tied for First while Claire Negus, Keric Rivas and Stephen Zhu were 3rd.

The following weekend, July 14th-15th, we held our annual ***Super Double Gambito***, with 8 rounds over 2 days and $2,000 in guaranteed prizes. This event also drew 42 players in 3 sections. This time Dionisio Aldama took First Place of $300 with 7½-½. Martin Nilsson was 2nd with 6 and Ronald Bruno 3rd with 5½. Raoul Crisologo was BU2200 and Ben Barquin and Paul Agron were 2nd U2200. Paul was the only one to get a draw with Aldama (in round 7). Zechariah Zhu won the Premier Section with 6 points and Edgar Lopez was 2nd with 5½. 3 players tied for BU1800: Jay Choi, Eric Carmichael and Sam Barboo. In the Reserve Section, young Michelangelo Barozzi of Nevada won clear First with 6½ points, trailed by Rocio Murra (2nd U1600) and Alex Costello (BU1400), both with 6 points.

San Diego Chess Club

The ***Tom Fries Open*** wrapped up on May 16th after 5 rounds of play with 71 players in a **McMahon Swiss** where Masters and Expert started with 4 bye points, Class A with 3, B with 2, C with 1 and Class D and below with zero. The McMahon is a very effective system if used properly, and I am surprised that San Diego seems to be the only club around that uses it extensively, as far as I know. The event was won by Raoul Crisologo with 8-1, followed by Aaron Wooten, Robert Defore and Jeff Turner in second place with 7½-1½. The BU2000 was won by Shaun Sweitzer and 2nd U2000 was won Bud Stamper. BU1800 was a tie between Hector Gonzalez and Damani Fair. BU1600 was also tied between Donald Klaas and Mark Lawless. BU1400 was won by Bill Murray while Daniel Amor and Ross Blum tied for BU1200. There was also a separate 6 player Masters Round Robin which was won by Martin Nilsson scoring 3½-1½ with Bruce Baker placing second at 3.

After a one week break for a blitz tournament, next up was the ***Raoul Crisologo Open***, with 3 sections, a Masters section, a Premier Section and a Reserve Section. Players also had a choice to play in a Doubleheader Section where you played one game as White and one as Black against the same opponent, both games at G/45. Kyron Griffith won the Masters Section, with Bruce Baker a close second. Aaron Wooten won the Premier Section with 4½-½ and Alejandrino Baluran was second with 4-1. Guru Gopalakrishnan was BU2000 with 3½ and Mayra Murra BU1800, also with 3½. Dave Saponara was 2nd U2000 and Eliza Eggert 2nd U1800, both with 3 points. In the Reserve Section, Jonathan Patriarca and Aaron Cook tied for First with 4½-½ each. Dustin Movius was BU1400 and Michael Smith BU1200. In the Doubleheader Open Section Ben Barquin Jr. and Chris Wonnell tied for First with 6½-3½, followed by Chuck Ensey and William Wijaya with 6-4. In the Doubleheader Reserve, it was relative newcomer Mike Garvin racking up 7½-2½, but it was only good for a First Place tie with Andrew Liu, who had a game published in the July *Chess Life*'s *Back to Basics* column by Lev Alburt.

- Chuck Ensey

Arcadia

Arcadia Chess Club

The six round ***Arcadia Spring Open*** culminated May 14 with Craig Faber-2210, Melandro Singson-2156, and Greg Fritchle-2064 sharing first place, all undefeated with 5-1. Timothy Thompson excelled with 4½-1½ to take the A prize. Melvin Bond secured the B prize with 4-2, while Edward Wu claimed the C prize with 3½-2½, gaining over 60 rating points. Daniel Zhou snared the D,E unrated prize with 3-3.

The ***Arcadia McGuire Open*** ended July 2 with Henry Castro-2141 soaring to victory with 5½-½, drawing only with Master Craig Faber-2202. John Anderson-1944 lost to Faber in the second round, but never looked back, winning the rest for 5 points and clear second place. Faber, Greg Fritchle, and Mississippi visitor David Huang-2046 were grouped at 4½-1½. Hector Valdez-1279, now 1471, gained 192 rating points and several scalps on his path to victory, leapfrogging a class with his four point performance.

The ***Bill Smith Open*** concludes August 13.

- Dave King

Santa Monica

Santa Monica Bay Chess Club

The Santa Monica Bay Chess Club held an ***April Quad Tournament*** on three Mondays from the 9th to the 30th. Dmitry Cherkaksy 2006 took first in the top section with 3-0, while Raymond Montalvo 1733 won the second section with 2½ points. The event was followed up with a May Quad Tournament held the 7th, 14th and 21st. Dmitry Cherkaksy 2006 again won the top section with a perfect score and Pete Savino 1720 also scored three in the second section.

June Swiss: In a field of eleven players, Dmitry Cherkaksy 2057 scored a perfect 4 points to take clear first. Ruben Barbalace 1525 secured second with 2½ points, ahead of seven higher rated rivals. Raymond Montalvo 1738 won the U-1800 prize, while George Witcomb 1595 got the U-1600 prize.

The ***July Quads*** are under way with twelve players on three Monday evenings from July 16th to July 30th.

This event is to be followed by:

August Swiss - 8/6, 8/12, 8/20, & 8/27

2012 Beach Blitz - 8/26/12 (Sunday), at the Chess Park (adjacent to the Santa Monica Pier) starting at 1:30 pm EF $5, cash prizes, unrated.

September Quads – 9/10, 9/17, & 9/24

October Swiss – 10/1, 10/8, 10/15, & 10/22

Except for the Beach Blitz, Entry Fees for the upcoming events are

$10 with annual Club membership of $60, with a cash prize fund based on entries. The events will be USCF rated, USCF membership required (you can join at the site). Time Control is Game in 1:55 (5 second delay). Registration is at 7:00 p.m. Rounds begin at 7:10 p.m.

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.

Wildomar

Inland Valley Chess Club

We are playing every Tuesday at 33122 Grape Street, Wildomar, CA 92532, open from 6:00 PM to 11:00 PM (Clocks start at 6:30 PM).

We proudly just completed our first USCF rated tournament and used classical time control.

Miroslav Stroukal took the first place and runner up was Brian L. Jacobs.

Currently we have members from Hemet, Lake Elsinore, Menifee, and Murrieta, and are welcoming anyone to play casual or more serious chess!

- Gert Lykke

I just checked, and it looks like the IVCC is about 12 miles north of Temecula, just off the I-15. - Ed.

La Palma

With a perfect score of 3-0, expert George Shahin won the top section of **La Palma Chess Club's *Ides of March***. The event held at La Palma's Central Park ended March 30th. In the second section, Chris Keefe and Rene Aventura tied for first with scores of 2½-½. Section three saw a three-way tie for first place between Club President Brian Scanlon and newcomers Stuart Kusdono and Yusong Jiang with a scores of 2-1.

See the club's website at **lapalmachess.com** for wall charts, games, pictures and a schedule of events.

With an undefeated score of 5½-1½, Austin Hughes and Barry Lazarus won La Palma Chess Club's 7-round ***2012 Club Championship*** and will reign as co-club champions. Runners-up at 5-2 were IM Timothy Taylor and Chris Roberts. The 37-player event held at La Palma's Central Park ended May 18th. Other prizewinners were Yoshio Dupree, Best Under 1700; and Yusong Jiang, Best Under 1500; and Ryan Hughes, Biggest Rating Gain prize. Timothy Taylor won the best game prize for his win over Santy Villanueva. (*See Inside Moves #5 for the finish. - Ed.)*

With an undefeated score of 3-1, Shyam Gandhi won clear first place in the top section of La Palma Chess Club's 4-round ***School's Out Chess Mania***. The 31-player event held at La Palma's Central Park ended June 15th. In the lower section, Alan Chu and Eren Karadayi tied for first place with 3-1. Alan Chu also won the biggest rating gain for a 57 point gain, a 1786 performance. Yusong Jiang won the Best Under 1500 trophy.

On August 24th, ***International Master Jack Peters*** will give a ***lecture on chess***, and then ***simultaneously play all challengers***, up to a limit of 35. Cost is $25 with a $5 discount for La Palma residents or players under 18-years-old. Anyone who wins or draws his or her game against Jack will win a special prize.

Garden Grove

International Master Jeremy Silman lectured for **almost eight hours straight** on May 20th at ChessPalace to what was supposed to be a five-lecture day spanning six hours with 15 minutes break intervals. Almost 20 chess players from 700 to expert rating were on hand to pick the brain of a great mind. Even with such a large range of strength, everyone talked about how instructive the day was. When talking about how to use the endgame to beat junior players, it was the juniors rated 700-1900 that answered all the endgame questions and examples that IM Silman asked. IM Jeremy Silman will be at the American Open again this year along with one of the nation's top coaches, GM Melik Khachiyan, for their lectures.

On June 10th, ChessPalace held the club's first traditional time control of 40/2h SD/1h in the ***One-Rounder***. Some players used the game to get acclimated to the long time control of the National Open in Las Vegas the following weekend. The format is players play against a closely rated opponent. Fourteen players matched up resulting in four victories and three draws. The next one will be on September 9 with an optional second game with 30/90m SD/30m, G/60m, G/45, or G/30 time control.

Siddharth Somasundaram won the ***Wednesday Knights Monthly Open*** for May and June and has catapulted himself to Class A. In ***May***, he scored 4½-½ in a field of 19 players consisting of several veteran Class A. Neil Bershad took second with 4-1. In ***June***, 2½-1½ was enough for Sidd to clinch first ahead of an 11-player section with only Class A and B players. Noah Gin topped the second section with a perfect 4-0. The second section consisted of Class C players and five Class D.

On the fifth Saturday of the month that has one, ChessPalace has a ***Square Series*** where 1.d4 or 1.e4 is required. On June 30th veteran Expert Sergey Yurenok went undefeated with 3-0 to claim the 1st prize in Square d4. Richard Henri scored 2½-½ in the second group to take first. The next Square Series will be on September 29th with Square e4.

Friday night is now ***Action Swiss at ChessPalace***. It's a 3-round, G/30 event starting at 7:30 pm. In May and June, NM John Warren Wright went for a streak of four perfect scores. July's Action Swiss has had two national masters battling it out in the top group. NM Pablo Pena has clinched 1st with a perfect 3pts in his last two participations and looks to extend his streak. In the second group, Joaquin Perkins, Branden Morad and Mark Adams have topped their section for first in May, June, and July, respectively

A 3-round G/60 tournament will be held regularly 1-2 times a month on Sundays starting at 11:30 am. Check the ChessPalace calendar for the schedule at **chesspalace.com/**

calendar.htm. The first one on July 1st was won by 8-year old Joaquin Perkins scoring 2½-½ to win the tournament. Joaquin has already won several national titles and one gold medal. He's currently preparing for the World Youth this year. The second G/60 tournament held on July 23rd was won by Craig Hilby and Alfred Ong with 2½-½ each.

Upcoming ChessPalace events include the biggest and strongest of the year, the ***22nd ChessPalace Anniversary*** tournament on August 26th. Visit **chesspalace.com/22ndanniversary.htm** for details.

Chess Marathon with 13 rounds and 18 USCF quick-rated games is scheduled for September 16th. Visit chesspalace.com/chessmarathon.htm for details. A USCF-rated blitz tournament will run regularly on Sundays from 6:30-9 pm. And the 2nd annual ***Scholastic Regional Trilogy*** is scheduled for 9/2, 9/30, and 10/28. For venue, details, and registration, visit **chesspalace.com/regionals.htm**.

Pasadena

Pasadena Chess Club

The ***Pasadena City Championship*** in April-May attracted 68 players. Club champ Yusheng Xia tied for first section honors with Axel Muller and Mel Singson with a score of 4-1. Class prizes went to Asatour Dovlatyan (who upset former champ Jesse Victoria) and Christopher Hung and Ryan Yeung (tie). In the second section, Bill Kang with 4½-½ emerged on top; Huansheng Xue and Larry Hu (tie), Cory Chen, Sean Nguyen and Jeffrey Chou (tie), and Anthony Ababat also earned prizes.

The one-night ***May Action*** drew 29. Albert Lu, Gordon Brooks and Dave Baran (tie), and Tim Deng won sections.

The ***Mount Wilson Open***, with 57 participants, saw Feiyue Yang upset Xia and sweep the top section 5-0, with Lu second at 4-1. Chen tied with Jerry Harrison and Kevin Qian in the second group, scoring 4-1.

The **Pasadena Club**, which has a **lending library** with hundreds of books, begins the ***San Gabriel Valley Championship*** (five rounds in two sections) on September 7. The club meets Fridays at 7 pm at the Boys and Girls Club, 3230 East Del Mar.

For further information see the website, tim-thompson.com/pasadena.html, or contact Randy Hough, **randallhough@yahoo.com**.

Antelope Valley

The AV Chess House is sponsoring the 1st Annual ***Antelope Valley Chess Player of the Year*** competition, which runs from May 1 through December 31 for Antelope Valley residents. As of July 20, NM Ruben Ondangan Jr. and Christian Mercado are tied for 1st Place.

Since December 2010, The **AV Chess House** has hosted a monthly USCF-rated tournament. This ***first-Saturday-of-every-month*** event starts at 10am and finishes by 2pm. 1st Place in each quad wins $30; 2nd

Please turn to page 42, ***Here&There***

Solutions to Inside Moves

From page 2.

1.It is a perfect finish with ***52... Ng4+ 53.Kh3*** (*or 53.Kg1 Rc1 mate*) ***53...Rc3+ 54.g3+ Rxg3 mate***. Ensey - Ribaya, Memorial Day Classic, 2012.

2.White wins Knight and Bishop for a Rook, and breaks up Black's Kingside with ***18.Rxh5! gxh5 19.Bxg7 Rg8 20.Qh6***. For the whole game, see page 33, Abrahamyan - Yankovsky, Pacific Southwest Open, 2012.

3.White wins a pawn and starts to clear away the Black Kingside with ***24.Bxh6! exd4*** for if 24...gxh6 then 25.Nf6+ winning the Queen ***25.Bxg7***. For the whole game, see page 12, Amanov - Remlinger, 18th Metropolitan FIDE, 2012.

4.Black escapes from White's pawn promotion with ***37...Rxh2+!! 38.Kxh2*** and after 38...Qh6+ 39.Kg1 Qb6+ it's a genuine perpetual check. Ambartsoumian - Kennedy, 2012 Sean Reader Master-Junior Simul.

5.The White Queen is just far enough away, so Black's major pieces get to end it after ***27...Rxg2! 0-1***. White resigns here, for if 28.Kxg2 Rb2+, White has no save: After 29.Kg3 Qc3+ 30.Rf3 Qxe1+ Black wins back a Rook with a forced mate. Or 29.Kf3 Qd3+ 30.Re3 (*if 30.Kg4 Rg2 mate*) 30...Qxf1+ with a forced mate. Finally, 29.Kh1 Qd2 is going to be a quick mate, too. Villanueva - Taylor, LPCC Championship, 2012.

6.Black wins a piece with ***15... Nxe4 16.Qxe4 Bxf5 17.Qxf5 Ne2+ 18.Kh1 Nxc1*** and now if 19.Rxc1, the pawn forks both Rooks with 19... b2. Akopyan - Yankovsky, 18th Metropolitan FIDE, 2012.

7.Black struck with ***26...Bxg4! 27.Bxg4 Rxd4*** threatening to trap the Rook with 28...c5 ***28.Rd1?*** Black also wins material after 28.Rf1 c5 29.cxb5 cxb4 30.bxa6 Rxf4–+. And if 28.Bf3 Rxf4, then 29.Be4 (*29.Bxc6 Nxc6 30.Nxc6 Rxc6 31.cxb5 axb5 32.Rxf4 (*32.Rxb5? Rc2–+*) 32...gxf4*) 29...c5 30.cxb5 cxb4 31.bxa6 Nd5–+. The game finished with ***28...Rxd1+ 29.Bxd1 c5 30.Rxb5 axb5 31.cxb5 Ra7 32.Nc6 Nxc6 33.bxc6 Rc7 34.Bf3 gxf4 35.Kf2 Kf8 0–1***. Bryant - Taylor, Pacific Southwest Open, 2012.

8.White breaks it with a Rook sacrifice! ***37.f5! gxf5 38.Rxf5!!*** Chop 'em and rock 'em! ***38...Ra1+ 39.Kg2 Ra2+ 40.Kf3 exf5 41.e6+ f6 42.Qf7+ Kh8 43.exd7 1–0***. Hermansen - Stein, Pacific Southwest Open, 2012.

9.White is threatening mate with 32.Rxf8 Bxf8 33.Qg8+ Kh6 34.Qh8+, but Black gets there faster with ***31... g5!*** Threatening mate with ...Rh6+. ***32.Ng8*** If 32.Nxf5 then 32...Rg6 (*threatening ...g4+ and ...Qxh2 mate*) 33.Kg4 Rxd8 34.Qxd8 Qe2+–+. ***32... g4+ 33.Kh4 Qxh2+ 34.Kg5 Rg6+*** and it's mate after 35.Kf4 Qf2+. Graves - Wooten, May Super Gambito (#562), 2012.

Upcoming Events in Southern California

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

September 1-3 or 2-3
34th Annual
Southern California Open
A Heritage Event!
150 Grand Prix Points Enhanced

San Diego, CA. 6-SS, 40/2, SD/1 (2-day schedule rds 1-3 G/60, then merges). **Crowne Plaza Hotel**, 2270 Hotel Circle North, San Diego, CA 92108. $$20,000 Guaranteed prize fund. **5 Sections**. Prizes: **Open Section** 1st $2,600-1,800-1,200-900-600-500-400, BU2300 $800-400, BU2200 $1,000-600-400-200; **Premier Section (U2000)**: $1,000-600-400-200; **Amateur Section (U1800)**: $1,000-600-400-200; **Reserve Section (U1600)** $1,000-600-400-200; **Booster Section (U1400)** $600-400-200-100, BU1200 $300-150, Best Unrated $100. **Plus Best Game Prizes**: $75-50-25, one reserved for non-open sections. **Reg**.: 3-day: 8 to 9:30 AM, Sept official rating list used. 2-day: 8 AM to 9 AM Sunday. **Rds.: 3 day:** 10 AM & 5 PM on Sat-Sun, 9 AM & 4 PM on Mon. **2 day:** 9:30 AM, 11:45 & 2 PM Sun, then merges.

EF: $100 if received by 8/29, $120 at door. No credit cards at door, checks or cash only. Special rate of only $75 if U1400 or unrated. Special rate for GMs and IMs: $20 if registered by 8/29, or $60 late entry at door. Open section will be FIDE rated. Unrated players not eligible for prizes except for place prizes in the Open or the unrated prize in the U1400. Players who forfeit any round are also ineligible for prizes. SCCF membership req'd ($18 Adult, $10 Jr) for all So Cal residents. Two byes allowed, but must be requested at least one hour before round, and round 5 & 6 byes must be requested before rd 2 and are irrevocable. Ent: SDCC, PO Box 120162, San Diego, CA 92112 or enter online at www.scchess.com. For more info call Bruce Baker at (619) 239-7166, email Chuck Ensey at chucnglo@aol.com or see our website at sdchessclub.multiply.com. **SCCF Annual Membership Meeting**: Sunday 3 PM. Hotel Rates: Special rate of only $110 single or double, 619-297-1101, or 1-888-233-9527 if booked by 8/15/12, book ASAP, as rates may go up and rooms may sell out by mid-August. Great tropical themed hotel is in the heart of Mission Valley, close to airport, great attractions such as Sea World, the SD Zoo, Seaport Village and Fashion Valley for shopping. The Crown Plaza Hotel (see www.cp-sandiego.com) has a great restaurant and sushi bar, a heated pool, and fitness room. NS, NC, W. State Championship Qualifier. Chess Magnet School JGP.

October 5-7 or 6-7
9th Annual
Los Angeles Open
80 Grand Prix Points Enhanced

5SS, 40/2, SD/1, d5 (2-day option, rds 1-2 G/75, d5). U1000 Section plays Oct 6-7 only, with all games G/75, d5. **Sheraton Four Points LAX**, 9750 Airport Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90045. Special parking $5/day. $$15,000 based on 200 paid entries (re-entries & U1300 Section count 50%, U1000 Section 25%), $10,000 (2/3 each prize) minimum guaranteed. In **6 sections**. **Open**: $2000-1000-500-300, clear or tiebreak winner $100 bonus, top Under 2300/Unr (not a section) $500-250. FIDE.
Under 2200: $1200-600-400-200, top Under 2000 (not a section) $500-250.
Under 1900: $1200-600-400-200, top Under 1700 (not a section) $500-250.
Under 1600: $1000-500-300-200, top Under 1400 (not a section) $400-200.
Under 1300: $500-300-200-150, top Under 1100 (not a section) $200-100.
Under 1000: Trophies to top 5, 1st Under 800, Under 600, Under 400, Unr.

Unrated may not win over $200 in U1300, $400 U1600 or $600 U1900. Top 4 sections **EF**: 3-day $108, 2-day $107 mailed by 9/26, all $105 online at chesstour.com by 10/1, $110 phoned to 406-896-2038 by 10/1 (entry only, no questions), $120 (no checks, credit cards OK) at site or online until 2 hours before first game. GMs, IMs & WGMs free; $90 deducted from prize. U1300 Section EF: All $50 less than above. U1000 Section EF: $25 mailed by 9/26 or online by 10/1, $30 at site or online until 2 hours before first game. **SCCF membership** ($18, under 18 $10) req. for rated Southern CA residents. Unofficial us.chess.org ratings usually used if otherwise unrated. Special 1 year USCF dues with magazine if paid with entry. Online at chesstour.com, Adult $30, Young Adult $20, Scholastic $15. Mailed, phoned or paid at site, Adult $40, Young Adult $30, Scholastic $20. Re-entry $60; not available in Open Section. **3-day schedule**: Reg ends Fri 6 pm, rds. Fri 7 pm, Sat 11 & 6, Sun 10 & 4:15. **2-day schedule**: Reg ends Sat 10 am, rds. Sat 11, 2:30 & 6, Sun 10 & 4:15. **Under 1000 schedule**: Reg ends Sat 10 am, rds Sat 11, 2:30 & 6, Sun 10 & 1:30. All: Half point byes OK all, limit 2, Open must commit before rd 2, others before rd 3. **HR**: $89-89, 1-800-529-4683, 310-649-7025; reserve by 9/22 or rate may increase. Car rental: Avis, 800-331-1600, AWD D657633, or reserve car online through chesstour.com. **Ent**: Continental Chess, Box 249, Salisbury Mills, NY 12577 (DirectorAtChess.US, chesstour.com, 845-496-9658). $15 service charge for refunds. Advance entries posted at chesstour.com. Chess Magnet School JGP.

November 22-25 or 23-25
48th Annual American Open
A Heritage Event!
An American Classic!
120 Grand Prix Points Enhanced

8SS, 40/2, SD/1. **Doubletree Hotel Anaheim / Orange County**, 100 City

Dr., **Orange**, CA 92868. $$50,000 b/o 500 entries, $25,000 guaranteed. In **6 sections**. **Open**: $5000-2400-1000-300-150, U2400/Unr. $1000-300-150, U2300/Unr. $600-180-150. **U2200**, **U2000**, **U1800** Each $4000-2000-1000-300-150. **U1600** $3000-1500-700-300-150. **U1400/Unr**: $2500-1000- 500-200-150, U1200 $1400-400-150 (not a separate section; U1200s also eligible for U1400 prizes), Unrated: $500-200 (Unrateds in this section eligible for these prizes only). Plus score bonus ($2,000 in chess store gift cards) every player who finishes with 4-1/2 points or better who didn't place in the money prize wins a $20 gift certificate towards chess store - redeemable only onsite. **EF**: $165 if rec'd by 11/11, $20 more after, $50 more for players rated under 2000 playing in Open, U1600 & U1400 save $10, Unrateds save $65. All: $50 more at door. No checks at door - cash only, credit card accepted for a $10 fee. **SCCF membership** $18 required for So Cal residents. 4-day schedule: Reg. closes 11am on 11/22, (Rounds 12:30-7:30, 12:30-7:30, 10:30-5, 10-4:30). 3-day schedule: Reg. closes 9:30am on 11/23, Rounds. 11-2:30-5-8pm (G/60 min), schedules merge in Rd 5 and compete for common prizes. Two byes max with advance notice. CCA minimum ratings and TD discretion used to protect you from improperly rated players. ... HR: Mention AAO for $92 single or double, rates may go up after. Call Doubletree (714) 634-4500. Don't be shut out; surrounding hotels in the area may be as high as $199/night; make your reservations early and be sure to ask for the special AAO rates; Doubletree sells out most weekends. Free cookies for guests at check-in. **Cut-off for special hotel rate/offer is Oct 22nd.** RESERVE NOW! ... Parking only $7. Info: organizing club - Chess Palace 714-899-3421, play@americanopen.org. Ent: American Open, 5246 Lampson Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92845 or www.americanopen.org. NS, W, F. Chess Magnet School JGP.

Please see www.uschess.org for complete info.

November 24
American Open Blitz (QC)
5 round double swiss, G/5.

Projected prizes $1000, 80% Guaranteed! $300-100; U2200, U2000, U1800, U1600, U1400, Unr. each $100.

Please see www.uschess.org for complete info.

Nov 24 - 25, 2012
2012 American Open Scholastic
Doubletree Anaheim/Orange County, 100 City Dr., **Orange, CA** 92868. (714) 634-4500. Hotel rate $92 only (must mention group code AAO for discount).

Main Event: Master Chess Computer for each Varsity champion and Saitek chess computer prize for each Junior Varsity winner. Trophies to top 10 places and top 3 in teams, in each section. Finalist medals to all above-mean scorers. 9 Sections based on grade and rating: Varsity K-3, K-6, K-9, K-12; Junior Varsity K-1, K-3 rated U600, K-6 rated U800, K-9 rated U1000, K-12 rated U1200. **Pre-Registration only** (onsite reg. pay more and receive 1st round bye): **Rds**.: Saturday & Sunday 9am, 12:15, 3:15 for Varsity sections; and Sunday 9am, 10:45, 12:15, 1:45, 3:15 for Junior Varsity sections. **Time Controls**: All rounds will be G/75 in Varsity and G/30 in Junior Varsity sections.**EF** by 10/22: Varsity $55, Junior Varsity $35, afterwards late fees may apply. Play-up +$5. Register in advance by 10/15 save $5. Limited space for onsite reg +$30!

Side events: ***Blitz*** (Fri Reg: 5:30-6pm, Games 6:30-8:30p) and ***Bughouse*** (Sat Registration: 5:30-6pm, Games 6:30-8:30p) in 3 sections (K-3, 4-6, 7-12). Blitz EF: $15, Bughouse $15.

USCF Membership required for all sections. November Supplement & TD discretion to place players accurately. National Tournament Director: Randall Hough. Info: americanopen.org/scholastic.htm. Inquire: play@americanopen.org. Chess Magnet School JGP for Varsity Sections.

Nov 25, 2012
American Open Action
5 round SS, G/30. Projected prizes $500, 80% Guaranteed!

Please see www.uschess.org for complete info. ♜

***Here&There**, concluded from page 40.*

Place $15. Competitors also have the opportunity to go over their games with NM Matt Mahowald.

Pre-registration is required through email to daa@mahowald.org Entry Fee: $10 if prepaid at least 10 days before the tourney; $15 if email-registered at least 3 days before the tourney; $20 otherwise.

To read all about chess activities in the cities of Lancaster and Palmdale as well as the surrounding Antelope Valley, subscribe to the free monthly e-newsletter, **Chess in the Antelope Valley**, by emailing daa@mahowald.org

Lawndale

Alondra Park Beginning of Summer Tournament (June-July)

Ratings eventually won out as Ted Roth (2004) edged out newcomer Edgar Lopez (1890) in an exciting last round game to finish first with 5-1. Lopez finished with 4½-1½ tied with Matt Robertson (2047), who had two byes, and Cengiz Ant Vance (1944) who had three byes in a tournament stretched two weeks by the election and the fourth of July. Roth lost to Michael Bynum (1914) who led the tournament at that point with 4-0 but Bynum lost to Lopez and Robertson the last two rounds.

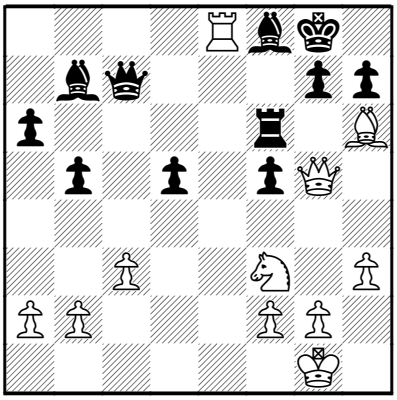
Byes were not the story though, early upsets were. In the first round Howard Lefevere (1845) was nicked by Excell Peoples (1410), Matt Trass (1930) was upended by John Rowe (1601) and Alireza Fallahi (1915) spotted Jeff Yoshida (1453) more than 400 points. Re Hadzimuratovic (1300) topped this in Round 2 when he beat Lefevere for a >500 point upset. Ed Engelhaupt was top B and Matt Poh top C, both with 3½-2½.

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

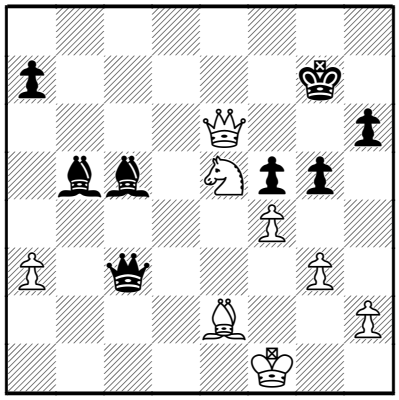
For more information contact Richard Meller at 310.227.2873 or Richard Meller@yahoo.com. The Club's Web site is **alondraparkchessclub.com**. ♜

Final Points

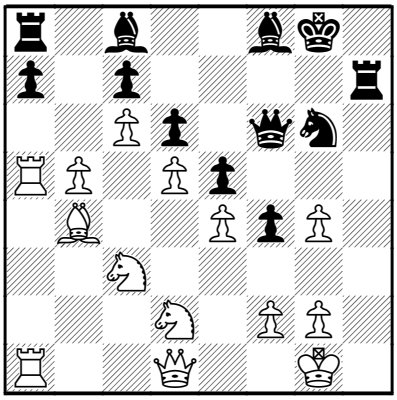
We hope you have enjoyed this issue. Since there are three months until the next one, here is another quiz page. Watch out for those last three, they are a lot of work. Like the other quiz pages, these positions are ***all*** from recent games played right here in Southern California. Many thanks to our organizers, directors and players! And keep submitting those scoresheets! See page 27 for solutions. - Ed.



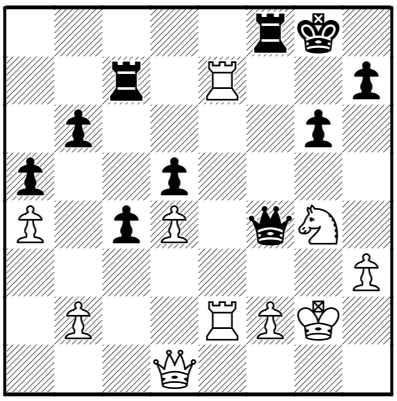
1. White to Play



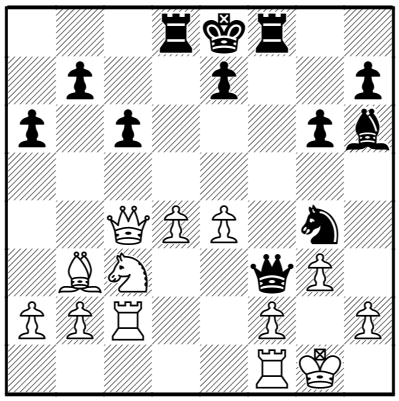
2. Black to Play



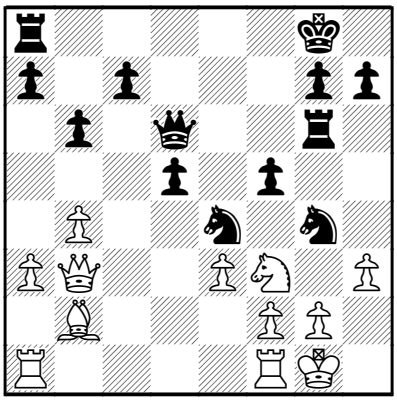
3. Black to Play



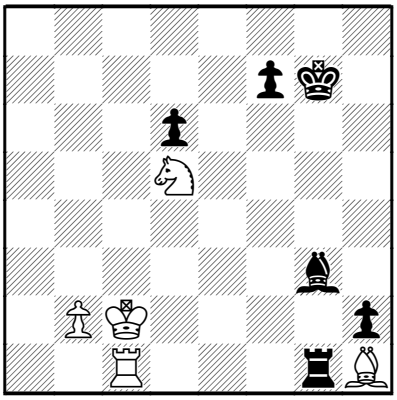
4. Black to Play



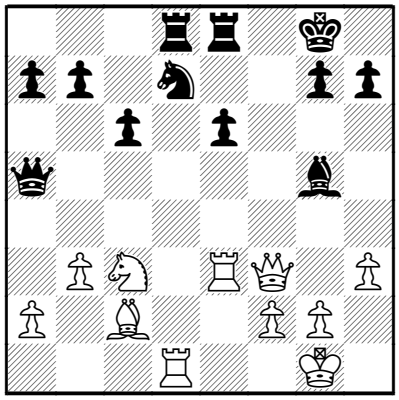
5. Black to Play



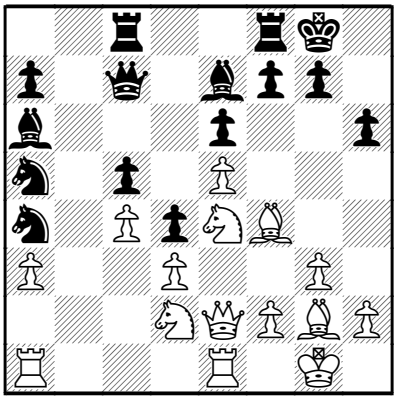
6. Black to Play



7. Black to Play



8. White to Play



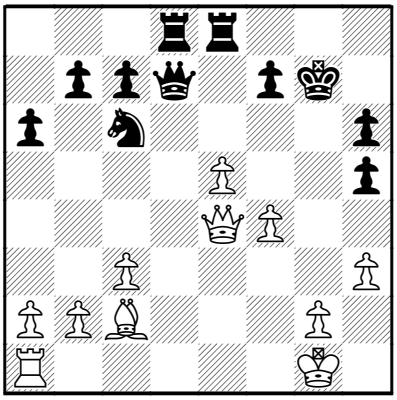
9. White to Play

SCCF
PO Box 205
Monterey Park, CA 91754

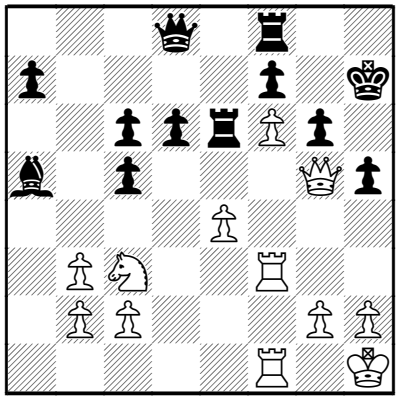
Presorted Standard
US Postage Paid
Industry, CA
Permit 4201

Change Service
Requested

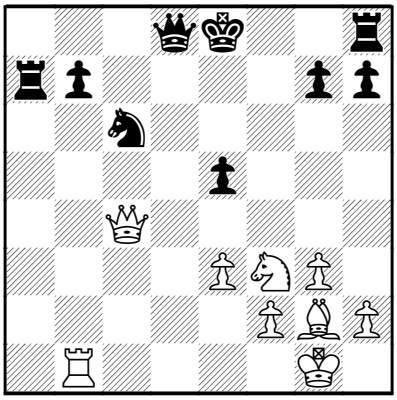
Outside Shots!



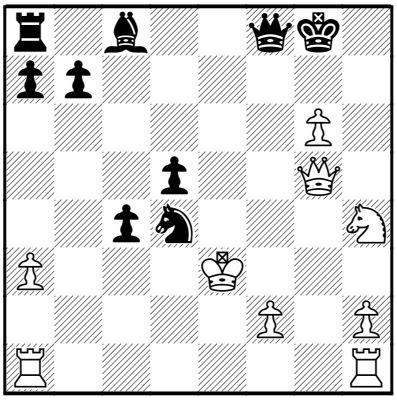
1. White to Play



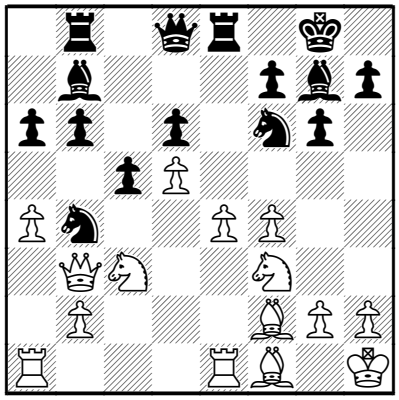
2. White to Play



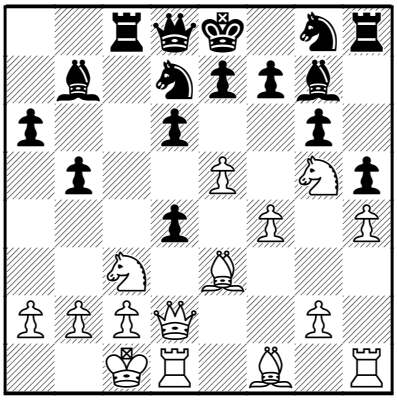
3. White to Play



4. Black to Play



5. Black to Play



6. White to Play

See page 14 for solutions.