# Rank & File

The magazine of the Southern California Chess Federation

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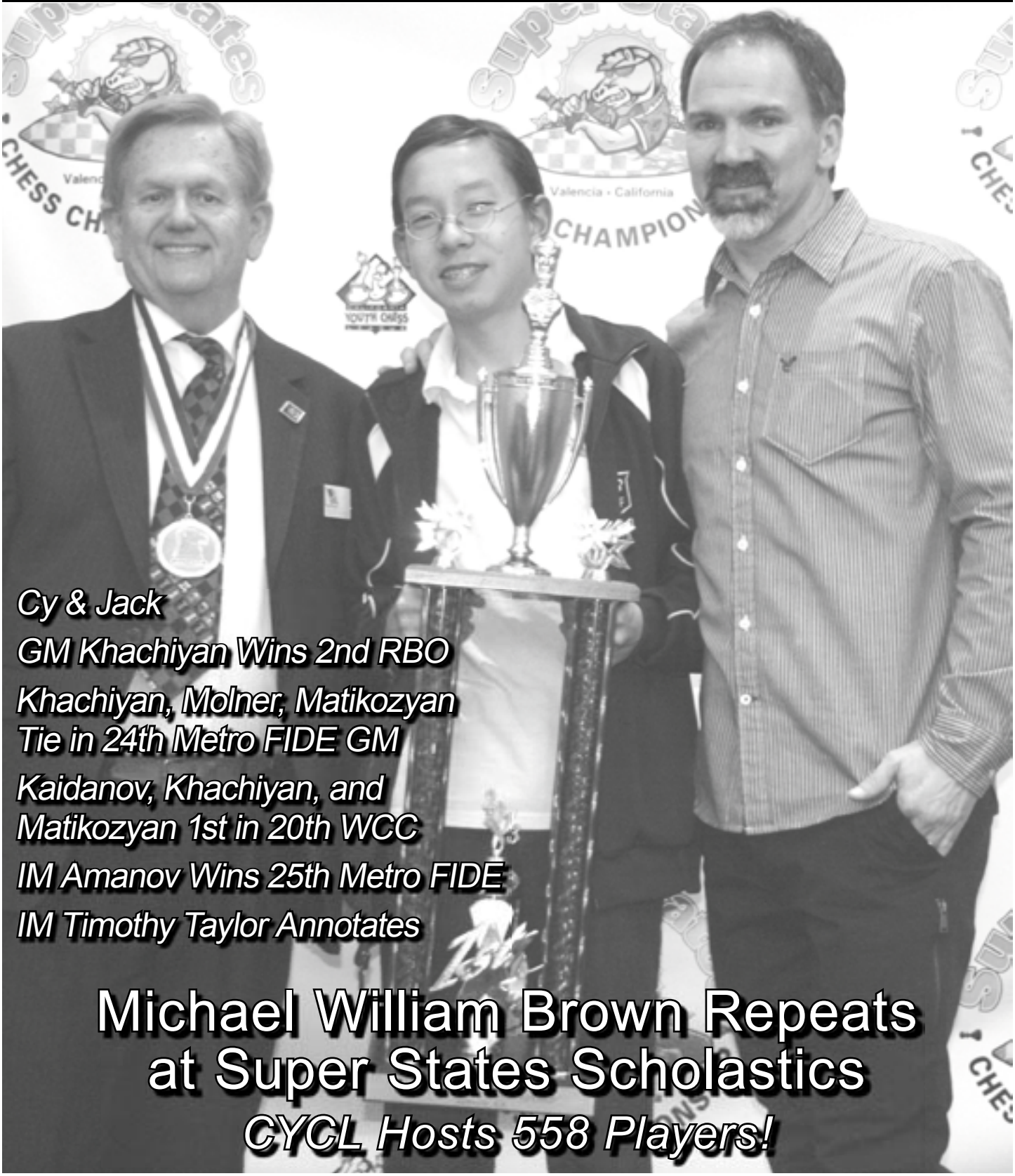


*Cy & Jack*

*GM Khachiyan Wins 2nd RBO*

*Khachiyan, Molner, Matikozyan Tie in 24th Metro FIDE GM*

*Kaidanov, Khachiyan, and Matikozyan 1st in 20th WCC*

*IM Amanov Wins 25th Metro FIDE*

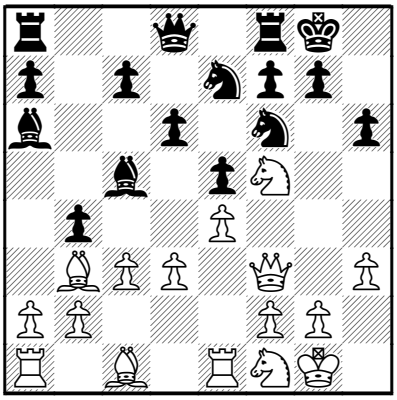
*IM Timothy Taylor Annotates*

## Michael William Brown Repeats at Super States Scholastics

*CYCL Hosts 558 Players!*

# Inside Moves

A ***tactical warm-up*** might be a good way to start reading. Begin with an easy one, and then work up to the tougher ones. But watch out for No. 9, the really hard one. Even if you are a beginner and can't solve them, just playing through the solutions on page 43 will open up your tactical vision. - Ed.



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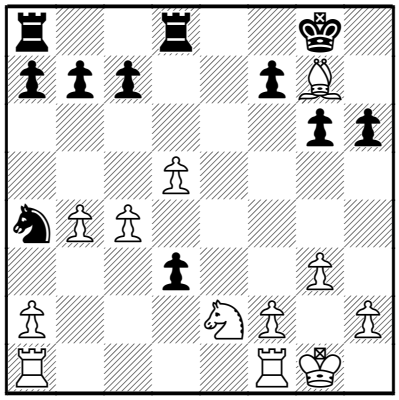

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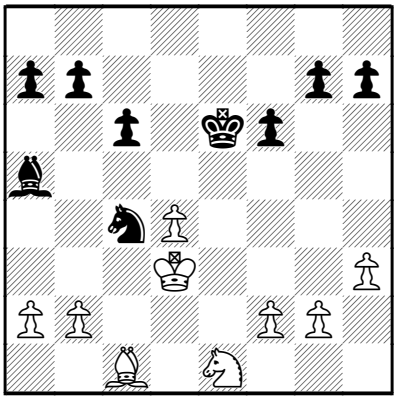

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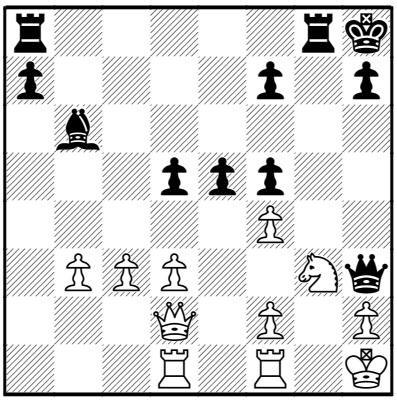

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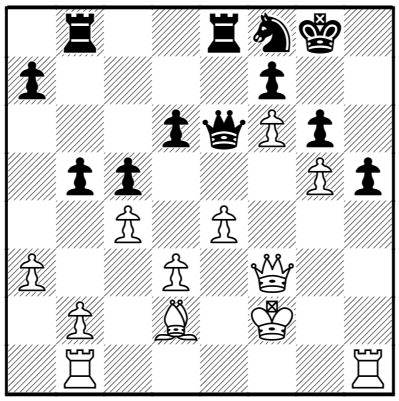

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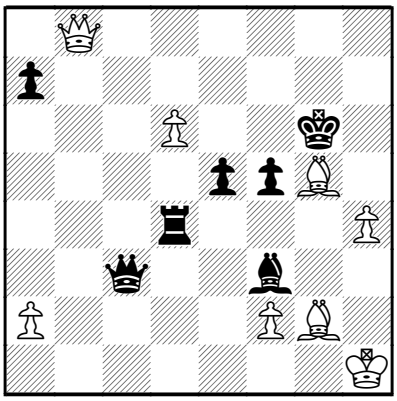

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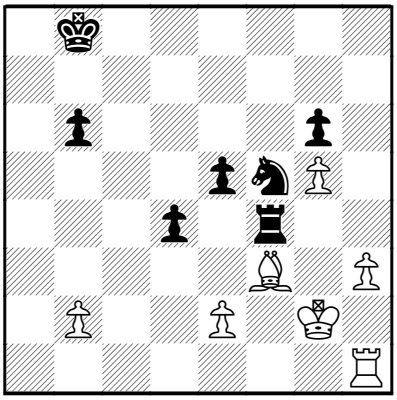

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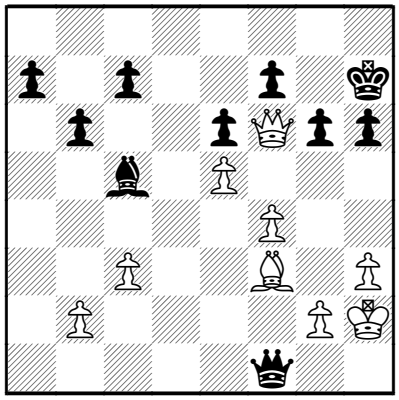

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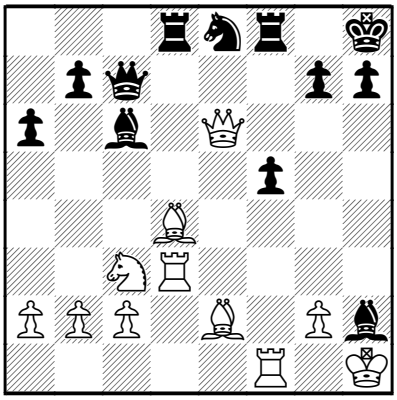

9. Black to Play

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## Rank & File

**Publisher** David Argall

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

**Contributing Editors**
Jack Peters
Cyrus Lakdawala
Timothy Taylor

**Contributors**
Michael William Brown
Chuck Ensey
Carla Heredia Serrano
Craig Hilby
Melikset Khachiyan
Jay Stallings

**Subscriptions/Address Changes**
Randy Hough
Membership Secretary
P.O. Box 205
Monterey Park CA 91754
626.282.7412
randallhough@yahoo.com

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# Rank & File


May-June-July 2013 Volume XXXVII, No. 2



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


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

**Cover photo:** Nhi Casey
**Other photos:**
**bb**: Bruce Baker
**nc**: Nhi Casey
**th**: Tim Hanks
**ap**: Al Pena
**kp**: Kele Perkins
**cr**: Chris Roberts

# Positions

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

## Call For Nominations

Six seats on the SCCF Executive Board are up for election this summer. If you are interested in serving on the Executive Board, please write the Elections Board at: 534 Via Zapata, Riverside, CA, 92507 or e-mail garden909@aol.com

The call for nominations will close June 30, 2013.

*- Steve Morford, SCCF President*

***The Southern California Championship:***

The 25th Southern California Championship will take place June 20-23 at Chess Headquarters, 443 W. Garvey Ave. in Monterey Park. Spectators are invited to watch eight of our best local players battle for a $2,000 first prize and the title of state champion.

Southern California is one of the nation's chess hubs, with more than a dozen players rated over 2400. Our little round robin will be stronger than the national championship of most countries!

This year, six players will be chosen by rating, and two will qualify from the SCCF Candidates tournament (scheduled June 1-2 in Monterey Park).

Webmaster Chris Roberts has created a special page at the SCCF website for pairings, results, and biographical information about each of the players. If all goes well, we will have live Internet coverage of every game so that fans can follow the action even if they cannot get to Monterey Park to watch. Of course, the next issue of Rank and File will provide extensive post-event analysis. You can choose a variety of ways to enjoy this great tournament!

The state championship would not take place without the generous support of the many chess fans who made donations. As the organizer, I sincerely thank all who contributed. I hope you will be pleased by the result.

*-Jack Peters*

**Mark Saylor, 1954 – 2013**

A Master player and accomplished journalist, Mark died on February 22 after a battle with cancer. He won the California Junior Championship in 1972 (the bygone era when California was one state in chess organization!) and twice tied for the Pasadena Club Championship. Working for the LA Times from 1985 to 2000, he oversaw a Pulitzer prize-winning series on corruption in the entertainment industry.

Mark is survived by his wife Nora and four children.

*-Randall Hough*

**Dr. Robert Reynolds, 1950 – 2013**

A well-traveled psychologist whose interest and career turned to naturopathic medicine in his mid-40s, Dr. Bob was also a Master who participated in the Southern California Invitational Championship in 2009. He had been the strongest player in the Santa Barbara area for a number of years. Bob succumbed to cancer on March 10.

*-Randall Hough*

**Mel Clark**

We are saddened by the loss, March 11, of longtime tournament director and associate Mel Clark, after his bout with cancer. His 35-plus (no one can recollect exactly) years of service together with Fred Brock made the Arcadia Chess Club successful with their selfless effort. His modest spirit exemplified comradeship and competition.

*-David King*

***Editor's note:***

Be sure to check out the special web page on this year's State Championship round robin tournament, developed by Chris Roberts. To get there, you go to **scchess.com** and click on State Champ -> Current. Everything you want to know about it is there!

Many thanks to all our contributors and photographers who provided material for this issue. This issue may have been put together by more people than ever.

Thanks to our organizers! Metropolitan Chess, run by Ankit Gupta, completed their 25th invitational FIDE tournament, in less than two and a half years. And the new Recession Buster Open, which has been in business only two years, attracted a group of very strong players. See Chuck Ensey's note on page 12 regarding its bright future.

The Super States Scholastics attracted 558(!) players in Valencia this year and gave us our cover, thanks to Jay Stallings and California Youth Chess League (CYCL). Dewain Barber was certainly busy handing out all those trophies!

And thanks to all of you players, for your games, your combinations and your amazing moves. Please, keep submitting your ski shorts to the tournament directors, and, uhh, sorry, keep submitting your score sheets to the tournament directors and, yes, we will keep those games and quizzes coming.

Until next issue, good luck in your chess!

*-Ed.*

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# Cy & Jack

By IM Jack Peters and IM Cyrus Lakdawala

Cy's game is from his new book *The Colle: Move by Move*, which is released this week. After his vigorous and powerful second move, guaranteed to impress any opponent, his game gradually improves until there's a win of a pawn, and later, a lesson on exchanging pieces as he completes the victory against Melikset Khachiyan.

As a warm up to Jack's game, try your hand at last issue's Final Points No. 7. In this French Defense, Jack gets started with a few positional improvements, but just when possibilities are looking very good, there's just the slightest hint of a flaw, which Tatev Abrahamyan spots, and after her 25th move, it's a whole different game. -Ed.

**Lakdawala, Cyrus (2438) - Khachiyan, Melikset (2480)**
**[A47] Colle System**
**13th Southern California Championship (3)**
**Los Angeles, 15.07.2001**

***1.Nf3 c5 2.c3***

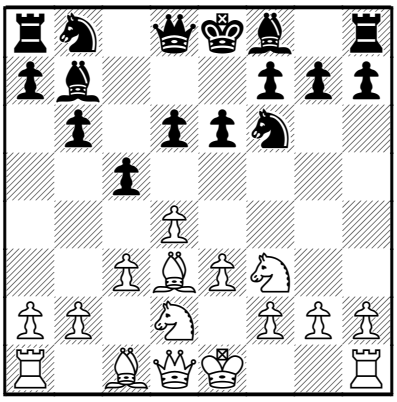
**Cy**: I never cease to be amused by the perplexed, incredulous "are-you-kidding me?" looks my opponents give me at this point.

***2...e6 3.d4 Nf6 4.e3 b6***

**Cy**: What? This came as a surprise. I had prepared for some kind of Grunfeld setup from Grandmaster Khachiyan. The normally anarchistic Melik shocks everyone with an unexpected display of orthodoxy, perhaps designed to inoculate himself from his own vices.

**Jack**: I've played this too! If Black does not want the main line (with 4...d5), this is a reasonable alternative against the Colle. But I suspect White should get an edge.

***5.Nbd2 Bb7 6.Bd3 d6***



**Cy**: Black commits his d-pawn early in this line which is not in his best interest.

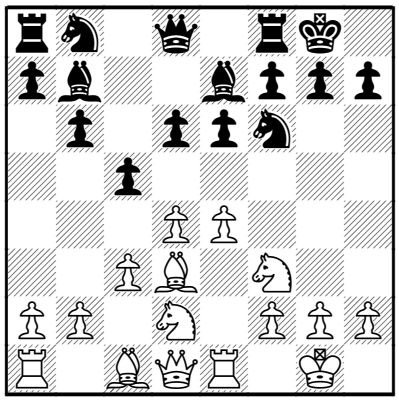
*Question*: Why not?

*Answer*: Black's power in the Queen's Indian lies in the fact that he keeps White guessing about ...d6 and ...d5. By playing the move early to d6, White suddenly isn't so worried anymore since ...d5 would then come with loss of tempo for Black.

**Jack**: It's desirable to keep the opponent guessing, but 6...Be7 7.0–0 0–0 8.e4 d6 transposes to the game, and 8...d5 9.e5 seems even less attractive for Black.

That leaves 6...Nc6 7.0–0 Qc7!?, trying to arrange ...cxd4 when the reply c3xd4 would allow ...Nc6-b4. I don't know what Black should do after 8.a3.

***7.e4 Be7 8.0–0 0–0 9.Re1***



***9...Re8!?***

**Cy**: We look at some alternatives for Black here:

a) 9...Nbd7 10.Qe2 *(Colle would most certainly have played 10.e5 in this position.* **Jack***: Me too!)* 10...e5 11.d5 Nh5 12.Nf1 g6 13.Bh6 Ng7 14.Ng3 a6 15.c4 Nf6 16.Rab1 Bc8 17.h3 Nfe8 18.b4. White has obtained an excellent version of a Lopez/King's Indian structure, Lakdawala - Kretchetov, Los Angeles 2008.

b) 9...Nc6 10.a3 Rc8 *(or 10... Nd7 11.b4 Qc7 12.Bb2 Bf6 13.Rc1 g6 14.Nf1* (**Jack**: I like 14.h4 because I believe Nimzovich's advice that, when you control the center, you must attack.) *14...Bg7 15.Bb1 Rad8 16.Ne3 Nf6 17.d5 exd5 18.exd5 Ne5 19.c4 Nh5 20.Nxe5 dxe5 21.Nf5! with serious advantage to White, since Black must hand over his dark squared Bishop for a Knight. Lakdawala - Sevillano, Los Angeles 2002)* 11.Qe2 cxd4 12.cxd4 Nd7 13.Nf1 *(***Jack***: Black's position doesn't look good after 13.b4 Bf6 14.Bb2±)* 13... Bf6 14.Be3 e5 15.d5 Nd4!? (accepting pawn weakness for dynamic chances) 16.Bxd4 exd4. Black has piece play on the dark squares in exchange for his weakened structure. Chances look balanced, from Lakdawala - Sevillano, San Diego rapid 2006.

***10.a3***

**Cy**: *Question*: Why play a3 if Black isn't even threatening to play ...Nb4?

*Answer*: White plays the move in order to expand later with b4.

An alternative plan is to play for a direct Kingside attack in c3-Sicilian style with 10.Qe2 Nbd7 11.e5.

***10...Bf8 11.Nf1 e5***

**Cy**: Thank heaven. I am a lot less afraid of Khachiyan in closed positions!

Black doesn't want e5 hovering over his head and so goes for a passive version of King's Indian/Closed Ruy Lopez formation.

The alternative is to toss in 11... cxd4 12.cxd4 and only then play 12... e5 13.d5.

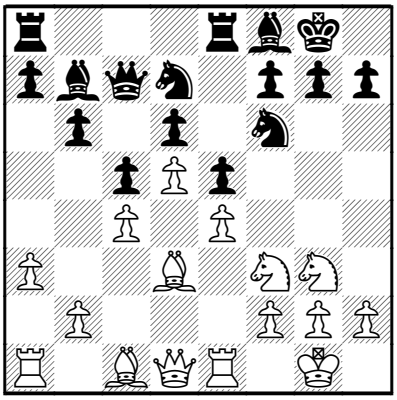
**Jack**: Closing the center doesn't look attractive for Black, but the plausible 11...Nbd7?! 12.e5 dxe5 13.dxe5 Nd5?? *(necessary was 13...Bxf3)* allows the decisive 14.Bxh7+! Kxh7 15.Ng5+ Kg8 16.Qh5+– Colle used this sacrifice to win several games.

Maybe 11...g6 improves. Black's Bishop can work from g7, and the pawn at g6 limits what White's Knight can do from g3.

***12.d5 Nbd7 13.Ng3 Qc7***

**Cy**: Black hopes to get in ...c4 and ...b5 to generate some activity on the Queenside.

***14.c4***



**Cy**: White seizes a territorial advantage.

White can also play 14.Qe2 to leave c4 open for a piece later on.

***14...Be7***

**Cy**: This is a bit odd. I don't claim to understand the idea behind the move.

*Question*: What would be a normal plan here?

*Answer*: Begin with 14...g6 and play for an admittedly difficult ...f5 much, much later on with a maneuver like ...Bg7...Rf8...Ne8. Even then it will be next to impossible to engineer the break.

**Jack**: I agree with the "next to impossible" sentiment.

Starting with 14...g6 makes sense, but I think Black should try for Queenside activity with ...b6-b5. He can dream of ...a7-a6, ...Re8-b8, ...Bb7-c8, and then either ...Qc7-d8 and ...Nf6-e8-c7 or ...Nf6-e8, ...Nd7-f6 and ...Bc8-d7. This plan ignores the Kingside, hoping that White cannot generate dangerous threats soon.

***15.Nf5 Bd8***

**Cy**: *Question*: Why is Black trying to preserve his bad Bishop?

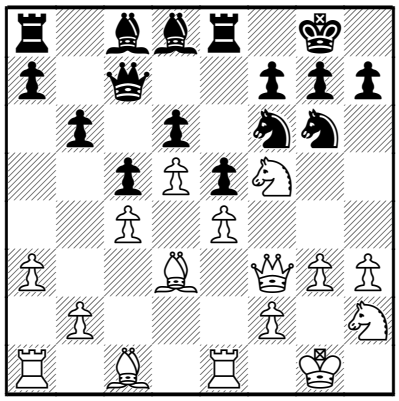
*Answer*: It may be a bad Bishop but he can't play ...g6 with the Bishop gone, because of the dark square weakening.

***16.h3 Nf8 17.Nh2***

**Cy**: *Question*: What is the idea?

*Answer*: This is a typical Ruy Lopez idea, clearing f3 for the Queen and opening up g4 for the Knight.

***17...Bc8 18.Qf3 Ng6 19.g3***



**Cy**: Cutting off access to f4 and h4.

***19...Bxf5?***

**Cy**: An addict in withdrawal doesn't make for pleasant company.

This hastily considered plan requires heavy outlays of expense and energy, and in the end, not much reward on the initial investment. The Bishop itches for counterplay when there is none to be found, and incorrectly forces the issue.

Melik, chafing under cramped quarters and an absence of counterplay, embarks on a huge concession to swap Queens. In doing so he trades one problem (being under attack) for an even bigger one (a lousy ending!).

*Question*: But isn't it okay to swap Bishop for Knight in a closed position?

*Answer*: Not if the exchange leaves you with weak light squares and a bad Bishop.

**Jack**: Black should eliminate the Knight by 19...Ne7 20.Ng4 *(the tactical attempts 20.Nh6+? gxh6 21.Qxf6 Nf5 and 20.Nxg7?? Kxg7 21.Bh6+ Kxh6 22.Qxf6+ Ng6–+ are unsound)* 20...Nxf5 21.exf5 Bd7±.

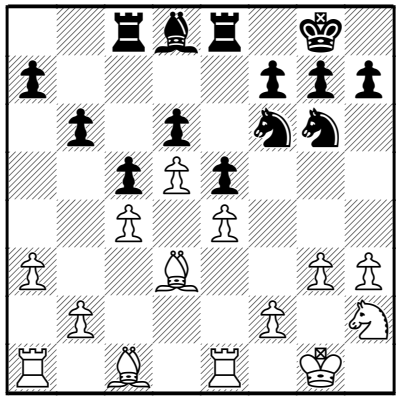
***20.Qxf5***

**Cy**: I was happy to enter the ending and didn't really consider recapturing with my e-pawn.

***20...Qc8***

**Cy**: Black's idea, but he will suffer in the ending for some time to come.

***21.Qxc8 Rxc8***



Cy: *Question*: What specifically are White's advantages?

*Answer*: We feel a sense of increase in White's game, like a coffee percolator accumulating in calibrated, staccato drips.

A collation of White's advantages and Black's woes:

1. A huge space advantage, with which White may prepare both b4 and f4 breaks later on.

2. The Bishop pair, which for now isn't that scary. But what if the position opens up 26 moves later?

3. Black has a terrible remaining Bishop, with most of his pawns fixed on the same color.

4. This fact, in turn leads to weak light squares.

Conclusion: Black is in deep strategic trouble.

**Jack**: All true, and I suspect Melik realized it. He likes endgames, and he may have had more confidence in his ability to save this one than in defending an inferior middlegame.

***22.Bd2 Re7 23.Ng4 Rb7***

**Cy**: 23...Nxg4 24.hxg4 would only increase white's advantage because it would clamp down on black's ...f5 break. Also, White may later double Rooks on the h-file, pressuring h7.

***24.Ne3***

**Cy**: Principle: Avoid trades when you have a space advantage.

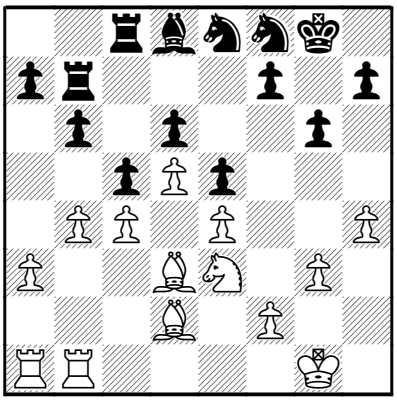
***24...Ne8***

**Cy**: With the idea of ...Bg5, activating the bad B.

***25.h4!***

**Cy**: Oh, no you don't! His Bishop remains unemployed.

***25...Nf8 26.b4 g6 27.Reb1***



**Cy**: *Question*: Why not the undeveloped Rook?

*Answer*: I wanted to leave possibilities open for a4 and a5 later on.

***27...f6!***

**Cy**: *Question*: What is Black's idea?

*Answer*: Black desperately needs ...f5 for counterplay but doesn't yet have enough force to do so. The move played allows ...Rf7 and ...Ng7, to back up the ...f5 break.

**Jack**: The game will show that White can squelch ...f6-f5.

The desperate 27...cxb4 28.axb4 b5?! 29.cxb5 Bb6 doesn't look promising either, as White's Knight may get to a5 and c6.

It seems Black must accept passivity for the moment and hope White allows him counterplay later.

***28.Kg2***

**Cy**: To connect the Rooks and later, if White plays f4, his e-pawn may become tender and need help with Kf3.

***28...Rf7 29.Ra2***

**Cy**: with the possibility of doubling on b2, or transferring to the Kingside later.

***29...Ng7 30.bxc5 dxc5***

**Cy**: Now Black is ready for ...f5.

30...bxc5? doesn't give White a passed pawn, but allows absolute control over the b-file, which is much worse. **Jack**: Agreed. White will get a Rook to b7 or b8. Black cannot plug the file with ...Bd8-b6 because a3-a4-a5 will dislodge the Bishop.

**Jack**: The computer suggests 30...Rxc5 31.Bb4 Nd7, offering the exchange. White would have trouble making progress without his dark-square Bishop. Probably he should decline the offer and continue with 32.f4.

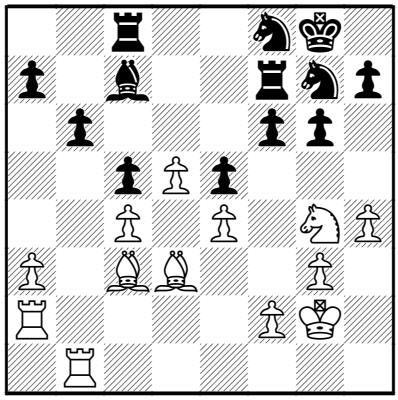
***31.Bc3!***

**Cy**: preventing ...f5.

***31...Bc7***

**Jack**: I prefer 31...Ne8. Black's Knights may end up at d7 and d6.

***32.Ng4***



**Cy**: Once again halting ...f5 and threatening to fork on h6.

***32...Kh8 33.Nh6***

**Cy**: This costs Black time. The annoying Knight prances about oafishly, bumping into others, all the while imagining herself a magical creature in an enchanted forest.

***33...Re7 34.Rf1***

**Jack**: This is the way to forestall counterplay - make your own threats! Now Black must reckon with breakthroughs on either wing, with a3-a4-a5 or f2-f4.

***34...Ne8 35.f4***

**Cy**: White achieves his second break. It isn't easy to keep all options open and, simultaneously, firmly commit, yet White's industrious army manages it.

***35...Kg7 36.Ng4 h5***

**Jack**: Melik would not have loosened his Kingside unless he was convinced that Black could not allow f4-f5 and g3-g4-g5.

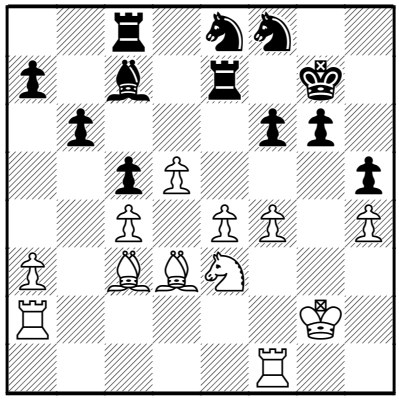
The sturdier 36...Nd7 invites 37.f5 Nd6 38.Ne3 b5!? 39.cxb5 c4⇄, when Black's pieces gain room to operate. White should avoid this by delaying f4-f5, perhaps with 37.Raf2.

***37.Ne3 exf4!?***

**Cy**: He hopes to generate play against White's centre, but he opens the game for White's Bishop pair and also hands over a huge center. Yet it's hard to fault him for his decision, since it also sharpens the game.

37...Nd7 38.f5! looks like no fun at all for Black. **Jack**: Right. White's Knight will settle on f5 because 38...g5? would drop material to 39.hxg5 fxg5 40.f6+ Ndxf6 41.Nf5+ Kf7 42.Nxe7 Kxe7 43.Rf5+–.

***38.gxf4***



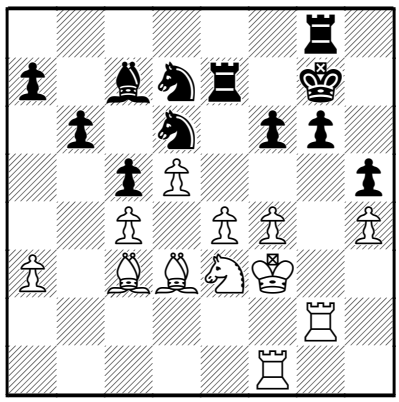
**Cy**: The metastasis spreads its malignance unabated in Black's camp:

1. White enjoys a Bishop pair in open position.
2. A rolling pawn center.
3. A brewing attack along the g-file.

***38...Nd7 39.Kf3 Nd6 40.Rg2***

**Cy**: Target: g6

***40...Rg8***



**Cy**: *Exercise (combination alert)*: The alternating waves and ripples of White's steadily growing initiative flow with varying, intermittent success and efficiency. Now White has access to a simple tactic which forces the win of material. How?

*Question*: Why not go after White's soft spot on e4 instead?

*Answer*: He can indeed pick off e4 but at too high a cost to his King. For example: 40...Rce8? 41.Rfg1 and if 41...Nxe4 42.Rxg6+ Kh8 *(42...Kf7 43.Rg7+ Kf8 44.Rg8+ Kf7 45.R1g7 Mate! The crows bloody their greedy bills, feeding on the roadkill garter snake. After 42... Kh7 43.Nf5! White's attackers loom over Black menacingly, the way the psychopath in a teen horror movie looms, butcher's cleaver in hand, over the blissfully busily unaware kissing couple on the sofa. 43... Nxc3 44.Rh6 Mate!)* 43.Bxe4 Rxe4 44.Rh6 Mate! Black's King passes away without leaving a penny to his heirs.

**Jack**: If Black tries to prepare ...Rc8-g8 by 40...Kf7, White blasts open the center with 41.e5! fxe5 42.Bxg6+ Kf8 43.fxe5, forcing Black to yield material. For example, 43...Nxe5+ 44.Ke2+ Nef7 45.Bf6 Rd7 46.Bh7 sets up 47. Rg8 mate.

***41.Nf5+!***

**Cy**: *Answer*: Sometimes a conspiratorial group is forced to add an unwanted new member, if only to buy his silence. White's Knight, a serial issuer of dire forecasts, abrades Black's King to repent before it is too late.

***41...Nxf5 42.exf5***

**Cy**: Venal White corporate interests galvanize their impossible consumptive demands upon an already strained ecosystem. Finally, White wrests the stubborn g6-pawn from Black's now languid clutches.

***42...Nf8 43.fxg6 Nd7 44.Bf5***

**Cy**: The Bishop leans into the wall with crossed arms and a smug look on his face.

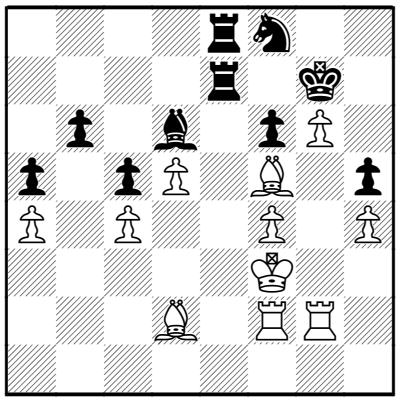
***44...Rge8 45.Bd2***

**Cy**: Black's Rooks paste artificial smiles on their faces, pretending to be delighted in their counterpart's good fortune, as they are denied all entry points along the e-file.

***45...Nf8***

**Jack**: Houdini suggests 45... b5!? 46.cxb5 Nb6 47.Be6 Rd8, threatening to capture at d5 or e6. White should win anyway with 48.Re1 Nxd5 49.Rge2+–, as 49...Kxg6 runs into 50.Rg1+ Kh6 51.Reg2.

***46.a4 a5 47.Rff2 Bd6***



**Cy**: *Exercise (planning)*: White can't just yet swap Rooks since he would drop his extended and extra g-pawn. Come up with a plan to make progress against Black's attempted fortress.

*Answer*: Exchange a single pair of Rooks. This takes away Black's last trump, since White no longer worries as much about Rook infiltration.

***48.Bd3!***

**Cy**: White's plan is to trade just one pair of Rooks, knocking out all of Black's counterplay.

***48...Bc7 49.Re2 Rxe2 50.Bxe2! Re7***

**Cy**: Naturally not 50...Nxg6?? 51.Bd3.

***51.Bc3***

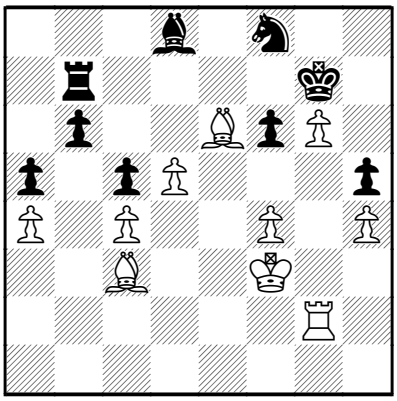
**Jack**: White can patiently improve his position.

Not so simple is 51.Kf2 because of 51...Re4.

***51...Bd8 52.Bd3 Rd7 53.Bf5 Rb7***

**Cy**: 53...Re7 Opens up an avenue for White's King entry after 54.d6 Rb7 55.Ke4.

***54.Be6 1–0***



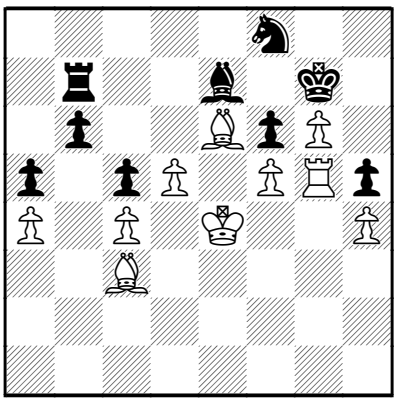
**Cy**: White's Bishops posting is in stark contrast to their lapsed brother and sister's stereo dislocation on the Black side.

*Question*: Why did Black resign? It looks like he has reasonable chances to make a fortress, doesn't he?

*Answer*: Let's do a planning exercise to solve your question:

*Exercise (planning)*: Black just resigned. Come up with a concrete plan leading to a White win to show that the resignation was not premature.

*Answer*: Black's h-pawn (and King!) soon fall after 54.Be6 Be7 55.Ke4 Bd6 56.f5 Be7 57.Rg5!



Several sharp rejoinders rise to the black King's tongue, yet he restrains them all and submits to the slight. 57...Rb8 *(**Jack**: not 57...Kh6 58.g7 fxg5 59.g8Q with mate in two moves)* 58.Rxh5 Rb7 59.Bd2!

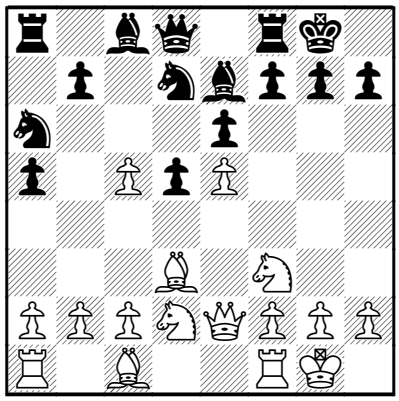
Summary: I often get the White side of Closed Lopez/King's Indian-like positions in Colle versus Queen's Indian. It's not a bad idea to survey games in both those variations, just to get a feel of familiarity for White.

**Peters, Jack (2350) -**
**Abrahamyan, Tatev (2304)**
**[C03] French Defense,**
**Tarrasch Variation**
**Century West Open (4)**
**Los Angeles, 13.01.2013**

***1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Be7 4.Bd3 c5 5.dxc5 Nf6***

**Jack**: This temporary pawn sacrifice works well for Black. I don't see how White can obtain more than an insignificant advantage.

***6.Qe2 0–0 7.Ngf3 a5 8.0–0 Na6 9.e5 Nd7***



***10.Nb3***

**Jack**: An over-the-board "improvement" over a game we played in 2009.

I was not satisfied with the position I reached by 10.c3 Naxc5 11.Bc2 b6 12.Re1 Ba6 13.Qe3 f6⇄ and looked for a way to deviate.

Houdini claims 10.Nb3 is worse.

Khachiyan said that White must try 10.c4 but he didn't expect White to gain any advantage. This seems true after 10...Ndxc5 *(or 10...Naxc5 11.Bc2 f6⇄)* 11.Bb1 b6.

**Cy**: Two weeks ago I reached a position I had been working on for a book just the very day before. Instead of following my book's analysis, I also tried an over the board "improvement." Unlike Jack's, mine turned out to be a miserable failure, and I undeservedly won the game only due to my opponent's self-inflicted time pressure. Some hallucinations are more vivid than others.

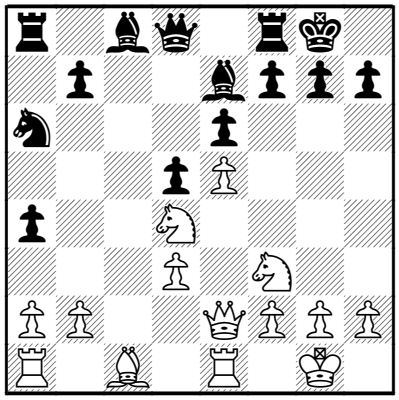
***10...a4 11.Nbd4 Ndxc5 12.Re1 Nxd3***

**Jack**: I actually liked my position after this exchange.

**Cy**: I agree. Now it feels like Black has nothing useful to do. Meanwhile White has a grip on d4 and can perhaps stir up some trouble over on the Kingside.

**Jack**: Black could delay the exchange with 12...Bd7 but that gives up on the idea of developing the Bishop to a6.

***13.cxd3***



**Jack**: White controls most of the center and has a beautifully centralized Knight that must be more valuable than Black's light-square Bishop. Black's only active plan is ...f7-f6, and White may hinder it by overprotecting e5.

***13...Nc5***

**Jack**: Houdini claims "–0.13" after 13...Bd7. I respectfully disagree.

**Cy**: Superior assessment skills are the last frontier where humans can claim an advantage over the hated comps.

***14.a3***

**Jack**: I imagined a White Knight defending the d-pawn from b4, a secure dark-square outpost. Also, I wasn't sure yet where White's Bishop belonged, and I hoped to get it to g5. Of course, I suffered later because of the weakness of b3, but the plan still seems desirable to me.

I rejected 14.Bd2 because of 14... a3⇄. **Cy**: ! Good strategic judgment. Jack correctly perceives the weakness on b3 is less serious than allowing Black ...a3 and then perpetual use of b4.

***14...Qd7***

**Jack**: Preparing ...b7-b6, but giving White a chance to trade dark-square Bishops.

Possibly stronger is 14...h6 but I planned to regroup with 15.Bf4 Qd7 16.Qd2 b6 17.Re3 and later Re3-g3 or Re3-h3.

***15.Bg5***

**Cy**: ! Another excellent move, following two principles:

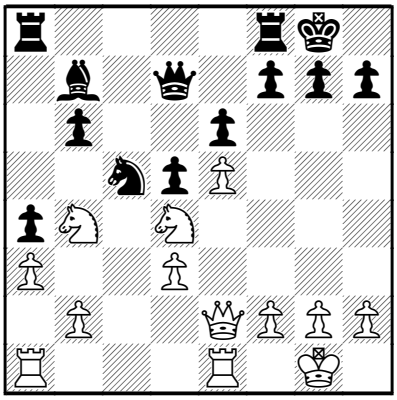
1. When the opponent has the Bishop pair, swap one of them off.

2. Swap off the opponent's Bishop which sits on the opposite color of her pawns. This way Black ends up with a bad, light-squared Bishop as well.

***15...b6 16.Bxe7 Qxe7 17.Nc6***

**Cy**: ! Planning to post Knights on b4 and d4.

***17...Qd7 18.Nfd4 Bb7 19.Nb4***



**Cy**: The Knights perform their wobbly revolutions, like tops in ending stages of rotation.

***19...f5!***

**Jack**: What else can Black do? She needs to react before White continues with Qe2-h5 and Re1–e3-h3.

**Cy**: Agreed. The move may be strategically awful, yet necessary to repel the impetus of White's Kingside initiative.

***20.exf6***

**Jack**: I spent 17 minutes on this decision, mostly thinking about how to restrain ...e6-e5 in the next few moves. There is no ambitious alternative, as White should not allow ...f5-f4, and 20.f4 Kh8 would let Black prepare ...g7-g5.

***20...Rxf6 21.Qe5***

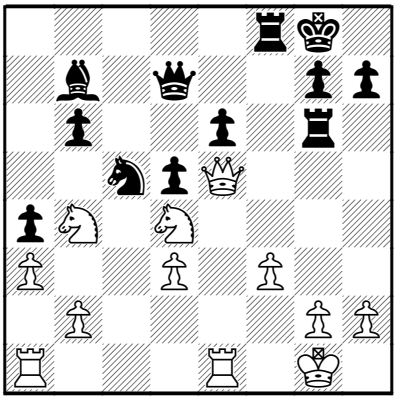
**Jack**: The Queen is a poor blockader, but I hoped it would do the job until a Rook took its place.

Unfortunately for White, 21.Nf3?! d4 22.Ne5 Qd6= activates the Bishop.

**Cy**: I would up the ante with 21.g3 intending f4. I realize this weakens the light squares but I don't ever intend to move the d4-knight and allow ...d4. So it may be worth the strategic risk to increase White's bind over e5.

I don't like Jack's move since it violates the principle: The Queen is the worst blockader.

***21...Raf8 22.f3 Rg6***



***23.Re3?!***

**Jack**: I couldn't resist the opportunity to support d3, but 23.Re2! would reserve e3 for the Queen. Then 23...Qd8 24.f4± really does maintain White's bind.

**Cy**: The Rook moves too close to his Queen, impelled either by God or devil--he doesn't know. Gulp! Now White's Queen is almost out of moves. In fact, forget the "almost" part. She is out of moves!

***23...Qd8!***

**Jack**: Sharpest. Black threatens to dislodge the blockader by ...Nc5-d7 or ...Rg6-g5.

**Cy**: Tatev is a sneaky tactician and she immediately seizes upon Jack's inaccuracy to go after his Queen.

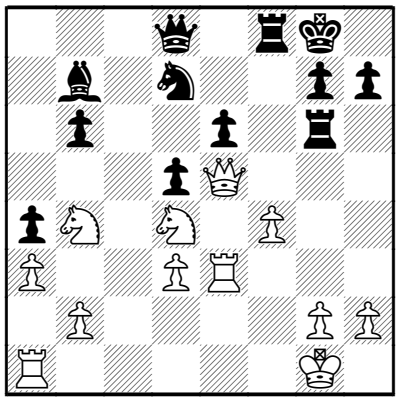
***24.f4***

**Jack**: I saw that White could force repetition by 24.Nbc6 Qd7 25.Nb4 Qd8 and, in my usual manner, concluded that White had "at least equality" and could therefore try for more.

***24...Rgf6***

**Jack**: Not best, although the outcome dissuades me from applying the "?!" label. Results matter!

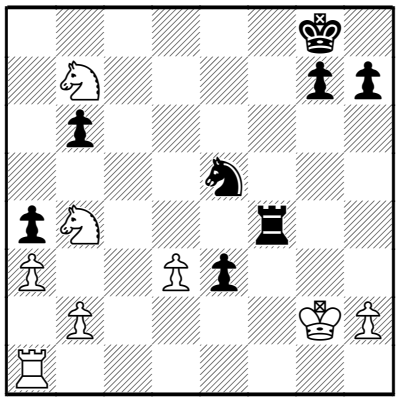
Both of us were overwhelmed by the complications of 24...Nd7! and our postmortem did not produce a reliable verdict:



However, Houdini clears up the confusion.

First, it dismisses 25.Qd6?! e5 26.Ne6 convincingly by 26...Qe8 27.Qc7 Rxe6 *(also good is 27...exf4)* 28.Qxb7 d4 29.Re2 Rxf4∓.

Thus 25.Nxe6□ is critical. Then 25...d4! **Cy**: Wow. The struggling armies bleed into one another. *(***Jack***: Black does not quite equalize with 25... Qe7?! 26.Qc7±, but a draw is likely after 25...Nxe5 26.Nxd8 d4 27.Rg3 Rxg3 28.hxg3 Rxd8 29.fxe5 Kf7)* 26.Nxd8 Rxg2+ 27.Kh1 Nxe5 28.Nxb7 dxe3 29.Kxg2 Rxf4:



amazingly forces a draw, despite White's extra Knight. The proof is 30.Re1 *(not 30.Rf1?? because 30... Rg4+ 31.Kh3 e2 32.Re1 h5! 33.Rxe2 Nf3 sets up mate at g1 or g5)* 30...Rf2+ 31.Kg3 *(not 31.Kh1?? Nf3 32.Rxe3 Rxh2 mate)* 31...Rf3+ 32.Kg2 *(White cannot stand 32.Kh4?? h6)* 32...Rf2+, repeating.

The dominance of modern computer programs has compelled humans to accept second-class status in calculation. I've adjusted - I'm delighted to learn what should have happened, and I no longer feel crushed by my inability to figure it out.

**Cy**: Convincing analysis. Actually, my analysis has always been second class when compared with humans, so now I get demoted to third class against the comps.

***25.g3??***

**Jack**: I spent five minutes on this move and never considered Black's devastating reply.

After the correct 25.Rf3± and next Ra1–e1, White keeps the pressure on the backward e-pawn.

**Cy**: Ugh! This game painfully reminds me of most of my losses these days:

1. I outplay the opponent strategically.

2. I am stricken with a senior moment and screw everything up, missing a tactic I should have seen.

3. I strike the attitude of Edvard Munch's screamer and brood on all which went awry in my life.

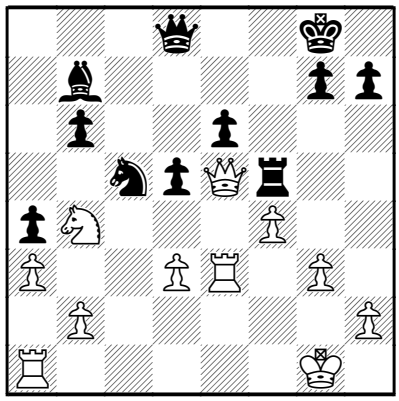
Conclusion: Old age sucks.

***25...Rf5!***

**Jack**: I remember thinking, "She's giving up the exchange because my Knight on d4 is too powerful." It took a few seconds before I spotted Black's idea, and a couple of minutes before I realized I was lost.

**Cy**: The trapped Queen, now divested of all authority, sits helpless and has little choice but to submit to the unwanted transaction. It almost feels like a supernatural force intercedes on Black's behalf with a useful little treachery.

***26.Nxf5 Rxf5***



***27.Qxf5***

**Jack**: As good as any.

Both 27.Qc3 d4 and 27.Qd4 Nb3 28.Qc3 d4 are hopeless.

**Cy**: No time to commemorate the dead when the battle still rages. The Queen stands contrite, head bowed, like the second grader getting bawled out by the teacher: *"You have been warned and warned and warned!"*

***27...exf5***

**Cy**: The Queen's departure is salve to Black.

***28.Rae1 Qd6 29.Re5 h6 30.Rxf5***

**Jack**: Playing for traps. Tatev had 10 minutes left to reach move 40, and I was trying to generate a miracle.

The "better" defense 30.d4 Ne4 31.Rc1 restricts the Bishop but does not make enough threats to disturb Black. Houdini says Black should win easily by 31...h5 32.Rxf5 h4, anticipating 33.g4 h3 and subsequent threats to g4.

***30...Ne6 31.Rfe5 Qc5+ 32.Kg2 Nd4***

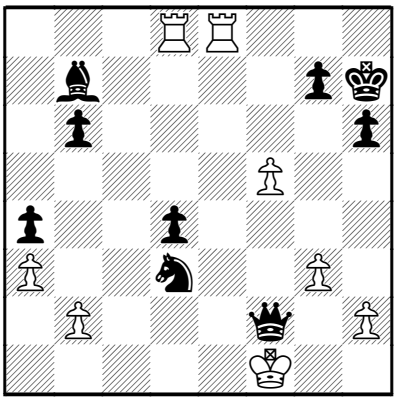
**Jack**: Avoiding 32...d4+?? 33.Kf2±, when the Queen and Knight hang.

***33.Re8+ Kh7 34.Rd8 Nc2! 35.Ree8***

**Jack**: Too slow, but White is committed to desperation.

***35...Nxb4 36.axb4***

**Jack**: The flaw in 36.f5 is 36...d4+ 37.Kg1 *(or 37.Kh3 Qxf5+)* 37...Qc1+ 38.Kf2 Nxd3+ 39.Ke2 Qc2+ 40.Kf1 Qf2 mate.



**Cy**: This position is very much like the description of hell an old priest predicted for me in my life to come after this one.

***36...d4+ 37.Kf1***

**Jack**: Or 37.Kh3 Qh5 mate.

***37...Qc1+ 38.Kf2 Qxb2+ 39.Kf1 Qc1+ 40.Kf2 Qd2+ 0–1*** ♜

## Solutions to Final Points

From page 47.

1. Some call this the "Hook and Ladder" trick: ***20...Re1+!*** Check 'em and wreck 'em! The Queen's support is pulled out from under her. ***21.Rxe1 Qxd5***. A few more moves were played: ***22.Bd4 Re6 23.Rbd1 Rg6 0–1***. Jaffe - Marshall, Havana, 1913.

2. Black can take the Rook. ***27...Nxf1 28.Qd8+ Rf8! 0–1***. Just be sure it's not mate! Fine - Fischer, Manhattan blitz, New York 1963.

3. It's ***53...Rd4! 54.Nxh6*** Black advances the b-pawn after 54.Kf2 Rb4 55.Nd6+ Kf8 56.Rxb4 Nxb4 57.Nc4 Nd3+ 58.Ke2 b2; or 54.Ke2 Rxe4+ 55.Kf3 Rd4 winning the Knight by pushing the b-pawn, overworking the Black Rook. ***54...Rb4 0–1***. The b-pawn can't be stopped, for after 55.Rxb4 Nxb4 56.Kd1 b2, the King can't help. Amanov - Akopyan, 25th Metro FIDE (2), Los Angeles 2013.

4. It ended with ***10.Bxf7+! 1–0***. Take 'em and break 'em! If 10...Rxf7 then 11.Qc4, and White is up the Exchange for a pawn. If 10...Kh8 then 11.Ne6 and 12.Nxf8+–. Fischer - Fine, Manhattan blitz, New York 1963.

5. Black could have won material with 39...Rd7! 40.Ne6+ *(or 40.Nc6 Nf3+ 41.Kf2 Rxd1–+)* 40...Kf7 41.Nc5 Nf3+ 42.Kf2 Rxd1–+. But Black still won in Velikanov - Kaidanov, Western Class Championships (2), Agoura Hills 2013. See the game on page 29.

6. White can refute the sacrifice by winning more material: 25.Nxh6+! Bxh6 26.Rh1 Qf6 27.Rxh6, followed right away with 28.f5. Instead, the game continued ***25.Nf2 Bxb2 26.Bxb2 Re3 27.Qf3 Rxf3 28.Kxf3 g5 29.f5 b5 30.axb5 axb5 31.cxb5 Bb7 32.Be4 Qf4+ 33.Kg2 Qd2 34.Rab1 Bxd5 35.Rfd1 Bxe4+ 36.Ngxe4 Qc2 37.Nxd6 c4 38.Be5 f6 39.Bg3 c3 40.Nde4! Rxb5?? 41.Rd8+ Nf8 42.Rxb5 1–0***. Duckworth - Viswanadha, 25th Metro FIDE (1), Los Angeles 2013.

7. Black plays it accurately with ***68...Nc6!*** 68...f2 69.h7 f1Q 70.h8Q is just a draw. The Tablebase says so. ***69.h7 Ne5!*** Again the only move, centralizing the Knight and eyeing a possible fork on f7. ***70.Kf6*** The longest defense is 70.Kh5 Nf7 71.Kg6 f2 72.Kxf7 f1Q+ 73.Kg7. The Black King is close enough to defeat the Rook pawn on the seventh. 73...Qg1+ 74.Kf8 Qd4 75.Kg8 Qd8+ 76.Kg7 Kf5! Black has to let White Queen the pawn and then mate. 77.h8Q Qe7+ 78.Kg8 Kg6. ***70...f2 0–1***. It might continue 71.h8Q f1Q+, and it's either a mate with Queen and Knight, or just a Knight fork on the Queen. 72.Ke6 *(72.Kg7 Qf7+ mates; 72.Kg5 Qf5+ mates next move; and 72.Ke7 Ng6+ wins the Queen)* 72...Qc4+ 73.Kf6 Qf7+ 74.Kg5 Qf5+ mating. Amanov - Sharma, 24th Metro FIDE GM (3), Los Angeles 2013.

8. There's only one move to win! ***45.Qf8!*** with threats of 46.Rb7 mate and 46.Qxf7+. White can come at the King from either side. ***45...c5*** Best was 45...e5 and now 46.Qxf7+ Kd6 *(46...Kc8? 47.Qxf6 Rd4 48.Qe6+ Rd7* (or 48...Kc7 49.Qxe5+ followed by 50.Rb7+ or 50.Rb8+; or 48...Kd8 49.Rb7 with a mate) *49.Rd1+– and White wins the Rook.)* 47.Qxf6+ Kc5 48.Qe7+ Kd5 *(not 48...Kc4? 49.Qd6!)* 49.Qd7+ Kc5 50.Qc7 and White wins another pawn after 50...Kd5 51.Rb5+ or 50...Re4 51.Rb6! ***46.Qxf7+ Kc6 47.Qxe6+ Kc7 48.Qb6+ 1–0***. If 48...Kc8 then 49.Qc6+ Kd8 50.Rb8+, or if 48...Kd7 then 49.Qb5+. Amanov-Duckworth, 25th Metro FIDE (5), Los Angeles 2013.

9. It's a classic: ***19.Rf6!*** Not 19.e5 f5!=. ***19...Kg8*** Other moves are bad: 19...dxc3 20.e5+– mates; 19...Bxf6 20.e5+– also mates; and 19...h6 20.Rxd6 dxc3?? 21.Rxh6++– wins big. ***20.e5 h6 21.Ne2! 1–0***. White threatens to take on d6. If 21...Nb5 then 22.Qf5+– mates, and if 21...Bxf6 then 22.Qxh6+– mates, too. Fischer - Benko, U.S. Championship (10), New York 1963.

# GM Melik Khachiyan Tops 2nd Recession Buster Open

*February 16-18, 2013*

**GM Melikset Khachiyan took first in a very strong field at the Recession Buster Open,** scoring 5-1, with draws against GM Timur Gareev and FM John Daniel Bryant. GM Carlos Matamoros of Ecuador and IM Dionisio Aldama tied for second with 4½-1½. Khachiyan defeated both players and won the Best Game prize for his fourth round win against Aldama, which we present with his notes.

Six players, including three GMs, tied for fourth with a score of 4-2: GMs Timur Gareev, Alejandro Ramirez, and Enrico Sevillano, FMs John Daniel Bryant and Alexandre Kretchetov, and Michael William Brown.

Best Under 2300 honors were split between Kevin Moy, Craig Hilby, and WIM Paloma Gutierrez of Spain, scoring 3½-2½.

In the Under 2100 section, WFM Annie Wang took first with 5½-½, with second and third shared by Esteban Escobedo and Santi Pinon at 5-1. The Under 1900 prize went to Stephanie Shao and Pejman Sagart who scored 4-2. This tournament extended Annie's undefeated streak to 15 games, which includes her 5-0 sweep of the Under 2000 section at the Century West Open in January earlier this year.

cr

Alexander Costello scored 5½-½ to take first in the Under 1700 section, with Victor Mendoza taking second at 5-1. Keric Rivas won the Under 1500 honors with 4½-1½ and Joshua Shaham took second Under 1500 with 4-2.

Unrated Arturo Armagnac and Jean Fernandez scored 5-1 to top the Under 1300 section, but could only take the Best Unrated prize. First place went to John Madden, who finished a half point behind at 4½-1½. The Best Under 1100 prize went to Chris Lane and Salman Shah, who scored 3-3.

Second prize for Best Game went to WIM Carla Serrano Heredia of Ecuador for her win against Kyron Griffith, which she also annotates for Rank & File. The Best Game prize for the non Open sections went to Peter Hodges for his win over Dennis Saccuzzo. This game is presented by the Editor.

*Organizer Chuck Ensey writes:*

This three day 3-day event over President's Day weekend drew 138 players, down slightly from last year, but the new location drew rave reviews. The Courtyard Marriott Liberty Station is just a mile from the San Diego airport and is a small hotel with only 200 rooms. One advantage of the small size is that the spacious

bb

*Annie Wang: 1st in the Under 2100 section.*

bb

*Alexander Costello: topped the Under 1700 section.*

and well lit ballroom is isolated and can be reserved the chess event, so that we don't have to worry about wedding receptions or other noisy events in adjacent ballrooms. That can be a vexing problem at many tournaments.

In my experience, the one thing players want the most is a quiet location so that they can concentrate and not be distracted. There should also be enough space for the players so that they don't feel cramped in like sardines. And the rounds should start on time!

Of course, having great guaranteed cash prizes is an added plus ($20,000 in this case).

Friendly and competent tournament directors are icing on the cake. All these wish list items for the ideal tournament were fulfilled.

Finally, it is nice if there are a variety of food choices. With six or more restaurants within walking distance Liberty Station passed all tests with flying colors. There is also a very large grassy park right next to the hotel, so those who like to spend a little time outdoors and exercise between rounds had a great time. The waterfront views are also a nice touch.

The only real drawback is the limited number of rooms, so that reservations tend to sell out if not made at least two weeks in advance. This is a problem for many tournaments as some players like to wait until the last minute to decide if they are going to attend. So, reserve early next year!

Please keep this event in mind for next year and plan ahead, as we hope to turn this annual event into a legendary must-play reserved spot on everyone's calendar. Presidents' Day weekend and great chess in San Diego! - hold on to that thought… Next year the event name will have to change, as the Great Recession is now clearly over (suggestions for possible new names are welcomed at chucnglo@aol.com). We hope that the legend and the attendance will continue to grow year after year.

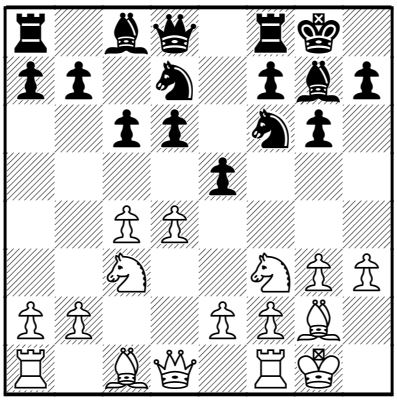
The Open section was outstanding with 5 GMs in attendance: Timur Gareev, Alejandro Ramirez, Enrico Sevillano, Melikset Khachiyan and Carlos Matamoros, plus two IMs, two WIMs, 9 National Masters and numerous Experts for a 32 player section. The U2100 section was the largest with 52 players, and the U1700 section drew 38 players.

There were only 16 in the U1300 section, so that is a place where we might hope for the most improvement next year.

**Khachiyan, Melikset (2574) - Aldama, Dionisio (2577)**
**[E67] King's Indian Defense**
**Recession Buster Open (4)**
**San Diego 17.02.2013**

*Notes by Melikset Khachiyan.*

***1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.0–0 0–0 5.d4 d6 6.c4 Nbd7 7.Nc3 e5 8.h3 c6***

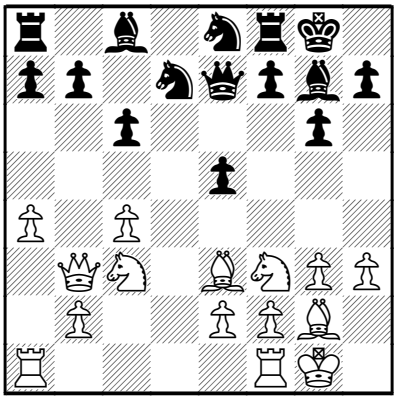


***9.dxe5***

After playing the first 3 games earlier in the day, *(at game/60 + 5 second delay -Ed.)* I decided to play it a bit safe, and that's why I chose this line.

The official theory suggests 9.e4!, which is obviously the better move!

***9…dxe5 10.Be3 Qe7 11.Qb3 Ne8 12.a4?!***



Leading down the wrong road. I should first play 12.Rfd1 in order to fight for the d6 square. I shouldn't be weakening b4 like this.

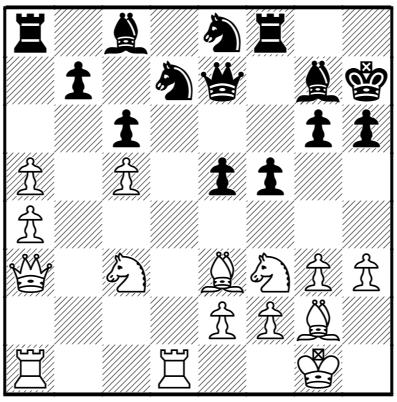
***12…a5! 13.Qa3 Qe6!?***

Going into the endgame was another way to play for Black. I think the main reason why my opponent tried to keep the Queens in the game was because he was so hungry to beat me after losing 3 previous meetings.

***14.c5 h6 15.b4 f5 16.Rfd1 Kh7 17.bxa5***

According to Houdini, 17.b5 Qe7 18.Rab1 f4 19.gxf4 exf4 20.Bd4 Rf5 21.Bxg7 Nxg7 22.Nd4, leads to a slight advantage for Black.

***17...Qe7***



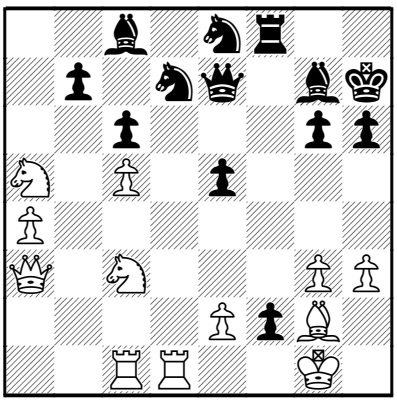
So far, both sides have been consistent with their plans. White tries to get his game going on the Queenside, and Black is trying to organize an attack on the Kingside.

***18.Rac1 Rxa5 19.Nd2?***

I had spent quite some time to be consistent with my plans, and couldn't see anything better than this move. Also, my time was going down very fast, so I decided to take a more forcing path, despite knowing this path is very dangerous. But that's the way I understand chess, and to play this game, I need to have a clear view.

Clearly better and safer was to play 19.Bd2. According to Houdini, the game might continue with 19.Bd2 Ra8 and now 20.e4 Qxc5 21.Qa2 f4 22.gxf4 exf4 23.Ne2 and however Black retreats, it's about equal.

***19...f4! 20.Nc4 fxe3 21.Nxa5 exf2+***



***22.Kf1***

I knew 22.Kh2 was probably a better try, but practically, it would have been a bad decision. I needed to keep my King close to Black's pawn. After 22.Kh2 Nef6 23.Rf1 e4 24.Nc4, it's about equal, and so would be 24.Qxc5 Nxc5.

***22...Ndf6?!***

Better was to move the other Knight!

Houdini says it's a win with 22... Nef6:

a) not 23.Rd6 e4–+.

b) 23.Nc4 Nxc5 24.e4 Be6–+.

c) 23.Nb1 Nh5 24.g4 *(not 24.e4? b6! 25.Nc4 Nxc5 winning, and if 26.Nxb6?? then 26...Nxe4!–+)* 24... Nf4 25.Nd2 *(or 25.Nc4 Nxc5–+)* 25... e4–+.

d) 23.Kxf2 Ne4+ 24.Kg1 Nxg3–+.

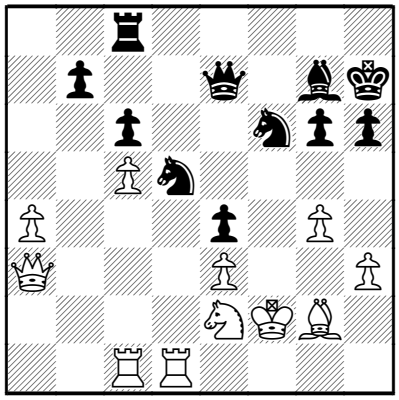
e) 23.Ne4 Nxe4–+ 24.Bxe4 Nf6 25.Bg2 e4 26.Nc4 *(or 26.Kxf2 Nh5+ 27.Kg1 Qg5–+)* 26...Nh5!–+ 27.g4 *(or 27.Qe3 Qxc5!–+)* 27...Bxg4! 28.hxg4 Qh4! 29.gxh5 Qh2 with a mate.

***23.Nc4?!***

Much better was to play 23.e4 to stop Black's pawn, but I really wanted to reserve the opportunity of using this square for one of my Knights.

Houdini says that after 23.e4 Nd7 24.Ne2 Nc7 25.Nc4 Nxc5 26.Nb6 N7a6 27.Nxc8 Rxc8 28.Rc3, it's almost equal.

***23...e4 24.e3 Nh5 25.Ne2 Nc7 26.Nd6 Nd5 27.Nxc8 Rxc8 28.g4 Nhf6 29.Kxf2***



I thought my defending was almost over, but Black's attack still continues! My opponent plays with a lot of inspiration!

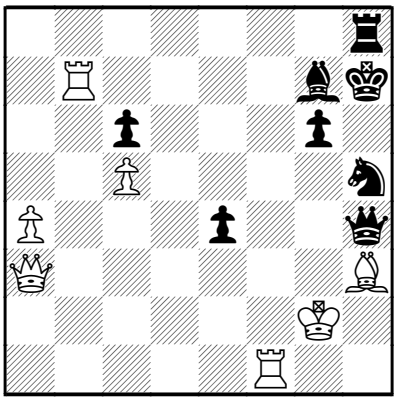
bb

*Dionisio Aldama: playing with a lot of inspiration!*

***29...Qe5! 30.Kg1 h5 31.Rb1***

Entering into time pressure, my defense must be as active as possible; I can't afford to be passive!

***31...hxg4 32.Rxb7 gxh3 33.Bxh3 Qg5+ 34.Kh1 Rh8 35.Nf4 Nxf4 36.exf4 Qxf4 37.Rf1 Qh4 38.Kg2 Nh5***



***39.Rxg7+?!***

We both had almost no time left on our clocks, so I opted for a little more simplified situation!

Better was 39.Qe3 Rd8 40.Rd7 Rb8=.

***39...Nxg7?***

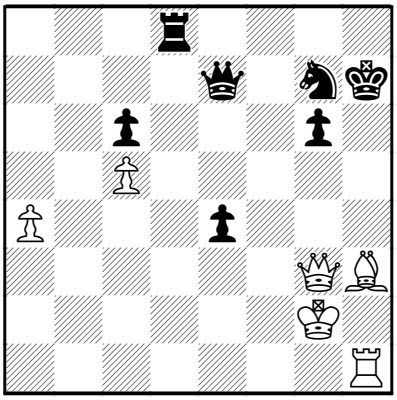
Houdini: correct was 39...Kxg7 40.Qc3+ Nf6 41.a5 Rh5 42.a6 Qg5+ 43.Qg3 Qxc5 44.Qc7+ Kh6$\mp$ in a wild position.

***40.Qg3 Qe7?***

This was the last move before time control, and the only big mistake

by my opponent! After the correct Queen trade, it should be a drawn endgame after 40...Qxg3+ 41.Kxg3 Ra8 42.Bd7.

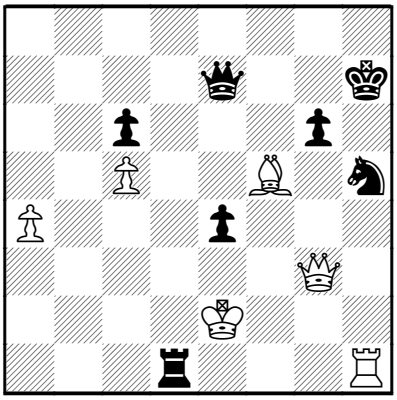
***41.Rh1! Rd8***



***42.Be6+***

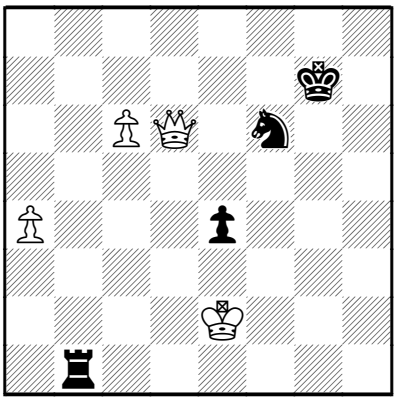
It took me about 10 minutes to figure out this nice combination!

***42...Nh5 43.Bf5 Rd2+ 44.Kf1 Rd1+ 45.Ke2!***



A very nice picture!

***45...Rxh1 46.Qxg6+ Kh8 47.Qh6+ Kg8 48.Be6+ Qxe6 49.Qxe6+ Kg7 50.Qxc6 Nf6 51.Qd6 Rb1 52.c6***



***52...Rb2+ 53.Kd1 e3 54.Qe7+ 1–0***

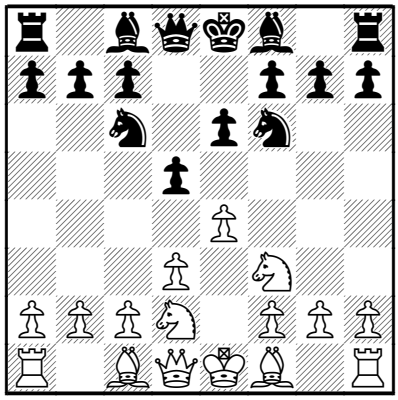
**Griffith, Kyron (2438) - Heredia Serrano, Carla (2214)**
**[C00] French Defense**
**Recession Buster Open (1)**
**San Diego 16.02.2013**

*Notes by Carla Heredia Serrano.*

***1.e4 e6 2.d3 d5 3.Nd2***

The King's Indian Attack is played more often than we think.

***3...Nf6 4.Ngf3 Nc6***



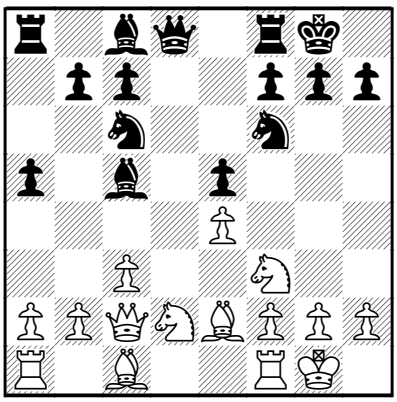
***5.Be2***

More accurate is the useful waiting move 5.c3 a5 *(for if 5...dxe4?! 6.dxe4 e5 7.Bc4, the Bishop gets to c4 in just one move)* 6.Be2 e5 7.0–0 Be7 8.Re1 0–0 9.exd5 *(9.Bf1 dxe4 10.dxe4 Be6 11.Qc2 Nd7 12.Nc4 a4 13.Rd1 f6 14.Ne3 Qe8 15.Nd5, 0–1 (44) Morozevich-Korchnoi, Yalta 1995.)* 9...Qxd5 10.Bf1 a4 11.Nc4 Ng4 12.h3 b5 13.Ncd2 *(or 13.hxg4 bxc4 14.dxc4 Qxd1 15.Rxd1 Bxg4 16.Re1 f6)* 13...Nf6 14.Qe2 Re8 15.Ne4 ½–½ (40), Balashov - Vaganian, Minsk 1979.

***5...Bc5 6.0–0 dxe4 7.dxe4 e5 8.c3 a5***

A typical move, which prevents White from gaining space with b4 and a4.

***9.Qc2 0–0***



bb *Carla Heredia Serrano of Ecuador won second prize for Best Game.*

***10.Nc4***

Also possible is 10.Nb3 Bb6 11.Bg5 Qe7 12.Nbd2 h6 13.Bh4 Rd8 14.Rad1 g5 15.Bg3 Nh5 16.Bb5 f6, 0–1 (37) Bauer-Thirion, ICCF email 2008.

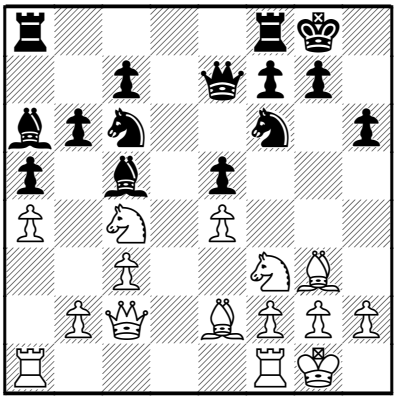
***10...Qe7 11.a4 b6 12.Bg5***

I think that for the long term and for playing for a win, 12.Ne3 is better, getting ready to maneuver. 12...Rd8 13.Nh4 (Threatening Nf5) 13...Bxe3 14.Bxe3 Ng4 15.Nf5 Bxf5 16.exf5 Qh4 17.Bxg4 Qxg4 18.f4 Rd5 19.fxe5 Rxe5=.

***12...h6***

Asking the Bishop to choose his destiny.

***13.Bh4 Ba6 14.Bg3***



The key moment. Kyron threatens to take on e5. To defend the pawn with Nd7 would be a little bit passive. Therefore, what to do?

Concentration and calculation during the game paid off with the next move.

***14...Nh5!***

Defending the pawn with tactics. Kyron can not take the pawn, and I am going to gain the Bishop pair.

***15.Rfd1?***

The three captures on e5 are all bad:

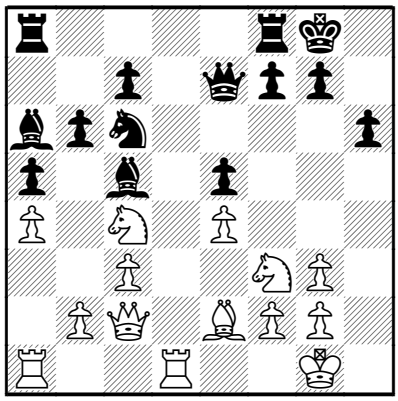
15.Bxe5 loses a piece after 15... Bxc4 16.Bxc4 Nxe5 17.Nxe5 Qxe5.

15.Ncxe5 also loses after 15...Nxg3 16.Bxa6 *(not 16.Nxc6? Nxe2+ 17.Qxe2 Qe8–+, attacking the queen and the knight)* 16...Nxe5 17.hxg3 Rxa6–+ and Black is up a Bishop.

15.Nfxe5 Nxg3 16.Nxc6 Nxe2+ 17.Qxe2 Qe6 18.N6e5 f6, and Black wins one of the Knights.

A normal position would arise after 15.Rad1 Nxg3 16.hxg3 Qe6 17.Rd5 f6 18.b3 Ne7 19.Rd2 Rad8=.

***15...Nxg3 16.hxg3***



***16...Bxf2+***

Tactics! It is important to always calculate forced moves to find tactical ideas.

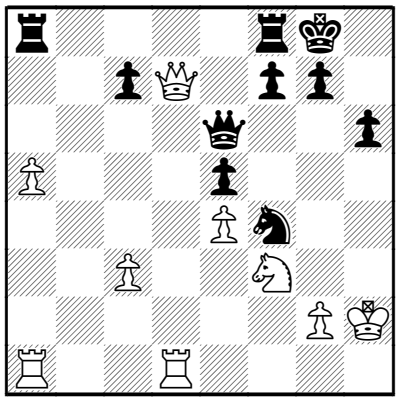
***17.Kh2***

Not much better is 17.Kxf2 Bxc4 *(17...Qc5+ directly doesn't work because of 18.Ne3+–)* 18.Bxc4 Qc5+ 19.Ke2 Qxc4+ 20.Qd3 Qxd3+ 21.Rxd3 Rfd8 22.Rad1 f6∓, welcoming 23.Rd7?? Nd4+.

***17...Qe6 18.Nxa5 Bxe2***

More enterprising would have been 18...Qg6! (the intermediate move!) 19.Nxc6 *(Best was 19.Bxa6 Bxg3+ 20.Kg1 Nxa5 21.Bd3 and Black gets a pawn, better pawn structure and a strong attack.)* 19...Qh5+ 20.Nh4 Bxe2 21.Rd2 g5 22.Rxe2 Bxg3+ 23.Kxg3 Qxh4+ 24.Kf3 Qf4 mate.

***19.Qxe2 Bxg3+ 20.Kxg3 Rxa5 21.b4 Raa8 22.Kh2 Ne7 23.Qb5 Ng6 24.Qd7 Qc4 25.Qd3 Qb3 26.a5 bxa5 27.bxa5 Nf4 28.Qd2 Qe6 29.Qd7***



Now Kyron and I are getting into time trouble. Black is better, but good technique is needed, otherwise the game could be a draw.

***29...Qg6 30.Rd2 Rfe8 31.Qxc7 Qxe4 32.Re1 Qf5 33.Rxe5 Rxe5 34.Qxe5***

Best. Losing was 34.Nxe5 Ne6 35.Qd6 and now 35...Rxa5, or 35... Rd8 36.Nd7 Qh5+ 37.Kg1 Qxa5.

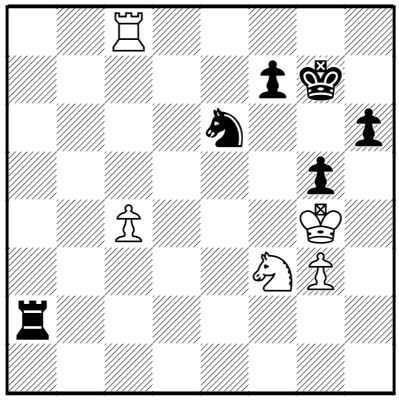
***34...Rxa5 35.Qxf5 Rxf5***

Black is better but how to win?

***36.Rd8+ Kh7 37.Rc8 Ne6 38.Kg3 g5 39.c4 Kg7 40.Nd2 Re5***

A little better was 40...h5 and if 41.Ne4?! then 41...h4+ 42.Kh2 g4 43.c5 g3+ 44.Kh3 *(no better is 44.Kg1 Re5 45.Nc3 Re1 mate)* 44...Rf4, and if the Knight moves then 45...Ng5 mate.

***41.Nf3 Ra5 42.Kg4? Ra2 43.g3?***



The game ends sooner, but still losing was 43.Kg3 h5 44.c5 h4+.

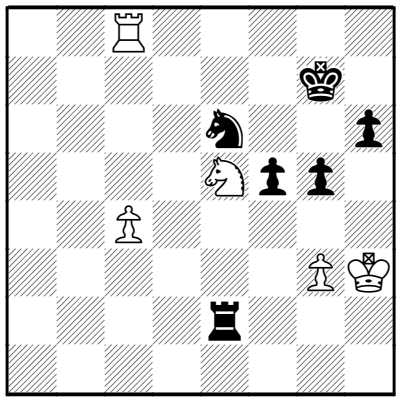
***43...Rf2!***

Threatening h5, and the White Knight is hanging

***44.Ne5 f5+ 45.Kh3***

If White's Knight couldn't take on g4, it would be mate, right?

***45...Re2 0–1***



Kyron resigned here because he saw that after 46.Ng4, block-

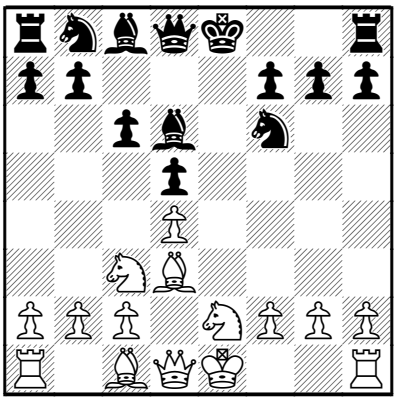
ing g4 mate, I would play 46...h5!!. We should remember the phrase "Never underestimate the power of a pawn!"

**Saccuzzo, Dennis P (1920) - Hodges, Peter (2084)**
**[C01] French Defense**
**Exchange Variation**
**Recession Buster - U2100 (3)**
**San Diego, 17.02.2013**
*Notes by the Editor.*

***1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.Nc3***

Grandmasters play this line, too: 4.Nf3 c6 5.Bd3 Bd6 6.0–0 Ne7 7.c4 0–0 8.h3 dxc4 9.Bxc4 Nd7 10.Nc3 Nb6 11.Bb3 h6 12.Re1 Bf5 13.Ne5± 1–0 (37), Nakamura - Williams, Eilat 2012.

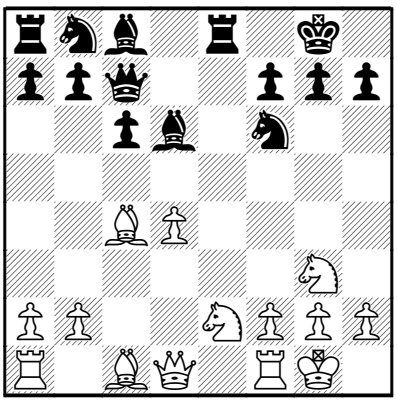
***4...Nf6 5.Bd3 c6 6.Nge2 Bd6***



***7.0–0***

One unusual way to play it was 7.Bf4 Bg4 8.Qd2 Bxf4 9.Nxf4 Qe7+ 10.Kf1 0–0 11.Re1 Qd7 12.f3 Bf5 13.Bxf5 Qxf5 14.Re7 Qc8 15.g4± 1–0 (51), Khmelnitsky - Kaufman,L Seattle 2002.

***7...0–0 8.Ng3 Qc7 9.Nce2 Re8 10.c4 dxc4 11.Bxc4***



bb

*Peter Hodges: Best Game from the non-Open sections.*

Houdini gives Black a slight plus, perhaps because White's pieces are not ideally placed for this Isolated Queen's Pawn position.

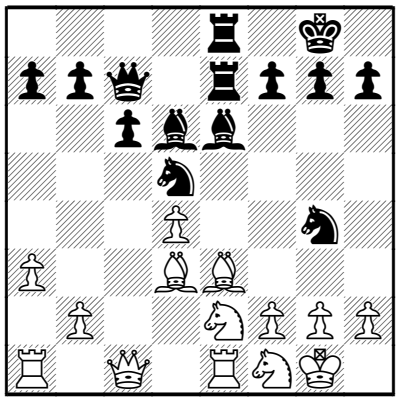
***11...Be6 12.Bd3 Nbd7 13.Be3 Nb6***

Black certainly controls the square in front of the Queen's pawn, and White has not made anything of c5 and e5 as Knight outposts.

***14.Qc1 Nbd5 15.a3 Re7 16.Re1 Rae8***

Black is fully developed.

***17.Nf1 Ng4***



*"Danger, Will Robinson!"*

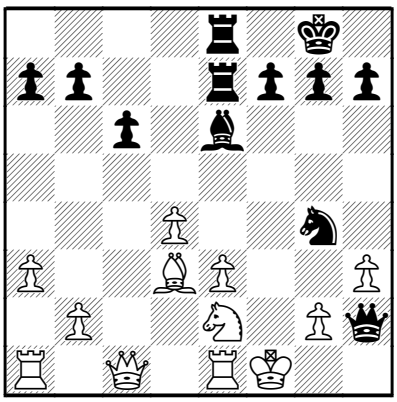
***18.h3***

This does not answer Black's threat of 18...Bxh2+ 19.Kh1 Ndxe3, winning big material due to the threatened 20.Nxf2 mate. Necessary was 18.g3∓.

***18...Bh2+ 19.Nxh2***

Holding out a bit longer was 19.Kh1 Ndxe3 20.hxg4 Nxg4 21.Neg3 Bxg3 22.fxg3 Nf2+.

***19...Qxh2+ 20.Kf1 Ndxe3+ 21.fxe3***



***21...Bd5***

The best.

***22.e4 Rxe4***

Mate is on the way.

***23.Bxe4 Bxe4 24.Nf4 Bd3+ 0–1***

# Three Tie in 24th Metropolitan FIDE GM

*February 20-24, 2013*

**GM Melikset Khachiyan and IMs Mackenzie Molner and Andranik Matikozyan scored 6-3 to tie for first in the 24th Metropolitan Invitational FIDE**, which was a grandmaster norm tournament. Fourth with 5½-3½ was Arun Sharma, with GMs Enrico Sevillano and Vladimir Georgiev tied for fifth with 5-4. Seventh at 3½-5½ was FM John Daniel Bryant, followed by FMs Samuel Sevian and Alexandre Kretchetov at 3-6, and IM Zhanibek Amanov, who lost to the three leaders in rounds 6 through 8 and finished with 2-7.

This tournament was strong enough so that Sharma's 5½-3½ score earned him his second IM norm. He needs one more norm and to raise his rating above 2400 to complete the requirements for the title.

Ankit Gupta directed, assisted by Alejandro Ruiz. The sponsors were California Market Center, Fashion Business, Inc, Law Offices of Steinfl & Bruno, Chess.com, MonRoi, LawyerFy, EventForte, and Betty Bottom Showroom.

Khachiyan continued his winning streak. Starting with his first place tie at last year's Western States tournament in Reno, he won the American Open, tied for first in the 23rd Metropolitan FIDE GM, and won the Recession Buster Open, before finishing in a first place tie here.

After this tournament, both Matikozyan and Khachiyan continued on to tie for first at the Western Class Championships in Agoura Hills. And Amanov, who finished last here, won the following 25th Metropolitan Invitational.

We present two games with notes by IM Jack Peters. The first is Molner's win over Kretchetov from the third round, in which White got an extra Queen in the middle game, but it was trapped on a8. Next is Georgiev's fifth round victory against John Daniel Bryant, a sharp game with an interesting imbalanced material ending.

Finally, we present Sharma's sixth round win with notes by the editor. There are some turns near the end of the first time control, followed by another sharp ending, this time a battle between Queen and two Rooks. -Ed.

| | Round by Round Pairings, Colors, and Scores | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Melikset Khachiyan | USA | W6 | B5 | W7 | B4 | W8 | B9 | W3 | B10 | W2 |
| | 2498 | | ½ | 1 | 1½ | 2½ | **3½** | 4 | 4½ | **5½** | **6** |
| 2 | Andranik Matikozyan | ARM | B8 | W6 | B9 | W5 | B3 | W7 | B10 | W4 | B1 |
| | 2429 | | ½ | **1½** | 2 | **3** | 3 | 4 | **5** | **5½** | **6** |
| 3 | Mackenzie Molner | USA | W7 | B4 | W8 | B9 | W2 | W10 | B1 | W6 | B5 |
| | 2459 | | ½ | 1 | 2 | 2½ | **3½** | **4½** | **5** | **5½** | **6** |
| 4 | Arun Sharma | USA | B9 | W3 | B10 | W1 | B6 | W5 | B7 | B2 | W8 |
| | 2371 | | **1** | **1½** | **2½** | 2½ | 2½ | 3½ | 4½ | 5 | 5½ |
| 5 | Vladimir Georgiev | MKD | B10 | W1 | B6 | B2 | W7 | B4 | W8 | B9 | W3 |
| | 2552 | | ½ | 1 | 1½ | 1½ | 2½ | 2½ | 3½ | 4½ | 5 |
| 6 | Enrico Sevillano | USA | B1 | B2 | W5 | B7 | W4 | B8 | W9 | B3 | W10 |
| | 2515 | | ½ | ½ | 1 | 1½ | 2½ | 3 | 4 | 4½ | 5 |
| 7 | John Daniel Bryant | USA | B3 | W10 | B1 | W6 | B5 | B2 | W4 | B8 | W9 |
| | 2453 | | ½ | **1½** | 2 | 2½ | 2½ | 2½ | 2½ | 3 | 3½ |
| 8 | Alexandre Kretchetov | RUS | W2 | W9 | B3 | W10 | B1 | W6 | B5 | W7 | B4 |
| | 2270 | | ½ | 1 | 1 | 1½ | 1½ | 2 | 2 | 2½ | 3 |
| 9 | Samuel Sevian | USA | W4 | B8 | W2 | W3 | B10 | W1 | B6 | W5 | B7 |
| | 2373 | | 0 | ½ | 1 | 1½ | 2 | 2½ | 2½ | 2½ | 3 |
| 10 | Zhanibek Amanov | KAZ | W5 | B7 | W4 | B8 | W9 | B3 | W2 | W1 | B6 |
| | 2399 | | ½ | ½ | ½ | 1 | 1½ | 1½ | 1½ | 1½ | 2 |

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

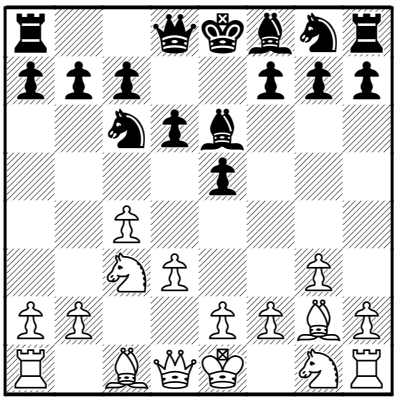
As a chess fan, I like to see exciting games full of original ideas. White could have won the following two games with correct play, but he chose to make them unpredictable slugfests. For our pleasure, I suspect. These are the kind of games that will make chess a spectator sport.

-Jack Peters

**Molner, Mackenzie (2459) - Kretchetov, Alexandre (2270)**
**[A25] English Opening**
**24th Metropolitan GM (3)**
**Los Angeles 21.02.2013**

*Notes by IM Jack Peters.*

***1.c4 e5 2.g3 Nc6 3.Nc3 d6 4.Bg2 Be6 5.d3***



A standard treatment of the English Opening.

***5...Qd7 6.b4***

Trying to save a tempo by avoiding 6. Rb1.

***6...g6***

Worth a thought is 6...Nxb4 7.Bxb7 *(Black holds the pawn after*

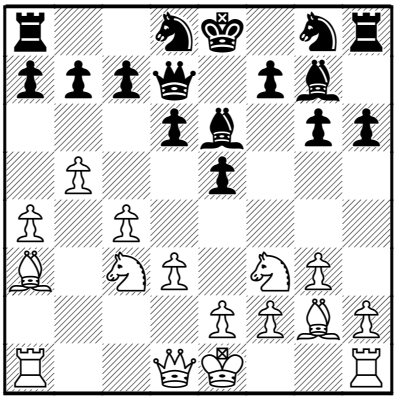
*7.Rb1?! c5)* 7...Rb8 8.Bg2 Nf6. Opening a Queenside file usually suits White in the English Opening, but Black's position here seems satisfactory.

***7.b5 Nd8 8.Nf3 h6***

Preventing Nf3-g5.

If Black exchanges Bishops immediately with 8...Bh3 9.Bxh3 Qxh3, White takes the initiative in the center by 10.d4 Bg7 11.Nd5±.

***9.a4 Bg7 10.Ba3***



***10...f5***

Sensibly declining White's exchange sacrifice.

Much too greedy is 10...e4? 11.Nxe4 Bxa1 12.Qxa1 Rh7. White would attack with 13.c5→, hoping for 13...d5? 14.c6! bxc6 15.Ne5 Qc8 16.Qc3! and Qc3-c5-f8.

***11.Rc1 Ne7 12.0–0±***

White's experiment with 6.b4 has succeeded. He has a "normal" English Opening position with the Rook better placed at c1 than b1.

***12...0–0 13.Nd2 g5***

Unnecessary. Black could seek Kingside action directly by 13...f4.

***14.c5 Ng6?***

This natural move gets Black into serious trouble.

Black can probably survive 14...d5 15.c6!? bxc6 16.Nb3 Bf7 17.Nc5 Qd6 although the lineup on the a3-f8 diagonal looks scary.

The safer 14...Rc8± accepts a tolerable disadvantage.

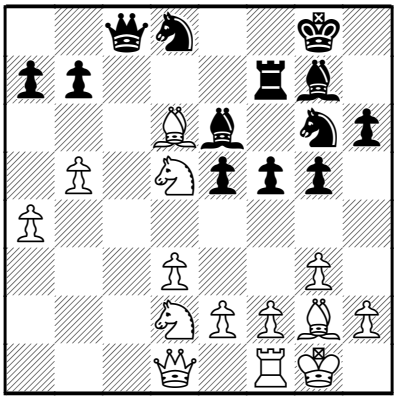
***15.cxd6 cxd6 16.Nd5***

Threatening 17. Rc7.

***16...Rc8?!***

The unpleasant 16...Bxd5 17.Bxd5+ Kh8 18.Nc4 Ne7 19.Bg2 Nf7± doesn't drop material.

***17.Rxc8 Qxc8 18.Bxd6 Rf7***



White is winning, but his next move carelessly gives Black a chance to fight.

***19.Nc4?***

Either 19.Ba3+– or 19.Qb1 Qd7 20.Qb4+–, intending Rf1–c1, should win without difficulty.

***19...e4! 20.b6!?***

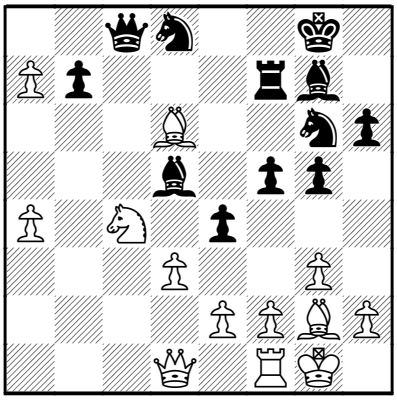
This adventurous move makes the game memorable.

White had a less committing option, 20.Nde3 Rd7 21.Bb4±.

***20...Bxd5***

Black must accept the challenge, as 20...a6 21.Nc7+– is hopeless.

***21.bxa7***



***21...Bxc4!***

Black should reject 21...Qa8? 22.Nb6 Qxa7 23.Nxd5+– as soon as he realizes that 23...Rd7 does not win material because of 24.dxe4! Rxd6 25.Ne7+ Nxe7 26.Qxd6 Ndc6 27.exf5+–.

***22.Bb8 Nc6?***

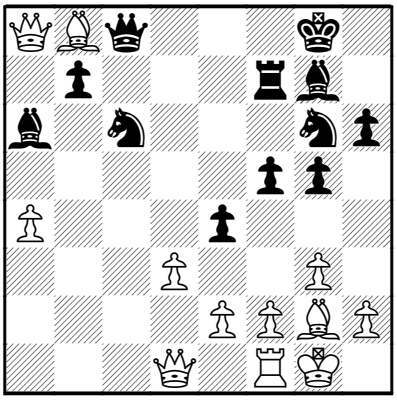
The amazing resource 22... Rf6! saves Black. Houdini suggests

cr

*Mackenzie Molner: his first win of the tournament.*

23.dxc4 *(the new Queen cannot run after 23.a8Q? Ra6)* 23...Ra6 24.Qd5+ Kf8 25.Qb5 Nc6 26.Qxa6 bxa6 27.a8Q Nge7 28.Rb1 Be5, when Black recovers material and nearly restores equality.

***23.a8Q Ba6***



An incomprehensible position! Black has two Knights for a Queen, and the pinned Bishop appears doomed. Also, White's trapped Queen seems helpless against Black's threat of 24...b6 and 25...Bb7. Rarely is a player with two Queens the underdog, but that looks like the situation here.

And yet, White is winning!

Perhaps Black can improve slightly with 23...Be6 24.dxe4 f4. However, White's Queen is not in immediate danger, and White might extricate it by 25.e5 Ngxe5 26.Qb1 and a4-a5-a6. If 26...Qxb8 27.Qxb8+ Nxb8 28.Bxb7, the a-pawn will decide the game.

***24.dxe4 f4***

Winning the trapped Queen by 24...b6 25.exf5 Bb7 cedes too much material after 26.fxg6 Re7 *(even worse is 26...Rd7 27.Bh3! Rxd1 28.Rxd1 Bxa8 29.Bxc8 Nxb8 30.Be6+ Kf8 31.Rd8+ Ke7 32.Rxb8+–)* 27.Qxb7 Rxb7 28.Bd6+–.

Nor does 24...Nge7 25.exf5 b6 work, as 26.f6! plots the Queen's escape by Bg2-h3. If 26...Bb7 White comes out ahead with 27.Qxb7 Qxb7 28.fxe7 Qxb8 29.Bxc6+–.

***25.e5 Nge7***

As 25...Nxb8 26.Qd6+– hits both Knights.

***26.Qc2 Bxe5***

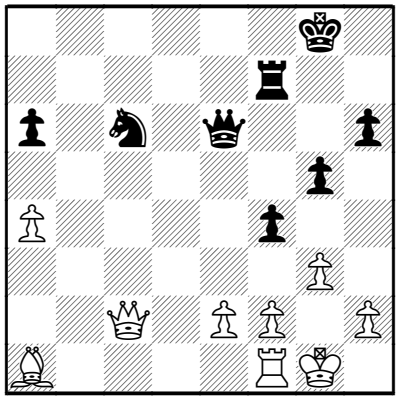
Plausible, although White, with only 12 minutes to reach the time control at move 40, seizes the opportunity to simplify.

Black can obtain three pieces for the Queen with 26...Qxb8 27.Qxb8+ Nxb8, but passed pawns become the deciding factor. White creates separated ones by 28.e6 Rf8 29.Bxb7! Bxb7 30.Qc7+–.

***27.Bxc6***

The more complicated 27.Bh3! Qf8 28.Be6+– should win too.

***27...Nxc6 28.Qxa6 bxa6 29.Bxe5 Qe6 30.Ba1***



The excitement is over. White settles for merely one extra pawn, which is enough to win.

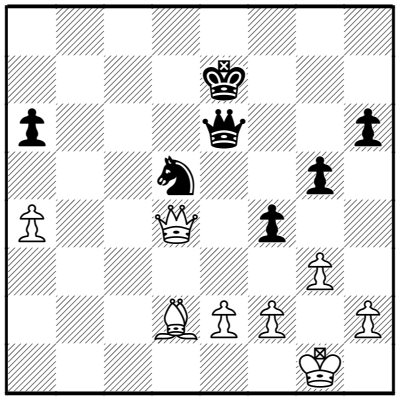
***30...Rd7 31.Rd1***

White could aim for a middlegame solution with 31.Rb1, threatening 32. Rb6.

***31...Rxd1+ 32.Qxd1 Kf7 33.Qd3 Nb4 34.Qh7+ Ke8 35.Qh8+ Kd7***

Or 35...Ke7 36.Bg7, eyeing f8 and h6.

***36.Qg7+ Ke8 37.Qe5 Kd7 38.Qg7+ Ke8 39.Qe5 Kd7 40.Qd4+ Nd5 41.Bc3 Kc6 42.Qc4+ Kd7 43.Bd2 Ke7 44.Qd4***



***44...Kd6?***

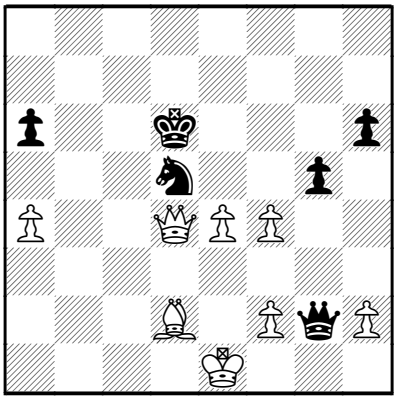
Black is understandably reluctant to play 44...fxg3 45.hxg3 because White will soon advance e2-e4.

But 44...Kf7 or 44...Kf8 would make White work much harder.

***45.gxf4 Qg4+ 46.Kf1 Qh3+***

As 46...gxf4? loses the Knight to 47.Bb4+ Ke6 48.Qe4+.

***47.Ke1 Qg2 48.e4***



The clincher. Black does not have perpetual check.

***48...Qg1+ 49.Ke2 Qg4+ 50.Kd3 Qh3+ 51.Kc2 Qc8+ 52.Kb1 1–0***

**Georgiev, Vladimir (2552) - Bryant, John Daniel (2453)**
**[E10] Benoni Defense**
**24th Metropolitan GM (5)**
**Los Angeles 22.02.2013**

*Notes by IM Jack Peters.*

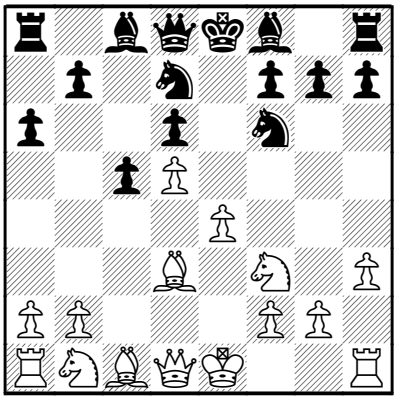
***1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.Nf3 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.h3***

Usual is 6.Nc3 g6, leading to the Modern Benoni.

***6...a6***

By mutual agreement, the players venture into unexplored territory.

***7.e4 Nbd7 8.Bd3***



***8...b5***

This advance signals success in the Modern Benoni, but it may be premature in this position. White's

disruptive a2-a4 will work better because the reply ...b5-b4 will not hit a Knight at c3.

***9.0–0 Ne5***

Nick de Firmian twice played 9... Be7 10.a4 Rb8±.

Black should not copy the Modern Benoni formation by 9...g6?!, as 10.a4 Rb8 11.axb5 axb5 12.Qe2± looks toward b5 and e5. If 12...c4 13.Bc2 Bg7, then 14.Nd4± is too strong.

***10.Nxe5 dxe5 11.a4?!***

If White wants to work on the Queenside, he should start with 11.b3 to hold back ...c5-c4.

***11...c4***

Certainly not the nightmare 11... b4? 12.Nd2 Bd6 13.Nc4±.

***12.Bc2 Bd7***

Black has emerged with a promising position. If he manages to castle, his mobile Queenside majority should prove more valuable than the easily-blockaded d-pawn.

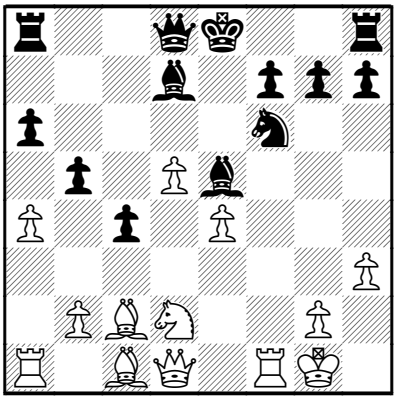
***13.f4!?***

Commendably aggressive, although loosening.

White has no attractive follow up to 13.Be3 Bd6 14.Nd2 0–0=.

Perhaps 13.b3 cxb3 14.Bxb3 Bd6 15.Nd2 retains a minimal edge.

***13...Bd6 14.fxe5 Bxe5 15.Nd2***



Threatening 16.Nf3 and 17.e5. Black must react.

***15...Bd4+??***

But not like this!

Instead, 15...c3! 16.bxc3 Bxc3 17.Rb1 0–0 18.Bb2 Bxb2 19.Rxb2 Re8= keeps control of e5.

***16.Kh1 Ng4***

Black cannot back out with 16... Qc7 17.Nf3 Bb6 because 18.d6+– and 19. e5 is overwhelming.

***17.Nxc4 Qc7***

Even a mate threat won't rescue Black.

***18.hxg4 Qxc4 19.Bd3 Qb4***

Not 19...Bxg4?? 20.Bxc4 Bxd1 21.Rxd1 bxc4 22.Rxd4+–.

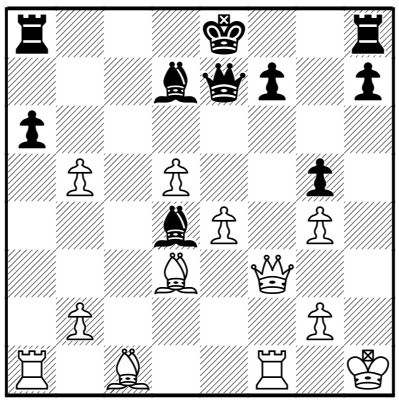
***20.axb5+–***

White's only worry is his exposed King. Black regroups for a second onslaught.

***20...Qe7 21.Qf3 g5***

Preparing ...h7-h5.

White welcomes 21...h5 22.g5+– and 21...Qh4+ 22.Qh3 Qxh3+ 23.gxh3 h5 24.Rxa6 Rxa6 25.bxa6 hxg4 26.h4 Rxh4+ 27.Kg2+–.

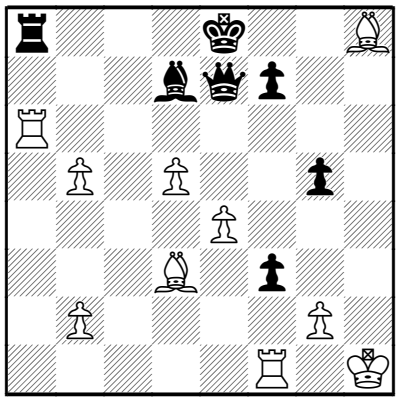


***22.Be3?***

Both players want to attack, no matter what the position calls for.

A bit of defense with 22.g3! h5 23.gxh5 g4 24.Qf4 Rxh5+ 25.Kg2+– would clinch White's win. If 25...Rh3, White evades the threat of 26...Be5 with 26.Rxa6 Rc8 27.Qg5+–.

***22...h5 23.Bxd4 hxg4+ 24.Bxh8 gxf3 25.Rxa6***



Best. Now the proper result is a draw.

***25...Rb8***

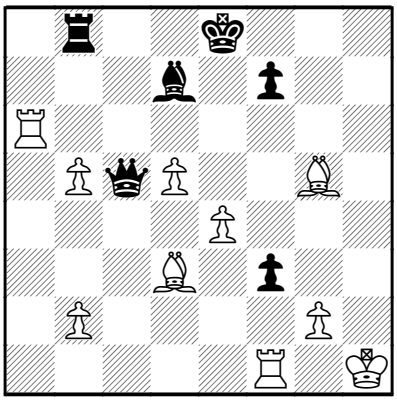
Natural and good.

Houdini likes the wild 25...Rxa6 26.bxa6 Qf8 27.Bd4 Qh6+ 28.Kg1 fxg2 when White barely salvages a draw by 29.a7□ Qh1+ 30.Kf2 gxf1Q+ 31.Bxf1 Qh4+ 32.Kg1□ Qg3+ 33.Kh1□ Qh4+ 34.Kg1□.

***26.Bf6 Qc5!***

After 26...Qf8? 27.Be5, White's threats *(28. Bxb8, 28. Rxf3, and 28. Rh6)* are more serious than anything Black can concoct.

***27.Bxg5***



***27...Qd4??***

Black goes wrong in a treacherous position.

He can assure a draw with 27...Bxb5! 28.Ra5 fxg2+ 29.Kxg2 Qb4 30.Bxb5+ *(easier to calculate is 30.Rxb5 Rxb5 31.Bxb5+ Qxb5 32.Rf2 Qd3=)* 30...Rxb5 31.Ra8+ Rb8 32.Rxb8+ Qxb8 33.Bf6 Qb3, as White cannot use his Rook actively without dropping the e-pawn or allowing perpetual check.

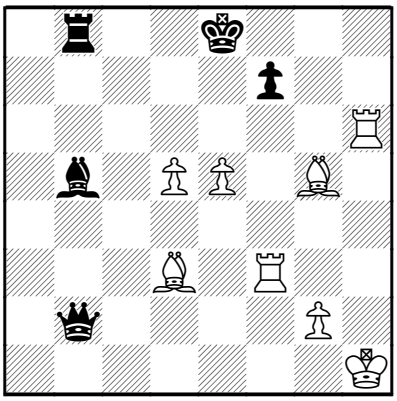
After 27...Bxb5!, the tricky 28.Rh6!? also draws if Black finds 28...fxg2+ 29.Kxg2 Qd4□ 30.Rff6□ Bxd3 31.Rh8+ Ke7 32.Rf4+ Kd6 33.Rf6+ *(Black would not mind 33.Rxb8 Bxe4+)* 33...Qxf6 34.Bxf6 Bxe4+ 35.Kg3 Rxh8 36.Bxh8 Kxd5.

***28.Rxf3+– Qxb2***

It's too late for 28...Bxb5? 29.Bxb5+ Rxb5 because White wins the Queen with 30.Ra8+ Kd7 31.Rxf7+ Kd6 32.Ra6+ Kc5 33.Be7+ Kc4 34.Ra4+.

More difficult is 28...Bg4, but White wins anyway with 29.Bf6! Qc5 30.Rc6! Qf8 31.Rg3 Qh6+ 32.Kg1 Qf4 33.Bh4, threatening 34.Rf6.

***29.e5 Bxb5 30.Rh6!***



Threatening 31.Rh8+ Kd7 32.Rxf7 mate.

***30...Qa1+ 31.Bf1 Kf8***

Black can prolong the game only with the hopeless 31...Qxe5 32.Re3+–.

***32.Bf6 Ke8 33.Rh8+ Kd7 34.e6+ 1–0***

**Sharma, Arun (2371) - Georgiev, Vladimir (2552)**
**[E33] Nimzo-Indian Defense**
**24th Metropolitan GM (6)**
**Los Angeles, 23.02.2013**

*Notes by the Editor.*

***1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nc6***

A rare move.

Four others get all the attention: 3...d5, 3...b6, 3...Bb4+, and 3...c5.

***4.Nc3***

After initially avoiding the Nimzo-Indian, White allows a transposition into its less often seen 4...Nc6 line.

***4...Bb4 5.Qc2***

Between grandmasters, this position has been played about 100 times, according to the database.

***5...0–0***

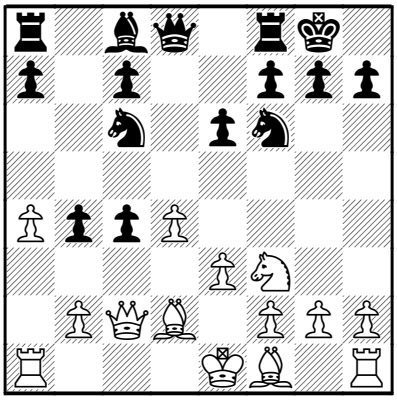
More usual is 5...d6 and now either 6.a3 Bxc3+ 7.Qxc3 or 6.Bd2 0–0 7.a3 Bxc3 8.Bxc3.

***6.Bd2 d5 7.a3***

*Arun Sharma: scored his second IM norm.* cr

More often seen is 7.e3 Re8 8.a3 Bf8 9.Bd3.

***7...Bxc3 8.Bxc3 dxc4 9.e3 b5 10.a4 b4 11.Bd2***



White recovers the pawn.

***11...a5 12.Bxc4 Bb7 13.0–0 Qd6 14.Rfd1 Ne7 15.Bd3 Bxf3 16.gxf3 e5***

Black doubles White's f-pawns, and we get to see two Bishops against two Knights. The Knights are better than Bishop and Knight when combating the two Bishops, some say.

***17.Rac1 Rac8 18.Qc5 exd4 19.exd4***

White's pawns are quite weak now, but Black is about to lose one anyway.

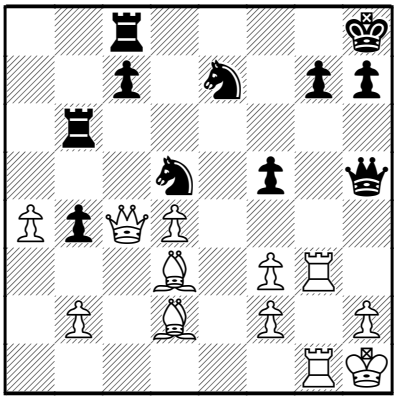
***19...Nfd5***

This Knight has a decent outpost.

***20.Qxa5 f5 21.Kh1 Kh8?!***

Black can get the pawn back with 21...Ra8 22.Qc5 Rxa4±.

***22.Qc5 Qg6 23.Rg1 Qh5 24.Rg3 Rf6 25.Rcg1 Rc6 26.Qb5 Rb6 27.Qc5 Rc6 28.Qb5 Rb6 29.Qc4***



White rightly avoids the three time repetition with this strong move.

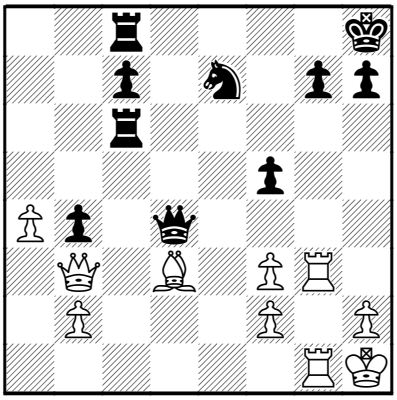
***29...Rc6 30.Qb3 Qh4***

A little better was 30...Rg6 31.a5 Rxg3 32.Rxg3 f4 33.Rg4 Ra8±.

***31.Bg5!***

White breaks up the central Knight's outpost.

***31...Qxd4 32.Bxe7 Nxe7***



***33.Qf7***

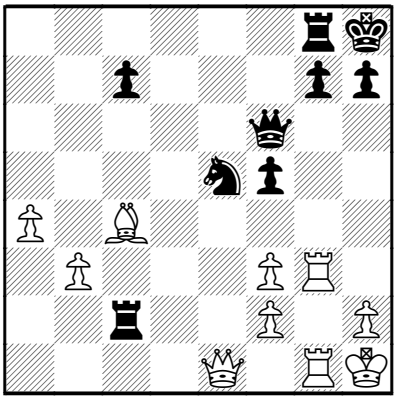
White perhaps expected to win material, but missed Black's 34th.

Correct was 33.Rxg7! Ng6 34.Rf7, and White is going to pick up another pawn.

***33...Rg8 34.Bb5 Qf6!***

Solving the double attack problem.

***35.Qb3 Rc5 36.Qxb4 Rc2 37.Qe1 Ng6 38.b3 Ne5 39.Bc4!***

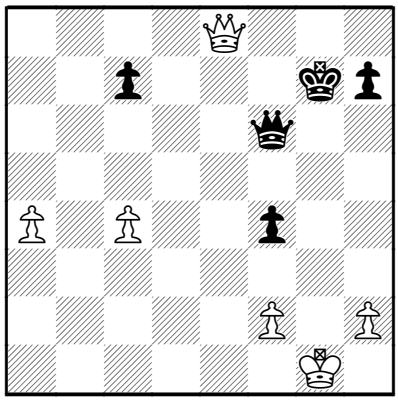


Now White provides a surprise.

Houdini says this is best, but it almost looks like move 39 time pressure. Black gets to trade off the Bishop and split White's Queenside pawns.

***39...Nxc4***

Best for Black was actually 39... Rxc4! 40.bxc4 f4 41.Rg5 *(If 41.Rh3 then Qf5 42.Qf1 c6 43.a5±. If 41.R3g2 then best was Nxf3 42.Rxg7 transposing into this line.)* 41...Nxf3 42.Rxg7 Nxg1! 43.Rxg8+ Kxg8 44.Qe8+ Kg7 45.Kxg1±:



Black has recovered the Exchange, due to White's Kingside problems, but White's passed a-pawn looks like it will be decisive. But with White's Kingside still a liability, and especially with Black's f4 pawn, Black can stir up a great deal of trouble. If White can't win by keeping the King where it is, can he win by moving the King to the Queenside?

***40.Rxg7! Qxg7***

The point! Black has to capture with the Queen, and give up two Rooks for Queen and pawn in a position that's good for the Queen, easy to play, and fairly low risk.

40...Rxg7 41.Qe8+ is a mate.

40...Rf8 41.bxc4! wins.

So does 40...Rb8 41.Rxc7.

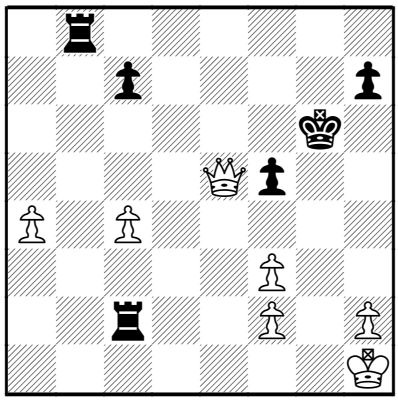
***41.Rxg7 Kxg7?***

Clearly better was 41...Rxg7 42.bxc4 h6 43.a5 Ra2 44.c5 c6 45.h3±. When the Rooks are not connected, it's good to keep the King less exposed to Queen checks.

***42.bxc4***

Black's exposed King prevents him from capturing White's c4 pawn.

***42...Rb8 43.Qe5+ Kg6***

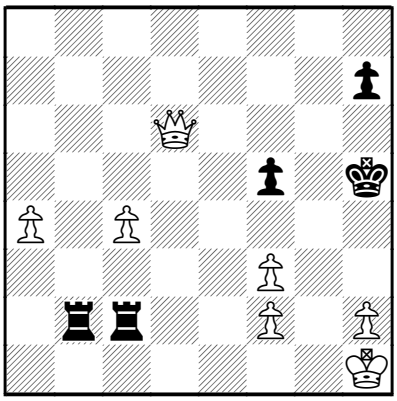


***44.Qxc7***

The Queen likes to combine with other pieces, so 44.Qe6+ Kg7 45.Qe7+ Kg6 46.h4 is a way to do it.

Now, after 46...Rb1+ 47.Kg2 Rbb2, White makes progress with 48.Qg5+ Kf7 49.Qxf5+ Kg7 50.Qe5+ Kf7 51.Qxc7+ Kg8 52.c5 Rxf2+ 53.Kg3 Rg2+ 54.Kh3+–.

***44...Rbb2 45.Qd6+ Kh5***



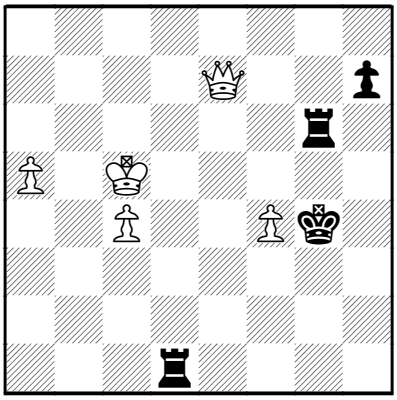
***46.Kg2!***

The only move to win.

***46...Rxf2+ 47.Kg3 Rxh2 48.Qf6 Rbg2+ 49.Kf4 Rh4+ 50.Kxf5 Rh1 51.a5 Rg6 52.Qf7 Kh6 53.Qf8+ Kh5 54.f4 Rg5+ 55.Kf6***

Not 55.fxg5?? Rf1+–+.

***55...Rg6+ 56.Ke5 Re1+ 57.Kd4 Rd1+ 58.Kc5 Kg4 59.Qe7***



***59...Rh1?***

Now White closes the deal with a series of forced moves.

***60.Qe4!***

The threat of 61.f5+ and 61.Qxh1 limits Black's replies.

***60...Rgh6 61.a6! Ra1 62.Qg2+! 1–0***

Black loses a Rook: 62...Kxf4 63.Qd2+; 62...Kf5 63.Qg5+; or 62... Kh4 63.Qg5+. ♜

# Valencia Hosts 558 at the 2013 Super States

*March 1-3, 2013*

**Including 3 Masters and 11 Experts!**

By Jay Stallings

**Michael William Brown (2358) scored 5½-½ to repeat as Southern California State High School Champion**, giving him another shot at the Denker Tournament of High School Champions title in Wisconsin this August. His key victory came as Black against SM Kyron Griffith in Round 4. Austin Hughes (2157) was clear second at 5-1, half a point behind, and Feiyue Yang earned third place on tie-breaks with 4½-1½. With Brown leading the way, American Chess Academy (ACA) with 15 points took top Club honors, just ahead of Conejo Valley Chess Club at 14½. Temple City High (10½) easily outdistanced San Marino High (7½) to earn the title of State High School Champions.

Craig Hilby (2106) won the Middle School K-8 section, and the right to compete at the Denker Tournament of Middle School Champions, with 5½-½. Second was Albert Lu (2161) with 5-1, who was a full point ahead of 3rd Place finishers George Shan (1661), Stan Liao (1669), and Blake Wong (1579), who scored 4-2. With the exception of the K-8 U800 section, Beyond Chess won the club titles in all the remaining sections, including this one with 14½ points, finishing 5½ points ahead of ACA. Coalinga (11) won the School team title ahead of Venado Middle School (9).

Improving from his 3rd Place finish in 2012, Hovanes Salvaryan (1840) beat both of the Deng siblings (Queena, 1721 & Tim, 1661), to take the 2013 So Cal Elementary Champ title with 5½-½. Eli Minoofar (1641) and Queena Deng were a half point back to finish 2nd-3rd. Beyond Chess finished with 17 points, 2 points ahead of ACA. The Peterson siblings from Cimmaron Elementary repeated as State School Champs.

After besting World Youth U8 competitor Joaquin Perkins (1800), Alexander Costello (1788) settled for a tie for first (trophy on tie breaks) after dropping his final game to Eric Chen (1378) following a devastating endgame blunder. Sandwiched between those two, finishing 2nd on tie breaks was Jeffrey Chou (1545). All three finished 5-1. In a trend, Beyond Chess's margin of victory grew in this section to 3½ points over ACA (15 vs. 11½). Coalinga Elementary benefitted by an odd number of players in the section, receiving three full-point byes to edge the school team award from Trinity Classical Academy by a half point.

Edward Chou (1099) easily cruised in the K-1 Championship, with a clean 6-0 sweep. Isaac Chang (738) took 2nd, 1½ points behind, with Gabriel Mee (834), Leonard Vu, (810) and Ethan Liu earning 3rd with 4-2. Beyond Chess's margin grew to 4 points (18 vs. 14) over Chess Palace this time. Coalinga was the only K-1 Championship school to field a school team.

Twelve games in two days is tough, so it is no surprise that none of the 166 players in the Reserve sections managed to score even 11-1 in this 6x2SS (one White, one Black vs. each of 6 opponents). Sepehr Khosravi, with 9½-2½, edged out Steven Camacho, Cole Lidgett, and Kyle Chan, all at 9-3, to take the K-12 U1200. Beyond Chess's margin over ACA was 5½ (32 vs. 26½). CYCL, who earned 3rd in all four Reserve

nc

*Dewain Barber with the K-3 first place winners Eric Chen, Alexander Costello, and Jeffrey Chou.*

sections, scored 25. No school teams competed in this section.

In the K-8 U800, Shutian Wang took first with 10-2, Jennifer Ganbaatar (9-3) was 2nd, and Alex Shaham and Timothy Kho (8½-3½) were 3rd. ASYC surprised Beyond Chess, (22-19½) and CYCL scored 18. Rosedale won the School title on tie breaks over Trinity. Both had 11.

Beyond Chess dominated the K-6 U800 section, taking the top 3 spots and finishing 13½ points ahead of ASYC for the Club Team title (37½-24). 1st-2nd: Stanley Zhou (10) and Yuanyi Zhang (9½). CYCL was ½ behind ASYC. Trinity edged West Creek (both in CYCL's program) by a score of 18½ to 18. Bessie Owens of Bakersfield was the 3rd Place school with 16½.

Andrew Li's 10½-1½ represented the highest score in the Reserve sections and landed him a full point ahead of Adam Rieng with 9½-2½ in the K-3 U600. Another full point behind was Evan Vallens (8½) in 3rd. Beyond Chess bested ACA by 33½ to 24, with CYCL at 22. Thorner (22) and Independence (11½) of Bakersfield were 1st and 2nd Place schools.

The Booster (one-day sections) were a bit chaotic, but in the end, however, things finished smoothly despite the large turnouts of 106 players in the K-6 U500 and 98 and 51 in the K-3 U300 and K-1 U200, respectively. Many recommended dropping these sections from SuperStates next year.

Accelerated pairings would not have helped prevent three players from finishing with perfect scores in the K-6 U500 because two of the three players came in as unrated. Tying for first at 5-0 were Owen Shi, Vishal Prashant, and Jesse Lamon. Beyond Chess (16), ACA (14) and ASYC (13½) were relatively close. Chandler (part of the Beyond Chess system) finished with an impressive 17½, well ahead of Victory (11) and West Creek Academy (9).

Another 3-way tie for first with perfect scores in the 98-player K-3 U300 between Connor Jung, Dean Bartlett, and Johnson Lin. Beyond Chess (16½), ACA (14½) and CYCL (13½) were the top club teams. Chandler took this section also, with 16, ahead of West Creek (13½) and newcomer St. Jeanne's (11½).

Finally, in the K-1 U200, Kevin Zhang was perfect with 5-0, and 2nd place went to Ray Liu at 4½-½. Ray Tan finished ahead of four others on tie breaks to grab 3rd Place. Beyond Chess showed that they have a strong group of young beginners too, taking this section by 6½ over ASYC (17½ to 11). Pico Canyon (12) easily won the school title over Chandler (7) and 3rd Place School Team Meadows Elementary (6½).

The side events were lightly attended. A-player Matthew Shuben, scoring 8-2, surprised everyone with his Blitz skills, winning the K-12 ahead of a half-dozen players rated over 2000, including main event winner Michael Brown and K-8 winner Craig Hilby, both tying for 2nd Place with 7½-2½. Gabriel Sam was first on tie breaks over Bryce Wong and Ben Duong in the K-6 Blitz, all scoring 8-2. Gia Peterson easily won the K-3 Blitz with a nearly perfect 9½-½.

The team of Michael Brown and Daniel Lin won the K-12 Bughouse by a full point over the team of Nicky Korba and Leo Creger. In the K-6 Bughouse, David Lopez & Richard Shu teamed up to take the 1st Place trophy on tie breaks over Joaquin Perkins and Cole Lidgett.

Randy Hough acted as Chief TD, with assistance from Shirley Tavorn, Harut Keshishian, Ankit Gupta, Kiki Chen, Kele Perkins, Robert Minoofar, and dozens of volunteers. Special thanks to Debbie Taylor for running the room with the little kids and to De-

nc

*WIM Sarah Xiaosha Lu, coach of Beyond Chess, was quite busy collecting first-place trophies!*

wain Barber for assisting Debbie, John Kennedy, and Kiki Chen by handing out trophies. Three photographers contributed: Nhi Casey, Yang Liu, and Carlos Vasquez. Jay & Michél Stallings of CYCL organized the event at the Valencia Hyatt on March 1st-3rd.

*We present a few moments from the tournament. Many thanks to Michael William Brown and Craig Hilby for their games and notes. -Ed.*

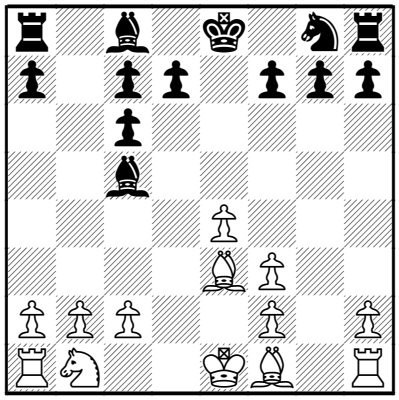
**Lin, Daniel (2060) -**
**Hilby, Craig (2132)**
**[C45] Scotch Game**
**Superstates (6)**
**Valencia, 03.03.2013**

*Notes by Craig Hilby.*

***1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Bc5 5.Nxc6***

I was surprised to see this. My opponent usually does 5.Be3, and a main line continues 5...Qf6 6.c3 Nge7 7.Bc4 Ne5 8.Be2 Qg6 9.0–0 d6. A previous game between us went 10.Nd2 Bh3 11.Bf3 O-O 12.Kh1 Nxf3 13.Qxf3 Bg4 14.Qg3 Bd7 15.Qxg6 Nxg6, with an advantage to Black, who later won, Lin-Hilby, Orange County Championships 2012.

***5...Qf6 6.Qf3 Qxf3 7.gxf3 bxc6 8.Be3***



I was unhappy at my opponent's opening choice, as I needed to win this game for first. Trading off pieces was not what I wanted.

***8...Bxe3 9.fxe3 Ne7 10.Nc3 d6 11.Bc4 f5***

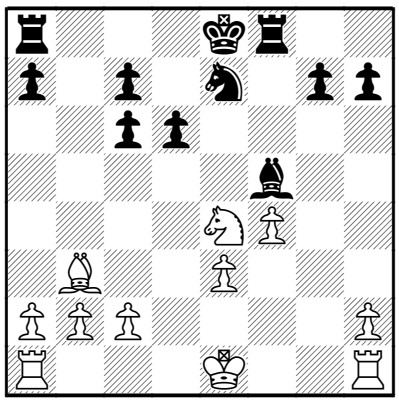
Striking at his pawn structure immediately and forcing him to react. I am threatening 12...fxe4, messing up his pawn structure

***12.Bb3 Rf8***

Again threatening to take on e4, because after the recapture Nxe4, the f3 pawn would hang.

If instead 12...fxe4, then 13.Nxe4 is possible, because d5 doesn't fork the two pieces anymore.

***13.f4 fxe4 14.Nxe4 Bf5***



***15.Ng3***

After 15.Ng5, Rf6 is what I was planning to play. But 16.e4 h6 17.exf5 hxg5 18.fxg5 Rxf5 19.h4 Kd7 is pretty drawish.

***15...d5***

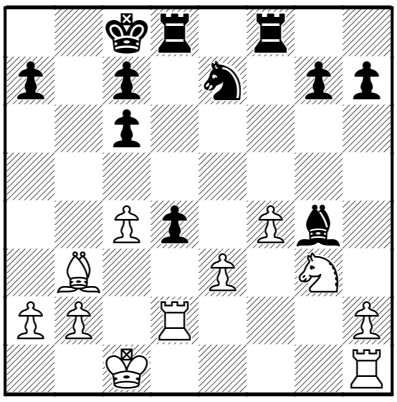
Fixing White's e3 pawn.

***16.0–0–0 0–0–0 17.c4***

Trying to free his light-squared Bishop.

Also possible was 17.Nxf5 Nxf5 18.e4 Ne3 19.Rd3 Ng2.

***17...Bg4 18.Rd2 d4***



I decided this was my best shot at a win, as this created a pawn imbalance of 4 on 3 on the Queenside for him and 2 on 1 on the Kingside for me.

***19.Rxd4***

19.exd4 Rxf4 20.Re1 Nf5 21.Nxf5 Bxf5 is slightly better for Black.

***19...Rxd4 20.exd4 Rxf4 21.Re1***

21.Rf1 secures a draw after either:

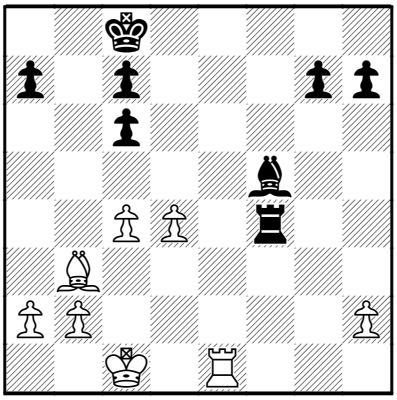
21...Rxd4 22.Rf7 Ng8 23.Rxg7 Nf6=.

nc

*Craig Hilby took first in the K-8 Championship.*

Or 21...Rxf1+ 22.Nxf1 Nf5 23.Bc2! (the move he might not have seen) 23...Nxd4 *(23...Kd7 24.Bxf5+ Bxf5 is also drawn)* 24.Bxh7 is drawn.

***21...Nf5 22.Nxf5 Bxf5***



***23.d5?***

In my opinion, the losing move. This undoubles my pawns, gives me a safe d6 square for my King, controlling the e7 entrance square, and gives me a good 2 on 1 on the Kingside.

After 23.Re7 it is hard for me to make progress, for example:

If 23...g5 then 24.Rf7, paralyzing my pieces. The game might continue. 24...h5 25.c5 Kd8 26.Ba4 Rxd4 27.Rxf5 Rxa4 28.Rxg5=.

And after 23...Rxd4 24.Rxg7 Rh4 25.Rg2 Be6 26.Rc2 Kb7 27.Kd1 *(not 27.c5 Bxb3 28.axb3 Rh3∓)* 27...c5, White's Bishop has no future.

***23...cxd5 24.cxd5 Kd7***

During the game, I thought I was winning here.

***25.Kd2 Kd6 26.Re2 g5***

My plan is to push the pawns to g4 and h3, then play Rf1, Rg1, and Rg2. Of course a Rook trade on the 2nd rank would be good for me, as I could just pick up the d-pawn afterward with ...Be4.

***27.Rg2 g4 28.Bc2***

Desperation.

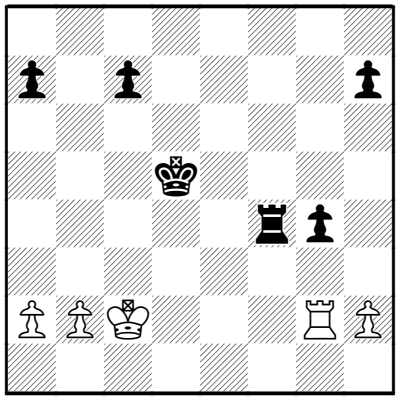
But if White sits and waits, he is doomed: 28.Re2 h5.

If now 29.a4 then the Kingside plan continues with 29...h4 30.Kc3 h3 31.Bc4 Rf3+ 32.Kd4 g3 33.hxg3 Rxg3–+.

If instead 29.Ke3, I can trade Rooks and win the d5 pawn, with 29...Re4+ 30.Kd2 Rxe2+ 31.Kxe2 Be4 32.Ke3 Ke5! *(32...Bxd5? 33.Bxd5 Kxd5 34.Kf4 a5 35.Kg5 Ke5 36.Kxh5 Kf4=)* 33.a4 h4 34.Bd1 g3 35.hxg3 hxg3 36.Bb3 Bxd5.

Or, keep on pressing with the Rooks on the board: 29.Ke3 Rf3+ 30.Kd2 *(not 30.Kd4 Rd3+ 31.Kc4 Rxd5)* 30...h4 31.Re3 Rf2+ 32.Re2 Rxe2+ 33.Kxe2 Be4.

***28...Bxc2 29.Kxc2 Kxd5***



***30.h3?***

The final mistake.

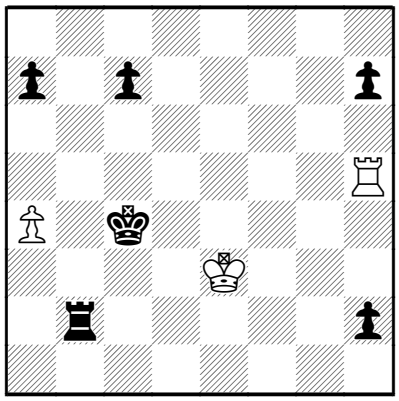
But the position wasn't holdable anyway. For example, 30.Kd2 h5 31.Ke2 Ke4 32.Ke1 *(or 32.b4 h4 33.a4 Kf5, attacking the Queenside pawns)* 32...h4 33.b3 a5 34.Ke2 Kf5 35.Ke3 Rf3+ 36.Ke2 Kf4 37.Rg1 Rh3 38.Rg2 g3 39.hxg3+ hxg3.

Also, if 30.Rg3 h5 31.h3 then 31... h4! wins.

***30...gxh3 31.Rg5+ Kc4 32.Kd2***

After 32.Rh5 Rf2+ 33.Kc1 h2, White can't prevent Rf1+ and h1=Q.

***32...Rf2+ 33.Ke3 Rxb2 34.a4 h2 35.Rh5***

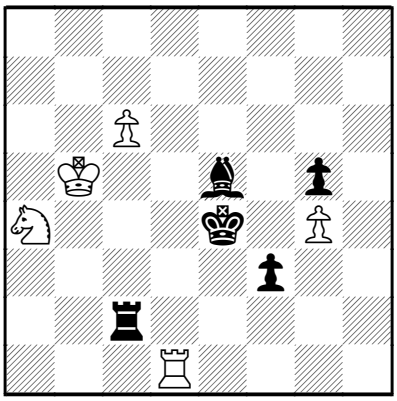


***35...Kb3 36.a5 c5 37.Rxh7 c4 38.Rb7+ Ka3 39.Rh7 c3 40.Kd3 c2 41.Kd2 Rb1 0–1***

*The following ending, between the two highest rated players, helped decide the winner of the K-12. -Ed.*

**Griffith, Kyron (2421) - Brown, Michael William (2365) SuperStates Championship (4), Valencia, 03.03.2013**

*Notes by Michael Brown.*



My opponent had just played Rd1+ and I responded with Ke4. Here, he makes a big mistake.

***1.Nc5+?***

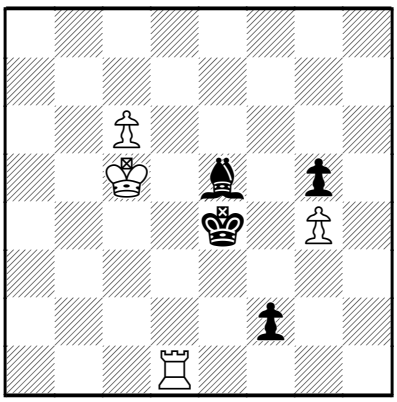
This loses the game for White, but I did not see the right continuation with less than a minute on my clock, so I quickly decided to sac the Exchange.

*Even if White tries another way, Black (Houdini) has what it takes: 1.Nb6 f2 2.Nc4 Bf4 3.Na3 Re2 4.Rf1 Kf3–+. -Ed.*

***1...Rxc5+***

*Houdini goes for it by pressing on the Kingside, with 1...Ke3! 2.Ne6 Bf4 3.Re1+ Kf2 4.Rd1* (4.Ra1?? Be3 5.c7 Kg2 followed by ...f2–+) *4...Kg3 5.Rd3* (5.Rg1+ Rg2–+) *5...Rc1 6.Nd4 Rf1 7.Rc3 Kxg4 8.c7* (8.Nxf3 Rxf3 9.Rc2 Bc7) *8... Bxc7 9.Nxf3 Rxf3 10.Rxc7–+. -Ed.*

***2.Kxc5 f2***



Now White should be able to draw, but has to play precisely, which he failed to do in the game.

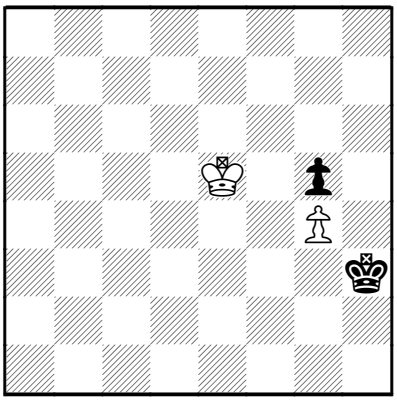
***3.Kb6?***

This is the only way for White to draw the game: 3.Rf1 Kf3 4.Kd5 Bc7 5.Ke6 Ke2 6.Rxf2+ Kxf2 7.Kf5 Bf4 8.c7.

***3...Ke3 4.c7 Bxc7+ 5.Kxc7 Ke2***

Unfortunately for White, he loses the pawn race by one tempo, and so now he is completely lost.

***6.Ra1 f1Q 7.Rxf1 Kxf1 8.Kd6 Kg2 9.Ke5 Kh3 0–1***



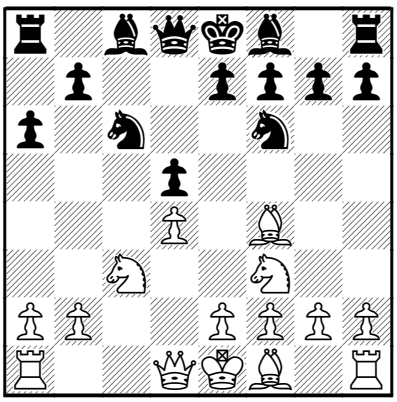
After 10. Kf5, Black has Kh4, and White cannot prevent Black from promoting his pawn. White loses by one tempo!

*This next win secured a full point lead over the rest of the field. -Ed.*

**Brown, Michael William (2365) - Xia, Yusheng (2231)**
**[D13] Slav Exchange Variation**
**SuperStates Championship (5), Valencia, 03.03.2013**

Notes by Michael Brown.

***1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.cxd5 cxd5 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Bf4 a6***



***7.Rc1***

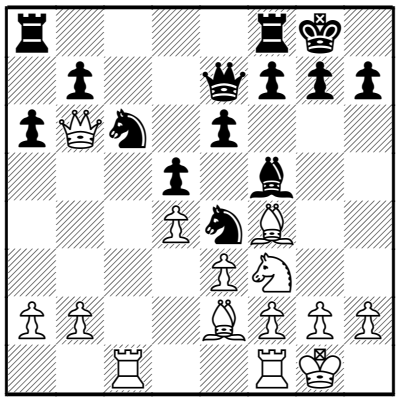
The move 7.e3 is slightly less precise, as 7...Bg4 from Black would tie down White and allow Black to develop freely.

White may try to put lots of pressure on Black, for example 7.e3 Bg4 8.Qb3 Bxf3 9.gxf3 Na5 10.Qa4+ Nc6, but Black is OK and White's Kingside is disrupted.

***7...Bf5 8.e3 e6 9.Qb3 Bb4 10.Be2***

I have had experience in this line before, when I tried to play a3 and win the b7-pawn, but that turns out quite bad as Black can find counterplay in the center against my King, so the best strategy (as usual) is to castle.

***10...0–0 11.0–0 Bxc3 12.Rxc3 Ne4 13.Rcc1 Qe7 14.Qb6***



Though Black is defending quite well, here he should play ...f6 to stop my next move.

After his slight error, he gets into a slightly worse position, which leads to trouble later.

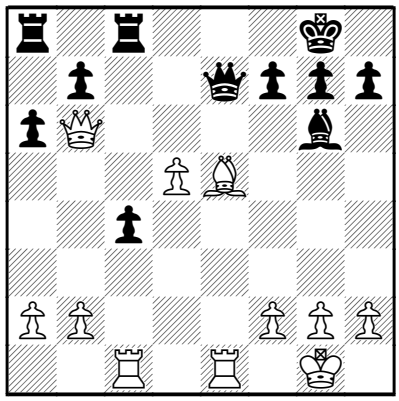
***14...Rfc8 15.Ne5 Nxe5 16.Bxe5 Nd2***

The only way to make Black's position somewhat hopeful. He wants to block up the c-file and stop play on that line.

***17.Rfe1 Nc4 18.Bxc4 dxc4***

Black also had another option in Rc6 and Rac8, although White has a good reply: 18...Rc6 19.Qb3 Rac8 20.e4!. This allows White to keep a slight advantage as he can get into the opposite colored Bishop middlegame where his is much better than Black's, for example, if 20...Bxe4? then 21.Rxe4.

***19.e4 Bg6 20.d5 exd5 21.exd5***



***21...Qd7?!***

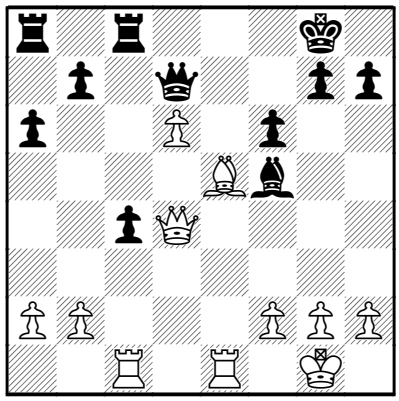
Now this was too passive, and White can get great play against the weak c-pawn and the Kingside because of the opposite colored Bishops.

Better was 21...Qc5 22.Qxb7 f6 23.Bc3 Ra7 24.Qb4 Qxd5. Black can survive this position as his Bishop has become a strength.

***22.d6 Bf5?!***

Black is trying to blockade the e-file, but this is simply too slow. Now White can re-coordinate his pieces to attack the Black King and win a pawn.

***23.Qd4! f6?***



Black does not foresee White's threat, but it is very decisive...

***24.Bxf6!***

Now Black cannot take the Bishop without getting penetrated on the seventh, and then he is defenseless in getting mated. Black has no good options, so he chose an entertaining route.

***24...gxf6 25.Re7 Qb5 26.Qxf6 Qxb2 1–0***

Desperation, as Black has nothing better at this point, but I find it odd that there is no mate here. Black resigned this position as his Queen is simply hanging now. ♜

# Three Tie in the 20th Western Class Championships

*March 8-10, 2013*

**GMs Gregory Kaidanov and Melikset Khachiyan, and IM Andranik Matikozyan tied for first, scoring 4-1 at the 20th Annual Western Class Championships at Agoura Hills.** All three were undefeated, allowing two draws. The tiebreaks went to Khachiyan, who drew with Kaidanov and Matikozyan, but the prizes were split evenly.

In the Experts section, Joshua Sheng, Albert Lu, Rory Wasiolek, and Mike Zaloznyy tied for first with 4-1.

Choijiljav Myagmarsuren topped the Class A section with 4½-½, and in a three-way tie for second at 4-1 were Luke Cheng, Jason Garfield, Bryan Leano, and Hovanes Salvaryan. Chris Stychinsky and Miguel Ceballos tied for first in the Class B section with 4½-½. Dante Peterson, Hrant Simonyan, and Christopher Dipietro scored 4½-½ to tie at the top of Class C. Neelesh Tiruviluamala topped the Class D with 4½-½. Class E saw three tie for first at 4-1: David Blichmann, Chris Lane, and Eric Waisanen. The seven sections attracted 212 players. Class B attracted the most with 47.

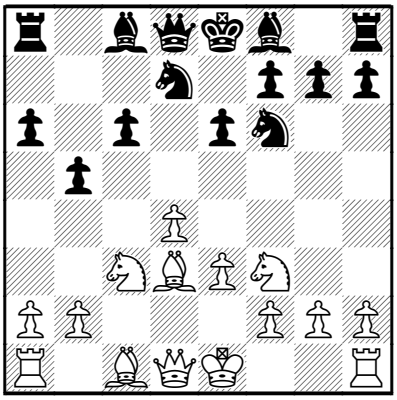
The tournament was run by Continental Chess Association and directed by Steve Immitt, assisted by Randall Hough and Quan Andrew Luong. The Sheraton Agoura Hills hosted.

We present two interesting games from the Open section and a great moment from the Expert section.

**Velikanov, Alexander (2202) - Kaidanov, Gregory (2598)**
**[D48] Semi-Slav Meran System**
**Western Class Championships (2)**
**Agoura Hills, 09.03.2013**

*Notes by the Editor.*

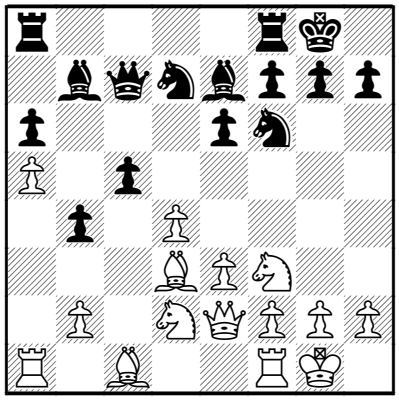
***1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 c6 5.e3 Nbd7 6.Bd3 dxc4 7.Bxc4 b5 8.Bd3 a6***



***9.0–0***

The main line is 9.e4 c5, and White divides his games between 10.e5 cxd4 11.Nxb5, and 10.d5 c4 11.dxe6 or 11.Bc2.

***9...c5 10.a4 b4 11.Ne4 Bb7 12.Ned2 Be7 13.Qe2 0–0 14.a5 Qc7***



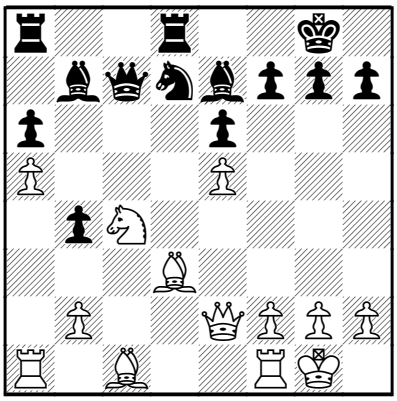
Black connects his Rooks, and White has not finished his development.

***15.Nc4***

After the immediate development of the Bishop with 15.b3 Nd5 16.Bb2, Houdini replies 16...Nc3 17.Bxc3 bxc3 18.Nc4 and claims it's a slight advantage for Black.

The Knight heads for e5.

***15...Rfd8 16.Nfe5 cxd4 17.exd4 Nxe5 18.dxe5 Nd7***



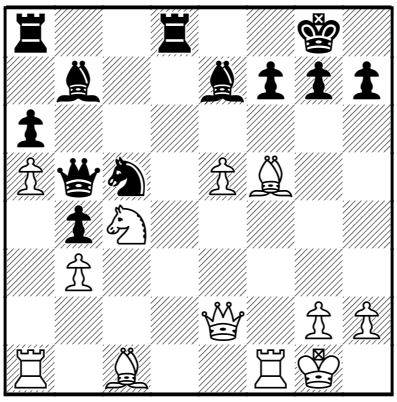
***19.b3***

The central pawn trade was convenient for developing White's Bishop with 19.Bf4, after which Houdini thinks it's about equal. White might have some more space, but Black can either play 19...Nc5, or 19...Qc6 20.f3 Nc5 21.Nd6.

***19...Nc5 20.Bc2 Qc6 21.f4 Qb5 22.f5***

Again White has the opportunity to develop that Bishop, now with 22.Be3 Bd5 23.Rae1 Rab8 24.f5.

***22...exf5 23.Bxf5***

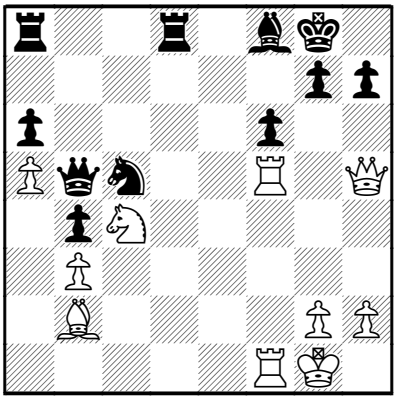


***23...Bd5***

Black avoids 23...Nxb3 because of 24.Bxh7+ Kxh7 25.Qh5+ Kg8

26.Qxf7+, with an unacceptable draw, given the ratings of the players.

***24.e6 Bxe6 25.Bb2 Bf8 26.Qh5 Bxf5 27.Rxf5 f6 28.Raf1***

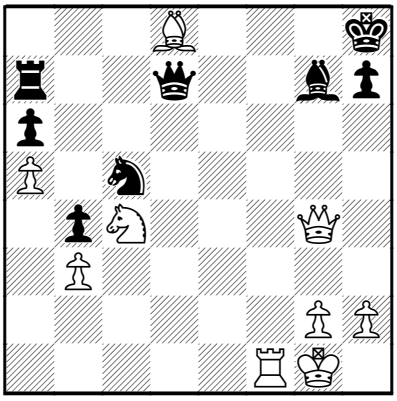


White has assembled a formidable attacking force, having sacrificed a pawn, and after the development of the Queen's Bishop, he now threatens 29.Qg4 Be7 *(not 29...Kh8 30.Rxf6!)* 30.Nb6 winning, for now if 30...Ra7 then 31.Nd5 and White gets all of his pieces into the attack.

***28...Ra7 29.Qg4 Kh8***

It's best to submit in this way, for if 29...Be7 30.Bxf6 Bxf6 31.Rxf6 Nxb3?? *(not 31...Kh8?? 32.Rf8+, and if 31...h6 32.h3 Re7 33.Rxh6 Ne4, then 34.Rh5 g5 35.Rf5+–)* 32.Qe6++–.

***30.Rxf6 gxf6 31.Bxf6+ Bg7 32.Bxd8 Qd7!***



After this Queen trade, Black's remaining pieces will have enough activity to get back the pawn.

***33.Qxd7***

It's also equal after 33.Qh4, for if Black tries to grab a pawn with 33... Nxb3? then White has 34.Bf6!+– and Black suffers terribly with his weak back rank: 34...Qe6 *(If 34...Qc6 then 35.Be5! threatening checks by Rook and Queen on the back rank 35...h6 36.Qd8+ Kh7 37.Qd3+ winning the Knight. If 34...Qe8 then 35.Rd1 Ra8 36.Bxg7+ Kxg7 37.Qg5+ Kh8 38.Qf6+ Kg8 39.Ne5+–, and Black's weak King position is again decisive.)* 35.Be5 Qg8 36.Rd1! Rf7 37.Qg5 Qf8 *(37...Bxe5 38.Qxe5+ Rg7 39.Nd6!)* 38.Nd6!+–.

After 34...Qd4+ 34.Qxd4 Bxd4+ 35.Kh1 Nxb3 36.Rb1 Rd7 37.Bb6 Bxb6 38.axb6 Nc5 39.g3 b3 40.Kg2 Rb7 41.Ra1 Kg8 42.Kf3= it's a little better than the Queen trade in the game.

***33...Rxd7=***

Black's active pieces compensate for White's pawn plus, which can only be temporary. In addition, unlike the lines without the Queen trade, Black has no worries with his King any more.

***34.Bf6***

A little better was 34.Bb6 to make Black suffer a bit for taking the pawn with 34...Nxb3 35.Rb1 Rd3 36.Ne3=. While Black gets organized, White can now fight on the Queenside, too, for example 36...Bf8 37.Kf2 Nd4 38.Nd5 Nc6 39.Nc7=.

***34...Nxb3 35.Ne5?!***

The endgame starts. As usual, the difference in ratings becomes much more apparent.

White was still nearly equal after 35.Bxg7+ Kxg7 36.Rb1 Rd3 37.Kf2.

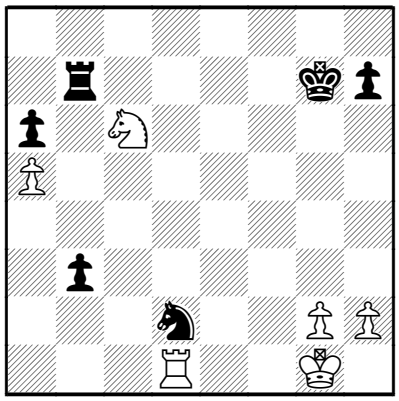
***35...Rb7 36.Nc6?***

Now it's lost. Houdini's best is 36.Bxg7+ Kxg7 37.Nc4∓.

***36...Nd2!***

Making way for the b-pawn.

***37.Bxg7+ Kxg7 38.Rd1 b3***



***39.Nd8??***

Allowing an instant win.

But still losing was 39.Rxd2 b2 40.Rxb2 Rxb2 41.Kf1.

***39...Rb5??***

It must have been a time pressure situation with an unexpected move, as Black easily wins big material with 39...Rd7!. The three threats of taking the Knight, winning the Rook with Nf3+, and advancing the b-pawn are all big. Best is now 40.Ne6+ Kf6 41.Re1 This answers the two biggest threats, but with 41...b2 it's over.

***40.Ne6+***

White gets a pawn for the Exchange after 40.Rxd2 b2 41.Rxb2 Rxb2 42.Ne6+, but after 42...Kf6 the endgame is an easy win.

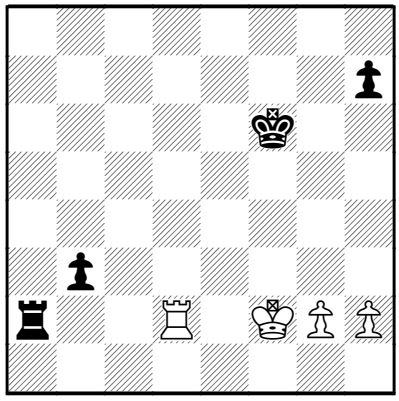
***40...Kf6 41.Nc7***

White gets two pawns for the Knight after 41.Nd4 Rb7 42.Nxb3 Nxb3 43.Rd6+ Ke5 44.Rxa6∓ and it's probably his last, best try to save it.

***41...Rc5 42.Nxa6***

Now is the time to take the Knight with 42.Rxd2 Rxc7 43.Rd6+ Ke5, but after 44.Rb6 Rc1+ 45.Kf2 Rc2+ 46.Ke3 b2 47.h3 Rxg2 48.Kd3 h5 49.h4 Rh2 50.Kc3 Kf4, Black still looks like he's going to win.

***42...Rxa5! 43.Rxd2 Rxa6 44.Kf2 Ra2***



The pin does it. The b-pawn is decisive.

***45.Ke3 Ke6!***

The only winning move.

Care is still required. After 45... Ke5?? White can free his Rook and actually tie down Black's Rook with 46.Rd7! Rxg2 *(or 46...b2 47.Rb7=)* 47.Rxh7 b2 48.Rb7 Rxh2=.

***46.Rd4***

Not 46.g3?? b2 47.Rd1 Ra1–+.

***46...Rxg2 47.h4***

White can't go for the b-pawn because of 47.Rb4 Rxh2 48.Rxb3 Rh3+ losing his Rook.

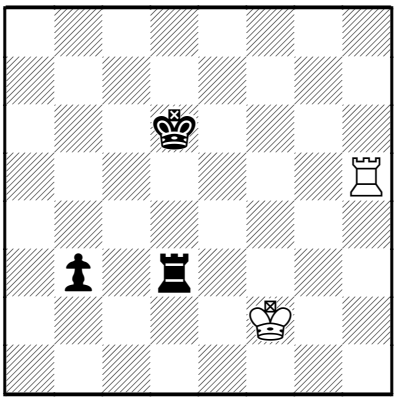
***47...h5!***

Another accurate move.

***48.Rb4 Rg4!***

With the help of the h-pawn. The b-pawn is guarded by the x-ray check on g3, so the Rook must move and give up the h-pawn.

***49.Rb5 Rxh4 50.Kf2 Rh3 51.Kg2 Rd3 52.Rxh5 Kd6 53.Kf2***



Black just needs to get his King in front of the pawn to win.

***53...Rd5 54.Rh8 Kc5 0–1***

**Bryant, John D (2454) -**
**Kudryavtsev, Vadim (2141)**
**[B11] Caro-Kann**
**Two Knights Variation**
**Western Class Championships (5)**
**Agoura Hills, 10.03.2013**

*Notes by the Editor.*

***1.e4 c6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Nf3 Bg4 4.d4 dxe4***

More usual is 4...e6 5.Bd3 Nf6.

***5.Nxe4 Nd7***

Black can accept the gambit with 5...Bxf3 6.Qxf3 Qxd4 and White can offer another pawn with 7.Be3 Qxb2 8.Rd1 Nd7 but for the most part, strong players playing each other don't do it this way.

***6.Bd3 Ngf6 7.Ng3 e6 8.h3 Bxf3 9.Qxf3 Be7 10.0–0 0–0***

White has the two Bishops and more space, but Black should be able to get in his center break with either ...c5 or ...e5.

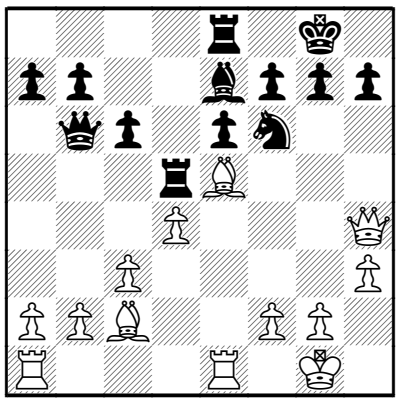
***11.Re1***

After 11.c3 White can answer the immediate 11...c5 with 12.Qxb7±.

***11...Re8***

Now Black can make the classic break, equalizing with 11...c5 12.Be3 *(If 12.Qxb7 then cxd4= and if 12.dxc5 then Nxc5=.)* 12...Nd5.

***12.c3 Qc7 13.Bc2 Rad8 14.Ne4 Nxe4 15.Qxe4 Nf6 16.Qh4 Rd5 17.Bf4 Qb6 18.Be5***



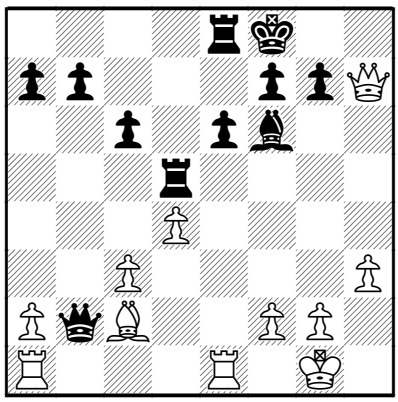
***18...Qxb2***

Simpler might have been 18...h6 19.Bb3 Rd7 20.Rad1±.

***19.Bxf6 Bxf6??***

The game ends suddenly. Black needed get the three pawns for a piece with 19...Qxc2 20.Bxe7 Qxc3 21.Rab1 *(Or 21.Rad1 h6=, and if 21.Red1 Qa5 then 22.Rab1 and if 22...Rh5? then 23.Qg3+– with threats Rxb7 and Bf6.)* 21...Rxd4 22.Qg5 Rd5 *(22...Rd7 23.Red1± protecting the Bishop using Black's weak back rank.)* 23.Qf4±.

***20.Qxh7+ Kf8***



***21.Reb1!***

It has to be the right Rook. After 21.Rab1 Qxc3∓ 22.Rxb7?? Black actually brings home the bacon with 22...Qxe1+ 23.Kh2, and now the surprising 23...Be5+ 24.dxe5 Qxe5+ followed by ...Qh5 stops the mate.

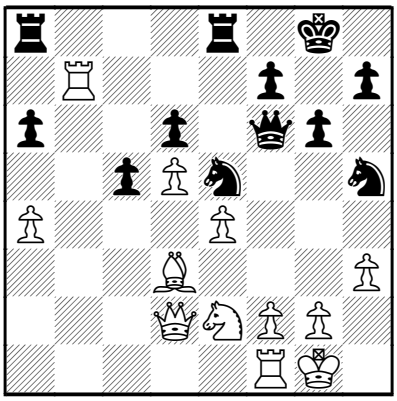
***21...Qxc3 22.Rxb7 1–0***

Now if 22...Qxa1+ it must be 23.Kh2 *(It's still possible to miss the win: 23.Bb1?? Rh5! 24.Qxh5 g6=)* 23...Be5+ 24.g3 and White mates. Black can delay the finish with 23...Rh5 *(instead of 23...Be5+)* 24.Qxh5 g6, but White works it into a mate with 25.Qh6+ Bg7 26.Qf4 Re7 27.Qb8+ Re8 28.Qc7.

**Xie, Ethan (1949) -**
**Zaloznyy, Mike (2120)**
**[A70] Benoni Defense**
**Western Class Expert Section (1)**
**Agoura Hills, 08.03.2013**

*Notes by the Editor.*

***1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.c4 c5 4.d5 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.Nc3 g6 7.e4 a6 8.a4 Bg4 9.Bd3 Bg7 10.0–0 0–0 11.h3 Bxf3 12.Qxf3 Nbd7 13.Bf4 Qe7 14.Qe2 Rfe8 15.Rae1 Nh5 16.Bh2 Bd4 17.Qd2 Qf6 18.Ne2 Bxb2 19.Rb1 Be5 20.Rxb7 Bxh2+ 21.Kxh2 Ne5 22.Kg1***



A great moment in chess is about to happen. If it happened in your game, I am sure you would agree!

It's an imbalanced position, but White has just moved his King to g1 and sometimes you get ideas...

***22...Qf3!***

If White takes the Queen with 23.gxf3 then after 23...Nxf3+ 24.Kg2 Nxd2 25.Rd1 Nxe4, Black is two pawns up.

But Black is threatening the Bishop on d3. If White supports it with

Please turn to page 46, **20th WCC**.

# IM Zhanibek Amanov Takes 25th Metropolitan FIDE

*March 20-24, 2013*

**IM Zhanibek Amanov won the 25th Metropolitan IM tournament with a strong finish, scoring 6½-3½**. He finished a half-point above IM Andranik Matikozyan, who scored a win in both halves of the double round robin and drew the rest of his games. After an early loss, Amanov did not start winning until round 5 at the end of the first half of the tournament, but he closed with four points out of five in the second half.

Third place was Kesav Viswanadha at 5-5. After a first round loss, Kesav, the lowest rated player, scored four points in his next five games to take sole possession of first. However, he only managed two draws in the final four rounds. Tied for fourth at 4½-5½ were FM Harutyun Akopyan and IM Norik Kalantarian of Armenia, and sixth at 3½-6½ was FM Mark Duckworth.

cr

| | Round by Round Pairings, Colors, and Scores | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Zhanibek Amanov | KAZ | B2 | W4 | B5 | B3 | W6 | W2 | B4 | W5 | W3 | B6 |
| | 2399 | | ½ | ½ | 1 | 1½ | 2½ | 3 | 4 | 4½ | **5½** | **6½** |
| 2 | Andranik Matikozyan | ARM | W1 | B6 | W3 | W4 | B5 | B1 | W6 | B3 | B4 | W5 |
| | 2429 | | ½ | **1½** | **2** | **2½** | **3** | 3½ | **4½** | **5** | **5½** | 6 |
| 3 | Kesav Viswanadha | USA | B6 | W5 | B2 | W1 | B4 | W6 | B5 | W2 | B1 | W4 |
| | 2149 | | 0 | 1 | 1½ | 2 | **3** | **4** | 4 | 4½ | 4½ | 5 |
| 4 | Harutyun Akopyan | USA | W5 | B1 | W6 | B2 | W3 | B5 | W1 | B6 | W2 | B3 |
| | 2211 | | ½ | **1½** | **2** | **2½** | 2½ | 3 | 3 | 3½ | 4 | 4½ |
| 5 | Norik Kalantarian | ARM | B4 | B3 | W1 | B6 | W2 | W4 | W3 | B1 | W6 | B2 |
| | 2412 | | ½ | ½ | 1 | 1 | 1½ | 2 | 3 | 3½ | 4 | 4½ |
| 6 | Mark Duckworth | USA | W3 | W2 | B4 | W5 | B1 | B3 | B2 | W4 | B5 | W1 |
| | 2256 | | **1** | 1 | 1½ | **2½** | 2½ | 2½ | 2½ | 3 | 3½ | 3½ |

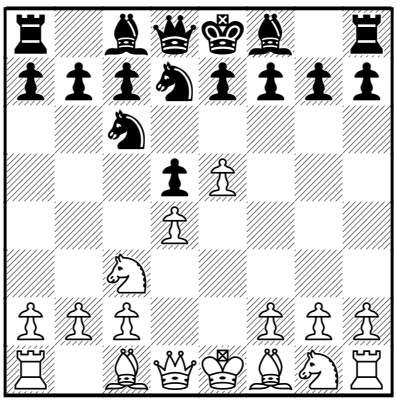
*Time control: 40 moves / 90 minutes + SD / 30 minutes + 30 second increment throughout.*

The tournament, the first double round robin of the Metropolitan series of FIDE invitationals, 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.

Ankit Gupta was assisted by Alejandro Ruiz in directing the event.

We present three games from the tournament. The first is Mark Duckworth's quick win in round four, the second is Kesav's sixth round win, with notes by IM Jack Peters, which placed him temporarily at the top of the heap. We conclude with Amanov's final round game which clinched his tournament victory.

**Duckworth, Mark (2256) - Kalantarian, Norik (2412)**
**[B00] Nimzovich Defense**
**25th Metropolitan IM (4)**
**Los Angeles. 21.03.2013**
*Notes by the Editor.*
***1.e4 Nc6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e5 Nd7***



***5.Nge2***

Milov - Bauer, Ajaccio 2007 is the only game between GMs so far after these four moves. It continued with 5.Nf3 Nb6 6.Be2 Bf5 7.0–0 e6 8.b3 Nb4 9.Ne1 c5 10.Be3 cxd4 11.Bxd4 Nc6 12.Nf3 Be7 13.h3 0–0, and Black eventually won in 81 moves.

***5...Nb6 6.Nf4 h6***

Yankovsky - Matikozyan, 13th Metro GM 2011 continued 6...Bf5 7.g4 Bg6 8.Be3 e6 9.h4 f6?! 10.Nxe6 Qe7 11.Nb5 Rc8 12.Nxf8 Rxf8 13.h5 Be4 14.f3± and White won in 30 moves.

***7.Be3***

Worth a try is 7.e6 Bxe6 8.Nxe6 fxe6 9.a4±, and even the materialist computer much prefers the compensation to the pawn.

***7...Bf5 8.g4N***

Houdini likes 8.e6 h5± best. But not 8...fxe6? 9.g4 Bh7 10.Bd3+–.

***8...Bh7 9.e6 g5 10.exf7+ Kxf7 11.Nh5***

Black's King is stuck in the center, so it's time to go after him.

***11...e6?! 12.Qf3+ Ke8?!***

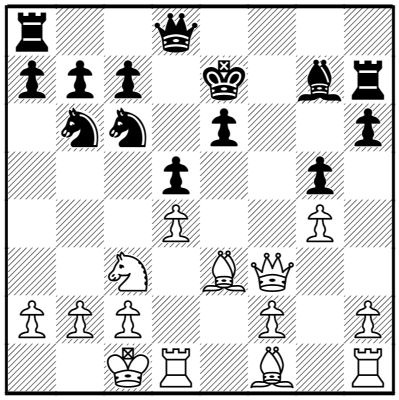
A bit better was 12...Kg8 13.0–0–0 Be7 14.h4 Qf8 15.Qg2±.

Black seems to make a few second best choices and White's position gets better, move by move.

***13.Nf6+ Ke7 14.0–0–0± Bg7?!***

Better was 14...Bg6!? but White still gets a big plus with 15.h4 gxh4 16.g5 Bg7 17.Rxh4 Rf8 18.Qg4.

***15.Nxh7+– Rxh7***



Now White breaks through before Black can develop the Queenside.

***16.h4 gxh4 17.g5***

Also good is 17.Rxh4 Kd7 18.g5±.

***17...Rh8?***

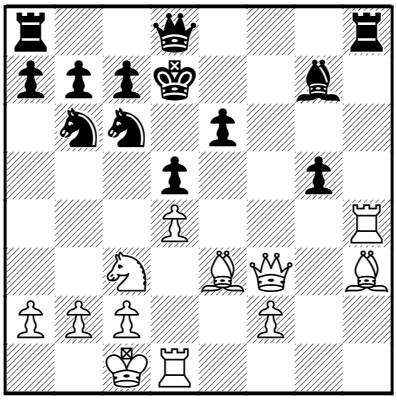
Better was 17...Qf8!? as the Queen trade at least allows some development: 18.Qxf8+ Rxf8 19.Rxh4 Nc8±.

But White can avoid the trade with 18.Qh5 Rh8 19.g6±. If now 19...Kd7 then 20.Bh3; or if 19...Qf5 then 20.Qxh4+; and if 19...Re8 then 20.Rxh4 Bf6 21.Rh1.

***18.Rxh4+– Kd7?***

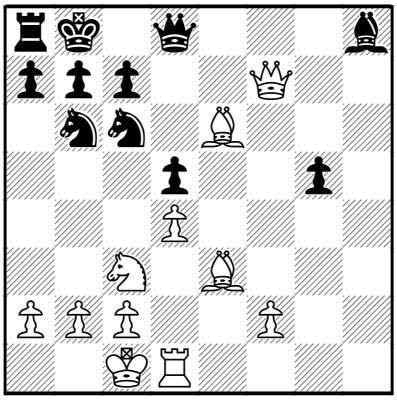
Now if 18...Qf8 then White can still avoid the Queen trade with 19.Qg3 or 19.Rf4.

***19.Bh3 hxg5***



Trades are usually a good idea when one of your opponent's pieces is as bad as Black's Rook on a8.

***20.Rxh8 Bxh8 21.Qf7+ Kc8 22.Bxe6+ Kb8 1–0***



The game might have continued 23.Nxd5 Nxd5 24.Bxd5 Ne7 25.Rh1 Nxd5 26.Qxd5 Bf6 27.Qxd8+ Bxd8 28.Rh8 Kc8 29.Bxg5+–.

If you can confine one of your opponent's pieces like Black's a8 Rook, do it!

*Mark Duckworth: scored the tournament's shortest victory.*

**Viswanadha, Kesav (2149) - Duckworth, Mark (2256)**
**[C16] French Defense Winawer Variation**
**25th Metropolitan IM (6)**
**Los Angeles, 22.03.2013**

Notes by IM Jack Peters.

***1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 b6***

A sideline popularized by Tigran Petrosian in the 1950s and 1960s.

***5.a3 Bf8 6.Nf3 Qd7***

Black's plan is to exchange light-square Bishops and leave White with the "bad" dark-square Bishop.

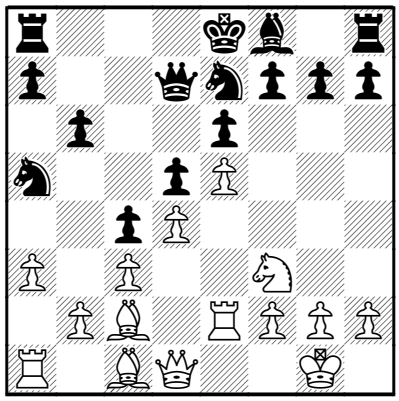
***7.Bb5 c6 8.Ba4***

This well-known maneuver plans to preserve the Bishop and post it at c2.

***8...Ba6 9.Ne2 Bb5 10.Bb3 c5 11.c3 Nc6 12.0–0 Nge7 13.Re1 Na5 14.Bc2 Bxe2***

Else 15.Ng3 makes Black's Bishop useless.

***15.Rxe2 c4***



Duckworth specializes in closed positions. Most young players struggle in such positions, but Kesav finds the correct plan (f2-f4-f5) and pursues it implacably.

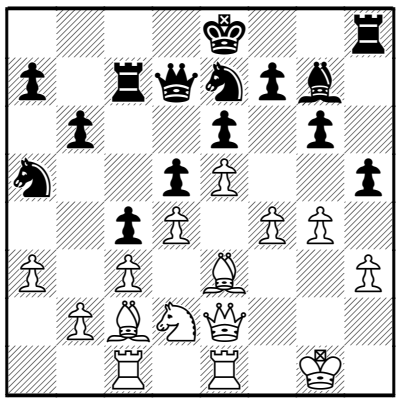
***16.Be3 h6 17.Nd2 g6 18.Re1 Bg7 19.Qe2 Rc8 20.Rac1***

A handy move. White does not threaten to break open the Queenside with b2-b3 as long as Black's Knight sits at a5. But, if the Knight should relocate ...

***20...Rc7 21.g3 Nf5 22.g4 Ne7***

Only White's position improves by 22...Nxe3 23.fxe3. Soon e3-e4 will take the initiative.

***23.f4 h5 24.h3***±

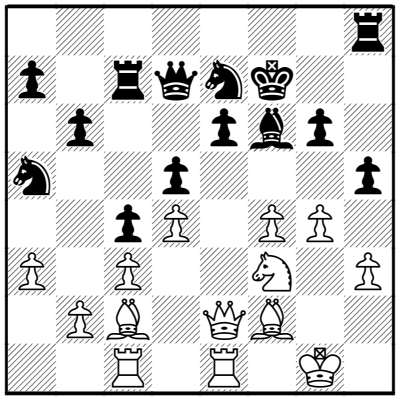


A calm response. Black cannot capitalize on opening the h-file, and White will patiently build up for the f4-f5 lever.

***24...Kd8***

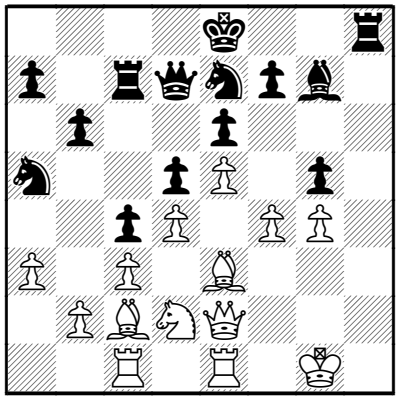
Removing the King from the danger zone.

Unfortunately for Black, he cannot strike back on the Kingside. After 24...f5?! 25.exf6 Bxf6 26.Bf2 Kf7 27.Nf3±,



Black's e-pawn is permanently weak, while White threatens to work on the dark squares by Bf2-g3 or Bf2-h4.

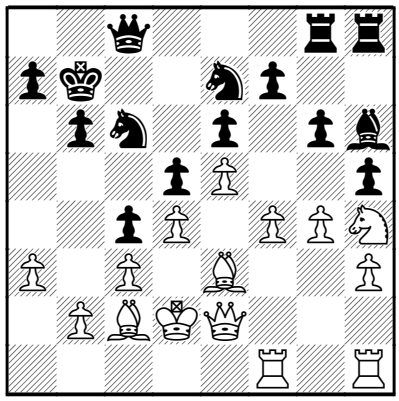
And the attempt to forestall White's breakthrough by 24...hxg4 25.hxg4 g5



lets White open the position for his Bishops and Rooks by 26.f5! exf5 27.Bxg5 fxg4 28.e6 Qxe6 29.Qxe6 fxe6 30.Rxe6 Nac6 31.Rce1±.

Perhaps Black should consider Queenside activity with 24...b5 25.Rf1 Nac6, although White can proceed on the Kingside or change direction with 26.b3.

***25.Nf3 Kc8 26.Ng5 Qe8 27.Kg2 Kb7 28.Rh1 Bh6 29.Nf3! Qd7 30.Kf2 Rcc8 31.Rcf1 Rcg8 32.Ke1 Nac6 33.Kd2 Qc8 34.Nh4***



***34...Bf8***

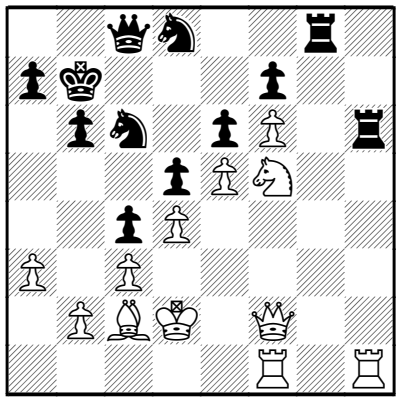
After 34...hxg4 35.hxg4 , the faulty tactic 35...Bxf4? 36.Rxf4 g5 37.Rxf7 Rxh4 38.Rxh4 gxh4 39.g5+– gives White the more dangerous passer.

***35.Qf2 Nd8 36.f5± hxg4***

Black doesn't have much choice. If he tries to hold f7 by 36...Rh7, White gains a pawn by 37.fxg6 fxg6 38.Nxg6 Nxg6 39.Bxg6 Rxg6 40.Qxf8+–.

Or, if he waits with 36...Ka8, White invades by 37.fxg6 fxg6 38.Bg5 Bh6 39.Qe3 Bxg5 40.Qxg5+–, and g6 will fall.

***37.hxg4 gxf5 38.gxf5 Bh6?! 39.Bxh6 Rxh6 40.f6! Nec6 41.Nf5!***



***41...Rxh1 42.Nd6+ Kb8 43.Nxc8 Rxf1 44.Qxf1+– Kxc8***

Black's only weakness (f7) seems well defended, but White reveals an efficient winning plan.

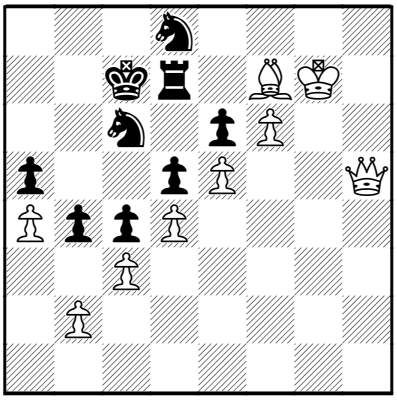
***45.Ke3 Nb7 46.Kf4 Kc7 47.Bh7!***

First White chases the Rook off the g-file.

***47...Rd8***

No better is 47...Rh8 48.Qh3 Nb8 49.Qh6 and Qh6-g7.

***48.Kg5 Rd7 49.Kh6 b5 50.Kg7 Kb6 51.Bg8 a5 52.Qd1 b4 53.a4 Nbd8 54.Qh5 Kc7 55.Bxf7***

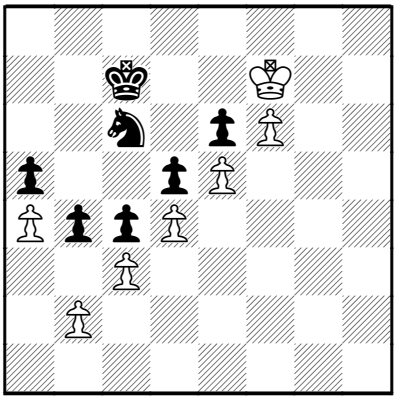


First 55.Kf8 is a little easier.

***55...Nxd4!?***

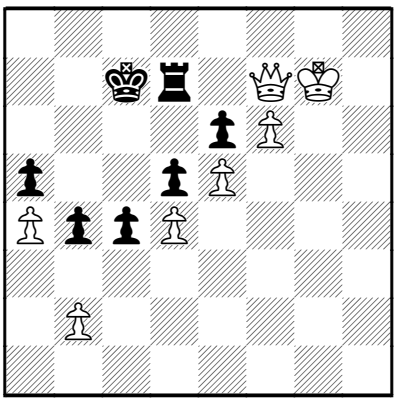
A good try.

White's idea appears more clearly after 55...Nxf7 56.Qxf7 Rxf7+ 57.Kxf7,



when Black will have to sacrifice the Knight for the f-pawn. For example, 57... Kd7 58.Kg7 Nd8 59.f7 Nxf7 60.Kxf7 b3 61.Kf6 puts Black in Zugzwang.

***56.cxd4 Nxf7 57.Qxf7***



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*Kesav Viswanadha and Vishy at last year's Metropolitan Camp.*

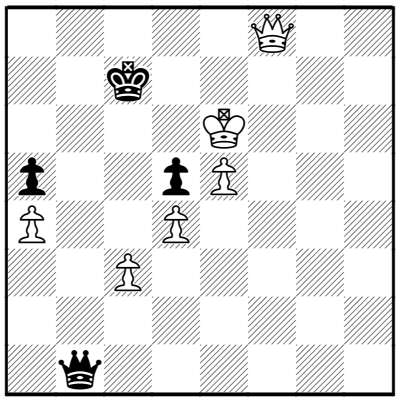
***57...Rxf7+***

Black can reach another losing Queen endgame by 57...c3 58.bxc3 bxc3 59.Qxd7+ Kxd7 60.f7 c2 61.f8Q c1Q. Then 62.Qd6+ Kc8 63.Qxe6+ either picks off the d-pawn with check or trades Queens by 63...Kc7 64.Qd6+ Kc8 65.Qc5+ Qxc5 66.dxc5 d4 67.e6+–.

***58.Kxf7 c3 59.bxc3 b3***

The problem with 59...bxc3 60.Kxe6 c2 61.f7 c1Q 62.f8Q Qc6+ is 63.Qd6+.

***60.Kxe6 b2 61.f7 b1Q 62.f8Q***



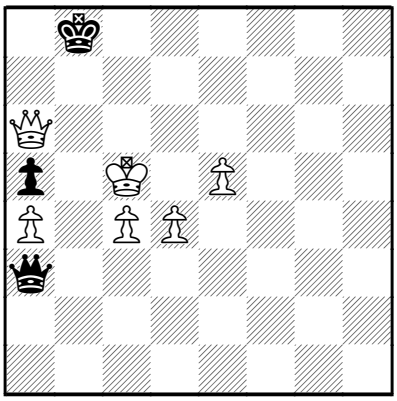
***62...Qg6+ 63.Qf6***

Spoiling Black's dream of 63.Kxd5?? Qc6 mate.

***63...Qg4+ 64.Kxd5 Qg3 65.Qd6+ Kc8 66.Qa6+ Kb8 67.c4***

White has several winning methods. Even 67.Qxa5 will do the job if White avoids 67...Qg8+ 68.e6?? Qg5+.

***67...Qf3+ 68.Kc5 Qa3+***



Setting another trap.

***69.Kb6***

Not 69.Kc6?? because 69...Qd6+! 70.Kb5 Qb4+ 71.Kc6 Qd6+! draws.

***69...Qb4+***

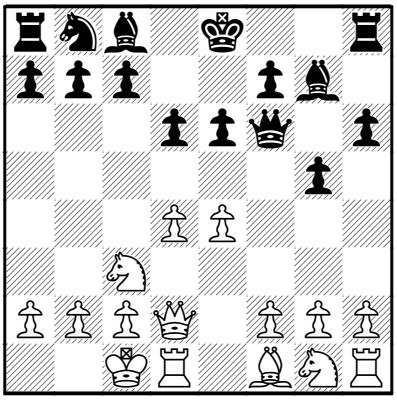
Now 69...Qd6+!? 70.Kxa5□ Qxd4 71.Qb6+ ends Black's tricks.

***70.Qb5□ Kc8 71.d5 Kd8 72.Kc6 Ke8 1–0***

**Duckworth, Mark (2256) - Amanov, Zhanibek (2399)**
**[A45] Trompowsky Attack**
**25th Metropolitan IM (10)**
**Los Angeles, 24.03.2013**

*Notes by the Editor.*

***1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 e6 3.e4 h6 4.Bxf6 Qxf6 5.Nc3 d6 6.Qd2 g5 7.0–0–0 Bg7***



Black has the two Bishops, but White has a nice center.

***8.f3***

Michael Adams has taken White's side against two very strong players, but lost both times:

Karpov: 8.e5 dxe5 9.dxe5 Qe7 10.f4 Nc6 11.Nf3 Bd7 12.h4 gxf4 13.Qxf4 0–0–0 14.Ne4 Nb8 15.Be2 Bc6 16.Nf6 Nd7 17.Nh5 Bxf3 18.Bxf3 Bxe5 19.Qe4 c6∓ 0–1, 39, Adams - Karpov, Las Palmas 1994.

And Topalov: 8.g3 Nc6 9.Nb5 Qd8 10.Ne2 a6 11.Nbc3 b5 12.Bg2 Bb7 13.f4 Ne7 14.h4 g4 15.h5 b4 16.Nb1 a5 17.Qe3 0–0 18.Nd2 f5∓ 0–1, 43 Adams - Topalov, Madrid 1996.

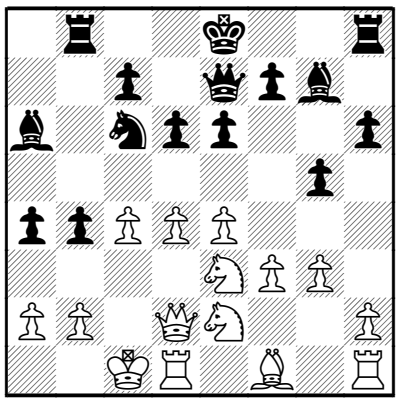
***8...Nc6***

Or 8...a6 9.h4 Nc6 10.Nce2 gxh4 11.f4 h5 12.e5 Qe7 13.Kb1 Bd7 14.Nf3 dxe5 15.fxe5 0–0–0=, and Black won in 32 moves, Weindl - Opl, Austria 2004.

***9.Nb5 Qe7 10.Ne2***

Houdini says that 10.d5 is equal, for example 10...exd5 *(if 10...Be5 then 11.g3; if 10...Nb8 then 11.Kb1; and finally, 10...a6 11.Nxd6+ Qxd6 12.dxc6 Qxd2+ 13.Rxd2 bxc6 is also equal)* 11.exd5=.

***10...a6∓ 11.Na3 b5 12.c3 Rb8 13.Nc2 a5 14.Ne3 b4 15.c4 a4 16.g3 Ba6***



***17.Kb1***

Now White can again equalize with 17.d5 Ne5 *(if 17...Na5 then 18.Nd4 for if 18...c5 then 19.dxc6 0–0 20.h4=)* 18.Nd4=, centralizing the Knight and guarding c4 with the Bishop.

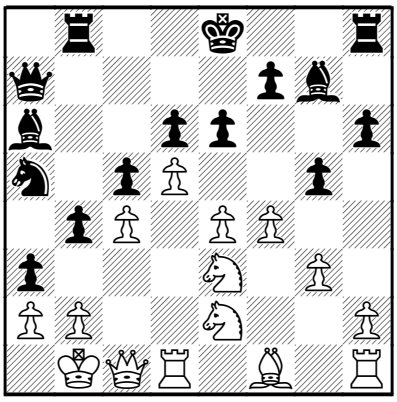
***17...Na5∓ 18.Qc1***

Now 18.d5 is still preferable: 18...Bxc4 19.Nd4 Bxf1 20.Rdxf1 Rb6∓.

***18...c5∓ 19.f4 Qa7 20.d5***

Too late for this move, but there is no satisfactory continuation: 20.e5 cxd4 21.Nxd4 dxe5 22.Nb5 *(22.fxe5 Qc5–+)* 22...Bxb5 23.cxb5 exf4∓.

***20...a3***



***21.e5?***

The best Houdini can offer is 21.b3 Nxb3! 22.Qc2 *(22.axb3?? a2+ 23.Kc2 a1Q 24.Qxa1 Bxa1 25.Rxa1 Qb6–+)* 22...Nd4∓.

***21...dxe5***

Even quicker was 21...b3 22.axb3 *(or 22.bxa3 Qb7!)* 22...Rxb3–+.

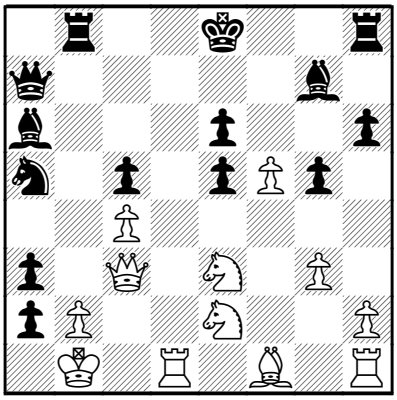
***22.dxe6***

Of no help was 22.b3 exf4 23.gxf4 Nxb3–+.

***22...fxe6 23.f5***

It's too late for 23.b3 exf4 24.gxf4–+ Nxb3 25.Qc2 Nd4–+.

***23...b3 24.Qc3 bxa2+ 0–1***



Black breaks through.

It might have continued 25.Kxa2 Rxb2+ 26.Kxa3 *(or 26.Ka1 Nb3+)* 26...Rb4–+.

Thus Amanov clinched first place, capping his strong second half!

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*Zhanibek Amanov: a strong second half!*

# Out of the Frying Pan, Into the Fire

By IM Timothy Taylor

Going into the last round of the Pasadena Chess Club Championship, I was tied for first with Axel Muller. I'd played Axel before, about a year ago, and scored a big win as White with the King's Gambit (in fact the game will be featured in my upcoming King's Gambit book from Everyman). I couldn't wait to get another KG!

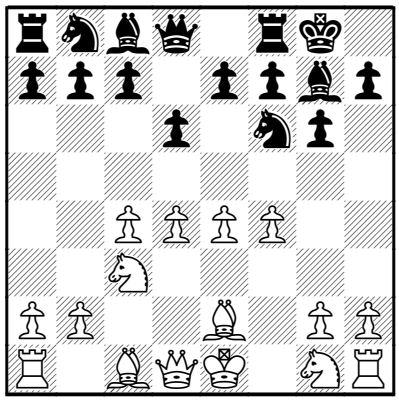
However, my opponent had other ideas: he transposed into a King's Indian—and ran right into my Four Pawns Attack! As the saying goes, out of the frying pan, into the fire!

**Taylor, Timothy (2363)-**
**Muller, Axel (2173)**
**Pasadena Chess Club**
**Championship (6)**
**Pasadena 29.03.2013**

***1.e4 g6***

Our previous encounter went 1... e5 2.f4 Bc5 3.Nf3 when my opponent was unable to equalize.

***2.d4 Bg7 3.c4 d6 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.Be2 0–0 6.f4!***



Still strong on move six!

I was very happy to transpose into one of my favorite openings, the Four Pawns Attack against the King's Indian Defense. Since I began saving my games to the computer in 2002, I have had 64 Four Pawn Attacks, with the result being 51 wins, only 4 draws and 9 losses, for a score of 83%!

Rank and File readers may recall my recent win with the Four Pawns against Alexandre Kretchetov from last year's State Championship.

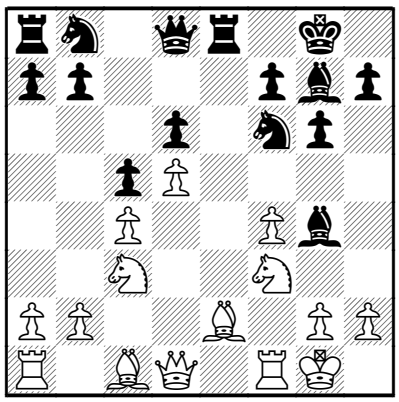
*Yes, see page 19 of our November-December 2012 - January 2013 issue! -Ed.*

***6...c5 7.Nf3 Bg4?!***

I am very critical of this move in my book, *Beating the King's Indian and Grunfeld* and with good reason. Essentially Black will now be compelled to exchange his Queen's Bishop (or lose important tempi) while White reaches virtually by force a very favorable line of the Liz Variation (see the book for explanation of this name!).

7...cxd4 is the normal and best move, though Black's task is still not easy, as one of my many wins with this variation demonstrates: 8.Nxd4 Nc6 9.Be3 Bd7 10.0–0 a6 11.Nc2 Rc8 12.Rc1 b6 13.Kh1 Rb8 14.Na3 Bc8 15.Bf3 Bb7 16.Qe2 Nd7 17.Rfd1 Re8 18.Qf2 Ba8 19.Rd2 Nb4 20.e5! White inflicts structural damage on Black which ultimately is enough for victory. 20...Qc7 21.Bxa8 Rxa8 22.Rcd1 Bf8 23.exd6 exd6 24.Bd4 Qd8 25.Nc2 Nc6 26.Be3 Nf6 27.Bxb6 Ng4 28.Bxd8 Nxf2+ 29.Rxf2 Rexd8 30.Nd5 f5 31.Nd4 Nxd4 32.Rxd4 Kf7 33.Re2 Ra7 34.g3 Rb7 35.b3 h6 36.Rd3 Re8 37.Rxe8 Kxe8 38.Kg2 Kf7 39.Kf3 Bg7 40.b4. The dominant Knight and more active Rook now combine to force resignation. 40...Bf8 41.Ra3 1–0, Taylor - Zildzic, Las Vegas 2006.

***8.d5 e6 9.0–0 exd5 10.exd5 Re8***



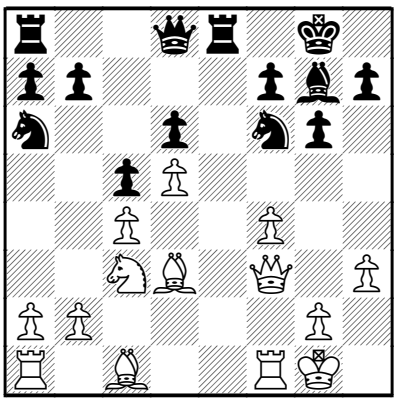
***11.Bd3***

As I remark in my book, "Also good is 11.h3 Bxf3 12.Bxf3. What's interesting about this game is that White is a 2200 player, Black a 2575 GM—but White, knowing the opening, gets a clear advantage, and keeps it throughout, namely space and the two Bishops. 12...Nbd7 13.Bd2 a6 14.a4 Nb6 15.Qb3 Qc7 16.Rae1 Rxe1 17.Rxe1 Re8 18.Rxe8+ Nxe8 19.Ne4 Nd7 20.g4 Bd4+ ½–½, Agdamus - Panno, Santos Lugares 1977. White gives the higher rated player a draw, though after 21.Kg2 White would be clearly better, having the Queenside plan a5, Qa3 and b4, and Kingside possibilities such as g5 and h4–h5, or our favorite f5 if Black's Knight can be diverted from the e5 square. This type of position is well known from the Averbakh variation of the King's Indian, and White has a very high winning percentage."

***11...Na6***

In *Beating*, the following is Game 28: 11...a6 12.a4 Nbd7 13.h3 Bxf3 14.Qxf3. My comment in the book is, "Black has no play and can only wait and defend." As it turns out, he doesn't have to suffer long! 14...Qe7 15.Bd2 Qf8 16.Kh1 Re7 17.g4 Rae8 18.a5 h6 19.h4 h5 20.g5 Ng4 21.Rae1 Rxe1 22.Rxe1 Rxe1+ 23.Bxe1 f6 24.Qe4 White is winning—note the power of the unopposed White King's Bishop + Queen, which will also be seen in the main game. 24...fxg5 25.Qe6+ Qf7 26.Bxg6 Qxe6 27.dxe6 1–0, Halldorsson - Bjornsson, Hafnarfjordur 1995

***12.h3 Bxf3 13.Qxf3***



There are only three games in the Megabase, one of which is mine, that reach this position (I suppose next year's version will have one more!) and White won them all!

White's advantage is evident: Let's break it down: White has more space and the two Bishops. Also White has a direct attacking plan with f5 (a move that can't be prevented) as well as potential Queenside play with Bd2/a3/b4.

Black has no outposts on the e-file and virtually no activity. His natural break ...b5 is basically impossible except as a pawn sacrifice (as played here and in the game Taylor-Yee seen in the notes) but without a lead in development as in the Benko Gambit this will fall short.

In other words, 7...Bg4 leads almost by force to this position, one where Black faces a desperate defense.

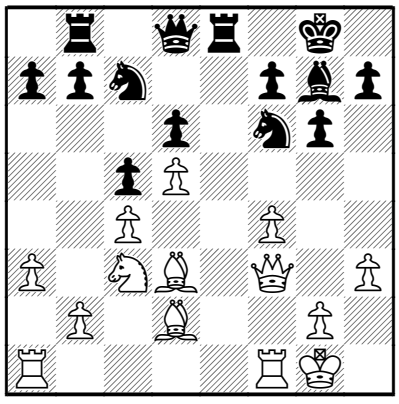
***13...Rb8***

Two of the games in the Mega deviate here, both featuring the following Knight move. The two White winners are yours truly and local FM Mark Duckworth, and the games are virtually twins! In both cases White gets a big opening advantage, meets stubborn resistance, and then must finally convert in an ending, which in both games ends up with the White King's Bishop plus pawns defeating Black's Knight!

13...Nc7 14.f5 Duckworth attacks right away. 14...Nd7 15.Qg3 Ne5 16.Bg5 f6 17.Bf4 g5 18.Bxe5 Rxe5 19.Rae1 Rxe1 20.Rxe1 Qd7 21.Bc2 a6 22.Qd3 b5 23.b3 Bf8 24.Ne4 Bg7 25.Rf1 Qe7 26.Qg3 Ne8 27.Re1 Qd8 28.Bd1 Bf8 29.h4 Be7 30.Qe3 Ng7 31.g4 Ra7 32.Rf1 h6 33.Rf2 Ne8 34.Qh3 Bf8 35.hxg5 hxg5 36.Rh2 Bg7 37.cxb5 axb5 38.Qd3 Qb6 39.Kf1 Rc7 40.Rc2 Re7 41.Nc3 c4 42.bxc4 Re3 43.Qd2 bxc4 44.Na4 Qb1 45.Qc1 Qxc1 46.Rxc1 Rd3 47.Be2 Ra3 48.Nc3 Bf8 49.Bxc4 Duckworth must also convert in the ending. 49...Be7 50.Bb3 Ra7 51.Nb5 Ra8 52.Rc6 Kf7 53.Ke2 Bf8 54.Nd4 Be7 55.Kd3 Bd8 56.Ne6 Ke7 57.a4 Kd7 58.Bc4 Ba5 59.Bb5 Ke7 60.Rc2 Rb8 61.Nd4 Kf7 62.Nc6 Ra8 63.Nxa5 Rxa5 64.Rc8 Ng7 65.Rd8 Ra7 66.Rxd6 Ne8 67.Rd7+ Rxd7 68.Bxd7 Nd6 69.Bc6 Ke7 70.a5 Nc8 71.Kc4 Kd6 72.Kb5 Kc7 73.Kc5 Kb8 74.d6 Na7 75.Bd7 Kb7 76.Kd5 Ka6 77.Ke6 Kxa5 78.Kxf6 Kb6 79.Ke7 1–0, Duckworth - Harmon, USA 1987.

My game continued more slowly with: 13...Nc7 14.Bd2 Rb8 15.Rab1 a6 16.a4 Nd7 17.g4 Bd4+ 18.Kg2 b5 19.axb5 axb5 20.cxb5 Nb6 21.f5 Qd7 22.Bh6 Re5 23.fxg6 hxg6 24.Bf4 Ncxd5 25.Nxd5 Nxd5 26.Bxe5 Ne3+ 27.Kh1 dxe5 28.Rfe1 Nd5 29.Bc4 Nf4 30.Ra1 Kg7 31.Bf1 Bxb2 32.Rab1 Bd4 33.b6 Qd5 34.Re4 Qa2 35.Rb5 Nd5 36.Rxd4 exd4 37.Rxc5 Nxb6 38.Qf4 Qa8+ 39.Bg2 Qa1+ 40.Rc1 Qa7 41.Qxd4+ Kg8 42.Rc6 Qa4 43.Qd6 Nd7 44.Rc1 Rb3 45.Rf1 Qa3 46.Qf4 Qe7 47.Qc4 Rb4 48.Rxf7! White's long term f-file pressure finally bears fruit, in the form of an extra pawn—but the ending still must be won! 48...Qxf7 49.Qxb4 Qa2 50.Be4 Qa1+ 51.Kg2 Qa2+ 52.Kg3 Qe6 53.Qd4 Qe5+ 54.Qxe5 Nxe5 55.Kf4 Nd7 56.Bxg6 Kg7 57.Bf5 Nf6 58.g5 Nd5+ 59.Ke5 Ne7 60.h4 Nc6+ 61.Kf4 Ne7 62.h5 Nc6 63.Be4 Ne7 64.Ke5 1–0, Taylor - Yee, Los Angeles 2008. I had to watch out for Black sacrificing his Knight for my g-pawn, leaving me with the "wrong Bishop draw" but now the pawns can no longer be blockaded, as 64...Ng8 is defeated by 65.Bd5.

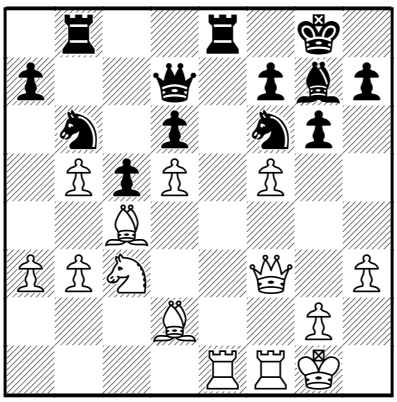
***14.a3 Nc7 15.Bd2***



***15...b5***

Black sacrifices a pawn: though this doesn't give him adequate compensation, it's nonetheless the best practical chance, as otherwise Black has no play at all. Black's third loss in the Mega shows Black breaking too late, when Black's desperate Queenside sacrifices are no match for White's central and Kingside attack: 15...a6 16.a4 Qd7 17.f5 b5 18.axb5 axb5 19.cxb5 Nxb5 20.Nxb5 Rxb5 21.Bxb5 Qxb5 22.Bc3 Ne4 23.Bxg7 Kxg7 24.fxg6 f6 25.Rae1 Qxb2 26.Rxe4 1–0, Boca - Blank, Bayern 1996.

***16.cxb5 Qc8 17.Rad1 Qb7 18.Bc4 Na8 19.b3 Nb6 20.Rde1 Qd7 21.f5!***



Now that the Black Queen occupies d7 (preventing Black from answering the text move with a quick ...Nd7-e5), I seize the opportunity to attack.

White's advantage is evidently decisive, with only one small problem. I was already heading into severe time trouble (I would finally make the control at move forty with only 37 seconds left!) and instead of finishing the game cleanly here, I allowed my opponent to stay alive—see note to my next move.

***21...Rxe1 22.Bxe1?***

I simply overlooked Black's next. While Mr. Fritz's evaluation is still at a decisive advantage for White after this, practically speaking I allow my opponent an unnecessary defensive blockade that makes the position more difficult to win.

22.Rxe1! is correct, when Black is without resource. Either White will open the f-file (note that with the White Queen's Bishop on d2, the game's ...g5 is not possible) when I

will have both an extra pawn and attack, or Black must go in for 22... Qxf5 *(or 22...gxf5 23.Bd3 with a winning attack)* 23.Qxf5 gxf5 24.a4 when Black's doubled f-pawns are meaningless but White's Queenside pawn majority is decisive.

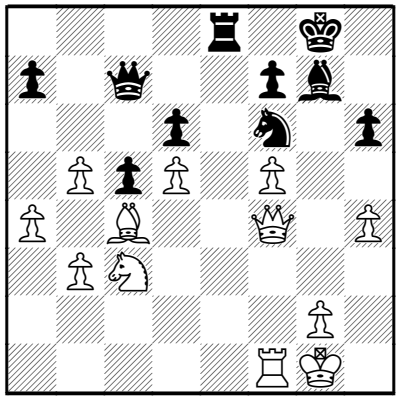
***22...g5! 23.Bd2 h6 24.a4 Qc7 25.h4***

Correct, but the sharp play that ensues costs more time on my clock—the rather routine win after 22.Rxe1 would have been much easier!

***25...g4 26.Qg3 Nbd7 27.Bf4 Nh5***

Black is trying to complicate in my time pressure.

***28.Qxg4 Ndf6 29.Qf3 Nxf4 30.Qxf4 Re8***



***31.b6?***

I thought I was diverting the Black Queen from defense of his Kingside, but actually I was allowing him to infiltrate on the dark squares of my Queenside!

Correct was the hard to find 31.g3! when White creates a safe square for his King on h3 and should win gradually with the two extra pawns.

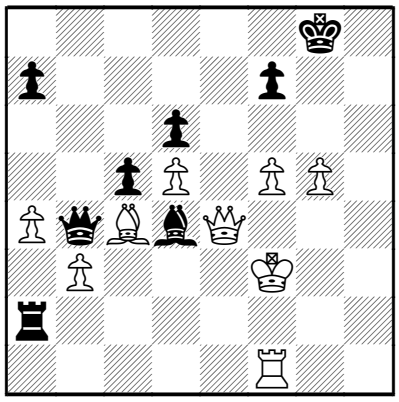
***31...Qxb6 32.g4 Qb4!***

The next eight moves were played at blitz tempo and my opponent played well, finally reaching the time control within sight of a draw.

***33.Rf3 Re1+ 34.Kf2 Ra1 35.g5 hxg5 36.hxg5 Ng4+ 37.Qxg4 Bd4+ 38.Ke2 Bxc3 39.Rf1 Ra2+ 40.Kf3***

I made it! (with the aforementioned 37 seconds).

***40...Bd4 41.Qe4***



***41...Qc3+?***

An interesting and fatal mistake, on the first move *after* the time control.

41...Be5 is correct, when our friend Mr. Fritz gives 42.Rh1 Qc3+ 43.Qd3 Qb2 44.Qe2 Qc3+ 45.Qd3 with a draw.

***42.Bd3!!***

While Black's last check appeared to be safe, the truth is the opposite: Black's opening woes (premature exchange of the white squared Bishop) come back to haunt him, as now White sets up the deadly Queen+Bishop battery as in the note to Black's eleventh move. Even though the Bishop is pinned and apparently on the verge of being lost, nothing matters but White's attack now—and that attack is decisive!

***42...Rh2***

Can Black win the pinned piece? No! I was ready to answer 42... Rd2 with 43.Qe8+ Kg7 *(or 43...Kh7 44.Qxf7+ Bg7 45.Rh1+* and mates*)* 44.f6+! Bxf6 45.gxf6+ Qxf6+ 46.Kg4! Qd4+ 47.Be4 and wins.

***43.f6!***

The crucial diagonal opens, and there is no salvation. First, Black must stop mate on the move.

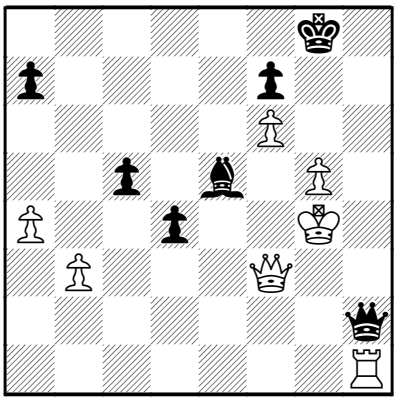
***43...Be5 44.Qf5!***

Another mate threat—Black must give up material, and the rest is technical.

***44...Rh3+ 45.Qxh3 Qxd3+ 46.Kg2 Qxd5+ 47.Qf3 Qd2+ 48.Kh3 d5***

48...Qxg5 49.Qg4 is simple.

***49.Rd1 Qh2+ 50.Kg4 d4 51.Rh1 1–0***



There is no defense to the coming 52.Qa8+. ♜


# Timothy Taylor, IM, Chess Instructor

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

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

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

# 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.

### *Whittier*

Some of the early 2013 winners in Whittier: NM Pablo Pena, NM Bill Richards, Randy Hough, Michael Cooper, Santy Villanueva, Daniel Manahan, Mark Jackson, John Vandenberg, Andrew Mendez, Raphael Manahan, Ray Sollars, Hector Valdez, Eustacio Villafuerte, Matthew Tran, Rohan Nair, Chris Barnett, and CM Joaquin Perkins.

After a poor result at the SCCF Super States, Perkins bounced back with a 2459 performance rating in a G/30 quad on March 14th. Ten days later, he won his 6th national scholastic championship by defending his title in the 8-years-old and Under section at the U.S. Junior Congress in San Francisco with a perfect 5-0 score.

Chief TD Michael Belcher ran two recent events in the Whittier High School library. In the ***Chess United Winter Olympiad*** held on Presidents' Day, Matthew Tran took clear 1st with an undefeated 4½-½ in the scholastic section. NM Pablo Pena won the adult/open section with 3½-½ with a victory over NM Bill Richards. But on St. Patrick's Day, Pena was upset by the 560-point rating underdog John Vandenberg (see photo). The section was won by NM Bill Richards, who gave up a draw to Chris Barnett before defeating Vandenberg for clear 1st with 3½ out of 4.

The Whittier Chess Club meets at various times, including two Thursdays per month at 6:00 p.m. in the library of Whittier High School, 12417 Philadelphia St.

Free rated and non-rated tournaments, casual play, blitz. No dues. Contact Kele Perkins at 626. 664.2484 or at keleperkins@gmail.com.

### *Lancaster*

Ruben Ondangan Jr. and Bruce Bowe tied for first with 3-1 in the G/30 **AV Checkmate Sunday Tourney**. Jerry Stone gained 188 rating points in tying for third with Christian Mercado, scoring 2½-½. Contact Rumen Ondangan at **knightblitz@verizon.net** for information about these tournaments.

Lancaster's eight-year-old Eric Tianxiong Chen gained over 100 rating points by tying for first place in the K-3 section, in the Super States 2013 Scholastic Chess Championships in Valencia over the March 2nd-3rd weekend. See the article on page 24.

Monthly ***1st Saturday Unrated*** tournaments are held at 10 a.m. and feature three rounds at G/30 d5, at AV Chess House, 3710 Neola Way, Lancaster, CA 93536.

Monthly ***2nd Sunday Rated*** tournaments are held at 9:50 a.m. and feature four rounds at G/30 d5, also at the AV Chess House.

For both events, contact Daa Mahowald at **daa@mahowald.org**.

kp

*John Vandenberg vs. Pablo Pena: a 560-point upset.*

### *Ventura*

The **Ventura County Chess Club** meets at 7 p.m. every Monday at Grace Lutheran Church, 6190 Telephone Road, Ventura, 93003. We play rated tournament games, casual chess and have free chess instruction.

Dues: Adults $30/year, Seniors (60+) $20/year, Students and Military $15/year.

For more information call Norman Coats at 805.701.0010. Website **www.vcchess.com**.

### *La Palma*

With an undefeated score of 4½-½, **La Palma Chess Club** veteran and TD Leigh Hunt won LPCC's ***6th Milky Way Championship***. Tied for second place at 4-1 was Robert Hutchinson and Joseph Bellinger. The 5-round, 41-player event held at La Palma's Central Park ended March 3rd. Other prizewinners were newcomer Tim Deng, best under 1700; Brandon Xia, best under 1500; and Michael Redden, best U1300. Brandon Xia won both the biggest upset prize (581 points), and the Shooting Star Trophy with

a performance of 1588 and an estimated rating gain of 207 points. Alan Chu won the Black Hole trophy for the longest winning game of 93 moves. Luke Cheng's win over Alan Chu won the best game prize. See the club's website at **www.lapalmachess.com** for wall charts, games, pictures and a schedule of events.

## *Santa Monica*

The **Santa Monica Bay Chess Club** ***January Swiss*** was won by Dmitry Cherkasky (2065) with a 4-0 score. Rory Wasiolek (2109) took 2nd with 3-1. The U1700 section resulted in a 4-way tie. The event had 14 entries.

***IM Jack Peters*** played the club in a ***Simul*** on February 25th, defeating all nine players following a discussion on the tenuous relevance of the World Championship in today's chess climate.

The ***2013 Santa Monica Bay Chess Club Championship***, held on Mondays March 4th through 25th, drew 15 players. This was a financial bonanza for club members as the guaranteed prize fund was $600. It paid 1st-5th in both the Open and U1800 prize categories. Winner Simon Kogan (1906), with 3½-½, edged out Dmitry Cherkasky (2075), Henry Walker (1886), and Simone Sobel (1885) each with 3-1. Also with a 3-1 score was Neelesh Tiruviluama (1263P) winning a $100 prize for the U1800 1st Place.

On Monday evenings 7:10-11:00 p.m., from May 6th to May 20th, the Club will hold a ***3-round Quads competition***. This tournament will be followed by a ***4-round Swiss***, Mondays from June 3rd to June 24th, and another ***4-round Swiss***, Mondays from July 8th to July 22nd. On July 29th, the Club holds a one night, unrated, ***G/30 3-round Swiss***, $10 EF, Club membership not required.

Except for the July 29th G/30, Entry Fee for each event is $10 with annual Club membership of $60. The events will be USCF rated, USCF membership required (you can join at the site). Time Control is G/1:55 d/5. 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 the corner of Federal/Barry Ave. at National Blvd. (Ample parking in the church lot)

Contact: TD Pete Savino 310.827.2789, **smbchess@yahoo.com**. See the web page at **sites.google.com/site/santamonicabaychessclub/**.

## *San Luis Obispo*

Lyric David Roberts swept the 6-player ***Scholastic March Madness*** tournament.

It was great to see a few newcomers - thanks to all the players who took a risk to play in the rated section. Also thank you for knowing how to checkmate with a Queen and King vs. King!

The non-rated section saw a first place tie at 4-1 between Max Waldorf and Austin Koonvirarak, in a field of 15. Full results and club information are online at **www.slochess.com**.

## *Palmdale*

The ***Chess Spectacular!*** is 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 18th for anyone in Grades K-8, play up to 20 games. Check-in begins at 8:30 a.m. The tournament starts at 9 a.m. Every participant receives a FREE SNACK at 11 a.m. and a FREE PIZZA LUNCH at 1:15 p.m. At Palmdale Learning Plaza, 38043 Division St., Palmdale CA 93551.

For information on this event or to keep up with the frequent happenings in the Antelope Valley, contact Daa Mahowald at 661-466-6907 or daa@mahowald.org.

## *San Diego*

In January and February, The ***Alina Markowski Open*** decided the 13 qualifiers for the San Diego Chess Club Championship. The 7-round event featured four Masters, 12 Experts, 15 Class A, 17 B's, 11 C's and 15 D/E players, all in one huge 74 -player section.

Kyron Griffith and Todd Smith tied for 1st with 6½-½. Bud Stamper won Best U2200 with 5½-1½, followed by six others with 5-2. Fidel Gonzalez and David Saponara won Best U2000 with 4½-2½. Four players tied for Best U1800: Steve Perry, Chuck Ensey, Gary Weeks and Anthony Harbone, all at 4-3. Stephen Zhu and Rocio Murra tied for Best U1600 with 3½-3½. Ross Blum and Ron Stanard with 3-4 won Best U1400. Jim Harrell and Keith Wetterer with 2-5 took Best U1200.

The 7-round ***2013 Club Championship*** started February 20th with 16 players - the 13 qualifiers: Kyron Griffith, Bruce Baker, Todd Smith, Carl Wagner, Aaron Wooten, Peter Hodges, Bud Stamper, Esteban Escobedo, Jeff Turner, Alejandrino Baluran, Lennart Mathe, Tim McGuiness and Fidel Gonzalez, plus 3 seeded players: David Hart, John Funderburg (last year's Co-Champions) and Raoul Crisologo (winner of the Shootout). So, six Masters, eight Experts and two Class A players competed.

It was one of the strongest fields in the SDCC's long history and it was no surprise that the race was very tight right to the end. After three rounds the unexpected leaders were Peter Hodges, Tim McGuiness and Bud Stamper. Bruce Baker had lost to Hodges in Round 1 and Stamper had upset Todd Smith and David Hart.

In round 4, Stamper lost to Hodges and McGuiness lost to Baker. Peter Hodges then had a half point lead which he maintained for the next three rounds including beating No. 1 rated Kyron Griffith in round 5. However, in the final round he lost to Raoul Crisologo.

Meanwhile Bruce Baker reeled off six wins in a row to take clear first, scoring 6-1 to win the Championship trophy. Peter Hodges was 2nd with 5½-1½ and Kyron Griffith 3rd with 4½-2½.

The 2013 Reserve Championship (U1800) was won by Ron Rezendes on tie breaks over Miguel Ceballos. Eliza Eggert, Thomas Webb and Anthony Harbone tied for third place in the 16-player section.

In ***The Fred Borges Open*** for non-qualifiers, there was a 3-way

tie for 1st between Chris Wonnell, Gregory Ingolia and Mario Amodeo. Brian Kelly and William Wijaya tied for Best U1800, while Morgan Fox and Mark Lawless were Best U1600. Maria Murra was Best U1400 and Patrick Edwards Best U1200.

IM Dionisio Aldama swept the ***February Super Gambito Open*** (#598) with a perfect 4-0 score, with wins over Jeff Turner, Bruce Baker, Cyrus Lakdawala, and Kyron Griffith. Cy and Kyron tied for second.

Venkat Iyer won Best U2400, Bud Stamper was Best U2200, and Daniel Zhu and Pejman Sagart tied for Best U2000.

In the Reserve section (U1800), Anand Mehta, who was visiting from Northern California, won with 3½-½. Thomas Diem, another promising young player cutting his teeth at the Gambito, won Best U1600.

In the ***March Super Gambito Open*** (#601), Peter Graves won clear first place with 3½-½ and Dionisio Aldama had to settle for Second Place after a first round bye and a draw with Graves. Four others tied for Best U2400 and Best U2200: Nikolay Arutyunov, Jeff Turner, Peter Hodges and Raoul Crisologo, all at 2½-1½. Fidel Gonzalez won Best U2000.

In the Reserves, an unrated player, Batuham Korman scored a perfect 4-0, but had to settle for a book prize as we don't allowed unrated players to win money in the Reserve section. But, we also waive entry fees for first time players, so it evened out and he was happy. Anthony Harbone and Bryan Tangtartharakul ended up tying for 1st-2nd Place with 3-1 while Claire Negus and Caleb Laguna scored 2-2 to win Best U1600.

Thirty-eight players competed in the ***April Super Gambito Open*** (#605), including six Masters and 10 Experts. First place went to IM Cyrus Lakdawala who scored 3½-½, 2ndPlace/U2400 was a 3-way tie between Peter Graves, Ali Morshedi and Bruce Baker, all at 3-1. Peter Hodges won Best U2200 and Chuck Ensey Best U2000. In the Reserve section, Claire Negus was a perfect 4-0, a full point ahead of Thomas Diem, Gary Weeks and John Donahoo. Mark Negus was Best U1600 and there was a 3-way tie for Best U1400 between Raul Carranza, Luis Valencia and Jim Harrell.

More results and photos can be found on our website **https://sites.google.com/site/sandiegochessclub**

## *Arcadia*

The ***Arcadia Winter Open*** ended February 25th. Feiyue Yang (2141) sailed unperturbed to a 6-0 victory. Unrated Tom Zapanta-(2165p) scored 5-1 along with Gordon Brooks (1924) for the Expert and A prizes. Showing a veteran's prowess, Brooks joined the expert class once again with a 75 point gain. Anthony Ge (1771) and Steven Niles (1677) shared the B prize. Cory Chen (1567) took the C prize. With 3½-2½, Daniel Zhou (1333) and David May (1272) claimed the D-E-unrated prize.

The ***Mel Clark Club Championship*** ended April 8th at Arcadia Chess Club with a lively scrap between the two top rated players in the decisive final round. With five players still in contention, Bill Richards (2187) pressed uncompromisingly for a win, but when the smoke cleared, Feiyue Yang (2166) took home the point and the championship, with five straight wins after a first round bye.

Melandro Singson (2142) and Greg Fritchle (2047) at 5-1 took the Expert prize. Danny Machuca (1895) also pegged five points for the A prize. Ryan Chen's (1614) high octane start allowed him to back into the B prize even with a last round forfeit. Hector Valdez (1471) scored three points for the C prize and Brian Phillips (1209), with three points, stole the D-E-unrated prize with a stunning, 500 point difference, last round upset.

**ArcadiaChessClub.com** has the latest news and information.

**Solutions to Outside Shots!**
From the back cover.

1.White wins it with ***24.Bxf6! gxf6 25.Re7***. Brown - Xia, 2013 Super States Championship (5), Valencia 2013. See the whole game on page 28.

2.Best is ***29.e5!!*** blocking the Black Queen from the defense, with the idea of 30.Rh6 and 31.Rh8 mate, in Georgiev - Bryant, 24th Metro FIDE GM, Los Angeles 2013. See the game with notes on page 20.

3.Best is ***40.f6!*** (The forcing 40.Ng6 fxg6 41.Rxh6 gxf5 42.Rg1± is strong but wrong.) ***40...Nec6*** Better than 40...Rxh4 41.Rxh4 Nec6 42.Rg1. ***41.Nf5! Rxh1 42.Nd6+*** and White is up decisive material. Viswanadha - Duckworth, 25th Metro FIDE (6), Los Angeles 2013. See the whole game on page 33.

4.It was a sudden lights out after ***25.Nh5+! gxh5***. If 25...Kh7 then 26.Nf6+ wins the Queen, and if 25...Kh8, 26.Qxh6+ is a quick mate. If 25...Kg8, White can pass up the Queen and force mate with 26.Qxh6 Ne8 *(or 26...Be5 27.Nf6+ Bxf6 28.Bxf6)* 27.Bf6. Finally, it's another quick end after 25...Kf8 26.Qxh6+ Ke8 27.Qh8 mate. ***26.Bf6+! 1–0***. It's going to be really fast, for example, 26...Kg8 27.Qxh6 Nf5 28.Qh8 mate, or 26...Kxf6 27.Qxh6+ Ng6 28.g5 mate. Kaidanov - Formanek, Western Class Championships (1), Agoura Hills 2013.

5.It's the accurate ***42.Bd3!!***. White sets up a deadly Queen+Bishop battery and soon wins, Taylor - Muller, Pasadena CC Championship (6), 2013. To see White's answer to 42...Rd2, see the annotated game on page 37.

6.White wins Black's Queen and a pawn for his Rook and Bishop with ***42.Be6+! Nh5 43.Bf5!!*** threatening both Rxh5+ and Qxg6+. It's too much! ***43...Rd2+*** Not 43...gxf5 44.Rxh5 mate. ***44.Kf1□ Rd1+ 45.Ke2! Rxh1 46.Qxg6+***, and White won, in Khachiyan - Aldama, Recession Buster Open (4), San Diego 2013. See the game on page 13.

## *Thousand Oaks*

The **Thousand Oaks Chess Club** meets every Monday evening from 6:00-8:45 p.m. at the Goebel Adult Community Center, 1385 Janss Rd. Thousand Oaks, CA. Frequent rated and non-rated tournaments and casual play. All levels and ages welcome.

For more information, please contact Cindy Garcia at: ThousandOaksChess@att.net or (805) 990-0136.

## *Lawndale*

Top-rated newcomer Michael Cooper (2094) swept aside all opposition in winning ***Alondra Park's first tournament of 2013***. Cooper didn't lose a game en route to a 5½-½ result, the only blemish being a second round bye. Ted Roth, Howard LeFevre and Cengiz Ant Vance shared 2nd-4th with 4½-1½. Top B Ed Englehaupt finished with 3-3, demonstrating the strength and depth of this tournament. Thirty-three players participated.

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 Website is: **www.alondraparkchessclub.com**.

## *Pasadena*

The **Pasadena Chess Club** began the New Year with the 71-player ***Richard Lewis Memorial***. Two youngsters on the cusp of becoming masters, Albert Lu and Feiyue Yang, tied for first place at 5-1. Phil Chase and Annie Wang split U2000 honors; Joey Perez was best U1800; and Hamlet Tovmasyan and Jennifer Lu tied for U1700 and U1600. Felix Yen was best U1400, and Edward Lee captured U1200 laurels.

This tournament opened an amazing streak by ten-year-old Annie Wang, who tallied 16 wins and five draws in USCF-rated events over a two-month period, eventually bringing her rating up to 2063.

The ***February Quick*** tournament drew 34 participants. Mel Singson scored a perfect 10-0, with Axel Muller's 7½-2½ trailing at a respectful distance. Other prizewinners included Prasanna Borse (U2000); Chris Stychinsky and Mark Keller (U1800); Felix Gao (U1600); Kyle Li (U1400); Edward Chou (U1200); and Henry La Soya (Unrated).

***The Club Championship*** marked IM Tim Taylor's return to competition after a mishap at the American Open. He duly won with 5½-½, drawing only with defending champion Yusheng Xia. The path to victory was not as clear as it might sound; in the first round 1645-rated Benjamin Gabriel Jr. had a perpetual check and probably more, but misplayed his attack and lost. Taylor was tied with Expert Axel Muller going into the final round and eventually triumphed in their exciting game. *See Outside Shots No. 5 and page 37 for this exciting game. Also, see Inside Moves No. 9 for the first round attack. -Ed.*

Fifteen-year-old Xia failed to get his desired "three-peat," but took clear second with 5-1. The large group with 4½-1½ included Muller, Lu, Mike Carlson, Larry Stevens, Jesse Victoria, Randy Hough, and 1737-rated Anthony Ge (age 9), who took U2000 honors. Stychinsky, Ray Montalvo, Christopher Hung, and

Please turn to page 46, **Here & There**.

### Solutions to Inside Moves

From page 2.

1. White wins a pawn and much more with ***15.Nxh6+! gxh6 16.Qxf6 Ng6 17.Qxg6+ Kh8 18.Qxh6+ Kg8 19.Bg5 1–0***, Hilby - Cheng, Superstates (1), Valencia 2013.

2. White could have kept the extra piece with 20.Nc3!. White played ***20.Be5*** and later won. Matikozyan - Bryant, 24th Metro FIDE GM (6), Los Angeles 2013.

3. White won a piece with ***24.b4! Bxb4 25.Nc2!***, due to the double attack. Lasker - Euwe, Nottingham 1936

4. The alert ***24...Rg4!*** wins a piece. The Knight can't move because it protects against both ...Qg2 mate and ...Qf3+, so it's prey to a pawn. ***25.Rg1 exf4 26.f3 Rxg3 27.Rxg3 fxg3 28.d4 Qxh2+ 29.Qxh2 gxh2 30.Kxh2 Rc8 0–1***. Wong - Hilby, Superstates (2), Valencia 2013.

5. White turned out the lights with ***28.Rxh5!*** Chop 'em and Rock 'em! ***28...gxh5*** If 28...Qe5, then 29.Rbh1 gxh5 30.Qxh5 is a transposition. ***29.Qxh5 Qe5 30.Rh1 1–0***. Zaloznyy - Schwartz, Western Class Experts Section (2), Agoura Hills 2013.

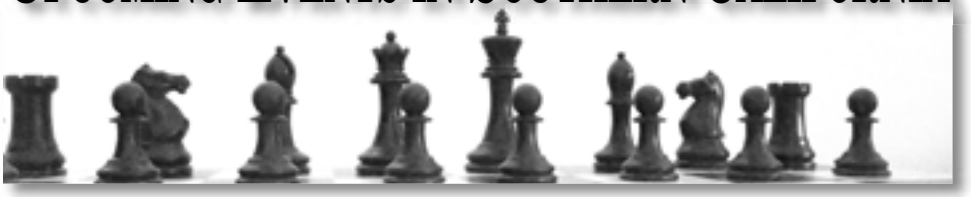
6. There's a backward attacking move in it: ***44...Bxg2+ 45.Kxg2 Qc6+! 46.f3***. After 46.Kh2 Rd1 47.Qg8+, the King escapes with 47...Kh5. ***46...Rg4+ 0–1***, Bryant - Sharma, 24th Metro FIDE GM (7), Los Angeles 2013.

7. White's e-pawn is overworked: ***37...d3! 38.exd3*** Other moves do not help: 38.h4 d2 39.h5 e4–+; 38.Bg4 Ne3+ 39.Kg3 d2; and finally 38.Kh2 dxe2 39.Bg2 Ne3 *(threatening 40... Nf1+)* 40.Re1 Rf2+–. Black won after ***38...Nh4+ 39.Kg3 Nxf3***. Sharma - Khachiyan, 24th Metro FIDE GM (4), Los Angeles 2013.

8. Black saw it to the end with ***32... Qg1+!*** 32...Bg1+ 33.Kg3 is only a draw. ***33.Kg3 Qe1+ 34.Kg4 h5+ 35.Kg5 Qg3+ 36.Bg4 Kg8 0–1***. If 37.Qd8+, Black interposes with 37... Bf8, necessary for the win. Ivanov - Formanek, Western Class Championships (4), Agoura Hills 2013.

9. Black continued the Kingside attack with ***22...Rxd4! 23.Rxd4 Bxg2+! 24.Kxg2 Qg3+ 25.Kh1*** Now 25...Qh3! 26.Rf2 Be5+ 27.Kg1 Bxd4 would have closed the deal, as Black is up at least the Exchange and two pawns. Instead ***25...Bg1 26.Rh4*** was played, and White later won. Taylor - Gabriel, Pasadena CC Championship (1) 2013.

# Upcoming Events in Southern California



***** Please see uschess.org for the complete TLA for each event.***

## *May 11-12*

### LACC - May Open

**Trophies Plus**
**Grand Prix Points: 6**
**Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!**

6SS, G/61. 11514 Santa Monica Blvd., LA 90025, 2nd fl. 2 sections: U2300/U1800. EF: $70 at the door ($65 if notified by 5/10); $60 LACC members ($55 if notified by 5/10); Siblings 1/2, $30 new LACC members, Free new LACC Life members! 20% off EF for each friend you bring in. Reg.: Sat 10-11:30 am. Rds.: 12, 2, 4 pm each day. Byes: Up to three ½-point byes available. 1-Day option I: Play 1 day- no 1/2 pt byes- 1/2 EF. 1-Day option II: Play 1 day & receive three 1/2 pt byes- Full EF. Prizes: $$ 1,500 (b/45, 50% Guaranteed). 1st-3rd $400-200-75 U2000: $125. U1800: $200-100; U1600: $100-50-$25; U1400: $100-50; U1200/unrated: $75. Ent: LACC, Box 251774, LA, CA 90025. Info: Mick Bighamian: Cell (310) 795-5710; Mick@LAChessClub.com or www.LAChessClub.com. Parking: Free on streets & basement.

## *May 25-27 or 26-27*

### 2013 Lina Grumette Memorial Day Classic

**Trophies Plus Grand Prix Points: 40 (Enhanced)**
**Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!**

6-SS, 3-day 40/2, SD/1, d/5 2-day rds. 1-3 G/1 then merges. Sheraton Ontario Airport, 429 North Vineyard Ave., Ontario, CA 91764. $10,000 b/200, 50% of each prize guaranteed. In five sections: Open: $$T+1700- 750-400-300-200, U2400 400, U2200 700-300-200. Premier (under 2000): $$750-300-200-100. Amateur (Under 1800): $$750-300- 200-100. Reserve (Under 1600): $$750-300-200-100. Booster (Under 1400/unrated): $$400-200-100, U1200 150, Unr 150. (Unrated may win Unrated prizes only.) EF: $88 by 5/23, $99 at door. Booster (U1400) section EF: $72 by 5/23, $85 door. Reg.: ends 10:30am 5/25, 9:30 am 5/26. Rds.: 3-day: 11-6, 11-6, 10-4:30. 2-day: 10-1-3:30 (G/1), then merges with 3-day at 6. All: SCCF membership req. ($18 adults, $13 youth with print mag, $3 youth without mag), OSA: $25 Best Game prize, all sections eligible. 1 half-point bye if requested at least 1 round in advance, rd. 6 must be requested with entry. HR: $89, (800) 325-3535, code Southern California Chess Federation, reserve by 5/13. Parking free. Free wireless in public areas, 24-hour airport shuttle.Info: randallhough@yahoo.com. Website, On-line entry: www.scchess.com. Ent: SCCF, PO Box 205, Monterey Park, CA 91754. NS. NC. **State Championship Qualifier**.

## *May 26*

### MDC Scholastics

5-SS, G/30. Open to gr. 12-below. In two sections: Open: Trophies to top 5, top 3 U1200, top 2 Unrated. Grade 6/below U1000: Trophies to top 5, top 3 U700, top 2 Unrated. Reg.: 8:30-9. Rds.: 9:30-11-12:15-1:45-3. EF: $16 if received by 5/24, $20 door.Info: randallhough@yahoo.com. On-line ent: www.scchess.com. Ent: SCCF, PO Box 205, Monterey Park, CA 91754.

## *May 26*

### MDC Action Swiss

5-SS, G/30. $500 b/40, else proportional: $150-70-40, U2100/ Unr $80, U1800 $80, Under 1500 $80. EF: $20 if received by 5/24, $25 at door. Reg.: 9:30-10 a.m. Rds.: 10:15-11:30-12:45-2:30-3:45. Ent: SCCF, PO Box 205, Monterey Park, CA 91754. On-line entry: www.scchess.com.

## *May 27*

### MDC Hexes

3-SS, G/90. 8-player sections by rating. EF: $21 if received by 5/24, $24 door. $$ 40-20-10 each section. Reg.: 9:30-10:15 a.m. Rds.: 10:30-1:30-4:30. Ent: SCCF, PO Box 205, Monterey Park, CA 91754. On-line entry: www.scchess.com.

## *June 14-16 or 15-16*

### SoCal Class Championship

**Trophies Plus Grand Prix Points: 50 (Enhanced)**
**Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!**

6SS, 40/2 sd/1 d5 (2-day rds 1-3 G/60 d5). Hyatt, 17900 Jamboree Rd., Irvine, CA 92614. HR: $99. Prize: $12,000 b/197. Open (2000+ FIDE): $2000-1000-400-200, u2300 300-100, u2100 100 A: $1000-500-200-100-100 B: 1000-500-200-100-100 C: 1000-500-200-100-100 DE: 1000-500-200, u1200 300-100-100. Unr max 200 exc in Open. EF by 6/11: $99. Onsite +25, Playup +25. re 45. Econ (unavail in Open): EF-20 & 2/3 calc prize. Rfnd fee 20. GMs/IMs free by 6/4: prize-EF. Jun 13 Supp, CCA min, TD disc to place players. Sched: 3-day Reg F 10-10:30, Rds F/Sa 11 5:40, Su 10 4:30; 2-day Reg Sa 9-9:30, Rds Sa 10 12:30 3 5:45, Su 10-4:30. Max two 0.5pt byes, req bef rd 3. SCCF mem req for So Ca residents. Info: BayAreaChess.com/socal. E: ask@BayAreaChess.com. T: 408.786.5515. NS. NC. W.

## *June 15*

### SoCal Kids Class Championship

5SS, G/30 d5. Hyatt Regency, 17900 Jamboree Rd., Irvine, CA 92614. Hotel $99. Trophies: Top 10 players ea section & top 10 teams all sections combined. 5 sections b/ rating: under 200, 200-399, 400-599, 600-799, 800-999. EF by 6/11: 29. Onsite +15, Play-up +10. Rfnd fee 10. Rating based on Jun 13 Supp & TD disc. Sched: Reg Fr 8:30-9, Rds Fr 9:30 11 12:30 2 3:30. Info: BayAreaChess.com/socals. T: 408.786.5515. E: ask@BayAreaChess.com. NS. NC. W.

## *June 29*
### Joshua Tree Summer Open

4SS, G/60, T/D:0. Reg.: 8-9:15. Rds.: 9:30, 11:45, 2:45, 5:00. Faith Lutheran Church, 6336 Hallee Rd., Joshua Tree. (2 blks N. of Hwy 62). EF: $30. Prizes: 70% EF. Info and Ent: Mark Muller, P.O. Box 502, 29 Palms, CA 92277 (760) 367-2311, e-mail: muller29@roadrunner.com. W.

## *July 5-7 or 6-7*
### SCCF
### Pacific Southwest Open
**Trophies Plus Grand**
**Prix Points: 60**
**Chess Magnet School**
**Junior Grand Prix!**

6SS, 40/2, SD/1, d/5 (2-day option, rds 1-3 G/75, d/5). Radisson LAX, 6225 West Century Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90045. Prizes: $$10,000 b/165, 80% of each prize guaranteed! 5 sections. Open: $$1700-750-400-300-200, U2400 400, U2200 700-300-200. Premier (under 2000): $$750-300-200-100. Amateur (Under 1800): $$750-300- 200-100. Reserve (Under 1600): $$750-300-200-100. Booster (Under 1400/unrated): $$400-200-100, U1200 150, Unr 150. (Unrated may win Unrated prizes only.) EF: $99 by 05/20, $105 by 06/20 $109 at door. GM/IM free, $99 from prize. Booster (U1400) section EF: $80 by 05/20, $87 by 06/20, $95 door. Re-entry $60 in all sections. 3-day schedule: Reg ends Fri 10 am, rds. Fri 11 & 6, Sat 11 & 6:30, Sun 10 & 4:15. 2-day schedule: Reg ends Sat 8:30 am, rds. Sat 9, 12, 3 & 6:30, Sun 10 & 4:15. All: Half point byes OK all, limit 2, must commit before rd 4. SCCF membership ($18, $13 jrs [or $3 no magazine jr version] required for rated Southern Californians.) HR: $99-99, 1-(800) 333-3333, code Metropolitan, reserve by May 10th. Parking $11/day. Free wireless in public areas, 24-hour airport shuttle. Info: info@metrochessla.com. Web site, On-line entry: www.metrochessla.com Ent: Metropolitan Chess, PO Box 25112, Los Angeles, CA 90025-0112. $15 service charge for refunds.

## *July 6*
### SCCF PSO Scholastics

5-SS, G/30. Open to gr. 12-below. In two sections: Open: Trophies to top 5, top 3 U1200, top 2 Unrated. Grade 6/below U1000: Trophies to top 5, top 3 U700, top 2 Unrated. Reg.: 8:30-9. Rds.: 9:30-11-12:15-1:45-3. EF: $20 if received by 06/20, $25 door. Info: info@metrochessla.com. On-line ent: www.metrochessla.com. Ent: Metropolitan Chess, PO Box 25112, Los Angeles, CA 90025-0112.

## *July 18-21,19-21 or 20-21*
### 18th annual
### Pacific Coast Open
**Chess Magnet School**
**Junior Grand Prix!**
**Trophies Plus Grand Prix Points: 150 (Enhanced)**

6SS. Sheraton Agoura Hills Hotel, 30100 Agoura Rd., Agoura Hills, CA 91301 (US-101 to Reyes Adobe Road exit). Free parking. Prizes $25,000 based on 230 paid entries (re-entries & U1200 Sections count half), minimum $20,000 (80% each prize) guaranteed. In 7 sections. Open 3-day & 4-day 40/110, SD/30, d10, other sections 3-day & 4-day 30/90, SD/1, d5. 2-day option in all sections, rds 1-3 G/45, d5, then merges with others. 4-day option offered only in Open through Under 1500. Open: $3000-1500-700-400, clear or tiebreak win $100 bonus, top U2300/Unr $1400-700. FIDE. Under 2100: $2000-1000-500-300. Under 1900: $2000-1000-500-300. Under 1700: $1700-900-500-300. Under 1500: $1400-700-400-200, top U1300 (no Unr) $400. Adult Under 1200 (born 1995/before):$500-300-200-100, trophies to first 3, top U1000, U800, Unr. Junior Under 1200 (born 1996/after): $500-300-200-100, trophies to first 3, top U1000, U800, Unr. NEW mixed doubles bonus prizes: best male/female 2-player "team" combined score among all sections: $600-300. Team average rating must be under 2200; teammates may play in different sections; teams must register at site (no extra fee) before both players begin round 2; teammate pairings avoided but possible. Unrated may enter any section, with prize limit U1900 $900, U1700 $700, U1500 $500, U1200 $200; balance goes to next player(s) in line. Top 5 sections EF: $135 at chessaction.com by 7/16, $140 phoned by 7/16 (406-896-2038, no questions), 4-day $139, 3-day $138, 2-day $137 mailed by 7/9, $150 (no checks, credit cards OK) at site, or online until 2 hours before game. GMs free; $120 deducted from prize. Under 1200 Sections EF: $65 at chessaction.com by 7/16, $70 phoned by 7/16 (406-896-2038, no questions), 3-day Adult $68.50, 2-day Adult $67.50, 3-day Junior $68, 2-day Junior $67 mailed by 7/9, all $80 at site, or online until 2 hours before game. SCCF membership ($18, jrs $10) required for rated Southern CA residents. Re-entry $70; not available in Open Section. Unofficial uschess.org ratings usually used if otherwise unrated. Special 1 year USCF dues with magazine if paid with entry. 4-day schedule: Reg Thu to 6:30 pm, rds Thu 7 pm, Fri 6 pm, Sat 12 & 6, Sun 11 & 4:30. No 4-day schedule in either U1200 Section. 3-day schedule: Reg. Fri to 11 am, rds Fri 12 & 6, Sat 12 & 6, Sun 11 & 4:30. 2-day schedule: Reg Sat to 9 am, rds Sat 10,12:45, 3:15 & 6, Sun 11 & 4:30. HR: $95-95, 818-707-1220, request chess rate, reserve by 7/3 or rate may increase. Continental Chess, Box 8482, Pelham, NY 10803. $15 service charge for refunds. Questions: www.chesstour.com, DirectorAtChess.US, 914-665-8152. Advance entries posted at chessaction.com (online entries posted instantly).

## *August 3-4*
### San Diego
### County Championship
**Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!**
**Trophies Plus Grand Prix Points: 15 (Enhanced)**

at the San Diego Chess Club, 2225 Sixth Ave., San Diego, CA 92101. $3,500 prize fund, based on 70 players. 5 Rd SS, 3 Sections, Rds are Sat 10 AM, 2 PM & 6 PM, and Sun 10 AM & 3 PM, all games are G/100 d5. 1 bye available in Rounds 1-4. EF: $50 if rcvd by 8/02, otherwise $60. Special Rate for U1400 or Unr is only $25 in advance or $30 at door. Book prize only for Unr players. SCCF membership Req'd, ($18 Adult/$13 Jr), this is a **State Championship Qualifier.** Reg.: 9 AM to 9:45. Prizes: Open Section: $500-250, BU 2400 $200-50 BU 2300 $200-50, BU2200 $200-50, BU2100 $200-50. Reserve Section (under 2000): $300-150, BU 1900 $200-50, BU1800 $200-50, BU1700 $200-50. Boost-

er Section (under 1600): $180-75, BU1500 $100-50, BU1400 $75-25, Plus $15 Best Game Prize in each Section. NS, NC, W. Ent: SDCC, POB 120162, San Diego, CA 92112. Info: call Bruce Baker (619) 239-7166, or see the SDCC website at https://sites.google.com/site/sandiegochessclub.

## *August 31 - September 2 or 1-2*

### 35th Annual Southern California Open

**A Heritage Event!**

**Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!**

**Trophies Plus Grand Prix Points: 150 (Enhanced)**

6-SS, 40/2, SD/1 (2-day schedule rds 1-3 G/60, then merges). Town & Country Hotel, 500 Hotel Circle North, San Diego, CA 92108. $$20,000 in Guaranteed prizes, 5 Sections. Prizes: Open Sec 1st $2,400-1,600-1,200-900-600-500-400, BU2300 $1,000-600, 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 8/12, $120 after 8/12, or $140 at door. No credit cards at door, checks or cash only. Special rate of only $75 if U1400 or unrated if pd by 8/12, $90 after 8/12, or $100 at door. Special rate for GMs and IMs: $20 if registered by 8/12, $40 after 8/12 or $60 late entry at door. Open section will be FIDE rated except for 3 fast games in the 2 day schedule. Unr players are eligible for place prizes only in the Open Section, or the unrated prize in the U1400. Players who forfeit any round are ineligible for prizes! SCCF membership req'd ($18 Adult, $13 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. Entries: 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, or e-mail Chuck Ensey at chucnglo@aol.com. SCCF Annual Membership Meeting: Sunday 3 PM. Hotel Rates: Special rate of only $109, 619-291-7131, or 1-800-772-8527 if booked by 8/12/13, book ASAP, as rates may go up and rooms may sell out by mid-August. Large hotel is in the heart of Mission Valley, close to airport, great attractions such as Sea World, Legoland, The San Diego Zoo and Fashion Valley for shopping. The Town and Country Hotel (see www.towncountry.com) has over 1,000 rooms, 4 great restaurants, a heated pool, a spa and fitness center, plus golf next door. NS. NC. W. **State Championship Qualifier.** ♜

**Here & There**, continued from page 43.

George Shan split U1800. Arturo Armagnac (U1600); Adam Stanford-Moore (U1400); Edward Chou and Nicholas Mendez (U1200); and Nakul Bhaskar (Unrated) also earned class prizes. The 71-player tournament paid out $1000 in prizes.

The ***April Quick (G/10) tournament***, with 38 players, turned out to be rated as Blitz, not Quick, under USCF's new rules. (Such tournaments usually are paired with the regular ratings anyway.) Singson and Xia tied for first at 8-2. Ge and Tony Kukavica split U2100 and U1900 honors; Xavier Armagnac was top U1700; Kyle Li led the U1500 players; Bhaskar was best U1300; and La Soya was best U1100. April 5th was also the annual club meeting. Longtime Treasurer Neil Hultgren, whose participation goes back to the 1950s, stepped down and was awarded a plaque and a life membership.

On May 31st, the club begins the ***Mount Wilson Open*** in two sections over five weeks.

The club meets Fridays at 7 p.m., Boys and Girls Club, 3230 East Del Mar in Pasadena.

The website, which includes a catalogue of hundreds of books in the lending library, is **www.tim-thompson.com/pasadena.html**.

For further information, contact Randy Hough at (626) 282-7412, randallhough@yahoo.com. ♜

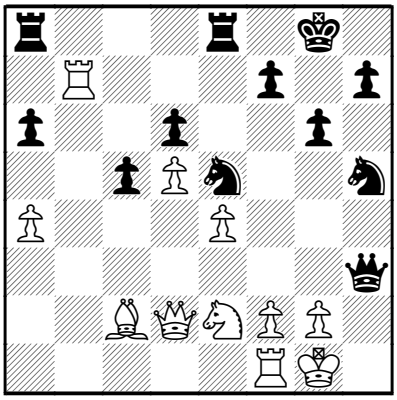
**20th WCC**, continued from page 31.

23.Rd1, then after 23...Qxd3 24.Qxd3 Nxd3 25.Rxd3 Rxe4 26.Nc3 Rb4∓, Black is a pawn up.

If White guards the Bishop with 23.Rb3, then 23...c4! *(not 23...Qxh3? 24.f4!)* 24.Qb4 a5 25.Qxc4 Nxc4 26.gxf3 Nd2∓.

Finally, suppose the Bishop moves?

***23.Bc2 Qxh3!***



Now if White takes the Queen, it's 24.gxh3 Nf3+ 25.Kg2 Nxd2 26.Rd1 Nxe4 with a nearly identical result to that after taking the Queen earlier.

***24.f4***

But now f3 is covered, and both Queen and Knight are attacked.

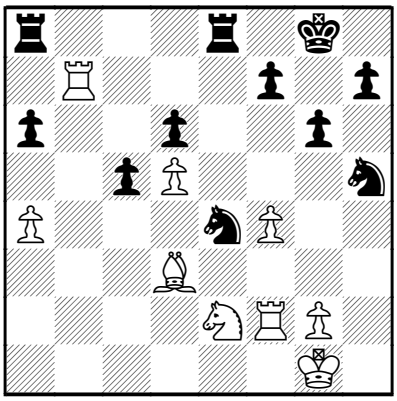
***24...Nc4!***

The solution.

***25.Qd3 Qxd3***

Strongest is actually 25...Qe3+ 26.Rf2 Nf6! for if 27.Qxc4?? then 27...Ng4−+.

***26.Bxd3 Nd2 27.Rf2 Nxe4***

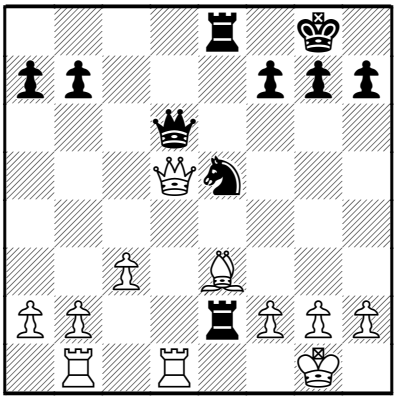


Still, Black goes two pawns up.

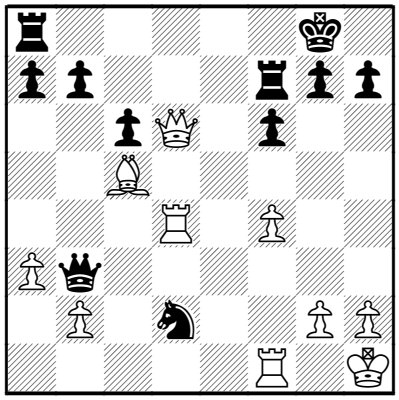
***28.Bxe4 Rxe4 29.f5 g5 30.Rd7 Nf6 31.Rxd6 Ng4 0–1*** ♜

# Final Points

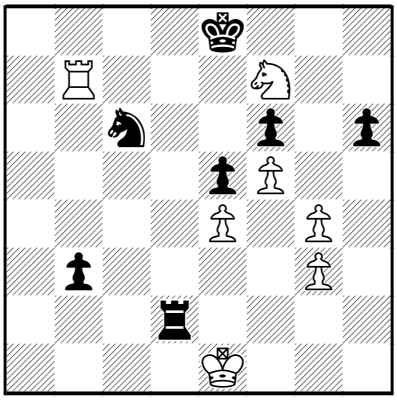
We hope you have enjoyed this issue. Since there are three months until the next one, here is another quiz page. ***Watch out for those last two***, they just might be a lot of work. These positions are mostly from recent games by Southern California players, but a few are from 50 or 100 years ago. Many thanks to our organizers, directors and players! And keep submitting those scoresheets! See page 11 for solutions. - Ed.



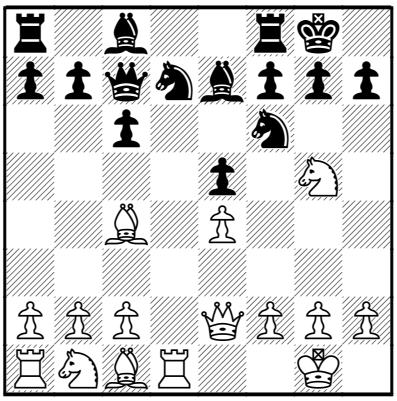
1. Black to Play



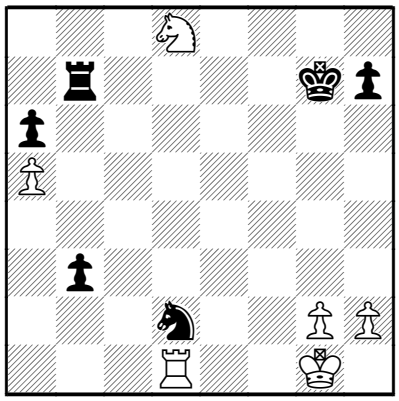
2. Black to Play



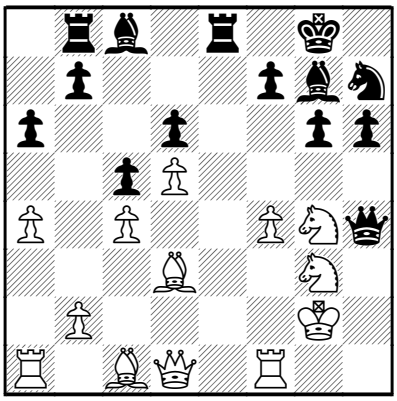
3. Black to Play



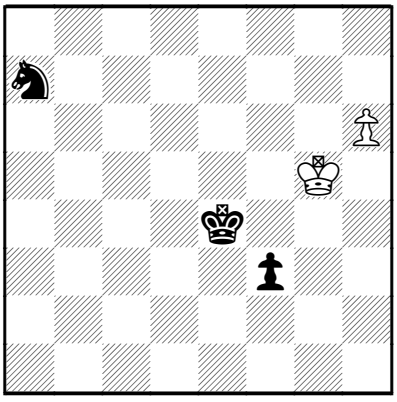
4. White to Play



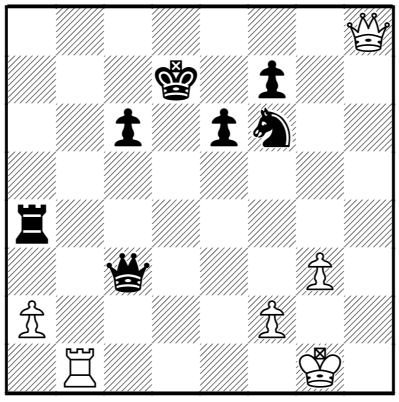
5. Black to Play



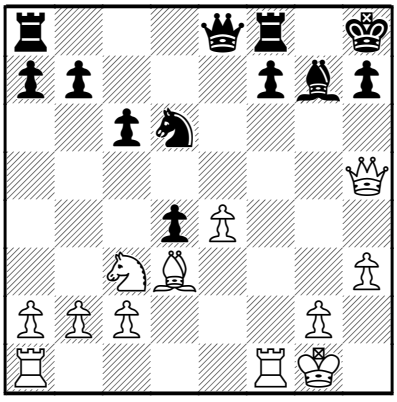
6. White to Play



7. Black to Play



8. White to Play



9. White to Play

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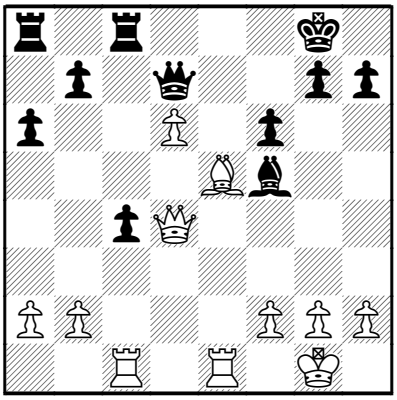
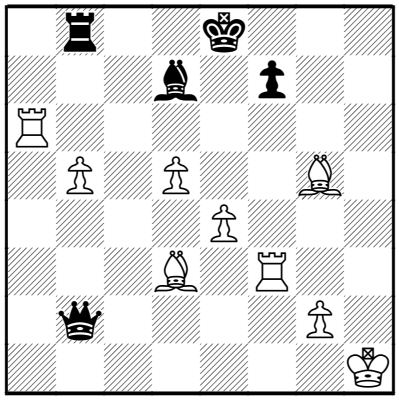
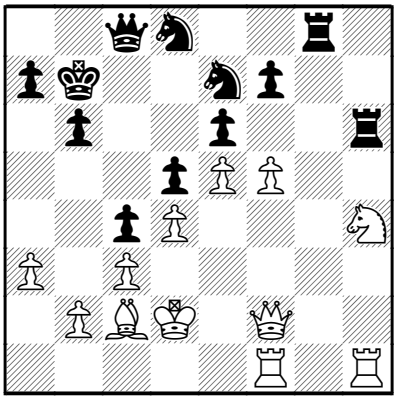
# Outside Shots!



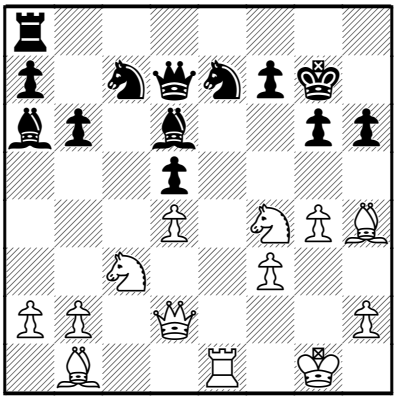
1. White to Play



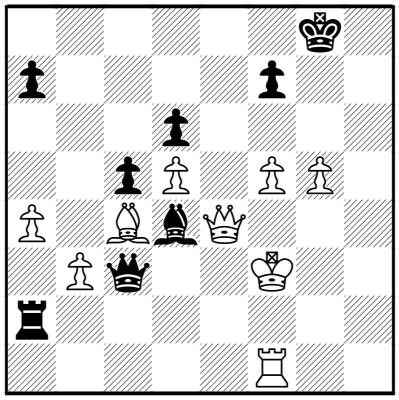
2. White to Play



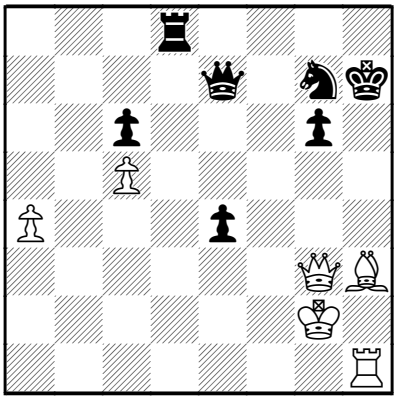
3. White to Play



4. White to Play



5. White to Play



6. White to Play

*See page 42 for solutions.*