Rank & File

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Cy & Jack

GM Gareev, IM-elect Bryant Take 18th Pacific Coast Open

GMs Moradiabadi, Sevillano Top 28th Metro FIDE GM

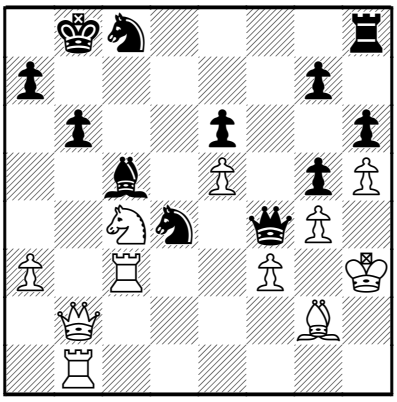
IM Jack Peters Wins 29th Metro FIDE IM

USCL: The Los Angeles Vibe Make the Playoffs

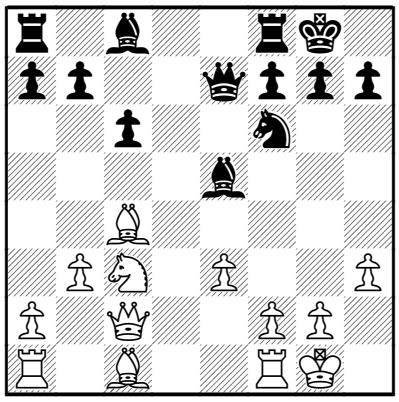
GMs Ghaem-Maghami & Khachiyan, FM Van der Nat Tie in 35th Southern California Open

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 jump start your tactical vision. - Ed.



1. Black to Play



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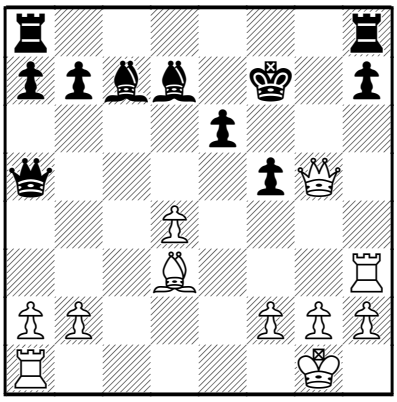

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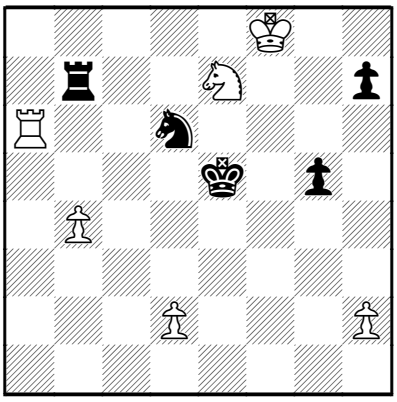

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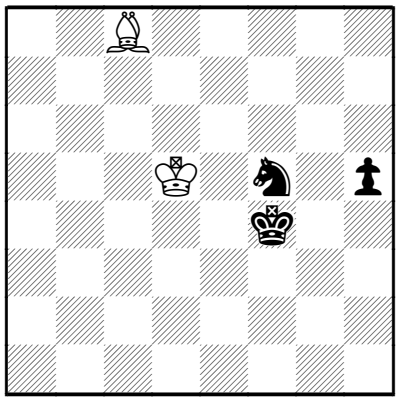

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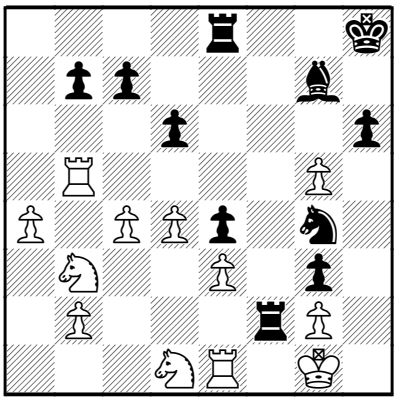

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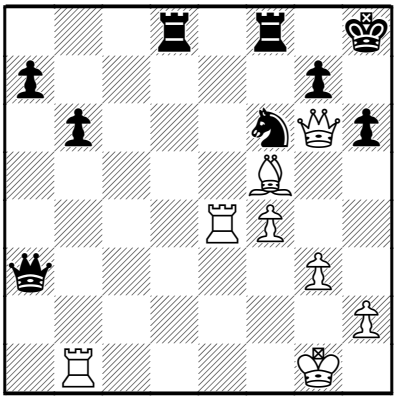

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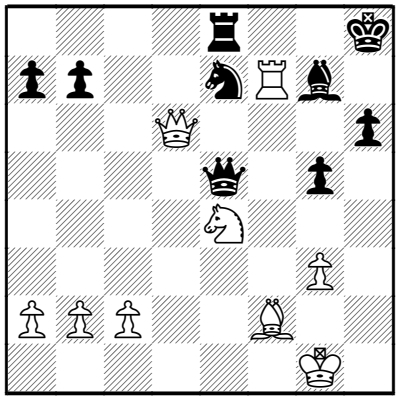

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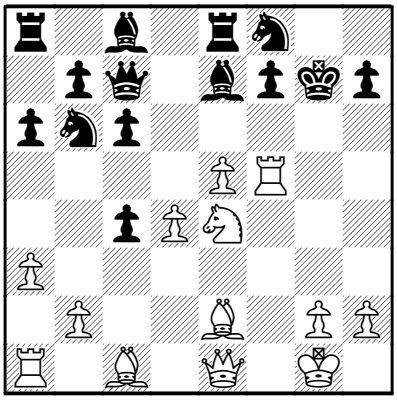

9. White to Play

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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 montage: James Woodward
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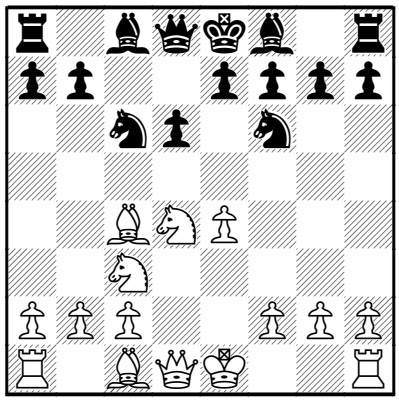
Cy & Jack

By IM Jack Peters and IM Cyrus Lakdawala

Cy's game is from his excellent book *Botvinnik: Move by Move*, published last month. My favorite quote: *"Having gone over most of his games in preparation for the book, I was staggered to discover that Botvinnik virtually never missed a combination in his prime - the mid 1930s to the mid 1950s. If Houdini saw it, Botvinnik saw it too."* Here, Botvinnik answers a Kingside attack with aggression in the center, and then some! In the second game, Jack annotates his first round game from his recent victory at the 29th Metropolitan IM tournament. He uses a similar strategy as Botvinnik did, but there seems to have been a sense of desperation. However, a lucky escape led to victory! -Ed.

Nikola Padevsky -
Mikhail Botvinnik
[B88] Sicilian Defense
Alekhine Memorial, Moscow 1956
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 d6 6.Bc4



Cy: The Sozin Sicilian. White's c4-Bishop development scheme was a lifetime favorite with Bobby Fischer.

6...e6 7.O-O

Cy: This tends to be a quieter line (although certainly not in this game!).

Question: How can White play more aggressively?

Answer: By entering the psychotic Velimirovic attack with 7.Be3 Be7 8.Qe2 a6 9.O-O-O Qc7 10.Bb3 O-O 11.Rhg1 Nd7 12.g4 Nc5. And now White went for it with 13.Nf5!? Edouard-Istratescu, Pau 2012.

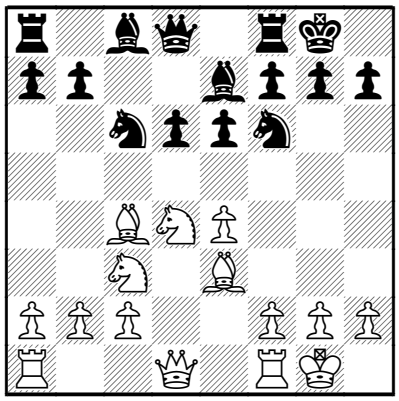
Jack: The Velimirovic Attack was great fun for both sides in the 1970s, when it was fresh. Later, analysts worked out long forcing lines, including some that led to draws.

Jack: Most popular is 7.Bb3, ruling out tricks involving ...d6-d5. The famous game Neikirkh-Botvinnik, 14th Olympiad, Leipzig 1960, continued 7...Be7 8.O-O O-O 9.Kh1 Botvinnik called this "a waste of time." 9...Na5 10.f4 b6 11.e5 Ne8 12.Rf3 Nxb3 13.Nc6 Qd7 14.Nxe7+ Qxe7 15.axb3 f6 and Black soon capitalized on the long light-square diagonal.

7...Be7 8.Be3

Jack: Leaving the Bishop at c4 makes sense if White wants to experiment with 8.a3 O-O 9.Ba2, but that wasn't Padevsky's intention.

8...O-O



9.Bb3

Cy: After 9.Kh1 a6 10.a4 Qc7 11.Qe2 Bd7 12.f4 Rac8 13.Ba2 Nxd4 14.Bxd4, White threatens e5 with attacking chances. 14...e5 15.Be3 Be6 16.a5! Bxa2 17.Rxa2 Qc4 18.Qf3 exf4 19.Bxf4 and in this equal position my editor went on to score a draw against his intimidating opponent in Emms-Grischuk, Esbjerg 2000.

Jack: I think 9.Kh1!? is worth a try. Black does not seem to equalize with 9...Bd7 10.f4 Nxd4 11.Bxd4 Bc6 12.Qe2± or with 9.Kh1!? Nxe4 10.Nxe4 d5 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Bd3 dxe4 13.Bxe4±.

9...Na5

Cy: Botvinnik goes after the Bishop pair.

Jack: Hardly played any more. Today's grandmasters usually leave the Knight at c6 and reduce pressure on e6 by a timely trade of Knights.

Jack: Fischer gave up 6.Bc4 when Spassky found 9...a6 10.f4 Nxd4 11.Bxd4 b5 12.a3 Bb7 13.Qd3 a5!⇄, played in the 4th game of their 1972 match, but White has explored other paths, particularly 12.e5.

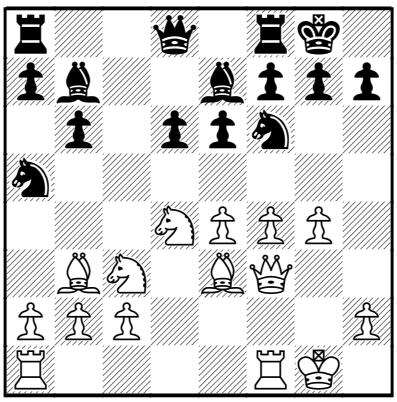
10.f4 b6!?

Cy: After 10...a6 11.e5 dxe5 12.fxe5 Nd5 13.Nxd5 exd5 14.Qf3 Be6 15.Rad1 Nxb3 16.axb3, White's control over d4 gave him a tiny edge in Van der Wiel-Nijboer, Rotterdam 1997.

11.Qf3

Cy: It doesn't make much sense to me to develop the Queen in the path of a b7-Bishop's angry gaze. 11.e5 Kotsur-Sherbakov, Ekaterinburg 1999, is probably White's only hope for an edge in the position. **Jack**: Agreed. Theory considers 11...dxe5 12.fxe5 Ne8 13.Qg4↑ the critical line.

11...Bb7 12.g4?!



Cy: Gambling usually represents a vice unless one possesses a surplus of wealth. The g-pawn, determined to defy common sense, unilaterally veers off to attack, all by himself.

Question: Isn't his aggressive g4-push standard in Sicilians?

Answer: Aggressive doesn't always equate with effective or sound. This overly risky attempt to disturb the natural order of life on the Kingside is misplaced, since normally White's Bishop sits on f3 in Scheveningen Sicilians where White tosses in g4. In this instance, White's e-pawn lacks the necessary protection. White's entire attack appears possessed by passion and fury, more than by exact execution.

Jack: Certainly 12.g4 is superficially attractive. If White can make Black's Knight retreat from f6, he won't have to suffer pressure against e4, and Black's chances for ...d6-d5 would be greatly reduced. But Black has at least two excellent replies that make me suspicious of both 11.Qf3 and 12.g4.

12...Rc8

Cy: The most exact move.

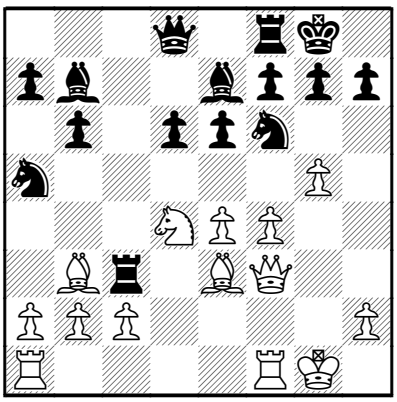
Also possible is 12...d5. Principle: Counter in the center when menaced on the wing. 13.e5 Ne4 14.f5, Mok Tze Meng-Murugan, Kuala Lumpur 1996. I like Black's chances after 14...Bc5, but then again, he may get mated!

Jack: Only if he blunders! White's King is more exposed. I like 12...d5! even more than 12...Rc8.

13.g5

Jack: White is committed. He cannot pause for 13.Nde2? because 13...d5-+ is crushing.

13...Rxc3!



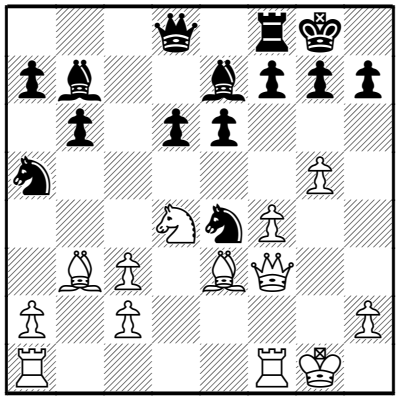
Cy: *Exercise* (critical decision): Black's Exchange sac is both thematic and sound. The principle: Strike in the centre when assaulted on the wing. Here the road divides. White can accept the Rook with 14.bxc3, or he can enter the complications of 14.gxf6. One way leads to near-dynamic equality; in the other he is busted. Calculate and evaluate both lines and make your choice.

14.bxc3?

Cy: *Answer*: He should take the f6-Knight rather than Black's Rook. White is slightly worse but still remains in the game after 14.gxf6! Rxe3 15.Qxe3 *(15.fxe7? Rxf3 16.exd8Q Rxf1+ 17.Rxf1 Rxd8 leaves White down a pawn and busted.)* 15...Bxf6. I still prefer Black here, but this is infinitely better than what Padevsky got in the actual game.

Jack: Houdini claims "0.33" after 16.c3, which must be an exaggeration, but I can believe that White is equal. His Rooks should work very well on the d-file. On the other hand, Botvinnik agrees with you and describes Black's position as "preferable."

14...Nxe4



Cy: White's troubles:

1. Black dominates the light squares and the h1-a8 diagonal. His light squared Bishop's capabilities, when contrasted with any of White's minor pieces, seem godlike in comparison. The Bishop goes on to become an enforcer, an instrument of fate, destined to bring on cataclysmic changes upon White.

2. This in turn means White's King is in a lot more danger than Black's.

3. White's Queenside structure is ruptured and weak.

4. With a pawn for the Exchange, Black really isn't even down material.

Jack: Your first two points are what matters. In the other line, with 14.gxf6, White kept a pawn at e4 to block the long diagonal. Here, White must be lost.

15.Qg4

Jack: As the game demonstrates, White's threat to e6 is pure bluff. He might as well aim at h7 immediately by 15.Qh5.

15...Qc8!

Jack: Botvinnik wrote, "After 15...g6, White could complicate matters by the Rook sacrifice 16.f5 exf5 17.Rxf5."

This does look messy, but Houdini's suggestion of 17...Qc8! 18.Raf1 Nxb3 19.axb3 Qxc3 20.R5f3□ Bxg5! 21.Bxg5 Qxd4+ 22.Be3 Qe5 23.Bh6 f5-+ convinces me that Black has more than one way to win.

16.Rf3

Cy: Planning to load up on the h-file and target h7.

Question: Didn't Black just blunder on his last move? White now can play 16.Nxe6.

Answer: When you set a trap, be careful not to be the one trapped. White's Knight shot on e6 is a big blunder, since Black coolly responds with 16...d5! and Black wins the rash White Knight.

Jack: Botvinnik planned to refute 16.f5? with 16...e5 17.Nf3 *(worse is 17.Ne2 Bxg5! 18.Bxg5 Qc5+)* 17... Nxb3 18.axb3 Qxc3 19.Rae1 d5 and ...Be7-c5.

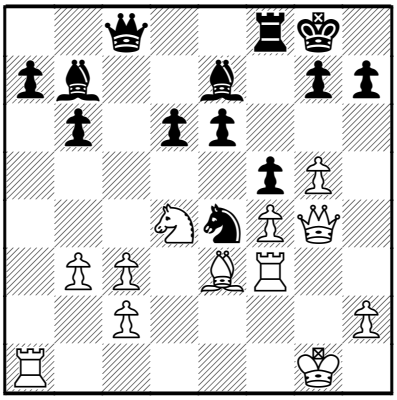
16...Nxb3!?

Cy: I'm not sure why Botvinnik decided to repair White's damaged Queenside.

I would have avoided fixing White's structure and instead played 16...g6.

Jack: I agree. Botvinnik's choice loses most of his advantage.

17.axb3 f5!



Cy: Black is ready, sitting on his rocking chair on the front porch, pump-action shotgun over his knees.
18.Qh4?

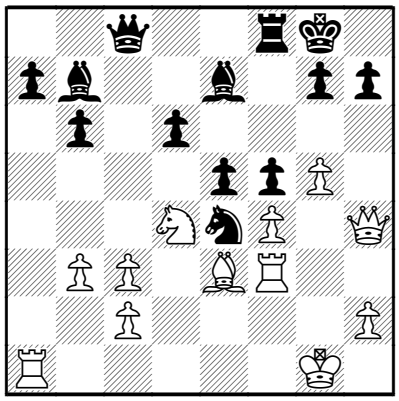
Cy: It saves us a lot of grief if we avoid a dubious idea in the first place, rather than later try and fix a past error. The delusional Queen mistakenly believes that by divine decree, she and she alone has been granted dominion over the Kingside and all its inhabitants. The wrong square, but White has already savored the drug of attack in his veins and now demands more.

After 18.gxf6 Rxf6 it is Black, not White, who attacks.

But 18.Qh3! prevents Black's next move. **Jack**: If Black saves his a-pawn by 18...a6 then 19.c4⩲ may be defensible.

Botvinnik, Amsterdam 1966
Photo: Nijs, Jac. de / Anefo, Dutch National Archives

18...e5!



Cy: Mutual ambitions meet and overlap. This move effectively cancels multiple hostile variables, killing them before their seed has a chance to take root. Time to take a stand. White's Kingside buildup, if left unchecked, could spell trouble if Black gets careless - something Botvinnik almost never did. Black continues to vigorously distract White in the center in anticipation for the coming wing attack on h7.
19.Rh3

Cy: White Queen and Rook drone on tediously. The tiny flicker of hope's flame soon dies out in the attack which never was.

But 19.Rxa7 exd4 20.Bxd4 Qc6 21.Rxb7 Qxb7 22.Rh3 h6 23.Qh5 Bxg5! 24.fxg5 Nxg5 leaves White's King fatally exposed.

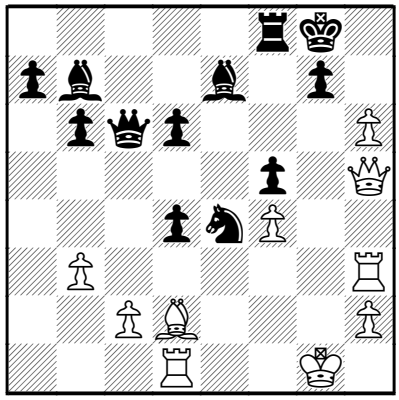
Jack: And 19.Ne2 Nxg5 20.fxg5 Bxf3-+ leaves White two pawns behind.
19...h6

Cy: Exploiting the pin and effectively undercutting White's attacking ambitions. Now, despite White's great efforts, he fails to reach h7 and the square remains tenantless. His attack bogs down, while Black's zooming counterattack slalom's effortlessly to the finish line.
20.Qh5 Qxc3 21.Rd1

Cy: The Rook must guard the first rank, as 21.Rxa7?? Qe1+ 22.Kg2 Nd2+ mates.
21...exd4 22.Bd2

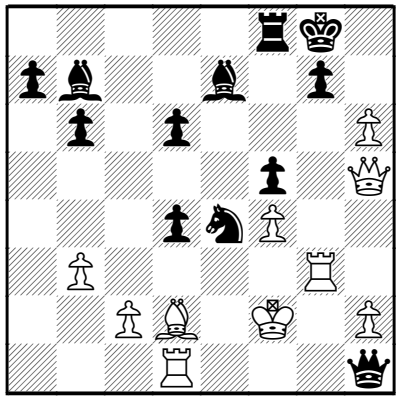
Cy: 22.Bxd4 Qxc2 23.gxh6 Nf6! overloads White's Queen, who cannot simultaneously cover the d1-Rook and the g2 mate threat.
22...Qc6

Jack: Now Black has more material and deadlier threats. It's over.
23.gxh6



Cy: *Exercise* (combination alert): The pressure mounts on White's King, who sits alone in his provisional rule, soon destined to lose all power. How did Botvinnik force mate?
23...Ng5!

Cy: White can no longer conceal the ugly blemishes along the h1-a8 diagonal. The Knight offers a precious gift: His life. Now White can do nothing more than watch hope diminish and recede into the horizon.
24.Rg3 Qh1+ 25.Kf2 Ne4+ 0-1

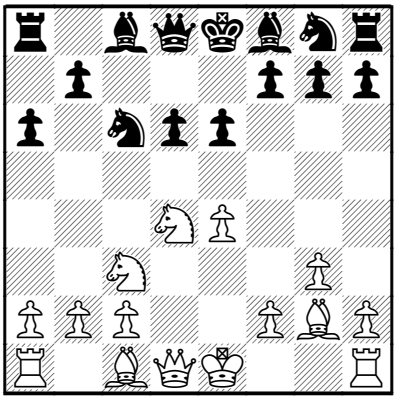


Nicky Korba (2020) -
Jack Peters (2360)
29th Metropolitan IM (1)
Los Angeles 14.08.2013
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e6 5.Nc3 d6

Jack: Aiming for a Scheveningen-style structure while ruling out systems involving Bc1-g5.
6.g3

Jack: A reasonable choice. So are 6.f4, 6.Be3, 6.Bc4, and even 6.g4!?, which Michael Casella used to beat me in 2003.

6...a6 7.Bg2

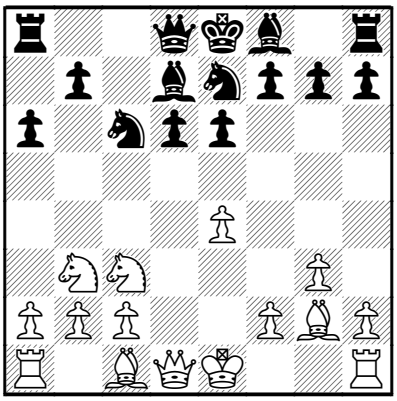


7...Nge7

Jack: I wanted something different than developing the Knight to f6, but this move discloses Black's plan prematurely.

I consider 7...Bd7 more effective. Then 8.O-O Nge7 reaches Black's desired formation while White has lost the option of O-O-O.

8.Nb3 Bd7



Jack: As championed by Mark Taimanov.

9.Bf4

Jack: So natural, but not in the database.

Jack: Many games have continued 9.O-O Nc8 10.a4 Be7∞. **Cy**: I prefer White. I'm not quite sure just what that c8-Knight is doing or going. c4? Maybe. Maybe not.

Jack: White must avoid 9.Qxd6?? Nd5-+.

9...Nc8

Jack: Steinitz would approve! The Knight temporarily supports d6, but its true destination is c4. In my opinion, the only serious drawback of this move is that it neglects defense of the Kingside, where Black intends to castle.

10.Qe2

Jack: Maybe 10.Qh5!? improves. White would like to provoke ...g7-g6.

10...Be7 11.a4

Jack: Although White obtains an ominous lead in development from 11.O-O-O O-O, he doesn't seem to have an easy attacking plan.

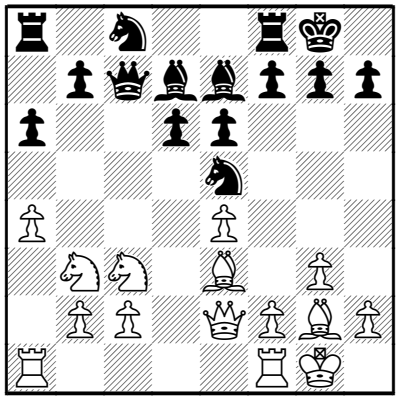
11...O-O 12.O-O

Cy: I would play 12.a5 if Black eventually plays ...b6, then after axb6, Black's a6-pawn remains weak.

12...Ne5 13.Be3

Jack: After 13.Bxe5?! dxe5∓, White has no central posts, and Black's Bishops will outplay White's Knights.

13...Qc7



14.f4?!

Jack: Probably premature.

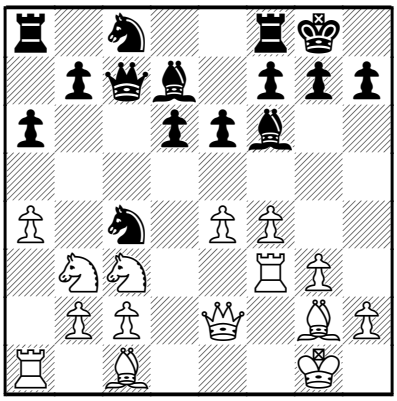
Houdini suggests 14.Nd2 Nb6 15.Bd4, so that b2-b3 can chase a Knight from c4.

Cy: Also possible is 14.Bd4 with the attitude of "Come and get me." If Black goes for 14...Nb6 *(After 14...Nc6 15.Be3 White will be happy to take the draw due to the rating differential.)* 15.Nd2 Rac8 16.Rfd1 Nbc4 17.Nxc4 Nxc4 18.b3 Ne5 19.a5 Bf6 20.Ra2 with an approximately even game.

14...Nc4 15.Bc1 Bf6

Jack: Threatening 16...Nxb2. Black has caught up in development and White hasn't yet made a threat on the Kingside. I was feeling optimistic.

16.Rf3!



Jack: At first, I regarded this as a clumsy defense of the Knight at c3. Then I realized the Rook could participate in a Kingside attack from g3 or h3, and I had to credit my young opponent with a clever dual-purpose move.

Cy: ! Multi-tasking. Instinct, in partnership with opportunity, tempts White to attack. The Rook covers c3 while covertly glancing in the direction of Jack's King. The Rook, like an assassin, does reconnaissance and studies the target's (Jack's King!) dossier.

16...Rb8

Jack: Following my original plan of b7-b5 and Nc8-b6.

I never considered Houdini's strange idea of 16...Ne7, which is probably strongest. The Knight clears c8 for a Rook and watches over d5 and f5, increasing Black's chance to push e6-e5 favorably.

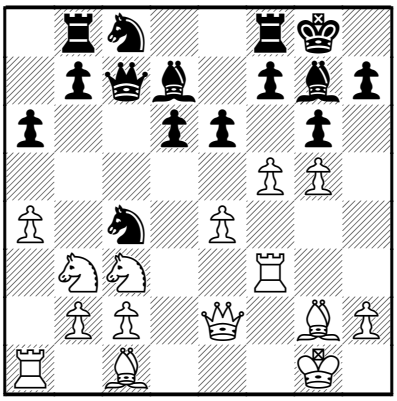
17.g4 g6

Cy: Best. There are few instincts stronger than self-preservation.

Jack: I rejected 17...h6 because I feared 18.h4? Bxh4 19.g5 would trap my Bishop. However, the idea appears unsound after 19...hxg5 20.fxg5 f6! 21.g6 Ne7-+. White should settle for 18. Rh3.

Cy: Black can also commence Queenside counters with 17...b5 18.axb5 axb5 19.g5 Bd8 20.Rh3 g6 21.Rh6 b4 22.Nd1 e5 23.f5 *(23.Qf2 f6! opens the position favorably for Black.)* 23...d5 24.Qf2 Qb6 25.Nc5 Qxc5 26.Qxc5 Bb6 27.Qf2 Bxf2+ 28.Nxf2 gxf5 29.b3 N4b6 30.exd5 and even here, after fending off the attack, I still prefer White.

18.g5 Bg7 19.f5!



Cy: ! This move sets in motion a vast eruption on the Kingside. Under such duress, we sometimes feel that fate has treated us deplorably. So to mend matters we decide upon a lawless course of action. It has been my observation that when the forces of reason clash with the powers of chaos and irrationality, the latter generally get their way. It's so much easier to blow up a building than build one.

Jack: I thought I had prevented this thrust! Suddenly White gets to attack, and I began to worry about checkmate at h7.

19...Be5

Jack: Reluctantly I chose this "show-me" move, challenging White to accomplish something on the Kingside. Frankly, I was no longer confident that Black could defend.

I had dismissed 19.f5 because I thought 19...Ne5 would lead to 20.Rh3 exf5 21.Nd5 Qc4 22.Qf2?! fxe4, hitting d5 and h3. Belatedly, I realized that 19...Ne5 20.f6! Nxf3+ 21.Qxf3 would bury my Bishop at h8, leaving White free to cause Queenside trouble with his "extra" piece.

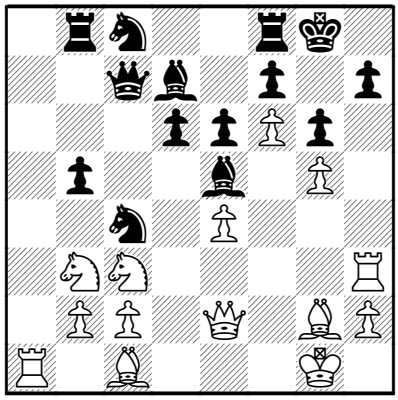
Apparently, Black can tolerate 19...exf5! 20.Nd5 Qc6, despite the uncomfortable lineup of Black's Queen and White's Bishop. **Cy**: White can try the semi-psychotic 21.Rc3!? as a second string option. After 21...Bxc3 22.bxc3 Kh8 23.exf5 I still prefer White's chances.

20.Rh3 b5

Jack: Proceeding as if everything is under control on the Kingside. Wishful thinking!

Jack: I had no faith in 20...f6, which tries to defend on the seventh rank.

21.axb5 axb5 22.f6!



Jack: White's threats take shape. He can bring his Queen to h4 and meet ...h7-h5 by Bg2-f3xh5, as in a famous John Grefe victory over Pal Benko. Or he can block the h-pawn with Rh3-h6, after which Qe2-g4 sets up a Rook sacrifice at h7, followed by Qg4-h4-h6-g7.

Cy: A cloud of death looms over Black's King. Impressive. Despite such plethoric pawn excesses, White managed to whip up a dangerous attack, all the while controlling Black's central counters.

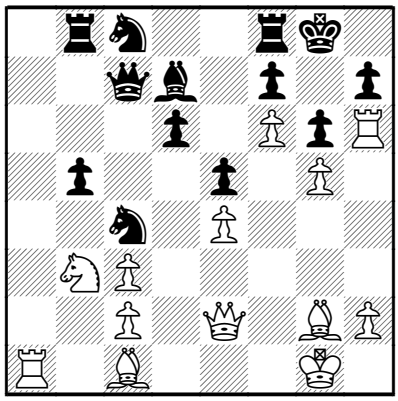
22...Bxc3

Jack: What else?

23.bxc3

Jack: White wants blood! The quieter alternative 23.Rxc3 e5 24.Nd2± gives up on attacking h7, but White would retain a promising position with a healthy pawn structure.

23...e5 24.Rh6



Cy: Preventing ...h5 ideas. The Rook, emphatically framing a dire warning, continues to force his unwelcome society upon Jack's King.

Jack: Not 24.Rxh7?? Kxh7 25.Qe1 Rh8-+.

24...d5??

Jack: I needed the spur of desperation to seriously consider this pawn offer. Once I was in the proper mood, though, Black's prospects began to appeal to me. The monster Knight at c4 limits White's dark-square Bishop, and my second Knight will get to d6 to shut down his other Bishop. The pawn at e5 keeps White's Knight from moving forward, and his Rook at a1 cannot do much. He's basically attacking with two pieces and the f-pawn. I should be able to handle that!

Cy: Jack contemplates troubles in the distant future, forgetting about the glaring dangers of the present. The correct principle: Counter in the center when assaulted on the wing. Yet Black mistimed it.

Jack: This sunny outlook would have been justified if I had played 24...Qb6+! 25.Kh1 d5. By omitting the check at b6, I gave White's "two-piece" attack a chance to succeed.

25.Qe1??

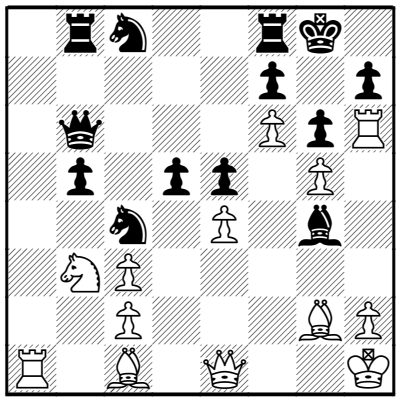
Jack: Right idea, wrong square.

I had assumed that 25.Qf2! *(**Cy**: This move is counter intuitive, since the last thing White wants is a Queen swap. Yet, the comps say it is White's best, once again befuddling the human populace.)* 25...Qb6 killed White's attack, but he can gain material by 26.Nc5 Bg4 27.h3 Bh5 28.Nd7. And 25...Bg4 fails to 26.Bf3! Bxf3 *(or 26... Qd7 27.Nc5+-)* 27.Qxf3 N8d6 28.Qh3 Qc8 29.Qh4+-.

25...Qb6+ 26.Kh1

Jack: During the game, I thought White could win with 26.Kf1! Bg4 27.Qh4 Bh5 28.Bf3! Bxf3 29.Rxh7 Bh5 30.Rxh5 gxh5 31.Qxh5, threatening 32.Qh6 and 32.g6. However, Black can escape with a draw by 31...Ne3+□ 32.Bxe3 *(also 32.Ke2 Nd1! gives Black enough checks to save the game)* 32...Qxe3 33.Qh6 Qf4+ 34.Kg1□ Qe3+ 35.Kf1□ Qf4+.

26...Bg4□



Cy: ! A defender appears from nowhere, like a jack-in-the-box. Only moves can still be good ones. Jack finds a way to cover his King (for now!), in a position where defensive access seems next to impossible.

27.Qh4?

Jack: Consistent, but Black's King is finally safe.

White should abandon the attack and regain influence in the center by 27.Rh4 *(**Cy**: A move like this is psychologically very difficult - almost impossible - to play in the heat of a passionate attack.)* 27...Bh5 28.exd5 N8d6⩱, although Black has plenty of compensation for the pawn.

27...Bh5 28.Rxh5 gxh5 29.Qxh5 Kh8

Cy: The protective layers around Black's King continue to erode. "Leave me. I would be alone," says Black's King, as if he had a choice. So he swallows convulsively, and slowly backs into a corner.

30.exd5

Cy: Maybe White can try 30.Nd2 N8d6 31.Nxc4 dxc4 32.g6 fxg6 33.Qxe5.

30...N8d6

Jack: All right, but 30...Qf2! seems even stronger.

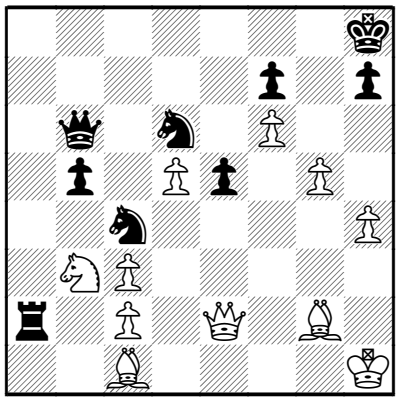
31.Qe2

Cy: If we play a move like this, it means the attack is repulsed.

31...Ra8∓

Jack: At last, Black takes over the initiative.

32.Rxa8 Rxa8 33.h4 Ra2



Jack: The target is c2. I wanted to attack it again by bringing my Queen to f5, g6, or f2.

34.Qh5?

Jack: White needs his Bishop at h3 to keep Black's Queen off f5. Therefore 34.Kh2 Qd8 35.h5 makes sense, meeting 35...Qc8 by 36.Bh3. It's still difficult to prove a win for Black.

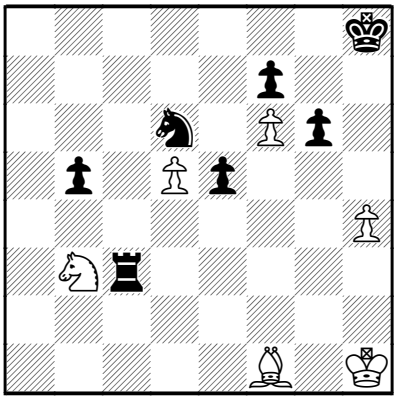
34...Qd8-+

Cy: The disparity in numbers wears on White, whose attack has grown cold.

35.Qe2 Qc8 36.g6

Jack: Else 36... Qf5 conquers c2.

36...hxg6 37.Be3 Qf5 38.Bc5 Rxc2 39.Qf1 Qxf1+ 40.Bxf1 Rxc3 41.Bxd6 Nxd6 0-1



Solutions to
Outside Shots!

From the back cover.

1.White wins a Rook with ***29.Nf5+ 1-0***. If 29...Nxf5 then 30.exf5+ discovers check and the pawn will capture the Rook. And if 29...Ke5 then 30.Nxe7 wins a piece and picks up an additional Exchange with the Knight fork. Atoufi - Shen, 29th Metropolitan IM, Los Angeles 2013.

2.Unprotected pieces are often hints at potential combinations, and Black can pick up the White Rook on e6 with **28...Qa1+ 29.Kg2 Qxa2+ 30.Kf1 Qxe6**. Instead, the game continued with ***28...Qe1+*** and White later won. Lin - Giordani, 18th Pacific Coast Open U2100, Agoura Hills 2013.

3.White exploits the uncoordinated Black forces: ***31.Qg6+ Ke7 32.Re1! Qxe1 33.Qg7+ Ke8 34.Nf6 mate.*** If 31...Kf8, then 32.Re1! still. Moussa - Kudryavtsev, Southern California Open, San Diego 2013.

4.White does it with a one-two punch: ***26.Bg6+! Kd7*** Or 26... Nxg6 27.Qxg6+ winning a Rook on the next check. ***27.Bd3!*** White threatens both 28.Qg7+ and 28.Bxc4. ***27...Kc8*** Neither 27... Kc6 28.Qg7 nor 27...Ke8 28.Qf6 save it. ***28.Qg7 1-0***. Krishnan - Casella, 29th Metropolitan IM, Los Angeles 2013.

5.White wins decisive material with **31.Nxd5! Nxd5** Or 31...exd5 32.Qxg5. **32.Qxg5 Qxg5 33.Nf7+**. Instead, ***31.Nxd7*** was played but White still won in Banawa - Shen, 28th Metropolitan GM, Los Angeles 2013.

6.The only move to win is ***44...Qe2!*** The Queen attacks both Rook and Bishop, and if the Rook moves, the Queen gets to h4 via e1 or f2. ***45.Qa8+*** If 45.Qc1 Black wins with 45...Qd3 46.Rh1 Nf4+ 47.Kh4 Ng2+ 48.Kh5 Qg6 mate. If 45.Qf3 Black first defends f7 with 45...Nf4+ 46.Kh4, and then takes the Bishop with 46...Qxa2. ***45...Kg7 46.Rxf7+ Kxf7*** and Black later won in Yang - Sevillano, 28th Metropolitan GM, Los Angeles 2013. See the whole game on page 19.

GM Gareev, IM-elect Bryant Take 18th Pacific Coast Open

Agoura Hills, July 18-21, 2013

Grandmaster Timur Gareev and local IM-elect John Daniel Bryant tied for first at Continental Chess Association's (CCA) 18th Annual Pacific Coast Open (PCO), at the Agoura Hills Sheraton. Gareev achieved his 5-1 score with 3-0 in the two-day Game/45 schedule before merging with the rest of the field and winning again in round 4. On the final day, he drew with third place finishers Jonathan Homidan and IM Andranik Matikozyan. On Saturday he was 4-0, and on Sunday he was even at 1-1. Gareev wrote up his PCO experience for the ChessBase web site, presenting two of his games and a story with photos of his subsequent California trip. Bryant's route to first began with a first round loss in the same two-day schedule, but he won the rest of his games. Also, he earned his final IM norm at the US Championship in St. Louis in early May. His other norms were both GM norms in 2012, in the World Open and the North American Open.

Tied for third in the 48-player Open Section at 4½-1½, besides Matikozyan and Homidan, were GM Ehsan Ghaem-Maghami of Iran and FM Luis Carlos De Arco from Colombia. Homidan upped his streak to 36 games without a loss, adding another 85 points to his rating to reach 2364. He annotated two of his games for this article. Thanks, Jonathan!

CCA continued a popular feature in this tournament, offering bonus prizes for Mixed Doubles, awarded to the highest combined scores for a male-female team in the event. The two team members register, with no extra fee, before the start of round 2 and may be playing in different sections. Their average rating must be under 2200. Congratulations to Trina Chatterjee and Callaghan McCarty-Snead, who took clear first with a combined score of 7½. Chatterjee scored 5-1 in the U1500 section and McCarty-Snead scored 2½-3½ in the U1700 section to win their $540 prize.

CCA first tried the Mixed Doubles bonus award in the New Yorker Open in May 2012. Interesting things started to happen. Ladies were encouraged to join the tournament, and most had more than one offer to be on a team. Also, if you think about it, there's nothing to prevent the two team members from privately negotiating their prize split. The payment goes to the team, after all. For more, see Steve Immitt's interesting article on the New Yorker Open at www.uschess.org.

The mixed doubles bonus prize feature was also employed at the US Open this year with $800 being the top prize. It is also advertised in the upcoming 2014 Bay Area International in February at Santa Clara, with the total prize money being $100 times the number of teams. Mixed Doubles just might be here to stay.

Another interesting feature in the PCO was splitting the Under 1200s into two sections by age. Those born in 1996 and later were placed in the Junior Under 1200 and the rest in the Adult Under 1200, so that the adults were about 17½ years old and up.

Some web searching revealed that the CCA seems to have started this strategy at last year's 38-player, one-day (G/60 d5) Columbus Day Open in Arlington, Virginia. It was

Past Pacific Coast Open Winners

1993	GM Alexander Ivanov 4½-½
1994	GM Alexander Ivanov and GM Walter Browne 4½-½
1995	GM Smbat Lputian, IM Benjamin Finegold, IM Jack Peters, IM Larry Remlinger 4-1
1996	IM Marc Leski and Tal Shaked 4-1
1997	IM Igor Ivanov 4½-½
1998	GM Dmitry Gurevich, IM Rashid Ziatdinov, IM Michael Brooks 4-1
1999	IM Cyrus Lakdawala, Levon Altounian, IM Michael Brooks 4-1
2000	IM Cyrus Lakdawala, IM Gregory Hjorth, IM Rogelio Barcenilla Jr 4-1
2004	GM Alexander Onischuk, IM Varuzhan Akobian, GM Alex Yermolinsky, GM Ildar Ibragimov, GM Kamil Miton, IM Melikset Khachiyan, Lernik Manukian 4½-1½
2005	GM Boris Kreiman 5-1
2006	IM Timothy Taylor 5-1
2007	GM Melikset Khachiyan 5-1
2008	GM Melikset Khachiyan, IM Enrico Sevillano, IM Sam Shankland, FM Robert Aghasaryan 4½-1½
2009	GM Melikset Khachiyan 5½-½
2010	IM Enrico Sevillano 5-1
2011	GM Melikset Khachiyan, IM Enrico Sevillano, IM Andranik Matikozyan, NM Howard Jed Chen 4½-1½
2012	IM Dionisio Aldama, IM Roman Yankovsky, FM John Daniel Bryant, Steven Breckenridge 4½-1½
2013	GM Timur Gareev and IM-elect John Daniel Bryant 5-1

Khachiyan leads all winners with five, followed by Sevillano with three.

In 2008, the tournament was named the Pacific Coast Savannah Open, instead of being named the 13th Pacific Coast Open.

The tournament has been held in Agoura Hills since 2004. Before that, it was held in Long Beach from 1993 to 1994, Buena Park in 1995, and Los Angeles in 1996-1997 and 1999-2000.

then employed again earlier this year at the 252-player 17th Mid-America Open, March 15-17 in St. Louis, and again after the 231-player PCO at the 221-player Cleveland Open, August 9-11.

The entry fee and prizes for the two sections are the same, but the split for the PCO went 12 to the adult section and 33 to the junior section. When compared with the two other large tournaments, this ratio has been typical.

Adult Under 1200 players have been getting a good deal!

Alex Shaham and Albert Xu tied for the Junior U1200 with a score of 5½-½, and David Kazuma Fujii won the Adult U1200 with 5-1. Chris Lane took the 33-player U1500 and James Gould won the 40-player U1700, both with a score of 5½-½. Ojas Chinchwadkar took the 39-player U1900 and Kevin Moy topped the 39-player U2100 section, both scoring 5-1.

Steve Immitt was the Chief Tournament Director and was assisted by Randall Hough and Quan Andrew Luong.

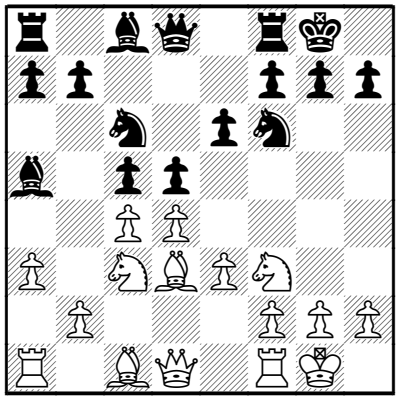
We present four games from the tournament, annotated by the players: Jonathan Homidan's win against Roman Yankovsky in round 4, Willis Kim's upset of Simone Liao in round 5, and two final round games: Homidan's draw with Sevillano and Yankovsky's win against Albert Lu.

Homidan mentions his third round game, in which he defeated GM Ghaem-Maghami in the last of his Game/45 rounds of the two-day schedule shortly before his fourth round game, so we present this additional game first.

Jonathan Homidan (2279)-
Ehsan Ghaem-Maghami (2613)
[E56] Nimzo-Indian Defense
18th Pacific Coast Open (3)
Agoura Hills 20.07.2013

Notes by the Editor.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 O-O 5.Nf3 c5 6.Bd3 d5 7.O-O Nc6 8.a3 Ba5



Less usual than 8...Bxc3 9.bxc3 dxc4 10.Bxc4 Qc7.

9.dxc5

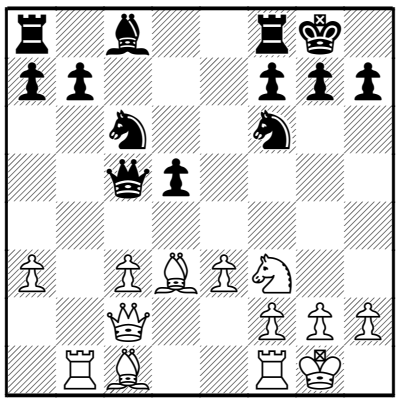
Also quite unusual. White has lots of options here:

One well known game continued 9.Ne2 dxc4 10.Bxc4 Bb6 11.dxc5 Qxd1 12.Rxd1 Bxc5 13.b4 Be7 14.Bb2 Bd7 15.Rac1 Rfd8 Spassky-Fischer WC (1), Reykjavik 1972.

Another game continued 9.Na4 cxd4 10.exd4 Reshevsky-Levenfish, training tournament 1939.

A book main line goes 9.cxd5 exd5 10.dxc5 Bxc3 11.bxc3 Bg4 12.c4±.

9...Bxc3 10.bxc3 Qa5 11.cxd5 exd5 12.Rb1 Qxc5 13.Qc2



White's bad Queenside pawn formation is balanced by his two Bishops and Black's slower development.

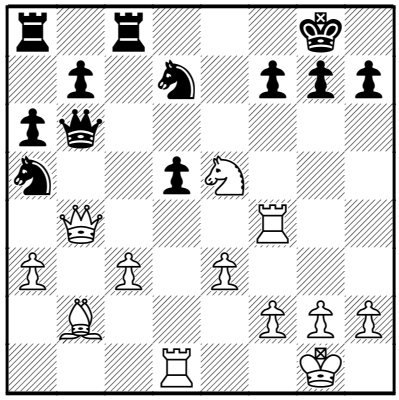
13...Na5 14.Rd1 Bg4 15.Rb4 Bh5 16.Bb2 Rfc8 17.Qa4 a6 18.Rf4 Bg6

Houdini likes 18...Nc4 19.Bxc4 *(or 19.Bc1 Ne5∓)* 19...dxc4∓.

19.Ne5= Bxd3 20.Nxd3=

Not 20.Rxd3 Nc4 21.Nxc4 b5∓ 22.Qc2 bxc4∓.

20...Qb6 21.Qb4 Nd7 22.Ne5



Black has to trade Queens, and White improves his pawn structure.

22...Qxb4 23.cxb4 Nxe5 24.Bxe5 Nc4 25.Bd4

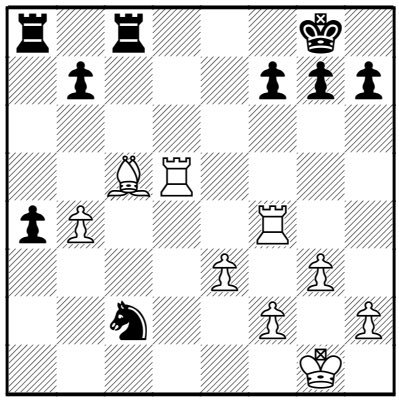
The pawn cannot be captured because of the weak back rank. 25.Rxd5?? Nxe5 26.h4 f6-+.

25...Nxa3 26.g3 Nc2

This turns out to be too optimistic.

Better was 26...f6!?∓ or 26...Rc4 27.Bc5 Rxf4 28.gxf4 Rd8 29.e4 f5 30.exd5∓.

27.Bc5 a5 28.Rxd5 a4



The a-pawn looks quite strong. How is it going to be stopped?

29.Rd7!

White can attack, too.

29...f6

Black can force a draw with 29...a3 30.Rfxf7. Now White's Bishop has to go: 30...Rxc5 *(30...a2?? 31.Rxg7+ mates)* 31.Rxg7+ *(31.bxc5 a2 32.Rxg7+ also draws.)* 31...Kf8 and now White has to take the perpetual because of the unstoppable a-pawn.

30.Re4

The b-pawn is safe: 30.Rxb7?? a3-+.

jw

Ghaem-Maghami: went for the win.

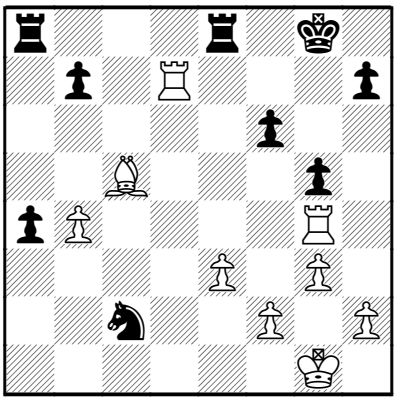
30...Re8

30...Rxc5 31.bxc5 a3 32.Ree7 is still a draw.

31.Rg4

More energetic was 31.Rc4 Rec8 32.Rxc2 b6±.

31...g5



Black cannot take the Bishop on c5 anymore to stop the mate, so the draw with 31...a3 is no longer available. He finds another way to defend the mate, using the g-pawn.

32.Rc4

Without the perpetual, White has get back and stop the a-pawn directly.

32...Na3

White stops the pawn after 32... a3? 33.Rxc2 a2 34.Bd4.

33.Rc1 Nb5

Or 33...b5 34.Bd4 Rac8=.

34.Rxb7

Now White safely takes the b-pawn.

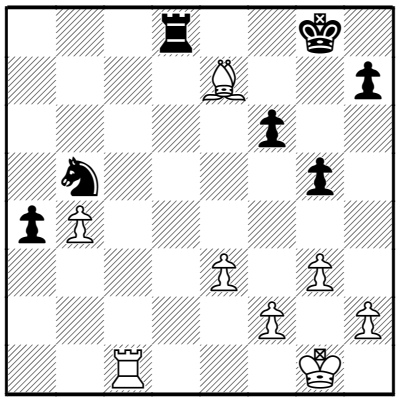
34...Rab8 35.Rd7

Black's a-pawn is not so threatening now.

35...Red8

Better was 35...a3 36.Kf1±.

36.Rxd8+ Rxd8 37.Be7!

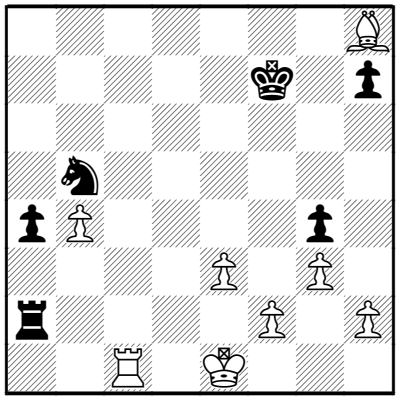


After White takes the f-pawn, the Bishop is very handy in stopping Black's only threat, to Queen that a-pawn.

37...Rd5 38.Bxf6 Kf7 39.Ba1 g4 40.Kf1 Rd2

A little better was 40...Rd3 41.Ke2 Rb3 42.Rc4±.

41.Ke1 Ra2 42.Bh8



The a-pawn is under control, and Black has a weak g-pawn, too.

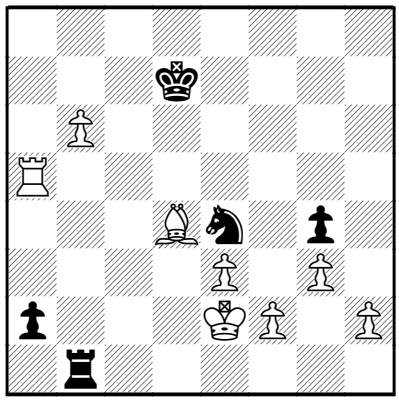
42...Nd6 43.Rc7+ Ke6 44.Rxh7 Ne4 45.b5 a3?

A little better might have been 45...Nxf2 46.b6 *(46.Rh6+ Kd7+-)* 46...Nd3+ 47.Kd1 Nf2+ 48.Kc1 Nd3+ 49.Kb1 Ra3 50.Kc2.

46.b6 Rb2 47.Rh5 Rb1+ 48.Ke2 Kd7 49.Bd4 a2

If 49...Rb2+ then White still has the resources: 50.Kd3 Nxf2+ 51.Kc4 Ne4 52.Ra5+-.

50.Ra5 1-0



The scoresheet ends here, but White stops everything by winning the a-pawn, and if Black keeps playing on in the sudden death time control with 5-second delay, White has plenty of pawns and there is one more Black pawn that could fall, so this win should not be too hard.

The fourth round started soon after, completing the first day of the two-day schedule.

Next, Jonathan Homidan annotates his fourth round game. This time, he is the one with the passed a-pawn playing Black. -Ed.

Roman Yankovsky (2531) - Jonathan Homidan (2279)
[C00] French Defense
Pacific Coast Open (4)
Agoura Hills 20.07.2013
Notes by Jonathan Homidan.

After a thrilling victory over GM Maghami in the last round of the fast schedule, I had some extra confidence this round, as Randall Hough had just presented me with my NM certificate. Although I told myself to be satisfied with a draw, my coach IM Matikozyan told me to fight hard for a win.

1.e4 e6 2.Nf3 d5 3.Nc3 Nc6

I saw Roman smiling to himself after I played this move. Admittedly, I felt a wave of worry as I wasn't that sure of what he was going to play against my pet French 3...Nc6 variation.

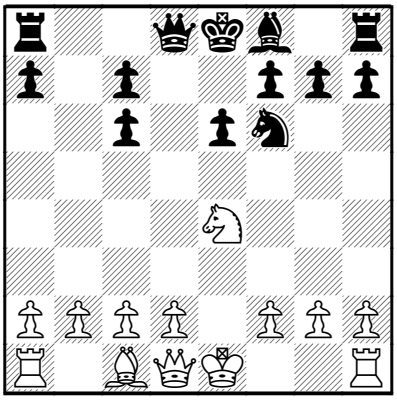
4.Bb5

I wasn't that familiar with this move, so I attempted to simplify the position and trade some pieces off the board.

4...dxe4 5.Ne5

5.Nxe4 Nf6 6.Nxf6+ gxf6 would have also been fine for Black.

5...Bd7 6.Bxc6 Bxc6 7.Nxc6 bxc6 8.Nxe4 Nf6

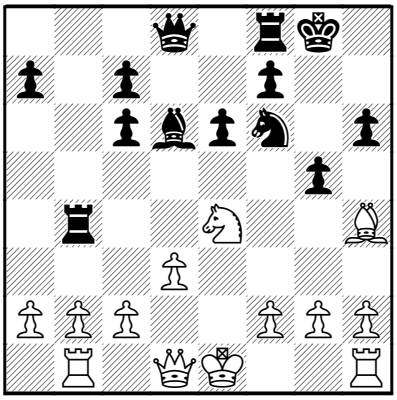


Although Black has doubled pawns, he can use a small development advantage and the half-open b-file to lift his Rooks to equalize.

9.Nc3 Bd6 10.d3 O-O 11.Bg5 h6 12.Bh4 Rb8

Going back to the tenet that all novices learn from a young age: "Put your Rooks on open and half-open files!"

13.Rb1 Rb4 14.Ne4 g5



15.Nxd6

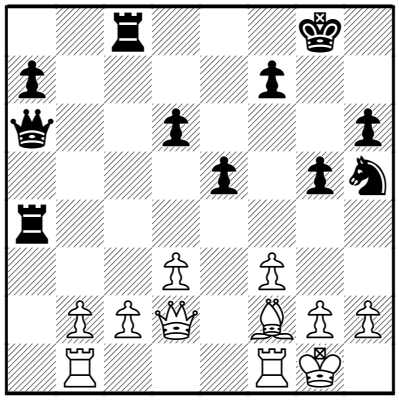
Equalizing for Black, as it undoubles my pawns.

Perhaps 15.Bg3 Bxg3 16.hxg3 would have been a better try for White.

15...cxd6 16.Bg3 Rd4 17.Qf3 e5

Losing the c-pawn does not really matter because of the Queen check on a5.

18.Qxc6 Qa5+ 19.Qc3 Qxa2 20.O-O Qa6 21.f3 Ra4 22.Bf2 Rc8 23.Qd2 Nh5



Time to bring my only non-active piece into the fray.

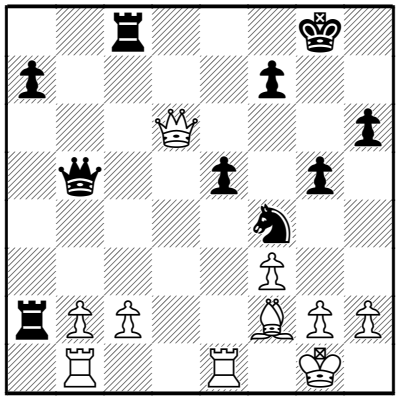
24.d4

I was a bit surprised by this move, as Roman had initially reached for the h-pawn, which was what I expected: 24.h4 Nf4 25.hxg5 hxg5 26.g3 Ne6 27.c4, with a small advantage going to White.

24...Nf4 25.dxe5 dxe5 26.Rfe1 Qb5 27.Qd6?

This allows me to grab a tempo by attacking the Queen, and then continuing my assault on the b2 pawn.

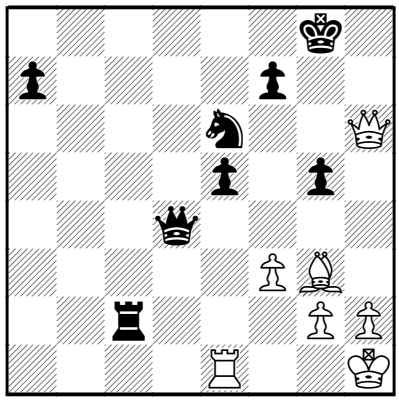
27...Ra6 28.Qd2 Ra2 29.Qd6



29...Rxb2?

I missed the move 29...Ng6! Which maintains pressure on the b2 pawn while ending any threats on the vulnerable pawn structure that is Black's Kingside.

30.Rxb2 Qxb2 31.Qxh6 Ne6 32.Bg3 Qd4+= 33.Kh1 Rxc2



34.h3?

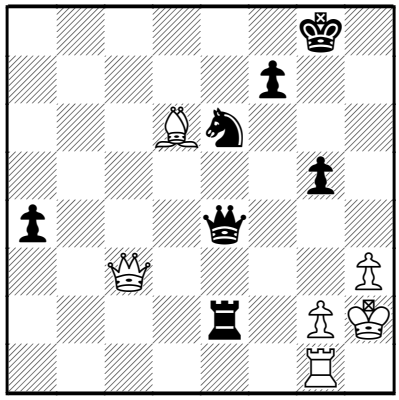
Roman was down to about five minutes at this move.

Here, 34.Qf6 maintains equality, with the variation 34...Qd2 35.Rg1 Qd8 36.Qxe5 a5 37.Qe4 Rb2 38.Be5.

34...e4

A temporary pawn sacrifice with the short-term goals of opening the 3rd rank for an attack, and the long-term goals of taking advantage of the vulnerable g2 square.

35.fxe4 Qc3 36.Kh2 Qf3 37.Rg1 Qxe4 38.Qf6 Re2 39.Bd6 a5 40.Qc3 a4



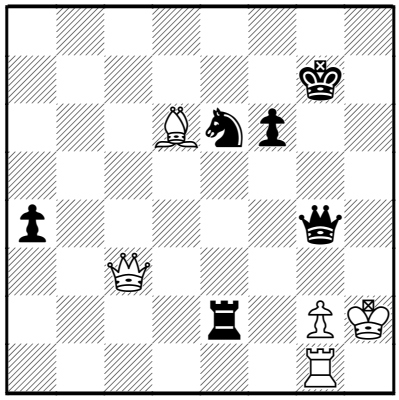
Passed pawns need to be pushed!

41.Qa5 Kh7 42.Qa7 Kg7

Some overly-cautious prophylaxis to ensure White does not have any perpetual, or worse, mating threats before Black directs his resources

toward the promotion of the a-pawn.

43.Qa5 g4 44.Qc3+ f6 45.hxg4 Qxg4

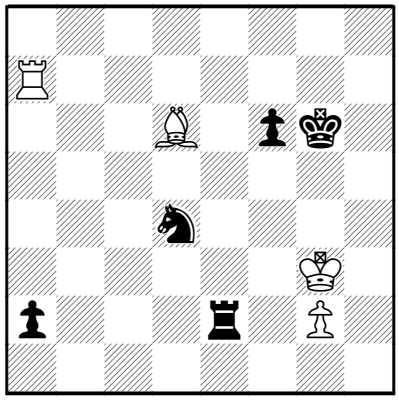


Simply winning for Black now.

46.Qg3 Qxg3+ 47.Kxg3 a3

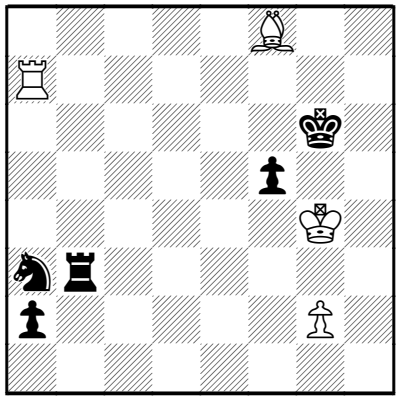
White cannot take the pawn here, as Re3+ wins the piece.

48.Rb1 a2 49.Rb7+ Kg6 50.Ra7 Nd4



With the idea of placing the Knight on a3 to take the bullet while the pawn promotes.

51.Bf8 Rb2 52.Kh3 Nb5 53.Ra5 Rb3+ 54.Kg4 Na3 55.Ra7 f5+ 0-1

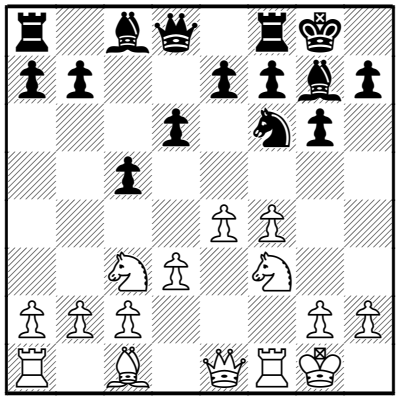


Roman resigned here, as the Black King has gained some leeway with the now-vacant f6 square, and because the soon-to-be promoted Queen on a1 would protect any checks on g7, leaving Black a Queen ahead.

Simone Liao (2217) -
Willis Kim (2078)
[B23] Sicilian Grand Prix
18th Pacific Coast Open (5)
Agoura Hills, 21.07.2013

Notes by Willis Kim.

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.f4 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Bb5 Nd4 6.O-O Nxb5 7.Nxb5 d6 8.d3 Nf6 9.Qe1 O-O 10.Nc3



Black has won the Bishop pair, but White can generate a strong attack.

10...e6

A month earlier I played the same variation against Simone and got killed with 10...Qd7 11.h3 b5 12.Qh4 Bb7 13.f5 gxf5 14.Bh6 b4 15.Ne2 Qe6 16.Ng5 Qe5 17.Rxf5 Qxb2 18.Raf1 Qxc2 19.Bxg7 Qxe2 20.Bxf6 with a forced mate. The moves 13.f5 gxf5 allowed White's Bishop to menace on the c1-h6 diagonal, the Knight was strongly posted on the g5 attack square, and the Queen on h4 imposed her will.

So I checked my database and found Cabrera-Malakhov, 2005 with the idea of 10...e6 and ...Nd7.

IM Roman Yankovsky suggested 10...Nd7 11.Qh4 e6, threatening to exchange Queens, and slowing White's attack on the Kingside. Also, this prevents the e5 push by White.

11.e5

A good cramping move.

11...Ne8

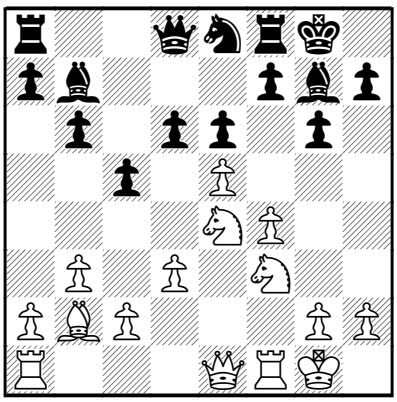
Black could also play 11...Nd7 12.Kh1 *(or 12.exd6 Nf6 13.Ne5 Qxd6 14.a4 b6 with an equal game)* 12...b6 13.Nb5 dxe5 14.fxe5 f6 15.exf6 Nxf6 16.Bf4 with equality.

In the game, I knew I should avoid 11...dxe5 12.fxe5, as it not only cramps Black's position, it opens the c1-h6 diagonal for White.

12.Ne4 b6

IM Roman Yankovsky suggested 12...f5 as a thematic break with 13.exf6 Nxf6.

13.b3 Bb7 14.Bb2



14...d5

In the game, I was pretty happy to survive the opening and thwart White's Kingside attack. So I decided to expand with d6-d5, as I thought this offered the best winning chances. This move limits the scope of both dark squared Bishops and gains space for Black, but concedes the d6 square to White.

15.Ned2 Nc7

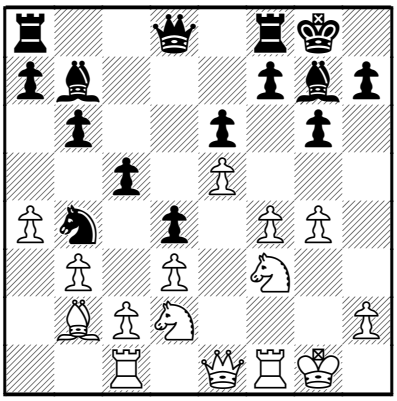
The Knight starts its tour of the chessboard, seeking activity.

16.a4 Na6 17.g4?!

This move makes more sense when White has attacking pieces on the Kingside and wants to use f4-f5 as a crowbar to pry open Black's position. Otherwise, it weakens White's King position and makes Black's unopposed light squared Bishop more powerful.

White should try 17.c3!?= keeping the Knight at bay and shoring up White's small center.

17...Nb4∓ 18.Rc1 d4

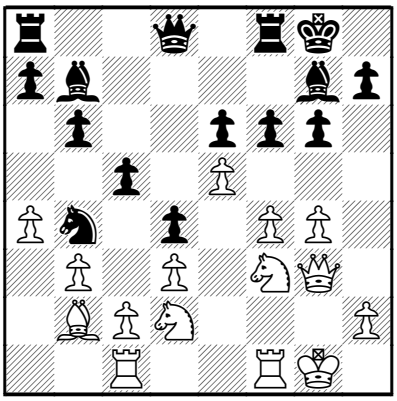


Continuing to gain space and open up the light squares for my Bishop. During the game, I was a little concerned that Simone would post her Knight on e4, since I am conceding that square with this move.

19.Qg3?!

Stronger was 19.Ne4, with the idea to create a bone in the throat on d6. Black would have to exchange the "good" Bishop for the Ne4 Knight with 19...Qe7 20.Qg3 Bxe4 21.dxe4 f6∓.

19...f6∓



Black challenges the advanced e-pawn.

20.Nc4

Second best, as White should try to post her Knight on e4 with 20.exf6!? Bxf6 21.Ne4∓.

20...Qd5

Increasing the grip on the light squares, creating a mating battery and centralizing the Queen.

Still, more decisive is 20...fxe5 21.Ncxe5 Nd5 22.Rce1 Ne3-+.

21.exf6 Bxf6 22.Ba3

The best chance for counterplay was 22.h4 which creates an attacking pawn front on the Kingside, with White's Queen behind it

22...Na2?!

The Knight continues its tour, seeking a strong outpost on c3.

Instead, Black should strike at the center with 22...e5 23.Bxb4 cxb4-+.

23.Rce1∓ Nc3 24.h3 g5?!

Black has the Bishop pair and needs to open up the game, so the attack on the f4 pawn is logical.

However, the e-pawn was still the better pawn to strike with: 24...e5 25.Ncxe5 Bxe5 26.Rxe5 Qxe5 27.Nxe5 Ne2+ 28.Kf2 Nxg3 29.Kxg3 g5∓.

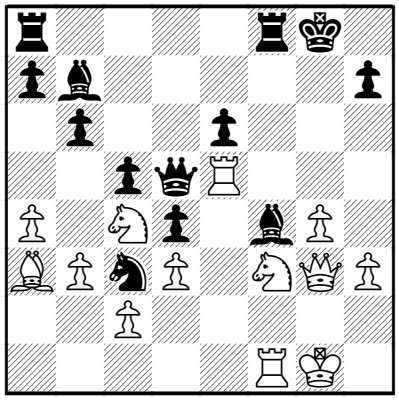
25.fxg5?

White can save the game with 25.Bc1, and it's equal.

25...Bxg5∓ 26.Re5?

White should trade off the Queens to increase her King safety with 26.Qe5 Bf4 *(not 26...Rxf3 27.Rxf3 Qxf3 28.Qxg5+)* 27.Qxe6+ Qxe6 28.Rxe6∓.

26...Bf4!-+



In the game, I was a little surprised that Simone allowed this shot, as she is normally very strong tactically.

27.Qh4?!

More resistance is provided with 27.Qe1 Bxe5 28.Ncxe5-+.

Not 27.Rxd5, which loses to 27... Ne2+! Zwischenzug 28.Kg2 Nxg3 29.Rd7 Bc6 30.Re7 Nxf1, and Black is up a Rook with an attack.

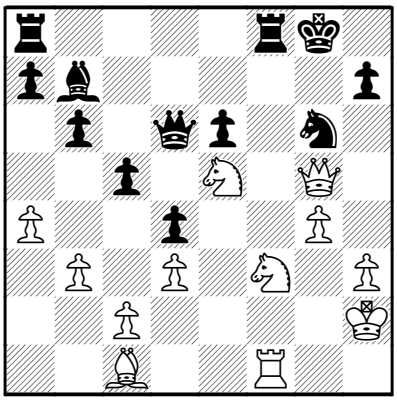
27...Bxe5 28.Ncxe5

Black is up the Exchange, but needs to keep an eye on White's hopping Knights, so Black now decides to bring his own Knight back for defensive purposes.

28...Ne2+ 29.Kh2 Nf4 30.Bc1 Ng6

Black touched this Knight 10 times!

31.Qg5 Qd6



Winning the Knight.

32.Kg1 Bxf3 33.Re1 Bd5 34.h4 Qe7 35.Qh6 35...Qxh4 0-1

Black is up a whole Rook after 36.Qxh4 Nxh4-+.

Enrico Sevillano (2559) - Jonathan Homidan (2279)
[C02] French Defense
Pacific Coast Open (6)
Agoura Hills 21.07.2013

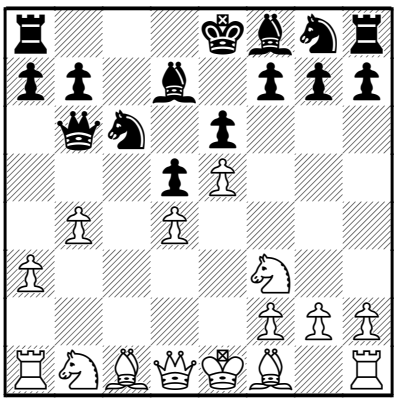
Notes by Jonathan Homidan.

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3 Qb6 6.a3

The classic French Defense, Advanced Variation.

Admittedly, I yearned for Sevillano to play 3.Nc3, allowing me to play my favorite French line, but I was also content with playing against the Advanced Variation as well.

6...Bd7 7.b4 cxd4 8.cxd4



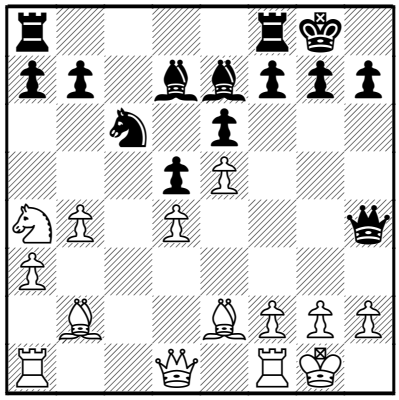
8...Nge7

8...f6 9.Be2 fxe5 10.dxe5 Nge7 also looks fine for Black.

9.Nc3 Nf5 10.Na4 Qd8 11.Bb2 Nh4

Swapping an awkwardly placed Knight on f5 and at the same time activating the Queen, becoming a threat on the fourth rank.

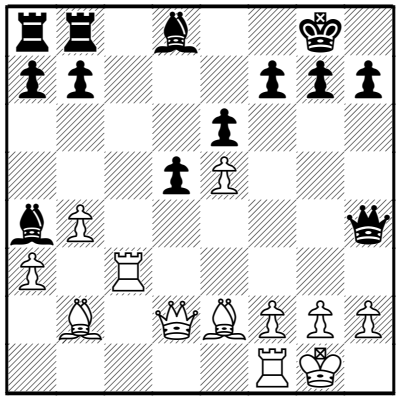
12.Nxh4 Qxh4 13.Be2 Be7 14.O-O O-O



15.Rc1? I had to think for a couple extra minutes, about whether or not Sevillano meant to sacrifice the d-pawn. Nonetheless, I saw no pressing threats against my position after I took the pawn, so I went for it.

I analyzed 15.g3 Qh6 16.Bc1, where I would have to play 16...Bg5 and allow White's Knight to come into c5.

15...Nxd4 16.Qxd4 Bxa4 17.Rc7 Rfb8 18.Qd2 Bd8 19.Rc3

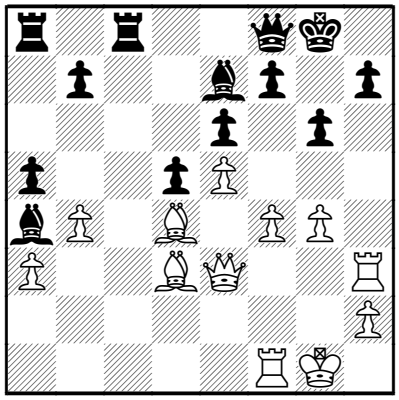


19...Qe7

Perhaps 19...Rc8 would have been a better try, forcing White to swap Rooks or concede control of the c2 square. It might have continued 20.Rh3 Qg5 21.f4 Qe7 22.Bd3 h6 23.Bd4 Bd7.

I had also considered 19...a5, trading pawns and opening the a-file for a Rook to wreak havoc on the second rank.

20.Rh3 Qf8 21.Bd3 g6 22.Bd4 Rc8 23.Qe3 Be7 24.f4 a5 25.g4

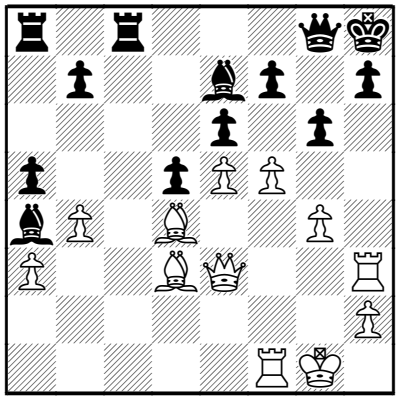


25...Kh8?

All of the lines I had calculated with this move seemed to work. Although Black is still up a pawn, to maintain his advantage he must set up a blockade to stymie White's attack while pressing on and opening files on the Queenside.

I missed the strong 25...Qg7!, where if 26.f5 then 26...gxf5 27.Kh1 f4 28.Qxf4 h6.

26.f5 26...Qg8 ½-½



Struggling to defend.

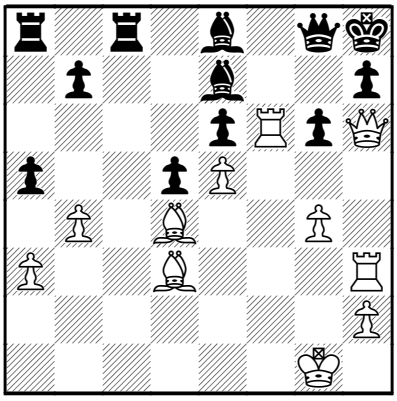
Perhaps my 24th move would have been better used as cautious prophylaxis instead of rushing to create a counterattack on the Queenside.

With Sevillano having a little more than two minutes on his clock at this point, he accepted my draw offer, a result of my yielding to the fact that my advantage had dissipated.

With the help of GM Maghami, we analyzed to find the continuation 27.fxg6 fxg6 28.Rf6 Be8 29.Qh6:

jw

Jonathan Homidan: Undefeated. Again!



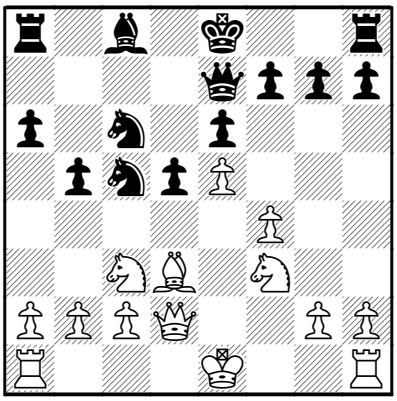
where 29...Bf7 (to protect the e-pawn) fails to 30.Qxh7+ Qxh7 31.Rxh7+ Kxh7 32.Rxf7+, and 29...axb4 30.Rxe6 Bf8 31.Qf4 also fails.

Instead, the only surviving move, as we found, is 29...Qg7 30.Qxg7+ Kxg7 31.Rxe6 Rc7 32.bxa5, where it is equal for Black at best.

Roman Yankovsky (2531) -
Albert Lu (2153)
18th Pacific Coast Open (6)
Agoura Hills 21.07.2013

Notes by IM Roman Yankovsky.

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Be7 5.e5 Nfd7 6.Bxe7 Qxe7 7.f4 a6 8.Nf3 c5 9.Qd2 Nc6 10.dxc5 Nxc5 11.Bd3 b5



A typical position for the classical French. White aims for an endgame with the Knight on d4 against the Bishop on d7.

12.O-O

12.O-O-O is also possible, but Black's attack with b5-b4, a6-a5-a4, and a future b4-b3 or a4-a3 can be rather dangerous.

12...b4 13.Ne2 a5?!

Played with the idea of trading the Bishop with Ba6, but it allows the Bishop for Knight trade instead.

Probably more accurate is 13...O-O, but now the Black King can come under attack easier.

14.Bb5

Now Black will not be able to trade his Bishop.

14...Bd7 15.Bxc6 Bxc6 16.Nfd4

After 16.Ned4 it's harder to find a good square for the Knight on f3.

16...Bd7

16...Ne4 is possible, but after 17.Qe3 Bd7 18.Ng3 Black will have to trade or retreat his Knight.

17.Ng3

The Knight covers e4 and can go to h5.

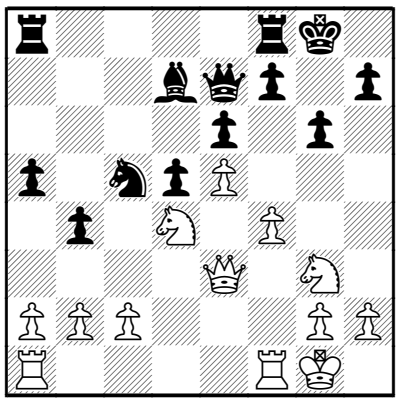
I thought about 17.f5 exf5 18.Nxf5 Qxe5 19.Nxg7+ (otherwise Black just castles) 19...Qxg7 20.Qxd5 Rc8, but I'm not sure if White has enough compensation here.

Roman Yankovsky: final round win

17...O-O 18.Qe3

Originally I planned 18.f5, but surprisingly, after 18...exf5 19.Ndxf5 Qxe5 20.Rae1 Qxb2, White doesn't have anything on the Kingside.

18...g6



Weakens his Kingside, but Black had to stop f4-f5. Also, the Knight on g3 is now out of the game.

19.Nh1

The Knight goes to f6 through Nh1-f2-g4-f6.

19...Kg7

I was worried about 19...f5. Generally, the pawn structure after 20.exf6 Qxf6 is good for White, but the Knight on h1 has big problems getting to e5. For example, if 21.Nf2? then 21...Qxf4. Maybe White shouldn't take on f6, but then it's hard to find an overall plan and a square for the Knight on h1.

20.Nf2 h5

Doesn't let the Knight get to g4, but it weakens the Kingside even more. Now g4 is always an idea.

21.Nd3

White is not hoping that Black will allow the trade, he just needs to bring his Rook to f3.

21...Ne4

21...Nxd3 22.cxd3 is a position White dreams about. Black's Bishop is almost useless.

22.Rf3 Rab8?

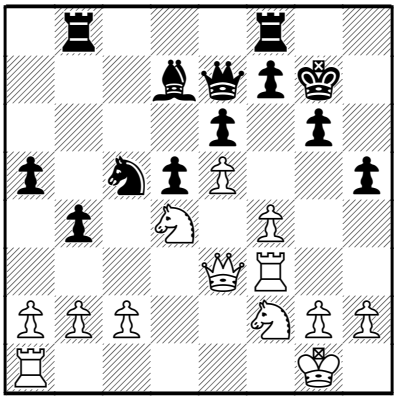
A strange move. I can only see that it gives White some extra options with a3. Maybe the idea was to play ...Bb5.

Better was 22...Rh8, preparing for g2-g4.

23.Nf2

The Knight comes back to support g2-g4.

23...Nc5



24.a3

Black can hold the Kingside after 24.g4 hxg4 25.Nxg4 Rh8 26.Nf6, and White can hardly create any threats.

However, with the opening of the a-file and with the White Rook coming to a7, this idea becomes much more dangerous.

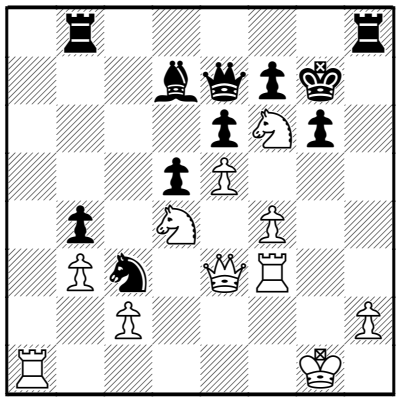
24...Na4 25.axb4 axb4 26.b3 Nc3 27.g4

Starting the attack. Black has to take because of the f4-f5 threat.

27...hxg4 28.Nxg4 Rh8

28...Ne4?, trying to stop Nf6, doesn't work: 29.f5! exf5 30.Qh6+ Kg8 31.Rh3 with a forced mate.

29.Nf6



Now Black will get trouble from both sides of the board.

29...Rbc8?

After 29...Ne4 White doesn't win the pawn, but plays 30.Ra7 and Black is defenseless: 30...Nxf6 *(or 30...Rbd8 31.Nc6+-)* 31.exf6+ Kxf6 32.Qe5 mate.

29...Bb5 allows an important resource 30.Ra7! Qxa7 31.Nxe6+ winning the Queen.

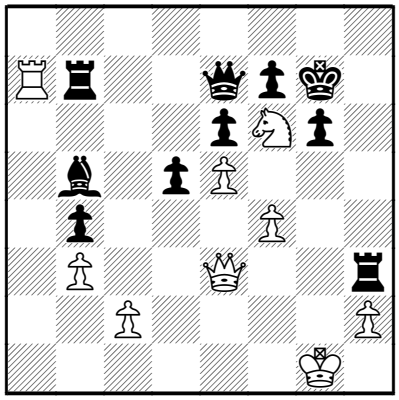
29...Rb7 leads to a nice finish: 30.Ra8! Rxa8 31.Rh3 Qd8 *(31...Ra1+ 32.Kg2 doesn't change anything)* 32.f5 and Black can't avoid mate:

a) 32...Kf8 33.Rh8+ Ke7 34.Ng8+! Ke8 *(34...Qxg8 35.f6+)* 35.Ne7+! Kxe7 36.f6#.

b) 32...exf5 33.Qh6#.

c) 32...Qh8, and the fastest way to win is 33.Ne8+! *(The normal 33.Rxh8 Rxh8 34.Nxd7 Rxd7 35.fxe6 works also.)* 33...Rxe8 34.f6+ Kg8 35.Rxh8+ Kxh8 36.Qh6+ Kg8 37.Qg7#.

I already considered my position to be winning, but it looks like after 29...Nb5 30.Nxb5 Bxb5 Black is still fine. I thought I could win with 31.Ra7 Rb7 32.Rh3 Rxh3:



33.Qxh3 *(33.Ra8 still draws: 33...Rxe3 34.Rg8+ Kh6 35.Rh8+ Kg7 36.Rg8+)*, but I missed 33...Qc5+ *(not 33...Rxa7 34.Qh7+ Kf8 35.Qh8#)*, and the Black King escapes after 34.Kh1 Rxa7 35.Qh7+ Kf8 36.Qh8+ Ke7, and now 37.Qe8+ doesn't mate because of 37...Bxe8.

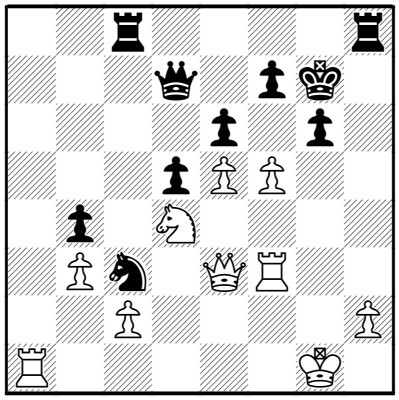
The move in the game has an interesting idea, but it doesn't work.

30.Ra5?

Too slow. The idea was to take the c5 square away from the Black Queen.

Black was planning to meet 30.Ra7 with 30...Qc5 *(This is why 29...Rbc8 was played, for after 31.Nxe6+ Bxe6 the Queen is protected.)* and after 31.Rxd7 Qxd4!, Black even stands better.

However, White wins by force with 30.Nxd7 Qxd7 31.f5!

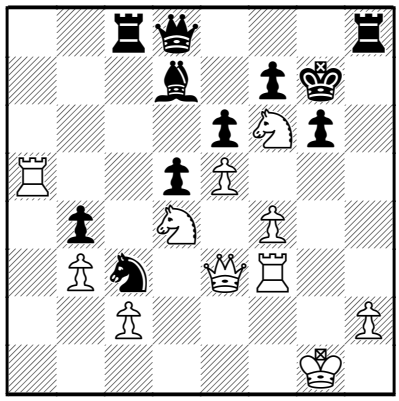


31...exf5 *(or 31...gxf5 32.Ra7! Rc7 33.Qg5+ Kf8 34.Nxe6+ fxe6 35.Qf6+ Kg8 36.Rg3+ with a mate)* 32.Ra7 Rc7 33.e6, and Black collapses. These lines are not too hard, but it was not easy to even consider trading Black's useless Bishop on d7 for the powerfully posted Knight on f6.

30...Bc6?

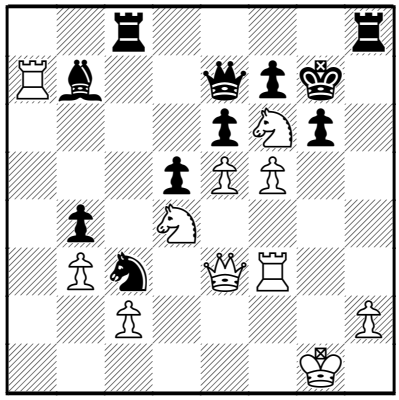
Now it's over.

Black should've played 30...Qd8:



After 31.Ra7 Rc7 32.Rxc7 Qxc7 33.Rh3 Rxh3 34.Qxh3 Qa7, the Black King somehow survives and White doesn't have anything better than a perpetual.

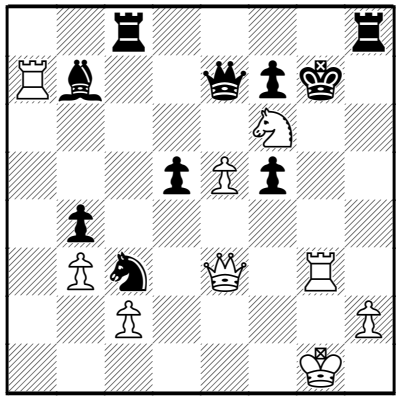
31.Ra7 Bb7 32.f5!



32...exf5

No better is 32...Qc5 33.Nxe6+ fxe6 34.Rxb7+.

33.Nxf5+ gxf5 34.Rg3+ 1-0



Black resigned due to the forced mate: 34...Kf8 35.Qh6+! *(Not 35.Rg8+?? with the idea 35...Rxg8 36.Qh6 Rg7 37.Qh8 Rg8 38.Qxg8#. This plan fails at the start, as 35...Rxg8 is a check!)* 35...Rxh6 36.Rg8 mate. ♜

GMs Sevillano and Moradiabadi Top 28th Metro FIDE GM

Los Angeles, August 13-18, 2013

Grandmasters Elshan Moradiabadi of Iran and Enrico Sevillano tied for first, scoring 6-3 at the 28th Metropolitan FIDE Invitational. Both players won three and drew the rest, with Moradiabadi winning his three games with White, and Sevillano winning his three as Black. GM Melikset Khachiyan finished third with 5½-3½, and IMs Darwin Yang and Victor Shen tied for fourth and fifth with 5-4. Sixth at 4½-4½ was FM Joel Banawa, seventh at 4-5 was FM Yian Liou. Next were IMs Andranik Matikozyan and Zhanibek Amanov who scored 3½-5½ and IM Raja Panjwani of Canada with 2-7.

The tournament offered a GM norm with a score of 6½, but hopes ended in round seven for Shen and Yang, who needed to finish with three wins.

The tournament was directed by FIDE Arbiter and International Organizer Ankit Gupta and took place at the California Market Center, who sponsored the tournament along with the Law Offices of Steinfl and Bruno, Chess.com, MonRoi, LawyerFY, and EventForte.

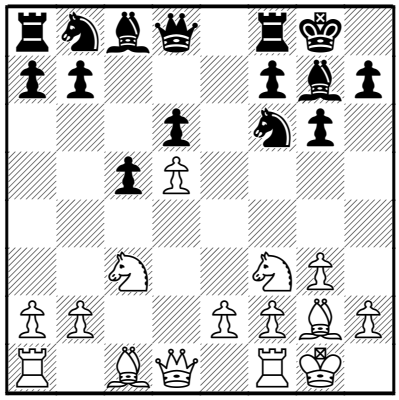
The six-day schedule, Tuesday through Sunday, allowed for three days with a single round each.

We present three sharp games by the tournament winners.

Darwin Yang (2480) -
Enrico Sevillano (2484)
[A62] Modern Benoni Defense
28th Metropolitan GM (1)
Los Angeles 13.08.2013

Notes by the Editor.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.Nc3 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.g3 g6 7.Bg2 Bg7 8.Nf3 O-O 9.O-O

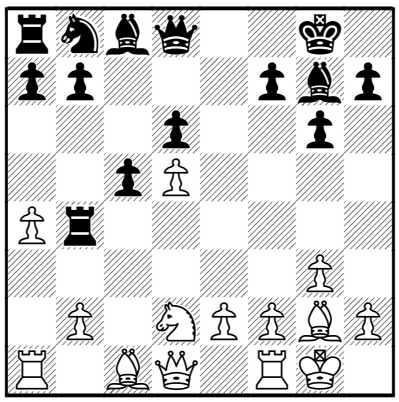


The fianchetto system, which is not so dangerous for Black, but not so easy to get an active game either.

9...Re8

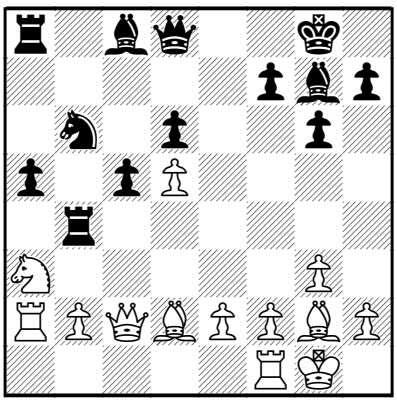
Another good line is 9...a6 10.a4 Nbd7 11.Nd2 Re8 12.h3.

10.a4 Ne4 11.Nxe4 Rxe4 12.Nd2 Rb4



After the trade, the Rook finds a place at b4.

13.Qc2 Nd7 14.Ra2 b5 15.axb5 Nb6 16.Nb1 Rxb5 17.Na3 Rb4 18.Bd2 a5



19.b3

19.Bxb4? fails to 19...axb4 20.Rfa1 bxa3 21.Rxa3 Rb8∓.

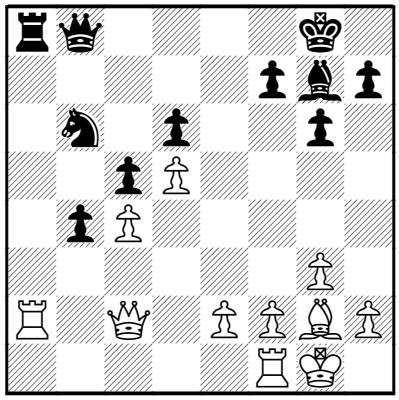
	Round by Round Pairings, Colors, and Scores		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Sevillano, Enrico	USA	B5	B7	W6	B10	W2	B4	W3	B8	W9
	2484		**1**	1½	2	3	**3½**	**4½**	**5**	**5½**	**6**
2	Moradiabadi, Elshan	IRN	B3	W8	B9	W5	B1	W6	B10	B7	W4
	2547		½	**1½**	2	3	**3½**	**4½**	**5**	**5½**	**6**
3	Khachiyan, Melikset	USA	W2	B4	W7	W8	B9	W5	B1	W6	B10
	2508		½	1	1½	2½	3	3½	4	5	5½
4	Shen, Victor	USA	W7	W3	B8	W9	B5	W1	B6	W10	B2
	2415		**1**	**1½**	**2½**	**3½**	**3½**	3½	3½	4½	5
5	Yang, Darwin	USA	W1	B6	W10	B2	W4	B3	W8	B9	W7
	2480		0	1	2	2	3	3½	4	4½	5
6	Banawa, Joel	USA	B9	W5	B1	B7	W10	B2	W4	B3	W8
	2348		**1**	1	1½	2	3	3	4	4	4½
7	Liou, Yian	USA	B4	W1	B3	W6	B8	W10	B9	W2	B5
	2402		0	½	1	1½	2	3	3	3½	4
8	Amanov, Zhanibek	KAZ	W10	B2	W4	B3	W7	W9	B5	W1	B6
	2361		**1**	1	1	1	1½	2	2½	3	3½
9	Matikozyan, Andranik	ARM	W6	B10	W2	B4	W3	B8	W7	W5	B1
	2475		0	0	½	½	1	1½	2½	3	3½
10	Panjwani, Raja	CAN	B8	W9	B5	W1	B6	B7	W2	B4	W3
	2413		0	1	1	1	1	1	1½	1½	2

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

19...Ba6 20.Bxb4 axb4

Houdini likes 20...cxb4 21.Nb1 a4 22.Rc1=, better than 22.bxa4 Bc4! 23.Nd2 *(or 23.Rb2 Bxb2 24.Qxb2 Rxa4∓)* 23...Bxa2 24.Qxa2 Nxa4∓.

21.Nc4 Bxc4 22.bxc4 Qb8



Black has sacrificed the Exchange for positional considerations. He is very strong on the dark squares, with the g7 Bishop on the long diagonal, Black's Knight attacks the c4-pawn, which White can hardly afford to lose, and Black's advanced passed b-pawn is a threat. This seems like a strong Benko Gambit type position.

But Houdini gives White a slight advantage here. OK, well, White has more space and an extra center pawn, so he can plan to advance with the Kingside majority, while keeping his King safe and containing Black's Queenside threats. And, he has just as many pawns as Black.

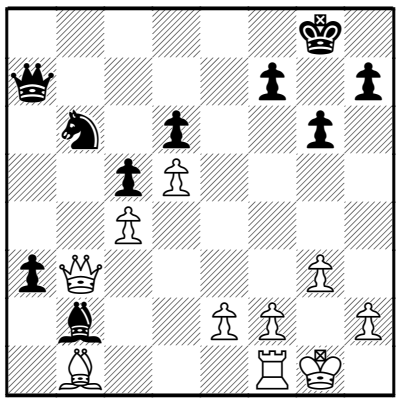
23.Be4 Ra3

Black threatens 24...b3, and gets the a-pawn to a more dangerous square.

24.Rxa3

Not 24.Rb1 Rc3 25.Qd1 Nxc4.

24...bxa3 25.Qb3 Qa7 26.Bb1 Bb2



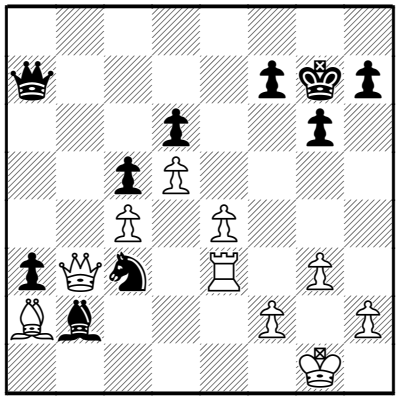
27.Ba2

Perhaps White has held Black's Queenside threats well enough for now to be able to advance on the Kingside with 27.h4 Na4 28.h5 Nc3 29.Bd3±.

27...Na4± 28.e4 Nc3 29.e5?!

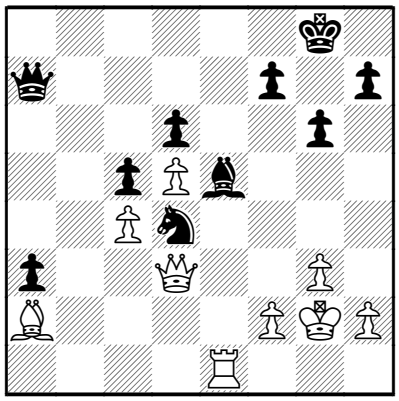
Black gives up a central pawn.

Houdini likes strengthening the e-file with 29.Re1!? Kg7 30.Re3±.



Now it looks like White has stopped the Queenside advance entirely, and is in a position to start his own Kingside initiative. Still, after 30... Nxa2 31.Qxa2 White's Queen has blockading duty on a2 and it seems unlikely for White to be able to get very far if his Queen is stuck there.

29...Ne2+ 30.Kg2 Bxe5 31.Re1 Nd4 32.Qd3



Both sides look fairly safe here, if safety is the goal, so Houdini thinks it's totally equal.

32...Nf5 33.f4

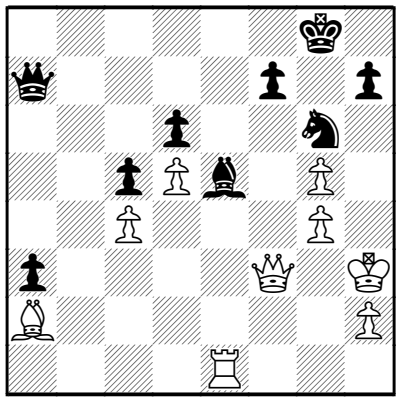
Doing nothing with 33.Qb3 looks safe, and if 33...Qa5 then the wild 34.Rxe5 dxe5 35.g4 Nd4 36.Qb8+ Kg7 37.Qxe5+ looks like a draw to Houdini. Or, just 33.Re2.

33...Bd4 34.g4 Nh4+ 35.Kh3 g5 36.fxg5 Ng6 37.Qf3

Better is 37.Qf5 and White has some air to breath after 37...Be5 38.Rf1=.

Or 37.Qc2 Be5 38.Kg2 Qe7 39.Qc1=.

37...Be5∓

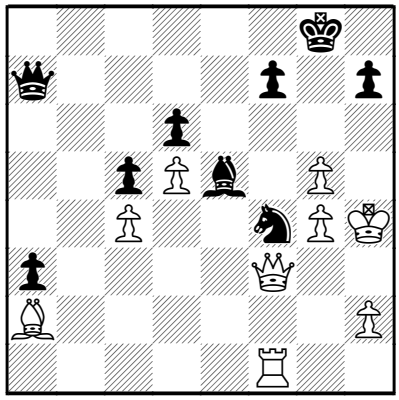


38.Rf1

Black has confined the White King, for if 38.Kg2 then 38...Nh4+ wins the Queen.

Even if the Queen makes an exit, Black still snags a Rook after 38.Qb3 Nf4+ 39.Kg3 *(or 39.Kh4 Ng2+)* 39... Nd3+.

38...Nf4+ 39.Kh4 Ng6+ 40.Kh3 Nf4+ 41.Kh4



Black has locked down the White King, and a little something more is needed.

41...Qa5!

Threatening 42...h6 43.gxh6 Qd2! 44.Qf2 Qd3 45.Qf3 Qc2 and 46...Qg6, and White's King suffers more and more.

42.h3

Black also has enough force to achieve the goal after both:

jw

Sevillano: combinations abound!

42.Qf2 h6 43.gxh6 Qc3 44.Qf3 Qc2 45.Rf2 Qg6 46.g5 f6 47.Rg2 Nxg2+ 48.Qxg2 Kh7-+.

And 42.Qd1 Ng6+ 43.Kh3 Qc3+ 44.Qf3 Nf4+ 45.Kh4 Qc2 46.Qf2 Qg6-+ 47.Bb1 Qg7 48.Re1 f6-+.

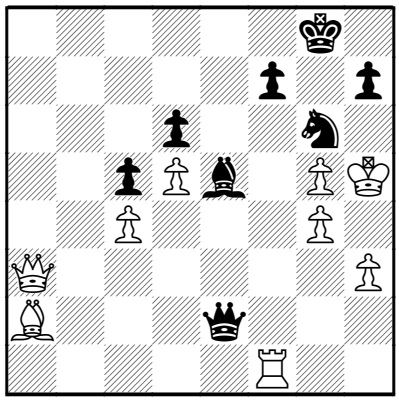
42...Qd2!!

The perfect square.

43.Qxa3

Of no help is 43.Qf2 Qd3 44.Qf3 Qc2-+ 45.Rf2 *(45.Qf2 allows the deadly Knight check on g2)* 45...Qg6!-+ threatening 46...h6, and White's King has to step into the discovery and lose big material.

43...Ng6+ 44.Kh5 Qe2!



Again, just the right square.

White cannot stop the Black Queen from getting to h4 without giving up big material, as White's Queen has to guard the Bishop on a2.

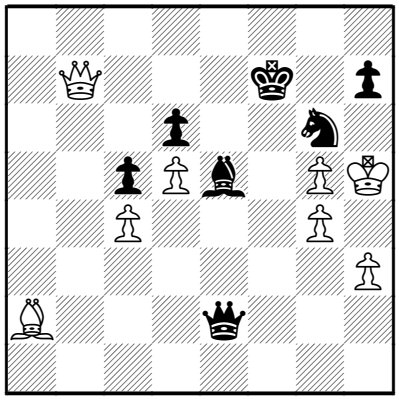
45.Qa8+

Black mates after 45.Qc1 Qd3 46.Rh1 Nf4+ 47.Kh4 Ng2+ 48.Kh5 Qg6#.

After 45.Qf3 White defends f7 with 45...Nf4+ 46.Kh4 then captures the Bishop with 46...Qxa2-+.

If 45.Rb1 then 45...Qf2-+ and White gets to h4 with the Queen.

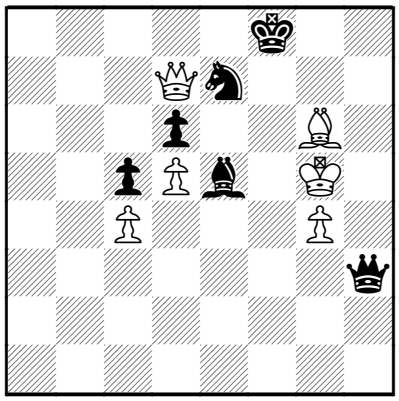
45...Kg7 46.Rxf7+ Kxf7 47.Qb7+



47...Ne7 48.Bb1 Qh2 49.g6+

White survives to a lost ending with 49.Qb3 Kg7 50.Qf3 Qg3 51.Qxg3 Bxg3-+ threatening 52...Ng6 with mate next move.

49...hxg6+ 50.Bxg6+ Kf8 51.Qd7 Qxh3+ 52.Kg5



52...Bf4+!

Another combination!

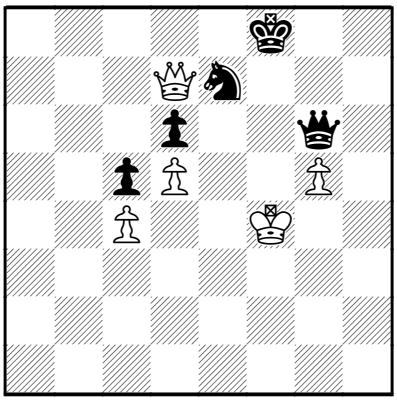
53.Kxf4

If 53.Kf6 then it's lights out with 53...Qh8+ 54.Ke6 Qe5 mate.

53...Qh6+

Black wins the Bishop and keeps the material up with a stable position.

54.g5 Qxg6 0-1



A fine attacking game. Once the White King was held down on the h-file, Black found the right Queen maneuvers to close the deal. Nice win, Enrico!

The next game features an interesting sequence of opening moves.

Elshan Moradiabadi (2547) - Darwin Yang (2480)
[E20] Nimzo-Indian Defense
28th Metropolitan GM (4)
Los Angeles 15.08.2013

Notes by the Editor.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 Bb4+ 4.Nc3 c5 5.Nf3 cxd4 6.Nxd4 Ne4

More often seen is 6...O-O 7.Bg2 d5 8.cxd5 Nxd5, and now White plays both 9.Bd2 and 9.Qb3 at the very highest levels.

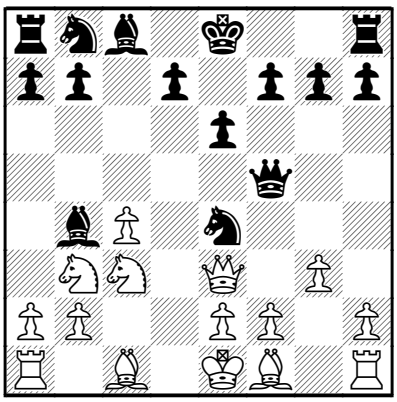
7.Qd3 Qa5

Also played is 7...Bxc3+ 8.bxc3 Nc5 and now White has tried four moves here: 9.Qf3, 9.Qe3, 9.Qd2, and 9.Qc2.

8.Nb3 Qf5

Another frequently seen line is 8...Nxc3 9.Bd2 Ne4 10.Qxe4 Bxd2+ 11.Nxd2 and White has been doing well after both 11...O-O and 11...Nc6.

9.Qe3



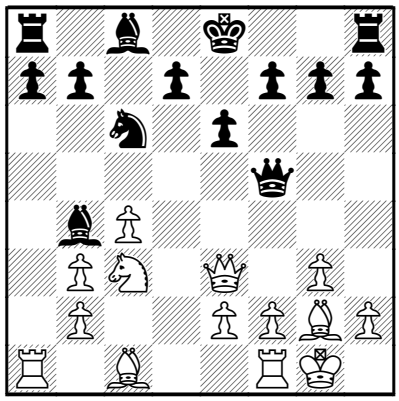
9...Nc6

The alternative is 9...Nxc3, for example 10.bxc3 Be7 11.Bg2 O-O 12.O-O Nc6 13.Rd1 b6 14.Qe4 Qxe4 15.Bxe4 Rb8 16.Bf4 e5 17.Be3 Rd8 18.c5 Ba6 19.Rd2 Bc4 20.Rad1 Be6 ½-½, Xu Jun - Ghaem-Maghami, Kolkata 2001.

10.Bg2 Nc5

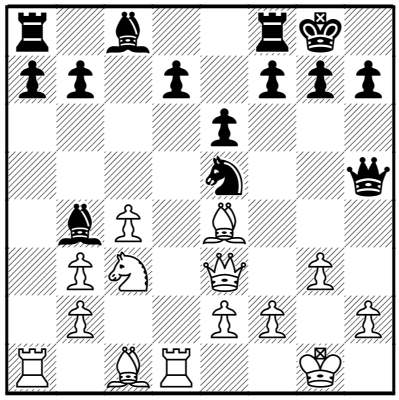
Again, 10...Nxc3 11.bxc3 Be7= is safe, and 10...Nd6 11.c5 Nc4 12.Qd3 Qxd3 13.exd3± is another line.

11.O-O Nxb3 12.axb3



Black has doubled White's pawns, but he lags in development.

12...O-O 13.Be4 Qh5 14.Rd1 Ne5



Black threatens 15...Ng4 16.Qf4 Bc5 17.e3 g5 18.Qf3 Qxh2+ 19.Kf1 f5∓, but does not threaten 15...Bc5 because of 16.Qg5 *(not 16.Qxc5? Nf3+ winning the Queen)* Qxg5 17.Bxg5±.

15.Qg5!

Houdini likes to point out that 15.Rxa7? would be great except for 15...Rxa7 16.Qxa7 Bc5!! 17.Qxc5 Nf3+ 18.exf3 Qxc5-+. Now the trick would work!

15...Qxg5 16.Bxg5 a5 17.Na4

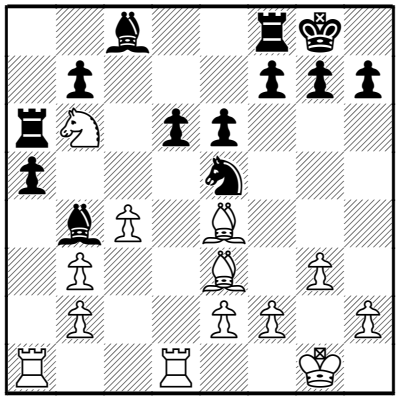
Or 17.Bg2 Ra6±.

17...Ra6 18.Be3

White carefully prepares the c4-c5 break.

If now 18.c5 then 18...d5 *(or 18... f5 19.Bg2 d5 20.cxd6 b5 21.Nc3±)* 19.cxd6 Rxd6 20.Rxd6 Bxd6 21.Bf4 f6±.

18...d6 19.Nb6



White threatens 20.Nxc8 d5 *(20...Rxc8 21.Bxb7+-)* 21.cxd5 Rxc8 22.dxe6+-.

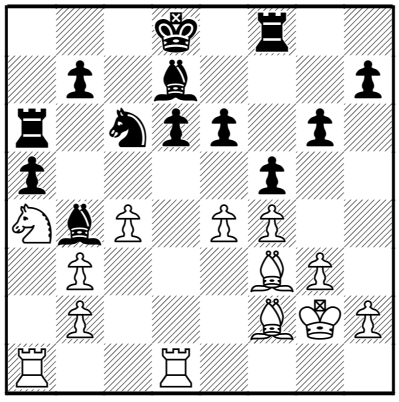
19...Nc6

Less good is 19...Ng4 20.Nxc8 Nxe3 21.fxe3 d5 22.cxd5 Rxc8 23.dxe6 Rd6 24.exf7+ Kxf7 25.Rxd6 Bxd6 26.Rxa5±.

20.f4 g6 21.Kf2

A little better was 21.Bd3 Bc5 22.Bxc5 dxc5 23.Na4±.

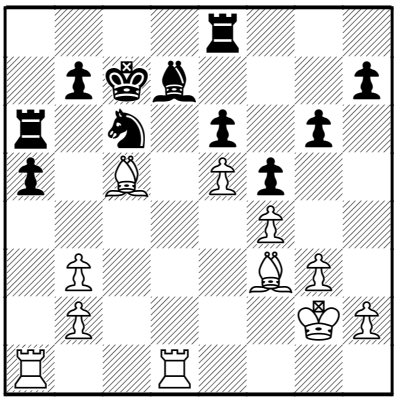
21...f5 22.Bf3 Kf7 23.Kg2 Ke7 24.Bf2 Kd8 25.Na4 Bd7 26.e4



26...Kc7

Black gets into some trouble now, so 26...fxe4!? 27.Bxe4 Kc7± is an interesting alternative.

27.c5± dxc5 28.Nxc5 Bxc5 29.Bxc5 Re8 30.e5



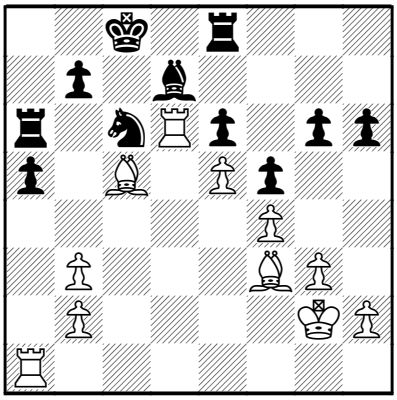
30...Kc8?

Black's better alternatives are still not good: 30...h6 31.h4± and 30...Ne7 31.Rdc1 Bc6 32.b4 Bxf3+ *(not 32...axb4? 33.Rxa6 bxa6 34.Bxe7 Rxe7 35.Rxc6+)* 33.Kxf3 Nd5 34.bxa5±.

31.Rd6

31.Be2! is even better: 31...Ra8 32.b4+-.

31...h6??



Black misses the Queenside danger.

Necessary was 31...Nb8± or 31... Kc7±.

32.b4! 1-0

White's Rook at a1 is activated, due to the threat of the pawn fork 33.b5.

If 32...axb4? then 33.Rxa6 bxa6 34.Bxc6 wins a piece.

If 32...Nxb4? then 33.Bxb4 axb4 34.Bxb7+ is just as crushing.

Least bad was 32...Nb8 33.Rxa5+-.

Yet even stronger for White was 32.Be2! for if 32...Ra8, then 33.b4 is just deadly, for example 33...Ne7 34.Bf3 Bc6 *(or 34...Rb8 35.Bb6 Nc6 36.b5 Nd8 37.Rc1+)* 35.Rxe6.

Elshan Moradiabadi (2547) - Joel Banawa (2348)
[A13] English Opening
28th Metropolitan GM (6)
Los Angeles 16.08.2013

Notes by the Editor.

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.Bg2 dxc4

The usual line here heads for the Catalan with 4...Be7 5.d4 O-O 6.O-O dxc4 7.Qc2 a6 and 8.Qxc4 or 8.a4.

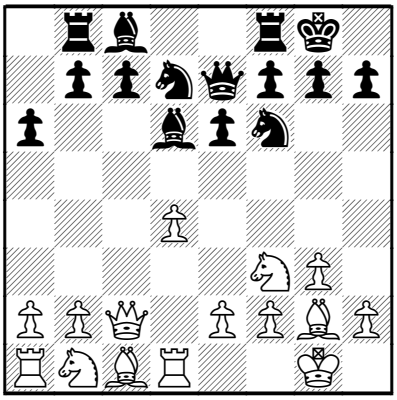
5.Qa4+ Nbd7 6.Qxc4 a6 7.Qc2 7...Bd6

Typical has been 7...c5 8.O-O b5.

8.O-O O-O 9.d4

Now that the pawn gets to d4, it has the look of a Catalan.

9...Rb8 10.Rd1 Qe7



11.Nbd2N

Best according to Houdini.

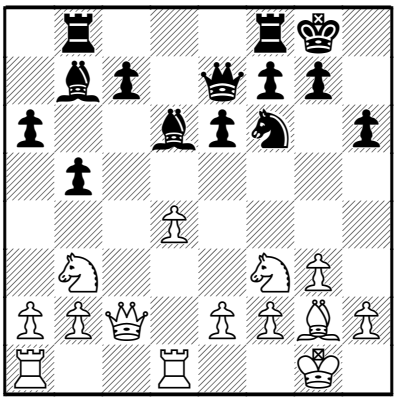
11...b5

Also possible is the complicated 11...e5±.

12.Nb3

Better is 12.e4!? e5 13.Nb3 and if 13...exd4 then 14.Nfxd4±.

12...Bb7± 13.Bg5 h6 14.Bxf6 Nxf6



Black has the two bishops...

15.Ne1

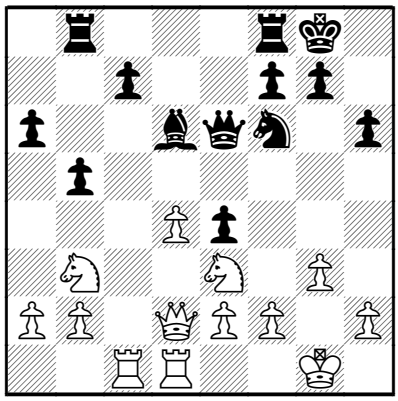
So White exchanges one of them.

15...Bxg2 16.Nxg2 e5

It looks like White's Knight on g2 is happy to see this.

A little better is 16...Rbc8 17.e4 e5 18.f4 exf4 19.e5 fxg3 20.hxg3 Bxe5 21.Re1 Nd7 22.dxe5 Nxe5∞.

17.Ne3 e4 18.Rac1 Qe6 19.Qd2

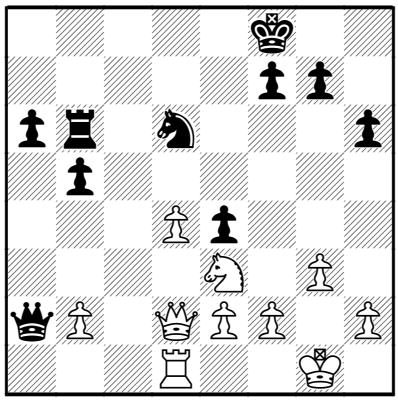


White threatens 20.Rc6 and 21.Nc5, so Black guards c6.

19...Rb6 20.Nc5 Bxc5 21.Rxc5± Qxa2 22.Rxc7 Ne8

Or 22...Nd5!? 23.Nxd5 Qxd5±.

23.Rc8 Nd6 24.Rxf8+ Kxf8



25.Qb4

White gets some extra space with 25.d5! *(threatening 26.Qd4 Rb8 27.Qc5 Rd8 28.Nf5)* 25...Rb8 26.Rc1 Qa4 27.Rc6±.

25...Qe6 26.Qc5

White prepares an eventual d4-d5.

26...Rb8± 27.Qa7 27...Qc8 28.d5 Qb7 29.Qc5 Qe7 30.b4

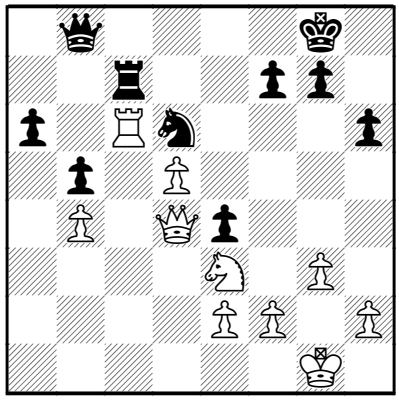
30...Kg8

More resistance was offered by 30...Rc8!? 31.Qd4 f6±.

31.Qc6 Qd8 32.Ra1

Better than 32.Qxa6?! Ra8 33.Qc6 Rc8 repeating the position.

32...Rb6 33.Qc5 Qb8 34.Rc1 Rb7 35.Qd4 Rc7 36.Rc6



36...Rxc6?

A mistake, as the center pawn becomes much stronger with the recapture.

Trying to hold on with 36...Rd7 37.Rxa6 was a little more stubborn.

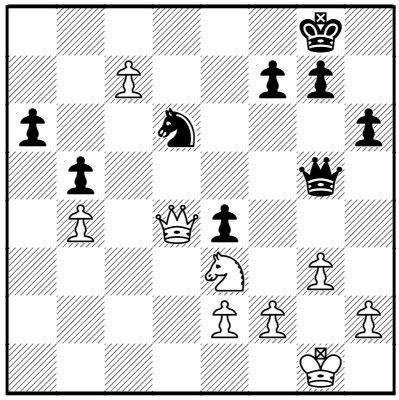
37.dxc6 Qc7?

The best was 37...Ne8 38.Qxe4 Kf8, but White is still winning after 39.Nf5.

38.Nd5! Qd8 39.c7 Qg5

Of no help is 39...Qf8 40.Qb6 Nc8 41.Qb8 Kh7 42.Nb6.

40.Ne3 1-0



White wins a piece after 40...Qf6 *(or 40...Qg6 41.Nf5!! and the pawn soon Queens)* 41.Qxd6 Qxd6 42.c8Q+.

Yet even stronger was 40.h4 Qc1+ 41.Kg2 Nc8 42.Nf6+ gxf6 43.Qd8+ Kg7 44.Qxc8, and Black has neither checks nor any other way to prevent the pawn from Queening.

Congratulations to both GMs Sevillano and Moradiabadi on their tournament victory!

IM Jack Peters Wins 29th Metro Fide IM

Los Angeles, August 14-18, 2013

IM Jack Peters took first by a full point at the 29th Metropolitan FIDE Invitational tournament, scoring 7-2 by winning six games, including a very unusual perfect 5-0 score with Black, with one loss and two draws. Tied for second at 6-3 were FM Arthur Shen and IM Larry Remlinger. Remlinger won four games in a row in the middle of the tournament, but lost in the first and last rounds. Shen had a decent shot at the 6½-point IM norm, with 5 points after round seven, but lost to Peters in round 8.

Fourth at 5½-3½ was IM Roman Yankovsky and fifth at 5-5 was FM Pedram Atoufi of Iran. Varun Krishnan and Vadim Kudryavtsev scored 4-5 to tie for sixth. Madiyar Amerkeshev of Kazakhstan finished eighth with 3-6, Nicky Korba came in ninth scoring 2½-6½, followed by FM Michael Casella with 2-9.

Yankovsky and Atoufi were tied for first with 4-1 after five rounds, but both players lost their next two games while Peters won his next three. Remlinger and Peters led the tournament after rounds six and seven and Larry still had a chance for a first place tie in the final round.

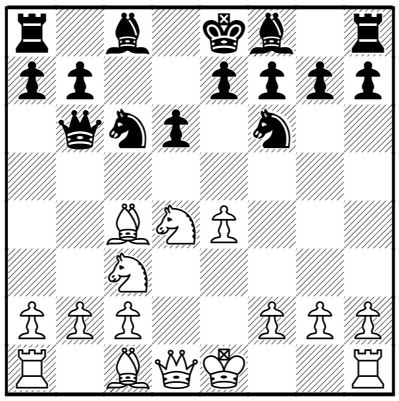
This tournament was directed by FIDE Arbiter and International Organizer Ankit Gupta concurrently with the 28th Metropolitan at the same location. The five-day schedule placed the first round on Wednesday the 14th, with two rounds per day Thursday through Sunday.

The tournament winner has annotated two wins here and one in *Cy & Jack*, all extremely instructive!

Varun Krishnan (2244) -
Jack Peters (2360)
B57 Sicilian Defense
29th Metropolitan IM (6)
Los Angeles 17.08.2013

Notes by IM Jack Peters.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 d6 6.Bc4 Qb6



7.Nxc6

As played by Topalov. White wants rapid development, and he's willing to improve Black's pawn structure.

The main line is 7.Nb3 e6 8.O-O Be7 9.Be3 Qc7 10.Be2, a typical Scheveningen except for White's extra move of Nd4-b3.

With 7.Ndb5 a6 8.Be3 Qa5 9.Nd4, White invites 9...Nxe4?! 10.Qf3.

7...bxc6 8.O-O e6

A solid choice.

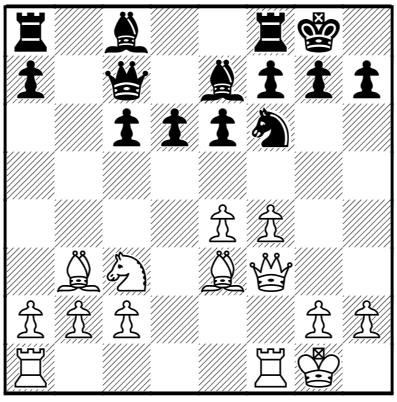
Grandmasters have tested 8... g6 9.Qe1!? Nd7 (White welcomes 9... Bg7 10.e5 dxe5 11.Qxe5±) 10.b3 Bg7 11.Bb2 Qa5=.

I did not care for 8...e5 9.Qd3±, when White's Bishop works well from c4.

9.Bb3

Most popular is 9.Qe2 Be7 10.b3 O-O 11.Bb2 although White's advantage is minimal.

9...Be7 10.Be3 Qc7 11.f4 O-O 12.Qf3



12...d5

Good enough to equalize.

I rejected the more ambitious 12... Ba6 13.Rfe1 Nd7 because I thought my Bishop had to defend e6 if White pushed f4-f5.

	Round by Round Pairings, Colors, and Scores		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Peters, Jack	USA	B9	B7	W2	B10	W5	B6	W8	B3	W4
	2360		**1**	**2**	2½	**3½**	3½	**4½**	**5½**	**6½**	**7**
2	Remlinger, Larry	USA	B4	W9	B1	B7	W10	B5	W6	B8	W3
	2302		0	1	1½	2½	3½	**4½**	**5½**	6	6
3	Shen, Arthur	USA	W10	B5	W6	B8	W7	W4	B9	W1	B2
	2334		**1**	1	2	2½	3	4	5	5	6
4	Yankovsky, Roman	RUS	W2	B10	W5	B6	W8	B3	W7	W9	B1
	2443		**1**	**2**	**3**	**3½**	**4**	4	4	5	5½
5	Atoufi, Pedram	IRN	B8	W3	B4	W9	B1	W2	B10	B7	W6
	2269		**1**	**2**	2	3	**4**	4	4	5	5
6	Krishnan, Varun	USA	W7	W8	B3	W4	B9	W1	B2	W10	B5
	2244		**1**	1½	1½	2	2	2	2	3	4
7	Kudryavtsev, Vadim	RUS	B6	W1	B8	W2	B3	W10	B4	W5	B9
	2145		0	0	1	1	1½	2	3	3	4
8	Amerkeshev, Madiyar	KAZ	W5	B6	W7	W3	B4	W9	B1	W2	B10
	2228		0	½	½	1	1½	2	2	2½	3
9	Korba, Nicky	USA	W1	B2	W10	B5	W6	B8	W3	B4	W7
	2020		0	0	1	1	2	2½	2½	2½	2½
10	Casella, Michael	USA	B3	W4	B9	W1	B2	B7	W5	B6	W8
	2224		0	0	0	0	0	½	1½	1½	2

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

cr

Jack Peters: 5-0 with Black!

13.exd5

I expected 13.Bd4, retaining options of e4-e5 and e4xd5. I intended 13...Rd8, trying to make White commit his e-pawn.

13...exd5

I dreamed of using e4 while White's Bishop was stuck at b3. On the other hand, White has more chance to occupy c5 or arrange c2-c4.

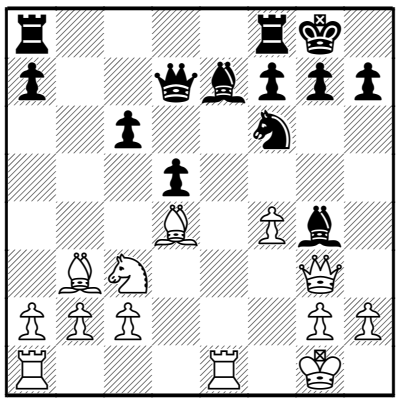
Now I think 13...cxd5 is stronger. I feared 14.f5, but 14...Bd6 would give Black control of most of the center.

14.Bd4= Bg4

Starting a faulty plan.

I gave up on my original intention of 14...Re8 15.Rfe1 Bf5 16.h3 Ne4 17.Nxe4 Bxe4 18.Qg4 Bf8 because I thought White could take charge in the center with 19.c4. However, 19...f5 is acceptable, and 19...a5!? 20.cxd5 a4 21.Bc4 cxd5 looks even better.

15.Qg3 Qd7 16.Rfe1



Threatening 17.Rxe7 Qxe7 18.Bxf6 Qxf6 19.Qxg4.

16...h5?

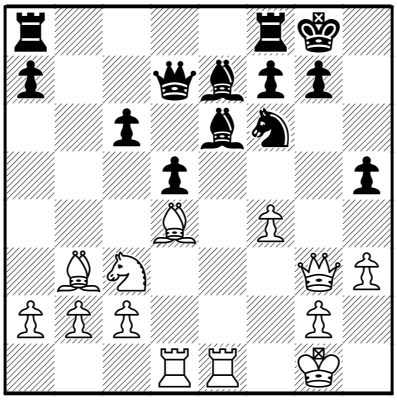
Much too weakening. I thought Black would end up controlling the Kingside because of the threat of ...h5-h4.

Black should settle for 16...Be6, keeping a defensible position.

17.h3± Be6

Also 17...Bf5 18.Rad1 is uncomfortable for Black.

18.Rad1



White threatens 19.Ne4. I used 31 of my remaining 56 minutes, liking my position less as each minute ticked away.

18...Ne8

I wanted to play 18...g6?? but spotted the refutation 19.f5! Bxf5 20.Rxe7 Qxe7 21.Qg5 Kg7 *(actually, Black might survive 21...Rfe8! 22.Bxf6 Qe3+ 23.Qxe3 Rxe3±)* 22.Rf1 Qe6 23.Ne4!+-. Very pretty, but the true refutation is even more attractive: 20.Qg5! Ne4 21.Qh6 *(as 21...Bf6 22.Rxe4 Bxd4+ 23.Rexd4 and 21...f6 22.Nxe4 Bxe4 23.Rxe4 cost Black a piece)* 21...Nf6 22.Rxe7! Qxe7 23.Rf1 Rfe8 24.Rxf5 gxf5 25.Ne4! *(not allowing 25.Bxf6?? Qe3+)* 25...fxe4 26.Bxf6 Qxf6 27.Qxf6+-.

19.Qf3?!

A wasted move.

The immediate 19.Na4 is more troublesome.

19...g6 20.Na4 Ng7 21.Nc5

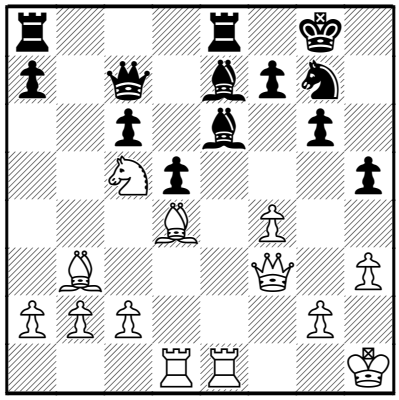
Also promising is 21.c4 Nf5 22.Bf2±.

21...Qc7

With relief, I removed the Queen from the d-file. I felt Black had nearly restored equality, which indicates my displeasure with my previous position

more than an objective appraisal of the current one.

22.Kh1 Rfe8

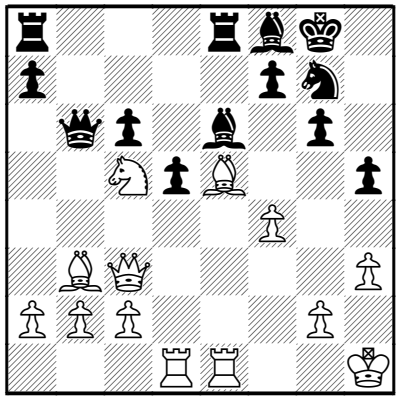


Houdini claims Black can abandon the dark squares by 22...Bxc5 23.Bxc5 Rfe8 and achieve a satisfactory position. That's hard to believe.

23.Qc3!?

After White's King move, I expected 23.Be5 and intended 23...Bd6. However, White does regain the initiative with 24.Nxe6 Nxe6 *(worse is 24...Rxe6 25.c4! Bxe5 26.cxd5±)* 25.Bxd6 Qxd6 26.c4!

23...Bf8 24.Be5 Qb6 25.Bd4 Qc7 26.Be5 Qb6



I was eager to accept a draw. By this time, I realized that only White could make threats.

27.Nxe6!

Correctly trying to win.

27...Nxe6 28.Qg3!

Making f4-f5 a threat.

Black can barely parry the immediate 28.f5?! Bb4 29.Qf3 by 29... Ng5 30.Qg3 *(not 30.Qf4 Bxe1 31.Rxe1 f6!)* 30...Bxe1 31.Rxe1 Qd8 32.h4 f6 33.Bc3 Rxe1+ 34.Bxe1 Nh7=.

28...Ng7 29.Qf3

I was more worried by 29.c4↑, mobilizing White's one inactive piece.

Houdini recommends 29.Bxg7!? Bxg7 30.f5 gxf5 31.Qf3, shattering the protection of Black's King.

29...a5 30.a4?!

Safeguarding the Bishop, but on a poor square. Yet again, I felt that Black had equalized. This time, I might even be right!

I was still worried about 30.c4 a4 31.Bc2 dxc4 32.f5.

30...Rad8 31.g4

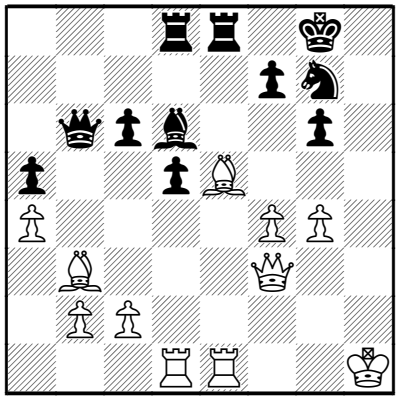
Trying to revive his Kingside attack.

Houdini recommends 31.c4 d4 32.c5 to open the a2-g8 diagonal. After 32...Qxc5 33.Re4!? d3! 34.Rxd3 Qc1+ 35.Kh2 Bc5, White must interpose a piece on d1, and Black hangs on.

31...hxg4 32.hxg4

White needs just three moves to bring a Rook to h2 and his Queen to h3. Black must react!

32...Bd6



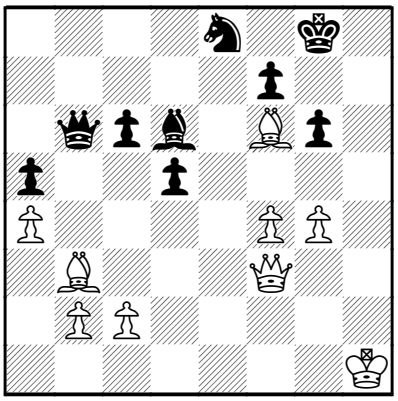
33.Bf6?

Black is out of danger, but Varun continues to search for a winning attack. I've made this error in judgment many times, and I know how difficult it is to reset one's expectations.

Black can parry 33.Re2? most convincingly with Houdini's cold-blooded 33...Bxe5 34.fxe5 Qb4 35.Qh3?! Ne6! *(stronger than 35...f6?! 36.c4 dxc4 37.Rxd8 Rxd8 38.Bc2∞)* 36.Rh2?! Qe4+ 37.Kg1 Qxe5-+.

White's last good opportunity to exert pressure was 33.c4! Bxe5 34.fxe5, when 34...Ne6! 35.cxd5 Nd4 36.Rxd4 Qxd4 37.dxc6 Rf8= saves Black.

33...Rxe1+ 34.Rxe1 Re8 35.Rxe8+ Nxe8∓



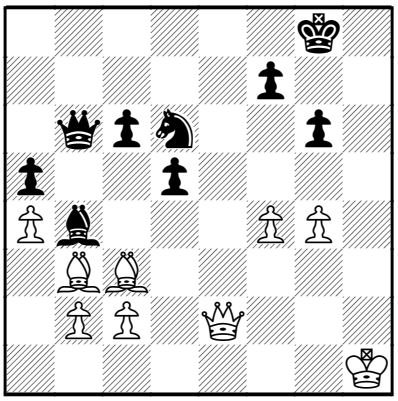
The trade of Rooks helps Black. First, White has less chance to use the e- and h-files. And second, Black can imagine a favorable endgame with Q+N vs. Q+B.

36.Bc3 Bb4! 37.Qe2

White cannot avoid the trade of Bishops by 37.Be5 f6.

However, 37.f5! is tougher. I assumed that 37...Bxc3 38.Qxc3 Qf2 would be very strong for Black, but White gets disturbing counterplay from 39.Qxc6 Qh4+ 40.Kg2 Qxg4+ 41.Kh1∓.

37...Nd6



38.Qe5?

White used four of his remaining five minutes on this aggressive but faulty decision.

During the game, I noticed that 38.Be5 Ne4 39.Kg2 f6?? would lose to 40.Qxe4, and I was searching for an improvement *(39...Bd6!∓)* when White moved. But White can improve too! He should try 39.f5! Qf2 40.Qxf2 Nxf2+ 41.Kg2 Nxg4 42.Bd4 with excellent chances to draw.

38...Bxc3 39.Qxd6

In my opinion, this is White's only chance.

Awful is 39.Qxc3?? Qf2 40.Qxc6 Ne4-+.

Houdini considers 39.bxc3?! best, although White has hardly any chance of saving the game after 39... Qd8. Look at his buried Bishop!

39...Bb4

White would welcome 39...Bxb2? 40.Bxd5⇄.

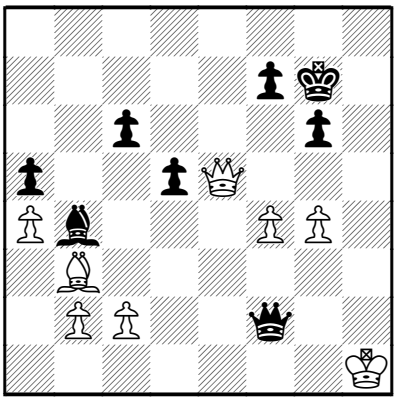
40.Qe5 Qf2

Threatening 41...Bc5. It's obvious that Black must gain a pawn, but the presence of opposite colored Bishops compels Black to play accurately to clinch the win.

41.Qe8+ Kg7

The alternative 41...Bf8 should win too. I examined 42.f5 Qh4+ 43.Kg2 Qxg4+ 44.Kh1 but didn't see 44...c5! 45.fxg6 Qh5+ 46.Kg2 Qxg6+ 47.Kf3 c4-+.

42.Qe5+



42...Kh7?!

After 11 confusing minutes of what I would loosely term "thought," I chose the "simpler" move.

I realized that after 42...f6! 43.Qc7+ Kh6, 44.f5? would lose to 44...Qf1+ 45.Kh2 Bd2.

But I couldn't make sense of 44.g5+, trying to expose Black's King to more checks. The win is there, though, with 44...Kh5! 45.Qh7+ *(or 45.gxf6 Kg4!, forcing mate. A typical finish is 46.Qh7 Qf1+ 47.Kh2 Qxf4+ 48.Kg2 Qf3+, followed by a Bishop check.)* 45...Kg4 46.Qh2 Qxh2+ 47.Kxh2 f5!-+ as Black will get connected passed pawns on the Kingside.

43.f5□ Qf3+

Now 43...Qf1+?! 44.Kh2 Bd2 lets White reach a possibly drawn ending by 45.fxg6+□ Kxg6 *(or 45...fxg6 46.Qe7+)* 46.Qf5+.

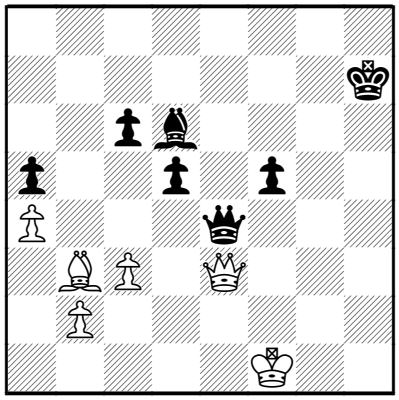
44.Kh2 Qxg4 45.fxg6+ Qxg6∓

Maybe Black can win this endgame with perfect play. I wasn't up to the task.

46.Qe3 Bd6+ 47.Kh1 Qh5+

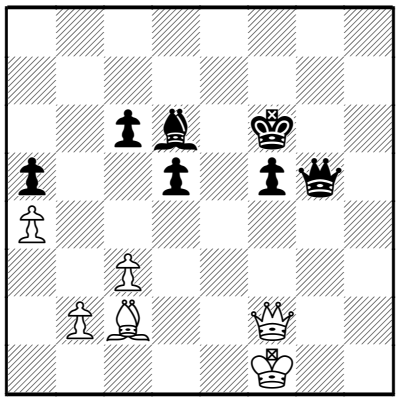
I cannot decide if 47...Qg4, keeping White's King in the corner, is more effective.

48.Kg2 Qg4+ 49.Kf1 f5 50.c3 Qe4!



I like this idea. Many Queen trades only draw, but White cannot capture on e4 because ...d5xe4 will win. And the Queen at e4 prevents Bb3-c2 while observing the light squares b1, f3, and h1.

51.Qh3+ Kg6 52.Qg2+ Kf6 53.Bc2 Qf4+ 54.Qf2 Qc1+ 55.Kg2 Qg5+ 56.Kf1



56...Bc5?

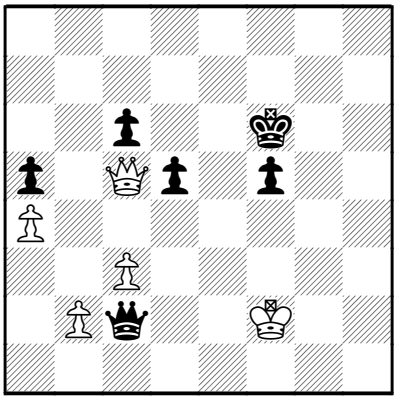
Forcing a Queen ending. I was very proud of this tactic until I discovered that White can eke out a draw.

Apparently Black should keep maneuvering with 56...Qg4 or 56...Bg3.

57.Qxc5□

If 57.Qf3?, Black safely picks up a second pawn by 57...Qc1+ 58.Bd1 Qxb2-+.

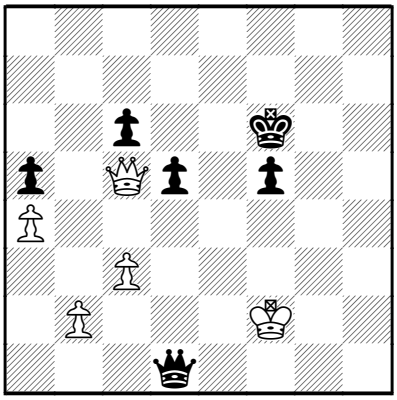
57...Qc1+ 58.Kf2 Qxc2+



59.Kf3?

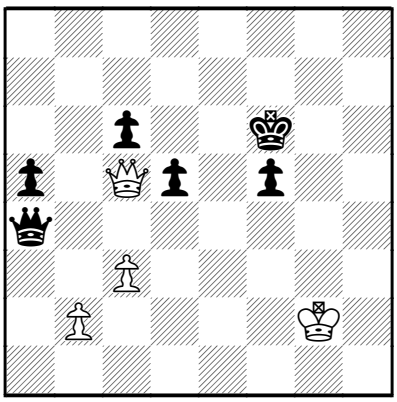
Losing. The key to White's defense is having his King at f2 or g3 when Black captures on a4. That means he should not let Black check at e4.

Thus: 59.Kg3□ Qd3+ 60.Kf2□ Qd2+ 61.Kf3□ Qd1+ 62.Kf2□



holds the draw. Note that the King at f2 prevents 62...Qxa4 63.Qd6+ Kg5 64.Qe7+ Kg4 65.Qg7+ Kf4?? because of 66.Qg3+ Ke4 67.Qe3 mate.

59...Qe4+ 60.Kf2 Qf4+! 61.Kg2 Qxa4



Now Black is winning, as he can escape checks by running to f4.

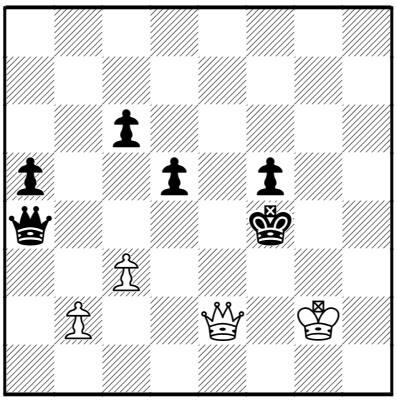
62.Qd6+ Kg5 63.Qe7+ Kg4

But not at once 63...Kf4?? 64.Qh4+.

64.Qe2+

The checks end after 64.Qg7+ Kf4 65.Qg3+ Ke4 66.Qe1+ *(or 66.Qf3+ Ke5, as in the game)* 66...Kd3 67.Qf1+ Kc2 68.Qe2+ *(White cannot stand 68.Qxf5+ Qe4+ 69.Qxe4+ dxe4 70.Kf2 Kd2-+.)* 68...Kb1-+.

64...Kf4



65.Qf3+

Inserting 65.b4 axb4 makes little difference. Black meets 66.Qf3+ Ke5 67.Qe3+ by 67...Kd6 68.Qf4+ Kc5, when 69.cxb4+ Qxb4 70.Qxf5 loses to 70...Qe4+.

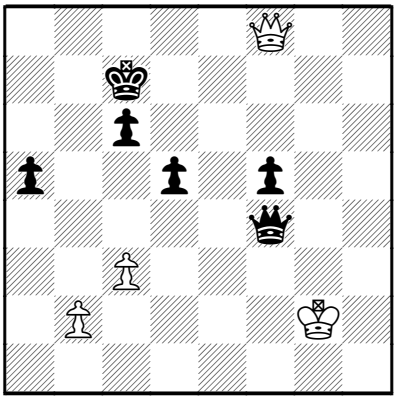
65...Ke5 66.Qg3+ Qf4

Easier is 66...f4! 67.Qg5+ Ke4.

67.Qg7+ Kd6

Avoiding 67...Ke4?? 68.Qd4 mate.

68.Qf8+ Kc7



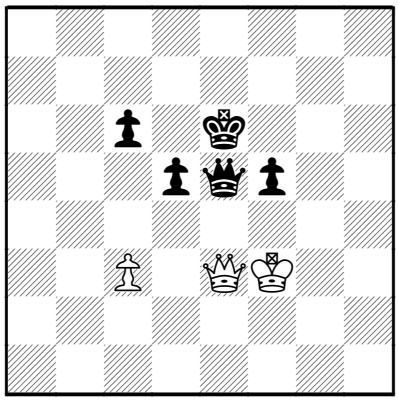
69.Qc5

Thanks to the Queen at f4, White has no check at b8 after 69.Qe7+ Kb6 70.Qd8+ Kb5.

69...Kd7 70.Qxa5 Qd2+ 71.Kf3 Qxb2 72.Qc5

I wasn't sure about 72.Kf4 Qf2+ 73.Ke5 f4, and planned to meet 72.Kf4 by 72...Ke6. Both variations should win.

72...Qh2 73.Qa7+ Ke6 74.Qe3+ Qe5



Centralization!

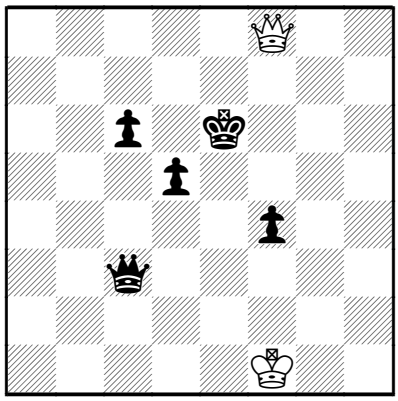
75.Qc5

If 75.Qh6+, then 75...Kd7 76.Qh7+ Kd6 77.Qh6+ Kc7 78.Qh7+ Kb6 wins.

75...Qe4+ 76.Kf2 Qf4+ 77.Kg2 Qc4 78.Qa3

There is no perpetual after 78.Qf8 Qxc3 79.Qe8+ Kd6 80.Qf8+ Kc7, and 81.Qxf5 loses routinely to 81...d4.

78...f4 79.Kf2 Qd3 80.Qf8 Qe3+ 81.Kf1 Qxc3



82.Qxf4?!

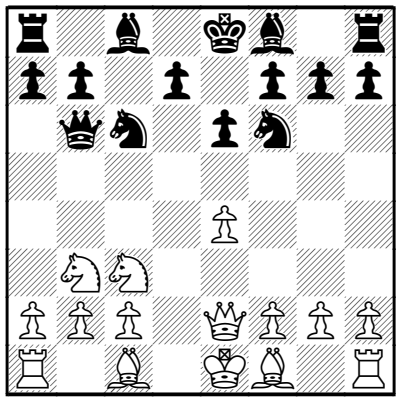
White cannot snatch the f-pawn after 82.Qc8+ Kd6 83.Qb8+ Kc5 without allowing a swap of Queens at c4. And 84.Qf8+ Kb5 85.Qb8+ Ka4 86.Qa7+ Kb3 87.Qb6+ Kc2 88.Qf2+ Kd1 89.Qe2+ Kc1 evades checks.

82...Qf6 0-1

Arthur Shen (2334) -
Jack Peters (2360)
B33 Sicilian Defense
29th Metropolitan IM (8)
Los Angeles 18.08.2013

Notes by IM Jack Peters.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Qb6 5.Nb3 Nf6 6.Nc3 e6 7.Qe2!?

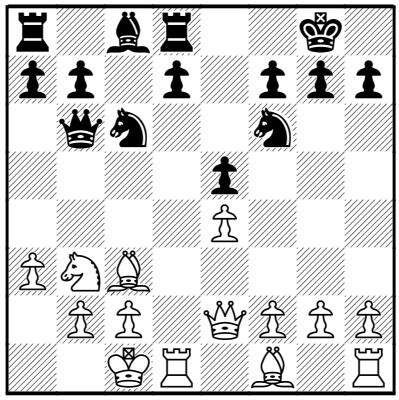


One of White's sharpest answers. My opponent expected my choice of opening and prepared this line.

7...Bb4 8.Bd2 O-O 9.a3 Bxc3

Kramnik once tried 9...Be7 10.O-O-O d6 but White launched a pawn storm with 11.g4 a6 12.g5 Nd7 13.h4 Qc7 14.f4→.

10.Bxc3 e5 11.O-O-O Rd8



Following a well-known path.

12.g4?

The critical line is 12.Rd6! Qc7 *(not 12...Ne8?? 13.Ba5+-)* 13.Rxf6 gxf6 14.Qg4+ Kh8 15.Qh4 Qd6 16.f4⩲, with plenty of compensation for the exchange.

I was tempted by 12.Rd6! Nd4??, not noticing the refutation 13.Rxd4! exd4 14.Ba5+-.

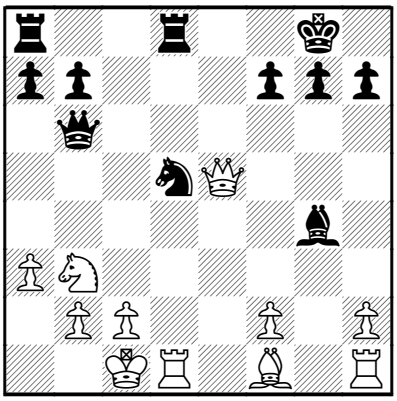
12...d5!↑ 13.exd5 Nxd5 14.Bxe5

Also unappealing is 14.Bd2 Be6∓.

14...Nxe5

I rejected 14...Bxg4 15.Qxg4 Nxe5 because of 16.Qe4, but 16...Qh6+ 17.Rd2 Nf6! 18.Qe3 *(not 18.Qxe5? Rxd2 19.Nxd2 Re8-+)* 18...Qxe3 19.fxe3 Nfg4∓ secures an edge.

15.Qxe5 Bxg4



16.Rd4?

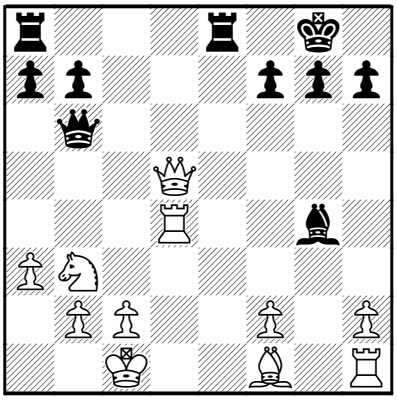
Not 16.Rxd5? Rxd5 17.Qxd5 Rd8-+.

Possibly best is 16.Be2 Re8 17.Qxd5 Rxe2 18.Rhg1 Be6 19.Qd4 Qxd4 20.Nxd4 Rxf2 21.Nxe6 fxe6 22.Rd7 Rf7 23.Rgd1∓, with good chances to draw.

16...Re8!

I felt that Black was on the verge of winning.

17.Qxd5



17...Re1+??

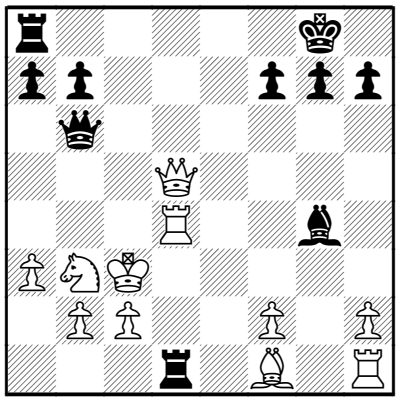
But not this way! Now White can keep a substantial advantage in material.

However, 17...Rad8!-+ justifies Black's sacrifice, as Black can refute 18.Qb5 by 18...Re1+ 19.Kd2 Rxd4+ 20.Kc3 *(worse is 20.Nxd4 Rd1+)* 20...Rdd1 *(simplest)* 21.Qxb6 axb6-+.

Nor can White stand 18.Qxd8 Rxd8 19.Rxg4, as Black picks up a piece with 19...Qe6! 20.Bh3 Qh6+ 21.Kb1 Qxh3-+.

Finally, 17...Rad8! 18.Qc4 loses to 18...Re1+ 19.Kd2 Rd1+ 20.Kc3 *(White cannot stand 20.Ke3 Qh6+ 21.f4 Re8+ 22.Kf2 Qh4+)* 20...R1xd4 21.Nxd4 Rc8-+.

18.Kd2 Rd1+ 19.Kc3□



19...Be6

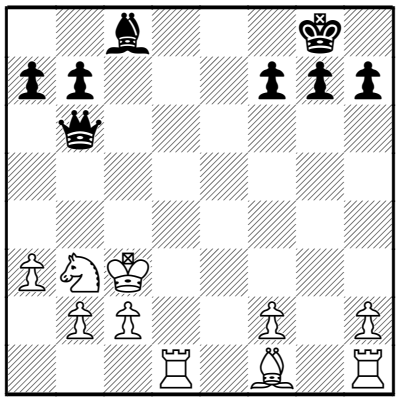
White handles 19...Rc8+ 20.Bc4 Be6 smoothly with 21.Rhxd1 Bxd5 22.Rxd5+-.

20.Qc5□

Somehow, I missed this move.

Instead, I expected 20.Rxd1?? Bxd5 21.Rxd5, when Black should win with 21...Qc6+ 22.Kd4 *(or 22.Bc4 b5!-+)* 22...Qxc2, as White must drop more material. For example, 23.Na5 permits 23...Qxb2+ 24.Kd3 Qxf2 *(intending 25...Qf3+)* 25.Be2 Re8-+.

20...Rc8 21.Qxc8+ Bxc8 22.Rxd1



White has the equivalent of an extra piece. I tried to cause trouble before his King reached shelter.

22...Bg4?

Black has no aggressive continuation after 22...Qc6+? 23.Bc4+-.

But 22...Qc7+! forces White to find 23.Kb4□ *(23.Kd2 Qf4+ 24.Kc3□ Qc7+ repeats)* 23...Qb6+ 24.Bb5 a6 25.a4 axb5 26.axb5±, when Black still has hope of saving the game.

23.Bc4?

White is too willing to return material.

With 23.Rd4! g6 *(Neither 23...Qc6+ 24.Kd2+- nor 23...h5 24.Bd3+- bothers White.)* 24.Bg2 Qf6 25.f4 *(or 25.Re1+-)* 25...Qe7 26.Nc1 Qc5+ 27.Rc4 Qa5+ 28.b4 Qxa3+ 29.Nb3+-, White has yielded only a pawn to reach a stable and easily winning position.

23...Bxd1 24.Rxd1 Qf6+

White can meet 24...Qc7 by 25.Rd5 g6 26.Nc5 Qxh2 27.Nd3 *(intending Rd5-d7)* 27...Qc7 28.Ne5+-, soon picking off Black's f-pawn.

25.Nd4

The weaker 25.Rd4?! g5± will cost White the f-pawn anyway.

25...Qxf2

Although White has a winning position, I took hope from my two earlier experiences with a Queen against a Rook and two pieces. Both of my opponents, Michael Rohde and Leonid Shamkovich, tried for checkmate and ended up losing to my passed pawns. I learned that it's very difficult for the three pieces to construct an inescapable mating net.

The proper strategy is to mix occasional mate threats with attempts to pick off pawns.

26.Nb5

Fourth best, according to Houdini.

A very "human" continuation is 26.Rd2 Qe1 27.Nf3 Qe3+ 28.Rd3 Qe8 29.Nd4+-, killing Black's counterplay and planning Rd3-f3 or Nd4-b5-d6.

Houdini prefers 26.Rd3 Qxh2 27.Rf3 Qc7 28.Rxf7 Qxc4+ 29.Kxc4 Kxf7 30.Nf5 although most players would worry about Black's passers.

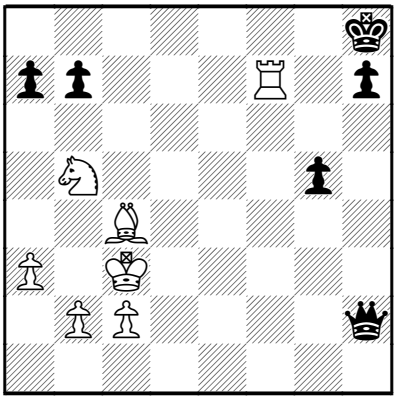
It seems reasonable to safeguard the King with 26.Kb3 h5 27.c3, but 27...Qxh2 28.Rf1 Qc7 29.Rxf7 Qxf7 seems like an inferior version of the endgame reached by 26. Rd3.

26...g5

Houdini considers 26...h5 a better try. It's true that the obvious 27.Rf1 Qxh2 28.Rxf7 Kh8 29.Nd4 g6± isn't absolutely convincing after 30.Rxb7 Qg3+ 31.Bd3 h4 32.Rxa7 h3 33.Kc4

h2 34.Be4 Qe1, although I suspect White should win.

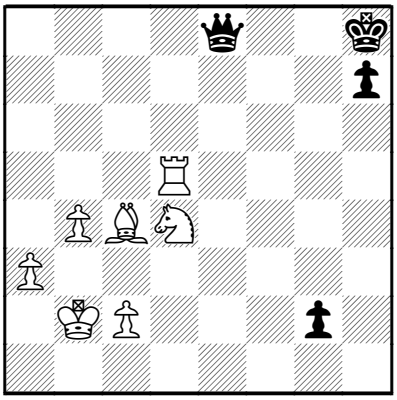
27.Rf1 Qxh2 28.Rxf7 Kh8



29.Nc7

Not bad, if White follows correctly.

Houdini suggests 29.Nd4! Qe5 30.Rxb7 g4 31.Rxa7 g3 32.b4+-, relying on the Rook's ability to catch the g-pawn by getting to g8. Probably true, but the position remains nearly incalculable. The plausible continuation 32...Qe1+ 33.Kb2 Qe4 34.Rd7□ Qe8 *(White gets what he wants from 34...g2?! 35.Rd8+ Kg7 36.Rg8+ Kf6 37.c3+-)* 35.Rd5 g2 reveals an unexpected new theme - stalemate tricks!



The possibility may arise from 36.Ne2 Qxe2 *(objectively stronger is 36...Qe4)* 37.Rd8+ Kg7 38.Rg8+?! *(the correct 38.Rd7+! Kh8 39.Bxe2 g1Q 40.Bd3 should win)* 38...Kh6 39.Bxe2 g1Q, although 40.Bc4 keeps good chances of winning.

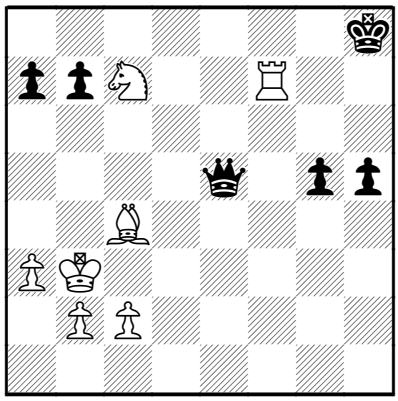
Another amusing line is 36.Nf3 Qe4 37.Rd8+ Kg7 38.Bd5 Qxf3 39.Rg8+ Kh6 40.Bxf3 g1Q, when 41.Rd8 leaves Black struggling.

29...Qe5+ 30.Kb3

Most natural.

Another method begins 30.Kd2 g4 *(White must foresee that 30...Qh2+ 31.Kc1 Qg1+ 32.Rf1+- escapes checks, and that the double attack 32...Qc5?! can be refuted by 33.Ne6.)* 31.Ne6 h5 32.Nf4 Qd4+ 33.Bd3+-. White is ready to pick off the passers, and Black cannot reciprocate with 33... Qxb2? because 34.Ng6+ Kg8 35.Rd7! *(threatening 36.Bc4 mate)* 35...b5 36.Be4! revives White's mating attack and forces Black to give up his Queen.

30...h5



31.Ka2!

My opponent thought 12 minutes on this excellent move, leaving himself only two minutes, plus the 30-second increment, to reach move 40. The powerfully-placed Queen affects White's use of d5, e8, f6, and other important squares.

White must beware of pitfalls such as 31.Nd5?? b5! 32.Nf6 bxc4+ 33.Ka2 Qf5-+.

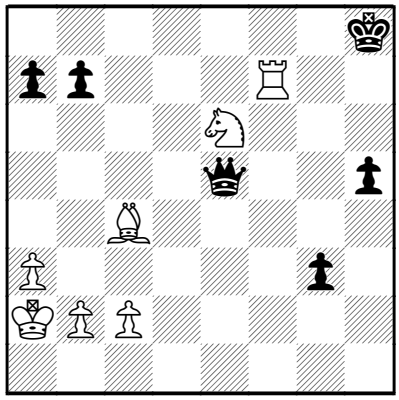
White can almost succeed with 31.Ne6? b5 32.Rf8+ Kh7 33.Bd3+ Kh6 *(Note how the Queen guards against mate at f6 or h8.)* 34.Re8 g4 35.Re7, but 35...Qd5+ 36.Kc3 Qe5+ 37.Kd2 Qh2+ leaves White's King no hiding place, and the result is a draw.

This variation hints at another effective procedure. White should prepare Nc7-e6 by 31.a4!. Apparently Black has nothing better than 31...g4 32.Ne6 g3 33.Nf4 Qe3+ 34.Ka2 Qe4 when White obtains a winning endgame by 35.Rf8+ Kg7 36.Ne6+ Qxe6□ 37.Bxe6 Kxf8 38.Bh3 Ke7 39.b4 Kd6 40.Bg2 h4 41.c4 Ke5 42.c5+-.

31...g4

Advancing the other pawn loses differently: 31...h4 32.Ne6 h3 33.Nf8! Qe4 34.Rh7+ Qxh7 35.Nxh7 Kxh7 36.Be6 h2 37.Bd5 b6 38.c4 Kg6 39.b4+-.

32.Ne6 g3



33.Nf8??

Strangely, this tempting threat of 34.Rh7 mate throws away White's win.

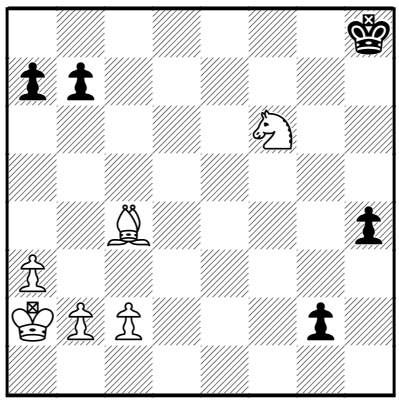
White must eliminate Black's passers by 33.Nf4! Qe4 34.Bd3 Qe8 35.Rh7+ Kg8 36.Nxh5 Qe5 37.Nxg3 Qxg3 38.Rxb7+-. If White advances his pawns carefully, he can avoid perpetual check.

33...Qe4 34.Rh7+??

Played with six seconds left.

The hidden route to a draw is 34.Rf4□ Qxc2 35.Bb3□ *(If 35...Qd3, White forces repetition by 36.Ne6 g2 37.Rf8+ Kh7 38.Rf7+ Kh6 (Black could still lose with 38...Kg6?? 39.Nf4+ Kh6 40.Nxd3 g1Q 41.Nf4+-) 39.Rf6+ Kh7 40.Rf7+, drawing.)* 35...Qd2 36.Rf7 Qh6 37.Bd5 h4 38.Rf4! Kg7 *(avoiding 38...h3?? 39.Rh4! Qxh4 40.Ng6+)* 39.Rf7+ Kh8 40.Rf4!

34...Qxh7 35.Nxh7 g2 36.Nf6 h4 0-1



GMs Ghaem-Maghami & Khachiyan, FM Van der Nat Tie in 35th Southern California Open

San Diego, August 31 - September 2, 2013

GM Ehsan Ghaem-Maghami of Iran, GM Melikset Khachiyan, and FM Nicholas Van der Nat of South Africa tied for first, scoring 5-1 in this year's Southern California Open. We would like to thank Chuck Ensey for organizing the long-standing event this year, and for his report on the tournament. -Ed.

By Chuck Ensey

For the third year in a row, the Southern California Open was held in San Diego, but at a new location this time, the Town & Country Resort Hotel in Mission Valley, just a few miles east of the previous host, the Crowne Plaza. The 35th annual event drew a paid attendance of 196 players, which was the most in a really long time (the 1999 event at the LAX Windham had 251 players). This was especially gratifying for me the organizer, as a 200-player event had been a goal for a long time. It seems that a hefty prize fund is one of the only things that will draw lots of players, as proven by Bill Goichberg.

Of course it is also important to have good player conditions and develop a good reputation for hosting player-friendly events. The "build it and they will come" approach seems to be working, so thank you to everyone for making the effort to come to San Diego and bring this long term goal within reach.

Players were very complimentary about how well-run the event was, with all rounds starting right on time, even the merged round 4, which is sometimes hard to pull off, but the very experienced TD Bruce Baker was on top of everything and all went smoothly.

The only disturbances of note were a brief fire alarm that required a fifteen-minute evacuation, and some noise during Saturday night's round 4 from an outdoor "Movie on the Green" *Wreck It Ralph!* (2012), which

Prizes for the 2013 Southern California Open

Open Section

1st - 3rd	Melikset Khachiyan 5-1	$1,733
	Ehsan Ghaem-Maghami	$1,733
	Nicholas Van der Nat	$1,733
U2300	Kevin Davidson 4½-1½	$800
	Isaac Martinez	$800
4th – 5th	Michael Brown 4½-1½	$750
	Jonathan Homidan	$750
6th – 7th	Enrico Sevillano 4-2	$100
	Alexandre Kretchetov	$100
	Edward Formanek	$100
	Dionisio Aldama	$100
	Eugene Yanayt	$100
	Shayesteh Ghader Pour	$100
	+ $25 Best Woman master tie	
	Liulia Cardona	$100
	+ $25 Best Woman master tie	
	Tony Yim	$100
	Craig Hilby	$100
U2200	Solomon Ruddell 3½-2½	$666
	Ethan Li	$666
	Joshua Sheng	$666
4th U2200		
	Marian Nick Nita 3-3	$18
	Ashok K. Ramadoss	$18
	Ala'a-addin Moussa	$18
	Agata Bykovtsev	$18
	+$17 Best Woman Expert tie	
	Mario Vinoya	$18
	Annie Wang	$18
	+$17 Best Woman Expert tie	
	Nikolay Arutyunov	$18
	John Funderburg	$18
	Jeff Turner	$18
	Nicky Korba	$18
	Ashritha Eswaran	$18
	+$17 Best Woman Expert tie	

Premier Section (U2000)

1st	Edward Collins 4½-1½	$366
	Chris Roberts	$366
	Dennis Saccuzzo	$366
	Carlos Hernandez	$366
	Joselito Quiba	$366
	Rachel Eng	$366
Next Best Woman U2000		
	Stephanie Shao 4-2	$50

Amateur Section (U1800)

1st - 2nd	Mack Kelly 5-1	$800
	Eliza Eggert	$800
3rd - 4th	Charles Berkman 4½-1½	$300
	Hector Gonzalez	$300
Next Best Woman U1800		
	Alice Salvaryan 3½-2½	$50

Reserve Section (U1600)

1st - 2nd	Justin Friedlander 5-1	$800
	David Palmer	$800
3rd - 4th	Joshua Shaham 4½-1½	$300
	Gia Peterson	$300
Next Best Woman U1600		
	Sabrina Duong 3-3	$50

Booster Section (U1400)

1st	Errol Acosta 5-1	$375
2nd	Alfredo Ong	$375
3rd	Matthew Mullen	$375
U1200	Rianne Ke	$375
4th	Anthony Liu 4-2	$25
	Alexander Shaham	$25
	Varvara Okuneva	$25
	+ $50 Next Best Woman	
U1400	Vincent Maggio	$25
2nd U1200	Aksithi Eswaran 4-2	$150
	+$50 Best Woman U1200	
Best Unr.	Dwayne Matheny 4-2	$100

The additional women's prizes for the tournament were donated by Dr. Dennis Saccuzzo, $50 to the best score in each rating category from U1200 to Master, with the provision that it go to a woman who hadn't already won $300 or more.

happened to be uncomfortably close to our ballroom. I had chosen this ballroom to get away from the various wedding parties in the larger ballrooms. Chess players are annoyed by any kind of noise which can be fairly common in many hotels.

It is actually pretty hard to get a completely quiet location in a big hotel. That's why I am even more excited about next year's event, which will be at the same hotel, but in a bigger and better ballroom that is much more isolated from the others, so I am confident there will be no noise to speak of. It wasn't available this year, but we have secured it for 2014.

I am hoping most of those who played this year will come back next year and be joined by all those who missed it, so that maybe we can even shatter the 1999 attendance record!

Fifty-two players opted for the 2-day schedule (the first 3 games were G/60) and 144 were in the 3-day, where the time control was the old classical standby of 40/2, G/1, or a 6-hour-maximum game.

Some people think these games are too long, but many players enjoy having the time to play quality endgames.

The Open section was the biggest with 63 players, including 27 players rated over 2200. There were three GMs, four IMs, five FMs and one WIM. The two top-rated players met in the final round and agreed to a quick draw, but each had also been nicked for one draw early on: GM Melikset Khachiyan had drawn with FM Eugene Yanayt in round 2 and GM Ehsan Ghaem-Maghami had drawn with NM Michael Brown in round 3.

Tying the 2 GMs with 5-1 was FM Nicholas Van der Nat, visiting from The Republic of South Africa, who "sneaked in the back door" as he put it, with two draws in round 2 and 3 and then winning three in a row against NM Marian Nick Nita, WIM Shayesteh Ghader Pour and NM Craig Hilby. The three 5-point scores by Ghaem-Maghami, Khachiyan and Van der Nat won $1,733 each, a decent pay day for three days of fun and games.

The 3rd GM in the section, Enrico Sevillano, allowed a first round draw to the young up-and-coming Ethan Li and then a critical 5th round loss to Khachiyan. This nice win captured the Best Game Prize for Melik.

The 4th-seeded player, IM Dionisio Aldama, played in the 2-day section and had a nail-biting draw with FM Alexander Kretchetov in round 3 and then a tough loss to Michael Brown in round 4.

Michael took the option of declaring irrevocable byes in the last two rounds before entering, as did Jonathan Homidan, and both of these young players tied for 4th and 5th place with 4½-1½, good for $750 each. If they had played the last two rounds, these two rising stars may have pulled off even more upsets as they both seem to be on a quite a roll.

Two other 4½-1½ scores by Kevin Davidson and Isaac Martinez split the Best U2300 prize, $800 each. Nine other players tied for 6th - 7th place, earning $100 each: Enrico Sevillano, Alexander Kretchetov, IM Edward Formanek, Dionisio Aldama, Eugene Yanayt, Shayesteh Ghader Pour, Liulia Cardona, Tony Yim and Craig Hilby.

There were three Experts who tied for the Best U2200 prizes, winning $666 each: Solomon Ruddell, Ethan Li and Joshua Sheng. The 4th place U2200 was split between 11 players! They were Marian Nick Nita, Ashok Kumar Ramadoss, Ala'a-addin Moussa, Agata Bykovtsev, Mario Vinoya, Annie Wang, Nikolay Arutyunov, John Funderburg, Jeff Turner and Nicky Korba, all with 3-3.

See the table on the previous page, or the San Diego Chess Club website, for all the prize winners.

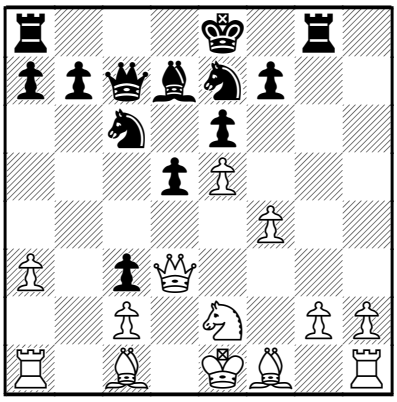
Extra prizes for women players and for junior players were donated by Dr. Dennis Saccuzzo of San Diego.

The following game won the Best Game prize. -Ed.

Melikset Khachiyan (2601) - Enrico Sevillano (2573)
[C18] Winawer French
35th Southern California Open (5)
San Diego 02.09.2013

Notes by the Editor.

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 Ne7 7.Qg4 Qc7 8.Qxg7 Rg8 9.Qxh7 cxd4 10.Ne2 Nbc6 11.f4 Bd7 12.Qd3 dxc3



This position has been played for many decades. It's still with us!

13.Rb1 O-O-O 14.h3 Nf5

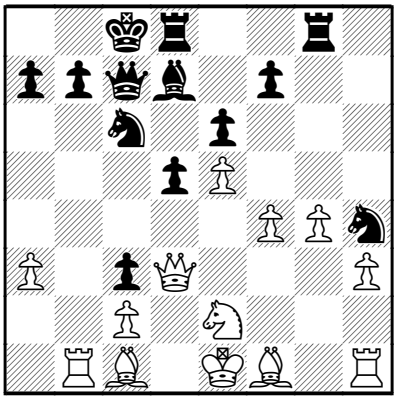
Deep Fritz 12's book goes 14...d4 15.g4 and Houdini thinks Black has several decent options, such as:

15...Be8 16.Bg2 Nd5.

15...Kb8 16.Bg2 Bc8 17.a4 b6.

15...a6 16.Bg2 Na5 17.Qxd4 Bc6 18.Qf2 Bxg2 19.Qxg2.

15.g4 Nh4

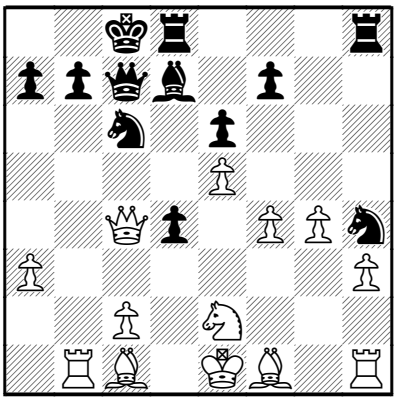


This position has been played a number of times, with White doing well in different skill levels, scoring about 75 percent.

16.Qg3N

A previous encounter between these players continued with 16.Nxc3 Na5 17.Be2 Kb8 18.O-O and ended in a draw at the Century West Open in 2010.

16...Rh8 17.Qxc3 d4 18.Qc4



18...Kb8

A computer line which develops the Queenside goes 18...a6 and White has many options:

19.Kf2 b5 20.Qd3 Na5=.

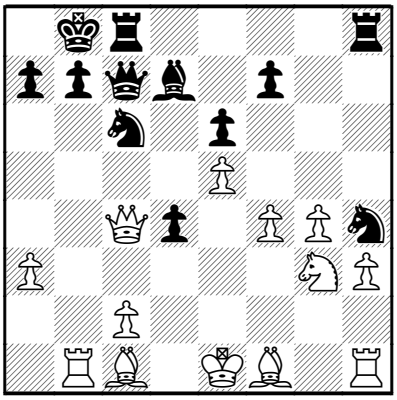
19.Qc5 Be8=.

One forcing line goes 19.a4 Na5 20.Qxc7+ Kxc7 21.Nxd4 Bxa4 22.c3 Rxd4 23.cxd4 Bc6 24.Rg1 Nf3+ 25.Kf2 Nxg1 26.Kxg1 Bd5=.

But the d-pawn is poison, since after 19.Nxd4 Nxd4 20.Qxd4 Black gets the big fork with 20...Nf3+.

19.Ng3 f6?!

Houdini prefers 19...Rc8:



And now three continuations:

20.Ne4 Qd8 21.Qd3±. If White instead goes for 21.Nd6? then Houdini likes 21...Na5 claiming a winning advantage for Black: 22.Qa6 Bc6 23.Rg1 *(or 23.Nxc8 Kxc8-+)* 23...Nf3+ 24.Kf2 Nxg1 25.Kxg1 Qh4-+.

jw

Melik Khachiyan: first prize for best game!

20.Bd3 Ka8 21.Ke2±, not 21.Kf2 Nxe5 22.Qxc7 Nxd3+ 23.cxd3 Rxc7=.

20.Kf2± Ne7 *(better than 20...Ka8 21.Ne4±)* 21.Qxc7+ Rxc7 22.Bd3±.

20.Ne4

If Black's intention was 20.exf6 e5 then 21.Ne4 is very strong.

20...fxe5

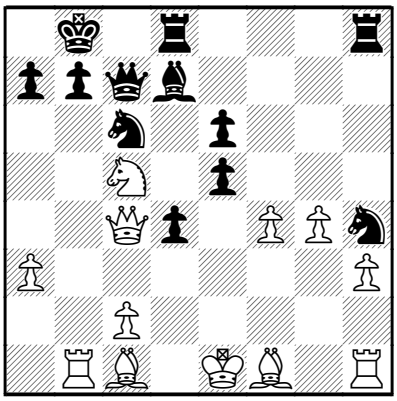
20...Ka8 steps off the b-file and the game plan of 21.Nc5 is not so strong, for Black has 21...Nxe5 22.fxe5 and now 22...Qxe5+ or even 22...Bc6 are both equal.

But after 20...Ka8, 21.Nxf6 and 21.exf6 are both strong:

21.Nxf6 Qa5+ 22.Kf2 Nxe5 23.Qxd4 Bc6 24.Qxe5 Qxe5 25.fxe5 Bxh1±.

21.exf6± e5 22.f5±.

21.Nc5!

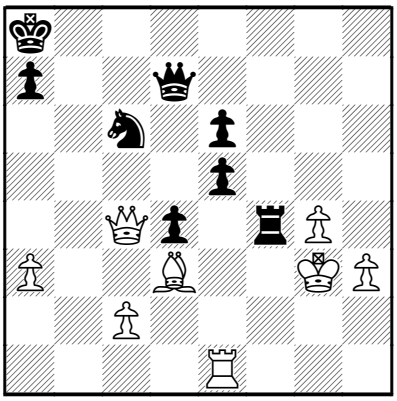


Now White takes over, threatening the big fork 22.Na6+.

21...Ka8 22.Rxb7 Qa5+

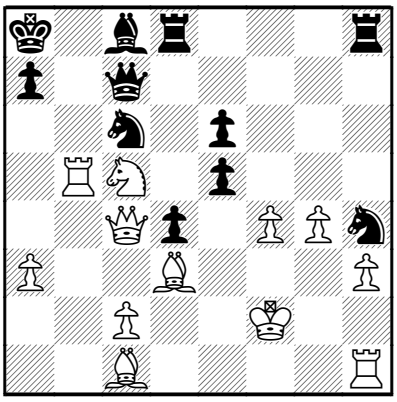
After the computer's 22...Qd6 White has the forcing 23.Rxd7 Rxd7 24.Nxd7 Qxd7 25.Bd3 Ng2+

26.Kf2 Nxf4 27.Bxf4 Rf8 28.Re1 Rxf4+ 29.Kg3+-:



Material is even, but Houdini sees White as a piece up, with the idea of trading down on c6, capturing on e5, and advancing on the Kingside.

23.Kf2 Bc8 24.Rb5 Qc7 25.Bd3

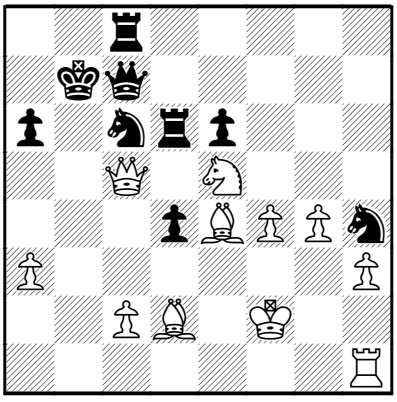


Intending 26.Be4 Rd6 *(or 26...Rd5 27.Nxe6 Bxe6 28.Rxd5+-)* 27.fxe5!+-.

25...Rd6 26.Be4 a6 27.Rb3 Ka7 28.Nd3 Bb7 29.Qc5+ Ka8 30.Nxe5 Rc8 31.Rxb7 Kxb7

If 31...Qxb7 then 32.Qxd6.

32.Bd2 1-0

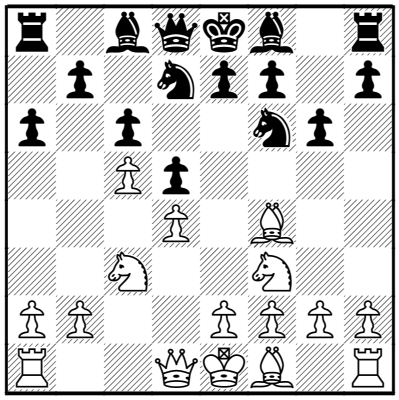


White's Rook check is coming.

The next game won second prize for the best game. -Ed.

Nikolay Arutyunov (2182) - Ethan Li (2172)
[D15] Slav Defense
Southern California Open (2)
San Diego 31.08.2013
Notes by the Editor.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 a6 5.c5 Nbd7 6.Bf4 g6



7.e3

Keeping the Bishop with 7.h3 Bg7 8.e3 O-O 9.Be2 Ne8 10.O-O Nc7 11.b4 is another line.

7...Bg7

Far more usual is 7...Nh5 8.Bd3 Bg7 and Black can get the Bishop pair when the time comes.

8.Bd3 O-O 9.O-O Nh5 10.Bg5 Re8 11.Na4 Qc7 12.Be2 h6 13.Bh4 Nhf6?!

Better are both 13...g5 14.Bg3 *(14.Ne1 gxh4 15.Bxh5 e5=)* 14...Nxg3 15.hxg3=; and 13...Rb8 14.Qc2 e5=.

14.Bg3± Qa5 15.Nd2 e5?! 16.dxe5

Better was 16.Bxe5!? Ne4 *(not 16...Nxe5 17.Nb6+-)* 17.Nxe4 *(or 17.Bxg7 Nxd2 18.Bxh6 Nxf1 19.Bxf1±)* 17...Bxe5 18.dxe5 dxe4 19.Qd4±.

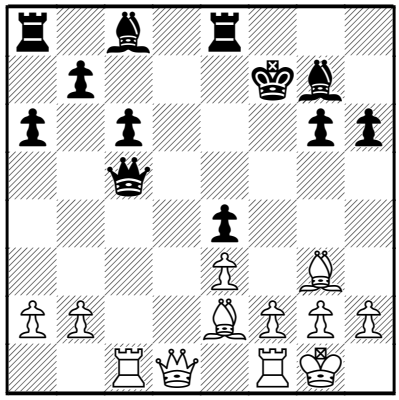
16...Ne4

The e-pawn is poisoned: 16...Nxe5?? 17.Nb6 Qxc5 *(17...Rb8 18.Nb3 Qb4 19.f3 traps the Queen.)* 18.Nxa8+-.

17.Nxe4 dxe4 18.e6! Nxc5

Better was 18...Rxe6!? 19.Qc2 Re8 20.Rad1 b5 21.cxb6 Nxb6 22.Nxb6 Qxb6 23.b3±. Black's split pawns don't look good, with the c6 pawn exposed on the open c-file, but this line is more stubborn.

19.exf7+ Kxf7 20.Nxc5 Qxc5 21.Rc1

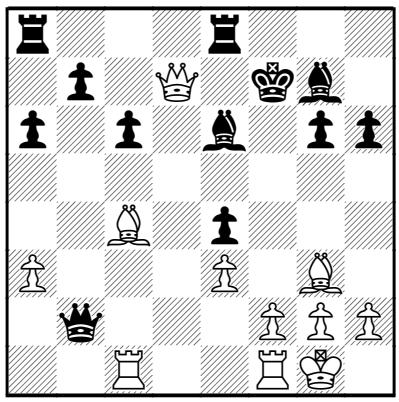


White has softened up the Black Kingside and it's ready for an attack.

21...Qb6??

The Queen cannot help in the defense from here.

Even with best play, the weakened Kingside beckons the White forces. 21...Qb4 22.a3 Qxb2 *(or 22...Qe7 23.Bd6 Qf6 24.Qb3+ Re6 25.Bg4)* 23.Bc4+ Be6 *(not 23...Kf6? 24.Rc2 Qxa3 25.Qd4+)* 24.Qd7+



White has all the answers:

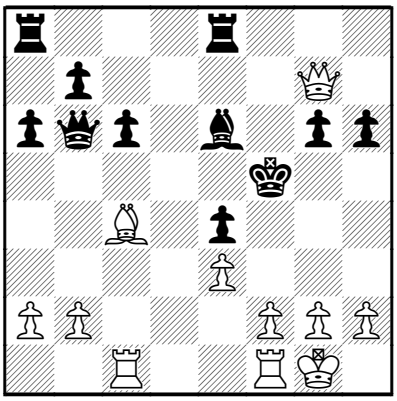
24...Kf6 25.Bxe6 *(or 25.Qc7 Bxc4 26.Rxc4 g5 27.Rb4 Qc3 28.Rxb7+-)* 25...Re7+- and not 25...Rxe6?? 26.f3! Qxc1 27.Rxc1+-.

24...Re7 25.Bxe6+ Kf6 26.Qd6 Rxe6 27.Qc7 Re7 28.Qf4+ Ke6 29.Rcd1 Bf6 30.Qxh6+-.

22.Bc4+ Be6 23.Qd7+ Kf6

Other King moves also fail: 23...Kg8 24.Bxe6+; 23...Re7 24.Bxe6+ Kf8 25.Bd6; and 23...Kf8 24.Bxe6.

24.Be5+!! Kxe5 25.Qxg7+ Kf5



More resistance, but no salvation, is 25...Kd6 26.Rfd1+ Bd5 27.Bxd5 cxd5 28.Qf6+ Re6 29.Rxd5+ Kxd5 30.Rd1+ Kc6 *(30...Kc5 31.Qc3+ Kb5 32.Rd5++-)* 31.Qxe6+ Kb5 32.Qb3+ Kc6 33.Qd5+ Kc7 34.Qe5+ Kc8 35.Qe8+ Kc7 36.Rd7+ Kc6 37.Qe6+ Kb5 38.Qb3+ Ka5 39.Qa3+ Kb5 40.Rd5+ Kc4 41.Rc5+ Qxc5 42.Qb3#.

26.g4+!

The pawns go to work on the King.

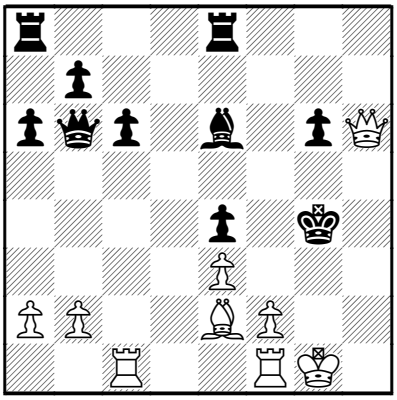
26...Kg5

If 26...Kxg4 then 27.Qxg6+.

27.h4+! Kxh4

Or 27...Kxh4 28.Qxh6+.

28.Qxh6+ Kxg4 29.Be2+ 1-0

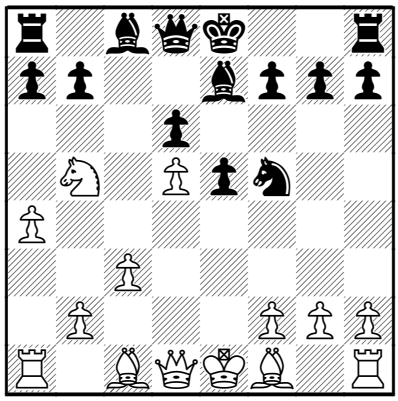


It's lights out: 29...Kf5 30.Qf4 mate.

Edward Formanek (2200) -
Enrico Sevillano (2573)
[B33] Sicilian Defense
Sveshnikov Variation
35th Southern California Open (3)
San Diego 01.09.2013

Notes by the Editor.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Nd5 Nxd5 8.exd5 Ne7 9.c3 Nf5 10.a4 Be7

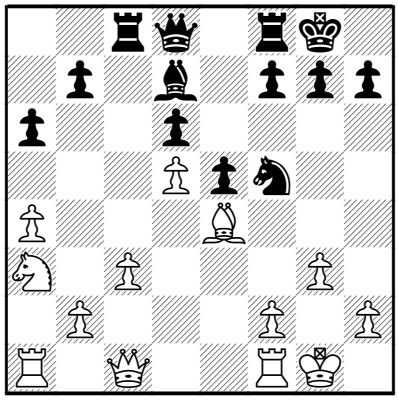


There are over one hundred games in the database, up to here.

11.g3

Unusual, but White has several good moves here. Most often seen is 11.Bd3 O-O 12.O-O=.

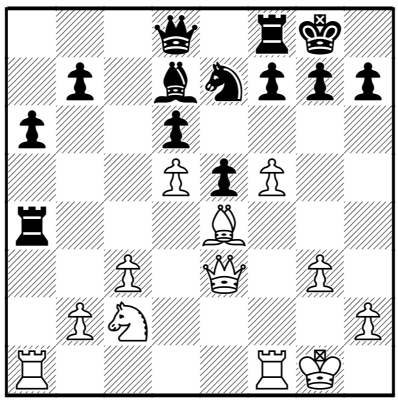
11...O-O 12.Bg2 Bg5 13.O-O Bxc1 14.Qxc1 Bd7 15.Be4 a6∓ 16.Na3 Rc8



17.Nc2

17.Qc2!? is worth looking at to try to stop Black's natural plan of ...Ne7 and ...f5. If 17...g6 then 18.Qb3.

17...Ne7 18.f4 Rc4 19.Qe3 Rxa4 20.f5?

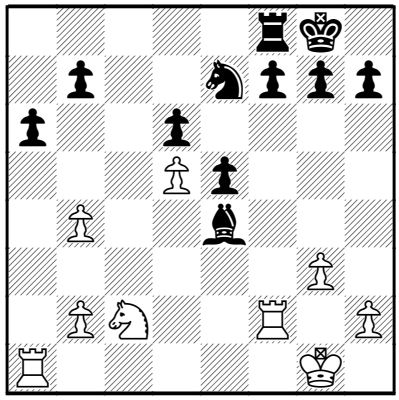


Houdini likes the line 20.fxe5 dxe5 21.d6 Nc8 22.Bxb7 Nxd6 23.Bxa6 and now 23...Rxa6 24.Rxa6 Bb5∓.

20...Rxe4

Black rejects 20...Rxa1 21.Nxa1 with a pawn up and a nice position and prefers to sacrifice the Exchange for a pawn and a mobile pawn majority,

21.Qxe4 Qb6+ 22.Rf2 Bxf5 23.Qb4 Qxb4 24.cxb4 Be4



Black has compensation for the Exchange in the form of a Kingside pawn majority and the lack of open files for White's Rooks, in addition to the two pawns.

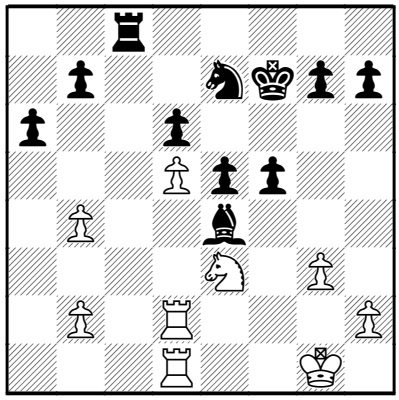
25.Ne3 Rc8

Dubious would be going for the pawn with 25...Bxd5?! 26.Nxd5 Nxd5 27.b5=.

26.Rd2 f5 27.Rad1?

More stubborn would have been 27.b3!? Rc3 28.Nc4 Nc8 29.b5 axb5 30.Ra8 bxc4 31.Rxc8+ Kf7 32.bxc4 b5 33.Rc6 bxc4∓.

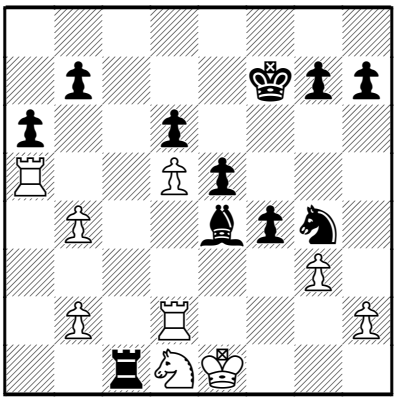
27...Kf7



Black's lone Rook has the only open file, and he can continue the Kingside offensive, too.

28.Kf2 Ng8 29.Ra1 Nf6 30.Ra5

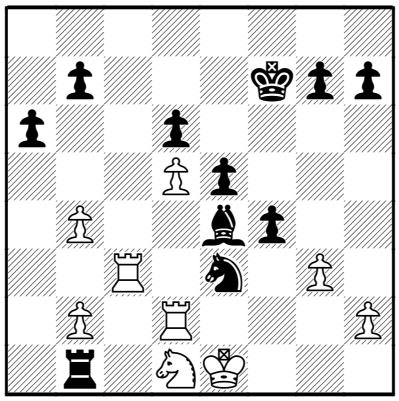
f4 31.Nd1 Ng4+ 32.Ke1 Rc1



33.Ra3?

Holding out longer would be 33.gxf4 exf4 34.Rd4 f3 35.Ra3 *(not 35.Rxe4 f2+ 36.Ke2 Rc2+! and the f-pawn promotes)* 35...Nf6∓.

33...Ne3 34.Rc3 Rb1

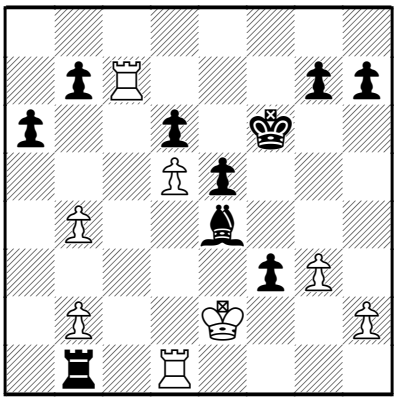


35.Rc7+

The Rook is out of play here.

But it's still lost after 35.gxf4 exf4 36.Ke2 Nxd1 37.Rxd1 Rxb2+ 38.Rd2 Rxb4 39.Rc7+ Kf6-+.

35...Kf6 36.Ke2 Nxd1 37.Rxd1 37...f3+ 0-1



White will have to give up a Rook to stop the f-pawn after 38.Kd2 (or 38.Ke1 f2+ 39.Kxf2 Rxd1-+) 38... Rxb2+ 39.Kc1 Ra2 and 40...f2-+. ♜

Solutions to Final Points

From page 47.

1.Black wins a Rook with ***48... Qxf2+!*** Chop 'em and rock 'em! If 49.Kxf2 then 49...Ng4+ recovers the Queen. ***0-1***, Casella - Yankovsky, 29th Metropolitan IM, Los Angeles 2013.

2.It's a clean mate in three starting with **26.Bf8+** Check 'em and wreck 'em! **26...Kg6** Or 26...Kg8 27.Bh6 mate. **27.Rd6+ f6 28.Rxf6 mate**.

Instead, the game continued with ***26.Be7 f6*** and White won anyway after ***27.e6 Ra7 28.Bf8+ Kg6 29.Rxb8 a3 30.Bxa3 1–0***, Hodges - Zaloznyy, Southern California Open, San Diego 2013.

3.Black opens up the third rank with ***28...Be5! 29.Bxe5*** Taking the Rook with 29.Bxb6 is answered by 29...Bh2+ with the well-known sequence 30.Kh1 Bg3+ 31.Kg1 Qh2+ 32.Kf1 Qxf2 mate. Now Black rolls 'em up with ***29...Rh6 30.Bh2 Qxh2+ 31.Kf1 Qh1+ 32.Ke2 Re6+ 33.Kd2 Rd8+ 34.Kc2 Rxe1 0–1***, Peters - Atoufi, 29th Metropolitan IM, Los Angeles 2013.

4.A deflection wins the Knight on e7, since the Queen is overworked: ***25.h4! Rxf1+ 26.Qxf1 Qd5 27.Rxe7 Qxd4+ 28.Qf2 Qa1 29.Qe1 Qxa3 30.Rxb7 Rd8 31.Kh2 a6 32.Qf2 Qb3 33.Ba2 Rd2 34.Rb8+ 1-0***, Homidan - Martinez, Southern California Open, San Diego 2013.

5.A forcing variation gets to a winning ending. **30.Nxd6! Qxd6 31.Qa8+ Rc8 32.Qxc8+! Bxc8 33.Re8+ Qf8 34.Bh7+ Kxh7 35.Rxf8 Be6 36.b3** Now White targets Black's a-pawn. **36...Kg6 37.Ra8 Kf5 38.Rxa6 Ke5 39.a4 Kd5 40.Rb6 bxa4 41.bxa4+-**.

Instead, White continued with ***30.Qa8+*** and later won anyway after ***30...Nc8 31.Qe4 Nb6??*** Necessary was 31...Qc6. ***32.Nd4 1-0***. White's threat is 33.Qh7+ Kf8 34.Rxe6. Baluran - Delgadillo, Southern California Open, San Diego 2013.

6.Black removes the Bishop's protection of the e6 escape square and traps the Knight with ***24...f5! 25.Ne5*** Now if 25.Bxf5 then 25... Bxc4 wins a piece. ***25...Rb7 0-1*** White can't save the piece, for if 26.Nxf7 then 26...Kxf7 guards e6. Casella - Peters, 29th Metropolitan IM, Los Angeles 2013.

7.White takes the material and keeps it with ***14.Bxh5*** Exchange 'em and derange 'em! ***14...Rxh5 15.Qf3*** Fork 'em and torque 'em! **15...Rh8 16.Qxa8** Take 'em and break 'em! ***16...Bb7 17.Ncb5!!*** Not 17.Qa7?? Bxg2+ winning the Queen. ***17... axb5 18.Nxb5 Qc6 19.Qxb7!*** Chop 'em and rock 'em! ***19...Ke7*** If 19... Qxb7 then 20.Nd6+. ***20.Qxc6 Nxc6 21.Rf3 Nb4 22.Bd2 1-0***. White - LeFevre, La Palma Chess Club, Return to Endor 30 Years On, La Palma 2013.

8.Only **40...Ra1+!** forces a pawn promotion: **41.Kd2** If 41.Ke2 then 41...d3+ 42.Kd2 *(or 42.cxd3 c3!)* 42...Ra2-+. **41...c3+ 42.Ke2 Rc1–+**.

Instead, the game continued with ***40...d3*** and White later won, in Yankovsky - Remlinger, 29th Metropolitan IM, Los Angeles 2013.

9.White wins only with the prosaic **39.Rxd6!**, anticipating **39...b3 40.Rd8 b2 41.Qh4 b1Q+ 42.Kh2**, when Black must give up huge material to stave off mate. Not much better is **39...Ra5 40.Qh4! Qxa7+ 41.Kh2 Qc7 42.Qf6+ Kh7 43.Rd8 e4+ 44.f4+-**. In the game, White chose ***39.Ra1?? b3***, and Black later won. Kudryavtsev - Peters, 29th Metropolitan IM, Los Angeles 2013.

United States Chess League: The Los Angeles Vibe Make The Playoffs

By Alejandro Ruiz, Jr.

The Los Angeles Vibe, Southern California's member of the United States Chess League (USCL), has qualified into the three-stage playoffs. The USCL's 2013 season lineup has four divisions: South, Northeast, Pacific and Atlantic, with each having four teams, of which two qualify for the playoffs. The weekly matches from August through October are hosted online at Chess.com Tuesdays and Wednesdays, with tournament directors present with each team. The time control is game 75 (or game 60 if the teams are three time zones apart) with a 30-second increment.

The Los Angeles Vibe, having clinched at least second place with one week to go, are in the Pacific Division along with the Arizona Scorpions, the first-place San Francisco Mechanics, and the Seattle Sluggers.

The team members are GM Melikset Khachiyan, IM Andranik Matikozyan, IM Zhanibek Amanov, IM Larry Remlinger, WGM Tatev Abrahamyan, FM Luke Harmon-Vellotti, FM Mark Duckworth, NM Madiyar Amerkeshev, NM Craig Hilby, and Nicky Korba, and is led by Manager Ankit Gupta with Tournament Director Dylan Quercia.

The first round of the playoffs pair the two top teams in each division, so the Vibe will play the Mechanics in the first round. These teams split 1-1 in previous matches this season.

The surviving two teams within each conference meet in the second round. The East Conference includes the Northeast and the Atlantic divisions, and the West includes the South and Pacific divisions. One team from the West and one from the East meet in the finals.

The team is supported by contributions from league sponsors Pokerstars (www.pokerstars.com) and Chess.com (www.chess.com), as well as team sponsor Metropolitan Chess, Inc. (www.mchessapp.com).

See the excellent web site **uschessleague.com** for more info about the rest of the league, the schedules and standings, and for each round's PGN download of games.

We continue with samples of recent games.

The first game features a Classical French with the Alekhine-Chatard Attack answered by the lesser used but well-regarded (by Houdini) 6...Nc6, with which Morozevich has won. An unplayed opposite sides castling position is quickly reached; it's wild!

The second game demonstrates an interesting way to defend your Kingside.

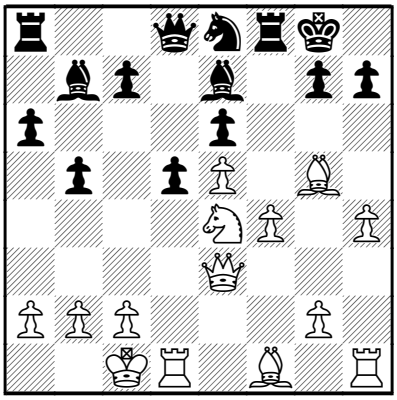
The third game features some tricky tactics, ultimately ending in a draw.

Melikset Khachiyan - LA
Jesse Kraai - SF
[C14] French Defense
USCL 23.10.2013

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Be7 5.e5 Nfd7 6.h4 Nc6 7.Qd2 0–0N 8.0–0–0 a6 9.f4 b5 10.Nf3 f6 11.exf6 Nxf6 12.Ne5 Bb7 13.Qe3 Nxe5

Maybe 13...Qe8 is better. See White's 15th.

14.dxe5 Ne8± 15.Ne4!

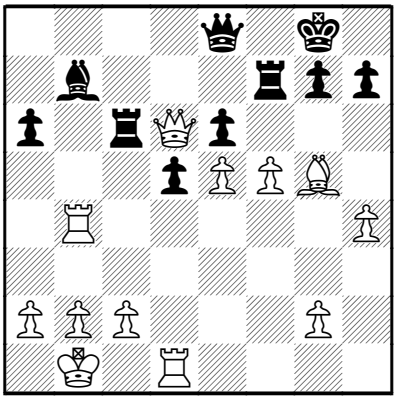


Possibly overlooked. White inhibits the natural ...c7-c5.

15...c5 16.Nxc5 Bxc5 17.Qxc5 Qa5 18.Rh3 Rc8

Black is probably lost already, for after 18...h6 19.Bxh6 gxh6 White still has the strong 20.Qe7.

19.Qe7 Nc7 20.Kb1 Rf7 21.Qd6 b4 22.Rb3 Nb5 23.Bxb5 Qxb5 24.Rxb4 Qe8 25.f5 Rc6



26.fxe6 Qxe6

If 26...Rxd6 27.exf7+ Qxf7 28.exd6, White has two Rooks for the Queen, and two pawns, too.

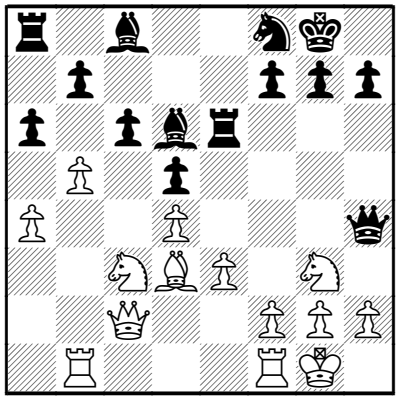
27.Qxe6 Rxe6+- 28.Bf4 h6 29.g3 g5 30.hxg5 hxg5 31.Bxg5 Rxe5 32.Bf4 Re2 33.b3 Kg7 34.Rb6 Rd7 35.Rd4 Re4 36.Kb2 Rxd4 37.Be5+ Kf7 38.Bxd4 Re7 39.g4 Bc8 40.Rf6+ Ke8 41.g5 Re6 42.Rf5 Rd6 43.Rf2 Bg4 44.Kc3 Bh5 45.Be5 Rc6+ 46.Kd4 Bf7 47.Rh2 Kd7 48.Rh7 Ke6 49.Rh6+ Kd7 50.c3 Re6 51.Rh7 Ke7 52.Bf6+ Kf8 53.Rh8+ Bg8 54.Be5 a5 55.Rh6 Kf7 56.Kxd5 Rxh6 57.gxh6 Kg6+ 58.Kc5 a4 59.bxa4 Kxh6 60.a5 Bh7 61.a6 Be4 62.Kd6 1-0

Luke Harmon-Velotti - LA
Georgi Orlov - SEA
[D36] Queen's Gambit Declined
USCL 17.10.2013

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Bg5 Nbd7 6.e3 c6 7.Bd3 Be7 8.Nge2 0–0 9.0–0 Re8

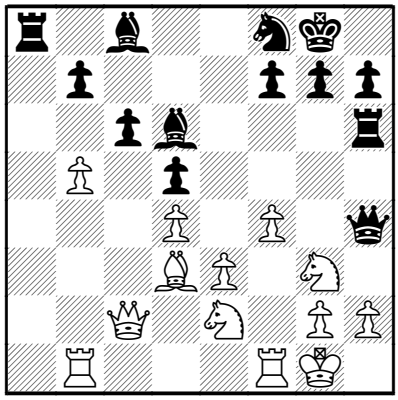
A typical Exchange Variation position. We will soon see White's minority attack.

10.Qc2 Nf8 11.Bxf6 Bxf6 12.b4 a6 13.a4 Be7 14.Rab1 Bd6 15.b5 Qh4 16.Ng3 Re6



White is doing the well known minority attack on the Queenside; how does he defend the Kingside?

17.Nce2 Rh6 18.f4 axb5 19.axb5



Is this a defense?

19...Qxh2+ 20.Kf2 Bh3 21.Rg1 g5??

Not 21...Bd7 22.Rh1, but the best Black has now is still losing: 21...Be7 22.Kf3 Ng6 23.Bxg6 Rxg6 24.gxh3 Qxh3 25.Qf5!+-.

22.Nf1

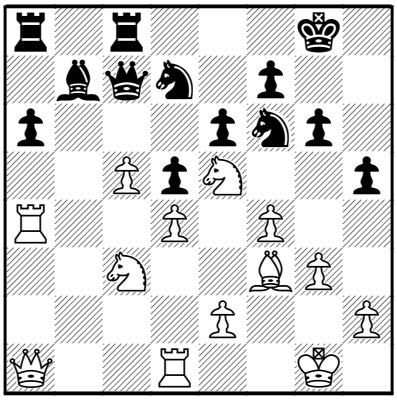
The Queen is trapped!

22...Qxg1+ 23.Kxg1 Bd7 24.bxc6 bxc6 25.fxg5 Rh5 26.Neg3 Rxg5 27.Nf5 Bxf5 28.Bxf5 Ra6 29.Bc8 Ra5 30.Qxc6 Ra2 31.Bh3 Be7 32.Nh2 Re2 33.Nf3 Rg6 34.Qxd5 Rxe3 35.Ne5 Rg7 36.Rf1 Ng6 37.Nxf7 Rxh3 38.Nh6+ Kh8 39.Qa8+ 1-0

It's going to be mate.

Amanda Mateer - AZ
Madiyar Amerkeshev - LA
[E16] Bogo-Indian Defense
USCL 25.09.2013

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Bb4+ 4.Bd2 c5 5.Bxb4 cxb4 6.g3 b6 7.Bg2 Bb7 8.0–0 0–0 9.a3 Qe7 10.axb4 Qxb4 11.b3 d5 12.Ne5 Nbd7 13.Ra4 Qe7 14.Nc3 a6 15.Qa1 Rfc8 16.Rd1 Qd6 17.f4 h5 18.Bf3 g6 19.b4 Qc7 20.c5 bxc5 21.bxc5



21...Nxc5! 22.Nxd5

A desperado!

Not 22.dxc5 Qxc5+ 23.Kh1 Qxc3.

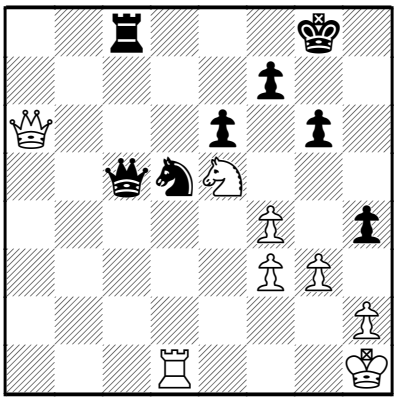
22...Bxd5 23.dxc5 Qxc5+ 24.Kh1 Bxf3+?!

Better was 24...Qf2∓.

25.exf3

White threatens Nxg6!=.

25...Nd5 26.Rxa6 Rxa6 27.Qxa6 h4



28.Nxg6 h3

Not 28...fxg6 29.Qxe6+ Kg7 30.Qxd5 Qxd5 31.Rxd5 h3 32.Rd1=; If 28...hxg3 then 29.Rxd5! Qc1+ *(not 29...exd5?? 30.Qxc8++-)* 30.Kg2 Rc2+ 31.Kh3 gxh2 32.Ne7+ with a perpetual.

29.Nh4 Ne3 30.Re1 Qc2 31.Qa5 Nf5 32.Rg1

More promising is 32...Qd3!?

32...Qf2 33.Qe1! Qxe1 34.Rxe1 Nxh4 35.gxh4 Kg7 36.Rg1+ Kh6 37.Rg3 Rc1+ 38.Rg1 Rc4 39.Rg3 Rc1+ ½–½

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.

La Palma

National master Craig Faber won the **La Palma Chess Club's *Big Dogs & Porch Dogs*** Swiss with a score of 4½-½. Tied for second place at 3½-1½ was George Shahin and Robert Hutchinson. The 36-player event held at La Palma's Central Park ended July 20. In the second section, Joseph Warhula won clear first place by a full point with a score of 4½-½. Tied for second place at 3½-1½ was newcomer Siswo Segoro, Christopher Zalecki and Eric Lu. Brandon Xia won the biggest rating gain prize for a gain of 101 rating points, and George Shahin's win over Chris Barnett won the best game prize as judged by IM Jack Peters.

With an undefeated score of 5½-½, national master Craig Faber won the club's 5-round Star Wars themed tournament: ***Return to Endor, 30 Years On***. In a 5-way tie for second place, a full point behind Faber, were Sid Somasundaram, Bob Hutchinson, Joe Warhula, Eren Karadayi and Mark Jackson.

The 34-player event, held at La Palma's Central Park ended August 30. Neil Bellinger won the Luke Skywalker Award for the biggest rating gain of 47 points, a 1984 performance, and his son Joe Bellinger won the best game prize for a crisp win over newcomer Faustino Briones. Brandon Xia won the Pit of Carkoon prize (most gruesome win) for his triumph over Justin Hsu. Lastly, Mark Jackson won a Jabba the Hutt prize for his smothered mate of Joe Bellinger.

La Palma Chess Club's 7-round ***Indian Summer Classic*** ended in a 3-way tie with Craig Faber, Luke Cheng, and newcomer Wan Kim all scoring 5½-1½. Faber and Cheng drew in the final round and finished undefeated. Kim bounced back from a first round loss to finish in the money. The 36-player event held at La Palma's Central Park ended October 18th. Other prizewinners were newcomer Daniel Pascoe, best U1800; Richard Henri, best U1600; and newcomer Cindy Zhang, best U1400. Peter Holzer won the Biggest Scalp prize for his 397-point round one upset of top seed Wan Kim. And Chris Keefe won the Shortest Game prize for his 7-move win in round five.

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

- Chris Roberts

Lancaster

Forty-four children and sixteen community volunteers participated in the Second Annual ***UNITE Chess Mini-Game© Tournament***. The event, held Saturday, September 21 at Mariposa Elementary School in Lancaster, included six tournaments. The participants, most of whom who were new to chess, learned how a chess piece moved and then learned a Chess Mini-Game© which uses that piece, and the group played in tournaments as at the Palmdale event.

After the six tournaments, Commissioner Stan Muhammad of the City of Lancaster's Neighborhood Vitalization Commission presented each of the 16 volunteers with Appreciation Certificates. He also handed out a Participation Certificate to each child, ages 3 to 14, and then presented the trophies to the 14 winners.

The **AV Chess House's** non-profit arm, **Say Yes to Chess**, facilitated the event. Daa Anne Mahowald organized and ran the event. Her spouse, Matt Mahowald, and their twenty-two year old daughter, Morgan, were the other chess teachers for the event.

A wide variety of research has established that the learning and playing of chess improves the pattern recognition skills necessary for both reading and math ability. Consequently, although the 44 children participating in this chess event were simply focused on having fun, their brains became better at learning reading and math!

In addition, each family received a free tournament-standard chess set at the end of the event. Thus, they will be able to continue to improve their reading and math skills as they engage in the fun Chess Mini-Games© they learned during the event.

The Fourth Annual ***Antelope Valley Holiday Chess Party*** is Saturday, December 28th! Chess players and their families are invited to drop in for an hour or ten, anytime between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m.! There'll be a variety of activities, including X-box games, air hockey, board and card games, and, of course, lots of chess. Juice and snacks will be available. The party will be at the AV Chess House, 3710 Neola Way (nearest intersection 40th & West Avenue J in Lancaster).

- Daa Mahowald

Palmdale

Sixty-four children and thirty-two community volunteers participated in the ***Chess Mini-Game© Tournament*** held on National Chess Day, Saturday, October 12. The event, held at Palmdale Learning Plaza, featured

dm

Tournament winners at the Chess Makes a Difference *Day.*

six tournaments, one for each of the six different kinds of chess pieces. Before each tournament got underway, the chess piece was introduced and a Chess Mini-Game© was presented which uses that piece. Then the children and volunteers went out and played that Chess Mini-Game© against each other.

This process was repeated for each of the six chess pieces. Afterwards, an Awards Ceremony featuring Participation Certificates and trophies was held. Then each participating family received a free tournament-standard chess set. The sets were provided through a grant from the Pollination Project **http://thepollinationproject.org/2013/08/13/daamahowald-say-yes-to-chess/**.

The Chess Mini-Game© event, which featured a Parent & Tot section sponsored by Best Start – Palmdale, was sponsored by the **AV Chess House** and its non-profit arm, **Say Yes to Chess**. The event Organizer was Daa (pronounced day) Anne Mahowald and the Facilitators were Matt and Daa Mahowald and their 22-year-old daughter Morgan.

Over 50 people competed in or volunteered at the ***1st Annual "Chess Makes a Difference" Day*** Chess Spectacular. There were three sections to the tournament. The Beginner Section, comprised of both adults and children, was facilitated by Daa Mahowald. The Adults Only Section was facilitated by Matt Mahowald. The Main Event, comprised of ages 3-63, was facilitated by Matt and Daa's daughter Morgan Mahowald.

The AV Chess House and its non-profit arm, Say Yes to Chess, organized and ran this chess tournament in conjunction with National "Make a Difference" Day October 26. They intend for it to grow into a major annual event where hundreds of Antelope Valleyans participate.

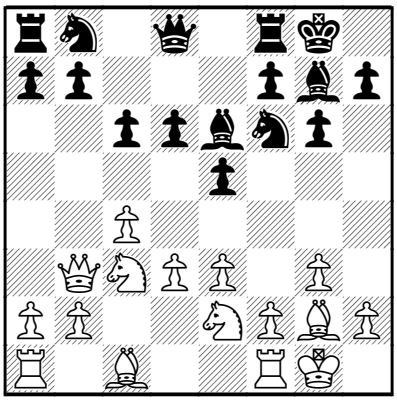
- Daa Mahowald

Pasadena

The **Pasadena Chess Club's** longest event of the year, the ***Liberty Open***, drew 67 players. Eleven-year-old Annie Wang ended alone on top with 6½-½, a half-point ahead of Axel Muller. Class prizes went to Gregg Fritchle, John Hale, and Ron Jabali (U2100); Gordon Brooks and David Baran (U2000); Arturo Armagnac, Hamlet Tovmasyan, Edward Wu, and George Shan (U1800); Cory Chen and Felix Gao (U1600); Gahan Sudhir (U1400); Danny Soong (U1200); and Luis Mejia (Unrated). Victor Yen had the most cumulative upset points.

Here is one of Annie's wins, in which she takes advantage of a decisive mistake.

Fei Yue Yang (2205) -
Annie Wang (2058)
Liberty Open (4)
Pasadena Chess Club 02.08.2013
Notes by WFM Annie Wang.
1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 O-O 5.e3 d6 6.Nge2 e5 7.O-O c6 8.d3 Be6 9.Qb3



This wasn't the best move, as the Queen looks a bit awkward on b3 after 9...Qc7.

9...Qc7 10.Bd2 Nbd7 11.Rfc1 Nc5 12.Qc2 Qe7

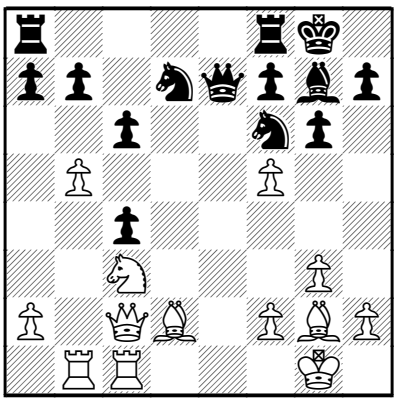
Better was 12...a5 to prevent any attacks on the Queenside: 13.b3 Rfe8 14.Rab1 Qd7 15.e4 Rab8=.

13.b4 Ncd7 14.Rab1 d5?

This allows White to start attacking on the Queenside with b5.

Better was 14...a6 15.a4 Rac8 16.a5 d5 17.c5 h5=.

15.b5 dxc4 16.d4 Bf5 17.e4 exd4 18.exf5 dxc3 19.Nxc3



19...Qc5

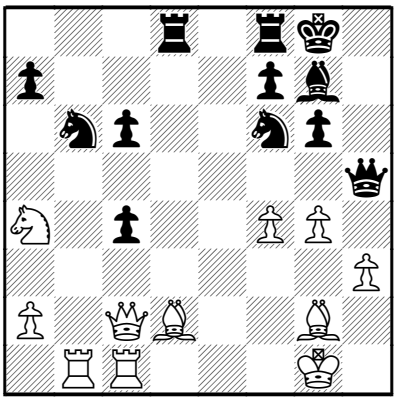
Incorrect; after this, White gets a big advantage.

I should've gone 19...Nc5 to bring the Knight to d3: 20.bxc6 bxc6 21.Bxc6 Rad8 22.Bb5 Nd3 23.Rf1 Ne5=.

20.fxg6 hxg6 21.Na4 Qh5 22.bxc6 bxc6 23.f4? Rad8

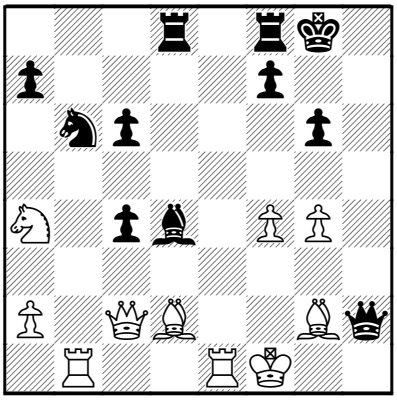
Best is the forcing continuation 23...Ng4! 24.h4 Bd4+ 25.Kh1 *(not 25.Kf1? Nh2+ 26.Ke1 Rae8+ winning)* 25...Nf2+ 26.Kg1 Nd3+ 27.Kf1 Nxc1 28.Rxc1 Rae8-+.

24.h3 Nb6 25.g4??



This was a dreadful oversight by my opponent.

25...Nxg4 26.hxg4 Bd4+ 27.Kf1 Qh2 28.Re1



28...Qg1+

A faster win is 28...Rfe8 29.Rxe8+ Rxe8 30.Be3 Bxe3 and now 31.Ke1 *(or 31.Qf2 Bxf2-+)* 31...Qg1+ and now:

a) 32.Bf1 Bd2+ 33.Kxd2 *(33.Kd1 Re1+ 34.Kxd2 Qe3#)* 33...Qe3+ 34.Kd1 Qe1 mate.

b) 32.Ke2 Qxg2+ 33.Ke1 *(or 33.Kd1 Qf1#)* 33...Bd2+ 34.Kd1 Re1 mate.

29.Ke2 Qxg2+ 30.Kd1 Nxa4 0-1

The ***San Gabriel Valley Championship***, with 74 participants, saw Annie Wang again on top in Section One, tied with Axel Muller, Michael Cooper, and Randy Hough at 4-1. Robbie Queiro was best U2000, and Shan, Wu, and Alice Salvaryan split U1800 honors. Section Two was won by club veteran Neil Hultgren, ahead of Jerry Harrison. Luis Mejia and Marshall Laws tied for U1600; Danny Soong Jr. and Gabriela Yu split U1400 laurels; Eric Shan was top U1200; and Wolfgang Black was best Unrated.

The club's holiday tournament, ***A Rose for Your Queen***, takes place December 6-20 in four sections. The club meets Fridays at 7 p.m. at the Boys and Girls Club, 3230 East Del Mar. The club website, **tim-thompson.com/pasadena.html**, has further information, including a catalogue of the hundreds of books in the club's lending library.

For questions, contact Randy Hough at **RandallHough@yahoo.com**, (626) 282-7412.

- Randall Hough

Lawndale

Fifth-ranked Adam Roth wasn't even the top-(or second-) rated A in **Alondra Park's *End of Summer Tournament***. Nevertheless, after a first round bye, he knocked off all his opposition to finish with 5½-½, a full point ahead of the rest of the field. Tied for second and third with 4½-1½ were Adam's father Ted Roth, and Howard Lefevre. Next with 4-2 were George Newell, Nathan Shankaran and Ed Engelhaupt. Nathan and Ed shared top B.

Michael Cooper won the ***November Tournament*** with a perfect 6-0 score. Dave Martin had a 294-point upset of Michael Bynum the final round to finish a surprise second (and top B) with 4½-1½. Dave started the tournament ranked No. 11. Richard Meller was top A with 4-2. Twenty-eight players participated. Richard Meller and Matt Robertson directed both tournaments.

ap

Michael Cooper: perfect!

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 **RichardMeller@yahoo.com**.

The club's website is **AlondraParkChessClub.com**.

- Al Peña

San Diego

In July and August the 6-round ***Nikolay Arutyunov Open*** attracted 48 players in four sections, plus a few arranged matches. Kyron Griffith scored 5-1 to win the Open section, followed by Bud Stamper and Alejandrino Baluran with 4-2. In the Premier Section (U2000), Bruce Charnov scored 5-1 to edge out Gurveer Singh with 4½-1½ and Pejman Sagart with 4-2. The Amateur Section (U1800) was captured by Hector Gonzalez with 5-1, ahead of Eliza Eggert and Mark Lawless with 4-2. The Reserves (U1600) had a first place tie between Robert Henderson and Irina Nizmutdinova with 4½-1½ each, followed by Tygan Zeng (Best U1400) with 4. In the Matches, Joel Batchelor prevailed over Robert Draper and Shaun Sweitzer topped Fred De Leon.

In August and September, 44 players fought it out in the two-section ***Peter Hodges Precision Shootout***. Time control (suggested by Peter) was 30/90, SD/60, d/5. Peter won his namesake event scoring 5-1, followed by Jim Humphrey with 4-2 and then George Zeigler and Alejandrino Baluran with 3½-2½. David Saponara with 4-2 was Best U2000, trailed by Tom Fries and William Wijaya.

In the Reserve (U1800) Section, a resurgent Damani Fair won 5-1, trailed by Steve Perry and Datris Robinson with 4½-1½. Irina Nizmutdinova continued her triumphant comeback with 4-2 to win Best U1600. She had taken a year and a half off to tend to her newborn son Rustam, who is already learning to set up a chessboard, according to her photos on Facebook. Robert Henderson and Ken Green were second U1600 and Maria Murra was Best U1400 followed by Jim Harrell.

In Gambito Open action, the ***July Super Gambito Open*** #617 was won by Cyrus Lakdawala with a perfect 4-0, besting three other masters and seven Experts. Peter Graves was second with 3-1. Elkaei Rivera took Best U2400 with 2½-1½, followed by Jason Ma and Leonard Sussman who won Best U2200 with 2-2.

In the Premier Section (U2000), Luis Uribe was also 4-0, trailed by Jay Choi and Rolando Ignacio with 3-1 apiece. The Reserve Section (1600) was won by Justin Kang with 3½-½, David Palmer was second with 3-1. Super Gambito Opens usually have only two sections, but in the summer attendance is higher and allows us to sometimes break it into 3 sections. In fact, from June 1 to August 24 we had eight weeks in a row with over 30 players, and averaged over 34! We have been attracting more junior players, who love the one-day, 4-game format (G/40, d/5) with a chance to boost their rating quickly, plus they gain valuable experience competing against their peers.

The Gambito Open is up to #626 now and has over 105 players who have won money in 2013, with over $21,000 in prizes, all from a modest $20 entry fee every Saturday, or $25 for the monthly Super Gambito on the first Saturday of the month ($700 in guaranteed prizes, and we often pay more).

The ***San Diego County Championships*** drew 65 players in three sections, which was impressive for an event with only a $3,500 prize fund, based on 70 players. The club paid out the full prize fund despite being a few players short.

IM Dionisio Aldama won the $500 first prize with a perfect 5-0 score. Michael Nagaran took second with 3½-1½, Nikolay Arutyunov was Best U2400 and Alfredo Hernandez won Best U2300, both with 3-2. Five players scored 2½-2½ to tie for Best U2200: Peter Hodges, Karl Tolentino, Ben Barquin, Alejandrino Baluran, Leonard Sussman and Raoul Crisologo.

In the Reserve Section (U2000), Joseph Rice won $300 first prize with 4½-½, while Alex Costello took second with 4-1. William Wijaya also scored 4-1 and won Best U1900. Carlos Hernandez and Kevin Yang tied for Best U1800/2nd U1900 with 3½-1½. Mark Anderson claimed the $200 Best U1700 prize with 3-2, and Datris Robinson won 2nd U1800 and Eliza Eggert was 2nd U1700.

In the Booster Section (U1600), the young and talented Sabrina Duong was undefeated, and with a 3rd round bye, took first with 4½-½. Steven Dahl was second with 4-1 and Errol Acosta was Best U1500, also with 4-1. Fred Cleveland took 2nd U1500 with 3½-1½ while Joshua Chung and Victor Delgadillo tied for Best U1400 with 3-2 each, along with Sreekanth Vutthuri who was Best Unrated. Jim Woodward took some great pictures of the event which can be found on the San Diego website at **https://sites.google.com/site/SanDiegoChessClub**.

- Chuck Ensey

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At Morro Bay, Eduardo Ortiz and Daniel Blike review their game.

San Luis Obispo County

Beautiful Morro Bay was the location for the annual ***San Luis Obispo County Championship*** on October 19, which attracted 25 players.

The Open section was swept by master Eduardo Ortiz scoring 4-0. Eduardo graciously reviewed all games with opponents afterwards. Allan Karman was alone in second place with 3-1 while Michael Gilbert and local player Taylor McCreary tied for third with 2½-1½. McCreary won the county champion trophy as the top county resident. Another local, Daniel Blike won the top U1800 prize.

The Reserve section saw a tie for first between locals Isaac Ruddell and Morgan Sherman 3½-½. The top U1200 was won by Judith Gottlieb in her first adult tournament. The unrated prize went to a very happy John Raj.

- Michael McCreary

Santa Monica

The 12-player ***July Swiss*** was led by Dmitry Cherkasky with a perfect score of 4-0. Tied for second and third were Simon Kogan and Simone Sobel, both with 3-1. Jack O'Donnell and Stephan Bosch shared the U1800 first and second prizes with 2½-1½.

The annual ($5 EF) G/5 ***Beach Blitz Round-Robin*** took place at the Chess Park by the Santa Monica Pier August 4. Topping the grueling event with field of 17 players was Darin Stoytchev at 13½-2½. Dean Arvidson took second with 13-3, and

Untila Stela (though she doesn't play tournament chess) got third with 12-4.

The 12-player ***August Swiss*** was won by Simone Sobel with a score of 3½-½. Sharing the combined U1800 and U1600 prizes were George Witcomb and eight-year-old Gabriel Eidelman with 2-2 each.

Again, Simone Sobel topped the 14-player ***September Swiss*** field with a score of 3½-½. Stephan Bosch got the U1800 Prize with 2½-1½. Hakan Yadeli won the U1600 Prize with 2-2.

The 4-round ***November Swiss*** will be held Monday evenings from November 4 to 25. EF: $10 with Club membership ($60 to new members, which includes 2014). Registration is at 7 p.m., rounds start at 7:10 p.m., with time control G/1:55, d5. Half-point byes are available in rounds 1 and 2.

The ***December Quads***: On Monday evenings from December 2 to 16, the Club will hold a 3-round Quad Tournament. EF: $10 with Club membership ($60 to new members, which includes 2014). Registration is at 7 p.m., rounds start at 7:10 p.m., time control G/1:55, d5. Half-point byes available in rounds 1 and 2.

The Club is located in the St. Andrew's Church Library at 11555 National Blvd. West Los Angeles, at the corner of Federal and Barry Ave. at National Blvd. (Ample parking in the church lot) Contact: TD Pete Savino (310) 827-2789, **smbchess@yahoo.com**. Web site: **https://sites.google.com/site/SantaMonicaBayChessClub**.

- Pete Savino

Solutions to Inside Moves

From page 2.

1.Black forces mate with ***28...Nf5 0-1***. If 29.gxf5 then 29...Qh4 mate. Yankovsky - Kudryavtsev, 29th Metropolitan IM, Los Angeles 2013.

2.Black wins a piece by taking advantage of the pin on the long diagonal. ***13...b5 14.f4*** If 14.Be2 then Black continues with 14...b4 and the Knight is lost. ***14...Bxc3 15.Bxf7+ Rxf7 16.Qxc3 c5 17.Bb2 Nd5 18.Qe5 Nxe3 19.Rfc1 Qxe5 20.Bxe5 c4 21.Kf2 Nd5 22.bxc4 Nxf4 23.Ke3 Nxg2+ 24.Kd4 bxc4 0–1***. Walls - Lee, 18th Pacific Coast Open, Agoura Hills 2013.

3.A backward maneuver does it: ***27.Be2*** threatening 28.Bh5+ Kf8 29.Qf6+ with a mate. ***27...Be8*** If 27... Bd8 then 28.Bh5+ Kf8 29.Qh6+ Ke7 30.Qg7+ Kd6 31.Qxh8+-. ***28.Bh5+ Kf8 29.Qf6+ Kg8 30.Qxe6+ Kf8 31.Qf6+ Kg8 32.Qg5+ Kf8 33.Qh6+ Kg8 34.Qe6+ Kf8 35.Re1 Bxh2+ 36.Kxh2 Qc7+ 37.Rg3 Bg6 38.Qf6+ Kg8 39.Re7 1–0***. Bryant - Chiang, 18th Pacific Coast Open, Agoura Hills 2013.

4.White wins the Knight with ***55.d4+! Kxd4*** If 55...Ke6 then White trades down to a winning King and Pawn ending with 56.Nc8 Rd7 57.Rxd6+ Rxd6 58.Nxd6 Kxd6 59.b5 h5 60.b6 Kc6 61.Ke7. ***56.Rxd6+*** and White won in Bekkedahl - Cordona, 18th Pacific Coast Open, Agoura Hills 2013

5.White maneuvers the King without losing the Bishop to a Knight fork. **53.Be6!** The only safe square. **53... h4** Now the White King can move. **54.Kc4 h3** Not 54...Ne3+ 55.Kd3 Ng4 56.Bxg4=. **55.Kd3!** Black can't move the Knight. **55...Ke5 56.Bc8 h2 57.Bb7** with a draw.

Instead, the game ended with ***53.Bb7 h4*** Black's potential Knight fork keeps the White King from helping now. ***54.Ba8 h3 55.Kc4 Ke3 56.Kc3 Nh4 57.Bh1 Ng2 0–1***. Anderson - Korba, 18th Pacific Coast Open, Agoura Hills 2013.

6.The White King is not going anywhere, so Black can load up with ***29...Ref8 30.Nc1*** This allows Black to complete the plan, but if 30.gxh6 then 30...Be5! *(not 30... Nh2?? 31.hxg7+ Kxg7 32.Rg5+ Kh7 33.Rxg3)* 31.dxe5 *(If 31.Rxb7 then 31...Nh2, and 31.Ra5 is answered by 31...Kh7!)* 31...Nh2–+. ***30...Nh2! 0-1***. Now the only way to stop mate is 31.Nxf2, but Black is up a Queen after 31...gxf2+ 32.Kxh2 fxe1Q. Creger - Lin, 18th Pacific Coast Open U2100, Agoura Hills 2013.

7.Black's most accurate move is ***28... Rd2!*** which threatens 29...Qc5+ or 29...Qf3 with a quick mate. ***29.Rbe1*** The best defense is still bad: 29.Rf1 Qb2 30.Bh3 Qc2 and Black wins the Rook on e4 with a pin. ***29...Qb2 30.Bh3 Rxh2 31.Qf5 Qf2 mate***. Amerkeshev - Kudryavtsev, 29th Metropolitan IM, Los Angeles 2013.

8.White played ***26.Rxg7!*** and Black can't regain the material. Also sufficient was 26.Qd7! Nf5 *(or 26...Nc6 27.Nf6!)* 27.Nf6! Ra8 28.Ng4! and Black loses either the Bishop, the Queen, or the Knight. ***26...Nf5*** If 26...Qxg7 then 27.Bd4 and if 26...Qxd6 then 27.Nxd6 Kxg7 28.Nxe8+ and White keeps the piece. ***27.Qg6 Qxg7*** Or 27...Nxg7 28.Nf6+-. ***28.Qxe8+ Kh7 29.Qd7 1-0***. If 29...Qxd7 then 30.Nf6+ and if 29...Ne7 then 30.Bd4. Casella - Atoufi, 29th Metropolitan IM Los Angeles 2013.

9.For the sacrificed piece, White is able to get to the Black position with ***19.Qg3+! Ng6*** If 19...Kh8 then 20.Rxf7 threatening mate on g6, and if 20...Ng6 then 21.Nf6 wins the Queen due to the mate threat on h7. ***20.Rxf7+! Kg8*** 20... Kxf7 drops the Queen with 21.e6+ and after 21...Kg7 22.Qxc7 Nd5 23.Qg3 Bxe6 24.Bxc4 White wins the Q+P v R+N ending. ***21.Bh5!*** Not 21.Nf6+? Kxf7 22.e6+ Kxf6 23.Qxc7 Nd5 when Black has enough material for the Queen. ***21...Bg4*** Better is 21...Kxf7 but then 22.Bxg6+ hxg6 23.e6+ wins the Queen as before. ***22.Bxg4 Qd8 23.Be6 Bh4 24.Rd7+ Rxe6 25.Rxd8+ Rxd8 26.Qg4 Ree8 27.Bg5 Bxg5 28.Qxg5 Rf8 29.Nf6+ Kh8 30.Rf1 Rxd4 31.Qh6 Rh4 32.Nh5 Rg8 33.Rf7 1–0***. Yang - Panjwani, 28th Metropolitan GM, Los Angeles 2013.

Upcoming Events in Southern California

***** Please see uschess.org for the latest info and complete TLA for each event. *****
See also adult TLAs at
scchess.com/calendar.html
and Scholastic TLAs at
scchess.com/calendar_kids.html

November 28 - December 1 or November 29 - Dec. 1
49th Annual American Open
An American Classic!
A Heritage Event!
Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!
Trophies Plus Grand Prix Points: 120 (Enhanced)

8SS, 40/2, SD/1 d5. Doubletree Hotel Anaheim/Orange County, 100 City Dr., Orange, CA 92868. $$50,000 b/o 500 entries, $25,000 guaranteed. In 6 sections. Open: $5000-2400-1000-300-150, U2450/Unr. $1000-300-150, U2300/Unr. $600-180-150. U2200, U2000, U1800 Each $4000-2000-1000-300-150. U1600 $3000-1500-700-300-150. U1400/Unr: $2500-1000-500-200-150, U1200 $1400-400-150 (not a separate section; U1200s also eligible for U1400 prizes), Unrated: $500-200 (Unrateds in this section eligible for these prizes only). Plus score bonus ($2,000 in chess store gift cards) every player who finishes with 4-1/2 points or better who didn't place in the money prize wins a $20 gift certificate towards chess store - redeemable only onsite. Double Team (Mixed Doubles) Bonus Prizes: top combined score of two members, male and female teammates awarded three prizes: $400-200-100. Average rating of the team must be below 2200; teammates may play in different sections; teams must be formed at registration by at least one of the members; teammate pairings is possible. EF: $200 by Nov. 28th, register by 10/16 save $50, register by 11/06 save $40, register by 11/20 save $20, U1400 save additional $10. $50 more for players rated under 2000 playing in Open, U1600 & U1400 save $10. No checks at door - cash only, credit card accepted for a $10 fee. SCCF membership $18 required for So Cal residents. 4-day schedule: Reg. closes 11am on 11/28, (Rounds 12:30-7:30, 12:30-7:30, 10:30-5, 10-4:30). 3-day schedule: Reg. closes 9:30am on 11/29, Rounds. 11-2:30-5-8pm (G/60 d5), schedules merge in Rd. 5 and compete for common prizes. Two byes max with advance notice. CCA minimum ratings and TD discretion used to protect you from improperly rated players. November Rating Supplement used. Lectures and videos. LOW room rates! Five minutes away from Disneyland Theme Park. HR: Mention SCC for $95 single or double, rates may go up after. Call Doubletree (714) 634-4500. Don't be shut out; surrounding hotels in the area may be as high as $199/night; make your reservations early and be sure to ask for the special SCC rates; Doubletree sells out most weekends. Cutoff for special hotel rate/offer is Oct 31st. RESERVE NOW! Credit card or one night room deposit will be required to hold reservation, may be canceled 72 hours in advance without penalty. Parking cost $10. Info: organizing club - Chess Palace 714-899-3421, play@americanopen.org. Ent: American Open, 5246 Lampson Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92845 or www.AmericanOpen.org. NS. W. F.

November 30
American Open Blitz (BLZ)

5 round double Swiss, G/5 d0. Doubletree Hotel Anaheim/Orange County. 100 City Dr., Orange, CA 92868. Projected prizes $1000, 80% Guaranteed! $300-100; U2200, U2000, U1800, U1600, U1400, Unr. each $100. EF: $35 by Nov. 20th. $40 after. Registration ends 9 pm. Rounds 9:30 pm -10-10:30-11-11:30. Info: 714-899-3421, play@americanopen.org. Ent: American Open, 5246 Lampson Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92845 or http://americanopen.org/main-tournament/side-event.

November 30 - December 1 or December 1
American Open Scholastic
Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

Doubletree Anaheim/Orange County, 100 City Dr., Orange, CA 92868. (714) 634-4500. Hotel rate is $95. Chess Computer for each 1st place winner per section. Trophies to top 10 places and top 3 in teams, in each section. Finalist medals to all above-average scorers. 9 Sections based on grade and rating: Varsity K-3, K-6, K-9, K-12; Junior Varsity K-1, K-3 rated U600, K-6 rated U800, K-9 rated U1000, K-12 rated U1200. Pre-Registration only (onsite reg. pay more and receive 1st round bye): Rds.: Saturday & Sunday 9am, 12:15, 3:15 for Varsity sections; and Sunday 9am, 10:45, 12:15, 1:45, 3:15 for Junior Varsity sections. Time Controls: All rounds will be G/75 d5 in Varsity and G/30 d5 in Junior Varsity sections. EF Varsity $80, Junior Varsity $60, register by 11/20 save $5,

by 11/06 save $10, by 10/16 save $20, by 9/16 save $30. Play-up +$5. Limited space for onsite registration with a fee of +$30! USCF Membership required for all sections. November Supplement & TD discretion to place players accurately. National Tournament Director: Randall Hough. Info: http://americanopen.org/junior-tournament. Inquire: play@americanopen.org. Chess Magnet School JGP for Varsity Sections.

December 1
American Open Action

5 round SS, G/30 d5. Doubletree Hotel Anaheim/Orange County. 100 City Dr., Orange, CA 92868. Projected prizes $500, 80% Guaranteed! EF: $25 by Nov. 20th. $30 after. Registration 10:30-11. Rounds 12-1:15-3-4:15-5:30. Info: 714-899-3421, play@americanopen.org. Ent: American Open, 5246 Lampson Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92845 or http://americanopen.org/main-tournament/side-event.

December 8
2013 L.A. Holiday Scholastic Chess Championships
$1250 in Best Buy Gift Card Prizes in the K-12 Open!

Site: Maple Park Community Center, 820 East Maple Street Glendale, CA. 91205

Prizes/Trophies: Trophies for Top Ten in all sections. (K-12 Open- Top Ten get Trophies + Best Buy Gift Card!)

Five Sections: Unrated, K-4 Under 600, K-6 Under 900,K-8 Under 1200 & K-12 Open. Reg: 9am-9:45am. Rds: 10am-11:15-12:30pm-1:45pm-3pm. EF: K-12 Open ($35) if received by 12/4, $50 door. All other sections ($25) if received by 12/4, $40 at the door. Advanced Entries: www.westvalleychessclub.com

Info: (818) 640-5974 or artmik@charter.net. Mail Entries: American Chess Academy, 411 N. Jackson St. Apt# 101, Glendale, CA 91206. Lunch: Pizza, Drinks and Chips for sale during event!

December 14-15
2013 Bronstein Memorial
Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!
Trophies Plus Grand Prix Points: 6

6SS, G/61 d5. 11514 Santa Monica Blvd., LA 90025, 2nd fl. 2 sections: Open/U1800 EF: $70 at the door ($65 if notified by 12/13); $60 LACC members ($55 if notified by 12/13); Siblings 1/2, $30 new LACC members, Free new LACC Life members! Reg.: Sat 10-11:30 am. Rds.: 12, 2, 4 pm each day. Byes: Up to three 1/2-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 $400-200-100 U2000: $125. U1800: $200-100; U1600: $100–50-$25; U1400: $100-50; U1200/unrated: $50. Ent: LACC, Box 251774, LA, CA 90025. Info: Mick Bighamian: (310) 795-5710; Mick@LAChessClub.com or www.LAChessClub.com. Parking: Free in basement.

December 26-30, 26-29 or 27-29 NEVADA
23rd Annual North American Open
An American Classic!
Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!
Trophies Plus Grand Prix Points: 200 (Enhanced)

Bally's Casino Resort, 3645 Las Vegas Blvd. S, Las Vegas, NV 89103. Prizes $120,000 based on 600 paid entries; $90,000 minimum (75% each prize) guaranteed.

January 1
11th Year Anniversary on NYD
Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!
Trophies Plus Grand Prix Points: 20

(Sponsor: Ugo Felizzola; CEO Laissez Faire Investment). 4SS, G/61 d5. 11514 Santa Monica Blvd., LA 90025, 2nd fl. 2 sections: Open & U1800; EF: $75 ($70 if notified by 12/31); $65 LACC members ($60 if notified by 12/31). Siblings 1/2; Free for new/renewing LACC members and new Life members (best deal of the year!). Reg.: 10-11 am. Rds.: 11, 1, 3, 5 pm. Byes: Up to two 1/2 pt. byes available. Prizes: $$ 2,000 Guaranteed!!). 1st-4th: $500-250-150-100 U2000: $100. U1800: $150-100-50; U1600: $150–100-50; U1400: $100-50-25. Free gifts to all players & 3 raffle prizes. Ent: LACC, Box 251774, LA, 90025. Info: Mick Bighamian: Cell (310) 795-5710; Mick@LAChessClub.com or www.LAChessClub.com. Parking: Free street & BoA Parking or building basement.

February 9
Palm Springs Chess Festival: Youth (under 18)

5SS, G/30 d5. Palm Springs Pavilion, CA 92262. Trophies: Players w/plus score, medals to others. 5 sects b/ age: 4-7, 8-9, 10-11, 12-13, 14-18. Sched: Reg. 9-9:45, Rds: 10-11:20-1-2:20-3:40. EF: $25, after 1/31 +10, after 2/7 +20. Info: BayAreaChess.com/palms. NS. NC. W.

February 9
Palm Springs Chess Festival: Adults (18+)

5SS, G/30 d5. Palm Springs Pavilion, CA 92262. Sects of 16 players each based on age/rating. Choice of cash or trophy prize sections. Cash Prize b/16 player sect (EF $40): $200-100-60. Trophy Prize (EF $35): Players w/plus score. Sched: Reg. 9-9:45, Rds.: 10-11:20-1-2:20-3:40. EF after 1/31 +10, after 2/7 +20. Info: BayAreaChess.com/palms. NS. NC. W.

February 15-17 or 16-17
3rd Annual Recession Buster Open
Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!
Trophies Plus Grand Prix Points: 150 (Enhanced)

6-SS, 40/90, SD/60 d10 (2-day schedule rds 1 thru 3 are G/60 d5). Marriott San Diego Airport/Liberty Station, 2592 Lanning Rd., San Diego, CA 92106. $$20,000 Guaranteed prize fund. In 6 Sections: Open, U2200, U2000, U1800, U1600, U1400. Prizes: Open Sec: 1st

$2,400-1,600-1,200-900-600-500-400, BU2300 $1,000-600, U2200, U2000, U1800, U1600 Sections, all $1,000-600-400-200 U1400 Section: $600-400-200-100, BU1200 $300-150, Best Unr $100. Plus Best Game Prizes: $75-50-25, one reserved for non-open sections. Reg.: 3-day: 8 - 9:30 AM, Feb official rating list is used. 2-day: 8-8:30 AM Sunday. Rds.: 3-day: 10 AM & 4 PM all 3 days. 2-day: 9:00 AM, 11:15, 1:30 PM & 4 PM (merged) on Sunday, then 10 AM & 4 PM on Monday. EF: $90 if received by 1/15/14 (Early Bird Special), or $100 between 1/16/14 and 2/10/14, $120 after 2/10 and $140 late registration at door on 2/15. No credit cards at door, checks or cash only. Special rate of only $75 if U1400 or unrated, $90 after 2/10 or $100 at door. Special rate for GMs and IMs: $20 if registered by 2/10, or $60 late entry at door. Re-entry from 3-day to 2-day: $75, for players rated U2300 only. Open section will be FIDE rated except for the 3 fast games in the 2 day. Unrated prize limits: U1600 $100, U1800 $200, U2200/2000 $300, place prizes only in the Open Section. Players who forfeit any round are also ineligible for prizes. SCCF membership req'd ($18 Adult, $13 Jr, or $3 for Jr w/o mag) for all So Cal residents. Two byes allowed, but must be requested at least one hour before round, and round 5 & 6 byes must be requested before rd 2 and are irrevocable. Ent: SDCC, PO Box 120162, San Diego, CA 92112 or enter online at www.scchess.com. For more info call Bruce Baker at (619) 239-7166, or email Chuck Ensey at chucnglo@aol.com. Hotel Rates: Special rate of only $119 (with free parking!) if booked by 1/15/14, book early as rates may go up and rooms will definitely sell out, this is a small hotel, only 200 rooms, so it is critical to book this great hotel EARLY. Also separate one day Scholastic event on 2/15/14, $15 EF, 5 rounds G/30 d5, starts at 10 AM, register 9 AM to 9:50.

February 27-28
Top 100 USCF List Scholastic Invitational
Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

(Limited to first 60 Players) 5-RR, G/75 d5 (top 2 sections 3-RR, G/120 d5) Hanley Chess Academy, 2091 Business Center Dr. Suite 120, Irvine, CA. 92612. Open to players on a USCF Top 100 list (February 2014). Players will be divided into sections by rating – top 2 sections are 4 players quads and the rest are 6 players hexes. RDS.: Hexes Thurs: 10-1:30-4:30, Fri: 10-1, Quads Thurs: 10am-5pm Fri: 10am. EF: $45 by 2/26, $25 less if also playing in the National Chess Congress. PRIZES: Chess merchandise valued at $100 1st, $75 2nd in each Hex or Quad from vendor at Congress. ENT: www.hanleychessacademy.com. INFO: Joe Hanley, 714- 925-3195 or hanleychessacademy@gmail.com.

February 28 - March 2
2014 U.S. Junior Chess Congress
Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

5-SS, G/90 d5 (5-DSS G/45 d5 for 6 & under, 8 & under - 2 games each round for a total of 10 games: not JGP). Orange County Great Park, 6990 Marine Way, Irvine, CA. 92612 and Irvine Spectrum Doubletree Hotel, 90 Pacifica, Irvine, CA 92618, 949-471-8888, $95/night, (When booking, please mention "Chess Congress"). 7 SECTIONS (by age): 6 & under, 8 & under, 10 & under, 12 & under, 14 & under, 16 & under, 20 & under. TROPHIES: Top 10 individuals and Top 5 clubs in each section. EF: $55 by 1/20, $65 by 2/ 20, $75 after. RDS.: Sat: 10-2-6, Sun: 9-1. ENT: www.hanleychessacademy.com (flyer available for download). SIDE EVENTS: 1. Top 100 USCF List Scholastic Invitational, 2/27-28, (This event at Hanley Chess Academy; all other side events at Orange County Great Park). 2. Chess Camp 2/28 9-noon (Under 1000 and 1000 & Above); Chief instructor - NM Joe Hanley. $30 by 2/20, $40 after. 3. Bughouse (12 & under, 20 & under) 2/28 noon, trophies to top 3 teams each section. $20/team by 2/20, $25 after. 4. Blitz (12 & under, 20 & under) 2/28 5-9pm, trophies to top 4 in each section. $10 by 2/21, $15 after. INFO: Joe Hanley, 714-925-3195 or hanleychessacademy@gmail.com or Dewain Barber, 714-998-5508 or amchesseq@aol.com. Orange County John Wayne Airport (SNA) 15 minutes from site. Free shuttle to and from Irvine Spectrum Doubletree Hotel. Advanced Entries, Pairings, Standings and all information at www.hanleychessacademy.com. NS. NC. W.

March 7-9 or 8-9
21st Annual Western Class Championships
Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!
Trophies Plus Grand Prix Points: 100 (Enhanced)

Sheraton Agoura Hills Hotel, 30100 Agoura Rd., Agoura Hills, CA 91301. $$20,000 based on 230 paid entries, minimum $16,000 (80% each prize) guaranteed. In 7 sections.

Mixed doubles bonus prizes: best male/female 2-player "team" combined score among all sections: $600-400-200.

Top 6 sections EF: $115 online at chessaction.com by 3/5, $120 phoned to 406-896-2038 by 3/5, 3-day $118, 2-day $117 mailed by 2/26, $130 online until 2 hours before game or at site. All: Special 1 yr USCF dues with magazine if paid with entry: Online at chessaction.com. Adult $30, Young Adult $20, Scholastic $15. Mailed, phoned or paid at site, Adult $40, Young Adult $30, Scholastic $20.

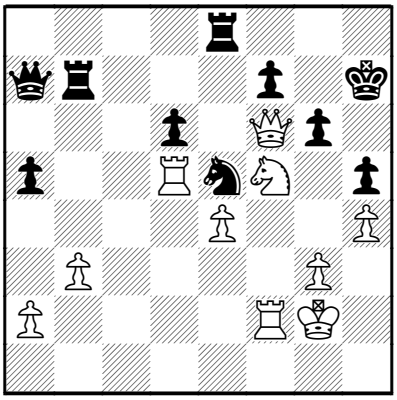
HR: $97-97, 818-707-1220, reserve by 2/21 or rate may increase. Car rental: Avis, 800-331-1600, use AWD #D657633. Questions: chesstour.com, 347-201-2269, Director@Chess.US.

Ent: chessaction.com or Continental Chess, PO Box 8482, Pelham, NY 10803. $15 service charge for refunds. Advance entries posted at chessaction.com (online entries posted instantly).

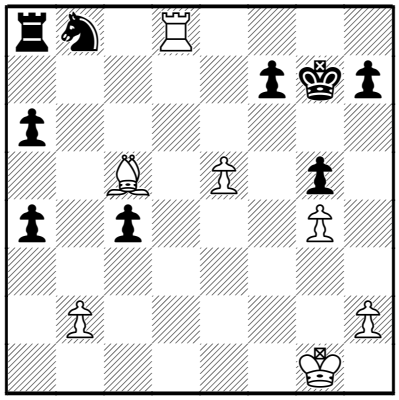
Advertising Rates: Full page $80, ½-page $45, ¼-page $25, 1/8 page $15, back cover (¾-page) $80. Email PDF and original word files, hi-res photos, and graphics etc. Flyer insert $50 (advertiser supplies flyers). 50% discount for events requiring SCCF membership.
Payment should be sent to the Treasurer at P.O. Box 205, Monterey Park CA 91754.
Ads should be emailed to the Editor, and flyers sent to the Publisher (addresses on p. 3).
SCCF reserves the right to reject any advertising.

Final Points

We hope you have enjoyed this issue. There are three months until the next one, so here is another quiz, with positions from recent games in Southern California. Keep submitting your scoresheets! If you like, just use your iPhone to take a photo and email it to RankAndFileEditor@gmail.com. See page 36 for solutions. - Ed.



1. Black to Play



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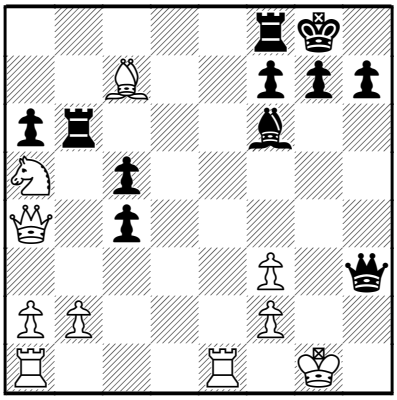

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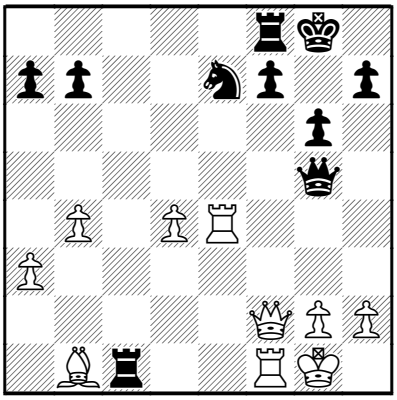

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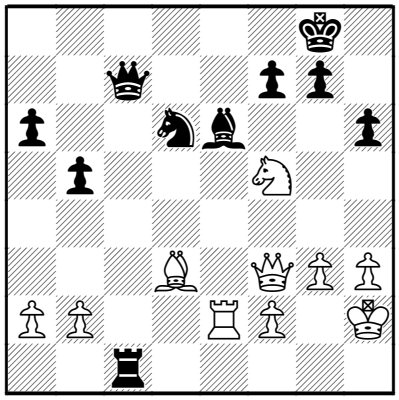

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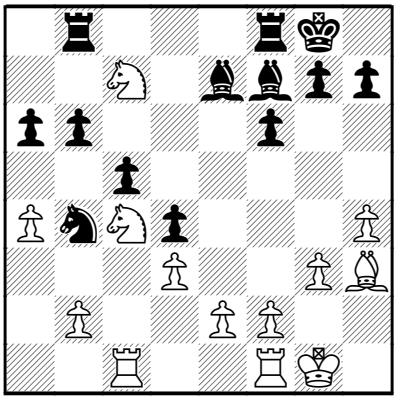

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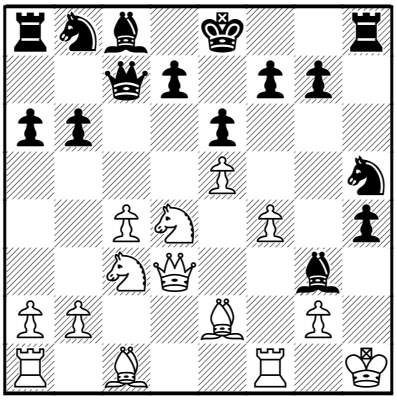

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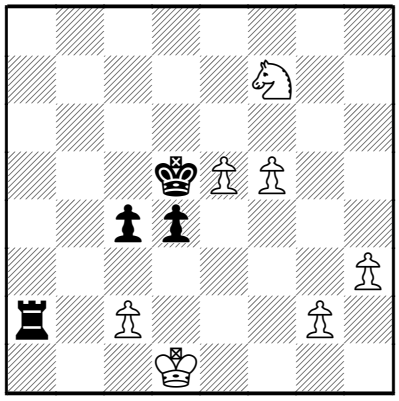

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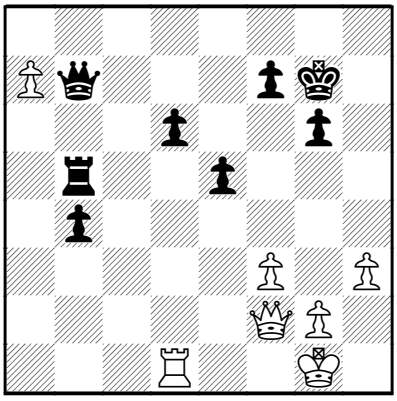

9. White to Play

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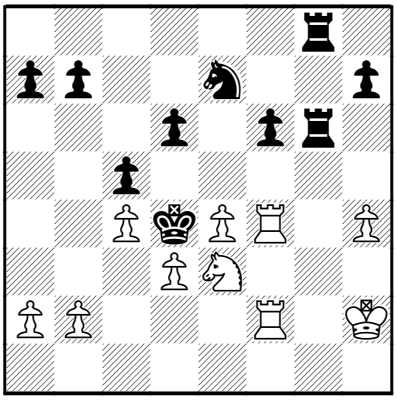

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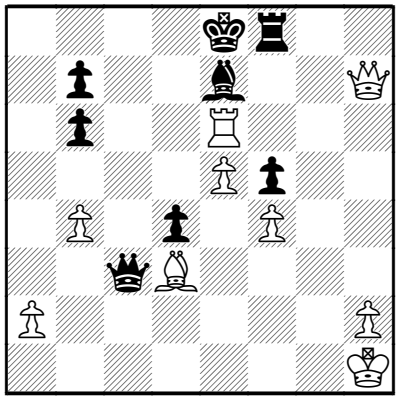
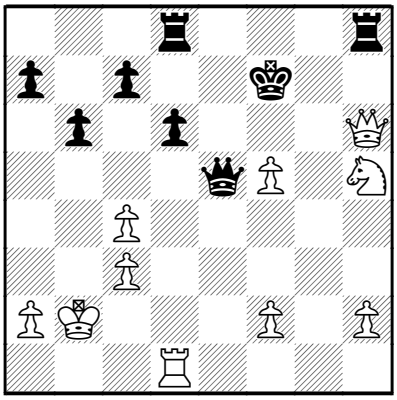


2. Black to Play



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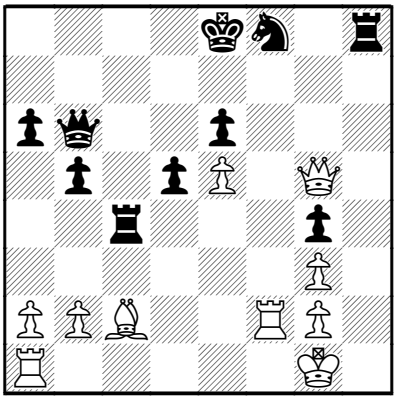

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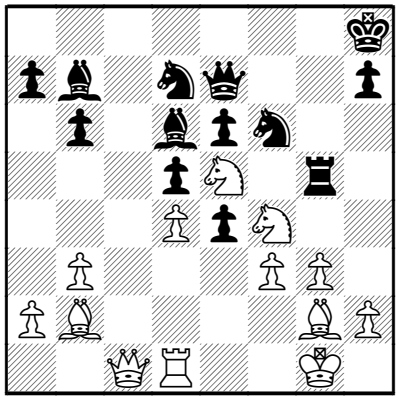

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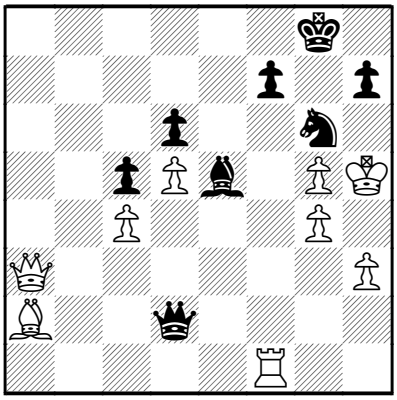

6. Black to Play

See page 9 for solutions.