Rank & File

The magazine of the Southern California Chess Federation

February-March-April 2014 Volume XXXVIII, No. 1 $4.50

Opinions on the World Championship

Cy & Jack

IMs Matikozyan & Bryant, WGM Abrahamyan Share First in 10th LA Open

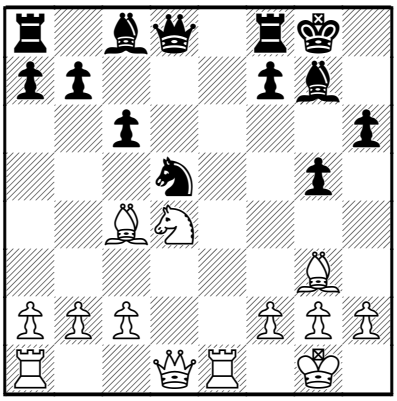
Out of the Past by IM Jack Peters

From a Classic by Irving Chernev

GMs Mackenzie Molner & Timur Gareev Tie in 49th American Open

Inside Moves

A ***tactical warm-up***: Some positions are from the 2013 World Youth Championships, others are local, but we had to go back in time 50 and 100 years to complete our quizzes this time. (The position from Cambridge Springs 1904 was a miscalculation.) But watch out for No. 9, the really hard one, and 8 too. Solutions on page 35. - Ed.



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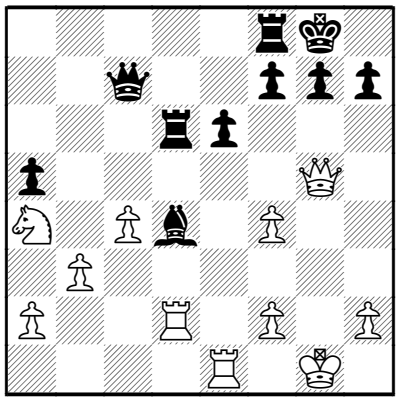

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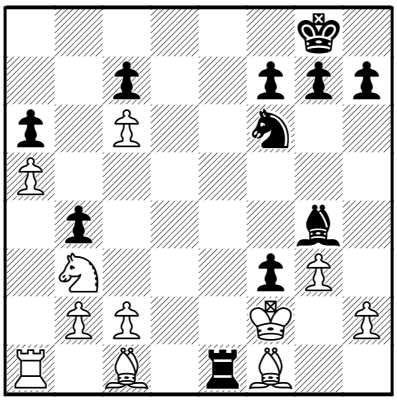

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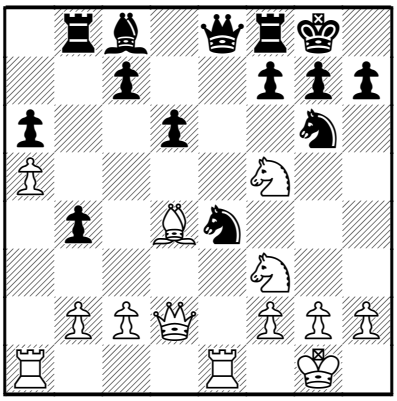

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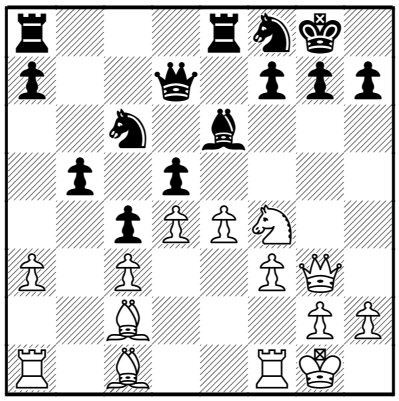

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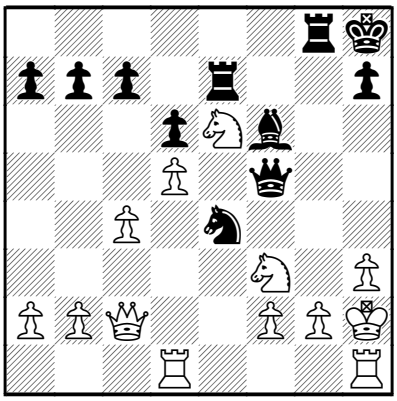

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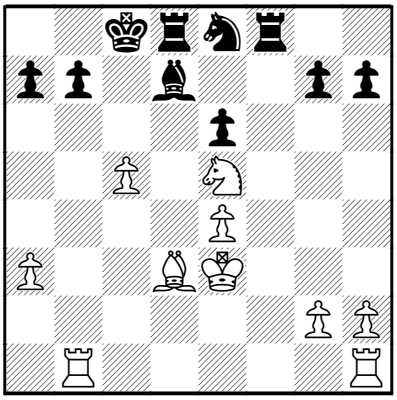

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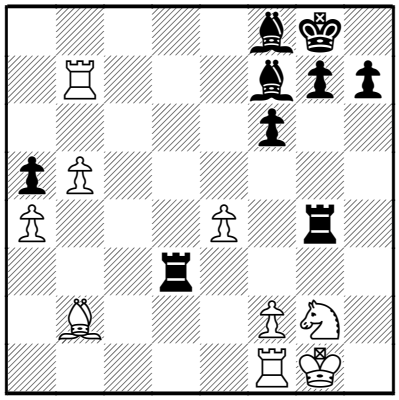

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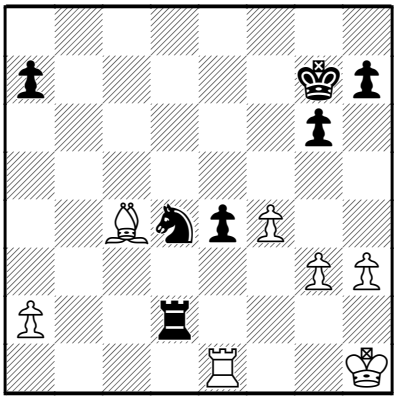

9. Black to Play

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

Cover montage: James Woodward
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th: Tim Hanks
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cr: Chris Roberts
nh: Neil Hultgren

Positions

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

The Carlsen - Anand World Championship Match

We have some comments regarding the match, its outcome, and the future.

-Ed.

The ***2014 SCCF State Championship*** is upcoming this summer. To donate a contribution, please e-mail SCCF treasurer Ashok Kumar at **ContactAshok.21@gmail.com**.

IM Roman Yankovsky

The match more or less followed the scenario of the last two years. Carlsen again showed himself as a universal player, good in both tactical and positional games, with his skill of setting problems for an opponent even in positions with a minimum, or even no advantage.

Anand's play only proved the fact that was already noticed. When it came to playing chess, he was not as good as his opponent. It was especially painful that he lost games in both types of positions, in slow play and in tactical complications.

Carlsen's opening preparation deserves credit, even though it didn't seem to be very deep. Magnus managed to get playable positions with little or no theory in every game, exactly what he needed to show his playing skill.

Overall, the fact that Carlsen became the World Champion is hardly surprising. It was already pretty clear that he was the strongest player in the world, and that he would've gotten the title sooner or later.

As for Anand, it's hard to say what will happen now, but it's possible that he will keep competing for the title, as it happened with Kramnik after he lost his match in 2008. For that reason I will stay away from saying anything about the role Anand has played in chess history. Hopefully he can still actively participate in it.

Speaking about future, it's now hard to see a real threat to Carlsen's title, so it's probably best to wait for a few years and follow the upcoming events.

But for the next World Championship, I would really want to see Kramnik challenging Magnus. He has a good score against Carlsen, and looking at Vladimir's results for the last two years, he seems to be one who can currently compete with Magnus on equal terms.

IM Larry Remlinger

I think, firstly, that regardless of Anand's approach, Carlsen would have won. I just think he is a better player than Anand at this time. Maybe five to ten years ago it would have been more interesting.

Having said that, I still think the match should have been closer. My thoughts are connected to the psychological preparation and pacing for the match.

I think that Anand's camp should have prepared him to be really aggressive right from the beginning of the match, going after Carlsen (highly complex tactical play, unorthodox play, and gambits!) while Carlsen was trying to get comfortable. His training games (lots and lots of games) prior to the match should have focused on such play, with less emphasis on opening preparation. Carlsen had already conceded that he could not match Vishy's opening play and preparation.

So often, the players are tentative and 'checking each other out' in the early games, each player trying to get his bearings, cautious not to overstep and get behind early. It would be reasonable to assume Carlsen would be less composed in the beginning, for no other reason than Anand has great experience in match play. Indeed, Carlsen said that he felt more calm in the second half of the match.

If Anand had an early lead, the pacing of the match would have changed dramatically. However, going about it this way would have been a challenge for Anand as well, for I think it goes somewhat counter to Anand's personality.

In effect, the match went too smoothly for Carlsen, and Anand and his team did not really set Vishy up for getting Carlsen out of his preferred pace, which is to play chess and play some more, exerting psychological pressure until his opponent makes a mistake. It would have been risky to play in such an aggressive manner, but I think he would have had a better chance (meaning to win some games, not to win the match) if he and his camp had taken the direction I am suggesting.

Oh, the wisdom of hindsight!!

IM Jack Peters

First, I'm glad Carlsen won. He's been the best player in the world for at least a couple of years, and I think the best player ought to be world champion. There was a lot of doubt that he would even try to become champion because he has had disagreements with FIDE and sat out the previous cycle.

Second, I'm disappointed in the games. With the exception of games 9 and 10, they were dull. The world championship is supposed to be the greatest event in chess, and it should produce plenty of favorable publicity.

Third, I'm upset that Anand didn't win a game. He's been an excellent champion, although no one can shine in Kasparov's shadow. Now people will say that Anand was

too old and "of course" the new star Carlsen thrashed him. Some might even claim that Anand was merely a placeholder between the Kasparov and Carlsen eras. If the final score were 4-1 or 5-2 instead of 3-0, Carlsen would still show his superiority, but Anand would get more credit.

Fourth, I expect Carlsen to remain champion for several cycles, assuming he doesn't get too annoyed with FIDE. I cannot imagine the older generation (Kramnik, Topalov, etc.) unseating him. Of those near age 30, only Aronian seems dangerous, and his progress has stalled. I admire Karjakin (despite too many draws!) and Caruana, but they seem quite a ways behind Carlsen now. Nakamura can beat anybody occasionally, but he won't be a serious contender until he cuts down on his losses.

Fifth, I think the rise of computers means that Carlsen and future champions will never generate the same mass appeal as Fischer or Kasparov. The best human now is several hundred points worse than the best computer, and the margin isn't going to shrink. Capablanca and Fischer were compared to machines for their mistake-free play, before we knew what machines were truly capable of doing in chess. We shouldn't bring up this comparison any more!

Finally, I've always felt that it's good for chess to have a dominant champion. My hypothesis will be tested this decade!

IM Timothy Taylor

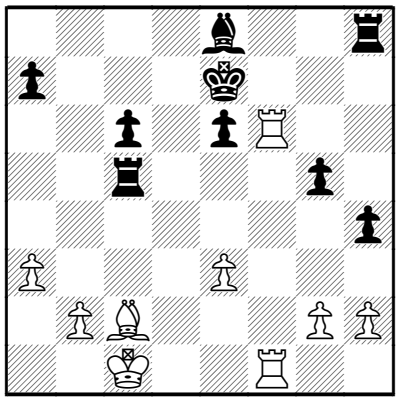
I have been touting Magnus Carlsen as a future World Champion in many of my books, and now the day has arrived! Why did Magnus win by such an overwhelming score? I would say there were three main factors.

First, when Magnus plays for a win, he really plays for a win. He will not take a draw until the last piece is gone. He will grind all night in a slightly, slightly better position. Unlike the former World Champion—recall Anand's drawfest vs. Gelfand—Magnus pushes with both Black and White. Note that two of his three wins in the match came with the black pieces. He continuously finds ways to continue the struggle, for example the seemingly anti-positional 29.e4! of Game 5 which limited his bishop, yet gained key squares in the center and avoided simplification.

Second, Carlsen's superiority showed in the endgame. I had already planned in my next book, *Learn From Magnus Carlsen*, to have one long chapter dealing with his endgame wins, and this match just confirmed how important that aspect of his play is. Researching his games, I found that even at the age of twelve or thirteen (the age when we dueled across the board) he would often deliberately go for the endgame as a means of deciding the game—something quite unusual in such a young player.

The third factor is not a word, but a name: Capablanca. I am hardly the first to notice the influence that Capablanca's games have on the young champion. One has only to look at the crucial Game 9, which essentially clinched the match. There Magnus played the same pawn structure and knight maneuver that Capablanca played against Botvinnik at AVRO 1938. Of course Magnus improved on that game, but one can see where he got the inspiration! Add such positional ideas to Capablanca's legendary endgame prowess—that Magnus seems to be channeling!—and one has a World Champion for the ages.

Here is that distinctive moment from game 5. *-Ed.*



29.e4!

Defeat Abuse:
Save Liz Taylor's Jaw!

This was our rallying cry at our GoFundMe website (now expired without reaching our goal). Please go this link **www.gofundme.com/4vjs5w** and read about my dear wife Liz's terrible past as an abuse survivor. Liz has no teeth as a result of this abuse and now has bone loss from her dentures. She desperately needs a full set of dental implants.

Liz is showing great courage to come forward and tell of the abuse. Furthermore, despite the pain Liz is always in, she has become a fine chess player, rated over 1800!

We are now running a private campaign on my website, **TimothyTaylorArtist.com**. Start with "My Game Against World Champion Magnus Carlsen" and then read the next nine chapters on Liz and the current updates.

And then—please donate. Liz is on borrowed time.

- Timothy Taylor

"Life of a King"

Thanks to Daa Mahowald for her early heads-up on this chess film in *Rank & File* Aug-Sep-Oct 2013! The January issue of *Chess Life* has a two-page spread on it, with photos.

-Ed.

Correction

On page 36 of the previous issue, the solution to Final Points No. 1 cited the wrong game. It should be Casella - Yankovsky, 29th Metropolitan IM, Los Angeles 2013. Thanks to Vadim Kudryavtsev for pointing this out.

-Ed.

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Carlsen Simul in Las Vegas

Here's my game score from the 20-board simul by World Champion Magnus Carlsen in the 2014 Consumer Electronics Show (CES) - International, in Las Vegas on January 9.

I was very fortunate to meet Magnus, take some photos, and get his autograph, as well as to be selected to play in the 20-board simul.

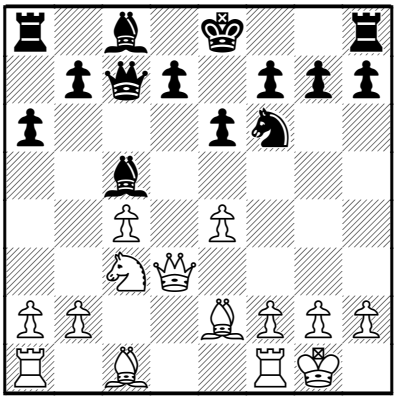
The Exhibition was sponsored by Nordic Semiconductors, a leading manufacturer of ultra-low power wireless chips used in a variety of consumer electronic products. Nordic is one of Magnus' chess sponsors. Magnus promotes their "intelligent and smart" products in advertisements all around the world.

I attend CES every year and by far this was my greatest show ever, due to meeting and playing Magnus. My game was not the best, although the real excitement and satisfaction was just having the chance to play perhaps the great chess player of all time. The experience was absolutely awesome and marks a true highlight in my chess career!

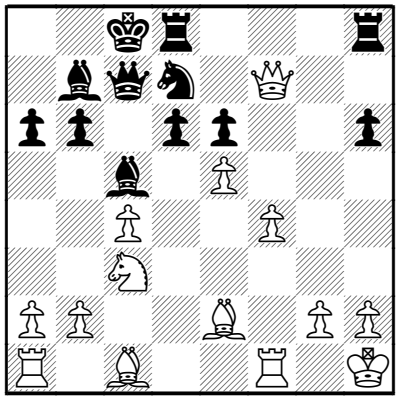
-Tim Hanks

Magnus Carlsen - Tim Hanks
[B41] Sicilian Defense
Simul Las Vegas, January 9, 2014
Consumer Electronics Show
Nordic Semi-Conductor 20-Board
Simultaneous Exhibition

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 a6 3.c4 e6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Qc7 6.Nc3 Nf6 7.Be2 Nc6 8.0–0 Nxd4 9.Qxd4 Bc5 10.Qd3



10...h6 11.Kh1 b6 12.f4 d6 13.e5 Nd7 14.Qg3 Bb7 15.Qxg7 0–0–0 16.Qxf7

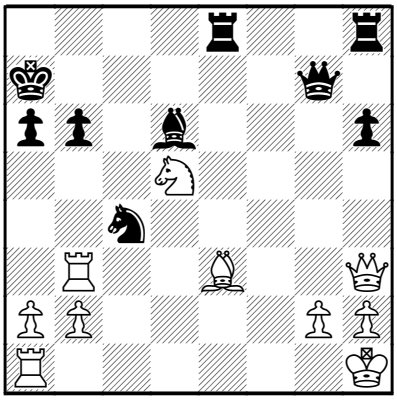


16...dxe5?

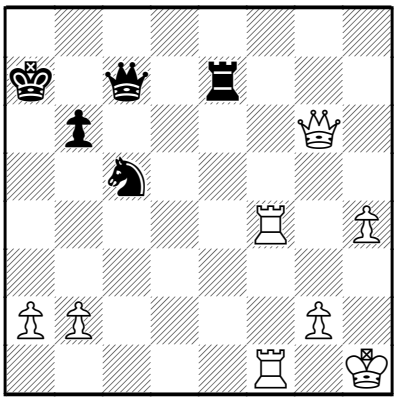
An accidental move due to the excitement and commotion.

I intended 16...Rhg8, and if 17.Bf3 Bxf3 18.Rxf3 Qc6 with compensation.

17.Qxe6 Rdg8 18.Bf3 Bxf3 19.Rxf3 Re8 20.Qh3 Kb7 21.fxe5 Nxe5 22.Bf4 Bd6 23.Nd5 Qg7 24.Rb3 Ka7 25.Be3 Nxc4



26.Bd4 Qxd4 27.Qd7+ Ka8 28.Nc7+ Kb8 29.Nxa6+ Ka8 30.Nc7+ Kb8 31.Nxe8 Be5 32.Qc6 Ka7 33.Rb4 Na5 34.Qb5 Qd8 35.Qxe5 Rxe8 36.Qg7+ Nb7 37.Qxh6 Re2 38.h4 Nc5 39.Rf1 Qc7 40.Qg6 Re7 41.Rbf4 1-0



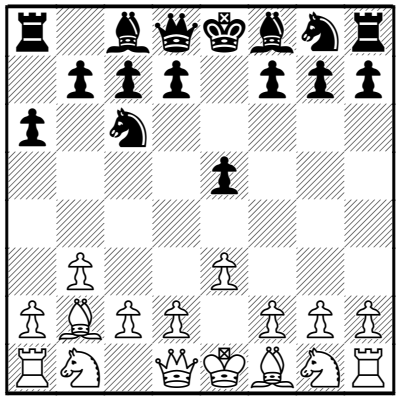
I was the next to last player to resign. Magnus won all 20 games in less than 80 minutes!

Cy & Jack

By IM Jack Peters and IM Cyrus Lakdawala

Cy's game is from his recent book *The Nimzo-Larsen Attack: Move by Move*, published in December. He's on the White side of an irregular position, and wins this game on the Kingside without needing to castle. Jack's game is from the American Open, in which nine reasonable opening moves arrive at a very seldom played position. Black's Kingside buildup leads to a combinative finish at move 26. However, things were not as they had seemed. The decisive moment was Black's error at move 22 in a deceptively equal position. -Ed.

Cy Lakdawala (2520) -
Varun Krishnan (2356)
[A01] Nimzowitsch-Larsen Opening
613th Gambito Open (2)
San Diego, June 8, 2013
1.b3 e5 2.Bb2 Nc6 3.e3 a6!?



Cy: An interesting and rarely played idea my sneaky student, prepared for his teacher.

My opponent, Varun Krishnan, is a top junior in the U.S., who generally hovers in the 2350-2400 rating range. Varun is especially dangerous in the opening phase, since he knows his lines deeply and often surprises opponents with some comp-generated line. Fortunately, we Nimzo-Larseners are somewhat insulated from this fear, due to the non-confrontational nature of our opening.

Question: What is Black's idea?

Answer: Black, in one shot, short-circuits all Bb5 plans for White.

Question: Is it really worth a tempo to prevent Bb5?

Answer: Not in the ...d6 lines, but it is, if Black intends to play ...d5, as in the case of this game, since it knocks out all of White's annoying Bb5 ideas.

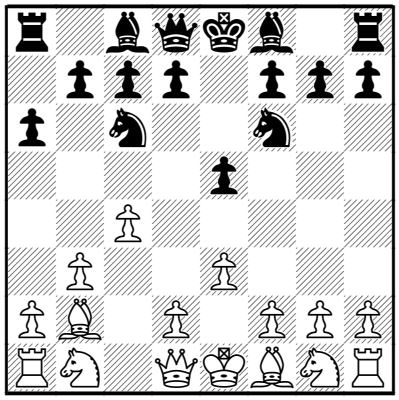
Jack: I hate wasting a tempo in the opening! Black must have stronger alternatives because White's modest opening doesn't grab enough of the center.

4.c4

Cy: In essence, agreeing to enter a Reversed Open Sicilian. White can also play in Alekhine's fashion with 4.Nf3 e4 *(4...d6?! looks inaccurate since then his ...a6 move makes little sense.)* 5.Nd4 Nxd4 6.Bxd4 Qg5 7.c4 b6 8.d3 f5 9.g3 Bb7 10.Bg2 O-O-O 11.O-O Re8 12.Nd2 Nh6 13.Qc2 Bb4?! Schussler - Nicevski, Naleczow 1979. White looks faster after 14.c5!

Jack: This line looks attractive, but I prefer your 4.c4.

4...Nf6



5.Nf3

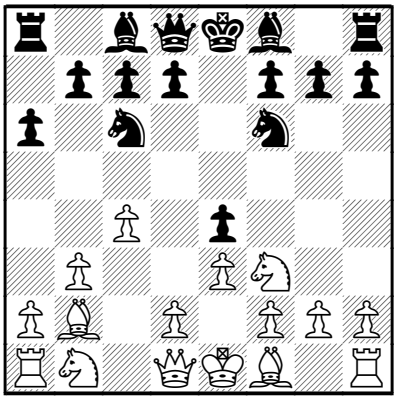
Jack: ! Hypermodern style! White will try to show that Black occupied e5 prematurely.

Cy: Last time, I played 5.Nc3 d5 6.Nxd5 Nxd5 7.cxd5 Qxd5 8.Rc1 Be6 9.Nf3 f6 10.Qc2 with a Reversed Open Sicilian position which looks quite satisfactory for Black, Lakdawala - Krishnan, San Diego rapid, 2013.

Jack: I don't think White has time for 5.d3 d5 6.Nf3, as Black will obtain a satisfactory position with either 6...d4 or the sharper 6...Bb4+ 7.Nbd2 Bg4↑.

But 5.d3 d5 6.cxd5 Nxd5 7.a3= seems all right. White will set up a Hedgehog formation, with colors reversed.

5...e4



Jack: An ambitious followup to the purely defensive 3...a6. That's an untrustworthy mix.

Maybe Black should settle for 5...d6.

6.Nd4 Nxd4

Jack: Ineffective, but I think White will get at least a small advantage against any Black move.

Cy: 6...Bc5 7.Nxc6 dxc6 seems more logical. We enter the dreaded Larsen - Spassky position, from the USSR Rest of the World Match, where Larsen got clobbered. This time, however, White is up a tempo, since ...a6 is meaningless.

Question: How would you play this position?

Answer: I would probably go for 8.d4. If Black refuses to take

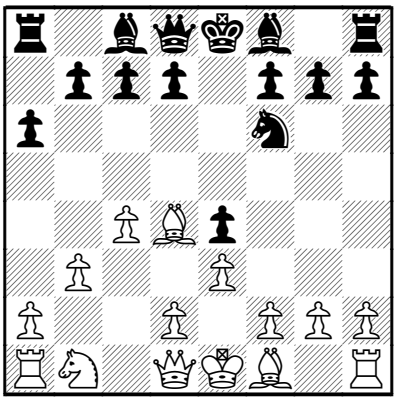
en passant, then White has a greater share of the centre. If Black exchanges with 8...exd3 9.Bxd3, then White owns a healthy Kingside majority against Black's crippled Queenside majority.

Jack: I agree, White should play 8.d4. In the Larsen - Spassky game, Black had his Bishop at f5 (instead of ...a7-a6) and White suffered because of his backward d-pawn.

Jack: Black can support e4 by 6...d6 7.Nxc6 bxc6 8.Qc2 Bf5 9.Nc3 h5, but both 10.d3± and 10.Ne2± give White an edge.

In my opinion, Black should accept the inferior pawn structure with 6...Bc5 and 8...exd3 and hope that his active pieces will save him.

7.Bxd4



7...Be7!?

Cy: This is the equivalent of a pawn sac, for a development lead and open lines.

Question: Where is the pawn sac?

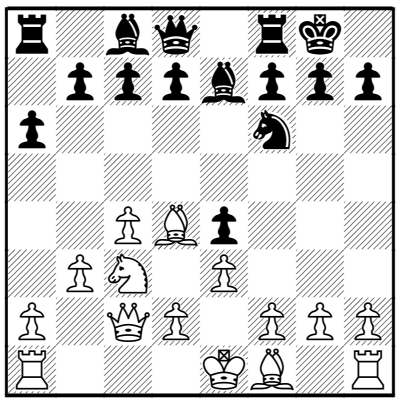
Answer: His advanced e-pawn is bit tender and vulnerable to pileup attempts like Qc2, Nc3 and an eventual Bxf6.

I expected 7...b6 8.Nc3 Bb7 and then planned to play the Jobava approved move 9.g4!? **Jack**: This looks very promising for White. The reply 9...c5 would not entirely solve Black's problem of defending e4, as 10.Bxf6 Qxf6 11.Bg2 Qg6 12.d3 f5 13.dxe4 *(also tempting is 13.Rg1!?)* 13...fxe4 14.Nd5± makes the pawn a constant target.

8.Qc2 O-O

Jack: If Black preserves e4 by 8... d5 9.cxd5 Qxd5 10.Qxc7, he has trouble completing his development without offering a Queen trade. For example, 10...Qf5 11.Bc4 is awful for Black.

9.Nc3



9...d5!?

Cy: Risky.

I expected something along the lines of 9...c5! 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.Qxe4 Re8 12.Qc2 d5! 13.Rd1 *(or 13.cxd5 Bxc3 14.dxc3 Qxd5 15.Rd1 Qc6 with reasonable compensation for the pawn)* 13...Be6 14.Bd3 d4 15.Ne4 *(***Jack***: Resisting the temptation to snatch a second pawn with 15.Na4 Bg4 16.Bxh7+ Kf8 17.Rc1 dxe3 18.dxe3 Qa5+ because Black will exploit the d-file.)* 15...Be7. Black gets the Bishop pair and some central space as compensation, but I suspect that it isn't enough for a full pawn.

10.cxd5 Bf5

Cy: 10...Nxd5 11.Qxe4 Nb4! Now ...Nc6 is in the air. 12.Be5! g6!? Threat: ...Bf5. *(12...Re8 is probably best, with compensation for the pawn.)* 13.Bc4! Anyway! Hey, I said "Threat: ...Bf5!" Now if Black follows through with 13...Bf5 14.Qxb7 Nc2+ 15.Ke2 Nxa1, White has 16.Nd5! when 16...Nc2?? is met with the shocking 17.Qxa8! and White's Queen is immune from capture due to mate on e7.

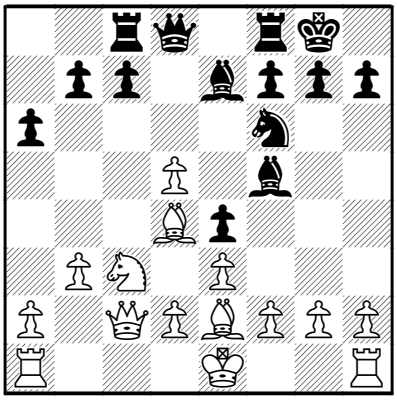
Jack: I prefer Varun's choice to 10...Nxd5, which gives up the valuable e-pawn. One thought is 11.Qxe4 Nb4 12.Bc4 to parry 12...Nc6 with 13.Nd5 Re8 14.Bc3±.

Jack: But best of all against 10...Nxd5 appears to be 11.Nxd5 Qxd5 12.Qxc7 Bd6 13.Qc3 Qg5 14.h4 Qg4 15.Be2! Qxg2?! 16.O-O-O, with even material and deadly threats on the g-file.

11.Be2 Rc8

Cy: 11...Re8 is more accurate but will be met with 12.g4! just the same.

Jack: If 11...Nxd5 12.Nxd5 Qxd5 13.Qb2!±, Black drops the g-pawn.



Cy: Exercise (planning): My opponent has a disquieting feeling that his position degenerates, without putting his finger on the exact cause. Black's last move was too slow. White's plan, within our grasp, is a remembered face on a forgotten name. How can White forcefully take over the game?

12.g4!

Cy: *Answer*: Undermining. As an honorary member of the King Jobava fan club, this move was a delight to bang out. Our favorite move acts as a template for White's future happiness.

12...Bg6

Cy: White's g-pawn is immune:

a) 12...Nxg4?? 13.Bxg4 Bxg4 14.Rg1 f5 15.h3 wins.

b) 12...Bxg4?? drops a piece to 13.Bxf6.

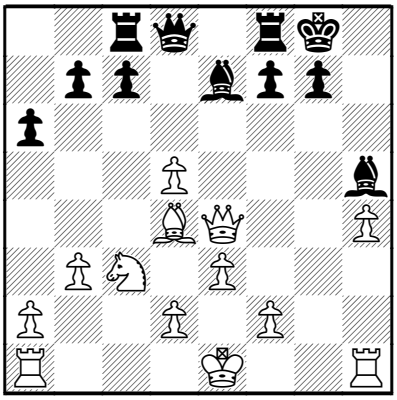
13.h4 h5!?

Cy: Perhaps too aggressive a reaction. Black's chances are better with a more restrained approach. He should retool and attempt to correct course with 13...h6! Now White has two promising continuations:

14.g5 hxg5 15.hxg5 Nh7 16.Bh5! Undermining a key defensive piece and forcing the win of Black's e-pawn. **Jack**: Black still has some hope after 16...Nxg5, but I think White can strengthen his play earlier, and the line with 14.h5 looks unsatisfactory for Black too. I don't think he has much chance of surviving after 12.g4!.

Also possible is 14.h5 Bh7 15.g5! hxg5 16.h6 Re8 17.hxg7 Bd6 18.O-O-O *(**Jack**: Houdini suggests 18.Bf3!, relying on 18...exf3? 19.Bxf6 Bxc2 20.Rh8 mate.)* 18...c5 19.dxc6 Rxc6 20.Bc4! and White's attack is clearly the more potent of the two.

14.gxh5 Nxh5 15.Bxh5 Bxh5 16.Qxe4



Cy: *Question*: You are up two pawns. However:

1. Black has the Bishop pair.
2. Black leads in development.
3. You can't castle.
4. Black controls the light squares.

Does he have enough for the material?

Answer: Black doesn't have enough compensation since White's open g-file soon forces all sorts of concessions from Black, which effectively wipe out most - but not all - of the plusses you listed.

In the course of the game I admit I underestimated the strength of Black's compensation, having dismissed it out of hand as some gaunt construct. Soon, I discovered that his initiative wasn't so easy to dismiss.

16...Bf6 17.Rg1

Jack: At first, 17.Qf4 Bxd4 18.Qxd4 looked like a possible improvement. But Black can put up resistance by 18...Qd6 19.Rg1 f6.

17...c5 18.Bxf6 Qxf6 19.Qg2

Cy: Threatening to force Queens off the board with Qg5 next.

19...g6!

Cy: In such rapidly shifting situations, agility is often a better ally than raw might. A forced move can still be a good one. I underestimated this move, foolishly believing my opponent would suicidally allow me to swap Queens. As it turns out, it isn't so easy for White to exploit all the weakened dark squares around Black's King.

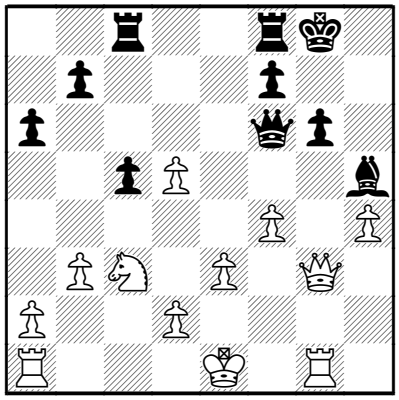
20.Qg5 Qf3 21.Qg3 Qf6

Cy: Black's uncooperative Queen reminds me of the old War song "Why can't we be Friends":

I seen you walking down in Chinatown

I called you but you could not look around

22.f4



Cy: *Question*: How will you castle?

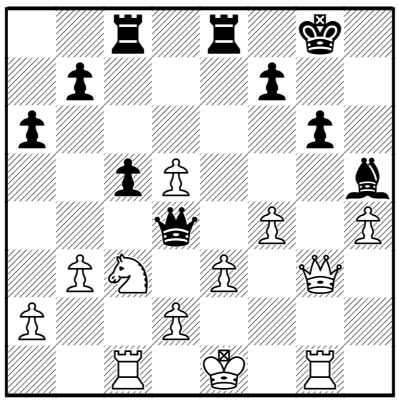
Answer: White has no intention of castling. For now, my King remains safe enough on e1 and has the option of f2 later on.

22...Rfe8 23.Rc1?!

Cy: Inaccurate. 23.Kf2! prevented Black's next move. The time has arrived to put aside ambitions and get down to the grim business of my King's safety. 23...Qf5 24.Qg5 Qd3 25.Qxh5 Qxd2+ 26.Qe2! Qxc3 27.h5 leaves White up a pawn with the initiative.

Jack: I wouldn't criticize 23.Rc1. Both moves should win, although neither wraps it up quickly. Black is lost, but still dangerous!

23...Qd4!



Cy: The armies collide and tumble in the middle. Suddenly, I didn't know how to unravel. Black's Queen may not be welcomed into White's territory, but at least I am forced to tolerate her presence for now.

24.Qf2

Cy: In a brief moment of madness I thought about playing 24.Qg5?? with threats to chop his Bishop and also f5, until I noticed he had 24...Rxe3+! when it would have been time for White to resign.

24...c4

Cy: This attempt to open lines doesn't work.

Neither does 24...b5 25.f5 b4 26.Ne2 Qb2 27.Qf4 Rcd8 28.d6 and I don't see a follow up for Black, whose position is on the edge of collapse.

Jack: Houdini suggests 24...f5 to keep White from attacking with f4-f5.

25.b4

Cy: Of course, it is in White's best interest to keep Black's attacking lines clogged.

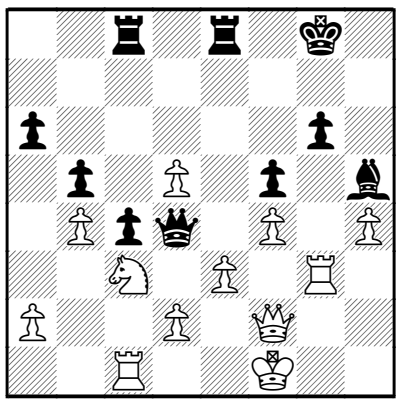
25...b5 26.Rg5

Cy: In the confusion of mutual time pressure, vague concerns seem to dominate my thoughts over concrete ones. **Jack**: You manage to think in time pressure?

Cy: 26.f5 may be more to the point.

Jack: This was a good moment to safeguard the King by 26.Kf1 Qd3+ 27.Kg2+-.

26...f6 27.Rg3 f5 28.Kf1



Cy: My King is fearful of enemies yet unseen, so everyone and no one is deemed a threat.

28...Qd3+?

Jack: An automatic move in time pressure, but with a serious defect.

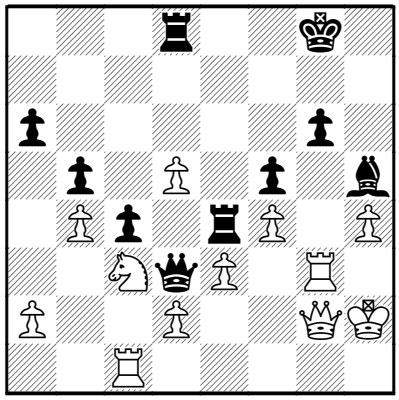
Cy: At this point Black's initiative, once so vibrant, is irretrievably lost and sinks from sight. Black fails to fully leverage his superior piece placement. Deeply embedded infiltration is generally a cause for celebration, but not here. Black's last move initiated a self-trapping mechanism.

Conversion of White's material advantage wouldn't have been so easy after 28...Qf6. **Jack**: Fortunately for White, Black cannot threaten much. After 29.Rg5, White can imagine doubling Rooks on the g-file and breaking through with e3-e4 or Nc3-e2-g3.

29.Kg1 Re4

Cy: The only move, since 29...Kh7?? is answered by 30.e4! and Black's trapped Queen is roughly awakened by a hand on her shoulder.

30.Kh2 Rd8 31.Qg2?



Cy: A violation of the cardinal rule of time pressure: Don't get cute. Eat everything on your plate! I should just take his Rook.

Jack: When your opponent is helpless, you are supposed to extract the maximum advantage. The rule is "Be greedy." You were led astray by conflicting rules!

31...Kh7?

Cy: I forgot that he can play 31...Re7! since 32.e4? fails to trap the Queen after 32...Qd4.

Jack: True, but 31...Re7 32.Qf2 renews the threat to his Queen, and 32.a4 is also very strong. His Queen cannot leave d3 without your permission!

32.Nxe4 fxe4 33.f5!?

Cy: A bit hasty. More accurate was 33.Rg1 Bf3 34.Qf2 Rd6 35.Rg5.

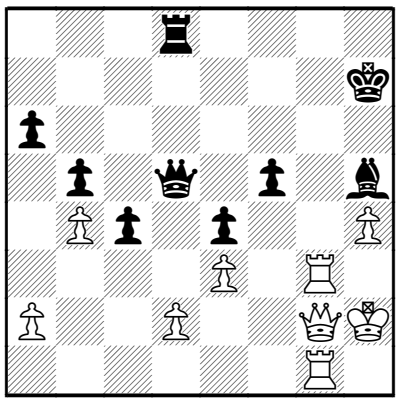
33...gxf5

Jack: Black can prolong the game by 33...Qxd5, but 34.Rf1! clinches White's win.

34.Rg1 Qxd5

Cy: Also hopeless is 34...Qe2 35.Qxe2 Bxe2 36.Rg7+ Kh8 37.R7g6 Bg4 38.d6.

And if 34...Bg4, this Bishop is a defender on which the Black King's flimsy hopes rest. But after 35.Rxg4 fxg4 36.Qxg4 Qxd2+ 37.Kh1, Black's King is helpless.



Cy: Exercise (combination alert): Defenders arrive too few and too late to save Black's King. As the darkness around him grows, he thinks to himself: "To die alone is the ugliest of fates." This one is easy. White to play and force mate in three moves.

35.Rg7+

Answer: The Rook ambles toward his target with insolent leisure, the same way a shark approaches grievously wounded prey, who has no possibility of escape.

35...Kh8 36.Rh7+! 1-0

Cy: Clearance.

Summary: 3...a6!? gets us into the famous Larsen-Spassky game, but a move up, which gives White a better version. Still, I'm not sure even this is enough to guarantee White an edge.

Jack: I think you played very convincingly and proved that Black cannot equalize after 5...e4. On the other hand, if he settles for 5...d6, he concedes that 3...a6 was useless. Black should not repeat this opening!

Albert Lu (2238) -
Jack Peters (2447)
[E32] Nimzo-Indian Defense
49th American Open (4)
Orange, November 29, 2013

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4

Jack: As a lifelong Bishop lover, I'm trying to acquire an appreciation for Knights. This game makes me wonder if I will ever understand minor pieces.

Cy: What happened to your KID, Jack? Actually I'm the exact opposite, in that many of my openings have my side handing over a Bishop for a Knight.

4.Qc2 O-O 5.a3

Jack: The main line.

Our game at the Memorial Day Classic varied with 5.Bg5 c5 6.dxc5 Na6.

5...Bxc3+ 6.Qxc3 d6

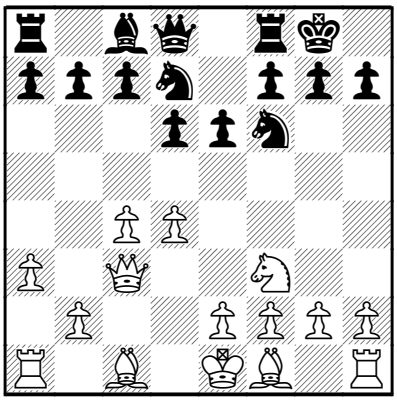
Jack: Not bad, although 6...b6 and 6...d5 are more fashionable.

Cy: I think 6...b6 is Black's most dynamic line here. But of course, comparing lines like this is a bit silly, like asking the question: "Which do you prefer? *Beethoven's Ninth*, or *Stairway to Heaven*?"

7.Nf3

Jack: Most popular is 7.Bg5 but grandmasters have also tested 7.g3 and 7.f3.

7...Nbd7



8.e3

Jack: Kasparov chose 8.g3 b6 9.Bg2 Bb7 10.O-O against Ulf Andersson in 1989. Black nearly equalized with 10...Qe7 11.b4 c5 and held on to draw.

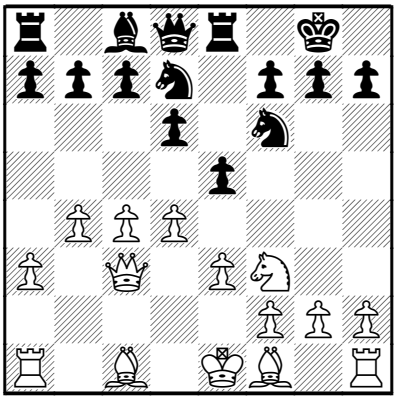
8...Re8

Jack: Black occasionally succeeds with the Kingside attack springing

from 8...b6 9.b4 Bb7 10.Bb2 Ne4 11.Qc2 f5, but I feared that White would find a good moment for d4-d5.

I decided to block the a1-h8 diagonal.

9.b4 e5



Jack: Although these moves seem reasonable for both players, we have arrived at a poorly investigated position.

Cy: I count only six games in my database at this stage.

10.dxe5

Jack: I assumed that this was necessary to discourage Black from advancing ...e5-e4.

Cy: This move follows the principle: Counter in the center when attacked (in the distant future!) on the wing. Also it loosens the a1-h8 diagonal for White's dark squared Bishop.

However, the move also contains a dark side: Now when Black plays ...e4, he gains a foothold over the e5-square, assisting attacking ambitions. This isn't the case if White maintains central tension.

Jack: However, White can consider 10.Bb2 e4 11.Nd2 because d4-d5 will reopen the long diagonal. Or, if 11...d5 12.cxd5 Nxd5 13.Qb3, the position resembles a French Defense with colors reversed.

10...dxe5 11.Bb2

Jack: Can White afford to spend a tempo on 11.c5, which clears c4 for the Bishop? After the plausible 11...e4! 12.Nd4 Ne5 13.Bb2, Houdini likes the provocative 13...Nfg4!? 14.h3 Qh4 15.g3 Qh6 16.Rd1 Nf6$\mp$, intending ...Bc8-g4. White has uncomfortable weaknesses at d3 and f3, and he probably will not manage to castle.

Jack: That indicates White should meet 11.c5 e4 with 12.Nd2 Ne5 13.Bb2 to hit e4 and keep Black's Knight rooted at f6. Then 13...Bf5 14.Nc4 seems fine for White.

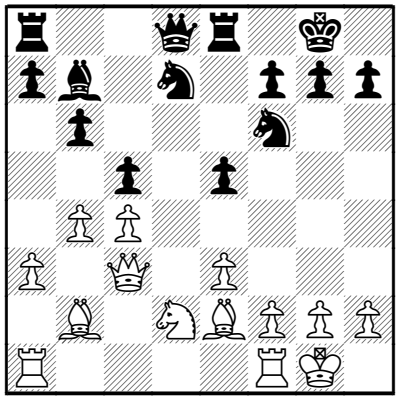
11...c5!

Cy: A good move, which congeals White's Queenside pawns. Black follows the principle: If your opponent has the Bishop pair, try and make the pawn structure rigid.

Jack: I wanted to rule out c4-c5. Possibly 11...b6 improves.

I did not trust 11...e4 12.Nd4 Ne5 because I thought the Bishop at b2 would work too well. Surprisingly, this was tested in Liberzon - Taimanov, Yalta 1962, which continued 13.h3 Bd7 14.Be2 Qc8 15.g4!? c5 16.Nb3 cxb4 17.axb4 h6 18.Rg1$\uparrow$. This resembles the disaster that Varun suffered against 1.b3. Taimanov was lucky to draw.

12.Be2 b6 13.O-O Bb7 14.Nd2



Jack: I suppose I should be happy here, but I preferred White's position! If Black keeps his pawn at e5, I imagined White would make progress by f2-f3, Rf1-d1, Nd2-f1-g3, doubling Rooks on the d-file, and Be2-d3-c2. Maybe Ng3-f5-d6 would cause trouble, or White could try f3-f4 or g2-g4-g5. In short, I concluded that Black needed to play actively, and that meant I reconciled myself to ...e5-e4.

Cy: All well and good, except that ...e5-e4 is strong!

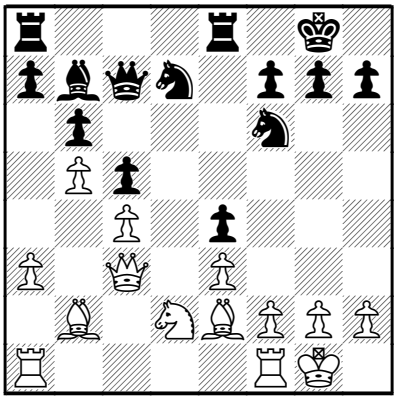
14...Qc7

Cy: Perhaps taking aim at h2, perhaps intending ...e4, ...Ne5 and ...Neg4, later on.

15.b5

Jack: In Ushenina - Korobov, Rivne 2005, the future women's world champion chose 15.f3 and carried out most of the ideas I feared: 15...h5 16.Rfd1 h4 17.h3 Rac8 18.b5 Nf8 19.a4 Re7 20.Nf1 Rce8 21.Ra2 Ng6 (this is the maximum Black can achieve without ...e5-e4, and it adds up to nothing!) 22.Ba1 Nd7 23.Bd3 Ndf8 24.Rad2 f6 (finally threatening ...e5-e4) 25.Bf5 Bc8 26.Qc2 Bxf5 27.Qxf5 Qc8 28.Qc2 e4 29.f4$\pm$. Later White picked off the pawn at h4 and should have won. **Cy**: I would assess at "+=", rather than plus over minus. White undoubtedly has an edge, but Black looks pretty solid to my eyes.

15...e4



Jack: Blocking my Bishop and unblocking his. I think it's necessary, though. I hoped to transfer my pieces through e5 to the Kingside.

Cy: The thematic move which does greatly increase the scope of White's dark square ambitions down the a1-h8 diagonal. In such positions we hear a pair of inner voices. One counsels caution; the other urges open warfare. In this case if Black chooses against ...e4, then what is the plan, besides waiting patiently? Sound or unsound, I think ...e4 is the only way to play.

16.Qc2

Cy: I don't like this retreat. Maybe White should challenge Black on the Kingside with 16.Rfd1 Ne5 17.a4 a5 18.Nf1 h5 19.Ng3 h4 20.Nf5 h3 21.g3. I like White's game here.

16...Ne5 17.Bxe5!?

Jack: This trade shocked me! I was very relieved to eliminate public enemy #1. But White benefits too,

because Black has one less Kingside attacker.

Cy: I think it's wrong to give away White's most powerful piece. White should play as Jack suggests, with a perfectly playable game.

Jack: I expected 17.Rfd1 to parry 17...Neg4 smoothly by 18.Nf1.

17...Qxe5 18.Rad1

Jack: I still expected 18.Rfd1 and Nd2-f1. Albert wants the Knight to head for d5.

Cy: Forget about d5, Albert! Your Knight is needed on the Kingside.

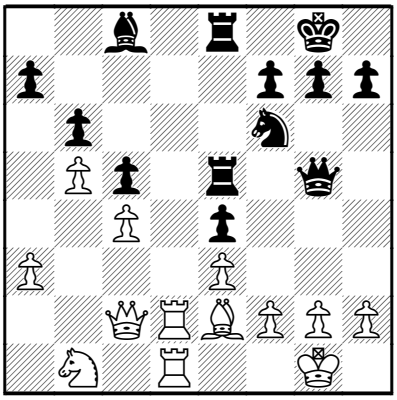
18...Qg5 19.Nb1 Re5

Jack: The third Black piece to use this square.

20.Rd2

Cy: White should play 20.Rd6 Rae8 21.Nc3 Bc8 22.Rfd1 h5 23.Bf1 h4 24.R1d2, and it's not easy to come up with a good attacking plan for Black.

20...Rae8 21.Rfd1 Bc8



Jack: I felt Black was ready to attack g2 by ...Bc8-h3, with ...h7-h5-h4 in reserve. Even the trade of Bishops by ...Bc8-g4 could help Black turn g2 and h2 into targets. And all because of the cramping pawn that I had daringly placed at e4! **Cy**: Jack, ...e4 is not all that daring if I would play it as well!

Jack: This was shaping up to be my best game of the tournament (a low standard, admittedly).

The next day, Albert stunned me by blaming his loss on his next move, claiming that he blundered in an even position. And he's right!

22.Kh1??

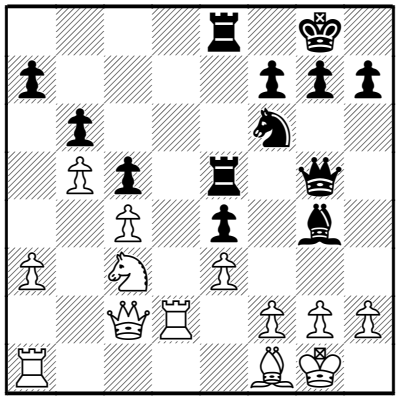
Cy: The once soothing melody produces a jarring note. This plausible move loses.

Jack: Two alternatives would deny Black any advantage.

First, 22.Rd8 would keep Black from shifting his Rook to g5 or h5.

Cy: This is the way I would play with White, who should reduce the Black attackers as quickly as possible.

Jack: And White can ignore Black with the calm 22.Nc3 Bh3 23.Bf1 Bg4 *(Black has no follow up to 23...h5 24.Rd8)* 24.Ra1.



Black's pieces hover near the enemy King, and White has no distracting threat, yet Black cannot accomplish anything. How frustrating! Sometimes chess strategy is just too confusing.

Cy: Yes, it's amazing that White is okay with such a gigantic activity shortage. The comps say even, yet no one doubts a feeling of foreboding over White's game.

Jack: My intuition cries out against this verdict. But when I tested various aggressive tries with Houdini, the best I could find for Black was 24...Qh4 25.h3 h6 *(preparing ...Re5-g5 by avoiding the back rank mate pitfall 25...Rg5?! 26.Nxe4 Nxe4?? 27.Qxe4+-)*.

Now:

a) After 26.g3 Qh5 27.hxg4 Nxg4, neither player can deviate from 28.Bg2 Rf5 29.Re1 Qh2+ 30.Kf1 Qxg3 31.Kg1 Qh2+ 32.Kf1 Qg3, drawing.

b) Or 26.Rd6 Bf3 27.gxf3 *(also reasonable is 27.Ne2)* 27...exf3 28.Rd2 Rh5 29.Rad1 Qg5+ 30.Kh1 Qg4 31.Kh2 Qh4 32.Nd5 Ne4 33.Nf4 Rhe5 34.Bd3 Nxd2 35.Qxd2 Rd8 36.Rg1 Rg5 37.Rg3 Rxg3 38.fxg3, when only White can dream of winning. And this comes from a variation where White stuck his Rook at a1!

I suspect the more natural 22.Rd8 works even better for White.

22...Ng4!

Cy: (!) Now Black's Kingside bind grows out of control.

23.Bxg4

Jack: Both 23.Kg1 and 23.Rf1 lose to 23...Qh4.

23...Bxg4 24.Rf1

Cy: Maybe it's time to offer a bribe with 24.Nc3. But Black isn't even obliged to take it, and can continue to attack with 24...Qh4 25.Rd5 R5e6 threatening ...Rh6 next.

24...Qh4

Jack: Threatening 25...Rh5.

Cy: Too many attackers against White's lone King.

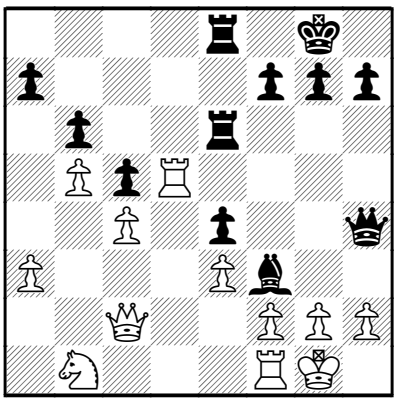
25.Rd5

Jack: If 25.f4, Black's simplest win begins 25...exf3 26.gxf3 Bh3 27.Rg1 Rxe3-+.

25...R5e6 26.Kg1

Jack: The "improvement" 26.f4 exf3 27.gxf3 Bh3 28.Qf2 doesn't help, as 28...Qxf2 29.Rxf2 Rxe3 gains more material by threatening mate.

26...Bf3! 0-1



Cy: Reasonable argument fails to sway a mob. IM Jon Yedidia gave me some advice 20 years ago: *"Never allow Jack to attack you!"* And he may have been right.

Jack: The finish could be 27.gxf3 Rg6+ 28.Kh1 Rh6, or 27.Rc1 Rg6 28.Kf1 Rxg2 29.Ke1 Qxh2 *(threatening 30...Qg1+)* 30.Nd2 Rg1+ 31.Nf1 Rxf1+ *(**Cy**: White's King, feeling uneasy, seeks to verify the suspicion that a traitor hides within his inner circle.)* 32.Kxf1 Qh1 mate. ♜

IMs Matikozyan & Bryant, WGM Abrahamyan Share First in 10th Los Angeles Open

Agoura Hills, October 11-13, 2013

IMs Andranik Matikozyan and John Daniel Bryant, and WGM Tatev Abrahamyan tied for first with 4-1 at the 10th Los Angeles Open, held at the Sheraton Agoura Hills. This is the fifth win for Matikozyan in this tournament; see the list of past winners on page 15. Tying for fourth at 3½-1½ were IM Philip Wang, IM Timothy Taylor, and Mike Zaloznyy. The strong 36-player section also included GM Enrico Sevillano and IM Roman Yankovsky.

Just a few days before the tournament started, Bryant was awarded the International Master title at the 84th FIDE Congress in Tallinn, Estonia. He earned his final norm at the U.S. 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.

WFM Annie Wang scored 4½-½ to take the 32-player Under 2200 section, and Gonzalo Roberts and Alice Salvaryan also scored 4½-½ to tie for first in the 49-player Under 1900 section. In the Under 1600 section, there was a five way tie for first, with Nicholas Andrew Garcia, Chasen Stark, Suhaila Mohsin, Kirk Ghazarian, and Shaunak Maruvada all scoring 4-1 in the 38-player section. Finally, David Dashoff swept the 32-player Under 1300 section with 5-0.

The Mixed Doubles bonus prize went to two teams scoring 7½. Although players can come from different sections, both mixed doubles teams had both players playing in the Under 2200 section. The winning teams were Agata Bykovtsev finishing fourth and scoring 3½-1½ with Nicky Korba tied for second with 4-1, and Leo Creger tying for 10th scoring 3-2 who teamed up with top finisher Annie Wang.

The tournament, which attracted a total of 174 players, was run by Steve Immitt for the Continental Chess Association and assisted by Randall Hough and Quon Andrew Luong.

We present three games annotated by the winners, starting with two upsets from the first round. WFM Simone Liao defeated Wang in an exciting French Winawer. This game is also available on Chess.com in a video by her teacher GM Melikset Khachiyan. In the second game, thirteen-year-old Craig Hilby defeated Sevillano as Black in a lengthy Ruy Lopez and provides valuable lessons. Finally, Philip Wang presents his second round

ap *Tatev Abrahamyan: first win at the L.A. Open*

ap *John Daniel Bryant: new IM!*

cr *Andranik Matikozyan: it's a fifth!*

victory over IM Roman Yankovsky. You would think that the Swiss System would pair Philip against a much lower rated player, after his upset in the first round, but not this time. He bounced back in dramatic style.

We hope you enjoy the games. Thanks to Simone, Craig, and Philip!

-Ed.

Simone Liao (2204) -
Philip Wang (2478)
[C18] French Defense
Los Angeles Open (1)
Agoura Hills, October 11, 2013

Notes by WFM Simone Liao.

IM Philip Wang is one of the strong active SoCal players I have been looking up to. During the period that I frequented LA Metro club, I saw IM Wang a few times in FIDE norm tournaments.

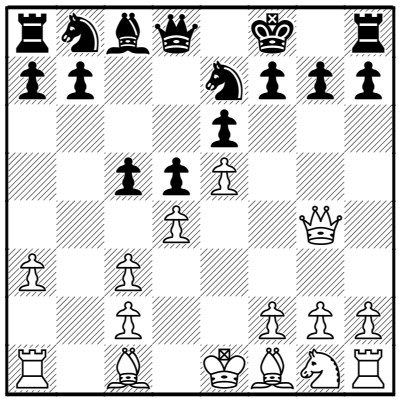
I have also learned of IM Wang's great successes outside chess, which includes an excellent education at Stanford starting at the age of 16, and an impressive career in the legal profession for more than five years before the age of 30. I think that good training in chess has played a role in these successes.

I had played IM Wang once three years ago and lost to him. This was our second encounter.

1.e4 e6

In our only previous game he played the Sicilian.

2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 Ne7 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 c5 7.Qg4 Kf8



An unusual sideline, likely to avoid mainline theory.

8.h4

An attempt to create more space on the Kingside. More popular moves include 8.Nf3 and 8.Bd3. After 8.Nf3 Qa5 9.Bd2 Qa4 10.h3 Qxc2 11.Rc1 Qa4 12.Bd3 c4 13.Bc2=, White has sufficient compensation for the pawn in a lead in development.

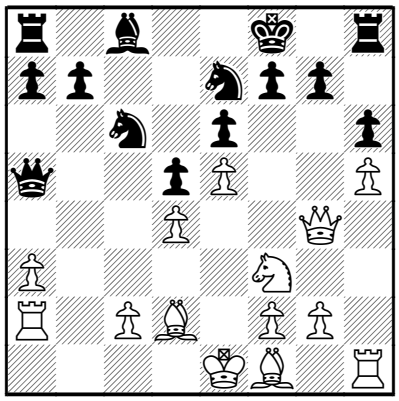
8...Qc7 9.Ra2

Awkwardly trying to defend c2, but it turns out that ...cxd4 and ...Qxc2 is not a threat. Instead, 9.Bd2 cxd4 10.cxd4 Qxc2 11.Rc1 Qa4 12.Nf3 is equal, with enough compensation for the pawn.

9...Nbc6 10.h5

Advancing the h-pawn as far as possible.

10...h6 11.Nf3 Qa5 12.Bd2 cxd4 13.cxd4



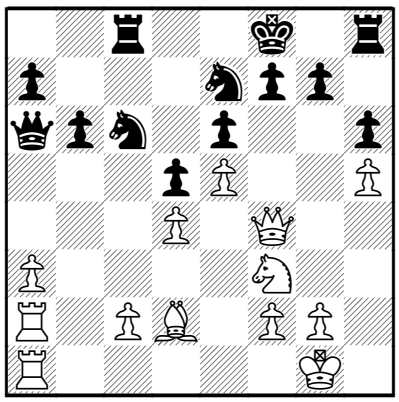
13...Qa4

Of no concern is 13...Qb6, as after 14.Ra1 Qb2 15.Rc1 Qxa3 16.Be2±, White's activity makes up for being down a pawn.

14.Bd3 b6 15.0–0 Ba6 16.Bxa6 Qxa6 17.Qf4

Trying to give my Queen a way back into the center, if needed.

17...Rc8 18.Rfa1



With the idea 19.Bb4 to improve my passive Bishop.

18...Qa4 19.Bb4 Ke8

Not 19...Nxb4? 20.axb4 Qxb4 21.Rxa7 Rxc2 22.Rb7+-.

20.c3 a5 21.Bd6 Na7

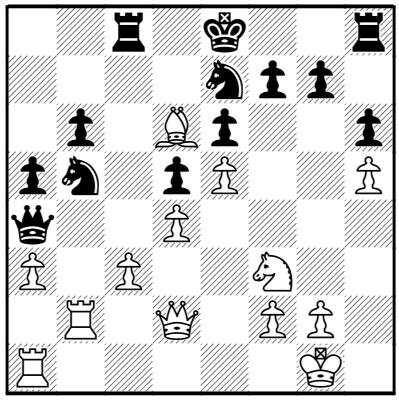
To follow up with ...Nb5 which gives me a lot of problems, between my c3 pawn and d6 Bishop.

22.Rb2

I decided to try to counterattack, in a way; after ...Nb5 the Black Knight won't be able to move without worrying about the weak b6 pawn.

22...Nb5 23.Qd2

Defending the c3 pawn. *(Apparently, Houdini really likes 23.Kh2, but I guess I don't understand.)*

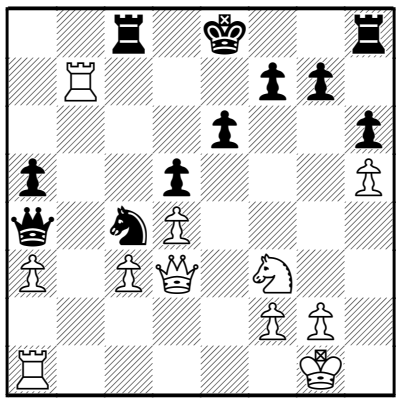


Now 23...Rxc3 fails to 24.Rxb5; 23...Nxc3 is met with 24.Rxb6 which should favor White; and 23...Nxd6 24.exd6 leaves Black's Knight and b6 pawn under attack.

23...Nf5 24.Qd3

To force Black's b5 Knight to move, which will leave me the b6 pawn to take in exchange for the pawn I will lose on d6.

24...Nbxd6 25.exd6 Nxd6 26.Rxb6 Nc4 27.Rb7+-



Now Black's position is difficult, as his King is stuck in the center and I control the only open file.

27...Qc6 28.Rab1

The natural continuation.

28...Rf8?

While this tries to protect f7, it leaves another square undefended.

Not 28...Nxa3??, as 29.Ne5+- dominates.

29.Qh7

Black can't defend g7 directly.

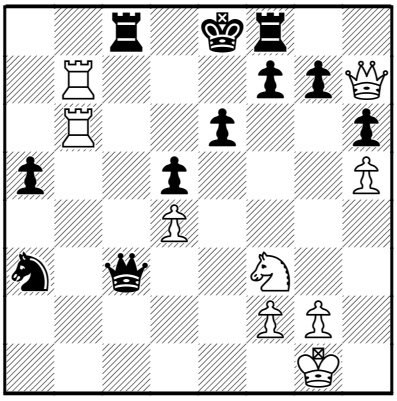
29...Nxa3

A natural defense that I fortunately anticipated.

30.R1b6

Also winning is 30.Ne5 followed by R1b6.

30...Qxc3



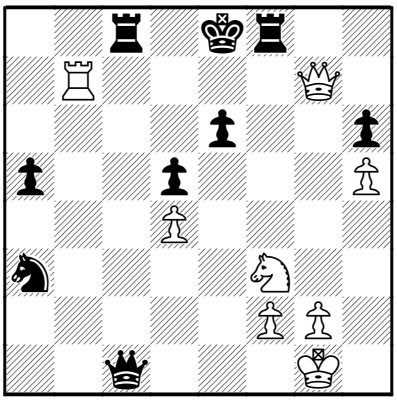
31.Rxe6+

Taking advantage of Black's badly placed King.

31...fxe6 32.Qxg7

Although this isn't a check, Black has no good way to stop mate or prevent a large material loss at this point.

32...Qc1+



33.Ne1 1-0

Now Black will be either mated or will lose a huge amount of material after ...Rc7, so he resigned.

It's either 33...Qxe1+ 34.Kh2 with mate, or 33...Rc7 34.Rxc7 Qxc7 35.Qxc7+-.

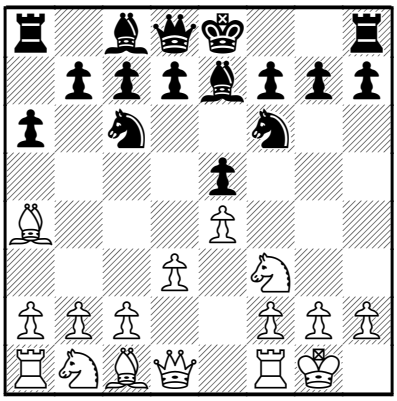
Wrong would have been 33.Kh2?? Qf4+ 34.Kg1 Qd6 and Black stops the impending mate.

I was well pleased with my play in this game, although I still have no idea how I won. In the game I played against Wang a month later, he played very well and earned a deserved victory.

Another very impressive upset follows; it's a strategic triumph! -Ed.

Enrico Sevillano (2561) -
Craig Hilby (2293)
[C84] Ruy Lopez
Los Angeles Open (1)
Agoura Hills, October 11, 2013
Notes by NM Craig Hilby.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.O-O Be7 6.d3



My GM opponent, playing a lower rated person, wanted to get out of theory and not play a theoretical game.

6...b5 7.Bb3 d6

Here, I did not know any specific theory and just knew the ideas in the Ruy Lopez.

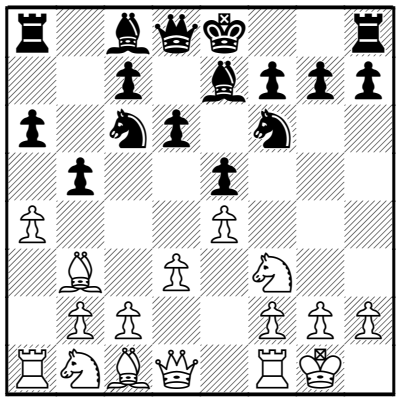
8.a4

Past Los Angeles Open Tournaments

Date	Org.	No.	Winner
1992 Jul 24-26	CCA	316	Walter Browne
1993 Oct 1-3 (Long Beach)	CCA	242	Larry Remlinger, Bende Lagua, Jonathan Yedidia, Roel Yumol
1994 Sep 30 - Oct 2	CCA	260	Michael Brooks
1995 Sep 29 - Oct 1 (Buena Park)	CCA	219	Eduard Gufeld
1996 Sep 27-29	CCA	218	Igor Ivanov
1998 Sep 25-27	CCA	215	Rashid Ziatdinov
1999 Oct 8-10	CCA	139	Rashid Ziatdinov
2002 Oct 12-14	SCCF	101	Melikset Khachiyan
2003 Oct 3-5	SCCF	122	Andranik Matikozyan
2004 Sep 24-26	SCCF	82	Andranik Matikozyan, Alexandre Kretchetov
2006 Oct 6-8	SCCF	99	Valentin Yotov
2008 Oct 31 - Nov 2	Western Chess	80	Rogelio Antonio Jr., Melikset Khachiyan, Enrico Sevillano, Joel Banawa
2009 Oct 9-11 (San Diego)	Western Chess	93	Andranik Matikozyan
2010 Oct 15-17	SCCF	67	Enrico Sevillano
2011 Oct 7-9	CCA	155	Melikset Khachiyan
2012 Oct 5-7	CCA	173	Andranik Matikozyan
2013 Oct 11-13 (Agoura Hills)	CCA	174	Andranik Matikozyan, John Daniel Bryant, Tatev Abrahamyan

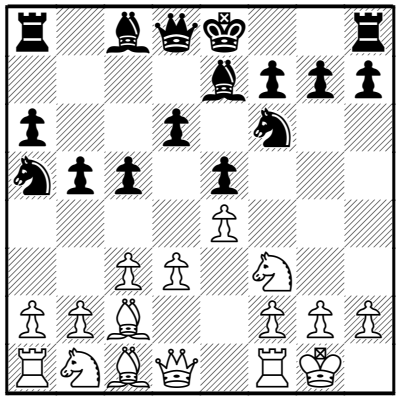
The tournament has had five rounds except for 2002, in which there were six. The most frequent winner has been Matikozyan with five victories and Khachiyan with three. Igor Ivanov in 1996 is the only winner to sweep the tournament with a perfect score.

The Continental Chess Association (CCA) started the tournament and held it for the first seven events from 1992-1999, skipping 1997, and has resumed its organization in the last three years, making this tournament their 10th.



A common move in the Ruy Lopez, trying to gain a small plus on the Queenside, whether it be the open a-file or some incoordination among the Black army.

After 8.c3 Na5 9.Bc2 c5



it would probably transpose into a line I know, as White will sooner or later play Re1, so that Nbd2-f1-g3 is possible. 10.Nbd2 O-O 11.Re1 Re8 12.Nf1 h6 13.Ng3 Bf8 14.h3 Both sides are playing according to plan in this well known line. White can either play on the Kingside or break open the center with d4. If White does nothing, then Black will prepare d5. After 14...Nc6 15.d4 *(After 15.a4 Bb7 Black has equalized, and both sides have chances.)* 15...cxd4 16.cxd4 exd4 17.Nxd4 Nxd4 18.Qxd4 Bb7 19.Bf4 Rc8 20.Bb3 d5! 21.exd5 Nxd5 22.Rxe8 Qxe8 23.Bxd5 Rd8 24.Bxf7+ Kxf7 25.Qe3 Qxe3 26.Bxe3 Rd3, with his two Bishops and much more active pieces, Black has enough compensation for the pawn.

8...b4

I decide to close up the Queenside and take away the c3 square from the Knight. I knew that my opponent's next move was forced if he wanted to play for an advantage.

The only other move I seriously considered was 8...Bd7, which is also good and has been played many times before, keeping the tension on the Queenside and keeping the Bishop on the correct c8-h3 diagonal. Possibilities are:

9.Nc3 b4 *(9...Na5 10.Ba2 b4 11.Nd5 Nxd5 12.Bxd5 c6 13.Ba2 c5)* 10.Nd5 Na5! 11.Ba2 *(11.Nxb4 c5 12.Nd5 Nxb3 13.Nxf6+ Bxf6 14.cxb3 O-O=)* 11...Nxd5 12.Bxd5 c6 13.Ba2 c5 I would prefer Black here,

and 9.c3 O-O 10.Nbd2 Na5 11.Bc2 *(11.Ba2 c5)* 11...c5 with equal chances.

The pin 8...Bg4 does not do anything here: 9.c3 conveniently guards the d4 square and gets the c2 square for the Bishop.

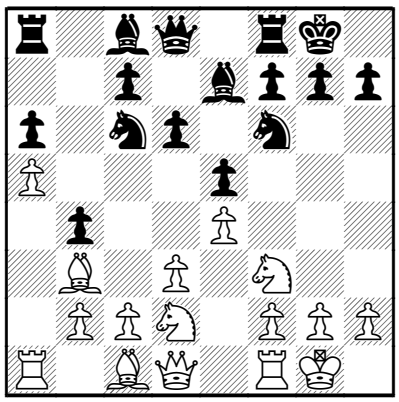
Top players like Aronian have played 8...Rb8, and it's not mentioned as bad, but I wonder why. It seems that this move is too passive, as it is just willing to give White the open a-file for free and admitting to White that he is the one with a solid advantage: 9.axb5 axb5 10.Nc3±.

9.a5

Taking the a5 square from the Knight and getting the a4 square, but it creates a weak pawn on a5. White is trying to gain space and take squares away from my pieces.

After 9.Nbd2 Na5 10.Ba2 c5 White doesn't have any part of the board where he can claim to have an advantage, and Black should have an equal or very close to equal position.

9...O-O 10.Nbd2



After 10.c3 Rb8 I would keep the tension between these two pawns, as the capture on b4 will be unfavorable for White, since it would create weak squares on d4 and b4.

10...Rb8

Here I had a long think about what my plans should be, and I came up with three.

This move is helpful in the first two of the three plans, and can therefore be considered a strong non-committal move.

The third plan started with 10...h6, which I rejected because of its passivity compared to the other plans, based on the weakened a5 pawn. After 11.h3 Re8 the plan is designed to prepare Be6, with the preparatory moves h6, Re8, and Bf8. However, White can claim an advantage after 12.Nc4 Bf8 13.Ne3 Be6 14.Nd5! Bxd5 15.exd5 Ne7 16.Ba4 Nexd5 17.Bxe8 Qxe8±. For the sacrificed Exchange, Black has a pawn and some compensation, but not quite enough for equality.

11.Bc4?!

Honestly, I don't understand the point of this move. I have a feeling my opponent thought that it would prevent my Bishop on c8 from going to e6 or g4, but if I wanted to, I could still go there anyway.

11...Na7

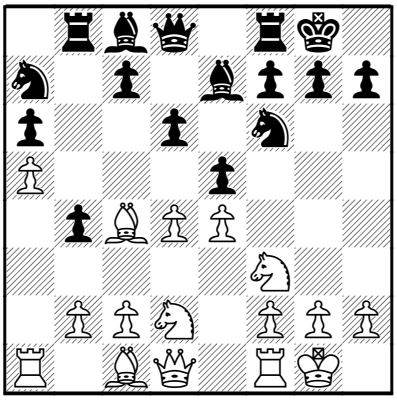
This is, in my opinion, the best plan, to play ...c5, to shut down the center, and then return the Knight to c6 where it will be hard for White to defend his a5 pawn.

My second plan was 11...Nd7, with the idea to place the Knight on c5 where it would prepare Be6 and would have attacked the b3 Bishop if it were still there, and I would consider going f7-f5 afterwards, and play on the Kingside. 12.Nb3 is the main reason I dismissed it, as this move just stops Nc5. Instead, if White played 12.h3 then 12...Nc5 13.Re1 Be6 14.Bxe6 Nxe6 15.Nf1 f5 would have been my plan.

11...Be6 is probably the move my opponent was trying to prevent, but this move is still perfectly fine to play. 12.Bxa6 *(or 12.Bxe6 fxe6=)* 12...Ra8 13.Bc4 Rxa5 14.Rxa5 Nxa5 15.Bxe6

fxe6=. I knew this line was about equal, but I wanted to play for more.

12.d4



Even though this is probably the best move in the position, I was pretty happy to see it during the game, because my opponent was opening up the position even though I am better prepared for it.

12...exd4 13.Nxd4 c5

Connecting the pawn chain and kicking the Knight back from d4, which will allow my Knight to jump in to c6.

13...Nxe4 was not good: 14.Nxe4 d5 15.Bd3 dxe4 16.Bxe4±.

14.Ne2

I am not sure why my opponent decided to play this; maybe he didn't realize that his pawns were in danger?

14.N4f3 was a better choice, to give the Queen access to e2. 14...Nc6 15.Qe2 and now two lines:

15...Ra8 16.Bd5 Nxd5 17.exd5 Na7 *(or 17...Nxa5 18.Rxa5 Qxa5 19.Qxe7)* 18.Re1 Bf6 19.Nc4 Nb5=.

15...Nxa5 16.Bxa6=. The position is about equal, although here I would prefer to play Black.

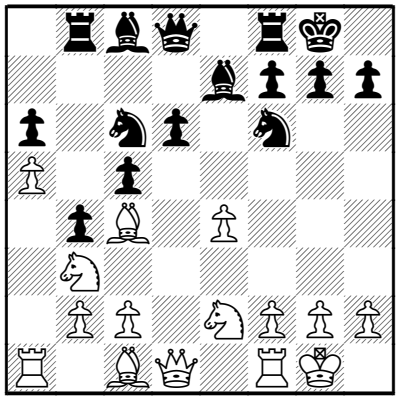
14...Nc6

Going into the game, I was honored to get to play a GM opponent, and thought it would be a good test of my skill and teach me a thing or two. At the beginning of the game, I would have been very happy with a draw as Black.

But about now, I looked at my position and began to realize, "I've outplayed this guy so far and it's not even move 15!", and I began to change my mindset to go all out for the win.

You should always respect your opponent, but not so much or so little as to change the way you think or play.

15.Nb3?



This move goes from a slightly worse to a very close to losing position. Judging by the fact that my opponent played his move immediately, he valued the a5 pawn more than his c4 Bishop, which is completely wrong.

White loses, with his light-squared Bishop, all control over the light-squares which were absolutely essential for him, as my pawn chain d6, c5, and b4 is on the dark squares.

White should have just given up the a5 pawn, and had pressure on a6 and a still playable position: 15.Nf4 Nxa5 16.Bd3 White says, "OK, you won a pawn, but I have great compensation for it in your weak a6 pawn and my much more active pieces compared to your passive ones." White has light-square control and will soon play b3 and Bb2 with ideas of either e5 or attacking on the Kingside. 16...Nc6 17.Nc4 *(or 17.b3 Ne5)* 17...Re8 18.b3 Bf8! Black attacks the e4 pawn while maneuvering the f8 Bishop to the long diagonal where it will oppose White's Bishop. 19.Re1 g6 20.Bb2 Bg7. Still, I prefer Black here, as he is up a pawn.

15...Ne5!

Picking up the favorable exchange of a Knight for White's strong Ruy Lopez Bishop. In general, if Black is able to trade off White's light-squared Bishop in a Ruy Lopez, then Black has either equalized or is even better. In this case, I am much better because of White's weak pawns and my strong Queenside ones.

16.Bd5

Not 16.Bd3?? c4, winning a piece.

The only alternative was 16.Nd2, but it is ugly: 16...Nxe4 *(16...Nxc4 17.Nxc4 Nxe4 18.Re1 d5 is also good for Black)* 17.Bxf7+ *(or 17.Nxe4 Nxc4 18.Nf4 Bb7 19.Nd5 f5∓)* 17...Rxf7 18.Nxe4 d5∓. Black completely owns the center, has the much more active pieces and the Bishop pair, and can pick off the a5 pawn with Rb5-Rxa5 if he wants to. Black is winning here.

16...Nxd5 17.exd5

17.Qxd5? is even worse due to 17...c4 and now:

a) 18.Nbd4 Bb7 traps the Queen.

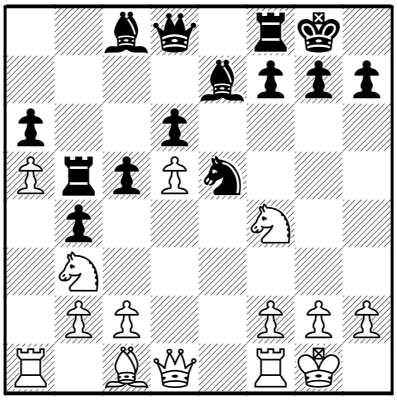
b) 18.f4 Bb7 19.Qd4 cxb3 20.fxe5 bxc2 21.exd6 Qxd6-+.

c) 18.Nd2 Bf6 *(with the threat of 19...Bb7)* 19.Nf3 An unfortunate necessity. *(if 19.Nxc4 then 19...Be6)* 19...Bb7 20.Qd1 Bxe4-+.

17...Rb5!

Targeting both the a5 and d5 pawns. Now, c5-c4 and Rxd5 is a threat. Notice how all of White's pieces are inactive and how many of Black's pieces are active.

18.Nf4!?



A pretty clever move, daring me to be ambitious.

After 18.f4 Nc4 I will just capture on a5 with my Knight and be a pawn up.

18...c4?

When my opponent played 18.Nf4, the first move that immediately came to me was just c5-c4 to pick up the a5 pawn. After a minute of thought, I came up with the very interesting

18...g5!?. After analyzing for about 10 minutes and declining it, I checked 18...c4 for any blunders, and then played it.

I did not really take much time to understand the position *if I did not play a forcing move*. Actually, White can't really do anything useful if I just play simple moves to improve my position, and save the pawn-snatching for later.

If 18...Re8! White can't really do anything and my position is winning here, as all of White's pieces are bad. 19.Re1 Bg4 20.f3 Bf5.

But I correctly refrained from playing 18...g5?! which is over-ambitious. This move is interesting because White's Knight on f4 doesn't really have many squares, and if it goes back to e2 then Black's 18...g5?! was a good move. The Knight can't go to h5 because of Bg4, and if it goes to d3 White has to have seen what happens after 19.Nd3 c4 *(19...Bg4 is the best move in the position: 20.f3 Bf5 21.Nbxc5 Rxc5 22.Nxc5 dxc5∓)* 20.Nd4 *(or 20.Nxe5 dxe5 21.d6 Qxd6 22.Qxd6 Bxd6 23.Nd2 Be6∓)* 20...cxd3 *(After 20...Rxd5 21.Nxb4 Rc5 22.Ra3 White is doing fine.)* 21.Nxb5 axb5 22.cxd3 Bf5 23.a6 Bxd3 24.Re1 This is not what Black wants when looking at the position from move 18, even though he is still slightly better in this complicated position.

19.Nd4 Rxa5

Now I am up a pawn, but I missed White's response to this move.

20.Rxa5 Qxa5

It seems that Black has a clear advantage, but...

21.Nc6!

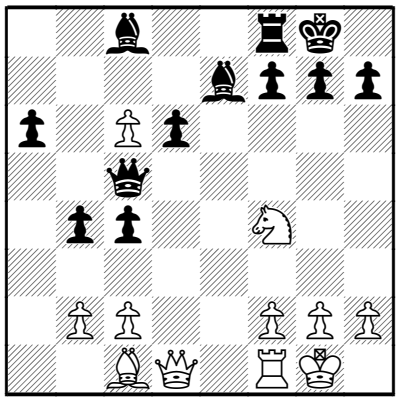
If I don't take this Knight, then it will take the pawn on b4. But if I do take it, White will have gained the d5 square and some strong compensation.

Playing normally with 21.Re1 is basically giving up. After 21...Bg4 22.f3 Bd7 Black will certainly win.

21...Nxc6?!

Better was 21...Qc7 22.Nxb4 Re8∓, and Black has lost a lot of the advantage, but is still better here with a solid plus.

22.dxc6 Qc5



23.Qd5?

In my opinion, this is the losing move. This basically transitions into an endgame that is much better for Black and very hard for White to defend, even if it isn't losing with best play.

Best was 23.Qf3! Be6 (trying to prepare d6-d5) 24.Be3 (played with tempo) 24...Qf5 25.Ra1, and White has very good compensation.

Also, 23.Nd5 of course needs to be considered, but Black will be better in these lines:

a) 23...Bd8? is not as clear as it should be: 24.Qf3 Be6 25.Rd1 Kh8 26.Nf4 d5 27.Nxd5 Qxc6 28.Nxb4 Qxf3 29.gxf3, and although Black is better, White has great chances at survival.

b) Better is 23...Bh4! 24.Bf4 *(not 24.g3 Be6! 25.Nc7 Bd8-+)* 24...Qxc6 25.g3 Bd8 26.Nxb4 Qb5 27.Bxd6 Re8 and although material is equal Black is much better, because of the very weak long diagonal and the major incoordination among the White pieces. Now 28.Qd5 is the only move, or else Black will be winning after ...Bb7. Black still continues with 28...Bb7 29.Qxb5 axb5 and has great winning chances in this endgame with several targets, and if you look closely at the position White has no way to attack any of Black's pawns.

23...Be6!

I guess I just outcalculated my opponent when I played 21...Nxc6, as he didn't see my 27th move.

24.Qxc5

24.Qe4 is another way to transition into an endgame, but it is still much worse for White: 24...d5 *(24...Qe5 is also possible: 25.Qxe5 dxe5 26.Nxe6 fxe6 27.Re1 Rc8 28.Rxe5 Rxc6∓)* 25.Nxe6 dxe4 26.Nxc5 Bxc5∓.

24...dxc5

I will soon snatch up the c6 pawn and be a pawn up. Also, my King will be able to advance to the center a lot quicker than White's, as he will eventually take with Nxe6 and I will recapture with fxe6, opening the f7 square for my King.

25.Re1

25.Nxe6 fxe6 26.Re1 Rc8 just transposes to the game continuation.

25...Rc8 26.Nxe6

White doesn't really have any other options, as this is all forced.

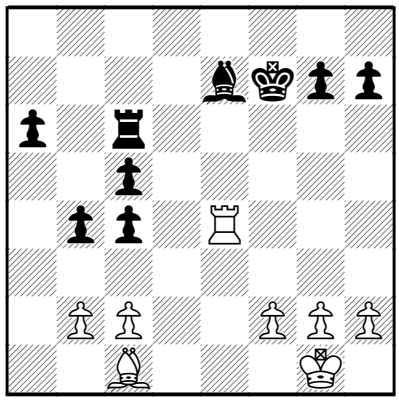
26...fxe6 27.Rxe6 Kf7!

I am assuming that this is what my opponent missed when he played 23.Qd5. The Rook can no longer defend the c6 pawn, and Black will be up material.

28.Re4

The best square for the Rook, to put pressure on the c4 pawn and to try to win the pawn back and possibly hold this ending.

28...Rxc6



29.Kf1

A necessity, as the pawn on c4 was untouchable: 29.Rxc4?? loses immediately to 29...Rd6! and White can't defend against both threats of mating on the back rank and winning the Bishop on c1. *(29...a5 was my original plan when I played 23...Be6, and Black is still much better and probably winning after 30.Kf1 a4∓ and Black's idea would be simple: Ra6, a3, a2, a1=Q)* 30.Rf4+ Bf6 31.g4 Rd1+ 32.Kg2 Rxc1 33.g5 Rxc2 34.gxf6 gxf6 35.b3 c4-+.

29...c3!

My idea is not to be greedy and hold on to the pawn, but to sacrifice that

which was going to die anyway, for a very strong passed pawn of my own that eventually decided the game.

Less strong is 29...Rd6 30.Be3 Rd1+ 31.Ke2 Rb1 32.Rxc4 Rxb2 33.Bxc5 Bxc5 34.Rxc5∓.

30.bxc3

Or 30.Rf4+ Bf6 31.bxc3 a5∓.

30...a5!

Remember, chess is a game of squares, not material. Quality, not quantity! Here, Black's doubled c-pawn is useless anyway, and my b4 pawn is really strong in helping my a-pawn advance without being stopped by the Rook. Black is winning now.

30...bxc3? would give away all of my advantage. This is being too materialistic, and my Rook and Bishop would become passive, defending my weak pawns.

31.Bd2

This is the best try, to attempt to put pressure on my pawns and stop my a-pawn from advancing by attacking the b4 pawn.

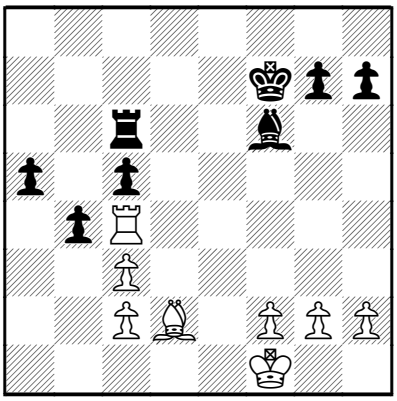
After 31.cxb4 cxb4 32.Re2 a4 the a-pawn will win.

31...Bf6

Improving my Bishop and setting up a deadly tactical threat...

Not 31...a4?? 32.cxb4.

32.Rc4



In time pressure, White missed the point of my last move because he underestimated the power of the passed a-pawn.

32.g4 was the best try, to disrupt my Bishop. After 32...a4 33.g5, Black still wins with 33...Rd6! 34.Ke2 *(or 34.gxf6 Rxd2 35.fxg7 a3 36.Re7+ Kg8 37.Ra7 Rxc2-+)* 34...bxc3 35.Be3 Bd4 - the point of ...Rd6, protecting d4.

32...a4!

And just like that, the a6 pawn that used to be doing nothing becomes a killer passed pawn that will win a piece

33.cxb4

Not 33.Bc1 Bxc3, and White can resign.

33...a3 34.b5

Absolutely hopeless is 34.bxc5 a2 35.Ra4 a1Q+ 36.Rxa1 Bxa1 37.Be3 Bc3 38.Ke2 Bb4.

34...a2?

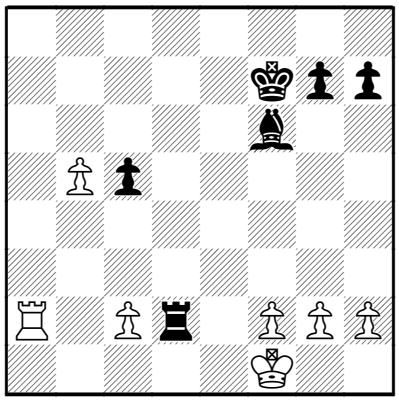
This does not throw away the win, but there was a much better way of winning the piece.

Correct was 34...Rd6!. I had time to think, and should have found this move instead of playing a3-a2 immediately. 35.Ra4 Rxd2 36.Rxa3 Rxc2. The difference between this line and the game continuation is that I get the c2 pawn for free, and the game is easily decided.

35.Ra4 Rd6 36.Rxa2

36.Bc3 was another way to lose a piece, but it really doesn't matter. 36...Bxc3 37.Rxa2 Ke6-+.

36...Rxd2-+



From here on the result is never in doubt, although Black does have to show some technique and not be careless.

37.b6 Rd1+ 38.Ke2 Rb1

The Rook is best placed behind the passed pawn, where it has more scope.

39.Ra7+ Ke6

Going for the b-pawn.

Not 39...Kg6? since there is no need for King safety anymore, it is the endgame!

40.Rb7

Other options just lose the b-pawn immediately:

After 40.Ra6 Kd5 the Rook is funny looking on a6, where it does absolutely nothing.

Also losing is 40.b7 Bd4 41.Kd3 Kd5 42.c4+ Kc6 and I win the b7 pawn 43.g3 Rxb7-+.

40...Kd6

Time control has been reached, and I could relax a little, knowing I wasn't going to flag.

41.Rb8!

I have to give credit to my opponent for playing on and finding the best tries in doing so. This is a great attempt to try to get the c-pawn for the b-pawn.

41...Rb5!

The most accurate! Never relax too soon! The point is to just defend my c5 pawn and to defend my Rook against the skewer after 41...Kc6 42.Rc8+ Kb7 *(42...Kxb6?? 43.Rb8+ Kc6 44.Rxb1+- is the skewer)* 43.Rxc5 Kxb6 44.Rc4. White is one step closer towards a draw, though this should still be winning.

41...Rb4 was one move I considered, to threaten Kc6, and if White check with Rc8+ then play Kxb6, as the Rook is defended on b4 instead of hanging on b1. However, White can try 42.b7 and Black can't move the King to the c-file without having to give up the c-pawn for the b-pawn: 42...Kc7 43.Rc8+ Kxb7 44.Rxc5.

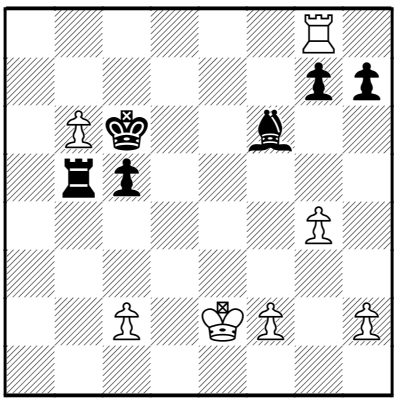
42.g4

White is relentless in trying to create counterplay.

42...Kc6

Now the b-pawn is mine, so White goes to the other side of the board to try and create counterplay.

43.Rg8



43...h6

After 43...Rxb6 44.g5 Bxg5 *(if 44... Bd4 45.Rh8 White wins the h7 pawn)* 45.Rxg7 h6 46.Rg6+ Kb5 47.Rg7 Rd6 Black is also easily winning.

44.h4

I thought 44.f4 was a better try to keep a passed pawn on the edge of the board. 44...Rxb6 45.g5 hxg5 46.fxg5 Bd4 47.h4, but of course, Black is easily winning after 47...Kd5 48.h5 Ke4.

44...Rxb6

Snatching up a pawn.

45.g5 hxg5 46.hxg5

White wants to trade off as many pawns as possible.

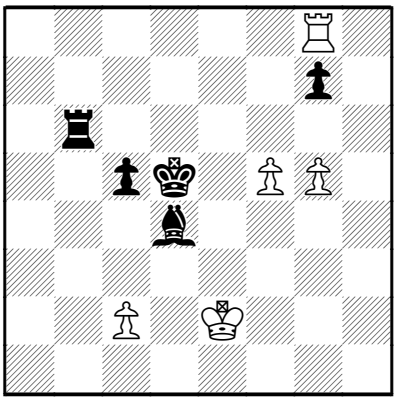
46...Bd4

46...Bxg5 47.Rxg7 Bf6 is still easily winning for Black, but I just wanted to keep as many pawns on the board as possible, just to make sure there was no chance of the win slipping away.

47.f4

Trying to create something on the Kingside.

47...Kd5 48.f5

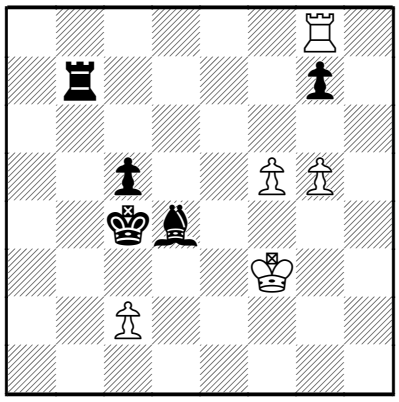


48...Rb7

Just making sure my g7 pawn is super solidly defended and that White will never have anything to do on the Kingside.

I thought 48...Ke4 would run into 49.f6 *(or 49.Rf8 Kf4 50.f6 gxf6 51.gxf6 (51.g6 f5) 51...Rxf6-+)* 49...gxf6 50.g6 f5 51.g7, winning back the piece and retaining drawing chances. But of course Black can go 51...Re6 stopping the Rook from escaping from g8 with check, then win the pawn next move with Re7, or with Bxg7 if the Rook moves away.

49.Kf3 Kc4



My plan is simple: Keep the Kingside solid and make sure nothing bad happens there, and just take on c2 and advance my c-pawn.

50.Rh8 Kc3 51.Rh2

51.Rh7 Kxc2 52.f6 looks scary, but actually White has no progress after this and everything is stuck. Bringing the King in is also too slow. 52...c4 53.Ke4 Bb2 and now two lines:

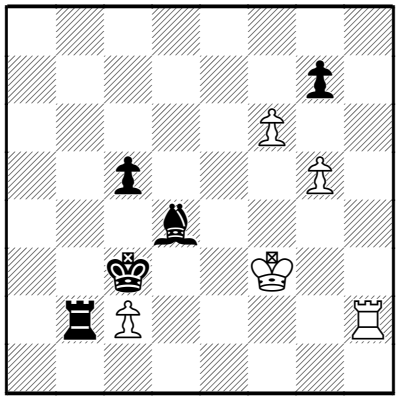
54.Kf5 Rb5+ 55.Kg6 gxf6 56.gxf6 Rb6 57.Rf7 Rxf6+ 58.Rxf6 Bxf6 59.Kxf6 c3.

54.Kd5 Kb3 55.Rh3+ c3 56.g6 gxf6 57.Rh7 Rb5+ 58.Ke6 c2 59.g7 c1Q 60.g8Q Qc4+.

51...Rb2

No need to worry about the Kingside, everything is solid and protected there. I can just win the c2 pawn with my Rook.

52.f6



This was probably played to try to scare me and make me nervous, as my opponent slammed this move on the board. But I knew that 52.f6 did nothing, I was confident I hadn't overlooked anything, and was not scared for one second.

52...gxf6 53.g6 f5

Protecting the g7 square with my Bishop.

54.Kf4

Of no help was 54.Rh7:

a) 54...Rb6 55.g7 Rg6 56.Rh5 Rxg7 57.Rxf5 Kxc2-+.

b) 54...Rxc2 also works: 55.g7 Rf2+ 56.Kg3 Rf1 57.Rh3 Rg1+ 58.Kf4+ Kc4 59.Kxf5 Rxg7-+.

I thought 54.Rh4!? would have been a pretty clever idea and trap, as maybe 1 in 100 or maybe even more people might play 54...Rxc2?? and it would be a draw after 55.Rxd4! Now:

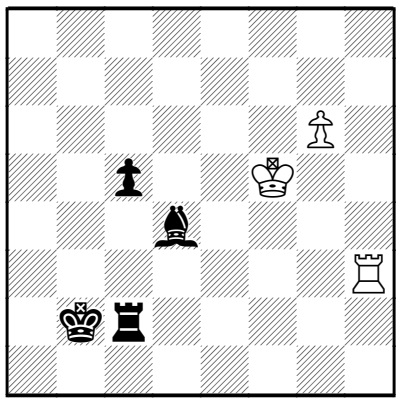
a) 55...cxd4 56.g7 and actually it is White with the winning chances!

b) 55...Ra2 56.Rd5 c4 57.Rxf5 Ra8 58.g7 Rg8 59.Rg5 Kb2 60.Kf4 c3 61.Rg6 c2 62.Rb6+ Kc1 63.Rg6 Kd2 64.Rd6+=.

c) 55...Kxd4 56.g7 Rc3+ 57.Kf2 *(57.Kf4?? Rc1 58.g8Q Rf1+)* 57...Rc2+ 58.Kf3 Rc3+ 59.Kf2 *(59.Kg2?? f4 60.g8Q Rg3+)* 59...Rc2+=.

However, 54...Kxc2 is what I was planning, as the g-pawn is stopped after 55.Rxd4 cxd4 56.g7 Rb8.

54...Rxc2 55.Rh3+ Kb2 56.Kxf5



Now the g-pawn is easily stopped by my Rook and Bishop, and I will just push the c-pawn.

56...Rf2+ 57.Ke4

Of no help was 57.Kg5 c4 58.Rh7 c3 59.g7 Bxg7 60.Rxg7 Rg2+ 61.Kf6 Rxg7 62.Kxg7 c2.

57...Rg2 58.Kf5 c4

Advancing my c-pawn while the g-pawn is firmly blockaded.

59.Rh4 Kc3 60.Ke4 Bg7

Also winning is 60...Rxg6 61.Rh3+ Kb2 62.Kxd4 Rg4+ 63.Ke3

c3 64.Kd3 c2 65.Rh2 Rg3+, but why bother?

61.Kf5

I became terrified for a second when I saw 61.Kd5, until I saw that the c4 pawn is still safe after 61...Rg5+ 62.Ke4 Rxg6 63.Kd5 Rg5+ 64.Kc6 Kb3.

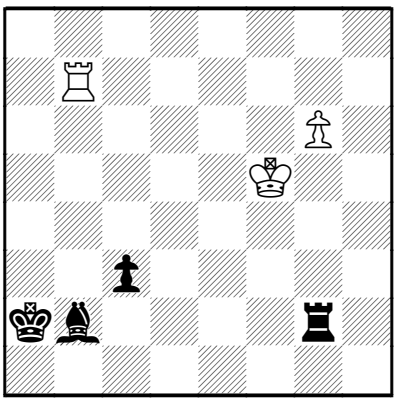
61...Kb3 62.Rh7 Bd4 63.Rh4 Bb2 64.Rh7 c3

Now the c-pawn will soon promote, and g7 does nothing after c3-c2.

65.Rb7+

One last check, and White throws in the towel.

65...Ka2 0-1



Some lessons from this game include:

1. Never play your game based on who your opponent is (except for specific opening preparation) and always respect your opponent, but don't show too much respect. The printed letters of GM next to your opponent's name on the pairing sheet means nothing when it comes to game time. It does not give him any additional advantage on the board, and he can't move the pieces any differently than you can. It is just a psychological advantage, and if you can overcome that before the game, then you are sure to play well.

2. The move a4 is a very common and thematic move in the Ruy Lopez to try to gain some small plus on the Queenside, and usually Black should either keep the tension by moving the c8 Bishop or by playing b5-b4 and claiming some space for his own. Rb8 is usually not such a great idea because it gives White the a-file and some considerable advantage without a fight after axb5.

3. In the Ruy Lopez after a2-a4 and b5-b4, White will very commonly go a5 to claim that square for his own and to get access to the a4 square for either his Rook or Bishop. If this happens, the fight on the Queenside will revolve around the activity that White has gained from the space-gaining move a5 versus the weakness of the pawn on a5. In this game, White didn't play very alertly and Black soon won the small Queenside battle in proving that the pawn on a5 was more of a weakness than a strength.

4. Always take time to know all the possible plans that you have and take time to evaluate which one(s) are the best. If the moves in two different plans are somewhat similar, then always play noncommittal moves *(10...Rb8!)* first!

5. In general, if Black is able to trade off White's light-squared Bishop in a Ruy Lopez, then Black has either equalized or is even better. White was playing much too materialistically with 15.Nb3? when in reality he should have been much more concerned about keeping his Spanish Bishop alive.

6. There are some positions where you have to play urgent moves, whether they are tactical or positional moves, and there are other positions where you are better, and your opponent can't really do anything useful to untangle himself and has nowhere to start sensible counterplay. In the position after 18.Nf4, I should have realized that White doesn't have any useful things that he can do and isn't threatening anything, and I should have just played calmly with 18...Re8! and just improve my position without forcing anything. If you will always be able to take a pawn off, you don't need to do it right away! You can improve your position to the maximum and restrain your opponent as much as possible before doing anything committal.

7. In positions where White has a pawn on d5, Knight jumps to e6 and c6 are very common to create an annoying pawn on either e6 or c6 for a few moves and then put a strong piece on d5 while Black is trying to deal with the pawn. Being a Benoni player, I should have had White's Nc6 idea engraved in my head because of the idea of going Na5-c6 in the Benoni after Black goes b5. Also, it is very common in the King's Indian for White to go Ne6 to get the light-squared attacking Bishop and the d5 square. In the game, I missed the Nc6 idea because on move 18 I played 18...c4 only after rejecting g7-g5 and I didn't really put much analysis into 18...c4 afterwards, as in the first few minutes of thinking I put g7-g5 as my first option and c5-c4 as my backup move for a safe advantage.

8. Whenever you are trading a pair of pieces or transitioning from an opening to a middlegame or a middlegame to an endgame, make sure the trade or transition is in your favor or at least gives you what you are looking for. After 23...Be6, trading Queens was definitely in my favor, as it gave me a clear and close to winning advantage in the endgame.

9. Chess is a game of who controls the most squares on a board, not who has the most material! Usually, when you are up material you control more squares than your opponent because you have more soldiers in your army that control more squares, but that is not always the case! One good example of this is a beautiful Knight on d5 in a closed position versus a passive Rook on the back rank. Also, when material is equal or when one side doesn't have a massive material deficit, the game is usually decided by who has the **better** pieces, not who has **more valuable** pieces according to material "points" (pawn=1, Knight=3, etc). One famous example is that two pawns on the sixth are better than a Rook. The Rook is clearly worth 5 points and the two pawns are worth 2, but it is the quality of the strong pawns that makes the pawns

the stronger pieces. In this game, 30...a5! was a great move to show that I was not playing for material, but rather playing for squares, to keep my strong pawn on b4 which denied the White Rook access to attack my powerful a-pawn. Also it demonstrated that I was playing for quality over quantity, with three strong Queenside pawns including one monster passer, versus two weak pawns.

10. If you have one specific advantage, look for a way to exploit that advantage with tactics. In the endgame, my big advantage was my passed a-pawn, and I was able to make use of it with the winning tactic starting with 32...a4!.

11. In an unforced position, always take at least 10 seconds to think, if you are not in major time trouble. Playing 34...Rd6! basically ended the game immediately; instead, my 34...a2 gave White slightly more drawing chances.

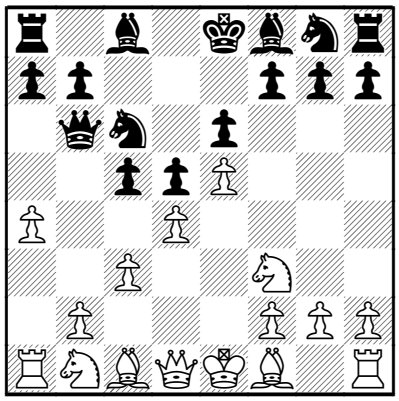
12. In endgames where you are up a piece for some pawns, it's almost always winning if you can keep one or two pawns on the board that are safe from trades.

Roman Yankovsky (2430) - Philip Wang (2397)
[C02] French Defense
Los Angeles Open (2)
Agoura Hills, October 12, 2013
Notes by IM Philip Xiao Wang.

In the first round of the LA Open, I was upset by Simone Liao in a great game. The game was later featured by GM Khachiyan in a video on chess.com: **www.chess.com/video/player/melik-suggests-handling-the-french---part-3**.

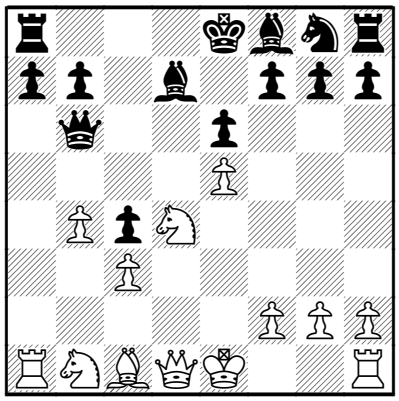
So, going into the second round I expected an easy pairing, playing White against a much lower rated opponent. Imagine my surprise when I saw I was playing *Black* against *Yankovsky*! Despite the bad luck, I pulled myself together. The result was one of the best games of my career.

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Qb6 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.a4!?



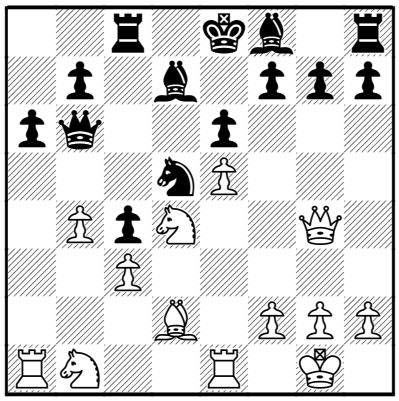
I was relieved to see an obscure sideline because I had just started playing the French and knew very little theory. Soon we're both in unknown territory.

6...Bd7 7.Bd3 cxd4 8.a5 Nxa5 9.b4 Nc4 10.Bxc4 dxc4 11.Nxd4



A dynamic and original position has arisen. Without knowing anything about the opening, I should develop my pieces and put my Knight on d5.

11...Ne7 12.O-O Nd5 13.Qg4 a6 14.Re1 Rc8 15.Bd2

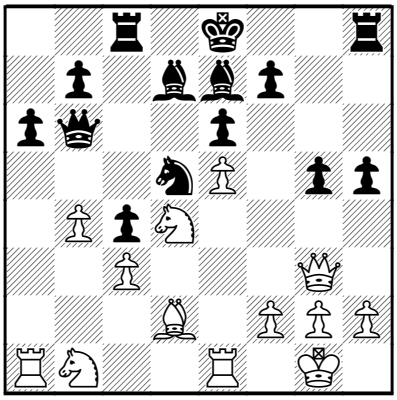


I was trying to figure out how to develop my dark-squared Bishop, and came upon the remarkable idea of pushing my Kingside pawns. White's problem is that his Queen has to keep in contact with the d4 Knight (or threaten g7) or else Black has ...Nxb4.

15...h5! 16.Qh4

If 16.Qe4 then 16...Bc6! threatening a discovery, and after 17.Nxc6 Qxc6 Black is a clear pawn up with good pieces.

16...Be7 17.Qg3 g5!



The key and perhaps the winning move, in the sense that it changes the character of the game. The pawn is immune and I roll through the Kingside.

18.Na3

After 18.Bxg5 I calculated a forced variation where Black has a nearly winning endgame. 18...h4! 19.Qg4 Rg8 20.Nf3 Bxg5 21.Nxg5 Qd8 22.f4 Nxf4 23.Qxf4 Qxg5 24.Qxg5 Rxg5.

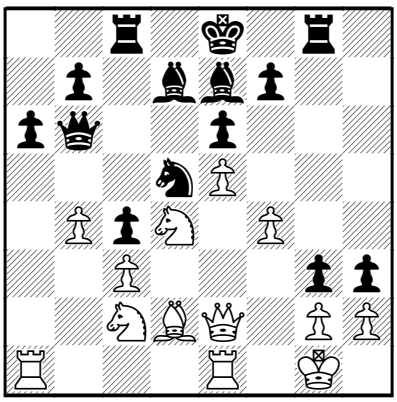
18...g4!

Totally unclear is 18...Nxb4? 19.Reb1! Qa7 20.Nab5.

19.Nac2 Rg8 20.f4 h4 21.Qf2 g3 22.Qe2

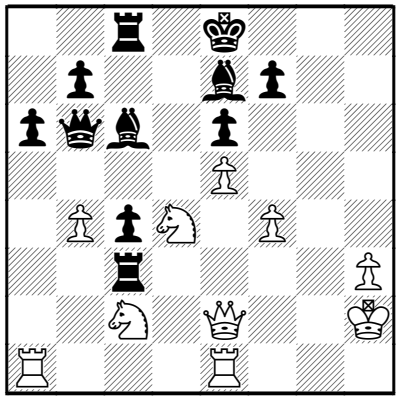
If 22.hxg3 then 22...Rxg3! I must recapture with the Rook, as it's important to keep the g-file open and target the g2 pawn.

22...h3!



Prying open the Kingside. I've made six pawn moves in my last eight moves, and they have gone from h7 and g7 to h3 and g3!

23.gxh3 Bc6 24.hxg3 Rxg3+ 25.Kh2 Nxc3 26.Bxc3 Rxc3



The fireworks have stopped (for now) and I've emerged with a winning position: two Bishops vs. two Knights, pawn up, a strong Rook on c3, and White has no Queenside. But the position is still messy and both of us are in time trouble.

Over the next 10 moves, we both make inaccuracies but I retain the advantage for the most part.

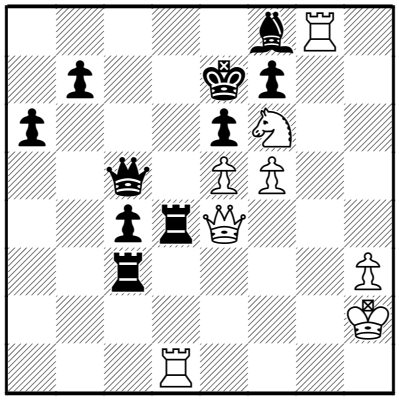
27.Rad1 Bd5 28.Ne3 Rd8 29.Rg1 Qxb4 30.f5 Qa3 31.Ndc2 Qc5!

Centralizing the Queen and preparing Be4 to capture the e5 pawn with check.

32.Rg8+ Bf8 33.Nd4 Be4 34.Ng4!?

Both of us missed the computer line 34.Nxe6! leading to perpetual check after 34...Qxe5+ 35.Kg1 Rxd1+ 36.Qxd1 fxe6 37.Rxf8+ Kxf8 38.Qd8+.

34...Rxd4 35.Nf6+ Ke7 36.Qxe4!



Both of us had about a minute left, and this move nearly knocked me out of my chair!

It didn't take long to realize that I get mated after both ...Rxe4 and ...Rxd1. I thought I was lost until I found the only resource that that wins the game:

36...Rc2+!

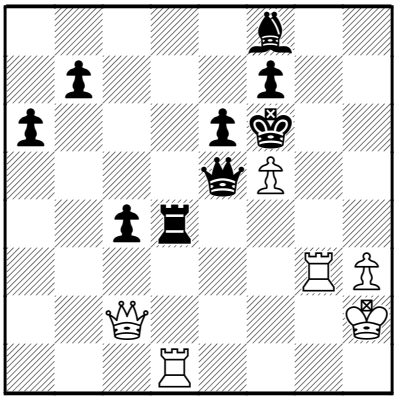
If the King moves now, Black gets a Rook or a Queen with check.

Not 36...Rxe4 37.Rd7 mate, and it's also a quick end after 36...Rxd1 37.Qxb7+ Kd8 38.Qb8+ Ke7 *(38...Qc8 39.Rxf8+)* 39.Qe8 mate.

37.Qxc2

If 37.Kh1, then 37...Rxd1+ and if 37.Kg3 then 37...Qa3+! followed by capturing the Queen with check.

37...Qxe5+ 38.Rg3 Kxf6 0-1



Here White lost on time, but the position is already lost since Black has three connected passers on the Queenside. For example, the game could finish this way: 39.Rxd4 Qxd4 40.Qc3 Qxc3 41.Rxc3 b5.

A tremendous fight, and one of the best games I've ever played!

Solutions to Outside Shots!

From the back cover.

1.It's a forced mate with ***37.Rxe4!*** threatening 38.Ne2 mate. Also mating is 37.Re3+ and 38.Ne2 mate. ***37...f3*** If 37...Rxe4 then 38.Nf5 mate. ***38.Rg4 mate***. Roberts - Queena Deng, Marcel Duchamp Memorial, La Palma 2013.

That's a lot of mates.

2.White mates with ***34.Nd6!! 1-0*** Stalemating Black's King and Rook. White forces mate by marching his King to e7 and mating at f6 with the Knight. Kupferstich - Andreassen, Denmark 1953. For the whole game, see page 36.

3.The best way to close the deal is ***24.Qe7+! 1-0***, for if 24...Nxe7 *(or 24...Kg8 25.Qxf7+ Kh8 26.Qg8 mate)* then 25.dxe7+ Ke8 26.Bxf7+ Kxf7 27.e8Q+ Kf6 28.Qe7 mate. Mousseri (USA) - Ooi (MAS), World Youth U14, Al Ain 2013.

Also good enough are 24.Bh6 Qd8 *(24...Bxh6 25.Qf6)* 25.Re7, as well as 24.Re7 Bxd4+ 25.Kh1 Be6 26.Bxe6 fxe6 27.cxd4.

4.Start the attack with ***21.Rxf6! Qe7*** If 21...gxf6 then 22.Qh6 *(22.Nh5 does it as well)* 22...f5 *(or 22...Kh8 23.Qxf6+ Kg8 24.Nf5)* 23.Qg5+ Kh8 24.Qf6+ Kg8 25.Nxf5. ***22.Rf3 Rac8 23.Nf5 Qe6 24.Qg5 1-0***. Black has to give up the Queen to delay mate. Mousseri (USA) - Kuruppu (SRI), World Youth U14, Al Ain 2013.

5.The only winning move is ***36...Rc2+!*** Not 36...Rxe4 37.Rd7 mate; and not 36...Rxd1 37.Qxb7+ Kd8 38.Qb8+ Ke7 *(38...Qc8 39.Rxf8+)* 39.Qe8 mate. ***37.Qxc2*** If 37.Kg3 then 37...Qa3+! followed by capturing the Queen with check. ***37... Qxe5+ 38.Rg3 Kxf6 0-1***, Yankovsky - Wang, Los Angeles Open 2013. For the whole game, see page 22.

6.Black ends this game surprisingly fast with ***47...Qd8!*** Threatening the Knight, and also threatening a forced mate starting with ...Qd4+. ***48.Nd5 Rb6!! 0-1***. Now Black wins the Bishop on b3, for if 49.Nxb6 then 49...Qd4+ is a mate in two, and 49.Qxb6 Nxb6 just loses the Queen. From Steinmeyer - Reshevsky, USA-ch, New York 1963-64.

GMs Timur Gareev and Mackenzie Molner Top 49th American Open

Orange, November 28 - December 1, 2013

Grandmasters Timur Gareev and Mackenzie Molner scored 6½-1½ to take the 49th American Open at the Doubletree Hotel in Orange. The six-section tournament attracted 275 players.

Mackenzie Molner was awarded the GM title in October at the FIDE Congress. His first GM norm was in March 2010 tying for first at the North American Masters tournament in Skokie, Illinois, his second was just three months later, again tying for first (with Gareev as he did here) at the Copper State International in Mesa, Arizona. However, it was not until June of this year that he achieved his final GM norm, tying for second at the 6th New York International.

Tied for third in the 48-player Open section with 6-2 were GM Jaan Ehlvest and IM John Daniel Bryant. Nicky Korba scored 7-1 and raised his rating to 2251 to take the Under 2200 section which had 40 players. The 55-player Under 2000 section saw a tie at 6½-1½ for Dmitry Cherkasky, Hao Lu, and Hans Moke Niemann.

Ruben Burciaga topped the 42-player U1800 with 7-1, while the U1600 section which drew 47 players saw a three way tie at 6½-1½ for nine-year-old Gabriel Eidelman, Martin Leung, and Shashetha Ruwanpura. The U1400 section drew 42 players and ended in a tie for first with 6½-1½ for Vincent Maggio II and Brian Lee Morris.

Agata Bykovtsev and Nicky Korba took the Mixed Doubles bonus prize. Both played in the U2200 section, and Korba's top score and Bykovtsev's 4½-3½ yielded the highest total, 11½, to improve on their first place tie at the L. A. Open.

The G/30 d5 Action tournament attracted 16 players and was won by Mark Duckworth scoring 4½-½. The Blitz attracted 47 and was swept 10-0 by Timur Gareev, two points ahead of the field.

The two-day Scholastic event had ten sections and drew a giant field of 315 players. In the Varsity sections, the 22-player K-9 and K-12 combined section was won by Joaquin Perkins who scored 5½-½. Bowen Liu topped the 27-player K-6 with 5½-½, and Rianne Ke took the 14-player K-3 with 5-1.

The Junior Varsity had six sections, all won with 5-0 sweeps. Harry Song took the 32-player K-12, Tejas Ramanujam won the 63-player K-9, Alton Qian won the 42-player K6 U800, Aaron Chizhik topped the 47-player K6 U600, Alex Frank Wang took the 47-player K-3, and finally, Ming Lu won the 22-player K-1 section.

jw

Simone Liao: Another first round upset.

Chess Palace organized the event, which was directed by Chief TD Alfred Ong assisted by Aaron Ong, Anthony Ong, Quan Andrew Luong, Ankit Gupta, Shun-Lin Sam Chou, and Aldrich Ong.

We present four games from the tournament, starting with Simone Liao's upset of IM Jack Peters in the first round. She provides notes to her game. Next is a round two quick game between grandmasters Gareev and Enrico Sevillano. Gareev makes the most of a couple of seemingly small errors.

In our third game, WGM Tatev Abrahamyan annotates her win against GM Melikset Khachiyan. An interesting bind nearly leads to a rare zugzwang.

Finally, Jack Peters annotates a superb strategic performance by Molner in his third round victory over IM Philip Wang.

We hope you enjoy the games. -Ed.

Simone Liao (2241) -
Jack Peters (2447)
[B03] Alekhine's Defense
American Open (1)
Orange, November 28, 2013
Notes by WFM Simone Liao.

Before this game, I had played IM Peters in January 2013 as Black,

a game I convincingly lost. As I entered this game I knew he was a good player capable of positionally crushing me, so I tried to play carefully and actively.

1.e4 Nf6

IM Peters plays a considerable variety of openings, so I didn't particularly expect the Alekhine.

2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.c4 Nb6 5.exd6 exd6 6.Nc3 Nc6 7.h3

To stop Bg4 so I can play Nf3.

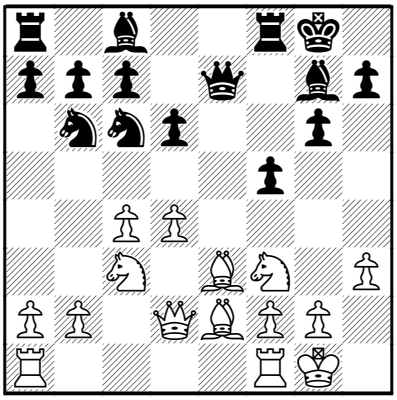
7...g6 8.Nf3 Qe7+ 9.Be3

The only effective block.

9...Bg7 10.Qd2

I contemplated Queenside castling ideas here.

10...0–0 11.Be2 f5 12.0–0



To follow with Rfe1 and Rad1 and general center-controlling moves.

12...Qf7

Threatening ...f4, trapping my dark-squared Bishop, as well as threatening to capture my pawn on c4.

13.d5

Opening the d4 square for a minor piece and taking care of the c4 pawn.

Another way to take care of the ...f4 problem is 13.Bh6 Bxh6 14.Qxh6 and now 14...Nxc4 fails to 15.Ng5.

13...Ne5 14.Nxe5 dxe5 15.Rac1

I saw that from here my idea could include a possible c5-d6.

15...Nd7

Black re-routes his Knight to f6 and also stops my Bc5.

16.f3

Leaving my dark-squared Bishop a clear escape path.

16...Nf6 17.c5 Rd8 18.Bc4

Also possible was 18.Rfd1.

18...f4

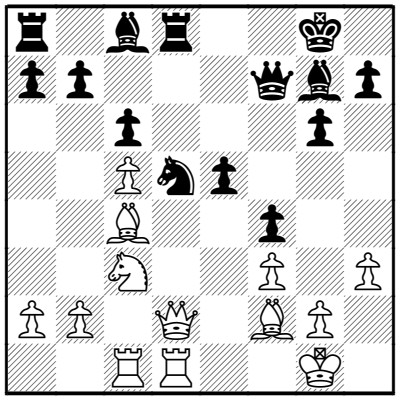
This forces me to move my e3 Bishop, which means my Queen will no longer be defended.

Bad was 18...c6? with the idea of taking advantage of the pinned pawn, which doesn't work because 19.dxc6 Be6 *(or 19...Rxd2 20.Bxf7+ Kxf7 21.cxb7 Bxb7 22.Bxd2+-)* 20.Bxe6 Qxe6 21.cxb7+-, and White has really strong Queenside pawns that limit Black's Rook activity.

19.Bf2 c6 20.Rfd1

Now 20.dxc6?? is just a blunder because after 20...Rxd2 21.Bxf7+ Kxf7 Black will be up a solid piece.

20...Nxd5

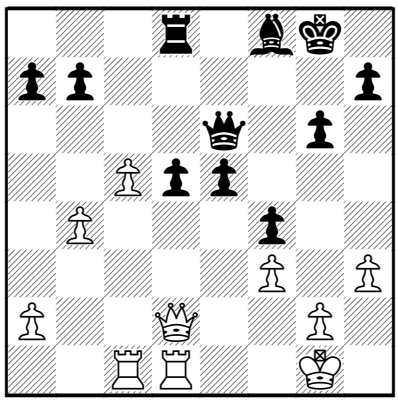


21.Bh4

This move forces Black to choose between defending d5 and saving his Rook on d8.

Another way to play is 21.Nxd5 Be6 22.Ne7+ Qxe7 23.Bxe6+ Qxe6 24.Qxd8+ Rxd8 25.Rxd8+. White's Rooks will dominate the d-file, and there are reasonable chances.

21...Be6 22.Bxd8 Rxd8 23.Ne4 Bf8 24.Bxd5 cxd5 25.Ng5 Qe7 26.Nxe6 Qxe6 27.b4



jw

Jonathan Homidan's incredible two-year undefeated streak came to an end in the second round of this tournament with his loss to IM Larry Remlinger. After losing in the first round of the 2011 American Open U2200 to Robert Akopian, Homidan won the rest of his games to begin the streak, and was undefeated in his next seven tournaments.

During the streak he defeated IMs Zhanibek Amanov, Roman Yankovsky, and GM Ehsan Ghaem-Maghami, and also drew against GMs Gareev and Sevillano.

See the box below for the list of tournaments, his scores, and his rating progress during the streak.

Congratulations, Jonathan!

Jonathan Homidan's Streak

Tournament		#	Ra
2011			2025
American Open U2200	+5-1	5	2091
A Rose for your Queen	+2=1	8	2122
2012			
LA Open U2200	+3=2	13	2123
American Open U2200	+4=3	20	2146
2013			
Mount Wilson Open	+4=0	24	2194
Pacific Southwest Open	+3=3	30	2279
Pacific Coast Open	+3=3	36	2364
So Cal Open	+3=1	40	2378
American Open	+2=3-2	41	2362

The streak was 41 games undefeated, with 27 wins and 14 draws.

To play b5 and c6, creating a passed c-pawn.

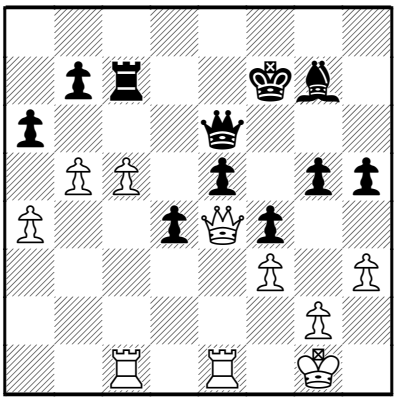
27...a6 28.Re1 g5 29.Qe2

Trying to tie Black's pieces down.

29...Bg7 30.a4 Rc8 31.Qd3 h5

Black looks for counterplay on the Kingside with a ...g4 break.

32.Red1 d4 33.Re1 Kf7 34.Qe4 Rc7 35.b5



Preparing to create a passer.

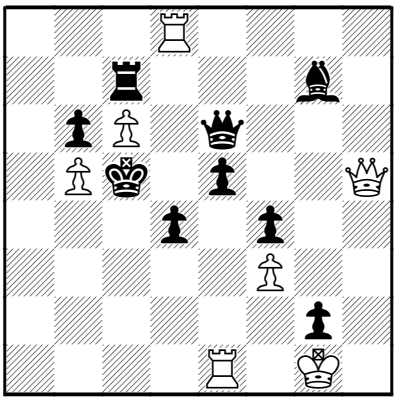
35...axb5 36.axb5 g4 37.c6 b6 38.Qh7

Attacking from behind and taking advantage of Black's limited King protection.

38...gxh3 39.Qxh5+ Ke7 40.Ra1

With the idea of Ra8.

40...hxg2 41.Ra8 Kd6 42.Rd8+ Kc5



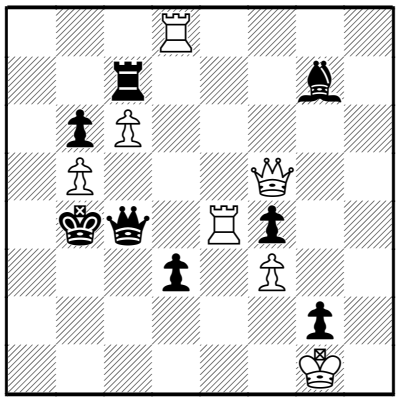
I thought for a while and decided the best way to punish a King on c5 was probably to bring the Queen over.

43.Qh7 e4 44.Rxe4 Qc4 45.Qf5+ Kb4 46.Re1

Threatening Rb1+.

46...d3 47.Re4 1-0

White wins the Queen and the game.



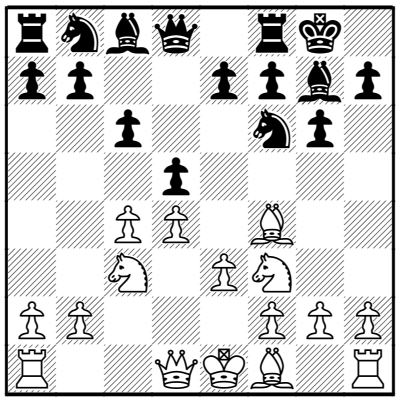
I was pleasantly surprised with my play during this game, and I hope I can have results like this in the future.

The next game is between two grandmasters in round two at the quick time control of the three-day schedule. It's unusual to have two top players squaring off so early in the tournament! We get to see how quickly a decent game can go bad when your opponent is a Super-GM. -Ed.

Timur Gareev (2739) -
Enrico Sevillano (2554)
[D93] Grunfeld Defense
49th American Open (2) G/60
Orange, November 29, 2013

Notes by the Editor.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c6 3.Bf4 d5 4.e3 g6 5.Nc3 Bg7 6.Nf3 0–0



The database shows about 3 dozen games with 2500+ players contesting this position, with both sides scoring about equally.

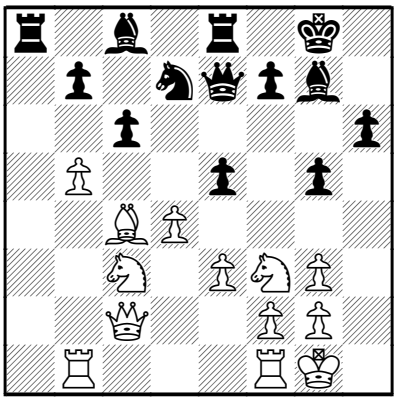
7.Qb3 e6 8.Be2 Nbd7 9.Rc1 Re8 10.0–0 Nh5 11.Bg5 Qb6 12.Qc2 h6 13.Bh4 g5 14.Bg3 Nxg3 15.hxg3

Black has the pair of Bishops, but at the cost of a weakened Kingside. White now advances on the Queenside.

15...Qd8 16.b4 a6 17.a4 Qe7 18.Rb1 dxc4 19.Bxc4 e5

Black clears the way his for Queen's Bishop.

20.b5 axb5 21.axb5

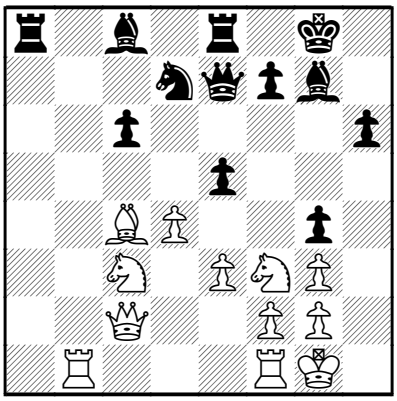


White's development is much better than Black's, and his space advantage is considerable, too. Black needs an accurate move to stay in the game.

21...e4?

The turning point. Black tries for more space, but now White targets both e4 and c6. Black lacks the resources to hold.

Houdini finds 21...g4 to undermine White's center, and claims that Black holds on after 22.bxc6 bxc6:



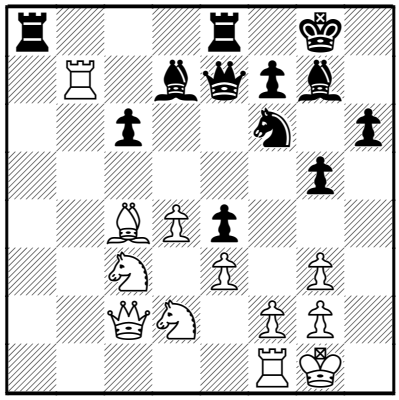
Now both 23.Nh4 exd4 24.exd4 Nf8 and 23.Nxe5 Nxe5 24.dxe5 Qxe5 are rated equal. With every pawn trade, the Bishops get better.

22.bxc6 bxc6 23.Nd2 Nf6 24.Rb6

This maneuver with the Rook tightens the screws, and makes the

difference between a slight advantage and a big advantage.

24...Bd7 25.Rb7±

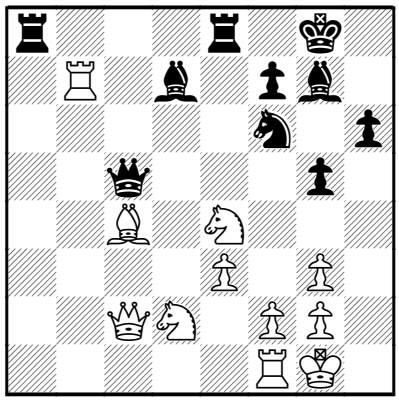


25...c5?!

There was no good way out of this.

The computer's best is to just give up the e-pawn with 25...Reb8 26.Rxb8+ Rxb8 27.Ndxe4 Be6 28.Bxe6 Qxe6 29.Nxf6+ Bxf6± without trading the weak c-pawn for White's strong d-pawn, but with trading away some of White's attacking forces.

26.dxc5 Qxc5 27.Ncxe4



Black has given up the e-pawn which could not have been held, and also has liquidated the c-pawn in the trade for White's strong center pawn at d4. But now White has threats all over the board, at c5, f7, and also threatens 28.Nxf6+ to win the Bishop at d7.

27...Nxe4

White closes the deal quickly after this move.

After 27...Qe7 White can pile up and eventually win big material: 28.Nxf6+ Bxf6 29.Qd3 Red8 30.Ne4 Rac8 31.Rc1 and now Nd6 can't be

ap *Timur Gareev: threats all over the board.*

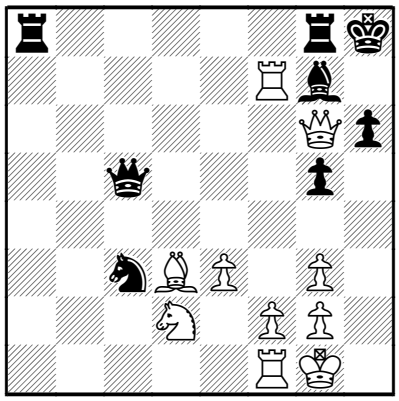
effectively stopped, for if 31...Be5 32.f4 gxf4 33.exf4 Bb8 *(or 33...Bg7 34.Nd6+-)* then 34.Rxd7 Rxd7 35.Qxd7 Qxd7 36.Nf6++-.

28.Rxd7

White just takes the Bishop.

Not 28.Nxe4?? Qf5± and Black might survive it.

28...Nc3 29.Rxf7 Kh8 30.Qg6 Rg8 31.Bd3 1-0



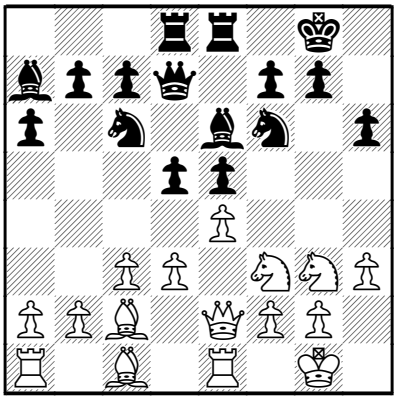
White mates.

Next is an upset victory by WGM Tatev Abrahamyan. It must have been quite a shock to see Black's stunning 39th move, but Tatev persisted to eventually win in the ending. Congratulations! -Ed.

Tatev Abrahamyan (2432)
Melikset Khachiyan (2612)
[C54] Giuoco Pianissimo
49th American Open (3)
Orange, November 29, 2013

Notes by WGM Tatev Abrahamyan.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.0–0 Nf6 5.d3 d6 6.c3 0–0 7.Nbd2 a6 8.Bb3 Ba7 9.h3 h6 10.Re1 Re8 11.Nf1 Be6 12.Bc2 d5 13.Qe2 Qd7 14.Ng3 Rad8



15.Kh2

Our last game ended in a quick draw after 15.Nh4 Bxh3 16.gxh3 Qxh3 17.Nhf5 Ng4 18.Be3 Qh2+ 19.Kf1 Qh3+.

15...d4 16.Nh4?

jw *Tatev Abrahamyan: a nice upset!*

An extremely careless move resulting from not really taking into account my opponent's threat.

Correct is 16.Bd2. I've even played this move before, but without understanding why it's important. It will become clear after the next few moves.

16...dxc3 17.bxc3 Qe7!

Threatening both 18...Ng4+ 19.hxg4 Qxh4+ 20.Kg1 Qxg3+-, and 18...Qc5 attacking c3 and f2.

18.Ngf5 Qc5 19.Be3 Qxc3 20.Rac1 Qa5?

After 20...Bxe3 21.Qxe3 Kh7 I'm not very optimistic about White's attack.

21.Qf3?

Careless, and not taking advantage of Black's mistake.

Better was 21.Bxa7 Nxa7 22.Qe3 Nc6 23.Qg3, and now I get the same position as I did in the game, but up a tempo.

21...Bxe3 22.fxe3 Nh7 23.Qg3 Ng5 24.Nf3

I don't believe White's attack is very dangerous, but I thought it was my only compensation for the blundered pawn.

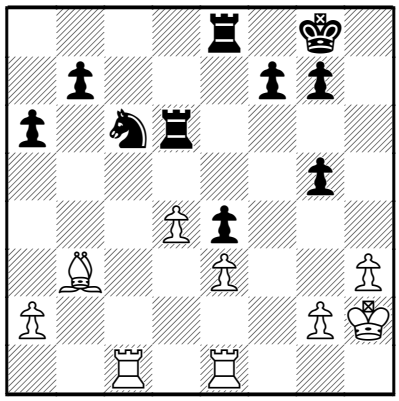
24...Bxf5

Better was 24...Nxf3+ 25.gxf3 g6 Now I don't have very many pieces to attack with. 26.Nxh6+ Kg7 27.Ng4 Rh8, and my King is not any safer.

25.exf5 e4

I thought this move was unnecessary, and just helped me with opening up my Bishop.

26.Nxg5 hxg5 27.d4 Qxf5 28.Bb3! Qg6 29.Qxc7 Qd6+ 30.Qxd6 Rxd6



Even though White is down a pawn in an endgame, I think White is already better here. The Bishop is much stronger than the Knight, the d4 pawn can become dangerous, the Rooks will get activated quickly, and Black has quite a few pawn weaknesses.

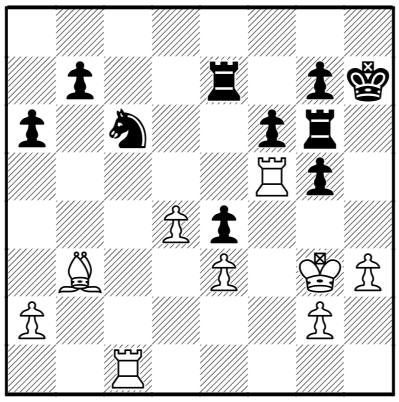
31.Rc5

Limiting the Knight's moves and attacking the Kingside pawns.

31...Rg6 32.Rec1 Re7 33.Kg3

All my other pieces are on good squares, so it's a good time to activate the King.

33...Kh7 34.Rf5 f6



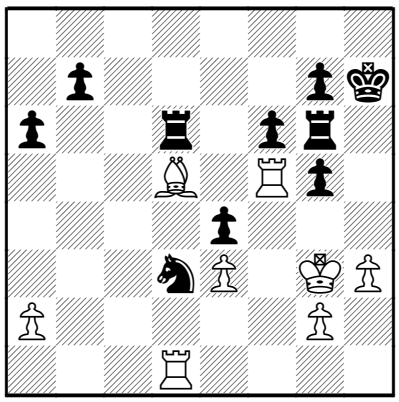
I really don't like this move for Black. Now the Rook on g6 is completely out of the game and I don't see how that's going to change.

35.d5

Better was 35.Rfc5. The Rook has done its job and can come back.

Here I was down on time, so I figured that since the Rook on g6 is basically dead it would be a good time to try to Queen my pawn. Unfortunately, this straightforward pawn push blocks my own Rook on f5.

35...Ne5 36.d6 Rd7 37.Rd1 Nd3 38.Bd5 Rxd6



39.Bxe4

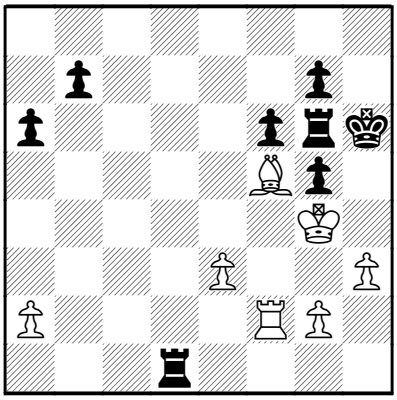
I had calculated all of this and completely missed Black's next move.

Better would have been 39.Bxb7, keeping the pressure on and the g6 Rook out of the game.

39...Nf2! 40.Rxf2 Rxd1 41.Kg4 Kh6??

Better was 41...f5+ 42.Bxf5 Kh6 43.Bxg6 Kxg6.

42.Bf5



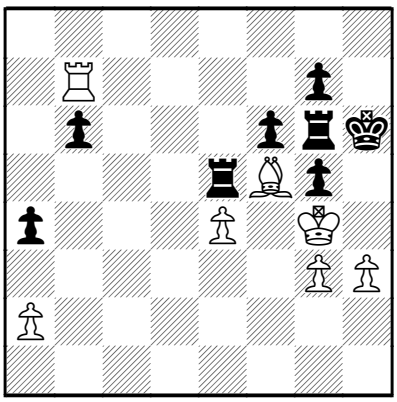
I actually think this position is already lost for Black.

My plan is very simple: put the pawns on e4 and g3, play Rc2 threatening Rc8 and forcing the Black Rook to the 8th rank, and finally attack the Queenside pawns until Black runs out of moves and loses his pawns. Waiting moves with the King are impossible due to Kh5 winning the Rook

42...Rd5 43.e4 Rd8 44.Rc2 Rb8 45.Rc7 a5 46.Rd7 b6 47.Ra7 Re8 48.Rb7 a4 49.g3!

The point of this move is to cover the h4 square. The importance of this will become clear in few moves.

49...Re5



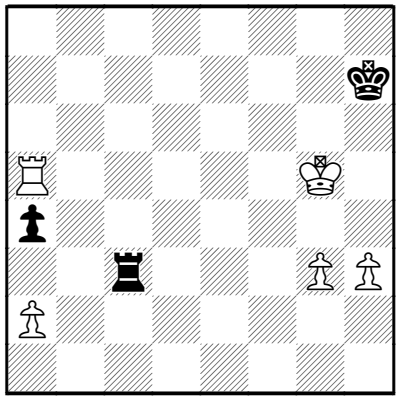
50.Rb8

An accurate move, not falling for the last trick 50.Rxb6?? Rxe4+!.

50...Kh7 51.Rxb6 Rxf5 52.exf5 Rh6

This is why g3 was useful. Now Black is not threatening to play ...Rh4+ and get his Rook back in the game, so I get another free move.

53.Ra6 g6 54.Rxf6 gxf5+ 55.Rxf5 Rc6 56.Ra5 Rc4+ 57.Kxg5 Rc3



58.g4 Ra3 59.Ra7+ Kg8 60.h4 Rxa2 61.Kg6 Kf8 62.h5 1-0

Mackenzie Molner (2614) - Philip Xiao Wang (2478)
[C05] French Defense
49th American Open (3)
Orange, November 29, 2013

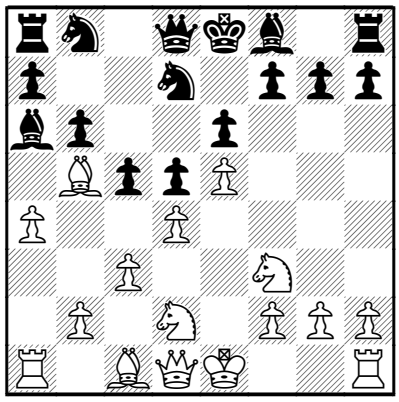
Notes by IM Jack Peters.

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 c5 4.Ngf3 Nf6 5.e5 Nfd7 6.c3 b6

A logical attempt to trade Bishops with ...Bc8-a6.

Much more common is the main line, 6...Nc6 7.Bd3 Qb6.

7.Bb5 Ba6 8.a4



The approved response. White willingly accepts a vulnerable pawn at b5 because Black cannot easily activate his Knights. Theory claims an advantage for White, and this game will not disprove it.

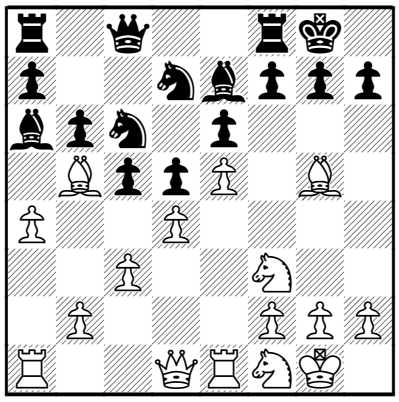
8...Be7

If 8...Bxb5 9.axb5 Qc7 10.0–0 a6, White will not capture on a6. Instead, he will open the center by 11.c4!↑.

9.0–0 0–0 10.Re1 Qc8

Black can obtain the Bishop pair by 10...Bb7 11.Nf1 c4 12.Bf4 a6 13.Bxd7 Nxd7, but 14.Qd2 leaves White with all the play. He may bring a Knight to h5 or lift a Rook to g3 via e3.

11.Nf1 Nc6 12.Bg5!±

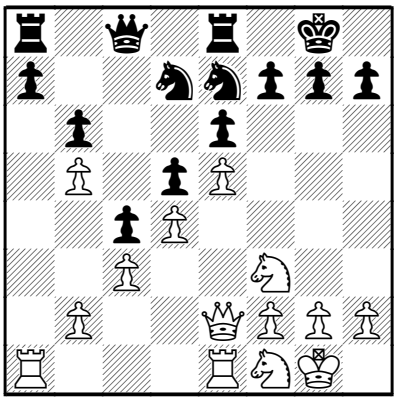


Black has struggled to eliminate White's "good" Bishop, while White effortlessly trades Black's good one. Without the Bishops, White's Kingside space advantage becomes the primary strategic feature.

12...Re8 13.Bxe7

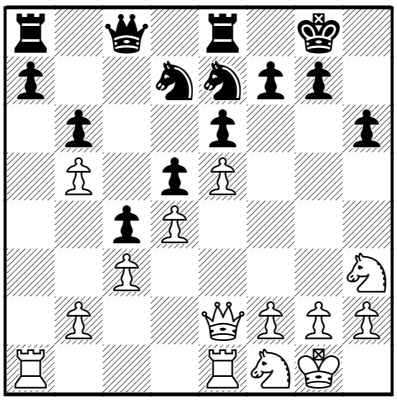
Also good is 13.Qe2±.

13...Nxe7 14.Qe2 Bxb5 15.axb5 c4



Isolating the pawn at b5, which Black can attack by bringing his Queen to d7. Instead of supporting it by arranging b2-b3, White correctly ignores it and proceeds on the Kingside.

16.Ng5 h6 17.Nh3



jw *Mackenzie Molner: a powerful plan carried out flawlessly.*

17...Nf8

Black's Kingside looks fairly solid, but his lack of counterplay gives White plenty of time to arrange a breakthrough.

Can Black forestall the attack by advancing his f-pawn? If 17...Ng6 18.f4 f6, a typical continuation would be 19.Qg4 Ngf8 20.Ne3 f5 21.Qh5 Re7 *(hoping for ...Qc8-e8)* 22.g4 g6!? *(after 22...fxg4 23.Qxg4, Black has no good answer to f4-f5)* 23.Qh4 Rh7 24.Kh1 Kh8 25.gxf5 gxf5 26.Rg1+-. Black cannot stop an invasion on the g-file, mostly because of his awkwardly placed Knights.

Black gets a little more room to maneuver by 17...Ng6 18.f4 f5 but 19.g4 Ne7 20.Ne3 Rf8 21.g5! is still too strong.

18.g4 g6

If Black sits tight with 18...Qd7 19.Ng3 Qxb5, White should reject the hasty 20.g5? hxg5 21.Nxg5 Nh7 and build up slowly with 20. f4 Qd7 21.Rf1.

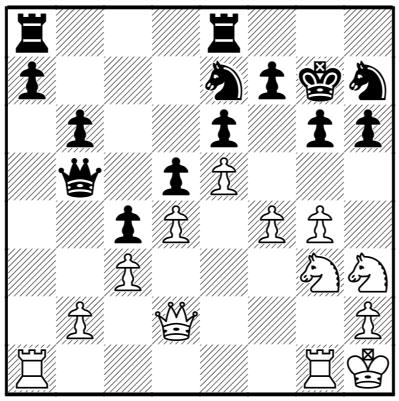
19.Ng3 Qd7 20.Kh1 Qxb5

Black has accomplished his goal. However, his extra pawn plays no role in the middlegame. The action will take place on the Kingside, where White enjoys a large advantage in space.

21.Rg1

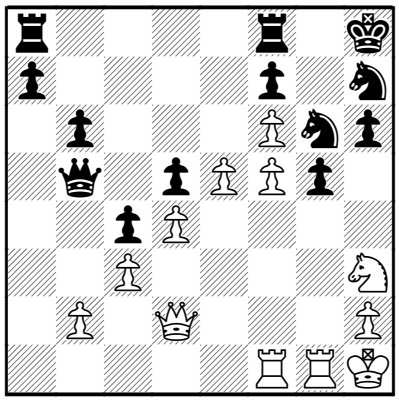
A new worry for Black - White might offer the Knight at h5 to open the g-file.

21...Nh7 22.Qd2 Kg7 23.f4



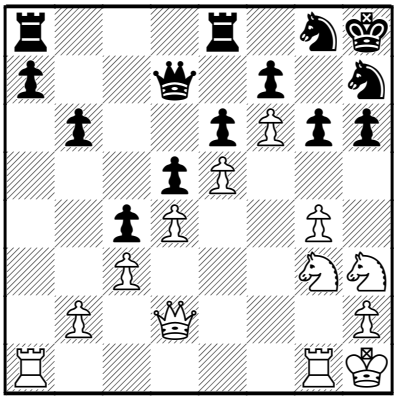
23...Ng8?!

Houdini, which consistently underestimates White's prospects, suggests 23...Kh8 to meet 24.f5 by 24...g5. Black's position still looks precarious, but he can parry the direct 25.Raf1 Rf8 26.f6 Ng6 27.Nf5!? exf5 28.gxf5



by 28...Nxe5! *(not 28...Nh4? 29.Nxg5 hxg5 30.Rxg5 Rg8 31.Rh5+-)* 29.dxe5 Qc6 30.Qd4 Qc5. Nevertheless, White keeps some initiative with 31.Qg4 or even 31.Rd1.

24.f5 Qd7 25.f6+ Kh8

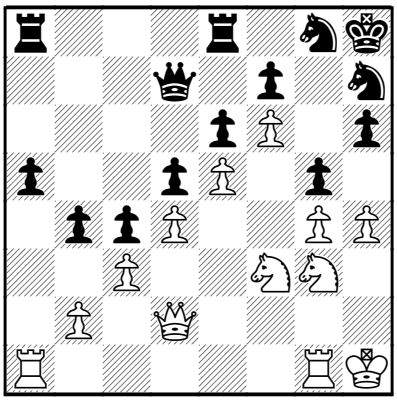


26.Nf4

Next, 27.h4 will create opportunities for either h4-h5 or g4-g5, followed by a Knight sacrifice. Black's only hope is to sacrifice one of his Knights for the stifling pawn at f6.

White can rip open more lines with 26.g5! because 26...h5?! loses to 27.Nxh5 gxh5 28.Nf4, threatening mostly 29.g6.

26...g5 27.Ng2 b5 28.Ne1 a5 29.Nf3 b4 30.h4



Absolutely decisive. It's difficult to pinpoint any errors by Black, as White has carried out a powerful plan flawlessly.

30...bxc3 31.bxc3 gxh4 32.Nh5

All is ready for the charge of the g-pawn!

32...Reb8 33.g5 Rb3 34.Nxh4

Another method is 34.gxh6 and 35.Qg2.

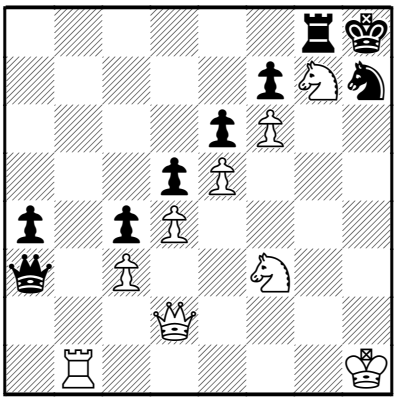
34...hxg5 35.Rxg5 Rab8

Black gets no relief from 35...Rb2 36.Qxb2 Nxg5 37.Qg2.

36.Rag1 Rb1

After 36...Qe8 37.Rg7! Rb2 38.Qf4 Rb1 39.Qg4 Rxg1+ 40.Qxg1, one amusing finish is 40...Qf8 41.Rxf7 Qxf7 42.Qg7+ Qxg7 43.fxg7 mate.

37.Rxg8+ Rxg8 38.Rxb1 Qa4 39.Ng7 Qa3 40.Nf3 a4 1-0



Black resigns because 41.Qh6 Qxc3 42.Ng5 forces checkmate.

Many thanks to James Woodward and Al Peña for all the photographs! See the next page, too. -Ed.

jw

Tournament winner Gareev also lectured.

jw

The scholastic events were well attended, as the photo below shows! Rianne Ke, above, makes a move on the way to victory in the K-3 Varsity section.

jw

ap *Always entertaining: IM Jeremy Silman... lectures to the crowd.* jw

Solutions to Final Points

From inside back cover.

1.It's **45...Ng3 mate**, Shan - Roberts, American Open U2000, Orange 2013. Two pins are mightier than the sword, as the saying might go.

2.White traps the Queen with ***13.Rb1 Qa3 14.Rb3***, Pau - Chinguun, World Youth U8, Al Ain 2013.

3.White has the Black King in a shooting gallery and mates with ***24.Nh5+ 1-0***, Sliwa - Kahyai, Tel Aviv Ol 1964. After 24...Kh7 25.Qc3 it ends quickly.

A move order switch works, too, for example 24.Qc3+ f6 *(24...Kh7 25.Nh5 transposes)* 25.Nh5+ Kh7 26.Qxf6 Ne6 27.fxe6 Rg8 28.e5+ Rg6 29.Qg7 mate.

4.White wins big material with ***22.Ng5!! 1-0***, Bjornsson - Weiss, Tel Aviv Ol 1964, due to the mate threat on h7. If Black takes the Queen, it's 23.Nxf7 mate.

5.Black strikes with ***19...Nxh3! 20.Nc7+*** If White takes the Queen, it's 20.Rxg3 Nf2+ 21.Kg1 Rh1 mate. Taking the Knight also leads to a quick end with 20.gxh3 Rxh3+. Fortunately, Black's Queen covers c7! ***20...Qxc7 0-1***, Godoy Bugueno - Fridh, Tel Aviv Ol 1964. Now 21.g3 *(21.Re3 Qg3 is a forced mate; also 21.gxh3 Bxh3)* 21...Nf2+ 22.Kg2 Bh3+ 23.Kf3 Bg4+ wins the Queen for starters.

6.Due to the situation of the coming Rook checks, Black has is only one winning move: ***51...Ra7*** This allows the King to escape to d7 while covering the a-pawn, in Janowski - Marshall, Cambridge Springs 1904. The game continued ***52.Rh7+ Kg8 53.Rg7+ Kf8 54.Kh7 Ke8 55.Kg8 a2 56.h6 a1Q 57.h7 Qxf6*** Here, the clever 57...Ra8! would have ended it sooner, as after 58.Rxf7 Qg1+ 59.Rg7 Black has the surprising Queen sacrifice 59...Qxg7+! 60.Kxg7 *(not 60.fxg7 Ke7 mate)* 60...Ra7+ 61.Kg8 and then trading down to an easy pawn ending with 61...Rxh7 62.Kxh7 Kf7. ***58.h8Q Ke7 59.Qh1 Rd7 60.Kh7 Qf5+ 61.Kh6 e5 62.Rg1 Rd8 63.Qb7+ Qd7 64.Qf3 Qe6+ 65.Kh7 Qd5 66.Qa3+ Qd6 67.Qc1 e4 68.Rg2 Qc5 69.Qxc5+ bxc5 70.Rg5 Kf6 71.Rxc5 Re8 72.Rc1 e3 73.Rf1+ Ke5 74.Kh6 f5 75.Kh5 Ke4 76.Ra1 f4 0–1***

7.Black won with the perfectly tricky ***24...Ncd4! 25.Ng3*** Best is to just lose a piece with 25.Qxa8 Nxe2+ 26.Kh2 Rxa8. ***25...Nxg3! 26.Qxa8 Nde2+ 0-1*** Hodges - Delmar, Cambridge Springs 1904. If 27.Kh2 then 27...Nxf1+ 28.Kh1 Rxa8, with a Bishop and a Rook up.

8.Black breaks down resistance with ***18...Nxf2! 19.b4*** After 19.Qxf2 Black finishes it quickly with 19...Qa4+ 20.b3 *(20.Kc1 Rd1 mate)* 20...Qxa2+ 21.Kc1 Nxb3 mate. ***19...Nxh1 20.Nxh1 Ne4 21.Qe3 Qg4 22.Kb2 Qd1 23.Qxe4 Rd2+ 24.Ka3 Qc1+ 25.Kb3 Qb2+ 0-1***, Cohen - Fine, USA-ch, New York 1938. After 26.Kc4 it's 26...Qxa2+ 27.Kc5 Rd5+ 28.Qxd5 Qxd5 mate.

Also winning is the similar 18...Ne3+ 19.Qxe3 Qa4+ 20.Kb1 Rd1+ 21.Qc1 Rxc1+.

9.With accurate play, Black can win this position with **34...Qh2+ 35.Kc1 Ng2 36.Qe2 Qg1+ 37.Qd1** Not 37.Bd1 Nxe3. **37...Qf2 38.Kb1 Nxe3 39.Qc1 Ra8**. For example if now **40.Rxc6** then **40...Nc4** wins the Queen.

Instead, after ***34...Qg2+ 35.Kc1 Ne6 36.Rxc6*** White later won, Brown (USA) - Ali Marandi, (TUR) World Youth U18, Al Ain 2013.

Out of the past...

By IM Jack Peters

Save your scoresheets! Sometimes a game stays in your mind and you want to revisit those days. Here is an example from more than forty years ago, with a story. -Ed.

Jack Peters - Jan Green-Krótki
[B43] Sicilian Defense
U.S. Open (9)
Boston, August 18, 1970
Notes by IM Jack Peters.

I entered this tournament with great hopes. My rating had just crossed 2100, and I could approach the magic 2200 mark with a good result.

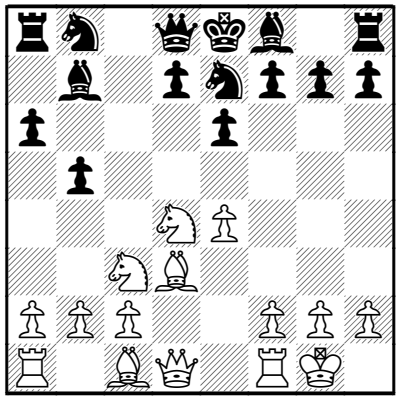
It didn't happen. I finished with a disappointing 8-4 and had to wait another year to become a master.

But this game still ranks as the most spectacular of my career.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.Nc3 b5 6.Bd3 Bb7

The modern refinement 6...Qb6 wasn't discovered until the late 1980s.

7.0–0 Ne7



My opponent later said that he and other young Canadian players had experimented with this provocative move. It looked strange to me. I knew that 7...Qc7 was normal.

Only recently did I learn that 7...Ne7 had been used repeatedly by Taimanov and Polugaevsky in the 1960s.

8.Bg5

Surprisingly, the MegaBase shows this as White's most common reply, and with an excellent score of 63.9% in 18 games.

Now I would prefer 8.f4, 8.Re1, or even 8.Qh5.

Igor Ivanov's historic 1979 upset of Anatoly Karpov began with 8.Kh1 Nbc6 9.Nxc6 Nxc6 10.Qg4 h5 11.Qe2, which should be fine for Black.

8...b4

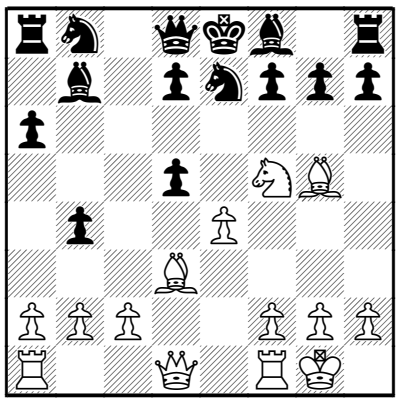
More provocation! I didn't believe that Black could get away with this, and I chose the most aggressive answer.

9.Nd5?!

Probably unsound, but similar sacrifices to open the e-file often succeed.

The sensible 9.Nce2 secures an advantage without risk. My opponent had already faced this against future grandmaster András Adorján in the 1969 World Junior Championship. Houdini considers 9...d5 10.Ng3 h6 11.Be3± best.

9...exd5 10.Nf5



I walked away from the board and told a friend that I had sacrificed a piece.

When I returned, my opponent was still thinking, and my friend was standing near the board with a worried expression.

"But Jack," he whispered, "What do you do if he plays f6?"

At that moment, tournament director George Koltanowski appeared and sternly said, "Don't answer that!"

Then Kolty glanced at the board, smiled, and said, "All right, you can tell him."

10...d6?!

Very natural, but inferior.

Black needs to get his Queen off the d8-h4 diagonal. After the correct 10...Qc7, Black welcomes 11.Bxe7? Bxe7 12.Re1 d4! 13.Nxg7+ Kd8∓.

Thus 10...Qc7 11.exd5 is the critical test of the sacrifice. The plausible 11...Nxf5 12.Bxf5 f6 13.Re1+ Kd8 gets the King out of danger, but Black may have trouble completing development before White regroups. For example, 14.Be3 Bd6 15.c3!⩱ will open the c-file.

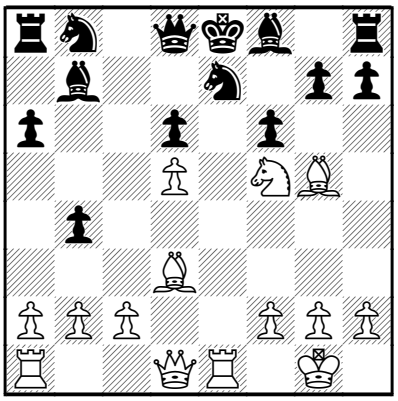
11.exd5 f6?

A more serious mistake.

Black cannot plug the e-file by 11...Bxd5? 12.Re1 Be6 because 13.Bb5+! axb5 14.Nxd6+ wins his Queen.

But 11...Bc8□ 12.Re1 Bxf5 13.Bxf5 h6 hangs on.

12.Re1!

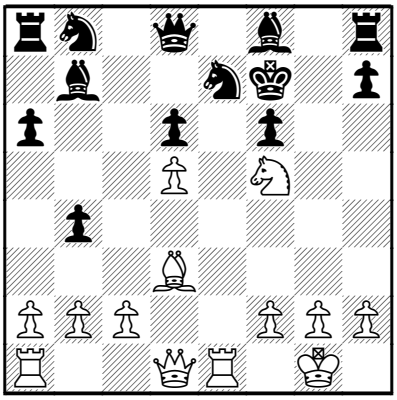


12...Kf7?

I expected Black to give up his Queen by 12...fxg5 13.Rxe7+! Qxe7, as 13...Bxe7?! 14.Nxg7+ Kf7 15.Ne6 is even worse. I also looked at 12...Bxd5? 13.Be4 *(Houdini likes 13.Bf4+-.)* 13...Bxe4 14.Nxd6+, but I never thought of 12...Bc8, the toughest defense. White obtains overwhelming compensation anyway by 13.Bf4 Bxf5 14.Bxf5 g6 *(else 15. Qh5+)* 15.Be6.

13.Bxf6! gxf6

After 13...Kxf6 14.Nxe7, the threat of 15.Qf3+ is devastating. Preparing a retreat by 14...g6 runs into 15.Nxg6! hxg6 *(or 15...Rg8 16.Re6+ Kg7 17.Qg4+-)* 16.Qg4 Rh6 17.Re6+ Kf7 18.Bxg6+.



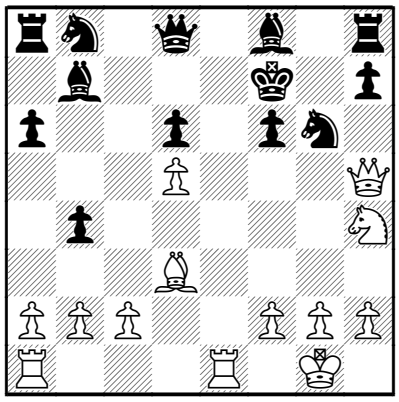
14.Qh5+

For nearly 40 years, I thought this move ruined the game. I did not change my mind until I looked at this position with Fritz in April, 2009.

I calculated the crushing 14.Rxe7+! Bxe7 *(Black is completely helpless after 14...Qxe7 15.Qh5+ Kg8 16.Nxe7+ Bxe7 17.Qe8+ Bf8 18.Qe6+ Kg7 19.Re1.)* 15.Qh5+ Kf8 *(or 15...Kg8 16.Qg4+)* 16.Qh6+ Ke8 17.Re1+-, when White refutes 17... Rf8 most convincingly by 18.Ng7+! Kd7 19.Bf5+ Kc7 20.Ne6+.

But then I remembered the advice *"When you see a good move, look for a better one."* I realized that 14.Qh5+ Kg8 15.Rxe7 would prevent Black's King from fleeing to the Queenside. He would have to resort to 14...Ng6, and I convinced myself that White could refute that too.

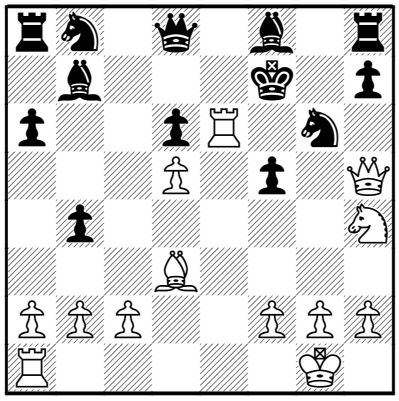
14...Ng6 15.Nh4



15...Bg7?

While my opponent thought, I suddenly realized that my intended 15...f5 16.Bxf5?? Qxh4 17.Bxg6+ fails, as 17...hxg6 defends Black's Queen.

Fritz revealed 15...f5 16.Re6!!



with these points:

a) 16...Be7 17.Nxg6 hxg6 18.Qxg6+ Kf8 19.Rae1+-.

b) 16...Nd7 17.Nxg6 Kg8 18.Nxh8 Kxh8 19.Bxf5+-.

c) 16...Rg8 17.Qxf5+ Kg7 18.Rxg6+ Kh8 19.Rxg8+ Kxg8 20.Qxh7 mate.

d) 16...Qxh4 17.Qxf5+ Kg8 18.Rxg6+ Bg7 *(as 18...hxg6 19.Qe6+! sets up 20.Qxg6 mate.)* 19.Qe6+ Kf8 20.Re1+-.

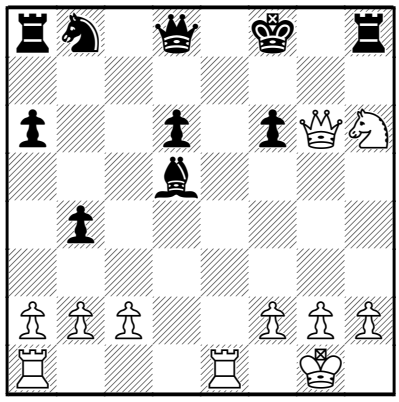
Fritz also found the superior defense 15...Bh6 16.Bxg6+ hxg6 17.Nxg6 Rh7 18.Nf4+ Kg8 19.Re8+ Qxe8 20.Qxe8+ Bf8 which should not save Black, but clearly proves that I should have stuck with my original idea of 14. Rxe7+.

16.Bxg6+ hxg6 17.Qxg6+ Kf8 18.Nf5

18...Bh6

This lasts a little longer than 18...Rg8 19.Nxd6, and 18...Qd7 19.Re8+ Qxe8 20.Qxg7 is mate.

19.Nxh6 Bxd5



No better is 19...Rxh6 20.Qxh6+ Kg8 21.Re3+-.

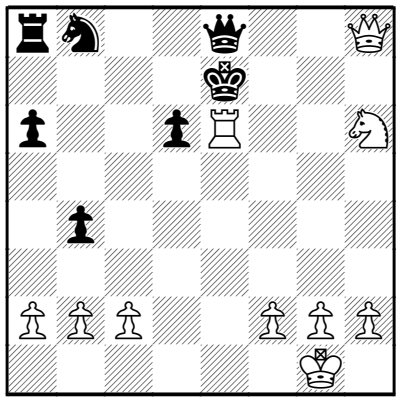
20.Re8+!

This analysis makes me grateful to computers, but I reserve the right to ignore them when they claim White should prefer 20.Rad1.

20...Qxe8 21.Qxf6+ Bf7 22.Qxh8+ Ke7 23.Re1+ Be6

Allowing White one more flashy move.

24.Rxe6+ 1-0



The tournament offered a prize for "the most daring attack." I submitted this game.

The prize went to Lubomir Kavalek, who played a higher-quality game featuring a sound pawn sacrifice and offers of his Knight, Rook, and Queen.

I still think mine was more "daring" because I did not know how it would turn out.

Jan Krótki, son of noted Polish-Canadian demographer Karol Józef Krótki, was the top junior at the 1968 Canadian Open and played

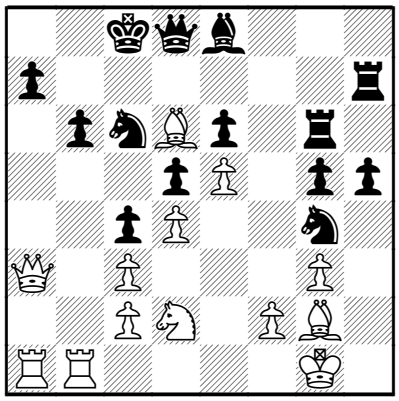
in the World Junior Championship preliminaries in 1969. He later added his wife's maiden name, Green, to his own. He won the Canadian Open in 1977 at age 25, but has not played in organized chess in the intervening decades.

Next, we present, for comparison, the prizewinning game. Was this attack more daring?

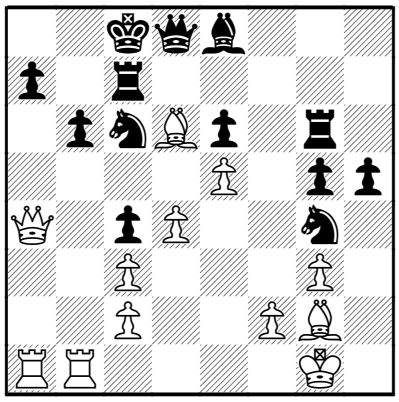
We provide one opinion here, and you can also judge for yourself! -Ed.

Lubomir Kavalek -
Edward Formanek
[C19] French Defense
U.S. Open Boston, 1970

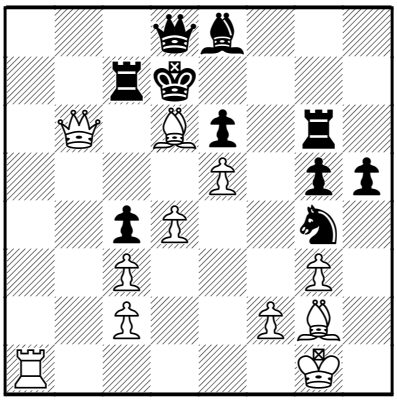
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 Ne7 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 c5 7.Nf3 Nbc6 8.a4 Qa5 9.Qd2 Bd7 10.Bd3 c4 11.Be2 f6 12.Ba3 0–0–0 13.0–0 Rdg8 14.Rfe1 h5 15.h4 Nf5 16.Bf1 Rh7 17.g3 Nh6 18.Bh3 Ng4 19.Bd6 Qd8 20.a5 Nxa5 21.Qc1 Nc6 22.Qa3 g5 23.Reb1 Be8 24.hxg5 fxg5 25.Nd2 Rg6 26.Bg2 b6



27.Nxc4 dxc4 28.Qa4 Rc7



29.Rxb6 axb6 30.Qa8+ Nb8 31.Qxb8+ Kd7 32.Qxb6 1-0



You were cheated, Jack. Your game was far more spectacular than Kavalek's. It's amazing that you were capable of playing a game like that at a 2100 rating.

Actually, if I saw a young player play the same game you did, I would predict a title for that player. Your game wasn't normal for any 2100 rated player.

- Cy Lakdawala

Solutions to Inside Moves

From inside front cover.

1. The double attack does it: ***14...Nb6*** Both Knight and Bishop are threatened. The game, Myagmarsuren - Johannessen, Tel Aviv Ol 1964, ended with ***15.c3 Nxc4 16.Qh5 Nxb2 17.Be5 Nd3 18.Bxg7 Kxg7 19.Re4 Qf6 20.g3 c5 0–1***.

2. Black wins big material with the double attack on Queen and Rook: ***21...Bf6***. Fox - Marshall, Cambridge Springs 1904, concluded with ***22.Rxd6 Bxg5 23.Red1 Bxf4 24.c5 Bxd6 25.cxd6 Qc2 26.Rd4 e5 0–1***.

3. Black makes the most of his material with ***22...Ne4+ 23.Kg1*** If White takes the Rook with 23.Kxe1 it's 23...f2 mate. ***23...Rxf1+! 24.Kxf1 Bh3+ 0-1***. The f-pawn will Queen. Madan - Gragger, Tel Aviv Ol 1964.

4. White mates quickly starting with ***22.Qh6 1-0***. If 22...gxh6 then 23.Nxh6 mate. Jansson - Chalkhasuren, Tel Aviv Ol 1964.

5. White starts with ***17.Nh5 Ng6*** and now ***18.Bh6! a5*** Black's g7 pawn is gone, for if 18...gxh6 then 19.Nf6+. Kristinsson - Safvat, Tel Aviv Ol 1964 ended with ***19.Bxg7 Qe7 20.Bf6 Qf8 21.f4 Qh6 22.Bg5 Qxh5 23.Bd1 1–0***.

6. Black gets to the King with ***26...Rxe6! 27.dxe6 Qf4+*** Even better is 27...Qxf3! 28.gxf3 *(28.g3 Rxg3 mates)* 28...Be5+ 29.f4 Bxf4 mate. ***28.Kg1 Qxf3 29.Rh2 Nxf2!*** Munch, munch. Black wraps it up. ***30.Rf1*** Or 30.Qxf2 Qxd1+ 31.Qf1 Bd4+. ***30...Nxh3+ 31.Rxh3 Bd4+ 32.Kh2 Be5+ 33.Kg1 Qxh3 34.e7 Bd4+ 0–1***, Trippold - McCreary, World Youth U16 Girls, Al Ain 2013.

7. White removes obstacles with ***23.c6 1-0***, Portisch - Pachman, Tel Aviv Ol 1964. If 23...Bxc6, White wins with 24.Nxc6 bxc6 25.Ba6+ Kd7 26.Rhd1+ Nd6 *(or 26...Ke7 27.Rb7+)* 27.e5. Or, if 23...bxc6 then 24.Ba6+ Kc7 25.Rb7+ Kd6 26.Nxd7 Rxd7 27.Rd1+ wins. *Also* crushing is the surprising 23.Ba6! bxa6 24.c6 Bxc6 *(or 24...Nf6 25.cxd7+ Kc7 26.Rhd1+-)* 25.Nxc6 Rd7 26.Rhc1 Rc7 27.Rb8+ Kd7 28.Rd8 mate.

8. Black makes it look easy with ***30...Bg6! 31.f3 Bxe4! 32.fxg4*** Or 32.fxe4 Rd2 33.Rf2 Bc5-+. ***32...Bxb7 33.Bc1 Rg3 0-1***. Winning the Knight, for if 34.Rf2 then 34...Bc5. Wheeler - Khachiyan, 49th American Open, Orange 2013.

9. Starting with **38...Nf3 39.Re2** it might look drawish, but Black has **39...e3!** threatening to trade on e2 followed by ...Nd4, forcing White to give up the Bishop to stop the pawn from Queening.

Now if 40.Rxe3 then 40...Rh2 mate. After 40.Kg2 Nd4 White has nothing better than giving up the Exchange with 41.Kf1 *(not 41.Rxd2?? exd2 and the pawn Queens)* 41...Nxe2 42.Bxe2 Rxa2 with a very comfortable win.

After **40.Rxd2 exd2**, the Knight works too quickly for the White King to help defend. **41.Bb3** Or 41.Be2 Nd4 42.Bg4 Nc2 and 43...Ne3–+. **41...Nd4 42.Ba4** Or 42.Bd1 Nf5 43.Kg1 Ne3–+. **42...Ne2 43.Kg2 Nc3–+**.

Instead, Lin - Korba, Los Angeles Open U2200 2013 continued with ***38...Nf5 39.g4***, and was later drawn.

From a Classic

By Irving Chernev

Forty-nine years ago Irving Chernev wrote The Most Instructive Games of Chess Ever Played*, with 62 selected games, in the descriptive notation in use at that time. This classic book is still popular, being printed by Dover Publications, and is available through their web site www.doverpublications.com. We reprint one of its chapters in today's algebraic notation, with permission from the publisher, with some notes in italics added with the aid of Houdini. We hope you enjoy this classic game. -Ed.*

GAME NINETEEN

The See-Saw Check, Zugzwang, and Other Tactical Tricks

A. Kupferstich. - J. Andreassen
[C27] Vienna Game
Denmark, 1953

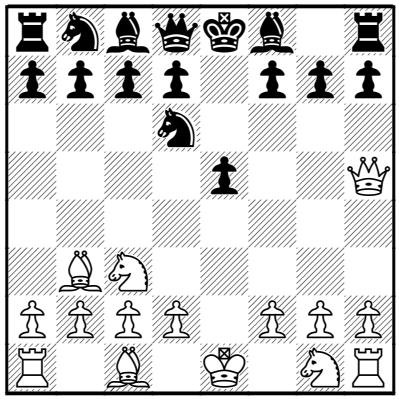
Wonderful things go on in this game! There is a series of see-saw checks that is remarkable, an imprisonment of King and Rook that is unique, and a threat of mate requiring at least ten moves to execute, yet so clear-cut a child could carry it out.

Question: Does this game, played so brilliantly, come under the heading of "Entertainment" or "Instruction?"

1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Bc4 Nxe4 4.Qh5!

This is preferable to 4.Nxe4 d5, when Black gets his piece back and retains the initiative.

4...Nd6 5.Bb3



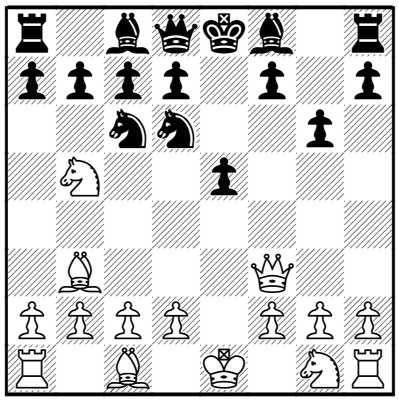
5...Nc6

Better is 5...Be7 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.d3 g6.

6.Nb5

Threatens mate, beginning with 7.Nxd6+.

6...g6 7.Qf3



7...Nf5

Alekhine favors 7...f5 8.Qd5 Qf6 9.Nxc7+ Kd8 10.Nxa8 b6 and Black has "a very strong and probably irresistible attack."

In the database, 7...f5 8.Qd5 Qe7 9.Nxc7+ Kd8 10.Nxa8 b6 has over 500 games, but it's very rare between two strong players.

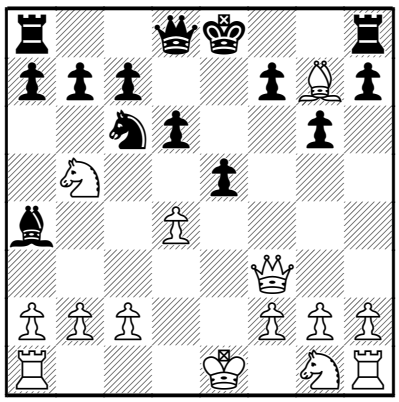
8.Qd5

Threatens mate for the third (but not the last) time.

8...Nh6 9.d4

Obviously aiming at 10.Bxh6 Bxh6 11.Qxf7 mate. (What an obsession!)

9...d6 10.Bxh6 Be6 11.Qf3 Bxb3 12.Bxf8 Ba4 13.Bg7



13...Rg8

Better is 13...Bxb5 and if 14.dxe5 then 14...Rg8=, and if 14.Bxh8 then 14...Nxd4∓.

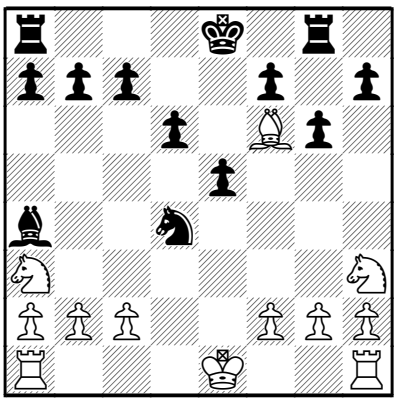
14.Bf6 Qd7 15.Na3

Much better was 15.0–0–0 and if 15...Bxb5 then 16.dxe5 is decisive.

15...Nxd4 16.Qh3

Not 16.Qxb7?? Bc6 17.Qa6 Bxg2–+.

16...Qxh3 17.Nxh3



17...Nxc2+

Black tries to collect a few pawns in return for the piece he has lost.

Better was 17...g5 18.Bxg5 Bxc2±.

18.Nxc2 Bxc2 19.Rc1 Be4 20.Ng5

The attack on the Bishop gains a tempo for White.

White gets the seventh rank now with 20.Rxc7, and if 20...Bxg2 then 21.Ng5! Bxh1 transposes to the game.

20...Bxg2

Necessary was 20...Bc6±.

One would expect White to play 21.Rg1, but then Black has time to defend with 21...Bc6 22.Nxh7 Kd7. White has a more effective continuation.

Please turn to page 42, **Classic**.

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.

Lake Buena Vista, FL

The USCF selected the ***2014 All-America Chess Team*** sponsored by **Trophies Plus**. Of the 89 players selected, the ten Southern California members are Varun Krishnan, Michael William Brown, Craig Hilby, Joshua Sheng, Albert Lu, Annie Wang, Alexander John Costello, Anthony Ge, and Joaquin Perkins, who received team jackets and plaques. All were selected on the basis of age, rating, and activities.

The honors were awarded at the National K-12 Grade Championships held in Lake Buena Vista, Florida from December 12 to 15.

In the championships, Varun Krishnan swept the 11th-grade section by a full point, 7-0, and Joaquin Perkins won the 4th grade tournament, 6½-½, for his seventh national!

Al Ain, UAE

The 2013 World Youth Championships were held in Al Ain, United Arab Emirates, from December 17-29.

Ten players from Southern California took the long trip! We list the section with each player: Under 16 Michael Brown, Girls Under 16 Stephanie Shao and Taylor McCreary, U14 Daniel Mousseri, GU14 Agata Bykovtsev, GU12 Annie Wang and Julia Sevilla, U12 Albert Lu, U10 Alexander Costello, and U8 Ethan Pau.

La Palma

With a score of 3½-1½, Craig Faber, Chris Roberts, Wes White, and Queena Deng tied for first in **La Palma Chess Club's** 5-round ***Marcel Duchamp Memorial***. The 36-player event, held at La Palma's Central Park, ended December 6. In the lower section, Joe Bellinger won clear first with an undefeated score of 4½-½. Placing 2nd-5th was Chris Keefe, newcomer Daniel Pascoe, Yoshio Dupree, and Kenneth Jiang with 3½-1½. Kenneth Jiang won the biggest upset prize for besting Philip Younger rated 457 points higher. And, Craig Faber won the best game prize.

Prizewinners Yoshio Dupree and Alan Chu both scored a perfect 3-0 in LPCC's ***Holiday Ladder Matches***. The 31-player event held at La Palma's Central Park ended December 27. Wes White won the best game prize.

Craig Faber and Leigh Hunt tied for first place in LPCC's year-long **Grand Prix Competition**, both achieving 105 GP points. Hunt lead most of the year due to his regular attendance and steady performance. Faber, who played in eight of the eleven events, passed Hunt late in the year but Hunt managed to catch and tie Faber in the very last round of the year. Chris Keefe won the U1800 competition, clinching first with one round to go.

This annual year-long competition is meant to reward frequent play combined with good performances. Wins, draws and losses earn 3, 2, and 1 points, respectively.

Lastly, as it closes the year of 2013, LPCC would like to acknowledge the most regular of its players, those who played in all eleven of the club's 2013 events. The faithful are as follows: Alan Chu, Brian Scanlon, Chris Keefe, Daniel Rozsa, Joseph Bellinger, Joseph Warhula, Leigh Hunt, Michael Redden, Peter Holzer, Robert Hutchinson, Shyam Gandhi and Siswo Segoro.

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

Irvine

GM Timur Gareev 5-1 took first at the 97-player ***Southern California Cross Class Championships*** November 8-10 at the Irvine Hyatt Regency Hotel. GM Melikset Khachiyan and Enrico Sevillano tied for second with 4½-1½.

In this Cross Class tournament, the 200-point class sections were split in the middle of each class. Thus the "XA" section rating bracket was 1900-2099, and was won by Simone Sobel scoring 5-1.

Yifei Han scored 5-1 to win the AB section (1700-1899), Robert Rosenberg swept the BC section (1500-1699) with a score of 6-0, and David Dashoff scored 5-1 to top the CD (1300-1499). Finally, the DE section (Under 1300) had a four-way tie at 4-2 with Clyde Norton Jr., Evan Yu, Sindhuja Dasari, and Yousef Rezwan Azhar.

At the end of the month, the hotel management was assumed by Irvine Company Resort Properties, and is now known as the Hotel Irvine Jamboree Center.

Antelope Valley

National Master Ruben Ondangan of Lancaster won the **AV Chess *Player of the Year*** Award for the second year in a row. Craig Anderson and Christian Mercado earned second and third places, respectively. The 2014 AV Chess Player of the Year competition has begun!

The 4th Annual ***AV Holiday Chess Party*** drew dozens who dropped in throughout the day. Folks played x-box, air hockey, card and board games, and, of course, lots of chess! The party was held at the AV Chess House on December 28.

Ruben Ondangan Jr. swept all three tournaments 3-0 in the Ante-

lope Valley ***Chessathon*** January 13-15. Each day featured a G/30 tournament.

A ***Chess Mini-Game© Tournament*** will be held on Saturday March 29 at Stanley Kleiner Activity Center at Lancaster City Park, 43011 10th St. West, Lancaster (tel. 661.723.6077). Registration and check-in is 8:20 a.m., and the event is from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. with a free snack provided. The only cost is a facilities use fee of $5 per child.

Saturday May 3 is the date for a ***Chess Spectacular*** for kids grades K-8, also at the Stanley Kleiner Activity Center. Registration and check-in is 8:30 a.m., and the event runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Bring a bag lunch for the 1:00-1:20 p.m. lunch break. The only cost is a facilities use fee of $5 per child.

Arcadia Chess Club

Gregg Fritchle won the six week, 71-player, ***Bill Smith Open*** on Oct.7 with 5½-½, successfully playing the swiss gambit after taking a first round bye. Dave Matson and Ke Chen tied for second with 5-1. Hao Lu was best B with 4½-1½. Jeff Schwartz gained 120 rating points and a share of the C-prize, beating a 2080 player and drawing three A-players. Gabriella Yu jumped 90 points to claim the D-E-Unrated prize.

The ***Istvanyi Open*** concluded Monday, November 25 and Craig Faber swept the field. He scored a perfect 5-0 and, if that wasn't enough, he regained his Master status as his rating increased from 2165 to 2200.

Melandro Singson won the ***Richard Morris Open*** with a perfect score of 5-0! Winning the tournament also made Singson America's newest National Master, putting him over 2200 for the first time, with a new rating high of 2211.

The coming year will see some changes to the schedule with some multi-section tournaments and at least one rapid tournament.

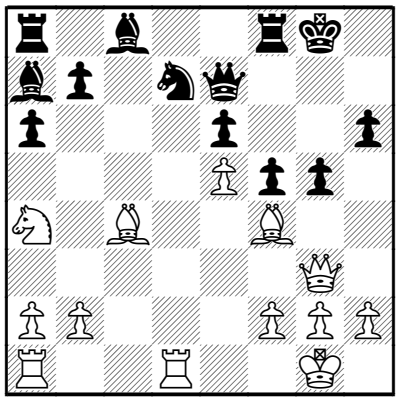
The club starts at a new time, 6:30 p.m., and ends at 10:30. For more details and upcoming events see: **ArcadiaChessClub.com**.

Pasadena Chess Club

The ***Crown City Open***, with 71 players, found Ron Jabali clear first with 5½-½. Ray Armagnac, Gregg Fritchle, and John Hale trailed a half point behind. Category winners included Anthony Ge (U2000); Arturo Armagnac and Edward Wu (U1800); Adam Stanford-Moore and Kendryek Wu (tied for U1600); Edward Chou and Rachel Li (equal U1400); Mark Neumann (U1200); Raphael Manahan (U1000); and Brian Cheng (most cumulative upset points).

Tim Thompson sent us an interesting moment from the tournament featuring an unusual repetition of moves. *(Additional notes in italics by the Editor.)*

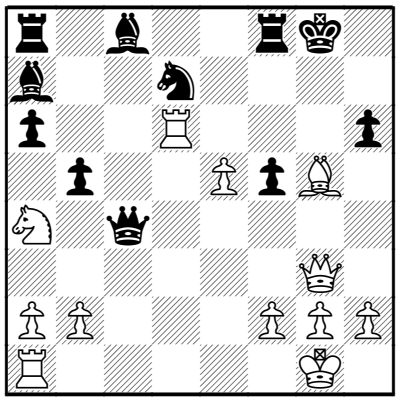
Tim Thompson - Gerald Harrison
Crown City Open (5), 08.11.2013



19...b5 20.Bxe6+! Qxe6 21.Rd6 Qc4!

Better than 21...Qf7 22.e6 Qg7? 23.exd7 gxf4 24.Qxg7+ Kxg7 25.d8Q+-.

22.Bxg5!



The repetition starts here.

22...Qg4! 23.Qb3+!

After 23.Rg6+ Kf7 24.Rxh6 Qxg3 25.e6+ Kg7 26.hxg3 bxa4 27.exd7 Bxd7 28.Rd1 Be8∓ White does not have enough compensation for the piece.

23...Qc4! 24.Qg3

Also drawing is 24.Qh3 hxg5 25.Qh6 Nxe5 26.Qxg5+ Kf7 27.Qf6+, but I think a computer would have been needed!

24...hxg5??

Had he repeated the position I likely would have followed his lead and offered a draw. But trying too hard to win he has fatally exposed his King.

25.Qxg5+ Kf7 26.Rad1 Ke8

26...Qe6 27.Rxe6 Kxe6 28.Rd6+ Kxe5 29.Qe7+ leads to a quick mate.

27.e6 Nf6

27...Qxa4 28.Qg6+ Kd8 29.e7+ Kxe7 30.Qe6+ Kd8 31.Rxd7+ is also a mate.

28.Qg6+ Ke7 29.Qg7+ 1-0

The one-night ***November Action*** had 40 participants. Yusheng Xia and Axel Muller (tie), Hamlet Tovmasyan, and Eric Pangilinan won their sections.

The pre-holiday ***A Rose for Your Queen***, with 52 players, saw five 3-0

Axel Muller: new NM! **nh**

winners in their respective sections: Axel Muller (who achieved his first Master rating), Daniel Manahan, Xavier Armagnac, Kyle Li, and Maxim Neumann.

The club meets Friday nights, with rounds starting at 7 p.m. at the Boys and Girls Club, 3230 East

Del Mar. The annual Championship, with $1000 guaranteed, begins February 21.

For full details on the club and its extensive lending library, see our webpage **www.tim-thompson.com/pasadena.html** or contact Randy Hough, 626.282.7412, **RandallHough@gmail.com**.

Alondra Park

Results followed ratings closely in Alondra Park's ***2013 Club Championship*** which concluded in December. Matt Robertson (2089) is the Club's 2013 Champ, notching a 5-1 score.

ap

2013 Alondra Park's Champion Matt Robertson and TD Richard Meller

Matt's only blemishes were draws in round 4 to Al Peña and round 5 to Henry Castro. Matt shared 5 points with top A George Newell who finished second on tiebreaks, having also lost to Robertson in round 3. Castro finished clear third with 4½-½. Included in the five-way logjam at 4-1 points was top B, John Rowe. Robert McKee was top C with 3-2 and Re Hadzimuratovic was top D with 2½-2½ .

Twenty-eight players participated and Richard Meller directed. The **Alondra Park Chess Club** meets Tuesday evenings 6:30-9:30p.m. in the clubhouse at 3850 W. Manhattan Beach Blvd., Lawndale.

For more information contact Richard Meller at 310.227.2873 (cell) or **RichardMeller@Yahoo.com**. The club's Website is: **AlondraParkChessClub.com**.

Santa Monica

The 12-player ***November Swiss Open*** was won by Dmitry Cherkasky with a perfect score of 4-0. The U1800 prize went to Pete Savino with 2½-1½. George Witcomb and Stephan Bosch split the U1600 Prize with 2-2.

The ***December Quad*** winners were Michael Cooper scoring 2½-½, Simon Kogan with 3-0, and Jack O'Donnell with 3-0.

The ***2014 Club Championship*** will be held Monday evenings throughout March with an intermission on March 17. It will be a 4-round Swiss Tournament. EF: $15 with Club membership ($60 for 2014). Registration is at 7 p.m., rounds start at 7:10 p.m., G-1:55 (real tournament time control) plus 5 sec. delay. Half-point Bye available in Rounds 1 or 2.

The ***Santa Monica Bay Chess Club*** is located in the St. Andrew's Church Library at 11555 National Blvd. West Los Angeles at the corner of Federal/Barry Ave. at National Blvd. (Ample parking in the church lot) Contact: Pete Savino 310.827.2789. Webpage: **smbchess@yahoo.com** Santa Monica Bay Chess Club - Google Sites.

California Chess Events

The ***Jay Blem Memorial Scholastic*** attracted thirty kids to the five-round, free, rated event which was held December 29, 2013 at the Whittier High School Library. First place went to Ethan Aquino who scored 4½-½, and second was Michael Xu with 4-1. Third, fourth, and fifth were Daniel Wang, Daniel Rivera, and Simon Moscovici, respectively, who all scored 3½-1½.

The first and second U1000 prizes went to Noah Moscovici and Jared Hsu, both with 3½-1½, and the third U1000 prize went to Daniel Liang with 3-2.

The U750 prizes went to Ryan Lou and Naren Krishnan with 3-1, and Gio Zanjanipour who scored 2-3.

The U500 prizes went to Arnav Dave and James Xu at 2-3, and Noah Talmaci with 1½-3½.

The U250/Unrated prizes went to Michelle Xu and Maxwell Poll with 2½-2½ and Daniel Basurto who scored 2-3.

California Chess Events holds scholastic tournaments around the Southland. For their schedule, see **CaliforniaChessEvents.com** or contact Michael Belcher at 323.522.4174 or **td@chess.com**.

San Diego

San Diego Chess Club

In October and November, The ***Jeff Turner Open*** featured 4 sections with 49 players total. There was a 3-way tie in the Open Section between George Zeigler, Lennart Mathe and Paul Agron, all with a score of 4-2. In the Premier (U2000) Section, Bruce Charnov took clear first with 5-1, followed by Chris Wonnell with 4-2 and Fred de Leon, Chuck Ensey and Buddy Morris with 3½-2½. The Reserves (U1800) had a tie between Robert Henderson and Erik Marquis for first with 4½-1½ ahead of Damani Fair with 4-2. The Booster Section (U1400) also had a tie for first between Michael Blandin and Ken Green with 4½-1½, followed by Karen Kaufman with 3½-2½.

The last tournament of the year is the traditional ***Bruce Baker Class Championships***. This year the Open section was won by a new player to our club, Scott Roods of Temecula with 4½-1½, squeaking by Peter Hodges by a half-point. They were tied for first from round 2 onwards and drew in round 4. In the final round, Scott drew with Jeff Turner, but Peter was swindled by Raoul Crisologo. Jeff, Raoul and Esteban Escobedo tied for third place at 3½-2½.

The Class A trophy was won by Fred de Leon with 4½-1½ on tiebreaks over Fidel Gonzalez. David Saponara, Chuck Ensey and Joel Batchelor finished with 4-2. Sam Barboo won the Class B trophy scoring 5-1, edging out Damani Fair with 4½-1½. Fawsi Jose Murra and Santiago Rubio-Fernaz tied for Third place with 4-2. Rocio Murra scored well ahead of the field with 5-1 to win the Class C trophy ahead of Ken Green with 3½-

Please turn to page 41, **Here & There**.

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

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: $95-95, 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).

March 14-16

2014 Southern California Scholastic SuperStates

Hyatt Regency Valencia, 24500 Town Center Dr., Valencia, 91355. 9 Sections. **K-3**, **K-6**, **K-8**, **and K-12 Championship**: 6SS, G/80, Schedule: Sat & Sun (3/15 & 3/16): 9a.m., 12:10p.m., 3:20p.m. each day. K-1 Champ & All JV Sections share same schedule for Rounds 1-5: Sat 3/15 – 9:30, 12:30, 3:30, Sun 3/16 – 9:30 & Noon. K-1 plays final round on Sunday, 3p.m.. K-1 Format: 6SS, G/60.

JV Sections: K-3 U500, K-6 U700, K-8 U800, K-12 U1200: 5x2SS (5 double-rounds – one White & one Black vs each opponent) for 10 total games. G/30.

EF Champ Sections = $48 by 2/28/14; **EF** JV Sections = $47 by 2/28/14. Add $10 after 2/28. Add $20 after 3/7. SCCF Membership required for all players in the Championship Sections.

Trophies: Individual – Top 10 players in each section plus category prizes (Top 25 PLUS Top 5 Unrated in K-3 U500 & K-6 U700); Medals to non-trophy winners. Team – For K-3 U500 & K-6 U700: Top 5 Schools, Top 5 Clubs; For All Champ Sections plus K-8 U800 & K-12 U1200: Top 3 Schools, Top 3 Clubs.

Bughouse: Friday, 3/14, 7-9p.m.. EF: $15 per player by 2/28/14. $20 after or at site by 6:40p.m.. Trophies based on pre-entries. 2 sections: K-12 & K-6.

Blitz: Sat, 3/15, 7-9p.m.. EF: $15 per player by 2/28/14. $20 after or at site by 6:40p.m.. Trophies to Top 10 in each section, plus Top 5 K-3 players in K-6 section. 2 sections: K-12 & K-6.

Register by mail or online at **http://superstates.cycl.org/**

To request a registration form, please contact Jay Stallings: **coachjay@cycl.org**, 661-288-1705. NO ENTRIES AFTER 5PM ON FRIDAY, MARCH 14TH, 2014.

Hyatt Chess Rate: $112 for 2 guests, $115 for 4 (2 double beds), but reserve by Feb 21st to get this rate! 888.421.1442. Mention code GCACH or simply Chess. NS, NC, W.

March 29-30

2014 Southern California Chess Federation Girls Championship

National Girls Invitational Tournament Qualifier
(Championship section winner-Tiebreaks will be used if necessary)

Academic Chess Center, 26941 Cabot Road, Laguna Hills, CA 92653

EF: $20 by March 26, $25 at site. Make payments to: Academic Chess, 26941 Cabot Road, Laguna Hills, CA 92653. **Membership**: US Chess Federation Membership required-$$$, SCCF membership required for Championship section-$3 (without magazine), $13 (with magazine).

Rounds: Championship Section-Sat: 9:30am, 12:30p.m., 3:30p.m. Sun: 10am, 1p.m.. Booster Section (U1000) Saturday: 9:30am, 11am, 12:30p.m., 2p.m., 3:30p.m.. **Time Controls**: Championship-G/70, d5 Booster-G/30. **Byes**: Limit 1 half point bye in any round except Round 5. Must be requested before the start of Round One.

Trophies-Championship Section: Top 5, Best-U1400, U1200 Booster Section: Top 5, Best-U800, U500, UNR.

Further information: TD Richard Kasa, **tihkal@msn.com**

March 29-30

My Kingdom For A Passed Pawn

Trophies Plus
Grand Prix Points: 6
Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

(Sponsor: Harold C. Valery, Inc.) 6SS, G/66 d0, 11514 Santa Monica Blvd., LA 90025, 2nd fl. 2 sections: Open/U1800. EF: $70; $50 LACC members; Siblings 1/2, $20 new LACC members, Free new LACC Life members! Reg.: Sat 10-11:30 am; notify us by 3/28 for $5 off EF. Rds.: 12, 2, 4 p.m. 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, $1,000 Guaranteed). 1st-3rd $400-200-100 U2000: $100. U1800: $200-100-$50; U1600: $100–50; 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.

April 4-6
2014 National High School (K-12) Championship
(April 3 Bughouse & Blitz)

Please bring clocks. Sets and score sheets provided. 7SS, G/120 d5. Town and Country Resort, 500 Hotel Circle North, San Diego, CA 92108, 619.291.7131 or 800.772.8527. Chess Rate $125 until 12 March 2014. **5 Sections**: K-12 Championship, K-12 Under 1600, K-12 Under 1200, K-12 Under 800, K-12 Unrated. March 2014 Rating Supplement will be used. Unrated players may play in the Championship or Unrated section only. One half-point bye for any round, except Rd. 7, if requested before Round One. **EF**: $50 if by March 2, $70 if by March 23, $85 if by 9 p.m. CDT on April 2 or $90 at site. Mailed entries must be p/m by March 30. $5 extra for all phone registrations, $20 change fee for roster or section changes after March 23. Onsite registration: Thurs. 9 AM - 10 p.m. & Fri. 8 AM - 10 AM. Players registering after 10 AM will get half-point for Round 1.

Awards: Please see the Information Page on the web site for a complete list of all the trophies. Opening Ceremony: 12:30 p.m. Friday. Main Event rounds: Friday 1 p.m., 7 p.m.; Saturday 9 am, 2 p.m., 7 p.m.; Sunday 9 am, 2 p.m.. Awards Ceremony: Approx. 7 p.m. Sunday. **Special Events**: National High School **Bughouse** Championship: Thursday 11 am; National High School **Blitz** Championship: G/5 d0; Thursday 5 p.m.; **Scholastic Meeting**: 3 p.m. Saturday; **Parents and Friends Tournament**: See web site for details.

Please see the Tournament Information Page on the web site to see when Team Rooms become available and for Team Room contact information. ALL: USCF membership required. **Questions**: Ashley Knight **aknight@uschess.org** or at 931.787.1234 ext 138. Mail entries to: U.S. Chess Federation, Attn: 2014 High School, P.O. Box 3967, Crossville, TN 38557. Additional details, updates, corrections and on-line registration: **http://www.uschess.org/tournaments/2014/hs**.

April 12 - 13
SCCF Senior/Junior Open

5 Round Swiss, all games are G/100 with 10 second delay. Two Sections: Senior Section: **50 years & older** and "Junior" Section: **Under 50 years old**.

Site: San Diego Chess Club, 2225 Sixth Ave., San Diego. Prizes: $3,600

Here & There, cont'd from page 39.

2½. Tiebreaks once again decided the Class D trophy in favor of Mark De Yoe ahead of Dwayne Matheny, both with 5-1.

In 2014, the **San Diego Chess Club** looks forward to the 7-round ***Alina Markowski Qualifier***, followed by the 7-round ***Club Championships***. The ***3rd Annual Recession Buster*** on February 15-17th with $20,000 in guaranteed prizes is also top of mind.

The ***October Super Gambito Open*** #627 drew 33 players in three sections. Cyrus Lakdawala won clear first with 3-1, even though he drew with both Ron Bruno and Bruce Baker. Ron and Bruce tied for second, along with Elkaei Rivera and Nikolay Arutyunov, with 2½-1½. In the Premier Section (U2000), Gurveer Singh swept with 4-0 and broke through to earn an Expert rating which he has held onto for more than three months now, so it looks legit. Second place was Chris Wonnell with 3-1 and there was a 3-way tie for best U1800 between Rolando Ignacio, Justin Kang and Datris Robinson who scored 2-2. In the Reserve Section (U1600), Stephen Zhu took first place with 3½-½ ahead of Ken Green and Michael Blandin with 3-1.

The ***November Super Gambito*** #631 also had 33 players, but just two sections this time. Cyrus Lakdawala won with 3½-½, with a last round draw with Bruce Baker who tied for second with Venkat Iyer at 3-1. Gurveer Singh won best U2200, while Chris Wonnell and Richard Skinnell tied for best U2000. Datris Robinson won the Reserve Section (U1800) with a perfect 4-0 score. Sabrina Duong with 3-1 won best U1600.

The ***December Super Gambito*** #636, with 34 players, saw a change of leadership with a first place tie at 3½-½ between visiting IM Raymond Kaufman of Northern California and local NM Nikolay Arutyunov. Buddy Morris with 3-1 won best U2400, upsetting Gurveer Singh in the final round, who had upset Cyrus Lakdawala in round one. Venkat Iyer tied with Raoul Crisologo at 2½-1½ for best U2200, and the best U2000 prize was split between Ramil Macaspac and Jay Choi with 2-2. Andrew Negus with 3½-½ took first in the Reserves (U1800) and Ken Green won best U1600 with 3-1.

Finally, at the ***January Super Gambito Open*** #639, 36 players saw Ron Bruno and Cyrus Lakdawala tie for first with 3½-½. Braulio Cuarta, Pejman Sagart and Kevin Yang tied for best U2400/2200/2000. In the Reserves there was a 3-way tie for first among David Narevsky, Ken Green and Tygan Zeng, all with 3-1.

-Chuck Ensey ♜

prize fund based on 70 players (60% of all prize levels guaranteed).

Both Sections: 1st $300, 2nd $150, 3rd $50; U2200: $150, 2nd $50; U2000 $150, 2nd $50; U1800 $150, 2nd $50; U1600 $150, 2nd $50; U1400 $150.

Plus $100 for Best Over 60 years old, $100 for Best Under 20 years old, $100 for Best Over 70 years old, $100 for Best Under 16 years old, $100 for Best Over 80 years old, $100 for Best Under 12 years old.

Each player is eligible for only one of the above prizes!

Reg: 9 a.m. - 9:45 a.m., arrive early for best free parking. **Rds**: Sat: 10 a.m., 2 p.m., 6 p.m. Sun: 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

EF: $50 if paid by 4/11 (or $60 on event day), Special rate for players rated under 1300 is only $25, SCCF membership is required ($18 adults, $13 youth with print mag, $3 youth without mag). Byes: One half-point bye okay in rounds 1 through 4.

Info: 619.239.7166, ask for Bruce Baker. Or visit website at **https://sites.google.com/site/sandiegochessclub.** Mail Entries to: San Diego Chess Club, P.O. Box 120162, San Diego, CA 92112.

Watch for SCCF and Chess Life TLA's:

May 24-26
Lina Grumette Memorial Day Classic

Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites, Ontario.

May 24: MDC Scholastics
May 25: MDC Hexes
May 26: MDC Action Swiss

July 4th Weekend
Pacific Southwest Open

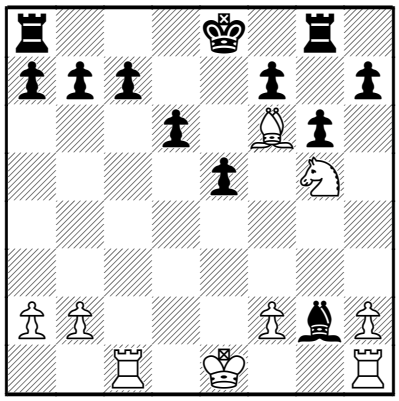
July 17-20, 18-20 or 19-20
Pacific Coast Open

Agoura Hills

♜

Classic, continued from page 36.

This is the position:



21.Rxc7!

White sacrifices one Rook for the sake of seizing the seventh rank with the other.

21...Bxh1 22.Nxf7

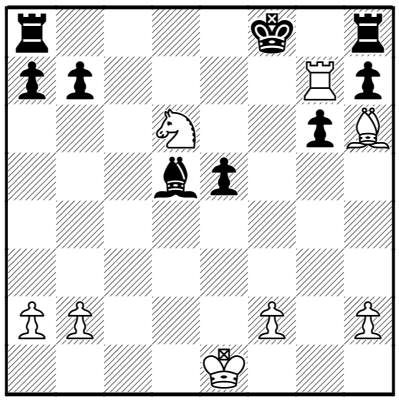
Less fun, but more speedy, is 22.Re7+ Kd8 23.Nxf7+ Kc8 24.Nxd6+ Kb8 25.Bxe5+-.

With three of White's pieces so close to the King there are bound to be mate threats. The one now facing the King is 23.Nxd6+ Kf8 24.Rf7 mate.

22...Bd5 23.Nxd6+ Kf8 24.Bg5 Rh8

The King must have a flight-square!

25.Bh6+ Kg8 26.Rg7+ Kf8



27.Rc7+

Not the quickest way, but it does not matter. Black is helpless.

27...Kg8 28.Nc8 Bc6 29.Rg7+ Kf8 30.Rxb7+

Now he's on the right track!

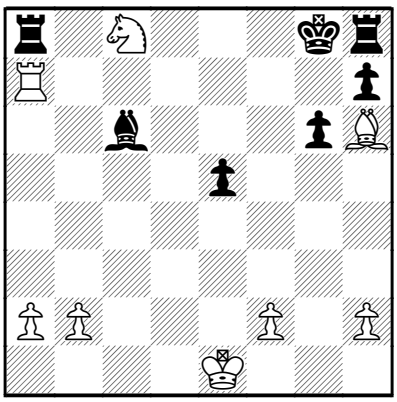
30...Kg8

If 30...Ke8, 31.Nd6+ Kd8 32.Bg5 mate.

31.Rg7+ Kf8 32.Rxa7+

"The see-saw can be the cause of frightful devastation," says Nimzovich.

32...Kg8



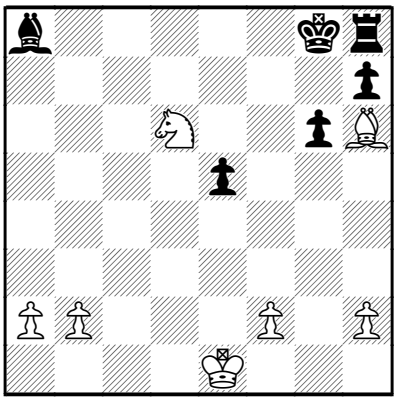
33.Rxa8!

An exchange of Rooks when White is behind in material? There is method in his madness though, as we will see.

33...Bxa8 34.Nd6!!

Marvelous! The Knight and Bishop stalemate Black's King and Rook. Black can do nothing now but wait for the blow to fall.

This is the position:



White forces mate by marching his King to e7, and then mating at f6 with the Knight. The Knight reaches that square by way of e8 or e4, Black's Bishop being unable to guard both these squares.

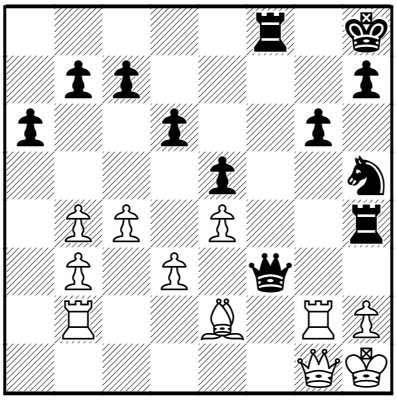
Play would proceed as follows: 34...Bd5 35.Kd2 Bxa2 36.Kc3 Be6 37.Kb4 Ba2 38.Kb5 Be6 39.Kb6 Ba2 40.Kc7 Be6 41.Kd8 Ba2 42.Ke7 Bd5 43.Ne8 Ba2 44.Nf6 mate.

Black could delay this a bit by sacrificing his pawns, but since he could not give away his Bishop, there is no hope of drawing by stalemate. Therefore:

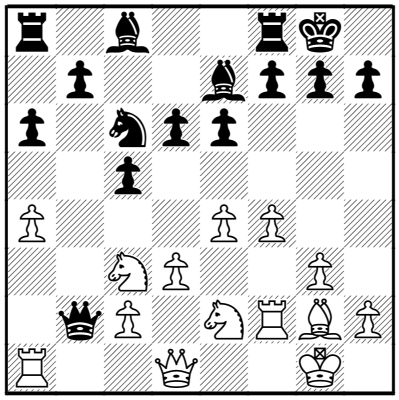
34...Resigns ♜

Final Points

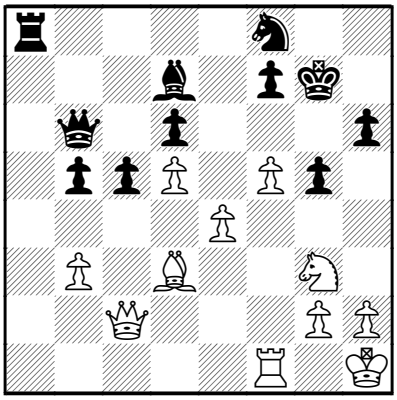
We hope you enjoyed this issue. Here is another quiz, but we had to go back 50 or 100 years for extra positions, to a win by Reuben Fine (b. 1914), for example. So please send in your scoresheets with your combos to RankAndFileEditor@gmail.com. And watch out for the difficult No. 9. See page 32 for solutions. - Ed.



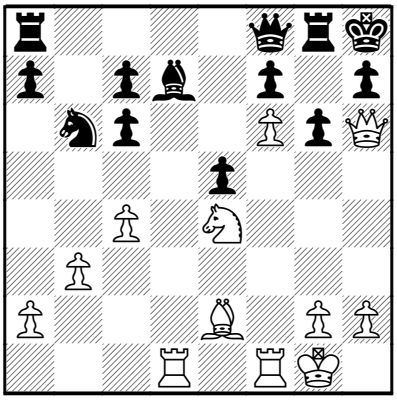
1. Black to Play



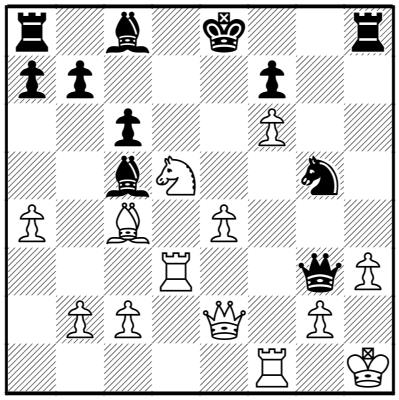
2. White to Play



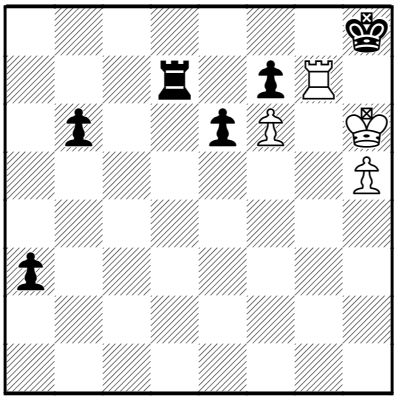
3. White to Play



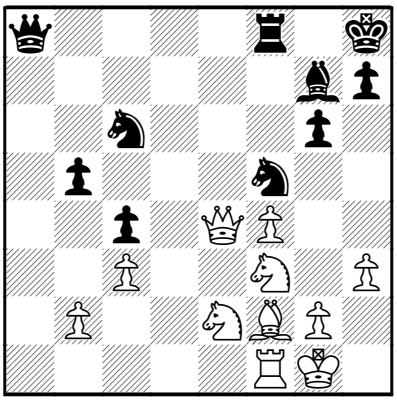
4. White to Play



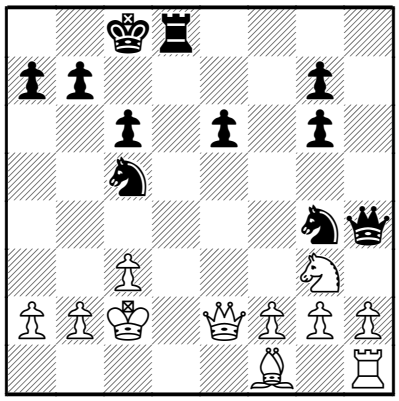
5. Black to Play



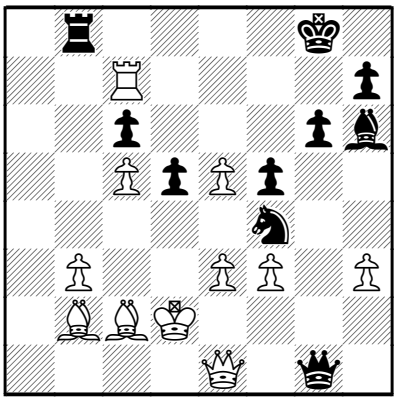
6. Black to Play



7. Black to Play



8. Black to Play



9. Black to Play

SCCF
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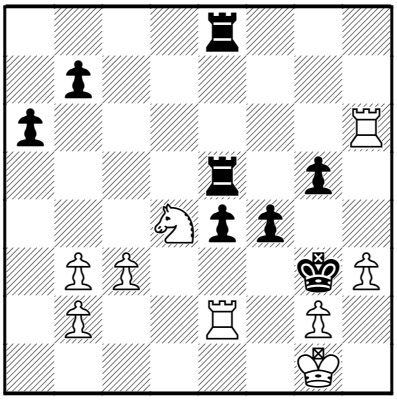
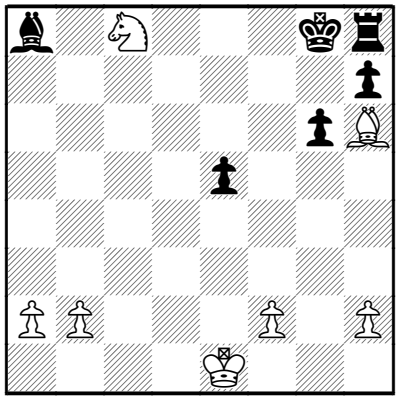
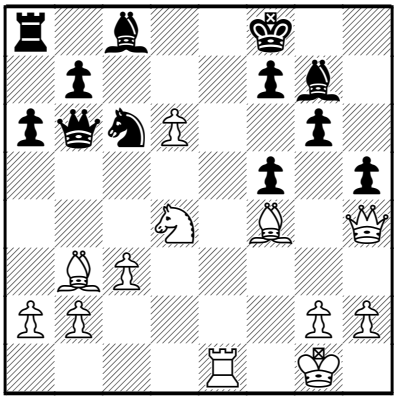
Outside Shots!



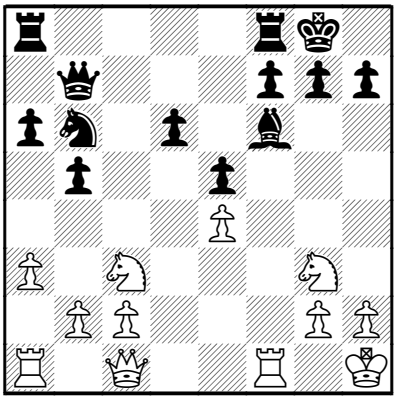
1. White to Play



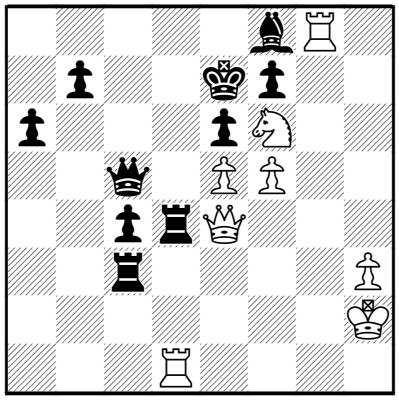
2. White to Play



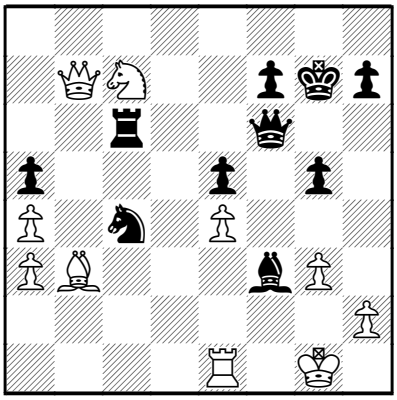
3. White to Play



4. White to Play



5. Black to Play



6. Black to Play

See page 23 for solutions.