Rank & File

The magazine of the Southern California Chess Federation

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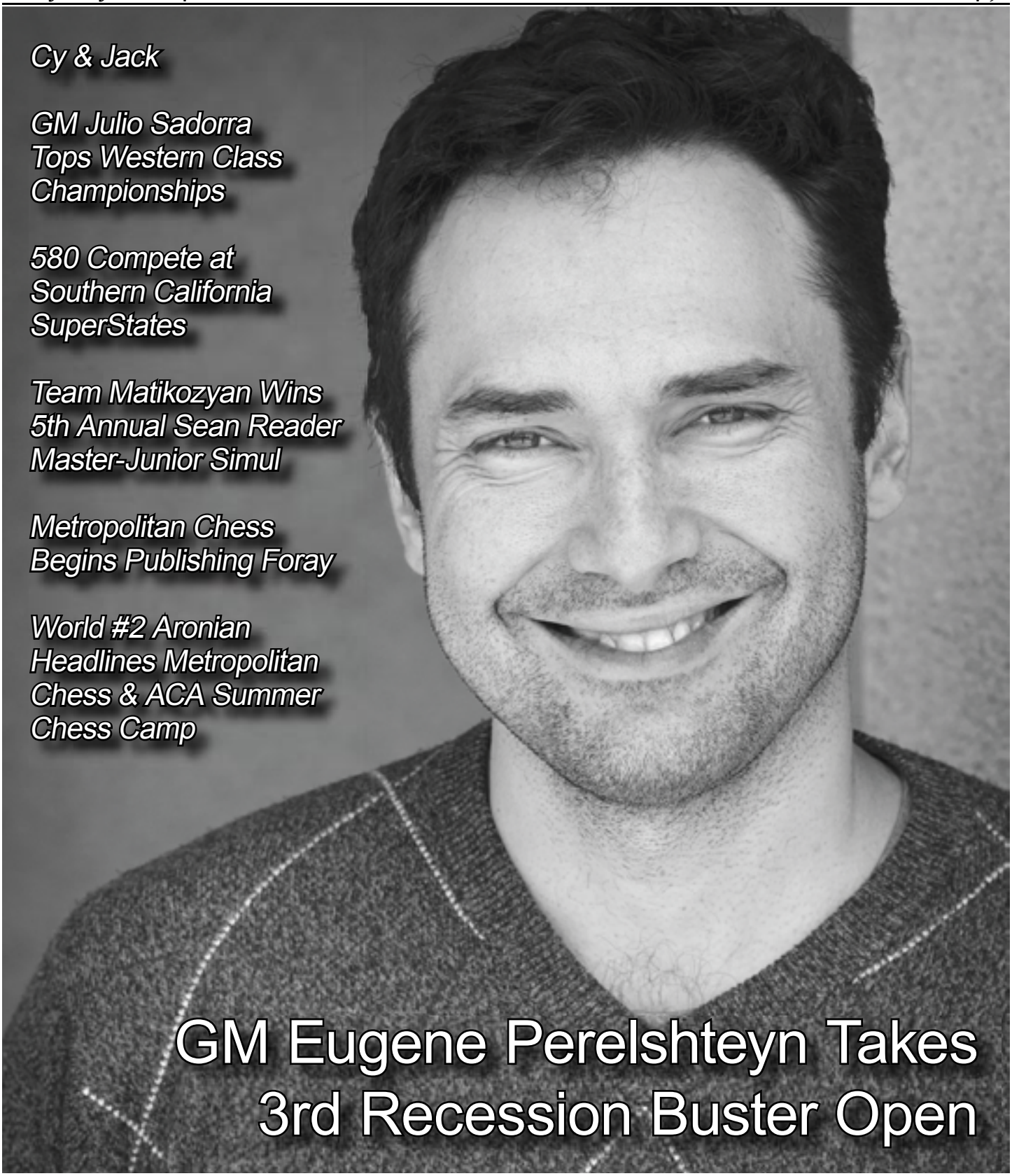

Cy & Jack

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Metropolitan Chess Begins Publishing Foray

World #2 Aronian Headlines Metropolitan Chess & ACA Summer Chess Camp

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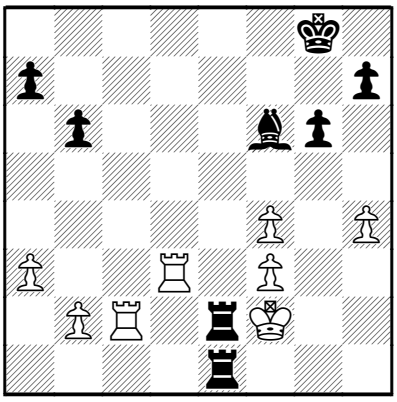
Inside Moves

A ***tactical warm-up***: This issue's positions come mostly from the Amsterdam Interzonal of 1964, in which Spassky, Tal, Smyslov, and Larsen tied for first. The first may seem easy, but watch out for No. 9, the really hard one, and 8 too. Solutions on page 4. - Ed.



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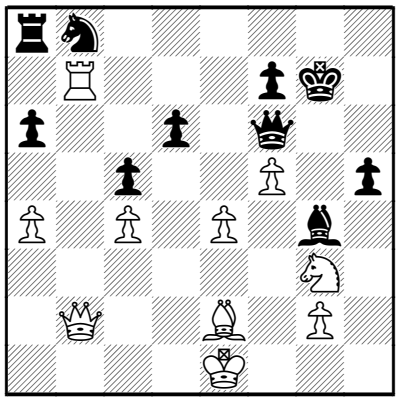

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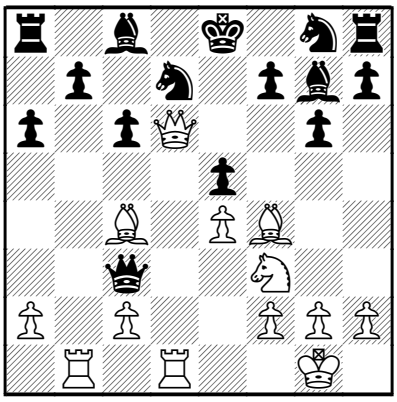

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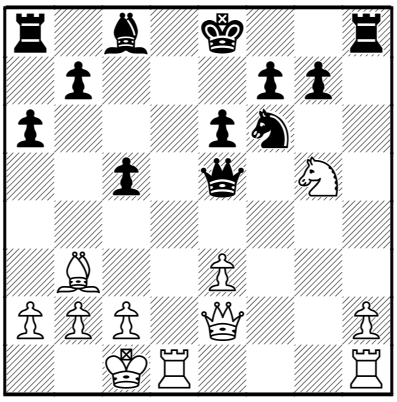

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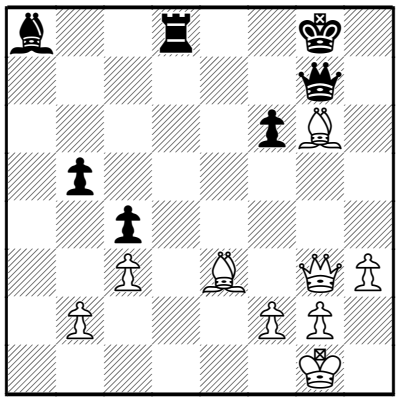

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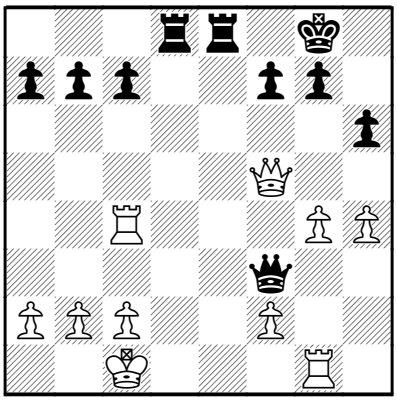

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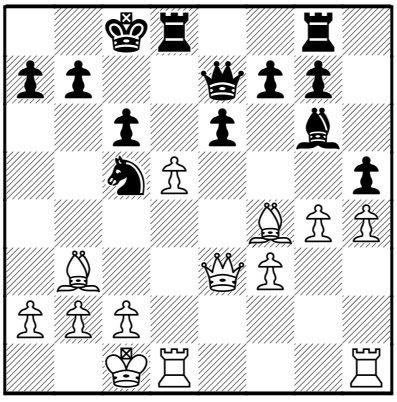

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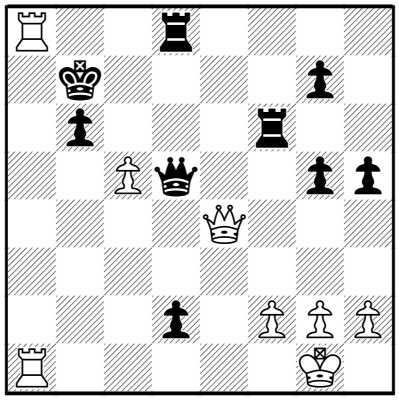
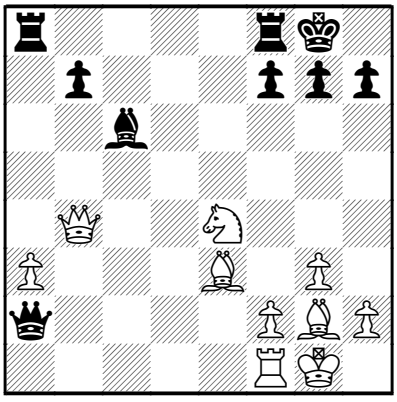


8. White to Play



9. White to Play

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Rank & File

May-June-July 2014 Volume XXXVIII, No. 2

2 **Inside Moves**
A warm-up quiz. The first few are easy, but No. 9 may be too hard. Watch out for No. 8, too.

4 **Positions**

5 **Cy & Jack**
By IM Jack Peters and IM Cyrus Lakdawala. Alekhine's Defense!

11 **GM Eugene Perelshteyn Takes 3rd Recession Buster Open**
By Chuck Ensey

20 **GM Julio Sadorra Tops Western Class Championships**

24 **580 Compete at Southern California SuperStates Scholastic Championships**
By Jay Stallings

27 **Team Matikozyan Wins 5th Annual Sean Reader Master-Junior Simul**
By Jay Stallings

30 **Metropolitan Chess Begins Publishing Foray**
By FM Kostya Kavutskiy

32 **World #2 Aronian Headlines Metropolitan & ACA Summer Chess Camp**
By FM Kostya Kavutskiy

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

40 **Upcoming Events in Southern California**
Earn those Grand Prix points!

43 **Final Points**
Another quiz, until our next issue.

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

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

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Positions

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

Editor's Note

Levon Aronian, one of the world's top players, will be visiting this summer. He knew several of our local teachers when a child in Armenia. Solve the photo quiz on page 32!

Congratulations to Annie Wang, who became the youngest ever American female National Master at eleven years old on March 2 when she completed her 5-0 sweep at the National Junior Chess Congress.

Our young players, with the National High School Championship and the 580-player Super States tournaments also taking place in the last few months, have been very busy!

We hope you enjoy this issue.

- 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**.

Call For Nominations

Six seats on the SCCF Executive Board are up for election this summer. If you are interested in serving on the Executive Board, please write to the Elections Board at: 26941 Cabot Road, Suite 110, Laguna Hills, CA 92653.

The call for nominations will close June 30, 2014.

- Steve Morford, SCCF President

Solutions to Inside Moves

From inside front cover.

1.White actually resigned here, not seeing that after 42.Rxe2 Bxh4+ the King had an escape with 43.Ke3! since it was no longer covered by Black's Rook, in Darga - Lengyel, Amsterdam Interzonal 1964.

2.White wins a piece with ***25.Bxg4*** Not with 25.Rxb8?? because after the trade 25...Rxb8 26.Qxb8 White has to give back the piece or accept a perpetual: 26...Qc3+ 27.Kf2 *(or 27.Kf1 Qxg3=; also if 27.Kd1 then 27...Qd3+ 28.Kc1 Qxg3∓)* 27...Qd4+ 28.Kf1 *(or 28.Ke1 Qc3+)* 28...Qa1+ etc. ***25...hxg4*** After 25...Qxb2 26.Nxh5+ White recaptures at b2 with a piece up. ***26.Nh5+ 1–0***. Of course, forking the King and Queen is even better. Gareev - Kiewra, Recession Buster Open G/60, 2014.

3.White breaks in with ***15.Bxf7+*** Chop 'em and rock 'em! ***15...Kxf7*** Also, 15...Kd8 16.Ng5 Qc4 17.Rd5! mates very quickly. ***16.Ng5+ Ke8 17.Qe6+ 1–0***. It's over after both 17...Kd8 18.Nf7+ Kc7 19.Qd6 mate and 17...Ne7 18.Qf7+ Kd8 19.Ne6 mate. Tal - Tringov, Amsterdam Interzonal 1964.

4.White comes up with a big one: ***19.Rd8+!*** Check 'em and wreck 'em! ***19...Ke7*** If 19...Kxd8 then 20.Nxf7+ wins the Queen. ***20.Rxh8 Qxg5 21.Qd2! 1–0***. White is up more than the exchange, and in development and King safety too, for example if 21...Nd7 to stop the mate on d8, then 22.Rd1 Kf6 23.Re8. Tal - Benko, Amsterdam Interzonal 1964.

5.White wins the exchange with ***31.Bf7+!*** taking advantage of the pin on Black's Queen. ***31...Kxf7*** Surprisingly, it's a forced mate after 31...Kh8 32.Qh4+ Qh7 33.Qxf6+ Qg7 34.Qxd8+ Kh7 35.Qh4+. ***32.Qc7+ Kg6 33.Qxd8*** White has won back the exchange and is two pawns up. ***33...Bc6 34.Bd4 Qf7 35.Qd6 1–0***, Stein - Evans, Amsterdam Interzonal 1964.

6.Black exploits the weak back rank with ***19...Qg2!! 0–1***. If 20.Rxg2 then 20...Re1 mate, and if White tries to save the Rook with 20.Rd1 then the other Rook is lost after 20...Rxd1+ 21.Kxd1 Qf1+. Gligoric - Porat, Amsterdam Interzonal 1964.

7.Immediately decisive is ***21.d6 1–0***, as Black can't avoid the loss of the piece with 21...Nxb3+ 22.axb3 because either the Queen or the King falls after 22...Qd7 *(or 22...Qf8 23.d7+ Rxd7 24.Qe5)* 23.Qxa7. Spassky - Foguelman, Amsterdam Interzonal 1964.

8.White closes the deal with ***41.R1a7+ Kc6 42.Qa4+ b5*** If 42...Kxc5 then 43.Rc7+ Rc6 *(or 43...Kd6 44.Rxd8+)* 44.Rxc6+ Qxc6 45.Qc2+ Kb5 46.Qb3+ Kc5 47.Rxd8. ***43.Rc7+! Kxc7 44.Qa5+*** and the major pieces rule over the Black King. ***44...Kd7 45.Rxd8+ Ke6 46.Rxd5 Kxd5 47.Qxd2+ Kxc5 48.Qxg5+ Kb6 49.Qxg7 Rd6 50.f4 1–0***, Quinones - Foguelman, Amsterdam Interzonal 1964.

9.The shot is ***23.Nf6+! Kh8*** The Knight can't be taken: 23...gxf6 24.Qg4+ Kh8 25.Bd4 Qe6 26.Qg5+–.

The game continued with ***24.Bxc6*** and White later won, but Houdini claims a win with 24.Qh4 instead, in Matamoros - Kaufman, Recession Buster Open 2014.

See page 16 for the whole game with notes.

Cy & Jack

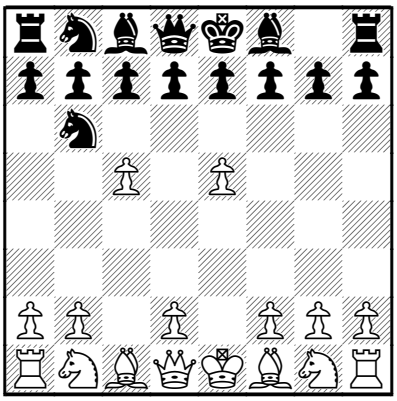
By IM Jack Peters and IM Cyrus Lakdawala

Cy's game is from his latest book *The Alekhine Defence: Move by Move*, published in April. White tries the Chase Variation, a lesser esteemed line, and soon gets into trouble trying to get something going, and Cy has a number of nice shots with several combo-alert exercises for you.

Jack also chooses an Alekhine game, from the American Open 1990. In this game he mixes it up in the center when possessing an advantage in development, and keeps up the pressure.

Black wins two games here; is it time for Alekhine's Defense to make a comeback? -Ed.

Valdis Saulespurens (2390) - Cyrus Lakdawala (2598)
[B02] Alekhine's Defense
7th Southern California Ch. (4)
Buena Park, July 23, 1995
1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.c4 Nb6 4.c5



Cy: The not-so-dreaded Chase Variation, which Alekhine (possibly written on one of his infamous drinking binges!) once called the refutation of his opening!

Question: I take it from your tone that you don't think much of this line?

Answer: I don't, for the following reasons:

1. When White plays 4.c5, he or she chases the b6-knight—normally one of Black's problem pieces in the Alekhine's—into the arms of perfect centralization, and now a freshly created d5-hole.

2. White fails to gain developmental benefit from 4.c5.

3. White often sacs c5, willingly or unwillingly.

Conclusion: I believe that with accurate play, White (!) equalizes if he or she is lucky in the strategically shady Chase Variation. In the 30 years of playing the variation, I have reached this position only twice (!), so it isn't exactly a crucial line, yet we must be aware of its dangers.

Question: You have really trashed the Chase line so far! What dangers does it hold for us?

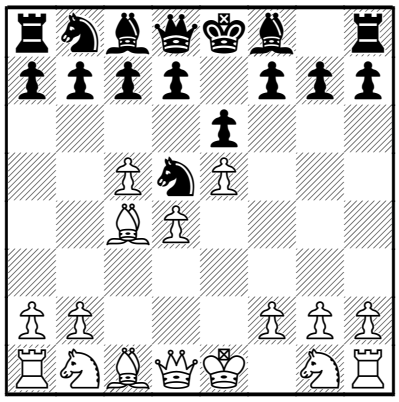
Answer: Only this: You hardly ever face it, and when you do, you may not be up on the variation and will forget the analysis. So be prepared to face it as an ambush weapon from some of your sneakier rivals.

4...Nd5 5.Nc3

Cy: *Question*: What if White plays 5.Bc4?

Answer: It shouldn't make much difference, and we transpose to the main line after 5...e6 6.Nc3.

However, 6.d4 is an independent subvariation:



Black can continue 6...b6 undermining White's center and also preparing ...Bb7 or ...Ba6. 7.Nf3!? White isn't really offering c5 just yet. The sac of c5, though, is a common theme in this line. 7...Be7 *(7...bxc5 8.dxc5 Bxc5 9.Bxd5 exd5 10.Qxd5 Bb4+ 11.Nc3 Nc6 12.Bg5 looks annoying for Black.)* 8.0–0 Bb7 9.cxb6 White, tired of worrying about c5, swaps it off, benefitting Black's overall structure. 9...axb6 10.Nc3 Nxc3 11.bxc3 0–0 12.Re1 d6 13.Bf4 Nc6 14.Qe2 dxe5 15.dxe5!? White decides to degrade his pawn structure further in the name of Kingside attacking chances. *(Safer was 15.Nxe5 Nxe5 16.Bxe5 Bf6.)* 15...Ra4! 16.Bg3 Qa8! Reti-esque stuff! 17.Bb3 Ra3 18.Rad1 Na5! Both f3 and b3 are squares of concern for White. 19.Rd7 Bxf3 20.gxf3 Bc5 21.Bc2 *(21.Rxc7 Nxb3 22.axb3 Rxb3 23.Rc1 Rxc3! picks off a pawn, with the superior position as well.)* 21...Rxc3, and White's attacking chances failed to compensate for the pawn deficit and ragged structure, in Rahls - K. Georgiev, Dresden 2007.

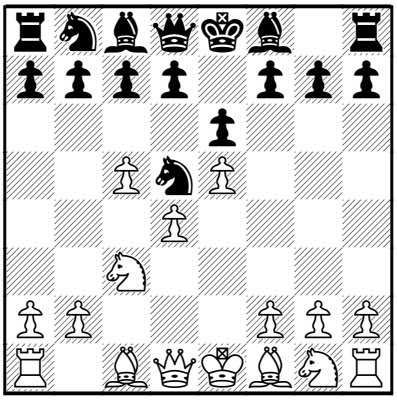
Jack: I faced 5.Bc4 e6 6.d4 once, against Rob Salgado in 1980. Everything worked perfectly for Black after 6...b6 7.Nc3 Nxc3 8.bxc3 bxc5 9.Qg4? *(White obtains fair compensation with 9.d5.)* 9...d5 10.Bd3?! cxd4 11.cxd4 c5 12.dxc5 Nd7 13.Nf3 Ba6! 14.Bxa6 Qa5+.

Cy: *Question*: What if White plays 5.d4?

Answer: 5...b6 *(I prefer this sideswipe over the more common 5...d6 which also scores well for Black.)* 6.cxb6 axb6 7.Nc3 Bb7 8.Nf3 e6 9.Bc4

Nxc3 10.bxc3, Groszpeter-Vaganian, Kecskemet 1979. This is similar to the K. Georgiev game above. In fact, it directly transposes after 10...Be7 11.0–0.

5...e6 6.d4



Cy: White's secondary choice. White's main move is 6.Bc4.

6...b6

Cy: As mentioned above, my preference is to sideswipe with ...b6 over ...d6. Also possible are:

a) 6...d6 7.cxd6 Nxc3 8.bxc3 cxd6, which directly transposes to a line of the c3-Sicilian, Sveshnikov-Filippov, Moscow 1999.

b) 6...Nxc3 7.bxc3 d6 *(7...b6! would be my choice, which could transpose to the Rahls - K. Georgiev note from above.)* 8.cxd6 cxd6, which transposes to line a.

Jack: We are in rare agreement here! I also think 6...Nxc3 7.bxc3 b6 fits the spirit of this opening best.

7.Nxd5

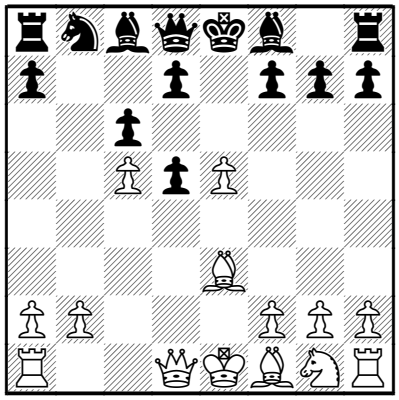
Cy: Valdis chooses to plug the d5 hole with a pawn.

Jack: This seems very logical to me. Black will probably have to follow with ...c7-c6. If White can keep his pawns at c5 and e5, he will enjoy a huge advantage in space without ever having to worry about ...d7-d6.

7...exd5 8.Be3

Cy: After 8.cxb6 *(***Jack***: Chickening out at the first sign of resistance. Why play the Chase variation if you're not willing to dare Black to capture on c5?)* 8...axb6 9.Nf3 Be7 10.Bd3 Ba6 Black eliminates White's most dangerous attacking piece, with equality at a minimum, Tarazi-Hort, Nice 1974.

8...bxc5 9.dxc5 c6



Cy: Now Black owns a passed d-pawn—a potential problem for White if the game should reach an ending. White hopes to later plant a Knight on d4 and follow with f4, with a Kingside attack. As we will see, this plan looks slow.

10.b4

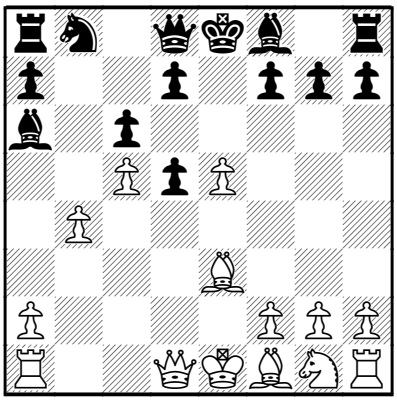
Cy: Or 10.Bd3 Na6, going after c5, 11.Rc1 Qa5+, Franzen-Smejkal, Trinec 1972. Black's 11th move has been played in every game in the database since; White gets compensation for the pawn. Instead, Houdini found the strong novelty 11...Nb4! going after the heart of White's game, the light-squared Bishop. Now if White plays 12.Bb1 *(After 12.a3 Nxd3+ 13.Qxd3 a5 Black looks good, with a grip on the light squares.)* Black has the clever 12...Nxa2! 13.Bxa2 Qa5+ not only regaining the piece with an extra pawn, but also eliminating White's powerful light-squared Bishop.

Jack: I'm not so sure about this pawn grab. White's "bad" Bishop seems very useful after 14.Qd2 Qxa2 15.Ne2 Rb8 16.Bd4⩲, maybe even more useful than Black's "good" one at f8.

10...Ba6

Cy: Eliminating White's most effective attacker—his light-squared Bishop.

10...Na6, Babic-Leventic, Osijek 2010, doesn't make as much sense anymore since White has already played b4, and c5 isn't weak.



11.Ne2!?

Cy: Hey, I said "eliminating White's most effective attacker!" Well, nobody claimed this game was a feast of reason and logic. Unpredictability can be both a weapon and a self-inflicted wound.

My sneaky friend Valdis has always been cursed with a surplus of creativity which, at times, bears the unfortunate tendency to surpass tolerable human limits.

With this new move, he attempts to pull a dirty trick, denying Black the swap, at heavy strategic cost: Black's once bad Bishop is now one of the most powerful pieces on the board and White's last move gives the impression of a convoluted developing scheme. White plans to dodge the swap of Bishops by fianchettoing.

Instead, after 11.Bxa6 Nxa6 12.a3 Nc7 I like Black here as well, who plans ...a5, and his Knight has a nice choice of posts awaiting on b5 or e6, Hennings-Jansa, Polanica Zdroj 1969.

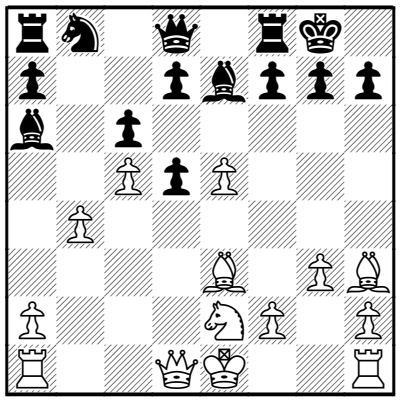
The disruption attempt 11.b5? fails miserably, after 11...Bxb5 12.Bxb5 Qa5+ 13.Qd2 Qxb5 with a clean extra pawn for Black.

Jack: Houdini claims an edge for White after 11.Be2! Qh4 *(or 11...Bxe2 12.Nxe2±)* 12.a3 Qe4 13.Nf3 Bxe2 14.Qxe2 a5 15.0–0 Be7 16.b5 cxb5 17.Qxb5±. Probably Black can improve, but I have confidence in White's faster development.

11...Be7 12.g3

Jack: I think White can justify 11.Ne2!? with 12.Nd4 Bxf1 13.Kxf1±.

12...0–0 13.Bh3



Cy: White's Bishop stares at a wall on d5, if it develops to g2.

Question: What is White's plan?

Answer: He probably intended 0–0, f4, Rf2, Nd4, followed by further pushes with his f-pawn. All well and good, but this takes a lot of time. Black disrupts the proceedings and generates serious counterplay with his next move. In fact, let's turn Black's counterplay plan into an exercise:

Exercise (planning): You know the setup White is after. Find a plan which disrupts this intention.

Answer: White simply doesn't have the leisure time for such a plan after Black's next move:

13...Bc4!

Cy: Intending ...a5 next, disrupting White's Queenside pawns.

Jack: White spent two moves, 12.g3 and 13.Bh3, to leave the Bishop stranded at a6, and Black needed only one to get it out of the way of ...a7-a5. White has wasted time, and he shouldn't be surprised when Black's attack arrives first.

14.Nd4

Cy: The hermit on e1 continues to view contact with the sordid world with grave distaste.

Question: Why would White do this when he can castle?

Answer: The trouble with 14.0–0? is 14...a5, and White's Queenside is torn to tatters, since 15.a3?? is unplayable due to 15...axb4 when White is unable to recapture.

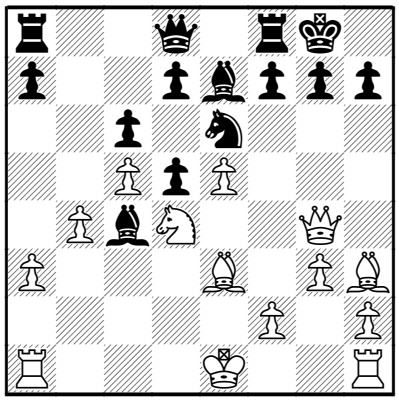
14...Na6

Cy: Stronger and more forceful was 14...a5! 15.a3 Na6. **Jack**: Yes, White's Queenside is falling apart.

15.a3

Cy: 15.Qg4?? fails miserably to 15...Nxb4 16.Bh6 Nd3+ 17.Kd2 g6 when White's game is in ruins. **Jack**: If 18.Bxf8, White has no defense to 18...Qa5+! 19.Ke3 Qc3.

15...Nc7 16.Qg4 Ne6



Cy: The ideal placement for Black's Knight, where it covers g7.

17.Nxe6

Cy: An admission that something went wrong.

Tempting is 17.Nf5?! and his pieces look pretty, but after 17...g6 White's attack comes to a standstill, while Black is ready for ...a5 or ...f6, with White's King still hanging about in the center.

Jack: A little better is 17.Bf1.

I don't trust 17.Nxe6 because it gives Black the dreaded diamond pawn formation. I cannot recall a single game where the diamond did not win.

17...fxe6 18.Qd4

Cy: It's high time for White to admit his plan failed, and take defensive measures like 18.Bf1 with a slightly inferior position.

18...a5 19.f4

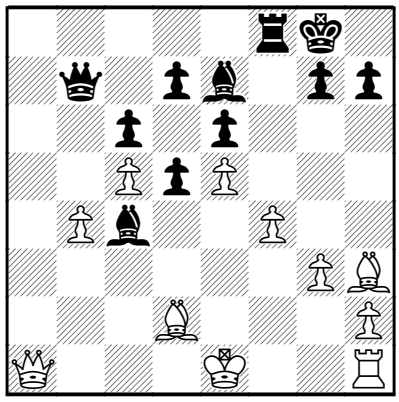
Cy: Powerful natural impulses may only be thwarted on a temporary basis. Sooner or later, our true nature demands that we follow. My optimistic opponent overrates his attacking chances.

Once again, 19.Bf1 looks necessary.

19...Qb8

Cy: Also tempting is 19...Qe8, thinking about swings to h5 or g6.

20.Bd2 axb4 21.axb4 Rxa1+ 22.Qxa1 Qb7



Cy: Taking over the a-file.

23.Qd4

Cy: More accurate was 23.Kf2 Ra8 24.Qc3 Qa6 25.Rc1.

23...Ra8 24.Kf2 Ra3

Cy: ...Rd3 is in the air.

Jack: This certainly looks like the right plan, but White's counterattack reveals unexpected resources.

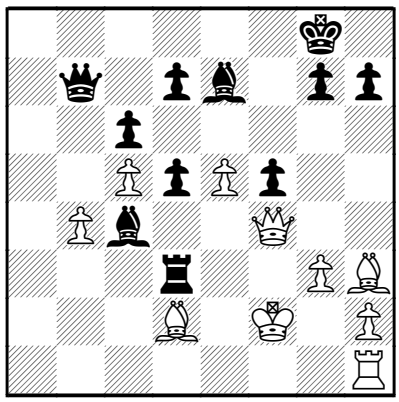
25.f5?!

Cy: Still attacking when he should be defending. That which was intended as a modification, a trifle, ends up the agent of cataclysmic consequences. White should want no part of a skirmish where his side is ill-armed and outmanned.

It was high time for 25.Bf1 Ra2 *(threatening 26...Qxb4)* 26.Ke3 Bxf1 27.Rxf1 Qa6 28.Rb1 with an admittedly difficult defense ahead. **Jack**: This is awful for White! His position is unbearably passive. Black's Queen may creep into c2 or c4, and a later ...g7-g5 could expose White's King to threats from another direction. White has to reject this.

I think 25.f5! is a much better try.

25...Rd3 26.Qf4 exf5



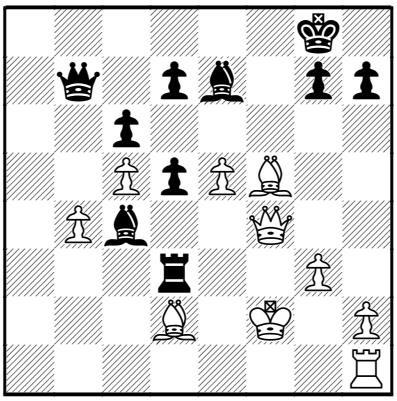
27.Bxf5?

Cy: The f5-bishop's demeanor is of a man, who in a moment of weakness, agrees to a completely unreasonable proposition, a successful conclusion which is beyond the bounds of reason.

27.Rd1 was White's final hope.

Jack: Yes, 27.Rd1! seems to hold. One amazing line is 27...h6 28.Bxf5 Bg5 29.Qg4 Rxd2+ 30.Rxd2 Bxd2 31.Qg6, when White saves a draw. Possible is 31...Qb8 32.e6 dxe6 33.Bxe6+ Kh8 34.Bf5 Qg8 35.Be6 Qf8+ 36.Bf5, forcing Black to accept repetition.

Houdini suggests sacrificing the exchange, after 27.Rd1!, with 27...g5 *(White can survive 27...g6 28.Bf1 too.)* 28.Qxf5 Rxd2+ 29.Rxd2 Qxb4 but it finds nothing convincing against 30.Rc2.



Cy: *Exercise* (combination alert): Black has access to a winning combination in this position. First find the idea, and then try and work out the details to the variation's end.

27...g5!

Cy: *Answer*: Overloaded piece/zwischenzug. I believe my opponent saw my move but thought he had a combination against it.

28.Bxh7+

Cy: The Black King's once peaceful meditations are interrupted by the sound of gunfire. Valdis finds a way to sear the Kingside but forgets: A death blow is impotent if it isn't struck with perfect aim.

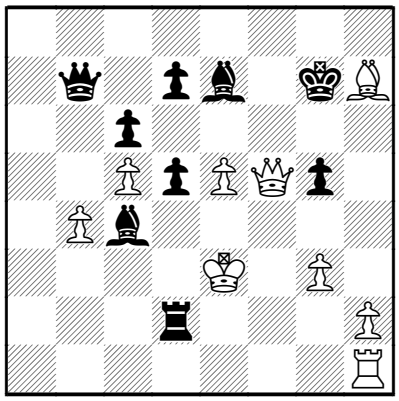
28...Kg7

Cy: Zwischenzug. The Black King watches the Bishop's approach with the anticipatory delight of a shopkeeper observing the entry of a rich customer. Valdis factored this response as well, and counted on his next move.

29.Qf5!

Cy: Nefarious deeds are afoot. Gulp! There lies some hidden quality in the Queen's bulging, purple-veined forehead, an expression that feels not terribly encouraging to Black's nervous King. The Queen steals a covetous glance in the direction of g6, yet she never reaches her intended destination.

29...Rxd2+ 30.Ke3



Cy: *Exercise* (combination alert): It would be easy to be unnerved by sight of the offending forces in the Black King's path. White threatens mate with Qg6+ next move. My opponent worked out a draw after 30...Rd3+ 31.Kf2 Rd2+ 32.Ke3, but Black has something much better. Unearth a method of keeping White's attackers at bay.

30...Bd3!

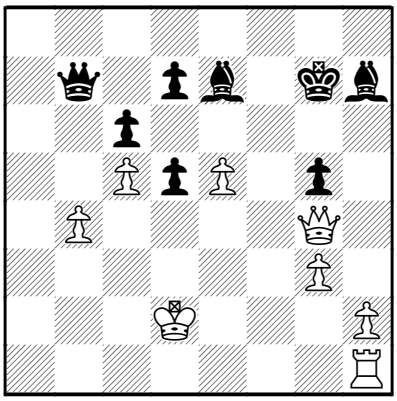
Cy: *Answer*: g6 is covered and White drops his all-important attacking Bishop. One ply seen deeper in a forcing variation can be the difference between life and death in a chess game. X-ray attack/zwischenzug.

"My holy mission stands out, a good deed in a not-so-good world," Black's spiritually conceited Bishop announces. For every fallen Black defender, it feels as if two more arise to take its place.

31.Qg4

Cy: After a jarring assault on her reality, White's Queen, swooning at the sight of Black's charging light-squared Bishop, finds herself forced to adjust her previously optimistic philosophical outlook.

31...Bxh7 32.Kxd2



Cy: *Exercise* (combination alert): Lamentably, for White, his Rook is no match for the Bishop pair in this contest to see who reaches the other's King first. Black has yet another shot.

Where is it?

32...Be4!

Cy: *Answer*: Double attack/interference. The Bishop attacks h1, and at the same time interferes with the White Queen's coverage of b4.

White is overwhelmed by the 1001 anxieties assaulting him and can resign here.

Jack: Very nice! This crusher finishes White off in a hurry.

33.Rc1 Qxb4+

Cy: White's King is left bleeding and twitching in the middle of the busy intersection.

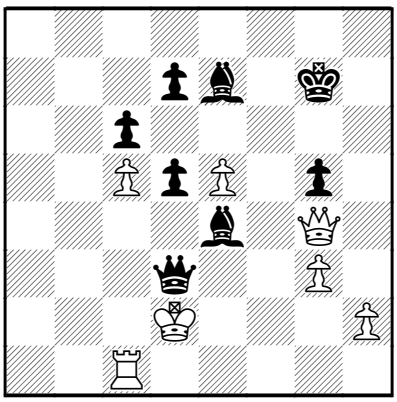
34.Ke3 Qa3+

Cy: Double attack.

35.Kd2

Cy: "Ah, well, look at the time. An urgent matter unfortunately wrenches me away from your charming and delightful company," White's King tells Black's Queen, as he edges closer to the door.

35...Qd3+ 0–1



Cy: 36.Ke1 Qe3+ Attraction/skewer. 37.Kd1 Bf3+. The Bishop murders with only fleeting compunction of the moral implications involved in the act.

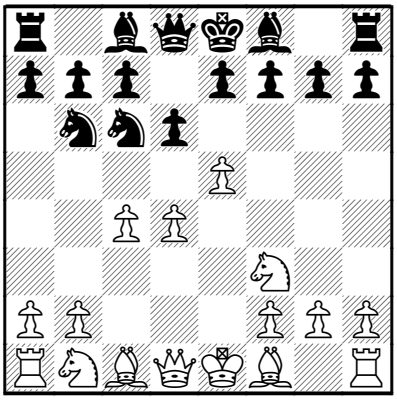
Summary: If White avoids the normal Nc3/Bc4 setup, then toss in a quick ...b6.

William Longren (2250) -
Jack Peters (2505)
[B04] Alekhine's Defense
American Open (3)
Los Angeles, November 23, 1990

1.e4 Nf6

Cy: When Jack emailed me this game I was halfway through it and then realized to my shock that he was on Black's side, actually playing the Alekhine's, rather than against it, as I had incorrectly presumed!

2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.c4 Nb6



6.exd6

Jack: Simple and strong.

Theory claims 6.e6!? fxe6 7.Nc3 favors White. I don't disagree, but I wanted a sharp fight in a poorly-explored variation.

6...exd6

Jack: Too awkward is 6...cxd6?! 7.d5↑.

7.h3

Jack: I prefer 7.Be2±.

Cy: I disagree with the "±" evaluation. It's not at all easy for White to extract anything from the Symmetrical Exchange lines.

This theory is of course all proven beyond argument in my marvelous book, now available on Amazon!

7...Be7 8.d5?!

Jack: This makes 7.h3 a wasted move. Instead, 8.Nc3 0–0 9.Bd3± appears logical.

8...Ne5 9.Nd4?

Jack: Losing more time.

White can keep equality with 9.Nxe5 dxe5 10.Bd3.

Cy: Punctuality is a form of politeness, and in this case, White's pieces are late to develop. The position is too open for such developmental luxuries.

9...0–0 10.Na3

Jack: While White was thinking, I dreamed of 10.b3?! c5! and soon ...Be7-f6.

10...c5

Jack: Anyway!

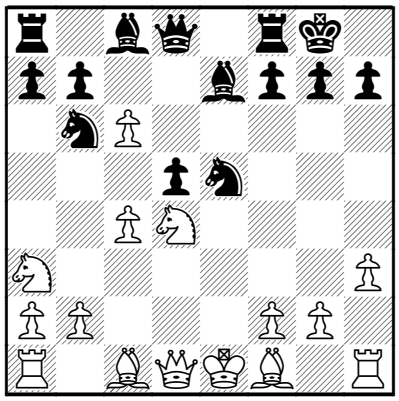
Cy: ! Principle: Create confrontation when leading in development.

11.dxc6?!

Jack: Giving up his strong point at d5 increases White's troubles.

Maybe 11.Ndb5∓ is still defensible.

11...d5!?



Jack: I wanted to rip open the center before White could castle. The "normal" 11...bxc6 12.Be2 d5 seems just as good.

Cy: ! While verbal threats can be overlooked, physical threats must be dealt with head-on.

To the mind of the optimist (i.e. Jack!), the fears of risk always tend to dwindle into the background, when juxtaposed with the glory of untapped opportunity. Jack works tirelessly to construct the edifice of his idea, which has the effect of setting off seismic alterations to the landscape: Black's massive development lead means far more than White's extra pawn.

I have known Jack for over three and a half decades and reveal to you confidentially, that a development lead has always acted upon him with the potency of an amphetamine on the addict!

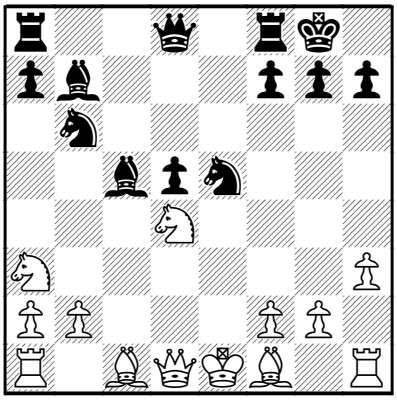
12.cxb7 Bxb7○

Jack: With three extra pieces in play, Black is close to winning. White finds the best reply.

13.c5

Cy: ! White wisely closes lines in a position where he lives in the shadow of illness.

13...Bxc5



14.Nac2?

Jack: Too slow.

Correct is 14.Be2 Nbc4 15.0–0 Nxa3 16.bxa3∓, getting the King to safety at the cost of devaluing his pawns.

Cy: This appears to be a case of bureaucratic excess, with too many low level employees duplicating each other's work.

14...Nbc4∓ 15.Be2

Jack: If White rushes to castle with 15.Bxc4? dxc4 16.0–0, then 16...Qd5–+ is unanswerable.

15...Qa5+ 16.Kf1

Jack: How will White activate his Rook at h1?

The alternative 16.Bd2 drops a pawn to 16...Qb6 17.Bc3 Nxb2, although 18.Bxb2 Qxb2 19.0–0∓ appears no worse than the game.

Cy: When the strategic factors are on your side, then the variations, no matter how intricate or numerous, when condensed,

always seem to fall beneficially on the favored side.

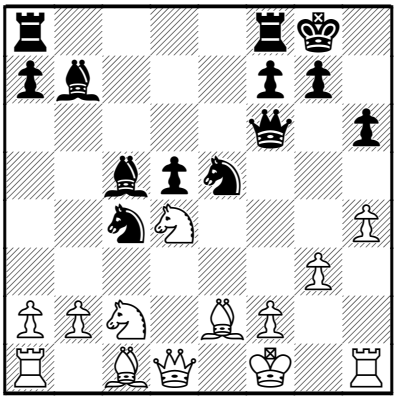
16...Qd8!

Jack: The Queen has accomplished its mission and heads for its proper post at f6.

17.g3

Jack: I planned to meet 17.b3 Nd6 18.Bb2 by 18...Ne4, taking aim at f2.

17...Qf6 18.h4 h6



19.h5

Jack: Houdini mentions 19.g4, an idea of near-human desperation that I never considered. Its analysis continues 19...Rfe8 20.g5 Qb6 21.b4 Bxd4 22.Qxd4 Qg6 23.Ne3 Nc6!, and Black gains material.

19...a5

Jack: A handy move, stopping b2-b4.

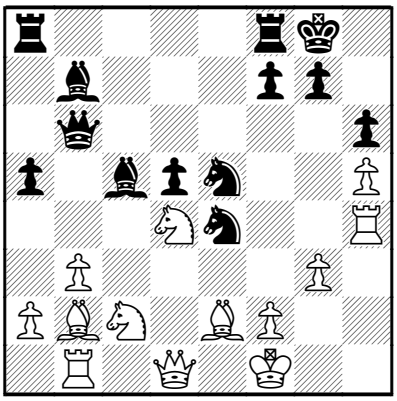
20.Rh4 Qb6

Jack: Hitting b2 while preparing ...Bc5-e7 to harass White's Rook.

21.b3 Nd6 22.Rb1?

Jack: I don't understand this move. I expected 22.Bb2 Ne4 23.Rf4.

22...Ne4 23.Bb2



23...Be7?!

Jack: Not bad, but I missed the crushing 23...g5! 24.Rh2 *(not 24.hxg6 fxg6 25.Rxh6? Nxf2)* 24...f5! 25.Kg1 f4–+. **Cy**: "There is safety in numbers," declares White's King. Ironically, these were the final words of his life. Black has a winning attack. The Black King's heart's desire is to one day put his noxious brother to the sword, and to his joyous surprise, this is the day.

24.Rf4

Jack: The Rook will be trapped, but retreating it is miserable too.

Cy: (!?) The toxicology report indicates that the Rook had been drinking heavily on the night of his accident. Gulp! Rooks are not well suited to maneuver in heavy middlegame traffic like this.

24...Bg5 25.Rf5 Rfe8

Jack: Threatening 26...Nd6 and 26...Bc8.

26.Nb5 Nd2+ 27.Kg1 d4!–+

Jack: Much stronger than 27...Nxb1 28.Bxe5.

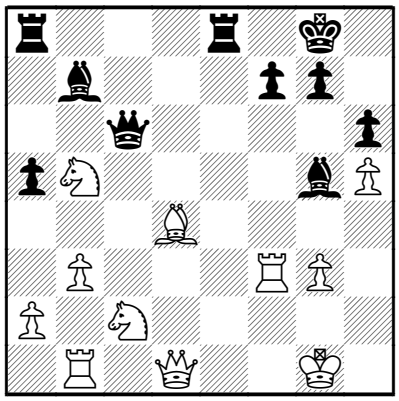
28.Bxd4

Jack: The problem with 28.Ncxd4 Nxb1 29.Qxb1 is that 29...g6! wins a second exchange.

28...Qc6 29.f3 Nexf3+

Jack: The preparatory 29...Rad8! is best.

30.Bxf3 Nxf3+ 31.Rxf3



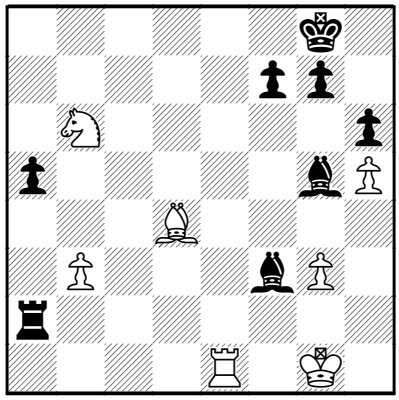
31...Qxf3

Jack: Again, 31...Rad8! improves. I would never suspect such a possibility without consulting a computer. After 32.Kf2 Qxb5 33.Qd3 Qd7, threatening mainly 34...Be4, White must drop more material.

32.Qxf3 Bxf3 33.Nc7

Jack: Temporarily restoring material equality, but White cannot save the game.

33...Rec8 34.Nxa8 Rxc2 35.Nb6 Rxa2 36.Re1



Cy: Thin, doubtful tendrils of hope begin to arise from White's side. He plans mate/perpetual check cheapos based upon Re8+, followed by Nd7 and Nf8+.

36...Re2

Jack: No swindles, please! I feared 36...Rg2+?! 37.Kf1 Rxg3 38.Re8+ Kh7 39.Nd7 and didn't notice that Black can still win by 39...f5□ 40.Nf8+ Kg8 41.Ng6+ Kf7.

37.Ra1

Jack: After 37.Rxe2 Bxe2, neither 38.Nc4 a4 nor 38.Bc3 Be3+ works.

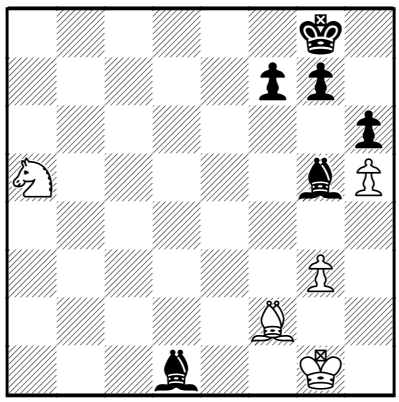
37...Rd2 38.Bf2

Jack: Not 38.Bc3 Be3+ 39.Kf1 Rh2 40.Rxa5 Rh1 mate.

38...Rd1+

Cy: All uncertainty is dispelled when Rooks come off the board.

39.Rxd1 Bxd1 40.Nc4 Bxb3 41.Nxa5 Bd1 0–1



GM Eugene Perelshteyn Takes 3rd Recession Buster Open

San Diego, February 15-17, 2014

*GM **Eugene Perelshteyn** took first with 5-1 at the third Recession Buster Open, held at the Courtyard Marriott San Diego Airport / Liberty Station. Tying for second at 4½-1½ were GMs Timur Gareev and Mackenzie Molner, and IM Roman Yankovsky. The strong 43-player section also included GMs Gregory Kaidanov, Melikset Khachiyan, and Carlos Matamoros. Organizer Chuck Ensey recaps the tourney in this article. -Ed.*

By Chuck Ensey

The 2014 version of this Presidents' Day weekend event drew 161 participants versus 140 for the previous two years. Most impressive was the very strong Open section with 40 players, including seven Grandmasters (including one Women's GM), five International Masters, three FMs and thirteen NMs. The very determined field would fight hard for the $2,400 first prize, and I expected it to be divvied up between several of the GMs, but surprisingly GM Eugene Perelshteyn, the sixth seed, took it all with 5-1. Eugene came all the way from Massachusetts and earned his way by drawing with fourth seed GM Melikset Khachiyan in round 3 and with top seed GM Timur Gareev in round 5, along with wins over number eight IM John Bryant in round 4 and a crucial last round win over seventh seed IM Dionisio Aldama.

The favorite coming in, Timur Gareev, was rated 104 points higher than the next highest player GM Gregory Kaidanov, who traveled from Kentucky. Timur won his encounter with Greg in the fourth round, but drew with Dionisio in round 2, Eugene in round 5 and with third seed GM Mackenzie Molner of Arizona in round 6.

Dionisio and Timur chose the two-day schedule, where the time control was G/60 + d5 in rounds 1-3, and in these shorter games anything can happen and often does. Dionisio nearly won in a time scramble with Timur in round two and he also had a very close final round game with Perelshteyn, so even though he only tied for 5-7th, Dionisio felt good about the event, as he had chances to win it all.

Three players tied for second through fourth: GMs Gareev and Molner plus IM Roman Yankovsky, who took home $1,233 each. Next, tied for fifth, were GMs Khachiyan, Kaidanov and Carlos Matamoros, plus WGM Tatev Abrahamyan and IMs Aldama and Keaton Kiewra.

The best under 2300 prize was split between Ilia Serpik and rising star Ashritha Eswaran of San Jose,

jw

Winner Eugene Perelshteyn: GM at the ready.

who earned her National Master title at this event.

In the 29-player Expert section, another steadily rising female star, WFM Annie Wang, took clear first for $1,000 with 5½-½, including a draw with WIM Paloma Gutierrez who finished clear second. Annie pushed her rating up to 2193 at this event, and went on to earn her Masters title at her next event, with a perfect 5-0 sweep at the National Junior Chess Congress. Matthew Shuben won clear third here at the RBO.

The 31-player Class A section had an unusual five-way tie for first at 4½-1½ among Justin Kang, Hai Le, Sridhar Ramanujam, Miguel Ceballos and Joselito Quiba. Four of these players hail from San Diego, and Hai came down from LA at the last minute with a bye in round 1.

Class B also had 31 paid entries, but in this case David King scored 5-1 to take clear first for $1,000. Eugene Kim and Kevin Johnson split second and third for $500 each.

The turnout in the lower two sections was where the attendance fell off, with only 16 players in the under 1600 and fourteen in the under 1400. Renato Conducto and Leonard Vu tied for first with 4½-½ for $800 each in the Class C Section. Finally, Errol Acosta scored 5½-½ to top the U1400 and win $600, and Matthew Mullen took second for $400. Alfredo Ong and Daniel Xu split best under 1200, and Jihe Xu was best unrated.

jw

Ashritha Eswaran: tied for top under 2300, she earned her NM title here, gaining over 200 rating points in the previous nine months.

jw

Annie Wang took the under 2200, but those days may be over; she earned her NM certificate soon after.

I would like to thank the SCCF, especially Webmaster Chris Roberts and Treasurer Ashok Ramadoss, for doing a great job handling the online entries at www.scchess.com, which make it easy for everyone to sign up and check the advance lists for their competition. Please use this resource whenever you can, as it cuts down on errors and makes everything more efficient.

The event went smoothly with Bruce Baker's direction and everyone loved the Courtyard Marriott Liberty Station, right next to San Diego Bay with a spacious and well maintained ballroom, free parking, a large grassy park right next door, plus a large variety of places to eat within walking distance. And best of all, no competing events that you often see at some chess tournaments, such as the typical wedding receptions or other loud parties. We strive for player-friendly events with the best possible playing conditions so that players can relax and do their best.

The time control in the 3-day schedule was 40/90-SD/60 with a ten-second delay, a slightly shorter battle than the typical 40/2-SD/1 hour, five-second delay version that many long weekend events use. We wanted this event to be as fun as possible for all and everyone did really enjoy it from the feedback that I received.

We hope to return to this location and keep growing these $20,000-guaranteed events in San Diego—our sixth in the last three years—but we need a little bit higher attendance to make it work for the long run.

Please mark your calendars for August 30, as Labor Day weekend comes early this year! The ***Southern California Open*** drew 196 players last year and we hope to go well over 200 this year, when it returns to the Town and Country Hotel with a bigger and better ballroom than last year.

We present three games from the tournament, the prizewinner Aldama - Kretchetov from round three, the Kaidanov - Gareev game with its stunning finish, and another game with a surprise combination, Matamoros - Kaufman.

IM Jack Peters annotates the second and third games. - Ed.

Dionisio Aldama (2536) - Alexandre Kretchetov (2382)
[B15] Caro-Kann Defense
Recession Buster Open G/60 (3), San Diego, February 16, 2014
1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 g6

The Gurgenidze System. Bukhuti Gurgenidze, 1933 - 2008 from Georgia, was one of the most original Soviet players and was a geologist by profession. He was also a trainer of some of the top women players.

4.h3

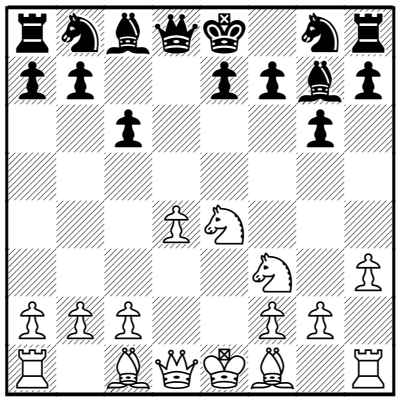
With so many pawns on White squares, one way to start is to take another square away from Black's light-squared Bishop.

Also played is 4.f3 Bg7 5.Be3 dxe4 *(there's even a poison pawn variation with 5...Qb6 6.Qd2 Qxb2 7.Rb1 Qa3 and if 8.exd5 then 8...Nf6)* 6.fxe4 with 6...e5 or 6...Nf6.

4...Bg7 5.Nf3 dxe4

Also played are 5...Nf6 and 5...Nh6.

6.Nxe4



6...Nf6

Most often seen here is 6...Nd7 7.Bc4 Ngf6 8.Nxf6+ Nxf6 9.0–0 0–0 10.Re1. Also played is 6...Bf5 7.Ng3 Be6.

7.Nxf6+ exf6 8.Be2 0–0 9.0–0 Qc7

Black has also tried 9...Bf5, 9...Na6, and 9...a5.

10.Be3 Rd8N

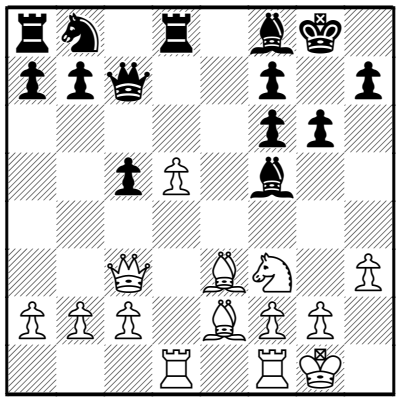
The development plan of 10...Nd7 11.Qd2 f5 12.Bf4 Qb6 13.c3 Nf6 looks more consistent with Black's Kingside pawn formation.

11.Qd2 c5

Black gets into a little trouble by further delaying the development of the Queenside pieces.

Still, after 11...Bf5 12.Bf4 it's hard to get the Black Knight to a good post at this point.

12.d5 Bf8 13.Rad1 Bf5 14.Qc3



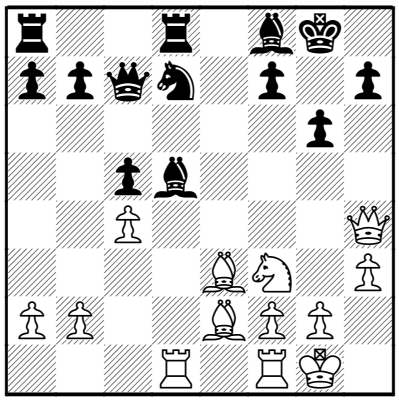
With pressure on both f6 and c5, Black goes for a trade of White's d5 pawn for his pawn at f6.

14...Be4 15.Qxf6 Bxd5 16.c4

This move allows Black to finish developing and equalize.

With 16.Qg5 h6 *(better than 16...Be7 17.Bf4! which forces 17...Bxg5 18.Bxc7 Bxf3 19.Bxf3 Rxd1 20.Rxd1 Nc6 21.Rd7±)* 17.Qh4± Black has to give up the h-pawn to develop the Knight. Saving the pawn with 17...h5? *(similar is 17...Kh7? 18.Bc4+-)* is answered by 18.Bf4 Qb6 19.Bc4+-.

16...Nd7! 17.Qh4



17...Bxf3

Giving up the two Bishops.

Worthy of consideration is 17...Bc6:

White's Knight is no danger to the Black King, as after 18.Ng5 h6 White has nothing better than 19.Ne4 Bg7 and now if 20.Nxc5 *(or 20.b3 Re8∓)* Black has 20...Nxc5 21.Bxc5 Bxb2=.

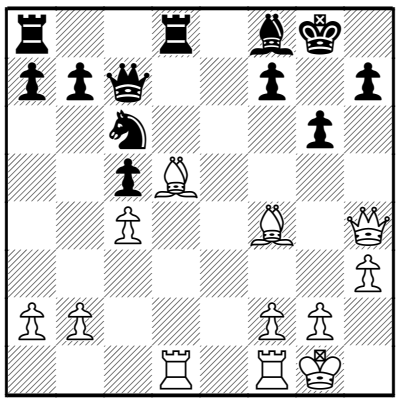
18.Bf4 is answered by 18...Qb6 19.Rd2 Bg7=.

After 18.Bh6 Bxh6 19.Qxh6 there is a Kingside weakness, but Black has 19...Re8 20.Ng5 Nf8= and nobody's ever been mated with a Knight on f8.

18.Bxf3±

The f3-Knight is no longer available for a Kingside attack, but now White has two decent Bishops and better development.

18...Ne5 19.Bd5 Nc6 20.Bf4



20...Qb6

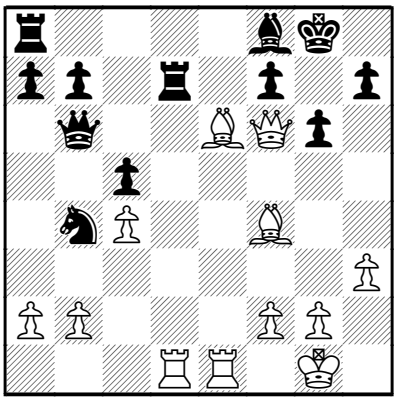
Black can keep an eye on f7 with 20...Qd7 21.Bg5 Re8. Still, White can go 22.f4± and f4-f5 to open the f-file with an attack on Black's King.

21.Qf6

The computer wants to go in on f7 right away with 21.Bxf7+! Kxf7 22.Qxh7+ Bg7 23.Bh6 Qxb2 24.Rb1 Rh8 25.Qxg7+ Qxg7 26.Rxb7+! Ne7 27.Bxg7+-.

21...Rd7± 22.Rfe1 Nb4 23.Be6!?

The ending after 23.Qxb6 axb6 24.Bf3 Rxd1 25.Rxd1 Nc6 26.Rd7 is quite advantageous to White.

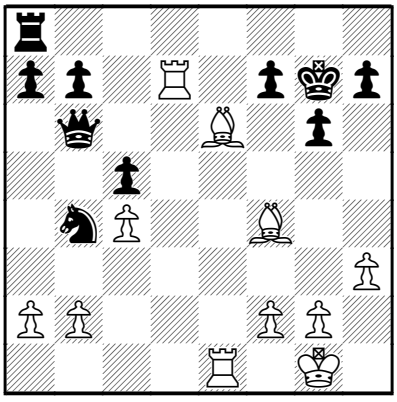


23...Bg7

One last chance for Black was 23...Qd8! 24.Qxd8 *(or 24.Bxf7+ Rxf7 25.Rxd8 Rxf6 26.Rxa8 Rxf4=)* 24...Rdxd8 25.Bg4=.

Now White launches a dramatic attack with:

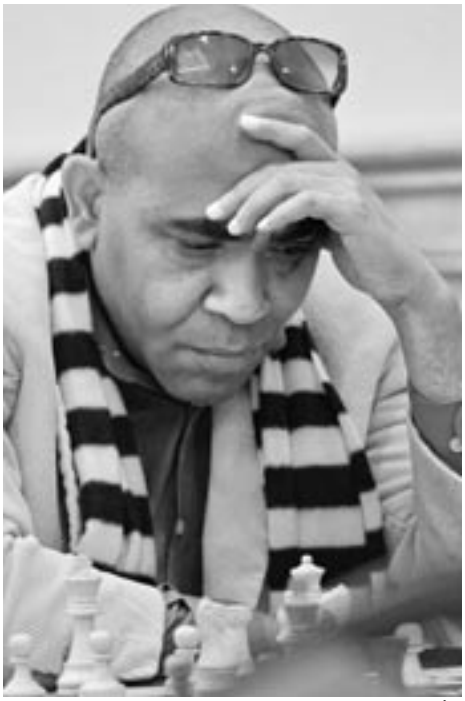
24.Qxg7+! Kxg7 25.Rxd7



White has two Bishops and a Rook for the Queen and Knight, but King safety decides.

25...Rf8 26.Bd6

Quicker is 26.Be5+! Kh6 27.Re4! Qxe6 *(or 27...f6 28.Rh4+ Kg5 29.Bf4+*



Dionisio Aldama: Nice attack! jw

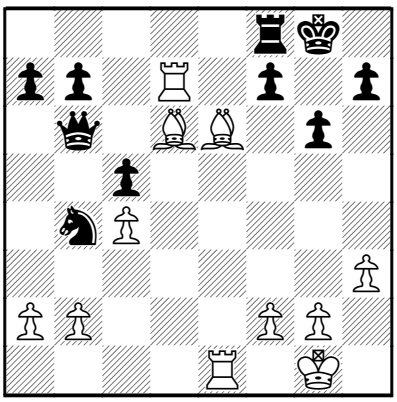
Kxh4 30.Rxh7#) 28.Bg7+ Kxg7 *(or 28...Kg5 29.Rxe6 fxe6 30.Bxf8 with a Rook up)* 29.Rxe6 with the exchange up.

26...Kg8

The computer has to work harder to defeat 26...Re8 27.Rxf7+ and now:

27...Kh6 28.Rd7 Nd3 *(or 28...Nc2 29.Re4 Nd4 30.Rh4+ Kg5 31.Bf4+ Kf6 32.Bd5+-)* 29.Re3+–.

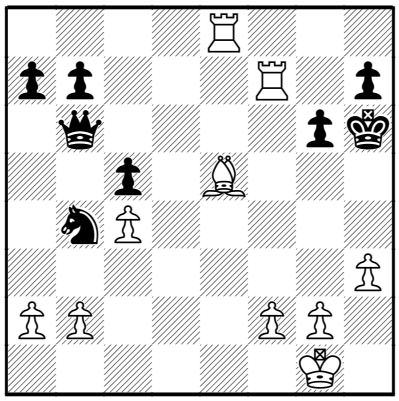
Or 27...Kh8 28.Rd1 Nc6 *(28...Rxe6 29.Bxc5!+-)* 29.Bf4 Rxe6 30.Bh6 Re8 31.Rdd7+-.



27.Bxf7+ Rxf7 28.Re8+ Kg7 29.Be5+ Kh6

Even after 29...Qf6 30.Bxf6+ Kxf6 31.Rxf7+ Kxf7 32.Rb8, White is going to be the exchange and two pawns up.

30.Rxf7



The King will not escape.

30...Nd3 31.Bf6

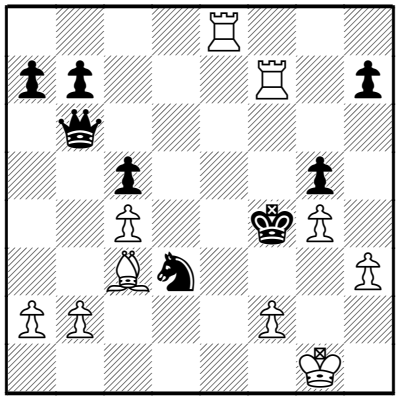
Threatening 32.Rxh7+ Kxh7 33.Rh8 mate.

One quicker line is 31.Rxh7+! Kg5 *(or 31...Kxh7 32.Rh8#)* 32.Rf8 threatening two mates: 33.h4+ Kg4 34.f3 mate and 33.f4+ Nxf4 34.Bxf4 mate.

31...g5 32.Bc3 Kg6 33.Rg7+ Kf5

Or 33...Kh6 34.Rh8+–.

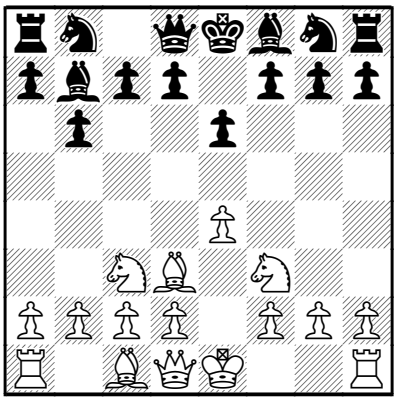
34.g4+ Kf4 35.Rf7+ 1–0



Our next game is between two of the top players. IM Jack Peters describes Kaidanov's continuing quandary when he finds himself with an unhealthy Kingside and attempts to keep things safe. But the game ends with a shocking sacrifice followed by a quiet move. - Ed.

Gregory Kaidanov (2644) - Timur Gareev (2750)
[B00] Irregular Opening
Recession Buster Open (4)
San Diego, February 16, 2014
Notes by IM Jack Peters.

1.Nf3 b6 2.e4 Bb7 3.Nc3 e6 4.Bd3



This looks odd, but it resembles the highly-regarded answer to Larsen's Opening, 1.b3 e5 2.Bb2 Nc6 3.e3 Nf6 4.Bb5 Bd6.

The natural 4.d4 allows counterplay by 4...Bb4 5.Bd3 Nf6.

4...g5!?

Even odder.

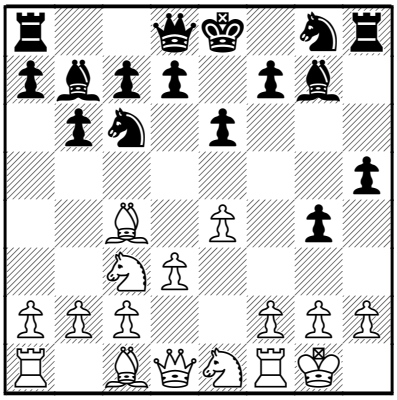
Black had a "normal" alternative in 4...c5=.

5.0–0?!

Losing control of d4.

Lashing out with 5.h4? g4 6.Ne5 h5∓ only helps Black, but 5.Bc4 prepares d2-d4 and should favor White.

5...Bg7 6.Bc4 Nc6 7.d3 g4 8.Ne1 h5∓



Black's audacious opening has succeeded.

9.f3

White would love to get his Knight back to f3. Of course, Black will not cooperate.

White cannot regain central ground by 9.Be3 because 9...Nd4∓ sets up both ...c7-c5 and ...d7-d5.

9...Nh6 10.Ne2

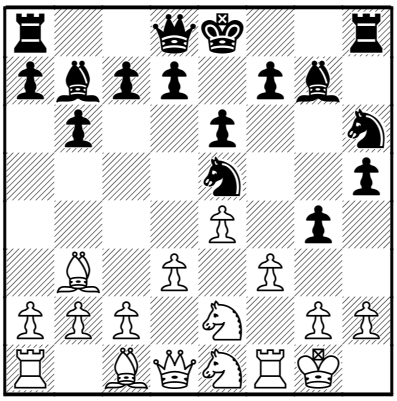
If White grabs a pawn with 10.Bxh6 Bxh6 11.fxg4 hxg4 12.Qxg4,

then 12...Qe7 13.Kh1 0–0–0 and next ...Rd8-g8 gives Black far too much compensation. White will suffer on the dark squares, particularly h2.

10...Ne5

Also attractive is 10...f5↑.

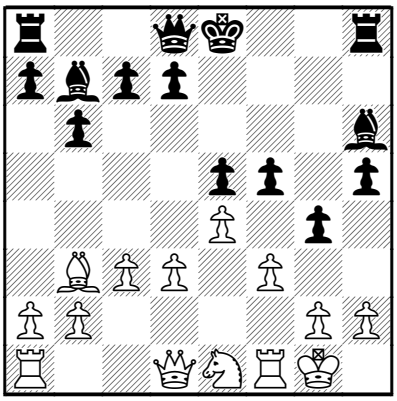
11.Bb3



11...Ng6

The sharper 11...gxf3 12.Nxf3 Nxf3+ 13.Rxf3 f5! appears strongest.

12.c3 f5 13.Nf4 Nxf4 14.Bxf4 e5 15.Bxh6 Bxh6



16.Nc2

Not 16.exf5? because 16...Be3+ 17.Kh1 Qh4 18.Qe2 Bf4 19.g3 Bxg3–+ recovers the pawn while destroying the pawn cover around White's King. If White gets greedy again with 20.d4 0–0–0 21.dxe5 Rhe8 22.e6, the finish could be 22...dxe6 23.Bxe6+ Kb8 24.Kg1 *(else 24...Bxe1 and 25...gxf3 breaks through)* 24...gxf3 25.Nxf3 Bxh2+! 26.Qxh2 *(or 26.Nxh2 Qg3+)* 26...Rg8+ 27.Bxg8 Rxg8+ 28.Kh1 Qg4, forcing checkmate.

16...Qg5 17.fxg4!

A good decision. White clarifies the pawn structure to reach a defensible position.

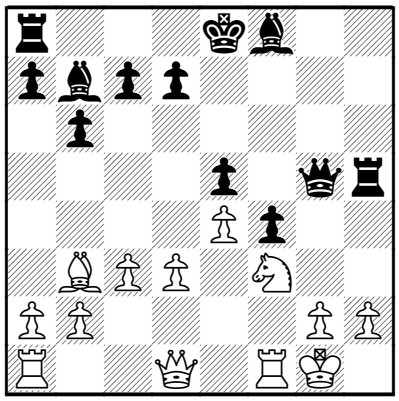
Although 17.exf5 gxf3 18.Rxf3 Bxf3 19.Qxf3 c6 20.Re1⩱ seems acceptable, Black does not have to accept the exchange sacrifice.

Instead, 17.exf5 0–0–0∓ retains the initiative.

17...f4!?

At the cost of a pawn, Black avoids the chaos of 17...fxe4 18.Rf5∞.

18.gxh5 Bf8 19.Ne1 Rxh5 20.Nf3



jw

Kaidanov - Gareev: a stunning sacrifice is on the way!

The Knight returns to its best post. By defending h2 and readying d2-d4, White has shut the two most dangerous paths to his King.

20...Qg6 21.Qe2

The problem with 21.d4 is that Black welcomes 21...0–0–0 22.Nxe5?! Rxe5 23.dxe5 Bc5+ 24.Kh1 Bxe4 25.Rf3□ Rh8→.

White has nothing better than 21.Bd5∓.

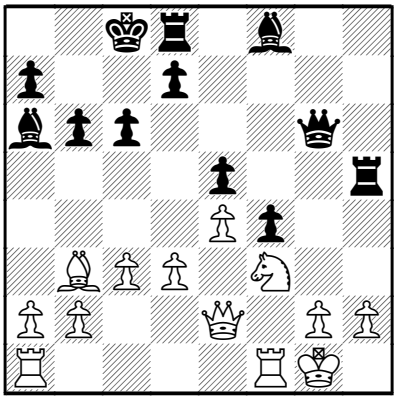
21...0–0–0 22.Bd5?

This idea fails with White's Queen on e2. White had to risk 22.d4∓.

22...c6 23.Bb3

Worse is 23.Bc4 d5 24.Bb3 Ba6–+.

23...Ba6!

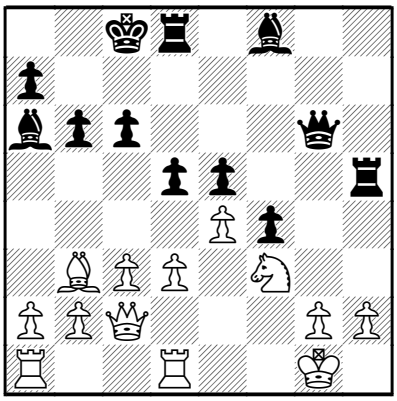


By pinning the d-pawn, Black strengthens the threat of bringing his Bishop to c5.

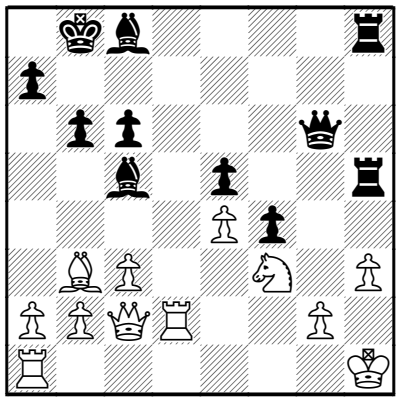
24.Bc4?

White overlooks a fine combination. However, Black already had an unstoppable attack.

If White vacates the a6-f1 diagonal by 24.Qc2 d5 25.Rfd1,

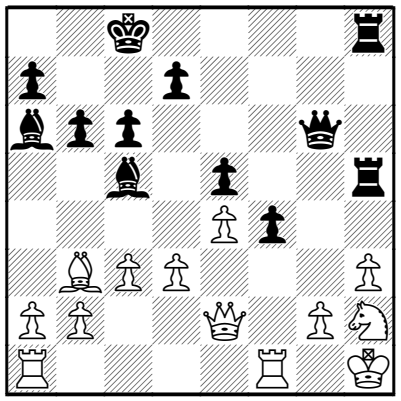


Black wins neatly with 25...dxe4 26.dxe4 Bc5+ 27.Kh1 Rdh8 28.h3 Kb8! 29.Rd2 Bc8,



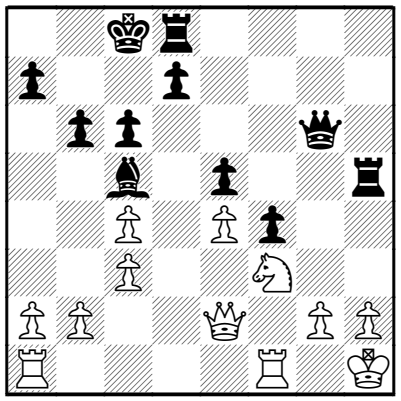
leaving White helpless. A plausible continuation is 30.Nh2 Bxh3 31.gxh3 Rxh3 32.Rf1 *(or 32.Rg2 Rg3 33.Re1 Rxh2+! 34.Rxh2 Rg1+ 35.Rxg1 Qxg1#)* 32...f3 33.Bc4 Be3 34.Rfd1 f2 35.Rxf2 Qg3 36.Rdf1 Bf4–+.

The purely defensive 24.Kh1 Bc5 25.h3 Rdh8 26.Nh2

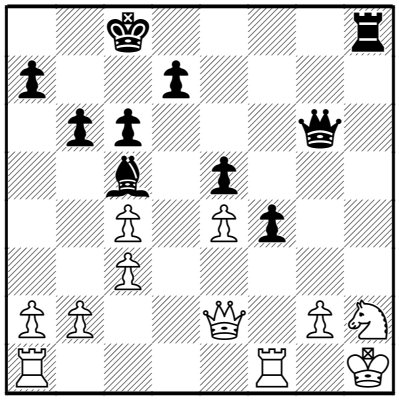


enables White to defend h3, only to see Black shift his attack to g2 with 26...R8h7 27.Rf3 Rg7 28.Rd1 Rg5 29.Ng4 Qh7 30.Nh2 Be3–+, intending ...d6-d5.

24...Bxc4 25.dxc4 Bc5+ 26.Kh1



26...Rxh2+! 27.Nxh2 Rh8 0–1



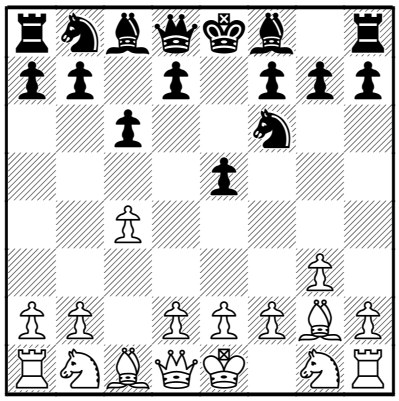
Black threatens 28...Qg3, and 28.Rf3 Qg3! doesn't stop it.

Nor does 28.g4 fxg3 29.Rg1 help, as 29...Qxe4+! 30.Qxe4 Rxh2 mate concludes abruptly.

Next, we have another surprisingly sudden winning sacrifice. This one, though, would have correctly concluded in a winning ending, but only after a computer-subtle idea.

GM Carlos Matamoros is from Ecuador and led his team at the 2012 Olympiad. - Ed.

Carlos Matamoros (2556) - Raymond Kaufman (2402)
[A23] English Opening
Recession Buster Open (5)
San Diego, February 17, 2014
Notes by IM Jack Peters.
1.c4 Nf6 2.g3 e5 3.Bg2 c6

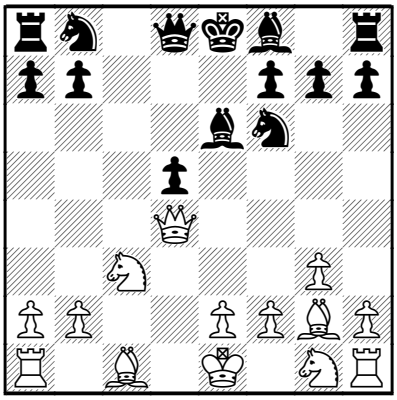


Combative! Black disputes White's claim to d5.

4.Nc3

Theory has also investigated 4.Nf3 e4 5.Nd4 d5 6.cxd5 Qxd5 and 4.d4 exd4 5.Qxd4 d5.

4...d5 5.d4 exd4 6.Qxd4 Be6 7.cxd5 cxd5



Equal chances. White will have to lose time with his Queen.

8.Be3!?

Trying to improve on 8.Nf3 Nc6 9.Qa4, which lets Black post his Bishop actively with 9...Bc5.

8...Nc6 9.Qa4 Bb4

It's doubtful that Black has anything better. If 9...Ng4 10.0–0–0! Nxe3 11.fxe3, Black must drop the d-pawn.

10.Nf3 Ne4 11.Rc1 Qf6?!

New, but ineffective.

The older 11...Qa5 12.Qxa5 Nxa5= is quite safe.

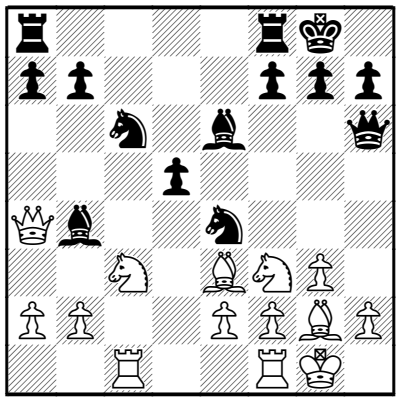
12.Bd4 Qh6 13.0–0 0–0??

Black must settle for 13...Bxc3 14.Bxc3 0–0 15.Nd4 Bd7±.

14.Be3!

jw

Matamoros: Nice sacrifice!



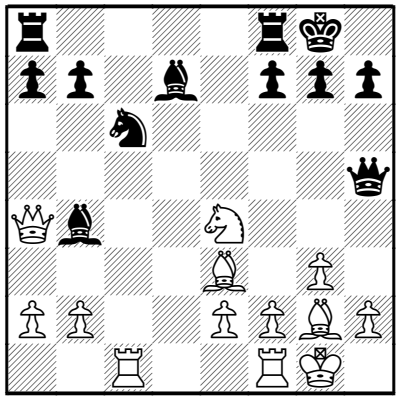
Don't underestimate retreats! Suddenly, Black is lost.

14...Qh5

Black puts up the best defense, to no avail.

White meets 14...Qf6 similarly by 15.Nxe4 dxe4 16.Ng5 as 16...Qxb2? 17.Bxe4 h6 would drop a piece to 18.Nxe6 fxe6 19.Bxc6 bxc6 20.Rb1+–.

15.Nxe4 dxe4 16.Ng5 Bd7 17.Nxe4



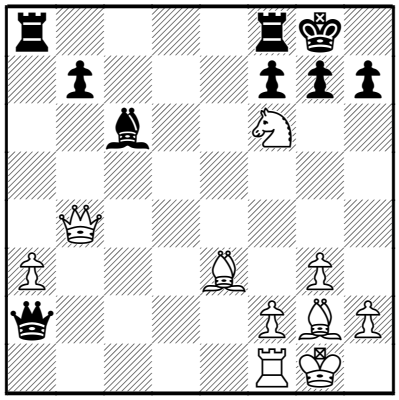
17...Qxe2!?

Instead of remaining a pawn down in a hopeless position, Black tries to generate drawing chances by wiping out the Queenside.

18.Rxc6 Bxc6 19.Qxb4 a5 20.Qb3 a4 21.Qb4 a3 22.bxa3 Qxa2

If the a-pawn falls, Black can draw most endgames. But White turns his attention to Black's neglected King.

23.Nf6+!



23...Kh8

As 23...gxf6 loses to 24.Qg4+ Kh8 25.Bd4 Qe6 26.Qg5.

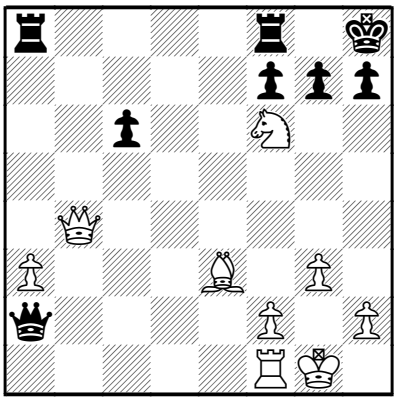
24.Bxc6?!

Houdini claims a win with 24.Qh4 Qc2 25.Rc1 Qg6 26.Nd5! *(threatening mostly 27.Be4)* 26...Ra4 27.Nf4, forcing 27...Qf6 or 27...Qh6 because 27...Qf5 permits 28.Bxc6 bxc6 29.Ng6+ Qxg6 30.Qxa4. The maneuver Nf6-d5-f4 is very difficult to foresee.

24...bxc6

jw

Raymond Kaufman and Carlos Matamoros, at the start of the game.

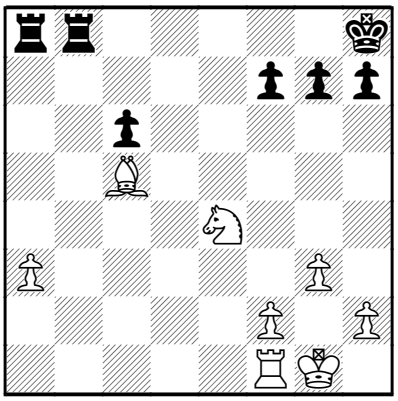


25.Qe4??

Seeking a snappy finish, White misses a surprising defense.

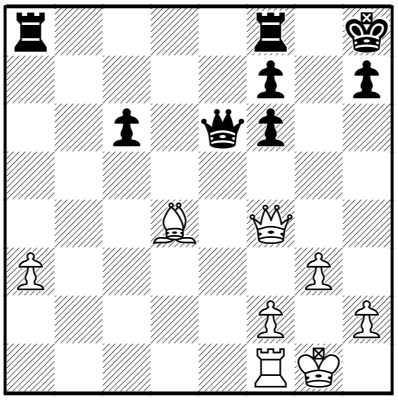
He has no middlegame knockout, but he can reach a winning endgame in two ways:

Either 25.Bc5 Rfb8 26.Qh4 Qc2 27.Qe4 Qxe4 28.Nxe4:



or 25.Qg4 Qe6 26.Qxe6 fxe6 27.Ne4, counting on 27...Rxa3? 28.Bc5, preserves the passed a-pawn and wins.

25...gxf6 26.Bd4 Qe6 27.Qf4

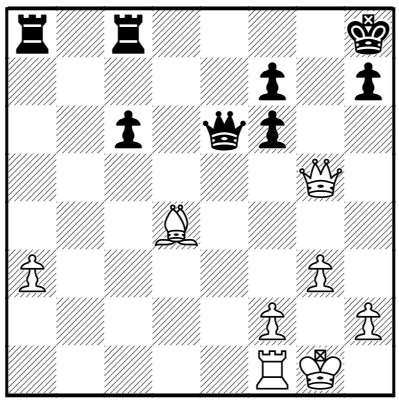


27...Rfc8??

And Black misses it too!

The saving idea is 27...Ra5! 28.Bxf6+ Kg8=. Black parries

29.Qh6 with 29...Qg4 30.Bc3 Rf5 31.Qxc6 Qf3=.
28.Qg5 1–0



Clockwise from above: Chuck Ensey at the wall charts, the players at work, Bruce Charnov at the busy director's desk, and everybody at the tournament hall. Photos: James Woodward

Solutions to Final Points

From inside back cover.

1.Black Queens the pawn immediately with ***49...e2! 0–1***. Porat - Larsen, Amsterdam Interzonal 1964.

2.White suddenly wins big material with ***28.Rg5! Qxg5 29.Bxg5 Ne4 30.Be3 Rd7 31.Nd5 Nf2+ 32.Bxf2 Rf7 33.Qd3 Rxf2 34.Qxg3+ 1–0***, Perez - Vranesic, Amsterdam Interzonal 1964.

3.Black sacs the Knight to clear away the defenses with ***62...Nxg4 63.hxg4*** since the Queen and Pawn alone are sufficient: ***63...Qh4+ 64.Kg1 Qg3+ 0–1***. After 65.Kh1 f2 it's a mate as soon as White runs out of checks, for example 66.Ne6+ Kc8 67.Bg2 Qh4+ 68.Bh3 Qxh3 mate. Portisch - Smyslov, Amsterdam Interzonal 1964.

4.Black clarifies the situation by trading down and winning a pawn, starting with ***30...Rxe3! 31.Rxd4*** If 31.fxe3 then 31...Nf3+ 32.Kf2 Qxd1 33.Be2 Ne5 and Black keeps the extra Rook. ***31...Rxg3+*** picking up a pawn ***32.fxg3 Qxd4+ 33.Qxd4 Rxd4 34.b3 Rd1 0–1***. Black will continue to win more material. Benko - Darga, Amsterdam Interzonal 1964.

5.Deadly is ***30.Rcd1! e5*** Or 30...Bc5 31.Bh6+ Ke7 32.Bg5+ Kf8 33.Qh8 mate. Similar is 30...c5 31.Rxd4 cxd4 32.Bh6+ Ke7 33.Bg5+ Qxg5 34.hxg5. ***31.Rxd4 1–0***, as 31...exf4 *(or 31...exd4 32.Qh8+ Qg8 33.Bh6 mate)* loses big material after 32.Qh8+ Qg8 33.Rxe8+ Nxe8 34.Qxg8+ Kxg8 35.Rxd7. Portisch - Benko, Amsterdam Interzonal 1964.

6.Black wins with the sneaky ***24...Qa7***, a creeping Queen move that threatens mate and prepares to double on the a-file. ***25.exf7+ Kf8 0–1***. After 26.Kb1 Ra8 White has to let the Rook on h1 go in order to stop the mate on a1. Quinones - Smyslov, Amsterdam Interzonal 1964.

7.White ends it quickly with ***19.Bxf6*** Even better than 19.Nxd5 Rxc2 20.Nxf6+ Bxf6. ***19...Nxf6 20.Ne4*** Winning the exchange after 20...Nxe4 *(if the Queen moves, it's a really sudden mate with 21.Nxf6+)* because the recapture 21.Bxe4 threatens both the Rook on c6 and a mate on h7. 21...g6 22.Bxc6 Qxc6 and it keeps on coming with 23.d5. Bronstein - Berger, Amsterdam Interzonal 1964.

8.White clarifies it all with a series of trades, starting with ***33.Bxb6+*** Also winning is 33.Bc5+ forcing the King in the other direction 33...Kc7 34.Bd6+ Kc8 35.Rc1+ Nc5 36.bxc5, and now Black must give up material to stop the immediate threat of mate. 36...Rd7 37.cxb6+ Kd8 38.Bxd7 Kxd7 39.Bb4+–. ***33...Ke7 34.Bxd8+ Rxd8 35.Rxd7+ Rxd7 36.Bxd7 Kxd7 37.Kd3 1–0***, Spassky - Quinones, Amsterdam Interzonal 1964, winning the final round game and tying for first place.

9.This is quite a combination! Black corrals the White King with ***39...h5+ 40.Kxh5 Qf3+ 41.Kg5 Qxf6+*** and now the White Rook falls when the recapture on f6 is check: ***42.Qxf6 gxf6+ 43.Kxf6 Rxb8 44.d6*** After 44.Ke7 Black must find 44...Rb7+□ *(not 44...Rf8? 45.d6 Rf1 46.d7 Re1+ 47.Kd6=)* 45.Ke8 b4! 46.d6 *(or 46.axb4 Rxb4 47.d6 Rxb2–+)* 46...bxa3 47.bxa3 Rb3 48.a4 Re3+ 49.Kd8 Ra3 50.d7 Rxa4. ***44...Kf8 45.h5*** Now it's easy, for if 45.d7 then 45...Rb6+ 46.Ke5 Ke7. ***45...Rb7 46.Ke6 Rh7 47.Kd5*** Again, after 47.d7 it's 47...Rh6+ 48.Ke5 Ke7. ***47...Ke8 48.Kc6 Kd8 0–1***, Evans - Tal, Amsterdam Interzonal 1964.

GM Julio Sadorra Tops Western Class Championships

Agoura Hills, March 7-9, 2014

Grandmaster Julio Sadorra took first with 4½-½ in Continental Chess Association's (CCA) 21st Western Class Championships at the Agoura Hills Sheraton. Tying for second at 4-1 were GMs Melikset Khachiyan and FM Cameron Wheeler in the 33-player section. Sadorra, who needed only a draw in the final round against Khachiyan guarantee the top prize, is the Philippine's third super-GM (2600+). He tied for first in last year's US Open and now lives in Dallas. Wheeler upset IM John Daniel Bryant in the final round to earn the tie for second. Tying for fourth place were Kevin Davidson and Iran's WGM Atousa Pourkashiyan.

Takashi Kurosaki topped the 43-player Expert section, Arthur Williams took the 33-player A Section, and David Berkowitz won the B Section, all with 5-0 sweeps.

Sean Gospe and Clarence Harris tied for first in the 27-player C Section, Hovhanes Melkonyan took the D Section, and Brian Sui topped the E Section, all with 4½-½ scores.

Pourkashiyan in the Open section and Berkowitz in the B Section teamed up and won the mixed doubles bonus prize for the best total, 9½. That sounds like a good way to do it, choose a partner who is going to sweep a lower section!

The tournament featured an interesting side event, the Western Class Daylight Savings Blitz. It started at 2 a.m. Pacific Standard Time Saturday night, which was when daylight savings time began. Pablo Pena topped fourteen intrepid night owl blitzers to take clear first, while Randall Hough and Steve Immitt stayed up to direct.

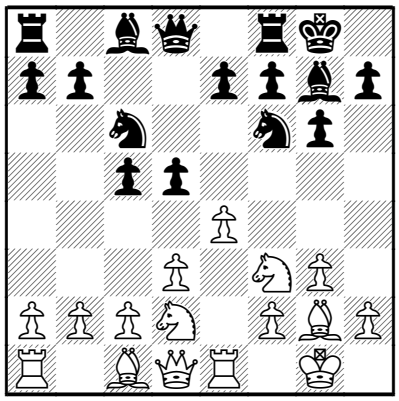
The 21st Western Class Championship, which attracted a total of 207 players, was run by Steve Immitt assisted by Randall Hough and Quon Andrew Luong.

We present two games from the tournament. Jack Peters annotates a King's Indian Reversed setup in which White plays e4xd5 to give up the center and then gets aggressive, and Cameron Wheeler, who tied for second, provides us with notes to his final round upset against John Daniel Bryant. - Ed.

Andranik Matikozyan (2458) - Melikset Khachiyan (2529)
[A08] King's Indian Reversed
21st Western Class Ch. (4)
Agoura Hills, March 9, 2014
Notes by IM Jack Peters.

As a fan, I like to watch hard-fought games between the best local players. Here, two stalwarts who have faced each other dozens of times produce an exciting encounter shortened by one of the least conspicuous mistakes you will ever see.

1.g3 d5 2.Bg2 Nf6 3.d3 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.0–0 0–0 6.Nbd2 c5 7.e4 Nc6 8.Re1

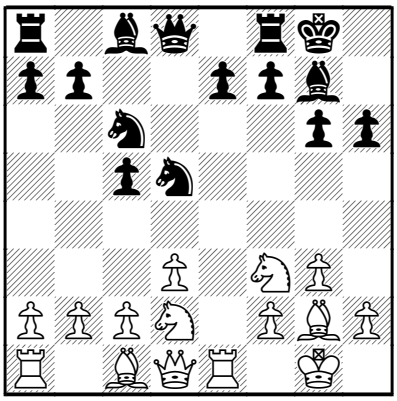


This is the Classical Fianchetto system of the King's Indian Defense, with colors reversed. White's extra tempo gives him equality, but probably no more.

8...h6

Houdini inexplicably advocates the harmless 8...dxe4 9.dxe4 Qc7, when 10.c3 Rd8 11.Qc2 is fine for White.

9.exd5 Nxd5



10.a3

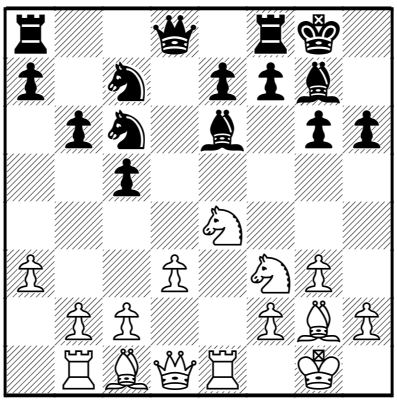
The modern treatment, preparing c2-c4 and b2-b4.

The old-fashioned 10.Nc4 Qc7 11.a4 secures the Knight at c4 but seems less likely to wrest the advantage.

10...Nc7

With 10...e5 11.Rb1=, the position is identical to a popular line with colors reversed. Khachiyan refrains from ...e7-e5, putting this game on an independent course.

11.Rb1 Be6 12.Ne4 b6



13.c4!?

Very aggressive. White accepts a feeble d-pawn in return for Queenside activity with b2-b4.

The immediate 13.b4!? is also attractive, as White should not fear 13...cxb4 *(or 13...c4 14.b5 Na5 15.d4±)* 14.axb4 Ba2 15.Rb2 Bxb2? 16.Bxb2 because he can attack on the dark squares. One possibility is 16...f5?! 17.Qd2! fxe4 18.Qxh6 Rf6 19.Bxf6 exf6 20.Qxg6+ Kf8 21.Rxe4 Ne6 22.Rh4+–.

13...Qd7 14.b4 cxb4 15.axb4 Rfd8

If Black aims to plant his Knight on d4 by 15...Bg4 16.Bb2 Bxb2 17.Rxb2 Rad8 18.b5 Nd4, White gets sufficient counterplay from 19.Ne5 Bxd1 20.Nxd7 Rxd7 21.Rxd1 Rfd8 22.Ra1 Nce6 23.Ra3 and Rb2-a2.

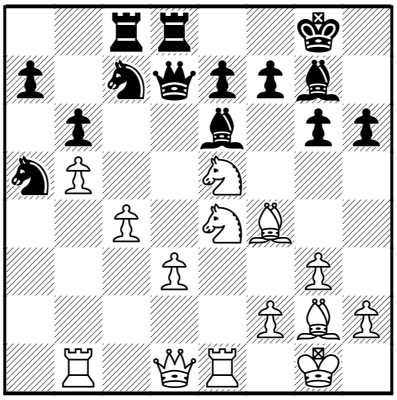
16.b5 Na5

After the natural 16...Nd4 17.Nxd4 Qxd4, White defends d3 by 18.Rb3± and soon follows with Bc1–b2. Note that Black cannot get away with 18...Bxc4?? 19.Rc3 f5 20.Rxc4 Qxc4 21.dxc4 Rxd1 22.Rxd1 fxe4 23.Bxe4 Rc8 24.Bxg6+–.

17.Bf4

White's dynamic play has given him an edge in a sharp position.

17...Rac8 18.Ne5!

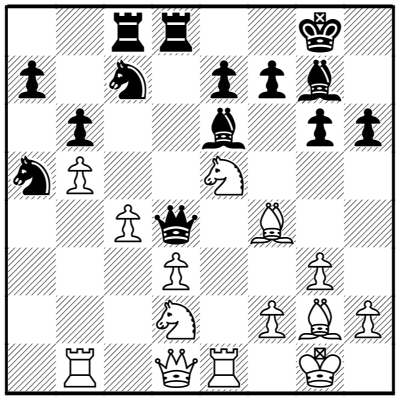


18...Qd4

Correctly rejecting 18...Bxe5?! 19.Bxe5 Qxd3 because 20.Qc1 takes the initiative. I doubt that Black can survive 20...Kh7 *(White refutes 20...Nxc4? blithely with 21.Qxh6! Nxe5 22.Ng5 f6 23.Be4.)* 21.Qf4 Ne8 22.Qh4 f6 23.Bf4 h5 24.Ng5+ fxg5 25.Qxg5→.

With 18...Qe8, Black threatens both 19...g5 and 19...Nxc4. White parries the first by 19.h4 and welcomes the second, as 19...Nxc4? 20.Nxc4 Bxc4 costs the exchange to 21.Nd6 Rxd6 22.Bxd6±.

19.Nd2□



19...Bxe5□

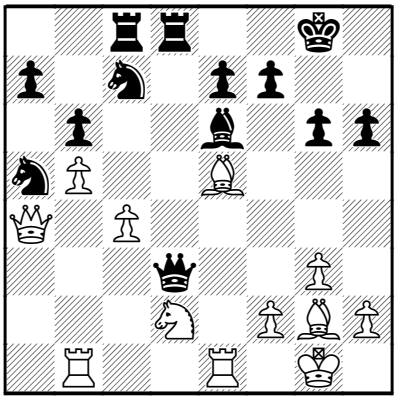
Else 20.Ndf3 embarrasses Black's Queen.

20.Bxe5??

One "obvious" move spoils a well-played game.

Instead, 20.Nf3! Qxd3 21.Qxd3 Rxd3 22.Nxe5 Ra3 23.Bxh6± keeps White's pieces working. He would not mind 23...Nxc4?! 24.Nc6 Kh7 25.Bg5±.

20...Qxd3 21.Qa4



After 21.Bf4 Nxc4 22.Nxc4 Qxc4–+, White's Queen has no good square.

21...Nxb5!

Past Western Class Championships

Year	Loc	No.	Winners
1992	SM	190	Walter Browne 4½-½
1993	C	135	Walter Browne 5-1
1994	C	233	Vladimir Strugatsky 5-1
1995	C	251	Walter Browne 5½-½
1996	C	207	Walter Browne 5-1
1997	LA	310	Lembit Oll, Alexander Baburin, Raf Vaganian, Pavel Blatny, Walter Browne, Eduard Gufeld, David Lucky 4½-1½
1998	LA	294	Rashid Ziatdinov 5½-½
1999	LA	264	Walter Browne, Charles Van Buskirk 4½-1½
2002	LA	222	Aleks Wojtkiewicz, Varuzhan Akobian, Melikset Khachiyan 5½-1½
2003	LA	220	Enrico Sevillano 5½-1½
2004	AH	213	Andranik Matikozyan 6-1
2005	LA	186	Melikset Khachiyan 5½-½
2006	AH	169	Melikset Khachiyan, Enrico Sevillano 4-1
2007	AH	179	Melikset Khachiyan, Andranik Matikozyan 5½-1½
2008	AH	170	Valentin Yotov, Andranik Matikozyan, Matthew Beelby 4½-1½
2009	AH	201	Enrico Sevillano, Andranik Matikozyan 5½-1½
2010	AH	208	Alejandro Ramirez, Andranik Matikozyan 4-1
2011	AH	214	Axel Bachmann 4½-½
2012	AH	231	Enrico Sevillano 4½-½
2013	AH	212	Gregory Kaidanov, Melikset Khachiyan, Andranik Matikozyan 4-1
2014	AH	207	Julio Sadorra 4½-½

Locations are SM: San Mateo; C: Concord; LA: Los Angeles; and AH: Agoura Hills.

The most frequent winner is Matikozyan with 7: 1999, 2004, 2007-2010, 2013 followed by three players with 5: Browne: 1992-1993, 1995-1997; Khachiyan: 2002, 2005-2007, 2013; and Sevillano: 1999, 2003, 2006, 2009, 2012. Browne has scored the most sole first place finishes with four in the first five years of the tournament.

No one has yet swept the tournament with a perfect score.

Not so clear is 21...Qxd2?! 22.Rbd1 Qg5 23.Rxd8+ Rxd8 24.Bxc7, but Khachiyan's choice denies White real compensation.

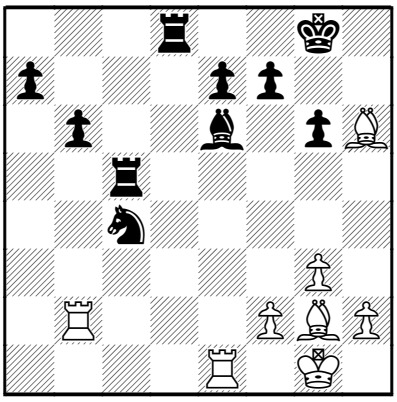
22.Qxb5?!

Tougher is 22.cxb5 Qxd2 23.Bf4∓. Black can trade Queens as in the game, by 23...Qa2 or 23...Qd4, but White will keep a Queenside pawn.

22...Qxd2–+ 23.Bf4 Qd4 24.Bxh6 Rc5 25.Qb2

Or 25.Qa6 Qd7–+, threatening 26...Bc4.

25...Qxb2 26.Rxb2 Nxc4 0–1



The final round of a Swiss system tournament is the best time to come up with a big upset, and in this tournament, Cameron Wheeler did just that, and gained over thirty rating points in the Western Class Championships. He provides us with notes to his win. - Ed.

Cameron Wheeler (2345) -
John Daniel Bryant (2490)
[A16] English Opening
Western Class Championships (5)
Agoura Hills, March 9, 2014

Notes by FM Cameron Wheeler.

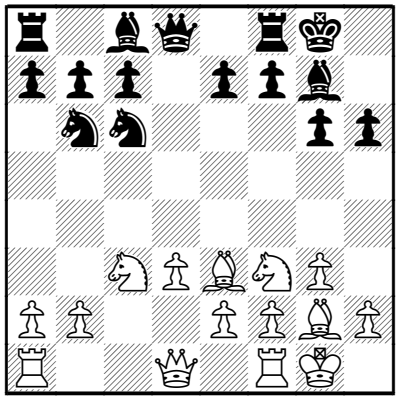
This was a very important game for me, because it was the last round of the Western Class Championships and I was playing a stronger player with the White pieces, and needed a win to tie for second.

On board one, Julio Sadorra and Melikset Khachiyan agreed to a quick draw leaving Sadorra with clear first with 4½-½ and Khachiyan with 4-1. My opponent and I had three points each, and the only other person with three lost quickly in this round.

1.c4 Nf6 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5

Going into a Grunfeld-like structure, an aggressive opening choice to counter the English.

5.Nc3 Nb6 6.Nf3 Bg7 7.0–0 0–0 8.d3 Nc6 9.Be3 h6



10.a3

Going away from book lines such as 10.Qd2 Kh7 11.Rac1, but with the idea of obtaining space and activity on the Queenside.

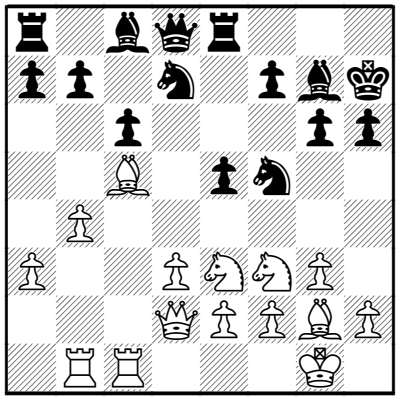
10...Re8 11.Qd2 Kh7 12.b4 e5 13.Rab1

Anticipating Nc6-d4 by gaining control of the b3 square, and also preparing a b4-b5 breakthrough.

13...Nd4 14.Rfc1 Nf5

Forcing me to give up the two Bishops. 14.Rfc1 was probably a mistake on my part.

15.Bc5 Nd7 16.Nd5 c6 17.Ne3



Forcing a weakness for Black, as d6 is vulnerable.

17...Nxc5 18.bxc5 Nxe3 19.Qxe3 Qa5 20.Nd2

Going immediately for the d6 outpost.

20...Qa6

The Queen on this square is not only out of play, but can become trapped.

Also, after 20...Qxa3 21.Nc4 Qa2 22.Ra1 Qb3 23.Qd2 the Queen is nearly trapped.

21.Ne4 Be6 22.Qd2

With the idea of bringing the Queen to b4 and the Knight to d6, to apply pressure on the b7 pawn

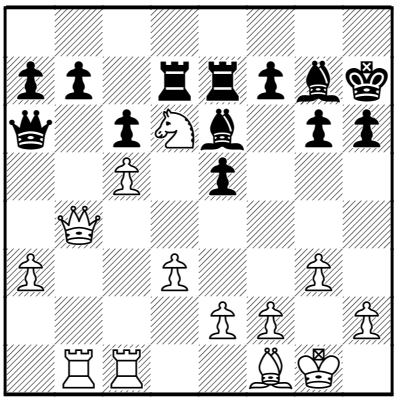
22...Re7

After 22...Qxa3?? White wins the Queen with 23.Ra1 Qb3 24.Rcb1 Qd5 25.Ng5+.

23.Nd6 Rd8 24.Qb4 Rdd7

A mistake, probably overlooking my next move.

25.Bf1



A great idea, going for e4 and then d4, while the only way for Black to save his Queen is by playing b7-b5.

25...Rd8

My opponent finds nothing better than to go back. Now I had to take a look at 26.Nxb7.

26.e4

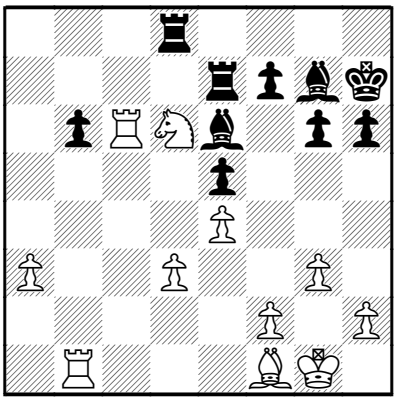
The line 26.Nxb7 Rb8 27.Qa5 Qxa5 28.Nxa5 Rxb1 29.Rxb1 looked good for me, but I thought Black would have some compensation for the pawn with his dark-squared Bishop.

Best was 26.e3±, and if 26...b5 then 27.cxb6 Qxb6?! 28.Qa4 Qxb1 29.Rxb1 Rxd6+–.

26...b5 27.cxb6 Qxb6 28.Qxb6

Now 28.Qa4 isn't as effective because of 28...Qd4 29.Qxd4 exd4 30.Rxc6.

28...axb6 29.Rxc6



This endgame is a lot better for me, but difficult to win with good resistance from Black.

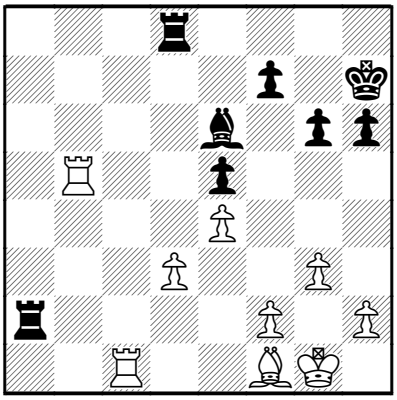
29...Ra7 30.Nb5 Ra5 31.Rxb6 Bf8

This was another good move that I missed. Since the only way to save the a3 pawn is to go Ra1 where ...Bc5 would be annoying, I thought I should sacrifice the pawn to go into a same-colored Bishop and Rook endgame.

32.Rc1 Bxa3 33.Nxa3 Rxa3 34.Rb5

If 34.Rc5 then 34...Ra1 35.Kg2 Rc8 with counterplay, and it's hard for me to comfortably gain the e-pawn.

34...Ra2



Black has to sacrifice e5 anyway, since trying to keep the pawn with 34...f6 35.Rb6 Re8 36.Rcc6 is worse.

35.h4

The idea was that if I take on e5 now, Black would play Rd8-b8-b2, and I would have to play h4 and f4 which would let him have time to go Rf3: 35.Rxe5 Rb8 36.f4 Rbb2 *attacking h2* 37.h4 Rf2 38.Rec5 Rf3 39.R5c2 Rxg3+ 40.Kf2 Rxc2+ 41.Rxc2 Rg4.

But after 35.h4, I just have to go f4 when I take on e5.

35...Rd2 36.Rxe5 Rb8 37.f4

Now Black doesn't have time to go Rbb2, Rf2, and Rf3 as in the previous line.

37...Kg7 38.f5

Sacrificing the pawn, but stopping Black's counterplay.

38...Kf6 39.Rec5 gxf5 40.e5+

Giving me the better pawn structure.

40...Kg6 41.R5c2 Rb2 42.Rxb2 Rxb2 43.Re1

Provoking ...Rd2, where the Rook is worse placed, and my Rook can go to b1.

43...Rd2 44.Rb1 f4

A good idea for counterplay, forcing the next few moves.

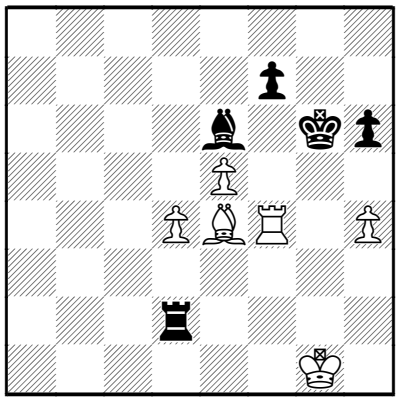
45.gxf4 Kf5 46.Rb4 Kg4 47.f5+ Kxf5 48.Re4

Here, the game should be dead drawn with a move like 48...h5.

48...Bd5

But now I can get Bh3 and Rf4.

49.Bh3+ Kg6 50.Rf4 Be6 51.Bg2 Bf5 52.d4 Be6 53.Be4+



53...Kh5

A huge mistake, allowing me to go Bf3 and d4-d5. This is where I finally was winning

After 53...Kg7 54.Bf3 Bc4 I would have trouble getting in d4-d5.

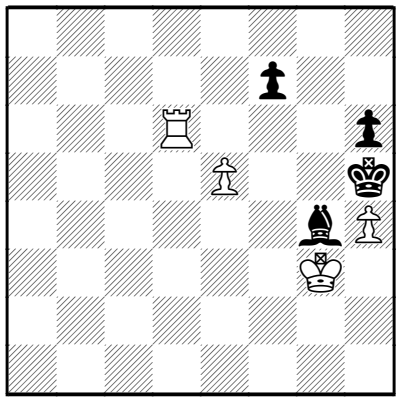
54.Bf3+ Kg6 55.d5

Keeping the Rooks would give him more chances, but this move makes the ending relatively simple to convert.

55...Bxd5 56.Rf6+ Kg7 57.Rd6 Bxf3 58.Rxd2 Kg6 59.Rd6+ Kh5

Even 59...Kf5 60.Rf6+ Ke4 61.Rxf7 Bg4 62.Re7 doesn't work for Black.

60.Kf2 Bg4 61.Kg3



Now I just had to come up with a way to work my King around to an attacking square.

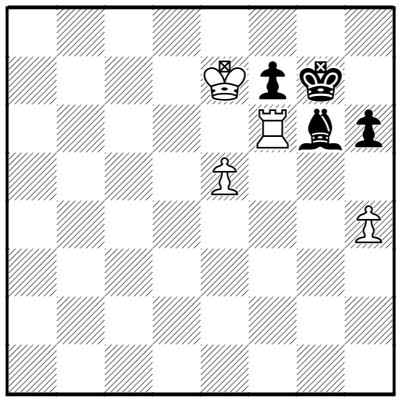
61...Be6 62.Rd4 Kg6 63.Rf4 Bf5 64.Rb4 Be6 65.Kf4

Finally being able to go to e3, d4, c5, d6, and e7!

65...Kh5 66.Ke3 Kg6 67.Rf4 Bf5 68.Rf2

Stopping 68...f6, which is answered by 69.h5+ Kg5 70.Rg2+ Kxh5 71.exf6.

68...Be6 69.Kd4 Bg4 70.Rf6+ Kg7 71.Kd5 Bh5 72.Kd6 Bg6 73.Ke7 1–0



Eventually I will win f7.

This was a tough game in which I misplayed the opening to get to an even position.

My opponent then made errors by misplacing his Queen and being too passive.

I went for a better endgame, and eventually converted.

I learned that even when you have a good idea, like I had with 26.e4, you should keep looking for better moves, because I could've played 26.e3 which would've been much stronger. ♜

580 Compete at Southern California SuperStates Scholastic Championships

By Jay Stallings

Santa Clarita, March 15-16, 2014

This year, the California Youth Chess League (CYCL) re-aligned the divisions of the Southern California SuperStates to eliminate single-day events. Since all players and parents had to commit to two days of chess, we assumed that the attendance would go down, which would give us more room for skittles and allow us to spread things out. However, when all was said and done, attendance was up by 20 participants, meaning that all 580(!) players would be competing on both days, in contrast to 2013, in which the largest single-day attendance was 456. After making room for the additional 124 spots, and getting through some first-round computer issues, things went smoothly and everyone had a great time!

We were thrilled to have so many players, so we tried our best to make sure that everyone had a memorable event. As round one began, players found leis at their boards that they could drape around their necks. Coaches were invited to dine in the Coaches' Suite for a chance to escape the crowds as each round began. And, we even got cooperation from Mother Nature, prompting families to enjoy the pool or simply lounge in the sun in the spacious rose garden of the hosting hotel, the Valencia Hyatt in Santa Clarita.

In the playing hall, competition reached new levels, with six masters and eight experts in the championship sections.

There were a total of nine sections. The kindergartners and first graders played together in one section, but the other grade divisions (K-3, K-6, K-8, K-12) each had a *Championship* section and a *Junior Varsity* section.

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Nicky Korba: on top of the 580!

The Champion Sections

In the K-12, NM Nicky Korba (with trophy, above right) scored 5½-½ to finish a full point ahead of the field and was thus named as the official representative of Southern California for the 2014 Denker Tournament of High School Champions. Five players were clumped behind him at 4½-1½, with Yusheng Xia as the first alternate for the Denker. Others at 4½-1½ were Siddharth Somasundaram, Matthew Shuben, Shyam Gandhi, and Stephanie Shao.

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Diamond Bar High School winners: Yusheng Xia, team mentor Randall Hough, Daniel Zhou, Alexander Xie, and Stuart Kusdono.

Diamond Bar High School (pictured) scored 15 points to easily earn the title of State High School Team Champions over Newbury Park HS (10½) and Coalinga HS (7½), while American Chess Academy (ACA) won the club title with 11½. Conejo Valley (10) and Heber (9) chess clubs finished second and third, respectively.

In the K-8 Championship, perhaps only New York can join Southern California and boast about having four masters, though Northern California could be added to that list this year. In the end, it was Joshua Sheng with 5½-½ who earned the title and the right to represent Southern California at the 2014 Barber Tournament of K-8 Champions, held alongside the Denker in Orlando this summer. A chess parent observed that perhaps

Joshua has started his preparation already, as he was seen studying chess intently during the awards ceremony. ACA, Beyond Chess and AAA finished 1-2-3 in the club team competition, while Coalinga Middle School earned the State K-8 School Team title.

In the K-6 section, sixth-grade expert Danial Asaria's 5½-½ gave him the title by a half-point margin over third-grader Gabriel Eidelman. Chess Palace edged Beyond Chess on tie-breaks to snag the club team champions title. Cimarron Elementary repeated as state champs among school teams, 2½ points ahead of Trinity Classical Academy (5½), with American Elementary (5) earning 3rd Place.

Richard Zhou swept the K-3 section with a score of 6-0, one point ahead of Edward Chou, Keith Daniels, and ACA teammate Noah Estiva, who scored 5-1 to tie for second. Zhou and Estiva helped ACA score an impressive 19 of 24 possible team points on their way to a club victory. Finishing second and third were Beyond Chess (15½) and Chess Palace (13). Pico Canyon Elementary doubled up its nearest competitor to easily win the K-3 school team championship. Heritage Christian Academy and West Creek Academy both scored 5 points, with the former earning the second place trophy on tie-breaks.

Dov Tung swept the K-1 section with a perfect 6-0. He led the way for his club team, Beyond Chess, who won by a margin of 2½ points over ACA. West Creek Academy, Pico Canyon, and Bridgeport Elementary finished 1-2-3 in the school team prizes.

The Junior Varsity Sections

Each Junior Varsity Section played a five-round Swiss tournament in which opponents contested two games against each other. These sections also had maximum ratings for players.

Brian Sui, coached by Simone Liao, topped the K-12 under 1200 section with a perfect 10-0, two points ahead of Jared Huang, Benjamin Knell and Jesse Lamon at 8-2. Many younger players chose to play in this section. Beyond Chess won the club championship with 30½ points, a full four points ahead of host team CYCL. Beverly Hills Chess Club took third with 20 points. In the school team category, Ridgeview High School and Foothill High School, both of Bakersfield, finished 1-2 ahead of Heber Elementary from the south, just ten miles north of the Mexican border.

Ethan Shan topped the K-8 under 800 section with a score of 9-1, with Charlie Kindelt just a half-point back. Beyond Chess won the club prize in this section by a half-point over ACA, with CYCL third. Thorner Elementary and Placerita Jr. High (both 12 points) finished in that order after tie-breaks. Standard Middle School was the third place school.

The K-6 under 700 section saw a three-way tie for first at 9-1 with Owen Gong, Dean Bartlett, and Vedant Shah. Beyond Chess won both the club team prize (34 points) and the school team prize (26), as Chandler School was coached by Beyond Chess. Pico Canyon Elementary was second, and Thorner and American, both from Bakersfield, were third and fourth, and West Creek Academy finished fifth in the school competition.

Many club teams competed in this large K-6 section. The second through fifth place clubs were ACA, CYCL, All-Stars Youth Chess (ASYC), and Think Chess.

Jennifer Lee (Beyond Chess) and Edward Shen (CYCL) both scored a perfect 10-0 in the K-3 under 500 section, 1½ points ahead of Sophia Li and Eric Woo. Beyond Chess won every division, but none more impressive than their win in the this section, where they scored 35 of a possible 40 points—the top 4 players count towards the team score. ACA took second on tie-breaks over CYCL, each scoring 28 points. AAA was fourth with 25 and ASYC edged CYCL (both 23½) to earn fifth. Pico Canyon Elementary (a CYCL school), won the School Team prize with 23, two points over Chandler School and Victor Elementary (21 each). Thorner and West Creek were close behind at 19½.

We present an interesting game from the tournament, selected by

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Jennifer Lee scored 10-0 for Beyond Chess in the K-3 JV

champion Nicky Korba because he felt it was his most interesting, with many chances for both sides.

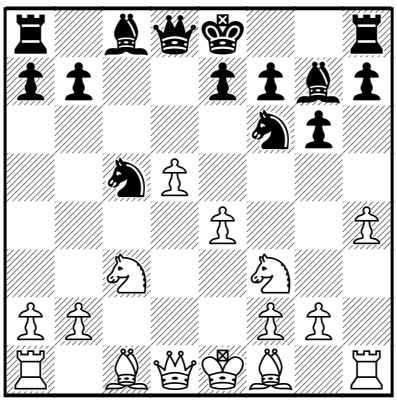
Alexander Xie (2158) -
Nicky Korba (2237)
[D90] Grunfeld Defense
SuperStates K-12 (5)
Santa Clarita, March 16, 2014
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.h4

Very unusual. Black now counters in the center.

5...c5

Houdini likes three alternatives for equality: 5...c6, 5...dxc4, and 5...0–0.

6.dxc5 Na6 7.cxd5 Nxc5 8.e4



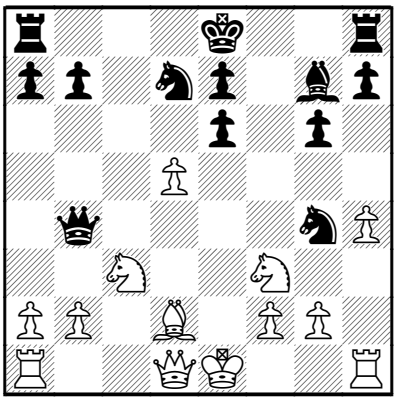
White's unusual try has worked, and another way of getting a strong game is 8.Qd4 b6 9.e4 0–0.

8...Qa5 9.Bd2 Qb4 10.e5

White had several other good moves, too. It must have been hard to choose.

Houdini likes 10.Ng5 best of all: 10...Qb6 *(if 10...h6 then 11.Nb5! Qxb2 12.Bc3 traps the Queen)* 11.b4 Ncd7 *(not 11...Qxb4?? because of 12.Nb5! once again)* 12.Be2±.

10...Ng4 11.Bb5+ Bd7 12.Bxd7+ Nxd7 13.e6 fxe6



14.dxe6

Houdini recommends 14.Qe2 Nde5 15.Ng5±.

14...Nde5

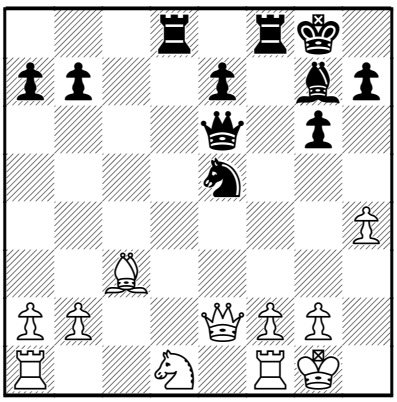
Now it's equal.

15.Qe2

Castling provides decent chances after 15.0–0 Rd8 16.Qe2 Nxf3+ 17.Qxf3 Ne5 *(not 17...Rxd2? 18.Qf7+)* 18.Qf4.

It's also possible to trade down with 15.Nxe5 Nxe5 16.Qa4+ Qxa4 17.Nxa4 Nc4, and Black's more active pieces compensate for White's extra pawn.

15...Rd8 16.Nd1 Qb6 17.Nxe5 Nxe5 18.0–0 Qxe6 19.Bc3 0–0

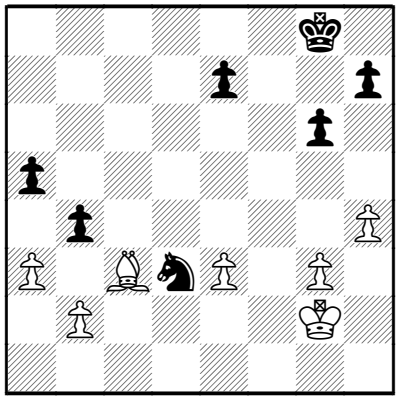


At last, both sides have castled. Black's development compensates for his pawn minus.

20.Re1 Rf5 21.Qe4 Qc6 22.Qxc6 Nxc6 23.Re2 Bh6

A little better might be 23...Rfd5 24.Ne3 Rh5 25.g3 Bxc3 26.bxc3 Kf7.

24.Ne3 Rf4 25.g3 Re4 26.Kg2 Rd3 27.Kf3 Re6 28.Rae1 b5 29.a3 a5 30.Rd2 Ne5+ 31.Kg2 Bxe3 32.Rxd3 Nxd3 33.Rxe3 Rxe3 34.fxe3 b4



35.Bd2?

Losing a pawn. Drawing was 35.axb4 axb4 36.Bd2 Kf7 37.Kf3 b3 38.Bc3 Ke6 39.Ke4 Nf2+ 40.Kd4 h5.

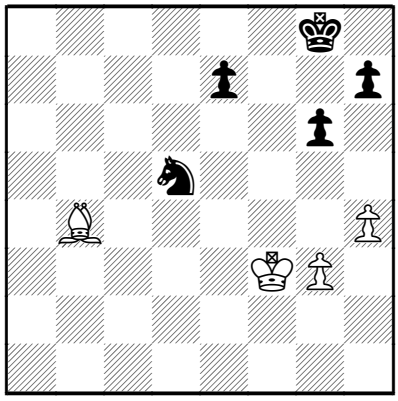
35...Nxb2! 36.axb4 Nc4 37.Be1

Worse is 37.bxa5 Nxd2 38.a6 Nc4 39.a7 Nb6∓.

37...axb4

With 37...a4 Black gets a dangerous outside passed pawn: 38.Kf3 Nd6 39.Ke2 Kf7 40.Kd3 Ke6, and White has to worry about both the Queenside and the Kingside situations.

38.Bxb4 Nxe3+ 39.Kf3 Nd5



Black eventually converted his extra pawn in the time scramble.

0–1 ♜

Solutions to Outside Shots!

From the back cover.

1.It's a nice mate with ***24.Rxh6+! 1–0***. If 24...Kxh6 then 25.Qh4 mate, Crisologo - Turner, San Diego Club Championship 2014.

2.White finds the only winning idea. ***30.Bh3! Bxg5 31.Bxe6+ Kf8 32.Bxg5 1–0***. Mate can only be stopped at the cost of the Queen, with 32...Qg7 33.Bh6. Xie - Lu Pasadena Chess Club Championship 2014. See page 38.

3.Everything works after ***26...e3+ 27.Kg1 Nh4! 0–1***. If White saves the Knight, Black wins the Bishop with a Knight fork on f3: 28.Nc3 *(even worse is 28.Rc5 Nf3+ 29.Kf1 Bxb5+ 30.Rxb5 e2+ 31.Kxe2 Nxd4+)* 28...Nf3+ 29.Kf1 Nxd4+–. Berger - Perez, Amsterdam Interzonal 1964.

4.Black's Bishops, Rook, and pawn combine against White's weak back rank: ***26...e3 27.Nf3*** Or 27.Re1 e2 28.h3 Rf1+. ***27...Rxf3 0–1***. Kretchetov - Gareev, Recession Buster Open G/60, 2014.

5.The trade ***24...Bxc4 25.dxc4*** clears the way for ***25...Bc5+ 26.Kh1*** and now the shocking ***26...Rxh2+! 27.Nxh2 Rh8 0–1***. Kaidanov - Gareev, Recession Buster Open 2014. See the whole game with notes on page 14.

6.Black breaks up the protection of the d2 Bishop with ***27...g5! 28.Bxh7+ Kg7!*** Avoiding the perpetual after 28...Kxh7? 29.Qf7+ Kh6 30.Bxg5+ Bxg5 31.Qf8+. ***29.Qf5 Rxd2+ 30.Ke3 Bd3!*** A hard-to-see backward diagonal idea. ***31.Qg4 Bxh7 32.Kxd2 Be4 33.Rc1 Qxb4+ 34.Ke3 Qa3+ 35.Kd2 Qd3+ 0–1***, Saulespurens - Lakdawala, 7th Southern California Championship, Buena Park 1995. See the whole game in *Cy & Jack*, starting on page 5.

Team Matikozyan Wins 5th Annual Sean Reader Master-Junior Simul

By Jay Stallings *Santa Clarita, March 30, 2014*

For the first time in the five-year history of the Sean Reader Master-Junior Simul, a master and a junior from the same team had perfect results. IM Andranik Matikozyan scored a perfect 10-0 in his simuls, and teammate Jonathan Homidan scored a perfect 2-0, beating IM John Daniel Bryant and GM Melikset Khachiyan, insuring a victory for Team Matikozyan. Only one other junior scored a win, when Aaron Chang defeated WGM Tatev Abrahamyan in the first round.

This unique mentoring event brought together four masters and 20 promising juniors in a social environment that allows for challenging yet friendly games, and a lot of smiles. Each master has five juniors on his/her team. When two teams play each other, both masters play the other team's juniors in simuls. To win a match, a team needs to score at least 5½ of the possible 10 points.

In round one, Khachiyan's team battled against the team of WGM/IM-Elect Tatev Abrahamyan, while Matikozyan's team faced the team of IM John Daniel Bryant. It was the first time for both Abrahamyan and Bryant to play in this clock simul event, in which the masters have 80 minutes and the juniors 65. And these were not just your casual junior players—their average rating was above 2000! Both "rookies" managed to find clever ways to escape tough positions, but both suffered a single loss. Abrahamyan lost to Aaron Chang, while Bryant lost to Homidan. Since both Khachiyan and Matikozyan swept their young foes with 5-0, their teams won to set up the second round match between them.

After a catered lunch in which the families of the invitees joined the party, it was time for round two. In Abrahamyan–Bryant, both masters swept their games 5-0, resulting in a drawn match. In Matikozyan–Khachiyan, Matikozyan once again swept, but junior player Jonathan Homidan defeated Khachiyan to earn first-place plaques for his team. Team Khachiyan took clear second.

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The winners: Team Matikozyan with plaques and gifts. Andranik Matikozyan, Gabriel Eidelman, Alice Salvaryan, Hovik Salvaryan, Agata Bykovtsev, and Jonathan Homidan.

Team Khachiyan		**R1**	**Team Abrahamyan**	
Craig Hilby	2331	0–1	WGM Tatev	
Aaron Chang	2016	1–0	WGM Tatev	
Alexander Costello	1974	0–1	WGM Tatev	
Aaron Householder	1965	0–1	WGM Tatev	
Brandon Xia	1712	0–1	WGM Tatev	
GM Melik		1–0	Daniel Mousseri	2230
GM Melik		1–0	Siddharth Somasundaram	2079
GM Melik		1–0	Quin Creger	2062
GM Melik		1–0	Danial Asaria	2062
GM Melik		1–0	Gabriel Sam	1906
Team Khachiyan wins 6-4				

Team Matikozyan		**R1**	**Team Bryant**	
Jonathan Homidan	2363	1–0	IM John	
Agata Bykovtsev	2117	0–1	IM John	
Hovik Salvaryan	1932	0–1	IM John	
Gabriel Eidelman	1924	0–1	IM John	
Alice Salvaryan	1788	0–1	IM John	
IM Andranik		1–0	Daniel Lin	2133
IM Andranik		1–0	Shyam Gandhi	2124
IM Andranik		1–0	Hamlet Tovmasyan	1961
IM Andranik		1–0	Anthony Ge	1904
IM Andranik		1–0	David Minasyan	1902
Team Matikozyan wins 6-4				

Team Matikozyan		R2	Team Khachiyan	
Jonathan Homidan	2363	1–0	GM Melik	
Agata Bykovtsev	2117	0–1	GM Melik	
Hovik Salvaryan	1932	0–1	GM Melik	
Gabriel Eidelman	1924	0–1	GM Melik	
Alice Salvaryan	1788	0–1	GM Melik	
IM Andranik		1–0	Craig Hilby	2331
IM Andranik		1–0	Aaron Chang	2016
IM Andranik		1–0	Alexander Costello	1974
IM Andranik		1–0	Aaron Householder	1965
IM Andranik		1–0	Brandon Xia	1712
Team Matikozyan wins 6-4				

Team Bryant		R2	Team Abrahamyan	
Daniel Lin	2133	0–1	WGM Tatev	
Shyam Gandhi	2124	0–1	WGM Tatev	
Hamlet Tovmasyan	1961	0–1	WGM Tatev	
Anthony Ge	1904	0–1	WGM Tatev	
David Minasyan	1902	0–1	WGM Tatev	
IM John		1–0	Daniel Mousseri	2230
IM John		1–0	Siddharth Somasundaram	2079
IM John		1–0	Quin Creger	2062
IM John		1–0	Danial Asaria	2062
IM John		1–0	Gabriel Sam	1906
		Tie 5-5		

Each master awards a Best Game Prize for the best effort against them during the day. They were as follows:

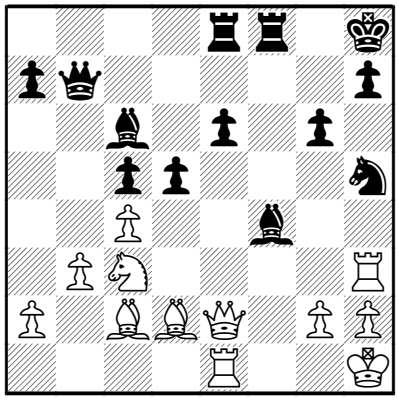
WGM Abrahamyan: Aaron Chang
IM Bryant: Gabriel Sam
IM Matikozyan: Daniel Lin
GM Khachiyan: Jonathan Homidan

Sean's Fund not only sponsors this event, which helps enable our top talent in Southern California to bond and share good times, but it gives away thousands of dollars each year in chess scholarships for classes, camps, and tournaments, and also takes chess-themed backpacks to young patients at Children's Hospital Los Angeles, City of Hope, and now Children's Hospital in Denver.

Melik Khachiyan (2634) -
Gabriel Sam (1906)
[B47] Sicilian Defense
Sean Reader Master-Junior (1)
Santa Clarita, March 30, 2014
Notes by Jay Stallings.

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 e6 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Qc7 6.Nxc6 bxc6 7.Bd3 Nf6 8.0–0 Be7 9.f4 d5 10.Qe2 0–0 11.e5 Nd7 12.Qh5 f5 13.exf6 Nxf6 14.Qe2 c5 15.Nb5 Qb6 16.c4 Bd7 17.Nc3 Rae8 18.b3 Bd6 19.Kh1 Qb7 20.Bd2 Bc6 21.Rae1 Kh8 22.Bc2 g6 23.Rf3 Nh5 24.Rh3 Bxf4

Houdini likes 24...d4 25.Rxh5 gxh5 26.Ne4 Bxf4 27.Bxf4 Rxf4 28.Nd6 Bxg2+ 29.Qxg2 Qxg2+ 30.Kxg2 Rg8+ 31.Kh1 Rf2∓. That's easy for a computer to say. -Ed.



25.Bxg6!!

A beautiful lesson in tactics and calculation.

Melik uses a *pin* on the Knight, *forks* the King and Rook, and *removes the guard* of the Rook, in three successive moves!

25...hxg6 26.Bxf4 Rxf4 27.Qe5+ Kg8 28.Rxh5 gxh5 29.Qxf4 Qg7 30.cxd5! Qxc3?

Houdini thinks it's still equal after 30...exd5! 31.Rxe8+ Bxe8 32.Qe3 Bc6 for example 33.Qxc5 Qe5 34.h3 Qe1+ 35.Kh2 h4.

31.Qg5+ Qg7

Avoiding a Queen trade with 31...Kh8 would allow the Queen to keep checking until the rook is guarded, for example 32.Qxh5+ Kg8 33.Qg5+ Kh8 34.Qh4+ and now the Bishop falls 34...Kg8 35.dxc6. On an open board with two major pieces, Black's King is exposed and White has the passed c-pawn, too.

Not 31...Kf8? 32.Rf1+.

32.Qxg7+ Kxg7 33.dxc6 Rd8 34.h3

Fritz likes 34.g4! to give the King luft and perhaps buy time for 35.Rxe6.

34...Rd6 35.c7 Rc6 36.Rxe6! Rxc7 37.Ra6 Kh7 38.Kh2 Rg7 39.Rc6 Rg5 40.Rc7+ Rg7 41.Rxc5

An interesting decision. To take another pawn or trade down into a won King and pawn ending? When you are playing in a simul, take the pawn!

Still, 41.Rxg7+ Kxg7 42.Kg3 Kf6 43.Kf4 also wins. -Ed.

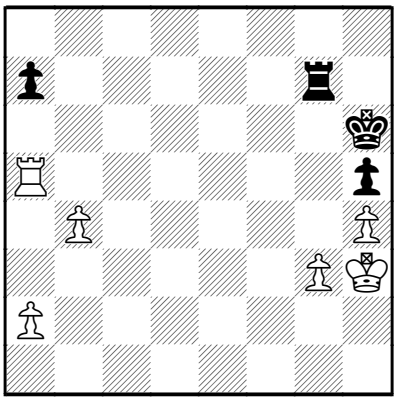
41...Kh6 42.h4 Rg4?

A bit better was 42...Rf7 43.Rc6+ Kg7 44.a3.

43.Kh3

White already sees the simple finish, but for us mere mortals, easier is 43.Rc6+ Kh7 44.Rc7+ Kh6 45.Kh3 netting the a-pawn or forcing an exchange of Rooks.

43...Rg7 44.Ra5 Rc7 45.g3 Rg7 46.b4



Here come the a- and b-pawns, and they will not be stopped.

46...Rb7 47.a3 Rf7 48.b5 Rb7 49.a4 Rc7 50.Ra6+ Kh7 51.a5 Rg7 52.b6 1–0

A very well-played game by the 6th-grader, but a beautiful game by GM Khachiyan.

Serious round one action. Clockwise from above: IM John Daniel Bryant vs. Team Matikozyan's Homidan and Bykovtsev, GM Melik Khachiyan against Team Abrahamyan's Mousseri and Somasundaram, and WGM Tatev Abrahamyan facing Team Khachiyan's Hilby and Chang. Photos: Jay Stallings.

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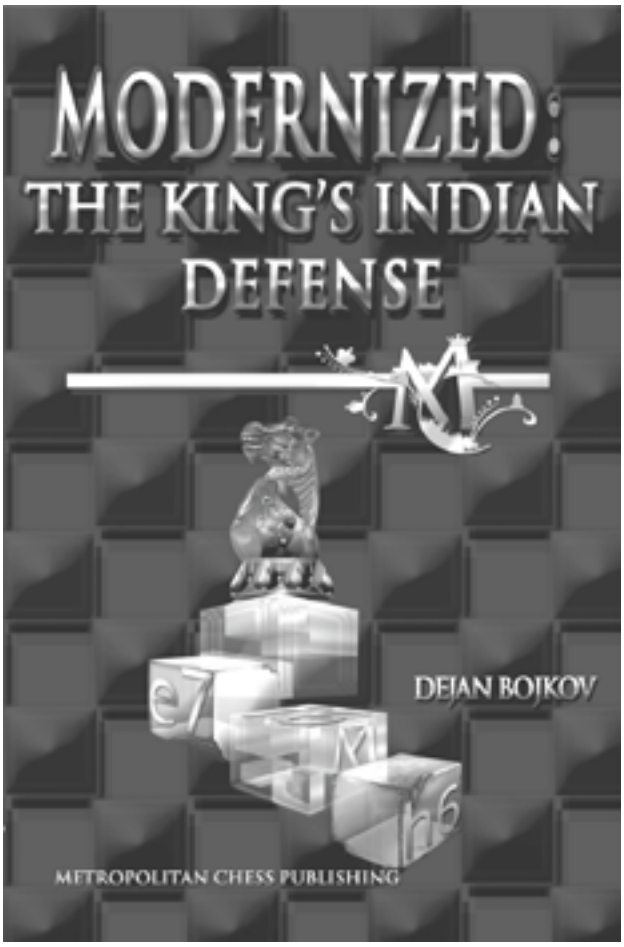
A good time was had by all! Back row: Agata Bykovtsev, Daniel Lin, Leo Creger, Craig Hilby, Jonathan Homidan, Matthew Shuben, Hamlet Tovmasyan, Siddharth Somasundaram.
Second row: Randall Hough, Alice Salvaryan, Gabriel Sam, Aaron Householder, Aaron Chang, Hovik Salvaryan, Daniel Mousseri, Shyam Gandhi.
Third row: Gabriel Eidelman, Anthony Ge, Alex Costello, Jeffrey Chou, Brandon Xia, Danial Asaria, Jay Stallings.
Seated: IM John Daniel Bryant, WGM Tatev Abrahamyan, GM Melikset Khachiyan, IM Andranik Matikozyan.

Metropolitan Chess Begins Publishing Foray

It's been my privilege to assist Metropolitan in developing their publishing effort's first volume. The content in GM Bojkov's King's Indian book was impressive throughout; I didn't realize chess could be so beautiful in so many ways! This article lays out Metro's further publishing plans. - Ed.

By FM Kostya Kavutskiy

While up until this point Metropolitan Chess has been known for running tournaments and summer chess camps, in April 2014 Metro released its first book title under its own imprint: *Modernized: The King's Indian Defense* by GM Dejan Bojkov. This release marks the first step into a new branch of business, as Metro seeks to grow and expand as a company for the future. When choosing to pursue this avenue back in 2013, MetroChess President Ankit Gupta felt that since there was no major publisher of chess books within the United States, Metro's location could make for an advantage in an otherwise highly competitive market for chess book sales.



Bojkov was commissioned to write the first book as he has had a long and fruitful relationship with Metro—he's played in several round robin tournaments, both Metropolitan Internationals (held in 2011 & 2012), and even participated as a coach in the Metropolitan Summer Chess Camps. Being an experienced Grandmaster with many years of playing the King's Indian Defense successfully, the topic of choice also seemed extremely promising as well.

Along with Bojkov's book, three more have been commissioned and are due to be released in the future:

Modernized: The Open Sicilian
by IM Zhanibek Amanov & FM Kostya Kavutskiy

Modernized: The Archangel Ruy Lopez
by IM Zhanibek Amanov & FM Kostya Kavutskiy

Modernized: The Petroff Defense
by GM Ronen Har-Zvi

The concept of the "Modernized" opening series is fairly straightforward—the authors of each work aim to explore and elucidate the modern approach to learning and studying a new opening.

The philosophy behind the Modernized approach to opening studies is that each opening should be learned from a theoretical point of view, but with a focus on common strategic ideas and plans, as well as thematic tactical motifs, all backed and aided by accurate computer analysis. The reader of each book is driven to understand typical middlegames more deeply, particularly through the scope of each openings' strategic identity, all while learning and absorbing the latest games from Grandmaster practice. Not only is the reader given a full repertoire, but a complete picture and insight into each particular opening.

The Modernized series also employs two relatively new features as compared to conventional opening books: memory markers and exercises. These training tools are given at the end of each chapter in an effort to reinforce the material and highlight very critical ideas. Memory markers are shown as simple diagrams,

as the author chooses several of the most important moves and plans from the chapter (a powerful novelty, hidden trap, etc.) and reminds the reader of their significance. Next come the practical exercises, which are diagrams taken from real games where the reader is asked to find the best move or idea in each position, be it a common tactical pattern or important strategic plan. These training tools make what is an already very good opening book even better, and the Modernized series should revolutionize the way chess opening books are written in the future.

Metropolitan Chess has ventured into publishing for the long haul. Before having a single book edited, formatting and editing assistance software was developed in an effort to significantly cut down in total required editing time, all the while creating a better end product.

Chess.com is a partial partner in the book publishing line and you will be able to read more details about the book at metrochessla.com, chess.com, or any of the major chess vendors in the United States. With positive feedback already coming in for *Modernized: The King's Indian Defense*, Metro hopes to carry this momentum going forward, and establish itself as the premier chess book publishing company in the United States.

If you happen to pick up a copy, please send your feedback to **info@metrochessla.com**; we'd love to hear from you!

We have two reviews of Modernized: The King's Indian Defense. *-Ed*

This book stands out from other books about openings because of the author's infectious enthusiasm. Bojkov continually advocates counterattack rather than defense. His recommended variations seem fresh, and not merely because the illustrative games are all recent. Instead of the usual King's Indian strategy of closing the center and launching a Kingside pawn storm, Bojkov stumps for active piece play in the center. That's not the way Bronstein and Geller handled the Black side, but I think they would approve.

Each chapter concludes with a variety of test-yourself positions that show common tactics arising from the suggested repertoire. After solving a few of these, you will want your opponent to open 1.d4!

- IM Jack Peters

That most chess books are published in English shouldn't come as a big surprise, as it is the primary or secondary language of most players. What is a bit startling is how few of the companies that produce these books are based in the United States, the market for roughly two-thirds of all sales. The big four: Quality Chess, Everyman, Gambit and New in Chess, are European firms, but this wasn't always the case. Twenty years ago Yasser Serawan's company International Chess Enterprises was quite active, and before that, Chess Digest and the short-lived but excellent RHM were prominent in the field.

Los Angeles based Metropolitan Chess Publishing is trying to buck the overseas trend and its first offering, *Modernized: The King's Indian Defense* (365 pages, paperback, algebraic notation, $24.95) by Dejan Bojkov, is a promising first start.

The Bulgarian Grandmaster and well-known chess teacher is a noted aficionado of the KID and produced a DVD for ChessBase on the subject in 2011. In *A Modern Way to Play the King's Indian* he advocated a ...Na6-based approach (the Saemisch and Fianchetto variations being two significant exceptions).

Here, in his first book on the KID, he advocates a different approach based on lines he believes are aggressive, sound, and not so overwhelmingly popular that they lead to long sharp forced play which can often lead to a draw.

While 6...Na6 is proposed as the answer to the Averbakh, the "knight on the rim" is nowhere else in evidence in this book, which features a very eclectic repertoire. The seldom played 6...e5 is offered against the heavily analyzed Four Pawns Attack, while in the Classical Bojkov offers 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2 e5 7.0-0 exd4, which sidesteps the tons of theory after 7...Nc6.

Continuing the trend of staying off the main highway, the counter to the Exchange variation is 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2 e5 7.dxe5 dxe5 8.Qxd8 Rxd8 9.Bg5 Na6!? which can lead to surprisingly lively play.

The one variation where the Bulgarian GM does stick to the main lines is the Fianchetto variation, where 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nf3 Bg7 4.g3 0-0 5.Bg2 d6 6.0-0 c6 7.Nc3 Qa5 is the preferred move order to reach the main line which arises after 8.e4 e5 9.h3 Nbd7, but even here Bojkov has a twist in store. After the further 10.Re1 exd4 11.Nxd4 Ne5 12.Bf1 Re8 13.Be3 Black has traditionally played 13...Be6, but the author prefers the more-doubled edged 13...c5 which he analyzes extensively.

Bojkov has written a book that should appeal to a wide audience. Players in the 1800-2200 range will find the ever present explanatory prose and exercises helpful. Diagrams highlighting key concepts are found throughout the book. Higher-rated readers will appreciate the deep analysis and many new ideas.

Modernized: The King's Indian Defense is sturdily bound and printed on good paper. The two-column layout is clean and easy to read. This is a book intended for heavy use.

Recommended - IM John Donaldson

World #2 Aronian Headlines Metropolitan Chess & ACA Summer Chess Camp

By FM Kostya Kavutskiy

For the past two summers, World Champion Viswanathan Anand has headlined the Metropolitan Summer Chess Camp, which took place near LAX in 2012 and 2013, garnering about 100 students each time. Anand's worldwide fame was surely a huge factor in the success of these camps, as many families traveled to Los Angeles to learn from the World Champion at that time. This year, in partnership with the American Chess Academy, MetroChess has secured yet another superstar: Levon Aronian.

As the third highest rated player *of all time*, Aronian is one of today's brightest stars – most recently winning the 2014 Tata Steel Chess Tournament with a score of 8½-3½, (a full two points ahead of the star-studded field). Currently, rated at 2812, Aronian has also led the Armenian National Team to several victories in the Chess Olympiad and other important team events.

Aronian will be joined by a number of top instructors, including GM Melik Khachiyan, GM Dejan Bojkov, IM Andranik Matikozyan, IM Armen Ambartsoumian, WGM Tatev Abrahamyan, FM Aviv Friedman, and Jay Stallings (founder and director of the California Youth Chess League).

The idea to bring Aronian to Los Angeles was conceived quite some time ago, as Khachiyan (Levon's childhood coach), Ambartsoumian, and Matikozyan have known Aronian for many years and have had very good relations with him. Thus, the partnership with the ACA made a lot of sense.

The camp will take place at the Glendale Hilton hotel, from July 9-13, and is open to all ages and rating levels. Attendees will be grouped by rating, and each group will be able to spend time with every instructor. For full details/registration, please visit www.metrochessla.com, and for any queries be sure to email info@metrochessla.com. ♜

am

In this photo from 1993, which youngster is Andranik Matikozyan and which is Levon Aronian? See page 42 for the answer.

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.

San Diego

Darwin Yang scored 6½-½ to win the ***National High School Championship*** held April 4-6 at the Town and Country Resort. Southern California players Michael Brown, Varun Krishnan, Jonathan Homidan, Craig Hilby, Joshua Sheng, and Nicky Korba all tied for sixth in the 338-player top section, a point behind.

The tournament had four other sections, all topped by the same 6½-½ score. Gervacio Cabel took the 168-player K-12 under 1600 section, Jack Lyons and Clark Ohnesorge tied for first in the 221-player K-12 under 1200 section, Bobby Blankenship took first in the 143-player K-12 under 800, and Jacob Bovee won the 73-player K-12 unrated section.

Diamond Bar High School finished 11th among the teams, which included many strong players from other states, especially New York.

The winners of the ***Scholar Chess Player Award*** from the US Chess Federation and the US Chess Trust were announced at the tournament. Congratulations to Varun Krishnan, one of the winners!

Orange County Great Park

Eighteen-year-old A-player Daniel Pascoe topped the age 20 and under section of the February 28 - March 2 ***National Junior Chess Congress*** scoring 4-1 with a final round upset of NM Siddharth Arun, who tied for second with Leo Creger, scoring 3½-1½.

Albert Lu, age 13, swept his age 16 and under section with 5-0. In the 14 and under section, Craig Hilby tied for first with Danial Asaria, both scoring 4½-½.

Annie Wang, pictured at right, also scored a perfect 5-0, in the 12 and under section, earning her a master rating. This makes her the youngest ever female master in the U.S.—she will be twelve years old in May.

Anthony Ge also swept his section, the age 10 and under, with a perfect 5-0.

Due to the large number of players, the next two sections played five double rounds of Game/45.

Callaghan McCarty-Snead swept the age 8 and under with 10-0, and Raphael Manahan topped the 6 and under, scoring 9-1.

La Palma

With a score of 5½-1½, returning expert David Bassett tied for first place with expert George Shahin in **La Palma Chess Club's** 7-round ***7th Milky Way Championship***. Second place at 5-2 was Wes White and newcomer Daniel Pascoe. The 43-player event held at La Palma's Central Park ended February 21. Other prizewinners were Ryan Schmitt, best under 1700; William Chwa best under 1500; and Cindy Zhang best under 1300. Chwa also won the biggest rating gain prize for an increase of 117 points. Brian Scanlon won both the best game prize, as judged by IM Jack Peters, and the biggest space advantage prize. Go Brian!

With a perfect score of 5-0, David Bassett again won convincingly, this time the Knights Section of **LPCC**'s ***Monty Python Memorial***. George Shahin took second place with a score of 3½-1½. The 39-player event held at La Palma's Central Park ended March 28. In the Serfs Section, Joseph Bellinger, and newcomers Daniel Pascoe and Ryan Schmitt tied for first place with a score of 4-1.

Annie Wang: National Master at eleven years old!

Other prizewinners were Philip Younger, best under 1600, and Tony Gray, best under 1300. Bassett also won the *Holy Hand Grenade* prize (best game) as judged by IM Jack Peters, George Shahin won the *None Shall Pass* prize (juiciest Knight fork), and Tony Gray won the *Killer Rabbit* prize (biggest upset by an under 1600 player) for his 361-point upset.

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

San Diego

San Diego Chess Club

The Alina Markowski Open is a fun event that everyone looks forward to each January. Everyone plays in one big section, so the first few rounds have large rating mismatches. Still, the players enjoy the challenge, and

the opportunity to earn a place in the club championship.

Bruce Baker, 2013 Club Champion, gave up his automatic seed into the club championship to play in the Markowski. The rules don't allow players who are already qualified to influence the results of the Markowski, so if they do play, they must give up their spot and earn it all over again.

But no worries, Bruce scored 6-1 to take a clear first place, with five wins and two draws. Fourteen other players also qualified for the ***Club Championship***, including Nikolay Arutyunov and Miguel Ceballos, who scored 5½-1½ each to win second place and best under 2200 respectively. Aaron Wooten scored 5-2 to win best under 2000.

Also qualifying with 5-2 were Raoul Crisologo, Esteban Escobedo and Carl Wagner. Six more players scored 4½-2½ to punch their ticket to the club championship: Jeff Turner, Manuel Herrera, Lennart Mathe, David Saponara, Jim Humphrey and George Zeigler.

One lucky player with 4-2 got in with the best tie breaks: Pejman Sagart, but he earned it with victories over expert George Zeigler and master Todd Smith. A streak of bad luck or unfortunate moves, call it what you will, caused Todd to miss out on being in the club championship for the first time in many years.

Other prize winners include best under 1800 winners Anthony Harbone and Jose Fawsi Murra with 4-3, best under 1600 winner Ken Green, best under 1400 Karen Kaufman and best under 1200 Maria Murra.

The seven-round ***Club Championship*** started February 26. Bruce Baker came out on top once again, scoring 5½-1½. Finishing second, and jockeying for first for the whole tournament, was Nikolay Arutyunov, at 5-2. Third place was a tie between Scott Roods (he drew with Nikolay in the last round) and Raoul Crisologo at 4½-2½.

In the under 1800 Reserve Championship Rocio Murra scored an impressive 6-1, followed by her friend

ee

Winner and still champion: Bruce Baker

Eliza Eggert in second with 5-2. Third was Scott McNeely at 4½-2½.

In the Open Section (for players who didn't qualify for the club championship) Allan Virtue took first with 5½-1½. Second was Alejandrino Baluran with 5-2; third was Chuck Ensey with 4½-2½.

In the under 1600 Amateur Section, Morgan Fox and Maria Murra both scored 5-2 to tie for first and second place. Michael Smith was third with 4½-2½.

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Rocio Murra finished first in the Reserve, while her mother Maria tied for first in the Amateur.

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Allan Virtue topped the Open section.

ee

Morgan Fox tied for first in the Amateur section.

Finally, in a match, Joel Batchelor defeated Shaun Sweitzer 5-1. A total of sixty players competed overall.

The ***February Super Gambito Open (#643)*** had 28 players in two sections and was won by IM Cyrus Lakdawala with 3½-½, edging out Ron Bruno, Bruce Baker and Braulio Cuarta, all with 3-1.

In the under 2000 Reserve Section, 10-year-old Justin Kang scored a perfect 4-0 to boost his rating from 1797 to 1930. Buddy Morris, Alex Costello and Thomas Diem trailed with 3-1. Anthony Harbone and Ken Green tied for best under 1800 while Anthony Liu was best under 1600.

The ***March Super Gambito (#646)*** had 29 players, but in three sections this time. Cyrus Lakdawala won with a perfect 4-0 score. Elkaei Rivera was 2nd with 3-1. Venkat Iyer and Aaron Wooten tied for best under 2400/best under 2200 with 2½-1½, followed by Braulio Cuarta and Sridhar Ramanujam with 2-2.

In the under 2000 Premier Section, there was a rare 4-way tie for first between Ben Duong, Jay Choi, Daniel Zhu and Chuck Ensey, but Ben won best under 1800, while the other three had to split first prize. In the under 1600 Reserve Section, Randall Fair scored 4-0 and boosted his rating to well over 1600. Sabrina Duong was second with 2½-1½, after taking a few months off from chess.

The ***April Super Gambito #650*** was also won by Cyrus Lakdawala with 3½-½, Second Place was IM Dionisio Aldama with 3-1 and Venkat Iyer was best under 2400, also with 3-1. Venkat had a win over Bruce Baker and draw with Cyrus in the last round to push his rating over 2200 for the first time, becoming a National Master. Sridhar Ramanujam has also been gaining lots of rating points lately and pushed his up to 2056 and won best under 2200. In the Premier Section (U2000), there was another 4-way tie (not so rare after all, I guess) for first between Buddy Morris, Ramil Macaspac, Chuck Ensey and Jerry Qu. Michael Blandin was best under 1800 and increased his rating to 1626.

The ***Gambito Open*** is played every Saturday, unless there is a weekend event like the ***San Diego County Championship*** August 2-3. We recently increased the time control from G/40 to G/45, still with the 5-second delay. Please call the club if you have any questions at 619-239-7166, or visit our new website: **www.SanDiegoChessClub.org**.

In the April 12-13 ***SCCF Senior-Junior Open***, a Junior was defined as anyone under 50 years old and a Senior as 50 and above, with both sections attracting 19 players this year. IM Dionisio Aldama scored to 4½-½ win the Junior Section by taking a first-round bye and winning the rest of his games. Masters Braulio Cuarta and Venkat Iyer shared second and third, a half-point behind. Venkat, below, had just won his NM

jw

certificate the previous week. Jay Choi tied for best under 2200 with Esteban Escobedo, and Kevin Yang won best under 2000, all with 3½-1½. There was a tie at 2½-2½ for best under 1800 between Ben Keltner and Ken Green, and three others won age-based prizes with the same score: Jerry Qu (12 years old), Ben Duong (11) and Brandon Xia (10). The prizes were actually for under 20, 16 and 12, but these youngsters won them anyway. Sabrina Duong won best under 1600 and Joshua Chung took under 1400.

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Raoul Crisologo took the Senior Section

In the Senior Section, Raoul Crisologo defeated last year's co-champion Bruce Baker in round two, and then went on to draw with the other co-champion Ben Barquin in the final round to take sole first place, scoring 4-1. This year Ben was second under 2200 with 3½-1½, along with Craig Faber and Michael

jw

IM Dionisio Aldama topped the Juniors

Nagaran. Fawsi Jose Murra scored 3-2 to take best under 2000. Steve Perry tied for best under 1800 with Anthony Harbone with 2½-2½. Steve Dahl and Morgan Fox were best under 1600. Age-based prizes were won by Anthony Harbone (over 80), Leonard Sussman (over 70) and Alejandrino Baluran (over 60). After a first round draw, Lenny Sussman had to withdraw due to illness and we wish him a speedy recovery.

One player who seems fit as a fiddle at 85 years old is Anthony Harbone, below, who just keeps on playing

jw

surprisingly tactical chess. I have lost to him more times than I care to remember, but win or lose he keeps an upbeat attitude and is always quick with a smile and a story to tell.

- Chuck Ensey

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The AV Chess House provided chess activity at the Children's Center of the Antelope Valley's ***Family Fun Fair*** *April 5 near downtown Lancaster.*

Antelope Valley

A wide variety of ***Summer Chess Camps*** are available in the Antelope Valley. Most are one-week, 4-hour-a-day camps, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. All camps have lots of hands-on, fun, chess activities where campers learn at their own pace. A nutritious snack is provided at 11 a.m. Unless otherwise stated, each camp's fee is $79/Camper. Below is a list of the available chess camps. For further details, contact Professional Chess Teacher Ms. Daa (pronounced day) at daa@mahowald.org.

Chess Challenge for High Schoolers, Grades 9-12, June 2-6.

Girl Scouts & Brownies, all ages and skill levels, June 16-20.

Boy Scouts & Cubs, all ages and skill levels, June 23-27.

Strategies, Tactics, Openings, Tricks & Traps, ages 5-13, June 30-July 3, for those who have attended the Intermediates Chess Camp or who have competed in at least one full-game chess tournament. $69/Camper,

Beginners & Beyond Beginners, ages 5-13, July 7-11, for those who are new to chess or have just begun learning the game of chess.

Intermediates, ages 5-13, July 14-18, for those who attended a Beginners & Beyond Beginners Chess Camp or who are competent at checkmate.

Strategies, Tactics, Openings, Tricks & Traps, ages 5-13, July 21-24, for those who have attended the Intermediates Chess Camp or who have competed in at least one full-game chess tournament. $69/Camper.

Chess Camp tailored to Your Group or Organization's Needs, July 28-August 1.

More than 40 kids competed in the February 28 ***Scholastic Chess Tri-Match*** among Agua Dulce K-8, Los Amigos K-8, and Ocotillo K-6. Hosted by Ocotillo. The school provided plenty of space for the more than 60 friends and family members who came to watch the Tri-Match!

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Ocotillo school provided plenty of space for the more than 60 friends and family members who came to watch the Tri-Match.

Rancho Cucamonga

On Sunday, March 30, the **Inland Empire Chess Team** played an exciting cross-cultural ***team match via internet*** against a very strong team from Israel. Ten players on

each team matched up for two 5-minute blitz games and one G/60 game. Games were contested on the ICC.

The Inland Empire team logged on at **Catch-Up/Not Just Coffee**, a comfortable coffee bar where customers enjoy a relaxed home environment and multi-cultural meeting place on Route 66 in Rancho Cucamonga. The shop is a staunch chess supporter.

Most of the Israeli team played at the U.S. Embassy American Center in Jerusalem. The match attracted local media attention for its unique pioneering scope and format.

Due to a few unavoidable connections issues, not all games were completed in a timely manner. However in the end, the match ended up even. Inland Empire dominated the blitz games with a score of 7½-3½, while the Israel Team prevailed in the longer games with a score of 6½-2½.

Both teams were comprised mostly of junior players. The Inland Empire team included such local rising stars as Albert Lu 2302, Yusheng Xia 2288, Alexander Xie 2177, Richard Yang 2054, Ryan Chen 1916, Joaquin Perkins 1884, Julia Sevilla 1823 and Malik Coleman 1712. The two adult players in the Inland Empire line-up were Ashok Ramados 2198 and Chris Pensoneau 2161.

The Inland Empire Chess Team: Julia Sevilla, Richard Yang, Joaquin Perkins, Chris Pensoneau, Yusheng Xia , Albert Lu, Malik Coleman, Alexander Xie. Not pictured: Ryan Chen and Ashok Ramados.

The Inland Empire team has been in existence for over two years and has successfully played local matches against chess clubs from Hemet, Riverside, San Diego (twice) and La Palma. The team plans to continue expanding its international scope in the future. Already in the planning stages are matches against teams from the Philippines and Russia. For more information, contact Taras McKey at asimov35@live.com.

- Taras McKey

Serious internet coffee house chess action: Alexander Xie and Richard Yang

Lawndale

The ***April 2014 Alondra Park*** tournament concluded with Matt Robertson yet again taking clear first, with 5½-½. Finishing second with 4½-1½, former B, Ed Englehaupt raised his rating 93 points to 1854. Tied for third with Ted Roth, Richard Meller, Howard Lefevre and Michael Bynum, Jeff Yosida kicked his rating up 145 points to 1790, all finishing with 4-2. Not far behind in the rating gain game, Robert Gibilterra upped his rating 140 points to 1389 with 3-3. Albert Nguyen didn't let being at the bottom of the pairing chart stop him from being the top rating gainer. His 2½ points boosted his rating from 673 to 849, a 176 point rating pop! Richard Meller directed 29 players.

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

For more information, contact Richard Meller@yahoo.com or visit the club's website: **AlondraParkChessClub.com**.

- Al Peña

Pasadena

Sixteen-year-old Alexander Xie, on the cusp of a Master rating, won the 76-player ***Club Championship*** with 5½-½, marred only by a first round half-point bye. His key wins came in the last two rounds, against top seed Albert Lu and previous co-leader Prasanna Borse. Yusheng Xia (champion in 2011 and 2012) and veteran Ron Jabali tied for second, a half-point behind. They had drawn with each other in the penultimate round.

Class prizes went to Greg Hall (under 2000); Roberto Queiro and Jeffrey Chou (tied for under 1800); Nicholas Mendez, Alexander Hung, Kyle Li, Russell Balcom, and Luis Mejia (a big tie for under 1600); Brian Cheng and Brian Sheldon (equal under 1400); and Cullen O'Neil (Unrated).

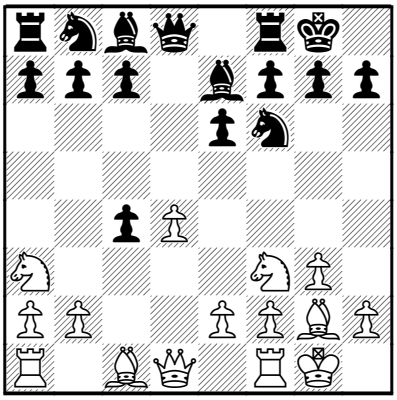
Edward Chou had 943½ upset points -- all garnered in the first two rounds!

We present a game selected and annotated by our club champion:

Alexander Xie - Albert Lu
[E05] Catalan System
Pasadena Chess Club Championship (5)
Pasadena, March 21, 2014

Notes by Alexander Xie.

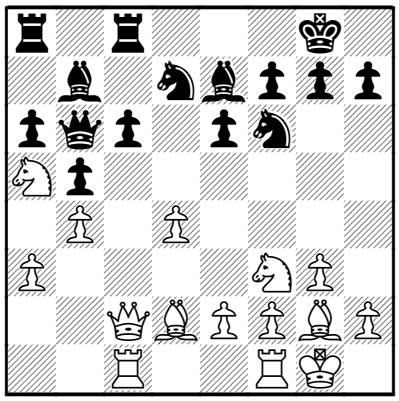
1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.g3 Be7 5.Bg2 0–0 6.0–0 dxc4 7.Na3



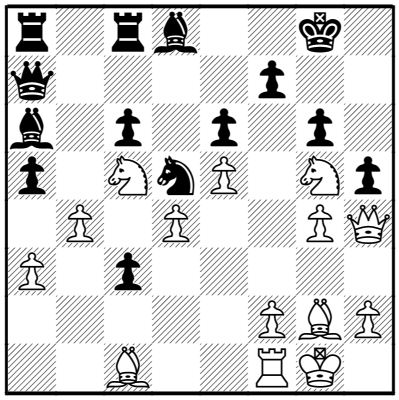
7...a6?!

The main line runs 7...Bxa3 8.bxa3 Bd7 9.Ne5 Bc6 10.Nxc6 Nxc6 11.Bb2.

8.Nxc4 b5?+- 9.Na5 c6?! 10.Bd2 Qb6 11.Rc1 Bb7 12.Qc2 Rc8 13.b4 Nbd7 14.a3



14...Bd6? 15.Bf4? Be7? 16.e4 Qa7 17.Bd2?! Bd8 18.e5 Nd5 19.Ng5 g6 20.Nb3?! N7b6 21.Qe4?! Nc4 22.Qh4?! h5± 23.Rxc4!? bxc4 24.Nc5≅ c3 25.Bc1!? a5! 26.g4 Ba6



27.Nxa6!?

Better was 27.Re1 axb4 28.gxh5 Bxg5 29.Bxg5 bxa3 30.Bf6 Nxf6 31.Qxf6 gxh5 32.Qg5+ Kf8 33.Qxh5 a2 34.Qh8+ with an equal game.

27...Qxa6?!

Giving up the advantage.

Much stronger was 27...Qxd4!! 28.Nc5 Qxg4 29.Qg3! Qxg3!? 30.fxg3 Rc7.

28.gxh5 Qb7??+-

The losing move.

Still equal was 28...Bxg5 29.Bxg5 axb4 30.hxg6 fxg6 31.Bf6 Nxf6 32.Qxf6 Ra7 33.Qxe6+ Kg7 34.axb4 c2 35.Qf6+=.

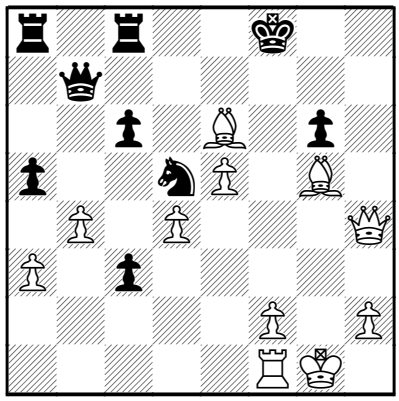
29.hxg6 fxg6?

Best, but not good enough, was 29...f5 30.Qh5 Bxg5 31.Bxg5 Rc7 32.Bxd5 cxd5 33.Bf6 Rg7 34.b5 Rc8 35.Rc1 Qf7 36.Bxg7 Qxg7 37.b6+-.

30.Bh3!

The only win.

30...Bxg5 31.Bxe6+ Kf8 32.Bxg5



1–0

White threatens mate at h8, but if 32...Qg7 then 33.Bh6 wins the Queen.

Earlier in the year, the 73-played ***Richard Lewis Memorial*** saw a first place tie between Xia and Lu at 5-1. Lu was upset by Xie while Xia yielded a draw with Axel Muller and a half-point bye. The winners' key victories came against John Hale and Prasanna Borse, respectively. Hall was top under 2000 and Nicholas Mendez (with a starting rating of 1364) took under 1800 honors.

Brothers Victor and Felix Yen tied for under 1600 along with Vinay Shukla. Nakul Bhaskar and Alex Chen were equal under 1400; Philip Leung, Stanley Cheng, Ashley Huang, Sophia Manahan, and brothers Teddie and Tommie Wen tied for under 1200; and Dennis LaRue was top Unrated.

Mendez earned 1364 cumulative upset points—and a gain of 229 rating points.

The club will hold the five-round, two-section ***Mount Wilson Open*** May 30 - June 27.

For full schedule and a catalogue of the hundreds of books in the club's lending library, see the website **www.tim-thompson.com/pasadena.html**. The **Pasadena Chess Club** meets Fridays (except for holiday weekends) at 7 p.m. at the Boys and Girls Club, 3230 East Del Mar. For questions and further details, contact Randy Hough at:
randallhough@gmail.com or
626.282.7412.

Thousand Oaks

On February 10, the **Thousand Oaks Chess Club** (TOCC) concluded its 5-round ***2014 Winter Swiss*** tournament. The 19-player Open section was won by NM Larry Smith with a 4½-½ score, drawing only with second place winner expert John Williams, who scored 4-1. The best under 2000, best under 1800, and best under 1600 prizes went to Rick Bucaria, Joshua Rose, and Justin Yao, respectively. In the under 1500 section, provisionally-rated Pinxue Li swept with a perfect 5-0 score. A point and a half behind, Daniel Wang took second with 3½-1½, and Patrick Gordon-Davis was third with 3-2 in the 12-player section. The under 700 section, which also had 12 players, saw a perfect sweep as well with unrated player Edward Shen winning all five of his games. Jennifer Vallens and Ekaterina Kiseleva were second and third with 3½-1½ and 3-2, respectively.

The TOCC's first ever ***Club Championship*** tournament was held from March 3 to April 14. This tourney was unusual in that it took place all in one section rather than in the usual three sections, and was six rounds rather than the typical five. With 45 registered players, the turnout was excellent, and prizes were awarded in many rating classes.

At the top, Larry Smith was the Club Champion with 5-1 taking first on tiebreaks over second place winner Rick Bucaria and Howell Tumlin, who also had 5-1. Tumlin took best under 2000 honors. The best under 1800 prize went to Frank Martelli who finished with 4½-1½, and the best under 1600, 1400, and 1200 prizes went to Justin Yao, Charles Franceschi, and Patrick Gordon-Davis respectively, who all scored 4-2. Surya Bhamidipati clinched the best under 1000 prize with 3½-2½ (a score far out-performing his pre-tournament rating of 922!) and Brian Chavez, with a pre-tourney rating of only 204, claimed best under 800 honors. The best upset prize, a novelty for this tournament, went to Cesar Tarquino (1491) for his extremely quick defeat of Shoma Kutasov (1859) in round four.

The tournament was exciting and a great success, and we know many players will be looking forward to the second installment next year!

The TOCC's next tournament, the ***Spring Fever Swiss***, begins on May 5 and runs until June 9, with one round played every Monday night except for Memorial Day May 26. Anyone is welcome to enter. For more information, visit our website at **TOChessClub.org** or email Cindy Garcia at: ThousandOaksChess@att.net.

Garden Grove

At **Chess Palace**, National Master Jeff Phillips, expert David Bassett, and Class B Alan Whiteman tied for first in the ***February Open*** of the ***Wednesday Knights Tournament***. All three scored 3-1, with Phillips and Bassett splitting the top prize while Whiteman took home the larger best under 1800 prize as the sole winner. Sixteen players participated.

The ***March*** event saw 18 players as David Bassett played to a solo victory with a perfect 4-0 score. Bassett has been on a local rampage on his return to chess and has won tournaments in other chess clubs, too. Caleb Huang and Robert Martin shared second with 3-1.

May and ***June's*** event has two masters confirmed and more to come. ***July's*** edition will be the club championship and have five rounds. Visit **www.chesspalace.com** for details.

Upcoming events:

May 25: ***Amateur Open***, 4-Round Swiss. under 2200 only. G/45 with 5-second delay. Rounds at 12:30, 2:30, 4:15, and 6 p.m. USCF-rated blitz tournament follows, open to all players.

June 8: ***One Rounder***, time control of 40/90 SD/30min + 5 second increment from move one (2014 National Open time control). Players will be ranked based on rating: 1 vs. 2, 3 vs. 4, 5 vs. 6, etc. Odd players play black, even plays white. $5 entry fee, no prize. Additional games can be played between the two players with an adjusted time control for all games to finish at approximately 6:30 p.m. USCF-rated blitz tournament follows, open to all players.

June 29: ***Super Sunday***, 4-Round Swiss, G/60 with 5-second delay. Two sections, under 2000 and 2000 and over. July Supplement used.

July 27: ***Amateur and Master Open***. USCF-rated, 4-Round Swiss, G/45 with 5-second delay. Two sections under 2200 and 2200 and over. Round 1 starts at 12:30 p.m. Any post-tournament rating of 2200 in 2014 makes a player eligible for 2200 and over section, otherwise August Supplement used.

For all of the tourneys, visit **www.chesspalace.com** for details.

Arcadia

The six-round, 78-player ***Mel Clark Club Championship*** concluded in Arcadia on April 7.

Congratulations to David Bassett who won with 5½-½. In addition to being our new Club Champion, Bassett also regained his master status by pushing his rating up to 2209. Tied for second and third were experts Matthew Hayes and Tom Zapanta.

The tournament's biggest rating gainers were Daniel Manahan (1934 to 1979), Daniel Zhou (1586 to 1657), Bob Head (1443 to 1474), Michael Xu (1216 to 1270), and Raphael Manahan - like father like son! - who went from 1222 to 1294.

The **Arcadia Chess Club** also sponsors quick chess. Intermittently, Mike Carlson directs quick chess tournaments during the year, usually in the last few weeks of our regular tournaments. Check the website **www.ArcadiaChessClub.com** for schedules and information. In addition to directing, Mike offers lessons and analysis for all levels of players and will kindly introduce newcomers to the game. ♜

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

May 10-11
LACC - 2014 Fischer Memorial
Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!
Trophies
Plus Grand Prix Points: 6

6SS, G/61 d5. 11514 Santa Monica Blvd., LA 90025, 2nd fl. 2 sections: Open/U1800. EF: $70; $50 LACC members; Siblings 1/2, $20 new LACC members, Free new LACC Life members! $5 off if notified by 5/9. Reg.: Sat 10-11:30. 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, $750 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.

May 17
Palm Springs Chess Festival: (all ages allowed)

5SS, G/30 d5. Palm Springs Pavilion, CA 92262. Cash or Trophy sections. Cash Prize b/16 player sect (EF $43): $200-100-50-50. Trophy Prize (EF $29): Players w/+ score. Sched: Reg.: 10-10:30. Rds.: 11a.m.-5p.m. After 5/14 +$10, after 5/16 +$20. Info: BayAreaChess.com/palms. NS. NC. W.

May 17
Palm Springs Chess Festival: Youth (under 18)

5SS, G/30 d5. Palm Springs Pavilion, CA 92262. Trophies: All teams & players with + score (medals to others). 4 sects b/age: 4-8, 9-10, 11-12, 13-18. Sched: Reg.: 10-10:30. Rds.: 11a.m.-5p.m. EF: $29, after 5/14 +$10, after 5/16 +$20. Info: BayAreaChess.com/palms. NS. NC. W.

May 17-18
LACC - 2014 Greater Los Angeles Senior Championship

5SS, G/90 d5. 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 11-12. Rds.: Sat 12, 3:30; Sun 10, 1:30, 5 p.m. Byes: Up to two 1/2-point byes available. Prizes: $$ 1,500 (b/45, $750 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. Pre-register by mail and take $5 off EF. Info: Mick Bighamian: 310.795.5710; Mick@LAChessClub.com or **www.LAChessClub.com**. Parking: Free in basement.

May 18
Westwood Spring Open
Trophies
Plus Grand Prix Points: 6

5SS, G/45 d5. 11514 Santa Monica Blvd., LA 90025, 2nd fl. 2 sections: Open & U1800; EF: $55; $50 LACC members. Free new/renewing LACC members. Info: Mick Bighamian: Cell 310.795.5710; Mick@LAChessClub.com or **www.LAChessClub.com**. Parking: Free st. & BoA Parking or building basement.

May 24-26 or 25-26
2014 Lina Grumette Memorial Day Classic
Trophies Plus Grand Prix Points: 40 (Enhanced)
Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!
State Championship Qualifier

6-SS, 3-day 40/100, SD/60 d10. 2-day rds. 1-3 G/60 d0 then merges. **Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites, 2280 South Haven Ave., Ontario, CA 91761**. $10,000 b/200, 50% of each prize guaranteed. In five sections: Open: $$T+1700- 750-400-300-200, U2400 400, U2200 700-300-200. Premier (under 2000): $$750-300-200-100. Amateur (under 1800): $$750-300- 200-100. Reserve (under 1600): $$750-300-200-100. Booster (under 1400/unrated): $$400-200-100, U1200 150, Unr 150. (Unrated may win Unrated prizes only.) EF: $88 by 5/22, $99 at door. Booster (U1400) section EF: $72 by 5/22, $85 door. Reg.: ends 9:30am 5/24, 8:30am 5/25. Rds.: 3-day: 10-5, 10-5, 9:30-4:30. 2-day: 9-11:30-2 (G/60 d0), then merges with 3-day at 5. ***All: SCCF membership required*** [$18 adult, $13 scholastic–under 19 years old, $3 scholastic without magazine], OSA: $25 Best Game prize, all sections eligible. 1 half-point bye if requested at least 1 round in advance, rd. 6 must be requested with entry. HR: $85, comp breakfast .909.930.5555, code CCF, reserve by 5/2. Parking free. Free Wi-Fi, airport shuttle. Info: garden909@aol.com. On-line entry: www.scchess.com. Ent: SCCF, 534 Via Zapata, Riverside, CA 92507. NS. NC. F. **State Championship Qualifier**.

May 25
MDC Hexes

3-SS, G/90 d0. Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites, 2280 South Haven Ave., Ontario, CA 91761. 8-player sections by rating. EF: $21 if received by 5/23, $24 door. $$ 40-20-10 each section. Reg.: 9:30-10 a.m. Rds.: 10:15-1:45-5:30. Ent: SCCF, 534 Via Zapata, Riverside, CA 92507. On-line entry: www.scchess.com.

May 26
MDC Action Swiss

5-SS, G/30 d0. Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites, 2280 South Haven Ave., Ontario, CA 91761. $500 b/40, else proportional: $150-70-40, U2100/ Unr $80, U1800 $80, under 1500 $80. EF: $20 if received by 5/23, $25 at door. Reg.: 9:30-10 a.m. Rds.: 10:15 - 11:30 - 1:15 - 2:30 - 3:45. Ent: SCCF, 534 Via Zapata, Riverside, CA 92507. On line entry: SCchess.com

June 13-15 or 14-15
National Open
Trophies Plus Grand Prix Points: 200 (Enhanced)

6-SS, 40/90, SD/30, inc 30 (2 day option rounds 1-3 G/45 d5). Riviera Hotel and Casino, 2901 Las Vegas Boulevard South, Las Vegas 89109. $80,000 Guaranteed Prize Fund will not be reduced. Championship: $6500-3300-1600-800-500-350-350-350-350-250-250-250-250-250, under 2500 1600, under 2400 1200, under 2300 1000, $2,000 EXTRA for perfect score. The winner of the Championship section also receives a replica of the Edmondson Cup. Under 2200: $3500-1800-900-500-400-250-250-250-250-250-200-200-200-200-200. Under 2000: $3500-1800-900-500-400-250-250-250-250-250-200-200-200-200-200. Under 1800: $3500-1800-900-500-400-250-250-250-250-250-200-200-200-200-200. Under 1600: $3000-1500-800-500-400-250-250-250-250-250. Under 1400: $2000-1000-500-350-250-200-200-200-200-200. Under 1200: $1200-600-400-300-200-200. Unrated: $500-300-200. Plus Score Bonus ($14,000 guaranteed) in addition to any other prizes, every player with 3-1/2 points or more wins a $50 gift certificate.

Top 2 sections FIDE rated: USCF rules will be used. EF: $199 by 5/22, $229 by 6/9, $250 later. $40 less for seniors 65 and over. Add $125 for adults rated under 2100 or juniors under 2000 playing in the Championship Section.

Reg.: 2 p.m.-10 p.m. Thursday, 8-9:30 a.m.

The **Las Vegas International Chess Festival** features the **National Open**, the **U.S. Game/10 Championship**, the **U.S. Women's Open**, the **International Youth Championship**, and other events. Many free extras and surprises! Free parking.

Cutoff for special hotel rate is May 22nd. 800.634.6753 or 702.794.9412 or online at www. VegasChessFestival.com/hotel. ENT: Vegas Chess Festivals, PO Box 90925, Henderson, NV 89009-0925, on line at www.VegasChessFestival.com or by fax at (702) 933-9112. Info: (702) 560-0955 and leave a message. NS. W. FIDE.

June 15
June LA Boys & Girls Championship (K-12)

4 Sections: >900, <900, <500, <300. 5SS, G/25 d5. 11514 Santa Monica Blvd. & Butler LA, 90025, 2nd fl. 4 blocks West of 405. EF: $35 ($25 LACC memb, siblings 1/2, Free new LACC memb). $5 off in notified by 6/14. Info: 310.795.5710 or **www.LAChessClub.com** or Mick@LAChessClub.com.

June 21-22
LACC - 2014 Tal Memorial
Trophies
Plus Grand Prix Points: 6
Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!

6SS, G/61 d5. 11514 Santa Monica Blvd., LA 90025, 2nd fl. 2 sections: Open/U1800. EF: $70; $50 LACC members. Info: Mick Bighamian: 310.795.5710; Mick@LAChessClub.com or **www.LAChessClub.com**. Parking: Free in basement.

July 4-6 or 5-6
SCCF
54th Pacific Southwest Open
A Heritage Event!
Trophies Plus Grand Prix Points: 60
Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!
State Championship Qualifier

6SS, 40/2, SD/1, d/5 (2-day option, rds 1-2 G/75, d/5).

Site: Radisson LAX, 6225 West Century Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90045. Prizes: $$10,000 b/165, 80% of each prize guaranteed! 5 sections.

Open: $$1700-750-400-300-200, U2400 400, U2200 700-300-200.

Premier (under 2000): $$750-300-200-100. Amateur (under 1800): $$750-300- 200-100. Reserve (under 1600): $$750-300-200-100. Booster (under 1400/unrated): $$400-200-100, U1200 150, Unr 150. (Unrated may win Unrated prizes only.)

EF: $99 by 5/20, $105 by 6/25, $109 at door. GM/IM free, $99 from prize. Booster (U1400) section EF: $80 by 5/20, $87 by 06/25, $95 door. Re-entry $60 in all sections. 3-day schedule: Reg ends Fri 10 a.m., rds. Fri 11 & 6, Sat 11 & 6:30, Sun 10 & 4:15. 2-day schedule: Reg ends Sat 8:30 a.m., rds. Sat 9, 12, 3, & 6:30, Sun 10 & 4:15. All: Half point byes OK all, limit 2, must commit before rd 4. ***SCCF membership required for rated Southern Californians*** [$18 adult, $13 scholastic–under 19 years old, $3 scholastic without magazine]. HR: $109-109, 800.333.3333, code Metropolitan, reserve by 6/25. Parking $15/day. Free wireless in public areas, 24-hour airport shuttle.

Info: **info@metrochessla.com**. Web site, On-line entry: **www.metrochessla.com**

Ent: Metropolitan Chess, PO Box 25112, Los Angeles, CA 90025-0112. $15 service charge for refunds.

July 6
PSO Scholastics

5-SS, G/30. Radisson LAX, 6225 West Century Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Open to gr. 12-below. In two sections: Open: Trophies to top 5, top 3 U1200, top 2 Unrated. Grade 6/below U1000: Trophies to top 5, top 3 U700, top 2 Unrated. Reg.: 8:30-9. Rds.: 9:30-11-12:15-1:45-3. EF: $20 if received by 6/20, $25 door. Info: **info@metrochessla.com**. On-line ent: **www.metrochessla.com**. Ent: Metropolitan Chess, PO Box 25112, Los Angeles, CA 90025-0112.

July 17-20, 18-20 or 19-20

19th Annual Pacific Coast Open

Trophies Plus Grand Prix Points: 150 (Enhanced)
Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!
State Championship Qualifier

6SS, 40/100, SD/30 d10 (2-day option, rds. 1-3 G/40 d10). **Sheraton Agoura Hills Hotel, 30100 Agoura Rd., Agoura Hills, CA 91301**. Free parking. Prizes $25,000 based on 230 paid entries (re-entries & U1250 Section count half), minimum $20,000 (80% each prize) guaranteed. In 6 sections. Open: $3000-1500-700-400, clear or tiebreak win $100 bonus, top U2300/Unr $1200-600. FIDE. Under 2100: $2000-1000-500-300. Under 1900: $2000-1000-500-300. Under 1700: $1700-900-500-300. Under 1500: $1500-800-400-200. Under 1250: $700-400-300-200, trophies to first 3, top U1000, U800, Unr. **Mixed doubles bonus prizes:** best male/female 2-player "team" combined score among all sections: $1000-500-300-200. Team average rating must be under 2200.

EF: $135 at chessaction.com by 7/15, $140 phoned by 7/14 406.896.2038, no questions), 4-day $139, 3-day $138, 2-day $137 mailed by 7/8, $150 (no checks, credit cards OK) at site, or online until 2 hours before game. GMs free; $120 deducted from prize. Under 1250 Section EF: All $50 less than top 5 sections entry fees. **SCCF membership required for rated Southern CA residents** [$18 adult, $13 scholastic–under 19 years old, $3 scholastic without magazine]. Re-entry $70; not available in Open Section. Unofficial uschess.org ratings usually used if otherwise unrated. Special 1 year USCF dues with magazine if paid with entry. 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, request chess rate, reserve by 7/3 or rate may increase.

Ent: chessaction.com or Continental Chess, Box 8482, Pelham, NY 10803. $15 service charge for refunds. Questions: **www.chesstour.com**, DirectorAtChess.US, 347.201.2269. Advance entries posted at chessaction.com (online entries posted instantly).

August 2

Temecula Chess Club - Rated Beginners Open

3SS, G/61 d5. Temecula Chess Club, 29275 Santiago Rd., Temecula, CA 92590. Open to 1200 & under. EF: $30. $15 for Temecula Chess Club Members. Unr: Free Entry for Unrated Players. Prizes: trophies. Rds.: 12p.m., 2p.m., 4p.m. ENT: www.temeculachess.com/events. INFO: Guy Reams info@temeculachess.com. www.temeculachess.com.

August 30 or August 31 - September 1

36th Annual Southern California Open

A Heritage Event!
Trophies Plus Grand Prix Points: 150 (Enhanced)
Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!
State Championship Qualifier

6-SS, 40/2, SD/1 d5 (2-day schedule rds. 1-3 G/60 d5 then merges). **Town & Country Hotel, 500 Hotel Circle North, San Diego, CA 92108**. $$20,000 in Guaranteed Prizes, 6 Sections. Prizes: Open Sec 1st $2,400-1,600-1,200-900-600-500-400, plus BU2300 $1,000-600; U2200, U2000, U1800 and U1600 Sections ALL: $1,000-600-400-200; U1400: $600-400-200-100, plus BU1200 $300-150, Best Unrated $100. Plus Best Game Prizes: $75-50-25, one reserved for non-open sections. Reg.: 3-day: 8 to 9:30 a.m., Sept official rating list used. 2-day: 8 to 9 a.m. Sunday. Rds.: 3 day: 10 a.m. & 5 p.m. on Sat-Sun, 9 a.m. & 4 p.m. on Mon. 2- day: 9:30 a.m. ,11:45, 2 & 5 p.m. (merged) Sun, then 9 a.m. & 4 p.m. Monday . EF: $90 Early Bird Special if received by 7/31, $100 from 8/1 to 8/20, $120 after 8/20, or $140 at door. No credit cards at door, checks or cash only. Special rate of only $75 if U1400 or unrated if pd by 8/20, $90 after 8/20, or $100 at door. Special rate for GMs and IMs: $20 if registered by 8/20, $40 after 8/20 or $60 late entry at door. Open section will be FIDE rated except for 3 fast games in the 2 day schedule.

SCCF membership required for all So Cal residents [$18 adult, $13 scholastic–under 19 years old, $3 scholastic without magazine].

Entries: SDCC, PO Box 120162, San Diego, CA 92112 or enter online at **www.scchess.com**. For more info call Bruce Baker at 619.239.7166, or email Chuck Ensey at chucnglo@aol.com.

Hotel Rates: Special rate of only $109, 619.291.7131, or 800.772.8527 if booked by 8/12/14, book ASAP, as rates may go up and rooms may sell out by mid-August. NS. NC. W.

October 9-13

Millionaire Chess

$1,000,000 Prize Fund Guaranteed

Site: **Planet Hollywood Resort And Casino, Las Vegas, NV**.

For details, see:
MillionaireChess.com

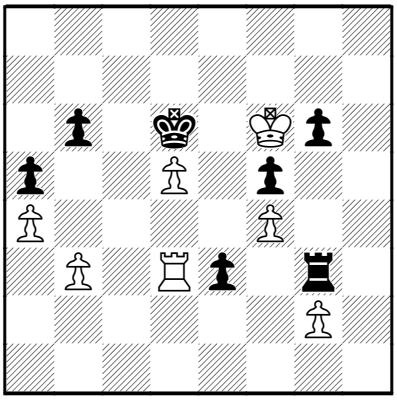
EF: $1,000 before July 31; $1,500 from August 1 through October 8, and $2,000 from October 9 through 3:30 p.m. October 10. Registration officially closes at 3:30 p.m. on October 10. Discounts: Register with a group of 10-24 players and get 10% off. Register with a group of 25+ and get 12% off.

Solution to the photo caption from page 32: Andranik is on the far left, and that's Levon on the far right!

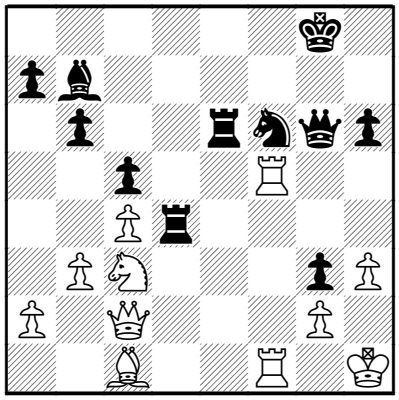
Advertising Rates: Full page $80, ½-page $45, ¼-page $25, 1/8 page $15, back cover (¾-page) $80. Email PDF and original word files, hi-res photos, and graphics etc. Flyer insert $50 (advertiser supplies flyers). 50% discount for events requiring SCCF membership.
Payment should be sent to the Treasurer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

Final Points

We hope you enjoyed this issue. Here is another quiz, and we went back 50 years for extra positions, to the 1964 Amsterdam Interzonal. So please send in your scoresheets with your combos to RankAndFileEditor@gmail.com. And watch out for the difficult No. 9. See page 19 for solutions. - Ed.



1. Black to Play



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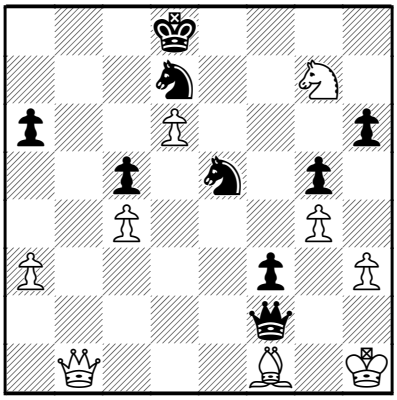
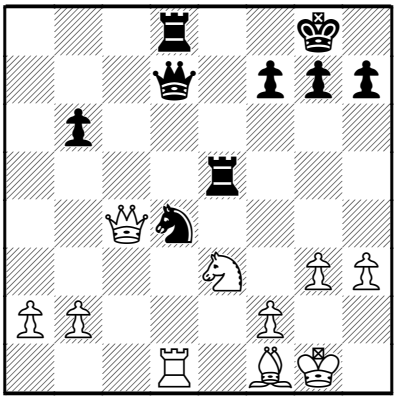


3. Black to Play



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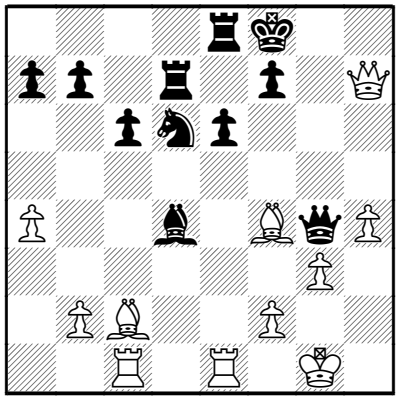
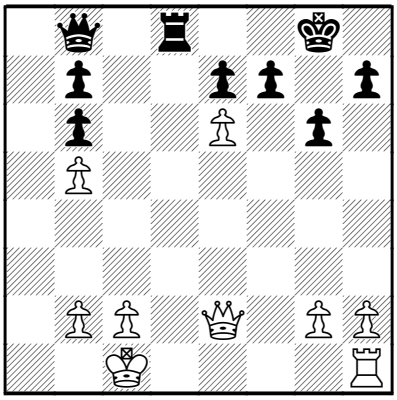
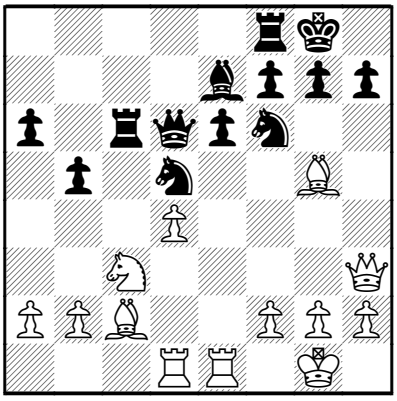


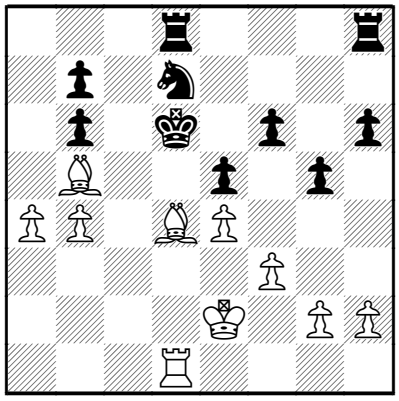
5. White to Play



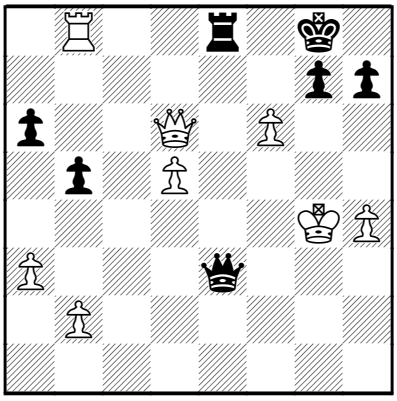
6. Black to Play



7. White to Play



8. White to Play



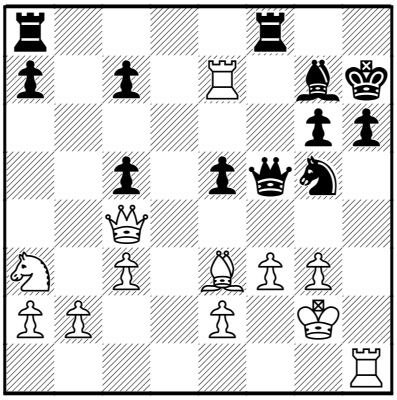
9. Black to Play

SCCF
8950 W. Olympic Blvd., #315
Beverly Hills, CA 90211

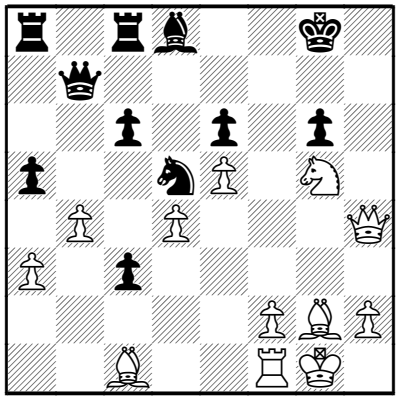
Presorted Standard
US Postage Paid
Industry, CA
Permit 4201

Change Service
Requested

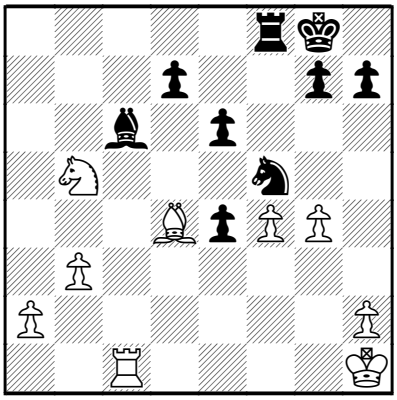
Outside Shots!



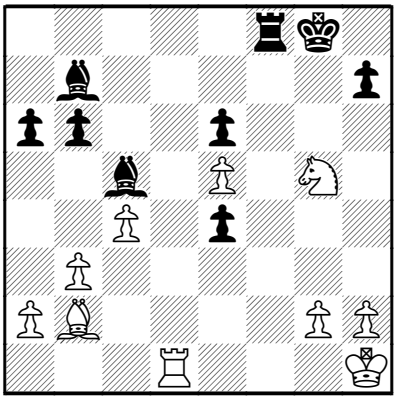
1. White to Play



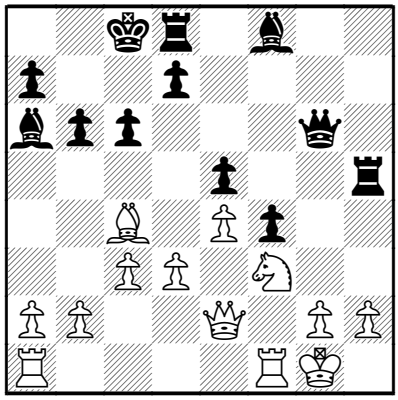
2. White to Play



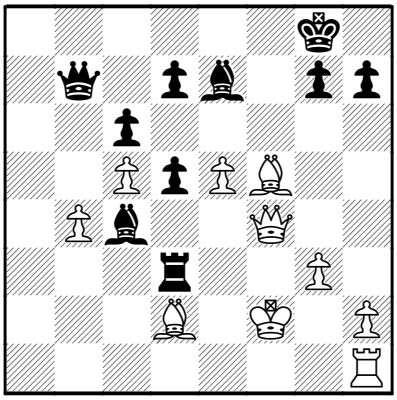
3. Black to Play



4. Black to Play



5. Black to Play



6. Black to Play

See page 26 for solutions.