Rank & File

The magazine of the Southern California Chess Federation

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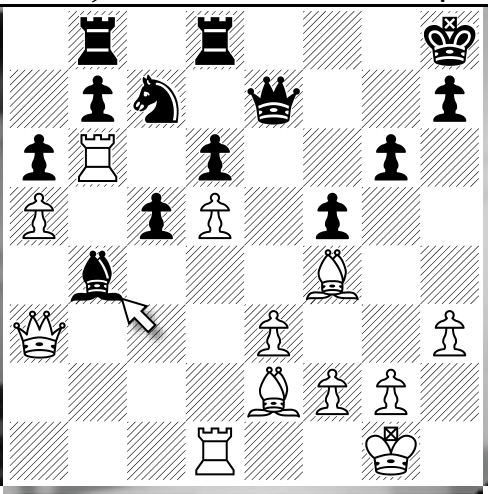
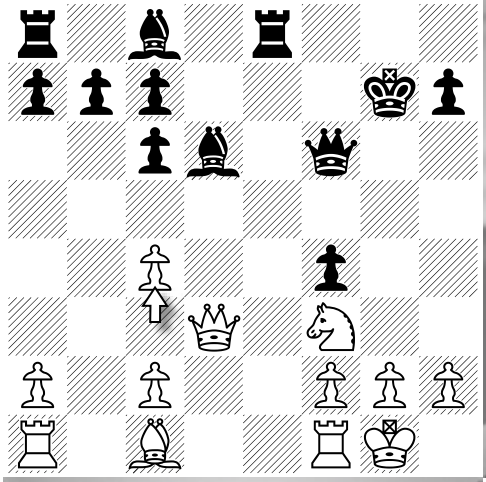
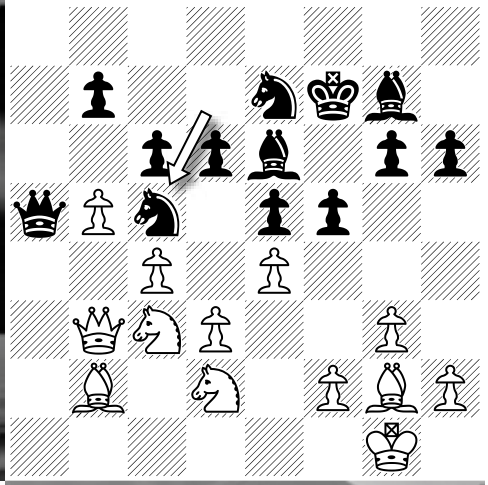






Cy & Jack

Jack Peters: Predicting the Future

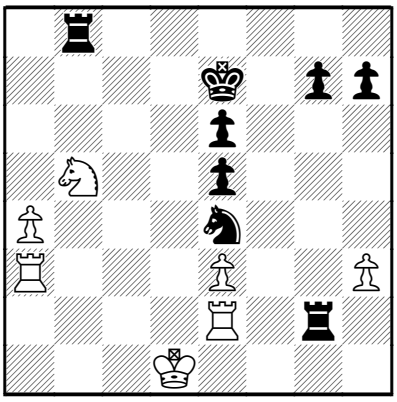
Seven Players Top 19th Pacific Coast Open

FM Kostya Kavutskiy Takes 26th Southern California State Championship

Gareev, Brown, Sevillano, Aldama, & Khachiyan Tie for First in 36th Southern California Open

Inside Moves

A ***tactical warm-up***: It starts out fairly easy, but watch out for No. 8 and No. 9, which sometimes are very hard. Actually, this time, in fact they *are* very hard. Solutions on page 41. - Ed.



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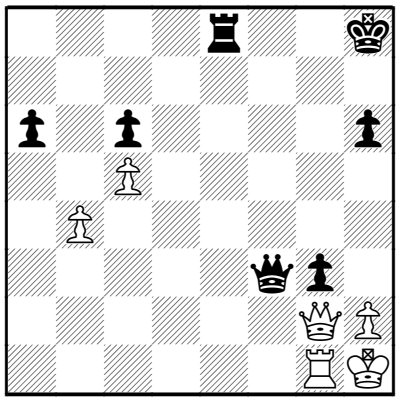

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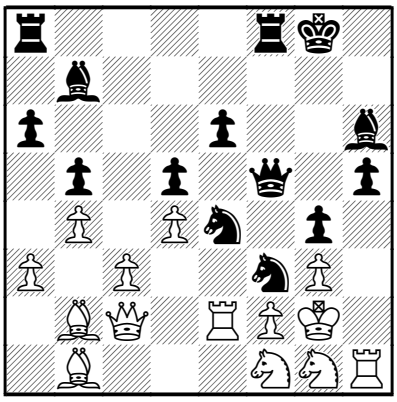

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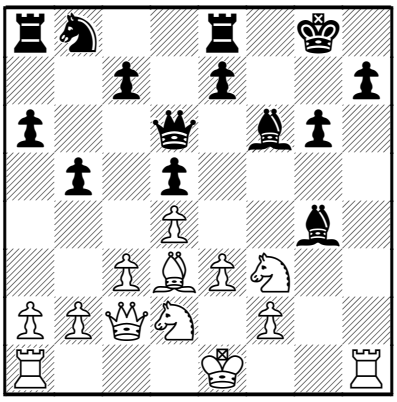

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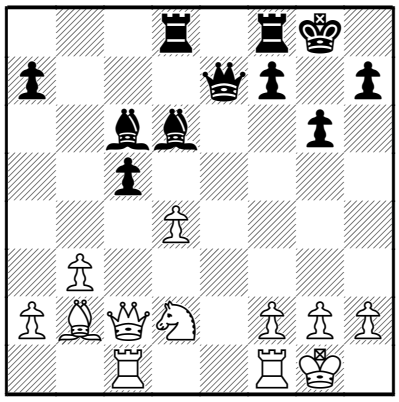

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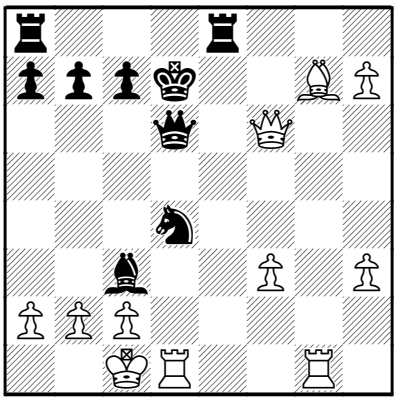

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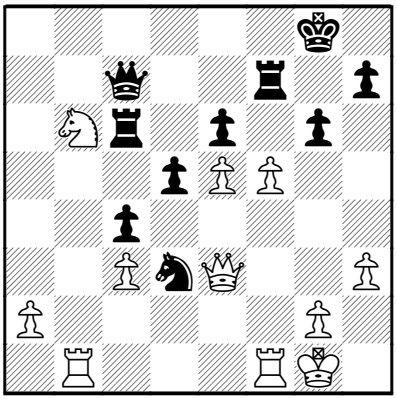

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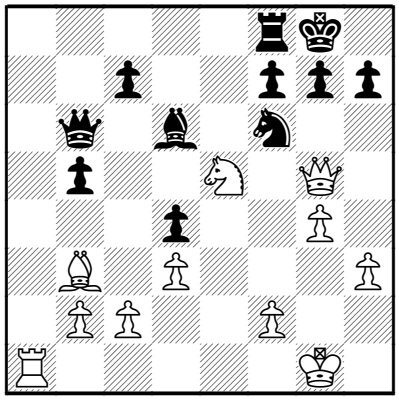

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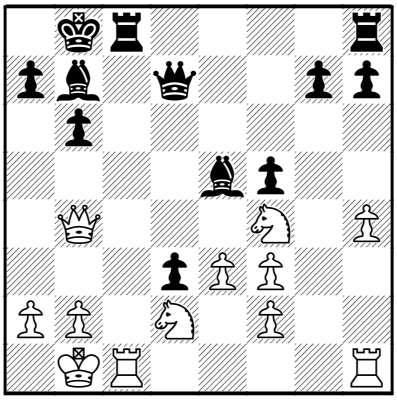

9. Black to Play

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Executive Board
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Ala'a-Addin Moussa

Rank & File

Publisher
David Argall

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

Contributing Editors
Jack Peters
Cyrus Lakdawala
Chris Roberts

Contributors
Kyron Griffith
Jay Stallings
Varun Krishnan
Kostya Kavutskiy
Keaton Kiewra
Chris Stychinsky

Subscriptions
Ashok Ramadoss
1110 E Philadelphia St #9211
Ontario, CA 91761

Address Changes
Adam Brody
P. O. Box 3918
Mission Viejo, CA 92690
unicyclechess@gmail.com

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

Cover photos: James Woodward
Other photos:
jw: James Woodward
ap: Al Peña
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Positions

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

This issue's cover

Five players appear on this issue's cover, due to the big logjam at first place in this year's Southern California Open. Each column illustrates a moment from the final round.

The left column shows the wild 14th move in Aldama–Gareev, tossing the Queen's Rook! Although Black avoided 14...Qxa1 15.Qb3 Qf6 16.Bb2 Be5 17.Nxe5 Rxe5 18.Qc3 Re6=, the game ended in a draw anyway, after 15.Bd2 Bf5 16.Qb3 c5.

The middle column features Black's 28th in Aramil–Sevillano, and Enrico gained his first place tie after 29.Rxb4 cxb4 30.Qxb4 Ne8 31.Rb1 Rdc8 32.Bd3 Kg8 33.Qd4 Qg7 34.Qa7 Qc3 35.Bxa6 Qxa5 36.Rxb7 Ra8 37.Qd4 Rxa6 0–1.

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The right column shows Black's 21st move in Khachiyan-Brown, which finished in a 61-move draw. All the games can be found online at SCchess.com.

Congratulations to all!

CJA Award for Craig Hilby

The Chess Journalists of America (CJA) gives out annual awards for the best in chess journalism.

The winner of Best Analysis was: "Annotation of Sevillano–Hilby Game by Craig Hilby, Submitted by Randall Hough, for Rank & File."

Congratulations Craig, and thank you, Randy! The award-winning analysis appeared in our February-March-April 2014 issue, page 15, in the coverage of the Los Angeles Open.

SCCF Elections

The elections have finished and the results are in. Welcome to new members of the board Ala'a-Addin Moussa and Dylan Quercia. Ankit Gupta is now president, switching jobs with Steve Morford, who is vice president. Adam Brody is our new membership secretary.

Annie Wang: Chess Life cover

A special congratulations to Annie Wang, whose portrait graces the cover of the October issue of Chess Life*, as she topped the North American Youth Championships in the Girls under 18 section, at Tarrytown NY, in June. She turned twelve only this year, so she just might win it again some day!*

Solutions to Outside Shots!

From the back cover.

1. It's a very nice mate! ***41.Qc8+ Qg8 42.f7!! 1–0***, Wijaya–B. Morris, Southern California Open U2000, San Diego 2014. If 42...Qxc8 then 43.Bf6 mate.

2. It's almost a stalemate. All Black needs to do is to get rid of all three of his major pieces! ***49...Rh1+ 50.Kxh1*** Or 50.Kg3 Rc3+ 51.Rf3 Rxf3+ 52.Kxf3 Qc3+ 53.Kg4 Rxh4+=. ***50...Rc1+ 51.Kh2 Rh1+ 52.Kg3 Rh3+ 53.gxh3 Qg2+ ½–½***, Noble–Garcia, Southern California Open U2200, San Diego 2014. If 54.Kf4 then 54...Qg3+ 55.Kxg3 reaches the stalemate.

3. White plays a great move: ***26.Qg6!*** threatening Qxh7+ and Rh3 mate, for which there is no good answer. Aldama–Arutyunov, Super Gambito #668, San Diego 2014. This is why we keep coming back to our next game of chess, despite all our losses, our blunders, our humiliations—for a chance to play a move like this! See the whole game on page 44.

4. White wins with a couple of accurate moves. ***15.Bh6! Bf6 16.Bxg7! Nxb3*** Another way to break the pin is 16...d5 17.Bxd5 Qxd5, but 18.Qh6 Bxg7 19.Rg1 still wins. ***17.Qh6 Bxg7 18.Rg1 1–0***, Davidson–T. McCreary, San Luis Obispo County Championship, Morro Bay 2014. See the whole game on page 45.

5. White wins with a one-two punch: ***11.Nxf7*** Chop 'em and rock 'em! ***11...Kxf7 12.g4!***. And this is the winning move. Otherwise, it's just about equal, Baker–Moussa, Southern California Open, San Diego, 2014. See the whole game on page 25.

6. You can take that Rook, but after 11.Qxh8 Qh4+ 12.Kd2 Kf7, you have to see 13.Bxg6+!. White wins after 13...Ke7 *(The Bishop can't be captured, due to 13...hxg6 14.Qxh4 and 13...Kxg6 14.Qxg8+.)* 14.Bd3 Bxh1 15.Qxg8. Instead, White played ***11.Bg5? Nc6***= but won later after some very interesting play, Hodges–Singh, Southern California Open, San Diego 2014. See the whole game on page 31.

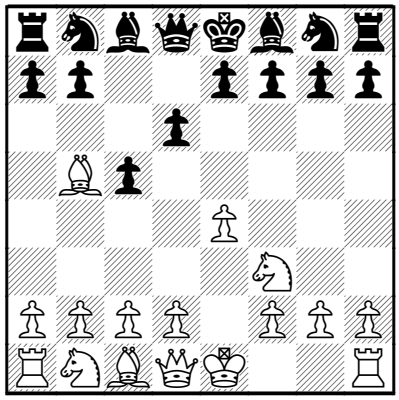
Cy & Jack

By IM Jack Peters and IM Cyrus Lakdawala

Cy's game is from his upcoming book Larsen: Move by Move. *This game is notable for a striking two-pawn positional sacrifice by David Bronstein. Later, Larsen presses for the win with an even more surprising* ***three****-pawn sacrifice in the endgame! He just manages to extract a decisive mistake from his opponent. The contest is from a 15-round 1962 tournament in Moscow in which Bronstein finished tied for third, a point behind Averbakh. Although Larsen, despite defeating Bronstein in this game, merely finished in a tie for seventh with an even score, just two years later he would win the 1964 Amsterdam Interzonal, tying for first with Spassky, Smyslov, and Tal.*

Jack shares his experience playing against Larsen in the next-to-last year of the Lone Pine tournaments. Both the notes and his account of the postgame analysis are most engaging! - Ed.

Bent Larsen –
David Bronstein
[B51] Sicilian Defense
Moscow, 1962
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+



Cy: The Moscow Variation. As usual, Larsen dodges a theoretical fight in the Open Sicilian and heads for a more sedate byway, postponing the fight for a later date in the game.

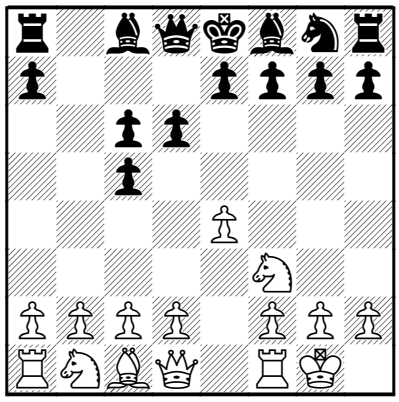
Jack: This was a neglected sideline in 1962. It has gone in and out of fashion at least twice since then.

3...Nc6 4.O–O

Cy: Today, this is White's main continuation. The positions may lead to either Closed Ruy Lopez or Advanced French-like structures.

As a known Bishop hater, I jump at the chance to unload one with 4.Bxc6+ bxc6 5.O–O:

Bent Larsen at the Berg en Dal zonal tournament, 1960
Photo: Wim van Rossem / Anefo

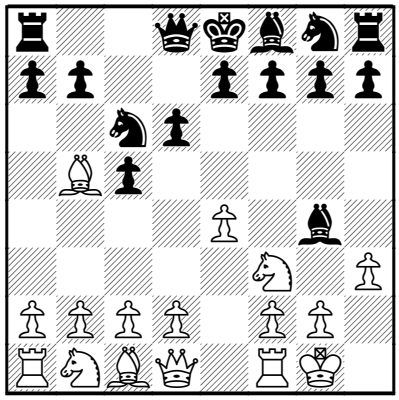


And now:

After 5...g6 6.e5!? d5 *(Black feared doubled isolated c-pawns, but his piece activity and Bishop pair may compensate after 6...Bg7 7.Re1 Nh6 8.exd6 Qxd6.)* 7.d3 Bg7 8.Re1 Bg4 9.h3 Bxf3 10.Qxf3, White stood better with extra space and the superior structure, Lakdawala–C. Milton, rapid, San Diego 2012.

More normal is 5...e5 6.c3 Nf6 7.Re1 Bg4 8.d4 Nd7 9.Be3 cxd4 10.cxd4 Be7 11.Nbd2 exd4 12.Bxd4 O–O 13.Nc4 Nb6 14.Ne3 Be6, Shirov–Malakhov, rapid, Villarrobledo 2008. I prefer White's piece activity and potential against Black's c- and d-pawns over Black's Bishop pair.

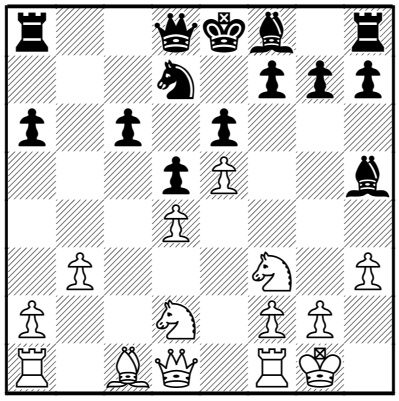
4...Bg4 5.h3



5...Bxf3

Cy: *Question*: Why hand White the Bishop pair and also solve the problems of the f3-pin?

Answer: I don't like this move either, but it is book. I also prefer 5...Bh5 6.c3 a6!? *(I would play 6...e6)* 7.Bxc6+ bxc6 8.d4 cxd4 9.cxd4 e6 10.Nbd2 Nf6 11.b3 d5 12.e5 Nd7, Kalinitschew–Movsesian, German Championship 1996:



Black has nothing to fear on the Kingside, since White's dangerous light-squared Bishop has been removed from the board. The backward c-pawn is also merely a temporary issue, since a future ...c5 can be tossed in at Black's convenience.

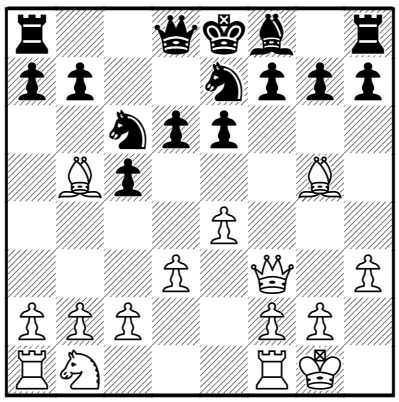
6.Qxf3 e6

Jack: Black would rather post his Bishop at g7, but his development lags. Perhaps he can get away with 6...g6 7.e5 Rc8 *(too shaky is 7...d5?! 8.c4)* 8.exd6 Qxd6 9.Na3 a6 10.Nc4 Qf6.

7.d3

Cy: My tendency would be to go for something like 7.Bxc6+ bxc6 8.e5 d5. **Jack**: This does not look dangerous for Black. He has exchanged his bad Bishop, and White cannot put much pressure on the pawn at c5.

7...Nge7 8.Bg5

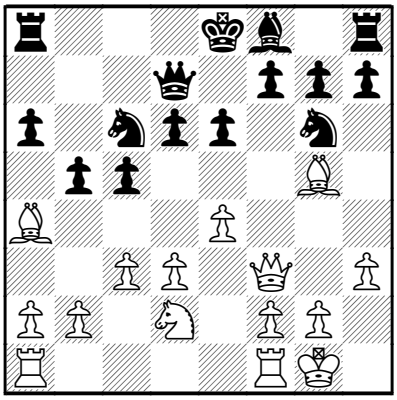


Cy: "Threatening" Bxc6+, but if this is so, then I logically ask: Why didn't Larsen chop the c6 Knight on his seventh move? **Jack**: *The threat is stronger than its execution.*

8...Qd7

Cy: Dual purpose: Unpinning and covering c6.

9.c3 a6 10.Ba4 Ng6 11.Nd2 b5



Cy: Black gains Lopez-like Queenside space and feels he has equalized. **Jack**: If so, he's too optimistic. It's odd to see White emerge with the Bishop pair in this variation.

12.Bc2

Cy: *Question*: Isn't this more passive than 12.Bb3?

Answer: I think Larsen may have feared a future tempo loss by ...d5 and ...c4, so he tucks his Bishop away on c2, where it aims—indirectly for now—at Black's Kingside.

12...Be7!

Cy: A tempo gain of sorts.

13.Be3

Cy: *Question*: Why did White agree to the tempo loss rather than simply swap on e7?

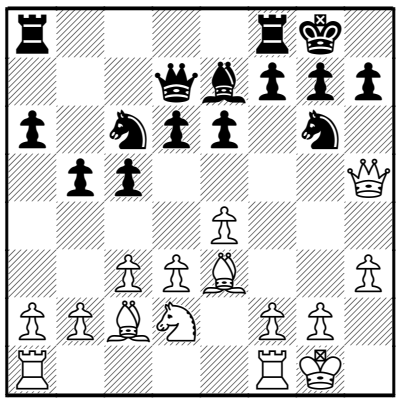
Answer: Larsen followed the principle: *The side with the Bishop pair should strive to avoid swapping one of them away.*

The trouble is, White sets himself up for further tempo loss by ...d5 and ...d4. I like Black's position, where he has the potential to increase central and Queenside space. Meanwhile, White's Bishop pair looks rather unimpressive, and his Kingside attack is for now just a dream.

13...O–O

Jack: I wondered if 13...Bf6 would make White react to the threat of ...b5-b4. But White simply ignores it: 14.Qh5 b4?! 15.Rac1 bxc3 16.bxc3±, and Black must refrain from 16...Bxc3? 17.Nc4 Rb8 18.Ba4 Bf6 19.d4! cxd4 20.Nxd6+.

14.Qh5



Cy: Perhaps dreaming of f4 and f5 futures.

Jack: This is a very strong idea. Other moves would not bother Black.

14...d5!?

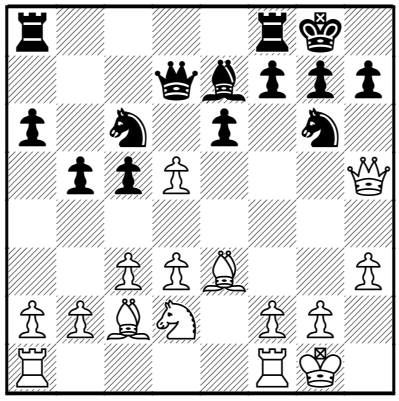
Cy: Principle: *Counter in the center when menaced on the wing.* However, he violates the principle stating that you shouldn't allow an opening of the game when the opponent has the Bishop pair. I suspect this move may be the seed of Black's future Kingside troubles.

Jack: I like 14...d5 but I admit that Black is under some pressure.

Cy: The alternative was something like 14...Rab8 with Queenside expansion in mind.

Jack: I don't see a comfortable answer for Black after 14...Rab8 15.f4, as White would love to push f4-f5, and 15...f5 16.exf5 exf5 *(or 16...Rxf5 17.Qg4±)* 17.Nf3± looks promising for White. The slumbering Bishop at c2 could wake up.

15.exd5



Cy: Principle: *The side with the Bishop pair should open the position when given a chance*. **Jack**: And before Black can advance ...d5-d4!

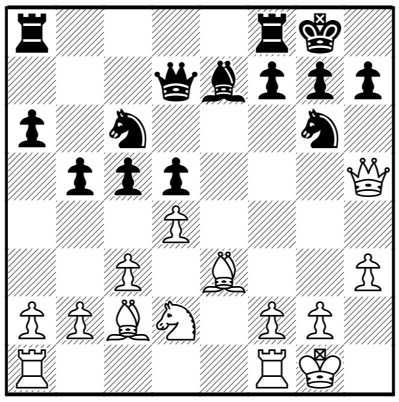
15...exd5

Cy: *Question*: Isn't it in Black's best interest to offer a Queen swap with 15...Qxd5?

Answer: I would probably have played it this way as Black. I'm not —yet!—afraid of White's Bishop pair in the ending, after 16.Qxd5 exd5 17.Nf3, mainly due to Black's extra central and Queenside space.

Jack: I also prefer 15...Qxd5±, mainly because f2-f4-f5 means little without White's Queen sitting at h5.

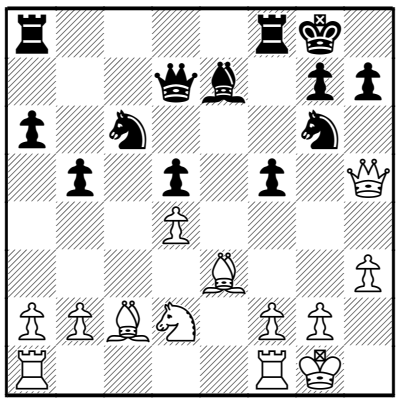
16.d4



Cy: Larsen fights back in the center and clears the b1-h7 diagonal for his once out-of-play light-squared Bishop.

16...c4?

Cy: This move is the culprit which allows White huge attacking chances. Black should go for 16...cxd4 17.cxd4 f5! with a dynamically balanced game.



Jack: Agreed, except that 18.Nf3± still favors White. Black has no opponent for the light-square Bishop. Finally, the counterattack 18...f4? 19.Bd2 Bf6 will fail, as 20.Bf5! Qd6 21.Rae1↑ takes aim at the weak square e6.

17.f4!

Cy: Now f4-f5-f6 tricks are in the air. Magically, Larsen has transformed a sluggish opening into a dangerous attack, which he soon proceeds to botch!

17...Rfe8 18.Nf3

Cy: Ne5 is in the air.

Jack: Another good decision. The immediate 18.f5 Nf8± isn't too bad for Black.

18...f6?

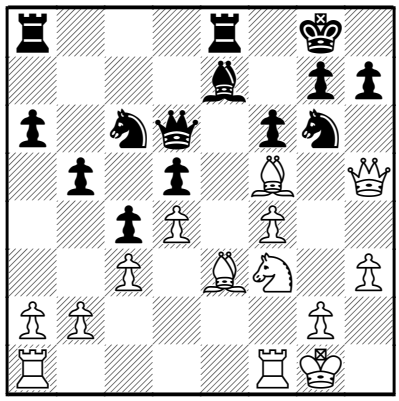
Cy: Bronstein comes up with an original solution: Sac a pawn in order to eliminate White's Bishop pair and stick White with a bad Bishop and light square weakness. However well intended, it doesn't work!

Black can't get cute with tricks like 18...Ba3?? since it allows White a withering attack with 19.Ng5 h6 20.Nxf7!.

Best was the admittedly unpleasant 18...Bf6 19.Ne5 Qd6.

Jack: Black is suffering. I was tempted by 18...Nf8 19.Ne5 Nxe5 20.fxe5 g6?! 21.Qh6 Ne6?? until I realized White breaks through with 22.Rxf7! Kxf7 23.Qxh7+ Ng7 24.Qxg6+ Kg8 25.Rf1.

19.Bf5 Qd6

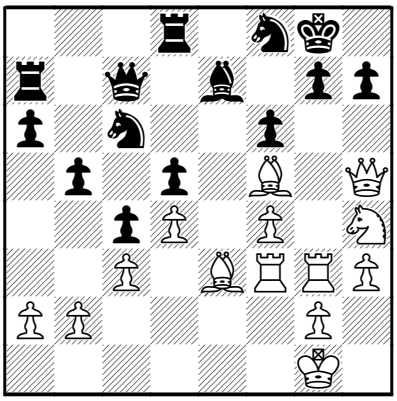


Cy: *Exercise* (planning/critical decision): White has a choice between grabbing a pawn with the materialistic 20.Bxg6, and attempting to drum up an attack with 20.Nh4. Both lines lead to White's advantage, yet one is clearly superior to the other. Which one would you play?

20.Bxg6?!

Cy: Larsen allows himself to be bought off cheaply. Now Black gets some compensation for the pawn.

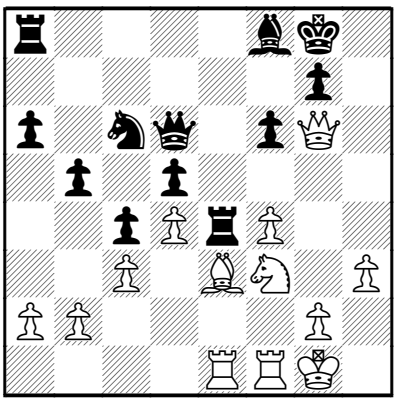
Answer: Far stronger was to pursue an attack with 20.Nh4! Nf8 21.Rf3! Red8 22.Rg3 *(**Jack**: White's chief threat is 23.Bxh7+! Nxh7 24.Nf5, hitting the Queen and g7.)* 22...Qc7 23.Rf1 Ra7 24.Rff3!:



Everyone gets into the act. 24...Bd6 *(No choice, since 24...b4?? is met with 25.Rxg7+! Kxg7 26.Rg3+ Kh8 27.Bxh7! Nxh7 28.Qf7 forcing mate.)* 25.Bxh7+! Nxh7 26.Qxd5+. Now Black must block with his Queen, handing back the piece with a busted position, since he gets slaughtered after 26...Kf8? 27.Ng6+ Ke8 28.Qh5! Nf8 29.d5.

Jack: It's easy to imagine 20.Nh4! Nf8, but very difficult to foresee the devastating effect of 21.Rf3!. Larsen himself once said that Black never gets mated with a Knight at f8. Yet the idea of bringing a Rook, or two, to g3 should clinch White's victory.

20...hxg6 21.Qxg6 Bf8 22.Rae1 Re4



Jack: Black already has fair compensation. Most important, White has lost the initiative.

23.Bd2

Jack: A little better is 23.Bc1, reserving d2 for the Knight.

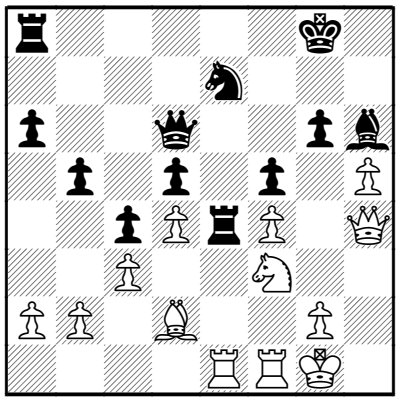
23...Ne7! 24.Qg4 g6!

Cy: Bronstein begins to assert himself on the light squares.

25.h4

Jack: Houdini claims White is winning. I doubt White has more than a tiny advantage.

25...Bh6 26.h5 f5 27.Qh4



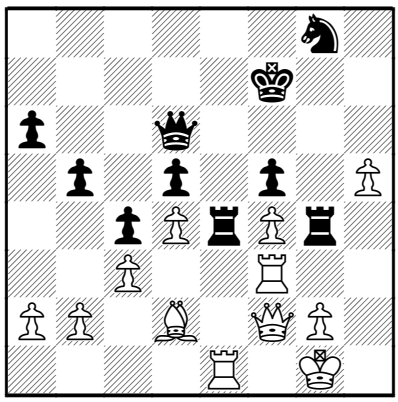
27...g5!!

Cy: Bronstein out-Nimzos Larsen, Nimzowitsch's great disciple (along with Petrosian). A brilliant blockading idea which even fools Houdini. Bronstein stakes out his light squares, no matter what the cost.

28.Nxg5?

Cy: On 28.Qh2 g4 29.Ng5 Black would offer an exchange with 29...Kg7! when 30.Nxe4 dxe4 31.g3 Nd5 wouldn't be so easy to convert, but is better than the way Larsen played in the game.

28...Bxg5 29.Qxg5+ Kf7 30.Qh4 Rg8 31.Rf3 Rg4 32.Qf2 Ng8!



Cy: *Question*: Do you believe Black has full compensation for the pawns?

Answer: Let's add up Black's compensation:

1. White's forces, statues of frustrated immobility, remain where they stand, while Black's expansion, like a living plant, surrounds its stem with growth. Black intends to reroute with ...Nf6 or ...Nh6 next.

2. White's eyesore of a Bishop is an embarrassment to Bishops everywhere.

3. Bronstein is the supreme universal ruler of the light squares.

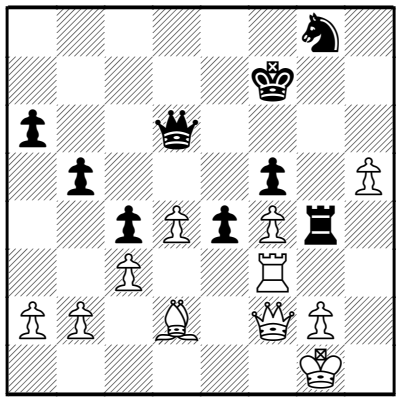
Conclusion: I don't believe White, with his two extra pawns, stands even a shade better, despite Houdini's rosy assessment declarations. White's pawn landscape may be packed with imperfection, yet still functions. Still, let's not forget: White has two extra!

33.Rxe4

Cy: A clear concession, but otherwise I don't see a plan for White. Our sense of pride always revolts at the thought of ignominious concession. Yet when our ambition is at stake, the risk factor takes a subservient role.

Jack: If White doesn't exchange now, the Knight may get to e4.

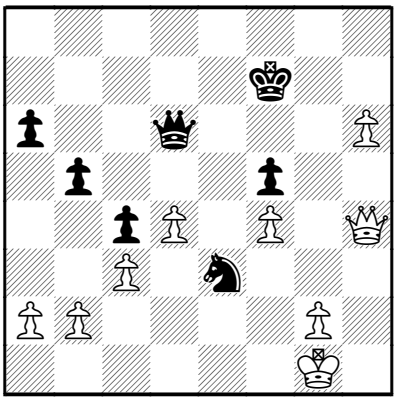
33...dxe4



Cy: Opening d5 for either Knight or Queen.

34.Rh3

Jack: White comes close with 34.Rg3 Nf6 35.Rxg4 Nxg4 36.Qh4 e3 37.Bxe3!? *(only Black can dream of winning after 37.Be1 Qxf4)* 37...Nxe3 38.h6:



But Black saves a half-point by 38...Ng4□ 39.h7 Qxf4 40.Qxg4 fxg4 41.h8Q Qe3+ 42.Kh2 Qf4+ 43.Kg1 Qe3+.

34...Nh6

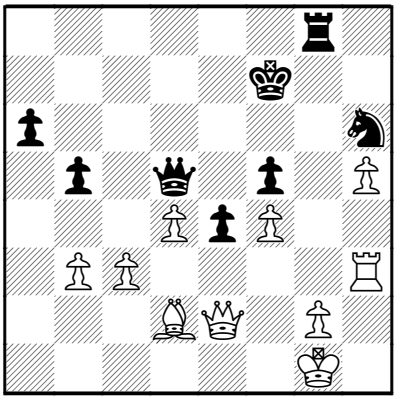
Cy: Keeping White's h-pawn in check.

35.Qe2 Rg8 36.b3

Cy: The only way for White to conceivably play for the win, but the move doesn't come without danger.

Jack: White can imagine posting his Bishop at g5, but it won't work. After 36.Qf1 Ng4 37.Be1 Qd5 38.Bh4 e3 39.Bg5?? Qe4–+, the e-pawn is deadly.

36...cxb3 37.axb3 Qd5!



Cy: Pretty much forcing White's next move.

38.b4

Cy: All of White's Queenside pawns have been fixed on the wrong color for his remaining Bishop.

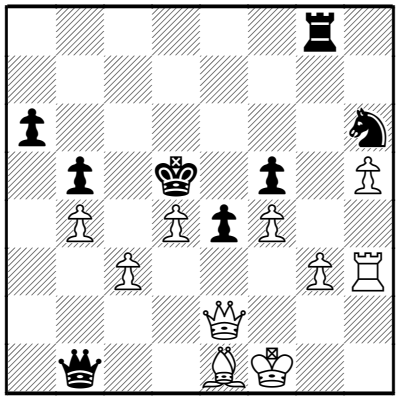
If 38.Qd1?? then 38...e3 is a killing double attack on g2 and d2.

Jack: If White tries to open lines with 38.c4?! Qxd4+ 39.Qe3 Qa1+ 40.Be1 Rd8!, Black's pieces benefit more than White's.

38...Qa2 39.Kf1 Ke6

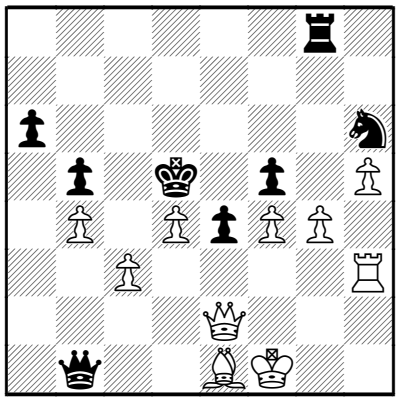
Cy: Larsen isn't the only one with vast ambition. Black's King may even enter via c4 if Queens come off the board.

40.g3 Kd5 41.Be1 Qb1



Cy: White is utterly unable to make progress, and if Black just shifts around then a draw is inevitable. Larsen, however gets what the Grinch who stole Christmas would describe as "a wonderful, terrible idea!"

42.g4!?



Cy: Maybe the correct evaluation of this move is the rarely used chessbase symbol: "!!??".

As desperation (for a win) mounts, Larsen seems to grow more and more unbalanced until he considers an idea which under normal circumstances would be unthinkable. This sac is similar to a man asking a woman he just met to marry him and then asking her if she would mind telling him her name.

Question: This looks insane, as if Larsen has gone mad and just gives away pawns for no reason. What is his "wonderful, terrible idea?"

Answer: This is the beginning of a triple (!) pawn sac. Larsen plans to activate his Rook and go after White's King: Please see the next move!

Jack: If White trades Queens by 42.Rh2?! Rxg3 43.Qa2+ Qxa2 44.Rxa2 Rh3 45.Rxa6 Rxh5, Black has all the winning chances. For example, 46.Rb6 Ng4! 47.Rxb5+ Kc4 48.Rb8 Rh1+ 49.Ke2 Rh2+ 50.Kf1 Kd3–+ will cost White his Bishop, and then the e-pawn will promote.

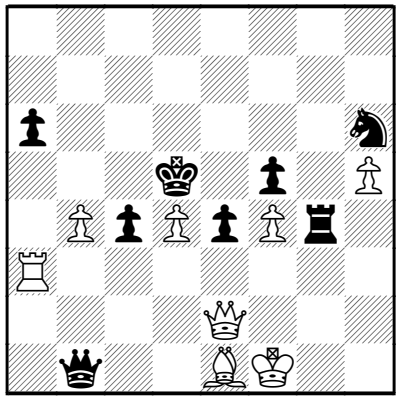
42...Rxg4 43.c4+!

Cy: Larsen consigns yet another pawn to the gallows. White clears a lateral path for his Rook. Somehow Larsen's line-opening sacs are not evocative of Paul Morphy's day!

43...bxc4

Cy: 43...Kxd4?? is not so wise. Black's nearby Queen winces sadly at her imbecile husband: 44.Qe3+ Kxc4 45.Qc5 mate! After the séance it turns out Black's King never got a chance to speak, and remains just as dead as he was before.

44.Ra3!



Cy: Larsen's crazy point. He plans to initiate an attack with Ra5+. Lateral Rook motion is the rocket fuel which propels White's counterattack. A malevolent wave hits Black's King, courtesy of White's normally sweet-natured Rook. This Rook, much like your writer, clearly read too many science fiction novels and now believes he is a crew member of the USS Enterprise, with the ability of teleportation.

Jack: Bronstein was famous for his original ideas in wild positions. Yet even he could not cope with Larsen's shocking three-pawn sac!

44...Rxf4+

Cy: Black went from down two pawns to up one! The cold,

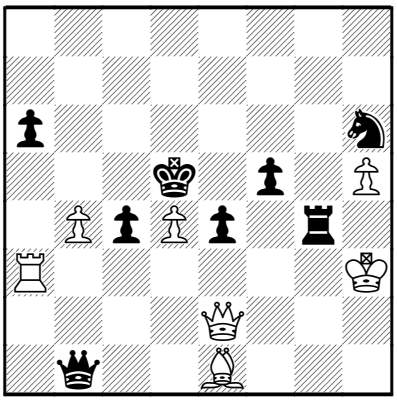
algorithmic, non-mind of a comp can sometimes come up with achingly beautiful equations through its mysterious churnings. Yet, no comp would EVER consider Larsen's triple pawn sac, mainly because computers are programmed to be sane, while we humans are capable of generating revelation in our unique madness.

When busted, even the rule-bound among us momentarily forget deference to laws and principles, and may go crazy. The remarkable thing is Larsen wasn't even busted when he went berserk.

45.Kg2 Rg4+

Cy: 45...Ng4?? loses to 46.Ra5+ Kd6 47.Bg3 Qc1 48.Rxf5 Ne3+ 49.Qxe3! winning.

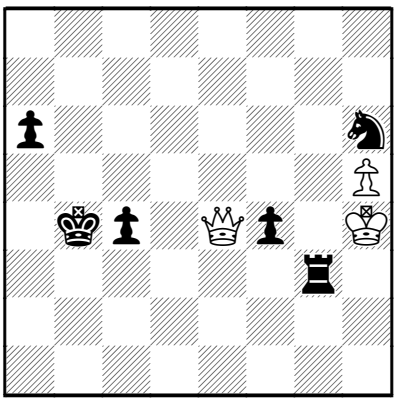
46.Kh3



Cy: The Houdini evaluation is 0.00. However, Bronstein, outraged by Larsen's gall, surely must have harbored dreams of a win here.

46...Rf4!?

Cy: Bronstein plays for the full point. The path to a draw lay in 46...f4 47.Ra5+ Kxd4 48.Ra3 Qc1 49.Bc3+ Qxc3+ 50.Rxc3 Kxc3 51.Qxe4 Rg3+ 52.Kh4 Kxb4:



At this point Houdini recommends 53.Qxc4+! Kxc4 Stalemate! The long awaited counterattack leads to a monumental anticlimax!

47.Ra5+ Kxd4!

Cy: Threat: ...Qd3+. The recent upheavals have had the effect of severely straining the high-strung Black King's nerves.

Cy: With 47...Kd6?? 48.Qxc4 White not-so-subtly accentuates his former request into outright threats. 48...Qd3+ The Queen is forced to intervene against her will, otherwise Black gets mated. 49.Qxd3 exd3 50.Bg3 is curtains for Black.

48.Bf2+!

Cy: The Bishop believes his soul is predestined for hell and therefore he doesn't need to worry about issues like right and wrong.

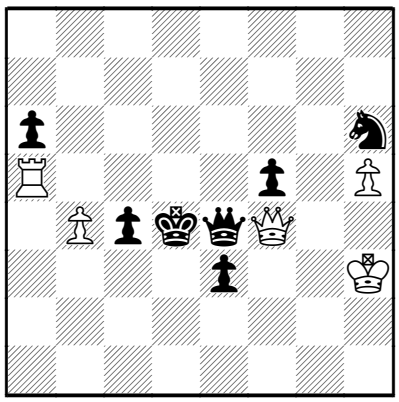
48...Rxf2

Cy: Not much choice, since 48...Kc3?? 49.Qe3+ Kc2 50.Qxf4 wins.

49.Qxf2+ e3 50.Qf4+

Jack: Another drawing path, filled with "only moves," begins 50.Qg2 Ng4□ 51.h6□ Nf2+ 52.Kh4 Qxb4□ 53.Qd5+ Kc3 54.Qxf5 Qe7+□ 55.Kg3 Nd3□ 56.h7 Qg7+ 57.Kf3 e2□ 58.Kxe2 Qg2+ 59.Ke3 Qg3+ 60.Ke4 Qg2+ 61.Qf3 Qg6+ 62.Qf5 Qg2+ 63.Qf3 Qg6+. No one can calculate such an intricate variation.

50...Qe4



51.Qxe4+!?

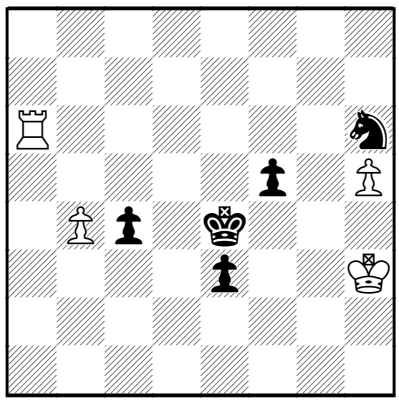
Cy: This takes unbelievable courage/foolhardiness to continue playing for the win.

Jack: Too bad we don't know how much Larsen calculated. Houdini says White is not risking a loss, but Larsen could not have been sure. There is an element of gambling in choosing 51.Qxe4+.

Cy: Every other player in the world would have settled for 51.Qxh6 Qh1+ 52.Kg3 Qg1+ 53.Kh3 Every other square is mate on the move. 53...Qh1+ with perpetual check.

Jack: White can evade the perpetual by 51.Qd6+ Kc3 52.Qxh6 Qh1+ 53.Kg3 Qg1+ 54.Kf4, but 54...e2 will make him wish he hadn't! He can barely hold a draw with 55.Qf6+ Kb3 56.Ra3+! Kxa3 57.Qc3+ Ka4 58.Qc2+ Kb5 59.Qxe2∓.

51...Kxe4 52.Rxa6

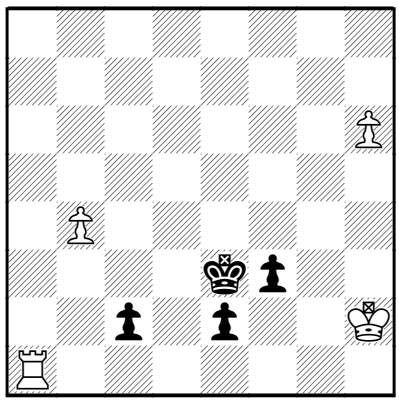


Cy: *Exercise* (critical decision): Black has a choice of pushing his e-pawn or pushing his c-pawn. Only one of the moves draws. Which one would you play?

52...e2?

Cy: The wrong one!

*Answe*r: 52...c3! draws after 53.Rxh6 *(**Jack**: After 53.b5?, it's a race to promote. White gets there first, but still loses to 53...e2 54.Ra1 f4 55.b6 f3 56.b7 f2 57.b8Q f1Q+.)* 53...e2 54.Ra6 f4 55.Kg2 c2 56.Ra1 Ke3 57.h6 f3+ 58.Kh2:



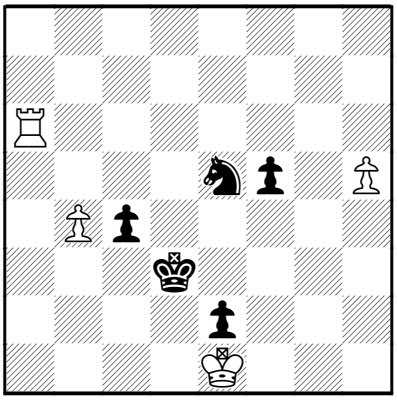
58...Kd2 *(After 58...f2 59.h7 f1Q 60.h8Q Qf2+ 61.Kh3 Qf3+ 62.Kh4 Qf4+, White has no choice but to take the draw with 63.Kh3.)* 59.h7 e1Q 60.Rxe1 Kxe1 61.h8Q c1Q 62.Kg3 f2 63.Qe5+ Kf1 64.Qe4 Qa3+ 65.Kh2 with a drawn ending. Black can even lose if he tries too hard to win. 65...Qc3 66.Qg2+ Ke1 67.Qe4+ Kd1!? 68.Kg2! and now if 68...Qe1?? then 69.Qd3+! Kc1 70.Qf1!. White wins since Black is helpless against the push of the b-pawn.

53.Kg2 Kd3

Cy: 53...Ng4 is similar to the game's continuation after 54.Re6+ Kd3 55.Kf3 Nh2+ 56.Kf2 Ng4+ 57.Ke1. If you are chased by a mob, you have maneuvering space to run like the wind, while the overcrowded mob tends to impede itself through its own weight in numbers. 57...f4 58.Rxe2 f3 59.Ra2 c3 60.b5 c2 61.Rxc2 Kxc2 62.b6 Kd3 63.b7 Ke3 64.b8Q f2+ 65.Kf1. White wins since Black's Knight is denied use of h2.

Jack: Another cute possibility is 53...c3 54.Re6+ Kd3 55.Kf3 c2 56.Rd6+ Kc3 57.Kxe2 c1N+ 58.Kd1+–, picking off one of the Knights.

54.Kf2 Ng4+ 55.Ke1 Ne5

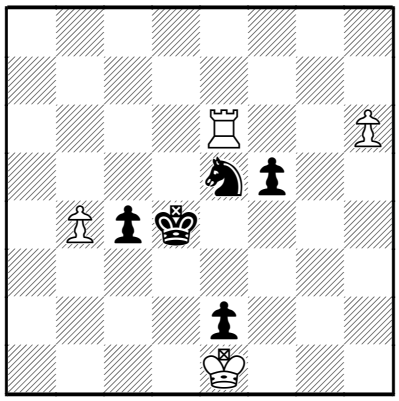


Cy: *Exercise* (combination alert): White's stock of leeway may be dwindling, yet proves sufficient to close the deal and score the full point. How did Larsen deal with the deadly threat of ...Nf3+?

56.Rd6+!

Cy: *Answer*: This forces Black's King to e3, after which White paralyzes him with an e-file pin.

56...Ke3 57.Re6! Kd4 58.h6!



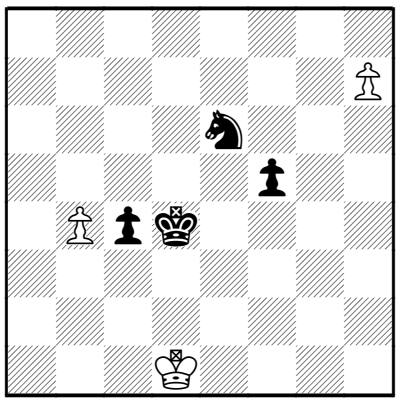
58...Nd3+

Cy: The Knight looks up to White's Rook with the reverential respect of the novice to the master. Instead, 58...Nf7 59.Kxe2 Ng5 60.Rd6+ Ke5 61.Rc6 is an easy win for White, who simply pushes his b-pawn forward.

59.Kxe2 Nf4+

Cy: Not all Knight forks win.

60.Kd1 Nxe6 61.h7 1–0



Cy: The h-pawn promotes. What an adventure! It's so critical to understand a position for what it is, rather than a fantasy version of what we want it to be.

Yet here we see Larsen just make up stuff and then be richly rewarded for it!

Jack Peters (2465) –
Bent Larsen (2585)
[B06] Modern Defense
Statham Masters-Plus (6)
Lone Pine, March 23, 1980

Jack: I had the pleasure of losing two games to Larsen. I tried to develop some of the qualities he demonstrated—relentless will to win, perpetual optimism despite danger, and disdain for memorizing popular openings.

Cy: Agreed. In chess there is useful knowledge, and also useless erudition, with the study of long, complex lines which the average club player may never reach in a single game over the board.

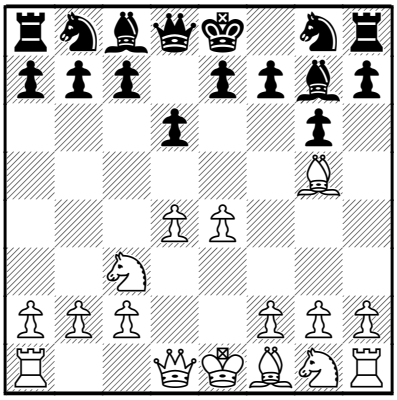
The only one of the three on your list which I follow is "disdain for memorizing popular openings." I'm not so great with the other two! Sometimes playing some long, fashionable line makes one feel like we follow some ancient custom, so steeped in tradition, that the people who follow no longer understand what the tradition originally symbolized.

1.e4 g6

Jack: A surprise on the first move!

He had played 1...c5 against me at the 1974 World Open. You can see that game, annotated by Max Euwe, in *Chess Master vs. Chess Master.*

2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.Bg5!?



Jack: My own attempt at a surprise.

4...a6

Jack: Unfortunately, he replied almost instantly. In our postgame analysis, he called 4...a6 "the only move."

Cy: It isn't Black's only move. Since d4 is weaker than normal, Black can also try the immediate central counter with 4...c5 5.Bb5+ *(Also okay for Black is 5.dxc5 Qa5 6.Qd2 Qxc5.)* 5...Bd7 6.Bxd7+ Nxd7 7.Nge2 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Qb6 9.Nb3? *(9.Ndb5 looks forced.)* 9...Bxc3+! 10.bxc3 Ngf6, Humphrey–Lakdawala, Gambito #558, San Diego 2012. Black's vastly superior structure easily outweighs White's dark square control.

5.Bc4

Jack: Probably 5.Nf3 improves, but I wanted to play as aggressively as possible.

Cy: The only time I ever had this position with White, I played 5.Qd2 Nd7 6.Nf3 b5 7.a4 b4 8.Nd5 a5 9.Bc4 c6 10.Ne3 Nb6 11.Bd3 c5 12.c3 cxd4 13.cxd4 Nf6 14.O–O h6 I thought Black was still fine if he castled. 15.Bh4 d5 16.e5 Ne4 17.Qe2 O–O 18.Nd2 Bb7 19.Nb3 g5 20.Nf5! I always feel like such an imposter when I launch an attack. 20...e6 *(After 20...gxh4 21.Bxe4 Black is unable to recapture, due to the Qg4 threat.)* 21.Nxg7 Kxg7 22.f3 gxh4 23.fxe4 Qg5 24.Nc5 Bc6 25.Rf6 Rac8 26.Raf1 Nxa4 27.Rxf7+! Rxf7 28.Nxe6+ Kg8 29.Rxf7 1–0, Lakdawala–Graves, San Diego (rapid) 2011.

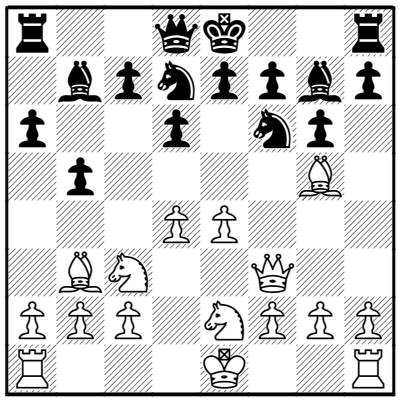
5...b5 6.Bb3 Bb7 7.Qf3?

Cy: Oh boy! Jack mistimes the moment to channel his inner caveman.

Jack: Not a good choice, although it does follow my policy of blind aggression.

Stronger is 7.Nf3.

7...Nf6 8.Nge2 Nbd7∓



Jack: Black is nearly ready for ...c7-c5. The opening has gone badly for White.

9.Rd1 O–O 10.O–O c5

Jack: Houdini recommends 10...h6 11.Be3 a5!?, an idea I never considered.

11.Bd5?!

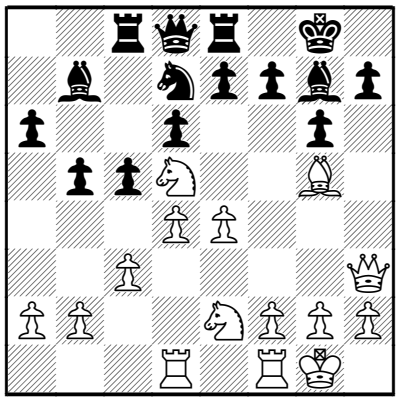
Jack: I should give up the other Bishop by 11.Bxf6! Bxf6 12.Bd5, nearly restoring equality.

Cy: This idea follows the principle: *When your opponent owns the Bishop pair, swap one of them off.*

11...Nxd5 12.Nxd5 Re8 13.Qh3

Jack: The natural 13.c3 could lead to 13...f6 14.Bc1 *(a little better is 14.Bh4 e6 15.Ne3∓)* 14...e6 15.Ndf4 f5∓, when White's clumsy Knights are no match for Black's Bishops.

13...Rc8 14.c3



14...Nb6?!

Jack: After the game, I was amused by Larsen's evaluations. He claimed "clear advantage" when I thought he had only a small edge, and "small advantage" when I thought it was equal.

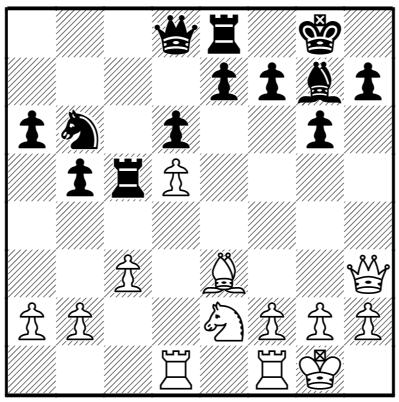
However, he could justify his optimistic appraisal if he found 14...Nf6!, inviting 15.Nxf6+ exf6 16.Be3 cxd4 17.Nxd4 Rxe4∓. **Cy**: Although then White is weakness free. He doesn't seem to have enough for the pawn after 18.Nb3 Qc7 19.Qg3 Bf8. Then, White has nothing to do but wait.

15.dxc5! Bxd5

Jack: Not 15...Rxc5? 16.Be3.

Black's only hope to retain an edge is 15...Nxd5!? 16.cxd6! Qxd6□ 17.exd5 Rcd8, soon recapturing at d5.

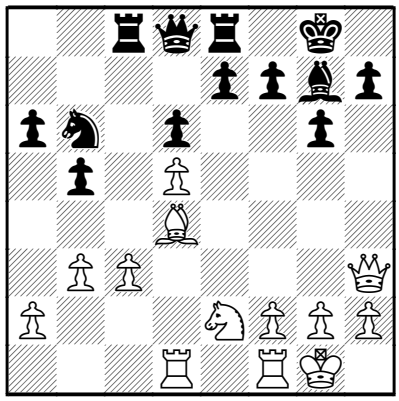
16.exd5 Rxc5 17.Be3!



Jack: Now I thought White had the edge. Larsen said "equal." He's right.

Cy: I still think White's position is more pleasant and certainly easier to play.

17...Rc4 18.b3 Rc8 19.Bd4



Cy: Logically weakening Black's King, while removing Black's best piece.

Jack: White has a clear plan: pressure on the half-open e-file, followed by a Rook lift and Kingside threats once Black commits to passive defense of e7.

19...Qc7 20.Bxg7 Kxg7 21.Rd4 Nd7

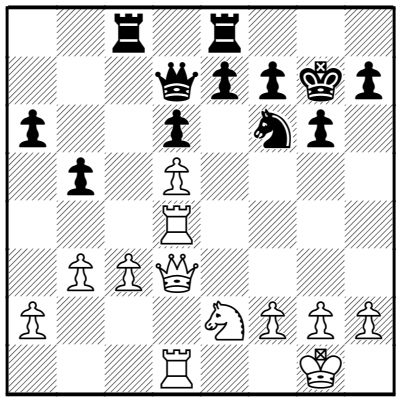
Cy: Larsen rushes a defender to protect his King.

22.Rfd1

Jack: Restraining ...e7-e5 because an en passant capture would expose d6.

Cy: ! By preventing ...e5, White follows the principle: *Don't allow the opponent a central counter while attacking on the wing.*

22...Nf6 23.Qd3 Qd7



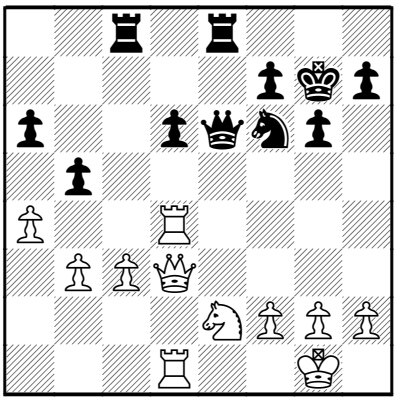
24.a4?!

Jack: Missing the point of Black's last move.

Cy: Playing on the wrong side of the board.

Jack: White should pause for 24.Ng3= or 24.h3=.

24...e5! 25.dxe6 Qxe6



Jack: The imaginary advantage has shifted to Black, but it's closer to = than to ∓.

26.Kf1

Jack: White can tolerate 26.Ng3 Qxb3 27.axb5 axb5 *(White parries 27...Rxc3 28.Qd2 axb5 by 29.Nf5+! gxf5 30.Qg5+ Kf8 31.Qxf6=.)* 28.Rxd6∓ because he threatens 29. Qd4.

26...bxa4

Jack: Nor does 26...Qxb3 27.axb5 Qxb5 promise much, as 28.Qxb5 axb5 29.Rxd6 Ne4 30.R6d5 is very drawish.

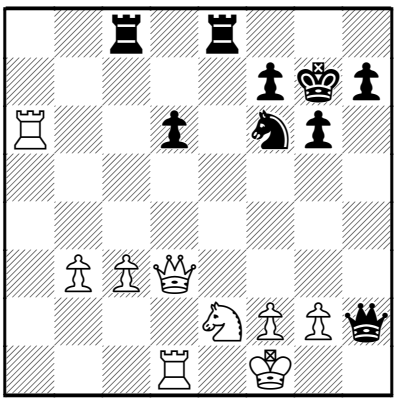
27.Rxa4 Qe5

Jack: White would not mind 27...Qxb3 28.Rxa6 Ne4 29.f3 Nxc3 30.Nxc3 Rxc3 31.Qd4+□ Kg8 32.Rxd6=.

28.Rxa6

Jack: Not bad, but the cautious 28.g3 defends more easily.

28...Qxh2



Jack: I managed to get Larsen, a notoriously quick player, in serious time pressure in both of our games. However, he handled it much better than I did!

29.f3?

Jack: White can stop Black's threats by 29.Ng3! Nh5 *(or 29...h5 30.Qxd6=, threatening 31. Nf5+)* 30.Rxd6 Nxg3+ 31.fxg3 Re5 32.Qd4=.

29...Nh5?

Jack: With 29...Rc5!, Black threatens to invade on the e-file by 30...Rce5. White must reply 30.Qxd6, but 30...Qh1+ 31.Ng1 *(or 31.Kf2 Rxe2+ 32.Kxe2 Qxg2+ 33.Ke1 Rf5→)* 31...Rf5→ looks overwhelming. Black's King is perfectly safe, while White's can be attacked from several directions. **Cy**: Agreed. ...Re3 and then sacs on f3 are in the air, as well as shifts to attack g2.

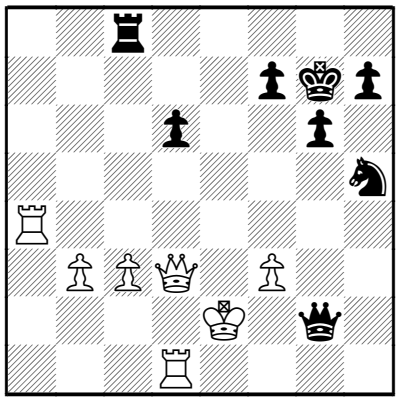
30.Ra4?

Jack: Houdini shows the correct defense: 30.Qd4+ Kg8 31.Rxd6 Ng7! 32.Qf4 Qxf4 33.Nxf4 Nf5 34.R6d3 Ne3+ 35.Rxe3 Rxe3 36.Nd5, when White should hold despite Black's extra exchange.

30...Rxe2!

Cy: Now the players' standards of what is important differ radically: White seeks to survive the coming attack with his material surplus intact, while Black is concerned only with hunting down White's King. Larsen decides he will never pay off his debt penny by penny, so he decides to rob the bank instead. Now White's King is beset with a thousand worries.

31.Kxe2 Qxg2+



Cy: The only cause to which the Queen remains unswervingly loyal is her own self-interest.

32.Ke3??

Cy: The King makes an impassioned plea for his life, believing every word he utters, including his own lies and contradictions. Now White's hopes remain beyond his present capabilities.

Jack: Not fearing checks, but Black has a crushing quiet move.

I had no inkling of the tougher defense 32.Ke1 *(**Cy**: It isn't easy to assess that, after this move, White surrounds his King with a complex network of sensitive defensive tendrils.)* 32...Ng3 33.Qd4+! *(the immediate 33.Qe3? h5 is hopeless)* 33...Kg8 34.Qe3, hoping for 35.Rda1 and 36.Ra8. Even so, Black keeps the initiative with 34...Qh3∓ and next ...Ng3-f5.

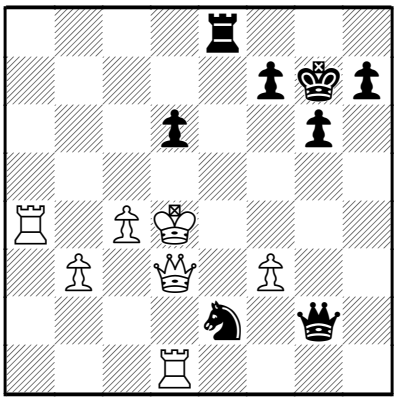
32...Ng3! –+

Cy: An easy move to miss.

33.c4 Re8+ 34.Kd4

Cy: The King's decrees and commands remain insolently unheeded by Black's attackers.

34...Ne2+ 0–1



Cy: White's King gets hunted down after 35.Kd5 Qg5+ "Your rudimentary treasons were not so difficult to uncover," the Queen indulgently tells the White King, as if to a child. 36.Kc6 Qc5+ 37.Kb7 Re7+ 38.Kb8 The King is forced to sign his "confession" which reads: "I, the undersigned, have willfully committed high crimes and treasons upon the realm." 38...Qb6+ 39.Ka8 Qb7 mate. Apparently, Black's Queen is deaf to the King's humanitarian oration on the preciousness of human life. ♜

Predicting the Future

By Jack Peters

Fabiano Caruana's outstanding performance in the Second Sinquefield Cup spurred me to ask titled players their opinion. I asked three questions and received replies from five grandmasters and 13 IMs.

Question #1:
Some have called Caruana's result one of the best tournament performances in history. Do you agree?

All but three respondents agreed. Alex Baburin ("Absolutely!") and Yasser Seirawan ("Absolutely, yes") and Keaton Kiewra ("Absolutely I agree!") enthusiastically expressed the sentiment of the majority.

Many went a step further, wondering if Caruana's result was the best ever. Cy Lakdawala wrote, "Caruana's performance was maybe the greatest in a tournament (although Karpov's at Linares in the early 1990s may have been equivalent), but Fischer's 19-game winning streak vs. top GMs is still the number one peak, short-term performance ever."

John Donaldson also preferred Fischer: "Combining both matches [6-0 against Mark Taimanov and 6-0 against Bent Larsen], I would consider Fischer's result superior."

Jeremy Silman thought Caruana "played almost perfectly … Of course, I view Fischer's 20 straight wins vs. grandmasters to be the greatest run ever … one that will almost certainly never be equaled."

Melik Khachiyan was succinct: "Karpov's result was better."

Leon Piasetski formed a different conclusion: "Karpov did play great games against a very strong field and probably deserves equal ranking with Caruana.

Note: Lakdawala, Khachiyan and Piasetski refer to Anatoly Karpov's 11-2 score, starting with six straight wins, in Linares 1994. The discrepancy between Fischer's 19- and 20-game winning streak stems from how one counts his win by forfeit against Oscar Panno in the last round of the Palma de Mallorca Interzonal in 1970.

Those who demurred expressed admiration of Caruana's play, but raised other objections. Tony Saidy wrote, "I was not impressed by his opponents' resistance!"

Mark Ginsburg agreed, writing, "Yes, with the recognition that several improbable things happened." He cited "grossly sub-standard" play by two of Caruana's opponents.

John Watson, who placed it between 10th and 15th in history, wrote, "St. Louis was a very short tournament with only five other players, which makes it hard to compare with other historically great performances of greater length and far greater diversity. Also, this tournament isn't considered a terribly important one … which would add some pressure."

Fabiano Caruana, Warsaw 2013
Photo: Przemyslaw Jahr

Roman Yankovsky was most pragmatic: "I'm not sure if this really is the best result ever, but it's definitely somewhere close … As for me, I'd say that it's more important that Caruana (at least for now) didn't manage to qualify for the Candidates."

Question #2:
Do you think he will surpass Carlsen and become the highest-rated player in the next two years?

"No," according to 10 of 11 who answered unequivocally. Some considered Carlsen too strong, even with his recent mini-slump. Most thought Caruana had to confirm his new status with more great performances.

Magnus Carlsen, Wijk aan Zee 2013
Photo: Frans Peeters

This question elicited many interesting comments. Some tried to estimate Caruana's chances of overtaking Carlsen:

Ian Rogers: "less than 50%"

Alex Baburin: "a good chance … somewhere in the 30-40% region"

John Donaldson: "50-50"

Mark Ginsburg: "probably not, I would give this a 20% chance"

Armen Ambartsoumian: "he has very good chances"

Keaton Kiewra mentioned a practical difficulty: "Gaining 40 elo points when you are over 2800 is no easy feat."

Leon Piasetski predicted that "in two years, one will be above 2900, probably Carlsen."

John Watson took an opposing view, writing, "I think it's more likely that Caruana will drop 10 to 20 points in the next year."

Melik Khachiyan wants more evidence: "I think that's his first ever big win, but players will adjust, and we will see."

Larry Remlinger echoed the wait-and-see attitude: "That would take some doing … but it is certainly possible … I think he is clearly the main challenger to Carlsen at the moment."

Tony Saidy decried the overemphasis on rankings but registered the only pro-Caruana vote: "Based on his age, rapid rise, and obvious level-headedness, yes, Caruana will surpass Carlsen. And I prefer his Smyslovian style."

Doug Root expects a two-way battle for chess supremacy: "I think that he will be a World Championship contender for many years and will likely become world champion for part of that time … I expect that his rating will fluctuate above Carlsen's at one point."

John Bryant also commented on Caruana's style: "I do not believe Carlsen will be surpassed in the near future. That said, I find Caruana's style more appealing than Carlsen's."

Dmitry Gurevich wrote, "Since the rating system can't express the artistic side of the game, I'll just say that their performances put two young super talents in a same row as the greatest World Champions like Capablanca, Fischer, Kasparov." He and Melik Khachiyan sounded eager for a Carlsen – Caruana world championship in two years.

Question #3:
What score do you predict in the Carlsen – Anand match of 12 games? Will it go to tiebreakers?

Bad news for Anand! He drew support only from Armen Ambartsoumian ("very close match") and Tony Saidy ("Anand by one point or by tiebreak"). Several thought Anand would do better than in their first match (3½-6½), but 12 predicted another Carlsen victory.

Viswanathan Anand, Wijk aan Zee 2013
Photo: Stefan64

John Watson brought up a topic that could become very significant: "We desperately need longer world championship matches, by the way, to avoid the inevitable fluke result that's going to make us all mad. 16 games minimum."

Seven Players Top 19th Pacific Coast Open

Agoura Hills, July 17-20, 2014

Grandmasters Timur Gareev, Andrey Gorovets, and Enrico Sevillano tied with IM Ricardo De Guzman, FM Kyron Griffith, Varun Krishnan, and Albert Lu for first at the 19th Pacific Coast Open held at the Agoura Hills Sheraton by the Continental Chess Association. The first six of these players drew with each other in the final round, and Lu drew with IM Roman Yankovsky to join the big first place group, all scoring 4½-1½. Lu also upset IM John Daniel Bryant in round two.

The seven section, 217-player Swiss system tournament was directed by Steve Immitt, and assisted by Randall Hough and Quan Luong.

The rated sections were grouped at 200 point intervals, but split in midclass. The 45-player under 2100 section was topped by Matthew Shuben, Howard Zhong, and Duy Minh Nguyen who all scored 5-1. Scoring 6-0, Matt Dalthorp swept the under 1900 section, which attracted 43 players.

The under 1700 section attracted 30, and a clear first was earned by Antara Garai, who finished with 5-1.

Both the 28-player under 1500 section and the 38 player under 1250 section were topped with scores of 5½-½ by Steven Dahl and Christopher Romero respectively.

We present four upsets from the tournament, by Albert Lu, Kyron Griffith, and by Varun Krishnan—who had two on the same day! - Ed.

John Daniel Bryant (2484) – Albert Lu (2252)
[C05] French Defense
Pacific Coast Open (2)
Agoura Hills, July 18, 2014
Notes by the Editor.

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.f4

Much more of a main line is 5.Bd3 c5 6.c3 Nc6 7.Ne2 cxd4 8.cxd4 f6 9.exf6 Nxf6, with about 200 games between players rated above 2500.

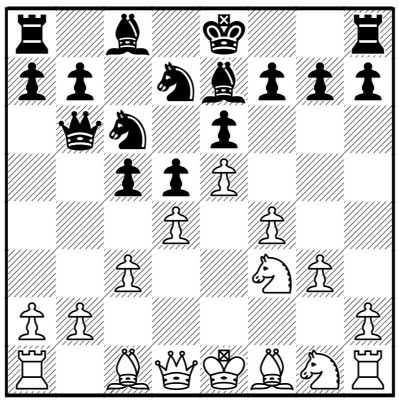
5...c5 6.c3 Nc6 7.Ndf3

Now it's down to 65 games.

7...Qb6

Somewhat rare, but with 20 games between strong players, it seems to be considered reliable.

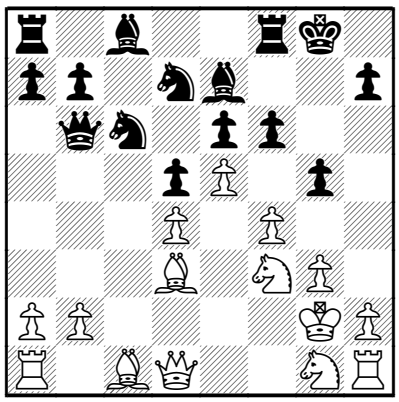
8.g3 Be7



9.Kf2

Shirov–Vallejo Pons, Cala Mayor 2008, continued 9.Bh3 cxd4 10.cxd4 O–O 11.Kf2 f6 12.Kg2 Kh8 13.Ne2 fxe5 14.fxe5. And now Black's piece sac cleared the center: 14...Ndxe5 15.dxe5 Nxe5 16.Ned4 Nxf3 17.Nxf3 e5 18.Qxd5. After 18...Bxh3+ 19.Kxh3 Qf2 20.Nxe5, Black took the perpetual with 20...Qf5+ 21.Kg2 Qf2+ 22.Kh3 Qf5+ 23.Kg2 Qf2+ ½–½.

9...O–O 10.Kg2 cxd4 11.cxd4 f6 12.Bd3 g5



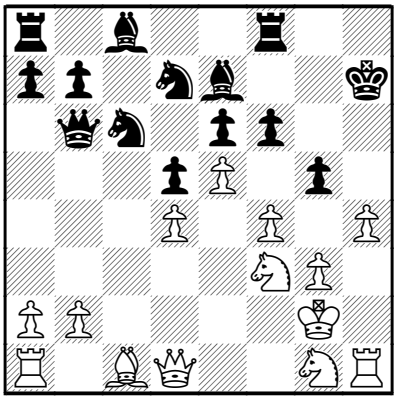
Trying to clear files in front of the White King.

Safer is 12...f5.

13.Bxh7+

Now it's White who sacrifices a piece, not Black!

13...Kxh7 14.h4



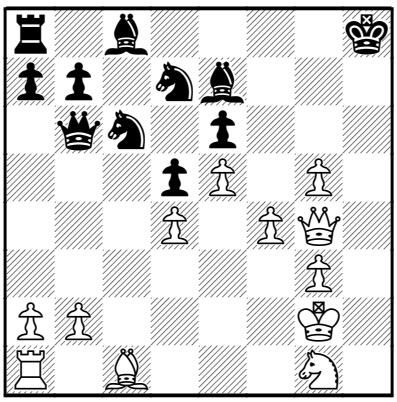
14...g4

Also getting the 0.00 evaluation from Houdini are 14...Kg7 15.hxg5 fxe5; and 14...gxf4 15.Ng5+ fxg5 16.hxg5+ Kg7, after which White must play 17.Rh7+ Kxh7 18.Qh5+ Kg7 19.Qh6+ Kg8 20.Qg6+.

15.Ng5+

A second piece is sacrificed!

15...fxg5 16.hxg5+ Kg7 17.Qxg4 Rh8 18.Rxh8 Kxh8



19.Ne2

Black defends perfectly from here.

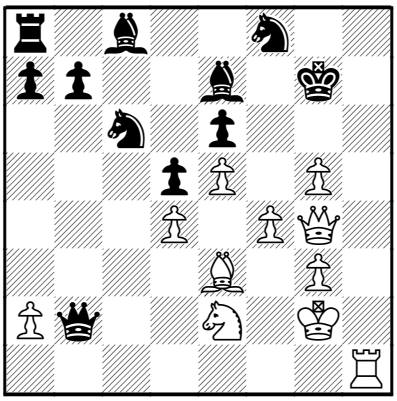
When attacking, it's good to keep the perpetual in hand, but knowing when to use it is the hard part.

The computer says the time to eject was now, with 19.Qh5+ Kg8 20.Qe8+ Nf8 21.g6 Kh8 22.Qf7 Nxg6 23.Qxg6=.

19...Nf8 20.Be3

The answer to 20.g6 Kg7 21.Qh5 is 21...Nxd4! *(not 21...Nxg6 22.f5 exf5 23.Qh6+)* 22.Be3 Qxb2–+.

20...Kg7 21.Rh1 Qxb2

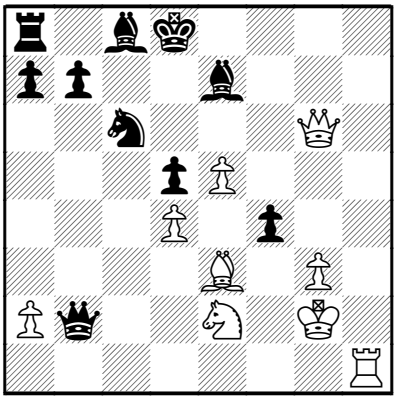


White can't get through to the Black King, and now his own King safety is in question.

22.f5 exf5! 23.Qh5 f4! 24.g6

Black knows what he can get away with. For example, if instead 24.gxf4 then just 24...Bf5.

24...Nxg6 25.Qh7+ Kf8 26.Qh6+ Kf7 27.Qh7+ Ke8 28.Qxg6+ Kd8 0–1



Black is attacking both e3 and e2, winning even more material.

A fine, cool, defensive effort by Albert Lu!

Kyron Griffith –
Enrico Sevillano
[E91] King's Indian Defense
19th Pacific Coast Open (3)
Agoura Hills, July 21, 2014

Notes by Kyron Griffith.

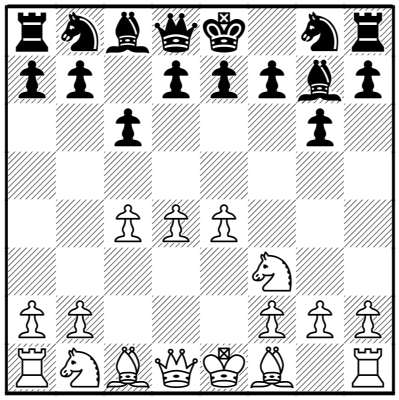
Going into this round I was one of eight players with 2-0 and had scored fairly clean wins over a couple of experts, and Varun Krishnan and I were the only ones in this group without titles.

I've played Enrico many times before and have come away with a couple draws and mostly losses, although after my first two rounds, I felt confident in my ability to hold a draw as White this game.

1.e4 g6 2.d4 c6

A move order designed to confuse. Black is going to play either ...d6 or ...d5 soon, and this will determine the course of the game.

3.c4 Bg7 4.Nf3



Staying flexible. I am still waiting for either ...d6 or ...d5.

4...d6

A standard modern defense setup.

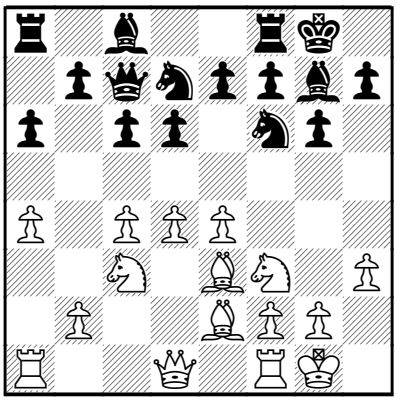
After 4...d5 5.exd5 cxd5 6.cxd5 Nf6 7.Bc4 Nbd7 8.Nc3 Nb6 9.Bb3 Nbxd5 10.O–O O–O, White's IQP offers chances for both sides.

5.h3

Preventing ...Bg4, preparing Be3, and giving my King the h2 square eventually.

Now Black has to figure out what to do with his light-squared Bishop, since he would have loved to trade it for my f3 Knight.

5...Nd7 6.Nc3 Qc7 7.Be2 Ngf6 8.O–O O–O 9.Be3 a6 10.a4



White's moves are easy and comfortable to play. Black needs to take space in the center soon.

10...e5 11.Qc2?

A positional mistake. My queen was happy on the d-file and I should have been playing for the b6 square.

After 11.dxe5 Nxe5 12.Nxe5 dxe5 13.a5! Be6 14.Qc2 Rfe8 15.Na4, Black has serious dark square problems.

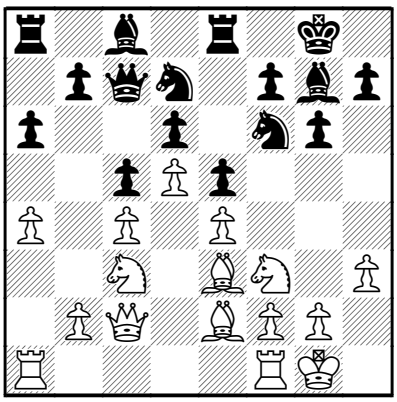
11...Re8?

Allowing me more time. Black needs to create squares for his pieces with 11...exd4 12.Nxd4 a5!. Black doesn't care about the wasted tempo as much as he cares about the c5 square for his Knight, and he has nearly equalized here.

12.d5

A good alternative to 12.dxe5. I will still keep an advantage here with my extra space.

12...c5?



Positional suicide. By relieving the tension, Black gives me free range on the Queenside with an eventual a4-a5 and b2-b4. Black will of course attack on the Kingside, but at this point I knew that I was better.

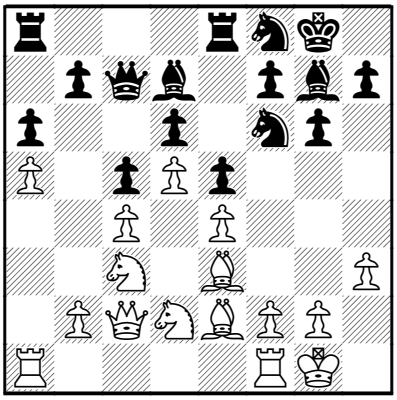
13.Nd2

Cycling the Knight over to the Queenside and preparing f3.

13...Nf8 14.a5

The beginning of a quick attack focused on the b6 square.

14...Bd7



Planning to chomp my Knight if it goes to a4.

Black's Knights and this Bishop are clamoring over the d7 square like hungry pigeons, so I do not let Black trade pieces when he's so cramped.

15.Rfb1

My plan is simple and strong: play b4, put a Rook or Bishop into b6 and double Rooks on the b-file.

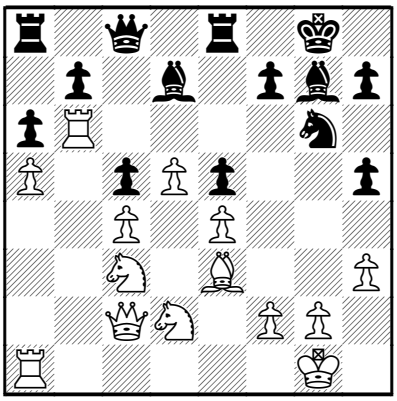
15...Nh5

A good practical chance, although it is certainly desperation. Black sees the inevitable invasion coming and needs to get started on the Kingside.

16.Bxh5

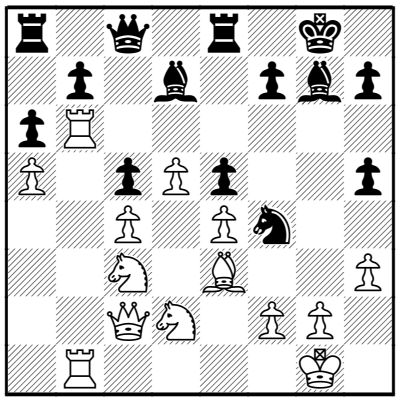
Trading the bad Bishop and inflicting long-term structural damage.

16...gxh5 17.b4 Ng6 18.bxc5 dxc5 19.Rb6+– Qc8



When I showed this game to my friend Martin Nilsson, on seeing this move he proclaimed that Black was officially in "swindle mode". This was consistent with my thought over the board. All of Black's play is centered around a sac on h3, the Knight coming into f4, and possibly a Rook coming in on the g-file.

20.Rab1 Nf4



21.Kh2

Inaccurate. I was worried about Black's sacs, although they are all bad. I thought I should get my King off the g-file in case a Rook shows up. The attack is illusory—I should activate my Queen with either Qb3 or Qd1.

21...Kh8 22.Bxf4

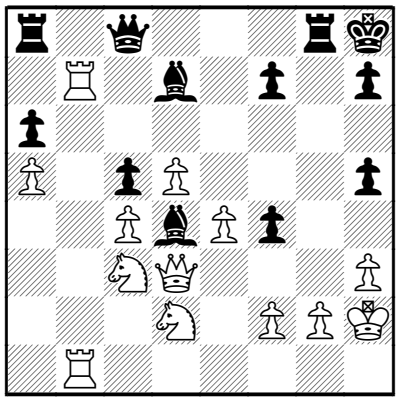
I know my dark squares will be weak, but the Knight was also very strong on f4.

22...exf4 23.Rxb7 Rg8 24.Qd3

Also good was 24.Nf3.

However, my Queen was doing nothing on c2 and I wanted to have the option to put her on f3 and target h5.

24...Bd4

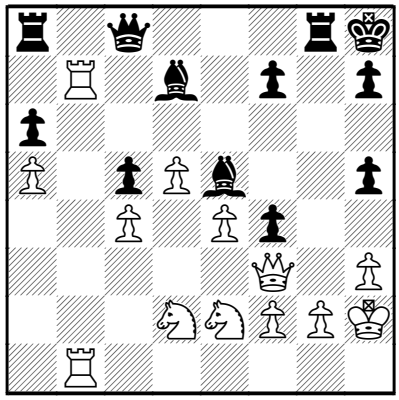


25.Qf3

Winning, but not efficiently.

After 25.Ne2! Bxf2 26.Qc3+ Rg7 27.Qe5! Black is both bound and being attacked, and has six isolated pawns to boot. The endgame does not look good for him.

25...Be5 26.Ne2



Activating pieces and making threats, such as taking on h5.

26...Qd8?

26...Qe8 at least discouraged me from taking on h5 due to ...f3+.

27.Qxh5 Rg5 28.Qxf7

Free stuff is free stuff.

28...Qg8

A tricky move played with very little time left on the clock. Some caution is required.

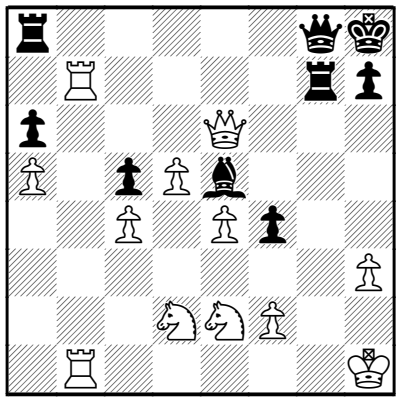
29.Qxd7

Simple and accurate.

29...Rxg2+ 30.Kh1

Rg1 is coming.

30...Rg7 31.Qe6 1–0



I breathe a sigh of relief and chalk up my first GM win. White is up a clear piece and is going to get the Queens off, and Black is out of tricks.

A rather strange game from Enrico, as I had achieved a +2 position by move 18 due to an opening fiasco, and never went below that evaluation again.

Varun Krishnan (2252) –
Andrey Gorovets (2589)
[B42] Sicilian Defense
Pacific Coast Open (3)
Agoura Hills, July 19, 2014

Notes by the Editor.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6

The Kan Variation.

5.Bd3 Nf6 6.O–O e5

In the database, there are several dozen games between players rated above 2500, so this odd move is well trusted.

7.Nf3

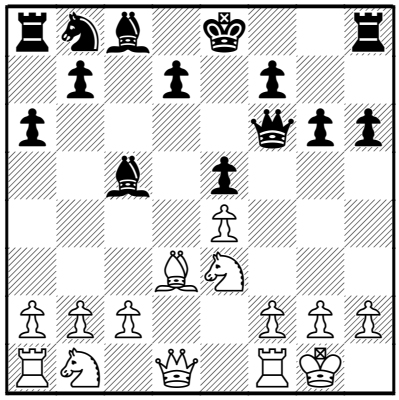
Often seen is 7.Bg5, and the computer likes it. The main line among top players is now 7...h6, forcing 8.Bxf6 Qxf6 gaining the Bishop pair at the expense of development—White has already castled. 9.Nf5 and now:

a) 9...d5 might be tempting *(safer is 9...g6 in the games below)* 10.Nc3:

a1) Not so good is 10...dxe4 11.Nxe4 Qb6 (11...Qxf5?? 12.Nd6+ winning the Queen) 12.Qg4 Bxf5 13.Qxf5±.

a2) Better is 10...Bxf5 11.exf5 d4 12.Ne4±.

b) The main line continues 9...g6 10.Ne3 Bc5:



A few high profile examples:

a) 11.b4 Ba7 12.Na3 d6 13.Nac4 Nc6 14.Qd2 Qd8 15.c3 b5 16.Nb2 O–O 17.a4 Rb8 18.axb5 axb5 19.Nd5±, Caruana–Bocharov, Moscow 2012.

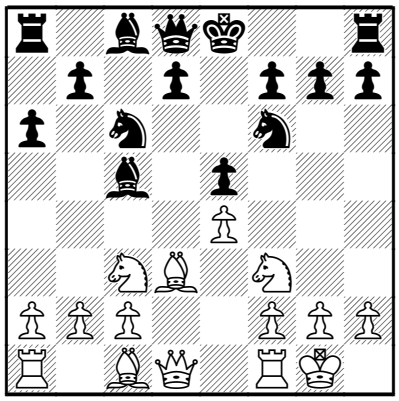
b) 11.Nd5 Qd8 12.b4 Ba7 13.a4 d6 14.a5 Be6 15.Bc4±, Caruana–Nakamura, Reggio Emilia 2012.

c) 11.Nc3 d6 12.Ncd5 Qd8:

c1) 13.c3 Be6 14.Bc2 O–O 15.Ng4 Nd7 16.Nxh6+ Kg7 17.Nf5+ gxf5 18.exf5 Bxd5 19.Qg4+ Kh6 20.Qh3+ Kg5 21.Qg3+ Kh5 22.Qg7 Bf3!!□ and White went for a perpetual check in Karjakin—Svidler, Moscow 2011.

c2) 13.Kh1 Nc6 14.Ng4 O–O 15.Ngf6+ Kg7 16.c3 Be6 17.f4 Bxd5 18.Nxd5 exf4 19.Rxf4 Qg5±, Topalov–Caruana, Wijk aan Zee 2012.

7...Nc6 8.Nc3 Bc5



9.Nd5 h6

Preventing the pin by Bg5.

10.Be3 Bxe3 11.fxe3

White's open file and denial of center squares to Black's Knights compensate for the doubled e-pawns.

11...d6 12.Nxf6+ Qxf6 13.Nd4

Already making use of the f-file, and committing to a pawn sacrifice.

13...Qg5 14.Nxc6 Qxe3+ 15.Kh1 bxc6 16.Bc4 Qxe4

A tough decision, but better than castling: 16...O–O 17.Qxd6 Qd4 *(not 17...Qxe4?? 18.Bxf7+!)* 18.Qxc6 Bb7 19.Qxb7 Qxc4 20.b3±.

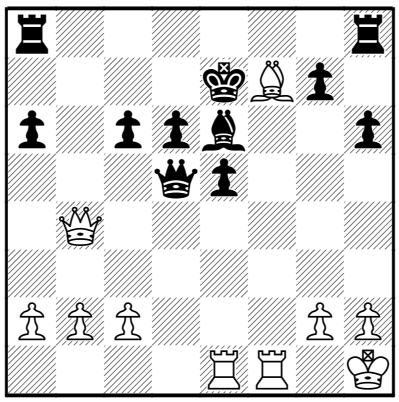
17.Bxf7+ Ke7 18.Qd2 Be6?!

The computer-best line is 18...Bf5! 19.Bb3 Rhf8 20.Rad1 Rf6 21.Qa5=.

19.Rae1 Qd5

Better than 19...Qc4 20.b3±.

20.Qb4!



20...Rhb8!

The right Rook! Black gives up the pawn at h6 next move, but maintains control of a7 against a deadly Queen check. Much calculation is required!

Not 20...Bxf7?? 21.Qb7+ winning big material.

If Black goes with the wrong Rook: 20...Rab8 21.Qh4+ g5 White has 22.Qf2!

a) Now 22...Bxf7? is answered with 23.Qa7+! ouch!

b) Losing is 22...Rbd8 23.Qf6+ Kd7 24.Rd1+–.

c) Best, but still not good enough, is 22...c5 23.Qf6+ Kd7 24.Rd1 cutting off the Queen from the defense of e6, as b2-b3 is available if necessary. For example, after 24...Bxf7 25.Rxd5 Bxd5 26.b3! White will make use of the d-file.

21.Qh4+ g5

If 21...Kd7 then 22.Rd1 Qc4 *(22...Qxa2 allows the Queen to be cut off from the Bishop with 23.b3, and if 23...Qxc2 then 24.Bxe6+ Kxe6 25.Qg4+ fatally weakens the King protection)* 23.Qxc4 Bxc4 24.Bxc4 with a piece up.

22.Qxh6

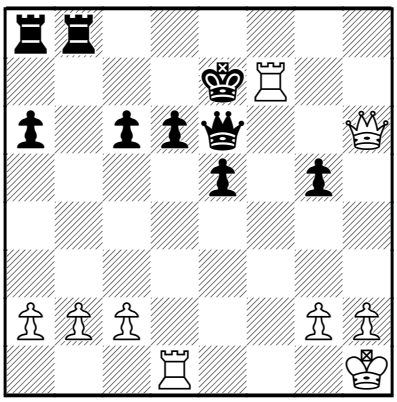
Accepting the h6 pawn.

Now 22.Qf2 Bxf7 23.Qf6+ Kd7 24.Rd1 is answered by 24...Qe6∓.

22...Bxf7 23.Rd1

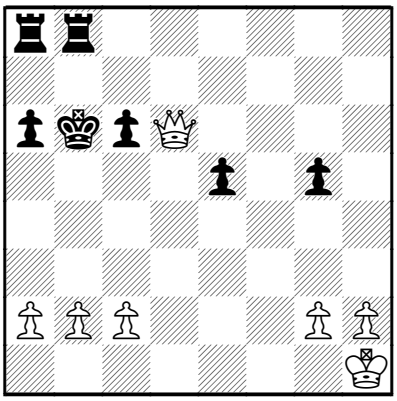
A little better is keeping the Black King in jeopardy with 23.Qxg5+ Ke8 24.b3± Rb7 25.c4 Qe6 26.Rf6 Qe7□ 27.c5 Rd8 28.Qf5 Bd5 29.Rd1±. White now has the threat of 30.Rxd5 cxd5 31.c6 *(even better than 31.Re6 Qxe6 32.Qxe6+ Re7 33.Qg8+ Kd7 34.Qxd5)* 31...Qxf6 *(not 31...Rc7?? 32.Qh5+ Qf7 33.Qh8+ Ke7 34.Rxf7+ Kxf7 35.Qxd8)* 32.Qxf6 Rf7 33.Qe6+ Kf8 34.Kg1.

23...Qe6 24.Rxf7+



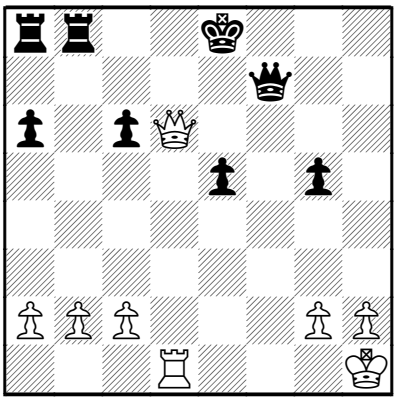
24...Qxf7?

Black hangs on until the ending with 24...Kxf7 25.Rf1+ Ke7 26.Qg7+ Kd8 27.Rf8+ Qe8 28.Qf7 Qxf8 29.Qxf8+ Kd7, and now White goes after the d-pawn with 30.Qf7+ Kc8 31.Qe6+ Kc7 32.Qe7+ Kb6 33.Qxd6:



White has Queen and pawn for Black's two Rooks, with an insecure Black King, especially if White is allowed to advance the c-pawn to exploit the weak squares. Black can advance his e-pawn with a Rook behind it, for it would be wonderful if the Queen has to be the blockader. For example, after 34...Re8 34.Qb4+ Kc7 35.Qa5+ Kb7 36.c4 e4 37.c5 it's an interesting, unclear position, although Houdini likes White.

25.Qxd6+ Ke8



26.Qxe5+

White goes for the perpetual.

To try to win, White must play several accurate moves: 26.Re1! Qd7 27.Qf6! Qh7 28.Qxc6+! Kf7 29.Rf1+ Kg8 30.Qe6+ Kh8 31.Rf7+–, and press with Queen and two Kingside pawns against two Rooks.

26...Kf8 27.Qh8+ Ke7 28.Qe5+ Kf8 ½–½

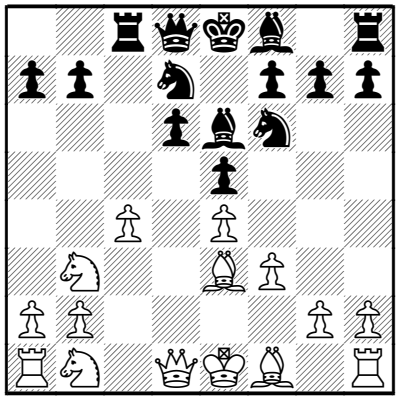
We conclude with another engaging contest. White gets into trouble, but with great accuracy keeps just out of the loss column long enough to capitalize on his opponent's mistakes. - Ed.

Varun Krishnan (2341) –
Andranik Matikozyan (2538)
[B55] Sicilian Defense
Pacific Coast Open (4)
Agoura Hills, July 19, 2014

Notes by Varun Krishnan.

This game, a captivating fourth-round clash against IM Andranik Matikozyan, was one of the most interesting games I've ever played.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5 6.Nb3 Be6 7.c4 Nbd7 8.Be3 Rc8



All theory so far.

9.N3d2?

My idea was to follow this up with Nc3, but momentarily my pieces are uncoordinated. Matikozyan took advantage of this with:

9...b5! 10.cxb5

Maybe 10.b3 is better, but that would acknowledge that the opening has been a failure.

10...d5! 11.Bxa7

White is up two pawns, but in big trouble.

11...dxe4 12.Nc3

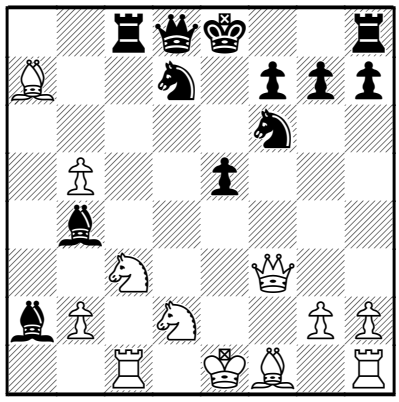
White desperately needs to develop his pieces, even if it means giving back a pawn or two.

Very bad for White would be 12.fxe4 Qa5 13.b6 *(or 13.Be3 Bg4 14.Be2 Bxe2∓)* 13...Nxb6 14.Bxb6 Qxb6.

12...exf3 13.Qxf3 Bb4 14.Rc1

14.a4 Qa5 is also very dangerous for White.

14...Bxa2!



15.b6?

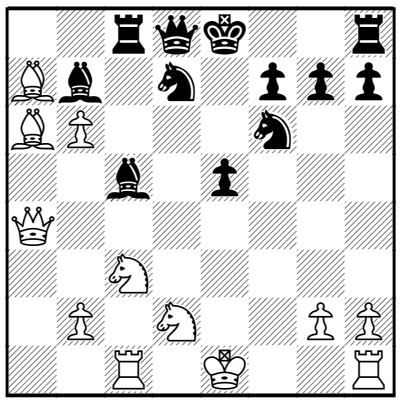
I had seen 14...Bxa2 and planned to reply b6. However, I completely overlooked White's next move.

The Bishop can't be taken because 15.Nxa2 Rxc1+ 16.Nxc1 Bxd2+ 17.Kxd2 Qa5+ 18.Kd1 *(not 18.Qc3 Ne4+ losing the Queen)* 18...Qxa7 is curtains for White.

15...Bd5!

Bb4-c5-xb6 is coming, and there's not much I can do about it. Bottom line: White is in serious trouble, possibly losing.

16.Qd1 Bb7 17.Qa4 Bc5 18.Ba6!?



I realized that I needed to develop my pieces—that's White's only chance.

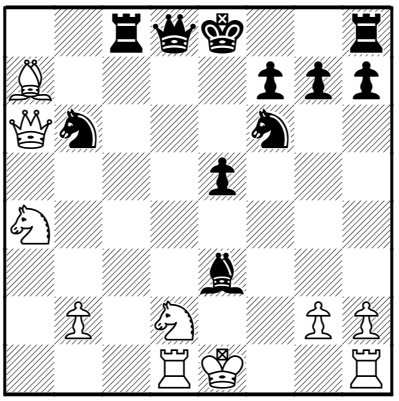
18...Bxa6 19.Qxa6 Nxb6

Also possible is 19...Bxb6 20.Bxb6 Nxb6 21.Qb5+ Nbd7∓.

20.Na4!

With so many pieces hanging, the game is thrown into a loop. Black should be winning, but he has to be careful.

20...Be3 21.Rd1



21...Nbd5

The most natural move, but now White can get back into the game.

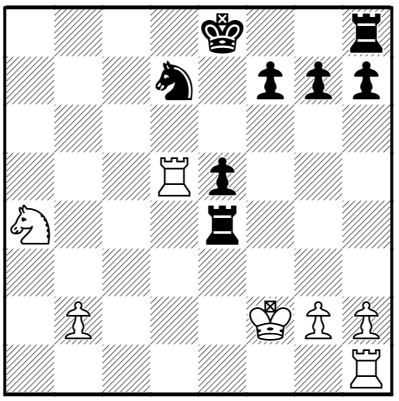
Best is 21...Qd7!! The idea is to prepare Bxd2+ followed by Rc1 Ke2 Qg4+! which is seen in the line: 22.Bxb6 *(better is 22.Nc4)* 22...Bxd2+ 23.Rxd2 Rc1+ 24.Ke2 Qg4+–+.

But good for White is 21...Bxd2+ 22.Rxd2 Rc1+? 23.Ke2.

22.Nc4! Rxc4 23.Bxe3! Re4 24.Qc6+ Qd7 25.Qxd7+ Nxd7

However shocking it might seem, taking with the King—and walking into the fork!—was the best winning chance: 25...Kxd7! 26.Nc5+ Ke7 27.Nxe4 Nxe3 28.Nxf6 *(not 28.Rd2 Nxe4 29.Re2 Ra8–+)* 28...Nxd1 29.Ng4 Nxb2 30.Nxe5∓. This is a very close call. White should probably still draw, but it's going to be a long struggle.

26.Rxd5 Rxe3+ 27.Kf2 Re4

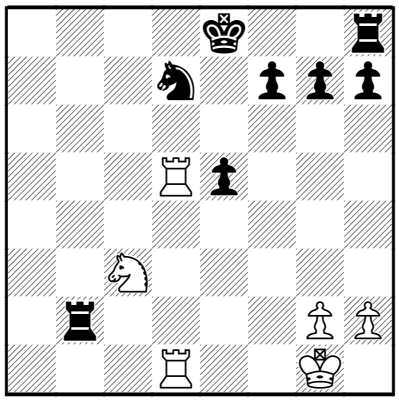


Here I faced a difficult decision between a two-pawn-down (but holdable) Rook and pawn ending, or a crazily imbalanced position, also two pawns down, but with a heavy attack.

28.Nc3!

The ending after 28.Rhd1 Rxa4 29.Rxd7 O–O 30.Re7 Rb4 31.Rxe5 Rfb8 32.Rd2 Rxb2 33.Rxb2 Rxb2+ 34.Kg3 should be a draw, because the pawns are on the same side. I guessed I should have a 70-80% chance of a draw, but wanted a more unbalanced continuation.

28...Rb4 29.Rhd1 Rxb2+ 30.Kg1



Ultimately, Black's King will not castle, and White's Rooks, along with the Knight, will pester it the rest of the game. Being an ending, is this enough to compensate for the two pawns?

Shockingly, the answer is probably yes, at least in a practical game. The reasoning is simple: Black's Rook on h8 will never get out, and for a while White will play as if with an extra Rook. What a drastic shift from earlier in the game, when it was *White* who was up two pawns for compensation!

30...Nf8

30...Rb7 31.Ne4 Rc7 32.Nd6+ Ke7 33.Nf5+ Ke8 should end in a draw 34.Nd6+ Ke7 *(34...Kf8 35.Nf5)* 35.Nf5+ etc.

31.Rd8+

After 31.Rxe5+ Ne6 followed by castling, Black would have good winning chances because Knights are on the board. It's important to resist the urge to win pawns; it's vital to keep the initiative.

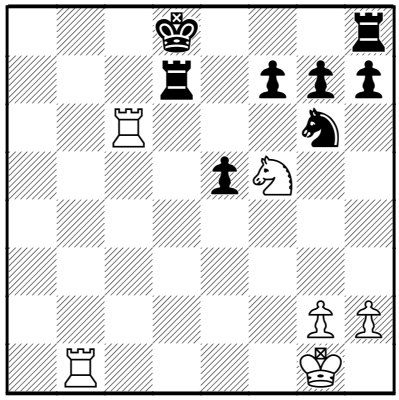
31...Ke7 32.Rc8 Rb7

32...f6 33.Rc7+ Ke6 34.Ne4 is also very dangerous.

33.Nd5+ Kd7 34.Nb6+ Ke6 35.Nc4 Ng6 36.Rc6+ Ke7 37.Nd6 Rd7

37...Rhb8 38.Nxb7 Rxb7 was Black's best winning chance. Even though White should draw relatively easy, Black can try to press. Instead, after the game continuation, Black is the one who has to be careful for a draw.

38.Nf5+ Kd8 39.Rb1!



The moment of truth: with the time control approaching, Black is faced with the threat of mate, and must move his Rook. He must choose whether to cede control of the d-file or the 7th rank. Unfortunately, he made the wrong decision.

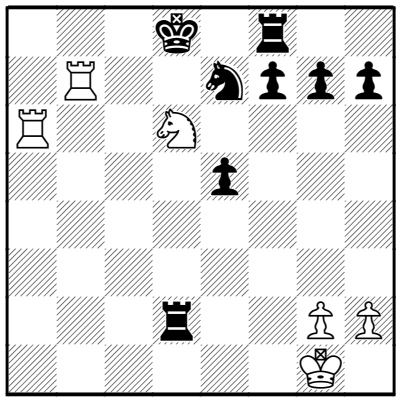
39...Rd2?

After 39...Ra7 40.Rd1+ Rd7 41.Rb1 White has nothing better than a draw.

40.Rb7!

White's threat is simple: Nd6 followed by a back rank assault. Black has no defense.

40...Rf8 41.Nd6 Ne7 42.Ra6 1–0



Black is faced with the loss of the exchange and much more. For example, the game might have continued with 42...Nc8 43.Nxf7+ Rxf7 44.Rxf7 Rd7 45.Rf8+ Kc7 46.Ra5 Nd6 47.Rxe5+–.

Definitely one of the most interesting games I've ever played, with about as many twists and turns as a game can have. ♜

Five Tie for First in 36th Southern California Open

San Diego, August 31 - September 2, 2014

GMs Timur Gareev, Enrico Sevillano, and Melikset Khachiyan, and IM Dionisio Aldama, and Michael William Brown tied for first in the 36th Southern California Open, all scoring 4½-1½. They can all be seen on this issue's front cover! Congratulations to Michael Brown; it's the second issue in a row for him. Organizer Chuck Ensey reports, after which we present five games from the tournament with notes by the Editor. - Ed.

The San Diego Chess Club hosted the Southern California Open for the fourth year in a row, and the second in a row at The Town and Country Hotel in San Diego's Mission Valley, with 166 players enjoying the large, isolated ballroom and better location within the sprawling resort property. Rounds started on time and playing conditions were great with no competing events, like the typical loud wedding receptions or reunion parties, which are the bane of many chess events. The attendance was up in the top two sections compared to last year, with 75 players versus 63 in a combined Master and Expert section in 2013. This year there were 35 players in the Open Section and 40 in the Expert Section. The Open section had 29 players rated over 2200, including three GMs who all tied for first, three IMs and four FMs.

There was a five-way tie for first between GMs Timur Gareev, Melikset Khachiyan and Enrico Sevillano, plus IM Dionisio Aldama and rising young star Michael Brown, who graced the most recent cover of Rank and File. Each scored 4½-1½ and earned $1,340 for their three days of chess.

The time control for the event was 40/2, SD/1, d5. This long, classic time control is becoming obsolete with the use of the 30-second increment these days, so this is the final year for it at the SCO.

jw

Aaron Chang: first in the Expert section.

But the large $20,000 guaranteed prize fund will remain the same for the foreseeable future, as the SDCC is already planning next year's event at the same location.

Also scoring a nice monetary prize of $800 each were best under 2300 co-winners Albert Lu and Ilia Serpik. 5th and 6th place prizes in the Open section were split among IM Keaton Kiewra, FM Alexandre Kretchetov and another rising young star Craig Hilby for $300 each.

Finishing just out of the money, but with a plus score in this very strong field of masters were FM Harutyun Akopyan, Nicky Korba, Varun Krishnan, William Aramil and Brian Hu.

Gareev won the Best Game Prize for his win over Michael Brown. Kevin Davidson won the second prize for an interesting win over Daniel Mousseri.

The Expert section featured a clear $1,000 first place winner in Aaron Chang who scored 5-1. He drew only with Randy Hough in round 2 and top seed Frederick Krewson in round 5. Three players managed to score 4½-1½ to win $400 each: Leo Creger, Rick Sun and Shyam Ghandi. Peter Hodges won the Non-Open Best Game Prize for his win over Gurveer Singh.

In the U2000 (Class A) section, there was a three-way tie for the top prize, with Michael Lum, Dmitry Cherkasky and Ke Chen all winning $666 each.

James Bui scored 5½-½ to win the Class B section (U1800) and take home $1,000. Misha Tenenbaum and Eric Lu won $500 each for a 2nd-3rd place tie. Four players split fourth place $50 each: Ryan Schmitt, Jerry Kavanau, David Munoz and Rachel Hong.

Class C (U1600) also had a very happy Arthur Taylor, a long time denizen of the So Cal chess scene, winner of $1,000. Jean Figueroa was second, taking home $600, and four others tied for 3rd-4th: Renato Dikit, Eric Pangilanan, Alonzo Sanchez and Matthew Mullen.

Finally in the U1400 section, Ramon Rodriguez won $600 for first, Kate Arustamian from the state of Washington won $400 for second, while youngsters Evan Vallens and Nishanth Krishnan split 3rd-4th prize for $150 each. Roger Pedersen of the SDCC was surprised to win $300 for best under 1200, while Daniel Xu and Kai Chen were second best under 1200. Alexander Midas was Best Unrated.

The event was directed by Jeff Turner and Chuck Ensey with assistance from Bruce Baker and Bruce Charnov.

Our next big event will be over Martin Luther King, Jr. Day weekend in January—please see our advertisement on the inside back cover of this magazine!

-Chuck Ensey

All photos this page: James Woodward

Top to bottom: Class A section winners Michael Lum, Dmitry Cherkasky and Ke Chen.

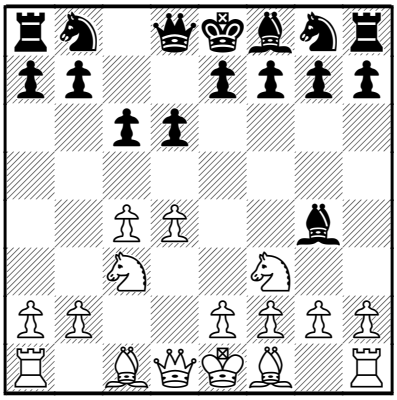
Top to bottom: Class B, C, and D winners James Bui, Arthur Taylor, and Ramon Rodriguez, respectively.

First prize for best game:
Michael William Brown (2419) – Timur Gareev (2702)
[A41] Wade Defense
Southern California Open (2)
San Diego, August 30, 2014

1.d4 d6 2.Nf3 Bg4

The Wade Defense, according to Wikipedia, named after Robert Wade, who played it for 30 years.

3.c4 c6 4.Nc3



4...Nd7

More of a main line is 4...Nf6 5.e4 Nbd7 6.Be2 e5.

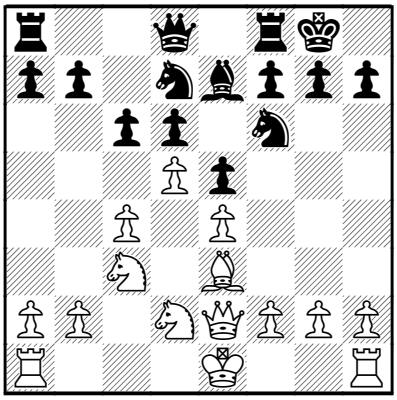
5.e4

This position has been contested about ten times between players rated over 2500 FIDE.

5...e5 6.Be2 Be7 7.d5

White goes for space. Also equal is 7.Be3 Ngf6 8.h3.

7...Ngf6 8.Be3 O–O 9.Nd2 Bxe2 10.Qxe2



White has to be pleased with this trade, getting rid of his light-square Bishop, given that the blocked center pawns are on light squares.

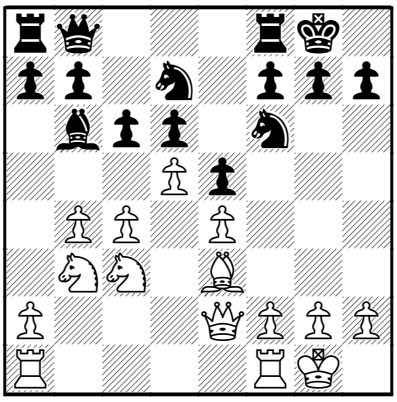
Black's Bishop, in contrast, looks bad. What's the best square on the

board for Black's Bishop? Remember Silman's *Reassess Your Chess*! It looks like b6 or a5 would be great squares for this piece.

10...Qb8 11.O–O Bd8

Black is ready to get the Bishop to b6 or a5, but White takes away a5.

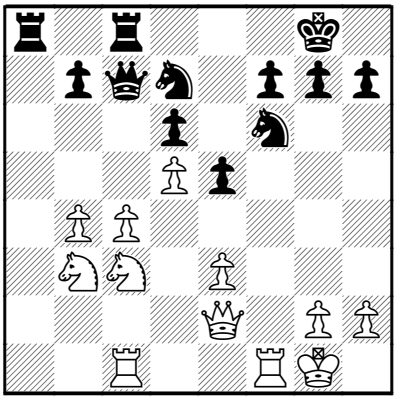
12.b4 Bb6 13.Nb3



13...cxd5 14.exd5

If we view Black's position as cramped, we would avoid 14.Nxd5 Nxd5 15.cxd5. But from the later course of the game, Black's Knights do find a lot of activity.

14...Rc8 15.Rac1 a5 16.a3 axb4 17.axb4 Bxe3 18.fxe3 Qc7



It looks like Black has the initiative, but White still has the answers.

19.Na5 Qb6 20.Rb1 h6 21.Kh1

Seemingly a waiting move, but the King goes to a hot square. Still, it can just go back later.

21...e4 22.Rfd1

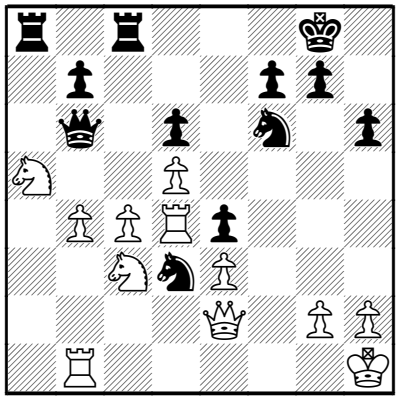
Houdini suggests 22.Kg1 Ne5 23.Rfd1=.

22...Ne5 23.Rd4?!

Black gets the chance to use f2 as a possible checking square.

Instead, 23.Kg1 transposes to the position that Houdini rates as equal. So White still had decent replies to maintain his position.

23...Nd3



Now Black is slightly better.

24.Nxe4?!

Black gets a big advantage after this move.

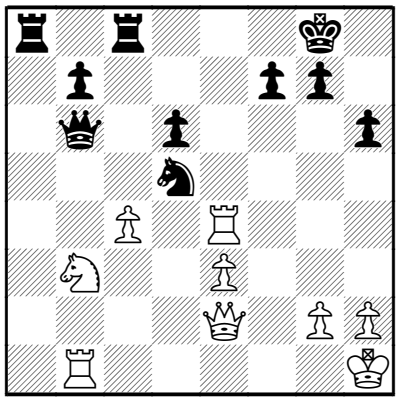
White gets away with 24.h3 Nxb4 *(better is 24...Re8 25.Nb3 Ra3 26.Qc2∓)* because of 25.Qb2! Qxa5 26.Qxb4=.

24...Nxe4∓ 25.Rxe4

Not 25.Rxd3 Rxa5.

Also, if 25.Qxd3 then 25...Nf2+ is the big fork, winning the Queen. White's King is on an unlucky square.

25...Nxb4 26.Nb3 Nxd5!

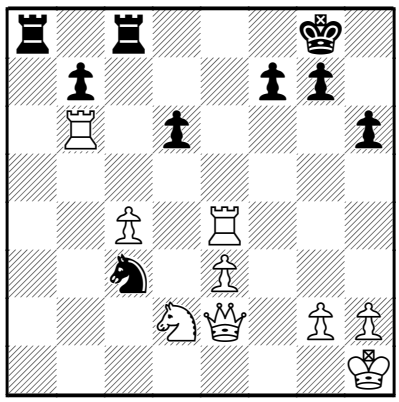


27.Nd2

The bank rank problem is illustrated after Gareev's line 27.cxd5 Qxb3! 28.Rf1 *(better than 28.Rd1 Rc2 29.Rb4 Qc3 30.Qe1 Qe5; and not 28.Rxb3 Rc1+ with a mate - Ed.)* 28...Qxd5.

The best of a difficult situation is 27.Qd3 Nf6 28.Rd4 Rc6 29.Nd2∓. White is a pawn down with a bad structure, but both Rooks are active on open files.

27...Nc3 28.Rxb6



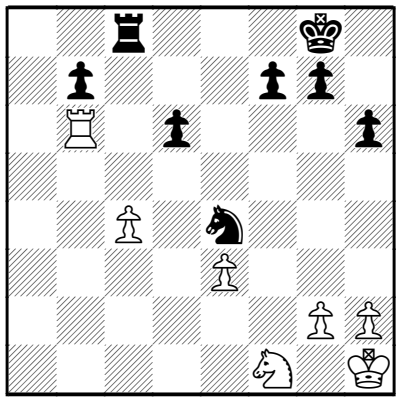
28...Ra1+

Winning fairly quickly was Gareev's 28...Nxe2 29.g4 d5, for if 30.cxd5 then 30...Rc2–+ *(and if now 31.Nf3 then 31...Ra1+ 32.Kg2 Nc3+ picking up a Rook - Ed.)*.

29.Qf1!

Gareev: Best. If 29.Rb1 Rxb1+ 30.Nxb1 *(not 30.Qf1 Rxf1+ 31.Nxf1 Nxe4 with a Rook up)* 30...Nxe2.

29...Rxf1+ 30.Nxf1 Nxe4

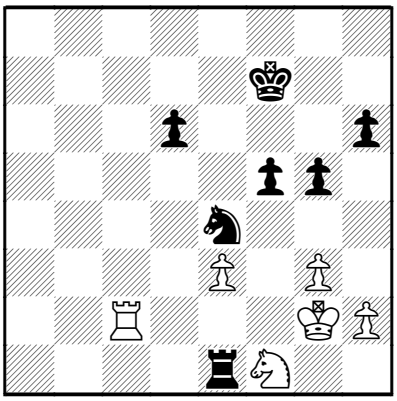


Black has a distinct, long lasting advantage.

31.Rxb7 Rxc4 32.Rb2

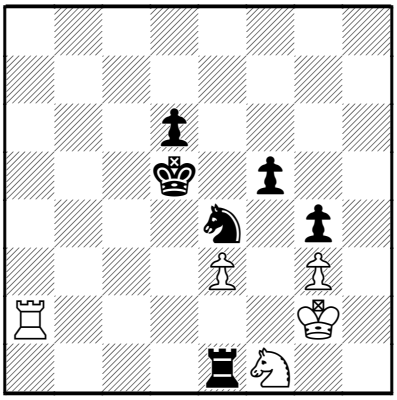
Another way is to hold the first rank with 32.Rb1 f5 with the idea of sacrificing material to break out of the bind, for example 33.h3 h5 34.Kh2 Rc3 35.Ng3, taking a chance on the Rook and pawn ending with 35...Nxg3 36.Kxg3 Rxe3+ 37.Kf4 Re2 38.g3 Rf2+. Although White is two pawns down, at least his pieces are active.

32...Rc1 33.Kg1 f5 34.g3 Kf7 35.Kg2 Re1 36.Rc2 g5



Forward!

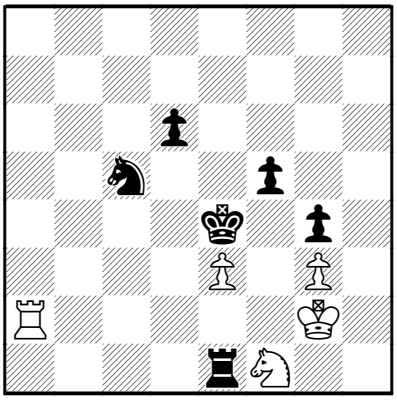
37.h3 h5 38.Ra2 Ke6 39.Rb2 g4 40.hxg4 hxg4 41.Rc2 Kd5 42.Ra2



42...Nc5

The direct and correct winning plan is to go forward with the King right away, avoiding Knight checks. **Gareev**: 42...Kc6 43.Rc2+ Kb5 44.Rb2+ Kc5 45.Rc2+ Kb4 46.Rb2+ Kc3 47.Rb5 Re2+ 48.Kg1 Ng5–+.

43.Rd2+ Ke5 44.Ra2 Ke4

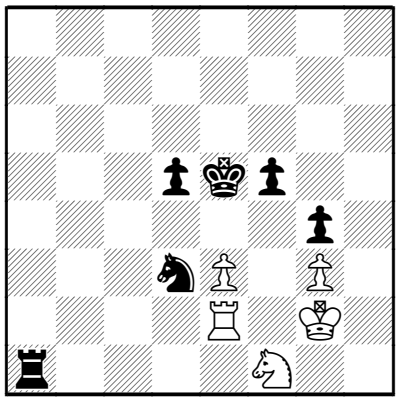


45.Rc2

After 45.Kf2 Rc1 46.Kg2 Black makes progress with 46...d5.

If 45.Rd2 then 45...d5.

45...Ra1 46.Rc4+ Ke5 47.Rc2 Nd3 48.Re2 d5

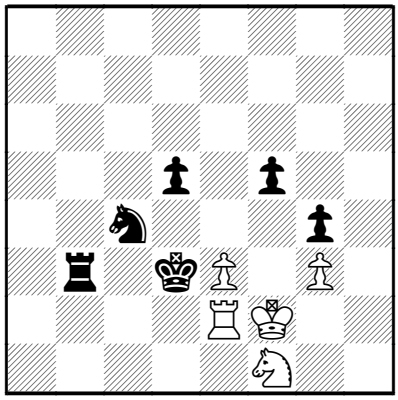


Inching forward.

49.Nd2 Nc5 50.Nf1 Ne4 51.Rb2 Ra3 52.Rc2 Nd6 53.Kf2 Nc4

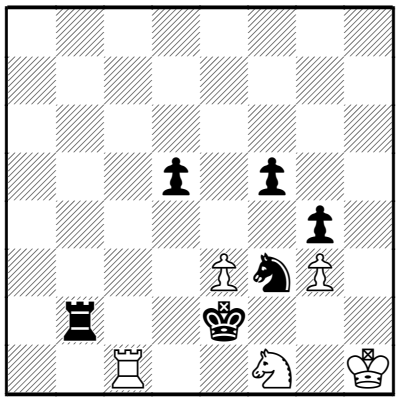
This is the better square for Black's Knight.

54.Re2 Ke4 55.Re1 Ra2+ 56.Re2 Ra3 57.Re1 Rb3 58.Re2 Kd3



Another improvement. White can't eject the Black King, and the game ends quickly.

59.Re1 Rb2+ 60.Kg1 Ne5 61.Kh1 Nf3 62.Rc1 Ke2



The King invades decisively.

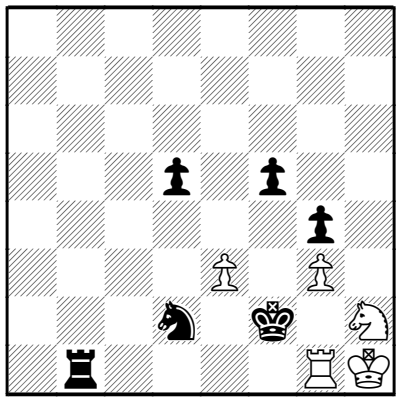
63.Ra1 Kf2 64.Nh2

If 64.Rd1 then Black can go down the h-file with 64...Rb8 65.Nh2 Rh8 66.Rf1+ Ke2 67.Rxf3 gxf3.

64...Nd2

Even faster than 64...Nxh2 65.Kxh2 Kxe3+ 66.Kg1 d4–+.

65.Rg1 Rb1 0–1

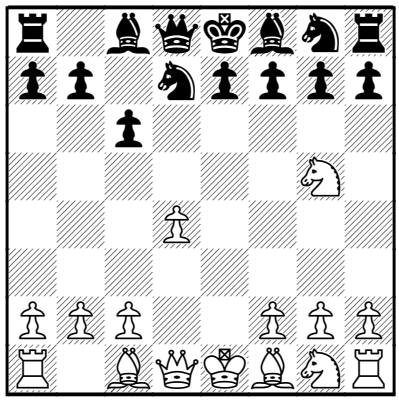


After 66.Rxb1 Nxb1, Black wins the Knight and everything else.

Next is a short game—I hate it when it happens to me! - Ed.

Bruce Baker (2323) –
Alaa-Addin Moussa (2204)
[B17] Caro-Kann Defense
Southern California Open (2)
San Diego, August 30, 2014

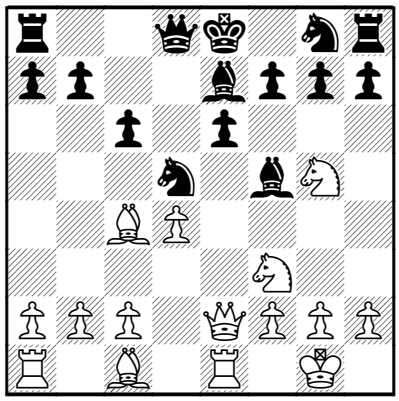
1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nd7 5.Ng5



5...Ndf6

Usual is 5...Ngf6 and now two main lines are: 6.Bc4 e6 7.Qe2 Nb6 8.Bb3 *(or 8.Bd3 h6 9.N5f3 c5)* 8...h6 9.N5f3, and 6.Bd3 6...e6 7.N1f3 Bd6 8.Qe2 h6 9.Ne4 Nxe4 10.Qxe4.

6.Bc4 Nd5 7.N1f3 Bf5 8.Qe2 e6 9.O–O Be7 10.Re1

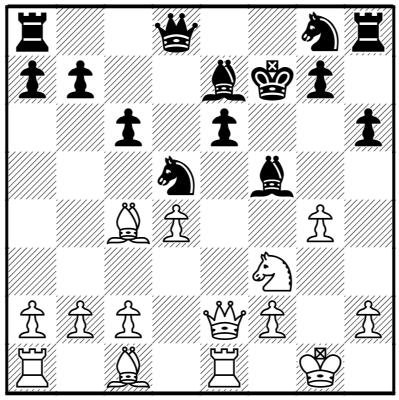


10...h6

The losing move!

Better is 10...Bg6 11.Bd3 Bxd3 12.Qxd3 Bxg5 13.Bxg5 Qc7±.

11.Nxf7 Kxf7 12.g4!



This move must have been a big surprise to Black!

12...Bh7

After 12...Bxg4 13.Ne5+ Kf8 14.Qxg4, White has deadly threats all over the board.

13.Qxe6+ Kf8

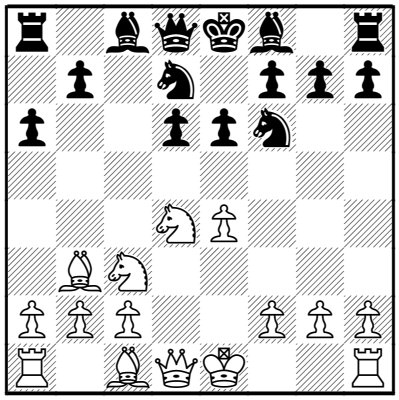
The end takes longer after 13...Ke8 14.Ne5 Qa5 *(or 14...Qc7 15.Qf7+ Kd8 16.Qxg7 picking up the Rook on h8)* 15.Bf4 Nxf4 *(or 15...Ngf6 16.Qf7+ Kd8 17.Bxd5! Nxd5 18.Qe6 Ke8 19.Nc4+–)* 16.Qf7+ Kd8 17.Qxf4 Qc7 18.Nf7+, and White picks up the Rook on h8.

14.Ne5 1–0

If 14...Qe8 to stop the mate, then 15.Nd7+ wins the Queen.

Second prize best game:
Kevin Davidson (2310) –
Daniel Mousseri (2285)
[B86] Najdorf Sicilian
Southern California Open (4)
San Diego, August 31, 2014

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bc4 e6 7.Bb3 Nbd7



At this point, there are about 100 games between players rated above 2500 in the database. Still more usual is 7...b5 8.O–O Be7 9.Qf3 Qc7 10.Qg3.

8.g4

More usual is the complication fest after 8.f4 Nc5. For example, the 1993 Short–Kasparov World Championship match saw:

Game 6: 9.f5 Be7 10.Qf3 O–O 11.Be3 e5 12.Nde2 b5 13.Bd5 Rb8 14.b4 Ncd7 15.O–O.

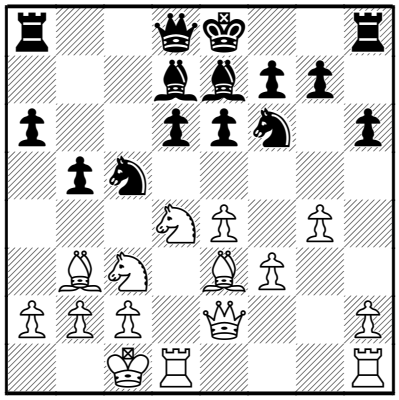
Game 8: 9.e5 dxe5 10.fxe5 Nfd7 11.Bf4 b5 12.Qg4 h5 13.Qg3 h4 14.Qg4 g5.

Game 10: 9.Qf3 b5 10.f5 Bd7 11.fxe6 fxe6 12.Bg5.

8...Nc5 9.Qe2 h6

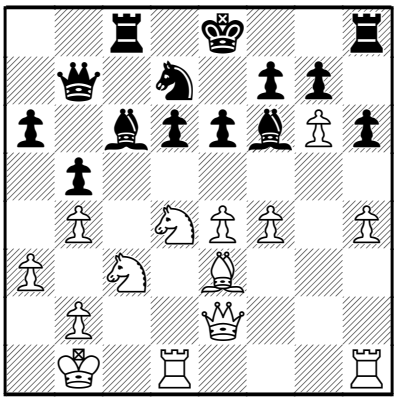
Most often seen has been 9...b5 10.g5 Nfd7.

10.f3 Be7 11.Be3 Bd7 12.O–O–O b5



Attacking the King without delay!

13.a3 Nxb3+ 14.cxb3 Rc8 15.Kb1 Qa5 16.b4 Qc7 17.h4 Bc6 18.g5 Nd7 19.g6!± Bf6 20.f4 Qb7



21.Bc1=

Better was 21.gxf7+ Kxf7 22.Qg2 followed by h4-h5 or f4-f5.

21...fxg6 22.Rhg1

Not 22.Nxe6? Bxc3 23.bxc3 Bxe4+ 24.Ka1 Kf7 25.Rhe1 d5–+.

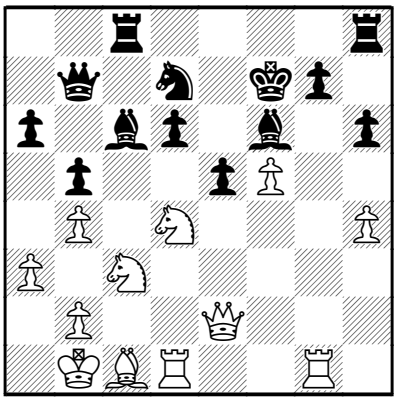
22...Kf7 23.f5

Worth a try is 23.h5!? Rhe8 24.Rxg6±.

23...gxf5

Still equal was 23...exf5 24.exf5 Rhe8.

24.exf5± e5



25.Qh5+

A little better is Houdini's 25.Nxc6 and now:

25...Rxc6?? loses surprisingly quickly to 26.Qg2!! Rhc8 *(or 26...Rc7 27.Ne4 Ke7 28.Rxd6+–)* 27.Bxh6.

25...Qxc6 26.Nd5 *(intending 27.Qh5+Kf8 28.Qg6)* 26...Ke8 27.Qh5+ Kd8 28.Qg6±, and the Knight keeps the King from running further.

25...Ke7 26.Nxc6+ Rxc6 27.Nd5+ Kf8

Now White can break in.

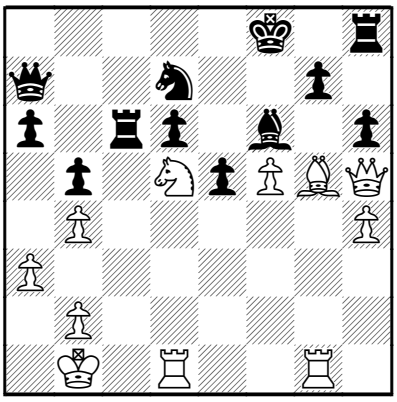
Instead, running to the Queenside will escape for a while. After 27...Kd8 White continues the assault on f5 with 28.Rg6 and Black has two weird

computer lines to survive with a slight disadvantage:

28...Rc4 29.Bg5 Rd4 30.Nxf6 gxf6 31.Bxf6+ Nxf6 32.Rxf6 Qd5 33.Rc1±.

And: 28...Nf8 29.Nxf6 Nxg6 30.Qxg6 d5 31.Rxd5+ Kc8 32.Rc5 Rxc5 33.bxc5 gxf6 34.Qxf6 Rh7±.

28.Bg5 Qa7

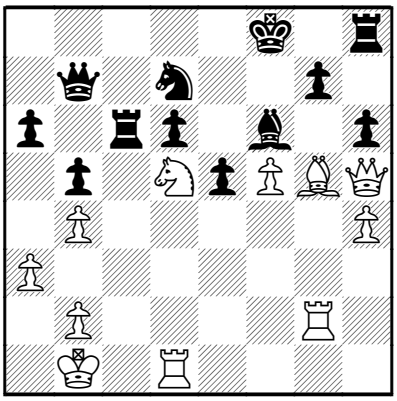


29.Rg2

The quickest way is to continue the attack on f6 with 29.Qg6 hxg5 30.hxg5 Bd8 31.f6.

Another way to go after f6 is 29.Bxf6 Nxf6 30.Nxf6 gxf6 31.Rg6.

29...Qb7



30.Rg3

Time pressure, but White is still winning.

After 30.Rdg1! the Black position quickly caves in when f6 falls. For example: 30...Rc4 31.Bxf6 Nxf6 32.Nxf6 Qf7 33.Nd7+ Qxd7 34.Rxg7 Qxg7 35.Rxg7 Kxg7 36.Qg6+ Kf8 37.Qxd6+ Kg8 *(or 37...Ke8 38.Qxe5+)* 38.Qd8+ Kh7 39.Qe7+ Kg8 40.f6.

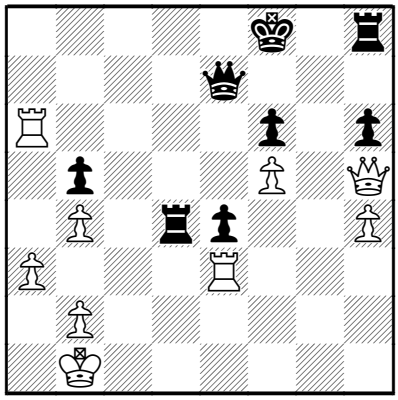
30...e4 31.Re3

31.Nf4 exploits Black's last move: 31...Rh7 *(or 31...Rg8 32.Bxh6)* 32.Ne6+ Ke7 33.Qg6+–.

31...Rc4 32.Nxf6 Nxf6 33.Bxf6 gxf6 34.Rxd6

White has broken through. f6 must fall.

34...Qe7 35.Rxa6 Rd4



36.Ra8+

Time pressure again.

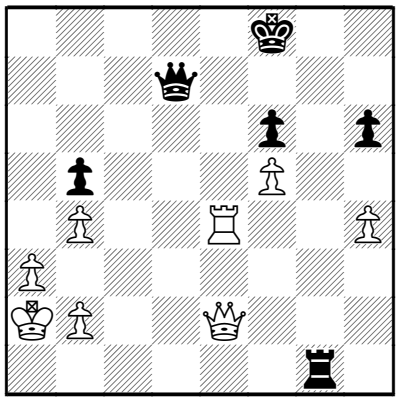
Continuing the attack on f6 with 36.Qg6 quickly wins big material:

36...Qg7 37.Ra8+.

36...Rd6 37.Rc3!.

36...Rd1+ 37.Kc2 Rd6 38.Rc3!.

36...Rd8 37.Rxd8+ Qxd8 38.Qe2 Rg8 39.Rxe4 Rg1+ 40.Ka2 Qd7

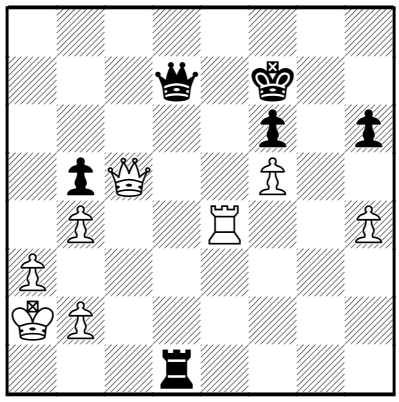


End of time pressure. Black has been lucky to get this far, but his last few moves were very accurate. White hasn't made the most of the position, but still demonstrates the win.

41.Qc2 Rd1

Black can reduce White's King safety with 41...Qd5+ 42.b3 Kg7 *(After 42...Kg8 43.a4 bxa4 44.Qc4 the Queen trade is decisive.)* Still, White continues 43.Qc7+ Kh8 44.Re8+ Rg8 45.Rxg8+ Kxg8, and with Rooks gone advancing the pawn with 46.a4 is decisive, for if 46...Qxf5 *(or 46...Qd2+ 47.Ka3)* then 47.Qc5.

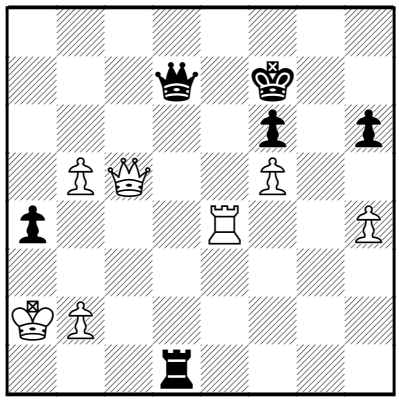
42.Qc5+ Kf7



White has prevented damaging Queen checks to his King. Still, Black is able to defend f6, and White's King is not safe enough to use his major pieces to go after h6.

What's next?

43.a4! bxa4 44.b5

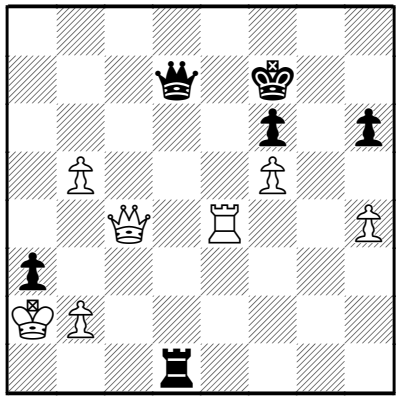


White advances the dangerous pawn and covers the a-file, too.

44...a3

The Queen trade 44...Qd5+ loses to 45.Qxd5+ Rxd5 46.Rb4, and White advances both pawn and King right up the board to victory.

45.Qc4+



TD Corner

As a Tournament Director, I see all kinds of odd things happen in every tournament. The all too common story is: "He stuck out his hand and mumbled something, so I thought he was resigning, since my position was overwhelming." But it turns out the player was offering a draw. Always know exactly what you are agreeing to before you shake hands. "Are you resigning?" is the right question to ask at this point.

Recently at the Southern California Open a much rarer situation occurred. You might say that both players won the game. These things usually happen in the lowest section where players are less experienced. Very young player A checkmated player B. The game is over.

However, on doing post-game analysis, player B discovered that player A had made an illegal move, but no one had noticed.

So he goes back to player A, complains and tells him, "We need to go back to the point of the illegal move and play it out from there." Of course this is wrong—checkmate ends the game—an illegal move has no bearing since neither player noticed before the game ended.

However player A, being very young and inexperienced, agrees to player B's proposal and they reconstruct the position where the illegal move was made and continue the game from there. Neither player thinks to ask for the TD for advice on the matter. So the game does continue and now player B wins and marks it up on the pairing sheet as a win.

Later, player A and his father come to me and ask me, was this situation really handled right?

At first I am inclined to award the win to player A, but on the other hand, player A failed to ask for the TD for a ruling and then agreed to play on, apparently voiding the earlier checkmate.

So both players seem to have a legitimate claim for a won game! Fortunately, as I was pondering these strange ramifications, player B came up as I was discussing the problem with player A's father. I suggested that maybe a draw was the best way out of the dilemma, and both players smiled and agreed that would be fair.

Sometimes splitting the baby in half is the best solution.

- Chuck Ensey

Away from the TD corner, looking out at the tournament hall action. jw

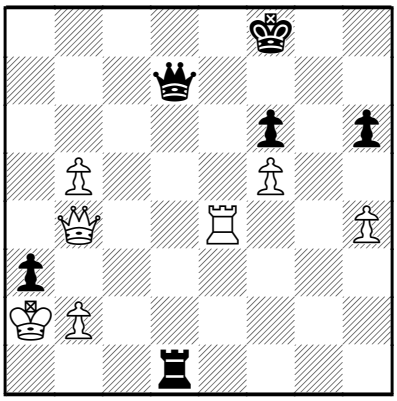
45...Kf8

The only move.

After 45...Qd5 46.b6 axb2 47.Kxb2 Rd2+ 48.Kb3+–, the King can advance decisively because of the guaranteed Queen exchange.

45...Kg7 loses quickly to 46.Rg4+ Kf8 47.Qg8++–.

46.Qb4+



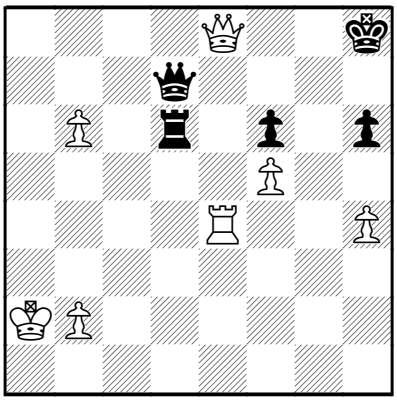
46...Kf7

After 46...Kg8 47.Qb3+ Kh7 48.Qe6, avoiding the Queen trade with 48...Qg7 is answered with 49.bxa3. White will advance on the Queenside or trade pieces, or both.

47.Qb3+ Kf8 48.Qxa3+ Kg8 49.Qb3+ Kh8 50.b6 Rd3 51.Qe6!

The most accurate.

51...Rd6 52.Qe8+ 1–0

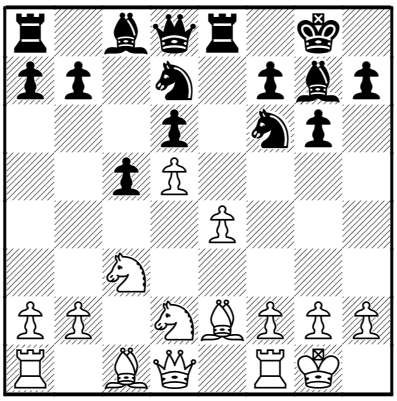


After 52...Qxe8 53.Rxe8+ Kh7 54.b7, White Queens the b-pawn.

White played accurately after the first time control, preventing any useful activity by Black.

Next: motivated by the rating difference, the Swiss system, and perhaps revenge for a recent loss, Black takes great risks to try to win!

Albert Lu (2298) –
John Daniel Bryant (2470)
[A77] Benoni Defense
Southern California Open (5)
San Diego, September 1, 2014
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.Nc3 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.Nf3 g6 7.Nd2 Bg7 8.e4 O–O 9.Be2 Nbd7 10.O–O Re8



This position has been contested about 70 times between players with ratings above 2500.

11.Qc2 Ne5 12.h3 g5

Keeping e5 as an outpost.

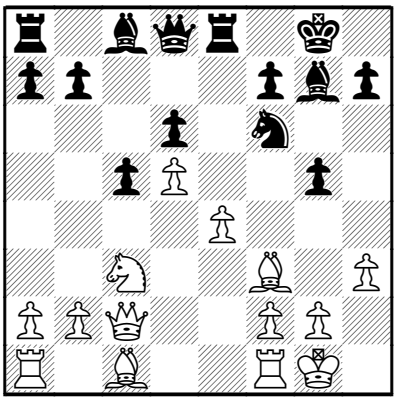
13.Nf3

Two other ways to play this position have been seen in games between strong players:

13.f4 gxf4 14.Rxf4 Kh8 15.Nc4 Ng6 16.Rf1 b5 17.Nxb5 Nxe4, Carlsen–Lie, Copenhagen 2004.

And 13.Re1 g4 14.hxg4 Nfxg4 15.Nf1 Qh4 16.Bxg4 Bxg4 17.Re3 Ng6 18.f3 Bd7 19.Ne2 Re5 20.Bd2 Rh5 21.Nfg3 Qh2+ 22.Kf2 Nh4 23.Rg1, Bu Xiangzhi–Kekelidze, Deizisau 2000.

13...Nxf3+ 14.Bxf3



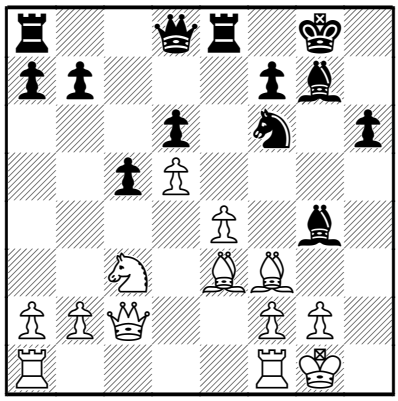
14...h6

If 14...Nd7 intending to follow up with ...Ne5, Houdini replies 15.Bh5 being ready to push f2-f4 and open the f-file. Now if 15...Ne5 White can execute the plan with 16.f4 gxf4 17.Bxf4 and attack f7.

15.Be3 g4

Maintaining equality are 15...Nd7 16.Nb5 Ne5 17.Bh5 a6 18.Nc3 g4 19.hxg4 Bxg4 20.Bxg4 Nxg4; and 15...Qe7 16.Rfe1 *(or 16.Rae1 Bd7)* 16...Nd7.

16.hxg4 Bxg4



Black completes his development.

17.Qe2 Qd7 18.Rab1

A surprising move. Calm and steady, just making a safe move.

18...Bxf3

Or 18...a6 19.Bxg4 Nxg4 20.Bf4 f5=.

19.Qxf3 Ng4

Going for the e5 outpost, but White will eventually have f2-f4 to oust a piece at the right time.

Houdini likes 19...Qg4 20.Bf4 Rad8 21.Qxg4 Nxg4 22.f3 Ne5=.

20.Bf4 Ne5 21.Qh5 Kh7 22.Ne2 Nd3

Attacking b2 and e4, winning a pawn.

A safer way to play it is 22...Ng6 23.f3 *(now if 23.Qf3 then 23...f5!∓)* 23...Nxf4 24.Nxf4 Be5.

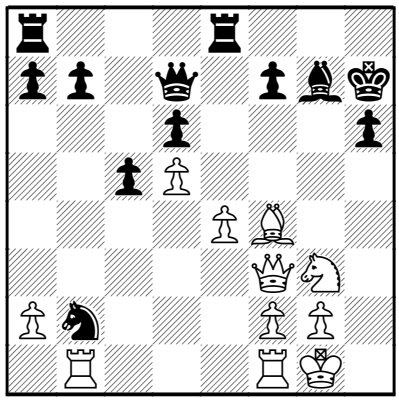
23.Qf3 Nxb2

This is apparently the losing move.

The computer likes trading, instead of gaining the pawn, with 23...Nxf4 24.Nxf4 Re5=.

24.Ng3!

White is winning. The Bishop on g7 is overworked, and White gains time because of it.

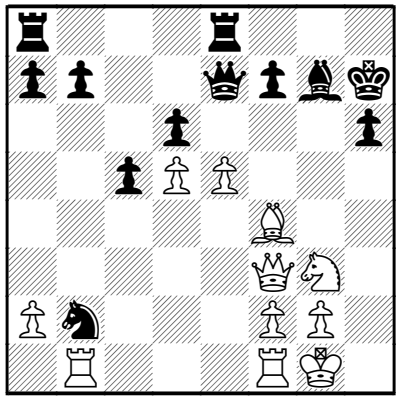


24...Qe7

Best, since re-centralizing the Knight now with 24...Nc4 meets with 25.Nf5, threatening Qh5 to go after h6. 25...Ne5 *(If Black attempts to defend the coming attack on h6 with 25...Qd8, then just 26.Rxb7 is decisive.)* and now 26.Qh5 wins h6 and breaks in to the King.

25.Nf5

The all-seeing computer finds the much stronger 25.e5!!



And now:

a) 25...dxe5 26.Qe4+ Kh8 27.Bc1! wins the Knight.

b) 25...Nc4 26.Qe4+ Kh8 27.Qxc4 dxe5 28.Bc1+–.

c) 25...Bxe5 26.Bxe5 *(not 26.Qe4+ Kg8 27.Bxe5 Qxe5 28.Qxe5 Rxe5 29.Rxb2 b6 30.Rd2±)* 26...Qxe5 *(or 26...dxe5 27.Rxb2 and White's pieces are too strong and Black's King position too weak.)* 27.Qxf7+ Qg7 *(or 27...Kh8 28.Rfe1+–)* 28.Qxg7+ Kxg7 29.Rxb2 b6 30.Nf5+ Kf8 31.Nxd6. White is up a piece, and pawns are even.

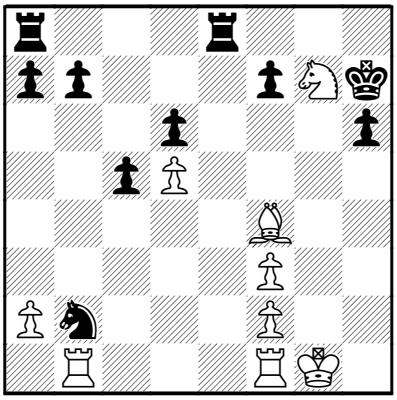
Another shot is 25.Bxh6, for if 25...Kxh6 then 26.Qh5 mate!

25...Qxe4±

Best.

Not 25...Qf6 26.Nxd6 Re7 27.e5+–, for example 27...Rxe5 28.Rxb2 Qxd6 29.Bxe5 Qxe5 30.Rxb7.

26.Nxg7 Qxf3 27.gxf3



Black has only two pawns for the piece, usually not enough, even though White's f-pawns are doubled here.

27...Re2

A little better might be 27...Kxg7 28.Rxb2 b6 29.a4±.

or 27...Rg8 28.Rxb2 Rxg7+ 29.Kh2 b6 30.Re1 Rg6±.

28.Nf5 Rg8+

Better than either 28...Nd3 29.Bg3 b6 30.Nxd6+– with two pawns for the piece, or 28...b6 29.Nxd6 Nd3 30.Bg3 Rd8 31.a4+–.

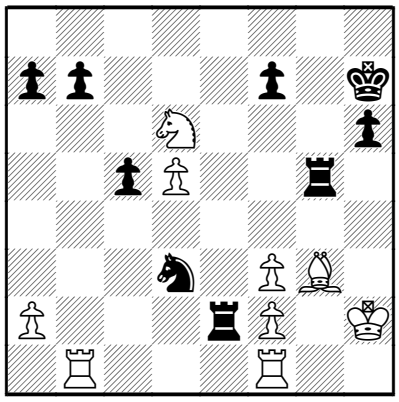
29.Kh2 Nd3 30.Bg3

The computer finds 30.Rxb7! for if Black takes the piece with 30...Nxf4 *(there is also the crazy computer line 30...Nxf2 31.Rxf7+ Kg6 32.Nxh6 Ng4+ 33.Kh3 Nxh6 34.Rd7!)* then 31.Rxf7+ Kh8 *(or 31...Kg6 32.Nxd6+–)* 32.Ng3 gains a decisive material advantage plus position.

30...Rg5

30...b6 31.Nxd6 Rd8 32.Ne4+– gives no better chances.

31.Nxd6



White plays well enough so that Black is not presented with opportunities to get back into the game. He maintains a stable position while being able to go after Black's pawns as circumstances permit, and makes great use of his extra Bishop.

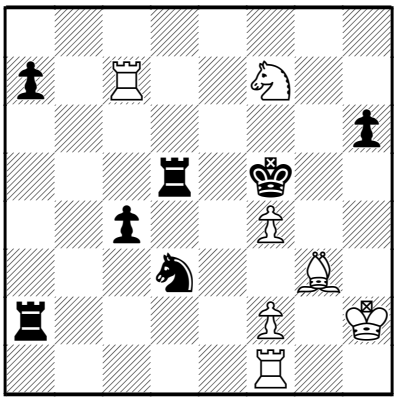
31...Rxd5 32.Rxb7

More pawns must fall.

32...Kg6

If Black tries 32...Rxa2 then White has 33.Rxf7+ Kg6 *(or 33...Kg8 34.Rd7!)* 34.Rg1 Rxd6 35.Rf8!!.

33.Nxf7 Rxa2 34.f4 c4 35.Rc7 Kf5



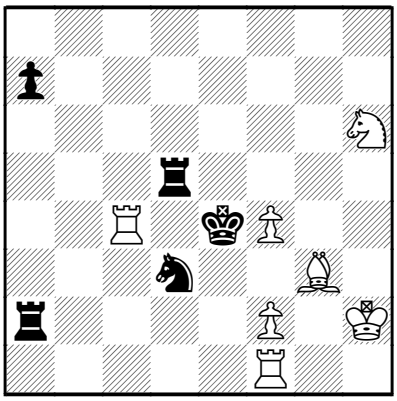
36.Nxh6+

It's a bit better to take the more dangerous pawn with 36.Rxc4.

36...Ke4

No better is saving the c-pawn with 36...Kg6 37.Ng4 Rd4 38.Ne3+–.

37.Rxc4+

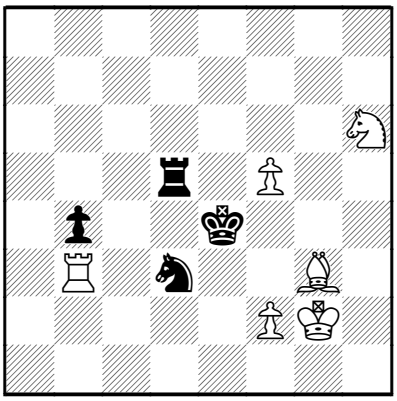


Now White is a pawn up plus a piece.

37...Kf3 38.f5 Ra6 39.Rh4 Rb6

jw

40.Ra1 a5 41.Ra3 Rb4 42.Rxb4 axb4 43.Rb3 Ke4 44.Kg2 1–0



44...Nf4+ is answered with 45.Bxf4 Kxf4 46.Rf3+ Ke4 47.f6 Rg5+ 48.Rg3+–.

Best game in a non-Open section:
Peter Hodges (2095) –
Gurveer Singh, (2078)
[A40] English Defense
Southern California Open U2200 (2)
San Diego, August 31, 2014

1.d4 b6 2.c4

The Queen's Pawn player's choice.

Owen's Defense continues with 2.e4 Bb7 3.Bd3 e6 4.Nf3 as a main line. See IM Timothy Taylor's thorough discussion on this defense in Rank & File, September-October 2011, page 23.

2...Bb7 3.Nc3 e6

The English Defense, most often seen. But 3...Nf6 seems quite reasonable. Three replies by White are:

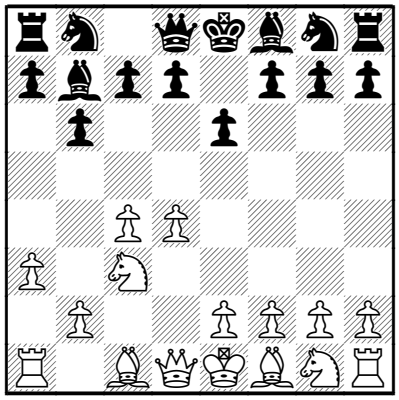
a) 4.d5 e6 5.a3 and now 5...g6, 5...Bd6, and even 5...exd5 6.cxd5 b5!? played by Speelman a couple of times.

b) 4.Qc2 d5 5.cxd5 Nxd5 6.e4 Nxc3 7.bxc3. Bronstein, Larsen, Alekhine, and others have taken the Black side.

c) 4.Nf3 allows a transposition to the Queen's Indian Defense with 4...e6.

4.e4

Here, players above 2500 nearly always play 4.a3:



4...Nf6 transposes to the Queen's Indian Defense.

More fitting with Black's attitude is 4...f5 5.d5 Nf6 6.g3 Na6 7.Bg2 Nc5 8.Nh3 Bd6 and now:

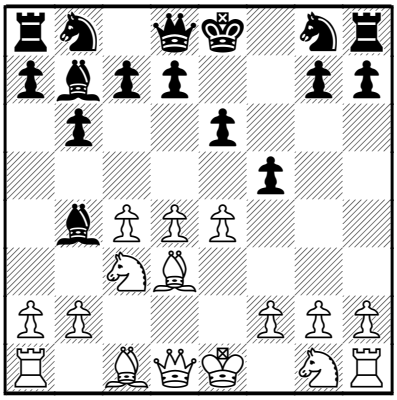
a) 9.Be3 Be5 10.Bxc5 bxc5 11.O–O exd5 12.cxd5 Rb8 13.Qd3 g6 14.e4 Bxc3 15.bxc3 fxe4 16.Bxe4 O–O 17.Bg2, Karpov–Morozevich, Cannes 2002.

b) 9.O–O Be5 10.Qc2 O–O 11.Rd1, Kasparov–Morozevich, Frankfurt 2000.

4...Bb4 5.Bd3

Most often seen is 5.f3, after which Tony Miles has played three different moves: 5...e5, 5...Qh4+, and 5...f5.

5...f5=



Allow the big center and then attack it. Black is equal.

6.f3?!

Black's unusual opening is working.

Not 6.exf5?? Bxg2–+.

Better are 6.d5, 6.Qh5+ g6 7.Qe2, and even 6.Qe2 right away.

6...fxe4

Also good is 6...Qh4+ 7.g3 Qf6, and White's best is now 8.a3!=.

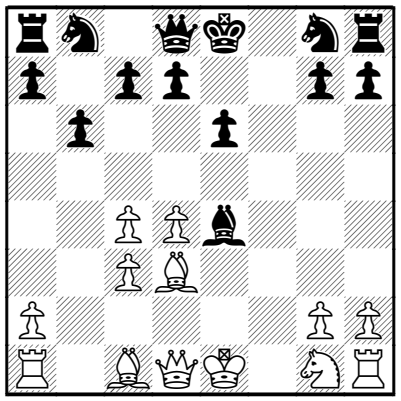
7.fxe4

Not 7.Bxe4? Bxe4 8.fxe4 Qh4+ 9.Kf1 Bxc3 10.bxc3 Qxe4∓.

7...Bxc3+

White answers 7...Qh4+ with 8.g3 and 7...Nf6 meets with 8.Bg5.

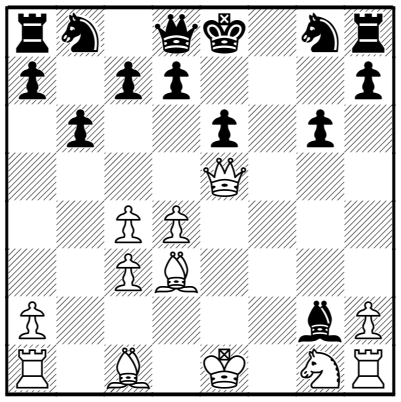
8.bxc3 Bxe4??



Winning a pawn. Black hopes for 9.Bxe4 Qh4+ 10.Kd2 Qxe4∓.

However, this is too much. The computer computes, but we can draw attention to Black's lack of development and exposed King. Still, what exactly is wrong with it?

9.Qh5+! g6 10.Qe5 Bxg2



11.Bg5?

White avoids that tempting Rook, because after 11.Qxh8 Qh4+ 12.Kd2 Kf7 Black takes on h1 for a piece up.

But the computer finds the necessary followup: 13.Bxg6+! and White has the win after 13...Ke7 *(the Bishop can't be captured: 13...hxg6 14.Qxh4 or 13...Kxg6 14.Qxg8+)* 14.Bd3 Bxh1 15.Qxg8.

11...Nc6=

Excellent.

12.Qg3!

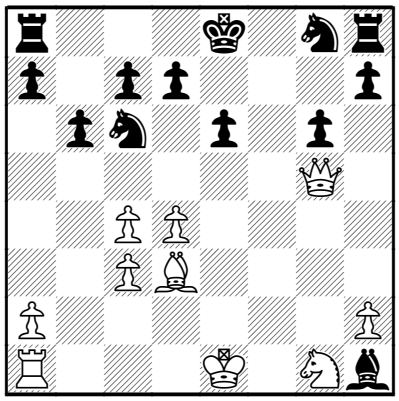
White is wise.

It may look like taking the Rook wins, but after 12.Qxh8 Qxg5 13.Qxg8+ Ke7 14.Qxa8 *(Still OK is the computer-complex 14.Qxh7+ Kd6 15.h4 Qe3+ 16.Ne2 Bxh1 17.Qxg6=)* 14...Bxh1 15.Ne2 Ne5 16.Qxh1 Nxd3+ 17.Kf1 Qf5+. Now White has to give back material with 18.Nf4∓, or get killed after 18.Kg2 Qf2+ 19.Kh3 Qe3+.

12...Qxg5

Also possible was 12...Bxh1 13.Bxd8 Nxd8, and ending with Queen vs. Rook+Knight+two pawns. But White's development trumps Black's slight material advantage in much the same way as in the position after Black's 13th move. White continues with 14.d5± or 14.Nh3±.

13.Qxg5 Bxh1



With Queen vs. Rook+Bishop+two pawns, Black is up a pawn, but his development lags and his King is still in the center. Also, his Bishop is going to lose a tempo by having to move when White clears the back rank as he develops.

White will want to prevent Black's Rooks from coordinating with each other, so he will make it difficult for Black by opening lines and disrupting the enemy King.

White must have a big advantage here, being able to coordinate his pieces and make the most of his material, while preventing Black from making the most of his.

14.d5

Also good are 14.O–O–O, 14.Nh3, and 14.Kd2, all of which advance White's development of the back rank pieces.

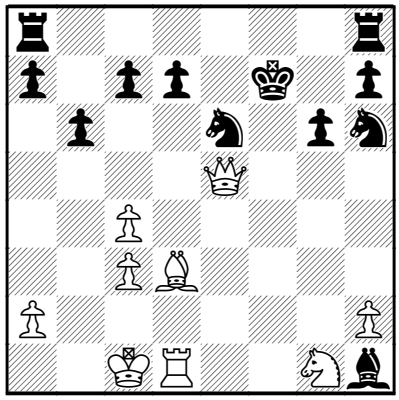
14...Nd8 15.dxe6 Nxe6 16.Qe5 Kf7

Black later gets checked on the open file with a gain of tempo. So better was 16...Ke7 17.Nh3 Rf8 18.O–O–O Bf3 19.Re1 Kd8 20.Ng5+–.

17.O–O–O

After softening up the safety of the Black King, this developing move is winning.

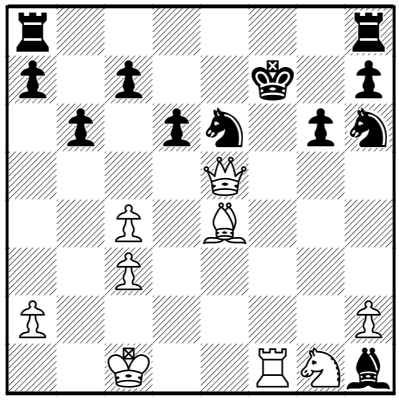
17...Nh6



18.Be4±

With a bare Black King, White's superior development, and with that unprotected pawn on d7, there are just enough hints to take a look at 18.Bxg6+!. We saw this chop earlier. White removes a pawn from the Black King's defense. After 18...Kxg6 *(not 18...hxg6 19.Rxd7+ with a forced mate)* 19.Nh3+– Black can't afford to save his Bishop.

18...d6! 19.Rf1+



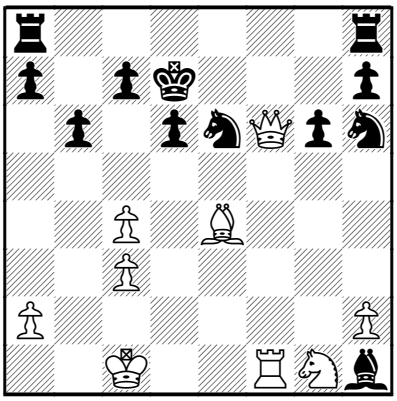
19...Ke7

Best, but still insufficient, is 19...Nf5 20.Rxf5+ gxf5 21.Qxf5+ Ke7 22.Bxh1 Raf8 23.Qh3±. White has a slight material advantage, partly offset by his doubled pawns, but Black can't coordinate his pieces, and his light square weaknesses on the Queenside are ready for exploitation by the unopposed White Bishop.

20.Qf6+

White closes the deal now.

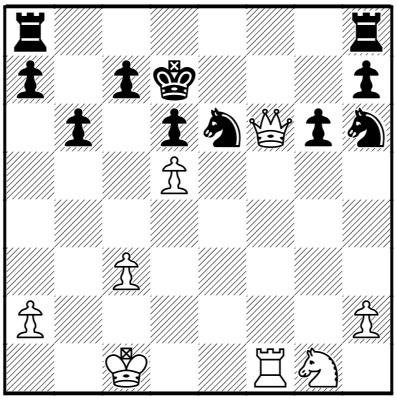
20...Kd7



21.Bd5!

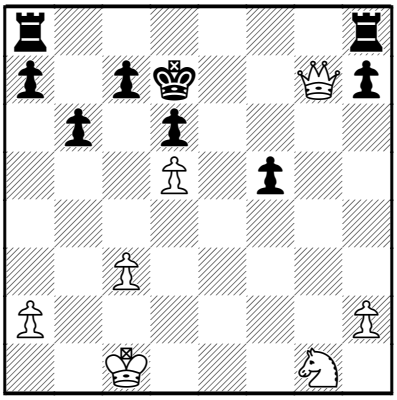
Excellent. Taking that Bishop on h1 actually loses: 21.Bxh1 Raf8!.

21...Bxd5 22.cxd5



White wins decisive material. This Knight can't move without dropping something to a Queen check. If you want your Queen to be happy, provide her with checks and unprotected enemy pieces.

22...Nf5 23.Qxe6+ Kd8 24.Rxf5 gxf5 25.Qf6+ Kd7 26.Qg7+ 1–0



White picks up a Rook.

You don't always need to move your King's Knight to win a game of chess!

Solutions to Final Points

From page 54.

1.Black has **38...e3**, a killing double attack on g2 and d2. From the note to White's 38th move in Larsen–Bronstein, Moscow 1962, Cy & Jack page 9.

2.Black wins a piece with ***13...Qh5!*** and the game ended ***14.Rg1 Bxf3 15.g4 Bxe2 16.gxh5 Rxf4 0–1***, Davidson–Gareev, Pacific Coast Open, Agoura Hills 2014.

3.There's a mating net with ***34...Rcc2! 35.e4+*** And now 35...Kxf4! mates next move with Rfd2. Instead, White eventually won after ***35...dxe4+ 36.fxe4+ Kg4 37.Rc3*** in Sanchez–Alfredo Ong, Southern California Open U1600, San Diego 2014.

4.White breaks it open starting with ***26.Rxg7+ Kxg7 27.Bd4+*** Quickest was 27.Qh6+ Kg8 28.Qh8 mate. ***27...Rf6 28.Bxf6+ exf6 29.Rg1+ Kh8 30.Qxf6+ Kh7 31.Qh4 mate***, Delgadillo–Xia, Southern California Open U2000, San Diego 2014.

5.White wins a piece with 24.Nxd5 because after 24...Nxd5 25.Bxc4 White's Bishop is way too strong on the a2-g8 diagonal, trapping the Queen. Also, if 24...fxg4, then 25.Nb4 also wins the Queen. Instead, the game continued with ***24.gxf5 Be8*** and Black later won, Pau–Johnson, Pacific Coast Open U1700, Agoura Hills 2014.

6.White opened up a deadly battery against the King on the long diagonal: ***22.Rb4!*** The best implementation of the idea is 22.Rd7! Bxd7 23.Nh5+ Kh6 24.Qg7+ Kg5 25.h4 mate. ***22...Nxg3+ 23.hxg3 Qa6 24.Nh5+ Kh6 25.Qg7+ Kg5 26.Qf6+ Kh6 27.Qf4+ 1–0***, Robinson–Choi, Super Double Gambito #666, San Diego 2014. If 27...g5 then 28.Qf6 is mate. This earned first prize for the best game of the tournament.

7.White played the best move with ***30.Ng5!!*** The Knight sacrifices itself to clear a path for White's rook to lift to the third rank. ***30...fxg5 31.Rf3***, Kiewra–Li, Washington International, Rockville 2014. See the whole game on page 47.

Also you get full credit for 30.exf6 Bxf6 31.Ng5, and after 31...Bxg5 32.Bxg5 Qa5 33.Bf6 Nxf6 White wins with 34.Qg5+ Kh8 35.Rxf6.

8.It's a real surprise: ***24.Nxe5! Rhd8*** If 24...Rbd8 then 25.Bd4. And if 24...Kxe5 then only 25.Rfe1! is the winner. After 25...Ne4 *(or 25...Ke6 26.Bxb6+ Kf7 27.Bxc7+–)* 26.Bd4+ Ke6 27.Bxg7, things are only going to get worse. ***25.f4 Ne4 26.Nd4+ Rxd4 27.Bxd4 Bxe5 28.Bxe5 Nd5 29.Rxd5 1–0***, Landaw–Kretchetov, SCCF State Championship, Beverly Hills 2014. See the whole game on page 37.

9.White is down a Rook for three pawns, but Capablanca has it all figured out. He's already prepared ***26.Nh4+ Kh5 27.Nxe8 Rxd8 28.Nxg7+ Kh6 29.Ngf5+ Kh5*** And now ***30.h3*** wins a piece, for if 30...Nh6 then 31.Ng7 mate, and if 30...Rde8 then 31.hxg4+ Kxg4 32.f3+ Kf4 33.g3 mate.

The game, Capablanca–Bernstein, St. Petersburg preliminary, St. Petersburg 1914, finished with ***30...Nc8*** Best is 30...Rdg8 31.hxg4+ Rxg4 32.Kh2, also with a decisive material advantage. ***31.hxg4+ Kxg4 32.Bxd8 Rxd8*** White is up three pawns plus position. ***33.g3 Rd2 34.Kg2 Re2*** Or 34...Rxa2 35.Nf3 Rc2 36.Nh6+ Kh5 37.Rh1+ Kg6 38.Nxe5+. ***35.a4 Nb6 36.Ne3+ Kh5 37.a5 Nd7 38.Nhf5 Nf6 39.b5 Bd4 40.Kf3 Ra2 41.a6 Ba7 42.Rc1 Rb2 43.g4+ Kg6 44.Rc7 Rxf2+ 45.Kxf2 Nxg4+ 46.Kf3 1–0***.

FM Kostya Kavutskiy Takes 26th Southern California State Championship

Beverly Hills, September 18-26, 2014

FM Kostya Kavutskiy won the 26th Southern California State Championship with a score of 6-1 in the round robin tournament finals. FM Julian Landaw finished second, a point behind with 5-2. Tied for third through sixth were IMs Keaton Kiewra and Larry Remlinger, FM Alexandre Kretchetov, and Albert Lu, all scoring an even 3½-3½. Seventh and eighth were Daniel Mousseri and FM Eugene Yanayt, scoring 2-5 and 1-6, respectively. Kavutskiy drew with Landaw and Mousseri, while Landaw also drew with Kiewra and lost to Lu.

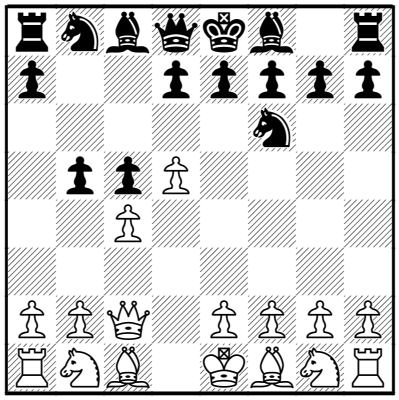
The tournament was held at Beverly Hills High School, and David King, from the Arcadia Chess Club, volunteered as director. Donations for the prize fund were received from Bruce Miller, Alessandro Steinfl, Richard Martin, Philip Chase, Elliot Landaw, and one anonymous donor.

We present three interesting games from the tournament, starting with the winner's fifth round victory, with his own annotations. Next are two games with notes by the Editor: a victory by Landaw, as well as his final game against Lu, where a win would have earned him a tie for first.

Kostya Kavutskiy (2307) –
Keaton Kiewra (2392)
[A57] Benko Gambit
SCCF Championship (5)
Beverly Hills, September 20, 2014
Notes by Kostya Kavutskiy.

This game was played in round 5. At this point in the tournament I was leading with 3½-½, while Keaton and Kretchetov were trailing with 3-1.

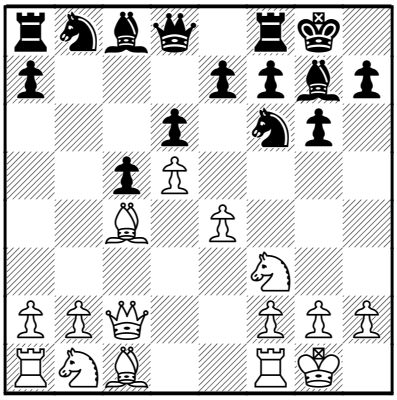
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.Qc2



A favorite of GM Mamedyarov—the point is to play e4 on the next move.

The opening developed quite standardly from here.

4...bxc4 5.e4 g6 6.Bxc4 d6 7.Nf3 Bg7 8.O–O O–O



9.h3

Although we're still well within the realms of theory, I was already on my own at this point and decided it'd be useful to control the g4 square.

Perhaps this tempo would be better spent on either 9.Nc3 or 9.Re1.

9...Ba6

Very logical—Black's bishop often lacks a good square in this structure.

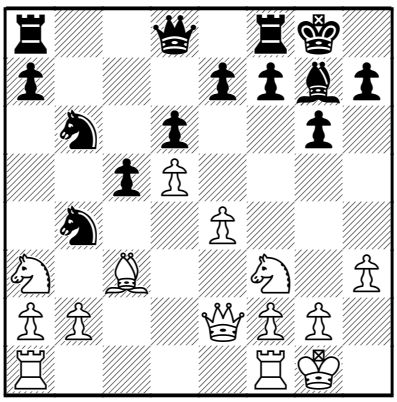
10.Na3 Nfd7 11.Bd2

I was intrigued by the idea of neutralizing Black's dark-squared bishop.

11...Nb6 12.Bxa6

12.Ba5 wouldn't accomplish much in view of 12...Qc8=.

12...Nxa6 13.Bc3 Nb4 14.Qe2



Round three action: Kostya Kavutskiy vs. Alexandre Kretchetov.

14...e6?!

Although natural, this move meets with a tactical refutation.

After 14...Rb8± White's edge is very small—Black has productive pieces and no weaknesses.

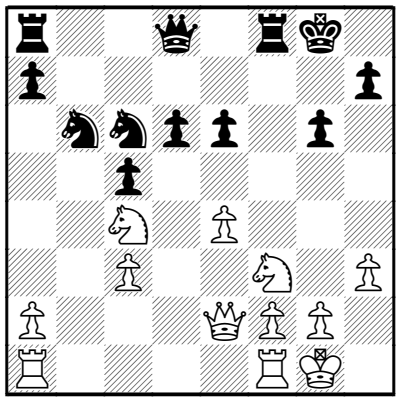
15.dxe6 fxe6 16.Nc4

A normal move, but much stronger was 16.Rfd1!. I missed that after 16...d5 17.exd5 exd5 18.Bxg7 Kxg7 19.Qe3! Rc8, now 20.Ng5!± wins an exchange in view of the threat of Ne6. Without 19.Qe3 Black is perfectly fine.

16...Bxc3?!

I was happy to see Keaton make this exchange. Now White gets the b-file, and the Knight on c6 will be restricted by the pawn on c3.

17.bxc3 Nc6



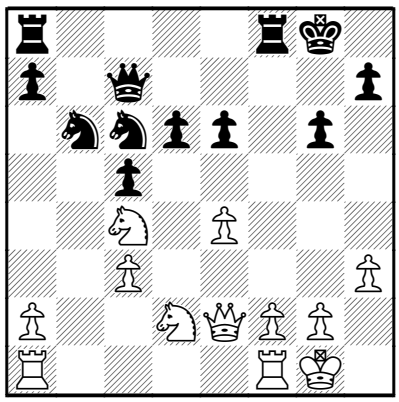
An interesting structure. If Black can safely get d6-d5 in, he can even start playing for an advantage. But until then, White has good pressure against the d6 and e6 pawns.

18.Nfd2

I felt this was most natural as the knight on c4 is a fantastic piece.

18.Rfd1± was also fine.

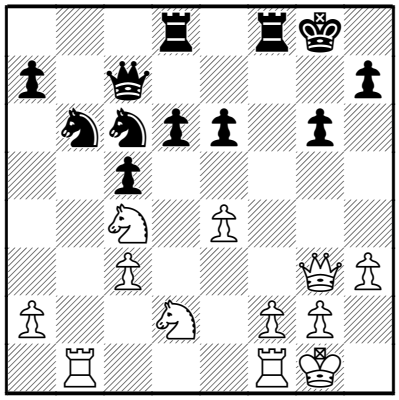
18...Qc7



19.Qg4!

A Carlsenesque maneuver! The Queen lands on g3 from where it will be perfectly placed, pinning Black's d-pawn.

19...Rae8 20.Qg3 Rd8 21.Rab1



Threatening 22.Nxb6 and 23.Nc4, winning a pawn.

Instead, Houdini suggests my favorite plan in general, 21.h4±.

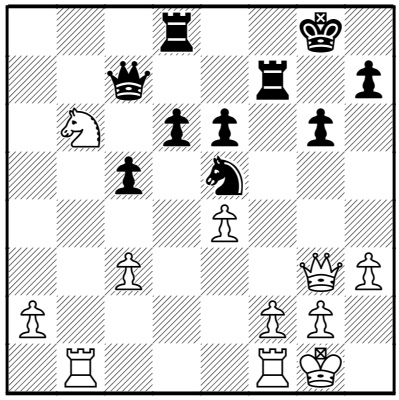
21...Rf7

Keaton decides on an interesting pawn sacrifice.

21...e5? would be a grave strategic mistake, giving up the d5-square.

Most solid was 21...Nxc4 22.Nxc4 Rf7! after which White can no longer hold off d6-d5. Perhaps White is still better after 23.Nd2 d5 24.Rb5!, but with careful play Black should be fine.

22.Nxb6 axb6 23.Nc4 Ne5 24.Nxb6



24...c4!?

The point of Black's play. White's Knight is now somewhat stranded on the Queenside.

Objectively best is 24...Rb8, but after 25.f4 Rxb6 26.fxe5 dxe5± White is playing for two results, though a draw is quite likely. Keaton correctly avoided this due to the tournament standings.

25.f4?!

Round by Round Pairings, Colors, and Cumulative Scores	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1 Kostya Kavutskiy	B2	B5	W8	W4	W3	B7	W6
2397	½	1½	2½	**3½**	**4½**	**5**	**6**
2 Julian Landaw	W1	B6	W5	B8	W7	W4	B3
2426	½	½	1½	2½	3½	4½	5
3 Keaton Kiewra	B4	B8	W7	W5	B1	B6	W2
2467	0	1	2	3	3	3	3½
4 Alexandre Kretchetov	W3	B7	W6	B1	W8	B2	B5
2396	**1**	**2**	**3**	3	3½	3½	3½
5 Larry Remlinger	W7	W1	B2	B3	B6	B8	W4
2375	**1**	1	1	1	2	2½	3½
6 Albert Lu	W8	W2	B4	B7	W5	W3	B1
2252	**1**	**2**	2	2½	2½	3½	3½
7 Daniel Mousseri	B5	W4	B3	W6	B2	W1	B8
2270	0	0	0	½	½	1	2
8 Eugene Yanayt	B6	W3	B1	W2	B4	W5	W7
2363	0	0	0	0	½	1	1

Note: Two of the games were played out of sequence: All rounds were played from Thursday September 18 to Sunday September 21, but Landaw-Remlinger from round 3 was played September 22 at the Arcadia Chess Club, and Lu-Landaw from round 2 was played September 26 at the Pasadena Chess Club.

Giving Black too many counterchances.

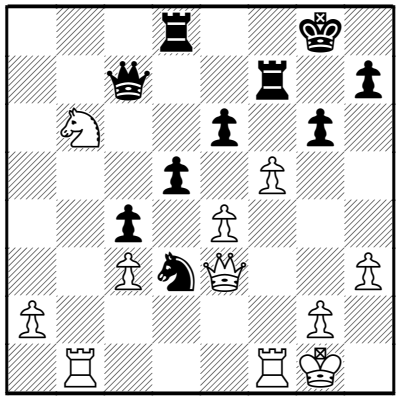
Stronger was 25.Qe3 Rb8 26.a4!± With ideas of Rb5 and Rfb1, where White is just a clear pawn up.

In this line, 26.Qd4?! is met with 26...Rf3! as pointed out by Keaton after the game. Now White would have had to find a series of moves just to force a draw: 27.Nxc4 Rxb1 28.Rxb1 Rd3 29.Qb6 Qxc4 30.Qd8+ Kg7 31.Rb8 Kh6 32.Qh4+ Kg7 33.Qd8= with a draw by repetition.

25...Nd3 26.Qe3

I also considered 26.f5 Rdf8 27.Qe3 exf5 28.exf5 Rxf5 29.Qe6+ Kg7 30.Rxf5 Rxf5 31.Qxc4±.

26...d5 27.f5



27...Rd6?

A provocative move, sharpening the game but ultimately risking too much.

Better was 27...gxf5 28.exf5 exf5 29.Qd4±, but not 29.Qg5+ Rg7 30.Qxf5 Rg6!∓.

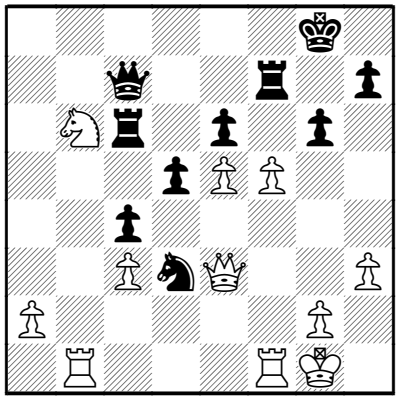
28.e5!

I'm quite pleased with the idea behind this advance.

Houdini also gives 28.fxe6 Rxf1+ 29.Rxf1 and claims that White is close to winning after 29...Rxb6 *(and 29...Qxb6 30.Qxb6 Rxb6 31.exd5+–)* 30.exd5, but I didn't even consider this.

In any case, the text is stronger.

28...Rc6



29.Nxd5!

Sacrificing the knight for two powerful passed pawns.

29...Qxe5

The only chance, going into a much worse endgame.

After 29...exd5 I couldn't help but remind myself of the famous game Kasparov–Akesson, Dortmund 1980, which also featured a deadly pair of e- and f-pawns. The main point is that Black's heavy pieces are badly misplaced here, but White's Queen and Rooks are perfect. White is winning in all lines: 30.e6 and now:

a) 30...Re7 31.f6! Rexe6 *(or 31...Rcxe6 32.f7+! Rxf7 33.Qxe6+–)* 32.f7+ Qxf7 *(or 32...Kf8 33.Qh6++–)* 33.Rb8+ Kg7 34.Rxf7+ Kxf7. I stopped my calculations here, but simplest is 35.Qf3+ Rf6 36.Qxd5++–.

b) After 30...Rf8 I spotted the prettiest win: 31.f6 Ne5 32.e7 Re8 33.Qxe5! Qxe5 34.f7+ Kg7 35.f8Q+ Rxf8 36.exf8Q mate.

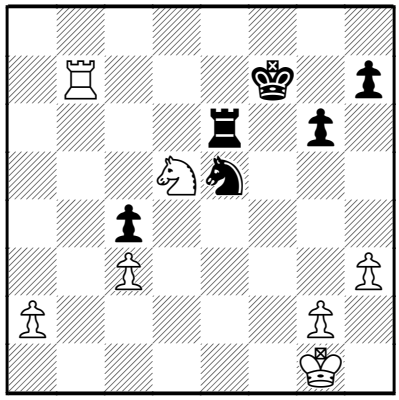
30.Qxe5 Nxe5

31.fxe6?!

Going for a pawn-up endgame rather than the immediate win.

Houdini likes 31.Rb8+ Kg7 32.f6+ Kh6 33.Ne7! Rc5 34.Rb6+– but this looked fuzzy to me.

31...Rxe6 32.Rxf7 Kxf7 33.Rb7+

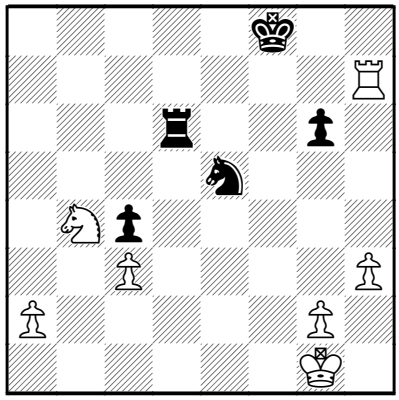


33...Kf8

Giving up another pawn for activity.

After 33...Kg8 White has a pleasant choice between 34.a4 and 34.Re7.

34.Rxh7 Rd6 35.Nb4

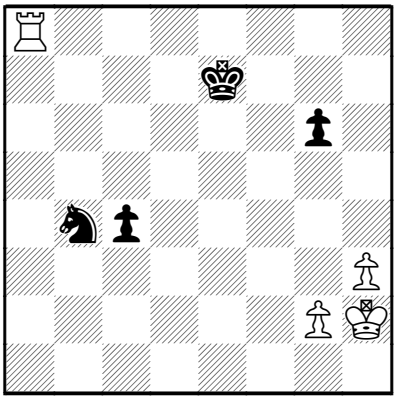


The tournament room at Beverly Hills High School. From left, round three games in progress are Kavutskiy vs. Kretchetov, Eugene Yanayt vs. Elliot Landaw, Daniel Mousseri vs. Albert Lu, and Keaton Kiewra vs. Larry Remlinger. Standing are Jack Peters, Albert Lu, and TD David King.

35...Rd2?!

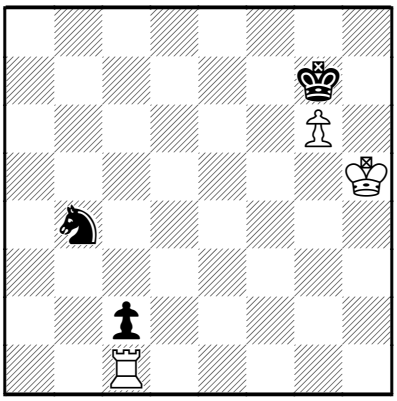
A strange loss of tempo. White shouldn't have any problems converting any more.

After 35...Rd1+ 36.Kh2 Rc1 White should play Nb4-d5, but during the game I was practically convinced that 37.a4 led to a forced win: 37...Rxc3 38.a5 Ra3 39.a6 Nd3!. I saw this shot, but kept going, 40.a7 Nxb4 41.a8Q+ Rxa8 42.Rh8+ Ke7 43.Rxa8:



and I evaluated this to be winning. Only now does Houdini spoil the fun and prove that this position is drawn. Black has too many resources with his King, Knight, and pawn: 43...c3 and now:

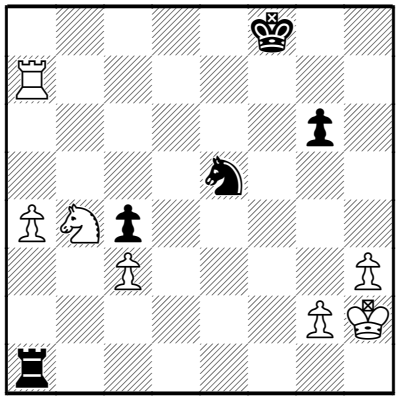
a) 44.Ra1 leads to a somewhat unbelievable draw after 44...c2 45.Rc1 Kf6 46.Kg3 g5 47.Kg4 Kg6 48.h4 gxh4 49.Kxh4 Kf5 50.g4+ Kg6 51.g5 Kh7 52.Kh5 Kg7 53.g6:



53...Nd3 54.Rxc2 Nf4+ drawing.

b) 44.Rc8 c2 45.Kg3 Kd6 Threatening Nc6. 46.Rc3 Kd5 47.Kg4 Kd4 48.Rc8 Nd5! 49.Rxc2 Ne3+ 50.Kg5 Nxc2 51.Kxg6= and Black's king and knight are close enough to stop White's pawns.

36.a4 Rd1+ 37.Kh2 Ra1 38.Ra7

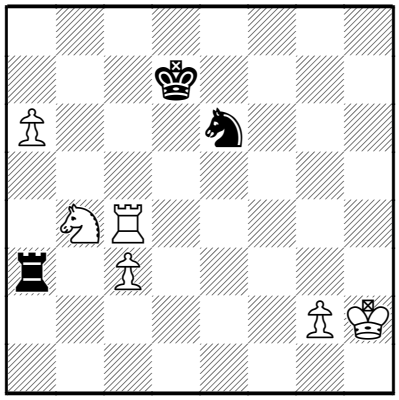


White's pieces are nicely placed, and the a-pawn is too strong. My technique from here wasn't exact, but surely good enough:

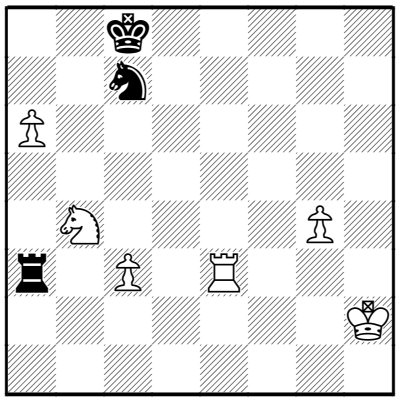
38...Ke8 39.a5 Nd3 40.a6! Nc5

After 40...Nxb4 41.cxb4 c3 42.b5 c2 43.Rc7 c1Q, White's two connected passed pawns are decisive: 44.Rxc1 Rxc1 45.a7 Ra1 46.b6+–.

41.Rc7 Ne6 42.Rxc4 Kd7 43.Rg4 g5 44.h4 gxh4 45.Rxh4 Ra3 46.Rc4



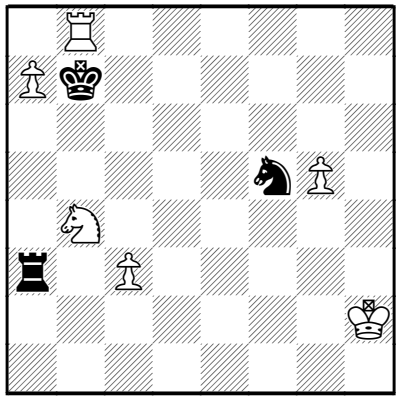
46...Kd6 47.Rc6+ Kd7 48.g4 Ra4 49.Rb6 Ra3 50.Rb7+ Kc8 51.Re7 Nc7 52.Re3



52...Nb5

52...Nxa6 53.Nxa6 Rxa6 54.Kg3+– is trivial.

53.g5 Nd4 54.a7 Nf5 55.Re8+ Kb7 56.Rb8+ 1–0

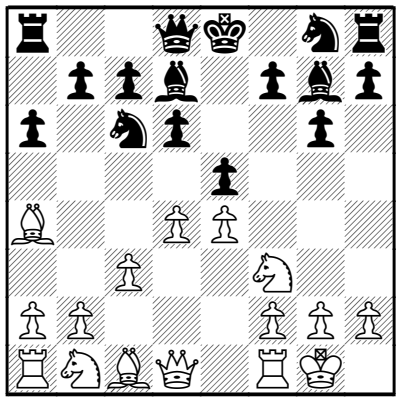


Black loses the Rook after 56...Kxa7 57.Nc6+ Ka6 58.Ra8+.

In the following game, second place finisher Landaw strikes at the earliest possible moment!

Julian Landaw (2426) –
Alexandre Kretchetov (2396)
[C76] Ruy Lopez
SCCF State Championship (6)
Beverly Hills, September 21, 2014
Notes by the Editor.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 g6 4.c3 a6 5.Ba4 d6 6.d4 Bd7 7.O–O Bg7



A well trusted position, with 140 games between players rated over 2500.

8.Bg5

Rare, with only about ten games.

8...Nge7

Vachier-Lagrave–Short, Caleta 2013, continued 8...f6 9.Be3 Nh6 10.Bb3 Qe7 11.Re1 b6 12.Bd5 Nf7

13.c4 O–O 14.Nc3 Kh8 15.c5 dxc5 16.dxc5 b5 17.Qc2 Rae8 18.Rad1±.

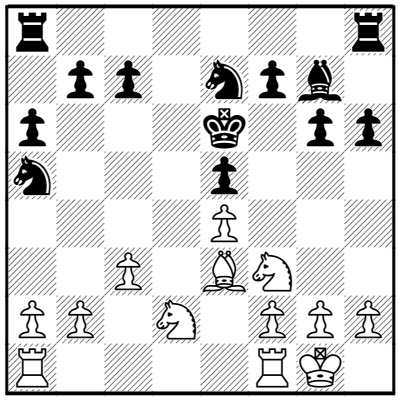
9.dxe5

Ghaem Maghami–Short, Tehran 2013, saw 9.d5 Nb8 10.c4 h6 11.Bxe7 Qxe7 12.Qb3 b6 13.Bxd7+ Nxd7 14.Nc3 O–O 15.Qc2 f5 16.b4 h5±.

9...dxe5

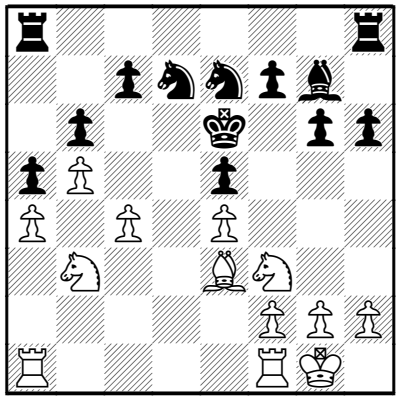
Arnason–Smyslov, Reykjavik 1995, continued 9...Nxe5 10.Nxe5 dxe5 11.Na3 h6 12.Be3 Bxa4 13.Qxa4+ Qd7 14.Qb3 Qc6 15.f3 O–O 16.Rad1±.

10.Qd2 h6 11.Be3 Na5 12.Bxd7+ Qxd7 13.Qxd7+ Kxd7 14.Nbd2 Ke6



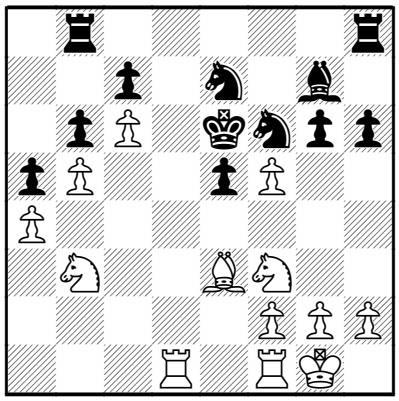
Queens are off and Black's King looks safe in the center, perhaps even helping out there. But White seems to have an easy time of gaining space on the Queenside and keeping Black's Bishop from finding an active role. White improves his position and Black seems unable to counter with anything.

15.b4 Nac6 16.Nb3 b6 17.a4 a5 18.b5 Nb8 19.c4 Nd7



White's spatial progress since the previous diagram is evident.

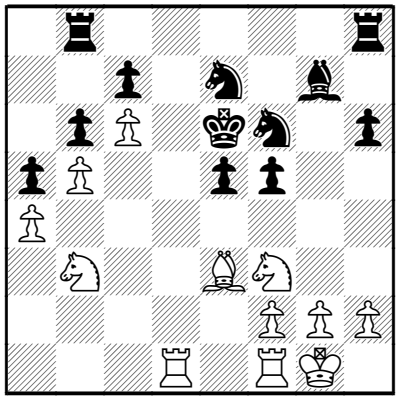
20.c5 f5 21.Rad1 Rab8 22.c6 Nf6 23.exf5+



23...gxf5

Surprisingly, this is the losing move!

Necessary is 23...Nxf5 24.Bc1! Rbd8 *(After 24...e4 25.Bf4 exf3 26.Bxc7! Black's Queenside caves in.)* 25.Rxd8 Rxd8 26.Nxe5! Kxe5 27.Re1+ Ne4 28.f3±.



Sometimes, after you've improved your position a great deal, it's hard to see how to keep improving it, or to find a tactical exploitation. Here, 24.Rfe1 looks perfectly reasonable, and 24...Ne4 25.Rd7± might be the result.

But White sees more:

24.Nxe5!! Rhd8

For 24...Kxe5 White has prepared 25.Rfe1! Ne4 *(or 25...Ke6 26.Bxb6+ Kf7 27.Bxc7+–)* 26.Bd4++–.

After 24...Rbd8, Houdini says 25.Bd4 is winning.

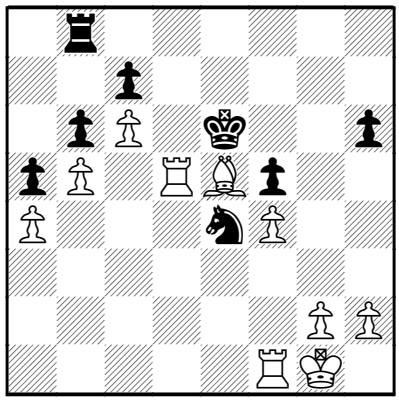
25.f4

Even stronger is 25.Bxb6.

25...Ne4 26.Nd4+ Rxd4

If 26...Kf6 then 27.Nd7+ forks King and Rook.

27.Bxd4 Bxe5 28.Bxe5 Nd5 29.Rxd5! 1–0



The Queenside collapses after 29...Kxd5 30.Bxc7 Re8 31.Bxb6.

Very alertly played!

The following game was the last to be played. Landaw had won his Monday night game and was already guaranteed at least a clear second place, so he had nothing to lose by playing for the win which would have given him a first place tie. This made for an engaging clash!

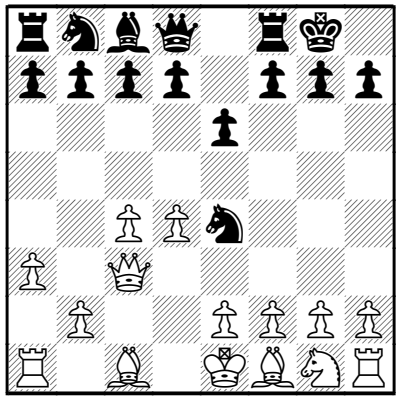
Albert Lu (2280) –
Julian Landaw (2426)
[E32] Nimzo-Indian Defense
SCCF State Championship (2)
Pasadena, September 26, 2014

Notes by the Editor.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 O–O 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.Qxc3

This position has been played hundreds of times between top players.

6...Ne4

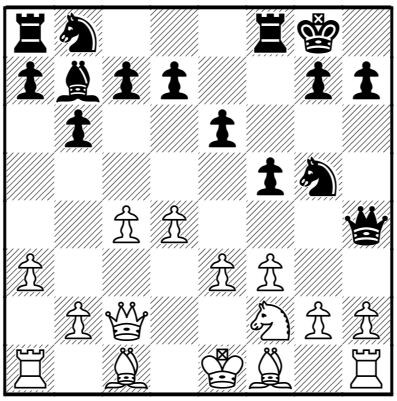


But this is comparatively rare, fewer than 100 games. Both Michael

Adams and Nick DeFirmian have taken the Black side several times.

7.Qc2 f5 8.e3 b6 9.Nh3 Bb7 10.f3 Nf6

GM Petr Kiriakov has been lucky twice on the Black side of this line with 10...Qh4+ 11.Nf2 Ng5:

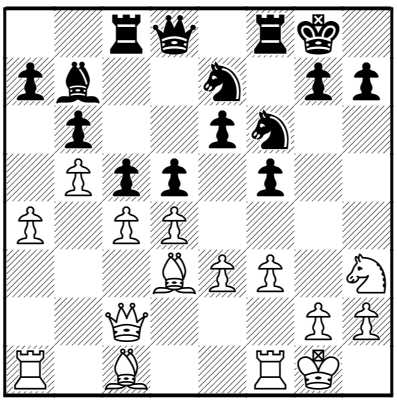


And now:

a) 12.Be2 d6 13.b3 Nd7 14.Bb2 Rae8 15.Rd1 a5 16.O–O?? Rf6!–+ 17.g3 Nxf3+ 18.Bxf3 Bxf3 19.gxh4 Rg6+ 20.Ng4 Rxg4+ 21.Qg2 Rxg2+ 0–1 Bareev–Kiriakov, playchess.com INT 2004.

b) 12.b3 d6 13.Bb2?? Nxf3+!–+ 14.gxf3 Bxf3 15.Rg1 Qxh2 16.Rg5 h6 17.Rg6 Kf7 18.Rxe6 Kxe6 19.c5 d5 20.Rc1 c6 21.a4 Rf6 22.b4 Kf7 23.b5 Kg8 24.Qb3 Re6 25.Nh3 f4 26.Rc3 bxc5 27.dxc5 Nd7 28.bxc6 Nxc5 0–1 Inarkiev–Kiriakov, Krasnoyarsk 2003.

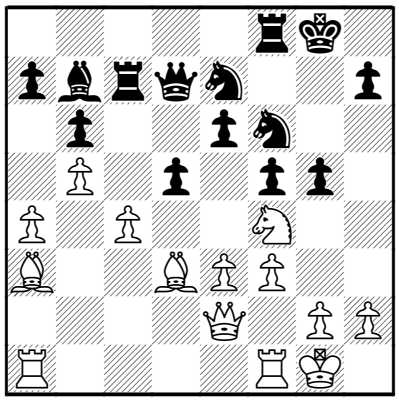
11.Bd3 c5 12.b4 Nc6 13.b5 Ne7 14.O–O Rc8 15.a4 d5



16.Nf4

A little better is 16.dxc5 Rxc5 17.Ba3 Rc7 18.Rfd1±.

16...Qd7= 17.dxc5 Rxc5 18.Ba3 Rc7 19.Qe2 g5



An interesting moment.

20.cxd5!

Best.

Both sides go in for complications, as White had a decent alternative in 20.Nh3 dxc4 21.Bxc4 Rfc8 22.Bb3 Bd5 *(or 22...Rc3 23.Qb2±)* 23.Qb2±.

20...gxf4?

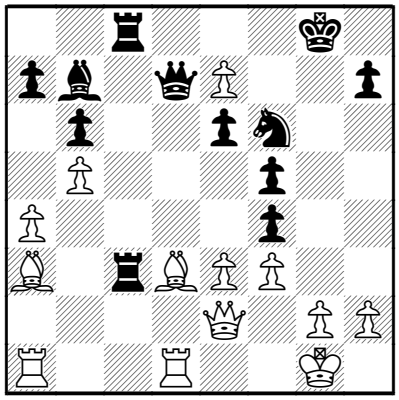
White is now winning.

Better are both:

20...Nfxd5 21.Nxd5 Bxd5 22.e4± fxe4 23.fxe4 Rxf1+ 24.Rxf1 Bb3 25.Qf3±.

and 20...Bxd5! 21.Nh3 *(If White trades Black's final Bishop with 21.Nxd5 Nfxd5 it's roughly equal, according to Houdini. Although White's two Bishops look awfully good with those pawns in front of the Black King being advanced, sometimes it's better to have two Knights when defending against the two Bishops.)* 21...g4 22.fxg4 Nxg4 23.Nf4±.

21.d6 Rc3 22.dxe7 Rfc8 23.Rfd1



23...Nd5

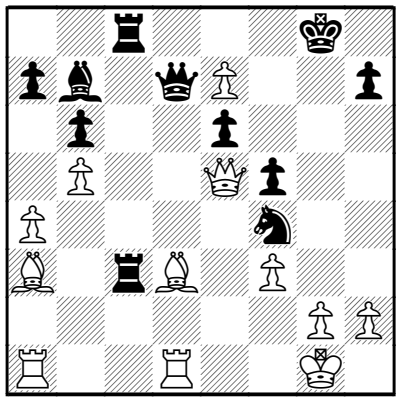
Because of White's possible reply to this move, the computer wants to sacrifice the exchange instead, but White is still winning: 23...Rxa3 24.Rxa3 Qxe7 25.Rb3 Qc5 26.Rb2:

a) 26...Qxe3+ 27.Kh1 *(or 27.Qxe3 fxe3 28.Rc2 Rxc2 29.Bxc2+–)* 27...Qxe2 28.Rxe2 Bd5 29.Rc2 Rxc2 30.Bxc2 Kf7 31.Bd3 Ke7 32.Rc1 Kd7 33.Bc2 Ke7 34.Rb1 Kd6 35.Rd1+–.

b) 26...fxe3 27.Rc2 Qe5 28.Rxc8+ Bxc8 29.Bxf5 exf5 30.Rd8+ Kg7 31.Rxc8 Qa1+ 32.Qf1 Qxa4 33.Rc7+ Kg6 34.Qe1 f4 35.Qb1+ Kh6 36.Rc1 Qa3 37.Qa1+–.

24.Bb2?

Houdini says that 24.exf4! was best, for if 24...Nxf4 then White exploits f8 with 25.Qe5!:



White wins after 25...Nxd3 *(or 25...Nd5 26.Bxf5!+–)* 26.Qf6 *(threatening 27.Qf8+ Rxf8 28.exf8Q mate)* 26...Qe8 27.Qxe6++–.

24...Qxe7 25.exf4

Again, strong is 25.e4! and now:

25...Ne3 26.Bxc3 Rxc3 *(26...Nxd1 27.Rxd1 Rxc3 28.exf5 is an alternative move order)* 27.exf5 Nxd1 28.Rxd1+–.

Or 25...fxe4 26.Qxe4 R3c7 27.Qe5+–.

25...Qc5+?

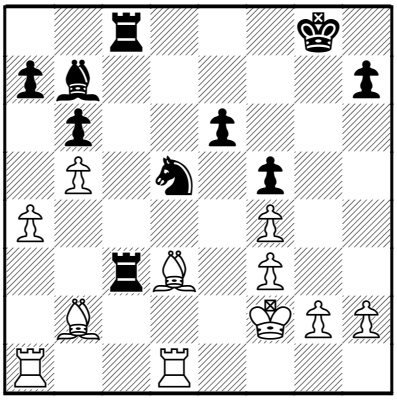
Black's last opportunity, according to the computer, is 25...Nxf4! 26.Qd2 *(26.Qe3?? Qg5–+)* 26...Qc5+ 27.Kf1 *(27.Kh1? Nh3! 28.Bxc3 Nf2+∓)* 27...Rb3 28.Rac1 Qb4 29.Rxc8+ Bxc8 30.Qxb4 Rxb4=.

26.Qf2

It is better to leave the e6 pawn attacked by the White Queen: 26.Kh1! Nxf4 27.Qe1. Now White's Queen also has access to g3, taking advantage of Black's compromised Kingside. The computer line continues 27...Rb3 28.Bc1 Rxd3 29.Bxf4 Rxd1 30.Rxd1 Bd5 31.Rc1 Qf8 32.Rxc8 Qxc8 33.Qh4, and Houdini gives a distinct

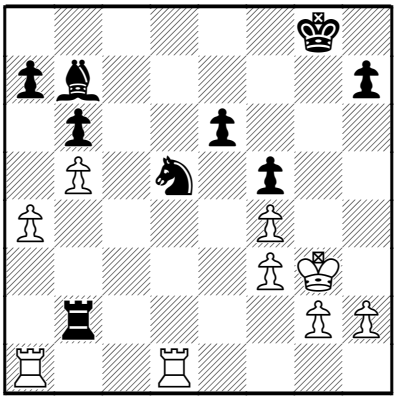
advantage to White's position. With opposite colored Bishops, whoever is going to attack the King will definitely have a big advantage, and it looks like it's going to be White.

26...Qxf2+ 27.Kxf2



Now Black gets an equal position.

27...Rc2+ 28.Bxc2 Rxc2+ 29.Kg3 Rxb2



It's two pieces for a Rook and pawn. However, Black's pieces complement each other better than White's, as the two Rooks are a little bit redundant. For this reason, White gains by a Rook trade here.

30.Rab1 Rxb1

Black can't avoid all White's attempts to trade Rooks without repeating moves.

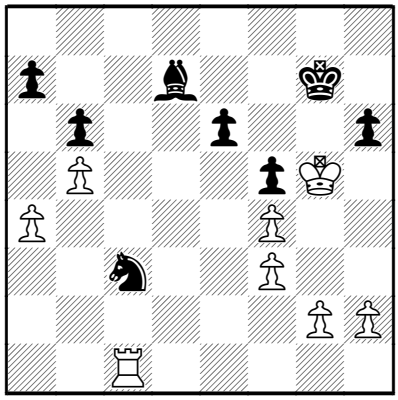
31.Rxb1 Nc3 32.Re1 Bc8

More natural is 32...Kf7 33.Kh4 Nxa4 34.Ra1 Nc5 35.Rxa7 Kg6=. Still, it arrives at pretty much the same position as later in the game.

33.Kh4 Bd7

Not 33...Nxa4?? 34.Rd1+– winning the Bishop.

34.Kg5 Kg7 35.Rc1 h6+



36.Kh4

Houdini also prefers this move, analyzing 36.Kh5 Be8+ 37.Kh4 Nxa4 38.Rc7+ Kf8 39.Rc8 Nc5 40.g4 *(40.Ra8 Nd3∓)* 40...Ke7 41.g5 hxg5+ 42.fxg5 *(42.Kxg5)* 42...a5 43.bxa6 Nxa6.

36...Nxa4 37.Rc7 Nc5 38.Rxa7

It's a slight case of Zugzwang after 38.Kh5!. Black has to give way with 38...Kf6 and try to hang on after 39.Rxa7 *(39.Kxh6 e5! 40.fxe5+ Kxe5 41.Rxa7 Bxb5 42.g4 fxg4 43.fxg4 Bc4=)* 39...Bxb5 40.Kxh6= which is the actual game position after White's 40th.

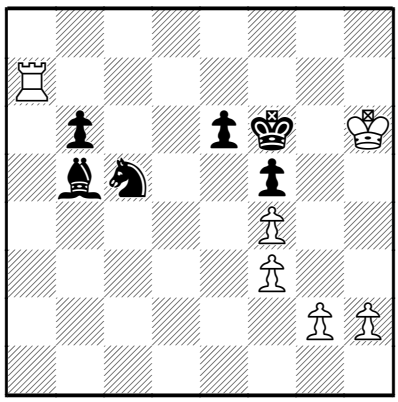
38...Kf6

Black needs to create winning chances to keep alive the possibility of taking first place in the tournament.

Black reaches a stable-looking position after 38...Kg6. For example, after 39.Ra1 Be8 40.Re1 Kf6= White's King lacks an entry point, and Knight and Bishop can block key lines as needed. Black also threatens the b5 pawn which can only be protected by the Rook. One line is 41.Ra1 Kg6 and now after 42.Ra8?! Bxb5 43.Rb8 Nd7 44.Rg8+ Kf7 Black has a plus.

39.Kh5 Bxb5 40.Kxh6

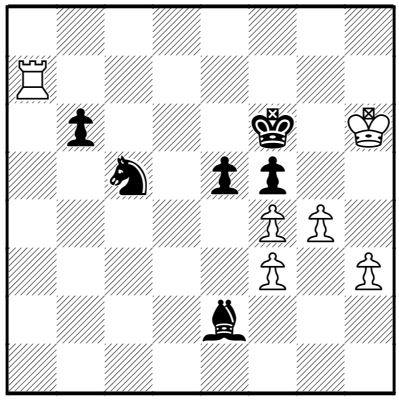
Black has gone into the line that White could have forced earlier.



40...Be2

Still drawing is 40...e5! 41.fxe5+ Kxe5 42.Re7+ Ne6 43.g4 Kf6 for example 44.Rb7 Be2 45.Rxb6 fxg4 46.fxg4 Bxg4.

41.h3 e5 42.g4



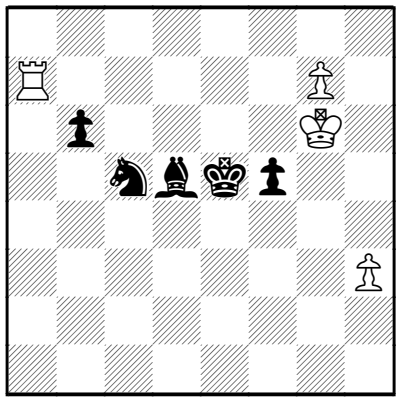
42...Bxf3?

Decent drawing chances still remain after 42...fxg4 43.hxg4 Bxf3 44.g5+ Ke6 45.g6 Bd5 46.fxe5 Kxe5 47.g7 Kd6 and now: 48.Kh7 b5=; 48.Kg6 Ne6! 49.Kf6 Nc7=; or 48.Ra1 Nd7 49.Kg5 *(49.Rd1 Nf6=)* 49...Ke7=.

43.g5+!

Black has to spend all his efforts to try to stop this pawn, which decisively improves White's position.

43...Ke6 44.g6 Bd5 45.g7 Kd6 46.fxe5+ Kxe5 47.Kg6



White threatens 48.Rf7 forcing the pawn promotion.

47...Ne6 48.h4

In the event of 48.g8Q Black is relying on 48...Nf4+ 49.Kh7 Bxg8+ 50.Kxg8 Nxh3 with a draw.

48...Nxg7

White also wins after 48...Nf4+ 49.Kh6! Ng2 50.h5 Nf4 51.Re7+ Kd6 *(or 51...Kf6 52.Rb7!)* 52.Rb7 Kc6

It's getting very near the end: White, Albert Lu, to make his 48th move.

53.Rb8+– for example 53...Nh3 54.Rf8 f4 55.Rf5 Bg8 56.Kg6 b5 57.h6.

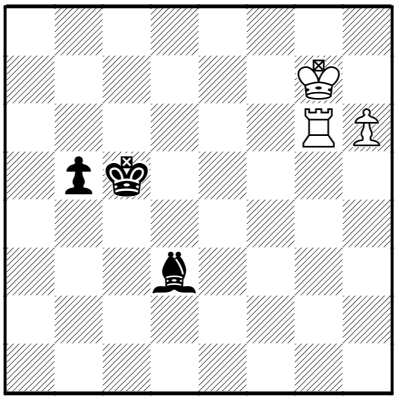
49.Kxg7 f4

No defense is 49...Bf3 50.Kg6 f4 51.h5 Be4+ 52.Kg5 f3 53.h6 Kd4 54.Rf7 Ke3 55.Kg4 b5 56.Kg3+–.

50.h5 f3 51.h6 Be4

No better is 51...f2 52.Ra1 Be4 53.Rf1.

52.Rf7 b5 53.Rxf3 Kd5 54.Rf4 Bd3 55.Rg4 Kc5 56.Rg6 1–0



White Queens the h-pawn. An absorbing contest!

Solutions to Inside Moves

From inside front cover.

1. Black picks up a Rook with ***29...Rd8+ 0–1***, Mousseri–Khachiyan, Southern California Open, San Diego 2014.

2. Black ends it quickly with ***45...Re2! 0–1***, Alapin–Alekhine, St. Petersburg2, St. Petersburg 1913-14.

3. Black wins the Queen with ***31...Ne1+! 0–1***, DeLeon–Collins, Southern California Open U2000, San Diego 2014. If 32.Rxe1 then 32...Qxf2+ 33.Qxf2 Rxf2 mate.

4. White breaks through with ***17.Bxg6! hxg6 18.Qxg6+ Bg7***. Now 19.Qxe8+ Bf8 20.Ne5 would finish quickly. Instead, White played ***19.Qxg4*** but still won after ***19...Qf6 20.Qh5 Nd7 21.Ke2 e6 22.Rag1 Re7 23.Qh8+ Kf7 24.Qxa8 e5 25.Qxd5+ Qe6 26.Qxe6+ Kxe6 27.Rg6+ Nf6 28.Rh7 c6 29.Rhxg7 1–0***, Gu–Gall, Southern California Open U1600, San Diego 2014.

5. It's the Two Bishop Sacrifice: ***19...Bxh2+! 20.Kxh2 Qh4+ 21.Kg1 Bxg2! 22.f3*** After 22.Kxg2 Qg4+ 23.Kh1 Rd5 White has to give up his Queen to stop mate: 24.Qxc5 Rh5+ 25.Qxh5 Qxh5+, and now Black picks up the loose Knight. The game concluded with ***22...Rfe8 23.Ne4 Qh1+ 24.Kf2 Bxf1 25.d5 f5 26.Qc3 Qg2+ 27.Ke3 Rxe4+ 28.fxe4 f4+ 29.Kxf4 Rf8+ 30.Ke5 Qh2+ 31.Ke6 Re8+ 32.Kd7 Bb5 mate***, Nimzowitsch–Tarrasch, St. Petersburg preliminary, St. Petersburg 1914.

6. Black has a one-two punch with 27...Ne2+ 28.Kb1 Bxf6, and after 29.Rxd6+ cxd6 Black wins even more material. Instead, White won after ***27...Bxb2+ 28.Kb1 Qb4 29.Qf7+ Re7 30.Qd5+ Kc8 31.Qg8+ Re8 32.Qxe8 mate***, Paniah–Okunev, Pacific Coast Open U1250, Agoura Hills 2014.

7. The big move is ***29.Nxd5!*** sacrificing the Knight for two powerful passed pawns, Kavutskiy–Kiewra, SCCF Championship, Beverly Hills 2014. See the whole game on page 34.

8. White plays the accurate ***23.Nxf7!! Rxf7 24.Qf5*** with the idea g4-g5 ***24...g6*** Showing more of the combination's points is 24...Qc6 25.g5 Qd7 26.Ra8+ Bf8 27.Be6 Qe7 28.gxf6 Qxf6 29.Qxf6 gxf6 30.Rc8+–. ***25.Qe6*** Now Black can't guard f7. ***25...Kg7 26.Qxf7+ Kh6 27.Be6 1–0***, Alekhine–Duras, St. Petersburg2, St. Petersburg 1913-14.

9. Black wins with the surprising ***23...Rc2!! 24.Rxc2*** If White guards b2 with 24.Nc4 then 24...Bxf4 25.exf4 Qd4! with a decisive bind, for example 26.Rhe1 Bxf3 27.Rxc2 dxc2+ 28.Kxc2 Rc8 29.b3 Be4+ 30.Kc1 a5–+. Computer best is 24.Nxd3 Rxc1+ 25.Nxc1 a5–+ picking up the Knight on d2. ***24...dxc2+ 25.Kxc2 Rc8+ 26.Kb1 a5! 27.Qb3 Qxd2*** Black is up a piece. ***28.Rd1 a4! 29.Rxd2 axb3 30.axb3 Bxf3 0–1***, Lebedev–Alekhine, St. Petersburg2, St. Petersburg, 1913-14.

Here and There

Local News and Events Around the Southland

*With "***Here and There***" in your subject line, please send your club or tournament news and notices to the editor at:* RankAndFileEditor@gmail.com.

La Palma

With a score of 3-1,Wan Kim won the ***Two Wings*** Section of **La Palma Chess Club's** 4-round ***Vienna's Last Gambit Centennial***, an event commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the beginning of World War I. Second through sixth place at 2½-1½ was Craig Faber, George Shahin, Chris Roberts, Bob Hutchinson and George Newell.

Queena Deng topped the ***One Wing*** Section with a perfect 4-0 score. And, Eric Lu finished second with 3-1. In the ***No Wings*** Section, Tomer Yitzhaki came in first with an undefeated score of 3½-½, while Alan Chu placed second with 3-1.

Wes White won the Red Baron (Best Game) Prize, as judged by IM Jack Peters, for his last round win over Hunt. Tomer Yitzhaki won the Zeppelin (Biggest Rating Gain) Prize for gaining 96 rating points. And, George Shahin won the Winning in the Trenches (Most Gruesome Win) Prize for trapping Mr. Keefe's Queen.

For wall charts, Grand Prix standings, games, pictures and a schedule of events, see the club's website at **www.LaPalmaChess.com**.

-Chris Roberts

West Los Angeles

Nine-year-old Gabriel Eidelman (1841) topped **Santa Monica Bay Chess Club's** 4-Round ***June Swiss*** with a score of 3½-½, finishing ahead of three higher rated players, including one player rated more than 200 points higher. Under 1700 winner George Witcomb (1554) broke even, playing the four top rated players of the ten player event whose average rating was 1940!

The ***July Swiss*** also drew ten players. Simon Kogan (1918) took first with 3½-½, while Jack O'Donnell (1691) took second on tie breaks over Dmitry Cherkasky (2051) both scoring 2½-1½.

In the ***August Swiss***, Dmitry Cherkasky came roaring back with a perfect 4-0 score, a point and half ahead of second place Simon Kogan (1900). Bruce Miller (1612) won the under 1800 Prize with 2-2.

On Monday nights, 7:10–11 p.m., the club will hold a 4-round Swiss in October and one in November, followed by a 3-round Quad in the beginning of December. Club membership required, $20 for remainder of 2014.

October Swiss: Mondays October 6, 13, 20, 27 - reg. 7 p.m., EF $10 G/115 d/5, rated.

November Swiss: Mondays November 3, 10, 17 24 - reg. 7 p.m., EF $10 G/115 d/5, rated.

December Quads: Mondays December 1, 8, 15 - reg. 7 p.m., EF $10 G/115 d/5, rated.

The Club is located in the St. Andrew's Church Library at 11555 National Blvd., West Los Angeles at corner of Federal/Barry Ave. at National Blvd. Ample parking in the church lot.

Contact: TD Pete Savino at: 310.827.2789
smbchess@yahoo.com.
https://sites.google.com/site/SantaMonicaBayChessClub/

San Diego

San Diego Chess Club

The ***Karen Kaufman Open*** in July and August honored one of our favorite long term members with a very steady attendance record. Kyron Griffith, now rated 2457, scored 5½-½ to take the Open section, a point and half ahead of Raoul Crisologo, Paul Agron and Jeff Turner.

Sixty-three paid participants fought it out in four sections. Hercules Madriaga topped the under 2000 section with 5-1, a point ahead of Shaun Sweitzer. Fred de Leon, Chuck Ensey and Hector Gonzalez tied for third place. There was a tie for first in the under 1800 section between Robert Henderson and Eliza Eggert, both with 4½-1½. Santiago Rubio-Fernaz scored 4-2 for third. In the under 1600 section, there was a tie for first between Morgan Fox and Yason Khaburzaniya, plus John Carson, who picked up the under 1400 prize. Joshua Chung was second under 1400.

The **San Diego County Championships** over the first weekend in August attracted 69 players with a $3,500 prize fund. Local hero Varun Krishnan took top honors and the $500 first prize in the Open Section scoring 4½-½. Four players were one point behind to split a shared 2nd/U2400/U2300/U2200 prize: Nikolay Arutyunov, Karl Tolentino, Venkat Iyer and Craig Clawitter. Karl earned a master rating in this event. Paul Choate, Kevin Yang and Mario Amodeo tied for best under 2100.

Three players tied for first in the Reserve (under 2000) Section: Ramil Macaspac, Matt Souza and Justin Kang. Jerry Kavanau won best under 1800. Santiago Rubio-Fernaz and Eric Lu tied for best under 1700. In the Booster (under 1600) section, it was Renato Dikit winning first with a perfect 5-0 score, while Joshua Chung won best under 1500 and Andruw Householder won best under 1400.

Other prize winners, details, pictures, games and complete wall charts can be found our website **www.SanDiegoChessClub.org**.

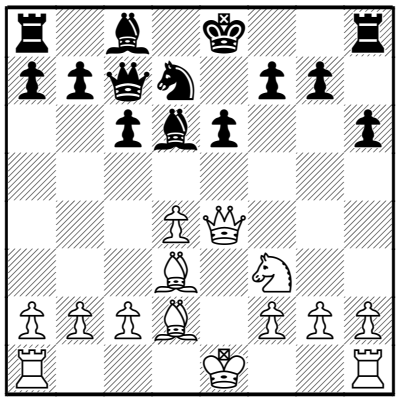
The ***August Super Gambito Open*** (#665) had 38 players and used a *McMahon pairing system*. Dionisio Aldama and Cyrus Lakdawala tied for first with 7 points, Bruce Baker won best under 2400 with 6½, and Justin Ballard tied with Josiah Stearman of Northern California for best under 2200 with 6 each. Jeffrey Turner and Jerry Qu tied for best under 2000 with 5½. Ballan Rombaua was best under 1800 and Tygan Zeng best under 1600, both with 4 points.

The following game is from the final round, between the two winners of the tournament.

Dionisio Aldama (2519) –
Cy Lakdawala (2546)
[B17] Caro-Kann Defense
August Super Gambito 665 (4)
San Diego, August 9, 2014
Notes by IM Cy Lakdawala.

It was a sweet win, because Aldama led the tournament by a full point and needed only a draw with White to secure clear first.

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nd7 5.Ng5 Ngf6 6.Bd3 e6 7.N1f3 Bd6 8.Qe2 h6 9.Ne4 Nxe4 10.Qxe4 Qc7 11.Bd2



Last time, Aldama tried 11.Qg4 Kf8 12.Nd2 and lost, so he tries something new.

11...c5!?

Black's main line is 11...b6, but I wanted to avoid his prep. 12.O–O–O Bb7 13.Qg4 *(13.Qe2 may be better and is the move Aldama played against me in a blitz game.)* 13...g5 14.Qh3 O–O–O 15.Rhe1 c5 16.dxc5 Nxc5 17.Bc3 Shirov–Karpov, Wijk aan Zee 1998. Black looks at least equal after 17...Rhg8.

12.O–O–O?!

12.Qe2 looks correct, preventing Black's next move.

12...c4!

Securing d5.

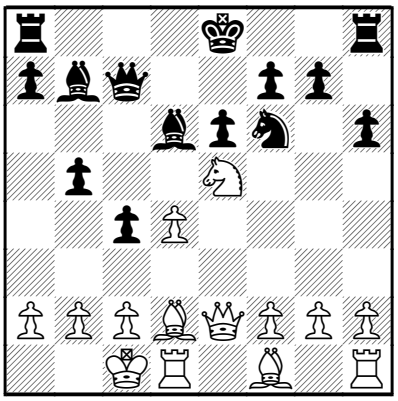
13.Bf1 Nf6 14.Qe2?!

14.Qe1! is better, when White fights for control over a5, b4 and c3.

14...b5 15.Ne5 Bb7

jw

Nikolay Arutyunov and Varun Krishnan: the final round face-off in the San Diego County Championships.



16.f3N

An improvement over 16.b3? Bd5 17.bxc4?, Zaksaite–Zhao, Paris 1998. White's 17th was suicide—Black's attack is too fast after 17...Ba3+ 18.Kb1 bxc4 19.Ka1 Rb8–+.

16...Nd5 17.c3 O–O 18.g4?!

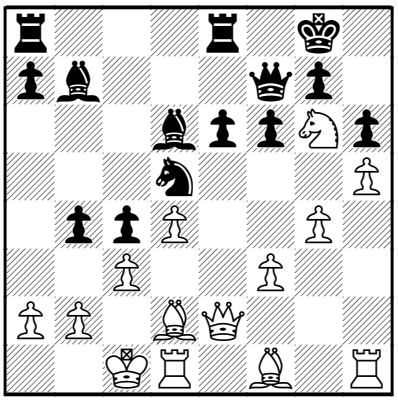
White's attack is too slow.

Better is 18.Kb1.

18...f6 19.Ng6

This knight is actually in the way of White's pawn storm.

19...Rfe8 20.h4 Qf7 21.h5 b4–+



Black has a winning attack.

22.cxb4

Or 22.Qe1 Rab8–+.

22...Rac8 23.Bc3 Bxb4 24.Bxb4 Nxb4 25.a3 Nd5 26.Rh2 c3 27.Qe1 Qc7! 28.Rf2 cxb2+ 29.Kxb2 Nc3 30.Rd3 Na4+ 31.Kb1 Bd5 32.f4 Rb8+ 33.Ka1 Rec8 34.Rd1 Qd6 35.Rd3 Bb3 36.Ra2 Bxa2 37.Kxa2 Rc2+ 38.Ka1 Rbb2 0–1

The ***Super Double Gambito Open*** (#666 on 8/16-8/17) is a grueling annual event that features eight rounds over two days. Thirty-five players battled for prizes, including six masters and nine experts.

jw

jw

jw

Top to bottom: Dionisio Aldama, Bruce Baker and Ilia Serpik topped the 666th!

Dionisio Aldama, Bruce Baker and Ilia Serpik tied for first with 6-2 and $200 each. Five players tied for best under 2200: Jason Ma, Gurveer Singh, Raoul Crisologo, Zechariah Zhu and Datris Robinson, all with 4½-3½. The last two took best under 2000 prize money.

In the Reserve (under 1800) Section, Jerry Kavanau scored an impressive 7-1 for clear first, followed by Ken Green with 6½-1½ and Randall Fair with 6-2. Joshua Chung and Stephan Zhu tied for best under 1600 with 5-3 each. On a side note, I, Chuck Ensey, managed to lose all eight games in the Open section, but remained calm and carried on. I will get my Class A rating back any day now.

The ***September Super Gambito*** (#668) had 30 players. Both the August and September Super Gambito Opens were on the second Saturdays of the month instead of the usual first Saturday due to bigger events, the San Diego County Championship in August and the Southern California Open in September. Again in September we used a *McMahon pairing system*. Cyrus Lakdawala won with 7½ point score and Dionisio Aldama was second with 7. Bruce Baker took best under 2400 with 6½ and Krishnakanth Rapaka also scored 6½ to win best under 2200. Jerry Qu won best under 2000, Tygan Zeng was best under 1800 and new player Ari Bloomekatz was best under 1600.

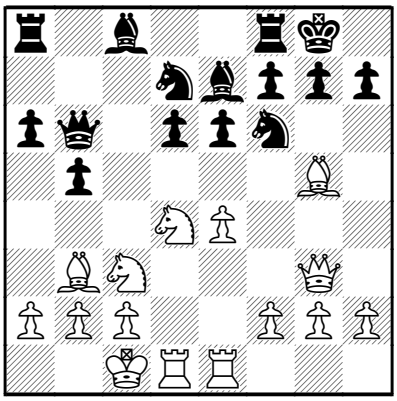
Please call our club if you have any questions at 619.239.7166, or visit our previously mentioned new website.

Cy sent us the following super game from this Super Gambito #668. Thanks, Cy! - Ed.

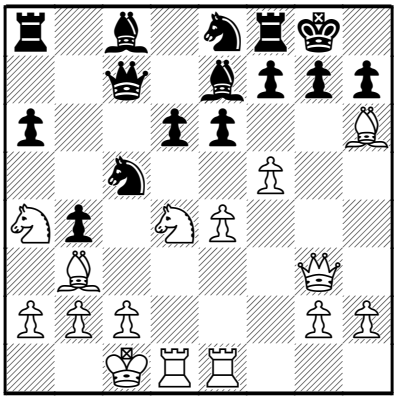
Dionisio Aldama (2538) – Nikolai Arutyunov (2243)
[B87] Sicilian Najdorf
Super Gambito #668 (2)
San Diego, September 07, 2014

Notes by IM Cy Lakdawala.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bc4 e6 7.Bb3 b5 8.Bg5 Be7 9.Qf3 Qb6 10.O–O–O Nbd7 11.Rhe1 O–O 12.Qg3



12...Nc5 13.Bh6 Ne8 14.f4 b4 15.Na4 Qc7 16.f5?!

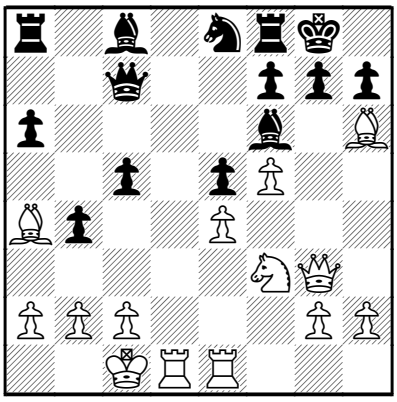


Better was 16.e5.

16...e5?

Black takes over the initiative if he eliminates White's powerful light-squared bishop. 16...Nxb3+ 17.axb3 e5 18.Nf3 Bd7 19.Kb1 Bc6∓.

17.Nxc5 dxc5 18.Nf3 Bf6 19.Ba4±



Threat: Bxe8, followed by Bxg7!.

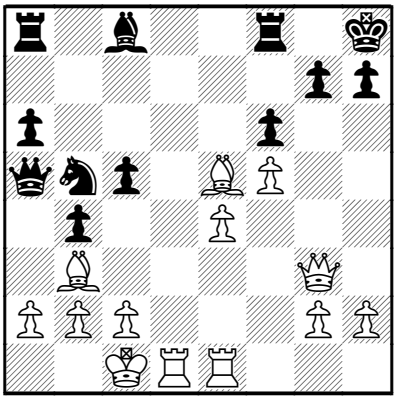
19...Kh8 20.Be3 Nd6?

Better was 20...c4.

21.Nxe5 Nb5

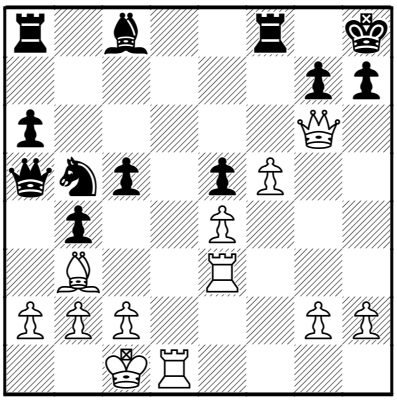
Not 21...Nxe4?? because of 22.Ng6++-.

22.Bf4 Qa5 23.Bb3 Bxe5 24.Bxe5 f6



White to play and win:

25.Re3!! fxe5 26.Qg6!



Threat: Qxh7+ and Rh3 mate.

26...Bxf5 27.exf5 Rf6 28.Rh3 Rxg6 29.fxg6 h6 30.Rd7 1–0

It's all over after 30...Ra7 31.Rxh6+ gxh6 32.g7+ Kh7 33.g8Q mate.

In August and September the **San Diego Chess Club** honored Expert George Zeigler with the six-round ***George Zeigler Open*** which had 57 players in three sections.

George's unique personality has won many friends at the club where he has played on and off for at least three decades. One of the strengths of our club is the many players who have been loyal members since the 80s, 70s and even the 1960s.

Manuel Herrera topped the Open Section scoring 5-1, including a first round bye, winning a spot in next year's ***Club Championship***. Second was Lennart Mathe with 4½-1½. Aaron Wooten won best under 2100 with 4-2, Leonard Sussman and Jeff Turner tied for second under 2100 with 3½-2½, and Scott Roods (2151) won third prize, also with 3½-2½.

In the Premier Section (under 1900), William Wijaya, Robert Draper and Bruce Charnov all scored 4½-1½ for a three-way tie for first. Anthony Harbone was best under 1700 while Randall Fair and Morgan Fox tied for second under 1700. In the Reserve (under 1500) Section, young new player Ming Lu scored a 6-0 sweep. Maria Murra was best under 1300 with 4-2 and Adnan Al Joubi, Daniel Xu and Peter Schmeeckle all scored 3½-2½.

Our next event in October and November is the ***Eliza Eggert Open***, and then we wrap up the year with the ***Class Championships***.

- Chuck Ensey

San Luis Obispo

We had a great turnout with full prizes paid at the 2014 ***San Luis Obispo Championship*** held in Morro Bay. We had great representation from San Luis Obispo, Bakersfield, Los Angeles, and Santa Barbara. The four-round tournament with G/60, d5 time control produced a number of exciting games.

The Open section had a tie for first at 3½-½ between local National Master Eduardo Ortiz and Santa Barbara resident Jason Garfield.

The rest of the Santa Barbara crew shared the tie for second place at 3-1 including Frederick Krewson, Aaron Jones, and Daniel Giordani. The expected showdown between Santa Barbara master Kevin Davidson and Eduardo Ortiz will have to wait as Kevin was the only Santa Barbara team member to not place, losing his final two games. A very happy junior Oliver Wu won the under 1800 prize. Taylor McCreary was the top scoring SLO resident with 2-2. We don't really need to mention the rest of the hosting team—it was not pretty. :)

The reserve section was won by Los Osos junior Judith Gottlieb who scored 3½-½—and gained over 200 rating points for this event. Beton Carr and Jesus Barraza tied for second with a score of 3-1.

Full results are at: **www.slochess.com**.

Here's a miniature between master Kevin Davidson and local Taylor McCreary demonstrating how a misstep in the Najdorf can go wrong.

Kevin Davidson (2310) –
Taylor McCreary (2023)
[B86] Najdorf Sicilian
SLO County Championship (2)
Morro Bay, September 13, 2014

Notes by the Editor.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bc4 e6 7.Bb3 Be7 8.g4 Nc6

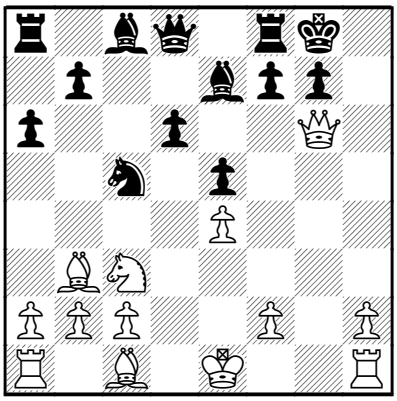
Necessary is 8...h6.

9.g5 Nxd4 10.Qxd4 e5

Here, natural moves aren't as good as the computer's odd-looking 10...Nh5=.

11.Qd1 Nd7 12.Qh5 O–O 13.g6 hxg6 14.Qxg6 Nc5

Sturdier is 14...Bh4 to be able to use the Queen in defense: 15.Rg1 *(not 15.Bh6 Qf6∓)* 15...Qf6 16.Qg2 Kh7 17.Be3 Qg6±.



Now White wins with a couple of accurate moves:

15.Bh6! Bf6 16.Bxg7! Nxb3

Another way to break the pin is 16...d5 17.Bxd5 Qxd5, but 18.Qh6 Bxg7 19.Rg1 still wins.

17.Qh6 Bxg7 18.Rg1 1–0

It's a mate.

Santa Clarita

The Juniors ARE the Masters!

On September 20, in Santa Clarita, a new version of the Sean Reader Master-Junior Simul had its inaugural occurrence, the ***Sean Reader Junior Simul***, in which the strongest young players in Southern California are each paired with four of California Youth Chess League's over-900 rated students to make up four separate teams which play a two-round Swiss. Each Super-Junior plays simultaneously against the aspiring juniors on the opposing team. So, each team has a possibility of eight points—one by each junior as they play the much-higher rated opponent, and four by their team captain who is simultaneously battling the four on the opposing team. To win the match, a team needs 4½ points.

The annual Master Junior Simul typically hosts 24 juniors with an average rating above 2000, so this new event bridges the gap between the 1000-1500 players and those rated over 2000.

Team Korba with trophies: Alex Tsatryan, Joe Brennan, Evan Vallens, Nicky—with Jay.

Sean Reader was invited to play in the original Master-Junior Simul in 2005. Back then, a 1200 rating was impressive enough to earn the right to participate! After Sean lost his battle with leukemia in 2006, his parents set up Sean's Fund which immediately began to fund worthwhile chess causes. It started with offering financial aid to families who couldn't afford class fees. A couple of years later, Sean's Fund started to bring chess backpacks to the kids at Children's Hospital (that has since expanded to City of Hope and Children's Hospital Denver). By 2009, Sean's Fund moved to revive the Master-Junior in Sean's honor.

One fun twist in the Junior Simul is that on boards 2-4, the Super-Juniors are playing with odds: Knight odds on Board 2, Rook odds on Board 3, and Queen odds on Board 4! In this first event, the Super-Juniors were hopeless in the first round when they played with no queens, but after the lunch break they took 3 out of 4 on Board 4!

Top rated Super-Junior Nicky Korba

Sean's Fund carefully selected the Super-Juniors. We chose three young men, and a young woman who had shown, over the years, great sportsmanship and respect for their opponents of all levels. They were each paid to play, but you could tell that they were thrilled to be there!

NM Nicky Korba (2311), NM Leo Creger (2205), Matthew Shuben (2174), and Taylor McCreary (2012) displayed character nothing short of exemplary. They introduced themselves to their teammates, then to their opponents, then settled in for the battle!

Super-Juniors Taylor McCreary, whose team tied for first, Matthew Shuben, and Leo Creger—hard at work!

All photos this page: Jennifer Vallens

Round 1 saw Team Korba defeat Team Shuben 5-3, with both Super-Juniors losing on Board 4, and Matt Shuben dropping the full-point on Board 3 after spurning draw offers that would have given his team and extra half-point towards tie-breaks, but would have lost the match. In the other match, Team McCreary earned a victory by a score of 4½-3½ even though Taylor forgot about her clock in a game in which her opponent had only a King.

Round 2 saw two draws—Nicky and Taylor each swept 4-0, while Matt lost on board 1 and Leo lost on board 4. That left Team Korba with first place trophies on individual point tie-breaks over second place Team McCreary.

Best Game prizes were awarded to Dylan Gould (vs Matt Shuben on Board 1), Zach Montenegro (vs Leo Creger on Board 2), Alex Tsatryan (in a loss vs Taylor McCreary on Board 2), and Landon Hu (the only competitor to win both games, vs Nicky Korba on Board 4).

Sean's Fund sponsored the event, including the awards, refreshments, lunch, honorarium for the Super-Juniors, and all incidental costs. Two more Junior Simuls are planned before the main event—the 2015 Sean Reader Master-Junior Simul, which typically is held in April.

– Jay Stallings

Thousand Oaks

With 54 players, the **Thousand Oaks Chess Club's *Summer Spectacular*** marked the largest turnout for a tournament at the club so far. In the Open section, NM Larry Smith won yet again, taking clear first with 4½-½, drawing only in the fifth and final round, with second place winner Cengiz Ant Vance who scored 3½-1½. Third place on tiebreaks went to Mark Crunelle, who also had 3½. Mark, who entered the tournament with a 1670 rating, had an outstanding performance, beating three Class A players and only losing one game, and his rating increased all the way to 1792. Congratulations Mark! Joshua Rose, also with 3½-1½, took fourth on tiebreaks in the 22-player section.

The 11-player under 1600 section saw a clear winner in Trent Chu, who scored 4½-½, and Sabrina Shenker took clear second with 3½-1½. Third place on tiebreaks went to Naren Krishnan, who finished with 3-2.

The lowest section, under 1000 this time, saw yet another 5-0 sweep with Ekaterina Kiseleva winning all her games. Nicely done! Clear second went to Ekaterina's brother, Georgiy Kiselev, who finished with 4-1. Third on tiebreaks went to Thomas Lu in the 22-player section.

The club's next tournament, the ***Summer's End Swiss***, was also a five-rounder and ran from August 25 to September 29. John Williams, an expert, took clear first in the 17-player Open section with a 4-1 score, which included a half-point bye and one draw. Second and third on tiebreaks went to A-players Shoma Kutasov and Rick Bucaria, both scoring 3½-1½. Also, up-and-coming Aditya Sunkara, rated 1383, was awarded best under 1700 honors for his above-average 3-2 score, which included a draw against one B-player and a win against another!

The trend of winning with a perfect score in the bottom section continued with Irina Ivanova going 5-0 in the 25-player under 1400. This is the sixth time this has happened since the **TOCC** began hosting rated tournaments in April 2013, and the only time it didn't occur (excluding the single-section first annual Club Championship and non-rated tournaments) was nearly a year ago in the 2013 Year-End Swiss where three players tied for first in the under 700 section with 3½-1½. In contrast, the only time the top section was swept with a perfect score was in the TOCC's very first tournament, the 2013 Kick-Off Swiss, when John Williams scored 4-0. Back in the ***Summer's End*** under 1400 Section, the second and third places were taken by Vladimir Bendersky and 872-rated Destin Petri respectively, both with 4-1. The best under 700 prize went to Ellison Korman, who scored 3-2.

The ***Thousand Oaks Chess Club*** meets every Monday night and offers continuous rated tournaments in a warm and friendly atmosphere year round. Open play and occasional special events are also available.

For more information, including when the next event is going to begin, see the club's website at:
TOchessclub.org
or contact Cindy Garcia at:
ThousandOaksChess@att.net
or 805-990-0136.

Rockville

IM Keaton Kiewra annotated one of his games for the Rank & File. It's an interesting contest from his recent norm tournament.

Now that he is back from Dallas, Keaton also played in the SCCF State Championship round robin. - Ed.

Keaton Kiewra (2392) –
Ruifeng Li (2284)
[A45] Trompowsky Attack
3rd Washington International (3)
Rockville, MD, August 10, 2014
Notes by IM Keaton Kiewra.

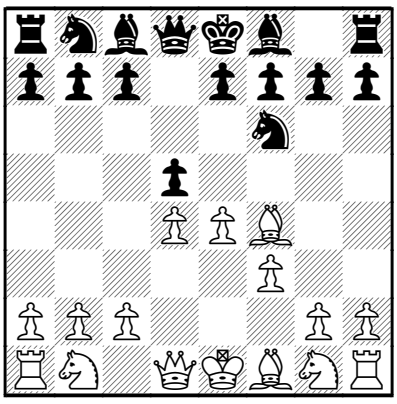
1.d4

Having lived in Dallas for eight years, I've crossed paths with the talented youngster Ruifeng Li a couple times. Our games always seem to be highly contested battles, so I was ready for another fight.

1...Nf6 2.Bg5

I was inspired to play the Tromp after reading IM Cyrus Lakdawala's outstanding book: *The Trompowsky Attack: Move by Move.*

2...Ne4 3.Bf4 d5 4.f3 Nf6 5.e4



5...e6

This move, which often leads to French type positions, is a legitimate way of handling White's gambit.

It is risky to accept the pawn sac with 5...dxe4 because after 6.Nc3 White gets a Blackmar Diemer Gambit a full tempo up!

6.e5 Nfd7 7.Be3

At this point I felt like the opening was a success for me. I tend to score very well on the White side of the French Defense, probably because I like having so much central space which can lead to promising Kingside attacking possibilities.

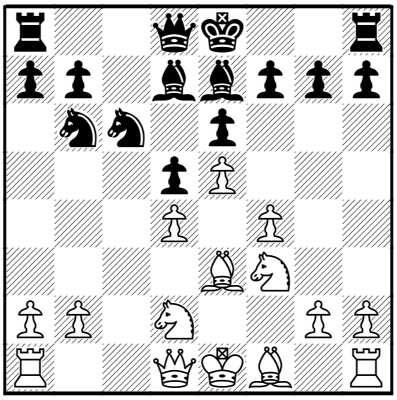
7...c5 8.c3 Nc6 9.f4 cxd4 10.cxd4 Nb6

This is an interesting move, eyeing the c4 square. I have taken a big space advantage in the opening at the cost of development, so I have to be careful not to allow Black to have too much counterplay.

11.Nd2

Helping to lock down the c4 square, since I don't want to trade off my good light-square Bishop or play b3 too early which would create weaknesses on my Queenside.

11...Bd7 12.Ngf3 Be7



13.Be2

I rejected the more natural 13.Bd3 in view of 13...Nb4 14.Bb1 Bb5 with all kinds of shenanigans in the works.

13...Rc8 14.Rc1

I still have to be careful. The natural 14.O–O would allow 14...Nb4 targeting the c2 square, and the a2 pawn if White were to play Rc1.

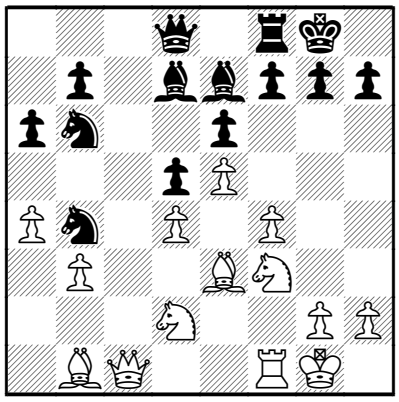
14...O–O 15.O–O Na5 16.b3

I felt like this was the right time to make a concession on the Queenside in order to take all of the good squares away from Black's Knights.

16...a6 17.a4

Preventing Black from playing Bb5, which would trade his bad Bishop for my good Bishop.

17...Nc6 18.Bd3 Nb4 19.Bb1 Rxc1 20.Qxc1



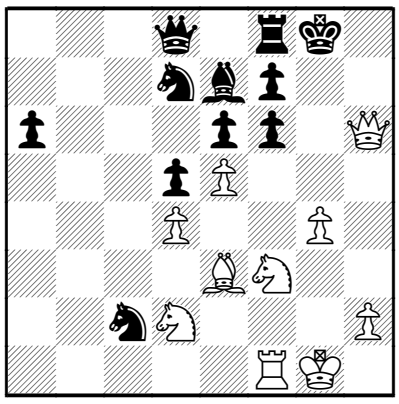
20...Nc8

This move was a surprise for me. I was fully expecting 21...Qc8 challenging my Queen's supremacy along the c-file. I feel like White would have an edge in the endgame due to central and Queenside space, but the middlegame is far more dangerous for Black, as a promising White attack is only a few moves away.

21.Qe1 b5 22.Qg3 bxa4 23.Qh3 h6

Black had to make a decision and I'm not convinced this is the right one. More stubborn seems 23...g6, preventing mate and trying to freeze the White f-pawn. Now, for the next few moves, the White attack basically plays itself.

24.bxa4 Nb6 25.g4 Bxa4 26.f5 Bc2 27.f6 gxf6 28.Qxh6 Nd7 29.Bxc2 Nxc2



30.Ng5!!

I don't normally like to give my own moves double exclams, but I was really excited to find this idea. The Knight sacrifices itself to clear a path for White's Rook to lift to the third rank and decide the game.

30...fxg5 31.Rf3

Despite the material lead and no immediate danger, Black has no satisfactory way of meeting White's simple idea of sliding the Rook to the h-file and giving checkmate on h8 or h7. Moving the f-pawn never works for Black because of Qg6+ followed by mate on the h-file.

31...Re8 32.Rh3 Bf6

The only defensive try.

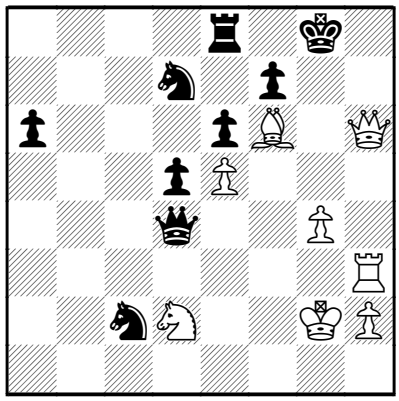
33.Bxg5!

I saw that I had the variation 33.exf6 Qxf6 34.Qh7+, winning the c2 Knight in my back pocket, but this dark square deflection idea—which as a Sicilian Dragon player I've had used against me more times than I care to remember—is much more decisive.

33...Qb6

The only chance. Black has to seek counterplay against White's exposed King.

34.Bxf6 Qxd4+ 35.Kg2



After this accurate King move, Black's checks soon run out.

35...Ne3+

If 35...Qxg4+ then 36.Rg3, and 35...Ne1+ is answered by 36.Kf1.

36.Qxe3 1–0

Welcome back Keaton! Thanks for the sparkling game and annotations. Please send more! - Ed.

Lancaster

Throughout the 5-9 p.m. free chess activity at the ***Celebrate America on the BLVD*** event on September 6, kids and adults came by to play for free in Ms. Daa's simul, where she played up to four opponents at a time, and anyone who beat her won a dollar. Bryan Hall *(seen at right)*, an owner of JFam Tattoos, was the only challenger to beat Ms. Daa out of the nearly 30 games she played that night.

Fifteen kids in grades K-8 joined the Antelope Valley-wide **Kids Chess Club** at the first meeting of the fall session on October 3. The club meets on Fridays, 5:15-6:45 p.m.

At the first meeting, the coach, Ms. Daa, played all the club members in a Simultaneous Exhibition *(photos below and at right)* in order to assess their current playing level.

During the assessment, various chess terms were discussed, as Ms. Daa learned what the members knew and what topics she should cover in upcoming meetings.

The second meeting on October 10 featured a Pillar Game Round Robin so that members cold work on their middle game skills and practice minor pieces supporting major pieces.

dm

Each of the following weekly meetings will utilize hands-on activities which will strengthen various strategies and tactics oft he members. There will also be at least one, possibly two matches against Scholastic Chess Clubs around the valley.

Ms. Daa is quick to point out that, "There's plenty of room for more members and I hope at least 30 will join the Kids' Chess Club!"

Location: AV Chess House, 3710 Neola Way (nearest major intersection 40th & West Avenue J in Lancaster).

Contact: Daa (pronounced day) Anne Mahowald: **daa@mahowald.org**, 661.466.6907.

dm

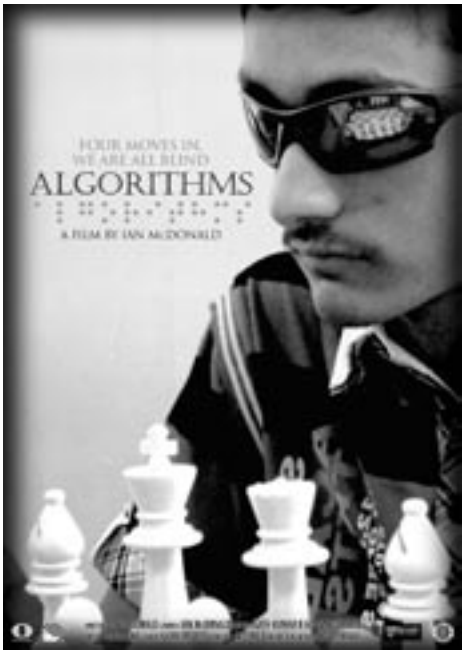
dm *Above and right: the simul at the first meeting of the Kids Chess Club. Top right: Bryan Hall gets his prize at Celebrate America on the BLVD!*

Laguna Hills

FM Alexandre Kretchetov topped the nine-player ***SCCF Candidates Tournament*** with a score of 3½-½. Players earned an invitation to this Swiss-system contest by placing high enough in various SCCF tournaments in the previous year. Tying for second at 3-1 were IM Larry Allen Remlinger, Albert Lu, and Daniel Mousseri.

Each qualified for the SCCF Championship eight-player round robin. In addition, Eugene Yanayt scored 1½-2½ to gain the final entry into the SCCF State Championship.

Richard Kasa directed the tournament, which was held August 23-24 at the Orange County Chess Club in Laguna Hills.



Los Angeles – Films

A Chess Documentary

Algorithms *is a recently opened chess-related film. We provide photos and notes from the press release. - Ed.*

In India, a group of boys dream of becoming Chess Grandmasters. But this is no ordinary chess and these are no ordinary players. Opening at Laemmle's Town Center 5 in Encino on October 17, *Algorithms* is a documentary that transports us into the little known world of Blind Chess.

Chess is an ancient and universal game with origins in India. Filmed over three years in different parts of India, *Algorithms* follows three boys and an adult champion who not only aspires to bring global recognition to India's blind chess players, but also wants to encourage all blind children to play chess.

The filmmakers travel with the players to competitive tournaments, including the World Junior Blind Chess Championship. They also film them in their home milieu where they reveal their struggles, anxieties and hopes. Moving through the algorithms of the blind chess world, the film is a tactile and mindful journey that challenges the notion of what it means to "see."

The type of board and men used by the blind is pictured above right. - Ed.

Lawndale

Alondra Park's *End of Summer* tournament concluded August 26 with a bizarre five-way logjam at 4½-1½.

The club's two experts, Matt Robertson and Ted Roth, were playing the final round on board one. Matt was beating Ted on the board and the clock when a dispute arose over the final resting place of a moved piece.

Not satisfied with Ted's explanation, Matt resigned the game. This enabled Roth, Howard Lefevre, Mike Bynum and newcomer—and unrated—Thu Daniel Hoang to share first place with Matt. Matt still finished first on tie-breaks.

Lefevre and Bynum were top A's, and Nathan Shankaran and Jose Milanez were top B and C respectively, scoring 3-3.

Richard Meller directed the 28-player event. The **Alondra Park Chess Club** meets Tuesday evenings in the clubhouse at 3850 W. Manhattan Beach Blvd., Lawndale. For more information contact Richard Meller at **RichardMeller@yahoo.com** or the club's Website: **www.alondraparkchessclub.com**.

ap *Ted Roth*

Matt Robertson ap

Pasadena

Pasadena Chess Club's extended summer tournament, ***Liberty Open***, attracted 85 players, a club record. Alejandro "AJ" Ruiz ran up five straight wins after taking two byes, finishing clear first at 6-1. His "swiss gambit" enabled him to avoid the top two seeds, club champ Alexander Xie and veteran Ron Jabali, who were in a tie for second, a half point behind. Xie beat Jabali but "freaked out" four pawns up against Daniel Manahan in the penultimate round and lost, setting up Ruiz's last round win over Manahan. Also in the second place tie: Hamlet Tovmasyan, who misplayed a winning ending against Jabali in the final round and thus missed a chance to tie for first; and veteran Gordon Brooks, who took under 2000 honors.

Club newcomer Samuel Katagi split the under 1800 prize with young Julian Chang. Jaren Huang took under 1600 laurels, Aaron Sun was best under 1400, and Qize Li topped the under 1200s. The ladies ruled under 1000, as Ashley Huang and Sophia Manahan took the honors. And Daniel Rea was best Unrated. Maxwell Li racked up the most cumulative upset points—and picked up 119 rating points.

The traditional ***San Gabriel Valley Open*** encompassed "only" 73 players in two sections. Newly minted International Woman Master and *Chess Life* cover girl Annie Wang topped the first group with 4½-½, drawing with top seed Dave Bassett in the last round. Bassett had yielded a draw to (formerly) 1813-rated Chris Stychinsky in the first round. Pierre Ducharme and Daniel Manahan joined the second place tie with 4-1 and split the under 2100 honors. Stychinsky was best under 1900, picking up 97 points and scoring the most cumulative upset points despite taking one bye. Jason McKeen was top under 1700.

In the smaller second section, Alex Chen started off 4-0 but faltered against Kendryek Wu; the two were joined in a first place tie by Kyle Li and Brian Sheldon (top under 1400). Greg Villar took under 1200 laurels, and David Kang was best under 1000.

The club will hold a ***one-night Blitz tournament*** on November 24, and the three-round ***A Rose for Your Queen*** (Pasadena pride!) December 5-19 in several sections. The club meets Friday evenings at 7 p.m. at the Boys and Girls Club, 3230 East Del Mar.

The website, **Tim-Thompson.com/pasadena.html**, includes the schedule, complete list of prizewinners for each tournament, and a catalogue of the hundreds of books in the club's lending library. Contact Randy Hough, **randallhough@gmail.com**, 626.282.7412 with any questions.

The following game was one of Stychinsky's upsets:

Lawrence Stevens –
Chris Stychinsky
[B22] c3 Sicilian
San Gabriel Valley Championship (2)
Pasadena, September 12, 2014

Notes by Chris Stychinsky.
Additional notes in italics by Lawrence Stevens.

1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 g6 5.Nf3 Bg4

Book is 5...Bg7; my ideas were:

1. I wanted to play actively and give problems for White to solve.

2. The move develops a piece, pins Nf3 and adds more pressure to d4.

3. The non-book move has a surprise value and welcomes an original fight on the board.

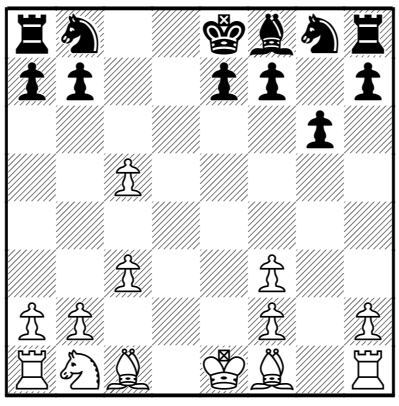
6.dxc5

Also possible is 6.Be2 Nf6±.

6...Bxf3

Similar is the Queenless middlegame after 6...Qxd1+ 7.Kxd1 Nd7 8.Be3±.

7.Qxf3± Qxf3 8.gxf3



I thought I was getting a good version of a d4xc5 line, having a pawn up and the two Bishops. With this pawn structure, Black's Kingside majority is often hard to effectively advance.

8...Bg7 9.Be3 Nh6 10.Na3 O–O

A little imprecise—the thematic followup was 10...Nf5 instead of castling.

11.O–O–O Nf5 12.Bh3

12.f4 seems better, controlling e5 and the light-square Bishop has prospects.

Also better was 12.Bd3, for after 12...Nxe3 13.fxe3 it's hard for Black to use the remaining Knight to put pressure on c5: if 13...Nd7 then 14.Bxg6, and if 13...Na6 then 14.Bxa6.

12...Nxe3± 13.fxe3 Na6

Fortunately, Black's Knight is on the rim, far away from my two unprotected pieces on the h-file.

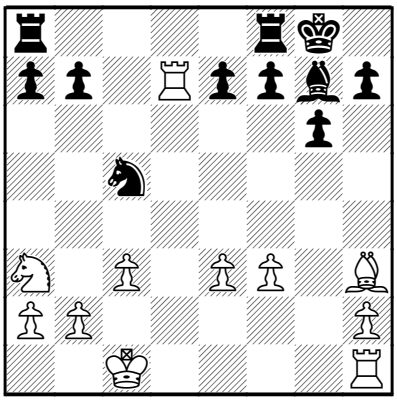
Now I am ready to capitalize on my opening play:

14.Rd7

I was hoping for this move, although at the same time I was surprised Black did not see that my b- and e-pawns cannot be captured.

Better was 14.c6 bxc6 15.f4 e5±.

14...Nxc5=



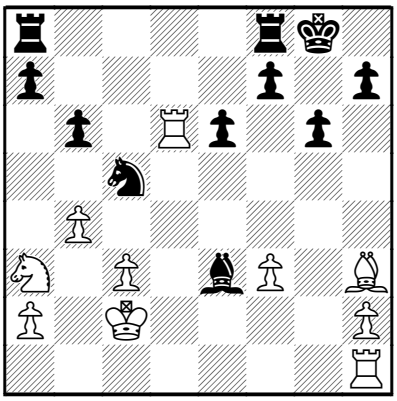
Oops. Just now I just realized I can't take the e7 pawn like I wanted to, because Black replies 15...Nd3+ 16.Kc2 Nf2∓. I didn't know that Knights could cross the board so fast!

Since it's attacking my Rook on d7, I have to move it back.

15.Rd5 Bh6 16.Kc2 b6 17.b4 e6

Not 17...Bxe3 18.bxc5 Bxc5 19.Nc4±.

18.Rd6 Bxe3



19.Re1

Much more perceptive would have been 19.Nc4! Bf4 20.bxc5 Bxd6 21.cxd6 Rfc8 22.Ne5 Rc5 23.f4 Rac8 24.c4=.

19...Bf4

Here I should have persisted with 19...Bf2 and if 20.Re2 the refuting 20...a5! comes threatening to take the a3 Knight or the a2 pawn with check winning the exchange. And now 21.b5= is best—better than 21.Rxf2? axb4 22.cxb4 Rxa3–+ and 21.bxc5 Bxc5 22.Nb5 Bxd6 23.Nxd6 Rad8∓.

Still, the Bishop feels good on f4.

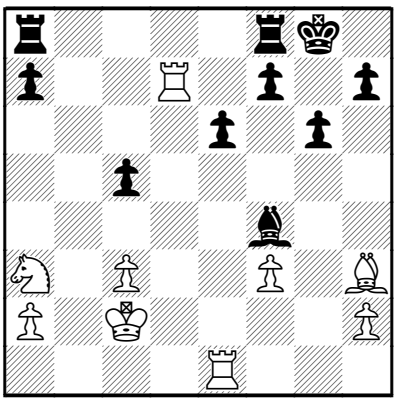
20.bxc5 bxc5

This pawn recapture came as a surprise to both White and Black. I did not want to play with a Rook against his two pieces. But white has 4 pawn islands—all his pawns are weak, making them good targets.

Yeah, I was very surprised, and proceeded in endgame style after this.

I was expecting 20...Bxd6!? 21.cxd6 Rfd8 22.Rd1 Rac8 23.f4 Rc6 24.Nb5 a6 25.Bg2, trying to remain optimistic.

21.Rd7±



21...Rab8

Here the obvious 21...Bxh2 is available for Black. Material would have been even.

Evaluating the position little deeper, with both my Rooks being undeveloped, I came to the conclusion that Rook activity was more important than capturing a weak pawn—I am willing to give up another pawn or two to get my Rooks active. So the Rook doubling on the b-file with the idea of attack on White's two back ranks came to fruition. My Bishop is ideally placed already, and White's dark squares around the White King are vulnerable to attack.

Another surprising move.

Still in endgame mode, I thought I would guard my pawn, to prevent the pawn trade that would have been possible if I took on a7 now.

22.Re2

Protects the h2 pawn and insures White a material advantage. This comes at a cost of further restricting the light-squared Bishop and this Rook now plays a passive role—defending a weak pawn.

Best is 22.Nc4±.

22...Rb6 23.Rxa7

White lets Black execute his plan, underestimating the powerful King hunt to follow.

Instead, 23.Nc4 had to be played.

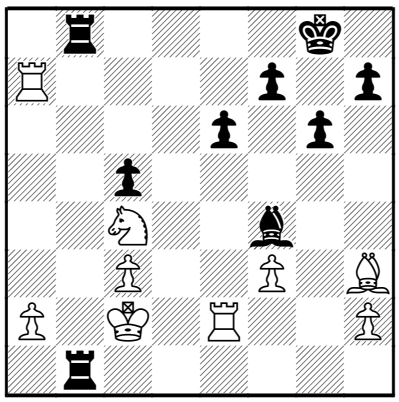
I looked at 23.Nc4!? Ra6 24.a3± *but thought, "What could go wrong with just taking the a-pawn?"*

23...Rfb8 24.Nc4

White still keeps the advantage after 24.Kd3!? Rb2 25.Nc2 Rd8+ 26.Kc4±.

Now I have b2 covered.

24...Rb1=



A check on c1 is coming, but I advance on the Queenside to get the a-pawn rolling. My King will escape to e4 attacking the Bishop, gaining a tempo.

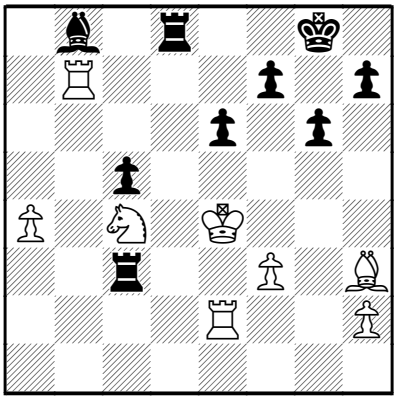
25.a4??

Still equal is 25.Rd7 Rc1+ 26.Kd3 Rd1+ 27.Nd2.

25...Rc1+–+ 26.Kd3 Rd8+ 27.Ke4 Bb8

Oops. Black gains a tempo on my Rook.

28.Rb7 Rxc3

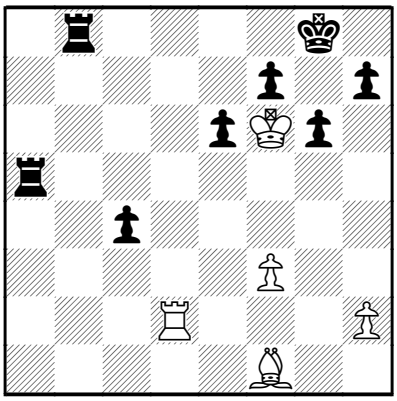


Whoa, now Rd4 mate is threatened—something has gone terribly wrong. I'm just getting rolled!

29.Rxb8 Rxc4+ 30.Ke5 Rxb8 31.a5 Ra4

Rooks belong behind passed pawns. — Tarrasch.

32.Rd2 Rxa5 33.Bf1 c4+ 34.Kf6



Here I had 5 minutes on the clock. I briefly started calculating Kf8 with the idea of playing for mate, but with the clock ticking, I decided to go for the check instead, as I was able to play many moves with tempo.

34...Rf5+ 35.Ke7 c3 0–1

White resigned. A good fighting 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

November 22-23 or 23
American Open Scholastic
*** 1 week earlier than the main event ***

Doubletree Anaheim / Orange County, 100 City Dr., Orange, CA 92868. (714) 634-4500. Hotel rate is $99, mention SCF. Chess Computer for each 1st place winner per section. Trophies to top 10 places and top 3 in teams, in each section. Finalist medals to all above-average scorers. 9 Sections based on grade and rating: Varsity K-3, K-6, K-12; Junior Varsity K-1, K-3 rated U600, K-6 rated U600, K-6 rated U800, K-9 rated U1000, K-12 rated U1200. Pre-Registration only (onsite reg. pay more and receive 1st round bye): Rds.: **Saturday & Sunday 9am, 12:15, 3:15 for Varsity** sections; and **Sunday 9am, 10:45, 12:15, 1:45, 3:15, 4:45 for Junior Varsity** sections. Time Controls: All rounds will be G/75 d5 in Varsity and G/30 d5 in Junior Varsity sections. EF: Varsity $80, Junior Varsity $60, register by 11/20 save $5, by 11/20 save 10%, by 10/31 save 20%, by 9/30 save 30%. Play-up +$5. Limited space for onsite registration! USCF Membership required for all sections. November Supplement & TD discretion to place players accurately. National Tournament Director: Randall Hough. Info: **AmericanOpen.org/junior-tournament**.

Inquire: **play@americanopen.org.** Chess Magnet School JGP for Varsity Sections.

November 27-30 or 28-30
50th Annual American Open
An American Classic!
A Heritage Event!
Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!
Trophies Plus Grand Prix Points: 150 (Enhanced)

8SS, 40/2, SD/1 d5. Doubletree Hotel Anaheim/Orange County, 100 City Dr., Orange, CA 92868. $$50,000 b/o 500 entries, $25,000 guaranteed. In 6 sections. Open: $5000-2500-1200-800-600-300, U2450/Unr. $1500-700-500, U2300/Unr. $800-400. U2200, U2000, U1800 Each $3000-1500-1000-500-400-300. U1600 $3000-1500-700-500-400-300. U1400/Unr: $2000-1000- 500-300-200-100, U1200 $1000-500-300 (not a separate section; U1200s also eligible for U1400 prizes), Unrated: $300-200-100 (Unrateds in this section eligible for these prizes only). **Mixed Doubles Prizes**: 1st $500 - 2nd $250 - 3rd $125. Plus score bonus ($2,500 in chess store gift cards) every player who finishes with 4-1/2 points or better who didn't place in the money prize wins a $25 gift certificate towards chess store - redeemable only onsite. **SCCF membership $18 for adults and $13 juniors required for So Cal residents**. 4-day schedule: Reg. closes 11am on 11/27, (Rounds 12:30-7:30, 12:30-7:30, 10:30-5, 10-4:30). 3-day schedule: Reg. closes 9:30am on 11/28, Rounds. 11-2:30-5-8pm (G/60 d5), schedules merge in Rd. 5 and compete for common prizes.

Info: organizing club - Chess Palace 714.899.3421, **play@americanopen.org**. Premium play hall (Grand Ballroom) for the duration of the event. Ent: American Open, 5246 Lampson Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92845 or **www.AmericanOpen.org**. W, F.

November 29
American Open Blitz (BLZ)
Trophies Plus Grand Prix Points: 6

5 round double swiss, G/5 d0. Doubletree Hotel Anaheim/Orange County. 100 City Dr., Orange, CA 92868. Projected prizes $1000, 80% Guaranteed! $300-100; U2200, U2000, U1800, U1600, U1400, Unr. each $100.

November 30
American Open Action

5 round SS, G/30 d5. Doubletree Hotel Anaheim/Orange County. 100 City Dr., Orange, CA 92868. Projected prizes $500, 80% Guaranteed!

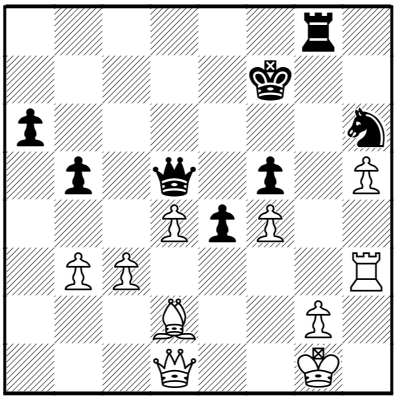
January 17-19 or 18-19
Dreaming King Open
Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!
Trophies Plus Grand Prix Points: 150 (Enhanced)
***** See advertisement inside back cover. *****

March 6-8 or 7-8
22nd Annual Western Class Championships
Chess Magnet School Junior Grand Prix!
Trophies Plus Grand Prix Points: 100 (Enhanced)

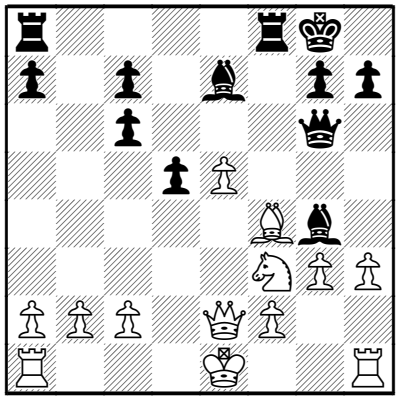
5SS, 40/100, SD/30 d10 (2-day option, rds. 1-2 G/60 d10). Sheraton Agoura Hills Hotel, 30100 Agoura Rd., Agoura Hills, CA 91301.

Final Points

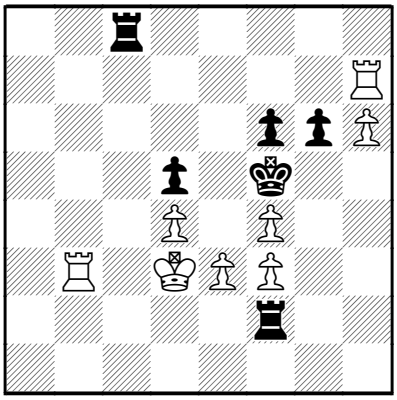
We hope you enjoyed this issue. Until next time, here is another quiz. Please keep submitting those scoresheets, or take a smartphone photo and email one to RankAndFileEditor@gmail.com! See page 33 for solutions. - Ed.



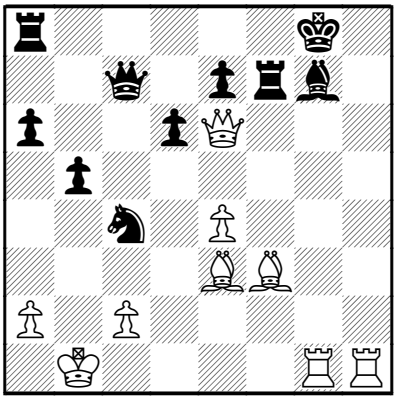
1. Black to Play



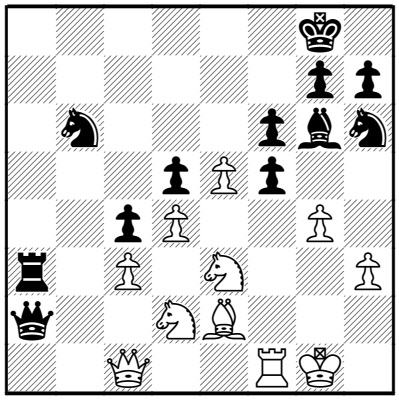
2. Black to Play



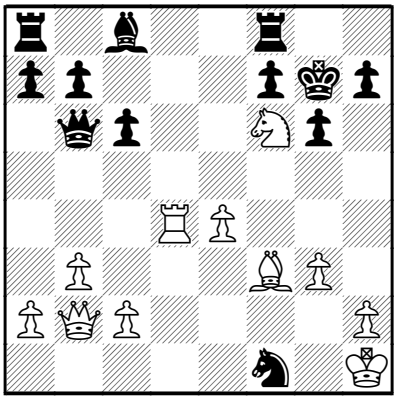
3. Black to Play



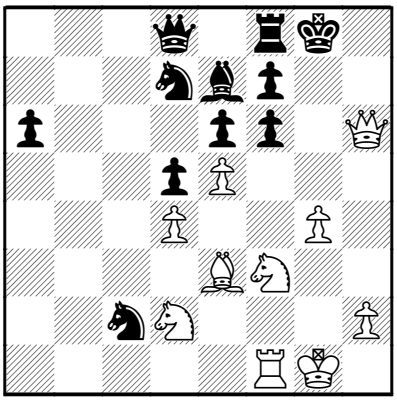
4. White to Play



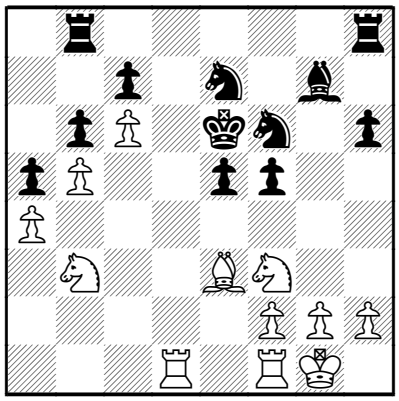
5. White to Play



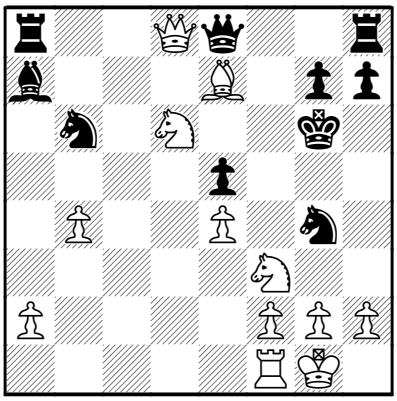
6. White to Play



7. White to Play



8. White to Play



9. White to Play

The Dreaming King Open

January 17-19, 2015

SATURDAY, SUNDAY & MONDAY (MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY)

150 Grand Prix Points (enhanced)

Marriott San Diego Airport/Liberty Station (see www.marriott.com/sanal)
2592 Laning Rd, San Diego CA 92106 Phone: 619-221-1900

$17,000 PRIZE FUND, 100% guaranteed

6 Rds, 6 Sections: 40/90, SD/30, +30 second increment per move
Or for 2 day option, first 3 games G/60, d/5; then merges with 3 day in Rd 4

1. OPEN SECTION: $2,400-$1,600-$1,200-$900-$600-$400
2. U2300: $1,000-600-400-200 3. U2100: $1,000-600-400-200
4. U1900: $1,000-600-400-200 5. U1700: $1,000-600-400-200
6. U1500: 1st $300-100; BU1300: $250-100: BU1100:$200-50

Best unrated $50, or limited to $100 in U1700, $200 in U1900 and $300 in U2100/2300.

Best Game Prize: $50. Free analysis and lectures by IM John Watson.

Reg.: 3-day: 8:00 to 9:30 AM Sat, **2-day:** 8:00 to 8:30 AM Sunday

Round times for 3-day: 10 AM & 4 PM on Saturday, 10 AM and 4:30 PM on Sunday, then 9 AM and 3 PM on Monday (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day).
2-day: 3 fast games at 9:00 AM, 11:15 & 1:30 PM on Sunday, then merges with the 3-day players with the 4:30 PM slow game on Sunday, and 9 AM & 3 PM on Monday. Open section FIDE rated (except for 2-day fast games).

Entry Fee: $90 if received by 12/27/14 (Early Bird Special); $100 between 12/28/14 and 1/08/15, $120 between 1/09/15 and 01/16/15, or $140 at door. Only $75 if U1500 or unrated and received by 1/08/15, $100 after 1/08/15 or $120 at door. Also: rate for GMs & IMs is only $20 if registered by 1/08, $40 after 1/08, or $60 at door. Book early, save money. Refund = $10 fee.
Re-entry Fee: 3-day to 2-day is $75, only players rated U2300 are eligible.

Mail entries to: SDCC, PO Box 120162, San Diego CA 92112, or enter online at **www.scchess.com** SCCF membership is required for all So. Calif. residents ($18 Adult/$13 Junior or $3 Jr. w/o magazine). Two Half Pt. Byes OK in Rds 1-4 only, must be requested at least 1 hr before round. Byes in Rds 5 - 6 must be requested before Round 2 and are irrevocable (cannot be taken back). Anyone who forfeits a game cannot win any prizes!
Cell phone fines: $5 for 1st offense, $15 for 2nd, $25 for 3rd.
Also: No headsets allowed.

Questions: Bruce Baker at San Diego Chess Club (619) 239-7166 or email Chuck Ensey at **chucnglo@aol.com** December official rating list used.
Directions: Take I-5 South to Sassafras exit (just past I-8), follow signs to SD Airport (Kettner > Laurel > No. Harbor Dr), go 1.3 miles past airport, and then right on to Laning Dr. to the Courtyard Marriott next to the Hilton.
Hotel Rooms: Special rate of $129, includes free parking, rates may go up after 12/15/14. Call 619-221-1900. Great location with lots of good fast food within walking distance, plus Starbucks.

SCCF
P. O. Box 3918
Mission Viejo, CA 92690

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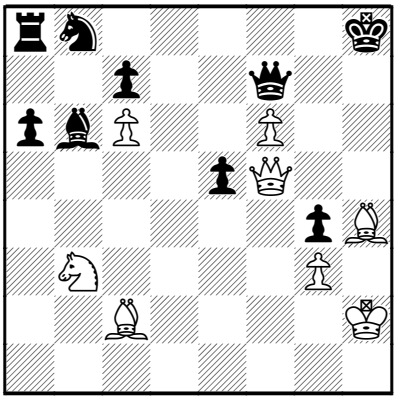
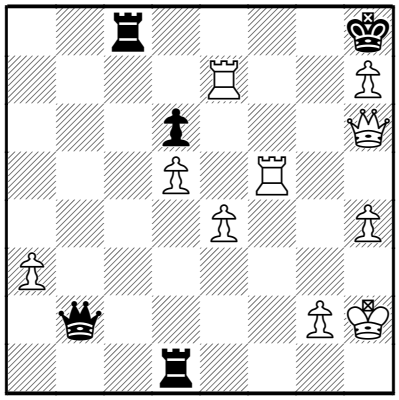
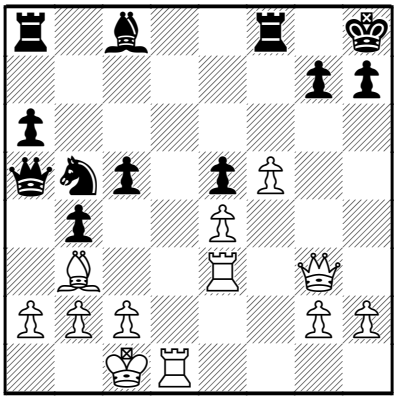


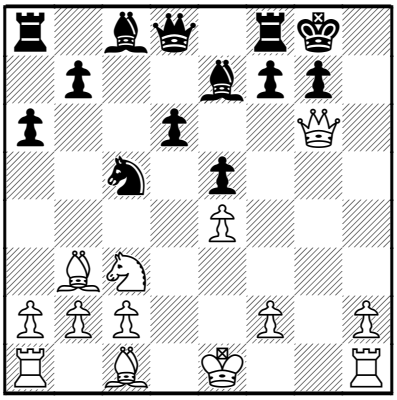
1. White to Play



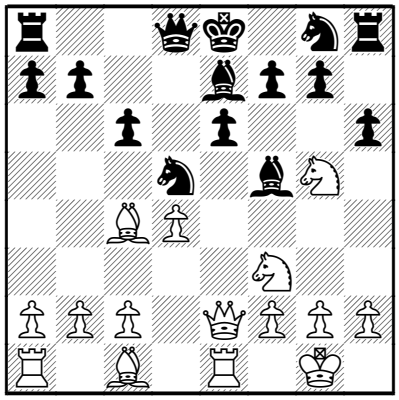
2. ***Black*** to Play



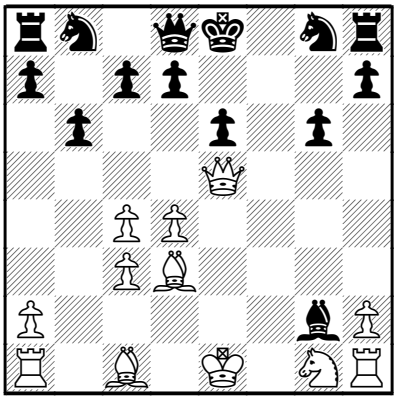
3. White to Play



4. White to Play



5. White to Play



6. White to Play

See page 4 for solutions.