Rank & File

The magazine of the Southern California Chess Federation

January-February 2011 Volume XXXV, No. 1 $3.00

Enrico's Final Five-in-a-Row Takes First Metropolitan FIDE Invitational

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Editor's Note

At left are the winners of last year's US Amateur Team West, Team OC: Alexandre Kretchetov, Takashi Iwamoto, Ilia Serpik, and 9 year old Leo Kamgar.

They won the national playoffs, too!

And they will be back. Will they win again this year? Time will tell. Maybe this year it will be you.

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My favorite words in this issue:

Fear leads to hesitation; hesitation leads to defeat.
-- Cyrus Lakdawala

Until next issue, good luck in chess!
Lawrence Stevens

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Rank & File

January-February 2011 **Vol XXXV, No. 1**

4 **Los Angeles Open John Hillery Memorial**
Sevillano takes first.

6 **1st Metropolitan Chess FIDE Tournament**
Sevillano wins his last five games to take first in the invitational round robin.

20 **46th Annual American Open**
Friedel places first on tiebreak over Sevillano and Khachiyan.

27 **Two Exciting Draws**
by IM Jack Peters. Two near-brilliancies from 2010.

31 **The Bigger They are...**
by IM Timothy Taylor. Tim annotates his win against Cyrus Lakdawala from the SCCF Championship.

36 **What Were They Thinking?**
by IM Cyrus Lakdawala and IM Jack Peters.
Cyrus annotated a game with Jack for his book. Jack added his thoughts afterwards.

38 **What Was He Thinking?**
by Phil Chase. Phil describes his thoughts before, after, and during a game. It's not always about the position.

41 **Tactics**
How much can you sacrifice? by Larry Stevens

42 **One Knight Stands Alone**
Prose, and a game to go with it. by Daa Mahowald.

43 **Where to Play Chess**
Chess clubs all around Southern California.

46 **Upcoming Events in Southern California**
Don't miss the US Amateur Team West! Form your teams now!

All Photos in this issue are by Chris Roberts, except on pages 2, 38, 41, 43, and 46.

2010 Los Angeles Open
John Hillery Memorial

October 15-17, 2010

By IM Jack Peters and Larry Stevens

State champion IM Enrico Sevillano took first prize, scoring 4½-½ in the 44-player Open section. John Daniel Bryant, GM Melikset Khachiyan, Roman Yankovsky, and IM Jack Peters tied for second place at 4-1. Sevillano needed just a final round draw to clinch it.

Michael W. Brown and Takashi Kurosaki shared expert honors with 3½-1½. Andrew Lu and David Cody Oldham scored 3-2, best in Class A.

Alexander Gustafsson and unrated newcomer Jiahao Lin led the 23-player Amateur (under-1800) section with 4-1 scores. Gemin Keshishian, Cijo Paul, and Hovanes Salvaryan were next at 3½-1½. Volodia Muradyan and William Yuen Yee tied for best under-1400 with 3-2.

Panitan Satamalee and Karl Tolentino tied for first at 4-1 in the accompanying scholastic event. Hakob Seyranov led the under-1000 section with 4½-½. There were 34 entrants.

Scott Radmacher scored 3-0 to win the Hex tournament of 90-minute games.

The Southern California Chess Federation ran the tournament at the LAX Hilton in memory of John Hillery, SCCF's editor, webmaster, and tournament director, who died last September. Anthony Ong directed and was assisted by Randall Hough.

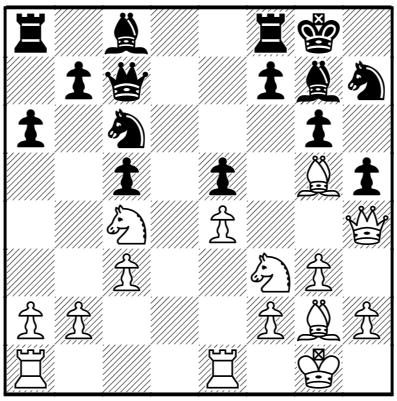
The Los Angeles Open, a heritage event, has been held 14 times. The table below shows something of its history. The first meet was organized by William Goichberg's Continental Chess Association, had 329 entrants, and was won by Walter Browne. The CCA continued with the event six more times in the next seven years. After a gap of two years, it has been organized locally seven of the last nine years. We hope the tournament still has some more life in it!

Dates	Director	No.	Winner
1992 July 24-26	CCA	329	Walter Browne
1993 October 1-3	CCA	246	Larry Remlinger, Bende Lagua, Jonathan Yedidia, Roel Yumol
1994 September 30 - October 2	CCA	269	Michael Brooks
1995 September 29 - October 1 (Buena Park)	CCA	219	Eduard Gufeld
1996 September 27-29	CCA	235	Igor Ivanov
1998 September 25-27	CCA	221	Rashid Ziatdinov
1999 October 8-10	CCA	146	Rashid Ziatdinov
2002 October 12-14	Randall Hough	101	Melikset Khachiyan
2003 October 3-5	John Hillery	123	Andranik Matikozyan
2004 September 24-26	John Hillery	86	Andranik Matikozyan, Alexandre Kretchetov
2006 October 6-8	John Hillery	104	Valentin Yotov
2008 October 31 - November 2	John Hillery	82	Rogelio Antonio Jr, Melikset Khachiyan, Enrico Sevillano, Joel Banawa
2009 October 9-11	John Hillery	100	Andranik Matikozyan
2010 October 15-17	Anthony Ong	67	Enrico Sevillano

We present a few curious moments from the 2010 event. For Amanov-Yankovsky, see "Two Exciting Draws" by Jack Peters.

Bryant,John Daniel (2485) - Zhang,Eric (2176)
[A08] Benko Opening
LA Open (4) Los Angeles, 17.10.2010
Notes by Larry Stevens.

1.g3 Nf6 2.Bg2 g6 3.Nf3 d5 4.0–0 Bg7 5.d3 0–0 6.c3 c5 7.Qa4 Nc6 8.Qh4 h5 9.Na3 a6 10.Re1 e5 11.Bg5 Qd6 12.e4 dxe4 13.dxe4 Nh7 14.Nc4 Qc7



A normal move here might be 15.Rad1, but White goes in for some risky business, taking away the retreat squares for his Bishop.

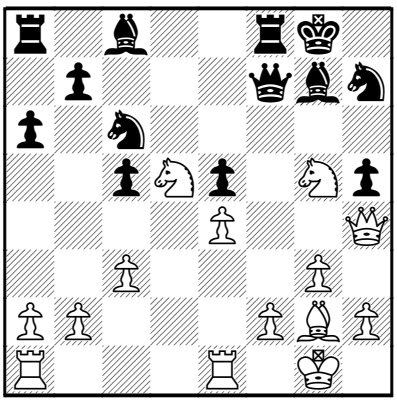
15.Ne3 f6 16.Nd5

White opens up the Bishop's diagonal with gain of time, but Black gets a useful post for his Queen in reply.

16... Qf7 17.Be3 g5

And White's Queen has nowhere to go, the h5-pawn being freshly guarded.

18.Bxg5 fxg5 19.Nxg5



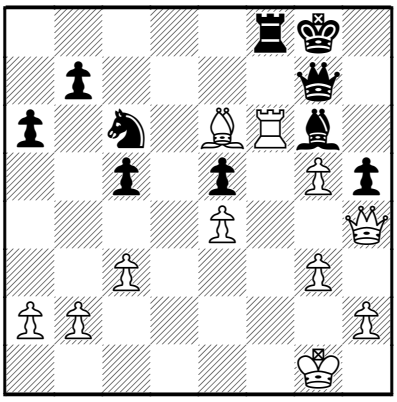
19...Qg6

After taking the material with 19... Qxf2+! 20.Kh1 Bg4 (20...Bf6? 21.Qxh5=) 21.h3 Nxg5 22.Qxg5 Bf3, the trades make White's prospects look dim.

20.f4 Nxg5 21.fxg5 Rf7 22.Rf1 Be6 23.Rxf7

White can activate his Bishop with 23.Bf3 Raf8 24.Bxh5 Rxf1+ 25.Rxf1±.

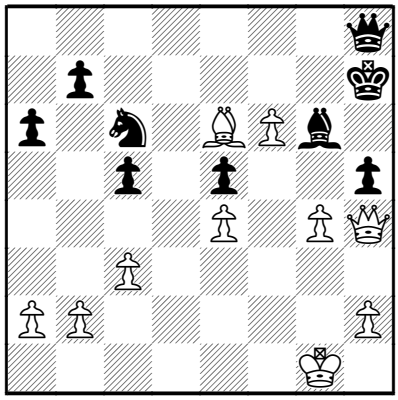
23...Bxf7 24.Rf1 Rf8 25.Nf6+ Bxf6 26.Rxf6 Qg7 27.Bh3 Bg6 28.Be6+



28...Kh7

Black can use h7 for the Queen with 28...Kh8 29.g4 Rxf6 30.gxf6 Qh7 31.g5 Nd8 32.Bf5= (32.Bd5 Bf7∓) 32...Bxf5 33.exf5 Qxf5 34.Qxh5+ Qh7 35.Qe8+ Qg8 36.Qh5+ with a perpetual check.

29.g4± Rxf6 30.gxf6 Qh8??

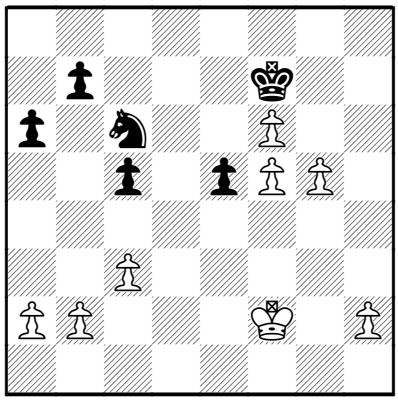


Better was 30...Qh6 31.g5 Qf8□±.

31.g5??

Missing quick win, as 31.Bf5! caves in the Kingside, for if 31...Bxf5, White ends it with 32.Qxh5+ Kg8 33. Qe8+ Kh7 34. Qf7+ Kh6 35. Qh5 mate.

31...Qf8 32.Bf5± Bxf5 33.Qxh5+ Kg8 34.exf5 Qf7 35.Qxf7+ Kxf7 36.Kf2



White has a super-majority on the Kingside, and with pawns on both sides of the board, this must be enough to defeat the Knight here. White's h-pawn is distant and deadly.

36...b5?

Black can resist with 36...Na5, since the tempting but premature 37.h4? is answered by 37...Nc4 38.Kf3 Nd6 39.Kg4 Nc4, and White is stalled.

White should first solve the Knight problem with 36...Na5 37.Ke3! Nc4+ 38.Ke4 b6 39.h4 Nd2+ 40.Kxe5 Nf3+ 41.Ke4 Nxh4 42.c4 Kf8 43.g6 Kg8 44.Kf4 Ng2+ 45.Ke5 Kf8 46.Kd6, getting a clear win.

37.h4

Now, pushing the h-pawn works!

37...b4 38.h5 e4 39.h6 Kg8 40.g6 Ne5 41.h7+ Kh8 42.f7 Nd7 43.f6 bxc3 44.g7+ Kxh7 45.g8Q+ 1–0

Gupta,Ankit (2328) - Kudryavtsev,Vadim (2204)
[D42] Caro-Kann Defense
LA Open(5), Los Angeles, 17.10.2010

Notes by Jack Peters.

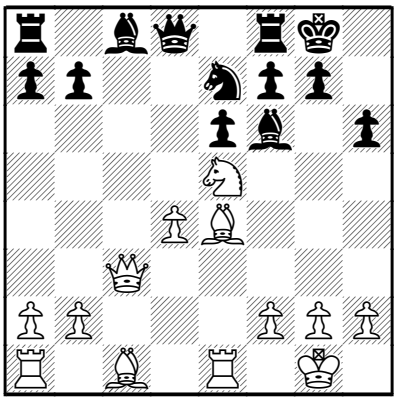
1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.c4

The Panov-Botvinnik Attack.

Nf6 5.Nc3 e6 6.Nf3 Be7 7.cxd5 Nxd5 8.Bd3 0–0 9.0–0 Nc6 10.Re1 Bf6

More popular than the older 10…Nf6.

11.Be4 Nce7 12.Qd3 h6± 13.Ne5 Nxc3 14.Qxc3

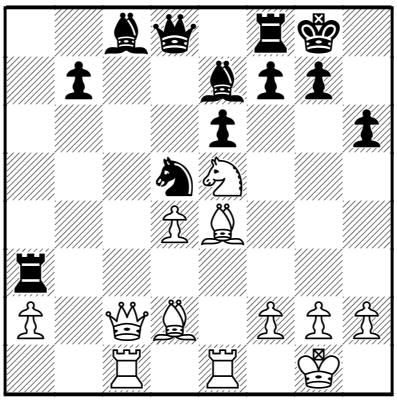


14...a5

White has the edge because Black cannot easily complete development. Karpov tried the similar 14…Nf5 15.Be3 a5.

15.Be3 a4 16.Rad1 Ra5 17.Qc4 Nd5 18.Bd2± Ra8 19.Rc1 a3 20.bxa3 Rxa3 21.Qc2 Be7?

Necessary is 21…Ra8.



22.Bh7+! Kh8 23.Bg6! Resigns

A bit premature, but, after 23… Kg8 24.Nxf7! Rxf7, either 25.Bxf7+ or 25.Qxc8 Qxc8 26.Rxc8+ Rf8 27.Rc2 should win for White. *R&F*

1st Metropolitan Chess FIDE Tournament

November 12-21, 2010

IM Enrico Sevillano closed powerfully by taking his last five games to win this international all-play-all competition with a score of 7½-1½ in downtown Los Angeles. IM Zhanibek Amanov of Kazakhstan finished just a half-point behind, leading most of the way until he was passed in the final round by his loss to Sevillano.

Finishing third were FMs Joel Banawa and FM Garush Manukyan, both with 5-4. Next were SM Roman Yankovsky with 4½-4½ and IM Tim Taylor with 4-5. WFM Tatev Abrahamyan and NM Ankit Gupta both scored 3½-5½ and NM Konstantin Kavutskiy and FM Alexandre Kretchetov finished at 2½-6½.

Such a FIDE tournament is quite a rarity in Southern California. For this reason, we begin our coverage with Mr. Gupta's inside report on the organizational staging of the tournament before concluding with the chess action itself.

By NM Ankit Gupta

Metropolitan Chess hosted the first FIDE norm tournament in Los Angeles since 2005, when the Ibar International was held in Santa Monica.

How This Event Came to be

After viewing IM John Donaldson's Chess Life Online article which was posted shortly after the end of the Olympiad about the current state of United States chess, this writer was moved to attempt to start a norm series on the west coast. I felt such tournaments would give greater opportunities to United States players to have opportunities at GM/IM norms and be able to ultimately produce greater GM/IM's in the United States. In that vein, I approached local tournament director Michael Belcher, and after a long discussion together and a week of planning, the Metropolitan Chess FIDE Invitational series was born.

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TD Michael Belcher

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The Goal…

It is the goal of Metropolitan Chess to promote and support the game of chess through community outreach and local, national, and international partnerships. We also aim to increase awareness of the educational value of chess, and ultimately provide greater opportunities for chess players of all strengths in which to learn, develop and grow.

We seek to bring elite tournaments to the United States, especially the greater Los Angeles area.

The Tournament

The first norm tournament by Metropolitan Chess organized by NM Ankit Gupta -- a 9 round, 10 player round-robin was scheduled over two weekends in November in 2010. The original playing field was comprised of IM Enrico Sevillano, IM Zhanibek Amanov, IM Timothy Taylor, FM Alexandre Kretchetov, FM Joel Banawa, WFM Tatev Abrahamyan, SM Roman Yankovsky, NM Jouaquin Banawa, NM Ankit Gupta and NM Konstantin Kavutskiy.

Michael Belcher and Harold Bogner directed.

TD Harold Bogner

A Twist

On the day of the tournament, twenty minutes prior to the first round, NM Jouaquin Banawa withdrew, leaving us a player short, and myself scrambling to find a replacement foreign player. With some help from other fellow participants and the tournament directors, we were able to contact NM Garush Manukyan, who generously decided to substitute himself in last minute.

The Outcome

Eventually the tournament was able to resume, and despite the fact that no one qualified for a norm, the tournament was an overall success, minor issues notwithstanding.

As the round-by-round scores show, it seemed as if International Master Zhanibek Amanov was going to sweep the field, boasting over a 2700 FIDE performance in the first 7 rounds. However, his overwhelming performance was slowed in round 8 by fellow International Master Timothy Taylor, and he was finally passed in round 9 by fellow International Master Enrico Sevillano, who closed with five wins in a row. Amanov finished second.

Sevillano: 1st place in the 1st Metro.

	Round by Round Pairings and Scores	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	NM Garush Manukyan	W 10	W 2	B 3	W 4	B 5	W 6	B 7	W 8	B 9
	2302	***1***	***1½***	2	2½	3	3	3	4	5
2	WFM Tatev Abrahamyan	W 9	B 1	W 10	W 3	B 4	W 5	B 6	W 7	B 8
	2355	***1***	***1½***	2	2	2	2	2	3	3½
3	IM Timothy Taylor	W 8	B 9	W 1	B 2	W 10	W 4	B 5	W 6	B 7
	2317	0	0	½	1½	2½	2½	3½	4	4
4	IM Enrico Sevillano	W 7	B 8	W 9	B 1	W 2	B 3	W 10	W 5	B 6
	2508	½	1	2	2½	3½	4½	5½	6½	***7½***
5	NM Ankit Gupta	W 6	W 7	W 8	B 9	W 1	B 2	W 3	B 4	W 10
	2235	0	½	½	1	1½	2½	2½	2½	3½
6	IM ZhanibekAmanov	B 5	B 10	W 7	B 8	W 9	B 1	W 2	B 3	W 4
	2394	***1***	***1½***	***2½***	***3½***	***4½***	***5½***	***6½***	***7***	7
7	FM Joel Banawa	B 4	B 5	B 6	B 10	W 8	B 9	W 1	B 2	W 3
	2341	½	1	1	2	2	3	4	4	5
8	SM Roman Yankovsky	B 3	W 4	B 5	W 6	B 7	B 10	W 9	B 1	W 2
	2381	***1***	***1½***	***2½***	2½	3½	4	4	4	4½
9	NM Konstantin Kavutskiy	B 2	W 3	B 4	W 5	B 6	W 7	B 8	B 10	W 1
	2149	0	1	1	1½	1½	1½	2½	2½	2½
10	FM Alexandre Kretchetov	B 1	W 6	B 2	W 7	B 3	W 8	B 4	W 9	B 5
	2358	0	½	1	1	1	1½	1½	2½	2½

Similarly, it seemed as if SM Roman Yankovsky was headed towards his second international master norm after the first five rounds when he had a score of three and a half out of five. However, his rise was slowed on the last weekend, and ultimately going into round 9, no one had chances at a norm.

What's Next

January: Metropolitan Chess hosted a Grandmaster norm tournament on the 19th to 23rd. This tournament was dedicated to Jimmy Quon, titled the Jimmy Quon Memorial, and held in C998 of the California Market Center on 110 East 9th Street, Los Angeles 90079.

The participants in the 10 player round-robin were: GM Dejan Bojkov (BUL), GM Melikset Khachiyan (USA), GM Mark Paragua (PHI), IM Zhanibek Amanov (KAZ), IM Timothy Taylor (USA), IM Mackenzie Molner (USA), IM Jacek Stopa (POL), IM-Elect Robby Adamson (USA), FM Daniel Naroditsky (USA), NM Alessandro Steinfl (ITL).

As the play developed, Mark Paragua won his first six games, leading the field by 2½ points. He drew his final three games, clinching first place in round 8, to finish with 7½-1½. Second place was Melikset Khachiyan at 6-2, and finishing third was Mackenzie Molner.

There were two master commentary days live on-site, sponsored by www.chess.com. Details regarding the commentaries are available at www.chess.com/tv, and if you missed the show(s) you can watch them via the on-demand playback feature. In addition, uschess.org has an excellent video summary at http://main.uschess.org/content/view/10999/141/.

The Future

August: From the 17th to 21st, super-GM **Mickey Adams**, GM **Loek van Wely**, and GM **Ilya Smirin** are slated to play in a 9 round Swiss tournament that will offer the opportunity for GM and IM norms. The tournament will be officially open to players over the rating of 2200 FIDE, but exceptional juniors and local players under 2200 FIDE may be allowed to play, pursuant to the approval of the organizers. The time control will be 40/90 with SD/30 and 30 second increment beginning at move 1.

If any reader has an interest in a specific type of tournament being organized by Metropolitan Chess, please write to **ankit.gupta@metrochessla.com** with your comments. We will take each and every request seriously and attempt to meet the desires and goals of all Los Angeles chess community members.

	Tournament Cross Table	FIDE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
1	IM Enrico Sevillano	2508	*	1	½	½	½	1	1	1	1	1	7.5/9
2	IM ZhanibekAmanov	2394	0	*	1	1	1	½	1	1	1	½	7.0/9
3	FM Joel Banawa	2341	½	0	*	1	0	1	0	½	1	1	5.0/9
4	NM Garush Manukyan	2302	½	0	0	*	1	½	½	½	1	1	5.0/9
5	SM Roman Yankovsky	2381	½	0	1	0	*	1	½	1	0	½	4.5/9
6	IM Timothy Taylor	2317	0	½	0	½	0	*	1	1	0	1	4.0/9
7	WFM Tatev Abrahamyan	2355	0	0	1	½	½	0	*	0	1	½	3.5/9
8	NM Ankit Gupta	2235	0	0	½	½	0	0	1	*	½	1	3.5/9
9	NM Konstantin Kavutskiy	2149	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	½	*	0	2.5/9
10	FM Alexandre Kretchetov	2358	0	½	0	0	½	0	½	0	1	*	2.5/9

First Metropolitain Chess FIDE Tournament, November 12-21, 2010.
Average FIDE ELO: 2334; Category 4

If anyone would like to support the norm endeavors hosted by Metropolitan Chess, please write to the same e-mail address with "norm" in the subject header. *R&F*

Thank you, Mr. Gupta. And now we resume our coverage with the chess action itself, starting with the showdown between Amanov and Sevillano. After that, we have several interesting battles, some of them with notes by the players. We conclude with three games won by Amanov in a total of only 48 moves. How could he win three so quickly?

The game between Amanov and Sevillano came at a dramatic time in the tournament. As mentioned before, Amanov had been leading the tournament from the start, and after five wins in a row, he led Sevillano by a full point with two rounds to go.

Time was running out if Sevillano wanted to win this tournament!

But in round 8 Amanov was held to a draw, while Sevillano won his fourth game in a row.

Fate had already paired the two leaders in the final round, and now Sevillano needed a win to take first, but Amanov needed only a draw.

The progress of the game was also dramatic, for at the end of the first time control, when the position was still fairly even, time entered the picture in a new way.

The time control for this tournament was 90 minutes for the first 40 moves followed 30 minutes for the rest of the game. In addition, each player received a 30 second increment throughout.

So the tournament had to be decided with play under the final conditions of a sudden death time control.

For in an officially organized over-the-board tournament, players compete under equal, but *limited*, conditions.

And, as C. J. S. Purdy observed, in the 1930's, "All the conditions are inimical to the production of accurate chess."

Back then, he was thinking of using a clock instead of playing correspondence chess, and not being able to use books.

Today, we would be thinking about sudden death time controls, and not being able to use computers!

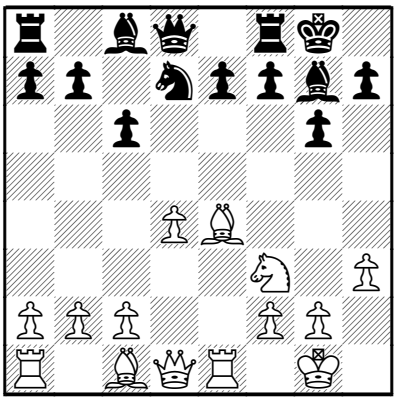
Time marches on.

Errors will always be likely to occur, especially if the players present each other with difficult problems to solve.

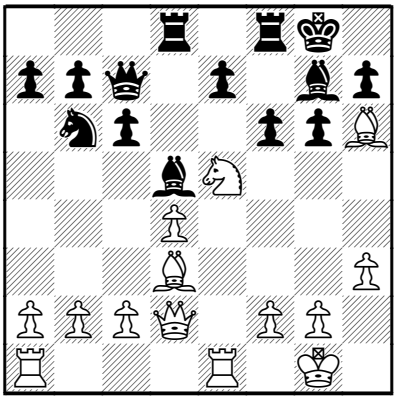
But the seventy-plus years have been kind to the annotator, so that anyone who has a computer can try to find a lesson here and there.

We hope you enjoy the games.

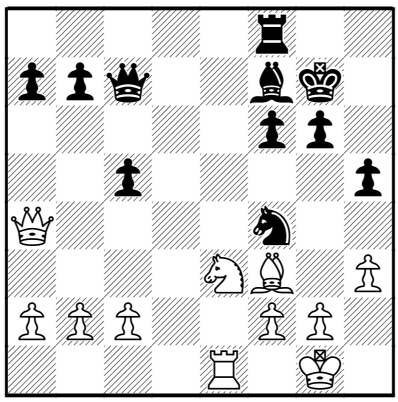
Amanov,Zhanibek (2394) -
Sevillano,Enrico (2508)
[B15] Caro-Kann Defense
1st Metropolitan FIDE (9)
Los Angeles, 21.11.2010
Notes by Larry Stevens
1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 c6 4.Nf3 d5 5.h3 dxe4 6.Nxe4 Nf6 7.Bd3 Nbd7 8.0–0 Nxe4 9.Bxe4 0–0 10.Re1



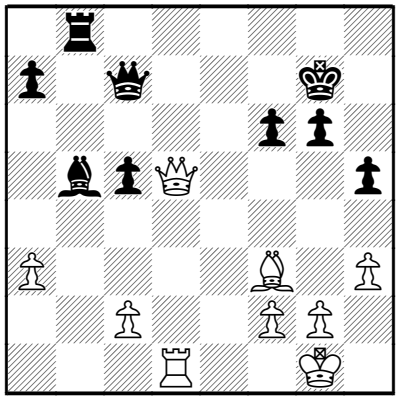
A somewhat unusual form of the Caro-Kann Defense.
10...Qc7
More popular is 10...c5 11.c3 cxd4 12.Nxd4 Nc5 13.Bc2 e5 14.Nb3, but White scores quite well.
11.Bd3 Nb6 12.Bg5 Be6 13.Qd2 Rad8 14.Bh6 Bd5 15.Ne5 f6



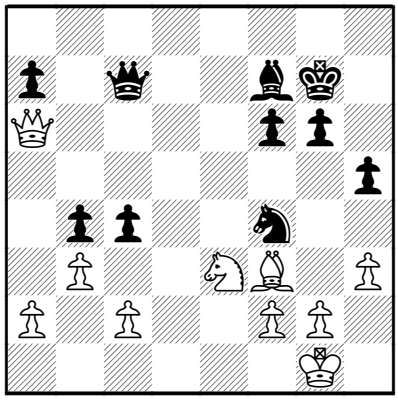
Black takes a risk to oust the Knight. The weakened Kingside and e-file could become a factor in the game.
16.Bxg7 Kxg7 17.Ng4 Bf7 18.Rad1 Nd5 19.Be4
White gets a decent position with 19.g3 Qd6 20.Qh6+ Kh8 21.c3±.
19...Nf4 20.Bf3 h5 21.Ne3 e5 22.Qc3 exd4 23.Rxd4 Rxd4 24.Qxd4 c5 25.Qa4



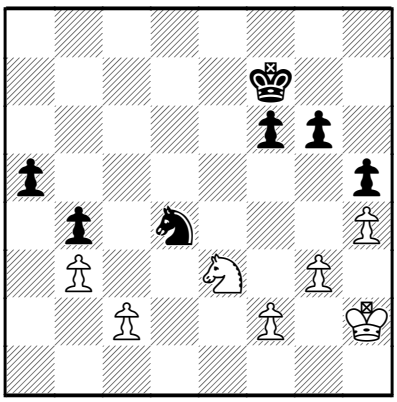
25...b5 26.Qa6
If White takes the b-pawn now, it's the same as the line in the next note.
26...Rd8 27.Rd1
Now it's equal. Instead, White can take the pawn and maintain a little advantage with 27.Qxb5 Rb8 28.Qa4 Rxb2 29.a3 Rb8 30.Rd1 Be8 31.Qe4 Bb5 32.Nd5 Nxd5 33.Qxd5±.



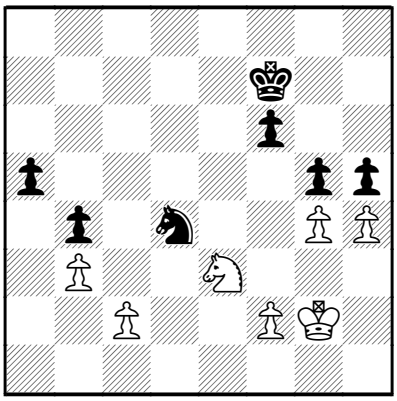
White controls the d-file and the long diagonal and has a safer King.
27...Rxd1+ 28.Bxd1 b4 29.Bf3 c4 30.b3



30...cxb3 31.axb3
The other recapture, 31.cxb3, makes the pawn structures symmetrical, but gives the Black Queen more mobility. A good reply would be 31...h4∓.
31...Qc5 32.Qb7 a5 3.Kh2 Qe5 34.g3 Ne6 35.h4 Qc7 36.Qxc7 Nxc7 37.Be2 Ne6 38.Bc4 Nd4 39.Bxf7 Kxf7



The tournament is to be decided by a Knight and pawn ending. Black has the better King position, but has to stay ready to defend his a5-pawn.
40.Kg2 g5
The first time control has passed, so both players receive an extra half hour and continue to receive an increment of thirty seconds per move.
The trouble with endings is that they come at the end. You are tired, and you have a limited amount of time for the rest of the game.
41.f3
A tricky, computer's way for White to avoid having to worry about a Black passed h-pawn is 41.g4!.



Here are three possible lines:
41...gxh4?! 42.gxh5 Kg7 43.Kh3 Kh6 44.Kxh4 f5=.
41...hxg4 42.hxg5 f5 43.Kg3 (White uses the vacated g3 square to activate his King.) 43...Kg6 44.Kf4!

Ne2+ 45.Ke5=.

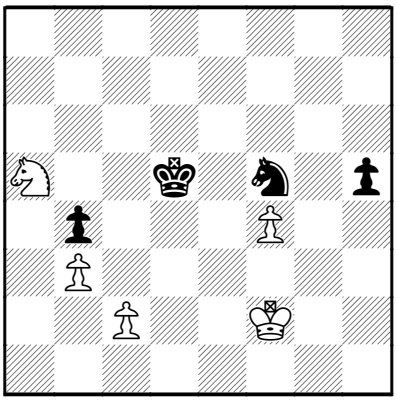
41...Kg6 42.hxg5 Kxg5 43.gxh5 Kxh5 44.Kh3 Kg5 45.Kg3 f5 46.f4+ Kf6 47.Kf2 Ke6 48.Kg3 Ke7 49.Kh4 Kf6=.

There isn't a passed Black h-pawn in any of these lines, but exact calculation is required!

41...Ke7 42.Kf2 Ke6 43.Kg2??

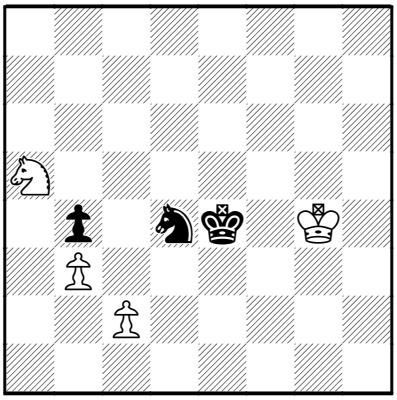
Now Black wins the h4-pawn.

Instead, the computer recommends a defense that paradoxically *helps* Black get an outside passed h-pawn, but makes a welcome pawn trade: 43.hxg5 fxg5 44.f4 gxf4 (or 44...g4 45.Kf1!=, because 45...Nf5 46.Nxf5 Kxf5 47.Kf2 is drawn) 45.gxf4 Nf5 46.Nc4 Kd5 47.Nxa5:



In this variation, White's Knight is active against the b4-pawn and he has an extra pawn to compensate for Black's centralized pieces and outside passed pawn.

This line might continue with 47...Nd4 48.Kg3 Ke4 49.Kh4 Kxf4 50.Kxh5 Kf5 51.Kh4 Ke4 52.Kg4:

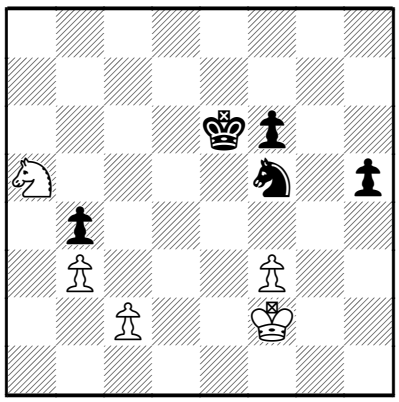


White can get the draw if he can play Nc6 and sacrifice his Knight for the last Black pawn. But Black cannot win the b3-pawn without allowing that sacrifice, so it's a draw.

43...gxh4 44.gxh4 Nf5

The Knight trade loses very quickly, so the pawn is lost.

45.Nc4 Nxh4+ 46.Kf2 Nf5 47.Nxa5



47...Nd4?

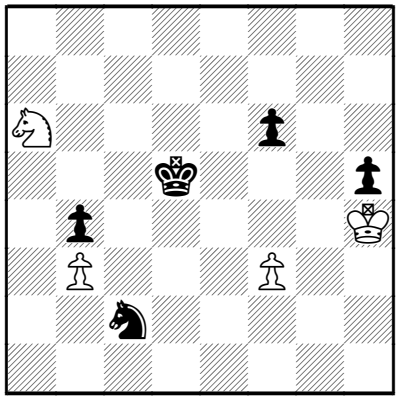
Straight to the point is 47...Kd5!, going directly after the Queenside pawns with the King, as the Knight is already well placed on f5. White's King has no useful moves: 48.Nc4 Kd4 49.Nb6 (or 49.Na5 Kc3−+) h4 50.f4 Ne3 51.Nd7 f5−+.

48.Kg3 Kf5 49.Nc4?

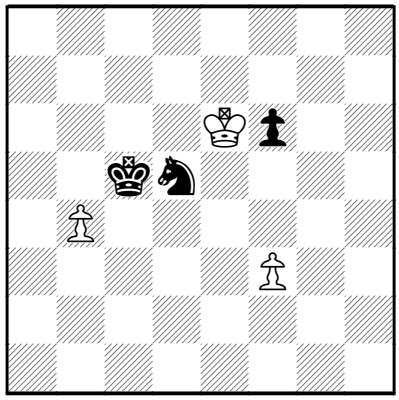
A better path for the Knight to attack the b4-pawn is 49.Nb7 Nxc2 50.Nc5. This is a more active square for the Knight than b2, as in the game, until it attacks the b4-pawn from a6.

Two lines are interesting:

One is 50...Ke5 51.Kh4 Kd5 (if 51...Kd4, then 52.Na6=) 52.Na6

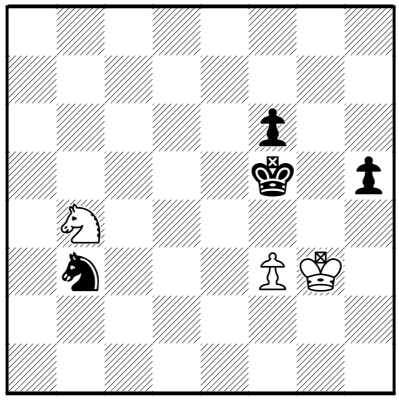


Now White can get rid of the Black Pawns, for if 52...Kc6 53.Kxh5 Kb6 54.Nxb4! Nxb4 55.Kg6 Nd5 56.Kf5 Kc6 57.Ke6! (keeping the Black King from guarding his remaining pawn) 57...Kc5 58.b4+ :



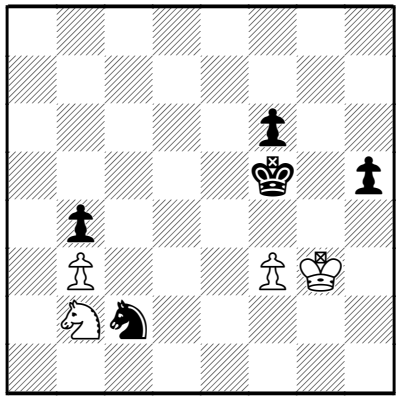
Black will have to give up something to stop the b-pawn.

A second interesting line is 49.Nb7 Nxc2 50.Nc5 Nd4 51.Nd3 Nxb3 (Avoiding this Queenside pawn trade is no help: 51...Nc6 52.Kh4!=) 52.Nxb4:



In this variation, White's King stops the passed h-pawn and his Knight has active play against the Black f-pawn. These two factors give White excellent chances to draw.

49...Nxc2 50.Nb2



50...h4+??

With 50...Ke5!, immediately going after the b-pawn, Black can leave White without a defense. Here are three lines:

51.Kh4 Kd4 52.Nc4 Kc3 53.Na5 Nd4 54.Kxh5 Nxb3 55.Nc6 Nd4−+.

51.f4+ Ke4 52.Na4 Na1 53.Nc5+ Kd4 −+.

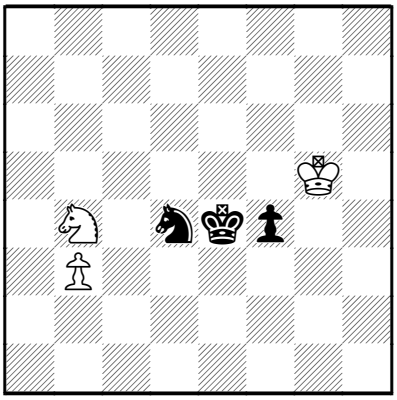
51.Nd3+ Kd4 52.Nf4 f5 53.Nxh5 Kc3 54.Kf4 Kxb3 55.Kxf5 Kc4! −+.

51.Kxh4

The computer now says it's a draw until move 58.

51...Kf4 52.Kh5 f5 53.Kg6 Ne1 54.Kf6 Nxf3 55.Nd3+ Ke4 56.Nxb4 Nd4 57.Kg5 f4

And now the time factor comes into play for the last time:



58.Nd3??

Losing instantly. The draw is still to be had with 58.Kg4, for example, 58...f3 59.Kg3 Ke3 60.Nd5+ Ke2 61.Nf4+ Ke1 62.Ng2+ Kf1 63.Nf4!.

58...Ne6+ 0-1

For Black will take the Knight, Queen the pawn, and win the tournament.

Kavutskiy,Konstantin (2149)-
Taylor,Timothy (2317)
[A52] Budapest Counter Gambit
1st Metropolitan FIDE (2)
Los Angeles, 13.11.2010

Notes by Konstantin Kavutskiy

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e5!?

The Budapest Gambit.

3.dxe5 Ng4

Black sacrifices a pawn for rapid development and to create weaknesses in White's position

4.Nc3!?

I decided that trying to hold onto the pawn with Bf4 and Nf3 would leave me too over-extended; simple development should be enough for an advantage.

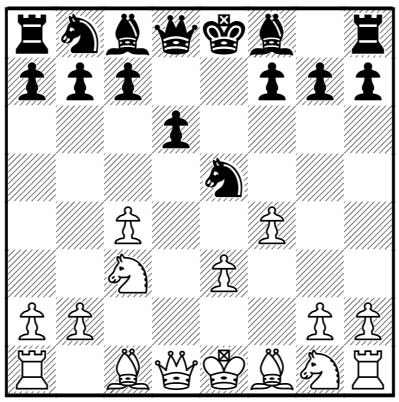
4...Nxe5 5.e3

Also 5.e4 is possible.

5...d6!?

I was expecting this, but I quickly realized the point of the text was to fianchetto the Bishop. An alternative was 5...Bb4.

6.f4



6...Ned7 N

The first new move. If 6...Ng4?!, then 7.Nf3 and the Knight is just going to be kicked next move with h3, wasting time.

7.Nf3 g6 8.Bd3

I considered 8.Qd4, but after 8... Nf6, Black will gain a tempo next move with Nc6, which is better than 8...Qf6 9.Nd5 Qxd4 10.exd4 Na6 11.Bd3±.

8...Nc5 9.b4

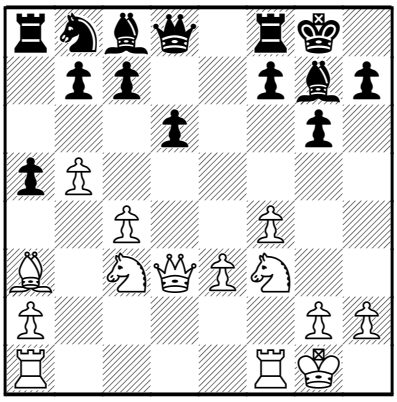
Voluntarily giving up the bishop pair in order to gain time and space. Other lines are: 9.0–0 Bg7 10.e4 0–0 11.f5±. Or if 9.Bc2 Bg7 10.0–0 0–0 I think Black is fine here, because White has trouble developing his dark-squared Bishop without playing e3-e4, which would be easy to attack for Black's pieces.

9...Nxd3+ 10.Qxd3 Bg7 11.0–0 a5!

Konstantin Kavutskiy

I underestimated this move, but I think I responded in the best possible way.

12.b5 0–0 13.Ba3!



The point of this move is to trade the Bishop off once Black's Knight reaches c5. I figured the resulting pawn structure would favor Knights over Bishops, due to Black's Queenside weaknesses. Also this move is the best way to use my small development advantage.

13...b6

13...Bf5?! is bad because I can gladly sacrifice the pawn with 14.e4 Bxc3 15.Qxc3 Bxe4 16.Rae1 Bf5 17.Bb2 f6 18.Nd4 Bd7 19.Qf3 c6 20.f5+- and Black's King is too weak to defend.

14.Rad1 Nd7 15.e4±

White is better due to the greater influence in the center.

15...Nc5 16.Bxc5 bxc5 17.e5!

Attacking before Black can complete his development. 17.Nd5± is also strong.

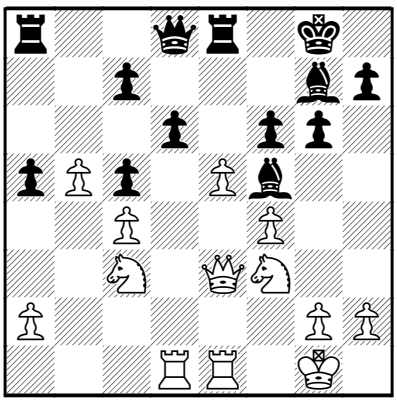
17...Bf5 18.Qe3

Or 18.Qd2±.

18...Re8 19.Rfe1

Orn 19.Qf2 Be6 20.Nd5+/= with very good pressure.

19...f6



20.Qf2?!

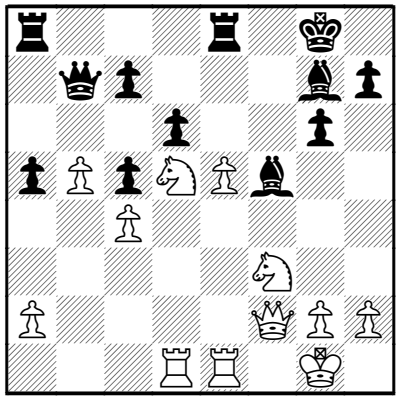
I considered the Queen sacrifice 20.e6!? for about 10 minutes, but I didn't think it would lead to anything more than a draw: 20...Bxe6 21.Qxe6+ Rxe6 22.Rxe6 Qd7 23.f5! gxf5 24.Rde1 c6 25.Re7 Qc8 26.bxc6 Qxc6 27.Nd5 f4 28.Nh4 Qc8= and neither side can really make too much progress.

Another line, 20.b6 cxb6 21.Nb5 Bf8 22.Qc3 fxe5 23.fxe5± was the way to go, and White's pieces are at their full potential, while Black's Bishops are hardly doing anything.

20...fxe5 21.fxe5 Qb8?

21...Bg4! would have equalized for Black: 22.Nd5 (After 22.exd6 Bxc3 23.Rxe8+ Qxe8 24.dxc7 Bd4 25.Rxd4 cxd4 26.Qxd4 Bxf3 27.gxf3 Qe1+ 28.Kg2 Qe2+, Black has to give a perpetual due to the strong passed pawns.) 22...Bxf3 23.Qxf3 Bxe5 24.Qh3 and White has compensation for the pawn, but no more.

22.Nd5 Qb7?



Necessary was 22...dxe5, but White has a large advantage after 23.Qg3±.

23.Nh4!

To play this move I had to accurately calculate two forcing variations. Also winning was 23.Nf6+! Bxf6 24.exf6+- and Black cannot defend on the dark squares.

23...Bxe5

Also good for White are: 23...Bg4 24.Nf6+! Bxf6 25.exf6 Bxd1 26.f7+ winning, and 23...Be6 24.Nf6+ Bxf6 25.Qxf6, and the threat of Nxg6 followed by a Rook lift is crushing, and now 25...Bf7 loses to 26.e6.

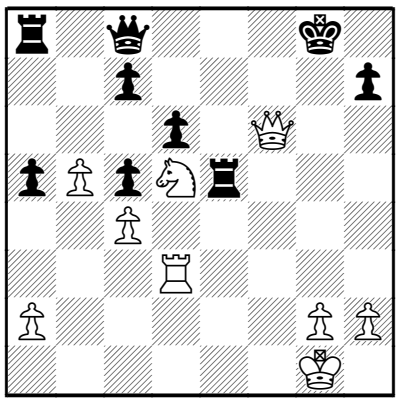
24.Nxf5 gxf5 25.Qxf5+-

Black's King is helplessly exposed, note how little the Black's Queen and queenside rook are doing -- development is everything.

25...Qc8

25...c6 26.bxc6 Qg7 27.c7 Rf8 28.Qe6+ Kh8 29.Nb6 Rg8 30.Re2 Bd4+ 31.Kh1 Qxc7 32.Nxa8 Rxa8 33.Rf1 was the best chance but still hopeless.

26.Qg5+ Kh8 27.Rxe5! Rxe5 28.Qf6+ Kg8 29.Rd3



I was 95% sure Rd3 was the end of the game when I played 27. Rxe5, which I still played relatively quickly because I knew I would always have Qxe5 and Ne7+ in case I had missed something earlier.

However, when I reached this position on the board it was fairly clear that this was winning.

29...Qg4 30.Rg3 Re1+ 31.Kf2 Re2+ 32.Kf1 Qxg3 33.hxg3 Rae8 34.Qg5+ Kh8 35.Nf4 Rxa2 36.Qf6+ Kg8 37.Ne6 Ra1+ 38.Kf2 Ra2+ 39.Kf3 Ra3+ 40.Kg4 1–0

Banawa,Joel (2341) - Yankovsky,Roman (2381)
[A33] English Opening
1st Metropolitan FIDE (5)
Los Angeles, 14.11.2010

Notes by Roman Yankovsky.
Notes in Italics by Joel Banawa.

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 c5

Before the game, I looked through some of Yankovsky's games and was expecting a Nimzoindian against 1.Nf3. To my surprise, he played a symmetrical English about which I'm not very knowledgeable.

3.Nc3 Nc6 4.d4

4.g3 is probably a better option when you're not prepared to enter the complicated lines that can occur after 4.d4.

4...cxd4 5.Nxd4 e6

This is a much better line to use if you want to play for a win with Black.

6.g3

Or 6.a3. During the game, I was thinking about just transposing into a Maroczy Bind to go for something solid and a positional game.

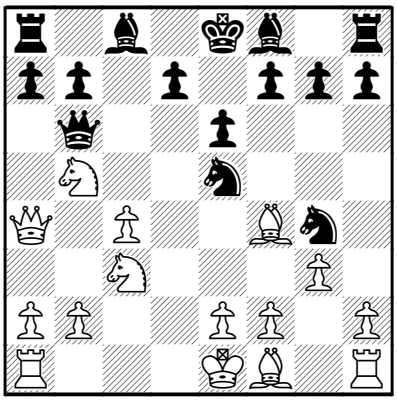
Qb6 7.Ndb5

This seemed like a typical move in many Qb6 lines even in the Sicilian Defense. 7.Nb3 Ne5 8.e4 Bb4 9.Qe2 d6 10.f4 Nc6 11.Be3 Bxc3+ 12.bxc3 Qc7 13.Bg2 0–0 14.c5 dxc5 15.Bxc5 Rd8 is also one of the main lines.

7...Ne5 8.Bf4

8.Bg2 a6 9.Qa4 Rb8 10.Be3 Bc5 11.Bxc5 Qxc5 12.Qa3 b6 13.Nd6+ Ke7 14.Qxc5 bxc5 is also possible.

Nfg4 9.Qa4!?



A comparatively new move, that leads to a very sophisticated position.

9...g5

One of several possible moves in this position. It's very difficult to say which move is the best, because the variants are very complicated, so here are the moves that I've found in my base.

9...a6. Looks strange, because the knight isn't attacked actually, but variants show that this move is possible: 10.f3 g5 11.Bxg5 f6 12.Bf4 Nf2 (12...Ne3 13.Nc7+ Qxc7 14.Bxe3 Nxc4 15.Bf4oo Sargissian,G (2642)-Avrukh,B (2657)/Dresden GER 2008/The Week in Chess 733) 13.Nc7+ Qxc7 14.Kxf2 Qb6+ 15.Be3 Qxb2 16.Qb3 Nd3+ 17.Kg2 Bb4 18.Rb1 Ne1+ 19.Rxe1 Qxb3 20.axb3 Bxc3 21.Rc1oo Iturrizaga,E (2528)-Holzke,F (2524)/Wijk aan Zee NED 2009/The Week in

Chess 741, and White has a slightly better position.

9...f6 10.Ne4 Bc5 11.e3 (Rybka recommends 11.f3, but after 11...Bf2+ 12.Kd1 Ne3+ 13.Kc1 N3xc4 14.Nxf2 Qxf2 15.Nc7+ Kf7 16.Nxa8 d5 Black should have perfect compensation.) 11...0–0 12.h3 Nf3+ 13.Ke2 Nge5 14.Bg2 d5∞ Shimanov,A (2553)-Tregubov,P (2625)/Rijeka CRO 2010/The Week in Chess 802, and Black has good practical chances because of the uncastled White King.

9...Bc5 10.0–0–0 f6 11.b4 (11.Ne4 0–0∞ Buhmann,R (2569)-Volokitin,A (2684)/Plovdiv BUL 2008) 11...Be7 12.c5 Qc6 13.Rg1 a5 14.Bg2 axb4 15.Bxc6 Rxa4 16.Nxa4 bxc6 17.Nc7+ Kf7⩱ Lushenkov,M (2452)-Andreev,E (2455)/Odessa UKR 2008, and although the position is very complicated, I would say that White is better due to extra exchange and bad Bishop on c8.

10.Bxg5!?

10.Bxe5 Nxe5 11.0–0–0 is a better alternative, according to Rybka.

The usual move is 10.Bxe5, but Black can force a draw: 10...Qxf2+

(10...Nxe5, trying to win, is also practicable: 11.0–0–0 a6 12.e3 [12.Ne4? Nxc4∓] 12...Rb8 13.Nd4 Qc7 Aronian,L (2739)-Leko,P (2753)/Morelia/Linares MEX/ ESP 2008 (50) with a complicated position. Pawn on g5 obviously would be better on g7.)

Roman Yankovsky

11.Kd1 Nxe5 12.Nc7+ Kd8 13.Nxa8 Qd4+ 14.Kc2 (14.Ke1?! is too dangerous because of 14...Bc5⩱) 14...Nxc4 15.Kb3 (15.e4?! gives a very strong attack to Black: 15...Qd2+ 16.Kb3 Qxb2+ 17.Kxc4 d5+ 18.exd5 Bg7⩱ , and even Rybka says that Black is better here.

It's almost unreal to defend this position in a practical game. Here is one example: 19.Qb3 exd5+ 20.Kc5 Qf2+ 21.Kb4 Bd7 22.Be2 Bf8+ 23.Ka5 Qc5+ 24.Nb5 b6+ 25.Ka4 Qd4+! 0–1 Ponkratov,P (2579)-Zablotsky,S (2540)/Voronezh RUS 2009/The Week in Chess 763. Nice game!) 15...Nd2+ 16.Kc2= Carlsen,M (2776)-Dominguez Perez,L (2717)/Linares ESP 2009/The Week in Chess 746.

10...f6!

I thought about 10...Nxf2? for a long time, counting the following variants: 11.Bf6 Bg7!?

a) 11...Nxh1 12.Bxh8 Nd3+ 13.exd3 Qf2+ 14.Kd1 Qxf1+ 15.Kc2 Qxa1 16.Nc7+ Kd8 17.Nxa8+-;

b) 11...Nf3+? 12.exf3 Qe3+ 13.Be2! (13.Ne2? Bb4+ 14.Qxb4 Nd3+ 15.Kd1 Nxb4 16.Bxh8 Qxf3∓) 13...Nd3+ 14.Kd1 Nxb2+ 15.Kc2 Nxa4 16.Nc7 mate; 12.Bxg7 Nf3+ 13.exf3 Qe3+, and I was sure that I would win the White Queen with a Knight fork, but after 14.Ne2!! the White Bishop on g7 unexpectedly defends the b2: 14...Nd3+ 15.Kd1 Nxb2+ 16.Bxb2+-. I didn't see 14.Ne2, but I decided to play f6, because leaving the pawn on f7 looked too dangerous.

11.Bf4

I was mostly considering 11.h3!? Nxf2 (if 11...Qxf2+!? 12.Kd1 fxg5 13.hxg4 Qb6∞)

12.Rh2 (12.Bxf6? Qe3 13.Bxe5 Nd3+ 14.Kd1 Nxb2+ 15.Kc2 Nxa4–+) 12...fxg5 13.Rxf2 Be7∞. I thought I could kick the Rook from the f-file after 13...Bc5?! 14.Rf6 Ke7?, but after 15.Nd5+ White wins. Anyway, after 13...Be7, Black is fine.

11...Nxf2

Now Black captures the f2 pawn without any problem.

12.Rg1 Nfd3+

I didn't want to make this move, but I didn't see any alternative.

After 12...Bc5?! 13.b4 Nfd3+ (13...Be3 14.c5+-) 14.exd3 Bxg1 15.0–0–0 Be3+ 16.Kb1⩱ White has sufficient compensation for the exchange; 12...a6?! is senseless - Black doesn't have enough time to play Rb8 and make the White Knight to leave b5. 13.Rg2 Bc5 14.b4∞;

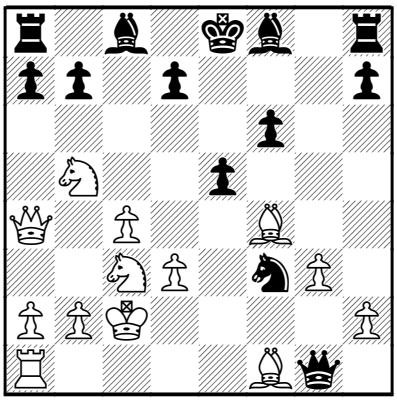
12...Nfg4 allows White to strengthen the Rook's position: 13.Rg2 Ne3 14.Rf2, and the White Rook is now standing better than on h1, and Black won't make any progress.

13.exd3 Nf3+ 14.Kd1

14.Ke2 is stronger but not a human move 14...Nxg1+ 15.Kd2 Qf2+ 16.Be2 Nxe2.

14.Ke2?! was worse: 14...Nxg1+ 15.Ke1 Nf3+ 16.Ke2 Nd4+ 17.Nxd4 Qxd4∞, and White doesn't have full compensation for the exchange, and 18.Nb5?? is impossible because of 18...Qxb2+ –+.

14...Qxg1 15.Kc2 e5!



The best move. White doesn't have a good square for a Bishop. After 15...Kf7 16.Rd1 White has a strong compensation.

And now White has to prove that his exchange sac was worth something

16.Be2!

The great chance. I missed this response. 16.Rd1? doesn't give a compensation after 16...exf4 17.Be2 Qxh2 ∓.

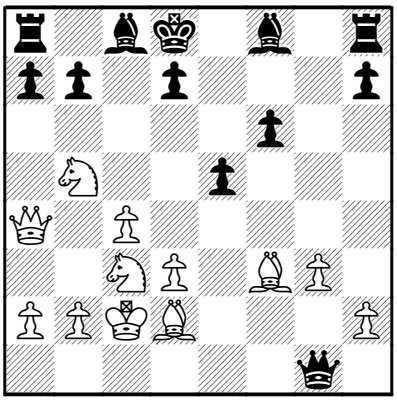
After 16.Bd2 Nxd2 17.Kxd2 Bh6+ 18.Kc2 0–0∓, Black is castled and keeps the advantage.

16...Qxa1 17.Bxf3 Qg1!

I didn't want to play 17...exf4?! because of 18.Nd1⩱, and despite the enormous material advantage, Black's position isn't better: his Queen is out of the game, his King is under attack, and none of his pieces are developed.

17...exf4 is more accurate: 18.Nc7+
18.Bd2!

Interesting response. Now White has a compensation for 2(!) exchanges. 18.Nc7+!? was forcing a draw. I calculated the variant 18...Kd8 19.Nxa8 exf4 (19...Qf2+ 20.Bd2 (20.Be2 exf4∓) 20...Qxf3 21.Qxa7⩲) 20.Qa5+ b6 21.Qxa7 Qf2+ 22.Be2 f3 (22...Bc5!? is interesting. 23.gxf4 Qxf4∞) 23.Qc7+ Ke7 24.Qxc8 fxe2 and was sure that I was winning. Actually, after 25.Nd5+ White gives a perpetual check. 25... Kd6 26.Qb8+ Ke6 27.Qe8+ Kd6= (27...Kf5?? 28.Ne3+ Kg5 29.h4+ Kh6 30.Ng4+ Kg7 31.Nxf2+-)
18...Kd8



19.Nd5?

Under the time pressure White makes a mistake.

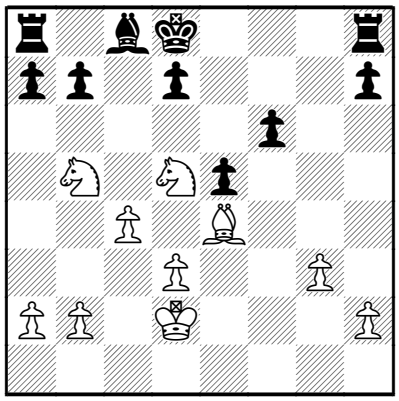
19.Bd5!⩲ It's hard to believe, but this move is likely to be the best. Here is the logic: White needs to have a move Ne4, but he doesn't want to leave the bishop out of the game. Black doesn't have any realistic plan for development. 19...Qxh2 20.Ne4⩲;

19.Qa5+! is also good. 19...b6 (19... Qb6 20.Nd5! Both of us missed this move. After Queens are exchanged, White takes the material back by force. 20...Qxa5 21.Bxa5+ b6 22.Nxb6 axb6 23.Bxb6+ Ke7 24.Bxa8±) 20.Qa4 a6 21.Bxa8 axb5 22.Qxb5⩲, and White has a good compensation. The Black King is bad, and the Black Rook isn't taking a part in the game.

(??) 19.Qa5+!!
19...Qf2!∓

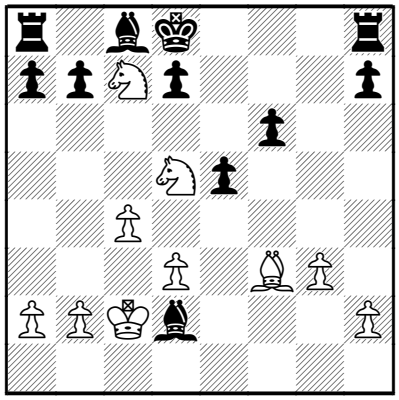
Now Black exchanges queens.
20.Nbc7

Interesting was 20.Be4!? Bh6 21.Qb4 Qxd2+ 22.Qxd2 Bxd2 23.Kxd2∓



A fantastic position: Black has 2 extra exchanges, but all his pieces are on their initial squares.

I think Black should win here, but this position was better for White than the one in the game. Now 23...d6!? is the easiest way to develop: 24.Nxd6 Rf8 25.Bxh7 Rb8∓, letting the Bishop out.
20...Bh6 21.Qa5 Qxd2+ 22.Qxd2 Bxd2



Now White doesn't have any hope left.
23.Nxa8

23.Kxd2 was just a bad version of the 20.Be4 variant: 23...Rb8 24.Nb5 d6 25.Nxd6 Be6–+ 26.Nxf6? Rf8 27.Nde4 Ke7–+.
23...Be1–+

White is the exchange down, his Knight is lost on a8, and his Kingside pawns are weak.

The end is near.
24.Nac7 a6 25.Na8 d6 26.Nab6 Bh3 27.Ne3

Or 27.Nxf6 Rf8 28.Nbd5 Be6 29.Kd1 Bxd5 30.Bxd5 Bxg3 31.hxg3 Rxf6 32.Bxb7 Rf2–+.
27...Bf2 28.Nbd5 Bg1
0–1

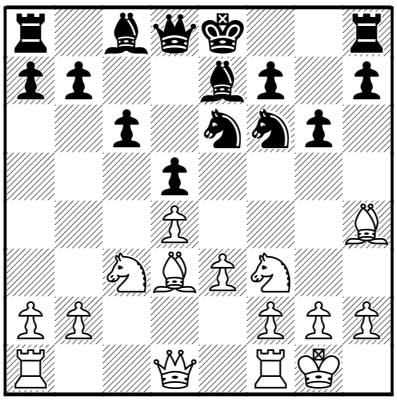
The next game features an energetic exchange sacrifice. Such material imbalances are nearly always instructive.

Banawa,Joel (2341) -
Manukyan,Garush (2302)
[D35] Queen's Gambit Declined Exchange Variation
1st Metropolitan FIDE (7)
Los Angeles, 20.11.2010
Notes by FM Joel Banawa
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6

Black employs a tricky move-order where he can lure White to play 3.Nf3 and transpose back to the Queen's Gambit Declined, avoiding the Carlsbad variation, in which White gets to place the pawn on f3, which supports and allows him to build up a strong center.
3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Bg5 Be7 6.e3 Nbd7

Black remains flexible by not moving his c-pawn early in the game. It gives him an option to play ...c5 later on when the light squared Bishop is placed on d3.
7.Nf3 Nf8!?

Moving the Knight so many times in the opening is not usually advisable, but in a semi-closed game where the center is fixed it won't be so easy for White to exploit the knight moves. Black's aim shall be revealed soon.
8.Bd3 Ne6 9.Bh4 c6 10.0–0 g6



This is the idea of the Knight maneuver. Black will try to trade off his bad c8 Bishop for White's possibly strongest minor piece in the game with ...Ng7 and ...Bf5, ...
11.Rb1 0–0 12.b4

White has settled for a typical mi-

nority attack, where White will try to hit the c6-pawn with b5 to produce some major weaknesses on Black's Queenside.

12...a6 13.a4 Ng7

Black proceeds with his positional plan

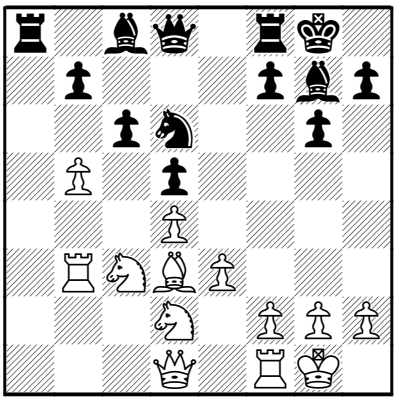
14.Rb3?!

The idea of Rb3 is to prevent a future ...Ra3 when things open up on the Queenside with b5. But I felt like this move is too slow and White should have just played b5 right away.

14...Nf5 15.Bxf6!?

White gives up the Bishop for the Knight, hoping that the dark-squared Bishop will be proven misplaced. The Bishop on f6 doesn't help his position because it's being hindered by the White pawn on d4. The dark squared Bishop is usually extremely strong when it's controlling the h2-b8 diagonal.

15...Bxf6 16.b5 axb5 17.axb5 Nd6 18.Nd2 Bg7



Black has the two Bishops but he is lacking play.

19.Qc2

Putting a subtle pressure on Black's c6-pawn.

19...f5

Black's typical counter-play against White's minority attack. Black intends to expand on the Kingside, hoping that he can insert ...f4 in the position and weaken White's d4 pawn and produce some attacking chances.

20.bxc6 bxc6 21.Ne2

Preventing f4 and opening up the c-file for the Rook and Queen.

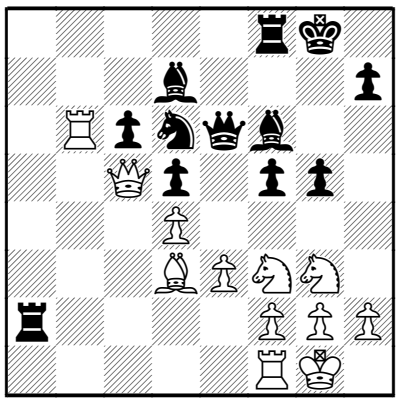
21...Bd7 22.Rbb1?!

Since it seemed like Black will have a strong Kingside attack, I somehow felt like I had to trade off both Rooks as soon as possible but maybe this was too slow. Better was 22.Rfb1, dominating the b-file which can be useful later on when Black is trying to transfer all his pieces to the Kingside. It'll give him something to worry about.

22...g5?

This weakens his position greatly, as will be seen in the game.

23.Nf3 Qe7 24.Qc5 Bf6 25.Rb6 Qe6 26.Ng3 Ra2



27.Rxc6!

The idea of this exchange sacrifice is to remove an important defensive piece, the Bishop, that plays a major role on retaining order in his pawns on the light squares. Also, when Black recaptures, his pieces will be proven to be disorganized since his Knight is paralyzed due to the pin.

27...Bxc6 28.Qxc6 Kf7 29.Qc7+ Kg6?

Black blunders in an important moment, although his position is not so good anymore.

30.h4

This is a critical moment; Black has to decide on how he's going to defend his King from all sorts of attacks from different directions. Probably stronger is 30.Nxf5! Nxf5 31.g4, with a totally winning position.

30...g4

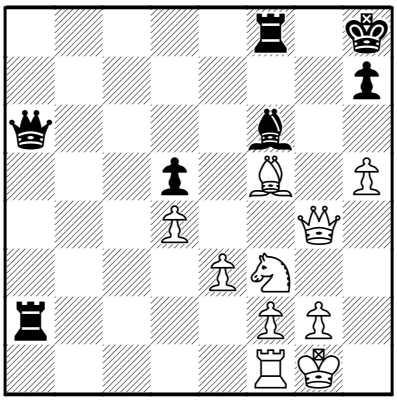
If 30...gxh4, then 31.Nh5!! and White occupies a very strong square f4 next move. If Black captures the Knight, he gets mated: 31...Kxh5 32.Qxh7+ Kg4 33.Qg6+ Bg5 34.Qxg5. Also, if 30...h6?? then 31.h5 mate.

And if 30...Ne4, then 31.hxg5 Nxg3 32.Qxg3, would put Black in a lot of trouble.

31.h5+ Kh6 32.Nxf5+!

A strong tactical shot that gives White material advantage

32...Nxf5 33.Qf4+ Kg7 34.Bxf5 Qa6 35.Qxg4+ Kh8



And now, I was in a severe time trouble with less than a minute left in the clock which will hopefully excuse my next useless moves.

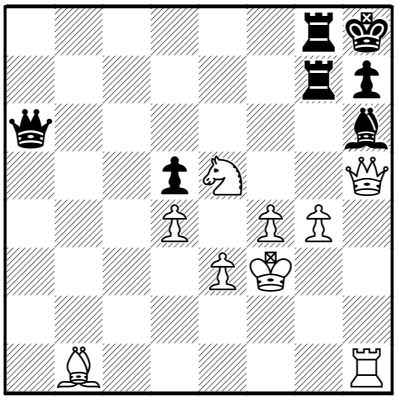
36.h6 Qd6 37.Rc1 Rg8 38.Qh5 Ra7 39.Rf1 Qe7 40.g3 Bg5 41.Kg2 Qf6 42.Bb1 Rf7

A quicker way to lose.

The only way Black can survive or win is if somehow he can keep his Queen on the board and find some tactical tricks with ...Bxe3 later on.

But if Black regains one of the pawns, he will get a lifeless position where he will be defending the whole time. If 42...Qxh6 43.Qxh6 Bxh6 44.Rh1, then Black will be tied down defending his d5-pawn and h7, while White can just start advancing his kingside pawns later on.

43.Ne5 Re7 44.f4 Bxh6 45.Rh1 Reg7 46.g4 Qa6 47.Kf3



Preventing the last trick

47...Rb8 48.Bd3 1–0

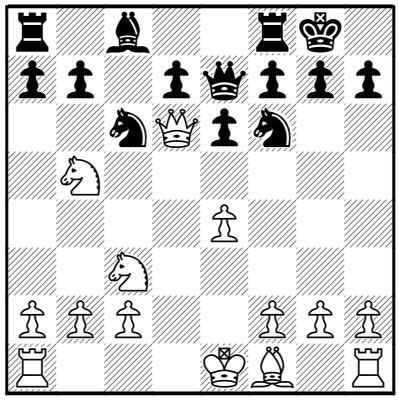
Suddenly, in this next game, the the position turns difficult and deadly.

Abrahamyan,Tatev (2355) - Banawa,Joel (2341)
[B45] Sicilian
1st Metropolitan FIDE (8)
Los Angeles, 21.11.2010
Notes by Larry Stevens.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6

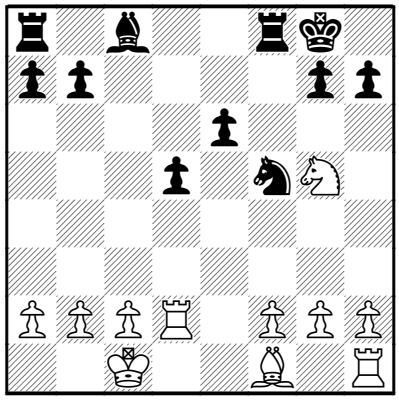
The old Four Knights Variation.

6.Ndb5 Bc5 7.Bf4 0–0 8.Bc7 Qe7 9.Bd6 Bxd6 10.Qxd6



10...Qd8

Another main line goes all the way out to move 17: 10...Ne8 11.Qxe7 Nxe7 12.0–0–0 f5 13.Nd6 Nxd6 14.Rxd6 fxe4 15.Nxe4 Nf5 16.Rd2 d5 17.Ng5:



and White has done well in master play from this position.

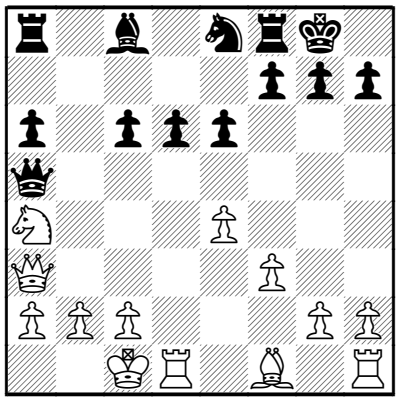
11.0–0–0 a6 12.Nd4 Qb6 13.f3

More usual is 13.Nxc6.

13...Ne8 14.Na4

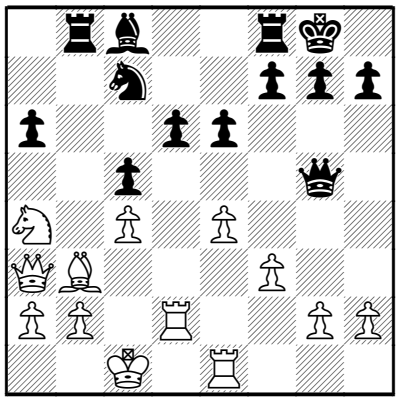
This shot is necessary to save the Knight on d4.

14...Qa5 15.Nxc6 bxc6 16.Qa3 d6



White leads in development, but is there a target in the Black position?

17.Bc4 Rb8 18.Bb3 Qg5+ 19.Rd2 c5 20.Re1 Nc7 21.c4

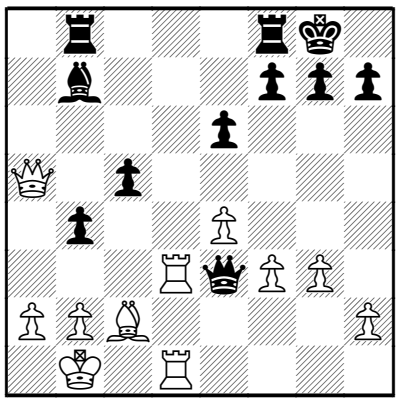


White's Queen looks crowded!

21...Nb5 22.cxb5 axb5 23.Nxc5 dxc5 24.Bc2 Rd8

The computer likes 24...c4 25.Qd6 Rb7 26.Qg3 Qe7, creating a threatening Queenside advance.

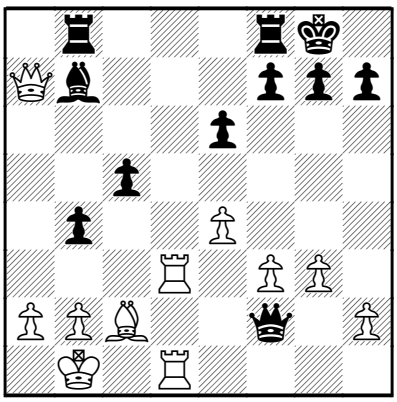
25.Red1 b4 26.Qa5 Rf8 27.Kb1 Bb7 28.g3 Qe3 29.Rd3



29...Qf2?!

The Queen guards the c5-pawn but is out of the coming play. The computer recommends 29...Qe2 30.Rd8 (30.Qxc5?? loses immediately to 30...Rbc8) 30...Rbxd8 31.Rxd8 g6 32.Rxf8+ Kxf8 33.Qxc5+ Kg8 34.b3 Qe1+ 35.Kb2 Qd2 36.Qc4 with a slight plus for White.

30.Qa7!



Presenting formidable problems to solve, starting with the threat of 31.Qxb8!, due to Black's back rank weakness.

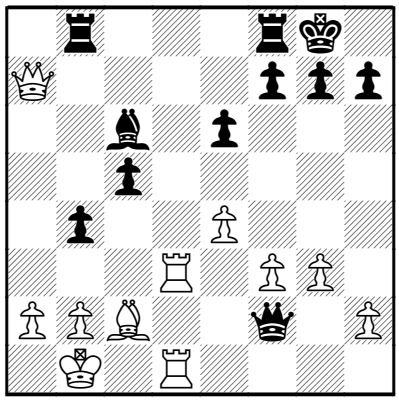
The best line is to create luft and suffer with 30...h6 31.Rd7 Bc6 32.Rxf7 Rxf7 33.Qxb8+ Rf8 34.Qd6 Be8 and White has a strong position.

Another way to make luft is 30...g6 31.Rd7 Ba8 32.Rxf7 Rxf7 33.Qxb8+ Rf8 34.Qe5 Qxf3 35.b3, and White will win a pawn with a great position, due to the weakened Black Kingside and the bad condition of his Bishop. One continuation might be 35...

Tatev Abrahamyan

Re8 36.Rd7 Qc3 37.Qxc3 bxc3. But now White develops a passed pawn: 38.Rc7 Rf8 39.Bd3 Rf3 40.Kc2 Rf2+ 41.Kxc3 Rxa2 42.Rxc5 Kg7 43.b4+–.

30...Bc6??



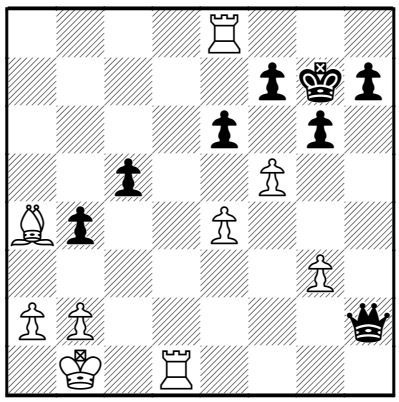
31.Qxb8!

Anyway. White alertly picks up two Rooks for the Queen...

31...Rxb8 32.Rd8+ Be8 33.Rxb8

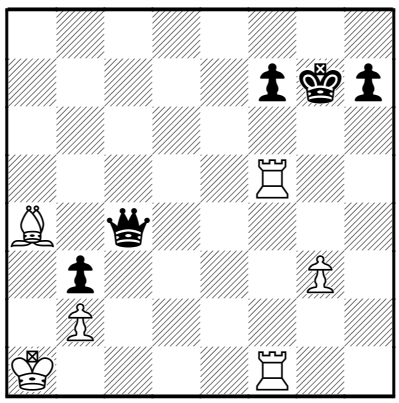
... and a Bishop, too.

33...Kf8 34.Ba4 g6 35.Rxe8+ Kg7 36.f4 Qxh2 37.f5



Breaking up Black's Kingside.

37...exf5 38.exf5 gxf5 39.Re5 c4 40.Rf1 b3 41.axb3 cxb3 42.Rexf5 Qc2+ 43.Ka1 Qc4



44.Rxf7+ Kg6 45.R7f6+ Kg7 46.R6f4 Qd3 47.Rg4+ 0-1

Black has to give up the Queen to stop an instant mate.

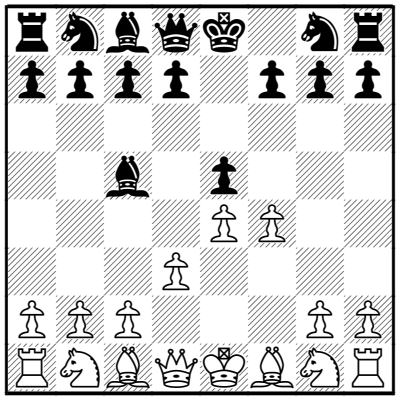
Gupta,Ankit (2235) - Kretchetov,Alexandre (2358)
[C00] French Defense
1st Metropolitan FIDE (9)
Los Angeles, 22.11.2010

Notes by Ankit Gupta

1.e4 e6 2.d3

The King's Indian Attack.

2...e5 3.f4 Bc5

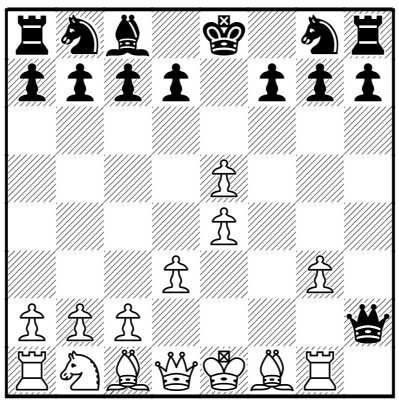


My opponent Mr. Kretchetov remarked after the game that he has played this against many IMs and it has been a natural reply.

However, I feel that there is a distinct difference in the use of ...Bc5 here as opposed to a natural King's Gambit position (1.e4 e5 1.f4 Bc5). Here the d3 pawn supports e4, and so ideas for White, such as fxe5, are possible because ...Qh4+ with the idea of ...Qxe4 no longer exist.

If 3...exf4, then at some point, White will have to play d4 which will transpose into a normal King's Gambit.

4.fxe5 Bxg1 5.Rxg1 Qh4+ 6.g3 Qxh2

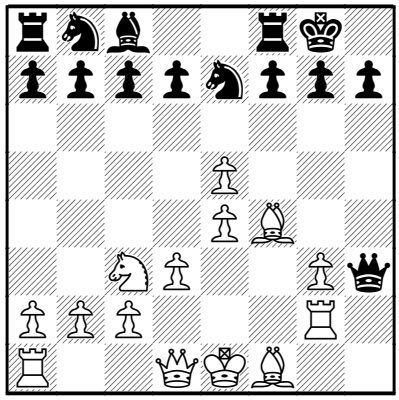


Black's Queen is sidelined and White has many open files for his pieces. White already has an advantage.

7.Rg2 Qh3 8.Bf4

In order to support g3 and prepare Rg2-Rf2 and free up the f1 Bishop.

8...Ne7 9.Nc3 0–0



Probably a mistake. Black invites White to attack his King.

10.Rf2 Qe6 11.Qh5

Khachiyan remarked after the game that d4 was more natural, with ideas of d5, but I felt that a simple Qh5 and 0–0–0 was very strong too, because of the weakness on the h-file around the Black King.

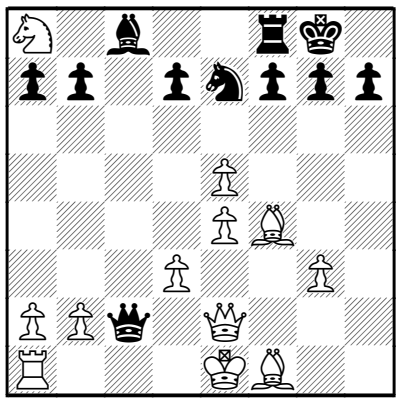
11...Nbc6??

Simply hangs material.

12.Nb5 Nb4

Or 12...Rb8 13.Nxc7 Qg6 14.Qh4, with threats of Be2-Bh5 to win the Black Queen.

13.Nxc7 Qc6 14.Nxa8 Nxc2+ 15.Rxc2 Qxc2 16.Qe2



Black has no real counterplay for the piece here. White will consolidate soon.

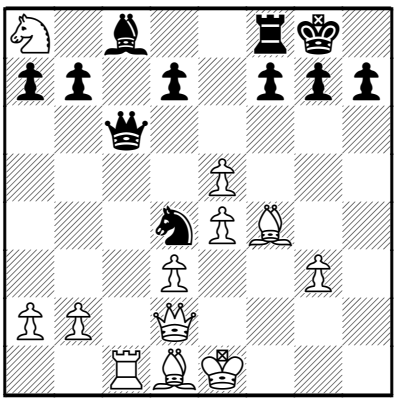
16...Qa4 17.Qd2

Stopping the Black Queen from retreating to a5 and possibly preventing the escape of White's Knight on a8 by controlling the c7 square.

17...Nc6 18.Be2 Nd4 19.Bd1

I thought this was the simplest method of stopping the activity of Black's Queen and Knight. Without control of f3 and c2, the Black Knight on d4, although seemingly menacing, poses no real danger.

19...Qc6 20.Rc1



White's pieces are almost all fully active and White is up a piece!

20...Qe6 21.Qf2

To force the Knight on d4 to retreat, and prepare Bb3.

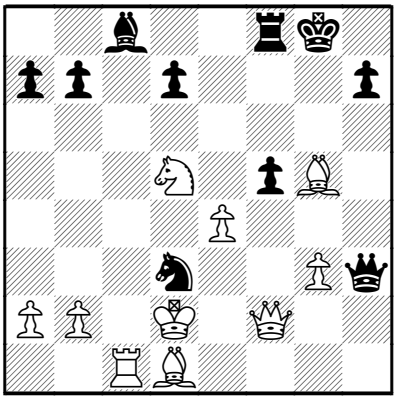
21...Nc6 22.Bb3 Qg4 23.Nc7

If White consolidates with Nd5, it's hard to see how Black has anything left playing for.

23...g5 24.Bd1

Also winning was 24.Nd5 (with the threat of Nf6) Kg7 25.Bd1 Qe6 26.Bxg5.

24...Qh3 25.Bxg5 Nxe5 26.Kd2 f5 27.Nd5 Nxd3



Momentarily looking scary because of the idea of 28.Kxd3 fxe4+, but White has a mating net already and has nothing to worry about.

28.Ne7+ Kg7

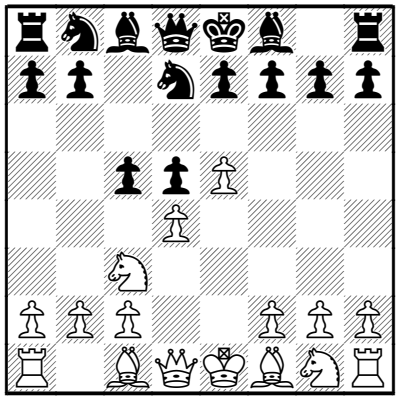
28...Kf7 loses to the simple 29.Kxd3 because of the pin of the f5 pawn.

29.Qd4+ Kf7 30.Qf6+ Ke8 31.Rxc8 mate

Finally, we present the three wins by Zhanibek Amanov in just forty-eight moves.

Gupta,Ankit (2235) -
Amanov,Zhanibek (2394)
[B02] Alekhine's Defense
1st Metropolitan FIDE (1)
Los Angeles, 12.11.2010
Notes by Larry Stevens

1.e4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.e5 Nfd7 4.d4 c5



5.Nxd5?

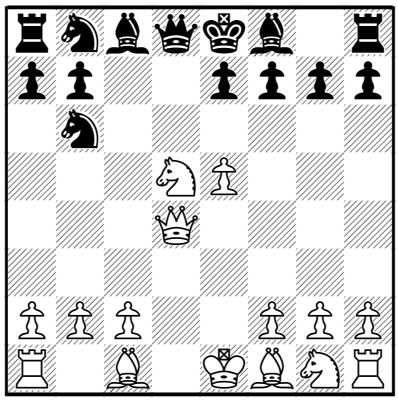
This plausible move is the start of White's difficulties.

5.Nf3 e6 is a direct transposition to the French. Also seen is 5...cxd4 6.Qxd4 e6.

5.f4 cxd4 6.Nb5 as played by Nunn and others.

5.dxc5 e6 6.Nf3 is another French.

5...cxd4 6.Qxd4 Nb6



White is already in a difficult spot. Black wins a piece.

7.Bb5+?

Better, but still difficult is 7.c4 e6 8.Bg5 Bb4+ 9.Ke2 Qd7∓.

7...Nc6 8.Bxc6+

Also losing was 8.c4 e6 9.Bg5 Qd7 10.0–0–0 exd5 11.Qe3 d4–+.

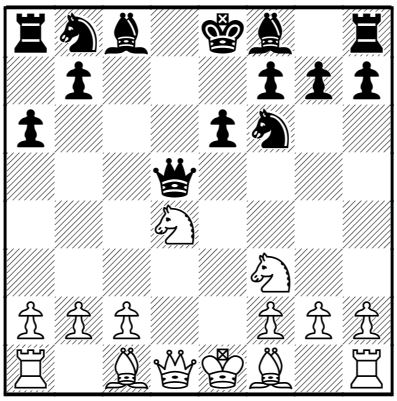
8...bxc6

Now it's hopeless.

9.Nxb6 Qxd4 10.Nxa8 Qxe5+ 0–1

Amanov,Zhanibek (2394) -
Kavutskiy,Konstantin (2149)
[C07] French Defense
Tarrasch Variation
1st Metropolitan FIDE (5)
Los Angeles, 14.11.2010
Notes by Larry Stevens

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 c5 4.Ngf3 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Nf6 6.exd5 Qxd5 7.N2f3 a6

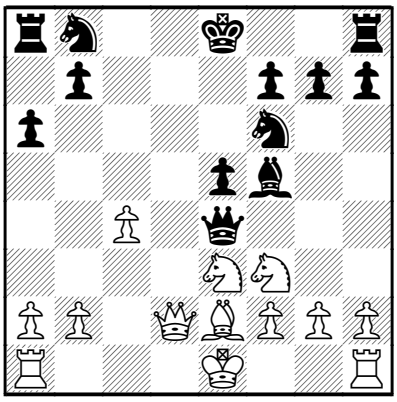


This line is relatively unexplored.

8.c4 Qe4+ 9.Be2 Bb4+

Black can free his Queen's Bishop safely by 9...e5 10.Nc2 Nc6 11.0–0 Bf5 12.Ne3 Bg6=.

10.Bd2 Bxd2+ 11.Qxd2 e5 12.Nc2 Bf5 13.Ne3

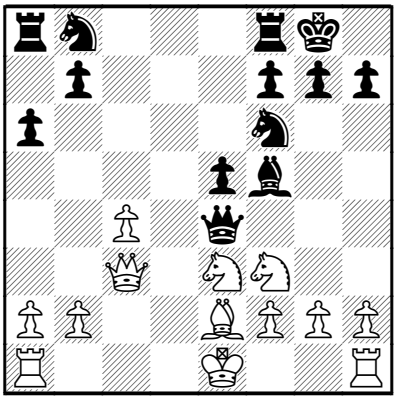


Zhanibek Amanov

The Black Queen is tied to the defense of the Bishop, so it's very dangerous if the Queen is attacked. And the Queen is right in the center, near three minor pieces, and can easily become a target.

This is a combination waiting to happen.

13...0–0 14.Qc3



White clears d2 for an attack on the Queen by the Knight.

14...Ng4??

Now is the time to secure the Bishop, even at the cost of a pawn, with 14...Bg6 15.Nxe5 Nc6 16.Nxc6 Qxc6 17.0–0 Rae8 18.Rad1 Re6 19.Rfe1 Rfe8 20.Bf3±.

Another line that shows the urgency of securing the Bishop is 14... Nc6?? 15.Nd2 Qf4 16.g3 Qg5 17.Nf3 Qh5 18.Nh4 Bg4 19.Nxg4 Nxg4 20.h3+-.

15.Ng5! Qc6

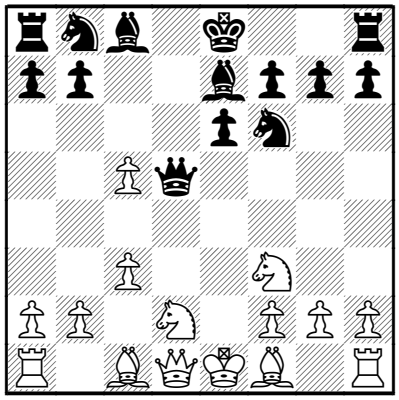
There was no way to save the piece. If 15...Qf4, then 16.Nh3 Qe4 17.Bf3.

16.Nxf5 Qf6 17.Bxg4 Qxg5 18.Bh3

1–0

Amanov,Zhanibek (2394) - Abrahamyan,Tatev (2355)
[C03] French Defense
Tarrasch Variation
1st Metropolitan FIDE (7)
Los Angeles, 20.11.2010
Notes by Larry Stevens

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Be7 4.c3 c5 5.dxc5 Nf6 6.exd5 Qxd5 7.Ngf3



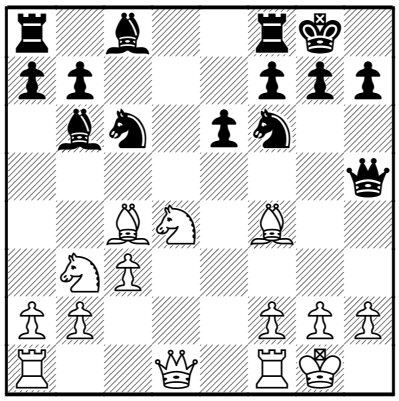
This position is relatively unexplored.

7...Bxc5

More often played is 7...Qxc5.

The computer likes 7...0–0 8.b4 b6 9.Bc4 Qc6 10.0–0 bxc5 11.b5 Qc7 12.Bd3 Bb7 13.Nc4 Nbd7=.

8.Bc4 Qh5 9.Nb3 Bb6 10.0–0 0–0 11.Bf4 Nc6 12.Nfd4



12...Qh4

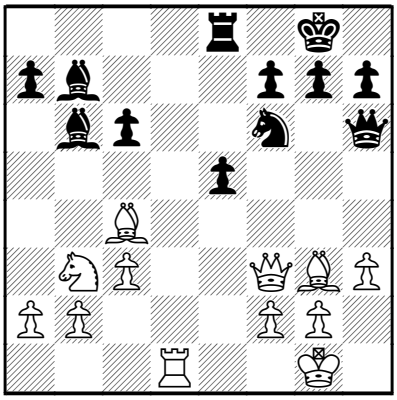
Black has better chances to equalize with 12...Bd7.

13.Bg3 Qh6 14.Nxc6 bxc6 15.Qf3 Re8

This move appears to lose a tempo, when compared to the immediate development of the Queenside by 15... Bb7 16.a4 a5 17.Rad1 Rad8 18.h3 Nd5±.

16.Rfe1 Bb7 17.Rad1 Rad8 18.h3 Rxd1 19.Rxd1 e5??

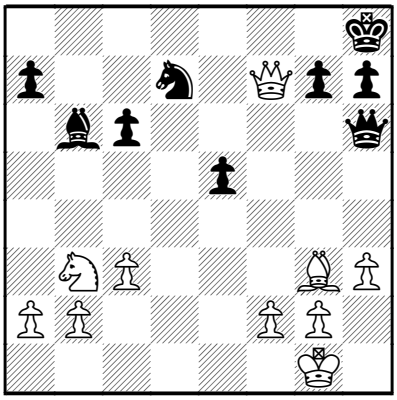
This meets with a surprising response. Better was 19...Nd5±.



20.Rd7! 1-0

Black resigns, for if 20...Nxd7, then 21.Qxf7+ Kh8 22.Qxe8+ Nf8 23.Qxf8 mate.

White answers 20...Bc8 with 21.Bxf7+ Kh8 22.Bxe8 Bxd7 23.Bxd7 Nxd7 24.Qf7, winning as follows:



White's better pieces and Black's King insecurity will win another pawn. Two possibilities are:

24...Nf6 25.Bxe5 Qg6 26.Qf8+ Ng8 27.c4+–.

24...Qd6 25.Qe8+ Nf8 26.Bxe5 Qd1+ 27.Kh2 Kg8 28.Nd4+–.

So Black stopped here. *R&F*

46th Annual American Open

November 25-28, 2010

GM Joshua Friedel won the 46th Annual American Open, held at the LAX Renaissance hotel over Thanksgiving weekend, with a 6-2 score. He prevailed on tiebreaks over IM Enrico Sevillano and GM Melikset Khachiyan, who rebounded from a first round loss. Sevillano drew against both players in the final two rounds.

The under 2300 winner was 13-year-old David Adelberg of Arizona.

The turnout for the tournament sections was 212.

But the Scholastic side event drew an additional total of 135, with nearly half playing in the K-6 section.

Each of the four scholastic winners was awarded a bonus prize, which was the opportunity for free lessons from FM Joel Banawa.

The Quick tournament (35 players) saw a 10-0 sweep by IM Steven Zierk, the World Under 18 Champion.

So did the Action tournament (28), which IM Cyrus Lakdawala swept 5-0.

The total turnout was over 400.

The prize winners are listed below, after which we present four games.

The first two games were chosen and annotated by IM Jack Peters.

The final two were notable upsets. Ankit Gupta annotates his draw with GM Mark Paragua, and we give notes to the 1st round win by Giovanni Carreto, from Mexico, over GM Khachiyan.

For two flashy combinations from the tournament, see page 35. *R&F*

David Adelberg won the U2300 prize.

GM Joshua Friedel, winner on tie-breaks.

IM Enrico Sevillano tied for 1st.

GM Melikset Khachiyan also was 1st.

Open Section
1st: GM Joshua Friedel, IM Enrico Sevillano, GM Melikset Khachiyan, 6-2
4th: GM Alejandro Ramirez, GM Mark Paragua, IM Andranik Matikozyan, IM Zhanibek Amanov, 5½-2½

Under 2300: David Adelberg, 5-3

U2200
1st: Varun Krishnan, 6½-1½
2nd-3rd: Vincent Huang, Daniel Giordani, 6-2

U2000
1st: Shaurya Jain, 7-1
2nd: Daniel Rozenblatt, 6½-1½
3rd: Ryan Polsky, 6-2

GM Mark Paragua

U1800
1st: Ruben Burciaga, 6½-1½
2nd-6th: Alexander Gustafsson, Derrick Sia, Aaron Simo, Rachael Eng, Jonathan Gunn, 6-2

U1600
1st: Aaron Chang, 6½-1½
2nd-3rd: Carol Mayer-Kleist, Om Chinchwadkar, 6-2

U1400
1st: Julian Daza 7-1
2nd: Bobby Liu 6½-1½
3rd: Alex Wang, Manav Rattan, 5½-2½
Under 1200: Owen Anderson, 4½-3½
Unrated: Shib Sen, 4½-3½

Scholastic K-12
1st: Richard Yang, 4½-½

Scholastic K-8
1st: Stephanie Shao, 4½-½

Scholastic K-6:
1st: Alice Salvaryan, 5-0

Scholastic K-3
1st: Noah Daniels, 5-0

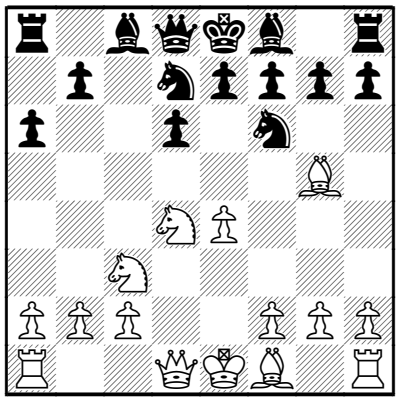
Quick:
1st: IM Steven Zierk, 10-0

Action:
1st: IM Cyrus Lakdawala, 5-0

In our first game, GM Mark Paragua, pictured at left, recovers from some early mistakes to win with a sudden attack on the King.

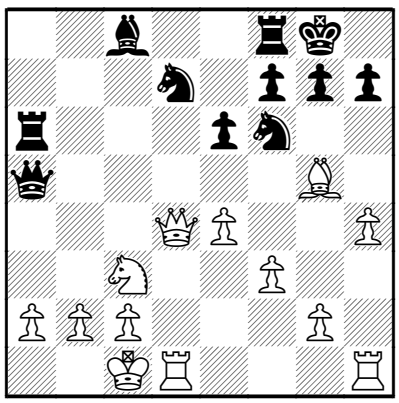
It is surprising just how quickly the deadly threats developed. We hope you enjoy it.

Bruno,Ron (2274) -
Paragua,Mark (2637)
[B94] Najdorf Sicilian
46th American Open (2)
Los Angeles 25.11.2010
Notes by Jack Peters.
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 Nbd7



A sideline of the Najdorf Sicilian.
7.Qd2 Qc7 8.0–0–0 e6 9.f3 Be7 10.h4 b5 11.Bxb5?!

Bold, but not very effective. Stronger is 11.g4.
11...axb5 12.Ndxb5 Qa5 13.Nxd6+ Bxd6 14.Qxd6 Ra6! 15.Qd4 0–0



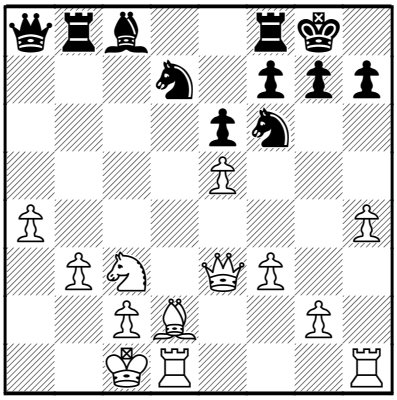
Now Black's King is safe.

His extra Knight should outplay White's three pawns in the middlegame.
16.a4 Rb6

Also good is 16...e5 17.Qd2 Qb4 18.b3 Rc6 (White can stand 18...Nc5 19.Nb5! Nxb3+ 20.cxb3 Qxb3 21.Qc2=) 19.Bxf6 (not 19.Kb2? Nb6) 19...Nxf6 20.Kb2 Be6 21.Nd5 Qc5, and Black keeps the initiative.
17.Bd2 Rb4?!

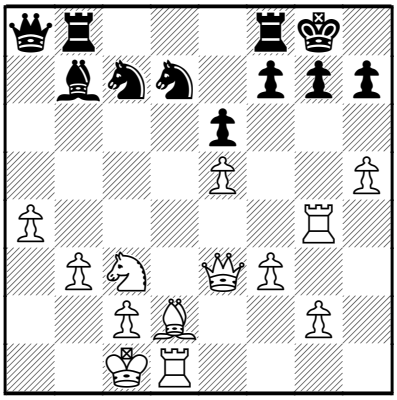
Again, 17...e5 18.Nd5 Qa6 should favor Black.
18.Qe3 Rb8 19.b3 Qa8?!

Black is drifting into trouble.
20.e5



Even better is 20.g4.
20...Ne8?

Black's huddled pieces pose no real threat. His last chance to maintain equality is 20...Nd5 21.Nxd5 exd5.
21.h5 Nc7 22.Rh4 Bb7 23.Rg4



23...Rfd8?

Black can slow White's attack by 23...f5!? 24.exf6 Nxf6, although 25.Rc4 Rf7 26.Qe5 Ncd5 27.h6 leaves him with shaky pawns and weak dark squares.
24.Rxg7+?

Only good enough to draw. White could have won with 24.Nb5! as 24...

Nxb5? permits 25.Qh6 g6 26.hxg6 fxg6 27.Rxg6+ hxg6 28.Qxg6+ Kf8 29.Bh6+ Ke7 30.Qg7+ Ke8 31.Rxd7 Rxd7 32.Qf8 mate.

Black would have to meet 24.Nb5! by 24...Ne8, although 25.Bb4 Bd5 26.h6 g6 27.Rgd4 sets up a breakthrough on the d-file.

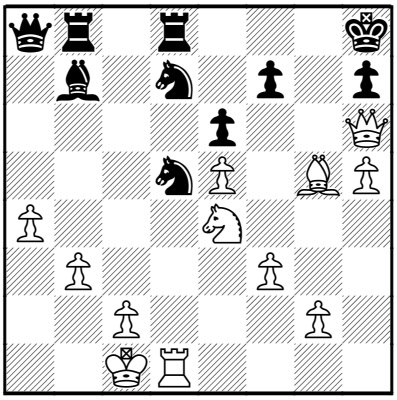
24...Kxg7 25.Qh6+ Kh8 26.Bg5

Threatening 27. Rxd7 and 28. Bf6+.

26...Nd5

Useless would be 26...Ne8?? 27.Rxd7 Rxd7 28.Qf8 mate.

27.Ne4



27...Qa5!

The only defense. Not 27...Rg8? 28.Nf6 N7xf6? because of 29.Bxf6+ Nxf6 30.Qxf6+ Rg7 31.h6.

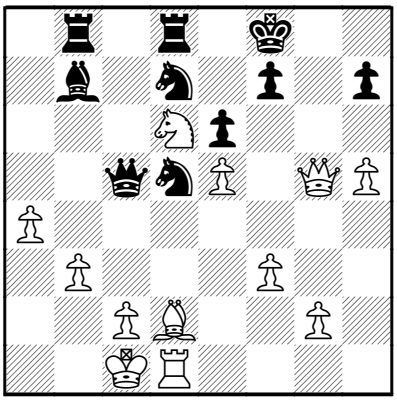
28.Nd6

White must be alert, too. He rejects 28.Nf6?? N5xf6 29.Bxf6+ Nxf6 30.Qxf6+ Kg8 31.h6 because Black escapes with 31...Rxd1+ 32.Kxd1 (or 32.Kb2 Kf8) 32...Qd8+.

28...Kg8 29.Bd2 Qc5 30.Qg5+

If 30.Nxb7?? Black attacks decisively with 30...Qa3+ 31.Kb1 Rdc8 32.Nd6 Rxb3+.

30...Kf8

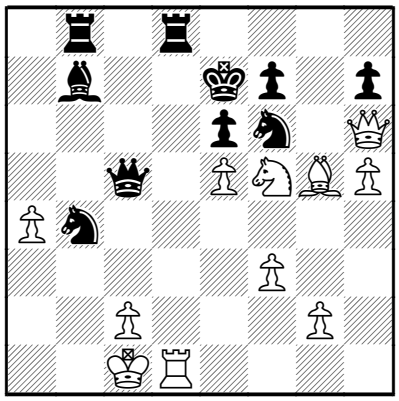


31.Nxb7??

Recovering material with a double attack and ... losing!

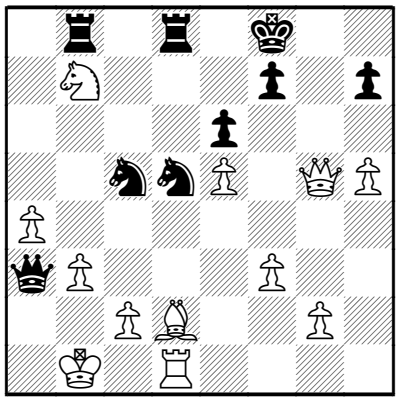
Instead, White could check perpetually by 31.Qh6+ Kg8□ 32.Qg5+ Kf8, drawing.

Note that 31.Qh6+ Ke7?? would lose beautifully to 32.b4! Nxb4 (or 32...Qf2 33.Bg5+) 33.Bg5+ Nf6 34.Nf5+!



And White has the forcing variation 34...Ke8 35.Ng7+ Kf8 36.Nxe6+ Ke8 37.Qf8+! Qxf8 38.Nc7+ Ke7 39.Bxf6 mate.

31...Qa3+ 32.Kb1 Nc5!–+



33.Rh1

Black's main points are that 33. Nxd8 Nxb3 and 33.Nxc5 Nc3+! 34.Bxc3 Rxd1+ lead to mate.

33...Nxa4 0–1

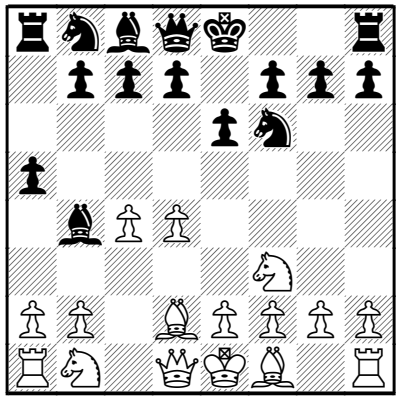
In the next game, IM Timothy Taylor finishes with a vigorous, sharp combination. Remember, you don't always have to make that recapture!

If you like this game, be sure to see his article this issue on his win against Cyrus Lakdawala.

Taylor,Tim (2366) - Akopyan,Harutyun (2270)
[E15] Bogo-Indian Defense
46th American Open (5)
Los Angeles 27.11.2010

Notes by Jack Peters.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Bb4+ 4.Bd2 a5



Some excellent players have used this variation of the Bogo-Indian Defense.

5.g3 b6 6.Bg2 Ba6

Also seen are 6...Bb7 and 6...0–0.

7.Qc2

Another promising treatment begins 7.Ne5!? Ra7 8.Bxb4 axb4 9.a3.

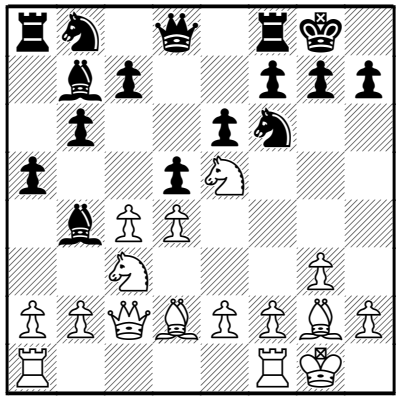
7...0–0 8.0–0 d5

Very reasonable. Yusupov tried 8... Nc6 against Kasparov in 1981 and nearly equalized after 9.Bg5 Be7 10.a3 h6 11.Bxf6 Bxf6.

9.Ne5 Bb7

Most solid is 9...c6 10.Rd1 Nfd7 as played by Romanishin. Korchnoi tried the odd 9...Ra7, retaining the option of ...c7-c5.

10.Nc3



10...Qe7?

Correct is 10...Nc6 11.Nb5 Bxd2

12.Qxd2, when 12...Nxe5 13.dxe5 Nd7 14.cxd5 exd5 holds White to a small advantage, and 12...Ne4!? 13. Qf4 Nxe5 might work even better.

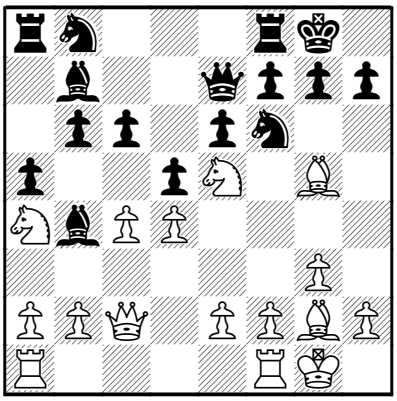
11.Bg5!

This pin makes Black suffer. In addition, he must worry about dropping his d-pawn.

11...c6

Unsatisfactory, but so is 11...Rd8 12.cxd5 exd5 13.Ng4, as 13...Nbd7 14.Nxd5 costs Black a pawn. Even 11... c5!? 12.dxc5 Qxc5 won't save Black, because 13.Nb5! threatens 14. a3 as well as the disruptive 14. Bxf6.

12.Na4!



New worries for Black. White hits b6 while threatening to trap the Bishop by 13. c5.

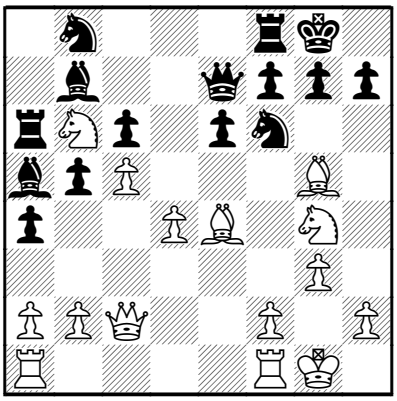
12...b5 13.Nb6 Ra6 14.c5 a4

Clearing a5 for the Bishop, but now White strikes on the Kingside. The exchange sacrifice 14...h6 15.Bxf6 gxf6 16.Nd3 Rxb6 17.Nxb4 axb4 18.cxb6 Nd7 will not succeed if White opens the a-file by 19.a4! bxa3 20.Rxa3.

15.Ng4! Ba5 16.e4!

The threat of 17. e5 forces the reply.

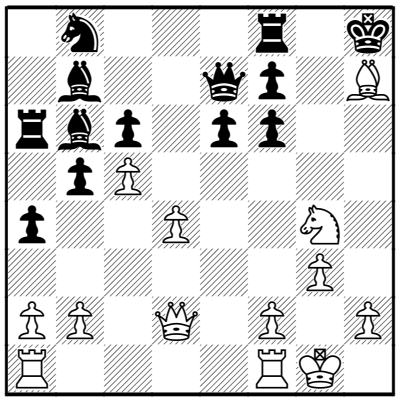
16...dxe4 17.Bxe4



17...Bxb6

No better is 17...h5 18.Nxf6+ gxf6 19.Bh6 Re8 because Black's King is too exposed. The computer recommends 20.Bh7+ Kh8 21.Qe2! Kxh7 22.Qxh5 as the most crushing answer. Then 22...Qd8 loses to 23.Rfe1! Bxe1 24.Rxe1 Rxb6 25.Re4.

18.Bxh7+ Kh8 19.Bxf6 gxf6 20.Qd2!



20...Rc8

Black can get three pieces for his Queen by 20...Kxh7 21.Qh6+ Kg8 22.Nxf6+ Qxf6 23.Qxf6 Bd8, but 24.Qh6, followed by a Rook lift to e4 or e5, dooms Black's King.

Nor is 20...f5 21.Qh6 f6 sufficient. White wins spectacularly with 22.Bxf5+ Kg8 23.Rae1 Bc8 24.Rxe6! Bxe6 25.Re1 Bd8 26.Bxe6+ Rf7 27.Qh5! preparing 28 Nh6+.

21.Qh6 Qf8 22.Qh4

Threatening simply to retreat the Bishop.

22...Kg7

Or 22...Qg7 23.Nxf6.

23.Bd3 1-0

Black Resigns, as 23...Qh8 24. Qxf6+ Kg8 25. Nh6+ costs his Queen.

Ankit Gupta's rating has rocketed in the last year. In the previous American Open, he was in the U2200 section. This year, he finished the tournament by drawing three grandmasters in a row!

He has come a long way in a short time.

In addition, he has taken on a new role as organizer. See the article on the First Metropolitan FIDE tournament for more news.

Here, he describes the first of those three draws for us:

Gupta,Ankit (2330) - Paragua,Mark (2637)
[B25] Closed Sicilian
American Open (6)
28.11.2010

Notes by Ankit Gupta.

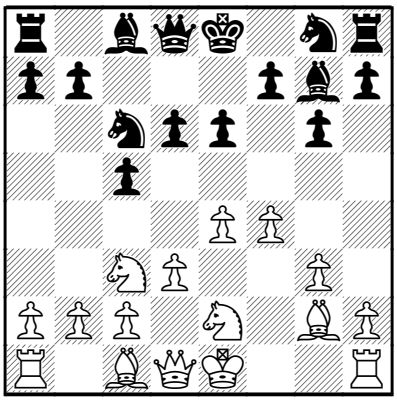
1.e4 c5 2.Nc3

The Closed Sicilian

2...Nc6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.d3 d6 6.f4

The old main line, advocated by Spassky and others.

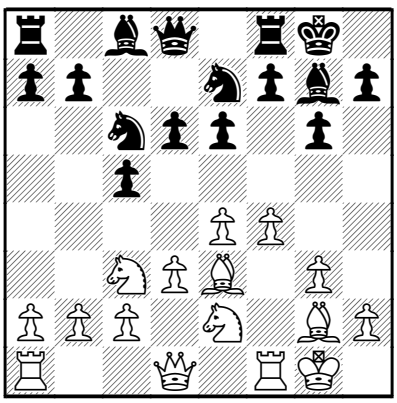
6...e6 7.Nge2



An unusual move, more of a surprise weapon than anything else.

The idea is to recapture this Knight with Qxe2 and then play Qd2, in lines with ...Nd4 with ...Nxe2 followed by ...Nd4 with Black's remaining Knight, as shown in the next note.

7...Nge7 8.0–0 0–0 9.Be3



9...b6

If Black had played 9...Nd4, then after 10.e5 Nxe2+ 11.Qxe2 Nf5 12.Bf2 Nd4, White is able to retreat with 13.Qd2. He would not have been

able to do this if the Queen had recaptured the King's Knight on f3; the Queen would have to go back to d1 instead.

So the Qd2 retreat, instead of Qd1, saves a tempo on the main lines. This makes Nd4 not a desirable move order (despite being the main line) when White plays Nge2 as opposed to Nf3.

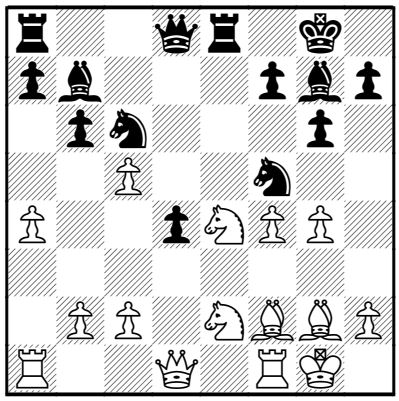
10.a4

The idea is to meet Ba6 with Nb5.

10...Bb7 11.d4 d5

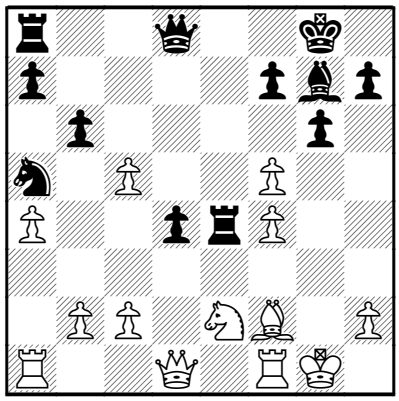
Black hopes to open the center immediately.

12.exd5 exd5 13.dxc5 Nf5 14.Bf2 d4 15.Ne4 Re8 16.g4



The threat is Nd6 if Black retreats his f5 piece. Thus, Black must leaves the Knight f5 and threatens the e4 White Knight instead.

16...Na5 17.gxf5 Bxe4 18.Bxe4 Rxe4



I thought a long time in this position, considering 19.b4 and 19.Qd3:

Unclear was 19.b4 Nc6 20.b5 Nb4 21.c6 Nxc2 22.Ng3 Ne3, despite White's powerful pawn on c6.

Also leading to an unclear position was 19.Qd3 Qe8 20.Rae1 bxc5 21.Nxd4 Rxe1 22.Rxe1 Qxa4.

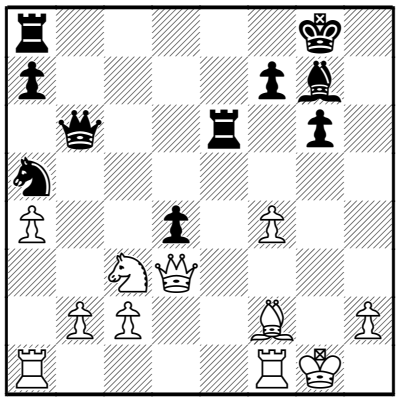
19.fxg6

I ultimately felt that the exchange of the extra pawns was the safest route.

19...hxg6 20.cxb6 Qxb6 21.Nc3

The only move to unravel my pieces. Of course not 21...Rxf4, because of 22.Nd5.

21...Re6 22.Qd3



The pawn on b2 is never really hanging because of Nb5, when Black's Queen would be essentially trapped.

22...Rd8 23.Rad1?!

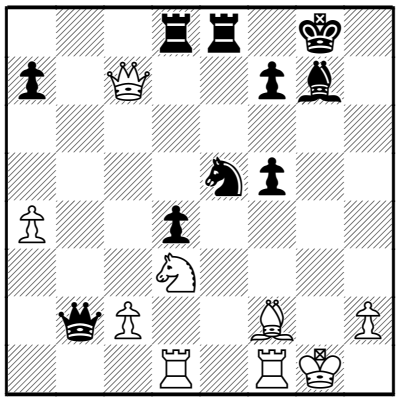
A critical error. I should contest the e-file instead, to ensure the continued activity of my pieces. 23.Rad1 serves no purpose and effectively wastes a move.

Imperative is 23.Rae1 Rxe1 24.Rxe1 Qxb2 25.Ne4, with an unusual position, but it should be equal, for neither side has a glaring weakness.

23...Nc6 24.Qc4 Qb8 25.Ne2 Qxb2 26.f5!?

I felt I needed to activate my pieces immediately.

26...gxf5 27.Nf4 Ne5 28.Qc7 Ree8 29.Nd3



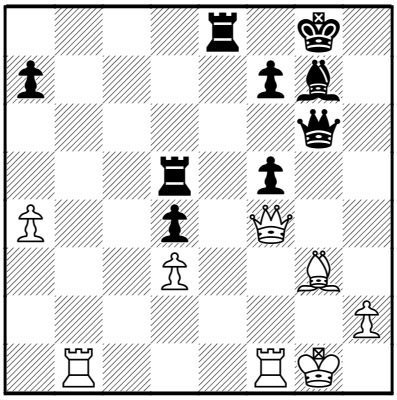
29...Nxd3

With 29...Qa2!, Black can maintain the pressure. After 30.Bg3 Ng4 31.Ra1 Qd5 32.Nb4 Qe6 33.Rae1 Ne3, the position is unusual, but Black has a full pawn extra and White has nearly no compensation.

30.cxd3 Qe2 31.Qf4 Qg4+ 32.Bg3 Rd5

Black holds onto the f5 pawn while strengthening his piece placement.

33.Rb1 Qg6



I thought about 34.Rb8 for a while.

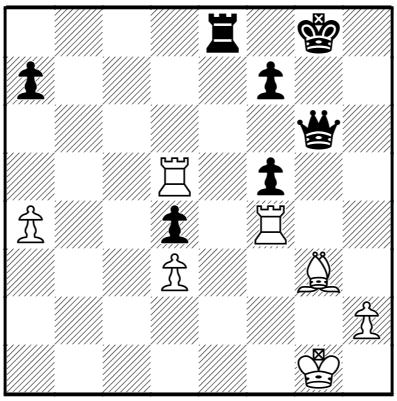
Of course, Black can't reply 34... Rde5, because of 35.Qxe5 Bxe5 36.Rxe8+ Kh7 37.Rxe5.

But after 34...Rxb8 35.Qxb8+ Kh7 36.Qxa7 Bh6, the most logical continuation, I was unsure how to continue. Possibly White can survive this with 37.Kh1, but I felt that, in practice, the position would be hard to defend.

34.Rb5

So, I tried this move instead. The idea is clear -- to remove the defender on d5.

34...Bh6 35.Rxd5 Bxf4 36.Rxf4



This endgame, in my opinion, would be nearly equal because of the fact that if Black's Rook comes off the board and Black loses the d4 pawn (inevitable), White will have a fortress with his Bishop on g3 and Rook on f4, with no way for Black to make progress, as the a4 pawn is defended laterally.

36...Qc6 37.Rdxd4

I considered 37.Rfxf5 for a while. The point behind this move is it exploits the weakness of the Black King and the exposure of the dark squares around the Black King as well.

However, after 37...Re2 38.Rg5+ Kf8 39.Bd6+ Ke8, I felt Black's King could escape.

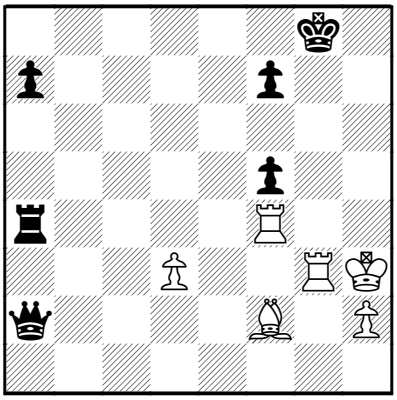
37...Qb6 38.Bf2 Qb1+ 39.Kg2 Re5

Black prepares to target the a4 pawn and hopes to put White in zugzwang.

40.Rf3 Ra5 41.Rdf4 Qa2 42.Kh3

With the threat of taking on f5.

42...Rxa4 43.Rg3+



My idea was to meet 43...Kf8 with 44.Bc5 followed by Rxa4 and d4. Because of the control on a3 by both the Bishop and the Rook, Black would never be able to make progress. On the kingside, White could use his King and Rook to stop the progress of the f-pawns. White would have excellent holding chances.

43...Kh7?

However, Black just makes White's task simpler by walking into a mating net...almost.

44.Bd4

My opponent probably assumed I had to play 44.d4, and he would have responded with 44...Ra6 followed by ...Rh6.

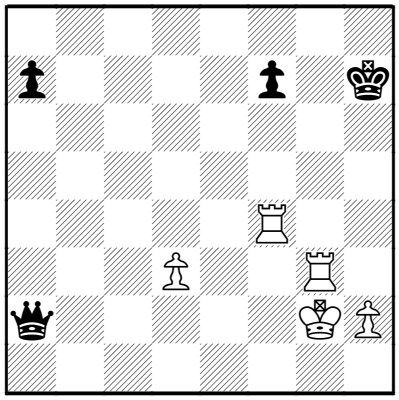
44...Rxd4

Forced.

45.Rxd4 f4

Forced.

46.Rxf4 Qe6+ 47.Kg2 Qa2+



I didn't think White had anything realistically to play for here. With no way to shelter his King it would be hard for White to make progress.

48.Kh3 Qe6+ 49.Kg2 Qa2+ 50.Kh3 ½–½

It's a 3-fold repetition.

The following game was a rare first round upset of a grandmaster by a master. The victory was well earned by a well played opening, by avoiding mistakes, and by taking advantage of opportunities with very accurate moves.

But Mr. Khachiyan rebounded from this loss to tie for first!

Carreto,Giovanni (2281) - Khachiyan,Melikset (2572)
[B77] Sicilian Dragon
46th American Open (1)
Los Angeles, 25.11.2010

Notes by Larry Stevens

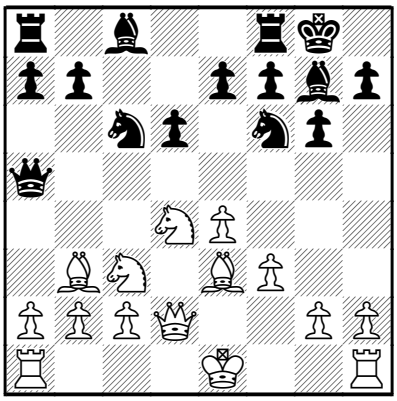
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 g6 5.Nc3 Bg7 6.Be3 Nf6 7.Bc4 0–0 8.Bb3 d6

The rarer 8...a5 is also seen at the top levels of grandmaster chess.

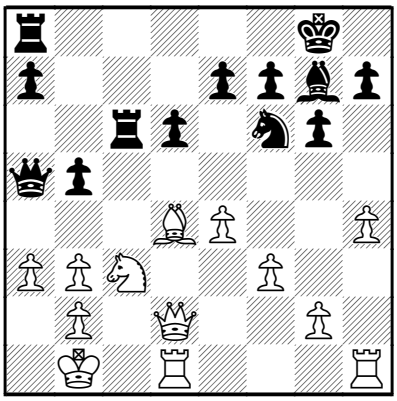
9.f3

Now, 9...Bd7 would transpose into the main lines of the Yugoslav Attack in the Sicilian Dragon. But Black's Accelerated Dragon move order is often used to avoid them.

9...Qa5 10.Qd2



10...Nxd4 11.Bxd4 Be6 12.0–0–0 Bxb3 13.cxb3 Rfc8 14.Kb1 Rc6 15.h4 b5 16.a3±

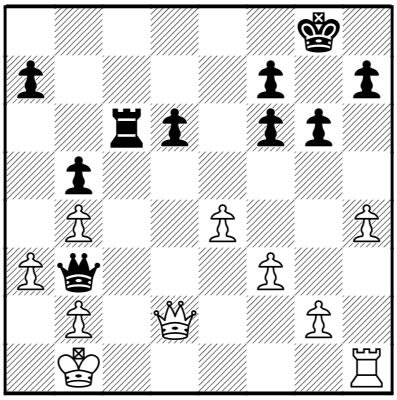


16...Rac8

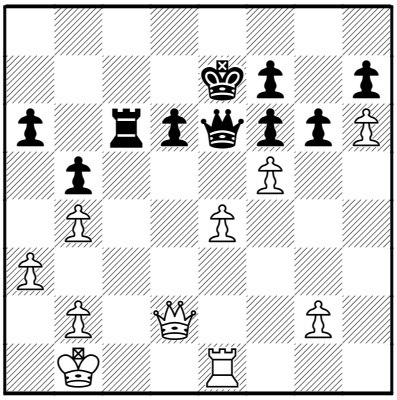
The one previous game with this position, Jansa - Guitescu Marianske Lazne 1962, ended quickly: 16...a6 17.h5 Rac8?! 18.hxg6 fxg6?? 19.Bxf6!+- Bxf6 20.Qd5+ Kf8 21.Rxh7 Ke8 22.Qf7+ Kd8 23.Qf8+ 1–0.

This move looks better.

17.b4 Qa6 18.Bxf6 Bxf6 19.Nd5 Qa4 20.Nxf6+ exf6 21.Rc1 Qb3 22.Rxc6 Rxc6



23.h5 a6 24.h6 Kf8 25.Re1 Ke7 26.f4 Qe6 27.f5



Neither side has yet given an opportunity to the other.

27...Qe5??

But now White finds a way to start opening lines to the Black King.

Black can avoid this with 27...Qc4 28.g4 g5 29.Ka1 Qc2 30.Qd4 Rc7 31.Qb6 Qc6 32.Qe3 Qc4±. Both sides might maneuver, but Black should be able to prevent any new lines from opening up.

28.Qd5!

White develops either a usable diagonal or file.

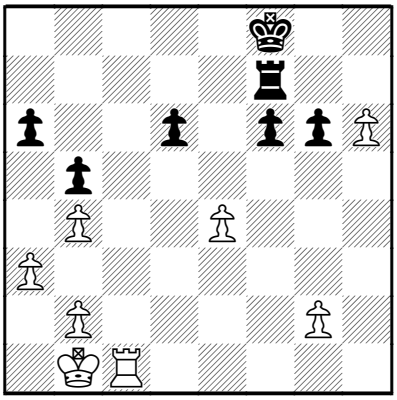
White can't grade Queens without losing his Rook.

28...Rc7 29.fxg6! hxg6?

Black does not foresee White's accurate play.

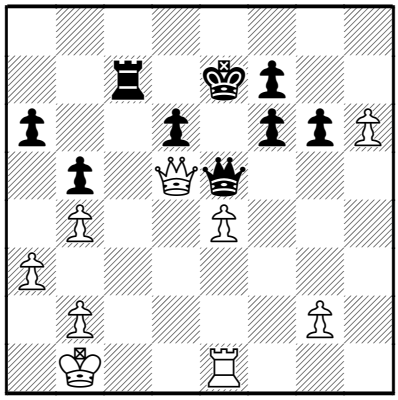
Much better was giving up the pawn to get to the Rook and pawn ending, in which there might be some drawing chances.

Play might continue 29...fxg6 30.Qg8 Qe6 31.Qxh7+ Qf7 32.Qh8 Qf8 33.Qxf8+ Kxf8 34.Rf1 Rf7 (34...Kf7 35.g3 Rc8 36.Rd1 Rh8 37.Rh1) 35.Rc1:



White has the winning chances in this line, but it's not over.

In the game, White takes advantage of every opportunity:



30.g4!

Now White wins.

This was very accurately played, for the reply 30...Qh2 is answered by 31.g5. This surprisingly protects the h-pawn, for if 31...fxg5?? then 32.e5!+-, opening up dreadful and deadly lines to the Black King.

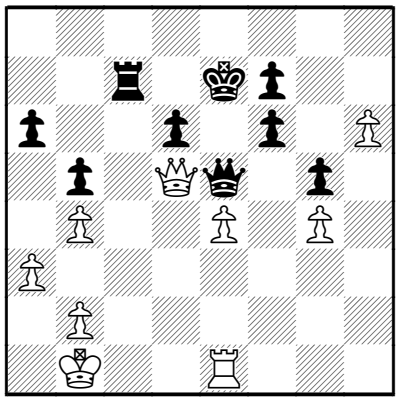
White now combines central pressure on the King with the passed h-pawn threat, until the Black position cracks.

Other likely moves for White's 30th do not work. Black defends against 30.h7? with 30...Qh2 31.Rd1 Rd7=.

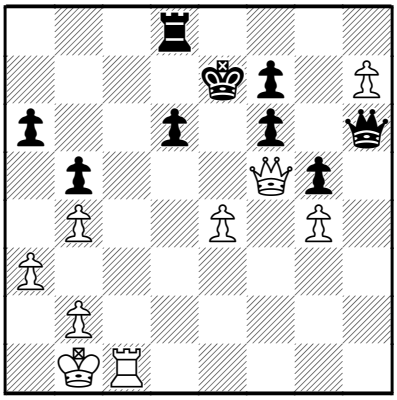
Another try that fails is 30.Rh1? Qxd5 31.exd5 Rc8±.

30...Rd7

Black was already lost here. If 30...g5, then White has an interesting forcing win:



In this variation, White takes advantage of Black's static structure: 31.h7 Qh2 32.Rd1 Rd7 33.Qf5! Rd8 (33...Rc7 34.e5! dxe5 35.Qd3+-; 33...Qh6 34.e5 fxe5 35.Rc1!) 34.Rc1! Qh6

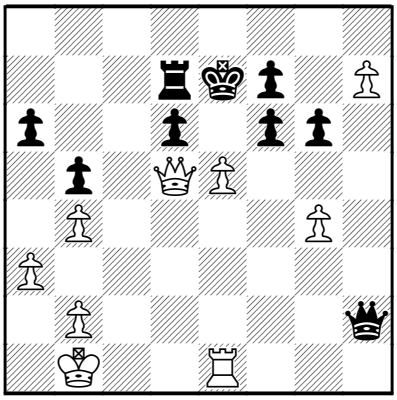


In this variation, we see that Black is nearly in Zugzwang: 35.Ka2 Rh8 36.Rc6!+-.

In the game, White continued to play accurately:

31.h7 Rd8

If 31...Qh2, then 32.e5!



White, in this variation, wins because of his threat to play Rh1:

32...fxe5 33.Rh1.

32...dxe5 33.Qc5+ Ke6 34.Qc6+ Ke7 35.Rh1.

32...Qxh7 33.exf6+ Kxf6, and now White takes advantage of the exposed King and the Black Queen being out of play. He is able to win the Rook with a roundabout series of checks on the centralized King: 34.Qd4+ Kg5 35.Qe3+ Kf6 36.Rf1+ Kg7 37.Qc3+ Kf8 38.Qc8+ Ke7 39.Re1+.

32.Qb7+ Ke6 33.Rc1!

White finishes in the quickest manner.

33...f5 34.Rc8! Qh8 35.Qd5+ Ke7

If 35...Kf6, then White wins with 36.Rxd8 Qxd8 37.h8Q+ Qxh8 38.Qd4+.

36.Rc7+ 1–0

An accurately played attack! *R&F*

Two Exciting Draws

By IM Jack Peters

As the judge for dozens of brilliancy prizes, I haven't come across a perfect game yet. My search has made me more appreciative of daring games with original ideas, especially those marred by occasional slips. Here are two near-brilliancies where the attacker shines until he fails to deliver the knockout punch.

In the first game, Robert Akopian outplays the state high school champion but, in a fit of chess blindness, overlooks an artistic checkmate.

Tanaka,Christian (2223) - Akopian,Robert (2202)
[A01] Larsen's Opening
SCCF Candidates Garden Grove (4) 20.06.2010

1.b3 e5 2.Bb2

Larsen's Opening.

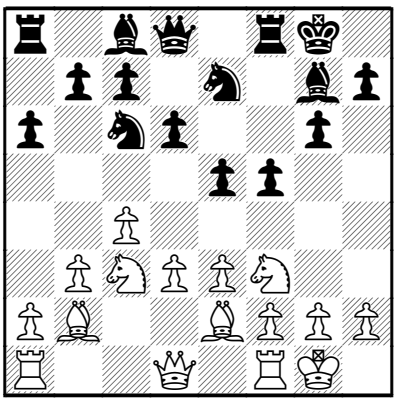
2...Nc6 3.e3 d6

For years, the main line was 3...d5 4.Bb5.

4.Nf3 a6

Unnecessary, but Black can afford to waste a move because White's quiet setup does not strive for an advantage.

5.d3 g6 6.c4 Bg7 7.Be2 Nge7 8.0–0 0–0 9.Nc3 f5



Black has equalized effortlessly.

10.Qd2 f4!?

Bold play. Black permanently yields control of e4 in return for prospects of a Kingside attack.

11.Nd5?!

The logical 11.Ng5?! dreams of placing a Bishop at f3 and Knights on e4 and d5. But 11...fxe3 12.fxe3 Nf5 13.Nge4 Bh6 favors Black. If 14.Nd5?!, the sharp 14...Ncd4! 15.g4 c6 16.Ndf6+ (or 16.gxf5 cxd5 17.cxd5 Bxf5, with strong pressure on White's center) 16...Rxf6 17.Nxf6+ Qxf6 18.gxf5 Bxf5 will soon gain a second pawn for the exchange, while retaining active pieces.

More challenging is 11.e4!? h6 12.Nd5 g5 13.h3 Ng6 14.Rac1, preparing to open a file by c4-c5. Black is not ready for 14...h5?! because of 15.Nh2.

Chances seem about even also after 11.exf4!? Rxf4 12.Ne4 Rf8 13.d4.

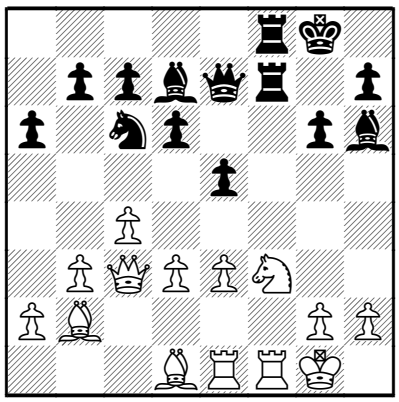
11...fxe3 12.fxe3 Bh6! ∓

It's awkward for White to defend e3. The Queen doesn't belong on guard duty.

13.Nxe7+ Qxe7 14.Rae1 Bd7 15.Bd1 Rf7 16.Qc3

A much better diagonal for the Queen.

16...Raf8



17.d4?

White overestimates his position. He should defend patiently by 17.Nd2 Rxf1+ 18.Nxf1, limiting Black to a tiny advantage.

17...e4?! ∓

This keeps a small edge, but 17... Bg7! continues to harass White's Queen. Black welcomes 18 d5?! e4 19 Nd4 Ne5. Or, if 18.b4 Bg4, White barely hangs on with 19.b5 e4 20.Nd2 Rxf1+ 21.Nxf1 Bxd1 22.Rxd1 Qf7 23.Ng3.

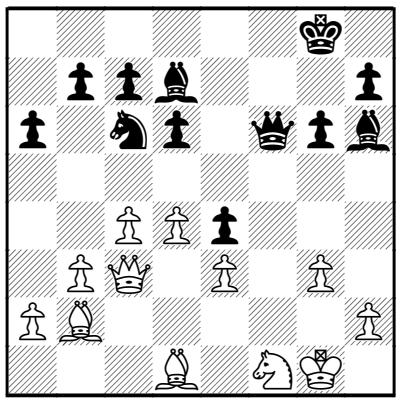
18.Nd2 Qh4 19.g3

Probably better than 19.Bc2 Bf5∓.

19...Rxf1+ 20.Rxf1

White cannot stand 20.Nxf1?? Qf6 21.Qd2 Bh3 22.Qe2 Nb4.

20...Rxf1+ 21.Nxf1 Qf6



White needs one more good move to restore equality.

22.Nd2?

And this won't do it!

Nor does 22.d5? help, as 22...Ne5 23.Nd2 Bh3 24.Qd4 Qf5 keeps control.

But the surprising 22.g4!, which prevents Black's Bishop from reaching h3 or f5, turns the pawn at e4 into a target. White would not mind 22... Qh4 23 Qc2! or 22...d5!? 23.Be2.

22...Bh3 23.Bc2?!

Consistent, but Black's threats become unstoppable. It's too late for 23.g4? because 23...Nb4! 24.Be2 Nd3! invades decisively.

White has nothing better than 23.d5 Ne5 24.Qd4 Qf5, a position he rejected on his previous turn.

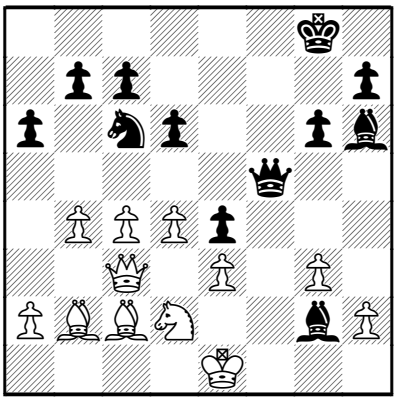
23...Qg5–+ 24.Kf2 Qf5+ 25.Ke1

If 25.Kg1, Black's Queen sneaks in by 25...Qh5! 26.Kf2 Bf5 27.h4 Qg4–+.

25...Bg2

Threatening mainly 26...Qh3.

26.b4



26...Nxb4!

A brilliant idea. The routine 26... Qh3 27.Bxe4 Bxe4 28.Nxe4 Qxh2 should win too.

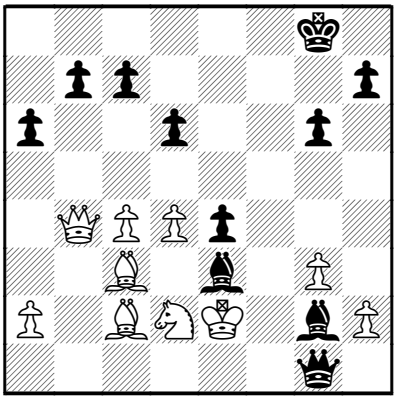
27.Qxb4

White cannot save a draw in the endgame reached by 27.d5 Nxc2+ 28.Qxc2 Bxe3 29.Qc3 Qf2+ 30.Kd1 Qxd2+.

27...Bxe3 28.Kd1 Qf2 29.Bc3?

Allowing mate in five moves. However, even the tougher 29.Bb1 would lose to 29...a5! 30.Qc3 (or 30.Qxa5 Bf3+ 31.Nxf3 exf3 32.Qe1 Qxb2–+) 30...Bxd2 31.Qxd2 Bf3+ 32.Kc1 (amusing is 32.Kc2?! e3) 32...Qg1+ 33.Kc2 e3 34.Qc1 (or 34.Qd3 Bg4!–+) 34...Qf2+ 35.Kb3 Bd1+! (inviting 36 Qxd1 e2) 36.Ka3 e2 37.Bc3 e1Q 38.Bxe1 Qxe1 39.Kb2 Qb4+ 40.Ka1 Be2.

29...Qg1+ 30.Ke2



30...Qf2+

The right way is 30...Bf1+! 31.Nxf1 Qf2+ 32.Kd1 Qxf1+ 33.Be1 Qf3 mate.

31.Kd1 Qg1+

No harm done, as Black gets a second chance.

32.Ke2 Bf3+

Slower than 32...Bf1+!, but good enough.

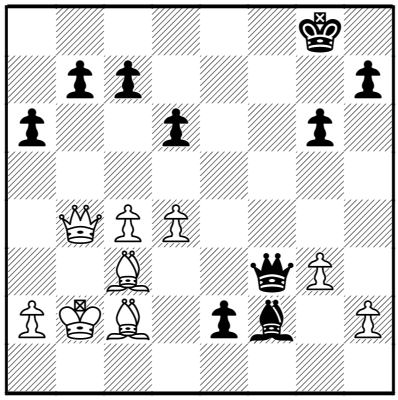
33.Nxf3 Qf2+ 34.Kd1 Qxf3+ 35.Ke1 Bf2+?!

Black should finish with 35...Qf2+ 36.Kd1 Qf1+ 37.Be1 Qf3 mate.

36.Kd2 e3+?

Missing his last opportunity for the now-familiar checkmate, which he can engineer by 36...Be3+ 37.Ke1 Qf2+ 38.Kd1 Qf1+ 39.Be1 Qf3#.

37.Kc1 e2 38.Kb2



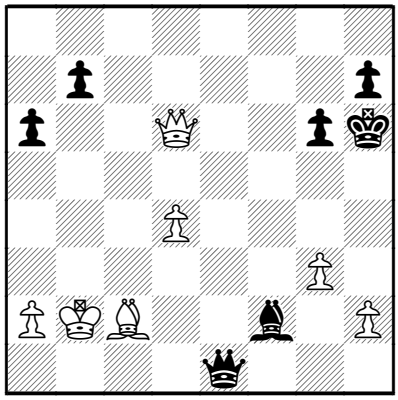
38...Qh1??

Objectively, this is the mistake that truly spoils a fine attack. Black could win by 38...c5! 39.dxc5 Bxc5 40.Qa5 (Black gets a second Queen after 40.Qb3 Bd4!) 40...b6, chasing White's Queen from the a5-e1 diagonal. Then 41.Qxa6 lets Black demonstrate dark-square wizardry with 41...Qxc3+ 42.Kxc3 e1Q+ 43.Kb2 (not 43.Kd3 Qe3#; or 43.Kb3 Qb4#) 43... Bd4+ 44.Ka3 Qc3+ 45.Ka4 (or 45.Bb3 Bc5+ 46.Ka4 Qb4#) 45...Qxc2+.

39.c5

Equal chances again!

39...e1Q 40.Bxe1 Qxe1 41.Qc4+ Kg7 42.cxd6 cxd6 43.Qc7+ Kh6 44.Qxd6 ½–½



Black cannot get more from 44... Qd2 because 45.Qf8+ checks perpetually after 45...Kg5 46 Qe7+ Kh6 47 Qf8+ or 45...Kh5 46.Qf3+ Kg5 47.h4+ Kh6 48.Qf8+ Kh5 49.Qf3+.

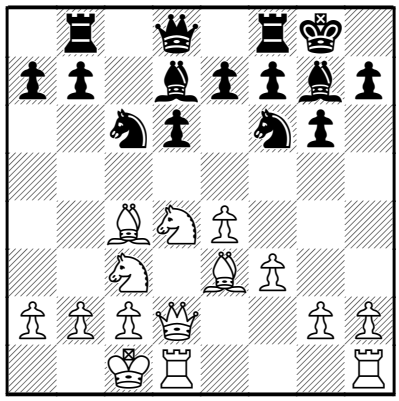
Next is a real slugfest stemming from a very fashionable variation of the Dragon. Playing this game must have been torture for the combatants, but replaying it will put a smile on your face.

Amanov,Zhanibek (2343) - Yankovsky,Roman (2521)
[B78] Sicilian Dragon
LA Open Los Angeles (3)
16.10.2010

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3

The Yugoslav Attack, still the critical choice against the Dragon.

7...0–0 8.Qd2 Nc6 9.Bc4 Bd7 10.0–0–0 Rb8



Sometimes called the Chinese Dragon.

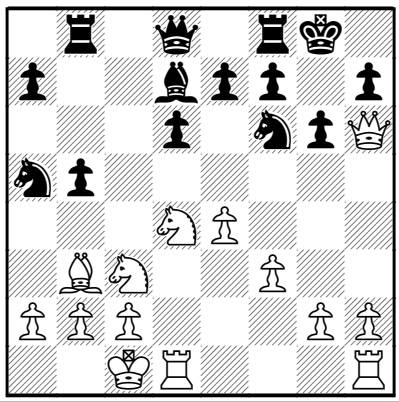
11.Bb3

Against 11 h4 or 11 Kb1, Black offers a pawn by 11...b5!?, with fair compensation.

11...Na5 12.Bh6

Exchanging the Dragon Bishop usually helps White, but Black can still create annoying Queenside counterplay. The unclear alternative is 12.Kb1 b5 13.h4 Nc4 14.Bxc4 bxc4 15.Ka1 h5, as played in Magnus Carlsen - Teimour Radjabov, Bilbao 2008.

12...Bxh6 13.Qxh6 b5



14.g4

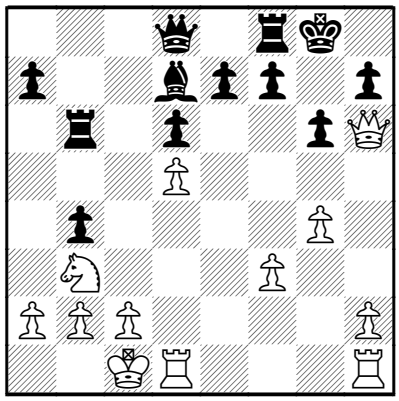
Pursuing his attack while setting a deep trap.

Black meets the more natural 14.h4 comfortably with 14...e5! 15.Nde2 b4 16.Nd5 Nxb3+ 17.axb3 Nxd5 18.Rxd5 Be6. One point is that 19 h5 Rb7! kills White's threats against h7.

14...b4

Now 14...e5? runs into 15.Nf5! Nxb3+ (not 15...gxf5? 16.g5! Nxb3+ 17.axb3 Ne8 18.Nd5 f6 19.Rhg1, with an unstoppable attack.) 16.axb3 Bxf5 17.exf5 b4 18.Ne4, clearly favoring White.

15.Nd5 Nxb3+ 16.Nxb3 Nxd5 17.exd5 Rb6



An important idea in this line. The Rook may swing to a6 to attack a2, and it supports d6 in case Black advances ...e7-e5.

18.h4

If White tries to apply pressure in the center by 18.Qe3 e5 19.dxe6 fxe6 20.f4, Black gets adequate counterplay from 20...Qf6 21.Rd4 Bc6 22.Re1 Bd5 23.Nd2 Rc6! 24.Rxb4 Rfc8.

18...e5 19.dxe6

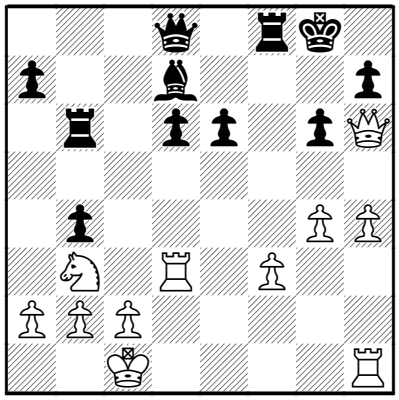
The tempting 19.Nd2!? imagines 19...f5? 20.h5 g5 21.Nc4 Ra6 22.Nxe5.

However, 19.Nd2!? Ra6 20.Ne4 f5 21.Ng5 Qe7 22.h5 produces only a drawish endgame after 22...Rf6 23.Kb1 Qg7 24.hxg6 Qxh6 25.Rxh6 Rxg6.

19...fxe6

With effective counterplay, as Black's Rook will work on the half-open f-file. Black's King appears safe enough, and chances are about even. Shakier is 19...Bxe6 20.h5 g5 because 21.f4 Bxg4 22.Rdg1 regains the initiative.

20.Rd3



20...Ra6?

A serious mistake. Either 20... Bb5 21.Re3 e5 or 20...Qf6 21.Nc5!? Bb5 22.Ne4 Qf4+ 23.Qxf4 Rxf4 maintains equality.

21.h5! Be8

Not 21...g5 22.Rhd1 Qe7, as White breaks through with 23.Nc5! Rxa2 24.Kb1 Ra5 25.Rxd6 Bc8 26.Nxe6.

22.Nc5!

Beginning an intricate sequence that should secure a winning advantage.

22...Rxa2 23.hxg6!

Black would welcome 23.Nxe6? Qf6 24.Qxf8+ Qxf8 25.Nxf8 Ra1+ 26.Kd2 Rxh1 27.Ne6 gxh5∓.

23...Ra1+

The problem with 23...Bxg6? 24.Nxe6 Qf6 is that 25.Qxf8+ Qxf8 26.Nxf8 Ra1+ (or 26...Bxd3 27.Kb1!±) 27.Kd2 Rxh1 28.Nxg6 Rh2+ 29.Ke3 hxg6 30.Rxd6 Rxc2 31.Rxg6+ Kf7 32.Ra6 gives White connected passers and a winning endgame.

24.Kd2 Rxh1 25.gxh7+ Kf7

Worse is 25...Kh8? 26.Qxf8+ Kxh7 27.Nxe6 Rh2+ 28.Ke3 Qd7 29.Rxd6, with checkmate in a few moves.

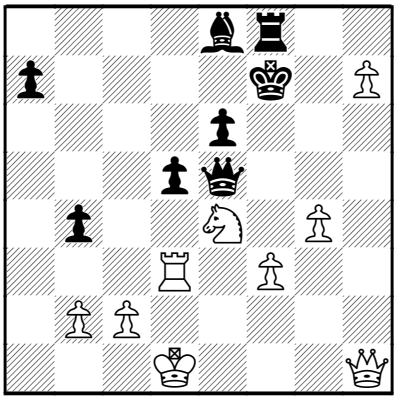
26.Qxh1 Qg5+ 27.Kd1

Also winning is 27.Re3 Qd5+ 28.Nd3.

27...Qe5 28.Ne4

Quite strong, but even more decisive is 28.Nxe6! Kxe6 29.Qh6+ Kf7 30.g5 Qg7 31.g6+ Qxg6 32.Qxf8+ Kxf8 33.h8Q+ Kf7 34.Qd4.

28...d5



29.Nd6+?

Jeopardizing the win. Instead, 29.Ng5+! Kg7 30.f4 Qf6 31.Qe1 Bd7 32.Qxb4 pockets two pawns. If 32... Qxf4 33.Qxf4 Rxf4, then 34.Rb3 invades at b7 or b8.

29...Kg7 30.Nxe8+ Rxe8 31.Kc1 Rh8 32.Qg1 Rxh7 33.Qxa7+ Kg6

Although Black remains a pawn down with an exposed King, he should survive. White must retreat to protect his first and second ranks.

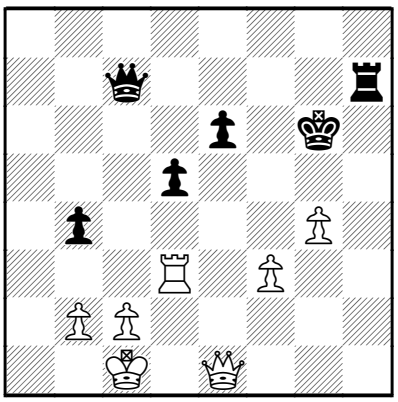
34.Qg1

Not 34.Qd4?? Rh1+ 35.Rd1 Qxd4.

34...Qc7

Black should keep White on the defensive by 34...Rh2 (threatening 35...Qe2) 35.Re3 Qf4 36.Kb1 Kf7.

35.Qe1



35...Qb6?

Natural, but White gets a second chance to take command. The counterattack 35...Rh2! saves Black. If 36.Qxe6+ Kg7 37.c3 Rh1+ 38.Kc2 b3+! 39.Kd2 (not 39.Kxb3?? Qc4+ 40.Kc2 Qa4+) 39...Qh2+ 40.Qe2 Qf4+, White must accept repetition by 41. Qe3 Qh2+ 42. Qe2 Qf4+ 43. Qe3, as 43. Re3?? Rb1 would lose. Or, if 35...Rh2! 36.Rd2, then 36...

Qf4! 37.Qxe6+ Kg7 38.Qe1 Kf7 holds, as White cannot untangle his pieces.

36.Re3

Also promising is 36.f4 Ra7 37.Kb1 Qa6 38.f5+! exf5 39.Qe8+ Kg7 40.Qe5+ Qf6 (else White captures a pawn with check) 41.Qf4, and Black's King is in much more danger than White's.

36...Kf7

Useless is 36...Kf6 because 37.g5+ wins.

37.Kb1?

Too slow. White must go after the b-pawn at once with 37.Rb3 Qa6 38.Kb1, when 38...Rh3 39.Rxb4 Rxf3 40.c4! prevents 40...Rf1 and anticipates the artistic finish 40...dxc4? 41.Qh1! Qc6 42.Rb7+!.

37...Rh2 38.Re2

Now 38.Rb3 Qc5 frustrates White.

38...Rh8!

The threat of 39...Ra8 gives Black sufficient counterplay.

39.f4

After 39.g5 Ra8! 40.g6+ Ke7, White has a variety of attempts that fall just short. One long but entertaining line is 41.Qh4+!? Kd7 42.Re1 Qa5 43.Qh7+ Kd6 44.Kc1 b3! 45.Qh2+ Ke7 46.Qe5 Qxe1+ 47.Qxe1 Ra1+ 48.Kd2 Rxe1 49.Kxe1 Kf6! 50.cxb3 Kxg6, drawing.

39...b3

Easier is 39...Ra8 40.f5 Qa7 41.fxe6+ Ke8 42.Kc1 Qd4! 43.Kb1 Qa7, drawing.

40.cxb3 Qxb3 41.Re3 Qb7??

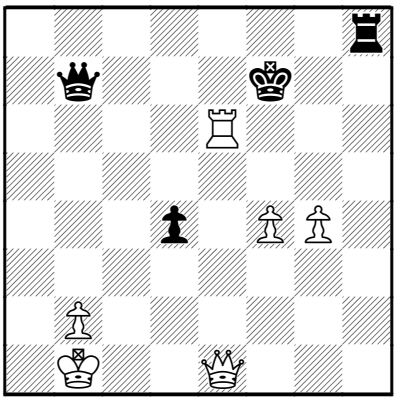
Inexplicable. Black had two ways to draw:

Either 41...Qc4 42.f5 Qxg4 43.fxe6+ Ke7, or 41...Qa4 42.Rxe6 Ra8 would force White to split the point.

42.Rxe6

Once again, White should win.

42...d4



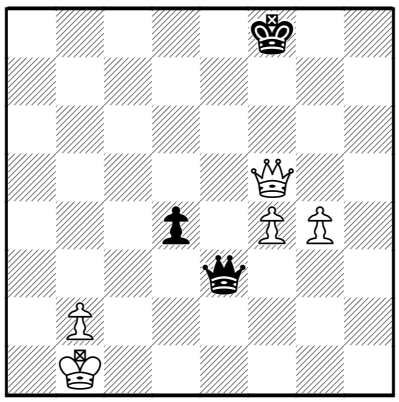
43.Re5!

The careless 43.Qe4?? would let Black escape by 43...Rh1+ 44.Ka2 (not 44.Kc2?? Rh2+) 44...Qa7+ 45.Kb3 Qb8+ 46.Ka2 Qa7+, drawing.

43...Rh1 44.Re7+ Qxe7

The Queen endgame offers more hope than 44...Kf6 45.Rxb7 Rxe1+ 46.Kc2 Re4 47.g5+! Kg6 48.Rb6+ Kh5 49.Rh6+ Kg4 50.Rf6.

45.Qxh1 Qe3 46.Qd5+ Kf8 47.Qf5+



47...Kg8

Else 48 Qe5+ trades Queens.

48.Qe5?!

White can maneuver his Queen to almost any square, but it already stands well at f5.

The most direct path to victory is 48.g5 d3 49.g6 Qg1+ 50.Ka2 Qa7+ 51.Kb3 d2 52.Qf7+ Qxf7+ 53.gxf7+ Kxf7 54.Kc2+-.

Trickier is 48.g5 Qe1+ 49.Ka2 Qb4, threatening to draw with 50... Qa4+. But White can overcome resistance by 50.Qg6+ Kf8 51.Qd3! Qb6 52.Qb3! Qd8 53.g6.

48...Qd2

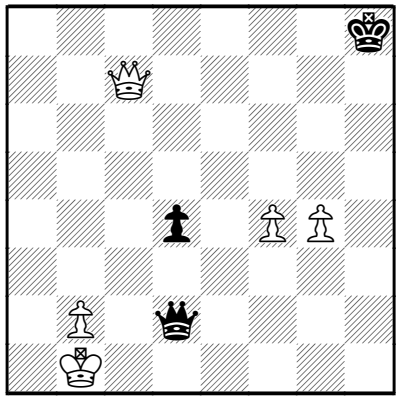
Tougher than 48...Qd3+ 49.Kc1 Qf1+ 50.Kd2 Qg2+ 51.Kd3.

49.Qe8+

The surprising 49.Ka2! evades checks. Black can do no more than trade his d-pawn for one of White's Kingside pawns.

For example, 49. Ka2! d3 50. g5 Qe2 51.Qd5+ Kg7 52.f5 d2 looks dangerous, but White wins with 53.Qd7+ Kf8 54.g6 Qa6+ (or 54...Qc4+ 55.b3 Qc2+ 56.Ka3 Qc5+ 57.Ka4, stopping the checks) 55.Kb3 d1Q+ 56.Qxd1 Qb5+ 57.Ka3 Qxf5 58.Qd6+ Kg7 59.b4.

49...Kg7 50.Qd7+ Kg6 51.Qc6+ Kg7 52.Qc7+ Kh8



53.g5??

For the third time, White falters when the win is in sight. He must pause for 53.Ka2!, parrying 53...d3 54.g5 Qc2 convincingly by 55.Qe5+ Kg8 56.Qe4! Qe2 57.Qc4+ Kf8 58.f5.

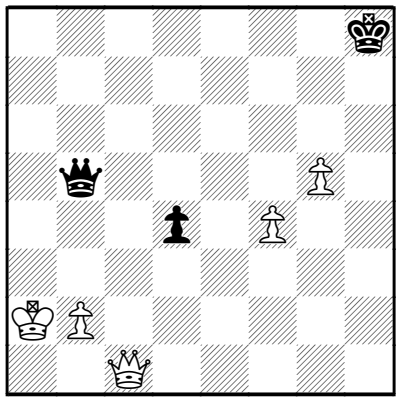
53...Qd1+ 54.Qc1 Qd3+ 55.Ka2 Qa6+ 56.Kb3

A false trail. White cannot end the checks except by retreating to b1 and giving up the f-pawn.

56...Qb5+ 57.Kc2 Qf5+ 58.Kb3

No better is 58.Kd1 Qg4+ 59.Ke1 Qg3+ 60.Ke2 d3+, drawing.

58...Qb5+ 59.Ka2



59...Qa6+

Slightly more accurate is 59...Qa5+! 60.Kb1 Qf5+ 61.Qc2 Qxf4, when White's King is unfavorably placed at b1, rather than at a2. The difference is evident after 62.Qg6. Black begins checking immediately, by 62...Qf1+ 63.Ka2 Qc4+ 64.b3 Qe2+ 65.Ka3 Qe7+ 66.b4 Qe3+ 67.Ka4, and then 67...d3 68.Qf6+ Kg8 69.g6 Qe8+! 70.Kb3 d2 71.Kc2 Qa4+ 72.Kxd2 Qxb4+ simplifies to an elementary draw.

Please turn to page 35, ***Two Exciting Draws***

The Bigger They Are ...

By IM Timothy Taylor

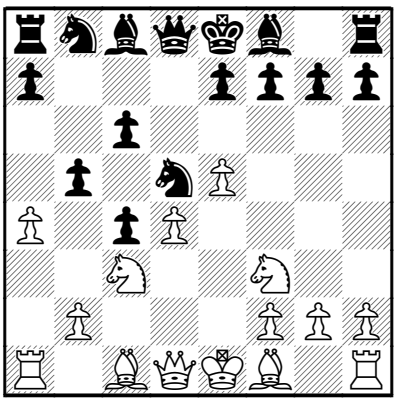
Taylor, Timothy - Lakdawala, Cyrus
D15 Slav – Geller Gambit
SCCF Championship (3)
Los Angeles, 15.08.2010

1.d4 d5
2.c4 c6
3.Nc3 Nf6
4.Nf3 dxc4
5.e4!

Obviously after this move, White cannot get his pawn back (as he can after the "normal" 5.a4) but as I have written a book called "Pawn Sacrifice!" I was hardly worried!

Geller was the great advocate and practitioner of this gambit, and it bears his name, but few know that even Petrosian used it to annihilate Smyslov—see note to Black's seventh move.

5... b5
6.e5 Nd5
7.a4



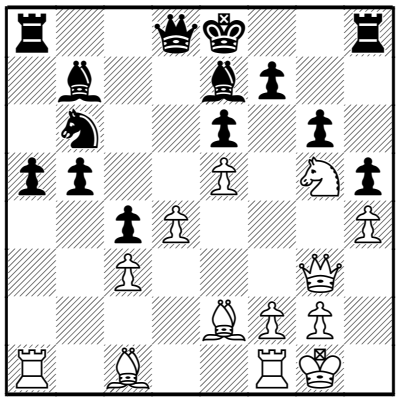
My opponent in the following game, IM Cyrus Lakdawala, was by far the highest rated player in the recent Southern California Closed Championship. Given my great respect for higher rated players, I decided to attack him ferociously from the first move!

This key advance threatens to undermine Black's N, and in many cases, after an exchange on c3, allows the WQB to come out to a3. This is why the book move is 7... e6, which meets this positional threat at the cost of blocking the BQB. Lakdawala tries a sharp and risky line.

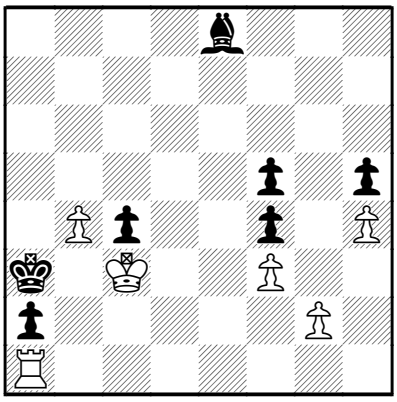
7...Bf5

Black does not score well after this, which in my opinion asks too much of the position.

Smyslov tried the book 7... e6 against Petrosian: let's see how that worked out for him in the following battle of World Champions: 8.axb5 Nxc3 9.bxc3 cxb5 10.Ng5 Bb7 11.Qh5 Petrosian attacks! g6 12.Qg4 Be7 13.Be2 Nd7 14.h4 h5 15.Qg3 Nb6 16.0–0 a5

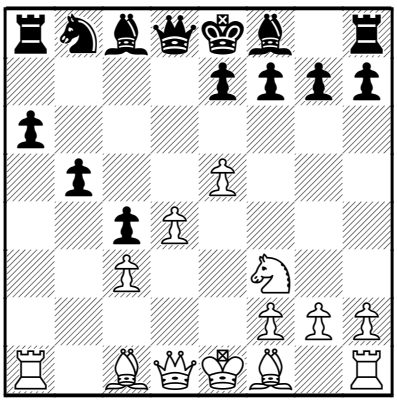


17.d5!! A brilliant second pawn sacrifice that prevents Black from closing the position with a piece on d5. 17...Nxd5 18.Rd1 Qc7 19.Ne4 0–0–0 20.Bg5 Bxg5 21.Qxg5 a4 22.Qg3 f5 23.Nd6+ Rxd6 24.exd6 f4 25.Qxg6 Qxd6 26.Bf3 Bc6 27.Re1 Re8 28.Bxd5 Qxd5 29.Rad1 Qf5 30.Qxf5 exf5 31.Rxe8+ Bxe8 32.f3 Kc7 33.Kf2 Kb6 34.Ke2 Ka5 35.Rb1 a3 36.Kd2 b4 37.cxb4+ Ka4 38.Kc3 a2 39.Ra1 Ka3



40.Kxc4 Kb2 41.Rd1 a1Q 42.Rxa1 Kxa1 43.b5 Petrosian wins, with only one pawn for the piece! 43...Bd7 44.b6 Bc8 45.Kd4 Kb2 46.Ke5 Kc3 47.Kxf4 Kd4 48.Kg5 Ke5 49.Kxh5 Kf6 50.g4 Bb7 51.Kh6 1–0 Petrosian,T-Smyslov,V/Moscow 1951/URS-ch.

The natural 7...a6 can also lead to mayhem: 8.axb5 Nxc3 9.bxc3 cxb5



10.Ng5 (10.Ba3!?) f6 11.Qf3 Ra7 12.e6 Bb7 13.Qf4 Qc8 14.d5 Bxd5 15.Be3 Rb7 16.Qf5 Qc6 17.0–0–0 g6 18.Qxd5 Qxd5 19.Rxd5 fxg5 20.Bd4 Rg8 21.Be2 Nc6 22.Rc5 Rc7 23.Bf3 Nxd4 24.Rxc7 Nxe6 25.Rc8+ Kd7 26.Bg4 Rh8 27.Ra8 Bg7

28.Ra7+ Kc6 29.Rxa6+ Kc5 30.Bxe6 Bxc3 31.Rd1 Bd4 32.f3 Rd8 33.Kb1 Rd6 34.Rxd6 exd6 35.Bg8 h6 36.Bf7 b4 37.Bxg6 b3 38.Re1 c3 39.Re8 c2+ 40.Bxc2 bxc2+ 41.Kxc2 Bg1 42.h3 h5 43.Rg8 Be3 44.Kd3 Bf4 45.g3 1–0 Timoscenko,G-Kharitonov,A/Irkutsk 1983

8.axb5 Nxc3

8...Nb4 is obviously critical but of course I was going to sacrifice: 9.Bxc4! Nc2+ 10.Kf1 Nxa1 Relax: It's only a Rook! 11.bxc6 Nxc6 12.d5 Na5 13.Bb5+ Bd7 14.Bxd7+ Qxd7 15.e6 fxe6 16.Ne5 Qc7 17.Qa4+ Kd8 18.Bf4 Kc8 19.Nc6 Qd7 20.Qxa5 g5 21.Be5 exd5 22.Nd4 Rg8 23.Qxa1 (23.Nxd5 wins quickly) 23...Kb7 24.b4 Rc8 25.f3 Bg7 26.Bxg7 Rxg7 27.Kf2 e5 28.Nde2 g4 29.Qa5 gxf3 30.gxf3 d4 31.Ra1 Ka8 32.Na4 Rg6 33.Nc5 Qc7 34.Qxc7 Rxc7 35.f4 Rh6 36.fxe5 Rxh2+ 37.Kf3 d3 38.Nf4 d2 39.e6 Rc8 40.e7 Re8 41.Nd5 Kb8 42.Nd7+ Kb7 43.N7f6 Rxe7 44.Nxe7 Kb6 45.Nfd5+ Kb5 46.Nf5 Kc6 47.Nfe3 Kb7 48.Rg1 Ka6 49.Nc3 Rh4 50.Ned5 Rd4 51.b5+ Kb7 52.Rg7+ Kb8 53.Ne7 1–0 Fedorowicz,J-Braga,F/Germany 1989, for if 53...d1Q+ 54.Nxd1 Rxd1 55.Nc6+ wins cleanly.

Similar is 8...cxb5 9.Nxb5 Nb4 10.Bxc4 Nc2+ 11.Ke2 a6 12.e6 fxe6 13.Bf4 Kf7 14.Ne5+ Ke8 15.Bxe6 Bxe6 16.Qxc2 axb5 17.Rxa8 Bd5 18.Ra7 Bxg2 19.Rc1 1–0 McCambridge,V-Formanek,E/Lone Pine 1979 Black resigns in view of 19...Bd5 20.Qc5 Be6 21.Qxb5+ Nd7 22.Rxd7 Bxd7 23.Nxd7 Kf7 24.Qf5+ Ke8 25.Ne5 and mates.

9.bxc3 cxb5

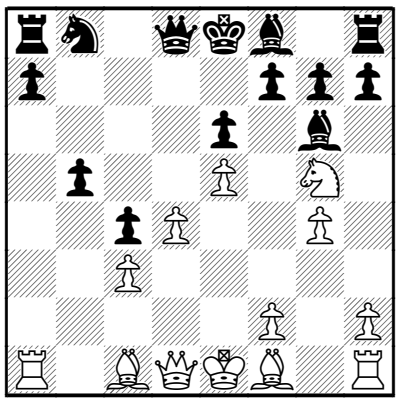
10.Ng5!

There is already no good way to meet Qf3; clearly, if Black plays 7... Bf5, he should continue with 8...Nb4 and 9...Nc2+, take the Rook, and hope for the best, as by trying to transpose to a quiet line, he is undone by his hanging QB and QR, which cannot be simultaneously defended.

10...e6

If 10...Qd5 the Yerminator demonstrates why it is not a good idea to put your Q and R on the same diagonal: 11.Be2 Nc6 12.Bf3 Qd7 13.0–0 Rc8 14.Re1 e6 15.d5 exd5 16.e6 fxe6 17.Qxd5 Qxd5 18.Bxd5 Kd7 19.Nxe6 g6 20.Bxc6+ Kxc6 21.Rxa7 Bxe6 22.Rxe6+ Kd5 23.Rea6 Bc5 24.Rd7+ Ke5 25.Be3 Bxe3 26.fxe3 Rhd8 27.Re7+ Kf5 28.Kf2 Ra8 29.Rb6 Rab8 30.Rbe6 Rd3 31.Kf3 Kg5 32.Rxh7 Rf8+ 33.Ke4 Rg8 34.Re5+ Kf6 35.Rhe7 Rh8 36.g4 Rh4 37.Kf4 g5+ 38.Kg3 Rd6 39.Re8 Rd2 40.R8e7 Rd6 41.Re8 Rd2 42.Rf5+ Kg6 43.Rg8+ Kh7 44.Rfxg5 1–0 (Mate is imminent) Yermolinsky,A-Tukmakov,V/Novosibirsk 1986

11.g4 Bg6



There are seven games in my database with this position: White wins six and there is one draw. My game is one more win for the next Megabase; also note some of the past examples in this note and over the next few moves: 11... Qd5 12.Rg1 Bxg4 (12...Be4 13.Be3 Bh1 14.f3 Be7 15.Rxh1 Bxg5 16.Bxg5 Nc6 17.Be3 0–0 18.Bg2 a5 19.Kf2 f5 20.f4 Qd7 21.d5 Nxe5 22.fxe5 f4 23.Bc5 f3 24.Bxf3 Rf7 25.Kg2 Qc8 26.dxe6 Rf4 27.e7 1–0 Szabo,L-Burstein,S/Haifa/Tel Aviv 1958) 13.Qxg4 Nc6 14.Nxf7 Kxf7 15.Bg2 Nxe5 16.Qf4+ Ke7 17.dxe5 Qd3 18.Ba3+ Kd8 19.Rd1 1–0 Hynes,K (2245)-Naduva,M/Novi Sad 1990.

12.Qf3!?

Sharpest.

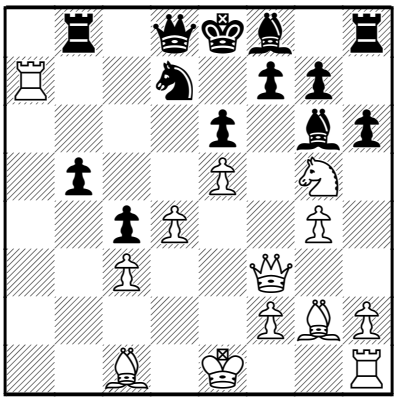
A very good alternative, 12.Bg2 Nd7 13.Bxa8 (13.h4 h5 14.Bc6 Rc8 15.Bxb5 Qc7 16.gxh5 Rxh5 17.Qa4 Be7 18.Qxa7 Kd8 19.Qxc7+ Rxc7 20.Ra8+ Rc8 21.Rxc8+ Kxc8 22.Bxc4 Kc7 23.Be2 Rh8 24.Bf3 Bh5 25.Bxh5 Rxh5 26.Nxf7 Bxh4 27.Ke2 g6 28.Bg5 Rxg5 29.Rxh4 Rf5 30.Nh6 Rh5 31.Rxh5 gxh5 32.Nf7 Nf8 33.Ng5 1–0 Brun,D-Astengo,C/Genova 2006; 13.f4 Be7 14.Qf3 0–0 15.h4 Bd3 16.f5 exf5 17.gxf5 Nb6 18.Qg4 Qc8 19.Be4 Bxe4 20.Qxe4 g6 21.0–0 f6 22.Ne6 fxe5 23.Nxf8 Bxf8 24.Ra2 exd4 25.fxg6 Qe8 26.gxh7+ Kh8 27.Qg4 Bc5 28.Rg2 1–0 Inkiov,V-Padevsky,N/Pamporovo 1982) 13...Qxa8 14.Qf3 is the simplest, and Black really has no compensation for the exchange here, e.g. 14...Qb8 15.h4 (15.0–0 h5 16.Bf4 (16.Qc6 Be7 17.Ra5 Qb6 18.Qxb5 hxg4 19.Re1 Rh5 20.Qxb6 Nxb6 21.Ne4 Bxe4 22.Rxe4 f5 23.Re2 Nd5 24.Rc2 Rh3 25.Bd2 f4 26.Rxa7 g3 27.hxg3 fxg3 28.fxg3 Rxg3+ 29.Kh2 Rf3 30.Rb2 Rf2+ 31.Kg3 Re2 32.Rb8+ Kf7 33.Bg5 1–0 Hudecek,J-Dragomarezkij,E/Prague 1990) 16...hxg4 17.Qxg4 Bf5 18.Qf3 Be7 19.Ne4 Rh3 20.Bg3 Nb6 21.Ra6 g5 22.Nf6+ Kd8 23.Qc6 Bxf6 24.exf6 Qc8 25.Qd6+ Qd7 26.Qf8+ Qe8 27.Bc7+ Kd7 28.Qd6+ Kc8 29.Bxb6 1–0 Christensen,K-Moller,B/Aarhus 1994) 15...h6 16.h5 hxg5 17.hxg6 Rxh1+ 18.Qxh1 1–0 Coleman,J-Osborne,D/West Bromwich 2004

12...Nd7

13.Bg2 Rb8

Keeps the Queen from invading the seventh rank—another past win is 13... Rc8 14.Rxa7 b4 15.Qb7 Rb8 (15...bxc3 16.Bc6) 16.Qa6 Qb6 17.Qa4 Qb5 (17...b3 18.Qxd7#) 18.Qxb5 Rxb5 19.Bc6+- Rd5 20.Bxd5 exd5 21.Ra8+ Ke7 22.cxb4 h6 23.b5 hxg5 24.Ba3+ Ke6 25.Re8+ 1–0 Ovod,E-Hernandez,Y/Varna 2002

14.Rxa7 h6!?



15.Qc6!?

The first new move of the game. This piece sacrifice was not prepared at home, but was rather an over the board inspiration. Essentially I follow the great Spielman (author of the "The Art of Sacrifice in Chess") in that while I wasn't sure if the piece offer was of "cast iron soundness" as Spielman put it—or "Fritz approved" as we say today, I was sure that by playing this way I would put my opponent under near insurmountable psychological pressure, and the practical problems of defending the coming position would be insurmountable to a hu-

man life form—regardless of rating!

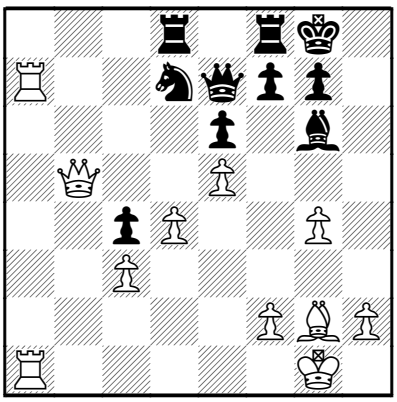
White can of course play 15.Nh3 still with a very good game, though this is the one draw in the database, for White will miss a win, as we will see: 15... Qb6 16.Rxd7 Kxd7 17.Nf4 White has good compensation for the exchange. Ke8 18.0–0 h5 19.Nxg6 fxg6 20.Be3 Qc7 21.Ra1 Be7 22.Qe4 Kf7 23.d5 Bc5 24.dxe6+ Kg8 25.Bf4 (25.Bxc5! Qxc5 26.Qxg6 and White wins easily, e.g. 26...hxg4 a) 26...Rh6 27.Qf7+ Kh7 (27... Kh8 28.e7 Qxe5 29.Rd1) 28.Be4+ Kh8 29.g5+-; b) 26...Qe7 27.Bd5 Rf8 (27... Rh6 28.Qf7+ Qxf7 29.exf7+ Kf8 30.e6 hxg4 31.Ra7+-) 28.Ra7 Rh6 29.Qf7+ Rxf7 (29...Qxf7 30.exf7+ Kh7 31.Ra8+-) 30.exf7+ Kf8 31.Ra8++-; 27.Qf7+ Kh7 28.Be4+ Kh6 29.Qg6#) 25...g5 26.Bxg5 hxg4 27.e7 Bxe7 28.Qf5 Rd8 29.Ra8 Rh5 30.Qe6+ Kh8 31.Rxd8+ Qxd8 32.Bxe7 Qd1+ 33.Bf1 g3 34.fxg3 Qd2 35.Bh4 Qe3+ 36.Kg2 Qe4+ 37.Kg1 Qe3+ 38.Kg2 Qe4+ ½–½ Yevseev,D-Hasangatin,R/St Petersburg 2003

15...hxg5
16.Bxg5 Be7
17.Bxe7 Qxe7
18.0–0

Nonchalant—I'm only a piece down!

The point of my sacrifice can now be seen: Black is pinned in two ways, and while my opponent tries to disentangle, I bring up the heavy artillery!

18...Rd8
19.Qxb5 0–0
20.Rfa1



20...Qg5!

Best, Black gives back the piece at the right time—Lakdawala shows a fine feeling for the position here, but falters strategically on the next move. Risky is to try to hold the piece with 20...f6 e.g. 21.Bc6 Rf7 22.Rc7 fxe5 23.Rxd7 Rxd7 24.Bxd7 Qxd7 25.Ra8+ Kh7 26.Qb8 Kh6 (or 26...Be4 27.Qh8+ Kg6 28.Qh5+ Kf6 29.dxe5+ Ke7 30.Qg5+ Rf6 31.Qxg7+ Rf7 32.Qg5+ and mates) 27.Qxe5 Qd5 28.Rh8+ Bh7 29.Qg3 g5 30.Qh3+ Kg7 (30...Kg6 31.Qh5+ Kf6 32.Rxh7+-) 31.Rxh7+ Kf8 32.Rxf7+ Kxf7 33.Qh5+ and White should win the Queen ending.

21.Rxd7 Rxd7
22.Qxd7 Qxg4

Black falters under the pressure!

Now White consolidates his extra pawn, and I am able to grind to victory in another 40 moves.

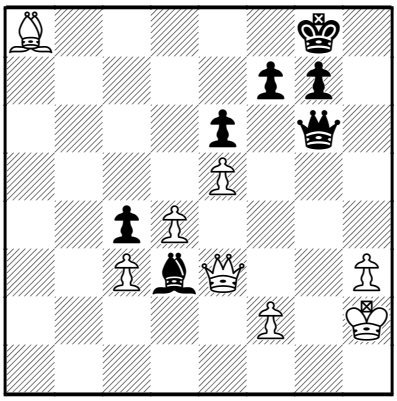
Correct is 22...Qd2!! as given by Fritz. After 23.Qa4 (Worse are 23.h4 Qxc3 24.Qa7 Rd8 25.h5 Bc2 26.Rc1 Qb2 27.Qa1 c3 and 23.d5 Qxc3 24.Rf1 Qxe5 25.d6 Bd3 26.Rc1 Qf4—Black gets a clear plus in both these lines) 23...Qxc3 24.Rd1 Qb3 White is struggling to draw. These Fritz variations (beginning with 22… Qd2) all lead to at least some advantage to Black, and appear to refute my piece sacrifice on move 15.

But one must credit the psychological effect of my attack, as now I have a clear and undisputed advantage!

23.Qc6 Bd3
24.Qf3 Qg5
25.Qe3 Qg4
26.h3 Qg6
27.Kh2 Rb8
28.Ra8!

Aiming for the B ending, where Black has a fixed pawn on the color of his B.

28...Rxa8
29.Bxa8



Now if I can get the Queens off, the ending will be won—but it takes me more than 20 moves to accomplish that!

29...Bb1
30.Bf3

Not the hasty 30.d5? Be4

30...Bd3
31.d5 exd5
32.Bxd5 Kh7

It's hard to find a better move, e.g. 32...Qh5 33.e6 fxe6 34.Qxe6+ Kh7 35.Be4+ g6 36.Bxd3 cxd3 37.Qd7+ Kh6 38.Qxd3 and the two extra pawns should give just enough shelter.

33.Qf4 Kg8
34.Bxc4 Be4

Timothy Taylor, IM, Chess Instructor

As a former US Open Champion and Southern California Open Champion, my play, with emphasis on attack is well known.

I've also been teaching for many years, and I am always ready to teach anyone who really wants to learn, regardless of their present rating. Many of my students have gained 200 rating points or more. If you are interested, contact me for serious chess lessons!

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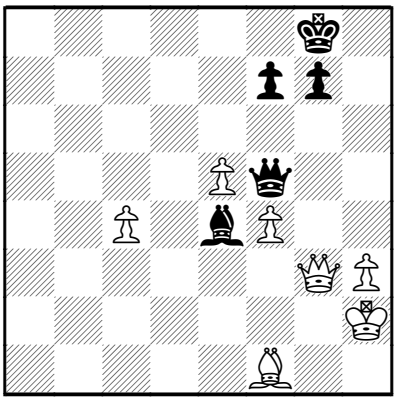
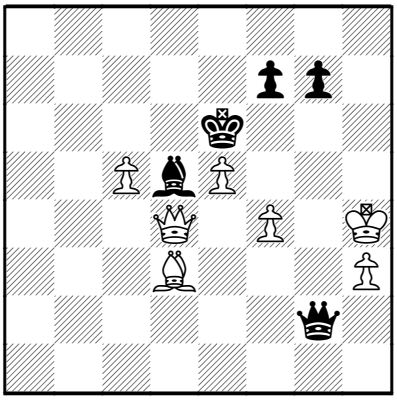
Phone: 310 – 497 – 0792
Website: www.TimothyTaylorArtist.com

35.Bf1 Qc6
36.c4 Qg6
37.Qg3 Qf5
38.f4



The game won't win itself! In order to make progress, I have to open my king, so the pawns must move forward.
38...Bb7

But now Black maintains counterplay against my breezy king for a long time.
39.Qe3 Qc2+
40.Kg3 Be4
41.Be2 Kf8
42.c5 Ke7
43.Bf1 Bd5
44.Qd4 Ke6
45.Bd3 Qg2+
46.Kh4

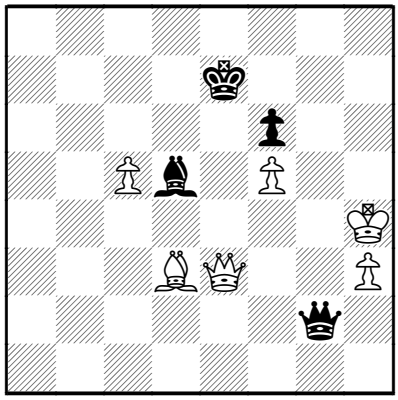


It worried me that my King had so little breathing room, but constant calculation convinced me (and I see even Mr. Fritz agrees) that the WK is safe here.
46...Ke7

White wins quickly after 46...g6 with 47.c6! Qf3 (47...Bxc6? 48.Qd6#) 48.f5+! now the BK runs out of flight squares 48...Ke7 (48...gxf5 49.Bc4 Qe4+ (49...Bxc4 50.Qd6#) 50.Qxe4 fxe4 51.Bxd5+ Kxd5 52.c7) 49.Qb4+ Ke8 50.Qb8+ Ke7 51.f6+ Ke6 52.Qd6#
47.f5

This is what I was aiming for: the duo on the fifth rank—Black has to try to stop these rampaging pawns.
47...f6
48.Qf4?

A serious lapse after all my hard work—and with victory almost in my grasp! Correct is 48.exf6+ gxf6 49.Qe3+!



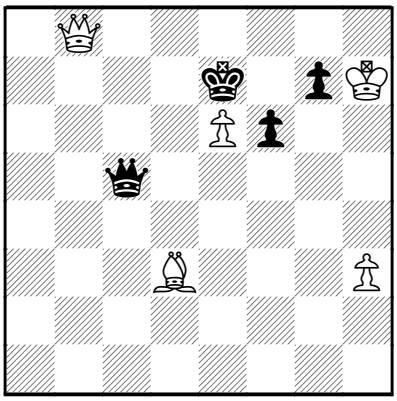
The point of this move, compared with my actual 48.Qf4, is that I both defend the mate on g5 and my c pawn, so White stays two pawns ahead and should win easily, e.g. 49...Kf8 50.Bb5! and it's all over: 50...Qb2 (or 50...Kf7 51.c6 Bxc6 (51...Qh2 doesn't stop the pawn 52.c7! Qxc7 53.Qe8+ Kg7 54.Qg6+ Kf8 55.Qxf6+ Kg8 56.Qg6+ Kf8 57.Qh6+ Kg8 58.f6) 52.Qe6+ Kg7 53.Qe7+ Kg8 54.Bc4+ Kh8 55.Qxf6+ Kh7 56.Qf7+ Kh8 57.Qh5+ Kg7 58.Qg5+ Qxg5+ 59.Kxg5 and White wins as in Fischer – Keres, Zurich 1959 [see "My 60 Memorable Games."] though note the position would be a draw due to the wrong color RP if the White king and f pawn were back and Black had f6 for his King, and could sac the B for White's f pawn, which is of course not possible here) 51.Bd7 Qb8 52.Be6 etc.
48...Qh1?

Back to back errors! Correct is 48...Qg1! when Black stays on g5 for mate and also on the White c pawn. After 49.exf6+ (49.e6 Qxc5) 49...gxf6 50.Kh5 Qd1+ 51.Kg6 Qg1+ (51...Qxd3 52.Qd6+ Ke8 53.Kxf6 Qd4+ 54.Qe5+ Qxe5+ 55.Kxe5+-) 52.Qg4 Qxc5 53.Qg3 and it's going to be a tough win with only one extra pawn.
49.e6!

With this sham piece sacrifice, White is clearly winning once again.
49...g5+

I thought I blundered my Q for a moment! Then I remembered I had already seen the en passant!

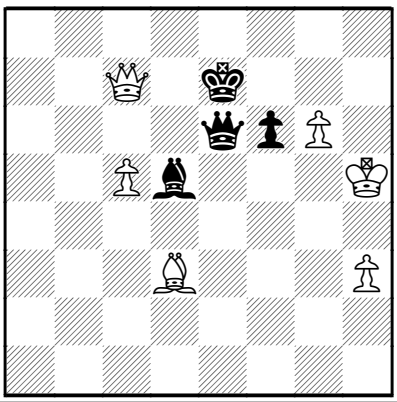
If 49...Qe1+ 50.Kh5 Qd1+ 51.Kg6 Qg1+ (If Black takes the piece with 51...Qxd3 then 52.Qd6+ Ke8 53.Qd7+ Kf8 54.Qd8#) 52.Kh7 Qxc5 53.Qb8 Bxe6 (53...Bg2 54.Kxg7; 53...Bh1 54.Kg8 mating in both) 54.fxe6



54... Qh5+

(54...Kxe6 55.Qe8+ Kd5 56.Qd7+ Ke5 57.Qf5+ Kd6 58.Qxc5+ Kxc5 59.Kxg7 Kd4 (59...f5 60.h4 f4 61.h5 f3 62.h6 Kd4 63.Bf1) 60.Kxf6 Kxd3 61.h4+-)

55.Kxg7 Qg5+ (55...Qxh3 56.Qf8+ Kxe6 57.Qc8+) 56.Bg6 Kxe6 57.Qb6+ Ke5 58.Qc5+ Ke6 59.Qc4+ Ke5 60.Qe4+ Kd6 61.Qd4+ Ke6 62.h4 Qg3 63.Qxf6+ Kd7 64.h5 and with Queens on, the wrong color rp wins easily.
50.fxg6 Qe1+
51.Kh5 Qxe6
52.Qc7+



The queens come off, finally! White has achieved the Holy Grail of the winning bishop ending—as the following notes show, Black has no salvation.

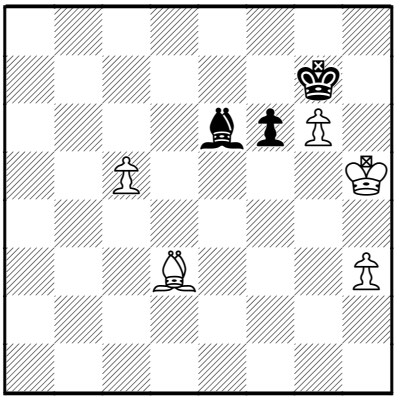
52...Kf8

No better is 52...Ke8 53.Bb5+ Kf8 54.Qd6+ Kg7 55.Qxe6 Bxe6 56.c6 Bxh3 57.c7 Bc8 58.Bf1 f5 (58...Bd7 59.Ba6 f5 60.c8Q Bxc8 61.Bxc8 f4 62.Bg4 Kg8 63.Kh6 Kh8 64.g7+ Kg8 65.Be6#) 59.Bh3 Kf6 60.Kh6.

53.Qd6+ Kg7

White wins after 53...Qxd6 54.cxd6 Be6 55.Kh6 Ke8 (55...Bxh3 56.g7+ Kg8 57.Bh7+) 56.Bb5+ Kf8 57.g7+ Kf7 58.g8Q+ Kxg8 59.Bc4!+- Kf7 (59...Bxc4 60.d7) 60.d7 Ke7 61.Bxe6+-

54.Qxe6 Bxe6



55.Kh4!?

White will reposition his K to f4 and win, but simpler is 55.h4.

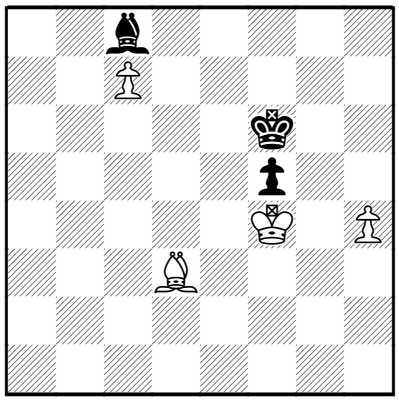
55...Kh6

There are no saves: 55...Bd7 56.Kg3 f5 57.Kf4 Kxg6 (57...Kf6 58.g7 Kxg7 59.Bxf5 Be8 60.Ke5) 58.Ke5 Kg5 (58...Bc8 59.c6 Kg5 60.c7 f4 61.h4+) 59.h4+ (59.Bxf5?? Bxf5 60.h4+ Kg6 61.h5+ Kg5 62.h6 Bd3) 59...Kg4 (59...Kxh4 60.Bxf5 Bc6 61.Kd6 Bg2 62.Be6 Kg3 63.Bd5 Bf1 64.c6 Kf4 65.c7 Ba6 66.Be6 Ke4 67.Kc6 Kd4 68.Kb6) 60.h5 Kg5 61.h6 Kxh6 62.Bxf5 Bc6 63.Kd6 Bf3 64.Be6 Kg6 65.Bd5 Bg4 66.c6 Kf6 67.c7 Bc8 68.Bc6 Kf7 69.Bd7 Ba6 (69...Bb7 70.Kc5 Ke7 71.Kb6) 70.Kc6 Ke7 71.Bh3 and Kb6 will win.

56.Kg3 f5

Other moves allow White to win with separated passed pawns when the BB is overloaded: 56...Bd5 57.Kf4 Bc6 58.Be4 Bd7 59.h4 Bb5 60.h5 Kxh5 61.g7 Bc4 62.c6 Kh6 63.c7 Be6 64.g8Q!; 56...Bd7 57.h4 f5 58.h5 Kxh5 59.g7 Be6 60.c6 Kh6 (60...Kg6 61.Bc4 Bxc4 62.c7) 61.Bxf5 (61.Bc4 Bxc4 62.c7) 61...Bc4 62.c7.

57.Kf4 Kxg6
58.c6 Kf6
59.c7 Bc8
60.h4



60... Kg6

If 60...Bd7 61.h5; 60...Bb7 61.Bxf5 Ba6 62.h5 Kg7 63.Kg5 Bb7 64.h6+ Kh8 65.Kf6 Ba6 66.Ke7 Bb7 67.Kd6 Kg8 68.Kc5 Kh8 69.Kb6 and promotes.

61.Ke5 Bd7

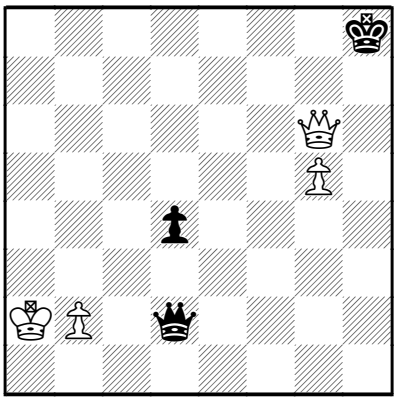
Another promotion occurs after 61...Kh5 62.Bxf5 Bb7 63.Kd6 Kxh4 64.Kc5 Kg5 65.Kb6.

62.Bxf5+! Bxf5
63.h5+
Black resigns

The end of a long road. Clearly White could have won more simply by just picking off the exchange on move 12, but chess is not only about grabbing material! *R&F*

Two Exciting Draws: cont'd from page 30

60.Kb1 Qd3+ 61.Qc2 Qf1+ 62.Ka2 Qxf4 63.Qg6 Qd2!



Drawing.

64.Qf6+

Two other ideas fail against alert defense:

64.Qh6+ Kg8 65.Qe6+ Kg7 66.g6 Qf4, and soon Black will safely capture the g-pawn.

Or 64.Qe8+ Kg7 65.Qe7+ Kg6! 66.Qf6+ Kh5, and White cannot shield his King and stop the d-pawn.

64...Kg8

Not 64...Kh7?? 65.Qf7+ Kh8 as 66.Qa7! forces simplification: 66...Qxg5 67.Qxd4+ Kg8 68.b4. According to the endgame tablebase, White can force a win in a mere 61 moves.

65.Qg6+

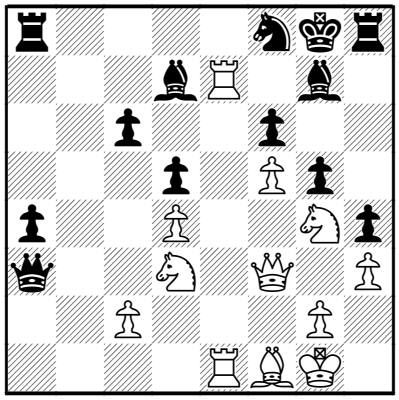
Against 65.Qe5, Kf7 draws.

65...Kh8 66.Qh5+ Kg7 67.g6 Kf6! 68.Qg4 Kg7 69.Qf5 Kh6! 70.Qf7 Qa5+ ½–½

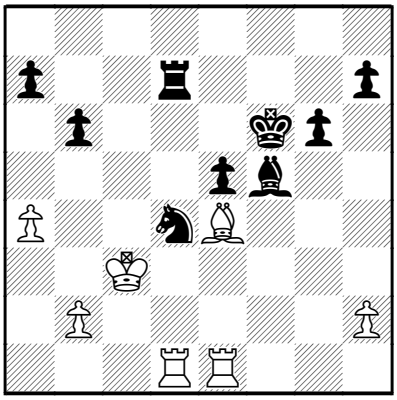
Now Black can check perpetually at b5, e2 and e1. *R&F*

Two Combinations...

Solutions on page 46



1. White to play and win.



2. Black to play and win.

What Were They Thinking?

By IM Cyrus Lakdawala and IM Jack Peters

Cyrus Lakdawala originally annotated this game for his book on the Veresov Opening, which will be published by Gambit this Spring. Jack Peters added comments afterwards.

Providing extra interest, the players both present two viewpoints on this contest, disclosing thoughts and reactions during the game as well as the sometimes contrasting views afterward, with the benefit of 20-20 hindsight. And, as we all have experienced, our thinking during the game, time-restricted as it is, invariably reflects something less than full cognizance and more than the right amount of worry.

We expect that the readers will find this article engaging and amusing, and are encouraged to determine for themselves the logic that would secure this French Defense its berth in a book on the Veresov.

Peters,Jack (2411) - Lakdawala,Cyrus (2514)
[C10] French Defense
20th Southern California Ch. (6)
Century City, 23.08.2008

Cyrus: IM and Los Angeles Times chess columnist Jack Peters and I have been friends for over 30 years. He was the undisputed king of Southern California chess in the 70's and 80's. I dethroned him in the 1990's, only to be unceremoniously ousted myself by a pair of tyrants, GMs and co-rulers, Khachiyan and Akobian, around 2002.

Jack: Cyrus exaggerates, but I appreciate the sentiment!

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 dxe4

Cyrus: One of the benefits Black gets from the Rubinstein line is that he gets the same positions from 3.Nc3 and also from the Tarrasch 3.Nd2, so it saves a lot of study time.

4.Nxe4 Bd7

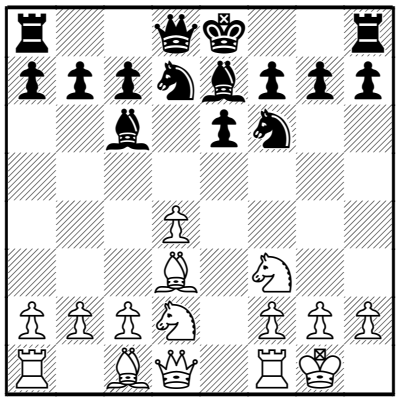
Cyrus: The Fort Knox Variation, the dullard's paradise, was a moronic choice on my part because after the 5th round I was in 2nd place and desperate to beat Jack with the Black pieces. As I explained to him later, I was "groveling for the win!"

Jack: Maybe not so moronic. I lost twice to Mark Duckworth in this variation. Even though my handling of the opening wasn't to blame, I was reminded of my faulty judgment against "harmless" variations.

5.Nf3 Bc6 6.Bd3 Nd7 7.0–0 Ngf6 8.Ned2

Jack: I wanted a lively game with a board full of pieces. All I knew about 8 Ned2 was that White wanted to plant a Knight at e5. The "dull" main line starting with 8.Qe2 does give White an edge.

8...Be7



9.Nc4

Cyrus: I had this position against GM Tigran Petrosian (No, not the ex-World Champion, the other one!) at the 2008 National Open G/10 Championship.

The game went 9.Re1 (securing e4 first) 9...0–0 10.b3 Bxf3 11.Qxf3 c6 12.Bb2 Re8 13.Nc4 Qc7 14.Ne5 Rad8 15.Rad1

I expected Tigarano to go ballistic and sac 15.Bxh7+!? Kxh7 16.Nxf7 Ra8 17.Ng5+ Kg8 18.Nxe6 Qd6 with three pawns for the piece.

15...Bf8 16.c4 Nxe5!? 17.dxe5 Nd7 18.Bxh7+!? There we go! 18...Kxh7 19.Qxf7 Re7 20.Qh5+ Kg8 21.Rd3 g6!

Throughout my life I have always been an incompetent attacker and an excellent defender. Here my defensive instincts were correct. Black avoids the false path 21...Rf7? 22.Rh3 Rf4 23.g3 Qa5 24.Kf1 Rf5 25.Qh7+ Kf7 26.g4! Rf4 27.Bc1! evicts the rook from the f-file, giving White a deadly attack.

22.Qxg6+ Bg7 23.Red1 Rc8 24.h4 Nf8 With a complex position, probably in White's favor. After securing an advantage, later I botched the game with both our clocks hanging.

Sadly, most IM's just don't have the quick sight of the board that the majority of GMs possess. As a result we poor IMs tend to get burned in the time scrambles.

9...0–0!?

Cyrus: I decided to allow him his "threat" Na5.

10.Na5

Cyrus: Jack was under the impression that my last move was a blunder. Also possible was 10.Re1 b6 11.Nce5 Nxe5 12.dxe5 Nd7 13.Nd4 Bb7 14.Qg4 Re8 15.Bh6 Bf8 16.Bg5 Be7 17.h4, and the cramping effect of the e5-pawn gives White attacking chances and the weak c6 square is also a cause for concern for Black. Smirin,I-Chernin,A Moscow 1994 1–0 (38).

Jack: My first intention was 10.Nce5, but I quickly convinced myself that 10 Na5 was stronger. I didn't like 10 Re1 Bb5 because I thought Black would manage to trade his bad Bishop for my good one.

10...Bd5!

Cyrus: An important move. White must be provoked into c4, which will weaken his d4 square and his dark squares later.

11.c4 Bxf3 12.Qxf3 c6!

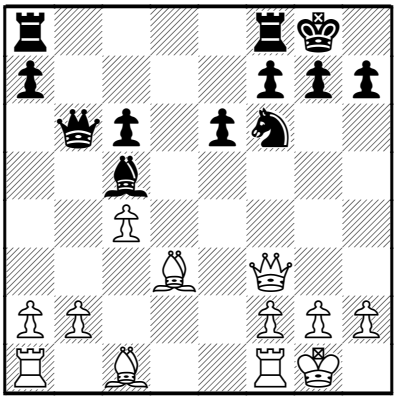
Cyrus: My opponent missed this idea, which regains the pawn.

Of course, Black is strategically busted after the lame 12...b6?? 13.Nc6 Qe8 14.Bd2 and Black will never unravel.

13.Nxb7

Jack: I foresaw the next few moves, but misjudged the position badly. My earlier play could be justified by 13 Bd2 and routine development of the Rooks. Black would still stand a bit worse.

13...Qb6 14.Nc5 Nxc5 15.dxc5 Bxc5



Cyrus: Assessment:

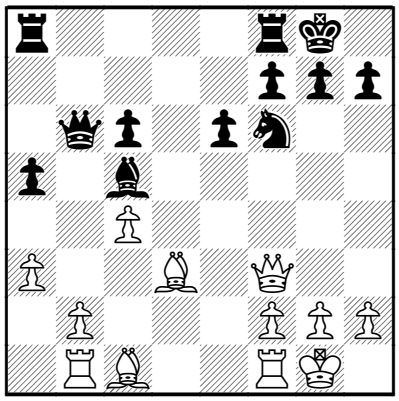
1. Black controls d4.
2. Black has dark square control.
3. White has the bishop pair, who glare in the direction of Black's king.
4. Critical to the coming moves is White's b4 pawn break, which would open the game and get his queenside pawn majority in motion. Perhaps the position is dynamically balanced.

Jack: Cyrus is right. But I thought a long time over my next move, liking my position less with each minute. By the time I finally moved, I was sure that Black had the advantage.

16.Rb1!

Cyrus: A new move and an improvement over 16.Bg5?! Bd4! 17.Rab1 a5 18.Rfd1 Rfd8 19.Bh4 c5 Black already stands better due to his iron grip on the dark squares. Reinaldo Castineira,R - Anastasian,A Ubeda 2001 1–0 (47)]

16...a5 17.a3!



Cyrus: White must react vigorously before Black establishes a central bind on the dark squares, for after 17.b3?! Bd4! 18.a3 c5, Black is better.

Jack: I kept imagining a monster Knight on d4. White's only remedy is to mix it up first!

17...Bd4?!

Cyrus: Chickening out. Fear leads to hesitation; hesitation leads to defeat. I should have marched forward with 17...a4! 18.b4! axb3 19.Rxb3 Qc7 20.Bb2 e5! (20...Be7?? 21.Bxf6! Bxf6 22.Bxh7+! Kxh7 23.Qh5+ Kg8 24.Rh3 Bh4 25.Rxh4 f6 White should win, not due to his extra pawn, but to the insecure situation of Black's King.) 21.Qg3 Rfe8 22.Re1 Bd6 I had analyzed the position up to this point and reasoned that White stood clearly better after 23.c5? Bxc5 24.Bxe5 Bxf2+!! I completely missed this move in my analysis. 25.Kxf2 Rxe5! 26.Rxe5 Qxe5! 27.Qxe5 Ng4+ 28.Ke2 Nxe5 with an extra pawn and good chances to convert.

Jack: I expected 17...Rfd8 because White is not ready for b2-b4. I also considered 17...a4! 18.b4 axb3 19.Rxb3 Qc7 to be a critical position. Besides 20 Bb2, I looked at 20.Bg5, forcing Black to retreat his best Kingside defender. 20...Nd7 Now the computer recommends 21 Bc2, with about even chances. Naturally, I was tempted by attacks against h7. It appears that they will fail without Black's cooperation. 21.Be4?! (Clearly unsound is 21 Bxh7+? Kxh7 22 Qe4+ Kg8 23 Rh3 f6!, and there is no followup to 21 Qe4?! g6.) 21...Bd6! (21...Ne5?! Not fatal, but why should Black let White attack? 22.Bxh7+ Kxh7 23.Qh5+ Kg8 24.Bf6! Rxa3 Else 25 Rh3 wins. 25.Bxe5 Qe7 With a likely draw.) 22.Qh3 f5 23.Bc2 Rfb8 and now Black's King is safe and he has the advantage on the Queenside.

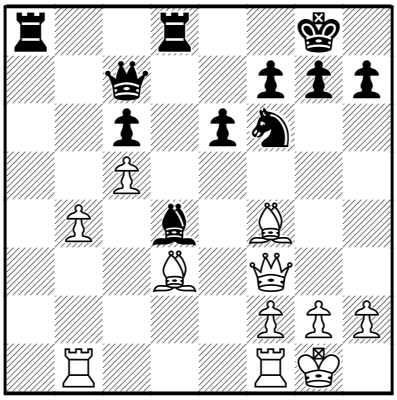
18.b4 axb4 19.axb4 Rfd8?

Cyrus: Black weathers the attack after 19...c5! 20.bxc5 (20.b5 Ra2 looks equal.) 20...Qxc5 21.Rb5 Qc7 22.Rg5 Rfd8 23.Bf4 Qe7 Perhaps the pharmaceutical industry may someday invent a drug designed to prevent paranoia in chessplayers! I analyzed to this point and once again misassessed it as being in White's favor, seeing ghosts everywhere and believing he had an attack. Black's grip on the dark squares keeps his king a lot safer than it looks. Chances are balanced.

20.c5!

Jack: My optimism returned. My Queenside no longer seemed a liability, and my Bishops were ready for action.

20...Qc7 21.Bf4



Cyrus: Now White enjoys a slight but nagging advantage.

Please turn to page 40, ***What Were They Thinking?***

What Was He Thinking?

By Phil Chase

If you read annotated games in magazines or books, the players explain deep strategies, fantastic tactics, and deep variations, all of which must have been generated by a keen mind working with absolute focus for hours on end. I don't believe that's the way most people think, considering that wandering is the most popular condition for human consciousness. I think that what follows is probably a lot more typical.

Pregame: I had 2 points out of 3 in the weekly Pasadena tournament. Looking at the possible pairings, I had the same thought as everyone else with 2 points—don't pair me against Annie! Annie Wang is the 8-year old tactician whose rating (October 2010) is 1779 but who has begun to upset experts on a regular basis. So if you lose to Annie, she gives her smile and her handshake, and if you luck out and win, well, aren't you ashamed of yourself for beating a little girl? I went online to check the pairings, which are e-mailed to the players, and of course saw "Board 7—Chase-Wang".

When I got to Pasadena, I saw that the chairs were a bizarre orange plastic, designed for children with infinitely malleable spines, not actual grown people. I traded mine for a more traditional version, although the curves on this low-rent piece of furniture still guaranteed pain at key moments during the game!

Why the chair upgrade was needed...

I tried to think of what opening to play, but figured that since I always play e4, I would go with the flow. I had played Annie once before, and she had played the Petroff's, but the opening was only minimally relevant, since I had blundered a piece on move 10, but escaped with a draw later.

Chase,Phil (1949) -
Wang,Annie (1779)
[C42] Petroff's Defense
Pasadena Chess Club (4), 2010
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3

I thought momentarily about playing the King's Gambit just for the fun of it, and remembered the Spassky-Bronstein game that was used in the James Bond movie "From Russia With Love" and wondered for a second why all the good women players in the world used to come from Soviet Georgia, but now they don't. Then I blinked and played Nf3.

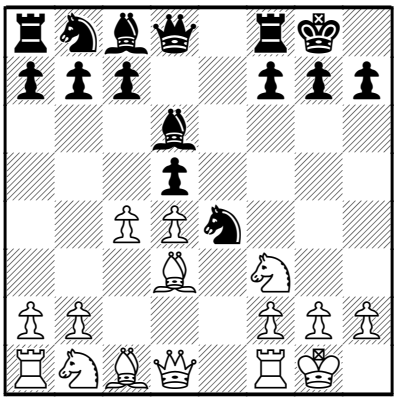
2...Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.d4

I am now feeling paranoid, because even though I know I am making decent moves, I fear ...Bg4, pinning the Knight, and somehow leading to inevitable mate.

5...d5 6.Bd3 Bd6 7.0–0

I had visions of castling long to discombobulate the deep plans of my opponent, but then I realized (1) It would take forever, and (2) She didn't need plans that deep—the shallow ones usually worked just fine!

7...0–0 8.c4



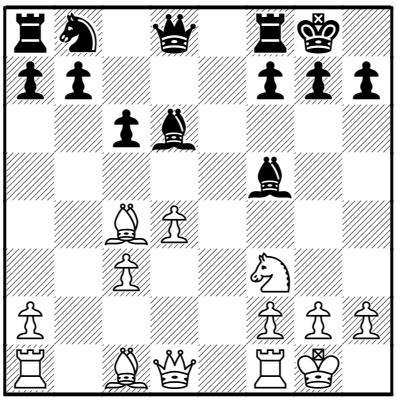
I want to develop my Knight to c3, and I don't mind a trade, because it will imbalance the pawn structure and give both sides dynamic chances. I recently heard a lecture by IM Jack Peters talking about the evolution of chess from "classical" principles—pawn structure, weak squares—to "dynamic" principles—active pieces, importance of the initiative, and less slavish obedience to material values. If the game went well, I could explain that it was my brilliant understanding of chess dynamics that led to victory.

8...c6 9.Nc3 Nxc3 10.bxc3 dxc4 11.Bxc4

I hadn't thought very much so far. Sitting next to us, two veterans were

playing, Neil Hultgren and Dave Matson, and it occurred to me that the three other players at the table outaged my opponent, 197 to 8.

11...Bf5



I was still scared of ...Bg4, and probably would have answered too passively or inaccurately. If 11…Bg4, 12.Qd3 seems to get the best results, as in Short-Huebner 1990—but of course I didn't know that during the game!

12.h3

I didn't like any move developing the c1 Bishop. 12.Bb2, planning to push the center pawns, is way too deep, Bd2 or Be3 are passive, and if 12.Bg5, then I thought 12...Qc7 was scary, not to mention that the Bg5 isn't actually attacking anything.

12.Re1 looks good on general principles, but playing on general principles is a good way to get killed by specific moves!

I thought about 12.Bd3, to free space for the pawns, but I really wanted to keep more pieces on the board, and whatever the pressure on f7 is worth, I wanted to maintain it.

12. h3 keeps pieces out of g4, unless black sacrifices on h3, so I just have to make sure my Nf3 isn't loose.

All this thinking took about 15 minutes.

12...Nd7 13.Bg5

13...Qc7 is still there, but there's no target at h2. I was thinking of 14. Qd2 to connect rooks, and make h6 extra risky for Black.

Black can oppose the Bc4 with 13... Be6, but the White Bishop gets a good diagonal (b1-h7) with 14.Bd3.

Black's biggest concern is King safety, as long as all the pieces are present, and White's biggest worry is everything getting traded on the e-file and losing an ending because of stalled pawns becoming passive targets.

13...Nf6 14.Re1

I'd like my Knight on e5. Black can oppose Rooks, but that weakens f7, and Qd2 or maybe even better Qb3 should be good!

14...Bc7 15.Ne5

Black can take on e5, lowering pressure on f7, but two Bishops and centralized pieces and more space adds up to a pretty big advantage. The idea of the Bishop-Queen battery was attractive, but too single-minded and gives up too much.

15...Qd6 16.Qf3 Be6 17.Bd3 Nd5

Hoping to play ...f6. The pawn at c3 isn't really in danger, and the Black King doesn't have too many friendly neighbors.

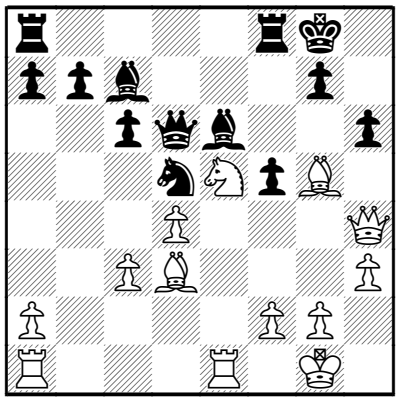
18.Qe4

Haha. I get to threaten mate, too!

18...f5

Makes the Queen move, but that King is definitely worried.

19.Qh4 h6



So, of course my first thought was 20.Bxh6, but I couldn't work it out to mate, so I gave it up, even though it was obviously an advantageous idea. I want no risks while making an unstoppable attack. That's ridiculous, but who doesn't want everything in life!

20.Bd2

The only good point is that it makes Black take an unforced move, thus more chance for a mistake.

I recently heard a pedantic football coach proclaim, in the most serious tones, "The team will win that makes the fewest mistakes!"

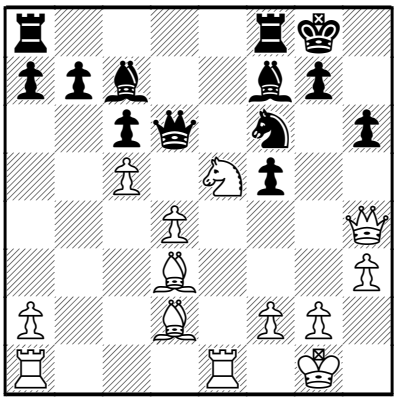
I started ruminating: Was it better to take no chances in life and make no mistakes? Or to take risky action in the hope of some great reward?

I remembered that in the first three years of air mail service in the US, 75% of the pilots crashed and died. I gave thanks for the great mail service today, blinked for a moment, and tried to regain my focus.

20...Bf7 21.c4

Pushing these pawns is committal, but it cramps Black and its hard to keep every square protected.

21...Nf6 22.c5



I know d5 is a beautiful square, but I don't think that will affect the position until it will be too late to matter. I actually thought about Lasker-Capablanca 1914, when Lasker played an analogous pawn move, 12.f5! Actually, I don't know if the analogy works, but I am counting on the initiative to make up for a long-term weakness.

22...Qd8

Any other square loses at least the exchange.

23.Bxf5

23.Nxf7 right away is better, but in several versions it transposes.

23...Re8

Hoping to take twice on e5, but no time.

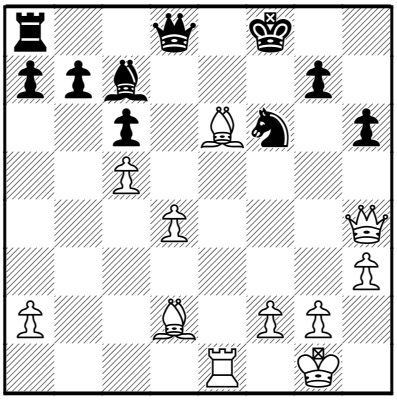
24.Nxf7 Kxf7 25.Rxe8 Qxe8

25...Nxe8 isn't any better.

26.Re1

My opponent is moving faster and faster. I think we all do that when we get discouraged, hoping for a chance tactic, but expecting doom in our hearts.

26...Qd8 27.Be6+ Kf8



28.Bxh6

If the Bishop isn't taken, White plans to retreat it and bring his Queen to h8. That is still better than…

28...gxh6 29.Qxh6+ Ke8 30.Qg6+ Ke7 31.Qf7 mate

Postgame: My concentration level was adequate but not great during the game. I was too paranoid about threats that didn't materialize, but when you have lost many games that is a common reaction. (In a long ago decade, I started playing in tournaments and lost my first 23 games!)

Having White against Annie Wang is a serious advantage because she is much better with the initiative.

The carousing children at the Pasadena "Boys and Girls Club" were a little less rambunctious than usual.

If I win my last two games in the tournament, I could go over 2000.

As a reward for winning, I get to eat a "Whole Foods" muffin. If I had lost, the consolation prize would have been a "Whole Foods" muffin.

Humans think in unfocused ways. Rarely do players uncork a brilliancy on move 26 leading to mate, and claim it was part of their opening preparation (actual GM claim in New in Chess). In fact, rarely are "simple" endings played without a multitude of missteps.

If we can come to terms with our fallibility, then we can still have great enjoyment, not from thinking "like a grandmaster," but with the imaginative excitement of realizing that we can create something beautiful even when we think like ourselves. *R&F*

What Were They Thinking? Continued from page 37

21...Qd7

Cyrus: Allowing the bishop to entrench itself on d6. I had planned 21...Be5? But realized it loses after 22.Bxe5 Qxe5 23.Qxc6 Ng4 24.g3 Qh5 25.Qg2! And after 21...e5?? 22.Bg5, Black doesn't have a good response.

Jack: Ah, the power of the fianchettoed Queen!

22.Bd6

Jack: I couldn't resist plugging the d-file, but 22 b5 may be more effective.

22...e5!

Cyrus: Avoiding multiple losing lines:

a) 22...Nd5?? 23.Qe4 and

b) 22...Ne8? 23.Rfd1! Bf6 (23...Nxd6 24.Bxh7+! Kxh7 25.Rxd4 Qe7 26.cxd6! and 26...Rxd6?? isn't possible due to 27.Qd3+) 24.Be4 Rac8 25.Bf4! and c6 falls.

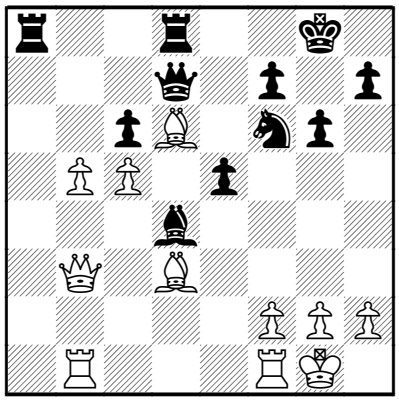
23.Bf5 Qe8

Cyrus: Certainly not 23...Qb7?? 24.b5.

24.Qb3 g6 25.Bd3 Qd7

Cyrus: Threatening ...Ne8.

26.b5



26...Bxc5??

Cyrus: Finally succumbing to White's pressure with a hallucination.

Black saves himself with 26...cxb5! Now, after 27.Bxb5 Qf5! the counterattack on f2 ties White down, at least enough for Black to save himself: 28.Bc6 (**Jack:** I saw this far and assumed that White was close to winning.) 28...Ra6! (**Jack:** I did not spot this excellent resource.) 29.Bb7 (29.Qb7?? allows Black a huge attack after 29...Ra2 30.Kh1 Ng4) 29...Raxd6! 30.cxd6 Rxd6.

The knight and pawn offer full compensation for the exchange. In fact, I even prefer Black.

Jack: It should be a draw, but the pressure is on White. It's easy to imagine Black getting in at f2, while White has no obvious winning attempt.

27.Bxc5

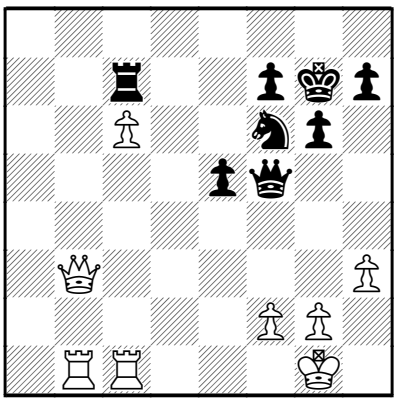
Jack: I cannot recall Cyrus making such a blunder against me. Now I am sure to win if I don't return the favor.

27...Qxd3 28.Be7!

Cyrus: *Bleep!* (Please insert favorite expletive!). [*Editorial note: this request was determined not to be intended for the editor.*]

Uhm...yes, there is that! For some reason I only analyzed a queen trade. If an undertaker had been observing the game at this point, just one look at me would have brought a smile to his face at the possibility of a bit of business coming his way! I should have resigned, but played on only because Jack was in his customary time trouble.

28...Qf5 29.Bxd8 Rxd8 30.bxc6 Rc8 31.Rfc1 Kg7 32.h3 Rc7



33.Qc4

Jack: Clearing the way for Rb1–b7.

33...Ne4 34.Qc2 Kf6 35.Rb7 Rc8 36.c7 Ke7 37.Rd1 Nd6 38.Qc5 1–0

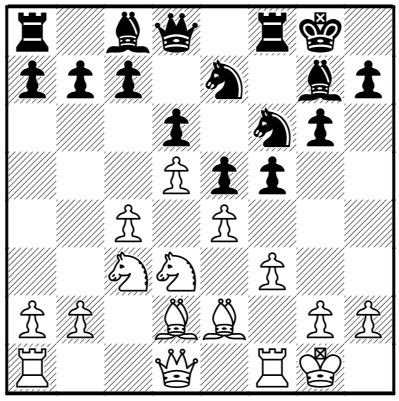
Cyrus: After the game Jack poured alcohol on the wound by informing me that the last time he beat me was 1994!

Summary: The Fort Knox appeals to players who like trench warfare (i.e., Me!). Black forces the position he wants at the high price of the bishop pair and space. *R&F*

Tactics

by Larry Stevens

Larsen,Bent -
Tal,Mikhail
[E99] King's Indian Defense
Candidates Match for 3rd place (5)
Eersel, 18.03.1969
1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.d4 0–0 6.Be2 e5 7.0–0 Nc6 8.d5 Ne7 9.Ne1 Nd7 10.Nd3 f5 11.Bd2 Nf6 12.f3

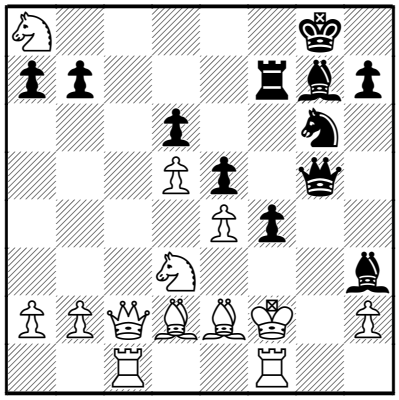


This line is still played today. There are about a dozen games with it at the grandmaster level in the last ten years.
12...f4 13.c5 g5 14.Rc1 Ng6 15.Nb5 Rf7 16.cxd6 cxd6 17.Qc2 g4 18.Nc7 gxf3 19.gxf3 Bh3 20.Nxa8 Nxe4 21.fxe4 Qg5+ 22.Kf2

How much can you sacrifice?

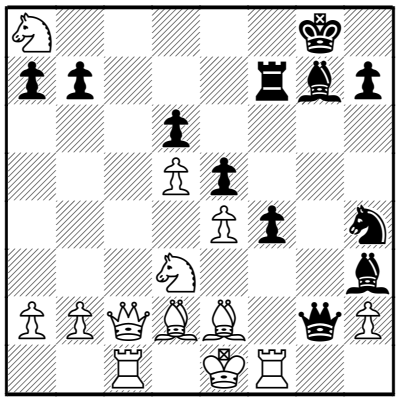
Of course, you can sacrifice everything to get a check-mate, and the game ends. But how much can you sacrifice *and still have the game continue on, as a real contest?*

We attempt to answer that question with a very tactical game at the candidates level. It would be hard to imagine sacrificing more than what we see here, in the first twenty-one moves, and the resulting game lasting longer than another nineteen. But it would be easy to imagine that Mikhail Tal is the one sacrificing the pieces.



The sacrificial tally: Tal has given up a Rook and a Knight for just a pawn. But White's King is in trouble and his Knight at a8 is out of play.
22...Qg2+

Taking the plunge. A draw was available with 22...Qh4+ 23.Kg1 Qg5+. In the four games played after this one, Black took the draw each time. One of them was Tal, seven months later.
23.Ke1 Nh4



24.Be3 ??

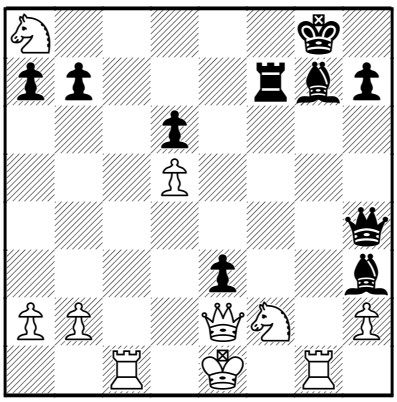
Tal's risk is rewarded quickly.

The computer says there are several wins. Its favorite is 24.Nf2 Nf3+ 25.Kd1, and now 25...Nd4 26.Qc3 f3 27.Bc4 Ne2 28.Bxe2 fxe2+ 29.Kxe2 Bg4+ 30.Ke1+-, or 25...Nxh2 26.Nxh3 Nxf1 27.Qc8+ Rf8 28.Qe6+ Kh8 29.Ng5 f3 30.Bxf1 Qxf1+ 31.Kc2 Qc4+ 32.Bc3+-.

It's difficult for even grandmasters to do what today's computer does effortlessly. Larsen was one of the world's best at the time of this match, and he could not handle all the complications.
24...Qxe4□ 25.Bf2

But White is *not* lost.
25...f3 26.Bxh4 Qxh4+ 27.Nf2 fxe2 28.Qxe2 e4

Better is 28...Bxf1 29.Kxf1=.
29.Rg1 e3

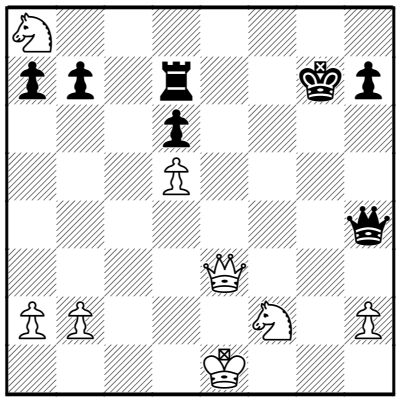


Larsen finds a way to save this position. See if you can, too, before turning the page. It's tactics!

30.Qxe3! Re7 31.Rxg7+!

If 31.Rg3, Rxe3+ 32.Rxe3 Qb4+ -+.

31...Kxg7 32.Rc7 Bd7 33.Rxd7 Rxd7

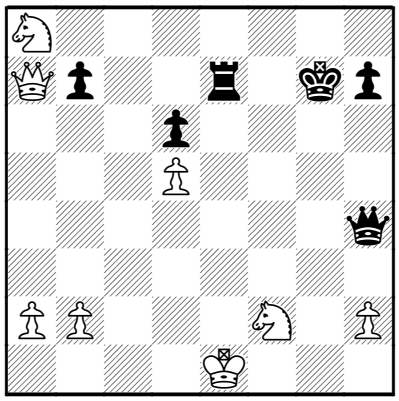


34.Qxa7?

The endgame, even with the Knight stranded on a8, is a draw: 34.Qc3+ Kg8 (34...Qf6 35.Ne4 Qxc3+ 36.Nxc3 Kf6 37.Nb5±) 35.Qg3+ Qxg3 36.hxg3.

Black tries to win the a8 Knight, but White can get his other Knight to e6 to hold the game: 36...Kf8 (36...Re7+ 37.Kd2 Kf7 38.Nh3 Kf6 39.Nf4 Ke5 40.Ke3 Rg7 41.Kf3 Rf7 42.b4 Re7=) 37.Kd2 Ke8 38.Ne4 Kd8 39.Ng5 Kc8 40.Ne6 Kb8 41.Nac7 Rxc7 42.Nxc7 Kxc7, with a drawn King and pawn endgame.

34...Re7+



35.Kd1??

After this move, Larsen goes down quickly. More resistance was offered by 35.Kf1, but the White King is still exposed, and Black makes progress by creating a passed d-pawn: 35...Qc4+ 36.Kg2 Qxd5+ 37.Kf1 Qd2 38.Kg2 Rf7 39.Qb6 Kg8–+.

35...Qc4 36.Qb6 Qf1+

Fastest is 36...Qxd5+ 37.Kc2 Re2+.

37.Kd2 Re2+ 38.Kc3 Qc1+ 39.Kd4 Qe3+ 40.Kc4 Rc2+ 0-1

It's a forced mate.

There were many problems, and Larsen could not solve them all.

So Tal made the right choice at move 22!

But Larsen did win the match, by 5½-2½; this game was his only loss.

The match decided third place in the 1968 candidates elimination matches, after Larsen and Tal lost in the semifinals. *R&F*

One Knight Stands Alone

by Daa Mahowald

Exhausted and despairing, I stand alone on the battlefield. My bandaged wounds trickle onto the muddy field, adding to the red rivers oozing around me; blood from my fallen comrades. The army has been annihilated. Our land plundered. Our queen murdered. Our castles destroyed. The enemy had overrun us, pillaged our churches, killed our bishops. We've lost the battle, the last foot soldier has gasped his last breath.

Yet, it isn't over. For I remain standing. The only knight still alive, still able to defend our King. My lord has sent me on this desperate mission. We've learned where the enemy king is billeted and my mission is to slip in undetected, to trap him, to force his surrender.

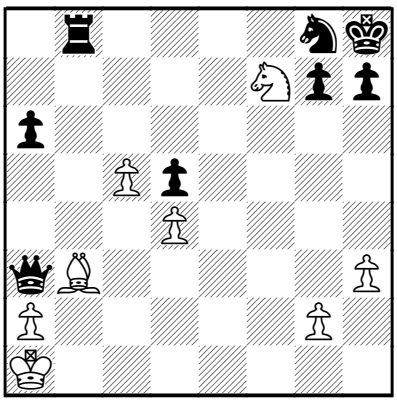
Slyly, I wend my way through perilous territory, make my way to the enemy bunker. I slide through various traps. Relying on cunning and valor, I creep forward, eluding guards and defenders.

Finally, I arrive where the enemy king is hiding. He stands in a corner, a knight by his side, two foot soldiers forming a guard in front of them. Easily, I move forward; take my stance beside the two pawns. The lone knight is useless, unable to stop me as I reach over the king's guards. Smothered Mate. *R&F*

A search of a big database turned up this companion game. - Ed.

Bischoff,Klaus (2561) - Mueller,Karsten (2517)
[D45] Semi-Slav Defense
GER-ch 75th (7)
Hoeckendorf, 05.02.2004

1.c4 c6 2.Nf3 d5 3.e3 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6 5.d4 Nbd7 6.Qc2 Bd6 7.b3 e5 8.Bb2 e4 9.Nd2 a6 10.Be2 Qe7 11.0–0–0 b5 12.f3 exf3 13.Bxf3 bxc4 14.bxc4 Ba3 15.c5 Bxb2+ 16.Kxb2 0–0 17.Rhe1 Qd8 18.e4 dxe4 19.Ndxe4 Nd5 20.Nxd5 cxd5 21.Nd6 Nf6 22.h3 Be6 23.Qc3 Qc7 24.Ka1 Rfb8 25.Rb1 Qc6 26.Rb3 Qa4 27.Bd1 Rxb3 28.Bxb3 Qa3 29.Re3 Rd8 30.Qe1 Rb8 31.Rxe6 fxe6 32.Qxe6+ Kh8 33.Nf7+ Kg8 34.Nh6+ Kh8 35.Qg8+ Nxg8 36.Nf7 mate



Where to Play Chess

ARCADIA: The Arcadia Chess Club meets at 6:30 p.m. Mondays in the Senior Citizens building, 405 S. Santa Anita Ave. Continuous rated tournaments, casual play. Dues: $10/year. Call Mel Clark at (626) 447-9355.
Website:
www.ArcadiaChessClub.com.

BAKERSFIELD: The Bakersfield Chess Club meets 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Thursdays in the Golden State Mall, 3201 F. St. Rated tournaments, rated games, casual play, blitz, lessons. Dues: $35/year for adults, $25/year for youth. Call Kenneth J. Poole at (661) 304-7468.
Website:
www.bakersfieldchessclub.com.

BEVERLY HILLS: The Beverly Hills Chess Club meets daily (hours vary) in Suite 210 of 8950 Olympic Blvd. Wide variety of rated and non-rated tournaments, adult and scholastic lectures, blitz, simuls, many other events planned. Inquire about membership. First lecture free.
Call Isabelle Minoofar at (888) 91-CHESS (888-912-4377) or email to bhchessclub@hotmail.com.
Website: www.bhchessclub.com.

BURBANK: A group meets Wednesdays from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Joslyn Center, 1301 W. Olive St. (at Griffith Park Drive). Casual play, ages 55 and up only. No dues.
Call (818) 238-5353.

BURBANK: A group meets Fridays from 5:15 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. in McCambridge Park, 1515 N. Glenoaks Blvd. Casual play, tournaments possible. Call Emil Klimach at (818) 845-1104.

CARLSBAD: A group meets 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Mondays in the Carlsbad Senior Center, 799 Pine Ave. Casual play. Most attendees are over age 50, but younger adults are welcome. No dues. Call (760) 602-4650.

COLTON: A group meets at 9:00 p.m. Friday nights in a private room at Denny's restaurant, 160 W. Valley Blvd. Casual play, blitz. Call Denny's at (909) 824-2132.

COSTA MESA: The Chess Center, 2482 Newport Blvd, hosts separate tournaments for children and adults on Thursday evenings, plus instruction for children. Saturday tournaments may resume soon.
Call Al Massip at (949) 646-6696 or (949) 422-1186.
Website: www.chess-center.com.

ESCONDIDO: The Escondido Chess Club meets at 7 p.m. Thursdays at 2427 S. Centre City Parkway. Continuous rated adult and children's tournaments. Dues: $20/year. Call the club at (760) 317-1744 or Alex Goddard at (760) 500-3417 or write to admin@escochess.com.
Website: www.escondidochess.com.

ESCONDIDO: A group meets noon to 4 p.m. weekdays in the Joslyn Senior Center, 210 Park Ave. Casual play, ages 50 and up. No dues.
Call (760) 839-4688.

FRESNO: The Fresno Chess Club meets 6:00 p.m. to midnight Mondays and Fridays in Carl's Jr. restaurant, 6767 N. First St. (at Herndon). Rated tournaments, non-rated quick chess quads, casual play, lectures, chess library, newsletter, new website. More than 200 members!
Dues: $20/year, $10/year for students, women, and those who live outside Fresno County.
Contact Bob Rasmussen at (559) 708-8100.
Website: www.fresnochessclub.org.

GARDEN GROVE: Chess Palace is open 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays, and 9:00 am to 5:00 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, at 12872 Valley View, Suite 5. Closed Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays.
Wide variety of rated tournaments, Action chess, youth tournaments, scholastic chess camps, blitz, occasional lectures and simuls, large selection of chess books, computers, and equipment for sale, lending library of chess videos, excellent website.
Dues: $3/day or $169/year.
Call the club at (714) 899-3421 or Alfred Ong at (310) 594-3475.
Website: www.chesspalace.com.

GLENDALE: The chess park at 227 N. Brand Blvd. is open day and night for casual play. Speed tournaments, occasional weekend tournaments.

HEMET: The Hemet Chess Club meets 2:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Sundays in Steve's Burgers West, 240 S. Sanderson Ave. Rated tournaments, casual play. Free. Call Marcos Montes at (951) 252-5926 or write to hemetchessclub2009@gmail.com.
Website:
www.hemetchessclub.blogspot.com.

HUNTINGTON BEACH: The Hanley Chess Academy Chess Club meets 7:00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. Fridays at 7390 Center Ave. Weekly rated tournaments at 7:30 p.m., Action chess, blitz tournaments, casual play. No dues. Bring your own equipment. Contact Joe Hanley at (714) 925-3195 or refchess@gmail.com.
Website: www.hanleychessacademy.org.

IRVINE: A group meets at lunch time (11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.) Fridays at Knowlwood Restaurant, 14952 Sand Canyon Ave. Speed chess, analysis. Bring equipment. Contact David Zechiel at david@zechiel.com.

IRVINE: A group meets 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Fridays at the Rancho Senior Center, 3 Ethel Coplen Way. Casual play, mostly seniors. Free. Call (949) 724-6800.

JOSHUA TREE: The Joshua Tree Chess Club meets 6:00 p.m. to 10 p.m. Fridays at Faith Lutheran Church, 6336 Hallee Rd. in Joshua Tree.
Casual play, occasional tournaments, some instruction, junior chess program.
Contact Mark Muller at (760) 367-2311 or at muller29@roadrunner.com

LA PALMA: The La Palma Chess Club meets 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Fridays in Central Park, 7821 Walker St.
Continuous rated tournaments, blitz, casual play, free coffee, boards and sets provided. Entry fees: $45 for three months of rated tournament play or $25 per tournament, $5 less to La Palma residents.
Contact Leigh Hunt at (714) 635-0448 or wlhunt@earthlink.net
or Barry Lazarus at (714) 350-9465 or barryjlazarus@hotmail.com.
Website: www.lapalmachess.com.

LAGUNA BEACH: People gather to play chess at the permanent chess table on the boardwalk.

LAGUNA HILLS: A group meets 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Wednesdays in the Game Master, Suite 1530 of the Laguna Hills Mall. Casual play. Free. Call (949) 457-0290.
Website: www.gamecenteronline.com.

LAGUNA WOODS: The Leisure World Chess Club meets 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Mondays and 1:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Thursdays in the Community Center building in Leisure World. Guests are welcome.
Casual play, ladder competition, occasional simul.
Call John Griffin at (949) 462-0722 or Stan Kahan at (949) 830-6699.

LANCASTER: Checkmate Chess Club meets 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Thursdays in the public library, 601 W. Lancaster Blvd.
Casual play, instruction. All ages and all levels welcome.
Chess sets provided.
Call the library at (661) 948-5029 or email to daa@mahowald.org.

LAWNDALE: The Alondra Park Chess Club meets 6:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Tuesdays at 3850 Manhattan Beach Blvd. Rated six-round tournaments at 7:00 p.m., speed chess or extra rated games on seventh Tuesday, no smoking.
Dues: $5/year plus $5/tournament, $2.50/year for juniors.
Call Richard Meller at (310) 227-2873.
Website:
www.alondraparkchessclub.com

LONG BEACH: The chess room in Bixby Park, 130 Cherry Ave., is open for casual play from noon to 5:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and noon to 4:00 p.m. Saturdays.
Free.
LONG BEACH: Players gather for casual play at Golden Burger, 2301 E. 4th St., after the chess room in Bixby Park closes.
Call the restaurant at (562) 434-2625.

LOS ANGELES: A group meets at 5:30 p.m. Mondays in the Baldwin Hills branch of the public library, 2906 S. La Brea Ave. Casual play, instruction for beginners. All ages welcome, especially children and teenagers. Call the library at (323) 733-1196.

LOS ANGELES: A group meets from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Saturdays in the Cahuenga branch of the public library, 4591 Santa Monica Blvd. Casual play. Free. Call the library at (323) 664-6418.

LOS ANGELES: The Los Angeles Chess Club (LACC) meets on the second floor of 11514 Santa Monica Blvd., above Javan restaurant. Variety of tournaments and instruction for children and adults on Saturdays, Sundays and Tuesday evenings.
Dues: adults $120/year, juniors/seniors $100/year or $5/visit for nonmembers, first visit free.
Call Mick Bighamian at (310) 795-5710 or send a message to Mick@LaChessClub.com.
Website: www.lachessclub.com.

LOS ANGELES: Metropolitan Chess holds invitational GM/IM norm and invitational Master series events at California Market Center, 110 E. Ninth St. Variety of tournaments planned with occasional side events (quick chess, blitz, scholastic events, instruction, lectures, and simultaneous exhibitions).
Contact: Michael Belcher at info@metrochessla.com
or Ankit Gupta at ankit.gupta@metrochessla.com
Website: www.metrochessla.com.

LOS ANGELES: The Santa Monica Bay Chess Club meets 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Mondays in St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, 11555 National Blvd. Variety of rated tournaments, casual play, simuls, over 50 years in business. Dues: $60/year, free to

women and juniors. Call Pete Savino at (310) 827-2789. Website: SantaMonicaBayChessClub.sports.officelive.com

LOS ANGELES: Tang's Donuts, 4341 W. Sunset Blvd., welcomes chessplayers for casual play and speed chess, especially late at night.

MORRO BAY: A group meets 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays at the big chess board on Embarcadero at Morro Bay Blvd. Chess pieces may be checked out weekdays from the Parks and Recreation Dept. Call Eugene Arcamonte at (805) 528-4079 or Fred Brown at (805) 772-7074.

MURRIETA: The Murrieta Central Park Chess Club meets 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Tuesdays at 38884 Cherry Point Lane. Rated and non-rated tournaments, instruction for children and adults, chess library, casual play on most Wednesday evenings. All ages welcome. Dues: $75/year, first two visits free. Contact Mihai Harabor at (951) 461-7578.
Website: www.murrietachessclub.com.

NATIONAL CITY: The National City Chess Club meets anytime, daily at 1341 E. 8th St. Casual play, chess videos available, informal atmosphere. Dues: none, but small donation welcome. Call Jorge Balares at (619) 477-3118 or (619) 788-8395.

NEWBURY PARK: A new club, the Conejo Valley Chess Club, has started in Scrapbook Blessings at 300 Giant Oak Ave, Suite E. Instruction for all ages, scholastic and adult events planned.
Website: conejovalleychessclub.com.

NEWHALL: The California Youth Chess League conducts a scholastic chess club 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Mondays, except holidays, in Vincenzo's Pizza, 24504 ½ Lyons Ave. Casual play, blitz, bughouse, free instruction for total beginners. Parents or guardians must stay with kids. Free. Call Jay Stallings at (661) 288-1705 or write to coachjay@cycl.org.

ORANGE: The Orange Senior Club meets from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Tuesdays in the Orange Senior Citizens Community Center, 170 S. Olive St. in Orange.
Casual play, all ages welcome.
Call (714) 538-9633.

PALM DESERT: A group meets 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sundays in the public library, 73-300 Fred Waring Drive.
Call the library at (760) 346-6552.

PANORAMA CITY: Master's Piece Chess Club meets at 2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays in Suite #105, 9612 Van Nuys Blvd.
Casual play, rated tournaments. Free.
Call Norman Abadilla at (818) 571-6295.

PASADENA: The Pasadena Chess Club meets from 6:45 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Fridays in the Boys and Girls Club, 3230 E. Del Mar Blvd.
Continuous tournaments at 7 p.m. Fridays. Dues: $25/year, $15 for juniors.
Call Neil Hultgren at (818) 243-3809.
Website:
www.tim-thompson.com/pasadena.html.

REDLANDS: The Joslyn Center Chess Club meets 11:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Wednesdays in the Joslyn Senior Center, 21 Grant St.
Casual play, non-rated tournaments. No dues.
Call the Senior Center at (909) 798-7550.

RIDGECREST: The Ridgecrest Chess Club meets 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Saturdays in the Kern County Library (west entrance), 131 E. Las Flores Ave.
Casual play, occasional scholastic and club tournaments. No dues.
Contact Dwight Morgan at (760) 377-0034 or at dmorgan178@yahoo.com.

RIVERSIDE: A group meets for casual play and blitz at 6:00 p.m. Thursday evenings in Back to the Grind Café, 3575 University Ave. Free.
Bring equipment.
Call the café at (951) 784-0800.
Website: www.back2thegrind.com.

SAN DIEGO: The San Diego Chess Club opens for casual play at 2:00 p.m. weekdays, 10:00 a.m. Saturdays and noon Sundays in Balboa Park at 2225 6th Ave. (between Ivy and Juniper).
Tournaments Wednesday evenings and Saturdays, Jedi Knights children's club with Bruce Baker at 7:00 p.m. Fridays, lessons available.
Dues: $60/year, discounts for seniors, juniors and active military.
Call the club at (619) 239-7166 or contact Chuck Ensey at chucnglo@aol.com.
Website:
http://http://sdchessclub.multiply.com

SAN DIMAS: Home Brew Coffee, 661 W. Arrow Highway, welcomes chessplayers. Bring your chess set.
Call (909) 394-1964.

SAN LUIS OBISPO: The San Luis Obispo Chess Club meets 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Thursdays in Carl's Jr., 195 N. Santa Rosa St. Casual play, lectures, occasional tournaments.
Dues: $5/year.
Contact Barbara McCaleb at (805) 544-0717 or bmccaleb@calpoly.edu.

SANTA MONICA: Chess tables are available from sunup to sundown daily at the Santa Monica International Chess Park, on the promenade just south of the Santa Monica pier. Casual chess, blitz, chess bulletin board, large demonstration board, occasional summer tournaments. No dues.

SIMI VALLEY: The YMCA Chess Club of Simi Valley meets 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Mondays at the YMCA, 3200 Cochran St.
Casual play, instruction, rated and non-rated tournaments.
Dues: $15 for 7 weeks, free to YMCA members.
Contact John Williams at (805) 529-1816 or leventhfish@hotmail.com.

VENTURA: The Ventura County Chess Club meets on the first Tuesday, the second Monday, and the later Tuesdays each month in the Church of the Foothills, 6279 Foothill Rd. Rated tournaments, casual play.

Dues: $35.00/year, $17.50/year for juniors and military.
Call Jimmy Sweet at (805) 659-0356.
Website: www.vcchess.com.

VICTORVILLE: The Victor Valley Chess Club meets noon to 4:00 p.m. Saturdays in the Victor Villa Clubhouse, 13393 Mariposa Rd. Casual play, non-rated quad tournaments most months, instruction.
No dues.
Write to DonCotten@aol.com.

WEST COVINA: The West Covina Chess Club meets 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Senior Center, 2501 E. Cortez St. All ages welcome.
Casual play, rated and non-rated tournaments on Tuesdays.
Bring chess equipment. No speed chess!
Call Richard Williams at (626) 966-6311.

WEST HILLS: The West Valley Chess Club meets 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Thursdays in the West Valley Jewish Community Center, 22622 Vanowen St.
Open to all, continuous rated tournaments, blitz, casual play.
One of the largest local clubs.
Contact Jerry Yee at (818) 915-5572 or at jyee6@socal.rr.com.

Two Combinations...

from page 35.
Solutions:

1. 32.Nc5! Qxf3 33.Rxg7+! 1-0, for if 33...Kxg7, then 34.Re7+ Kg8 35.Nxf6 mate. (Clawitter - Bercys, 2010 American Open G/60)

2. 36...Ne2+! 0-1, because Black wins after:
37.Rxe2 Rxd1
37.Kb4 Rxd1 38.Rxd1 Bxe4
37.Kb3 Rxd1 38.Rxd1 Bxe4 39.Re1 Nd4+
(Yankovsky - Sevillano 2010, American Open)

Upcoming Events in Southern California

February 2011

[Note: In the USATW, ***everyone gets the special hotel rate up to February 12th.*** Scholastic teams, too. The flyer is wrong.]

Feb. 19-21
28th Annual U.S. Amateur Team Championship West, Southern California
6-SS, 40/2, SD.1. Warner Center Marriott, 21850 Oxnard St., Woodland Hills, CA 91367.
Four-player teams plus optional alternate, average rating of four highest must be U/2200, diff. between bds. 3 & 4 may not exceed 1000. Jan. list used.
EF: $132 per team if received by 2/18, $36 individual (online only), $148 at site, age 18 or HS/below $96 by 2/18, $110 site.
Trophies and 4 clocks to top 3 teams, U2100, U2000, U1800, U1600, U1400/unr.
Trophies (1 large, 4 small) to top college, industrial, junior (U18), Senior (over 50), U1200.
Clocks to best score each board, alternate, and any 6-0.
Gift certificate prizes for best team name (1st/2nd).
Reg.: 9-10 am 2/19.
Rds.: 11-6, 11-6, 10-4:30.
Online entry: www.chesspalace.com/amateurteam.htm.
HR: $119, 800-228-9290, ask for chess. NOTE: Reserve by ***Feb. 12*** (not Jan. 19) or rates may increase. Parking $6.
Ent: SCCF, PO Box 205, Monterey Park, CA 91754.
Info, help in forming teams: Randy Hough 626-282-7412 or randallhough@yahoo.com.
NS, NC, W, F. Chess Magnet School JGP.
Playoff - online March 26th.

Feb. 21
14th Annual Southern California Scholastic Amateur Team
4-SS, G/45.
Warner Center Marriott,
21850 Oxnard St.,
Woodland Hills, CA 91367.
Four-player teams plus optional alternate, Grade 12/below, average rating of four highest must be U1200. (Jan. rating list used, Feb. used for previously unrated players.)
EF: $75 per team received by 2/18, $85 at site.
Trophies (team & individual) to top 3 teams, top U1000, U800, U400/unr.
Reg.: 9-10 am.
Rds.: 10:340-1-2:45-4:30.
Online entry: www.chesspalace.com/amateurteam.htm.
HR: $119, 800-228-9290, ask for chess.
Reserve by ***Feb. 12*** (not Jan. 19) or rates may increase. Parking $6.
Ent: SCCF,
PO Box 205,
Monterey Park, CA 91754.
Info, help in forming teams:
Randy Hough 626-282-7412 or randallhough@yahoo.com.
NS, NC, W, F.

March 2011

Mar 5 - 6, 2011
Kern County Open Championship III
Bakersfield, CA
GPP: 10 California Southern
5-SS, G/90 (Rounds 1-3), 40/2, SD/1 (Rounds 4-5).
Golden West Mall, 3201 "F" St., Bakersfield, CA 93301.
$1,100 prize fund b/o 40, 60% GUARANTEED: $300 (GTD!!)-200-100; top U2000 & U1600/Unr $150-$100 each.
EF: $45 by 3/3, $55 after; $6 discount for BCC, FCC, and SCCF members.
ALL USCF 2400+ FREE ENTRY ($45 from prize)
All: ONE 1/2-pt bye requested before round 2 begins.
Reg.: 8:45-9:30 a.m. Saturday.
Rds.: Saturday: 10am-1:30pm-5pm, Sunday: 9am-3:30pm.
Info: Kenneth J. Poole 661-304-7468, kpchessman@yahoo.com, or visit www.bakersfieldchessclub.com or Facebook.
Ent: Bakersfield Chess Club, P.O. Box 176, 3501 Mall View Rd., Suite 115, Bakersfield, CA 93306.
State Championship Qualifier.
Chess Magnet School JGP.
The information shown above is based on information in USCF records prior to publication of the TLA in Chess Life (or Chess Life for Kids.) As such, the information shown above is subject to change.
Please check the TLA in Chess Life (or Chess Life for Kids) for any corrections, updates or other changes.
In special cases, changes that are made after the publication of Chess Life may be found on the Tournament Listings by State page.
Sponsoring Affiliate: A6006769, BAKERSFIELD CHESS CLUB.

Mar. 11-13 or 12-13
18th annual Western Class Championships
GPP: 100 Enhanced California Southern.
5SS, 40/2, SD/1 (2-day option, rds. 1-2 G/75).
Renaissance Agoura Hills Hotel, 30100 Agoura Rd., Agoura Hills, CA 91301 (US-101 to Reyes Adobe Road exit).
Adjacent to the Santa Monica Mountains, 26 miles west of Burbank, 12 miles from Malibu, 28 miles from Ventura.
Free parking.
$$20,000 based on 230 paid entries (re-entries, Class E count as half entries), minimum $16,000 (80% each prize) guaranteed.
In 7 sections.
Master (over 2199): $2000-1000-500-300, clear or tiebreak winner $100 bonus, top U2300 $800-400. FIDE.
Expert (2000-2199): $1500-800-400-200.
Class A (1800-1999): $1500-800-400-200.
Class B (1600-1799): $1500-800-400-200.
Class C (1400-1599): $1400-700-400-200.
Class D (1200-1399): $1200-600-300-200.
Class E (1000-1199): $600-300-200-100, trophies to top 7.
Rated players may play up one section.
Unrated must play in A or below with maximum prize A $600, B $500, C $400, D $200, E $100; balance goes to next player(s) in line.
Top 6 sections EF: 3-day $113 mailed by 3/3, 2-day $112 mailed by 3/3, all $115 online at chesstour.com by 3/8, $120 phoned to 406-896-2038 by 3/8 (entry only, no questions), $130 at site.
EF for all in Class E Section, and unrated in Class D: all $60 less.
All: Special 1 yr USCF dues with magazine if paid with entry: Online at chesstour.com. Adult $30, Young Adult $20, Scholastic $15. Mailed, phoned or paid at site, Adult $40, Young Adult $30, Scholastic $20.
Re-entry (except Master) $60.
SCCF memb. ($18, jr $10) required for rated Southern CA residents.
3-day schedule: Reg. Fri to 6 pm, rds Fri 7, Sat 11 & 6, Sun 10 & 4:15.
2-day schedule: Reg. Sat to 10 am, rds Sat 11, 2:30 & 6, Sun 10 & 4:15.
Byes: OK all rds, limit 2; Master must commit before rd 2, others before rd 3.
HR: $87-87, 818-707-1220, reserve by 3/2 or rate may increase.
Car rental: Avis, 800-331-1600, use AWD #D657633.
Questions: chesstour.com, 845-496-9658.
Ent: Continental Chess, PO Box 249, Salisbury Mills, NY 12577.
$15 service charge for withdrawals.
Advance entries posted at chesstour.com. Chess Magnet School JGP.

Mar 18 - 21, 2011
Southern California Super States 2011
A State Championship Event
Irvine, CA
Hyatt Regency, 17900 Jamboree Rd, Irvine.
Hotel rate $99. Discount parking.
Main Event: Trophies to top 10 players, top 5 teams, & top 5 clubs in 8 sections. Medals to others.
K-1, 2-3 u600, 4-6 u800, 6-12 u1000
Reg.: Sun 8-8:30am, Games: Sun 9, 10:45, 12:30, 2, 3:30.
Champ sections: Reg Sat 8-8:30am, Games Sat & Sun. 9, 12:15, 3:20 (except 1-3 600+ 9, 11:45, 2:30).
USCF Mem for all sections except 2-3u600. SCCF Mem reqd for 9-12 1000+.
Blitz (Fri 6:30-8:30p) &
Bughouse (Sat 6:30-8:30p) in 3 sections (K-3 4-6 7-12).
EF by 3/14: 1-day $37, 2-day sects $47, Blitz/Bughouse: 1 free/hotel-night-stay or $12 if not staying@hotel. Register early to save.
TD/Org: RHough/SAzhar.
More info at: SoCalScholastic.com.
NS, NC, W.
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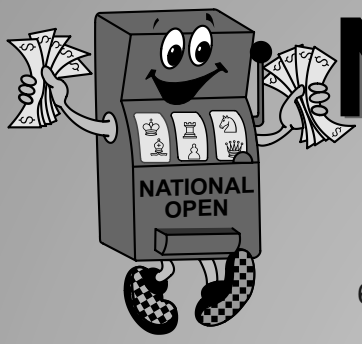
Sponsoring Affiliate: A6027746, BAY AREA CHESS.

SCCF
PO BOX 205
MONTEREY PARK CA 91754



NATIONAL OPEN

JUNE 10TH – 12TH OR 11TH – 12TH *(3–day or 2–day schedule)*

$100,000 PRIZE FUND

Based on 850 players
$80,000 Guaranteed

6 Round Swiss in 8 Sections ★ USCF & FIDE Rated ★ 200 Grand Prix Points

U. S. GAME / 10 CHAMPIONSHIP

JUNE 9TH – 2:00 P.M.

USCF
National Championships

The Chess Vacation of the Year!

SOUTH POINT
Hotel Casino Spa

Las Vegas

INTERNATIONAL CHESS FESTIVAL

June 9th – 12th, 2011

www.VegasChessFestival.com

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GRANDMASTER CHESS CAMP