Rank & File

January-February 2010 Volume XXXIV, No. 1 $3.00

Julian Landaw

GM Melikset Khachiyan

IM Andranik Matikozyan

Three tie in *American Open*

SCCF

27th Annual

U.S. Amateur Team West

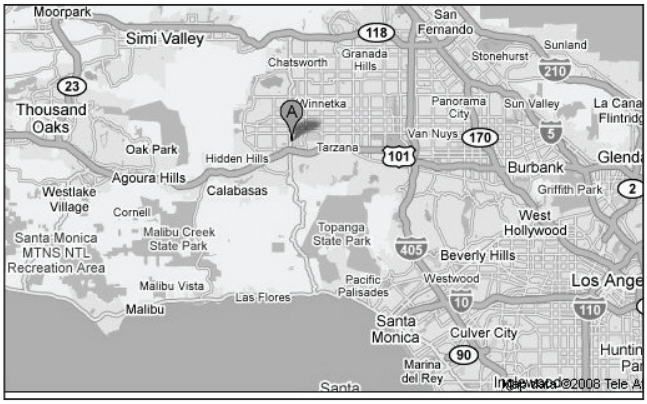
February 13-15, 2010

Warner Center Marriott
21850 Oxnard Steet, Woodland Hills, CA 91367

A *Fun* Tournament An *Affordable* Tournament A Tournament for *Everyone!*

Four-player teams plus optional alternate, average rating of four highest must be U/2200.

(Diference betrween boards 3 and 4 may noi exceed 1000 points. December rating list used.)



Entry fee: : $132 per team if received by 2/12, $148 at site,
Under age 18 $96/$110

Trophies and 4 clocks to top 3 teams, U2100, U2000, U1800, U1600, U1400/unr.

Trophies to top college, industrial (if at least 3 teams), Junior (under 18or HS/below), Senior (over 50), U1200.

Clocks to best score each board and alternate. **Gift certificate prizes** for best team names (1st & 2nd).

Registration 9-10 a.m. 2/13 **Rounds** 11-6, 11-6, 10-4:30
Hotel rate: $119. 800-228-9290, ask for Western Chess.
Reserve by Jan. 23 or rates may go up. Parking $6.

On-line entry, help in forming teams: *www.westernchess.com*

Entries: SCCF, c/o John Hillery, 835 N. Wilton Place #1A, Los Angeles CA 90038

Also ...

February 15

13th Annual Southern California Scholastic Amateur Team. 4-SS, SD/45. Warner Center Marriott, 21850 Oxnard Street, Woodland Hills, CA 91367. Four-player teams plus optional alternate, Grade 12/below, average rating of four highest must be U1200. (Dec. 2009 rating list used, Feb. 2010 used for previously unrated players.) EF: $75 per team received by 2/12, $85 at site. Trophies (team & individual) to top 3 teams, top U1000, U800, U400/unr. Reg.: 9:00-10 a.m. Rds.: 10:30-1-2:45-4:30. Info, help in forming teams: scholteam@westernchess.com. Web site, advance entry list: www.westernchess.com. HR: $119, 800-228-9290, ask for Western Chess. Reserve by Jan. 20 or rates may go up. Parking $6. Ent: SCCF, c/o John Hillery, 835 N. Wilton Place #1A, Los Angeles, CA 90038. NS, NC, W.

February 15

AT Hexes. 3-SS, G/90. Warner Center Marriott, 21850 Oxnard Street, Woodland Hills, CA 91367. Six-player sections by rating. EF: $20 if rec. by 2-12, $25 door. $$40-20-10 each section. Reg.: 9:30-10:15 a.m. Rds.: 10:30-1:30-4:30. Ent: SCCF, c/o John Hillery, 835 N. Wilton Place #1A, Los Angeles, CA 90038, on line at www.westernchess.com.

Around the Nation

Scholastic K-12 Championships

Southern California had one big winner in the National Scholastic K-12 Championships, which drew over 1200 students to Dallas December 11-13. Kindergartner Joaquin Perkins of West Covina swept his section with a 7-0 score. Despite his young age, Joaquin has already been playing tournament chess for 2 1/2 years. His dad Kele is a local player and organizer.

Third grader Winston Zeng and second grader Annie Wang tied for second in their respective sections, losing last round games after starting out 6-0. Both also competed in the recent World Youth Championships in Turkey.

Others who took top prizes: Jared Tan was second in 12th grade, Cheston Gunawan tied for 5th/10th in 10th, and Kyron Griffith for 5th/11th in 9th. – *Randy Hough*

Top SoCal Players

A new service available at the USCF web page is generating lists of the top players by state. Below are the top 30 in Southern California as of December.

1. GM Varuzhan Akobian	2690
2. GM Valentin L Yotov	2620
3. GM Melikset Khachiyan	2613
4. IM Enrico Sevillan	2552
5. IM Andranik Matikozyan	2547
6. IM Cyrus F Lakdawala	2535
7. IM Kongliang Deng	2489
8. IM Larry Allen Remlinger	2476
9. FM Alexandre Kretchetov	2444
10. IM Kim Steven Commons	2439
11. FM Joel Banawa	2430
12. IM Jack Peters	2411
13. IM Timothy W Taylor	2380
14. Garush Manukyan	2371
15. FM William B Longren	2360
16. FM Matthew Beelby	2358
17. Dan Harrington	2355
18. William Batchelder	2354
19. Daniel S Lee	2341
20. FM Elliott Liu	2340
21. FM James J Maki	2333
22. IM Anthony F Saidy	2331
23. WFM Tatev Abrahamyan	2325
24. FM Karl Yee	2321
25. FM Charles Van Buskirk	2321
26. FM Michael Casella	2321
27. WIM Sarah Xiaosha Lu	2317
28. Charles R Braun	2310
29. FM Ryan W Porter	2309
30. Bruce Baker	2302

Caution is needed when using this list. Bulgarian GM Yotov is included because Southern California is the only place in the U.S. where he's played. Also, there are several life members (e.g. Bill Batchelder, Kim Commons, and poker champ Dan Harrington) who haven't played in a rated tournament since dinosaurs roamed the earth.

27th Annual Western States Open

Southern California champion Melikset Khachiyan tied for first in the Western States Open, held at the Sands Regency in Reno October

Contents

Around the Nation 3
45th Annual American Open 5
Tactics
by Larry Stevens 10
Here & There
Club news, local tournaments, scholastic events and more 13
Games from Recent Events 17
Club Directory 18
State Championship Qualifiers 21
Upcoming Events 22
Chess Quiz 24

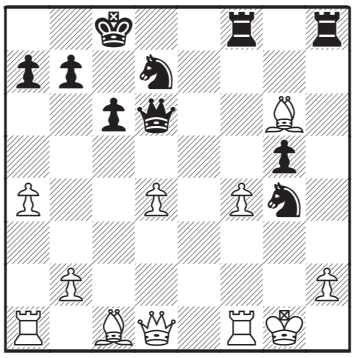
23-25. His 5-1 score was equaled by fellow GM Ildar Ibragimov in the 56-player Open section. Khachiyan officially claimed first prize by defeating Ibragimov in two blitz playoff games.

Other high-scoring Southern California players included Alexandre Kretchetov and IM Enrico Sevillano (tied for third place at 4 ½.-1½), Vadim Kudryavtsev 3½), Carlos Garcia (4-2) and John Williams and Frank Alonso (3½) in the Expert section, Ryan Polsky (4½ in Class A), John Anderson (3½ in Class B), and Robert Vidor (3½ in Class D).

Jerome Weikel and his staff directed. A total of 257 played, off a little from past years but still impressive.

GM Loek Van Wely – GM Melikset Khachiyan
Western States Open, Reno 2009
D18 SLAV DEFENSE

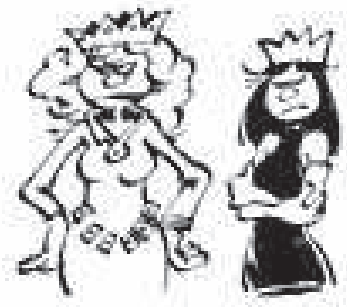
1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. Nf3 Nf6 4. Nc3 dxc4 5. a4 Bf5 6. e3 e6 7. Bxc4 Bb4 8. 0–0 Nbd7 9. Nh4 Bg4 10. f3 Bh5 11. g4 g5 12. Nf5 Bg6 13. e4 Qa5 14. Na2 exf5 15. exf5 0–0–0 16. fxg6 hxg6 17. Nxb4 Qxb4 18. Bxf7 Rdf8 19. Bxg6 Qd6 20. f4 Nxg4



21. Qxg4 Qxg6 22. Ra3 Qd6 23. Rd3 Rfg8 24. Kh1 Rh4 25. Qg3 Rgh8 26. Rf2 g4 27. Re3 Qd5+ 28. Kg1 Rh3 29. Qg2 Qxd4 30. Qe4 Qxe4 31. Rxe4 g3 32. Rg2 gxh2+ 33. Kh1 Nc5 34. Re5 Nb3 35. Re1 Nxc1 36. Rxc1 Rf3 37. Rg4 Rf8 38. Rc4 Rf2 39. b4 Rd8 40. Rg2 Rdd2 41. Rxf2 Rxf2 42. b5 Kc7 43. a5 Rb2 44. a6 Rxb5 45. axb7 Rb2 46. f5 Rf2 47. Rxc6+ Kxb7 48. Rf6 a5 49. Rf7+ Kb6 50. Rf6+ Kb5 51. Rf8 Ka4 52. f6 Ka3 53. Ra8 a4 54. Ra6 Kb4 55. Re6 Kc4 56. Re4+ Kb3 57. Re3+ Kb2 58. Re6 a3 59. Rb6+ Kc3 60. Rc6+ Kb3 61. Rb6+ Kc4 62. Ra6 Kb4 63. Rb6+ Ka5 64. Rb3 a2 65. Ra3+ Kb4 66. Ra8 Rf1+ 0–1

GM Jaan Ehlvest – Andrew Karklins
Western States Open, Reno 2009
E20 BOGO-INDIAN DEFENSE

1. Nf3 Nf6 2. d4 e6 3. c4 Bb4+ 4. Nc3 c5 5. g3 d6 6. Bg2 Nc6 7. 0–0 0–0 8. Qd3!? cxd4 9. Nxd4 Ne5 10. Qc2 Nxc4 11. Qb3 Bxc3 12. Qxc3 Nb6 13. b3 Nbd5 14. Qd2 Qb6 15. Ba3 Rd8 16. Nc2 Nc7 17. Ne3 Nce8 18. Rac1 Bd7 19. Nc4 Qa6 20. Qa5 Bb5 21. Qxa6 Bxa6 22. Rc2 Rac8 23. Rfc1 b6 24. h3 Rc7 25. f4 Rdc8 26. Kf2?? d5 27. Ne3 d4 0–1



Photos. Cover, pp. 8, 9: John Hillery. P. 16: San Diego Chess Club.

Advertising Rates: Full page $80, half page $45, 1/4 page $25, 1/8 page $15, back cover (3/4 page) $80. (All rates are for camera-ready copy.) Flyer insert $50 (advertiser must supply flyers). 50% discount for tournaments requiring SCCF membership. Display ads should be sent to the Editor, flyers to the Publisher (addresses at right). Payment should be sent with order to the Editor. SCCF reserves the right to reject any advertising.

SCCF Online
The SCCF Web page is located at:
WWW.SCCHESS.COM

Southern California Chess Federation

President Elliot Landaw
Vice President Ron Rezendes
Secretary Chuck Ensey
Treasurer John Hillery
Executive Board
Randy Hough
Mike Nagaran
Steve Morford
Jim Bullock
Mick Bighamian
Jerry Yee
Anthony Ong
Takashi Iwamoto

Rank & File
Editor John Hillery
835 N. Wilton Pl. #1
Los Angeles CA 90038
rfeditor@westernchess.com

Publisher David Argall
Contributing Editors
Jack Peters
Larry Stevens
Al Pena
Contributors
Chuck Ensey
Randy Hough
Mick Bighamian
Anthony Ong
Chris Roberts
Steve Morford
Ron Morris

Subscriptions/Address Changes
Randy Hough, **Membership Secretary**
P.O. Box 205
Monterey Park CA 91754
(626) 282-7412
randallhough@yahoo.com

Rank & File — ISSN 8750-9164 USPS 738-230, published bimonthly by the Southern California Chess Federation, 1300 Ballista, La Puente CA 91744. Periodical postage paid at Industry, CA. POSTMASTER: Send changes of address to SCCF, PO Box 205, Monterey Park CA 91754. Subscriptions: $18 adult, $10 junior.

Copyright © SCCF 2009. One-time only publication rights have been obtained from signed contributors. All other rights are hereby assigned to the authors. The opinions expressed are strictly those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the SCCF, its officers or members.

45th Annual American Open

It's Khachiyan Again!

GM Melikset Khachiyan won his fifth American Open championship at the 45th annual tournament, held at the LAX Renaissance Montura hotel over Thanksgiving. He beat out IM Andranik Matikozyan and NM Julian Landaw on tiebreaks, taking his third major title in three months (the Southern California and Western States Opens were the others).

The three scored 6-2, all drawing their games with each other and with former champion, IM Vladimir Mezentsev (who tied FM Takashi Iwamoto and Tatev Abrahamyan for Under 2450 honors). Khachiyan downed the second seed, IM Enrico Sevillano. Matikozyan also beat Sevillano and yielded another draw to the lower-rated Master Vadim Kudryavtsev. Landaw, who took a last round bye to return to his studies at UC Berkeley, beat FMs Iwamoto and Gregg Small before drawing with his co-winners.

Eleven-year-old Kayden Troff of Utah (who has pursued the same circuit of western tournaments as Khachiyan) achieved the 2200 rating milestone to become one of the US's youngest Masters.

The other sections all had clear winners: Jared Tan in Under 2200, Fei Yue Yang in Under 2000, Zheng Zhu in Under 1800, Asatour Dovlatyan in Under 1600, and Alexander Magganas in Under 1400 (unrated player Suresh Jhunjhnuwala – the only non-junior in this paragraph -- earned the best score in that section, but was eligible only for the smaller Unrated prize). Like Landaw, Tan and Magganas took last round byes, though Tan actually clinched his prize and was paid before leaving.

The turnout was a rather disappointing 200. However, the Scholastic side event drew a fine total of 144 players, with Sean Manross (K-12), George Situ (on tiebreaks over Ezekiel Liu in K-8), Kumann Liu (K-6), and Eli Minoofar (K-3) winning their sections. The Quick tournament (33 players) saw a tie among Robby Adamson, Harutyun Akopyan, and Mick Bighamian, and Roger Norman took the Action (21 players). So the total turnout was … almost 400.

More details, including a complete list of the winners, including those of the special prizes donated by the family of the late Joyce Jillson and by Dr. Harold Valery, are posted below..

The Renaissance Hotel is a popular venue in the LAX area, but the loss of 40% of the anticipated space just two weeks before the tournament (a dispute with the city of Los Angeles) left directors Randy Hough and Anthony Ong scrambling, especially on Saturday when the Scholastic was held. We got some volunteer help on that occasion and again on Sunday, when Murphy's Law caused hardware problems at an inopportune moment. The players and parents were generally understanding and yes, we got some compensation from the hotel.

Chess Palace again offered a nice selection of books and equipment, this time including a special used book display. Alas, many of those books were inaccessible to younger players who've never had a reason to take five minutes to learn descriptive notation!

And for approximately the 20th straight year, we were graced by the presence of Jovan "the Great" Prokopljevic of Serbia (his daughter lives in L.A.), whose chess art always lends class to the tournament. Jovan is always ready to draw portraits of players and spectators. Demo boards for the top four, lectures by Khachiyan, Sevillano, and the ever-popular IM Jeremy Silman (whose combination of humor and instruction is irresistible), and videos added to the allure of the tournament.

Perhaps the biggest story of this American Open, though, is the player who wasn't there.

Jerry Hanken, who had participated in all 44 of them and saved the tournament through his organizing skills when it lost corporate sponsorship in 1990. passed away on October 1. One friend of his, Polly Wright, came from New York to play, and spoke about Jerry at the start of the seventh round.

On checking in to the hotel, I was reminded of what a great ambassador for chess he was. The desk clerk asked about Jerry, and I had to

relay the sad news. A look of shock and dismay crossed his face, and he proceeded to tell me how Jerry had often talked to him about our royal game and given him chess items to send to his friends overseas. This one was for you, Jerry. – *Randy Hough*

Tatev Abrahamyan (2432) – GM Melikset Khachiyan (2607)
American Open, Los Angeles 2009
C54 GIUOCO PIANO

(Notes by Los Angeles Times chess columnist Jack Peters)

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Bc5 4. c3 Nf6 5. d3

The Giuoco Pianissimo.

5. ... d6 6. 0-0 0-0 7. Nbd2 a6 8. Bb3 Ba7 9. h3 h6 10. Re1 Nh5

The first aggressive move.

11. Nf1 Qf6 12. Be3 Nf4 13. Ng3 g6 14. d4!

Black's redeployment on the Kingside means less than White's conquest of the center.

14. ... h5 15. a4 Kg7

Probably intending 16. … Rh8 and … g6-g5-g4.

16. Nf1

Good enough for equality, but 16. Qd2! disrupts Black's plan. Then 16. ... Rh8? 17. Bxf4 exf4 18. Ne2 g5 19. h4 gxh4 20. Nxf4 h3 21. Ng5! should win for White. Nor is 16. ... Nxh3+? satisfactory after 17. gxh3 Qxf3 18. Bh6+ Kg8 19. Qg5. Black would have to settle for 16. … Re8 17. Bxf4 exf4 18. Ne2 Rxe4 19. Bd5 Re8 20. Nxf4, when White's pieces are much more active.

16. ... Rh8 17. dxe5 dxe5 18. Bxa7 Rxa7 19. Ne3 Ne7 20. Nd5 Nexd5 21. exd5 Re8 22. Bc2 Ra8

Also 22. … a5 23. c4 b6 24. Ra3 c6 maintains equality.

23. c4 Bd7 24. Re3?!

Sharper is 24. Ra3! c6 25. Rae3.

24. ... c6! 25. d6

After 25. Qd2 cxd5 26. cxd5 Rad8, the pawn at d5 makes a tempting target.

25. ... c5 26. Be4 Rad8

Welcoming 27. Bxb7 Bf5 28. Qe1 Rxd6, when White must avoid 29. Nxe5?? Rxe5! 30. Rxe5 Nd3.

27. Qd2

Now Black gets the edge. Far from clear is 27. b4!? cxb4 28 c5. Bc6 29. a5.

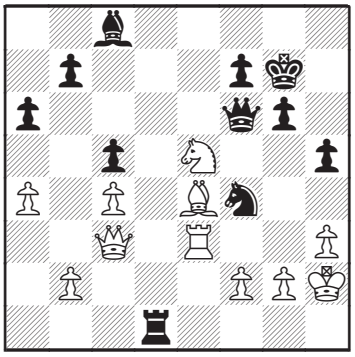
27. ... Bc8 28. Rd1 Re6 29. Qc3 Rdxd6 30. Rxd6

Perhaps 30. Rde1 would recover the pawn more favorably. Black cannot save it by 30. ... Qe7 because 31. h4! makes 32. g3 a very annoying threat.

30. ... Rxd6 31. Nxe5

If 31. Qxe5 Qxe5 32. Nxe5, Black keeps a small advantage with 32. … g5, meeting 33. Nd3 by 33. … Rd4.

31. ... Rd1+ 32. Kh2



32. ... Nxh3!

An excellent sacrifice that White should refuse.

33. gxh3?

Even worse is 33. Rxh3? Bxh3 34. Kxh3 Rd4. White must trade Queens by 33. Nd3 Qxc3 34. bxc3, obtaining fair chances to draw after 33. … Ng5 35. Bd5 b6 36. a5 or 35. ... Ne6 36. Bxe6 Bxe6 37. Nxc5 Bxc4 38. Nxb7.

33. ... Qxf2+ 34. Bg2 Qg1+ 35. Kg3 h4+ 36. Kf3

Even the discovery 36. Kf4 Qf2+ 37. Nf3+ won't save White. Black replies 37. … Rd4+ 38. Re4 g5+! 39. Kxg5 Qg3+ 40. Kh5 Bf5!, setting up 41. … Bg6 mate.

36. ... Rc1! 37. Qd2 b6! 38. Re2?!

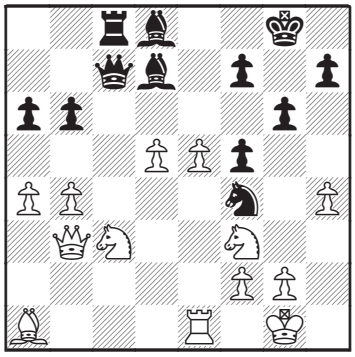
Losing quickly. However, the toughest defense, 38. Rd3 Bb7+ 39. Rd5, still loses to 39. … Rb1 (threatening 40. … Qh2) 40. Ng4 Qd4 41. Qxd4+ cxd4 42. Kf4 Bxd5 43. cxd5 d3, reaching a winning endgame.

38. ... Bb7+ 39. Kg4 Rd1!, White Resigns.

White must give up the Queen to stop 40. … Rd4+.

IM Enrico Sevillano (2558) – Gregg Small (2294)
American Open, Los Angeles 2009
C02 SICILIAN DEFENSE, Alapin Variation

1. e4 c5 2. c3 e6 3. d4 d5 4. e5 Nc6 5. Nf3 Qb6 6. a3 Nh6 7. b4 cxd4 8. cxd4 Nf5 9. Bb2 Bd7 10. Ra2 Rc8 11. Ba1 Be7 12. Be2 0–0 13. 0–0 a6 14. Bd3 Na7 15. Nc3 Nb5 16. Na4 Qa7 17. Nc5 Be8 18. a4 Nc7 19. Rc2 Bd8 20. Rc3 Ra8 21. Bc2 b6 22. Nd3 Be7 23. Qb1 Bd7 24. Nf4 g6 25. Bxf5 exf5 26. Rfc1 Rfc8 27. Qc2 Bd8 28. h4 Qb7 29. Qb3 Ne6 30. Nxd5 Rxc3 31. Nxc3 Nf4 32. d5 Rc8 33. Re1 Qc7



34. e6 Be8 35. d6 Qc6 [35. ... Qxd6 36. exf7+ Bxf7 37. Re8+] 36. d7 1–0

GM Melikset Khachiyan (2607) – IM Enrico Sevillano (2558)
American Open, Los Angeles 2009
C42 PETROFF DEFENSE

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. Nxe5 d6 4. Nf3 Nxe4 5. d4 d5 6. Bd3 Bd6 7. 0–0 0–0 8. c4 c6 9. Nc3 Nxc3 10. bxc3 dxc4 11. Bxc4 Bg4 12. Rb1 Qc7 13. h3 Bh5 14. Bd3 Kh8 15. g4 Bg6 16. Nh4 Nd7 17. Nf5 b6 18. Qf3 Rfe8 19. Bd2 Nf8 20. h4 Ne6 21. Rfe1 Bxf5 22. Qxf5 g6 23. Qf6+ Kg8 24. Bc4 Be7 25. Qf3 Bxh4 26. Re5 b5 27. Bb3 Re7 28. Rbe1 Rae8 29. Bh6 a5

Prize Winners

Open

1st-3rd: Melikset Khachiyan, Andranik Matikozyan, Julian Landaw, 6-2;

4th/5th/1st U2450/1st U2300: Enrico Sevillano, Vladimir Mezentsev, Tatev Abrahamyan, Takashi Iwamoto, 5½-2½;

6th/2nd U2450/2nd U2300: Alexandre Kretchetov, Robert Akopyan, Garnik Baghdasaryan, Howard Chen, Vadim Kudryavtsev, Samuel Sevian, Gregg Small, Kayden Troff, Eugene Yanayt, 5-3.

Under 2200

1st: Jared Tan, 6½-1½; 2nd: Ankit Gupta, 6-2; 3rd-4th: Craig Clawitter, Bill Pennucci, Eric Zhang, 5½-2½.

Under 2000

1st: Fei Yue Yang, 7-1; 2nd: Dante Tabing, 6-1; 3rd-4th: Arturo Ambray, Michael Encke, Hubert Jung, Kyle Rieb, Chris Roberts, 5½-2½.

Under 1800

1st: Zheng Zhu, 6½-1½; 2nd-4th: John Anderson, Numan Abdul-Mujeeb, Shauriya Jain, Ernesto Soto, 5½-2½.

Under 1600

1st: Asatour Dovlatyan, 6½-1½; 2nd/3rd: Mark Adams, Minas Mike Badikyan, 6-2; 4th: Oswaldo Olivo, 5½-2½.

Under 1400

1st: Alexander Magganas 6½-6½; 2nd: Aryutyan Apayan, 6-2; 3rd Under 1400 John Yu, 5½-2½.

1st Under 1200: Bryan Xiao, 4½-3½; 2nd Under 1200: Raymond DeTurenne, 4-4.

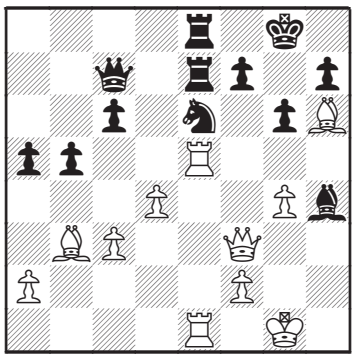
1st Unrated: Suresh Jhunjhnuwala, 7½-½; 2nd Unrated: Tadeh Bogosian, 4-4.

SPECIAL PRIZES

Special prizes donated in memory of Joyce Jillson:

Biggest rating gain by a woman: Jacquelyn DeSa (donated to Catalina Foothills High School Chess Club): 122 points, $200

Biggest rating gain by a junior under 13: Asatour Dovlatyan: 162 points $100



Best tactical game: to be determined $200

Second tactical game: to be determined $100

Best tactical game by a non-Master: to be determined $175

Best positional game: to be determined $150

Second positional game: to be determined $75

Special prizes donated by Dr. Harold Valery:

Cumulative upset points Open: Randel Eng $100

Cumulative upset points Under 2200: Cheston Gunawan $100

Cumulative upset points Under 2200: Ronald Morris $100

Cumulative upset points Under 1800: Agata Bykovtsev $75

Cumulative upset points Under 1600: Asatour Dovlatyan $50

Cumulative upset points Under 1400: Nicholas Chrysanthou $25

Cumulative upset points Under 1200: Bryan Xiao $25

AMERICAN OPEN QUICK

1st-3rd: Harutyun Akopyan, Robby Adamson, Mick Bighamian, 7½-2½; Under 2200: Ruixin Yang, Joshua Gutman, 7-3; Under 2000: Willis Kim, $100; Under 1800: Immanuel Singuillo, Arthur Skurskiy, 5½-4½; Under 1600: Oswaldo Olivo, 4½-2½. 4½-5½; Under 1400: Shawn Barker, 3-7; Unrated Ruperto Dilig Jr., 5-5.

AMERICAN OPEN ACTION

1st: Roger Norman, 4½-½; 2nd: Dennis Uchimura, 4-1; Under 2000: David Baran, 4-1; 3rd: Andrew Kao, Tony Miller, Mark Sokolovsky, 3½-1½.

Under 1800: Al Pena, 3-2.

Under 1600: Alexander Garber, 3-2.

Under 1400: Happy Ullman, 2½-2½.

AMERICAN OPEN SCHOLASTIC

K-12

1st: Sean Manross, 4½-½; 2nd/3rd: Andrew Kao, David Ma, 4-1; 4th/5th/6th Rex Xu, Botao Jiang, Willa Wang, 3½-1½.

K-8

1st/2nd: George Situ (T), Ezekiel Liu, 4½-½; 3rd/6th: Rahul Nair, Eric Pan, Andrew Yeh, Leo Creger, 4-1.

K-6

1st: Kumann Liu, 5-0; 2nd: Alexander Hung, 4½-½; 3rd/8th Derek Xu, Justin Chang, Andrew Negus, Victor Yen, Frances Nicklen, Aditya Sunkara, Jeffrey Zhou, 4-1.

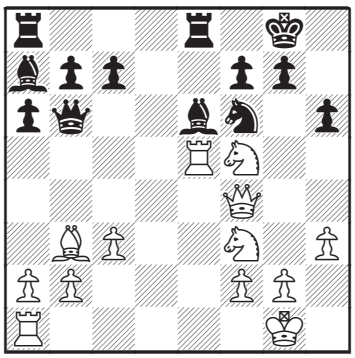
K-3

1st: Eli Minoofar, 5-0; 2nd/4th: Queena Deng, Justin Yao, Danial Asaria, 4-1; 5th: Julian Chang, 3½-1½.

30. Rxe6 fxe6 31. Rxe6 Rxe6 32. Bxe6+ Kh8 33. Bf4 1–0

GM Melikset Khachiyan (2607) – Julian Landaw (2273)
American Open, Los Angeles 2009
C54 GIUOCO PIANO

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Bc5 4. 0–0 Nf6 5. d3 d6 6. c3 0–0 7. Nbd2 a6 8. Bb3 Ba7 9. h3 Ne7 10. Re1 Ng6 11. Nf1 Re8 12. Ng3 h6 13. d4 Bd7 14. Be3 exd4 15. Nxd4 Nh4 16. Bf4 Ng6 17. Qd2 Nxf4 18. Qxf4 Qe7 19. Nf3 Be6 20. e5 dxe5 21. Rxe5 Qd6 22. Nf5 Qb6



23. Bxe6 Rxe6 24. Qg3 Ne8 25. Rae1 Rxe5 26. Rxe5 Qf6 27. Nh2 h5 28. Nf3 Rd8 29. Qf4 c6 30. Ne7+ ½–½

Tatev Abrahamyan (2342) – Christian Tanaka (2220)
American Open, Los Angeles 2009
B01 CENTER COOUNTER OPENING

(Notes by Los Angeles Times chess columnist Jack Peters)

1. e4 d5

The Center Counter.

2. exd5 Nf6

Inviting 3 c4 c6.

3. d4 Bg4 4. Be2

Simplest. Occasionally White tries 4. Bb5+ or 4. f3 Bf5 5. c4.

4. … Bxe2 5. Qxe2 Qxd5 6. Nf3 Nc6?!

Common, but risky. Black has nothing to fear after 6. … e6 7. c4 Bb4+ 8. Bd2 Bxd2+ 9. Nbxd2 Qf5.

7. c4!

Stronger than the natural 7. Nc3.

7. … Qf5 8. Nc3 0-0-0

Black has little choice, as 8. … e6 9. d5 Nb4 10. 0-0 leads to similar difficulties.

9. d5! Nb4 10. 0-0

Coolly dismissing Black's threats to c2 and d3.

10. … Nd3?!

Slightly better, but still unsatisfactory, is 10. … e6 11. a3 Nd3 12. Rd1 Nxc1. An important point is that 10. ... e6 11. a3 Nc2 12. Ra2 exd5 drops material to 13. b4! d4 14. Qxc2 Qxc2 15. Rxc2 dxc3 16. Ne5.

Tatev Abrahamyan

11. Rd1 Nxc1 12. Raxc1

Black will never catch up in development. He cannot survive 12. ... e6 13. Qe3 b6 14. Nd4.

12. … a6 13. Qe5!

As 13. ... e6 14. Qxf5 exf5 15. Ne5 costs Black a pawn.

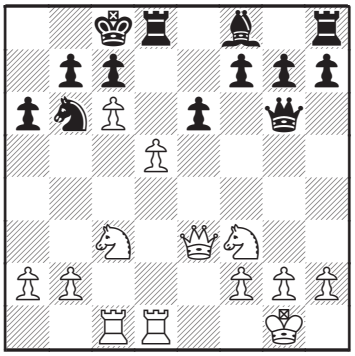
13. … Qg6

If 13. ... Qd7 14. c5 e6, White breaks through by 15. c6 bxc6 16. Qe2!, threatening both 17. Qxa6+ and 17. Ne5.

14. c5 Nd7 15. Qe3

Planning c5-c6. Stopping it, by 15. ... c6, leaves Black's King too exposed after 16. dxc6 Qxc6 17. Nd5 e6 18. Nb6+ Nxb6 19. Rxd8+ Kxd8 20. cxb6 Qd5 21. Ne5.

15. … e6 16. c6 Nb6

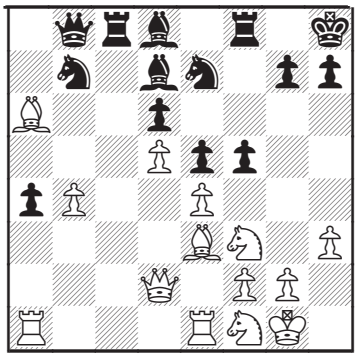


There is no answer to 16. ... bxc6 17. Qa7.

17. Na4! Nxa4 18. Qa7 bxc6 19. Ne5, Black Resigns.

Julian Landaw (2273) – Takashi Iwamoto (2299)
American Open, Los Angeles 2009
C90 RUY LOPEZ

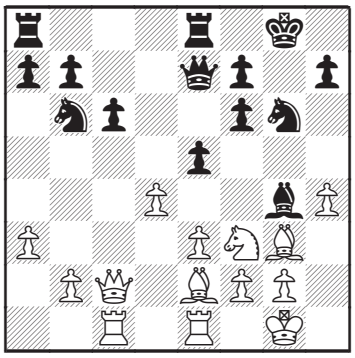
1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Ba4 Nf6 5. 0–0 Be7 6. Re1 b5 7. Bb3 d6 8. c3 Na5 9. Bc2 c5 10. d4 Qc7 11. Nbd2 cxd4 12. cxd4 Be6 13. Nf1 Rc8 14. Bd3 0–0 15. b3 Bg4 16. d5 Bd8 17. h3 Bd7 18. Be3 Qb8 19. Qd2 Kh8 20. Bg5 Nb7 21. b4 Ng8 22. Be3 Ne7 23. a4 bxa4 24. Bxa6 f5



25. Bg5 f4 26. Qd3 h6 27. Bxe7 Bxe7 28. Reb1 Qc7 29. Bb5 Ra8 30. Rc1 Qd8 31. Bc6 Rb8 32. Qa6 Qe8 33. Qxa4 Rd8 34. Qb5 Bxc6 35. dxc6 Rb8 36. Qd5 1–0

Vadim Kudryavtsev (2234) – IM Enrico Sevillano (2558)
American Open, Los Angeles 2009
D64 QUEEN'S GAMBIT DECLINED

1. Nf3 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 d5 4. d4 Be7 5. Bg5 0–0 6. e3 Nbd7 7. Rc1 c6 8. a3 Re8 9. Qc2 Nf8 10. Bd3 N6d7 11. Bf4 Bf6 12. 0–0 Qe7 13. Bg3 Ng6 14. Rfe1 dxc4 15. Bxc4 e5 16. Ne4 Nb6 17. Nxf6+ gxf6 18. Be2 Bd7 19. h4

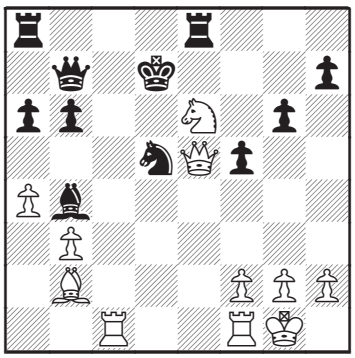


19. ... Bg4 20. Nxe5 fxe5 21. Bxg4 exd4 22. exd4 Qxe1+ 23. Rxe1 Rxe1+ 24. Kh2 f6 25. h5 Nf8 26. Qb3+ Kg7 27. Bf4 Re7 28. Bd6 Rae8 29. Qg3 Kf7 30. Bf5 Nd5 31. h6 Ng6 32. Bxe7 Rxe7 33. Bxg6+ hxg6 34. Qb8 Re8 1–0

Vadim Kudryavtsev

Alan Bishop (2073) – Jamieson Pryor (2032)
American Open, Los Angeles 2009
B22 SICILIAN DEFENSE, Alapin Variation

1. e4 c5 2. d4 cxd4 3. Nf3 Nf6 4. e5 Nd5 5. c3 e6 6. cxd4 d6 7. Bd3 Nd7 8. Nbd2 dxe5 9. dxe5 Qc7 10. 0–0 g6 11. Nc4 a6 12. a4 b6 13. b3 Bb7 14. Bb2 Bb4 15. Nd6+ Ke7 16. Rc1 Qb8 17. Ng5 Nxe5 18. Nxb7 Nxd3 19. Qxd3 f6 20. Nxe6 Qxb7 21. Qe4 f5 22. Qe2 Rhe8 23. Qe5 Kd7



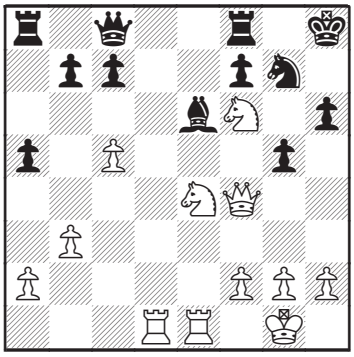
24. Rfd1 Rxe6 25. Rxd5+ Bd6 26. Rxd6+ Rxd6 27. Qg7+ Ke8 28. Qxb7 Rad8 29. Re1+ 1–0

Ashu Thakur – Larry Stevens (2062)
American Open, Los Angeles 2009
A90 DUTCH DEFENSE, Stonewall Variation

1. d4 f5 2. Nf3 e6 3. g3 Nf6 4. Bg2 d5 5. c4 c6 6. 0–0 Bd6 7. c5 Bc7 8. Bf4 Bxf4 9. gxf4 0–0 10. Nbd2 Bd7 11. Ne5 Be8 12. b4 Nbd7 13. f3 Nh5 14. Nxd7 Bxd7 15. e3 Kh8 16. Rf2 g5 17. fxg5 f4 18. e4 Qxg5 19. e5 Be8 20. Kf1 Bg6 21. Ke2 Ng7 22. Nf1 a5 23. a3 axb4 24. axb4 Qf5 25. Ke1 Rxa1 26. Qxa1 Qb1+ 27. Qxb1 Bxb1 28. Rb2 Bd3 29. Bh3 Ra8 30. Nd2 Ra1+ 31. Kf2 Rh1 32. Kg2 Rd1 33. Kf2 h6 34. Ra2 Kh7 35. Rb2 Kg6 36. Nb3 Ba6 37. Nd2 Kh5 38. Nb3 Kh4 39. Bg2 Nf5 40. Rc2 Bc4 41. Na5 Ne3 42. Rb2 Rxd4 43. Nxc4 dxc4 44. Ke1 c3 0–1

Chris Roberts (1962) – Paul Duncan (1802)
American Open, Los Angeles 2009
B01 Center Counter Defense

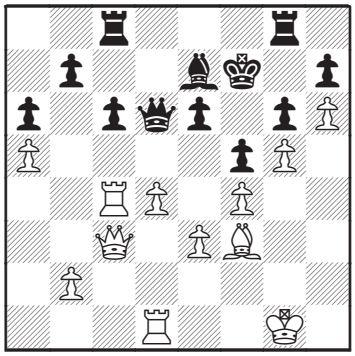
1. e4 d5 2. exd5 Nf6 3. Nf3 Nxd5 4. d4 Nc6 5. c4 Nf6 6. Be2 g6 7. Nc3 Bg7 8. 0–0 Bf5 9. d5 Nb8 10. Nd4 Bc8 11. Bf3 Nbd7 12. Bf4 0–0 13. Qd2 Ne8 14. Rfe1 Nd6 15. b3 a6 16. Bh6 Ne5 17. Bxg7 Nxf3+ 18. Nxf3 Kxg7 19. Qd4+ Kg8 20. Qe5 e6 21. dxe6 Bxe6 22. c5 Nf5 23. Ne4 Ng7 24. Nf6+ Kh8 25. Rad1 Qc8 26. Ng5 h6 27. Nge4 a5 28. Qf4 g5



29. Nxg5 hxg5 30. Qxg5 Nf5 31. Re4 Rd8 32. Rh4+ Nxh4 33. Qh6# 1–0

Henry Castro (1988) – Brian Rountree (1836)
American Open, Los Angeles 2009
E04 CATALAN OPENING

1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. Nf3 Nf6 4. g3 dxc4 5. Bg2 Bd7 6. Ne5 Bc6 7. Nxc6 Nxc6 8. Qa4 Qd7 9. 0–0 Be7 10. Qxc4 0–0 11. Rd1 Nd5 12. Nc3 Nxc3 13. Qxc3 Bf6 14. e3 Nd8 15. Bd2 g6 16. Rac1 c6 17. Qb3 Bg7 18. a4 f5 19. a5 a6 20. Bb4 Re8 21. f4 Nf7 22. Bf3 Rab8 23. Bc5 Nd6 24. Bxd6 Qxd6 25. Qb6 Bf8 26. Rc4 Be7 27. Qb3 Qd8 28. Rcc1 Kf7 29. Ra1 Qd6 30. Ra4 Qd7 31. g4 Rg8 32. g5 Rge8 33. Qc3 Rbd8 34. Rc4 Rc8 35. h4 Rh8 36. h5 Rhg8 37. h6 Qd6



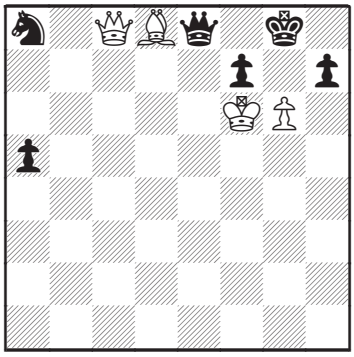
38. d5 exd5 39. Bxd5+ Kf8 40. Kf2 Rd8 41. Bxg8 Qxd1 42. Qg7+ Ke8 43. Bf7+ Kd7 44. Rd4+ Qxd4 45. exd4 1–0

Tactics

by Larry Stevens

What's interesting? The age-old question. Perhaps a passed-around problem.

The following position was shown to me at the Gezira Sporting Club in Cairo in March of 1978. I brought it back home to the Washington D. C. area and showed it to some friends, who liked it and shared it. When one friend saw some other players with it, he remarked, "Ah, that's the Cairo Problem."



The Cairo Problem
White to play and win.

It is ultimately a mate in thirteen moves, but it is made possible by first holding down the Black pieces to achieve a Zugzwang.

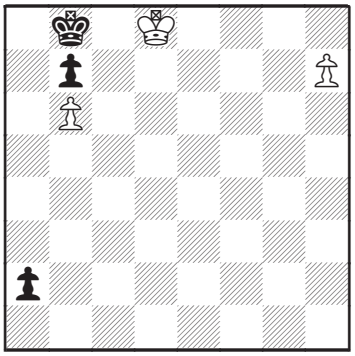
I hope you enjoy this one and pass it on. There will be another hint near the end of this article.

By the way, a tourist office can often direct you to local chess clubs, especially in foreign countries; it can improve your enjoyment of any trip.

In Paris, for example, if you have been culture shocked by a reprimand from the grocery orderly for picking up a peach, or if you are by yourself and your welcome seems like it has gone, a visit to a chess club is just the thing.

Koltanowski was right; visiting a foreign chess club is like connecting with distant family.

After Cairo, I thought I would also share a problem or two. I showed the following position at the Kathmandu Chess Club, and a week later it appeared in the local newspaper's chess column.



D. Joseph 1922
White to play and win.

Sometimes I would set up this position with the pawns further back at h2 and a6.

The first move is easy:

1. h8/Q

And now we are just a King move away from mate.

1. ... a1/Q

Well, taking the Queen would be a stalemate. What now? The problem starts here!

* * * *

"*Time, time, what is time? Swiss manufacture it, French hoard it, Italians squander it, Americans say it is money, and Hindus say it does not exist. You know what I say? I say time is a crook.*" – Beat the Devil (1953)

If you've ever been in time pressure, you will agree with the last characterization. It robs you of that great position.

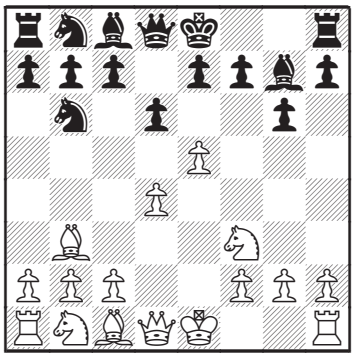
How much time do the world's best take for their moves? Let's take a new look at a classic:

Spassky (2660) – Fischer (2785)
World Championship (13), Reykjavik 1972
[B04] ALEKHINE'S DEFENSE

Spassky arrives two minutes early, makes his move on time, and then leaves the stage. Fischer arrives 6 minutes late and takes one minute to start his Alekhine's Defense. Spassky returns 2 minutes later, shakes hands, sits down, and moves.

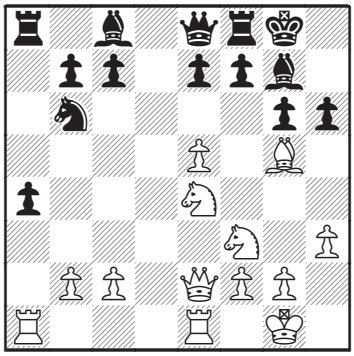
The first time control is two hours thirty minutes at move 40.

1. e4 0:00 Nf6 0:07
2. e5 0:02 Nd5 0:07
3. d4 0:02 d6 0:07
4. Nf3 0:03 g6 0:08
5. Bc4 0:05 Nb6 0:08
6. Bb3 0:06 Bg7 0:08



Spassky slows down here, in more ways than one; he plays three dubious moves in a row, according to Kasparov in "My Great Predecessors".

7. Nbd2 0:23 0-0 0:14
8. h3 0:25 a5 0:22
9. a4 0:33 dxe5 0:25
10. dxe5 0:33 Na6 0:26
11. 0-0 0:47 Nc5 0:35
12. Qe2 0:50 Qe8 0:51
13. Ne4 0:58 Nbxa4 0:54
14. Bxa4 1:04 Nxa4 0:56
15. Re1 1:08 Nb6 0:58
16. Bd2 1:12 a4 0:59
17. Bg5 1:14 h6 1:06

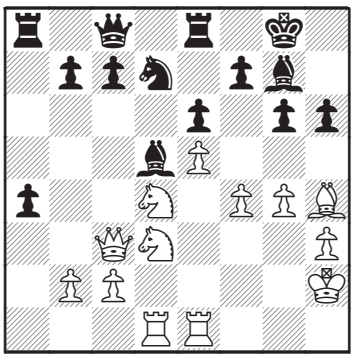


Boris takes 12 minutes on his reply. Black looks cramped, but he does have that extra pawn.

18. Bh4 1:26 Bf5 1:16
19. g4 1:29 Be6 1:16
20. Nd4 1:31 Bc4 1:17
21. Qd2 1:35 Qd7 1:19
22. Rad1 1:37 Rfe8 1:23

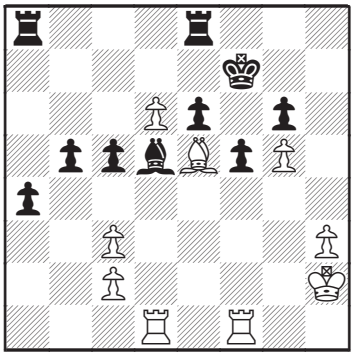
[Kasparov, Fritz, and Rybka all like the pawn trade: 22...Bxe5 23.Qxh6 Bg7–+]

23. f4 1:38 Bd5 1:30
24. Nc5 1:40 Qc8 1:31
25. Qc3 1:51 e6 1:38
26. Kh2 1:57 Nd7 1:40
27. Nd3 2:00



With three moves, Bobby suddenly solves all of his cramping problems, the mark of a great Alekhine's Defense player!

27. … c5 1:41
28. Nb5 2:00 Qc6 1:42
29. Nd6 2:04 Qxd6
30. exd6 Bxc3 1:42
31. bxc3 2:04 f6 1:46
32. g5 2:05 hxg5 1:47
33. fxg5 2:05 f5 1:47
34. Bg3 2:06 Kf7 1:50
35. Ne5+ 2:07 Nxe5 1:50
36. Bxe5 2:07 b5 1:56
37. Rf1 2:08



What's to be done about the plan of Rf1-f4-h4-h7?

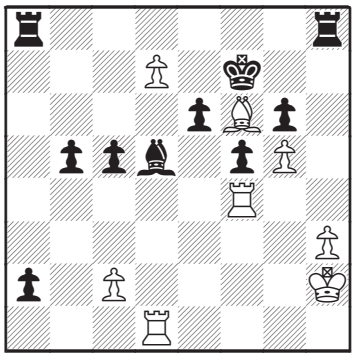
I've seen Fischer's 37th given first a '!' (Gligoric), then later a '?' (Byrne), and most recently a '!' (Kasparov).

Spassky, playing quickly for his last 8 moves, almost gets even with Fischer on the clock.

37. … Rh8 2:02
38. Bf6 2:12 a3 2:04
39. Rf4 2:22 a2 2:08
40. c4 2:27 Bxc4 2:09

The first time control has been reached, but the session continues until at least five hours have elapsed.

41. d7 2:36 Bd5 2:16



According to Kasparov, Black has a win starting with 41 ... e5! instead of Bc4-d5.

The game is now adjourned, with Spassky taking 32 minutes to seal his 42nd move.

42. Kg3 3:08

The next two time controls are at move 56 with 3:30 and move 72 with 4:30.

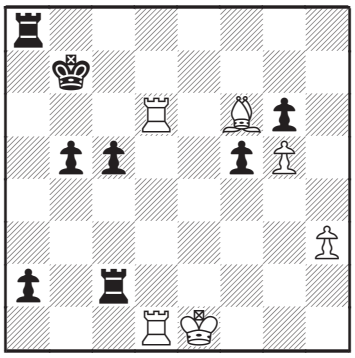
Spassky arrives on time, the envelope is opened, and the sealed move is played. Fischer's clock starts and everyone waits as it ticks off 25 minutes.

Fischer now strides into the adjournment session, which "became virtually the most colorful and gripping in the history of chess" (Kasparov).

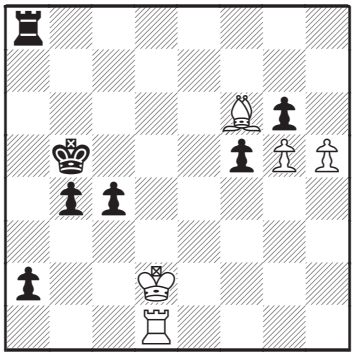
He sits down and uses one minute for his 42nd.

42. … Ra3+ 2:42
43. c3 3:08 Rha8 2:42
44. Rh4 3:10 e5 2:42
45. Rh7+ 3:11 Ke6 2:42
46. Re7+ Kd6
47. Rxe5 3:12 Rxc3+
48. Kf2 3:13 Rc2+
49. Ke1 3:13 Kxd7
50. Rexd5+ 3:14 Kc6
51. Rd6+ 3:16 Kb7 2:43

The spectators are getting their money's worth. Try playing this position with a friend!

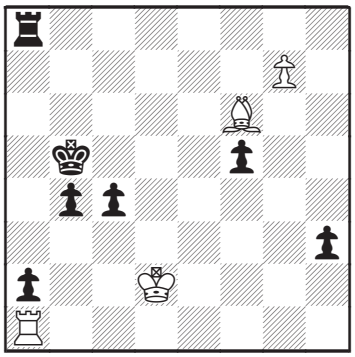


52. Rd7+ 3:20 Ka6 2:44
53. R7d2 3:23 Rxd2
54. Kxd2 3:25 b4
55. h4 3:26 Kb5
56. h5 3:26 c4 2:45



Spassky starts to take some time here, having made the 3½ hour time control at move 56 with 4 minutes to spare. Fischer makes it by 45 minutes, despite losing the 25 minutes on his clock.

57. Ra1 3:37 gxh5 2:48
58. g6 3:39 h4 2:49
59. g7 3:50 h3 2:50



Fischer has played 18 moves in only nine minutes since he arrived.

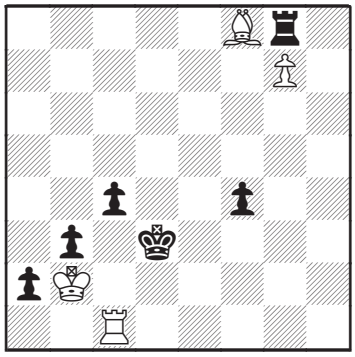
Now the players slow down, especially Fischer, taking well over an hour for the next two moves.

Spassky takes 18 minutes on his 60th, Fischer takes 21 minutes for his reply, and 38 minutes for his 61st, making it his longest think of the match.

Botvinnik: "Fischer finds a paradoxical solution: he stalemates his own rook, but blocks White's passed pawn and ties his bishop to it. Now five passed pawns are fighting against the white rook. Nothing similar had previously occurred in chess.

Spassky was astounded and he lost. Soon Smyslov found a draw for White, but would he have found it at the board, sitting opposite Fischer?" -- *My Great Predecessors* by Kasparov

60. Be7 4:08 Rg8 3:11
61. Bf8 4:11 h2 3:49
62. Kc2 4:11 Kc6 3:51
63. Rd1 4:13 b3+ 3:57
64. Kc3 4:15 h1Q 4:02
65. Rxh1 4:15 Kd5 4:02
66. Kb2 4:18 f4 4:03
67. Rd1+ 4:19 Ke4 4:05
68. Rc1 4:23 Kd3 4:06



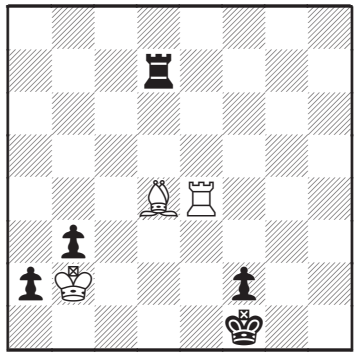
Spassky now has seven minutes to make his next three moves. Can you work out how to save this game? "It is all rather like an endgame study…" — Golombek

69. Rd1+ 4:26 Ke2 4:07
70. Rc1 4:27 f3 4:08
71. Bc5 4:27 Rxg7 4:11
72. Rxc4 4:28 Rd7 4:14

Spassky has made the 4 1/2 hour time control at move 72, but probably sees he is lost.

73. Re4+ 4:45 Kf1 4:15
74. Bd4 4:49 f2

Spassky Resigns.



The final position.

After he resigned, Spassky analyzed the last few moves at the board, and quickly saw that at move 69, he would have drawn starting with Rc3. He said something to the arbiter, Lothar Schmid, but he was busy with the official paperwork. Fischer had already left.

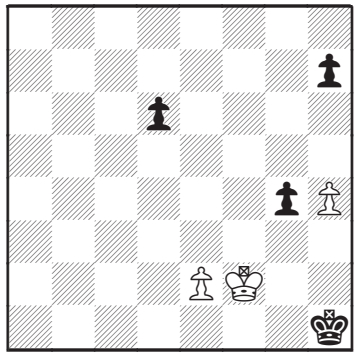
* * * * *

Here is the promised hint in The Cairo Problem: Before White mates and before he holds down all the Black pieces, he sacrifices his Queen.

I hope you enjoy this problem, its author still, a total mystery.

* * * * *

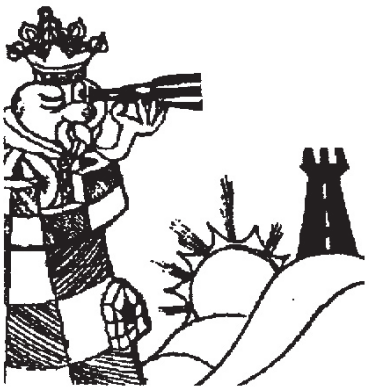
After that titanic struggle, perhaps a proper finish is a petite pawn puzzle:



H. Rinck 1912
White to play and draw.

Good luck!
Do not fail.

Here & There



Pasadena Chess Club

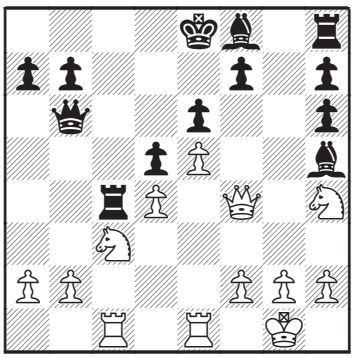
Fifty players turned out for the Crown City Open. Larry Stevens and veteran Neil Hultgren (the 16th seed) topped the first section with 4-1 scores; Jesse Victoria, Robert Xue, Gregg Fritchle, and Phil Chase trailed by a half-point. Roy Schmidt was a clear winner in Section Two with 4½, followed closely by Robert Head and Scott Xue.

In December, The A Rose for Your Queen tournament attracted 45 players. Robert Xue, David Minasyan, Yuting Chen and Christopher Hung, and Larry Hu (who gained 267 rating points despite the brevity of the event) won sections in the three-round (holiday exigencies!) tournament.

The Pasadena Club meets Friday nights at 6:45 at the Boys and Girls Club, 3230 East Del Mar. For further information call Neil Hultgren at (818) 243-3809. – *Randy Hough*

Larry Stevens (2100) – Yusheng Xia (1888)
Pasadena Chess Club, 2009
C02 FRENCH DEFENSE, Advance Variation

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. e5 c5 4. c3 Qb6 5. Nf3 Nc6 6. Be2 cxd4 7. cxd4 Nh6 8. Bd3 Bd7 9. Bc2 Rc8 10. Nc3 Nb4 11. Bxh6 Nxc2+ 12. Qxc2 gxh6 13. 0–0 Bb5 14. Rfe1 Qa6 15. Qd2 Bd3 16. Rad1 Bg6 17. Nh4 Bh5 18. Rc1 Rc4 19. Qf4 Qb6



20. Nxd5 exd5 21. Rxc4 dxc4 22. e6 Be7 23. exf7+ Bxf7 24. Nf5 Be6 25. Rxe6 Qxe6 26. Ng7+ Kd7 27. Nxe6 Kxe6 28. Qe5+ 1–0

Riverside Poly Gambit

The Riverside Poly Gambit was held on November 14th at Poly High School in Riverside. In the Secondary Section (grades 7-12), Garrett Ritchey took first with a score of 4-0. Briann Pina was the highest scoring middle school student.

In the Elementary Section (grades K-6), Kumann Liu was first with a score of 4-0. Morgan Foster was the highest scoring primary grades student. Steve Morford directed the tournament on behalf of the Riverside Youth Chess Association. – *Steve Morford*

Los Angeles Chess Club

On November 21-22, 28 players competed in the Harold Cardinal Valery G/60 tournament at the Los Angeles Chess Club. GM Melikset Khachiyan took first place with 5½-½. Ryan Porter was second at 4½ -1½, followed by former state champion Alexandre Kretchetov at 4-2. Michael Goliszek, Mitch Jayson and top Class B Joshua Sheng shared first place in the under-1800 section. – *Mick Bighamian*

Chess Palace

Super Double (2x) Quads

On December 12, a rare visit from the Grandmaster made the tournament an event to remember. The club regulars were surprised to see such a high rated player (2600) playing a game right next to them. But that was just GM Melikset Khachiyan was trying to get – rating points for the US Championship selection cutoff early next year. After defeating three masters, Khachiyan gained the eight points he needed. However because he had to take a bye in the last round, an upstart class A player, Joseph Bellinger scored a half a point more - perfect four points! Other prize winners included Randy Hough, Qinhong Chen, Chris Keefe, and Jose Gomez. – *Anthony Ong*

5th Goodwill Team Championship

This team tournament, held October 24 at Glendale Chess Park, saw eight youth teams compete with two teams of adults from the Glendale Police Department. winners were the AAA Kings (Boris Kitapszyan, Arthur Hovhannisyan, John Kitapszyan and Antho Igidbashian), who won all four of their matches. The nonprofit event raised money for youth chess programs in Glen-

dale. Nshan Keshishian, founder of the AAA Chess Club, organized the event.

Diversity Educational Center Fall Scholastic

This scholastic event, held October 25 in Arcadia, attracted 29 players. Justin Tay won the Open section with 4-0, followed by Sam Aycock and Dakota Jones. Liam Theiring and Danjoseph Quijada (competing in his first tournament) won other sections.

Exposition Park Chess Club

On November 1, Uldarico Celestial, Felipe Rodriguez, Manuel Elecciri, Benito Flores and Tony Grauso won their sections at the Exposition Park Chess Club's monthly free tournament, which saw a good turnout of 20 players. The December 6 tournament did even better with 25. Winners were Juan Munguia, Manuel Elecciri, Feliciano Jurado, Luis Brioso, Edgar Sacramento, Frank Ottolino and Vincent Flournoy. For photos of the club, see chess. expoparkla. com. The club meets every Sunday afternoon in the public library at 3900 S. Western Ave. in Los Angeles.

Westwood Fall Open

Forty-four competed in this one-day tournament at the Los Angeles Chess Club on November 8. GM Melikset Khachiyan defeated four masters on his way to a 5-0 score. Masters Garnik Baghdasaryan, Alexandre Kretchetov, Garush Manukyan and Ryan Porter and top expert Robert Akopian were next at 3½ -1½ . Mitch Jayson, Al Pena Jr. and Karl Tolentino tied for first in the Reserve (under-1800) section. John Hillery directed.

Prize Winners

Open

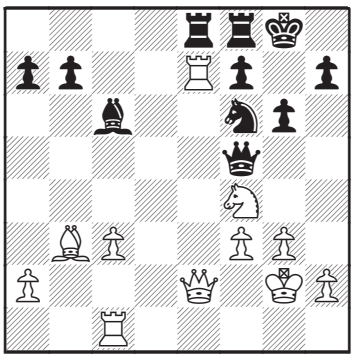
1st: GM Melikset Khachiyan, 5-0; 2nd-3rd: Alexandre Kretchetov, Garush Manukyan, Ryan Porter, Garnik Baghdasaryan, 3½-1½; U2200: Robert Akopian, 3½-1½; U2000: Jeff Cohen, 2½-2½.

Reserve

1st-2nd: Al Pena Jr, Mitchell Jayson, 4-1; U1600: Karl Tolentino, 4-1; U1400/Unrated: Andrew Wang, Andy Caen; 3-2; U1200: Blake Isara, 2-3.

Alexandre Kretchetov (2439) - GM Melikset Khachiyan,M (2607)
Westwood Fall Open, Los Angeles 2009
D87 GRUNFELD DEFENSE, Exchange Variation

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 d5 4. cxd5 Nxd5 5. e4 Nxc3 6. bxc3 Bg7 7. Bc4 c5 8. Ne2 Nc6 9. Be3 0–0 10. 0–0 Qc7 11. dxc5 Ne5 12. Bb3 Ng4 13. Bf4 Qxc5 14. Qc2 Be5 15. Rad1 Bxf4 16. Nxf4 Qe5 17. g3 Nf6 18. Rfe1 Bg4 19. Rc1 Bf3 20. Re3 Bxe4 21. Qe2 Qf5 22. f3 Bc6 23. Rxe7 Rae8 24. Kg2



24. . . Rxe7 25. Qxe7 g5 26. Bc2 Qg4 27. Bd1 gxf4 28. Qxf6 fxg3 29. hxg3 Qh5 30. Be2 Re8 31. Bc4 Qg6 32. Qd4 Qf5 33. Rf1 Qe5 34. Qxa7 Qxc3 35. Bb3 Re2+ 36. Kg1 Qe5 0–1

La Palma Chess Club

In November, Craig Clawitter won the 40-player La Palma Chess Club Championship with 5½ -½ (five wins and a half-point bye). Roger Dellaca, Barry Lazarus, Robert Hutchinson and Richard Yang tied for second with 4½.

We had 34 players in the Knight Before Christmas tournament: 24 in the Santasiere section (with an average rating of 1836), and 10 in the Rudolf Section (with an average rating of 1173). The prize results took some doing to calculate (the USCF rules are a little ambiguous in this area) but we have finally worked them all out. Thanks again to Dr. Harold Valery for his generous donation (and Christmas gift). The prizes were all cash. Some prizes went unclaimed. We had 28 cash prize winners out of 34 entrants... now, that's Christmas!

Here are the prizes (all have been rounded up to the nearest dollar):

Santasiere Section
1st Place, $125 Jo Warhula = $125
2nd Place, $100 + 3rd Place, $50 Yoshio Dupree & Kelly Zhang = $75 each
4th Place, $25 + 1st U2000, $50 Michael Brown, Robert Hutchinson, Robert Hatfield, Mike Henebry, Leigh Hunt, Richard Yang = $13 each
1st U1900, $50 + 1st U1800, $50 + 1st U1700, $50 Eren Karadayi, Brenda Nardi, Craig Hilby, Joe Bellinger = $38 each
Rudolf Section
1st Place, $125 + 2nd Place, $100 Andy Ju & John Parker = $113 each
3rd Place, $50 + 4th Place, $25 + U 1300, $50 Carlos Gomez, Sakshi Walia, Rahul Nair, Christina Kao = $32 each
1st U1500, $50 Ron Duff = $50
1st U1400, $50 Jesse Luong = $50
1st U1300, $50 (included with 3rd/4th place above)
1st U1200, $50 Stuart Mosher & Justin Kao = $25 each
Silent Knight (Shortest won game with fewest knight moves by winner) – Mike Henebry (3 knight moves in 21-move game) = $5
Frosty the Low Man (Lowest score) - $5 Peter Holzer, Leo Kamgar, Stuart Mosher, Justin Kao = $2 each
Christmas Present (Receiver of the biggest blunder) -$5 Robert Hatfield (blunder of a bishop) = $5
Pawnica (Best score by a Jewish player) - $5 Barry Lazarus = $5
Do You Hear What I Hear? (Longest announced mate) - $5 Robert Hatfield, (3 moves) =$5
Dasher (most trips to the bathroom during the 1st round) - $5 Richard Yang (53 trips) = $5

Vixen (Best score by a female) - $15 Brenda Nardi = $15
Comet (Best performance rating gain) - $10 John Parker (116 points) = $10
Donner (Anybody wearing a Christmas hat while mating an opponent rated over 200 points higher) - $5 Joanne Koong (this prize was first revised to read "any opponent" and then revised to just wearing the hat) = $5
Blitzen (Shortest Game in terms of winning player's clock time) - $5 Mike Henebry (:34)= $5
White Christmas (Shortest Mate with White) - $10 Shyam Gandhi (vs. Richard Yang) (35 moves) = $5
Best Elf (Best score between Brian Scanlon, Mike Henebry, Leigh Hunt, Mike Brady, Chris Roberts & Yoshio Dupree) - $5 Yoshio Dupree = $5

The La Palma Chess Club meets 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Fridays in Central Park, 7821 Walker St. For information, call Mike Henebry at (562) 370-2146 or Leigh Hunt at (714) 635-0448 or write to mhenebry@aol.com. – *Chris Roberts*

16th SPA Fall Classic

Aiden Angles, Brendan Barber-Choi, Daniel Nathanson, Nathan Aloisi and Reid Whitney won sections in this 23-player scholastic, held at St. Paul the Apostle School in Westwood November 14. David De la Torre directed his first tournament.

AAA Winter Scholastic

December 5

There were 68 players at this event, held at the First Lutheran Church in Glendale. Boris Kitapszyan (grades K-12), David Meliksetyan (K-7) and Natalie Arshamian (K-3) won sections. Nshan Keshishian organized the tournament and his son Harut Keshishian directed.

John Thomas Dyer Scholastic

The fifth annual running of this event on December 6 saw Sarah Lohmar top the Championship section. Other prize winners included Ken Kou, Bryce Porter, Nathaniel Aloisi, Zoey Mao, Samantha McLoughlin, Noah Daniels, Cassandra Carrasco, Henry Mallory and Gisele Stigi. Ivona Jezierska directed.

Gambito Open News

The November Super Gambito Open (#443) drew 36 players and was won once again by Cyrus Lakdawala, although he allowed a draw in the last round to the young but fast rising Expert Kyron Griffith. Chris Wonnell took the BU2400 prize, Nikolay Arutuynov was BU200 and Madhavan Vajapeyam was BU2000. Jamieson Pryor, Leonard Sussman and Chuck Ensey won the 2nd U2400, 2200 and 2000 in that order. In the Reserve Section, 9 year old Aaron Householder ruled the day with 4 wins in a row. William Delaney was 2nd Place with 3½ and Jason Ma won 3rd Place with 3. We usually don't have a 3rd Place in the Gambito, but due to the large number of players in this section (24!) we added this prize. There was a four-way tie for BU1600 between Scott Householder, Aaron's father; Gene Fernando, he's 83 and still going strong!; Paul Woo, a young military man hoping to earn a good enough rating to play in the Armed Services Championships; and Ryan Valley, one of 10 players from Helix Charter School that have recently started playing at the Gambito Open.

Once a year we hold the 8 round Super Double Gambito Open, held on November 14th & 15th. It takes a tough chess player to endure 8 rounds in two days, and this year only 32 players took up the challenge. Raoul Crisologo emerged victorious and $300 richer from the long battle with 6½ points, a full point ahead of 2nd Place winner Avram Zaydenburg. Ben Barquin won BU2200 and Nikolay Arutyunov took BU2000; they both scored 5 points. Alan Tsoi came in 3rd Place with 4½. Eric Smith won 2nd U2200 with 4 and Alejandrino Baluran was 3rd U2200 with 3½ points. Chris Wonnell won 2nd U2000 with 3½, and then there was a 3-way tie for 3rd U2000 between Phillip Roth, David Delgadillo and Aaron Householder, all with 3. In the Reserve Section, newcomer Reyes Lopez surprised everyone with 6 wins, but he had to settle for a book prize since he was unrated. Ronaldo Salenga also scored 6 and took home the $200 prize for 1st Place. Abhijeet Gijare of Goleta won the 2nd Place prize with 5½. Mayra Murra and Nestor Dagamat tied for 3rd with 5 points. There was a 4-way tie for BU1600 between James Sturtevant, Rocio Murra, Michael Ferguson and Scott Householder, all with 4 points. Fred Cleveland took the BU1400 while Ray Aquitania and Edgar Lopez split 2nd U1400.

The December Super Gambito (#447) had 29 players vying for $700 in guaranteed prizes. Cyrus Lakdawala scored a perfect 4 for 1st Place and $125. Bruce Baker and Kyron Griffith both scored 3 and tied for 2nd/BU2400 for $75 each. Bruce turned down a draw offer from Cyrus in an attempt to win, but he was not successful this time. Bruce hates to draw, so we always tease him after the game that when a player is almost 300 points higher than you (IM Cy is rated 2540), you should probably take the draw in most cases.

Bruce says he'll try, but he has trouble getting the words out of his mouth. Cyrus also offered a draw to Alan Sebeckis, but Alan didn't even hear the offer and went on to lose. Alan was rather surprised when Cy asked him why he didn't take the draw offer. What draw offer??!! Alan Sebeckis, Raoul Crisologo and Leonard Sussman scored 2½ and tied for BU2200/2nd U2400/2ndU2200. Roberto Aiello and Chris Wonnell tied for BU2000/2nd U2000. Two young players, Jason Ma and Aaron Householder both scored wins against Experts and seem to be on track to becoming

Experts themselves someday soon. In the Reserve Section, Matt Souza and Joanne Koong tied for 1st place with scores of 3½. Fred Cleveland won BU1600. Jim Krooskos and young Andrew Negus tied for 2nd U1600. – *Chuck Ensey*

San Diego Chess Club

The Carl Wagner Open

61 players participated in this 6 round event in 5 sections. The Open and Premier Sections played at our normal time control of 40/90, SD/60, while 3 other sections were conducted at a faster rate of G/90. Some players much prefer the faster time control while others are adamant about playing at the slower rate, so often we have a choice of time controls in an attempt to keep both factions happy. It was interesting that when given a choice this time, two thirds of the players opted for the faster time control. I think that just the ways things are moving these days, the slower controls are on the decline in popularity, but they retain a hard core fan base.

The event is named after Dr. Carl Wagner, a former Club Champion and still a very strong chess player who contends for the title every year. We have been honoring our longest standing club members lately and Carl has been with us from just about the earliest days. Recently I came across a club membership list from March of 1981 and Carl was listed as the highest rated player at 2315, just a few points ahead of Cyrus Lakdawala at 2310. Alexander London was third at 2224. Carl is currently rated 2211 and although he is in good health he chose to sit this one out, possibly saving his energy for the upcoming Club Championship.

The Open Section was won by Dan Altamirano with 5 of 6 points, far ahead of Fausto Robles with 3½. In the Premier Section (U2000), Donald Klaas turned in an outstanding performance with 5 out of 6, followed by Robert Draper with 4½ and then Damani Fair and Steve Perry with 3½ each. Rocio Murra was BU1600, also with 3½.

Carl Wagner

In the faster sections, The Nascar Section was won by Hin Tsang with 4½, followed by Bassam Shammas and Bruce Baker with 4 each. The Street Racer Section (U2000) was won by Chris Wonnell with 4½, trailed closely by Dayne Freitag, Chuck Ensey and David Delgadillo, all with 4. Tom Kuhn also cruised in with 4 and took the BU1600 prize, followed by Matt Souza with 3½ and Jerry Soelberg with 3. Finally, in the Demolition Derby Section (U1600), Mark Lawless scored a rare 6 wins in row, nearly lapping Edgar Lopez, who was still BU1400 with 4. James Couston and Jerry Qu tied for 2nd with 3½ each. Jim Krooskos, Darryl Woodson and David Peabody came in 3rd with 3 each.

In match play, Joel Batchelor scored another impressive victory, this time over Alfredo Deleon, 4½-½. Coming up next are the Class Championships in November and December, followed by the Alina Markowski Open in January, which is our Club Championship qualifying event. For more information on the San Diego Chess Club, call 619-239-7166 or visit our website at sdchessclub.multiply.com. – *Chuck Ensey*

Westwood Winter Open

January 31

Los Angeles Chess Club, 11514 Santa Monica Blvd, LA, CA 90025
5-SS, G/40

$$1500

(b/50, 80% of each prize guaranteed)

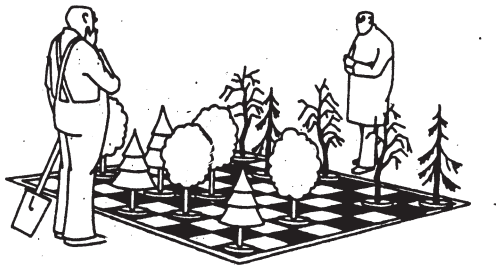
In two sections:

Open:
$400-200-50, U2200 125, U2000 125.

Reserve (U1800):
$$200-120, U1600 $105, Under 1400/unrated $100, U1200 $75.

EF: $48 if received by 1/30, $55 at site.
Reg: 9-9:45 a.m.
Rds: 10-11:30-1:30-3:15-4:45.
Ent: SCCF, c/o John Hillery, 835 N. Wilton Place #1, Los Angeles, CA 90038. On-line entry: www.westernchess.com.

Games From Recent Events



What goes around ...

In a battle between two Arcadia Club regulars, Ron Morris makes good use of an idea from his old teacher, GM Eduard Gufeld. Notes in italics by the winner.

Eduardo Linsangan (1866) – Ron Morris (1759)
Istvanyi Memorial, Arcadia 2009
E73 KING'S INDIAN DEFENSE

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. e4 d6 5. Be2 0–0 6. Be3 e5 7. d5 Na6 8. g4

My opponent likes to attack.

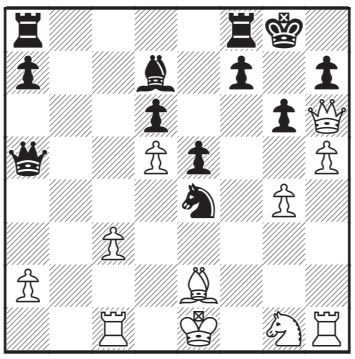
8. ... c6 9. h4 cxd5 10. cxd5 Qa5 11. f3 Bd7 12. h5

Did I mention he likes to attack?

12. ... b5

But two can play at that game.

13. Qd2 Nc5 14. Rc1 b4 15. Bh6 bxc3 16. bxc3 Ncxe4 17. fxe4 Nxe4 18. Qe3 Bxh6 19. Qxh6



19. ... g5!

Here is the Gufeld motif, as seen in the famous game Bagirov-Gufeld, USSR 1973. The Queen will be locked out of the game for good, and Black might as well be a Queen ahead.

20. Bd3 Qxd5 21. Bxe4 Qxe4+ 22. Ne2 f6 23. Rf1 Bxg4 24. Rf2 Rab8 25. Kf1 Qe3 26. Re1 Rb2 27. a3 Qh3+ 28. Kg1

You can run but you can't hide.

25. ... Bf3 29. Rh2 Qg4+ 30. Kf1 d5 31. a4 d4 32. cxd4 exd4 33. Nf4 Rxh2 34. Re7

With threats of mate on h7 as well as g7, the final combination must be exact or White will marvel in a most miraculous comeback

34. ... Rh1+ 35. Kf2 Qg1+ 36. Kxf3 Qf1+ 37. Kg3 Qxf4+ 0–1

Hidden Treasures

Combinations can come up anywhere. Here's a snappy one from a game between two SCCF stalwarts, albeit played in the wilds of Northern Cal.

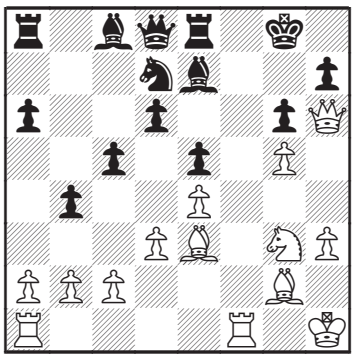
Indra Lahiri (1918) – Gary Latta (1883)
Fresno County Championship, 2009
B23 SICILIAN DEFENSE, Closed Variation

1. e4 c5 2. Nc3 d6 3. g3 Nf6 4. Bg2 e6 5. d3 a6 6. f4 Nc6 7. Nf3 Qc7 8. 0–0 b5 9. Kh1 b4 10. Ne2 Bb7 11. Be3 Be7 12. h3 0–0 13. g4 Nd7 14. Ng3 e5

After this, Black gets squashed on the Kingside and never gets his Queenside play going. He should strike back in the center with 14. ... d5, as after 15. e5 f6 16. d4 cxd4 17. Bxd4 Nxd4 18. Bxd4 fxe5 19. fxe5, Black isn't doing badly.

15. f5 Nd4 16. g5 Nxf3 17. Qxf3 Qd8 18. Qg4 Bc8 19. Qh5 g6 20. Qh6 Re8 21. fxg6 fxg6

Development matters even in relatively closed positions. The Black QR and QB are out of the game, and will never get a chance to enter it.



22. Rf7

Good, but even stronger was 22. Nh5, for if 22. … gxh5 23. Rf7 Kxf7 24. Qxh7+ Ke6 loses at once to 25. Qf5#.

22. ... Kxf7 23. Qxh7+ Kf8

Now Black could suffer on for a bit with 23. ... Ke6 24. Qxg6+ Bf6, but of course White is winning.

24. Rf1+ Bf6 25. gxf6 Nxf6 26. Bh6# 1–0

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. Web site: www.geocities.com/arcadiachessclub.

BAKERSFIELD. The Bakersfield Chess Club meets 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Thursdays at 3000 Mall View Rd. in the East Hills Mall. 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. Web site: 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 nonrated 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 write to bhchessclub@hotmail.com. Web site: 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. Web site: 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. Web site: 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, nonrated 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. Web site: 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 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Sundays in Steve's Burgers West, 240 S. Sanderson Ave. Casual play. Free. Contact hemetchessclub@yahoo.com.

HUNTINGTON BEACH. The Hanley Chess Academy Chess Club meets 6:00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. Thursdays at 7390 Center Ave. Weekly rated tournaments, Action chess, blitz tournaments, casual play. No dues. Bring your own equipment. Contact Joe Hanley at (714) 925-3195 or refchess@gmail.com or call Barry Lazarus at (714) 229-0792. Web site: www.hanleychessacademy.org

HUNTINGTON BEACH. The HB Chess Café meets 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Fridays in Café Enchante, 328 11th St. Casual play, free chess lesson from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Bring your chess set. No dues. Web site: hbchesscafe.com..

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. Call Mike Henebry at (562) 370-2146 or Leigh Hunt at (714) 635-0448 or write to mhenebry@aol.com. Web site: www.lapalmachess.741.com.

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. Web site: www.geocities.com/alondra_park_cc.

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.

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. The Exposition Park Chess Club meets 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sundays in the Exposition Park branch of the public library, 3900 S. Western Ave. Casual play, lectures, simuls, instruction, free tournament on the first Sunday of every month. No dues. Call the library at (323) 290-3113 or send a message to the club secretary at expochess07@yahoo.com. Web site: http://chess.expoparkla.com.

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 non-members, first visit free. Call Mick Bighamian at (310) 795-5710 or send a message to Mick@LaChessClub.com. Web site: www.lachessclub.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. Web site: www.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.

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

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 Temecula Valley Chess Club meets noon to 2 p.m. Sundays in It's a Grind Coffeehouse, 24520 Village Walk Place. Casual play. Free. Contact Peter Surowski at (951) 818-9771 or at petersurowski@yahoo.com.

NATIONAL CITY. The National City Chess Club meets 2:00 p.m to 10:00 p.m. daily at 1341 E. 8th St. Casual play, chess videos available, free instruction for scholastic members ages 7 to 12, informal atmosphere. Dues: none, but small donation welcome. Call Jorge Balares at (619) 477-3118 or (619) 788-8395. Web site: www.nationalcitychessclub.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.

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. Call Neil Hultgren at (818) 243-3809. Web site: 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 8:30 p.m. Thursday evenings in Back 2 the Grind Café, 3575 University Ave. "Quick Thursdays" G/15 quads on the first Thursday of every month, register at 8 p.m. Bring equipment. Call the café at (951) 784-0800 or e-mail Tyrone Liddell at TD@TheChessUnion.com. Web site: www.TheChessUnion.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 e-mail Chuck Ensey at chucnglo@aol.com. Web site: 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. Web site: 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.

Solutions to Chess Quiz

(see page 24)

Ivkov - Duric, Yugoslavia 1983: White wins with the *diverting* sacrifice **1. Ng5 hxg5** (1. ... g6 2. Qxg6+) **2. Rh3 1–0.**

Hardicsay - Stohl, Stary Smokovec 1982: White starts with the *interference* move **1. Rf5** (threatening 2. Qh6) **1. ... a2 2. e5** (but now 2. Qh6! is even stronger, as 2. … gxh5 3. Rxf7 mates quickly) **2. ... Rcxe5** (Black can hold out a bit longer with 2. … Qc6 3. Rxf7 Nxe5 (or 3. … Qxg2+ 4. Qxg2 Bxg2+ 5. Kxg2 Nxe5 6. Rg7+ Kh8 7. Nf6 Kxg7 8. Nxe8+) 4. Rg7+ Kh8 5. Rxh7+ Kxh7 6. Rf7+ Nxf7 7. Qxg6+) **3. Qh6 gxh5 4. Rg5+ 1–0.**

Mann - Vajtho, correspondence 1983: 1. Bf8 (A *clearance* sacrifice allowing the Queen to enter at h6) **1. ... Rxf8** (1. … Nh5 puts up more of a fight, but White is still winning after 2. Bxe7 Bxc3 3. bxc3 Rxc3 4. Rxh5 Rxc2 5. Qa5) **2. Rxh8+** (an *attracting* sacrifice getting the Queen in *with check*) **2. ... Kxh8 3. Qh6+ Kg8 4. Nd5!** (a final finesse – the immediate 4. Rh1 lets Black make a fight of it with 4. … Nh5 5. g4 Rxc3. Now the dual threats of 5. Nxe7# and 5. Nxf6+ followed by 6. Rh1 cannot be parried.) **1-0.**

2009-2010 State Championship

Seeded into the Championship are 2009 champion Enrico Sevillano, up to three players selected on the basis of rating, and four from the 2010 Candidates Tournament. Below is a list of players who will be invited to the Candidates, and of upcoming qualifying tournaments.

Qualifiers

July 3-5	Pacific Southwest Open	Melikset Khachiyan Joel Banawa
July 17-20	Pacific Coast Open	Andranik Matikozyan Garush Manukyan Christian Tanaka Vadim Kudryavtsev
July 26	Westwood Summer Open	Ryan Porter Tim Taylor Jeremy Stein
August 8-9	San Diego Cty Open	Evgeny Shver Leonard Sussman
August 15-23	State Championship	Tianyi He Alexandre Kretchetov Jack Peters Elliott Liu Tatev Abrahamyan
September 5-7	Southern California Open	Avram Zaydenberg John Funderburg
September 12	San Luis Obispo Cty Open	Craig Faber Chris Roberts Warren Williamson
September 12-13	Eclectic Collections	Show Kitagami Cheston Gunawan
September 26-27	Bakersfield Fall Classic	Indra Lahiri Alejandro Ruiz Alexander Person Solomon Ruddell Jimmy Sweet
October 9-11	Los Angeles Open	Garnik Baghdasaryan Gregg Small Eugene Yanayt Robert Akopian Konstantin Kavutskiy
November 8	Westwood Fall Open	Ron Hermansen Joshua Gutman
November 22-23	Harold Valery G/60 Champ.	Bobby Hall
November 26-29	American Open	Julian Landaw Takashi Iwamoto

Upcoming

January 8-10	Century West Open	LAX
January 31	Westwood Winter Open	Waet LA
March 12-14	Western Class Championships	Agouiura Hills
March 27-28	SCCF High School Championship	Irvine
April 10-11	SCCF Senior Open	San Diego
April 23-25	Western Pacific Open	LAX

Each event qualifies two players (highest scoring Southern California residents not previously qualified) except that 1) In the event of a tie, all tied players will advance; 2) A score of 60% is required to qualify; and, 3) The SCCF Amateur, SCCF High School and any one-day event will each have *one* qualifying spot.

Upcoming Events

January 8-10

2010 Century West Open. 5-SS, 3-day 40/2, SD/1, 2-day rds 1-2 G/60 then merges. LAX Hilton, 5711 W. Century Blvd., Los Angeles CA 90045. $$10,000 b/200, 50% of each prize guaranteed. **In 3 sections: Open:** $$1500-1000-800-400-200, U2400 200, U2300 200, U2200 750-500-300, U2100 200, U2000 200. **EF** $83 by 1/8, $95 door. **Premier** (U1900: $$750-500-300-100, U1700 500-300-200. **EF**: $83 by 1/8, $95 door. **Amateur** (U1500): $$400-250-100, U1300 100-50, U1100 100, Unr 100. **EF**: $67 by 1/8, $80 door. **Reg**: 5:30-6:30 1/8, 9-10 a.m. 1/9. **Rds**: 3-day: 7, 10:30-5, 10-4:30. 2-day: 10:30-1 (G/1), then merges with 3-day at 5. **All**: SCCF membership req. ($18 re, $10 jr). $25 Best Game prize, all sections eligible. 1 half-point bye rds 1-4 if requested at least 1 round in advance, rd. 5 must be requested with entry. **HR**: $99, (310) 410-4000, use Group Code CWO. **Parking** $8/day. **Info**: admin@westernchess.com. Web site, on-line entry: www.westernchess.com. **Ent**: SCCF, c/o John Hillery, 835 N. Wilton Pl. #1, Los Angeles, CA 90038. NS. NC. F. **GP: 40. State Championship Qualifier.**

January 10

CWO Hexes. 3-SS, G/90. LAX Hilton, 5711 W. Century Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90045. Six-player sections by rating. **EF**: $20 if received by 1/8, $25 door. $$ 40-20-10 each section. **Reg**.: 9:30-10:15 a.m. **Rds**.: 10:30-1:30-4:30. Ent: SCCF, c/o John Hillery, 835 N. Wilton Pl. #1, Los Angeles, CA 90038, online at www.westernchess.com.

January 10

CWO Scholastics. 5-SS, G/30. LAX Hilton, 5711 W. Century Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90045. Open to gr. 12-below. **In two sections: Open**: Trophies to top 5, top 3 U1200, top 2 Unrated. **Grade 6/below U1000:** Trophies to top 5, top 3 U700, top 2 Unrated. **Reg**.: 8:30-9:15. **Rds**.: 9:30-11-12:15-1:45-3. **EF**: $16 if received by 1/8, $20 door. **Inf**: John Hillery, admin@westernchess.com. On-line ent: www.westernchess.com. Ent: SCCF, c/o John Hillery, 835 N. Wilton Pl. #1, Los Angeles, CA 90038.

January 23-24

Orange County Open. 5-SS, Rds. 1-3 G/90, Rds. 4 & 5 40/2, SD/1 (No time delay). Hanley Chess Academy, 7390 Center Ave. Huntington Beach, CA. 92646. $$5,000 b/120, 50% of each prize guaranteed. One Section: Open: 1000-500-300-200, Top X: 400-225-125, U2000: 250-125-75, U1800: 250-125-75, U1600: 250-125-75, U1400: 250-125-75, U1200/UNR: 250-125-75. **EF**: $55 if received by 10/8, $65 door. On-line entry: www.hanleychessacademy.org. No checks at door. All: One half point bye if requested with entry, rds 4-5 cannot be revoked. **Reg**.: 8:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m. Sat 1/9. Rds.: 10 a.m.-1 p.m.-4 p.m. Sat, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sun. **Info**: refchess@gmail.com. Web site: www.hanleychessacademy.org. **Ent**: Hanley Chess Academy, c/o Joe Hanley, 7390 Center Ave. Huntington Beach, CA 92646. **Side Event**: Hexes on 1/10; 3SS G/90. **EF**: $25. Reg: 9:30 a.m.-10:15 a.m. Prizes: $50-$25-$15 in each Hex. Rds: 10:30-2-5. NS. NC. F. **GPP: 20.**

January 31

2010 Westwood Winter Open. 5-SS, G/40. Los Angeles Chess Club, 11514 Santa Monica Blvd., LA, CA 90025, 2nd floor (4 blocks West of 405 Fwy). $$1500 b/50, 80% of each prize guaranteed. In two sections: **Open**: $400-200-50, U2200 125, U2000 125. **Reserve** (U1800): $$200-125, U1600 $100, Under 1400/unrated $100, U1200 $75. **EF**: $47 if received by 1/30, $55 at site. SCCF memb. ($18, under 18 $10) req. for rated S. CA residents. No checks or credit cards at site. Half point byes: limit 1, must be req. w/entry. **Reg**.: 9-9:45 a.m. **Rds**.: 10-11:30-1:30-3:15-4:45. 2 free parking lots on the SW corner of Santa Monica & Purdue, or in the building basement ($3). **Inf**: admin@westernchess.com. **Ent**: SCCF, c/o John Hillery, 835 N. Wilton Place #1, Los Angeles, CA 90038. On-line entry: www.westernchess.com. **GP: 10. State Championship Qualifier.**

February 7

HCA/Cardinal Medical Group #1. 4-SS, G/60 (no time delay). Hanley Chess Academy, 7390 Center Ave. Huntington Beach, CA. 92647. $$500 b/20, 50% of each prize guaranteed. One section. Prizes: $125-$75, Top A, B, C, D, & E/UNR - $60 each. EF: $24 if received by 2/4, $28 at site. Free to GM's and IM's. Entry deducted from prize. No checks at site. Half point byes: limit 1, must be req. w/entry. Reg.: 9-9:45 a.m. Rds.: 10-12:30-2:45-5. Inf: refchess@gmail.com or 714-925-3195. Ent: Hanley Chess Academy, c/o Joe Hanley, 7390 Center Ave. Huntington Beach, CA. 92647. On-line entry: www.hanleychessacademy.org . NS, NC, W

February 13-15

27th Annual U.S. Amateur Team Championship West. 6-SS, 40/2, SD/1. Warner Center Marriott, 21850 Oxnard Street, 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. Dec. list used. EF: $132 per team if received by 2-12, $36 individual (on line only), $148 at

site, under age 18 or HS/below $96 by 2-12, $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 (under 18), Senior (over 50), U1200. Clocks to best score each board, alternate, and any 6-0. Gift certificate prizes for best team names (1st/2nd). Reg.: 9-10 a.m. 2-13. Rds.: 11-6, 11-6, 10-4:30. On-line entry, help in forming teams, advance entry list: www.westernchess.com. HR: $119, 800-228-9290, ask for Western Chess. Reserve by Jan. 20 or rates may go up. Parking $6. Ent: SCCF, c/o John Hillery, 835 N. Wilton Place #1A, Los Angeles, CA 90038. NS, NC, W. F. WCL JGP.

February 15

13th Annual Southern California Scholastic Amateur Team. 4-SS, SD/45. Warner Center Marriott, 21850 Oxnard Street, Woodland Hills, CA 91367. Four-player teams plus optional alternate, Grade 12/below, average rating of four highest must be U1200. (Dec. 2009 rating list used, Feb. 2010 used for previously unrated players.) EF: $75 per team received by 2/12, $85 at site. Trophies (team & individual) to top 3 teams, top U1000, U800, U400/unr. Reg.: 9:00-10 a.m. Rds.: 10:30-1-2:45-4:30. Info, help in forming teams: scholteam@westernchess.com. Web site, advance entry list: www.westernchess.com. HR: $119, 800-228-9290, ask for Western Chess. Reserve by Jan. 20 or rates may go up. Parking $6. Ent: SCCF, c/o John Hillery, 835 N. Wilton Place #1A, Los Angeles, CA 90038. NS, NC, W.

February 15

AT Hexes. 3-SS, G/90. Warner Center Marriott, 21850 Oxnard Street, Woodland Hills, CA 91367. Six-player sections by rating. EF: $20 if rec. by 2-12, $25 door. $$40-20-10 each section. Reg.: 9:30-10:15 a.m. Rds.: 10:30-1:30-4:30. Ent: SCCF, c/o John Hillery, 835 N. Wilton Place #1A, Los Angeles, CA 90038, on line at www.westernchess.com.

February 28

HCA/Cardinal Medical Group #2. 4-SS, G/60 (no time delay). Hanley Chess Academy, 7390 Center Ave. Huntington Beach, CA. 92647. $$500 b/20, 50% of each prize guaranteed. One section. Prizes: $125-$75, Top A, B, C, D, & E/UNR - $60 each. EF: $24 if received by 2/25, $28 at site. Free to GM's and IM's. Entry deducted from prize. No checks at site. Half point byes: limit 1, must be req. w/entry. Reg.: 9-9:45 a.m. Rds.: 10-12:30-2:45-5. Inf: refchess@gmail.com or 714-925-3195. Ent: Hanley Chess Academy, c/o Joe Hanley, 7390 Center Ave. Huntington Beach, CA. 92647. On-line entry: www.hanleychessacademy.org. NS, NC, W

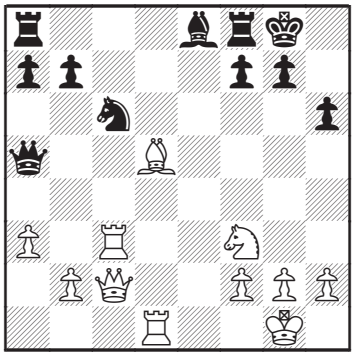
March 12-14

Western Class Championships. 5SS, 40/2, SD/1 (2-day option, rds. 1-2 G/75), Under 900 Section is 6 rounds. G/75 playing Mar 13-14 only. Renaissance Agoura Hills Hotel, 30100 Agoura Road, 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, U900 count as half entries), minimum $16,000 (80% each prize) guaranteed. In 8 sections. Master (over 2199): $2000-1000-500-300, clear or tiebreak winner $100, top U2300 $800-400. FIDE. Expert (2000-2199): $1400-700-400-200. Class A (1800-1999): $1400-700-400-200. Class B (1600-1799): $1400-700-400-200. Class C (1400-1599): $1200-600-300-200. Class D (1200-1399): $1000-500-300-150. Class E (1000-1199): $1000-500-300-150. Under 900: $300-150-100-50. Rated players may play up one section. Unrated must play in A or below with maximum prize A $600, B $500, C $400, D $300, E $200, U900 $100; balance goes line to next player(s) in line. Top 7 sections EF: 3-day $113, 2-day $112 mailed by 3/4, all $115 online at chesstour.com by 3/9, $120 phoned to 406-896-2038 by 3/9 (entry only, no questions), $130 at site. Special EF: $60 less to unrated in A through E. $60 less to all in Under 900. All: Special 1 yr USCF dues with Chess Life if paid with entry: Online at chesstour.com. Adult $30, Young Adult $20. Mailed, phoned or paid at site, Adult $40, Young Adult $30. 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. U900 schedule: Reg Sat to 9:30 am, rds 10-1-4 each day. Byes: OK all rds, limit 2; Master must commit before rd 2, others before rd 3. HR: $87-87, 818-707-1220, reserve by Mar 3 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. WCL JGP. **GP: 100. State Championship Qualifier.**

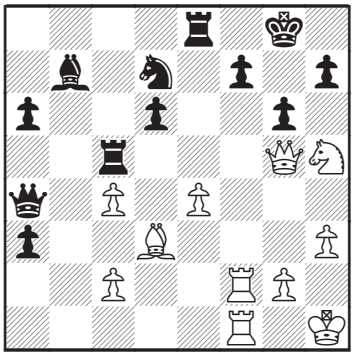
March 27-28

SCCF Super State Scholastic Championship. OC Great Park, Irvine, Marine Way Irvine, CA 92618. Free parking. LaQuinta Inn & Suites $75 rate code Chess Palace. 14972 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine, CA - (949) 551-0909. Trophies to top 10 players, top 3 teams, and top 3 clubs in all sections. 9 Sections. Sat 9-4:30 only: K-1, Primary Reserve, Elementary Reserve-- Sun 9-4:30 only: Jr. High Reserve, High School Reserve, unrated section. Sat & Sun 9-6: all Championship sections (Elementary, Jr. High, and High). Sat 6-9: Bughouse in 4 sections (K-3, 4-6, 7-8, 9-12). **Entry Fee** for 1-day sections: $35, 2-day sections: $45, Blitz & Bughouse: $15 each. 10% discount to first 50. 5% to next 50. Register early to save your money and our time. **More info** at www.chesspalace.com. **State Championship Qualifier.**

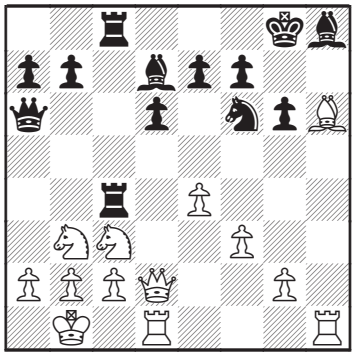
SCCF
PO Box 205
Monterey Park CA 91754



Ivkov – Duric
Yugoslavia 1983
White to move



Hardicsay – Stohl
Stary Smokovec, 1982
White to move



Mann – Vajtho
Correspondence, 1983
White to move

Solutions on page 21