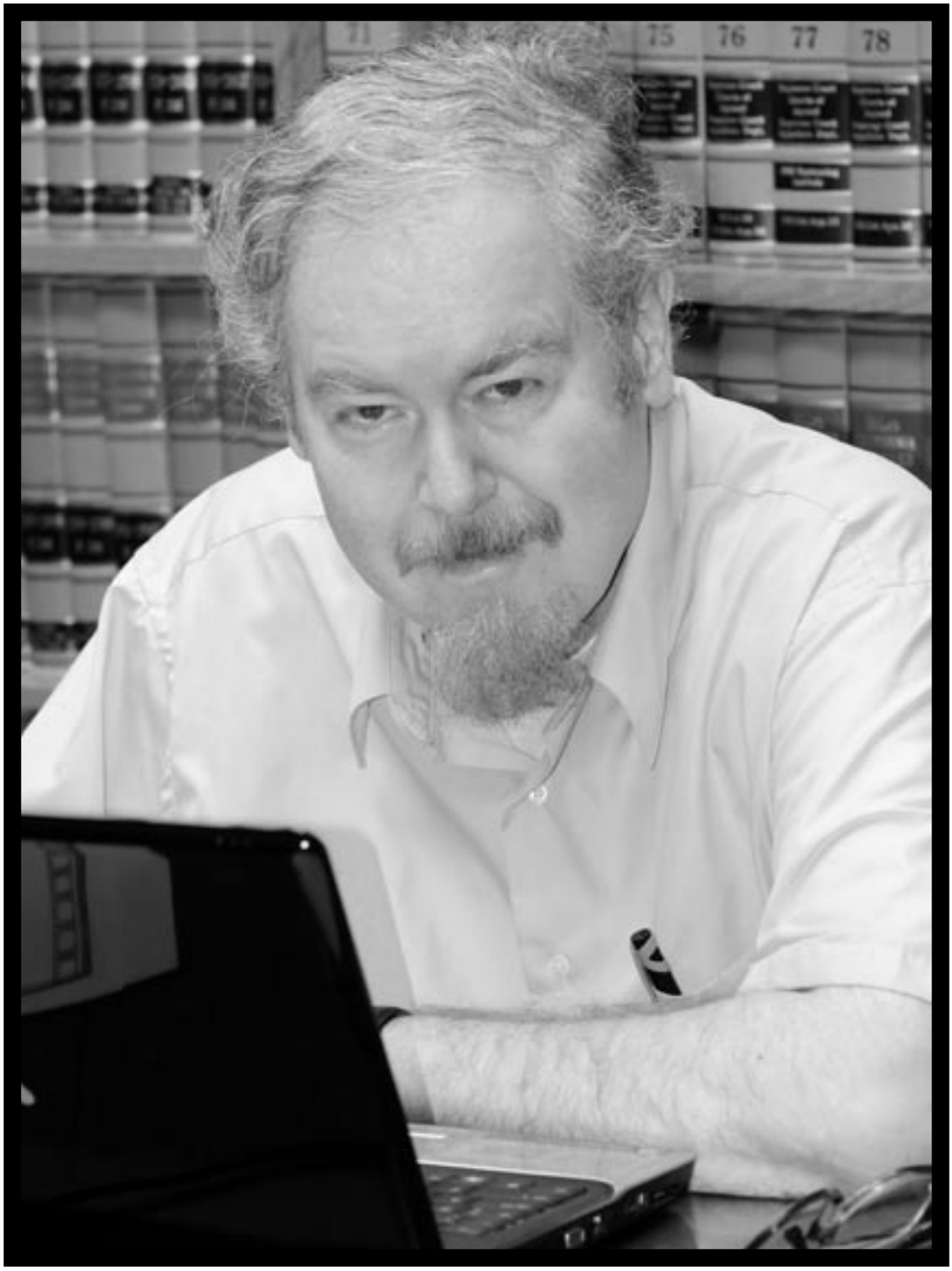
Rank & File

The magazine of the Southern California Chess Federation

November-December 2010 Volume XXXIV, No. 2 $3.00

John Hillery
1952-2010



SCCF

JIM QUON, 1968 – 2010

By Sue Waggener and Randy Hough

photo by Sylvia Quon Todd

A well-known coach and one of the most popular chessplayers in Southern California, Jim passed away on June 20 of a brain hemorrhage.

Self-taught at age 12, with no formal training, he competed in his first tournament at age 15, won first place, was immediately rated over 1900, which placed him in the top 50 players in the country for his age group. In a few years he moved up to National Chess Master--a ranking achieved by very few. The last time he played in tournaments, he was ranked one of the top five chess players in San Diego County with a rating of 2301, which placed him in the top one percent of all players in the nation. When he got bored with tournaments he turned to speed chess and was ranked one of the top Blitz players in the nation. He had an incredible mind and was a deep and logical thinker.

Jim taught at La Jolla Country Day School in San Diego for 14 years. At one time he was teaching 15% of the student body. One of the students, Casey McCracken, represented Southern California in the Denker tournament of State High School Champions in 2001. In the end, Jim had coached over 1000 players.

Jim obtained a bachelors degree in computer science from UCSD in 2009 and returned to Long Beach in search of work, but the recession meant that teaching chess remained his occupation. Word of his stroke and subsequent passing inspired a flood of tributes from his chess and gaming friends. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Editor's Note

I wish to thank the SCCF's members and Rank & File readers for their patience. It is not so easy to replace Mr. Hillery, someone who has done so much for Southern California Chess. From my own experience, it was a lot of work starting from scratch as a magazine editor, but he helped by making his past work available to me.

Due to circumstances that are now known, SCCF did not meet its obligation to its members regarding Rank & File. But if your SCCF membership expiration date was after March 10th 2010, you are receiving this issue. And we sincerely hope that you will renew your membership, for the SCCF is committed to resuming the schedule of six issues per year.

To maintain the level of chess activity that we have enjoyed for the last decade and more, it will take a whole group of people, who perhaps may be thought of as "The Hillery Group". I am one member, as editor of Rank & File, and Chris Roberts is maintaining www.scchess.com. We hope that if you can direct tournaments, you will join the Hillery Group! You are needed.

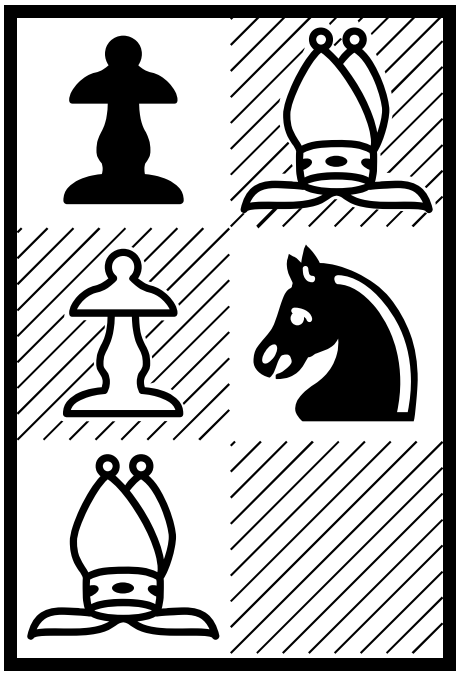
Let us know what Rank & File features you like, or dislike, by sending an email to: RankAndFileEditor@gmail.com, with "Please" as the first word in your subject. This month, I hope everyone will find something interesting within these pages.

My favorite words in this issue:

Optimism is healthy, in small doses. -- Jack Peters

Until next issue, good luck in chess!

- Lawrence Stevens, Editor



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Cover Photo: Chris Roberts.

John Hillery 1952-2010

John Hillery Remembered

by Jack Peters

John Hillery, the premier organizer of local tournaments for the last decade, died Sept. 20 at his home in Hollywood. He was 58.

Most of you knew John as the longtime editor of this magazine and as a very competent tournament director. Perhaps I can give you more insight into the life of a man who helped shape the Southern California chess scene.

John grew up in Lynn, Massachusetts, a working class city just north of Boston. As a teenager, his great passion was acting. He didn't get interested in chess until he attended Northeastern University in Boston and an illness kept him from performing with the drama club.

As a teenager, his great passion was acting.

That was the "Fischer boom" era of the early 1970s, and John plunged into Boston chess enthusiastically. I met him in the Boylston Chess Club, where Harry Nelson Pillsbury began his fabled career. He was distinctive even then, wearing a suit and tie while most young people dressed colorfully and grew their hair long.

When the editor of the Massachusetts magazine "Chess Horizons" asked readers to submit their best games, John, then rated Class D, sent in one of his. Years later, I blamed him for turning me into a chess writer because he shamed me into making my first contribution to "Chess Horizons."

John progressed steadily, earning a master title in 1979 and taking his first steps toward promoting chess by joining the board of the Massachusetts Chess Association (MACA). Amid the chaos and rancor of MACA meetings, John's calm manner and adherence to formality stood out.

He moved to Los Angeles, apparently on a whim, in 1981, and stayed for the rest of his life. He was a regular participant in FIDE-rated Futurities at The Chess Set, Lina Grumette's legendary Hollywood club, although he played less frequently in open tournaments. His rating peaked above 2300. More recently, he took up correspondence chess and achieved a master's rating.

John began a new chess phase in the early 1980s by serving as an assistant TD at various tournaments. Soon he was on his way to becoming a National Tournament Director and an International Arbiter, nationally esteemed for his encyclopedic knowledge of USCF rules. No other TD was as erudite or as steadfastly impartial. Chessplayers love to talk about unfair pairings or blatantly incorrect rulings, but I cannot recall criticism of a single decision by John.

He moved to Los Angeles, apparently on a whim, in 1981, and stayed for the rest of his life.

After a successful first stint as Rank and File editor, John moved to USCF headquarters in New Windsor, New York, to work as "Chess Life" assistant editor. I assumed that he would eventually earn a promotion to editor; he certainly had the skills for it. Perhaps John thought differently, because he kept paying rent on his unused Hollywood apartment for the two years he lived in New Windsor.

He was right - the job offer never materialized. In my opinion, this was tragic for all concerned. The USCF went through a series of editors who struggled with the demands of the job, while John grew frustrated waiting for another chance at his dream job.

His stint in New Windsor prompted one positive change – John learned to use a computer. He had always treasured books. In fact, his apartment was filled with hundreds of chess books and many others on a wide range of subjects. Yet he quickly adapted to modern technology, becoming an expert on desktop publishing and learning enough about HTML coding to create several websites.

In the last decade, John founded "Western Chess" to run his own tournaments. His attempts to make money as an organizer, a chancy business at best, fared poorly, as tournament attendance slumped and fees for hotel rental rose. To my astonishment, he reacted by devoting more attention to scholastic tournaments. John, who never cared for youthful hijinks, was uncomfortable dealing

with children, but he realized that scholastic events were more likely to turn a profit, and he adjusted to the changing market.

John surprised me again by attending the 2009 USCF meeting in Indianapolis. Few players would want to sit through a day and a half of tedious meetings and boring speeches, but John spent hundreds of dollars to go and "set the idiots straight." He accomplished his task with humor, as you can see at his Western Chess blog. He administered a second dose of rational thinking this summer in Irvine.

Give John credit for our best innovations.

If you've played in other states, you know that Southern California tournaments offer amenities not found elsewhere. Give John credit for our best innovations. We have an extraordinary state championship, an invitational round robin that has been held annually for 22 years. John served as chief director many years, and also helped with fundraising. Most of our tournaments offer brilliancy or best game prizes, a practice John began in the 1980s. All scoresheets collected are posted online within a few days, thanks to John. And John's tournaments were among the first to post standings online every evening.

Tournament directors, like umpires, attract attention mostly by their errors. John was often overlooked because of the excellence of his work. Typically, he cringed when praised, because he felt that he was merely satisfying the standard for the job. John, you were too modest. Well done! *R&F*

Randy Hough:

... His frequent comments on the USCF Forum led him to be labeled a curmudgeon, a title he welcomed.

During the Delegates meeting in Irvine this year, his pithy online blog comments led one of the Board members to complain about the difficulty of keeping a straight face while sitting on the dais.

John was also a volunteer on USCF's Bylaws Committee.

John's personality was not conducive to the formation of close friendships, yet he had a great sense of humor and contributed to chess and USCF in many ways over the years.

His passing is a particular blow to the Chess Journalists of America, who have lost their president, vice president, and editor in a space of 14 months. RIP.

Hal Bogner:

John Hillery arrived in southern California in the early 1980s, shortly after I did.

We quickly got to know each other through work for the Southern California Chess Federation and play in the Sunday master's section at The Chess Set - the chess club that famously met in the home of the godmother of the LA chess scene in those days, Lina Grumette.

My recollections of him all date from that decade, when he often took the role of my chief assistant at the many large tournaments we ran, such as the Memorial Day Classic and American Open.

As a colleague, having his help was as reliable and valuable to me as Mr. Spock's help must have been to Captain Kirk throughout the entire fictional history of the original Star Trek crew. And, of course, like Spock, John acted as though to deny that he had human mother.

Ascetic and acerbic, he had a vast vocabulary and a wicked sense of humor.

I believe that this endeared him to Lina.

Once, in an early round of Lina's Memorial Day Classic, a player in John's section found out that his daughter had been in a car accident; she was OK, but her father wanted to go make sure. With his opponent's consent, I adjourned the game, which he would either resume the next morning, or resign if he decided he could not return to the tournament.

John had been at lunch when this occurred, but when I gave him the adjournment envelope and the story, he growled quietly and cited chapter and verse from the rulebook, arguing that temporary adjournments for medical reasons did not extent to family members' conditions. On hearing this story, Lina smiled and told me "That's our John!"

As we were also fortunate enough to have had the assistance of Andrew Smith in those days, too - who played the role of Dr. McCoy on our team - I never found John's 100% commitment to unemotional rationality to be a limitation, and in fact, it was a source of great and reliable strength on many occasions.

John was very private and lived modestly. Ascetic and acerbic, he had a vast vocabulary and a wicked sense of humor - I thought of him as a modern reincarnation of the famous writer and journalist Ambrose Bierce, who I believed he much admired.

In fact, John had a theory to explain Bierce's death, which is believed to have occurred in Mexico in 1913 or so: he thought that Bierce must have encountered Pancho Villa - *and told him exactly what he thought of him*.

And now, in whatever Hereafter there may be, I can easily picture John doing the same.

In all of my experiences with him, John embodied great intellect, an unflinchingly selfless sense of fairness, and a willingness to work hard for those whom he undertook to assist or serve.

Though I have not run tournaments for 20 years now, and have been away from LA for almost that long, I miss him already.

Requiescat in pace, John.

Mr. Bogner is a Life Master, International Arbiter, and former SCCF president now residing in Half Moon Bay, California - Ed.

Moira Kamgar:

John Hillery was a cantankerous, steel mallet-wielding curmudgeon -- with a heart of gold. He had a sharp wit, devastating vocabulary and an inexplicable affinity for cats.

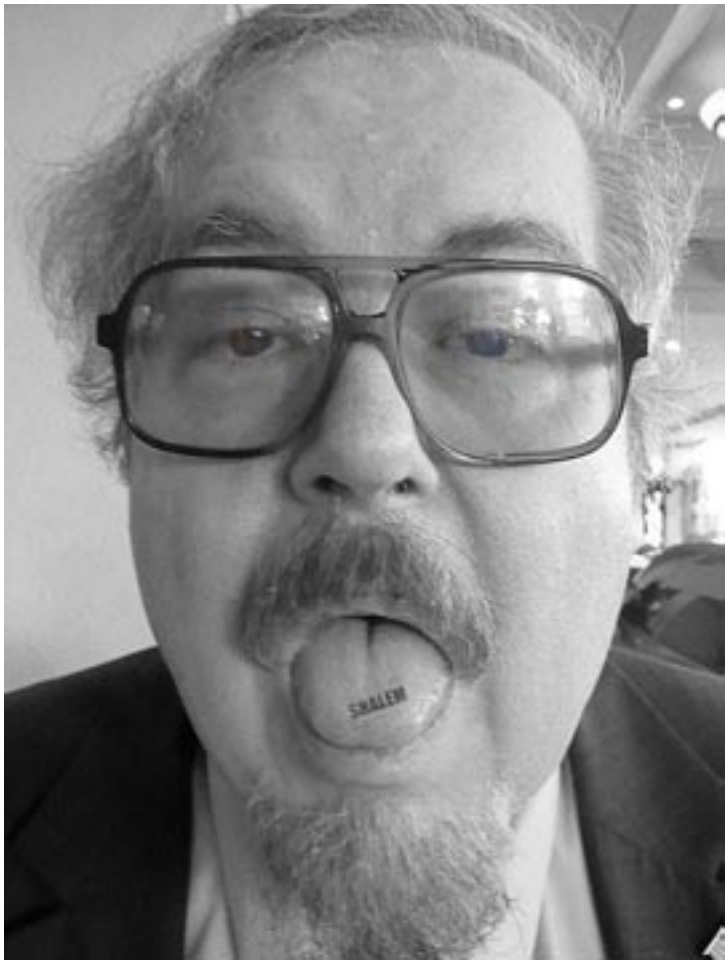
Although he professed a horror of children, Brian Lafferty and Sam Sloan, he could be kind and encouraging when the urge came upon him.

He did the thankless work that no one else wanted to do -- running financially vacuous SoCal chess tournaments in the straight forward, no nonsense and no frills manner befitting his personality.

John could be surprising - for example, he agreed instantly to be in one of my bizarre conceptual art projects. With a twinkle in his eye, he told me that he loved it that I walked on the wild side of the chess world.

I really, really liked John... And so, here is the photo that I took of him on that afternoon during the Western Pacific Open in April when he cheerfully agreed to walk on the wild side with me.

Thank you John... I will remember you fondly...



Cyrus Lakdawala:

I knew John since 1980. He was a good man with a strong sense of service to the community.

People like John tend to be underappreciated because he never had a desire to take credit. Always in the background, he kept things running smoothly at tournaments and he also had an innate sense of fairness as a director.

I always felt safe if he made a decision in one of my games.

John will be sorely missed by his many friends in the Southern California chess community.

Craig Faber:

Sorry to hear about John's passing. He was a wealth of chess history and knowledge both locally and internationally. I can't begin to count how many times he helped explain some obscure chess rules to me. He always treated me with dignity and respect. Hopefully he finally has the "quiet" he always hoped for!

Mike Henebry:

Last night, at the La Palma Chess Club, we had a moment of silence for John. One of the players pointed out afterwards that someone should have shouted "QUIET!" before the moment of silence!

QUIET!

Anthony Ong:

When asked, "why are the scholastic trophies so short, the kids love having them sky high?" John answered, "they're lucky to even get something."

This was John's way of downright efficiency which was required in running tight SCCF tournaments. In some ways, he was training these kids to move away from heavy focus of superficial gains and keep their focus on the aesthetics of the competition.

Even in adult tournaments, players may not always get what they want or receive the accustomed five star customer service treatment, but John guaranteed them their games with impartiality. His complete devotion to tournament directing was invaluable to the chess community.

From his infamously cold yells of QUIET! in the noisy hallways, it was apparent that John made sure of the tournament's well being from the depth of his diaphragm.

Until the bitter-sweet end, with his illness getting worse, he ran his final event, the Southern California Open, with the same professionalism he's done for all past tournaments under his belt.

With only a few people knowing of his personals, his passing came as a surprise to many. Currently the scramble to turn the SoCal events back on schedule proves John served the chess community during his time.

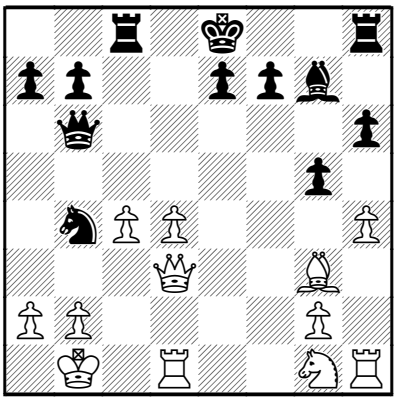
His absence creates vacuum that will take even more time and community support to fill.

Los Angeles Times chess columnist Jack Peters has chosen two games by John and provided notes:

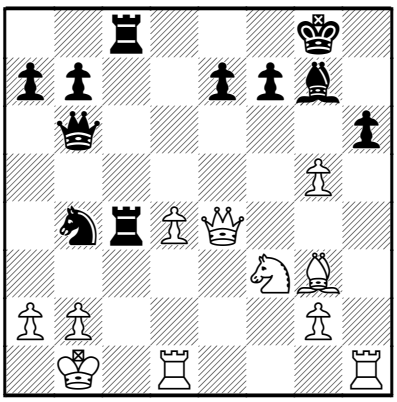
Ivars Dahlberg - John Hillery
Star Warriors II Futurity,
Hollywood 1982
D10 Slav Defense

1 c4 c6 2 Nc3 d5 3 d4 Nf6 4 Bg5 An unusual treatment of the Slav Defense. ***Ne4 5 Nxe4 dxe4 6 Qd2 Bf5 7 e3 h6 8 Bh4 g5*** Accepting a weakened Kingside in return for rapid development. ***9 Bg3 Bg7 10 0-0-0*** Sharpest. ***Na6 11 f3*** Also 11 Ne2 c5 12 a3 Qb6 13 d5 should keep an edge. ***c5 12 fxe4 Bxe4 13 Bd3 Bxd3 14 Qxd3 Rc8 15 Kb1?!*** Underestimating Black's counterattack. Correct is 15 d5 Qb6 16 Qe2.

15 ... Qb6 16 h4? White can maintain equality only by 16 Nf3 Nb4 17 Qe4! (very dangerous is 17 Qb3? Qg6+ 18 Kc1 b5! 19 a3 cxd4!) cxd4 18 Be5!. ***16 ... cxd4 17 exd4 Nb4***



18 Qe4? Losing. Maybe White can survive 18 c5! Qc6 19 Qf5 e6 20 Qf3 Qa4 21 Qb3. ***Rxc4 19 Nf3 0-0!*** Castling into the fire, but White gets cooked first. ***20 hxg5 Rfc8***



21 gxh6 If 21 a3, Black wins the Queen by 21…Na2! 22 Kxa2 Rc2 23 Rb1 R8c3! 24 Ka1 Qb3 (threatening 25...Qxa3+) 25 Qxe7 Bf8.

21 ... Nxa2! Anticipating 22 Kxa2 Ra4+ 23 Kb1 Qb3, mating.

Or, if 22 Qg4, Black stops White's threat by 22…Nc3+ 23 Kc2 Nxd1+ 24 Kxd1 Qb3+ 25 Ke2 Rc2+ 26 Kf1 Qd3+ 27 Kg1 Qe3+ 28 Kh2 Qxh6+.

22 Be1 Rc1+ 23 Kxa2 Qa6+ 24 Ba5 No better is 24 Kb3 R8c4.

24 ... Qxa5+ 25 Kb3 Qb5+ 26 Ka3 R8c3+! White Resigns.

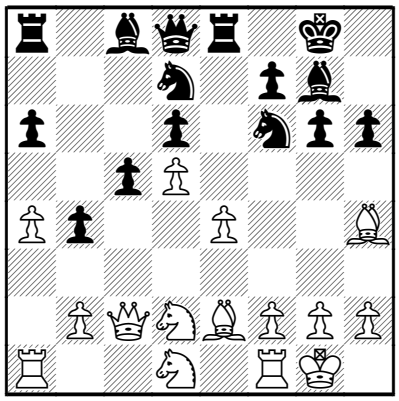
John Hillery - Michael Wierzbicki
Golden Knights Championship
correspondence 1989-1990
A72 Modern Benoni Defense

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 Nf3 c5 4 d5 exd5 5 cxd5 d6 The Modern Benoni.

6 Nc3 g6 7 e4 Bg7 8 Bg5 A sideline, but with some venom. ***h6 9 Bh4 a6*** Black has abandoned 9…g5 10 Bg3 Nh5 11 Bb5+ Kf8 because 12 e5! g4 13 0-0! and 12 e5! Nxg3 13 fxg3 dxe5 14 0-0 give White a powerful attack.

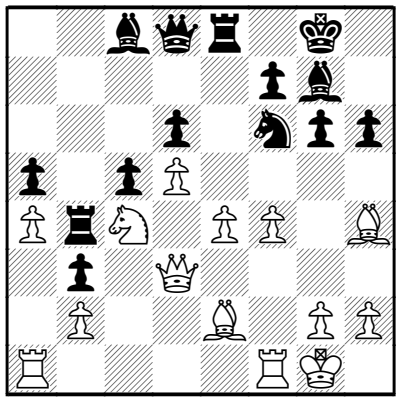
10 Nd2 Harmless is 10 a4 g5 11 Bg3 Nh5. ***b5 11 Be2 0-0 12 0-0 Nbd7 13 Qc2 Re8*** Most natural, but 13…c4 14 b4 cxb3 15 axb3 Bb7 is also adequate.

14 a4 b4 15 Nd1 Heading for c4 via e3. Before White can establish a bind, though, Black has two opportunities for strong counterplay.



15 ... b3!? The other method is 15…g5 16 Bg3 Nxd5 17 Nc4 Nf4, when 18 Nxd6?! Ne5! 19 Nxe8?? loses to 19…b3. ***16 Qd3*** Black does not fear 16 Qxb3 g5 17 Bg3 Nxe4 18 Nxe4 Rxe4 19 Qc2 Nf6.

16 ... Rb8 17 f4 Safer are 17 Nc3 and 17 Ne3. ***Rb4 18 Nc4 Nb6 19 Nde3 Nxc4 20 Nxc4 a5!*** Nunn's recommendation. The fight intensifies, and Black's chances are no worse.



21 Rac1 As 21 e5? Ba6 favors Black. ***21 ... Qc7***

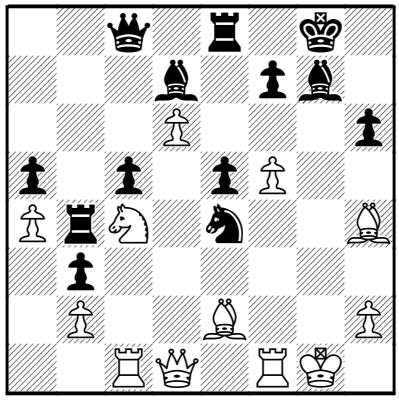
The computer likes 21…Qd7 22 e5 dxe5 23 fxe5 Nxd5, but 24 Bg3, preparing 25 Nd6, retakes the initiative.

A second alternative, 21…Ba6 22 Qf3 Bxc4 23 Bxc4 Qd7!?, invites the exchange sacrifice 24 Bb5? Rxb5 25 axb5 Nxe4, when Black's Bishop will emerge at d4. White must find the answer 24 Be1! Nxe4 25 Bxb4 cxb4 26 Bb5 Qa7+ 27 Kh1 Re7 28 f5 to maintain the dynamic balance.

22 e5 Bf5 23 Qd2 Ne4 24 Qd1 dxe5 25 g4 Bd7 26 d6 Qc8

Not bad, but Black seems to obtain an edge by 26…Qb7 27 f5 gxf5 28 gxf5 Bf6.

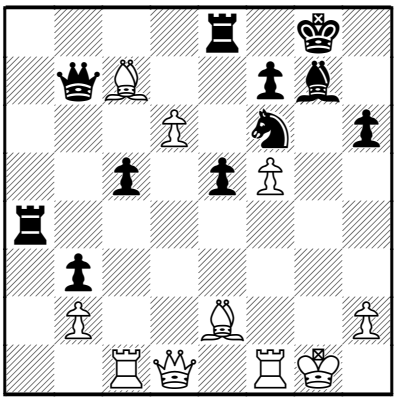
27 f5! Anyway. ***gxf5 28 gxf5***



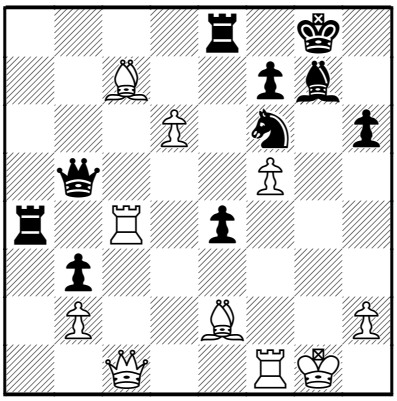
28 ... Nf6?! The complicated 28… Bxf5 29 Rxf5 Qxf5 30 d7 leads to a draw by 30…Qg6+! 31 Kf1 (not 31 Kh1? Rd8 32 Bxd8? Nf2 mate) Qf5+ 32 Kg2 Qg6+ 33 Kf1, unless White dares to risk 33 Bg4 Ra8 34 d8Q+ Rxd8 35 Qxd8+ Kh7 36 Kh3 h5 37 Bc8.

29 Be1 Rb8 Acquiescing to a small disadvantage. A similar evaluation applies to 29…Rb7 30 Nxa5 Rb8 31 Rc4 Bxf5 32 Nxb3. Black spotted the problem with 29…Bxf5? 30 Bxb4 Bc2?, his original intention. White would win with 31 d7! Nxd7 32 Qd5, refuting 32…Nf6 most elegantly by 33 Rxf6 Bxf6 34 Nd6 Qe6 35 Nxe8! Qxd5 36 Nxf6+.

30 Bxa5 Bxa4 Not 31…Bxf5? 32 Nb6. ***31 Bc7 Rb4 32 Nb6 Qb7 33 Nxa4 Rxa4***



34 Rc4!? Black gets plenty of compensation from 34 d7?! Rd4! 35 dxe8Q+ Nxe8. ***Qb5!*** As 35 d7 Nxd7 36 Rd4 Qxe2 37 Qxe2 Rxd4 should hold the draw. ***35 Qc1 e4!?*** Making White worry about the safety of his King. For example, 36 Rxe4? Qc6 37 Rxe8+ Nxe8 creates the disturbing threat of 38…Bd4+. ***36 Rc2 c4*** Easiest is 36…Qb4, when 37 Rc4 Qb5 repeats. Instead, 37 Rxc5? Qd4+ 38 Kh1 e3 would return the advantage to Black. ***37 Rxc4***

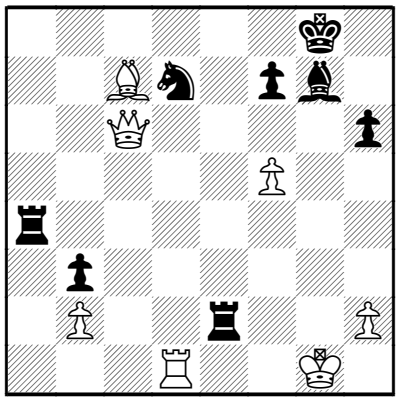


37 … Nd5?? Fatal. After 37…e3 38 Rxa4 Qxa4, White could get swindled by 39 Qc5? Nd7! 40 Qb5? Qxb5 41 Bxb5 Bxb2!, but the correct 39 Qc4 Qxc4 40 Bxc4 Re4 41 Be2 Nd7 leads to a well-deserved draw.

38 Rd1! From this point, Hillery foresaw the artistic finish.

38 … Nf6 Insufficient are 38…Nxc7 39 dxc7 and 38…Ra7 39 Rxe4. Even the trickier 38…Ra2!? fails, to 39 Qd2! Rxb2 40 Qxd5 Qxd5 41 Rxd5 Rxe2 42 d7 Rf8 43 d8Q b2 44 Qxf8+ Kxf8 45 Rd1.

39 d7 Nxd7 40 Rxe4 Qxe2 41 Rxe2 Rxe2 42 Qc6

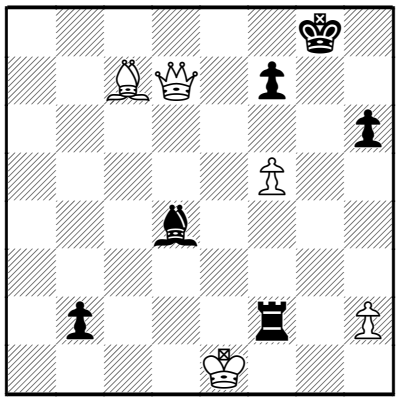


42 … Rd4 Too many Black pieces are loose after 42…Bd4+ 43 Kf1 Rf2+ 44 Ke1. If 44…Nc5, easiest is 45 Qe8+ Kg7 46 Be5+.

43 Rxd4 Bxd4+ 44 Kf1 Again, Black cannot coordinate his pieces after 44…Rf2+ 45 Ke1. White refutes 45…Nf8 by 46 Bd6 Rxb2 47 Qe8 Bg7 48 f6.

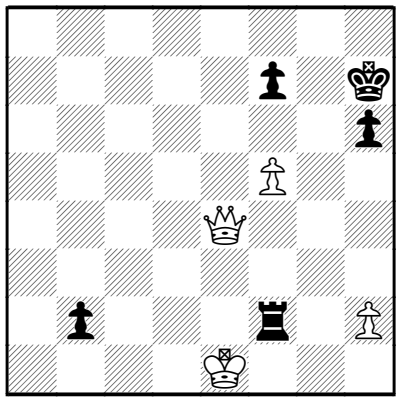
44 … Rxb2 The best chance, as the b-pawn is formidable.

45 Qxd7 Rf2+ 46 Ke1 b2



47 Qe8+ Not 47 Qxd4?? Rc2!, and Black wins. ***47 … Kg7*** If 47…Kh7 48 Qxf7+ Bg7, White maneuvers the Queen into position by 49 Qg6+ Kg8 50 Qe6+ Kh8 51 Qe8+ Kh7 52 Qe4, then finishes with 52…Rg2 53 f6+ Kg8 54 Qe6+ Kh7 55 Qf5+ Kg8 56 f7+ Kh8 57 Be5.

48 Be5+ Bxe5 49 Qxe5+ Kh7 50 Qe4



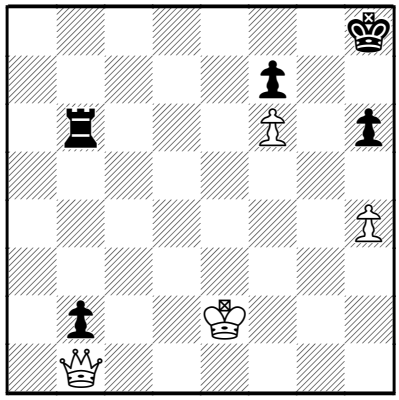
50 … Rf4 Black cannot reach a "fortress draw" by 50…Rg2 51 f6+ Kh8 52 Kf1 Rg6 because of 53 Qe8+ Rg8 54 Qb5.

51 Qb1! The careless 51 Qb7? Rxf5 52 Qxb2 Kg8 probably draws.

51 … Rb4 52 f6+ Kh8 53 Ke2! Threatening 54 Qg1. Less convincing is 53 Kf2? Rb6 54 Kg3 Kg8.

53 … Rb6 54 h4!

Black Resigns.



White will disrupt Black's defense by running his King to c5.

Because 54…Rxf6? lands in Zugzwang by 55 Qxb2 Kg7 56 h5, Black must resort to 54…h5 55 Ke3 Re6+ (another Zugzwang appears after 55…Rxf6 56 Qxb2 Kg7 57 Qe5!, as 57…Kg6 58 Qg5+ costs Black the Rook) 56 Kd3 Rd6+ 57 Kc4 Rb6 58 Kc5 Rb8. White conquers resistance by 59 Kd6 Rb4 60 Ke7 Kg8 61 Qg1+ Rg4 62 Qh1! Ra4 (or 62…Rb4 63 Qd5) 63 Qg2+ Rg4 64 Qb7! Rxh4 65 Ke8.

A grand conception fittingly ends a magnificent game. *R&F*

27th US Amateur Team West

By John Hillery and Larry Stevens

The 27th Annual U.S. Amateur Team West, held at the Warner Center Marriott in Woodand Hills February 13-15, had a good turnout of 48 teams, with 40 more in the one-day Scholastic Section. First place, and a trip to the playoff with the other three regional winners, went to Team OC, with Alexandre Kretchetov, Takashi Iwamoto, Ilia Serpik and Leo Kamgar. And, by the way, they won the Marth 27th playoff on the ICC!

Matching their score of 5½-½, but losing out on tiebreak, were ACA: 64 Square Modern Warfare (Vadim Kudryavtsev, Christian Tanaka, Jared Tan and Eric Zhang).

The Scholastic section went to "We are BEYOND just beating you", on tiebreak over another team from IM Kongliang Deng's "Beyond Chess," BEYOND Chess kids.

John Hillery directed, with assistance from Tom Langland, Anthony Ong, and Kenneth Poole.

Below, we present a few moments from the event.

Final Standings

1st: ***Team OC*** (Alexander Kretchetov, Takashi Iwamoto, Ilia Seprik, Leo Kamgar) 5½-½(Tiebreak)
2nd: ***ACA: 64 Square Modern Warfare*** (Vadim Kudryavtsev, Christian Tanaka, Jared Tan, Eric Zhang) 5½-½
3rd: ***Fourclosers*** (Ron Hermansen, Alessandro Steinfl, Tim hanks, Jeffrey Cohen) 5-1
U2100: ***Look BEYOND what you see*** (Rated 1880!)
U2000: ***Three Knights and a Queen***
U1800: ***Temple City High School***
U1600: ***Cloudy With a Chance of Meaterial***
U1400: ***Chess Palace***
U1200: (no teams)
College: ***Trojans Drink Jack Danyuls***
Industrial: ***Northrop Grumman Advantage in Space***
Senior: (over age 50): ***Tea Party for Five***
Junior: ***Two and a Half Asians***
High School: ***University High School***

Board Prizes

1: Enrico Sevillano 5-1
2: Andranik Matikozyan 5½-½
3: Michael Brown 5½-½
4: Eric Zhang 6-0
Alternate: Ezekiel Liu 4-0

The Big Upset

Robert Potts, a high A player, gets a draw against first board prize winner and frequent Southern California Champion Enrico Sevillano.

The higher rated player likes an imbalanced and/or complicated game, to increase the chances of mistakes by the opponent. We will see such considerations come into play.

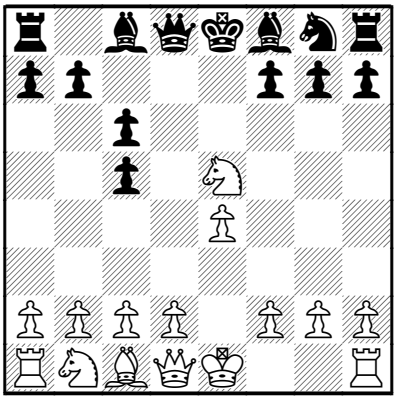
According to an old scorebook, I played Robert on March 20th and again on June 8th, 1965. We split.

Robert Potts (1949),
Northrop Grumman Advantage in Space -
Enrico Sevillano (2551),
ACA Masters
[B30] Sicilian Defense,
Rossolimo Variation

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 e5 4. Bxc6

Unusual. 4. 0–0 Nge7 and now 5. Bc4 and 5. c3 have been seen.

4. ... dxc6 5. Nxe5



5. ... Qg5

Preferring a broken White Kingside, but 5. ... Qd4 regains the pawn under better circumstances. One possible line is 6. Ng4 Qxe4+ 7. Ne3 Nf6 8. 0–0 Bd6 9. d3 Qh4 10. g3 Qh3, and Black has weakened the White Kingside and his two Bishops have good possibilities.

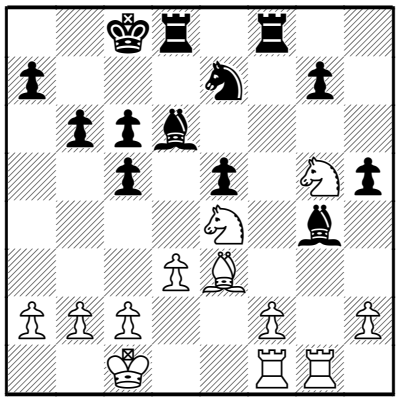
6. Nf3 Qxg2 7. Rg1 Qh3 8. d3 f6

The Queen, if it starts to get biffed, will need a place to go.

9. Be3 Bg4 10. Nbd2 Bd6 11. Qe2 h5 12. 0–0–0 0–0–0 13. Qf1 Qxf1 14. Rdxf1 Ne7 15. e5 fxe5 16. Ng5

The Knights have a nice outpost on e4, which makes it hard for the Bishop pair to find open diagonals.

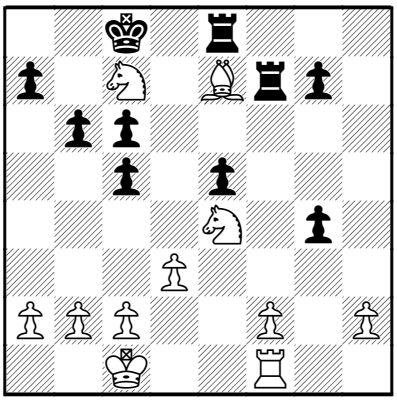
16. ... Rhf8 17. Nde4 b6



18. Rxg4! hxg4 19. Ne6 Bc7 20. Bg5 Rf7 21. Bxe7 Re8

Another way would be 21. ... Rxe7 22. Nxd8 Bxd8 23. Rg1 with a lesser disadvantage but a simpler position.

22. Nxc7



22. ... Rexe7 23. Nd6+?

The Knight excapes back to the center after the odd 23. Ne8! Rf4 24. N8d6+ Kc7 25. Nc4 with a big advantage, as Black's Knights are very strong.

23. ... Kxc7 24. Nxf7 Rxf7

Now Black has a definite advantage. He is a pawn ahead with a safe position, but both sides have weak pawns.

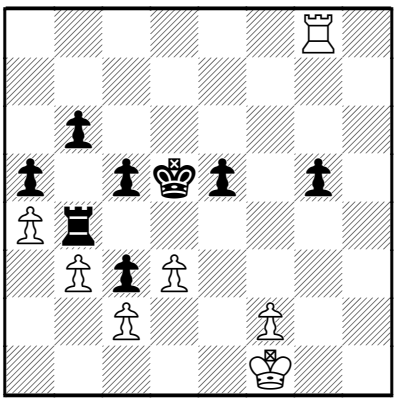
25. Kd2 Kd6 26. Ke2 Ke6 27. Rg1 Rf4 28. Rg3 c4 29. h3 c3 30. b3 gxh3 31. Rxh3 g5 32. Rh6+ Kd5 33. Rg6 Rg4 34. Kf1 c5

34. ... a5 might keep a slight advantage. But we remember the saying that all Rook and pawn endings are drawn. If we look at the final result of this game, it might confirm that. But drama is still ahead.

35. Rg8

After 35. Rg7! Black is just as busy as White, trying to cover his weaknesses.

35. ... a5 36. a4 Rb4 Diagram



With quite a threat!

37. Rxg5?

After 37. Ke2 it's equal.

37. ... Rxb3!

Drama has returned. If White makes another mistake, it's all over!

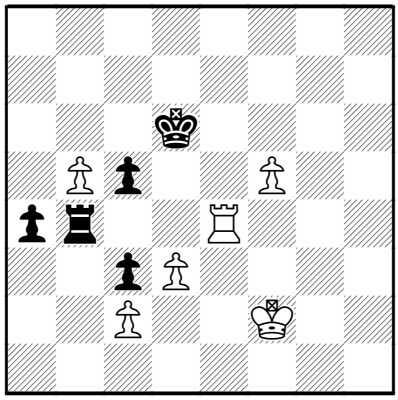
38. f4 Rb1+

Black can eventually win a Queenside pawn with 38. ... Ra3 39. Rxe5+ Kd6 40. Re4 Ra1+ 41. Kg2 Ra2 42. Re2 Rxa4, with an imbalanced endgame that favors Black, with more chances to win.

39. Kf2 Rb2

This move does not win the c-pawn. Better is 39. ... Ra1 40. Rxe5+ Kd6 41. Kf3 Rxa4, and it's another advantagious endgame for Black similar to the one in the previous note.

40. Rxe5+ Kd6 41. Re2 Rb4 42. Re4 b5 43. axb5 a4 44. f5!



44. ... a3

Black is able to Queen first with the seemingly winning 44. ... Rxe4 45. dxe4 a3 46. b6 a2 47. b7 Kc7 48. b8Q+ Kxb8 49. f6 a1Q 50. f7, but Black is, shockingly, quite helpless to stop the White pawn from Queening with check, unless he just moves his King. This is because his own pawn on c5 blocks his Queen from being able to control the all important f8 square.

So this line results in a Queen ending with White having an advanced center pawn and being able to get lots of checks on the Black King.

Therefore it cannot be recommended for Black.

45. Re6+ Kc7 46. Ra6

The last threat by Black ends with the fall of the a-pawn, and the drama that started at White's 37th is brought to a close.

46. ... Rf4+ 47. Ke2 Rxf5 48. Rxa3 Kb6 49. Rxc3 Kxb5 50. Rb3+ Kc6

White is a pawn up in a stable position with a theoretical draw.

51. Kd2 Rf4 52. Rb8 Rh4 53. Re8 Kd5 54. Rd8+ Kc6 55. Re8 Kd5 56. Rd8+ Kc6 57. Re8

½–½

White made a mistake when the draw was almost within reach, but he did not get discouraged.

Congratulations to Robert!

A Shot!

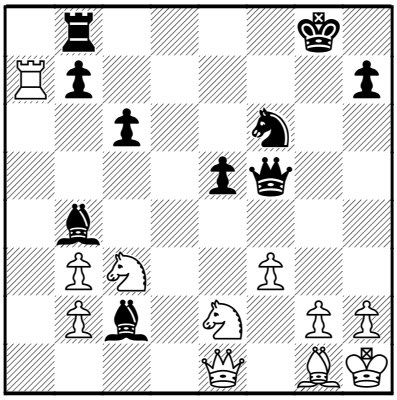
My teammate's combination in the last round to helped our team win the match.

Jesse Victoria (2077),
***"You're Killing Me, Larry"* -**
Richard Borgen (2172),
Ancient Spartans
B07 Pirc Defense

1. e4 d6 2. Bc4 Nf6 3. d3 g6 4. Ne2 Bg7 5. 0–0 0–0

Jesse said he learned this approach to the Pirc in the streets of his home town, Subic, in the Philippines.

6. Nbc3 c6 7. Bb3 Nbd7 8. f3 Nc5 9. Be3 Qc7 10. Qd2 Rd8 11. d4 Nxb3 12. axb3 e5 13. dxe5 dxe5 14. Qe1 Be6 15. Qf2 Nd7 16. Rfd1 f5 17. Bg5 Re8 18. exf5 gxf5 19. Rxa7 Rxa7 20. Qxa7 Bf8 21. Be3 Nf6 22. Qa4 Qg7 23. Kh1 Qg6 24. Qh4 f4 25. Bg1 Be7 26. Qe1 Bf5 27. Ra1 Bxc2 28. Ra7 Rb8 29. Nxf4 Qf5 30. Nfe2 Bb4



31. Nd4! exd4

If 31. ... Qg6, then 32. Nxc2 Qxc2 33. Qxe5 Rf8 34. Ne4 (to trade off a defender) 34. ... Nxe4 35. fxe4 and now White's pieces will get to the wide open Black King.

32. Qg3+ Kf7 33. Qxb8 dxc3 34. Qxb7+ Kg6 35. Qf7+ Kh6 36. Be3+

1–0

The Amazing Defense

Fritz finds a defense.

Konstantin Kavutskiy (2213),
Kavutskiy Team -
Jack Peters (2423), *USC 1*
[E91] King's Indian Defense,
Classical Variation

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. e4 d6 5. Nf3 0–0 6. Be2 Na6 7. Qc2 c5 8. d5 e6 9. dxe6 fxe6 10. Bg5 Qb6 11. Rd1 Ne8 12. Qd2 Rf7 13. h4 Nb4 14. h5 gxh5 15. Nh2 Bd4 16. Nf3 Nf6 17. Nxd4 cxd4 18. Bxf6 Rxf6 19. Qg5+ Rg6 20. Qxh5 Nc2+ 21. Kf1

21. Kd2! Qxb2 22. Qxh7+ Kf8 23. Nb5 Ne3+ 24. Kd3 Qc2+ 25. Kxd4 looks good to a computer.

21. ... Qc7 22. Nb5 Qf7 23. Kg1

Stong is 23. Nxd6 Ne3+ 24. Ke1 Nxg2+ 25. Kd2 Qg7 26. Qb5, as Black is not able to get to the dancing King.

23. ... e5 24. c5! Qg7 25. Nxd6

White can take the c4-g8 diagonal for himself with the complicated 25. Bc4+ Kh8 26. Nxd6 Bg4 27. Nf7+ Qxf7 28. Bxf7 Bxh5 29. Rxh5 Rf6 30. Bb3 Nb4 31. Rxe5 and White has a huge advantage.

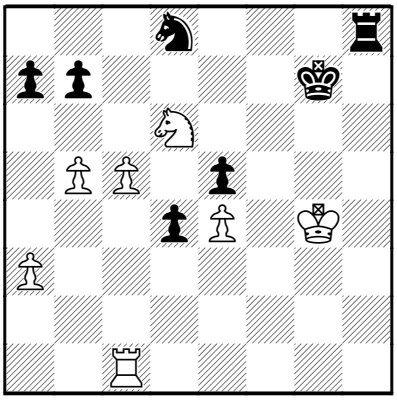
25. ... Rxg2+ 26. Kf1 Be6 27. Qxh7+

In this complicated position, the way to keep the advantage is 27. Ne8 Qg6 28. Nf6+ Kf7 29. Qf3 Qxf6 30. Qxf6+ Kxf6 31. Kxg2.

27. ... Qxh7 28. Rxh7 Rxf2+ 29. Kxf2 Kxh7 30. Rh1+ Kg7 31. Rc1 Rf8+ 32. Kg3 Nb4 33. a3 Nc6 34. b4 Rh8

A better defense is 34. ... Nd8, for 35. b5 Kf6 36. c6 bxc6 37. bxc6 Nf7 simplifies.

35. Bg4 Bxg4 36. Kxg4 Nd8 37. b5



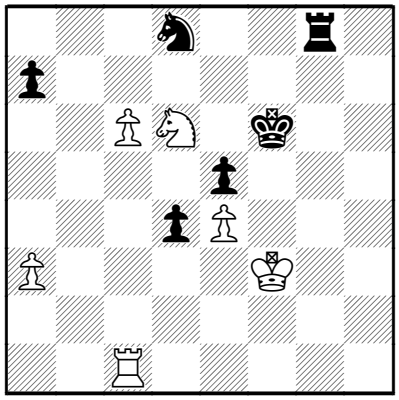
How does Black stop the Queenside pawn advance?

If you like, take a moment to think about this position, and decide what you would try at Black's 37th move.

Perhaps you will find something that would give you a little confidence if you had to play this position.

Good luck!

Here is Fritz's answer: 37. ... Kf6 38. c6 Rg8+ 39. Kf3 bxc6 40. bxc6.



(Analysis Diagram)

And now 40. ... Nf7!, gaining a tempo for a grand tour.

If White does not trade down to a draw here, Mr. Knight Guy has g5, e4, d6, and finally c8 on the itinerary.

It's hard to believe:

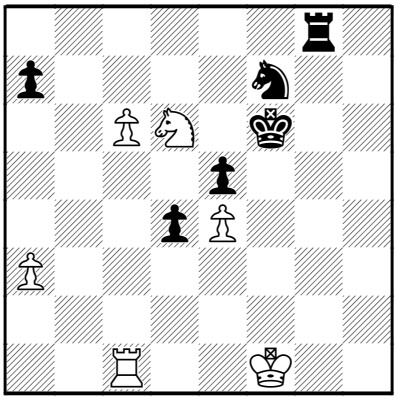
41. Nb5 Ng5+ 42. Ke2 a6 43. Na7 Nxe4 44. c7 Nd6 45. c8Q Nxc8 and now that the Knight has done its amazing job, it is given up for the new Queen. Black soon gets connected passed pawns on the fifth rank that combine with his Rook to create trouble for the White King. If 46. Rxc8, then 46. ... Rg2+, and if 46. Nxc8, then 47. ... e4.

From this Knight's tour variation, we see that the White King wants to avoid a Knight check from g5 and also from e4. That means the f3 and f2 squares are off-limits.

But the Knight cannot start his tour with ... Nf7 until the deadly Rf1+ is prevented by the White King when he is checked onto the f-file.

So Black continues with checks by his Rook and the White King heads for f1. White wants to go there, and Black wants to force him there.

Now, instead of 39. Kf3 as above, the next critical line is 39. Kh3 Rh8+ 40. Kg2 Rg8+ 41. Kf1 bxc6 42. bxc6 Nf7



(Analysis Diagram)

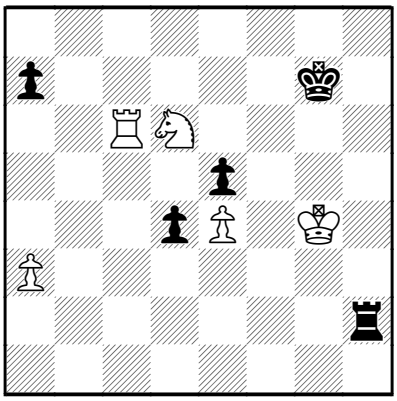
The likeliest winning try is 43. Nb5 Ke6 44. Ke2 (If 44. Nxa7 Nd6 45. c7 Kd7=) 44. ... Nd6 45. c7 Nc8

(Black might try the forcing 45. ... Nxb5 46. c8Q+ Rxc8 47. Rxc8 Nxa3 to reach a N+2P v R+P ending, after White captures the a-pawn. If it's a win for White, it's a long process.)

46. Rc5 But this line, too, is a long endgame without a clear win in sight.

One line is 46. ... Rg4 47. Kd3 Rg3+ 48. Kd2 Rg2+ 49. Kd1 Rg1+ 50. Kc2 Rg3 51. Kb2 Rf3 52. a4 Rf4 53. Rd5 Rf8 54. Rd8 Ke7 55. Rxf8 Kxf8 56. Na3 Ke7 57. Nc4 Kd7 58. Kc2 Kxc7 59. Kd3 Nb6 60. Nxe5 Nxa4 61. Kxd4 a5 drawing.

37. ... Rh2 38. c6 bxc6 39. bxc6 Nxc6 40. Rxc6



Compared to the previous variations, Black does not have nearly as much for the piece.

40. ... d3 41. Nf5+ Kf7 42. Rd6 d2 43. a4 Ke8 44. Rd5 d1Q+ 45. Rxd1 Ra2 46. Rd5 Rxa4 47. Rxe5+ Kf7 48. Kg5 Ra1 49. Nd6+ Kg7 50. Re7+ Kf8 51. Kf6 Rf1+ 52. Nf5 Rf4 53. Re5 Rg4 54. Re6 a5 55. e5

1–0

SCCF Super State!

Scholastic Championship March 27-28

Six hundred **competed in the Chess Palace sponsored main event of Orange County's three-day "Chess at the Park." Orange County Great park, formerly El Toro Marine Corps Air Station, hosted a great weekend of chess.** In the high school section, Christian Tanaka, pictured here, finished first over Michael Brown on tiebreaks. Anthony Ong Reports:

"Look! There's the orange balloon." This was the most popular phrase that weekend as everyone drove into the scenic Orange County Great Park through the roads that led to historic Hangar 244.

The conspicuous 118-foot tall, 30-passenger tethered helium balloon served as a navigational landmark in the giant seven square mile park.

Waiting for the top scholastic players of Southern California were two hundred-plus glistening trophies, seats for all 600 players, and more than 20 determined staff.

At the registration tables, each player received an event program complete with scoresheets, a chess music CD-ROM, and a heavy-duty chess tote bag in the honor of the passing of scholastic organizer Jay Blem.

At the 9 AM opening ceremony, Mayor pro tem Larry Agran welcomed parents, coaches, and players who traveled from as far north as the Bay Area and as far south as San Diego.

At the start time of 9:30 on March 27, the whole room fell silent.

Out of the 12 sections, there were two day schedules in all the Championship sections and a Saturday-only schedule for the Reserve sections. This enabled the overflowing attendance of the Unrated section to be accommodated on Sunday.

Between rounds, coaches busily filled out forms to ensure that their students' proper information was recorded in the TDs' computers.

But when the championship players finished their games, they quickly headed towards their team tents which served as headquarters to analyze with their coaches.

The quick games of the Reserve section allowed the more novice players to indulge in the outdoor activities of the park.

The greatest was of course the free balloon ride. As the balloon soared 400 feet up, one could look down to observe the tents covering the team areas, skittles, and expert simul activities.

At the first day award ceremony, the kids gathered in a circle awaiting their participation medals or trophy for top ten in each section.

"If I say setback, you say comeback…" rallied "edutainer" Ali Ellington, who likes to think of himself as both an educator and an entertainer, as he opened the awarding of the first of 250 trophies with co-organizer Salman Azhar.

Topping the High School under 1200 was Orion Burl; Junior High under 1000: Daniel Sun; Elementary under 800: Gio Geromo; and Primary under 600: Justin Hsu.

The first day concluded with a showing of Spike Jonze's "Where The Wild Things Are" (2009), the first in the park's series of 2010 Movie on the Lawn nights.

The arrival of the non-rated players on Sunday challenged the staff, who knew the more rowdy players would have to be dealt with. Many of these players were first time tournament participants and would need more attention.

Once again, the staff and coaches went on a double-time pace, as

photo by Doreen Tanaka

G/15 minutes was the time control for five rounds. In the end all 250 newbies got their awards within six hours!

The following players are worthy of commendation: Matt Rommel, winner of the K-12 Unrated; Jake Markson and Simren Lakhotia, who scored a perfect 5 – 0 in the K-6 division; and Ryan Wu and Michelle Mo, tied in the K-3 Unrated.

Then finally the Championship section, under the supervision of Mick Bighamian, was able to play its final round in peace and quiet. They were the last to finish -- but we were saving the best for last.

In the High School Championship section, Christian Tanaka tied with the up and coming Michael Brown, both with 5 out of 6 points. Tanaka won on tie-breaks (seventh grader Brown was ineligible for the title anyway) and will represent So Cal in the Denker Championships during the US Open.

Kyron Griffith, with the best tiebreak of the four-pointers, will be Southern California's official alternate in the Denker.

The rest of that talented group included Fei Yue Yang, Yusheng Xia, Sandy He, Alan Tsoi, Daniel Giordani, and Robert Xue.

Amir Azhar won the Junior High Championship section, but his Nor Cal residence caused him to pass down the title of JH Champ to Brendyn Estolas.

Andy Caen, Hovanes Salvaryan, and Ethan Minoofar topped the Elementary, Primary (K-3), and K-1 respectively.

Notable teams include Temple City High for becoming the State High Champions, Turtle Rock won the Elementary section, Coalinga Elementary under the tutelage of devoted Ed Wong won both Primary and K-1 teams.

University HS of Irvine won the HS Reserve, and the Van Vooren team took the JH Reserve with only two players.

Tesero, under Coach Jay Stallings' guidance, won both Elementary Reserve and Primary Reserve. We saw the Tesero team again taking the K-6 unrated team prize.

Luther and Disney taught by Coach Kevin Bulone won K-12 and K-3 respectively.

Notable club winners are national Coach Armen Ambartsoumian's ACA, while Sarah Lu and Ben Deng's Beyond Chess dominated the rest of the four Championship sections and one in the Reserve.

IVCCA, coached by Tony Lambert, topped the HS Reserve club, All Star Youth Chess (ASYC) topped the JH Reserve clubs, and California Youth Chess League won the Primary Reserve. In the Unrated sections all three were clinched by ASYC.

This year's Super States saw one of the most complete representations of teams from many clubs. They include All American Chess Association, Beyond Chess, CYCL, Chess Palace, Hanley Chess Academy, LA Chess Club, San Diego Chess Club, ThinkChess, Academic Chess, Beverly Hills Chess, IVCCA (Central), and Irvine Arts and Music.

photo by Mae Van Vooren

Of the surprisingly large turnout of six hundred entrants, one hundred came from Sarah Lu's Beyond Chess.

Coach Jay Stallings, director of CYCL based in Santa Clarita, oversaw the minor details that can easily make the difference between success and chaos if left unattended.

Coaches Ed Wong and Kevin Bulone did great preparatory work in getting their most underprivileged students represented in the tournament.

Special thanks for behind the scenes work to Dr. Elliot Landaw for ensuring the smooth set-up, registration, and editing the publicity materials.

This tournament wouldn't have been possible without the encouragement of the members of the Southern California Chess Federation board given to the organizer of this tournament.

Technical improvements offsite and onsite were made by Coach Jay Stallings, Richard Peterson, and Sarah Lu. Thank you to Coach Kevin Bulone for ensuring the well-being of each of his 100 students as ensured.

The Orange County Chess at the Park event took place over three days (GM Melik Khachiyan gave a simul Friday night), but planning started six months before, thanks to the Great Park directors and leaders Karena Lee and Setiam Allah.

Dewain Barber was MC and helped with crowd control.

Quick turnaround of pairings was ensured by TDs Randy Hough and Tom Langland.

Invaluable expertise from floor Tournament Directors Kele Perkins, Mick Bighamian, and Taras McKey was greatly appreciated.

Finally, I don't want to forget to give special thanks to the Ong family gang for the moral and physical support throughout. *R&F*

For more photos, see http://www.flickr.com/photos/ocgreatpark/page5/ and also /page 6/. -Ed.

2010 SCCF Super State Scholastic Championship Results

	High School Championship	Junior High Championship	Elementary Championship	Primary Championship	K-1 Championship	High School Reserve
1st	Christian Tanaka	Aamir Ali Azhar	Andy Caen	Hovanes Salvaryan	Ethan Minoofar	Orion Burl
2nd	Michael William Brown	Brendyn Estolas	Daniel Lin	Bryan Xiao	Tim Deng	Theodore Pringle
3rd	Kyron W Griffith	Boris Phillip Kitapszyan	Winston Ching-tze Zeng	Aaron Householder	Amanda Whiting	Nahum Delgado
4th	Fei Yue Yang	Alvin Huang	Agata Bykovtsev	Julian Chang	Eric Gao	Matthew Carvajal
5th	Yusheng Xia	Theo Caen	Russell Bik	Sean Lin	Allen Liu	William Yuen Yee
6th	Tianyi He	Kendrick D Nguyen	Albert Lu	Jerry Qu	Eugene Kong	Kevin Wang
7th	Alan Tsoi	Christopher Kao	Andrew Nicholas Santoso	Gordon Lin	Joaquin K Perkins	Mark Rychnovsky
8th	Daniel Jacob Giordani	Craig Lok Hilby	David Minasyan	Winston Qian	Stanley Cheng	Siddharth Patel
9th	Robert Xue	George Situ	Blake M Wong	Eli Minoofar	Kendryek Wu	Sherwin Tang
10th	Austin Hughes	Taylor McCreary	George Shan	Matthew Poh	Gia Peterson	Raphael Ma Ong Unson
1st team	TEMPLE CITY HIGH		TURTLE ROCK ELEM	COALINGA Elem	COALINGA Elem	UNIVERSITY HIGH
2nd team	UNIVERSITY HIGH		COALINGA ELEM		OAK HILL	SOUTHWEST
3rd team	BISHOP SCHOOL		SANTIAGO HILLS ELEM			
1st club	ACA	BEYOND CHESS	BEYOND CHESS	BEYOND CHESS	BEYOND CHESS	IVCCA
2nd club	BEYOND CHESS	IRVIN	IRVNA	SDCC	CYCL	CYCL
3rd club	SDCC	ACA	ACADE	IRVNA	HANLE	

	Junior High Reserve	Elementary Reserve	Primary Reserve	K-12 Unr	K-6 Unr	K-3 Unr
1st	Daniel Sun	Gio Geromo	Justin Hsu	Matt Rommel	Jake Markson	Ryan Wu
2nd	Ryan Houston	Jasmine Nuno	Jack Morgan	Gabriel Aguilar	Simren Lakhotia	Michelle Mo
3rd	Yousef Rezwan Azhar	Arman Hairapetyan	Brian Santoso	Michael Mashevsky	Shane Houska	Rushikesh Pande
4th	Mikaela Van Vooren	Tiankun Wang	Michael Zhang	Johnathan Shenk	Elias Garcia	Yujung Park
5th	Frances Nicklen	Nancy Qiong Zhang	Holiday Pettijohn	Jenny Quan	Hakob Abajian	Justin Wu
6th	Alan Salazar	Trevor Jung	Royce Okubo	Elias Ortiz	Wesley Zhang	Daniel Gunner
7th	Timothy Tan	Spencer Toy	Joshua Tyler Chan	Harutyun Avetisyan	Ahmed Attaalla	Daniel Sepulveda
8th	Makenzie Van Vooren	Alfred Quan	Carson Van Vooren	Matthew Powers	Jared Chestnut	Andrew Mah
9th	Dylan Pearson	Anthony Tan	Rui Song	Daniel Brodell	Shelby Wong	Avinash Gala
10th	Bobbie Chen	Tristan Pollner	Jacob Lim	Hermes Aburto	Anthony Ma	Andrew Dever
1st team	VAN VOOREN	TESERO	TESERO	LUTHER	TESERO	DISNEY
2nd team	HEBER	RIO VISTA	OAK HILL	CENTRAL	DISNEY	STEVENSON
3rd team	COALINGA Elem	COALINGA Elementary		JBHS	STEVENSON	MCKINLEY
1st club	ASYC	BEYOND CHESS	CYCL	ASYC	ASYC	ASYC
2nd club	IVCCA	IRVNA	BEYOND CHESS	TUTOR	TUTOR	BEYOND CHESS
3rd club	BEYOND CHESS	MAGIC	CHSSP	BEYOND CHESS	CYCL	TUTOR

Lina Grumette Memorial Day Classic

May 21-23, 2010

By Jack Peters

John Daniel Bryant scored 4½–½ to win the small but strong Memorial Day Classic at the Airport Hilton in Los Angeles. Bryant defeated two International Masters and yielded a draw only to his stepfather, state champion IM Enrico Sevillano, who finished second at 4-1. Next at 3½–1½ were Alexandre Kretchetov, Julian Landaw, Gregg Small, IM Tim Taylor and this writer.

Other sections were won by David Oldham, 5-0 in Under-2000; Gee Yong Leong, 4½–½ in Under-1800; Paul Cijo, Edgar M. Lopez and Hovanes Salvaryan, 3½–1½ in Under-1600; and Ruperto Dilig Jr., 5-0 in Under-1400.

The once-glorious tournament, which regularly attracted over 400 players in the 1980s, had a mere 86 entrants. John Hillery directed.

It's doubtful if the shift away from Memorial Day weekend had much effect. Attendance has dropped at all tournaments, and a turnout of close to 100 players now seems normal for a weekend event.

There were 24 additional competitors in the two scholastic tournaments. Jimmy Revelino won the Scholastic Open, scoring 4½–½. In the grades K-6 section, Arman Hairapetyan, Jeremy Mittman and Darrell Yap shared first place with scores of 4-1. *R&F*

Four games from the tournament are chosen, for various reasons.

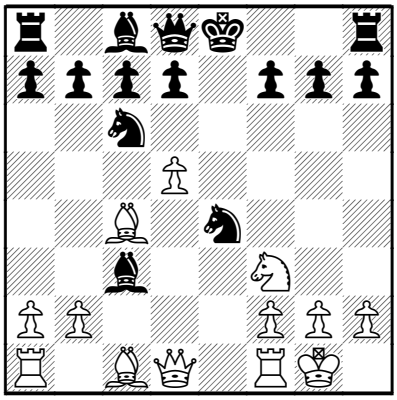
The first is a Guioco Piano variation that's been played for one hundred years! Very strong players have taken both sides of the line then and now. It's quite tricky, as you will see.

Next is John Daniel Bryant's short win against IM Andranik Matikozyan.

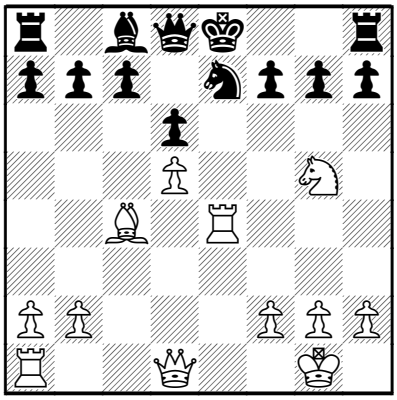
Finally, we present the games on the top two boards in the final round between Taylor and Sevillano and the tournament winning game between Bryant and Peters.

The brief notes are by the editor, with a little help from my Fritz.

Enrico Sevillano (2538) - Julian Landaw (2322)
[C54] Guioco Piano
1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Bc5 4. c3 Nf6 5. d4 exd4 6. cxd4 Bb4+ 7. Nc3 Nxe4 8. 0–0 Bxc3 9. d5

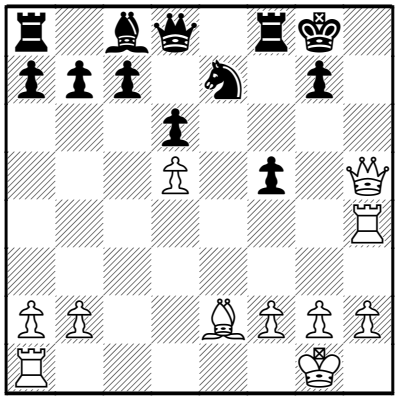


9. ... Bf6 10. Re1 Ne7 11. Rxe4 d6 12. Bg5 Bxg5 13. Nxg5

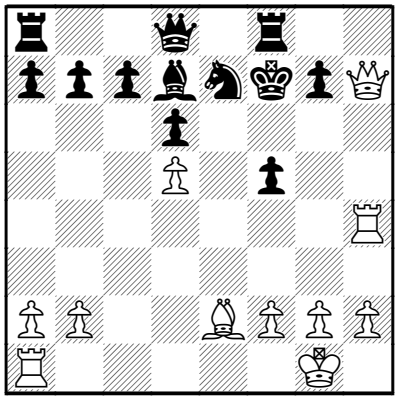


13. ... 0–0
The best players have favored 13. ... h6 14. Qe2 hxg5 15. Re1 Be6 16. dxe6 f6.
14. Nxh7 Kxh7 15. Qh5+ Kg8 16. Rh4 f5 17. Be2

17. Be2 is seldom played. But Black now has to find the right move:

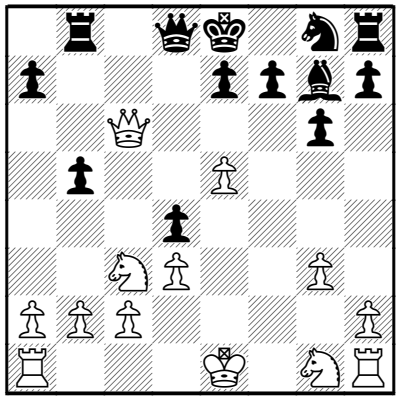


17. ... Bd7?
The only way is 17. ... Re8 18. Qh7+ Kf8 19. Bh5 Bd7 with the idea of ... Ng8, when White gets the exchange at e8. Black has a very tricky task to consolidate, but his two pieces for a Rook will give him the advantage if he can.
18. Qh7+ Kf7

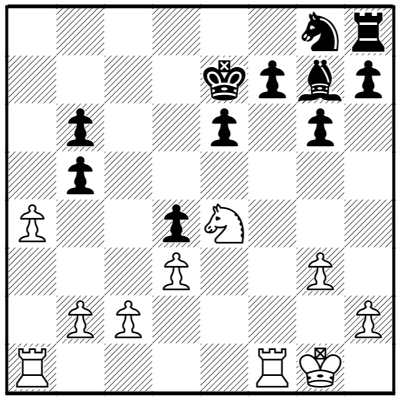


19. Rh6! Rg8 20. Bh5+ Kf8 21. Rf6+
1–0

John Daniel Bryant (2444) - Andranik Matikozyan (2559)
[B24] Closed Sicilian
1. e4 c5 2. Nc3 Nc6 3. g3 g6 4. Bg2 Bg7 5. d3 Rb8 6. f4 b5 7. e5 Bb7 8. Be3 d6 9. Qe2 dxe5 10. fxe5 Nd4 11. Bxd4 Bxg2 12. Qxg2 cxd4 13. Qc6+



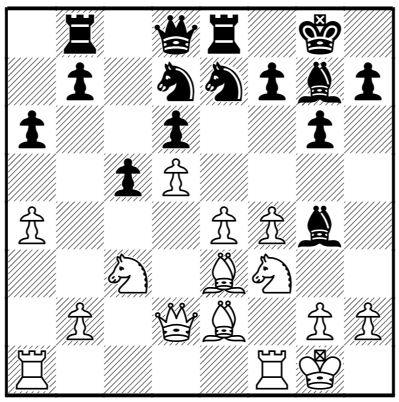
13. ... Kf8
13. ... Qd7 14. Qxd7+ Kxd7 15. Nce2 Bxe5 16. Nf3 Bf6 17. Nfxd4 leads to an advantagious but simplified position.
14. Ne4 Bxe5 15. Nf3 Bg7 16. 0–0 Qb6?!
Neglecting development.
17. Qd5! e6
Of no help is 17. ... Nf6 18.Nxf6 Bxf6 19.Ng5! Ke8 20. Qxf7+ Kd8 21. Nxh7 and wins.
18. Qd7 Rd8 19. Ne5! Rxd7 20. Nxd7+ Ke7 21. Nxb6 axb6 22. a4!!



1–0
This would have been a most unpleasant ending to try to save.
Three possible lines are:
22. ... f5 23. axb5;
22. ... b4 23. a5 f5 24. a6 Nh6 25. Nd2; and finally
22. ... Nf6 23. Nxf6 Bxf6 24. axb5.

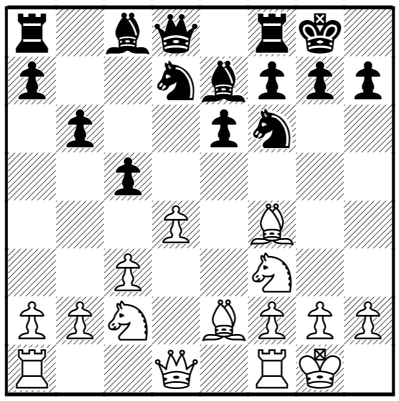
In the next game, Black repulses a Kingside attack and successfully navigates some difficult complications. Eventually, it turns into an easy endgame.

Tim Taylor (2342) - Enrico Sevillano (2538)
[A43] Benoni
1. d4 c5 2. d5 e6 3. c4 exd5 4. cxd5 d6 5. Nc3 g6 6. e4 Bg7 7. f4 a6 8. a4 Ne7 9. Nf3 Bg4 10. Be2 Nd7 11. 0–0 0–0 12. Be3 Rb8 13. Qd2 Re8

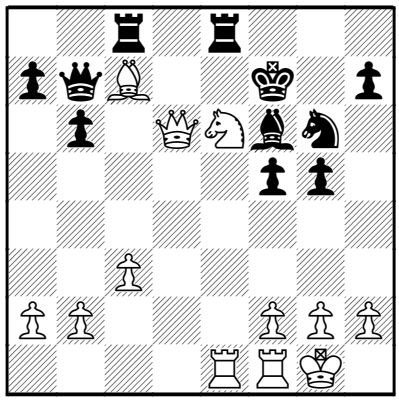


14. Rae1 Qa5 15. f5 gxf5 16. Bh6 Bxf3 17. Rxf3 fxe4 18. Rg3 Ng6 19. Bxg7 Kxg7 20. Rf1 Qb4 21. Qf4 Qd4+ 22. Kh1 Qf6 23. Qg4 Qe7 24. Rh3 Nf6 25. Qg5 Ng8 26. Nxe4 Qxg5 27. Nxg5 Nh6 28. Bd3 Re5 29. Rg3 Rxd5 30. h4 Rd4 31. Ne4 c4 32. Bc2 d5 33. Nd6 Rxh4+ 34. Kg1 b5 35. axb5 axb5 36. Ra3 d4 37. Ra7 Rf4 38. Re1 d3 39. Bd1 Rd4 40. Ne8+ Kh8 41. Bh5 d2
0–1

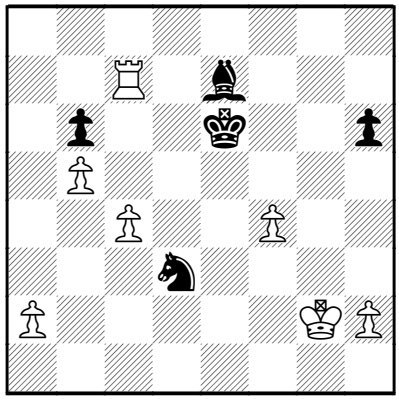
John Daniel Bryant (2444) - Jack Peters (2402)
[B22] c3 Sicilian
1. e4 c5 2. c3 d5 3. exd5 Qxd5 4. d4 e6 5. Nf3 Nf6 6. Na3 Qd8 7. Nc2 Be7 8. Be2 0–0 9. 0–0 Nbd7 10. Bf4 b6



11. Ne5 Nxe5 12. Bxe5 Bb7 13. Bf3 Bxf3 14. Qxf3 Qd5 15. Qg3 Qe4 16. Ne3 Nh5 17. Qh3 cxd4 18. Bxd4 Nf4 19. Qg4 g5 20. Rae1 Qc6 21. Qg3 f5 22. Nc2 Kf7 23. Be5 Ng6 24. Nd4 Qb7 25. Bc7 Bf6 26. Nxe6 Rfe8 27. Qd6 Rac8



White's powerful threats now force exchanges which put White's Queen, Rook and two pawns against Black's Queen, Knight, and Bishop. But the exposed situation of the Black King makes it hard to coordinate the minor pieces, and after the Queen trade, the Rook picks up an extra pawn.
28. Qd7+ Re7 29. Nd8+ Rxd8 30. Rxe7+ Bxe7 31. Qxf5+ Kg7 32. Bxd8 Bxd8 33. Rd1 Be7 34. g3 Nf8 35. Rd4 Qc6 36. Rd3 Bf6 37. Rf3 Nd7 38. Re3 Nf8 39. b4 h6 40. b5 Qd7 41. Qxd7+ Nxd7 42. c4 Kf7 43. Ra3 Ke6 44. Rxa7 Be7 45. Rc7 Ne5 46. f4 gxf4 47. gxf4 Nd3 48. Kg2



48. . . Bc5 49. Kf3 Nb2 50. Rc6+ Kd7 51. Rxh6 Nxc4 52. h4 Na3 53. h5 Ke7 54. Rg6 Kf7 55. f5 Nxb5 56. h6 Nc3 57. h7 Bd4 58. f6 Kxg6 59. h8Q Bxf6 60. Qb8 b5 61. Kg4 Kf7 62. Kf5 Be7 63. Qh8 Nd5 64. Qh7+ Kf8 65. Qh6+ Ke8 66. Qc6+ Kf8 67. Qxd5
1–0

50th Annual Pacific Southwest Open

July 3-5, 2010

By IM Jack Peters

The longest-running major local tournament, the Pacific Southwest Open, celebrated its 50th year quietly at the Airport Hilton Hotel in Los Angeles. Grandmaster Melikset Khachiyan, the top seed by a large margin, removed all suspense with a nearly effortless victory. He scored 5½–½, yielding a draw only to 13-year-old master Yian Liou.

Second place went to IM Tim Taylor, who won five games and overcame a blunder that led to a short loss against Khachiyan in the fourth round.

Christian Tanaka, top expert Joshua Gutman and this columnist tied for third place at 4 1/2-11/2.

Dennis Saccuzzo took the under-2000 prize.

Alfred Ong led the Amateur (under-1800) section with 5 1/2-1/2. Chantelle Field, Leo Creger, Young Hong, Gia Petersen and Bhanu Narayana finished tops in their rating categories.

John Hillery directed the 83-player tournament.

There were 26 more entrants in the two Scholastic sections, won by Karl Tolentino and Brian Santoso. *R&F*

Below are the fifth round games between Taylor and Robert Akopian, and the final round clincher by Khachiyan against Vincent Huang.

But first, Yian Liou, the young master from Northern California who visited us, tied for first without a loss in the 8-master round robin US Cadet (under 16) championship. It was just eleven days later, in Crossville, Tennessee.

We show the only game of his that we have, from the final round. It was his only loss.

As you will see, it ended quite suddenly, as sometimes happens in the very dangerous world of master chess.

Prize Winners

Open Section
1st: GM Melikset Khachiyan, 5½-½
2nd: IM Tim Taylor, 5-1
3rd-4th: IM Jack Peters, Christian Tanaka, 4½-1½
5th: Yian Liou, Konstantin Kavutskiy, Takashi Kurosaki, 4-2

U2200
1st: Joshua Gutman, 4½-1½
2nd-3rd:Vincent Huang, Eric Zhang, 4-2

U2000:
1st: Dennis Saccuzzo, 3½-2½
2nd-3rd: Cheston Gunawan, Alicia Bolm, Numan Abdul-Majeeb, 3-3

Amateur Section
1st: Alfred Ong, 5½-½
2-3: Michael Chaney, Robert Barker, 4½-1½

U1600: Chantelle Field, 4-2
2nd-3rd: Cijo Paul, Annie Wang, Jerry Qu, 3-3

U1400: Leo Creger, 4-2; 2-3

U1400: Aman Madhav, James Holder, 3-3

U1200: Young Hong, Gia Peterson, 2-4

Unrated: Bhanu Narayana, 5-1

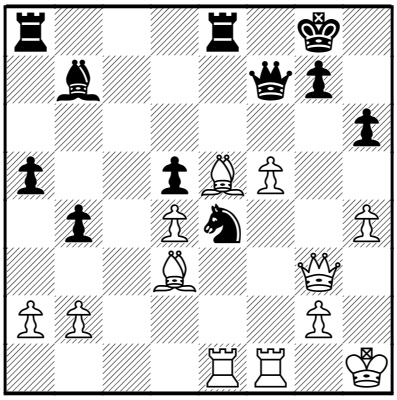
Scholastic Open:
Karl Tolentino, 5-0

Scholastic Reserve:
Brian Santoso, 4½-½

Hex 1: Alexander Pearson, 3-0

Hex 2: Stephanie Shao, 3-0

Tim Taylor (2364) -
Yian Liou (2260)
[D45] Slav Defense
1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. Nf3 a6 5. Ne5 e6 6. e3 Nbd7 7. f4 c5 8. cxd5 exd5 9. Bd3 Be7 10. 0–0 0–0 11. Qf3 cxd4 12. exd4 Re8 13. Be3 Nf8 14. f5 Bd6 15. Rad1 b5 16. Kh1 Bb7 17. Bf4 b4 18. Ne2 Qe7 19. Ng3 h6 20. Rde1 N8h7 21. Nxf7 Qxf7 22. Bxd6 Ng5 23. Qf4 a5 24. Be5 Nfe4 25. h4 Nxg3+ 26. Qxg3 Ne4



27. Rxe4!
1–0
For if 27. ... dxe4, then 28. Bc4!!.

Tim Taylor (2364) -
Robert Akopian (2182)
[B09] Pirc Defense
Notes by Jack Peters
1. e4 d6 2. d4 Nf6 3. Nc3 g6 4. f4
The Austrian Attack against the Pirc Defense.
4. ... Bg7 5. Nf3 c5 6. Bb5+

Popular alternatives are 6. e5!? Ng4 7. Bb5+ and 6. dxc5 Qa5 7. Bd3.

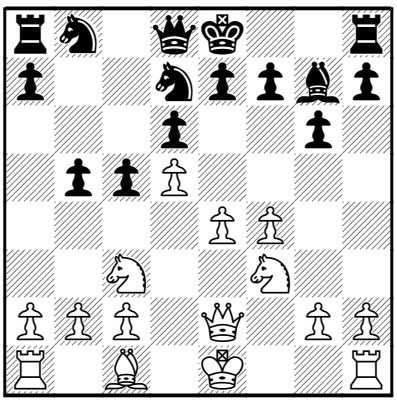
6. ... Bd7 7. Bxd7+ Nfxd7

After 7. ... Nbxd7 8. d5, White threatens e4-e5 more strongly.

8. d5 b5!?

Inviting 9. Nxb5 Qa5+ 10. Nc3 Bxc3+ 11. bxc3 Qxc3+ 12. Bd2 Qc4.

9. Qe2



9. ... Qa5

In "Pirc Alert!," Alburt and Chernin recommend 9. ... b4 10. Nd1 Nb6 11. 0–0 Qc8, bringing the Queen to a6.

10. 0–0 Bxc3?!

Black will miss his Bishop. Instead, 10. ... b4 11. Nd1 Qa6 holds White to a tiny advantage.

11. bxc3 Qxc3

Black is committed, as 11. ... Nb6 lets White attack with 12. e5 0–0 13. f5.

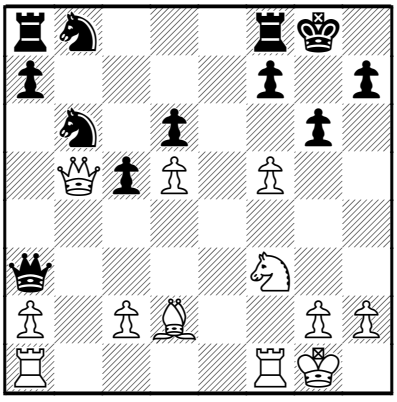
12. Qxb5 0–0

Not 12. ... Qxa1? 13. Bb2 Qxa2 14. Ra1 Qxa1+ 15. Bxa1 0–0 because 16. Qb7 Nb6 17. Qxe7 wipes out Black's center.

13. Bd2 Qa3

Nor does 13. ... Qxc2 14. Qb7 Nb6 15. Qxe7 extricate Black.

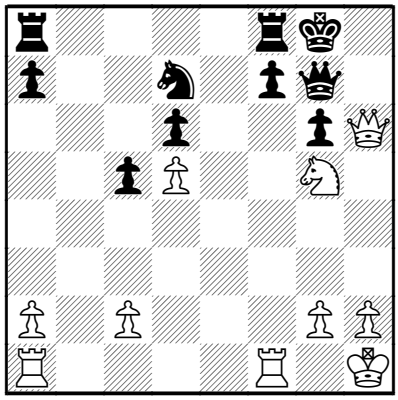
14. e5 Nb6 15. exd6 exd6 16. f5



16. ... Qa6?!

Black cannot stand 16. ... Nxd5? 17. fxg6 hxg6 18. Ng5, but 16. ... N8d7 17. fxg6 hxg6 18. Bf4 Qb4! or 18. Ng5 Ne5 hangs on.

17. Qb2 Nc4 18. Qc3 Nxd2 19. Qxd2 Nd7 20. Qh6 Qc4 21. fxg6 hxg6 22. Ng5 Qd4+ 23. Kh1 Qg7



Repelling the first wave of the attack, but the danger persists.

24. Qh3 Rad8?

Fatal. After the correct 24. ... Nb6, White makes no progress by 25. Rae1 Rae8, and 25. Ne4 f5 26. Ng5 Qh8 keeps Black alive.

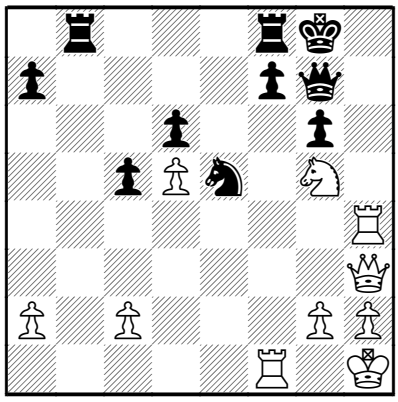
25. Rae1

Now White can meet 25. ... Nb6 by 26. Re4!, when 26. ... Nxd5 27. c4 Nb6 28. Rh4 Rde8 29. Nh7 costs Black at least the exchange.

25. ... Ne5

Supporting f7, but White will find targets at f6 and h7.

26. Re4! Rb8 27. Rh4



27. ... Rb7?!

If 27. ... f5, White can choose 28. Ne6 or, even stronger, 28. Rh7 Qf6 29. Rxa7 Qh8 30. Rh7 Qf6 31. Rd7! Qh8 32. Qxh8+ Kxh8 33. Rxd6.

28. Rh7 Qf6 29. Kg1!

No back rank mate!

29. ... Rb1 30. Rxb1 Qxg5 31. Rh8+ Kg7 32. Qh7+ Kf6 33. Rxf8

1–0

Melikset Khachiyan (2590) - Vincent Huang (2128)
[C85] Ruy Lopez

Notes by Jack Peters

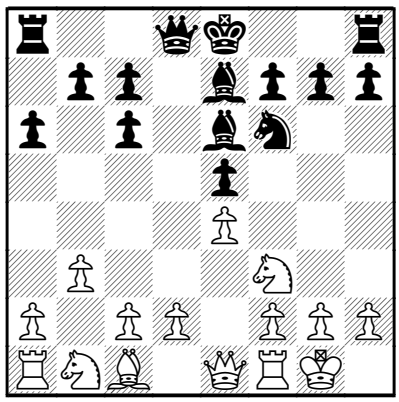
1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Ba4 Nf6 5. 0–0 Be7 6. Bxc6

A form of the Exchange variation of the Ruy Lopez.

6. ... dxc6 7. Qe1 Be6

Also adequate are 7…Nd7 8. b3 c5 9. Bb2 f6 and 7. ... c5 8. Nxe5 Qd4 9. Nf3 Qxe4.

8. b3



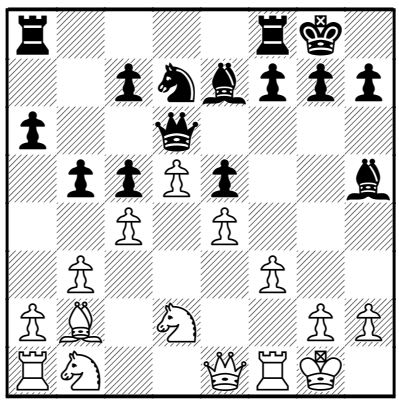
8. ... Qd6

Awkward. Black has few worries after 8…Nd7 9. Bb2 f6 10. d4 Bd6.

9. d4

As 9…exd4?? allows 10. e5.

9. ... Nd7 10. Ba3 c5 11. d5 Bg4 12. Nfd2 b5 13. f3 Bh5 14. c4 0–0 15. Bb2



In this closed position, Black's Bishops can do little. White has a small

but permanent advantage.

15. ... Bf6

Unfortunately for Black, 15. ... c6 16. dxc6 Qxc6 17. Nc3 would let White plant a Knight at d5. Nor can Black easily arrange his other lever, ... f7-f5.

16. Na3 b4 17. Nc2 Bg5

Black has more chance of ... f7-f5 after 17. ... Bg6 18. Ne3 h6.

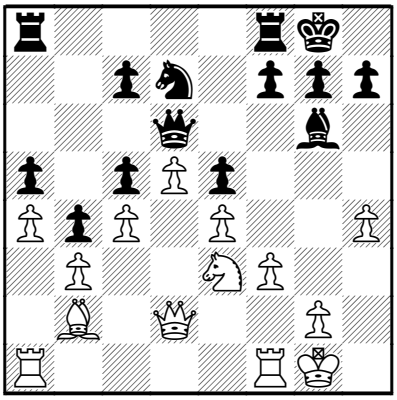
18. h4! Bxd2

Else 19 g4 traps the other Bishop.

19. Qxd2 Bg6 20. Ne3

Too hasty would be 20. g4?! h5.

20. ... a5 21. a4!

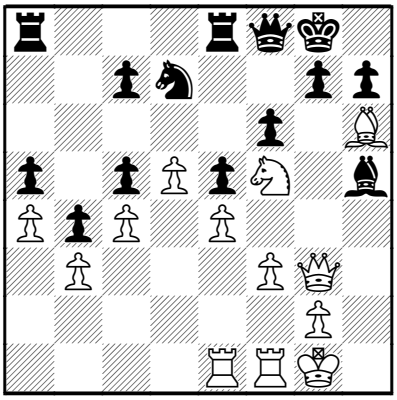


Eliminating Queenside distractions. Black cannot reply 21. ... bxa3? 22. Rxa3 Rfb8 because 23. Bc3 soon wins the a-pawn.

21. ... Qe7 22. Qf2 Ra6 23. Rae1 f6 24. Qg3 Re8 25. Bc1 Raa8?

After 25. ... Kh8, White would have to maneuver to prepare a breakthrough with f3-f4.

26. h5! Bxh5 27. Nf5 Qf8 28. Bh6



28. ... Re7

Toughest. Not 28. ... Bg6? 29. Bxg7 Qf7, as 30. Nh6+ wins the Queen anyway.

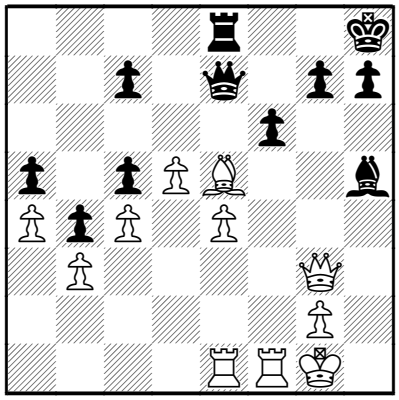
29. Nxe7+ Qxe7

Next, White must open a file to enhance the Rook's superiority over the Bishop.

30. f4! Kh8 31. fxe5

Not fearing 31. ... gxh6?, as 32. exf6 Qf7 33. e5 and 32. exf6 Nxf6 33. Qh4 Nxd5 34. Qxh5 are overwhelming.

31. ... Nxe5 32. Bf4 Re8 33. Bxe5



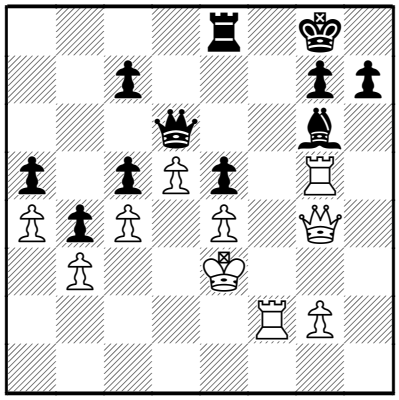
33. ... fxe5

Black's stout defense forces Khachiyan to display his excellent technique. Easier for White would be 33. ... Qxe5 34. Qf2! Qd6 35. e5! Rxe5 36. Rxe5 Qxe5 37. Re1 Qc3 38. Re7, when the Rook convincingly outplays the Bishop.

34. Rf5 Bg6 35. Rg5 Kg8 36. Qg4 Qd6 37. Rf1 Qe7 38. Rf3 Qd6

Avoiding 38. ... Bxe4 39. Re3.

39. Kf2 Qe7 40. Ke3 Qd6 41. Rf2



41. ... Qe7

If Black waits with 41. ... Re7, White should ignore the false trail 42. Qc8+ Re8 43. Qb7 h6 44. Rg3 Kh7 45. Qb5?! Qe7 46. Qxa5?! Bxe4! and aim for a winning endgame by 42. Rf3 Re8 43. Rg3 Qf6 44. Rxg6 hxg6 45. Qxg6 Rf8 46. Qxf6 Rxf6 47. Rg5.

42. Qe6+!

Cleverly opening the d-file.

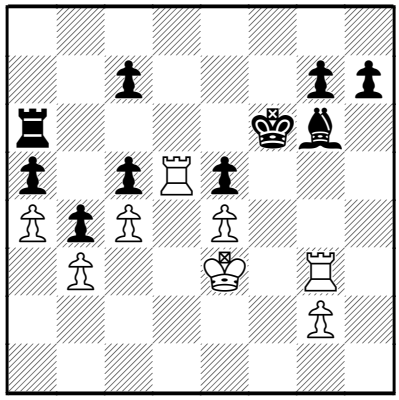
42. ... Qxe6

Forced, as 42. ... Bf7 loses routinely to 43. Qxe7 Rxe7 44. Rff5 h6 45. Rxe5.

43. dxe6 Rxe6 44. Rd2 Kf7

Or 44. ... c6 45. Rd7, and White will capture at a5.

45. Rd5 Kf6 46. Rg3 Ra6



Setting the trap 47. Rxc5? c6.

47. Rf3+ Ke6 48. Rf8

Threatening 49. Rc8 Ra7 50. Rxc5.

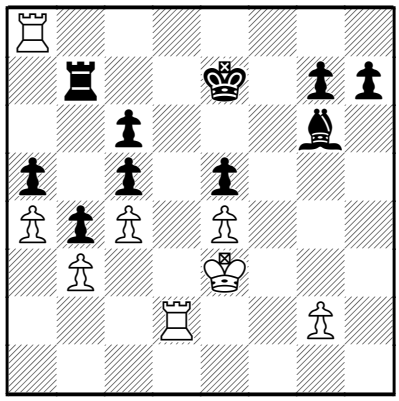
48. ... c6

Inevitable.

49. Rdd8 Ra7 50. Rc8 Ke7 51. Rg8 Kd6

Against 51. ... Kf7, one method is 52. Rce8 Kf6 53. Rgf8+ Bf7 54. Ra8 Rd7 55. Rxa5 Ke7 56. Rc8.

52. Rgd8+ Ke7 53. Ra8 Rb7 54. Rd2



Now White can snatch the a-pawn without allowing counterplay.

54. ... Be8 55. Rxa5 Ke6 56. Ra8

Simplest. Even 56. Rxc5 works, as 56. ... Ra7 57. Rd8 Bd7 58. Rxd7 frees the Rook.

56. ... Re7 57. a5 h5 58. a6 h4 59. a7 g5 60. Ra2 h3 61. gxh3 g4 62. Rxe8 Rxe8 63. a8Q

1–0

Southern California Championship 2010

August 14-15 & 21-22, 2010

By IM Jack Peters

Our new state co-champions are Joel Banawa and Philip Xiao Wang. Each scored 5-2 in the Southern California Championship in August.

This is the 22nd consecutive year that the SCCF has conducted a round robin to determine its state champion, an accomplishment that grows more impressive every year. Few other states hold invitational championships. The SCCF benefits from the generosity of various donors and from the hospitality of expert John Rowell (a participant in the 2000 state championship), who offered his Century City law office as the playing site for the eighth time. John Hillery and Randy Hough volunteered as directors.

As one of the founders of the tournament, I was disappointed that the area's strongest players (GM Varuzhan Akobian, GM Melikset Khachiyan, IM Enrico Sevillano and IM Andranik Matikozyan) chose not to play this year. As a player, I thought their absence would give me a chance to win the tournament. No such luck!

The tournament produced many interesting, hard-fought games, but not much drama. Wang and Banawa led from the start, leaving most of the field far behind. Cyrus Lakdawala tried to rally on the second weekend, defeating Banawa and putting pressure on Wang in their sixth-round game. However, Wang held the draw, and his short draw against Banawa in the final round created their tie for first place.

	FIDE	USCF	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
1 Philip Wang	2293	2386	*	½	½	½	1	1	½	1	5.0/7
2 Joel Banawa	2345	2416	½	*	0	½	1	1	1	1	5.0
3 IM Cyrus Lakdawala	2415	2545	½	1	*	½	0	1	½	1	4.5
4 Ankit Gupta	2204	2290	½	½	½	*	1	½	1	0	4.0
5 IM Tim Taylor	2327	2363	0	0	1	0	*	½	½	1	3.0
6 IM Jack Peters	2379	2415	0	0	0	½	½	*	1	1	3.0
7 Konstantin Kavutskiy	2156	2253	½	0	½	0	½	0	*	1	2.5
8 Michael Casella	2282	2329	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	*	1.0

Average FIDE ELO: 2300; Catagory 2

All four qualifiers from the Candidates tournament made impressive debuts at the state championship level. The least experienced, Konstantin Kavutskiy and Ankit Gupta, displayed tactical skill and opportunism while playing very entertaining games. These are sure signs of imminent improvement.

Wang was a junior star in Nevada who took six years off from tournaments. He returned in March. Such comebacks rarely succeed, but his seems exceptional. He has taken first prize in four of his five events, boosting his rating over 2400 for the first time.

Wang is a tough defender who models his play on Emanuel Lasker. Although he landed in a couple of difficult positions, he was the only undefeated player in the tournament.

In contrast, Banawa seems relaxed at the board. His moves flow smoothly, always conforming to the requirements of the position. Lakdawala, who takes pride in his strategic skill, confided that he could not hope to outplay Banawa positionally. That's high praise!

Lakdawala was the only challenger to the younger generation. His first-round slipup against Gupta, which cost him a half-point, became significant as he chased the leaders. Cyrus has battled back pain for years and suffers when playing four long games in a weekend, but he vowed to return in 2011 for a shot at his sixth state invitational title.

Tim Taylor had a disappointing result, yet he won two fine attacking games and came close to scoring more points. I made even more mistakes and was lucky to match my 3-4 score of 2009, which I considered flukishly bad then. Both of us have a year to plot a comeback.

A word of sympathy for Michael Casella, a chess artist who plays imaginatively and fearlessly. His results are wildly erratic. At times, he plays like a grandmaster, and frequently defeats titled players. At other times, everything seems to go wrong. In this tournament, he botched winning positions against Lakdawala and Banawa, denying him a score worthy of his ability. *R&F*

	Name/USCF Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7
1	Philip Xiao Wang	B 7	W 6	B 5	W 4	B 3	W 2	W 8
	2386	1	1½	2½	3½	4	4½	5
2	IM Cyrus F Lakdawala	B 6	W 5	B 4	W 3	W 8	B 1	W 7
	2545	½	1½	1½	2	3	3½	4½
3	Konstantin Kavutskiy	B 5	W 4	W 8	B 2	W 1	B 7	W 6
	2253	1	1½	1½	2	2½	2½	2½
4	IM Timothy W Taylor	W 8	B 3	W 2	B 1	W 7	B 6	W 5
	2363	0	½	1½	1½	2	2	3
5	Michael Casella	W 3	B 2	W 1	B 7	W 6	B 8	B 4
	2329	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
6	Ankit Gupta	W 2	B 1	W 7	B 8	B 5	W 4	B 3
	2290	½	1	1½	2	2	3	4
7	IM Jack Peters	W 1	B 8	B 6	W 5	B 4	W 3	B 2
	2415	0	0	½	1½	2	3	3
8	Joel Banawa	B 4	W 7	B 3	W 6	B 2	W 5	B 1
	2416	1	2	3	3½	3½	4½	5

The tournament wall chart gives pairings, colors, and cumulative scores for each round.

The time control was 40/2 + SD/1 with a 5-second increment per move if possible. Most games were played with the increment.

All notes are by Jack Peters except as noted.

Photos are by Chris Roberts. - Ed.

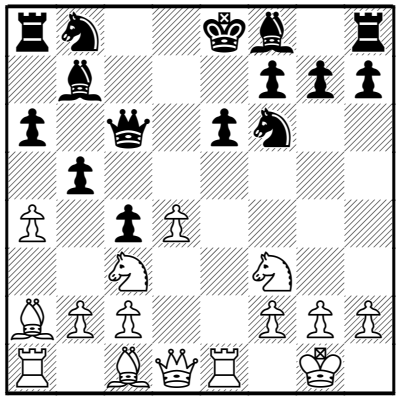
Round 1: August 14

Game 1

Ankit Gupta - Cyrus Lakdawala

B01 Center Counter

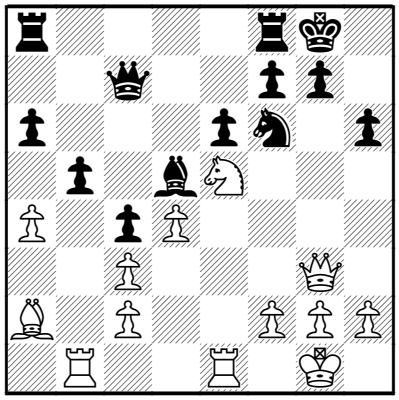
1. e4 d5 2. exd5 Qxd5 3. Nc3 Qd6 4. d4 Nf6 5. Bc4 a6 6. Nf3 b5 7. Bb3 Bb7 8. 0–0 e6 9. Re1 c5 10. a4 c4 11. Ba2 Qc6



12. Bg5?

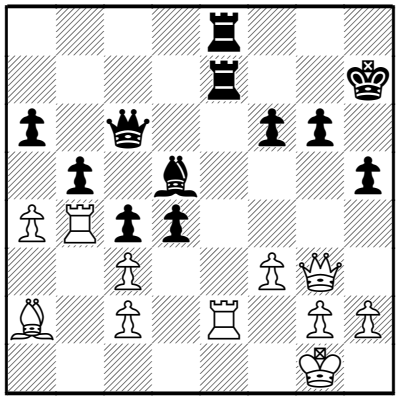
Gupta later pointed out 12 Re5! b4 (or 12…Bd6 13 axb5) 13 d5!, which favors White.

12. … Nbd7 13. Qc1 Bb4 14. Qf4 Bxc3 15. bxc3 h6 16. Bxf6 Nxf6 17. Qg3 0–0 18. Ne5 Qc7 19. Rab1 Bd5



Black is winning because of White's buried Bishop.

20. Rb4 Ne4 21. Qe3 Nd6 22. Qg3 Rfe8 23. f3 Ra7 24. Ng4 Kh7 25. Re5 f6 26. Re2 Qc6 27. Ne3 Rae7 28. Qg4 e5 29. Nf5 Nxf5 30. Qxf5+ g6 31. Qg4 h5 32. Qg3 exd4

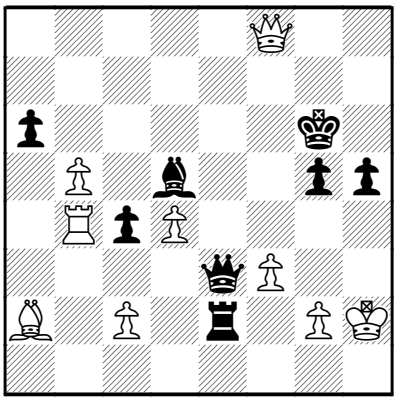


Opening the e-file for what should be the decisive invasion.

33. Rxe7+ Rxe7 34. cxd4 Re2 35. h4 Qe6 36. Qc7+ Kh6 37. Qf4+ g5 38. hxg5+ fxg5 39. Qf8+ Kg6 40. axb5 Qe3+!

Also 40…g4 wins.

41. Kh2



41. … Qd2??

Tempting, but wrong. Black would win with 41…Re1! 42 Qd6+ Be6.

42. Qd6+ Re6

If 42…Be6, White defends by 43 Bxc4 Rxg2+ 44 Kh1.

43. Qf8! Not 43 Qxd5?? Qf4+.

43. … Re2 44. Qd6+

½–½

Game 2

Jack Peters - Philip Wang

B47 Sicilian Defense

Notes by Philip Wang

I recently returned to chess after a long layoff of six (!) years. Since returning, my results have been quite

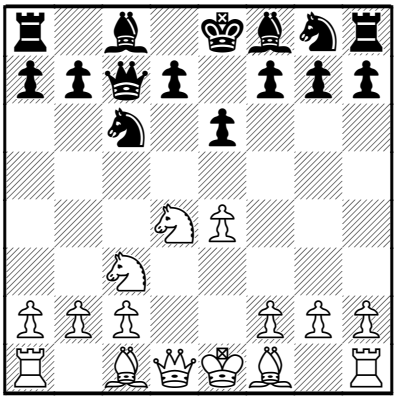
good, winning 11 games and losing two going into the State Championship. One of my losses was to Jack Peters.

I selected this game to annotate for the readers for two reasons. First, it was played in the first round and winning with Black against Jack was the best possible result, and helped set a positive tone for the rest of the tournament. Second, the game is a good example of how to win as Black. I do a good job of absorbing White's initiative and pulling the rug from under my opponent.

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4

I expected the Rossilimo because I saw Jack play it a couple of times over the summer. But maybe Jack is only afraid afraid of Sevillano playing the Sveshnikov, not me!

3. ... cxd4 4. Nxd4 e6 5. Nc3 Qc7



6. g3

A solid and positional line.

6. ... a6 7. Bg2 Nf6 8. 0–0 Nxd4

There are other moves here, but Nxd4 is possibly the best and has served me well.

9. Qxd4 Bc5 10. Bf4 d6 11. Qd2 h6 12. Rad1 e5 13. Be3 Be6 14. Bxc5 dxc5 15. Nd5 Bxd5 16. exd5 Qd6

I have to stop White from playing d6 at all costs. Among other things, if I allow d6, the g2 bishop becomes a monster.

17. f4 0–0 18. fxe5 Qxe5 19. d6

If 19. c4, then 19. ... Qd6 20. Qf4 Ne8 with equality. My strategy is to blockade d6.

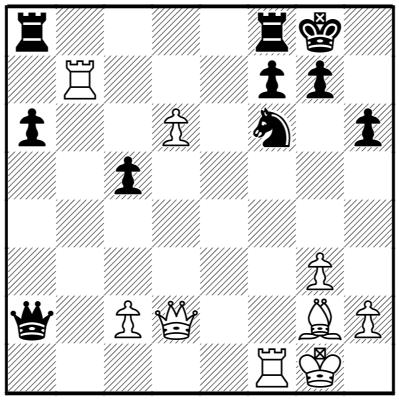
19. ... Qxb2

Forced. There's no way I can allow White to play d6 "for free."

20. Rb1?!

20. c4 Qxd2 21. Rxd2 Leads to an endgame where White has compensation for the pawn. It's approximately equal.

20. ... Qxa2 21. Rxb7



Up to this point, all of my moves have been forced. I had some familiarity with this position, but didn't remember the best way to play.

21. ... Rfd8!?

A "brilliant" move that loses by force! Of course, I realized that Rad8 is the obvious move (to take the rook off the diagonal) and it was the first move I considered.

But the idea behind Rfd8 is that I prefer to have a Rook on a8 to support the a-pawn rather than a Rook on f8 that does nothing.

I was proud of this move but it turns out there is a tactical refutation that is very hard to see for humans.

22. Re1?

This move looks very strong because Ree7 is unstoppable. But it turns out that Black has an unexpected resource.

Yet White has 22. Re7!, an unintuitive computer move. After 22. ... Rab8 23. Rxf6! gxf6 24. Bd5 Qa1+ (24. ... Rxd6? 25. Bxf7+ Qxf7 26. Qxd6) 25. Kg2, he has a winning attack.

[The immediate 22. Rxf6 gxf6 23. Bd5 fails to 23. ... Rxd6! 24. Bxf7+ Qxf7. - Ed.]

22. ... a5!

An excellent (and unexpected) move that turns the tables. The main idea is that 23. Ree7 can be met with 23. ... Ra6!

23. Rc7?!

After 23. Ree7 Ra6! 24. d7 (24. Rxf7 Qxf7 25. Rxf7 Kxf7 and Black's pieces are safe and the d6 pawn will drop.) 24. ... Re6!, Black uses effective guerilla tactics to surround the d7 pawn and seize the advantage.

The best move is probably 23. d7! and White has compensation for the pawn.

23. ... Rab8

Now the tide is turning. I'm starting to seize the initiative.

24. Rxc5?!

A bad move, but it seems like the logical continuation of the previous move. Time is money, and I really gain a lot from the relatively small investment of a pawn. My Rook is on a beautiful file and my pawn will advance to a4. In addition, the Black Rook is somewhat misplaced and vulnerable on c5.

24. ... a4! 25. Qd3?

A move that doesn't do a lot since it almost compels me to move my Queen to a better square on b2. Control of the a3 square isn't so important.

Most logicial is 25. Ra5 Qc4 26. Ra7 Rb2 =/+ and Black has a good position with good winning chances.

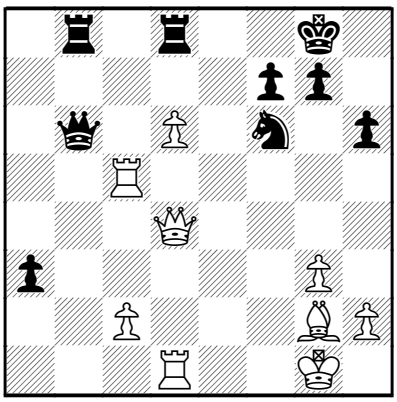
25. ... Qb2

An obvious and strong move. My Queen is more active on b2 and has more squares, threatens Qb6 either now or in the future, and clears the way for the a-pawn.

26. Rd1?

Jack was getting into time pressure and this move definitely loses. Best is 26. Rc6, but Black is still clearly better after 26. ... Rb6.

26. ... Qb6 27. Qd4 a3!



My a-pawn is a monster. White faces a lot of pressure on the g2-a7 diagonal and on the d-file, so it's hard to deal with the pawn which is already on a3!

28. Bd5

There's really no other way to stop the a-pawn. Also falling short are:

28. Kh1 a2; 28. Rc6 Qxd4+ 29. Rxd4 Rb1+ 30. Kf2 a2; and finally 28. Rc4 Rxd6 29. Qxb6 Rxd1+.

28. ... Rxd6

Now White is pinned on the d-file and the g1–a7 diagonal!

29. Kg2

29. Bxf7+ Kxf7 30. Qxd6 Qxd6 31. Rxd6 Rb1+ 32. Kg2 a2 leads to a winning endgame which might take a little work.

29. ... a2! Of course!

30. Qc4

I thought for some time to find a clear way. It's important to be accurate to the end. Too many won games are thrown away because of a lapse in concentration or effort.

30. ... Nxd5 31. Rcxd5 Rxd5! 32. Qxd5 Qb2 Very clean.

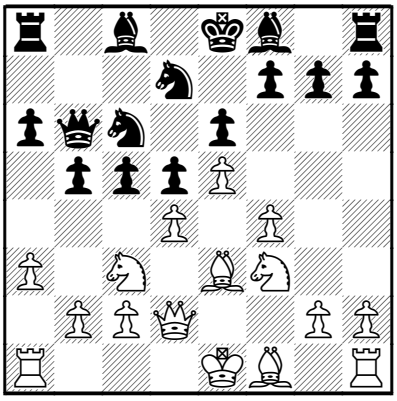
33. Rf1 a1Q 34. Rxf7 Kh8

There was one last chance to go wrong: 34. ... Qxc2+?? 35. Rf2+.

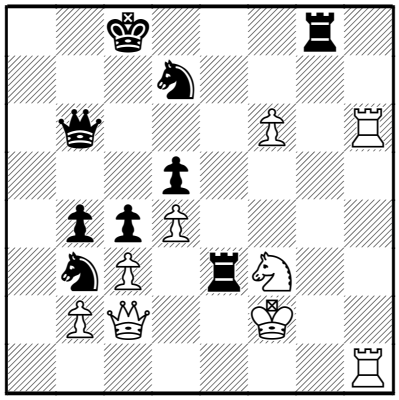
0–1

Game 3
Michael Casella -
Konstantin Kavutskiy
C11 French Defense, Steinitz Variation

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. e5 Nfd7 5. f4 c5 6. Nf3 Nc6 7. Be3 a6 8. Qd2 b5 9. a3 Qb6



10. Ne2 c4 11. g4 h5 12. gxh5 Rxh5 13. Ng3 Rh8 14. Bg2 Be7 15. h4 Nf8 16. h5 Bd7 17. Ke2 0–0–0 18. c3 Na5 19. Qc2 Nb3 20. Raf1 a5 21. f5 f6 22. Bh3 Re8 23. h6 gxh6 24. Nh5 exf5 25. Ng7 Rd8 26. Nxf5 Re8 27. Ng7 Bxh3 28. Rxh3 Rd8 29. Nf5 Re8 30. Ng7 Rd8 31. Nf5 Re8 32. Rfh1 b4 33. axb4 axb4 34. Rxh6 Rg8 35. Kf2 Nd7 36. Nxe7+ Rxe7 37. exf6 Rxe3



38. Kxe3 Qe6+ 39. Kf2 Nxf6 40. Rxf6 Qxf6 41. Rh3 Qf4 42. Qe2 Qg4 43. Qf1 Nc1 44. Qxc1 Qg2+ 45. Ke3 Qxh3 46. Qa1 Qh6+ 47. Kf2 Qc6 48. cxb4 Rf8 49. Qa7 Rf6 50. Qg7 Qd6 51. b5 Qh2+ 52. Ke1 Qh1+ 53. Ng1 Qe4+ 54. Ne2 Qb1+ 55. Kd2 Qxb2+ 56. Ke1 Qb4+

0–1

Game 4
Tim Taylor - Joel Banawa
E31 Nimzo-Indian

Notes by Joel Banawa:

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. Bg5

The Leningrad Variation of the Nimzo-Indian is popular because of its aggressive nature, and very well suited to my opponent's style.

4. ... c5 5. d5 Bxc3+

Black exchanges the black square Bishop to give White doubled pawns, and plans to exploit the Knight's superiority in closed positions.

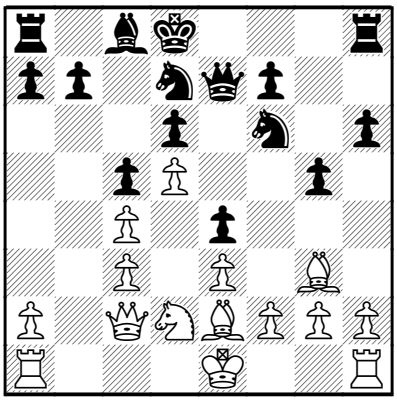
6. bxc3 d6 7. e3 h6 8. Bh4 Qe7 9. Nf3 e5 10. Qc2

The best line to try for an advantage. 10. Be2 g5 11.Bg3 Bf5 allows black to control the h7-b1 diagonal, preventing White from gaining any counterplay, particularly on the b-file.

10. ... Nbd7 11. Nd2 e4!

Closing the center and crossing White's plan to control the light-squares and to eventually break up the center with f4. This also opens up e5 for my knight.

12. Be2 g5 13. Bg3 Kd8!!



The idea is to over-protect the e-pawn and proceed with the Black King to the Queenside with the protection of the Bishop on c8. This is a better version of the main line 13. ... Nf8; I didn't like the positions that Black has been getting.

14. 0–0

14. h4 is the typical move and now the idea of Kd8 comes to life: 14. . . Re8 15. hxg5 hxg5 16. Rh6 Nf8 17. 0–0–0 Bf5 with a great position for black.

14. ... Re8 15. Rab1 Nf8 16. Qa4

Threatening Qa5+ followed by f3, opening the f-file where black is vulnerable.

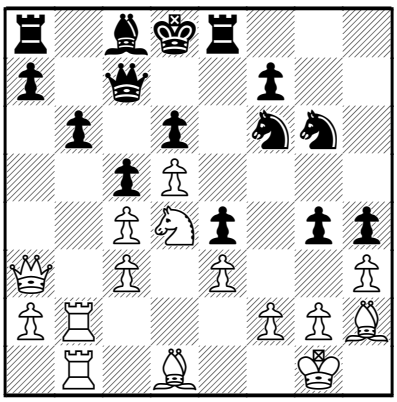
16. ... Qc7 17. Rb2 b6!

Or else Black's c8-Bishop and Rook at a8 will be inactive the whole game.

18. Rfb1 Rb8 19. Qa3!?

White's idea will be revealed several moves later.

19. ... Ng6 20. Bd1 h5 21. h3 h4 22. Bh2 g4 23. Nb3 Ra8 24. Nd4?!

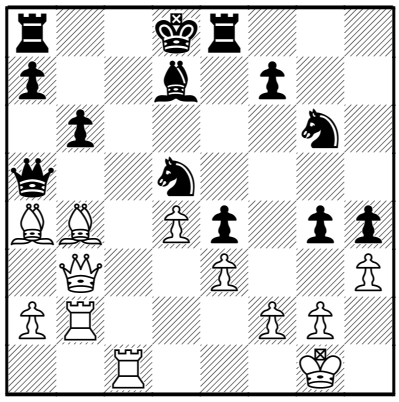


This was the idea behind Qa3, giving way for the Bishop at a4 and at the same time White thought that he could sac on d4 and open up the position.

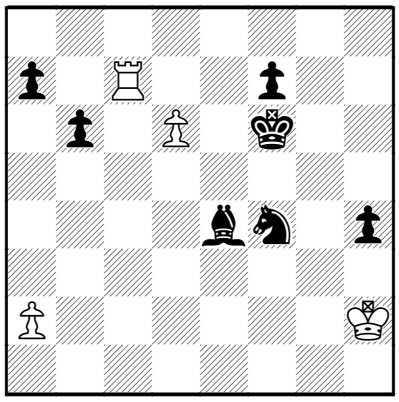
24. ... cxd4 25. Bxd6

Now how should black proceed?

25. ... Qxc4! 26. cxd4 Qa6!
This move refutes white's whole idea! Black's problems along the c-file and the weak Queenside disappear after one brilliant defensive move.
27. Ba4
27. Qb3 is answered by ... Qa5 or ... Bb7. If 27. Qc3, then Nxd5 and the c7-square is protected and Black can consolidate with ... Bb7 and ... Rc8. Finally, 27. Qxa6 is just a losing move, exchanging the Queens when down a piece.
27. ... Bd7 28. Rc1 Nxd5 All the weak squares are now defended.
29. Qb3 Qa5 30. Bb4
The last trick for White. What should Black do ?



30. ... Qxb4! The simplest way to a better game. If 30. ... Bxa4?! then 31. Qc4! Qb5 32. Be7+. If 30. ... Qxa4, then 31. Qxd5. If 30. ... Nxb4 then White has 31. Bxd7 Kxd7 32. Qxf7+ Ne7, which looked very tough for Black to consolidate.
31. Qxd5 Qxa4 32. Qxa8+ Ke7 33. Qxe4+ Kf8 34. Qd5 gxh3 35. gxh3 Bxh3 36. Kh2 Be6 37. Qg5 Qa3! Foreseeing the following idea.
38. Rbc2 Qd6+ 39. f4 Bd7 40. Rc3 Qe6 41. Qg2 Qf5 Now White's light-squares are obviously weak.
42. Qf3 Be6 43. e4 Desperate for counter-play, White decides to sac another-pawn.
43. ... Qxf4+ 44. Qxf4 Nxf4 45. R1c2 Bg4 46. d5 Rxe4 47. Rc4 Bf5 48. Rxe4 Bxe4 49. Rc8+ Ke7 50. Rc7+ A critical position: how can Black win this endgame? ***Kf6 51. d6***

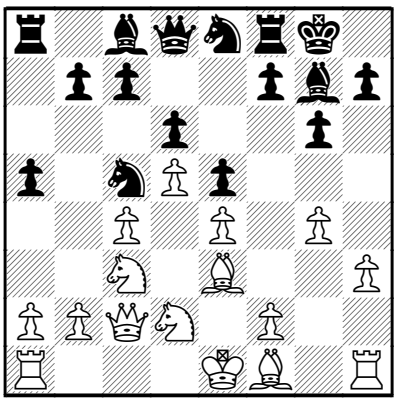


51. ... Bd5!! The only winning move. The idea is to give-up the a7-pawn and b6-pawn for White's a2 pawn and later on win the d6 pawn. If 51. ... Ke6, then after 52. d7 Ke7 53. d8Q+ Kxd8 54. Rxf7 Ng6 55. Rxa7, it looks like white can hold. If 51. ... Ne6, then 52. Rxa7 and Black can't get near the pawn so easily.
52. Rxa7 Ke6 53. Ra4 Ng6 54. Rb4 54. Ra6 is answered by 54. ... b5 55. Ra5 Bc4. ***Bxa2 55. Rxb6 Kd7 56. Ra6 Bd5 57. Kh3 Bc6 58. Ra7+ Ke6 59. Kg4 Bd7 60. Ra6 Kd5+ 61. Kf3 Ne5+ 62. Kf4 Nc4 63. Ra1*** and I won on the 74th move. ***0–1***

Round 2: August 14

Game 5
Joel Banawa - Jack Peters
E90 King's Indian Defense, 6. h3

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. e4 d6 5. Nf3 0–0 6. h3 Na6 7. Be3 e5 8. d5 Nc5 9. Nd2 a5 10. g4 Ne8 11. Qc2



11. ... f5 Poor strategy, as White will benefit from the opening of the Kingside. Black should aim for …b7-b5, starting with 11…c6.

Round 2 games in progress are Banawa-Peters at Black's 22nd (foreground) and Wang-Gupta at Black's 28th.

12. exf5 gxf5 13. 0–0–0 Na6 14. f3 c6 15. a3 Not absolutely necessary, but quite strong.

15. ... Nac7 16. Kb1 Qe7 After the game, we considered 16…b5 17 dxc6 b4 Black's best chance. However, both 18 Nb5 and 18 axb4 axb4 19 Na4 leave Black with little compensation for the pawn.

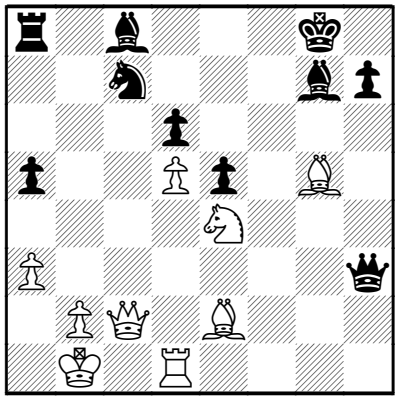
17. gxf5 Also good is 17 Bb6 (squelching …b7-b5) followed by 18 Bd3.

17. ... cxd5 18. cxd5 b5 19. Nde4 Rxf5? I was worried about Be3-g5 and Ne4-g5-e6. Only 19…b4 keeps a little hope.

20. Nxb5 Rxf3 21. Bg5 Qd7 22. Be2 Rxh3 I rejected 22…Rf8 23 Nbc3 and 22…Nxb5 23 Bxf3 Rb8 24 Qd3.

23. Rxh3 Qxh3 Losing quickly, but Black won't last much longer with 23…Nxb5 24 Rg3 Nd4 25 Rxd4! exd4 26 Nf6+ Bxf6 27 Bxf6+ Kf8 28 Bxd4.

24. Nxc7 Nxc7



Joel Banawa: led in all but Rd 5.

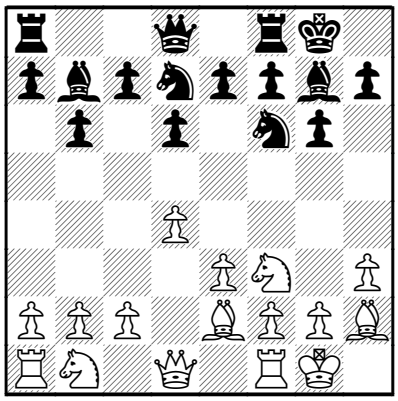
25. Nxd6! I had hoped to recover the piece after 25 Qxc7 Bf5 26 Bd3 Qg4, although 27 Qc2 Bxe4 28 Bxe4 Qxg5 29 Bxh7+ Kh8 30 Be4 is still tremendous for White.

25. ... Bg4 Against 25…Qd7, both 26 Rh1 and 26 Nxc8 Rxc8 27 Bd3 are crushing. ***26. Qxc7 Bxe2 27. Qf7+ Kh8 28. Ne8! Ra7 29. Qxa7 Qf5+ 30. Ka1 Qxg5 31. Rg1***

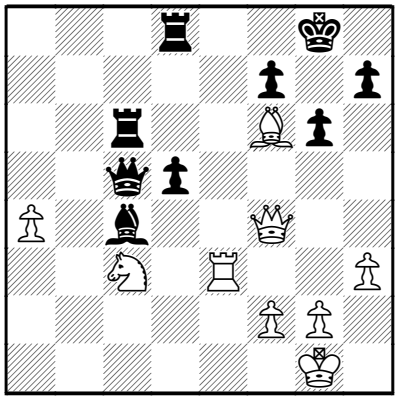
1–0

Game 6
Cyrus Lakdawala -
Michael Casella
A48 London System

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 g6 3. Bf4 Bg7 4. e3 0–0 5. h3 d6 6. Bh2 Nbd7 7. Be2 b6 8. 0–0 Bb7



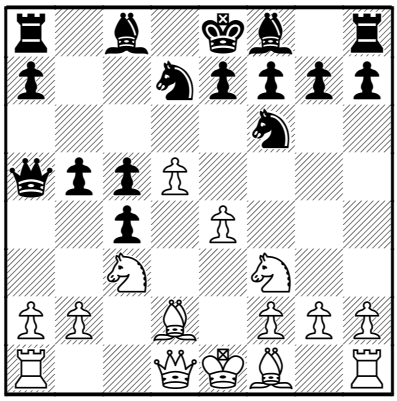
9. a4 a6 10. c4 d5 11. Nc3 c5 12. Rc1 cxd4 13. exd4 Rc8 14. b3 e6 15. Re1 Ne4 16. Na2 Qe7 17. Bd3 Rfd8 18. b4 Ng5 19. Nxg5 Qxg5 20. c5 Bxd4 21. Bxa6 Bxa6 22. Qxd4 bxc5 23. Rxc5 Nxc5 24. bxc5 Bc4 25. Nc3 e5 26. Bxe5 Qe7 27. Re3 Qxc5 28. Qf4 Rc6 29. Bf6



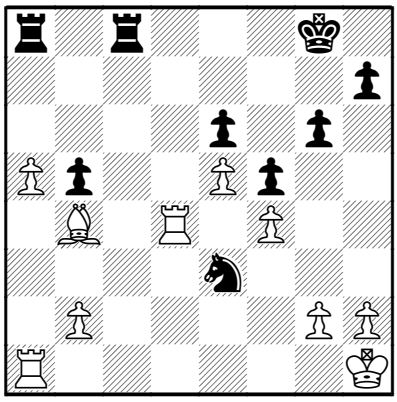
29. ... d4 30. Re5 Rxf6 31. Qxf6 Qd6 32. Qxd6 Rxd6 33. Ne4 d3 34. Nxd6 1–0

Game 7
Philip Wang - Ankit Gupta
D20 Queen's Gambit Accepted

1. d4 d5 2. c4 dxc4 3. e4 c5 4. d5 Nf6 5. Nc3 b5 6. Bf4 Qa5 7. Bd2 Nbd7 8. Nf3



8. ... Ng4 9. Be2 b4 10. Nb1 Ba6 11. 0–0 g6 12. Bc1 Nge5 13. Nfd2 Bg7 14. f4 Nd3 15. Nxc4 Bd4+ 16. Kh1 Bxc4 17. Bxd3 Bxd3 18. Qxd3 a6 19. a4 0–0 20. Nd2 Qc7 21. a5 f5 22. e5 Qb7 23. Qc4 Qb5 24. Qxb5 axb5 25. Nf3 Nb6 26. Nxd4 cxd4 27. Rd1 Nxd5 28. Rxd4 e6 29. Bd2 Rfc8 30. Bxb4 Ne3

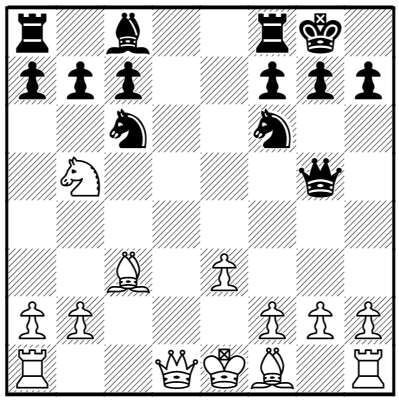


31. Bc3 Nc2 32. Rdd1 Nxa1 33. Rxa1 Rc4 34. g3 b4 35. Ra4 Rb8 36. a6 bxc3

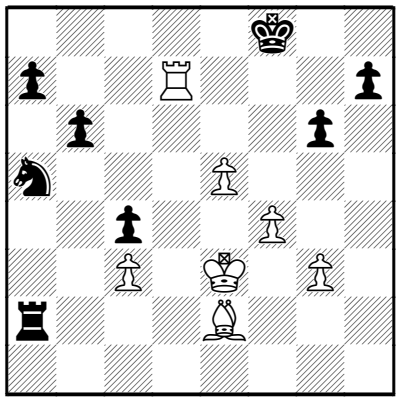
½–½

Game 8
Konstantin Kavutskiy -
Tim Taylor
D07 Chigorin Defense

1. d4 d5 2. c4 Nc6 3. cxd5 Qxd5 4. e3 e5 5. Nc3 Bb4 6. Bd2 Bxc3 7. Bxc3 exd4 8. Ne2 Nf6 9. Nxd4 0–0 10. Nb5 Qg5



11. Qf3 Bf5 12. Nd4 Bg4 13. h4 Qh5 14. Qf4 Nd5 15. Qg5 Nxc3 16. bxc3 Ne5 17. f3 Qxg5 18. hxg5 Bd7 19. Be2 c5 20. Nb3 b6 21. 0–0 Rad8 22. Rfe1 Ba4 23. f4 Ng6 24. Rad1 Rfe8 25. Kf2 Kf8 26. g3 Ne7 27. e4 Nc6 28. Rxd8 Rxd8 29. Ke3 g6 30. Rb1 Ke7 31. Rh1 Rh8 32. Bc4 f6 33. gxf6+ Kxf6 34. Nd2 Kg7 35. e5 Rd8 36. Ne4 Na5 37. Be2 Bc6 38. Ra1 Bxe4 39. Kxe4 Rd2 40. Ke3 Rc2 41. Kd3 Rb2 42. Ke3 c4 43. Rd1 Rxa2 44. Rd7+ Kf8



45. Rxa7?

[45. e6! wins, for if 45...Rc2, then 46. f5!. And if 45. ... Nc6 to cover the e7 square, then 46. Bxc4. - Kavutskiy]

45. ... Rc2 46. Ra8+

½–½

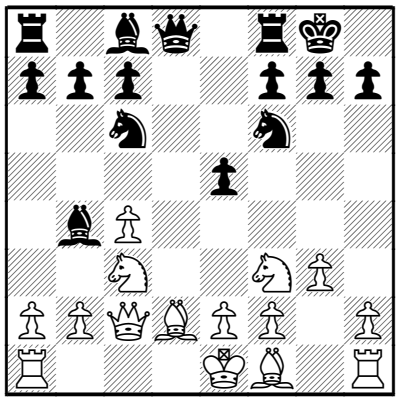
Round 3: August 15

Game 9
Konstantin Kavutskiy -
Joel Banawa
E33 Nimzo-Indian

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. Qc2 Nc6 5. Nf3 d6 6. Bd2 0–0 7. g3?!

Allowing central counterplay. Sturdier is 7 e3 or 7 a3.

7. ... e5 8. dxe5 dxe5



9. e3? White must have underestimated the powerful reply. He could keep equality with 9 0-0-0 or 9 a3 Bc5 10 Bg2.

9. ... e4! Welcoming 10 Nxe4 Bf5.

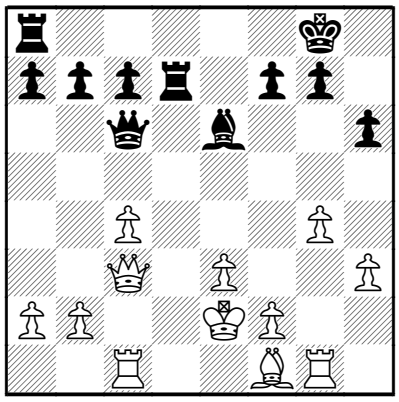
10. Ng5 Ne5 11. h3 h6 Easier is 11...Nd3+ 12 Bxd3 exd3 13 Qb3 Qe7, maintaining a relentless initiative without sacrificing.

12. Ngxe4 Nf3+ 13. Ke2 Nxe4? Black could win by 13...Bf5! 14 Kxf3 Bxc3 15 Nxf6+ Qxf6 16 Qxc3 Qc6+ 17 Ke2 Qxh1.

14. Nxe4 Nxd2 15. Nxd2 Qf6 Now Black has barely enough for the pawn.

16. g4 Also 16 Bg2 Bf5 17 Ne4 gets White out of trouble. ***Bxd2*** Maybe 16...Be6 improves.

17. Qxd2 Rd8 18. Qc3 Qc6 19. Rg1 Be6 20. Rc1 Rd7



21. Rc2?! If 21 Bg2 Qa6 22 a3 Rad8 23 Be4 Rd2+ 24 Kf3, White is safe.

21. ... Rad8 22. Bg2??

Losing. White could still escape by 22 f4 Bxc4+ 23 Kf2.

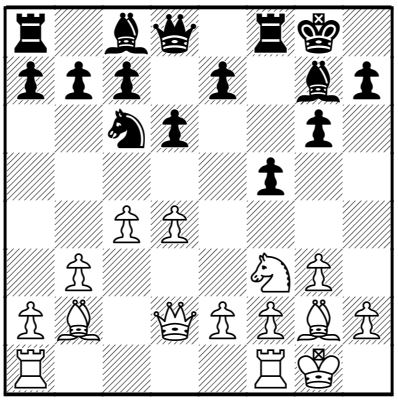
22. ... Bxc4+ 23. Qxc4 Rd2+ 24. Ke1 Even the better 24 Kf1 Rxc2 25 Bxc6 Rxc4 26 Bxb7 loses routinely to 26...Rb4 27 Bc6 Rxb2.

24. ... Rxc2 25. Bxc6 Rxc4

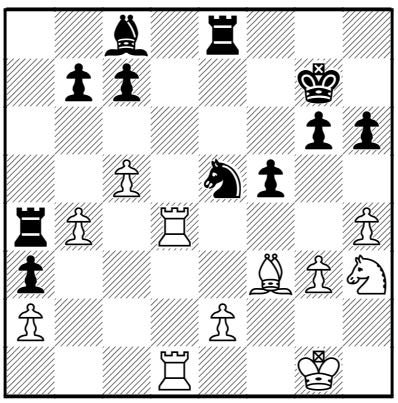
0–1

Game 10
Michael Casella -
Philip Wang
A87 Leningrad Dutch

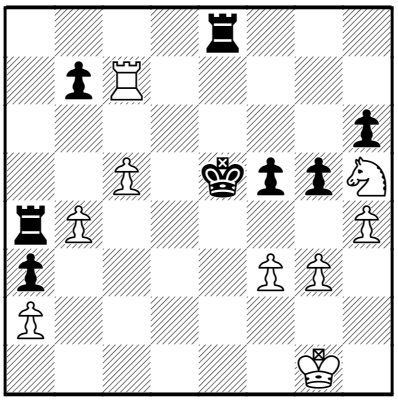
1. d4 f5 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. g3 g6 4. Bg2 Bg7 5. 0–0 0–0 6. b3 d6 7. Bb2 Ne4 8. c4 Nc6 9. Nbd2 Nxd2 10. Qxd2



10. ... e5 11. dxe5 dxe5 12. Qxd8 Rxd8 13. Ng5 e4 14. Bxg7 Kxg7 15. Rad1 Re8 16. h4 a5 17. f3 exf3 18. Bxf3 Ne5 19. Rd4 a4 20. b4 a3 21. Rfd1 h6 22. Nh3 Ra4 23. c5



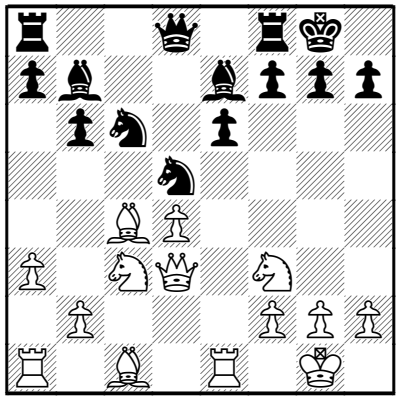
23. ... Be6 24. R1d2 Bc4 25. Rxc4 Nxc4 26. Rd7+ Kf6 27. Nf4 Ne5 28. Rxc7 Nxf3+ 29. exf3 g5 30. Nh5+ Ke5



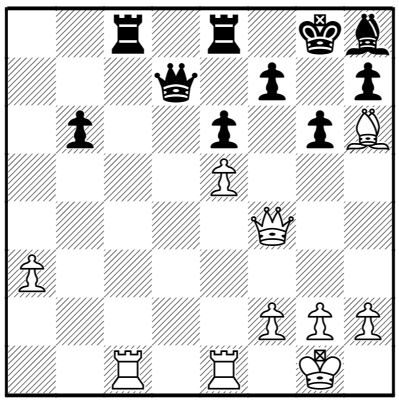
31. Rxb7 Rd8 32. Re7+ Kd4 33. Ng7 Kc4 34. c6 Rxb4 35. c7 Rc8 36. Nxf5 Kd5 37. Re3 Rxc7 38. Rxa3 Rb2 39. Ne3+ Kd4 40. Nf1 Rc1 41. f4 gxh4 42. gxh4 Ke4 43. Re3+ Kxf4 44. Re6 Kf5 45. Re8 Rxa2 46. Rg8 Ra4 47. Kg2 Rxh4 48. Ng3+ Kf6 49. Rf8+ Kg6 50. Ne2 Rc2 51. Kf3 Kg7 52. Re8 Kf7 53. Re5 Ra4 54. Nf4 Rc6 55. Nd5 Rc5 56. Rf5+ Ke6
0–1

Game 11
Ankit Gupta -
Jack Peters
D41 Tarrasch Defense

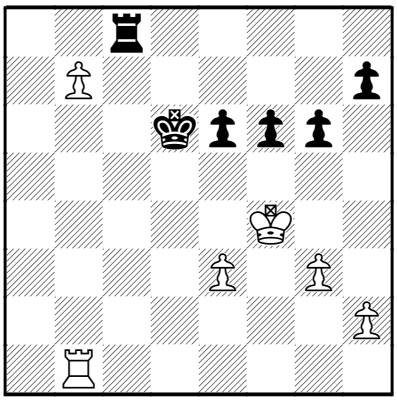
1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 d5 4. Nf3 c5 5. e3 Nc6 6. cxd5 Nxd5 7. Bc4 cxd4 8. exd4 Be7 9. 0–0 0–0 10. Re1 b6 11. a3 Bb7 12. Qd3



A typical position with an isolated d-pawn. White has a small edge because he can easily develop all of his pieces.
12. ... Rc8 13. Bb3 Nxc3 14. bxc3 Na5 15. Bc2 g6 16. Bh6 Re8 17. Ba4 Bc6 18. Bxc6 Nxc6 19. c4
Now we have the hanging pawns at c4 and d4. Black can put pressure on them, so chances are about even.
19. ... Bf6 20. Rad1 Na5 21. Rc1 Qc7 22. c5 Qd7 23. cxb6 axb6 24. Qe3 Nc4 25. Qf4 Bh8 26. Ne5 Nxe5 27. dxe5



A new pawn structure. White must watch a3 and e5, while Black's only worry is the b-pawn. For the first time in the tournament, I thought I had an edge. Actually, it's still even.
27. ... Rxc1 28. Qxc1 Rc8 29. Qb2 b5 30. g3 Rc5 31. Qb4 Qd5
I foresaw White's next two moves, but couldn't bring myself to play 31...Qc8 32 a4 bxa4, with an obvious draw.
32. a4 Bxe5 33. Be3 Rc4
Entering an unfavorable endgame that I thought I could draw. Probably 33...Rc2 34 Qxb5 Ra2 improves.
34. Qxb5 Qxb5 35. axb5 Bd4 36. Rb1 Bxe3 37. fxe3 Kf8?
White has the Rook properly placed behind the passed pawn. However, Black should still draw by stationing his Rook at b7 and using his King and pawns to prevent White's King from invading. My choice lets White win by advancing the pawn to b7.
38. b6 Rc8 39. Kf2 Ke7 40. Kf3 Kd6 41. Kf4 f6 42. b7!



I began to contemplate an 0-3 start and wondered if it was too late to retrain as a plumber.
42. ... Rb8 43. Rb6+!

More Round 2 action: Lakdawala - Casella at Black's 25th (foreground) and Kavutskiy - Taylor at White's 27th.

This is the reason White wants the pawn at b7. The Rook works horizontally too. Black's King cannot approach the b-pawn without jettisoning Kingside pawns.

43. ... Kd7 44. h4 Kd8 45. Ke4 Kc7 46. Rxe6 Kxb7 47. Rxf6 Also 47 Re7+ Kc6 48 Rxh7 should win.

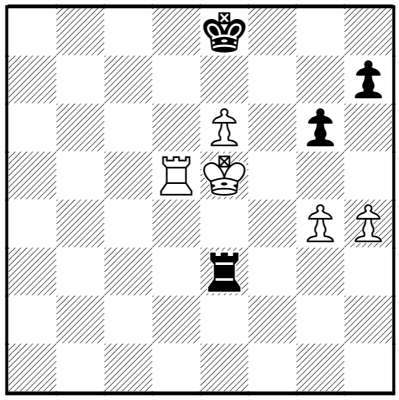
47. ... Re8+ 48. Kf4 Re7 49. e4 Kc7 50. e5

A good method is 50 Kg5! Kd7 51 Kh6 Ke8 52 Ra6, winning.

50. ... Kd7 51. Rd6+ Ke8 52. e6 Ra7 53. Rd7 Ra4+ 54. Ke5 Ra5+ 55. Rd5

White's task is becoming more difficult. He can win, subtly, by 55 Kf6 Rf5+ 56 Kg7 Rf3 57 g4 Rf4 58 h5! Rxg4 59 h6 Re4 60 Kxh7 Rxe6 61 Rd1.

55. ... Ra3 56. g4 Re3+



57. Kd6?

Perhaps the last opportunity to win is

Jack Peters: No need to retrain.

57 Kf6, imagining 57...Rf3+ 58 Kg7 Rf4 59 h5! Rxg4 60 h6 and 57...Re4 58 Ra5 Rf4+ 59 Kg5 Re4 60 Ra8+ Ke7 61 Ra7+ Kxe6 62 Rxh7.

57. ... Re4 58. Ra5 Rd4+ 59. Ke5 Rxg4 60. Ra8+ Ke7 61. Ra7+ Ke8 62. Rxh7 Rg1

Definitely drawing. The trickiest variation is 63 Rg7 Rg4 64 Kf6 Rf4+ 65 Kg5 Re4 66 Rxg6 Ke7 67 h5 Re5+! 68 Kh6 (or 68 Kg4 Rxe6) Kf8! 69 Rf6+ Ke7 70 Kg6 Rxh5.

63. Kf6 Rf1+ 64. Kxg6 Rg1+

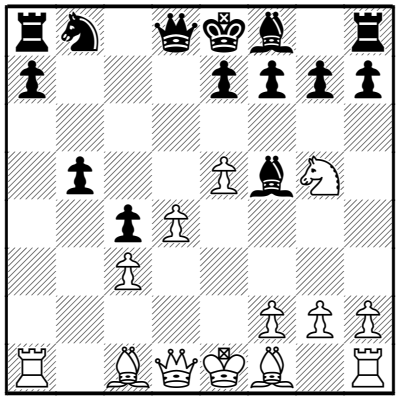
White cannot exploit his two extra pawns because his King must block the h-pawn to escape checks. An undeserved half-point for me!

65. Kf6 Rf1+ 66. Kg7 Rg1+ 67. Kh8 Rg6

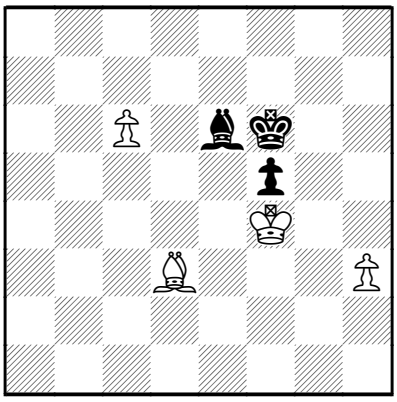
½–½

Game 12
Tim Taylor -
Cyrus Lakdawala
D15 Slav Defense

1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. Nf3 dxc4 5. e4 b5 6. e5 Nd5 7. a4 Bf5 8. axb5 Nxc3 9. bxc3 cxb5 10. Ng5



10. ... e6 11. g4 Bg6 12. Qf3 Nd7 13. Bg2 Rb8 14. Rxa7 h6 15. Qc6 hxg5 16. Bxg5 Be7 17. Bxe7 Qxe7 18. 0–0 Rd8 19. Qxb5 0–0 20. Rfa1 Qg5 21. Rxd7 Rxd7 22. Qxd7 Qxg4 23. Qc6 Bd3 24. Qf3 Qg5 25. Qe3 Qg4 26. h3 Qg6 27. Kh2 Rb8 28. Ra8 Rxa8 29. Bxa8 Bb1 30. Bf3 Bd3 31. d5 exd5 32. Bxd5 Kh7 33. Qf4 Kg8 34. Bxc4 Be4 35. Bf1 Qc6 36. c4 Qg6 37. Qg3 Qf5 38. f4 Bb7 39. Qe3 Qc2+ 40. Kg3 Be4 41. Be2 Kf8 42. c5 Ke7 43. Bf1 Bd5 44. Qd4 Ke6 45. Bd3 Qg2+ 46. Kh4 Ke7 47. f5 f6 48. Qf4 Qh1 49. e6 g5+ 50. fxg6 Qe1+ 51. Kh5 Qxe6 52. Qc7+ Kf8 53. Qd6+ Kg7 54. Qxe6 Bxe6 55. Kh4 Kh6 56. Kg3 f5 57. Kf4 Kxg6 58. c6 Kf6

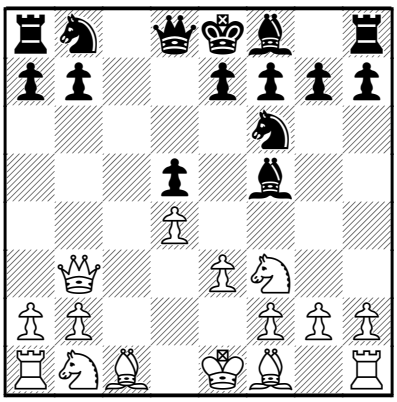


59. c7 Bc8 60. h4 Kg6 61. Ke5 Bd7 62. Bxf5+ Bxf5 63. h5+
1–0

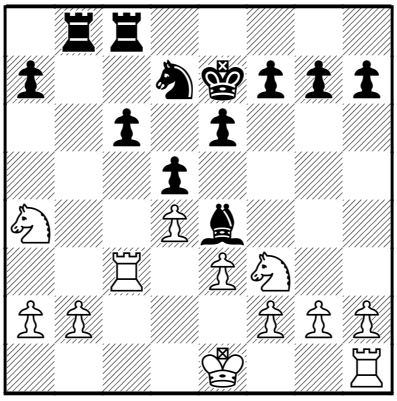
Round 4: August 15

Game 13
Joel Banawa - Ankit Gupta
D12 Slav Defense

1. Nf3 d5 2. d4 Nf6 3. e3 Bf5 4. c4 c6 5. cxd5 cxd5 6. Qb3



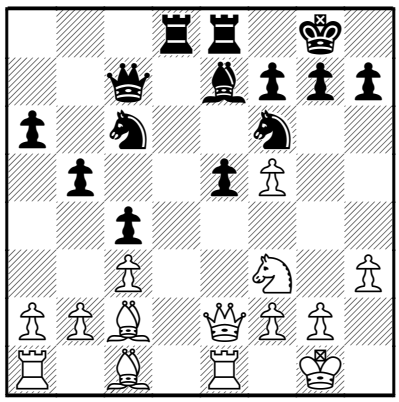
6. ... Qc7 7. Bd2 e6 8. Bb5+ Nc6 9. Bb4 Bxb4+ 10. Qxb4 Qe7 11. Bxc6+ bxc6 12. Qxe7+ Kxe7 13. Nc3 Nd7 14. Na4 Rhc8 15. Rc1 Rab8 16. Rc3 Be4



17. Ke2 Bxf3+ 18. gxf3 e5 19. dxe5 Nxe5 20. b3 g5 21. Rd1 f5 22. h3 Re8 23. Rd4 Kd6 24. f4 Nf7 25. fxg5 Nxg5 26. Rh4 Re7 27. Nc5 Rg8 28. Rf4 Rf8 29. Kf1 Ne4 30. Nxe4+
½–½

Game 14
Jack Peters - Michael Casella
C98 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 0–0 9. h3 Na5 10. Bc2 c5 11. d4 Qc7 12. Nbd2 Nc6 13. dxc5 dxc5 14. Nf1 Be6 15. Ne3 Rad8 16. Qe2 c4 17. Nf5 Bxf5 18. exf5 Rfe8



19. Bg5 My improvement on our 2008 game, when I was lucky to draw after 19 Ng5?! Nd4! 20 cxd4 exd4

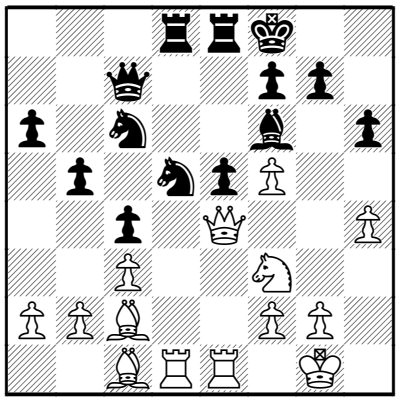
Michael Casella: hard luck, this time.

21 Ne4 Qd7 22 Bd2 d3 23 Bxd3 cxd3 24 Qf3.

19. ... Nd5 Ambitious. White has a negligible advantage after 19...h6 20 Bxf6 Bxf6 21 Be4.

20. Rad1 Bf6 21. h4 h6 22. Bc1 I briefly considered 22 Qe4!? hxg5 23 hxg5, when 23...Bxg5 24 Nxg5 Nf6 should hold. But 24 Rxd5! Rxd5 25 Qxd5 Bf6 26 g4 looks promising for White.

22. ... Kf8 23. Qe4

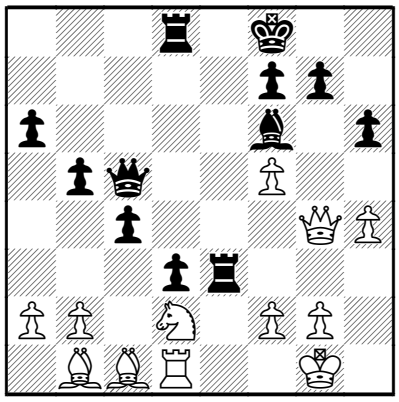


To meet 23...Nf4 by 24 g3 Nd3 25 Bxd3 cxd3 26 Rxd3.

23. ... Nd4! Déjà vu! ***24. cxd4 exd4 25. Qg4 d3 26. Bb1 Qc5?!*** I evaluated 26...c3! 27 bxc3 Nxc3 28 Qb4+ Kg8 29 Bd2 Nxd1 30 Rxd1 as favorable for White, but 30...Re2 gives Black sufficient compensation. The alternative 27 Bxd3 Rxe1+ 28 Rxe1 cxb2 29 Bd2 Nc3 seems even worse for White.

27. Nd2 Ne3?? The first Knight sacrifice was shocking and sound. This one is merely shocking. Black should have tried 27...Bd4 28 Qf3 Ne7 or 27...Ne7 28 Ne4 Qxf5.

28. Rxe3 Rxe3

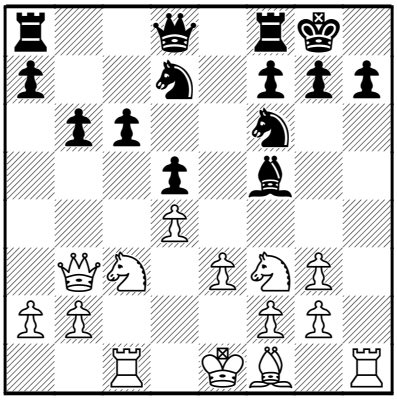


29. Nb3! The refutation. Far from clear is 29 fxe3?? Qxe3+ 30 Kh1 Rd4.

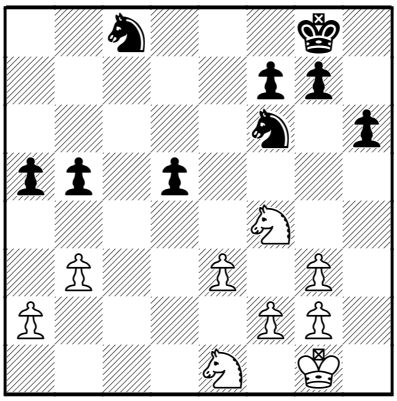
29. ... cxb3 30. Bxe3 Bd4 31. Rxd3 Bxe3 32. Rxd8+ Ke7 33. Rd1 1–0

Game 15
Cyrus Lakdawala -
Konstantin Kavutskiy
D00 Mason Attack

1. d4 d5 2. Bf4 Nf6 3. e3 Bf5 4. c4 e6 5. Nc3 c6 6. Qb3 b6 7. Rc1 Bd6 8. Bg3 0–0 9. Nf3 Bxg3 10. hxg3 Nbd7 11. cxd5 exd5



12. Ba6 Rb8 13. Be2 Qe7 14. 0–0 Rfd8 15. Rfd1 Qd6 16. Bd3 Bxd3 17. Rxd3 a6 18. Rdd1 Rbc8 19. Qa4 Ra8 20. Qc2 Rac8 21. Qd3 b5 22. Qf5 Qe6 23. Qf4 h6 24. Ne1 c5 25. dxc5 Nxc5 26. Ne2 Qb6 27. Qd4 Qd6 28. Qb4 Qb6 29. Nf4 a5 30. Qd4 Na4 31. Qxb6 Nxb6 32. b3 Rxc1 33. Rxc1 Rc8 34. Rxc8+ Nxc8

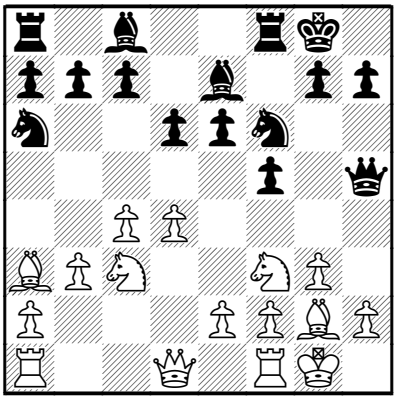


35. f3 Ne7 36. Kf2 Kf8 37. Nc2 Nc6 38. Ne2 Ne8 39. Ncd4 Na7 40. a3 Ke7 41. Nc3 Nc7 42. b4 axb4 43. axb4 g6 44. Ke2 Kd6 45. Kd2 Ke7 46. g4 Kf6 47. f4 Ke7 48. Kd3 Kd6 49. e4 dxe4+ 50. Kxe4 Na6 51. Nd5 Nb8 52. Nc3 Na6

53. Ncxb5+ Nxb5 54. Nxb5+ Ke7 55. Nc3 Nxb4 56. Nd5+ Nxd5 57. Kxd5 Kf6 58. g3 Ke7 59. Ke5 f6+ 60. Kd5 Kd7
½–½

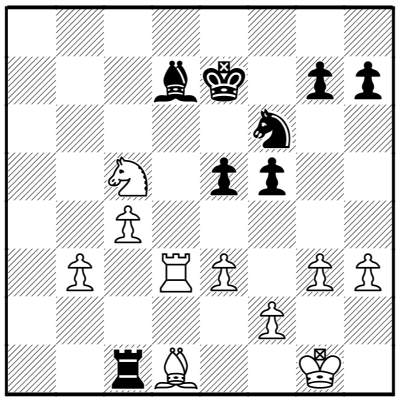
Game 16
Philip Wang - Tim Taylor
A99 Classical Dutch Defense

1. d4 e6 2. c4 f5 3. Nf3 Nf6 4. g3 Be7 5. Bg2 0–0 6. 0–0 d6 7. Nc3 Qe8 8. b3 Qh5 9. Ba3 Na6

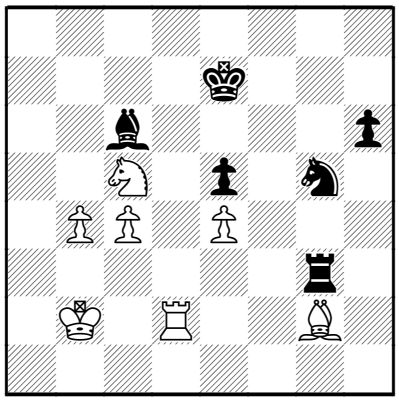


10. Ne1 c5 11. e3 Qxd1 12. Rxd1 Nb4 13. dxc5 dxc5 14. Nd3 a5 15. Rd2 Ra6 16. Nb5 Rd8 17. Rfd1 Nxd3 18. Rxd3 Rxd3 19. Rxd3 Kf7 20. Bb2 a4 21. h3 axb3 22. axb3 Ne8 23. Be5 Ra2 24. Bf3 Rc2 25. Nc3 Bf6 26. Bxf6 Nxf6 27. Nb5 Ke7 28. Nd6 Bd7 29. Nxb7 e5 30. Bd1 Rc1 31. Nxc5

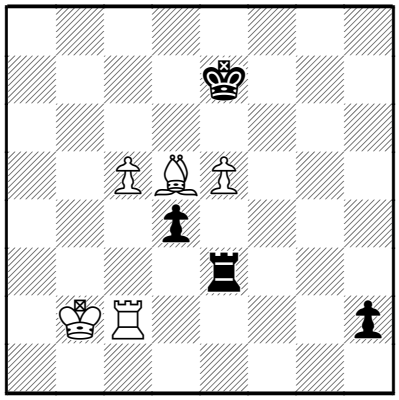
Philip Wang: an exceptional return.



31. ... Bc6 32. Kh2 g5 33. Rd2 Rb1 34. f3 g4 35. hxg4 fxg4 36. e4 gxf3 37. Bxf3 Re1 38. Kg2 Rb1 39. Kf2 h6 40. Ke2 Nh7 41. Kd3 Ng5 42. Bg2 Ra1 43. Kc3 Ra5 44. b4 Ra3+ 45. Kb2 Rxg3



46. b5 Ba8 47. b6 Ne6 48. b7 Bxb7 49. Nxb7 Nd4 50. Nc5 h5 51. Bf1 Rf3 52. Bd3 h4 53. Nb3 Ne6 54. Be2 Rg3 55. c5 h3 56. Bf1 Rf3 57. Bc4 Nd4 58. Nxd4 exd4 59. e5 Rc3 60. Rc2 h2 61. Bd5 Re3



62. c6 Rxe5 63. Bh1 Rb5+ 64. Kc1 Kd8 65. Rxh2 d3 66. Rh8+ Kc7 67. Rh7+ Kc8 68. Kd2 Rb3 69. Bd5 Rb2+ 70. Kxd3 Rb1 71. Be6+
1–0

Round 5: August 21

Game 17
Cyrus Lakdawala - Joel Banawa
A46 Torre Attack

Notes by Cyrus Lakdawala:

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 e6 3. Bg5 h6 4. Bxf6 Qxf6 5. e4 d6 6. Nc3 Nd7 7. Qd2 c6

Paul Littlewood - Michael Adams 1997 continued 7...a6 8.a4 g5 9.h3 Bg7 10.Rd1 b6 11.Bd3 Bb7 12.Ne2 Qe7 13.c3 Rg8 14.Ng3 Bf8 15.Qe2 Nf6 with an eventual draw in 42 moves.

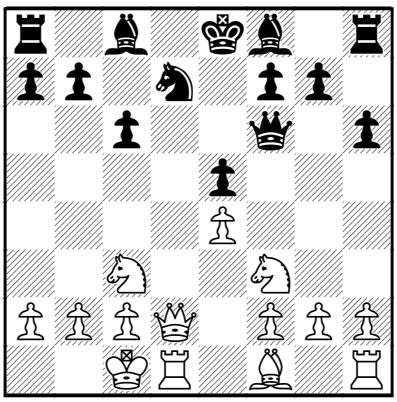
8. 0–0–0 e5?

Amazingly, this natural move is an error. Black can't open the position so soon.

[8...Be7! 9.h4 e5 10.Kb1 a6 11.Be2 Nf8 12.Qe3 Bd8 13.dxe5 dxe5 14.Na4 0–1 in 40 moves, Kosic,D (2504)-Pikula,D (2513) / Herceg Novi 2001/ CBM 083]

9. dxe5 dxe5??

[The losing move. In the database, Black has played 9. ... Nxe5 (+= Fritz), keeping the d-file closed, numerous times with decent results. - Ed.]



10. Nb5!

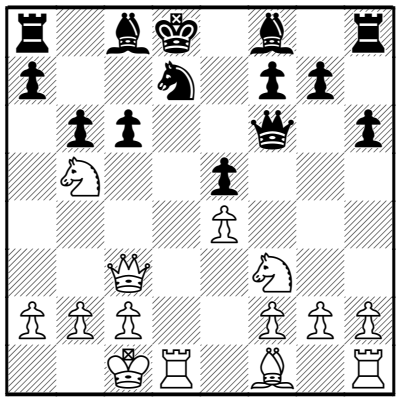
After the game I thought I was some kind of Tal-like genius to find this move.

To my surprise, I found 12 other games in the database from this exact position! Apparently it's a book trap in the Torre.

10. ... Kd8

The only move. 10...cxb5? loses to 11.Bxb5 Qe6 12.Nxe5 Qxe5 13.Bxd7+ Ke7 14.Bxc8.

11. Qa5+! b6 12. Qc3



12. ... a6

Other tries also lose: 12...cxb5 13.Bxb5 a6 14.Bxd7 Bxd7 15.Nxe5 Ra7 16.Rd5 Bc5 17.Qd3 Bd6 18.Nc6+!+-; and 12...Bc5 13.Qxe5 cxb5 (13...Qxe5 14.Nxe5 cxb5 15.Nxd7 Bxd7 16.Bxb5+-) 14.Qd5 Rb8 15.Ne5! (15.Bxb5?! Kc7) 15... Kc7 16.Nxd7+-.

13. Nd6 Bxd6

13...Kc7? 14.Ne8+.

14. Qxc6 Ke7

If 14...Bb7, then 15.Qxb7 Ke7 16.Bc4 Rhd8 17.Bd5+-.

15. Qxa8 Nc5 16. Qa7+N

The first move out of theory! 16.Bc4 b5 17.Qa7+ Bb7 18.Bd5 Ra8 19.Qb6 Bxd5 20.Rxd5 Rb8 21.Qc6 Nd7 22.Rhd1 Rb6 23.Qc3 Qf4+ 24.Qd2 Qxd2+ 25.R5xd2 Nf6 26.Re2+- 1–0 in 37 moves, Drazic, S (2445) - Damljanovic, B (2510) / Podgorica 1996 / CBM 053.

Cyrus Lakdawala: starts a late surge.

16. ... Bd7

If 16...Bb7, then 17.Qxb6+-.

17. Bxa6 Rb8?

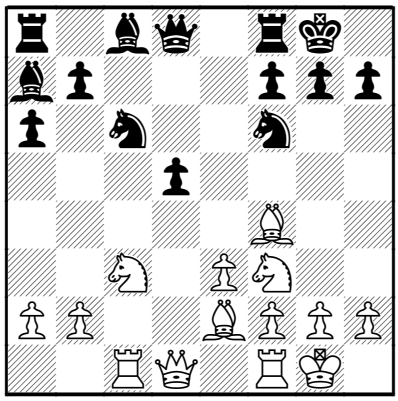
Also losing is 17...Bb8 18.Rxd7+ Nxd7 19.Qb7+-.

18. Rxd6! Qxd6 19. Rd1

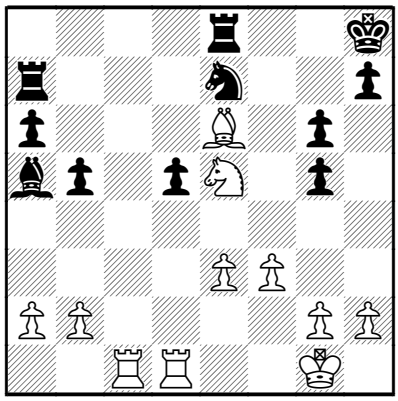
1–0

Game 18
Tim Taylor - Jack Peters
D37 Queen's Gambit Declined, Classical Variation with Bf4

1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 c5 4. cxd5 exd5 5. Nf3 Nc6 6. Bf4 Nf6 7. e3 Be7 8. Be2 0–0 9. dxc5 Bxc5 10. 0–0 a6 11. Rc1 Ba7



12. Ne5 Ne7 13. Qb3 Qb6 14. Qxb6 Bxb6 15. Na4 Bd8 16. Bg5 b5 17. Nc5 Ne4 18. Bh4 f6 19. Ned7 Bxd7 20. Nxd7 Re8 21. Rfd1 Ba5 22. Bg4 Ra7 23. Be6+ Kh8 24. f3 Ng5 25. Bxg5 fxg5 26. Ne5 g6

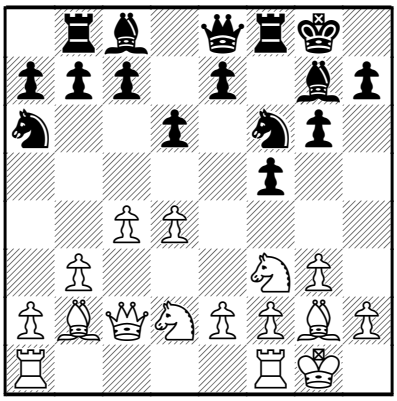


27. Bxd5 Bb6 28. Rc3 Nf5 29. Ng4 Nxe3 30. Nxe3 Rxe3 31. Rxe3 Bxe3+ 32. Kf1 Rd7 33. Re1 Bf4 34. Be6 Rd2 35. g3 Bd6 36. Re2 Rxe2 37. Kxe2 Kg7 38. Kd3 Kf6 39. Bc8 a5 40. Bd7 b4 41. Kc4

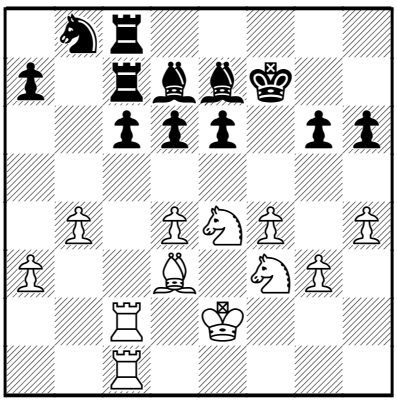
½–½

Game 19
Konstantin Kavutskiy - Philip Wang
A87 Leningrad Dutch

1. d4 f5 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. g3 g6 4. Bg2 Bg7 5. 0–0 0–0 6. b3 d6 7. Bb2 Qe8 8. c4 Na6 9. Qc2 Rb8 10. Nbd2

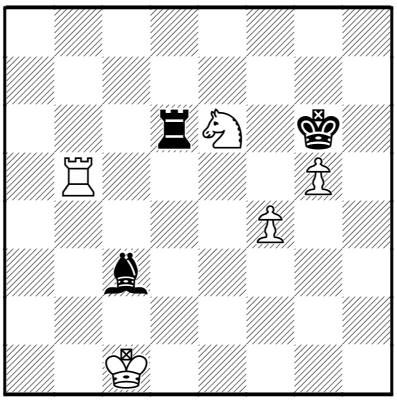


10. ... b5 11. a3 c6 12. Rac1 Bd7 13. b4 Nc7 14. cxb5 Rxb5 15. Nb3 Ncd5 16. e3 Qb8 17. Nfd2 Rc8 18. Rfe1 Be6 19. Ba1 Rb7 20. Qd3 Rbc7 21. Rc2 Qb5 22. Bf1 Qxd3 23. Bxd3 Nd7 24. Ba6 Re8 25. Rec1 Nb8 26. Bf1 Rec8 27. Bd3 Kf8 28. Kf1 Ke8 29. Ke2 Kd7 30. Bc4 Nf6 31. Bd3 Bd5 32. f3 Bh6 33. Na5 Be6 34. Ndc4 Nd5 35. Bc3 Nxc3+ 36. Rxc3 Bg7 37. Nd2 Bf7 38. Bc4 e6 39. Bb3 Be8 40. f4 Ke7 41. Nf3 h6 42. R3c2 Bf6 43. h4 Bd7 44. Bc4 Rg8 45. Rh1 Re8 46. Bd3 Rec8 47. Rhc1 Kd8 48. Nc4 Ke7 49. Ncd2 Kf7 50. e4 fxe4 51. Nxe4 Be7



52. h5 gxh5 53. Rh1 a5 54. Rxh5 axb4 55. axb4 Kg7 56. Ke3 Rb7 57. Rch2 Rh8 58. g4 Be8 59. R5h3 Rxb4 60. Neg5 Bd7

61. Ne4 c5 62. dxc5 dxc5 63. g5 h5 64. Rxh5 Rxh5 65. Rxh5 c4 66. Bc2 Ba4 67. Bxa4 Rxa4 68. Nd4 Ra3+ 69. Ke2 Ra2+ 70. Kd1 Bb4 71. Nxe6+ Kg6 72. Rh8 c3 73. Nxc3 Bxc3 74. Rxb8 Rd2+ 75. Kc1 Rd6 76. Rb5

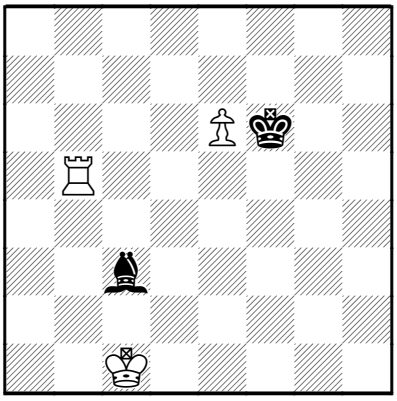


76. ... Rxe6?

This should lose. As Alexander Baburin pointed out in "Chess Today," Black should play 76...Kh5!, when 77 Kc2 Bd2 78 Re5 Rxe6! 79 Rxe6 Bxf4 80 g6 Bh6! 81 Kd3 Bg7 82 Ke4 Kg5 draws. Nor can White succeed with 78 Rf5 Be3 79 Nf8 Kg4 80 Rf7 Bxf4 81 g6 Bh6.

The similar 76...Bd2+ 77 Kc2 Kh5 also draws.

77. f5+ Kxg5 78. fxe6+ Kf6



79. Rb6?

Baburin pointed out 79 Kc2!, winning. If 79…Ba1, White's King manages to support the pawn by 80 Rb6 Be5 81 Kd3 Ke7 82 Ke4 Bh2 83 Kd5. Or, if 79…Bd4 80 Kd3 Bg1, White wins with 81 Re5! Ke7 82 Ke4 Bh2 83 Rh5 Bg3 84 Kd5.

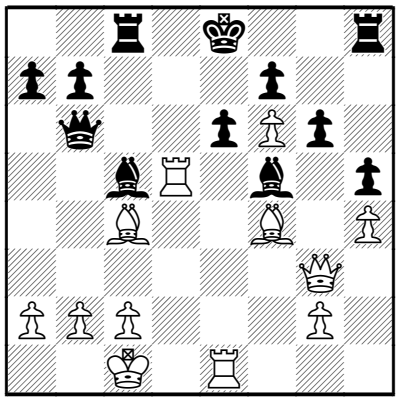
79. ... Be5 80. Kd2 Ke7 81. Kd3 Bd6 82. Ke4 Kxe6

½–½

Game 20
Michael Casella - Ankit Gupta
B61 Sicilian Defense,
Richter-Rauzer Variation

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 Nc6 6. Bg5 Bd7 7. Qd2 Rc8 8. f4 Nxd4 9. Qxd4 Qa5 10. e5 dxe5 11. fxe5 e6 12. 0–0–0 Bc6 13. Nb5 Another wild line begins 13 Bb5.

13. ... Bxb5 14. exf6 Bc6 15. h4 g6 16. Bc4 Bc5 17. Qg4 h5 18. Qg3 Be4 19. Rhe1 Bf5 20. Rd5 Qb6 21. Bf4



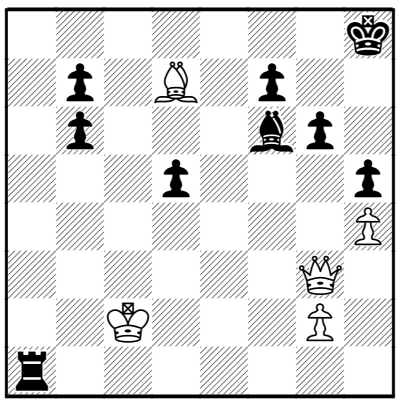
21. ... Bd4??

Correct is 21…Bb4. The computer recommends 22 Be3! Bxe1 23 Qxe1 Qc7 24 Bb5+ Kf8 25 Rc5 Qb8 26 Qc3, with apparently enough compensation after 26…Rd8 27 Rc7 or 26…e5 27 Bd3.

22. Bb5+ Kf8 23. Bc7! Winning the Queen.

23. ... exd5 24. Bxb6 axb6 25. Bd7! Rxc2+ 26. Kd1 Bxf6 27. Bxf5 Rxb2 28. Bd7?! White should continue his forceful play with 28 Bxg6! Rg8 29 Qd6+ Kg7 30 Rf1.

28. ... Rxa2 29. Re8+ Kg7 30. Rxh8 Ra1+ 31. Kc2 Kxh8



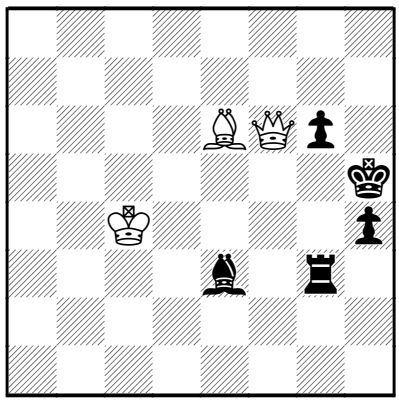
32. Qc7

Black's Rook and pawns put up surprisingly strong resistance against White's Queen. Probably 32 Be8 improves.

33. ... Ra2+ 33. Kb3 Rb2+ 34. Ka3 Rxg2 35. Be8 Bxh4

Now it's uncertain if White can force a win.

36. Qxf7 Bf2 37. Qxd5 Bc5+ 38. Kb3 Rg3+ 39. Kc2 Kh7 40. Qf7+ Kh6 41. Qf4+ Rg5 42. Bf7 Be7 43. Bg8 b5 44. Kd3 Bc5 45. Be6 b6 46. Bg8 Ba3 47. Be6 Bc5 48. Bd7 Be7 49. Be8 b4 50. Kc4 Bc5 51. Bd7 Be7 52. Be6 Bc5 53. Bd5 Be7 54. Kb3 Bf6 55. Be6 Kg7 56. Qc7+ Kh6 57. Qf7 Rg3+ 58. Kxb4 Kg5 59. Qc7 h4 60. Qxb6 Be5 61. Qd8+ Bf6 62. Qd2+ Kh5 63. Kc4 Bg5 64. Qf2 Be3 65. Qf6!



White has made progress. Black's pawns are stymied, and White threatens to bring his Bishop to f3 to chase the King.

65. ... Bg1 66. Bd5 Rg4+ 67. Kd3 Rd4+ 68. Ke2 Rxd5

There is no defense.

After 68…Kh6 69 Bf3, some possibilities are 69…Kh7 70 Kf1, trapping the Bishop;

or 69…Ra4 70 Qh8+ Kg5 71 Qd8+ Kh6 72 Qd2+! g5 73 Qd6+ Kg7 74 Qd7+, picking off the Rook;

or 69…Rc4 70 Qf8+ Kg5 71 Qe7+ Kh6 72 Be4! h3 73 Qe6 Rxe4+ 74 Qxe4, which is similar to the game.

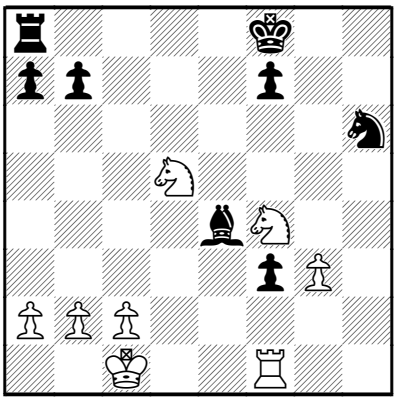
69. Qf3+ Kh6 70. Qxd5 h3 71. Qd2+ Kh5 72. Kf3 h2 73. Qg2 g5 74. Qh3+ Kg6 75. Kg4

1–0

Round 6: August 21

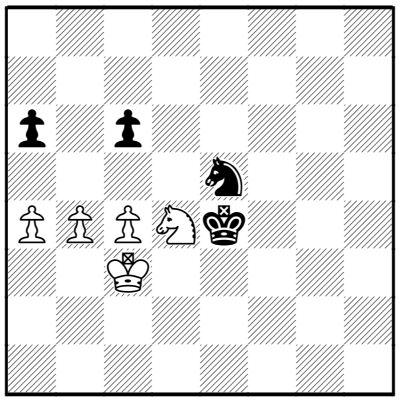
Game 21
Ankit Gupta - Tim Taylor
C34 King's Gambit, Fischer Defense

1. e4 e5 2. f4 exf4 3. Nf3 d6 4. Nc3 h6 5. d4 g5 6. g3 g4 7. Nh4 f3 8. Be3 c6 9. Qd2 d5 10. 0–0–0 Be6 11. exd5 cxd5 12. h3 h5 13. Bg5 Qxg5 14. Qxg5 Bh6 15. Qxh6 Rxh6 16. Bd3 Nc6 17. Nf5 Rf6 18. Ng7+ Kf8 19. Nxh5 Rh6 20. hxg4 Bxg4 21. Nf4 Nxd4 22. Rxh6 Nxh6 23. Ncxd5 Ndf5 24. Bxf5 Bxf5 25. Rf1 Be4



26. Nf6! Bc6 27. N6d5 Rd8 28. c4 Ng4 29. Rxf3 Ne5 30. Ne6+ Ke8 31. Nxd8 Nxf3 32. Nxc6 bxc6 33. Ne3 Ke7 34. Kc2 Ke6 35. Kd3 f5 36. b4 Ke5 37. Nc2 f4 38. gxf4+ Kxf4 39. Nd4 Ne5+ 40. Kc3 Ke4 41. a4 a6

Ankit Gupta: displayed tactical skill.



42. a5 Ke3 43. b5 cxb5 44. cxb5 axb5 45. a6 Nc4 46. Nxb5 Nb6 47. Kb4 Kd3 48. Kc5 Nd7+ 49. Kd6 Nb6 50. Kc6 Nc8 51. Kb7 1–0

Game 22
Joel Banawa - Michael Casella
E90 King's Indian Defense, 6. h3

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. e4 d6 5. Nf3 0–0 6. h3 e5 7. d5 a5 8. g4 Na6 9. Be3 Nd7 10. Rg1 Kh8 11. a3 f5

Obviously White is well prepared for this lever. Perhaps Black should aim for …c7-c6, starting with 11…Qe7.

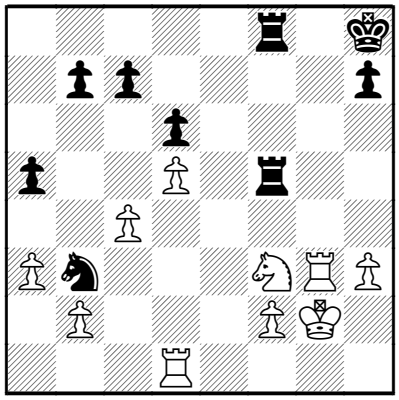
12. gxf5 gxf5 13. exf5 Nf6 14. Bd3 e4!

The only way to justify 11…f5.

15. Nxe4 Nxe4 16. Bxe4 Nc5 17. Bd4 Bxd4 18. Qxd4+ Qf6 19. Bc2 Bxf5

Black has adequate compensation for the pawn.

20. Bxf5 Nb3 21. Qxf6+ Rxf6 22. Rd1 Rxf5 23. Rg3 Re8+ 24. Kf1 Ref8 25. Kg2



25. … Nc5

Also 25…Rf4 26 Rc3 a4 27 Rg4 Rxg4+ 28 hxg4 Rf4 equalizes.

26. Rd4 a4 27. h4 h6 28. h5

A reasonable decision. White returns the pawn to free his pieces.

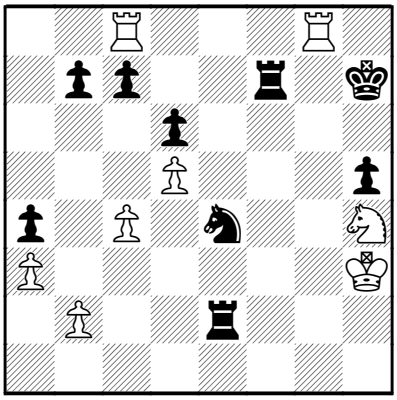
28. … Rxh5 29. Nh4 Kh7 30. Rdg4 Rf7 31. Kf1 Re5 32. f4??

This drops a pawn and should cost White the game. He had to defend with 32 Rf3.

32. … h5 33. Rg8 Rxf4+ 34. Kg2 Rf7 35. Rc8 Re2+ 36. Kh3 Ne4

Easier than 36…Rxb2 37 Rg5.

37. Rgg8



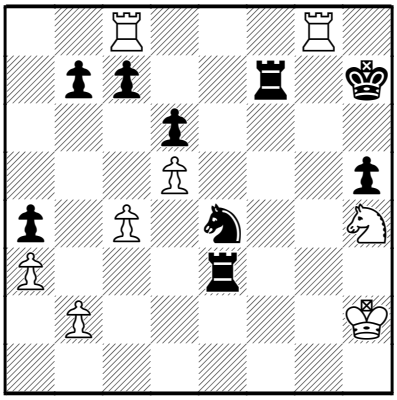
37. … Nf2+

The right way is 37…Nf6 38 Rgf8 Rxf8 39 Rxf8 Ne4 40 Rf7+ Kh6 41 Rxc7 Rxb2, when the extra pawn is valuable and Black might harvest another.

38. Kg3 Ne4+ 39. Kh3 Re3+ 40. Kh2 Re2+ 41. Kh3

White should claim a draw before making this move, as the same position occurred at moves 37 and 39.

41. … Re3+ 42. Kh2



42. … Nf6??

Black can still try to win by 42…Rf2+ 43 Rg2 (worse is 43 Ng2? Nf6) Rxg2+ 44 Kxg2 Rg3+ 45 Kf1 Rg7.

43. Rh8+
1–0

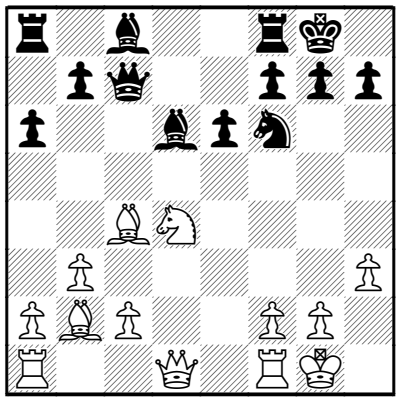
White would win a Rook by 43…Kg7 44 Nf5+.

Game 23
Jack Peters -
Konstantin Kavutskiy
C07 French Defense,
Tarrasch Variation

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nd2 c5 4. exd5 Qxd5 5. Ngf3 cxd4 6. Bc4 Qd6 7. 0–0 Nf6 8. Nb3 Nc6 9. Nbxd4 Nxd4 10. Nxd4 a6 11. b3

Harmless. Black replies effectively.

11. ... Qc7 12. Bb2 Bd6 13. h3 0–0



14. Qf3?

White should settle for 14 Bd3 or 14 Qe2 b5 15 Bd3, with even chances.

14. ... Bd7?!

Quite playable, but 14…b5! would exploit White's mistake. As 15 Qxa8 Bb7 16 Qxf8+ Bxf8 17 Bd3 e5! 18 Nf5 e4 19 Be2 Qxc2 20 Bxf6 Qxe2 clearly favors Black, White would have to waste a move by 15 Bd3 Bb7 16 Qe2.

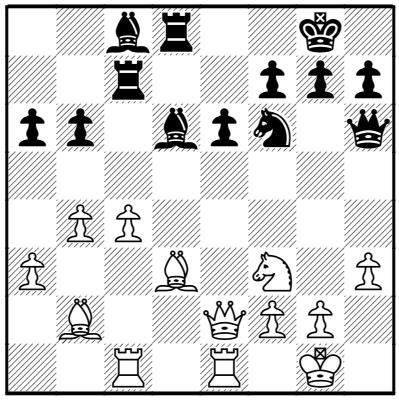
15. Bd3 Rfd8 16. Rfe1 Rac8 17. c4 b6 18. Rac1

Now White has a small advantage.

18. ... Qc5 19. a3 Rc7 20. Qe2 Bc8 21. b4 Qg5?!

Aggressive, but dangerous. Objectively, the passive 21…Qh5 22 Qxh5 Nxh5 23 Bf1 Nf6 seems best.

22. Nf3 Qh6



23. Bd4!?

White could completely thwart Black's Kingside ambitions by 23 Be5, but I felt a sharper approach was justified. Now I'm not so sure!

23. ... Nh5?

Black must fight back, as 23…Nd7 24 Be4 is uncomfortable. But more troublesome is 23…Nd5! 24 g3 b5 25 h4 bxc4, when Black's pieces remain active.

24. g3 Bb7 25. Be3 Nf4?!

I was more worried about 25…Nxg3 26 fxg3 Qxh3. White should maintain the advantage by 27 Qg2 Qxg3 28 Be2, as Black's Queenside will crumble before he can use his Kingside pawns.

26. Bxf4 Bxf4 27. gxf4 Qxh3 28. Be4 Qg4+ 29. Kh1 Qh3+ 30. Nh2 Bxe4+ 31. Qxe4 Rcd7

A little tougher is 31…Qxa3, but 32 f5 should win.

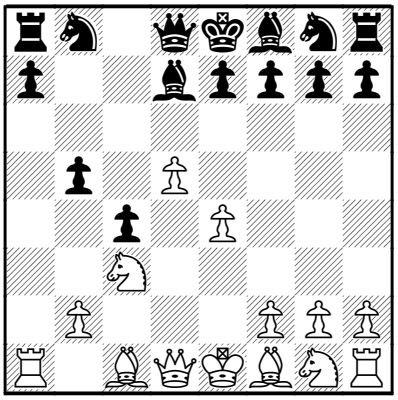
32. Qf3 Qh4 33. Red1 h6 34. Rxd7 Rxd7 35. c5 Rd2?! 36. c6 1–0

The continuation could be 36…Rxf2 37 Qxf2 Qxf2 38 c7 Qxf4 39 c8Q+ Kh7 40 Qc4.

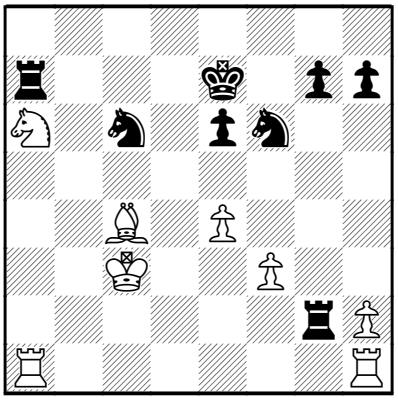
Konstantin Kavutskiy: sure signs of imminent improvement.

Game 24
Philip Wang - Cyrus Lakdawala
D20 Queen's Gambit Accepted

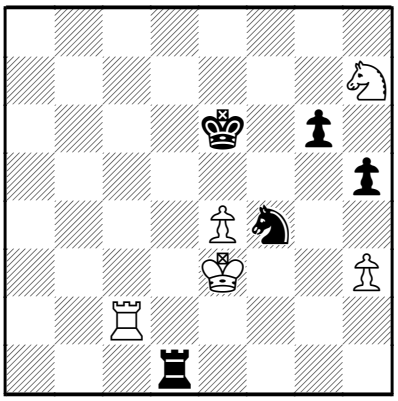
1. d4 d5 2. c4 dxc4 3. e4 b5 4. a4 c6 5. axb5 cxb5 6. Nc3 Bd7 7. d5



7. ... e5 8. dxe6 Bxe6 9. Qxd8+ Kxd8 10. Nxb5 Bb4+ 11. Bd2 Bxd2+ 12. Kxd2 Nc6 13. Nf3 Nf6 14. Ng5 Ke7 15. Nxe6 fxe6 16. f3 Rhb8 17. Bxc4 a6 18. Nc7 Ra7 19. Nxa6 Rxb2+ 20. Kc3 Rxg2



21. Rhg1 Rxg1 22. Rxg1 g6 23. Be2 e5 24. Bc4 Nd4 25. Rf1 Nh5 26. f4 Nc6 27. fxe5 Nxe5 28. Be2 Nf6 29. Kd4 Nfd7 30. Rc1 Rb7 31. Nc7 Rb4+ 32. Bc4 Rb2 33. h3 Rd2+ 34. Kc3 Nxc4 35. Kxc4 Ne5+ 36. Kb3 Re2 37. Nd5+ Kd6 38. Nf6 h5 39. Rc2 Re1 40. Kb2 Ke6 41. Nh7 Nd3+ 42. Kc3 Nf4 43. Kd4 Rd1+ 44. Ke3

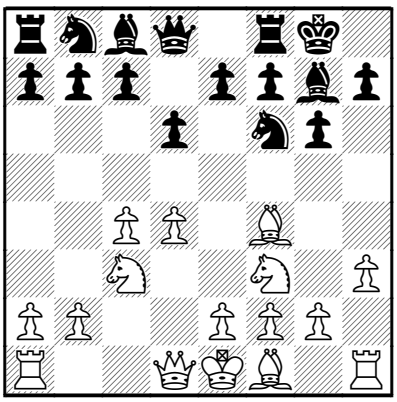


Nxh3 45. Rh2 Re1+ 46. Kd2 Rxe4 ½–½

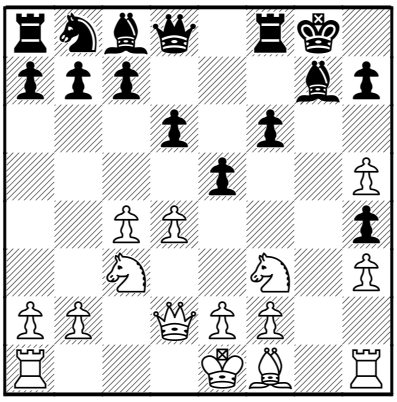
Round 7: August 22

Game 25
Cyrus Lakdawala - Jack Peters
E61 King's Indian Defense 5. Bf4

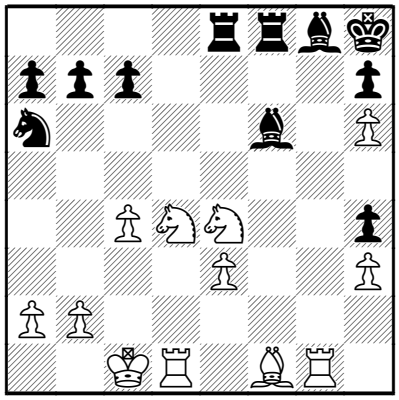
1. Nf3 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. d4 0–0 5. Bf4
An obscure variation, somewhat related to Cyrus' specialty, the London System.
5. ... d6 6. h3



6. ... Nh5?!
An over-the-board inspiration. Cyrus had prepared for 6...Nfd7 and 6...Nc6, the normal moves. He reminded me that I had played 6...Nc6 7 e3 Nd7 against Leo Raterman in 2005, which I had forgotten.
7. Bg5
Much better than 7 Bh2?! f5.
7. ... f6?!
I rejected 7...h6 because of 8 g4, but my choice is worse.
8. Bh4 g5 9. g4 gxh4 10. gxh5 e5
I wasn't worried yet because I expected my Bishop to dominate the dark squares. The alternative 10...Qe8 11 Nd5 Na6 12 Qd2 is very uncomfortable for Black anyway.
11. Qd2

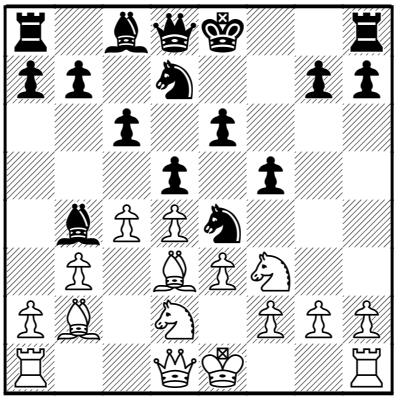


Cyrus foresaw the next five moves, winning a pawn. I was unaware of danger until move 14.
11. ... f5 12. Rg1 Kh8 13. h6 Bf6 14. dxe5 dxe5 15. Qxd8 Bxd8
Not 15...Rxd8? 16 Nd5.
16. Nxe5 Bf6 17. Nf3
I think Black is lost after 17 Nd3 Be6 18 Nd5. After 17 Nf3, White does not control f4, and Black can put up some resistance.
17. ... Be6 18. e3 f4 19. Nd4
Fighting for dark squares. After 19 e4 Nd7, Black has a bit more compensation.
20. ... Bg8 20. 0–0–0 fxe3 21. fxe3 Na6 22. Ne4 Rae8

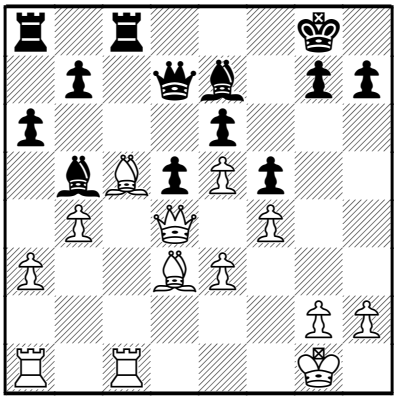


I felt I was back in the game, with only a small disadvantage.
23. Rg4 Be7 24. Be2 Nc5 25. Rdg1 Nd7?
Optimism is healthy, in small doses. I realized that my position had improved by bringing the Knight to c5, and I dreamed that a Knight at e5 would be even better.
But I should have tried 25...Nxe4 26 Rxe4 Bf6, with fair chances of drawing.
26. Rg7 White's annoying threat of 27 Bh5 forces Black into contortions.
26. ... Bd8 27. Ng5 Ne5 28. Bh5 Re7?!
I used up almost all of my time looking for a saving idea. The best is 28...Bxg5 29 R1xg5 Rf1+ 30 Kd2 Rf2+ 31 Kc3 Nf7, but Black cannot cope with 32 Bxf7 Bxf7 33 Nf5 Bg6 34 Ne7.
29. b3 Nd3+ 30. Kd2 Nc5 31. Ke2
Ruling out an invasion at f2. Black can hardly move.
31. ... c6 32. Rg4
Even stronger is 32 Nf5! Rxf5?! 33 Nf7+ Bxf7 34 Bxf7, mating at g8.
32. ... a5 33. Ngf3 Nd7 34. Nf5 1–0 Time
As I played this move, my flag fell. It's time to resign anyway.

Game 26
Philip Wang - Joel Banawa
D30 Semi-Slav Defense
1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. Nf3 c6 4. e3 Nf6 5. b3 Nbd7 6. Bb2 Ne4 7. Bd3 Bb4+ 8. Nbd2 f5

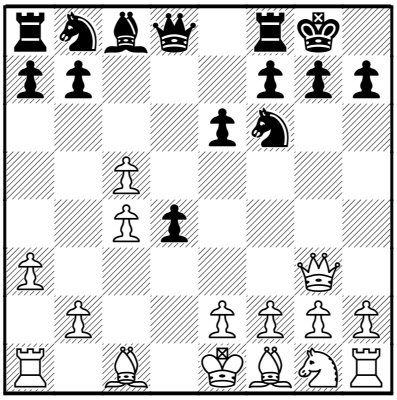


9. a3 Bd6 10. Ne5 0–0 11. 0–0 Nxd2 12. Qxd2 Nxe5 13. dxe5 Be7 14. cxd5 cxd5 15. Rfc1 Bd7 16. Bd4 Bc6 17. b4 Qd7 18. Qb2 a6 19. f4 Rfc8 20. Bc5 Bb5 21. Qd4

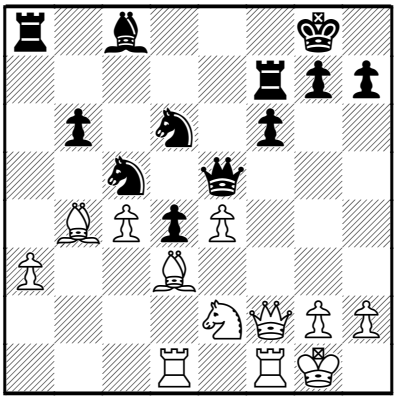


½–½

Game 27
Konstantin Kavutskiy - Ankit Gupta
E36 Nimzo-Indian
1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. Qc2 d5 5. a3 Bxc3+ 6. Qxc3 c5 7. dxc5 d4 8. Qg3 0–0



9. Bh6 Ne8 10. e3 f6 11. e4 e5 12. Bd3 a5 13. Bd2 Nd7 14. b4 axb4 15. Bxb4 Rf7 16. Ne2 Qc7 17. 0–0 Nxc5 18. f4 b6 19. fxe5 Qxe5 20. Rad1 Nd6 21. Qf2



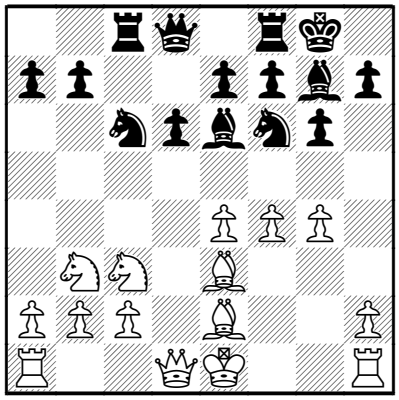
21. ... Bg4 22. h3 Ndxe4 23. Bxe4 Nxe4 24. Qe1 Bxe2 25. Qxe2 Re8 26. Rfe1 Rd7 27. Qf3 f5 28. Qd3 Red8 29. a4 g6 30. Ra1 Qf4 31. Ra2 Qg3 32. Qf1 d3 33. Bd2 Qc7 34. Rc1 Ng3 35. Qe1 Ne2+ 36. Kh1 Re8 0–1

Tim Taylor: two fine attacking games.

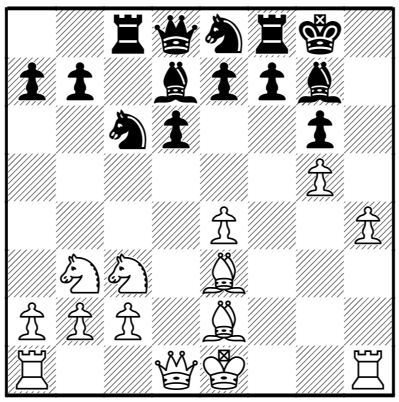
Game 28

Tim Taylor - Michael Casella
B72 Bird's Opening, Classical Sicilian Dragon

1. f4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. e4 g6 4. d4 cxd4 5. Nxd4 Bg7 6. Nb3 d6 7. Nc3 Nf6 8. Be2 0–0 9. Be3 Be6 10. g4 Rc8



11. f5 Bd7 12. g5 Ne8 13. fxg6 hxg6 14. h4



14. ... Na5 15. h5 e6 16. hxg6 fxg6 17. Qd2 Rxc3 18. bxc3 Qc7 19. Bd4 e5 20. Nxa5 d5 21. Be3 Qxa5 22. Qxd5+ Qxd5 23. exd5 b6 24. d6 Nxd6 25. Rd1 Bc6 26. Rh6 Nf7 27. Rxg6 Be4 28. Re6 Bxc2 29. Rd2 Bf5 30. Rc6 Be4 31. Rc7 1–0

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Solutions to Back Cover Problems

We presented three combinations by our late editor.

1. 39...Qxd5! 40.Rb1 Qxe4 0–1. Gustavo Hernandez - John Hillery, Grey Whale Classic, San Diego 1985

2. 26...Be3! 27.Nf3 Bxf3 0–1. Jeff Stone - John Hillery, Kashdan Tribute Futurity, Hollywood 1986

3. A Zugzwang appears after 56 Qxb2 Kg7 57 Qe5!, as 57…Kg6 58 Qg5+ costs Black the Rook. See the notes to the final position of Hillery - Wierzbicki 1989-1990 on page 8.

Southern California Open 2010

September 4-6, 2010

By Larry Stevens

The 32nd Annual Southern California Open was won by IM Erico Sevillano, who defeated IM Jack Peters in the final round. Skipping the invitational state championship in August, Sevillano seemed to make up for it by defeating three of its participants: Konstantin Kavutskiy, co-champion Joel Banawa, and Peters.

The 6-round, two section traditional labor day tournament was held at the LAX Hilton.

It was the last tournament directed by John Hillery. Although John seemed energetic enough at the US Open in August, his loss of vitality four weeks later was evident in his eyes, his voice, and his walk. He passed away two weeks later and will be greatly missed.

Sharing second place were Jouaquin Banawa, John Daniel Bryant, and GM Melikset Khachian at 5-1.

Also notable was Dipro Chakraborty from Arizona, who drew Bryant and beat Robby Adamson along with two from the August state championship, Ankit Gupta and Konstantin Kavutskiy. He finish with 4½-1½, the highest score by an expert.

In the under-1800 amateur section, Edward Collins, Alexander Garber and Cijo Paul led with 5-1 scores. Daniel Asaria and Ryan John Perkovich won the C and D class prizes.

There were 58 entrants in two scholastic events. Karl Tolentino won the Scholastic Open with 4½-½, a half-point ahead of Eli Minoofar, John Howard Parker, William Yuen Yee and Jennifer Yu. Ethan Minoofar and Matthew-Kean Wang tied for first in the Scholastic Reserve. Evyn Machi was third.

Austin Cambon led the 15-player Action tournament.

Several interesting games and moments from the tournament follow.

The Deciding Game

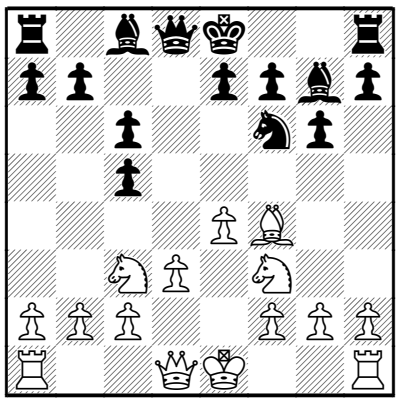
The final round scoring bracket had just two players tied for first at 4½, so they played each other to decide the tournament.

On the way to this matchup, Sevillano yielded only an uncontested 10-move draw to his stepson Bryant, and Peters's only non-win was a draw with Khachiyan, also covered here.

The comments for this game were graciously provided by NM Richard Borgen, who has enjoyed a long and fruitful relationship with the White side of this opening.

Peters,Jack (2394) - Sevillano,Enrico (2553)
[B31] Sicilian Defense, Rossolimo Variation
Round 6

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 g6 4. Bxc6 dxc6 5. d3 Bg7 6. Nc3 Nf6 7. Bf4!?



This variation of the Rossolimo makes an odd impression. White first exchanges Bishop for Knight without provocation and then proceeds to develop very quietly.

Yet this has become the most fashionable line against 3. ... g6 and has some surprisingly aggressive ideas. One of White's ideas is to methodically prepare a kingside attack, so we now see a game of cat-and-mouse about when and where each will castle.

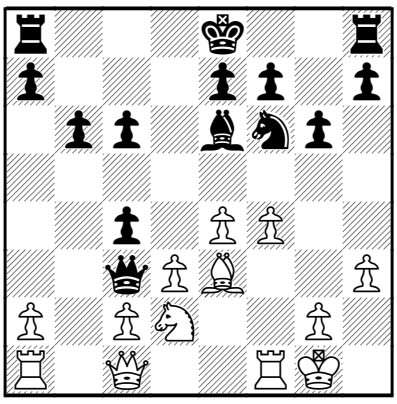
White's natural-looking Bf4 is actually the first major departure from the routine plans. Either h3 or Be3 is more typical.

Bf4 does cut across one of Black's typical defensive setups of Nd7 and e5, so it provokes Black's next move.

7. ... Nh5 8. Be3 Qa5 9. Nd2!?

A very daring pawn sacrifice. White gets some compensation on the dark squares, but it is risky since Black still has castling options.

9. ... Bxc3 10. bxc3 Qxc3 11. 0–0 b6 12. f4 Nf6 13. h3 Be6 14. Qc1 c4



15. f5?

This typical advance works badly here since it opens up the game more favorably for Black than White.

But what else was White going to do about the threat of 15. ... cxd3?

Peters must have missed the surprising resource of 15. a4! cxd3 16. Ra3 since 16. ... Qxc2? 17. Qa1! threatens to trap the queen and will win material.

Now Black gains a decisive advantage.

15. ... gxf5 16. exf5 Bd5 17. Nxc4 Rg8 18. Rf2 Bxc4 19. dxc4 Qxc4?!

There was no hurry on this. Sevillano misses a chance to tighten the screws with 19. Ne4 Rf4 20. Ng3 Rf2 21. 0–0–0.

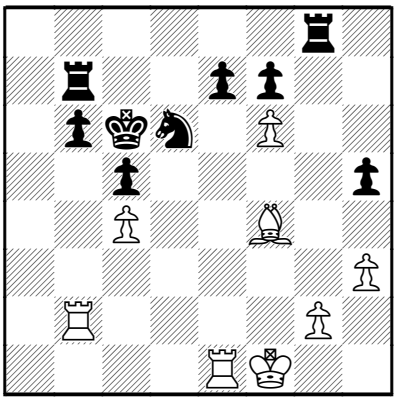
20. Qf1

Peters wisely seeks salvation in a tough ending and nearly succeeds at several points. Both players make some slips in the ensuing complexities but in the end Sevillano's extra pawn carries the day.

20. ... Qxf1+ 21. Kxf1 0–0–0 22. Re1 h5 23. c4 Rd7 24. a4 c5 25. a5 Kb7 26. axb6 axb6 27. Rb2

The build-up against b6 gets nowhere. 27 Rfe2 with pressure on the e-file is a better chance for counterplay.

27. ... Kc6 28. Reb1 Rb7 29. Bf4 Ne4 30. Re1 Nd6 31. f6!?

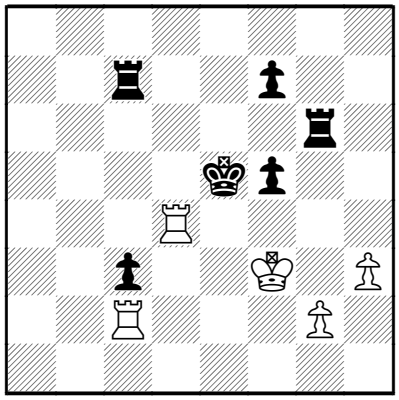


31. ... exf6?

Here Sevillano misses the nice shot 31. ... e5! 32. Bxe5 Nxc4 and it's all over.

Now White gets real chances to survive in the double rook ending.

32. Bxd6 Kxd6 33. Rf2 Rg6 34. Re8 Ra7 35. Rd2+ Kc6 36. Rc8+ Rc7 37. Rh8 b5 38. cxb5+ Kxb5 39. Rxh5 Kb4 40. Rf5 c4 41. Rb2+ Kc3 42. Rff2 Rg3 43. Rbc2+ Kd3 44. Rfd2+ Ke4 45. Rd8 f5 46. Re2+ Kf4 47. Kf2 Rg6 48. Rd4+ Kg5 49. Rc2 c3 50. Ke2 Kf6 51. Kf3 Ke5



52. Rd3?

This allows the deadly f4, so 52. Ra4 is a better try.

52. ... f4 53.Rd8 Rg3+ 54.Kf2 Ke4 55.Re2+ Re3 56.Rc2 f6 57.Rd6 Rc4 58.Rxf6?

Hastening the end. 58. Rc1 holds a bit longer.

58. ... Kd3 59. Rc1 Kd2 60. Rxc3 Rexc3 61. h4 Re4 62. h5 Re2+ 63. Kg1 Rg3

0–1

A Notable Upset

This was an interesting draw by Alaa-Addin Moussa, a master, against grandmaster Melikset Khachiyan.

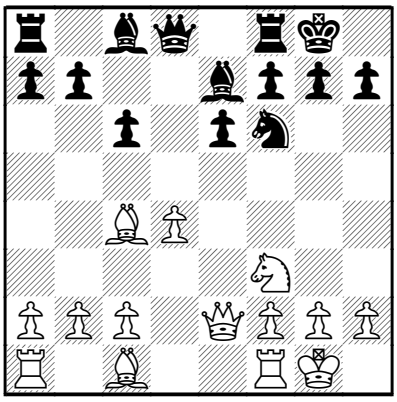
It looked like Khachiyan had a decisive advantage, but Moussa delivered some energetic counterplay, and showed that White's positional plusses were surprisingly hard to put to use.

For one brief moment, Black even had a startling winning move, which was understandably missed.

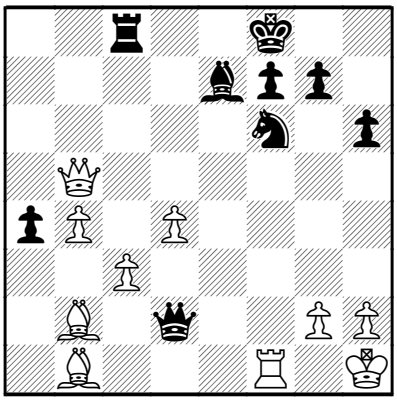
But Mr. Moussa eventually secured the draw with an excellent move at just the right time.

Khachiyan,Melikset (2575) - Moussa,Alaa-addin (2208)
[B17] Caro-Kann Defense
Round 2

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 dxe4 4. Nxe4 Nd7 5. Nf3 Ngf6 6. Nxf6+ Nxf6 7. Bc4 e6 8. 0–0 Be7 9. Qe2 0–0



10. a4 Qc7 11. b3 Rd8 12. Bb2 Bd7 13. Ne5 Be8 14. Rad1 Rab8 15. Bd3 b5 16. axb5 cxb5 17. c3 a5 18. Bb1 Bc6 19. Nxc6 Qxc6 20. Rd3 Qd5 21. Bc2 a4 22. b4 Rdc8 23. Rh3 h6 24. f4 Kf8 25. f5 Rb6 26. Re3 Qa2 27. Bb1 Qb3 28. fxe6 Rxe6 29. Rxe6 Qxe6 30. Qxb5 Qe3+ 31. Kh1 Qd2



White has won a pawn, and there is a loose Black a-pawn to boot. If only the Queenside super-majority could advance, how powerful it would be!

But as Black makes trouble of his own, we will soon see that this pawn wing is frustratingly difficult to activate.

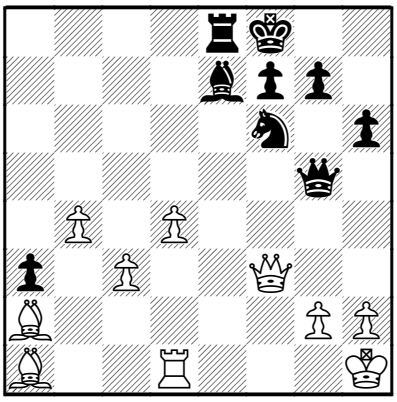
32. Qf5

If 32. Ba1, then a3 33. Qa6 Re8 34. Bd3±

32. ... Rc7 33. Ba1 a3 34. Qf3

White seems to win a pawn with 34. Qa5 Qe2 35. Qa8+ Ne8 36. Rg1 Bd6! But just when White finally captures the pawn, Black has a drawing resource: 37. Qxa3 Bxh2! 38. Kxh2 Qh5+ 39. Kg3 Qg5+.

34. ... Rc8 35. Rd1 Qg5 36. Ba2 Re8



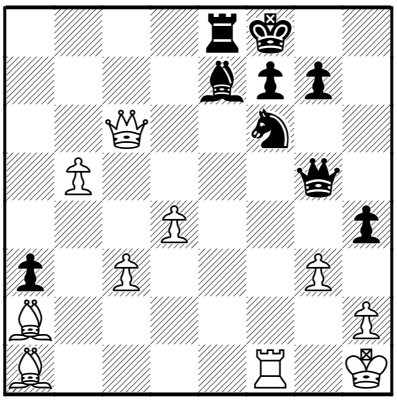
37. g3

This g-pawn becomes a target later, but Black can get counterplay anyway with Bd6, for example, 37. Bc4 Bd6 38. b5 Bxh2 39. Kxh2 Ng4+ 40. Kg1 Qe3+ 41. Qxe3 Nxe3 42. Bxf7 Kxf7 43. Re1 Nc4

37. ... Bd6 38. Rf1 h5

Black goes after the target at g3.

39. Qc6 Be7 40. b5 h4

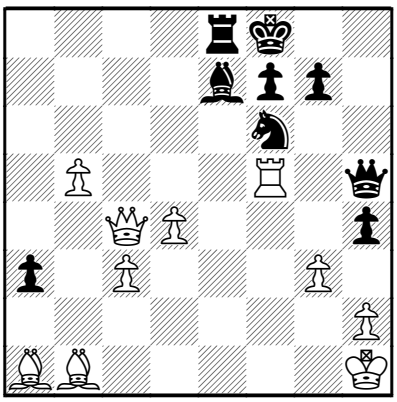


Time control is reached. The safety of the White King affects the play from now on.

41. Qc4

Or 41. gxh4 Qxh4 42. b6 Kg8 43. Bc4± (43. b7 almost works, but 43. ... Bd6! 44. Qxd6 Qe4+ gets the draw.)

41. ... Qg6 42. Bb1 Qh5 43. Rf5



43. ... Qg6

Instead, Black has 43. ... g5!!

This move suddenly turns the tables, and Black is winning!

Black's Kingside attack now becomes the main issue. In many of the variations, Black plays Be7-d6, adding two pieces to the attack, with devastating effect. In others, it's the Knight that does it.

Here is what happens with seven of White's possible replies at move 44:

44. gxh4 Bd6–+

44. g4 Nxg4 45. Ba2 Bf6–+;

44. Kg2 hxg3 45. h3 Kg7 46. Qf1 (46. Re5 Bd6 47. Rxe8 g4–+; 46. Bd3 Bd6–+) 46. ... Bd6 47. Rxf6 Qe2+ wins;

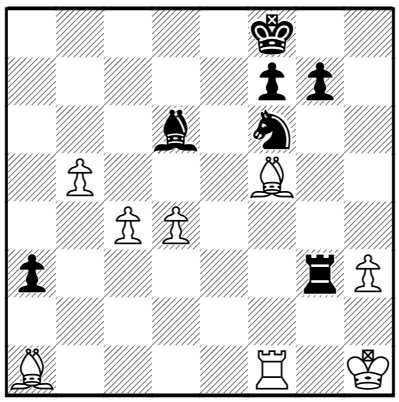
44. h3 hxg3 45. Qf1 Ng4–+;

44. Qf1 hxg3 45. h3 Ng4–+;

44. Ba2 hxg3 45. Qxf7+ Qxf7 46. Bxf7 Kxf7. This attempt to survive into the endgame with two pawns for a piece does not quite work. White's Bishop on a1 is still a liability, needing a pawn sacrifice to free it. One possibility is 47. hxg3 Bd6 48. Kg2 Kg6, followed by 49. ... Ng4, winning;

Finally, 44. Qd3 Bd6 45. c4 hxg3 is a mate in 4.

44. Rf1 Qh5 45. gxh4 Bd6 46. Qc6 Re6 47. Bf5 Qxh4 48. h3 Qg3 49. Qg2 Re3 50. Qxg3 Rxg3 51. c4



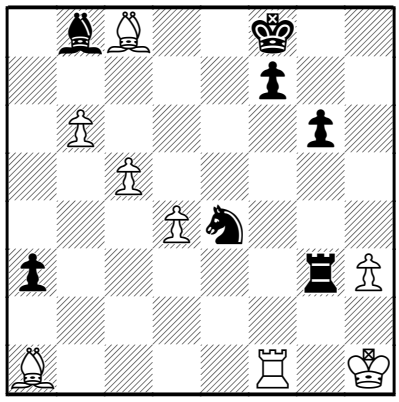
51. ... g6!

A different bold move with the g-pawn gets the draw!

52. Bc8

Also drawing is 52. Bb1 Rxh3+ 53. Kg2 Rg3+ and if White tries to avoid a draw with 54. Kf2?! a2 55. Bxa2?, then Black wins with 55. ... Ne4+ 56. Ke2 Ra3.

52. ... Ne4 53. c5 Bb8! 54. b6



½–½

Black can set up a perpetual check by 54. ... f5 55. Bb7 Rxh3+ 56. Kg2 Rg3+ because if 57. Kh2? then 57. ... Rg4+ 58. Kh1 Ng3+ wins material: 59. Kg1 Nxf1+ 60. Kxf1.

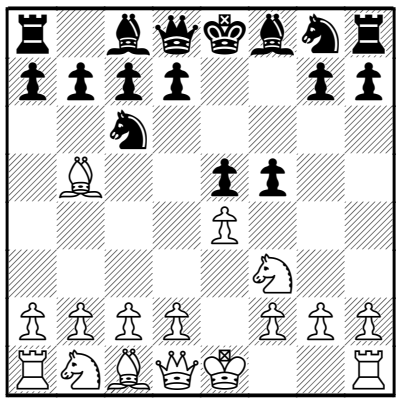
Thus ends an engaging game. It was full of tension throughout.

A Schliemann at the Top

It is hard to pass up a Schliemann between two of the strongest players!

Peters,Jack (2394) - Khachiyan,Melikset (2575)
[C63] Ruy Lopez, Schliemann Defense
Round 4

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 f5



Going for complications, right? To play for a win as Black against the Ruy Lopez, is this the wave of the future?

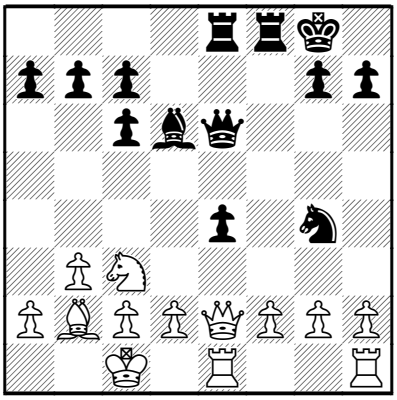
4. exf5

Seldom seen, although supposedly it's a way to get a draw.

4. ... e4 5. Qe2 Qe7 6. Bxc6 dxc6 7. Nd4 Qe5 8. Ne6 Bxe6 9. fxe6 Bd6

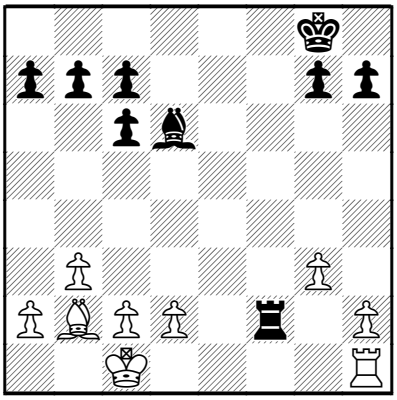
Is Black already equal?

10. Nc3 Nf6 11. b3 0–0 12. Bb2 Rae8 13. 0–0–0 Qxe6 14. Rde1 Ng4!



It appears that White is already in a tough spot.

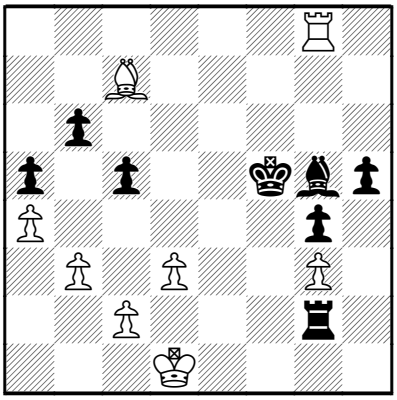
15. Qxe4 Qxe4 16. Nxe4 Rxe4 17. Rxe4 Nxf2 18. Ree1 Nxh1 19. Rxh1 Rf2 20. g3



Black seems to have the advantage, but the position is much simpler than a few moves ago.

Is it enough to win?

20. ... Bb4 21. d3 Rg2 22. Bd4 a6 23. Kb2 Be7 24. Re1 Bd6 25. Bg1 Kf7 26. Kc3 c5 27. a3 a5 28. a4 Be7 29. Kb2 Bf6+ 30. Kc1 b6 31. Be3 Rxh2 32. Bf4 Bd8 33. Kd1 g5 34. Be5 Kg6 35. Rf1 g4 36. Rf8 Bg5 37. Rg8+ Kf5 38. Bxc7 Rd2+ 39. Kc1 Rg2+ 40. Kd1 h5



Creating a safe passed pawn is the main winning try, but White threatens on the Queenside, too.

41. Rf8+ Ke6 42. Rh8 Rd2+ 43. Ke1 Rxc2 44. Rxh5 Rc1+

½–½

Black has a perpetual check.

This opening variation was supposedly a way to draw, and it turned out that White was never in great danger of losing.

Was this by design?

Grandmaster versus Master

The next game is between two strong players, but with a rating difference of over 200 points.

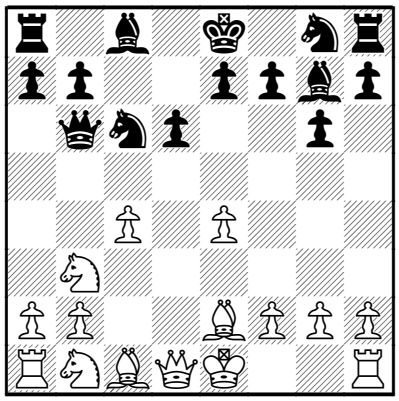
White makes a slight mistake here and there; it is instructive to watch a grandmaster taking advantage.

Kretchetov,Alexandre (2354) - Khachiyan,Melikset (2575)
[A40] Queen's Pawn Game / Maroczy Bind
Round 6

1. Nf3 g6 2. c4 Bg7 3. e4 c5 4. d4 cxd4 5. Nxd4 Qb6

This has often been played to avoid the more frequently seen positions in the Maroczy Bind.

6. Nb3 Nc6 7. Be2 d6



8. Nc3

An inaccuracy, enabling Black to mangle the White Queenside pawns.

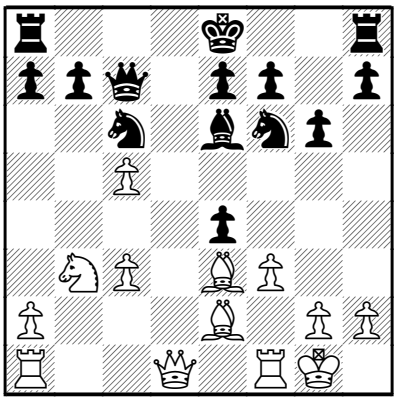
White's position now loses its energy.

Instead, the main line here has been 8. 0–0 Nf6 9. Nc3 0–0 10. Be3 Qd8.

8. ... Bxc3+ 9. bxc3 Nf6 10. Be3 Qc7 11. f3 Be6 12. c5 d5

Black takes advantage of the just-weakened d5 square.

13. 0–0 dxe4



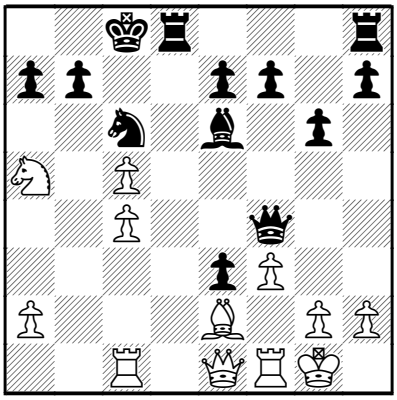
14. Qe1

White gives up a pawn, but the Queenside position is still weak.

14. ... Nd5 15. Bh6 e3 16. c4 Nf4 17. Rc1 0–0–0

Black is ahead in material and position.

18. Bxf4 Qxf4 19. Na5



This lets in the Black Rook.

19. ... Rd2 20. Nxc6 bxc6 21. Rb1 Rhd8 22. Qc1

Already losing, White now loses quickly.

22. ... Rxe2 23. Qa3 Rxg2+

0-1

Because 24. Kxg2 Rd2+ checkmates.

The Best Game Prize

Selected by Jack Peters as the tournament's best game. Let's hear it for the King's Gambit!

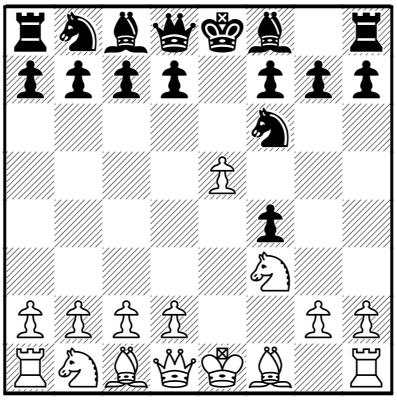
Clawitter,Craig (2196) - Xue,Robert (2089)
[C34] King's Gambit Accepted
Round 6

1. e4 e5 2. f4 exf4

One interesting way to accept the

gambit is 2. ... d5 3. exd5 exf4. Black reduces the number of lines he has to know.

3. Nf3 Nf6 4. e5



4. ... Nd5

More usual is 4. ... Nh5 5. d4 and Black has d5, d6, and g5 to choose from.

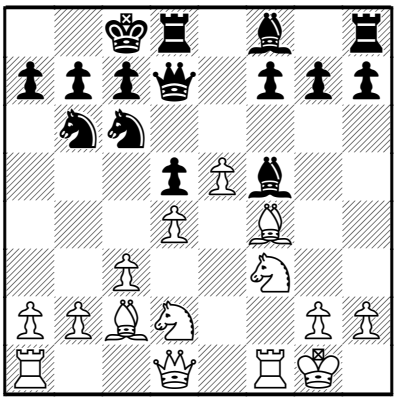
5. Bc4

5. c4 Nb6 6. d4 has scored well for White.

5. ... Nb6 6. Bb3 d5 7. d4

Fritz likes all this very much for Black, and gives him a big plus. But the computer wants to see 7. ... g5 now, or after 7. ... a5.

7. ... Nc6 8. Bxf4 Be6 9. c3 Qd7 10. Nbd2 0–0–0 11. Bc2 Bf5 12. 0–0



Now both sides need to attack the opposing King. The quicker side wins!

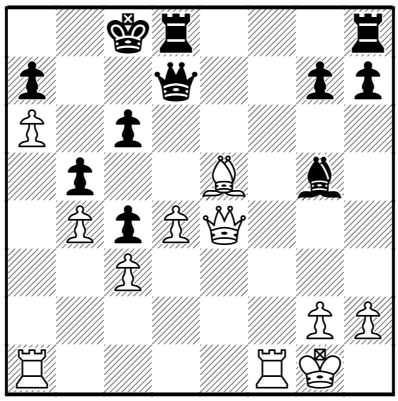
12. ... Bxc2 13. Qxc2 Be7 14. b4 f6 15. a4 fxe5 16. Nxe5 Nxe5 17. Bxe5 Bg5 18. a5

White's attack has arrived and he is winning.

18. ... Nc4 19. Nxc4 dxc4 20. a6 b5

White gets to the Black Queenside first.

21. Qe4 c6



22. Rf7!

The Black Queen must stay to guard c6.

22. ... Be3+ 23. Kh1 Qd5 24. Rc7+

1-0

It's forced: 24. ... Kb8 25. Rxc6+ Ka8 26. Rc8+ Rxc8 27. Qxd5+ gets a checkmate.

The King's Gambit worked!

It Looked So Safe

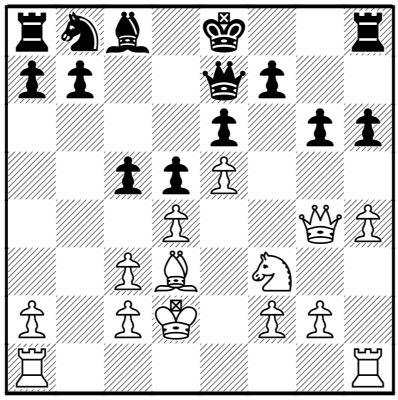
Sometimes, chess does not seem fair. You play a much stronger opponent to a seemingly even position, through some difficult moves.

And just when you think you are making a simple, safe defensive move, it all goes dreadfully wrong.

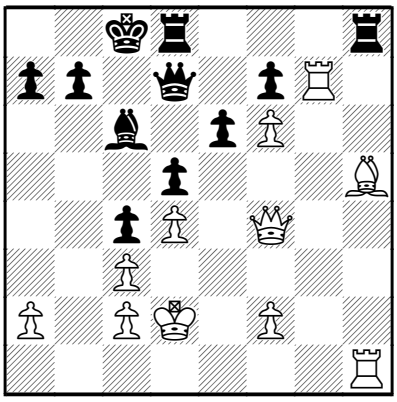
Well, if chess were easy, would we still keep coming back for more?

Adamson,Robby (2369) - Xia,Yusheng (2029)
[C12] French Defense, McCutcheon Variation
Round 1

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. Bg5 Bb4 5. e5 h6 6. Bd2 Bxc3 7. bxc3 Ne4 8. Qg4 g6 9. Bd3 Nxd2 10. Kxd2 Qe7 11. h4 c5 12. Nf3



12. ... c4 13. Be2 Bd7 14. Qf4 Nc6 15. Nh2 0–0–0 16. Ng4 h5 17. Nf6 Nb8 18. g4 hxg4 19. Bxg4 Bc6 20. h5 Nd7 21. Rag1 gxh5 22. Bxh5 Nxf6 23. exf6 Qd7 24. Rg7



In a complex, interesting game, Black has played quite well so far. Now it is time to protect that pawn on f7. Or is it?

24. ... Rdf8

Indeed, what could go wrong with this move?

25. Bxf7!!

0-1

Because if 25. ... Rxh1, then 26. Bxe6 and the Black Queen goes, and a pawn promotion is in sight. And if 25. ... Rxf7 then 26. Rxh8+.

Backing up to the diagram, the other Rook did not work, either. If 24. ... Rhf8, then 25. Bxf7 Rxf7 26 Rhh7 with a troubling, deadly doubling of the Rooks.

Was there a way to save this position? Probably not: 24. ... Qd6 25. Qxd6 Rxd6 26. Rxf7 Be8 27. Bg6 Rxh1 28. Rf8 and although it's not a sudden loss for Black, it's a big advantage for White.

Sometimes, chess can be tough!

King and Pawn Endgames: Easy?

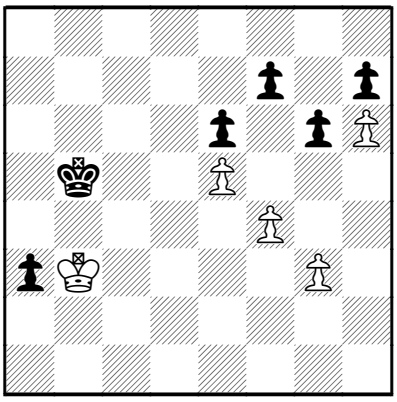
Next is a King and pawn endgame experience.

These endgames require exact calculation. If you are in time pressure, or if you are not ready to calculate that day, avoid them.

On the other hand, if you are absolutely sure the King and pawn endgame will win for you, or if you are sure you are going to save the game, you don't need any advice at all!

Simo,Aaron (1556) -
Williams,Shawn (1725)
[B22] c3 Sicilian
Round 2

1. e4 c5 2. c3 Nf6 3. e5 Nd5 4. d4 cxd4 5. Nf3 Nc6 6. Bc4 Nb6 7. Bb3 d6 8. exd6 Qxd6 9. Nxd4 Nxd4 10. Qxd4 Qxd4 11. cxd4 e6 12. 0–0 Be7 13. Nc3 Bd7 14. Re1 Bc6 15. Bf4 Rd8 16. Rad1 Bf6 17. Be5 Bxe5 18. dxe5 Ke7 19. Rxd8 Rxd8 20. Rd1 Rxd1+ 21. Bxd1 Nc4 22. f4 Nxb2 23. Be2 a6 24. Kf1 Na4 25. Nxa4 Bxa4 26. Ke1 Bc6 27. g3 b5 28. Kd2 Kd7 29. Kc3 Kc7 30. a4 Kb6 31. axb5 Bxb5 32. Bh5 g6 33. Bf3 Kc5 34. h4 a5 35. h5 a4 36. h6 Bc4 37. Bd1 a3 38. Ba4 Bb5 39. Bxb5 Kxb5 40. Kb3

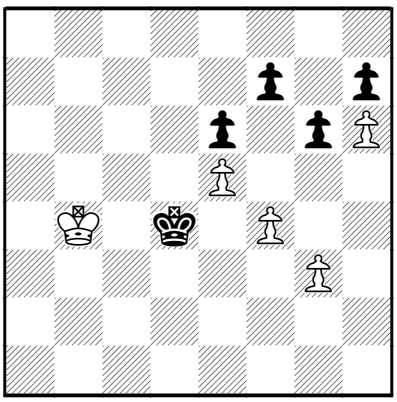


40. ... a2 41. Kxa2 Kc4

After 40. ... Kc5 41. Kxa2 Kd4, the Black King has made two moves instead of one, and is now at d4 instead of c4.

But White then replies 43. Kb4, and we arrive at the same position as in the next diagram! Why? In the game, White needs to play 42. Ka2-a3, and waste a move on one file.

42. Ka3 Kd4 43. Kb4



Sometimes, a little trick at the right time makes it a lot easier to win one of these King and Pawn endings.

43. ... Ke4

The trick is 43. ... g5! moving the White pawn weakness one or two squares closer to the King.

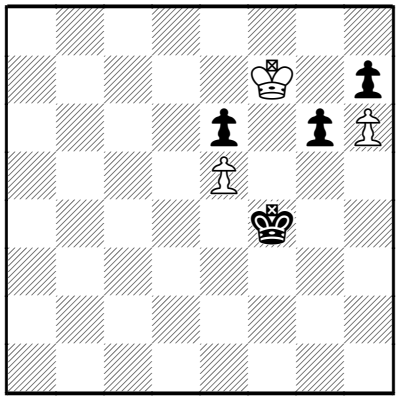
Also, in reply, White can't improve the position of his King.

If now 44. fxg5, then 44. ... Kxe5 makes the win obvious.

If 44. Kb5, then 44. ... gxf4 45. gxf4 Ke4 and Black captures a pawn sooner. The White e-pawn also falls.

But despite missing this trick, Black still has a win.

44. Kc5 Kf3 45. Kd6 Kxg3 46. Ke7 Kxf4 47. Kxf7



This is the last chance: one move draws, another move loses, and a third move wins!

47. ... g5

A surprising *losing* move is 47. ... Kxe5, since the Black King will get checked by the new White Queen! 48. Kg7 g5 49. Kxh7 g4 50. Kg8 g3 51. h7 g2 52. h8Q+ and wins.

The only winning move still on the board is 47. ... Kf5, holding on to the King's pawn and staying out of any checks from a new Queen at h8.

If now 48. Kg7 g5 49. Kxh7 g4 50. Kg7 g3 51. h7 g2 52. h8Q g1Q+, Black can force a Queen trade and then easily Queen his center pawn: 53. Kf8 Qc5+ 54. Kf7 Qc7+ 55. Kg8 Qd8+ 56. Kg7 Qxh8+ 57. Kxh8 Kxe5 and wins.

48. Kxe6 g4 49. Kd6 g3 50. e6 g2 51. e7 g1/Q 52. e8/Q Qd4+ 53. Ke7 Qe4+ 54. Kf8 Qxe8+ 55. Kxe8 Kg5 56. Kf7 Kxh6 57. Kf6 Kh5 58. Kf5 Kh4 59. Kf4 Kh3 60. Kg5

½–½

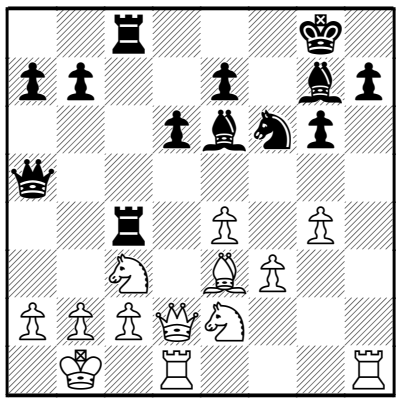
A Dragon Combination

This game features a characteristic Dragon shot.

But you have to be ready for it, you have to look for it, and you have to see it. In this game, it was only a possibility.

Lin,Daniel (1850) -
Cambon,Austin (1983)
[B79] Sicilian Defense,
Dragon Variation
Round 6

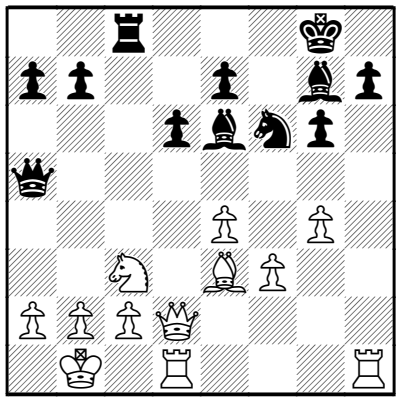
1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 g6 6. Be3 Bg7 7. f3 0–0 8. Qd2 Nc6 9. Bc4 Qa5 10. 0–0–0 Bd7 11. h4 Rfc8 12. Bb3 Ne5 13. h5 Nc4 14. Bxc4 Rxc4 15. hxg6 fxg6 16. Kb1 Rac8 17. Nde2 Be6 18. g4



The a2 pawn is a possible target, as it is attacked by the Black Queen and Bishop, once the c4-Rook moves.

But a2 is guarded by the Knight at c3, which is ready to be recaptured by White's other Knight.

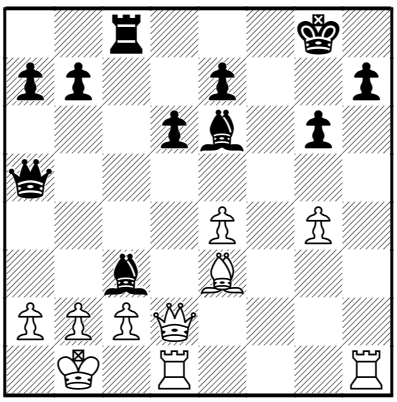
Still, let's take a look at the usual Dragon c3 sacrifice: 18. ... Rxc3 19. Nxc3. Here is this position:



(Analysis Diagram)

It is very tempting, when looking ahead, to stop after just one sacrifice.

But as long as there is a Knight at f6 and a Queen at d2, that Dragon Bishop can instantly come into play. Let's try 19. ... Nxe4 20. fxe4 Bxc3:



(Analysis Diagram)

After this second characteristic Dragon idea, it looks like a winner: 21. Qxc3 Rxc3 22. bxc3.

Queen and pawn for two Rooks might seem like an even situation, but a Queen really loves it if the enemy King can be threatened and if there are several unprotected pawns about.

Both are true here: 22. ... Qa3 23. Rh2 Bxa2+ 24. Ka1 Be6+ 25. Kb1 Bxg4.

Now Black has a Queen and three pawns for the two Rooks. Also, White's pawns can't protect each other.

But it is still a conflict between Q+B and 2R+B. One excellent book that covers most of these imbalanced material situations is *Rethinking the Chess Pieces* by Andrew Soltis.

Continuing from the game diagram:

18. ... b5 19. Nf4 Bf7

Another opportunity for a combination is 19... b4! 20. Nxe6 bxc3 21. Qd3 Rb4 22. b3 Ra4, winning.

If 21. Qh2, then 21. ... Ra4! 22. Rd5 Qb4 23. Bc1 cxb2 24. Bxb2 24... Rb8 25. c3 Qc4 26. Nxg7 Rxa2 and wins. In this last line, if 24. Bf4, then Qa3 mates in 3.

20. Nfd5 Nxd5 21. Nxd5 Rxc2 22. Qxa5 Rxb2+ 23. Ka1 Rd2+ 24. Kb1 Rb2+ 25. Ka1 Rd2+

½–½

After a Queen sacrifice, peace in the form of a perpetual check ends our game. *R&F*

Solutions to *Tactics*

From Rank and File Jan-Feb 2010:

The Cairo Problem: White: Qc8, Bd8, Kf6, Pg6; Black: Na8, Pa5, Pf7, Ph7, Qe8, Kg8; White to play: 1. Bc7! Qxc8 2. gxf7+ Kh8 3. Be5 Qc5 4. Bb2!! Nc7 5. Ba1 a4 6. Bb2 a3 7. Ba1 a2 8. Bb2 a1/Q 9. Bxa1 and now Black is in zugswang and White forces mate after any move.

After nearly 32 years, I finally discovered the origin of this amazing problem, on the December 27th 2009 problem page on the Chess Base website. It is by ***Mario Matous, 1975***, and it starts one move earlier: White: Qa6, Bd8, Kf6, Pg6; Black: Na8, Pa5, Pf7, Ph7, Qe8, Kf8; White to play: The solution starts with 1. Qc8!! Kg8 and continues as above with 2. Bc7!

D. Joseph 1922: White: Kd8, Pb6, Ph7; Black: Kb8, Pb7, Pa2; White to play: 1. h8/Q a1/Q 2. Qg8! Qa2 3. Qe8! Qa4 4. Qe5+ Ka8 5. Qh8! and wins, because Black cannot continue to offer his Queen, nor can he stop the White King from making a discovered check and forcing mate. Other tries don't work: 2. Qf8? Qa3 3. Qe8?? just loses the b-pawn to Qd6+, and 2. Qe8? Qg7! draws.

H. Rinck 1912: White: Kf2, Pe2, Ph4; Black: Kh1, Pd6, Pg4, Ph7; White draws with 1. Kg3 h5 2. e4 Kg1 3. e5!, forcing a startling stalemate in the middle of the board!

From Tactics: *Is it Safe?* Y=Yes; it is safe! N=No; it's not safe!

1. A=N (1. ... Nxe4 is not safe because of 2. Qa4+); B=Y.
2. A=N (1. Kb1 is not safe due to 1. ... Qf5+); B=Y
3. All are safe. A=Y; B=Y (If 1. ... Ne7 2. Nxe5??, Black wins one of the pieces with 2. ... c6! See J. Shahade - Lakdawala 2004 or Vysochin - Miles 1997 for an example of this move for Black.); C=Y (If 1. ... Bc5 2. Bxc6 dxc6 3. Nxe5?? then 3. ... Qd4 wins.)
4. A=Y; B=N (1. Re5? Qd4 wins); C=N (1. Re3? Qd4 wins); D=Y.
5. A=Y; B=Y (1. ... Nge7 2. Nf3 Nf5 =); C=N (1. ... Bxc5? loses after 2. Bxc5 Qa5+ 3. b4 Nxb4 4. Bxb4 Qxb4+ 5. Nd2)
6. All are safe!! A=Y (1. ... Nxe4 5. Nxe4 [5. Bxf7+? Kxf7 6. Nxe4 d5 7. Neg5+ Kg8 with a big advantage for Black.] 5...d5 6.Bd3 dxe4 7. Bxe4 Bd6=); B=Y; C=Y.
7. A=N (1. ... f6? just gives up a pawn to 2. Bxf6!); B=Y.
8. A=Y; B=N (1. ... Nxc3 2. Qxe5! wins.)
9. A=Y; B=N (1. ... Nd4 2. Nf7 wins quickly: 2. ... Kg8 3. Nd6+ wins the Queen, and 2. ... Kg7 3. Bh6 is even worse.)
10. A=Y; B=N (1. ... c5 2. Qg3 attacks both e5 and g7.)
11. A=N (1. Re2 Rxe3! 2. Rexe3 Rxe3 3. Rxe3 Qxf4+ 4. Rg3 c4! wins quickly with the threats of 5. ... cxd3 and 5. ... Be5.); B=N (1. Bxf5 Rxe3! 2. Rexe3 Rxe3 3. Rxe3 Qf4+ wins.); C=Y
12. A=Y; B=N (1. Kg1 fxg3 2. hxg3 Rxf3 3. exf3 Qxf3 and Black's threats of 4. ... Qxg3+ and 4. ... Rd5 win.)
13. A=N (1. Be3? b5! 2. Qd3 Nxf3+ wins the Queen); B=Y; C=Y.
14. A=N (1. ... 0-0? 2.Bxh7+ Kxh7 3.Ng5+ Kg6 4.Qd3+ wins.); B=Y.
15. A=N (If 1. … Nxe4 then White mates with his Queen starting with 2. Rf7 Qxf7 3. Bg4+); B=Y
16. A=Y; B=N (1. ... Re8 2. Nxe5 Nxe5 3. dxe5 Qxd1 4. Rxd1 Nd7 5. Bc6 Re7 6. Bf4 +-)
17. A=Y (1. Nc6! Rxc6 [otherwise, White doubles on the c-file] 2. Rxc6 Nc3 3. Rxc3 Qxc3 4. Rd1=); B=N (1. Rac1 Rxc2 2. Rxc2 Nxe3! 3. Nc6 Qg5 4. h4 Qh6–+); C=Y (1. Rxc8 Rxc8 2. Qd2=/+)
18. A=N (If 1. Bb4, then 1. ... Bxb4 2. Rxb4 Rf8 -+); B=Y (1.Bg2 Nd3 2.b6-/+)

Tactics

by Larry Stevens

If you have ever seen the spy-fright movie "Marathon Man" (1974), you will remember the dental interrogation scene with Dustin Hoffman and Laurence Olivier, which begins as he washes his hands:

"Is it safe?"

[No reply; pause.]

"Is it safe?"

"Are you talking to me?"

"Is it safe?"

"Is what safe?"

"Is it safe?"

"I don't know what you mean. I can't tell you if something is safe or not unless I know specifically what you're talking about."

"Is it safe?"

"Tell me what the 'it' refers to."

"Is it safe?"

"Yes, it's safe. It's very safe. So safe you wouldn't believe it."

"Is it safe?"

"No, it's not safe. It's very dangerous. Be careful."

Learning Tactics

The best way to learn tactics is to work exercises, especially when they are grouped by theme, such as Knight forks or Queen sacrifices. Most tactical exercise books do this.

Working many "White to play and win" exercises on a single theme builds up your pattern recognition skills to the point where you can see a tactical idea without even trying, much like keeping your balance when riding a bike.

In computer terms, you have a background process at work in your mind.

Testing Your Tactics

But when testing your tactics, you would rather not have the positions organized by theme. After all, there are no hints in tournament chess.

Even so, those captions that notify you of an impending shot don't occur during real games.

Recently, long-time friend and much longer-time master Rick Borgen recommended a column to me in ChessCafe.com. He had been reading it for some time and found it to be thought provoking and insightful.

"Novice Nooks?" Really? By Dan Heisman? Are you sure?

So I took a look and agreed.

The theme of this month's article is from his June 2006 column, which has something to say about the subject of tactical exercises.

Preventing Tactics

Dan Heisman reminds us that most of our tactical effort in a game is spent in a preventative manner.

In addition to "How can I win?", we also consider, with our next move, "Will I be on the wrong end of a combination?"

We don't often have a winning combination, but we *always* have to be careful with our next move!

Dan Heisman's intended readers are novices, so he cautions them to make sure that an intended move doesn't allow a capture or other elementary tactic.

Yet his concept is extendable to all levels of tactics. The stronger our opponent, the more skill we need, just to stay in the game!

This Month's Quiz

So, to put you in this more game-like frame of mind, it's not the usual "White to play and win" quiz.

Instead, each of the 18 positions on the next two pages has several candidate moves:

For each candidate, you are asked, "Is it safe?"

Your answer will be either:

"Yes, it's safe. It's very safe. So safe you wouldn't believe it."

or: ***"No, it's not safe. It's very dangerous. Be careful."***

There is at least one quiz position in which all the candidates are safe. So, don't just select one of the options as best, be sure to evaluate each candidate move independently.

With a few exceptions, the positions are from SCCF tournament games in recent years; you might see a situation from one of your own games.

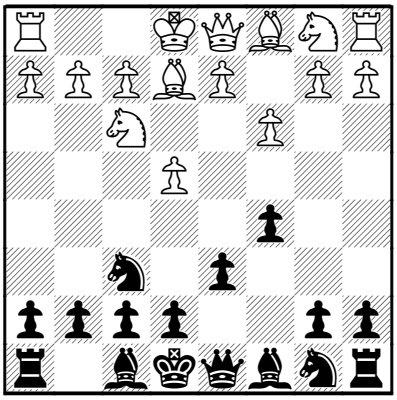
Unsafe moves were made more often when in difficulties, so several of the quiz positions are favorable for your opponent; you just need to hold on as long as possible.

Set up the positions and see if you can determine, before moving any pieces, whether or not each candidate move is safe. To make that easier, your pieces are at the bottom of each diagram. It will be like playing a game.

Good luck!

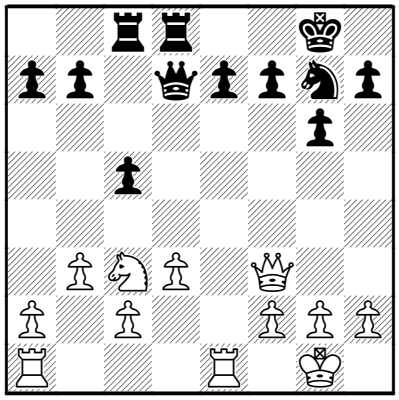
Solutions are on page 43.

1



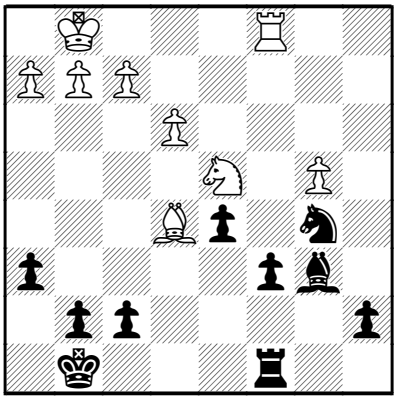
A 1. ... Nxe4 B 1. … g6

4



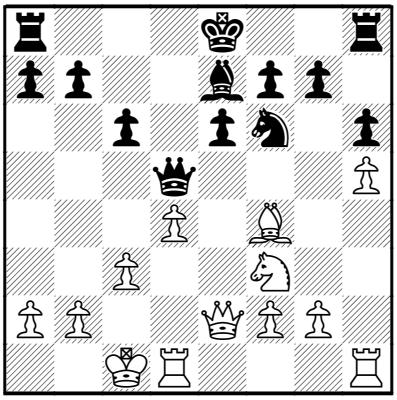
A 1. Rac1 B 1. Re5
C 1. Re3 D 1. Qf4

7



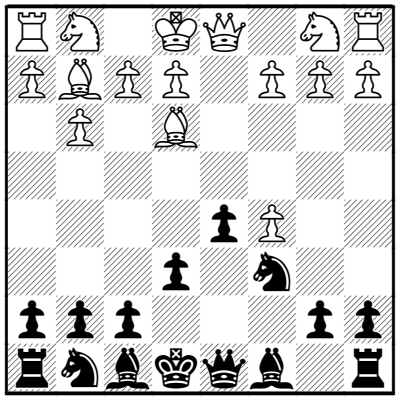
A 1. ... f6 B 1. ... Bxd4

2



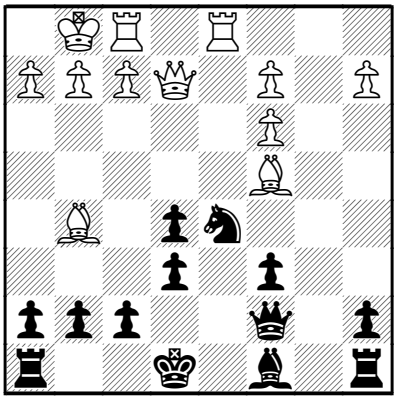
A 1. Kb1 B 1. c4

5



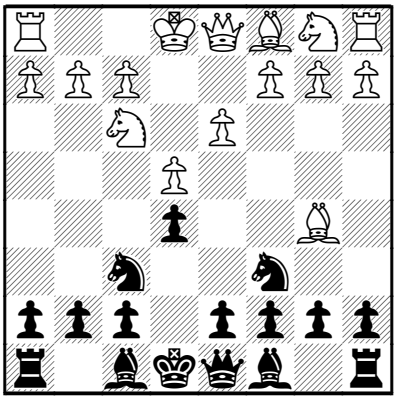
A 1. … Nf6 B 1. ... Nge7
C 1. ... Bxc5

8



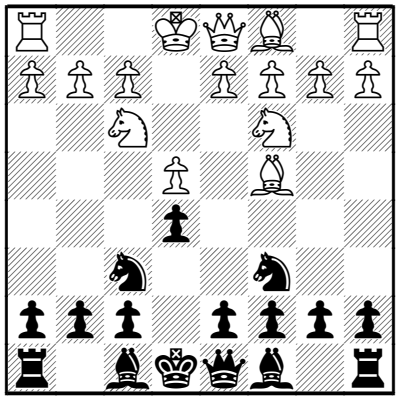
A 1. ... f6 B 1. ... Nxc3

3



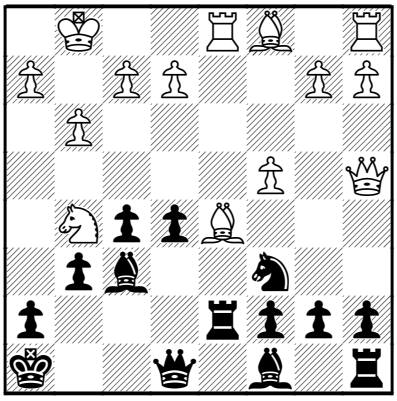
A 1. … d6 B 1. ... Ne7
C 1. ... Bc5

6



A 1. ... Nxe4 B 1. ... Bc5
C 1. ... Bb4

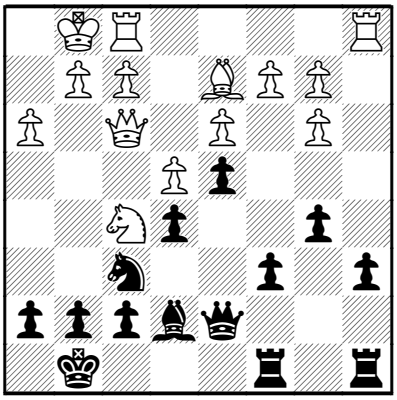
9



A 1. ... Nd8 B 1. ... Nd4

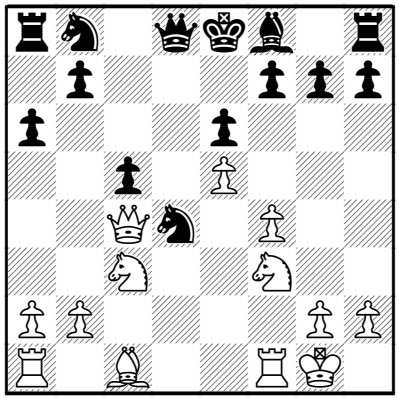
Quiz: *"Is it safe?"*

10



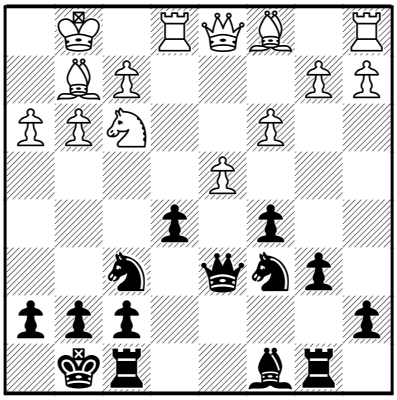
A 1. ... Qe6 B 1. ... c5

13



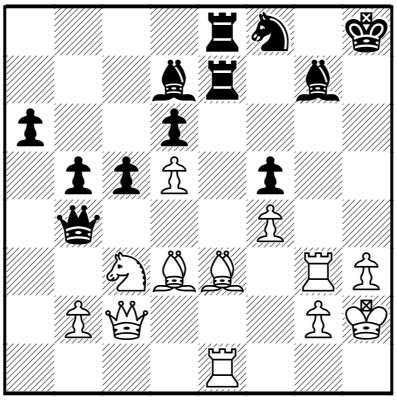
A 1. Be3 B 1. b3
C 1. Rd1

16



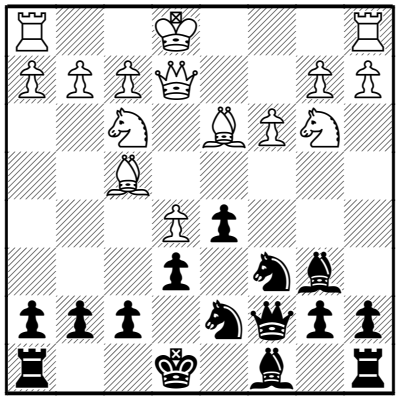
A 1. … Nd7 B 1. … Re8

11



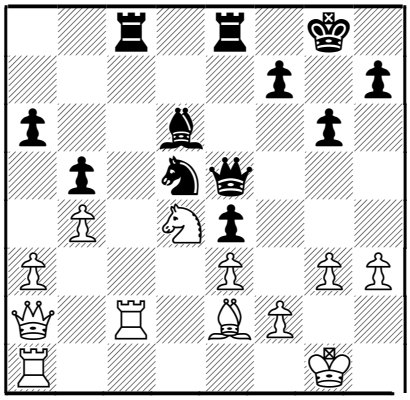
A 1. Re2 B 1. Bxf5
C 1. Kh1

14



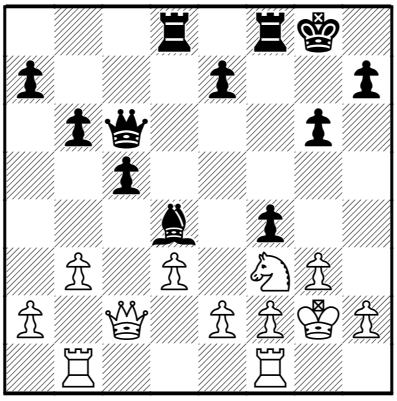
A 1. ... 0–0 B 1. ... f6

17



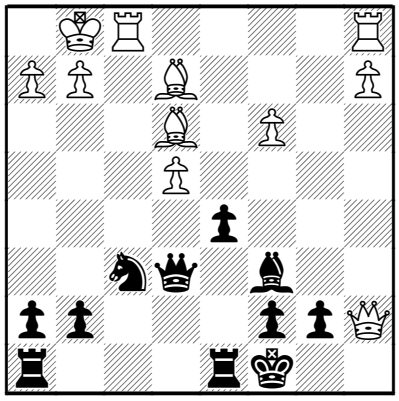
A 1. Nc6 B 1. Rac1
C 1. Rxc8

12



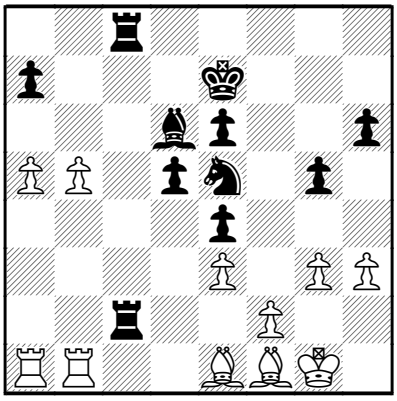
A 1. b4 B 1. Kg1

15



A 1. ... Nxe4 B1. ... Qxe4

18



A 1. Bb4 B 1. Bg2

Quiz: *"Is it safe?"*

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 write 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 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Tuesdays 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.

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.
Website: www.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.
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.

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 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.
Website: 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.
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, instruc-

tion, lectures, and simultaneous exhibitions). Dues: None Currently (We endeavor to make chess tournaments as accessible to chess enthusiasts as possible). 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.

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 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. Website:
www.nationalcitychessclub.com.

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. 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, nonrated 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://groups.msn.com/SanDiegoChess.

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.

Upcoming Events in Southern California

December 2010

SLO Chess Club - Scholastic
Dec 4, 2010
Fall Fiesta Tournament
Sinsheimer Elementary School
2755 Augusta Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
2 Sections: Non-Rated , USCF Rated Section 5-Rounds Swiss, G/30
Non-Rated (New and USCF-Rated under 600)
Prizes: Trophies awarded to top individuals in both sections. Medals or ribbons for all. This Non-rated section is for New and USCF-rated under 600 players -- IT WILL NOT BE RATED.
Format: 5 Round Swiss, G/30 Affects Regular rating only. Round Times: 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. Awards ceremony approximately 4:20 p.m.
Entry Fees: $5.00. Additional $5.00 per participant late fee after Dec. 1 (includes onsite registration). Checks in advance made payable to SLO Chess Club. Checks onsite made payable to Sinsheimer PTA.
Entries To: SLO Chess Club - Scholastic, 91 Mariposa Dr., San Luis Obispo, CA 93401 (Checks payable to SLO Chess Club)
Online entries to www.slochess.com to use Paypal (preferred). On-site Reg: 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. December 4
Sets and Boards provided -- Bring clocks if you have them.
USCF Rated Section
Prizes:
Trophies awarded to top individuals in both sections. Medals or ribbons for all.
Format: 5 Round Swiss, G/30
Affects both Quick and Regular rating. Round Times: 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. Awards ceremony approximately 4:20 p.m.
Entry Fees: $10.00 -- New players and expired USCF members must renew or pay fee for USCF membership. Additonal $5.00 per participant late fee after Dec. 1 (includes onsite registration). Checks in advance made payable to SLO Chess Club. Checks onsite made payable to Sinsheimer PTA.
Entries To: SLO Chess Club - Scholastic, 91 Mariposa Dr., San Luis Obispo, CA 93401 (Checks payable to SLO Chess Club) Online entries to www.slochess.com to use Paypal (preferred). On-site Reg: 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. December 4Sets and Boards provided -- Bring clocks if you have them.
Byes: ONE 1/2 point Bye any round if requested with entry. E-mail: info@slochess.com. Official Web Site: http://www.slochess.com
Event Limitations and Site Conditions: No Smoking. No Computers. Wheelchair Accessible.

Bakersfield Chess Club
Dec 4 - 5, 2010
The Bakersfield Open III
Golden West Mall

3201"F" St
Bakersfield, CA 93301
Note*****Prize Fund $$800 b/0 30, 70% Guaranteed*****
Open:
Prizes: 1st $200 2nd $125 3rd $100, U2000 $175, U1600/UNR $125-$75
Format: 5 Round Swiss, G/90 (rds. 1-3); 40/2, SD/1 (rds. 4-5) Affects Regular rating only. Round Times: Saturday 10am - 1:30pm - 5pm; Sunday 9am & 3:30pm
Byes: One 1/2-pt bye ok any round with entry
Entry Fees: $45 by 12/2, $55 after **$5 discount for BCC & FCC members**
Entries To: Bakersfield Chess Club, P.O. Box 176, 3501 Mall View Rd., Suite 115 Bakersfield, CA 93306 On-site Reg: December 4th / 8:45am-9:30pm.
For More Information: Kenneth J. Poole (661) 304-7468. E-mail: kpchessman@yahoo.com
Official Web Site:
http://www.bakersfieldchessclub.com
Note: **ALL USCF 2400+ rated FREE ($45 from Prize)**
Event Limitations and Site Conditions: No Smoking. No Computers. Wheelchair Accessible.

February 2011

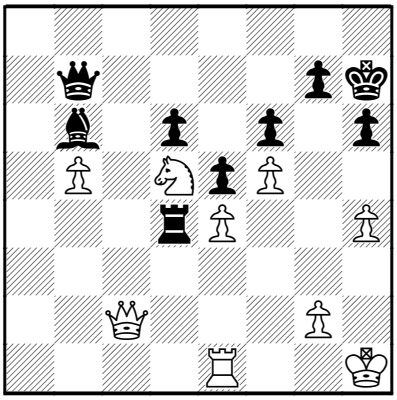
Feb. 19-21 28th Annual U.S. Amateur Team Championship West, Southern California
6-SS, 40/2, SD.1. Warner Center Marriott, 21850 Oxnard St., Woodland Hills, CA 91367.
Four-player teams plus optional alternate, average rating of four highest must be U/2200, diff. between bds. 3 & 4 may not exceed 1000.
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. Reserve by 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.

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 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.

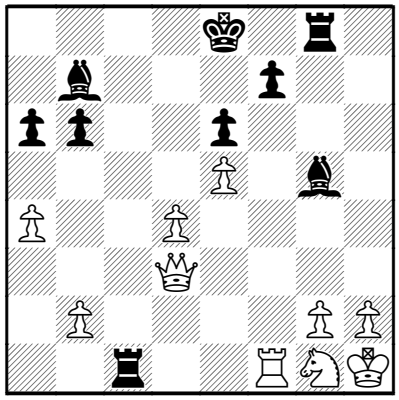
March 2011

Mar. 11-13 or 12-13 18th annual Western Class Championships
GPP: 100 Enhanced
5SS, 40/2, SD/1 (2-day option, rds. 1-2 G/75).
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, 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 tie-break 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.

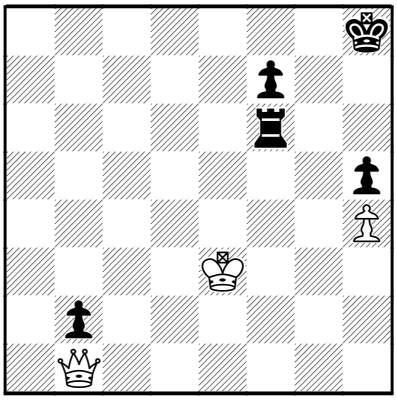
SCCF
PO Box 205
Monterey Park CA 91754



1. Black to move



2. Black to move



3. White to move

Solutions on page 36