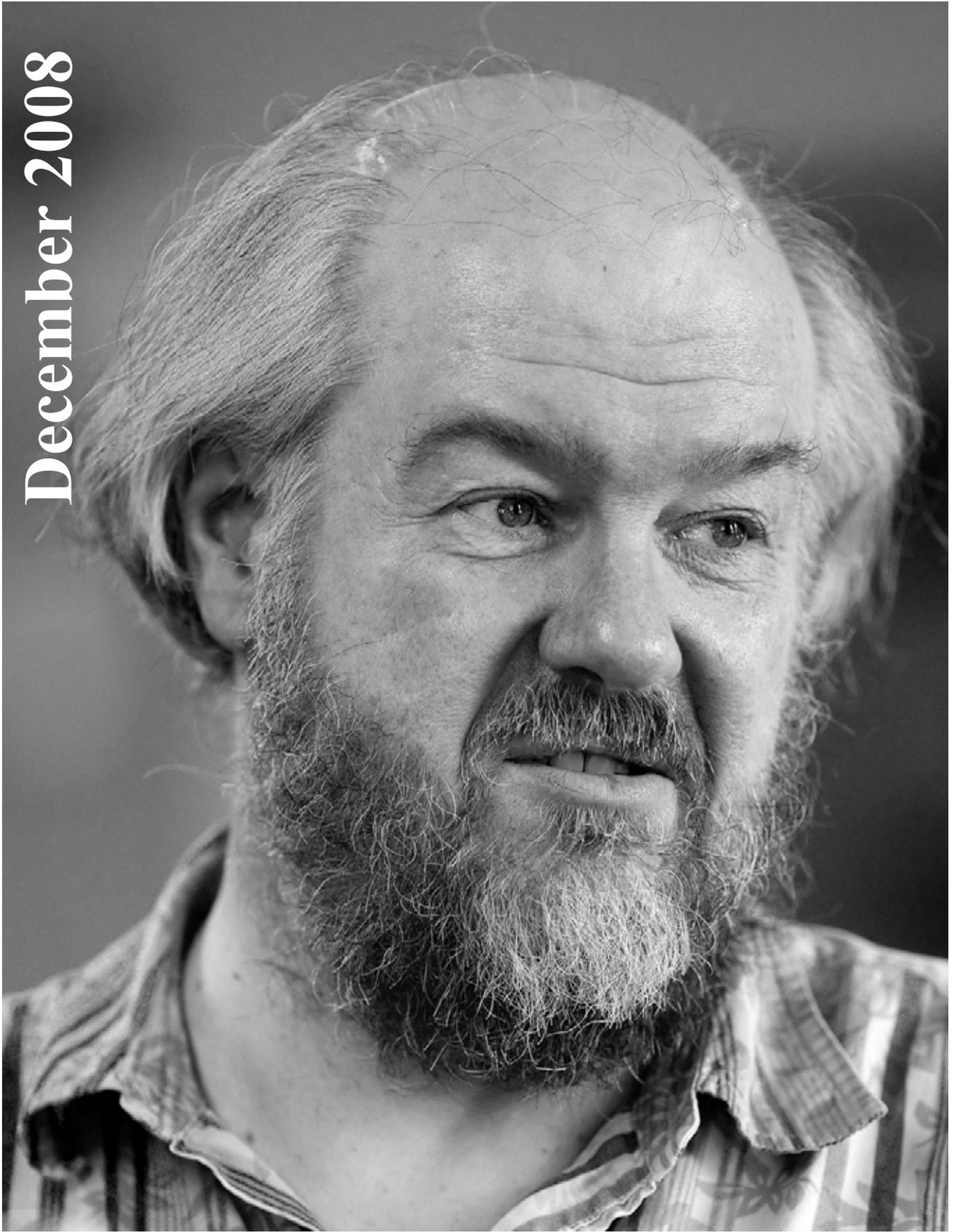


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NWC is sad to report the passing of Herman Chiu, who died in Corvallis on October 18, 2008, at age 55. Herman was Oregon co-Champion with Mike Montchalin in 1988, and had rating peaks over 2200 in the 1990s as well. Small and feisty, Herman played chess across the country. He will be missed.

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From the Editor's Desk

Ralph Dubisch



We are the champions, my friend....

What was supposed to be an extremely close match for the World Championship between Viswanathan Anand and Vladimir Kramnik turned into an early rout, as Anand won with black in games three and five, then took game six with white. Draws in games seven, eight, and nine brought Anand to the brink of victory, but Kramnik managed to earn one token win to stave off elimination in game ten. Winning three in a row against someone of Anand's caliber, however, was simply too much to ask, and the game eleven draw secured the title for the Indian Grandmaster.

The weird part of all this is that we now appear to have just one World Champion. I've spent so much of the last couple of decades explaining to people that there are at least two World Champions, and by some counts three or even four, that I'm not sure I can deal with having only one.

It was simple enough back when only Karpov and Kasparov played matches with each other. Then Garry made things confusing by creating a new organization every couple of years and playing matches with more or less random people other than Karpov. So FIDE ran its own championship events so Karpov could win. Then Karpov wasn't winning the FIDE title anymore, and after a bit Kasparov wasn't winning the other title either.

Usually we had to specify that there was a FIDE champion, who nobody believed was the strongest player, but he did win a knockout event for some kind of title. There was also Karpov, who probably would have won a match with the FIDE title holder. Then there was the other champion, who was either Kasparov or the guy who beat Kasparov, or the guy who beat the guy. Oh, and by the way, there was also the strongest player in the world, Garry Kasparov.

Probably.

Unless you thought Bobby Fischer was still the Champion, of course. He was, after all, undefeated, having played pretty much nobody except Boris Spassky for several decades. He was also a total nutcase.

So this was the ever expanding field of World Champions that I felt duty-bound to explain to friends and students who asked, in all innocence, who the World Champion was. Just about every time someone asked, there was one more name to remember. Some of them didn't even begin with "K." Shocking.

Suddenly Kasparov retired and ran for President of Russia, proving that Fischer wasn't the only nutcase. Then Fischer popped off, and even FIDE was able to take advantage of the reduction in claimants to start simplifying the title scene. Topalov totally outplayed Kramnik in a match, so of course Kramnik won. The next stage of the title reunification was the October match in Bonn, won decisively by Anand. Finally, Topalov has earned another shot, I forget how, exactly, but let's just go with it for the moment, and he will play Anand.

I can't help wondering what happens if Topalov beats Anand. Would we have three World Champions again?

Some past Champions have towered over the opposition. Some were more "first among equals." What happens when it's just "all more or less equal?"

Of course, during much the same period that the top players were busy messing up the whole World Championship issue, another competitor appeared, and got stronger and stronger with each passing month.

There is now little doubt that the strongest practical player in the world is named.... *Rybka 3.0*.

And we'll keep on fighting, 'til the end....

Concerning Frederick and Carol Kleist

by
Various
Friends
and
Admirers

We asked a few people who know Fred and Carol to write something to mark the end of Fred's six years as editor of Northwest Chess.

The following is just a beginning. There is really no way to adequately thank folks like Fred and Carol for the incredible amount of work that they do for the chess community every single day. So instead of trying to do an adequate job of it, we'll just do a little, and hope that they know how we all feel about them.

If the Kleists wanted to have a high-profile, I'm sure they would have gone about their business quite differently. Instead, they work in the background, nearly invisibly making everything work better for everybody else.

What can we say but "Thanks!"

Some see positive effects in their own lives:

Well, where should I start?

When I first met Fred it was about ten years ago. I went to play in a tournament at the Ravenna location and there was only myself and one other person.... and Fred still had the tournament! He sat there all day while we played. I met Carol a few months later.

If not for Fred and Carol the Seattle Chess Club would not exist as it does today. They truly are the heart and soul of the club. They are the true embodiment of chess volunteers. Personally over the years their mentorship has helped my games and they have taught me to be a tournament director. They have also mentored others in the club.

After we moved to the Shoreline location they held a group lesson on Monday night. For \$5 a lesson they would try to turn us patzers into real chess players. Lessons, by the way, that were worth ten times what they charged. And this was not money for them, but income for the club.

They are both a tremendous resource for history, skill, and love of the game.

– Chris L. Babcock

Those in a position to know reflect on the thanklessness of the magazine editing job:

Kudos to Fred both for his tireless efforts at the Seattle Chess Club, and for turning out six years of NW Chess. Editing the magazine is a lot of work for not much pay and rarely any thanks.

Sure, there are the intangibles, such as the occasional complaining letter from someone clearly off the deep-end, but mostly it is just lots of work for no feedback.

– Philip Peterson

Others recount their value to the Seattle Chess Club and the Puget Sound chess community:

Fred and Carol Kleist are the driving force behind the Seattle Chess Club and have been such for many, many years. Fred's contribution as the club's Tournament Director has meant a steady and skilled impetus behind tournament chess in Seattle.

His and Carol's vision for the club's purpose has been clear and determined. Supporting chess in Seattle and continuing the club's record of service to the region are Fred and Carol's passion. They are proud of the SCC tradition, since 1879 the home of chess not only in Seattle but in the entire Puget Sound region.

Fred's calm demeanor helps keep heads cool in the tournament room despite the sometimes heated disagreements a TD has to adjudicate. His ability to plan out the club's tournament activities year in and year out have meant a steady availability of classical chess to the community.

Carol's selfless service as board member, membership director, treasurer and club secretary have kept the infrastructure of the club going despite the many and continually more difficult challenges she faces.

I recall late one Friday night – actually it was already early Saturday morning – Fred was helping players analyze and improve their game. I asked him how he kept up the pace. He was due to be up early the next day to serve as TD for continuing rounds of the tournament. He looked up in response to my question and said simply, “That's what we do; we're here to support chess.”

And support chess they do. It's really a terrific gift they give to the community, a service they provide year in and year out.

Finally, I don't think a tribute to Fred and Carol would be complete if one didn't mention their continual good humor. Health problems don't even begin to dent their positive outlook and bright and cheerful manner.

– David Kelly

For my own part:

One small anecdote. I sat on the SCC Board with Fred and Carol some years ago, and Fred and I were concurrent officers of the WCF. Fred rarely stated his opinion, though Carol was never shy about expressing herself.

I don't recall what we were discussing. We had a lengthy discussion of the topic, with everyone but Fred contributing. Finally, we reached agreement and took a vote. I believe the vote was 7-1 in favor. The one “nay” vote was Fred.

Why? He had a persuasive, very clearly reasoned argument against whatever it was. When asked why he hadn't made this case, he shrugged. He wanted to vote correctly, but he didn't care to persuade anyone else of his opinion.

Fred is not very confrontational, but he's not a pushover. He may not argue for his position, but he doesn't yield it just to go along with the crowd.

– Ralph Dubisch

A few even wax poetic:

TD Fred:

shows coolness and Solomon-like adjudication skills, and almost invariably starts rounds on time (praise be!),

NWC editor Fred:

responsible for a splendid, engaging, and well-written magazine,

Fellow chessplayer

Fred:

always ready to provide analysis that improves others' game;

SCC Board Members

Fred and Carol:

maintain steady participation, year-in and year-out, and support the club in myriad ways; one (guess which!) displays a feisty spirit, enlivens the meetings, and prepares yeoman-like minutes;

Fred and Carol:

all-around fine human beings whom I am privileged to know!

– August Piper

Opening Arguments

by Harley Greninger



Anand is the King of Chess! Long Live the King!

It was an exciting match, with far fewer fireworks than the Kramnik-Topolov match and far less media coverage than the Fischer-Spassky match.

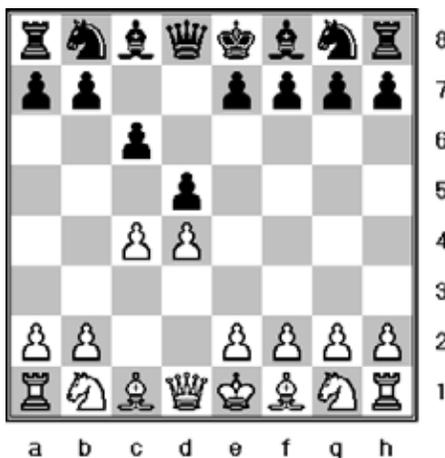
However, for the chess-lover it was a delight to see the psychological warfare that played its part within the opening discussions that were undertaken.

Anand was as slippery as a water-wienie! First off, he opened only one game (as white) with his pet 1. e4. This reminds me of another passionate 1. e4 player, Bobby Fischer, who kept Spassky guessing by playing anything but. As black, Vishy relied on the Slav as his main weapon against the rock-solid Kramnik. Vishy has been known to play the Slav, but only as a third choice behind the Nimzo or Queen's Gambit Accepted!

Following is my favorite game of the match:

**Vladimir Kramnik –
Viswanathan Anand**
World Championship, Game 5
Bonn, Germany, October 2008

1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6



If I were Kramnik here, I (to quote the palace prison guard in Hamlet) would have suspected something "rotten in the state of Denmark!" In my database, Anand responded to 1. d4 with the Slav only 61 of 402 games. In game one, Kramnik took the wise course of playing the exchange variation to avoid Vishy's potent preparation. This game, his curiosity gets the best of him and he shares the fate of the cat.

3. Nf3 Nf6 4. Nc3 e6 5. e3 Nbd7
6. Bd3 dxc4 7. Bxc4 b5 8. Bd3

Jon Speelman, annotating the game for ICC, dubbed this the "Old Maid Variation." Capablanca popularized 8. Be2, even though he only scored =3 with it. Later, Korchnoi elaborated on the double-edged 8. Bb3, scoring +2 =2 with it. My opinion is that the text causes more problems for Black than either of these alternatives.



8. ...a6 9. e4 c5 10. e5 cxd4 11. Nxb5 axb5 12. exf6 gxf6 13. 0-0 Qb6 14. Qe2 Bb7 15. Bxb5



This turned out to be the critical tabiya of the match. Each time it occurred, Vishy scored the full point.

Objectively, however, White is not worse here. He has two connected passed pawns on the queenside and Black's king position is somewhat unstable, although currently hiding behind a mass of pawns.

15. ...Rg8

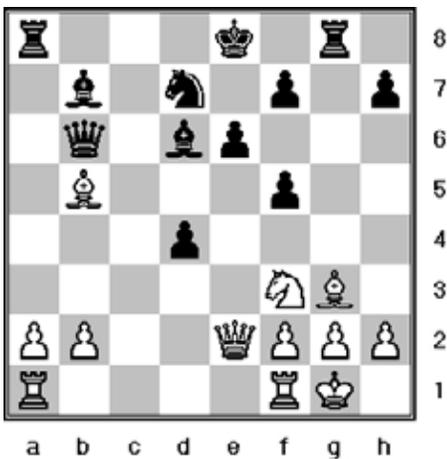
In game three, Vishy didn't allow the white queen's bishop to take the h2-b8 diagonal, by playing 15. ...Bd6 16. Rd1 Rg8 17. g3 Rg4 (see analysis diagram), when Kramnik answered with the du-

bious 18. Bf4?! (0-1, 41).



No doubt Kramnik, having a few days to computer check the line, would have improved: 18. Nd2! h5 19. Nc4 Qc7 20. Nxd6+ Qxd6 21. f3 Rg6 22. Be3, when Black is in serious trouble.

16. Bf4 Bd6 17. Bg3 f5



Black makes good use of his doubled f-pawn to keep pressure on the g2-square. He is able to play this pawn to f4, thus dislodging the g-file block created by White's QB.

18. Rfc1

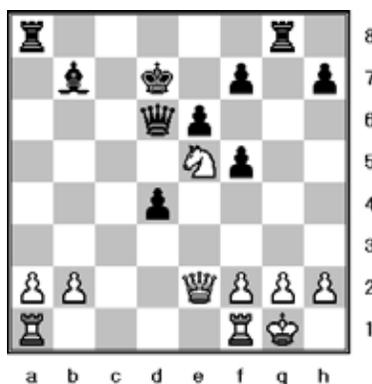
Has the good point of allowing the white king an escape square on f1 in some lines. He could have performed this more effectively with 18. Rfd1!, for now, if Black castles, 18. ...0-0-0? 19. Rac1+ Kb8 20. Nxd4 and White simply has too much pressure.



A possible continuation might be 20. ...Nc5 (although this is clearly insufficient, it's hard to come up with an alternative) 21. b4! Ne4 22. Nc6+ Bxc6 23. Rxc6, game over.



A line that shows the importance of having f1 as an escape hatch is: 18. Bxd6 Qxd6 19. Bxd7+ Kxd7 20. Ne5+

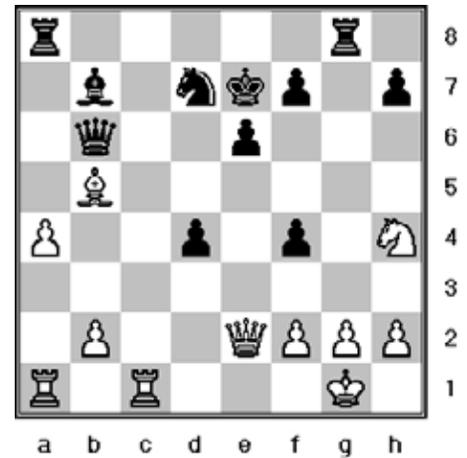


20. ...Qxe5!! 21. Qxe5 Rxc2+ 22. Kh1 Rxf2+ 23. Kg1 Rg2+ 24. Kh1 Rg3+ and White gets mated.

18. ...f4 19. Bh4 Be7 20. a4 Bxh4

You'll notice that taking the knight on f3, followed by taking on h4, doesn't work because Black's QR is hanging.

21. Nxf4 Ke7!

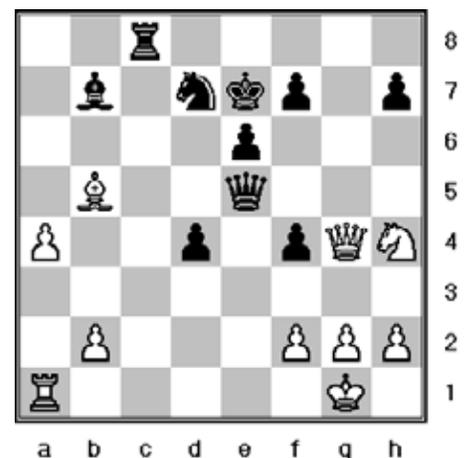


A nice move. Black's rooks are connected and the knight at d7 is no longer pinned.

22. Ra3?!

This move looks suspect. While it does guard the third rank, perhaps looking to swing the rook to, say, d3, it seems that White is swimming for ideas.

22. ...Rac8 23. Rxc8 Rxc8 24. Ra1 Qc5 25. Qg4 Qe5



Of course not 25. ...Qc1+?? 26. Rxc1 Rxc1+ 27. Bf1 Ba6, when White

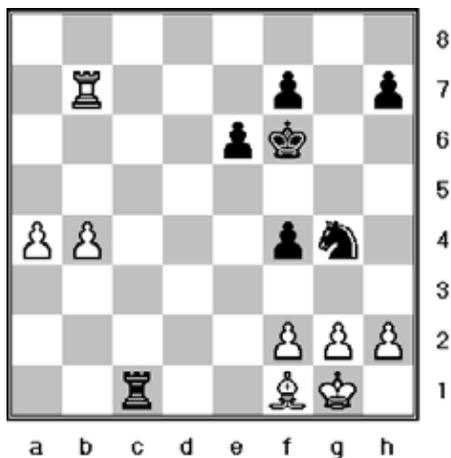
plays the simple 28. h3 and wins.

26. Nf3 Qf6 27. Re1 Rc5 28. b4
Rc3 29. Nxd4?



Funny thing. I put this position to Rybka 2.3 and Fritz 11 and both engines initially view this as being somewhat (Rybka) or definitely (Fritz) in White's favor. However after Black's 30th move, both engines swiftly alter their opinions to "White is clearly lost."

29. ...Qxd4 30. Rd1 Nf6! 31.
Rxd4 Nxc4 32. Rd7+ Kf6 33. Rxb7
Rc1+ 34. Bf1



34. ...Ne3!! 35. fxe3 fxe3

A beautiful finish to a sharply played game.

0-1

On The Move!

An Anti- Blitz Opinion On Quick Time Controls

by
H. G.
Pitre

This all started when I sent Mr. Pitre an apology for misspelling his name two out of three times in the November issue. He wrote me a very gracious reply complimenting the general quality of the magazine notwithstanding the misspellings, but requesting that I always use H. G. in print.

He also declined my suggestion that he might write a TD/rules column. However, it became clear that H. G. does have at least one strong opinion on chess rules, namely his distaste for blitz, and his preference for delay or increment quick games when necessary. He assented to write this op-ed for us on the subject.

Tom Braunlich also wrote a valuable essay touching on this topic, titled "Move Theory." It is posted on the US Chess web site:

<http://main.uschess.org/content/view/8720/473/>

– Editor

Chess history developed according to the technology and machines of its time.

Chess clocks came along some time in the 19th century, and something about that annoys me now. I mean look around. Almost everyone uses computers smartly to improve facets of their game when they can. But computers aren't my annoyance. It's the outrageous popularity of blitz, I mean, 5-minute chess. That is a game for sure, but it surely isn't chess. And some play with even shorter time controls. It's a dexterity game that in its very late stages has nothing to do with chess, just the clock.

So I'd like to ask you, imagine that chess were the only game to

be blessed with digital clock technology back in the classical era, from Morphy onward. Do you think those great gentlemen of chess; Anderssen, Steinitz, Staunton, Tchigorin, and others, and remember, chess at that time was still largely a gentlemen's game, would have ever agreed to play 5-minute chess as we know it, if they had the alternative of playing some rapid time control with at least some small time increment per move? Yep, that was a really long sentence.

After all, what is the purpose of the time controls? I think we, as players, have lost sight of that. To give each player the same amount of time to conduct the game, and to insure that the game is finished in a suitable allotment of time.

In pubs, clubs, and coffee-houses, players play one blitz game after another for hours on end. Obviously there is no shortage of time.

My suggestion adds only a few minutes at most to each contest. They still can play many games in a single setting. Mission accomplished, okay. If you have to play with less time, can you not have a certain flexibility in how long the game takes to reach its conclusion, whether mate or draw?

Surely that you are playing chess is the reward, and not some abominable goal of making one more move than your opponent before his time expires. If the position is likely only a draw, why do so many players get any jollies from flagging out someone in this artificial (non-chess) setting? If your opponent has reached a

clearly winning position, but has only seconds to end the game, again I ask, why do you play to call his certain flag fall? Not chess, my friend. I am not saying it is not worthy putting chess traps, swindles and other pitfalls before him, but just going for a time win is below a true chess lover.

Truly, Caissa hasn't smiled ever since she saw her game cheapened in this way.

Well, you say, you and your opponent agreed to the game, and to play with these conditions. Yes, I know there are a heck of lot of games played that way. And I know ICC games are probably mostly of that type. Maybe I am trying to start an uprising by suggesting to your opponent, who perhaps really loves chess, that you, how shall I say it mildly, lack an appreciation of the true beauty of chess, and so he should not play with you until you offer some time increments to play him.

That way... well, I hope I've already explained what I am aiming for. Or maybe you are the real chess lover, and it goes the other way.

Okay, I have to do some research. I guess it would nice to be able to summon the opinions of the great players, if they can be found, regarding this. Have Fischer, Tal, or Spassky made any comments on this matter? I know they played blitz. But what if they had 5 minutes and a 2 second delay or increment? Didn't Fischer actually invent a delay clock for this very reason? And what do you think Lasker, Alekhine, or Capablanca would have said? The smooth, fluid mo-

tion of Hikaru Nakamura playing rapids at Cap D'Agde, France, as shown in video from Europe Echecs is impressive, and I understand that he plays under both FIDE rapid time controls and the other. I wonder would he agree?

So anyway, if the history of chess had developed with the great players also playing some rapid tourneys with increments, we probably wouldn't have the strong resistance to increments in our regular games that I see around here. The USCF facilitated this problem that we have currently. They never worked to see USA ingenuity applied to chess clocks of this sort. They probably thought 5-minute Blitz was it.

I recommend that in the future when we have our big chess festivals the WCF have rapid chess events with controls such as 3 minutes with 5 second increments, or maybe 5 minutes with 2 seconds increments, to replace 5-minute blitz contests.

And of course, I think our organizers should consider the time controls that were held in Cap d'Agde, France, which finished with Nakamura on top.

No offense to you, dear reader, was ever meant with this essay, well, maybe just a little ribbing. If you don't feel in any way insulted by my words above, please give it a try in your casual matches with your friends.

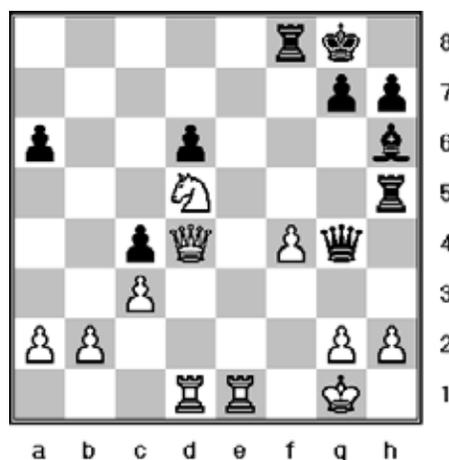
Will the winners be any different? Maybe not, but I think that along the way some real chess lovers will have happier outcomes, and Caissa will smile again.

Why Not To Trade (Sometimes)

by
Charles
Schulien

I managed to save half a point from a losing position in the Washington – Oregon match this summer when my opponent allowed me to survive, albeit down an exchange, into an endgame where at least there were chances to resist. [Readey – Schulien, NWC September 08, pp. 28-29] I started looking for this phenomenon, and quickly noticed it in student games, master play in the Northwest, and finally in the World Championship match.

Austin Sharp – Dan Copeland
Fall Open, Round 5
October 2008



One of the first things we learn about “winning a won game” is that exchanging pieces increases the effect of a material advantage, while generally reducing the chances of opponent’s counterplay. Most of us feel that especially exchanging the queens makes life easier when up a solid pawn, or with rook versus minor piece, for example.

There is another way to use your extra material, and that is to attack. If you possess other middlegame advantages besides material, such as a weakened opponent’s king, or better coordinated forces, the latter plan may be most appropriate. One should take what the position offers, rather than force our ‘standard’ prescription in every case.

White, rated 1539, enjoys an extra pawn, better structure, and dominating centralization. Black, rated 1721, sent his pieces to the kingside for a demonstration there, but he made no real threats. White could and should increase his material advantage before allowing Black to beg for exchanges to relieve the pressure.

30. f5?!

White plays for simplification, and a small tactical trick with the possible knight fork on e7.

Better 30. Qxc4, and now all endings are not only winning but easy to play: 30. ...Kh8 31. Qe2 Qg6 32. Qxa6. Black has no play.

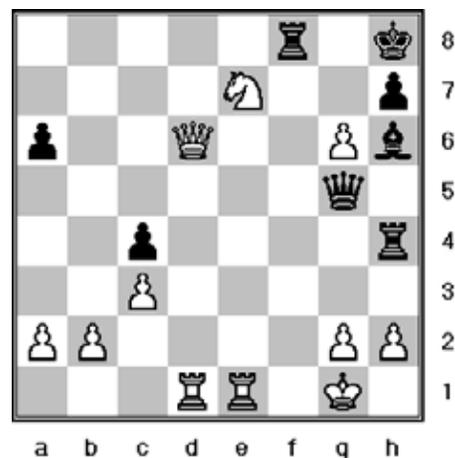
30. ...Qg5?!

30. ...Qxd4+ 31. Rxd4 Bg5 was technically superior, but close to hopeless.

31. Ne7+ Kh8 32. Qxd6

White threatens Ng6+ with attack on the loose rook f8.

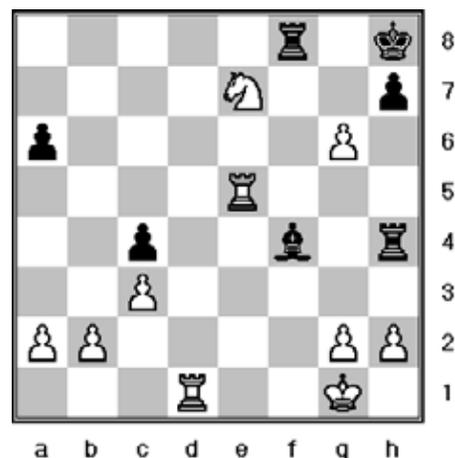
32. ...g6 33. fxg6 Rh4



34. Qe5+

White forces the queen trade, but in such a position, he has more to gain. 34. gxf7 is excellent; 34. Re6 is even better.

34. ...Qxe5 35. Rxe5 Bf4



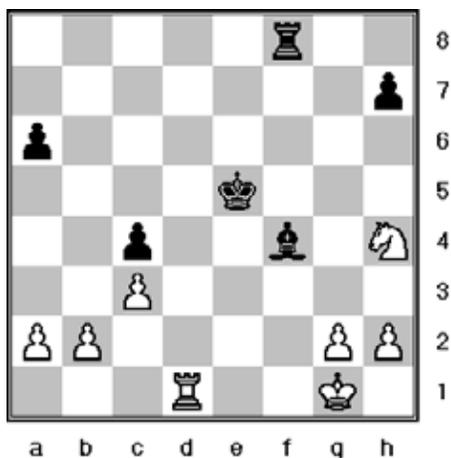
36. g7+

Here forcing the exchange makes

sense as Black generated some threats.

36. ...Kxg7 37. Nf5+ Kf6 38. Nxb4 Kxe5

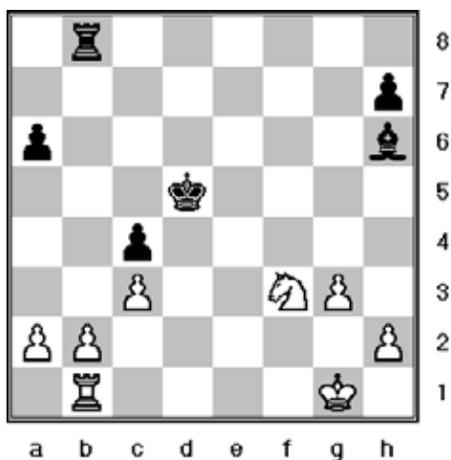
Black's active king and bishop in the endgame pose White some problems, which require consideration. The first priority is bringing the knight back from the rim, and making the pieces work together.



39. Re1+?

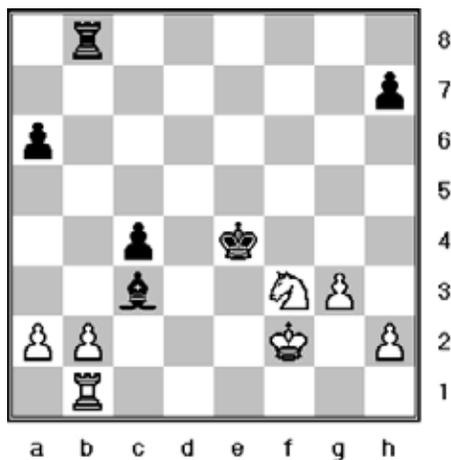
A dubious move, allowing Black's king to cross to the queenside. 39. Nf3+ Kf6 (39. ...Ke6 40. g3 Bh6 41. Nd4+ Ke5 42. Nc6+ and white is attacking.) 40. Nd2 better coordinates the forces.

39. ...Kd5 40. Nf3 Rb8 41. g3 Bh6 42. Rb1



Or 42. Re2 Bc1 with counterplay. (Austin) Let's see if White has any chance here at all: 43. Re5+ Kd6 44. Ra5 Rxb2 45. Ne5 Rb5 46. Nxc4+ Kd5 Black has plenty of activity to draw.

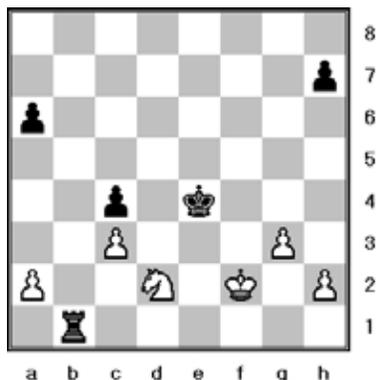
42. ...Ke4 43. Kg2 Bg7 44. Kf2 Bxc3??



A blunder! 44. ...Kd3 is safe enough. White can hardly win here.

45. Ke2?

White was taken in, thinking that he needed to focus on a draw, which would secure a share of first place in his section of the tournament. Time pressure was a factor, but more important was psychological letdown, going from a winning position to an inferior ending in a short series of moves. 45. bxc3 Rxb1 46. Nd2+



46. ...Kd3 47. Nxb1, White wins: 47. ...Kc2 48. Na3+ Kxc3 49. Ke3.

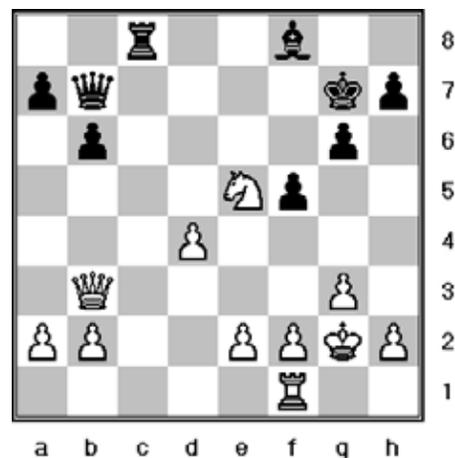
45. ...Rxb2+ 46. Rxb2 Bxb2

Only Black could play for a win here, but he probably counted himself lucky to halve the point.

½–½

**Curt Collyer – Paul Bartron
Washington Open
May 2008**

When playing through this game in the October "Northwest Chess," I stopped and had to find out how Black survived. The result is a testament to Paul Bartron's fighting spirit, but also to White's insistence on simplifying exchanges.



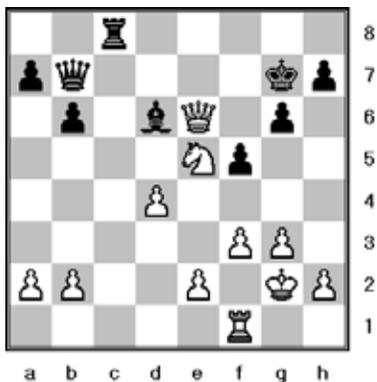
23. Qf3?!

White blocks the check, and proposes a queen swap - a very natural reaction. While it is not a clear mistake, Black is allowed to fight for the initiative, and White will be forced to make some concessions in the coming endgame.

White's queen and knight cooperate very effectively, and the black king requires careful defense from at least one of his major pieces. If White can combine pressure on the black king with

advancing his passed pawn, the win will be straightforward.

23. f3 Bd6 (or 23. ...Rc7 24. d5 Qa6 25. Rf2 Bc5 26. e3 Re7 27. Qc3+-) 24. Qe6



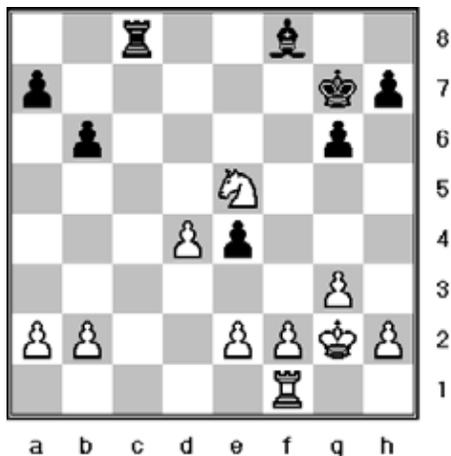
24. ...Bxe5 25. Qxe5+ (or possibly 25. dxe5!? aiming at f6) is quite clearly winning for White.

23. ...Qe4!

An excellent centralizing move, regardless of the two pawn deficit.

24.Qxe4 fxe4

White is still winning, but at least now he has some problems to solve.



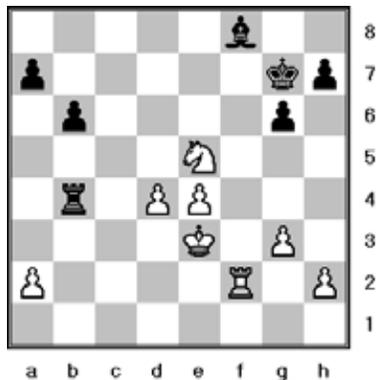
25.Rb1?!

White prepares to defend his loose pawns on the second rank, but this puts the rook in a passive position. Before playing such a move one should seri-

ously look at alternatives.

In fact, white could and should remove the bone in his throat, the pawn on e4. Resolving the main problems in your position makes it much easier for white to use advantages he has accrued – in this case, two extra center pawns and a knight on e5.

25. f3! Rc2 26. fxe4 Rxe2+ 27. Kf3 Rxb2 28. Rf2 Rb4 29. Ke3, winning.



White gave back one pawn, but his pieces cooperate effectively in support of the advance of passed pawns. Pushing one's passers is after all the main method of winning an endgame.

25. ...Rc2 26. e3?

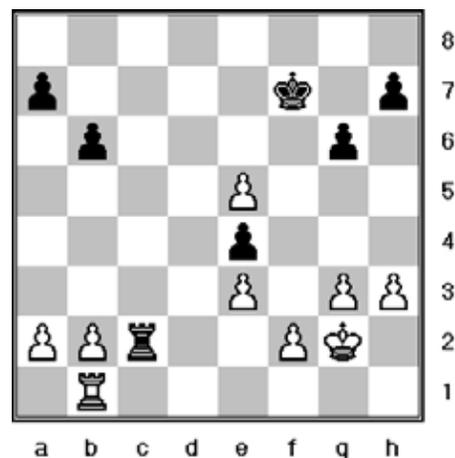
Allows Black to exchange the strong knight, and fixes more white pawns. 26. Kf1 Bd6 27. f4! is now possible. 27. ...Rd2 (27. ...exf3 28. Nxf3) 28. Nc6!? Black hasn't gained anything firm just yet.

26. ...Bd6 27. h3?!

Not helpful. It encourages the exchange on e5, but this is fine for Black.

27. b3 Bxe5 28. dxe5 Rxa2 29. Rc1. White activates his rook with clear advantage. One possible continuation goes 29. ...Kf7 30. Rc7+ Ke6 31. Rxh7 Kxe5 32. g4 and White quickly pushes his kingside pawns.

27. ...Bxe5 28. dxe5 Kf7

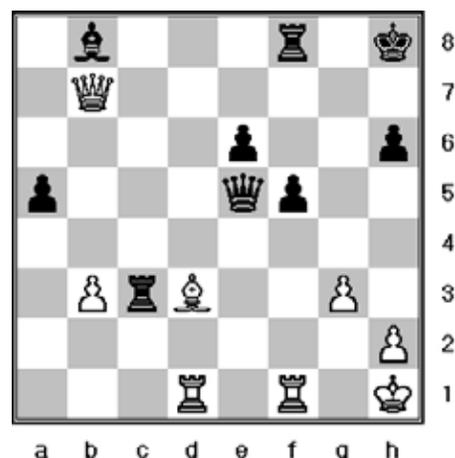


Black has active play and very reasonable drawing chances. In fact he succeeded in halving the point.

29. Rd1 Ke7 30. Rd4 Rxb2 31. a4 a5 32. Rxe4 Rb4 33. Kf3 Ke6 34. g4 g5 35. Rd4 Kxe5 36. Rd7 Rxa4 37. Rxh7 b5 38. Rf7 b4 39. Rf5+ Ke6 40. Rb5 Ra2 41. Ke4 b3 42. f4 Ra4+ 43. Kd3 gxf4 44. exf4 Rxf4 45. Rxb3 a4 46. Rb6+ Ke5 47. Ke3 Rc4 48. Rb5+ Kf6 49. Ra5 Rc3+ 50. Kf4 Rxh3 51. Rxa4 Rb3 52. Ra7 Rb4+ 53. Kg3 Rb6 54. Kh4 Kg6 55. Ra8 Rc6 56. Rg8+ Kh7

1/2-1/2

Viswanathan Anand – Vladimir Kramnik
World Championship, Game 9
Bonn, Germany, October 26, 2008



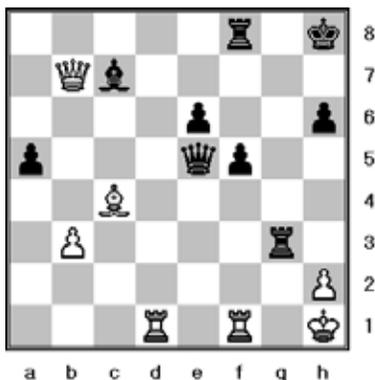
Anand managed to initiate a very sharp and complicated struggle – this was a big part of his successful match strategy. But in this game Kramnik gained the advantage.

The players faced a position with heavy pieces and opposite colored bishops, where initiative and king safety are the most important factors. Neither king feels particularly safe. Moreover, time pressure was becoming a factor. Kramnik incorrectly chose to simplify to an ending, where the opposite colored bishops provided a deadening effect, increasing the drawing prospects.

35. ...Qc7?

35. ...Bc7 blocks the white queen from the kingside, and opens up b8 for the passive black rook on f8. If Black can attack with all of his major pieces, or win the pawn on b3, he is at least pushing for the full point.

The most natural move, 36. Bc4?, opens the third rank for the black rook (White could also retreat his queen, for example 36. Qg2 Rxb3 37. Bc4 Rb2; or 36. Qb5 Qxb5 37. Bxb5 Rxb3), 36. ...Rxc7! and the attack will soon lead to mate or material gains:



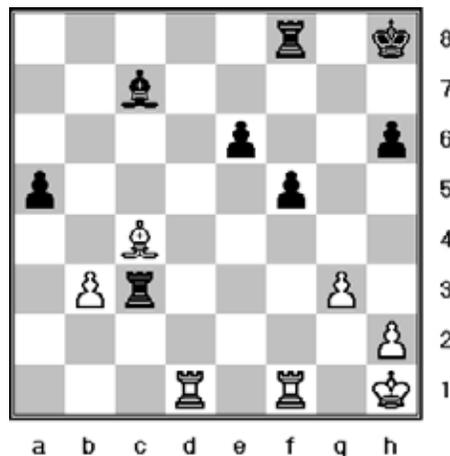
37. hxg3 Qxg3 38. Rd2 Rg8 39. Rg2 (39. Qxc7 prevents mate but White has no compensation for his losses after 39. ...Qxc7) 39. ...Qh4+ 40. Kg1 Bh2+ 41. Kh1 Be5+



42. Kg1 Bd4+ 43. Rff2 Qxf2+ 44. Kh1 Qh4+ 45. Rh2 Rg1#

This analysis by GM Golubev and silicon helpers.

36. Qxc7 Bxc7 37. Bc4



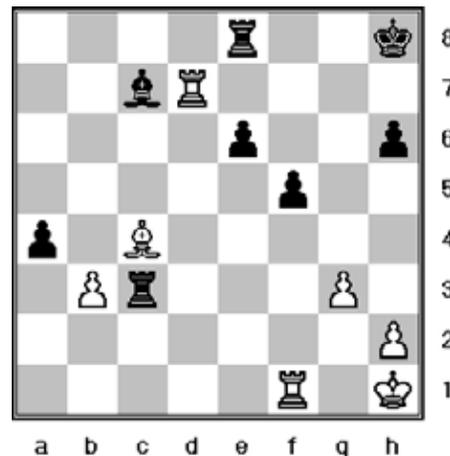
Now White defends his pawn on b3 and aims fire at the black center pawns.

37. ...Re8

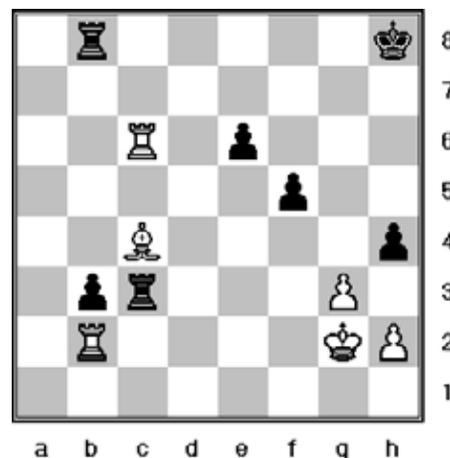
37. ...e5 38. Rd7 Bb6 39. Rd6 Be3

40. Ra6 with plenty of counterplay for White.

38. Rd7 a4



39. Rxc7 axb3 40. Rf2 Rb8 41. Rb2 h5 42. Kg2 h4 43. Rc6



43. ...hxg3 44. hxg3 Rg8 45. Rxe6 Rxc4

1/2-1/2

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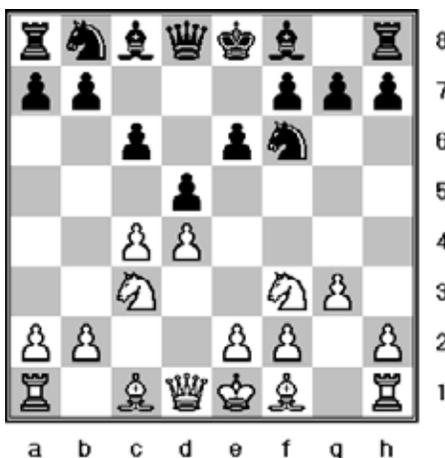
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Ivan Sokolov – Jan Smeets
 Essent / Hoogeveen, Netherlands
 Round 3 | 21 Oct 2008

1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. Nf3 Nf6 4.
 Nc3 e6 5. g3

Intuition versus Truth

by
 John
 Glass



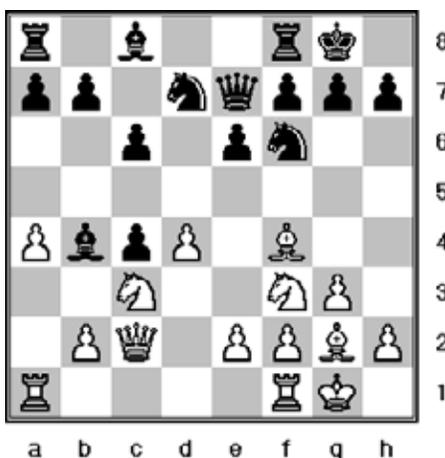
Sokolov chooses a different route from the one being explored at about the same time in Bonn, at the World Championship between Vladimir Kramnik and Viswanathan Anand.

When faced with the Slav, Kramnik twice chose 5. e3 Nbd7 6. Bd3 dxc4 7. Bxc4 b5 8. Bd3, but he lost both games to the better-prepared Indian Grandmaster.

5. ...dxc4 6. Bg2 Nbd7 7. a4 Bb4
 8. 0-0 0-0 9. Qc2 Qe7 10. Bf4

Chessplayers who have been playing for a while know when a move just “looks wrong,” and we tend to trust our intuitions and quickly rule those moves out. Sometimes, intuition and what “looks right” can lead us astray.

When Ivan Sokolov won the Essent Crown Group in the Netherlands recently, he resurrected a line in his game against Dutch champion Jan Smeets that features a move that looks like an amateur mistake, but which, on the contrary, lays a subtle trap.



The more usual moves are 10. Rd1

or 10. Na2 – this move just doesn’t look right. When you post the bishop here, the black knight on f6 is liable to swing to d5 and chase the bishop away, and posting the bishop on f4 will have been a waste of time.

The move has been played before, by Boris Gelfand, in the early 90’s.

10. ...Nd5

Smeets takes the bait and tries to embarrass the bishop. It was also possible to play 10. . . a5.

11. Bg5

Another move that might not be intuitively correct. On the surface, it seems that White has wasted a tempo, but this move tempts a kingside weakening.

11. ...f6

The position looks very calm, but this move opens the light squares around the king, leading to later violence.

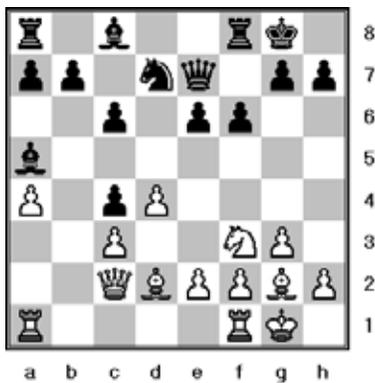
12. Bd2



12. ...c5

Yet another liability of 10. ...Nd5 is that the knight is not secure on the d5 square. Next 13. e4 is coming, and black must do something to challenge White’s central expansion. After 12. ...Nxc3 13. bxc3 Ba5 (to prevent

White from playing a5):

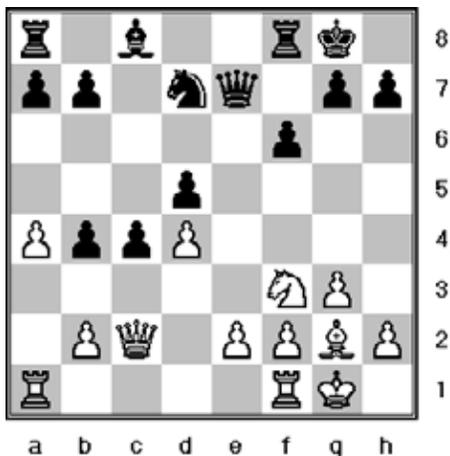


The dark squared bishop will be out of play, and black will still be seriously behind in space and development.

13. Nxd5

Another subtle point of 10. Bf4; enticing the black knight to move to d5 and exchanging it has eliminated one of black's vital kingside defenders.

13. ...exd5 14. Bxb4 cxb4



15. Nh4 Qe6

Awkward for black, who must move his queen again instead of developing. The exchange on d5 has also left black with a weakness on that square.

16. e4 Qb6

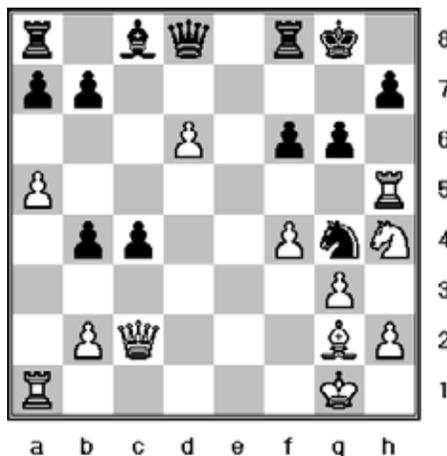
Black faces difficult choices. One possibility might be 16. ...Qf7, intending 17. exd5 Nb6 18. a5 Nxd5.

17. exd5 Qxd4 18. Rfd1 Qc5 19. d6



This pawn push is the key for opening lines of attack.

Ne5 20. Rd5 Qb6 21. a5 Qd8 22. f4 Ng4 23. Rh5 g6



23. ...Nh6 might last a little longer. Now we have an explosive finish.

24. Bd5+

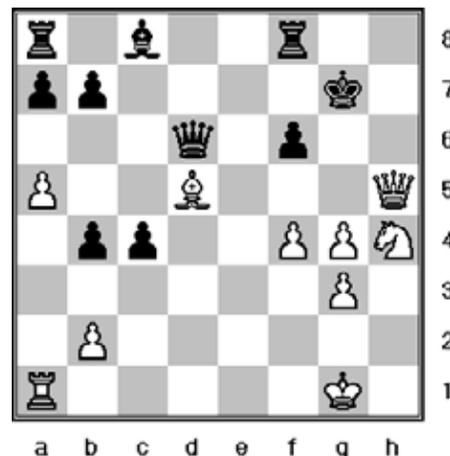
Stronger than 24. Qxc4+, which allows black to consolidate on the kingside somewhat with 24. ...Kg7. But white could also consider the dangerous (for Black) sacrifice 24. Nxg6!

24. ...Kg7

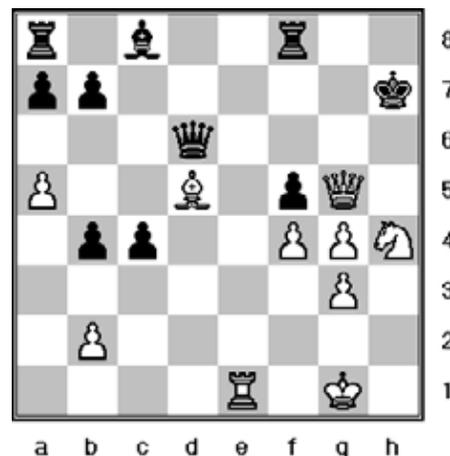
Now there is a combination.



25. Rxh7+! Kxh7 26. Qxg6+ Kh8 27. h3 Qxd6 28. Qh5+ Kg7 29. hxg4



29. ...f5 30. Qg5+ Kh7 31. Re1



1-0



Left to right: Daniel He, Ethan Bashansky, Benjamin Davis, Roland Feng, Ian McPherson, Mayhul Arora. Photo credit: Elliott Neff.

6-way tie for 1st in hard-fought Scholastic USCF Tournament! by Elliott Neff

On November 8th, Chess4Life hosted a USCF G/60 3-round Swiss tournament. The purpose of this event was to provide a longer time control

event for developing players, as most scholastic events have the shorter G/30 time control.

split between all 6 players, we played a single elimination play-off to determine first. Roland Feng, Ethan Bashansky, and Ian McPherson survived the first round.

In the 2nd round, Roland had the bye, and Ian defeated Ethan. In the final match, Roland again emerged the winner!

The 6 co-champions won \$48.33 each.

Congratulations to all the players in this tournament - it was a fun, challenging event, and the sportsmanship exhibited by all was good to see!

Chess4Life plans to host another similar event on December 20th, again open to grades K-12, 3-round, cash prizes for the OPEN section, and beginning at 1pm.



Roland Feng, Grade 2, playoff winner. Photo credit: Elliott Neff.

This event was divided into 2 categories, U1200 and OPEN, and was limited to scholastic players grades K-12.

The competition was strong, with a couple players using the full time in the 2nd round.

When the final results came in, there were 6 players tied for first place with a score of 2.5!

Even though the cash prizes were

Ian Mcpherson –
Ethan Bashkansky
Chess4Life USCF G/60
November 8, 2008

Annotations by Ethan Bashkansky.
White is rated 1438, Black 1379.

Light notes in italics are by the editor.

1. d4 d5 2. c4 dxc4 3. e4 e5 4. d5
Nf6 5. Nc3 Bd7 6. Bxc4 h6



This is too slow. Black should probably be playing out kingside pieces and getting castled. Now White could try to take advantage with 7. Qb3, hitting b7 and threatening to play d5-d6 and Bc4xf7+.

7. Nf3 Bd6 8. Bd2 0-0 9. 0-0 Bg4

5. ...Bd7 committed the bishop too early – but now both players will lose time maneuvering with bishops.

10. h3 Bh5 11. Bd3 Nbd7 12. Qe2 Nc5 13. Bc2 Qd7 14. b4 Na6

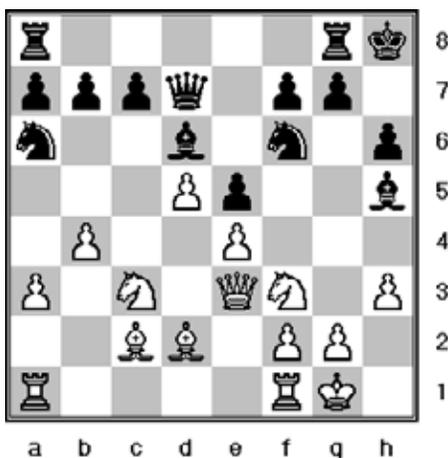
Now I have a bad Knight on a6.

15. a3 Kh8

I was is going to try something on the g-file.

G-file play will be double-edged.

16. Qe3 Rg8



17. Nh2

17. Nh4 looks stronger.

17. ...g5 18. Bd3 Nb8

I didn't want to have bad pawns on the queenside.

19. Be2 Bxe2 20. Qxe2 Rg6

Get my second rook in the g-file and protect the h-pawn.

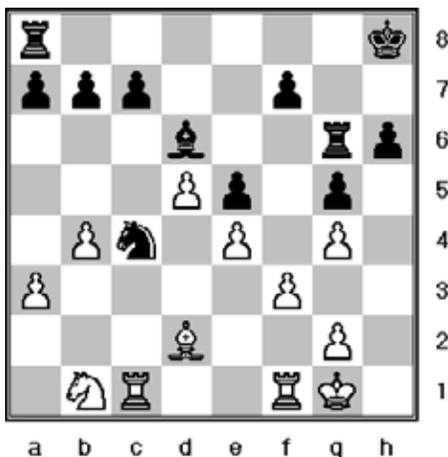
21. Ng4 Nxc4

I let his queen in g4 after I took the knight.

22. Qxc4 Qxc4

I didn't like the queen on g4.

23. hxg4 Nd7 24. f3 Nb6 25. Rac1 Nc4 26. Nb1



26. ...Nxd2

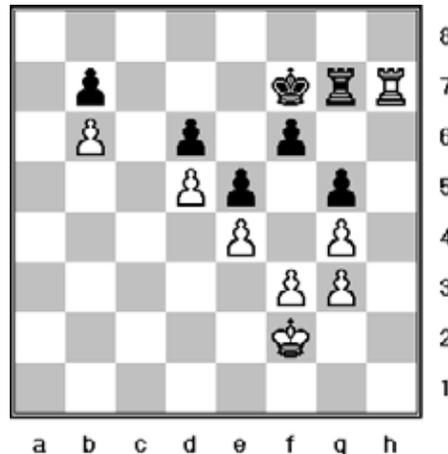
Black could create a fine outpost on c4 by defending the knight with ...b5. White should have been trying to maneuver his own knight toward an outpost square, too. Starting, say, on move 24.

Imagine a knight on f5, and maybe some rooks on the half-open h-file, all attacking h6.

27. Nxd2 a5 28. Nc4 axb4 29. Nxd6 cxd6 30. axb4 Ra4 31. b5 Rb4 32. Rb1 Rxb1 33. Rxb1 f6 34. Rc1 Rg7 35. b6 Rf7 36. Rc7 Kg8 37. Kf2 Kf8 38. Rc8+ Ke7 39. Rh8 Rg7 40. Rxh6 Kf7

Black is a pawn down.

41. g3 Rg6 42. Rh7+ Rg7



43. Rxc7+??? Kxc7

White couldn't pass the pawns or the king, so we agreed to a draw.

Three question marks may be a bit harsh on that rook exchange. Even with rooks on, it's hard to see any sure way to make progress for white.

½–½

A hard-fought game, and a fair result.



Publisher's Desk by Duane Polich

As yet another year rolls around to an end, and a new one is about to begin, it is time

to look back on the past chess year and then contemplate the future. This year started off with a very successful Washington Junior Open and Reserve with over 150 youngsters playing in the tournament directed by Dave Hendricks and held at Somerset Elementary in Bellevue. Plans are on track for the 2009 version to be held on the Martin Luther King holiday in January.

The 2008 Washington State Chess Championship had the biggest prize fund in history due to a generous donation. It had one of the strongest fields in history with three players rated above 2400. GM Gregory Serper took top honors. IM Georgi Orlov also participated, his first State Championship in quite a while. Former State Champion Slava Mikhailuk was also involved in the battle.

Curt Collyer won the 2008 Premier and a seat in the 2009 Championship, to be held in February in Seattle or Bellevue.

The 2008 Washington Open held at the Marriott Hotel in Redmond was a rousing success. And we hope the 2008 Washington Class Championships at the same venue in Redmond will be a rousing success as well.

Looking into the new year, the Washington State Elementary Chess Championships as well as the 2009 Washington Open will be held in Spokane. This is the year to go East!, well for most of us anyway. Let's hope the gas prices stay down. When they shot up over the summer, it did not bode well for events where a lot of traveling was involved; I guess only time will tell with that topic.

Christmas is coming up and what better stocking stuffer than a gift subscription to *Northwest Chess* magazine for the friend or family member that likes to push the pieces. It is a great way to keep up with the events that are happening, chess news, instructional

articles, who is who and tournament calendar. With a new editor in place, we plan many exciting things for *Northwest Chess*.

Remember, it is your magazine, and your thoughts, comments, likes and dislikes, article contributions, etc., are always welcome. We have made it easy to contact us via e-mail (editor@nwchess.com or publisher@nwchess.com). Make sure you check out the website (www.nwchess.com) for the latest news and information, instructional articles, game databases and more. With the new hosting service, we have quite a bit of space and plan to add a lot more to the website. Also, be sure to check out the NWChess Forum by following the links and start or participate in online discussion.

So let's enjoy the holidays and in this time of giving, please consider volunteering in chess. Either organizing an event, helping out at a tournament or club, or by teaching someone else about our favorite game.

See you next year! Play On!

Tacoma and Scholastic Reports by Gary Dorfner



Tacoma Report

The **Tacoma Chess Club Championship** was held at the club during September & October. There were 15 players in all.

Prize winners: 1st: Mike MacGregor, Nhon Do, and Paul Bartron, \$25.00 each. A playoff will determine the Champion.

Class A,B,C: 1st: Drayton Harrison, \$25.00. 2nd: Allen Smith, Larry Anderson, and Steve Buck, \$6.67 each.

Class D: 1st: Tony Fernandes, \$25.00. 2nd: Amos Matsick, \$20.00.

TCC Junior Champion: Peter Marriott, \$25.00. MacGregor, rated 2247, drew with Harrison, rated 1763.

The **Tacoma Open** was held at the club on October 25-26. This was a no-prize Economy Tournament, with ten players.

Winners: 1st: Viktors Pupols. 2nd: Peter O'Gorman. 3rd: Howard Chen. TD for both events: Gary Dorfner.

The **Tacoma Chess Club Blitz Championship** was held at the club on Friday, November 8th. There were 8 players.

1st: Rex Deasis, a non Member. 2nd: Tony Fernandes. 3rd: Nhon Do. Peter Marriott is the 2008 TCC Blitz Champion. *{Not clear how that worked.. - Editor}* TD: Gary Dorfner.

Scholastic Results

Sammamish Quads was held on October 26. There were 12 players in three quads.

The winners were: Quad #1: Aakarsh Gottumvkkala and Kevin Clark. Quad #2: Christopher Clark. Quad #3: Shane Black.

There were 100 players in the **Northshore Tournament**.

The winners were: K: Daniel Han. Grades K-3: Lilly Cao. Grades 4-7: Miriam Rundell. Open: Quentin Chi.

Sedro Woolley Grand Prix #4. 28 players in seven Quads. Winners: Quad #1: Sterling Dietz. Quad #2: Matt Nulle. Quad #3: Ben Heller. Quad #4: Ian Tefft-Meeker. Quad #5: Henry Han and Tristan Wine. Quad #6: Austin Heller. Quad #7: Aaron Auerbach.

44 players attended Tacoma's **St. Charles Tournament**: 20 in K-3 and 24 in 4-6. The winners were: K-3: Emily Saletan, Logan Howell, Sarah Chow, and Joseph Chan. 4-6: Noah Fields.

Theoretically Speaking

by Bill McGearry



Botvinnik Symmetrical English: 5. Nf3 e5, Part One

1. c4 c5 2. Nc3 Nc6 3. g3 g6 4. Bg2 Bg7 5. Nf3 e5



This formation is very popular at all levels of competition. It can arise from the Symmetrical English move order above as well as from 1. Nf3 or 1. g3. This range of routes to arrive at the position makes it a *tabiya*, a confluence of opening sequences that arrive at a common position to start from.

The position is fairly popular for Black for two reasons. First is that it offers excellent chances for Black to get an active game, and second, it provides an answer to the popular White flank openings while fitting nicely into the repertoire of Sicilian players.

Appraising the position, the most obvious feature is the d5 square, sitting between the “horns” e5 and c5. Classical opinion held that having such a weakness imparted a disadvantage on the bearer (Black) of almost terminal proportions. Nimzovich and later Botvinnik came to appreciate the avenues of counterplay that are available

to Black. With the increase in popularity a number of concepts have been used to play the position for either side and knowing the concepts will pay larger dividends than merely knowing book moves.

The appeal of White’s formation is that the K-bishop is stationed on the h1-a8 diagonal, along which White seeks to create pressure. A pawn on c4 is the spearhead as it assails the first square of the diagonal that lies on Black’s half of the board, d5.

A general pawn assault up the Q-side has been featured in numerous games by Reti, Botvinnik, and notably for NW players, Seirawan and Suttles. Black’s formation seems to leave the d5 square with no protection.

These features are quite obvious and have been stated merely as staging. Slightly beneath the surface we can find other relevant factors to use. In combination with the “hole” on d5, White’s more flexible pawn structure is currently more favorable. This is an area that can shift, because Black’s structure has been more “set” than White’s, yet it provides Black with pawn breaks at b5, d5, or f5, and any of them can offer good play.

The d6-d5 break is the most favorable because it would generate the Maroczy formation for Black. Pushing the f-pawn up to f5 controls e4 and signals some intentions on the K-side, yet can entail weakness in the proximity of d5 (d5-g8 diagonal). The b5-push is more controversial because it occurs on

the side of the board that White is working. The controversy extends from the fact that if White should play c4xb5 he loses pawn control over d5 and Black can see that as a large gain.

Here is a game that illustrates the type of position that White is aiming for. Achieving b4 is not the stellar accomplishment that brings an end to the game. Instead, it is merely a step in determining the nature of an advantageous position for White. The critical junctures for White are the 14th and 18th moves.

Bent Larsen – Gyula Sax
Ljubljana/Portoroz, Round 3
June 1977

1. c4 g6 2. Nc3 c5 3. g3 Bg7 4. Bg2 Nc6 5. Nf3 e5 6. 0-0 Nge7 7. a3 0-0



There is an argument that Black is making a move-order mistake.

IM Donaldson, in “A Strategic Opening Repertoire for White,” ex-

plains that Black needs to be ready to meet the Ne1-c2-e3 hop with Be6 and d5; that is, when the white knight reaches c2, Black must be ready to play d5. Otherwise, a White knight on e3 stops d5.

This thinking is a bit simplistic as the time to get the Nf3 to e3 can be used for other details.

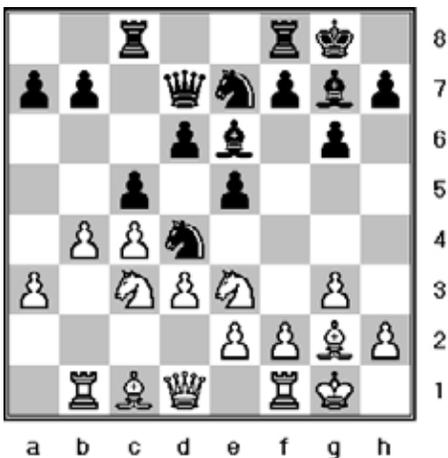
8. Ne1 d6 9. Nc2 Be6 10. Ne3



10. ...Qd7 11. Rb1 Rac8

Black could put a damper on b2-b4 with ...a5, but instead depends on tactical points based on the White c-pawn.

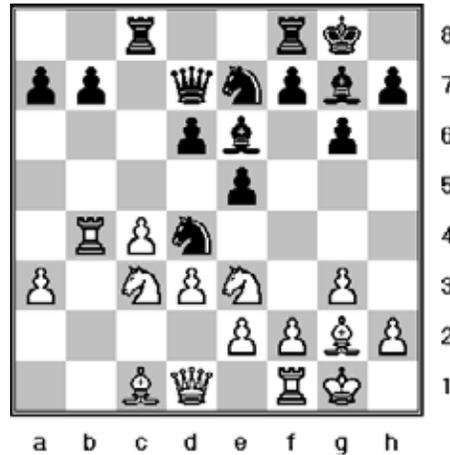
12. d3 Nd4 13. b4



13. ...cxb4 14. Rxb4!

Black was looking for 14. axb4 b5, when White will either lose pawn control of d5 or will be left with a weak pawn on c4.

Larsen was at his finest when the position revolved around small strategic details like this.



14. ...b6 15. Ned5 Nxd5 16. Nxd5 Bg4 17. Re1 Kh8



18. a4! Bh3 19. Bb2!

Turning one advantage into another. Larsen is willing to exchange the laser KB, but in return aims to get a good knight on d5 versus bad g7-bishop by exchanging on d4.

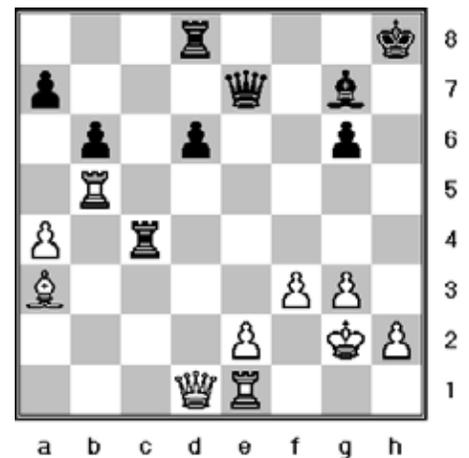
19. ...Bxg2 20. Kxg2 Nc6 21. Rb5 Ne7 22. Nxe7 Qxe7 23. Ba3



23. ...e4

Sax has avoided the Nd5/Bg7 scenario, yet faces an equally unpleasant Ba3. Combining the "minority attack" of a4-a5 with the pressure on d6 makes this a winning position for White. So Sax aims for any complications he can muster.

24. f3 f5 25. dxe4 Rfd8 26. exf5 Rxc4 27. fxg6 hxg6



28. h4

Perhaps 28. e4 followed by Re2 and Rd5 is simpler. Larsen must have been dreaming of some sort of escapade on the h-file, but it seems to end up using more energy than necessary.

28. ...Qe3 29. Rb3 Qe8



30. a5 b5 31. Qd2 d5 32. Qg5 Rc3

Hoping for 33. Rxc3 Bxc3, but....



33. Bb2! d4

33. ...Rxb3 34. Qh6+ Kg8 35. Qxg7#

34. Rxb5 Re3 35. Kf1 Qd7 36. h5 Rde8 37. g4 Qc6 38. Qd5 Qc7



39. hxg6 R3e5 40. Qf7

1-0

{Next month: Botvinnik Symmetrical English, Part Two!}

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For general information, Eric Holcomb (541) 647-1021, e-mail: Eric@Holcomb.com

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And In The End

by Dana Muller

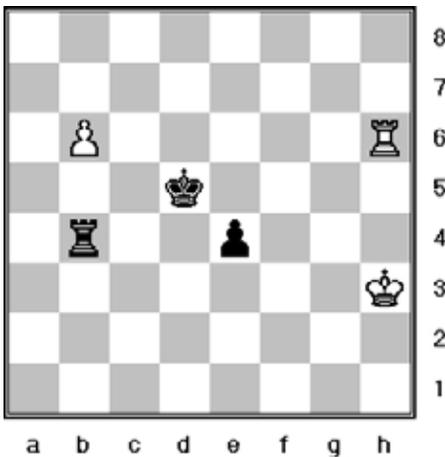


Last month we looked at an endgame that was clearly better, but not clearly winning. This month's installment will involve another common endgame situation, the position that is drawn, but there is a little play left in it.

As you will see, a good motto for this kind of ending is "never give up hope" – for either side!

David Butler – Dana Muller
2 Bit Open
May 1982

Before White's 45th move.



Black has a small edge here. His rook is in the classic position behind White's passed pawn, and his king is in position to aid the advance of his passed pawn. By contrast, while White's rook is fairly active (guarding his passed pawn from the side), the white king is a bit offside.

Having said this, the position is a draw, in fact even though white's defense is far from optimal, a draw remains possible until move 62.

45. Kg2

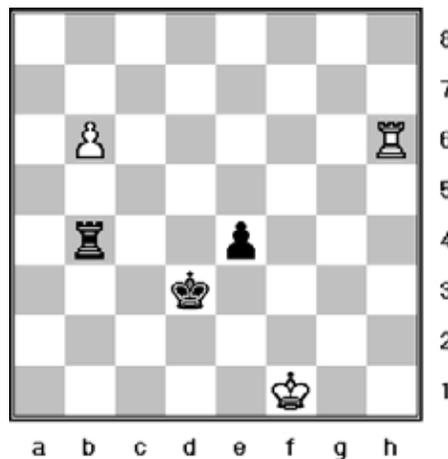
Not bad, but imprecise. 45. Kg3! Kd4 46. Kf4 is the easiest draw. The plan is to continue with Re6 (double attack on the e-pawn) followed by b7

(deflecting a piece from the defense of the e-pawn). For example 46. ...Rb3 47. Re6 Rf3+ 48. Kg4 Kd5 (48. ...Rb3 49. Kf4 e3 50. b7 Rxb7 51. Re4+! wins the e-pawn) 49. Re7 and it's hard to see how black can progress. White's pawn is ready to move forward and if the black rook moves behind the pawn (Rb3) then Kf4 again attacks the black pawn twice.

45. ...Kd4

Preparing to advance the e-pawn as far and as fast as possible.

46. Kf1 Kd3

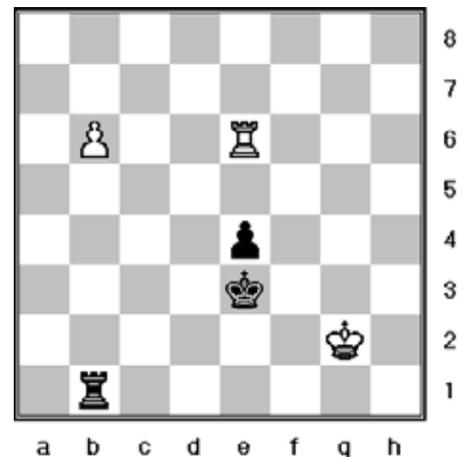


As opposed to an immediate Ke3, this sets a small (very small) trap. If 47. Rh3+? e3 48. Rh6 Rb1+ 49. Kg2 e2 wins. Of course Rh3 is illogical on several counts (removes protection from the b-pawn, insufficient checking distance on the kingside), but it costs nothing to test your opponent's vigilance.

47. Rd6+ Ke3 48. Re6 Rb1+

Forcing the white king away

49. Kg2



49. ...Kd3

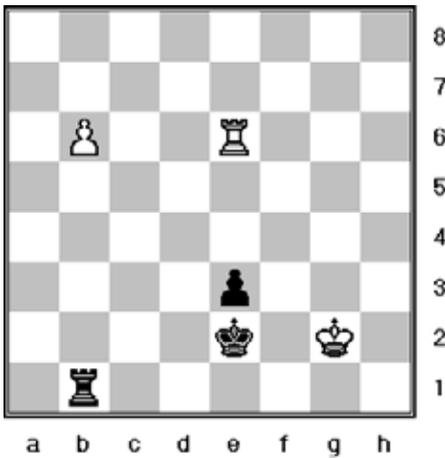
Beginning a typical zigzag king maneuver to advance the passed pawn.

50. Rd6+

Again, this is OK, but 50. Kg3! with the idea of setting up a double attack on the e-pawn seems simpler. For example 50. ...e3 51. Kf3 followed by b7 or 50. ...Rb2 51. Kf4 or 50. ... Ke3 51. Kg2 repeats. I have to admit that during the game I failed to see this finesse as well, I thought Rd6+ was best.

50. Kf2! also reaches a well-known type of draw, even without the white b-pawn.

50. ...Ke2 51. Re6 e3



52. Rc6

I don't understand this move (52. Rd6 is more purposeful), as there is not enough room for horizontal checks and the rook does nothing on this square.

It doesn't throw away the draw, however.

52. ...Rb2 (!)

The threat of discovered check is an attempt to scare white into a mistake. 53. Rd6 is also a reasonable response.

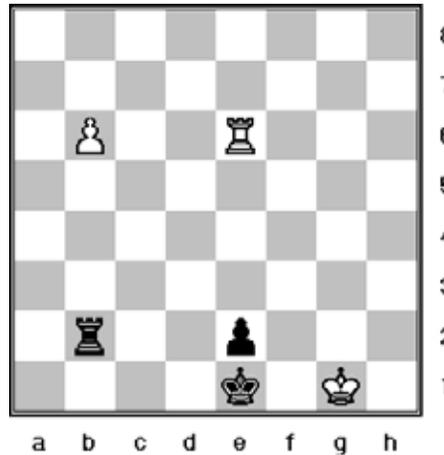
53. Kg1 Kd2

Once again, zigzagging to advance the e-pawn.

54. Rd6+ Ke1 55. Re6 e2

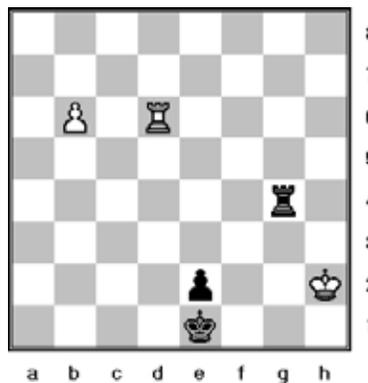
Black has done as much as he could from the starting position: the b-pawn hasn't moved further, the white king is still cut off from the queening square, and the black pawn is on the doorstep.

Despite all of these accomplishments, the position is still drawn!



56. Rd6 Rb5

Both players were suffering from the illusion that a check on the g-file would be deadly. It turns out that white can still draw after allowing a g-file check. Consider this position:



Analysis: Black to move

This resembles the Lucena position (a win for Black) except for a white pawn on b6. It turns out that pawn on b6 is just far enough advanced to draw.

Here are two tries:

(1) Lucena procedure 1. ... Kf2 2.

Rf6+ Ke3 3. Re6+ Re4 4. Rxe4+ Kxe4 5. b7 e1(Q) 6. b8(Q) draw.

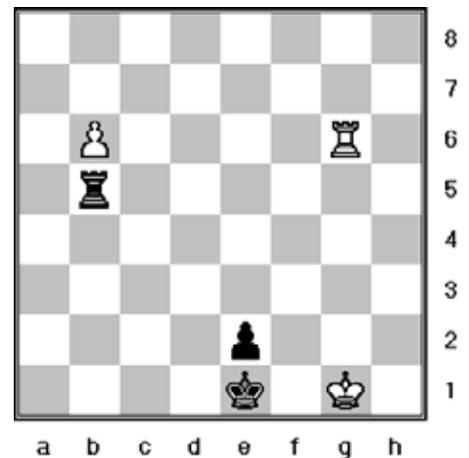
(2) 1. ...Rg7 (to hold up the b-pawn) 2. Kh3 waiting.

While Rg7 stops the b-pawn it also removes the Lucena "bridge." As soon as Black's king emerges from behind the pawn, White continues to check (or attack the e-pawn) until the black king is forced in front of the pawn once more. Since White can always move his king back and forth from h2 and h3 there are no zugzwangs.

The fact that both players thought the g-file check was the one serious threat and it needed to be stopped explains the next few moves. I realized after moving my rook to b5 that I really wanted it on b4 instead – b5 would be a better bridge square in a real Lucena position, but not here.

Of course what I thought was clever tempo maneuver to regain this position is complete rubbish since White doesn't have to fear the g-file check

57. Rg6??



57. ...Rb4?

Fixating on the g-file check and the Lucena method causes tunnel vision. Black really does have a win with 57. ...Rd5!, planning ...Kd1 and ...e1 – with



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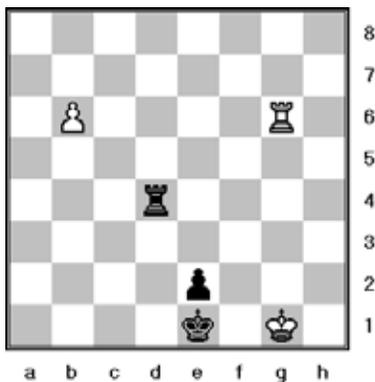
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check! Thus: 58. b7 Kd1 59. b8/Q e1/Q+ 60. Kg2 Qe4+ 61. Kf2 (others get mated more quickly) 61. ...Qxg6 (there's probably a forced mate that's faster here, but this seems pretty elegant) 62. Qb3+ Qc2+ and it's all over.

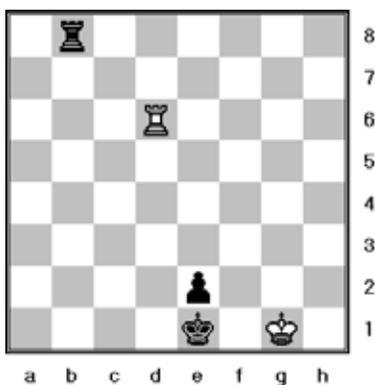
58. Kg2 Rb2 59. Rd6 Rb5 60. Rg6 Rb4 61. Kg1 Re4?

The reason for wanting the rook on b4: a bridge is built to the e3 square. At the time I believed this to be the winning move, but now I regard it as an excellent attempt to scare white.

It's especially unfortunate, because 61. ...Rd4!, now that the white king is back on g1, wins analogously to the win Black missed on move 57.

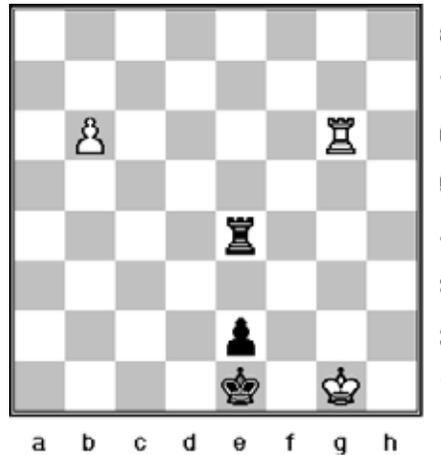


For example: 62. b7 (62. Re6 Rd7!) 62. ...Kd1 63. Re6 (63. b8/Q e1/Q+) 63. ...Rd8! 64.Kf2 Rf8+, or 64. b8/Q Rxb8 65. Rd6+ Ke1:



We've reached a real Lucena position, and there's actually a threatened

check on the g-file followed by ...Rg5 and building a bridge.



62. b7??

I expected this (still believing the g-file check would win), but 62. Rd6! Rg4+ 63. Kh2 leads to the previous (drawn) analysis diagram.

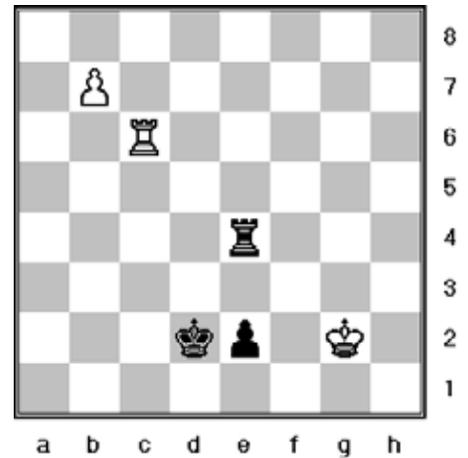
62. ...Kd1

Now Black really will queen with check.

63. Rd6+ Kc2 64. Rc6+ Kd2 65. Kg2

OK, he doesn't allow the queening

with check, but the effect is the same.



65. ...e1/Q 66. b8/Q Rg4+ 67. Kh3 Qh4#

Lessons to be learned?

(1) If better, keep pressing until it's very clearly drawn.

(2) Beware taking analogies too far (i.e. Lucena position); do the calculations to make sure the analogy is appropriate.

(3) Avoid tunnel vision, and pay attention when opportunity knocks.

(4) Sometimes you get lucky!

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Chess Business

by Eric Holcomb



In last month's column, "Publisher's Desk," *Northwest Chess* Publisher Duane Polich covered a number of important changes resulting from the *NWC* board meeting held in Portland on September 28.

I would like to highlight one important opportunity for advertisers who happen to be chess coaches and/or run chess camps or chess schools.

Beginning in January 2009, chess coaches and chess camp/chess school organizers will have the opportunity to purchase a \$100 annual advertising package that includes a business card ad in each issue of *NWC* (see, for example, the current ads by Haessler and Smith), plus enhanced website advertising, such as medium-size banner ads, on the *Northwest Chess* website.

This is an excellent deal, and all local chess coaches, camps and schools are strongly encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to help your business while helping *NWC* at the same time.

One of the things that the board agreed on in September was that the magazine should have more scholastic

chess content and more junior subscribers. Editor Ralph Dubisch is already starting to make this happen; see for example the "Earth vs. Space," "Falling Leaves," and "Denker Tournament Experiences" articles in the November magazine. As this coverage attracts more junior subscribers, who are often the target audience for chess instruction, your ads are more likely to have success.

Of course with any "carrot," there's usually a "stick." The "stick" in this case is that chess instructors who don't purchase the advertising package will no longer be guaranteed that all their events will be listed in the magazine and on the *NWC* website.

Considering that listing these events (especially summer chess camps) can

be quite time consuming for both the editor and webmaster, we feel that this is a reasonable policy.

In the interest of continuing to provide a reliable information source for the local chess community, all open scholastic chess tournaments in Washington and Oregon will continue to be listed free of charge, although advertising can be purchased on request.

To purchase the advertising package for 2009, or to request additional information, please contact the Business Manager at the address listed on the inside cover no later than December 10 for the January magazine, or the 10th of each month for subsequent issues.

We appreciate your support for *Northwest Chess*!

From the Business Manager:

Need sample copies of *Northwest Chess* for use at scholastic tournaments or other chess events?

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This Month in Northwest Chess History

by Russell Miller



Our December 1948 *Washington Chess Letter* summary comes courtesy of R. R. Merk, from the December 1958 issue!

1948

Washington Chess Letter,
December 1948

T. Patrick Corbett contributed to the December 1948 issue of WCL.

As Omar said eight hundred years ago, "Tis all chequer board of nights and days; Where Destiny with men for pieces plays; Hither and thither moves and mates and slays; And one by one, back in the closet lays!"

The Northwest Washington 6 round swiss tournament was announced for Jan 29th & 30th at Everett. The Seattle City tournament on Feb. 26th & 27th at Seattle Chess Club limited to residents of King County.

The US Open Champion, Weaver Adams, gave two interesting exhibitions at The Seattle Chess Club and a simultaneous exhibition at the Seattle YMCA.

George Rehberg resigned his position as Feature Editor on the WCL and as secretary of the Kitsap Club. He was succeeded by Jack Nourse as secretary of the Kitsap Club.

It was announced that Dick Allen would contribute a regular column to WCL beginning with the next issue

Whidby Island team won a tight match from the Seattle YMCA by a score of 6.5 to 3.5.

Jack Finnegan won an all expense paid trip to the Rose Bowl game in

Pasadena on New Year's Day. He represented the Seattle PI as a special reporter. Jack at that time was quite prominent in Puget Sound Chess circles.

Third round results of the Puget Sound League tournament: Tacoma 8.5, Seattle YMCA 1.5; Bellingham 6, Everett 4; Kitsap 7.5, Olympia 2.5; University 7, Queen Anne 3; Seattle vs Skagit results not obtained.

A new constitution for the WCF was presented by a committee headed by Dick Allen and was adopted at a meeting of the Directors of the WCF. Articles of the constitution provided for new types of membership in the WCF: Club, League, and Individual. WCF approved major tournaments included the Washington State, Pacific Northwest Experts, Puget Sound Open, Northwest Washington, and Seattle City. Oscar Award to chess organizers for each year beginning in 1945.

Individual memberships were created to give each chess player in the state the opportunity to become a part of the organization, regardless of affiliation with any chess club. The title of Chess Expert was given to players winning or placing second in the PNW Experts, State, PS Open, or by twice winning the Seattle City or Northwest Washington tournaments.

Jim Schmitt of Portland, J.L. Sheets of Seattle, Carroll Crain of Tacoma and Charles Joachim of Seattle were officially recognized as Chess Experts.

Oscar Awards were given to the following: 1945 to R.C. (Tom) Cannon for his efforts in organizing the international matches; 1946 to Jack Nourse for his

work in organizing the P.S. League; 1947 to George Rehberg for his work as Editor and Publisher of the Puget Sound Chess News.

Olaf Ulvestad continued with his articles on his trip to Soviet Russia. He tells of a 21-course dinner with 14 courses of hors d'oeuvres and seven main courses. (Ed. He came back alive.)

1958

This 16-page issue of *Washington Chess Letter* had the 1958 California State Championship results printed on the cover. C. Bagby of San Francisco won the 8 player event.

Editor Dan Wade called for more help in putting out the magazine each month; stencil typing help was needed as he had lots of material.

Announcement of the Washington Open for 1959 called for a \$3 entry fee and prize for first of 40% of the gross receipts. Seattle University was to be site.

In Puget Sound League results, Latvian Team downed Tacoma 6.5-3.5; Seattle CC beat Kitsap 7-3; West Seattle and North Seattle drew 5-5. The Latvians are on top of standings at this point. In more results Latvian Team downed Kitsap County 6.5-3.5. Most of the Kitsap points came from James McCormick winning both games from Elmars Zemgalis. Mike Franett playing for the Seattle Chess Club scored 2 wins over his McNeil Island opponent to help his team win 6.5-3.5. West Se-

attle topped Olympia 7.5-2.5. Tacoma CC won their match with North Seattle 5.5-4.5. Viesturs Seglins of the Latvian team at this point in the season had the best score with 6-0. Max Brader of Seattle CC had 7.5-4.5 and James McCormick of Kitsap was 9-1.

28 players took part in the 1958 Central Washington Open held in Yakima. Olaf Ulvestad won with 5.5-.5. He drew with third place Ivars Dalbergs in round 4. Second place at 5-1 was Clark Harmon, age 16. The game score of his win over Dalbergs was printed. Buz Eddy was the tournament director.

The South Sound Open was won by Charles Joachim of Seattle 5.5-.5. 31 players took part and Ted Davis was 2nd on tie-break at 5-1. The event was held in Olympia.

The Northwest Junior Open was announced for Yakima on Dec 29-30 with a \$2.50 entry fee, open to players under age 21 for the 6-round event.

Inland Empire junior league play was to start soon with teams from Sandpoint, Wallace, and Bonner's Ferry, Idaho, plus Lewis and Clark High School in Spokane and Pullman Washington. Clackmas High School with Clark Harmon on board one drew Grant H.S. at 7-7.

Buz Eddy was elected president of the University of Washington Chess Club, starting up again after being dormant for 2 years. The club signed up 25 members at the first meeting.

It was reported that former Oregon player James Schmitt won the Northern California State Championship ahead of William Addison and Charles Bagby. Samuel Reshevsky won an international tournament held in Israel. Laszlo Szabo of Hungary was 2nd.

Coubrough tops the 74 player postal chess rating list this month.

1968

Russell Miller of Yakima is the editor of this, the 253rd issue of *Washington Chess Letter*, *Northwest Chess Letter*, and now *Northwest Chess*.

Listed on the 2nd page as STAFF are Buz Eddy of Kent as Publisher/Tournament News-Washington, Peter J. Olson of Seattle as Rating Director, Kathy Miller of Yakima as Circulation Director, John Ward of Tacoma as Postal Director, Richard Vandenburg of Boise as Intermountain Editor/Idaho Chess Bulletin, Harry Glidden of Medford as Oregon Editor/Oregon Chess News, Bob Eldridge of Burnaby as British Columbia Editor/B.C. Bulletin, Howie Chin of Seattle as High School Editor/High School in Chess, and Bob Zuk of North Surrey as Games Editor.

The Marysville Jaycess announced there would be a 2nd Strawberry Open in June 1969 with a \$3,000.00 prize fund and increase of \$200.00 over the 1968 event prize fund. Tournament announcements appeared for the Northwest Junior, Washington Open, Chess Tornado at the Seattle Chess Club, March of Dimes Open in Washougal, WA.

Viktors Pupols

topped the Northwest Open crosstable on tie-break over Peter Biyiasis when both scored 5.5-.5. Pupols drew with Ben Thurston and Peter drew with Gary Holmquist. 55 players took part in the event held at the Seattle CC.

Vernon Holmes gave a simul at the Tacoma CC winning 7 and losing 6 per a report by John Ward. Only player among those who took part still active today is Ernst Rasmussen; he lost.

21 players took part in the Spokane County Open and Pat Herbers of Spokane won with Mike Murray of Renton in 2nd place.

22 players took part in the Burnaby Open with a 3 three-way tie for first: Suttles, Biyiasas and Zuk.

{For more, see www.nwchess.com}

Northwest CHESS



DEC.

1968

2008 Clark Harmon Memorial Northwest Grand Prix

by
Murlin
Varner
(number
cruncher)

With little more than a month to go for 2008, many prizes in the CHMNGP are still quite up for grabs.

In Oregon, only 8.5 points separate the top three in the Expert class, while the leaders in class D are only 6.5 points apart. In classes A and C the difference between first and second is less than 20 points.

In Washington, only Paul Bartron (Expert) and Stephen Buck (class B) lead by more than ten points. Three way races exist in class A and D. Although meaningless for the money, there is only ½ point between the top player in Washington and the top player in Oregon.

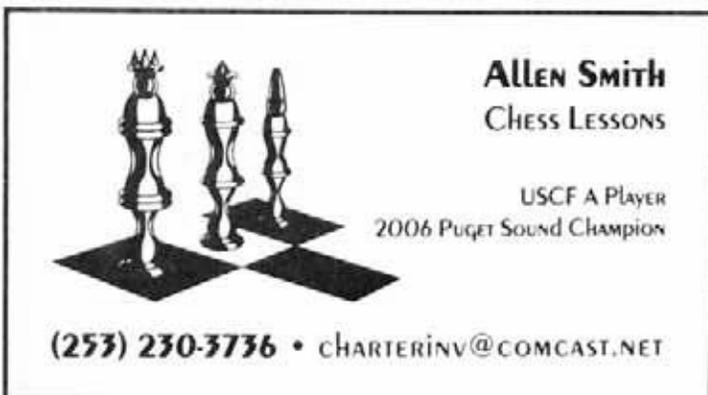
With the Washington Class (and its 5x multiplier) coming up in Redmond on Thanksgiving weekend, and a number of events yet to be recorded for November, many potential changes can be expected in the leaderboard. Heck, there are enough points still available before year end that a Class D player in Oregon could come from nowhere to win his or her class with the investment of a few extra weekends. (Seems every time an Oregon class D player accumulates enough points to move up within the class, they also gain rating points to move up to the next higher class.)

With the Washington Class Championships, we will have already set a record with 14 events this year having multipliers. The Washington Challenger's Cup, December 20-21 in Tacoma, will be number 15! Events with multipliers can have a dramatic effect on point totals for those who participate. Those who come to Redmond will gain a substantial boost in their point totals.

Statistics below are for all events submitted through November 2nd. Classes are based on highest 2008 rating through October. Any gains in November or December USCF ratings may have an impact on class prizes.

Make plans now to hit the ground running for the 2009 Grand Prix, by attending the Seattle City Championships, January 16-18, the first advertised GP multiplier event of the year.

And always look for the little GP flags on the *Northwest Chess* calendar!



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Washington

Overall Leaders, by State

name	pts.	name	pts.
Masters			
1 Raptis, Nick	149	1 Pupols, Viktors	81
2 Roua, Radu	100.5	2 Bragg, David	71.5
3 Haessler, Carl	40	3 Readey, John	45
4 Russell, Corey	26	4 MacGregor, Michael	40

5 Collyer, Curt	38.5
6 Lee, Michael	32.5
6 Perez, Ignacio	32.5

Experts

1 Heywood, Bill	56.5	1 Bartron, Paul	131
2 Morris, Michael	55	2 Kelley, Dereque	101.5
3 Gutman, Richard	48	3 May, Andy	93.5
4 Breckenridge, S.	42	4 Guo, Alex	79
5 Pena, Pablo	17.5	5 Chen, Howard	78
6 Martin, Roger	8	6 Smith, Allen	60

Class A

1 Encke, Michael	85.5	1 Wang, Michael	116.5
2 Gay, Daniel	69.5	2 Harrison, Drayton	113
3 Bannon, David	56	3 O'Gorman, Peter	106.5
4 Ball, Larry	53	4 Watts, Peter	100
5 Surak, Steve	49	5 Lee, Nathan	79
6 Peake, Ethan	48.5	6 Pitre, H. G.	71.5

Class B

1 Becker, Brett	119.5	1 Buck, Stephen	149.5
2 Hannibal, Carson	64	2 Walton, John	109.5
3 Lehman, Jeff	57	3 Guo, Anthony	89
4 Bailey, Taylor	44.5	4 May, Sarah	80
5 Gagnon, William	43	5 Ackerman, Ryan	66
6 Porter, Nathan	40.5	6 Xing, Casey	63

Class C

1 Dietz, Arliss	79.5	1 Piper, August	104
2 Hannibal, Dana	62	2 Monahan, Darby	95
3 Pyle, Galen	56.5	3 MacGregor, Logan	90.5
4 Terrill, Michael	49.5	4 Goodfellow, Robert	87.5
5 Tse, Kalen	42	5 Copeland, Chris	78
6 Skalnes, Erik	40.5	6 Baker, Ted	66

Class D and Below

1 Petersen, George	42	1 Chi, Quentin	77.5
2 Harry, Ken	35.5	2 Bashkansky, Ethan	75.5
3 Witt, Steven	28.5	3 Tokareva, Kate	73
4 Dalthorp, Matt	28	4 Song, Matthew	55.5
5 Reynolds, Marion	21	5 Hu, Jiayi	53
6 Kesey, Caleb	19.5	6 Yu, Justin	51.5

1 Raptis, Nick	149	1 Buck, Stephen	149.5
2 Becker, Brett	119.5	2 Bartron, Paul	131
3 Roua, Radu	100.5	3 Wang, Michael	116.5
4 Encke, Michael	85.5	4 Harrison, Drayton	113
5 Dietz, Arliss	79.5	5 Walton, John	109.5
6 Gay, Daniel	69.5	6 O'Gorman, Peter	106.5
7 Hannibal, Carson	64	7 Piper, August	104
8 Hannibal, Dana	62	8 Kelley, Dereque	101.5
9 Lehman, Jeff	57	9 Watts, Peter	100
10 Heywood, Bill	56.5	10 Monahan, Darby	95
10 Pyle, Galen	56.5	11 May, Andy	93.5
12 Bannon, David	56	12 MacGregor, Logan	90.5
13 Morris, Michael	55	13 Guo, Anthony	89
14 Ball, Larry	53	14 Goodfellow, Robert	87.5
15 Terrill, Michael	49.5	15 Pupols, Viktors	81

Players from Other States

name	state	rating	pts.
1 Milner, Arie	CAN	1927	61
2 Havrilla, Mark	ID	1898	53.5
2 Weyland, Ronald	ID	1437	47
4 Donaldson, W. John	CA	2459	37.5
5 McLaughlin, Edward	MT	1769	36
6 McLaren, Sean	CAN	2060	34
7 Cadman, Charles	CAN	2265	32.5
7 Hilling, Lloyd	AK	1663	32.5
7 Lee, Jonah	CAN	1051	32.5
10 Poitras, Luc	CAN	2267	30
10 Leslie, Cameron	ID	1553	30
12 Weyland, Phillip	ID	1870	28.5
13 Havrilla, Nick	CA	1492	28
14 Skulsky, Ian	CAN	2139	27.5
15 Chan, James	CAN	1976	25
15 Monkhouse, Neale	CAN	1761	25

Players in Database 2008

class	Oregon	Washington	Other	totals
Master	4	13	4	21
Expert	7	21	7	35
Class A	22	51	12	85
Class B	26	57	16	99
Class C	34	57	19	110
Class D-below	46	100	8	154
totals	139	299	66	504

Seattle Chess Club Tournaments

Address ↙
17517 15 Ave NE ↙
Seattle WA 98155

Infoline ↗
206-417-5405 ↗
www.seattlechess.org
cfkleist@cs.com

Address for Entries
SCC Tnmt Dir
2420 S 137 St
Seattle WA 98168

♣ Dec. 13, Jan. 10 **Saturday Quads** ♣
Format: 3-RR, 4-plyr sections by rating. **TC:** G/120. **EF:** \$7 (+\$5 fee for non-SCC). **Prizes:** Free entry for future quad. **Reg:** 9:00-9:45 a.m. **Rds:** 10:00-2:15-ASAP. **Misc:** USCF, WCF/OCF memb. req'd, OSA. NS, NC.

♣ Dec. 14, Jan. 4 **Sunday Tornado** ♣
Format: 4-SS. **TC:** G/64. **EF:** \$17 (+\$5 fee for non-SCC). **Prizes:** 1st 35%, 2nd 27%, Bottom Half 1st 22%, 2nd 16% (\$10 from each EF goes to prize fund). **Reg:** 10:30-11:15 a.m. **Rds:** 11:30-1:50-4:10-6:30. **Misc:** USCF, WCF/OCF memb. req'd, OSA. NS, NC.

January 31 **SCC Novice**
Format: 4-SS. Open to U1200 and unrated. **TC:** G/75. **EF:** \$11 by 1/28, \$16 at site. (\$2 disc. for SCC mem., \$1 for mem. of other dues-req'd CCs in WA, OR, & BC). **Prizes:** Memberships (SCC, WCF, USCF). **Reg:** 9-9:45a.m. **Rds:** 10-12:45-3:30-6. **Byes:** 1 (Rd 3 or 4—commit at reg.). **Misc:** USCF memb. req'd. NS, NC.

2009 Weekends

Novice: Jan. 31, May 2, Aug. 16, Nov. 15

Quads: Jan. 10, Feb. 21, Mar. 14, Apr. 25, May 16, June 13, July 18, Aug. 15, Sept. 12, Oct. 10, Nov. 14, Dec. 12

Tornados: Jan. 4, Feb. 1, Mar. 1, Apr. 5, May 3, May 31, July 5, Aug. 2, Aug. 30, Oct. 4, Nov. 1, Dec. 6

Seattle City Champ.—January 16-18.

Seattle Spring Open—March 27-29.

Plus Score Swiss—May 9-10.

Emerald City Open—June 19-21.

Seafair Open—July 24-26.

Seattle Fall Open—Sept. 25-27.

Extravaganza—November 6-8.

♣ January 16-18 **Seattle City Championship** ♣
Format: 2 sec., 5 rd. Swiss. **TC:** 40/2, SD/1 (exc. Rd.1 of 2-day option – G/64). **EF:** **Championship** \$42 (\$33 for SCC mem., \$38 for mem.s of other NW dues-req'd CCs) by 1/14, \$50 (\$39, \$44) at site; GMs, IMs, WGMs free. **Reserve (U1800)** \$33 (\$24 for SCC mem., \$29 for mem. of other NW dues-req'd CCs) by 1/14, \$42 (\$33, \$38) at site. **Unrateds** free w/purch. 1-yr USCF & WCF. **Add** \$1 for 2-day schedule (Rd 1 – Sat. 10 a.m., G/64).. **Prize Fund:** \$1000 (b/50, 5/prz gp). **Prizes:** **Championship** \$225-140, X 90, A 70; **Reserve (U1800)** \$125-80, C 60, D 50, E & under 40, Unr. 20. **Reg:** Fri. 7-7:45 p.m. or Sat. 9-9:45 a.m. **Rds:** Fri. 8, Sat. (10 @ G/64)-12:30-6:30, Sun. 11-5. **Byes:** 2 available. Rounds 4 or 5 must commit at registration. **Misc:** USCF, WCF/OCF memb. req'd, OSA. NS, NC.

SCC Fridays

The typical Friday fare is one round of an ongoing tournament (free to SCC members, no prizes) played at a rate of 40/90 followed by 30/60. The exception are the G/15 Championship, the Firecracker Quads (G/25), the Workingman's Quads (G/25), and the SCC Championship (35/100, 25/60). In addition, the two Championships offer prizes and have entry fees.

Friday Schedule 2008-2009

Bagley Memorial:	Dec. 5, 12, 19.
Patzers' Challenge 2:	Dec. 26.
January Thaw:	Jan. 2, 9, 16, 23.
SCC G/15 Championship:	Jan. 30.
Cabin Fever:	Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27.
March Winds:	Mar. 6, 13, 20, 27.
April Showers:	Apr. 3, 10, 17, 24.
Close Ratings:	May 1, 8, 15.

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Future Events

♣ indicates a NW Grand Prix event ♣

♣ Dec 27

PCC Game-in-60♣

Site: Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave, Portland OR 97219. **Format:** 4-SS **TC:** G/60. May switch to 5-SS and G/45 if entries > 25. **EF:** \$20, \$5 disc for PCC memb. No adv ent. **Prizes:** \$\$200 b/20. \$60-40-30, U1800 35, U1500 35. **Reg:** 9-9:30 am. **Byes:** 1 HPB if req at reg. **Misc:** USCF & OCF/WCF memb req, OSA. **Info:** portlandchessclub@gmail.com, 503-246-2978, www.pdxchess.org.

♣ Dec 6

Washington Quick Chess Championship♣

Site: Seattle Chess Club, 17517 15th Ave N.E., Seattle WA 98115. **Format:** 5-SS in 2 sect, Open & Scholastic. **TC:** G/30. **Reg:** 9:00-9:45 AM. **Rds:** 10:00, 11:30, 1:00, 2:30, 4:00 or ASAP **EF:** (Adults) \$25.00, (Jrs) \$15.00. **Prizes:** (Open) (B/20) 1st \$70.00, 2nd \$65.00, 1st U2000, U1700 & U1500 \$50.00 each. (Scholastic) Trophies for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th. **Byes:** 2 HPB OK. **Ent/Info:** Gary Dorfner, 8423 E 'B' St, Tacoma WA 98445, 253-535-2536, ggarychess@aol.com. Checks payable to Gary J. Dorfner.

♣ December 13-14

Portland Winter Open♣

Site: Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th, Portland, OR 97219 **Format:** 5-SS, 2 sections: Open & Reserve (U1800) **TC:** 40/90 SD/30 Rds 1-3, 40/2 SD/1 Rds 4-5. **EF:** \$30 if received by 12/10, \$35 at site. \$10 discount for PCC Members **Prizes:** (\$650 b/40). Open \$325: 1st \$150, 2nd \$100, U2000 \$75 Reserve \$325: 1st \$100, 2nd \$75, U1600 \$50, U1400 \$50, U1200/UNR \$50 **Reg:** 9-9:30AM 12/13, **Rds:** Sat 10-2-ASAP, Sun: 10-ASAP. **Byes:** 2 HPB if req at reg **Misc:** OCF/WCF and USCF memb req'd, OSA **Adv Ent:** Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave, Portland OR 97219 **Info:** portlandchessclub@gmail.com, 503-246-2978, www.pdxchess.com

♣ December 20-21

Washington Challenger's Cup♣

Site: Tacoma Chess Club, 409 Puyallup Ave E., Room 11, 2nd floor, DTI Soccer Store Bldg, Across the street from Alfred's Cafe & 2 blocks down the hill from the Tacoma Dome. **Format:** 2 Sections, Open 4-Rd Swiss & Reserve (U1800) 5-Rd Swiss. **TC:** (Open) 40/2, SD/30. (Reserve) G/120. **Reg.:** 9:00-9:45 AM. **Rds:** (Open) Sat. 10:00 & 4:00, Sun. 10:00, 4:00 or ASAP; (Reserve): Sat. 10:00, 2:30, 7:00, Sun. 10:00, 3:00 or ASAP. **EF:** (Adults) \$30.00 Adv, \$35.00 at site; Jr's \$20.00 adv, \$25.00 at site. **Prizes:** \$615 Guaranteed (Open) 1st \$110.00, 2nd \$100.00, 1st U2000 \$75.00. Highest finishing qualified WA resident seeded into 2009 WA Invitational Championship. Ties broken by playoff. (Reserve) 1st \$100.00, 2nd \$90.00, 1st U1600 & U1400 \$70.00. **Byes:** (Open) 1 HPB (Reserve) 2 HPB OK. **Misc:** NS, NW, NC, USCF/WCF Memb Req. **Ent/Info:** Gary J. Dorfner, 8423 E "B" St, Tacoma WA 98445, ph. (253) 535-2536, e-mail ggarychess@aol.com. Checks Payable to Gary J. Dorfner.

Northwest Grand Prix Administrator

Murlin Varner
13329 208 Ave NE
Woodinville, WA 98072
MEVjr54@yahoo.com
425-882-0102

Open Events

November 2008

28-30 ♣ WA Class Championships Dan Mathews, dhmathews@hotmail.com, 425-218-7529 Redmond WA

December 2008

2 PCC Tuesday Quads begin portlandchessclub@gmail.com, www.pdxchess.org, 503-246-2978 Portland OR
 5 TCC Christmas Swiss (weekly: 12, 19, 26) ggarychess@aol.com, www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com, 253-535-2536 Tacoma WA
 6 PCC Saturday Quads portlandchessclub@gmail.com, www.pdxchess.org, 503-246-2978 Portland OR
 6 ♣ WA Quick Chess Championship ggarychess@aol.com, 253-535-2536 Seattle WA
 6-7 Clash of the Titans Dave Griffin, dbgrffh@hotmail.com Spokane, WA
 13 ♣ SCC Saturday Quads cfkleist@cs.com, www.seattlechess.org, SCC Infoline 206-417-5405 Seattle WA
 13-14 ♣ Portland Winter Open portlandchessclub@gmail.com, www.pdxchess.org, 503-246-2978 Portland OR
 14 ♣ SCC Sunday Tornado cfkleist@cs.com, www.seattlechess.org, SCC Infoline 206-417-5405 Seattle WA
 20-21 ♣ WA Challengers' Cup ggarychess@aol.com, www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com, 253-535-2536 Tacoma WA
 27 ♣ ♠ PCC Game-in-60 portlandchessclub@gmail.com, www.pdxchess.org, 503-246-2978 Portland OR
 27 Java Fusion Open ggarychess@aol.com, www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com, 253-535-2536 Tacoma WA

NOTE: A '♣' in front of the tournament name indicates a Harmon Memorial Northwest GP event. A ♠ indicates an OSCF qualifying tournament. Boldface type indicates a tournament announcement (in our Future Events Section) or display ad in this issue.

Find more details at
<http://www.nwchess.com>
Try the new NWC Forum, too.
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Scholastic Events

November 2008

28 Thanksgiving Scholastic (@ WA Class) David Hendricks, davidhendricks@comcast.net, 425-868-3881 Redmond WA

December 2008

6 Richland Rook Round Up (K-12) Cathy Kuwamoto, cathy.kuwamoto@rsd.edu Richland WA
 6 Bryant Fall Classic (K-6) www.chess4life.com Seattle, WA
 6 WA-BC Match www.chess4life.com Bellevue, WA
 6 LC Christmas Classic (K-1, 2-3, 4-5, 6-8) R Kaech, http://mysite.verizon.net/kaech Lynden, WA
 12 Seattle Metro MS League JV (5-9) Eckstein MS, seattlemschess@gmail.com Seattle, WA
 13 YMCA Tournament (K-3,4-6) www.playingfortheeking.com Vancouver WA
 13 Sunny Hills Fall (K-12) www.chess4life.com Issaquah, WA
 13 Lakeridge Elementary www.signup4chess.com Mercer Island, WA
 20 Annie Wright Christmas (K-6) www.chess4life.com Tacoma, WA
 20 Chess4Life Beginners' (K-6) www.chess4life.com Bellevue, WA
 20 Chess4Life G/60 (K-12) www.chess4life.com Bellevue, WA
 27 End of Year State Qualifier (K-12) www.chess4life.com Bellevue, WA

January 2009

9 Seattle Metro MS League JV (5-9) Eckstein MS, seattlemschess@gmail.com Seattle, WA
 10 Whatcom County Championships (K-12) R Kaech, http://mysite.verizon.net/kaech Lynden WA
 10 St Mary Magdalene (K-12) www.chess4life.com Everett, WA
 10 Purdy Elementary (K-6) www.chess4life.com Bellevue, WA
 10 3rd Annual Medina G/30 (K, 1-3, 4-6) mgmowat@msn.com Medina, WA
 17 Lower Valley Tournament (K-12) Alan Kawakami, arivertop@embarqmail.com 509-786-1822 Prosser WA
 17 Meridian Park (K, K-3, 4-6, 7-8 Girls K-3, 4-6) http://www.chessplayer.com Shoreline, WA
 19 WA Junior Open and Reserve davidhendricks@comcast.net Bellevue WA
 23 Seattle Metro MS League JV (5-9) Eckstein MS, seattlemschess@gmail.com Seattle, WA
 24 Roosevelt Winter Challenge (K-8) R Kaech, http://mysite.verizon.net/kaech Bellingham WA
 24 Chess Mates Winter Fest (K, 1-2, 3-4, 5-8) http://www.chessplayer.com Seattle, WA
 31 Charles Wright Challenge (K-3, 4-6, 7-12/adult) www.chess4life.com Tacoma WA
 31 Eastside Grade Champs (K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6) John Muir Elem, http://www.chessplayer.com Kirkland, WA