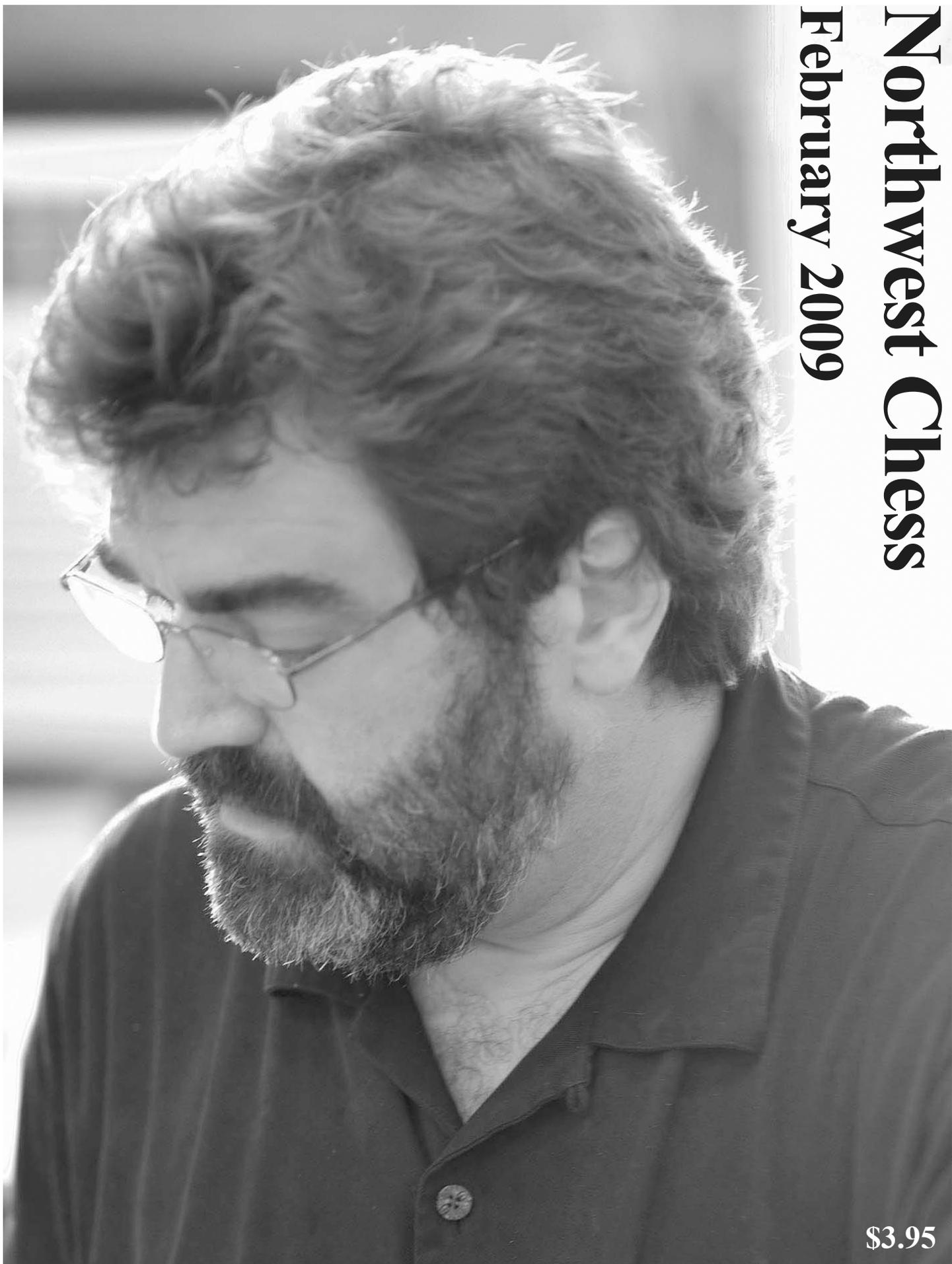


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Challenger's Cup Champion,
photo by Philip Peterson

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From the Editor's Desk

Ralph Dubisch



And we keep gettin' richer....

The sentiment of something William Schill once said has stayed with me, even if the exact words did not.

He was playing someone rated significantly lower than he, and his opponent had made a relatively small positional error. Obviously Schill could simply wait for more egregious blunders and win easily, but instead he spent much of his remaining time working out how to prove his opponent's move to be a mistake. He won impressively, but he had to work much harder than you might expect from the ratings mismatch.

After the game he explained why. It went something like this: "If we're going to represent ourselves as chess masters, we have an obligation to educate our opponents, to demonstrate over the board why their mistakes are bad." I'm pretty sure he even said that more eloquently extemporaneously than I have done here, despite my having plenty of time for reflection and reconstruction. But I think I've captured the essential ideas – chess masters must prove they are worthy to bear the title, and not simply by beating other players with the least possible outlay of effort. Their responsibility extends to giving each opponent respect at the board.

In an e-mail conversation, I complained to William that players don't seem to be interested in bragging about their results anymore. For example, Drayton Harrison, a tireless volunteer who collects and databases games from Washington tournaments, traveled to Las Vegas and dominated his under 1900 section at the North American Open, yielding only a draw in the last round to secure clear first place and gaining about 100 rating points in the process. Congratulations, Drayton! But don't be shy! How about some bragging for the magazine?

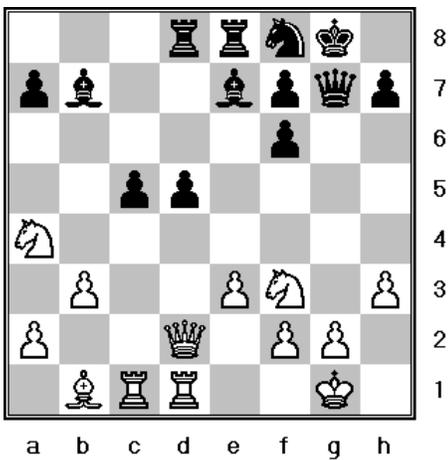
Seattle Sluggers team member FM Michael Lee, in the open section of the same tournament, had a breakthrough event. In addition to defeating two expert-rated players in rounds one and three, he drew with top American junior IM Robert Hess in round two, defeated GM Julio Becerra in round four, drew with GM Melikset Khachiyan in round five, drew with GM Jaan Ehlevest in round six, and was only brought back down to earth in round seven, when he lost to IM Enrico Sevillano. Still, his performance will increase his rating by over 40 points, which is pretty impressive from a single tournament when you start at 2330. Got some time to write this up, Michael?

Schill's response was that he would be happy to brag about his results in 2008. He had entered six tournaments and finished no worse than equal first in any of them, losing not a single game, though his rating at the end is more or less the same as it was at the beginning. Still, a year without loss, that's worth some bragging. It sounds a bit like "small ball" in baseball. Nothing super-dramatic, no grand-slam home-run shots, but getting the job done inning after inning, day after day.

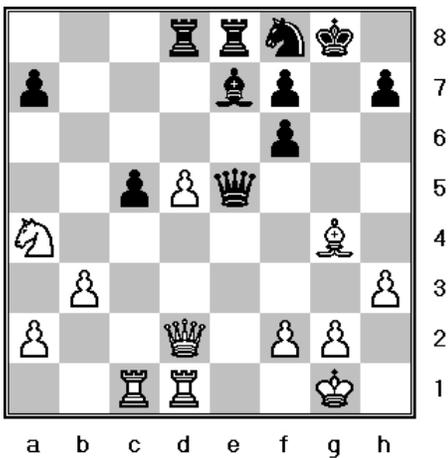
In fact, if you'll forgive yet another trip down memory lane, it's a little bit like a cartoon published in *Northwest Chess* maybe 30 years ago; a satire of some of Washington's top players. This one featured our hero, Will Skill, returning from a session of blitz chess at a cafe/games hangout in Seattle's University District. He announces happily to his friends, "I just won \$900.25 playing speed chess at the Last Exit!" When asked, "Which game did you play for a quarter," his reply is, of course, "All of them!"

When I received Schill's article in my inbox, spread out over maybe a dozen or so separate e-mails, I was tempted to rename the magazine this month, "*Will Skill Rules the World.*" It's not so much the story of a tournament victory, or even of the undefeated year, as it is a conversation about chess, with chess games as the language of choice. Despite once living in Squidville (a house near the University of Washington), William Schill has always been a class act, definitely worthy to represent himself as a chess master.

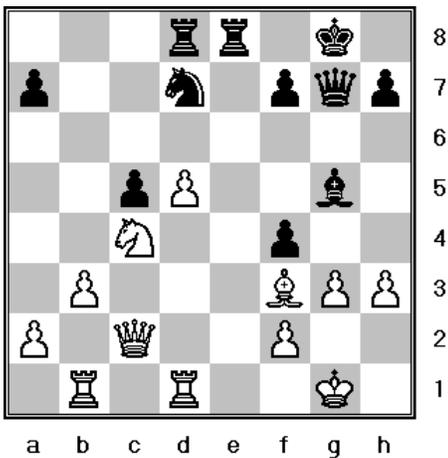
*But we can't get our picture....
On the cover of the Rollin' Stone....*



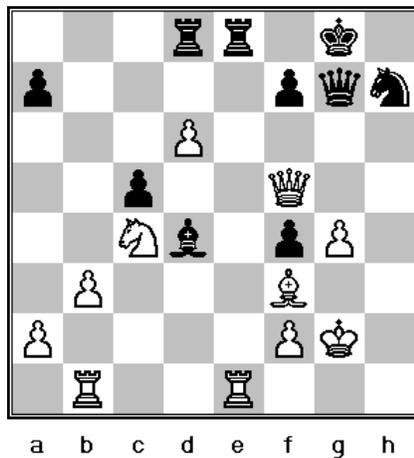
20. Nh4 Bc8 21. Nf5 Bxf5 22. Bxf5 Qg5
23. e4 Qh5 24. Bg4 Qe5 25. exd5



25. ...f5 26. Bf3 Bd6 27. g3 Nd7 28. Nb2
Qg7 29. Nc4 Be7 30. Qc2 Bg5 31. Rb1 f4



32. g4 Bf6 33. Re1 Bd4 34. Kg2 h5 35.
Qf5 Nf6 36. d6 hxg4 37. hxg4 Nh7



38. Rxe8+ Rxe8 39. d7 Rd8 40. Re1
1-0

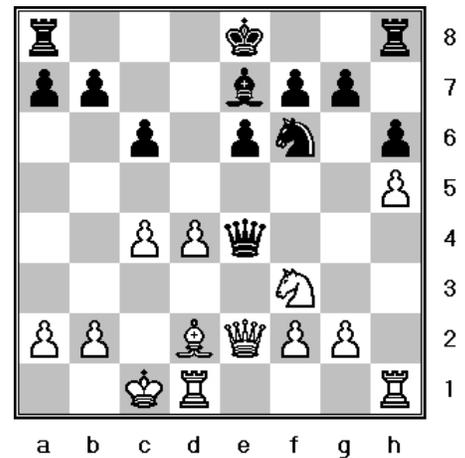
Back in the seventies we youngsters
(whippersnappers, as some would say) had
to contend with Latvians and other assorted
Baltic masters...

William Schill – Viktors Pupols
Washington State Championship
Seattle, Washington, 1974? (1975?)

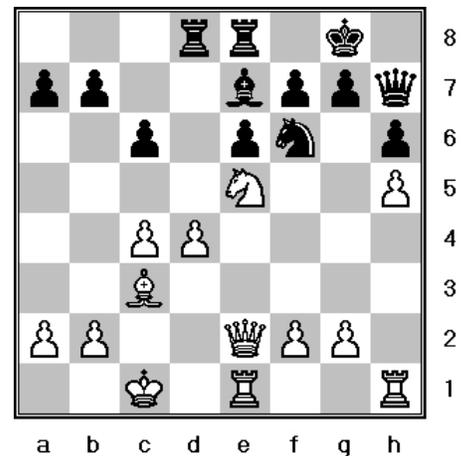
1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. Nd2 dxe4 4. Nxe4
Bf5 5. Ng3 Bg6 6. Nf3 Nd7 7. h4 h6 8. h5
Bh7 9. Bd3 Bxd3 10. Qxd3 e6 11. Bd2 Ngf6



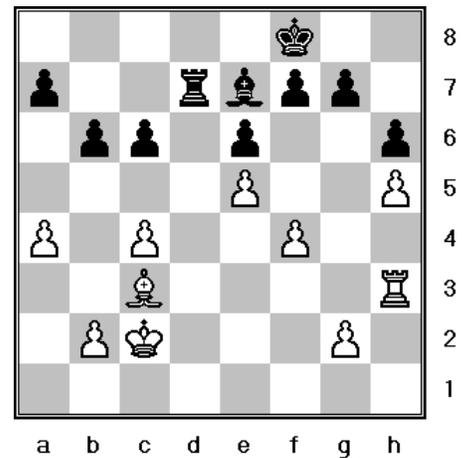
12. 0-0-0 Be7 13. Ne4 Nxe4 14. Qxe4
Nf6 15. Qe2 Qd5 16. c4 Qe4



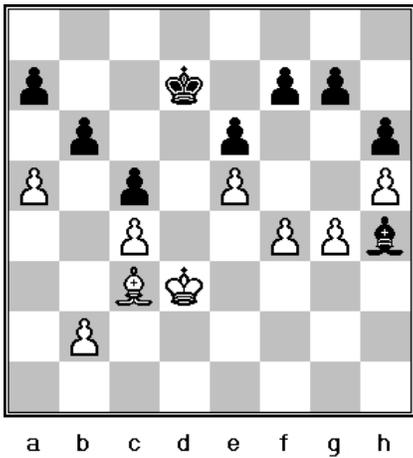
17. Qf1 0-0 18. Re1 Qh7 19. Qe2 Rfe8
20. Ne5 Rad8 21. Bc3



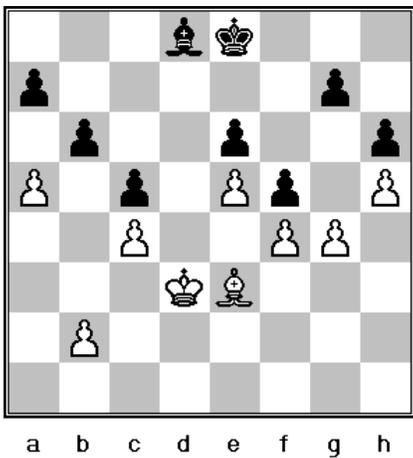
21. ...Nd7 22. f4 Nxe5 23. dxe5 Qd3
24. Rh3 Qxe2 25. Rxe2 Rd7 26. Rd2 Red8
27. Rxd7 Rxd7 28. a4 b6 29. Kc2 Kf8



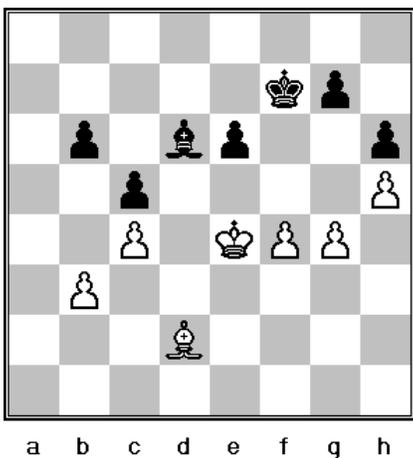
30. Rd3 Ke8 31. g4 Bh4 32. Rxd7 Kxd7
33. Kd3 c5 34. a5



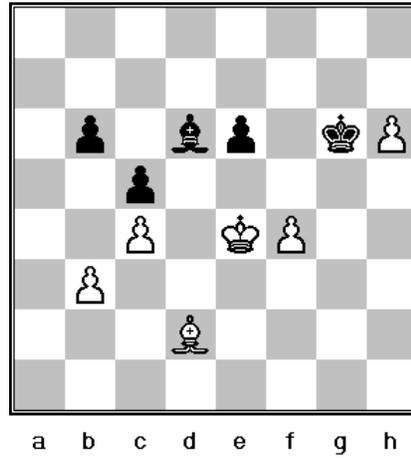
34. ...Ke8 35. Bd2 Bd8 36. Be3 f5



37. exf6 Bxf6 38. b3 Be7 39. axb6 axb6
40. Ke4 Bd6 41. Bd2 Kf7



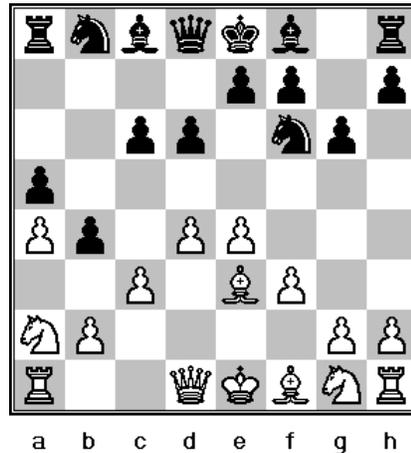
42. g5 g6 43. hxg6+ Kxg6 44. gxh6



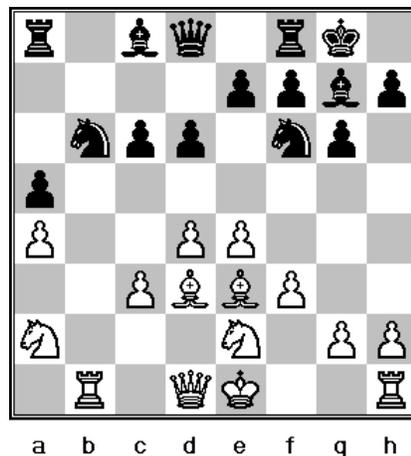
44. ...Bf8 45. Ke5 Kf7 46. f5 1-0

William Schill – Viktors Pupols
Seattle, Washington, 1979

1. e4 d6 2. d4 g6 3. Nc3 c6 4. Be3 b5 5.
a4 b4 6. Na2 a5 7. c3 Nf6 8. f3

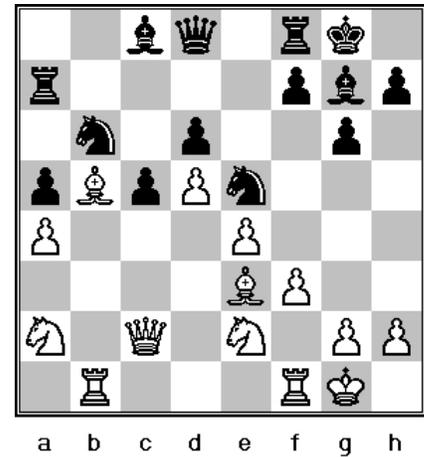


8. ...bxc3 9. bxc3 Bg7 10. Bd3 0-0 11.
Ne2 Nbd7 12. Rb1 Nb6

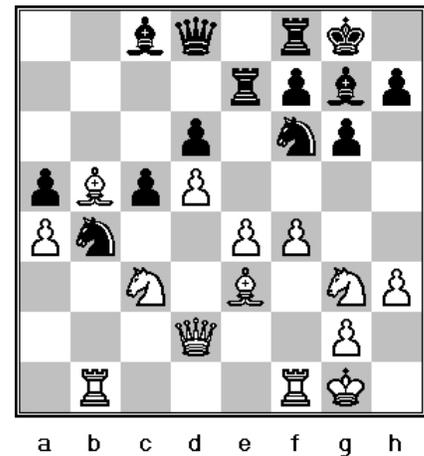


13. d5 c5 14. Bb5 e6 15. c4 exd5 16.

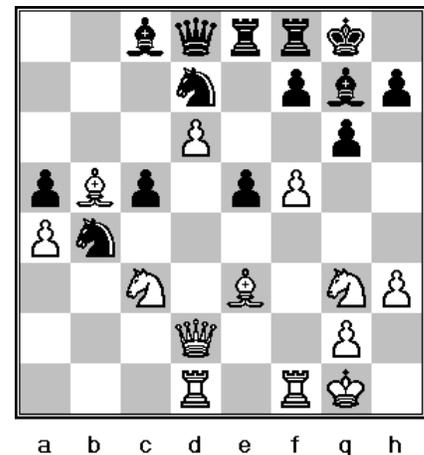
exd5 Nfd7 17. 0-0 Ne5 18. Qc2 Ra7



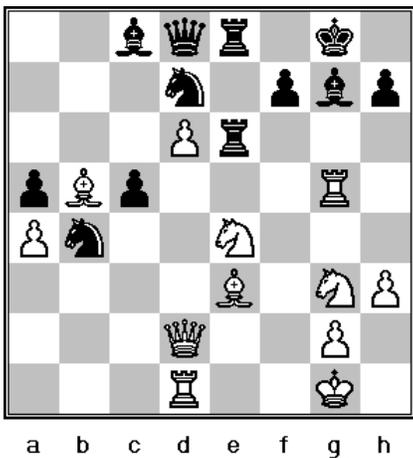
19. Bd2 Na8 20. Nac3 Nc7 21. f4 Ng4
22. h3 Nf6 23. Be3 Na6 24. Qd2 Re7 25.
Ng3 Nb4



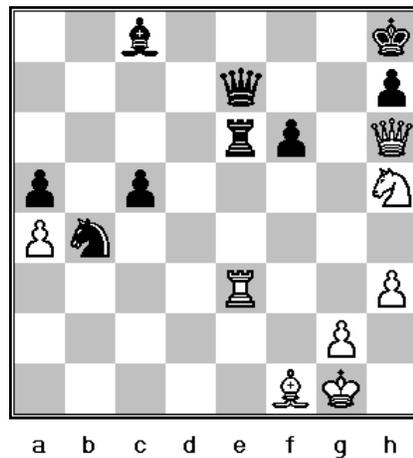
26. Rbd1 Nd7 27. e5 dxe5 28. d6 Ree8
29. f5



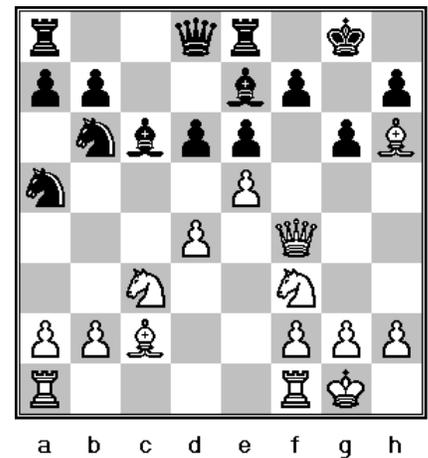
29. ...e4 30. Nxe4 gxf5 31. Rxf5 Re6
32. Rg5 Rfe8



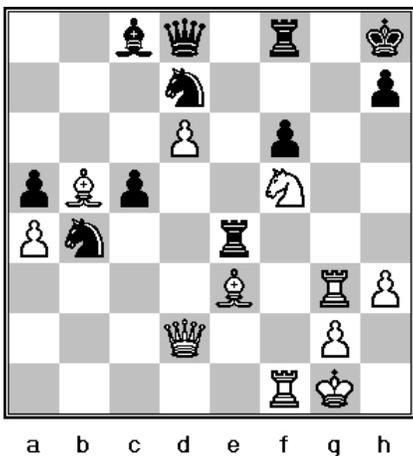
33. Nf5 Rxe4 34. Rxc7+ Kh8 35. Rg3 f6 36. Rf1 Rf8



46. Nf4 Rxe3
46. ...Qf7 47. Bc4



16. Ng5 f6 17. Nxe6 Qd7 18. Qg3



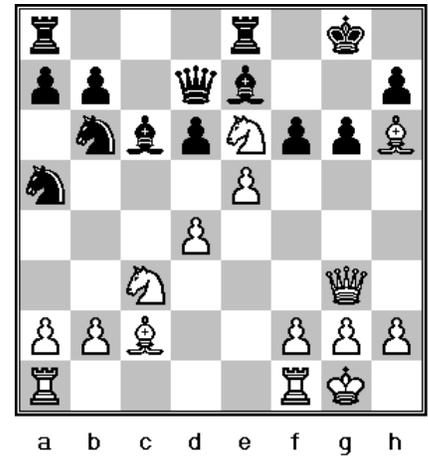
37. Bh6 Rf7 38. Bg7+ Rxc7 39. Nxc7 Ne5 40. Rff3 Rd4 41. Qh6

47. Ng6+ Kg8 48. Bc4+ Be6 49. Nxe7+ Kf7 50. Qxe3 Bxc4 51. Qxc5 1-0

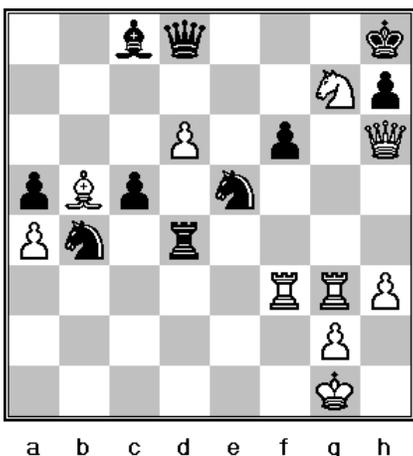
... but the local Russians were new to me. My amazing 2.c3! bamboozled Slava Mikhailuk and I was hooked. Over the next nine years I had many quick wins...

William Schill – Allen Smith
Seattle Chess Club Tornado
November 2008

1. e4 c5 2. c3 Nf6 3. e5 Nd5 4. Nf3 Ne6
5. Bc4 e6 6. 0-0 Be7 7. d4 cxd4 8. cxd4 Nb6 9. Bb3 0-0 10. Nc3 d6



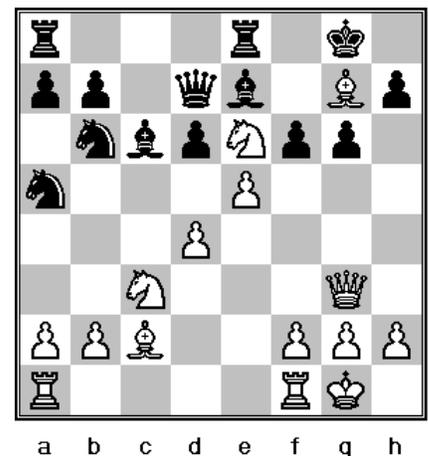
18. ...Kh8 (18. ...Qxe6 19. Bxc6) 19. Bg7+ Kg8



41. ...Nxf3+ 42. Rxf3 Rd1+ 43. Bf1 Rxd6 44. Nh5 Qe7 45. Re3 Re6



11. Qe2 Bd7 12. Qe4 Na5 13. Bc2 g6
14. Bh6 Bc6 15. Qf4 Re8



20. Bxc6 Qxe6 21. Bxe8 Rxe8 22. Bxf6+ Kf7 23. Qg7# 1-0

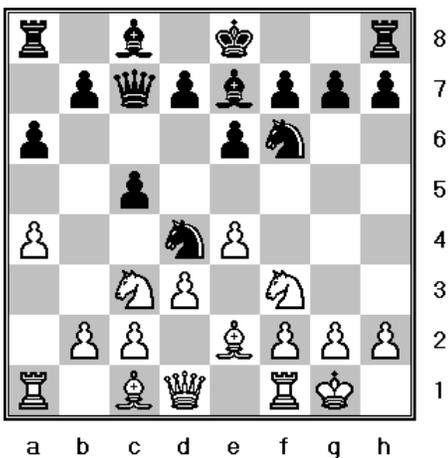
... too many draws with lower-rated players, and the occasional near miss as when I almost beat GM Browne in the

National Open, but did still draw the game. Finally everyone was all prepared and it became clear to me that I had to make another attempt at the open Sicilian, only a quarter of a century later.

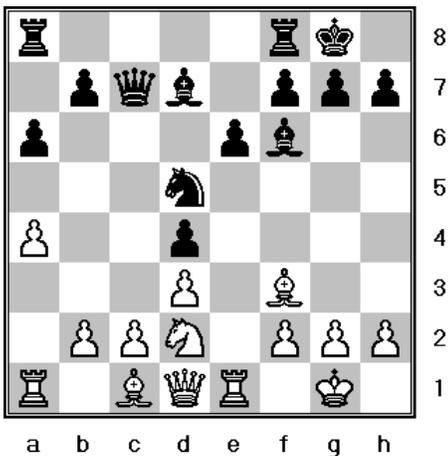
Sometimes the near misses were with black in the Sicilian.

Vladislav Nevednichy – William Schill
GM Event, Round 6
Paks, Hungary, 2004

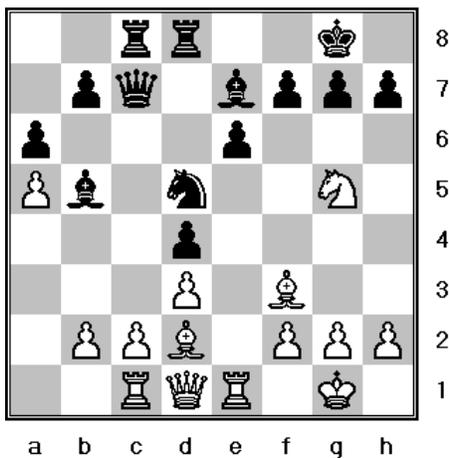
1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 Nf6 4. Nc3 Qc7 5. 0-0 Nd4 6. a4 a6 7. Be2 e6 8. d3 Be7



9. Nxd4 cxd4 10. Nb1 0-0 11. Bf3 d5 12. exd5 Nxd5 13. Re1 Bf6 14. Nd2 Bd7



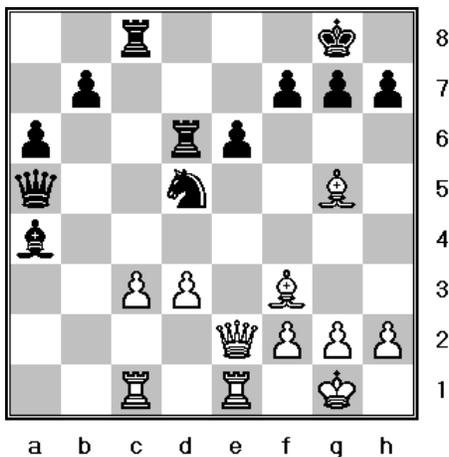
15. a5 Bb5 16. Ne4 Be7 17. Ng5 Rfd8 18. Bd2 Rac8 19. Rc1



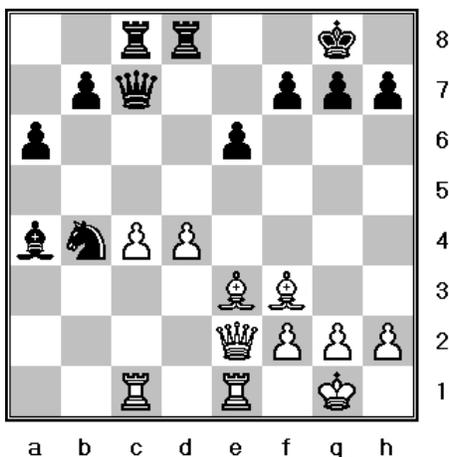
19. ...Ba4

I should have driven off the invader first: 19. ...h6 20. Ne4 Ba4. Now the GM threatens to sacrifice on e6 and I get a little tied up.

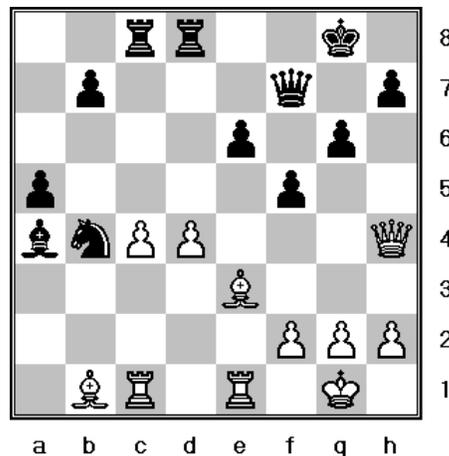
20. Qe2 Rd6 21. c4 dxc3 22. bxc3 Bxg5 23. Bxg5 Qxa5



24. c4 Nb4 25. Bd2 Qc5 26. Be3 (26. d4 Rxd4 27. Be3 Nd3!) 26. ...Qc7 27. d4 Rdd8



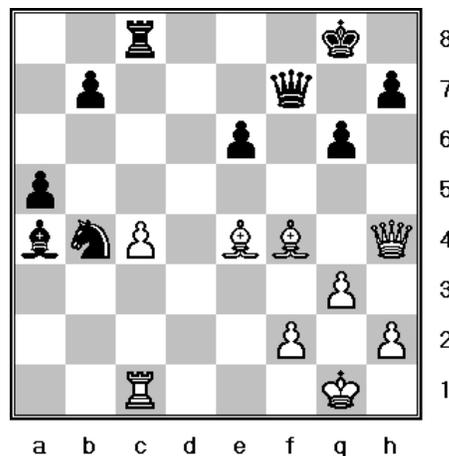
28. Be4 a5 29. Qh5 f5 30. Bb1 Qf7 31. Qh3 g6 32. Qh4



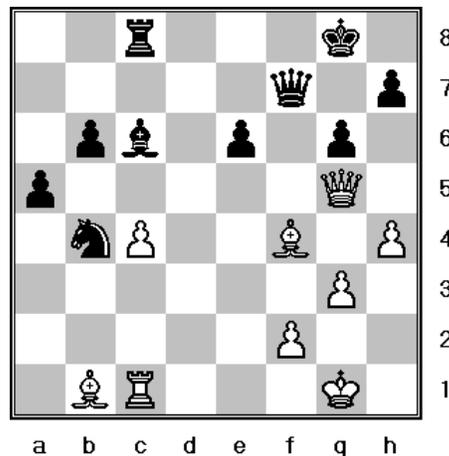
32. ...f4!

This had to be seen from a long way off.

33. Bxf4 Rxd4 34. g3 Rc5 35. Re4 Rxe4 36. Bxe4 Rc8



37. Qg5 Bc6 38. Bb1 b6 39. h4



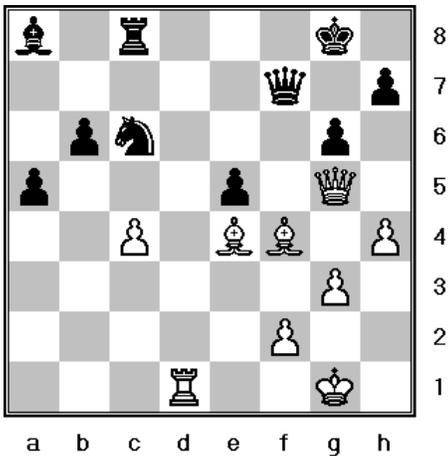
39. ...Ba8!

This too!

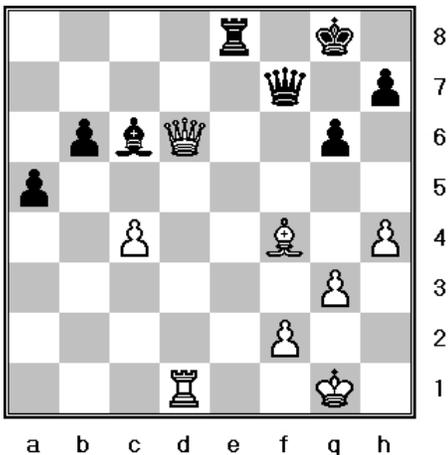
40. Re1

Otherwise ...Qb7 will hurt.

40. ...Nc6 41. Rd1 e5 42. Be4



42. ...Nd4 43. Qxe5 Nf3+ 44. Bxf3 Bxf3 45. Re1 Bc6 46. Qd6 Re8 47. Rd1

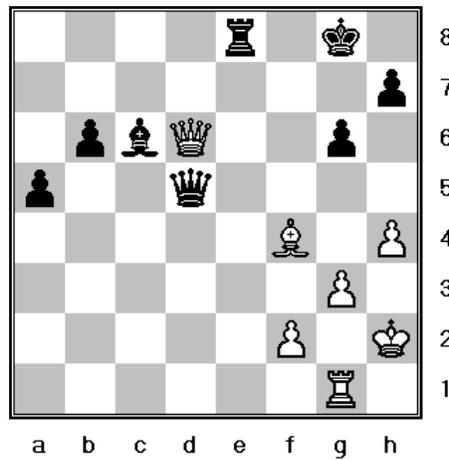


47. ...Qxc4! 48. Kh2

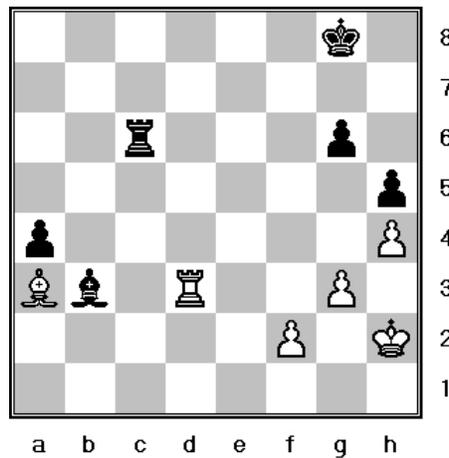
48. Rc1 Qxc1+ 49. Bxc1 Re1+ 50. Kh2 Rh1#

48. ...Qe4 49. Rg1 Qd5?

49. ...Rf8!



50. Qxd5+ Bxd5 51. Bc7 Re2 52. Bxb6 a4 53. Rd1 Bb3 54. Rd3 Re6 55. Bc5 Rc6 56. Ba3 h5

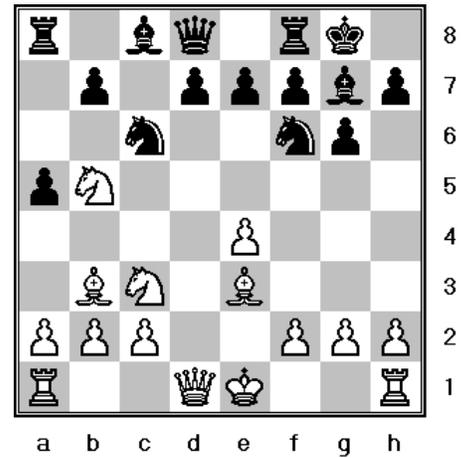


57. Kg2 Kf7 58. Kf3 Bc2 59. Re3 Rb6 60. Kf4 Rb7 61. Kg5 Kg7 62. Rc3 ½-½

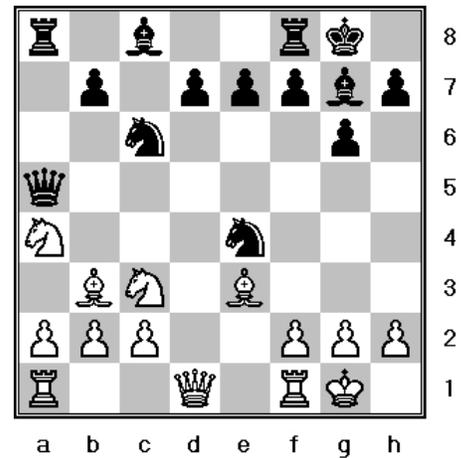
Not losing a game in 2008 included a very lucky escape (again) when I messed up the white side of a dragon against Peter O'Gorman. Peter and I have played more times than I can count and I should mention that he did draw our next game a few weeks later. I include this game without notes just to show what I mean about misplaying the white side!

William Schill – Peter O'Gorman
Seattle Seafair, Round 2
Washington, 2008

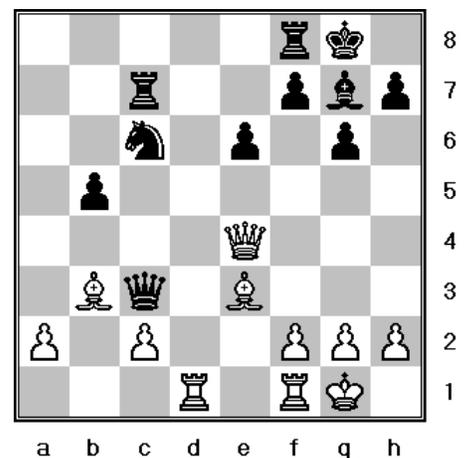
1. e4 c5 2. Nc3 Nc6 3. Nge2 g6 4. d4 cxd4 5. Nxd4 Bg7 6. Be3 Nf6 7. Bc4 0-0 8. Bb3 a5 9. Ndb5



9. 0-0 a4 10. Nxa4 Nxe4
9. ...a4 10. Nxa4 Qa5+ 11. Nbc3 Nxe4
12. 0-0

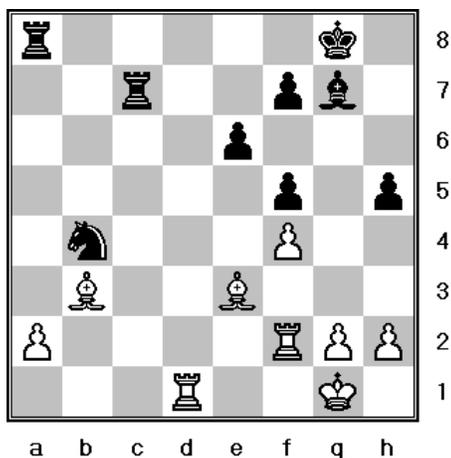


12. ...b5 (12. ...Nxc3) 13. Nb6 Nxc3 14. bxc3 Rb8 15. Nxc8 Rbxc8 16. Qxd7 Rc7 17. Qd5 e6 18. Qe4 Qxc3 19. Rad1

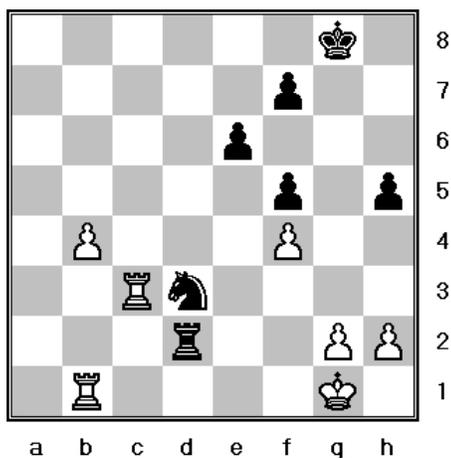


19. ...Qe5 (19. ...Na5) 20. Qf3 Qf5 21. Qxf5 gxf5 22. c4 bxc4 23. Bxc4 Nb4 24.

Bb3 h5 25. f4 Ra8 26. Rf2



26. ...Rc3 (26. ...h4) 27. Bd2 Rxb3 28. axb3 Nd3 29. Rf3 Nb2 30. Rb1 Rd8 31. Bc3 Bxc3 32. Rxc3 Rd2 33. b4 Nd3

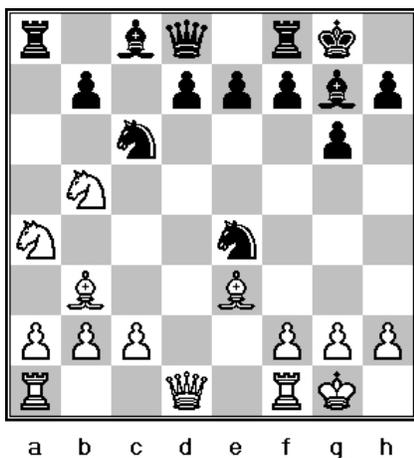


34. b5 Nxf4 35. Rf3 Rxf2+ 36. Kh1 Rg4 37. b6 1-0

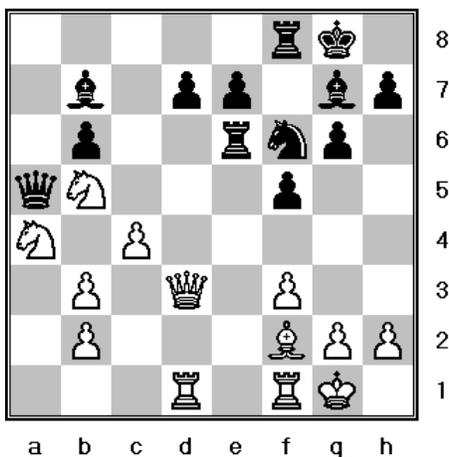
Here is how it is supposed to go:

Y. Zhrebukh – Vasilij Stets
Geller Memorial, Round 2
Odessa, 2008

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 g6 5. Nc3 Bg7 6. Be3 Nf6 7. Bc4 0-0 8. Bb3 a5 9. 0-0 a4 10. Nxa4 Nxe4 11. Nb5



11. ...Ra6 12. c4 Na5 13. Qe2 Nxb3 14. axb3 f5 15. Rad1 Re6 16. Qd3 Qa5 17. f3 Nf6 18. Bc5 b6 19. Bf2 Bb7

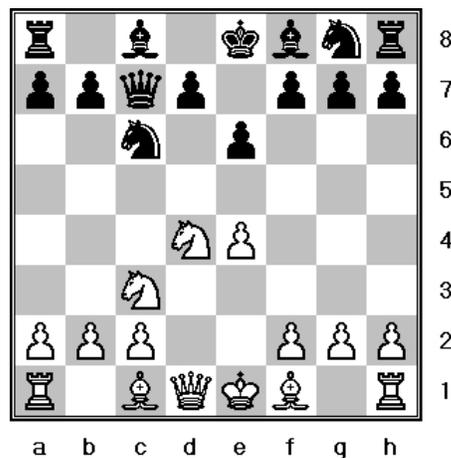


20. Be1 Rxe1 21. Rfxe1 e6 22. Qe3 Bc6 23. Qxb6 Qa8 24. Nc7 Qc8 25. Nc3 Ne8 26. Na6 Qa8 27. Nb4 Bxf3 28. gxf3 Qxf3 29. Qe3 Qb7 30. Nb5 f4 31. Qe4 Qb6+ 32. Kh1 f3 33. Qe3 Qa5 34. Nd3 Qa8 35. Nf2 Nf6 36. Kg1 Nh5 37. Rxd7 Nf4 38. Qa7 Ne2+ 39. Kf1 1-0

Now for the game that all this digression is leading up to. I actually get the opening right and it seems even improve on some Grandmaster analysis.

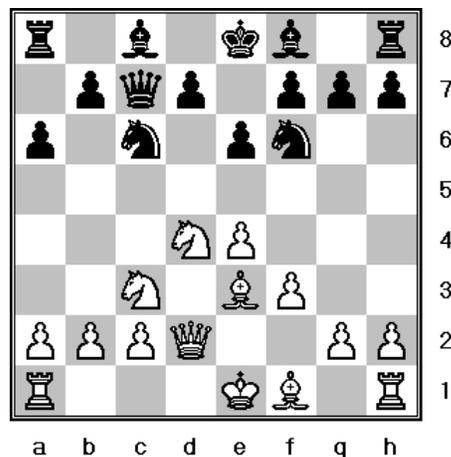
William Schill – Joshua Sinanan
Seattle Seafair, Round 4
Washington, 2008

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nc6 5. Nc3 Qc7



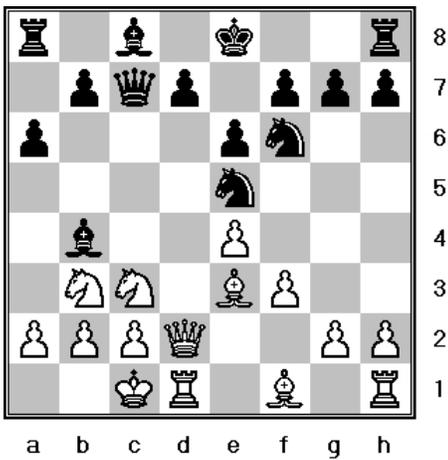
The Taimanov Sicilian. Despite that fact that I win this game, I like the looks of this line for Black. The game stays very complex and White must be well prepared and even then does not get a crashing attack.

6. Be3 a6 7. Qd2 Nf6 8. f3



Only with time spent preparing was I willing to play an English Attack; it had seemed to me in the past that the white king was always in danger after the coming 0-0-0.

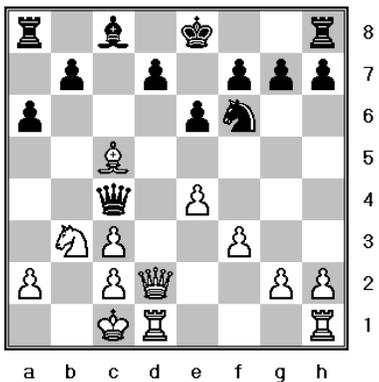
8. ...Bb4 9. 0-0-0 Ne5 10. Nb3!



It took some real convincing for me to see that ...Bxc3 is just never a threat while the bishop on e3 and the knight on b3 are controlling the dark squares.

10. ...b5

10. ...Bxc3 11. bxc3 Nc4 (11. ...d5 12. Bf4 0-0 13. Bg3! The white queen will head to the kingside and black has big problems.) 12. Bxc4 Qxc4 13. Bc5



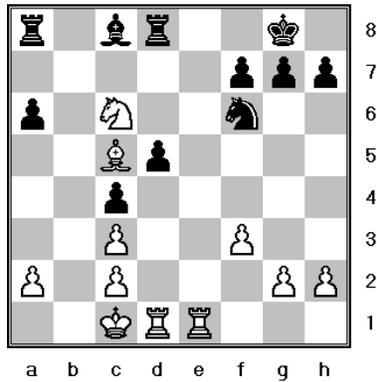
13. ...b6 14. Bxb6 0-0 15. Qd4±

11. Qd4

11. Qe1 appears to be more popular in GM contests now!

11. ...Nc6

11. ...Bxc3?! 12. Qxc3 Qxc3 13. bxc3 Nc4 14. Bxc4 bxc4 15. Na5 d5 16. exd5 exd5 17. Rhe1 0-0 18. Bc5 Rd8 19. Nc6



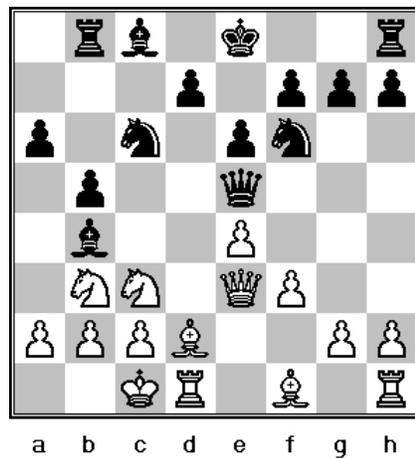
19. ...Rd7 20. Ne7+ Kh8 21. Nxd5 a sample line; white is winning.

12. Qb6

The queens dancing around on the dark squares is actually all still theory!

12. ...Qe5 13. Bd2 Rb8 14. Qe3

So here I had reached the far end of my memory of this line. I even managed to recall Khalifman's comment, "White has rearranged his bishop and queen in an original manner." I was wondering just what the point was other than not having to worry about ...Bxc3 any longer. But after black's next move I spent a long while in calculating variations.



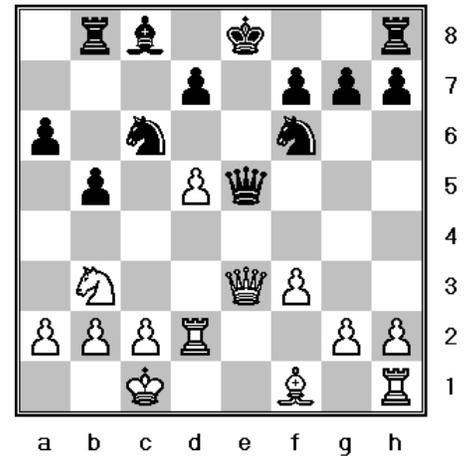
14. ...Qc7

Neither of the players recalled any more "theory," but to our mutual surprise when we looked all this up in the coffeshop afterwards, the game is given by Khalifman all the way to move 21! He considers 15. Nd5 to be just equal and recommends the following line instead: 15. f4 d6 16. Bd3.

However, 14. ...0-0 15. f4 Qc7 16. Bd3 looks like the right way for Black; White has only a small advantage and the game is

wonderfully complicated.

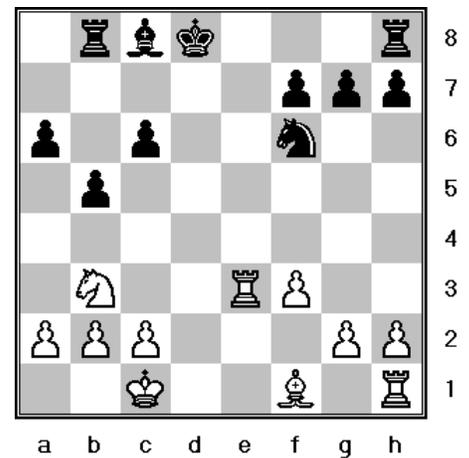
15. Nd5 Bxd2+ 16. Rxd2 exd5 17. exd5+ Qe5



Here 18. Qf2 is possible too. I will post this game on Northwest Chess Foundation Forum, and I would be very interested in what everyone's computers have to say about this middle game.

18. Re2 Qxe3+ 19. Rxe3+ Kd8 20. dxc6 dxc6

Is this a big improvement coming?

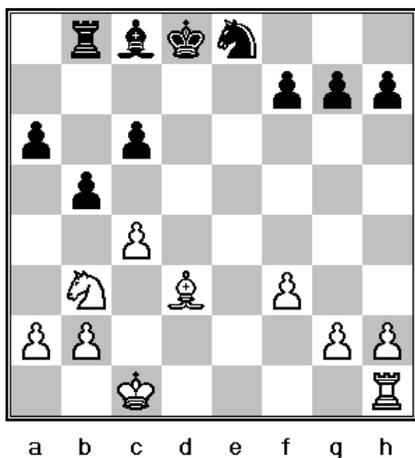


21. c4!

21. Bd3, and White has only a minimal edge, according to Khalifman

21. ...Re8 22. Rxe8+ Nxe8 23. Bd3

It seems to me that the pawn on c4 improves white's position quite a bit. A difficult defense is ahead for Black, but Josh was worn out and faltered.

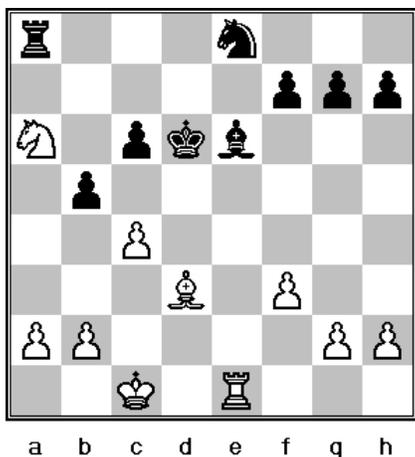


23. ...Kc7?

23. ...Nf6 24. Re1 Be6 25. Nd4 Kd7 26. Nxe6 fxe6 A good position for the bishop vs. knight ending.

24. Re1 Be6 25. Nc5 Kd6 26. Nxa6 Ra8

26. ...Rc8 27. c5+ Kd7 28. Nb4

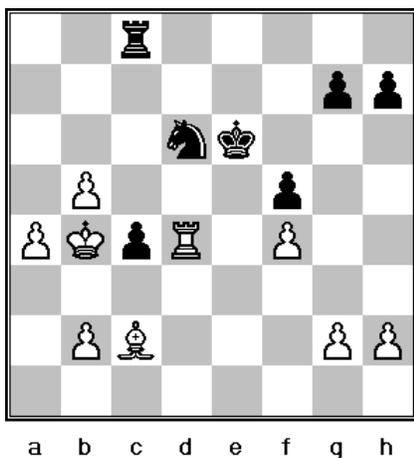


27. cxb5 c5?

27. ...cxb5 28. Bxb5 Nf6 29. a3 Rc8+ 30. Kd2 Bb3 31. Nb4 This move just stops all of Black's tricks in most lines.

28. Be4 Ra7 29. Rd1+ Ke7 30. a4 c4 31. Bc2 Nd6 32. Nb4 Ra8 33. Nd5+ Bxd5 34. Rxd5 Rc8 35. Kd2 Ke6 36. Rd4 Ke5 37. Kc3 f5 38. f4+ Ke6 39. Kb4

Black can only watch as White plays Bc2-b1-a2xc4.

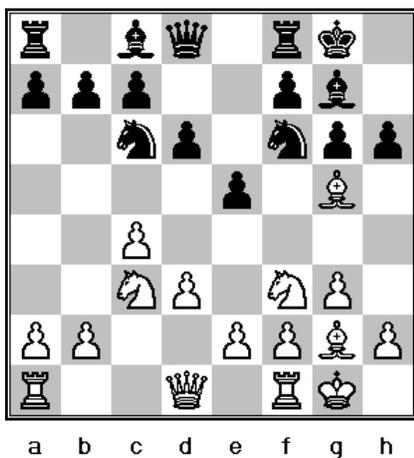


1-0

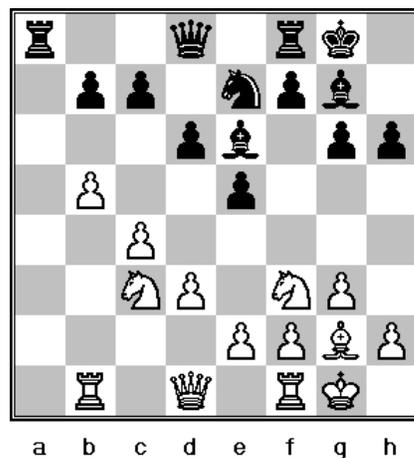
Next, from the last tournament of 2008, another key game against the Washington Class Co-Champion.

Joshua Sinanan – William Schill
Washington Challenger's Cup, Round 3
Tacoma, December 28, 2008

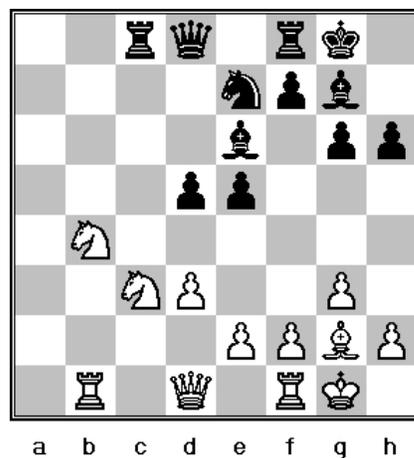
1. Nf3 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. g3 0-0 5. Bg2 d6 6. 0-0 e5 7. d3 Nc6 8. Bg5 h6



9. Bxf6 Bxf6 10. Rb1 a5 11. a3 Bg7 12. b4 axb4 13. axb4 Be6 14. b5 Ne7



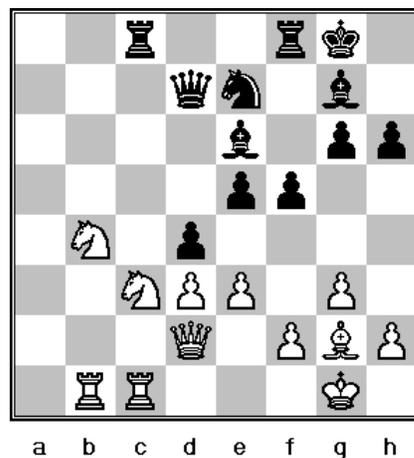
15. Ne1 c6 16. Nc2 d5 17. bxc6 bxc6 18. cxd5 cxd5 19. Nb4 Rc8



20. Qd2

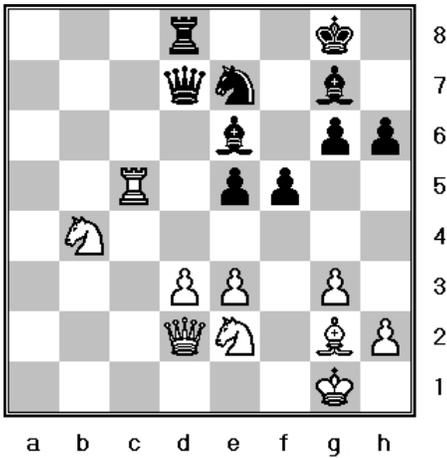
20. Qb3 d4 21. Ncd5 Kh8

20. ...Qd7 21. Rfc1 f5 22. e3 d4



23. Ne2 dxe3 24. fxe3 Rxc1+ 25. Rxc1 Rd8 26. Rc5

FIDE Master William Schill offers private lessons and school coaching. He can be reached by e-mail: masterschill@hotmail.com

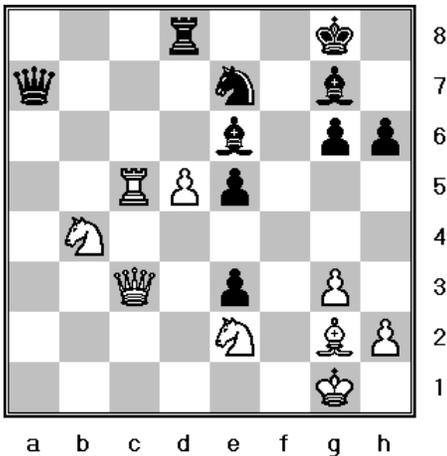


Look for White's weakness. The unopposed bishop gives us the hint: black squares!

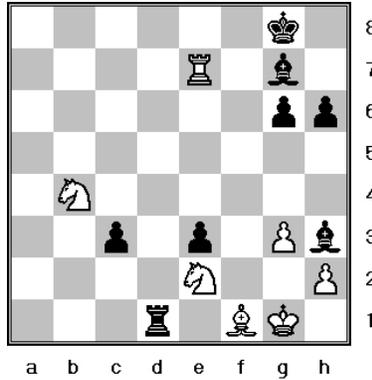
26. ...Qa7! 27. Qc3 f4!

All of the tactics involve the a7-g1 and g7-a1 diagonals.

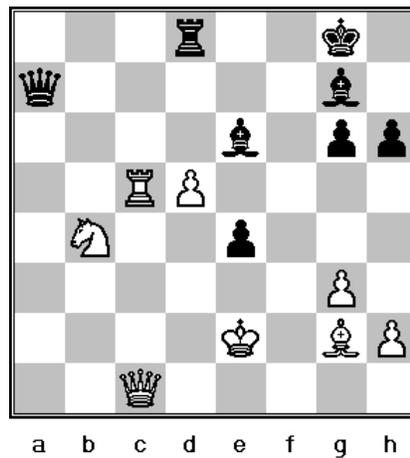
28. d4 fxe3 29. d5



Or 29. Rc7 exd4! 30. Rxa7 dxc3 31. Rxe7 Rd1+ 32. Bf1 Bh3



29. ...e4! 30. Qxe3? Nf5! 31. Qc1 Nd4
31. ...Bf8 would win even faster.
32. Kf1 Nxe2 33. Kxe2

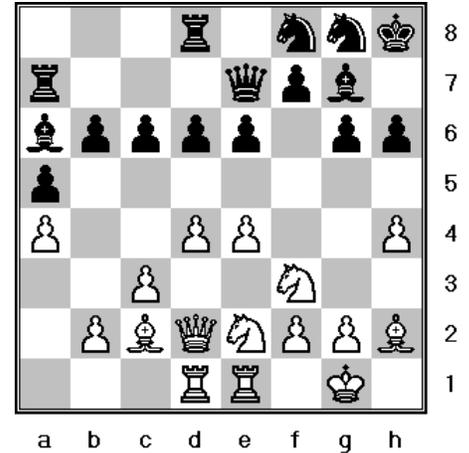


33. ...Bg4+ 34. Kf1 Rf8+ 35. Ke1 Bd4
36. Qxh6 (36. Rc7 Bc3+ 37. Qxc3 Qf2#)
36. ...Bc3+
0-1

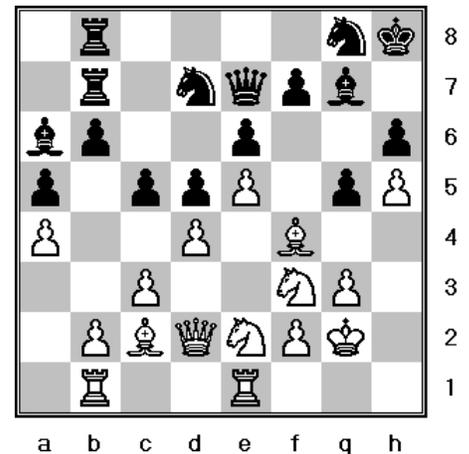
Finally (really!), a supplement to last month's Suttles mention. This game shows "the full Suttles."

Eduard Gufeld – Duncan Suttles
Sukhumi Sukhumi, Round 3
August 18, 1972

1. e4 g6 2. d4 d6 3. Nf3 Bg7 4. Bc4 Nf6
5. Qe2 c6 6. Bb3 0-0 7. 0-0 a5 8. a4 b6 9.
Re1 Ba6 10. Qd1 Ra7 11. Nc3 e6 12. Bf4
Kh8 13. Qd2 Ng8 14. Rad1 Qc7 15. h4 h6
16. Ne2 Nd7 17. Bh2 Rd8 18. c3 Nf8 19.
Bc2 Qe7



20. e5 d5 21. Bf4 c5 22. g3 Rb8 23. Kg2
Rab7 24. Rb1 Nd7 25. h5 g5



26. Nxc5 Bxe2 27. Rxe2 hxc5 28. Bxc5
f6 29. exf6 Bxf6 30. Bf4 Rc8 31. Rbe1 Nf8
32. g4 cxd4 33. cxd4 Qg7 34. f3 Rc4 35.
h6 Qf7 36. g5 Ng6 37. Bg3 Rxc2 38. Qxc2
Bxc5 39. Rxe6 N8e7 40. R6e2 Nf5 41.
Re8+ Kh7 42. R8e5 Nfh4+ 43. Bxh4 Bxh4
44. Rf5 Bxe1 45. Rxf7+ Rxf7 46. Qc6 Nf4+
47. Kh2 Re7 48. Qc8 Re2+ 49. Kh1 Bg3
50. Qf5+ Ng6 51. Qg5 Re1+ 52. Kg2
eventually 0-1

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Opening Arguments

by Harley Greninger



Our very own Gata Kamsky is scheduled to take on the world's number one ranked Veselin Topalov in February of 2009. The winner will earn the right to play a match for the world title against the newly crowned Viswanathan Anand. Last month's article focused on what might occur while Topalov is captain of the white pieces and this month we'll take a look at what may occur when Kamsky takes up the white side.

For each move, we'll look at **Kamsky playing white** and **Topalov playing black**. We'll see the frequency that each player chose the listed move, his percentage results with it, and the number of games played with that move over the past five years.

1	e4	55%	69%	90
	c5	64%	47%	92
2	Nf3	98%	68%	40
	d6	65%	48%	58
3	d4	95%	64%	21
	cx d4	100%	50%	53
4	Nxd4	76%	59%	16
	Nf6	100%	50%	53
5	Nc3	100%	59%	16
	a6	98%	50%	52
6	Bg5	83%	50%	10
	e6	100%	100%	1
7	f4	100%	50%	10

Player's average performance*: Kamsky, 60%; Topalov, 58%. Database overall score**: 52% to White. GM overall score***: 58% to White. Fritz 11 evaluation: Slight advantage to White (+.34). Rybka 2.3 evaluation: Slight advantage to White (+.26). Experience in the resulting position: Kamsky, 10 games; Topalov, 1 game. Overall Evaluation: Slight advantage to Kamsky.

1	e4	55%	69%	90
	e5	28%	44%	41
2	Nf3	91%	71%	29
	Nc6	82%	40%	31
3	Bb5	100%	70%	28
	Nf6	63%	47%	17
4	d3	100%	50%	2
	Bc5	83%	50%	5
5	c3	50%	50%	1
	0-0	67%	50%	2

Player's average performance*: Kamsky, 62%; Topalov, 46%. Database overall score**: 57% to Black. GM overall score***: 54% to Black. Fritz 11 evaluation: Equal (-.09). Rybka 2.3 evaluation: Equal (-.10). Experience in the resulting position: Kamsky, 1 game; Topalov, 2 games. Overall Evaluation: Equal.

1	d4	42%	60%	68
	Nf6	72%	54%	59
2	Nf3	85%	61%	35
	d5	54%	42%	7
3	Bf4	76%	46%	13

Player's average performance*: Kamsky, 56%; Topalov, 48%. Database overall score**: 53% to White. GM overall score***: 55% to Black. Fritz 11 evaluation: Equal (+.20). Rybka 2.3 evaluation: Equal (+.12). Experience in the resulting position: Kamsky, 13; Topalov, 0. Overall Evaluation: Slight advantage to Kamsky.

1	d4	42%	60%	68
	d5	23%	50%	19
2	c4	48%	70%	10
	c6	94%	53%	17
3	Nf3	75%	58%	6
	Nf6	100%	53%	17
4	Nc3	50%	63%	4
	e6	67%	25%	8
5	e3	100%	50%	2
	Nbd7	75%	17%	6
6	Qc2	100%	50%	1
	Bd6	100%	0%	3

Player's average performance* Kamsky, 59%; Topalov, 33%. Database overall score**: 56% to White. GM overall score***: 54% to White. Fritz 11 evaluation: Slight advantage to White (+.56). Rybka 2.3 evaluation: Slight advantage to White (+.32). Experience in the resulting position:

Kamsky, 0; Topalov, 3. Overall Evaluation: Advantage to Kamsky.

* Average % of each move in the line

** Chessbase 9 Bigbase

*** where each participant rated 2500+

Conclusion:

It's clear that Gata will fare better while playing White, however it doesn't appear to be enough to make up for Topalov's tremendous command of the white pieces.

Final score in this 'Fantasy Chess' arena would be Topalov +3, Kamsky +1, with 4 draws.

I hope that the stats are proved wrong, as I am a big fan of Gata – besides being our homeboy, what other GM sports the London Opening!?! You never know, in match play *anything* can happen!

{Personally, I'm a huge Topalov fan.

I think he's done wonders for the fighting spirit of the top GMs, since he simply can't conceive of a quickly agreed draw, and he manages to find ways to get active play in some of the most stale-looking positions. He's also pioneered the new generation of positional exchange sacrifice. He does risk quite a bit by always pressing so hard.

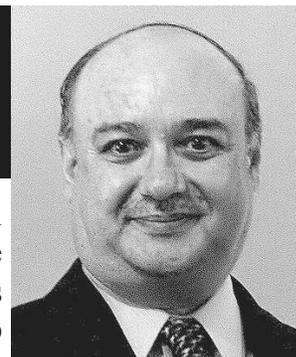
So in a recent editorial, I discussed the question of how many people could currently claim to be the World Champion, and I managed to completely ignore Gata's chance to replace Veselin as challenger to Vishy Anand.

Sorry, Gata. No offense intended. I just expect Topalov to clean your clock.

As to the strongest player, looks like it's still Rybka. – editor}

Publisher's Desk

by Duane Polich



Greetings to our readers and members,

This month Washington State gets set to crown a new State Chess Champion. Last year we were fortunate to have the participation of Grandmaster Gregory Serper and International Master Georgi Orlov. They were attracted by the generous prize fund made possible by a donor.

It seems each year the WCF board has to grapple with the issue of who is eligible to play in the State Championship. A number of years ago, an activity requirement was set in place so that participants in the State Championship must have played in at least three events in Washington State during the prior year to qualify. The thought was to encourage the stronger players to make themselves available to the "ordinary chess players." Back then, there were a number of events that the stronger players were willing to play in. In recent years the number of tournaments to play in has declined and attendance has dropped.

In fact, WCF has run the two biggest events each year with the Washington Open and Class Championships. This year the latter event was unable to attract the titled players. We are fortunate that the area has Grandmaster Serper and IM's Orlov and Tangborn, and this year we have added Woman Grandmaster Katerina Rohonyan to the area.

Which brings us back to the dilemma of trying to field the strongest possible competition in the State Championship. Should the

titled players be required to meet the activity requirement? The WCF Board has grappled with this issue and has made changes and adjustments to the activity requirements, and still some of the titled players would be unable to participate if enforced. This year we have once again granted exceptions.

Titled players attract sponsorship/donors and increase excitement of the event. The board was unable to make a unanimous decision to completely drop the activity requirements for the titled players (GM's, IM's, and WGM's). Perhaps this matter will be brought to the members at the annual meeting to vote on. Perhaps this is a matter for discussion using the NWC Forum. We will soon be posting questions on the forum regarding this issue. We encourage you to provide your thoughts.

The WCF Board at their last meeting voted to provide funds to *Northwest Chess* magazine to help out in these troubling economic times. Call it bailout money if you wish. But the fact of the matter is that membership has declined to the point where the magazine is experiencing cash issues which are reaching the critical stage. The solution? More members. More advertisers. Encourage your friends to subscribe; renew your membership if it has expired; make sure our junior and scholastic players know about the magazine and encourage them to join.

In the meantime the WCF board

w i l l
contribute
back its
membership
fee to

Northwest Chess, and also provide \$1,000 to cover the cost of magazines sent to libraries in Washington State. If there is a library that you think should receive a subscription, let us know. This will also include school libraries.

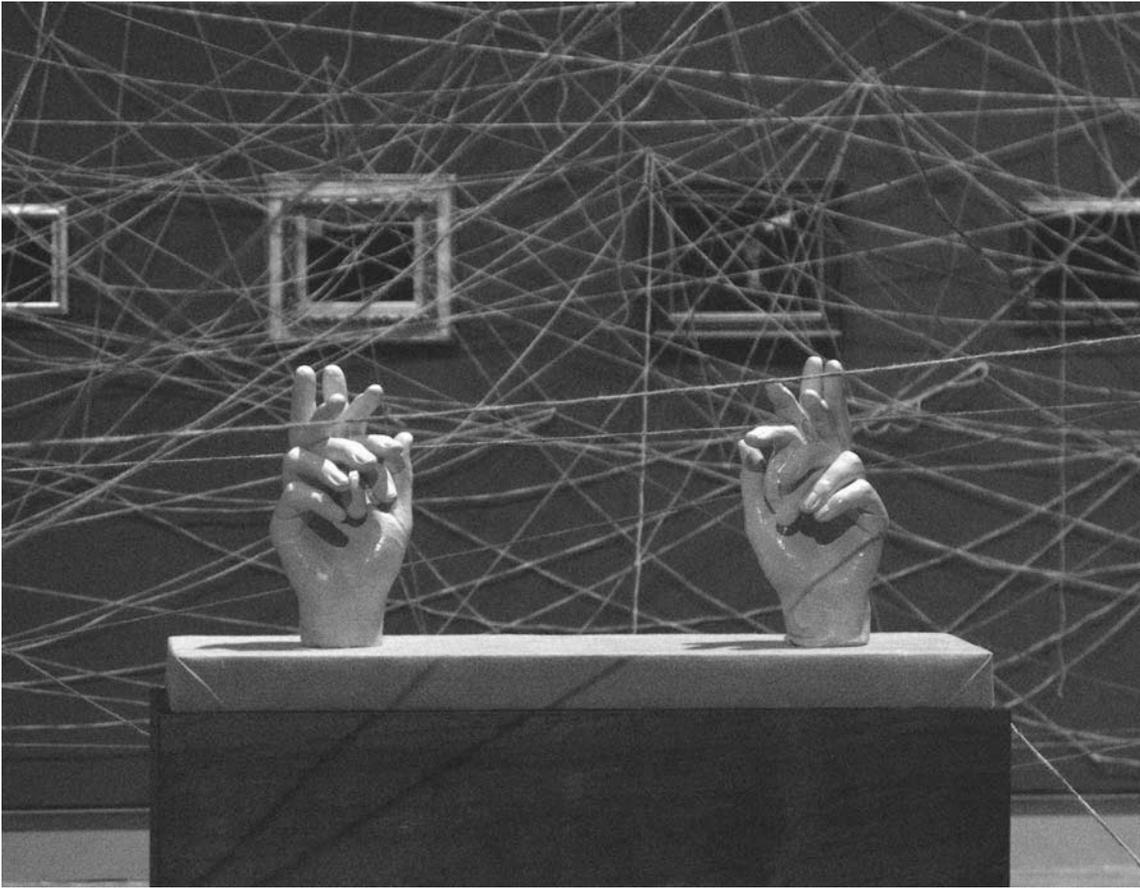
Remember the Washington Open will be in Spokane this year. A site at the Red Lion Inn on the Spokane River has been selected. This is right next door to the Gonzaga campus. The prize fund should be the same as last year, and we encourage you to participate in this year's event, especially those on the gray side of the state. More details next month.

In the meantime, I again encourage all chess players to donate some time to help out at events, teach a younger player or friend, write articles for the magazine, or in other substantive ways. We are all in this together. May 2009 turn out much better than 2008.

Play On !

Duane Polich
WCF President
Publisher NWC Magazine

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critical mass.
Join and post to the
NW Chess Forum at
www.nwchess.com**



Chris Lipomi, YSKKI WAKIPI, 2008. Photo courtesy the artist.

From *YSKKI WAKIPI* to Endgame: Open Satellite and the Artist Chess Master

by
**Abigail
Guay**

Open Satellite, located in Bellevue, WA, is an artist-in-residence program and a contemporary art exhibition hall. Each year, the program funds four residencies for artists from outside the Pacific Northwest. The artists live and work in the building, creating large-scale, installation-based artwork. *YSKKI WAKIPI*, an installation by Los Angeles-based artist Chris Lipomi was on view from November 2008 to January 2009.

At Open Satellite, Lipomi re-hung photographs and other artwork from his first solo exhibition. He painted the gallery walls a rich burgundy to evoke the halls of 19th century European art academies, and used limited lighting to transform the stark, modern space into a dramatic theater of art past. (The photographs, manipulated Polaroids of Parisian exteriors and street scenes, contributed to this effect.) The artist then wove a web of twine, three miles in length, from wall to wall and floor to ceiling, filling the volume of the room and preventing gallery visitors from navigating the space, from viewing the artwork at close range.

The specific inspiration for *YSKKI WAKIPI* was a tangle of string a mere one-mile long: French artist Marcel Duchamp's exhibition design for the *First Papers of*

Surrealism (1942). Duchamp was associated with Dadaism and Surrealism, the early to mid-20th century avant-garde art, literary, and performance movements that produced such figures as filmmaker Luis Buñuel and artist Salvador Dalí. Known for his provocative use of nontraditional art materials to make unprecedented statements, Duchamp's most notorious artwork, *Fountain* (1917), was a urinal signed with the pseudonym "R. Mutt." And in addition to his white hot reputation as an artist, Duchamp was one of the leading French chess players and commentators of his time.

During a 1918 trip to Argentina the artist took up chess, and by 1923 he was playing and studying the game to the near exclusion of everything else – including art. (A famous 1963 photograph of Duchamp captures the artist playing chess with a nude model, Eva Babitz, in a gallery at the Pasadena Museum of Art. They play in the midst of, and fully outshine, a retrospective exhibition of his artwork.) Duchamp designed the 1925 Poster for the Third French Chess Championship, in which he participated, and until 1933 he continued to compete at the national level and as a member of the French Olympic team. Later in his career, Duchamp participated in correspondence chess and

worked as chess journalist, publishing columns and books on endgame positions and problems.

To celebrate this connection – Chris Lipomi to Duchamp to chess – Open Satellite invited a chess club from Bellevue Community College to meet and play in the space. The group met for a three-hour tournament, playing at a long table in the small section of the gallery free from Lipomi's web of twine. Passersby watched through the glass entrance and stopped in to enquire about the connection between chess and art. Aside from the framework of the exhibition, Duchamp provides an answer: "I have come to the personal conclusion that while all artists are not chess players, all chess players are artists."

Abigail Guay is the exhibitions director of Open Satellite. She is on the editorial committee of ARCADE and has contributed art reviews to The Stranger, Seattle.

For more information on *YSKKI WAKIPI* and Open Satellite: www.opensatellite.org.

Theoretically Speaking

by Bill McGearry



Botvinnik Symmetrical English: 5. Nf3 e5, Part Three

The first five moves of the Botvinnik are not too difficult to come to grips with: four moves of symmetry, and then White advances development while Black stakes out some central space. Move six will see White completing K-side development by castling and Black following suit with Nge7. Therefore, it is at move seven that White players make a major choice. The moves 7. d3, 7. a3 and 7. Ne1 have all been used by White players. Each of them has an eye towards strategic goals, but with different points of emphasis. Let's consider each move on its surface.

7. a3 is the most direct, taking simple aim at the b4 square. In a classical sense this is a "superior" move as its aim is to exchange a more central pawn (c5) for a flank pawn (a3). The establishment of the c4/b4 couple has been seen as a basic strategic point of these forms of the English for decades. There are 2 negative points to 7. a3; first it really doesn't further development while expending a tempo, and second, Black can respond with a timely ...a7-a5 which will require a further commitment from White.

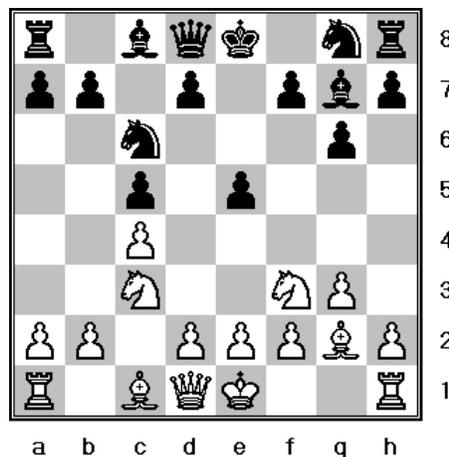
The seemingly retrograde 7. Ne1 is actually routing the Nf3 to a more useful post on the path c2-e3-d5. From c2 it supports the b4 advance; from e3 it guards both c4 and d5. Getting to d5 is like gold to many players because the knight watches key points on f6, f4, b6 and b4, not to mention e7 and c7. Of course, chess isn't quite as easy as all that. White invests some number of tempi to position the knight, tempi that Black can use to either begin active operations or neutralize White's plans. One other point to remember is that once the Nf3 is on the path Black can look to play ...Be6 without bothering to defend with the move ...h6, a tempo that would otherwise be expended.

Observations of how 7. d3 has changed in the line is an illustrated history of the whole variation. Viewing d2-d3 as a basic part of the structure any real value to opening the door for the Bc1 was lost. Inventive

Black players began to focus on getting in ...Be6 and then ...d6-d5, a plan that scored very well. Thus the move d3 was just a tempo White had spent without consideration. Eventually White followers like Ulf Andersson changed direction slightly by finding that the Bc1 could jump out to g5 and exchange for the Ne7. This would decrease Black's strength in pushing up to d5. So, Black would promptly kick the Bg5 with ...f6, but after the retreat to e3 or d2, the weakness of e6 would be of use to White. This sounds very drawn out, but such is the advance of opening systems.

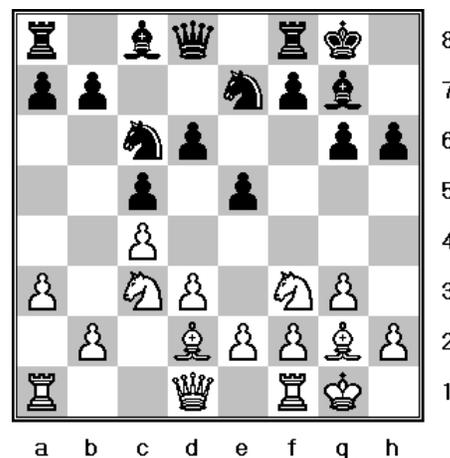
K. Langeweg – G. Danner
Clare Benedict Cup, Round 2
Vienna, Austria, 1972

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

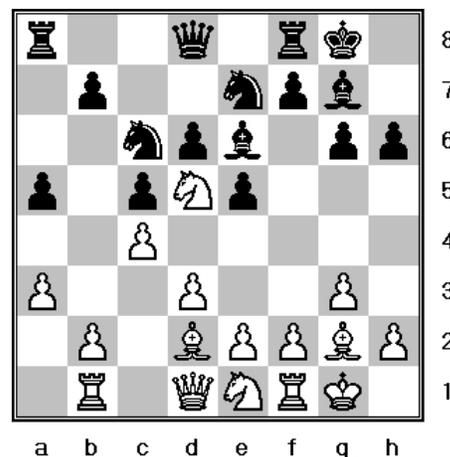


6. a3 Nge7 7. d3 0-0 8. 0-0 d6 9. Bd2 h6

The position after 9. Bd2 is pretty standard stuff, reached via any number of move orders. Black's 9...h6 is security from any Ng5 forays as Black intends ...Be6. A later development in the line was for Black to play 9...Rb8 as a semi-waiting move as White will likely be trotting the Nf3 back to e1 anyway.



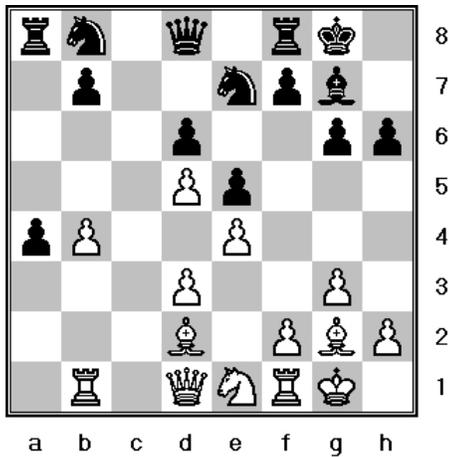
10. Rb1 a5 11. Ne1 Be6 12. Nd5



12...Bxd5

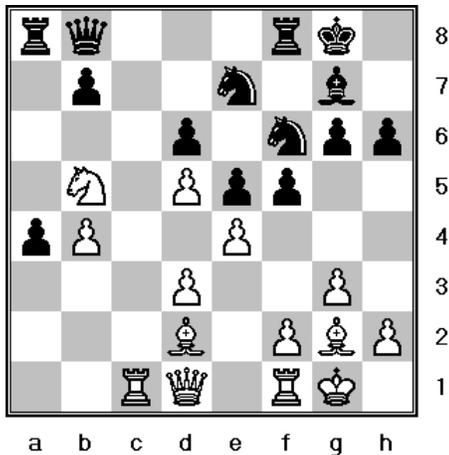
This looks questionable. The Nd5 is a very good piece, but Black is trading in the future of the white squares to eliminate it, and doesn't even come close to stopping White's Q-side play. 12...Rb8 aiming to undermine d5 with b7-b5 looks much better: 13. b4 axb4 14. axb4 b6 is better for White, but Black still has play. Maybe 12...Kh7.

13. cxd5 Nb8 14. b4 cxb4 15. axb4 a4



White takes a stance; with the setup b4/Na3 Black will be limited on the Q-side; White can arrange to get in d4 and squeeze down the c-file. Black will be defending all of this without any real positive direction. Should Black advance the K-side pawns in an effort to create chances, the white-square bishop looks to become very dominant.

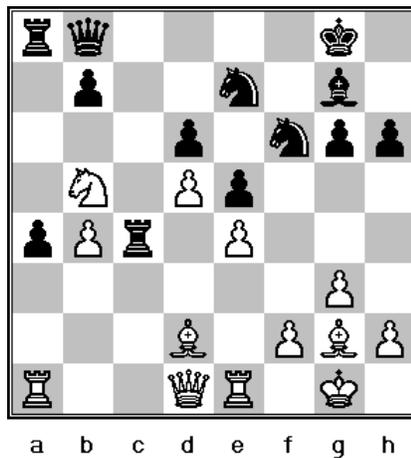
16. ...Nd7 17. Nc2 f5 18. Na3 Nf6 19. Rc1 Qb8 20. Nb5



It appears that Black didn't realize how much trouble the a4 pawn was in.

20. ...Rc8 21. Ra1 fxe4 22. dxe4 Rc4 23. Re1

White doesn't give Black any possibilities for tactics based on the a7-g1 diagonal. Now the a4-pawn falls off, and Black looks totally helpless.

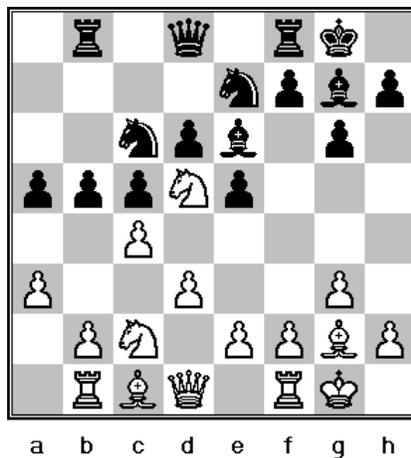


23. ...Ra6 24. Rxa4 Qa8 25. Ra5 Nc8 26. Qb3 Rxa5 27. bxa5 Rc5 28. Bf1 Bf8 29. Bb4 Nd7 30. Bh3 Nf6 31. Bxc5 dxc5 32. d6+ Kg7 33. Rd1 1-0

Here is an example of how wrong things can go for White.

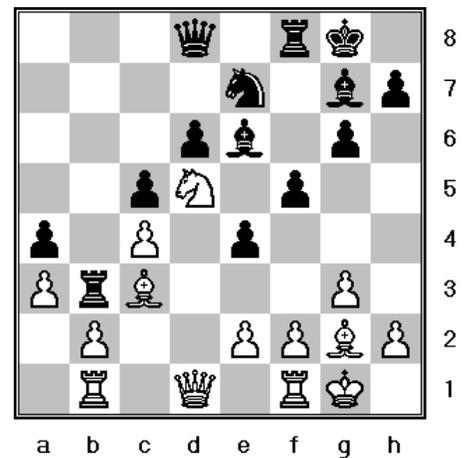
L. Lengyel – T. Wedberg
Eksjo-A, Round 1
Eksjo, Sweden, 1980

1. Nf3 c5 2. e4 Nc6 3. Nc3 e5 4. g3 g6 5. Bg2 Bg7 6. 0-0 Nge7 7. d3 d6 8. Rb1 0-0 9. a3 a5 10. Ne1 Be6 11. Nd5 Rb8 12. Nc2 b5

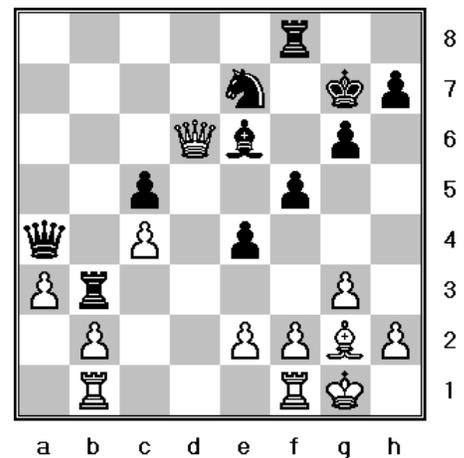


Black seizes the initiative with this and White simply goes down a dark alley.

13. Bd2 a4 14. Nce3 bxc4 15. Nxe7+ Nxe7 16. dxc4 Rb3 17. Bc3 f5 18. Nd5 e4



19. Bxg7 Kxg7 20. Nc3 Qd7 21. Nxa4 Qxa4 22. Qxd6



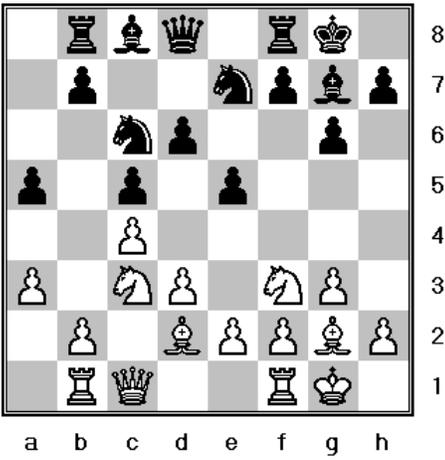
GM Lengyel might have been thinking that this would pull the game back for him, but it doesn't.

22. ...Kf6 23. Qxc5 Qxc4 24. Qa7 Rd8 25. Rfc1 Qd4 0-1

Finally, here is an example of a more contemporary idea for White. Plans based on a3 and Rb1 seem to be met very simply by a5 when White has to do some more arranging. In the following game we see a maneuver which diverts the game slightly and ends up using the tempi better.

Keith Arkell – Chris Beaumont
BCF-chT (4NCL), Round 1
Sunningdale, England, 2006

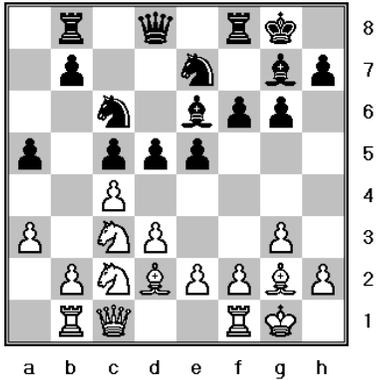
1. c4 e5 2. Nc3 Nc6 3. g3 g6 4. Bg2 Bg7 5. Nf3 e5 6. d3 d6 7. 0-0 Nge7 8. Rb1 0-0 9. a3 a5 10. Bd2 Rb8 11. Qc1



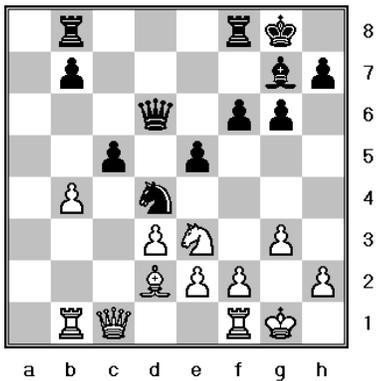
A peculiar move, but it has points. First, ...h6 is ruled out so Black will have to consider a Ng5 by White if ...Be6 is in the plans. Second, a ...d6-d5 advance by Black will have to keep the c5 pawn in mind. Third, the ball bounces back to Black for a constructive move that isn't too committal.

11. ...Be6

Taking no regard for White's idea. In 2002 Lautier worked out a plan for Black : 11. ... f6 12. Ne1 Be6 13. Nc2 d5

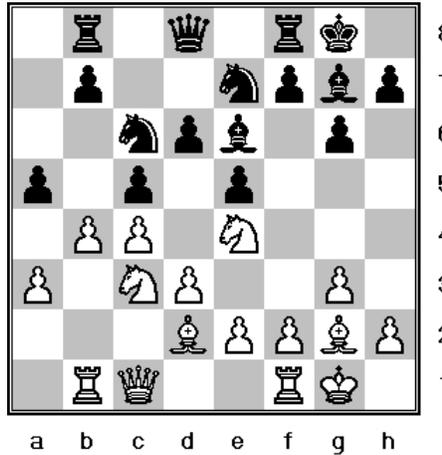


14. cxd5 Nxd5 15. Nxd5 Bxd5 16. Bxd5 Qxd5 17. Ne3 Qd6 18. b4 axb4 19. axb4 Nd4

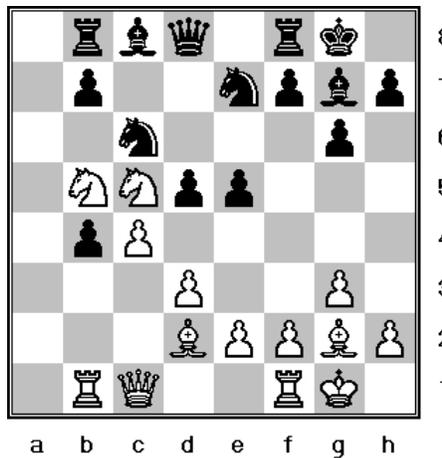


12. Ng5 Bd7 13. Nge4 Be6 14. b4

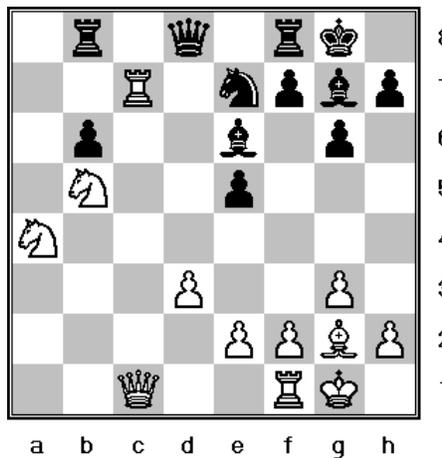
White gets this in because 14. ...axb4 15. axb4 Nxb4 16. Nb5 regains the pawn with initiative. This has to be a dream for White as the Ne4 is almost a bonus.



14. ...axb4 15. axb4 cxb4 16. Nb5 d5 17. Nc5 Bc8

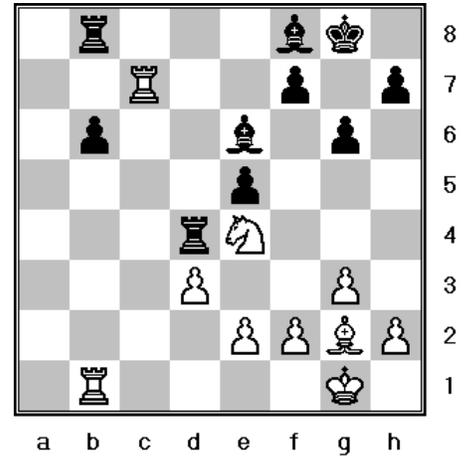


18. Bxb4 b6 19. Na4 Nxb4 20. Rxb4 Be6 21. cxd5 Nxd5 22. Rc4 Ne7 23. Rc7

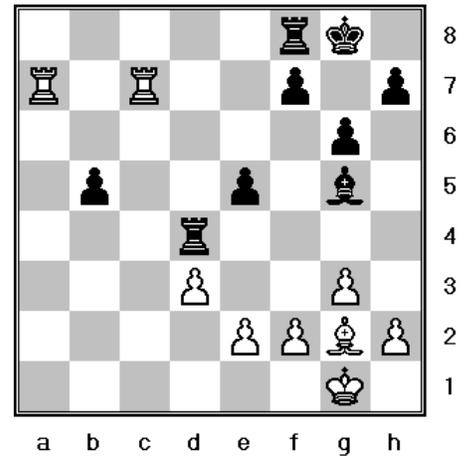


White's knights look a bit odd, but act to compress Black on the 3 queenside files. White will press on b6 and along the seventh.

23. ...Nf5 24. Qc6 Nd4 25. Nxd4 Qxd4 26. Nc3 Rfd8 27. Rb1 Rd6 28. Qe4 Bf8 29. Qxd4 Rxd4 30. Ne4



30. ...b5 31. Ng5 Ba2 32. Rb2 Bh6 33. Rxa2 Bxg5 34. Raa7 Rf8



35. Rc5 Rb8 36. Bd5 Rxd5 37. Rxd5 b4 38. Rdd7 1-0

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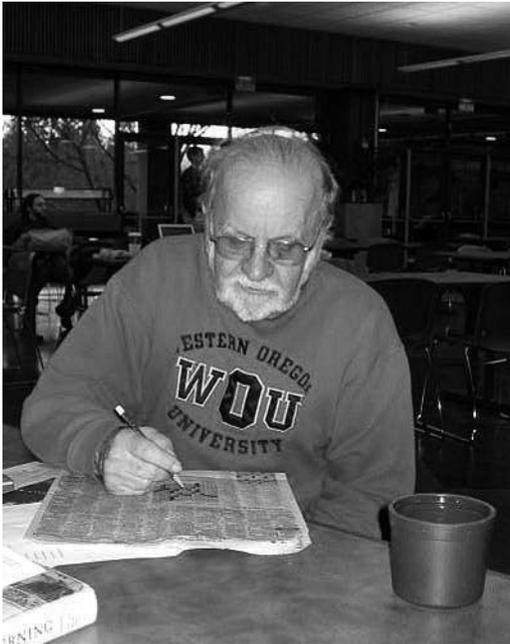
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Equal, in Bareev – Lautier, Cannes 2002.

Happy 75th Birthday, Neil!



Between rounds you will always find Neil completing the NY Times crossword puzzle—in ink!

We want to congratulate Neil Dale on the celebration of his 75th birthday. We also want to publicly express our thanks for all he does for chess in Portland. Most people know him as the chief director of tournaments organized by Portland Chess Club. He selflessly donates his time many weekends so that the rest of us may have the opportunity to play.

One example: the weekend of the recent Portland Winter Open found Portland paralyzed by a rare snow storm. Many players could not get themselves to the club to finish the second day pairings. But Neil did. Leaving early, he negotiated the treacherous streets, avoiding all the freeway pileups, and held the last rounds with a few other brave souls, proving that “the show must go on.”

Neil has directed over 100 tournaments in the last 6 years. By donating his director fees back to PCC he has enabled the club to generate the revenue necessary to maintain a chess facility in Portland. For all he does we say, THANKS, NEIL.

— Nick Raptis, Mike Janniro, Grisha Alpernas, Dick Banner & Mike Morris.

The Gresham Open 2009

by
Neil
Dale

This year there was an added feature to this tournament, a special Christopher memorial prize of \$200 for a perfect score. Alas, that did not come to pass, and Mother Nature threw a snit in the form of snowfall during the last round. Maybe next

year this award can be claimed by someone. The only player with a chance for this prize was Viktors Pupols, but Nick Raptis put an end to his hopes in the last round, and with his win claimed clear first with 4 1/2 points. Three players shared 2nd through 4th with 4 points each: Daniel Gay, Viktors Pupols and Radu Roua.

This traditional first of the year tournament in Oregon offers a variety of other prizes, and to list all the money winners would be a tedious task, so I will mention some other things in connection with the tournament.

The turnout of 38 (I don't count the internet entry who failed to show, and did not have the courtesy to notify us) was not the lowest in history. Blame the economy for the lack of a better turnout.

There were a number of upsets: previous multiple winner of this tournament, Carl Haessler, was one of the victims; to his credit he continued on instead of withdrawing. Yun Teng was the only player rated below class A to score 3 1/2. Steven Witt had a great first day for the tournament. Austin Sharp provided another upset in round one. Tony Midson was the only player rated below 1400 to garner 2 1/2. If someone feels slighted that I did not mention their achievements, my apologies. After all, you can't please everyone.

The tournament was held in the Vista Dining Room at Mt. Hood Community College, and was sponsored by the Portland Chess Club. Neil Dale and Mike Morris shared directing duties. Thanks to all who came to play.

Games Corner

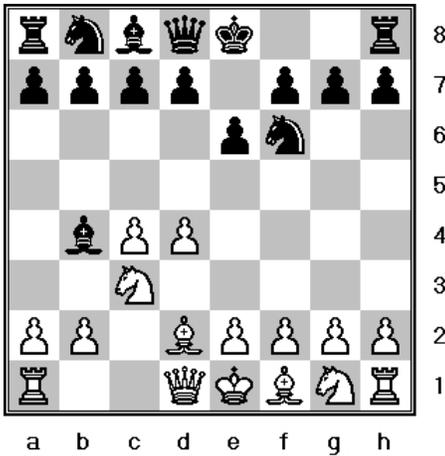
by Charles Schulien



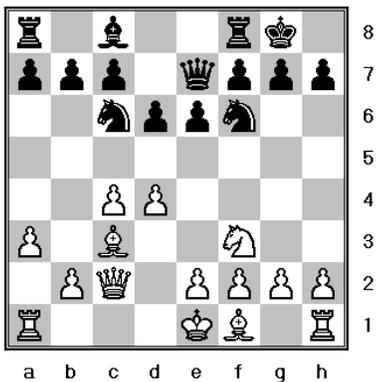
From the Gresham Open 2009. Radu Roua assisted with some comments about his fourth round game against Nick Raptis.

Nick Raptis – Radu Roua
Gresham Open, Round 4
Oregon, January 2009

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. Bd2



White plays a very safe and rare move, avoiding trouble, and definitely avoiding any long discussion about opening theory. Now the players are guided by similar lines they may know, and what sort of position they might prefer. 4. Qc2 is much more popular, also avoiding the doubled pawns while controlling the e4 square. 4. ...Nc6 is the Zurich variation, common in the 1930's, but still played and unrefuted. Most top GMs prefer more complex options these days. 5. Nf3 d6 and here one of White's main paths starts 6. Bd2 0-0 7. a3 Bxc3 8. Bxc3 Qe7



Now White chooses where to develop the light squared bishop. (8. ...Re8 is similar.)

9. g3 is a reasonable move. 9. ...e5 10. d5 Nb8 (10. ...Nd8 was worse here: 11. Bg2 Bg4 12. Nh4 c6 13. 0-0 cxd5 14. cxd5 Qd7 15. f4± M Gurevich-Timman, Rotterdam 1990.) 11. Bg2 and Black develops counterplay with either ...c6, or by moving his f6 knight and playing ...f5.



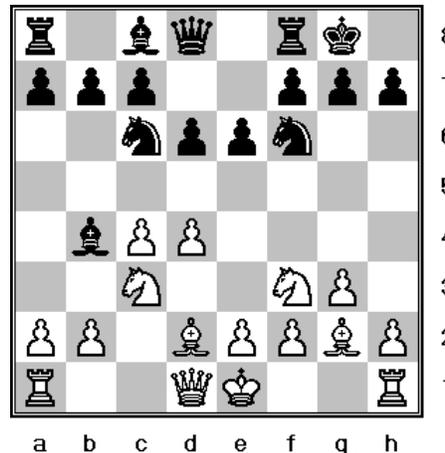
The opponents in this game probably knew at least something of these or similar variations.

4. ...0-0 5. Nf3 d6

Black decides on a dark square strategy. It's a choice, not better or worse than ...d5 and fighting on the light squares.

6. g3 Nc6 7. Bg2

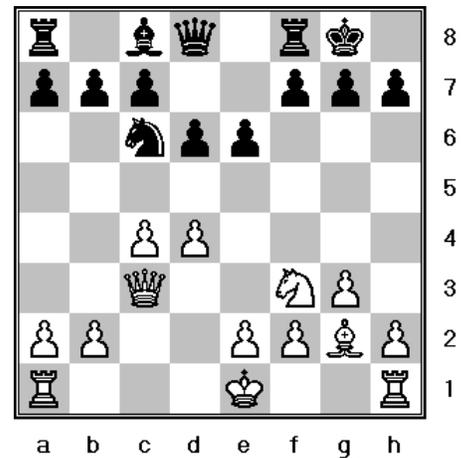
Instead 7. Qc2 could transpose to the Zurich variations given above, but here Black is already prepared for ...e5. White's queen controls e4, preventing the exchanging maneuver Radu employs in the game.



7. ...Bxc3! 8. Bxc3 Ne4 9. Qc2 Nxc3

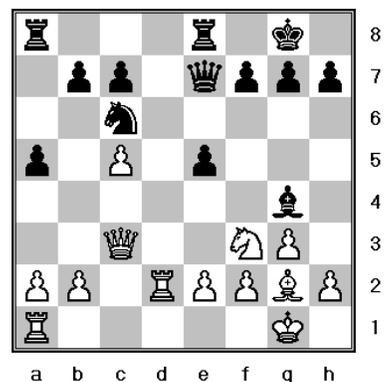
10. Qxc3

Black spent some moves exchanging two pairs of minor pieces, granting White better development. In return, White no longer possesses a bishop pair. Now Black needs to get back to his plan of ...e5.



10. ...Qe8

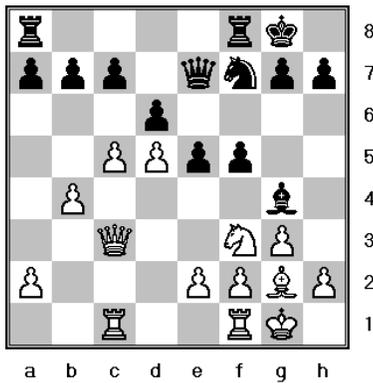
Not a very good square for the queen, and I'm not at all sure why Radu preferred this to the two standard moves in similar positions. Let me quote two examples: 10. ...Re8 11. 0-0 e5 12. dxe5 dxe5 13. Rfd1 Qe7 14. c5 Bg4 15. Rd2 a5



Black has a smooth development; White controls the open file. The result had nothing to do with the opening. 0-1 Salman,J

(2236)-Kosashvili,Y (2543), Curacao 2002.

10. ...Qe7 11. 0-0 e5 12. d5 Nd8 (12. ...Nb8 13. c5 Nd7 is better.) 13. b4 (13. c5!) 13. ...Bg4 14. c5 f5 15. Rac1 Nf7



with an edge for White, who won a long game: 1-0 Grabarczyk,M (2484)-Kuraszkiewicz,M (2317), Warsaw 2005.

11. d5

White sees the unprotected Black pawn on c7. Now Black cannot exchange on d5 without dropping that pawn. 11. b4 is more flexible.

11. ...Nd8

11. ...Ne7 leads to a different sort of position, as it will change the pawn structure. 12. dxe6 not forced but logical. 12. ...fxe6 13. 0-0 Bd7 14. Rad1 Bc6 with smoother development for Black than in the game. 15. c5 and White still exerts pressure. 15. ...Rd8 (15. ...Bxf3 16. Bxf3 d5 17. e4 Rd8 18. Qb3) 16. cxd6 cxd6; 11. ...Nb8 12. 0-0 e5 is much like the game, but from b8 it is easier to aim the knight for c5. This is in keeping with normal play in the aforementioned Zurich variation.

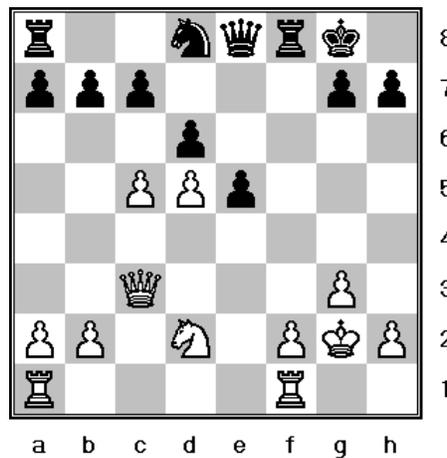
12. 0-0 e5 13. e4

13. c5! White should try to seize the initiative before Black gets developed.

13. ...f5 14. exf5 Bxf5 15. c5 Be4

Radu consistently plays for exchanges.

16. Nd2 Bxg2 17. Kxg2



17. ...Qf7

17. ...Nf7, suggested by Radu, connects the rooks. And where else can the knight move?

18. Qd3

18. Qc4 appears more accurate.

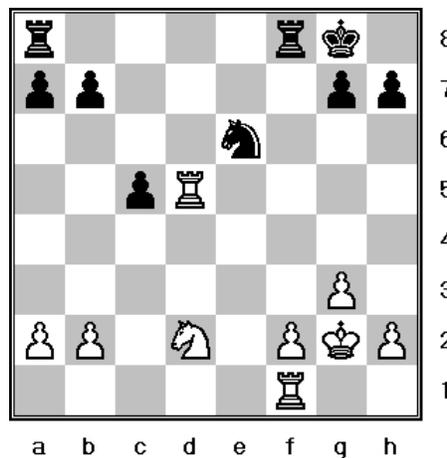
18. ...dxc5! 19. Rae1 c6!?

This sets up a critical decision for White: should he push the pawn to d6? A safe alternative is 19. ...Qd7 20. Nc4 (20. Rxe5 Nf7 (or even 20. ...Nc6)) 20 ...Nf7 21. Nxe5 Qa4!? prepares counterplay.

20. Rxe5

20. d6 Qe6 and white's passed pawn will soon be encircled. (20. ...Qxa2 21. Nc4 looks too greedy.) 21. Qc4 Rf6 22. Rxe5 Qxc4 23. Nxc4 b5 24. Na5 Rxd6 25. Rxc5 Rd2 is a little better for White, as Black has two passive pieces on his back row.

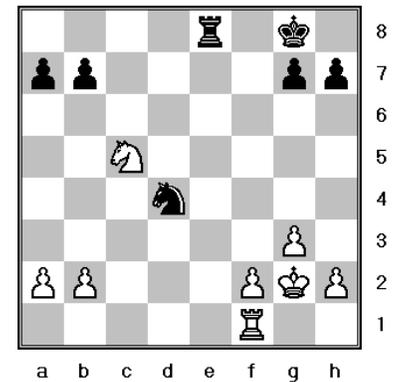
20. ...cxd5 21. Qxd5 Qxd5+ 22. Rxd5 Ne6



22. ...b6 is a better defense, guarding the pawn with a pawn.

23. Re5 Rae8 24. Rfe1

24. Ne4 is better – Radu. Black must sacrifice a pawn here. 24. ...Nd4 (24. ...b6 25. Nd6 Re7 26. Rfe1 Rf6 27. Ne4 and White will win material based on the pin.) 25. Rxe8 Rxe8 26. Nxc5.



24. ...Nc7 25. f4

White could further activate his pieces with 25. Nc4 b6 26. Rd1

25. ...Rd8

25. ...Rxe5 (Radu) exchanging is a better defense.

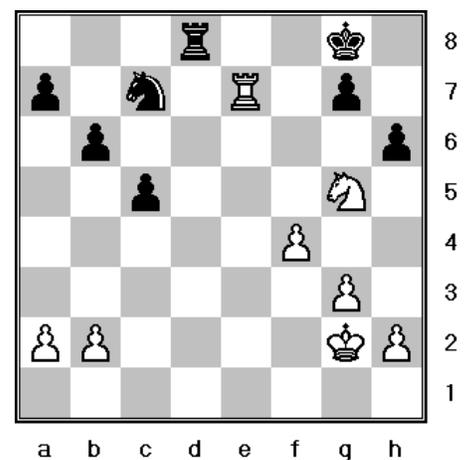
26. Nf3

26. Ne4 is just a more active post for the knight.

26. ...b6

26. ...Nd5 see the comment to White's previous move.

27. Re7 Rf7 28. Ng5 Rxe7 29. Rxe7 h6

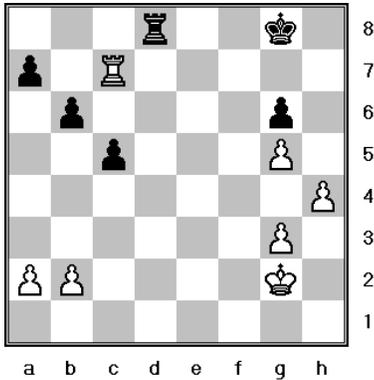


White faces an exchanging decision. Such choices as often decide games as

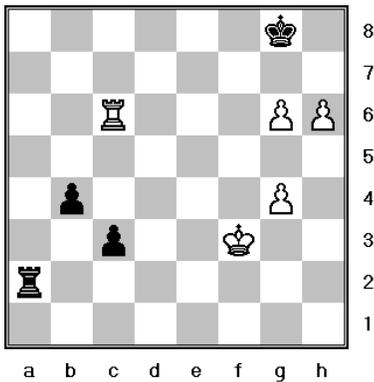
tactical shots. In this case, White's advantage will soon be neutralised unless he takes action, and retreating the knight is hardly desirable. On the other hand, rook endings are inherently drawish, so Nick didn't want to exchange knights without more advantage. We cannot always have our cake and eat it too though ...

30. Nf3

30. Rxc7 hxg5 31. fxg5 g6 (Radu) Let us continue this variation and get a feel for what might happen: 32. h4



White's chances are on the kingside, with more pawns and space there. 32. ...Rd2+ 33. Kf3 Rxb2 34. Rxa7 b5 35. Ra6 Kh7 36. g4 c4 37. h5 c3 38. Rxg6 Rxa2 39. Rc6 b4 40. g6+ Kg8 41. h6 and White is winning.



This is hardly forced, but indicative of the possibilities. White must allow Black passed pawns first on the queenside in order to try to win, which is risky. We're after all eleven moves out from the decision point. White played safer, eventually the game was drawn, and he went on to take first place by winning his last round game versus Viktors Pupols.

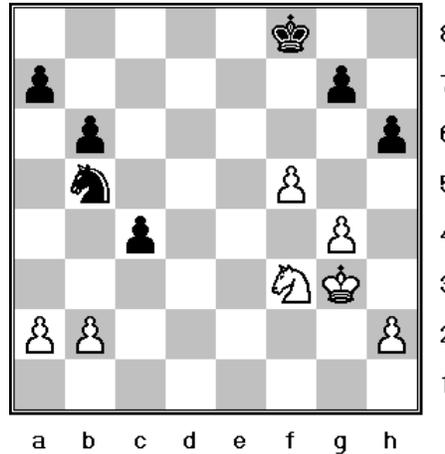
30. ...Nb5 31. g4

31. a4! displaces the black knight. Then White can take the a7 pawn.

31. ...Rf8

Black could also activate his rook with 31. ...Rd1

32. f5 Rf7 33. Re8+ Rf8 34. Rxf8+ Kxf8 35. Kg3 c4!



Excellent choice, pushing his queenside advantage before White can bring his pieces to the center.

36. Kf4

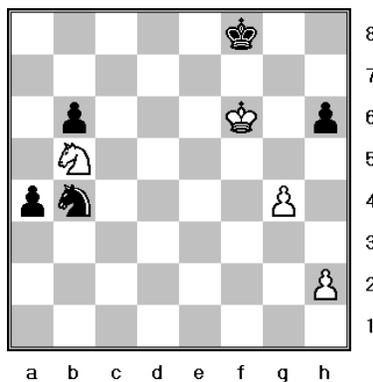
36. Nd2 looks safer: 36. ...c3 37. bxc3 Nxc3 38. a3 Ke7 39. Kf3 Kf6 40. Kf4=.

36. ...c3 37. bxc3 Nxc3

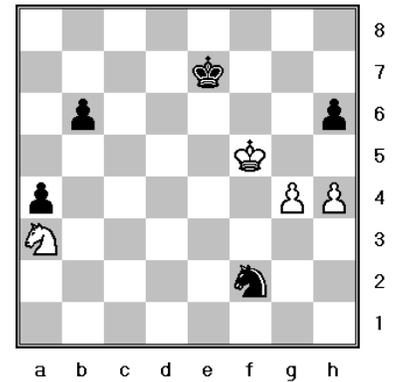
Now the a2 pawn is lost.

38. Ke5 Nxa2 39. f6

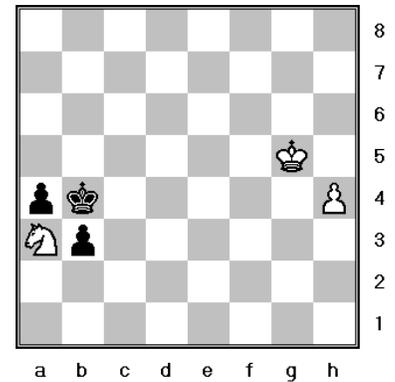
And the players agreed a draw. It was likely the correct result, but Black is the side who could press for more. It is difficult to adjust to such a change of fortunes after defending for the whole game. 39. ...gxf6+ 40. Kxf6 a5 41. Nd4 a4 42. Nb5 Nb4 threatening ...Nc2, then advancing the a-pawn.



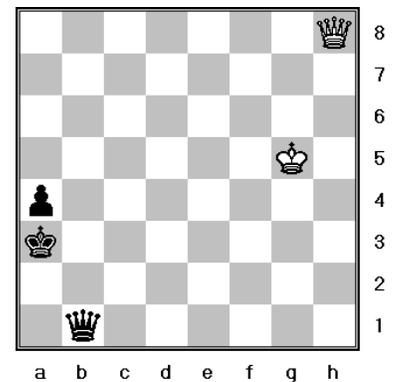
43. Na3 Nd3 44. Ke6 (44. h4 Nf2 45. Kf5 Kf7 46. Nb5 and Black cannot easily make progress.) 44. ...Nf2 45. Kf5 Ke7 46. h4



46. ...Nxc4! 47. Kxc4 Kd6 is an example of how things could go wrong for White: the knight is crippled on a3, and Black's pawns are faster here. 48. Kh5 Kc5 49. Kxh6 b5 50. Kg5 b4 51. Nc2 b3 52. Na3 Kb4



53. h5 (53. Nb1 a3 wins right away.) 53. ...Kxa3 54. h6 b2 55. h7 b1Q 56. h8Q



White must defend the queen ending, which I think should be a draw - but the pawn is far advanced.

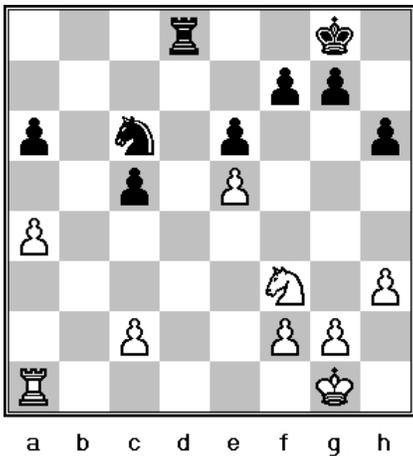
1/2-1/2

And In The End by Dana Muller



This month's selection explores the task of holding a slightly (in this case very slightly) inferior endgame against an opponent who is rated 400+ points higher. The main danger, as usual, is adopting a passive outlook. Complications naturally arise when you try to keep your pieces active, don't avoid them out of fear of your opponent's prowess.

Dana Muller – Ben Finegold
US Open
Portland, Oregon, 1987

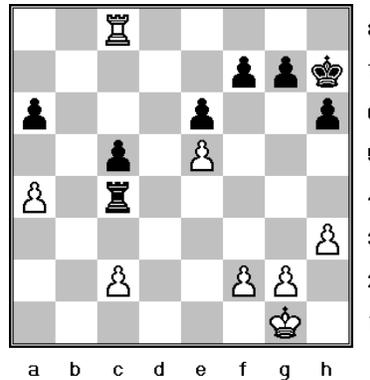


White has slightly misplayed the opening; Black was more than willing to chop wood and try to exploit his advantage in an endgame. There are three weak white pawns (a4, c2, e5), whereas Black has only two targets (a6, c5). The black rook is active on the d-file and Black's knight is closer to the queenside weaknesses. Despite this, black's edge is quite small: there are two files available for the rooks, so White should be able to bother Black on whichever file is left unattended. As long as White keeps attacking the weak black pawns he should have little to fear; most likely there will be an indirect exchange of pawns. White should be able to hold the draw from here.

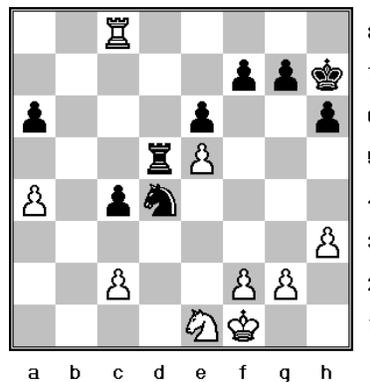
23. Rb1 Nb4

This looks natural; the b-file is temporarily blocked and the c-pawn is targeted. The other move worth looking at, 23. ...Nd4, is deserving of attention as well. While 24. Nxd4 Rxd4 25. Rb8 Kh7 26. Rc8

Rc4! is poor for white.



Both 24. Ne1 c4 26. Kf1 (26. Rb6 a5) Rd5 27. Rb8 Kh7 28. Rc8 ...

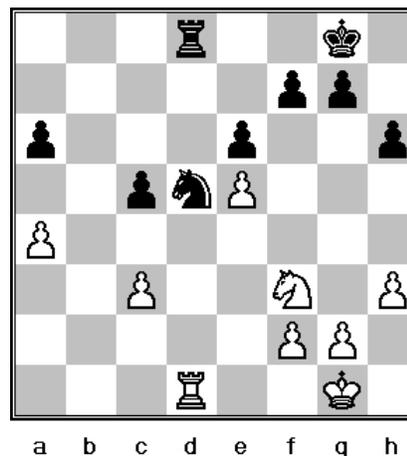


... and 24. Rb6 Nxc2 25. Rxa6 seem good enough to hold the balance.

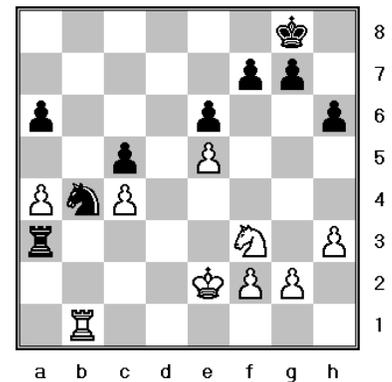
24. c3

24. c4 loses a tempo on the next note.

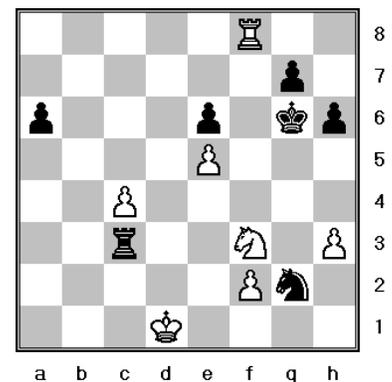
24.... Nd5 25. Rd1



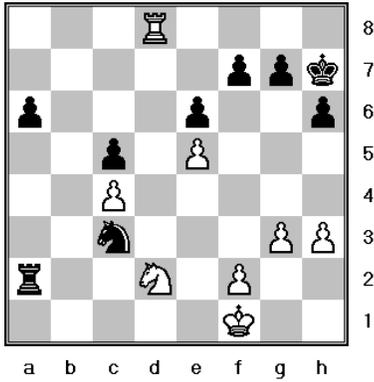
25. c4 is the dangerous-looking alternative (unless you really want to play 25. Rc1). 25. ...Nb4 26. Kf1 Rd3 27. Ke2 Ra3



Superficially it seems 28. Rd1 Rxa4 29. Rd8+ Kh7 30. Rc8 would pick up the c-pawn and be fairly equal, but I didn't trust it. Now looking a little deeper, the continuation 30. ...Ra3 31. Rxc5 Nd3 32. Rc7 Nf4+ 33. Kd1 Nxf2 looks good for Black (Nf3 is hanging, so 34. Rxf7 Kg6 35. Rf8 Rc3 would seem to pick up a pawn with at least some winning chances).

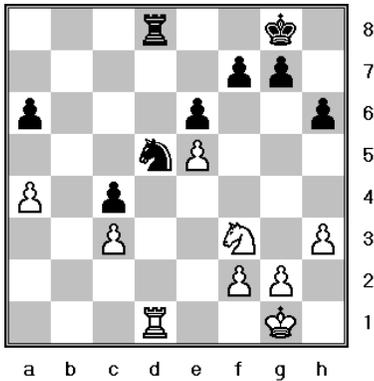


Other tries after 30. ...Ra3 such as 31. Nd2 Nd3 or 31. g3 Na2 (idea Nc1 or Nc3 check) 32. Nd2 Nc3+ 33. Kf1 Ra2 34. Rd8 (if white knight moves then ...Ne4) also look good for Black.

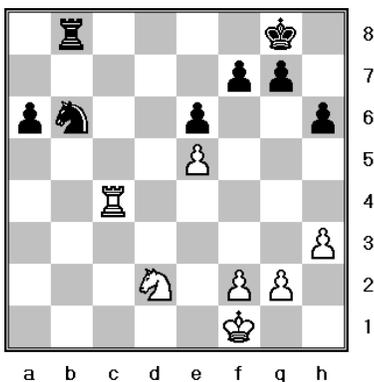


25. ...Rb8

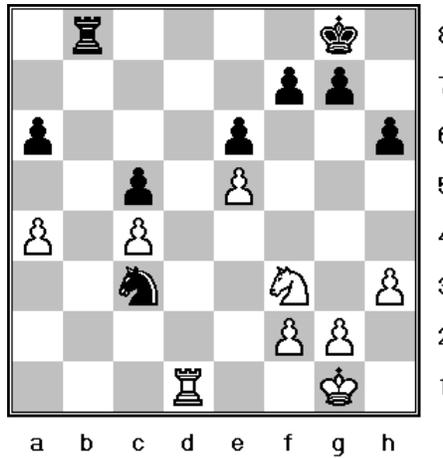
This move looks natural; the pin on the knight is removed and the rook moves to an open file. However, 25. ...c4 is a Fritz suggestion and may well be best.



This is the kind of computer move that is hard to find during the game, yet when pointed out afterwards makes sense. At first glance it looks silly, further exposing the c-pawn and still not releasing the d-file pin. It turns out white doesn't have a good way of defending his c-pawn. If 26. Rd4 Rc8 wins the c-pawn immediately. 26.Kf1 Rb8 27. Nd2 Nxc3 28. Rc1 Nxa4 29. Rxc4 (29. Nxc4 Rc8 pinning is awkward) 29. ...Nb6 followed by Nd7 or Nd5 as needed seems to give Black a clear pawn plus.



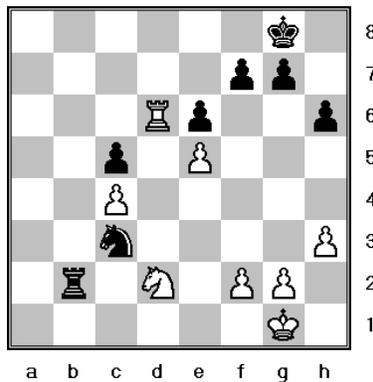
26. c4 Nc3



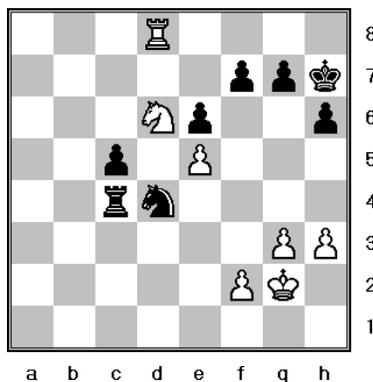
If 26. ...Nb4 then 27. Rd7 gives adequate counter play.

27. Rd6 Nxa4 28. Rxa6 Rb1+

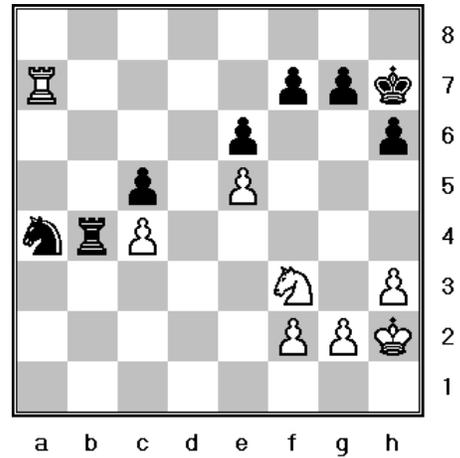
By giving the check first the protection of the f-pawn is removed. If after 28. Rb4 Black later continues with Rb1+ and Rb2 the position transposes to the game. 28. ...Nb2 29. Rc6 likely leads to an exchange of c-pawns. 28. ...Nc3 29. Nd2 Rb2 30. Rd6 holds as well.



For example 30. ...Rc2 (to target the c-pawn) 31. g3 Ne2+ 32. Kg2 Nd4 33. Ne4 Rxc4 34. Rd8+ Kh7 35. Nd6.



29. Kh2 Rb4 30. Ra8 Kh7 31. Ra7



The alternative is 31. Rf8. If 31. ...Kg6 then 32. Nh4 Kh4 33. g3 Rb7 (33. ...g5? 34 g4+ Kxh4 35. Rh8) still looks reasonable for White. Of course 31. ...Rxc4 32. Rxf7 transposes to the game.

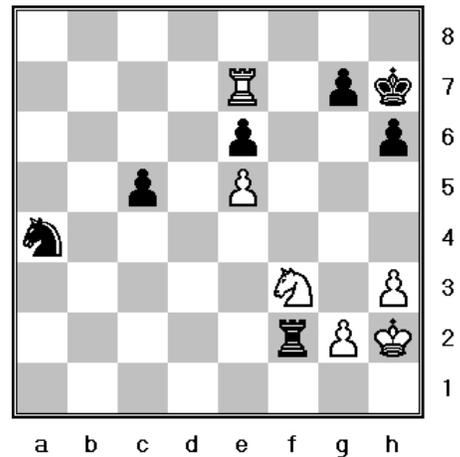
31. ...Rxc4

31. ...Kg6 32. Nh4 Kh5 33. g3 Rxc4 34. Rxf7 looks fine for White.

32. Rxf7 Rc2

If 32. ...Rb4 (to defend the e-pawn from the side), then 33. Re7 Rb6 34. Nd2 idea Ne4, f4.

33. Re7 Rxf2



Draw offered by Black, accepted by White. White will capture on e6 and the resulting passed e-pawn will be just as dangerous as Black's passed c-pawn. Most likely there will be an exchange of e-pawn for c-pawn resulting in a dead draw position.

1/2-1/2

Washington Class Game

by Josh Sinanan



Josh Sinanan – Ignacio Perez
Washington Class Championships,
Round 5
Bellevue, Washington, November 2008

Going into the 5th round of the Washington Class, there was a three way tie for first between me, Ignacio Perez, and Michael Lee with three points each. I had white against Ignacio on board 1, and Michael was defending the black pieces against Dereque Kelley on board 2. Therefore, it didn't come as a surprise when both games opened as Classical King's Indians.

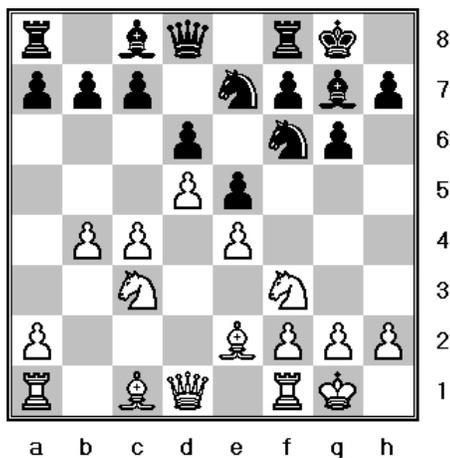
1. Nf3 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. e4

This move-order prevents the Gruenfeld Defense, which could occur after 4. d4 d5.

4. ...d6 5. d4 0-0 6. Be2 e5

Ignacio challenges me in the main line. In our last encounter at the 2008 Washington State Championship, play continued 6. ...Na6 7. 0-0 e5 8. Be3 Ng4 9. Bg5 f6 10. Bh4 g5 11. Bg3 Nh6 12. d5 Qe8 13. Nd2 g4, with Black winning in 40 moves.

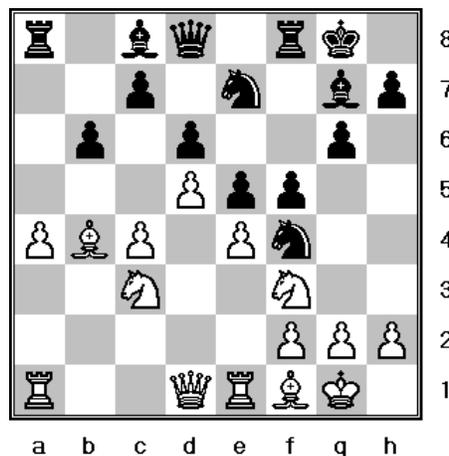
7. 0-0 Nc6 8. d5 Ne7 9. b4



The Bayonet Attack has become increasingly popular in recent years thanks to the success of such notables as Kramnik, Van Wely and Mikhailevski. White aims for rapid expansion on the queenside by means of c4-c5, exerting pressure on the c7 and d6 pawns. Unlike the classical line with 9. Ne1, White doesn't have to play f2-f3, and keeps options open on both sides of the board.

9. ...Nh5 10. Re1 a5 11. Ba3
 More common is 11. bxa5 Rxa5 12. Nd2 Nf4 13. Bf1 c5.

11. ...axb4 12. Bxb4 b6 13. a4 Nf4 14. Bf1 f5



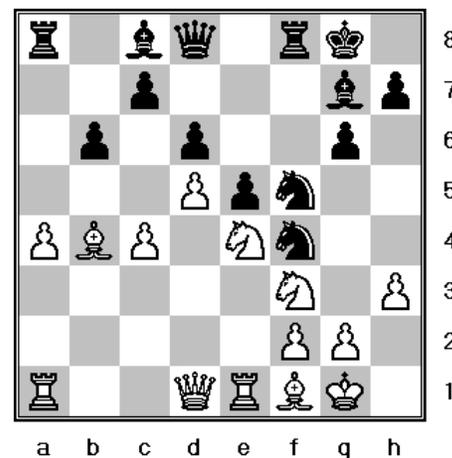
Having blunted White's pawn advance on the queenside, Ignacio goes for counterplay on the opposite wing. During the game, I rated the position after 15. a5 bxa5 16. Rxa5 Rxa5 17. Bxa5 fxe4 18. Nxe4 Bg4 as preferable for black due to the pressure on the f3 knight.

15. h3

Preventing ...Bg4. White's results in this line have been promising as demonstrated by the following two games played in 2001. Komljenovic, Davor (2472) - Durando, Didier [E97] Metz op Metz (6), 12. 04. 2001 continued 15. a5 bxa5 16. Rxa5 Rxa5 17. Bxa5 fxe4 18. Nxe4 Bg4 19. Neg5 Qd7 20. h3 Bxf3 21. Qxf3 Nfxd5 22. Qg4 Qxg4 23. hxg4 Ra8 24. Rb1 Nb6 25. Bxb6 Rb8 26. c5 d5 27. Ne6 cxb6 28. cxb6 Nc8 29. b7 Nd6 30. Rb6 1-0; Vasilevich, Tatjana (2436) - Georgieva, Liubka (2162) [E97] EU-ch 2nd (Women) Warsaw (11), 03. 05. 2001 continued 16. h3 Rf6 17. g3 fxe4 18. Nxe4 Nxb3+ 19. Bxb3 Bxb3 20. Nfg5 Bf5 21. Nxf6+ Bxf6 22. Ne4 Bg7 23. a5 bxa5 24. Bxa5 Qd7 25. Bb4 Rf8 26. Ra3 h5 27. f3 Bh6 28. Bd2 Bxd2 29. Qxd2 Kg7 30. Nf2 Ng8 31. Re1 Qf7 32. Ra7 Nf6 33. Ra8 Ne8 34. Kg2 Qf6 35. Qe3 Bd7 36. Ne4 Qf5 37. Rh1 Kg8 38. Nf2 Qf6 39. Ra3 Ng7 40. Ne4 Qe7 41. Qg5 Bf5 42. Nf2 Bc2 43. Rc3 Bf5

44. g4 Bc8 45. Qh6 Re8 46. Ne4 Bb7 47. Ng5 Qf6 48. gxh5 e4 49. hxg6 exf3+ 50. Rxf3 Re2+ 51. Kf1 1-0

15. ...fxe4 16. Nxe4 Nf5?

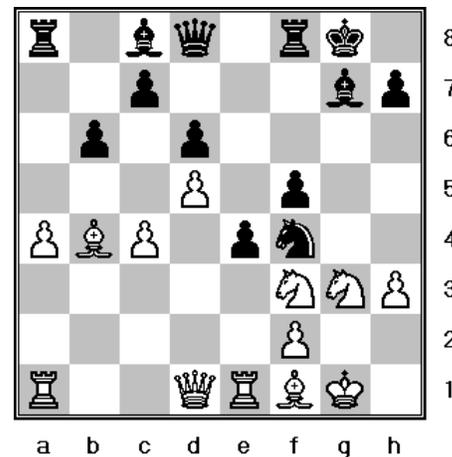


True to his aggressive style of play, Ignacio goes for a risky continuation. The knight is headed for d4, but after White's next move, it seems to fail tactically. More solid choices were 16. ...Bf5 or ...h6.

17. g3+- Nh5 18. g4 Nf4

On 18. ...Nf6, white keeps the advantage with 19. gxf5 Nxe4 20. Rxe4 Bxf5 21. Re3.

19. gxf5 gxf5 20. Ng3 e4



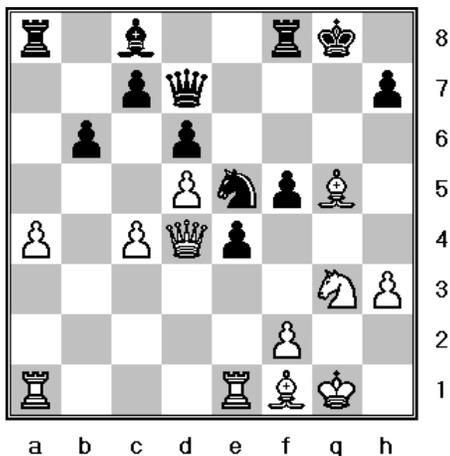
21. Bd2 Ng6

If 21. ...Bxa1, I was planning 22. Qxa1 Ng6 23. Nh5, with a strong attack.

22. Bg5!

Forcing the queen to an awkward square.

22. ...Qd7 23. Nd4 Bxd4 24. Qxd4 Ne5



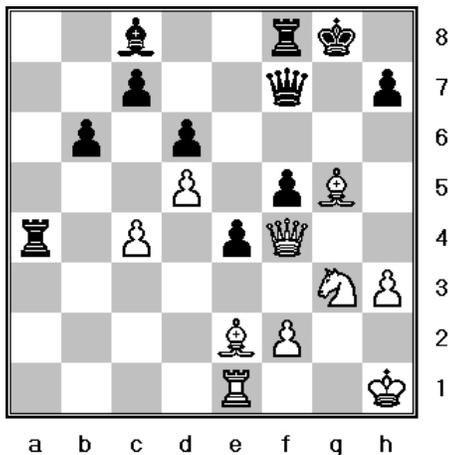
25. Qe3?!

Likely an inaccuracy. The natural 25. Be2 keeps the exchange and the advantage. During the game, both Ignacio and I thought that Black was doing well after 25. Be2 Qg7, threatening Nf3 and the bishop on g5. If 26. Be3, then 26. ...f4 is trouble for white. However 26. Qe3 seems to meet all of Black's threats.

25. ...Nf3± 26. Kh1 Nxe1 27. Rxe1 Qf7 28. Qf4

Transferring the queen over to the kingside to support an attack on the dark squares.

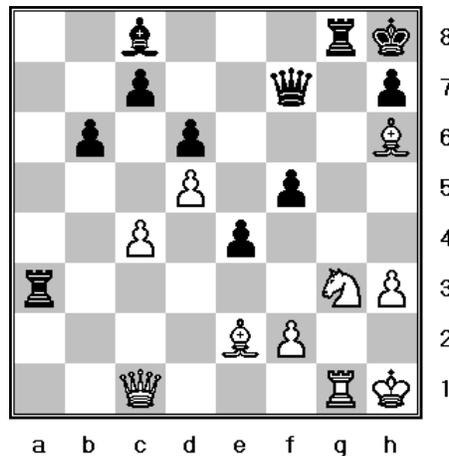
28. ...Rxa4 29. Be2



Preparing to bring all pieces into the attack with Rg1.

29. ...Ra3 30. Rg1 Kh8 31. Bh6 Rg8

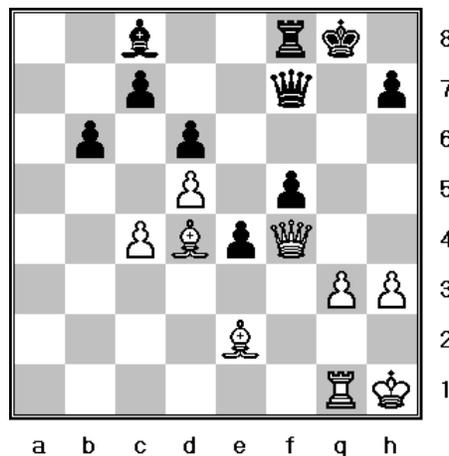
32. Qc1



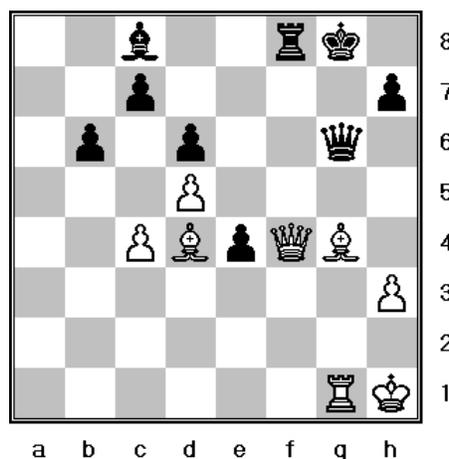
32. ...Raxg3

Ignacio, who has defended well up to this point, finally falters. A better try was 32. ...Qf6 33. Qxa3 Qxh6 34. Qc3+ Qg7 35. Nxe4 Qxc3 36. Nxc3.

33. f3g3 Qe7 34. Be3 Rf8 35. Bd4+ Kg8 36. Qf4 Qf7



37. g4! f3g4 38. B3g4 Qg6



Of course not 38 ...Qxf4?? 39. Be6 mate.

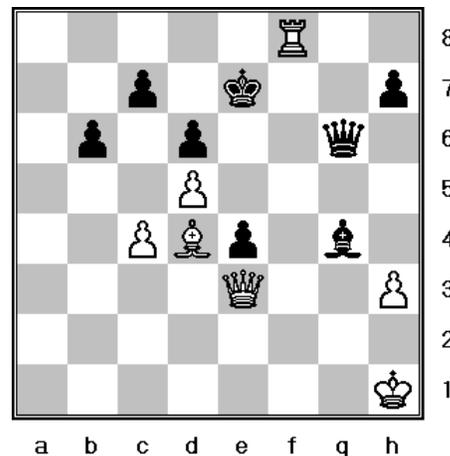
39. Qe3

In the post-game analysis, Ignacio showed me the much stronger 39. Be6+ Bxe6 40. R3g6+ hxg6 41. Qh6, threatening mate and the bishop.

39. ...Kf7 40. Rf1+?

After building up a strong attack, I failed to find the most direct win. 40. Bxc8 ends the games immediately.

40. ...Ke7 41. Rxf8 B3g4



42. Rf6 Qh5 43. Qxe4+ 1-0

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Meet Devon Manber

by
Mark
Ryan

Devon learned the game from his father, starting as young as age four. While he attended Greenlake Elementary School in Seattle, about 20 kids would show up on Friday afternoons for a very active formal chess club. In sixth grade at Washington Middle School in the Central District of Seattle, they fielded a strong team that won the Washington State Middle School Championships of 2004-2005.

NM Matt Fleury was Devon's coach for three years. Fleury emphasized good analysis techniques and the study of tactics. "He made it fun to learn chess," says Devon. Unfortunately he had to suspend his sessions with Fleury due to scheduling conflicts when he began attending Garfield High School, where Devon is now a sophomore.

Devon plays tournament chess as often as he can, and prefers the Washington Class and Washington Open in his home state. He's also played quite often in Las Vegas and National Scholastic Championships. "I love these tournaments," he says.

Though he likes Kasparov for his aggression over the board, he also has a local GM favorite, Seattle's own Yasser Seirawan, who beat all the K's during his career. "Of course he also went to Garfield!"

Devon's chess library is a mix of tactics, endgames, and strong GM game collections. A five-year subscriber, he likes *Northwest Chess*, at least when it has "good games that are well-annotated so that I can get good ideas to use."

Computers, mostly Fritz, help Devon's chess by allowing him "to analyze my games more accurately and see exactly what the best moves are," but, "I often rely on them to analyze," so he doesn't do enough work on his own.

He's a veteran of summer chess camps with Leo Stefurak and Georgi Orlov in Washington, and has attended national camps in Tampa, Florida, sponsored by the USCF for top 100 players in their age groups, qualifying for the last three years. Some of the coaches there were GM Gregory Kaidanov, IM Renier Gonzalez, GM Yuri Shulman, GM Nick DeFirmian, NM Eduardo Cruz, and NM Brian McCarthy.

Last summer, Devon was a paid intern at a summer chess camp sponsored by TheChessPlace at Garfield Community Center. "This experience taught me a lot about how one learns chess and how to teach it to young up and coming players. Teaching younger kids was really cool. These are the future players for Garfield High School. Coaching is really fun. I want to give back to where it all started for me, Greenlake Elementary. I will probably be a coach there this year through the ChessMates program – if we can make our schedules work out."

Devon annotates:

Devon Manber – Aryan Khojandi National High School Championship April 2008

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 a6 6. g3 g6 7. Bg2 Bg7 8. 0-0 9. Kh1

In this position, Kh1 did not help my position very much. I should have played 9. h3, which allows me to control the g4 square.

9. ...Qc7 10. f4

Now I am advancing my kingside pawns, preparing an attack.

10. ...Nc6 11. Nxc6

Here I was worried about leaving the d4 Knight there, but Nxc6 was uncalled for. I should have just defended it with Be3.

11. ...bxc6 12. f5

I played this move too soon. I first should have moved h3, developed the rest of my pieces, and only then make a break on the kingside.

12. ...Rb8 13. g4

Again I should have waited to push my kingside pawns. Better was Rb1 followed by the deployment of my dark-squared bishop.

13. ...Nd7 14. g5 Be5 15. Qg4 Rb4 16. Rf3

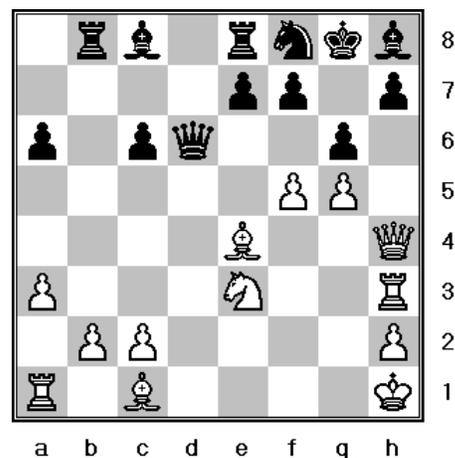
A mistake, allowing ...Nc5, although my

opponent did not find that move.

16. ...Re8 17. a3 Rb8 18. Qh4 Bh8 19. Nd1 d5 20. Ne3

Better was 20. fxg6, followed by Rh3

20. ...dxe4 21. Rh3 Nf8 22. Bxe4 Qd6



23. Qf2

A passive retreating move that gives up my advantage. Better was a move like 23. c3, solidifying my position, keeping the queen on h4, and preparing to continue my attack in a successful way (23. ...gxf5 24. Nxf5 Qd1+ 25. Kg2 Qe2+ 26. Kg1 Qd1+ Kf2 leaves white with a large advantage). 23. Bd2 almost works, but doesn't quite make it (23. Bd2 Qxd2 24. Rd1 Qa5 25. fxg6 fxg6 and after most moves, including Bxg6, comes Bxh3 and if 26. Rf3, then Black will be safe and go on to win with the extra piece).

The author (Mark Ryan) spent quite some time analyzing 23. Ng4.

23. ...gxf5 24. Bxf5 Bxf5 25. Nxf5 Qd1+ 26. Kg2 Qd5+ 27. Rf3 Bg7 28. Bd2

28. Nxc7 was better here and on the next move, preventing the loss of the b2 pawn.

28. ...Ng6 29. Kg1 Ne5

29. ...Bxb2 would have been much better.

30. Rg3 Nc4

Now it's a forced win of material.

31. Rd3 Qe6 32. Re1 Qg6

(32...Ne5 33. Rde3)

33. Nxe7+ Rxe7 34. Rxe7 Nxd2 35. Qxd2 Bf6 36. Qf4 Qxg5+ 37. Qxg5+

Here I missed the obvious 37. Rg3, but the game is over soon anyway.

1-0 (after move 58)

2008 Clark Harmon Memorial Northwest Grand Prix Final Standings

by
Murlin
Varner,
chief
tabulator

All results are in and the winners can be disclosed! A few financial details need to be ironed out before prize amounts are disclosed, but we do know who will be getting the prizes. Many of the races were very close, and a few winners were not leading when last we posted results in these pages.

Our overall winners are repeaters from previous years. **Nick Raptis** won the Oregon overall prize with 157.5 points, with a margin of 32.5 over second place **Brett Becker**. In Washington, **Stephen Buck** took first with 170.5 points, just 12 ahead of **Paul Bartron**. Our top player from outside Washington and Oregon was **Arie Milner** of Canada. No prize money there, but thanks for playing.

Close competition was seen in the Expert class on both sides of the border, with **Dereque Kelley** edging **Andy May** for second in WA by just a half point! South of the border, **Bill Heywood** took first Expert by just one point over **Michael Morris**. Also close was Washington Class A, where **Michael Wang** took first by just four points over **Peter Watts**. In Washington's Class C, despite **Darby Monahan's** best efforts, **August Piper** managed to hold on to first by three and a half points. Oregon's Class D race was close all the way down, with less than 10 points separating the top five in the class.

On the other side of things, a major run-away was seen in Oregon's Class B, with **Brett Becker** taking first by a whopping 56.5 points. No one else can lay claim to a margin of victory anywhere near that large. Check out the charts below to see all the winners and non-winning leaders. Remember, there are prizes for first and second in each class, with an additional first place share for the overall winner in each state.

In some ways, we had a very good year in the grand prix. We had a total of 566 players in all 79 of our Grand Prix events during 2008. This is a record number for my six years tabulating the results. The 79 events was only one off the record set in 2006, and the 15 events with multipliers was also a record. On the other hand, our total number of entries into grand prix events fell to our lowest since 2003 (1724). This resulted from a lower than usual events per player average. Usually, our grand prix players average about 3.3 to 3.5 events per year. This year, the average fell to 3.05, the lowest of the past six years. This may relate to the economy, something on many minds and wallets this year, and, at the end of the year, the weather, which held down turnouts and even cancelled one event in the last half of December. The 2009 event has already started, so we shall see if our activity numbers can rebound. The first multiplier event of the year occurred on the first weekend, in the Gresham Open, and another is coming up the end of February at the Collyer Memorial in Spokane. So, go, play, get points!

Oregon		Washington		Oregon		Washington	
Masters				Class B			
1 Raptis, Nick	157.5	1 Pupols, Viktors	111	1 Becker, Brett	125	1 Buck, Stephen	170.5
2 Roua, Radu	100.5	2 MacGregor, Michael	85	2 Hannibal, Carson	68.5	2 Walton, John	134.5
3 Haessler, Carl	40	3 Bragg, David	71.5	3 Lehman, Jeff	57	3 May, Sarah	112.5
4 Russell, Corey	26	4 Lee, Michael	67.5	4 Gagnon, William	50	4 Pazderic, Nickola	99.5
		5 Perez, Ignacio	60	5 Grom, Alex	49	5 Xing, Casey	95.5
		6 Readey, John	45	6 Bailey, Taylor	44.5	6 Copeland, Chris	91.5
Experts				Class C			
1 Heywood, Bill	58	1 Bartron, Paul	158.5	1 Pyle, Galen	97	1 Piper, August	134
2 Morris, Michael	57	2 Kelley, Dereque	126.5	2 Dietz, Arliss	83.5	2 Monahan, Darby	130.5
3 Gutman, Richard	48	3 May, Andy	126	3 Hannibal, Dana	66	3 Goodfellow, Robert	121
4 Breckenridge, Steven	47	4 Chen, Howard	98	4 Midson, Tony	63	4 MacGregor, Logan	112.5
5 Yu, Corbin	25	5 Sinanan, Joshua	96	5 Terrill, Michael	49.5	5 Baker, Ted	76
6 Pena, Pablo	17.5	6 Smith, Allen	89.5	6 Tse, Kalen	42	6 Hua, Daniel	67
Class A				Class D and Below			
1 Gay, Daniel	92	1 Wang, Michael	134	1 Petersen, George	42	1 Bashkansky, Ethan	114
2 Encke, Michael	85.5	2 Watts, Peter	130	2 Smith, James K.	38.5	2 Tokareva, Kate	99.5
3 Esler, Brian	70	3 O'Gorman, Peter	119	3 Harry, Ken	35.5	3 Chi, Quentin	82.5
4 Ball, Larry	57	4 Harrison, Drayton	113	4 Witt, Steven	34	4 Song, Matthew	81.5
5 Tezcan, Yaman	56.5	5 Ummel, Igor	99	5 Dalthorp, Matt	33.5	4 Iordanov, Stoyan	81.5
6 Bannon, David	56	6 Pitre, H. G.	96.5	6 Smith, Chloe	22.5	6 Yu, Justin	79

Oregon		Washington		Players from Other States						
Overall Leaders, by State										
1	Raptis, Nick	157.5	1	Buck, Stephen	170.5	1	Milner, Arie	CAN	1927	78.5
2	Becker, Brett	125	2	Bartron, Paul	158.5	2	Weyland, Ronald	ID	1472	61
3	Roua, Radu	100.5	3	Walton, John	134.5	3	Havrilla, Mark	ID	1921	53.5
4	Pyle, Galen	97	4	Wang, Michael	134	4	Monkhouse, Neale	CAN	1761	52.5
5	Gay, Daniel	92	4	Piper, August	134	4	Harmon-Vellotti, Luke	ID	1973	52.5
6	Encke, Michael	85.5	6	Monahan, Darby	130.5	6	Brewster, Robert	CAN	1992	47.5
7	Dietz, Arliss	83.5	7	Watts, Peter	130	7	Harmon-Vellotti, Carl	ID	1607	45
8	Esler, Brian	70	8	Kelley, Dereque	126.5	8	Donaldson, W John	CA	2459	37.5
9	Hannibal, Carson	68.5	9	May, Andy	126	9	Huang, Richard	CAN	2016	36
10	Hannibal, Dana	66	10	Goodfellow, Robert	121	9	McLaughlin, Edward	MT	1769	36
10	Midson, Tony	63	11	O'Gorman, Peter	119	11	McLaren, Sean	CAN	2060	34
12	Heywood, Bill	58	12	Bashkansky, Ethan	114	12	Hilling, Lloyd	AK	1663	32.5
13	Morris, Michael	57	13	Harrison, Drayton	113	12	Cadman, Charles	CAN	2265	32.5
13	Ball, Larry	57	14	May, Sarah	112.5	12	Lee, Jonah	CAN	1051	32.5
13	Lehman, Jeff	57	14	MacGregor, Logan	112.5	15	Poitras, Luc	CAN	2267	30
						15	Leslie, Cameron	ID	1646	30

Northwest Grand Prix Administrator

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9th Annual Sands Regency Reno - Far West Open

A Weikel Tournament

150 Grand Prix Pts. (Enhanced) • **April 10-12, 2009** • F.I.D.E. Rated

\$22,500 (b/250) \$15,000 Guaranteed

6 Round Swiss • 5 Sections • 40/2 - 20/1 - G/1/2

Entry: \$135 Average • Rooms: \$27/\$54! While they last!

Thursday 4/9: 6 - 7:15 pm - Free Lecture by GM Larry Evans.

7:30 pm - Blitz Tourney (5 min.) - \$20, 80% of entries returned as prizes

7:30 pm - Simul. \$15! GM Khachiyan

Saturday 4/11 3 - 4:30 pm - GM Larry Evans FREE Clinic (Game/Position Analysis)

Main Tournament

Registration: Thursday (5 - 8 pm.) - Friday - (8:30 - 10 am.)

Round Times: (4/10) 12 (Noon) - 7 pm, (4/11) 10 am - 6 pm, (4/12) 9:30 am - 4 pm

For a flyer call or e-mail: Chief TD N.T.D. Jerome V. (Jerry) Weikel, (775) 747-1405 / wackyykl@aol.com

Room Reservations: Terrible's Sands Regency Casino Hotel, 1-866-FUN-STAY - Ask for code CHESS09.

SEE TLA IN CHESS LIFE MARCH ISSUE OR VISIT WWW.RENOCHESS.ORG/FWO
To download an application and for more info, visit www.sandsregency.com (Events Calendar Page)

Seattle Chess Club Tournaments

Address ↙
 17517 15 Ave NE ↙
 Seattle WA 98155
 Infoline ↗
 206-417-5405
www.seattlechessclub.info
kleistcf@aol.com
 Address for Entries
 SCC Tnmt Dir
 2420 S 137 St
 Seattle WA 98168

One-Day Events

Feb. 1, Mar. 1 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.

Feb. 21, Mar. 14 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.

March 7 SCC vs. TCC Match

Format: 1-rd, 7-board (class) match. **TC:** G/120. **Prizes:** Win-Tornado EF, Draw-Quad EF. **Rd:** 1:00 p.m. **Misc:** USCF memb. req'd, NS, NC.

May 2 SCC Novice

Format: 4-SS. Open to U1200 and unrated. **TC:** G/75. **EF:** \$11 by 4/29, \$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.

Seattle Spring Open

March 27-29 or March 28-29

A two-section Swiss (4 rounds – Open, 5 rounds – Reserve) with a time control of 40/2 and SD/1 (two-day Reserve schedule – Round 1, G/64). The prize fund of \$750 is based on 40 paid entries, 5 per prize group.

a Harmon Memorial Grand Prix event

Championship		Reserve (U2000)	
First	\$140	First	\$100
Second	\$100	Second	\$70
U2200	\$75	U1800	\$50
U2000	\$40	U1600	\$40
		U1400	\$30
		U1200	\$25
		Unrated	\$15

Plus Score Pool – \$100

Entry Fees: \$33 if rec'd by 3/25 (\$24 for SCC memb., \$29 for memb. of other dues-required CCs in BC, OR, and WA), \$42 at site (\$33, \$38). **Unrated**–Free with purchase of 1-yr USCF & 1-yr WCF. **Add \$1 to any EF for 2-day schedule.**

Registration: **Open**–Sat. 11- noon; **Reserve**–Fri. 7-7:45pm, Sat. 9-9:45am.

Rounds: **Open**–Sat. 12:30-6:45, Sun. 10-4; **Reserve**–Fri. 8, Sat. (10 @ G/64)-12:30-6:45, Sun. 10-4.

Byes: 1 in Open, 2 in Reserve (Sunday rounds, commit at registration).

Miscellaneous: USCF & WCF membership req'd. No smoking. No computers.

H. G. Pitre's Green Open II!!!

G/90 + 30 sec./move

4-round Swiss

coming May 9-10

Future Events

♣ indicates a NW Grand Prix event ♣

♣ February 28

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.

PCC Game-in-60 ♣

♣ February 28 – March 1

Site: Basement conference room, St. Anne's Children's Center, 25 W. Fifth Ave, Spokane. **Format:** 5-SS **TC:** G/120. **Rds:** 10-2:30-7; 9-1:30. **EF:** \$27 by 2/27, \$33 site. \$5 disc for U-19. **Prizes:** \$\$1600 G. \$325-200-125; X 100; A, B, C, D/E/U 100-75; Upset 100-50. Min 5/class. **Reg:** 8:30-9:30 am. **Opt:** Sleep-in rd 1 G/60 at noon, reg by 11:40. **Bye:** 1 hpb req. before end of preceding round; Sunday by end rd 3. **Misc:** Mand. players meeting 9:45 (unless "sleep-in"); USCF & OCF/WCF memb req, OSA. IM Donaldson lecture and simul 2/27, call for info **Info:** www.spokanechessclub.org. **Ent:** Kevin Korsmo, N. 9923 Moore, Spokane, WA 99208-9339, (509) 270-7720.

17th Dave Collyer Memorial ♣

January 2009

30	SCC G/15 Championship	Seattle CC, www.seattlechessclub.info, 206-417-5405	Seattle, WA
30	TCC Annual Membership Meeting	Tacoma CC, www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com, 253-535-2536	Tacoma, WA
31	♣ PCC G/60	Portland CC, www.pdxchess.org, 503-246-2978	Portland, OR
31	SCC Novice	Seattle CC, www.seattlechessclub.info, 206-417-5405	Seattle, WA
31	Java Fusion Coffee Shop Tourney	Tacoma CC, www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com, 253-535-2536	Tacoma, WA
31	PCC Annual Membership Meeting	Portland CC, www.pdxchess.org, 503-246-2978	Portland, OR

February 2009

1	♣ SCC Sunday Tornado	Seattle CC, www.seattlechessclub.info, 206-417-5405	Seattle, WA
1	TCC Sunday Quads G/30	Tacoma CC, www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com, 253-535-2536	Tacoma, WA
3	PCC Tuesday Quads begin	Portland CC, www.pdxchess.org, 503-246-2978	Portland, OR
6-27	Pierce County League Rds 1-4	Tacoma CC, www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com, 253-535-2536	Tacoma, WA
7	PCC Saturday Quads	Portland CC, www.pdxchess.org, 503-246-2978	Portland, OR
7-15	Washington State Championships	WCF, www.nwchess.com,	Bellevue, WA
11	TCC Wednesday Quads G/15	Tacoma CC, www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com, 253-535-2536	Tacoma, WA
14-22	Oregon State Championships	OCF/PCC, www.pdxchess.org, 503-246-2978	Portland, OR
21	♣ SCC Saturday Quads	Seattle CC, www.seattlechessclub.info, 206-417-5405	Seattle, WA
21	Java Fusion Coffee Shop Tourney	Tacoma CC, www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com, 253-535-2536	Tacoma, WA
27	IM Donaldson lecture/simul	Spokane CC, www.spokanechessclub.org, 509-270-7720	Spokane, WA
28	♣ PCC G/60	Portland CC, www.pdxchess.org, 503-246-2978	Portland, OR
28	McChord AFB Tournament	Tacoma CC, www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com, 253-535-2536	Tacoma, WA
28-Mar 1	♣ 17 th Dave Collyer Memorial	Spokane CC, www.spokanechessclub.org, 509-270-7720	Spokane, WA

March 2009

1	♣ SCC Sunday Tornado	Seattle CC, www.seattlechessclub.info, 206-417-5405	Seattle, WA
1	TCC Sunday Quads G/30	Tacoma CC, www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com, 253-535-2536	Tacoma, WA
3	PCC Tuesday Quads begin	Portland CC, www.pdxchess.org, 503-246-2978	Portland, OR
6-13	Pierce County League Rds 5-6	Tacoma CC, www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com, 253-535-2536	Tacoma, WA
7	PCC Saturday Quads	Portland CC, www.pdxchess.org, 503-246-2978	Portland, OR
7	SCC vs TCC match	Seattle CC, www.seattlechessclub.info, 206-417-5405	Seattle, WA
11	TCC Wednesday Quads G/15	Tacoma CC, www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com, 253-535-2536	Tacoma, WA
14	♣ SCC Saturday Quads	Seattle CC, www.seattlechessclub.info, 206-417-5405	Seattle, WA
14-15	♣ TCC Northwest Open	Tacoma CC, www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com, 253-535-2536	Tacoma, WA
21-22	♣ Portland Spring Open	Portland CC, www.pdxchess.org, 503-246-2978	Portland, OR
27	TCC Gambit Tourney	Tacoma CC, www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com, 253-535-2536	Tacoma, WA
27-29	♣ Seattle Spring Open	Seattle CC, www.seattlechessclub.info, 206-417-5405	Seattle, WA
28	♣ PCC G/60	Portland CC, www.pdxchess.org, 503-246-2978	Portland, OR
28	Java Fusion Coffee Shop Tourney	Tacoma CC, www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com, 253-535-2536	Tacoma, WA

April 2009

1	TCC April Fools Quads G/15	Tacoma CC, www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com, 253-535-2536	Tacoma, WA
3	Pierce County Champ (through May 6)	Tacoma CC, www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com, 253-535-2536	Tacoma, WA
4	PCC Saturday Quads	Portland CC, www.pdxchess.org, 503-246-2978	Portland, OR
5	♣ SCC Sunday Tornado	Seattle CC, www.seattlechessclub.info, 206-417-5405	Seattle, WA
7	PCC Tuesday Quads begin	Portland CC, www.pdxchess.org, 503-246-2978	Portland, OR
8	TCC Wednesday Quads G/15	Tacoma CC, www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com, 253-535-2536	Tacoma, WA
10-12	9th Annual Far West Open	Jerry Weikel, www.renochess.org/fwo, 775-747-1405	Reno, NV
10-13	Grand Pacific Open	Victoria CC, victoriachessclub.pbwiki.com/Victoria+Chess+Festival+2009	Victoria, BC
18-19	♣ TCC Daffodil Open	Tacoma CC, www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com, 253-535-2536	Tacoma, WA
18-19	♣ 3rd Annual Clark Harmon Memorial	Portland CC, www.pdxchess.org, 503-246-2978	Portland, OR
25	♣ SCC Saturday Quads	Seattle CC, www.seattlechessclub.info, 206-417-5405	Seattle, WA
25	♣ PCC G/60	Portland CC, www.pdxchess.org, 503-246-2978	Portland, OR
25	Java Fusion Coffee Shop Tourney	Tacoma CC, www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com, 253-535-2536	Tacoma, WA

May 2009

2	SCC Novice	Seattle CC, www.seattlechessclub.info, 206-417-5405	Seattle, WA
2	PCC Saturday Quads	Portland CC, www.pdxchess.org, 503-246-2978	Portland, OR
3	♣ SCC Sunday Tornado	Seattle CC, www.seattlechessclub.info, 206-417-5405	Seattle, WA
5	PCC Tuesday Quads begin	Portland CC, www.pdxchess.org, 503-246-2978	Portland, OR
9-10	♣ H.G. Pitre's Green Open II	Seattle CC, www.seattlechessclub.info, 206-417-5405	Seattle, WA
16	♣ SCC Saturday Quads	Seattle CC, www.seattlechessclub.info, 206-417-5405	Seattle, WA
23-25	♣ Washington Open	Spokane CC, www.spokanechessclub.org, 509-270-7720	Spokane, WA
30	♣ PCC G/60	Portland CC, www.pdxchess.org, 503-246-2978	Portland, OR
31	♣ SCC Sunday Tornado	Seattle CC, www.seattlechessclub.info, 206-417-5405	Seattle, WA

For scholastic tournament listings, please visit www.nwchess.com.