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# Contents

Cover & page six art: Curt Collyer, photos by Philip Peterson

Curt beat IM John Donaldson and tied for first in the Spokane tournament memorializing Curt's father, Dave; he tied for second in the WA State Championship, and his rating is now over 2300 for the first time.

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Letters. The mail I receive rarely specifies that it is intended for publication (as, “a letter to the editor”), and none has specifically said, “this is not for publication.” Rather than printing complete letters that may or may not have been intended for the purpose, I thought I’d do a little summarizing.

**Floyd Kirk** points out that the game between Schill and Pupols, which we printed in February – dating the game to a State Championship in the 1970s – was printed in NWC in 2005 as a game from that year’s Washington State Championship. My reply? This is what happens when you dump all of your game scores into a box.

**H.G. Pitre** has been generally supportive and positive about the direction we’re taking, and he was particularly complimentary toward **Pete Prochaska**’s first column, which made a GM game accessible to us normal folks. He couldn’t find the WCF meeting minutes that I promised in the last issue, but they are now (really!) posted on nwchess.com.

**Viktors Pupols** found my comments on his victory in the Washington Premier to be “true and insightful,” promising, “the young whizzes and whippersnappers will have to come through me and be given a severe exam.” He also complained a bit about the flexibility of the WCF qualifications decisions about ratings and activity involving the Championship section, but

## From the Editor’s Desk

### Ralph Dubisch



concluded, “playing is more fun than arguing, so here we are!” Congratulations again, Uncle Vik. As a whippersnapper you tested in a previous generation, I’m thrilled you are still on the job.

**Carl Koontz** calls *Northwest Chess*, “an enjoyable read and resource... something to look forward to and get to right away,” while praising all of the contributors.

**Curt Collyer** likes “the new style of the magazine.” This did not influence my decision to put him on the front cover.

**Rusty Miller** has taken on (continued?) the role of primary evangelist for the magazine. He’s talked us up on **Susan Polgar**’s blog site, where we’ve been featured three or four times recently, including pictures and links to our web site.

He’s contacted national tournament organizers to point out the benefits of advertising in *Northwest Chess*. He writes to players and directors, travels around, takes pictures, writes stories, researches history, and generally does everything in his power to promote *Northwest Chess*. I’m sure this is a very incomplete list, but it’s a start.

Thanks Rusty!

**G a r y Dorfner** is, as always, a tireless volunteer in support of

chess, especially chess in Tacoma. He works very hard to run tournaments, gather results, write up reports, keep historical records, and keep the faith. Recent reports and scholastic round-ups can be found on nwchess.com.

One of the unsung heroes in Washington chess is **Drayton Harrison**. Drayton gathers game scores, enters them into a computer, creates databases in multiple formats, distributes these to various interested parties, and often annotates many of the games, too. He also keeps the mail flowing from its official box to those who need to receive it.

I’m not sure how this column morphed into a volunteer appreciation article, but since it has, I’d like to thank **Eric Holcomb**, **Duane Polich**, **Murlin Varner**, all of my regular columnists and contributors, the WCF, OCF, *NWC* board members, and all of the chess club officers, TDs, and volunteers whose work makes chess in the Northwest better. Many thanks to all.



## Publisher’s Desk

### by Duane Polich

Spring is the air! ...or at least we hope soon. April showers bring May flowers, but I like the ones in April, especially the daffodils and tulips. The biggest chess flower of April in this area is the Washington State Elementary Chess Championships to be held at the Spokane Convention Center April 24-25. The event is being hosted by the Gary Younker Foundation and I offer best wishes to organizers James and Teresa Stripes and TD Kevin Korsmo. This is a tremendous undertaking, but I am sure they will pull it off very smoothly.

The event seems to get bigger and bigger every year which is a good thing, although

it makes it harder and harder to find an adequate facility to hold the event. I remember when it was held at the Tri-Cities Convention Center in Kennewick and it seemed to overwhelm that venue. Next year the event will be held at the Tacoma Convention Center and the year after that the WCF hopes to be a co-sponsor of the event to be held in the Seattle area. The growth of scholastic chess is a good thing, and I will continue my push to get WCF and *Northwest Chess* more actively involved in it. I would like to see the *Northwest Chess* website become the premier source of news and information about scholastic chess events and activities, providing links to all the scholastic groups and organizers in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho.

So after putting on this year’s

Elementary Chess Championship, the Spokane group will not be able to rest, as they will be gearing up to host the Washington Open over Memorial Day weekend, May 23-25. The event will be held at the Red Lion River Inn, right on the Spokane River. Be sure to make plans to be there for WCF’s major event. Perhaps the Lilac will still be in bloom.

Make sure you make use of the *Northwest Chess* Forum (discussion board) for information on events, making carpooling and sleeping arrangements, etc. New users must get approval to join (to prevent spammers from posting to the forum). Please register, then send an e-mail to the Business Manager (Eric Holcomb) with your real name, forum user name that you registered, and any other info (such as membership number) that identifies you as a legitimate user. This will greatly expedite the approval process.

Play On!

– Duane

# NW News Briefs

## Chess4Life Friday Night Quads

On January 30th, NM Elliott Neff directed the 'grand opening' night of scholastic Friday Night Quads in Bothell, hosted now every week by Evergreen Karate (www.evergreenkarate.com). Chess4Life added the Bothell location for the popular event which is run every Friday at Chess4Life's center in Bellevue. Opening night at Evergreen Karate, players from first-time competitors through 1300-rated competed in this NWSRS-rated event. At the end of the evening, NM Elliott took on four players simultaneously in five-minute blitz for some fast action to finish the evening.

More info on Chess4Life's Friday Night Quads: these quads are open to players grades K-12 – and, for those brave enough, parents can play if their child is playing that evening! After registration is complete, players are grouped according to rating, and for each quad there is a trophy to the winner! Players that come frequently strive to collect four trophies in order to gain the 4x Winner trophy.

The ultimate trophy in Friday Night Quads action is the "Triple Crown" cup. This prized award requires earning three of the 4x Winner trophies – eight players have achieved this in the last three years.

Friday Night Quads are intended to be a great way for students to put into practice what they are learning in chess classes. Students can even attend weekly classes at Chess4Life on Friday afternoons, following this with the rated quad competition. At the Chess4Life Center, there are typically players rated from beginner up through 1500

(occasionally even 1800!), and all first-time quad attendees receive a door prize!

For directions, visit [www.chess4life.com](http://www.chess4life.com) or call 425-283-0549.

– Johanna Neff

## Scholastic Tournament Round-up

The Washington High School Individual Championship was held January 30-31. There were 85 players, 34 in the Open Section and 51 in the Reserve. Open section winners: 1<sup>st</sup>, Kerry Xing, 5-0. Kerry will be the Washington Representative at the Denker Tournament of High School Champions August. 2<sup>nd</sup>, Andy May, Elliot Knudsen, Peter Lessler, Devon Manber & Peter Watts, with 4-0 each. In the reserve: 1<sup>st</sup> Mark Rathvon, Francesca Renouard, and Iris Emerman, 4.5 each. Team results: 1<sup>st</sup>, Lakeside; 2<sup>nd</sup>, Seattle Prep; 3<sup>rd</sup>, Interlake; 4<sup>th</sup>, Bainbridge Island; 5<sup>th</sup>, Ballard. TD: Kirk Wings.

The Washington Junior Open was held January 19<sup>th</sup>. There were 168 players, 65 in the Open, and in the Reserve, 58 in the grades K-3 section, 39 in the grades 4-6 section, and 6 in the grades 7-12 section. The winners: Open: 1<sup>st</sup>, Krishnan Warriar and Devon Manber, 4-0 each. They played a speed match which was won by Warriar. 3<sup>rd</sup>, Ethan Gottlieb, Michael Wang, and David Inglis, 3.5 each. Reserve: K-3: 1<sup>st</sup>, Kanish Puri and Bryan Zhu, 5-0 each. 4-6: 1<sup>st</sup>, Jordan Price, 5-0; 2<sup>nd</sup> John Leece, Vishnu Sarukkai, Sean Burznski, Nic Pisani, and Jason Zhu, 4-0 each. 7-12: 1<sup>st</sup>, Jeremy Kohlenberg, 5-0; 2<sup>nd</sup>, Matt Coopersmith, 3-2. Team results: Open Section: 1<sup>st</sup>, Odle Middle School; 2<sup>nd</sup>, Evergreen; 3<sup>rd</sup>, Interlake High. Reserve Section: K-3: 1<sup>st</sup>, Somerset. TD: David Hendricks.

– Gary Dorfner

## Tacoma Report

The New Year Quads were held at the club on January 2, 9, and 16. There were 12 players in three quads. The winners were: Quad 1, Paul Bartron; Quad 2, Stephen Buck; Quad 3, Lani Martin. TD: Gary Dorfner.

The Tacoma Chess Club 30-30 was held on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. There were 10 players. The winners were Mike MacGregor and Mike Kamerath, 3-0 each. TD: Gary Dorfner.

The Pierce County Open was held Jan. 25<sup>th</sup>. There were 8 players; the winners were: 1<sup>st</sup>, Mike MacGregor and Howard Chen with 3.5, earning \$47.50 each; 1<sup>st</sup> U1700, Darby Monahan and Catherine Smith, with 1.5, winning \$14.00 each. TD: Gary Dorfner.

The Tacoma Chess Club membership meeting was held on Friday night, January 30<sup>th</sup>. The following were elected officers for 2009: President Stephen Buck; Vice President (vacant); Secretary Paul Bartron; Treasurer Mike MacGregor; Tournament Director, Gary Dorfner; P.D. & Sergeant at arms (vacant).

– Gary Dorfner

## Spokane Chess Club: Ackerman, Weyland Winter Champions

Ron Weyland defeated Ryan Ackerman in their fifth-round encounter to tie Ryan for the title of Club Champion. Both finished at 4-1. Kevin Korsmo was third with 3.5. Ron and Ryan split the \$55 cash prize for first place and the best over 1500. The best under 1500 prize went to Ted Baker with a 3-2 score.

Ted Baker's first-round conquest of Kevin Korsmo stood as the biggest upset of the tourney.

In addition to the cash prizes, each of the section winners and the biggest upset winner received one-year WCF memberships as part of the prize packages.

– Kevin Korsmo

## Washington High School Team

The short report on the results of the Washington State High School Team Championships, held at Mount Vernon High School, February 27 and 28, 2009:

1-2	Interlake A	19
1-2	Lakeside A	19
3	Seattle Prep. A	18.5
4	Skyline A	18
5-6	Garfield A	16.5
5-6	University Prep	16.5



Reader board at the Oregon Convention Center, Portland, Oregon.  
Neil Dale directed. Photo credit: Russell Miller.

7 Bothell	15
8-10 Lynden	14.5
8-10 Interlake B	14.5
8-10 Bainbridge Island	14.5

Interlake, lead by Michael Lee and Alex Guo, won the speed playoff, 3-2. 32 teams competed. More next month!

– David Ellinger

### Middle School State Team

Defending champions Odle Middle School dominated the Washington Middle School Team Championship in Mercer Island, March 7, 2009. They scored 23 out of a possible 25 game points. The Overlake School was second, with 16 points.

– source: [www.whsca.org/MSTeam.html](http://www.whsca.org/MSTeam.html)

### Port Townsend Open

The Port Townsend Open Chess tournament (January 15-February 25, 2009; six rounds, 33 players) was an experiment. We tried to create playing conditions which would attract as many local players as possible. We opted for flexible conditions where players would not have to devote an entire weekend to chess as in a normal six round swiss. And it worked. The majority of players in this tournament have never been rated nor had tournament experience.

We also decided to have some decent prizes (\$100 for first, \$75 for second, \$50 for third, \$25 for fourth, \$10 for fifth thru tenth) with no entry fee! This didn't cost us much as most of the bigger prize winners donated their prizes back to the club for long-term membership! And we didn't have to spring for anything extra for tournament accommodations.

We posted the pairings on Thursday and gave the opponents a full week to arrange and play the game and report back. They could negotiate time control, or decide to play without clocks. If they couldn't agree, the tournament default was 2 hours for 40 moves, 1 hour for 20 secondary. They could even opt to play a match and we'd count the result as a single game! They could play the game at the location of their choice, with the default being at the club.

With an entire week to arrange individual games, and with flexibility on time controls, the tournament moved along at a comfortable small town pace. This flexibility allowed for players from Port Angeles and Sequim to find convenient time slots and locations as well. Of course, one



*Trophies at the Corner stone Chess Challenge, Cornerstone Christian School, Vancouver, Washington, March 7, 2009. Norman May directed. Photo credit: Russell Miller.*

of the major goals of the tournament was to introduce players around the Peninsula to each other and encourage competition by setting up a pecking order of sorts. A further goal is to introduce players to the USCF and WCF.

Mike Murray, the tournament winner, put together an informative and entertaining website at [www.lastexitonkearney.com](http://www.lastexitonkearney.com). This has been an invaluable tool for communication within the club, and allowed people from afar to follow the event as well. Check out the "standings" pawn for the results and the "games" pawn for a sampling of the action! To maintain interest, we tried to keep the website constantly updated, with games being published soon after they were played. We plan to keep this site operational for the life of the club, orienting it to games and activities by local players.

The tournament was very successful in jump-starting chess on the Northern Olympic Peninsula. The club saw a marked rise in activity, with players referencing the club's library and many using it as a playing site.

The club also served as the management office for the tournament.

The tournament generated an amazing amount of press in Port Angeles' Peninsula Daily News and in the Port Townsend Leader. These publications must be given credit as well for helping to add to Peninsula chess enthusiasm.

The trick now is to maintain momentum. Pastor Jack Andersen of Sequim has contributed by challenging Port

Townsend, on behalf of a combined Port Angeles/Sequim team, to a match in March, and has offered to host the competition in a comfortable space at his Lutheran Church in Sequim. We will work hard to make this match become a reality. With perseverance, we will be able to develop a team to challenge other clubs on the Peninsula and across the Pond.

Port Townsend is a great day / weekend trip from Seattle, Tacoma, Everett, Bellingham etc. Any clubs that wish to send some players over for a friendly match would be welcome. In coming for a chess visit, your participation would do much to further chess on the Peninsula and encourage reciprocating match play.

As for myself, it is time now time to hang up my thinking cap and don the SouWestr'. We sail for Alaska on March 18th with a belly full of corned beef and beer as is our tradition. 1500 miles and 4-6 weeks later we arrive in Cordova. My blog will chronicle the migration and the fishing in pictures and stories and I invite anyone interested to follow along. Internet connections will be very limited during the trip North, resulting in sporadic reports until we arrive in Cordova.

– Dennis McGuire

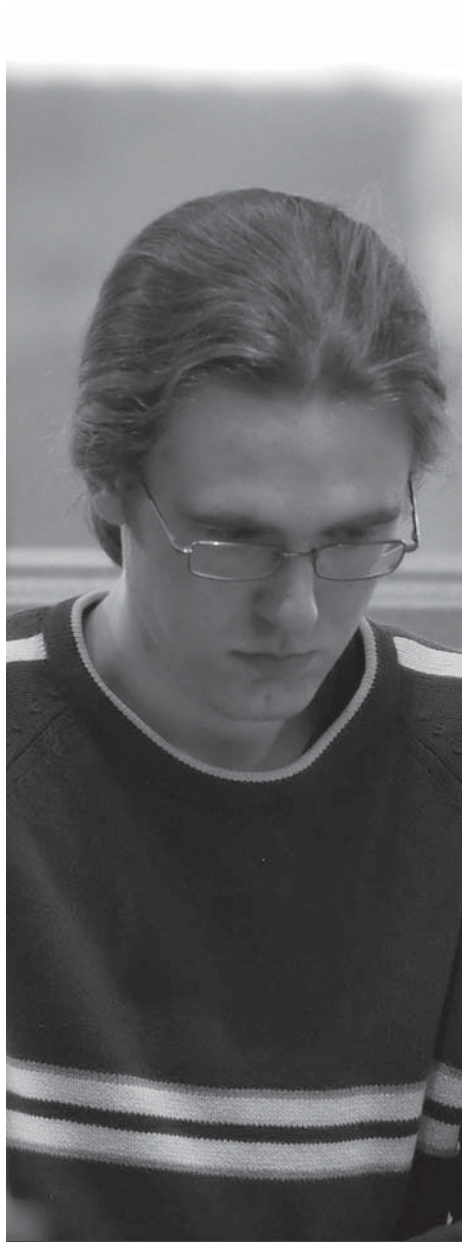
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# Dave Collyer Memorial

by  
Kevin  
Korsmo



It was more of the same, and a lot was different, too. The 17<sup>th</sup> installment of the Dave Collyer Memorial in Spokane February 28 and March 1 was again well attended, featured plenty of exciting competitive games, attracted players from outside the region and outside of the country, and was headlined by International Master John Donaldson. What was different was that the IM, making his tenth appearance at the tourney, failed to win for the first time since 2000.

National Masters Curt Collyer and Josh Sinanan topped the 63 player field with scores of 4.5. NM Nat Koons, Daniel Gay, Peter Watts, and Michael Cambareri tied for third (and won the A and B prizes) with scores of 4.0. Gay, a 1995-rated teenager from the Portland suburb of Tigard, held Donaldson to a draw in Saturday night's third round action. That left the 3 NMs in the lead heading into Sunday morning. Koons and Sinanan played a wild game that ended in a draw. Collyer had the white pieces against Donaldson and they battled late into the time control before Collyer set a mating net that won the point.

The fifth round saw Collyer and Koons battle until a single rook pawn was left on the board and only a few minutes on the clocks, leading to a half point for each. Sinanan topped Steve Merwin to join Collyer at the top of the standings.

There were plenty of prize winners. Merwin and Paul Schuey, who returned to competitive chess after a five year absence, shared the \$100 Expert Prize. Gay and Watts shared the Class A prizes. Cambareri was tops in Class B, while second place (\$75) went to Nathan Armstrong of Southaven, Mississippi. Nathan was in the area and dropped in to play. Travis Elisara and Henry Pallares shared the Class C prizes. First place in the D and under section went to Odysseus Rodriguez of Yakima, an unrated player trying his first over the board competition. The second prize was split by Mike Clark, another unrated player from Yakima, and WSU student Aaron Nicoski, a native of Vancouver, Washington.

The biggest upset prize (\$100) went to Pat Kirlin, and the second biggest upset (\$50) was won by Ron Weyland. In all, \$1600 in prize money was awarded again this year. The Spokane Chess Club and the Gary Younker Foundation again jointly sponsored the tourney.

Nearly every round saw multiple games go to the wire. Saturday night's third round saw six games playing right to the end of the time control, and most of the other rounds similarly had several games running to the maximum time. There were few easy draws; the fighting spirit of the event continued to the end of the last round, with much of the field still present when the tourney's final game finished.

While he was not a prize winner, University of Idaho graduate student Abhinaya Subedi of Nepal gave the tourney an international flavor when he made his USCF debut.

The field of 63 was the second largest Collyer tourney ever

The Collyer weekend kicked off with Donaldson giving his tenth annual lecture, well attended as always, at River Park Square's Kress Gallery on Friday, February 27. The topic was the recent Chess Olympiad in Dresden, and the great final round comeback mounted by the bronze-medal winning U.S. team. The lecture was followed by a simultaneous exhibition. The IM took on a field of 19, scoring 16 wins, a draw, and two losses. The showing was one of the better ones for the contestants of late; the IM had run the table the last two years, scoring 37-0!

The rest of this article and game annotations are supplied by the tournament co-winner, Curt Collyer.

*John Donaldson has faithfully played in the Collyer Memorial for the past 10 years, nearly always winning outright or shared-first place. This year, he indicated that 2009 would likely be his last appearance at this tournament.*

*Thank you, John, for your years of dedication to this event and helping to build it into Spokane's most successful annual chess tournament. There are so many players from across Washington and other states who have thoroughly enjoyed all these years of Dave Collyer Memorial games and memories. Your presence at this tournament was a big part of that. Thank you for all the simuls, lectures, and memories of Dave, as well as your willingness to take on the thankless task of defending your position on Board 1, year after year. We all really appreciate it.*

*Thanks!*

**Curt Collyer - John Donaldson**  
**Dave Collyer Memorial, Round 4**  
**Spokane, Washington, March 2009**

**1. Nf3**

After the game, Donaldson said he had expected me to allow the Nimzo-Indian, and had spent a good deal of time preparing that opening, so my first move came as a surprise.

**1. ...Nf6 2. e3**

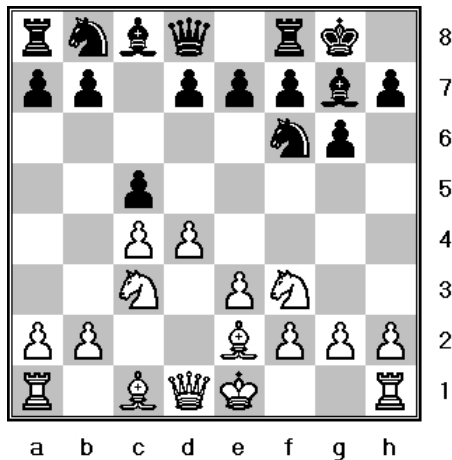
Due to my opponent's greater opening knowledge, my strategy was to aim for a solid, but slightly offbeat position, where we would be on more equal footing.

**2. ...g6 3. d4 Bg7 4. c4 O-O 5. Be2 c5**

Trying to sharpen things up. Because Donaldson had already drawn his third round game with Daniel Gay, it was important for him to win this game in order to stay in the hunt for first place.

**6. Nc3**

Now the position is like an English opening, with colors reversed. During the game I spent some time trying to find the best way to utilize my "extra" move.



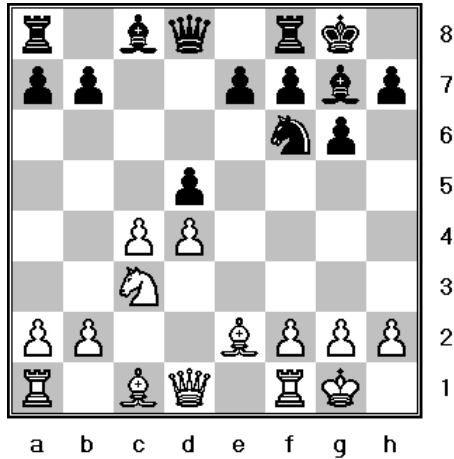
**6. ...cxd4 7. Nxd4**

7. exd4 d5 would be a reversed Tarrasch Defense, but the white [black] knight is not yet developed. Thus a variation like 8. c5 b6 9. b4 a5 10. b5 is not coming with a gain of tempo against Nc6. I think Donaldson later mentioned that 8. h3 might be a good idea, however.

**7... Nc6 8. O-O Nxd4 9. exd4**

I considered 9. Qxd4 but thought variations like 9. ...d6 10. b3 Ne4 11. Qxe4 Bxc3 12. Rb1 Bf5 looked irritating.

**9... d5**

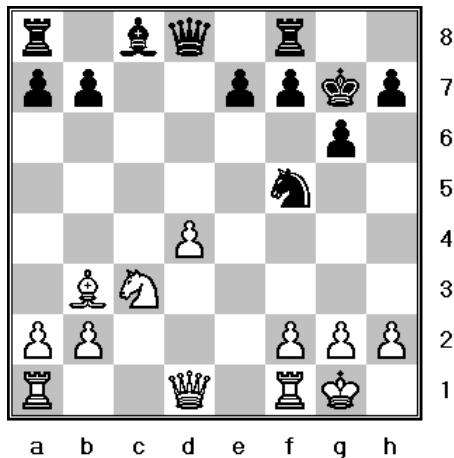


So now we are back to the Tarrasch positions, except with a pair of knights exchanged; I don't think it's clear whom this detail favors.

**10. Bf4 dxc4 11. Bxc4 Ne8**

During post-game analysis, Donaldson felt this knight maneuver was probably Black's only good plan.

**12. Be5 Nd6 13. Bb3 Nf5 14. Bxg7 Kxg7**



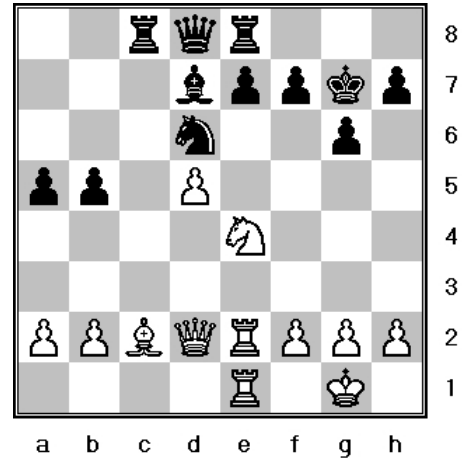
**15. d5!**

This isolated pawn is fairly strong as it now cramps Black's e-pawn. White now has the plan of pressuring down the e-file.

**15. ...Bd7 16. Re1 Re8 17. Qd2 a5 18. Bc2 Nd6 19. Re2**

Here I thought White was probably slightly better, although in positions with an isolani, the evaluation can flip for either side with just one inaccuracy.

**19. ...b5 20. Rae1 Rc8 21. Ne4**



Perhaps Black should trade knights here to seek equality, although in that case the position would be more sterile.

**21. ...Qb6 22. Ng3!**

During the game, I felt this was a strong move because it brings another piece to the kingside, while opening up the file for the rooks. I think possibly Black missed this when he declined to trade knights. Now it is not so clear what to do about the weak e-pawn.

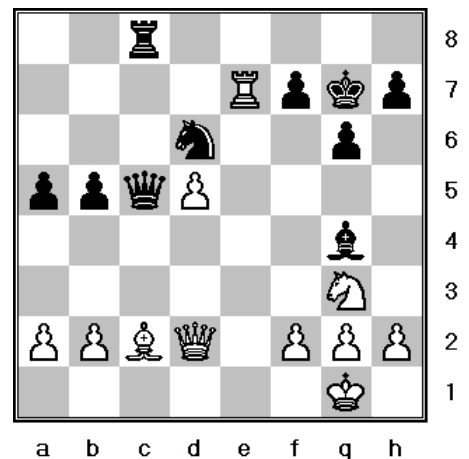
**22. ...Bg4!?**

22... Nc4 23. Qg5!/? looked interesting. For example, 23. ...Nxb2 24. Nh5+ Kg8 25. Qh6+-

**23. Rxe7**

Essentially calling Black's bluff.

**23. ...Rxe7 24. Rxe7 Qc5**



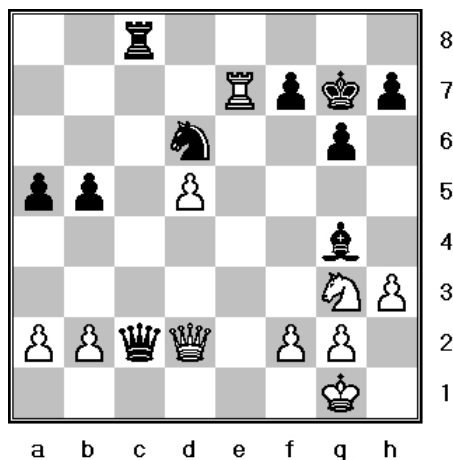
White's pieces are momentarily awkward, and Black has the initiative, however I'd foreseen an interesting idea here.

**25. h3!?**

Making luft and counterattacking simultaneously.

**25. ...Qxc2**

Donaldson played this quickly, which surprised me because 25...Bxh3 seemed worthy of deep consideration.



**26. Qd4+!**

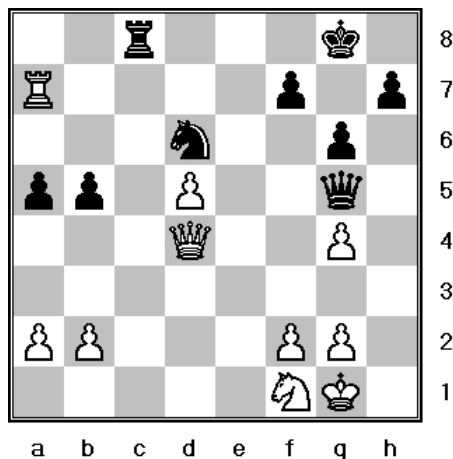
I think maybe he missed this idea.

**26. ...Kg8**

The point is that 26. ...Kf8 is strongly met by 27. Re1 when White is guarding the back rank, attacking the bishop, and threatening mate on h8.

**27. hgx4 Qc1+ 28. Nf1 Qg5 29. Ra7**

Here I felt that objectively White is winning. However I was already in time trouble, and Donaldson was getting close to joining me, so the result of the game was still up in the air.



**29. ...Qd8 30. g3**

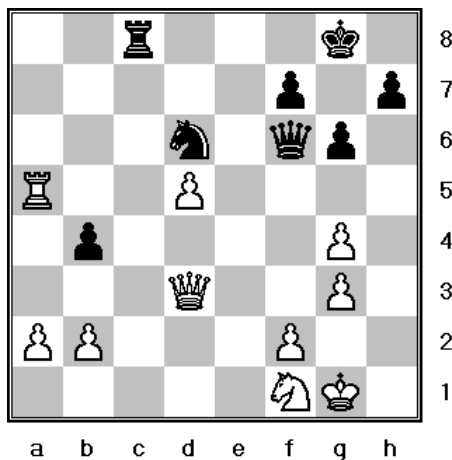
I need to avoid 30. Ne3 Rc1+ 31. Kh2?? Qh4#

**30. ...b4**

Threatening a knight fork.

**31. Qd3 Qf6 32. Rxa5**

My last two moves were based on a miscalculation.



**32. ...Qxb2 33. Qa6 Qe5**

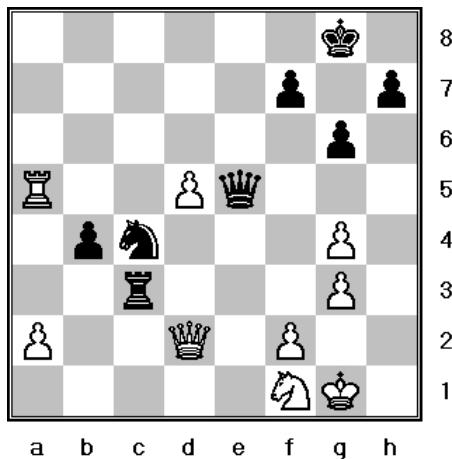
Here it is; For some reason I had only been looking at 33...Rd8 34.Qb6 or 33...Qf6 34. Rb5.

**34. Qd3**

Being objective and trying to get my queen back into play, however Black now has the initiative.

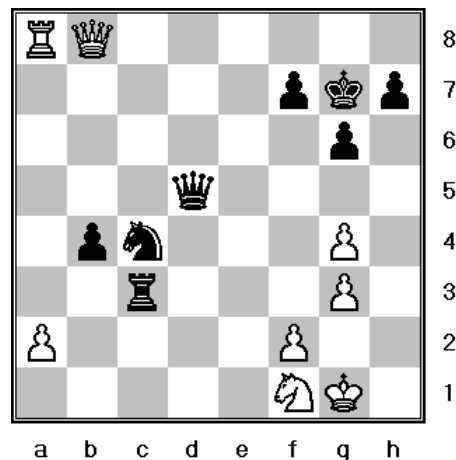
**34. ...Rc3 35. Qd2 Nc4**

I think at this point I had below 5 minutes and Donaldson below 10. White is still up a pawn, but things have become messy.



**36. Ra8+ Kg7 37. Qf4 Qxd5 38. Qb8!**

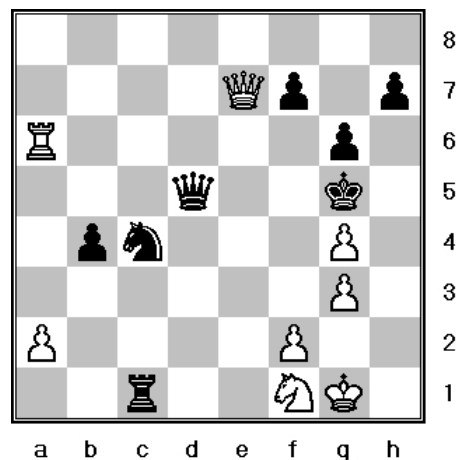
Giving back the material to make threats against Black's king. Now the game reaches its climax.



**38. ...Rc1 39. Qf8+**

I think Qh8 is objectively stronger, but here I saw I could do no worse than draw the game.

**39. ...Kf6 40. Ra6+ Kg5 41. Qe7+**



**41. ...Kxg4??**

41. ...Kh6 is what I was anticipating, when I was hurriedly looking to see if there was anything better than a repetition with 42.Qf8, etc. I think it's possible that Donaldson, trying to take advantage of my time trouble, had only calculated 42. Qe2 and simply missed my next move.

**42. Qh4+**

Black stopped the clock, and shook my hand.

**1-0**





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# Opening Arguments

## by Harley Greninger



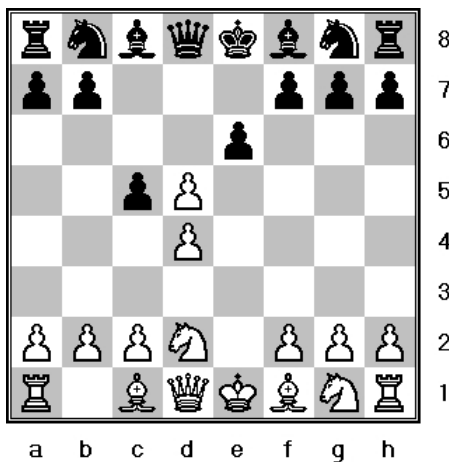
Well, the Topalov vs. Kamsky match is now a part of chess history. On the positive side, our “Fantasy Match” (see the two previous issues of *Northwest Chess*) proved to be right on, with Topalov winning three and Kamsky winning one. Also, as predicted, Kamsky fared better against Topalov’s 1.d4 (=2) than against 1. e4 (-2). Gata came (oh so) close to coming out on top in the match, as the decisive game 7 shows:

**Veselin Topalov – Gata Kamsky**  
**World Chess Challenge, Game 7**  
**Sofia, Bulgaria, February 23, 2009**

### 1. e4 e6

To my knowledge, Gata has never before played the French in a serious game. Objectively, he obtained respectable positions in both games 5 & 7 even though losing both in the end.

### 2. d4 d5 3. Nd2 c5 4. exd5



In game 5, Topalov played 4. Ngf3 cxd4 5. Nxd4 Nc6 6. Bb5 Bd7 7. Nxc6 Bxc6 8. Bxc6+ bxc6 9. c4 Bd6 10. cxd5 cxd5 11. exd5 exd5 12. 0-0 Ne7 and Black was just fine (even though Topalov went on to win).

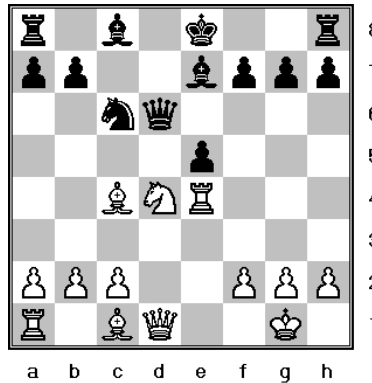
### 4. ...Qxd5 5. Ngf3 cxd4 6. Bc4 Qd6 7. 0-0 Nf6 8. Re1

Kasparov was the first Super GM who played this move (in 2001). The idea is to “move-order” Black into a more passive placement of his KB. The main line is 8. Nb3 Nc6 9. Nbx4 Nxd4 10. Nxd4 a6 11. Re1 Qc7 12. Bb3 Bd6 when Black’s KB is aggressively posted.

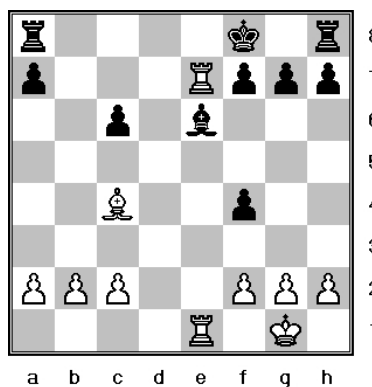
### 8. ...Be7

Black most likely does better to attempt to transpose into the main line with 8. ...Nc6. However, White could try 9. Ne4! Which

leads to very sharp play after 9. ...Nxe4 10. Rxe4 Be7 11. Nxd4 e5!?

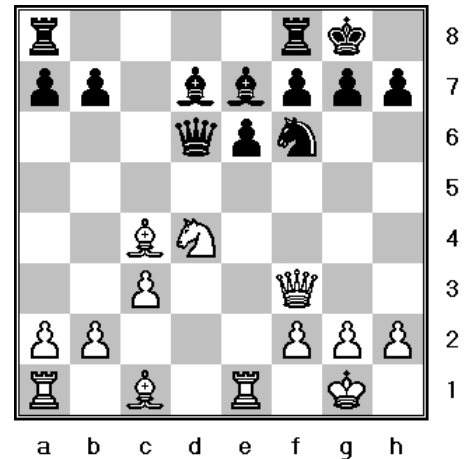


A very double-edged try, attempting to take advantage of the unprotected Queen at d1. 12. Bf4! exf4 13. Nxc6 Qxd1+ (13... Qxc6?! 14. Qe2 spells trouble for Black. 14. ...0-0 15. Rxe7 +/-) 14. Rxd1 bxc6 15. Rde1 Kf8 (15. ...Be6? only worsens matters after 16. Bxe6 fxe6 17. Rxe6 +/-) 16. Rxe7 Be6!



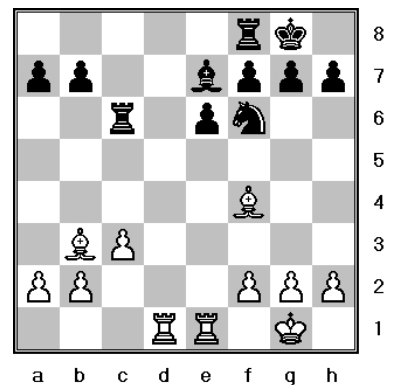
The idea behind Black’s 15. ...Kf8 (rather than the more natural 15. 0-0). With the king attacking the rook on e7, this forces White to part with the exchange. 17. R7xe6 fxe6 18. Rxe6 and White has sufficient compensation for the exchange. Moreno Tejera, E (2360)-Matamoros Franco, C (2472) 2003; 0-1 in 29.

### 9. Nb3 Nc6 10. Nbx4 Nxd4 11. Nxd4 0-0 12. c3 Bd7 13. Qf3



### 13. ...Qb6

TN, protecting the b-pawn and hindering the development of White’s QB. Previously seen was 13. ...Rac8 14. Bf4 Qb6 15. Bb3 Bc6 16. Nxc6 Qxc6 17. Qxc6 Rxc6 18. Rad1, with advantage for White, due to the bishop pair, queenside majority, and play down the d-file.

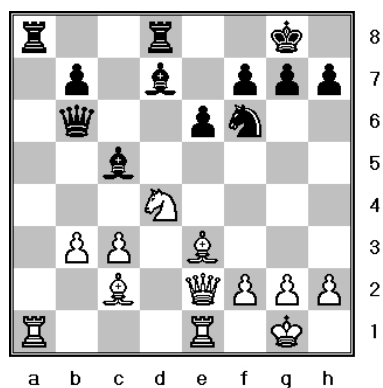


Liberzon, V (2480)-Tatai, S (2385)/Haifa 1989; drawn in 38 moves.

### 14. Bb3 a5 15. Be3 (threatening Nxe6) 15. ...Bc5 16. Rad1!

Willingly parting with the pawn at b2. The more ‘positional choice’ would have been 16. Qe2 a4 17. Bc2 Rfd8 18. b4! axb3

19. axb3.

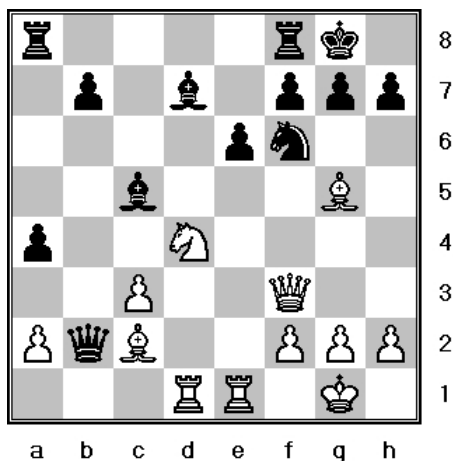


Awkward for White, however, is 19. ...Nd5! with a slight advantage to Black.

**16. ...a4 17. Bc2 Qxb2**

Gata bravely accepts the challenge!

**18. Bg5!?**

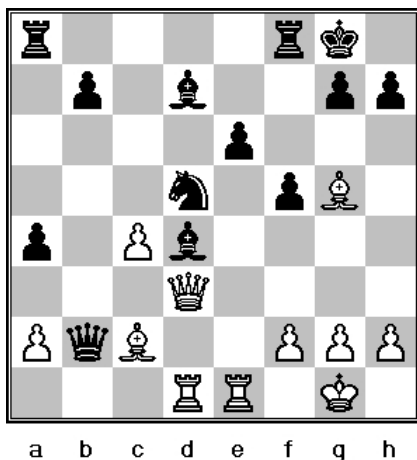


The complications which ensue are unclear. At one moment you think that White is winning, and the next, you know that Black is winning!

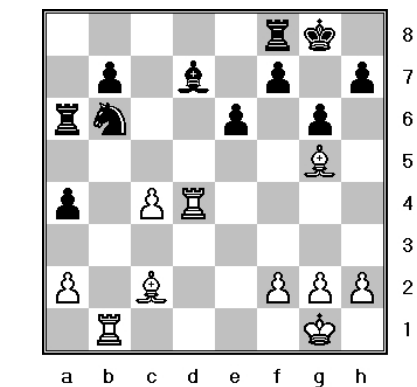
**18. ...Nd5!**

It is very dangerous for Black to play 18. ...Bxd4, for after 19. Rxd4 Qxc2 20. Bxf6 Bc6 (20. ...gxf6?? 21. Rg4+ Kh8 22. Qxf6#) 21. Rg4 g6 (21 ...Bxf3?? 22. Rxg7+ Kh8 23. Rg6#) 22. Qe3 Qf5 23. Rf4 Qd5 24. Rf3!, and there is no defense to the threatened Qh6, eg. 24. ...Qh5 25. Rh3 Qf5 (25... Qg4 26. f3, etc.) 26. Qh6 +/- After the move played, it appears that Black is doing fine but he must play accurately.

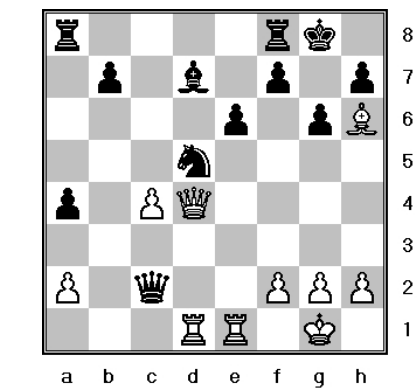
**19. c4! Bxd4 20. Qd3 f5**



Forced. If 20. ...g6 21. Qxd4 Qxc2 (Alternatively, 21... Qxd4 22. Rxd4 Nb6 23. Rb1 Ra6



24. Bd3!, Black has too many loose pieces.) 22. Bh6

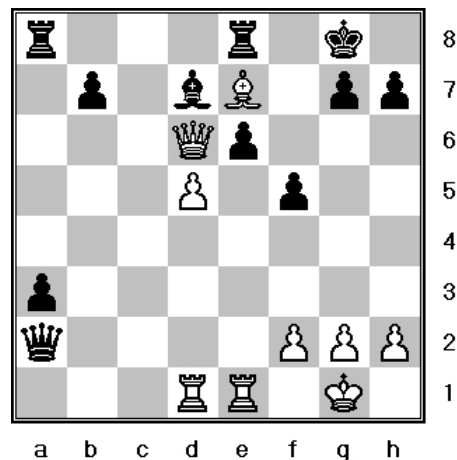


22. ...Qc3 23. Bxf8 Qxd4 24. Rxd4 Rxf8 25. cxd5 is winning for White.

**21. Qxd4 Qxc2 22. cxd5 Qxa2 23. Qb6! a3!**

Both players are playing inspired chess! The moves are very sharp and uncompromising!

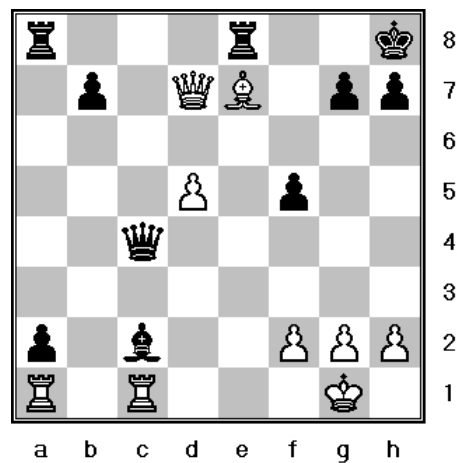
**24. Be7 Rfe8 25. Qd6**



**25. ...Ba4**

Gata expended over 31 of his remaining 41 minutes on this move, leaving him with less than 10 minutes to reach first time control (move 40). Interesting here would have been Fritz' suggested 25... Kf7!?, eg. 26. Qxd7 Rxe7 27. dxe6+ (White does better to play 27. Qb5, but after 27. ...Qb2 Black is clearly better.) 27. ...Qxe6! and Black's a-pawn will prevail! 28. Qd2 Qxe1+!! 29. Rxe1 Rxe1+ 30. Qxe1 a2 31. Qa1 b5! and Black wins!)

**26. Qxe6+ Kh8 27. Ra1 Qc4 28. Rec1!? Bc2! 29. Qd7 a2!**



Wow. Both sides have advanced passed pawns and it's difficult (even with the help of computers) to determine who's winning.

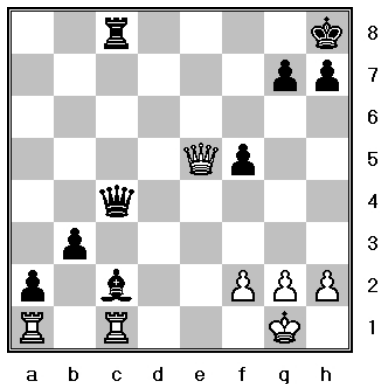
**30. d6**

Offering the best practical chances. If 30. Qxb7 Qe4! 31. h3 Bb1, and Black is clearly on top.

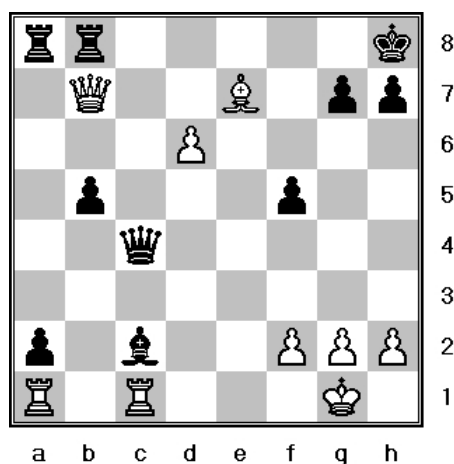
**30... b5 31. Qb7 Reb8?**

Unfortunately, Gata was now in severe time pressure and slips. If he had had more

time, he would have undoubtedly found 31... b4! 32. d7 Re8 33. d8=Q+ Rxd8 34. Bxd8 Rxd8 35. Qe7 Rc8 36. Qe5 b3



and Black will definitely prevail.

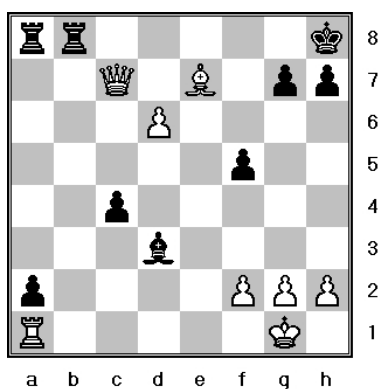


32. Qc7!

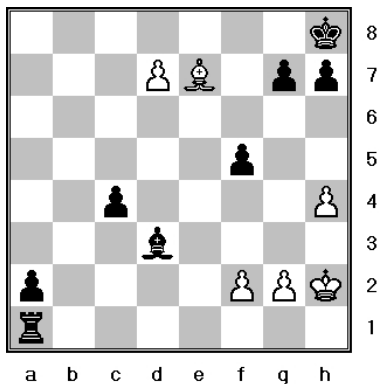
The point; now stopping the further advance of the b-pawn, while threatening to exchange queens and advance his own passer.

32. ...Rc8?!

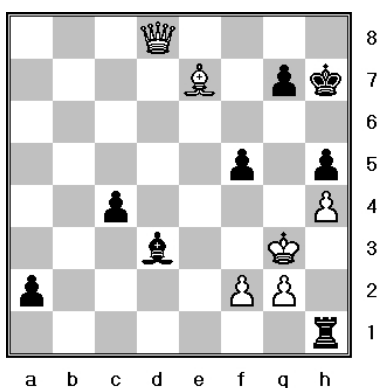
After this, the advantage passes to White. It's obvious that Gata is struggling to get to time control. Here Fritz suggests sacrificing the queen with 32. ...Bd3 33. Rxc4 bxc4,



but it would seem that White has just enough to salvage the draw after 34. Qxb8+ Rxb8 35. h4 Rb1+ 36. Kh2 Rxa1 37. d7

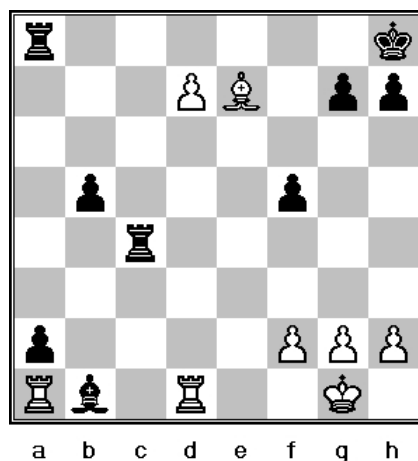


37. ...Rh1+ 38. Kg3! h5 39. d8=Q+ Kh7

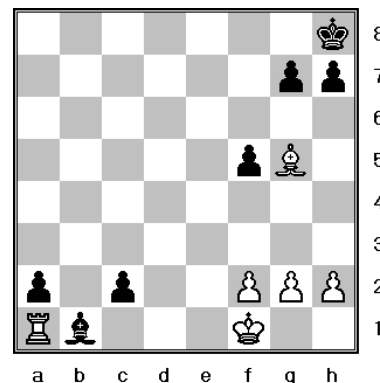


40. Bf6!! A draw nevertheless would have been better than a loss.

33. Qxc4 Rxc4 34. d7 Bb1 35. Rd1



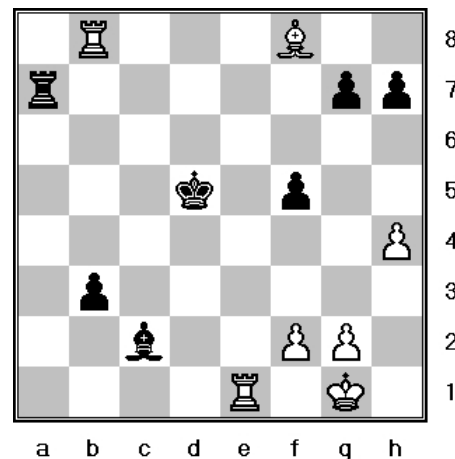
This ends things cleanly. 35. Rxc4 bxc4 36. d8=Q+ Rxd8 37. Bxd8 c3 38. Kf1 c2 39. Bg5 will also win for White, since Black will be tempo'd to death, losing all his K-side pawns.



If instead of trying to defend his Kingside pawns, Black attempts to bring his king to d1, White will (after gobbling up the k-side pawns) sac his bishop for the c-pawn and finally his rook for the a-pawn, and defeat the bishop with multiple passed pawns.

35. ...Kg8 36. d8=Q+ Rxd8 37. Bxd8 Bc2 38. Rdc1 b4 39. Rxa2 b3 40. Ra8 Kf7 41. Rb8 Ke6 42. Re1+ Kd5 43. Be7 Ra4 44. Bf8 Ra7 45. h4

Kamsky resigns. By virtue of this win, Topalov has earned the right to play Vishy Anand for the title of Chess Champion of the World! Tune in for our next "Fantasy Match" – Anand vs. Topalov!



1-0

# Transitions

## by Pete Prochaska



# Strategy Follows Structure... and Vice Versa!

**Student:** Pete, let me ask you a question. What do you mean when you say “strategy follows structure?” I get the general drift, but I want to make sure I really understand. It seems like an important concept.

**Master:** The pawn structure is, indeed, a crucial element in strategic planning. Let’s start at the beginning. Remember Steinitz’s profound perception?

**Student:** Yes, I do. He realized that good play – strategy, plan, or even a move – must be rooted in the specifics of the actual position. The most important are the imbalances – the things that are different between the two positions. Those imbalances, in turn, define each side’s chances.

**Master:** So what’s the most important imbalance in a chess position?

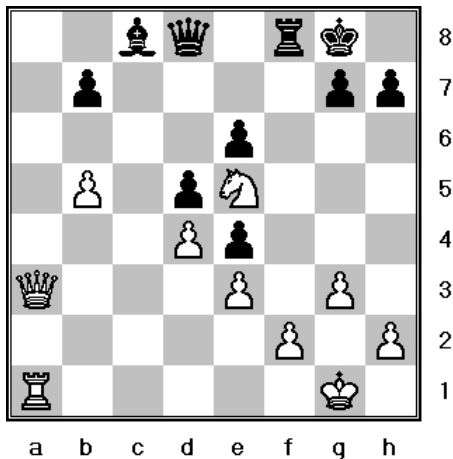
**Student:** *The* most important imbalance? Material, I suppose.

**Master:** It certainly is crucial in most positions. But why is material important in the first place?

**Student:** Because you need substantial material superiority to force checkmate...oh, I get it. The most important imbalance is king safety, right?

**Master:** Yep. King safety often simmers on the back burner because neither side has the basis for serious attacking aspirations. However, once king safety becomes an issue, it tends to be *the* issue. To modify a famous maxim, “If the king isn’t safe, nothing is safe.” And it’s really a matter of king *safety*. The position of the king is decisive in many endgames, and is crucial in some middlegames—even when he’s quite safe. However, those are more issues of piece activity than of safety.

**Master:** Since king safety and material tend to be the most important imbalances, they’re the right place to start evaluating a position. Other imbalances become important as they impact those primary two or when material is balanced and king safety is not a factor in the position. An example will probably help.



**Student:** Wells-Totsky, just after the exchanging sequence, right? Material is balanced – bishop for knight – and king safety isn’t a big deal here. So one starts looking for clues from other imbalances. Right?

**Master:** (nods) What other imbalances do you see?

**Student:** The difference in the activity of the White knight and the Black bishop is the most striking...which (smiling) is a matter of the pawn structure, isn’t it? And there are the open and half-open files, which are obviously issues of pawn structure.

**Master:** The rest of the game is a powerful example of strategic decision making based on the existing pawn structure. White penetrated on the c-file, and Black’s pieces were so hampered by the pawn structure that meaningful resistance was only a dream. *The reverse also happens frequently:* a player creates a structure that fits a strategy indicated by other aspects of the position.

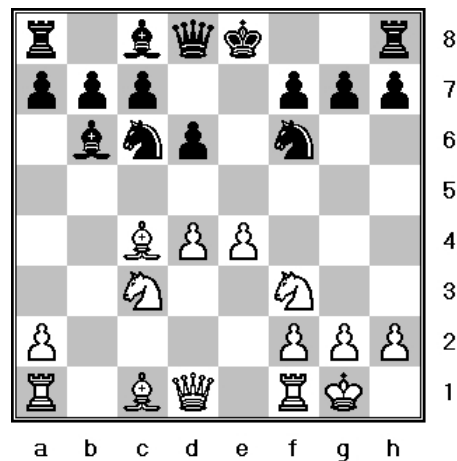
**Student:** You mean that “structure follows strategy?”

**Master:** (chuckling) That’s a nice way to say it. The art of winning chess games normally comes down to imagining possible futures for a position that have not yet

occurred to your opponent. Often that’s a matter of coordinating the pieces and the pawns – by modifying the structure, exchanging some pieces, or both. **Wells-Totsky** is a classic illustration of that process: Peter Wells saw a way to modify the piece distributions so that the existing pawn structure allowed his remaining pieces to be dominant. He eliminated all the Black minor pieces that might coordinate harmoniously with the existing pawn structure, leaving the wretched c8-bishop, which wretched because of the pawn structure.

**Student:** Can you give me an example of creating a structure to fit an intended strategy?

**Master:** I can. Of course, it’s important to remember that an “intended strategy” has to arise from the specifics of the position. One of the most important is the ability to create the necessary pawn structure. If you can’t, the strategy you’re intending to pursue is probably wrong. Here’s a nice example from a game between **Heinz Lehmann** of Germany and **Hans Mueller** of Austria. White’s on move. What’s going on?



**Student:** King safety and material balance first, right? White’s king is safer because Black’s is still in the center – and sitting on the half-open e-file. Black has an extra pawn. What are the other imbalances? White controls more of the center, and that gives him an advantage in space. Black’s pieces seem reasonably coordinated, though it’s not immediately clear where the c8-bishop is going; that’s probably not fatal. Both sides have sound pawn structures, and the half-open b-file doesn’t seem like an important factor right now. White has the move, and doesn’t have any apparent threats to meet, so he probably has at least some initiative.

**Master:** No threats?

**Student:** Well, there is 10. ...Nxe4, but

11. Re1 looks like a good answer; Black hardly wants to open the e-file with his king in the center. Oh, wait a minute! Threats can be strategic as well as tactical, can't they? If Black castles, the king safety imbalance mostly disappears. That makes it much harder for White to find compensation.

**Master:** So what does White need to do?

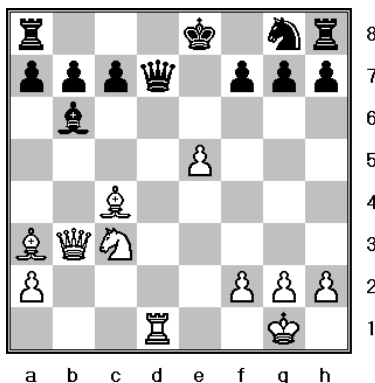
**Student:** Open things up, and keep the Black's king in the center. How to do that? 10. e5 comes to mind. If Black takes the pawn, 11. Ba3 keeps the king in the center. That's what White wants, but it does tip the material balance further in Black's favor. However, it seems unlikely that ...exd4 will be playable, so White should be able to play Nxe5, regaining the pawn and posting the knight powerfully.

**Master:** What other possibilities does Black have?

**Student:** Maybe 10...Bxd4 – he'd like to keep his extra material, but giving some back is better than getting mated. What else? 10. ...d5? No...after 11.exf6 dxc4 12.fxf7 Black's position is in ruins. He could move the knight. But after 10. ...Nfd7 11. Bg5 f6, White can open the e-file with 12. exf6, and then 12. ...Nxf6 13. Re1+ is crushing. 10. ...Ng4 looks better, but the position after 11. h3 seems awkward. That's hardly a reason for White to refrain from 10. e5. So 10. ...Bxd4 looks like the only serious alternative. White can play 11. Nxd4, and after 11. ...Nxe5 12. Re1 Black can castle. Three pawns for a piece; White is better developed, better centralized, and has the initiative. I'd rather be White. I don't see a reason for not playing 10. e5.

**Master:** Neither did Lehmann. The game continued 10. e5! dxe5 11. Ba3, and now Black took aim at the c4-bishop with 11. ...Na5

**Student:** Can he could lose tempi like that? Wouldn't 11. ...Bxd4 give him better survival chances? Black's position still looks scary after 12. Qb3 Qd7, but at least he's breathing. He could play 11. ...Nxd4, but then either 12. Re1 or 12. Nxe5 gives White a big attack. Could he play 11. ...Bg4 to quickly develop his queenside? Once again, White has 12. Qb3. Then maybe 12. ...Qd7 could be met with 13. Nxe5. Is 13. ...Nxe5 anything? 14. dxe5, and Black's knight has to retreat 14. ...Ng8, but if he can castle queenside...oh wait, king safety is again more important than material: White plays 15. Rad1! Bxd1 16. Rxd1 and Black's king is stuck. That's, a nice echo of 10. e5.



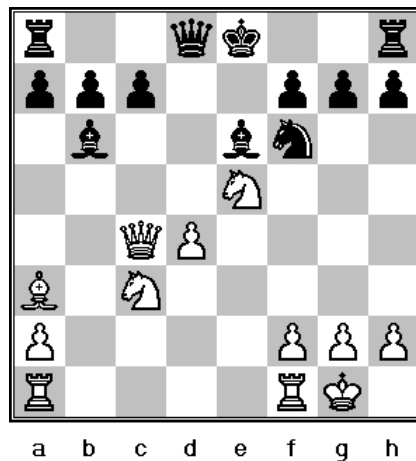
**Master:** Yes, it is. The game Karczewski-Fluder (correspondence 1990) continued: 16. ...Qf5, 17. Ne4! Nh6, and Black resigned after 18. Qa4+. So what's your conclusion?

**Student:** Well nothing looks good, but perhaps 11. ...Bxd4 is the best option.

**Master:** Agreed. The game continued 12. Nxe5 Nxc4. What would you play now?

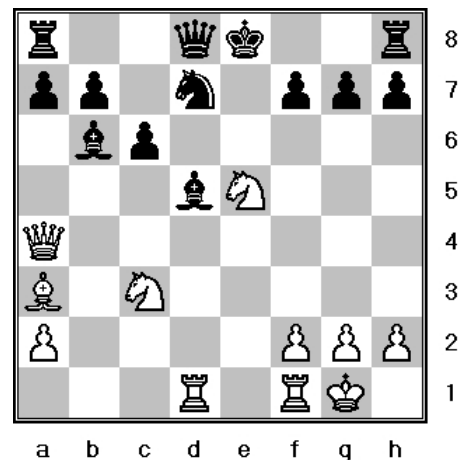
**Student:** 13. Nxc4 is obvious, but let me dig deeper. 13. Qa4+, yes? White keeps his knight powerfully posted on e5, regains the piece, and centralizes his most powerful attacking piece all at once. That's neat.

**Master:** It is. The game continued 13. ...Bd7 14. Qc4 Be6:



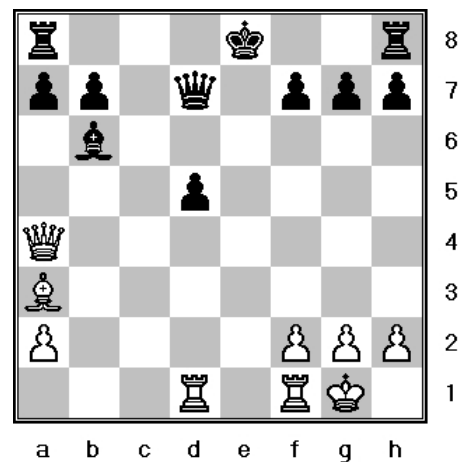
**Student:** I don't want to lose time with the queen, and I do want to open the center as much as possible, so 15. d5 springs to mind. Black can take it, but White keeps the initiative with 16. Qa4+, and the open lines look more important than the pawn. That's structure following strategy again, isn't it?

**Master:** You're getting the idea. The game continued 15. d5! Bxd5 16. Qa4+ c6 17. Rd1 and Black made one last stab at getting his king out of the center with 17. ...Nd7



**Student:** Out of the center? Oh, I see: 18. ...Nc5. That's another of those strategic threats, isn't it?

**Master:** Uh huh. White wasn't having any of that, of course, and played 18. Nxd7. After 18. ...Qxd7 19. Nxd5 cxd5 it's your move...



**Student:** Oh wow...20. Rxd5 is a great counterpoint to the pawn sacrifices, isn't it? The Black queen is pinned, and after 20. ...Qxa4 21. Re1+ the rest is merciful silence.

**Master:** Black resigned. So what are the lessons here?

**Student:** It's a really good example of the primary importance of king safety – and the power of the initiative. Precise and energetic play was also crucial. Had Black been able to castle, everything would have been different. And, of course, White modified the pawn structure to fit an otherwise indicated strategy: Black's king was still in the center, pointing towards a classic attacking strategy. White had to open the position. He did that with the two pawn sacrifices: 10. e5 and 15. d5. And 20. Rxd5 is a really nice finishing flourish! That's quite a game, Pete. Thanks.

# Third Annual Clark Harmon Memorial Open April 25-26 \$1700 Guaranteed!

Sponsored by Portland Chess Club and contributors to the  
Harmon Memorial Fund

**5-round Swiss:** One open section

**Time Control:** Saturday 40/90, SD/30; Sunday 40/120, SD 60

**Registration:** Saturday 9-9:45 am. Registration is limited to first 50 entrants. Advanced registration is strongly encouraged.

**Rounds:** Saturday 10:00; 2:00 & 7:00; Sunday 9:30 & 4:30

**Location:** Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24<sup>th</sup> check [www.pdxchess.org](http://www.pdxchess.org) for directions

**Byes:** 1 half-point bye available if requested before 1<sup>st</sup> round.

1<sup>st</sup> \$500 2<sup>nd</sup> \$300 3<sup>rd</sup> \$150  
U2000, U1700, U1400 each 1<sup>st</sup> \$150, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$100

**Entry:** \$50; \$40 for PCC members.

**Memberships:** USCF and OCF/WCF required (OSA). Harmon NW Grand Prix.

This is the **Third Annual Harmon Memorial**. We hope players will join in this tribute to one of the Northwest's premier players and ambassadors of the game. The prize fund is underwritten through the generosity of contributors to the Harmon Memorial Fund.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

USCF ID # \_\_\_\_\_ USCF Exp \_\_\_\_\_ OCF/WCF Exp \_\_\_\_\_ Rating \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Bye Rd \_\_\_\_\_

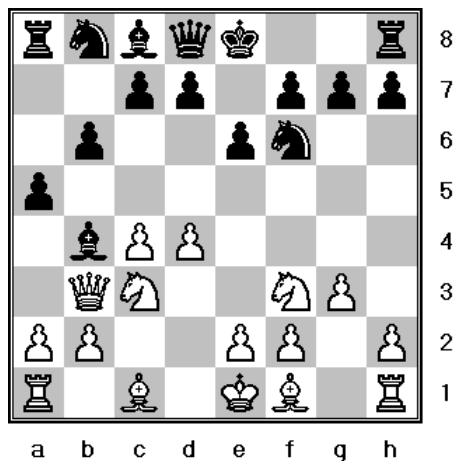
**Entries:** Payable to Portland Chess Club; mail to Mike Morris, 2344 NE 27<sup>th</sup> Ave., Portland, OR 97212

Each player has strengths and weaknesses. Too often aspiring players will focus on either a strength or a weakness. For most of us the hard parts of chess are recognizing objectively what is a strength or weakness and then addressing it.

Here is a game that will test your mettle.

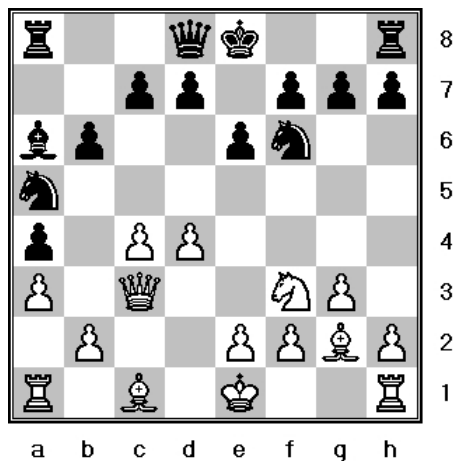
**Lev Polugaevsky – Ljubomir Ljubojevic**  
**Linares, Round 5**  
**Spain, March 1985**

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nf3 b6 4. Nc3 Bb4  
 5. Qb3 a5 6. g3



Yasser played the 5. Qb3 line many times, but I don't think that he would have popped out g3 here. There is kind of a common misconception that if White can avoid doubled pawns in the Nimzo/Queen's Indian hybrid then any formation will succeed. The problem is that Black is not simply aiming to target some pawns on the c-file, Black is also developing rapidly. With that in mind, 6. g3 misses the mark I feel.

6. ...Nc6 7. Bg2 a4 8. Qc2 Ba6 9. a3  
 Bxc3+ 10. Qxc3 Na5



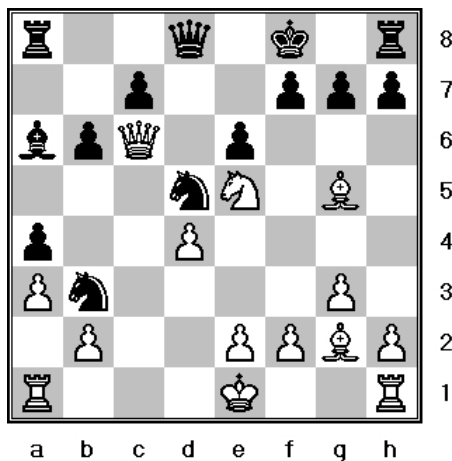
# Theoretically Speaking

by Bill McGeary



Mission completed. Black has accelerated development by picking up tempi via the a-pawn advance and some wrangling of the c4 point. The attack on c4 doesn't look like much, yet watch how the initiative snowballs.

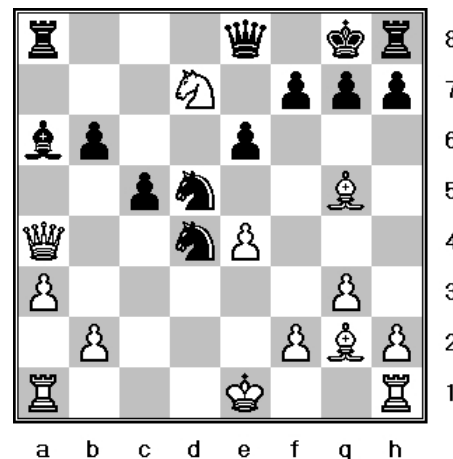
11. Ne5 d5 12. cxd5 Nxd5 13. Qc2 Nb3  
 14. Qc6+ Kf8 15. Bg5



I am quite certain that if I had been shown this game without knowing the players names I would have figured out that it was two GMs. Black has developed the initiative very concretely, confident of the conviction that Black should play aggressively. White could have pitched a pawn in the opening and tried to keep the game going, but instead has found a ploy to return fire. These are traits of very determined players of skill. At this point the game has deteriorated into hand to hand combat. The issue is, who has more hands?

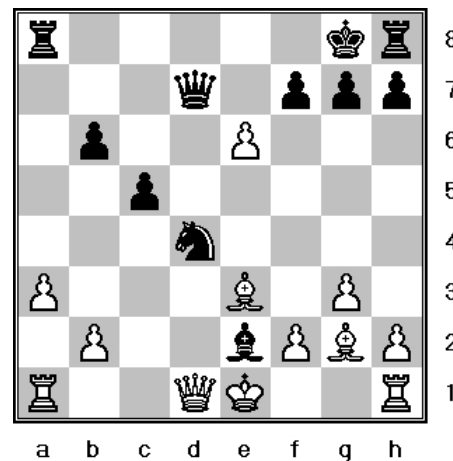
15. ...Qe8 16. Nd7+ Kg8 17. e4 Nxd4  
 18. Qxa4 c5

**The issue is,  
 who has more  
 hands?**



Mortal humans might be able to feel their way through some of this, while modern computers would spit out analysis within seconds. Ljubo has been famous for his "feel" for some positions, and this is no exception. Black is a piece down, has his King stuck on g8 with the Rook on a8 in the headlights. Yet, the Black army has the white king stuck in the center with no where to go. Again, we must take note of the style of play by each player. Is either side bluffing?

19. exd5 Bb5 20. Qd1 Qxd7 21. Be3  
 Be2 22. dxe6

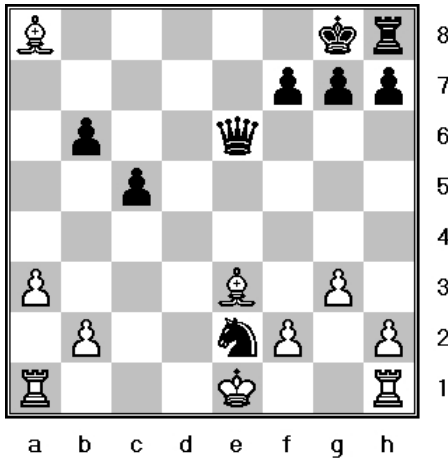


Bringing the black queen onto the e-file



can't be right. 22. Qb1 suggests itself, but then 22. ...Bf3 23. 0-0 Ne2+ 24. Kh1 Qxd5 is terminal, while 23. Bxf3 Nxf3 with ...Qxd5 to follow isn't better.

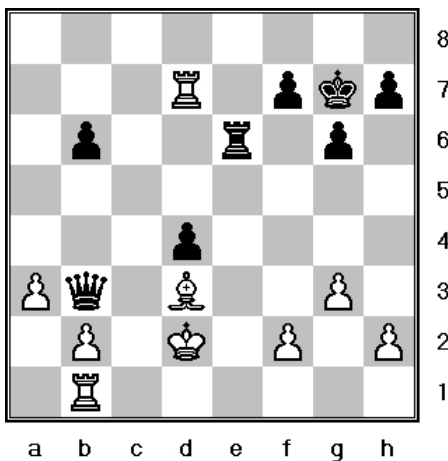
22. ...Qxe6 23. Qxe2 Nxe2 24. Bxa8



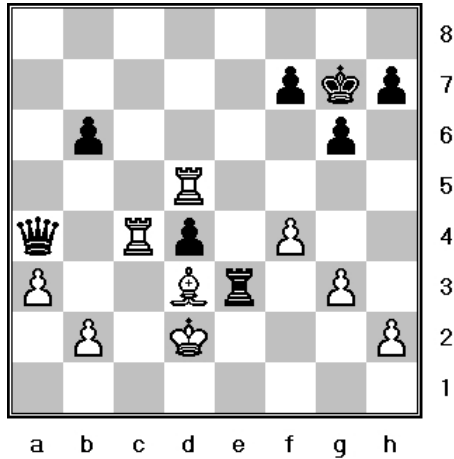
White bailed out, jettisoning the queen for a rook and bishop. This isn't nearly enough as Black can keep the white king stuck in the center, effectively stifling the Rh1.

24. ...Qc4 25. Rd1 Nd4 26. Bxd4 cxd4 27. Be4 g6 28. Bd3 Qa2 29. Rb1 Qb3 30. Kd2 Kg7 31. Rhc1 Re8 32. Rc7 Re6 33. Rd7

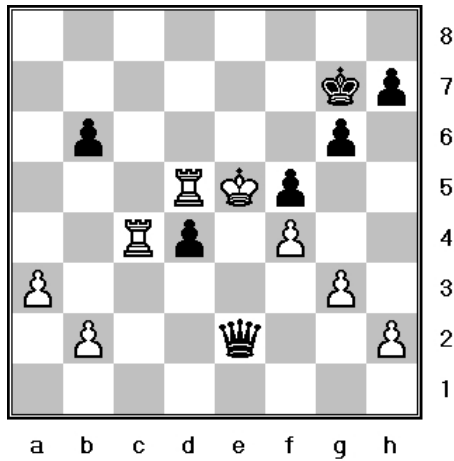
White might have tried 33. Bc4 though 33. ...Qf3 34. Bxe6 Qxf2+ 35. Kd3 Qe3+ 36. Kc2 Qe4+ and ...Qxe6 seems to keep the rooks out of sync and the d-pawn will be very helpful.



33. ...Qa4 34. Rd5 Rf6 35. f4 Re6 36. Rc1 Re3 37. Rc4



37. ...Rxd3+ 38. Kxd3 Qd1+ 39. Ke4 f5+ 40. Ke5 Qe2+



41. Kxd4 Qe4+ 42. Kc3 Qxd5 0-1

Playing over this game should help the reader with simple tactics and the coordination of the pieces to reach objectives. At a different level it is possible to determine and follow the principles that the players relied upon to develop their plans. These are the things that come from playing through GM games.

If anyone has a comment or question please email me at [ak3dog@yahoo.com](mailto:ak3dog@yahoo.com).





# Washington Open Chess Tournament May 23-25, 2009 in Spokane!

## Washington Chess Federation

### WA Open Sections/Entry Fees (by April 15 / May 15 / on site)

#### OPEN

EF \$79 / \$89 / \$99

#### PREMIER (U2000)

EF \$69 / \$79 / \$89

#### RESERVE (U1700)

EF \$59 / \$69 / \$79

#### BOOSTER (U1400)

EF \$49 / \$59 / \$69

Free entry to GM's, IM's, WGM's.

\$25 entry option for juniors under age 21 playing for medal only. Three medals awarded per section.

### \$8,000 Prizes Guaranteed by the Gary Younker Foundation!

#### Hosted by the Spokane Chess Club

Open	Prem.	Res.	Boos.
\$1,000	\$400	\$350	\$300
\$600	\$300	\$250	\$150
\$400	\$250	\$200	\$100
\$300	\$200	\$150	\$100
\$200	\$150	\$100	\$100
U2150	U1850	U1550	U1100
\$400	\$250	\$200	\$120
\$250	\$150	\$100	\$ 80
\$150	\$100	\$100	\$120(*)
\$100	\$100	\$100	\$ 80 (*)

(\*) Prizes for unrated players.

\$100 Martha Jane Miller Memorial Prize for top woman in open section.

All prizes will be mailed after the event.

### Entries/Information:

Dan Mathews  
WCF Tournament Coordinator  
730 Olympic Ave  
Edmonds, WA 98020  
Cell Phone (425) 218-7529  
[Dthmathews@hotmail.com](mailto:Dthmathews@hotmail.com)

Make checks payable to Washington Chess Federation (WCF).

Online registration available at  
[www.nwchess.com](http://www.nwchess.com).

Red Lion River Inn, 700 N Division Street, Spokane, WA 99202.

This location is 100 yards from the Spokane club's normal tourney site at the Schoenberg Center at Gonzaga University. Hotel reservations: (509) 326-5577, or toll free (800) Red-Lion. Ask for \$99 chess rate. (Some Red Lion customers may qualify for a lower online rate.)

**Registration/Byes:** Saturday 8:15-9:15AM for 3-day, or 3:30-4:15 PM if entering with one half-point bye. Sunday 8:15-9:00 AM for 2-day, or 9:00-9:30 AM if entering 3-day event with two half-point byes. Two half-point byes available, which must be requested in advance, or at site before the announced cutoff time.

**Format/Ratings:** Four sections (see bar at left), six round Swiss system, USCF rated. The Open Section is also FIDE rated. USCF May supplement ratings will be used. Unrated players may play in open or booster section only, and are eligible for top five prizes in open and the two unrated prizes in booster section.

**Time Controls:** 3-day schedule: 40/2 Hrs., SD/1 Hr. 2-day schedule: Rounds 1-3: Game/60 minutes. (Rounds 4-6 same as 3-day schedule.) Both schedules: Digital clocks preferred. 5-second time delay used from start of game.

**Rounds:** 3-day schedule: Saturday: 10:00AM, 5:00PM, Sunday: 10:00AM, 5:00PM, Monday: 9:00AM, 3:30PM. 2-day schedule: Sunday: 9:30AM, 11:45AM, 2:30PM, then join 3-day schedule for rest of tourney. WCF annual meeting: 3:30 PM Sunday, May 24.

**Memberships:** USCF and either WCF or OCF membership required in all sections, OSA. Memberships (including USCF) must be current or paid fully.

**Miscellaneous:** 2009 Chess Cafe Grand Prix event (50 pts), Harmon Memorial NW Grand Prix event. Please bring set, board and clock. No smoking. No computers. Please use entry form (when available) for a list of all discounts and fees, and to indicate schedule, section, side events and byes requested.

**Entries/Prizes/Info:** See bar at left. Online entry available on NWC website.

### Side Events:

**May 23 Washington Open Scholastic.** See NWC website, or contact David Hendricks, WCF Scholastic Director, 2439 220th Place NE, Sammamish, WA 98074, ph. 425-868-3881, e-mail: [DavidCHendricks@comcast.net](mailto:DavidCHendricks@comcast.net).

**May 24 (Sunday night) WA Open Blitz Championship.** Format: 6 round Swiss in 2 sections, Open and Reserve (U1700). EF: \$25.00 (until May 21st), \$30.00 at site, \$10.00 discount if playing in main tourney. TC: G/5. Not USCF rated. WCF/OCF membership required, OSA. Reg. by 9:00 PM. Rds: 9:30, 9:45, 10:00, 10:15, 10:30, 10:45. 11:00 PM playoff to break ties for 1st place. Prizes (b/26): Open 1st \$100.00 + plaque, 2nd \$50.00, U1900 \$40.00; Reserve 1st \$100.00 + plaque, 2nd \$50.00, U1500 \$40.00.

**May 24 WA Open Novice Championship.** Format: one section 5 round Swiss, open to U1200 or unrated. TC: G/45. EF: \$12.00 (until May 21st), \$16.00 at site. Reg. 9:00-9:45 AM. Rds: 10:00, 11:45, 1:30, 3:15, 5:00. Prizes: trophies 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 1st, 2nd U1200, U1100, U1000, U900, U800, Unrated. WCF/OCF membership required (option to pay \$5 tournament membership instead of \$17 or \$25 full-year membership).

Revised 3/9/2009.

# Oregon State Championship

by  
Neil  
Dale

Like a bat out of hell. That phrase accurately describes Carl's start at this year's Oregon Championship. He was victorious in his first three games, and then got a forfeit victory over Nick Raptis, who unfortunately overslept.

He slowed down somewhat after that, drawing his opponents in rounds five, six, and seven, winning in round eight, and drawing defending champion Radu Roua in the last round. This is the fourth time Carl has earned the title, and the first time he is sole claimant to it. In his prior championships there always was a co-champion to share in the glory. It is also worth mentioning that in this championship he was undefeated, finishing with a total of seven points out of nine.

Roger Martin finished a point behind with a total of six points: five wins, two losses, and two draws; a very creditable performance earning him clear second place. Last year's champion Radu Roua, Mike Pendergast, and Steven Breckenridge shared third through fifth with five points apiece. Next in the standings was Daniel Gay, the youngest and lowest rated of the competitors, with four and a half points. So the two youngest players, Gay and Breckenridge, acquitted themselves very well. Most likely they will improve on their performances next year.

Mike Morris and Nick Raptis finished



Carl Haessler, 2009 Oregon State Champion.  
Photo credit: Russell Miller

the tournament with three and a half points each. Nick had a terrible beginning but recovered his form at the end, scoring three and a half in the last four rounds. Corey Russell also did not have a very good tournament: six draws and three losses. He finished with three points. Mike Janniro had two and a half.

Portland Chess Club provided the venue for the games. Rusty Miller stopped by to take some photos; one he took of Carl Haessler ended up on Susan Polgar's blog. Talk about gaining some notoriety.

Name	City	Pre	Post	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total	Place
1 Mike Morris	Portland	2057	2061	x	0	1	1	½	1	0	0	0	0	3.5	7-8
2 Roger Martin	Corvallis	2142	2168	1	x	1	1	1	½	1	0	½	0	6.0	2
3 Radu Roua	Portland	2222	2215	0	0	x	1	1	1	0	½	½	1	5.0	3-5
4 Mike Janniro	Portland	2076	2061	0	0	0	x	½	½	½	0	0	1	2.5	10
5 Daniel Gay	Tigard	1995	2038	½	0	0	½	x	½	½	½	1	1	4.5	6
6 Corey Russell	Medford	2201	2200	0	½	0	½	½	x	½	½	½	0	3.0	9
7 Mike Pendergast	Gresham	2189	2188	1	0	1	½	½	½	x	½	½	½	5.0	3-5
<b>8 Carl Haessler</b>	<b>Lake Oswego</b>	<b>2200</b>	<b>2217</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>½</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>½</b>	<b>½</b>	<b>½</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1F</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>1</b>
9 Steve Breckenridge	Gresham	2086	2106	1	½	½	1	0	½	½	0	x	1	5.0	3-5
10 Nick Raptis	Portland	2296	2264	1	1	0	0	0	1	½	0F	0	x	3.5	7-8

# Games Corner by Charles Schulien



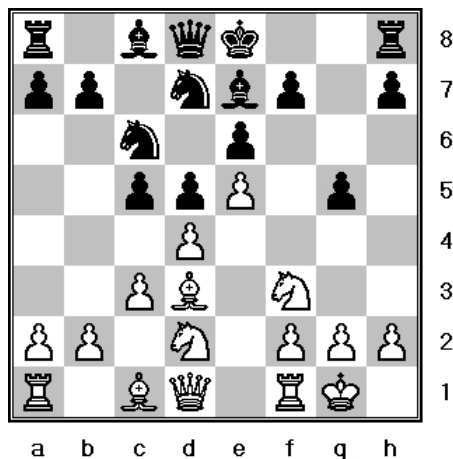
[editor – This begins our coverage of games from the Oregon and Washington State Championships. In this and the coming issues of *Northwest Chess*, we'll be running games annotated by the players, and also by our Games Corner columnist, Chuck Schulien.

Corey Russell annotated all of his games from the Oregon event. Though we're planning to run that as a separate story next month, we've merged in his notes to his game with Carl Haessler here, so you can see them side by side with Chuck's. But first, two critical round one games....]

## Daniel Gay – Nick Raptis Oregon Championship, Round 1 Portland, Oregon, February 14, 2009

The following game had a large impact on the tournament. Not only was this loss by the top rated player a surprising upset, it affected his play throughout the first weekend, including a later forfeit to the eventual winner Carl Haessler.

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nd2 Nf6 4. e5 Nfd7 5. Bd3 c5 6. c3 Nc6 7. Ngf3 Be7 8. 0-0 g5!?

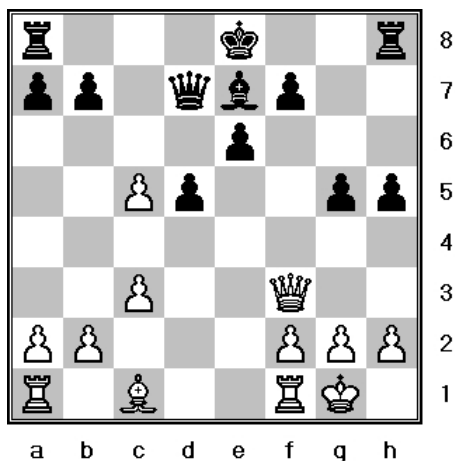


Actually, this is the most popular move in the position. Black takes serious action against the white pawn center.

9. dxc5 Nxe5

9. ...Nxc5 looks safer. See the game Raptis-Pendergast, from later in the tournament.

10. Nxe5 Nxe5 11. Bb5+ Bd7 12. Bxd7+ Qxd7 13. Nf3 Nxf3+ 14. Qxf3 h5!?



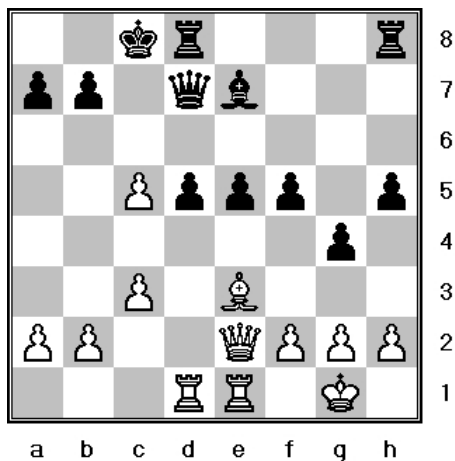
Starting here, Black freely advances his pawns on the wing and then in the center. White calmly places his pieces on the half open center files, and picks his spot to push a pawn to break up the pawn center. I think that Black misevaluated the position as in his favor, leading to an underestimation of the power of White's threats.

All of the above has been seen before. After 14. ...e5 15. Be3 Qe6 16. c4?! (A premature attack. 16. Rfe1 or 16. Rad1 as in Daniel's game look better.) 16. ...d4 17. Bxd4 exd4 18. Qxb7 Qc8 19. Qe4 Rb8 20. Rfe1 Qxc5 and White's sacrifice didn't work out in the game Meier-Socko, 2005.

15. Be3 g4 16. Qe2 e5 17. Rfe1

Opening lines with 17. f4!? is already possible, if double-edged.

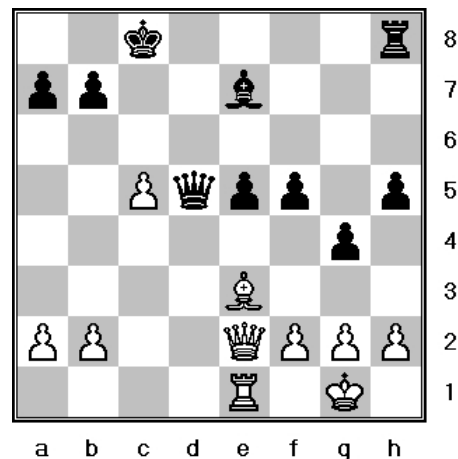
17. ...f5 18. Rad1 0-0-0



19. c4!  
Qc6

19. ...d4  
20. Bxd4 exd4  
21. Qxe7  
favors White.

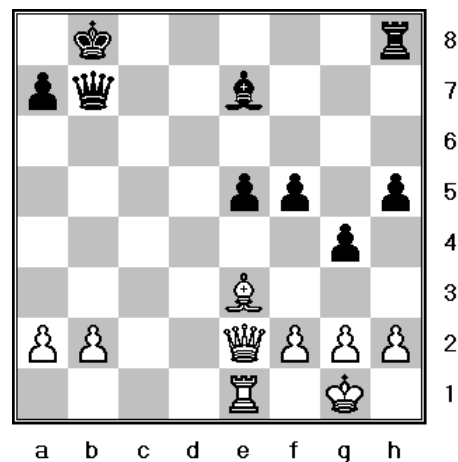
20. cxd5 Rxd5 21. Rxd5 Qxd5



22. c6! Kb8

Black needs to get his rook out of the corner – both for activity, but also because it is a loose piece and subject to potential forks. After 22. ...Rd8 23. Bxa7 f4 24. Rc1 f3! Black has counterplay.

23. cxb7 Qxb7?



24. Bf4! exf4?

Better was 24. ...Rd8, though 25. Qxe5+ Ka8 26. Qxf5 is a decisive advantage for White.

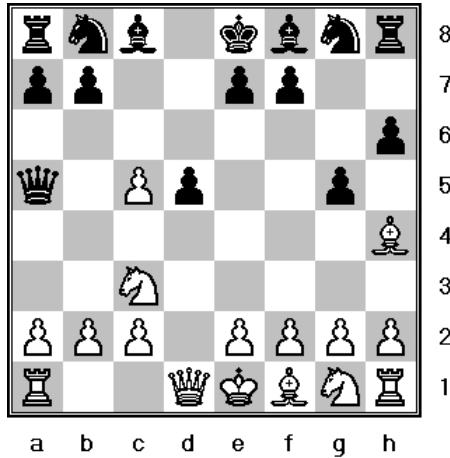
25. Qe5+ Qc7 26. Qxh8+ Kb7 27. Qe5 Bd6 28. Qb5+ Qb6 29. Qxb6+ axb6 30. Re6 Bc5 31. Kf1 h4 32. Rf6 g3 33. fxc3 hxc3 34. hxc3 fxc3 35. Rxf5

Congratulations to Daniel Gay for this fine win!

1-0

Carl Haessler – Roger Martin  
Oregon Championship, Round 1  
Portland, Oregon, February 14, 2009

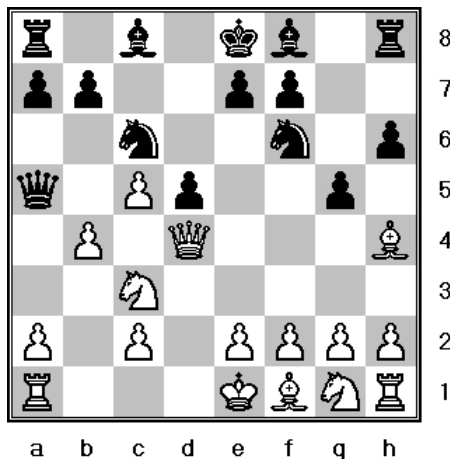
1. d4 d5 2. Bg5 h6 3. Bh4 c5 4. dxc5 Qa5+ 5. Nc3 g5



6. Qd4 Nf6 7. b4!?

White tries to hold the pawn, allowing for tremendous complications. This is a very challenging start to the Invitational for his opponent – not your usual first-round game. 7. Bg3 Nc6 8. Qa4 Qxc5 9. 0-0-0 = leads to calmer and relatively balanced play.

7. ...Nc6



Black answers “blow for blow.” His move is good, but it encourages further complexity. Black could play more safely with 7. ...Qd8 8. Bg3 Nc6, which regains the

lost pawn. Then 9. Qd3 Nxb4 10. Qb5+ Nc6, and I wouldn’t mind playing Black’s position at all - though White’s active pieces may exert enough pressure to hold the balance.

8. Qxf6 Qxb4 9. Qxh8



Now White has a rook and knight in his pocket. Black has a number of good looking moves at his disposal, but he failed to calculate or intuit which way to proceed. According to Carl’s scoresheet, Roger spent exactly one minute on the decision – so he certainly missed the significance of White’s reply, and therefore didn’t give enough consideration to alternatives.}

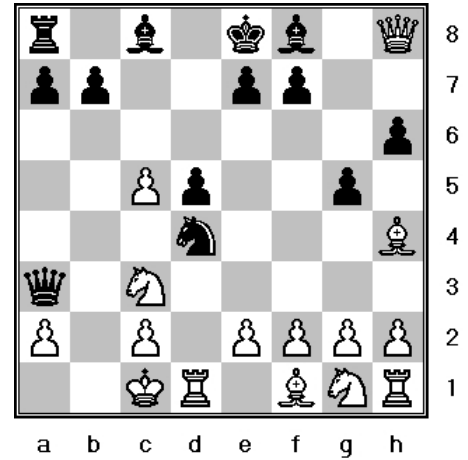
9. ...Nd4??

The most threatening move is actually the worst one! The players decided that stronger was 9. ...e5, for instance 10. 0-0-0 Qxc3 11. Bg3 Bf5 when Black’s attack develops naturally, and he is ready to castle. Also strong for Black was the other central pawn thrust, 9. ...d4 10. Kd1 Qxc3 11. Rcl gxf4. Black has regained most of the sacrificed material, and he holds all of the positional trumps: king safety, central control, and freedom for his fighting pieces.

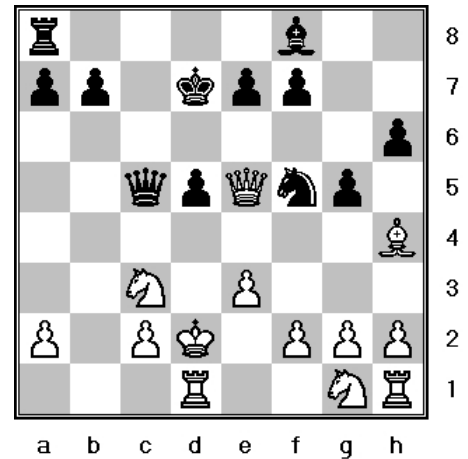
10. O-O-O +- Qa3+

Slightly more challenging is 10... f6 blocking out White’s queen. 11. Nxd5 is possible, but would White be willing to fight with the already developed pieces? or just 11. Nf3 Qxc3 12. Rxd4 Bf5 13. Rd3 Bxd3 14. exd3 gxf4 15. d4 is good enough. 11... Qa3+ 12. Kb1 Qxc5 13. Rxd4 Qxd4 14. Qg8! with a crazy looking position, but white seems to have events in hand... 14. ...Qd1+ 15. Kb2 Qd4+ (15... Bf5 16. e4 Bxe4 17. Bb5+ Kd8 18. Qxf8# shows how quickly White can shift from defense to attack!) 15. ...Qxf1 16. Nc7+ Kd7 17. Nxa8 Black’s bishops cannot take part, and White’s queen

is very active too. 16. Kb3! (16. Nc3 e6 (16... Qb4+ 17. Qb3) 17. Qg6+ Ke7 18. Qe4 White brings the queen back into play, consolidating his gains.) 10... Qxc3 11. Qxd4 and Black can hardly make a threat.



11. Kd2 Qxc5 12. e3 Nf5 13. Bb5+ Bd7 14. Bxd7+ Kxd7 15. Qe5



After 15. Qe5 Black saw no reasonable way to continue the struggle – for instance, 15. ...e6 16. Nxd5! wins: 16. ...Qxd5+ 17. Ke2!

1-0

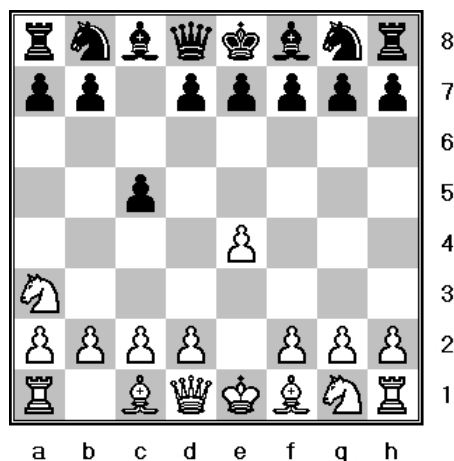
Carl Haessler – Corey Russell  
Oregon Championship, Round 6  
Portland, Oregon, February 21, 2009

The following game was a joy to play through, with interesting developments and many possibilities for both sides in every phase of the game. Corey Russell’s comments are *{bracketed in italics}*; other notes are by Chuck Schulien.

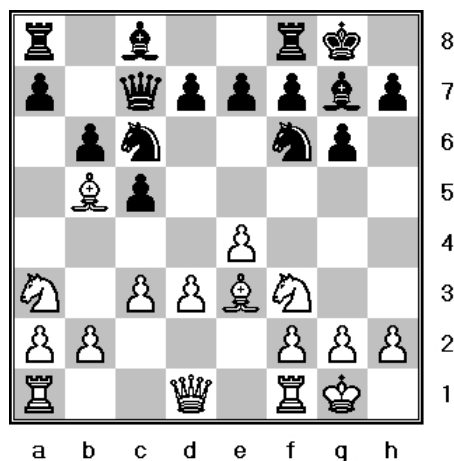
1. e4 c5 2. Na3

*{Not the usual approach to try to defeat a Sicilian, but sound. Some players are*

rattled by unusual or unexpected moves but I am not one of them.}

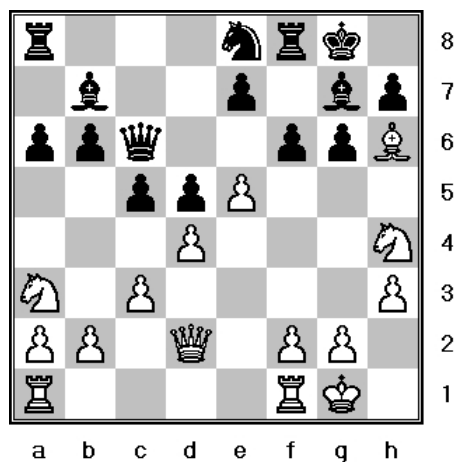


2. ...Nc6 3. Bb5 Qc7 4. Nf3 Nf6 5. d3 g6 6. O-O Bg7 7. c3 O-O 8. Be3 b6



{This was played so I had the possibility of playing ...d5 in one move, if the situation allowed it.}

9. Qd2 d6 10. h3 a6 11. Bxc6 Qxc6 12. Bh6 Bb7 13. Nh4 d5 14. e5 Ne8 15. d4 f6

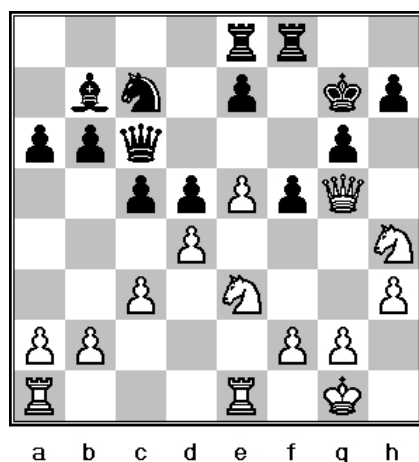


This is reasonable, but not the only decent plan for Black. 15. ...Bxh6 16. Qxh6 Ng7 17. Nf3 (The attacking move 17. f4 should not be feared, as after 17. ...cxd4 18. cxd4 Rac8 19. f5 gxf5, and Black's queen defends along the third rank.) 17. ...Nf5 =

**16. Rfe1 f5**

{If White played 17. exf6 it seems to favor White so I closed the position.}

**17. Nc2 Nc7 18. Bxg7 Kxg7 19. Qg5 Rae8 20. Ne3**

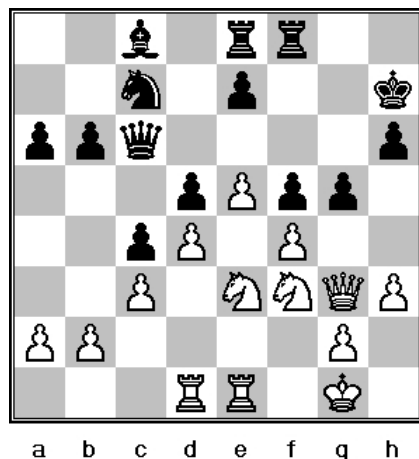


{Post mortem I was asked by a bystander why not 20. ...Ne6 in this position. I looked at that and thought that a likely continuation was 21. Nxf5+ Rxf5 22. Nxf5+ Kh8 23. Nxe7 Nxe5 24. Nxc6 Bxc6. I hardly thought Black was winning here, and thought White had an OK game. Carl agreed.}

**20. ...Bc8 21. f4 h6 22. Qg3 Kh7 23. Rad1 c4**

{I felt line opening in the center would favor White, so I closed it.}

**24. Nf3 g5!?**



{!? White was likely going to play 25.

h4 putting a permanent clamp on the kingside. Now was Black's only chance to open the g-file if he wants to, since 25. f5? f4 wins Black a knight.}

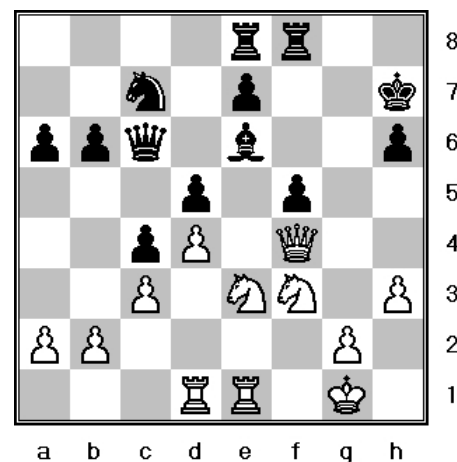
**25. e6!?**

The exchange of sharp moves turns the evaluation from a small but stable White initiative to unclear with play for both sides. 25. Rf1 is more solid.

{! Thematic sacrifice opening up the e-file for White and allowing a strong knight to be posted at e5.}

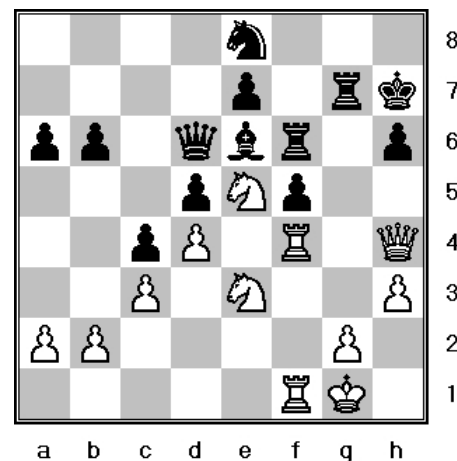
**25. ...gxf4 26. Qxf4 Bxe6**

26. ...Qd6!? 27. Ne5 Nxe6 improves Black's chances.



**27. Ne5 Qd6 28. Rf1 Rf6 29. Qh4 Rg8 30. Rf4 Ne8 31. Rdf1 Rg7**

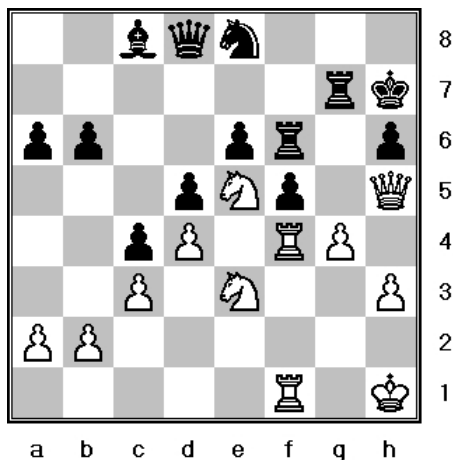
{Black intended to sac back the pawn on f5 and then play Nf6-e4. Black's last move was to cover the f7 square.}



**32. Kh1**

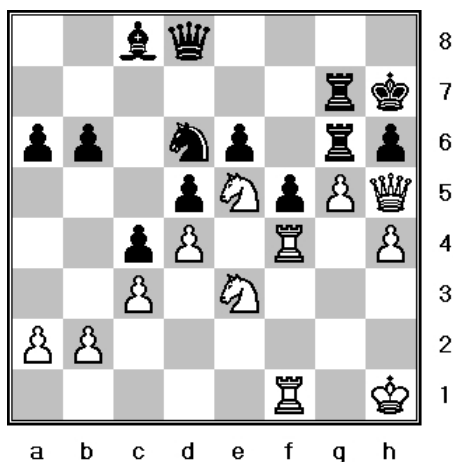
32. Qh5 saves a key tempo.

**32. ...Bc8 33. Qh5 Qd8 34. g4 e6?**



Black ‘solidifies’ his defense of f5 and opens up the second rank for his queen, which seems like a sensible idea. However, solid also means rigid, and the e6 pawn impedes his bishop. This allows White’s attack to increase in force. Correct was 34... Nd6. If White continues as in the game with 35. h4 (35. gxf5 Rg5 is fine for Black) then Black can exchange pawns, since his f6 rook is defended by the pawn: 35... fxg4 36. Rxf6 exf6 37. N3xg4 Bxg4 38. Nxf4 Rg6.

35. h4 Nd6 36. g5 Rfg6



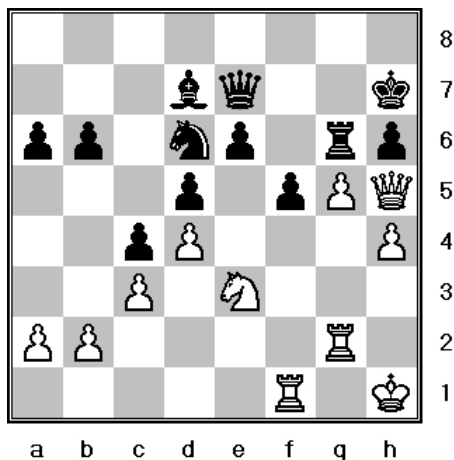
37. R1f2

In time pressure White missed his best chance 37. Nxf6 Rxf6 38. Ng4! with a winning attack.

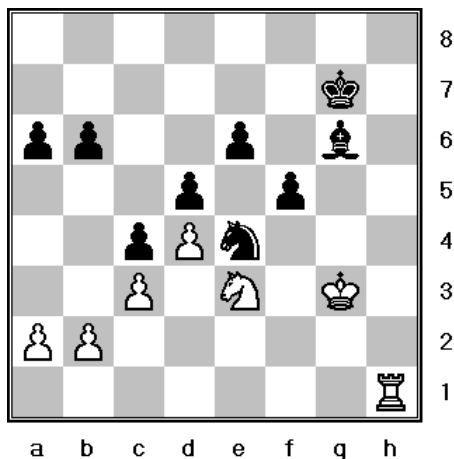
37... Qe7 38. Rg2 Bd7 39. Nxf6 Rxf6 40. Rf1

40. gxh6!? Rxf2 41. Kxf2 Ne4 42. Nf1 Be8 43. Qf3 Qf8 44. Ng3 Qxh6 45. Nxe4 dxe4 46. Qg3 is also very complicated.

{White made time control with less than a minute to spare. Black had five minutes.}



40. ...Be8 41. Qf3 Ne4 42. Qf4 hxg5 43. hxg5 Rxf2 44. Rxf2 Qxg5 45. Qxg5 Nxf2 46. Kg2 Kg7 47. Kg3 Bg6 48. Rh1 Ne4+



49. Kf3

{Much better than 49. Kf4?! Nf2 followed by ...Nd3 and Black is liking his position.}

49. ...Kf6 50. Rh2 Kg5 51. Ng2 Nd2+

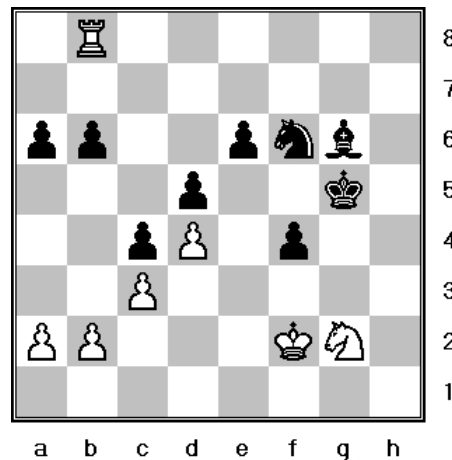
51. ...Bh5+ 52. Ke3 Nf6 (threatens a fork) 53. Rh1 Ng4+ 54. Kd2 Nf6 and Black has set up a strong fortress.

52. Ke2 Ne4 53. Ke3 Ng3 54. Rh8 Nh5 55. Rb8

Much better was the prophylactic maneuver 55. Ne1! f4+ 56. Kf2 Bb1 57. Nf3+ Kg6 58. Rb8 with a clear advantage for White.

55. ...f4+ 56. Kf2 Nf6

{The black f-pawn is looking like a monster and is well supported by the black pieces. White (correctly) decides to sac his knight for it rather than let it continue to exist.}



57. Nxf4?!

This exchange leads to a clear draw. 57. Ne1 was still correct, though Black has the initiative for a while 57. ...Ng4+ 58. Ke2 Bh5 59. Nf3+ Kf5 60. Kd2 Nf2 61. Ne5 +=

57. ...Kxf4 58. Rxb6 Ng4+ 59. Ke2 Bd3+ 60. Kd2 e5 61. dxe5 Nxe5 62. Rf6+ Ke4 63. Rxa6 Nf3+ 64. Kc1 d4 65. a4 Bf1


{Threatening to get a passed d-pawn.}

66. cxd4 Kxd4 67. Rf6 Bg2 68. a5 Ne5 69. a6 Nc6 70. Rf7 c3

{Likely continuation is 71. bxc3 Kxc3 72. a7 Nxa7 73. Rxa7 would be a K + R vs. K + B. While it’s true computers have demonstrated that that ending is a forced win in 227 moves with PERFECT play, it’s usually a draw with humans considering the 50 move rule.} [editor – Corey is making a little joke here.]

1/2-1/2

[editor – The business card below should now read, “Current and 4-time Oregon Champion.” Congratulations, Carl!]



**Carl A. Haessler**  
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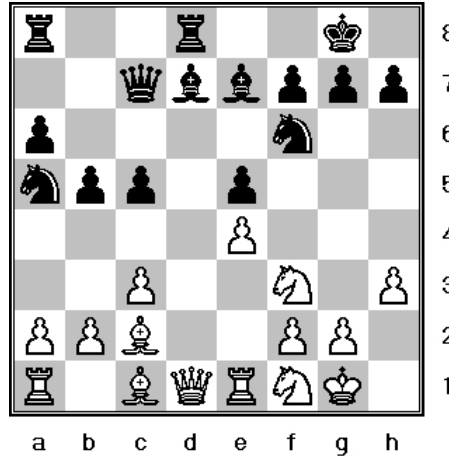


# SCC vs TCC Board One

by  
William  
Schill

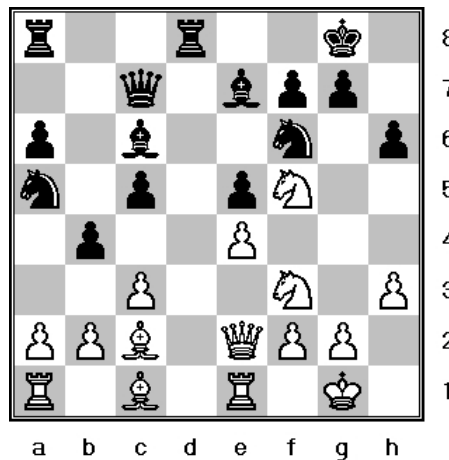
William Schill – Michael MacGregor  
Seattle vs Tacoma  
Seattle, Washington, March 7, 2009

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Ba4  
Nf6 5. 0-0 Be7 6. Re1 b5 7. Bb3 0-0 8. h3  
d6 9. c3 Na5 10. Bc2 c5 11. d4 Qc7 12.  
Nbd2 Bd7 13. dxe5 dxe5 14. Nf1 Rfd8



14. ...Rad8 15. Qe2 Be6 (15. ...Rfe8  
looks solid) 16. Ne3 Rfe8 was Beliavsky-  
Piket.

15. Qe2 h6 16. Ne3 Bc6 17. Nf5 b4



Black does not have time for this sort of  
thing, and now the White attack proceeds  
unimpeded.

18. Nh2

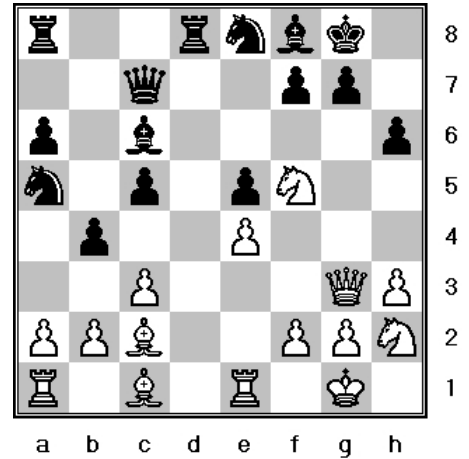
[18. Bxh6 gxh6 19. Nxf6+ Kf8 20. Ng5  
–I looked at this for a while, but why should  
White risk it all when every move his  
position is getting a little bit better?]

18. ...Bf8 19. Qf3

Intending Nxf6+.

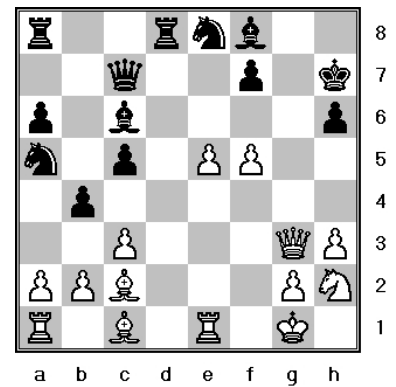
19. ...Ne8 20. Qg3

Again Nxf6+ is threatened.

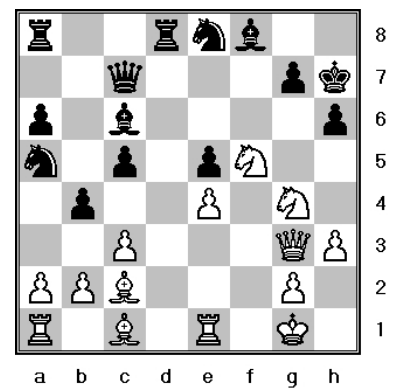


20. ...Kh7 21. f4! exf4

21. ...g6 22. fxe5 gxf5 23. exf5 Black  
will hardly survive.....



21. ...f6 22. fxe5 fxe5 (22. ...g6 23. Nxf6  
Bxh6 24. Bxh6 Kxh6 25. Ng4+ wins) 23.  
Ng4

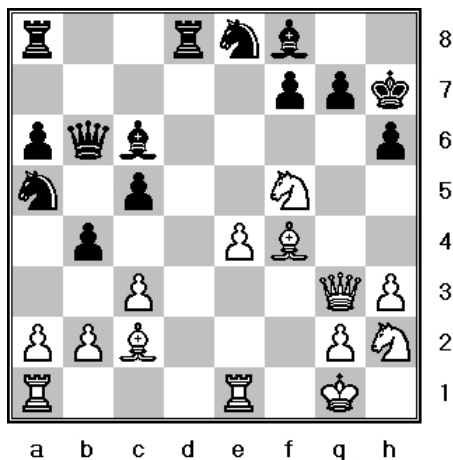


wins the important e-pawn.

22. Bxf4 Qb6



29. ...bxc2 30. Nf7+ Kg8



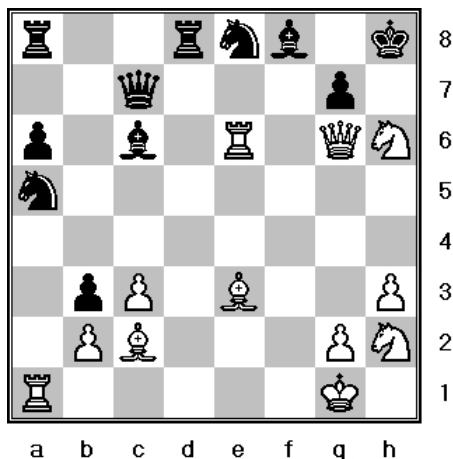
23. e5 Kh8 24. e6 fxe6 25. Rxe6 c4+  
26. Be3 Qc7



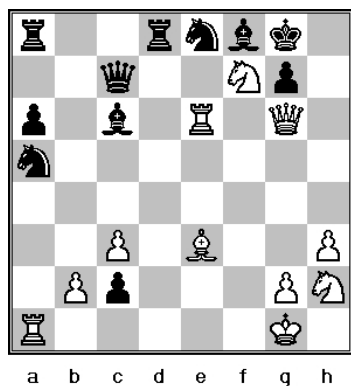
27. Qg6

27. Qf2? Qf7

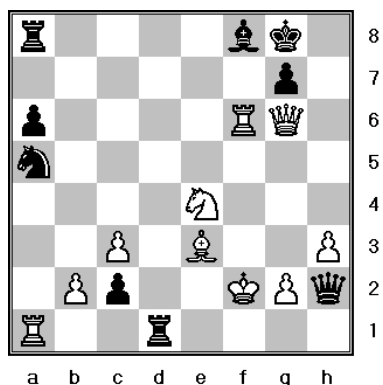
27. ...b3 28. axb3 cxb3 29. Nxb6



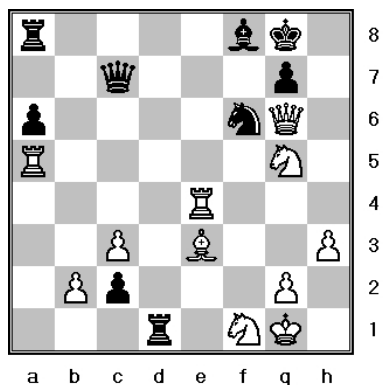
29. ...gxh6?



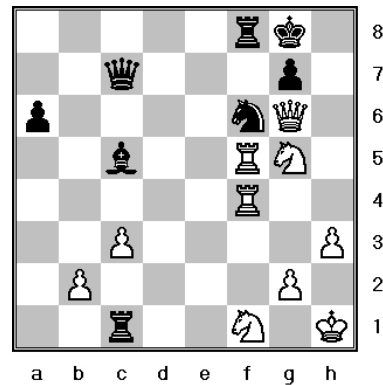
31. Ng5 Rd1+ 32. Nf1 (32. Kf2 Nf6 33. Rxf6 Be4 34. Nxe4 Qxh2



– why would White allow this craziness?) 32. ...Be4 33. Rxe4 Nf6 34. Rxa5

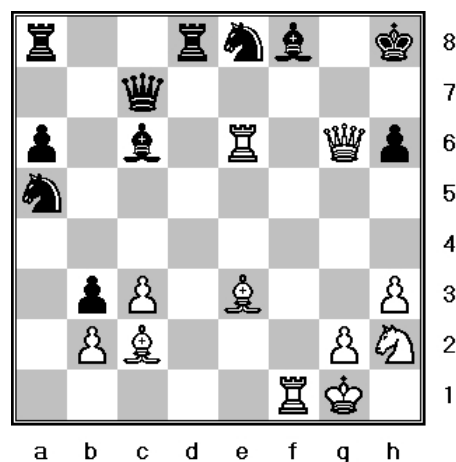


White is still winning of course, but at least it is messy so Black should have chosen bxc2. 34. ...c1Q (34. ...Qxa5 35. Qf7+ Kh8 36. Rh4+) 35. Bxc1 Rxc1 36. Rf5 Bc5+ 37. Kh1 Rf8 38. Ref4



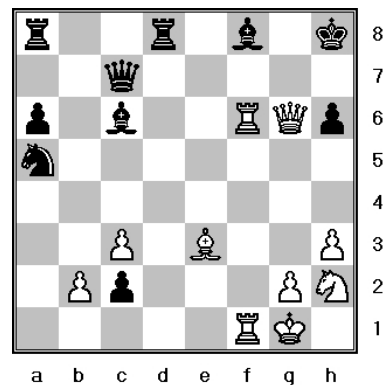
pointing everyone at the black knight does the job.

30. Rf1!



Michael missed this move; it is just game over.

30. Rf1 Nf6 (30. ...Nd6 31. Bd4+ Bg7 32. Qh7#; 30. ...Qg7 31. Rxf8+ Qxf8 32. Qh7#; 30. ...bxc2 31. Rxf8#) 31. Rxf6 bxc2



32. Rxf8+ Rxf8 33. Bd4+

1-0

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



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# And In The End

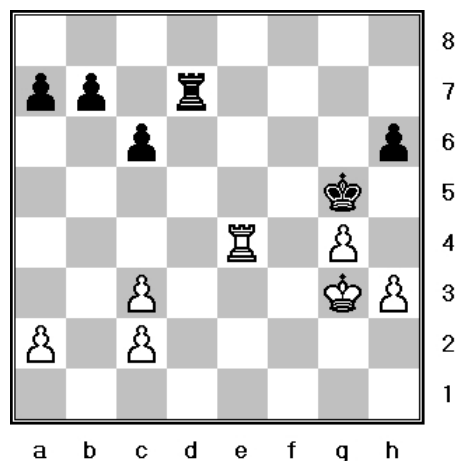
## by Dana Muller



This month we look at another rook and pawn endgame. As in the March column, White has a huge, likely winning, advantage.

As an aside, I'll give a short plug for playing matches as a complement to tournament play. Being a player who entered tournaments infrequently, I found each of the three matches I played with Paul Eggers useful in shaking off the rust (computer chess was a joke in the 1980s). These short, hard-fought matches served as excellent preparation for future tournaments.

**Dana Muller – Paul Eggers**  
**Match**  
**July 1980**



White's edge is clear: a pawn ahead and more active rook. That there are pawns on both sides of board is what gives White a probable win. If you removed all six queenside pawns, the position would be a draw. With that in mind, White should try to limit pawn exchanges as much as possible.

Looking at the big picture, white plans to first fix the kingside with h3-h4-h5, and if allowed, to fix the queenside with moves such as a2-a4, c3-c4-c5. Complementing the pawn moves will be rook and king maneuvers looking to infiltrate the black position. The initial part of this grand strategy will be fixing the black pawn as a weakness on h6. Black will need to defend the h6-pawn: if the pawn falls White will have connected passed pawns which should be decisive.

From Black's perspective, there is an immediate decision whether to play actively or passively. Since immediate active play seems to result in the loss of the h6-pawn, I think Black made the right choice.

The other headache Black has to deal with is the where to place the queenside pawns. They are potential targets for a rook on the seventh rank, but advancing any one of them has drawbacks. Moving the c-pawn to c5 soon requires b6 as support; this allows the white king an easy road to the queenside. Moving a pawn to a6 or a5 leaves a hole at b6, and it may be possible for white to fix the weakness with c3-c4-c5.

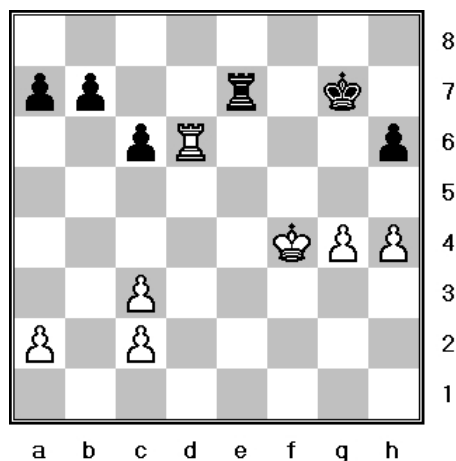
**32. h4 Kf6 33. Rd4 Re7**

Beginning to maneuver the white rook and king; Black can't allow the exchange of rooks

**34. Rd6+ Kg7**

Black needs to defend the h-pawn.

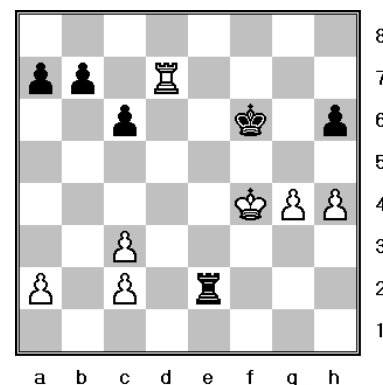
**35. Kf4**



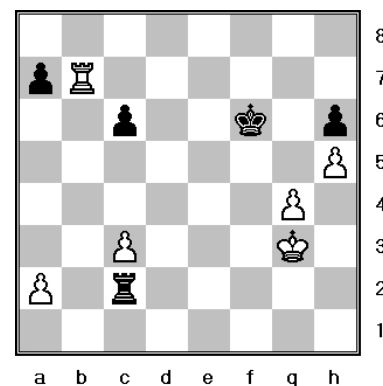
**35. ...a6**

Black decides to defend passively (at least for the time being).

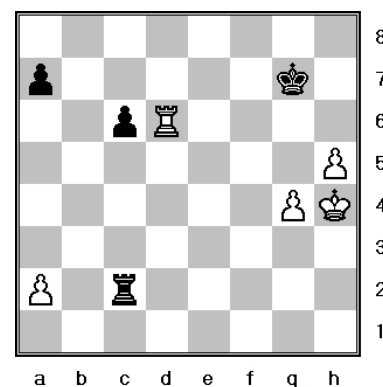
The active 35. ...Re2 deserves consideration. This move is Black's best chance to making active play work, since White is less advanced at this point (i.e. white hasn't fixed the pawn structure). 35. ...Re2 36. Rd7+ Kf6 (on 36. ...Kg8 [or Kf8, Kh8] 37. Kf5 idea 38. Kg6 with both mate threats and attacking the h-pawn looks very bad for black.)



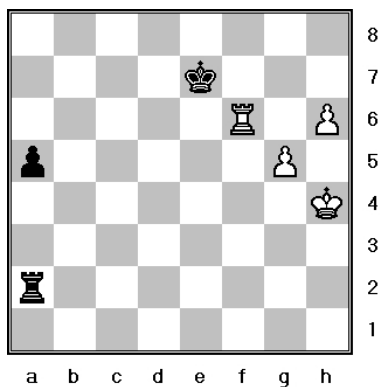
37. Rh7! (a useful finesse) 37. ...Kg6 38. Rxb7 Rf2+ (forcing a temporary retreat) 39. Kg3 Rxc2 40. h5+ Kf6 (40. ...Kg5 41. Rg7+ Kf6 42. Rg6+ gives White an extra tempo)



41. Rh7 (h-pawn!) 41. ...Rxc3+ 42. Kh4 Rc2 43. Rxh6+ Kg7 44. Rd6.



Play could continue 44. ...Rxa2 45. Rxc6 a5 46. Rc7+ Kf6 47. g5+ Kf5 47. Rf7+ Ke6 48. Rf6+ Ke7 49. h6 and the pawns are unstoppable.



Black also had the option of not moving any pawns, but instead moving the rook back and forth. Like the game continuation, this does nothing to stop white's plan to fix the pawn structure. It's merely a question of where Black thinks the pawns are best defensible.

### 36. h5

Fixing the kingside pawn structure per plan.

### 36. ...Rf7+

Black has decided not move any more pawns

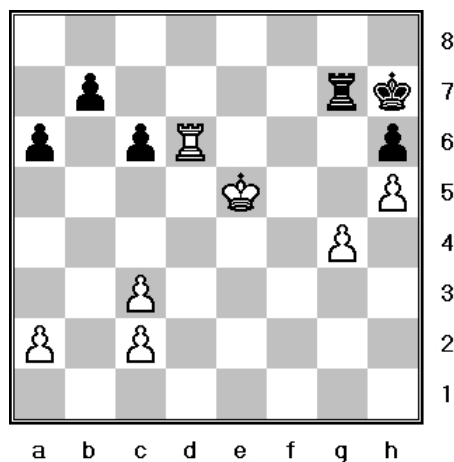
### 37. Ke5 Re7+

The alternative 37. ...Rf2 38. Rd7+ gives Black an unpleasant choice: retreat to g8/h8 (keeps the black rook tethered to the f-file, to keep the white king from g6) or Kf8, which drops the h-pawn after 39. Rh7.

### 38. Re6 Rd7

If 38. ...Rf7, then 39. Rg6+ is similar to the game.

### 39. Rg6+ Kh7 40. Rd6 Rg7



### 41. Rd4

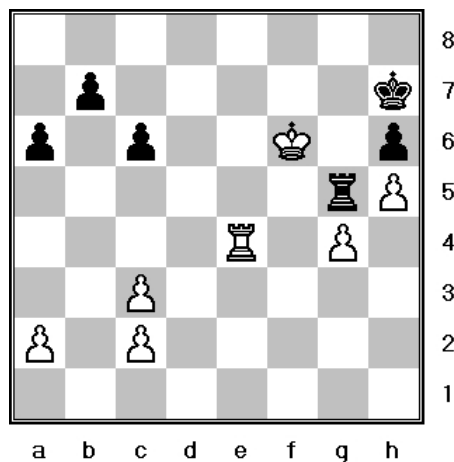
Guarding the g-pawn and preparing to invade with the king.

### 41. ...Re7+ 42. Kf6 Rg7

As usual, trying to counter attack with 42. ...Re2 doesn't work: 43. Rd7+ Kg8 44. Kg6 or 42. ...Rf7+ 43. Ke6 Rf2 44. Rd7+ Kg8 45. Rxb7.

### 43. Re4 Rg5

Forced. White was threatening to exchange rooks with Re7.

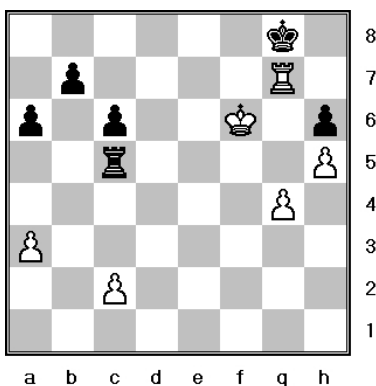


### 44. c4 Kg8

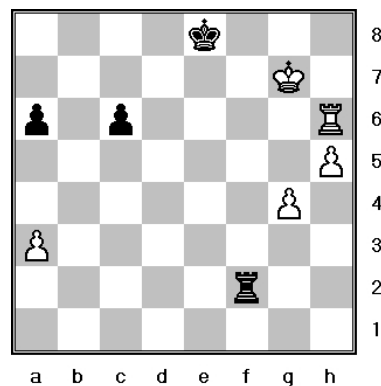
Black is stuck for constructive moves. The rook has nowhere to go but g8, the black king can cycle between g8 and h7, or a queenside pawn can move. 45. ...b6 sets up the queenside like ten pins for the white king; 45. ...c5 46. Ke6; 45. ...b5 46. c5. But g8 is an inferior square for the black king allowing White access to g6 in some lines.

### 45. c5 a5

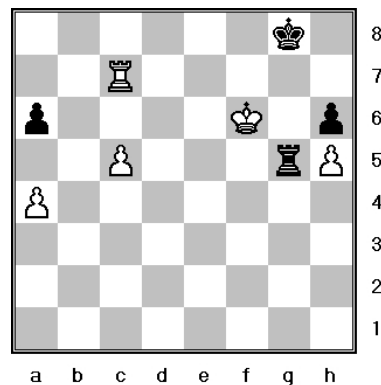
The alternative was 45. ...Kh7. The king is better on h7, but white is still winning: 46. a3 (waiting) 46. ...Rxc5 (further pawn moves just create extra targets) 47. Re7+ Kg8 48. Rg7+



48. ...Kh8 (48. ...Kf8 49. Rxb7 Ke8 50. Rh7 Rxc2 51. Rxh6 Rf2+ 52. Kg7



and the connected passers win) 49. Rxb7 Rg5 50. Rb4 Kh7 51. Rc4 Kg8 52. a4 Kh7 53. Rxc6 Rxc4 54. c4 Rg5 55. Rc7+ Kg8 56. c5 wins.

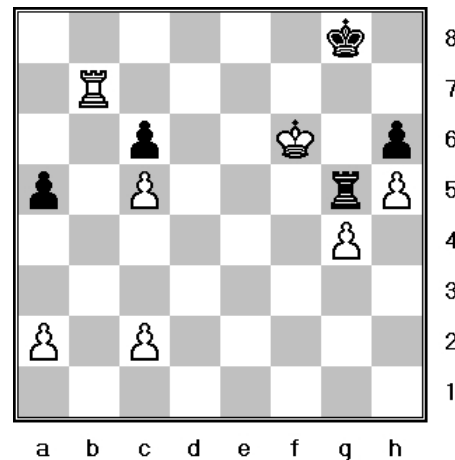


Back to the actual game:

### 46. Re8+

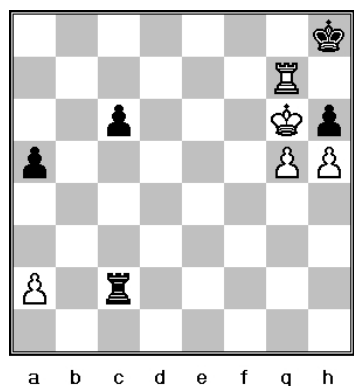
Starting a sequence that washes away the kingside, but leaves white winning on the queenside.

### 46. ...Kh7 47. Re7+ Kg8 48. Rxb7



### 48. ...Rxc4

If 48. ...Rxc5 then 49. Rg7+ Kh8 (49. ...Kf8 50. Rg6 wins the h-pawn) 50. g5! Rxc2 (50. ...Rxc5 leads to a lost king and pawn endgame; 50. ...hxg5 51.Kg6 Rd5 52. Rc7 Rd6+ 53. Kxg5 and wins) 51. Kg6!

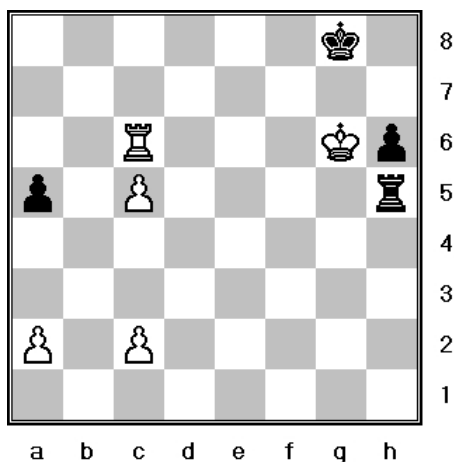


51. ...Rd2 (51. ...hxg5 52. Rc7 wins) 52. Kxh6, winning.

**49. Rc7 Rg5**

49. ...Rh4 50. Rxc6 Rxh5 51. Kg6.

**50. Rxc6 Rxh5 51. Kg6**



**51. ...Rg5+**

Forced! It's the only move that stops the mate and saves the rook.

**52. Kxh6 Rd5**

Or 52. ...Re5 53. Kg6 Kf8 54. Kf6 Re8 54. Rc7.

**53. Kg6 Kf8**

The kings rush to the queenside

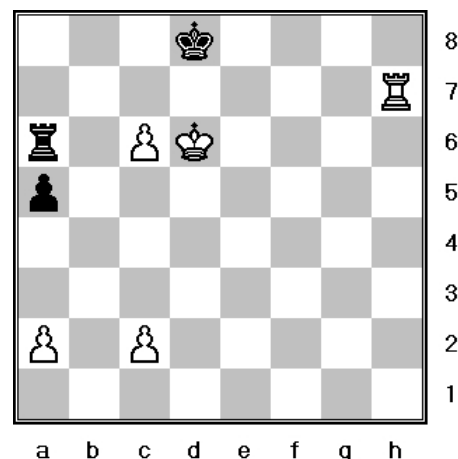
**54. Kf6 Ke8 55. Ke6 Rd8 56. Rc7 Ra8**

Everything loses quickly here.

**57. c6 Kd8 58. Kd6 Ra6**

The rest is simple.

**59. Rh7**



**59. ...Ke8 60. Rh8+ Kf7 61. Kd7 a4 62. c7 Ra7 63. Kd6 Ra6+ 64. Kd5**

**1-0**

## 34<sup>th</sup> Paul Keres Memorial Chess Tournament

**Dates** Friday, May 15 to Monday, May 18, 2009  
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**Sections** Open, Under 2000, Under 1600  
**Time Control** Game/90 + 60 second increment or game/150  
**Round Times** Friday 6:30 (Open Section only); Saturday 10:00, 5:00 Sunday 10:00, 3:30 Monday 9:00 ASAP  
**Prizes** first prize **guaranteed** in each section: \$1,000 (Open), \$600 (U2000), \$400 (U1600)

**Entry Fees** (Open / U2000 / U1600)  
 Before or on March 27, 2008 \$110 / \$95 / \$80  
 Before or on May 1, 2008 \$130 / \$110 / \$90  
 At site \$150 / \$125 / \$100

**Discounts** Born after May 20, 1989 or before May 20, 1944 - 50% (proof of date of birth required)

**Surcharge** FIDE rated players w/o titles - 25% FIDE Titled Players - free entry  
 \$25 extra for those players rated under 2000 who wish to play in the Open.

**Registration** Online registration and payment at [www.juniorchess.ca](http://www.juniorchess.ca) or by mail to BC Junior Chess, 1689 141a St, Surrey V4A 8K2. Make checks payable to Chess for Children  
**On-site** Open Section: Friday, May 15, 5:30 to 6:00 pm  
U2000 and U1600: Friday, May 15 or Saturday, May 16, 8:30 to 9:30 am

**Miscellaneous** CFC rated, Open Section also FIDE rated; boards provided, **please bring clocks.**

**Contact** Ken Jensen [ChessBC@shaw.ca](mailto:ChessBC@shaw.ca) (604) 728-7491

Further details: [www.juniorchess.ca](http://www.juniorchess.ca); all dollar amounts in Canadian dollars; CFC membership required

# Clark Harmon Memorial Northwest Grand Prix

by  
Murlin  
Varner

Welcome to the 2009 edition of the Grand Prix. I have labeled it as the Clark Harmon Memorial, the name we have used for the past two years. Since the donator of the added money, usually \$1000 split evenly between Washington and Oregon, has the naming rights, I guess I need to check and see if we shall continue to honor Clark or begin honoring someone else. Recent past honorees have been Mike Franett and Stephen Christopher. Sad to say, but we seem every year to have someone else who could be the latest honoree. One name which comes to mind from the year just finished is Herman Chiu, although there are probably a few others who have passed in 2008 as well.

The checks should be out by the time you read this for the 2008 edition of the Grand Prix. I published the final numbers in February, but due to a few missing payments, the payouts were delayed a bit. After paying the last little bit myself (with hopes for reimbursement), we now have our final figures, I think. Prizes are given out for first and second in each state within each of five classes. An additional first place share is given to the person with the greatest overall point total. Fees come from the events which are advertised as Grand Prix events, in the amount of \$1 per entry, per event. All fees from events stay within the

state where the event was held. Therefore, an event in Portland, for instance, would pay fees that would go into the Oregon total only, even if some of the players live in Washington. Obviously, an event in Tacoma would be just the reverse of that.

For 2008, Oregon winners received first place shares of \$92.64 and second place shares of \$46.32. Washington winners received first place shares of \$150.16 and second place shares of \$75.08. A total of 347 players from Washington entered one or more Grand Prix events in 2008 and 148 Oregon players did the same. Players from other states or countries do not get to win any prizes, but their dollar per entry still adds to each state's total. There were 71 players from outside Washington and Oregon in 2008, primarily from Idaho, Montana and Canada.

It is still early in the 2009 event, a bit too early to start listing all the leaders by state and class. We have only five events in our standings thus far, with the Gresham Open and the Collyer Memorial Open being the only two with point value multipliers. So, this month, I will just list the top 20 from Washington, Oregon and elsewhere. Next month we'll go back to the full standings chart.

### Elsewhere

1	Havrilla, Mark	ID	1921	25.5
2	Weyland, Ronald	ID	1459	18
3	Armstrong, Nathan	MS	1709	16.5
4	Donaldson, W John	CA	2425	15
4	Leslie, Cameron	ID	1646	15
4	Hansen, Douglas	MT	1725	15
4	McLaughlin, Edward	MT	1750	15
4	Pallares, Henry	MT	1563	15
9	Weyland, Phillip	ID	1864	13.5
9	Carpenter, Romie	MT	1809	13.5
9	Martin, Robert	MT	1682	13.5
12	Subedi, Avinaya	ID	unr	12
12	McCourt, Daniel	MT	1634	12
14	McBroom, William	MT	1588	10.5
15	Kennedy, Tim	MT	1455	9
15	Strong, Murray	MT	1413	9
15	Cohen, Richard	WY	1500	9
18	Schmitz, Karl	MT	1555	4.5
18	Chechi, Saurabh	TX	unr	4.5
20	Weyland, Annette	ID	1209	3

### Oregon

1	Gay, Daniel	1987	30
2	Raptis, Nick	2311	22
3	Esler, Brian	1942	20.5
3	Surak, Steve	1918	20.5
5	Shuey, Paul	2045	16.5
6	Tse, Kalen	1520	15.5
7	You, Sean	1717	15
8	Evers, Jason	1797	14.5
9	Grom, Alex	1672	14
9	Niro, Frank	1700	14
11	Dietz, Arliss	1500	13.5
11	Friesen, Daniel	1659	13.5
13	Witt, Steven	1567	13
14	Sharp, Austin	1579	12.5
15	Rodriguez, Edwin	1334	12
15	Roua, Radu	2217	12
17	Breckenridge, Steven	2058	11.5
17	Jacobson, Deel	unr	11.5
19	Herrera, Robert	1976	11
19	Morris, Michael	2062	11

### Washington

1	Cambareri, Michael	1762	22.5
2	Ackerman, Ryan	1588	19.5
2	Collyer, Curt	2241	19.5
2	Sinanan, Joshua	2235	19.5
2	Stripes, James	1742	19.5
6	Koons, Nat	2284	18
6	Watts, Peter	1936	18
8	Baker, Ted	1385	17
9	Kalina, Chris	1961	16.5
9	Mathews, Dan	1839	16.5
9	Merwin, Steve	2023	16.5
9	Rowles, David	1841	16.5
13	Copeland, Chris	1619	16
13	McAleer, James	1641	16
13	Teng, Yun	1707	16
16	Griffin, David	1684	15.5
17	Countryman, Zachary	1836	15
17	Desmarais, Cyrus	1903	15
17	Desmarais, Niles	1770	15
17	Elisara, Travis	1536	15
17	Fabian, Steve	1760	15
17	Higbie, Gordon	1701	15
17	Rodriguez, Odysseus	unr	15
17	Schmidt, Martin	1740	15
17	Walton, John	1747	15

# Seattle Chess Club Tournaments

**Address** ↙  
17517 15 Ave NE ↙  
Seattle WA 98155  
**Infoline** ↗  
206-417-5405  
www.seattlechessclub.info  
kleistcf@aol.com

♣ **Apr. 25, May 16** **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.

♣ **Apr. 5, May 3** **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.

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

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• **Attendance at this year's previous tournaments** •  
• *Novice (1/31)–5; Quads (1/10)–10, (2/21)–20; Tornados (1/4)–12,* •  
• *(2/1)–12, (3/1)–16; Seattle City Championship (1/16-18)–21.* •  
.....

## Second Green Open at the SCC

*A Harmon Memorial NWGP event* held on **May 9-10, 2009**

A four-round, two-section, Swiss with a time control of G/90 + 30 seconds per move [Please bring your digital clocks.]. The prize fund of \$750 is fully guaranteed. TD: H.G. Pitre. Limited to 48 players.

<u>Open</u>		<u>Reserve (U1800)</u>	
<b>First</b>	<b>\$150</b>	<b>First</b>	<b>\$100</b>
<b>Second</b>	<b>\$110</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>\$70</b>
<b>Third</b>	<b>\$80</b>	<b>Third</b>	<b>\$60</b>
<b>U2000</b>	<b>\$80</b>	<b>U1600</b>	<b>\$50</b>
		<b>U1400</b>	<b>\$50</b>

**Entry Fee:** \$35 postmarked by May 5, \$40 at site until 9:30 a.m., \$50 thereafter. *Discounts:* \$5—member of any NW CC; \$5—arriving by bus, bike, foot, or carpool; \$5—junior or senior.

**Registration:** Sat. 9:15-10 a.m. **Rounds:** Sat. 10:15-3:30, Sun. 9:45-2:30.

**Half-point byes:** commit at registration.

**Miscellaneous:** USCF & WCF memberships required. Practice for this event with your friends. You must keep score after each move throughout the entire game. There is no sudden death in this format. Please register early. *At about 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, a Master will give a 30- to 40-minute lecture on an educational topic for players rated 1800 or below.*

**Entry/Info:** H.G. Pitre, 700 Crockett Street #105, Seattle WA 98109; 206-284-9314; hgpitre@gmail.com.

*Save gas, save the Earth!*

The SCC is in the North City neighborhood of Shoreline. Take the Metro bus routes 347 or 348 from Northgate, or 348 from Richmond Beach, or 347 from Mountlake Terrace, to the Club. A bus departs the SCC every half-hour each evening to Northgate.

# Future Events

♣ indicates a NW Grand Prix event ♣

## ♣ April 4 – 5

## Inland Empire Open ♣

**Site:** Gonzaga University, Schoenberg Center, Rm 202 N 900 Pearl St, Spokane. **Format:** 5-SS **TC:** G/120. **Rds:** Sat 10; 2:30; 7; Sun 9; 1:30 (or ASAP). **EF:** \$26 by 4/3, \$31 site. \$5 disc for U-19. Telephone entries OK. **Prizes:** \$\$600 b/25, 5 per section. \$100-85-65; A, B, C, D/E/U 50-25; Upset 50 (non-prov.). **Reg:** 8:30-9:30 am. **Bye:** 1 hpb req. before end of preceding round; Sunday by end rd 3. **Misc:** USCF & OCF/WCF memb req, OSA. Cookies and coffee provided; class pairings possible final rd. **Info:** www.spokanechessclub.org. David Griffin, 509-928-3260 or cell 509-994-9739 **Ent:** Spokane CC, c/o David B. Griffin, PO Box 631, Spokane Valley, WA 99037.

## ♣ April 16, 23, 30

## Taxing Quads ♣

**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.

## ♣ April 18 – 19

## Daffodil Open ♣

**Site:** Tacoma Chess Club, 409 Puyallup Ave E, Rm #11 (2nd flr DTI soccer bldg), Tacoma, WA. **Format:** 5-SS **TC:** G/120, w/5-sec. delay. **EF:** Adv \$30, jrs \$20; site \$35/\$25; Economy (no prizes) \$12. **Prizes:** If 9+ non-Economy, 25% 1st, non-E in three groups, 15%, 14%, 13%. If <9 non-E, 30% 1st, two groups 20%, 17%. **Reg:** 9-9:30 am. **Rds:** Sat 10; 2:30; 7 (or ASAP); Sun 10; 3 (or ASAP) **Byes:** 2 HPBs req before rd 4. **Misc:** USCF & OCF/WCF memb req, OSA; NW, NS, NC; unr plays for 1st or free entry w/no prizes. **Info:** ggarychess@aol.com, 253-535-2536. **Ent:** Gary Dorfner, 8423 E "B" St, Tacoma, WA 98445.

### 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 13) .....	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
4	Campbell Center Open .....	.....	Eugene, OR
4-5	♣ Inland Empire Open .....	Spokane CC, www.spokanechessclub.org, 509-928-3260 .....	Spokane, WA
5	♣ SCC Sunday Tornado .....	Seattle CC, www.seattlechessclub.info, 206-417-5405 .....	Seattle, WA
5	TCC Sunday Quads G/30 .....	Tacoma CC, www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com, 253-535-2536 .....	Tacoma, 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
16-30	♣ Taxing Quads (one round/week) .....	Spokane CC, www.spokanechessclub.org, 509-928-3260 .....	Spokane, WA
18-19	♣ TCC Daffodil Open .....	Tacoma CC, www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com, 253-535-2536 .....	Tacoma, WA
24-25	Washington State Elementary Champs .....	James Stripes, jdstripes@comcast.net, www.spokanesportevents.com .....	Spokane, WA
25	♣ SCC Saturday Quads .....	Seattle CC, www.seattlechessclub.info, 206-417-5405 .....	Seattle, WA
25	Java Fusion Coffee Shop Tourney .....	Tacoma CC, www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com, 253-535-2536 .....	Tacoma, WA
25-26	♣ 3rd Annual Clark Harmon Memorial .....	Portland CC, www.pdxchess.org, 503-246-2978 .....	Portland, OR

### 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
15-18	34th Paul Keres Memorial .....	Ken Jenson, www.juniorchess.ca, 604-728-7491 .....	Vancouver, B.C.
16	♣ SCC Saturday Quads .....	Seattle CC, www.seattlechessclub.info, 206-417-5405 .....	Seattle, WA
23-25	♣ Washington Open .....	Spokane CC, www.spokanechessclub.org, 509-270-1772 .....	Spokane, WA
30	♣ PCC G/60 .....	Portland CC, www.pdxchess.org, 503-246-2978 .....	Portland, OR
30	Java Fusion Coffee Shop Tourney .....	Tacoma CC, www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com, 253-535-2536 .....	Tacoma, WA
31	♣ SCC Sunday Tornado .....	Seattle CC, www.seattlechessclub.info, 206-417-5405 .....	Seattle, WA

### June 2009

2	PCC Tuesday Quads begin .....	Portland CC, www.pdxchess.org, 503-246-2978 .....	Portland, OR
4-7	Las Vegas Chess Festival, National Open ....	www.vegaschessfestival.com .....	Las Vegas, NV
6	PCC Saturday Quads .....	Portland CC, www.pdxchess.org, 503-246-2978 .....	Portland, OR
13	♣ SCC Saturday Quads .....	Seattle CC, www.seattlechessclub.info, 206-417-5405 .....	Seattle, WA
19-21	♣ SCC Emerald City Open .....	Seattle CC, www.seattlechessclub.info, 206-417-5405 .....	Seattle, WA
20-21	Newport June Open .....	Bill Barrese, centralcoastchess@yahoo.com, 541-563-7033 .....	Newport, OR
27	♣ PCC G/60 .....	Portland CC, www.pdxchess.org, 503-246-2978 .....	Portland, OR
27	Java Fusion Coffee Shop Tourney .....	Tacoma CC, www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com, 253-535-2536 .....	Tacoma, WA

For free scholastic tournament listings, please visit [www.nwchess.com](http://www.nwchess.com).