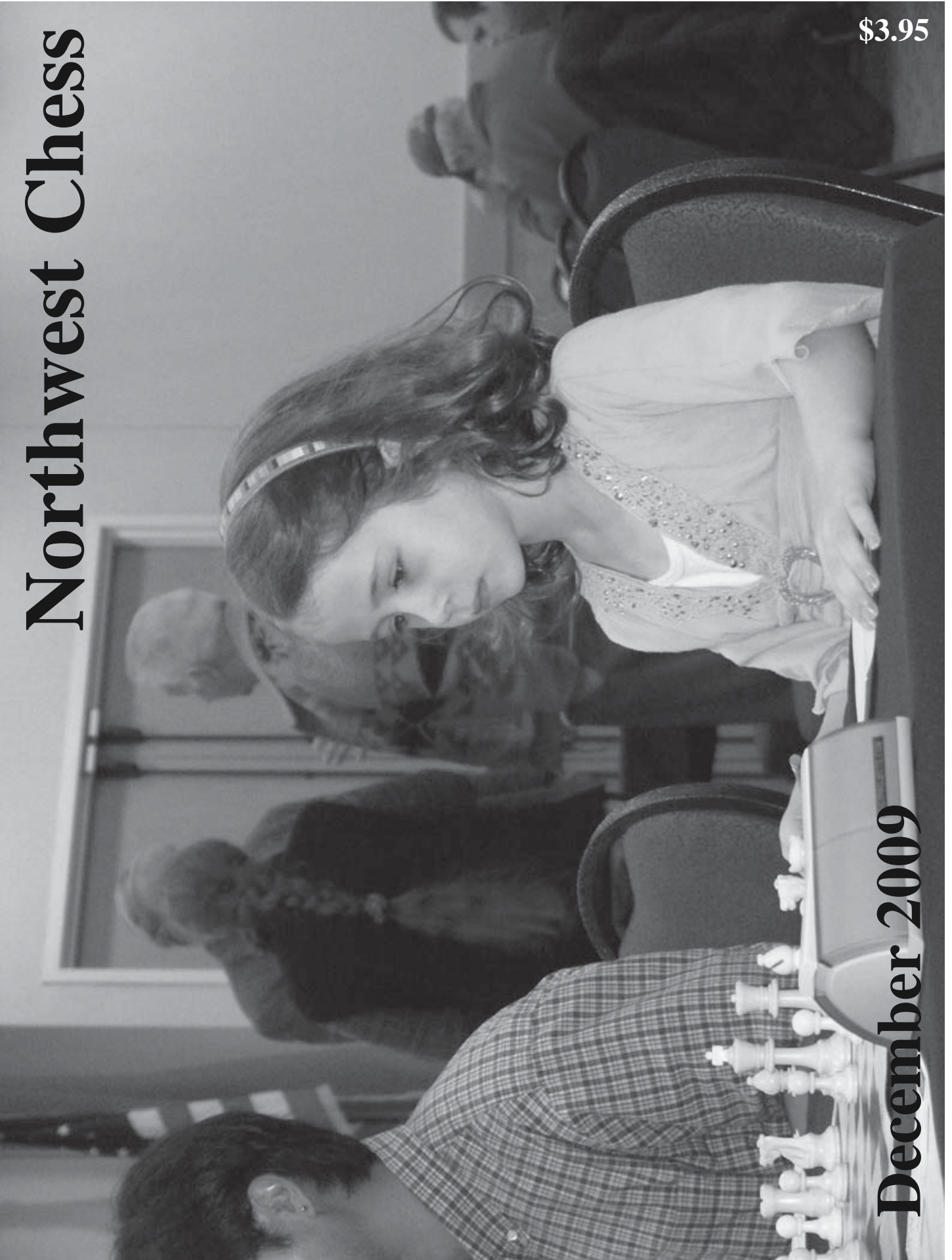


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NWC Staff

Editor: Ralph Dubisch,
editor@nwchess.com

Publisher: Duane Polich,
publisher@nwchess.com

Business Manager: Eric Holcomb,
eric@holcomb.com

Board Representatives

David Yoshinaga, Karl Schoffstoll,
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Cover art: Naomi Bashkansky contemplates her move

Photo credit: Richard Golden

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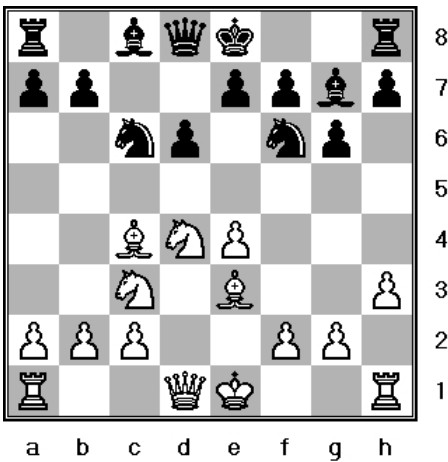
Corey – Kyle
Casual game, Talent Chess Club
Talent, Oregon, October 5, 2009

This was an informal game I played at the Talent Chess Club. I had the white pieces against Kyle.

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nc6

This move is certainly sound. It does give White the option of 5. c4 here though, which is why most players play ...Nf6 first. I wanted to be more “confrontational” so played Nc3 instead.

5. Bc4 g6 6. Nc3 Bg7 7. Be3 Nf6 8. h3

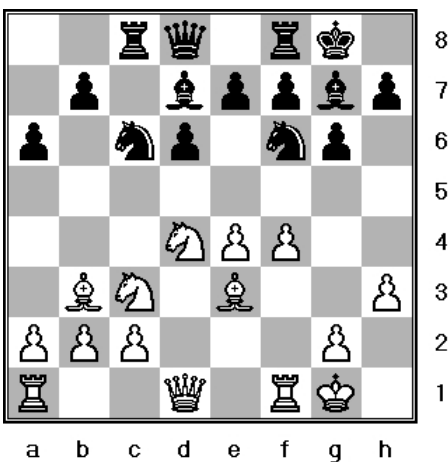


Bobby Fischer’s line. With best play just equality, but it’s a solid line, and plenty of life in it for both sides.

8. ...Bd7 9. Bb3

One of the things that a person learns is that many chess combinations are based on hanging (unprotected) chess pieces. In this case there is no way for Black to take advantage of White’s king still being in the center, so therefore White has time for this.

9. ...0-0 10. 0-0 Rc8 11. f4 a6

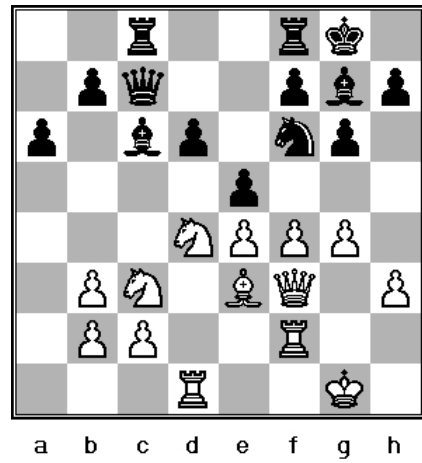


Better than 11. ...Na5? 12. e5! and White will get at least a positional advantage or even more than that if Black isn’t careful.

12. Qf3 Qc7 13. Rad1 Na5 14. g4 Nxb3 15. axb3 Bc6 16. Rf2

I would have rather played 16. Nd5, but c2 is weak. The text move shores up the protection of that as well as enabling the rook to support any open lines on g- or h-files as the situation allows. Blocking the g1-a7 diagonal is also useful in case the B at d4 wants to deploy somewhere else (potential pins/checks).

16. ...e5



I don’t like this move as it forces White to do what he already wants to do (get f5 in). Also it weakens f6; a white pawn might be able to get there now. Instead I think 16. ... b5 is more consistent with the position.

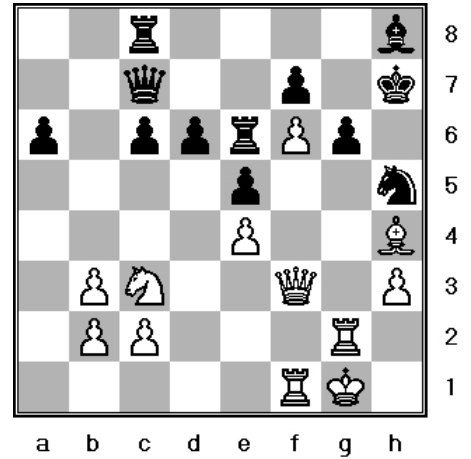
17. Nxc6 bxc6 18. f5 h6 19. g5 hxg5 20. Bxg5 Nh5

Dubious. The knight doesn’t have a future here. The knight didn’t even have to move, since 21. fxc6 fxc6 would reveal the backup on f8. If the knight must move, ...Nh7 hitting the bishop looks better. As it is, the knight is now a basis of various threats/combinations.

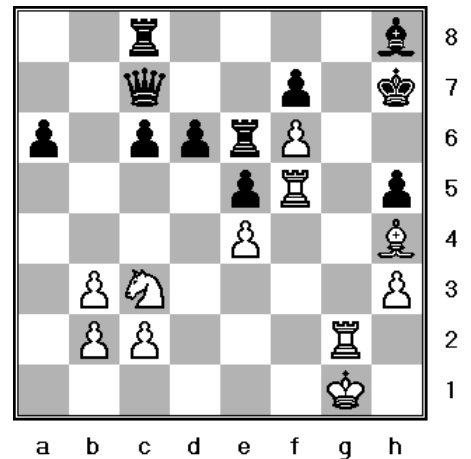
21. f6 Bh8 22. Rg2 Kh7 23. Rf1 Rfe8 24. Bh4 Re6??

Loses instantly. Black had to play 24. ...Nf4 25. Rg4 Re6 26. Bg5! with initiative for White (in this line if 26. ... Bxf6?? then 27. Bxf4! exf4 28. Rxf4 with advantage White.

{Fritz has something to say about this comment. See the note after Black’s 26th. A computer engine improving the defense in no way detracts from the neat concept Corey finds, however. – editor}



25. Qxh5+ gxh5 26. Rf5



26. ...Kh6

This king move doesn’t work, but even the best Black has: 26. ... Rxf6 27. Bxf6 Qb6+ 28. Kh1 Qe3 29. Rxh5+ Qh6 30. Rxh6+ Kxh6 still leaves Black a piece down in an endgame.

{The evil chess engine Fritz suggests Black can improve with 26. ...Qb6+ 27. Kh2 Qe3, rather than first parting with the bishop. Fritz evaluates this as equality! One possibility is 28. Bg5 Qxg5 29. Rgxg5 Bxf6 30. Rxh5+ Kg6, and White will take a couple of moves for Kg3-g4 to unfreeze the rooks and bring them back into play. – editor}

27. Bg5+ Kg6 28. Be3+

28. ... Kh7 29. Rxh5 mate was coming, so instead Black resigned here. A fun game to play at the Talent Chess Club.

1-0

{Thanks for sharing the game, Corey! Talent is in southern Oregon, between Medford and Ashland, near Interstate 5. – editor}

Western States Open at Decades End

by
Keith Yamanaka and Curt Collyer

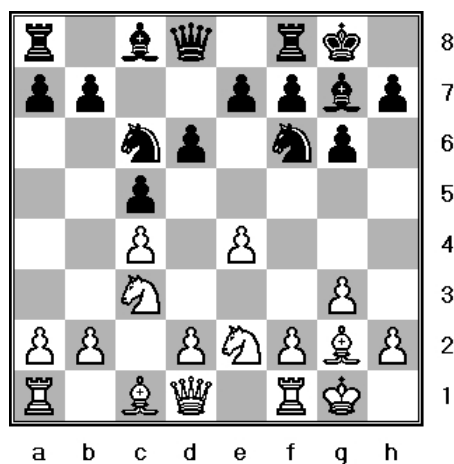
The annual Western States Open was held at the Sands Regency, October 23-25, 2009. Grandmasters Melikset Khachiyan and Ildar Ibragimov tied for first. Khachiyan took the trophy after winning both games in a fast-chess tie breaker.

More on the tournament later. Let's get a fast start to the games.

**Keith Yamanaka – Theodore Biyiasis
Western States Open, Round 1
Reno, Nevada, October 23, 2009**

If my opponent's name sounds familiar, it's because his father, Peter Biyiasas, is a GM who played locally in the 70s and 80s. I asked Theodore how Peter was doing. He said that the elder Biyiasas had some vision problems, but he still played blindfold chess regularly.

1. c4 Nf6 2. g3 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. e4 d6 5. Bg2 0-0 6. Nge2 c5 7. 0-0 Nc6



White's odd move order is to try to save a tempo by delaying d3, or even playing d2-d4 in one move.

8. a3 a6 9. Rb1 e5 10. b4 b6

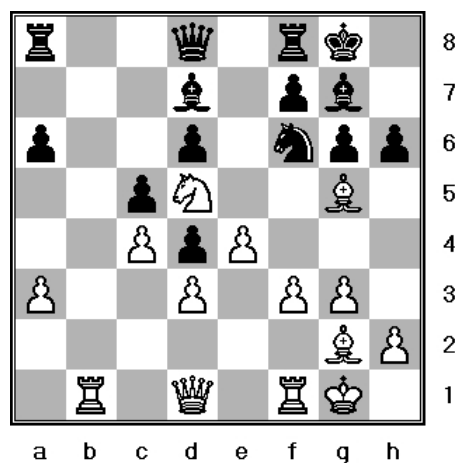
Case in point. Black does not have ...Rb8 in place, so maintaining symmetry on the queenside is problematic. 10. ...cxb4 11. axb4 b5 12. cxb5 axb5 13. Nxb5 Rb8, and Black has to worry about either 14. Ne2-c3 or 14. Qc2. 9. ...Rb8?! would allow White to play d2-d4 after both b-pawns push and are traded.

A brief word about time management (something I often have trouble with). White does not have to calculate these details on his own time. Black must commit first (with 10. ...cxb4 or 10. ...b6). Hence I was working out my options while Black was deciding his 10th move.

11. d3

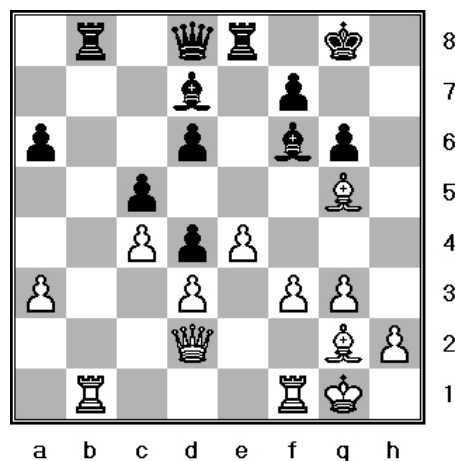
I have my concession (Black's defensive 10. ...b6). Back to basic development.

11. ...Nd4 12. Bg5 Bg4 13. f3 Bd7 14. bxc5 bxc5 15. Nxd4 exd4 16. Nd5 h6??



Now we see the combined tactics of the "In-Between" move and the "Removal of the Defender." Pay attention, because there's a test later.

17. Nxf6+ Bxf6 18. Bxh6 Re8 19. Bf4 Be5 20. Qd2 Rb8 21. Bg5 Bf6??



If you spot the next move, you pass the test.

22. Rxb8!

Same tactics! Removal of the Defender would come into play if Black had continued 22. ...Qxb8 23. Bxf6.

22. ...Bxg5 23. Rxd8 Bxd2 24. Rxd7 1-0

Don't feel too sorry for Theodore. After this, even though playing up a section, he tallied three points for an overall 50% score.

The Upper Deck

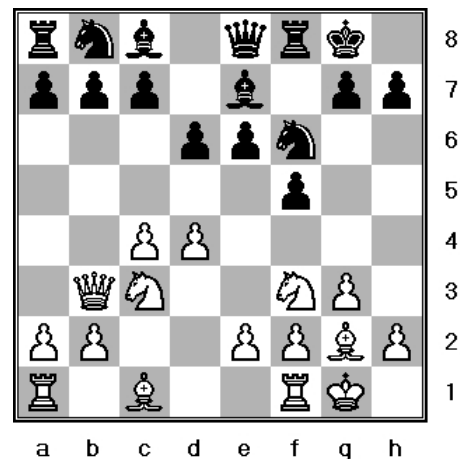
About a dozen or so of the top boards were played behind a partition, with demo boards behind them. Of these, the top three boards were played on raised platforms. As luck would have it, my second round game was close enough to watch the top boards. One game caught my attention – a Dutch Defense, not often played on the upper deck. Curt Collyer supplied the notes for this game.

**Ildar Ibragimov – Curt Collyer
Western States Open, Round 2
Reno, Nevada, October 23, 2009**

1. d4 e6 2. c4 f5 3. g3 Nf6 4. Bg2 Be7 5. Nf3 0-0 6. 0-0 d6 7. Nc3 Qe8

Ibragimov thought a long time before playing his next move.

8. Qb3!?



I was unsure whether he simply invented this over the board, or had spent his time choosing a line he thought I might be unprepared for. Either way, this was a good choice.

8. ...Na6

I finally decided to try this move. After the game, Ibragimov said he thought it was strong.

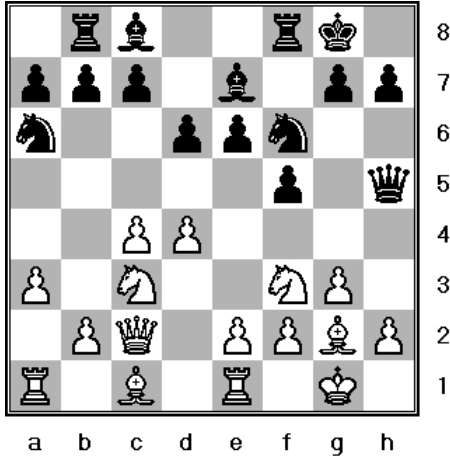
9. Re1 Rb8

He wasn't as impressed with this, however.

10. Qc2

10. e4 fxe4 11. Nxe4 Nxe4 12. Rxe4 b5!? had been one of my ideas behind 9. ...Rb8.

10. ...Qh5 11. a3



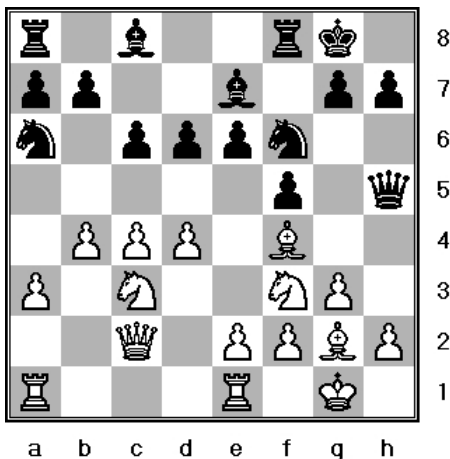
11. ...c6?

This move led to a passive position. I still can't quite explain why I didn't play 11. ...c5, which seems so natural and good. 11. ...c5! 12. Rb1 (12. Bf4? cxd4 13. Nxd4 e5) 12. ...cxd4 13. Nxd4 Nc5 14. b4 Nce4 15. Nxe4 fxe4 16. Bxe4? Qe5! is a cute trick.

12. Bf4! Ra8

Obviously something has gone wrong for Black.

13. b4



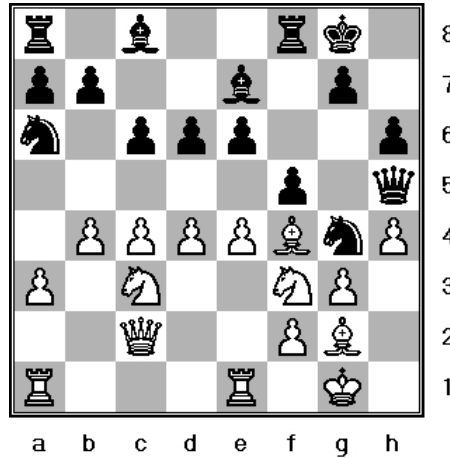
13. ...Ng4!?

With my queenside about to get steamrolled, I felt it was time to thrash around a bit.

14. h3 Nh6

Now I'm planning to play ...g5.

15. h4 Ng4 16. e4 h6



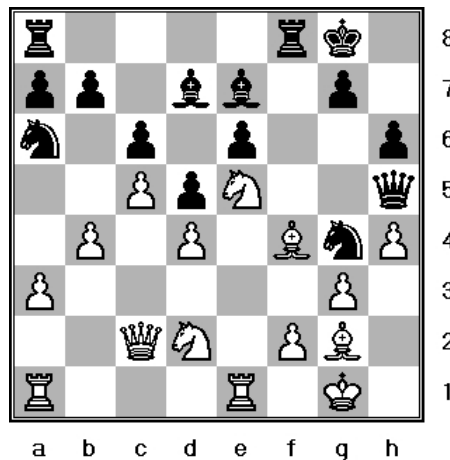
17. c5

A strong move I was not expecting. Now my knight on a6 is getting stuck out of play.

17. ...fxe4 18. Nxe4

Ibragimov avoids 18. cxd6? exf3 19. dxe7 Rxf4!.

18. ...d5 19. Ned2 Bd7 20. Ne5



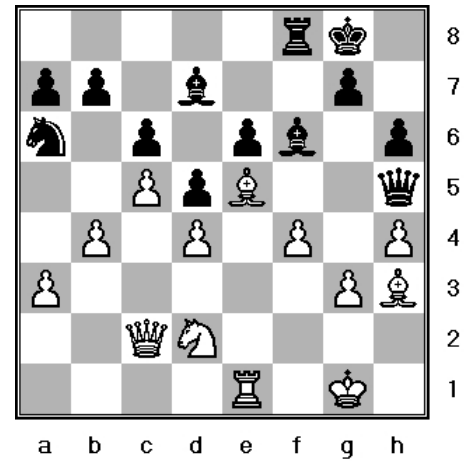
20. ...Nxe5

20. ...Rxf4!? had been my original intention, and perhaps it would have been a better try. 21. gxf4 Bxh4 (21. ...Qxh4? 22. Ndf3! stops everything) 22. Nxg4 Qxg4. My decision was based on the fact that my Na6 and Bd7 cannot quickly participate in the kingside attack. However, Black has some positional compensation because of White's weak d- and f-pawns.

21. Rxe5

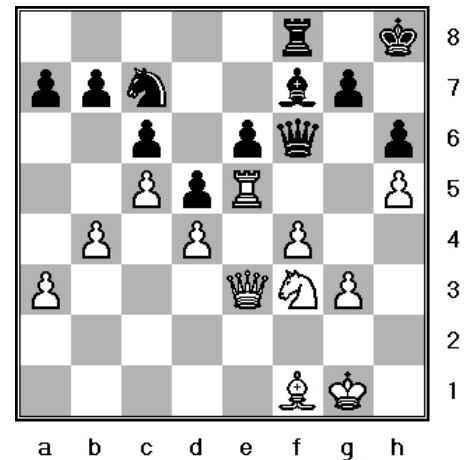
But now White is getting a firm grip on Black's position.

21. ...Rf5 22. Bh3 Rxe5 23. Bxe5 Rf8 24. f4 Bf6 25. Re1



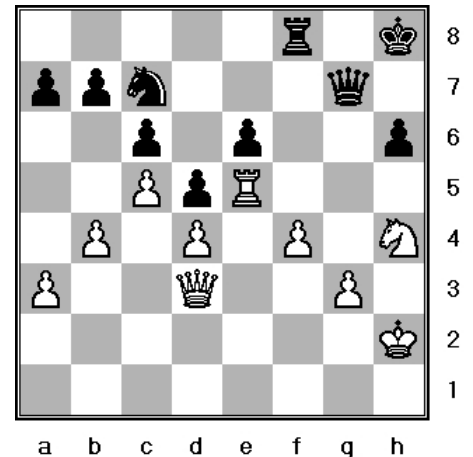
We were both in time trouble here, trying to make it to move 40.

25. ...Bxe5 26. Rxe5 Qf7 27. Ne3 Qf6 28. Qe2 Nc7 29. h5 Kh8 30. Qe3 Be8 31. Bf1 Bf7



There's obviously not a lot to do, except to wait.

32. Bd3 g6 33. hxg6 Bxg6 34. Kh2 Qg7 35. Nh4 Bxd3 36. Qxd3

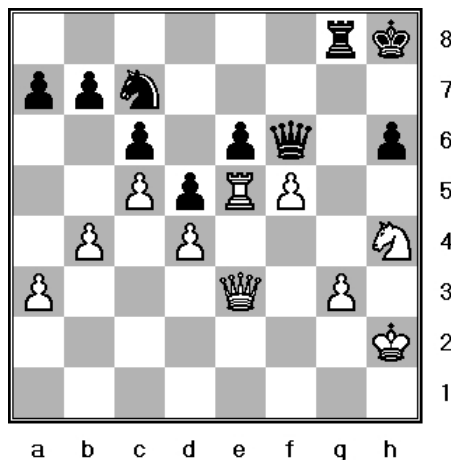


36. ... Rg8

36. ... Rf6 would have been better.

37. Qe3 Qf6 38. f5!

Good timing by White; Ibragimov goes for the kill right before the time control is reached.



38. ...exf5 39. Rxf5 Qg7 40. Rh5! Kh7 41. Nf5

1-0

The Unnamed Decade

The 2009 edition of the Western States Open marks the end of the unnamed decade. What will it be called? The Naught's? The Double O's? The Two Thousand's? There's no simple name like the 70's, 80's or 90's. This last tournament of the decade saw changes: the sudden passing of bookseller Jay Blem; the reassignment of Sands Regency liaison Barbara Woodward, now working Cribbage tournaments; and the absence of lecturer GM Larry Evans. (If anyone did see an Evan's lecture this year, please send an e-mail correction to the editor.)

Jay Blem died suddenly a few weeks before the tournament. The organizers arranged a memorial outside the room used for books/equipment sales, and observed a minute of silence before the first round. I can't remember the time before Jay was there, jovial, knowledgeable, enthusiastic about the game and whatever authors were visiting that year. His presence may not have been appreciated as much as it should, but his absence is keenly felt.

Reno 2009 saw a slight increase in overall players, 255, up from 247 last year. The Open and B sections saw double digit increases. The C and D sections remain lower than expected. Most tournaments are heavily weighted towards C and D players. But this year, the C section wasn't the largest, nor even second largest. And the D

section was second to the bottom in both strength and numbers. For the record, 2009 player totals: Open – 58, B – 51, C – 47, A – 36, Expert – 29, D – 25, E – 9.

Four players stood out this year: Tournament winners Khachiyan (silent K, sounds like Hatch-In) and Ibragimov, Dutch champion Loek Van Wely, and promising junior Daniel Naroditsky.

To appreciate what Khachiyan and Ibragimov have achieved in Reno, look at their results over the last half decade. 2005: Ibragimov tied for 1st. 2006: Ibragimov tied for 2nd, Khachiyan tied for 7th. 2007: Ibragimov and Khachiyan tied for 1st with five other players. 2008: Khachiyan tied for 2nd. 2009: Khachiyan and Ibragimov tie for 1st. In five years, that's seven 1st or 2nd place finishes.

Loek Van Wely is new to Reno. If his name sounds familiar, it's because he plays in many of the world's most prestigious tournaments including the annual Corus Wijk Aan Zee tournament, the Dutch championship, and the annual Amber Rapid/Blindfold tournament.

Granted, he usually places in the lower half. But in Reno he was easily the top rated player at 2733.

In the first round, he faced an English opening. I was curious how a top rated GM would attack the English in a game he was expected to win. He chose the simple 1...e5, ...Nf6, ...Nc6, ...Bb4 line. I've always respected this defense, with its minimal pawn moves and quick piece deployment. Van Wely won his first round game, although he was tripped up by California teenager Steven Zierk in the second round.

I wonder if Van Wely is accustomed to two-a-day Swiss system tournaments. His morning results were 2.5, evening results 1.0.

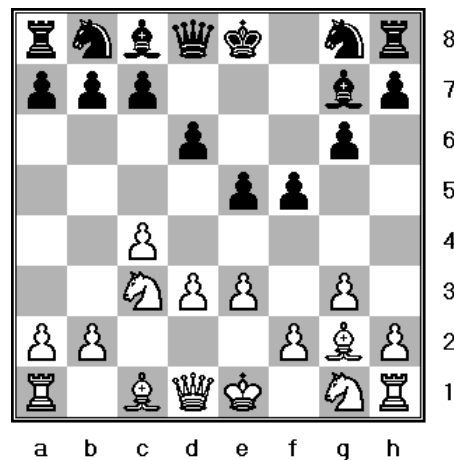
Daniel Naroditsky is now 14 years young, and continuing his prodigious climb up the chess ladder. In 2004, at the age of 9, he was clear first in the C section with 5.5. In 2005 he finished in the middle of the pack in section A. In 2006 he tied for 4th in the Expert section. In 2007, rated 2166, he played up a section and finished tied for 14th in the Open section. This year he's rated 2378 and tied for 13th in the Open section. He's still too little to sit in the chairs used for the top boards, sitting on his heels with his knees hanging down. His only loss was to tournament winner Ibragimov. Along the way, he earned a full point from FM Andrew Karklins.

I hope to see these four players in Reno 2010 to see how they fare in the new decade.

My own second round game was a textbook example of a good knight vs. bad bishop.

**Keith Yamanaka – Indra Lahiri
Western States Open, Round 2
Reno, Nevada, October 23, 2009**

1. c4 g6 2. g3 Bg7 3. Bg2 d6 4. d3 e5 5. Nc3 f5 6. e3

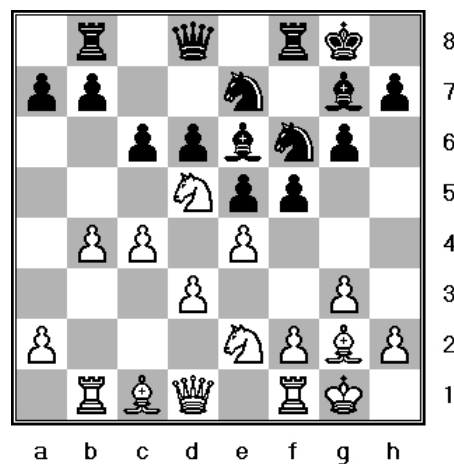


This (rather than 6. e4) keeps the white diagonal open and supports d2-d4, while still watching the f4 square. The move e3 is bad if Black can transpose to a reverse dragon (i.e. if ...Nf6 is played and ...d6 is not).

6. ...Nf6 7. Nge2 0-0 8. 0-0 Nc6 9. Rb1 Be6 10. Nd5 Rb8 11. b4 Ne7 12. e4

This might look like a lost tempo, but Black was compelled to play ...Rb8.

12. ...c6



13. Nxe7+

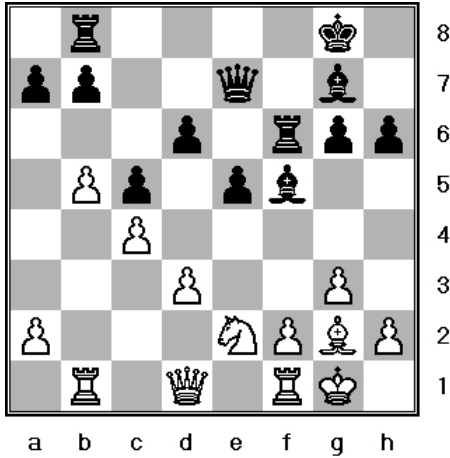
Why not 13. Nxf6+ trading Black's better knight? Because I'm already planning to trade my bishop for the knight on f6. Black's usual plan hinges on ...f4 (or

constantly threatening ...f4). Knight's support this. Whereas my queen bishop is a problem piece.

13. ...Qxe7 14. exf5 Bxf5?!

On the surface this looks like a good proposition – using a mere bishop to tie down White's queen. But the thematic 14. ...gxf5 shuts off all center squares and maintains the threat of ...f4.

15. Bg5 h6 16. Bxf6 Rxf6 17. b5 c5?

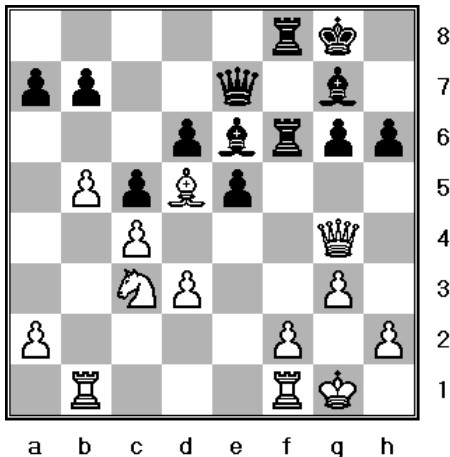


After the game, my opponent said he regretted conceding the queenside; this was the time to act. Better 17. ...cxb5 18. Rxb5 b6 19. a4; White's advantage isn't as great.

18. Nc3 Be6?! 19. Bd5!!

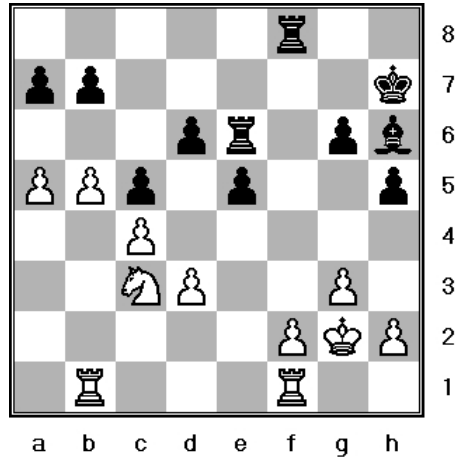
Strategically winning. This ensures my knight will have an undisturbed perch on d5 for the rest of the game. 19. Nd5? Bxd5 20. Bxd5 would be tragic. Yes, the bishop would have the d5 perch – but a knight is so much better. And opposite color bishops are drawish in an endgame.

19. ...Rbf8 20. Qg4!



The closer. Not only does it avoid ...Rf3, it's also a generally annoying move.

20. ...Kh7 21. Bxe6 Qxe6 22. Qxe6 Rxe6 23. Kg2 h5 24. a4 Bh6 25. a5



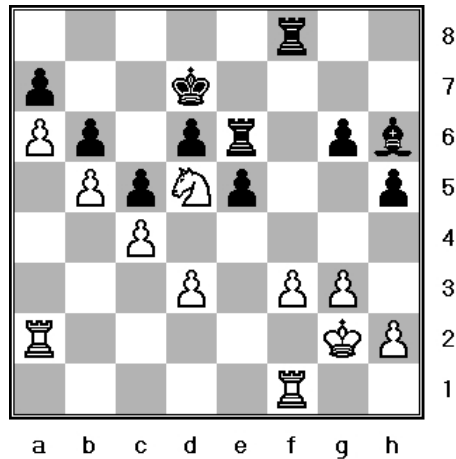
25. ...Kg7

25. ...Bd2 26. Ne4 threatening Ng5+.

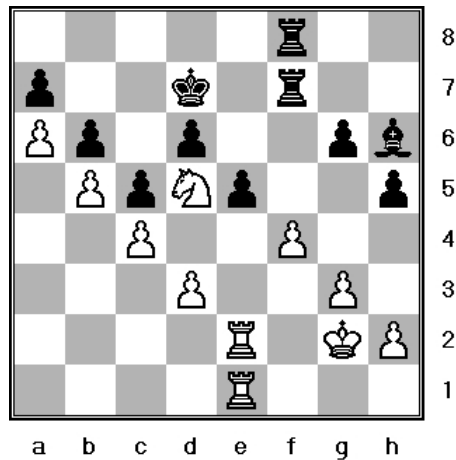
26. a6 b6 27. Rb2 Kf7

27. ...Ref6 28. f3, then Nd5 would gain a tempo. Now the threat of Nc3-d5xb6 dominates all.

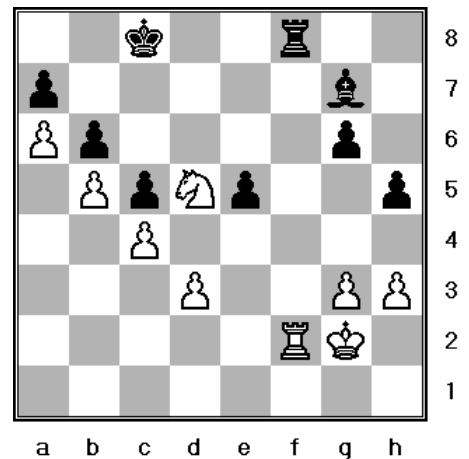
28. Ra2 Ke8 29. f3 Kd7 30. Nd5



30. ...Ree8 31. Re1 Rf7 32. Rae2 Ref8 33. f4



33. ...Bg7 34. h3 Rh8 35. Rf1 Rhf8 36. Ref2 Kc8 37. fxe5 Rxf2+ 38. Rxf2 dxe5



39. Ne7+ Kd7 40. Rxf8 Bxf8 41. Nc6

1-0

Concerning Nuns and Ducks

I don't have much to report on the city of Reno this year. There's one less casino downtown – the Fitzgerald is now dark. For movie buffs, that's where Whoopi Goldberg's character sang in *Sister Act* before donning a nun's habit. Other than that, Reno seems to have settled into a steady-state balance. The remaining casinos, restaurants, and shops seemed moderately busy on Friday and Saturday. I do want to thank Fred Kleist for his fantasy-baseball insights. He convinced me to switch my bet in game 6 of the ALCS from the Angels to the Yankees.

The tournament weekend was held one week before turning back the clocks. So the morning sun rose late, around 7:30 AM. Weather was brisk, dry, and slightly breezy. Truckee river was low. The Riverfront walkway is a couple blocks from the Sands, and I got in the habit of feeding the ducks in the morning. For those walking the normal streets to downtown Reno, did you catch the life-size Yoda doll watching you from a second story window?

Round Six Heroics

Team prizes were split the last two years between the Seattle Chess Club and Mechanics Institute. SCC won in 2007 and MI won in 2008. Going into round six, all ten SCC team members had plus scores. Yet SCC led MI by a mere one point.

My own game started poorly but I did hold the draw. Curt Collyer supplied the heroics against GM opposition, and the

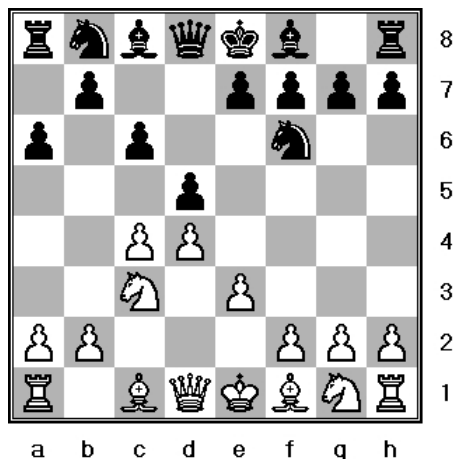
following notes. At the end of the day, SCC won the team prize by 3.5 points over MI.

**Dmitry Gurevich – Curt Collyer
Western States Open, Round 6
Reno, Nevada, October 25, 2009**

1. d4 d5

I had played the Dutch earlier in the tournament against GM Ibragimov, without much success. I decided to play something more solid for this game, even though I had drawn Gurevich with the Dutch earlier this year.

2. c4 c6 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. e3 a6

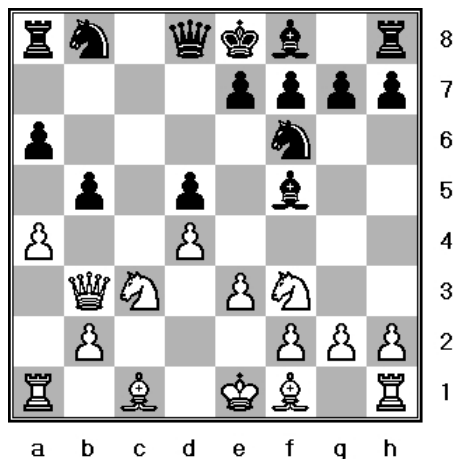


I like this slightly odd Chebanenko system with an early ...a6, although objectively I think the Semi-Slav, with ...e6, is the best defense to 1.d4.

5. Nf3 Bf5

I was considering playing the main line with 5. ...b5, although I was unsure I would equalize. Therefore I decided to try this move instead, which I had seen Morozevich play successfully.

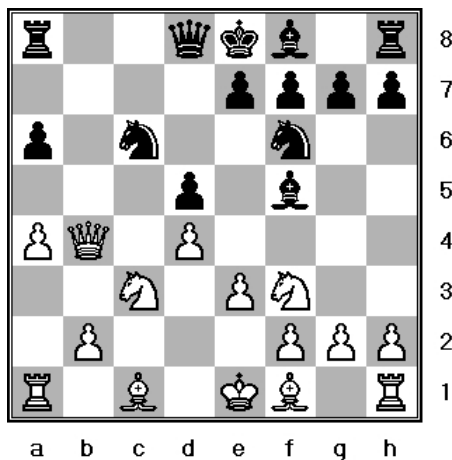
6. Qb3 b5 7. cxd5 cxd5 8. a4



8. ...b4!?

This is an interesting gambit. I don't think Gurevich was expecting it, as he looked surprised, and fumbled with his pen. However, it didn't take him long before he decided to capture.

9. Qxb4 Nc6



10. Qb3?

Apparently White was unfamiliar with this position and decided to "play it safe" by retreating the queen. However, this is a critical mistake. 10. Qc5 was necessary. 10. Qc5! Na5 11. Qa3 e6 12. b4 Rb8 13. Na2 was what I was expecting, when Black has compensation for the pawn. Of course not 10. Qb7 Na5 11. Qb4 e6 when Black traps the queen.

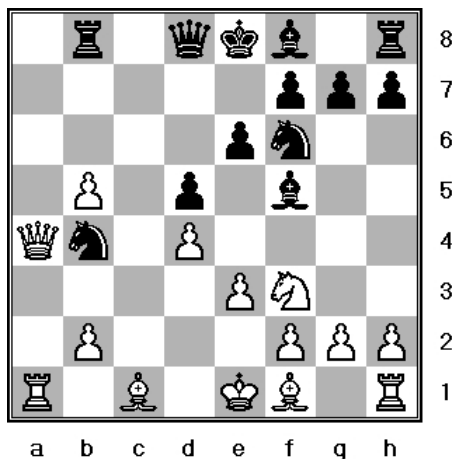
10... Rb8! 11. Nb5

11. Qd1 Nb4! is the big problem for White, so Gurevich decides to take his chances with a piece sacrifice.

11. ...axb5 12. axb5

12. Bxb5 Bd7 was what I thought he would go for, although Black is comfortable.

12. ...e6 13. Qa4 Nb4



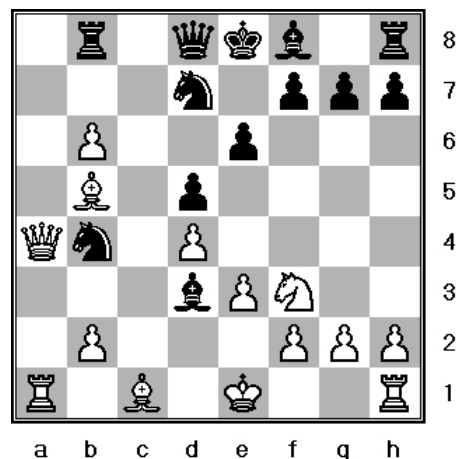
14. b6+

I suppose he has to try this, although I was happy to see that now the b-pawn will be easy to win later, given that I can successfully defend.

14. ...Nd7 15. Bb5

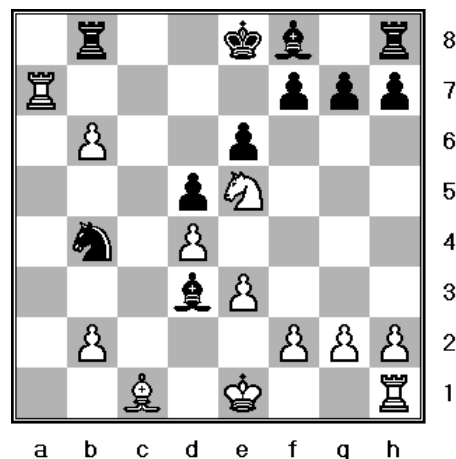
Now White wants to play Ne5.

15. ...Bd3!



I was really happy with this move, as well as my subsequent moves with this bishop. Trading off White's bishop is a good practical move.

16. Bxd7+ Qxd7 17. Qxd7+ Kxd7 18. Ne5+ Ke8 19. Ra7



19. ...Bb5!

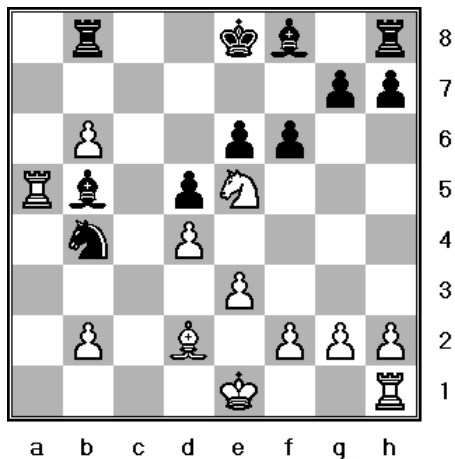
Clearing d3 for the knight, and keeping White's knight under control.

20. Bd2 f6

I saw a way to get into an ending where I can comfortably round up the weak b-pawn.

21. Ra5

21. Nf7 Rg8 threatening ...Be7, trapping White's knight after ...Nd3+.



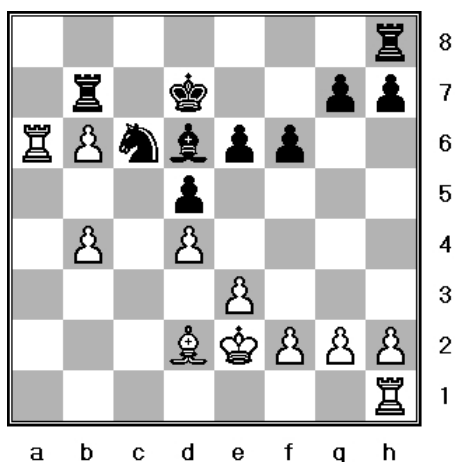
21. ... Ba6!

21... Rxb6?? allows 22. Ra8+.

22. Nc6

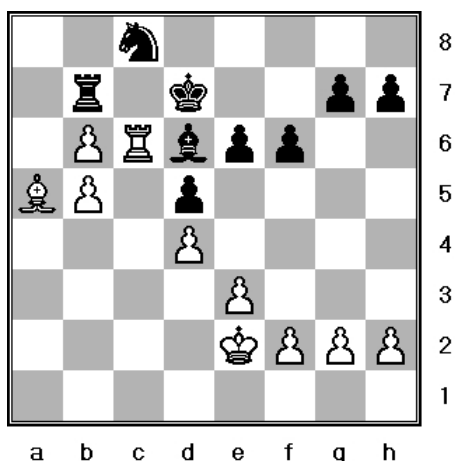
22. Bxb4? Bxb4+ forks.

22. ...Nxc6 23. Rxa6 Kd7 24. Ke2 Bd6
25. b4 Rb7



Now I can clean up the queenside.

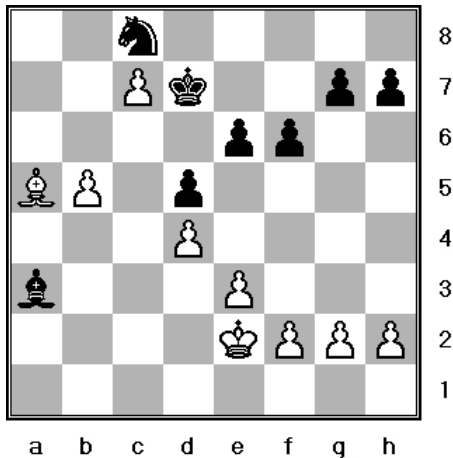
26. b5 Ne7 27. Rc1 Rc8 28. Ra7 Rcb8
29. Ba5 Nc8 30. Rxb7+ Rxb7 31. Rc6



31. ...Be7

Bringing the bishop around to attack the b-pawn.

32. Rc7+ Rxc7 33. bxc7 Ba3!



The final finesse, making it easier to capture the white pawns, which in some variations can be tricky to deal with.

34. Kd3 Nd6 35. b6 Kc8

Now the black knight is landing on c4, so White resigned.

0-1

Late Sunday into Monday

The tie breaker between Ibragimov and Khachiyani was played late Sunday night and on into Monday morning. Each side had 10 minutes. Both players had won their round six games to reach five points, but Khachiyani had the more difficult path, playing the black pieces to beat top-ranked Van Wely in 66 moves. For the playoff boards, they did not try to run the demo boards. About 50 spectators crowded around the table which included a couple of assistants to record the moves.

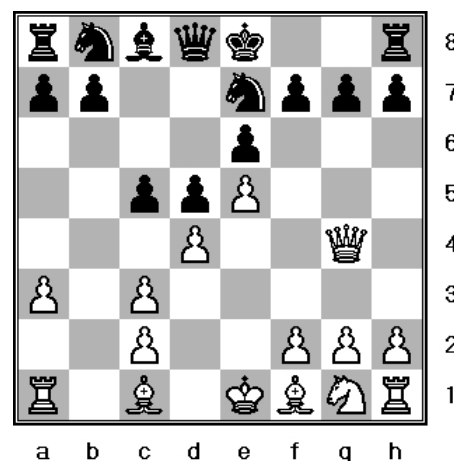
Ibragimov, cool and contained, had white in the first tie breaker. Khachiyani, more expansive in voice and gestures, defended the Sicilian with black. Some sort of closed Sicilian developed, with Black setting up a Botvinnik formation. From where I was standing, I could see only the left side of the board. It went into an ending with White having a central cluster of king + support piece. But Black raced his rook behind and picked off pawns. Khachiyani (black) won.

In the second game, Ibragimov played the French Defense. In Reno 2007, Khachiyani and Ibragimov were paired in round 2. In that tournament game,

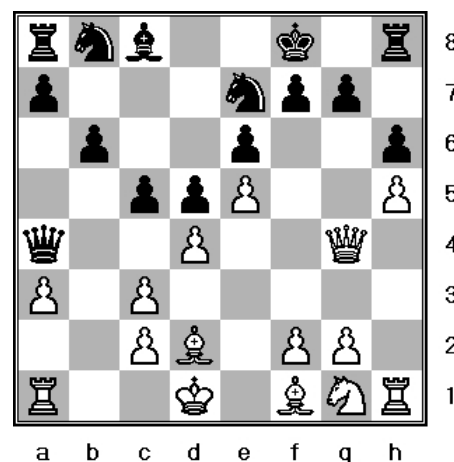
Khachiyani played an exchange variation (20-move draw). But here, needing only a draw, Khachiyani allowed the dangerous Nimzovitch variation. I couldn't see more than two files from where I was standing. I wandered around looking for a crack in the crowd, finally finding a spot on the raised platform overlooking the game board. The French defense usually has a diagonal line of locked pawns. But by the time I found my perch, white pieces had breached the line in two places. The game didn't last much longer.

Melikset Khachiyani – Ildar Ibragimov
Western States Open, Tie Breaker 2
Reno, Nevada, October 25, 2009

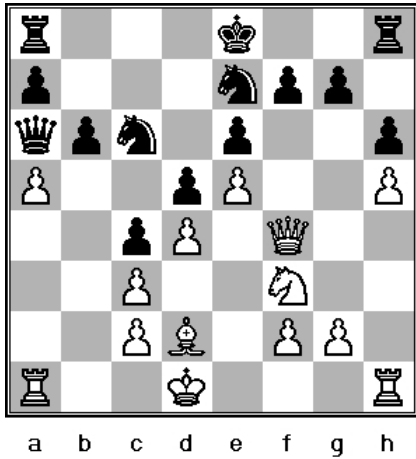
1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. e5 c5 5. a3 Bxc3+ 6. bxc3 Ne7 7. Qg4



7. ...Kf8 8. h4 Qa5 9. Bd2 Qa4 10. Kd1
b6 11. h5 h6



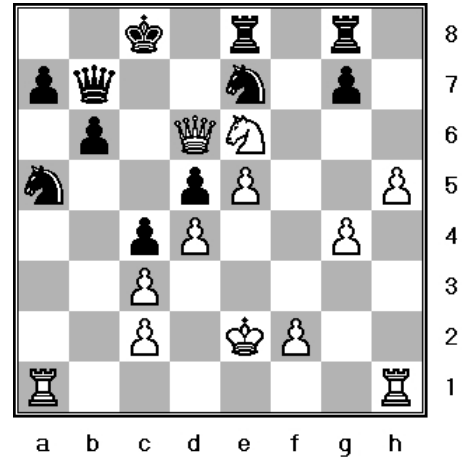
12. Nf3 Ba6 13. Bxa6 Qxa6 14. a4 Nbc6
15. a5 c4 16. Qf4 Ke8



17. g4 Kd7 18. Ke2 Nxa5 19. Qxf7 Rhg8



20. Bg5 hxg5 21. Nxc5 Rae8 22. Qxe6+ Kc7 23. Qd6+ Kc8 24. Ne6 Qb7



25. Rxa5 bxa5 26. Rb1 Rd8 27. Rxb7 Rxd6 28. Rc7+ Kb8 29. exd6

1-0

The tournament was again a family effort with Tournament Director Jerome Weikel assisted by his wife Fran and daughter Dana.

My thanks to the Weikel family for another fine tournament, and their help assembling the data for this article.

Also thanks to Ralph Dubisch, Fred Kleist, and Carol Mayer-Kleist for additional data and fact checking.

Western States Open 2009 Champions:

Open: Melikset Khachiyan, Ildar Ibragimov (5)

Expert: Gary Huang, Paul Romero, Igor Margulis (4.5)

A: Drayton Harrison (5)

B: Galen Pyle, Daniel Rozenblatt, Taylor Bailey (5)

C: Daniel Moglen, Adam Baraz, Kerry Van Veen, Matthias Grabiak (5)

D: Eric Isberg, Eduardo Magan, Michael Winters (5)

E: Jeff Olson, Leland Moglen, Philip Dennis (4.5)

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Silverdale Beach Hotel Classic

by
Richard
Golden

A battle of brains took place at the Silverdale Beach Hotel Classic chess tournament on October 10-11 in Silverdale, Washington, of all places. So where is Silverdale, you ask? It's on the west side of Puget Sound – the recently discovered chess oasis in the Greater Pacific Northwest (chuckle).

It was a first for this kind of event on the west side of Puget Sound. Billed as a "Chess Mini-Vacation," the Silverdale Beach Hotel offered spacious, well lit playing and skittles rooms, as well as discounted guest rooms to players. Newly remodeled, the hotel is located at the head of Dyes Inlet with a spectacular view over the water. It has a great restaurant, lounge, and coffee shop, as well as the usual swimming pool, Jacuzzi, tennis courts, and the all important on-site masseuse.

NM Bill McGeary ferried over to join us; offering to analyze games for players after the rounds. He ran a chess clinic for those interested in improving their game. All who attended greatly appreciated his expertise and insight. Thank you very much Bill!

Hey, so what about the chess? Yes we had a terrific four round Swiss chess tournament with 30 enthusiastic participants in 3 Sections – Open, Premier (U1900), and Reserve (U1400).

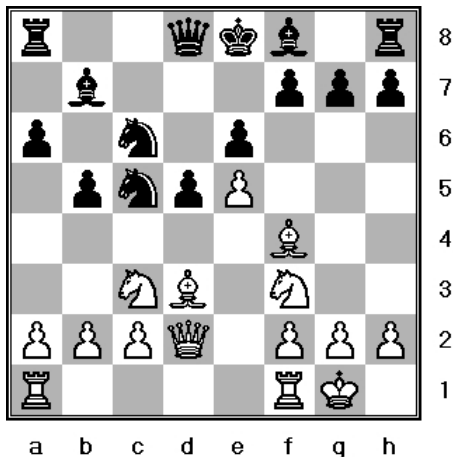
One of the tournament organizers, H.G. Pitre, wrote in his sales pitch to players on the Seattle side that they should come to the tournament and challenge Viktors Pupols in the "lion's lair" (Vik lives in Poulsbo). When he mentioned to Viktors what he had done, a laugh and lion-like look was Viktors'

reply. Well, the old cat defended his turf with 3 wins and a draw to take first place in the Open section.

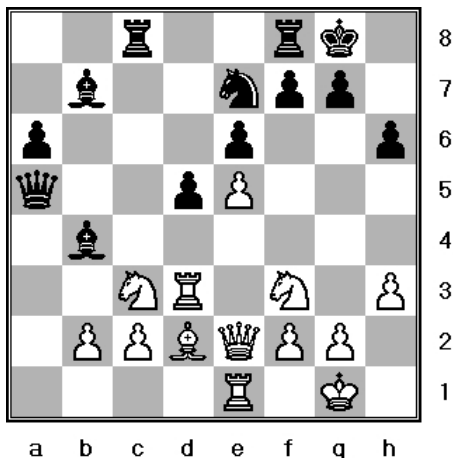
Here is a game from the Open section that features the winner. This game took place in the last round with Mike Murray handling the white pieces against Viktors Pupols with black. It was a battle of ideas as Vik put pressure on White's queen side while Mike launched a vicious attack against the black king. Black defended adroitly and the game shifted to the other side of the board. Then with a little pawn sacrifice, Black unleashed his patient light-squared bishop and the game was soon over.

**Mike Murray – Viktors Pupols
Silverdale Beach Hotel, Round 4
Silverdale, WA, October 11, 2009**

**1. Nc3 d5 2. e4 e6 3. Nf3 Nf6 4. e5 Nfd7
5. d4 c5 6. dxc5 Nc6 7. Bf4 a6 8. Bd3 Nxc5
9. Qd2 b5 10. 0-0 Bb7**



**11. Rf1 Nxd3 12. Qxd3 Be7 13. Rad1
Rc8 14. Qe2 h6 15. h3 Qa5 16. a3 b4 17.
axb4 Bxb4 18. Rd3 Ne7 19. Bd2 0-0**

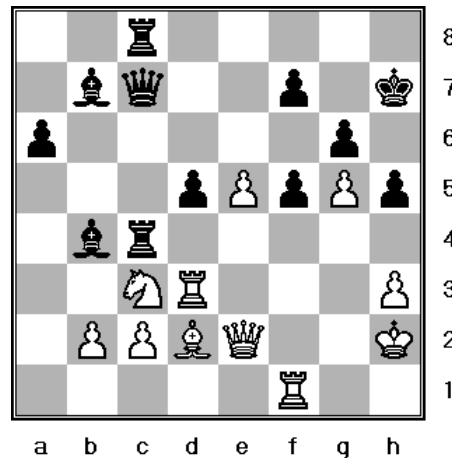


**20. Nd4 Rc4 21. Qh5 Kh7 22. g4 Ng8
23. g5 g6 24. Qe2 h5 25. Kh2 Ne7 26. f4**

Qc7 27. Rf1 Rc8 28. f5

{White doesn't appreciate his sound but passive position, and tries to lash out with a kingside attack. Better might be some random queen maneuvering, just waiting to see what Black can do. – editor}

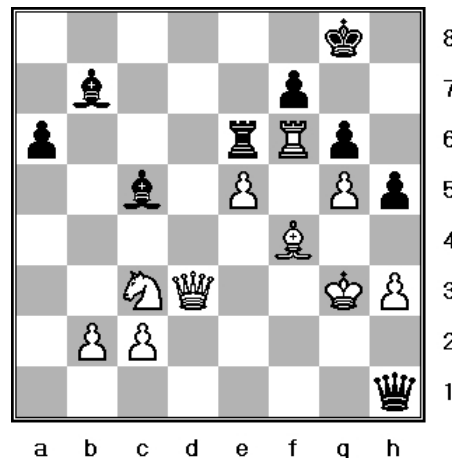
28. ...Nxf5 29. Nxf5 exf5



30. Rxf5 Kg8

(The sac was apparently unsound in any case: 30. ...gxf5 31. Qxh5+ Kg8 32. g6 Qxe5+ 33. Rg3 fxg6 34. Qxg6+ Kf8 35. Bh6+ Ke7 36. Qg7+ Ke6 37. Qxb7 Bd6, and Black wins, according to the chess engine Tiger 13.0.)

**31. Rf6 Re8 32. Bf4 Re6 33. Qf2 d4
34. Rxd4 Rxd4 35. Qxd4 Qc6 36. Kg3 Bc5
37. Qd3 Qh1**



38. Rxe6

(38. Kh4 Bg2 39. Nd1 Bxh3 40. Qxh3 Qxd1 41. Qg2 Bf2+ 42. Kh3 Qxc2 43. Kh2 Qe2 44. Rxe6 fxe6 leads to a significant Black edge, but not instant checkmate, again according to Tiger.)

38... Qe1+ 39. Kh2 Qf2#

0-1

Roger Patterson from Victoria, B.C. came in 2nd with 3 points, and William Schill followed with 2.5. Not surprisingly all three top runners are Masters.

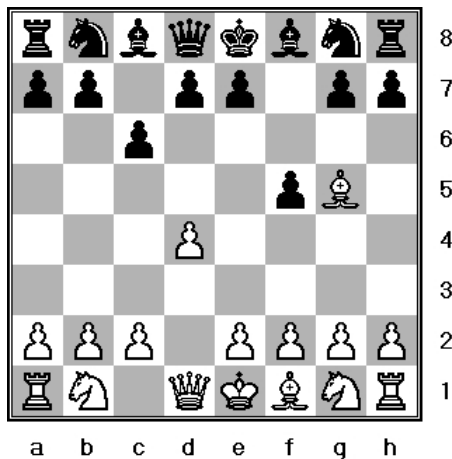
NM Bill McGeary has kindly annotated two games for us, one from the Open section and the other from the Premier. Here they are:

**David Rupel – Roger Patterson
Silverdale Beach Hotel, Round 3
Silverdale, WA, October 11, 2009**

1. d4 f5 2. Bg5

It would seem reasonable to say that this move had been popular in the NW since the 60's thanks to the efforts of Pupols, but the appearances of 1.d4 f5 have been quite rare. Still, I know that Dave has been influenced by Vik's efforts, as have many of us.

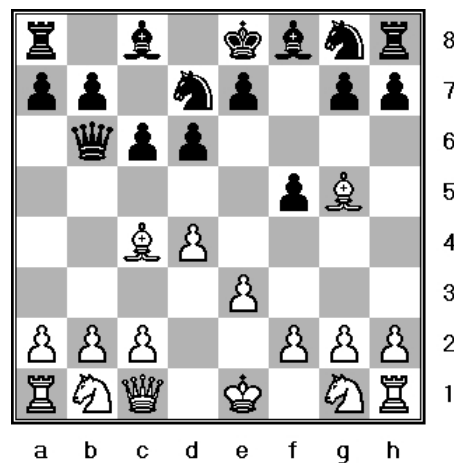
2. ...c6



3. e3

This seems natural enough, but what follows doesn't look correct. Black has moved the bishop pawns, which does very little for the development, so White might be thinking of some way to use this to advantage. While 3. e4 is probably not to everyone's taste, my impression is that White should be considering ways to play e4 or aiming for a setup with c4.

3. ...Qb6 4. Qc1 d6 5. Bc4 Nd7



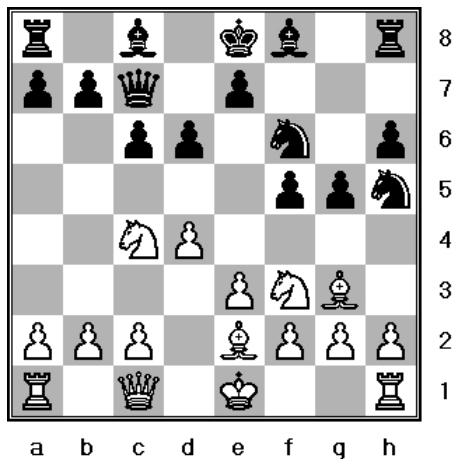
6. Nf3

Black has already equalized as ...e7-e5 cannot be adequately opposed.

6. ...h6 7. Bf4 g5 8. Bg3 Ngf6 9. Nbd2 Nh5 10. Be2 Ndf6 11. Nc4 Qc7



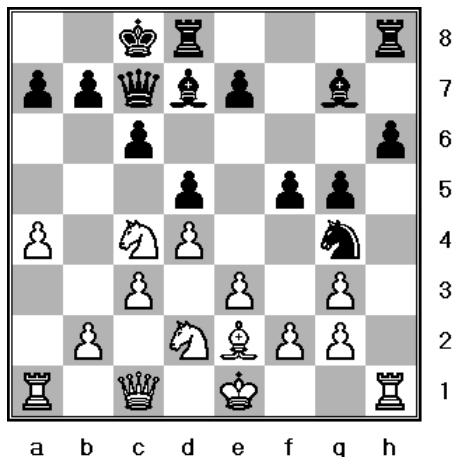
"The motley crew." Photo credit: Richard Golden



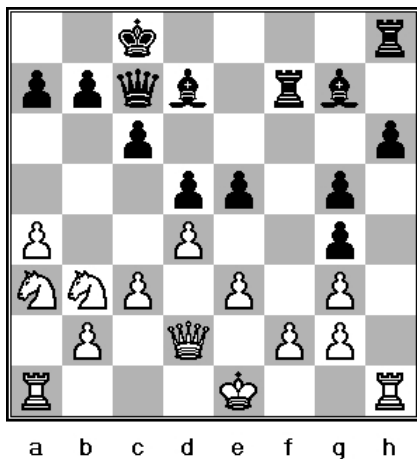
12. Ng1

The second White piece to retreat. I have to confess a certain *deja vu* here; I have played this line in speed chess any number of times and found myself playing things like Nf3-g1. My feelings have been that this can't be the best that White can expect from this line, yet it remained unclear to me what had gone wrong. Well, they are speed chess games which rarely use much gray matter. So I have to admit that reflecting back from this type of position is where I came to the conclusion that White needed to be more resolute in the very early opening, forming a plan with either e4 or c4 as the base.

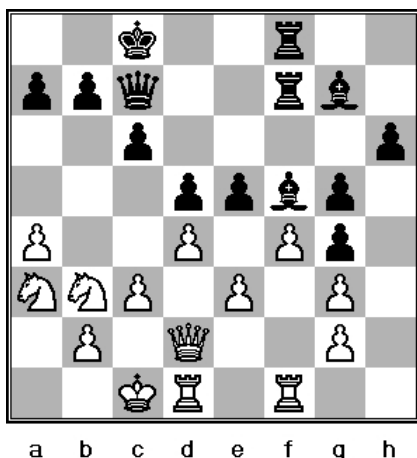
12. ...Nxg3 13. hxg3 Bd7 14. Nf3 Bg7 15. c3 0-0-0 16. a4 Ng4 17. Nfd2 d5



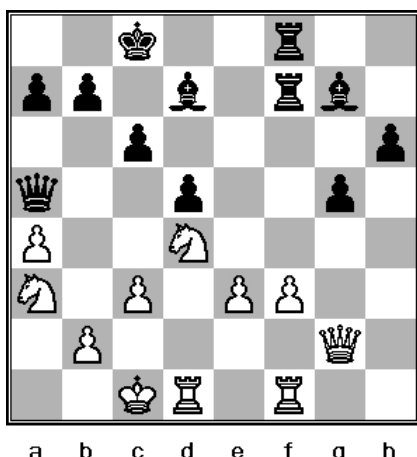
18. Bxg4 fxg4 19. Na3 e5 20. Nb3 Rdf8 21. Qd2 Rf7



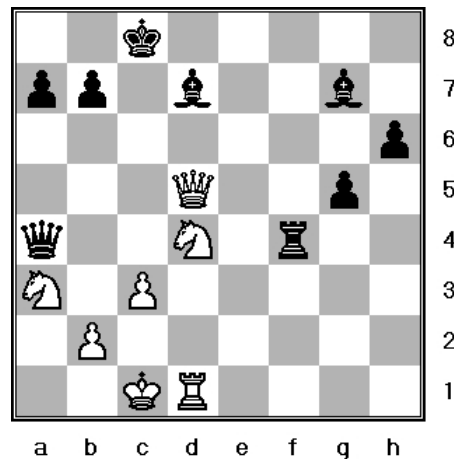
22. 0-0-0 Rhf8 23. Rhf1 Bf5 24. f4



24. ...gxf3 25. gxf3 exd4 26. Nxd4 Qxg3 27. Rg1 Qc7 28. Qg2 Bd7 29. Rgf1 Qa5



30. e4 Qxa4 31. exd5 cxd5 32. f4 Rxf4 33. Rxf4 Rxf4 34. Qxd5



34. ...Bxd4 35. Qg8+ Kc7 36. cxd4 Rxd4 37. Rxd4 Qxd4 38. Qh7 Qf4+ 39. Kd1 Qd6+ 40. Kc2 a6

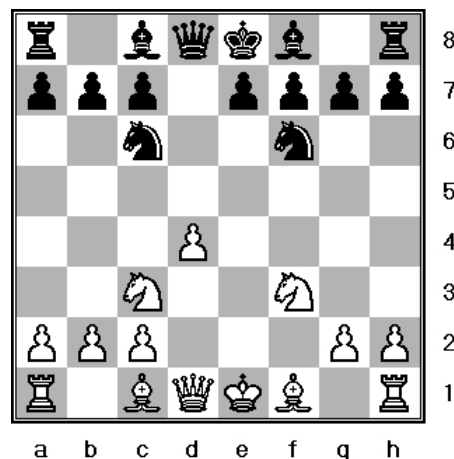
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Ernst Rasmussen – Steve Buck
Silverdale Beach Hotel, Round 3
Silverdale, WA, October 11, 2009

1. d4 d5 2. e4

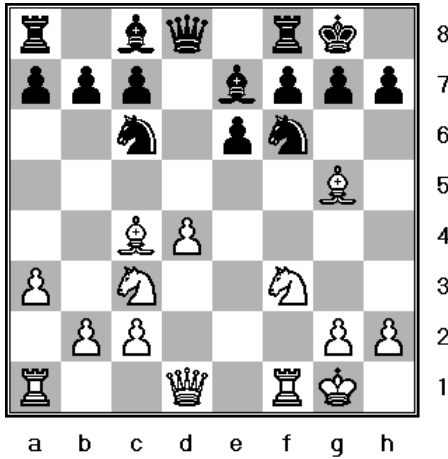
No surprise to any NW players who have been around and are aware of Ernst's penchant for romantic games.

2. ...dxe4 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. f3 exf3 5. Nxf3 Nc6



Not one of the common defenses, but it seems natural. Black watches the d4 pawn, doesn't block in the Bc8 and remains flexible about developing with e6 or g6. The downside is that the freeing move c5 is inhibited. Presumably Black is prepared to meet 6.d5 with Nb8 and reroute to d7, with the idea that the a2-g8 diagonal is blocked. This is a point for some questions.

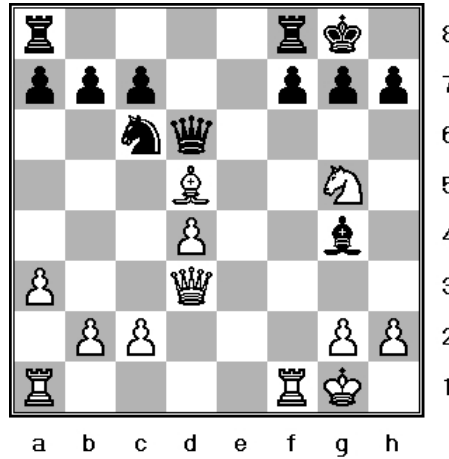
6. a3 e6 7. Bg5 Be7 8. Bc4 0-0 9. 0-0



9. ...Nd5 10. Bxe7 Qxe7

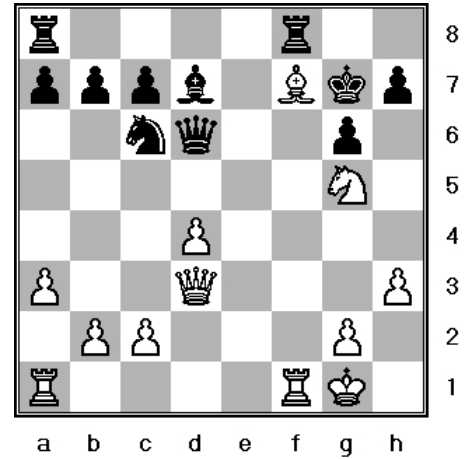
Is Black just giving the pawn back to gain some space? In that case Nd5 was a mistake.

11. Nxd5 exd5 12. Bxd5 Bg4 13. Qd3 Qd6 14. Ng5



Here is where we see the down side to giving back the pawn: the extra lines that are open for White.

14. ...g6 15. Bxf7+ Kg7 16. h3 Bd7



17. c3

I suspect Ernst missed a point here. 17.Rad1 looks normal enough while 17.Rae1 is interesting with the idea that 17...Qxd4+ 18. Qxd4 Nxd4 19.Re7 is pretty good, and not taking on d4 gives White the idea of d5 and Qc3+. One final thing here;



Final round, board one game and spectators. Photo credit, Richard Golden.

note that h6 for Black is not really a threat as Ne6+ will block the defense of g6.

17. ...Ne5

This is the point missed. After this White is just down a bishop.

18. Qc2 Nxf7 19. Ne4 Qb6 20. Rf6 Nd6 21. Nc5 Bf5 22. Rxf5 Rxf5

And Black won on move 40.

0-1

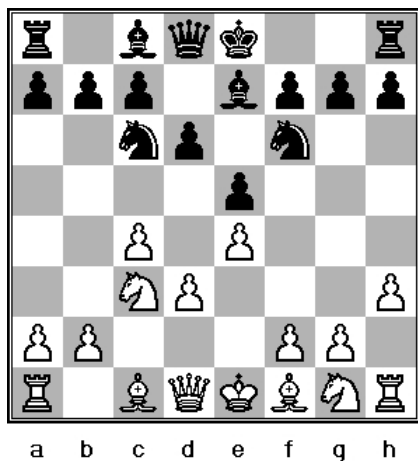
The Premier Section was won by Steve Buck with 3.5 points. Kris Dietsch, Ethan Bashkansky, and Jiayi Hu tied for second with 3 points.

The reserve fell to the mad swindler Dennis McGuire who scored 3.5 points. In his final game with Laura Jacobson he was dead lost with a Knight against a Rook and pawn, but somehow managed a draw by leaving his Knight en-pris (take it PLEASE – stalemate!) Dennis runs a chess club in Pt. Townsend at “The Last Exit on Kearny”. Lots going on there. Second place in the section was taken by Kaicheng Hu with 3 points, and third by Laura Jacobson with 2.5.

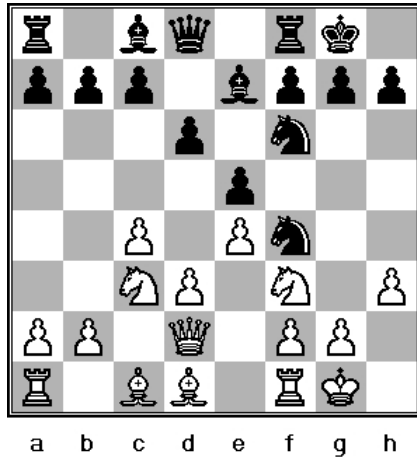
Here are a couple more games for your perusal. The first features Larry Swanson versus Pt. Townsend’s 2000 year old man, Ernst Rasmussen the perennial octogenarian. Ernst had a birthday shortly after the tournament. His usual motto is, “If you aren’t down a pawn in the opening, you’re not playing it right.” In this game he sacks a piece!

**Larry Swanson – Ernst Rasmussen
Silverdale Beach Hotel, Round 4
Silverdale, WA, October 11, 2009**

1. e4 e5 2. c4 Nf6 3. d3 d6 4. h3 Nc6 5. Nc3 Be7



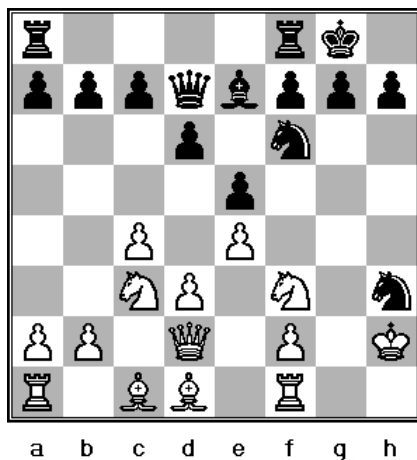
6. Qd2?! 0-0 7. Be2 Nd4 8. Bd1 Ne6 9. Nf3 Nf4 10. 0-0



10. ...Bxh3

This sack is unsound, as shown by analysis, but hard to meet over the board, as shown by the game. Ernst said that even if the attack failed he had 2 pawns for the piece plus an exposed king. Worth the gamble.

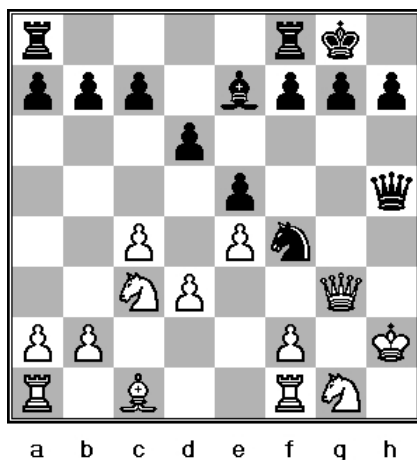
11. gxf3 Nxf3+ 12. Kh2 Qd7



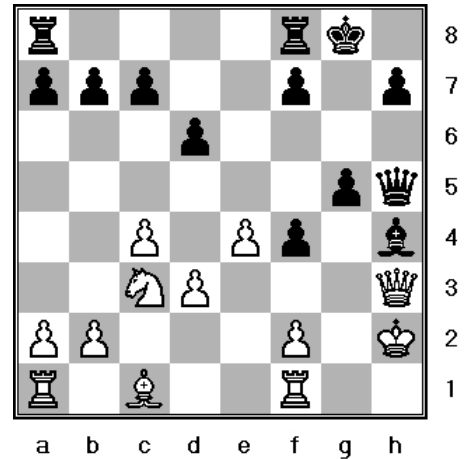
13. Ng1

13. Qe2 Nf4 14. Bxf4, +/-, Tiger.

13. ...Nf4 14. Qe3 Ng4+ 15. Bxg4 Qxg4 16. Qg3 Qh5+



17. Nh3 Bh4 18. Qe3 g5 19. Nxf4 exf4 20. Qh3



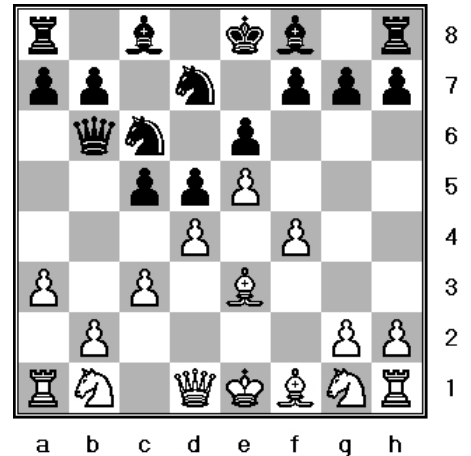
20. ...g4 21. Qg2 Bxf2+

0-1

The next game features Dennis McGuire, winner of the reserve section. He admits it’s full of flaws, but “Hey, I won.”

**Dennis McGuire – Kaichung Hu
Silverdale Beach Hotel, Round 3
Silverdale, WA, October 11, 2009**

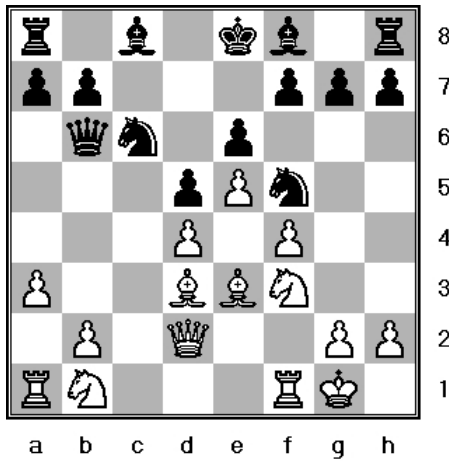
1. d4 e6 2. e4 d5 3. a3 Nf6 4. e5 Nfd7 5. f4 c5 6. Be3 Nc6 7. c3 Qb6



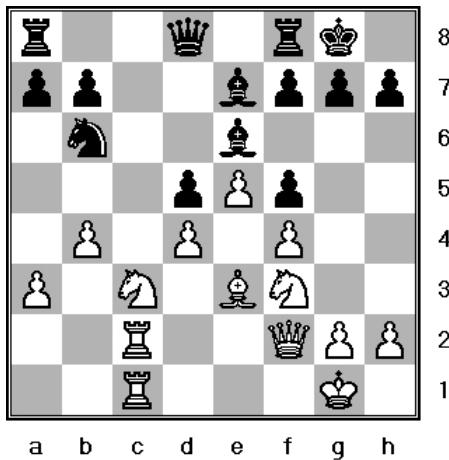
8. Qd2

{Black has a development advantage, which is dissipated with the following knight maneuvers. Since ...cxd4 opens the square c3 for the white knight, perhaps this is one of those positions in which Black should choose ...c4, followed by ...Na5-b3. White’s queenside looks pretty uncomfortable. – editor}

8. ...cxd4 9. cxd4 Ne7 10. Bd3 Nb8 11. Nf3 Nbc6 12. 0-0 Nf5

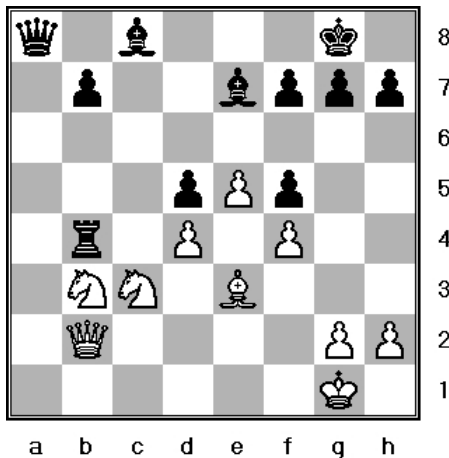


13. Bxf5 exf5 14. Nc3 Be6 15. Rab1
Be7 16. b4 0-0 17. Qf2 Qd8 18. Rbc1 Nb8
19. Rc2 Nd7 20. Rfc1 Nb6



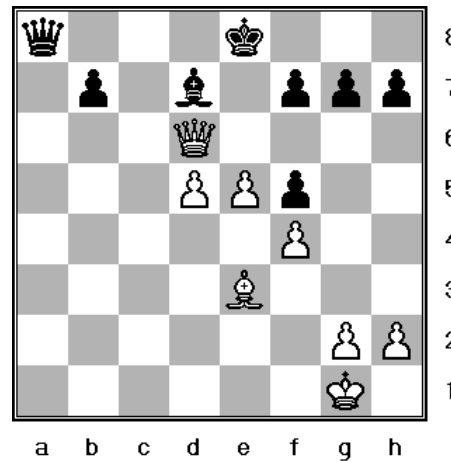
21. Nd2 a5 22. Na2 axb4 23. axb4 Ra4
24. Rb1 Qa8 25. Rbb2 Rc8 26. Rxc8+
Bxc8 27. Nc3 Nc4 28. Nb3 Nxb2 29. Qxb2
Rxb4

29. ...Bxb4 30. Nxa4 Qxa4 31. Qc1 Be6
32. Nc5 Bxc5 33. dxc5.



30. Nxd5 Rxb3 31. Nxe7+ Kf8 32.

Qxb3 Kxe7 33. d5 Bd7 34. Qb4+ Ke8 35.
Qd6



35. ...b5?
35. ...Qa1+.

36. h3

36. Bc5!

36. ...b4 37. Bc5 Qd8 38. Qf8#

1-0

We had an outstanding tournament thanks to the Silverdale Beach Hotel, the Kitsap County Chess Club, and the organizers H.G. Pitre and Richard Golden. Of course I should also mention the nimble fingered Mr. Frank Oslick running the computer pairing program.

I hope you can all come out next year, ride a zany Washington State Ferry to the west side of Puget Sound, and join us for a chess mini-vacation in exotic Silverdale.

Where is Silverdale, anyway??



Ben Seran on move. Photo credit: Richard Golden.



Irony exists in that both the Seattle Chess Club and the Chess Castle of Minnesota have had the same trouble for quite some time now. That being the lack of an adequate site for playing. So while the Seattle Chess Club has opted to take up a new residency in the Northgate area after a nine-year stint in Shoreline, the Chess Castle of Minnesota was also on the same quest for a new and better site. Thanks again for all of the hard work and cash from Dave Kuhns, Roger Hale, and continued efforts by Dan Voje to make our midwest move a success!

As a result of the new site, the local chess scene is becoming more and more competitive with every event. The Chess Castle Grand Opening was held on 10-31 and 11-1. As a new local expert, I found myself in the middle of a few very hotly contested games myself.

After a 2-0 start, I found myself on board one paired against Matt Dahl, the top seed of the event at 2199. At 16 years old, Matt was seeking the NM title for the first time in his career. I was hoping to stop his run to 2200 at least for now....

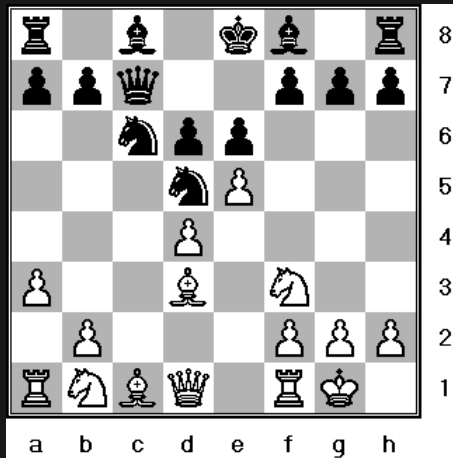
**Matt Dahl – Chris Kalina
Chess Castle Grand Opening,
Round 3**

Minnesota, October 31, 2009

1. e4 c5 2. c3 Nf6 3. e5 Nd5 4. d4 cxd4 5. Nf3 Nc6 6. cxd4 e6

This is one of Matt's favorite lines to play as White.

7. a3 d6 8. Bd3 Qc7 9. 0-0



Minnesota Chess Scene

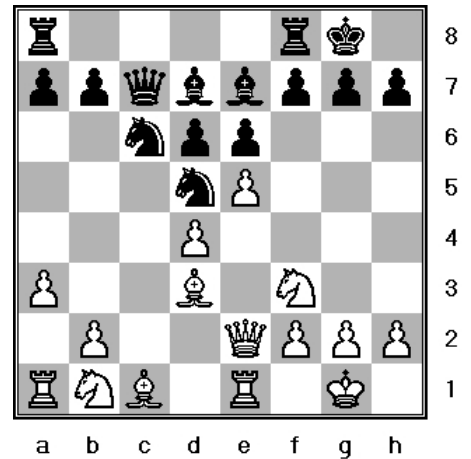
by
**Chris
Kalina**

Offering a center pawn at the cost of castling. In general I this is not advisable to accept in these conditions

9. ...Bd7

Now threatening to win a center pawn for nothing.

10. Qe2 Be7 11. Re1 0-0

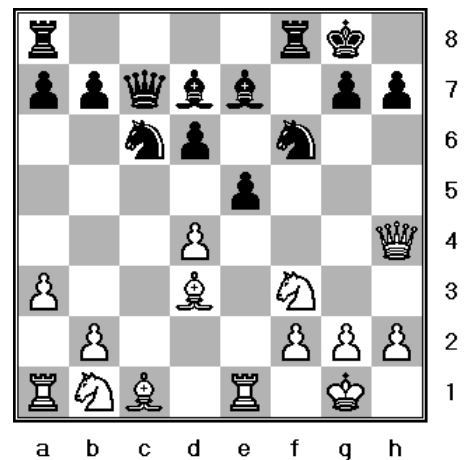


Before castling, Black needed to take into consideration 12. Bg5, when 12. ...Bxg5?? is met by 13. Bxh7+! However on 12. Bg5, the correct response is 12. ...Nxd4! 13. Qe4 Nxf3+.

{This is a nice tactic. Another line runs 12. Bg5 Nxd4! 13. Bxh7+ Kxh7 14. Qe4+ Kg8 15. Qxd4 dxe5! 16. Qxe5 Qxe5 17. Nxe5 Bxg5 18. Nxd7 Rfc8! when White suffers from some serious development issues.

On the other hand, castling here runs some risks in the game line. – editor}

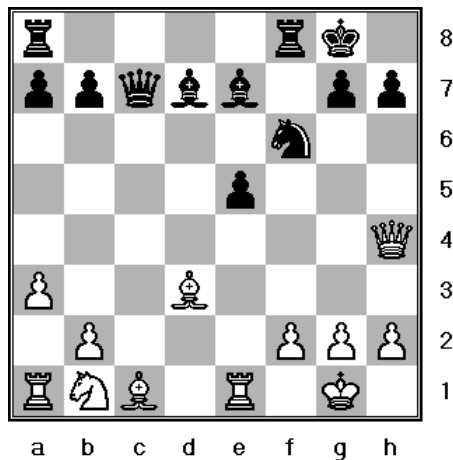
12. Qe4 f5 13. exf6ep Nxf6 14. Qh4 e5!?



Black's two bishops need some room. I recall "Bomber" McGeary once saying in an annotation, "Pawns are evil Pawns get in the way!"

{? White's bishops get room from this, too. I think it's too risky, and that Black should keep the little center duo for the time being. – editor}

15. dxe5 Nxe5 16. Nxe5 dxe5



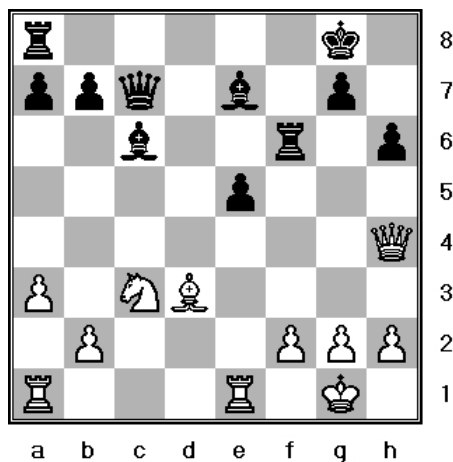
17. Bg5

{17. Bxh7+! now that the f6-knight is pinned to the loose e7-bishop. – editor}

17. ...h6 18. Bxf6 Rxf6

This is clearly the correct capture as 18. ...Bxf6 19. Qe4 and Black has light square problems. Capturing with the rook not only allows Bf5 as an answer to Qe4, but also sets up shots against the white queen.

19. Nc3 Bc6



Bishops love their long diagonals....
{But it's still a "?" move. – editor}

20. Rac1

{White misses 20. Qc4+ winning the exchange with the threat of Nd5, working the pin. Black probably needed to play 19. ...Be6. – editor}

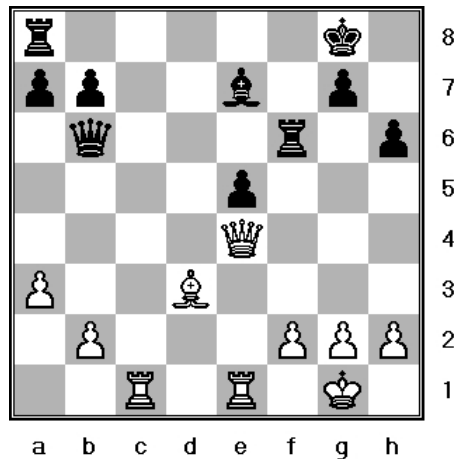
20. ...Qb6

Starting to hit the tender f2 point, though taking this pawn becomes quite double-edged as White will have counter-tactics on the f-file.

21. Ne4 Bxe4

Black would rather not have to make this exchange, though it becomes justified as the knight would have a nice life on the e4 square otherwise stopping Black's play.

22. Qxe4



22. ...g6!

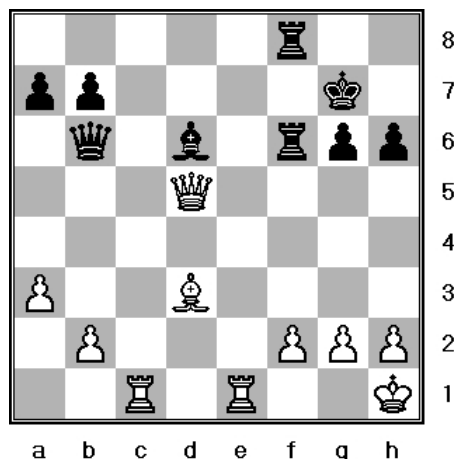
A strong reply that solves all of Black's immediate light-square problems. White was threatening to check on h7 with the queen and then with the bishop on c4 which would devastate black.

23. Qxe5 Bd6

So White takes the weak pawn at the expense of Black consolidating and applying more pressure.

{I'd be tempted to play an in-between ...Qxf2+ around here, just in case White was planning to defend that square. – editor}

24. Qd5+ Kg7 25. Kh1 Raf8



26. Re6 Qxf2?!

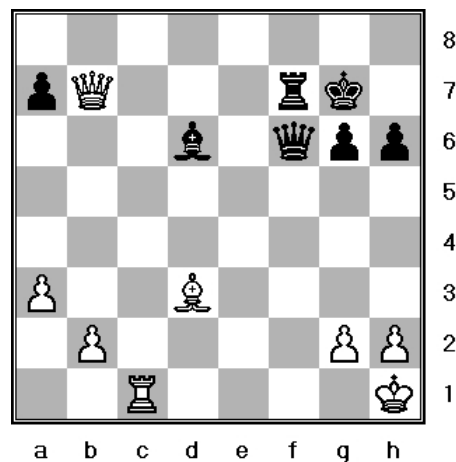
Better was the in-between 26. ...Qxb2 27. Rb1 Qxf2, where the pawns will be equal after capturing b7 with check.

27. Qxb7+ R8f7

Threatening the queen, as well as mating on the f1 square.

28. Rxf6 Qxf6

Still the queen is threatened as well as 29. ...Qf4 with a mate threat on h2 and the c1-rook.



29. Qe4 Re7 30. Qg4 h5 31. Qf3

White offered a draw which Black accepted.

1/2-1/2

Despite this draw and another in the next round against yet another expert, Matt was still successful in becoming NM Matt Dahl with a final round win to put his post rating at 2202! Congratulations!

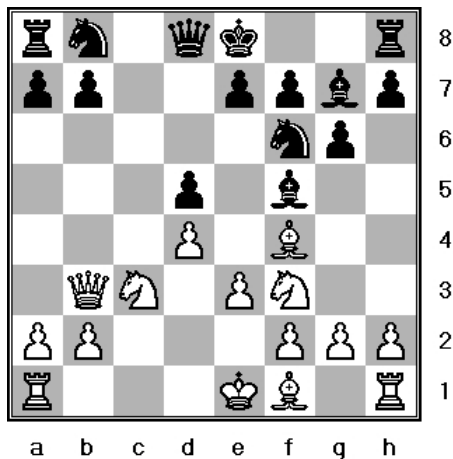
The following round put me on board two against another rising youngster, Sharif Usenov (1972). After obtaining an early advantage as White, I chose the incorrect plan, missing an idea which would have put him away. Sharif then mustered up some counterplay which became a real threat to win the game, only to end in a perpetual after White found an endgame save.

Chris Kalina – Sharif Usenov
Chess Castle Grand Opening, Round 4
Minnesota, November 1, 2009

1. d4 g6 2. Nf3 d5 3. Bf4 Bg7 4. e3 Bf5?!

A natural looking move, however taking the defense of the b7 square away.

5. c4 e6 6. cxd5 cxd5 7. Nc3 Nf6 8. Qb3

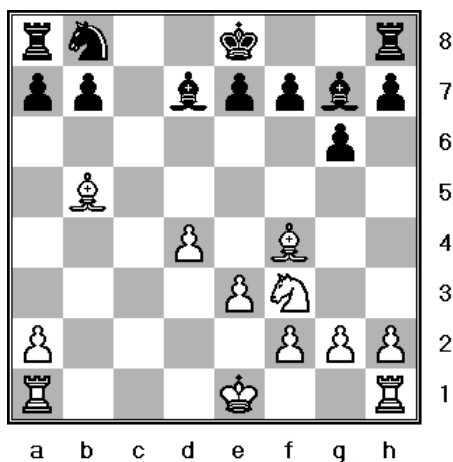


Ensures that White will either end up a pawn up or have the better center pawns.

8. ...Qb6 9. Nxd5 Nxd5 10. Qxd5 Qxb2 11. Qb5+

Better was to simply play 11. Bb5+ and then 12. 0-0 with a clear advantage.

11. ...Qxb5 12. Bxb5+ Bd7



13. Bxd7+

{Ah, time for another editorial comment. In this and many, many, similar positions, it is often better not to be the person initiating the exchange. After 13. Bxd7 Nxd7 Black has developed a piece for free with a recapture (though this does not solve all of his problems). Better is 13. Rb1, since 13. ...Bxb5 14. Rxb5 leaves White with the developed piece for free, not to mention a hanging b-pawn. In this position it's even better, since 13. Rb1 threatens to take on d7 winning the b-pawn (initiating an exchange to win material may be all right), and removes the rook from the long diagonal, thus freeing the d-pawn to advance in reply to ...Nc6 at some point. – editor}

13. ...Nxd7?

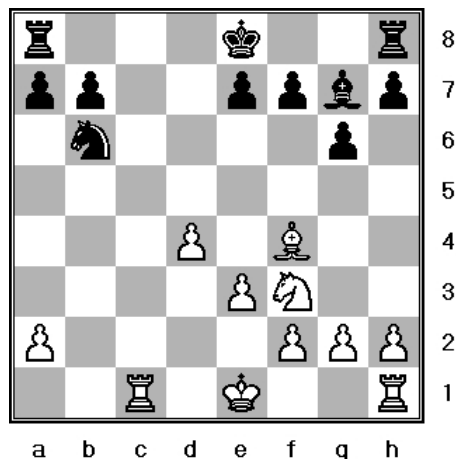
White had let Black off the hook until this positional blunder which allows White the c-file unopposed.

{13. ...Kxd7 doesn't really help. – editor}

14. Rc1 Nb6

Preventing the immediate 15. Rc7 due to 15. ...Rc8 where White has a problem on c1.

{White would still hold an edge after 15. Rc7, but Black could have challenged the c-file more efficiently by playing 14. ...0-0, meeting 15. Rc7?! with ...Rfc8. White's problem on c1 exists here, too. – editor}



15. Kd2

Now 16. Rc7 is a real threat.

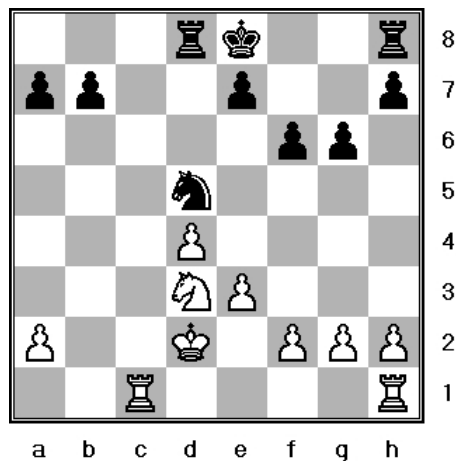
15. ...Nd5 16. Be5 Bxe5 17. Nxe5 f6?

Black is positionally busted due to the e6 square that White can readily access.

18. Nd3!

This reply covers every active square that the black knight could go to which is preparing to evict the beast with an e4 push.

18. ...Rd8

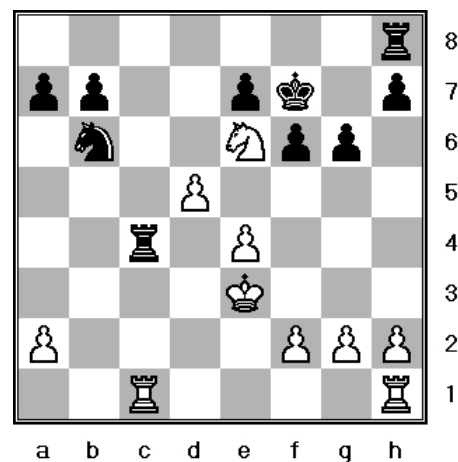


19. e4?!

This was White's plan along with a central king on e3 and eventually d4, though better here was 19. Nc5 b6 20. Ne6 where the rook cannot leave the back rank since Rc8+ will win the exchange: 20. ...Rb8 – only move – 21. e4 Nb4 22. Rc7! where is 22. ...Nxa2 loses miserably to 23. Ra1 and 24. Raxa7 with mates threatened on e7.

{Both moves are fine. – editor}

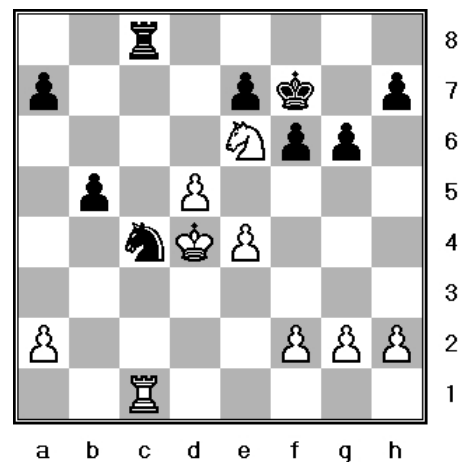
19. ...Nb6 20. Ke3 Rd7 21. Nc5 Rc7 22. d5 Kf7 23. Ne6 Rc4!



A great move by Black that I missed, which allows just enough time for his remaining pieces to become active.

24. Rxc4 Nxc4+ 25. Kd4 Rc8 26. Rc1 b5

White is still thinking that he has the advantage here, though this thought is incorrect. Black has now equalized as his pieces are free.



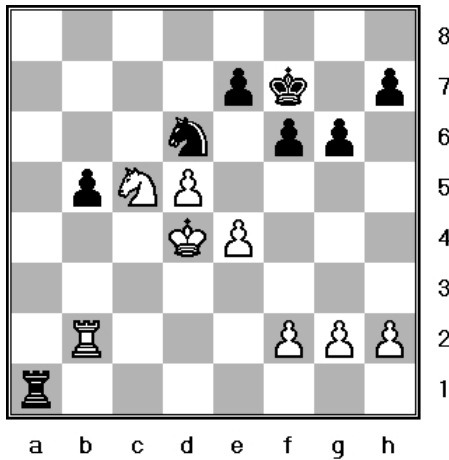
{White does still have the advantage here, though Black has done a good job of keeping it under control. Compare the strength of the minor pieces and the kings.

White is better centralized, and has an active possible plan in advancing the f- and e-pawns. The next few moves, however, are not helpful. – editor}

27. a4 a6 28. axb5 axb5

{Probably not a great idea for White to release the tension on the queenside while opening lines that may be useful for the black rook. – editor}

29. Rb1?! Nd6 30. Nc5 Ra8 31. Rb2 Ra1



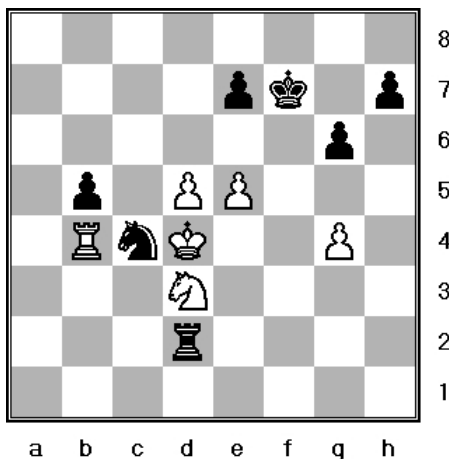
32. f4 Rc1!

A move I saw however missed the strength of. My initial intention I had in this position when I calculated on move 26 was to move the knight to d3, however I now realized that that would drop the critical e4 pawn!

33. Rb4

I offered a draw thinking that the center was still strong enough to justify White's position.

33. ...Rc2 34. g4 Rxh2 35. e5 fxe5 36. fxe5 Rd2+ 37. Nd3 Nc4

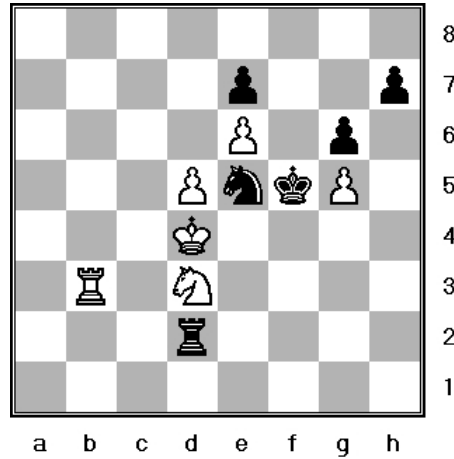


If 38. Rxb5 then ...Nxe5!, where Black will be up a pawn.

38. e6+ Kf6 39. Rxb5 Ne5 40. g5+!

40. Kxg5 41. Kxe5 Rxd3 42. Rb7 and White wins the e7 pawn and has more advanced pawns

40. ...Kf5 41.Rb3



41. ...Rd1

The pawn ending by exchanging everything on d3 loses for Black due to the ability to force a center passed pawn. Playing 40. g5+! fixed the h7 pawn to ensure that there would not be an unopposed kingside passer. Trading knights by 41. ...Nxd3 42. Rxd3 Rf2 (42. ...Rg2 43. Rf3+ followed by 44. Rf7 where White's pawns are much faster) 43. Rh3 and White's advanced center pawns prove to be faster

42. Ke3 Nc4+ 43. Kd4 Ne5 44. Ke3 Nc4+ 45. Kd4 Ne5

And as we continued to repeat the position, black offers the draw.

1/2-1/2

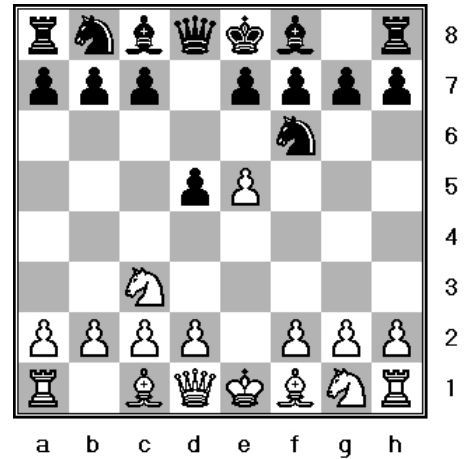
My tournament finished with a draw with another expert to finish with 3.5 - since my unofficial rating was below 2000, was also good for some U2000 prize money!

The following day, I also played in the usual Monday g/30 Action Quads. After a close call in round 2 where I was forced to draw, I had white against Phil Stevenson. Phil was successful in holding me to a draw the first 5 encounters we had!

This time was heading for yet another drawish position, though Black went wrong in the late middle game....

**Chris Kalina – Phil Stevenson
Chess Castle Action Quads, Round 3
Minnesota, November 2, 2009**

1. e4 Nf6 2. Nc3 d5 3. e5



With Phil able to successfully draw five times in a row, I was looking for an opening choice that would mix it up a little more.

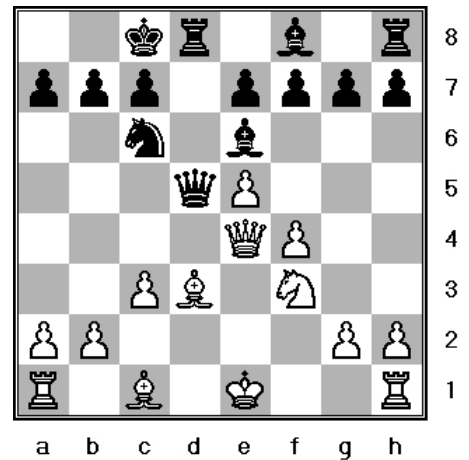
3. ...Ne4

{3. ...d4 is a reliable equalizer. – editor}

4. Nxe4 dxe4 5. d4 exd3 6. Bxd3 Nc6 7. Qe2 Qd5 8. f4!? Nd4

I initially thought that this move might be overextending some, however Black's play to develop quickly justifies this move.

9. Qe4 Be6 10. c3 Nc6 11. Nf3 0-0-0



12. Qxd5

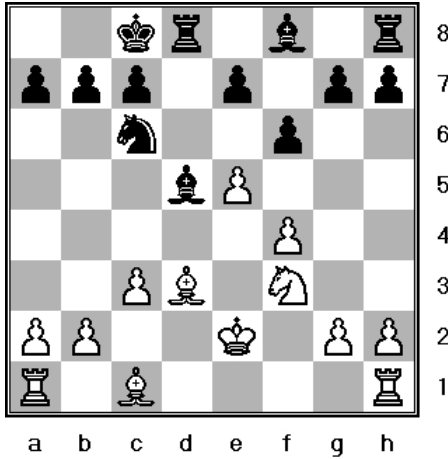
{Also possible are the retreat 12. Bc2, and the messy positional sacrifice 12. f5!?. The position is roughly equal. – editor}

12. ...Bxd5 13. Ke2!?

White does not mind the doubled f-pawns at the cost of having the two bishops.

13. ...f6!?

An interesting pawn break. I had originally considered sacrificing this pawn to make sure that Black's development would be more difficult.



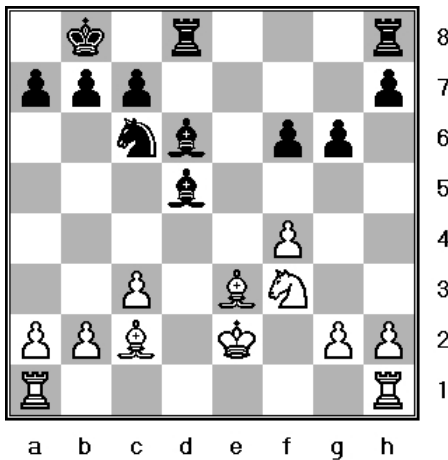
14. exf6

{I'd be looking for something that doesn't open central files. I mean, whose king is stuck in the center? Right. How about 14. Rd1, with some tactical defenses of the pawn? – editor}

14. ...exf6 15. Bf5+

This check felt like it was a necessary tempo since the white king will need to run to f2 at some point. The bishop would be loose as soon as the king moves.

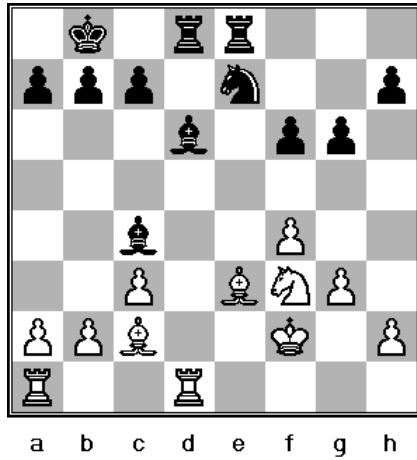
15. ...Kb8 16. Be3 g6 17. Bc2 Bd6



18. Rhd1 Bc4+

A natural move, however a piece on this square becomes an easy target to get pushed around later.

19. Kf2 Rhe8 20. g3 Ne7?!



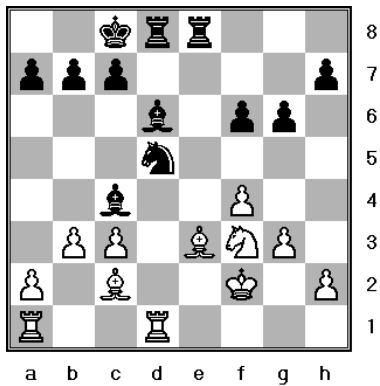
This move just feels like it's asking for a shot.

{Hmm, for somebody.... Note that Black also had possible tactics taking advantage of the loose c2-bishop, starting with ...Bc5, for example. Even the riskier investment 20. ...Rxe3 might be interesting. – editor}

21. b3 Bb5?

Losing by force. Better is to retreat to f7 to prevent White's next move with tempo.

{Even better is to play the refutation of 21. b3, namely 21. ...Nd5!, when White looks kind of busted.}



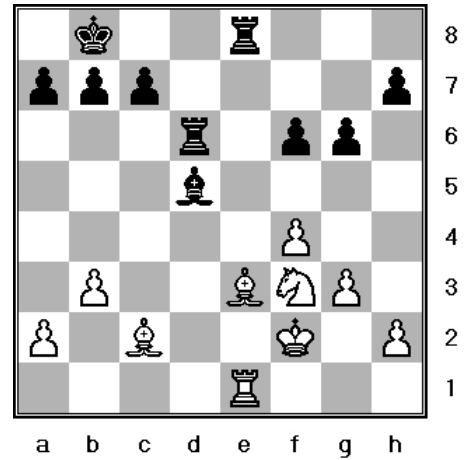
– editor}

22. c4 Bc6 23. c5

Black finds the best defense, though the knight and bishop should be better than the rook and pawn in this position.

{And in most other positions, too. White manages the rest quite well. – editor}

23. ...Nd5 24. Rxd5! Bxd5 25. cxd6 Rxd6 26. Re1



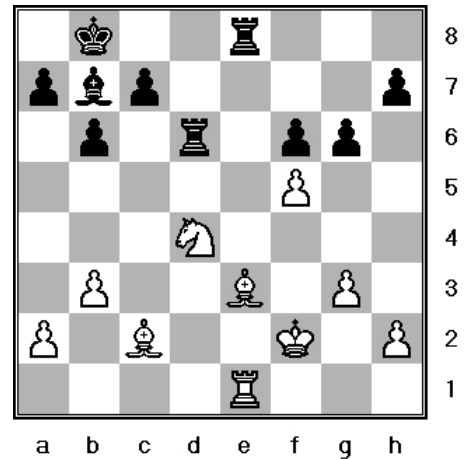
Threatens a simple minded Bxa7+.

26. ...b6 27. Nd4

Preparing the f5 break. Black could offer more resistance with f5 to prevent White from playing f5. A long term problem would be the accessible e5 square once f5 is played.

27. ...Bb7 28. f5

+– Pressuring the kingside pawns as well as preventing an immediate c5 push since even if g5 was played, Bc5 would win material since the d8 rook would also be hanging.



28. ...Rxe3?

In the post-mortem, Phil thought that I had to take with the rook. Unfortunately for Black, the rest is now easy.

29. Kxe3 g5 30. Be4 c5 31. Nb5 Rd8 32. Bxb7 Kxb7 33. Kf2 a6 34. Nc3 Rd3 35. Ne4 Rd5 36. g4 h5 37. Nxf6

1–0

Abel Active

Last month we took a walk on the wild side with Willy Wild (Mikhail Tal) as our host. This issue we have as our guest, (drum-roll), Abel Active!

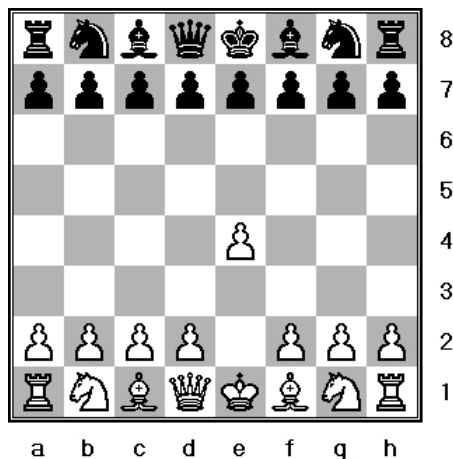
Like Willy Wild, Mr. Active will frequently sacrifice a pawn or two for initiative, however (unlike Mr. Wild) piece sacrifices are undertaken only if determined correct after careful analysis. Mr. Active is a dangerous opponent with a style of play more difficult to refute than that of Mr. Wild.

If you are 'Abel Active' you're in very good company. Examining the opening technique of past world champions Morphy, Fischer, Kasparov, current world champion Vishy Anand, and Magnus Carlsen (who will be world champion in the near future), and of the local Masters Nick Raptis, Mike MacGregor, William Schill and your friendly Editor, Ralph Dubisch, will give you a fabulous repertoire.

This month we examine a miniature, played by the King of the Actives, Robert James Fischer.

Robert Fischer – Pal Benko
U. S. Championship, Round 10
New York, December 15, 1963

1. e4

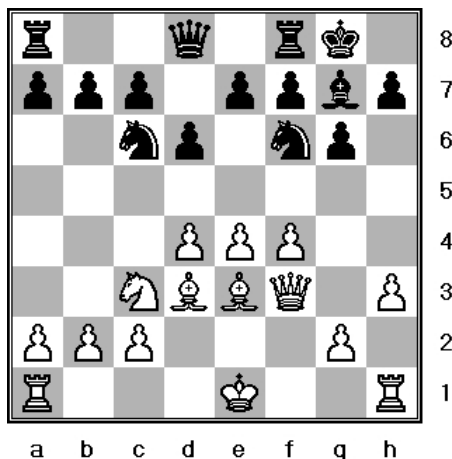


I should note here that 1.e4 is White's most active first move. No other move opens up nine squares for the pieces (queen has four squares and the king's bishop has five squares). Compare this with 1. d4 which opens up seven squares and 1.c4 which opens up three squares. Bobby played this over 75% of the time and scored nearly 75% with it!

Opening Arguments by Harley Greninger



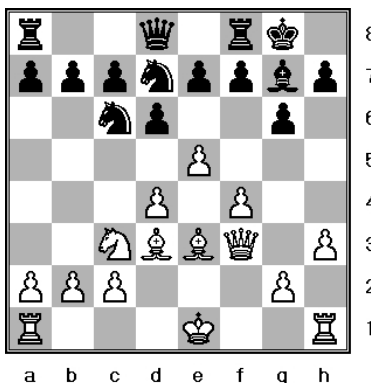
1. ...g6 2. d4 Bg7 3. Nc3 d6 4. f4 Nf6 5. Nf3 0-0 6. Bd3 Bg4 7. h3 Bxf3 8. Qxf3 Nc6 9. Be3



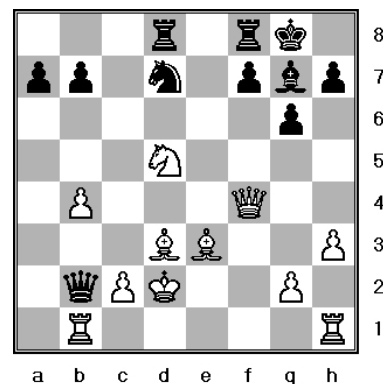
It is apparent that White's position is very active and flexible. He can castle either side and play in the center or attack on the kingside.

9. ...e5

Opening fire on the d-pawn with 9. ...Nd7 allows White to play powerfully in the center with 10. e5!.



eg. 10. ...Nb4 11. 0-0-0 c5 12. dxc5 Qa5 13. cxd6 exd6 14. a3 dxe5 15. axb4 Qa1+ 16. Kd2 Qxb2 17. Nd5 exf4 18. Qxf4 Rad8 19. Rb1 with a decisive advantage.

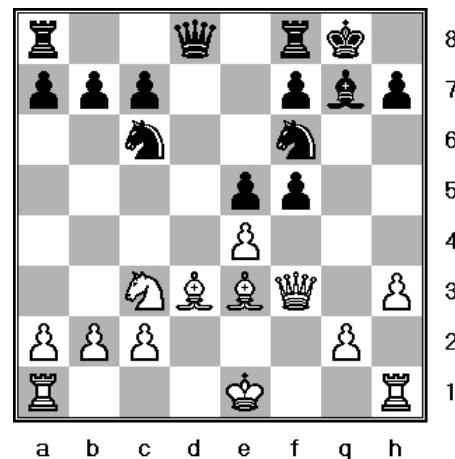


Byrne, R – Kortchnoi, V, Moscow 1975 (1-0 in 38).

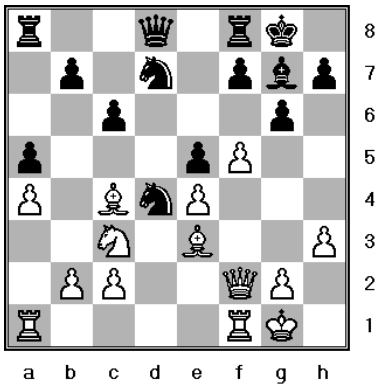
10. dxe5!

An improvement over 10. fxe5, as played earlier the same year in Dely-Khodos at Budapest.

10. ...dxe5 11. f5 gxf5?



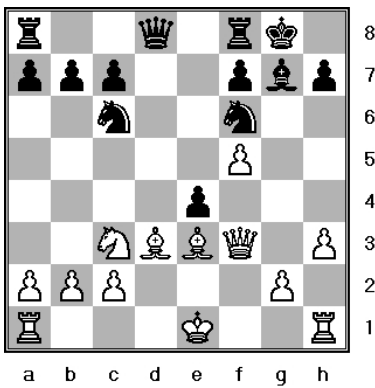
Caught off guard by Fischer's TN, Benko unwisely opens lines leading to his monarch. Better is 11. ...Nd4, as played by Bobotsov the following year. That game continued 12. Qf2 Nd7 13. 0-0 c6 14. a4 a5 15. Bc4, with some advantage for White.



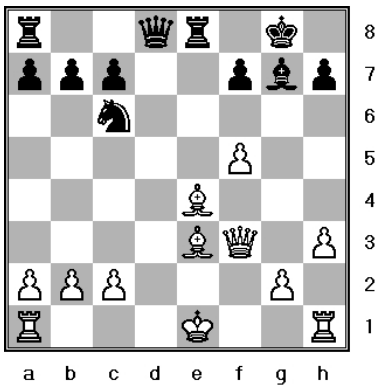
Matanovic-Bobotsov, Zagreb 1964
(1-0 in 28).

12. Qxf5

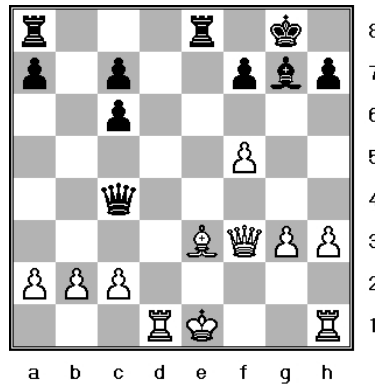
12. exf5 allows the very promising 12. ...e4!



13. Nxe4 Nxe4 14. Bxe4 Re8



15. Bxc6 (15. 0-0? Nd4! 16. Qg4 h5! -
+) 15. ...bxc6 16. Rd1 (16. 0-0? Rxe3 -+)
16. ...Qh4+ 17. g3 Qc4, with a powerful
initiative. (Analysis diagram top next
column.)



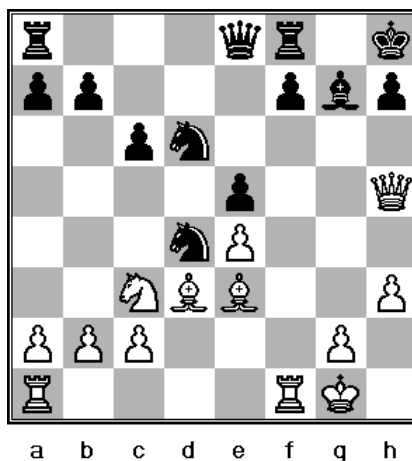
12. ...Nd4 13. Qf2 Ne8 14. 0-0 Nd6



15. Qg3 Kh8 16. Qg4 c6 17. Qh5

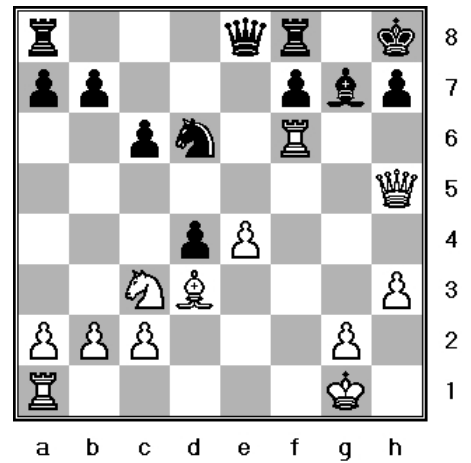
The queen snakes her way to a beautiful
attacking square.

17. ...Qe8



Black is quite uncomfortable now that
the white queen is breathing on his king, so
he would like to get in ...f7-f5 to gain some
fresh air. Fischer spots the refutation,
however.

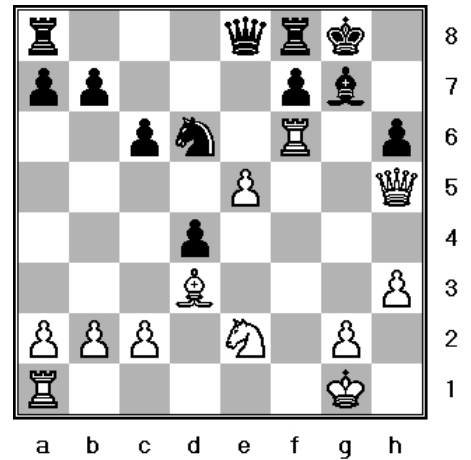
18. Bxd4! exd4 19. Rf6!!



19. ...Kg8

19. ...Bxf6 20. e5 forces mate, as does
19. ...dxc3 20. e5.

20. e5 h6 21. Ne2



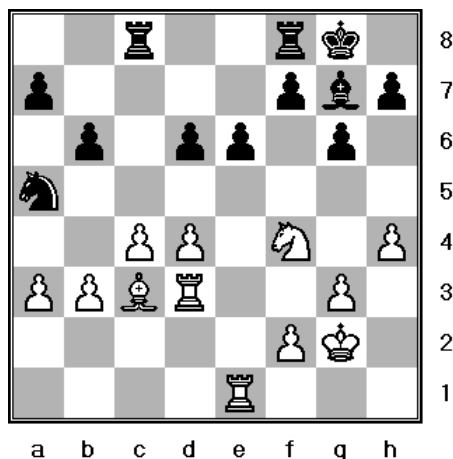
And Black resigned, since any knight
move allows Qf5, and if 21. ...Bxf6, 22.
Qxh6 forces mate. As is apparent in most of
Fischer's games, play is very active. In fact
it's difficult to find a more active move for
White anywhere in this entire game!

1-0

If you admire and can relate to Fischer's
play in this game, then perhaps you too are
an Abel Active. You will become an e4
junkie as White (although other first moves
could be played on occasion) and will enter
the tournament hall armed with your open
games, Sicilians and Indian complexes as
Black. Your opponents will respect and fear
you, your wins will be convincing and even
your defeats will be great displays of
fighting chess!

The next two columns, with all due apologies to Monty Python, fall under the purview of the “ministry of the silly pawn sacrifices.” This month’s game features a multiple piece endgame that is essentially balanced. White gets a brain cramp and, believing the position to be worse for him, undertakes drastic action attempting to change the course of the game. While the reasoning leading to pawn sacrifices was flawed, the plan (doubled rooks on the seventh) does provide some dangers for Black. With precise play, Black can maintain a large advantage, however in the actual game a couple of second best moves allow White enough play (pressure) to draw. In the ensuing tactics that flair up in mutual time pressure, both sides exchange a series of blunders, with White making the final one. The resulting rook and pawn endgame is winning for Black; he accurately converts his advantage for the victory.

Dana Muller – James Blackwood
Puget Sound League
Seattle, March 1989



The position is pretty even, as neither side can undertake much without allowing the opponent active counterplay. For some reason I thought I stood worse, probably due to the lack of active plans for White. A closer examination shows that while Black is nicely restraining White, the reverse can also be said; White is restraining Black! Sure, Black can double rooks on the c-file, but after that how does he proceed? For example, after 26. Bd2 Rc7 27. Be3 Rfc8 I don’t see much in the position for either side. Instead of playing sensibly, White decided to create active play for himself at the cost of a couple of pawns.

26. Rc1?

And In The End

by Dana Muller

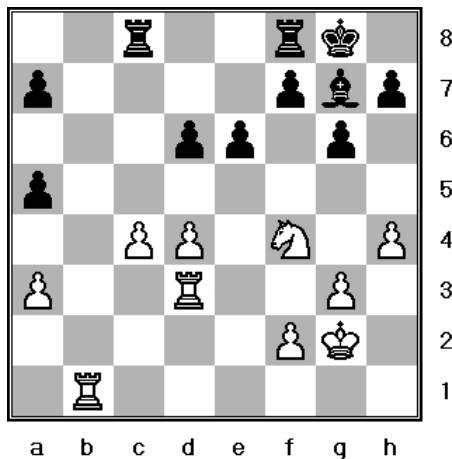


Although misguided, this was intentional. A second pawn sacrifice (move 29) is needed to justify White’s play.

26. ...Nxb3

No reason not to take.

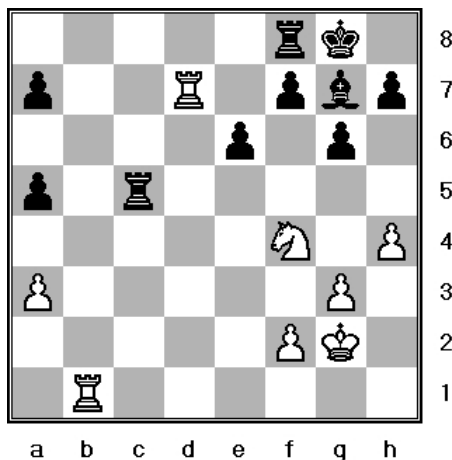
27. Rb1 Na5 28. Bxa5 bxa5



29. c5

White must try to retain the initiative, so defending the c-pawn doesn’t fit the needs of the position. The second pawn sacrifice was planned when making the 26th move, the idea being to double rooks on the seventh (there will be an immediate threat of Nxe6 if the bishop is still on g7) and then maneuver the knight into an “active” position. Needless to say, White has given up an awful lot for vague seventh rank chances.

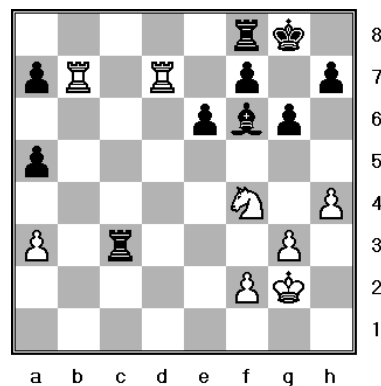
29. ...dxc5 30. dxc5 Rxc5 31. Rd7



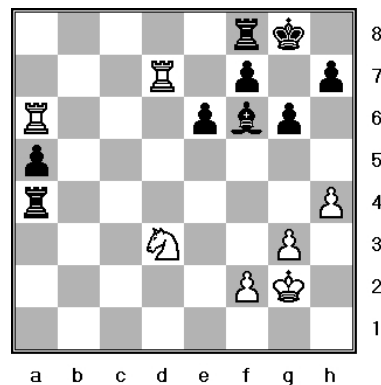
The right rook, since it clears d3 for the knight, i.e. 31. Rb7 Bh6 and the knight doesn’t have a convenient retreat square.

31. ...Bh6?

Imprecise; this misplaces the bishop. Clearly Black has seen that if the bishop remains on g7 then Rbb7 will threaten Nxe6. However, it turns out that the bishop is best placed on the a1-h8 diagonal (covering e5). For example: 31. ...Rc3 32. Rbb7 Bf6 stops any tricks on e6.

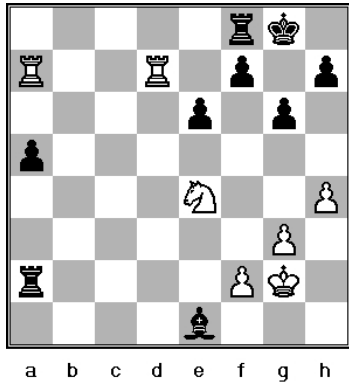


One possibility is 33. a4 a6 34. Nd3 Rc4 35. Ra7 Rxa4 36. Rxa6



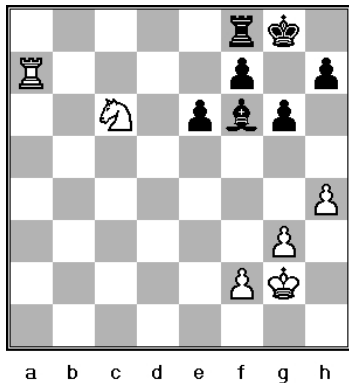
36. ...Bc3 (36. ... Rd4 37. Rxd4 Bxd4 38. Rxa5 relieves the pressure on Black’s position and retains an extra pawn, but with all pawns on one side of the board there are technical problems in trying to convert the win) 37. Nc5 Rc4, and Black is beginning to untangle.

A better try for White is 33. Rxa7 Rxa3
34. Nd3 Bc3 35. Nc5 Ra2 (35. ...h6 36. Rd3)
36. Ne4 Be1



37. Kf1 Ra1 38. Kg2 Rc1 (trying to unravel) 39. Nf6+ Kg7 40. Ne8+ Kh6 41. Nd6 and it is getting messy.

Perhaps Black has to be satisfied with giving up the a-pawn in order to exchange a pair of rooks (removing some of the seventh rank pressure). For example, 33. Rxa7 Rxa3 34. Nd3 Ra2 35. Nc1 Ra4 36. Nb3 Rb4 37. Nxa5 Ra4 38. Nc6 Rxa7 39. Rxa7.

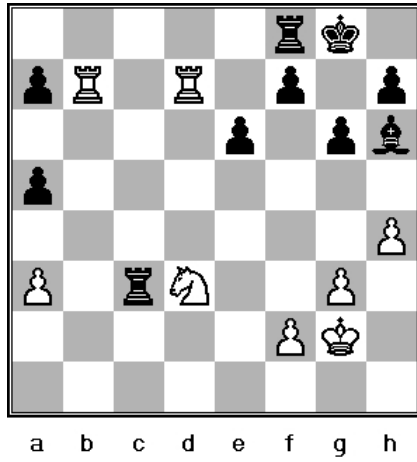


Black is a healthy pawn ahead, but with the pawns on one side of the board and the bishop being the wrong color for the rook pawn, there are a lot of technical problems to overcome. Note that if the minor pieces are exchanged then the position is already a theoretical draw.

32. Nd3 Rc3

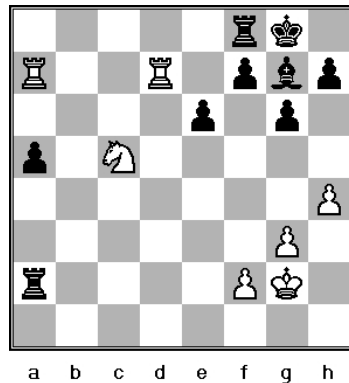
The attempt to exchange a pair of rooks with 32. ...Rcc8 33. Rbb7 Rcd8 allows White to come close to equality with 34. Ne5 Rxd7 (34. ...Bg7 35. Rxd8 Rxd8 36. Nxf7) 35. Nxd7 Rc8 36. Rxa7, e.g. 36. ...Bd2 (guarding the a5 pawn) 37. Ne5 f6 (37. ...Rf8 38. Nd7) 38. Ng4 Rf8 39. f4, idea Nh6+, seems OK for white.

33. Rbb7

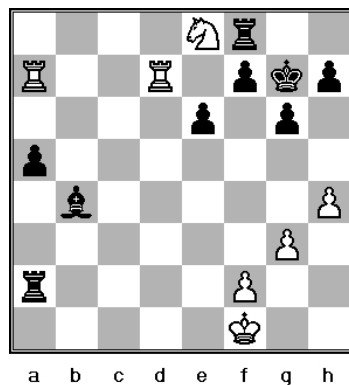


33. ...Rxa3?!

Retreating the bishop with 33. ...Bg7 is likely better. A possible line is 34. a4 a6 (34. ...Rc4 35. Rxa7 Rxa4 36. Nc5 is White's trick) 35. Ra7 Rc4 36. Rxa6 Rxa4 37. Nc5 Ra2 38. Raa7



38. ...Bc3 (Nxe6 was threatened) 39. Ne4 Be1 (or Bb4) 40. Rab7 (cuts out Bishop to the a7-g1 diagonal tricks based on hitting the rook). Black is still two pawns ahead, but White's pieces are very active. A familiar trick follows 40. ...h6 (to stop an eventual Ng5): 41. Kf1 Bb4 42. Nf6+ Kg7 43. Ne8+!



43. ...Kh8 (43. ...Rxe8 shows white's idea: 44. Rxf7+ with a perpetual based on

rook checks on f7, g7, or h7) 44. Nf6 Bc3 45. Rxf7 Rxf7 46. Rxf7 Bxf6 47. Rxf6 Kg7 48. Rxe6 and 49. Ra6 should draw.

After the text, White has enough play to equalize. Due to mutual time pressure, the quality of play by both players degenerates over the next few moves. Notice how the advantage swings back and forth just about every half move.

34. Ne5

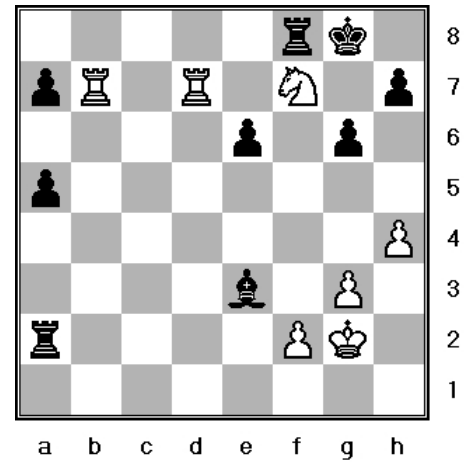
The attack on f7 is unstoppable; Black needs to find some counterplay.

34. ...Ra2

Hard to recommend anything else, the text sets up potential threats against f2.

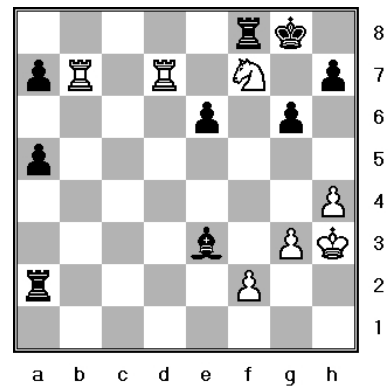
35. Nxf7 Be3?

Not best. Dropping the bishop back with 35. ...Bg7 is better, i.e. 36. Kg1 a3 34. Ng5 Bh8 35. Nf7 Bg7 36. Ng5 draws.



36. Ng5?

Natural, but missing the tactical shot 36. Kh3!.

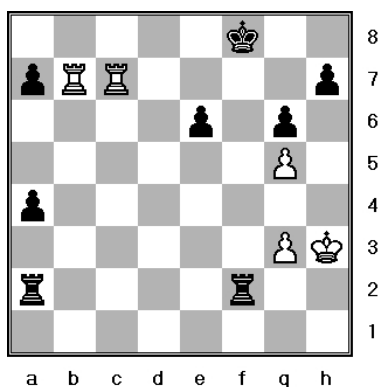


The advantage of Kh3 over the text is that the knight is not committed to g5 and the f8 rook is not involved in the counterattack. It seems that 36. Kh3 is winning; here are a few variations: If 36.

...Bxf2? 37. Nh6+ mates. If 36. ...Rxf2, then 37. Ne5! Bh6 (rook moves do no good for example 37. ...Rc8 38. Rg7+ Kf8 39. Rxh7 threatens mate and Nxf6+) and now 38. Ng4 forks the rook and bishop. 36. ...Bd4 37. Nh6+ mates. 36. ...Rxf7 37. Rxf7 Bh6 looks winning for White.

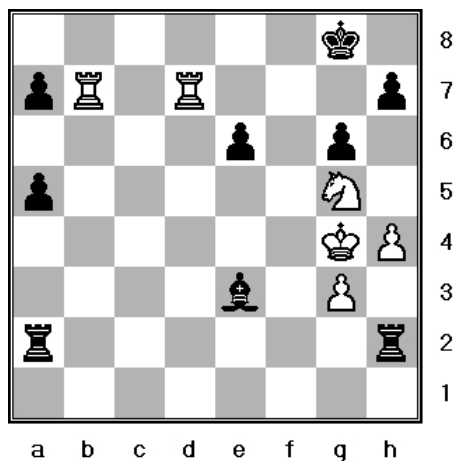
36. ...Rxf2+ 37. Kh3 Rh2+?

A big mistake. 37. ...Bxg5 is forced. After 38. hxg5 Black is hard-pressed to stop a perpetual, e.g. 38. ...a4 39. Rg7+ Kf8 40. Rgc7



40. ...Kg8 (how else can the mate threats be stopped?) 41. Rg7+ etc. Also note that 38. ...Rh2+ 39. Kg4 Ra4+ 40. Kf3 Ra3+ 41. Kg4 doesn't go anywhere.

38. Kg4



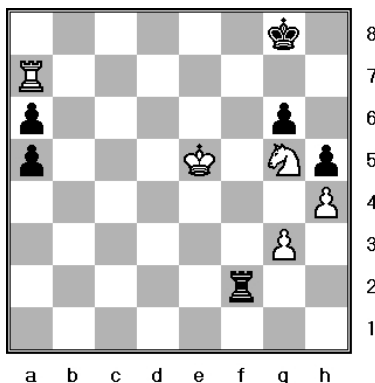
38. ...h5+

If 38. ...Rh2 (to cover f8) then 39. Rg7+ Kh8 40. Rxh7+ Kg8 41. Rbg7+ Kf8 42. Nxe6+ Ke8 43. Re7 mate. If 38. ...Bxg5 39. Rb8+ mates.

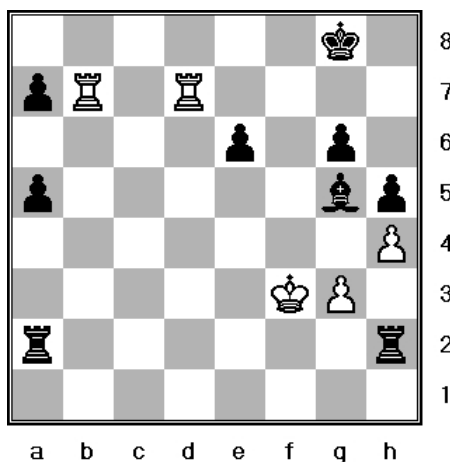
39. Kf3 Bxg5?

This should lose instantly. Better, but still insufficient, is 39. ...Rh2+ (to cover f8) 40. Kxe3 when Black has a slim hope that he may be able to exchange a pair of rooks and

capture White's last two pawns. This doesn't seem to be possible, because even after a pair of rooks are exchanged, the potential mating threats with the remaining rook, knight and king ties Black's rook down to defense. For example: 40. ...Rae2+ 41. Kd4 Rd2+ 42. Ke5 Rde2+ 43. Kd6 Rd2+ 44. Kxe6 Rde2+ 45. Kd6 Rd2+ (45. ...Rf6+ 46. Kd5 Rd2+ 47. Ke5 Rxd7 48. Rxd7) 46. Ke5 Rxd7 (46. ...Re2+ 47. Ne4) 47. Rxd7 a6 48. Ra7 wins for White.



If the black rook leaves the f-file then Kf6 threatens mates and the g-pawn. With the white king on e6 there is a constant threat of Nh7-f6+, giving White the time to pick up the a-pawns.



40. hxg5??

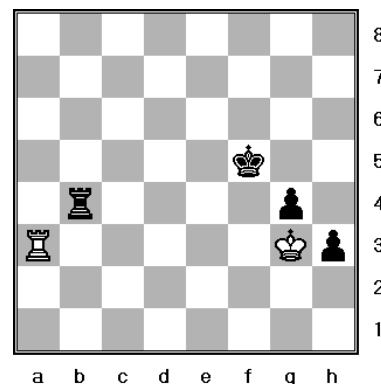
What??? Talk about tunnel vision! I had been so focused on the seventh rank that it never crossed my mind that a rook check on the eighth would force mate. Clearly 40. Rb8+ Bd8 41. Rbxh8 is mate! I actually had to have someone show this to me after the game before I believed it! After this one last howler, Black efficiently trades down to a won rook and pawn endgame.

40. ...Rh2+ 41. Ke4 Rae2+ 42. Kd4 Rd2+ 43. Ke5 Rxd7 44. Rxd7 Rf5+ 45.

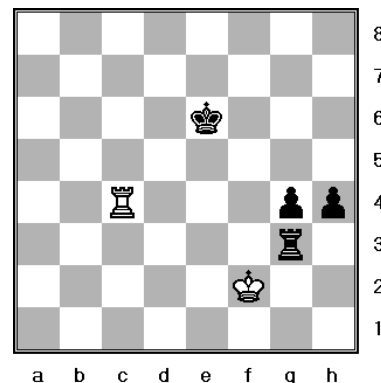
Kxe6 Rxg5 46. Kf6 Rxg3 47. Rxa7 a4 48. Rxa4 Kh7

Black is winning. This particular configuration (R+NP+RP vs. R) can be tricky to convert into a win; the game continuation is an excellent example of how to proceed. A couple of things for Black to avoid are:

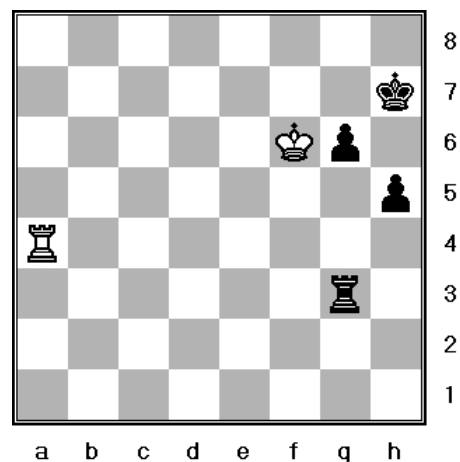
(1) a blockade



(2) certain "triangle" positions



From a sound beginning position such as the current game, Black should first advance the h-pawn, followed by the king moving up the h-file, followed by the advance of the g-pawn. Play gets a little tricky once the pawns advance to g4-h3 and g3-h3.



49. Ra8

Worse is 49. Ra7+? Kh6, because Black will follow with 50. ...Rf3 (with or without check) cutting the white king off from the g and h pawns. Cutting off the white king simplifies the winning procedure.

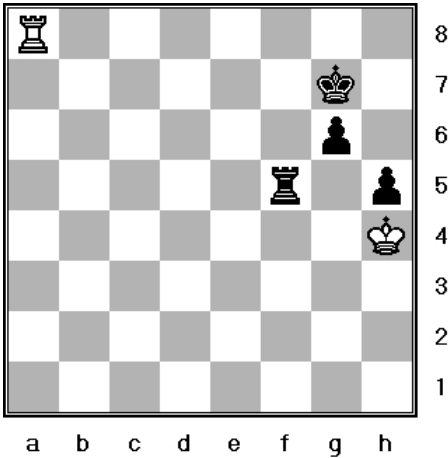
49. ...Rf3+

Forces the white king back.

50. Kg5 Rf5+ 51. Kh4 Kh6

51. ...Rb5 is another good continuation.

52. Rh8+ Kg7 53. Ra8



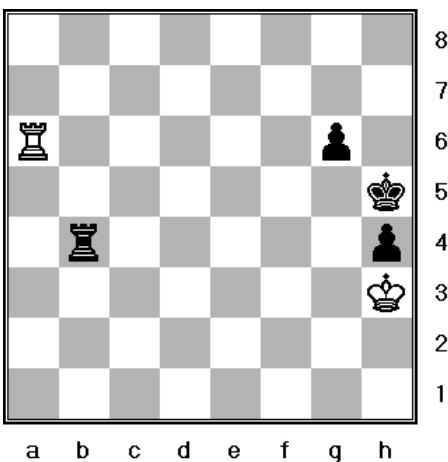
53. ...Rf4+

Drives the king back since 54. Kg5 Rg4 is mate. Playing the rook to the b-file first with 53. ...Rb5 is OK since 54. ...Rb4+ will follow.

54. Kg3 Rb4

Black is now ready for the thematic series of moves ...Kh6, ...h4, and ...Kh5 with ...g5 to follow soon. This sort of systematic advance can be repeated until the black pawns are on g4 and h3.

55. Ra7+ Kh6 56. Ra6 h4+ 57. Kh3 Kh5

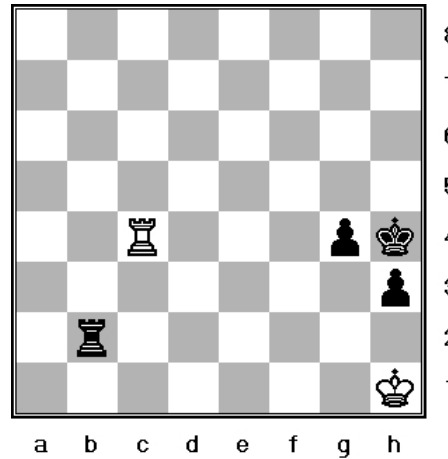


Note that the white rook has no effective checks. Lateral checks are answered by advancing the g-pawn, checks from behind are answered by moving the king in front of the g-pawn (followed by a rook check driving the white king back).

58. Ra8 Rb3+ 59. Kh2 g5 60. Ra4 Rb2+ 61. Kh1 h3 62. Rc4 g4

The above procedure repeated.

63. Rc5+ Kh4 64. Rc4



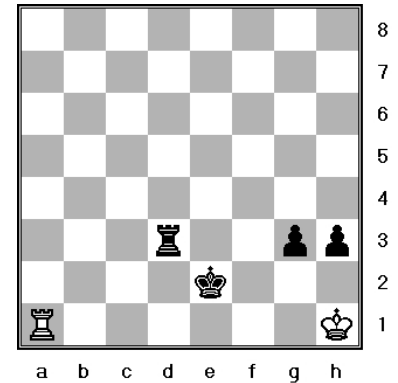
64. ...Re2!

This begins the more reliable of two winning plans. The game continuation plans to move the black king to f3 now that the rook can block lateral checks. The second method is to play a well-timed h2, followed by g3 and Kh3. This method is susceptible to stalemate traps and needs to be calculated precisely before implementing. In the current position, 64. ...h2 is a blunder because 65. Rxg4+ Kxg4 is stalemate.

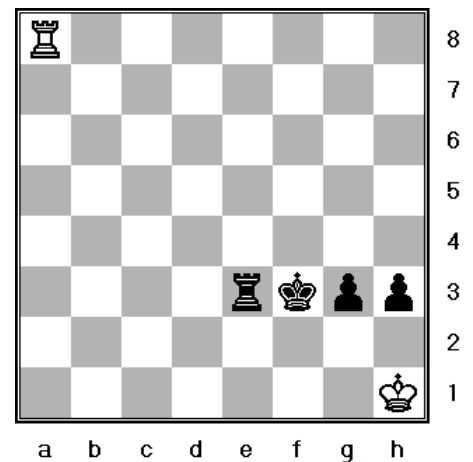
65. Ra4 Kg3 66. Ra3+ Kf4 67. Ra4+ Kf3 68. Ra3+ Re3 69. Ra8

The alternative is 69. Ra1. Play then

continues 69. ...g3 70. Rb1 (70. Kg1 allows plan #2, 70. ... h2+ 71. Kh1 Kg4 72. Kg2 Re2+ 73. Kh1 Kh3 and g2+ can't be stopped) 70. ...Rd3 (70 ... Kf2 71. Rf1+ forces the king back since 71. Rxf1 is stalemate) 71. Ra1 Ke2 idea Rd1+.



69. ...g3



70. Rf8+ Kg4 71. Rg8+ Kf5

The win is clear, 72. Rf8+ Kg6 73. Rf1 g2+ or 72. Rf8+ Kg6 73. Rg8+ Kf7.

0 - 1

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The (insert name here) Northwest Chess Grand Prix

Murlin Varner, Chief Statistician

First off, we need a sponsor and a name for the upcoming year. We went through 2009 without a sponsor, and, as a result, the prizes will be smaller. That said, they are still cash prizes and the players who win them will still be pleased, but it just doesn't come up to previous years. So if you would like to have control of the name for this program, pony up the bucks. Anyone? (sound of crickets)

By the time you read this, the largest event remaining on the 2009 calendar will have just finished. The Washington Class will have had somewhere in excess of 130 players (I sincerely hope) and carries a 5x multiplier, so any of the leaders below who didn't attend, may find in January that they are no longer leaders. All the more important, then, to finish the year with a bang. You can play in Grand Prix events the weekend of Dec 12th in Portland or Seattle and the weekend of the 19th in Portland or Tacoma. (Sorry, it looks as though there are no events planned for the 26th; you'll just have to put up with your relatives.)

The 2010 Grand Prix will start off with a bang, the weekend of January 9th, with the annual Gresham Open (2x multiplier!) in Gresham, of course. This is a good event to kick start your GP point drive for the year. If you can't get to Portland that weekend, you could play in a pair of one-day events in Tacoma (9th) and Seattle (10th). Either way, get 2010 off to a great start and jump in front of the GP standings.

The standings below are complete through November 8th, including the SCC Extravaganza. There will be one last rating adjustment come Dec. 1st. (A few ratings have already been adjusted, since the future month's ratings are available by the end of the first week of the previous month, but the process is so slow and tedious prior to the ratings becoming official that I usually wait until after the first of the month.) There are a total of ten events remaining for the 2009 Grand Prix.

Oregon

Washington

Masters

1 Raptis, Nick 177.5	1 Chen, Howard J 109.5
2 Roua, Radu 49	2 Sinanan, Joshua 95
3 Haessler, Carl 29	3 Schill, William 93.5
.....	4 Pupols, Viktors 63
.....	5 MacGregor, Michael . 61.5
.....	6 Bragg, David R 60.5

Experts

1 Breckenridge, Steven . 121	1 Watts, Peter 132
2 Gay, Daniel Z 114.5	2 Bartron, Paul R 102.5
3 Chung, John 41	3 Kelley, Dereque 97
4 Morris, Michael 38	4 Rupel, David 80.5
5 Davis, Mikeal 34	5 Dixon, Dakota E 69
6 Heywood, Bill 29.5	6 Julian, John 64.5

Class A

1 Esler, Brian 110.5	1 O'Gorman, Peter J 91
2 Fulton, David 82.5	2 Mathews, Daniel R 90
3 Banner, Richard L 46	3 Wang, Michael 86
4 Evers, Jason 44.5	4 Pazderic, Nickola L ... 85.5
5 Herrera, Robert 43.5	5 Sen, Samir 83.5
6 Bannon, David 43	6 Lee, Nathan Y 80.5

Class B

1 Witt, Steven A 102	1 Buck, Stephen J 115
2 Niro, Frank 85	2 McAleer, James 105
3 Pyle, Galen 75	3 Feng, Roland 95
4 Brusselback, Lon 72	4 Ackerman, Ryan S 86
5 Grom, Alex 69.5	5 Tokareva, Kate 81
6 Frojen, Ken 61	6 Yu, Justin 68

Class C

1 Dietz, Arliss 90	1 Monahan, Darby P .. 127.5
2 Skalnes, Erik 49	2 Piper, August 110
3 Midson, Tony 45	3 Grabar, Anatoly 70.5
4 Tse, Kalen 44.5	4 Baker, Ted 69.5
5 Dalthorp, Dan 40	5 Goodfellow, Robert ... 69
6 Wentz, Dale 39.5	6 Grabar, Svetlana 68.5

Class D and Below

1 Chatterjee, Dhruva 44	1 Richards, Jerrold 90
2 Chattopadhyay, Sandip 43	2 Waugh, James 63
3 Barrese, William 32	3 Davis, Freddy A 62
4 Butson, Jeffrey 29.5	4 Lampman, Becca 60
5 Cohen, David 27	5 Burney, James 51
6 Molchanov, Valentin I . 26	6 Wang, Shanglun 40

Overall Leaders, by State

1 Raptis, Nick 177.5	1 Watts, Peter 132
2 Breckenridge, Steven . 121	2 Monahan, Darby P .. 127.5
3 Gay, Daniel Z 114.5	3 Buck, Stephen J 115
4 Esler, Brian 110.5	4 Piper, August 110
5 Witt, Steven A 102	5 Chen, Howard J 109.5
6 Dietz, Arliss 90	6 McAleer, James 105
6 Niro, Frank 85	7 Bartron, Paul R 102.5
8 Fulton, David 82.5	8 Kelley, Dereque 97
9 Pyle, Galen 75	9 Sinanan, Joshua 95
10 Brusselback, Lon 72	10 Feng, Roland 95
11 Grom, Alex 69.5	11 Schill, William 93.5
12 Frojen, Ken 61	12 O'Gorman, Peter J 91
13 Yoshinaga, David 55	13 Mathews, Daniel R 90
14 Roua, Radu 49	13 Richards, Jerrold 90
15 Skalnes, Erik 49	15 Wang, Michael 86

Players from Other Places

1 Leslie, Cameron	ID	1860	118
2 Havrilla, Mark A	ID	1921	91.5
3 Subedi, Avinaya	ID	1791	70
4 McCourt, Daniel	MT	1773	51.5
5 Donaldson, John	CA	2426	50
6 Abderhalden, Richard R	ID	1533	49
7 McLaughlin, Edward	MT	1750	45
8 Weyland, Ronald M	ID	1599	43.5
9 Martin, Robert	MT	1697	41
10 Abderhalden, Katherine L	ID	1584	38

Gresham Open!

January 9-10, 2010

Mt. Hood Community College

5-Round Swiss--Time Control:

Rounds 1-3: 40 moves in 90 min, sudden death in 30 min (40/90; SD/30)

Rounds 4-5: 40 moves in 2 hours, sudden death in 1 hour (40/120; SD/60)

Registration: Sat 9-9:45; **Rounds:** Sat 10, 2, ASAP; Sun 10, ASAP

Location: Mt. Hood Community College, Town & Gown Room (near Jazz Café);
26000 SE Stark, Gresham. Check www.pdxchess.com for directions to playing site

½ point bye available for rounds 1-4 if requested at registration, limit 1

\$1,500 (Based on 60 entries)

1st \$300; 2nd \$200; 3rd \$125; U2200, U2000, U1800, U1600, U1400: \$100 – \$75

Special Christopher Memorial Prize: \$200 extra for perfect score

Special Martha Jane Miller Memorial Prize: \$100 to highest scoring female player

Entry Fee \$40; \$10 discount to PCC members if registered before January 5

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

Gresham Open (January 9-10, 2010) Entry Form

Name _____

Address _____

USCF ID # _____ Exp _____ USCF Rating _____ OCF/WCF Exp _____

email _____ Bye Round ____

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



Washington Challenger's Cup

December 12-13, 2009 at the Seattle Chess Club

The highest finishing Washington resident in the open section will be seeded into the 2010 state championship, to be contested in February.

New Seattle Chess Club location:

2150 N. 107th St in the Northway Square East Building across from Northgate Mall.

Format: Two sections; Open and Reserve (under 1800).

Open: 4 Round Swiss; Reserve: 5 Round Swiss.

Time Control: Open 40/2, SD/30; Reserve G/120.

Registration: Saturday 9:00-9:45 AM.

Rounds: Open Sat. 10:00, 4:00, Sun. 10:00, 4:00 or A.S.A.P.

Reserve Sat. 10:00, 2:30, 7:00, Sun. 10:00, 3:00 or A.S.A.P.

Entry Fee: Adults \$30.00 advance, \$40.00 at the site.

Juniors \$20.00 advance, \$25.00 at site.

Unrated players free with purchase of USCF and WCF memberships.

Prize fund: \$600.00 (based on 25 full paying entries).

Open 1st \$110.00, 2nd \$90.00, 1st U2000 \$80.00

Reserve 1st \$100.00, 2nd \$80.00, 1st U1600 \$70.00, 1st U1400 \$70.00

Byes: Two half-point byes available rounds 1-4 (Reserve section). NW NS NC.

USCF and WCF memberships required. A Northwest Chess Grand Prix event.

Entries/Info: c/o Gary J. Dorfner, 8423 E. B St., Tacoma, WA 98445.

Phone (253) 535-2536, e-mail ggarychess@aol.com.

Make checks payable to Gary J. Dorfner.

Seattle Chess Club Tournaments

Address
 → 2150 N 107 St ←
 ← Seattle WA 98133 →
 Infoline
 ↗ 206-417-5405 ↖
 www.seattlechess.org
 kleistcf@aol.com
 Address for Entries
 SCC Tnmt Dir
 2420 S 137 St
 Seattle WA 98168

Challenger's Cup December 12-13

January 2, 23

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.

Saturday Quads

January 30

Format: 4-SS. Open to U1200 and unrated. **TC:** G/75. **EF:** \$11 by 1/27, \$16 at site. (-\$2 for SCC mem., -\$1 for mem. of other NW dues-req'd CCs). **Prizes:** Memb (SCC, WCF, USCF). **Reg:** 9-9:45a.m. **Rds:** 10-12:45-3:30-6. **Byes:** 1 (Rd 3/4-commit at reg.). **Misc:** USCF memb. req'd. NS, NC.

SCC Novice

Dec. 6, Jan. 31

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.

Sunday Tornado

Jan. 15-17

Format: 2 sec., 5 rd. Swiss. **TC:** 40/2, SD/1 (Rd.1 2-day option – G/64). **EF:** **Championship** \$42 (\$33 for SCC mem., \$38 for mem. of other NW dues-req'd CCs) by 1/13, \$50 (\$39, \$44) at site; GMs, IMs, WGMs free. **Reserve (U1800)** \$33 (\$24 for SCC mem., \$29 for mem. of other NW dues-req'd CCs) by 1/14, \$42 (\$33, \$38) at site. **Unrateds** free w/purch. 1-yr USCF & WCF. **Add** \$1 for 2-day schedule (Rd 1 – Sat. 10 a.m., G/64).. **Prize Fund:** \$1000 (b/50, 5/prz gp). **Prizes:** **Championship** \$225-140, X 90, A 70; **Reserve (U1800)** \$125-80, C 60, D 50, E & under 40, Unr. 20. **Reg:** Fri. 7-7:45 p.m. or Sat. 9-9:45 a.m. **Rds:** Fri. 8, Sat. (10 @ G/64)-12:30-6:30, Sun. 11-5. **Byes:** 2 available. Rounds 4 or 5 must commit at registration. **Misc:** USCF, WCF/OCF memb. req'd, OSA. NS, NC.

Seattle City Championship

SCC Fridays

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

Bagley Memorial: Dec. 4, 11, 18.

Closed: Dec. 25.

January Thaw: Jan. 1, 8, 15, 22.

SCC G/15 Championship: Jan. 29.

Attendance at this year's previous events

Novice (1/31)–5, (5/2)–8, (8/16)–9, (11/15)–5; Quads (1/10)–10, (2/21)–20, (3/14)–17, (4/25)–14, (5/16)–15, (6/13)–20, (7/18)–18, (8/15)–18, (9/12)–22, (10/10)–20, (11/14)–16; Tornos (1/4)–12, (2/1)–12, (3/1)–16, (4/5)–14, (5/3)–18, (5/31)–19, (7/5)–18, (8/2)–16, (8/30)–25, (10/4)–14, (11/1)–12; Seattle City Championship (1/16-18)–21; Seattle Spring Open (3/27-29)–36; Green Open II (5/9-10)–26; Emerald City Open (6/19-21)–46; Seafair (7/24-26)–63; Seattle Fall Open (9/25-7)–48; Extravaganza (11/6-8)–26.

The SCC is now located across the freeway from Northgate!!

2010 Weekends (revised)

Novice: Jan. 30, Apr. 25, Aug. 1, Nov. 6. **Insanity:** Dec. 31. **Quads:** Jan. 2, 23, Feb. 27, Mar. 20, Apr. 24, May 15, June 5, July 3,31, Aug. 28, Sept. 25, Oct. 23, Nov. 20, Dec. 11. **TCC vs. SCC Match:** Mar. 6. **Tornados:** Jan. 31, Feb. 21, Mar. 14, Apr. 11, May 9, Jun. 27, Jul. 18, Aug. 15, Sept. 12, Oct. 10, Nov. 7, Dec. 12.

Seattle City Champ.–January 15-17. Seattle Spring Open–March 26-28.

SCC Adult Swiss–May 1-2. Emerald City Open–June 19-21.

Seafair Open–July 23-25. Seattle Fall Open–Sept. 17-19.

Extravaganza–November 5-7. SCC Junior Swiss–December 4-5.

Future Events

♣ indicates a NW Grand Prix event ♣

For free adult and scholastic tournament listings, please visit www.nwchess.com.

♣ December 12-13

Washington Challenger's Cup ♣

See full-page ad on page 30 of this issue.

♣ December 12-13

Portland Winter Open ♣

5SS, 2 sections: Open & Reserve (U1800), TC: 40/90 SD/30 Rds 1-3, 40/2 SD/1 Rds 4-5. Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th, Portland, OR 97219. EF: \$30 adv, \$35 at site. \$10 discount for PCC Members. OCF/WCF and USCF memb req'd, OSA. Prizes: (\$650 b/40). Open \$325: 1st \$150, 2nd \$100, U2000 \$75. Reserve \$325: 1st \$100, 2nd \$75, U1600 \$50, U1400 \$50, U1200/UNR \$50. Reg: 9-9:30AM 3/21, Rds: Sat 10-2-ASAP, Sun 10-ASAP. Byes: 1/2 point bye if requested at reg., maximum two. Adv. Ent.: Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave, Portland OR 97219. Info: portlandchessclub@gmail.com, 503-246-2978, www.pdxchess.com.

♣ December 19

Portland Chess Club G/60 ♣

4SS, G/60. TD may switch to 5SS and G/45 if more than 25 entries. Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave., Portland, OR. EF: \$20, \$5 discount for PCC Members. OCF/WCF and USCF memb req'd, OSA. No advance entries. Reg: 9-9:30. Byes: 1/2 point bye if requested at reg. Prizes: (\$200/b20) \$60-\$40-\$30 U1800, U1500 \$35 each. Info: portlandchessclub@gmail.com, 503-246-2978, www.pdxchess.com.

♣ December 19-20

Tacoma Christmas Congress ♣

Site: Tacoma Chess Club, 409 Puyallup Ave. E. Room 11 (2nd floor of DTI Building, across the street from Alfred's Cafe). Format: 5-SS, 1 Section, G/120. Reg: Sat. 9:00-9:45. Rds: Sat. 10:00, 2:30, 7:00; Sun. 10:00, 3:00 or ASAP. EF: Adults \$30 advance, \$40 on site; Jr.'s \$20, \$25; Economy (no prize \$) \$15. Unrated players free with purchase of USCF and WCF memberships. Prizes: 67% of (non-Economy) EF's: 1st Place 25%; 1st Top 3rd 15%, Middle 3rd 14% Bottom 3rd 13% (If fewer than 10 non-Economy entries, there will be 2 groups, 1st Top 1/2, 20%; 1st Bottom 1/2, 17%). Byes: 2 (1/2-pt) byes Rds 1-4. USCF/WCF membership req'd. A USCF-rated and Grand Prix Event. Entries/Info: c/o Gary J. Dorfner, 8423 E. B St., Tacoma, WA 98445, (253) 535-2536, e-mail ggarychess@aol.com. Make checks payable to Gary J. Dorfner. NW/NS/NC/OSA.

♣ January 9

Tacoma Chess Club Tornado #1 ♣

Site: Tacoma Chess Club, 409 Puyallup Ave. E., Room 11, 2nd floor. Located in the DTI Soccer Bldg. across the St. from Alfred's Café and two blocks down the hill from the Tacoma Dome. Format: 4 round Swiss. Time Control: G/64. Entry Fee: \$15.00. Prizes: Top Half, 1st 16%, 2nd 15%, Bottom Half, 1st 14%, 2nd 13%. Round Times: 10:00, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00 or A.S.A.P. USCF/NW memberships required. 1 bye available. Info/entries: Gary J. Dorfner, 8423 E. B St., Tacoma, WA 98445, phone (253) 535-2536, e-mail ggarychess@aol.com.

♣ January 9-10

Gresham Open ♣

See full-page ad on page 29 of this issue.

A note from the business manager:

It usually happens each year that a sizeable number of new or returning chess players join the WCF at the two major annual events, the Washington Open in May and the Washington Class Championships in November. (A similar situation applies to the OCF and the Oregon Open in September.) If you joined in November 2008, we hope you've enjoyed Northwest Chess magazine, and will renew your membership and subscription if you haven't already done so. Couldn't play at the WA Class this year? -- just send your renewal (\$25 + tax in WA, \$25 elsewhere) to the Business Manager, making sure that checks are payable to Northwest Chess (not WCF). Want to consider a gift subscription or donation this holiday season? -- also contact the Business Manager. Each \$20.00 donation can be applied to a school or library subscription (with no other membership benefits) if desired. Happy holidays! – Eric Holcomb

VISITORS WELCOMED
at the
OREGON CITY / WEST LINN CHESS CLUB

Pioneer Adult Community Center
Tuesdays: 7-10 pm
For more information
503-744-0997

615 Fifth St. Oregon City
(enter by basement door
on Washington St.)

PORTLAND CHESS CLUB
8205 SW 24th Ave
Portland, OR 97219
503-246-2978

For information on membership
and coming events:
www.pdxchess.org