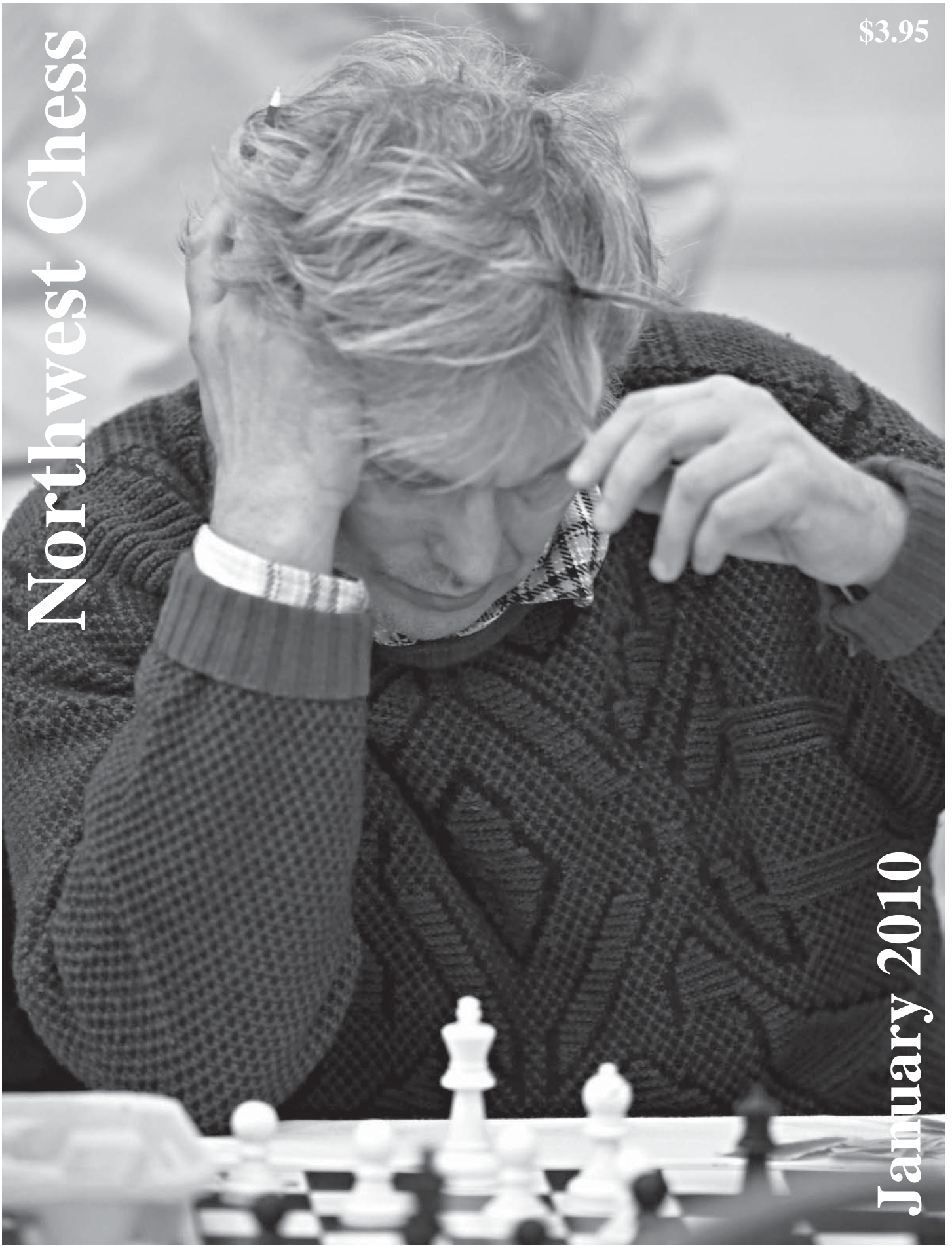


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Page 3:	Editor's Desk	Ralph Dubisch
Page 4:	Silverdale Beach Hotel Classic Redux	Mike Murray
Page 6:	Portland Fall Open	Neil Dale, Charles Schulien Radu Roua, Mike Morris
Page 13:	Eastern Washington Open	Kevin Korsmo
Page 17:	Chess in Central Oregon	Eric Holcomb
Page 17:	Social Event Pictures	Spokane Chess Club
Page 18:	Washington Senior Championship	
Page 22:	Theoretically Speaking	Bill McGeary
Page 25:	Opening Arguments	Harley Greninger
Page 27:	And in the End	Dana Muller
Page 30:	NW Grand Prix	Murlin Varner
Page 31:	Seattle Chess Club Events	
Page 32:	Future Events	

Errata: Kaicheng Hu's name was spelled incorrectly in the game header in column three, page 15, of the December 2009 issue.

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smart minds. great memories.

Northwest Chess has been getting more mail lately.

Some of it, such as the following reminiscence from Dave Humphrey, is due to our memory-provoking content.

Fond Memories

I can't begin to express my satisfaction in reading Howard Hwa's article in the November issue of *Northwest Chess*. It brought back many memories of my tenure at Meany Middle School in the center of Seattle.

In the early 70s Bobby Fischer was taking the world by storm, and his world-wide popularity gave rise to chess within our school, as it did throughout the nation. One day, a caring counselor took a disinterested Meany 7th grader to the library to try to spark ANY interest in reading. Genre after genre were dismissed by the student, until the counselor came upon the category of World Conquerors. "How about these books?" asked the counselor. Freud would have loved the response. "Oh, I've read all those already."

The student was Yasser Seirawan.

He soon discovered chess, and within six months after learning the game, he was crowned Washington State Junior Chess Champion. The presence of this miraculous talent was enough to have dozens of students turning out for chess each day, both during lunch and after school.

Highlighting the success of Sequoia Middle School during this era, as Mr. Hwa has done, was justified. They were always looked upon by Meany as the stiffest of competitors. Yet Meany itself presented formidable teams.

The 1982 team was noteworthy. A slight slip during the State Championships for that year cost Meany the championship. During round three they drew with Bremerton, and despite winning all other rounds, they lost the championship to Curtis Jr. High, a team they never got to play during the competition.

Undaunted, Meany challenged Bremerton Jr. High to a match on the ferry run between the two cities, and won 15 of the 18 boards played while a crowd of dozens watched in interest. They then traveled to Curtis Jr. High to quietly challenge the State Champions on their own turf. Meany came away with a 5-0 victory, and then began preparing for the National Championships in Terra Haute, Indiana.

Yasser Seirawan made one more trip back to Meany in the spring of 1982. His coaching tips during a school day were most helpful in rounding out the talent of this team. Consisting of William Westwater, Mark Miller, Paolo Nardi, Steven Burnstin, and Andrew Boudreaux, these five came within ½ point of winning the National Championship.

Scholastic chess provides some of my favorite memories. Watching the growth of young chess players is tremendous, and I can't begin to express my appreciation for the way *Northwest Chess* has promoted chess for even our very youngest throughout the years.

— Dave Humphrey
Meany Coach, 1971 - 1982

Editor's Desk Ralph Dubisch



Other letters, such as this one from USCF Life Member Jeff Pennig, have been inspired by our recent Chess Journalists of America awards (best state magazine), and the subsequent coverage in *Chess Life*.

In 1968, I had a summer job as a brakeman on the Great Northern, and lived at the foot of Queen Anne Hill.

Knowing no one, the Seattle Chess Club was a haven for two months. I was welcomed to join the camaraderie.

My memory was prompted by the November *Chess Life* story on *Northwest Chess* and its awards.

I'm enclosing \$100 — use it as you see fit, and tell those still around (I even recognize some names!), "Thanks for the memories." I look forward to the magazine and access to the website.

— Jeff Pennig
Nashville, TN

P. S. Where was the club then? I remember walking from 15th Ave W.

Since I started playing tournament chess at the Seattle Chess Club in 1976 (the Bicentennial Quads!), when it was located at Immanuel Lutheran Church on Thomas Street (off Eastlake) near Lake Union, perhaps someone who was associated with the club in 1968 could provide an answer to Jeff's question.

Another category of mail that has shown a marked increase, however, is, in the world of the internet, called "spam." This is better than your average spam, which generally is trying to sell you prescription medications, pornography, or gimmicks to enlarge body parts. Ours is generally chess-based. I won't bore you by copying an entire e-mail here, but I did find one recent note rather amusing.

At first I thought it was from someone who had actually read our magazine and web site (nwchess.com), as it mentioned what a good job we were doing sharing chess information through our magazine and pdf files on-line. The sender was a Russian chess site that wanted a link. They may be a perfectly legitimate and worthy chess site, but they joined the class of spam when they proved that they hadn't bothered to do any real examination of our content, and expected us to do all the research by looking at their site, then give them the advertising benefit of a link.

Anyone who sends a form letter is selling something, and unsolicited mail that's selling something is, by definition, spam. And this was a form letter, despite the references to the fact we have a magazine and pdf files on the web.

The proof? At the end, they asked if we could connect them to any *other* Norwegian chess sites.

At least they wrote the letter in English....

— Ralph Dubisch

Silverdale Beach Hotel Classic Redux

There are at least two more pieces of business to finish up regarding the Silverdale Beach Hotel Classic tournament coverage from last issue. First, Mike Murray writes:

I see my loss to Pupols appears in NW Chess. I had my own slant on that game and was intending to send it in, but never got around to it. There's a bit more to it than the article. Attached are my notes – might possibly be of interest.

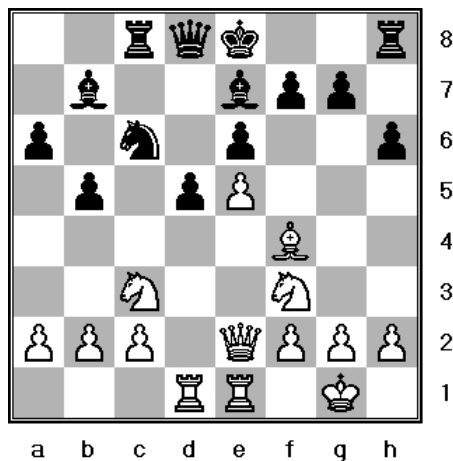
Mike Murray – Viktors Pupols Silverdale Beach Hotel, Round 4 Silverdale, October 11, 2009

As it turns out, even after a round one loss to Schill, I would have tied for first had I beaten Pupols in the last round. Unfortunately, I flubbed my chance and ended up in a multiple tie for fourth with an even score.

1. Nc3 d5 2. e4 e6 3. Nf3 Nf6 4. e5 Nfd7
5. d4 c5 6. dxc5 Nc6 7. Bf4 a6

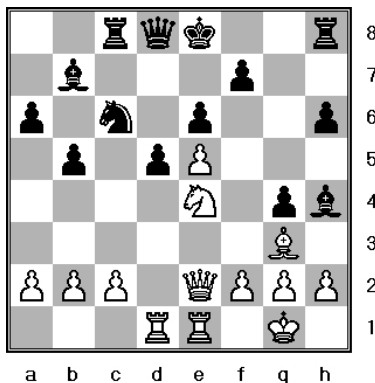
Perhaps designed to defer capture at c5 until White commits his KB.

8. Bd3 Nxc5 9. Qd2 b5 10. 0-0 Bb7 11.
Rfe1 Nxd3 12. Qxd3 Be7 13. Rad1 Rc8
14. Qe2 h6



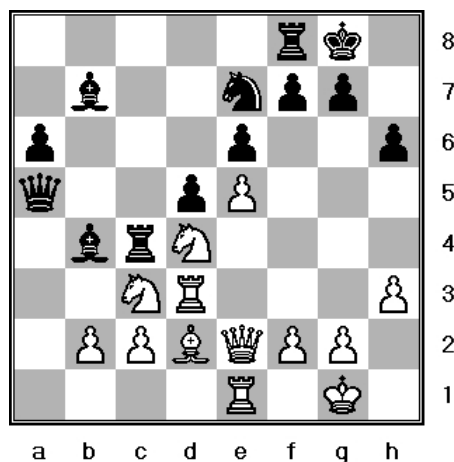
15. h3

Too cautious. I planned 15. Ne4! but then thought he'd set a clever trap to win a piece after 15. ...g5 (15. ...0-0 16. Nd6 Bxd6 17. exd6 Re8 is interesting) 16. Bg3 g4 17. Nh4 Bxh4,



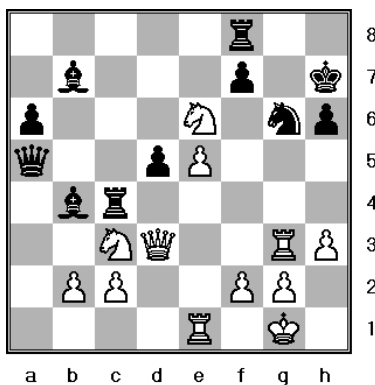
overlooking that after 18. Nd6+ Kf8 the Black QB hangs.

15. ...Qa5 16. a3 b4 17. axb4 Bxb4 18.
Rd3 Ne7 19. Bd2 0-0 20. Nd4 Rc4



21. Qh5

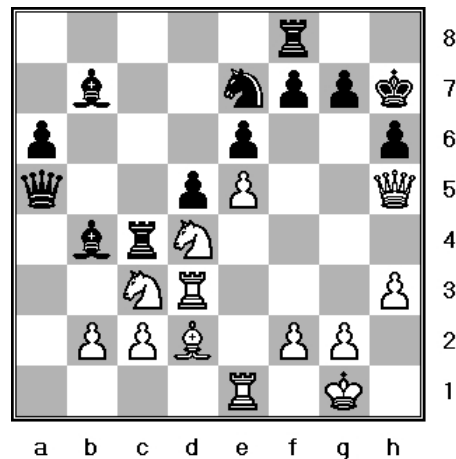
I was tempted by 21. Bxh6?! gxh6 22.
Rg3+ Kh7 23. Qd3+ Ng6 24. Nxe6,



but it seems a dead end after 24. ...Rg8
25. Nd4 Qc5 26. Rd1 Qe7 27. Rf3 Bc5 28.
Nce2.

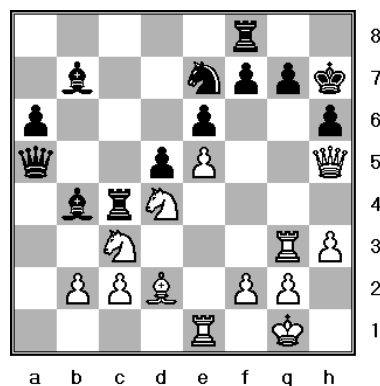
21. ...Kh7?

Among other moves, 21. ...Ng6 holds things together.



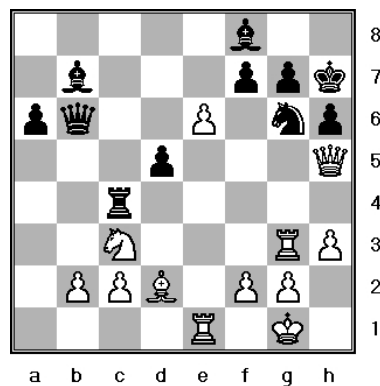
22. g4?

22. Rg3! just wins.

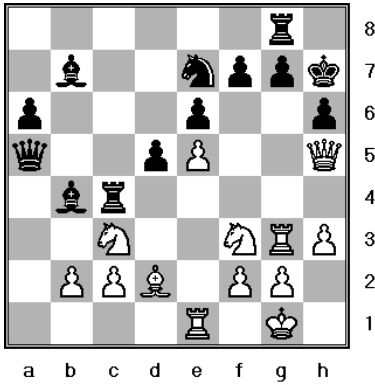


I saw that Black couldn't take the knight on d4 because of the rook sac on g7, forcing mate, but thought he could temporarily ignore the knight and reinforce his position. However, the Rybka post mortem revealed that no attempt at reinforcement actually works.

After 22. Rg3! Ng6 23. Nxe6 Qb6 24.
Nxf8+ Bxf8 25. e6 White wins.



Alternative Black tries: 22. ...Rg8 23.
Nf3!



23. ...Kh8 (23. ...Ng6 24. Ng5+ Kh8 25. Nxf7+) 24. Ng5 Rf8 25. Nxf7+ Rxf7 26. Qxf7 Nf5 27. Rg6; 22. ...Qd8 23. Rxc7+; 22. ...Rxd4 23. Rxc7+.

The move I made, trying to lever things open with g5, simply blocked out my own rook and let him lock the kingside pawns.

22. ...Ng8 23. g5 g6 24. Qe2 h5 25. Kh2?

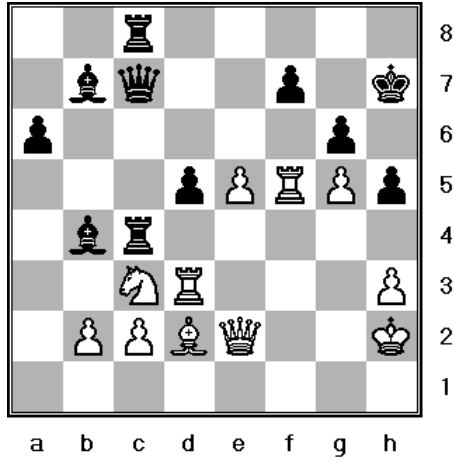
Waste of time. I should have tried to maneuver a knight to g3 to threaten to bust open the kingside.

25. ...Ne7 26. f4 Qc7 27. Rf1 Re8 28.

f5??

An impulsive time-pressure sac which doesn't work and loosens White's position irreparably. It's time to hunker down and defend with something like 28. Qd1.

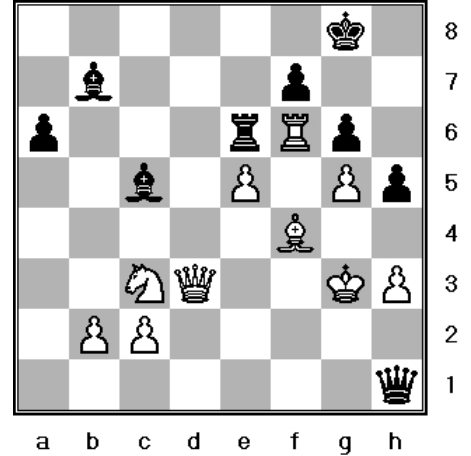
28. ...Nxf5 29. Nxf5 exf5 30. Rxf5



30. ...Kg8

Actually, White has nothing if Black simply accepts the sacrifice. 30. ...gxf5 31. Qxh5+ Kg7 32. Qh6+ Kg8 33. g6 Qxe5+.

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 was my only chance to resist, but Black has all the play in time-pressure.

38. ...Qe1+ 39. Kh2 Qf2#

0-1

Second, this photo was incorrectly captioned as Ben Seran. Sorry for the error.



Ethan Bashkansky on move. Photo credit: Richard Golden

Portland Fall Open

by
**Neil Dale,
Charles Schulien,
Mike Morris,
and Radu Roua**

Radu Roua won the Fall Open with 4 points. Steve Breckenridge, Daniel Gay & Nick Raptis shared 2nd thru 4th with 3½ each.

Brian Esler and David Munoz split the U-2000 prize at 2½ points each.

The reserve section was won by Marcus Robinson with 4½ points. Sharing 2nd & the U-1600 prize with 3½ points each were Matt Dalthorp and Devin Li. Jerrold Richards took the U-1400 honors, while Petr Donchenko the U-1200.

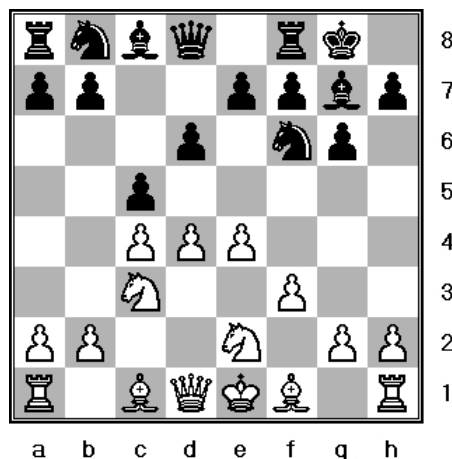
A total of 28 players participated, 17 in the Open and 11 in the reserve.

Neil Dale & Alex Grom directed.

Notes by Charles Schulien {cs} and Mike Morris {MM}:

**Alexandra Botez – Mike Morris
Portland Fall Open, Round 2
Portland, Oregon, October 17, 2009**

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. e4 d6
5. f3 0-0 6. Nge2 c5



This is an excellent way to play against Samisch Variation, transposing to Benoni pawn structure as White has slowed their development and committed to playing with a pawn on f3.

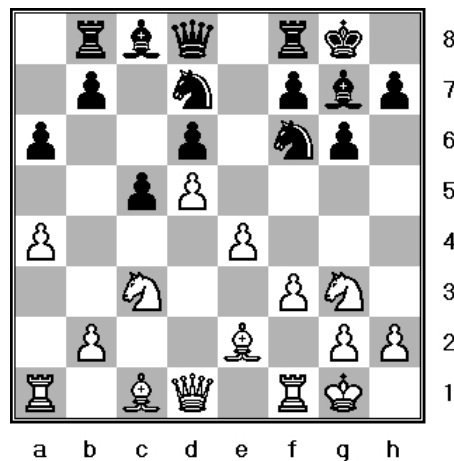
7. d5 e6 8. Ng3 exd5 9. cxd5 a6 10. a4 Nbd7

Black may also open play on the kingside, for example 10. ...h5. This may disrupt White's plans for a smooth development. As a longtime practitioner of Samisch Variation, I find this plan quite challenging.

11. Be2 Rb8

11. ...Ne8 12. 0-0 Rb8 13. Be3 Nc7 speeds up Black's counterplay.

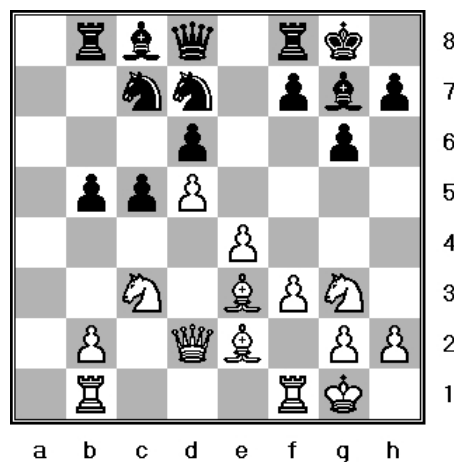
12. 0-0



12. ...b6

Unnecessary. Every tempo counts in the King's Indian Defense.

13. Be3 Ne8 14. Qd2 Nc7 15. Rab1 b5
16. axb5 axb5



17. b4! c4

White's play is very instructive, and

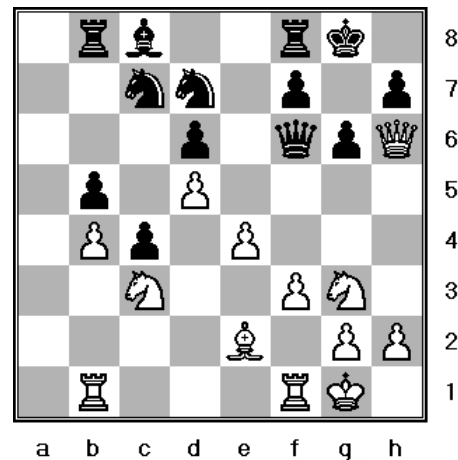
typical for the variation. She blocks the black queenside pawns, which can become targets. In the Benoni, if Black gets 'stuck', then White is usually winning.

18. Bh6

White could advance her center pawns, attacking where one is strongest. 18. f4.

18. ...Bxh6 19. Qxh6 Qf6

Exchanges eased Black's cramped position.



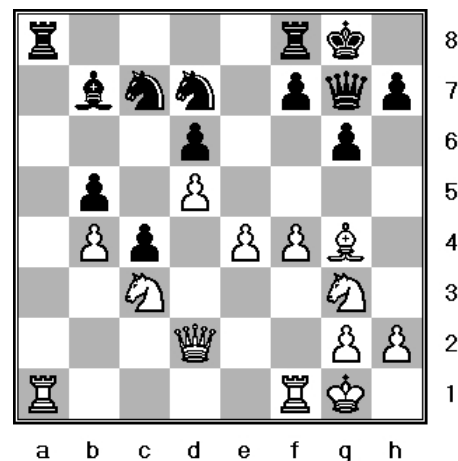
20. Qd2 Ra8 21. Ra1

White mixes plans, playing on two fronts. This lessens the force of the attack. 21. f4.

21. ...Bb7 22. f4 Qg7

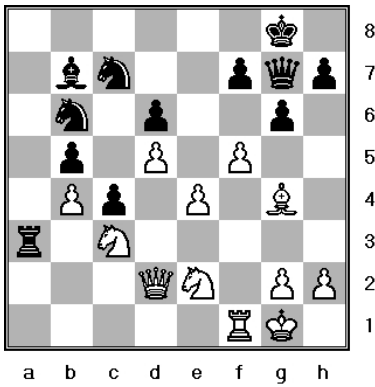
22. ...Nb6. Pressure on the d5 pawn discourages White's e4-e5 advance.

23. Bg4



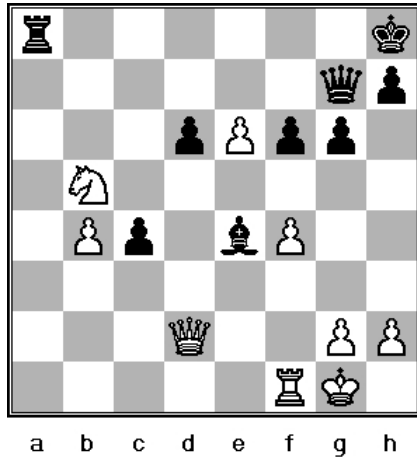
23. ...f6?

Black blocks the e5 square, but weakens e6. Better is 23. ...Nb6 24. Rxa8 Rxa8 25. f5 Ra3 (25. ...Bc8 defense is probably a better choice; or 25. ...Na4 {cs}) 26. Nge2.



White has more assertive options, such as 26. Qg5!?. (26. f6 {cs}) 26. ...Qe5 {MM}.

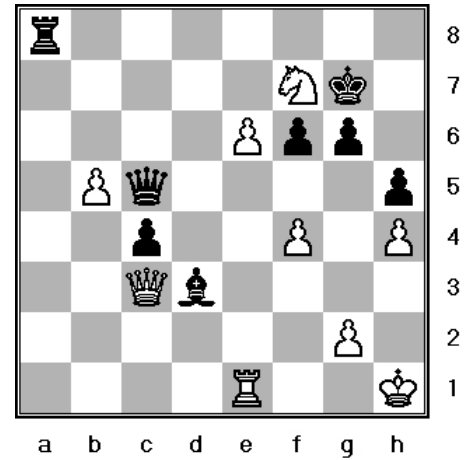
- 24. Be6+ Kh8 25. Nge2 +/- Rfe8**
 (25. ...Rfb8!?. {MM})
26. Nd4 Nf8



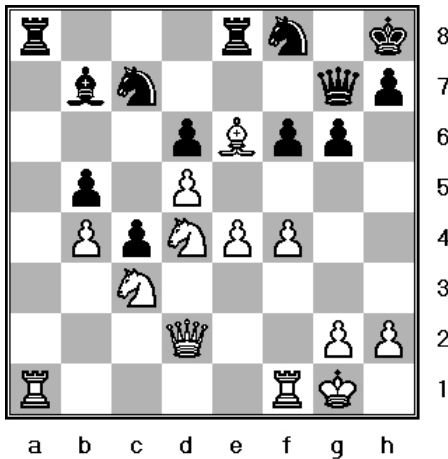
- 31. Nxd6**
 Better is 31. Qxd6.
31... Bd3 32. Nf7+ Kg8 33. Re1 Qf8

Black could seize the chance for counterplay with 35. ...Qc5+ 36. Kh1 Qf2 37. Nh6+ Kg7 38. Ng4 Qxf4 {MM}.

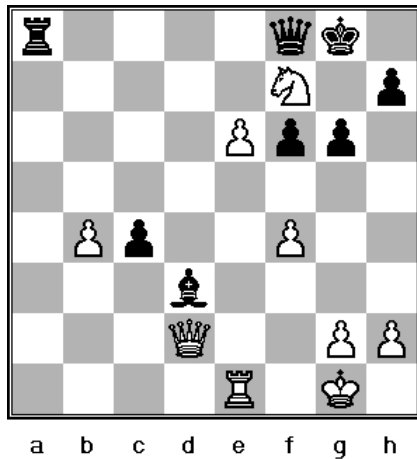
- 36. Kh1 Kg7 37. h4**
 37. h3 {MM}.
37. ...Qc5



- 38. Qc1?**
 38. Ng5 is much more active.
38. ...Qxb5?
 38. ...Bf5 blocks the threat and attacks the e-pawn.
39. Nd6
 39. f5! opens the diagonal for White's queen to attack, winning quickly.
39. ...Qd5 40. e7 Ra2
 40. ...Qxd6 41. e8=Q Rxe8 42. Rxe8 allows Black to resist, though White is winning.



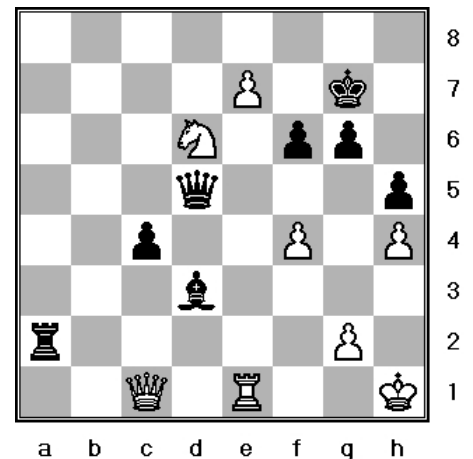
- 27. Rxa8**
 27. f5! secures the e6 bishop, preventing Black's counterplay.



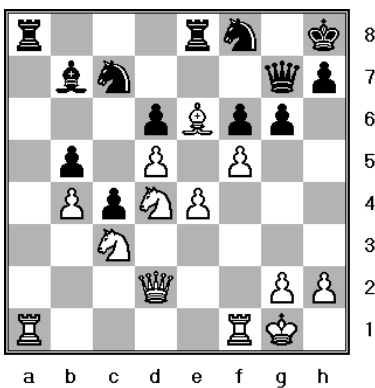
- 34. Qc3?!**
 Stronger is 34. f5! Bxf5? 35. Nh6+.
34. ...Qe7

Black managed to set up a reasonable defense.

- 35. b5?!**

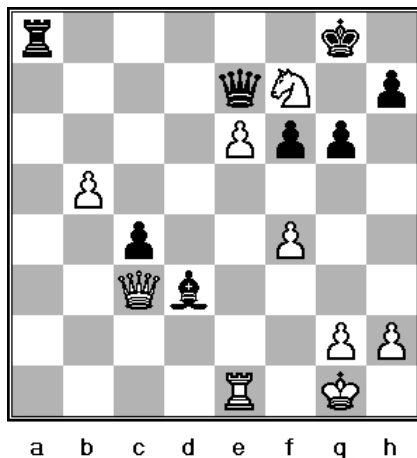


- 41. e8=N+**
 First 41. Rg1 and Black can do nothing about the pawn on e7. 41. ...Be4 42. e8=N+ Kh8 (42... Kf8 43. Nxe4 Qxe4 44. Nd6 makes no difference.) 43. Nxe4 Qxe4 44. Nd6! is a completely different story from the game.



This is an important lesson for young players, who often rush to force a position and allow the opponent unnecessary chances. Having said that, White's choice in the game was perfectly valid, but it required more precise moves to succeed.

- 27. ...Rxa8 28. Nxb5 Nfxe6 29. Nxe6 Nxe6 30. dxe6 Bxe4**

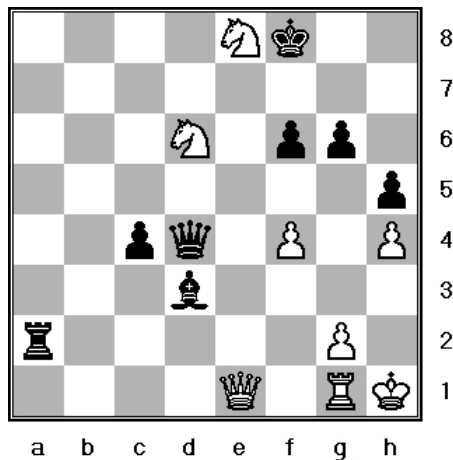


- 35. ...h5?**

41. ...Kf8

41... Kh8! 42. Rg1 Qd4 and White's 'extra' knight is not of use. 43. Nf7+ Kh7 44. Nfd6 Kh8, = {MM}.

42. Rg1 Qd4 43. Qe1



43. ...Qxf4

43. ...Re2 44. Qg3 (but 44. Qb4! and White plays for mate) 44. ...c3 and White is in trouble despite being a piece up {MM}.

44. Nc7! Qxd6 45. Qe8+ Kg7 46. Ne6+ Kh7 47. Qf7+

1-0

Notes by Charles Schulien {cs} and Radu Roua

Steven Breckenridge – Radu Roua Portland Fall Open, Round 5 Portland, Oregon, October 18, 2009

The last round of Fall Open 2009. Since I was half of point behind I decided to play as sharp as my opponent will allow me.

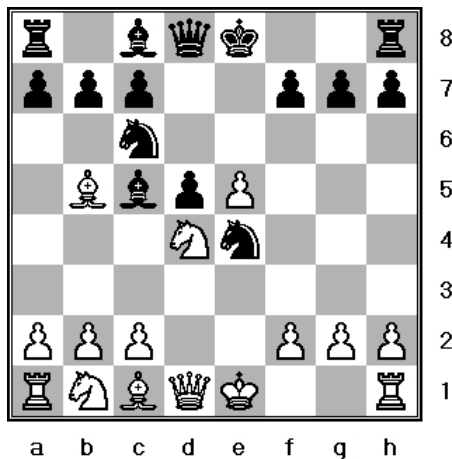
1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4

3. Bb5. Steven more often starts with Ruy Lopez. Many of the variations are less sharp, and can be played according to general principles, without getting into trouble. Others require a knowledge of exact moves though: see the game Morris – Heywood for example!

3. ...exd4 4. Bc4!?

White essays the Scotch Gambit, which soon transposes to Two Knights Defense. One should only play sharp systems after getting familiar with typical tactics and key variations in order to be successful. In this case, one player had studied and practiced this variation, and the other had much less experience. The result was already determined in the opening.

4. ...Nf6 5. e5 d5 6. Bb5 Ne4 7. Nxd4 Bc5



8. 0-0

Even if it looks so natural, maybe not the best continuation. 8. Be3 Bd7 9. Bxc6 bxc6 10. 0-0 (10. Nd2 right away is more challenging, forcing Black to submit to exchanges, or take big chances.) 10. ...0-0 11. f3 Ng5 12. f4 Ne4 13. Nd2 Nxd2 14. Qxd2 f6 15. Rfe1 fxe5 16. fxe5 Qe7 17. e6 Be8 18. c3 h6 19. Rf1 Rxf1+ 20. Rxf1 Bg6 21. Nxc6 Qxe6 22. Bxc5 Qxc6 23. Bd4 a5 24. Qf4, 1/2-1/2, Vladimir Podinic (2366) – L Vajda (2489), Bucharest ROM 2001.

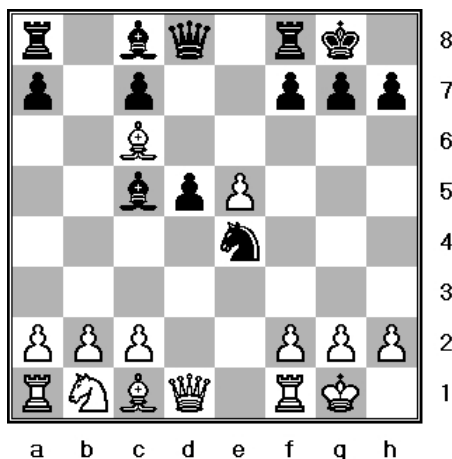
8. ...0-0!

I prepared this line in Feb. 2008 for my game with Landon Brownell in Oregon Championship, but only now I had the chance to play it.

9. Nxc6

9. Bxc6 bxc6 10. Nxc6 also leads to very interesting complications, where again exact knowledge and preparation are very important. Safer is 10. Be3 Qe8 11. f3 Nd6, but here Black is doing very well without sacrificing anything.

9. ...bxc6 10. Bxc6



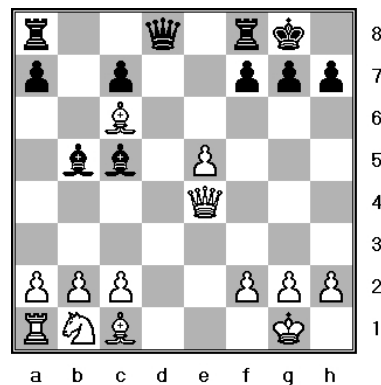
10. ...Ba6!

Weaker is 10. ...Qh4?! 11. Be3 Bxe3 12.

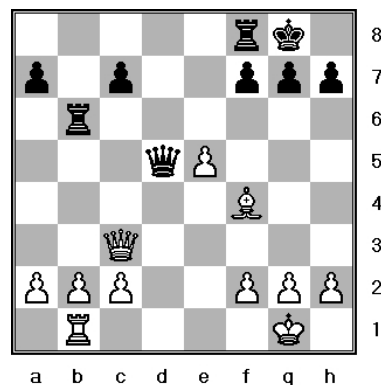
fxe3 Qg5 13. Bxa8 Be6 14. Bxd5 Qxe3+ 15. Kh1 Bxd5 16. Qf3 +/-, and Black lacks a good followup.

11. Be3?!

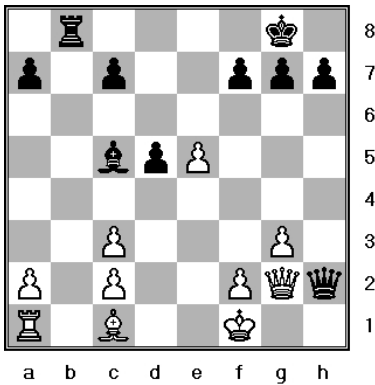
The lines are very sharp, as you may see from the following variations: 11. Qxd5 Bxf1! 12. Qxe4 (12. Qxd8? Raxd8 13. Kxf1 Rd1+ 14. Ke2 Rxc1 15. Bxe4 Rd8; 12. Bxa8 Bc4 13. Qxd8 Bxf2+ 14. Kh1 Rxd8 15. Nc3 Nxc3 -+) 12... Bb5!



This is a key idea, playing for back rank mate. At the same time Black attacks the white bishop {cs}. 13. Nc3 (13. Bxb5? Qd1+ 14. Bf1 Qxc1 -+) 13... Bxc6 14. Qxc6 Bd4 15. Bf4 Rb8 16. Rb1 Rb6 17. Qc4 Bxc3 18. Qxc3 Qd5.

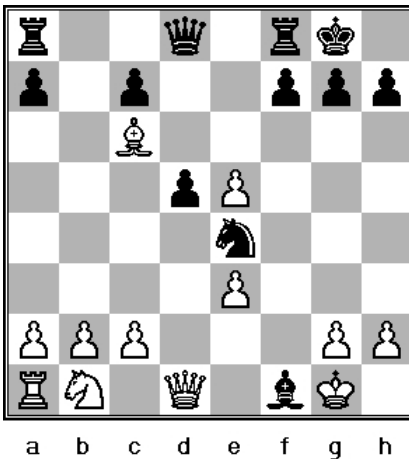


11. Bxa8?! Bxf1 12. Kxf1 (worse are 12. Bc6? Qh4 or 12. Bxd5? Bc4 -+) 12. ...Qh4 13. Qf3 (13. Be3? Bxe3 14. Qf3 Bd4 15. Bxd5 Ng5 16. Qf5 Bxb2 -+; 13. g3? Qh3+ 14. Ke2 Qh5+ 15. f3 Qxh2+ 16. Kd3 Nf2+) 13. ...Rxa8 14. Nc3 Nxc3 15. bxc3 Qxh2 16. g3 (16. Qxd5 Re8 -/+ 17. Qxc5? (17. Bb2 Ba3! 18. e6 fxe6 19. Qd7 Rb8 20. Bxa3 Qh1+ 21. Ke2 Qxa1 22. Qxc7 Qb1 -/+) 17... Rxe5 -+) 16... Rb8 17. Qg2 (17. Be3? Bxe3 18. fxe3 c6 -+)



17... Qxg2+ 18. Kxg2 Kf8 19. Bg5 Rb2 -/+.

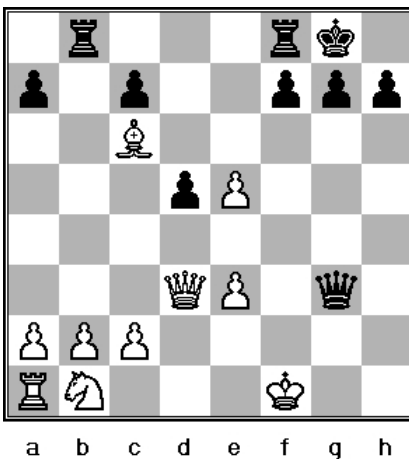
11. ...Bxe3 12. fxe3 Bxf1



13. Qxf1

White does no better by removing the rook: 13. Bxa8 Qg5 14. Kxf1 (14. Qxf1? Qxe3+ 15. Kh1 Nf2+ 16. Kgl Ng4+ 17. Kh1 Qxe5! -+) 14. ...Qxe3 15. Qel Qf4+ 16. Kgl Rxa8 -/+.

13. ...Rb8 14. Qd3 Qh4! 15. g3 Nxb3 16. hxg3 Qxg3+ 17. Kf1



Black's queen is very strong on the open board, especially when the white king is so

exposed. Various geometric motifs present themselves, but getting to them is easier for a computer to find in some cases than a human!

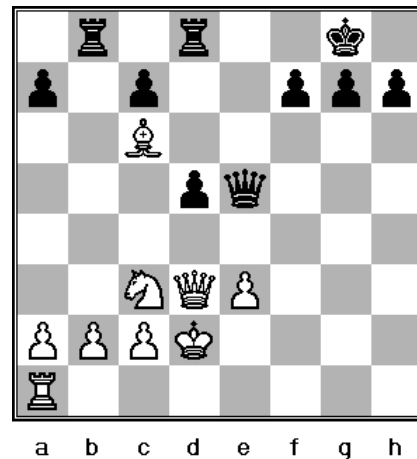
17. ...Qf3+

17. ...Qxe5! is very strong, creating multiple threats along the a1-h8 diagonal. White's bishop is hanging to a fork on f6, and ...Qxb2 is also a problem. 18. Qc3 Qf5+ 19. Ke1 d4! -+ decisively opens a central file.

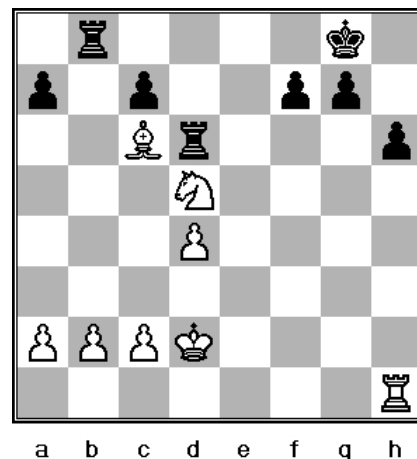
18. Ke1 Qg3+

Much better was 18. ...Qh1+! 19. Qf1 (19. Kf2 Rxb2 20. Bxd5 Qh2+ 21. Bg2 Qh4+ 22. Ke2 Rd8 -+) 19. ...Qh6 -+ forking the e3 pawn and c6 bishop.

19. Kd2 Qxe5 20. Nc3 Rfd8



21. Nxd5 Rd6 22. Rh1 h6 23. Qd4 Qxd4+ 24. exd4

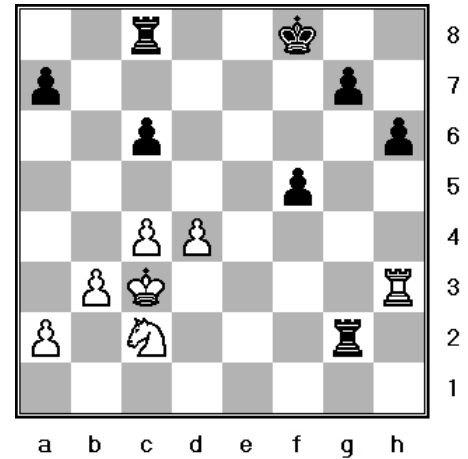


24. ...Kf8! -+

Black avoids the knight fork, and White is left with unsupported pieces deep in his opponent's territory. Black's passed pawns provide a decisive endgame advantage. He just needs to avoid a blockade of the pawns,

or tactical opportunities for the white pieces. (24. ...Rxc6?? 25. Ne7+.)

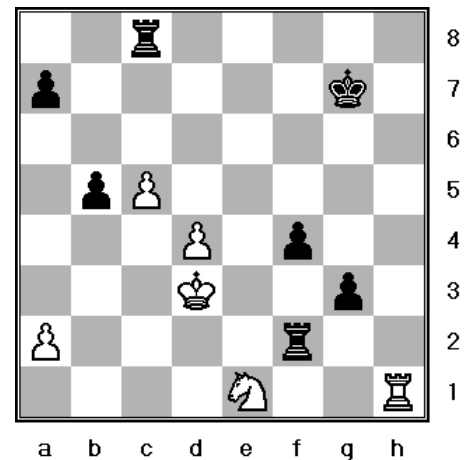
25. c4 Rxc6 26. Kc3 Rg6 27. Rh3 Rg2 28. b3 c6 29. Nb4 Rc8 30. Nc2 f5



31. b4

No better is 31. Ne3 Rf2 32. Rh5 g6 33. Rxh6 Kg7 34. Rh1 Re8 -+.

31. ...f4 32. Rh4 g5 33. Rxh6 Kg7 34. Rh1 g4 35. Kd3 g3 36. Ne1 Rf2 37. b5 cxb5 38. c5



38. ...g2

More accurate is 38. ...Re8!, involving both rooks in the game. Black combines mate threats with promotion ideas. 39. Nc2 (39. c6 Re3#; 39. d5 Re3+ 40. Kd4 Rd2+ 41. Nd3 Rxd3#) 39. ...Ree2 40. c6 (40. Nb4 Re3#) 40... Rxc2.

39. Rg1 f3 40. Nxf3

40. Ke3 also loses by force after 40. ...Rf1 41. Nxf3 Re8+ 42. Kf4 Rf8+ 43. Ke5 Rg1 44. Nxf3 Rf1 -+.

40. ...Rxf3+ 41. Ke4 Rf2 42. Kd5 Rd8+ 0-1

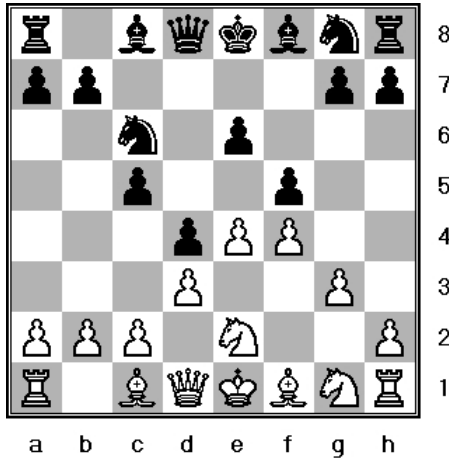
**Radu Roua – Nick Raptis
Portland Fall Open, Round 4
Portland, Oregon, October 18, 2009**

This game was played Sunday morning on the 4th round. We're both coming after long games played Saturday night and finished around midnight...

1. Nc3 d5 2. e4 e6 3. g3

Always looking to surprise my opponents... even though at times I get surprised too.

3. ...d4 4. Nce2 c5 5. d3 Nc6 6. f4 f5

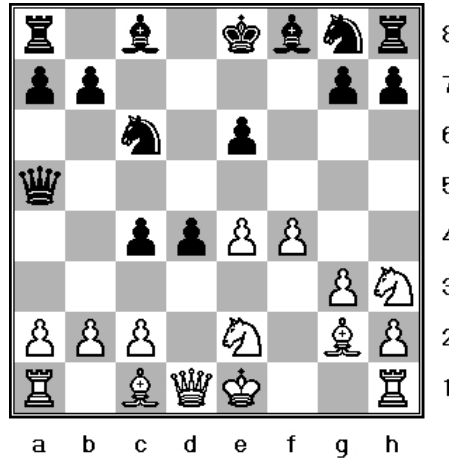


A very interesting idea which opens the fight for the central squares. 6. ...e5 7. Nf3 transposes to a reversed King's Indian Defense.

7. Bg2 fxe4 8. dxe4!?

8. Bxe4 Bd7 (or 8. ...Nf6 9. Bxc6+ bxc6 10. Nf3 with more imbalances but no clear advantage) 9. Bg2 Nf6 10. Nf3. Both players have weak points on the e-file, so the chances are mutual.

8. ...c4! 9. Nh3 Qa5+



10. Bd2

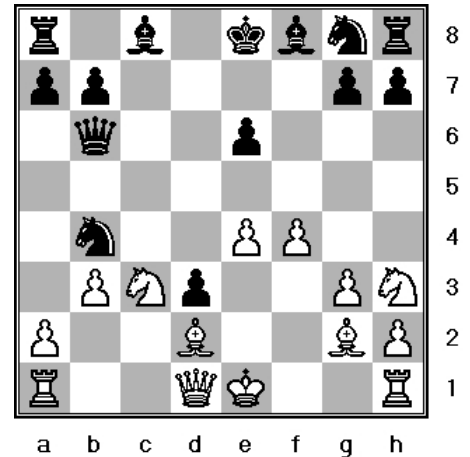
10. Qd2 looks silly, but in fact it allows White to castle: 10. ...Bb4 11. c3 dxc3 12. bxc3 Bc5 13. Nf2 Qb6 14. 0-0. Black has some advantage, but White may be able to unwind his pieces after Bf3 and Kg2.

10. ...Qb6 11. b3 d3!?

11. ...c3 is more secure.

12. cxd3 cxd3 13. Nc3 Nb4

13. ...Nd4 14. Qh5+ Kd8 15. Na4 Nc2+ 16. Kf1 Qa6 17. Rd1 +=.



14. Kf1

White should fight for the initiative with 14. Qh5+! Kd8 15. Rd1 (or 15. Rc1) 15. ...Nf6 (15. ...Bd7 covering the d-file may be better.) 16. Qf3 e5 17. Nf2 +/-.

14. ...Bd7 15. Qf3

White could still choose 15. Qh5+!? Kd8 (15. ...g6?? 16. Qe5 +-) 16. Rc1 as on the last move. Black gains the better chances in the game.

15. ...Nf6 16. Nf2 Rd8 17. Rb1

Or 17. Rd1 Bc5 +=.

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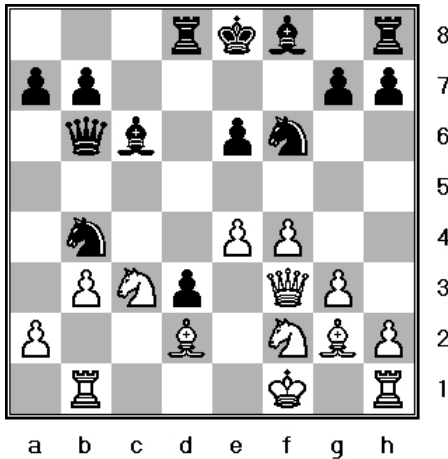
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17. ...Bc6



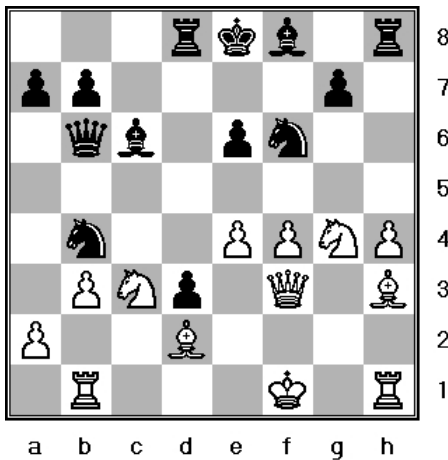
18. g4 h6?!

18. ...Nd7 19. g5 Nc5 as in Sicilian Defenses, looks better. But here White has counterplay with 20. Qg4 Qa6 21. f5.

19. h4 h5 20. Bh3?!

Better is 20. g5! Ng4! (After the natural 20. ...Nd7 21. Qh3 Ke7 22. Nd5+! exd5 23. Bxb4+ Qxb4 24. exd5 is very dangerous for Black's king.) 21. Nxg4 hxg4 22. Qxg4 Bd7. Black is forced back on the defensive, but he keeps chances based on the strong d3 pawn. Both kings are exposed, and neither side can fully coordinate their forces.

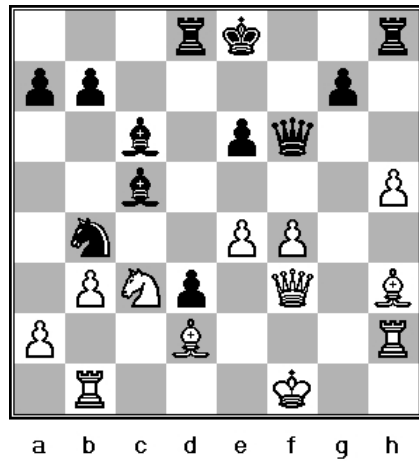
20. ...hxg4 21. Nxg4



21. ...Qd4

This is a powerful centralization.

22. Nxf6+ Qxf6 23. h5 Bc5 24. Rh2



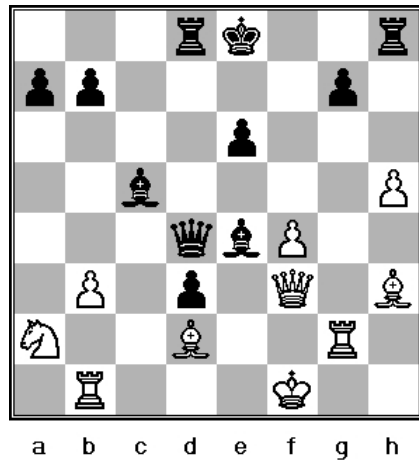
24. ...Qd4

24. ...Nc2! adds the knight to the attack, and White can hardly keep up a good defense. 25. Rg2 Nd4 26. Qg4 Bb4 and Black will soon reap rewards. For example, 27. Rd1 Bxc3 28. Bxc3 Bxe4.

25. Rg2 Nxa2!?

Black goes for a combination, which reduces the number of pieces without clarifying his advantage. 25. ...Rd6 is more solid. Or again, just use the knight without the sacrifice: 25. ...Nc2.

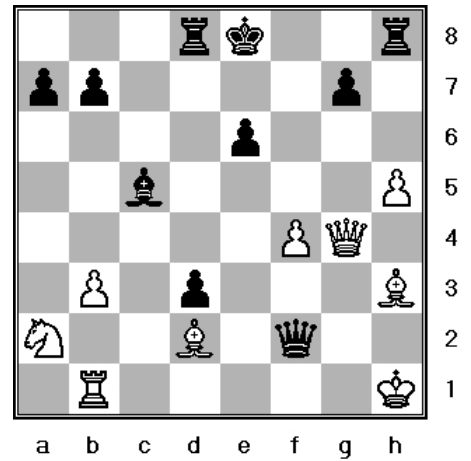
26. Nxa2 Bxe4



27. Qg4?

Moving the queen just one square closer is much safer; after 27. Qg3!? Bxg2+ 28. Kxg2 the f2 square is guarded. 28. ...Qe4+ (28... Rxh5?? 29. Qg6+) 29. Qf3 Qe2+ 30. Qxe2 dxe2 31. Be1 Rd1 32. Nc3 and White hangs on.

27. ...Bxg2+ 28. Kxg2 Qf2+ 29. Kh1



29. ...Qxd2??

The last error of this game full of action in which both players had their chances... 29 ...Rh6! 30. Qg2 Qh4! 31. Qg4 Rxh5 32. Qxh4 Rxh4 33. Kg2 Bd6 34. Rf1 Rc8 35. Nb4 Bxb4 36. Bxb4 Kf7. All that we can say is that Black's chances are higher, but the outcome is not yet determined. I personally have held positions with two minor pieces versus rook plus multiple pawns – it is not so easy to break through!

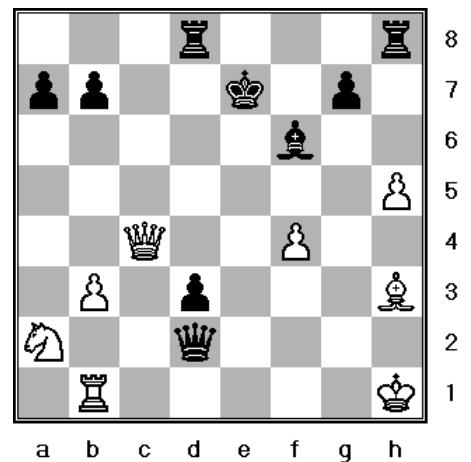
30. Qxe6+

Now the game will end in repetition of moves.

30. ...Be7 31. Qg6+

31. Re1!? Qxe1+ 32. Qxe1 Rxh5 33. Kg2 d2 34. Qd1 Rh4 35. Nc3 Rd3 36. Bf5 Rxc3 37. Qxd2 Rc7 38. Qd4 =.

31. ...Kf8 32. Qf5+ Bf6 33. Qc5+ Kf7 34. Qc4+ Ke7



35. Qc5+

35. Qc7+?? Ke8 -+.

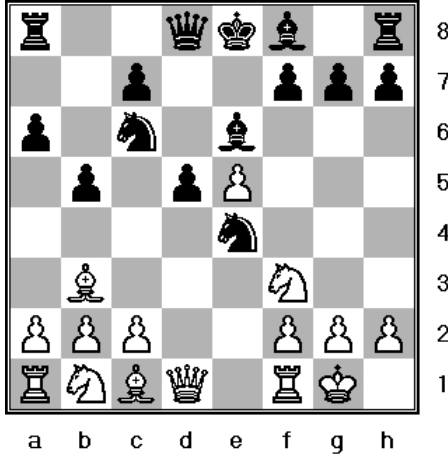
35. ...Ke8 36. Qb5+ Ke7 37. Qc5+

1/2-1/2

Notes by Charles Schulien.

Mike Morris – Bill Heywood
Portland Fall Open, Round 5
Portland, Oregon, October 18, 2009

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Ba4
Nf6 5. 0-0 Nxe4 6. d4 b5 7. Bb3 d5 8. dxe5
Be6

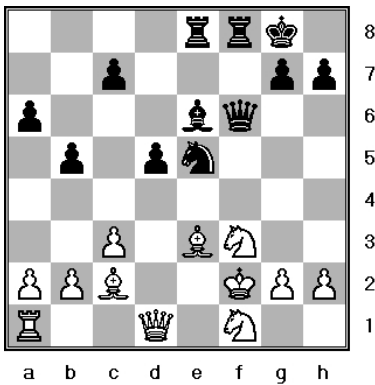


9. c3

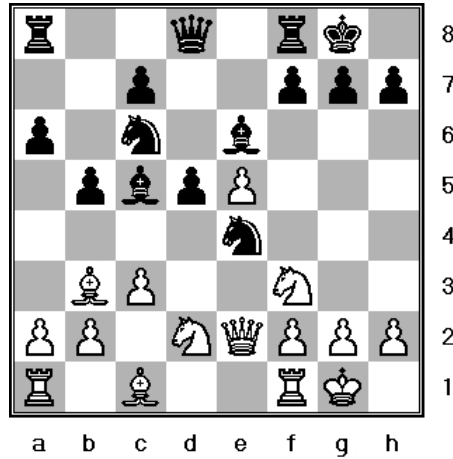
9. Nbd2 became the main line about 20 years ago. It certainly restricts Black's options, precluding such entertaining lines as seen in this game.

9. ...Bc5 10. Nbd2 0-0 11. Qe2

The main move is 11. Bc2, and now 11. ... Nxf2 12. Rxf2 f6 13. exf6 Bxf2+ 14. Kxf2 Qxf6 15. Nf1 Ne5 16. Be3 Qxf6 17. Nf1 Ne5 16. Be3 Rae8 leads to the well known Dillworth attack, where both sides have their chances.



Bill tried the same plan in the game, despite White's queen standing on e2.



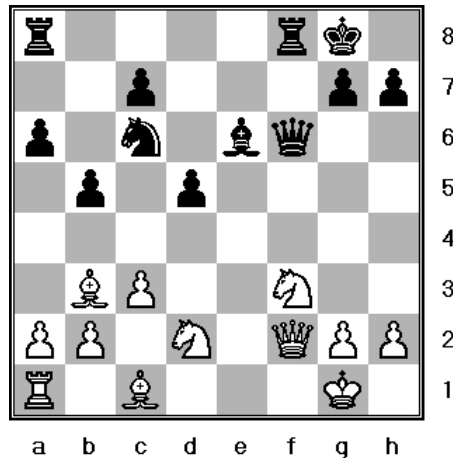
11. ...Nxf2!?

More reliable is 11. ...Bf5.

12. Rxf2 f6 13. exf6 Bxf2+?

One imprecise move allows White to escape the pins before Black can concentrate his forces on the kingside. The only game of note to reach this position continued 13. ...Qxf6 14. Nf1 Bxf2+ 15. Qxf2 Ne5 16. Be3 (16. N1d2!? may be an improvement.) 16. ...Nxf3+ 17. Qxf3 Qxf3 18. gxf3 Rxf3, with an eventual draw, Ljubojevic – Kortchnoi, 1987.

14. Qxf2 Qxf6



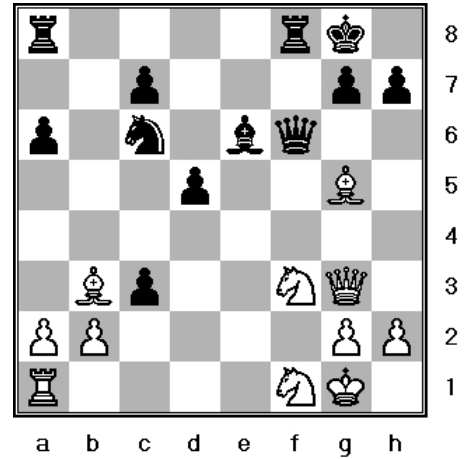
15. Qg3

White could already fight for the initiative with 15. Qc5.

15. ...b4

15. ...Rae8 is better. Black has no chance without using all of his pieces.

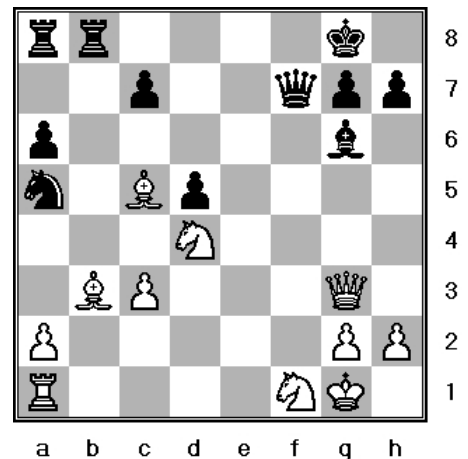
16. Nf1!? bxc3 17. Bg5



17. ...Qf7

17. ...Nd4!? is a tactical possibility.

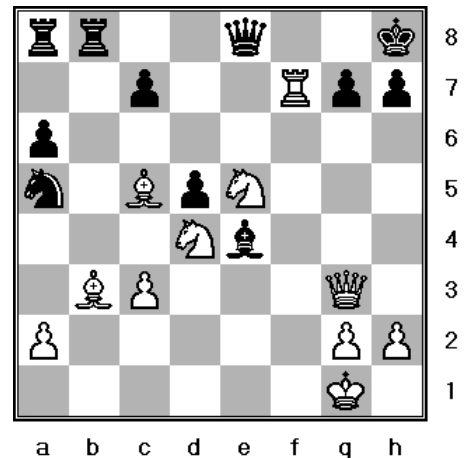
18. bxc3 +/- Na5 19. Be3 Bf5 20. Bc5 Rfb8 21. Nd4 Bg6



22. Ne3 Be4 23. Rf1

White's pieces dominate, and on a very open board, the end is not far off.

23. ...Qd7 24. Ng4 Kh8 25. Ne5 Qe8 26. Rf7



1-0

Eastern Washington Open

by
Kevin
Korsmo



John Julian takes on Steve Merwin on board one. Photo credit: Elston L. Cloy II

John Julian scored a perfect 5.0 in winning the 2009 Eastern Washington Open held at Gonzaga University October 3-4, 2009. Elston Cloy was second with 4.5. This year's event drew 38 players, the largest showing in six years.

Ten players were rated 1800 or higher. The higher seeds generally held their position the first day, although the first three rounds saw at least one upset. The first day's action ended late Saturday night with most of the top boards playing until the end of the time control. Top seed Steve Merwin was held to a draw on board one by Spokane veteran David Rowles. John Julian defeated Dave Meliti, a former Spokane player who now resides in Colorado Springs. Cameron Mitchell and Elston Cloy drew on board three in another game that went into its final minutes on the clock. The results left Julian, Mark Havrilla, and Avinaya Subedi with the only perfect scores.

Round four saw Havrilla taking on Julian on board one. Julian took the game while Merwin dropped Subedi from the ranks of the undefeated to set up a final round encounter between the top two seeds. Meanwhile, both Cloy and Leslie won their games, leaving them one-half point behind Julian and playing down against Subedi and Havrilla, respectively, in the final round.

Round four also saw the biggest upset of the event. Helena, Montana's William Spencer, rated a meager 604 that reflects his results, but not his playing strength, scored a victory over a 1493 player. The 889 point upset bettered the next two biggest upsets added together! Bill donated his \$50 upset prize to the Gary Younker Foundation, which promotes chess in the Inland Empire region.

Both players on board one vowed to go for the kill in their pre-game remarks, and the ensuing battle confirmed that intent. Julian steered the game into a reversed French with a tempo in hand, won a pawn, and then applied more pressure. Merwin's counter-attack didn't catch up in time, and Julian ultimately forced a resignation. Meanwhile, the encounters on boards two, three, and four labored on until late in the time controls. Cloy eventually defeated Subedi in a time scramble that saw both players with less than ten seconds on the clock at the conclusion. Leslie and Havrilla battled to a draw, so Cloy stood alone in second place.

Leslie claimed first place in Class A, with Havrilla and Rowles sharing the second place class prize. The Class B prize was won by Ryan Ackerman (4.0), while the second class prize was shared by Kevin Baker, Ed McLaughlin, and Subedi. The Class C prizes were split by Chris Copeland and Loyd Willaford. They each scored 3.5. The Class D and under prizes were shared by two unrated newcomers playing their first USCF event. EWU student Dallas Filan and Coeur d'Alene High School student Kairav Joshi each scored 2.5 to win the section. The tourney's \$600 guaranteed prize was increased to \$700 in response to the large turnout of Class A players.

A nice contingent of Montana players appeared for the event, and they can expect Spokane players to return the favor next month when the annual Turkey Open is held in Missoula.

{In fact half a dozen Washingtonians did attend the 30-player Turkey Open in Missoula, though at least one of them was from the western half of the state. John Julian and Mike Murray shared first place there with Montanan expert Gregory Nowak, at 4/5. – editor}

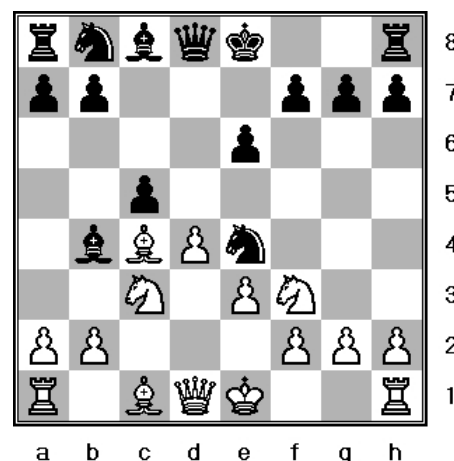
Comments by Loyd Willaford and *{the editor}*.

Loyd Willaford – David Meliti Eastern Washington Open, Round 5 Spokane, October 4, 2009

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. Nf3

This is not the book move order. Normal moves here are a3, e3, or Qc2. We do transpose into a main line, but I think the different move order flustered my opponent a bit.

4. ...c5 5. e3 d5 6. Bd3 dxc4 7. Bxc4 Ne4?!



This the first new move according to my database. It seems a bit premature, and it neglects development. ...Nc6 or ...0-0 is better.

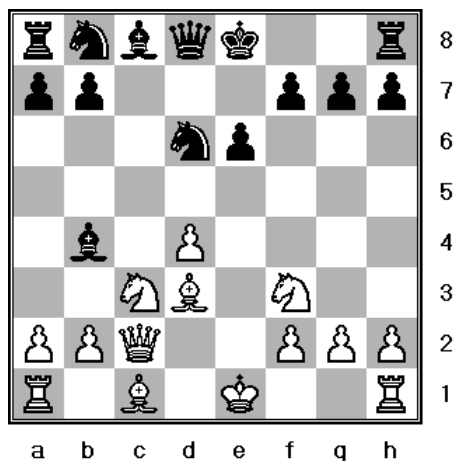
8. Qc2 Nd6 9. Bd3 cxd4

I was a little concerned that c4 would lead to a queenside pawn majority and a cramped game until I saw 9. ...c4 10. Bxh7 g6 11. Bxg6 fxd6 12. Qxg6+, which looks decent for White.

{The piece sacrifice is fine, or White could retreat with 10. Be2 and plan to demonstrate that the central pawn majority is more important at this stage of the game than the queenside majority.}

10. exd4

I don't mind the isolated pawn since I get my dark-square bishop into game as compensation.

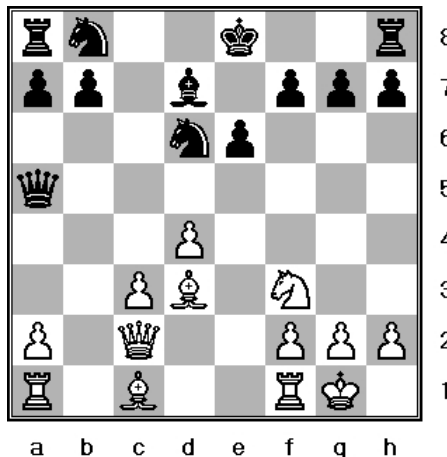


10. ...Qa5?!

This move and the prior Knight sortie are the source of Black's troubles to come. He has neglected his development, and the queen soon becomes a target.

{Yep, Black is already in trouble. He could try 10. ...h6 11. 0-0 0-0, but his position doesn't inspire confidence.}

11. 0-0 Bxc3 12. bxc3 Bd7



13. Bf4!

Completing development with tempo by hitting the loose knight. I wanted to encourage the knight to go to b5, since I was worried about ...Bb5 and trading off my light square bishop.

13. ...Nb5 14. Rfe1!?

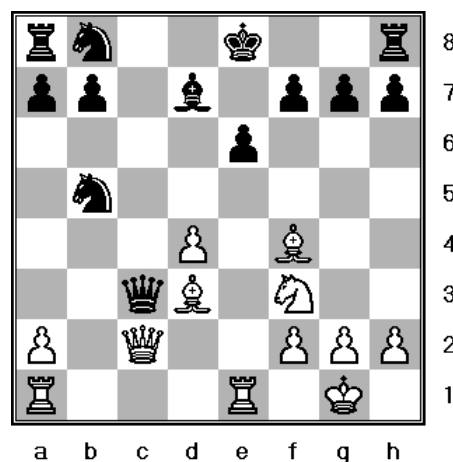
I was tempted to give this move a !, but truth be told I totally didn't see ...Qxc3 wins the pawn. Of course ...Nxc3 loses to the pin Bd2 and this was as far as I looked. It turns out my move is the start of decent double

pawn sac. But normally, one would like know this before making such a move!

Fortunately, my better development allowed me to escape this moment of chess blindness.

{Much stronger is 14. c4. White is winning after 14. ...Na3(?) 15. Qb3 (hits b7), when 15. ...Bc6 16. d5! exd5 17. Rfe1+ is simply a disaster for Black. Not much better is 15. ...b5 16. cxb5 Nxb5 17. Bxb8 Rxb8 18. a4 Qc3 19. Qb1, which cleanly wins a piece. Black's other knight retreat, 14. ...Nc7, leaves White with total board control, and allows 15. Bxh7 (or almost anything else!) under even more favorable circumstances than before.}

14. ...Qxc3



15. Qe2

{15. Qb1! a6 16. d5! (or 16. a4!) might justify the unintentional pawn sacrifice. The idea is to blast open lines for the better developed pieces, and target some of that hanging fruit on the other side of the board.}

15. ...Nxd4

Practically forced due to the double attack on the knight which has no really good squares. I suppose protecting with a6 is possible, but Black decides to gamble and take the second pawn.

16. Nxd4 Qxd4 17. Be5 Qd5

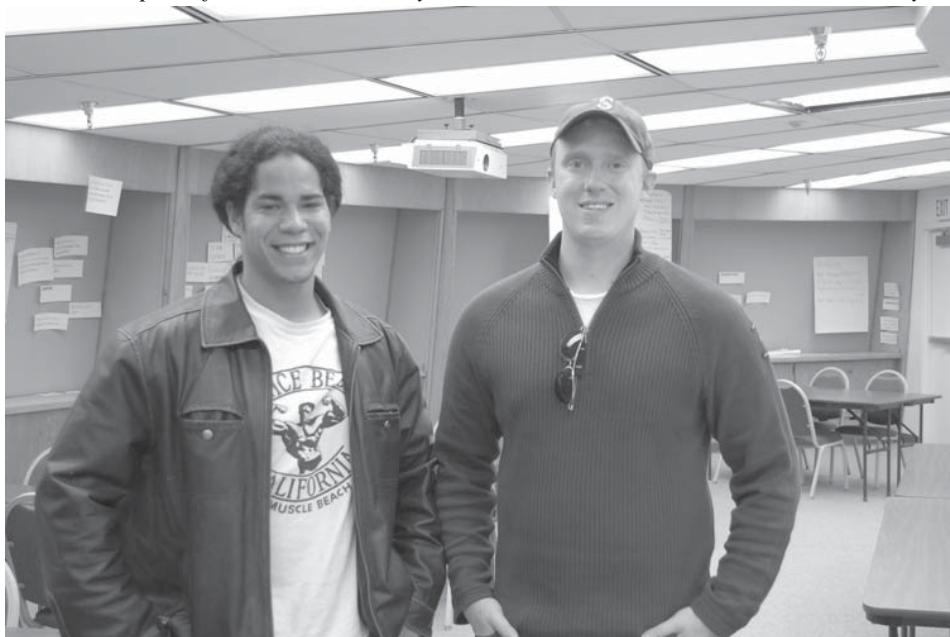
17. ...Qh4 might have been better since it allows the Queen to defend his kingside, dark squares, but Black wanted to set up some counterplay.

18. Bc4!

I was proud of this move and the following move. There is no reason to rush to take the g-pawn and allow Black counterplay along that file. In addition to gaining a tempo by hitting the queen, the



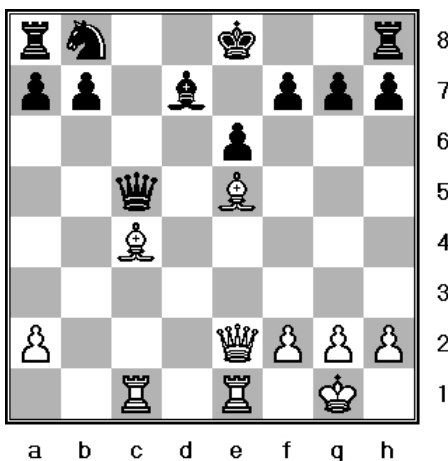
Professor Bill McBroom (left) vs Chris Copeland (right). Photo credit: Elston L. Cloy II



bishop protects White's only weakness, the a-pawn, and it has visions of sac'ing on e6. David told me after the game he was hoping for Bxg7 because he was planning on ...0-0 and a kingside attack

It turns out 18. Bxg7 Rg8 19. Be4 Qg5 20. Bxb7 Bc6 21. Bxc6+ Nxc6 22. Qa6 is not at all clear.

18. ...Qc5 19. Rac1



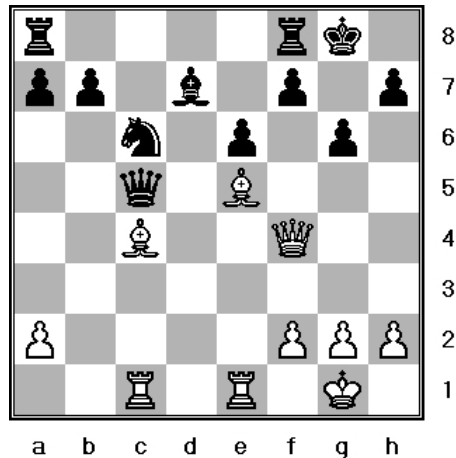
Fritz calls this position almost dead even. But as Larry Christiansen likes to say in his show on ICC, **Attacking Chess**, "I'll take White."

{If a computer calls a position "even" when you are down two pawns, you are probably winning. It's very hard for positional compensation to add up to that much in computer evaluations.}

19. ...0-0 20. Qg4 g6 21. Qf4 Nc6!

My opponent thumped this move down.

It's the only move which keeps Black from getting mated or losing a crushing amount of material. In another admission of chess blindness, I didn't consider this obvious move. I was now really concerned that I might just end being two pawns down with minimal to no compensation. Fortunately, the position had some other possibilities.



22. Bxe6!

Fritz likes 22. Bf1 Qb4 23. Re4 Qa5 24. Rxc6 f5 25. Ra4 Qxa4 26. Qxa4 Bxc6 27. Qf4, but I prefer the position reached in the game. Black-square bishop moves allow Black to offer a trade of Queens and defend, i.e., 22. Ba1 Qf5 23. Qh6 e5.

22. ...fxe6 23. Rxc5 Rxf4 24. Bxf4 Rf8 25. Bh6 Rf5 26. Rxf5?!

It might have been better to keep both rooks on for an easier ending. I'm sure I made a few other mistakes in this ending as

well.

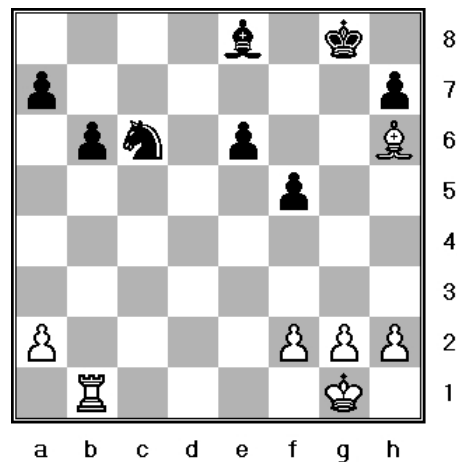
26. ...gxf5

26. ...exf5 might have been a little more solid.

27. Rd1

{27. Re3 planning 28. Rg3 looks strong. Getting a passed pawn improves White's winning chances dramatically.}

27. ...Be8 28. Rb1 b6



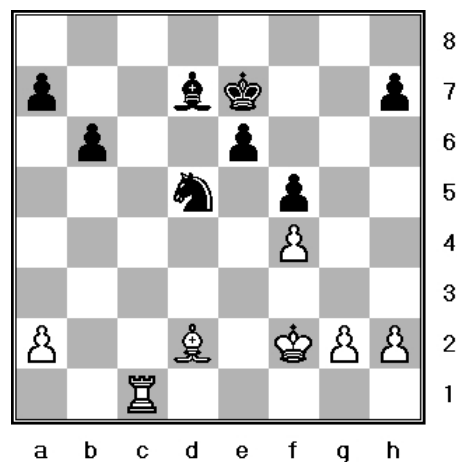
29. f3

{29. f4 to prevent ...e5 seems better.}

29. ...Kf7

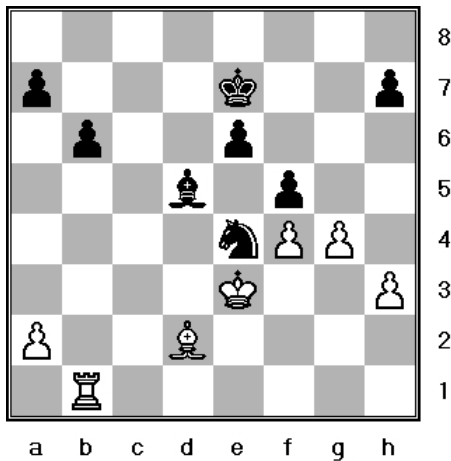
{29. ...e5.}

30. Kf2 Ne7 31. Rc1 Nd5 32. Bd2 Bd7 33. f4 Ke7



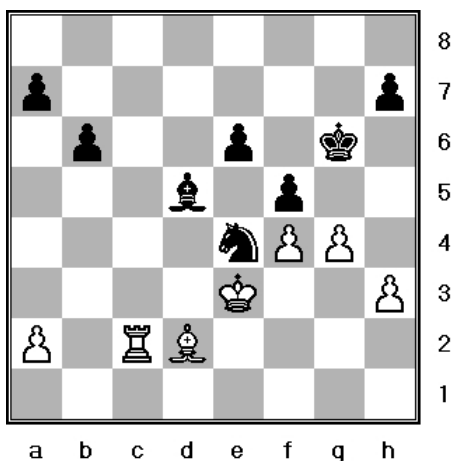
{With the fortress in place, Black has fairly good chances to hold the position.}

34. Rb1 Nf6 35. h3 Ne4+ 36. Ke3 Bc6 37. g4 Bd5



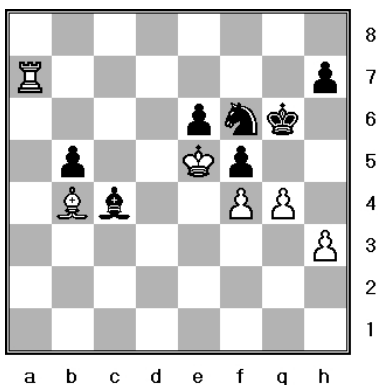
{I think I prefer Black's previous fortress position to this one.}

38. Rb2 Kf6 39. Rc2 Kg6



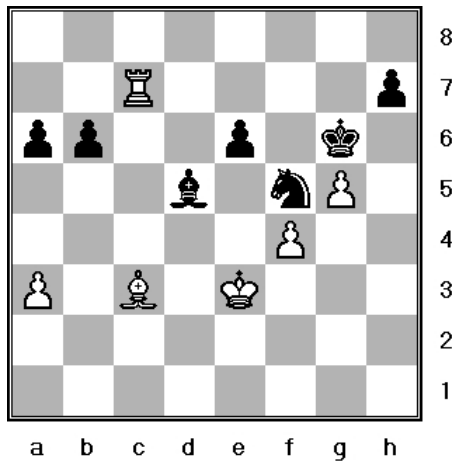
40. a3

{One interesting idea is 40. Rc7! Bxa2(!) 41. Rxa7 Bc4 42. Bb4! Nf6 43. Kd4! b5 44. Ke5!,



weaving a mating net (Bf8!) that should pick up at least another piece, though there will still be some technical difficulties.}

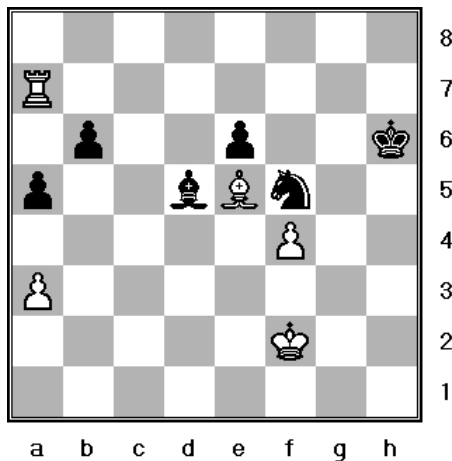
40. ...fxg4 41. hxg4 Nf6 42. g5 Ne8 43. Rc8 Nd6 44. Rc7 a6 45. Bc3 Nf5+



46. Kf2 h6!

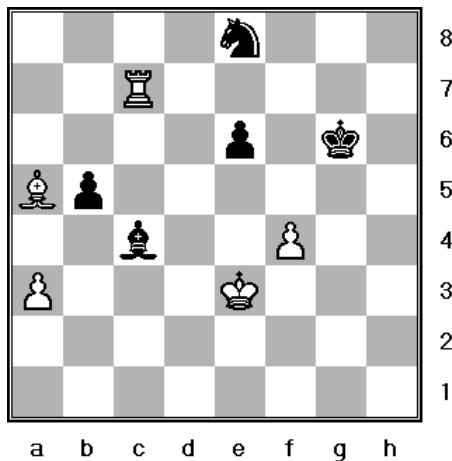
Here I realized that Black might be able to trade all the pawns off, even if he has to sac a queenside pawn to do it. I'd then be left with a draw.

47. gxh6 Kxh6 48. Ra7 a5 49. Be5

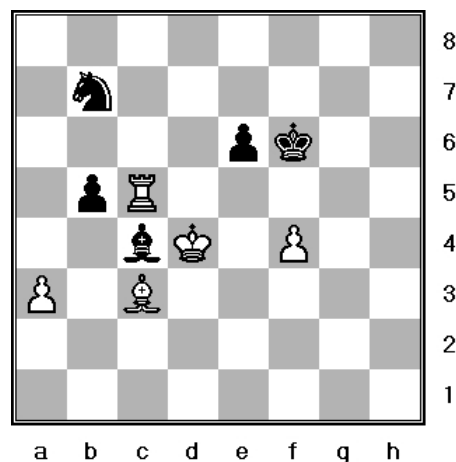


This is where the scoresheets stopped because there was less than 5 min left in game; David and I had about equal time. The rest of the game is reconstructed from memory and may not be entirely accurate.

49. ...Kg6 50. Bc7 b5 51. Bxa5 Bc4 52. Rc7 Nd6 53. Ke3 Ne8



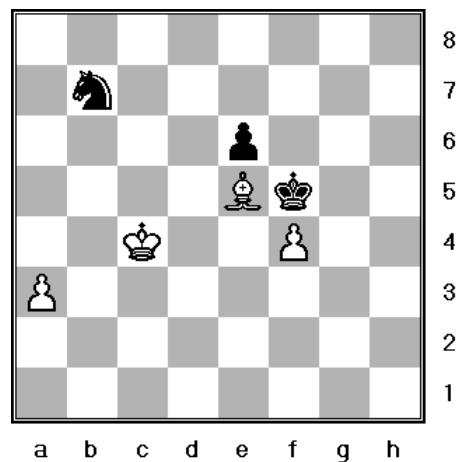
54. Rc5 Nd6 55. Kd4 Kf6 56. Bc3 Nb7



Play reached a position similar to this. We were both in severe time pressure. I had two minutes and David had one minute. I intuitively thought the endgame after sac'ing back the exchange should be winning, and I was right.

57. Rxc4! bxc4 58. Kxc4+ Kf5 59. Be5

With one minor hiccup when I made an illegal move and we had trouble setting a digital clock to give David the two minute bonus, the rest was routine.



1-0

{Quite a nicely played game. Thanks for sharing, Loyd!}

Chess in Central Oregon

by Eric Holcomb



It's been about a year since I first reported on the Central Oregon Chess Club (which meets at the Aspen Ridge Retirement Community in Bend), so I figure it's time for an update. It seems that the three best players in the club have at least temporarily moved away from Bend, leaving me as the highest rated player (at 1622) – a situation that undoubtedly won't last long! Not that the club isn't doing well – we have a number of new players, and our last informal Swiss tournament saw 15 persons playing one or more of the four rounds. (See <http://www.bendchess.com/>.)

The first player to move away, in June of 2008, was club organizer Sean Tobin. As reported last year, Sean decided to pursue a scholastic chess coaching and teaching opportunity in Phoenix, Arizona. It's keeping him busy, and we haven't heard too much from Sean recently. If you look him up at

uschess.org, you'll see he's played in a few Arizona tournaments and is currently rated 1979. Best wishes for success reaching the Expert level in the near future!

The next player to move away for awhile, due to job responsibilities, was former Idaho champion Jason Evers. We see at uschess.org that Jason, rated 1887 after the Oregon Open, has also played quite a bit in Pennsylvania. Jason is a fan of the King's Gambit and other unbalanced opening lines, and will always give you an exciting game.

Finally, Paul Motta (rated 1919) decided that winters in Bend are too much and can now be found wintering somewhere in Arizona. (Presumably, he'll get together with Sean for some chess.) After last week's snow and sub-zero nights, I'm not sure I blame him! Paul is an experienced over-the-board and postal player as well as a tournament

director, so his presence at the club is definitely missed. I'll be filling in as tournament director while Paul is gone.

So if you'll be visiting Bend any time soon, please let me know, and I'll be glad to meet with you if possible, even if it's not on a Tuesday evening over a game of chess. If you visit during the summer I may also be able to take you on a visit to Pine Mountain Observatory in my other capacity as amateur astronomer and tour guide to the night sky. (I'm "popping" outside for 15-minute intervals to watch the Geminid Meteor shower as I write this. Fortunately tonight it's a balmy 26°F.)

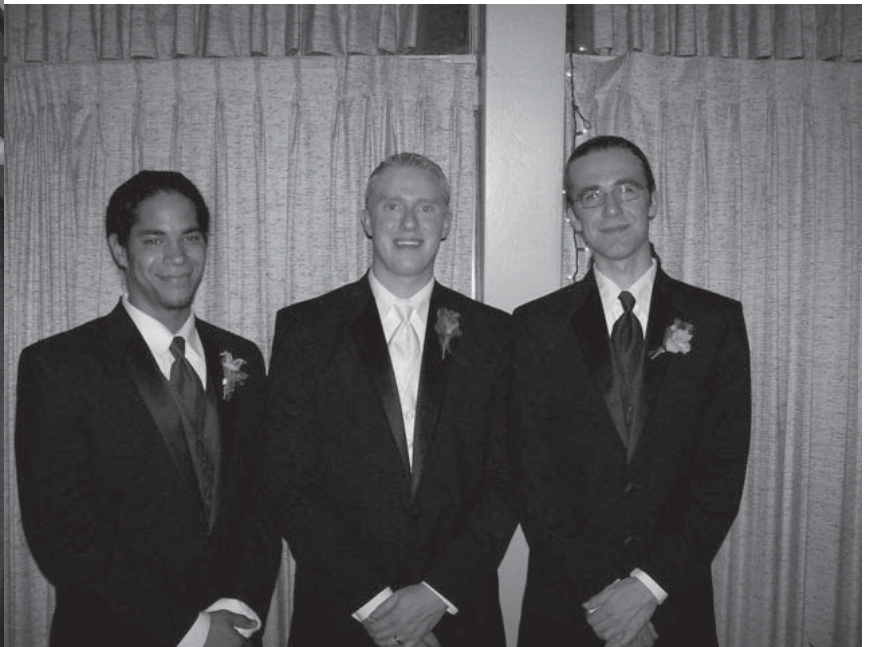
John Julian and Rachel Wilton were married last summer, in what was described by Kevin Korsmo as "the chess social event of the season."

Photos courtesy the Spokane Chess Club website.

Left: John Julian and Rachel Wilton

Below right: Elston Cloy, John Julian, and Curt Collyer

Below left: The wedding cake.



Washington Senior Championship

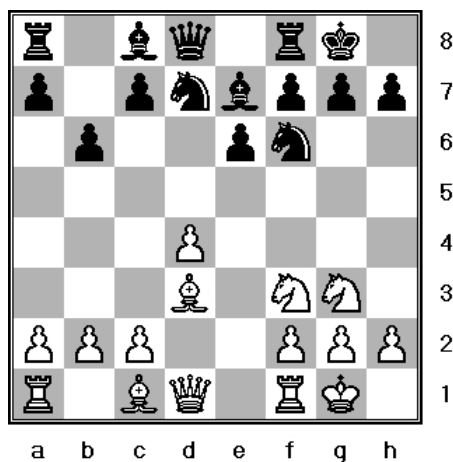
The Washington Senior Adult Championship was held at the Tacoma Chess Club, August 29-30, 2009. Seeded third, FIDE Master Paul Bartron finished clear first, defeating the other two experts en route to a perfect 4-0 result. H. G. Pitre was clear second with 2.5-1.5, while half of the field of eight players tied for third with 2-2: David Rupel, Randy Dean, Peter O’Gorman, and Ernst Rasmussen, the latter showing the largest rating change (+60). Steven Buck finished with 1-3 and Colin Southcote-Want was eighth with 0.5-3.5.

After the first round, there were only two players on the perfect score, Bartron and Rupel; after the second round, only one. After round three, FM Bartron was a full point ahead of his nearest competitor, Rasmussen, whom he defeated in the final round.

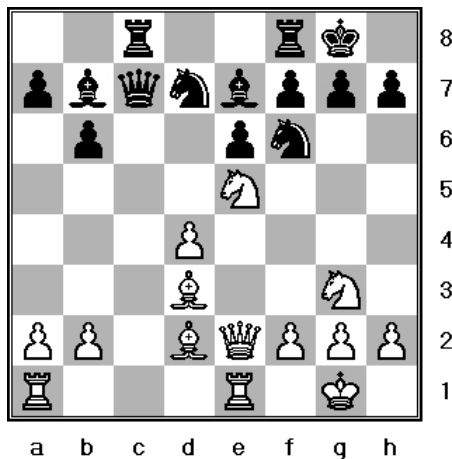
Notes are by the editor unless otherwise credited.

Paul Bartron – Colin Southcote-Want Washington Senior Adult, Round 1 Tacoma, Washington, August 29, 2009

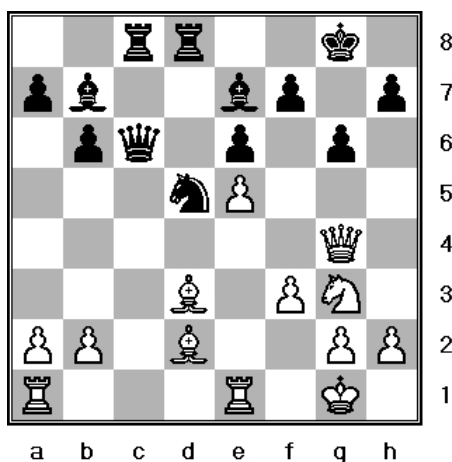
1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 dxe4 4. Nxe4 Nd7 5. Nf3 Ngf6 6. Ng3 Be7 7. Bd3 0-0 8. 0-0 b6



9. Qe2 Bb7 10. Bd2 c5 11. c3 Rc8 12. Rfe1 Qc7 13. Ne5 cxd4 14. cxd4



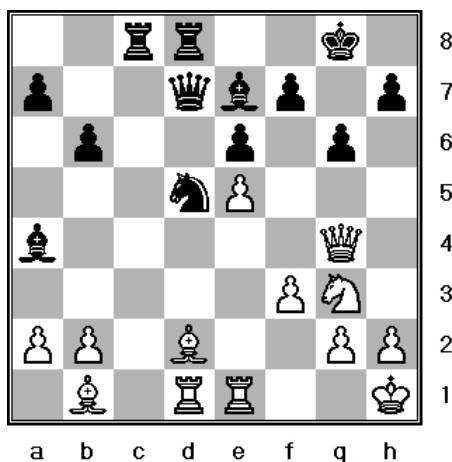
14. ...Nxe5 15. dxe5 Qc6 16. f3 Nd5 17. Qe4 g6 18. Qg4 Rfd8



19. Kh1

19. Ne4!? +=.

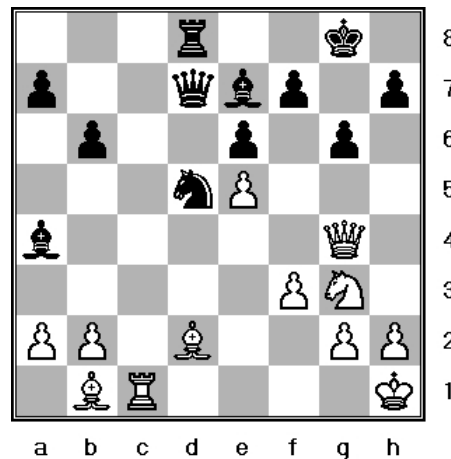
19. ...Qd7 20. Rad1 Bc6 21. Bb1 Ba4



22. Rc1

22. b3? Nc3! 23. bxa4? (23. Bxc3 Qxd1) 23. ...Nxd1 24. Rxd1 Qxd2! +=.

22. ...Rxc1 23. Rxc1



23. ...Bb5

23. ...Nc3! +=: 24. Be3 Nxb1 25. Rxb1 Qd3 26. Qe4.

24. h4?!

24. Bh6 is unclear.

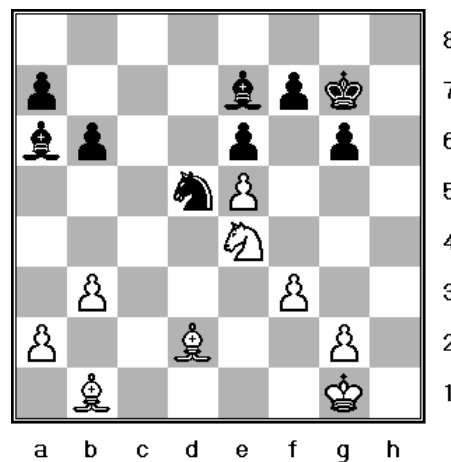
24. ...Rc8

24. ...f5!, since 25. exf6?? Nxf6 wins the d2 bishop, and 25. Qd4 Bc5 forces White to sac the exchange.

25. Rxc8+ Qxc8 26. h5 Qc4 27. hxg6 hxg6 28. Qxc4 Bxc4 29. b3 +=

White can claim a small advantage in space.

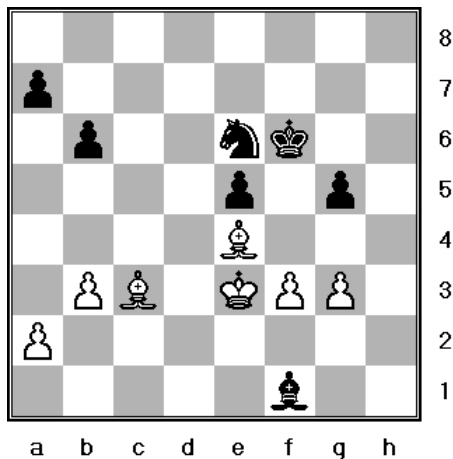
29. ...Ba6 30. Ne4 Kg7 31. Kg1



31. ...f5?!

After reaching a nearly even endgame, Black chooses to sacrifice pawn structure and relinquish the bishop pair. This doesn't make the defense any easier! Simpler is 31. ...Ba3, and any White edge is pretty small.

32. exf6+ Bxf6 33. Nxf6 Kxf6 34. Kf2 e5 35. Be4 Nf4 36. g3 Ne6 37. Ke3 Bf1 38. Bc3 g5



39. b4 Bc4 40. a3 Bb5 41. Bd5 Nc7?

White is threatening 42. Ke4, which Black must meet with a bishop check on the b1-h7 diagonal. So necessary is either 41. ...Ba4 or 41. ...Be8, with a long, dreary defense ahead.

42. Bb7! Ba4

Too late: now the e5-pin comes back into the equation.

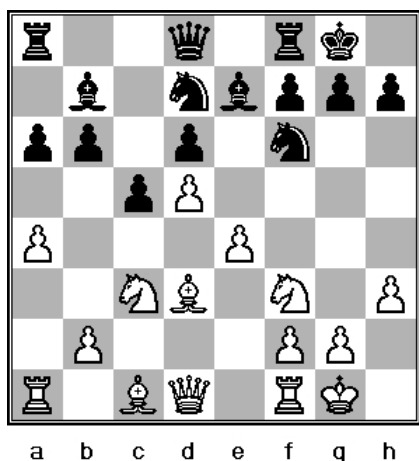
43. f4 gxf4+ 44. gxf4 +-

Black lost on time.

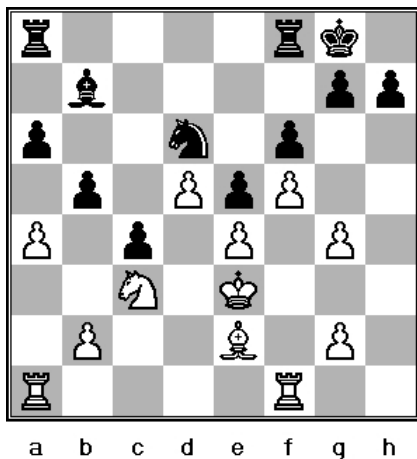
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David Rupel – Paul Bartron
Washington Senior Adult, Round 2
Tacoma, Washington, August 29, 2009

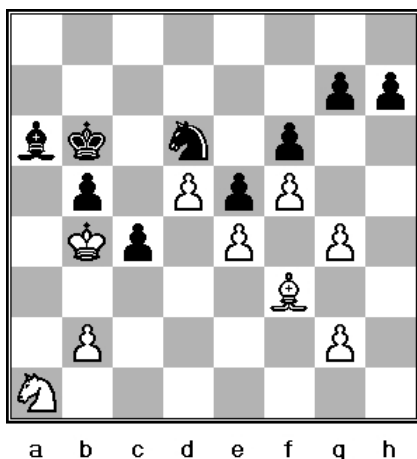
1. Nf3 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. d4 b6 4. e3 Bb7
5. Bd3 Be7 6. Nc3 c5 7. 0-0 0-0 8. d5 exd5
9. exd5 d6 10. e4 Nbd7 11. h3 a6 12. a4



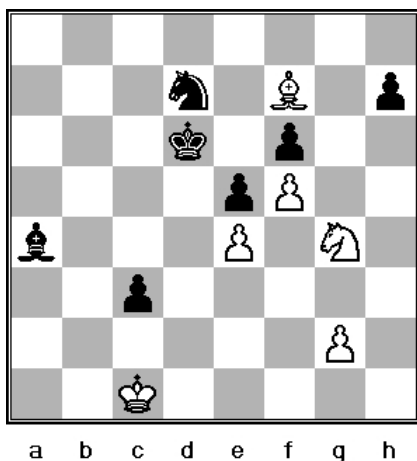
12. ...Ne8 13. Bf4 Bf6 14. Qe2 Ne5 15.
Nxe5 Bxe5 16. Bxe5 dxe5 17. f4 Qe7 18.
f5 Qh4 19. Qg4 Qxg4 20. hxg4 f6 21. Kf2
Nd6 22. Ke3 c4 23. Be2 b5



24. Na2 Rfc8 25. Rfc1 Kf8 26. axb5
axb5 27. Nb4 Ke7 28. Bf3 Kd7 29. Kd2
Kc7 30. Kc3 Kb6 31. Nc2 Rxa1 32. Rxa1
Ra8 33. Kb4 Rxa1 34. Nxa1 Ba6



35. b3 Nb7 36. bxc4 bxc4 37. Nc2 Ne5
38. Kc3 Ka5 39. Ne3 Na4+ 40. Kc2 Kb4
41. g5 Nc5 42. gxf6 gxf6 43. d6 Bb7 44.
Ng4 Nd7 45. Nf2 Bc6 46. Bh5 Ba4+ 47.
Kc1 Kc5 48. Bf7 c3 49. Ng4 Kxd6



50. Be6?

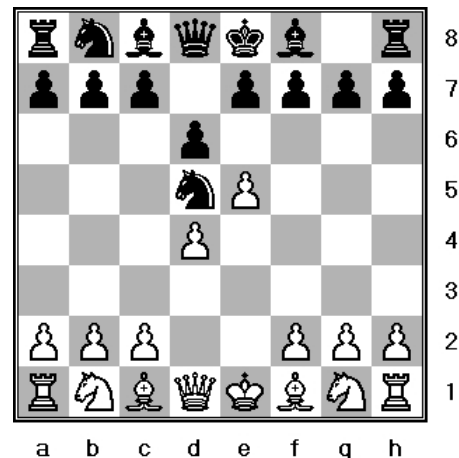
50. Be8 = (Bartron).

50. ...Nc5 51. Bc4 Nxe4 52. Bd3 Kd5
53. Bxe4+ Kxe4 54. Nxf6+ Kxf5 55. Nd5
h5 56. Nxc3 Bc6 57. Nd1 Kf4 58. Kd2
Bxg2 59. Ke1 Bf3 60. Nb2 Kg3 61. Kf1 h4
62. Nc4 h3

0-1

Paul Bartron – Randy Dean
Washington Senior Adult, Round 3
Tacoma, Washington, August 30, 2009

1. e4 Nf6 2. e5 Nd5 3. d4 d6



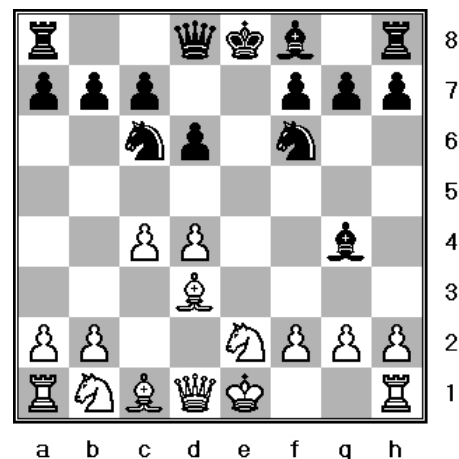
4. exd6?!

Most systems that attempt to gain an advantage against Alekhine's Defense involve maintaining the e5-pawn. 4. c4 Nb6 5. f4 is the ambitious but over-extended four-pawn attack; 4. Nf3 is the more modern method, and is probably the reason that this defense is rarely seen at the top levels these days.

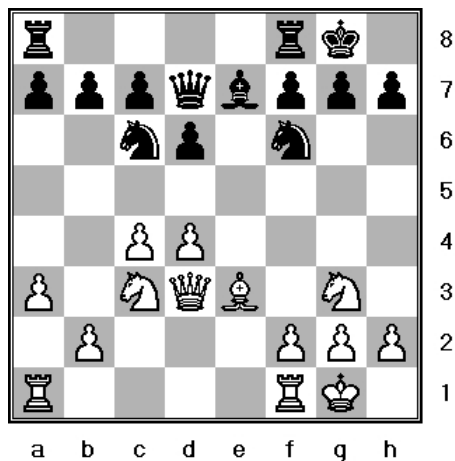
4. ...exd6!? 5. c4 Nf6 6. Bd3 Nc6

6. ...d5 gives rough equality.

7. Ne2 Bg4



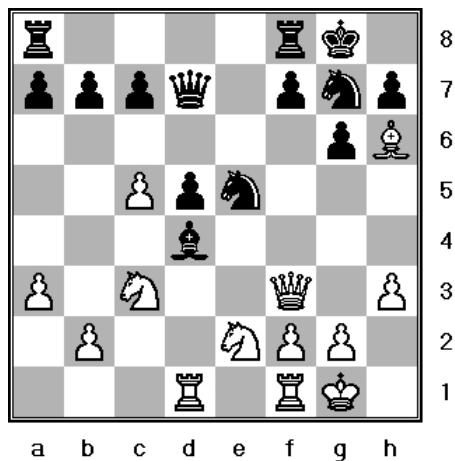
8. Be3 Qd7 9. Nbc3 Be7 10. a3 0-0 11. 0-0 Bf5 12. Ng3 Bxd3 13. Qxd3



13. ...g6 14. h3 d5 15. c5 Ne8 16. Bh6 Ng7 17. Nge2 Bf6?!

17. ...Rfe8 is more accurate, unpinning and threatening to bring a piece to f5. 18. Bxg7 Kxg7 19. Nf4 Bf6 20. Nfxd5 Bxd4 21. Rad1 += (21. ...Bxc5 22. Nf6!).

18. Qf3!+/- Bxd4 19. Rad1 Ne5



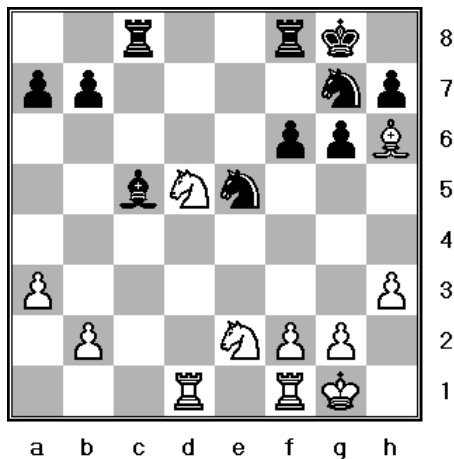
20. Qxd5?! =

It seems better to enter the complications of 20. Qf6!, since 20. ...Ng4 21. Qxd4 Nxb6 22. Nxd5 is a big plus for White, and 20. ...Nh5 (20. ...Nf5? 21. Nxd4 Nxb6 22. Qxe5) 21. Qh4 Bxc3 22. Nxc3 leaves White threatening both the rook on f8 and the pawn on d5, so Black may have to attempt to defend the exchange down positions following 22. ...c6 23. Bxf8 Rxf8 24. Qd4.

20. ...Qxd5 21. Nxd5 Bxc5?!

21. ...Bxb2 is unclear, but probably equal; some of the complications following 22. Rb1 Bxa3 23. Rxb7 Rfb8 are nearly unfathomable.

22. Nxc7 Rac8 23. Nd5 f6?!

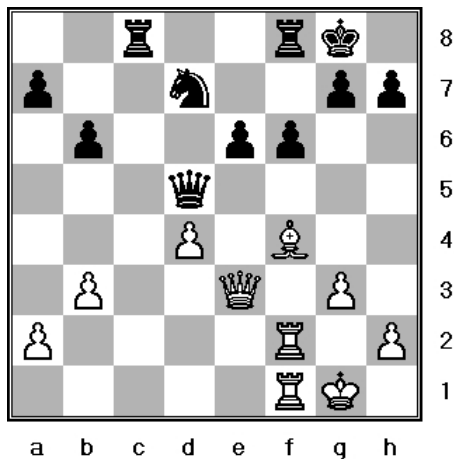


Weakens e6, and invites the following tactical sequence. 23. ...Kh8 +=.

24. b4 Bd6 25. Bxg7 Kxg7 26. Ndf4! Be7 27. Ne6+ Kf7 28. Nxf8 Kxf8 29. Rc1 1-0

Ernst Rasmussen – Paul Bartron
Washington Senior Adult, Round 4
Tacoma, Washington, August 30, 2009

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nc3 d5 3. e4 Nxe4 4. Nxe4 dxe4 5. f3 e6 6. Be3 b6 7. c3 Bb7 8. g3 exf3 9. Nxf3 Nd7 10. Bg2 Be7 11. 0-0 0-0 12. Qd2 Qc8 13. Rf2 c5 14. Raf1 cxd4 15. cxd4 Bd5 16. b3 Qb7 17. Ng5 Bxg5 18. Bxg5 Bxg2 19. Rxg2 f6 20. Bf4 Qd5 21. Rgf2 Rac8 22. Qe3

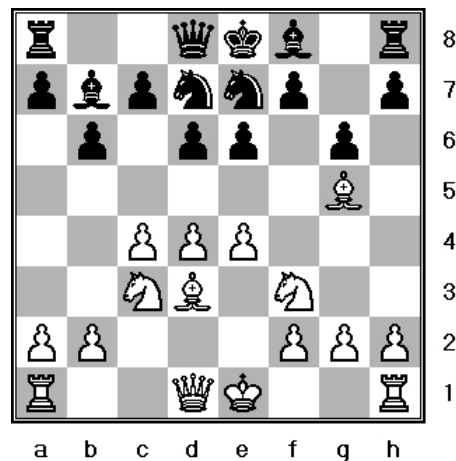


22. ...g5 23. Re1 gxf4 24. Rxf4 e5 25. Rg4+ Kh8 26. Qh6 Rf7 27. Rc1 Rxc1+ 28. Qxc1 exd4 29. Qc8+ Rf8 30. Qc7 d3 31. Qc3 d2 32. Rd4 d1=Q+

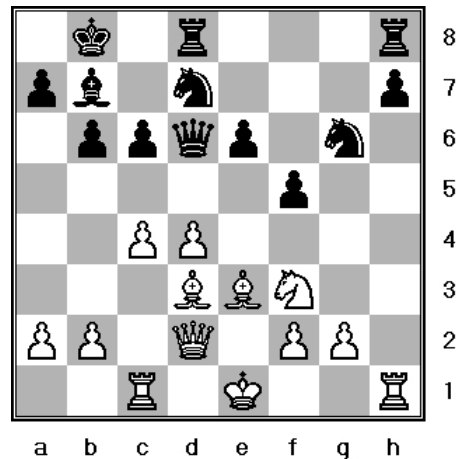
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H. G. Pitre – Colin Southcote-Want
Washington Senior Adult, Round 4
Tacoma, Washington, August 30, 2009

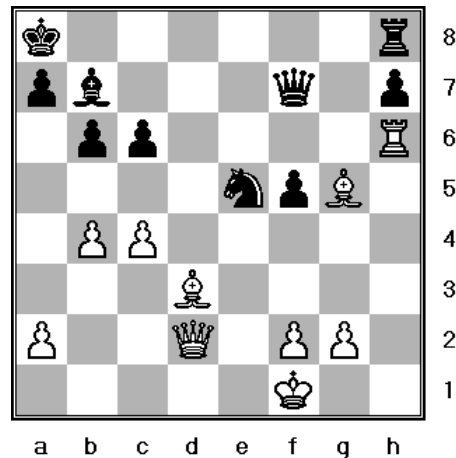
1. e4 e6 2. d4 b6 3. Nf3 Bb7 4. Bd3 d6 5. c4 Nd7 6. Nc3 g6 7. Bg5 Ne7



8. h4 f6 9. Be3 c6 10. Qd2 Qc7 11. h5 0-0-0 12. Rc1 Kb8 13. hxg6 Nxg6 14. e5 Be7 15. exd6 Bxd6 16. Ne4 f5 17. Nxd6 Qxd6

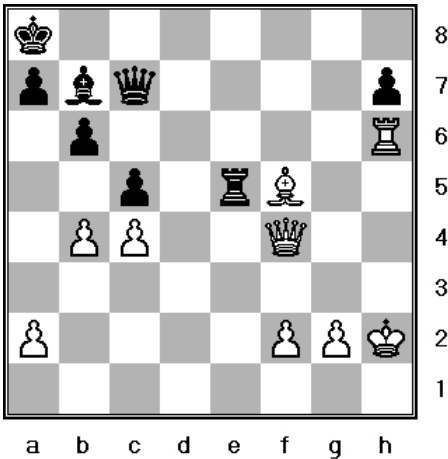


18. Bg5 Rde8 19. Rh6 Ka8 20. Kf1 Qf8 21. Re1 Qf7 22. b4 e5 23. dxe5 Ndx5 24. Nxe5 Rxe5 25. Rxe5 Nxe5



26. Bf6 Re8 27. Bxe5 Rxe5 28. Qf4 Qe7

29. Kg1 Qc7 30. Kh2 c5 31. Bxf5??

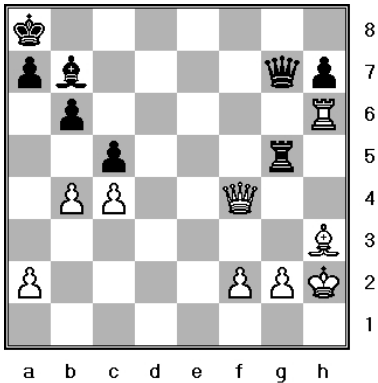


31. ...Qg7! 32. Bh3

32. Bg4 Re4 +- (Southcote-Want)

32. ...Bxg2??

32. ...Rg5! +-



33. f3 (33. Rxx7 Rxx2+ 34. Kh1 Rg1+ 35. Kh2 Rh1#) 33. ...Qxh6 +- (Southcote-Want).

33. Rf6

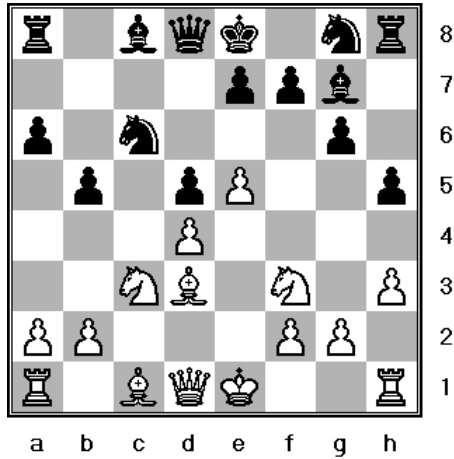
33. Bxx2+ Kb8 34. Re6 +- (Southcote-Want).

33. ...Bxx3 34. Rf8+ Bc8 35. Qf3+ Kb8 36. Rxc8+ Kxc8 37. Qa8+ Kd7 38. Qxa7+ Ke8 39. Qxx7 Rh5+

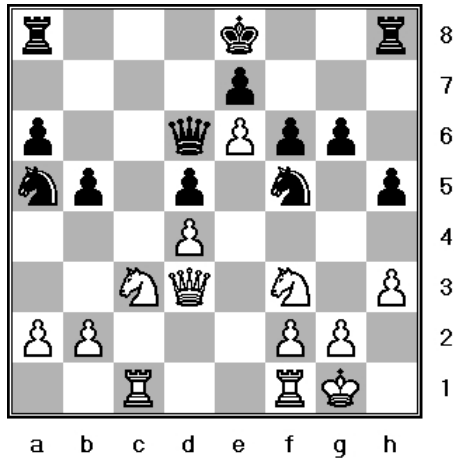
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Randy Dean – David Rupel
Washington Senior Adult, Round 4
Tacoma, Washington, August 30, 2009

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 g6 3. c3 Bg7 4. d4 cxd4 5. cxd4 d5 6. e5 Nc6 7. h3 h5 8. Nc3 a6 9. Bd3 b5



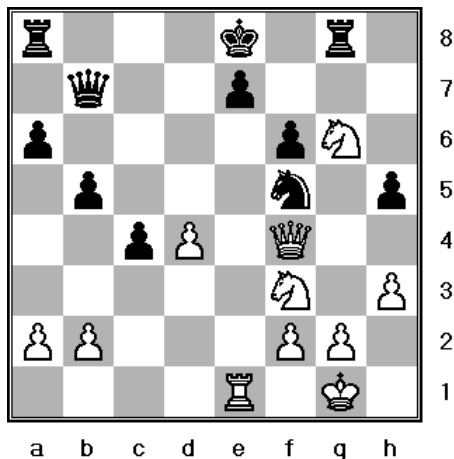
10. Bg5 Bh6 11. Bxh6 Nxx6 12. Rc1 Na5 13. 0-0 Bf5 14. Bxf5 Nxf5 15. e6 f6 16. Qd3 Qd6



17. Ne2

Better is 17. Rfe1 (Dean).

17. ...Qxe6 18. Nf4 Qe4 19. Qd2 Nc4 20. Rxc4 dxc4 21. Re1 Qb7 22. Nxx6 Rg8 23. Qf4



23. ...Qd7

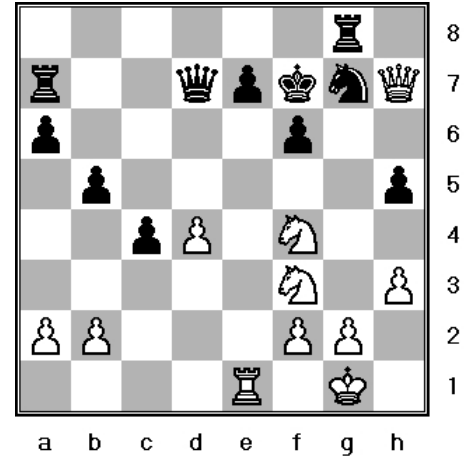
23. ...Nxd4!? 24. Nxd4 (24. Rxe7+??

Qxe7 25. Nxe7 Ne2+; 24. Qxd4 Rxx6) 24. ...Rxx6 25. g3 e5 26. Qf5 Qf7 -/+, but 24. Nfh4! Nc6 25. Nf5! is the Fritz reply... with approximate equality! 23. ...Qd5 24. Nfh4! Rxx6! 25. Nxx6 e6 is far from clear.

24. Qe4 Ra7

24. ...Rxx6 25. Qxa8+ Kf7 looks like a possible bail-out clause. For example, 26. Qxa6?! Qd5! =+ 27. Kh1 Rxx2! 28. Kxx2 Nh4+ 29. Kf1 Nxx3, leaving a position that's much more fun for Black.

25. Nf4 Ng7 26. Qh7 Kf7



27. Ng6

27. Ne6! threatening Nh4! and Qg6# is more quickly decisive.

27. ...Qf5 28. Nfh4 Qd3 29. Nh8+

White had only 43 seconds left on the clock, without a five-second delay, and went for a draw. 29. Re3! Qd1+ 30. Kh2 +- (Dean).

After the game move, Black would be forced to take on h8, of course: 29. ...Rxx8 (not 29. ...Kf8?? 30. N4g6+) 30. Qxx8, and now 30. ...Rd7 (not 30. ...Qxd4 31. Qxx7+) forces White to play rather accurately to maintain an initiative: 31. Re3 Qxd4 32. Rg3 Qxx4 33. Qxx7+ Ke6 34. Qg8+ Kd6 35. Qb8+ Ke6 36. Qc8.

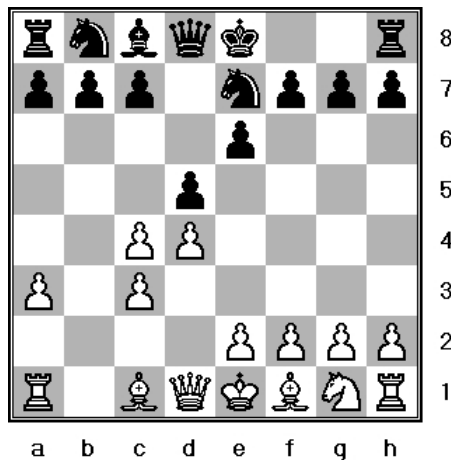
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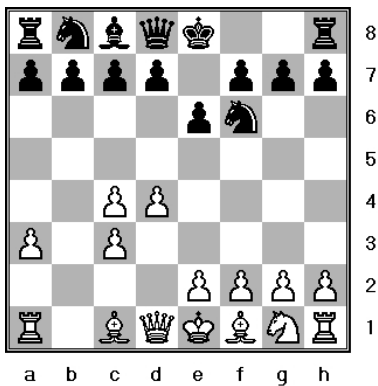
Queen's Gambit Declined, 3. ...Bb4, part 3: 4. a3

Kh. Raag – Sarunas Sulskis
Russian Junior Championship
Simferopol, Ukraine, 1990

1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. a3 Bxc3+
5. bxc3 Ne7



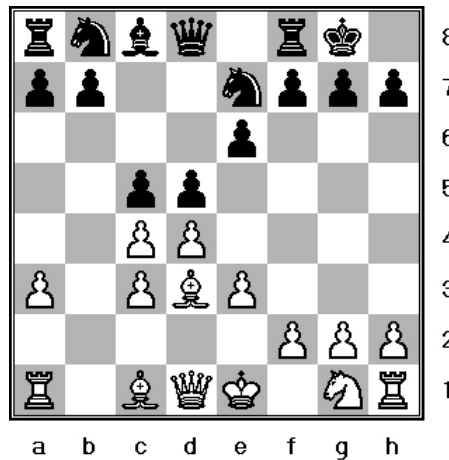
This is a critical test of 3. ...Bb4. Comparing to the Saemisch Nimzo-Indian (1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.a3 Bxc3+ 5. bxc3) we find two notable differences.



First, the knight is less active on e7 than f6, and second, Black is committed to d5 which allows White to undouble the c-pawns. On the plus side for Black is the matter of the Ne7 being less exposed to attacks by e4-e5 or pins by the Bc1. Still, it would seem the trade is a better proposition for White, which is why this is critical.

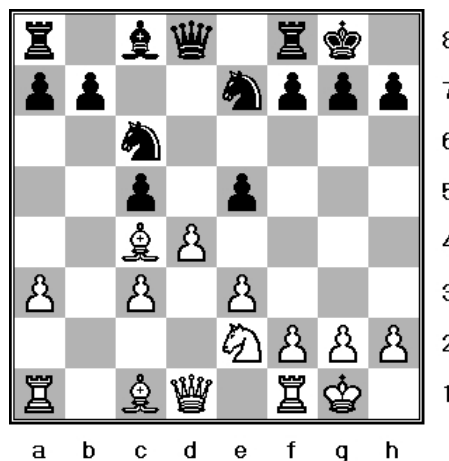
6. e3 0-0 7. Bd3 c5

Theoretically Speaking by Bill McGeary



Here we see an anomaly in chess that was best expressed by IM John Watson. White has the two bishops and more central influence, Black is a little quicker to develop. So White is reluctant to open the center before the development is complete, and Black seeks to make something of the extra time and looks for ways to open the center despite having two knights. What's more, White seems happy to keep matters static until completing mobilization and that works out well for Black. This is not to say that White has made an error or is neglecting strategic points, just that the exchange on c3 initiated a complex tangle of positional and tactical concerns of which each side needs to be aware. The important factor is how each side follows the lead of the strategic elements in the subsequent play.

8. Ne2 Nbc6 9. 0-0 dxc4 10. Bxc4 e5

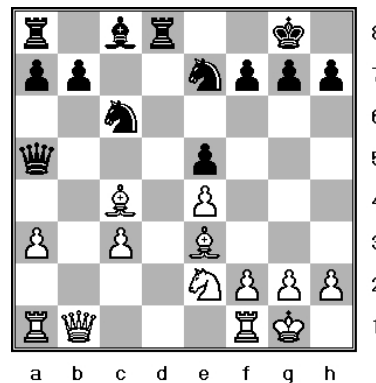


11. dxe5

This looks very suspect. A position very similar to a main line in the Nimzo has developed, and White reacts in a manner that is standard to the Nimzo. White looks to flush the center of pawns and post the bishops actively, following up by advancing the e- and f-pawns.

There is a flaw in the current position. Black does not have a knight on f6, which attracts a lot of attention in the Nimzo line. Here, the knight e7 is not going to be menaced by an e-pawn or the Bc1, plus stands ready to observe many important dark squares from g6 or possibly f5. This means one less worry for Black and about one and a half extra tempi.

It is possible that White's best course is a slight waiting game with 11. Ba2, willing to take an isolated pawn on d4, but waiting to learn more about Black's designs. He could also choose 11. dxc5, eventually leaving an isolated c-pawn, but retaining the bishop pair, i.e. 11. ...Qc7 (11. ...Qa5 12. e4 Qxc5 13. Qd3 Rd8 14. Be3 Qa5 15. Qb1



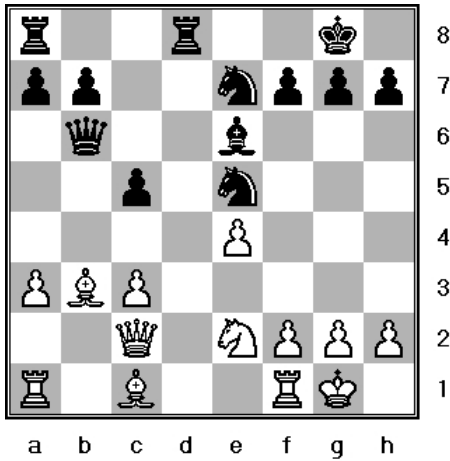
looks active for White) 12. e4 Na5 13. Ba2 Qxc5.

11. ...Nxe5 12. Bb3 Qb6 13. e4 Rd8 14. Qc2 Be6

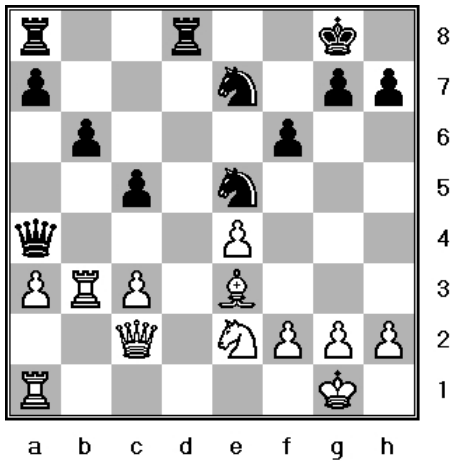
With a good advantage for Black. White will have weak pawns, scattered forces, and no scent of an initiative once the two bishops are gone. Black will be eyeing the central light squares without any fear of a quick e-

pawn advance by White.

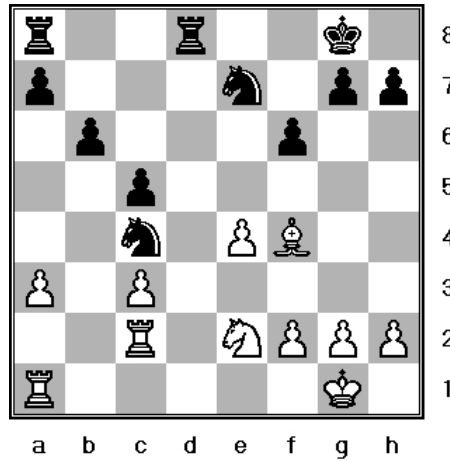
20. Rb2 Qxc2 21. Rxc2 Nc4 22. Bf4



15. Rb1 Bxb3 16. Rxb3 Qa6 17. Bg5 f6 18. Be3 b6 19. Ra1 Qa4



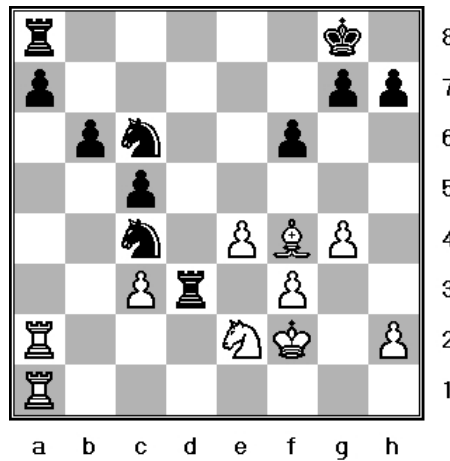
Black has won the strategic battle. White's pieces lack coordination, are tied down to defending weak pawns and have no active operations. Using the queen to blockade the a3 pawn seems silly, but the queen c2 is White's last real defender on the light squares. An exchange would be one step closer to victory for Black. Also, White is prevented from attempting to open the a-file for activity.



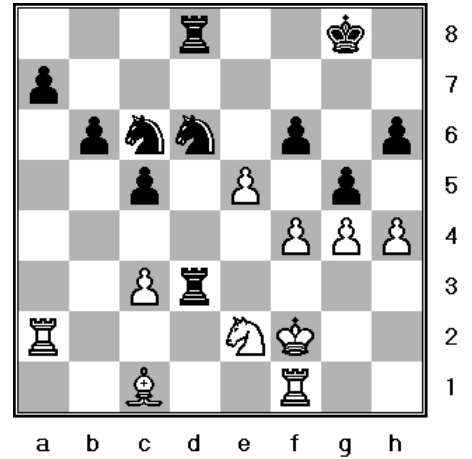
22. ...Nxa3

The back rank is a further problem for White. Black is able to play small tactics because of the ineffectiveness of White's forces. The rest is a matter of Black keeping alert to any tricks and just grinding down the resistance.

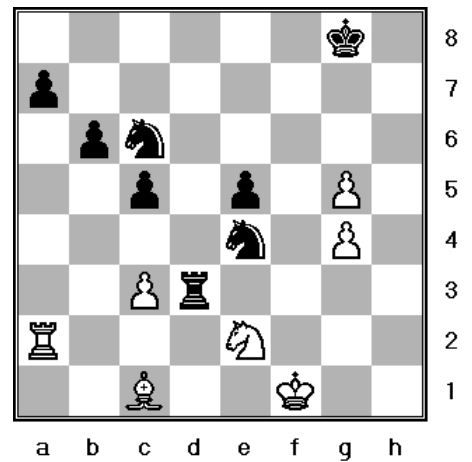
23. Rca2 Nc4 24. f3 Nc6 25. Kf2 Rd7 26. g4 Rd3



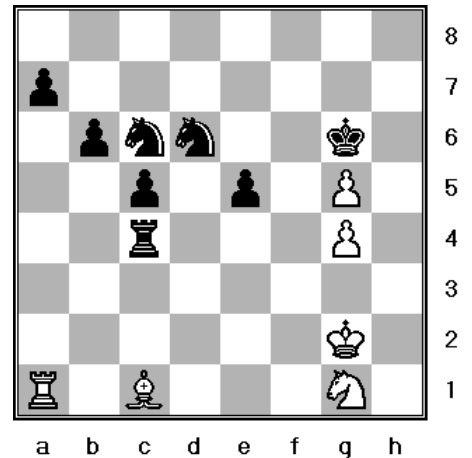
27. Rf1 g5 28. Bc1 Rad8 29. h4 h6 30. f4 Nd6 31. e5



31. ...fxe5 32. fxg5 hxg5 33. hxg5 Rf8+ 34. Kg2 Rxf1 35. Kxf1 Ne4



36. Kg2 Kf7 37. Ra4 Nd6 38. c4 Kg6 39. Ng1 Rc3 40. Ra1 Rxc4



41. Kh3 Rc3+ 42. Kh4 Nd4

0-1

The opening of this game was certainly a positive display for Black's pieces. The only step out of the ordinary was putting the Ng8 on e7, yet this was brought into the

New Year's resolutions:

1) I will play chess as often as possible, and have fun!

2) I will turn off my cell phone in the playing room.

That means off, not vibrate.

3) I will be a good sport, win or lose.

(esp. no snickering at silly moves)

4) I will read *Northwest Chess* every month.

5) I will visit nwchess.com and join the discussion forums.

6) I will encourage new players to take up chess.

7) I will donate tons of money to *Northwest Chess*.

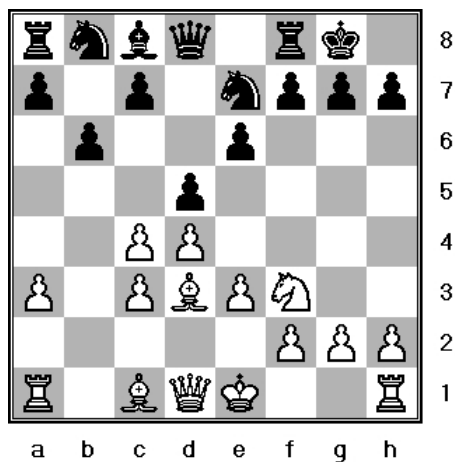
(Hey, it was worth a try!)

scheme so that it seemed quite natural. At move 11 White made a choice that didn't consider the changed factor of the Ne7. It might be surprising how quickly the game bobbed onto a single thread, the central light squares, yet that is what White's decision at move 11 led to.

Blockading on c4 and a4 by Black followed quite easily and there was not any active plan for White to attempt. Finally, there was a demonstration of how a blockade affects the game. White's pieces were miserable because they were tied to defending pawns and they lacked scope. That is the real value of blockades, to deny the opponents pieces activity. Certainly White could have given himself an escape off the bank rank earlier and that would have prevented Black from capturing a3 so casually, but it wouldn't have changed the assessment and likely outcome of the game.

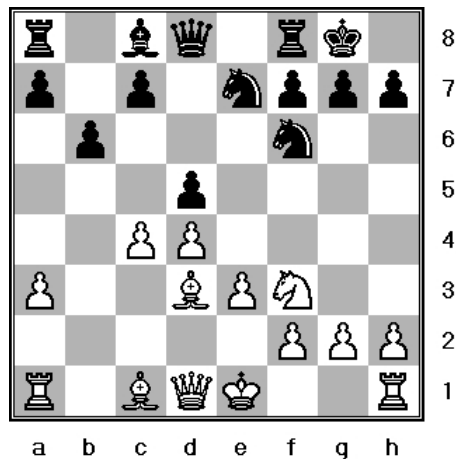
Checking games we find that 4.a3 has been used by Dreev and Shirov, no small names, but more notably by Ivan Sokolov who has played the line as Black a couple of times. After 4. ...Bxc3+ 5. bxc3 Black can play 5. ...Nf6 back into a Nimzo (Sokolov's choice), 5. ...Ne7 or 5. ...c5.

In Sokolov – Giorgadze, Debrecen (Ol) 1992, there followed 4. a3 Bxc3+ 5. bxc3 Ne7 6. e3 0-0 7. Nf3 b6 8. Bd3

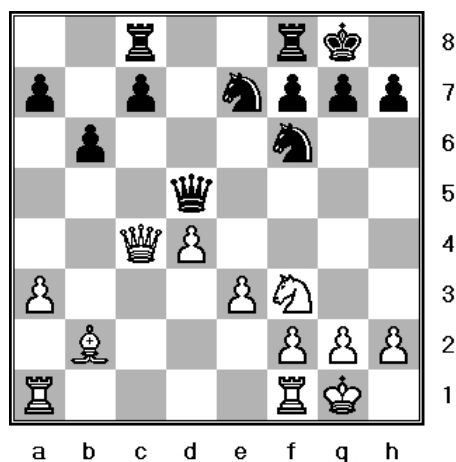


8. ...h6?! 9. 0-0 Ba6 10. cxd5 exd5 11. Bxa6 Nxa6 and White went on to win because Black didn't get the Na6 back into the game.

Sokolov – Oll, WAZ 93, was different at move 8 when Black played 8. ...Nd7 9. cxd5 exd5 10. c4 Nf6

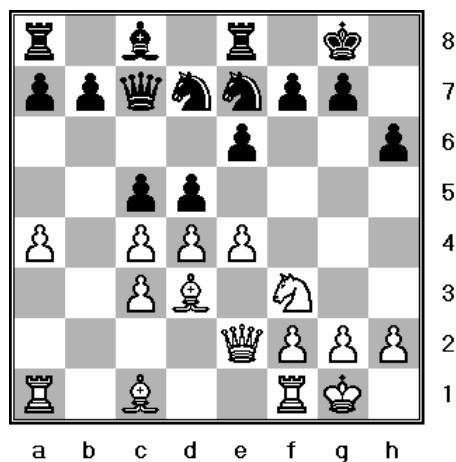


11. 0-0 Ba6 12. Qa4 Bxc4 13. Bxc4 dxc4 14. Qxc4 Rc8 15. Bb2 Qd5

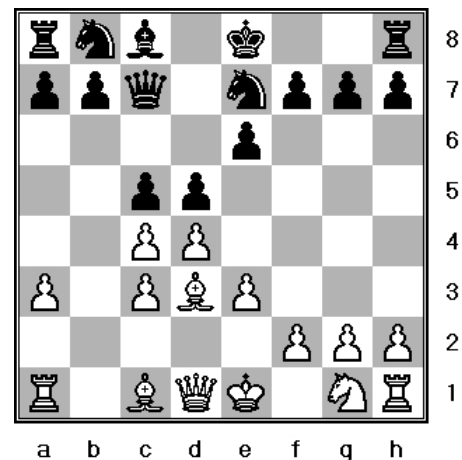


and Black is at least equal.

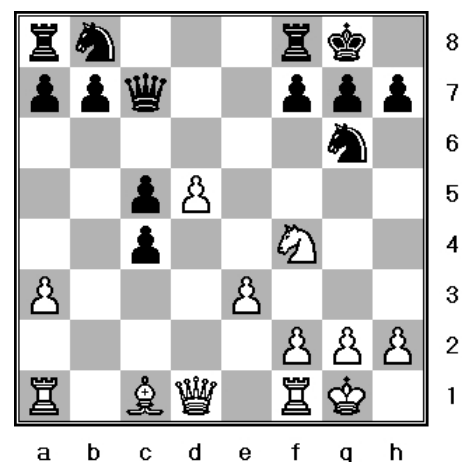
Black will have some difficulties, it seems, by using b6 with Bb7, because White can play to enforce e3-e4 under more controlled circumstances; there is a downside to having no knight on f6. A game Khenkin – Godena, Ischia 96, went 5... Ne7 6. e3 0-0 7. Nf3 c5 8. Bd3 h6 9. 0-0 Qc7 10. Qe2 Nd7 11. a4 Re8 12. e4 with advantage.



Black has an immediate direction to improve the play. By using the sequence 4. a3 Bxc3+ 5. bxc3 Ne7 6. e3 c5 7. Bd3 Qc7, Black can try to use the two tempi spent by Godena on ...0-0 and ...h6 to speed up the central counterplay.



This is supported by Shirov – Lautier, Linares 94, when 8. cxd5 exd5 9. Ne2 Bf5 (eliminating two bishops and leaving White to find a path for the bishop c1) 10. Bxf5 Nxf5 11. 0-0 0-0 12. Nf4 Ne7 13. c4 dxc4 14. d5 Ng6



15. Nh5(?) Qe5 left Black with a fine position, though White would seem to improve with 15. Nxc6 followed by 16. e4 with compensation, for example: 15. Nxc6 fxc6 16. e4 Qe5 17. Rb1 b6 18. Qc2.

In part four next month, White again plays and early a3 to force ...Bxc3, but avoids Nf3 with cxd5, Bd3, and Ne2, maintaining the possibility of f3 and e4 to follow.

In previous issues, we've had as our guests Willy Wild (Tal & Team) and Abel Active (Fischer & Friends). This month we are joined by Phil Positional!

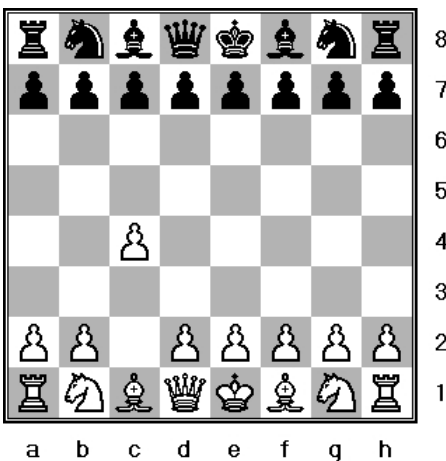
Mr. Positional is the chameleon among the chess player elite. His openings are full of intricate transpositions and subtle nuances. Whereas Mr. Wild overwhelms opponents in mazes of complications and Mr. Active destroys players with deeply calculated attacks and excursions, Mr. Positional *finesses* win after win. In many games, the opponent is unaware of the hidden dangers of the position and suddenly is faced with insurmountable difficulties.

Additionally, one of the great strengths of Mr. Positional is that he is able to conduct beautiful attacks with great skill and also defends with precision when needed. *The key is that he proceeds according to the requirements of the position.* Mr. Wild would sacrifice something to extricate himself from difficulties; Mr. Active would defend energetically, always looking for the counterattack. Mr. Positional will do *whatever the position requires, when it's required.* This technique is quite mature and well-founded, and is sort of 'middle-of-the-road' in the chess-style categories. Neither too active nor too solid, this is the soup that is 'just right.'

Today's guest is the lord of positional players, Jose Raul Capablanca! It was said of Alekhine that you never knew what to expect. With Capablanca you knew exactly what to expect, *but you couldn't do anything about it!* Witness the following game:

Jose Raul Capablanca – Edgar Colle
Barcelona, Round 1
Barcelona, Spain, 1929

1. c4



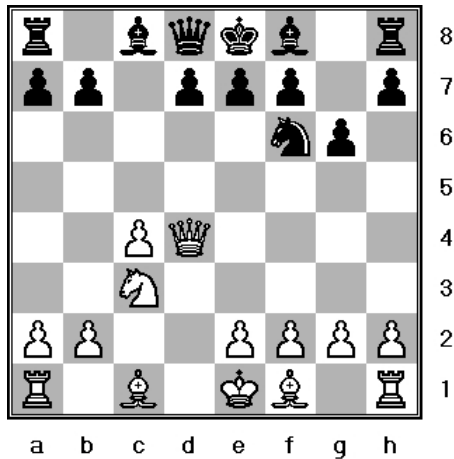
Opening Arguments by Harley Greninger



Meet Phil Positional!

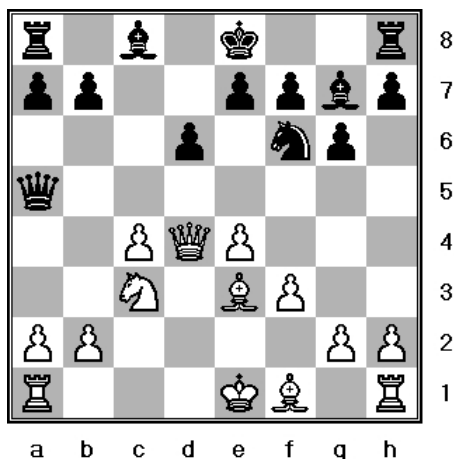
I mentioned in an earlier article that 1.e4 is White's most active first move. 1.c4 and 1.Nf3 are the most chameleon-like. With hundreds of transpositional possibilities, these are perfect first move choices for a positional player.

1. ...Nf6 2. Nf3 c5 3. Nc3 Nc6 4. d4 cxd4 5. Nxd4 Nxd4 6. Qxd4 g6

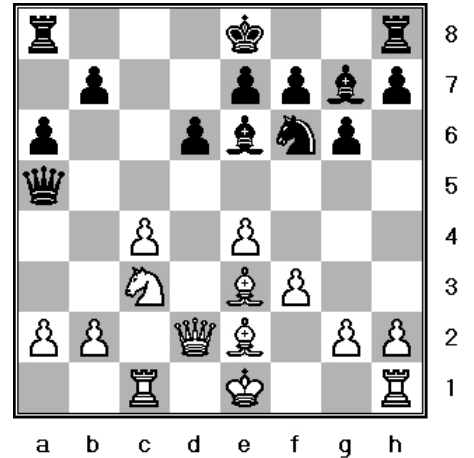


White now establishes Maroczy's famous "bind" on the central white squares, as we transpose to the Sicilian Defense!

7. e4 d6 8. Be3 Bg7 9. f3 Qa5



10. Qd2 a6 11. Be2 Be6 12. Rc1

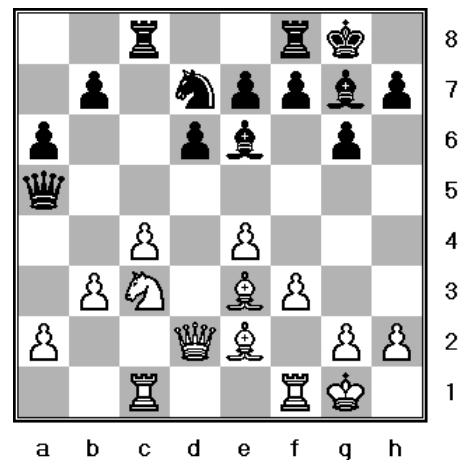


12. ...Rc8

Black will soon wish he had the other rook on c8.

13. b3 Nd7 14. 0-0 0-0

White's position seems quite harmless. His light-squared Bishop is hemmed in and his Rooks have no great prospects for activity, right? Watch the hand of the Master in creating a win 'out of thin air!'



15. Nd5!

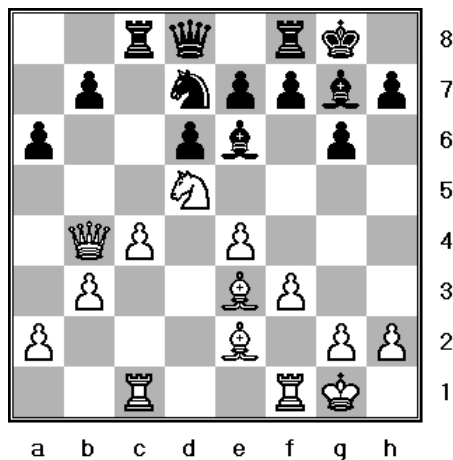
We now have the first threat of the game. Black cannot trade Queens, since White

captures on e7 with check prior to recapturing the Queen on d2. This wouldn't be a big threat if Black could reply to Nxe7+ with ...Kf8, which explains the comment to Black's 12th move.

15. ...Qd8

Black says 'no problema, I can easily defend.'

16. Qb4



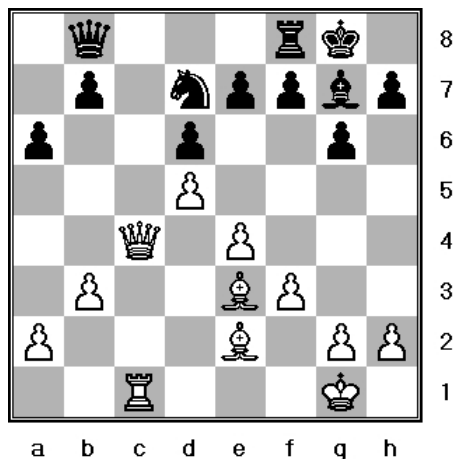
16. ...Bxd5

Black rids the position of that pesky Knight. Unplayable is 16. ...Rb8, due to 17. Ba7 Ra8 18. Qxb7 +/-.

17. exd5 Rxc1 18. Rxc1

But now White has an even more pesky Rook!

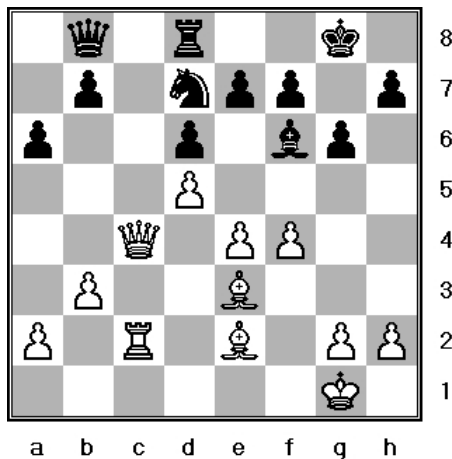
18. ...Qb8 19. Qc4!



White is now firmly in control of the only open file.

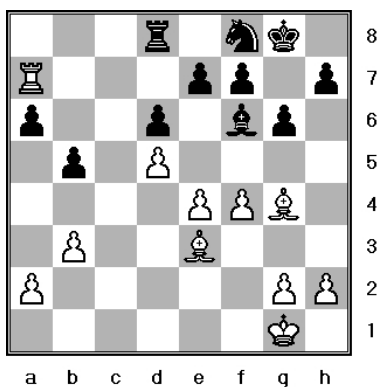
19. ...Bb2 20. Rc2 Bf6 21. f4! Rd8

Black diligently guards every weak point in his position.



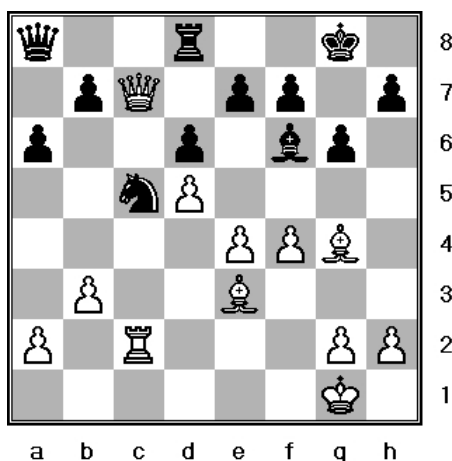
22. Qc7! Qa8

Black again cannot exchange Queens, eg. 22. ...Qxc7 23. Rxc7 b5 24. Bg4! Nf8 25. Ra7.



23. Bg4 Nc5

White will win the a-pawn without allowing Black counterplay down the c-file.

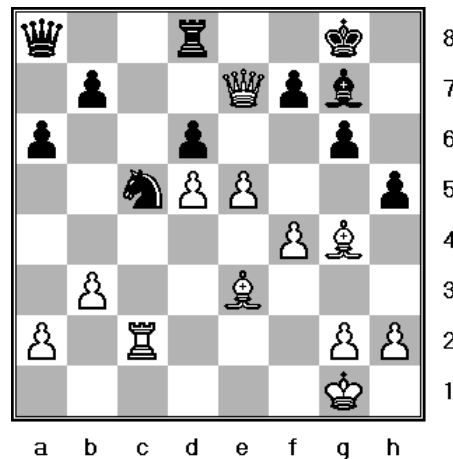


Since if 23. ...Nf8, White finishes beautifully with 24. Bc8.

24. e5!

Even stronger than Bxc5.

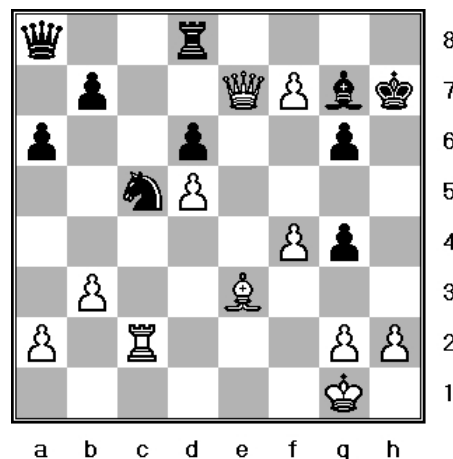
24. ...Bg7 25. Qxe7 h5



26. e6!

In such active positions, combinations are as natural as a baby's smile.

26. ...hxg4 27. exf7+ Kh7



28. Qh4+ Bh6 29. f5 g5 30. Bxg5

1-0

In this game, you don't see any unclear complications. No huge fireworks display. You've observed a simple, beautiful demonstration of a great player's technique. If you can admire *and relate to* the way Capablanca conducted this striking game, you too may be a Phil Positional! Study the games of Capablanca, Rubinstein and Karpov, together with the games of local Masters Georgi Orlov, Michael Lee, and Curt Collyer, and you'll be able to assemble an opening repertoire perfect for your playing style.

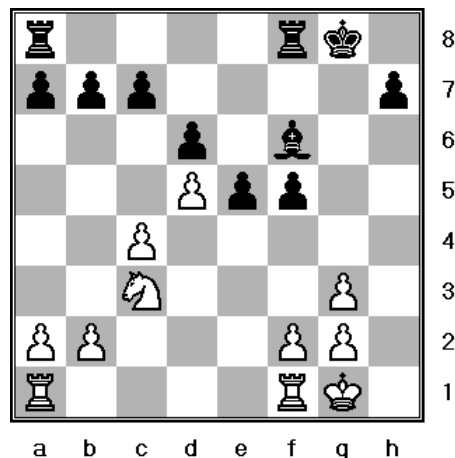
Next Issue: Perry Powerful!

This month we continue with the theme of the “ministry of the silly pawn sacrifice.” The starting position is slightly in Black’s favor, but it is more of an irritant than a serious problem.

Subjective factors played the major role in White’s decision to sacrifice a pawn. The first factor was my opponent being rated 300 points below me, I was willing to take some risks to try and win, even if it significantly increased the chances of losing. Secondly, in the initial position, Black has a simple plan which could proceed without much interference from White; after the sacrifice Black would at least have to account for White’s plans.

These subjective factors explain why the sacrifice was made, but objectively the sacrifice changed a slightly worse position into a much worse position, so it must be considered incorrect (or silly).

Dana Muller – William Lyons
US Open, Round 3
Portland, Oregon, August 1987



Black is better: the white knight has no outpost, and while the black bishop seems to be the prototypical “bad” bishop, a timely e5-e4 could energize it. Black has a straightforward plan of ...h7-h5-h4 and doubling rooks on the g- or h-file. White’s play is on the queenside with a rook on the c-file and the pawn advances b2-b4 and c4-c5. White needs to be careful that (1) any files opened on queenside will belong to him, and (2) in pursuing the queenside attack, the knight doesn’t end up out of play.

18. g4

The silly pawn sacrifice. White gets the e4 square for his knight; this will both help defend the kingside and promote the queenside play via c5. Black’s bishop is

And In The End

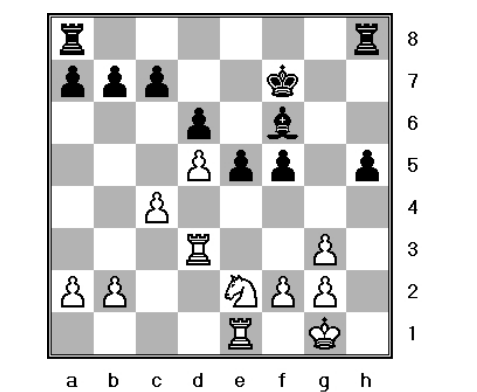
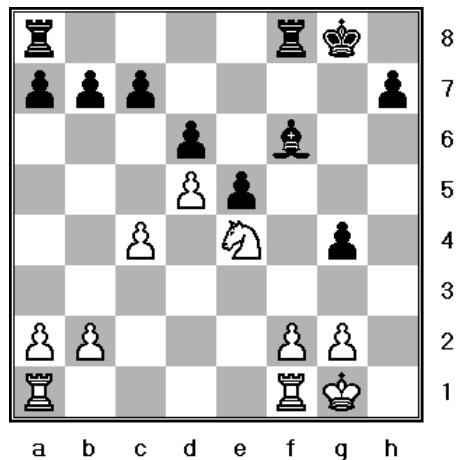
by Dana Muller



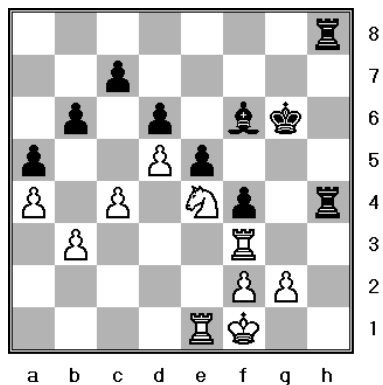
The Ministry of the Silly Pawn Sacrifice

made worse since e5-e4 isn’t in the cards for some time to come.

However, Black is now a clear pawn ahead without any structural defects. If the e4 blockade can be lifted then he is winning. After the sacrifice, I am not sure that Black can force a win with best play, but there are a number of possibilities that are ugly to defend from White’s perspective. As mentioned above, there was no need for such adventures. A possible line is: 18. Rf1 h5 (stops g4 among other things) 19. Rad1 Kf7 20. Ne2 Rh8 21. Rd3 (White plans to tease the queenside pawns forward by attacking them with Rb3)



21. ...h4 22. Rb3 b6 23. a4 a5 34. Rf3 Kg6 35. b3 Rh5 36. gxh4 Rxh4 37. Ng3 f4 38. Ne4 Rah8 39. Kf1,



which looks defensible for White (although White has zero winning chances).

18. ...fxg4 19. Ne4

Time for a quick overview of the plans for each side.

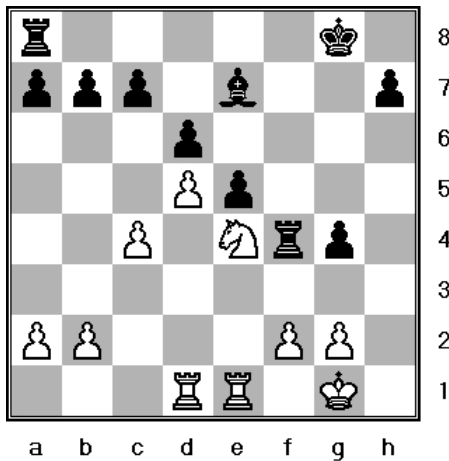
Black will pursue kingside play with the moves ...h7-h5-h4, ...Kg8-g7-g6, ...Rf8-f4, the specific order may depend on the position. Playing ...Rf4 is important since in response White will need to guard the knight with a rook. Releasing the rook for play elsewhere will require White to play g3 kicking the black rook off of f4, however, the g3 pawn will now be a target for the advancing h-pawn. The black king maneuver is another important component. In some lines ...Kf5 will destabilize e4, in others controlling g5 for an eventual ...Bg5 is crucial.

White will try and breakthrough via b2-b4 and c4-c5. Moving a rook to the third rank as lateral support for kingside and for attack on queenside is also in the cards. The other major decisions White will face are (1) the timing of g3 to kick the black rook off of f4, (2) after playing g3, how to react to h4 (ignore?, take?), and how to recapture if black plays ...hxg3.

19. ...Be7

Even though White had no intention of taking the bishop, this is a good move. The f-file is cleared and c5 is given extra protection.

20. Rad1 Rf4 21. Rfe1

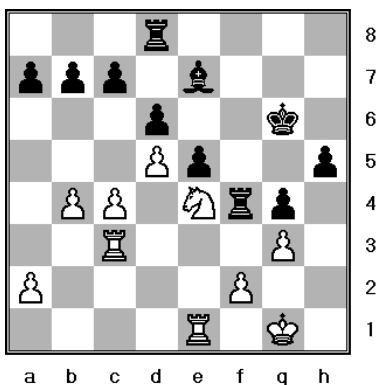


21. ...b6

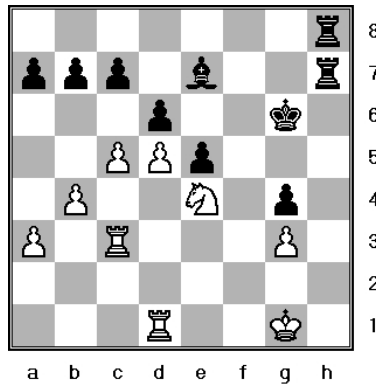
Black is facing a major decision as to how to play the queenside pawns. This starts a prophylactic plan on the queenside. By playing ...b6 followed by ...a5, White's normal plan of expansion on the queenside via b2-b3, a2-a3, b3-b4, c4-c5 is rendered harmless since ...axb4 will open the a-file to Black's benefit.

On the other hand, the black rook needs to stay on a8 for this prophylaxis to be effective; it is not clear how far Black's kingside offensive can get before the a8-rook is needed.

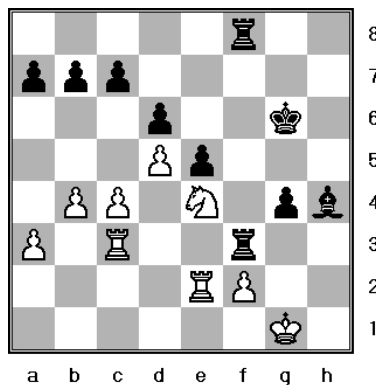
The other plan is to leave the queenside pawns alone and vigorously pursue the kingside attack. A sample is 21. ...h5 22. Rd3 Kg7 23. b4 Kg6 24. Rc3 Rd8 (indirectly targets the d5 pawn) 25. g3 (drives the black rook back thereby freeing the Re1)



25. ...Rf7 26. Rd1 h4 27. a3 (27. c5!?) 27. ...hxg3 and after either (1) 28. fxg3 Rh8 29. c5 Rfh7

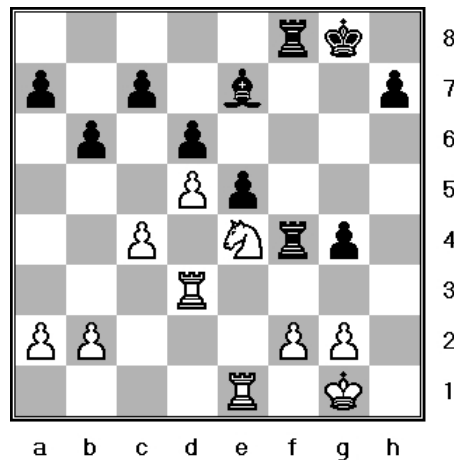


or (2) 28. Nxc3 Bh4 29. Ne4 Rf4 30. Re1 Rdf8 31. Re2 Rf3



32. Rxf3 Rxf3 33. c5 Be7 34. cxd6 Bxd6 35. Re3 Rxe3 36. fxe3 a5, Black has a large advantage.

22. Rd3 Raf8(?)

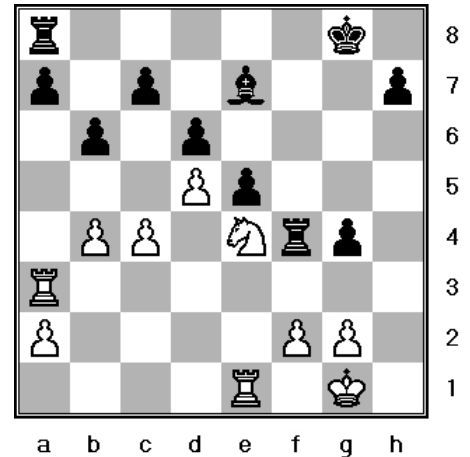


Not best. 22. ...a5 is consistent with the last move; after the rook move, the pawn on a7 is a target.

23. b4 Ra8

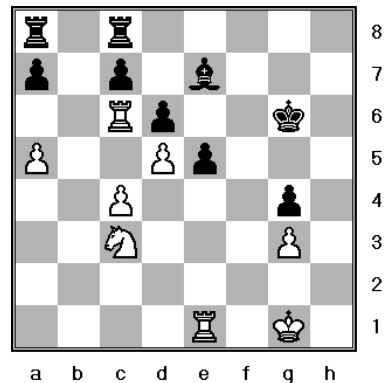
This seems to be forced either on this move or the next in order to hold onto the a-pawn. With the loss of two tempi, white's queenside play is close to equalizing the game.

24. Ra3



24. ...a5

The alternative is playing ...Kg7-g6 and ...h5-h4 without ...a5. White can play Ra6 blockading the weak a-pawn. For example: 24. ...Kg7 25. Ra6 Kg6 26. a4 h5 27. a5 bxa5 28. bxa5 h4 (to stop Ng3+ in reply to ...Kf5) 29. g3 hxg3 30. fxg3 Rff8 31. Rc6 Rfc8 (31. ...Rac8 is similar) 32. Nc3 (idea Nb5 and also hits e5 due to the d6-pin)



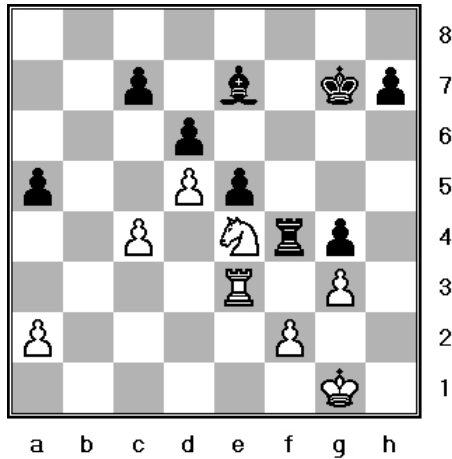
Northwest Grand Prix Administrator

Murlin Varner
13329 208 Ave NE
Woodinville, WA 98072

MEVjr54@yahoo.com 425-882-0102

32. ...Kf5 33. Rf1+ Kg6 34. Nb5 Bd8 35. a6 (safest) 35. ...Rcb8 36. Kf2 Rb6 37. Ke2 Rxc6 38. dxc6 Rb8 39. Rf8 or 24. ...Kg7 25. Ra6 Kg6 26. a4 h5 27. a5 h4 28. axb6 cxb6 29. g3 hxg3 30. fxg3 Rf3 31. c5 (uses the pin along the 6th rank) are fine for White.

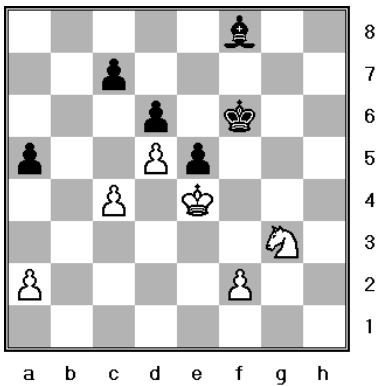
25. bxa5 Rxa5 26. Rxa5 bxa5 27. Re3 Kg7 28. g3



28. ...Rf8

The critical question was can Black play 28. ...Rf3?

It appears not: 28. ...Rf3 39. Rxf3 gxf3 40. g4 Kg6 41. Kh2 h5 42. Kg3 (or 42. gxh5+ with similar play) 42. ...hxg4 (also possible is 42. ...h4+, though White should still have an edge) 43. Kxg4 Bf8 44. Kxf3 Kf5 45. Ng3+ Kf6 46. Ke4,

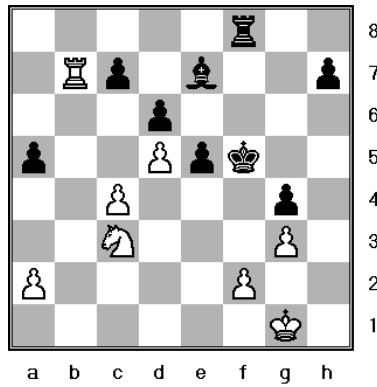


and White is better.

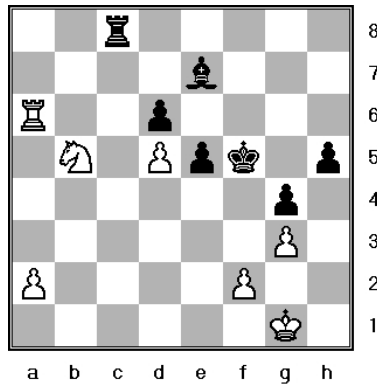
29. Rb3 Ra8(?)

Better is 29. ...Kg6 with the usual idea of invading via e4 or e5 (after the pawn moves to e4).

This seems to retain the advantage for Black: 30. Rb7 Kf5 31. Nc3

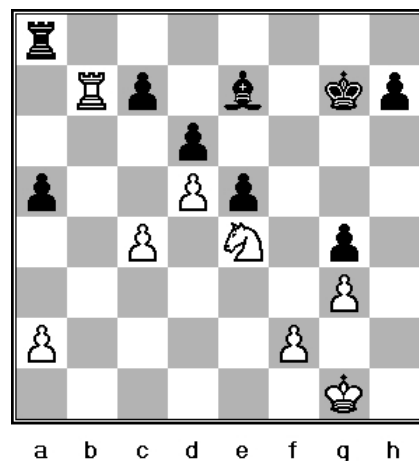


31. ...Rc8 (31. ...Bd8 is also possible, 32. Rb8 e4 33. Nb5 Ke5 34. Nxc7 Be7 35. Rxf8 Bxf8 36. Ne6 Bh6 37. Kf1; Black is better, but White can hold) 32. Ra7 h5 33. Rxa5 c6 34. Ra7 Bg5 35. Ra6 cxd5 36. Nb5 Be7 37. cxd5



once again is better for Black, but White should draw.

30. Rb7



30. ...Bd8?

A gross blunder. Black can still draw with 30. ...Rc8; White can try 31. f3 gxf3 32. Kf2, followed by Kxf3 and Ra7, but with reasonable play, it is drawn.

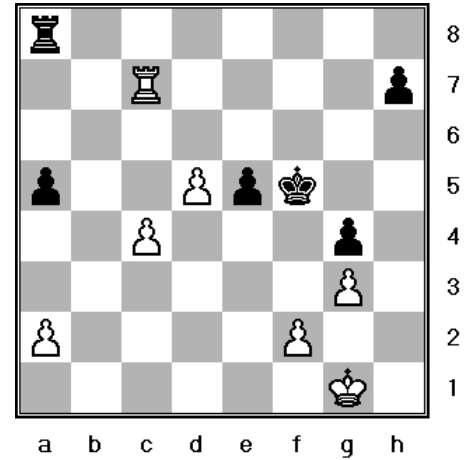
31. Nxd6

It's simple now; the c7 pawn will eventually fall giving White connected passed pawns.

31. ...Kg6 32. Nb5 Kf5

Trying for counterplay with the king. Trying to hold c7 with 32. ...Rc8 runs into 33. Na7 Ra8 34. Nc6, winning the c7 pawn anyway.

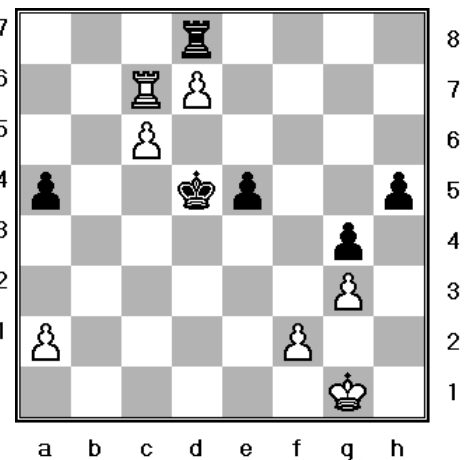
33. Nxc7 Bxc7 34. Rxc7



34. ...h5

If Black plays to hold up the pawns with 34. ...Rd8, then 35. Rc6 (advancing the passers is more important than taking the h-pawn) 35. ...Ke4 (35. ...e4 and ...Ke5 is similar) 36. d6 Kd4 37. c5 Kd5 38. Rc7 and White can't be stopped from playing d7, c6, and then Rc8.

35. c5 Ke4 36. d6 Kd5 37. d7 Rd8 38. c6



1-0

Black can't stop 39. Rc8. The silly pawn sacrifice scores a lucky win.

The Northwest Chess Grand Prix

M. Varner, administrator

The year nears the end. By the time you read this, it will have ended, but as I write, there are just four events remaining, two on the weekend of December 12 and two more the following weekend. A potential from four to fourteen last minute points were available for anyone who attended somewhere both weekends. As you can see below, some contests are so close that these last two weekends may have changed things. I guess you'll have to wait for February, or check the nwchess.com website for the final results.

2009 will be a record year for many statistics in the Northwest Grand Prix, including most events on the Grand Prix schedule (80, ties 2006), most events with multipliers (16, one more than last year), and quite possibly most entries into GP events, as we currently have 1859, just 81 short of the 2006 record, with four events to go. However, the prizes will not set any records, as for the first time, the Northwest Grand Prix went a year without an added-money sponsor. The prizes will still be nice to receive, but they will be on average about \$38 less than they would have been with the usual sponsorship level. I hate to keep harping on this and will probably say less about it going forward, but we still could use a sponsor for the 2010 Grand Prix.

The Washington Class Championships caused some significant shakeups in the Washington standings, with new people in the money spots in Master, A, B, and D Classes. The overall leader last month, Peter Watts, who didn't attend the Class, dropped from first to fourth, with Darby Monahan taking back the lead spot. The top three overall Washington leaders attended the tournament in Redmond over Thanksgiving weekend.

Oregon residents making the trip, while fewer, also had impacts on the GP standings. Carl Haessler moved into second on the Oregon Masters list with his efforts in Redmond. Steven Breckenridge widened his lead over fellow attendee Daniel Gay in the Expert Class, and closed to within 13 points of Nick Raptis, who did not make the trip. Galen Pyle attended and, coupled with a rating increase in the December supplement, moved from third in class B to second in class A, displacing David Fulton in spite of his attendance at the Class Championships.

For the first time since I've been collecting the data, the top fifteen in Washington are ALL over 100 points! We even have an Idaho player with more than 100.

Oregon

Washington

Masters

1 Raptis, Nick	177.5	1 Sinanan, Joshua C ...	122.5
2 Haessler, Carl	56.5	2 Schill, William J	113.5
3 Roua, Radu	49	3 Chen, Howard J	109.5
4 Szendroi, Robert J	25	4 Collyer, Curt D	87
.....		5 MacGregor, Michael ..	86.5
.....		6 Pupols, Viktors	63

Experts

1 Breckenridge, Steven .	164.5	1 Watts, Peter	137
2 Gay, Daniel Z	134.5	2 Bartron, Paul R	134.5

3 Chung, John	41	3 Kelley, Dereque	124.5
4 Morris, Michael J	38	4 Dixon, Dakota E	96.5
5 Davis, Mikeal	34	5 Rupel, David	80.5
6 Heywood, Bill	29.5	6 Julian, John	69.5

Class A

1 Esler, Brian	145	1 Mathews, Daniel R ..	117
2 Pyle, Galen	111	2 Sen, Samir	116
3 Fulton, David	109	3 Wang, Michael	113.5
4 Botez, V Alexandra	49.5	4 Lee, Nathan Y	108
5 Banner, Richard L	46	5 O'Gorman, Peter J ...	100.5
6 Evers, Jason	44.5	6 Gottlieb, Ethan	98.5

Class B

1 Witt, Steven A	104	1 Buck, Stephen J	142
2 Niro, Frank	85	2 Feng, Roland	115
3 Grom, Alex	73	3 Tokareva, Kate	108
4 Brusselback, Lon	72	4 McAleer, James	105
5 Frojen, Ken	61	5 Ackerman, Ryan S	89
6 Yoshinaga, David K	55	6 Griffin, David B	75.5

Class C

1 Dietz, Arliss	90	1 Monahan, Darby P ..	158.5
2 Skalnes, Erik	49	2 Piper, August	145.5
3 Midson, Tony	45	3 Goodfellow, Robert .	105.5
4 Tse, Kalen S	44.5	4 Grabar, Anatoly	98
5 Dalthorp, Dan	40	5 Bashkansky, Ethan ..	92.5
6 Wentz, Dale R	39.5	6 Grabar, Svetlana	86

Class D and Below

1 Chatterjee, Dhruva	44	1 Richards, Jerrold	94
2 Chattopadhyay, Sandip	43	2 Davis, Freddy A	84.5
3 Barrese, William	32	3 Waugh, James	66
4 Butson, Jeffrey C	31.5	4 Chang, Evangeline ..	62.5
5 Cohen, David	27	5 Lampman, Becca	60
6 Molchanov, Valentin ..	26	6 Dixon, Samuel J	55.5

Overall Leaders, by State

1 Raptis, Nick	177.5	1 Monahan, Darby P ..	158.5
2 Breckenridge, Steven .	164.5	2 Piper, August	145.5
3 Esler, Brian	145	3 Buck, Stephen J	142
4 Gay, Daniel Z	134.5	4 Watts, Peter	137
5 Pyle, Galen	111	5 Bartron, Paul R	134.5
6 Fulton, David	109	6 Kelley, Dereque	124.5
7 Witt, Steven A	104	7 Sinanan, Joshua C ...	122.5
8 Dietz, Arliss	90	8 Mathews, Daniel R ..	117
9 Niro, Frank	85	9 Sen, Samir	116
10 Grom, Alex	73	10 Feng, Roland	115
11 Brusselback, Lon	72	11 Schill, William J	113.5
12 Frojen, Ken	61	11 Wang, Michael	113.5
13 Haessler, Carl	56.5	13 Chen, Howard J	109.5
14 Yoshinaga, David K	55	14 Lee, Nathan Y	108
15 Hannibal, Dana C	51	14 Tokareva, Kate	108

Players from Other Places

1 Leslie, Cameron D	ID	1881	118
2 Havrilla, Mark A	ID	1924	91.5
3 Subedi, Avinaya	ID	1792	70
4 McCourt, Daniel J	MT	1773	51.5
5 Donaldson, John	CA	2426	50
6 Abderhalden, Richard R	ID	1533	49
7 Weyland, Ronald M	ID	1599	48
8 Harmon-Vellotti, Luke	ID	2059	47.5
9 McLaughlin, Edward J	MT	1750	45
10 Kalina, Chris	MN	2016	44

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

.....
Attendance at 2009's events

 • Full Weekend Tournaments (8) ave.-38;
 • Novice (4) ave.-7; Quads (11) ave.-17; Tor-
 • nados (12) ave.-16.

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.

January Thaw: Jan. 1, 8, 15, 22.
SCC G/15 Champ.: January 29.
Cabin Fever: Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26.
March Winds: Mar. 5, 12, 19, 26.
April Showers: Apr. 2, 9, 16, 23.
Round-the-Maypole Robins (G/10):
 April 30.
Close Ratings: May 7, 14, 21.
CLOSED (Go to WA Open): May 28.
It's Summertime: Jun. 4, 11, 18, 25.
Firecracker Quads (G/25): July 2.

Jan. 23, Feb. 27

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.

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.

Jan. 31, Feb. 21

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.

Jan. 15-17

Seattle City Championship

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 per prize group). **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.

How to Find the New SCC Site

The SCC is now located in the Northway Square East Building just across I-5 from Northgate Mall in the building with large signs proclaiming "Northwest Kidney Center" and "City University." The main entrance is reached by turning east on N. 107th Street from Meridian Avenue N. The club is located in the basement; so just take the elevator down one floor. We think you'll like our new venue.

Future Events

♣ indicates a NW Grand Prix event ♣

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

♣ 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 ♣

Site: Mount Hood Community College, Town and Gown room, near Jazz Cafe: 26000 SE Stark, Gresham, Oregon. Check www.pdxchess.com for directions to playing site. Prizes: \$1500 b/60. Reg: Sat. 9:00-9:45, Rounds Sat. 10, 2, ASAP, Sun. 10, ASAP. EF: \$40, \$10 discount to PCC members registering before Jan. 5. USCF, OCF/WCF req. Entries payable to Portland CC, mail to Mike Morris, 2344 NE 27th Ave, Portland, OR 97212. See full-page ad on page 29 of the December issue.

January 18

Washington Junior Open and Reserve

Somerset Elementary, 14100 Somerset Blvd SE, Bellevue, Washington. See nwchess.com for on-line registration and other details.

♣ January 21, 28, February 4, 11, 18

Spokane Winter Championships ♣

Gonzaga University campus (Herak Rm. 121), Spokane, WA. Reg: 6:15-7:15 PM (1/21). E.F.: \$16. T/C: G/2Hr. Format: 5 Rd. Swiss, USCF rated.

♣ January 30

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.

February 6-7 and 13-15

Oregon State Championship, Portland, OR

February 6-7 and 13-15 (tentative)

Washington State Championship, site TBA

♣ February 27-28

18th Dave Collyer Memorial ♣

Location: Basement Conference Room, St. Anne's Children's Center, 25 W. Fifth Ave., Spokane. Computer-paired, 5-SS. Reg.: 8:30-9:30, Feb. 27. **Mandatory player meeting** at 9:45 (except sleep in). **Rounds:** 10 (or 12)-2:30-7; 9-1:30 or ASAP. Time control: G/120. EF: \$27 if rec'd by 2/26, \$33 at the door; under 19 \$5 less. Telephone entries accepted. Must check in by 9:30 unless a first-round bye granted or player is in the "sleep in" section. **Special "Sleep In" option.** Play your round one game at noon G/60, rejoin main event for round two. Sleep in reg. ends 11:40 a.m. Feb. 27. **\$1600 GUARANTEED prize fund. PRIZES:** \$325, \$200, \$125; Class Prizes: X \$100; \$100-\$75 second: A; B; C; D/E/unrated, min 5 players per class. Upsets: \$100 & \$50 (non-provisional ratings). NWGP. NS, NC, W. One 1/2-point bye if requested by end of preceding round; Sunday bye req. by end round 3. May use class pairings final round. Coffee and cookies provided. **Entries:** Spokane CC, c/o Kevin Korsmo, N. 9923 Moore, Spokane, WA 99208-9339. For information please call (509) 270-1772. Check website for updates & directions: www.spokanechessclub.org

Advance notice: Apr 2-5 4th Annual Grand Pacific Open, Victoria, BC. The organizing committee would like to post a list of players intending to play in the 2010 GPO. If you intend to play, please send your name, city and rating to be added to the list of pre-registered players. No need to pay yet. The early bird rate ends Feb 28th. You can mail a cheque or pay online at that time, www.2010GrandPacificOpen.eventbrite.com. New for 2010: All side events are free for GPO players! Hotel: www.hotelgrandpacific.com.

VISITORS WELCOMED

at the

OREGON CITY / WEST LINN CHESS CLUB

Pioneer Adult Community Center

Tuesdays: 7-10 pm

615 Fifth St. Oregon City

For more information

(enter by basement door

503-744-0997

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